



Egg Markets Overview

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

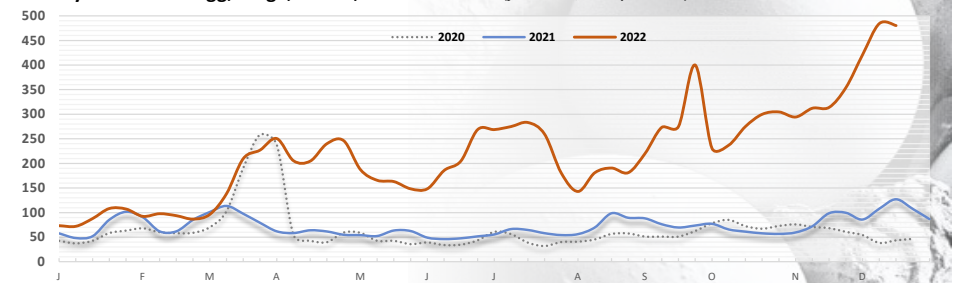
December 23, 2022

Recent increases in wholesale prices for cartoned shell eggs to record high levels slowed this week as the holidays arrive and demand tempers. Offerings remain light while supplies are light to moderate with moderate to good demand. The pace of trading is moderate to active. Wholesale prices for graded loose eggs halted their rise this week as marketers begin to assess their positions into the post-holiday demand period. Offerings remain light with light to moderate supplies. Interest is moderate to good and trading moderate to active but slowing. The volume of trailer load loose egg sales this week rose 4% from the prior week with 42% for future delivery. Prices for national trading of trucklot quantities of graded, loose, White Large shell eggs declined \$0.10 to \$4.746 per dozen with steady undertone. The wholesale price on the New York market for Large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers increased \$0.15 to a record-high \$5.42 per dozen with a firm undertone. The Midwest wholesale price for Large, white, shell eggs delivered to warehouses increased \$0.41 to \$5.07 per dozen with a firm undertone. Prices paid to producers in the Midwest for Large cartoned shell eggs rose \$0.23 to \$5.11 with a firm undertone. The California benchmark for Large shell eggs increased \$1.00 to \$6.60 per dozen with a firm undertone. Delivered prices on the California-compliant wholesale loose egg market increased \$1.08 per dozen to \$6.97 per dozen with a firm undertone.

Consumer demand for shell eggs heading into the holidays rises as cookie season peaks and shoppers are busy making their final holiday meal preparations. The fact that shell eggs remain at record-high price levels has not deterred consumer appetite as demand has surpassed last season's levels despite cartoned egg prices three times higher. Simply put, there is no competitively-price substitute for shell eggs and, with baking season in high gear, eggs are indispensable. A major winter storm, Elliot, across much of the U.S. is putting a damper on travel plans and may temporarily slow movement of shell eggs at retail outlets. Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza continue, creating heightened concerns over consistent supply access. This has led to a virtual halt by grocery retailers in including shell eggs in their weekly circulars. The latest outbreaks have impacted production for carton business at a time of seasonally high demand. Breakers are relying heavily on owned production and reduced schedules due to holiday disruptions.

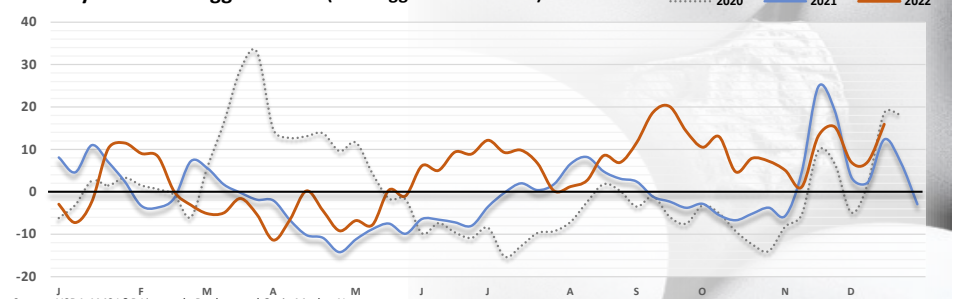
Promotional activity for conventional caged shell eggs in retail outlets remains stalled as the holiday arrives. Tight supplies have retailers choosing to limit incentivizing shell egg purchasing to better manage their stocks and ensure availability. Promotional activity for specialty shell eggs is also very limited with nutritionally-enhanced and organic types accounting for most of the activity in the category. Feature activity for [UEP-defined cage-free](#) shell eggs remain very limited this cycle with a very small test accounting for 3% of all shell egg types on feature. The average ad price is \$0.67 higher per dozen from the most recent test to an average of \$3.66 per dozen.

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



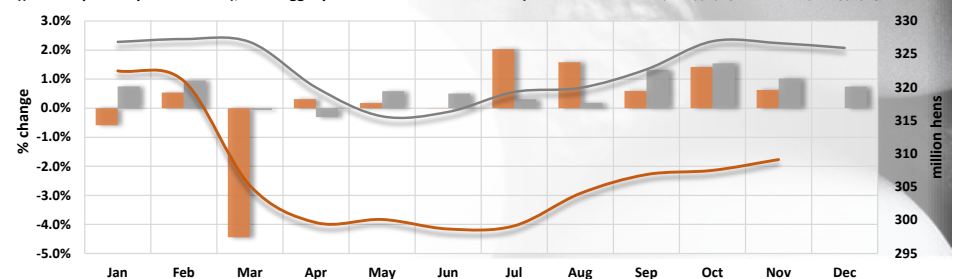
Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

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



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

Table Egg Layer Replacement - Net Flock Change (hens disposed - pullets added)/table egg layer flock at first of the month



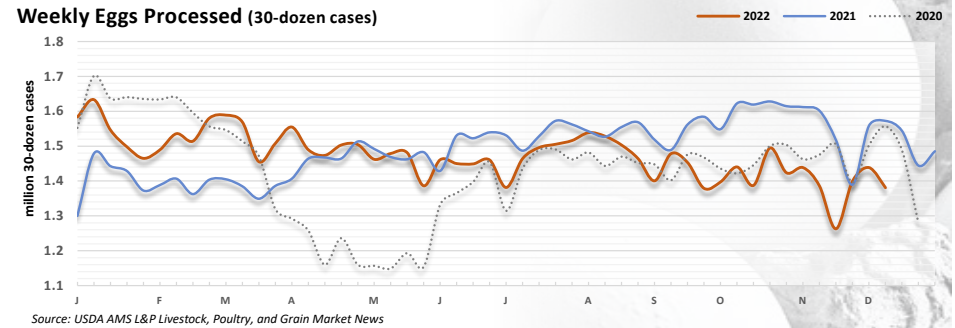
The overall inventory of shell eggs decreased 6% while the nation-wide inventory of Large eggs declined 8%. Stocks of Large eggs in the key Midwest production region decreased 8.5% as shell eggs move into marketing channels to support ongoing demand for the holiday season which is now underway. The inventory share of Large class shell eggs declined 1% to a 50% share of all shell egg stocks on inventory at the start of the week. Stocks of cage-free eggs increased 5% as these types saw little to no retail promotional activity over the past week. The inventory of nutritionally-enhanced shell eggs declined 11% to support retail movement. Stocks of organic eggs were down 5% on modest clearance from recent retail ads. Breaking stock inventories rose slightly as breakers slow production due both to reduced product availability and to holiday scheduling disruptions. Total estimated table egg production was down slightly from last week and down a half percent from last year to an 8% deficit - about 12.6 million cases.

Wholesale prices for breaking stock in the Central States held steady at \$3.75 per dozen. Offerings remain light to very light with light to moderate supplies. Trading is slow to moderate and schedules vary into the holiday week. Interest is mostly light. The volume of eggs processed over the past week decreased 4%, representing a 28.5% share of weekly table egg production. Production of whole egg was down nearly 7% with whites down 3% and yolk production up 1%. Production of dried egg decreased 12% while inedible egg production rose a percentage point. Breaking yields without inedible were down a quarter pound to 41.48 pounds per case broken.

Wholesale prices for liquid egg products are too few to report with a steady to firm undertone. Offerings and supplies are light, demand is moderate to good, and trading is moderate to active. Prices on frozen whole eggs decreased \$0.02 to \$3.15 per pound and those for frozen whites were steady at \$2.25 per pound. The undertone is firm to higher. Offerings and supplies are light, demand is moderate to good, and trading is mostly moderate. Prices for dried whole eggs are untested this week. Offerings are light, supplies very light with moderate to good interest. Trading is moderate.

According to NASS, the November monthly volume of frozen eggs in storage decreased 2% from October but was 3% over the year ago level. Stocks of whole frozen egg were up 12% from last month, 1% under last year. The share of whole egg stocks gained 5% to a 41% share of total frozen stocks. Stocks of frozen yolk increased 15% but were 17% below last year's level. Stocks of frozen egg whites increased 3% to a level 85% over 2021. Stocks of unclassified eggs declined 13%, 4% under 2021 levels. October's initial estimated unclassified egg stock level was adjusted down 11% and the share of unclassified frozen stocks decreased 5% to 44% of total frozen stocks.

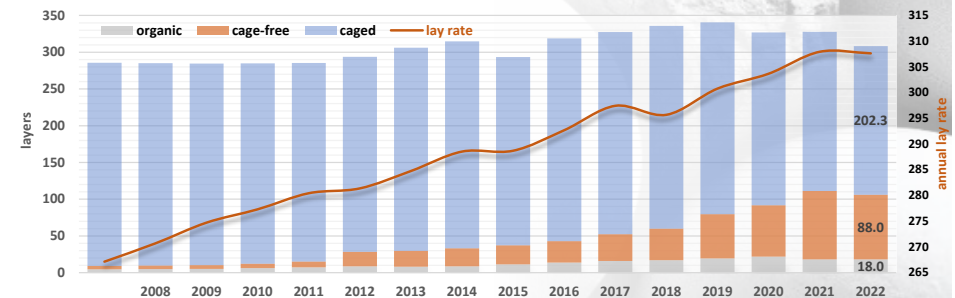
Cage-free commitments as of December 2022 remain about unchanged, requiring 66.7 billion cage-free eggs per year to meet 100% of needs from an approximate cage-free flock of 221.4 million hens (72% of the U.S. non-organic flock), indicating a shortage of 133.4 million hens from the current non-organic cage-free flock of 88 million hens. The average lay rate for non-organic, barn/aviary cage-free production is currently estimated at 82.5%.



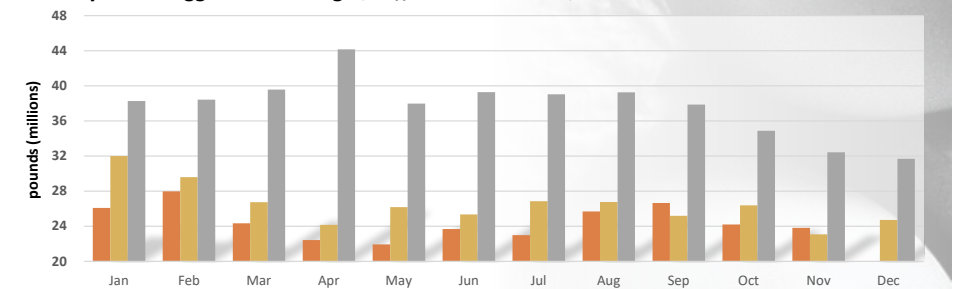
Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Eggs Processed - Week-to-Week Change						
total	share	whole	whites	yolks	dried	inedible
-4.0%	-1.3%	-6.7%	-3.3%	1.2%	-12.3%	1.2%

U.S. Table Egg Layer Flock by Production System v. Avg Lay Rate (as of December 2022)



Monthly Frozen Egg in Cold Storage (all types; end of the month)

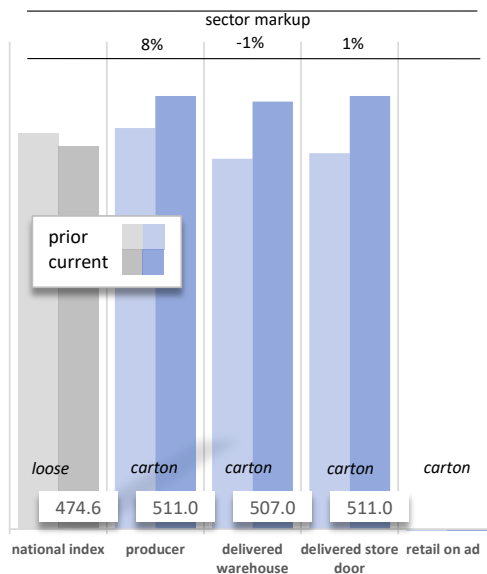


Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News; NASS

Shell Eggs Market Price Comparisons

(as of December 23, 2022)

(National Index on a loose-egg basis, all other prices for carton 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

	23-Dec	% Change	Recent History				
			16-Dec	9-Dec	2-Dec	25-Nov	18-Nov
SHELL EGGS (Large, White, conventional in cents per dozen)							
National, Loose, (f.o.b. dock prices)	474.64	-2%	484.38	421.13	354.00	314.00	312.24
New York, Cartonned (price to retailers)	542.00	3%	527.00	486.00	446.00	429.00	414.00
Midwest, Cartonned (price dlvr'd to warehouse)	507.00	9%	466.00	430.00	417.00	397.00	372.00
California, Cartonned, benchmark (cage-free)	660.00	18%	560.00	500.00	481.00	461.00	456.00
National Retail Shell Egg (avg. ad price in dollars per dozen)							
Conventional, Large, White	n/a		n/a	2.26	3.52	3.69	4.12
Cage-Free, Large, Brown	3.66		n/a	2.99	3.13	3.16	3.38
EGG PRODUCTS (f.o.b. dock prices; dollars per pound)							
Central States Breaking Stock (dlvd prices per doz)	375.00	0%	375.00	375.00	300.00	275.00	275.00
Whole Frozen Eggs	315.00	-1%	317.00	300.00	295.00	270.00	270.00
Whole Dried Eggs	n/a		13.75	n/a	13.75	13.75	13.75
Processed Share of Weekly Egg Production	28.5%	-1.3%	29.8%	28.9%	26.0%	28.4%	29.6%
SHELL EGG DEMAND INDICATOR (no units)							
	15.9	8.9	7.1	7.0	15.3	13.1	1.1

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Key Shell Egg Markets Snapshot - 2022

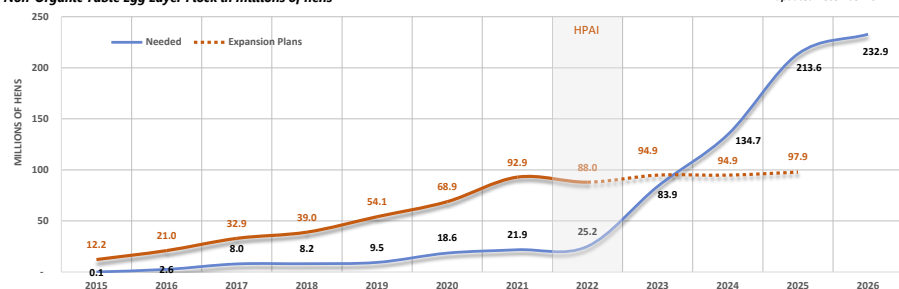
(Large, White, Conventional Shell Eggs in cents per dozen)	23-Dec	Change	16-Dec	2022 High	2022 Low
National, Loose, (f.o.b. dock prices)	474.6	▲ -2%	484.4	484.6	15-Dec 71.4
New York, Cartonned (price to retailers)	542.0	▲ 3%	527.0	542.0	22-Dec 126.0
Midwest, Cartonned (price dlvr'd to warehouse) ¹	507.0	▲ 9%	466.0	507.0	20-Dec 111.0
California, Cartonned, benchmark	660.0	▲ 18%	560.0	660.0	20-Dec 194.0
Central States Breaking Stock (delivered prices) ¹	375.0	▬ 0%	375.0	375.0	09-Dec 73.0
Whole Frozen Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)	315.0	▼ -1%	317.00	320.0	01-Apr 115.0
Whole Dried Egg Products (f.o.b. dock prices)	n/a	▬ 0%	13.75	16.0	01-Apr 4.12
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Conventional	n/a	▬ 0%	n/a	4.12	18-Nov 0.86
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Cage-free ²	3.66	▬ 0%	n/a	3.38	18-Nov 2.11
Shell Egg Demand Indicator	15.9	▲ 8.9	7.1	20.1	21-Sep -11.4

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 December 2022



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

U.S. Table Egg Layer Flock Estimates

As of December 2022	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total U.S. Caged¹ Flock:	65.6%	66.1%	71.9%	76.6%	82.2%	84.0%	86.6%	87.3%	89.5%	90.3%	90.4%
Layers (millions)	202.3	216.5	235.2	261.0	276.1	275.1	276.1	256.1	281.6	276.4	265.5
Total U.S. Cage-Free Flock:	34.4%	33.9%	28.1%	23.4%	17.8%	16.0%	13.4%	12.7%	10.5%	9.7%	9.6%
Layers (millions)	106.0	111.1	91.7	79.7	59.9	52.4	42.9	37.3	33.2	29.6	28.3
NON-ORGANIC Cage-Free:	28.5%	28.4%	21.4%	17.7%	12.8%	11.1%	9.1%	8.9%	7.8%	7.0%	6.7%
Layers (millions)	88.0	92.9	69.9	60.3	42.9	36.4	29.0	26.0	24.5	21.4	19.8
▪ Barn/Aviary	27.3%	27.2%	19.9%	15.9%	11.6%	10.0%	7.9%	7.7%	6.7%	6.0%	5.7%
Layers (millions)	84.1	89.0	65.1	54.1	39.0	32.9	25.3	22.5	21.0	18.5	16.9
▪ Free-Range	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Layers (millions)	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%	0.6%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Layers (millions)	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:	5.8%	5.5%	6.7%	5.7%	5.1%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.9%
Layers (millions)	18.0	18.2	21.8	19.4	17.0	16.0	13.9	11.4	8.7	8.2	8.5
▪ Organic	3.7%	3.6%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%
Layers (millions)	11.4	11.7	15.1	14.9	13.1	12.3	11.0	9.0	7.0	6.7	7.3
▪ Organic Free-Range	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Layers (millions)	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.0
▪ Organic Pastured	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Layers (millions)	2.8	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 November 2022

State	Deadline Date	Layers on Hand (Nov 2022)	Est. Caged Layers	Est. Cage-Free Layers	Est. Annual Egg Production			Est. 2021 Population	Annual Egg Consumption	Self-Sufficiency Rate	
					caged	cage-free	combined			overall	cage-free
California.....	Jan 2022	13,043,000	0	13,043,000	0	3,891,757,193	3,891,757,193	39,237,836	11,241,640,014	35%	35%
Massachusetts*....	Jan 2022	675,000	0	675,000	0	201,405,820	201,405,820	6,984,723	2,001,123,140	10%	10%
Nevada*.....	Jul 2022	5,000	0	5,000	0	1,491,895	1,491,895	3,143,991	900,753,422	0%	0%
Colorado.....	Jan 2023	2,136,000	1,593,000	543,000	439,476,840	162,019,793	601,496,633	5,812,069	1,665,157,769	36%	10%
Washington.....	Jan 2024	6,452,000	4,262,000	2,190,000	1,314,912,240	653,449,992	1,968,362,232	7,738,692	2,217,135,258	89%	29%
Oregon.....	Jan 2024	2,038,000	1,962,000	76,000	575,415,360	22,676,803	598,092,163	4,246,155	1,216,523,408	49%	2%
Arizona*.....	Jan 2025	8,500,000	5,627,000	2,873,000	1,584,113,040	857,242,844	2,441,355,884	7,276,316	2,084,664,534	117%	41%
Michigan.....	Jan 2025	16,827,000	6,204,000	10,623,000	1,848,543,840	3,169,680,032	5,018,223,872	10,050,811	2,879,557,352	174%	110%
Utah.....	Jan 2025	5,572,000	2,967,000	2,605,000	928,552,320	777,277,274	1,705,829,594	3,337,975	956,329,838	178%	81%
Rhode Island*.....	Jan 2026	56,000	43,000	13,000	12,105,360	3,878,927	15,984,287	1,095,610	313,892,265	5%	1%
* = layers on hand estimated.		55,304,000	22,658,000	32,646,000	6,703,119,000	9,740,880,572	16,443,999,572	88,924,178	25,476,776,997	65%	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