U.S. conventional egg cost of production and prices

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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.

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Table 1. Cost of growing conventional pullets to 16 weeks of age by month for 4 U.S. regions ($/bird) in 2026

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	4-region average
January	4.22	4.27	4.10	4.13	4.18
February	4.24	4.29	4.12	4.14	4.20
March	4.30	4.35	4.17	4.20	4.26
April	4.32	4.37	4.18	4.20	4.27
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
4-month average	4.27	4.32	4.14	4.17	4.23
Region/US average	1.01	1.02	0.98	0.99	

Source: Egg Industry Center

Assumptions for table 1 only: estimated as the median value of egg farmer surveys which median age was 16 weeks:

- 11.7 lbs. of feed consumed per pullet for conventional systems (from egg farmer surveys)
- all other costs = 145 cents/pullet for conventional systems (from egg farmer surveys)

Assumption and notes for tables 1 and 2:

- pullet feed price 7% more expensive than layer feed
- chick cost = 119 cents/baby chick for conventional systems (including services)
- moving cost = 20 cents/pullet for conventional systems (from egg farmer surveys)
- all non-feed costs 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.
- "4-region average" is the simple average of the Northeast, Southeast, South Central, and Midwest regions
- Non-feed costs were based on the last survey analysis (2023) and adjusted using the Consumer Price Index since then.

Table 2. Cost of growing conventional pullets to 19 weeks of age (start of lay) by month for 4 U.S. regions ($/bird) in 2026

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	4-region average
January	4.79	4.84	4.65	4.68	4.74
February	4.82	4.88	4.67	4.70	4.77
March	4.89	4.95	4.73	4.76	4.83
April	4.91	4.97	4.75	4.77	4.85
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
4-month average	4.85	4.91	4.70	4.73	4.80
Region/US average	1.01	1.02	0.98	0.99	

Source: Egg Industry Center

Assumptions for table 2 only:

- 14.2 lbs. of feed consumed per pullet for conventional systems (from egg farmer surveys)
- all other costs = 172 cents/pullet for conventional systems (based on the last survey analysis (2023) and adjusted using the Consumer Price Index since then)

Table 3. Estimated conventional pullet cost by month under 1-cycle systems (cents/dozen eggs) for 4 U.S. regions in 2026

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	4-region average
January	12.29	12.42	11.95	12.02	12.17
February	12.35	12.50	12.01	12.07	12.23
March	12.52	12.68	12.15	12.23	12.39
April	12.57	12.73	12.19	12.24	12.43
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
4-month average	12.43	12.58	12.07	12.14	12.31
Region/US average	1.01	1.02	0.98	0.99	

Source: Egg Industry Center.
Assumes 412 eggs per hen housed under 1-cycle systems for 1-cycle systems up to 90 weeks of age (using egg farmer surveys). There was a wide range of costs between survey responses even within the same region.

Table 4. Estimated feed cost by month for conventional eggs under 1-cycle systems (cents/dozen eggs) for 4 U.S. regions in 2026

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	4-region average
January	35.59	36.80	32.57	33.23	34.55
February	36.19	37.45	33.13	33.67	35.11
March	37.69	39.04	34.38	35.06	36.54
April	38.14	39.56	34.70	35.14	36.88
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
4-month average	36.90	38.21	33.70	34.27	35.77
Region/US average	1.03	1.07	0.94	0.96	

Source: Egg Industry Center.
Estimated based on feed costs ($/ton) shown in table 3. Assuming 3.23 lbs. of feed/dozen eggs for 1-cycle systems up to 90 weeks of age (using egg farmer surveys).
A 25-miles increase in the average feed transportation distance, would result in an increase in the feed cost of approximately 1.32 cents/dozen eggs.

Table 5. Total costs by month for conventional eggs under 1-cycle systems (cents/dozen) for 4 U.S. regions in 2026

Month	Southeast	Northeast	Midwest	South Central	4-region average
January	77.42	78.76	74.05	74.79	76.26
February	78.09	79.49	74.69	75.28	76.89
March	79.76	81.26	76.07	76.83	78.48
April	80.26	81.84	76.43	76.91	78.86
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
4-month average	78.88	80.34	75.31	75.95	77.62
Region/US average	1.02	1.03	0.97	0.98	

Source: Egg Industry Center.

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

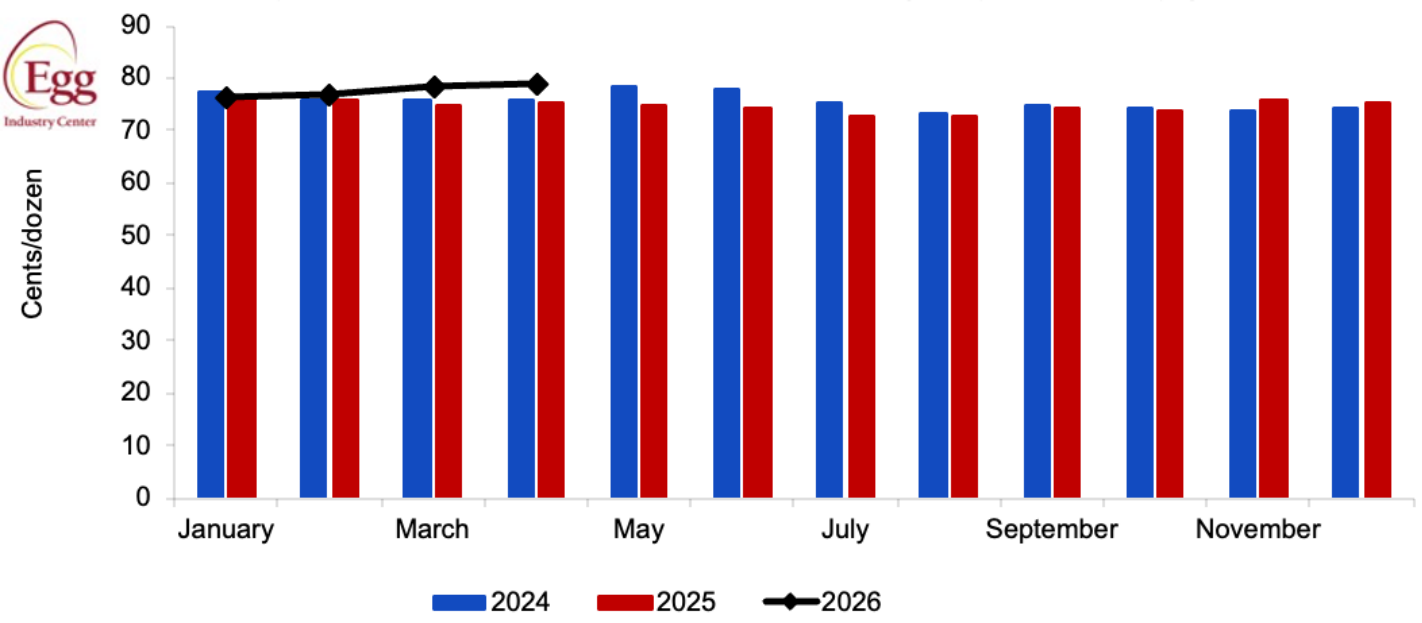
Building and equipment, labor, interest and miscellaneous costs are assumed to be 30 cents/dozen for all regions and months. Non-feed costs were based on the last survey analysis (2023) and adjusted using the Consumer Price Index since then.

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 1.46 cents/dozen eggs.

Figure 1. Conventional cost of production (4-region average)



Note: "4-Region average" is the simple average of the Northeast, Southeast, South Central, and Midwest regions. The West region is not considered for the average because of the different production requirements.

Table 6. Total costs of conventional production vs. some loss in production efficiency (cents/dozen) in 2026 (4-region average)

Month	Average	5% higher feed conversion (A)	5% higher pullet feed (B)	Lower eggs/hen-housed (C)	Lower eggs/hen-housed (D)	A and B	A B and C	A B and D
January	76.26	77.98	76.45	78.37	79.85	78.18	78.83	80.31
February	76.89	78.64	77.08	79.01	80.48	78.84	79.49	80.97
March	78.48	80.31	78.68	80.61	82.09	80.51	81.18	82.65
April	78.86	80.70	79.07	80.99	82.47	80.91	81.58	83.05
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
4-month average	**77.62**	**79.41**	**77.82**	**79.75**	**81.22**	**79.61**	**80.27**	**81.75**

Source: Egg Industry Center, based on USDA Marketnews published prices of corn and soybean meal
"Average" is estimated using the egg farmer surveys results for 17 to 90 weeks of age.
"5% higher feed conversion" is the estimated cost if the feed conversion were 5% higher than the survey results (using 3.39 lbs./dozen instead of 3.23 lbs./dozen)
"5% higher pullet feed." is the estimated cost if the feed used to grow pullets were 5% higher than the survey results (using 12.3 lbs./pullet instead of 11.7 lbs./pullet)
"lower eggs/ hen-housed" is the estimated cost if the number of eggs per hen-housed were 5% lower than the survey results (using 391 eggs/hen-housed instead of 412 eggs/hen-housed):

- C = the effect of producing less eggs per hen-housed as a result of shortening the laying period was estimated as depreciating the cost of growing the pullet in less eggs
- D = the effect of producing less eggs per hen-housed as a result of a lower hen-day production but keeping the length of the period equal was estimated as D plus the effect on the non-feed costs (assuming that the non-feed costs increase at the same proportion as the productivity decrease)

Table 7. U.S. monthly retail egg price for large white conventional eggs in the Midwest region and the National average ($/dozen)

Month	Midwest 2024	Midwest 2025	Midwest 2026	Midwest Change	National 2024	National 2025	National 2026	National Change
January	2.34	4.82			2.52	4.95	2.58	-2.38
February	2.91	5.89			3.00	5.90	2.50	-3.40
March	2.76	6.40			2.99	6.23	2.35	-3.88
April	2.59	5.47			2.86	5.12		
May	2.46	4.95			2.70	4.55		
June	2.62	4.32			2.72	3.78		
July	3.05	3.90			3.08	3.60		
August	3.17	3.66			3.20	3.59		
September	3.66	3.63			3.82	3.49		
October	3.17				3.37			
November	3.94				3.65	2.86		
December	4.16				4.15	2.71		
3-month average	2.67	5.70			2.84	5.69	2.48	-3.22
12-month average	3.07	4.78			3.17	4.25		

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Department of Commerce)

Figure 2. Estimated 4-region average farm value of conventionally produced eggs

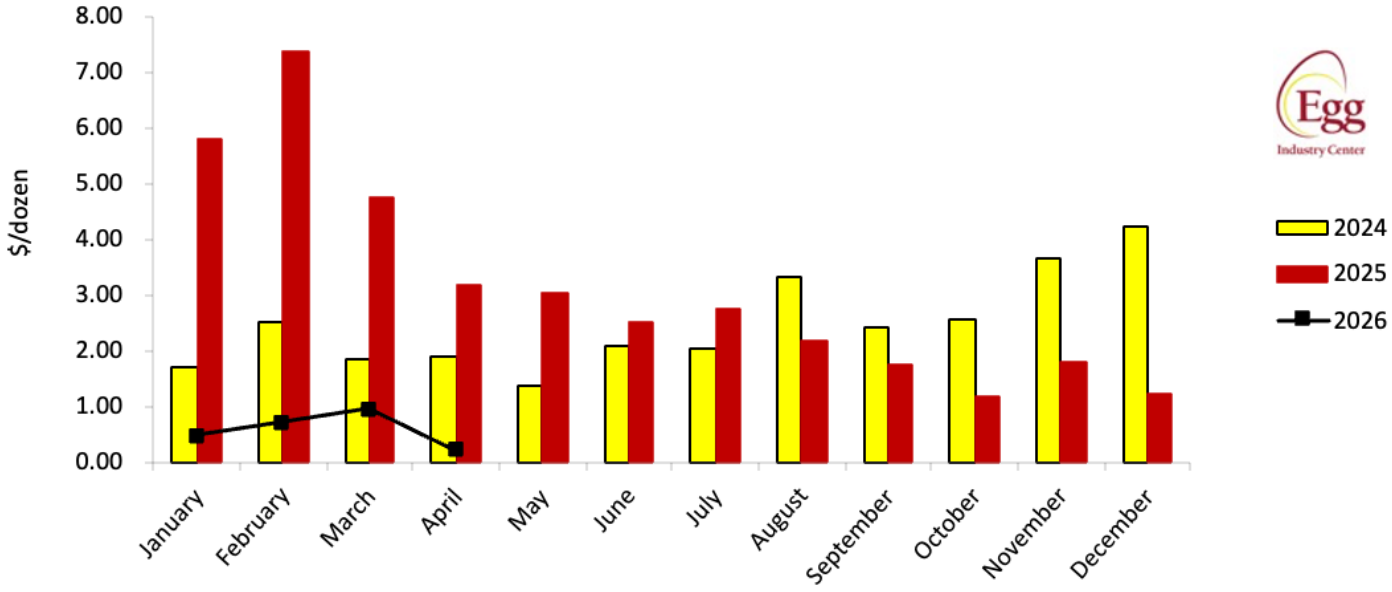
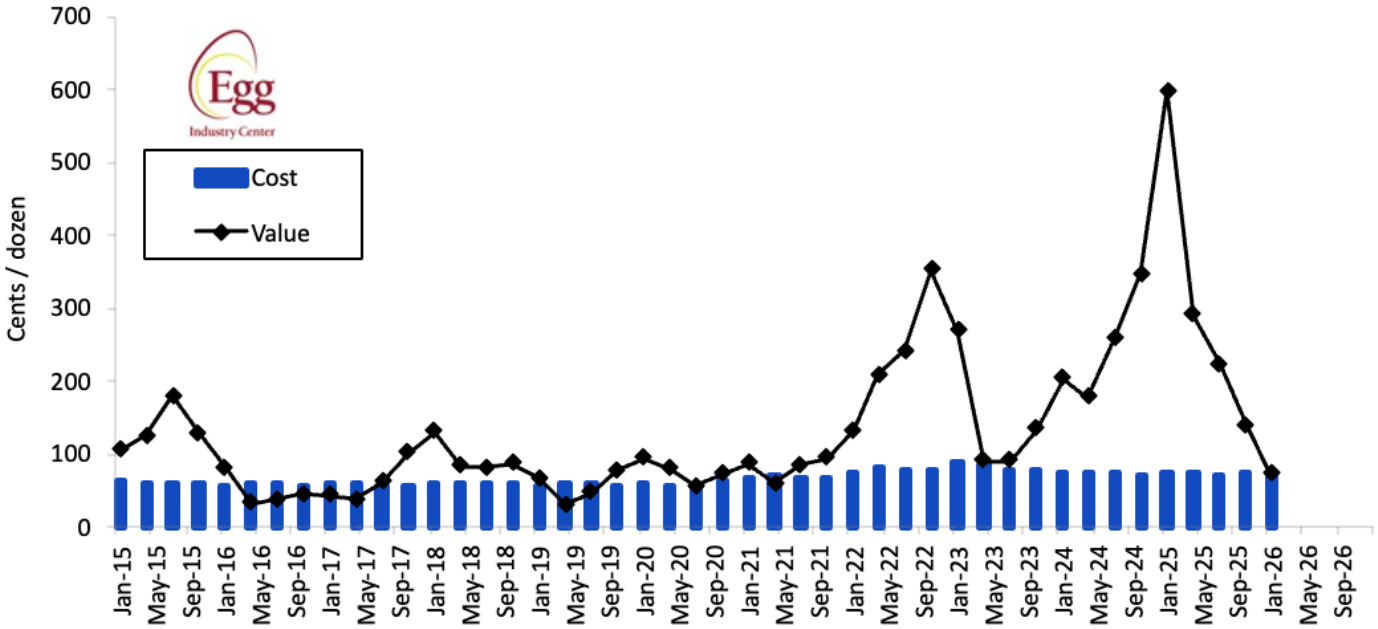


Table 8. Monthly 4-region (NE, SE, SC and MW) average estimated farm egg value for all white conventional egg sizes ($/dozen) for the last 6 years.

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change
January	0.53	0.71	1.06	3.23	1.72	5.82	0.49	-5.33
February	0.69	0.91	1.33	2.11	2.51	7.40	0.72	-6.67
March	1.60	1.02	1.56	2.71	1.87	4.74	0.96	-3.78
April	1.31	0.66	2.34	1.35	1.90	3.17	0.22	-2.95
May	0.60	0.58	2.07	0.57	1.35	3.04		
June	0.50	0.56	1.89	0.79	2.07	2.53		
July	0.51	0.71	2.69	0.80	2.04	2.78		
August	0.52	0.92	1.89	0.96	3.33	2.16		
September	0.64	0.96	2.68	0.98	2.40	1.75		
October	0.84	0.76	2.83	0.86	2.56	1.17		
November	0.81	0.88	3.38	1.63	3.64	1.81		
December	0.56	1.22	4.37	1.56	4.24	1.22		
4-month average	**1.03**	**0.83**	**1.57**	**2.35**	**2.00**	**5.28**	**0.60**	-4.68
12 Month average	0.76	0.82	2.34	1.46	2.47	3.13		

Note: "4-Region average" is the simple average of the Northeast, Southeast, South Central, and Midwest regions
Source: Estimated using Urner Barry's price quotations by regions.
For this report, the value to egg farmers for each size eggs are estimated by subtracting an "adjustment factor" from Urner Barry quotations of prices by region. The "adjustment factor" is estimated as the sum of the following costs estimated in the latest PCT study: carton cost + case cost + finishing cost + processing cost + cost of delivering to store door + loss from store returns. Each month is adjusted based on the latest PCT study results. The current adjustment is 55.38 cents/dozen based on the last survey analysis (2023) and adjusted by inflation since then.
The average value of all eggs is estimated using the proportions of Jumbo, Extra-large, Large, Medium, Small and Undergrades. These proportions are the estimated using the weighted average of the responses to the PCT studies published in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Figure 3. Estimated quarterly cost of production and nest run egg value in U.S. for conventional eggs (4-region)



4-region: average of NE, SE, SC, and MW regions

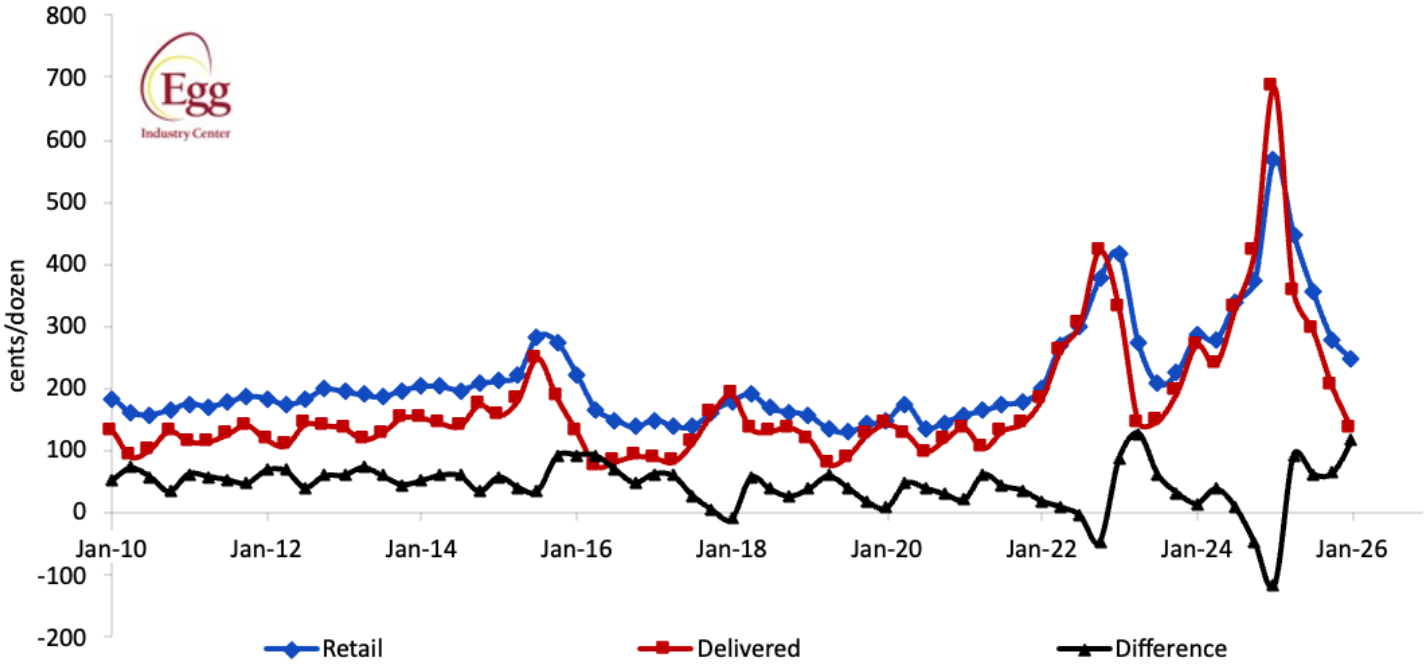
Table 9. Prices of conventional large white shell eggs delivered to warehouses in 4 regions (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and South Central) comparing with the same month on the previous year ($/dozen)

month	NE 2025	NE 2026	SE 2025	SE 2026	MW 2025	MW 2026	SC 2025	SC 2026
January	6.36	0.93	6.44	0.99	6.30	0.87	6.48	1.03
February	8.18	1.12	8.27	1.14	8.13	1.02	8.31	1.19
March	5.08	1.40	5.18	1.45	5.04	1.34	5.22	1.47
April	3.67	0.57	3.77	0.62	3.63	0.50	3.81	0.63
May	3.41		3.50		3.36		3.54	
June	2.97		3.07		2.93		3.11	
July	3.43		3.52		3.38		3.57	
August	2.62		2.71		2.57		2.76	
September	2.28		2.35		2.24		2.39	
October	1.57		1.62		1.53		1.66	
November	2.33		2.39		2.28		2.44	
December	1.70		1.77		1.66		1.81	
4-month average	**5.82**	**1.00**	**5.91**	**1.05**	**5.77**	**0.93**	**5.96**	**1.08**
12 Month average	**3.63**		**3.71**		**3.59**		**3.76**	

Source: USDA AMS Marketnews

Note: NE stands for Northeast, SE stands for Southeast, MW stands for Midwest, and SC stands for South Central

Figure 4. Quarterly retail price and delivered to store door price conventional large white eggs (4-region average)



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for Retail Prices; and Urner Barry Delivered to Store Door Price

Note: the delivered to store door price is estimated from the Urner Barry quoted prices as the 4-region simple average (Northeast, Southeast, South Central, and Midwest). California and the Northwest are not considered for the average because of the different production requirements.

Table 10. Breaking stock and checks eggs prices in central states by month for the last 3 years (cents per dozen)

	BS 2023	BS 2024	BS 2025	BS 2026	CE 2023	CE 2024	CE 2025	CE 2026
January	253.25	114.05	311.00	16.53	237.28	106.90	310.50	6.88
February	198.84	156.55	595.54	27.24	186.37	149.85	587.58	17.32
March	267.39	153.88	336.36	21.02	250.96	142.10	362.76	11.77
April	143.35	154.89	248.11	8.73	136.70	142.59	238.18	
May	44.39	109.01	255.40		37.91	103.41	247.86	
June	74.31	162.08	199.35		67.48	148.42	193.75	
July	86.33	171.00	183.43		79.00	165.00	178.86	
August	85.93	241.51	137.29		79.22	227.68	146.86	
September	87.43	152.25	127.69		80.80	167.00	118.57	
October	80.55	184.45	114.09		77.10	174.64	102.09	
November	107.73	263.03	135.56		101.35	253.53	127.89	
December	111.50	279.18	78.18		105.00	275.90	64.91	
4-month average	**215.71**	**144.84**	**372.75**	**18.38**				
12 Month average	**128.42**	**178.49**	**226.83**		**119.93**	**171.42**	**223.32**	

Source: USDA AMS Poultry Market News
Note: BS means breaking stock and CE means checks eggs

In April: the cost of production was 3 cents/dozen (5%) higher than April last year, and similar to the previous month.
In April: the egg value was 295 cents/dozen (93%) lower than April last year, and 74cents/dozen (77%) lower than the previous month.

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

Visit the USDA AMS Market News databases
Visit the USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates
Visit the Urner Barry by Expana
Visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics Average Retail Food and Energy Prices
Visit the USDA AMS Monthly USDA Cage-Free Shell Egg reports

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