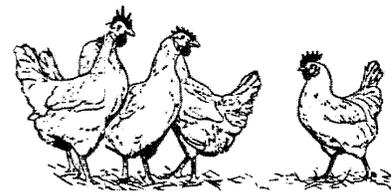


California Poultry Report



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STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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U.S. MARCH EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production totaled 7.36 billion during March 2003, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,181 eggs, down 1 percent from March 2002.

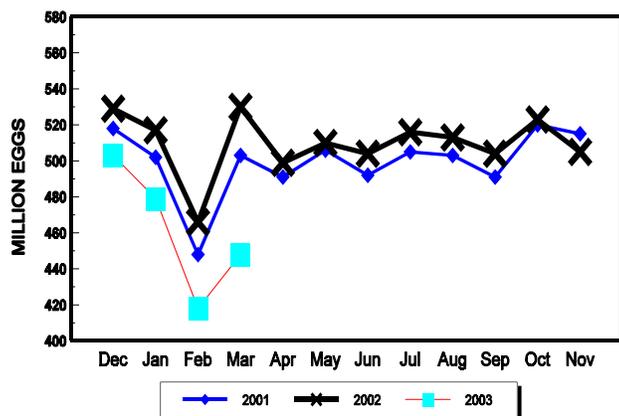
All layers in the U.S. totaled 338 million on April 1, 2003, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate-of-lay per day averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers on April 1, 2003, down slightly from a year ago.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during March totaled 448 million, 30.0 million more than last month, but 82.0 million less than last March. The average number of layers during the month totaled 20.2 million, 4 percent below last month and 16 percent lower than March 2002. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,220 compared to 1,981 last month and 2,201 in March 2002.

EGG PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA

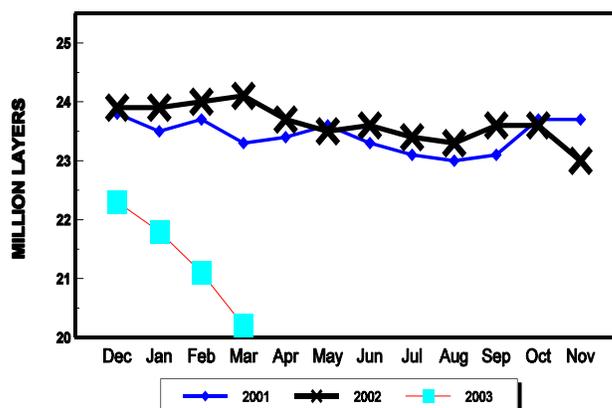
DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2001-2003



1/ Previous Year

AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 1/ THROUGH NOVEMBER, 2001-2003



1/ Previous Year

LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING 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	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Thousands		Number		Millions		Percent			
Alabama	10,410	9,856	1,912	1,928	199	190	2.5	0.0	8.0	8.0
Arkansas	15,235	15,731	1,897	1,894	289	298	1.0	1.0	6.5	9.5
California	24,082	20,179	2,201	2,220	530	448	2.0	2.5	33.5	41.0
Georgia	20,420	20,734	2,120	2,088	433	433	2.5	1.5	13.5	17.0
Indiana	22,276	23,042	2,236	2,261	498	521	3.0	1.0	31.5	34.0
Iowa	36,536	38,062	2,277	2,183	832	831	2.5	2.5	31.5	35.0
North Carolina	11,330	11,152	1,906	1,928	216	215	3.5	1.0	3.0	10.0
Ohio	30,226	29,650	2,250	2,175	680	645	5.0	5.0	16.5	26.5
Pennsylvania	23,379	24,229	2,361	2,386	552	578	5.0	2.0	19.0	19.0
Texas	18,971	18,784	2,240	2,215	425	416	5.5	0.0	22.0	24.5
United States	337,447	337,598	2,198	2,181	7,417	7,363	3.6	2.2	22.2	24.4

U.S. BROILER HATCH

The March 2003 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 775 million, was down 2 percent from March of the previous year. Eggs in incubators totaled 638 million on April 1, 2003, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.30 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2003, down 7 percent from March 2002.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

State	2002	2003	2003/2002
	Thousands		Percent
Alabama	108,391	104,146	96
Arkansas	112,252	111,793	100
Delaware	13,124	12,621	96
Florida	8,465	5,899	70
Georgia	115,035	115,863	101
Kentucky	24,150	24,339	101
Maryland	35,980	34,248	95
Mississippi	70,481	70,801	100
North Carolina	70,696	67,642	96
Oklahoma	23,406	24,355	104
Pennsylvania	13,688	12,027	88
South Carolina	17,204	17,287	100
Texas	57,159	54,588	96
Virginia	24,650	24,632	100
California, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia	75,783	74,359	98
Other States ^{1/}	20,629	20,236	98
UNITED STATES	791,093	774,836	98

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

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

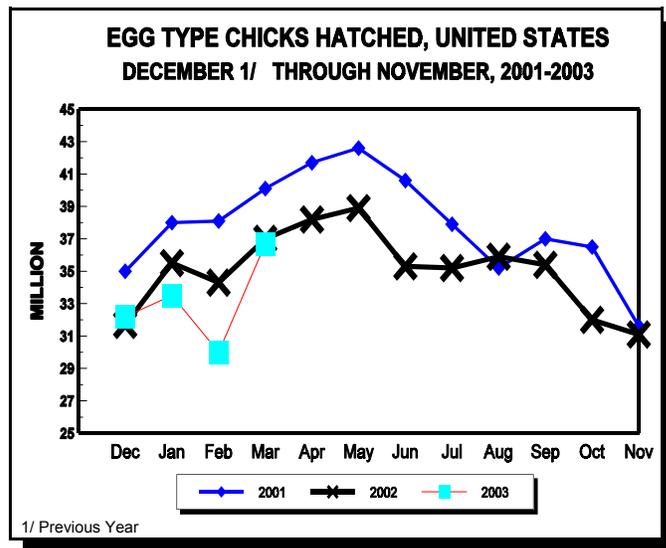
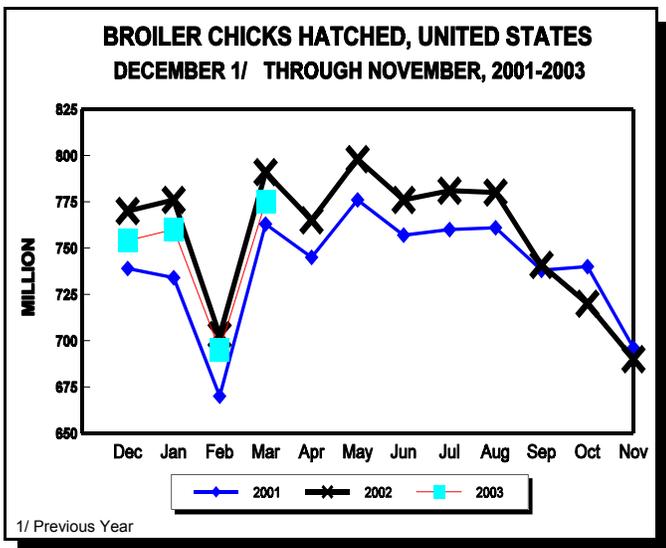
Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 36.7 million, down 1 percent from March 2002. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.3 million on April 1, 2003, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 315 thousand during March 2003, up 3 percent from March 2002.

EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

State	2002	2003	2003/2002
	Thousands		Percent
Arkansas	681	730	107
Florida	629	571	91
Georgia	2,271	2,450	108
Indiana	5,314	4,878	92
Iowa	4,893	5,915	121
Minnesota	1,716	1,451	85
Pennsylvania	4,867	4,012	82
Other States ^{1/}	16,606	16,719	101
UNITED STATES	36,977	36,726	99

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



EGGS IN INCUBATORS, APRIL 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2003/2002
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
North Atlantic	12,248	11,644	95	4,332	5,049	117
East North Central	7,509	7,785	104	7,712	8,215	107
West North Central	21,391	21,983	103	5,700	7,712	135
South Atlantic	240,117	236,647	99	4,677	2,883	62
South Central	340,083	334,469	98	5,049	5,767	114
West	24,953	25,231	101	5,751	4,718	82
UNITED STATES	646,301	637,759	99	33,221	34,344	103

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average March prices received by California producers, when compared to February average prices, increased 7.0 cents per dozen for market eggs. Monthly statistics on California turkey prices have been discontinued.

Nationally, the March average prices received by producers remained the same for broilers, but turkey prices increased 0.6 cents compared to last months. Prices for market eggs increased 5.2 cents per dozen.

POULTRY AND EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED 1/

Commodity	Unit	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003
		Cents		
CALIFORNIA				
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	42.0	43.0	50.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lbs.	32.0	34.0	34.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	51.5	46.6	51.8
Turkeys 2/	Lbs.	32.9	34.5	35.1

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 31.9 million on April 1, 2003, down 3 percent from April 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 2 percent above the March 2003 total of 31.3 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: East North Central, up 1 percent; West North Central, down 3 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 1 percent; South Central, down 9 percent; and West, down 6 percent.

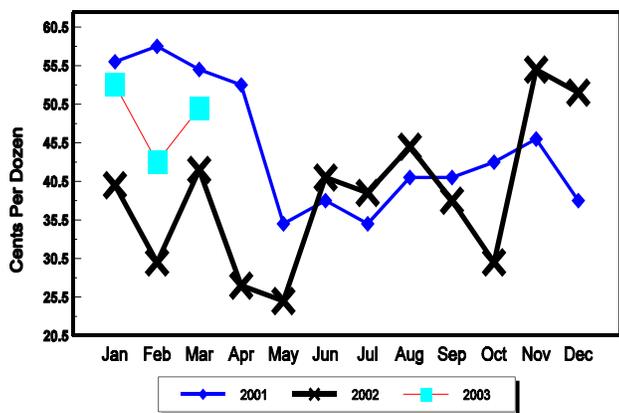
The 24.6 million poults placed during March 2003 in the United States were down 4 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 3 percent from the February 2003 total of 23.8 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: East North Central, up 3 percent; West North Central, down 3 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 6 percent; South Central, up 2 percent; and West, down 21 percent.

ALL TURKEYS

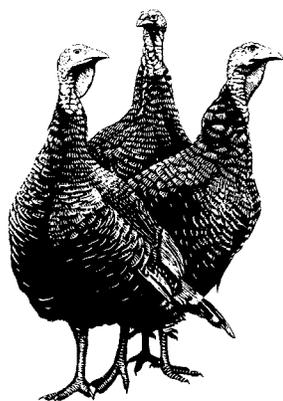
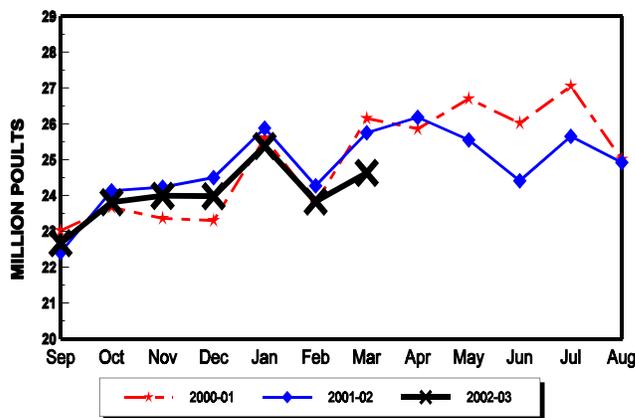
Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators Apr. 1		2002 2001	Poults Placed During March 1/		2002 2001
	2001	2002		2001	2002	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
EN Central	4,834	4,869	101	3,654	3,773	103
W N Central	12,232	11,857	97	9,192	8,931	97
N & S Atlantic	9,641	9,551	99	8,143	7,642	94
S Central	3,037	2,764	91	2,312	2,349	102
West	2,989	2,815	94	2,445	1,938	79
U.S.	32,733	31,856	97	25,746	24,633	96

1/ Excludes exported poults.

**MARKET EGG PRICES, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 2001-2003**



**TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS, UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER THROUGH AUGUST, 2000-2003**



TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES 1/

Month	Total All Breeds		02-03 01-02	Cumulative Total		02-03 01-02
	2001-02	2002-03		2001-02	2002-03	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
Sept.	22,414	22,670	101	22,414	22,670	101
Oct.	24,128	23,811	99	46,542	46,481	100
Nov.	24,226	23,987	99	70,768	70,468	100
Dec.	24,499	23,977	98	95,267	94,445	99
Jan.	25,880	25,389	98	121,147	119,834	99
Feb.	24,266	23,833	98	145,413	143,667	99
Mar.	25,746	24,633	96	171,159	168,300	98
Apr.	26,184			197,343		
May	25,551			222,894		
June	24,409			247,303		
July	25,646			272,949		
Aug.	24,924			297,873		

1/ Excludes exported poults.

PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003	<u>Mar. 2003</u> Mar. 2002	<u>Mar. 2003</u> Feb. 2003
		Thousands			Percent	
PACIFIC COAST						
Turkeys	Lbs.	47,839	43,778	52,272	109	119
Chickens	Lbs.	43,025	49,153	46,505	108	95
Ducks	Lbs.	115	79	54	47	68
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	90,979	93,010	98,831	109	106
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	457,565	468,942	532,547	116	114
Chickens	Lbs.	808,604	675,362	646,358	80	96
Ducks	Lbs.	6,162	5,135	5,819	94	113
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	1,272,331	1,149,439	1,184,724	93	103
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	11,669	17,127	17,149	147	100