



Chickens and Eggs

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December Egg Production Up 3 Percent

United States egg production totaled 8.63 billion during December 2014, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 7.54 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 75 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2014 averaged 362 million, up 2 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,384 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2013.

All layers in the United States on January 1, 2015 totaled 361 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 361 million layers consisted of 305 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.20 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2015, averaged 76.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from January 1, 2014.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 4 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2014 totaled 43.0 million, up 4 percent from December 2013. Eggs in incubators totaled 42.1 million on January 1, 2015, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 248 thousand during December 2014, down 30 percent from December 2013.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2014 totaled 796 million, up 3 percent from December 2013. Eggs in incubators totaled 644 million on January 1, 2015, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.03 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2014, up 5 percent from December 2013.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2014-2015

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

Month	2014		2015	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		356,527		362,035
January		355,205		
February		354,349		
March		355,618		
April		356,988		
May		356,510		
June		355,724		
July		356,631		
August		357,646		
September		357,965		
October		358,267		
November		360,530		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2014-2015

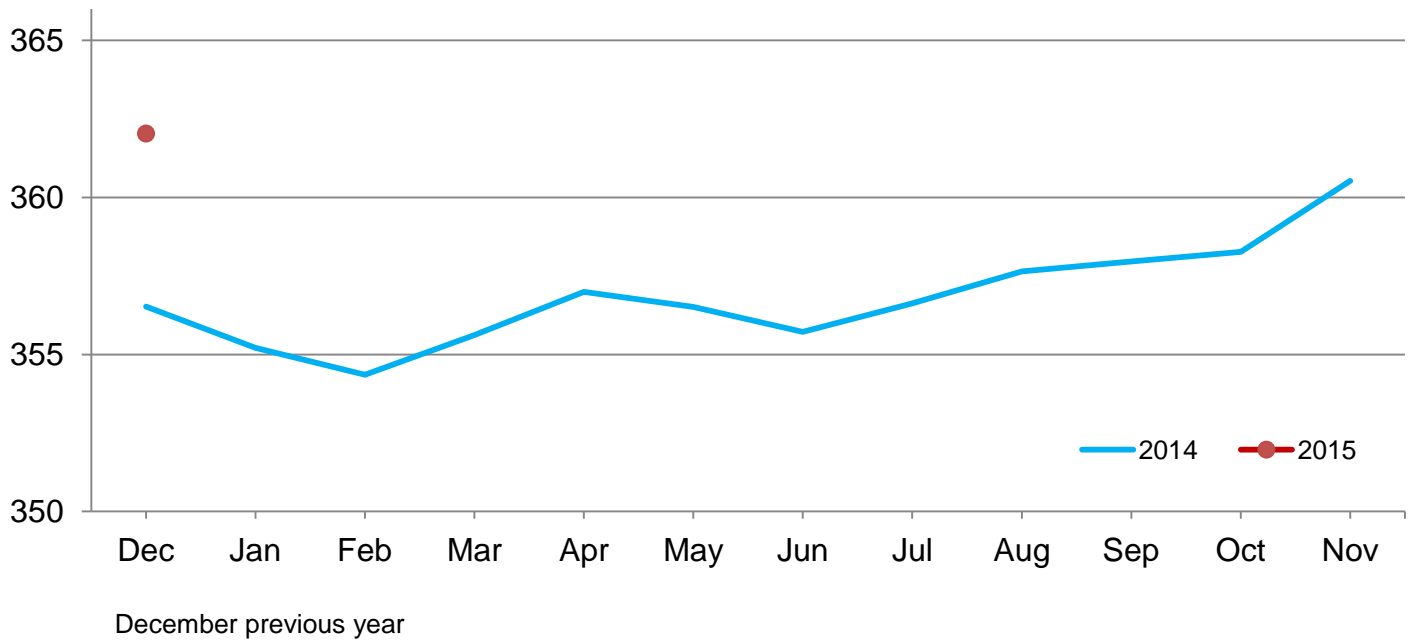
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	8,387	8,632	7,320	7,542	1,068	1,091
January	8,297		7,222		1,076	
February	7,452		6,482		969	
March	8,324		7,252		1,073	
April	8,117		7,074		1,042	
May	8,335		7,244		1,093	
June	8,054		6,992		1,062	
July	8,395		7,296		1,100	
August	8,394		7,298		1,097	
September	8,094		7,033		1,061	
October	8,435		7,340		1,096	
November	8,325		7,268		1,058	
During year	98,609		85,821		12,795	

¹ December preceding year.

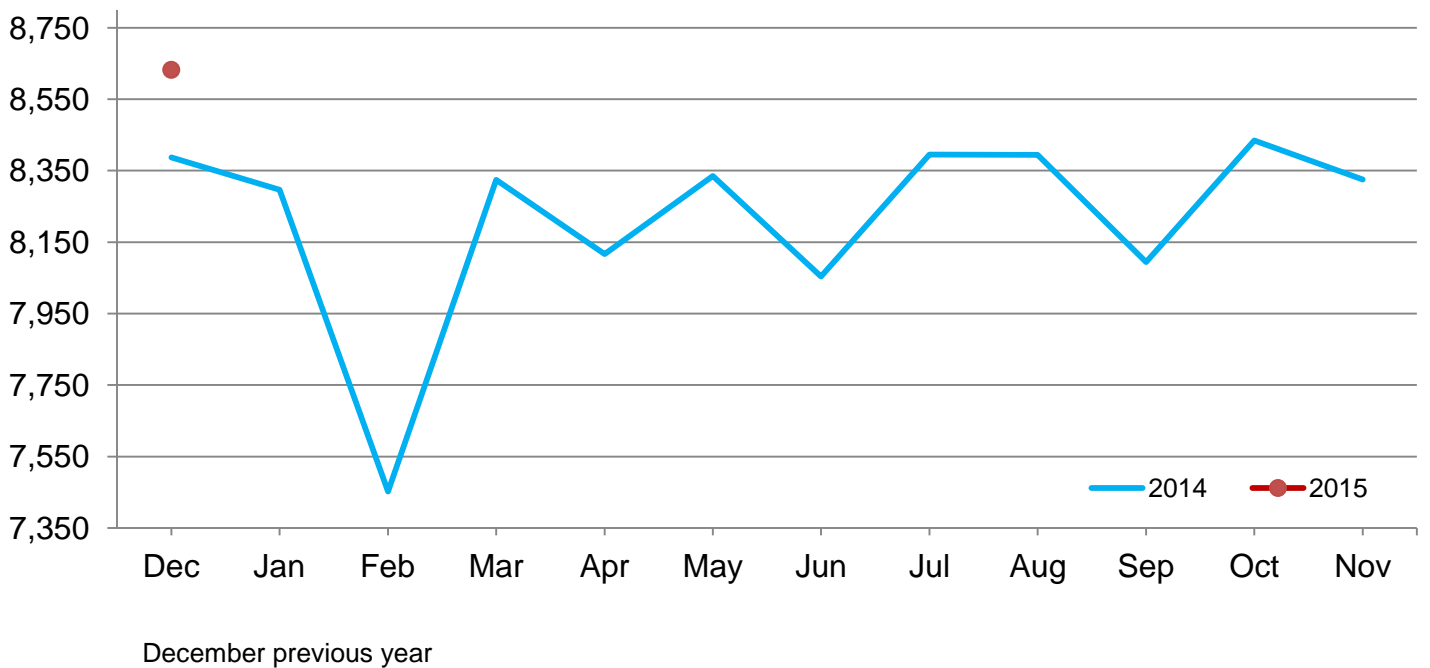
Average Layers During the Month – United States

Million layers



All Egg Production During the Month – United States

Million eggs



**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Molt – United States:
November-December 2013 and 2014**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013
Layers during November			
All layers1,000	354,968	360,530	102
Table egg type1,000	300,002	304,567	102
Hatching egg type1,000	54,966	55,963	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	51,795	53,027	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,171	2,936	93
Eggs per 100 layers during November			
All layers number	2,281	2,309	101
Table egg type number	2,355	2,386	101
Hatching egg type number	1,881	1,891	101
Broiler-type hatching number	1,853	1,861	100
Egg-type hatching number	2,334	2,418	104
Eggs produced during November			
All layers million	8,098	8,325	103
Table egg type million	7,064	7,268	103
Hatching egg type million	1,034	1,058	102
Broiler-type hatching million	960	987	103
Egg-type hatching million	74	71	96
Layers on December 1			
All layers1,000	356,923	362,809	102
Table egg type1,000	301,650	306,726	102
Hatching egg type1,000	55,273	56,083	101
Broiler-type hatching1,000	52,078	53,169	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,195	2,914	91
Eggs per 100 layers on December 1			
All layers number	76.1	77.2	101
Table egg type number	78.6	79.9	102
Hatching egg type number	62.2	62.6	101
Broiler-type hatching number	61.3	61.6	100
Egg-type hatching number	75.8	79.7	105
Molted layers on December 1			
Being moltedpercent	1.5	1.4	93
Molt completedpercent	18.4	19.5	106
Layers sold for slaughter during November1,000	13,431	13,641	102
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during November1,000	6,068	7,413	122
Pullets on December 11,000	106,020	105,822	100
Pullets added during November ¹1,000	23,438	23,518	100

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Molt – United States: December-January 2013-2015

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013
Layers during December			
All layers1,000	356,527	362,035	102
Table egg type1,000	301,038	305,770	102
Hatching egg type1,000	55,489	56,265	101
Broiler-type hatching1,000	52,378	53,204	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,111	3,061	98
Eggs per 100 layers during December			
All layersnumber	2,352	2,384	101
Table egg typenumber	2,432	2,467	101
Hatching egg typenumber	1,925	1,939	101
Broiler-type hatchingnumber	1,894	1,910	101
Egg-type hatchingnumber	2,443	2,450	100
Eggs produced during December			
All layers million	8,387	8,632	103
Table egg type million	7,320	7,542	103
Hatching egg type million	1,068	1,091	102
Broiler-type hatching million	992	1,016	102
Egg-type hatching million	76	75	99
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
Layers on January 1			
All layers1,000	356,101	361,240	101
Table egg type1,000	300,408	304,802	101
Hatching egg type1,000	55,693	56,438	101
Broiler-type hatching1,000	52,668	53,236	101
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,025	3,202	106
Eggs per 100 layers on January 1			
All layersnumber	75.6	76.5	101
Table egg typenumber	78.1	79.0	101
Hatching egg typenumber	61.9	62.6	101
Broiler-type hatchingnumber	60.8	61.6	101
Egg-type hatchingnumber	80.8	78.5	97
Molted layers on January 1			
Percent being moltedpercent	2.6	2.0	77
Percent with molt completedpercent	18.2	18.5	102
Layers sold for slaughter during December1,000	13,121	14,284	109
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, Composted or disappeared for any Reason during December1,000	7,440	8,334	112
Pullets on January 11,000	107,787	107,359	100
Pullets added during December ¹1,000	22,555	23,926	106

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During November 2013 and 2014

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,486	1,500	9,054	9,155	1,944	1,933
Arkansas	3,614	3,866	12,328	13,026	2,020	2,011
California	16,761	14,669	17,149	15,207	2,350	2,367
Colorado	4,514	4,390	4,965	4,741	2,457	2,468
Connecticut	2,249	2,249	2,338	2,341	2,267	2,264
Florida	7,968	8,536	8,263	8,878	2,287	2,410
Georgia	9,352	9,812	18,037	18,572	2,168	2,165
Illinois	4,307	4,481	4,614	4,786	2,341	2,298
Indiana	26,110	26,017	27,056	26,855	2,354	2,346
Iowa	57,010	58,334	57,951	59,315	2,280	2,318
Maine	3,511	3,511	3,566	3,566	2,299	2,299
Maryland	2,651	2,578	2,775	2,696	2,234	2,337
Michigan	12,878	12,946	13,029	13,098	2,395	2,405
Minnesota	9,954	10,733	10,386	11,143	2,301	2,333
Mississippi	1,533	1,489	5,580	5,474	1,989	2,064
Missouri	6,419	6,736	7,979	8,292	2,294	2,352
Nebraska	9,279	9,447	9,329	9,497	2,455	2,506
New York	4,571	4,582	4,806	4,798	2,455	2,480
North Carolina	5,933	6,546	13,137	14,094	2,032	2,086
Ohio	28,185	30,318	28,715	30,864	2,372	2,411
Oregon	2,152	2,126	2,222	2,196	2,610	2,596
Pennsylvania	24,832	24,361	26,026	25,581	2,386	2,506
South Carolina	3,064	2,895	4,241	4,131	2,169	2,227
South Dakota	2,732	2,473	2,772	2,513	2,417	2,388
Texas	14,946	15,163	18,805	18,986	2,249	2,270
Utah	3,871	4,417	3,901	4,447	2,435	2,429
Virginia	1,201	1,223	2,785	2,831	2,154	2,190
Washington	6,654	6,890	6,772	7,009	2,451	2,368
Wisconsin	4,753	4,636	5,372	5,300	2,420	2,396
Other States ¹	12,825	12,864	21,015	21,138	2,156	2,167
United States	295,315	299,788	354,968	360,530	2,281	2,309

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During December 2013 and 2014

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,482	1,588	9,089	9,291	1,991	1,980
Arkansas	3,602	3,786	12,374	12,895	2,085	2,102
California	16,448	13,597	16,872	14,135	2,454	2,377
Colorado	4,589	4,300	5,029	4,651	2,525	2,430
Connecticut	2,326	2,326	2,415	2,419	2,319	2,315
Florida	8,273	8,731	8,576	9,054	2,355	2,441
Georgia	9,382	10,124	18,072	18,854	2,236	2,212
Illinois	4,237	4,548	4,537	4,841	2,402	2,334
Indiana	26,546	26,124	27,516	26,980	2,399	2,443
Iowa	57,246	58,725	58,173	59,743	2,341	2,424
Maine	3,478	3,478	3,533	3,533	2,378	2,378
Maryland	2,719	2,626	2,842	2,745	2,217	2,441
Michigan	12,734	12,932	12,884	13,084	2,491	2,545
Minnesota	10,163	11,108	10,563	11,516	2,367	2,449
Mississippi	1,532	1,514	5,693	5,584	2,020	2,113
Missouri	6,453	6,837	8,066	8,423	2,368	2,446
Nebraska	9,257	9,464	9,307	9,514	2,493	2,554
New York	4,579	4,719	4,810	4,939	2,516	2,571
North Carolina	5,863	6,724	13,160	14,332	2,150	2,198
Ohio	28,051	30,203	28,585	30,723	2,480	2,451
Oregon	2,197	2,144	2,267	2,214	2,691	2,620
Pennsylvania	24,791	24,320	26,008	25,581	2,495	2,580
South Carolina	3,221	3,012	4,416	4,256	2,242	2,185
South Dakota	2,593	2,510	2,633	2,550	2,545	2,588
Texas	14,989	15,096	18,887	18,949	2,314	2,354
Utah	3,864	4,407	3,894	4,437	2,440	2,524
Virginia	1,196	1,260	2,800	2,847	2,179	2,248
Washington	6,756	7,051	6,873	7,169	2,401	2,455
Wisconsin	4,725	4,811	5,381	5,474	2,546	2,448
Other States ¹	12,973	12,924	21,272	21,302	2,228	2,239
United States	296,265	300,989	356,527	362,035	2,352	2,384

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: November 2013 and 2014

[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	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	176	177	35	36	141	141
Arkansas	249	262	87	93	162	169
California	403	360	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	122	117	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	53	53	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	189	214	185	209	4	5
Georgia	391	402	227	236	164	166
Illinois	108	110	103	105	5	5
Indiana	637	630	619	614	18	16
Iowa	1,321	1,375	1,307	1,359	14	16
Maine	82	82	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	62	63	61	62	1	1
Michigan	312	315	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	239	260	232	254	7	6
Mississippi	111	113	36	37	75	76
Missouri	183	195	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	229	238	229	238	-	-
New York	118	119	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	267	294	137	156	130	138
Ohio	681	744	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	58	57	58	57	-	-
Pennsylvania	621	641	600	619	21	22
South Carolina	92	92	72	70	20	22
South Dakota	67	60	67	60	-	-
Texas	423	431	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	95	108	95	108	-	-
Virginia	60	62	31	32	29	30
Washington	166	166	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	130	127	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	453	458	323	330	130	129
United States	8,098	8,325	7,064	7,268	1,034	1,058

- 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 2013 and 2014

[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	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	181	184	35	39	146	145
Arkansas	258	271	92	96	166	175
California	414	336	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	127	113	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	56	56	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	202	221	198	216	4	5
Georgia	404	417	234	247	170	170
Illinois	109	113	104	108	5	5
Indiana	660	659	642	643	18	16
Iowa	1,362	1,448	1,348	1,432	14	16
Maine	84	84	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	63	67	62	66	1	1
Michigan	321	333	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	250	282	244	276	6	6
Mississippi	115	118	37	39	78	79
Missouri	191	206	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	232	243	232	243	-	-
New York	121	127	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	283	315	148	173	135	142
Ohio	709	753	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	61	58	61	58	-	-
Pennsylvania	649	660	626	636	23	24
South Carolina	99	93	79	71	20	22
South Dakota	67	66	67	66	-	-
Texas	437	446	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	95	112	95	112	-	-
Virginia	61	64	31	33	30	31
Washington	165	176	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	137	134	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	474	477	341	344	134	134
United States	8,387	8,632	7,320	7,542	1,068	1,091

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Molted as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2014-2015

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
January	2.6	2.0	18.2	18.5
February	2.9		17.9	
March	2.5		17.7	
April	1.9		17.9	
May	2.9		17.7	
June	3.0		17.2	
July	2.6		18.0	
August	3.2		18.1	
September	2.9		18.9	
October	3.4		19.3	
November	2.0		20.0	
December	1.4		19.5	

Molted as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	1.0	1.5	4.5	7.5
Arkansas	1.5	2.0	10.5	14.0
California	2.0	1.5	22.5	33.0
Colorado	6.0	-	14.5	21.5
Connecticut	-	-	8.5	8.5
Florida	7.0	3.0	31.0	40.5
Georgia	0.5	1.5	14.0	18.0
Illinois	-	-	21.5	14.0
Indiana	3.5	1.0	25.0	24.5
Iowa	4.0	4.0	26.5	24.5
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	7.5	-
Michigan	4.5	2.0	10.0	10.0
Minnesota	3.5	4.0	17.0	18.0
Mississippi	1.0	1.5	9.5	14.0
Missouri	0.5	-	20.0	14.5
Nebraska	1.5	1.0	5.0	2.0
New York	0.5	-	5.0	7.0
North Carolina	-	-	15.0	15.5
Ohio	2.0	2.0	20.0	21.5
Oregon	4.5	12.5	24.0	16.0
Pennsylvania	2.5	-	7.0	2.5
South Carolina	-	-	11.0	8.0
South Dakota	8.0	-	4.5	7.5
Texas	3.5	3.5	26.0	30.5
Utah	3.0	1.0	35.5	28.5
Virginia	-	-	15.5	22.0
Washington	5.5	3.0	24.0	17.5
Wisconsin	2.5	7.5	21.5	26.5
Other States ¹	1.7	1.9	16.2	13.9
United States	2.6	2.0	18.2	18.5

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2014 and 2015

[December preceding year]

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on January 1	41,053	42,062	102
Chicks hatched during December	41,144	42,977	104
Chicks hatched January through December	509,793	514,685	101
Pullets hatched during December for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	352	248	70
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	2,681	2,927	109
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on January 1	628,646	644,059	102
Chicks hatched during December	774,784	795,735	103
Chicks hatched January through December	9,058,220	9,144,492	101
Pullets hatched during December for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,669	7,025	105
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	60,221	61,835	103

¹ 2015 includes pullet chicks hatched June 2013 through May 2014.

² 2015 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2013 through May 2014.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators on the First of the Month – Regions and United States: 2013-2015

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	December 1		2014 as percent of 2013	January 1		2015 as percent of 2014
	2013	2014		2014	2015	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	5,158	5,450	106	5,772	5,837	101
East North Central	9,126	9,726	107	8,882	9,126	103
West North Central	9,893	11,651	118	9,993	11,738	117
South Atlantic	5,232	4,099	78	4,430	4,527	102
South Central	5,754	6,052	105	6,025	5,643	94
West	5,842	5,021	86	5,951	5,191	87
United States	41,005	41,999	102	41,053	42,062	102

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2013-2014

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	43,454	44,134	102	43,454	44,134	102
February	41,840	40,323	96	85,294	84,457	99
March	43,600	43,818	101	128,894	128,275	100
April	45,423	45,115	99	174,317	173,390	99
May	49,468	49,003	99	223,785	222,393	99
June	41,584	43,470	105	265,369	265,863	100
July	39,225	42,123	107	304,594	307,986	101
August	38,231	39,458	103	342,825	347,444	101
September	41,668	43,309	104	384,493	390,753	102
October	42,406	44,416	105	426,899	435,169	102
November	41,750	36,539	88	468,649	471,708	101
December	41,144	42,977	104	509,793	514,685	101

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2013-2015

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2014 as percent of 2013	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2013	2014		2014	2015
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	350	270	77	2,714	2,947
February	224	243	108	2,710	2,955
March	172	235	137	2,716	2,863
April	233	243	104	2,780	2,987
May	175	224	128	2,744	3,206
June	152	172	113	2,680	3,178
July	267	275	103	2,866	3,074
August	343	251	73	2,786	
September	270	394	146	2,805	
October	150	369	246	2,868	
November	178	150	84	2,878	
December	352	248	70	2,927	
Total	2,866	3,074	107		

¹ For December 2014, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched June 2013 through May 2014. 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 on the First of the Month – Regions and United States: 2013-2015

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	December 1		2014 as percent of 2013	January 1		2015 as percent of 2014
	2013	2014		2014	2015	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	14,272	14,744	103	13,941	14,477	104
East North Central	13,765	14,257	104	13,861	14,175	102
West North Central	30,737	30,074	98	30,337	30,091	99
South Atlantic	242,131	252,445	104	242,365	250,734	103
South Central	306,808	314,577	103	306,472	312,116	102
West	22,219	24,661	111	21,670	22,466	104
United States	629,932	650,758	103	628,646	644,059	102

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: December 2013 and 2014

State	During December			January-December		
	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	104,644	106,778	102	1,216,781	1,237,861	102
Arkansas	78,922	80,963	103	935,617	918,344	98
Delaware	15,861	17,278	109	158,570	194,474	123
Florida	4,465	4,587	103	52,488	52,979	101
Georgia	122,616	126,432	103	1,435,956	1,466,683	102
Kentucky	28,545	28,265	99	332,784	332,969	100
Louisiana	14,136	14,134	100	156,621	165,527	106
Maryland	28,470	28,973	102	325,864	327,674	101
Mississippi	64,256	66,806	104	760,273	765,662	101
Missouri	31,879	30,692	96	362,248	362,271	100
North Carolina	74,364	77,203	104	872,694	888,781	102
Oklahoma	24,900	24,349	98	283,102	286,273	101
Pennsylvania	16,081	16,399	102	192,040	187,540	98
South Carolina	17,861	19,177	107	216,040	211,966	98
Texas	53,464	54,926	103	644,739	632,489	98
Virginia	24,002	23,957	100	282,152	285,807	101
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	40,974	44,860	109	490,919	483,814	99
19 States ¹	745,440	765,779	103	8,718,888	8,801,114	101
Other States ²	29,344	29,956	102	339,332	343,378	101
United States	774,784	795,735	103	9,058,220	9,144,492	101

¹ States in the weekly hatchery production estimating program.

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

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2013-2014

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013	2013	2014	2014 as percent of 2013
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	765,973	770,893	101	765,973	770,893	101
February	692,130	692,647	100	1,458,103	1,463,540	100
March	773,426	769,818	100	2,231,529	2,233,358	100
April	750,758	748,669	100	2,982,287	2,982,027	100
May	778,086	781,446	100	3,760,373	3,763,473	100
June	764,675	762,677	100	4,525,048	4,526,150	100
July	783,999	784,571	100	5,309,047	5,310,721	100
August	777,124	788,385	101	6,086,171	6,099,106	100
September	744,907	756,086	102	6,831,078	6,855,192	100
October	739,167	760,593	103	7,570,245	7,615,785	101
November	713,191	732,972	103	8,283,436	8,348,757	101
December	774,784	795,735	103	9,058,220	9,144,492	101

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2013-2015

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2014 as percent of 2013	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2013 (1,000 chicks)	2014 (1,000 chicks)		2014 (1,000 chicks)	2015 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,303	6,470	103	60,546	62,018
February	7,156	7,239	101	60,850	61,999
March	6,589	6,790	103	61,214	62,220
April	6,222	6,710	108	61,457	62,804
May	7,565	7,600	100	61,385	63,157
June	7,011	7,094	101	61,444	63,509
July	6,569	6,212	95	61,524	63,744
August	7,131	7,436	104	61,772	
September	6,911	7,253	105	61,446	
October	6,231	6,823	110	61,225	
November	7,215	7,591	105	61,366	
December	6,669	7,025	105	61,835	
Annual total	81,572	84,243	103		
Total placements ²					
January	8,012	8,077	101		
February	8,708	9,068	104		
March	8,277	8,702	105		
April	7,815	8,122	104		
May	9,100	9,470	104		
June	8,860	9,021	102		
July	8,174	7,916	97		
August	8,855	9,413	106		
September	8,635	9,228	107		
October	7,856	8,288	105		
November	8,784	9,540	109		
December	8,398	8,901	106		
Annual total	101,474	105,746	104		

¹ For December 2014, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2013 through May 2014.

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 500 contractors, independent egg producers, and pullet only operations are contacted each month. Data for broiler hatchery estimates are collected weekly from all broiler-type hatcheries that hatch at least one million chicks a year. Data for egg-type hatchery estimates are collected monthly from all egg-type hatcheries that hatch at least 50,000 chicks a year.

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 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 1.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 362 million layers by more than 1.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.3 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) 1.3	(percent) 2.3	(1,000) 4,224	(1,000) 36	(1,000) 6,250	(number) 22	(number) 2
Eggs	1.4	2.4	(million) 101	(million) 1	(million) 169	23	1

Egg-Type Regional Listing

North Atlantic: Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania.
East North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin.
West North Central: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri.
South Atlantic: Florida, Georgia, Virginia.
South Central: Alabama, Mississippi, Texas.
West: California, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon.

Broiler-Type Regional Listing

North Atlantic: New York, Pennsylvania.
East North Central: Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin.
West North Central: Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri.
South Atlantic: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia.
South Central: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas.
West: California, Oregon, Washington.

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.

Molted Layers is the same data series as the previously published Forced Molt Layers. Nomenclature changed as of January 2015.

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

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Heidi Gleich – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-0585
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Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture	(202) 690-4870
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
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