



Chickens and Eggs

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December Egg Production Up Slightly

United States egg production totaled 7.93 billion during December 2011, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.89 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 973 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2011 averaged 338 million, down 1 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,344 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2010.

All layers in the United States on January 1, 2012 totaled 338 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 338 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 50.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.78 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2012, averaged 75.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from January 1, 2011.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2011 totaled 38.9 million, up 3 percent from December 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 38.8 million on January 1, 2012, up slightly from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 277 thousand during December 2011, up 5 percent from December 2010.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Down 3 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2011 totaled 760 million, down 3 percent from December 2010. Eggs in incubators totaled 634 million on January 1, 2012, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.44 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2011, down 5 percent from December 2010.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	2011		2012	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		342,661		338,209
January		341,701		
February		339,338		
March		340,461		
April		340,688		
May		337,919		
June		336,466		
July		336,136		
August		336,022		
September		335,727		
October		336,204		
November		337,896		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2011-2012

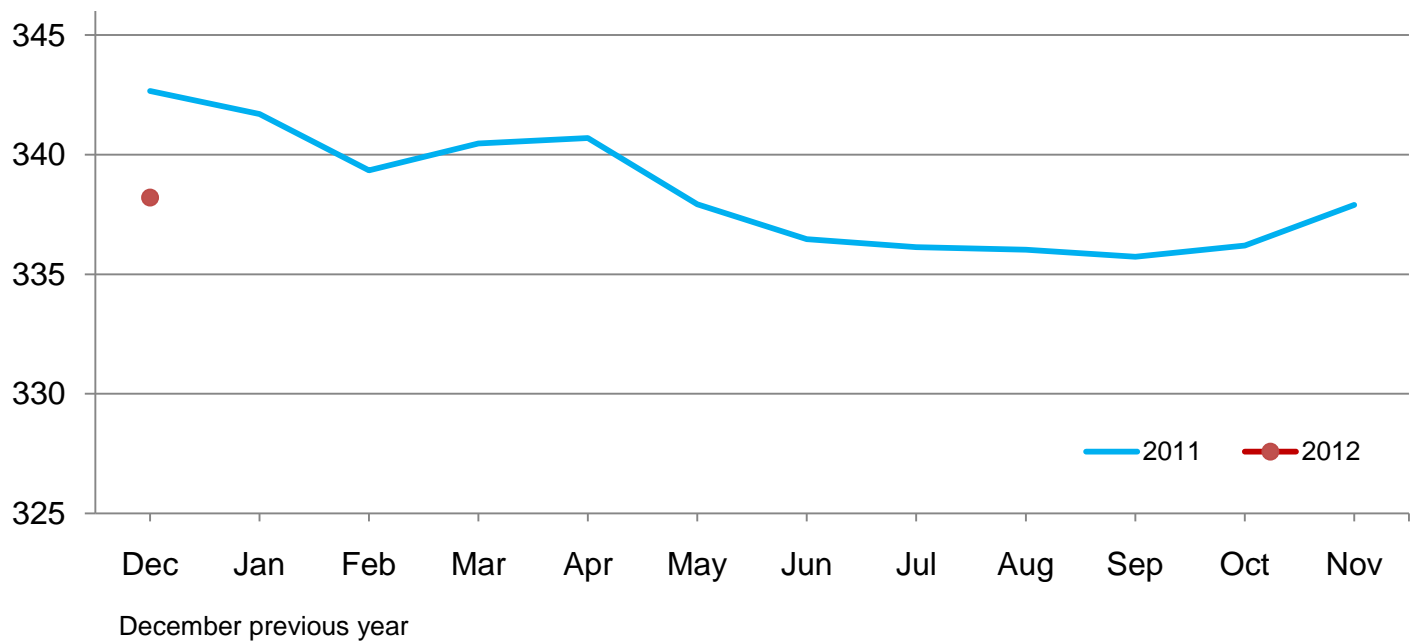
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	7,920	7,929	6,850	6,888	1,070	1,041
January	7,821		6,739		1,083	
February	7,006		6,029		976	
March	7,836		6,754		1,083	
April	7,617		6,555		1,062	
May	7,777		6,671		1,107	
June	7,505		6,438		1,068	
July	7,740		6,656		1,085	
August	7,734		6,671		1,064	
September	7,510		6,494		1,017	
October	7,790		6,753		1,038	
November	7,612		6,609		1,003	
During year	91,868		79,219		12,656	

¹ December preceding year.

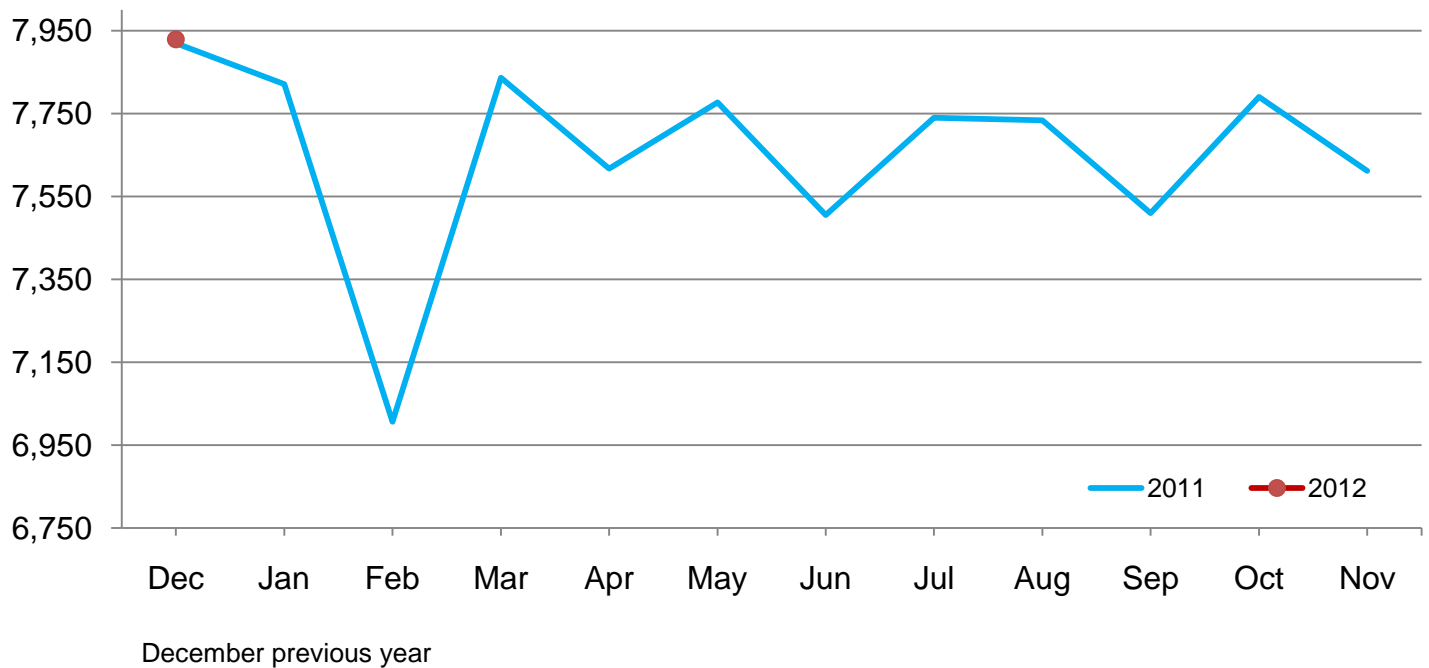
Average Layers During the Month – United States

Million layers



All Egg Production During the Month – United States

Million eggs



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

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during November			
All layers 1,000	339,447	337,896	100
Table egg type 1,000	282,656	284,667	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	56,791	53,229	94
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	53,956	50,366	93
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,835	2,863	101
Eggs per 100 layers during November			
All layers number	2,231	2,253	101
Table egg type number	2,313	2,322	100
Hatching egg type number	1,824	1,884	103
Broiler-type hatching number	1,800	1,858	103
Egg-type hatching number	2,293	2,340	102
Eggs produced during November			
All layers million	7,573	7,612	101
Table egg type million	6,538	6,609	101
Hatching egg type million	1,036	1,003	97
Broiler-type hatching million	971	936	96
Egg-type hatching million	65	67	103
Layers on December 1			
All layers 1,000	341,551	338,449	99
Table egg type 1,000	285,099	285,060	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	56,452	53,389	95
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	53,722	50,613	94
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,730	2,776	102
Eggs per 100 layers on December 1			
All layers number	74.9	75.3	101
Table egg type number	77.7	77.6	100
Hatching egg type number	60.6	62.8	104
Broiler-type hatching number	59.9	61.9	103
Egg-type hatching number	75.2	79.5	106
Forced molt layers on December 1			
Being molted percent	1.8	1.9	106
Molt completed percent	22.5	20.9	93
Layers sold for slaughter during November 1,000	11,515	13,076	114
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during November 1,000	6,556	7,015	107
Pullets on December 1 1,000	104,665	101,543	97
Pullets added during November ¹ 1,000	22,652	20,559	91

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

**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type and Forced Molt – United States:
December-January 2010-2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2010	2011	2011 as percent of 2010
Layers during December			
All layers1,000	342,661	338,209	99
Table egg type1,000	285,580	284,674	100
Hatching egg type1,000	57,081	53,535	94
Broiler-type hatching1,000	54,291	50,754	93
Egg-type hatching1,000	2,790	2,781	100
Eggs per 100 layers during December			
All layersnumber	2,311	2,344	101
Table egg typenumber	2,399	2,420	101
Hatching egg typenumber	1,875	1,945	104
Broiler-type hatchingnumber	1,851	1,917	104
Egg-type hatchingnumber	2,330	2,445	105
Eggs produced during December			
All layers million	7,920	7,929	100
Table egg type million	6,850	6,888	101
Hatching egg type million	1,070	1,041	97
Broiler-type hatching million	1,005	973	97
Egg-type hatching million	65	68	105
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers on January 1			
All layers1,000	343,745	337,941	98
Table egg type1,000	286,047	284,274	99
Hatching egg type1,000	57,698	53,667	93
Broiler-type hatching1,000	54,855	50,885	93
Egg-type hatching1,000	2,843	2,782	98
Eggs per 100 layers on January 1			
All layersnumber	74.1	75.8	102
Table egg typenumber	76.9	78.3	102
Hatching egg typenumber	60.5	62.7	104
Broiler-type hatchingnumber	59.7	61.8	104
Egg-type hatchingnumber	77.0	77.9	101
Forced molt layers on January 1			
Percent being moltedpercent	2.8	2.7	96
Percent with molt completedpercent	21.3	20.0	94
Layers sold for slaughter during December1,000	13,497	13,580	101
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, Composted or disappeared for any Reason during December1,000	7,385	9,049	123
Pullets on January 11,000	104,270	102,013	98
Pullets added during December ¹1,000	23,722	23,364	98

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During November 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	1,368	1,468	9,469	9,006	1,901	1,921
Arkansas	3,356	3,524	12,301	11,563	1,959	2,032
California	19,241	19,685	19,550	19,979	2,292	2,287
Colorado	3,255	4,268	3,659	4,712	2,350	2,377
Connecticut	2,248	2,167	2,315	2,233	2,289	2,284
Florida	9,263	9,599	9,652	9,938	2,300	2,355
Georgia	8,529	8,241	17,101	16,522	2,175	2,124
Hawaii ¹	311	(NA)	346	(NA)	1,705	(NA)
Illinois	4,347	4,348	4,557	4,554	2,260	2,350
Indiana	22,387	22,120	23,101	22,778	2,277	2,243
Iowa	51,745	52,256	52,632	53,193	2,210	2,241
Maine	3,524	3,547	3,579	3,602	2,347	2,249
Maryland	2,065	1,892	2,215	2,029	2,167	2,366
Michigan	10,000	10,574	10,150	10,724	2,424	2,378
Minnesota	10,071	9,554	10,556	10,046	2,311	2,289
Mississippi	1,433	1,519	5,969	5,593	1,994	2,038
Missouri	6,038	5,580	7,308	6,921	2,217	2,211
Nebraska	9,367	9,013	9,417	9,063	2,421	2,450
New York	4,000	4,183	4,226	4,410	2,437	2,426
North Carolina	5,858	5,753	13,208	12,659	2,029	1,983
Ohio	27,853	27,510	28,318	27,998	2,267	2,304
Oregon	2,275	2,219	2,399	2,361	2,376	2,457
Pennsylvania	23,589	23,776	24,690	24,996	2,406	2,396
South Carolina	3,033	3,155	4,312	4,221	2,203	2,180
South Dakota	2,349	2,391	2,389	2,431	2,344	2,427
Texas	14,044	14,349	18,355	18,221	2,277	2,343
Utah	3,369	3,479	3,399	3,509	2,354	2,394
Virginia	1,284	1,217	3,030	2,881	2,013	2,187
Washington	6,365	6,733	6,480	6,848	2,114	2,366
Wisconsin	4,192	4,346	4,720	4,905	2,309	2,345
Other States ²	11,395	11,691	20,044	20,000	2,105	2,120
United States	278,154	280,157	339,447	337,896	2,231	2,253

(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 December 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	1,365	1,496	9,529	8,989	1,952	1,991
Arkansas	3,423	3,513	12,327	11,822	2,028	2,115
California	19,511	19,313	19,818	19,607	2,316	2,382
Colorado	3,243	4,306	3,619	4,778	2,459	2,449
Connecticut	2,342	2,279	2,405	2,342	2,328	2,348
Florida	9,407	9,679	9,794	10,003	2,430	2,469
Georgia	8,601	8,361	17,222	16,530	2,236	2,263
Illinois	4,390	4,253	4,600	4,464	2,391	2,464
Indiana	22,898	22,414	23,596	23,076	2,348	2,344
Iowa	52,526	51,239	53,363	52,135	2,299	2,329
Maine	3,559	3,511	3,614	3,566	2,407	2,356
Maryland	2,122	1,907	2,254	2,031	2,351	2,511
Michigan	10,119	10,646	10,269	10,796	2,454	2,519
Minnesota	9,990	9,550	10,449	10,052	2,412	2,388
Mississippi	1,451	1,523	6,002	5,697	2,033	2,141
Missouri	6,092	5,526	7,445	6,948	2,270	2,375
Nebraska	9,321	9,013	9,371	9,063	2,476	2,593
New York	4,108	4,287	4,335	4,514	2,514	2,481
North Carolina	5,776	5,798	13,252	12,706	2,083	2,101
Ohio	28,050	27,832	28,525	28,327	2,380	2,376
Oregon	2,212	2,129	2,350	2,257	2,468	2,614
Pennsylvania	24,023	24,050	25,158	25,249	2,488	2,456
South Carolina	3,030	3,152	4,270	4,303	2,272	2,277
South Dakota	2,346	2,444	2,386	2,484	2,473	2,375
Texas	14,244	14,297	18,622	18,010	2,331	2,443
Utah	3,366	3,504	3,396	3,534	2,385	2,434
Virginia	1,191	1,281	2,926	3,000	2,119	2,100
Washington	6,378	6,713	6,493	6,828	2,418	2,431
Wisconsin	4,198	4,312	4,720	4,878	2,394	2,460
Other States ¹	11,788	11,836	20,551	20,220	2,180	2,191
United States	281,070	280,164	342,661	338,209	2,311	2,344

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: November 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	180	173	34	35	146	138
Arkansas	241	235	81	83	160	152
California	448	457	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	86	112	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	53	51	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	222	234	216	229	6	5
Georgia	372	351	208	193	164	158
Hawaii ¹	5.9	(NA)	5.9	(NA)	-	(NA)
Illinois	103	107	100	104	3	3
Indiana	526	511	515	500	11	11
Iowa	1,163	1,192	1,150	1,176	13	16
Maine	84	81	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	48	48	46	46	2	2
Michigan	246	255	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	244	230	236	222	8	8
Mississippi	119	114	36	36	83	78
Missouri	162	153	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	228	222	228	222	-	-
New York	103	107	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	268	251	141	129	127	122
Ohio	642	645	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	57	58	55	56	2	2
Pennsylvania	594	599	577	579	17	20
South Carolina	95	92	73	73	22	19
South Dakota	56	59	56	59	-	-
Texas	418	427	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	80	84	80	84	-	-
Virginia	61	63	30	32	31	31
Washington	137	162	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	109	115	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ²	422	424	292	298	131	127
United States	7,573	7,612	6,538	6,609	1,036	1,003

- 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: December 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	186	179	34	38	152	141
Arkansas	250	250	86	89	164	161
California	459	467	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	89	117	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	56	55	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	238	247	232	242	6	5
Georgia	385	374	217	211	168	163
Illinois	110	110	107	107	3	3
Indiana	554	541	542	530	12	11
Iowa	1,227	1,214	1,215	1,198	12	16
Maine	87	84	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	53	51	52	49	1	2
Michigan	252	272	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	252	240	244	231	8	9
Mississippi	122	122	37	40	85	82
Missouri	169	165	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	232	235	232	235	-	-
New York	109	112	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	276	267	143	140	133	127
Ohio	679	673	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	58	59	56	57	2	2
Pennsylvania	626	620	607	598	19	22
South Carolina	97	98	75	78	22	20
South Dakota	59	59	59	59	-	-
Texas	434	440	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	81	86	81	86	-	-
Virginia	62	63	30	31	32	32
Washington	157	166	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	113	120	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	448	443	311	313	137	131
United States	7,920	7,929	6,850	6,888	1,070	1,041

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)
January	2.8	2.7	21.3	20.0
February	3.6		20.3	
March	3.1		20.2	
April	2.6		20.0	
May	3.0		20.0	
June	3.8		19.4	
July	3.5		19.5	
August	3.6		19.3	
September	3.3		20.0	
October	3.9		20.0	
November	2.5		21.2	
December	1.9		20.9	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)
Alabama	1.0	-	5.5	7.0
Arkansas	1.5	1.0	12.0	8.0
California	5.5	5.0	28.0	26.0
Colorado	4.0	-	28.5	14.5
Connecticut	-	-	7.5	8.0
Florida	1.0	5.0	39.0	40.0
Georgia	2.5	1.0	18.5	12.5
Illinois	-	-	28.5	26.0
Indiana	3.5	3.0	24.0	33.0
Iowa	3.5	6.0	35.5	32.5
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	3.0	9.0	24.0	8.0
Michigan	3.5	0.5	19.5	17.0
Minnesota	3.0	2.5	24.0	24.0
Mississippi	2.0	0.5	9.5	12.5
Missouri	5.0	-	17.5	18.5
Nebraska	1.0	-	2.5	2.0
New York	2.5	1.5	10.5	7.0
North Carolina	0.5	-	16.0	16.0
Ohio	4.0	4.0	18.0	9.5
Oregon	4.5	3.0	25.0	37.0
Pennsylvania	1.5	1.0	9.5	10.5
South Carolina	3.5	-	18.0	14.0
South Dakota	2.5	10.5	37.0	15.5
Texas	2.0	-	20.0	23.5
Utah	8.5	4.5	36.0	34.0
Virginia	3.0	-	17.5	14.5
Washington	5.0	7.0	32.0	30.0
Wisconsin	2.5	6.0	25.5	26.0
Other States ¹	1.8	2.1	14.8	15.1
United States	2.8	2.7	21.3	20.0

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2011 and 2012

[December preceding year]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on January 1	38,693	38,818	100
Chicks hatched during December	37,759	38,879	103
Chicks hatched January through December	489,212	482,222	99
Pullets hatched during December for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	263	277	105
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	3,295	2,936	89
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on January 1	635,068	633,902	100
Chicks hatched during December	786,440	760,188	97
Chicks hatched January through December	9,277,075	9,072,519	98
Pullets hatched during December for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,771	6,438	95
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	62,978	64,283	102

¹ 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched June 2010 through May 2011.

² 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2010 through May 2011.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	4,688	4,904	105
East North Central	7,508	6,517	87
West North Central	8,413	8,901	106
South Atlantic	5,645	4,756	84
South Central	5,223	5,557	106
West	7,216	8,183	113
United States	38,693	38,818	100

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

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	43,429	91	170,509	166,105	97
May	43,231	43,305	100	213,740	209,410	98
June	42,331	39,313	93	256,071	248,723	97
July	38,089	37,405	98	294,160	286,128	97
August	37,014	41,564	112	331,174	327,692	99
September	40,130	40,298	100	371,304	367,990	99
October	41,300	37,845	92	412,604	405,835	98
November	38,849	37,508	97	451,453	443,343	98
December	37,759	38,879	103	489,212	482,222	99

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		2011	2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	227	220	97	3,292	2,920
February	296	244	82	3,168	2,936
March	260	253	97	3,130	2,994
April	232	287	124	3,161	2,995
May	230	196	85	3,054	3,091
June	318	302	95	3,027	3,046
July	218	234	107	2,981	3,060
August	253	311	123	2,974	
September	251	252	100	2,922	
October	170	266	156	2,915	
November	263	218	83	2,970	
December	263	277	105	2,936	
Total	2,981	3,060	103		

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

Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	12,875	13,251	103
East North Central	12,327	11,776	96
West North Central	28,776	29,593	103
South Atlantic	236,998	241,514	102
South Central	321,807	314,811	98
West	22,285	22,957	103
United States	635,068	633,902	100

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

State	During December			January-December		
	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	109,235	104,652	96	1,304,132	1,255,769	96
Arkansas	86,488	76,645	89	1,044,356	963,674	92
Delaware	15,253	11,449	75	163,120	148,978	91
Florida	4,743	4,943	104	57,225	57,693	101
Georgia	121,481	118,803	98	1,382,425	1,412,274	102
Kentucky	27,721	27,922	101	337,663	332,266	98
Louisiana	12,782	12,636	99	149,469	147,041	98
Maryland	26,902	27,135	101	350,528	328,342	94
Mississippi	69,813	68,700	98	834,019	820,223	98
Missouri	30,294	30,321	100	347,562	341,963	98
North Carolina	74,013	74,553	101	840,501	860,070	102
Oklahoma	24,610	24,697	100	298,401	294,848	99
Pennsylvania	14,313	14,024	98	160,894	165,777	103
South Carolina	19,890	19,305	97	243,128	229,125	94
Texas	59,429	54,829	92	685,270	649,155	95
Virginia	21,922	22,507	103	274,551	266,970	97
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	41,656	41,505	100	497,324	490,167	99
19 States ¹	760,545	734,626	97	8,970,568	8,764,335	98
Other States ²	25,895	25,562	99	306,507	308,184	101
United States	786,440	760,188	97	9,277,075	9,072,519	98

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

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	779,859	102	3,031,716	3,063,663	101
May	799,068	806,574	101	3,830,784	3,870,237	101
June	787,703	768,173	98	4,618,487	4,638,410	100
July	801,716	770,368	96	5,420,203	5,408,778	100
August	798,751	760,882	95	6,218,954	6,169,660	99
September	762,494	721,214	95	6,981,448	6,890,874	99
October	768,094	717,354	93	7,749,542	7,608,228	98
November	741,093	704,103	95	8,490,635	8,312,331	98
December	786,440	760,188	97	9,277,075	9,072,519	98

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	2011		2011	2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,637	6,989	105	62,996	64,366
February	7,021	7,107	101	63,283	63,934
March	6,673	7,058	106	63,250	63,578
April	6,825	7,044	103	63,751	63,464
May	8,351	7,721	92	63,990	62,764
June	7,128	7,211	101	64,558	62,547
July	6,675	6,444	97	64,656	61,927
August	7,313	7,233	99	64,820	
September	7,128	6,657	93	63,576	
October	6,876	6,289	91	63,506	
November	7,589	6,890	91	63,875	
December	6,771	6,438	95	64,283	
Annual total	84,987	83,081	98		
Total placements ²					
January	8,626	8,548	99		
February	9,151	8,782	96		
March	9,033	9,023	100		
April	8,210	8,944	109		
May	10,338	9,612	93		
June	9,055	9,225	102		
July	8,520	8,131	95		
August	9,009	8,700	97		
September	9,087	8,546	94		
October	8,553	7,938	93		
November	9,314	8,489	91		
December	8,596	8,279	96		
Annual total	107,492	104,217	97		

¹ For December 2011, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2010 through May 2011.

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 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 338 million layers by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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) 0.3	(percent) 0.5	(1,000) 793	(1,000) 11	(1,000) 1,789	(number) 20	(number) 4
Eggs	0.3	0.5	(million) 17	(million) 1	(million) 33	20	4

Regional Listing

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

Terms and Definitions of Chickens and Eggs Estimates

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

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

Information Contacts

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

- Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch (202) 720-3570
- Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section (202) 720-4447
- Cody Brokmeyer – Honey, Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 690-3237
- David Colwell – Cold Storage (202) 720-8784
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Catfish Processing, Catfish Production,
 Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink (202) 720-3244

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