



United Kingdom Egg Statistics – Quarter 1, 2016

This release shows quarterly information on the numbers of eggs packed in UK packing stations (which covers the vast majority of total eggs produced), usage and farm-gate egg prices. It also includes monthly information on the trade in eggs and egg products.

Key results

- 7.2 million cases of eggs were packed in UK egg packing stations during the first quarter of 2016. This represents a 0.4% increase on quarter 4 2015 and a 5.1 % increase on the first quarter in 2015. This shows an increase for the fourth successive quarter.
- The average UK farm-gate egg price through the first quarter of 2016 was 72.6 pence per dozen, a 10% decrease on the fourth quarter 2015 and a 13% decrease on the same quarter in 2015.
- The production of egg products during the first quarter of 2016 totalled 23 thousand tonnes, an 8.5% decrease on the fourth quarter in 2015 and an 10.5% decrease on the first quarter 2015.

This quarterly release will be next updated at 09:30 on 4th August 2016. Full time series are available to download at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/egg-statistics>.

Enquiries on this publication to:

Ben Drummond, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 201, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. Tel:++ 44 (0)208 0266157, email:ben.drummond@defra.gsi.gov.uk

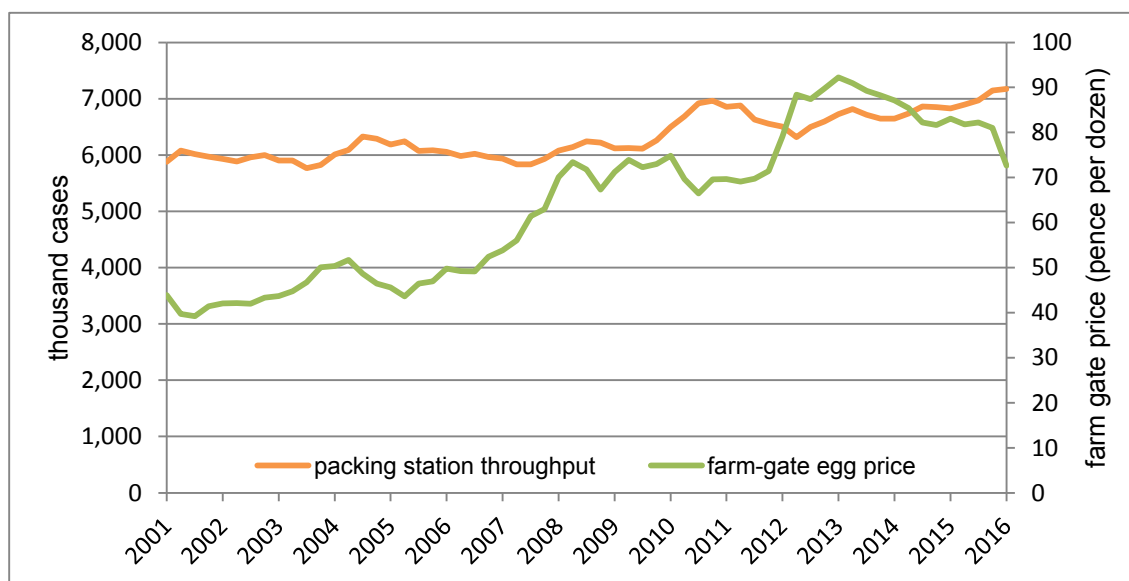
A National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National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

Section 1: UK egg packing volumes, methods of production, UK country breakdowns and price statistics

The tables in this section show quarterly information on the volumes of eggs passed through the UK egg packing stations. These eggs generally account for nearly 90% of total egg production. Packing station figures include throughput of both graded and ungraded eggs.

- The number of eggs which went through the packing stations in Q1 2016 increased 5.1% on the same quarter in 2015.
- Egg prices have decreased to 72.6p per dozen, a 13% fall on Q1 2015 price.

Figure 1: The number of eggs packed in UK packing stations compared to the UK farm-gate egg price: 2001-2015



Note: Prices are not adjusted for inflation

Table 1: UK Packing Station egg throughput by country

Period		E&W	Scot	NI	UK	Thousand cases
						% change on previous year
2014	Q2	4,970	861	908	6,739	-1.2%
	Q3	5,087	918	855	6,861	2.2%
	Q4	5,015	820	1,014	6,849	3.1%
	Total	20,025	3,463	3,610	27,097	0.7%
2015	Q1	5,068	871	887	6,826	2.7%
	Q2	5,113	868	913	6,894	2.3%
	Q3	5,114	876	980	6,970	1.6%
	Q4	5,123	943	1,078	7,144	4.3%
	Total	20,418	3,558	3,858	27,834	2.7%
2016	Q1	5,219	935	1,018	7,172	5.1%

Table 2: UK Packing Station egg throughput by egg production type

Period		Enriched cage	Barn	Free Range	Organic	Total
2014	Q2	3,485	210	2,889	154	6,739
	Q3	3,601	195	2,905	160	6,861
	Q4	3,613	156	2,927	152	6,849
	Total	14,097	782	11,591	627	27,097
2015	Q1	3,545	165	2,960	156	6,826
	Q2	3,515	168	3,041	170	6,894
	Q3	3,486	159	3,158	166	6,970
	Q4	3,666	170	3,142	166	7,144
	Total	14,213	661	12,301	658	27,834
2016	Q1	3,600	153	3,258	161	7,172

Thousand cases

- Eggs produced from hens in enriched colony systems (intensive cages pre-2012) accounted for 51% of the total throughput in 2015, one percentage point lower than in 2014. Free range eggs accounted for 44% of 2015 throughput, one percentage point higher than in 2014.

Figure 2: UK egg throughput by production method

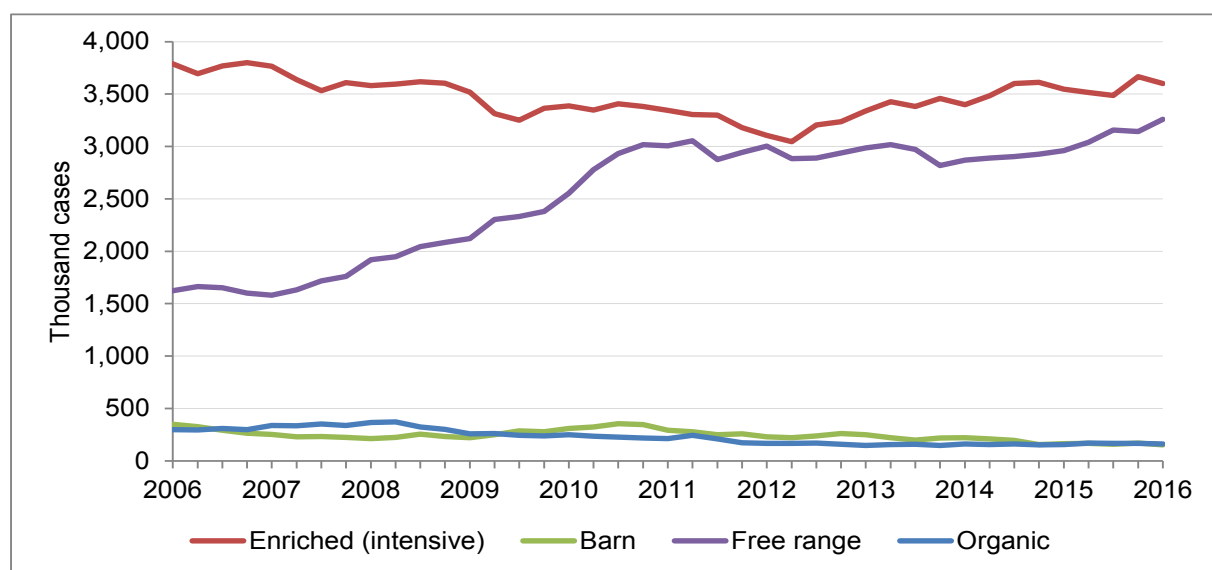


Table 3: Average UK farm-gate egg price (a)

Period		Enriched cage	Barn	Free Range	Organic	All Eggs	% change on previous year
2014	Q2	69.1	c	101.4	c	85.4	-6.1%
	Q3	66.7	c	97.5	c	82.3	-7.8%
	Q4	65.7	c	97.8	c	81.7	-7.5%
	Total	67.8	c	100.1	c	84.1	-6.7%
2015	Q1	65.3	c	100.6	c	83.1	-4.6%
	Q2	64.0	c	98.4	c	81.8	-4.2%
	Q3	64.2	c	98.3	c	82.2	-0.01%
	Q4	63.1	c	98.0	c	81.0	-0.8%
	Total	64.1	c	98.8	c	82.1	-2.4%
2016	Q1	56.4	c	87.0	c	72.6	-13%

Pence per dozen

'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: UK egg processing statistics

- The number of eggs bought by UK egg processors in Q1 2016 totalled 1.1 million cases (equating to 24 thousand tonnes), a decrease of 2.7% on the same period in 2015.
- Liquid egg accounted for 67% of the total production in Q1 2016. Total production was down 10.5% in Q1 2016 compared to the same quarter last year.

Table 4: Number of eggs bought by UK Egg Processors

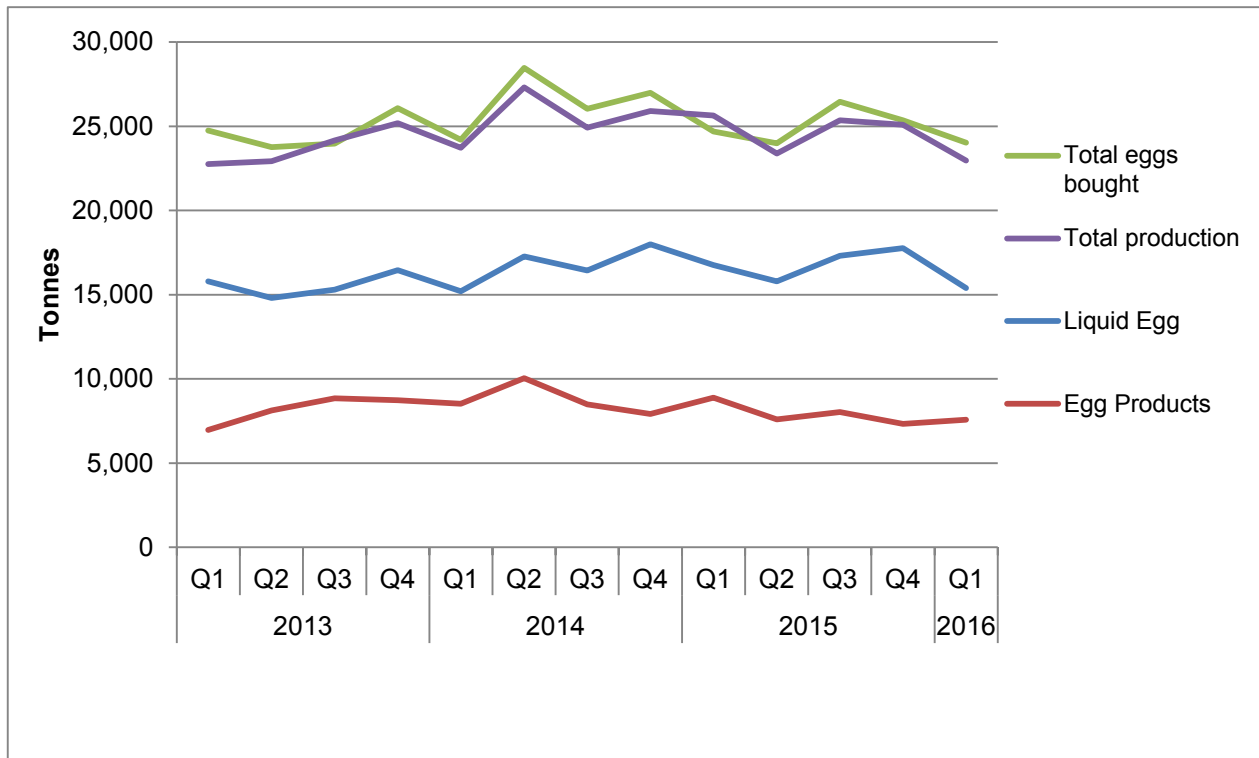
Period		Thousand cases	Tonnes	% change year on year
2014	Q2	1,294	28,460	20%
	Q3	1,184	26,038	8.6%
	Q4	1,226	26,979	3.5%
	Total	4,804	105,677	7.2%
2015	Q1	1,122	24,688	2.0%
	Q2	1,091	23,991	-16%
	Q3	1,202	26,448	1.6%
	Q4	1,153	25,364	-6.0%
	Total	4,568	100,491	-4.9%
2016	Q1	1,092	24,034	-2.7%

Table 5: Production of egg products by UK Egg Processors

Period		Liquid Egg	Egg Products	Total	% change year on year
			Hard Boiled & Other Products (a)		
2014	Q2	17,276	10,036	27,313	19%
	Q3	16,436	8,489	24,925	3.2%
	Q4	17,999	7,914	25,913	2.9%
	Total	66,910	34,968	101,878	7.2%
2015	Q1	16,757	8,891	25,648	8.1%
	Q2	15,790	7,586	23,377	-14%
	Q3	17,315	8,038	25,354	1.7%
	Q4	17,761	7,334	25,096	-3.2%
	Total	67,624	31,850	99,474	-2.4%
2016	Q1	15,387	7,577	22,964	-10.5%

(a) Separate data for Hard Boiled Eggs and Other Products is currently unavailable to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

Figure 3: 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 Q1 2015.

Section 3: UK Egg Trade

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

- The latest data for February 2016 shows in imports of shell eggs at 101,000 cases, a 31% decrease on the same period last year. Imports of egg products are down 3.0% at 341,000 cases compared to February 2015.
- Shell egg export figures for February 2016 are 21,000 cases, more than double the same period in 2015, whilst egg product exports were 8,000 cases, down 1,000 cases compared to February 2015.

Table 6: UK Trade in Shell Eggs

Thousand cases

Calendar Months	Imports				12 Month Moving Totals	Exports				12 Month Moving Totals
	2014	2015	2016	% change 15/16		2014	2015	2016	% change 15/16	
January	142	109	158	45%	1,627	29	17	18	2.0%	183
February	135	146	101	-31%	1,583	24	9	21	137%	195
March	168	185				35	9			
April	147	167				17	9			
May	155	123				12	13			
June	143	141				23	20			
July	141	121				22	25			
August	148	139				19	15			
September	156	128				19	12			
October	180	105				15	17			
November	180	121				14	17			
December	155	94				15	20			
Total	1,851	1,579	259			243	182	39		

All trade data are provisional

Table 7: UK Trade in Egg Products (a)

Thousand cases

Calendar Months	Imports				12 Month Moving Totals	Exports				12 Month Moving Totals
	2014	2015	2016	% change 15/16		2014	2015	2016	% change 15/16	
January	244	284	310	9.2%	4,294	12	14	7	-50%	105
February	237	352	341	-3.0%	4,283	11	9	8	-11%	104
March	221	533				10	10			
April	291	531				12	9			
May	298	255				8	8			
June	245	301				9	9			
July	270	291				10	10			
August	238	351				10	7			
September	482	353				14	7			
October	294	405				9	9			
November	322	312				15	13			
December	272	298				10	7			
Total	3,413	4,268	652			130	112	14		

(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: Data users, methodology, notes and revisions policy

Data users

1. Users of the egg statistics include the EU Commission who require the UK farm gate egg price weekly under Regulation EC 546/2003. They have also recently issued a voluntary request for Member States to submit egg production estimates to fill a data gap that exists.
2. Representatives of the egg and poultry industry are also major users of the data. The data on egg production volumes and egg type are key sector indicators for the British Egg Industry Council (BEIC) as they reflect the size of the national laying flock. The British Free Range Egg Producers Association also makes heavy use of our data as it indicates the size of the free range sector. We work closely with these users and consult widely when considering any changes to our surveys or associated datasets.
3. The Home Grown Cereals Authority (HGCA), part of the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board, rely on egg production data as a good indicator of the commercial layer flock and associated feed demand and hence grain usage by the sector.
4. Our statistics are also often heavily referenced in industry publications such as “Poultry World” and “The Ranger”, the official magazine of the British Free Range Egg Producers Association.

Methodology

5. **Egg Packing Statistics:** Total egg throughput is modelled using the number of commercial laying hens (which is based on the Defra Hatchery Survey layer chick placings), average egg yields, average mortality rates and the proportion of UK eggs that go through packing stations. To estimate further breakdowns from this total output, Defra runs a quarterly survey of registered UK egg packing stations to collect data on egg production method (i.e. free range, enriched cages etc.), country of packing and prices. This “Egg Packers survey” is a voluntary survey of 27 packing stations across the UK, which accounts for around 75% of eggs packed in the UK. The response rate is typically 100 per cent.
6. 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.
7. **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.
8. In tables that show numbers of eggs the units used are 'thousand cases'. There are 360 eggs in one case.
9. **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.
10. The data are subject to a variety of validation checks which identify inconsistencies in the data. All data are cleaned prior to publication.
11. 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.

12. 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.
13. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.

Revisions policy:

14. 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.
15. **This quarter there have been revisions to 2015 trade figures due to amended HMRC data.**