



# USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Poultry Programs

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## NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged in all locations. The market tone was steady beginning the week. Demand was light to good, best where features were a factor. Supplies were well balanced to occasionally ample with the lighter weights in the longest position. Breaking stock supplies were barely sufficient to fully adequate for the light demand. Light type fowl were generally sufficient for mostly normal slaughter schedules.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL** All prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment continued mostly steady. Cartoned egg sales were in a full range of fair to good, mostly moderate with improvement noted in isolated areas. Many buyers were purchasing on a hand to mouth basis and working from current inventories. Loose egg demand was moderate. Supplies were adequate to ample. Central states breaking stock prices ranged unchanged to slightly higher. Demand was very light as many breakers awaited market adjustments. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate. Trade sentiment cautiously steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	114-123	118-120	LARGE	97-104	99
LARGE	114-122	116-119	MEDIUM	83-87	85
MEDIUM	100-106	103-105	SMALL	49-51	

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV,Western NY, and Western PA

**NORTHEAST REGIONAL** Prices were unchanged when compared to previous week's prices. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was light to moderate. Supplies remained adequate to available for trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were barely adequate for the fair demand. Light type hens were generally sufficient for mostly normal schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120-134	123-126
LARGE	115-129	120-124
MEDIUM	101-114	106-108

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, eastern NJ, eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL** Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was generally steady. Retail demand was moderate to good. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were adequate well balanced for extra large and large and were adequate to at times available for mediums. Central states breaking stock prices ranged unchanged to slightly higher with checks and undergrades unchanged. Demand was very light as many breakers awaited market adjustments. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate. Schedules were tentatively scheduled for full-time. Trade sentiment cautiously steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120.5-129	122-125
LARGE	119.5-128	121-124
MEDIUM	103.5-112	105-108

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL** Mostly prices were unchanged when compared to previous week's values. The market tone was steady beginning the week. Demand was light to moderate, best where features were a factor. Supplies were adequate to available for current needs. Breaking stock supplies were barely sufficient to adequate for the moderate demand. Light type hens were generally sufficient for usually normal slaughter schedules.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	119.25-130	124-127
LARGE	117.25-128	122-125
MEDIUM	105.25-111	104-108

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, eastern TN, and southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**NEW YORK** Prices began the week unchanged on all sizes. Trade sentiment was usually steady. Demand was light moderate. Supplies ranged adequate to available for current trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	129-133
LARGE	127-131
MEDIUM	113-117

**CHICAGO & MIDWEST EGGS** Prices were unchanged for the week. The market tone was steady. Retail demand was moderate to good. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were mixed larger sizes were in a good balance, lighter weights were adequate to available.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	120-128	122-124
LARGE	119-127	120-123
MEDIUM	105-114	108-110

see page 3 for prices on certified organic eggs in cartons

**WESTERN** Prices unchanged. The Pacific region inventory was 34% higher than last Monday with California up 33% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 35%. Retailer demand light. Offerings easily adequate.

## CALIFORNIA

Prices unchanged. The California inventory was 33% higher than last Monday. Retailer demand light. Offerings easily adequate. Small benchmark price 122. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 2 for \$4, 18 pack 249-299.

CALIFORNIA: California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	167
EXTRA LARGE	166
LARGE	157
MEDIUM	142

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE		RANGE
JUMBO	299-399	JUMBO	309-409
EXTRA LARGE	289-359	EXTRA LARGE	329-399
LARGE	239-349	LARGE	269-379
MEDIUM	199-289	MEDIUM	229-319

**NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT** Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending March 26, 2004 will increase by 19 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending March 19, 2004 were 220,791 cases which was 11 percent below the prior week and 7 percent below estimates.

	<b>CARTONED</b>	<b>LOOSE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cases purchased present week.....	183,564	37,227	220,791
% change from the prior week.....	-12	-7	-11

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

**CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK** Breaking stock prices ranged unchanged to slightly higher with checks and undergrades unchanged. Demand was very light as many breakers awaited market adjustments. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate. Schedules were tentatively scheduled for full-time. Trade sentiment cautiously steady.

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 AM, MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MOSTLY</b>
BREAKING STOCK	91-94	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	80-86	80-82
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

**SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY HEN** Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings were generally adequate. Processing schedules normal to instances heavy. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)\*  
Final Price, generally for slaughter the week of 22-MAR-04

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>	<b>WTD AVG</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-10.25 CENTS/LB.	8.75-9.25	8.93
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.			

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN** Pricing was slightly higher for current week arrivals of spent hens. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings from primary users. Schedules were normal. Finished sales were clearing available production. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)\*  
Final Price, generally for slaughter the week of 22-MAR-04

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>	<b>WTD AVG</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-12 CENTS/LB.	9-9.5	9.16
*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.			

**WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-MAR 22, 2004**

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/  
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		<b>No Cent</b>	<b>So Cent</b>	<b>So Atl</b>	<b>5-Area Pacific</b>	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	13.1	25.5	9.3	18.0	80.4
	Change	1.7	4.6	-0.4	1.8	10%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	33.1	52.4	14.7	27.0	173.1
	Change	5.1	10.6	-0.5	0.2	16%
Large	Curr Wk	92.5	157.7	116.8	141.1	668.0
	Change	34.8	27.3	19.6	19.6	31%
Medium	Curr Wk	15.7	42.3	14.5	24.0	140.7
	Change	-5.5	6.6	-1.9	2.2	11%
Small	Curr Wk	2.3	7.3	2.3	3.8	21.5
	Change	-3.2	2.4	0.8	-0.8	2%
Misc	Curr Wk	5.0	23.7	8.9	11.8	54.3
	Change	0.4	1.0	1.3	-1.1	1%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	20.7	52.1	25.3	39.2	172.4
	Change	-6.0	6.9	6.1	-2.2	4%
Total	Curr Wk	182.4	361.0	191.8	264.9	1310.4
Percent	Change	18%	20%	15%	8%	19%

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Number of Cooperators</b>
Shell Egg	1310.4	19%	170
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	223.6	3%	35
Total Shell Egg	1534.0	16%	205

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 170 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

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**CANADIAN EGGS** MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 08, 2004

<b>GRADE A</b>	<b>XLARGE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>SMALL</b>
	193	190	181	116.2

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MARCH 08, 2004 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

<b>GRADE A</b>	<b>XLARGE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>SMALL</b>
	149	149	139	77

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES**— DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MARCH 19, 2004

CURRENT LOADS							10.75			FUTURE LOADS				10.50		TOTAL LOADS				21.25	
SE		NE		MW		LOADS	SC		NW		SW		LOADS								
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS						
GNR W 1	97.00	—	98.50	99.50	—	—	2.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	—	110.00	2.25					
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	—	108.00	2.75					
GL W XL	—	—	112.00	113.50	103.33	—	9.25	GL W MD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.50					
GL W LG	—	—	—	—	98.00	—	3.75														
GL W MD	—	—	—	—	83.00	86.00	2.50														
NRBS - 50	—	—	—	92.00	—	—	.25														
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	93.00	—	—	.50														
NRBS - 36	—	—	—	—	59.00	61.25	2.00														

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES**— WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/15/04-03/19/04

CURRENT LOADS							51.75			FUTURE LOADS				39.50		TOTAL LOADS				91.25	
SE		NE		MW		LOADS	SC		NW		SW		LOADS								
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS						
GNR W 1	98.20	107.12	99.17	100.33	100.00	103.00	34.00	GNR W 1	100.00	106.50	—	—	—	114.50	11.00						
GNR W 2	—	108.00	—	—	—	—	1.00	GNR BR 1	—	98.00	—	—	—	—	1.00						
GNR W 4	—	—	—	83.00	78.00	—	1.00	GL W J	104.08	—	—	—	—	110.00	4.25						
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	126.00	—	112.80	7.75						
GL W J	—	—	—	—	99.00	—	1.00	GL W LG	—	113.00	—	127.89	—	123.97	22.50						
GL W XL	—	122.75	109.70	113.50	108.56	—	32.25	GL W MD	94.00	98.00	—	—	—	103.50	7.00						
GL W LG	—	119.49	109.83	111.50	117.91	114.00	42.75	NRBS - 50	—	94.00	—	—	—	—	2.00						
GL W MD	—	—	92.00	95.33	89.77	89.83	14.00														
GL W SM	—	—	61.50	63.00	—	—	1.00														
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	—	113.00	.75														
NRBS - 50	—	—	—	92.00	—	—	1.25														
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	92.75	—	94.67	2.50														
NRBS - 42	—	—	—	—	79.50	81.00	1.00														
NRBS - 36	—	—	—	—	59.00	61.25	2.00														

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS** (In Thousands)

ON HAND	03/15/04	03/08/04	03/17/03
PACIFIC COAST	197	257	268
LOS ANGELES	129	187	212

**HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS**

UNAVAILABLE

**NORTH CAROLINA EGGS** The market is steady on all sizes entering the week. The supply is tight. Retail demand is moderate to good. PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	140.63
LARGE	138.63
MEDIUM	121.63
SMALL	85.00

**CERTIFIED ORGANIC EGGS IN CARTONS**

(price per carton delivered to first receivers)

Brown Eggs	CENTS/CARTON	MOSTLY
Extra Large doz.	210 – 250	222 – 240
1/2 doz.	123 – 151	125 – 134
Large doz.	200 – 250	217 – 225
1/2 doz.	120 – 142	128 – 132

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.****POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

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**OUT OF STATE EGGS - STATE COMPILATION**

Report Date: 03/18/2004

Report Period: 02/22/2004 - 02/28/2004

State	# Cases	# Cases	# Cases	Total State
	Shipped to Northern Calif	Shipped to Central Calif	shipped to Southern Calif	
Arizona	0	0	5,656	5,656
Colorado	0	0	8,002	8,002
Indiana	0	0	780	780
Iowa	7,956	2,778	44,021	54,755
Maine	0	0	950	950
Michigan	0	0	3,681	3,681
Minnesota	3,785	0	12,746	16,531
Missouri	0	0	1,950	1,950
Montana	0	0	608	608
Nevada	0	0	728	728
New York	0	0	900	900
North Carolina	0	0	1,272	1,272
Oregon	2,486	1,326	0	3,812
South Dakota	0	0	832	832
Texas	0	0	2,320	2,320
Utah	2,552	0	8,069	10,621
Washington	0	120	1,300	1,420
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,779</b>	<b>4,224</b>	<b>93,815</b>	<b>114,818</b>
<b>SHIPPED TO MILITARY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SHIPPED TO NONMILITARY</b>	<b>16,779</b>	<b>4,224</b>	<b>93,815</b>	<b>114,818</b>

**OUT OF STATE EGGS - STATE COMPILATION**

Report Date: 03/18/2004

Report Period: 02/29/2004 - 03/06/2004

State	# Cases	# Cases	# Cases	Total State
	Shipped to Northern Calif	Shipped to Central Calif	shipped to Southern Calif	
Arizona	0	0	2,132	2,132
Arkansas	0	0	600	600
Colorado	0	0	2,473	2,473
Iowa	7,770	9,270	48,892	65,932
Maine	0	0	850	850
Michigan	0	0	6,194	6,194
Minnesota	3,985	0	8,253	12,238
Mississippi	0	0	840	840
Missouri	0	0	8,473	8,473
New Hampshire	0	0	860	860
North Carolina	0	0	780	780
Ohio	0	0	820	820
Oregon	2,169	250	0	2,419
South Dakota	0	0	501	501
Texas	0	0	1,580	1,580
Utah	0	775	7,286	8,061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,924</b>	<b>10,295</b>	<b>90,534</b>	<b>114,753</b>
<b>SHIPPED TO MILITARY</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SHIPPED TO NONMILITARY</b>	<b>13,924</b>	<b>10,295</b>	<b>90,534</b>	<b>114,753</b>

**CHICKEN AND EGGS****February Egg Production Up 3 Percent**

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.

February 2004 contained 29 days due to the leap year. Both February 2004 and February 2003 contained 20 weekdays, 1 holiday, and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2004, totaled 340 million, 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. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2004, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.44 billion eggs during February 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during February, at 316 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.