



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were unchanged. Elsewhere, weekly prices were sharply lower on all sizes when compared to the previous week. Trade sentiment was cautious and ranged barely steady to weak. Demand remained light to good with the best movement centered around feature activity. Supplies were sufficient to ample. Breaking stock offerings ranged adequate to ample for the light to moderate demand. Spent fowl supplies were fully sufficient for processing schedules that were noted as normal.

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

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to producers were 3 cents lower for the larger sizes and unchanged on small with the balance of prices sharply lower. Trade sentiment was steady to weak, mostly barely steady. Cartoned egg sales were somewhat improved following the week-end with the aid of features and was reported as light to good. Loose egg demand was light to moderate. Supplies were adequate to ample. Central states breaking stock prices were unchanged to lower. Demand was light with offerings fully adequate to ample. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	107-116	111-113	LARGE	87-94	89
LARGE	107-115	109-112	MEDIUM	69-73	71
MEDIUM	89-95	92-94	SMALL	45-47	

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

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were lower on all sizes when compared to previous week's pricing. Trade sentiment was cautious and ranged barely steady to weak. Demand into all outlets was light to moderate. Supplies were adequate to ample. Breaking stock offerings were adequate to fully adequate for the mostly moderate demand. Spent hens were fully sufficient for the fair to moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	112-126	115-119
LARGE	109-123	114-118
MEDIUM	89-102	94-96

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

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL Prices sharply lower on all sizes. Trade sentiment was barely steady to at times weak. Retail demand was usually fairly good to good. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were still fully adequate to instances available but were noted as somewhat more manageable than last week due to a slight increase in retail demand. Central states breaking stock prices were lower. Demand was light as most potential buyers continued to wait for further market adjustments. Offerings were fully adequate to ample. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	113.5-122	115-118
LARGE	112.5-121	114-117
MEDIUM	92.5-101	94-97

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

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were lower on all sizes when compared to last week's prices. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak entering the week. Demand was light to moderate, best where promotional activity was a factor. Supplies ranged fully adequate to ample for current trade needs. Breaking stock demand was mostly moderate for adequate to fully adequate offerings. Light type fowl were fully adequate for the fair to moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	113-128	117-120
LARGE	112-126	115-118
MEDIUM	90-109	92-96

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 were unchanged. Trade sentiment was mixed, usually barely steady. Retail demand was light to moderate. Supplies ranged adequate to ample for present needs.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	120-124
LARGE	118-122
MEDIUM	98-102

CHICAGO & MIDWEST EGGS Prices were sharply lower for all sizes compared to last week. The market tone was barely steady, instances weak. Retail demand was good. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were fully adequate to instances available, but showing some improvement.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	113-121	115-117
LARGE	112-120	113-116
MEDIUM	94-103	97-99

see page 3 for prices on certified organic eggs in cartons

WESTERN Prices 8 cents lower on jumbo and extra large, 7 cents lower on large, and 11 cents lower on medium throughout the region. The Pacific region inventory was 19% higher than last Monday with California up 21% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 15%. Retailer demand showed some improvement. Offerings ample.

CALIFORNIA Prices 8 cents lower on jumbo and extra large, 7 cents lower on large, and 11 cents lower on medium and small. The California inventory was 21% higher than last Monday. Retailer demand began to improve seasonally. Offerings and floor stocks ample. Small benchmark price 111. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 219, 2 for \$4.

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	159
EXTRA LARGE	158
LARGE	150
MEDIUM	131

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	309-429
EXTRA LARGE	289-359	EXTRA LARGE	349-419
LARGE	239-349	LARGE	269-399
MEDIUM	199-289	MEDIUM	229-339

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending April 02, 2004 will increase by 13 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending March 26, 2004 were 257,327 cases which was 17 percent above the prior week and 2 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	220,217	37,110	257,327

% change from the prior week..... +20 -0 +17
Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 14 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices ranged unchanged to lower with checks and undergrades lower. Demand was light as most potential buyers continued to wait for further market adjustments. Offerings were fully adequate to ample. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak.

Prices in cents per dozen, delivered to breakers, 48 lb. minimum net weight per 30 dozen case, eggs from table egg layers. Packaging may vary.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	70-80	75-80
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	65-71	65-67
CENTRAL STATES AREA: AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to week earlier. Demand was mostly moderate. Offerings were at least adequate. Processing schedules were reported as normal. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady to at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 29-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6-10.25	8.75-9.25	8.92
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 Trading levels were slightly higher compared to the past week. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings from production areas. Finished sales were moderate. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *
PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 29-MAR-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	6.25-12	8.75-9.25	9.22

*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-AM MAR 29, 2004

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

		NO		SO		5-Area	
		Northeast	CENT	CENT	Atl	Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	12.0	28.3	10.6	21.0	16.2	88.1
	Change	-1.1	2.9	1.3	3.0	1.7	10%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	35.6	57.0	14.2	30.4	49.9	187.1
	Change	2.5	4.6	-0.5	3.4	4.0	8%
Large	Curr Wk	91.5	196.4	135.0	147.8	215.4	786.1
	Change	-1.0	38.7	18.2	6.7	55.5	18%
Medium	Curr Wk	15.7	59.0	15.7	24.7	38.9	154.0
	Change	0.0	16.8	1.3	0.7	-5.3	10%
Small	Curr Wk	3.6	8.2	3.4	4.8	5.6	25.6
	Change	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.1	-0.2	19%
Misc	Curr Wk	5.5	28.8	11.7	13.9	5.4	65.3
	Change	0.4	5.1	2.8	2.0	0.5	20%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	26.4	51.2	32.0	36.8	36.7	183.1
	Change	5.8	-0.9	6.7	-2.5	1.6	6%
Total	Curr Wk	190.3	428.9	222.6	279.4	368.1	1,489.3
	Change	4%	19%	16%	5%	19%	14%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	1,489.3	14%	170
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	231.0	3%	35
Total Shell Egg	1,720.3	12%	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 eggspacked 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.

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 15, 2004

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	193	190	181	116.2

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MARCH 15, 2004 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	149	149	139	77

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MARCH 26, 2004

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS							
17.25								2.25								19.50							
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW			
CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS				
GNR W 1	88.00	—	—	90.00	—	—	1.00	GL W J	—	—	—	GL W J	—	—	—	95.00	—	—	3.00				
GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	GL W XL	—	—	—	GL W XL	—	—	—	94.89	—	—	2.50				
GL W XL	—	—	102.50	104.50	83.33	—	5.50	GL W LG	—	—	—	GL W LG	—	—	—	92.57	—	—	2.75				
GL W LG	—	—	81.20	86.00	80.00	—	4.25	GL W MD	65.00	—	—	GL W MD	65.00	—	—	69.00	—	—	1.75				
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	69.00	70.00	3.00	NRBS - 39	—	67.00	—	NRBS - 39	—	67.00	—	—	—	—	1.00				

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/22/04-03/26/04

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS							
69.50								29.25								98.75							
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW			
CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	LOADS				
GNR W 1	94.00	103.50	13.00	GNR W 1	—	—	4.00	GNR W 1	—	—	—	GNR W 1	—	—	—	GNR W 1	—	—	4.00				
GNR W 3	—	—	4.00	GL W J	106.00	—	5.75	GL W J	106.00	—	—	GL W J	106.00	—	—	GL W J	106.00	—	5.75				
GNR BR 1	—	93.00	1.00	GL W XL	94.92	97.00	13.00	GL W XL	94.92	97.00	—	GL W XL	94.92	97.00	—	GL W XL	94.92	97.00	13.00				
GL W J	—	—	3.00	GL W LG	100.00	115.00	10.50	GL W LG	100.00	115.00	—	GL W LG	100.00	115.00	—	GL W LG	100.00	115.00	10.50				
GL W XL	—	120.00	32.00	GL W MD	75.71	79.00	8.75	GL W MD	75.71	79.00	—	GL W MD	75.71	79.00	—	GL W MD	75.71	79.00	8.75				
GL W LG	—	114.06	25.75	NRBS - 39	—	66.50	2.00	NRBS - 39	—	66.50	—	NRBS - 39	—	66.50	—	NRBS - 39	—	66.50	2.00				
GL W MD	88.00	97.00	7.50																				
GL W SM	53.50	55.00	2.50																				
GL BR LG	—	—	.75																				
NRBS - 50	—	—	1.00																				
NRBS - 48	—	—	17.50																				
NRBS - 42	—	59.00	2.00																				
NRBS - 39	—	—	2.00																				
NRBS - 36	—	—	1.00																				

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	03/22/04	03/15/04	03/24/03
PACIFIC COAST	164	197	201
LOS ANGELES	97	129	161

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS

UNAVAILABLE

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS The market is lower on all sizes. 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	130.45
LARGE	129.45
MEDIUM	107.45
SMALL	79.15

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 – 227
1/2 doz.	120 – 142	128 – 133

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OUT OF STATE EGGS - STATE COMPILATION

Report Date: 03/23/2004

Report Period: 03/07/2004 - 03/13/2004

State	# Cases Shipped to Northern Calif	# Cases Shipped to Central Calif	# Cases shipped to Southern Calif	Total State
Arizona	0	0	4,846	4,846
Colorado	0	0	2,198	2,198
Georgia	0	0	876	876
Iowa	9,538	7,690	54,029	71,257
Maine	830	0	936	1,766
Michigan	0	760	5,026	5,786
Minnesota	2,130	1,560	8,643	12,333
Missouri	0	0	9,979	9,979
New Hampshire	0	0	1,590	1,590
North Carolina	0	0	2,988	2,988
Ohio	0	0	1,644	1,644
Oregon	3,380	0	0	3,380
South Dakota	780	0	0	780
Texas	0	0	2,360	2,360
Utah	1,263	0	6,605	7,868
Washington	0	450	0	450
TOTAL	17,921	10,460	101,720	130,101
SHIPPED TO MILITARY	0	0	0	0
SHIPPED TO NONMILITARY	17,921	10,460	101,720	130,101