



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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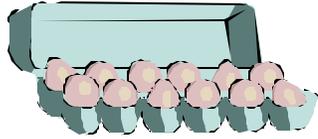
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged in New York and Chicago. Elsewhere, prices were higher on all sizes. The market tone ranged steady to firm, mostly fully steady. Demand was moderate to good and was best where features and winter weather stimulated additional consumer interest. Supplies of all sizes were adequate to instances tight. Breaking stock offerings were about adequate to adequate and demand for additional eggs was light to moderate. Light type hens were sufficient for reduced slaughter requirements.

NORTH ATLANTIC In Philadelphia, prices were unchanged to 5.5 cents higher for larger sizes and unchanged to 3.5 cents higher on mediums. In Boston, prices were unchanged to 4 cents higher for the larger sizes and unchanged to 5 cents higher on mediums. In New England, prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady. Demand was moderate to good. Supplies were generally adequate for trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were about adequate to adequate for the light to moderate demand. Light type hens were adequate for reduced processing schedules. Demand was fair, but unaggressive.

NEW YORK Prices remained unchanged on all sizes. The market tone was fully steady. Demand ranged moderate to good following the holiday weekend. Supplies were generally adequate for current needs.

MIDWEST Prices in Detroit and major Ohio and Wisconsin cities were higher for all sizes. Prices to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady to firm. Retail demand was fair to at times very good. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were barely adequate to instances tight. Central States nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were adequate for the moderate demand. Most breakers were relying on regular commitments and company owned production and were not actively seeking heavy nest runs at this call. Schedules were part-time. The trade sentiment was steady.

CHICAGO Prices for all sizes unchanged. The trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Retail demand good due to inclement weather conditions, food service demand generally light. Supplies adequate to barely adequate.

SOUTHERN In Atlanta and Florida, prices were sharply higher on all sizes. The market tone was fully steady to firm. Demand was moderate to good following the holiday weekend and best where features were planned or in progress. Supplies were generally adequate. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for the week ending December 22, 2000 was 93.87 cents, 8.74 cents more than the week before, and 25.63 cents more than the same week last year. Breaking stock offerings were about adequate to adequate for the light to moderate demand. Light type fowl were sufficient for reduced slaughter schedules.

WESTERN Prices throughout the region 4 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 2 cents higher on medium. The Pacific region inventory was 14% lower than last week with California down 14% and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 15%. Retailer demand good. Offerings in close balance.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST CITIES			
Boston (Brown)	129-131	126-128	85-87
New York	104-106	101-104	83-86
Philadelphia	100-104	98-102	81.5-83
SOUTHERN CITIES			
Atlanta (1) (2)	96-97	94.5-96	77-78
Jackson (1)	104-105	103-104	86-87
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	****PRICES NOT AVAILABLE****		
MIDWEST CITIES			
Chicago	92-97	91-96	72-77
Detroit (2)	89-92	88-91	68-71
Major Ohio Cities (2)	89-96	88-94	69-75
Major Wisconsin Cities	93-100	91-98	72-79
WESTERN CITIES			
Houston (1)	****PRICES NOT AVAILABLE****		
California(Grade AA)(1)(3)	131	123	107
(1) - Prices reported weekly			
(2) - Delivered Warehouse			
(3) - Reported Invoice prices			

CALIFORNIA Prices 4 cents higher on jumbo, extra large, and large, 2 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was 14% lower than last week. Retailer demand good. Offerings in close balance. Small invoice price 87. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 99-139; smaller outlets-large dozen 79-99, 18 pack 148-169, medium dozen 88.

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	143
EXTRA LARGE	131
LARGE	123
MEDIUM	107

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	229-289	JUMBO	249-269
EXTRA LARGE	219-259	EXTRA LARGE	229-259
LARGE	199-229	LARGE	189-219
MEDIUM	187-199	MEDIUM	159-205

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending December 29, 2000 will decrease by 13 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending December 22, 2000 were 365,520 cases which was 9 percent above the prior week and 9 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	328,514	37,006	365,520

% change from the prior week.....	+10	0	+9

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 17 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices unchanged.

Demand was moderate with offerings adequate for current production schedules. Most breakers were relying on regular commitments and company owned production and were not actively seeking additional heavy nest runs at this call. Schedules were part-time. Trade sentiment steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	39-42	40-42
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	25-28	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:

AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, NM, ND, NE, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading levels were higher compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were normal with finished sales slow compared to the past holiday period. Availability of hatching eggs were tight with prices per dozen higher. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 25-DEC-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	4.5-10	6-8	7.17

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were irregular when compared to a week earlier. Trading was light due in part to holiday schedules and hatching eggs reported as short of full needs. Demand ranged from light to moderate for adequate but reduced offering. Processing plants were on holiday schedules. Floor stocks of finished product were clearing and ranged from about adequate to short of trade requirements. The market tone was fully steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 25-DEC-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	4-8.5	5.5-7.75	6.00

AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING TOO FEW TO REPORT
 FOB PLANT TOO FEW TO REPORT

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-AM Dec 25,2000

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
 (30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area	
	Northeast	CENT	CENT	Atl	Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	8.7	19.3	4.6	12.5	8.5
	Change	-1.8	0.2	-1.6	-3.0	1.1
						-9%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	16.0	29.4	8.0	21.4	19.6
	Change	-7.5	-1.6	-1.6	-1.9	1.3
						-11%
Large	Curr Wk	25.3	74.8	41.5	52.4	69.6
	Change	-13.6	7.2	-1.7	-31.0	-23.2
						-19%
Medium	Curr Wk	11.4	26.2	9.8	15.1	17.8
	Change	-0.6	-3.3	-0.8	-0.6	-1.6
						-8%
Small	Curr Wk	2.6	5.4	1.5	5.2	2.8
	Change	-1.2	1.1	-0.1	0.3	-2.1
						-10%
Misc	Curr Wk	8.6	18.0	9.0	19.3	4.7
	Change	2.3	-5.6	0.1	1.5	-0.3
						-3%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	21.2	41.1	20.7	19.1	33.5
	Change	-2.3	7.1	0.6	-0.9	-1.4
						2%
Total	Curr Wk	93.8	214.2	95.1	145.0	156.5
Percent	Change	-21%	2%	-5%	-20%	-14%
						-11%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
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Shell Egg	704.6	-11%	171
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	358.7	0%	39
Total Shell Egg	1063.3	-8%	210

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 171 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS

MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2000

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	172	168.9	159.9	109.9

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING DECEMBER 11, 2000 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	136	136	126	77

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DECEMBER 22, 2000

CURRENT LOADS		18.25		FUTURE LOADS				23.00		TOTAL LOADS				41.25	
CLASS	SE		NE		MW		LOADS	CLASS	SC		NW		SW		LOADS
	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	—	—	77.50	79.00	—	—	11.00	GNR W 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.00
GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.00	GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.00
GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.00	GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00
GL W XL	—	—	—	—	79.00	—	1.75	GL W J	—	—	—	—	73.00	79.00	.75
GL W LG	—	—	—	—	79.00	—	3.00	GL W XL	79.00	—	—	—	81.36	86.53	4.00
GL W MD	—	—	64.50	66.00	—	—	1.75	GL W LG	78.00	—	—	—	84.80	87.59	3.50
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	38.00	43.00	5.00	GL W MD	57.00	—	—	—	65.80	66.40	2.50
								GL W SM	—	—	—	—	56.00	58.00	.25

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 12/19/00-12/25/00

CURRENT LOADS		91.00		FUTURE LOADS				60.75		TOTAL LOADS				151.75	
CLASS	SE		NE		MW		LOADS	CLASS	SC		NW		SW		LOADS
	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	74.20	80.17	76.70	77.75	78.50	—	55.00	GNR W 1	—	8	1.00	—	—	—	18.00
GNR W 2	—	—	71.00	73.00	—	—	9.00	GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.00
GNR W 3	—	62.00	—	—	46.50	48.00	7.50	GNR W 3	—	61.00	—	—	—	—	4.00
GNR W 4	—	36.00	—	—	42.83	50.00	1.50	GL W J	68.00	—	—	—	73.00	78.27	2.75
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	83.00	.75	GL W XL	79.00	—	—	—	81.36	86.22	12.75
GNR BR 2	—	—	—	—	85.00	—	.75	GL W LG	78.00	—	—	—	87.00	87.21	9.50
GL W J	—	—	66.50	68.00	65.00	—	1.25	GL W MD	57.00	68.00	—	—	65.80	66.40	4.50
GL W XL	—	—	—	92.20	74.82	—	11.75	GL W SM	—	41.00	—	—	56.00	58.00	.50
GL W LG	—	—	—	84.50	74.23	—	10.00								
GL W MD	—	66.00	64.17	66.50	—	—	9.00								
GL W SM	—	—	31.91	33.13	—	—	4.75								
GL BR XL	—	—	—	91.00	—	—	.50								
NRBS - 50	—	—	—	39.00	—	—	.25								
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	38.00	43.00	27.00								

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

NUMBER OF CASES OF EGGS SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA 12/10/00 - 12/16/00

Origin State	CO	IA	MN	MO	NY	OH	OR	UT	TX	WA	WI	TOTAL
N. CA	0	740	0	0	140	780	3,342	1,455	0	0	0	6,457
C. CA	0	0	1,700	0	0	0	0	2,578	0	0	0	4,278
S. CA	4,216	14,964	12,461	3,128	140	1,500	0	7,943	1,600	900	820	45,932
TOTAL STATE	4,216	15,704	14,161	3,128	140	2,280	3,342	11,976	1,600	900	820	56,667

SHIPPED TO MILITARY: 0

NEW ENGLAND

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	125-128
EXTRA LARGE	110-113
LARGE	107-110
MEDIUM	66-69
SMALL	21-24

DETROIT EGGS

PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	97-100
EXTRA LARGE	88-94
LARGE	86-91
MEDIUM	66-71
SMALL	30-34

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
LARGE	71-73
MEDIUM	51-53
SMALL	13-15

*****NOTICE*****

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS

NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	<u>12/18/00</u>	<u>12/11/00</u>	<u>12/20/99</u>
PACIFIC COAST	199	113	63
LOS ANGELES	142	82	0

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

LOCAL EGG MARKET PRICES AND INVENTORY FROM LOCAL PRODUCERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION

Receipts from the mainland: 11/26/00-12/02/00
30-dozen cases 4,181

Receipts from the mainland: 12/03-09/00
30-dozen cases 5,762

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USDA BUYS: ALL PURPOSE EGG MIX; ENDS PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today purchased 400,000 pounds of all purpose egg mix packaged in 10- pound bags for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. This purchase -- to be produced from about 29,000 cases of shell eggs from domestic production -- was made at an approximate cost of \$638,000. Detail of today's purchase follow:

Product	Pounds Accepted	Award Prices Inv. No. 017	No. of Bids Accepted
all purpose egg mix (10 -lb)	400,000	\$1.5690 - \$1.6290	1 of 2

It was also announced that the purchase program for all purpose egg in 10-pound bags is now complete. However, please retain all documents pertaining to Announcement PY-218, as amended, for possible future purchases.

Total purchases of all purpose egg mix since the program was announced on April 29, 1998, follow:

Product	Cumulative Pounds	Cumulative Dollars
all purpose egg mix (6-oz)	4,248,000	\$7,714,000
all purpose egg mix (10-lb)	1,480,000	\$2,361,000

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MONTHLY COLD STORAGE REPORT

(In Units of 1,000)

	Oct 31 1999	REVISED - A	Nov 30 1999	-B-
		Oct 31 2000		Nov 30 2000
FROZEN EGGS:				
Whites	471	377	494	436
Yolks	665	701	762	696
Whole & Mixed	6,781	11,068	6,716	10,141
Unclassified	1,053	4,364	482	4,223
Total Frozen Eggs	8,970	16,510	8,454	15,496

.....

**CHICKENS
AND EGGS****NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.03 billion during November 2000, up slightly from the 7.02 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 981 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2000 averaged 330 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during November 1999. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,126 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,137 eggs in November 1999.

November 2000 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays, equal to November 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2000, totaled 332 million, up one percent from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 275 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.59 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2000, averaged 70.9 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 71.5 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.58 billion eggs during November, down slightly from November 1999. The average number of layers during November, at 310 million, was up slightly from a year earlier.