



## UK Egg Statistics – Quarter 4, 2012

The latest National Statistics on UK egg packing, processing and trade were released on 07 February 2013 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This quarterly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 02 May 2013.

### Contents

Section 1	Commentary and revisions to publication	page 2
Section 2	UK Egg Packing and Processing Statistics	pages 3-5
Section 3	UK Egg Trade	page 6
Section 4	Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy	page 7

### 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:

- 6,596 thousand cases of eggs were packed during the fourth quarter of 2012.
- Free range and organic eggs accounted for 47 per cent of eggs packed in the UK during the fourth quarter of 2012, compared to 48 per cent during quarter four, 2011.
- The average packer to producer price for all eggs packed during quarter four 2012, was 89.9 pence per dozen, compared with 71.4 pence per dozen during quarter four 2011.

This notice and datasets are available at:

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

---

**Enquiries to:** Leigh Riley, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 301, Foss House, King Pool, 1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. Tel:++ 44 (0)1904 455095 email:leigh.riley@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**A National Statistics publication.** National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk). You can also find National Statistics on the internet at [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

## **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 5.0 million cases of eggs were packed in England and Wales during quarter 4 of 2012. 1.0 million cases of eggs were packed in Scotland during quarter 4 of 2012, and 0.7 million cases of eggs were packed in Northern Ireland during quarter 4 of 2012.

UK packing station throughput by type (Table 2.2) shows that during quarter 4 of 2012, intensive eggs accounted for 49 per cent, free range eggs accounted for 45 per cent and barn and organic eggs combined accounted for 6 per cent of the total throughput.

The weighted average 'packer to producer' price of all eggs (Table 2.3) for quarter 4 of 2012 was 89.9 pence per dozen. This was an increase of 26 per cent compared to the same period in 2011.

The number of eggs bought by UK processors (Table 2.4) during quarter 4 of 2012 totalled 1.14 million cases.

UK egg processors produced 22 thousand tonnes of egg products in quarter 4 of 2012 (Table 2.5). Liquid egg accounted for 75 per cent of the total production, which for quarter 4 of 2012 was 16.1 thousand tonnes.

The latest trade data shows that during the period Jan-November 2012, the UK imported 5.2 million cases of shell eggs, an increase of 57 per cent on the same period last year (Table 3.1). Exports of shell eggs for the same period totalled 899 thousand cases, which was a 53 per cent increase on the same period during 2011.

UK imports of egg products for the period Jan-November 2012 stood at 2.9 million cases, a 13 per cent increase on the same period last year (Table 3.2). Exports of egg products for the period Jan-November 2012 totalled 376 thousand cases, which represents a 220 per cent increase 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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
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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,020</b>	<b>4,404</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>27,067</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,365</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>26,921</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
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%
	Q4	4,967	967	662	6,596	0.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,430</b>	<b>3,834</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>25,922</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>

\* 53 week period

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

Period		Intensive	Barn	Free Range	Organic	thousand cases Total
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,522</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>11,283</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>27,067</b>
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,128</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>11,879</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>26,921</b>
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
	Q4	3,239	259	2,939	159	6,596
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,597</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>25,922</b>

\* 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
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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>135.5</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>
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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>131.6</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
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%
	Q4	75.8	c	101.7	c	89.9	25.9%

'c' confidential

**Table 2.4: Number of Eggs Bought by UK Egg Processors**

thousand cases

Period		UK	% change year on year
2010*	Q1	1,185	-8.2%
	Q2	1,339	0.8%
	Q3	1,231	0.1%
	Q4	1,325	4.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,080</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
2011	Q1	1,276	7.7%
	Q2	1,341	0.2%
	Q3	1,354	10.0%
	Q4	1,280	-3.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,252</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
2012	Q1	1,178	-7.7%
	Q2	1,223	-8.8%
	Q3	1,228	-9.3%
	Q4	1,142	-10.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>

\* 53 week period

**Table 2.5: Production of Egg Products By UK Egg Processors**

tonnes

Period		Liquid Egg	Egg Products		Total	% change year on year
			Hard Boiled (a)	Other Products (a)		
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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64,459</b>	<b>33,188</b>		<b>97,648</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67,908</b>	<b>32,518</b>		<b>100,426</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
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%
	Q4	16,146	5,405		21,551	-12.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66,439</b>	<b>24,499</b>		<b>90,937</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

\* 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	thousand cases							
	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
	2011	2012	% change 11/12		2011	2012	% change 11/12	
January	172	267	55%	3,808	52	61	16%	652
February	182	330	82%	3,956	64	63	-2%	650
March	363	537	48%	4,130	77	90	16%	663
April	269	708	163%	4,568	46	76	64%	692
May	344	710	107%	4,935	50	77	54%	720
June	388	503	30%	5,050	55	86	57%	751
July	320	465	45%	5,195	47	75	58%	778
August	314	387	23%	5,269	53	91	71%	816
September	330	429	30%	5,368	40	87	117%	863
October	274	472	72%	5,566	48	100	110%	915
November	354	391	11%	5,603	53	95	78%	957
December	404				58			
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,713</b>				<b>644</b>			

(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	thousand cases							
	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
	2011	2012	% change 11/12		2011	2012	% change 11/12	
January	273	246	-10%	2,787	12	8	-35%	133
February	188	222	18%	2,821	13	13	5%	133
March	234	265	13%	2,851	14	12	-17%	131
April	241	233	-4%	2,843	12	8	-35%	127
May	205	255	25%	2,893	9	8	-12%	126
June	222	250	12%	2,921	10	10	0%	126
July	278	306	10%	2,950	9	68	641%	185
August	227	309	36%	3,032	11	64	468%	238
September	224	229	2%	3,037	9	68	641%	296
October	254	313	23%	3,096	9	50	487%	338
November	221	273	24%	3,148	10	67	597%	396
December	247				20			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,815</b>				<b>137</b>			

(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.**