



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were 2 cents lower on extra large, large, and medium eggs when compared to last week's values. Elsewhere, weekly prices were unchanged from last week. Trade sentiment was mixed, usually barely steady beginning the week. Demand was light to mostly moderate, at times good where holiday features were a factor. Supplies of all weights were sufficient to available. Breaking stock offerings were adequate to fully adequate for the light to good demand. Light type fowl were sufficient for the moderate demand.

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 were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Retail demand was light to at times good. Loose egg sales were slow to moderate. Supplies were adequate to available for current needs.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	64-74	65-71
LARGE	63-73	64-67
MEDIUM	32-42	34-37

IA-MN-WI - Prices paid to producers.		
	RANGE	MOSTLY
LARGE	47-55	50
MEDIUM	16-21	19
SMALL	4-6	

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 last week's prices. Trade sentiment was barely steady entering the week. Demand was in a full range of light to good, mostly moderate. Supplies were fully adequate to available for current trade requirements. Breaking stock offerings were usually sufficient for light to normal processing schedules. Light type hens were generally sufficient for the mostly fair to moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	71-85	73-77
LARGE	66-80	71-75
MEDIUM	35-48	40-42

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 steady to barely steady. Retail demand was mixed, ranging light to at times good. Food service movement was usually moderate. Supplies were adequate to available for current needs. Central States breaking stock prices were unchanged to slightly higher. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate for the usually moderate to at times fairly good demand. Floor stocks were balanced to fully adequate. Schedules full-time to slightly reduced this week due to the upcoming holiday. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	74.5-83	76-79
LARGE	73.5-82	75-78
MEDIUM	38.5-47	40-43

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

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL Weekly prices were unchanged on all weights when compared to the previous week's values. However, prices were trending lower on all sizes. The market tone was barely steady beginning the week. Demand was light to moderate, instances fairly good where holiday promotions were in progress. Supplies were adequate to available for current requirements. Breaking stock offerings were sufficient for the moderate to mostly light demand. Light type fowl were adequate for the moderate demand.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	66-79	73-76
LARGE	64-77	71-74
MEDIUM	37.5-45	38-42

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 2 cents lower on extra large, large and medium when compared to late last week's prices. Trade sentiment was mixed, although mostly barely steady. Demand was reported as light to good. Supplies were fully sufficient for present trade needs.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	78-82
LARGE	76-80
MEDIUM	45-49

CHICAGO & MIDWEST EGGS Prices for the all sizes are unchanged. The market tone was steady. Retail and food service demand was light to moderate, instances good where featured. Supplies are adequate to closely balanced.

RANGE	MOSTLY	
EXTRA LARGE	71-79	73-75
LARGE	70-75	71-74
MEDIUM	41-48	42-44

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WESTERN Prices unchanged. The Pacific region inventory was 4% higher than last Monday with California up 2% and Oregon-Washington-Utah up 8%. Retailer demand seasonally good. Offerings ample.

CALIFORNIA Prices unchanged on all sizes. The California inventory was 2% higher than last Monday. Retailer demand good. Offerings easily adequate. Small benchmark price 55. Ads and prices to consumers in Northern California were not available.

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	116
EXTRA LARGE	114
LARGE	107
MEDIUM	75

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	249-269	JUMBO	
EXTRA LARGE	219-289	EXTRA LARGE	NOT AVAILABLE
LARGE	199-239	LARGE	
MEDIUM	189-205	MEDIUM	

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending December 24, 2004 will decrease by 5 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending December 17, 2004 were 268,831 cases which was 11 percent above the prior week and 10 percent above estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	231,676	37,155	268,831
% change from the prior week.....	+13	+0	+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 Prices were unchanged to slightly higher. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate for the usually moderate demand to at times fairly good demand. Floor stocks were balanced to fully adequate. Schedules full-time to slightly reduced this week due to the upcoming holiday. Trade sentiment steady.

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

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	26-30	28.5-30
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	12-16	13-15
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading levels were generally unchanged. Demand was moderate for spent heavy hens. Finished sales were active in shipping channels. Kills were reduced for the holiday week. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)*
FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 20-DEC-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	8-15 CENTS/LB.	10.75-11.5	11.30
*WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.			

SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules were less than normal due to the holiday. Sales of finished product were generally sufficient and clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady to fully steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP)*
FINAL PRICE, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 20-DEC-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	8.25-15.25 CENTS/LB.	11-13	11.92
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT		
* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.			

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- DECEMBER 20, 2004

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

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area	
		Northeast	CENT	Atl	Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	11.6	15.3	8.9	14.8	12.5 63.1
	Change	-1.4	-0.8	-1.6	-0.3	-1.4 -8%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	30.2	49.9	20.0	31.4	39.5 171.0
	Change	2.2	0.3	1.1	-3.0	3.6 3%
Large	Curr Wk	67.6	120.9	65.1	129.8	128.7 512.1
	Change	-1.1	-3.9	-30.0	-40.4	3.2 -12%
Medium	Curr Wk	17.1	40.1	11.0	21.8	34.6 124.6
	Change	-0.2	-6.3	-3.4	-3.4	2.2 -8%
Small	Curr Wk	5.1	8.3	0.7	4.8	10.4 29.3
	Change	1.1	-0.5	0.1	0.8	1.1 10%
Misc	Curr Wk	6.5	32.1	9.2	12.6	6.0 66.4
	Change	0.4	3.8	0.0	-0.9	0.0 5%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	19.0	35.5	23.3	34.5	35.1 147.4
	Change	-9.2	-11.3	-6.2	-3.8	0.9 -17%
Total	Curr Wk	157.1	302.1	138.2	249.7	266.8 1113.9
Percent	Change	-5%	-6%	-22%	-17%	4% -9%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	1113.9	-9%	173
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	176.1	-13%	35

Total Shell Egg 1290.0 -9% 208
1/ Information supplied by a universe of 173 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.

- Northeast- CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
- North Central - IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI
- South Central - AR, CO, KS, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX
- South Atlantic - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
- Pacific- AZ, CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

CANADIAN EGGS QUEBEC/MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN DOLLARS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA, AISD, AID, POULTRY SECTION FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 06, 2004

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	1.97	1.94	1.85	1.16
MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING DECEMBER 06, 2004 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.				
GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	1.52	1.52	1.42	.77

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES— DAILY WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR DECEMBER 17, 2004

CURRENT LOADS				FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS							
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	—	—	50.00	51.00	—	—	3.00	GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	—	61.00 1.00
GL W J	—	—	—	—	47.00	—	1.00	GL W LG	44.00	47.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL W XL	—	—	60.50	62.00	—	—	3.25								
GL W SM	24.00	26.00	—	—	—	—	1.00								
NRBS - 48	—	—	23.50	25.00	26.00	28.50	9.00								

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES— WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 12/13/04-12/17/04

CURRENT LOADS				FUTURE LOADS				TOTAL LOADS							
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	49.33	53.00	50.25	51.75	—	51.00	23.00	GNR W 1	—	56.00	—	—	—	—	4.00
GNR BR 1	—	61.50	—	—	66.00	—	5.00	GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL W J	—	—	74.00	75.50	48.17	73.00	6.00	GL W J	60.00	—	—	—	—	64.00	4.00
GL W XL	—	66.00	60.59	64.88	54.67	55.00	19.25	GL W XL	52.87	66.67	—	—	—	63.66	10.75
GL W LG	—	61.68	50.27	57.00	66.09	—	29.75	GL W LG	48.55	63.92	—	73.00	—	62.25	24.25
GL W MD	34.00	32.29	23.80	25.38	29.00	30.00	14.75	GL W MD	27.00	30.73	—	—	—	34.50	5.75
GL W SM	23.75	26.00	21.00	22.00	—	—	4.00	NRBS - 39	17.00	18.00	—	—	20.00	21.00	1.50
NRBS - 48	—	—	23.50	25.00	26.30	28.27	51.00								
NRBS - 45	—	—	26.50	28.00	—	26.00	5.00								
NRBS - 39	—	—	18.79	22.57	18.00	20.00	4.75								

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	12/13/04	12/06/04	12/15/03
PACIFIC COAST	539	626	86
LOS ANGELES	530	616	48

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS The market was lower on all sizes. Supplies are adequate. Retail demand is 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	88.74
LARGE	86.74
MEDIUM	54.74
SMALL	40.76

CERTIFIED ORGANIC EGGS IN CARTONS

(price per carton delivered to first receivers)

Brown Eggs	CENTS/CARTON	MOSTLY
Extra Large doz.	222 - 260	239 - 240
1/2 doz.	120 - 151	130 - 134
Large doz.	217 - 250	225 - 230
1/2 doz.	115 - 142	125 - 128

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