

USDA Egg Markets Overview

A weekly publication of the USDA AMS Livestock and Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

May 26, 2023

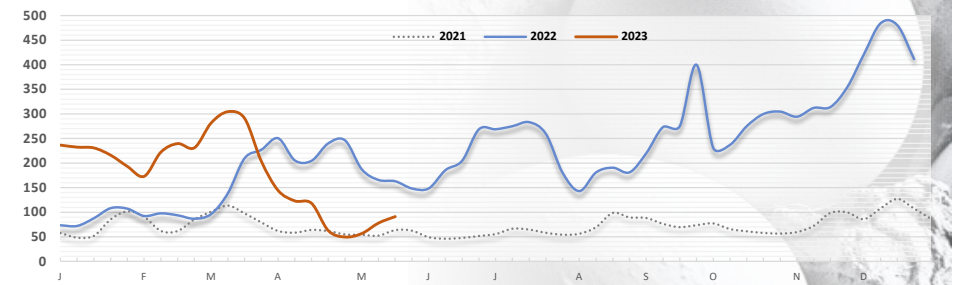
Wholesale prices for cartoned shell eggs rose through the week on moderate to good demand. Offerings were moderate with light to moderate supplies. Trading is moderate to, at times, active. Wholesale prices for graded loose eggs advanced on moderate to fairly good retail interest for light to moderate offerings and supplies. Trading is moderate to active. The volume of trailer load loose egg sales this week increased 24% from last week with 28% for future delivery. Prices for national trading of trucklot quantities of graded, loose, White Large shell eggs increased \$0.13 to \$0.92 per dozen with a firm undertone. The wholesale price on the New York market for Large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers increased \$0.16 to \$1.25 per dozen with a firm undertone. In the major Midwest production region, the wholesale price for Large, white, shell eggs delivered to warehouses increased \$0.11 per dozen with a higher undertone while prices paid to producers for Large cartoned shell eggs gained \$0.23 to \$0.93 per dozen with a firm undertone. The California benchmark for Large shell eggs rose \$0.11 to \$1.59 per dozen with a firm undertone. Delivered prices on the California-compliant wholesale loose egg market rose \$0.10 to \$1.198 per dozen with a firm undertone.

Consumer demand for cartoned shell eggs over the past week showed marked improvement as retail prices are returning to more consumer-friendly levels. Grocers are showing increasing confidence in their ability to support more active shell egg featuring and are passing recent savings in the wholesale market on to their customers. Demand among egg products manufacturers has improved somewhat as they draw down their stocks and look to an increasingly more competitive spot market to supplement their needs. Breakers have been working from owned production and from stocks built up over the past few weeks to keep their breaking lines running full but expect the coming Memorial Day weekend to temporarily disrupt production.

Promotional activity for conventional caged shell eggs in retail outlets retreats sharply from the last cycle moving into the Memorial Day weekend. The average ad price declines \$0.06 to \$1.02 per dozen on the limited test. Promotional activity for specialty shell eggs increases into the weekend led by cage-free offerings and, to a lesser extent, nutritionally-enhanced varieties. Feature activity for [UEP-defined cage-free](#) shell eggs rises slightly from last week and accounts for 35.5% of ad activity. The average ad price declined \$0.80 to \$2.82 per dozen. The average ad price spread between 12-packs of Large caged eggs and UEP cage-free eggs narrows by \$0.58 per dozen to a spread of \$1.96 per dozen.

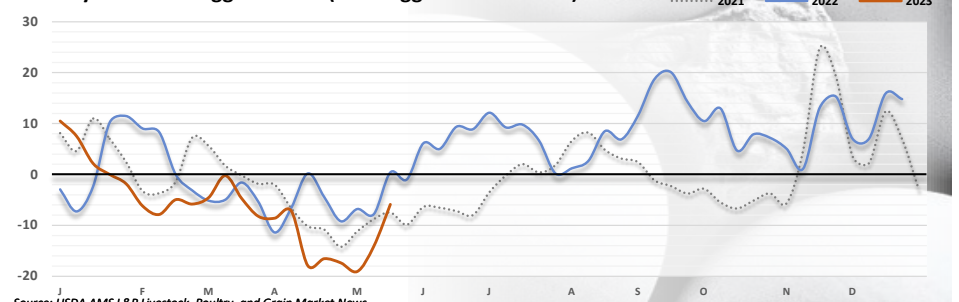
The overall inventory of shell eggs decreased 4% percent while the nation-wide inventory of Large eggs was down 3.5%. Stocks of Large eggs in the key Midwest production region cleared by 10.5% as eggs cleared into retail channels to support rising promotional activity. The inventory share of Large class shell eggs gained a half percent to a 53% share of all shell egg stocks on inventory at the start of the week. Stocks of cage-free eggs drew down

Weekly Loose Shell Egg, Large, White, National Index (f.o.b. dock, cents per dozen)



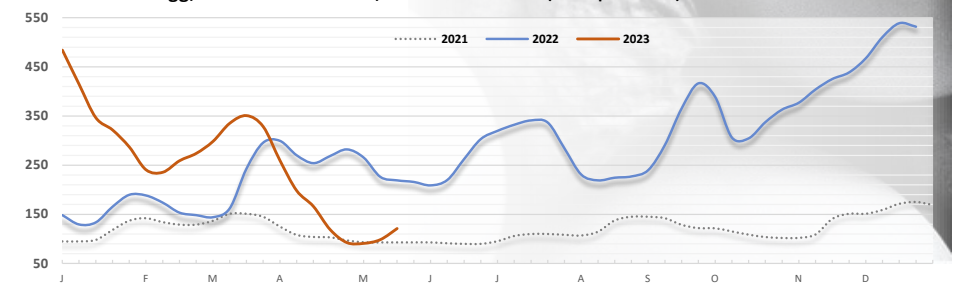
Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Weekly U.S. Table Egg Demand (Shell Egg Demand Index)



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Cartoned Shell Egg, New York LG White, Price to Retailers (cents per dozen)



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

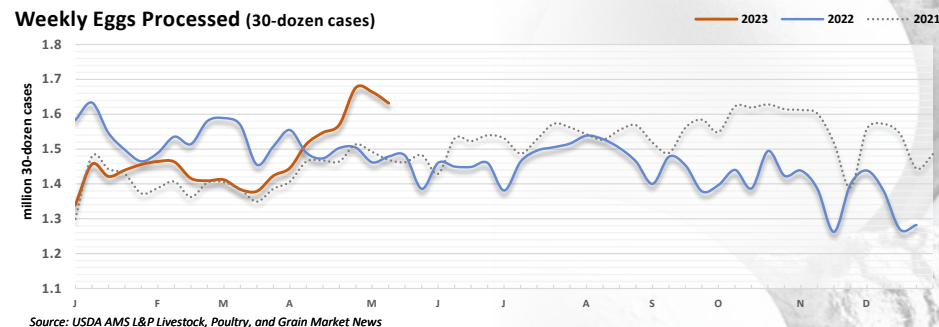
by 6.5% and the inventory of nutritionally-enhanced shell eggs was down 3.5%. Stocks of organic eggs were up 10.5% and breaking stock inventory declined 10% as breakers worked from owned stocks in the face of light to very light spot market offerings. Total estimated table egg production was unchanged from last week but is 2% over the level of a year ago at a surplus of about 2.7 million cases, reflecting last year's drop in production with the onset of avian influenza.

Wholesale prices for breaking stock in the Central States increased \$0.22 to \$0.65 per dozen with a firm undertone. Demand is light to moderate and improving but offerings are limited. Supplies are light to moderate and trading is slow to moderate. The volume of eggs processed over the past week decreased 2%, representing a 34% share of weekly table egg production. Production of whole egg was down 4% while production of components rose with egg whites by 1.5% and yolk by 3.5%. The production of dried eggs increased 2% while inedible egg production decreased 5%. Breaking yields without inedible were about unchanged at 39.01 pounds per case broken.

Wholesale prices for liquid egg products are remain too few to report with a steady to weak undertone. Demand is moderate to good for whole egg, light to moderate of rother types. Offerings are light to moderate on tight supplies and slow to moderate trading. Prices on frozen liquid whole eggs increased \$0.16 to \$1.15 per pound while those for frozen liquid whites were up \$0.36 to \$1.60 per pound. The undertone is mixed for mostly light demand and offerings and light to moderate supplies. Trading is slow. Prices for dried whole eggs were down \$1.25 to \$9.00 per pound and those for whole dried yolk were down \$1.50 to \$7.05 per pound. Dried albumen remains untested. The undertone is steady to weak, offerings and supplies are mostly light with albumen in the tightest position. Demand is mostly light and trading is slow to moderate.

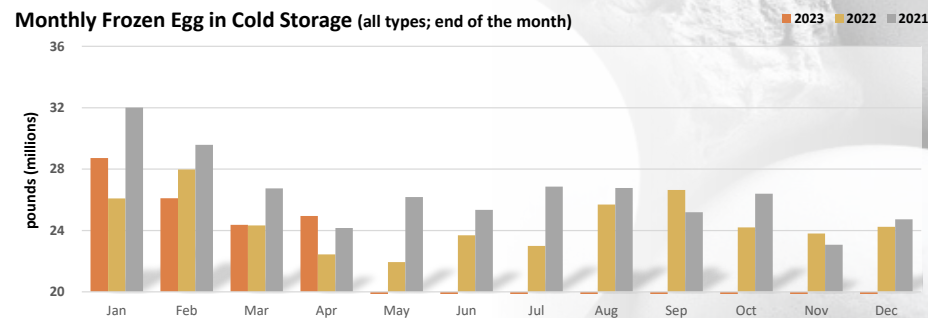
According to NASS, the April monthly volume of frozen eggs in storage increased 2% from the prior month, 11% over the year ago level. Stocks of whole frozen egg gained one percent but were 26% over year ago levels. The share of whole egg stocks declined 1% to a 46% share of total frozen stocks. Stocks of frozen yolk were unchanged from last month and were 6% over last year while stocks of frozen egg whites decreased 7%, 20% under year ago levels. Stocks of unclassified eggs rose 6% from last month and 7% from last year. The share of unclassified frozen stocks gained 2% to a 42% of total frozen stocks.

Cage-free commitments as of May 2023 remain about unchanged, requiring 66.7 billion cage-free eggs per year to meet 100% of needs from an approximate cage-free flock of 221.4 million hens (70.5% of the U.S. non-organic flock), indicating a shortage of 118 million hens from the current non-organic cage-free flock of 103.4 million hens. The average lay rate for non-organic, barn/aviary cage-free production is currently estimated at 81.3.

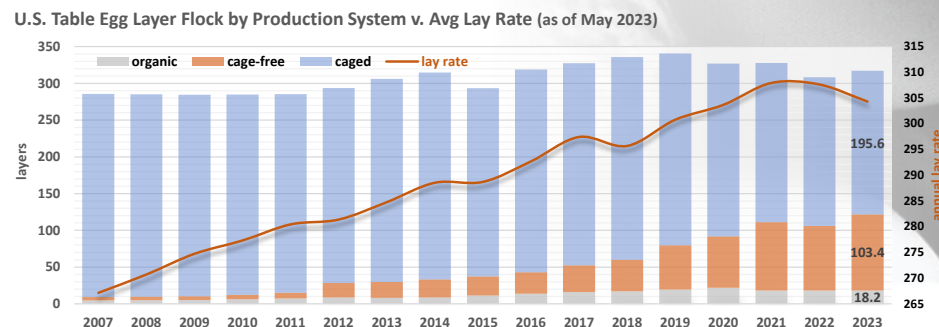


Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Eggs Processed - Week-to-Week Change						
total	share	whole	whites	yolks	dried	inedible
-1.9%	-0.6%	-4.1%	1.5%	3.5%	2.2%	-5.0%

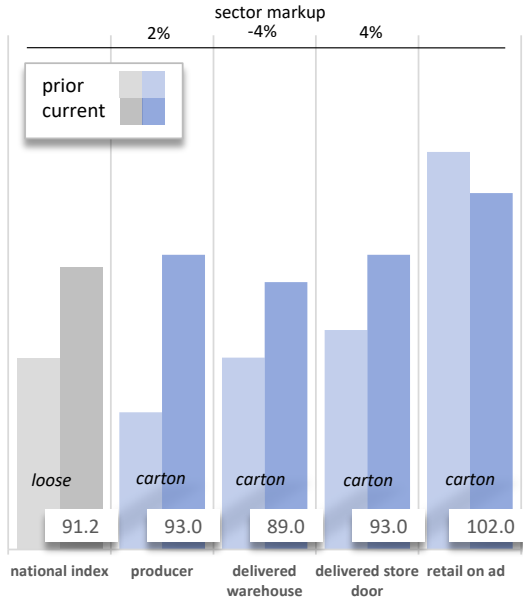


Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News; NASS



Shell Eggs Market Price Comparisons (as of May 26, 2023)

(National Index on a loose-egg basis, all other prices for cartoned eggs; LG White avg prices in cents per dozen)



Producer, warehouse, & store door = MW; retail no sale NY market; retail on sale Nat'l Retail Feature; loose eggs include minimal

Key Egg Markets Overview

	26-May	% Change	Recent History				
			19-May	12-May	5-May	28-Apr	21-Apr
SHELL EGGS (Large, White, conventional in cents per dozen)							
National, Loose, (f.o.b. dock prices)	91.15	17%	78.00	56.63	49.63	62.62	118.16
New York, Cartoned (price to retailers)	125.00	15%	109.00	91.00	91.00	99.00	149.00
Midwest, Cartoned (price dlvr'd to warehouse)	89.00	14%	78.00	78.00	96.00	146.00	168.00
California, Cartoned, benchmark (cage-free)	159.00	7%	148.00	148.00	168.00	225.00	251.00
National Retail Shell Egg (avg. ad price in dollars per dozen)							
Conventional, Large, White	1.02	-6%	1.08	1.94	1.87	2.28	2.50
Cage-Free, Large, Brown	2.82	-22%	3.62	3.99	3.71	3.61	3.50
EGG PRODUCTS (f.o.b. dock prices; dollars per pound)							
Central States Breaking Stock (dlvd prices per doz)	65.00	51%	43.00	43.00	43.00	58.00	128.00
Whole Frozen Eggs	115.00	16%	99.00	142.00	147.00	164.00	200.00
Whole Dried Eggs	9.00	-12%	10.25	11.25	11.50	12.00	12.25
Processed Share of Weekly Egg Production	33.7%	-0.6%	34.3%	34.4%	32.1%	32.4%	31.5%
SHELL EGG DEMAND INDICATOR (no units)							
	-5.9	8.2	-14.1	-19.0	-17.4	-16.5	-17.9

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News; "n/a" = not available.

Key Shell Egg Markets Snapshot - 2023

(Large, White, Conventional Shell Eggs in cents per dozen)	26-May	Change	19-May	2023 High	2023 Low
National, Loose, (f.o.b. dock prices)	91.2	▲ 17%	78.0	304.6	47.1
New York, Cartoned (price to retailers)	125.0	▲ 15%	109.0	474.0	91.0
Midwest, Cartoned (price dlvr'd to warehouse) ¹	89.0	▲ 14%	78.0	517.0	78.0
California, Cartoned, benchmark	159.0	▲ 7%	148.0	737.0	148.0
Central States Breaking Stock (delivered prices) ¹	65.0	▲ 51%	43.0	367.0	43.0
Whole Frozen Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)	115.0	▲ 16%	99.00	300.0	99.0
Whole Dried Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)	9.00	▼ -12%	10.25	14.3	9.00
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Conventional	1.02	▼ -6%	1.08	4.94	1.02
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Cage-free ²	2.82	▼ -22%	3.62	4.99	2.00
Shell Egg Demand Indicator	-5.9	▲ 8.2	-14.1	10.5	-19.0

¹ mostly high; ² non-organic

Projected Cage-Free Expansion Plans Relative to Commitments + Legislated Needs Non-Organic Table Egg Layer Flock in millions of hens

updated May 2023

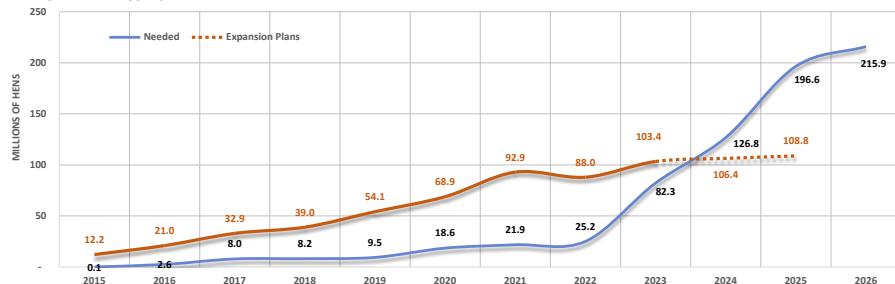
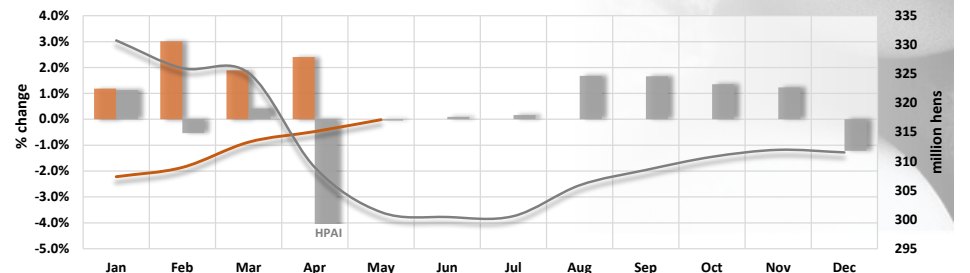


Table Egg Layer Replacement - Net Flock Change

((hens disposed - pullets added)/table egg layer flock at first of the month)



Source: USDA AMS Livestock & Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

U.S. Table Egg Layer Flock Estimates

As of May 2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total U.S. Caged¹ Flock:	61.7%	65.9%	66.4%	72.0%	76.6%	82.2%	84.0%	86.6%	87.3%	89.5%	90.3%	90.4%
Layers (millions)	195.6	205.3	219.4	235.5	261.0	276.1	275.1	276.1	256.1	281.6	276.4	265.5
Total U.S. Cage-Free Flock:	38.3%	34.1%	33.6%	28.0%	23.4%	17.8%	16.0%	13.4%	12.7%	10.5%	9.7%	9.6%
Layers (millions)	121.6	106.2	111.1	91.7	79.7	59.9	52.4	42.9	37.3	33.2	29.6	28.3
NON-ORGANIC Cage-Free:	32.6%	28.2%	28.1%	21.4%	17.7%	12.8%	11.1%	9.1%	8.9%	7.8%	7.0%	6.7%
Layers (millions)	103.4	88.0	92.9	69.9	60.3	42.9	36.4	29.0	26.0	24.5	21.4	19.8
▪ Barn/Aviary	31.1%	27.0%	26.9%	19.9%	15.9%	11.6%	10.0%	7.9%	7.7%	6.7%	6.0%	5.7%
Layers (millions)	98.8	84.1	89.0	65.1	54.1	39.0	32.9	25.3	22.5	21.0	18.5	16.9
▪ Free-Range	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Layers (millions)	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.9	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.6
▪ Pastured	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Layers (millions)	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.1	3.3	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.3
USDA ORGANIC Cage-Free:	5.7%	5.8%	5.5%	6.7%	5.7%	5.1%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.9%
Layers (millions)	18.2	18.2	18.2	21.8	19.4	17.0	16.0	13.9	11.4	8.7	8.2	8.5
▪ Organic	3.9%	3.8%	3.5%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%
Layers (millions)	12.3	11.7	11.7	15.1	14.9	13.1	12.3	11.0	9.0	7.0	6.7	7.3
▪ Organic Free-Range	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Layers (millions)	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.0
▪ Organic Pastured	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Layers (millions)	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3

Note: percentage of U.S. table egg layer flock as reported by NASS; past year annual numbers reflect flock as of the end of each year.

1 - battery and enriched systems

Source: USDA Livestock and Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

Current Estimates of Table Egg Production and Use in States with Cage-Free Legislation - as of April 2023

State	Deadline Date	Layers on Hand (Apr 2023)	Est. Caged Layers	Est. Cage-Free Layers	Est. Annual Egg Production			Est. 2022 Population	Annual Egg Consumption	Self-Sufficiency Rate	
					caged	cage-free	combined			overall	cage-free
California.....	Jan 2022	11,016,000	0	11,016,000	0	3,285,619,735	3,285,619,735	39,029,342	11,181,906,483	29%	29%
Massachusetts*....	Jan 2022	675,000	0	675,000	0	201,324,739	201,324,739	6,981,974	2,000,335,551	10%	10%
Nevada*.....	Jul 2022	5,000	0	5,000	0	1,491,294	1,491,294	3,177,772	910,431,678	0%	0%
Washington.....	Jan 2024	5,476,000	1,780,000	3,696,000	538,912,800	1,102,364,791	1,641,277,591	7,785,786	2,230,627,689	74%	49%
Oregon.....	Jan 2024	2,021,000	1,874,000	147,000	595,032,480	43,844,054	638,876,534	4,240,137	1,214,799,251	53%	4%
Arizona*.....	Jan 2025	8,500,000	5,840,000	2,660,000	1,629,360,000	793,368,600	2,422,728,600	7,359,197	2,108,409,941	115%	38%
Colorado.....	Jan 2025	1,537,000	1,165,000	372,000	353,414,400	110,952,300	464,366,700	5,839,926	1,673,138,799	28%	7%
Michigan.....	Jan 2025	16,522,000	5,899,000	10,623,000	1,772,531,520	3,168,403,998	4,940,935,518	10,034,113	2,874,773,375	172%	110%
Utah.....	Jan 2025	6,055,000	3,212,000	2,843,000	951,651,360	847,949,973	1,799,601,333	3,380,800	968,599,200	186%	88%
Rhode Island*.....	Jan 2026	56,000	43,000	13,000	11,997,000	3,877,365	15,874,365	1,093,734	313,354,791	5%	1%
* = layers on hand estimated.		51,863,000	19,813,000	32,050,000	5,852,899,560	9,559,196,851	15,412,096,411	88,922,781	25,476,376,757	60%	38%

Note: cage-free includes organic

Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News; data derived from USDA NASS and ERS; U.S. Census Bureau