



Chickens and Eggs

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January Egg Production Down Slightly

United States egg production totaled 7.83 billion during January 2012, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.78 billion table eggs, and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 972 million were broiler-type and 73 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2012 averaged 338 million, down 1 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,319 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2011.

All layers in the United States on February 1, 2012 totaled 337 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 50.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.97 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2012, averaged 73.4 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from February 1, 2011.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 3 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2012 totaled 40.3 million, down 3 percent from January 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.4 million on February 1, 2012, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 263 thousand during January 2012, up 20 percent from January 2011.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Down 4 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2012 totaled 752 million, down 4 percent from January 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 602 million on February 1, 2012, down 5 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.71 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2012, down 4 percent from January 2011.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	2011		2012	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		343,083		338,158
January		342,266		337,527
February		339,787		
March		340,655		
April		340,896		
May		337,897		
June		336,411		
July		335,799		
August		335,412		
September		335,328		
October		335,884		
November		337,716		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2011-2012

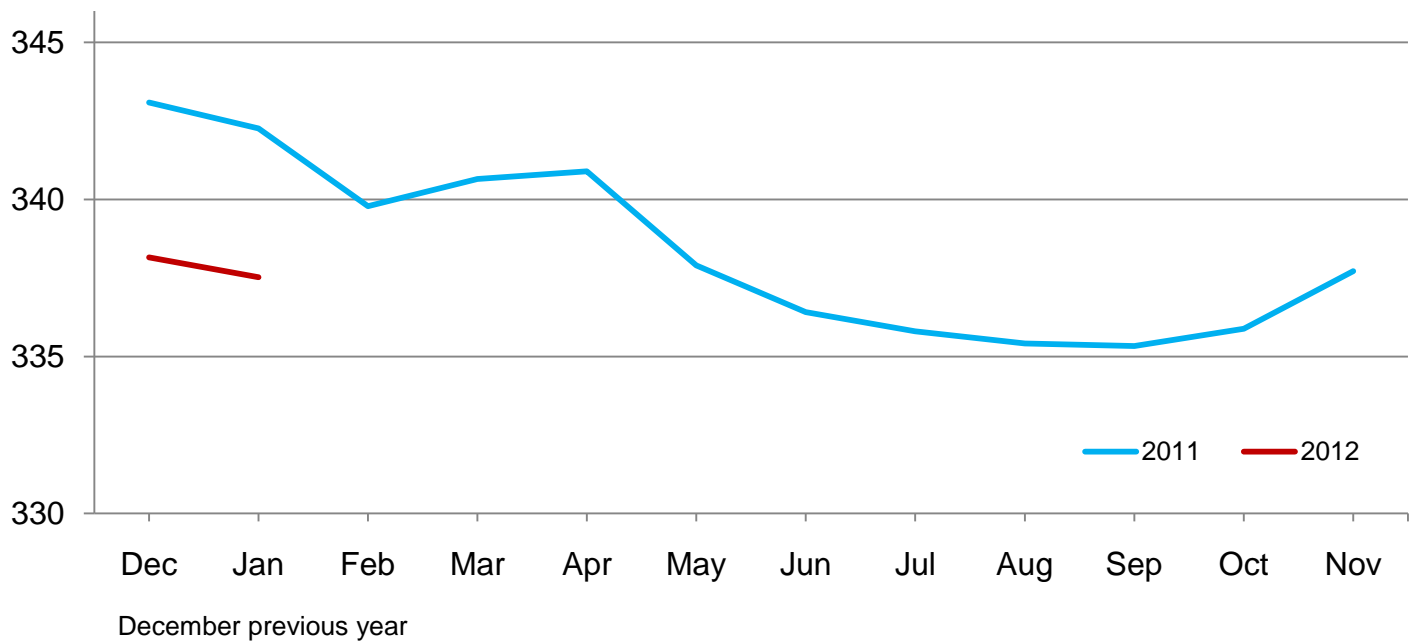
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	7,927	7,932	6,845	6,894	1,083	1,038
January	7,833	7,827	6,736	6,783	1,098	1,045
February	7,013		6,022		990	
March	7,840		6,735		1,106	
April	7,617		6,534		1,083	
May	7,773		6,651		1,123	
June	7,503		6,421		1,083	
July	7,732		6,633		1,100	
August	7,719		6,644		1,076	
September	7,503		6,476		1,028	
October	7,783		6,734		1,050	
November	7,612		6,605		1,007	
During year	91,855		79,036		12,827	

¹ December preceding year.

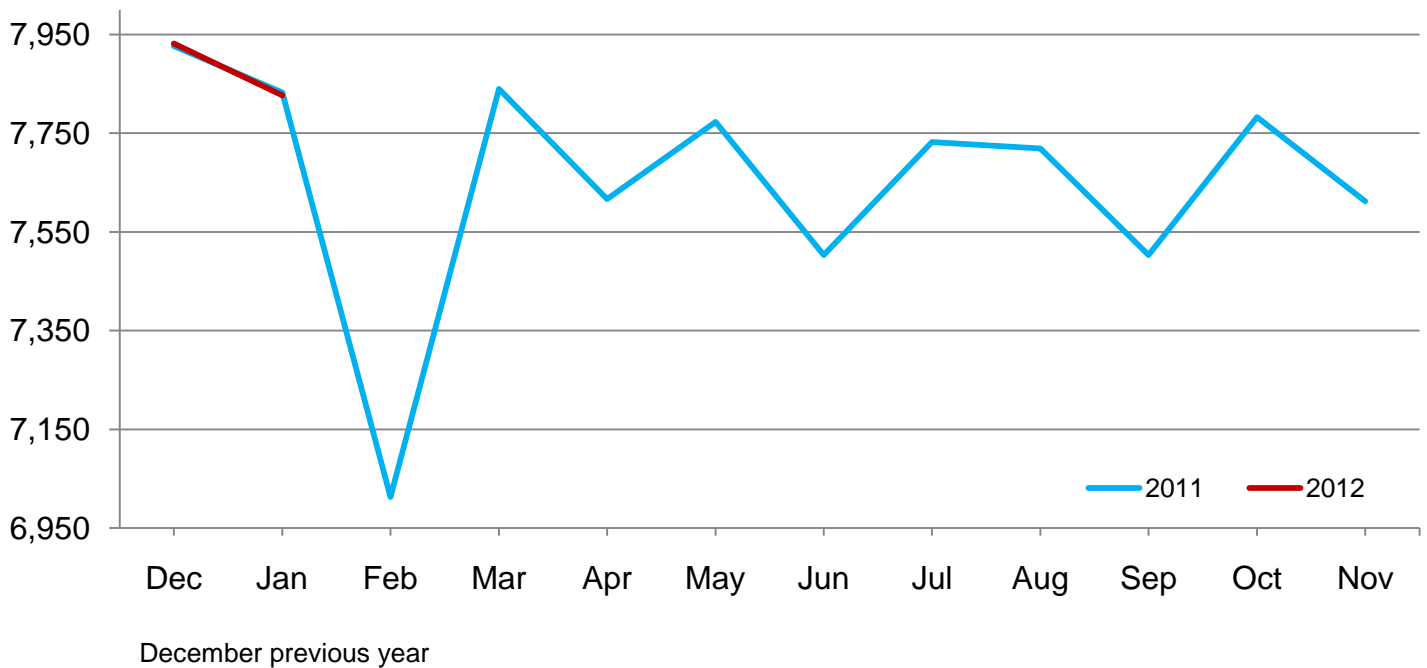
Average Layers During the Month – United States

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:
December-January 2010-2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during December			
All layers 1,000	343,083	338,158	99
Table egg type 1,000	285,402	285,051	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	57,681	53,107	92
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	54,890	50,313	92
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,791	2,794	100
Eggs per 100 layers during December			
All layers number	2,311	2,346	102
Table egg type number	2,398	2,419	101
Hatching egg type number	1,878	1,955	104
Broiler-type hatching number	1,853	1,924	104
Egg-type hatching number	2,365	2,505	106
Eggs produced during December			
All layers million	7,927	7,932	100
Table egg type million	6,845	6,894	101
Hatching egg type million	1,083	1,038	96
Broiler-type hatching million	1,017	968	95
Egg-type hatching million	66	70	106
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers on January 1			
All layers 1,000	344,255	337,812	98
Table egg type 1,000	285,880	284,600	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,375	53,212	91
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,531	50,409	91
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,844	2,803	99
Eggs per 100 layers on January 1			
All layers number	74.2	76.1	103
Table egg type number	77.0	78.5	102
Hatching egg type number	60.6	62.9	104
Broiler-type hatching number	59.7	62.0	104
Egg-type hatching number	79.0	80.2	102
Forced molt layers on January 1			
Percent being molted percent	2.8	2.8	100
Percent with molt completed percent	21.2	19.9	94
Layers sold for slaughter during December 1,000	13,589	13,286	98
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, Composted or disappeared for any Reason during December 1,000	7,451	8,840	119
Pullets on January 1 1,000	105,214	102,505	97
Pullets added during December ¹ 1,000	23,982	23,434	98

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:
January-February 2011 and 2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers during January			
All layers 1,000	342,266	337,527	99
Table egg type 1,000	284,068	284,187	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,198	53,340	92
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,278	50,450	91
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,920	2,890	99
Eggs per 100 layers during January			
All layers number	2,289	2,319	101
Table egg type number	2,371	2,387	101
Hatching egg type number	1,887	1,959	104
Broiler-type hatching number	1,858	1,927	104
Egg-type hatching number	2,432	2,526	104
Eggs produced during January			
All layers million	7,833	7,827	100
Table egg type million	6,736	6,783	101
Hatching egg type million	1,098	1,045	95
Broiler-type hatching million	1,027	972	95
Egg-type hatching million	71	73	103
Layers on February 1			
All layers 1,000	340,247	337,210	99
Table egg type 1,000	282,245	283,757	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,002	53,453	92
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,013	50,483	92
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,989	2,970	99
Eggs per 100 layers on February 1			
All layers number	73.5	73.4	100
Table egg type number	76.1	75.3	99
Hatching egg type number	60.8	63.3	104
Broiler-type hatching number	59.8	62.1	104
Egg-type hatching number	79.9	82.4	103
Forced molt layers on February 1			
Being molted percent	3.6	4.8	133
Molt completed percent	20.2	18.9	94
Layers sold for slaughter during January 1,000	14,593	13,481	92
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during January 1,000	7,759	8,527	110
Pullets on February 1 1,000	107,964	102,229	95
Pullets added during January ¹ 1,000	21,499	21,857	102

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During December 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 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,365	1,496	9,524	8,998	1,953	2,000
Arkansas	3,423	3,513	12,612	11,822	2,022	2,115
California	19,034	19,351	19,341	19,697	2,316	2,351
Colorado	3,252	4,306	3,628	4,778	2,453	2,491
Connecticut	2,342	2,279	2,405	2,342	2,328	2,348
Florida	9,407	9,679	9,794	10,003	2,430	2,469
Georgia	8,841	8,101	17,503	16,270	2,240	2,262
Illinois	4,390	4,253	4,600	4,464	2,391	2,464
Indiana	22,898	22,414	23,596	23,076	2,348	2,344
Iowa	52,526	51,239	53,363	52,135	2,299	2,355
Maine	3,559	3,511	3,614	3,566	2,407	2,356
Maryland	2,122	1,907	2,254	2,030	2,351	2,512
Michigan	10,119	10,646	10,269	10,796	2,454	2,519
Minnesota	9,990	9,550	10,449	10,052	2,412	2,417
Mississippi	1,451	1,523	6,002	5,697	2,033	2,141
Missouri	6,092	5,526	7,640	6,958	2,264	2,386
Nebraska	9,321	9,013	9,371	9,063	2,476	2,593
New York	4,108	4,302	4,335	4,529	2,514	2,495
North Carolina	5,776	5,798	13,334	12,706	2,077	2,101
Ohio	28,050	27,794	28,550	28,314	2,378	2,373
Oregon	2,212	2,129	2,350	2,257	2,468	2,614
Pennsylvania	24,023	24,085	25,158	25,284	2,488	2,456
South Carolina	3,030	3,152	4,270	4,303	2,272	2,277
South Dakota	2,346	2,444	2,386	2,484	2,473	2,375
Texas	14,244	14,280	18,622	17,993	2,331	2,445
Utah	3,366	3,504	3,396	3,534	2,385	2,434
Virginia	1,191	1,303	2,951	3,022	2,101	2,118
Washington	6,378	6,713	6,493	6,828	2,418	2,431
Wisconsin	4,198	4,312	4,720	4,878	2,394	2,460
Other States ¹	11,788	12,325	20,553	20,279	2,185	2,135
United States	280,842	280,448	343,083	338,158	2,311	2,346

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During January 2011 and 2012

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,304	1,434	9,626	9,023	1,901	1,962
Arkansas	3,432	3,439	12,460	11,637	2,014	2,088
California	18,979	19,250	19,284	19,598	2,271	2,317
Colorado	3,230	4,347	3,613	4,792	2,436	2,421
Connecticut	2,256	2,244	2,318	2,306	2,330	2,298
Florida	9,165	9,401	9,534	9,718	2,444	2,428
Georgia	8,744	8,027	17,545	16,241	2,183	2,229
Illinois	4,438	4,199	4,650	4,408	2,473	2,473
Indiana	23,091	22,779	23,788	23,468	2,333	2,331
Iowa	52,510	50,807	53,349	51,732	2,315	2,324
Maine	3,557	3,507	3,612	3,562	2,381	2,386
Maryland	1,997	1,840	2,115	1,956	2,364	2,556
Michigan	10,046	10,666	10,207	10,828	2,410	2,521
Minnesota	9,923	9,599	10,397	10,105	2,318	2,345
Mississippi	1,452	1,420	6,019	5,650	1,994	2,106
Missouri	6,029	5,305	7,651	6,721	2,287	2,410
Nebraska	9,266	9,054	9,316	9,104	2,480	2,559
New York	4,063	4,288	4,290	4,516	2,471	2,480
North Carolina	5,766	5,789	13,451	12,727	2,044	2,090
Ohio	27,853	27,716	28,363	28,248	2,316	2,312
Oregon	2,123	2,172	2,276	2,313	2,504	2,594
Pennsylvania	24,066	24,414	25,246	25,578	2,464	2,459
South Carolina	3,056	3,145	4,312	4,317	2,226	2,270
South Dakota	2,351	2,370	2,391	2,410	2,384	2,365
Texas	14,153	14,247	18,568	18,048	2,278	2,366
Utah	3,337	3,488	3,367	3,518	2,228	2,274
Virginia	1,098	1,248	2,818	2,929	2,129	2,048
Washington	6,315	6,773	6,431	6,888	2,457	2,381
Wisconsin	4,080	4,289	4,612	4,854	2,407	2,390
Other States ¹	11,828	12,327	20,657	20,332	2,188	2,199
United States	279,508	279,584	342,266	337,527	2,289	2,319

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: December 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	186	180	34	38	152	142
Arkansas	255	250	86	89	169	161
California	448	463	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	89	119	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	56	55	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	238	247	232	242	6	5
Georgia	392	368	223	205	169	163
Illinois	110	110	107	107	3	3
Indiana	554	541	542	530	12	11
Iowa	1,227	1,228	1,215	1,212	12	16
Maine	87	84	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	53	51	52	49	1	2
Michigan	252	272	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	252	243	244	234	8	9
Mississippi	122	122	37	40	85	82
Missouri	173	166	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	232	235	232	235	-	-
New York	109	113	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	277	267	143	140	134	127
Ohio	679	672	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	58	59	56	57	2	2
Pennsylvania	626	621	607	599	19	22
South Carolina	97	98	75	78	22	20
South Dakota	59	59	59	59	-	-
Texas	434	440	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	81	86	81	86	-	-
Virginia	62	64	30	32	32	32
Washington	157	166	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	113	120	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	449	433	311	308	139	126
United States	7,927	7,932	6,845	6,894	1,083	1,038

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: January 2011 and 2012

[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	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	183	177	30	35	153	142
Arkansas	251	243	83	84	168	159
California	438	454	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	88	116	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	54	53	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	233	236	227	231	6	5
Georgia	383	362	214	198	169	164
Illinois	115	109	112	106	3	3
Indiana	555	547	542	535	13	12
Iowa	1,235	1,202	1,223	1,186	12	16
Maine	86	85	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	50	50	49	48	1	2
Michigan	246	273	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	241	237	233	228	8	9
Mississippi	120	119	35	36	85	83
Missouri	175	162	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	231	233	231	233	-	-
New York	106	112	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	275	266	138	138	137	128
Ohio	657	653	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	57	60	55	58	2	2
Pennsylvania	622	629	601	607	21	22
South Carolina	96	98	74	77	22	21
South Dakota	57	57	57	57	-	-
Texas	423	427	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	75	80	75	80	-	-
Virginia	60	60	28	28	32	32
Washington	158	164	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	111	116	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	452	447	312	322	141	126
United States	7,833	7,827	6,736	6,783	1,098	1,045

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
January	2.8	2.8	21.2	19.9
February	3.6	4.8	20.2	18.9
March	3.0		20.1	
April	2.6		20.0	
May	3.0		20.0	
June	3.8		19.5	
July	3.5		19.6	
August	3.6		19.5	
September	3.2		20.3	
October	3.9		20.4	
November	2.5		21.2	
December	1.7		21.1	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: February 1, 2011 and 2012

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	2.0	3.5	5.0	6.5
Arkansas	1.0	3.0	12.0	8.5
California	7.5	7.0	27.0	26.5
Colorado	-	6.5	24.0	12.0
Connecticut	-	-	7.5	8.5
Florida	3.5	8.5	34.5	31.0
Georgia	2.5	3.5	17.5	11.0
Illinois	6.5	5.0	28.5	25.5
Indiana	6.0	6.5	21.0	31.5
Iowa	3.5	5.0	34.5	32.0
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	7.5	9.0	27.5	4.5
Michigan	1.0	6.5	20.5	17.0
Minnesota	5.0	4.5	22.5	21.5
Mississippi	3.5	4.0	8.0	9.5
Missouri	5.0	4.5	17.5	15.5
Nebraska	1.0	-	2.5	2.0
New York	1.0	2.5	13.0	8.5
North Carolina	3.0	2.5	15.0	14.5
Ohio	5.5	4.5	16.0	9.5
Oregon	4.0	11.0	19.5	31.5
Pennsylvania	1.0	2.5	10.5	8.5
South Carolina	-	3.5	19.5	13.5
South Dakota	4.0	8.5	32.5	9.5
Texas	3.5	5.0	17.5	20.5
Utah	8.0	13.0	32.0	27.0
Virginia	-	6.0	20.5	10.0
Washington	5.0	12.0	32.0	27.0
Wisconsin	9.5	5.5	23.5	29.5
Other States ¹	2.2	4.0	14.7	18.0
United States	3.6	4.8	20.2	18.9

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2011 and 2012

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on February 1	39,701	39,379	99
Chicks hatched during January	41,366	40,277	97
Pullets hatched during January for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	220	263	120
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	3,292	2,920	89
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on February 1	634,192	602,319	95
Chicks hatched during January	781,123	751,870	96
Pullets hatched during January for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,989	6,711	96
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	62,996	64,366	102

¹ 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched July 2010 through June 2011.

² 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched October 2010 through June 2011.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: February 1, 2011 and 2012

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	5,141	5,141	100
East North Central	8,007	7,846	98
West North Central	8,340	8,661	104
South Atlantic	4,413	4,497	102
South Central	5,362	5,135	96
West	8,438	8,099	96
United States	39,701	39,379	99

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	41,366	40,277	97	41,366	40,277	97
February	37,336			78,702		
March	43,974			122,676		
April	43,429			166,105		
May	43,305			209,410		
June	39,313			248,723		
July	37,405			286,128		
August	41,564			327,692		
September	40,298			367,990		
October	37,845			405,835		
November	37,508			443,343		
December	38,879			482,222		

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2011	2012		2011	2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	220	263	120	3,292	2,920
February	244			3,168	2,936
March	253			3,130	2,994
April	287			3,161	2,995
May	196			3,054	3,091
June	302			3,027	3,046
July	234			2,981	3,060
August	311			2,974	3,103
September	252			2,922	
October	266			2,915	
November	218			2,970	
December	277			2,936	
Total	3,060				

¹ For January 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched July 2010 through June 2011. 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: February 1, 2011 and 2012

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	12,885	11,878	92
East North Central	11,863	12,553	106
West North Central	27,856	28,182	101
South Atlantic	236,620	229,206	97
South Central	322,933	300,607	93
West	22,035	19,893	90
United States	634,192	602,319	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: January 2011 and 2012

State	During January			January-January		
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	110,220	104,599	95	110,220	104,599	95
Arkansas	86,467	75,523	87	86,467	75,523	87
Delaware	15,165	12,132	80	15,165	12,132	80
Florida	4,707	4,890	104	4,707	4,890	104
Georgia	121,577	118,810	98	121,577	118,810	98
Kentucky	26,127	27,982	107	26,127	27,982	107
Louisiana	12,370	12,659	102	12,370	12,659	102
Maryland	27,561	27,329	99	27,561	27,329	99
Mississippi	70,294	66,547	95	70,294	66,547	95
Missouri	29,383	29,748	101	29,383	29,748	101
North Carolina	72,310	74,034	102	72,310	74,034	102
Oklahoma	25,122	24,346	97	25,122	24,346	97
Pennsylvania	14,506	14,125	97	14,506	14,125	97
South Carolina	19,920	19,322	97	19,920	19,322	97
Texas	58,140	53,842	93	58,140	53,842	93
Virginia	21,529	22,320	104	21,529	22,320	104
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	41,149	39,070	95	41,149	39,070	95
19 States ¹	756,547	727,278	96	756,547	727,278	96
Other States ²	24,576	24,592	100	24,576	24,592	100
United States	781,123	751,870	96	781,123	751,870	96

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: 2011-2012

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	781,123	751,870	96	781,123	751,870	96
February	708,724			1,489,847		
March	793,957			2,283,804		
April	779,859			3,063,663		
May	806,574			3,870,237		
June	768,173			4,638,410		
July	770,368			5,408,778		
August	760,882			6,169,660		
September	721,214			6,890,874		
October	717,354			7,608,228		
November	704,103			8,312,331		
December	760,188			9,072,519		

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2011-2012

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2011 (1,000 chicks)	2012 (1,000 chicks)		2011 (1,000 chicks)	2012 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,989	6,711	96	62,996	64,366
February	7,107			63,283	63,934
March	7,058			63,250	63,578
April	7,044			63,751	63,464
May	7,721			63,990	62,764
June	7,211			64,558	62,547
July	6,444			64,656	61,927
August	7,233			64,820	61,594
September	6,657			63,576	
October	6,289			63,506	
November	6,890			63,875	
December	6,438			64,283	
Annual total	83,081				
Total placements ²					
January	8,548	8,116	95		
February	8,782				
March	9,023				
April	8,944				
May	9,612				
June	9,225				
July	8,131				
August	8,700				
September	8,546				
October	7,938				
November	8,489				
December	8,279				
Annual total	104,217				

¹ For January 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched October 2010 through June 2011.

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 338 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
All layers	(percent) 0.4	(percent) 0.6	(1,000) 988	(1,000) 25	(1,000) 2,138	(number) 19	(number) 5
Eggs	0.3	0.6	(million) 20	(million) 1	(million) 39	19	5

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
- Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 690-3237
- David Colwell – Cold Storage (202) 720-8784
- Lakeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture,
 Honey, Egg Products, Mink (202) 720-0585
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery (202) 720-3244

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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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