

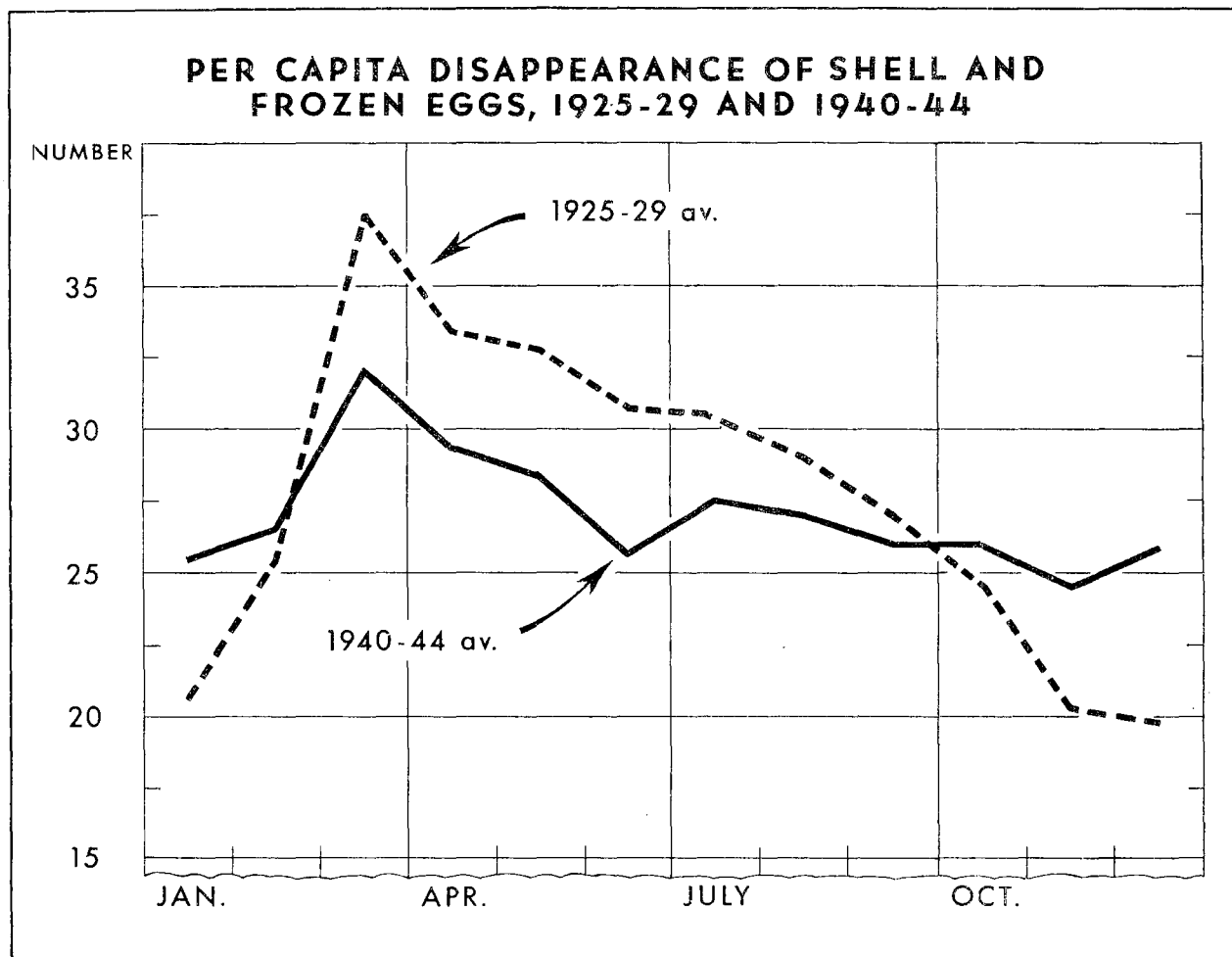
THE *Poultry and Egg* SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Because of increased production of eggs in the fall and winter months, the seasonal pattern in per capita disappearance of shell and frozen eggs has changed considerably during the past 2 decades. In the late 1920's, about 29 percent of the total disappearance occurred in the second quarter, and less than 20 percent in the last quarter of the year. But from 1940 through 1944, second quarter consumption was less than 26 percent of the total, while in the last quarter almost 24 percent of the total consumption occurred.

The changed seasonal pattern of supplies has been accompanied by a considerable reduction in the seasonal variation of prices received by farmers for eggs.

The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	Month	Average 1935-44	1945	1946	Comments about 1946
Eggs						
Farm production	Million doz.	Sept.	220.9	283.1	272.0	
Average number of layers on farms	Million	"	276.4	319.9	309.2	Layers increased more than usual during month.
Rate of lay per hen	Number	"	9.5	10.6	10.6	Rate of lay was below 1945 from June through August.
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	"	Aug.	(See special article)			
Frozen egg production	Mill. lb.	"	---	14.3	8.7	
Dried egg production	" "	"	---	7.9	9.8	U.S.D.A. continues making light purchases of dried eggs.
Prices received by farmers	Cts. per doz.	Sept.	28.2	39.6	44.5	Highest price for September since 1920.
Prices received by farmers as percentage of parity	Percent	"	84	98	98	Index of prices paid, including interest and taxes, declined 4 points in September.
Retail price (B.A.E.)	Cts. per doz.	Aug.	34.5	53.3	52.8	
Egg-feed ratio	Lb. feed	Sept.	13.8	13.5	11.7	
Stocks: <u>1/</u> Shell	1,000 cases	"	5777.0	3724.0	5860.0	Withdrawals during September over 2 million cases and exceeded only in September 1944.
Frozen	" "	"	4695.1	5420.0	5555.0	
Dried	Mill. lb.	"	---	20.1	20.6	
Chicks hatched	Million	"	20.7	51.9	26.6	Demand for baby chicks in broiler areas unfilled.
Potential layers on farms <u>1/</u> ..	"	"	483.9	577.4	526.0	
Pullets not of laying age <u>1/</u> ..	"	"	194.1	239.8	199.7	
Prices paid by farmers for laying mash	Dol. per cwt.	"	2.63	3.62	4.56	Declined 16 cents per cwt.
Poultry						
Prices received by farmers for chickens	Cts. per lb.	Sept.	17.5	27.5	29.3	Exceeded only in July. Prices increased sharply from mid-September until removal of ceilings on red meats (Oct. 15).
Prices received by farmers as percentage of parity	Percent	"	109	138	118	
Retail price of chickens (BAE) ..	Cts. per lb.	Aug.	32.0	42.9	47.6	
Prices received by farmers for turkeys	" " "	Sept.	19.1	33.6	34.0	Near all-time highs.
Stocks: <u>1/</u> Poultry, excluding turkeys ..	Mill. lb.	"	79.1	130.2	143.3	Ahead of any October 1 except 1943.
Turkeys	" "	"	9.3	27.0	47.0	Exceeds any previous October 1.
Chicken-feed ratio	Lb. feed	"	8.5	9.4	7.7	
Turkey-feed ratio	" "	"	9.2	11.5	8.9	Not as favorable as last year.
Receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	1,000 lb.	"	28.7	38.9	34.3	

1/ End of month.

 THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board, October 17, 1946

<u>Contents</u>		<u>Page</u>
Summary		3
Recent Developments		6
Eggs: Regional Developments and Outlook for 1947		8
Per Capita Consumption of Eggs, 1925-46		16

SUMMARY

The poultry and egg markets during September and until mid-October, when the price ceilings on meats were removed, were materially affected by the short meat supplies. Wholesale prices of all poultry products in early October were at or near the highest levels for World War II. Upon removal of price ceilings on red meats, chicken prices immediately declined about 20 percent but egg and turkey prices showed moderate change. In mid-September, prices received by farmers for eggs, chickens and turkeys were near all-time highs for that month.

Egg prices will decline seasonally after November and may be at support levels by early 1947. Further decreases from the current high levels of chicken and turkey prices are in prospect. But no substantial declines are expected until next summer when consumer incomes may be declining from current record levels.

Supplies of eggs are now somewhat larger than last year. Egg production is running about 4 percent below 1945, but the record rate of withdrawals from cold storage is offsetting the smaller production. However, because of the strong demand in secondary markets and of markets in surplus producing areas egg supplies during September in the large markets were below those of 1945.

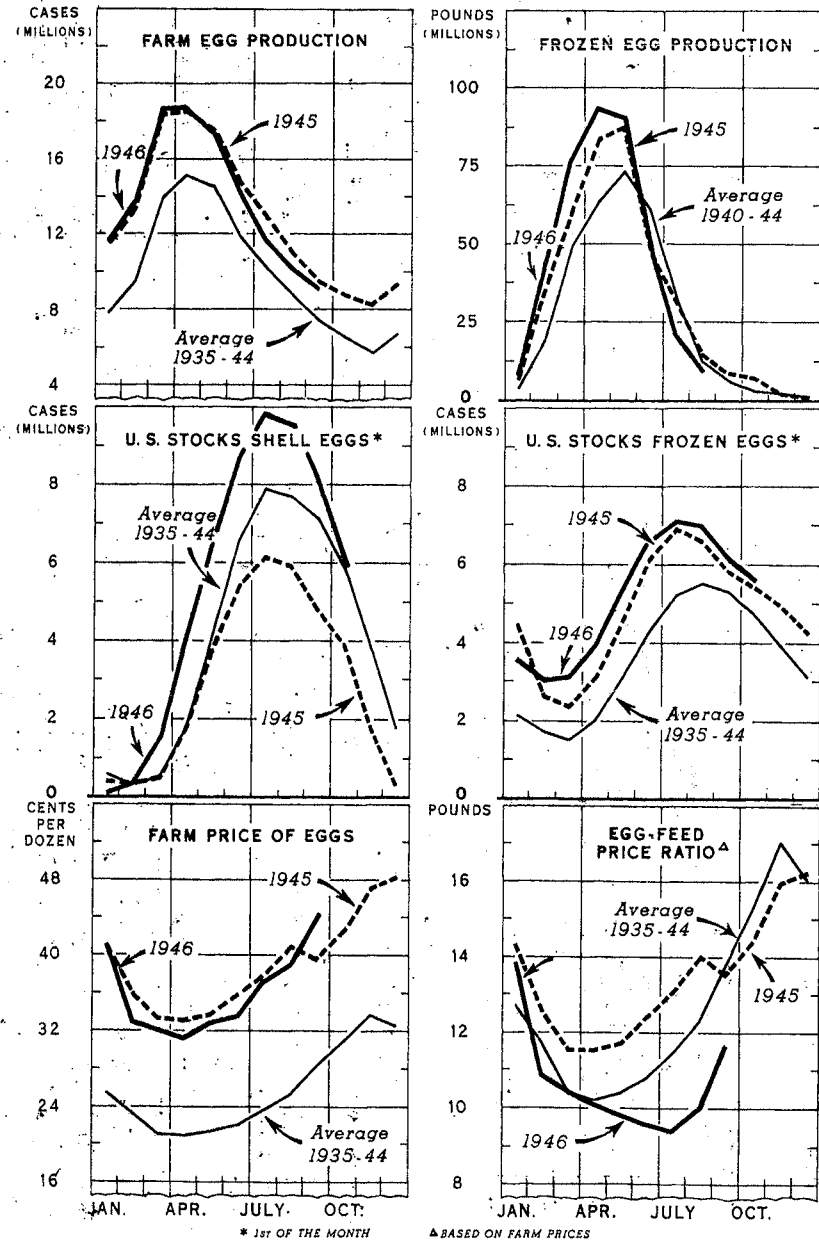
Marketings of chickens during September and first half of October are ahead of last year, even though the number of chickens and broilers on farms are below last year. This is probably due to the very favorable **chickon prices** and the early hatch which occurred in 1946. Frozen poultry was moving out of storage during September although normally it would be moving in. Turkey supplies are about as large as last year, with large cold storage stocks offsetting the 9 percent reduction in the number of turkeys raised.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in 1947 will average higher than in 1946, particularly during the flush-production season. Farm egg production in 1947 probably will be 6 to 9 percent below 1946. On October 1, 1946, the number of potential layers on farms was 9 percent below the previous October 1.

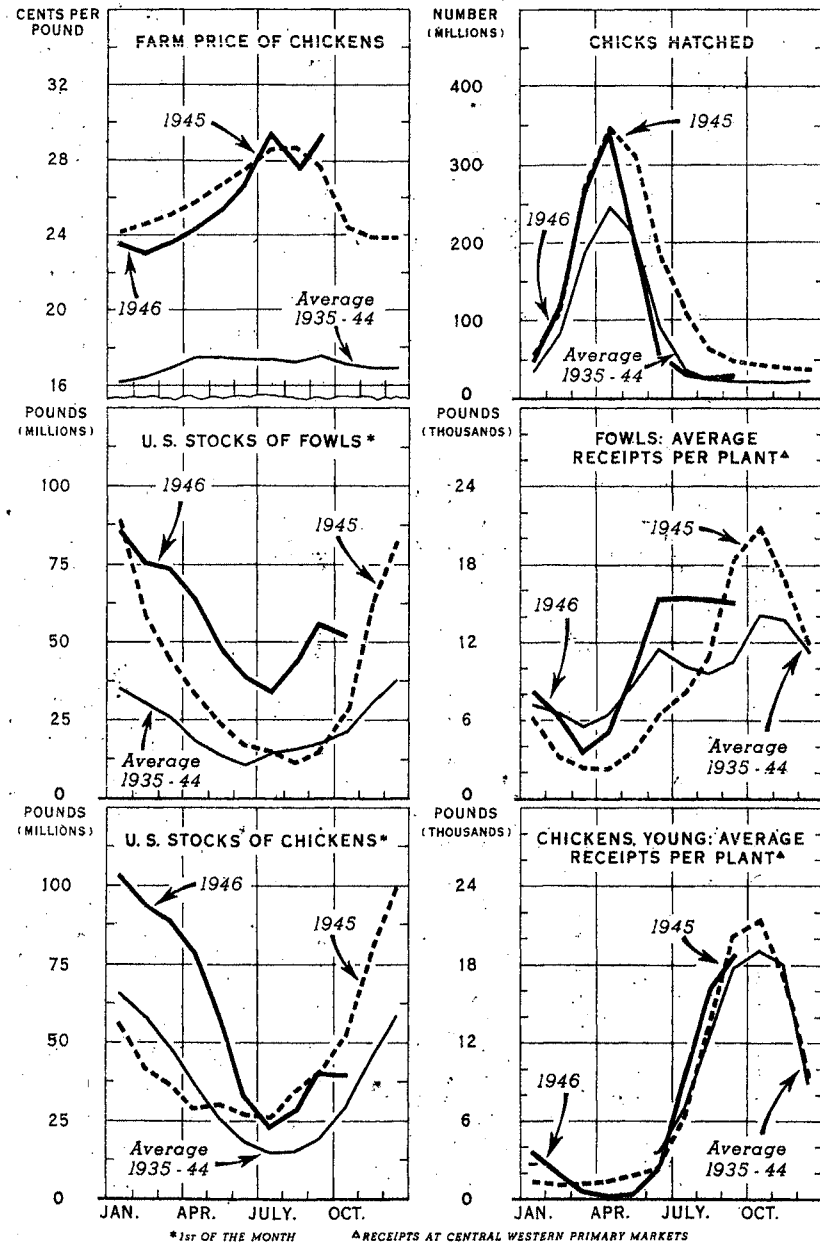
Regionally, the decline in production probably will be greater than average in the North Atlantic States where the tight feed situation during the spring and summer of 1946 resulted in large reductions in replacement stock. Prices in the Western and North Atlantic States are expected to be higher than usual in relation to the United States average. The Western States have become a deficit producing area in recent years.

For several years consumption of eggs has been leveling out seasonally. In the late 1920's about 29 percent of the total consumption occurred in the second quarter, and less than 20 percent in the last quarter of the year. But from 1940 through 1944, second-quarter consumption was less than 26 percent of the total, while in the last quarter almost 24 percent of the total consumption occurred.

THE EGG SITUATION



THE POULTRY SITUATION



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Egg Prices Increased Over 5 Cents in September

Prices received by farmers for eggs rose from 39.1 cents per dozen to 44.5 cents from August 15 to September 15. This is an increase of 14 percent, whereas the usual seasonal increase in that period is about 12 percent. The 5.4 cent rise is the third largest increase to occur in any comparable 30-day period since records have been kept (1909).

Since mid-September, wholesale prices of eggs have increased further, and in October they were at or near the highest level for the war period. Slight contra-seasonal decreases in spot markets occurred immediately following removal of price regulations on red meats. But future options declined about 10 to 15 percent.

Prices received by farmers rose from 88 percent of parity in mid-August to 98 percent in mid-September. The parity index dropped from 204 in mid-August to 200 in mid-September. The sharper-than-usual rise in egg prices was due largely to the scarcity of meat supplies in September.

Despite the sharp increase in egg prices, the egg-feed price ratio continues less favorable for egg production than in the previous year. In mid-September the egg-feed price ratio of 11.7 was 13 percent below September 1945, and 15 percent below the 1935-44 average for mid-September. Feed prices, with the removal of ceilings, have remained high, but have declined somewhat from the record peaks reached in mid-July. Prices paid by farmers for poultry ration in mid-September averaged \$3.80 per hundred pounds, an increase of 9 percent over mid-June and 30 percent over September 1945.

Supplies of Eggs During September Somewhat Larger than Last Year

Farm egg production during September, totaling 272 million dozen, was 4 percent or 11 million dozen below last year. The average number of layers on farms was 3 percent below September 1945, and the rate of lay was the same. Because of the sharp rises in egg prices and the early 1946 hatch the number of layers on farms increased more than usual for September, despite the high prices received by farmers for poultry meat.

Total supplies of eggs during September appeared to be somewhat larger than in September 1945. The smaller production was more than offset by a large out-of-storage movement of both shell and frozen eggs. The out-of-storage movement of shell eggs during September was 63 million dozen, 38 million dozen above September 1945. With the exception of 1944, when large quantities of storage eggs were being used for drying purposes, the shell egg out-of-storage movement in September this year was the largest for the month on record. Despite this large out-movement, cold storage stocks of shell eggs on October 1, totaling 5.86 million cases (176 million dozen), were almost 50 percent above the exceptionally low October 1, 1945 holdings but about equal to the 1940-44 average for October 1. Withdrawals of frozen eggs during September, totaling 24 million pounds, were about 9 million pounds above September 1945. Stocks of frozen eggs on October 1, however, were still large in comparison with any year prior to 1942.

The large out-of-storage movement continued during early October, with withdrawals of shell eggs running about double those of last year. Frozen egg withdrawals also continued heavy.

Supplies of eggs in the large markets during September were substantially below September 1945. Receipts at the 4 principal markets and at the Central-Western Primary Markets were 10 to 15 percent below last year. Strong demand and high consumption near points of production resulted in a smaller flow of eggs to the large markets than last year. However, storage stocks available in the larger urban markets are holding up consumer supplies in the cities.

Chicken Prices Rise Sharply Then Decline

Poultry prices have moved erratically since July 1 when ceilings were terminated. Initially, wholesale prices rose about 20 percent. However, after mid-July, prices declined to the levels in effect at the end of June. Prices remained relatively unchanged until early September. During September, wholesale prices for different types rose about 20 to 30 percent. From October 1 to October 15, when price controls on red meats, were removed, some slight further increases occurred. Immediately upon the removal of price controls on red meats, however, prices for chicken declined significantly, about 10 percent.

Prices received by farmers for chickens hit a record high in July of 29.4 cents per pound and then receded 1.8 cents in mid-August to 27.6 cents per pound. The price received by farmers in mid-September was 29.3 cents per pound. Wholesale prices rose sharply after mid-September. High prices for red meat and a continuation of the record level of consumer purchasing power, will probably tend to keep poultry prices at relatively high level.

Chicken Move Out of Storage Contraseasonally

The strong demand for chickens, accompanied by smaller supplies than in any recent year, has resulted in a contraseasonal out-of-storage movement. During September about 19 million pounds of frozen chicken were withdrawn from cold storage, the first time since 1925 that an out-movement has occurred during the month. Since October 1 the rate of into-storage movement of frozen poultry has been substantially below last year.

Despite the withdrawals during September, stocks of frozen chicken on October 1 exceeded any previous October 1, except 1944. The large carry-over of frozen chicken in the early summer provided a large back-log.

Turkey Prices Below Chicken Prices

Based on wholesale quotations, prices in early October for most types of chickens were above turkey prices, a most unusual situation. Prices received by farmers for turkeys in mid-September were 34.0 cents per pound, an increase of 1.2 cents over mid-August. However, the mid-September price was still below the record levels reached in late 1944 and 1945. With the removal of government price regulations on red meats, turkey prices during the current marketing season are expected to decline. However, the high level of purchasing power is expected to hold turkey prices near last year levels.

Cold storage stocks of turkey have been rapidly depleted in the past few months. February 1 cold-storage holdings of turkeys were 135 million pounds, triple normal holdings. Stocks remained very large until July when withdrawals became very heavy. These large withdrawals, as in the case of chickens and eggs, have been due to the tight meat situation. On October 1, cold-storage holdings of turkeys were 47 million pounds, a decrease of nearly 90 million pounds since February 1. But October 1, 1946 stocks of turkey were still above any previous October 1.

EGGS: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK FOR 1947

BACKGROUND. - Egg production for 1947 probably will be 6 to 9 percent below 1946. On October 1, 1946 the 526 million potential layers on farms (hens and pullets of laying age, plus pullets not of laying age) were 9 percent below the number a year earlier. By regions the number as a percentage of previous year, was as follows: North Atlantic, 87 percent; East North Central, 90 percent; West North Central, 91 percent; South Atlantic, 94 percent; South Central, 92 percent; and Western, 93 percent.

Prices received by farmers during 1947 are likely to average above 1946, particularly during the flush production season. The sharp increase occurring during the past few months in the parity index, and further increases in prospect, will raise minimum support levels for eggs for the 1947 flush production season above 1946 actual returns. The index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes in mid-September was 200 (1910-14=100), compared with an average of 184 from March through June, an increase of 9 percent. Prices received by farmers during the 1946 flush production season averaged 32.4 cents per dozen, 96 percent of parity.

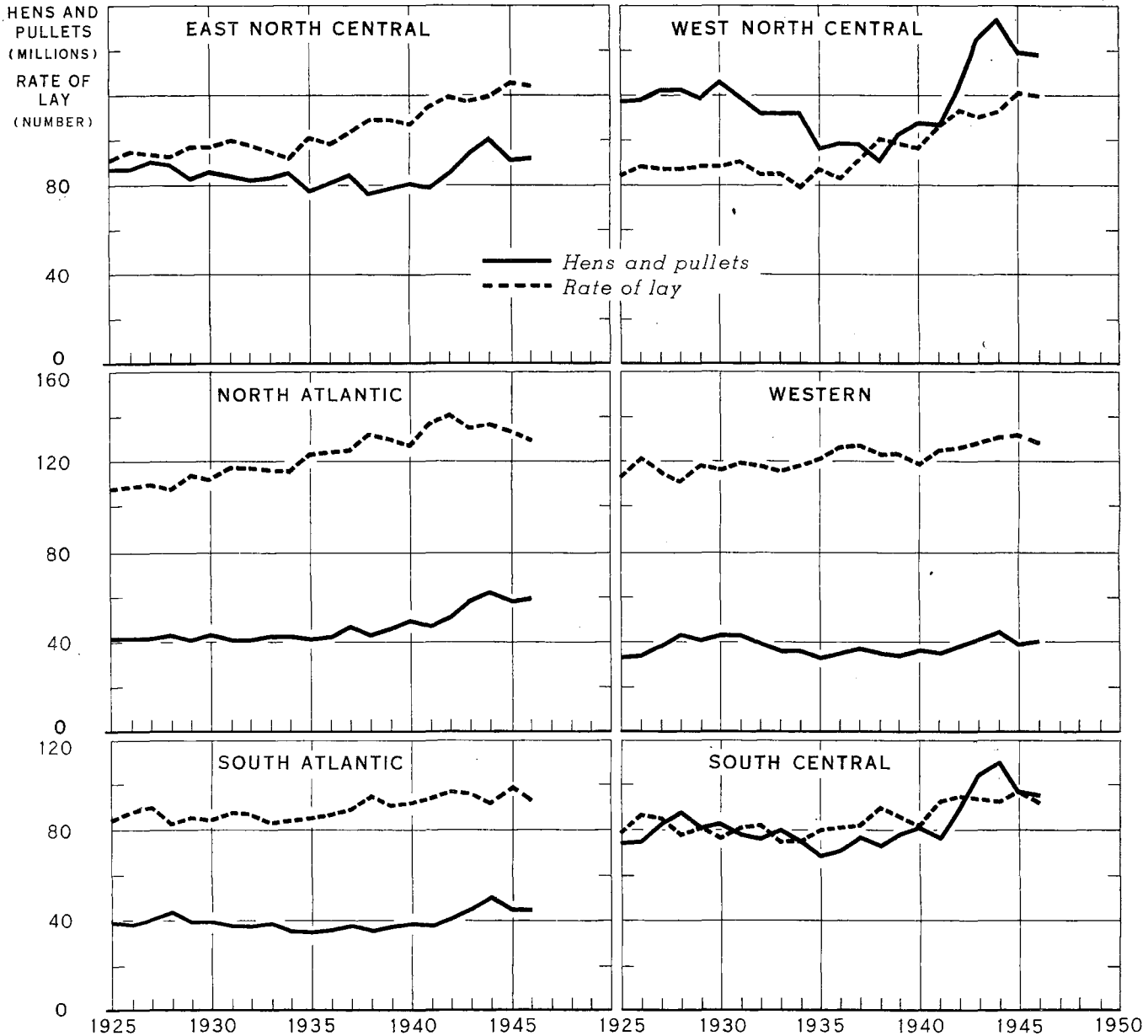
Regional Outlook for 1947

Egg production in the North Atlantic region is expected to decline relatively more than in other regions in 1947, as the number of potential layers in that region on October 1 is much lower percentage-wise than the United States average. This feed-deficit area was greatly affected by the tight feed situation during the spring and early summer of 1946. The number of chickens raised in the North Atlantic in 1946 was 22 percent below last year, compared with a Nation-wide decline of 18 percent. Production in the East North Central States will probably decline more than 9 percent, since potential laying stock is about 10 percent below last year.

Farm egg output in the West North Central, South Central, and South Atlantic States, however, is expected to show only moderate decreases in 1947 from this year. Feed supplies in those areas are large, and the size of laying flocks will probably not be more than 6 percent lower on the coming January 1 than on January 1, 1946.

Prices received by farmers in the North Atlantic and Western Regions will probably show average rises greater than in other areas, the former because of reduced supplies. The Western Region in the past 5 years has become a deficit egg-producing area, in contrast to earlier years when substantial quantities of eggs were shipped out.

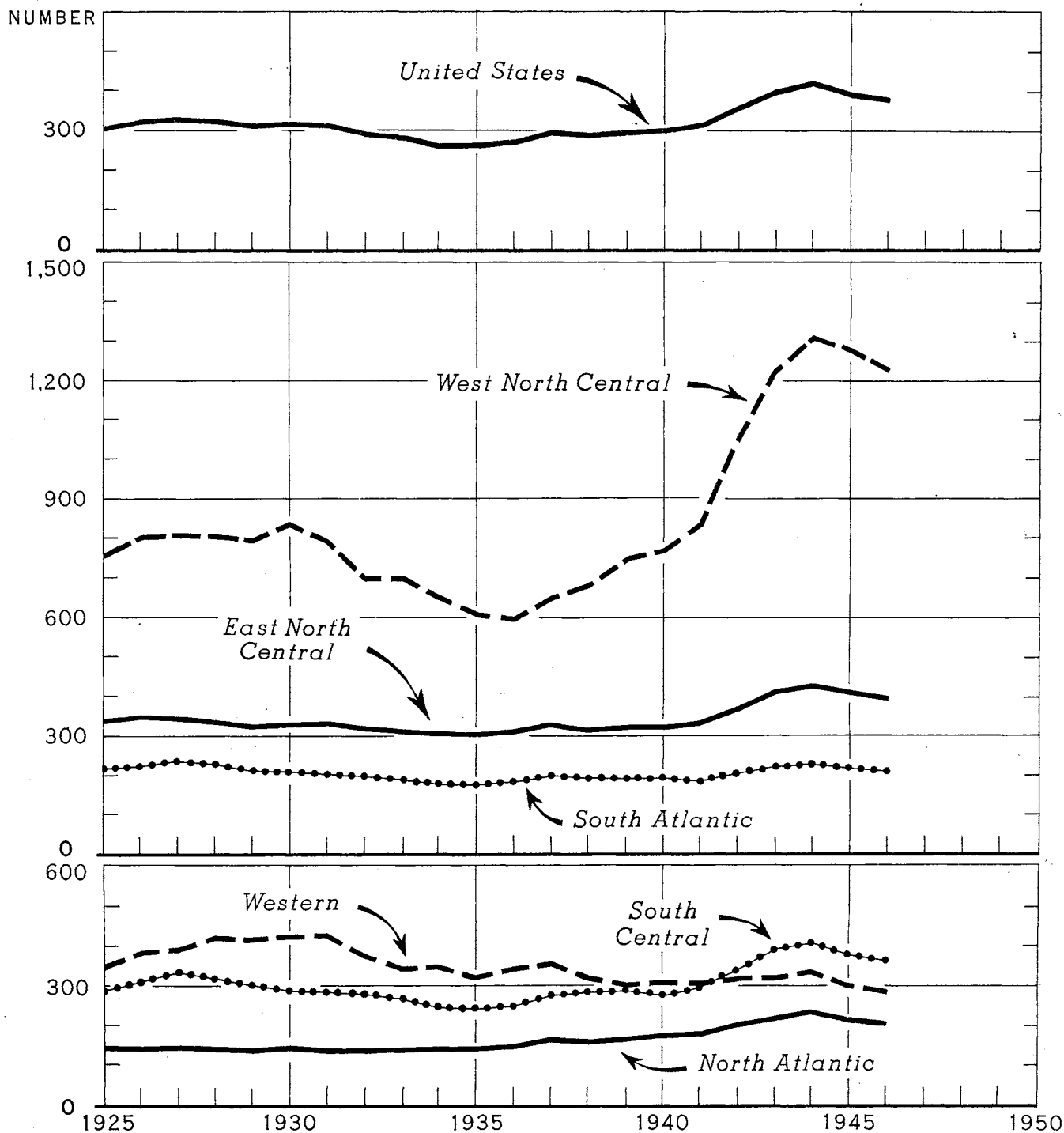
HENS AND PULLETS ON FARMS JANUARY 1, AND ANNUAL RATE OF LAY, BY REGIONS, 1925-46



DATA FOR 1946 ARE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS

FIGURE 3

FARM EGG PRODUCTION PER PERSON*, UNITED STATES AND REGIONS, 1925-46



*REGIONAL PRODUCTION DIVIDED BY REGIONAL JULY 1 POPULATION 1946 DATA ARE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS

FIGURE 4, Reflecting strong wartime demands for eggs, farm egg production per person in the West North Central, East North Central, and South Central States increased greatly over prewar. The North Atlantic States have been showing a steady upward trend in production per person, probably as a result of expansion in commercial egg production. Production per person in the Western States has been declining over a period of years, largely because of a rapid increase in population in that area. Production per person in the South Atlantic States has remained relatively stable.

Very little dehydrating took place in the Western States during the war. As a deficit area, the West will need some inshipments, and prices received by farmers in the West will remain higher compared with prewar averages than will those in other areas.

Prices received by farmers in the East North Central and West North Central areas will depend in larger part than in other regions upon the strength of export demand. From 1942 through 1944, about 20 percent of the eggs produced on farms in the East North Central, and 25 to 35 percent in the West North Central States were used for export. Few eggs were dried in 1945. In 1946 about 5 percent of the eggs produced in the West North Central area went into drying.

Prices received by egg producers in the South Atlantic and South Central States are expected to remain at about their usual position in relation to the United States average price.

Regional Production Trends

Farm egg production during the war made unusual gains. Production increased each year from 1939 through 1944; in 1944 production was 50 percent above 1939. Egg production receded about 5 percent in 1945 from 1944 levels, and in 1946 tentative indications are for a total egg production on farms of 4,475 million dozen, 3 percent below 1945. But this will still be 48 percent above the 1935-39 average. About two-thirds of the increase during the war resulted from a larger number of layers and one-third from increases in the rate of lay.

The changes are more striking on a regional basis. Because of the strong demand for eggs for dehydrating purposes, largest increases in egg production occurred in the predominantly surplus-producing area, the West North Central States. At its peak, in 1944, production in that area was nearly 200 percent of the 1935-39 average. Production increases for the 3 years, 1944-46, compared with 1935-39, by regions, were as follows: North Atlantic, 42 percent; East North Central, 41 percent; West North Central, 89 percent; South Atlantic, 40 percent; South Central, 53 percent; Western, 24 percent; and United States, 53 percent.

A remarkable achievement in egg production has been the large increase occurring in the rate of lay since 1934 (see September 1946 issue of The Poultry and Egg Situation). From 1934 to 1945, production per hen, on a hen-house basis, rose from 96 eggs to 118 eggs, an increase of 30 percent. Production per hen receded in 1946 about 3 percent from the 1945 record. This was due, in part, to the early removal of hens from flocks because of the short feed supply in the spring of 1946.

Regionally, the sharpest increases in rate of lay occurred in the West North Central and East North Central States. Production per hen and pullet on farms January 1 in those areas, 1944-46, averaged 18 and 28 percent, respectively above prewar. The North Atlantic and South Central Regions showed moderate increases of 5 to 12 percent during the past 3 years over prewar. The South Atlantic and Western areas had only minor increases in the rate of pay.

Table 1. Annual rate of lay per hen and pullet on farms January 1, by regions, 1925-46 (Part of data for figure 3)

Year	No. Atl.	E.N. Cent.	W.N. Cent.	S. Atl.	S. Cent.	West.	U. S.
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
1925	108	91	84	84	79	113	90
1926	109	95	88	88	87	121	95
1927	110	94	87	90	85	115	93
1928	108	93	87	83	78	111	91
1929	114	97	88	85	81	118	94
1930	112	97	88	84	77	117	93
1931	117	100	90	87	81	119	96
1932	117	98	85	87	82	118	94
1933	116	95	85	83	75	116	91
1934	116	92	79	84	75	118	89
1935	123	101	87	85	80	121	96
1936	124	98	83	87	81	126	95
1937	125	103	90	89	82	127	99
1938	132	109	101	95	90	123	106
1939	138	109	98	91	86	123	103
1940	1279	107	96	92	82	114/120	101
1941	1379	115	106/96	94/92	93/82	125/6	116
1942	141	119	113/106	97/4	95/3	125/5	114/113
1943	135	117	110/113	96/8	94/5	128/	112/111
1944	1355	119	112/110	92/7	95/4	131/118	112
1945	133	126	121/112	99/4	97/3	132/3	118
1946	12133	1245	1201	93/100	98/4	128/31	117/114
1947	152	135	130	105	101	141	127

1/ Preliminary indication, October 1946.

The trend toward more pullets in laying flocks has been partly responsible for the large increases in the rate of lay. This has been particularly pronounced in the two North Central areas where the largest increases in the rate of lay have occurred. In these two areas about three-fourths of the laying flocks on January 1, 1946 were pullets compared with 65 to 70 percent in the late 1930's. In contrast, in the Western and Southern Atlantic Regions, where increases in the rate of lay have been negligible, pullets comprised less than 60 percent of the laying flocks (see table 2).

1948 149 138 133 108 103 144 129

Table 2.- Hens and pullets on farms January 1, and pullets as a percentage of total, United States, and by regions, 1931-46

(Part of data for figure 1)

Year	United States				North Atlantic				East North Central							
	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :				
				Percent				Percent				Percent				
Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent	Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent	Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent					
1931	158	244	402	61	16	25	41	61	30	54	84	64				
1932	156	230	386	60	16	24	40	60	30	52	82	63				
1933	154	237	391	61	16	26	42	62	30	53	83	64				
1934	147	238	385	62	15	27	42	64	29	56	85	66				
1935	139	211	350	60	16	25	41	61	28	49	77	64				
1936	136	227	363	63	15	28	43	65	26	55	81	68				
1937	130	250	380	66	15	32	47	68	25	58	83	70				
1938	138	215	353	61	15	28	43	65	27	49	76	64				
1939	134	242	376	64	15	31	46	67	25	54	79	68				
1940	139	254	393	65	16	33	49	67	25	55	80	69				
1941	141	240	381	63	16	32	48	67	25	54	79	68				
1942	149 ¹⁵⁰	277 ⁸	426 ⁸	65	16	35 ³⁶	51 ⁵²	69	26	58	84 ⁸⁵	69				
1943	169 ¹⁷⁰	319	488 ⁹	67	18 ¹⁹	40 ⁴²	58 ⁶¹	69	29	66 ⁶⁵	95 ⁹³	69				
1944	171 ⁴	348 ³⁵⁰	519 ⁵²⁴	65	18 ²⁰	44 ⁴⁷	62 ⁶⁷	71	28	72 ⁷¹	100	72				
1945	169 ¹⁷²	300 ¹	469 ⁴⁷⁴	64	19 ²¹	39 ⁴²	58 ⁶³	67	29	62 ⁶¹	91 ⁹⁰	68				
1946	147 ¹⁵⁰	322 ⁵	469 ⁴⁷⁴	69	17 ¹⁸	43 ⁴⁷	60 ⁶⁵	72	24 ²³	68 ⁶⁷	92	74				
1947	150	286	436		19	40	60		25	60	85					
Year	West North Central				South Atlantic				South Central				Western			
	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :	Hens	Pul-lets	Total	:Pullets : : as a : : percent- : : age of : : total :
				Percent				Percent				Percent				Percent
Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent	Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent	Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent	Mill.	Mill.	Mill.	Percent	
1931	42	77	119	65	16	21	37	57	34	43	77	56	19	24	43	56
1932	40	72	112	64	17	20	37	54	35	41	76	54	18	21	39	54
1933	39	73	112	65	17	21	38	55	36	45	81	56	17	19	36	53
1934	37	75	112	67	16	19	35	54	34	41	75	55	17	20	37	54
1935	33	62	95	65	15	19	34	56	31	38	69	55	15	18	33	55
1936	33	65	98	66	15	20	35	57	31	40	71	56	16	19	35	54
1937	29	69	98	70	15	22	37	59	30	47	77	61	16	21	37	57
1938	33	58	91	64	15	19	34	56	33	40	73	55	16	19	35	54
1939	31	72	103	70	15	21	36 ³⁷	58	34	45	79 ⁸	57	15	18	33 ⁴	55
1940	33	75	108	69	16	22	38	58	35	46	81	57	15	21	36	58
1941	34	73	107	68	16	20	36 ⁷	56	35	42	77	55	16	19	35	54
1942	37	86	123	70	17	23	40	58	37	52	89	58	17	21 ²	38 ⁹	55
1943	42	103	145	71	19	26 ⁷	45	58	44 ³	61	105 ³	58	18 ¹⁹	23	41 ⁴²	56
1944	41	112	153	73	20	30	50	60	45 ⁶	64	109 ¹¹⁰	59	18 ¹⁹	26 ⁷	44 ⁴⁶	59
1945	39	100	139	72	20	25 ⁶	45 ⁴⁶	56	45	52	97 ⁹⁶	54	18	21 ⁰	39 ⁴⁰	54
1946	38 ²	106 ⁵	139 ¹	76	18	27 ⁸	45 ⁴⁶	60	40	56	96 ⁹⁵	58	16 ⁷	23 ⁴	39 ⁴¹	59
1947	34	94	128		18	23	43		37	47	84		17	21	38	
1948	30	93	123		16	24	40		35	46	81		17	21	38	
1949	34	83	118		16	24	40		34	42	76		17	22	39	

1948 141 245 426 19 42 61 24 59 83
 1949 145 264 413 19 42 61 25 56 80

Table 3.- Farm egg production: Total and per capita, U. S. and by regions
1925-46

(Part of data for figure 3)

Year	N. A.		E. N. C.		W. N. C.		S. A.	
	Produc-	Per	Produc-	Per	Produc-	Per	Produc-	Per
	tion	capita	tion	capita	tion	capita	tion	capita
	Mil.doz.	No.	Mil.doz.	No.	Mil.doz.	No.	Mil.doz.	No.
1925	375.3	140	658.2	336	816.2	756	269.8	217
1926	378.8	139	692.2	348	870.5	802	278.8	221
1927	386.2	140	701.3	347	880.5	806	300.5	236
1928	388.1	139	685.8	334	882.9	804	293.8	228
1929	390.6	137	671.5	322	875.8	793	271.3	208
1930	405.3	141	693.8	329	929.5	836	273.8	208
1931	396.0	136	702.3	331	892.3	796	267.1	201
1932	397.3	136	671.5	316	788.0	700	266.4	199
1933	403.1	137	657.5	308	791.2	700	258.5	190
1934	406.3	138	651.7	304	742.8	656	244.6	179
1935	416.6	140	650.4	302	691.2	609	243.2	176
1936	437.5	147	665.8	308	673.9	595	253.2	182
1937	489.9	164	714.6	329	732.7	649	275.2	195
1938	476.2	159	689.5	315	764.8	680	274.2	191
1939	502.1	167	709.5	322	843.2	749	276.8	189
1940	519.1 ^{524.8}	173 ⁵	716.1	322	867.9	771	286.9 ⁵	192
1941	539.8 ^{543.5}	179 ¹⁸⁴	754.9 ⁸	334 ⁹	939.4 ⁵	837 ⁵	288.5 ⁷	186 ⁷
1942	595.4 ^{611.5}	199 ²⁰⁶	841.1 ^{833.8}	368 ³⁷⁷	1,158.7 ³	1,051 ⁴⁴	328.2 ³²⁰	205 ⁹
1943	652.4 ^{685.2}	218 ²³⁶	920.2 ^{909.8}	408 ⁴¹⁵	1,334.7 ¹	1,223 ³¹	360.7 ^{362.1}	219 ²²⁹
1944	703.8 ^{752.2}	235 ²⁶²	988.6 ^{976.8}	429 ⁴⁴⁶	1,422.1 ¹	1,308 ³⁹	385.6 ^{390.4}	229 ²⁴⁵
1945	644.6 ^{698.3}	213 ²⁴³	956.8 ^{943.7}	411 ⁴³²	1,405.0 ¹	1,279 ¹³²¹	371.9 ^{372.6}	218 ²⁴⁸
1946 1/	635.0 ^{719.9}	204 ²³¹	950.0 ^{943.5}	395 ⁴⁰⁰	1,380.0 ^{1402.0}	1,228 ¹²⁵¹	350.0 ^{372.3}	209 ²³⁸
1947	757.0 ^{827.0}	237 ²⁸⁶	951.3 ^{956.3}	391 ³⁸⁴	1,377.3 ¹	1,228 ¹²⁵¹	372.3 ^{372.3}	231 ²³¹
1948	757.6 ^{827.0}	236 ²⁸⁶	956.3 ^{956.3}	384 ³⁸⁴	1,377.1 ¹	1,190 ¹¹⁹⁰	361.9 ^{361.9}	220 ²²⁰
	S. C.		Western		United States			
	Produc-	Per	Produc-	Per	Produc-	Per		
	tion	capita	tion	capita	tion	capita		
	Mil.doz.	No.	Mil.doz.	No.	Mil.doz.	No.		
1925	488.6	283	306.0	349	2,914.1	305		
1926	540.5	309	343.3	381	3,104.0	320		
1927	590.0	332	360.4	390	3,218.9	326		
1928	573.5	319	397.5	419	3,221.6	322		
1929	546.2	300	404.6	416	3,160.1	312		
1930	532.2	289	421.0	423	3,255.6	317		
1931	524.1	283	429.2	425	3,211.0	311		
1932	522.9	280	378.7	372	3,024.8	291		
1933	499.9	266	349.2	340	2,959.5	282		
1934	464.6	245	359.1	345	2,869.1	262		
1935	463.6	242	335.8	318	2,800.8	264		
1936	480.4	250	367.0	340	2,877.8	270		
1937	526.8	273	391.2	354	3,130.3	292		
1938	551.6	283	356.8	318	3,113.0	288		
1939	562.1	285	342.8	301	3,236.9	297		
1940	551.5	277	357.2	307	3,298.8	300		
1941	594.2	292	368.6	303	3,480.4	312		
1942	706.2	344	398.1	318	4,027.6	357		
1943	812.5	390	440.2	319	4,520.7	395		
1944	848.2	409	479.3	386	4,827.4	417		
1945	793.0	379	428.5	298	4,599.7	393		
1946 1/	732.0	364	428.0	286	4,475.0	378		
1947	702.8	343	441.8	295	4,604.3	385		
1948	691.9	329	461.5	290	4,597.3	388		

1/ Tentative indication, October 1946

Regional changes in egg production have not followed regional population trends in recent years. Farm-egg production for the United States from 1944 through 1946, averaged 396 eggs per person, a 40 percent increase over 1935-39. Output per person increased most sharply in the West North Central States, averaging during the past 3 years nearly 95 percent above prewar. Increases about equal to the national change -- 50 to 50 percent -- were made during the war in the South Central, East North Central, and North Atlantic areas. Production per person remained about unchanged in the South Atlantic area, and declined in the Western States. In the Western States it has been on a downward trend since the early 1930's. (See table 3.)

Regional Price Trends

Prices received by farmers for eggs increased sharply during the war, except in 1944 when egg production reached its peak. Prices more than doubled from 1939 to 1943, declined about 12 percent in 1944, and rose again in 1945 and 1946 to the 1943 level. The weighted average price received by farmers for eggs in 1943, 1945, and 1946 was between 37 and 38 cents per dozen, compared with 17.4 cents in 1939. Prices received by farmers from 1943 through 1946 averaged about 20 percent higher than in the late 1920's.

Regionally, sharpest advances during the war occurred in the Western and South Central States. Egg prices in the West from 1944 through 1946 averaged about 80 percent above prewar, compared with a national average about 70 percent above prewar. Prices for eggs in the West in recent years have been substantially above the United States average price. This is in contrast to the situation existing until 1940 when egg prices in that area were about equal to the national average. The change is a reflection of the shift from a surplus to a deficit area. The sharp advances in egg prices in the South Central States were caused chiefly by the wartime expansion in industry, the establishment of military camps, and expansion of the egg-drying industry in that area. Prices received by egg producers in the North Atlantic States increased less than in other areas. Although prices in those States were relatively high before the war, the smaller increase is probably due also to the increases in competition from the two North Central areas. A strong demand for eggs for dehydrating was responsible in part for the greater increase in average egg prices in the North Central States than in the North Atlantic States.

CIVILIAN DISAPPEARANCE OF SHELL AND FROZEN EGGS, BY MONTHS.

Estimates of monthly disappearance of shell and frozen eggs (excluding civilian consumption of dried eggs) were published in the October 1943 Poultry and Egg Situation for the period from 1925 to September 1943. Since October 1943 disappearance figures have appeared in the summary table of The Poultry and Egg Situation.

The data in table 6 convert the total disappearance to a per capita basis, in contrast to total monthly disappearance published in the October 1943 Poultry and Egg Situation. These disappearance figures indicate particularly the changing seasonality in egg consumption, with a larger portion in recent years being consumed in the last quarter than in earlier years. This change in seasonality has resulted largely from the shift in egg production. Total production of eggs in the three months, November through January, 1943-45, was more than twice the average production in those months of 1925-29. Disappearance by quarters for different periods, as a percentage of total, is as follows:

Years	Percentage of total			
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter
1925-29 average	25.2	29.3	26.1	19.5
1930-34 average	26.6	28.4	25.1	19.9
1935-39 average	25.5	27.9	25.0	21.5
1940-44 average	26.0	25.7	24.8	23.5

Table 4.- Eggs: Weighted annual average farm price per dozen, United States, and regions, 1924-46

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1924	34.6	26.9	23.4	28.5	23.0	28.3	26.7
1925	38.9	29.9	26.5	32.2	27.2	33.6	30.4
1926	37.5	28.7	25.4	31.8	26.2	29.6	28.9
1927	34.3	24.6	21.5	28.0	21.8	26.6	25.1
1928	36.9	28.4	25.1	29.8	24.8	27.8	28.1
1929	39.4	29.9	25.9	32.1	26.1	30.9	29.8
1930	33.1	23.0	19.4	26.7	21.4	25.4	23.7
1931	26.1	17.1	14.0	20.4	14.6	18.7	17.6
1932	21.6	13.5	11.0	15.6	10.9	16.0	14.2
1933	20.7	12.9	10.5	15.7	11.1	16.1	13.8
1934	23.9	16.2	13.7	19.0	14.8	18.0	17.0
1935	29.6	22.8	20.8	23.6	20.5	24.2	23.4
1936	28.4	21.0	18.5	23.2	19.2	22.3	21.8
1937	27.5	20.3	17.9	22.7	18.8	22.5	21.3
1938	27.4	19.4	16.6	21.8	17.0	22.6	20.3
1939	24.4	16.2	13.4	19.4	15.1	20.2	17.4
1940	24.9	17.1	14.2	20.1	15.5	19.3	18.0
1941	30.1	22.5	20.3	24.7	21.0	26.0	23.5
1942	37.1	29.0	27.3	29.9	27.2	32.3	29.9
1943	44.4	36.2	34.2	37.5	34.3	40.5	37.0
1944	39.0	30.9	29.6	34.0	30.4	35.9	32.4
1945	47.3	36.3	32.8	41.0	35.0	42.3	37.5
1946 1/	46.3	34.5	31.5	41.7	35.5	42.9	37.0

1/ Preliminary indication, October 1946.

Table 5.- Eggs: Weighted annual average farm price per dozen, United States, and regions, 1924-46

(Index numbers 1935-39 = 100)

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
1924	125.8	135.2	134.5	129.0	127.1	126.3	128.4
1925	141.5	150.3	152.3	145.7	150.3	150.0	146.2
1926	136.4	144.2	146.0	143.9	144.8	132.1	138.9
1927	124.7	123.6	123.6	126.7	120.4	118.7	120.7
1928	134.2	142.7	144.3	134.8	137.0	124.1	135.1
1929	143.3	150.3	148.9	145.2	144.2	137.9	143.3
1930	120.4	115.6	111.5	120.8	118.2	113.4	113.9
1931	94.9	85.9	80.5	92.3	80.7	83.5	84.6
1932	78.5	67.8	63.2	70.6	60.2	71.4	68.3
1933	75.3	64.8	60.3	71.0	61.3	71.9	66.3
1934	86.9	81.4	78.7	86.0	81.8	80.4	81.7
1935	107.6	114.6	119.5	106.8	113.3	108.0	112.5
1936	103.3	105.5	106.3	105.0	106.1	99.6	104.8
1937	100.0	102.0	102.9	102.7	103.9	100.4	102.4
1938	99.6	97.5	95.4	98.6	93.9	100.9	97.6
1939	88.7	81.4	77.0	87.8	83.4	90.2	83.7
1940	90.5	85.9	81.6	91.0	85.6	86.2	86.5
1941	109.5	113.1	116.7	111.8	116.0	116.1	113.0
1942	134.9	145.7	156.9	135.3	150.3	144.2	143.8
1943	165.1	181.9	196.6	169.7	189.5	180.8	177.9
1944	141.8	155.3	170.1	153.8	168.0	160.3	155.8
1945	172.0	182.4	188.5	185.5	193.4	188.8	180.3
1946 1/	168.4	173.4	181.0	188.7	196.1	189.3	182.2

1/ Preliminary indication, October 1946.

Table 6.- Apparent civilian disappearance of shell and frozen eggs per capita (shell egg equivalent), United States, by months, 1925-46 ^{1/}

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1925	17.0	22.7	36.1	31.5	32.7	29.5	29.3	27.3	26.0	23.4	19.4	19.3	314.2
1926	21.2	26.6	37.9	34.5	32.4	30.8	30.2	29.3	28.0	24.4	20.2	19.3	334.8
1927	20.5	27.1	38.4	34.2	32.8	31.7	31.3	31.0	27.1	24.9	20.6	19.6	339.2
1928	21.6	26.1	37.2	33.7	32.1	31.3	31.2	28.2	26.9	25.2	21.4	21.2	336.1
1929	22.9	23.8	37.3	33.1	33.5	30.1	30.1	29.3	26.7	24.7	19.6	19.3	330.4
1930	19.9	27.3	36.4	32.3	30.6	30.6	29.0	28.3	25.3	24.3	20.8	21.2	326.0
1931	24.0	28.2	35.3	30.9	31.9	28.8	29.1	27.5	25.1	24.4	21.0	21.3	327.5
1932	23.0	27.6	35.1	31.3	30.9	29.1	27.8	26.3	24.0	21.4	17.9	15.4	309.8
1933	20.6	24.6	30.3	29.5	27.8	26.1	25.4	24.9	23.2	21.9	19.1	19.5	292.9
1934	21.7	23.5	31.7	27.0	25.9	25.5	24.9	24.7	21.8	21.5	18.9	18.0	285.1
1935	17.5	20.8	29.1	27.9	26.2	24.5	24.3	23.9	22.1	21.1	18.5	19.2	275.1
1936	19.7	21.3	30.3	29.7	27.3	25.5	24.6	22.8	22.2	22.0	19.3	19.5	284.2
1937	21.3	24.2	31.2	28.1	28.1	26.4	27.1	25.7	24.8	23.1	21.4	21.2	302.6
1938	22.6	24.7	34.7	28.2	29.6	26.6	26.6	25.3	23.7	22.4	20.7	21.0	306.1
1939	22.9	25.0	31.7	29.8	27.8	26.2	26.7	25.5	24.1	23.7	22.0	22.6	308.0
1940	22.6	24.8	33.1	29.4	28.4	26.3	26.8	26.6	25.2	24.8	22.8	22.9	313.7
1941	25.3	26.3	31.7	29.7	27.3	25.5	24.9	25.2	23.4	22.7	21.8	23.7	307.5
1942	26.0	25.0	30.4	27.4	27.2	24.6	26.0	25.6	24.0	25.5	24.0	25.6	311.3
1943	23.0	26.9	32.9	28.4	29.8	27.6	28.6	29.3	27.1	27.0	26.0	27.9	334.5
1944	30.1	29.7	32.2	31.4	28.6	24.1	31.3	28.3	29.7	29.6	27.7	28.9	351.6
1945	32.9	33.1	38.9	35.6	28.6	33.8	33.8	32.7	28.5	30.1	27.2	28.1	383.3
1946	32.6	31.6	37.5	32.8	32.7	30.1	30.3	30.7	31.5	31.7	30.1	31.6	383.2
1947	34.0	33.2	40.1	35.9	33.5	31.0	31.7	30.2	28.8	30.4			

^{1/} Excludes dried eggs.

Data since 1941 is subject to revision.