



Chickens and Eggs

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February Egg Production Up 1 Percent

United States egg production totaled 7.62 billion during February 2015, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.61 billion table eggs, and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 928 million were broiler-type and 80 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2015 averaged 362 million, up 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,104 eggs, unchanged from February 2014.

All layers in the United States on March 1, 2015 totaled 362 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 362 million layers consisted of 305 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.56 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2015, averaged 75.3 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from March 1, 2014.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 6 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2015 totaled 42.8 million, up 6 percent from February 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 44.5 million on March 1, 2015, up 14 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 309 thousand during February 2015, up 27 percent from February 2014.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2015 totaled 711 million, up 3 percent from February 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 647 million on March 1, 2015, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.92 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2015, up 9 percent from February 2014.

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Average Number of All Layers on Hand During the Month – United States: 2014-2015

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

Month	2014		2015	
	(1,000 layers)		(1,000 layers)	
December ¹		360,673		365,691
January		359,556		363,732
February		358,967		362,164
March		359,955		
April		360,826		
May		360,383		
June		359,729		
July		360,787		
August		361,731		
September		361,813		
October		362,034		
November		364,017		

¹ December preceding year.

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

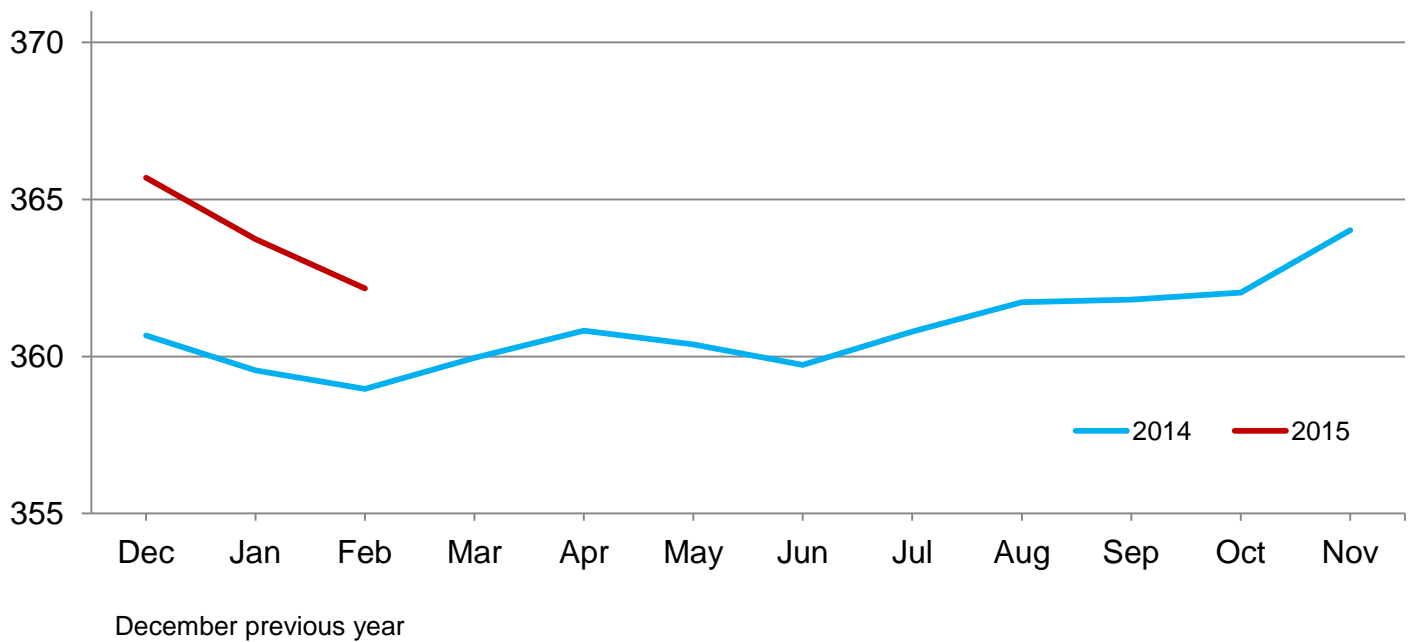
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total eggs		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
December ¹	8,489	8,731	7,422	7,633	1,068	1,098
January	8,397	8,540	7,321	7,428	1,077	1,112
February	7,551	7,619	6,579	6,612	972	1,008
March	8,430		7,354		1,077	
April	8,205		7,160		1,045	
May	8,428		7,336		1,094	
June	8,151		7,091		1,060	
July	8,503		7,404		1,100	
August	8,491		7,394		1,098	
September	8,186		7,126		1,060	
October	8,526		7,433		1,094	
November	8,411		7,353		1,058	
During year	99,768		86,971		12,803	

¹ December preceding year.

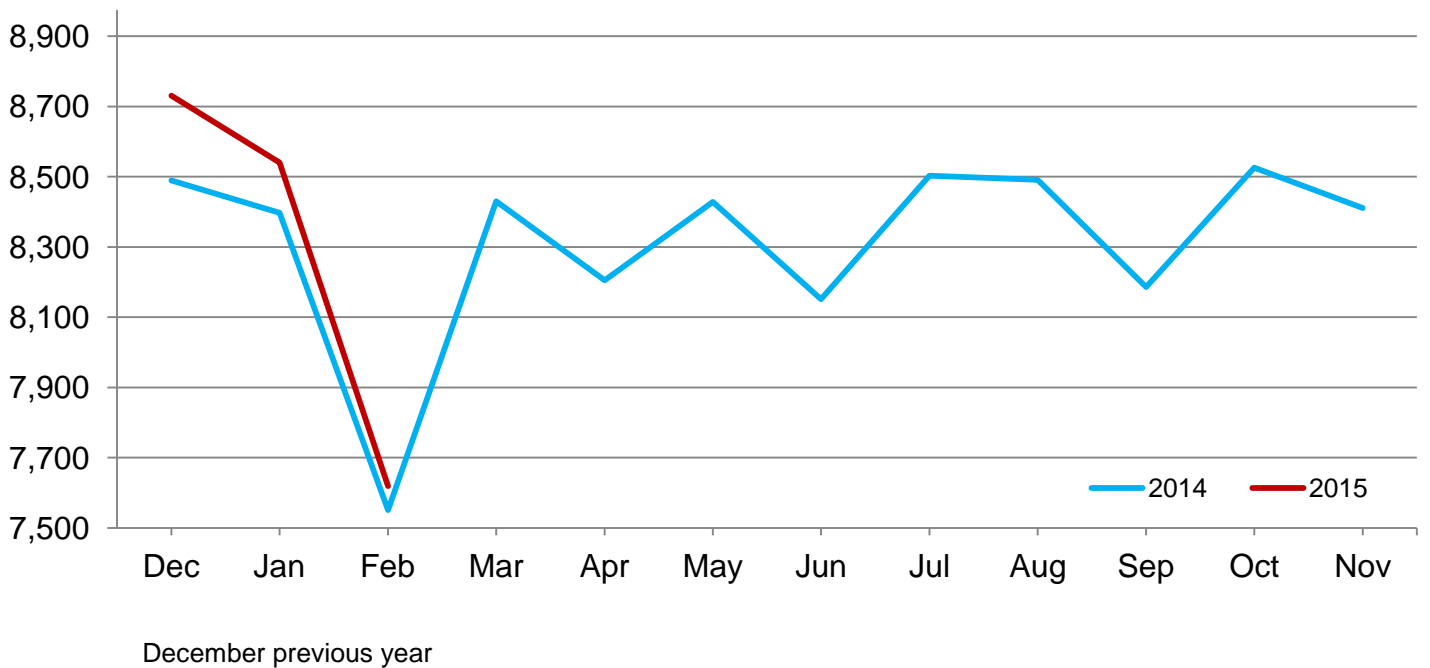
Average Layers During the Month – United States

Million layers



All Egg Production During the Month – United States

Million eggs



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

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
Layers during January			
All layers1,000	359,556	363,732	101
Table egg type1,000	303,392	306,397	101
Hatching egg type1,000	56,164	57,335	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	52,858	53,826	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,306	3,509	106
Eggs per 100 layers during January			
All layers number	2,335	2,348	101
Table egg type number	2,413	2,424	100
Hatching egg type number	1,918	1,939	101
Broiler-type hatching number	1,882	1,906	101
Egg-type hatching number	2,480	2,451	99
Eggs produced during January			
All layers million	8,397	8,540	102
Table egg type million	7,321	7,428	101
Hatching egg type million	1,077	1,112	103
Broiler-type hatching million	995	1,026	103
Egg-type hatching million	82	86	105
Layers on February 1			
All layers1,000	358,861	362,123	101
Table egg type1,000	302,343	304,613	101
Hatching egg type1,000	56,518	57,510	102
Broiler-type hatching1,000	53,146	53,944	102
Egg-type hatching1,000	3,372	3,566	106
Eggs per 100 layers on February 1			
All layers number	74.9	74.8	100
Table egg type number	77.5	77.2	100
Hatching egg type number	61.4	62.3	101
Broiler-type hatching number	60.3	61.2	101
Egg-type hatching number	78.7	78.3	99
Molted layers on February 1			
Being moltedpercent	2.8	3.3	118
Molt completedpercent	18.0	17.9	99
Layers sold for slaughter during January1,000	15,707	16,514	105
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during January1,000	8,222	8,231	100
Pullets on February 11,000	108,122	108,681	101
Pullets added during January ¹1,000	22,821	23,872	105

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

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

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
Layers during February			
All layers 1,000	358,967	362,164	101
Table egg type 1,000	302,666	304,669	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	56,301	57,495	102
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	52,990	53,929	102
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,311	3,566	108
Eggs per 100 layers during February			
All layers number	2,104	2,104	100
Table egg type number	2,174	2,170	100
Hatching egg type number	1,726	1,753	102
Broiler-type hatching number	1,695	1,721	102
Egg-type hatching number	2,235	2,243	100
Eggs produced during February			
All layers million	7,551	7,619	101
Table egg type million	6,579	6,612	101
Hatching egg type million	972	1,008	104
Broiler-type hatching million	898	928	103
Egg-type hatching million	74	80	108
Layers on March 1			
All layers 1,000	359,078	362,180	101
Table egg type 1,000	303,008	304,714	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	56,070	57,466	102
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	52,823	53,905	102
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,247	3,561	110
Eggs per 100 layers on March 1			
All layers number	75.3	75.3	100
Table egg type number	77.8	77.7	100
Hatching egg type number	61.9	62.3	101
Broiler-type hatching number	60.7	61.0	100
Egg-type hatching number	81.6	81.9	100
Molted layers on March 1			
Being molted percent	2.4	1.8	75
Molt completed percent	18.0	18.7	104
Layers sold for slaughter during February 1,000	15,877	15,666	99
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February 1,000	8,244	5,826	71
Pullets on March 1 1,000	107,660	108,803	101
Pullets added during February ¹ 1,000	24,543	23,270	95

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

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

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,506	1,536	9,275	9,268	1,930	1,964
Arkansas	3,698	3,737	11,930	12,720	2,070	2,099
California	16,306	12,877	16,736	13,375	2,366	2,340
Colorado	4,515	4,027	4,929	4,400	2,516	2,409
Connecticut	2,285	2,285	2,379	2,378	2,354	2,355
Florida	8,264	8,760	8,655	9,122	2,322	2,302
Georgia	9,252	9,971	18,105	18,870	2,209	2,162
Illinois	4,251	4,334	4,726	4,794	2,433	2,461
Indiana	26,576	25,885	27,572	26,767	2,394	2,324
Iowa	57,386	58,491	58,522	59,723	2,331	2,403
Maine	3,476	3,476	3,531	3,531	2,407	2,407
Maryland	2,669	2,649	2,830	2,814	2,332	2,416
Michigan	12,482	12,828	12,708	13,062	2,439	2,503
Minnesota	10,214	11,390	10,634	11,845	2,417	2,431
Mississippi	1,531	1,535	5,782	5,676	2,024	2,079
Missouri	6,196	6,674	8,502	8,916	2,294	2,310
Nebraska	9,325	9,459	9,433	9,567	2,512	2,550
New York	4,676	4,732	5,036	5,087	2,502	2,536
North Carolina	5,805	6,575	13,205	14,331	2,143	2,198
Ohio	28,751	29,692	29,599	30,554	2,473	2,415
Oregon	2,199	2,194	2,338	2,333	2,609	2,615
Pennsylvania	24,274	23,987	26,185	26,043	2,486	2,550
South Carolina	3,115	3,178	4,368	4,437	2,312	2,186
South Dakota	2,498	2,496	2,640	2,638	2,462	2,426
Texas	14,885	14,885	19,003	19,037	2,289	2,243
Utah	3,855	4,298	3,893	4,336	2,415	2,491
Virginia	1,093	1,251	2,834	2,953	2,152	2,201
Washington	6,829	7,225	6,993	7,390	2,302	2,449
Wisconsin	4,459	4,749	5,231	5,526	2,504	2,407
Other States ¹	13,018	13,140	21,982	22,239	2,215	2,271
United States	295,389	298,316	359,556	363,732	2,335	2,348

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

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

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,502	1,475	9,292	9,208	1,722	1,759
Arkansas	3,672	3,814	11,873	12,715	1,845	1,880
California	16,261	12,835	16,691	13,329	2,127	2,153
Colorado	4,472	3,830	4,847	4,203	2,269	2,284
Connecticut	2,242	2,242	2,336	2,335	2,055	2,056
Florida	8,193	8,681	8,578	9,061	2,133	2,086
Georgia	9,289	9,779	18,200	18,666	1,978	1,955
Illinois	4,423	4,172	4,894	4,625	2,166	2,227
Indiana	26,491	25,744	27,434	26,616	2,183	2,006
Iowa	57,728	58,330	58,918	59,562	2,086	2,147
Maine	3,503	3,503	3,558	3,558	2,192	2,192
Maryland	2,546	2,648	2,709	2,814	2,178	2,203
Michigan	12,724	12,894	12,962	13,147	2,245	2,236
Minnesota	10,129	11,369	10,552	11,825	2,170	2,190
Mississippi	1,530	1,564	5,801	5,755	1,862	1,877
Missouri	6,248	6,526	8,556	8,776	2,069	2,097
Nebraska	9,318	9,446	9,426	9,554	2,313	2,303
New York	4,608	4,710	4,964	5,069	2,256	2,249
North Carolina	5,727	6,649	13,075	14,415	1,973	1,929
Ohio	28,948	29,936	29,800	30,798	2,211	2,175
Oregon	2,127	2,253	2,266	2,392	2,295	2,383
Pennsylvania	23,842	23,657	25,777	25,768	2,254	2,301
South Carolina	3,024	3,173	4,260	4,456	1,995	2,065
South Dakota	2,517	2,537	2,659	2,679	2,181	2,128
Texas	14,786	14,759	18,916	19,004	2,072	1,989
Utah	3,897	4,179	3,935	4,217	2,135	2,205
Virginia	990	1,167	2,775	2,924	1,910	1,984
Washington	6,662	6,992	6,827	7,157	2,109	2,152
Wisconsin	4,274	4,586	5,048	5,366	2,080	2,199
Other States ¹	13,008	13,138	22,038	22,170	1,992	2,030
United States	294,681	296,588	358,967	362,164	2,104	2,104

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

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

[Totals may not add due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals]

State	Total production		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	179	182	35	39	144	143
Arkansas	247	267	92	95	155	172
California	396	313	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	124	106	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	56	56	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	201	210	197	206	4	4
Georgia	400	408	229	235	171	173
Illinois	115	118	111	113	4	5
Indiana	660	622	641	606	19	16
Iowa	1,364	1,435	1,348	1,417	16	18
Maine	85	85	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	66	68	65	67	1	1
Michigan	310	327	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	257	288	251	282	6	6
Mississippi	117	118	37	38	80	80
Missouri	195	206	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	237	244	237	244	-	-
New York	126	129	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	283	315	148	172	135	143
Ohio	732	738	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	61	61	61	61	-	-
Pennsylvania	651	664	623	635	28	29
South Carolina	101	97	80	74	21	23
South Dakota	65	64	65	64	-	-
Texas	435	427	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	94	108	94	108	-	-
Virginia	61	65	30	34	31	31
Washington	161	181	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	131	133	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	487	505	352	368	136	137
United States	8,397	8,540	7,321	7,428	1,077	1,112

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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

[Totals may not add due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals]

State	Total production		Table eggs		Hatching eggs	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	160	162	32	33	128	129
Arkansas	219	239	80	87	139	152
California	355	287	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	110	96	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	48	48	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	183	189	179	185	4	4
Georgia	360	365	206	210	154	155
Illinois	106	103	102	99	4	4
Indiana	599	534	583	519	16	15
Iowa	1,229	1,279	1,213	1,262	16	17
Maine	78	78	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	59	62	58	61	1	1
Michigan	291	294	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	229	259	224	253	5	6
Mississippi	108	108	34	35	74	73
Missouri	177	184	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	218	220	218	220	-	-
New York	112	114	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	258	278	134	148	124	130
Ohio	659	670	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	52	57	52	57	-	-
Pennsylvania	581	593	556	565	25	28
South Carolina	85	92	67	71	18	21
South Dakota	58	57	58	57	-	-
Texas	392	378	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	84	93	84	93	-	-
Virginia	53	58	24	29	29	29
Washington	144	154	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	105	118	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	439	450	317	324	122	127
United States	7,551	7,619	6,579	6,612	972	1,008

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Molted as Percent of All Layers by Month – United States: 2014-2015

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

Month	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
January	2.7	2.1	18.2	18.1
February	2.8	3.3	18.0	17.9
March	2.4	1.8	18.0	18.7
April	1.9		17.9	
May	2.8		17.7	
June	3.0		17.2	
July	2.6		18.0	
August	3.3		18.0	
September	2.9		18.9	
October	3.3		19.3	
November	2.0		19.9	
December	1.3		19.3	

Molted as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: March 1, 2014 and 2015

[As of the first of the month]

State	Being molted		Molt completed	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	1.0	0.5	4.5	8.5
Arkansas	1.0	-	11.0	17.0
California	4.0	3.0	27.0	32.0
Colorado	1.5	3.0	16.5	16.0
Connecticut	9.0	9.0	8.5	8.5
Florida	4.0	2.5	31.0	47.5
Georgia	1.5	0.5	14.5	20.0
Illinois	-	1.0	15.0	7.0
Indiana	1.0	2.5	24.5	26.0
Iowa	3.5	2.0	26.0	26.0
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	-	-	4.0	-
Michigan	1.0	-	8.0	11.0
Minnesota	2.0	2.0	17.5	17.5
Mississippi	1.5	0.5	9.0	16.0
Missouri	3.0	1.0	19.5	18.0
Nebraska	-	-	4.0	1.5
New York	3.0	-	4.0	2.5
North Carolina	2.0	0.5	12.0	16.0
Ohio	3.0	2.0	23.5	20.5
Oregon	3.0	3.0	17.0	14.5
Pennsylvania	1.5	-	6.5	1.0
South Carolina	1.0	-	10.0	9.5
South Dakota	10.5	6.5	12.5	7.0
Texas	1.5	4.5	26.5	28.5
Utah	5.0	6.0	29.0	28.5
Virginia	4.0	4.0	10.0	13.5
Washington	2.5	6.0	23.0	23.0
Wisconsin	6.0	2.0	21.5	34.5
Other States ¹	3.1	1.9	13.0	9.8
United States	2.4	1.8	18.0	18.7

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2014 and 2015

Item	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on March 1	39,160	44,458	114
Chicks hatched during February	40,323	42,782	106
Chicks hatched January through February	84,457	86,956	103
Pullets hatched during February for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	243	309	127
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	2,710	2,955	109
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on March 1	628,593	646,930	103
Chicks hatched during February	692,647	711,002	103
Chicks hatched January through February	1,463,540	1,503,178	103
Pullets hatched during February for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	7,239	7,921	109
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	60,850	61,999	102

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

² 2015 includes pullet chicks hatched November 2013 through July 2014.

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

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	February 1		2015 as percent of 2014	March 1		2015 as percent of 2014
	2014	2015		2014	2015	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	3,590	3,812	106	5,296	5,920	112
East North Central	8,841	8,791	99	8,787	9,631	110
West North Central	10,042	10,884	108	8,557	11,250	131
South Atlantic	4,809	4,484	93	4,031	4,049	100
South Central	5,843	6,283	108	5,808	5,862	101
West	7,399	6,210	84	6,681	7,746	116
United States	40,524	40,464	100	39,160	44,458	114

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

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	44,134	44,174	100	44,134	44,174	100
February	40,323	42,782	106	84,457	86,956	103
March	43,818			128,275		
April	45,115			173,390		
May	49,003			222,393		
June	43,470			265,863		
July	42,123			307,986		
August	39,458			347,444		
September	43,309			390,753		
October	44,416			435,169		
November	36,539			471,708		
December	42,980			514,688		

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

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

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

¹ For February 2015, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched August 2013 through July 2014. The 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements.

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

[See regional listing on page 19]

Region	February 1		2015 as percent of 2014	March 1		2015 as percent of 2014
	2014	2015		2014	2015	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)
North Atlantic	13,631	13,756	101	13,168	14,358	109
East North Central	13,855	13,794	100	13,895	14,177	102
West North Central	30,568	30,018	98	30,873	29,869	97
South Atlantic	242,155	246,543	102	243,145	247,020	102
South Central	305,251	315,985	104	306,094	317,739	104
West	21,771	22,541	104	21,418	23,767	111
United States	627,231	642,637	102	628,593	646,930	103

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

State	During February			January-February		
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	94,265	97,484	103	198,885	203,374	102
Arkansas	68,377	72,152	106	146,282	152,167	104
Delaware	14,788	15,795	107	31,126	32,943	106
Florida	4,083	3,796	93	8,556	8,333	97
Georgia	110,377	112,004	101	234,669	238,911	102
Kentucky	24,829	25,870	104	53,244	54,938	103
Louisiana	13,100	12,840	98	27,253	27,096	99
Maryland	25,000	25,462	102	51,677	54,442	105
Mississippi	58,319	60,037	103	123,941	126,391	102
Missouri	28,210	27,366	97	59,681	57,887	97
North Carolina	66,615	68,986	104	140,807	145,599	103
Oklahoma	22,298	21,021	94	47,124	44,303	94
Pennsylvania	14,192	14,276	101	30,138	30,285	100
South Carolina	15,821	17,021	108	33,706	36,369	108
Texas	48,466	50,379	104	101,185	105,937	105
Virginia	21,019	21,659	103	44,842	45,908	102
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	36,785	38,992	106	75,314	82,351	109
19 States ¹	666,544	685,140	103	1,408,430	1,447,234	103
Other States ²	26,103	25,862	99	55,110	55,944	102
United States	692,647	711,002	103	1,463,540	1,503,178	103

¹ States in the weekly hatchery production estimating program.

² Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

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

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014	2014	2015	2015 as percent of 2014
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	770,893	792,176	103	770,893	792,176	103
February	692,647	711,002	103	1,463,540	1,503,178	103
March	769,818			2,233,358		
April	748,669			2,982,027		
May	781,446			3,763,473		
June	762,677			4,526,150		
July	784,571			5,310,721		
August	788,385			6,099,106		
September	756,086			6,855,192		
October	760,593			7,615,785		
November	732,972			8,348,757		
December	796,060			9,144,817		

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

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

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

¹ For February 2015, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched November 2013 through July 2014.

² United States production of intended placements worldwide.

Statistical Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for all layers over the past 24 months is 2.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 362 million layers by more than 2.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.9 percent.

Reliability of Layer and Egg Estimates

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

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
All layers	(percent) 2.3	(percent) 3.9	(1,000) 7,624	(1,000) 37	(1,000) 10,344	(number) 23	(number) 1
Eggs	2.4	4.1	(million) 183	(million) 1	(million) 271	23	1

Egg-Type Regional Listing

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

Broiler-Type Regional Listing

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

Terms and Definitions of Chickens and Eggs Estimates

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

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

Molted Layers is the same data series as the previously published Forced Molt Layers. Nomenclature changed as of January 2015.

Information Contacts

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

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Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage	(202) 720-4751
Heidi Gleich – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-0585
Michael Klamm – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture	(202) 690-4870
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Sammy Neal – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Mink, Trout Production	(202) 720-3244
Joshua O’Rear – Honey	(202) 690-3676

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