



Chickens and Eggs

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March Egg Production Down Slightly

United States egg production totaled 7.83 billion during March 2011, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.75 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 73 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2011 averaged 340 million, down 1 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,302 eggs, up slightly from March 2010.

All layers in the United States on April 1, 2011 totaled 342 million, down slightly from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.93 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2011, averaged 74.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from April 1, 2010.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 2 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2011 totaled 44.0 million, down 2 percent from March 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 40.8 million on April 1, 2011, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 275 thousand during March 2011, up 6 percent from March 2010.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2011 totaled 794 million, up 1 percent from March 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 650 million on April 1, 2011, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.73 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2011, up 1 percent from March 2010.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2010-2011

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

Month	2010		2011	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		340,936		342,661
January		340,596		341,701
February		340,486		339,338
March		342,098		340,377
April		341,318		
May		339,344		
June		339,750		
July		339,929		
August		340,084		
September		338,739		
October		336,804		
November		339,447		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2010-2011

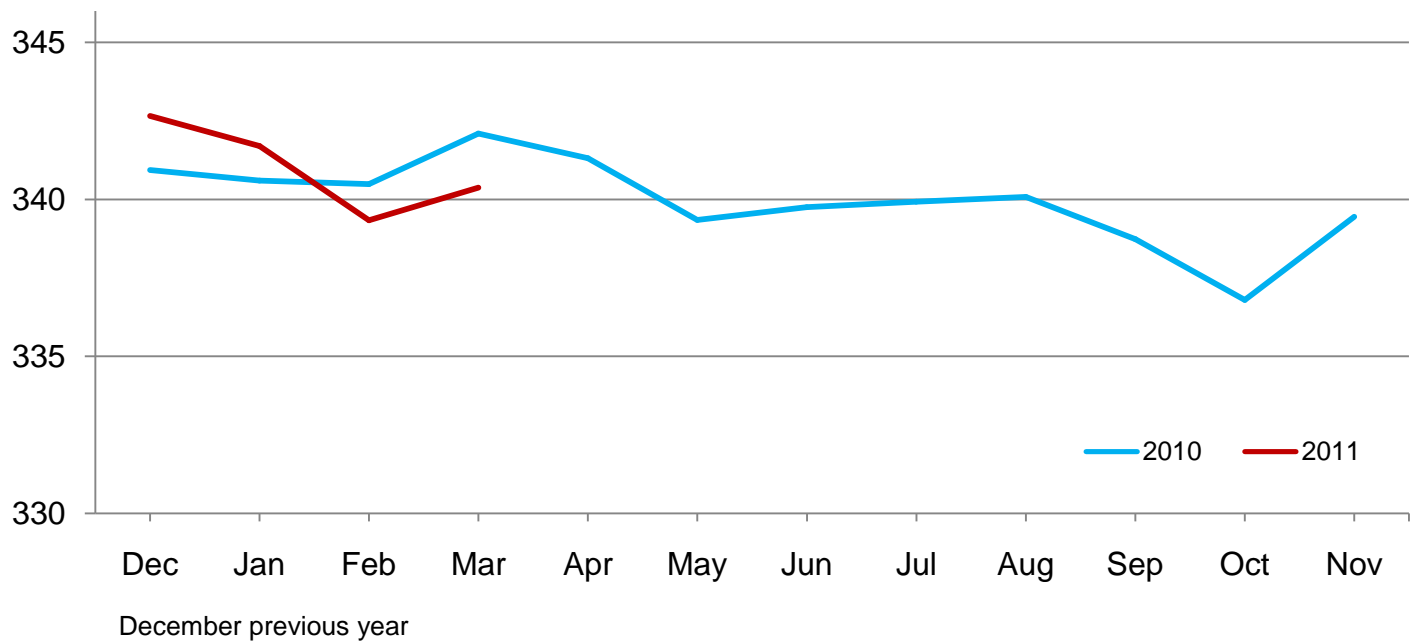
[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun. Totals may not add due to rounding]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	7,853	7,920	6,779	6,850	1,074	1,070
January	7,724	7,821	6,637	6,739	1,087	1,083
February	6,935	7,006	5,950	6,029	985	976
March	7,839	7,834	6,740	6,752	1,098	1,083
April	7,578		6,503		1,075	
May	7,716		6,607		1,109	
June	7,484		6,415		1,069	
July	7,719		6,610		1,109	
August	7,765		6,669		1,096	
September	7,514		6,464		1,050	
October	7,698		6,618		1,080	
November	7,573		6,538		1,036	
During year	91,398		78,530		12,868	

¹ December preceding year.

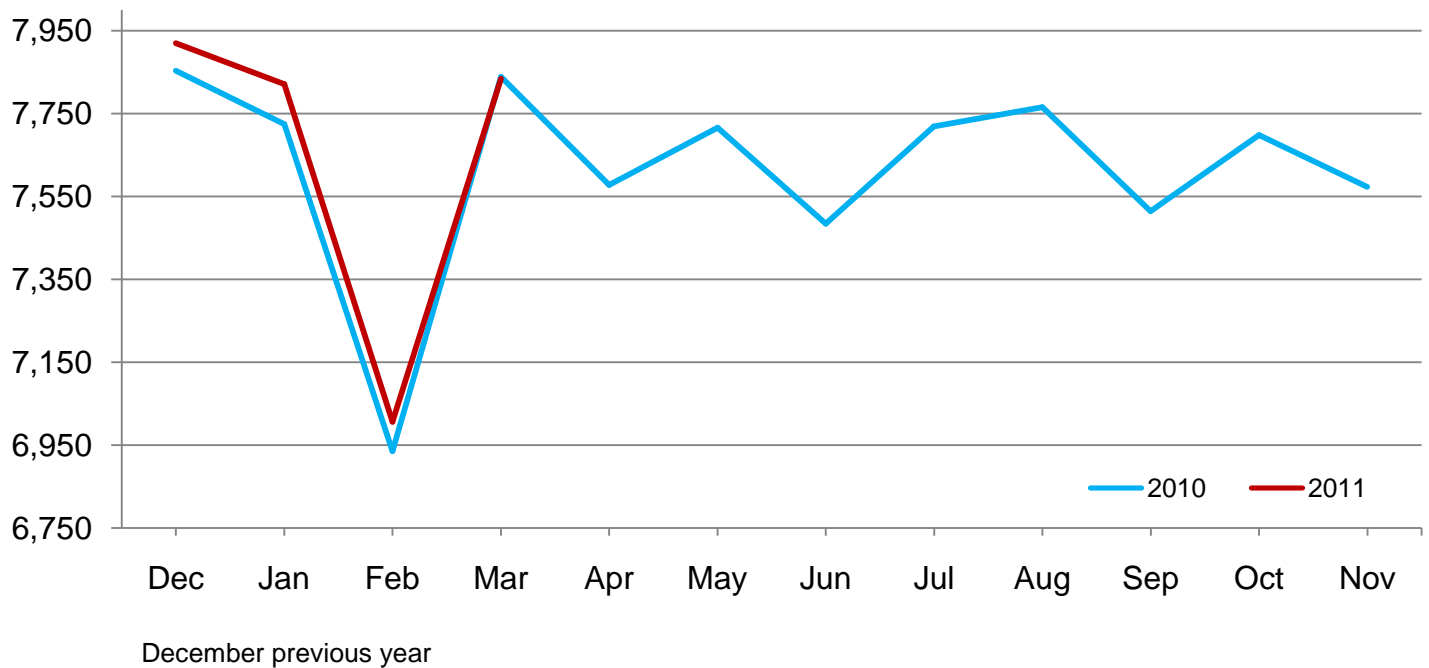
Average Layers During the Month – United States

Million layers



All Egg Production During the Month – United States

Million eggs



**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States:
February-March 2010 and 2011**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during February			
All layers 1,000	340,486	339,338	100
Table egg type 1,000	282,414	281,988	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,072	57,350	99
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,109	54,343	99
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,963	3,007	101
Eggs per 100 layers during February			
All layers number	2,037	2,065	101
Table egg type number	2,107	2,138	101
Hatching egg type number	1,696	1,702	100
Broiler-type hatching number	1,664	1,675	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,295	2,195	96
Eggs produced during February			
All layers million	6,935	7,006	101
Table egg type million	5,950	6,029	101
Hatching egg type million	985	976	99
Broiler-type hatching million	917	910	99
Egg-type hatching million	68	66	97
Layers on March 1			
All layers 1,000	341,191	339,021	99
Table egg type 1,000	282,865	281,669	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,326	57,352	98
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,368	54,333	98
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,958	3,019	102
Eggs per 100 layers on March 1			
All layers number	73.0	73.8	101
Table egg type number	75.7	76.5	101
Hatching egg type number	60.2	60.6	101
Broiler-type hatching number	59.0	59.7	101
Egg-type hatching number	81.9	76.6	94
Forced molt layers on March 1			
Being molted percent	3.2	3.1	97
Molt completed percent	21.2	20.2	95
Layers sold for slaughter during February 1,000	13,549	14,519	107
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February 1,000	6,847	9,025	132
Pullets on March 1 1,000	102,946	105,244	102
Pullets added during February ¹ 1,000	22,469	22,066	98

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States: March-April 2010 and 2011

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during March			
All layers 1,000	342,098	340,377	99
Table egg type 1,000	283,718	283,003	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,380	57,374	98
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,379	54,397	98
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,001	2,977	99
Eggs per 100 layers during March			
All layers number	2,291	2,302	100
Table egg type number	2,376	2,386	100
Hatching egg type number	1,881	1,888	100
Broiler-type hatching number	1,845	1,857	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,532	2,452	97
Eggs produced during March			
All layers million	7,839	7,834	100
Table egg type million	6,740	6,752	100
Hatching egg type million	1,098	1,083	99
Broiler-type hatching million	1,022	1,010	99
Egg-type hatching million	76	73	96
Layers on April 1			
All layers 1,000	342,969	341,703	100
Table egg type 1,000	284,552	284,323	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,417	57,380	98
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,382	54,451	98
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,035	2,929	97
Eggs per 100 layers on April 1			
All layers number	74.8	74.5	100
Table egg type number	77.6	77.3	100
Hatching egg type number	61.0	60.8	100
Broiler-type hatching number	60.0	59.8	100
Egg-type hatching number	80.6	79.8	99
Forced molt layers on April 1			
Being molted percent	2.8	2.6	93
Molt completed percent	21.3	20.0	94
Layers sold for slaughter during March 1,000	14,677	13,697	93
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during March 1,000	6,484	6,912	107
Pullets on April 1 1,000	102,204	106,182	104
Pullets added during March ¹ 1,000	23,833	25,062	105

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2010 and 2011

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,292	1,350	9,681	9,762	1,653	1,690
Arkansas	3,172	3,286	12,299	11,981	1,789	1,845
California	19,154	18,904	19,461	19,210	2,107	2,061
Colorado	3,053	3,291	3,571	3,705	2,240	2,105
Connecticut	2,473	2,171	2,545	2,239	2,083	2,099
Florida	9,369	9,024	9,664	9,374	2,080	2,166
Georgia	8,875	8,592	17,597	17,099	1,978	1,977
Hawaii ¹	260	(NA)	305	(NA)	1,705	(NA)
Illinois	4,290	4,339	4,514	4,558	2,171	2,216
Indiana	23,074	22,923	23,822	23,656	2,091	2,135
Iowa	53,223	52,180	54,103	53,056	2,026	2,086
Maine	3,546	3,396	3,601	3,451	2,194	2,202
Maryland	2,205	1,984	2,308	2,114	2,123	2,129
Michigan	10,158	10,126	10,325	10,298	2,150	2,224
Minnesota	9,902	9,968	10,383	10,445	2,119	2,011
Mississippi	1,475	1,467	6,101	5,991	1,819	1,803
Missouri	5,682	5,980	7,074	7,373	2,092	2,089
Nebraska	9,329	9,309	9,379	9,359	2,186	2,244
New York	3,805	4,076	4,031	4,307	2,208	2,275
North Carolina	6,057	5,887	13,308	13,368	1,871	1,863
Ohio	27,033	26,964	27,532	27,452	2,041	2,091
Oregon	2,283	2,219	2,400	2,356	2,167	2,207
Pennsylvania	22,485	23,846	23,583	25,050	2,230	2,224
South Carolina	3,130	3,137	4,394	4,423	1,912	1,990
South Dakota	2,347	2,308	2,387	2,348	2,178	2,129
Texas	13,379	14,033	17,980	18,395	2,041	2,033
Utah	3,392	3,420	3,422	3,450	1,958	2,058
Virginia	1,138	1,150	2,946	2,869	1,799	1,778
Washington	6,385	6,343	6,500	6,459	2,031	2,214
Wisconsin	4,119	3,992	4,689	4,552	2,069	2,175
Other States ²	11,837	11,813	20,581	20,638	1,953	1,972
United States	277,922	277,478	340,486	339,338	2,037	2,065

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During March 2010 and 2011

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,340	1,399	9,792	9,777	1,848	1,882
Arkansas	3,258	3,201	12,299	11,964	2,025	2,048
California	19,233	19,019	19,542	19,324	2,374	2,339
Colorado	3,192	3,366	3,702	3,816	2,485	2,358
Connecticut	2,500	2,196	2,576	2,270	2,329	2,335
Florida	9,272	9,123	9,560	9,468	2,385	2,324
Georgia	8,816	8,855	17,610	17,178	2,220	2,206
Hawaii ¹	270	(NA)	315	(NA)	1,873	(NA)
Illinois	4,323	4,235	4,547	4,460	2,375	2,287
Indiana	23,123	22,854	23,886	23,599	2,353	2,394
Iowa	53,447	52,574	54,327	53,428	2,306	2,313
Maine	3,570	3,371	3,625	3,426	2,455	2,452
Maryland	2,219	2,130	2,340	2,266	2,350	2,339
Michigan	10,104	10,251	10,273	10,422	2,453	2,504
Minnesota	9,953	9,984	10,453	10,448	2,325	2,297
Mississippi	1,474	1,523	6,050	6,020	2,083	2,043
Missouri	5,685	5,884	7,058	7,255	2,324	2,371
Nebraska	9,382	9,380	9,432	9,430	2,439	2,492
New York	3,713	4,005	3,943	4,236	2,485	2,502
North Carolina	5,920	5,839	13,358	13,310	2,089	2,029
Ohio	27,616	26,783	28,119	27,291	2,272	2,371
Oregon	2,449	2,292	2,581	2,413	2,441	2,528
Pennsylvania	22,630	24,057	23,747	25,282	2,489	2,464
South Carolina	3,140	3,139	4,417	4,429	2,196	2,213
South Dakota	2,390	2,267	2,430	2,307	2,387	2,471
Texas	13,411	13,872	17,957	18,309	2,300	2,288
Utah	3,403	3,451	3,433	3,481	2,243	2,471
Virginia	1,172	1,167	3,006	2,947	2,063	1,934
Washington	6,344	6,438	6,459	6,554	2,384	2,502
Wisconsin	4,242	4,007	4,826	4,583	2,300	2,335
Other States ²	11,635	11,831	20,435	20,684	2,173	2,151
United States	279,226	278,493	342,098	340,377	2,291	2,302

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 2010 and 2011

[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	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	160	165	24	26	136	139
Arkansas	220	221	72	73	148	148
California	410	396	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	80	78	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	53	47	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	201	203	197	199	4	4
Georgia	348	338	194	190	154	148
Hawaii ¹	5.2	(NA)	5.2	(NA)	-	(NA)
Illinois	98	101	95	98	3	3
Indiana	498	505	485	493	13	12
Iowa	1,096	1,107	1,083	1,094	13	13
Maine	79	76	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	49	45	48	44	1	1
Michigan	222	229	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	220	210	212	203	8	7
Mississippi	111	108	32	32	79	76
Missouri	148	154	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	205	210	205	210	-	-
New York	89	98	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	249	249	130	128	119	121
Ohio	562	574	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	52	52	51	50	1	2
Pennsylvania	526	557	507	537	19	20
South Carolina	84	88	64	68	20	20
South Dakota	52	50	52	50	-	-
Texas	367	374	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	67	71	67	71	-	-
Virginia	53	51	23	22	30	29
Washington	132	143	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	97	99	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	402	407	277	283	125	124
United States	6,935	7,006	5,950	6,029	985	976

- Represents zero.

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: March 2010 and 2011

[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	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	181	184	30	31	151	153
Arkansas	249	245	84	79	165	166
California	464	452	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	92	90	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	60	53	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	228	220	224	215	4	5
Georgia	391	379	218	218	173	161
Hawaii ¹	5.9	(NA)	5.9	(NA)	-	(NA)
Illinois	108	102	105	99	3	3
Indiana	562	565	548	551	14	14
Iowa	1,253	1,236	1,239	1,222	14	14
Maine	89	84	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	55	53	54	52	1	1
Michigan	252	261	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	243	240	235	232	8	8
Mississippi	126	123	38	38	88	85
Missouri	164	172	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	230	235	230	235	-	-
New York	98	106	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	279	270	145	138	134	132
Ohio	639	647	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	63	61	61	59	2	2
Pennsylvania	591	623	570	601	21	22
South Carolina	97	98	75	75	22	23
South Dakota	58	57	58	57	-	-
Texas	413	419	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	77	86	77	86	-	-
Virginia	62	57	28	24	34	33
Washington	154	164	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	111	107	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	444	445	304	309	140	137
United States	7,839	7,834	6,740	6,752	1,098	1,083

- Represents zero.

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not published in this table.

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2010-2011

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)
January	2.7	2.8	20.8	21.3
February	3.6	3.6	20.3	20.3
March	3.2	3.1	21.2	20.2
April	2.8	2.6	21.3	20.0
May	4.2		21.5	
June	3.3		22.7	
July	3.3		22.5	
August	3.4		22.6	
September	2.6		23.0	
October	4.4		21.7	
November	2.7		22.5	
December	1.8		22.5	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: April 1, 2010 and 2011

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2010 (percent)	2011 (percent)
Alabama	1.0	1.5	5.5	6.0
Arkansas	-	1.5	9.5	8.0
California	2.0	2.0	29.0	27.5
Colorado	2.5	-	14.5	17.5
Connecticut	3.0	9.5	15.5	7.5
Florida	4.0	6.5	36.5	33.5
Georgia	-	0.5	15.5	18.5
Hawaii ¹	9.0	(NA)	48.5	(NA)
Illinois	1.0	2.0	20.0	30.0
Indiana	4.0	3.5	31.5	24.0
Iowa	4.5	4.5	35.0	30.5
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	12.0	31.0
Michigan	1.5	1.5	22.5	12.0
Minnesota	2.0	4.0	23.0	23.0
Mississippi	0.5	1.0	8.5	11.5
Missouri	2.0	3.0	21.0	21.5
Nebraska	-	1.0	3.0	3.5
New York	-	-	9.5	5.5
North Carolina	0.5	2.0	9.5	16.5
Ohio	7.5	3.0	19.0	19.5
Oregon	5.0	-	26.0	20.5
Pennsylvania	2.0	2.0	12.0	10.5
South Carolina	-	4.0	16.0	16.0
South Dakota	10.5	6.5	20.0	29.0
Texas	1.5	1.5	13.0	18.0
Utah	7.0	-	40.0	39.0
Virginia	7.5	-	16.5	11.5
Washington	3.0	1.0	35.5	32.5
Wisconsin	7.0	2.0	34.0	26.5
Other States ²	1.7	2.5	17.2	15.1
United States	2.8	2.6	21.3	20.0

- Represents zero.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Included in Other States in 2011.

² Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2010 and 2011

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on April 1	43,031	40,848	95
Chicks hatched during March	44,914	43,974	98
Chicks hatched January through March	122,951	122,676	100
Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	260	275	106
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	3,308	3,130	95
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on April 1	641,715	649,752	101
Chicks hatched during March	787,939	793,957	101
Chicks hatched January through March	2,263,420	2,283,804	101
Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,673	6,733	101
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	62,142	63,250	102

¹ 2011 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2009 through August 2010.

² 2011 includes pullet chicks hatched December 2009 through August 2010.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: April 1, 2010 and 2011

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	5,852	4,450	76
East North Central	9,163	8,110	89
West North Central	8,986	8,800	98
South Atlantic	4,842	4,929	102
South Central	5,568	5,679	102
West	8,620	8,880	103
United States	43,031	40,848	95

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2010-2011

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	38,819	41,366	107	38,819	41,366	107
February	39,218	37,336	95	78,037	78,702	101
March	44,914	43,974	98	122,951	122,676	100
April	47,558			170,509		
May	43,231			213,740		
June	42,331			256,071		
July	38,089			294,160		
August	37,014			331,174		
September	40,130			371,304		
October	41,300			412,604		
November	38,849			451,453		
December	37,759			489,212		

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2010-2011

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2010	2011		2010	2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	227	220	97	3,198	3,292
February	296	244	82	3,296	3,168
March	260	275	106	3,308	3,130
April	232			3,318	3,161
May	230			3,322	3,054
June	318			3,295	3,027
July	218			3,405	2,981
August	253			3,392	2,974
September	251			3,432	2,922
October	170			3,415	2,937
November	263			3,340	
December	263			3,295	
Total	2,981				

¹ For March 2011, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2009 through August 2010. The 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements.

Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: April 1, 2010 and 2011

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	12,400	12,340	100
East North Central	12,685	12,801	101
West North Central	28,220	28,524	101
South Atlantic	235,592	241,672	103
South Central	329,656	330,575	100
West	23,162	23,840	103
United States	641,715	649,752	101

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: March 2010 and 2011

State	During March			January-March		
	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	110,257	112,625	102	316,845	323,887	102
Arkansas	89,622	87,785	98	258,384	252,848	98
Delaware	12,275	14,312	117	34,895	42,975	123
Florida	4,893	4,963	101	14,082	14,015	100
Georgia	115,942	123,064	106	334,188	354,288	106
Kentucky	28,676	28,964	101	83,500	80,080	96
Louisiana	12,681	12,736	100	36,471	36,398	100
Maryland	33,120	28,403	86	94,655	81,119	86
Mississippi	72,363	70,948	98	206,649	203,931	99
North Carolina	69,201	73,283	106	199,629	211,484	106
Oklahoma	25,492	25,734	101	73,878	73,898	100
Pennsylvania	13,463	14,001	104	38,785	41,813	108
South Carolina	20,428	19,645	96	58,917	57,429	97
Texas	58,447	56,101	96	166,378	163,531	98
Virginia	23,790	23,625	99	66,628	65,093	98
California, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia	71,974	72,066	100	202,844	205,464	101
19 States ¹	762,624	768,255	101	2,186,728	2,208,253	101
Other States ²	25,315	25,702	102	76,692	75,551	99
United States	787,939	793,957	101	2,263,420	2,283,804	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: 2010-2011

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	775,431	781,123	101	775,431	781,123	101
February	700,050	708,724	101	1,475,481	1,489,847	101
March	787,939	793,957	101	2,263,420	2,283,804	101
April	768,296			3,031,716		
May	799,068			3,830,784		
June	787,703			4,618,487		
July	801,716			5,420,203		
August	798,751			6,218,954		
September	762,494			6,981,448		
October	768,094			7,749,542		
November	741,093			8,490,635		
December	786,440			9,277,075		

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2010-2011

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2011 as percent of 2010	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2010 (1,000 chicks)	2011 (1,000 chicks)		2010 (1,000 chicks)	2011 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,637	6,989	105	62,833	62,996
February	7,021	7,107	101	62,005	63,283
March	6,673	6,733	101	62,142	63,250
April	6,825			62,672	63,751
May	8,351			61,918	63,990
June	7,128			62,049	64,558
July	6,675			61,903	64,656
August	7,313			62,300	64,820
September	7,128			61,663	63,576
October	6,876			61,179	63,181
November	7,589			61,790	
December	6,771			62,978	
Annual total	84,987				
Total placements ²					
January	8,626	8,548	99		
February	9,151	8,782	96		
March	9,033	8,663	96		
April	8,210				
May	10,338				
June	9,055				
July	8,520				
August	9,009				
September	9,087				
October	8,553				
November	9,314				
December	8,596				
Annual total	107,492				

¹ For March 2011, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched December 2009 through August 2010.

² United States production of intended placements worldwide.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Primary data for the *Chickens and Eggs* report are from weekly and/or monthly questionnaires sent to producers. An attempt is made to collect information for layer and egg estimates from each known contractor and independent producer who has at least 30,000 table egg layers, flocks of hatchery supply layers, or pullet only operations with at least 500 pullets. Coverage for operations with less than 30,000 table egg layers are estimated each month based on data reported in December. Approximately 650 contractors, independent egg producers, and pullet only operations are contacted each month. All known hatcheries, approximately 300, are contacted for information on a weekly and/or monthly basis.

Estimating Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive estimates from the reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness. Individual hatchery data are summed to State, regional, and United States totals.

For chicken hatcheries, chicks hatched consist of all chicks of domesticated breeds including males and chicks destined for hatchery supply flocks and research purposes. Eggs set are eggs in incubators for the purpose of hatching. The relationship of egg-type chicks hatched to chicken inventory and poultry marketings are carefully monitored. The disposition of egg-type chicks hatched prior to placement into the laying flock can vary significantly, which can make comparisons to changes in layer inventory inconsistent over time. Broiler chicks placed are specifically placed on feed for meat production. Intended placement data reported by leading breeders include pullet chicks expected from eggs sold the preceding month. The breeders in this report account for a large percentage of replacement pullets for hatchery supply flocks. Production of replacement pullets by these breeders indicates the number of pullets available to hatchery supply layer flocks several months before the pullets will actually move into the laying flocks. "Hatchery Supply Flocks" include all generations of layers which could lay eggs to supply a hatchery. This includes the generations of parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, pedigree, etc. Also included are research flocks, vaccine flocks, and specific pathogen-free flocks. The broiler cumulative potential placements are a moving total of the intended placements 7-15 months earlier. The egg-type cumulative potential placements of 7-18 months earlier represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements of egg-type hatching flocks.

Revision Policy: The previous month's estimates are subject to revision if late reports or corrected data indicates a different level. Additionally, revisions after the monthly report will be made at the end of the marketing year and published in the annual reports of *Chickens and Eggs Summary* and *Hatchery Production Summary*. Estimates will also be reviewed for chickens and eggs after data from the 5-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Estimates are based on a census of all known contractors and independent producers who have at least 30,000 table egg layers, flocks of hatchery supply layers, pullet only operations with at least 500 pullets, or operating hatcheries and therefore, have no sampling error. However, estimates are subject to errors such as omission, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for all layers over the past 24 months is 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 340 million layers by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.6 percent.

Reliability of Layer and Egg Estimates

[Based on data for the past twenty-four months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
All layers	(percent) 0.4	(percent) 0.6	(1,000) 1,407	(1,000) 51	(1,000) 2,021	(number) 23	(number) 1
Eggs	0.3	0.6	(million) 24	(million) 1	(million) 45	23	1

Regional Listing

- North Atlantic:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
- East North Central:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin.
- West North Central:** Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.
- South Atlantic:** Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia.
- South Central:** Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas.
- West:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Terms and Definitions of Chickens and Eggs Estimates

All Layers includes both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

Intended Placements are reported by leading breeders. Coverage may not be 100 percent. Includes expected pullet chicks from eggs sold during the preceding month at the rate of 125 pullet chicks per case of 30 dozen eggs.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

- Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch (202) 720-3570
- Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section (202) 720-4447
- Doug Bounds – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 720-3106
- David Colwell – Cold Storage (202) 720-8784
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Troy Marshall – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey (202) 720-3244
- Miste Salmon – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
 Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink (202) 720-0585

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