

Chickens and Eggs

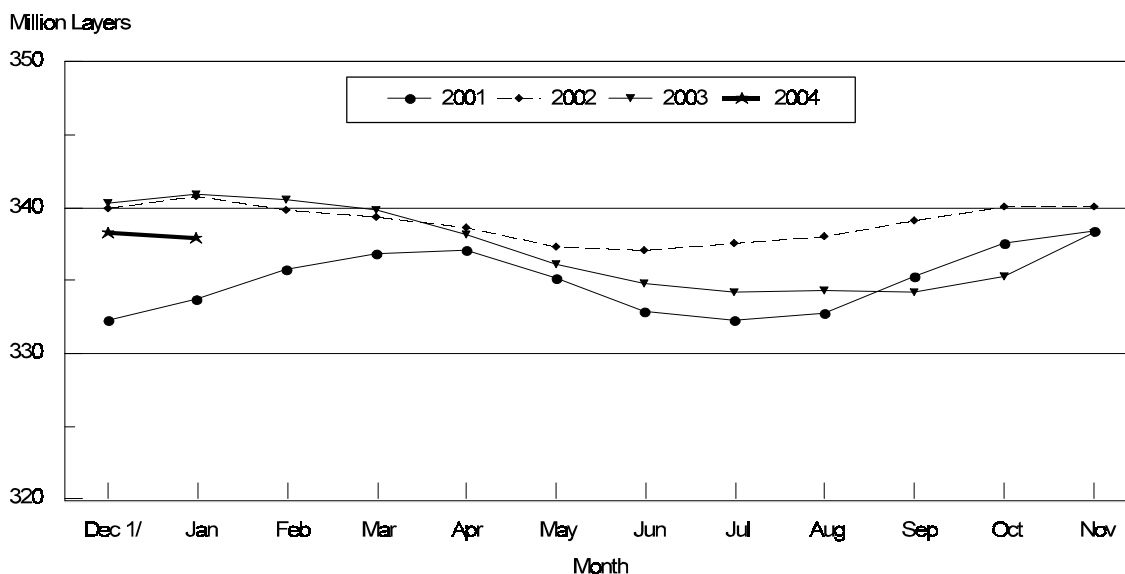
Released February 23, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "*Chickens and Eggs*" call Tom Kruchten at (202) 690-4870, for "Hatch" call Jody Roberts at (202) 690-8632, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

January Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during January 2004, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.32 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2004 averaged 338 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,184 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2003.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays, 2 holidays, and 5 Saturdays, compared to January 2003 which contained 23 weekdays, 2 holidays, and 4 Saturdays.

Average Number of All Layers United States, 2001 - 2004



All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2004, totaled 338 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.48 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2004, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.88 billion eggs during January 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during January, at 315 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are listed on page 8 of this release and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the revised 2002 and 2003 layer and egg estimates in this publication. The revised estimates may appear disjointed from historical data until the release of the 5 - year *Final Estimates* publications which are scheduled for April 29, 2004.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 6 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during January totaled 35.4 million, up 6 percent from January 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 30.5 million on February 1, 2004, up 11 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 164,000 during January 2004, down 17 percent from January 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 2 Percent

The January 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 774 million, was up 2 percent from January of the previous year. There were 636 million eggs in incubators on February 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.8 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2004, up 9 percent from January 2003.

**All Layers: Average Number on Hand During the Month,
United States, 2001-04**

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>
Dec ¹	332,283	339,970	340,316	338,243
Jan	333,748	340,815	340,910	337,892
Feb	335,763	339,857	340,575	
Mar	336,822	339,329	339,885	
Apr	337,141	338,647	338,182	
May	335,163	337,377	336,164	
Jun	332,928	337,133	334,789	
Jul	332,244	337,610	334,179	
Aug	332,808	338,119	334,332	
Sep	335,276	339,197	334,198	
Oct	337,593	340,111	335,333	
Nov	338,366	340,118	338,283	

¹ December preceding year.

**Eggs: Production During the Month by Type,
United States, 2003-04**

Month	Total Eggs		Table Eggs		Hatching Eggs	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
Dec ¹	7,451	7,520	6,392	6,466	1,058	1,055
Jan	7,390	7,380	6,301	6,324	1,088	1,056
Feb	6,665		5,673		991	
Mar	7,424		6,316		1,108	
Apr	7,187		6,103		1,084	
May	7,327		6,200		1,127	
Jun	7,105		6,028		1,077	
Jul	7,403		6,316		1,086	
Aug	7,367		6,296		1,070	
Sep	7,112		6,095		1,017	
Oct	7,439		6,381		1,058	
Nov	7,326		6,301		1,025	
During Year	87,196	14,900	74,402	12,790	12,789	2,111

¹ December preceding year.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, United States, December-January 2002-04**

Item	Unit	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
Layers During Dec	1,000			
All Layers		340,316	338,243	99
Table Egg Type		282,719	280,746	99
Hatching Egg Type		57,597	57,497	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		54,957	55,009	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,640	2,488	94
Eggs per 100 Layers During Dec	Number			
All Layers		2,189	2,223	102
Table Egg Type		2,261	2,303	102
Hatching Egg Type		1,837	1,835	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,812	1,807	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,348	2,452	104
Eggs Produced During Dec	Million			
All Layers		7,451	7,520	101
Table Egg Type		6,392	6,466	101
Hatching Egg Type		1,058	1,055	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		996	994	100
Egg-Type Hatching		62	61	98
		2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers on Jan 1	1,000			
All Layers		340,752	337,571	99
Table Egg Type		282,140	280,096	99
Hatching Egg Type		58,612	57,475	98
Broiler-Type Hatching		55,922	55,037	98
Egg-Type Hatching		2,690	2,438	91
Eggs per 100 Layers on Jan 1	Number			
All Layers		69.8	71.0	102
Table Egg Type		72.0	73.4	102
Hatching Egg Type		59.2	59.2	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		58.3	58.3	100
Egg-Type Hatching		77.5	80.1	103
Forced Molt Layers on Jan 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		4.4	3.9	89
Percent with Molt Completed		23.7	22.4	95
Layers Sold for Slaughter During Dec	1,000	14,560	15,708	108
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Dec		6,922	5,848	84
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Jan 1	1,000	94,620	100,807	107
Pullets Added During Dec ¹	1,000	22,938	23,598	103

¹ Pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, United States, January-February 2003-04**

Item	Unit	2003 ¹	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers During Jan	1,000			
All Layers		340,910	337,892	99
Table Egg Type		282,062	279,963	99
Hatching Egg Type		58,848	57,929	98
Broiler-Type Hatching		56,125	55,464	99
Egg-Type Hatching		2,723	2,465	91
Eggs per 100 Layers During Jan	Number			
All Layers		2,168	2,184	101
Table Egg Type		2,234	2,259	101
Hatching Egg Type		1,849	1,823	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,823	1,796	99
Egg-Type Hatching		2,387	2,434	102
Eggs Produced During Jan	Million			
All Layers		7,390	7,380	100
Table Egg Type		6,301	6,324	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,088	1,056	97
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,023	996	97
Egg-Type Hatching		65	60	92
Layers on Feb 1	1,000			
All Layers		341,019	338,163	99
Table Egg Type		281,960	279,805	99
Hatching Egg Type		59,059	58,358	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		56,314	55,876	99
Egg-Type Hatching		2,745	2,482	90
Eggs per 100 Layers on Feb 1	Number			
All Layers		69.9	69.8	100
Table Egg Type		72.0	72.2	100
Hatching Egg Type		59.6	58.3	98
Broiler-Type Hatching		58.8	57.4	98
Egg-Type Hatching		76.2	77.2	101
Forced Molt Layers, Feb 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		4.5	5.1	113
Percent with Molt Completed		24.0	22.1	92
Layers Sold for Slaughter During Jan	1,000	15,600	15,410	99
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed. Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Jan	1,000	5,801	6,299	109
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Feb 1	1,000	95,879	97,885	102
Pullets Added During Jan ²	1,000	24,802	22,695	92

¹ Revised.

² Pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, 30 Selected States, December-January 2002-04 ¹**

Item	Unit	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
Layers During Dec	1,000			
All Layers		318,278	315,418	99
Table Egg Type		265,369	262,624	99
Hatching Egg Type		52,909	52,794	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		50,348	50,422	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,561	2,372	93
Eggs per 100 Layers During Dec	Number			
All Layers		2,189	2,223	102
Table Egg Type		2,258	2,301	102
Hatching Egg Type		1,839	1,837	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,811	1,809	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,382	2,445	103
Eggs Produced During Dec	Million			
All Layers		6,966	7,012	101
Table Egg Type		5,993	6,042	101
Hatching Egg Type		973	970	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		912	912	100
Egg-Type Hatching		61	58	95
		2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers on Jan 1	1,000			
All Layers		318,394	314,632	99
Table Egg Type		264,679	261,917	99
Hatching Egg Type		53,715	52,715	98
Broiler-Type Hatching		51,102	50,401	99
Egg-Type Hatching		2,613	2,314	89
Eggs per 100 Layers on Jan 1	Number			
All Layers		69.9	70.9	101
Table Egg Type		72.1	73.3	102
Hatching Egg Type		59.3	59.3	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		58.4	58.4	100
Egg-Type Hatching		77.6	80.4	104
Forced Molt Layers on Jan 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		4.3	4.0	93
Percent with Molt Completed		23.7	22.1	93
Layers Sold for Slaughter During Dec	1,000	13,833	14,789	107
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Dec	1,000	6,591	5,564	84
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Jan 1	1,000	87,796	93,554	107
Pullets Added During Dec ²	1,000	21,820	22,217	102

¹ The 30 States are listed in the table on page 8.

² Pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, and Forced
Molt, 30 Selected States, January-February, 2003-04 ¹**

Item	Unit	2003 ²	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Layers During Jan	1,000			
All Layers		318,687	314,968	99
Table Egg Type		264,661	261,830	99
Hatching Egg Type		54,026	53,138	98
Broiler-Type Hatching		51,383	50,799	99
Egg-Type Hatching		2,643	2,339	88
Eggs per 100 Layers During Jan	1,000			
All Layers		2,170	2,184	101
Table Egg Type		2,235	2,258	101
Hatching Egg Type		1,853	1,822	98
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,826	1,793	98
Egg-Type Hatching		2,384	2,437	102
Eggs Produced During Jan	Million			
All Layers		6,917	6,880	99
Table Egg Type		5,916	5,912	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,001	968	97
Broiler-Type Hatching		938	911	97
Egg-Type Hatching		63	57	90
Layers on Feb 1	1,000			
All Layers		318,942	315,266	99
Table Egg Type		264,627	261,724	99
Hatching Egg Type		54,315	53,542	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		51,652	51,186	99
Egg-Type Hatching		2,663	2,356	88
Eggs per 100 Layers on Feb 1	Number			
All Layers		70.0	69.9	100
Table Egg Type		72.1	72.3	100
Hatching Egg Type		59.7	58.2	97
Broiler-Type Hatching		58.9	57.3	97
Egg-Type Hatching		76.3	77.3	101
Forced Molt Layers, Feb 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		4.3	5.0	116
Percent with Molt Completed		23.9	21.8	91
Layers Sold for Slaughter During Jan	1,000	14,397	14,547	101
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Jan	1,000	5,435	5,742	106
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Feb 1	1,000	89,237	90,753	102
Pullets Added During Jan ³	1,000	23,796	21,552	91

¹ The 30 States are listed in the table on page 8.

² Revised.

³ Pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State
and United States, During December 2002-03**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	2,350	2,067	9,778	9,418	1,872	1,932
AR	4,745	4,263	14,541	14,522	1,926	1,914
CA	22,398	20,370	23,016	20,899	2,260	2,244
CO	3,488	3,747	3,990	4,223	2,306	2,415
CT	3,015	2,910	3,069	2,962	2,476	2,465
FL	9,929	10,470	10,534	10,989	2,174	2,321
GA	11,285	11,531	20,515	20,672	2,157	2,095
HI	491	447	532	482	1,880	2,012
IL	3,181	3,593	3,411	3,805	2,433	2,181
IN	22,378	22,686	23,035	23,427	2,236	2,275
IA	37,577	39,875	38,290	40,556	2,279	2,293
ME	4,224	4,090	4,276	4,135	1,707	2,322
MD	3,112	2,858	3,346	2,979	2,430	2,417
MI	6,992	6,813	7,243	7,064	2,237	2,265
MN	10,870	10,568	11,473	11,149	2,162	2,233
MS	1,845	1,887	6,715	6,751	2,010	1,955
MO	5,376	5,431	6,858	6,706	2,304	2,237
NE	11,508	11,668	11,608	11,743	2,160	2,282
NY	3,390	3,379	3,648	3,764	2,495	2,471
NC	3,401	3,404	10,742	10,775	2,020	2,005
OH	30,152	27,837	30,663	28,276	2,182	2,309
OK	2,019	1,925	4,269	4,111	1,921	1,922
OR	2,679	2,743	2,857	2,911	2,345	2,370
PA	23,242	21,743	24,854	23,504	2,338	2,314
SC	4,232	4,124	5,284	5,343	2,101	2,265
SD	2,157	3,147	2,357	3,347	1,994	2,181
TX	14,390	14,185	18,761	18,473	2,159	2,236
VA	1,324	1,320	3,268	3,205	2,020	1,934
WA	5,007	4,879	5,084	4,943	2,262	2,266
WI	3,752	3,762	4,261	4,284	2,394	2,381
30 Sts	260,509	257,722	318,278	315,418	2,189	2,223
Oth Sts ²	16,211	16,955	22,038	22,825	2,201	2,226
US	276,720	274,677	340,316	338,243	2,189	2,223

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State
and United States, During January 2003-04**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	2,378	2,013	9,989	9,367	1,892	1,890
AR	4,582	4,131	14,849	14,416	1,899	1,894
CA	21,928	20,226	22,565	20,702	2,194	2,174
CO	3,419	3,613	3,894	4,086	2,286	2,349
CT	2,975	2,904	3,035	2,957	2,405	2,435
FL	10,053	10,530	10,601	11,039	2,170	2,292
GA	11,186	11,403	20,393	20,674	2,084	2,075
HI	484	455	526	492	1,939	1,972
IL	3,240	3,549	3,461	3,763	2,254	2,046
IN	22,323	22,508	22,949	23,240	2,227	2,250
IA	37,652	39,913	38,413	40,565	2,273	2,246
ME	4,291	4,024	4,343	4,069	1,957	2,261
MD	3,078	3,017	3,296	3,117	2,427	2,310
MI	6,947	7,185	7,198	7,436	2,223	2,179
MN	10,800	10,498	11,408	11,093	2,253	2,254
MS	1,838	1,868	6,737	6,898	1,989	1,943
MO	5,368	5,550	6,812	6,841	2,275	2,295
NE	11,610	11,691	11,710	11,766	2,195	2,269
NY	3,338	3,546	3,611	3,929	2,409	2,469
NC	3,330	3,399	10,845	10,839	1,973	1,947
OH	30,058	26,831	30,567	27,231	2,182	2,218
OK	2,016	1,959	4,285	4,145	1,937	1,954
OR	2,697	2,813	2,885	2,979	2,322	2,249
PA	23,479	21,882	25,321	23,643	2,341	2,301
SC	4,148	4,071	5,298	5,249	2,076	2,191
SD	2,263	3,140	2,463	3,340	2,071	2,216
TX	14,322	14,259	18,809	18,601	2,100	2,226
VA	1,342	1,255	3,358	3,193	2,025	1,942
WA	4,884	4,861	4,964	4,930	2,196	2,170
WI	3,591	3,844	4,102	4,368	2,194	2,266
30 Sts	259,620	256,938	318,687	314,968	2,170	2,184
Oth Sts ²	16,259	16,940	22,223	22,924	2,128	2,181
US	275,879	273,878	340,910	337,892	2,168	2,184

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Egg Production: By Type, State, and United States,
December 2002-03**

State	Total Production		Table Eggs ¹		Hatching Eggs ¹	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
AL	183	182	53	50	130	132
AR	280	278	108	100	172	178
CA	520	469				
CO	92	102				
CT	76	73				
FL	229	255	219	244	10	11
GA	443	433	270	263	173	170
HI	10.0	9.7	10.0	9.7	0	0
IL	83	83	80	80	3	3
IN	515	533	503	521	12	12
IA	873	930				
ME	73	96				
MD	82	72	79	70	3	2
MI	162	160				
MN	248	249	239	240	9	9
MS	135	132	45	42	90	90
MO	158	150				
NE	251	268	251	268	0	0
NY	91	93				
NC	217	216	84	84	133	132
OH	669	653				
OK	82	79	48	45	34	34
OR	67	69	65	67	2	2
PA	581	544	564	528	17	16
SC	111	121	93	101	18	20
SD	47	73	47	73	0	0
TX	405	413				
VA	66	62	32	28	34	34
WA	115	112				
WI	102	102				
30 Sts	6,966	7,012	5,993	6,042	973	970
Oth Sts ²	485	508	399	424	85	85
US	7,451	7,520	6,392	6,466	1,058	1,055

¹ Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Egg Production: By Type, State, and United States,
January 2003-04**

State	Total Production		Table Eggs ¹		Hatching Eggs ¹	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
AL	189	177	52	47	137	130
AR	282	273	101	94	181	179
CA	495	450				
CO	89	96				
CT	73	72				
FL	230	253	221	243	9	10
GA	425	429	253	257	172	172
HI	10.2	9.7	10.2	9.7	0	0
IL	78	77	74	74	4	3
IN	511	523	499	511	12	12
IA	873	911				
ME	85	92				
MD	80	72	77	71	3	1
MI	160	162				
MN	257	250	248	241	9	9
MS	134	134	42	42	92	92
MO	155	157				
NE	257	267	257	267	0	0
NY	87	97				
NC	214	211	81	85	133	126
OH	667	604				
OK	83	81	47	46	36	35
OR	67	67	65	65	2	2
PA	593	544	575	528	18	16
SC	110	115	91	95	19	20
SD	51	74	51	74	0	0
TX	395	414				
VA	68	62	31	28	37	34
WA	109	107				
WI	90	99				
30 Sts	6,917	6,880	5,916	5,912	1,001	968
Oth Sts ²	473	500	385	412	87	88
US	7,390	7,380	6,301	6,324	1,088	1,056

¹ Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

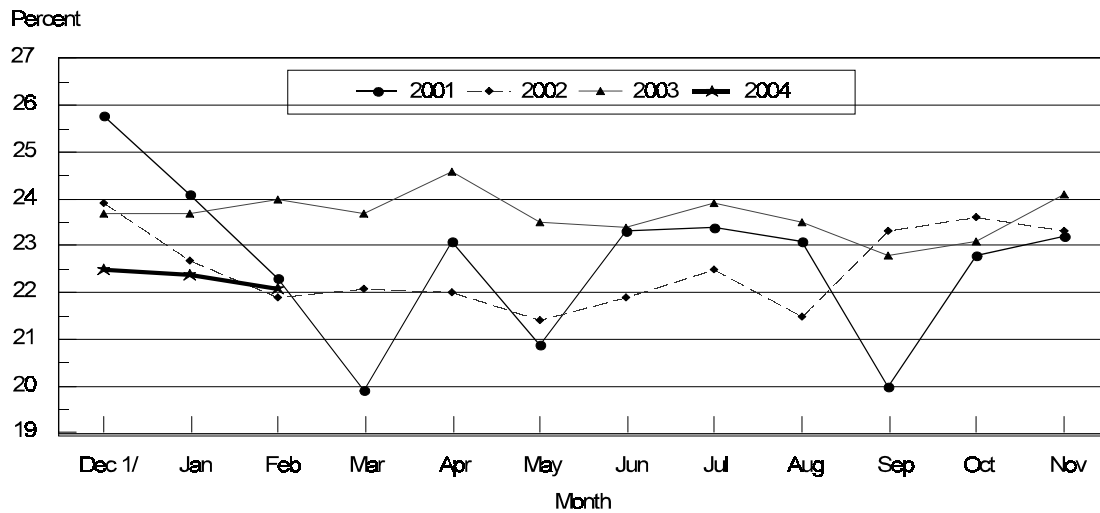
² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Forced Molt: Percent of All Layers by Month,
United States, 2003-04 ¹**

Month	Percent Being Molted		Percent with Molt Completed	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	4.4	3.9	23.7	22.4
Feb	4.5	5.1	24.0	22.1
Mar	3.3		23.7	
Apr	2.2		24.6	
May	4.3		23.5	
Jun	4.2		23.4	
Jul	4.3		23.9	
Aug	4.1		23.5	
Sep	3.9		22.8	
Oct	5.2		23.1	
Nov	3.4		24.1	
Dec	2.5		22.7	

¹ As of first of month.

All Layers: United States
Percent Molt Completed, 2001 - 2004
 First of Month



1/ Previous year

**Forced Molt: Percent of All Layers by State
and United States, February 2003-04 ¹**

State	Percent Being Molted		Percent with Molt Completed	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	7.5	1.0	8.0	4.5
AR	1.5	2.5	10.0	9.0
CA	6.0	5.5	40.0	29.0
CO	4.5	6.0	22.5	19.5
CT	0.0	0.0	0.5	13.0
FL	6.0	3.5	29.0	30.5
GA	2.0	5.5	16.5	16.5
HI	5.5	7.0	48.5	47.5
IL	10.5	6.5	30.0	33.5
IN	3.0	5.0	32.5	32.5
IA	3.5	7.0	33.5	33.5
ME	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
MD	4.5	9.5	23.0	14.0
MI	3.0	10.0	29.0	24.5
MN	4.5	4.0	31.5	26.0
MS	4.0	3.0	10.0	9.5
MO	2.0	3.5	20.0	16.0
NE	8.0	5.0	23.5	20.5
NY	1.5	1.5	5.0	3.0
NC	1.0	0.0	13.0	9.5
OH	4.5	7.5	25.0	23.0
OK	0.0	0.0	7.5	5.0
OR	0.0	6.0	37.0	38.0
PA	4.0	3.0	17.0	20.0
SC	5.5	3.5	24.5	25.0
SD	3.5	9.0	26.0	25.0
TX	7.5	5.5	21.0	10.5
VA	5.5	8.5	14.5	11.0
WA	14.5	12.5	42.5	41.0
WI	5.5	8.0	32.5	27.5
30 Sts	4.3	5.0	23.9	21.8
Oth Sts ²	7.2	5.6	24.7	26.1
US	4.5	5.1	24.0	22.1

¹ As of first of month.

² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Hatchery Production: Eggs in Incubators, Chicks Hatched,
and Placements by Type, United States, January-February 2003-04**

Item	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Egg-Type			
Eggs in Incubators on Feb 1	27,540	30,520	111
Chicks Hatched During Jan	33,499	35,350	106
Pullets Hatched During Jan for Intended Placements in Hatchery Supply Flocks 7-18 Month Earlier ¹	198 2,974	164 2,974	83 100
Broiler-Type			
Eggs in Incubators on Feb 1	629,525	636,126	101
Chicks Hatched During Jan	759,773	773,970	102
Pullets Hatched During Jan for Intended Placements in Hatchery Supply Flocks 7-15 Months Earlier ²	6,269 62,473	6,811 60,015	109 96

¹ 2004 includes pullet chicks hatched Jul 2002 through Jun 2003.

² 2004 includes pullet chicks hatched Oct 2002 through Jun 2003.

**Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators: By Region and United States,
February 1, 2003-04**

Geographic Division	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Atlantic	3,868	5,610	145
E North Central	5,034	5,961	118
W North Central	6,285	6,490	103
South Atlantic	2,852	2,559	90
South Central	5,140	4,683	91
West	4,361	5,217	120
US	27,540	30,520	111

Regional Listing:

North Atlantic = CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

E North Central = IL, IN, MI, OH, WI.

W North Central = IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD.

South Atlantic = DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV.

South Central = AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX.

West = AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY.

**Egg-Type Chicks Hatched: By State and United States,
January 2003-04**

State	January			Jan-Jan		
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	806	823	102	806	823	102
FL	665	709	107	665	709	107
GA	2,500	2,519	101	2,500	2,519	101
IN	5,269	5,096	97	5,269	5,096	97
IA	5,402	6,018	111	5,402	6,018	111
MN	1,436	1,110	77	1,436	1,110	77
PA	4,353	4,935	113	4,353	4,935	113
Oth Sts ¹	13,068	14,140	108	13,068	14,140	108
US	33,499	35,350	106	33,499	35,350	106

¹ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched: By Month, United States, 2002-04

Month	By Months				Cumulative			
	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	35,647	33,499	35,350	106	35,647	33,499	35,350	106
Feb	34,465	29,988			70,112	63,487		
Mar	36,977	36,726			107,089	100,213		
Apr	38,088	37,531			145,177	137,744		
May	38,751	38,206			183,928	175,950		
Jun	35,136	36,344			219,064	212,294		
Jul	35,573	35,593			254,637	247,887		
Aug	35,681	33,179			290,318	281,066		
Sep	35,734	35,777			326,052	316,843		
Oct	32,149	34,999			358,201	351,842		
Nov	31,146	30,129			389,347	381,971		
Dec	31,973	33,856			421,320	415,827		

**Intended Placements: Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply
Flocks by Month and Total, United States, 2002-04 ¹**

Month	Pullet Chicks Hatched			2004 as % of 2003	Cumulative Potential Placements Relative to Current Supply Flocks 7-18 Months Earlier ²		
	2002	2003	2004		2002	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Jan	228	198	164	83	3,158	2,974	2,974
Feb	247	221			3,205	2,916	2,918
Mar	237	315			3,239	2,886	2,881
Apr	295	276			3,225	2,944	2,873
May	319	279			3,134	2,980	2,993
Jun	221	305			3,087	2,946	3,081
Jul	282	226			3,048	2,927	3,136
Aug	221	184			3,040	2,897	3,102
Sep	277	269			3,073	2,871	
Oct	186	306			3,026	2,949	
Nov	227	315			3,010	2,930	
Dec	187	242			3,014	2,890	
Total	2,927	3,136					

¹ 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 30 dozen case of eggs.

² For January 2004, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched Jul 2002 through Jun 2003. 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: By Region
and United States, February 1, 2003-04**

Geographic Division	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Atlantic	11,238	12,093	108
E North Central	7,977	8,075	101
W North Central	18,815	21,614	115
South Atlantic	233,245	230,351	99
South Central	334,534	339,080	101
West	23,716	24,913	105
US	629,525	636,126	101

**Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched: By State
and United States, January 2003-04**

State	January			Jan-Jan		
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	102,648	109,670	107	102,648	109,670	107
AR	110,967	113,114	102	110,967	113,114	102
DE	12,643	13,544	107	12,643	13,544	107
FL	5,756	4,940	86	5,756	4,940	86
GA	111,320	119,894	108	111,320	119,894	108
KY	23,808	24,876	104	23,808	24,876	104
LA	13,361	13,411	100	13,361	13,411	100
MD	35,138	32,079	91	35,138	32,079	91
MS	70,342	71,206	101	70,342	71,206	101
NC	65,985	64,309	97	65,985	64,309	97
OK	22,968	22,527	98	22,968	22,527	98
PA	12,471	12,642	101	12,471	12,642	101
SC	17,004	13,191	78	17,004	13,191	78
TX	54,754	52,895	97	54,754	52,895	97
VA	23,467	23,179	99	23,467	23,179	99
CA, MO, TN, & WV	57,571	61,268	106	57,571	61,268	106
19 Sts ¹	740,203	752,745	102	740,203	752,745	102
Oth Sts ²	19,570	21,225	108	19,570	21,225	108
US	759,773	773,970	102	759,773	773,970	102

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, 2002-04

Month	By Months				Cumulative			
	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	776,961	759,773	773,970	102	776,961	759,773	773,970	102
Feb	703,323	694,590			1,480,284	1,454,363		
Mar	791,093	774,836			2,271,377	2,229,199		
Apr	765,415	761,145			3,036,792	2,990,344		
May	799,262	791,905			3,836,054	3,782,249		
Jun	776,332	774,680			4,612,386	4,556,929		
Jul	781,707	777,341			5,394,093	5,334,270		
Aug	780,020	783,175			6,174,113	6,117,445		
Sep	740,396	739,191			6,914,509	6,856,636		
Oct	720,564	734,801			7,635,073	7,591,437		
Nov	690,052	707,619			8,325,125	8,299,056		
Dec	753,875	778,159			9,079,000	9,077,215		

**Intended Placements: Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery
Supply Flocks by Month and Total, 2002-04 ¹**

Month	Pullet Chicks Hatched			2004 as % of 2003	Cumulative Potential Placements Relative to Current Supply Flocks 7-15 Months Earlier ²		
	2002	2003	2004		2002	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
US Place- ments							
Jan	6,264	6,269	6,811	109	60,750	62,473	60,015
Feb	7,275	6,659			60,382	62,371	60,821
Mar	6,775	6,329			60,771	62,559	61,284
Apr	6,814	6,720			60,989	62,658	61,463
May	7,597	7,612			61,008	62,659	61,679
Jun	7,206	6,748			61,521	62,322	61,966
Jul	6,602	7,071			61,346	62,022	62,615
Aug	7,449	7,401			61,212	61,477	62,706
Sep	6,676	6,654			61,370	60,539	
Oct	6,265	6,485			61,323	59,662	
Nov	6,938	6,946			61,811	59,780	
Dec	6,475	6,978			61,914	59,943	
Annual Total	82,336	81,872					
Total Place- ments ³							
Jan	7,415	7,388	7,812	106			
Feb	8,491	8,094					
Mar	7,997	7,391					
Apr	8,119	8,000					
May	8,982	8,920					
Jun	8,802	8,341					
Jul	8,083	8,555					
Aug	8,913	8,756					
Sep	8,002	8,338					
Oct	7,438	7,856					
Nov	8,202	8,246					
Dec	8,016	8,185					
Annual Total	98,460	98,070					

¹ 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 30 dozen case of eggs.

² For Jan 2004, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched Oct 2002 through Jun 2003.

³ U.S. production of intended placements worldwide.

Procedures and Reliability

Data Sources: 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 over 30,000 table egg layers. Coverage for operations with less than 30,000 table egg layers are estimated each month based on data reported in December. Approximately 900 contractors, independent egg producers, and started pullet operations are contacted each month. All known hatcheries, approximately 330, are contacted for information on a weekly and/or monthly basis.

Revisions: The previous month's estimates are subject to revision if late reports or corrected data indicates a different level. Additionally, revisions needed after the monthly report will be made at the end of the marketing year and published in the annual summaries of "**Chickens and Eggs Summary**" and "**Hatchery Production**".

Procedures and Reliability: Operations are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond are phoned. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for during each survey period. However, there are usually missing reports that must be accounted for in the estimates.

Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive estimates from the reported data. All data are checked for unusual values. All operations' data are compared to their own past operating profiles and also to trends from other operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. Survey data are subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by reviewing all data for consistency and reasonableness.

Egg-type chicks hatched are comprised of all chicks of egg-type domesticated breeds including males and chicks destined for hatchery supply flocks and research purposes. The relationship of chicks hatched to chicken inventory and poultry marketings is 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.

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 flocks several months before the pullets will actually move into the 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 represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements of egg-type hatching flocks.

The next "*Chickens and Eggs*" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on March 22, 2004.

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