

Egg Production Doubles Since 1990

Abstract

Global egg production doubled between 1990 and 2005.¹ By then, some 64 million tons of eggs were produced worldwide (less than 1 percent more than in 2004).² (See Figure 1.) Today there are approximately 4.93 billion egg-laying hens in the world, each capable of producing up to 300 eggs per year.³ By 2015, world egg production is expected to reach 72 million tons, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).⁴

While egg production has increased in the United States, Japan, India, and Mexico over the past four decades, most of the growth has been due to a 10-fold increase in eggs in developing countries in response to rising incomes and growing populations.⁵ Between 1990 and 2005, China accounted for 64 percent of the growth in world egg production.⁶ By 2005 this one country produced nearly 44 percent of the world's eggs—28.7 million tons—more than five times as many as the next largest producer.⁷ (See Figure 2.) And this trend is expected to continue, with output there predicted to rise by 23 percent by 2015.⁸

Includes the following charts and graphs

Global Egg Production, 1990-2005

Top Egg Producing Countries, 1990-2005