

# USDA Egg Markets Overview

A weekly publication of the USDA AMS Livestock and Poultry Program, Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News Division

January 03, 2025

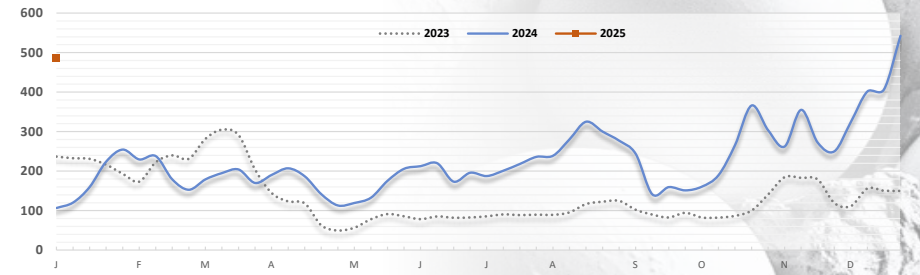
Negotiated wholesale prices for graded loose eggs began to show some retreat from recent record-high levels but the undertone remains firm. Demand is moderate to good for light offerings and very light to moderate supplies. Trading is mostly moderate. The volume of trailer load loose egg sales this week increased 65% with 74% for out-front business. Prices for national trading of trucklot quantities of graded, loose, White Large shell eggs decreased \$0.57 to \$4.85 per dozen with a firm undertone. Wholesale prices for formula trading of cartoned shell eggs are firm on moderate to good demand for light offerings and light to moderate supplies. Trading is moderate. The wholesale price on the New York market for Large cartoned shell eggs delivered to retailers rose \$0.12 to \$6.06 per dozen with a firm undertone. In the major Midwest production region, the wholesale price for Large, white, shell eggs delivered to warehouses increased \$0.24 to \$5.75 per dozen with a firm undertone while prices paid to producers for Large cartoned shell eggs increased \$0.16 to \$5.72 per dozen. The California benchmark for Large shell eggs was unchanged at \$8.97 per dozen with a steady undertone. Delivered prices on the California-compliant wholesale loose egg market increased \$0.36 to \$7.58 per dozen and trading remains very limited.

The rate of shell egg demand held through the final weeks of 2024 - despite record-high prices in many retail markets across the nation - driven by rising concerns about limited availability of shell eggs at some grocery stores across the nation resulting from persistent and significant outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in commercial table egg layer flocks through December. Many grocery retailers have taken steps to limit incentivizing additional consumer purchasing during this time with some placing unit limits per shopping trip and others placing placards in the dairy case warning shoppers of potential issues with shell egg availability. While shell egg demand typically slows into the new year, inclement weather patterns in January, such as those current forecast for a large part of the U.S. into next week, have been known to stimulate consumer purchasing. Current demand from egg products manufacturers is very limited as holiday-disrupted production schedules have left most with sufficient supplies to return their schedules to a more normal rate.

Feature activity for conventional caged Large shell eggs remains very limited and the average ad price declined \$0.27 to \$1.87 per dozen on the thin test. The pace of specialty shell egg featuring also slows with a focus shift to free-range varieties - both organic and non-organic. Feature activity for [UEP-defined cage-free](#) shell eggs is not recorded this cycle with the last quote at \$3.01 per dozen.

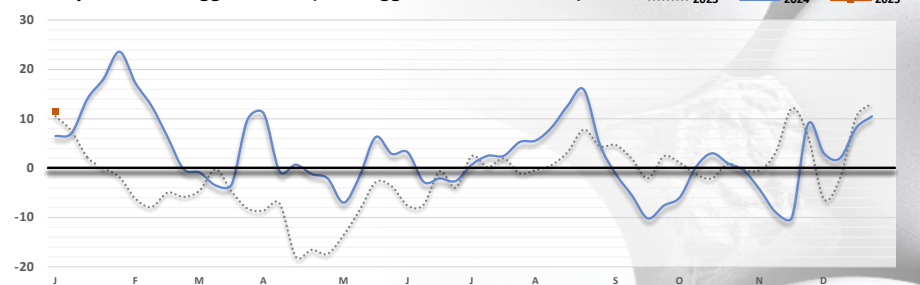
The overall shell egg inventory increased 5% while the national inventory of Large class shell eggs declined 1.5%. Stocks of Large shell eggs in the key Midwest region grew by 9% as marketing slows in the immediate post-holiday period. The inventory share of Large class shell eggs shrank by 3% to a 49% share of all shell egg stocks on inventory at the start of the week. Stocks of cage-free eggs swelled nearly 18% and stocks of nutritionally-

Weekly Loose Shell Egg, Large, White, National Index (f.o.b. dock, cents per dozen)



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

Weekly U.S. Table Egg Demand (Shell Egg Demand Indicator)



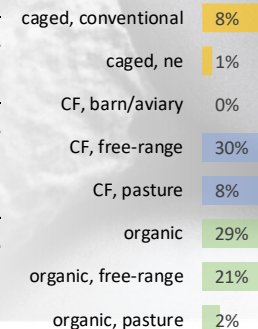
Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

## This Week's Retail Large Shell Egg Feature Summary

Advertised Prices to Consumers at Major Retail Supermarkets

	White-Shell		Brown-Shell	
	Activity	Price	Activity	Price
<b>Caged</b>				
conventional	94	1.87	--	--
nutritionally-enhanced	--	--	17	2.99
<b>Cage-Free - Non-Organic</b>				
barn/aviary	--	--	--	--
free-range	--	--	380	5.33
pastured	--	--	102	6.70
<b>USDA Organic</b>				
organic	--	--	362	4.66
free-range	--	--	268	4.84
pastured	--	--	29	8.63

includes 12 and 18 packs combined; prices weighted by store count.



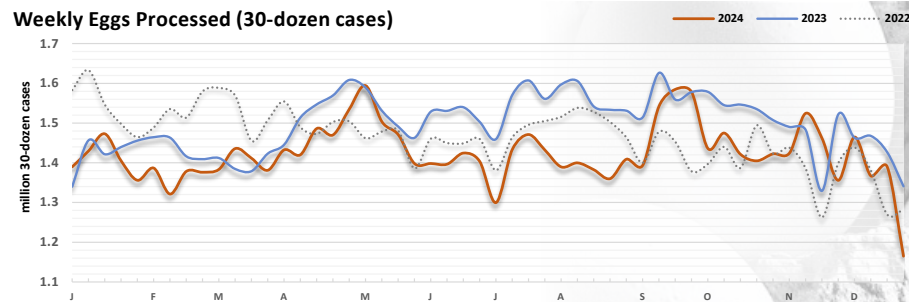
enhanced eggs drew down 3%. Stocks of organic shell eggs were up one percent, and breaking stock inventory gained about 5.5% on reduced holiday breaking schedules. Total estimated table egg production is unchanged from last week and is up 3% over the prior year to a year-to-year deficit the equivalent of 1.9 million cases in total.

Wholesale prices for breaking stock in the Central States were unchanged at \$3.05 per dozen with a steady undertone. Demand is very light for light offerings. Supplies are light to moderate with mostly full-time schedules and moderate trading. The volume of eggs processed last week declined sharply, down 16% to its lowest level since May 2020. The share of weekly table egg production declined 4.5% to 24%. Production of whole egg was down nearly 19% with production of whites down 15.5% and yolks down just over 15%. Production of dried egg decreased nearly 10.5% and inedible egg production was down 14%. Breaking yields without inedible were down about two-thirds of a pound to 41.86 pounds per case broken.

Wholesale prices for certified liquid whole eggs moved higher on moderate to good demand for light to very light offerings. Trading is mostly moderate. Wholesale prices on liquid egg products are lower from the last quote with liquid whole egg down \$0.51 to \$2.69 per pound and frozen whites down \$0.06 to \$1.44 per pound. The undertone is steady with mostly light demand for light offerings. Supplies are light to moderate on moderate trading. Prices for whole dried eggs remain too few to report with those for whole dried egg last quoted at \$9.60 per pound and those for dried yolk at \$7.40 per pound. The undertone is steady with a full range of demand for light offerings. Supplies are light to very light and trading is moderate.

According to NASS, the November monthly volume of frozen eggs in storage declined 4% from October, 19% below the November 2023 level. This is the lowest level of egg products stocks since July 2022. Stocks of whole frozen egg decreased 3%, 5% below last year and the share of whole egg stocks gained 1% to a 45% share of total frozen stocks. Stocks of frozen yolk gained 10% but were 63% under last year's level while stocks of frozen egg whites rose one percent, 32% below year ago levels. Stocks of unclassified eggs were down 7% from last month and 25% from last year. The share of unclassified frozen stocks fell one percent to a 46% share of total frozen stocks.

As of December 2024, cage-free commitments require an estimated 66.7 billion cage-free eggs per year to meet 100% of needs from an approximate cage-free flock of 221.4 million hens (73% of the U.S. non-organic flock), indicating a shortage of 121.4 million hens from the current non-organic cage-free flock of 99.9 million hens. The average lay rate for non-organic, barn/aviary cage-free production for the month improves and is estimated at 82.6%.

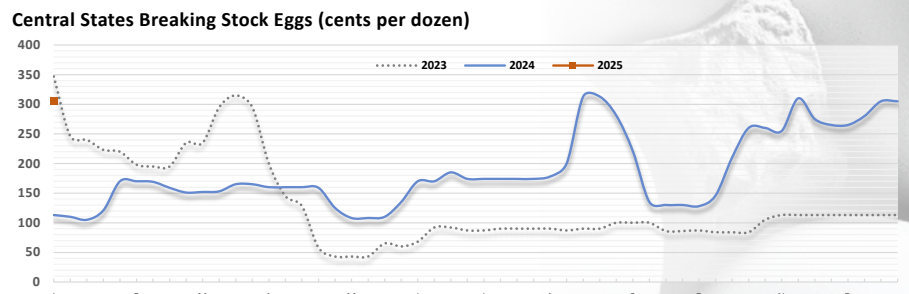


Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

**Eggs Processed - Week-to-Week Change**

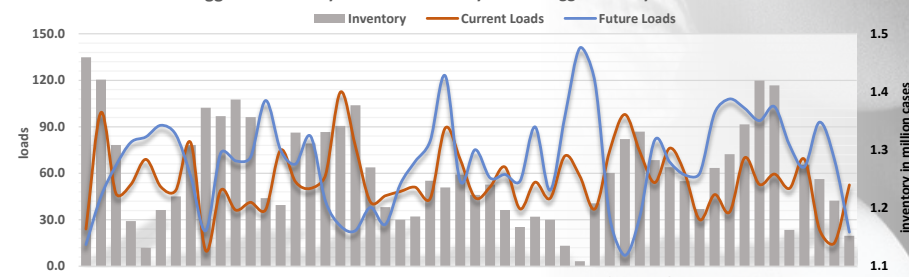
total	share	case yield*	whole	whites	yolks	dried	inedible
-16.2%	-4.6%	-0.61	-18.7%	-15.6%	-15.2%	-10.4%	-14.0%

\* case yield w/ inedible in pounds per case.



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

**2024 Trailerload Loose Egg Sales - Nearby and Future Delivery vs. Shell Egg Inventory**

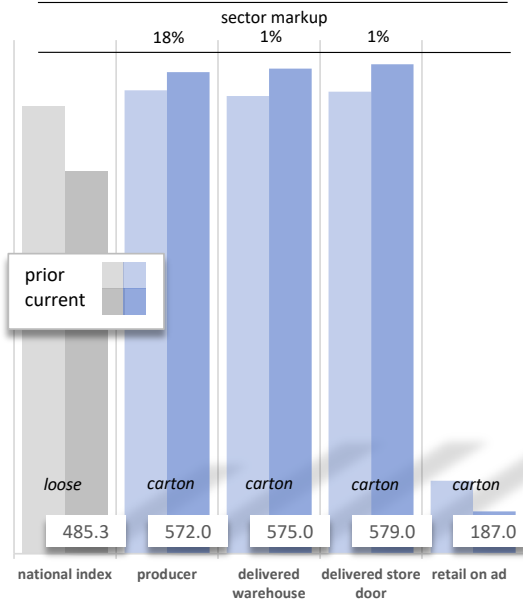


Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

## Shell Eggs Market Price Comparisons

(as of January 03, 2025)

(National Index on a loose-egg basis, all other prices for cartoned eggs; LG White avg prices in cents per dozen)



Producer, warehouse, & store door = MW; retail no sale NY market; retail on sale Nat'l Retail Feature; loose eggs include minimal material costs.

## Key Egg Markets Overview

	3-Jan	% Change	Recent History				
			27-Dec	20-Dec	13-Dec	6-Dec	29-Nov
<b>SHELL EGGS (Large, White, conventional in cents per dozen)</b>							
National, loose (negotiated; f.o.b. dock prices)	485.33	-11%	542.36	406.50	401.50	324.24	250.00
California-compliant, loose, (negotiated delivered)	757.80	5%	722.00	689.00	689.00	665.33	567.50
Midwest, cartoned (formula sales; dlvr'd to warehouse)	575.00	4%	551.00	448.00	377.00	387.00	409.00
New York, cartoned (formula sales; dlvd to store)	606.00	2%	594.00	574.00	491.00	395.00	400.00
California-compliant, cartoned, benchmark	897.00	0%	897.00	819.00	680.00	588.00	528.00
<b>National Retail Shell Egg (avg. ad price in dollars per dozen)</b>							
Conventional Caged, Large, White	1.87	-13%	2.14	2.14	2.88	2.00	2.28
UEP Cage-Free, Large, Brown	n/a		3.01	2.99	2.50	2.71	2.95
<b>EGG PRODUCTS (f.o.b. shipper dock prices)</b>							
Breaking Stock (negotiated; dlvd prices cents per doz)	305.00	0%	305.00	305.00	280.00	265.00	265.00
Whole Frozen Egg (dollars per pound)	2.69		n/a	n/a	3.20	2.45	2.32
Whole Dried Eggs (dollars per pound)	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	9.60	9.60
Processed Share of Weekly Shell Egg Production	23.8%	-4.6%	28.4%	28.0%	30.1%	27.9%	29.7%
<b>SHELL EGG DEMAND INDICATOR (no units)</b>							
	11.5	1.0	10.5	8.1	2.0	3.0	8.9

Source: USDA AMS Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News; "n/a" = not available.

## Key Shell Egg Markets Snapshot - 2025

(Large, White, Conventional Shell Eggs in cents per dozen)	3-Jan	Change	27-Dec	2025 High	2025 Low
National, loose (negotiated; f.o.b. dock prices)	485.3	▼ -11%	542.4	485.3 03-Jan	485.3 03-Jan
California-compliant, loose, (negotiated delivered)	757.8	▲ 5%	722.0	757.8 12/30/24	757.8 12/30/24
Midwest, cartoned (formula sales; dlvr'd to warehouse)	575.0	▲ 4%	551.0	575.0 12/30/24	575.0 12/30/24
New York, cartoned (formula sales; dlvd to store)	606.0	▲ 2%	594.0	606.0 03-Jan	604.0 02-Jan
California-compliant, cartoned, benchmark	897.0	▬ 0%	897.0	897.0 12/30/24	897.0 12/30/24
Breaking Stock (negotiated; dlvd prices cents per doz)	305.0	▬ 0%	305.0	305.0 02-Jan	305.0 02-Jan
Whole Frozen Egg (dollars per pound)	2.69	▬ 0%	n/a	2.69 03-Jan	2.69 03-Jan
Whole Dried Eggs (dollars per pound)	n/a	▬ 0%	n/a		
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - Conventional caged	1.87	▼ -13%	2.14	1.87 03-Jan	1.87 03-Jan
Natl Average Retail Ad Price - UEP Cage-free <sup>2</sup>	n/a	▬ 0%	3.01		
Shell Egg Demand Indicator	11.5	▲ 1.0	10.5	11.5 02-Jan	11.5 02-Jan

<sup>1</sup> mostly high; <sup>2</sup> non-organic

## Impact of Commercial Table Egg Flock Losses in 2024

In 2024, a combination of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks and facility fires resulted in the loss of 39.9 million commercial table egg layers in 12 states (AZ, CA, CO, IA, IL, MI, MN, OH, OR, UT, WA, and TX). The impact of these losses on the marketplace has been influenced by the timing of the losses relative to seasonal demand patterns, the range of production systems affected, legislated restraints in certain states, and the end use of the production from affected flocks (e.g., in-shell use). Losses during the last two months of 2024 accounted for 43% of total losses for the year with fully one-third occurring in December headed into the peak annual shell egg demand period and resulting in record-high wholesale and retail prices.

Unlike in past years, in 2024, all major production systems experienced significant losses including conventional caged, cage-free, and certified organic types. Of these, cage-free barn/aviary systems experienced the most disproportionate loss, resulting in significant price impacts for cage-free eggs, especially in states with legislated confinement requirements such as California. In addition, approximately 12.5 million (32%) of the losses occurred in flocks producing for egg products manufacturing, including 10.1 million (80%) in conventional caged production systems and 2.6 million (20%) in cage-free systems.

### 2024 Table Egg Layer Losses by Production System

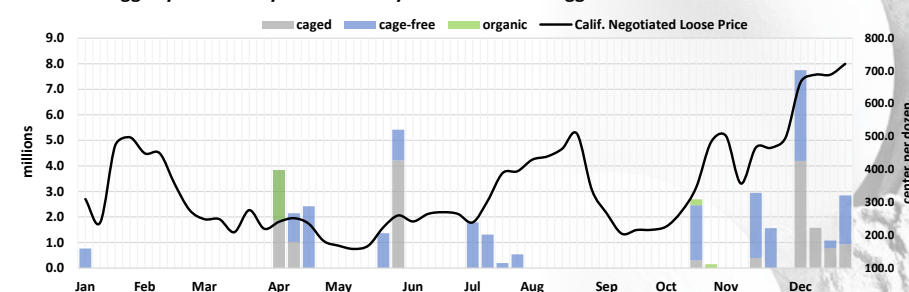
System	Loss	Share
Conventional Caged.....	15,386,469	39%
Cage-Free.....	22,212,831	56%
Organic.....	2,308,500	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,907,800</b>	

### 2024 Table Egg Layer Losses

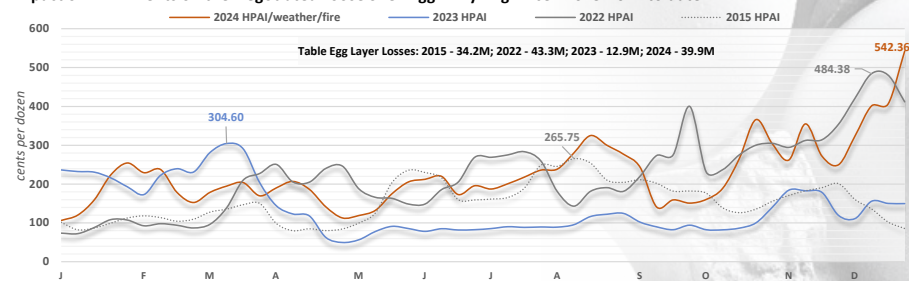
(layers lost to HPAI and to fire (in red))

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals	Share
CA	764,300						200,000				3,177,500	5,755,100	9,896,900	25%
TX				1,894,100									1,894,100	5%
MI				6,498,700									6,498,700	16%
MN					1,368,800								1,368,800	3%
IA					4,287,400							6,555,700	10,843,100	27%
IL					1,200,000								1,200,000	3%
CO							3,104,600						3,104,600	8%
AZ							256,000						256,000	1%
OH							281,000					931,300	1,212,300	3%
UT										1,852,900			1,852,900	5%
WA												839,700	839,700	2%
OR												150,000	150,000	0.4%
AZ											790,700		790,700	2%
<b>Total:</b>	764,300	-	-	8,392,800	6,856,200	-	3,841,600	-	-	2,842,600	3,968,200	13,242,100	<b>39,907,800</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2024 Table Egg Layer Losses by Production System v. CA Loose Egg Price



### Impact of HPAI Events on the Negotiated Loose Shell Egg Wkly Avg Price - 2015-2024 to date



Source: USDA AMS L&P Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News

### Share by State of Total 2024 Commercial Table Egg Layer Losses

