



Chickens and Eggs

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March Egg Production Up 1 Percent

United States egg production totaled 8.53 billion during March 2015, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 7.42 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 91 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2015 averaged 362 million, up 1 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,358 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2014.

All layers in the United States on April 1, 2015 totaled 361 million, up slightly from last year. The 361 million layers consisted of 303 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.53 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2015, averaged 76.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2014.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 14 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2015 totaled 50.4 million, up 14 percent from March 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 49.0 million on April 1, 2015, up 13 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 304 thousand during March 2015, up 29 percent from March 2014.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2015 totaled 791 million, up 3 percent from March 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 646 million on April 1, 2015, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.18 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2015, up 6 percent from March 2014.

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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		360,673		365,691
January		359,556		363,732
February		358,967		362,338
March		359,955		361,830
April		360,826		
May		360,383		
June		359,729		
July		360,787		
August		361,731		
September		361,813		
October		362,034		
November		364,017		

¹ December preceding year.

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

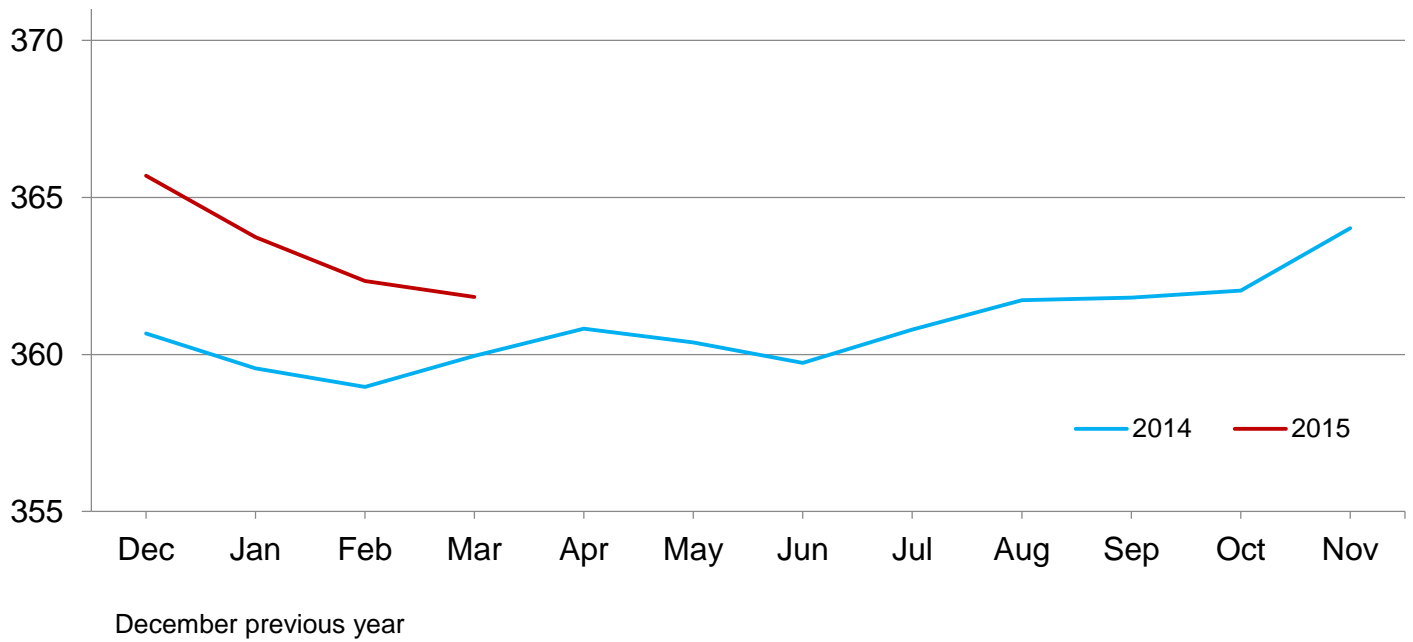
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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	8,489	8,731	7,422	7,633	1,068	1,098
January	8,397	8,540	7,321	7,428	1,077	1,112
February	7,551	7,620	6,579	6,615	972	1,006
March	8,430	8,533	7,354	7,417	1,077	1,116
April	8,205		7,160		1,045	
May	8,428		7,336		1,094	
June	8,151		7,091		1,060	
July	8,503		7,404		1,100	
August	8,491		7,394		1,098	
September	8,186		7,126		1,060	
October	8,526		7,433		1,094	
November	8,411		7,353		1,058	
During year	99,768		86,971		12,803	

¹ December preceding year.

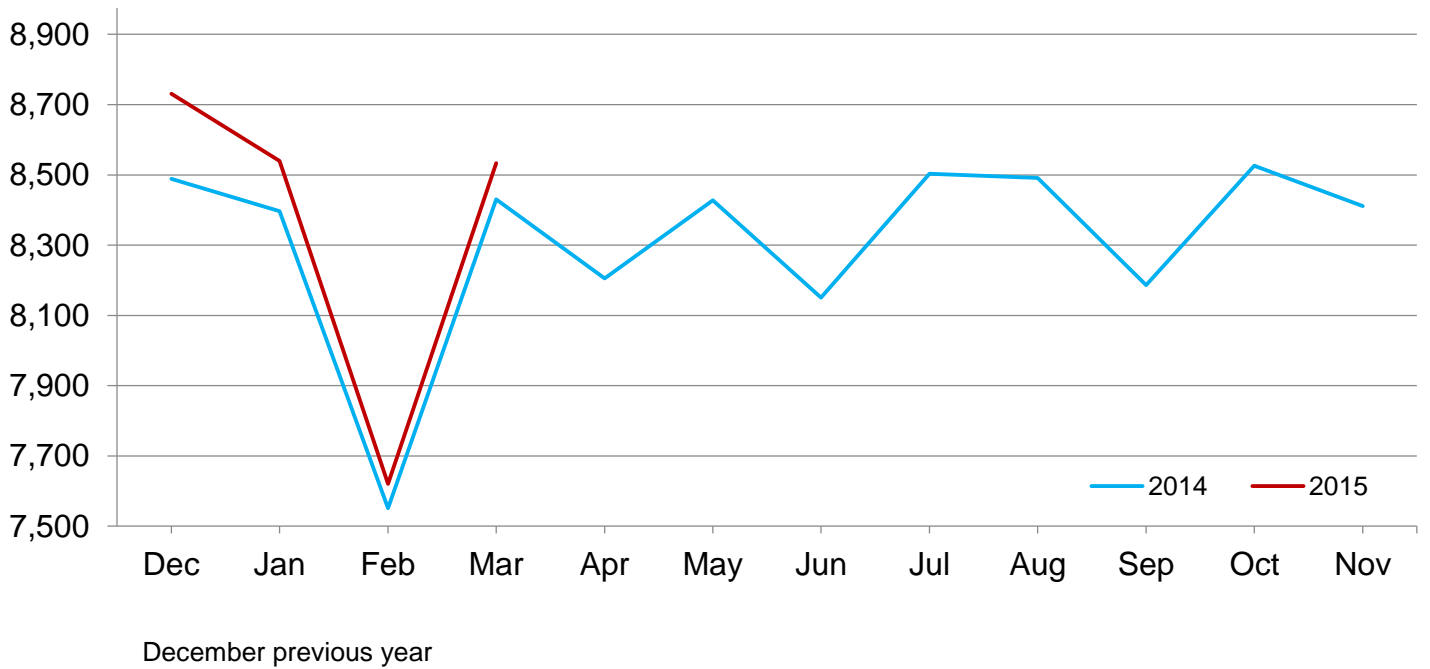
Average Layers During the Month – United States

Million layers



All Egg Production During the Month – United States

Million eggs



Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Molt – United States: February-March 2014 and 2015

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
Layers during February			
All layers1,000	358,967	362,338	101
Table egg type1,000	302,666	304,843	101
Hatching egg type1,000	56,301	57,495	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	52,990	53,929	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,311	3,566	108
Eggs per 100 layers during February			
All layers number	2,104	2,103	100
Table egg type number	2,174	2,170	100
Hatching egg type number	1,726	1,750	101
Broiler-type hatching number	1,695	1,717	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,235	2,243	100
Eggs produced during February			
All layers million	7,551	7,620	101
Table egg type million	6,579	6,615	101
Hatching egg type million	972	1,006	103
Broiler-type hatching million	898	926	103
Egg-type hatching million	74	80	108
Layers on March 1			
All layers1,000	359,078	362,525	101
Table egg type1,000	303,008	305,059	101
Hatching egg type1,000	56,070	57,466	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	52,823	53,905	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,247	3,561	110
Eggs per 100 layers on March 1			
All layers number	75.3	75.2	100
Table egg type number	77.8	77.7	100
Hatching egg type number	61.9	62.3	101
Broiler-type hatching number	60.7	61.0	100
Egg-type hatching number	81.6	81.9	100
Molted layers on March 1			
Being molted percent	2.4	1.9	79
Molt completed percent	18.0	18.9	105
Layers sold for slaughter during February1,000	15,877	15,184	96
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February1,000	8,244	5,781	70
Pullets on March 11,000	107,660	109,252	101
Pullets added during February ¹1,000	24,543	23,705	97

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Molt – United States: March-April 2014 and 2015

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
Layers during March			
All layers 1,000	359,955	361,830	101
Table egg type 1,000	303,711	304,073	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	56,244	57,757	103
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	53,005	54,208	102
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,239	3,549	110
Eggs per 100 layers during March			
All layers number	2,342	2,358	101
Table egg type number	2,421	2,439	101
Hatching egg type number	1,915	1,932	101
Broiler-type hatching number	1,877	1,891	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,532	2,564	101
Eggs produced during March			
All layers million	8,430	8,533	101
Table egg type million	7,354	7,417	101
Hatching egg type million	1,077	1,116	104
Broiler-type hatching million	995	1,025	103
Egg-type hatching million	82	91	111
Layers on April 1			
All layers 1,000	360,800	361,115	100
Table egg type 1,000	304,398	303,076	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	56,402	58,039	103
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	53,174	54,505	103
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,228	3,534	109
Eggs per 100 layers on April 1			
All layers number	75.7	76.8	101
Table egg type number	78.4	79.6	102
Hatching egg type number	61.1	62.3	102
Broiler-type hatching number	59.9	60.9	102
Egg-type hatching number	80.9	83.5	103
Molted layers on April 1			
Being molted percent	1.9	2.0	105
Molt completed percent	17.9	17.9	100
Layers sold for slaughter during March 1,000	13,410	17,636	132
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during March 1,000	7,895	7,866	100
Pullets on April 1 1,000	107,290	109,296	102
Pullets added during March ¹ 1,000	24,201	25,125	104

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2014 and 2015

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,502	1,475	9,292	9,208	1,722	1,759
Arkansas	3,672	3,814	11,873	12,715	1,845	1,880
California	16,261	12,835	16,691	13,329	2,127	2,153
Colorado	4,472	3,830	4,847	4,203	2,269	2,284
Connecticut	2,242	2,242	2,336	2,335	2,055	2,056
Florida	8,193	8,681	8,578	9,061	2,133	2,086
Georgia	9,289	9,857	18,200	18,744	1,978	1,953
Illinois	4,423	4,210	4,894	4,663	2,166	2,230
Indiana	26,491	25,744	27,434	26,616	2,183	2,006
Iowa	57,728	58,330	58,918	59,562	2,086	2,147
Maine	3,503	3,503	3,558	3,558	2,192	2,192
Maryland	2,546	2,629	2,709	2,795	2,178	2,182
Michigan	12,724	12,894	12,962	13,147	2,245	2,236
Minnesota	10,129	11,369	10,552	11,825	2,170	2,190
Mississippi	1,530	1,564	5,801	5,755	1,862	1,877
Missouri	6,248	6,526	8,556	8,776	2,069	2,097
Nebraska	9,318	9,446	9,426	9,554	2,313	2,303
New York	4,608	4,710	4,964	5,069	2,256	2,249
North Carolina	5,727	6,654	13,075	14,420	1,973	1,928
Ohio	28,948	29,936	29,800	30,798	2,211	2,175
Oregon	2,127	2,253	2,266	2,392	2,295	2,383
Pennsylvania	23,842	23,657	25,777	25,768	2,254	2,301
South Carolina	3,024	3,173	4,260	4,456	1,995	2,065
South Dakota	2,517	2,545	2,659	2,687	2,181	2,121
Texas	14,786	14,759	18,916	19,004	2,072	1,989
Utah	3,897	4,179	3,935	4,217	2,135	2,205
Virginia	990	1,167	2,775	2,924	1,910	1,984
Washington	6,662	7,056	6,827	7,221	2,109	2,160
Wisconsin	4,274	4,586	5,048	5,366	2,080	2,199
Other States ¹	13,008	13,138	22,038	22,170	1,992	2,021
United States	294,681	296,762	358,967	362,338	2,104	2,103

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During March 2014 and 2015

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,465	1,465	9,273	9,278	1,920	1,951
Arkansas	3,622	3,756	11,858	12,730	2,066	2,113
California	16,402	12,718	16,832	13,212	2,412	2,422
Colorado	4,497	3,926	4,871	4,338	2,546	2,444
Connecticut	2,272	2,272	2,366	2,365	2,367	2,368
Florida	8,181	8,755	8,548	9,148	2,422	2,405
Georgia	9,585	9,875	18,395	18,813	2,196	2,158
Illinois	4,547	4,373	5,015	4,820	2,413	2,344
Indiana	26,473	25,416	27,392	26,327	2,461	2,355
Iowa	58,048	58,226	59,210	59,466	2,300	2,376
Maine	3,496	3,496	3,551	3,551	2,450	2,450
Maryland	2,569	2,444	2,742	2,608	2,407	2,454
Michigan	13,044	12,255	13,282	12,508	2,582	2,542
Minnesota	10,194	11,322	10,616	11,777	2,383	2,462
Mississippi	1,530	1,542	5,848	5,749	2,052	2,122
Missouri	6,402	6,590	8,675	8,828	2,282	2,390
Nebraska	9,288	9,436	9,396	9,544	2,522	2,525
New York	4,593	4,672	4,949	5,036	2,526	2,542
North Carolina	5,627	6,754	13,032	14,509	2,149	2,164
Ohio	29,224	30,275	30,085	31,137	2,463	2,438
Oregon	2,168	2,305	2,307	2,444	2,514	2,660
Pennsylvania	23,458	23,617	25,373	25,671	2,503	2,598
South Carolina	2,968	3,165	4,210	4,466	2,185	2,284
South Dakota	2,503	2,547	2,645	2,689	2,457	2,492
Texas	14,696	14,803	18,811	19,008	2,328	2,278
Utah	3,947	4,115	3,985	4,153	2,334	2,408
Virginia	1,098	1,183	2,920	3,041	2,123	2,039
Washington	6,594	6,994	6,759	7,158	2,397	2,445
Wisconsin	4,223	4,575	4,997	5,356	2,241	2,409
Other States ¹	12,994	13,120	22,012	22,100	2,208	2,240
United States	295,708	295,992	359,955	361,830	2,342	2,358

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 2014 and 2015

[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	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	160	162	32	33	128	129
Arkansas	219	239	80	87	139	152
California	355	287	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	110	96	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	48	48	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	183	189	179	185	4	4
Georgia	360	366	206	211	154	155
Illinois	106	104	102	100	4	4
Indiana	599	534	583	519	16	15
Iowa	1,229	1,279	1,213	1,262	16	17
Maine	78	78	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	59	61	58	60	1	1
Michigan	291	294	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	229	259	224	253	5	6
Mississippi	108	108	34	35	74	73
Missouri	177	184	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	218	220	218	220	-	-
New York	112	114	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	258	278	134	148	124	130
Ohio	659	670	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	52	57	52	57	-	-
Pennsylvania	581	593	556	565	25	28
South Carolina	85	92	67	71	18	21
South Dakota	58	57	58	57	-	-
Texas	392	378	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	84	93	84	93	-	-
Virginia	53	58	24	29	29	29
Washington	144	156	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	105	118	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	439	448	317	324	122	125
United States	7,551	7,620	6,579	6,615	972	1,006

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: March 2014 and 2015

[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	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	178	181	38	37	140	144
Arkansas	245	269	91	99	154	170
California	406	320	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	124	106	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	56	56	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	207	220	202	216	5	4
Georgia	404	406	236	235	168	171
Illinois	121	113	116	109	5	4
Indiana	674	620	657	602	17	18
Iowa	1,362	1,413	1,345	1,394	17	19
Maine	87	87	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	66	64	65	63	1	1
Michigan	343	318	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	253	290	247	284	6	6
Mississippi	120	122	38	41	82	81
Missouri	198	211	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	237	241	237	241	-	-
New York	125	128	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	280	314	143	170	137	144
Ohio	741	759	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	58	65	58	65	-	-
Pennsylvania	635	667	607	636	28	31
South Carolina	92	102	71	78	21	24
South Dakota	65	67	65	67	-	-
Texas	438	433	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	93	100	93	100	-	-
Virginia	62	62	30	29	32	33
Washington	162	175	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	112	129	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	486	495	351	360	136	135
United States	8,430	8,533	7,354	7,417	1,077	1,116

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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	2.7	2.1	18.2	18.1
February	2.8	3.3	18.0	17.9
March	2.4	1.9	18.0	18.9
April	1.9	2.0	17.9	17.9
May	2.8		17.7	
June	3.0		17.2	
July	2.6		18.0	
August	3.3		18.0	
September	2.9		18.9	
October	3.3		19.3	
November	2.0		19.9	
December	1.3		19.3	

Molted as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: April 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	0.5	0.5	4.0	7.5
Arkansas	1.0	1.0	11.0	15.5
California	3.5	1.0	27.5	32.0
Colorado	2.0	-	15.5	13.0
Connecticut	8.0	8.0	16.5	16.5
Florida	1.0	-	29.0	46.0
Georgia	1.0	-	15.5	19.0
Illinois	4.0	1.5	14.0	9.0
Indiana	1.0	1.5	24.0	25.5
Iowa	4.0	5.5	25.0	22.5
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	3.5	-
Michigan	1.5	-	8.5	11.0
Minnesota	3.0	3.0	17.5	17.5
Mississippi	1.5	-	9.0	15.5
Missouri	-	-	21.5	17.0
Nebraska	-	-	3.0	1.5
New York	-	-	6.0	0.5
North Carolina	0.5	0.5	13.0	13.5
Ohio	2.5	1.5	23.0	20.0
Oregon	-	6.5	14.5	15.0
Pennsylvania	0.5	-	8.0	1.5
South Carolina	-	-	10.5	9.5
South Dakota	6.5	6.5	15.0	7.5
Texas	0.5	1.5	25.0	34.5
Utah	5.5	4.5	31.0	29.0
Virginia	-	-	10.5	15.0
Washington	4.0	6.0	21.0	21.0
Wisconsin	-	9.0	22.0	19.5
Other States ¹	2.2	1.2	13.5	10.6
United States	1.9	2.0	17.9	17.9

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2014 and 2015

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on April 1	43,197	48,973	113
Chicks hatched during March	44,233	50,405	114
Chicks hatched January through March	129,677	137,670	106
Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	235	304	129
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	2,716	2,863	105
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on April 1	630,959	645,858	102
Chicks hatched during March	771,618	791,085	103
Chicks hatched January through March	2,238,720	2,294,484	102
Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,790	7,175	106
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	61,214	62,220	102

¹ 2015 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2013 through August 2014.

² 2015 includes pullet chicks hatched December 2013 through August 2014.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators on the First of the Month – Regions and United States: 2014-2015

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	March 1		2015 as percent of 2014	April 1		2015 as percent of 2014
	2014	2015		2014	2015	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	5,311	6,547	123	5,055	7,205	143
East North Central	9,192	10,610	115	10,139	10,709	106
West North Central	9,075	11,250	124	10,522	13,066	124
South Atlantic	4,031	4,049	100	4,628	4,638	100
South Central	5,808	5,862	101	6,016	6,232	104
West	5,992	7,746	129	6,837	7,123	104
United States	39,409	46,064	117	43,197	48,973	113

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2014-2015

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	44,458	44,174	99	44,458	44,174	99
February	40,986	43,091	105	85,444	87,265	102
March	44,233	50,405	114	129,677	137,670	106
April	45,703			175,380		
May	49,146			224,526		
June	44,006			268,532		
July	42,297			310,829		
August	39,803			350,632		
September	43,722			394,354		
October	44,468			438,822		
November	36,544			475,366		
December	42,980			518,346		

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2014-2015

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2015 as percent of 2014	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2014	2015		2014	2015
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	270	270	100	2,714	2,947
February	243	309	127	2,710	2,955
March	235	304	129	2,716	2,863
April	243			2,780	2,987
May	224			2,744	3,206
June	172			2,680	3,178
July	275			2,866	3,074
August	251			2,786	3,074
September	394			2,805	3,140
October	369			2,868	3,209
November	150			2,878	
December	248			2,927	
Total	3,074				

¹ For March 2015, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2013 through August 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: 2014-2015

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	March 1		2015 as percent of 2014	April 1		2015 as percent of 2014
	2014	2015		2014	2015	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	13,358	14,368	108	13,930	14,128	101
East North Central	13,895	14,177	102	14,000	14,312	102
West North Central	30,873	29,869	97	30,362	30,262	100
South Atlantic	243,143	246,995	102	244,732	248,624	102
South Central	307,645	318,109	103	307,703	315,271	102
West	21,418	23,983	112	20,232	23,261	115
United States	630,332	647,501	103	630,959	645,858	102

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: March 2014 and 2015

State	During March			January-March		
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	104,730	108,391	103	303,615	311,765	103
Arkansas	75,638	79,865	106	221,756	232,032	105
Delaware	16,412	17,779	108	47,538	50,722	107
Florida	4,419	3,973	90	12,975	12,306	95
Georgia	122,507	121,253	99	357,179	360,164	101
Kentucky	27,449	28,123	102	80,684	83,061	103
Louisiana	14,450	14,217	98	41,703	41,313	99
Maryland	28,081	28,499	101	79,758	82,941	104
Mississippi	65,833	66,431	101	189,774	192,822	102
Missouri	31,556	29,719	94	91,237	87,606	96
North Carolina	74,639	77,522	104	215,457	223,140	104
Oklahoma	24,185	23,862	99	71,309	68,165	96
Pennsylvania	15,426	16,520	107	45,888	46,805	102
South Carolina	17,384	19,652	113	51,090	56,185	110
Texas	53,584	56,515	105	154,769	162,452	105
Virginia	24,222	24,590	102	69,061	70,498	102
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	41,840	44,954	107	120,414	127,343	106
19 States ¹	742,355	761,865	103	2,154,207	2,209,320	103
Other States ²	29,263	29,220	100	84,513	85,164	101
United States	771,618	791,085	103	2,238,720	2,294,484	102

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: 2014-2015

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	772,825	792,176	103	772,825	792,176	103
February	694,277	711,223	102	1,467,102	1,503,399	102
March	771,618	791,085	103	2,238,720	2,294,484	102
April	750,447			2,989,167		
May	783,136			3,772,303		
June	764,412			4,536,715		
July	785,896			5,322,611		
August	789,582			6,112,193		
September	757,650			6,869,843		
October	762,311			7,632,154		
November	732,978			8,365,132		
December	795,846			9,160,978		

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2014-2015

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2015 as percent of 2014	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2014 (1,000 chicks)	2015 (1,000 chicks)		2014 (1,000 chicks)	2015 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,470	6,959	108	60,546	62,018
February	7,239	7,921	109	60,850	61,999
March	6,790	7,175	106	61,214	62,220
April	6,710			61,457	62,804
May	7,600			61,385	63,157
June	7,094			61,444	63,509
July	6,212			61,524	63,514
August	7,436			61,772	63,763
September	7,253			61,446	64,084
October	6,823			61,225	64,165
November	7,591			61,366	
December	6,795			61,835	
Annual total	84,013				
Total placements ²					
January	8,077	8,382	104		
February	9,068	9,546	105		
March	8,702	8,891	102		
April	8,122				
May	9,470				
June	9,021				
July	7,916				
August	9,413				
September	9,228				
October	8,288				
November	9,540				
December	8,649				
Annual total	105,494				

¹ For March 2015, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched December 2013 through August 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 2.2 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 2.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.8 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) 2.2	(percent) 3.8	(1,000) 7,217	(1,000) 37	(1,000) 10,344	(number) 23	(number) 1
Eggs	2.3	3.9	(million) 174	(million) 1	(million) 271	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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Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage	(202) 720-4751
Heidi Gleich – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-0585
Michael Klamm – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture	(202) 690-4870
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Sammy Neal – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Mink, Trout Production	(202) 720-3244
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