



Chickens and Eggs

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December Egg Production Up 2 Percent

United States egg production totaled 8.07 billion during December 2012, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 7.03 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 969 million were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2012 averaged 344 million, up 2 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,346 eggs, unchanged from December 2011.

All layers in the United States on January 1, 2013 totaled 343 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 288 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 51.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.97 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2013, averaged 75.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from January 1, 2012.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 5 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2012 totaled 37.1 million, down 5 percent from December 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.5 million on January 1, 2013, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 191 thousand during December 2012, down 31 percent from December 2011.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2012 totaled 763 million, up 1 percent from December 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 611 million on January 1, 2013, down 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.63 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2012, up 3 percent from December 2011.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2012-2013

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

Month	2012		2013	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		338,158		344,097
January		337,618		
February		338,151		
March		339,626		
April		339,517		
May		338,447		
June		336,787		
July		335,020		
August		335,615		
September		337,520		
October		341,265		
November		344,788		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2012-2013

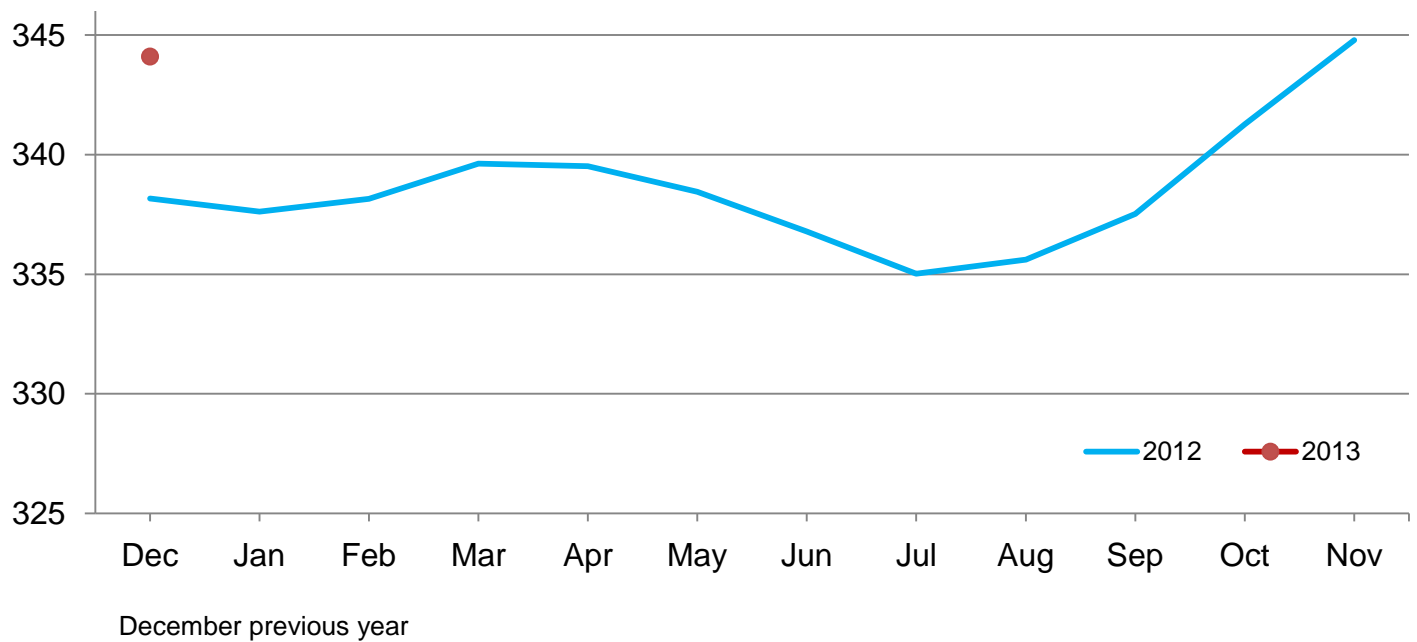
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	7,932	8,073	6,894	7,034	1,038	1,040
January	7,831		6,786		1,046	
February	7,235		6,247		987	
March	7,859		6,800		1,059	
April	7,582		6,545		1,038	
May	7,770		6,693		1,078	
June	7,501		6,470		1,032	
July	7,727		6,677		1,051	
August	7,802		6,764		1,039	
September	7,563		6,577		987	
October	7,921		6,901		1,021	
November	7,844		6,848		997	
During year	92,567		80,202		12,373	

¹ December preceding year.

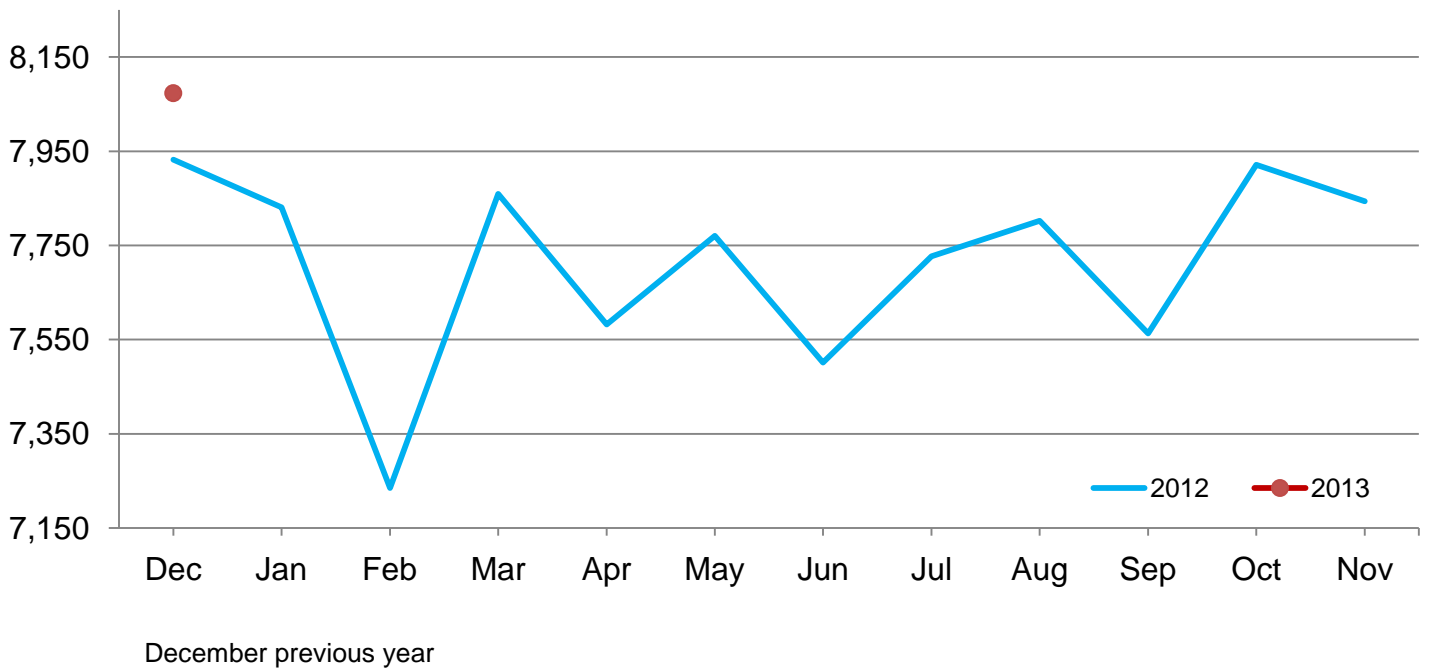
Average Layers During the Month – United States

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:
November-December 2011 and 2012**

[[Totals may not add due to rounding]]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers during November			
All layers1,000	337,716	344,788	102
Table egg type1,000	284,440	292,351	103
Hatching egg type1,000	53,276	52,437	98
Broiler-type hatching1,000	50,409	49,553	98
Egg-type hatching1,000	2,867	2,884	101
Eggs per 100 layers during November			
All layers number	2,254	2,275	101
Table egg type number	2,322	2,342	101
Hatching egg type number	1,890	1,901	101
Broiler-type hatching number	1,863	1,877	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,372	2,323	98
Eggs produced during November			
All layers million	7,612	7,844	103
Table egg type million	6,605	6,848	104
Hatching egg type million	1,007	997	99
Broiler-type hatching million	939	930	99
Egg-type hatching million	68	67	99
Layers on December 1			
All layers1,000	338,472	345,549	102
Table egg type1,000	285,486	292,567	102
Hatching egg type1,000	52,986	52,982	100
Broiler-type hatching1,000	50,205	50,037	100
Egg-type hatching1,000	2,781	2,945	106
Eggs per 100 layers on December 1			
All layers number	75.4	76.1	101
Table egg type number	77.7	78.5	101
Hatching egg type number	63.1	62.6	99
Broiler-type hatching number	62.0	61.8	100
Egg-type hatching number	81.7	77.1	94
Forced molt layers on December 1			
Being moltedpercent	1.7	1.5	88
Molt completedpercent	21.1	20.4	97
Layers sold for slaughter during November1,000	12,471	12,682	102
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during November1,000	6,998	5,441	78
Pullets on December 11,000	101,928	102,467	101
Pullets added during November ¹1,000	20,533	20,264	99

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: December-January 2011-2013

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers during December			
All layers1,000	338,158	344,097	102
Table egg type1,000	285,051	290,493	102
Hatching egg type1,000	53,107	53,604	101
Broiler-type hatching1,000	50,313	50,644	101
Egg-type hatching1,000	2,794	2,960	106
Eggs per 100 layers during December			
All layersnumber	2,346	2,346	100
Table egg typenumber	2,419	2,421	100
Hatching egg typenumber	1,955	1,940	99
Broiler-type hatchingnumber	1,924	1,913	99
Egg-type hatchingnumber	2,505	2,399	96
Eggs produced during December			
All layersmillion	7,932	8,073	102
Table egg typemillion	6,894	7,034	102
Hatching egg typemillion	1,038	1,040	100
Broiler-type hatchingmillion	968	969	100
Egg-type hatchingmillion	70	71	101
	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
Layers on January 1			
All layers1,000	337,812	342,611	101
Table egg type1,000	284,600	288,403	101
Hatching egg type1,000	53,212	54,208	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	50,409	51,240	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	2,803	2,968	106
Eggs per 100 layers on January 1			
All layersnumber	76.1	75.1	99
Table egg typenumber	78.5	77.5	99
Hatching egg typenumber	62.9	62.3	99
Broiler-type hatchingnumber	62.0	61.4	99
Egg-type hatchingnumber	80.2	78.6	98
Forced molt layers on January 1			
Percent being moltedpercent	2.8	2.9	104
Percent with molt completedpercent	19.9	19.2	96
Layers sold for slaughter during December1,000	13,286	12,863	97
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, Composted or disappeared for any Reason during December1,000	8,840	7,614	86
Pullets on January 11,000	102,505	102,605	100
Pullets added during December ¹1,000	23,434	19,442	83

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During November 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	1,468	1,537	9,045	8,995	1,924	1,957
Arkansas	3,524	3,767	11,706	12,229	2,033	2,061
California	19,425	19,386	19,744	19,743	2,289	2,284
Colorado	4,268	3,749	4,712	4,178	2,377	2,370
Connecticut	2,167	2,234	2,233	2,299	2,284	2,305
Florida	9,599	8,609	9,938	8,942	2,355	2,281
Georgia	7,981	9,011	16,236	17,294	2,125	2,116
Illinois	4,348	4,002	4,554	4,257	2,350	2,349
Indiana	22,120	25,246	22,778	26,048	2,243	2,234
Iowa	52,256	51,531	53,193	52,466	2,241	2,348
Maine	3,547	3,515	3,602	3,570	2,249	2,297
Maryland	1,892	2,302	2,028	2,413	2,367	2,279
Michigan	10,574	12,190	10,724	12,340	2,378	2,399
Minnesota	9,554	9,547	10,046	9,972	2,289	2,337
Mississippi	1,519	1,547	5,593	5,405	2,038	2,072
Missouri	5,580	6,651	7,029	8,185	2,205	2,285
Nebraska	9,013	9,246	9,063	9,296	2,450	2,399
New York	4,198	4,442	4,425	4,679	2,418	2,394
North Carolina	5,753	5,889	12,659	12,581	1,983	2,035
Ohio	27,367	28,101	27,880	28,521	2,306	2,374
Oregon	2,220	2,135	2,362	2,268	2,456	2,646
Pennsylvania	23,873	24,020	25,093	25,184	2,399	2,410
South Carolina	3,155	3,054	4,221	4,279	2,180	2,150
South Dakota	2,391	2,213	2,431	2,253	2,427	2,530
Texas	14,332	15,175	18,204	18,822	2,346	2,231
Utah	3,479	3,654	3,509	3,684	2,394	2,362
Virginia	1,239	1,247	2,916	2,768	2,195	2,204
Washington	6,733	6,669	6,848	6,784	2,366	2,373
Wisconsin	4,346	4,744	4,905	5,350	2,345	2,280
Other States ¹	11,936	12,325	20,039	19,983	2,131	2,147
United States	279,857	287,738	337,716	344,788	2,254	2,275

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During December 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	1,496	1,538	8,998	9,137	2,000	1,992
Arkansas	3,513	3,657	11,822	12,288	2,115	2,091
California	19,351	19,168	19,697	19,525	2,351	2,341
Colorado	4,306	3,747	4,778	4,186	2,491	2,317
Connecticut	2,279	2,330	2,342	2,394	2,348	2,339
Florida	9,679	8,210	10,003	8,537	2,469	2,343
Georgia	8,101	8,956	16,270	17,380	2,262	2,146
Illinois	4,253	3,930	4,464	4,177	2,464	2,394
Indiana	22,414	25,198	23,076	25,994	2,344	2,335
Iowa	51,239	51,442	52,135	52,443	2,355	2,403
Maine	3,511	3,480	3,566	3,535	2,356	2,376
Maryland	1,907	2,258	2,030	2,373	2,512	2,318
Michigan	10,646	12,059	10,796	12,209	2,519	2,539
Minnesota	9,550	9,499	10,052	9,926	2,417	2,378
Mississippi	1,523	1,576	5,697	5,516	2,141	2,121
Missouri	5,526	6,574	6,958	8,201	2,386	2,414
Nebraska	9,013	9,245	9,063	9,295	2,593	2,507
New York	4,302	4,399	4,529	4,632	2,495	2,526
North Carolina	5,798	5,967	12,706	12,897	2,101	2,101
Ohio	27,794	27,895	28,314	28,312	2,373	2,455
Oregon	2,129	2,156	2,257	2,301	2,614	2,608
Pennsylvania	24,085	23,698	25,284	24,918	2,456	2,508
South Carolina	3,152	2,955	4,303	4,228	2,277	2,271
South Dakota	2,444	2,214	2,484	2,254	2,375	2,573
Texas	14,280	15,164	17,993	18,860	2,445	2,317
Utah	3,504	3,769	3,534	3,799	2,434	2,422
Virginia	1,303	1,202	3,022	2,765	2,118	2,170
Washington	6,713	6,486	6,828	6,601	2,431	2,484
Wisconsin	4,312	4,738	4,878	5,324	2,460	2,498
Other States ¹	12,325	12,361	20,279	20,090	2,135	2,205
United States	280,448	285,871	338,158	344,097	2,346	2,346

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: November 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	174	176	35	37	139	139
Arkansas	238	252	83	90	155	162
California	452	451	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	112	99	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	51	53	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	234	204	229	199	5	5
Georgia	345	366	187	210	158	156
Illinois	107	100	104	96	3	4
Indiana	511	582	500	568	11	14
Iowa	1,192	1,232	1,176	1,218	16	14
Maine	81	82	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	48	55	46	54	2	1
Michigan	255	296	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	230	233	222	226	8	7
Mississippi	114	112	36	38	78	74
Missouri	155	187	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	222	223	222	223	-	-
New York	107	112	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	251	256	129	136	122	120
Ohio	643	677	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	58	60	56	58	2	2
Pennsylvania	602	607	582	587	20	20
South Carolina	92	92	73	71	19	21
South Dakota	59	57	59	57	-	-
Texas	427	420	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	84	87	84	87	-	-
Virginia	64	61	33	33	31	28
Washington	162	161	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	115	122	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	427	429	303	311	125	119
United States	7,612	7,844	6,605	6,848	1,007	997

- 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: December 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	180	182	38	36	142	146
Arkansas	250	257	89	91	161	166
California	463	457	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	119	97	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	55	56	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	247	200	242	195	5	5
Georgia	368	373	205	210	163	163
Illinois	110	100	107	96	3	4
Indiana	541	607	530	592	11	15
Iowa	1,228	1,260	1,212	1,243	16	17
Maine	84	84	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	51	55	49	54	2	1
Michigan	272	310	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	243	236	234	229	9	7
Mississippi	122	117	40	39	82	78
Missouri	166	198	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	235	233	235	233	-	-
New York	113	117	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	267	271	140	145	127	126
Ohio	672	695	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	59	60	57	58	2	2
Pennsylvania	621	625	599	604	22	21
South Carolina	98	96	78	74	20	22
South Dakota	59	58	59	58	-	-
Texas	440	437	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	86	92	86	92	-	-
Virginia	64	60	32	31	32	29
Washington	166	164	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	120	133	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	433	443	308	322	126	122
United States	7,932	8,073	6,894	7,034	1,038	1,040

- 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: 2012-2013

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
January	2.8	2.9	19.9	19.2
February	4.8		18.8	
March	3.8		19.9	
April	2.8		19.7	
May	4.3		19.6	
June	2.9		20.3	
July	2.9		20.4	
August	2.4		20.6	
September	2.9		19.8	
October	3.5		20.6	
November	2.3		21.1	
December	1.5		20.4	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	-	0.5	7.0	5.5
Arkansas	1.0	2.0	8.0	10.5
California	7.0	2.5	26.5	29.5
Colorado	-	4.5	14.5	35.5
Connecticut	-	-	8.0	8.5
Florida	5.0	8.0	40.0	32.5
Georgia	1.0	3.5	12.5	12.0
Illinois	-	2.0	26.0	14.0
Indiana	3.0	4.0	33.0	24.0
Iowa	6.0	4.0	30.5	26.0
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	9.0	-	8.0	4.0
Michigan	0.5	2.5	17.0	8.0
Minnesota	2.5	3.0	24.0	25.5
Mississippi	0.5	2.0	12.5	9.5
Missouri	-	1.5	18.5	14.5
Nebraska	-	-	2.0	3.0
New York	1.5	1.5	7.0	10.0
North Carolina	-	2.0	16.0	12.5
Ohio	4.0	2.5	9.5	27.0
Oregon	3.0	14.0	37.0	22.5
Pennsylvania	1.0	1.0	10.5	8.0
South Carolina	-	-	14.0	13.5
South Dakota	8.5	4.0	7.8	15.5
Texas	-	5.0	23.5	21.0
Utah	4.5	4.0	34.0	35.0
Virginia	-	3.5	14.5	16.5
Washington	7.0	3.5	30.0	31.0
Wisconsin	6.0	3.5	26.0	29.5
Other States ¹	2.3	2.4	18.6	17.9
United States	2.8	2.9	19.9	19.2

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2012 and 2013

[December preceding year]

Item	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on January 1	38,818	37,486	97
Chicks hatched during December	39,071	37,130	95
Chicks hatched January through December	478,829	467,355	98
Pullets hatched during December for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	277	191	69
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	2,936	3,017	103
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on January 1	633,902	610,708	96
Chicks hatched during December	758,382	762,690	101
Chicks hatched January through December	9,055,976	8,924,917	99
Pullets hatched during December for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,438	6,630	103
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	64,028	60,721	95

¹ 2013 includes pullet chicks hatched June 2011 through May 2012.

² 2013 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2011 through May 2012.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	4,904	4,288	87
East North Central	6,517	7,185	110
West North Central	8,901	10,027	113
South Atlantic	4,756	4,471	94
South Central	5,557	5,752	104
West	8,183	5,763	70
United States	38,818	37,486	97

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

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	39,702	92	164,567	159,901	97
May	42,949	43,280	101	207,516	203,181	98
June	38,920	39,410	101	246,436	242,591	98
July	36,950	34,041	92	283,386	276,632	98
August	41,431	41,357	100	324,817	317,989	98
September	39,805	37,542	94	364,622	355,531	98
October	37,624	39,077	104	402,246	394,608	98
November	37,512	35,617	95	439,758	430,225	98
December	39,071	37,130	95	478,829	467,355	98

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		2012	2013
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	220	263	120	2,920	2,834
February	244	238	98	2,936	2,871
March	253	210	83	3,001	2,890
April	287	137	48	3,002	2,844
May	196	302	154	3,098	2,764
June	302	119	39	3,053	2,788
July	234	271	116	3,067	2,702
August	318	337	106	3,110	
September	252	206	82	3,104	
October	266	186	70	3,061	
November	218	242	111	2,911	
December	277	191	69	3,017	
Total	3,067	2,702	88		

¹ For December 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched June 2011 through May 2012. 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: January 1, 2012 and 2013

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	13,251	12,427	94
East North Central	11,776	12,066	102
West North Central	29,593	28,810	97
South Atlantic	241,514	233,990	97
South Central	314,811	302,943	96
West	22,957	20,472	89
United States	633,902	610,708	96

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

State	During December			January-December		
	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	104,652	105,039	100	1,255,754	1,224,422	98
Arkansas	76,645	80,857	105	963,668	918,677	95
Delaware	11,449	12,726	111	148,978	148,974	100
Florida	4,943	4,963	100	57,693	57,449	100
Georgia	118,803	120,375	101	1,412,278	1,403,330	99
Kentucky	27,922	27,722	99	332,495	329,423	99
Louisiana	12,636	12,446	98	147,041	149,295	102
Maryland	27,135	26,632	98	328,342	319,121	97
Mississippi	66,778	65,733	98	802,844	779,787	97
Missouri	30,321	30,125	99	341,963	345,986	101
North Carolina	74,553	73,969	99	860,120	871,407	101
Oklahoma	24,697	25,044	101	294,883	293,650	100
Pennsylvania	14,024	13,902	99	165,777	161,319	97
South Carolina	19,305	19,182	99	229,125	224,621	98
Texas	54,829	54,498	99	649,204	638,104	98
Virginia	22,507	23,552	105	266,970	268,732	101
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	41,638	39,313	94	490,707	469,168	96
19 States ¹	732,837	736,078	100	8,747,842	8,603,465	98
Other States ²	25,545	26,612	104	308,134	321,452	104
United States	758,382	762,690	101	9,055,976	8,924,917	99

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

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	747,697	96	3,061,666	2,968,905	97
May	804,484	777,636	97	3,866,150	3,746,541	97
June	766,371	756,316	99	4,632,521	4,502,857	97
July	768,432	762,749	99	5,400,953	5,265,606	97
August	758,980	758,292	100	6,159,933	6,023,898	98
September	719,606	718,067	100	6,879,539	6,741,965	98
October	715,886	726,908	102	7,595,425	7,468,873	98
November	702,169	693,354	99	8,297,594	8,162,227	98
December	758,382	762,690	101	9,055,976	8,924,917	99

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)		2012 (1,000 chicks)	2013 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,557	6,673	102	64,111	60,864
February	7,284	7,025	96	63,679	60,646
March	7,058	6,753	96	63,323	61,094
April	7,044	6,524	93	63,209	61,334
May	7,721	7,472	97	62,941	60,926
June	7,211	6,800	94	62,547	60,668
July	6,444	6,071	94	61,927	60,545
August	7,233	7,338	101	61,556	
September	6,657	6,678	100	60,860	
October	6,289	6,265	100	60,402	
November	6,890	6,767	98	60,482	
December	6,438	6,630	103	60,721	
Annual total	82,826	80,996	98		
Total placements ²					
January	8,187	8,201	100		
February	8,931	8,818	99		
March	9,023	8,525	94		
April	8,944	8,232	92		
May	9,612	9,430	98		
June	9,225	8,554	93		
July	8,131	7,447	92		
August	8,700	9,241	106		
September	8,546	8,296	97		
October	7,938	7,812	98		
November	8,489	8,605	101		
December	8,279	8,126	98		
Annual total	104,005	101,287	97		

¹ For December 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2011 through May 2012.

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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 344 million layers by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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) 0.1	(percent) 0.2	(1,000) 298	(1,000) 25	(1,000) 1,604	(number) 15	(number) 9
Eggs	0.1	0.2	(million) 6	(million) 1	(million) 28	16	8

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, Mink (202) 720-0585
- Dawn Keen – Egg Products (202) 720-4448
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery (202) 720-3244

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