

Egg Statistics

The latest National Statistics produced by Defra on UK egg packing, processing and trade were released on 01 November 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This quarterly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 07 February 2013.

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Key points

This release shows quarterly information on egg production, usage and prices. It also includes monthly information on the trade in eggs and egg products. The key results are given below:

- 6,501 thousand cases of eggs were packed during the third quarter of 2012.
- Free range and organic eggs accounted for 47% of eggs packed in the UK during the third quarter of 2012, the same as in the third quarter of 2011.
- The average packer to producer price for all eggs packed during Q3 2012, was 87.6 pence per dozen, compared with 69.7 pence per dozen during Q3 2011.

This notice and datasets are available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/food/eggs/>

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Section 1: Revisions to publication

Following consultation with industry representatives including BEIC and BEPA, a number of changes have been made to the way information is collected through the egg surveys, leading to some methodological changes and improvements to published survey data.

The following changes apply:

- Throughput by egg size data is no longer collected and therefore removed from this notice.
- The published egg price now relates to an average price across the survey period rather than an end of period weekly spot price and weighted according to the volumes packed by each packing station. Any bonus payments paid are now included in the published price.

There are no revisions to historical survey data.

Further potential improvements have been identified which will be taken forward later in 2012.

Commentary

UK packing station throughput by country (Table 2.1) shows that a total of 4.8 million cases of eggs were packed in England and Wales during quarter 3 of 2012. 1.0 million cases of eggs were packed in Scotland during quarter 3 of 2012, and 0.7 million cases of eggs were packed in Northern Ireland during quarter 3 of 2012.

UK packing station throughput by type (Table 2.2) shows that during quarter 3 of 2012, intensive eggs accounted for 49%, free range eggs accounted for 45% and barn and organic eggs combined accounted for 6% of the total throughput.

The weighted average 'packer to producer' price of all eggs (Table 2.3) for quarter 3 of 2012 was 87.6 pence per dozen. This was an increase of 26% compared to the same period in 2011.

The number of eggs bought by UK processors (Table 2.4) during quarter 3 of 2012 totalled 1.23 million cases.

UK egg processors produced 22 thousand tonnes of egg products in quarter 3 of 2012 (Table 2.5). Liquid eggs accounted for 72% of the total production which for quarter 3 of 2012 was 15.5 thousand tonnes.

The latest trade data shows that during the period Jan-August 2012, the UK imported 3.7 million cases of shell eggs, an increase of 56% on the same period last year (Table 3.1). Exports of shell eggs for the same period totalled 622 thousand cases, which was a 40% increase on the same period during 2011.

UK imports of egg products for the period Jan-August 2012 stood at 2.2 million cases, a 19% increase on the same period last year (Table 3.2). Exports of egg products for the period Jan-August 2012 totalled 89 thousand cases, which represents a 1.3% decrease on exports during the same period of 2011.

Section 2: UK egg packing and processing statistics

The tables in this section show quarterly information on UK egg packing and processing. Q1 refers to the period Jan-Mar, Q2 refers to the period Apr-Jun etc. The packing station figures include throughput of both graded and ungraded eggs. The weighted average packer to producer prices in table 2.3 are weighted according to the volume of throughput of each egg type by each packing station. From 1st January 2012, egg producers were legally required to house laying hens in enriched colony systems only. Datasets showing the longer term trends can be found on the Defra website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/food/eggs/>

Table 2.1: UK Packing Station Egg Throughput by Country

Period		E&W	Scot	NI	UK	thousand cases % change on previous year
2009	Q4	4,676	1,020	564	6,261	0.6%
	Total	18,656	3,850	2,110	24,616	-0.3%
2010*	Q1	4,865	999	633	6,498	6.2%
	Q2	4,889	1,130	667	6,686	9.2%
	Q3	5,111	1,139	670	6,920	13.2%
	Q4	5,154	1,135	674	6,963	11.2%
	Total	20,020	4,404	2,644	27,067	10.0%
2011	Q1	5,102	1,062	690	6,854	5.5%
	Q2	5,249	958	673	6,880	2.9%
	Q3	5,040	898	693	6,632	-4.2%
	Q4	4,974	926	655	6,555	-5.9%
	Total	20,365	3,845	2,711	26,921	-0.5%
2012	Q1	4,875	1,003	628	6,506	-5.1%
	Q2	4,752	908	660	6,319	-8.2%
	Q3	4,837	956	709	6,501	-2.0%

* 53 week period

Table 2.2: UK Packing Station Egg Throughput by Egg Production Type

Period		Intensive	Barn	Free Range	Organic	Total	thousand cases
2009	Q4	3,364	279	2,381	237	6,261	
	Total	13,445	1,035	9,137	999	24,616	
2010*	Q1	3,386	308	2,555	249	6,498	
	Q2	3,348	324	2,779	235	6,686	
	Q3	3,406	355	2,932	226	6,920	
	Q4	3,382	347	3,017	218	6,963	
	Total	13,522	1,334	11,283	928	27,067	
2011	Q1	3,343	291	3,007	212	6,854	
	Q2	3,305	277	3,055	243	6,880	
	Q3	3,300	248	2,875	209	6,632	
	Q4	3,180	259	2,943	174	6,555	
	Total	13,128	1,075	11,879	838	26,921	
2012	Q1	3,106	229	3,004	167	6,506	
	Q2	3,046	221	2,885	167	6,319	
	Q3	3,206	238	2,888	169	6,501	

* 53 week period

Table 2.3: Average Prices Paid by UK Packers to Producers

Pence per dozen

Period		Intensive	Barn	Free Range	Organic	All Eggs	% change on previous year
2009	Q4	56.3	74.0	90.1	137.3	73.0	8.4%
	Total	55.4	72.7	90.2	142.9	72.6	2.8%
2010*	Q1	57.5	73.7	91.3	142.6	74.8	5.1%
	Q2	52.4	71.3	84.4	138.5	69.6	-5.8%
	Q3	51.6	70.7	78.2	132.1	66.5	-8.1%
	Q4	52.8	73.0	83.8	128.8	69.6	-4.7%
	Total	53.6	72.2	84.4	135.5	70.1	-3.4%
2011	Q1	53.5	73.4	83.0	130.4	69.7	-6.9%
	Q2	52.2	72.4	82.2	129.4	69.1	-0.8%
	Q3	54.0	72.8	83.2	128.4	69.7	4.9%
	Q4	56.1	72.0	84.0	138.3	71.4	2.6%
	Total	53.9	72.6	83.1	131.6	70.0	-0.2%
2012	Q1	65.3	c	89.8	c	79.1	13.5%
	Q2	74.4	c	99.7	c	88.6	28.2%
	Q3	73.4	c	99.4	c	87.6	25.6%

'c' confidential

Table 2.4: Number of Eggs Bought by UK Egg Processors

Thousand cases

Period		UK	% change year on year
2009	Q4	1,271	-10.1%
	Total	5,122	-13.2%
2010*	Q1	1,185	-8.2%
	Q2	1,339	0.8%
	Q3	1,231	0.1%
	Q4	1,325	4.3%
	Total	5,080	-0.8%
2011	Q1	1,276	7.7%
	Q2	1,341	0.2%
	Q3	1,354	10.0%
	Q4	1,280	-3.3%
	Total	5,252	3.4%
2012	Q1	1,178	-7.7%
	Q2	1,223	-8.8%
	Q3	1,228	-9.3%

* 53 week period

Table 2.5: Production of Egg Products By UK Egg Processors

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Period	Liquid Egg	Egg Products		Total	% change year on year
		Hard Boiled (a)	Other Products (a)		
2009	Q4	15,514	8,754	24,268	-2.4%
	Total	63,442	30,282	93,724	-9.9%
2010*	Q1	14,962	7,437	22,399	-6.9%
	Q2	16,438	8,807	25,245	8.8%
	Q3	14,841	9,756	24,597	10.8%
	Q4	18,219	7,188	25,407	4.7%
	Total	64,459	33,188	97,648	4.2%
2011	Q1	15,690	8,300	23,990	7.1%
	Q2	17,190	8,471	25,661	1.6%
	Q3	17,943	8,231	26,174	6.4%
	Q4	17,085	7,516	24,601	-3.2%
	Total	67,908	32,518	100,426	2.8%
2012	Q1	17,447	6,393	23,840	-0.6%
	Q2	17,361	6,641	24,001	-6.5%
	Q3	15,485	6,060	21,545	-17.7%

* 53 week period

(a) Separate data for Hard Boiled Eggs and Other Products currently unavailable.

Section 3: UK Egg Trade

Trade figures come from HM Revenue and Customs. Trade data marked as provisional may be subject to revision. Datasets showing the longer term trends can be found on the Defra website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/food/eggs/>

Table 3.1: UK Trade in Shell Eggs (a)

Calendar Months	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
			% change				% change	
	2011	2012	11/12		2011	2012	11/12	
January	172	246	43%	3,787	52	61	16%	652
February	182	296	63%	3,901	64	63	-2%	650
March	363	503	39%	4,041	77	90	16%	663
April	269	671	149%	4,443	46	76	64%	692
May	344	677	97%	4,776	50	77	54%	720
June	388	465	20%	4,853	55	86	57%	751
July	320	441	38%	4,974	47	75	58%	778
August	314	360	15%	5,020	53	95	80%	821
September	330				40			
October	274				48			
November	354				53			
December	404				58			
Total	3,713				644			

(a) In 2011 figures are based on Standard Industrial Trade Classification (SITC) Commodity Code: 040700300 and 04072921000. From 2012 codes SITC code changed from 04070030 to 040721000, 040729100 and 040790100

All trade data are provisional

Table 3.2: UK Trade in Egg Products (a)

Calendar Months	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
			% change				% change	
	2011	2012	11/12		2011	2012	11/12	
January	273	245	-10%	2,787	12	8	-35%	133
February	188	222	18%	2,820	13	13	5%	133
March	234	265	13%	2,851	14	12	-17%	131
April	241	233	-4%	2,842	12	8	-35%	127
May	205	255	25%	2,893	9	8	-12%	126
June	222	250	12%	2,920	10	10	0%	126
July	278	306	10%	2,949	9	15	69%	132
August	227	449	98%	3,171	11	15	34%	136
September	224				9			
October	254				9			
November	221				10			
December	247				20			
Total	2,815				137			

Thousand cases

(a) figures are based on SITCs: 025.21, 025.22 and 025.30, converted to shell egg equivalent

All trade data are provisional

Section 4: Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy

1. The information in this notice is used by the UK government and the EU as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. Other users include the food and farming industry, academia and the general public. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.
2. Egg Packing Statistics: Defra runs a quarterly survey of registered UK egg packing stations. It is a voluntary sample survey of 27 respondents that collects information on throughput and prices of graded eggs and sales of ungraded eggs. The response rate is typically 100 per cent and the survey accounts for 75 per cent of eggs packed in the UK. The survey figures are raised up to give UK estimates using information on the number of commercial laying hens, average egg yields, average mortality rates, the proportion of UK eggs that go through packing stations. Throughput by egg type for packing stations not surveyed is calculated using data provided by packing stations responding to the survey. The raised figures are published in this statistics notice and the associated datasets. The figures in this notice therefore represent all Class A eggs passed over a grader in the UK, including seconds. The prices obtained on the survey are weighted according to the volume of eggs packed by each packing station to obtain average prices for the UK.
3. Egg processing statistics: Defra runs a quarterly survey of all registered egg processors. It is a voluntary survey of 11 respondents that collects information on the number of eggs bought by egg processors and the quantity of egg products produced. The response rate is typically 100 per cent.
4. In tables that show numbers of eggs the units used are 'thousand cases'. There are 360 eggs in one case.
5. Trade statistics: These figures come from HM Revenue and Customs, but are validated and adjusted if necessary prior to publication. The Standard Industrial Trade Classification codes used to produce each table are given in the footnotes below the tables.
6. The data are subject to a variety of validation checks which identify inconsistencies in the data. All data are cleaned prior to publication.
7. The percentage changes shown are calculated using unrounded figures. Thus any percentage changes calculated using the published (rounded) figures may not equate exactly with the changes shown.
8. The UK 12 month moving totals represent the sum of the 12 months up to and including the date indicated. They can be seen as a trend measure that is not affected by seasonality.

Revisions policy:

9. Figures in this notice are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in this statistics notice, and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:
 - a. if we have not received survey data from respondents we make an estimate based on their previous returns. These estimates will be replaced with actual survey data when it is received.
 - b. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
 - c. we may also revise the methodology used to raise the survey data to give UK totals.
10. **This quarter there are minor revisions to trade data from January 2012 due to amendments received from HM Revenue and Customs and revisions to previously published data from quarter 1 2012 due to amended survey data.**