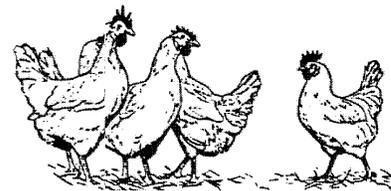


California Poultry Report



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U.S. FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION

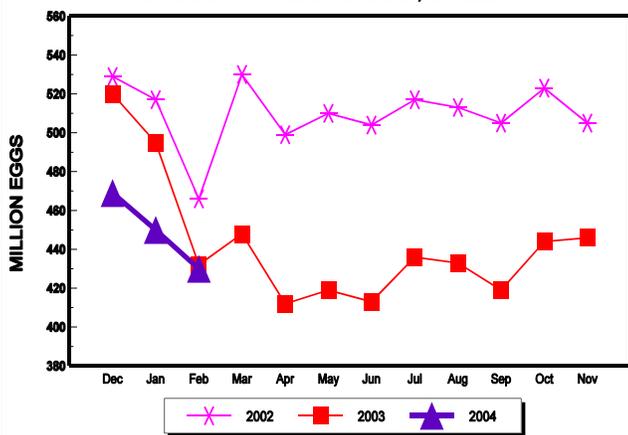
U.S. egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.89 billion table eggs, and 1.00 billion hatching eggs, of which 948 million were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2004 averaged 339 million, down slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,033 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2003.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during February totaled 430 million, 20.0 million less than last month and 2.00 million less than last February. The average number of layers during the month totaled 20.7 million, slightly lower than last month and 5 percent lower than February 2003. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,080 compared to 2,174 last month and 1,979 in February 2003.

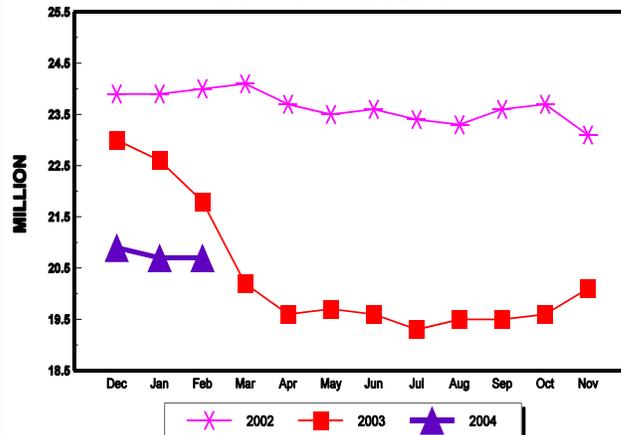
All layers in the U.S. totaled 340 million on March 1, 2004, down slightly from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. The rate-of-lay per day averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers on March 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago.

EGG PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2001-2003



1/ Previous Year

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2001-2003



1/ Previous Year

LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING FEBRUARY, FORCED MOLTING AS OF MARCH 1

State	Average Number of Layers on Hand		Eggs Per 100 Layers		Total Egg Production		Layers Being Molted		Layers With Molt Completed	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousands		Number		Millions		Percent			
Alabama	9,975	9,190	1,724	1,752	172	161	0.5	0.0	10.0	3.5
Arkansas	15,271	14,919	1,716	1,756	262	262	0.5	2.5	10.5	8.0
California	21,825	20,676	1,979	2,080	432	430	5.5	2.5	39.5	31.0
Georgia	20,630	20,567	1,852	1,940	382	399	1.0	2.5	16.0	13.0
Indiana	22,872	23,084	2,007	2,071	459	478	4.5	4.5	30.5	33.0
Iowa	38,488	40,453	2,008	2,158	773	873	4.0	12.0	34.0	40.0
North Carolina	11,141	10,894	1,741	1,781	194	194	1.0	1.5	10.0	8.0
Ohio	30,133	27,109	1,958	1,999	590	542	8.0	7.0	23.5	21.5
Pennsylvania	24,803	23,938	2,130	2,168	529	519	2.5	3.5	18.5	20.0
Texas	18,720	18,534	1,939	1,996	363	370	0.5	1.5	25.5	23.0
UNITED STATES	340,575	338,948	1,957	2,033	6,665	6,891	3.3	4.6	23.7	23.3

U.S. BROILER HATCH

The February 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 728 million, was up 5 percent from February of the previous year. Eggs in incubators totaled 648 million on March 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.30 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2004, up 10 percent from February 2003.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, FEBRUARY

State	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	Thousands		Percent
Alabama	91,495	101,222	111
Arkansas	101,976	105,663	104
Delaware	11,607	12,772	110
Florida	5,224	4,669	89
Georgia	102,398	113,447	111
Kentucky	22,105	22,017	100
Louisiana	12,475	12,538	101
Maryland	32,096	29,362	91
Mississippi	63,505	67,390	106
North Carolina	59,258	60,569	102
Oklahoma	22,177	21,139	95
Pennsylvania	11,185	12,018	107
South Carolina	15,610	12,313	79
Texas	48,505	50,491	104
Virginia	21,995	21,598	98
California, Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia	52,172	58,395	112
Other States 1/	20,807	22,333	107
UNITED STATES	694,590	727,936	105

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

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

Egg-type chicks hatched during February totaled 32.1 million, up 7 percent from February 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.3 million on March 1, 2004, up 12 percent from a year ago.

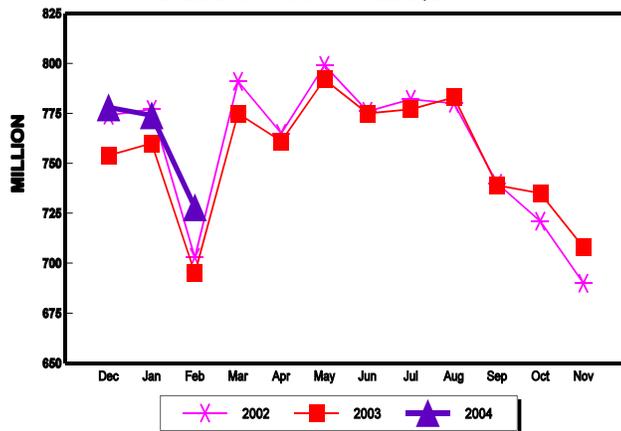
Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 285 thousand during February 2004, up 29 percent from February 2003.

EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, FEBRUARY

State	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	Thousands		Percent
Arkansas	814	939	115
Florida	620	615	99
Georgia	2,229	2,327	104
Indiana	4,197	4,894	117
Iowa	5,101	5,675	111
Minnesota	1,465	1,112	76
Pennsylvania	3,709	4,849	131
Other States 1/	11,853	11,667	98
UNITED STATES	29,988	32,078	107

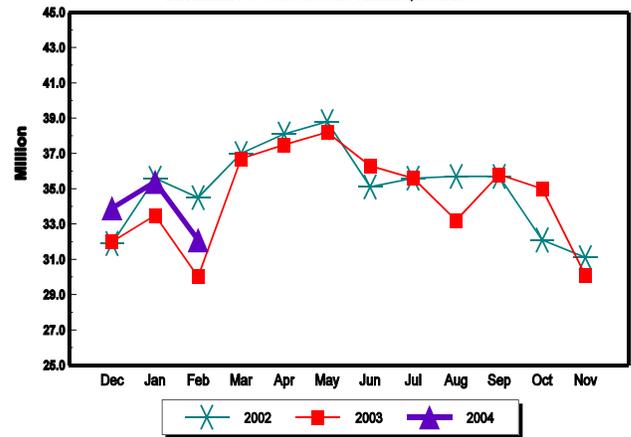
1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

BROILER CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2001-2003



1/ Previous Year

EGG TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2002-2004



1/ Previous Year

EGGS IN INCUBATORS, MARCH 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
North Atlantic	11,107	12,016	108	4,338	6,263	144
East North Central	7,362	9,185	125	6,303	6,502	103
West North Central	20,132	22,826	113	6,382	8,240	129
South Atlantic	233,214	232,310	100	2,838	2,463	87
South Central	334,647	346,259	103	5,332	5,586	105
West	23,725	25,000	105	5,354	5,209	97
UNITED STATES	630,187	647,596	103	30,547	34,263	112

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average February prices received by California producers, when compared to January average prices, decreased three cents per dozen for market eggs.

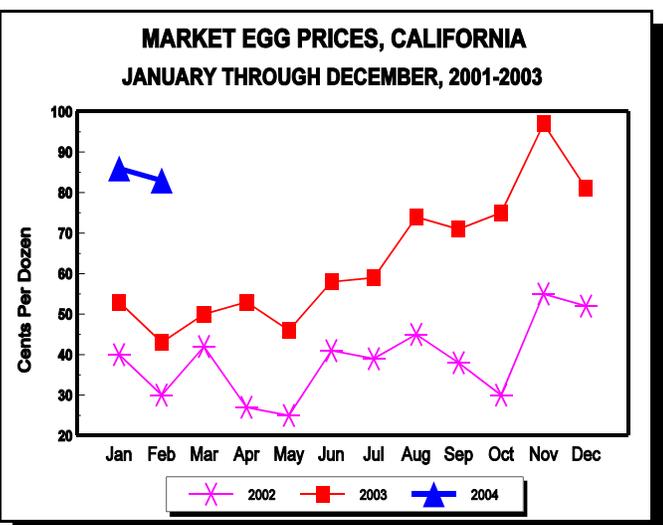
Nationally, the February average prices received by producers increased four cents per pound for broilers and turkey prices increased slightly compared to last month. Prices for market eggs decreased 6.1 cents per dozen.

POULTRY AND EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED 1/

Commodity	Unit	February 2003	January 2004	February 2004
		Cents		
CALIFORNIA				
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	43.0	86.0	83.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	34.0	43.0	47.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	43.3	80.6	74.5
Turkeys 2/	Lb.	34.5	34.9	35.0

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by producers. They are averages for all grades, classes and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Mid-month prices.



U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

U.S. turkey eggs in incubators totaled 28.9 million on March 1, 2004, down 7 percent from March 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 1 percent above the February 2004 total of 28.8 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central, down 5 percent; West North Central, down 7 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 5 percent; South Central, down 18 percent; and West, down 11 percent.

The 22.9 million poult placed during February 2004 in the United States were down 4 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were down 2 percent from the January 2004 total of 23.3 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central, down 12 percent; West North Central, down 1 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 3 percent; South Central, down 13 percent; and West, up 6 percent.

REGIONAL TURKEY POULT PLACEMENT AND EGGS IN INCUBATORS

Geographic Division	Eggs In Incubators March 1		2004 2003	Poult Placed During February 1/		2004 2003
	2003	2004		2003	2004	
	Thousands		Pct.	Thousands		Pct.
E N Central	4,816	4,559	95	3,539	3,118	88
W N Central	11,954	11,131	93	9,227	9,119	99
N & S Atlantic	9,171	8,700	95	7,065	6,826	97
S Central	2,886	2,379	82	2,104	1,836	87
West	2,444	2,172	89	1,898	2,006	106
U.S.	31,271	28,941	93	23,833	22,905	96

1/ Excludes exported poult.

U.S. TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS 1/

Month	Total All Breeds		03-04 02-03	Cumulative Total		03-04 02-03
	2002-03	2003-04		2002-03	2003-04	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
Sept.	22,670	22,171	98	22,670	22,171	98
Oct.	23,811	22,805	96	46,481	44,976	97
Nov.	23,987	22,155	92	70,468	67,131	95
Dec.	23,977	23,424	98	94,445	90,555	96
Jan.	25,389	23,273	92	119,834	113,828	95
Feb.	23,833	22,905	96	143,667	136,733	95
Mar.	24,902			168,569		
Apr.	24,938			193,507		
May	25,111			218,618		
June	25,422			244,040		
July	25,330			269,370		
Aug.	24,036			293,406		

1/ Excludes exported poult.

PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	February 28, 2003	January 31, 2004	February 28, 2004	Feb. 2004 Feb. 2003	Feb. 2004 Jan. 2004
		Thousands			Percent	
PACIFIC COAST						
Turkeys	Lbs.	67,258	29,803	35,621	53	120
Chickens	Lbs.	46,576	27,975	26,627	57	95
Ducks	Lbs.	79	31	24	30	77
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	113,913	57,809	62,272	55	108
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	492,737	420,466	476,855	97	113
Chickens	Lbs.	672,785	534,901	543,583	81	102
Ducks	Lbs.	5,135	1,484	1,328	26	89
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	1,170,657	956,851	1,021,766	87	107
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	17,127	21,304	21,143	123	99