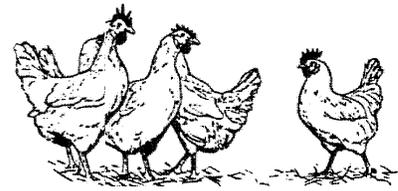


California Poultry Report



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U.S. MARCH EGG PRODUCTION

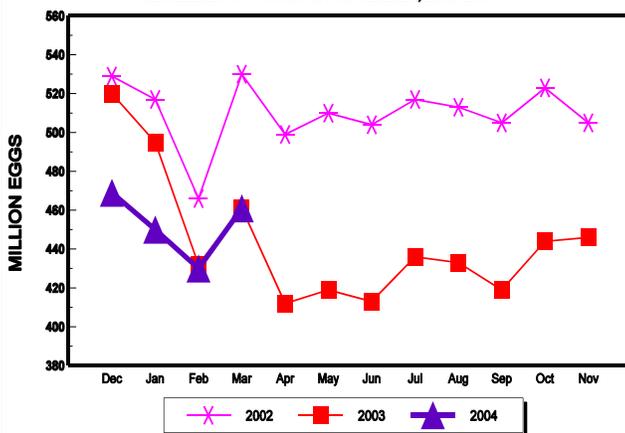
U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003.

All layers in the U.S. totaled 342 million on April 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial-type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate-of-lay per day averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers on April 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during March totaled 461 million, 31.0 million more than last month, but the same as March 2003. The average number of layers during the month totaled 20.5 million, 1 percent below last month and March of 2003. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,246 compared to 2,080 last month and 2,222 in March 2003.

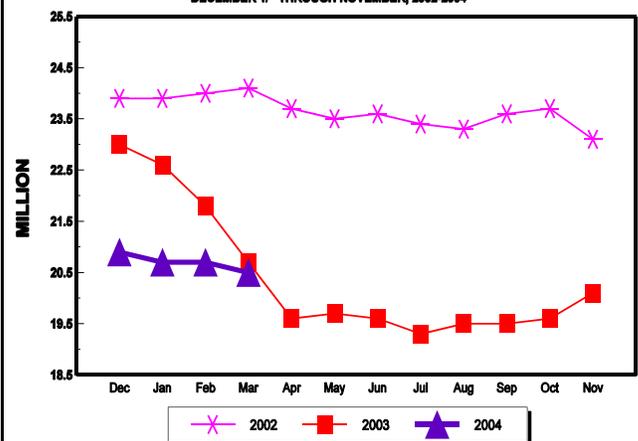
EGG PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2002-2004



1/ Previous Year

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2002-2004



1/ Previous Year

LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING MARCH, FORCED MOLTING AS OF APRIL 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	9,856	9,224	1,928	1,865	190	172	0.0	0.0	8.0	3.5
Arkansas	15,731	15,212	1,894	1,913	298	291	1.0	1.0	9.5	9.0
California	20,749	20,529	2,222	2,246	461	461	2.5	1.5	41.0	29.0
Georgia	20,734	20,510	2,088	2,101	433	431	1.5	1.0	17.0	17.0
Indiana	23,042	23,229	2,261	2,234	521	519	1.0	0.0	34.0	34.0
Iowa	38,812	41,156	2,185	2,294	848	944	2.5	4.5	35.0	34.5
North Carolina	11,152	10,939	1,928	1,956	215	214	1.0	0.0	10.0	8.5
Ohio	29,650	27,463	2,175	2,218	645	609	5.0	3.0	26.5	25.0
Pennsylvania	24,629	24,063	2,387	2,352	587	566	2.0	2.5	19.0	19.0
Texas	18,784	18,728	2,215	2,184	416	409	0.0	0.5	24.5	21.5
United States	339,885	340,835	2,184	2,209	7,424	7,530	2.2	2.6	24.6	23.4

U.S. BROILER HATCH

The March 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 791 million, was up 2 percent from March of the previous year. Eggs in incubators totaled 653 million on April 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.80 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2004, down 3 percent from March 2003.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

State	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Alabama	104,146	110,915	106
Arkansas	111,793	113,525	102
Delaware	12,621	14,035	111
Florida	5,899	4,939	84
Georgia	115,864	121,429	105
Kentucky	24,339	26,042	107
Louisiana	14,055	13,873	99
Maryland	34,248	31,379	92
Mississippi	70,801	72,111	102
North Carolina	67,642	67,532	100
Oklahoma	23,639	23,805	97
Pennsylvania	12,085	13,039	108
South Carolina	17,287	13,287	77
Texas	54,589	54,822	100
Virginia	24,632	23,684	96
California, Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia	60,322	65,098	108
Other States ^{1/}	20,392	21,634	106
UNITED STATES	774,354	791,149	102

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

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 37.5 million, up 2 percent from March 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.9 million on April 1, 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 401 thousand during March 2004, up 26 percent from March 2003.

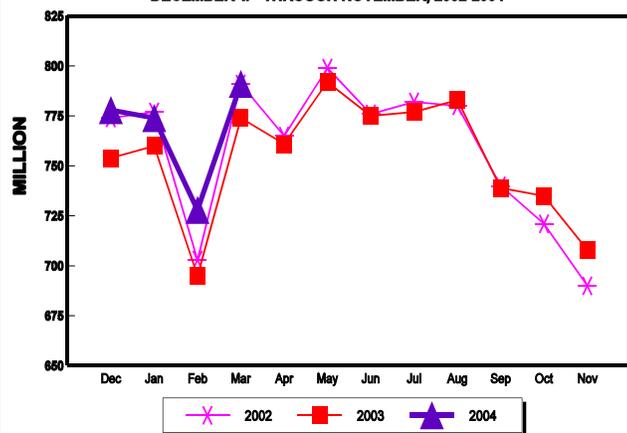
EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

State	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Arkansas	730	740	101
Florida	571	608	106
Georgia	2,450	2,385	97
Indiana	4,878	4,980	102
Iowa	5,915	6,730	114
Minnesota	1,451	809	56
Pennsylvania	4,012	5,261	131
Other States ^{1/}	16,768	16,017	96
UNITED STATES	36,775	37,530	102

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

BROILER CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES

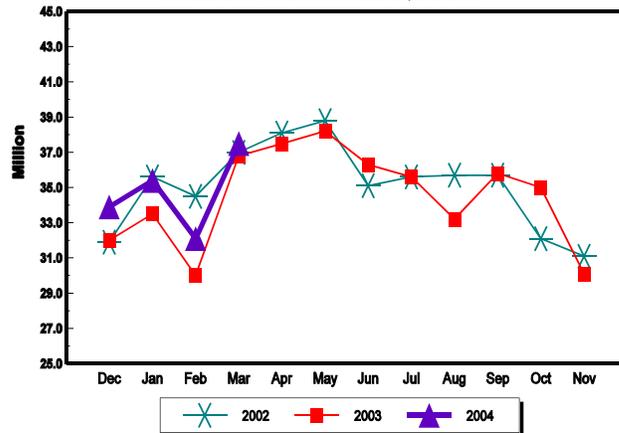
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2002-2004



^{1/} Previous Year

EGG TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2002-2004



^{1/} Previous Year

EGGS IN INCUBATORS, APRIL 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
North Atlantic	11,823	12,451	105	5,056	6,354	126
East North Central	7,785	8,091	104	8,215	7,005	85
West North Central	22,141	24,179	109	7,735	7,433	96
South Atlantic	237,351	233,534	98	2,883	2,464	85
South Central	334,317	349,100	104	5,767	5,684	99
West	25,090	25,171	100	5,224	4,932	94
UNITED STATES	638,507	652,526	102	34,880	33,872	97

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average March prices received by California producers, when compared to February average prices, increased 29.0 cents per dozen for market eggs.

Nationally, the March average prices received by producers remained the same and a record-high for broilers. Turkey prices increased 1.6 cents per pound compared to last month. Prices for market eggs increased 25.5 cents per dozen.

POULTRY AND EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED ^{1/}

Commodity	Unit	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004
		Cents		
CALIFORNIA				
Market Eggs ^{2/}	Doz.	50.0	83.0	112.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lbs.	33.0	47.0	47.0
Market Eggs ^{2/}	Doz.	51.8	74.5	100.0
Turkeys ^{2/}	Lbs.	35.1	35.0	36.6

^{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

Turkey eggs in incubators in the United States totaled 30.3 million on April 1, 2004, down 5 percent from April 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 4 percent above the March 2004 total of 29.1 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: East North Central, down 2 percent; West North Central, down 7 percent; North and South Atlantic, up 1 percent; South Central, down 10 percent; and West, down 18 percent.

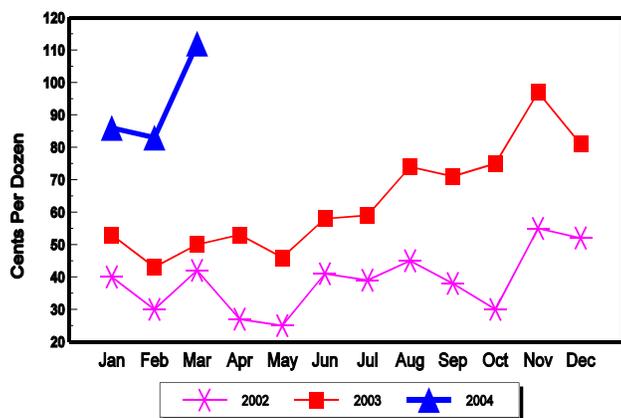
The 23.9 million poults placed during March 2004 in the United States were down 4 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 4 percent from the February 2004 total of 22.9 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: East North Central, down 2 percent; West North Central, down 5 percent; North and South Atlantic, down slightly; South Central, down 8 percent; and West, down 14 percent.

ALL TURKEYS

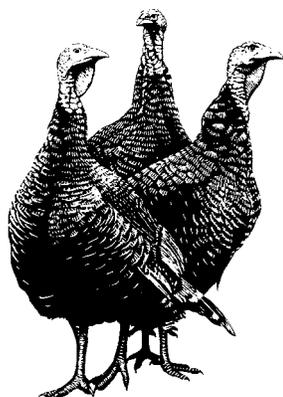
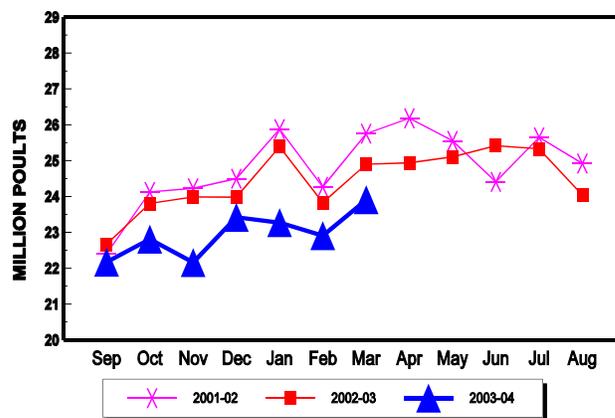
Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators Apr. 1		2004 2003	Poults Placed During March ^{1/}		2004 2003
	2003	2004		2003	2004	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
EN Central	4,869	4,772	98	3,773	3,708	98
W N Central	11,921	11,102	93	9,319	8,854	95
N & S Atlantic	9,551	9,644	101	7,642	7,621	100
S Central	2,764	2,475	90	2,230	2,056	92
West	2,846	2,345	82	1,938	1,669	86
U.S.	31,951	30,338	95	24,902	23,908	96

^{1/} Excludes exported poults.

**MARKET EGG PRICES, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2002-2004**



**TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS, UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER THROUGH AUGUST, 2001-2004**



TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES ^{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	23,908	96	168,569	160,641	95
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 poults.

PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	<u>Mar. 2004</u> Mar. 2003	<u>Mar. 2004</u> Feb. 2004
		Thousands			Percent	
PACIFIC COAST						
Turkeys	Lbs.	70,206	35,621	41,737	59	117
Chickens	Lbs.	47,279	26,627	27,484	58	103
Ducks	Lbs.	54	24	28	52	117
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	117,539	62,272	69,249	59	111
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	549,278	471,682	515,027	94	109
Chickens	Lbs.	641,983	542,790	597,376	93	110
Ducks	Lbs.	5,835	1,328	1,246	21	94
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	1,197,096	1,015,800	1,113,649	93	110
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	16,955	21,138	19,280	114	91