



Chickens and Eggs

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February Egg Production Up 1 Percent

United States egg production totaled 7.01 billion during February 2011, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.03 billion table eggs, and 974 million hatching eggs, of which 908 million were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2011 averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,065 eggs, up 1 percent from February 2010.

All layers in the United States on March 1, 2011 totaled 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.02 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2011, averaged 73.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2010.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 7 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2011 totaled 37.3 million, down 7 percent from February 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 40.0 million on March 1, 2011, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 264 thousand during February 2011, down 11 percent from February 2010.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2011 totaled 709 million, up 1 percent from February 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 642 million on March 1, 2011, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.11 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2011, up 2 percent from February 2010.

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Contents

Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2010-2011.....	4
Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2010-2011	4
Average Number of Layers During the Month – United States.....	5
All Egg Production During the Month – United States	5
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States: January-February 2010 and 2011.....	6
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States: February-March 2010 and 2011.....	7
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During January 2010 and 2011	8
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2010 and 2011	9
Egg Production by Type – States and United States: January 2010 and 2011.....	10
Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 2010 and 2011.....	11
Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2010-2011	12
Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011	12
Hatchery Production – United States: 2010 and 2011	13
Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011	14
Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2010-2011	14
Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2010-2011	15
Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011	15
Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: February 2010 and 2011.....	16
Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2010-2011	16
Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2010-2011	17
Statistical Methodology	18
Regional Listing.....	19
Terms and Definitions of Chickens and Eggs Estimates	19
Information Contacts	19

Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2010-2011

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	2010		2011	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		340,936		342,661
January		340,596		341,701
February		340,486		339,287
March		342,098		
April		341,318		
May		339,344		
June		339,750		
July		339,929		
August		340,084		
September		338,739		
October		336,804		
November		339,447		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2010-2011

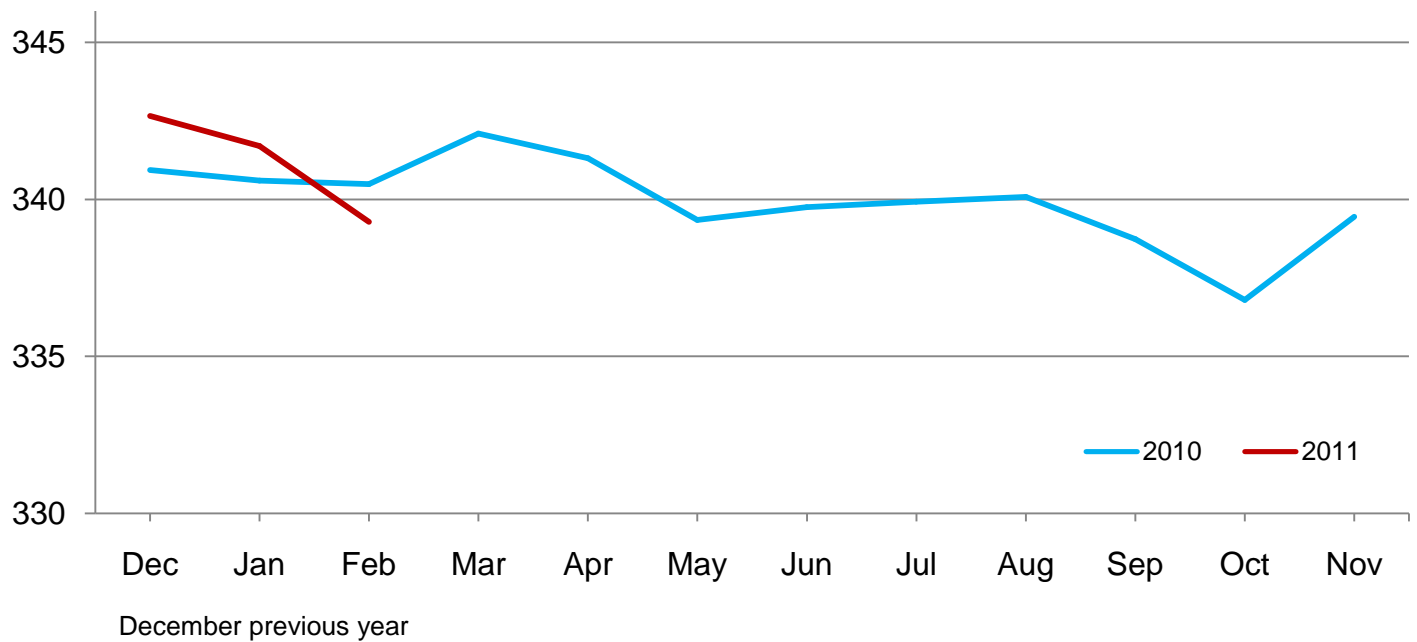
[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun. Totals may not add due to rounding]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	7,853	7,920	6,779	6,850	1,074	1,070
January	7,724	7,821	6,637	6,739	1,087	1,083
February	6,935	7,005	5,950	6,030	985	974
March	7,839		6,740		1,098	
April	7,578		6,503		1,075	
May	7,716		6,607		1,109	
June	7,484		6,415		1,069	
July	7,719		6,610		1,109	
August	7,765		6,669		1,096	
September	7,514		6,464		1,050	
October	7,698		6,618		1,080	
November	7,573		6,538		1,036	
During year	91,398		78,530		12,868	

¹ December preceding year.

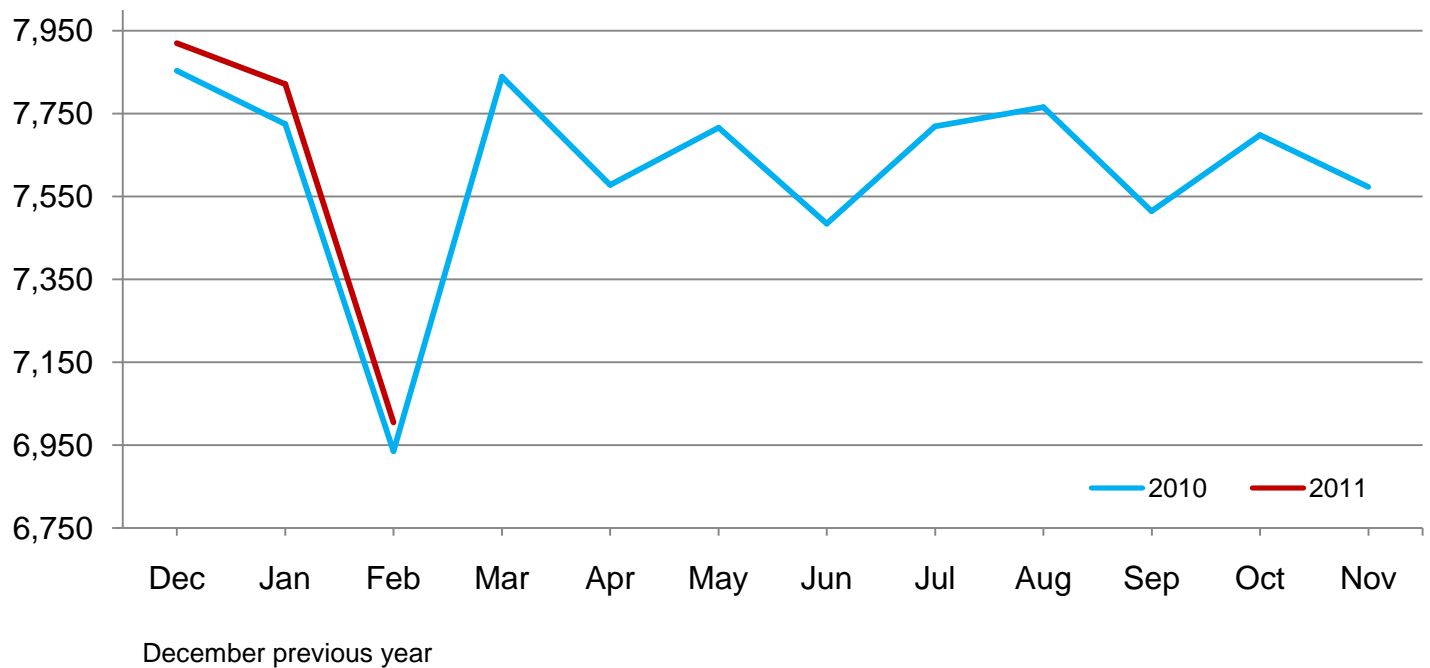
Average Layers During the Month – United States

Million layers



All Egg Production During the Month – United States

Million eggs



**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States:
January-February 2010 and 2011**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during January			
All layers 1,000	340,596	341,701	100
Table egg type 1,000	283,154	284,176	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	57,442	57,525	100
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	54,501	54,606	100
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,941	2,919	99
Eggs per 100 layers during January			
All layers number	2,268	2,289	101
Table egg type number	2,344	2,371	101
Hatching egg type number	1,892	1,883	100
Broiler-type hatching number	1,859	1,855	100
Egg-type hatching number	2,516	2,398	95
Eggs produced during January			
All layers million	7,724	7,821	101
Table egg type million	6,637	6,739	102
Hatching egg type million	1,087	1,083	100
Broiler-type hatching million	1,013	1,013	100
Egg-type hatching million	74	70	95
Layers on February 1			
All layers 1,000	339,747	339,626	100
Table egg type 1,000	281,946	282,293	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	57,801	57,333	99
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	54,839	54,345	99
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,962	2,988	101
Eggs per 100 layers on February 1			
All layers number	72.5	73.4	101
Table egg type number	74.8	75.9	101
Hatching egg type number	60.8	60.7	100
Broiler-type hatching number	59.7	59.8	100
Egg-type hatching number	81.8	78.0	95
Forced molt layers on February 1			
Being molted percent	3.6	3.6	100
Molt completed percent	20.3	20.3	100
Layers sold for slaughter during January 1,000	14,086	14,530	103
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during January 1,000	7,735	7,695	99
Pullets on February 1 1,000	103,227	106,500	103
Pullets added during January ¹ 1,000	20,551	21,043	102

¹ Pullet chicks less than 3 days old added to pullet flocks.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States: February-March 2010 and 2011

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during February			
All layers 1,000	340,486	339,287	100
Table egg type 1,000	282,414	282,049	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,072	57,238	99
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,109	54,231	98
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,963	3,007	101
Eggs per 100 layers during February			
All layers number	2,037	2,065	101
Table egg type number	2,107	2,138	101
Hatching egg type number	1,696	1,702	100
Broiler-type hatching number	1,664	1,674	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,295	2,195	96
Eggs produced during February			
All layers million	6,935	7,005	101
Table egg type million	5,950	6,030	101
Hatching egg type million	985	974	99
Broiler-type hatching million	917	908	99
Egg-type hatching million	68	66	97
Layers on March 1			
All layers 1,000	341,191	338,920	99
Table egg type 1,000	282,865	281,791	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,326	57,129	98
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,368	54,109	98
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,958	3,020	102
Eggs per 100 layers on March 1			
All layers number	73.0	73.9	101
Table egg type number	75.7	76.6	101
Hatching egg type number	60.2	60.6	101
Broiler-type hatching number	59.0	59.7	101
Egg-type hatching number	81.9	76.6	94
Forced molt layers on March 1			
Being molted percent	3.2	3.0	94
Molt completed percent	21.2	20.2	95
Layers sold for slaughter during February 1,000	13,549	14,368	106
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February 1,000	6,847	9,027	132
Pullets on March 1 1,000	102,946	104,886	102
Pullets added during February ¹ 1,000	22,469	22,099	98

¹ Pullet chicks less than 3 days old added to pullet flocks.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During January 2010 and 2011

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Alabama	1,232	1,304	9,539	9,630	1,908	1,900
Arkansas	3,197	3,432	12,299	12,175	1,976	2,021
California	19,031	19,451	19,332	19,756	2,317	2,273
Colorado	3,044	3,221	3,589	3,604	2,508	2,442
Connecticut	2,518	2,256	2,585	2,318	2,321	2,330
Florida	9,581	9,165	9,903	9,534	2,292	2,444
Georgia	9,020	8,481	17,654	17,249	2,169	2,180
Hawaii ¹	254	(NA)	299	(NA)	1,839	(NA)
Illinois	4,430	4,438	4,650	4,650	2,387	2,473
Indiana	22,995	23,091	23,712	23,788	2,324	2,333
Iowa	53,688	52,510	54,558	53,349	2,256	2,315
Maine	3,529	3,515	3,602	3,570	2,388	2,381
Maryland	2,215	1,997	2,323	2,115	2,282	2,364
Michigan	10,067	10,046	10,225	10,207	2,367	2,410
Minnesota	9,811	9,923	10,295	10,397	2,351	2,318
Mississippi	1,450	1,452	6,162	6,019	1,980	1,994
Missouri	5,749	6,029	7,053	7,456	2,311	2,293
Nebraska	9,473	9,266	9,523	9,316	2,426	2,480
New York	3,715	4,063	3,941	4,290	2,487	2,471
North Carolina	6,067	5,766	13,183	13,289	2,101	2,047
Ohio	26,838	27,853	27,329	28,338	2,294	2,318
Oregon	2,187	2,123	2,309	2,276	2,555	2,504
Pennsylvania	22,605	24,066	23,714	25,246	2,471	2,464
South Carolina	3,221	3,056	4,477	4,312	2,100	2,226
South Dakota	2,346	2,351	2,386	2,391	2,473	2,384
Texas	13,680	14,153	18,204	18,568	2,263	2,278
Utah	3,358	3,337	3,388	3,367	2,273	2,228
Virginia	1,140	1,098	2,841	2,793	2,042	2,112
Washington	6,259	6,315	6,374	6,431	2,306	2,457
Wisconsin	4,166	4,080	4,721	4,612	2,394	2,407
Other States ²	11,796	11,828	20,426	20,655	2,183	2,179
United States	278,662	279,666	340,596	341,701	2,268	2,289

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for states not listed in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2010 and 2011

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Alabama	1,292	1,350	9,681	9,762	1,653	1,690
Arkansas	3,172	3,286	12,299	11,974	1,789	1,846
California	19,154	18,904	19,461	19,210	2,107	2,061
Colorado	3,053	3,291	3,571	3,705	2,240	2,105
Connecticut	2,473	2,171	2,545	2,239	2,083	2,099
Florida	9,369	9,024	9,664	9,374	2,080	2,166
Georgia	8,875	8,592	17,597	16,986	1,978	1,978
Hawaii ¹	260	(NA)	305	(NA)	1,705	(NA)
Illinois	4,290	4,339	4,514	4,558	2,171	2,216
Indiana	23,074	22,923	23,822	23,656	2,091	2,135
Iowa	53,223	52,180	54,103	53,056	2,026	2,086
Maine	3,546	3,396	3,601	3,451	2,194	2,202
Maryland	2,205	1,984	2,308	2,114	2,123	2,129
Michigan	10,158	10,126	10,325	10,298	2,150	2,224
Minnesota	9,902	9,968	10,383	10,445	2,119	2,011
Mississippi	1,475	1,467	6,101	5,991	1,819	1,803
Missouri	5,682	5,980	7,074	7,373	2,092	2,089
Nebraska	9,329	9,309	9,379	9,359	2,186	2,244
New York	3,805	4,076	4,031	4,307	2,208	2,275
North Carolina	6,057	5,887	13,308	13,368	1,871	1,863
Ohio	27,033	26,964	27,532	27,452	2,041	2,091
Oregon	2,283	2,280	2,400	2,417	2,167	2,193
Pennsylvania	22,485	23,846	23,583	25,050	2,230	2,224
South Carolina	3,130	3,137	4,394	4,423	1,912	1,990
South Dakota	2,347	2,308	2,387	2,348	2,178	2,129
Texas	13,379	14,033	17,980	18,395	2,041	2,033
Utah	3,392	3,420	3,422	3,450	1,958	2,058
Virginia	1,138	1,150	2,946	2,869	1,799	1,778
Washington	6,385	6,343	6,500	6,459	2,031	2,214
Wisconsin	4,119	3,992	4,689	4,552	2,069	2,175
Other States ²	11,837	11,813	20,581	20,646	1,953	1,971
United States	277,922	277,539	340,486	339,287	2,037	2,065

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not listed in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: January 2010 and 2011

[Totals may not add due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals]

State	Total production		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	182	183	27	30	155	153
Arkansas	243	246	78	83	165	163
California	448	449	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	90	88	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	60	54	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	227	233	222	227	5	6
Georgia	383	376	215	208	168	168
Hawaii ¹	5.5	(NA)	5.5	(NA)	-	(NA)
Illinois	111	115	108	112	3	3
Indiana	551	555	538	542	13	13
Iowa	1,231	1,235	1,217	1,223	14	12
Maine	86	85	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	53	50	52	49	1	1
Michigan	242	246	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	242	241	233	233	9	8
Mississippi	122	120	35	35	87	85
Missouri	163	171	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	231	231	231	231	-	-
New York	98	106	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	277	272	144	138	133	134
Ohio	627	657	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	59	57	57	55	2	2
Pennsylvania	586	622	565	601	21	21
South Carolina	94	96	72	74	22	22
South Dakota	59	57	59	57	-	-
Texas	412	423	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	77	75	77	75	-	-
Virginia	58	59	27	27	31	32
Washington	147	158	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	113	111	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	446	450	309	312	137	139
United States	7,724	7,821	6,637	6,739	1,087	1,083

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not listed in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 2010 and 2011

[Totals may not add due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals]

State	Total production		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	160	165	24	26	136	139
Arkansas	220	221	72	73	148	148
California	410	396	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	80	78	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	53	47	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	201	203	197	199	4	4
Georgia	348	336	194	190	154	146
Hawaii ¹	5.2	(NA)	5.2	(NA)	-	(NA)
Illinois	98	101	95	98	3	3
Indiana	498	505	485	493	13	12
Iowa	1,096	1,107	1,083	1,094	13	13
Maine	79	76	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	49	45	48	44	1	1
Michigan	222	229	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	220	210	212	203	8	7
Mississippi	111	108	32	32	79	76
Missouri	148	154	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	205	210	205	210	-	-
New York	89	98	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	249	249	130	128	119	121
Ohio	562	574	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	52	53	51	51	1	2
Pennsylvania	526	557	507	537	19	20
South Carolina	84	88	64	68	20	20
South Dakota	52	50	52	50	-	-
Texas	367	374	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	67	71	67	71	-	-
Virginia	53	51	23	22	30	29
Washington	132	143	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	97	99	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	402	407	277	283	125	124
United States	6,935	7,005	5,950	6,030	985	974

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not listed in this table.

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2010-2011

[As of the first of the month. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)
January	2.7	2.8	20.8	21.3
February	3.6	3.6	20.3	20.3
March	3.2	3.0	21.2	20.2
April	2.8		21.3	
May	4.2		21.5	
June	3.3		22.7	
July	3.3		22.5	
August	3.4		22.6	
September	2.6		23.0	
October	4.4		21.7	
November	2.7		22.5	
December	1.8		22.5	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)
Alabama	2.0	2.0	6.5	5.0
Arkansas	-	-	10.0	10.5
California	4.0	4.0	30.0	28.0
Colorado	-	2.5	16.0	18.0
Connecticut	3.5	10.0	13.0	7.5
Florida	6.0	4.0	36.0	34.5
Georgia	1.5	1.5	15.5	18.5
Hawaii ¹	9.5	(NA)	48.5	(NA)
Illinois	2.0	5.5	23.0	31.0
Indiana	3.0	3.0	32.5	25.0
Iowa	5.0	5.0	33.0	32.0
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	2.0	17.0	33.0
Michigan	2.5	0.5	25.0	17.0
Minnesota	3.0	5.5	24.0	19.0
Mississippi	1.0	2.0	9.0	10.5
Missouri	3.5	4.5	22.0	19.0
Nebraska	1.0	-	2.0	3.5
New York	2.0	0.5	9.5	11.5
North Carolina	0.5	0.5	10.5	17.0
Ohio	5.5	4.0	16.5	15.5
Oregon	2.5	2.5	26.5	25.0
Pennsylvania	3.0	2.0	12.5	9.5
South Carolina	-	-	17.0	16.5
South Dakota	6.5	6.5	20.0	30.5
Texas	1.5	2.5	17.0	19.0
Utah	5.0	5.0	37.0	36.0
Virginia	2.5	-	14.5	17.0
Washington	12.0	4.5	31.0	30.5
Wisconsin	4.5	4.5	33.0	29.5
Other States ²	2.5	3.0	16.6	15.0
United States	3.2	3.0	21.2	20.2

- Represents zero.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not listed in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2010 and 2011

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on March 1	38,773	39,975	103
Chicks hatched during February	40,120	37,336	93
Chicks hatched January through February	78,914	78,702	100
Pullets hatched during February for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	296	264	89
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	3,296	3,168	96
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on March 1	642,804	642,437	100
Chicks hatched during February	699,776	708,724	101
Chicks hatched January through February	1,475,391	1,489,847	101
Pullets hatched during February for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,994	7,107	102
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	62,005	63,945	103

¹ 2011 includes pullet chicks hatched August 2009 through July 2010.

² 2011 includes pullet chicks hatched November 2009 through July 2010.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
North Atlantic	5,130	4,463	87
East North Central	8,034	8,346	104
West North Central	7,601	7,889	104
South Atlantic	4,593	5,336	116
South Central	5,128	5,473	107
West	8,287	8,468	102
United States	38,773	39,975	103

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2010-2011

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
January	38,794	41,366	107	38,794	41,366	107
February	40,120	37,336	93	78,914	78,702	100
March	45,151			124,065		
April	47,503			171,568		
May	43,075			214,643		
June	42,623			257,266		
July	38,053			295,319		
August	37,023			332,342		
September	40,307			372,649		
October	41,263			413,912		
November	38,947			452,859		
December	37,845			490,704		

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2010-2011

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2010	2011		2010	2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)
January	227	220	97	3,198	3,292
February	296	264	89	3,296	3,168
March	260			3,308	3,142
April	232			3,318	3,173
May	230			3,322	3,066
June	318			3,295	3,039
July	218			3,405	2,993
August	265			3,392	2,986
September	251			3,432	2,954
October	170			3,415	
November	263			3,340	
December	263			3,295	
Total	2,993				

¹ For February 2011, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched August 2009 through July 2010. The 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements.

Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
North Atlantic	11,757	12,620	107
East North Central	12,032	12,097	101
West North Central	28,641	28,779	100
South Atlantic	235,619	239,341	102
South Central	331,445	326,142	98
West	23,310	23,458	101
United States	642,804	642,437	100

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: February 2010 and 2011

State	During February			January-February		
	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Alabama	97,461	101,042	104	206,588	211,262	102
Arkansas	79,360	78,596	99	168,762	165,063	98
Delaware	10,370	13,498	130	22,620	28,663	127
Florida	4,542	4,345	96	9,189	9,052	99
Georgia	103,818	109,647	106	218,246	231,224	106
Kentucky	25,618	24,989	98	54,724	51,116	93
Louisiana	11,346	11,292	100	23,790	23,662	99
Maryland	28,612	25,155	88	61,535	52,716	86
Mississippi	64,536	62,689	97	134,286	132,983	99
North Carolina	61,531	65,891	107	130,428	138,201	106
Oklahoma	21,957	23,042	105	47,379	48,164	102
Pennsylvania	11,347	13,306	117	25,322	27,812	110
South Carolina	18,317	17,864	98	38,489	37,784	98
Texas	51,373	49,290	96	107,927	107,430	100
Virginia	20,370	19,939	98	42,838	41,468	97
California, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia	62,359	62,866	101	130,773	133,398	102
19 States ¹	672,917	683,451	102	1,422,896	1,439,998	101
Other States ²	26,859	25,273	94	52,495	49,849	95
United States	699,776	708,724	101	1,475,391	1,489,847	101

¹ States in the weekly hatchery production estimating program.

² Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2010-2011

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
January	775,615	781,123	101	775,615	781,123	101
February	699,776	708,724	101	1,475,391	1,489,847	101
March	786,954			2,262,345		
April	767,225			3,029,570		
May	797,833			3,827,403		
June	786,707			4,614,110		
July	800,860			5,414,970		
August	798,529			6,213,499		
September	761,473			6,974,972		
October	766,978			7,741,950		
November	740,661			8,482,611		
December	785,649			9,268,260		

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2010-2011

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2010	2011		2010	2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)
United States placements					
January	7,219	6,989	97	62,833	63,658
February	6,994	7,107	102	62,005	63,945
March	6,610			62,142	63,912
April	6,538			62,672	64,413
May	8,351			61,918	64,070
June	7,585			62,049	64,542
July	6,675			61,903	64,703
August	7,313			62,882	65,154
September	7,128			62,218	63,910
October	6,876			61,671	
November	7,466			61,995	
December	6,771			63,183	
Annual total	85,526				
Total placements ²					
January	8,626	8,548	99		
February	8,972	8,782	98		
March	8,910				
April	8,031				
May	10,338				
June	9,666				
July	8,520				
August	9,009				
September	9,087				
October	8,553				
November	9,157				
December	8,596				
Annual total	107,465				

¹ For February 2011, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched November 2009 through July 2010.

² United States production of intended placements worldwide.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Primary data for the *Chickens and Eggs* report are from weekly and/or monthly questionnaires sent to producers. An attempt is made to collect information for layer and egg estimates from each known contractor and independent producer who has at least 30,000 table egg layers, flocks of hatchery supply layers, or pullet only operations with at least 500 pullets. Coverage for operations with less than 30,000 table egg layers are estimated each month based on data reported in December. Approximately 650 contractors, independent egg producers, and pullet only operations are contacted each month. All known hatcheries, approximately 300, are contacted for information on a weekly and/or monthly basis.

Estimating Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive estimates from the reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness. Individual hatchery data are summed to State, regional, and United States totals.

For chicken hatcheries, chicks hatched consist of all chicks of domesticated breeds including males and chicks destined for hatchery supply flocks and research purposes. Eggs set are eggs in incubators for the purpose of hatching. The relationship of egg-type chicks hatched to chicken inventory and poultry marketings are carefully monitored. The disposition of egg-type chicks hatched prior to placement into the laying flock can vary significantly, which can make comparisons to changes in layer inventory inconsistent over time. Broiler chicks placed are specifically placed on feed for meat production. Intended placement data reported by leading breeders include pullet chicks expected from eggs sold the preceding month. The breeders in this report account for a large percentage of replacement pullets for hatchery supply flocks. Production of replacement pullets by these breeders indicates the number of pullets available to hatchery supply layer flocks several months before the pullets will actually move into the laying flocks. "Hatchery Supply Flocks" include all generations of layers which could lay eggs to supply a hatchery. This includes the generations of parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, pedigree, etc. Also included are research flocks, vaccine flocks, and specific pathogen-free flocks. The broiler cumulative potential placements are a moving total of the intended placements 7-15 months earlier. The egg-type cumulative potential placements of 7-18 months earlier represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements of egg-type hatching flocks.

Revision Policy: The previous month's estimates are subject to revision if late reports or corrected data indicates a different level. Additionally, revisions after the monthly report will be made at the end of the marketing year and published in the annual reports of *Chickens and Eggs Summary* and *Hatchery Production Summary*. Estimates will also be reviewed for chickens and eggs after data from the 5-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Estimates are based on a census of all known contractors and independent producers who have at least 30,000 table egg layers, flocks of hatchery supply layers, pullet only operations with at least 500 pullets, or operating hatcheries and therefore, have no sampling error. However, estimates are subject to errors such as omission, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for all layers over the past 24 months is 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 339 million layers by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.6 percent.

Reliability of Layer and Egg Estimates

[Based on data for the past twenty-four months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
All layers	0.4	0.6	1,127	316	2,021	23	1
Eggs	0.3	0.6	25	7	45	23	1

Regional Listing

- North Atlantic:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
- East North Central:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin.
- West North Central:** Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
- South Atlantic:** Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia.
- South Central:** Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas.
- West:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Terms and Definitions of Chickens and Eggs Estimates

All Layers includes both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

Intended Placements are reported by leading breeders. Coverage may not be 100 percent. Includes expected pullet chicks from eggs sold during the preceding month at the rate of 125 pullet chicks per case of 30 dozen eggs.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

- Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch (202) 720-3570
- Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section (202) 720-4447
- Doug Bounds – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 720-3106
- David Colwell – Cold Storage (202) 720-8784
- Chris Hawthorn – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink (202) 720-0585
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Troy Marshall – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey (202) 720-3244

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- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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