

EGG INDUSTRY STATISTICAL REPORT

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For: December 2005

- * The December hatch was down 554 thousand pullets compared to 2004. This projects forwards to a 16.4 million pullet placement for May of 2006, compared to 16.8 million in 2005. Eggs in incubators on January 1, 2006 were 35.5 million vs. 34.4 million in 2005.
- * Current (January 1) US table egg layer numbers (290.9 millions) are up 2.2 million from last year's January 1 count. This is 1.0 million above last month's count.
- * In December, Iowa continues to lead the nation with 49.6 million laying hens - up 800 thousand from November. Ohio's layer population is estimated at 28.5, Indiana's at 23.8, Pennsylvania's at 22.6, and California's at 19.1.
- * The December rate of lay was estimated to be 74.5% compared to 74.5% a year ago. It is estimated that 34.0% of the nation's flock is older than 72 weeks of age.
- * U.S. egg prices in December averaged 56.4 cents/dozen for all table eggs - up 7.6 cents from last year. Prices for the entire year were estimated to be down 18.7 cents/doz from last year's 53.7 cents/doz.
- * California's egg import totals for December were 630 thousand cases.
- * Shell eggs broken for products in December totaled 5.357 million cases - down 4.7% from 2004. Monthly egg breaking for 2005 averaged 5.688 million cases (up 6.2%) or 31.9% of total egg production for the US.
- * Slaughter numbers (in official slaughter plants) were down 400 thousand from year-earlier counts (Dec). We estimated a total of 9.6 million hens missing (died, killed on farm, exported) - 3.3% of the average flock.

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

	U.S.	California
Hatch	-3.0	n/a
Layers (table eggs)	+1.4	-1.5
Rate of lay	n/c	n/a
Molting (Jan 1, 2006)(in + out of a molt)	-0.1	+1.0
Imports into California (December, 2005)	n/a	+38.9
2006 year-end projection (Jan 9, 2006)	289.2	n/a
2005 year-end layers - millions	290.9	n/a
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