



2 May 2013

United Kingdom Egg Statistics – Quarter 1, 2013

The latest National Statistics on UK egg packing, processing and trade were released on 2 May 2013 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This quarterly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 1 August 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:

- 6,723 thousand cases of eggs were packed during the first quarter of 2013.
- Free range and organic eggs accounted for 47 per cent of eggs packed in the UK during the first quarter of 2013, compared to 49 per cent during quarter one 2012.
- The average packer to producer price for all eggs packed during quarter one 2013, was 92.2 pence per dozen, compared with 79.1 pence per dozen during quarter one 2012.

This notice and datasets are available at:

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

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Section 1: Commentary

UK packing station throughput by country (Table 2.1) shows that a total of 5.1 million cases of eggs were packed in England and Wales during quarter 1 of 2013. 0.9 million cases of eggs were packed in Scotland during quarter 1 of 2013, and 0.7 million cases of eggs were packed in Northern Ireland during quarter 1 of 2013.

UK packing station throughput by type (Table 2.2) shows that during quarter 1 of 2013, intensive eggs accounted for 50 per cent, free range eggs accounted for 44 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 1 of 2013 was 92.2 pence per dozen. This was an increase of 17 per cent compared to the same period in 2012.

The number of eggs bought by UK processors (Table 2.4) during quarter 1 of 2013 totalled 1.13 million cases.

UK egg processors produced 23 thousand tonnes of egg products in quarter 1 of 2013 (Table 2.5). Liquid egg accounted for 69 per cent of the total production, which for quarter 1 of 2013 was 15.8 thousand tonnes.

The latest trade data shows that during the period Jan-Feb 2013, the UK imported 598 thousand cases of shell eggs, similar to import levels the same period last year (Table 3.1). Exports of shell eggs for the same period totalled 159 thousand cases, which was a 29 per cent increase on the same period during 2012.

UK imports of egg products for the period Jan-Feb 2013 stood at 527 thousand cases, a 13 per cent increase on the same period last year (Table 3.2). Exports of egg products for the period Jan-Feb 2013 totalled 155 thousand cases. The significant rise is mainly due to increased exports of dried whole-egg products.

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.

Table 2.1: UK Packing Station Egg Throughput by Country

Period		E&W	Scot	NI	UK	thousand cases % change on previous year
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	4,751	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%

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

Period		Intensive	Barn	Free Range	Organic	Total	thousand cases
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	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	3,340	250	2,984	148	6,723	

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

pence per dozen

Period		Intensive	Barn	Free Range	Organic	All Eggs	% change on previous year
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	88.4	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%

'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. Any bonus payments paid are included.

Table 2.4: Number of Eggs Bought by UK Egg Processors

thousand cases

Period		UK	% change year on year
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%
	Q4	1,141	-10.9%
	Total	4,770	-9.2%
2013	Q1	1,128	-4.2%

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)		
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%
	Q4	16,045	5,409		21,454	-12.8%
	Total	66,338	24,503		90,841	-9.5%
2013	Q1	15,832	6,962		22,794	-4.4%

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

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)

thousand cases

Calendar Months	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
	2012	2013	% change 12/13		2012	2013	% change 12/13	
January	267	331	24%	5,798	61	98	61%	1,039
February	330	268	-19%		5,736	63	61	
March	537				90			
April	708				76			
May	710				77			
June	503				86			
July	465				75			
August	387				91			
September	429				87			
October	498				100			
November	450				95			
December	451				102			
Total	5,734	598			1,001	159		

(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)

thousand cases

Calendar Months	Imports			12 Month Moving Totals	Exports			12 Month Moving Totals
	2012	2013	% change 12/13		2012	2013	% change 12/13	
January	246	250	2%	3,167	8	50	513%	436
February	222	277	25%		3,222	13	105	
March	265				12			
April	233				8			
May	255				8			
June	250				10			
July	306				68			
August	309				64			
September	229				68			
October	313				50			
November	284				67			
December	251				18			
Total	3,163	527			394	155		

(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 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 obtained average prices for the UK. From 2012, prices include any bonus payments paid to producers.
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 previously published data from Q2 2012 due to revised survey data.**