

## U.S. Egg Industry Fact Sheet

Revised 2/05

- Per capita consumption is a measure of total egg production divided by the total population. It does not represent demand. (USDA has recently adjusted data to reflect 2000 Census figures.)

1993 – 234.6  
1994 – 236.4  
1995 – 233.5\*  
1996 – 234.6  
1997 – 235.6  
1998 – 239.7  
1999 – 249.8  
2000 – 251.7  
2001 – 252.8  
2002 – 255.9  
2003 – 254.7  
2004 – 256.5

\* There was a reduction due to the decrease in bird numbers as a result of extreme heat and weather conditions.

- The high point for per capita egg consumption was 402 eggs in 1945. Per capita consumption had been steadily declining due to lifestyle changes with more women working and to health concerns. Per capita consumption reached its lowest in 1991 (233.9), but has steadily increased as the good news about eggs reached consumers.
- Currently, the top ten egg producing states (ranked by number of layers represented in thousands) are:
  1. Iowa – 48,999
  2. Ohio – 27,531
  3. Pennsylvania – 22,733
  4. Indiana – 22,726
  5. California – 20,020
  6. Texas – 13,541
  7. Nebraska – 11,969
  8. Georgia – 11,020
  9. Minnesota – 10,398
  10. Florida – 9,861
- The five largest egg producing states represent approximately 50% of all U.S. layers.
- U.S. egg production during January 2005 was 6.52 billion table eggs. Total U.S. egg production during 2004 was 76.26 billion table eggs.
- Presently, there are 64 egg producing companies with 1 million plus layers and 11 companies with greater than 5 million layers. \*\*
- To date, there are approximately 260 egg producing companies with flocks of 75,000 hens or more. These 260 companies represent about 95% of all the layers in the U.S. \*\* Seventeen years ago (1987), there were around 2,500 operations. \*\* (Number of operations in 1987 include some contract farms and divisions.)
- In 2004, the average number of egg-type laying hens in the U.S. was 283 million. Flock size for January 1, 2005 was 287 million layers; 3.9% larger than a year ago, up 7 million hens. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2005 averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

- Of the 210.3 million cases (estimated) of shell eggs produced in 2004:  
63.6 million cases (30.8%) were further processed (for foodservice, manufacturing, retail & export);  
127.3 million cases (59.8%) went to retail;  
18.1 million cases (8.8%) went for foodservice use; and  
1.3 million cases (0.6%) were exported.
- During 2004, the U.S. exported 56.4 million dozen table eggs, an increase of 38 percent over 2003. Table egg export value for the year was \$39.9 million, up 50 percent. Top markets included Canada and Hong Kong. In 2004, Canada imported nearly 38 million dozen table eggs – a 157 percent increase over 2003 – valued at \$28 million, up 119 percent. Egg exports to Hong Kong totaled 12.4 million dozen, a decrease of 16 percent. Value increased by 8 percent to \$7.8 million. The major reason for the upturn in egg exports to Canada was its outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in British Columbia early in 2004. Although it should remain a top market for U.S. table eggs, it is unlikely that we will see future egg export volumes to Canada as strong as they were in 2004. A similar HPAI outbreak in the European Union in 2003 prompted a surge in U.S. exports to Europe, a trend that petered out rapidly in 2004, resulting in no U.S. egg exports there.

Egg product exports in 2004 increased in value by 8 percent over 2003, to \$97 million. Canada remained the largest market for U.S. egg products, importing about \$31.9 million, a decrease of 1 percent. Exports to Japan, which had traditionally been the largest and most consistent market for U.S. egg products, regained some lost ground in 2004, reaching \$21.8 million, up 3 percent, partially as a result of negotiations between the U.S. and Japanese governments on a cooking time and temperature protocol for pasteurized egg products. The EU followed with imports of \$16.1 million, down 6 percent. \*\*\*

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, \*\*American Egg Board, \*\*\*USAPEEC*