



Chickens and Eggs

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March Egg Production Up 2 Percent

United States egg production totaled 8.07 billion during March 2013, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.99 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 79 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2013 averaged 347 million, up 2 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,325 eggs, up slightly from March 2012.

All layers in the United States on April 1, 2013 totaled 348 million, up 2 percent from last year. The 348 million layers consisted of 292 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.11 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2013, averaged 75.6 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2012.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 2 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2013 totaled 41.5 million, down 2 percent from March 2012. Eggs in incubators totaled 42.6 million on April 1, 2013, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 172 thousand during March 2013, down 18 percent from March 2012.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2013 totaled 770 million, up 1 percent from March 2012. Eggs in incubators totaled 623 million on April 1, 2013, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.33 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2013, down 6 percent from March 2012.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2012-2013

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

Month	2012		2013	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		338,974		344,641
January		338,802		343,580
February		338,936		344,964
March		340,538		347,054
April		340,959		
May		340,305		
June		338,415		
July		336,660		
August		337,131		
September		338,891		
October		341,894		
November		344,875		

¹ December preceding year.

Egg Production During the Month by Type – United States: 2012-2013

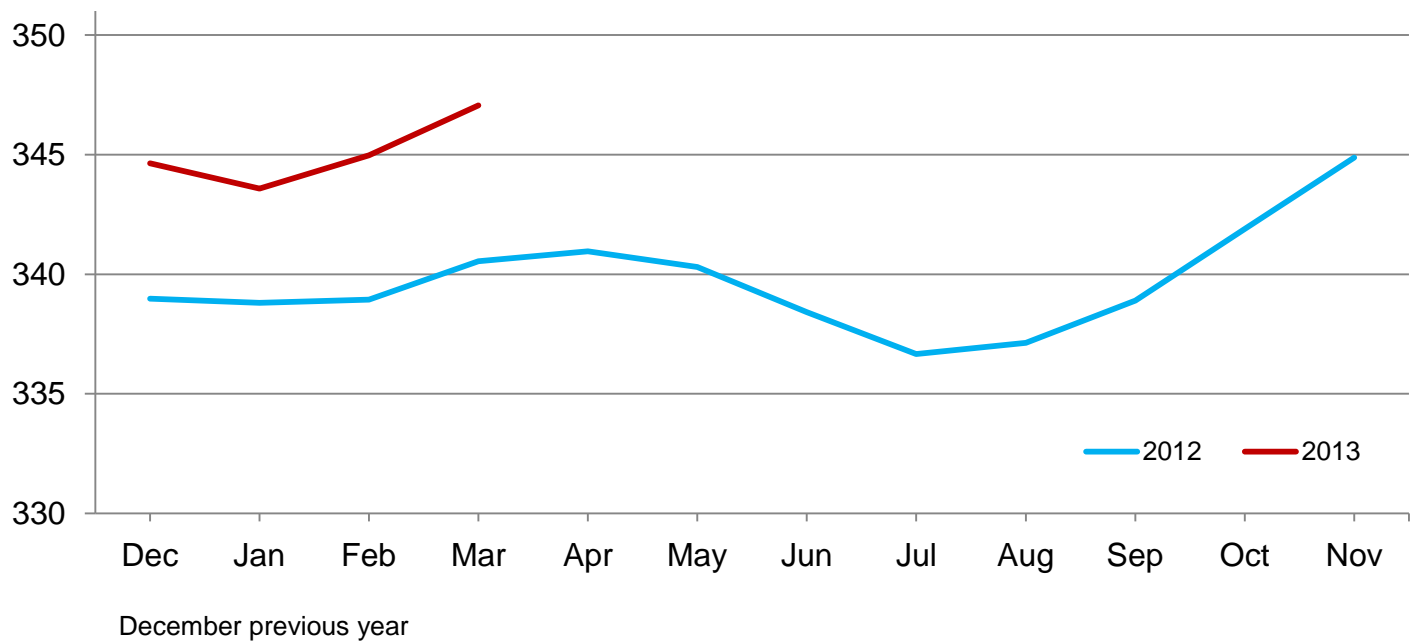
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	7,952	8,090	6,917	7,048	1,035	1,042
January	7,859	7,991	6,812	6,931	1,048	1,060
February	7,249	7,207	6,261	6,243	987	963
March	7,880	8,070	6,822	6,988	1,058	1,082
April	7,615		6,580		1,036	
May	7,817		6,741		1,077	
June	7,541		6,510		1,032	
July	7,766		6,719		1,048	
August	7,838		6,802		1,037	
September	7,595		6,607		989	
October	7,936		6,915		1,022	
November	7,847		6,850		997	
During year	92,894		80,532		12,366	

¹ December preceding year.

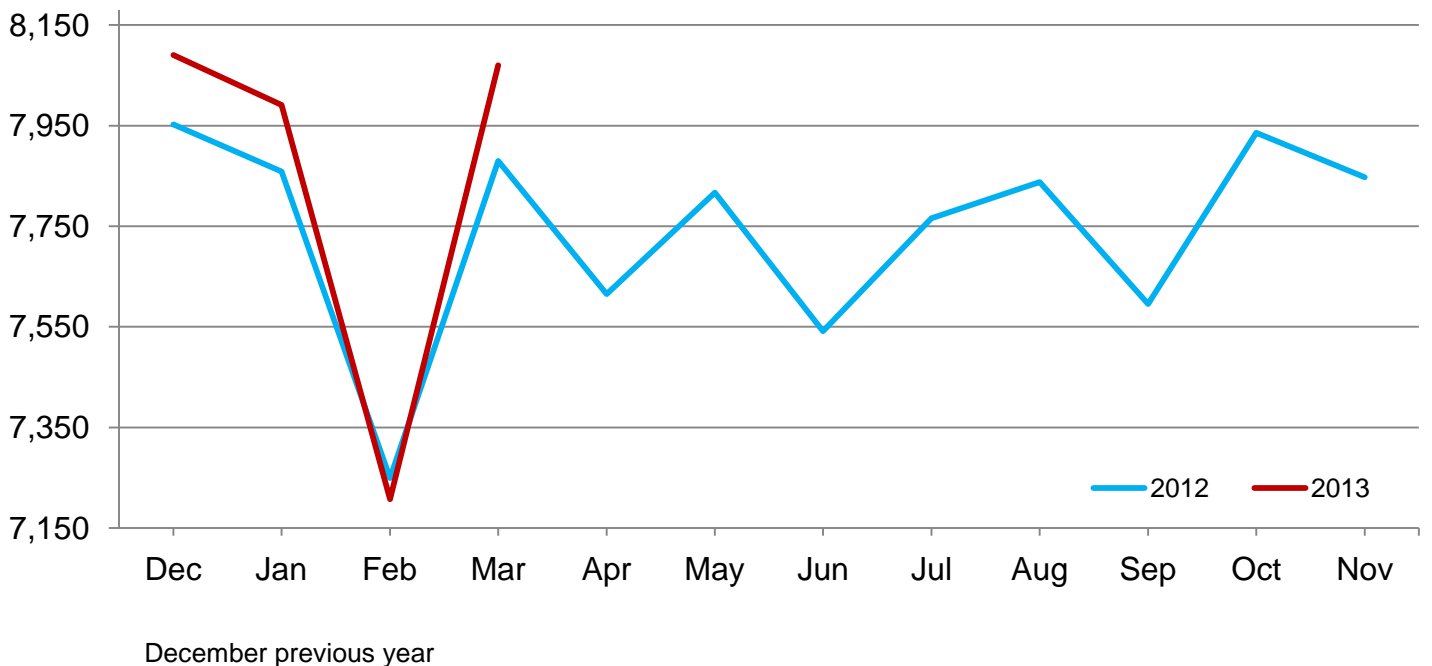
Average Layers During the Month – United States

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 2012 and 2013**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
Layers during February			
All layers1,000	338,936	344,964	102
Table egg type1,000	285,252	290,406	102
Hatching egg type1,000	53,684	54,558	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	50,629	51,534	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,055	3,024	99
Eggs per 100 layers during February			
All layers number	2,139	2,089	98
Table egg type number	2,195	2,150	98
Hatching egg type number	1,839	1,765	96
Broiler-type hatching number	1,805	1,733	96
Egg-type hatching number	2,390	2,315	97
Eggs produced during February			
All layers million	7,249	7,207	99
Table egg type million	6,261	6,243	100
Hatching egg type million	987	963	98
Broiler-type hatching million	914	893	98
Egg-type hatching million	73	70	96
Layers on March 1			
All layers1,000	339,416	346,288	102
Table egg type1,000	285,709	291,566	102
Hatching egg type1,000	53,707	54,722	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	50,593	51,700	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,114	3,022	97
Eggs per 100 layers on March 1			
All layers number	74.0	74.3	100
Table egg type number	76.1	76.4	100
Hatching egg type number	63.3	63.1	100
Broiler-type hatching number	62.1	62.0	100
Egg-type hatching number	82.4	82.4	100
Forced molt layers on March 1			
Being moltedpercent	3.9	2.6	67
Molt completedpercent	20.0	19.3	97
Layers sold for slaughter during February1,000	13,565	13,421	99
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February1,000	7,208	6,699	93
Pullets on March 11,000	103,633	103,748	100
Pullets added during February ¹1,000	23,452	22,597	96

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 2012 and 2013**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
Layers during March			
All layers 1,000	340,538	347,054	102
Table egg type 1,000	286,094	291,605	102
Hatching egg type 1,000	54,444	55,449	102
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	51,320	52,380	102
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,124	3,069	98
Eggs per 100 layers during March			
All layers number	2,314	2,325	100
Table egg type number	2,385	2,396	100
Hatching egg type number	1,943	1,951	100
Broiler-type hatching number	1,908	1,915	100
Egg-type hatching number	2,529	2,574	102
Eggs produced during March			
All layers million	7,880	8,070	102
Table egg type million	6,822	6,988	102
Hatching egg type million	1,058	1,082	102
Broiler-type hatching million	979	1,003	102
Egg-type hatching million	79	79	100
Layers on April 1			
All layers 1,000	341,625	347,790	102
Table egg type 1,000	286,459	291,632	102
Hatching egg type 1,000	55,166	56,158	102
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	52,037	53,049	102
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,129	3,109	99
Eggs per 100 layers on April 1			
All layers number	75.2	75.6	101
Table egg type number	77.8	78.1	100
Hatching egg type number	62.1	62.6	101
Broiler-type hatching number	60.9	61.4	101
Egg-type hatching number	81.0	82.8	102
Forced molt layers on April 1			
Being molted percent	3.0	2.1	70
Molt completed percent	20.0	19.1	96
Layers sold for slaughter during March 1,000	13,190	13,257	101
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during March 1,000	6,318	6,460	102
Pullets on April 1 1,000	104,934	105,432	100
Pullets added during March ¹ 1,000	23,912	24,265	101

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2012 and 2013

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,423	1,468	9,093	9,217	1,826	1,834
Arkansas	3,475	3,795	11,917	12,647	1,938	1,842
California	19,413	19,092	19,762	19,453	2,181	2,123
Colorado	4,348	3,814	4,764	4,183	2,267	2,128
Connecticut	2,202	2,242	2,270	2,310	2,159	2,078
Florida	9,160	7,983	9,485	8,332	2,161	2,016
Georgia	8,099	8,934	16,478	17,491	2,027	1,967
Illinois	4,279	4,031	4,485	4,275	2,163	2,175
Indiana	23,603	25,802	24,310	26,637	2,127	2,106
Iowa	50,041	51,501	51,006	52,450	2,161	2,099
Maine	3,535	3,503	3,590	3,558	2,284	2,192
Maryland	2,052	2,070	2,177	2,178	2,297	2,158
Michigan	11,203	12,188	11,377	12,362	2,338	2,257
Minnesota	9,726	9,497	10,227	9,932	2,102	2,114
Mississippi	1,372	1,579	5,420	5,608	1,937	1,890
Missouri	5,259	6,292	6,692	7,882	2,137	2,170
Nebraska	9,176	9,245	9,226	9,295	2,320	2,324
New York	4,302	4,411	4,531	4,652	2,295	2,322
North Carolina	5,768	5,775	12,707	12,713	1,889	1,856
Ohio	27,667	27,944	28,200	28,372	2,131	2,101
Oregon	2,128	2,128	2,281	2,260	2,455	2,301
Pennsylvania	24,111	23,683	25,296	24,896	2,313	2,237
South Carolina	3,144	3,028	4,290	4,289	2,121	1,958
South Dakota	2,331	2,639	2,371	2,679	2,193	2,240
Texas	14,513	14,676	18,396	18,523	2,158	2,095
Utah	3,668	3,601	3,698	3,631	2,082	2,203
Virginia	1,213	1,122	2,813	2,752	1,920	1,853
Washington	6,867	6,634	6,982	6,749	2,206	2,178
Wisconsin	4,345	4,710	4,924	5,278	2,214	2,141
Other States ¹	12,239	12,407	20,168	20,360	2,053	2,009
United States	280,662	285,794	338,936	344,964	2,139	2,089

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During March 2012 and 2013

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,422	1,547	9,167	9,468	1,964	2,049
Arkansas	3,533	3,701	12,085	12,659	2,052	2,070
California	19,680	19,131	20,027	19,495	2,357	2,401
Colorado	4,331	3,870	4,782	4,238	2,447	2,336
Connecticut	2,231	2,272	2,303	2,345	2,345	2,345
Florida	9,027	7,856	9,343	8,192	2,355	2,295
Georgia	8,213	8,837	16,773	17,612	2,152	2,192
Illinois	4,174	3,910	4,380	4,167	2,374	2,304
Indiana	23,996	25,973	24,734	26,835	2,296	2,310
Iowa	50,136	51,833	51,125	52,823	2,380	2,374
Maine	3,528	3,496	3,583	3,551	2,428	2,450
Maryland	2,355	2,293	2,477	2,408	2,422	2,367
Michigan	11,584	12,312	11,758	12,489	2,449	2,538
Minnesota	9,562	9,735	10,058	10,170	2,327	2,340
Mississippi	1,434	1,579	5,461	5,757	2,088	2,032
Missouri	5,172	6,374	6,661	7,958	2,402	2,362
Nebraska	9,226	9,191	9,276	9,241	2,512	2,554
New York	4,305	4,342	4,534	4,579	2,470	2,599
North Carolina	5,740	5,743	12,855	12,789	2,069	2,041
Ohio	27,652	27,929	28,188	28,355	2,320	2,321
Oregon	2,073	2,121	2,220	2,253	2,568	2,486
Pennsylvania	23,740	23,899	24,912	25,072	2,441	2,517
South Carolina	3,120	3,153	4,310	4,407	2,274	2,156
South Dakota	2,238	2,598	2,278	2,638	2,371	2,464
Texas	14,846	14,512	18,769	18,447	2,318	2,293
Utah	3,628	3,709	3,658	3,739	2,378	2,327
Virginia	1,258	1,174	2,873	2,816	2,088	1,989
Washington	6,741	6,700	6,856	6,815	2,494	2,539
Wisconsin	4,289	4,738	4,881	5,307	2,418	2,431
Other States ¹	12,270	12,465	20,211	20,429	2,192	2,227
United States	281,504	286,993	340,538	347,054	2,314	2,325

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: February 2012 and 2013

[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	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	166	169	31	31	135	138
Arkansas	231	233	76	82	155	151
California	431	413	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	108	89	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	49	48	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	205	168	200	164	5	4
Georgia	334	344	178	192	156	152
Illinois	97	93	94	90	3	3
Indiana	517	561	504	547	13	14
Iowa	1,102	1,101	1,086	1,086	16	15
Maine	82	78	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	50	47	49	46	1	1
Michigan	266	279	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	215	210	207	204	8	6
Mississippi	105	106	31	34	74	72
Missouri	143	171	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	214	216	214	216	-	-
New York	104	108	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	240	236	121	118	119	118
Ohio	601	596	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	56	52	54	50	2	2
Pennsylvania	585	557	564	538	21	19
South Carolina	91	84	71	63	20	21
South Dakota	52	60	52	60	-	-
Texas	397	388	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	77	80	77	80	-	-
Virginia	54	51	26	23	28	28
Washington	154	147	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	109	113	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	414	409	296	296	118	113
United States	7,249	7,207	6,261	6,243	987	963

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: March 2012 and 2013

[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	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	180	194	34	38	146	156
Arkansas	248	262	83	92	165	170
California	472	468	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	117	99	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	54	55	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	220	188	215	183	5	5
Georgia	361	386	192	215	169	171
Illinois	104	96	101	92	3	4
Indiana	568	620	554	603	14	17
Iowa	1,217	1,254	1,199	1,236	18	18
Maine	87	87	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	60	57	59	56	1	1
Michigan	288	317	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	234	238	225	231	9	7
Mississippi	114	117	36	37	78	80
Missouri	160	188	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	233	236	233	236	-	-
New York	112	119	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	266	261	137	128	129	133
Ohio	654	658	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	57	56	55	54	2	2
Pennsylvania	608	631	587	611	21	20
South Carolina	98	95	76	73	22	22
South Dakota	54	65	54	65	-	-
Texas	435	423	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	87	87	87	87	-	-
Virginia	60	56	30	25	30	31
Washington	171	173	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	118	129	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	442	455	319	328	125	127
United States	7,880	8,070	6,822	6,988	1,058	1,082

- 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: 2012-2013

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
January	2.9	3.0	19.9	19.3
February	4.9	3.7	18.9	19.0
March	3.9	2.6	20.0	19.3
April	3.0	2.1	20.0	19.1
May	4.4		20.1	
June	3.1		20.8	
July	3.0		21.1	
August	2.6		21.4	
September	3.1		20.7	
October	3.6		20.9	
November	2.2		21.1	
December	1.4		20.4	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: April 1, 2012 and 2013

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	0.5	0.5	7.5	5.5
Arkansas	3.0	3.0	8.5	7.5
California	1.5	2.0	29.5	28.5
Colorado	12.0	4.0	16.0	30.5
Connecticut	9.0	8.0	8.0	17.0
Florida	5.5	1.0	35.5	38.0
Georgia	1.0	1.0	14.0	16.5
Illinois	4.0	4.5	21.5	8.0
Indiana	3.5	2.0	33.5	26.0
Iowa	4.5	3.5	29.0	26.0
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	10.0	-
Michigan	2.0	2.0	15.0	8.5
Minnesota	3.0	2.0	20.5	24.0
Mississippi	-	2.0	11.0	8.5
Missouri	-	-	22.0	14.0
Nebraska	1.0	-	2.0	3.0
New York	1.0	-	10.0	6.5
North Carolina	-	-	14.5	13.0
Ohio	4.5	1.5	14.5	27.5
Oregon	4.0	10.0	30.0	22.0
Pennsylvania	1.5	1.0	11.0	7.0
South Carolina	1.5	-	16.0	14.5
South Dakota	4.5	-	20.5	12.0
Texas	2.5	3.5	19.5	22.5
Utah	6.5	7.5	36.0	30.5
Virginia	-	2.5	12.5	14.0
Washington	4.5	3.5	33.5	23.5
Wisconsin	6.5	1.5	29.0	25.5
Other States ¹	4.0	1.8	18.2	16.3
United States	3.0	2.1	20.0	19.1

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2012 and 2013

Item	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on April 1	40,208	42,558	106
Chicks hatched during March	42,535	41,540	98
Chicks hatched January through March	122,123	123,746	101
Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	210	172	82
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	3,001	2,890	96
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on April 1	614,958	623,269	101
Chicks hatched during March	764,469	770,144	101
Chicks hatched January through March	2,222,037	2,222,343	100
Pullets hatched during March for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	6,753	6,325	94
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	63,323	61,094	96

¹ 2013 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2011 through August 2012.

² 2013 includes pullet chicks hatched December 2011 through August 2012.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators on the First of the Month – Regions and United States: 2012 and 2013

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	March 1		2013 as percent of 2012	April 1		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	4,359	5,029	115	4,063	5,477	135
East North Central	8,849	7,228	82	8,620	8,017	93
West North Central	9,159	10,579	116	9,631	10,800	112
South Atlantic	3,759	4,805	128	4,400	5,180	118
South Central	5,838	6,376	109	5,426	5,623	104
West	8,009	7,416	93	8,068	7,461	92
United States	39,973	41,433	104	40,208	42,558	106

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2012-2013

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	39,908	41,820	105	39,908	41,820	105
February	39,680	40,386	102	79,588	82,206	103
March	42,535	41,540	98	122,123	123,746	101
April	41,050			163,173		
May	44,612			207,785		
June	38,848			246,633		
July	35,663			282,296		
August	40,645			322,941		
September	37,639			360,580		
October	36,486			397,066		
November	36,483			433,549		
December	37,103			470,652		

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2012-2013

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2012	2013		2012	2013
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	263	350	133	2,920	2,834
February	238	224	94	2,936	2,871
March	210	172	82	3,001	2,890
April	137			3,002	2,844
May	302			3,098	2,764
June	119			3,053	2,788
July	271			3,067	2,677
August	337			3,110	2,764
September	206			3,104	2,750
October	186			3,061	2,712
November	242			2,911	
December	166			3,017	
Total	2,677				

¹ For March 2013, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched September 2011 through August 2012. The 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements.

Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators on the First of the Month – Regions and United States: 2012 and 2013

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	March 1		2013 as percent of 2012	April 1		2013 as percent of 2012
	2012	2013		2012	2013	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	12,411	12,727	103	11,906	12,680	107
East North Central	12,951	13,004	100	12,463	13,216	106
West North Central	29,085	30,176	104	28,401	29,893	105
South Atlantic	232,575	236,975	102	233,755	237,252	101
South Central	302,410	308,832	102	306,698	308,254	101
West	22,187	20,160	91	21,735	21,974	101
United States	611,619	621,874	102	614,958	623,269	101

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: March 2012 and 2013

State	During March			January-March		
	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	104,161	103,952	100	305,800	303,152	99
Arkansas	76,918	81,494	106	223,296	236,058	106
Delaware	12,142	12,809	105	35,776	37,283	104
Florida	4,272	4,475	105	12,916	12,990	101
Georgia	120,013	122,710	102	348,725	353,905	101
Kentucky	27,098	27,958	103	81,330	80,926	100
Louisiana	12,891	12,761	99	37,657	36,644	97
Maryland	27,377	26,808	98	80,089	77,432	97
Mississippi	67,856	65,326	96	197,208	187,369	95
Missouri	29,867	31,460	105	87,289	88,701	102
North Carolina	76,075	75,009	99	219,985	216,281	98
Oklahoma	25,360	24,632	97	73,267	71,592	98
Pennsylvania	13,774	14,073	102	40,971	40,871	100
South Carolina	19,280	18,589	96	56,389	53,750	95
Texas	56,286	56,333	100	161,207	160,139	99
Virginia	22,999	23,563	102	66,167	68,866	104
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	40,901	38,495	94	116,228	111,472	96
19 States ¹	737,270	740,447	100	2,144,300	2,137,431	100
Other States ²	27,199	29,697	109	77,737	84,912	109
United States	764,469	770,144	101	2,222,037	2,222,343	100

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: 2012-2013

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012	2012	2013	2013 as percent of 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	752,300	762,426	101	752,300	762,426	101
February	705,268	689,773	98	1,457,568	1,452,199	100
March	764,469	770,144	101	2,222,037	2,222,343	100
April	748,070			2,970,107		
May	777,916			3,748,023		
June	756,899			4,504,922		
July	763,538			5,268,460		
August	759,014			6,027,474		
September	718,848			6,746,322		
October	727,436			7,473,758		
November	694,041			8,167,799		
December	763,090			8,930,889		

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2012-2013

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2013 as percent of 2012	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2012 (1,000 chicks)	2013 (1,000 chicks)		2012 (1,000 chicks)	2013 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,673	6,303	94	64,111	60,874
February	7,025	7,156	102	63,679	60,656
March	6,753	6,325	94	63,323	61,094
April	6,524			63,209	61,342
May	7,472			62,941	60,934
June	6,800			62,557	60,676
July	6,071			61,937	60,591
August	7,338			61,566	60,370
September	6,686			60,870	60,054
October	6,265			60,412	59,579
November	6,767			60,492	
December	6,668			60,731	
Annual total	81,042				
Total placements ²					
January	8,201	8,012	98		
February	8,818	8,708	99		
March	8,525	8,083	95		
April	8,232				
May	9,430				
June	8,554				
July	7,447				
August	9,241				
September	8,397				
October	7,812				
November	8,605				
December	7,847				
Annual total	101,109				

¹ For March 2013, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched December 2011 through August 2012.

² United States production of intended placements worldwide.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Primary data for the *Chickens and Eggs* report are from weekly and/or monthly questionnaires sent to producers. An attempt is made to collect information for layer and egg estimates from each known contractor and independent producer who has at least 30,000 table egg layers, flocks of hatchery supply layers, or pullet only operations with at least 500 pullets. Coverage for operations with less than 30,000 table egg layers are estimated each month based on data reported in December. Approximately 500 contractors, independent egg producers, and pullet only operations are contacted each month. Data for broiler hatchery estimates are collected weekly from all broiler-type hatcheries that hatch at least one million chicks a year. Data for egg-type hatchery estimates are collected monthly from all egg-type hatcheries that hatch at least 50,000 chicks a year.

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

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

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

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

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for all layers over the past 24 months is 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 347 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) 842	(1,000) 6	(1,000) 2,041	(number) 18	(number) 6
Eggs	0.3	0.6	(million) 20	(million) 0	(million) 51	18	5

Egg-Type Regional Listing

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

Broiler-Type Regional Listing

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

Terms and Definitions of Chickens and Eggs Estimates

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

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

Information Contacts

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

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Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
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LaKeya Jones – Census of Aquaculture, Honey	(202) 720-8784
Dawn Keen – Egg Products	(202) 720-4448
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-3244

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