

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 76 million eggs during March 2004, of which 75 million were table eggs and 1 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 75.0 percent. The average number of layers on hand during March 2004 was 3,268,000. On April 1, 2004, 8.5 percent of all hens were being molted in Maryland and 31.0 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

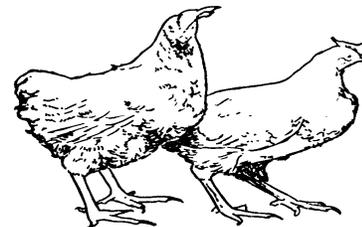
U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, were up 1 percent from March 2003. All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, 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 on April 1, 2004, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during March 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 318 million, was up slightly from a year ago. Egg-type chicks hatched during

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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 401,000 during March 2004, up 26 percent from March 2003. The March 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 791 million, was up 2 percent from March of the previous year. There were 653 million eggs in incubators on April 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.8 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2004, down 3 percent from March 2003.



Eggs and Layers: March 2003 and 2004

Item	2003		2004	2004/2003
Eggs Produced During March		<i>Million</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Maryland	69		76	110
U.S.	7,424		7,530	101
Layers, Average Number During March		<i>Thousand</i>		
Maryland	2,965		3,268	110
U.S.	339,885		340,835	100
Eggs / 100 Layers During March		<i>Number</i>		
Maryland	2,327		2,326	100
U.S.	2,184		2,209	101

MILK PRODUCTION

Maryland dairy operators produced 306 million pounds of milk during the January-March quarter, down 4.1 percent from the same 3 months a year earlier. The number of milk cows decreased by 3,000 and yield per cow averaged 4,026 pounds per cow for the period down 12 pounds per cow from 2003.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 42.7 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 8.99 million head, 153,000 head less than the same period last year. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION JANUARY-MARCH, 2003&2004

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Production ²		2004/200
	2003	2004	2003	2004	
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Maryland	79	76	319	306	-4.1
United States	9,144	8,991	43,069	42,688	-0.9

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 8.60 billion pounds, 0.6 percent above 2002 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 26.5 percent of the production. American type cheese production was 3.67 billion pounds, 0.6 percent below 2002 and accounted for 42.7 percent of total cheese in 2003. Italian varieties, with 3.52 billion pounds were 1.5 percent above 2002 production. Mozzarella accounted for 79.7 percent of the Italian production followed by Provolone

with 8.0 percent and Ricotta with 6.6 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 29.3 percent of the production. Butter production in the United States during 2003 totaled 1.24 billion pounds, 8.3 percent below 2002. California accounted for 29.3 percent of the production, followed by Wisconsin with 24.9 percent.

ANNUAL DAIRY PRODUCTS, MARYLAND & UNITED STATES

	MARYLAND		UNITED STATES	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Production		<i>-----1,000 Gallons -----</i>		
Ice Cream Regular	21,720	19,412	1,004,992	1,015,049
Lowfat Ice Cream ¹	-----	12,905	338,538	352,934

¹ Includes District of Columbia.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received for crops in April were up. The wheat price increased twelve cents to \$3.69 per bushel, and barley price was up forty-seven cents to a price of \$2.34 per bushel. Soybean price moved up sixteen cents to \$9.79 per bushel and corn was up eight cents to \$3.37 per bushel. Hay prices reached \$132.50 per ton, up \$15.20 from March.

cattle down seventy cents from March, and calf prices stayed the same. Hog prices increased to \$37.60 per cwt. Prices received for eggs dropped 24 cents to 73.8 cents per dozen.

Livestock prices appeared were mixed in April with all beef

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity Price
		APR 2003	MAR 2004	APR 2004	APR 2003	MAR 2004	APR 2004 ¹	
<i>Dollars</i>								
Wheat, Winter	BU	2.72	3.57	3.69	3.19	3.76	3.76	10.00
Corn	BU	2.78	3.29	3.37	2.34	2.75	2.87	6.73
Barley	BU	2.22	1.87	2.34	2.85	2.79	2.73	6.68
Soybeans	BU	5.85	9.63	9.79	5.82	9.27	9.54	15.80
All Hay, Baled	TON	172.50	117.00	132.20	92.90	81.80	89.60	----
All Beef Cattle	CWT	72.60	81.90	81.20	74.50	83.40	85.30	170.00
Calves	CWT	75.30	100.60	100.60	98.90	115.00	116.00	227.00
Hogs	CWT	30.00	35.20	37.60	34.80	47.20	45.10	105.00
Milk, Fluid MKT	CWT	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.00	15.40	18.00	35.00
Chickens ²	LB	0.081	0.089	.091	----	----	----	----
Broilers	LB	0.298	0.351	.339	0.310	0.470	0.480	----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.356	0.366	0.387	1.020
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.597	1.000	.738	0.518	1.000	0.614	1.69

¹Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

² Does not include broilers

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED			
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	APR 2003	MAR 2004	APR 2004
All Farm Products	101	*121	124
All Crops	110	*120	122
Feed Grain & Hay	107	*118	124
Oil- Bearing Crops	104	*165	169
Fruits & Nuts	96	*96	90
All Livestock and Livestock Products	93	*121	125
Meat Animals	96	111	112
Dairy Products	84	*118	138
Poultry and Eggs	99	*148	140
Ratio ¹	79	91	93
Prices Paid Index	128	133	133

* Revised ¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index prices paid

The combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys and

the value of sales from chickens in 2003, was \$23.3 billion, up 14

percent from the \$20.5 billion in 2002. Of the combined total, 65 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens. The value of broilers produced during 2003 was \$15.2 billion, up 13 percent from 2002. The total number of broilers produced in 2003 was 8.49 billion, down 1 percent from 2002. The total amount of live weight

from 2002. The 2003 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 34.6 cents per pound, compared with 30.5 cents in 2002. Value of all egg production in 2003 was \$5.32 billion, up 24 percent from the \$4.28 billion in 2002. Egg production totaled 87.2 billion eggs, down slightly from the 87.3 billion eggs produced in 2002. In 2003, all eggs averaged 73.1 cents per dozen, compared with 58.9 cents in 2002.

broilers produced in 2003 was 44.0 billion pounds, down slightly

POULTRY PRODUCTION & VALUE, MARYLAND & UNITED STATES 2002-2003 ¹							
	Eggs			Broilers ²			
	Eggs Produced	Price/ Dozen	Value Of Production	Number Produced	Pounds Produced	Price Per Pound	Value of Production
Maryland	<i>-Million-</i>	<i>-Dollars-</i>	<i>-Thousand \$-</i>	<i>-1,000 head-</i>	<i>-1,000 #-</i>	<i>-Dollars-</i>	<i>-Thousand \$-</i>
2002	923	0.563	43,210	292,900	1,376,600	0.320	440,512
2003	813	0.682	46,206	292,400	1,374,300	0.360	494,748
United States	<i>-Million-</i>	<i>-Dollars-</i>	<i>-Thousand \$-</i>	<i>-1,000 head-</i>	<i>-1,000 #-</i>	<i>-Dollars-</i>	<i>-Thousand \$-</i>
2002	87,252	0.589	4,281,416	8,591,080	44,058,700	0.305	13,437,345
2003	87,196	0.731	5,315,311	8,492,850	43,958,200	0.346	15,214,947

¹ December 1, 2002 through November 30, 2003

² Broiler production including other domestic meat-type breeds.