



Chickens and Eggs

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February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

United States egg production totaled 7.24 billion during February 2012, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs, and 987 million hatching eggs, of which 914 million were broiler-type and 73 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2012 averaged 338 million, down slightly from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,140 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2011.

All layers in the United States on March 1, 2012 totaled 339 million, down slightly from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 50.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.10 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2012, averaged 74.0 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from March 1, 2011.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 5 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2012 totaled 39.3 million, up 5 percent from February 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.3 million on March 1, 2012, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 238 thousand during February 2012, down 2 percent from February 2011.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Down 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2012 totaled 705 million, down 1 percent from February 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 611 million on March 1, 2012, down 5 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.03 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2012, down 1 percent from February 2011.

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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		343,083		338,158
January		342,266		337,618
February		339,787		338,219
March		340,655		
April		340,896		
May		337,897		
June		336,411		
July		335,799		
August		335,412		
September		335,328		
October		335,884		
November		337,716		

¹ December preceding year.

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

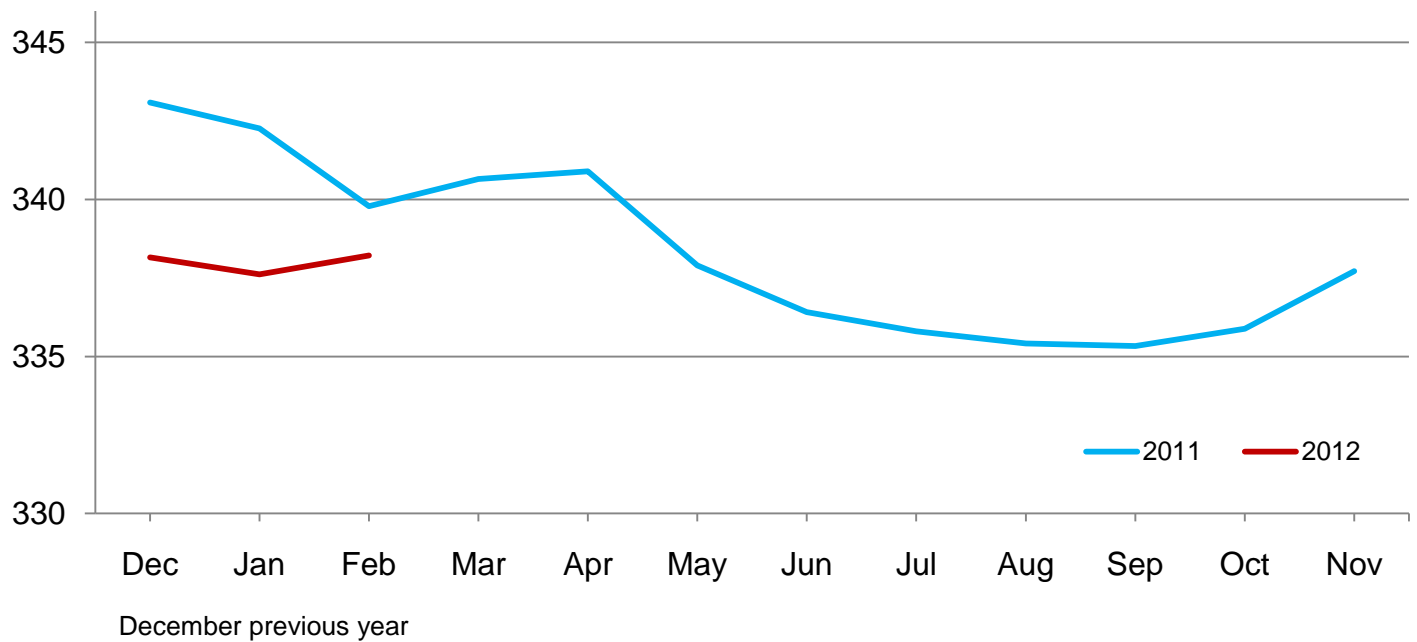
[Totals may not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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	7,927	7,932	6,845	6,894	1,083	1,038
January	7,833	7,831	6,736	6,786	1,098	1,046
February	7,013	7,237	6,022	6,249	990	987
March	7,840		6,735		1,106	
April	7,617		6,534		1,083	
May	7,773		6,651		1,123	
June	7,503		6,421		1,083	
July	7,732		6,633		1,100	
August	7,719		6,644		1,076	
September	7,503		6,476		1,028	
October	7,783		6,734		1,050	
November	7,612		6,605		1,007	
During year	91,855		79,036		12,827	

¹ December preceding year.

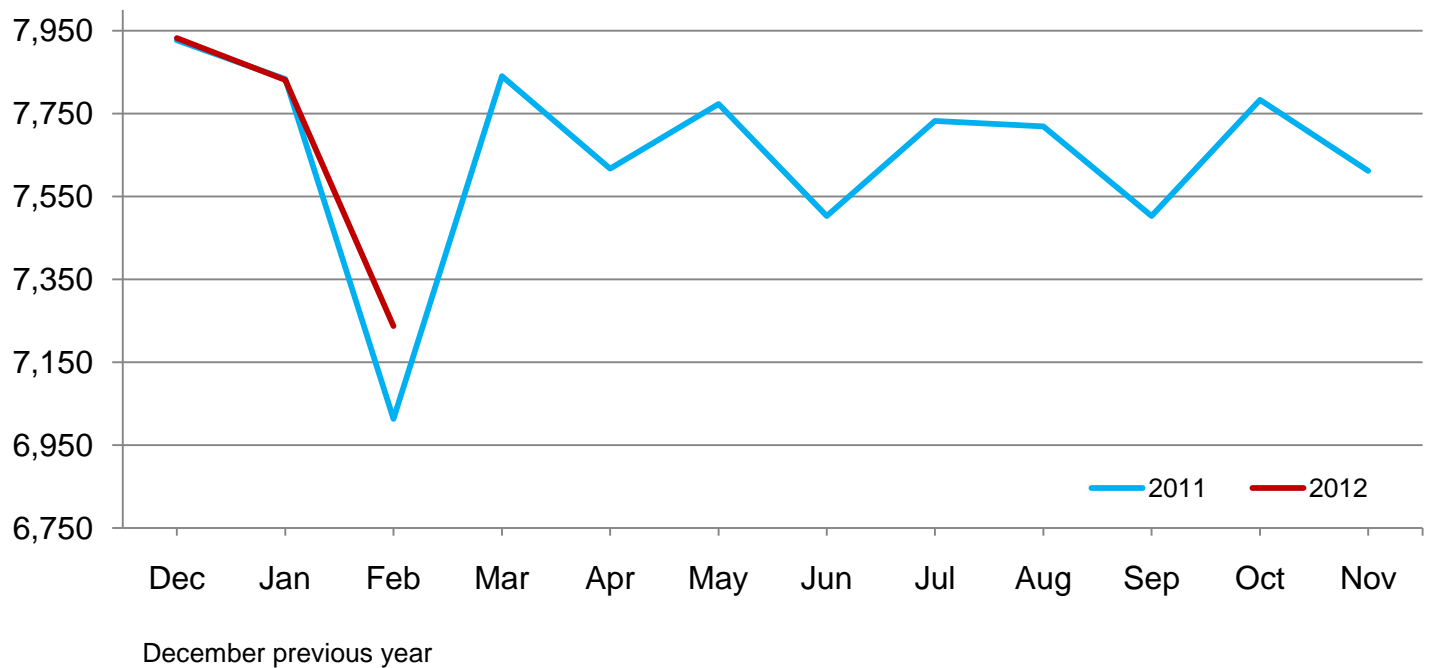
Average Layers During the Month – United States

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:
January-February 2011 and 2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers during January			
All layers 1,000	342,266	337,618	99
Table egg type 1,000	284,068	284,287	100
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,198	53,331	92
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,278	50,441	91
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,920	2,890	99
Eggs per 100 layers during January			
All layers number	2,289	2,319	101
Table egg type number	2,371	2,387	101
Hatching egg type number	1,887	1,961	104
Broiler-type hatching number	1,858	1,929	104
Egg-type hatching number	2,432	2,526	104
Eggs produced during January			
All layers million	7,833	7,831	100
Table egg type million	6,736	6,786	101
Hatching egg type million	1,098	1,046	95
Broiler-type hatching million	1,027	973	95
Egg-type hatching million	71	73	103
Layers on February 1			
All layers 1,000	340,247	337,388	99
Table egg type 1,000	282,245	283,957	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,002	53,431	92
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,013	50,461	92
Egg-type hatching 1,000	2,989	2,970	99
Eggs per 100 layers on February 1			
All layers number	73.5	73.4	100
Table egg type number	76.1	75.2	99
Hatching egg type number	60.8	63.3	104
Broiler-type hatching number	59.8	62.2	104
Egg-type hatching number	79.9	82.3	103
Forced molt layers on February 1			
Being molted percent	3.6	4.8	133
Molt completed percent	20.2	18.8	93
Layers sold for slaughter during January 1,000	14,593	13,459	92
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during January 1,000	7,759	8,504	110
Pullets on February 1 1,000	107,964	103,145	96
Pullets added during January ¹ 1,000	21,499	22,082	103

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:
February-March 2011 and 2012**

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
Layers during February			
All layers 1,000	339,787	338,219	100
Table egg type 1,000	281,706	284,553	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,081	53,666	92
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,073	50,629	92
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,008	3,037	101
Eggs per 100 layers during February			
All layers number	2,064	2,140	104
Table egg type number	2,138	2,196	103
Hatching egg type number	1,705	1,839	108
Broiler-type hatching number	1,676	1,805	108
Egg-type hatching number	2,227	2,404	108
Eggs produced during February			
All layers million	7,013	7,237	103
Table egg type million	6,022	6,249	104
Hatching egg type million	990	987	100
Broiler-type hatching million	923	914	99
Egg-type hatching million	67	73	109
Layers on March 1			
All layers 1,000	339,296	339,015	100
Table egg type 1,000	281,152	285,134	101
Hatching egg type 1,000	58,144	53,881	93
Broiler-type hatching 1,000	55,124	50,784	92
Egg-type hatching 1,000	3,020	3,097	103
Eggs per 100 layers on March 1			
All layers number	73.9	74.0	100
Table egg type number	76.6	76.0	99
Hatching egg type number	60.7	63.3	104
Broiler-type hatching number	59.7	62.1	104
Egg-type hatching number	78.5	82.3	105
Forced molt layers on March 1			
Being molted percent	3.0	3.7	123
Molt completed percent	20.1	19.6	98
Layers sold for slaughter during February 1,000	14,695	13,238	90
Layers rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason during February 1,000	9,082	6,648	73
Pullets on March 1 1,000	106,044	103,541	98
Pullets added during February ¹ 1,000	22,004	22,585	103

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

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During January 2011 and 2012

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,304	1,434	9,626	9,029	1,901	1,960
Arkansas	3,432	3,439	12,460	11,790	2,014	2,087
California	18,979	19,250	19,284	19,598	2,271	2,317
Colorado	3,230	4,347	3,613	4,792	2,436	2,421
Connecticut	2,256	2,244	2,318	2,306	2,330	2,298
Florida	9,165	9,401	9,534	9,715	2,444	2,429
Georgia	8,744	8,027	17,545	16,241	2,183	2,229
Illinois	4,438	4,199	4,650	4,408	2,473	2,473
Indiana	23,091	22,951	23,788	23,640	2,333	2,331
Iowa	52,510	50,544	53,349	51,469	2,315	2,324
Maine	3,557	3,507	3,612	3,562	2,381	2,386
Maryland	1,997	1,840	2,115	1,957	2,364	2,555
Michigan	10,046	10,857	10,207	11,019	2,410	2,523
Minnesota	9,923	9,599	10,397	10,105	2,318	2,345
Mississippi	1,452	1,420	6,019	5,579	1,994	2,115
Missouri	6,029	5,305	7,651	6,721	2,287	2,410
Nebraska	9,266	9,054	9,316	9,104	2,480	2,559
New York	4,063	4,288	4,290	4,516	2,471	2,480
North Carolina	5,766	5,789	13,451	12,634	2,044	2,090
Ohio	27,853	27,716	28,363	28,248	2,316	2,312
Oregon	2,123	2,172	2,276	2,313	2,504	2,594
Pennsylvania	24,066	24,414	25,246	25,578	2,464	2,459
South Carolina	3,056	3,145	4,312	4,317	2,226	2,270
South Dakota	2,351	2,370	2,391	2,410	2,384	2,365
Texas	14,153	14,247	18,568	18,048	2,278	2,366
Utah	3,337	3,488	3,367	3,518	2,228	2,274
Virginia	1,098	1,248	2,818	2,957	2,129	2,063
Washington	6,315	6,773	6,431	6,888	2,457	2,381
Wisconsin	4,080	4,289	4,612	4,854	2,407	2,390
Other States ¹	11,828	12,327	20,657	20,302	2,188	2,202
United States	279,508	279,684	342,266	337,618	2,289	2,319

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During February 2011 and 2012

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 and above		All layers		Eggs per 100 for all layers	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)
Alabama	1,350	1,423	9,753	9,093	1,682	1,826
Arkansas	3,244	3,475	12,224	11,917	1,841	1,947
California	18,438	19,413	18,744	19,759	2,059	2,181
Colorado	3,291	4,348	3,705	4,764	2,105	2,267
Connecticut	2,171	2,202	2,239	2,270	2,099	2,159
Florida	9,024	9,160	9,374	9,485	2,166	2,161
Georgia	8,600	7,973	17,205	16,338	1,970	2,020
Illinois	4,339	4,279	4,558	4,485	2,216	2,163
Indiana	22,923	23,503	23,656	24,210	2,135	2,127
Iowa	52,180	50,231	53,056	51,196	2,086	2,160
Maine	3,564	3,535	3,619	3,590	2,211	2,284
Maryland	1,984	2,052	2,114	2,177	2,129	2,297
Michigan	10,126	11,149	10,298	11,323	2,224	2,349
Minnesota	9,968	9,474	10,445	9,975	2,011	2,105
Mississippi	1,467	1,372	5,991	5,420	1,803	1,937
Missouri	5,980	5,259	7,568	6,692	2,088	2,137
Nebraska	9,309	9,176	9,359	9,226	2,244	2,320
New York	4,076	4,302	4,307	4,531	2,275	2,295
North Carolina	5,887	5,768	13,528	12,613	1,863	1,895
Ohio	26,964	27,439	27,477	27,972	2,089	2,131
Oregon	2,219	2,128	2,356	2,281	2,207	2,455
Pennsylvania	23,846	24,111	25,050	25,296	2,224	2,313
South Carolina	3,137	3,144	4,423	4,290	1,990	2,121
South Dakota	2,308	2,331	2,348	2,371	2,129	2,193
Texas	14,033	14,513	18,395	18,396	2,033	2,158
Utah	3,420	3,526	3,450	3,556	2,058	2,109
Virginia	1,150	1,213	2,894	2,906	1,762	1,927
Washington	6,343	6,867	6,459	6,982	2,214	2,206
Wisconsin	3,992	4,345	4,552	4,924	2,175	2,214
Other States ¹	11,813	12,239	20,638	20,181	1,972	2,051
United States	277,146	279,950	339,787	338,219	2,064	2,140

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Egg Production by Type – States and United States: January 2011 and 2012

[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	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	183	177	30	35	153	142
Arkansas	251	246	83	84	168	162
California	438	454	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	88	116	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	54	53	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	233	236	227	231	6	5
Georgia	383	362	214	198	169	164
Illinois	115	109	112	106	3	3
Indiana	555	551	542	539	13	12
Iowa	1,235	1,196	1,223	1,180	12	16
Maine	86	85	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	50	50	49	48	1	2
Michigan	246	278	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	241	237	233	228	8	9
Mississippi	120	118	35	36	85	82
Missouri	175	162	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	231	233	231	233	-	-
New York	106	112	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	275	264	138	138	137	126
Ohio	657	653	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	57	60	55	58	2	2
Pennsylvania	622	629	601	607	21	22
South Carolina	96	98	74	77	22	21
South Dakota	57	57	57	57	-	-
Texas	423	427	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	75	80	75	80	-	-
Virginia	60	61	28	28	32	33
Washington	158	164	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	111	116	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	452	447	312	322	141	126
United States	7,833	7,831	6,736	6,786	1,098	1,046

- 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: February 2011 and 2012

[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	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	164	166	26	31	138	135
Arkansas	225	232	72	77	153	155
California	386	431	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Colorado	78	108	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Connecticut	47	49	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	203	205	199	200	4	5
Georgia	339	330	190	175	149	155
Illinois	101	97	98	94	3	3
Indiana	505	515	493	502	12	13
Iowa	1,107	1,106	1,094	1,090	13	16
Maine	80	82	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Maryland	45	50	44	49	1	1
Michigan	229	266	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	210	210	203	202	7	8
Mississippi	108	105	32	31	76	74
Missouri	158	143	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	210	214	210	214	-	-
New York	98	104	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	252	239	128	121	124	118
Ohio	574	596	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon	52	56	50	54	2	2
Pennsylvania	557	585	537	564	20	21
South Carolina	88	91	68	71	20	20
South Dakota	50	52	50	52	-	-
Texas	374	397	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Utah	71	75	71	75	-	-
Virginia	51	56	22	26	29	30
Washington	143	154	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	99	109	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	409	414	283	296	126	118
United States	7,013	7,237	6,022	6,249	990	987

- 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	2.8	21.2	19.9
February	3.6	4.8	20.2	18.8
March	3.0	3.7	20.1	19.6
April	2.6		20.0	
May	3.0		20.0	
June	3.8		19.5	
July	3.5		19.6	
August	3.6		19.5	
September	3.2		20.3	
October	3.9		20.4	
November	2.5		21.2	
December	1.7		21.1	

Forced Molt as Percent of All Layers – States and United States: March 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	2.0	2.0	5.0	8.5
Arkansas	-	2.5	10.5	9.0
California	4.0	3.5	28.0	28.5
Colorado	2.5	3.0	18.0	16.5
Connecticut	10.0	9.0	7.5	8.0
Florida	4.0	6.5	34.5	30.5
Georgia	1.5	3.0	18.5	13.0
Illinois	5.5	2.5	31.0	25.0
Indiana	3.0	6.5	25.0	32.5
Iowa	5.0	5.0	32.0	31.0
Maine	-	-	-	-
Maryland	2.0	-	33.0	11.0
Michigan	0.5	3.5	17.0	16.0
Minnesota	5.5	3.5	19.0	21.0
Mississippi	2.0	1.0	10.5	11.5
Missouri	4.5	5.5	19.0	21.0
Nebraska	-	-	3.5	2.0
New York	0.5	4.5	11.5	10.0
North Carolina	0.5	2.5	17.0	16.0
Ohio	4.5	4.0	15.5	12.0
Oregon	1.5	9.5	19.0	31.5
Pennsylvania	2.0	1.0	9.5	6.0
South Carolina	-	2.0	16.5	18.0
South Dakota	4.0	9.0	29.5	13.0
Texas	2.5	5.5	19.0	16.5
Utah	5.0	4.0	36.0	36.5
Virginia	-	3.0	17.0	12.0
Washington	4.5	2.5	30.5	35.5
Wisconsin	4.5	-	29.5	31.0
Other States ¹	3.0	4.0	15.0	18.1
United States	3.0	3.7	20.1	19.6

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes data for States not published in this table.

Hatchery Production – United States: 2011 and 2012

Item	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(percent)
Egg-type			
Eggs in incubators on March 1	39,975	39,322	98
Chicks hatched during February	37,336	39,300	105
Chicks hatched January through February	78,702	79,577	101
Pullets hatched during February for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	244	238	98
Cumulative potential placements 7-18 months earlier ¹	3,168	2,936	93
Broiler-type			
Eggs in incubators on March 1	642,437	610,618	95
Chicks hatched during February	708,724	705,113	99
Chicks hatched January through February	1,489,847	1,456,983	98
Pullets hatched during February for intended placements:			
Hatchery supply flocks	7,107	7,025	99
Cumulative potential placements 7-15 months earlier ²	63,283	63,934	101

¹ 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched August 2010 through July 2011.

² 2012 includes pullet chicks hatched November 2010 through July 2011.

Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators – Regions and United States: March 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	4,463	4,359	98
East North Central	8,346	7,976	96
West North Central	7,889	8,723	111
South Atlantic	5,336	3,812	71
South Central	5,473	5,838	107
West	8,468	8,614	102
United States	39,975	39,322	98

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched by Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	41,366	40,277	97	41,366	40,277	97
February	37,336	39,300	105	78,702	79,577	101
March	43,974			122,676		
April	43,429			166,105		
May	43,305			209,410		
June	39,313			248,723		
July	37,405			286,128		
August	41,564			327,692		
September	40,298			367,990		
October	37,845			405,835		
November	37,508			443,343		
December	38,879			482,222		

Intended Placements of Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month – United States: 2011-2012

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ¹	
	2011	2012		2011	2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
January	220	263	120	3,292	2,920
February	244	238	98	3,168	2,936
March	253			3,130	2,994
April	287			3,161	2,995
May	196			3,054	3,091
June	302			3,027	3,046
July	234			2,981	3,060
August	311			2,974	3,103
September	252			2,922	3,097
October	266			2,915	
November	218			2,970	
December	277			2,936	
Total	3,060				

¹ For February 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched August 2010 through July 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: March 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	12,620	12,443	99
East North Central	12,097	12,951	107
West North Central	28,779	28,495	99
South Atlantic	239,341	233,027	97
South Central	326,142	301,712	93
West	23,458	21,990	94
United States	642,437	610,618	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched – States and United States: February 2011 and 2012

State	During February			January-February		
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
Alabama	101,042	97,030	96	211,262	201,629	95
Arkansas	78,596	70,855	90	165,063	146,378	89
Delaware	13,498	11,502	85	28,663	23,634	82
Florida	4,345	4,519	104	9,052	9,409	104
Georgia	109,647	109,902	100	231,224	228,712	99
Kentucky	24,989	26,250	105	51,116	54,232	106
Louisiana	11,292	12,107	107	23,662	24,766	105
Maryland	25,155	25,383	101	52,716	52,712	100
Mississippi	62,689	62,805	100	132,983	129,352	97
Missouri	26,132	27,674	106	55,515	57,422	103
North Carolina	65,891	69,876	106	138,201	143,910	104
Oklahoma	23,042	23,561	102	48,164	47,907	99
Pennsylvania	13,306	13,072	98	27,812	27,197	98
South Carolina	17,864	17,787	100	37,784	37,109	98
Texas	49,290	51,075	104	107,430	104,917	98
Virginia	19,939	21,181	106	41,468	43,501	105
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	36,734	35,826	98	77,883	74,896	96
19 States ¹	683,451	680,405	100	1,439,998	1,407,683	98
Other States ²	25,273	24,708	98	49,849	49,300	99
United States	708,724	705,113	99	1,489,847	1,456,983	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: 2011-2012

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

Month	By months			Cumulative		
	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011	2011	2012	2012 as percent of 2011
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(percent)
January	781,123	751,870	96	781,123	751,870	96
February	708,724	705,113	99	1,489,847	1,456,983	98
March	793,957			2,283,804		
April	779,859			3,063,663		
May	806,574			3,870,237		
June	768,173			4,638,410		
July	770,368			5,408,778		
August	760,882			6,169,660		
September	721,214			6,890,874		
October	717,354			7,608,228		
November	704,103			8,312,331		
December	760,188			9,072,519		

Intended Placements of Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply Flocks by Month and Total: 2011-2012

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

Month	Pullet chicks hatched		2012 as percent of 2011	Cumulative potential placements relative to current supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ¹	
	2011 (1,000 chicks)	2012 (1,000 chicks)		2011 (1,000 chicks)	2012 (1,000 chicks)
United States placements					
January	6,989	6,673	95	62,996	64,366
February	7,107	7,025	99	63,283	63,934
March	7,058			63,250	63,578
April	7,044			63,751	63,464
May	7,721			63,990	62,764
June	7,211			64,558	62,547
July	6,444			64,656	61,927
August	7,233			64,820	61,556
September	6,657			63,576	60,860
October	6,289			63,506	
November	6,890			63,875	
December	6,438			64,283	
Annual total	83,081				
Total placements ²					
January	8,548	8,201	96		
February	8,782	8,818	100		
March	9,023				
April	8,944				
May	9,612				
June	9,225				
July	8,131				
August	8,700				
September	8,546				
October	7,938				
November	8,489				
December	8,279				
Annual total	104,217				

¹ For February 2012, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched November 2010 through July 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 0.6 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) 0.3	(percent) 0.6	(1,000) 918	(1,000) 25	(1,000) 2,138	(number) 19	(number) 5
Eggs	0.3	0.5	(million) 19	(million) 1	(million) 39	19	5

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 – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 690-3237
- David Colwell – Cold Storage (202) 720-8784
- LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
 Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Egg Products, Mink (202) 720-0585
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery (202) 720-3244

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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