

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PRODUCTION OF LIQUID EGGS BY
EGG-BREAKING PLANTS, 1939-1940

PRODUCTION OF DRIED-EGGS, 1938-1940

April 1941

PRODUCTION OF LIQUID EGGS
BY EGG-BREAKING PLANTS, 1938-1940

The production of liquid eggs by commercial egg-breaking plants during 1940 is estimated by the Agricultural Marketing Service at 218,311,000 pounds, compared with 203,508,000 pounds in 1939, and 133,946,000 pounds in 1938. ^{1/} These quantities are equivalent to approximately 6,237,000 cases of shell eggs in 1940, 5,843,000 cases in 1939 and 3,824,000 cases in 1938.

The 1940 egg-breaking season was slow in starting. Severe cold weather in February caused a contra-seasonal rise in egg prices and egg breakers held off full operations until the middle of March. Once full operations got underway, the generally improved business conditions and outlook led to very heavy breakings, particularly during April, May, and June, when shell egg production was the largest of record. Approximately 70 percent of the 1940 output of egg breaking plants was produced during these three months compared with 65 percent during the same period in 1939 and 67 percent in 1938.

Table 1. - PRODUCTION OF LIQUID EGGS, 1938-40

Disposition	1938		1939		1940	
	Production: 1,000 lb.	Percent	Production: 1,000 lb.	Percent	Production: 1,000 lb.	Percent
Frozen	116,100	87	177,144	87	189,578	87
For Drying ^{2/}	7,446	5	14,275	7	16,089	7
Immediate consumption	10,400	8	12,089	6	12,644	6
Total ^{1/}	133,946	100	203,508	100	218,311	100

^{1/} The estimates for 1938 and 1939 differ from those released in August, 1940, as liquid eggs used for drying by strictly egg drying plants have been omitted.

^{2/} Does not include production of firms that dry eggs exclusively.

Storage stocks of frozen eggs on August 1, 1940, totaled 154,929,000 pounds and were the second largest of record for that date, being exceeded only by the holdings on August 1, 1937, which totaled 166,876,000 pounds. The demand for frozen eggs during the 1940-41 out-of-storage season was good, and the large stocks were liquidated without difficulty. The industry started the 1941 egg breaking season with stocks at near-normal levels.

Table 2. PRODUCTION BY MONTHS

	Production			Percent		
	1938	1939	1940	1938	1939	1940
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.			
January	804	2,034	1,092	.6	1.0	.5
February	4,956	8,746	1,746	3.7	4.3	.8
March	24,512	33,156	33,183	18.3	16.3	15.2
April	35,227	44,546	49,338	26.3	21.9	22.6
May	32,012	49,632	58,944	23.9	24.4	27.0
June	23,039	38,341	45,190	17.2	18.8	20.7
July	7,903	14,645	17,465	5.9	7.2	8.0
August	3,215	6,102	7,204	2.4	3.0	3.3
September	804	3,051	2,401	.6	1.5	1.1
October	536	1,424	655	.4	.7	.3
November	536	1,017	656	.4	.5	.3
December	402	814	437	.3	.4	.2
Total ^{1/}	133,946	203,508	218,311	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} The estimates for 1938 and 1939 differ from those released in August 1940, as liquid eggs used for drying by strictly egg drying plants have been omitted.

The utilization of the output of egg breaking plants has changed very little during the past several years. During 1938, 1939, and 1940, 87 percent of the average production was frozen and stored for later use; from 5 to 7 percent used, sold, or transferred for drying; and 6 to 8 percent used for immediate consumption in liquid form.

Production by classes of products has also shown very little proportional change since 1938. The only change worth mentioning in 1940 is that the production of salted yolks amounted to 7.7 percent of the total production in 1940 compared with 4.5 percent in 1939 and 5.9 percent in 1938. On the average since 1938, approximately 42 percent of the annual production has consisted of whole eggs, mixed eggs, and mixed emulsions, 31 percent of egg whites, and 27 percent of the various forms of yolk.

Table 3. PRODUCTION BY CLASSES OF PRODUCT

	Production			Percent		
	1938	1939	1940	1938	1939	1940
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.			
Whole	41,212	62,298	64,998	30.8	30.6	29.8
Plain Mixed	4,910	6,844	7,672	3.7	3.4	3.5
Mixed Emulsions	14,582	18,514	17,203	10.9	9.1	7.9
Egg Whites	40,415	62,286	67,466	30.2	30.6	30.9
Plain Yolk	10,060	20,824	22,275	7.5	10.2	10.2
Sugared Yolk	14,434	22,918	21,777	10.8	11.4	9.9
Salted Yolk	8,035	9,484	16,737	5.9	4.5	7.7
Glycerine Yolk	298	340	183	.2	0.2	.1
Total <u>1/</u>	133,946	203,508	218,311	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Estimates for 1938 and 1939 figures differ from those released in August 1940, as liquid eggs used for drying by strictly egg drying plants have been omitted.

DRIED EGG PRODUCTION, 1939-1940

Dried egg production in 1940 is estimated at 7,487,000 pounds, composed of 392,000 pounds of dried whole eggs, 1,916,000 pounds of dried albumen, and 5,179,000 pounds of dried yolk. This production was the second largest of record, being exceeded only by the record production of 10,039,000 pounds in 1939. To produce these quantities of dried egg products, approximately 1,072,000 cases of shell eggs were used in 1939 and 758,000 cases in 1940. Because the demand or requirements for dried yolk and dried albumen varies from year to year, there is generally a surplus of either liquid yolk or albumen which is not dried. For example, to get the required amount of liquid yolk to produce 7,550,000 pounds of dried yolk in 1939 over 3,000,000 pounds of liquid albumen was produced in excess of the amount used for drying. In 1940, however, the drying of liquid yolk and albumen was almost in direct proportion with only 382,000 pounds of liquid albumen produced in excess of the amount dried. Ordinarily, the surplus liquid yolk or albumen produced from egg drying operations is frozen.

Table 4.

ESTIMATED U. S. PRODUCTION OF DRIED-EGG PRODUCTS

Year	Whole	Albumen	Yolk	Total
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1927	161	0	395	556
1928	0	3	215	218
1929	3	10	189	203
1930	7	0	482	489
1931	73	2	478	553
1932	15	402	1,869	2,286
1933	138	1,487	2,171	3,796
1934	204	1,428	2,668	4,300
1935	61	133	2,806	3,000
1936	126	267	1,093	1,486
1937	74	541	1,776	2,391
1938	179	1,510	4,313	6,002
1939	184	2,305	7,550	10,039
1940	392	1,916	5,179	7,487

Since 1938, the egg-drying industry in the United States has been greatly stimulated by the sharp falling off of imports of dried-egg products from China, previously the chief source of supply of dried-egg products. During 1929, 1930, and 1931, imports averaged over 10 million pounds annually, but with an increase in the tariff from 18 cents per pound to 27 cents per pound on July 24, 1931, imports dropped sharply. During the depression years, when low egg prices enabled domestic driers to compete on a more equal cost basis with the Chinese product, imports continued relatively small, averaging less than 3 million pounds annually during the years 1932, 1933, and 1934. But in 1935, rising egg prices began to slow up the expansion of the domestic egg-drying industry; imports began to increase once more, and for the year totaled 6,431,000 pounds. In 1937 -- the last normal year for China -- United States imports of dried eggs from China totaled 8,871,000 pounds. But following the invasion of China by the Japanese normal production and trading activities were seriously disrupted and Chinese exports of dried eggs to the United States in 1939 totaled only 1,245,000 pounds.

Table 5.

IMPORTS OF DRIED EGG PRODUCTS

Year	Whole	Albumen	Yolk	Total
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1927	880	3,368	3,209	7,457
1928	852	2,752	4,371	7,975
1929	1,474	3,973	5,465	10,913
1930	1,328	3,452	6,191	10,971
1931	2,069	2,481	5,689	10,238
1932	22	1,276	726	2,024
1933	10	874	1,634	2,518
1934	1	403	2,320	2,724
1935	602	1,876	3,953	6,431
1936	533	2,416	4,902	7,851
1937	601	2,844	5,426	8,871
1938	205	718	338	1,261
1939	62	500	683	1,245
1940	41	332	2,458	2,831

With Chinese dried eggs once more a minor factor in domestic dried-egg supplies, the egg-drying industry in the United States again started to expand, and in 1938, 6,002,000 pounds were produced. This production was two and a half times larger than that of 1937, when only 2,395,382 pounds were produced. Production showed a further increase in 1939 when it reached an all-time high of 10,079,000 pounds. This output, however, was apparently too large for the industry to handle with ease. With imports of dried eggs up to 2,831,000 pounds in 1940, domestic production dropped to 7,487,000 pounds, which is still a comparatively large production when measured by the average annual output prior to 1938. The trend of domestic dried-egg production is still continuing up and a large output is anticipated in 1941 because of the strong demand not only from domestic users, but also for export to Great Britain.