Egg producers are either independent producers or under contract with cooperative or private packing centres. A large amount of the egg production is therefore under contract.

Independent producers have their own packing centres and may also collect the eggs of smaller producers.

Egg marketing groups have also been created by cooperative or private organisations or by independent producers, such as: Matines, l’Oeuf de Nos Villages, Cocorette, Appro.

The egg market is precarious and it needs to be balanced through an appropriate fallowing duration and a substantial reform of the pullet and hen breeding sector.

In 2013, 15.2 billion eggs were produced in France (927,300 tonnes).

France is the 1st EU egg producer (15% of production) followed by Germany (12%), Spain (12%), Italy (10%) and the Netherlands (10%).

2,100 farms specialised in egg laying hens and 500 farms specialised in pullet production (future laying hens) in 2010;

42% of laying hens were located in the Bretagne region, 11% in the Pays-de-la Loire region, 11% in the northern Paris basin (Picardie and Nord-Pas-de-Calais regions) and 9% in the Rhône-Alpes region in 2010.

In 2010, 70% of farms each had 1,000 to 2,000 hens (accounting for 21% of national hen population in total), 15% of farms had 20,000 to 100,000 hens (37% of national hen population) and 5% of farms had more than 100,000 hens (41% of national hen population).

Alternative egg productions (organic - code 0, outdoors - code 1 and floor - code 2) accounted for 15% of production capacity in 2001. In 2012, they increased up to 30% of production capacity.

Major investments were made in 2012-2013, in order to bring up farms to standard, in accordance with the EU directive on animal welfare (standards compulsory starting from January, 1st 2012).
FranceAgriMer: Fact sheets

Breeding / Eggs and egg products

PROCESSING

• 290,000 tonnes of egg products processed in France in 2013.
• In 2010, around sixty processing companies processed about 40% of French shell egg production into egg products destined to the food industry (pastry, biscuits, pasta, milk products...) and to the foodservice industry.
• These companies use downgraded eggs in farms or in packing centres (size, visual aspect, defects, overproduction) and eggs produces in dedicated farms for this type of production.

MARKETING

• French market segmentation in 2010: 40% of egg products destined to the processing and the foodservice industry, 14% of shell eggs destined to the foodservice industry, 40% of shell eggs destined to home consumption and 6% for farm consumption.

CONSUMPTION

• 230 eggs per year and per inhabitant, or 1 4 kilos per year and per inhabitant in 2014, among which more than 40% of egg products.
• In 2013, 57% of volumes purchased by French households for home consumption were cage eggs, 33% alternative eggs, among which 22% of outdoors eggs.

TRADE EXCHANGES

• 25 to 30,000 tonnes of shell eggs are exported to the EU (Belgium and the Netherlands mostly) and to Switzerland.
• 80 to 90,000 tonnes of egg products are exported abroad, among which 90% towards the EU (Belgium, Germany, and Spain).
• 60 to 75,000 tonnes of shell eggs are imported from Spain (60 to 70% of volumes) and from the Netherlands.
• 65 to 70,000 tonnes of egg products are imported from Spain and from the Benelux.

FOCUS

The excellence of French production

• Egg products account for 100 million Euros of international annual revenue, among which 25% outside of the EU;
• There is a strong development of egg product exports towards Asia (Japan, Thailand, South Korea) and towards the countries of the Near and Middle West.

MAP OF MAIN EXPORT MARKETS