A Recap of Egg Industry Statistics – 2004

Poultry statistics are derived from a variety of sources - U.S.D.A., State Departments of Agriculture, U.S. Census, Universities, and industry generated reports. Most rely on voluntary submission of data from the poultry producer and some are derived from mandated inspection programs such as the slaughter reports and the processed egg reports. The accuracy of these reports varies and is oftentimes questioned when two or more reports differ when reporting what may appear to be the same item. Some of the variability between reports may be due to differences in sampling procedures, definition problems regarding the request, changes in the statistic due to updating or in interpretation by secondary editors or commentators.

No one questions the need for accurate and relevant poultry statistics. Decisions affecting a firm's future operation must be based upon factual information. The smart producer will know how to interpret these "signs" and will know how to react relative to his competitors. If a producer interprets correctly and acts accordingly, losses during down cycles can be reduced and gains can be maximized during up cycles.

The user of this information, though, must be careful in his/her interpretation and understanding of what is being communicated. Some statistics really don't mean much, while others must be considered in conjunction with other interrelated factors.

This newsletter summarizes nineteen of the more quoted national statistics assembled specifically for the U.S. egg industry. The beginning table compares 2003 results with the previous year. Graphs (12) are used to illustrate trends and to make the data more understandable.

GENERAL COMMENTS

2004 was considered to be a good year for the U.S. and Southern California egg industries, respectively even though the latter half of the year was substantially below costs. The 4.8 cents per dozen profit for S. California is equivalent to approximately $1.06 per hen. UC estimates of profitability were discussed in EEU #266.

Eggs broken for further processing were 5.7% more than in 2003. Egg products were 30.4% of all eggs produced and totaled 64.3 million cases in 2004 compared to 60.9 million in 2003.

U.S. farm egg prices were estimated to be down 5.7¢/dozen below 2003 prices. Costs were also up 2.1¢/dozen as a result of a higher feed costs. U.S. egg income minus all costs in 2004 were estimated to be down about 7.8¢/dozen compared to 2003 – which was an all-time high profit year.
### FLOCK STATISTICS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>CHG (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. egg-type chick hatch (millions) monthly average</td>
<td>416.1</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>+5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. &quot;All layers&quot; (includes breeders) (millions)</td>
<td>337.1</td>
<td>341.9</td>
<td>+1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. table egg layers</td>
<td>278.6</td>
<td>283.2</td>
<td>+1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. &quot;all eggs&quot; (including hatching) (billions) monthly average (billions)</td>
<td>87.265</td>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>+2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cases/month (millions)</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case/week (millions)</td>
<td>4.66</td>
<td>4.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. &quot;table eggs&quot; billions monthly average (billions)</td>
<td>74.476</td>
<td>6.21</td>
<td>+1.0</td>
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<td>cases/week (millions)</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>4.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. rate of lay (table egg layers) (%)</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. layers in a molt (%)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. layers completed a molt (%)</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. layers post-molt (%)</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>+0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. layers less than 72 weeks of age (millions)</td>
<td>190.2</td>
<td>188.3</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
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<td>U.S. layers over 72 weeks of age (%)</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>+5.8</td>
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<td>U.S. table egg hatchery supply flock (millions)</td>
<td>2.730</td>
<td>2.671</td>
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<td>U.S. slaughter of light fowl (millions) (U.S. inspected plants) monthly average (millions)</td>
<td>76.61</td>
<td>6.38</td>
<td>-6.3</td>
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<td>U.S. pullets housed (millions) monthly average (millions)</td>
<td>187.0</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>+1.7</td>
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<td>U.S. shell eggs broken (million cases) month average (million cases)</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>5.08</td>
<td>+5.7</td>
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<td>U.S. per capita egg consumption</td>
<td>254.7</td>
<td>256.7</td>
<td>+2.0 eggs</td>
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### ECONOMIC FACTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Chg (£)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. average farm egg prices (includes farm retail) (£/doz) (USDA)</td>
<td>59.4 53.7 -5.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| U.S. quarterly egg income minus costs (£/doz) | <br />
| 1st quarter | +6.8 35.9 29.1 |
| 2nd quarter | +2.7 1.4 -1.3 |
| 3rd quarter | +20.6 -8.7 -29.3 |
| 4th quarter | +39.1 0.9 -38.2 |
| Annual av. egg income - est. costs (£/doz) | +17.2 7.6 -9.6 |
Figures 1 through 12 illustrate the monthly trends and the relative values for 2002.

**Figure 1. Egg Type Hatchery Supply Flock**  
(7 to 18 month prior hatch minus mortality) 1989 to 2005

**Figure 2. Hatch of Egg-Type Straight Run Chicks**  
2002 vs 2004

U.S.D.A. Eggs, Chickens and Turkeys
(Hatched 5 months earlier minus mortality)

![Graph showing U.S. Pullet Placements from 2002 to 2005](image)

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<th>2005</th>
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<td>Avg</td>
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U.S.D.A. Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys

Figure 4. U.S. Table Egg Layers
2003 vs 2004

![Graph showing U.S. Table Egg Layers from 2002 to 2004](image)

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</table>

U.S.D.A. Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys
Figure 5. Table Egg Layers Less Than 72 Weeks of Age
1990 to 2005

University of California

Figure 6. U.S. Layers In + Completed A Forced Molt
2002, 2003 vs 2004

U.S.D.A. Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys
**Figure 7. U.S. Monthly Rate of Lay**

*(Table eggs) 2002, 2003 vs 2004*

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U.S.D.A. Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys

**Figure 8. U.S. Table Eggs**

*2002, 2003 vs 2004*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<th>2004</th>
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<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
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U.S.D.A. Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys
**Figure 9. U.S. Fowl Slaughter**  
2002, 2003 vs 2004

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**Figure 10. U.S. Shell Eggs Broken Under USDA Inspection**  
2002, 2003 vs 2004

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**U.S.D.A. Poultry Slaughter**

**U.S.D.A. Egg Products**
**Figure 11. U.S. Mid Month Farm Table Egg Prices**

(all eggs including farm retail) - 2002, 2003 vs 2004

![Graph showing U.S. Mid Month Farm Table Egg Prices 2002-2004](image)

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U.S.D.A. Agricultural Prices

**Figure 12. Quarterly Egg Income and Costs**

U.S. 2004

![Graph showing Quarterly Egg Income and Costs 2004](image)

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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg.</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>46.3</td>
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USDA estimates, Livestock and Poultry Situation and Outlook