

EGG INDUSTRY STATISTICAL REPORT

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For: December 2004

- * The December hatch was up 1.70 million pullets compared to 2003. This projects forwards to a 16.7 million pullet placement for May of 2005, or about 1.5 million more than the 2003 figure. Eggs in incubators on Jan 1, 2005 were up 8.8% compared to 2003 - a very large increase !
- * Current (Jan 1) US table egg layer numbers (287.4 millions) are up 7.3 million compared to last year's numbers at this time. This is a major increase for one year compared to the 3 million we believe is needed. California's December layer count is currently estimated to be 20.3 million
- * In December, Iowa leads the nation with 46.5 million laying hens compared to 27.4 million in Ohio, 22.5 million in Indiana and 22.2 million in Pennsylvania. California is now in 5th position. The US layer monthly average population was 286.3 million in December.
- * The December U.S. rate of lay was estimated to be 74.6% compared to 74.3% in 2003 - a remarkably high rate considering the fact that 33.0% of the flock is more than 72 weeks old compared to 31.1% last year.
- * Southern California producer large egg prices for the year 2004 were estimated to average 60.0 cents per dozen compared to 64.8 cents in 2003. Blend prices averaged 54.7 cents/dozen.
- * Eggs imported into California were down 7.0% for 2004 compared to 2003.
- * Shell eggs broken for products in 2004 totaled 64.3 million cases - up 5.7% compared to 2003. Monthly egg breaking for 2004 has averaged 5.37 million cases or 30.4% of total egg production.

Monthly Hi-lites (Compared to December a year ago) (% change)

	U.S.	California
Hatch	+10.1	n/a
Layers (table eggs)	+2.0	-1.8
Rate of lay	+0.3	n/a
Molting (Jan 1, 2004) (in + out of a molt)	+1.2	-2.5
Imports into California (Dec, 2004)	n/a	+23.2
2004 year-end layers - millions	287.4	n/a
2003 year-end layers - millions	279.5	n/a
2002 year-end layers - millions	279.2	n/a
2001 year-end layers - millions	279.9	n/a
2000 year-end layers - millions	273.6	n/a