



8 May 2014

United Kingdom Egg Statistics – Quarter 1, 2014

These National Statistics on UK egg packing, processing and trade were released on 8 May 2014 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This quarterly notice will be next updated at 09:30 on 7 August 2014.

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Key results

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

- 6,671 thousand cases of eggs were packed during the first quarter of 2014.
Free range accounted for 43 per cent of all eggs packed, which was an increase of 1 per cent on the previous quarter. Enriched cage accounted for 51 per cent, which was a decrease of 1 per cent on the previous quarter.
- The volume of eggs processed during the first quarter of 2014 totalled 24 thousand tonnes. The production of liquid egg and egg products increased by 4.3 per cent compared to the same period the previous year.
- The average price paid by packers to producers for all eggs packed during quarter one 2014 was 87.1 pence per dozen, compared with 88.2 pence per dozen during quarter four 2013.

This release and associated timeseries are available online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/egg-statistics>

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Section 1: Commentary

UK egg packing, price and processing statistics

- Of the total 6.7 million cases of eggs packed by packing stations in the UK, 5 million (74 per cent) were packed in England and Wales. Throughput has increased slightly from the previous period as a result of a small increase to the size of the laying flock.
- Broken down by type, eggs from enriched cages accounted for 51 per cent of the total throughput whilst free range eggs accounted for 43 per cent. Barn and organic eggs together accounted for 6 per cent.
- The weighted average 'packer to producer' price of all eggs, as shown in Table 2.3, was 87.1 pence per dozen. This was a decrease of 5.6 per cent compared to the same period in 2013.
- The number of eggs bought by UK egg processors totalled 1.1 million cases (equating to 24 thousand tonnes), a decrease of 2 per cent on the same period in 2013, as shown in Table 2.4.
- Table 2.5 shows that UK egg processors produced 24 thousand tonnes of egg products, a rise of 4 per cent on the same period in 2013.
- Liquid egg accounted for 64 per cent of the total production and shows a slight fall on the previous quarter. Production of other egg products also decreased slightly on the previous quarter, as shown in Table 2.5.

Egg trade data (sourced from HM Revenue and Customs)

- The latest trade data from HMRC shows that during the period Jan-Feb 2014, the UK imported 263 thousand cases and exported 54 thousand cases of shell eggs (Table 3.1). The February 2014 figures show a 4 per cent decrease in imports on the same period last year to 122 thousand cases and the export figures also show a decrease of 3 per cent to 24 thousand cases on the same period last year.
- UK imports of egg products for the period Jan-Feb 2014 stood at 0.5 million cases (Table 3.2), a fall of 13.1 per cent on the same period last year. Exports of egg products for the same period totalled 22 thousand cases. A comparison with 2013 exports are unavailable, due to the current investigation by HMRC.

Section 2 (a): UK egg packing and price statistics

The tables in this section show quarterly information on UK egg packing and processing. Q1 refers to the period January to March, Q2 refers to the period April to June etc.

The packing station figures include throughput of both graded and ungraded eggs. The weighted average packer to producer prices, as shown 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.

Table 2.1: UK Packing Station Egg Throughput by Country

Period		E&W	Scot	NI	UK	thousand cases % change on previous year
2012	Q1	4,875	1,003	628	6,506	-5.1%
	Q2	4,751	908	660	6,319	-8.2%
	Q3	4,836	955	709	6,501	-2.0%
	Q4	4,966	967	663	6,596	0.6%
	Total	19,428	3,834	2,660	25,922	-3.7%
2013	Q1	5,088	942	693	6,723	3.3%
	Q2	5,119	975	725	6,819	7.9%
	Q3	4,999	936	778	6,713	3.3%
	Q4	4,909	936	801	6,646	0.8%
	Total	20,114	3,790	2,996	26,901	3.8%
2014	Q1	4,969	866	835	6,671	-0.8%

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

Period		Enriched cage	Barn	Free Range	Organic	Total	thousand cases
2012	Q1	3,106	229	3,004	167	6,506	
	Q2	3,046	222	2,885	167	6,319	
	Q3	3,206	238	2,888	169	6,501	
	Q4	3,238	259	2,939	159	6,596	
	Total	12,596	948	11,716	662	25,922	
2013	Q1	3,339	250	2,986	148	6,723	
	Q2	3,426	222	3,017	155	6,819	
	Q3	3,381	199	2,973	159	6,713	
	Q4	3,460	218	2,820	148	6,646	
	Total	13,606	890	11,795	610	26,901	
2014	Q1	3,409	222	2,879	161	6,671	

Table 2.3: Average Prices Paid by UK Packers to Producers (a)

pence per dozen

Period		Enriched cage	Barn	Free Range	Organic	All Eggs	% change on previous year
2012	Q1	65.3	c	89.8	c	79.1	13.5%
	Q2	74.4	c	99.7	c	88.4	28.0%
	Q3	73.4	c	99.4	c	87.4	25.4%
	Q4	75.8	c	101.7	c	89.7	25.7%
	Total	72.2	c	97.7	c	86.2	23.2%
2013	Q1	77.5	c	105.6	c	92.2	16.6%
	Q2	75.4	c	105.5	c	91.0	2.9%
	Q3	72.9	c	104.3	c	89.2	2.1%
	Q4	71.3	c	105.5	c	88.2	-1.7%
	Total	74.3	c	105.2	c	90.2	4.6%
2014	Q1	69.8	c	103.6	c	87.1	-5.6%

'c' confidential

(a) From 2012 the price is an average across the survey period rather than an end of period weekly spot price and weighted according to the volumes packed by each packing station. Bonus payments paid are included.

Section 2 (b): UK egg processing statistics**Table 2.4: Number of Eggs Bought by UK Egg Processors**

Period		Thousand cases	Tonnes	% change year on year
2012	Q1	1,178	25,926	-7.7%
	Q2	1,223	26,900	-8.8%
	Q3	1,228	27,017	-9.3%
	Q4	1,141	25,095	-10.9%
	Total	4,770	104,938	-9.2%
2013	Q1	1,125	24,742	-4.6%
	Q2	1,080	23,769	-11.6%
	Q3	1,090	23,979	-11.2%
	Q4	1,185	26,078	3.9%
	Total	4,480	98,567	-6.1%
2014	Q1	1,100	24,200	-2.2%

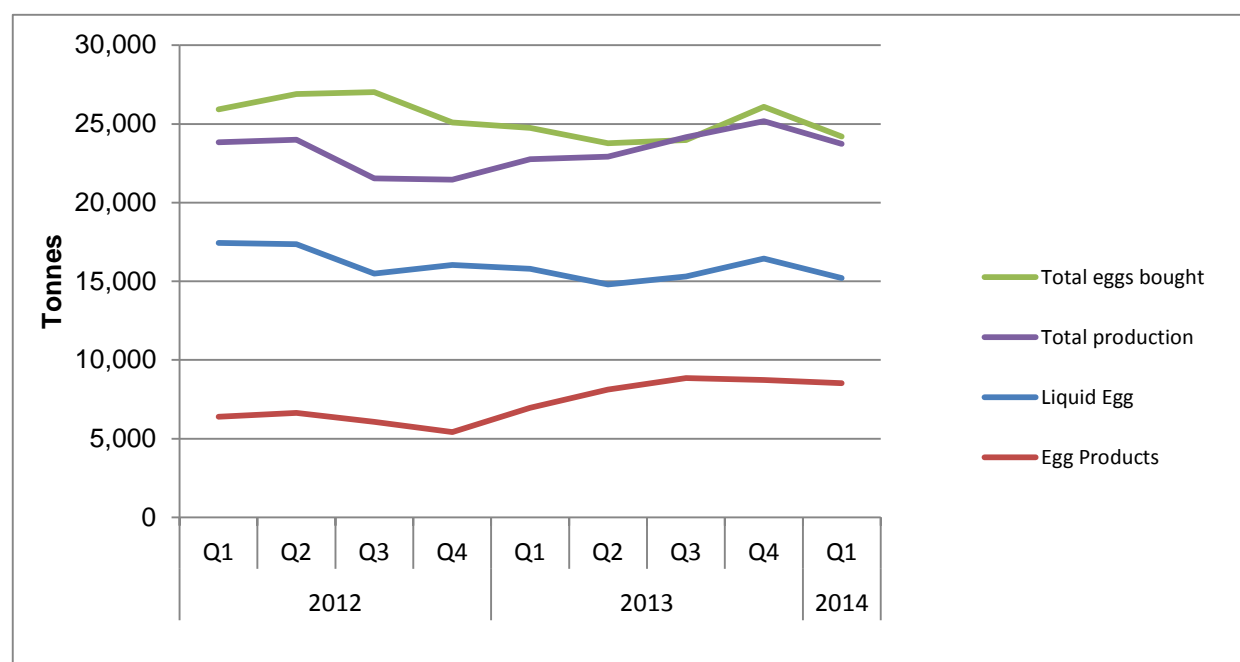
Table 2.5: Production of Egg Products by UK Egg Processors

tonnes

Period		Liquid Egg	Egg Products		Total	% change year on year
			Hard Boiled (a)	Other Products (a)		
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	16,045	5,409		21,454	-12.8%
	Total	66,338	24,503		90,841	-9.5%
2013	Q1	15,785	6,964		22,749	-4.6%
	Q2	14,797	8,126		22,923	-4.5%
	Q3	15,303	8,852		24,155	12.1%
	Q4	16,453	8,726		25,179	17.4%
	Total	62,338	32,667		95,005	4.6%
2014	Q1	15,198	8,529		23,727	4.3%

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

Figure 2.1: Intake and Production of Egg Products by UK Egg Processors (a)



(a) The volume of eggs processed also includes any processing carried out for external customers who supply their own eggs. This can cause the overall volume of eggs processed to be higher than the volume of eggs purchased, as in the statistics for Q3 2013.

Section 3: UK Egg Trade

Trade figures are supplied by HM Revenue and Customs. Trade data marked as provisional may be subject to revision.

Table 3.1: UK Trade in Shell Eggs (a)

Calendar Months	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
			% change				% change	
	2013	2014	13/14		2013	2014	13/14	
January	151	142	-6%	1,708	29	29	1%	282
February	127	122	-4%	1,702	25	24	-3%	281
March	164				20			
April	126				22			
May	122				26			
June	125				22			
July	128				25			
August	150				23			
September	149				27			
October	144				33			
November	184				13			
December	147				16			
Total	1,718	263			281	54		

(a) From 2012 comm codes 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	
	2013	2014	13/14		2013	2014	13/14	
January	254	244	-4%	3,370	<i>106</i>	12	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
February	280	220	-21%	3,311	<i>90</i>	11	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
March	252				<i>73</i>			
April	251				<i>65</i>			
May	310				<i>83</i>			
June	309				17			
July	306				14			
August	274				13			
September	287				12			
October	335				12			
November	251				15			
December	273				7			
Total	3,381	464			506	22		

(a) Figures are based on SITCs: 025.21, 025.22 and 025.30, converted to shell egg equivalent. All trade data are provisional - Figures in italics are currently under investigation with HMRC, as they are unusually high. We recommend treating these figures with caution until this query is resolved. tbc: to be confirmed when HMRC query is resolved.

Section 4: Data users, methodology, notes and revisions policy

Data users

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.
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Methodology

3. 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 by production type 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. From 2012, prices include any bonus payments paid to producers.
4. 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.
5. In tables that show numbers of eggs the units used are 'thousand cases'. There are 360 eggs in one case.
6. 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.
7. The data are subject to a variety of validation checks which identify inconsistencies in the data. All data are cleaned prior to publication.
8. 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.
9. 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:

10. 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.

11. This quarter there are minor revisions to previously published packing station data for Q4 2013 due to amended survey data (The E&W throughput decreased by 0.1%, from 4,913 th cases to 4,909 th cases) and there were minor revisions to previously published trade figures from January 2013 due to amended HMRC data (Imports of egg product for the period Jan-Nov 2013 increased by 0.6%, 3,090 th cases to 3,107 th cases).