



# Chickens and Eggs

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## March Egg Production Up Slightly

United States egg production totaled 7.86 billion during March 2012, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.80 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 981 million were broiler-type and 78 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2012 averaged 340 million, down slightly from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,313 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2011.

All layers in the United States on April 1, 2012 totaled 341 million, down slightly from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 52.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.09 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2012, averaged 75.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2011.

## Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 7 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2012 totaled 40.6 million, down 7 percent from March 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.3 million on April 1, 2012, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 210 thousand during March 2012, down 17 percent from March 2011.

## Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Down 4 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2012 totaled 764 million, down 4 percent from March 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 614 million on April 1, 2012, down 5 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.73 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2012, down 5 percent from March 2011.

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## Contents

Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2011-2012.....	4
Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2011-2012.....	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: February-March 2011 and 2012 .....	6
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States: March-April 2011 and 2012 .....	7
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2011 and 2012 .....	8
Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During March 2011 and 2012 .....	9
Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 2011 and 2012.....	10
Egg Production by Type – States and United States: March 2011 and 2012.....	11
Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2011-2012.....	12
Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: April 1, 2011 and 2012 .....	12
Hatchery Production – United States: 2011 and 2012 .....	13
Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: April 1, 2011 and 2012 .....	14
Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2011-2012.....	14
Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2011-2012.....	15
Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: April 1, 2011 and 2012 .....	15
Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: March 2011 and 2012.....	16
Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2011-2012.....	16
Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2011-2012.....	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: 2011-2012

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

Month	2011		2012	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December <sup>1</sup> .....		343,083		338,158
January .....		342,266		337,618
February .....		339,787		338,151
March .....		340,655		339,750
April .....		340,896		
May .....		337,897		
June .....		336,411		
July .....		335,799		
August .....		335,412		
September .....		335,328		
October .....		335,884		
November .....		337,716		

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year.

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

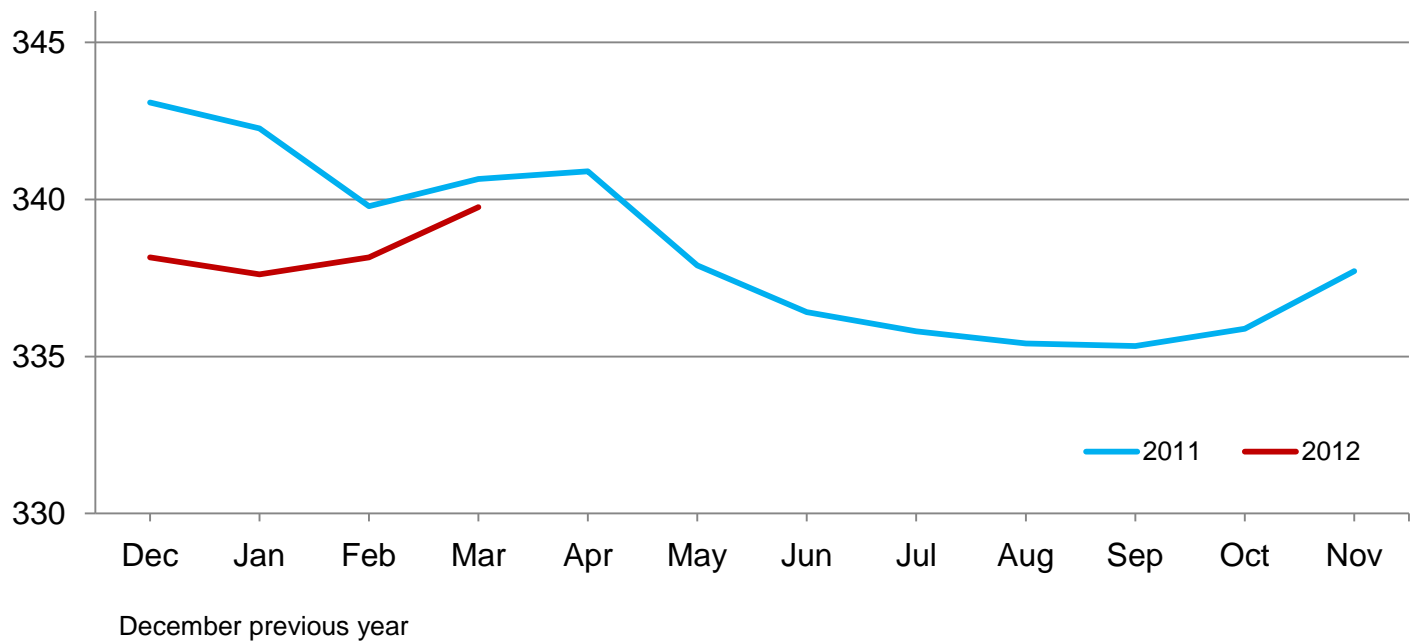
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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 <sup>1</sup> .....	7,927	7,932	6,845	6,894	1,083	1,038
January .....	7,833	7,831	6,736	6,786	1,098	1,046
February .....	7,013	7,235	6,022	6,247	990	987
March .....	7,840	7,858	6,735	6,799	1,106	1,059
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	

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year.

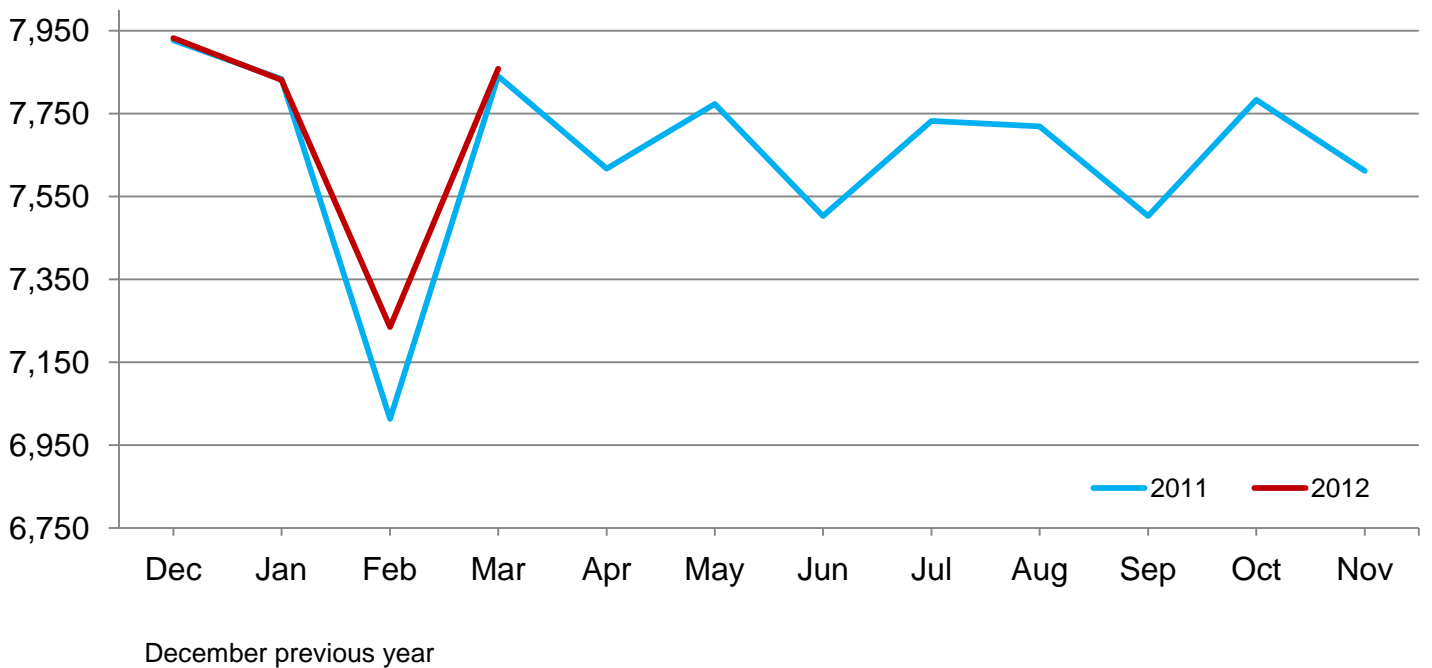
## Average Layers During the Month – United States

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:  
February-March 2011 and 2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
<b>Layers during February</b>			
All layers ..... 1,000	339,787	338,151	100
Table egg type ..... 1,000	281,706	284,489	101
Hatching egg type ..... 1,000	58,081	53,662	92
Broiler-type hatching ..... 1,000	55,073	50,625	92
Egg-type hatching ..... 1,000	3,008	3,037	101
<b>Eggs per 100 layers during February</b>			
All layers ..... number	2,064	2,140	104
Table egg type ..... number	2,138	2,196	103
Hatching egg type ..... number	1,705	1,839	108
Broiler-type hatching ..... number	1,676	1,805	108
Egg-type hatching ..... number	2,227	2,404	108
<b>Eggs produced during February</b>			
All layers ..... million	7,013	7,235	103
Table egg type ..... million	6,022	6,247	104
Hatching egg type ..... million	990	987	100
Broiler-type hatching ..... million	923	914	99
Egg-type hatching ..... million	67	73	109
<b>Layers on March 1</b>			
All layers ..... 1,000	339,296	338,878	100
Table egg type ..... 1,000	281,152	285,005	101
Hatching egg type ..... 1,000	58,144	53,873	93
Broiler-type hatching ..... 1,000	55,124	50,776	92
Egg-type hatching ..... 1,000	3,020	3,097	103
<b>Eggs per 100 layers on March 1</b>			
All layers ..... number	73.9	74.0	100
Table egg type ..... number	76.6	76.0	99
Hatching egg type ..... number	60.7	63.3	104
Broiler-type hatching ..... number	59.7	62.1	104
Egg-type hatching ..... number	78.5	82.3	105
<b>Forced molt layers on March 1</b>			
Being molted ..... percent	3.0	3.8	127
Molt completed ..... percent	20.1	19.9	99
Layers sold for slaughter during February ..... 1,000	14,695	13,375	91
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February ..... 1,000	9,082	7,199	79
Pullets on March 1 ..... 1,000	106,044	103,314	97
Pullets added during February <sup>1</sup> ..... 1,000	22,004	22,816	104

<sup>1</sup> Pullet chicks less than 3 days old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States:  
March-April 2011 and 2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
<b>Layers during March</b>			
All layers ..... 1,000	340,655	339,750	100
Table egg type ..... 1,000	282,262	285,200	101
Hatching egg type ..... 1,000	58,393	54,550	93
Broiler-type hatching ..... 1,000	55,415	51,453	93
Egg-type hatching ..... 1,000	2,978	3,097	104
<b>Eggs per 100 layers during March</b>			
All layers ..... number	2,301	2,313	101
Table egg type ..... number	2,386	2,384	100
Hatching egg type ..... number	1,894	1,941	102
Broiler-type hatching ..... number	1,862	1,907	102
Egg-type hatching ..... number	2,485	2,519	101
<b>Eggs produced during March</b>			
All layers ..... million	7,840	7,858	100
Table egg type ..... million	6,735	6,799	101
Hatching egg type ..... million	1,106	1,059	96
Broiler-type hatching ..... million	1,032	981	95
Egg-type hatching ..... million	74	78	105
<b>Layers on April 1</b>			
All layers ..... 1,000	342,237	340,590	100
Table egg type ..... 1,000	283,609	285,375	101
Hatching egg type ..... 1,000	58,628	55,215	94
Broiler-type hatching ..... 1,000	55,698	52,121	94
Egg-type hatching ..... 1,000	2,930	3,094	106
<b>Eggs per 100 layers on April 1</b>			
All layers ..... number	74.6	75.2	101
Table egg type ..... number	77.4	77.7	100
Hatching egg type ..... number	60.9	62.1	102
Broiler-type hatching ..... number	59.8	60.9	102
Egg-type hatching ..... number	81.7	81.0	99
<b>Forced molt layers on April 1</b>			
Being molted ..... percent	2.6	2.8	108
Molt completed ..... percent	20.0	19.8	99
Layers sold for slaughter during March ..... 1,000	13,838	13,139	95
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during March ..... 1,000	6,978	6,294	90
Pullets on April 1 ..... 1,000	107,302	103,861	97
Pullets added during March <sup>1</sup> ..... 1,000	25,710	22,471	87

<sup>1</sup> Pullet chicks less than 3 days old added to pullet flocks.

## Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 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 .....	1,350	1,423	9,753	9,093	1,682	1,826
Arkansas .....	3,244	3,475	12,224	11,917	1,841	1,938
California .....	18,438	19,413	18,744	19,759	2,059	2,181
Colorado .....	3,291	4,348	3,705	4,764	2,105	2,267
Connecticut .....	2,171	2,202	2,239	2,270	2,099	2,159
Florida .....	9,024	9,160	9,374	9,485	2,166	2,161
Georgia .....	8,600	8,099	17,205	16,460	1,970	2,023
Illinois .....	4,339	4,279	4,558	4,485	2,216	2,163
Indiana .....	22,923	23,503	23,656	24,210	2,135	2,127
Iowa .....	52,180	50,041	53,056	51,006	2,086	2,161
Maine .....	3,564	3,535	3,619	3,590	2,211	2,284
Maryland .....	1,984	2,052	2,114	2,177	2,129	2,297
Michigan .....	10,126	11,149	10,298	11,323	2,224	2,349
Minnesota .....	9,968	9,474	10,445	9,975	2,011	2,105
Mississippi .....	1,467	1,372	5,991	5,420	1,803	1,937
Missouri .....	5,980	5,259	7,568	6,692	2,088	2,137
Nebraska .....	9,309	9,176	9,359	9,226	2,244	2,320
New York .....	4,076	4,302	4,307	4,531	2,275	2,295
North Carolina .....	5,887	5,768	13,528	12,613	1,863	1,895
Ohio .....	26,964	27,439	27,477	27,972	2,089	2,131
Oregon .....	2,219	2,128	2,356	2,281	2,207	2,455
Pennsylvania .....	23,846	24,111	25,050	25,296	2,224	2,313
South Carolina .....	3,137	3,144	4,423	4,290	1,990	2,121
South Dakota .....	2,308	2,331	2,348	2,371	2,129	2,193
Texas .....	14,033	14,513	18,395	18,396	2,033	2,158
Utah .....	3,420	3,526	3,450	3,556	2,058	2,109
Virginia .....	1,150	1,213	2,894	2,906	1,762	1,927
Washington .....	6,343	6,867	6,459	6,982	2,214	2,206
Wisconsin .....	3,992	4,345	4,552	4,924	2,175	2,214
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	11,813	12,239	20,640	20,181	1,982	2,051
United States .....	277,146	279,886	339,787	338,151	2,064	2,140

<sup>1</sup> Includes data for States not published in this table.



## Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During March 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 .....	1,399	1,422	9,752	9,179	1,887	1,961
Arkansas .....	3,116	3,533	12,164	12,085	2,047	2,052
California .....	18,558	19,680	18,863	20,024	2,338	2,357
Colorado .....	3,366	4,331	3,816	4,782	2,358	2,447
Connecticut .....	2,196	2,231	2,270	2,303	2,335	2,345
Florida .....	9,123	9,027	9,468	9,343	2,324	2,355
Georgia .....	8,550	8,213	17,244	16,700	2,198	2,156
Illinois .....	4,235	4,262	4,460	4,468	2,287	2,372
Indiana .....	22,854	23,959	23,599	24,697	2,394	2,296
Iowa .....	52,574	50,073	53,428	51,062	2,313	2,379
Maine .....	3,431	3,528	3,486	3,583	2,438	2,428
Maryland .....	2,130	2,355	2,266	2,477	2,339	2,422
Michigan .....	10,251	11,470	10,422	11,644	2,504	2,465
Minnesota .....	9,984	9,260	10,448	9,756	2,297	2,327
Mississippi .....	1,523	1,434	6,020	5,461	2,043	2,088
Missouri .....	5,884	5,172	7,450	6,661	2,362	2,402
Nebraska .....	9,380	9,226	9,430	9,276	2,492	2,469
New York .....	4,005	4,305	4,236	4,534	2,502	2,470
North Carolina .....	5,839	5,740	13,501	12,855	2,029	2,069
Ohio .....	26,783	27,334	27,316	27,870	2,372	2,318
Oregon .....	2,292	2,073	2,413	2,220	2,528	2,568
Pennsylvania .....	24,057	23,740	25,282	24,912	2,464	2,441
South Carolina .....	3,139	3,120	4,429	4,310	2,213	2,274
South Dakota .....	2,267	2,238	2,307	2,278	2,471	2,371
Texas .....	13,872	14,846	18,309	18,769	2,288	2,318
Utah .....	3,451	3,510	3,481	3,540	2,471	2,429
Virginia .....	1,167	1,258	2,972	3,061	1,952	2,058
Washington .....	6,438	6,741	6,554	6,856	2,502	2,494
Wisconsin .....	4,007	4,289	4,583	4,881	2,335	2,418
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	11,831	12,227	20,686	20,163	2,161	2,187
United States .....	277,702	280,597	340,655	339,750	2,301	2,313

<sup>1</sup> Includes data for States not published in this table.

## Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 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 .....	164	166	26	31	138	135
Arkansas .....	225	231	72	76	153	155
California .....	386	431	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado .....	78	108	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut .....	47	49	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida .....	203	205	199	200	4	5
Georgia .....	339	333	190	178	149	155
Illinois .....	101	97	98	94	3	3
Indiana .....	505	515	493	502	12	13
Iowa .....	1,107	1,102	1,094	1,086	13	16
Maine .....	80	82	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland .....	45	50	44	49	1	1
Michigan .....	229	266	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	210	210	203	202	7	8
Mississippi .....	108	105	32	31	76	74
Missouri .....	158	143	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska .....	210	214	210	214	-	-
New York .....	98	104	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina .....	252	239	128	121	124	118
Ohio .....	574	596	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	52	56	50	54	2	2
Pennsylvania .....	557	585	537	564	20	21
South Carolina .....	88	91	68	71	20	20
South Dakota .....	50	52	50	52	-	-
Texas .....	374	397	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah .....	71	75	71	75	-	-
Virginia .....	51	56	22	26	29	30
Washington .....	143	154	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	99	109	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	409	414	283	296	126	118
United States .....	7,013	7,235	6,022	6,247	990	987

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> Includes data for States not published in this table.

## Egg Production by Type – States and United States: March 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 .....	184	180	31	34	153	146
Arkansas .....	249	248	77	83	172	165
California .....	441	472	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado .....	90	117	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut .....	53	54	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida .....	220	220	215	215	5	5
Georgia .....	379	360	211	192	168	168
Illinois .....	102	106	99	103	3	3
Indiana .....	565	567	551	553	14	14
Iowa .....	1,236	1,215	1,222	1,197	14	18
Maine .....	85	87	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland .....	53	60	52	59	1	1
Michigan .....	261	287	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	240	227	232	218	8	9
Mississippi .....	123	114	38	36	85	78
Missouri .....	176	160	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska .....	235	229	235	229	-	-
New York .....	106	112	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina .....	274	266	138	137	136	129
Ohio .....	648	646	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	61	57	59	55	2	2
Pennsylvania .....	623	608	601	587	22	21
South Carolina .....	98	98	75	76	23	22
South Dakota .....	57	54	57	54	-	-
Texas .....	419	435	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah .....	86	86	86	86	-	-
Virginia .....	58	63	25	30	33	33
Washington .....	164	171	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	107	118	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	447	441	309	318	139	124
United States .....	7,840	7,858	6,735	6,799	1,106	1,059

- Represents zero.

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

<sup>1</sup> 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 (percent)	2012 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)
January .....	2.8	2.8	21.2	19.9
February .....	3.6	4.8	20.2	18.8
March .....	3.0	3.8	20.1	19.9
April .....	2.6	2.8	20.0	19.8
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: April 1, 2011 and 2012

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)
Alabama .....	1.5	0.5	6.0	7.5
Arkansas .....	1.5	3.0	8.0	8.5
California .....	2.0	1.5	27.5	29.5
Colorado .....	-	7.0	17.5	16.0
Connecticut .....	9.5	9.0	7.5	8.0
Florida .....	6.5	5.5	33.5	35.5
Georgia .....	0.5	1.0	18.5	14.0
Illinois .....	2.0	4.0	30.0	28.0
Indiana .....	3.5	3.5	24.0	33.0
Iowa .....	4.5	4.5	30.5	29.0
Maine .....	-	-	-	-
Maryland .....	-	-	31.0	10.0
Michigan .....	1.5	2.0	12.0	15.0
Minnesota .....	4.0	4.0	23.0	20.5
Mississippi .....	1.0	-	11.5	11.0
Missouri .....	3.0	-	21.5	22.0
Nebraska .....	1.0	1.0	3.5	2.0
New York .....	-	1.0	5.5	10.0
North Carolina .....	2.0	-	16.5	14.5
Ohio .....	3.0	3.0	19.5	11.0
Oregon .....	-	4.0	20.5	30.0
Pennsylvania .....	2.0	1.5	10.5	11.0
South Carolina .....	4.0	1.5	16.0	16.0
South Dakota .....	4.0	4.5	28.0	20.5
Texas .....	1.5	2.5	18.0	19.5
Utah .....	-	4.0	39.0	35.5
Virginia .....	-	-	11.5	12.5
Washington .....	1.0	4.5	32.5	33.5
Wisconsin .....	2.0	6.5	26.5	29.0
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	2.5	3.9	15.1	18.1
United States .....	2.6	2.8	20.0	19.8

- Represents zero.

<sup>1</sup> 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)
<b>Egg-type</b>			
Eggs in incubators on April 1 .....	41,197	39,279	95
Chicks hatched during March .....	43,603	40,622	93
Chicks hatched January through March .....	121,608	120,199	99
<b>Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:</b>			
Hatchery supply flocks .....	253	210	83
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier <sup>1</sup> .....	3,130	3,001	96
<b>Broiler-type</b>			
Eggs in incubators on April 1 .....	649,146	614,211	95
Chicks hatched during March .....	793,765	764,225	96
Chicks hatched January through March .....	2,283,800	2,221,208	97
<b>Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:</b>			
Hatchery supply flocks .....	7,058	6,728	95
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier <sup>2</sup> .....	63,250	63,323	100

<sup>1</sup> 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2010 through August 2011.

<sup>2</sup> 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched December 2010 through August 2011.

## Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: April 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 .....	4,254	4,063	96
East North Central .....	8,277	8,556	103
West North Central .....	8,796	8,593	98
South Atlantic .....	4,925	4,504	91
South Central .....	5,679	5,426	96
West .....	9,266	8,137	88
United States .....	41,197	39,279	95

## 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 .....	40,590	40,277	99	40,590	40,277	99
February .....	37,415	39,300	105	78,005	79,577	102
March .....	43,603	40,622	93	121,608	120,199	99
April .....	42,959			164,567		
May .....	42,949			207,516		
June .....	38,920			246,436		
July .....	36,950			283,386		
August .....	41,431			324,817		
September .....	39,805			364,622		
October .....	37,624			402,246		
November .....	37,512			439,758		
December .....	39,071			478,829		

## 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 <sup>1</sup>	
	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	238	98	3,168	2,936
March .....	253	210	83	3,130	3,001
April .....	287			3,161	3,002
May .....	196			3,054	3,098
June .....	302			3,027	3,053
July .....	234			2,981	3,067
August .....	318			2,974	3,110
September .....	252			2,922	3,104
October .....	266			2,915	3,061
November .....	218			2,970	
December .....	277			2,936	
Total .....	3,067				

<sup>1</sup> For March 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2010 through August 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: April 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 .....	12,230	11,906	97
East North Central .....	12,801	12,463	97
West North Central .....	28,543	28,006	98
South Atlantic .....	241,377	233,939	97
South Central .....	330,189	306,359	93
West .....	24,006	21,538	90
United States .....	649,146	614,211	95

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

State	During March			January-March		
	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 .....	112,665	104,162	92	323,896	305,791	94
Arkansas .....	87,785	76,918	88	252,842	223,296	88
Delaware .....	14,312	12,142	85	42,975	35,776	83
Florida .....	4,963	4,667	94	14,015	14,076	100
Georgia .....	123,064	120,013	98	354,288	348,725	98
Kentucky .....	28,914	27,197	94	80,225	81,429	102
Louisiana .....	12,736	12,891	101	36,398	37,657	103
Maryland .....	28,403	27,377	96	81,119	80,089	99
Mississippi .....	70,638	67,856	96	203,621	197,208	97
Missouri .....	29,392	29,867	102	84,907	87,289	103
North Carolina .....	73,299	76,075	104	211,500	219,985	104
Oklahoma .....	25,734	25,428	99	73,933	73,335	99
Pennsylvania .....	14,001	13,774	98	41,813	40,971	98
South Carolina .....	19,645	19,280	98	57,429	56,389	98
Texas .....	56,134	56,286	100	163,574	161,203	99
Virginia .....	23,625	22,999	97	65,093	66,500	102
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia .....	42,694	40,667	95	120,567	115,563	96
19 States <sup>1</sup> .....	768,004	737,599	96	2,208,195	2,145,282	97
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	25,761	26,626	103	75,605	75,926	100
United States .....	793,765	764,225	96	2,283,800	2,221,208	97

<sup>1</sup> States in the weekly hatchery production estimating program.

<sup>2</sup> 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 .....	781,313	751,870	96	781,313	751,870	96
February .....	708,722	705,113	99	1,490,035	1,456,983	98
March .....	793,765	764,225	96	2,283,800	2,221,208	97
April .....	777,866			3,061,666		
May .....	804,484			3,866,150		
June .....	766,371			4,632,521		
July .....	768,432			5,400,953		
August .....	758,980			6,159,933		
September .....	719,606			6,879,539		
October .....	715,886			7,595,425		
November .....	702,169			8,297,594		
December .....	758,382			9,055,976		



## 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 <sup>1</sup>	
	2011 (1,000 chicks)	2012 (1,000 chicks)		2011 (1,000 chicks)	2012 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January .....	6,557	6,673	102	62,996	64,111
February .....	7,284	7,025	96	63,283	63,679
March .....	7,058	6,728	95	63,250	63,323
April .....	7,044			63,751	63,209
May .....	7,721			63,990	62,941
June .....	7,211			64,558	62,547
July .....	6,444			64,656	61,927
August .....	7,233			64,388	61,556
September .....	6,657			63,321	60,860
October .....	6,289			63,251	60,377
November .....	6,890			63,620	
December .....	6,438			64,028	
Annual total .....	82,826				
Total placements <sup>2</sup>					
January .....	8,187	8,201	100		
February .....	8,931	8,818	99		
March .....	9,023	8,679	96		
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 .....	104,005				

<sup>1</sup> For March 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched December 2010 through August 2011.

<sup>2</sup> 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 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 340 million layers by more than 0.3 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) 0.3	(percent) 0.6	(1,000) 831	(1,000) 25	(1,000) 1,904	(number) 18	(number) 6
Eggs .....	0.3	0.5	(million) 17	(million) 1	(million) 39	18	6

## 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](mailto: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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