

U.S. Specialty Egg Cost of Production and Prices

January 7, 2025



Compiled by
Maro Ibarburu

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The Egg Industry Center Market Reports & Industry Analysis are compiled in the memory of their creator, Don D. Bell, Poultry Extension Specialist Emeritus - UC Davis.

TABLE 1

COST of GROWING CAGE-FREE PULLETS TO 16 WEEKS of AGE BY REGION (\$/bird) - 2024

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	West	5-region average
Jan	4.92	4.95	4.83	4.89	5.27	4.97
Feb	4.86	4.89	4.77	4.83	5.24	4.92
Mar	4.85	4.89	4.77	4.83	5.20	4.91
Apr	4.85	4.90	4.79	4.83	5.23	4.92
May	4.94	4.98	4.87	4.93	5.32	5.01
Jun	4.91	4.94	4.85	4.91	5.29	4.98
Jul	4.81	4.87	4.78	4.84	5.21	4.90
Aug	4.73	4.80	4.68	4.75	5.11	4.81
Sep	4.81	4.85	4.71	4.78	5.15	4.86
Oct	4.82	4.85	4.70	4.76	5.15	4.86
Nov	4.80	4.82	4.69	4.75	5.13	4.84
Dec	4.82	4.84	4.70	4.74	5.08	4.84
12 Month Avg.	4.84	4.88	4.76	4.82	5.20	4.90
Region/US avg.	0.99	1.00	0.97	0.98	1.06	

Source: Egg Industry Center [Non-feed cost was adjusted using the Consumer Price Index until we receive new survey answers.](#)

Assumptions: estimated as the median value of egg farmer surveys which median age was 16 weeks

12.4 lbs. of feed consumed per pullet for cage-free systems (from egg farmer surveys)

pullet feed price 7% more expensive than layer feed

chick cost = 112 cents/baby chick for cage-free systems (including services)

moving cost = 21 cents/pullet for cage-free systems (from egg farmer surveys)

all other costs = 202 cents/pullet for cage-free systems (from egg farmer surveys)

All non-feed cost are assumed to be the same for all regions, because the number of survey responses wasn't large enough to estimate non-feed cost per region. There was a wide range of costs between survey responses even within the same region.

Note: "5-region average" is the simple average of the NE, SE, SC, MW, and NW regions.

TABLE 2

COST of GROWING CAGE-FREE PULLETS TO 19 WEEKS of AGE (start of lay) BY REGION (\$/bird) - 2024

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	West	5-region average
Jan	5.64	5.68	5.53	5.60	6.06	5.70
Feb	5.57	5.60	5.45	5.53	6.02	5.64
Mar	5.55	5.60	5.45	5.53	5.98	5.62
Apr	5.55	5.61	5.48	5.53	6.02	5.64
May	5.66	5.71	5.58	5.64	6.12	5.74
Jun	5.62	5.66	5.55	5.62	6.09	5.71
Jul	5.50	5.57	5.46	5.54	5.99	5.61
Aug	5.41	5.49	5.35	5.43	5.87	5.51
Sep	5.50	5.55	5.39	5.46	5.91	5.56
Oct	5.52	5.55	5.38	5.44	5.92	5.56
Nov	5.49	5.52	5.36	5.43	5.89	5.54
Dec	5.52	5.54	5.37	5.42	5.83	5.54
12 Month Avg.	5.55	5.59	5.44	5.51	5.97	5.61
Region/US avg.	0.99	1.00	0.97	0.98	1.06	

Source: Egg Industry Center [Non-feed cost was adjusted using the Consumer Price Index until we receive new survey answers.](#)

Assumptions: estimated as the median value of producers' survey which median age was 16 weeks

15.1 lbs. of feed consumed per pullet for cage-free systems (from producers' survey)

pullet feed price 7% more expensive than layer feed

chick cost = 112 cents/baby chick for cage-free systems (including services)

moving cost = 21 cents/pullet for cage-free systems (from producers' survey)

all other costs = 240 cents/pullet for cage-free systems (from producers' survey)

All non-feed cost are assumed to be the same for all regions, because the number of survey responses wasn't large enough to estimate non-feed cost per region. There was a wide range of costs between survey responses even within the same region.

Note: "5-region average" is the simple average of the NE, SE, SC, MW, and NW regions.

[A 25 miles increase in the average feed transportation distance, would result in a \\$0.05/pullet increase on the cost of growing pullets to 16-weeks of age, and a \\$0.061/pullet increase on the cost of growing pullets to 19-weeks of age.](#)



TABLE 3

ESTIMATED CAGE-FREE PULLET COST BY REGION under 1-cycle systems (Cents/doz.) - 2024

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	West	5-region average
Jan	15.76	15.85	15.45	15.65	16.86	15.91
Feb	15.57	15.65	15.26	15.47	16.76	15.74
Mar	15.51	15.65	15.26	15.45	16.66	15.71
Apr	15.53	15.67	15.32	15.47	16.75	15.75
May	15.80	15.95	15.59	15.77	17.01	16.02
Jun	15.71	15.81	15.51	15.70	16.94	15.93
Jul	15.39	15.57	15.28	15.49	16.67	15.68
Aug	15.15	15.35	14.98	15.19	16.35	15.41
Sep	15.40	15.51	15.08	15.28	16.47	15.55
Oct	15.43	15.53	15.05	15.22	16.49	15.55
Nov	15.35	15.43	15.01	15.19	16.40	15.48
Dec	15.44	15.48	15.05	15.18	16.24	15.48
12 Month Avg.	15.50	15.62	15.24	15.42	16.63	15.68
Region/US avg.	0.99	1.00	0.97	0.98	1.06	

Source: Egg Industry Center

375 eggs per hen housed under 1-cycle systems up to 90 weeks of age (using egg farmer suveys)

There was a wide range of costs between survey responses even within the same region

A 25 miles increase in the average feed transportation distance, would result in an increase in the pullet cost of approximately 0.16 cents/dozen eggs.

TABLE 4

ESTIMATED FEED COST BY REGION FOR CAGE-FREE EGGS under 1-cycle systems (Cents/doz.) - 2024

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	West	5-region average
Jan	42.42	43.25	39.85	41.49	51.76	43.76
Feb	40.82	41.51	38.23	40.02	50.87	42.29
Mar	40.39	41.51	38.23	39.85	50.00	42.00
Apr	40.48	41.72	38.75	40.02	50.79	42.35
May	42.78	44.04	41.01	42.50	53.00	44.67
Jun	42.01	42.92	40.32	41.92	52.44	43.92
Jul	39.37	40.84	38.42	40.21	50.14	41.80
Aug	37.31	39.04	35.87	37.69	47.46	39.48
Sep	39.39	40.34	36.73	38.42	48.42	40.66
Oct	39.71	40.50	36.51	37.91	48.64	40.65
Nov	39.04	39.70	36.14	37.63	47.86	40.07
Dec	39.75	40.10	36.49	37.55	46.51	40.08
12 Month Avg.	40.29	41.29	38.05	39.60	49.82	41.81
Region/US avg.	0.96	0.99	0.91	0.95	1.19	

Source: Egg Industry Center

Estimated based on feed costs (\$/ton) shown in table 3. Assuming 3.58 lbs. of feed/dozen eggs for 1-cycle systems up to 90 weeks of age (using egg farmer suveys).

A 25 miles increase in the average feed transportation distance, would result in an increase in the feed cost of approximately 1.34 cents/dozen eggs.

A correction to the corn prices and the feed transportation cost was included on March 2024.

Please see the "U.S. Feed Cost by Region" report (notes below tables 1 and 4).



TABLE 5

ESTIMATED TOTAL COSTS BY REGION FOR CAGE-FREE EGGS under 1-cycle systems (cents/doz.) - 2024 *

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	West	5-region average
Jan	96.00	96.92	93.12	94.96	106.44	97.49
Feb	94.20	94.97	91.31	93.32	105.45	95.85
Mar	93.72	94.98	91.31	93.12	104.48	95.52
Apr	93.82	95.21	91.89	93.31	105.36	95.92
May	96.40	97.81	94.41	96.09	107.83	98.51
Jun	95.54	96.55	93.64	95.43	107.20	97.67
Jul	92.59	94.23	91.52	93.52	104.63	95.30
Aug	90.28	92.22	88.67	90.71	101.64	92.70
Sep	92.61	93.67	89.63	91.52	102.71	94.03
Oct	92.97	93.85	89.38	90.95	102.95	94.02
Nov	92.21	92.95	88.97	90.64	102.08	93.37
Dec	93.01	93.40	89.37	90.55	100.57	93.38
12 Month Avg.	93.61	94.73	91.10	92.84	104.28	95.31
Region/US avg.	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.97	1.09	

Source: Egg Industry Center. [Non-feed cost was adjusted using the Consumer Price Index until we receive new survey answers.](#)

* These estimations are based on feed costs (cents/dozen) shown in table 4, and pullet costs (cents/dozen) shown in table 3.

Building and equipment, labor, interest and miscellaneous costs are assumed to be 38 cents/dozen for all regions and months.

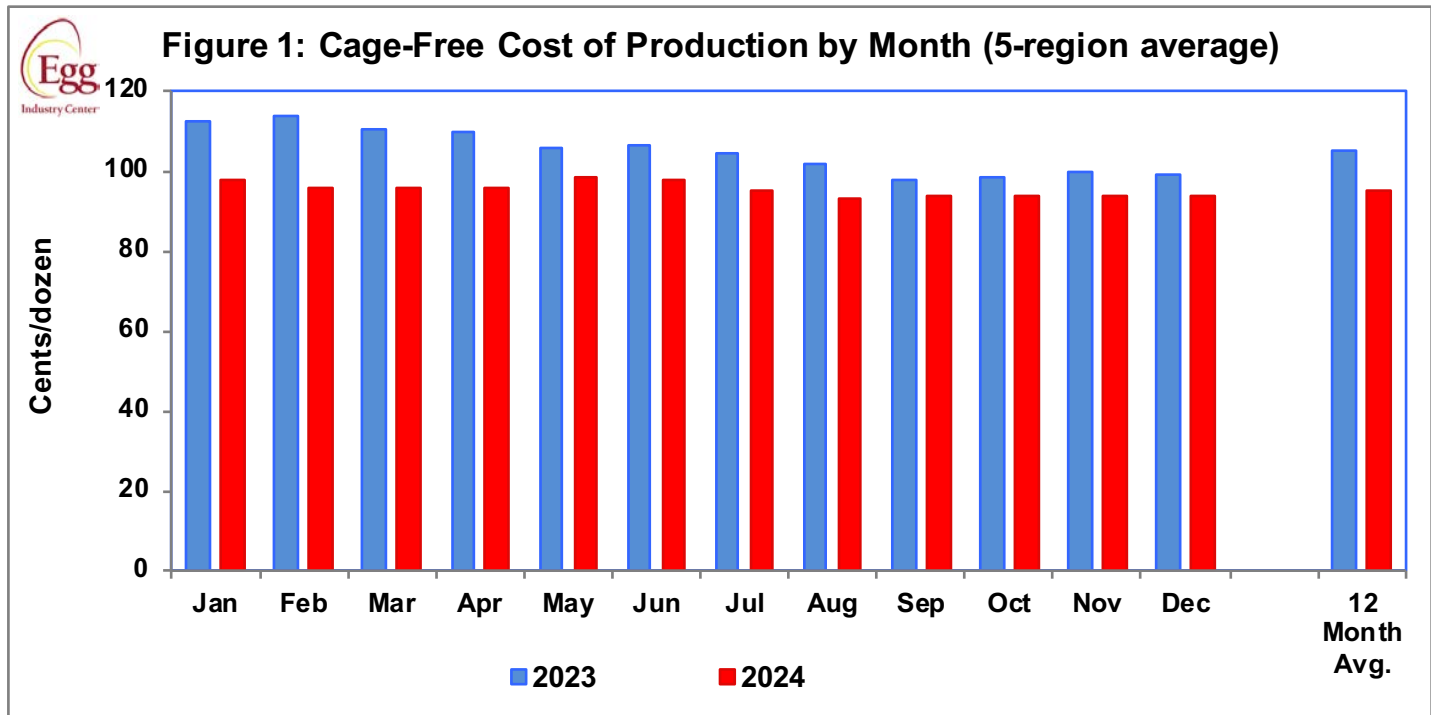
There was a wide range of production costs between survey responses even within the same region. The number of survey responses wasn't large enough to estimate differences in non-feed cost between regions.

Higher labor costs might exist in certain regions. Newer, more efficient farms, would probably use less labor but have higher equipment costs.

[A 25 miles increase in the average feed transportation distance, would result in an increase in the total cost of production of approximately 1.50 cents/dozen eggs.](#)

[A correction to the corn prices and the feed transportation cost was included on March 2024.](#)

[Please see the "U.S. Feed Cost by Region" report \(notes below tables 1 and 4\).](#)



Note: "5-Region average" is the simple average of the NE, SE, SC, MW, and West regions.

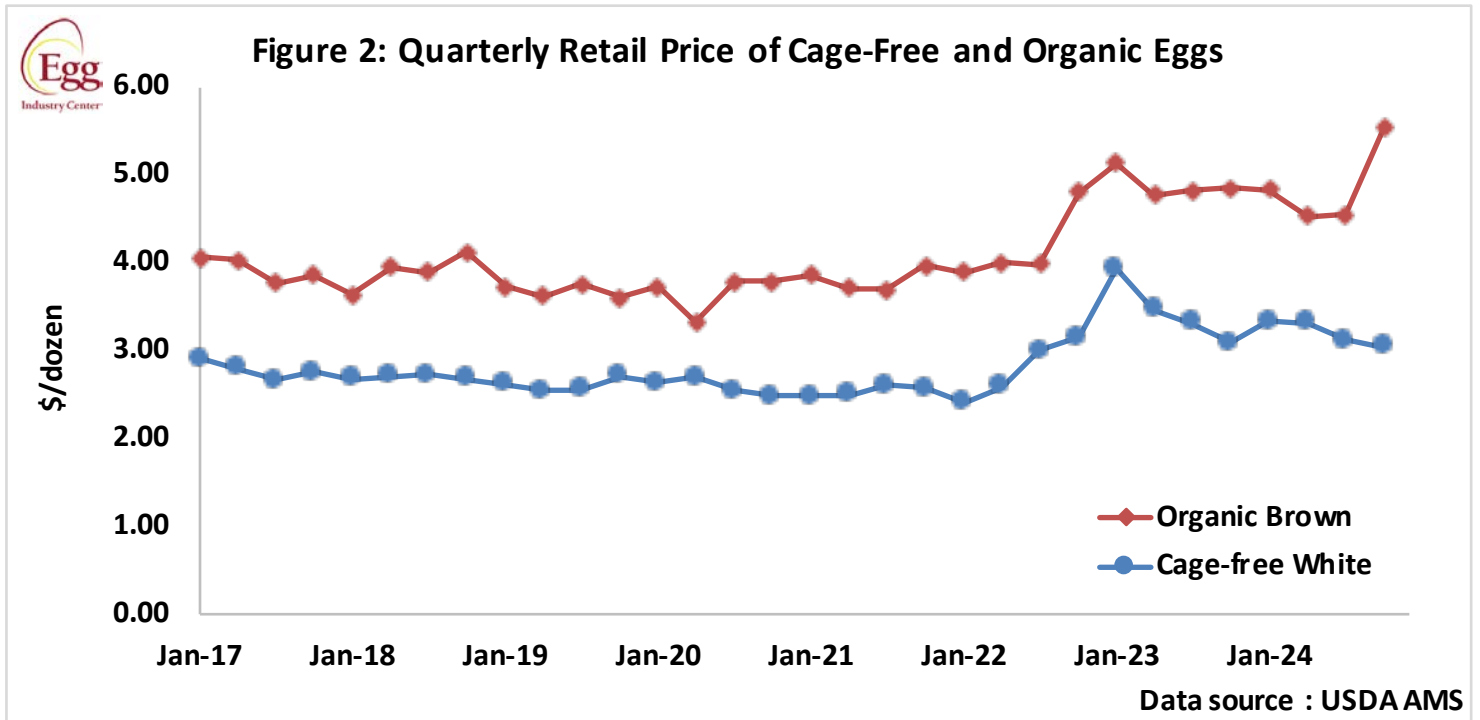
U.S. CAGE-FREE EGG RETAIL PRICE (dollars per dozen) - 12 eggs carton

TABLE 6

month	Cage-free Large White Eggs (\$/dozen)				Cage-free Large Brown Eggs (\$/dozen)			
	2022	2023	2024	Change	2022	2023	2024	Change
Jan	1.92	2.00	3.22	1.22	2.31	2.67	3.36	0.69
Feb	1.61	*	2.95	*	2.51	4.99	3.37	-1.62
Mar	2.31	3.99	3.40	-0.59	2.40	4.15	3.28	-0.87
Apr	2.23	3.71	3.44	-0.27	2.40	4.15	3.47	-0.68
May	2.36	3.50	2.84	-0.66	2.56	3.99	3.45	-0.54
Jun	2.65	2.43	3.05	0.62	2.75	2.94	3.02	0.08
Jul	3.01	2.25	3.34	1.09	3.12	3.29	3.30	0.01
Aug	2.49	3.13	3.52	0.39	3.12	3.10	2.83	-0.27
Sep	2.91	2.75	3.42	0.67	3.12	3.10	3.23	0.13
Oct	3.14	2.49	3.34	0.85	3.12	3.10	3.31	0.21
Nov	2.74	3.05	3.23	0.18	3.12	3.10	2.90	-0.20
Dec	3.26	2.66	3.55	0.89	3.58	3.38	2.90	-0.48
Jan-Dec Avg.	2.55	2.91	3.28	0.40	2.84	3.50	3.20	-0.30
12 Month Avg.	2.55	2.91			2.84	3.50		

Source: USDA AMS Monthly USDA Cage-Free Shell Egg Report

* price not reported for this month



ORGANIC BROWN EGGS RETAIL PRICE (dollars per dozen)

TABLE 7

month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	4.03	3.44	3.39	3.64	4.01	4.04	5.15	5.22
Feb	4.22	3.80	3.95	3.85	3.87	3.41	*	4.62
Mar	3.99	3.82	3.98	4.09	3.64	4.06	4.99	4.67
Apr	4.04	3.83	3.41	2.82	3.73	3.85	*	4.24
May	4.14	3.93	3.86	*	3.50	4.22	7.99	4.88
Jun	3.96	4.10	3.96	4.15	3.98	4.15	4.09	4.48
Jul	3.74	3.79	3.79	3.73	3.78	4.39	4.23	4.59
Aug	3.81	3.84	3.58	3.85	3.41	3.57	4.61	4.39
Sep	3.82	4.08	4.01	3.79	4.01	4.06	5.10	4.65
Oct	3.76	4.76	3.67	3.95	4.02	4.83	4.94	5.16
Nov	3.89	3.89	3.62	3.78	4.02	4.75	5.05	6.10
Dec	3.95	3.90	3.57	3.68	3.90	5.15	4.35	5.36
Jan-Dec Avg.	3.95	3.93	3.73	3.76	3.82	4.21	5.05	4.86
12 Month Avg.	3.95	3.93	3.73	3.76	3.82	4.21	5.05	

Notes: * price not reported for this month

Source: USDA AMS Market News

PASTURE EGGS (dollars per dozen)

TABLE 8

month	Warehouse (\$/dozen)				Retail (\$/dozen)			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	5.00	5.50	6.10	6.12	7.36	6.17	10.47	10.51
Feb	5.00	6.00	6.10	6.12	7.37	6.05	9.40	10.55
Mar	5.00	6.00	6.10	6.34	7.37	6.05	9.42	6.21
Apr	5.00	6.00	6.10	6.42	7.40	16.33	9.42	6.21
May	5.00	6.00	6.10	6.53	7.40	16.41	9.58	6.77
Jun	5.00	6.50	5.76	*	7.40	16.37	9.36	6.68
Jul	5.00	6.50	5.76	*	10.08	12.28	9.46	*
Aug	5.00	6.00	6.08	*	10.08	12.27	9.42	6.73
Sep	5.00	6.00	6.08	*	10.08	10.16	9.43	6.37
Oct	6.00	6.00	6.08	*	5.99	10.16	9.40	6.37
Nov	5.50	6.00	5.79	*	6.00	10.16	9.44	6.44
Dec	5.50	6.00	5.72	*	6.17	11.17	9.82	6.44
Jan-Dec Avg.					7.73	11.13	9.55	7.21
12 Month Avg.	5.17	6.04	5.98		7.73	11.13	9.55	

* price not reported for this month

Source: USDA AMS National Monthly Pasture Raised Poultry Report

CAGE-FREE LARGE SHELL EGGS PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS (dollars per dozen)

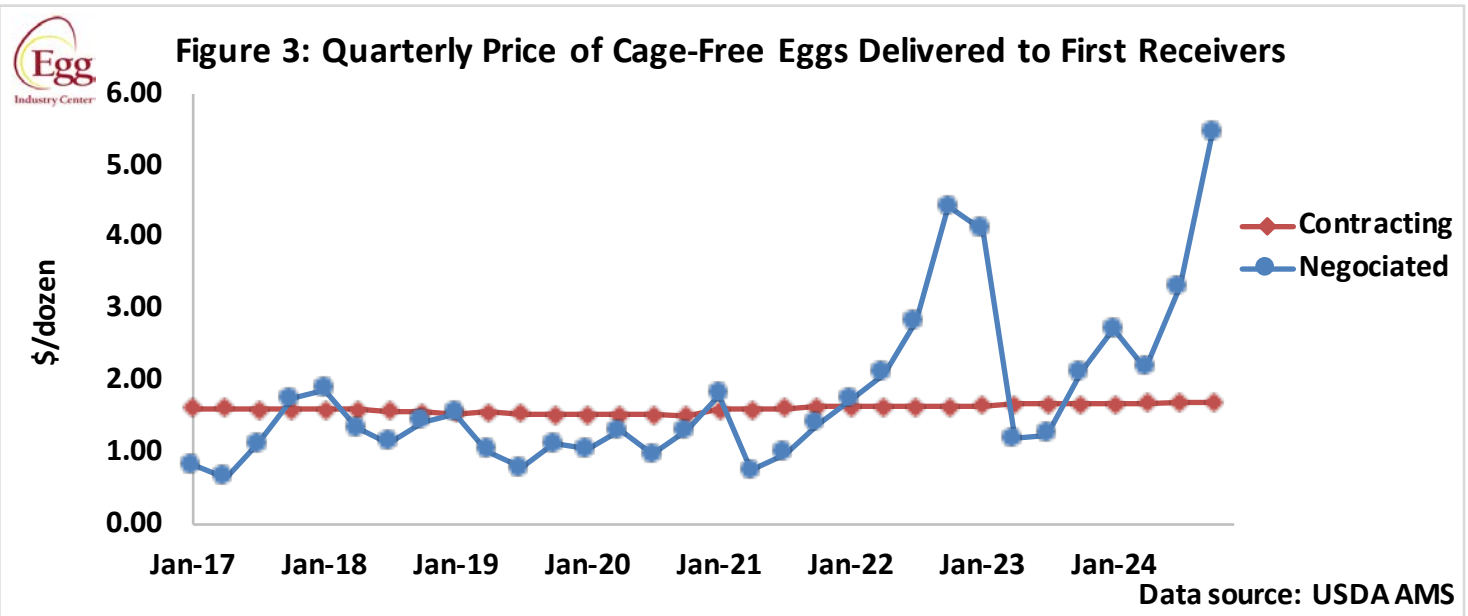
TABLE 9

month	Contract Pricing, Carton				Negotiated Pricing, Loose			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	1.60	1.64	1.64	1.68	1.93	2.10	4.97	3.00
Feb	1.60	1.64	1.64	1.68	1.78	1.38	4.02	2.66
Mar	1.60	1.64	1.68	1.68	1.69	1.69	3.34	2.50
Apr	1.60	1.64	1.68	1.68	0.77	2.31	1.07	2.12
May	1.60	1.64	1.68	1.68	0.80	2.22	0.97	1.98
Jun	1.60	1.64	1.68	1.70	0.67	1.76	1.55	2.42
Jul	1.60	1.64	1.68	1.70	*	2.76	1.20	3.46
Aug	1.60	1.64	1.68	1.70	1.00	2.36	1.34	4.40
Sep	1.64	1.64	1.68	1.70	0.99	3.35	1.20	2.08
Oct	1.64	1.64	1.68	1.70	0.96	3.93	1.23	4.12
Nov	1.64	1.64	1.68	1.70	0.96	3.93	1.23	4.55
Dec	1.64	1.64	1.68	1.70	1.69	5.51	2.87	7.66
Jan-Dec Avg.	1.61	1.64	1.67	1.69	1.20	2.78	2.08	3.41
12 Month Avg.	1.61	1.64	1.67	1.69	1.20	2.78	2.08	

Notes: the Cage-Free price includes pricing for both white and brown cage-free eggs
 cage-free contracting price is cartoned while cage-free negotiated price is loose

* price not reported for this month

Source: USDA AMS Monthly USDA Cage-Free Shell Egg Report



Sources Acknowledgements (double click on the links below and you can go directly to the source):

- USDA AMS Market News https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/public_data
- USDA AMS National Monthly Pasture Raised Poultry Report <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2855>
- USDA Cage-Free Shell Egg Report <https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/pymcagefree.pdf>

Maro Ibarburu, EIC Business Analyst
 Iowa State University, Ames, IA
 Phone (515) 509-1145
 E-mail: maro@iastate.edu

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