

Egg Industry Stats Summary for 2025

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1. INDUSTRY STATISTICS

1.1. Egg prices

Average producer prices for all eggs (cage, barn and free range) plus graded and ungraded eggs are displayed in Figure 1. The price for all eggs decreased from R26.77/dozen in 2024 to R22.58/dozen (-15.7%) in 2025. This followed on from a 16.8% increase in 2024. Average prices for graded and ungraded eggs decreased by 14.8% and 20.2% respectively. In 2025, 81.3% of the eggs were graded.

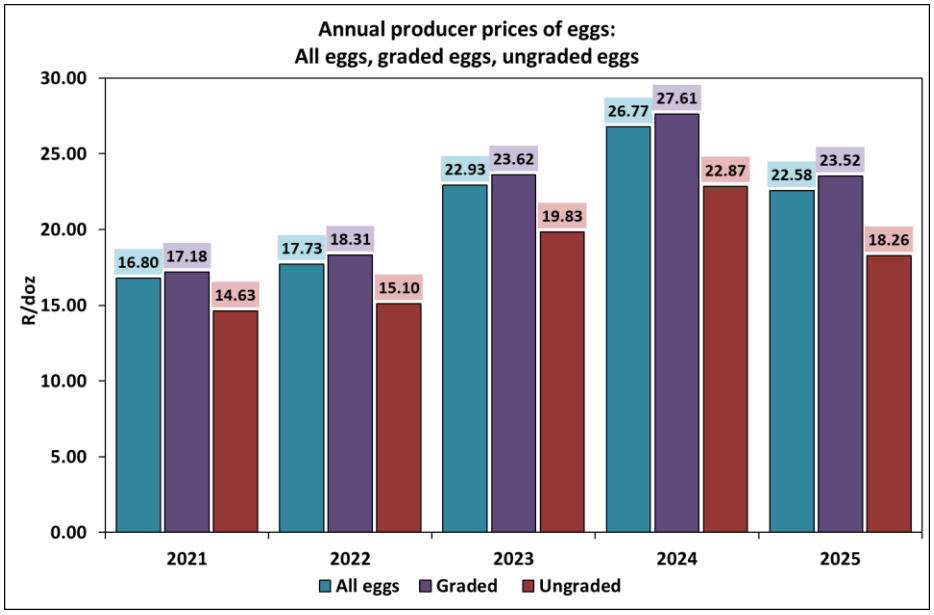


Figure 1: Annual producer prices for graded and ungraded eggs

Figure 2 shows the producer prices for the different production systems. The average price for cage eggs decreased by 15.7% in 2025 while for barn + free-range eggs it dropped by 5.6%. The average gap between the two prices was R9.09, with eggs from alternative housing systems realising 40.4% more than those from conventional cages. In 2025, 99.0% of the eggs were produced in cages. Producer prices dropped due to the oversupply of eggs.

These prices are submitted to SAPA (via auditors) by egg producers and in 2025 the sample represented 27.1% (down from 29.0% in 2024) of the forecasted national egg volume. This is a relatively small sample size and the pricing statistics should therefore be seen as trends rather than accurate data. Producers are encouraged to contribute to SAPA's pricing surveys because the larger the sampling pool, the more robust the data.

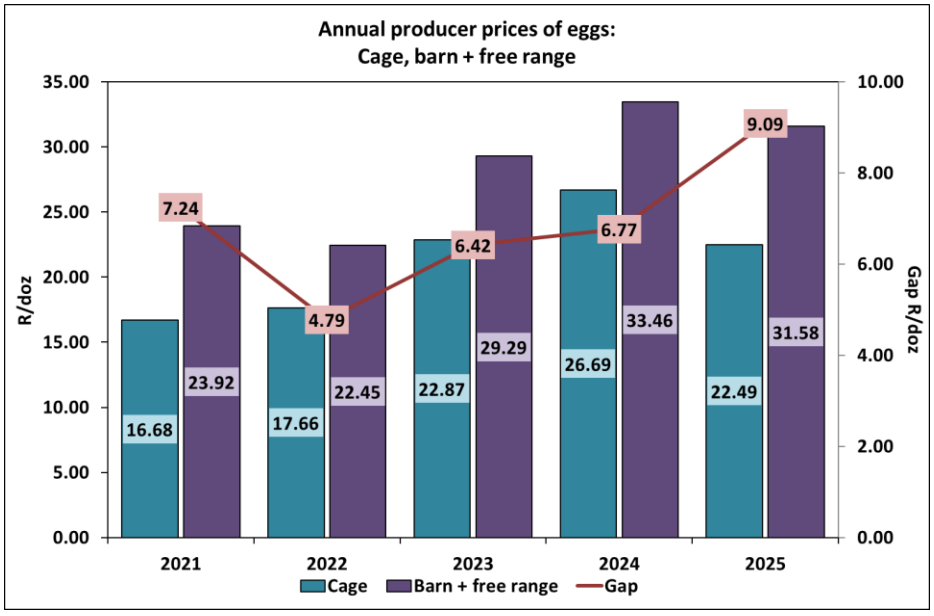


Figure 2: Annual producer prices for the different production systems

Producer prices for the different grades published by Statistics SA (Stats SA) are summarised in Table 1. Stats SA prices do not take all the rebates and trading terms into account but allow for discount offered off the list price. The expected gradeout, a component of SAPA's egg forecasting model, was used to calculate a weighted average for the purpose of comparison with the SAPA price for all sizes.

Table 1: Producer prices (R/doz) for table eggs

Year	Stats SA					SAPA	
	Jumbo	X-large	Large	Medium	Wt. avg.	All sizes	Difference
2024	30.28	30.36	28.23	22.25	29.21	26.77	2.44
2025	27.74	26.31	23.47	17.69	25.03	22.58	2.45
% change	-8.4	-13.3	-16.9	-20.5	-14.3	-15.7	

The average retail price for large eggs reported by Stats SA was R43.08/dozen; an annual decrease of 5.6% and giving an estimated retail mark-up of 83.6% in the year 2025 (Figure 3). During the past five years, the average mark-up on large eggs was 86.2%.

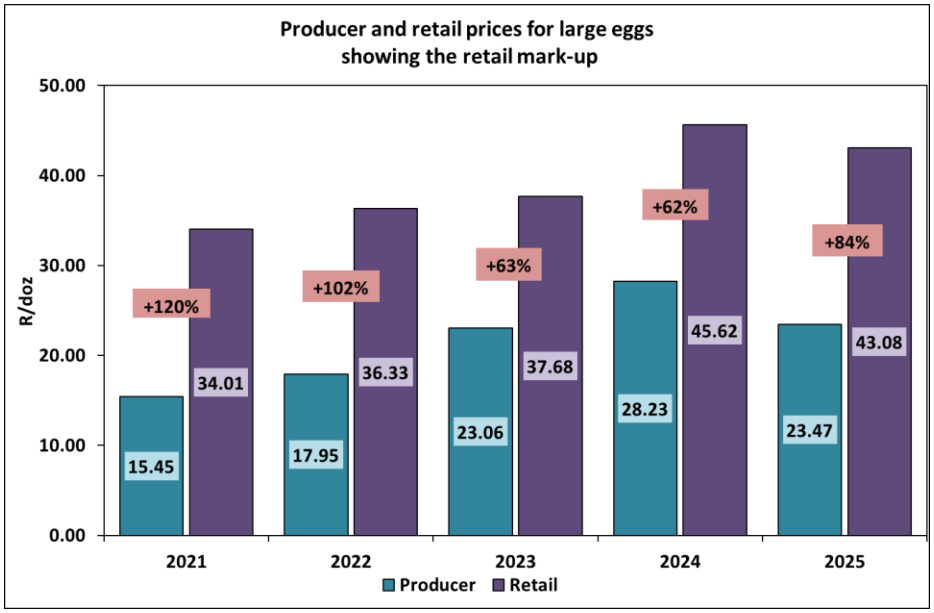


Figure 3: Annual producer and retail prices of large eggs

1.2. Price comparison with other protein sources

In 2024 eggs were considerably more expensive than chicken and pork, a circumstance that caused lower-end consumers to shift towards other protein sources. The substantial reduction in supply, due to the culling of hens infected with HPAI, caused egg prices to soar. In 2025 eggs recovered their position as the most affordable animal protein source (Table 2 and Figure 4; source: AMT, SAPA).

Beef prices soared in 2025 due to constrained supply. This was caused by widespread outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in cattle herds.

Table 2: Producer prices of animal proteins (R/kg)

Year	Beef A2/A3	Beef C2/C3	Pork	Chicken	Eggs
2024	54.88	44.91	32.06	31.83	36.54
2025	67.64	55.92	35.16	33.66	31.05
% change	23.3	24.5	9.7	5.8	-15.0

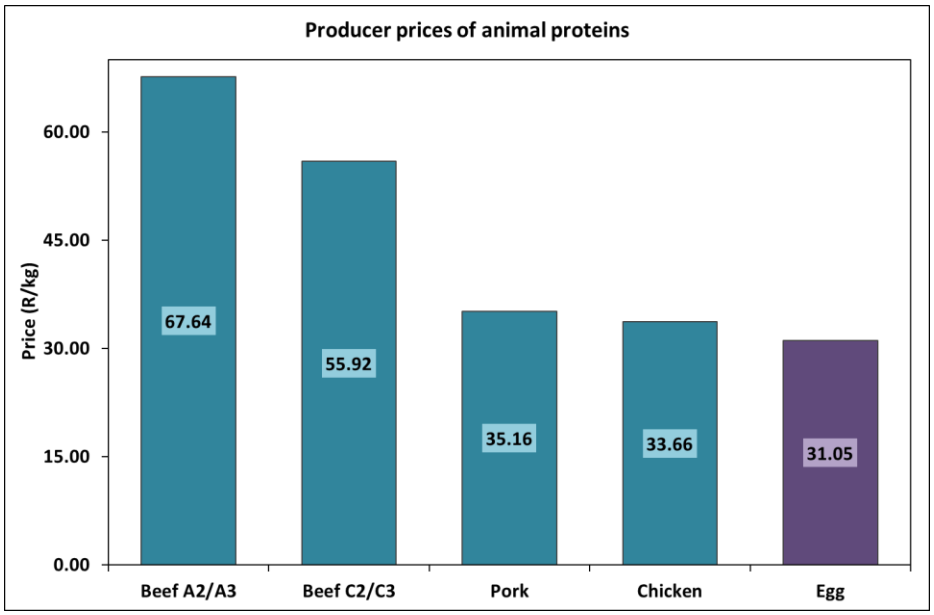


Figure 4: Comparison of prices of animal proteins

1.3. International price comparison

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) tracks producer prices in the northeast region of the United States of America (USA). Table 3 gives the average prices per dozen of the different grades for 2025 and annual percentage changes. These prices are also expressed in rands using the average exchange rate of R17.88 to the US dollar.

Table 3: USDA producer prices ($/doz)

Year	Extra large	Large	Medium
2024	2.91	2.88	2.33
2025	3.71	3.63	2.91
% change	27.4	26.0	25.0
R/doz (2025)	R66.40	R64.99	R52.10

Figure 5 shows the movement in egg prices in the USA over the past five years. The spike in 2022 occurred as a result of shortages due to catastrophic avian influenza (AI) outbreaks. In 2023 prices dropped as laying flocks rebounded and egg supply returned to normal levels. Egg prices soared in December 2024 as HPAI outbreaks accelerated across the country. The USDA's strategy to lower the cost of eggs was to bolster domestic supply by importing shell eggs and egg products. An estimated 129 million shell-egg dozen equivalent was imported in 2025.

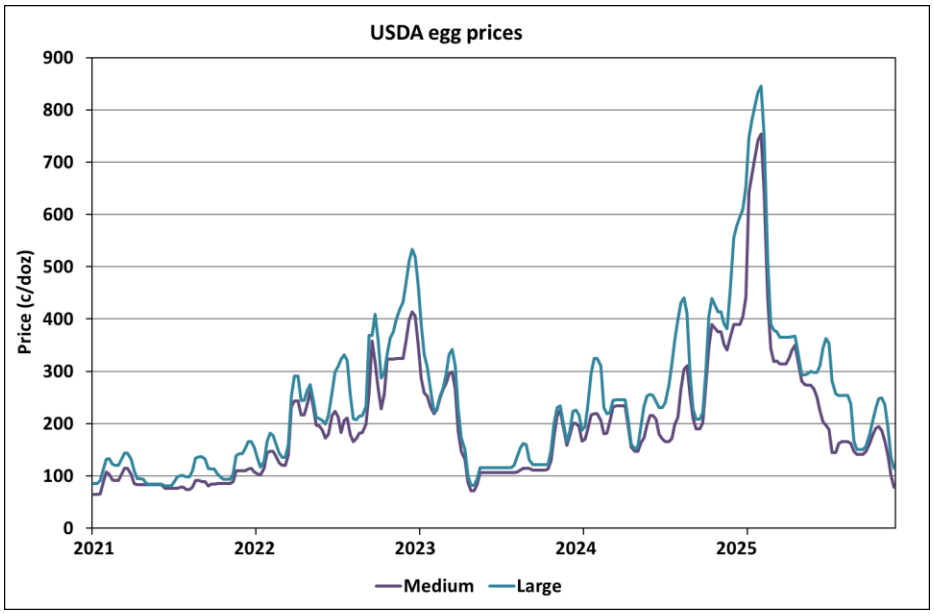


Figure 5: USDA egg prices

1.4. Layer grandparents and layer breeders

According to the AI surveillance database, there were 23 600 grandparents in rear and lay in the fourth quarter of 2025. The parent rearing farms were stocked with 174 500 birds and the parent laying farms with 538 900 hens and cocks.

1.5. Day-old pullets

In 2025 annual day-old pullets hatched decreased marginally by 0.4% to 25.23 million (Figure 6). An average of 483 810 per week were produced compared to 483 830 per week the previous year.

In terms of feather colour, 60.7% (up from 54.6% in 2024) of the day-old pullets hatched were silver strains and 39.3% were brown strains. The silver (white-feathered) strains included Amberlink, Hy-Line Silver Brown and H&N Silver Nick birds, while the brown strains included Lohmann Brown Lite, Hy-Line Brown and Dekalb Brown.

An estimated 25.28 million point-of-lay pullets were transferred to laying farms during 2025; an increase of 25.3% over the previous year. This follows decreases of 11.1% and 5.3% in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

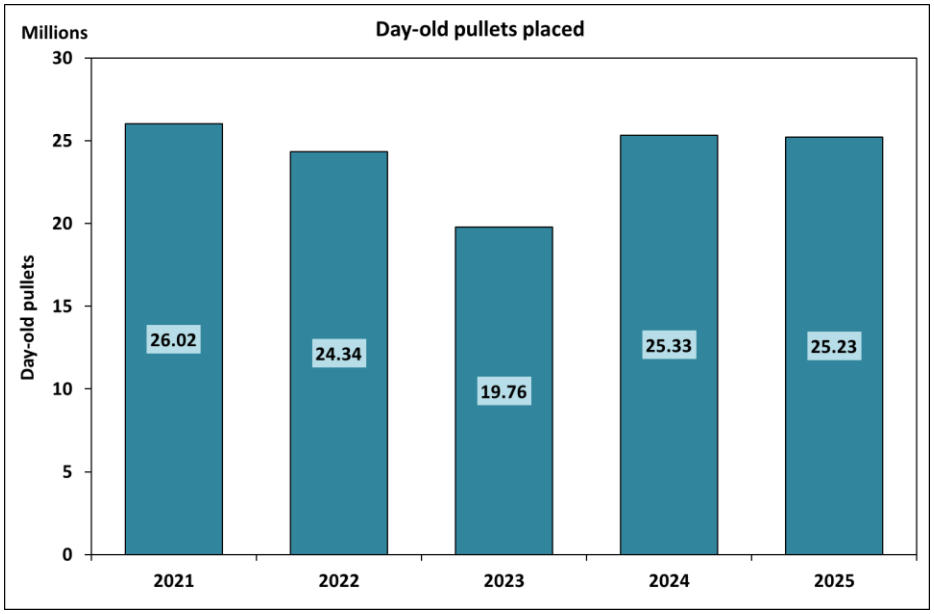


Figure 6: Trend in day-old pullets hatched

1.6. Layer flock

The national flock size was affected in 2021 by an H5N1 outbreak. An estimated 2.18 million hens were culled in that year. After a period of recovery in 2022, hen numbers decreased by 15.0% in 2023 due to severe outbreaks of H5N1 and H7N6. A further drop of 10.6% occurred in 2024 as producers struggled to source point-of-lay pullets. The industry recovered remarkably well in 2025, although the record high of 30 million hens reached during the last four months was a cause for concern (Figure 7).

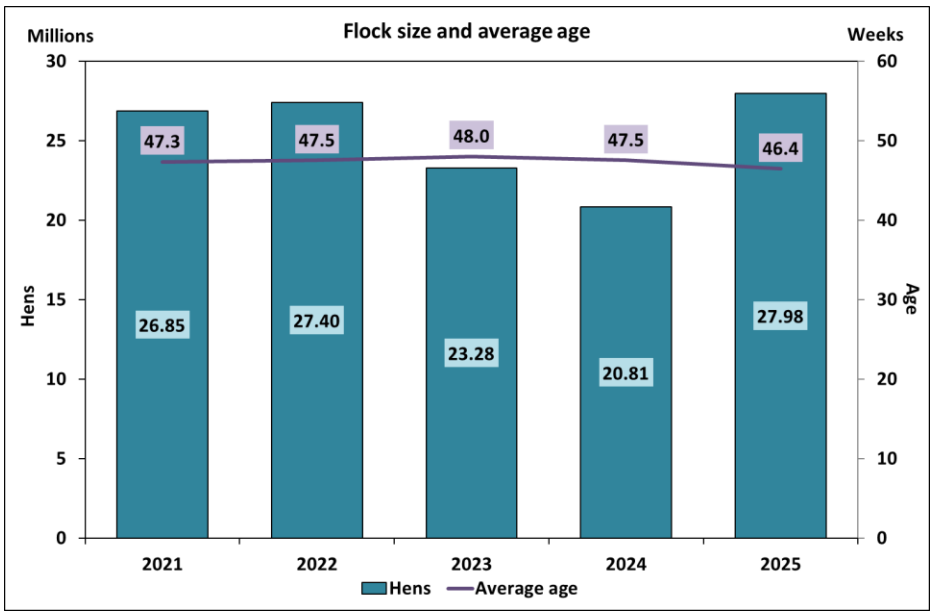


Figure 7: The size of the national layer flock

Figure 8 shows the distribution of the egg industry birds (grandparents, layer breeders, pullets and laying hens) per local municipality (source: AI surveillance monitor, 4Q2025). The highest density of birds was found in Drakenstein in Western Cape, followed by City of Tshwane and Mogale City, both in Gauteng.

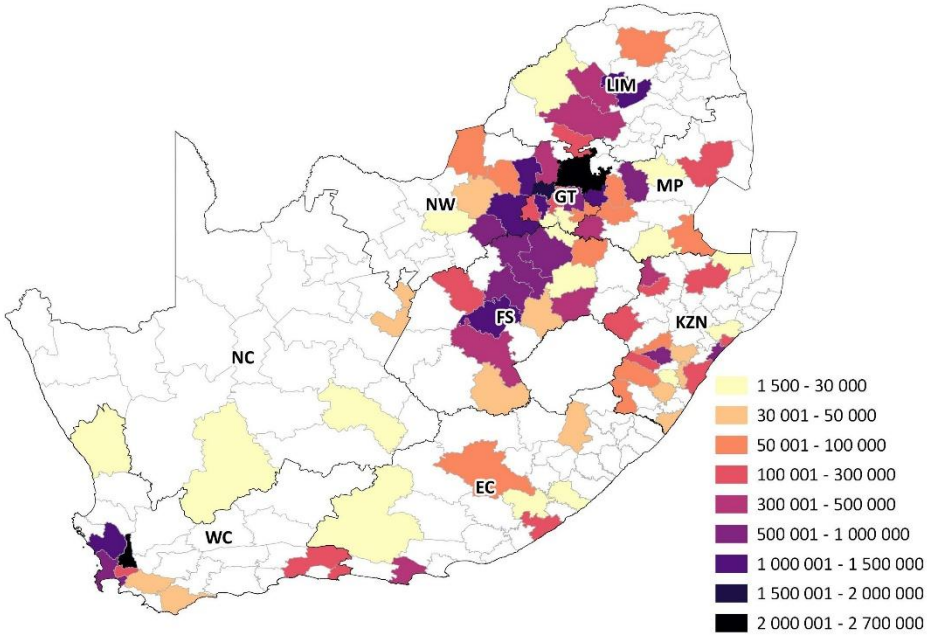


Figure 8: The density of egg industry birds per local municipality

1.7. Egg production

The average number of cases produced per week in 2025 was 471 400; an annual increase of 121 900 cases (+34.9%) (Figure 9). This followed significant decreases of 15.4% and 10.4% in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Total egg production amounted to 24.60 million cases, or 738.0 million dozen eggs – a five-year high.

Table 4 summarises bird numbers and egg production and shows the annual percentage change.

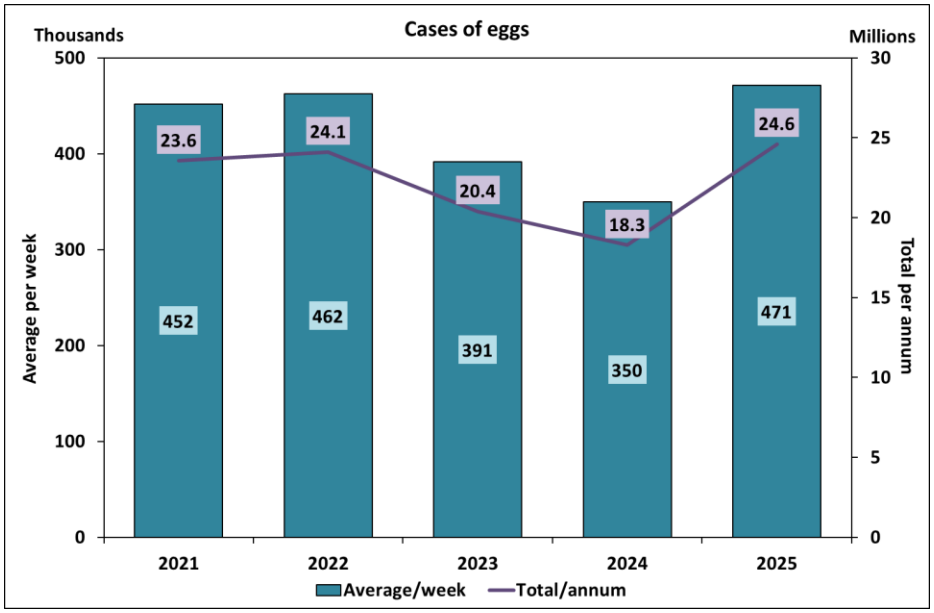


Figure 9: Cases of eggs produced

Table 4: Bird and egg numbers for the egg industry (millions)

Year	DOP placed	LRP placed	Laying hens		Cases of eggs
	Per annum	Per annum	Avg. no.	Depop.	Per annum
2024	25.332	20.175	20.814	16.735	18.277
2025	25.229	25.282	27.979	16.582	24.599
Change	-0.103	5.107	7.164	-0.153	6.322
% change	-0.4	25.3	34.4	-0.9	34.6

DOP = day-old pullets LRP = layer replacement pullets

Figure 10 illustrates the relationship between egg volume and producer price. The dramatic drop in volumes in the second half of 2023, following the mass culling of HPAI-infected hens, caused a gigantic spike in producer prices which peaked in November 2023. The situation reversed in 2025, to the detriment of producers, with the rapid plunge in producer prices reflecting the oversupply of eggs.

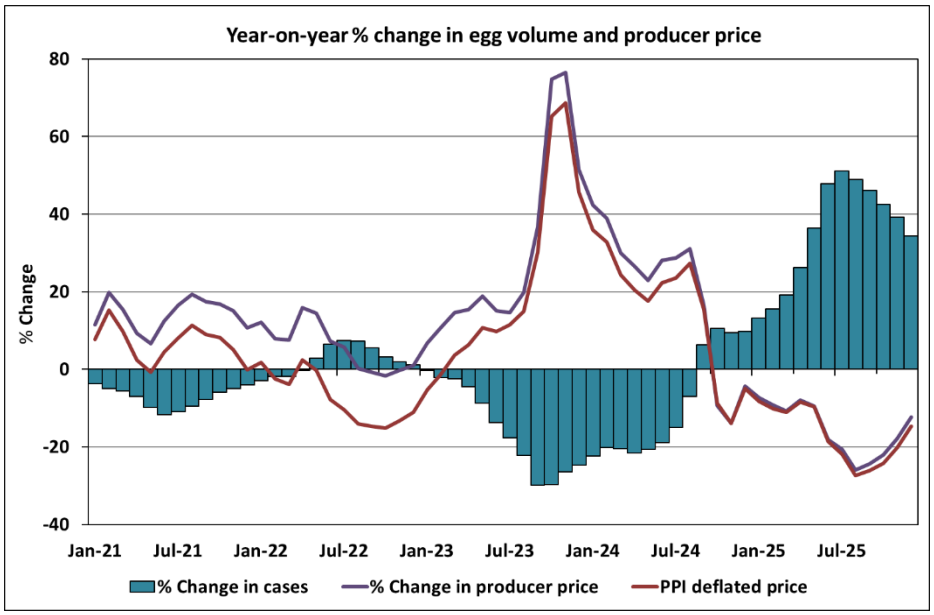


Figure 10: Percentage change in egg volume and producer price

Figure 11 shows the trends in the overall Producer Price Index (PPI), the PPI for agriculture and the PPI for eggs since 2021. The data has been rebased with December 2023 = 100. While the overall PPI and the PPI for agriculture have shown a more-or-less steady increase, the PPI for eggs has been a lot more volatile. This turbulence is largely owing to the impact of AI on the egg industry and its supply chain.

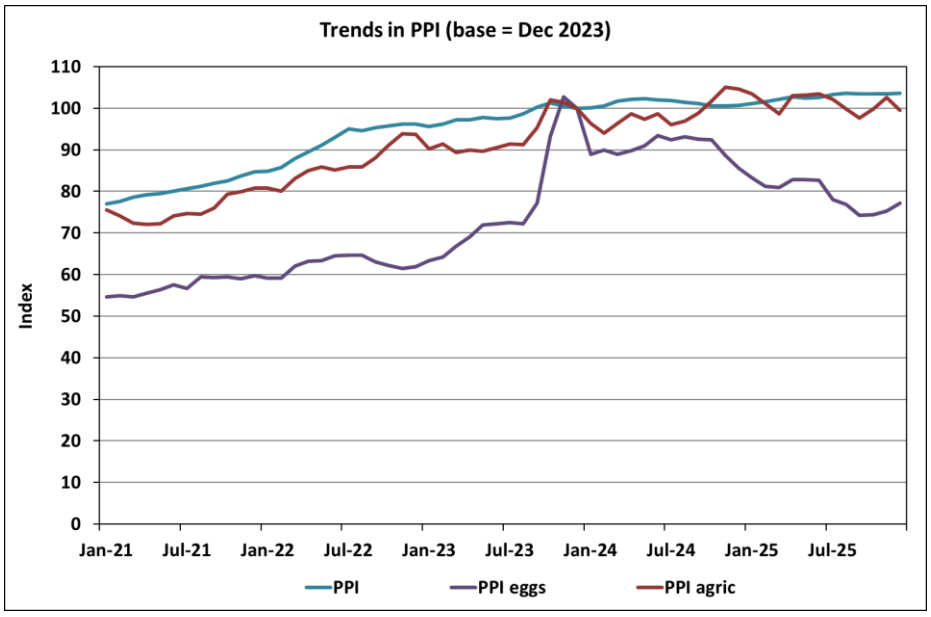


Figure 11: Trends in PPI (source: Stats SA)

1.8. Prospects for 2026

Based on the number of day-old pullets hatched to December 2025, the number of point-of-lay pullets placed is expected to decrease by 844 400 (-9.5%) for the first four months of 2026 compared to the same period in 2025.

An average flock of 29.46 million layers is projected for the first four months of 2026; an increase of 4.60 million layers (+18.5%) compared to the same period in 2025. As a result, egg production is expected to increase by 18.8% to an average of 495 600 cases per week in the first four months of 2026.

1.9. Gross value

With a gross turnover of R16.99 billion at producer level, eggs retain their position as the fourth largest animal product sector in agriculture in South Africa, after poultry meat (R74.41 billion), beef (R49.78 billion) and milk (R26.74 billion) (source: DoA). The turnover increased by 7.1% in 2025, after an annual increase of 13.7% the previous year. Eggs' share of the gross value of animal products was 8.2% (up from 8.0% in 2024) and of all agricultural production 3.4% (down from 3.5%). The DoA uses egg pricing from Stats SA to calculate the gross value.

The total value at retail level was estimated to be R31.79 billion for 2025 (source: SAPA). Almost 738 million dozen eggs were sold during the year through various channels.

1.10. Feed cost

The average price for layer feed in 2025 increased by 2.3% to R5 753/tonne. This followed a 6.4% decrease the previous year. The layer feed price includes distribution cost but excludes medication, additives and VAT. The sample size used to calculate the yearly average price represents 24.7% of the estimated feed consumed by laying hens.

The movement in the feed price over five years is shown in Figure 12. The sharp escalation from April 2022 put producers under enormous pressure until prices started declining in May 2023. Feed prices remained relatively flat in 2024 but showed more movement in 2025.

The trends in the ratios between the producer price for eggs and two feed ingredient prices (yellow maize and soya beans) are depicted in Figure 13. The higher the ratio, the more favourable it is for farmers. After a dismal 2022, the drop in raw material costs and upward movement in the egg prices put egg producers in a favourable position for the next two years. In 2025 maize and soya prices decreased year-on-year by 0.3% and 23.1% respectively, compared to the 15.7% drop in the egg price.

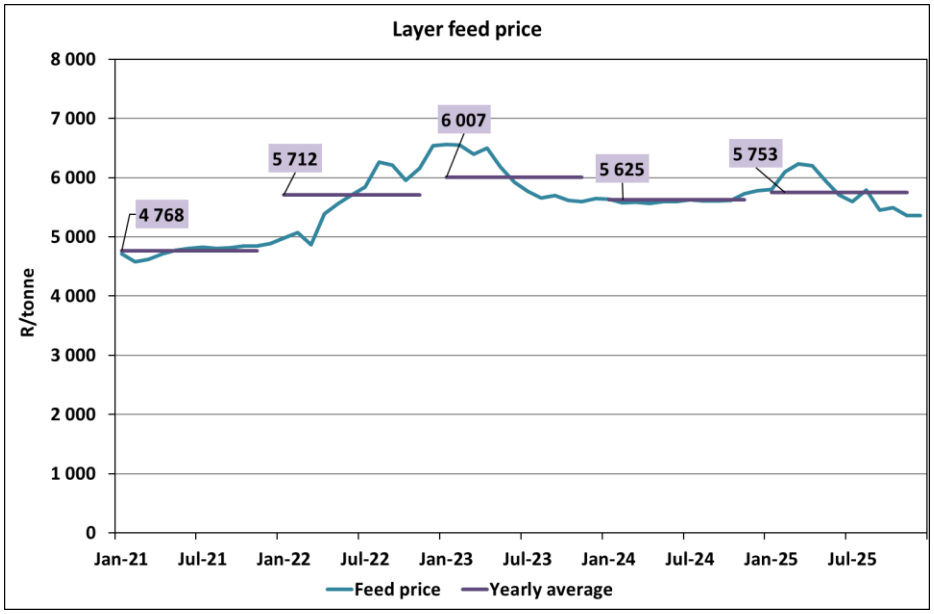


Figure 12: Movement in the layer feed price

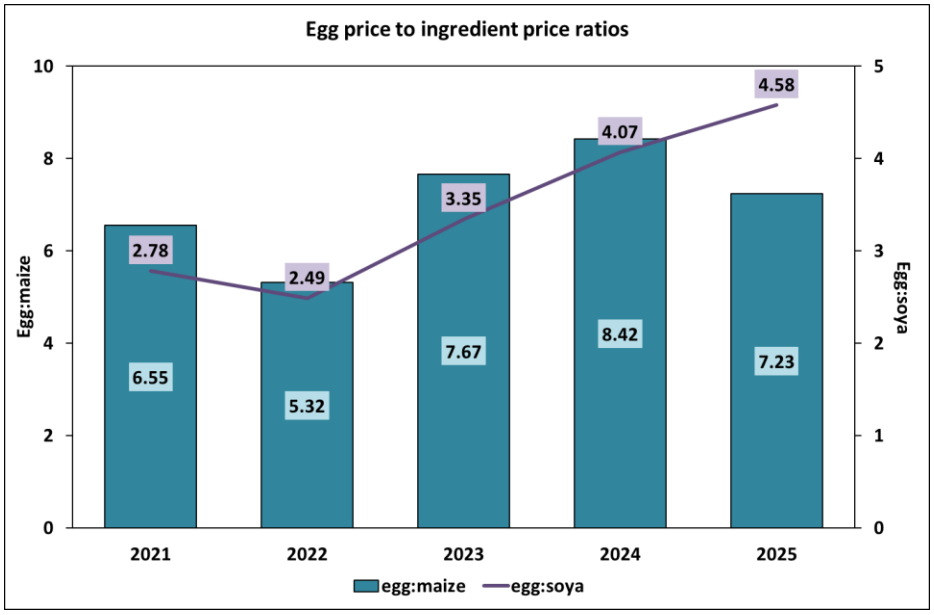


Figure 13: Showing the trend in ratios between egg and ingredient prices

1.11. Feed usage

The estimated feed usage for layers and pullets, using SAPA's forecasting model, is summarised in Table 5. These figures exclude breeder rations. Feed usage in the egg industry increased by 31.9% in 2025.

According to the Animal Feed Manufacturers Association (AFMA), total feed sales for the layer industry (including grandparent and parent flocks) from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 amounted to 823 486

tonnes; an increase of 41 596 tonnes (+5.3%) compared to the previous year. This includes 19 434 tonnes manufactured in other SADC countries. The breakdown is shown in Table 6; tonnages were calculated from the percentages given in the AFMA annual report.

Table 5: Feed usage for the egg industry (tonnes)

Year	Rearing	Laying	Total feed usage	
	Per annum	Per annum	Per annum	Per week
2024	131 498	841 521	973 019	18 610
2025	149 806	1 134 067	1 283 872	24 622
Change	18 308	292 545	310 853	6 013
% change	13.9	34.8	31.9	32.3

Table 6: Feed sales per region

Province/region	Tonnes	%
Eastern Cape	28 493	3,5
Free State	182 979	22,2
Gauteng	206 777	25,1
KwaZulu-Natal	50 150	6,1
Limpopo	10 788	1,3
Mpumalanga	99 477	12,1
North West	108 041	13,1
Northern Cape	0	0,0
Other SADC countries	19 434	2,4
Western Cape	117 347	14,3
Total	**823 486**	**100.0**

An estimated 37 088 tonnes of layer feed was derived from concentrates, giving a total of 860 574 tonnes of balanced feed. AFMA's national estimate of sales, including feed manufactured by non-AFMA members, was 1 006 295 tonnes. AFMA members therefore have 85.5% of the layer feed market.

SAPA's forecasting model predicted a feed consumption of 1 026 664 tonnes for pullets and layers for the same period; an amount of 20 369 tonnes (+2.0%) more than AFMA's estimate – for the first time. This lends credence to the notion that the industry may have experienced higher mortality rates in pullet and layer flocks than allowed for in the model.

1.12. Egg consumption

In 2025 the per capita consumption increased from 106.3 eggs (6.49 kg) the previous year to 141.0 eggs (8.54 kg). This is a reassuring 32.6% annual increase, with the consumption equating to 2.7 eggs per person per week (Figure 14)(source: SAPA). The population increased by 0.1% to a midyear estimate of 63.10

million (source: Stats SA). The DoA estimated the per capita consumption for 2025 as 139.2 eggs or 8.43 kg.

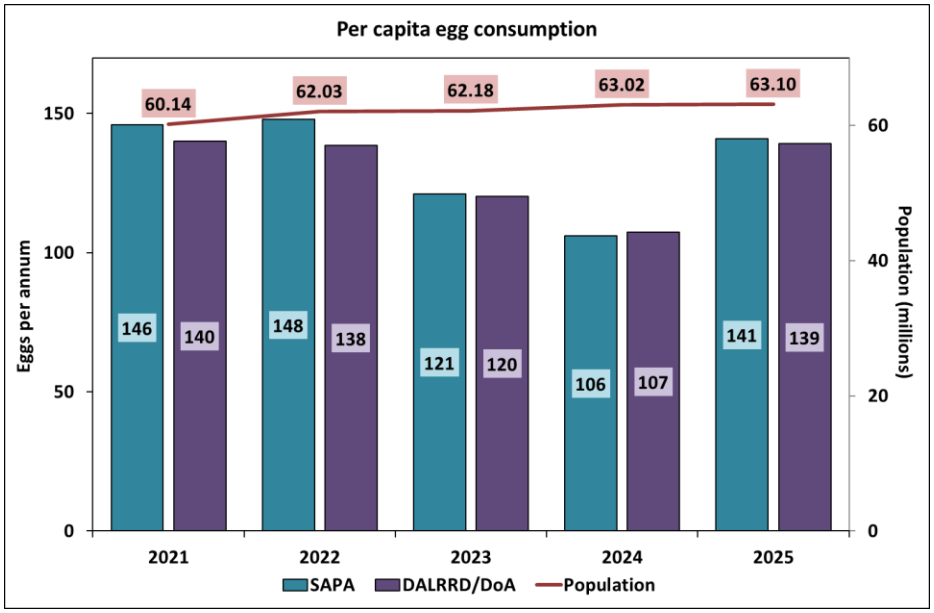


Figure 14: Per capita egg consumption in South Africa

The annual per capita consumption of eggs for a number of countries around the world is shown in Figure 15 (source: World Egg Organisation (WEO)). Three Central and South American countries (Mexico, Argentina and Colombia) lead the pack, with per capita consumptions of 400, 363 and 343 eggs respectively. South Africa ranked 31st out of the 33 countries that submitted data for 2024 to the WEO.

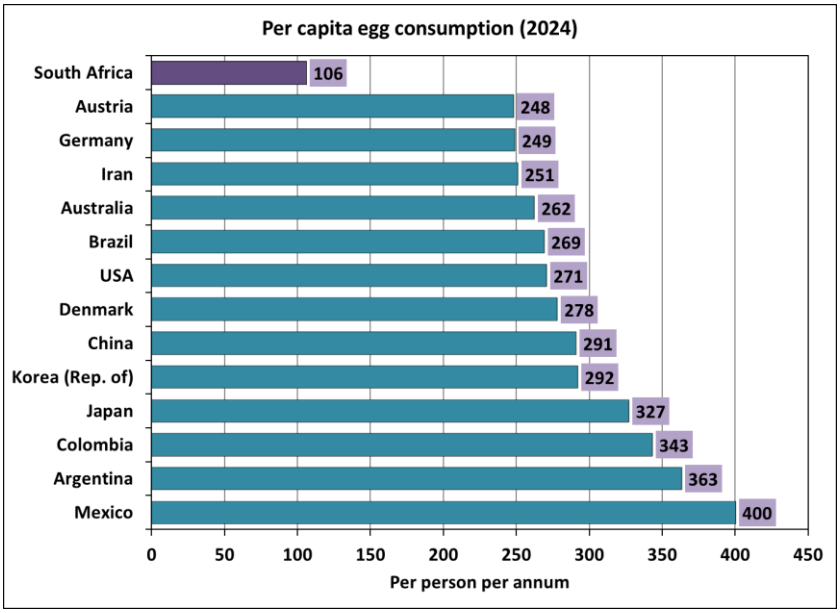


Figure 15: Global per capita consumption

1.13. Industry turnover

The estimated turnover from the egg industry is shown in Table 7. Day-old pullet sales have been excluded due to the small sample size used to calculate the average price. Total turnover increased by 14.2%.

Table 7: Turnover of the egg industry

Year	Day-old pullets		Point-of-lays		Eggs		Cull hens		Total
	Price (R/bird)	Turnover (R m)	Price (R/bird)	Turnover (R m)	Price (R/doz)	Turnover (R m)	Price (R/bird)	Turnover (R m)	Turnover (R m)
2024			99.72	2 011.8	26.77	14 679.8	48.54	812.3	17 503.9
2025			100.48	2 540.3	22.58	16 660.9	47.44	786.6	19 987.8
Change			0.76	528.5	-4.20	1 981.0	-1.10	-25.7	2 483.9
% change			0.8	26.3	-15.7	13.5	-2.3	-3.2	14.2

2. SUBSISTENCE AND SMALL COMMERCIAL EGG FARMERS

These statistics summarise detailed telephonic surveys covering the warmer months (October 2024 to March 2025) and cooler months (April to September 2025). All prices exclude transport and VAT. Weighted averages were calculated throughout.

2.1. Hatcheries

Nine hatcheries took part in the surveys. Of the day-old pullets hatched, 139 400 were kept for their own operations and 166 100 were sold. The average selling price was R19.30 (an increase of 71% from the previous year), giving a value of R3.207 million.

2.2. Pullet rearing

Twenty-five pullet rearers from all nine provinces responded to the surveys. The majority of the pullets were reared in Gauteng (50%), Limpopo (26%) and Western Cape (18%) on 25 farms. Men owned 72% of the businesses. A total of 11 producers stopped farming during 2025 for various reasons.

The average number of pullets being reared during the year was 63 100; a 10% annual decrease. The average purchase price per day-old pullet was R20.07 (+4%). Only 46% of the capacity of the rearing facilities was used.

2.3. Pullet feed

The majority (82%) of the respondents purchased their feed in bags. The average price paid per 50 kg bag for starter mash was R421 (-3%), for grower mash R403 (-0.4%), and for developer mash R391 (+2%). The

total quantity of bagged feed purchased during the year was 548 tonnes; an average of 535 bags per farmer. The total value of bagged feed purchases was R4.45 million. An additional 744 tonnes of bulk feed was purchased at an average price of R6 733/tonne, giving a value of R4.87 million.

2.4. Point-of-lay sales

According to the survey responses, 34% of the pullet rearers sold point-of-lay birds; the remaining producers kept the hens for their own laying operations. Total sales amounted to 16 600 birds and the average selling price was R97.23 per bird; a 2% annual increase.

2.5. Laying hens

A total of 106 egg producers from the 9 provinces responded to the survey. Of the farms, 35 were located in Limpopo; 27 in Gauteng; 11 in North West and 10 in Free State. The greatest proportion of the laying hens was located in Gauteng (61%) followed by Limpopo (13%). Men held 59% of the business ownership.

A total of 33 producers stopped farming at some stage during the survey periods because of the difficulties confronting them.

Point-of-lay pullets were bought by 63% of egg producers, while 3% were sponsored by the DoA and 34% reared their own pullets (compared to 28% in 2024). In terms of housing, 74% of producers kept their hens in battery cages while 20% had free-range systems. The remaining 6% used a mixture of cage, barn and free-range systems.

The farmers who responded to the survey owned, on average, 256 500 hens during the year. The average purchase price per point-of-lay pullet was R120.35 (+4%). On average, 43% of the capacity of the laying facilities was used; up from 38% in 2024.

2.6. Layer feed

The majority of respondents (87%) bought their feed in bags while 9% purchased in bulk and 4% mixed their own feed. The average price for layer mash, excluding VAT and transport, was R398/50 kg bag (or R7 960/tonne). Compared to 2024, the feed price for the respondents decreased by 10%. In total, 3 446 tonnes of bagged layer feed were purchased during the year; approximately 749 bags per farmer. The average feed intake for these producers was estimated to be 123.7 g/hd. The total value of bagged feed purchases was R24.63 million for the year.

The respondents buying in bulk bought 10 164 tonnes at an average price of R5 548/tonne for layer mash (equivalent to R277/50 kg bag). The total value of bulk feed purchases was R56.39 million.

Figure 16 shows the five-year trends in the egg price and feed cost for subsistence and small commercial farmers.

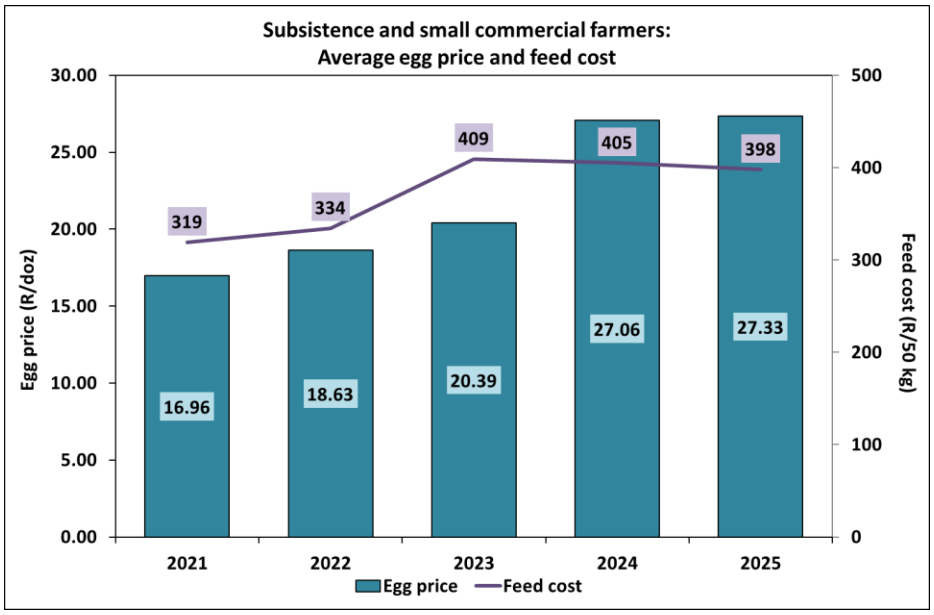


Figure 16: Trend in egg price and feed cost

2.7. Egg sales

Total sales of the respondents amounted to 5.74 million dozen at an average egg price of R27.33/dozen; a 1% annual increase. The average rate of lay, based on information provided, was estimated to be 73.5%. The total value of eggs sold amounted to R156.74 million.

2.8. Cull hen sales

In total, 145 200 culls were sold by the respondents at an average selling price of R64.38 (-7%). The trends in point-of-lay pullet and cull hen prices since 2021 are illustrated in Figure 17.

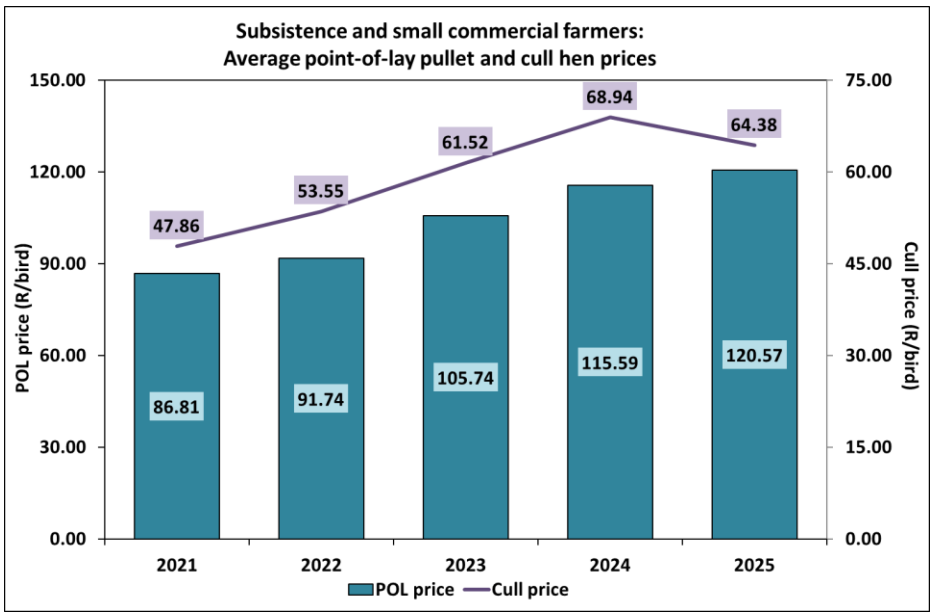


Figure 17: Trend in point-of-lay pullet and cull hen prices

3. TRADE

3.1. Exports

Exports of chicken eggs were able to resume after the lifting of the HPAI-related trade bans in mid-2024 and totalled 7 610 tonnes compared to 3 910 tonnes in 2024, a 94.6% increase (Table 8). The bulk of the exports were fertile eggs (for both the egg and broiler industries) and whole fresh shell eggs. The value of the exports increased by 55.5%, from R303.9 million to R472.5 million. Total exports (excluding fertile eggs) amounted to 0.68% of total egg production. Figure 18 shows the trend in egg exports since 2021 (source: South African Revenue Service (SARS)).

Table 8: Annual egg exports

Product (*Gallus gallus domesticus*)	**Quantity (tonnes)**	**% of exports**	**Value (R million)**	**% of exports**
Fertile eggs for incubation	3 965.336	52.1	377.791	80.0
Shell eggs (fresh and preserved)	3 623.306	47.6	93.400	19.8
Egg product (yolks, raw pulp, albumins)	21.792	0.3	1.270	0.3
liquid egg product	*18.515*		*0.950*	
dried egg product	*3.277*		*0.321*	
Total exports	**7 610.434**	**100.0**	**472.461**	**100.0**

The bulk of the exports went to Mozambique (76.4%). The other destination countries were Eswatini (16.3%), Botswana (4.2%) and Lesotho (1.2%). These four countries received 98.0% of South Africa's egg exports.

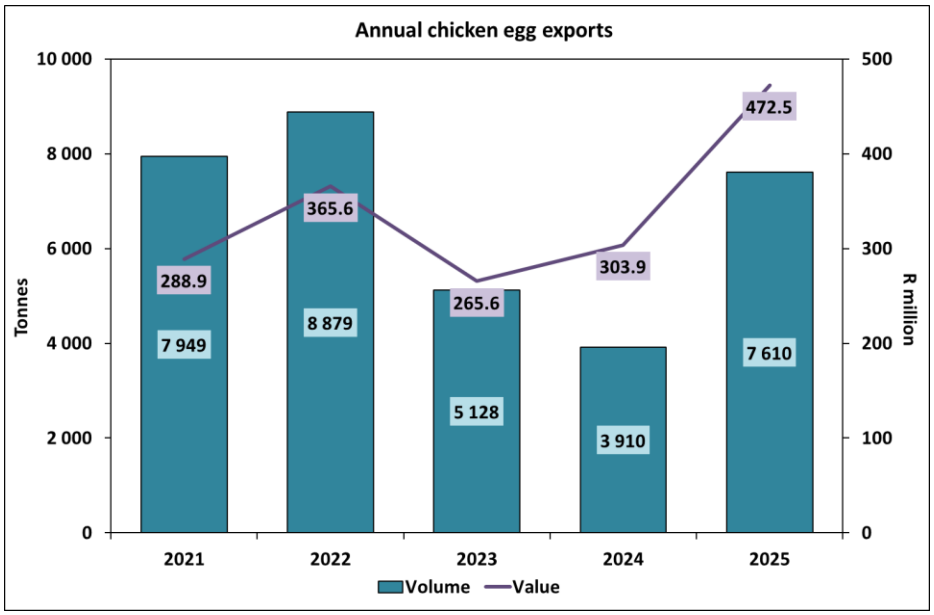


Figure 18: Annual egg exports

3.2. Imports

Total imports of chicken eggs, including fertile eggs, shell eggs and egg products, dropped from 5 176 tonnes in 2024 to 653.4 tonnes (-87.4%). The total value of the egg imports decreased by 75.4%, from R565.7 million to R139.3 million (Table 9; source: SARS). Dried egg product formed the bulk of the imports. Total imports (excluding fertile eggs) equalled 0.12% of South Africa's egg production.

The marked drop in imports of fertile hatching eggs signalled the recovery of layer breeder farms (and broiler breeder units) from the devastation caused by the 2023 HPAI outbreaks. The five-year trend in imports is shown in Figure 19.

Table 9: Annual egg imports

Product (*Gallus gallus domesticus*)	**Quantity (tonnes)**	**% of imports**	**Value (R million)**	**% of imports**
Fertile eggs for incubation	11.147	1.7	27.778	19.9
Shell eggs (fresh and preserved)	103.055	15.8	3.091	2.2
Egg product (yolks, raw pulp, albumins)	539.179	82.5	108.405	77.8
liquid egg product	*0.029*		*0.083*	
dried egg product	*539.150*		*108.322*	
Total imports	**653.381**	**100.0**	**139.274**	**100.0**

The Netherlands, France, Eswatini, Denmark and Italy were the main countries of origin of egg imports, with 35.3%, 23.0%, 14.9%, 10.2% and 8.4% of the total respectively. These five countries supplied 91.9% of South Africa's egg imports.

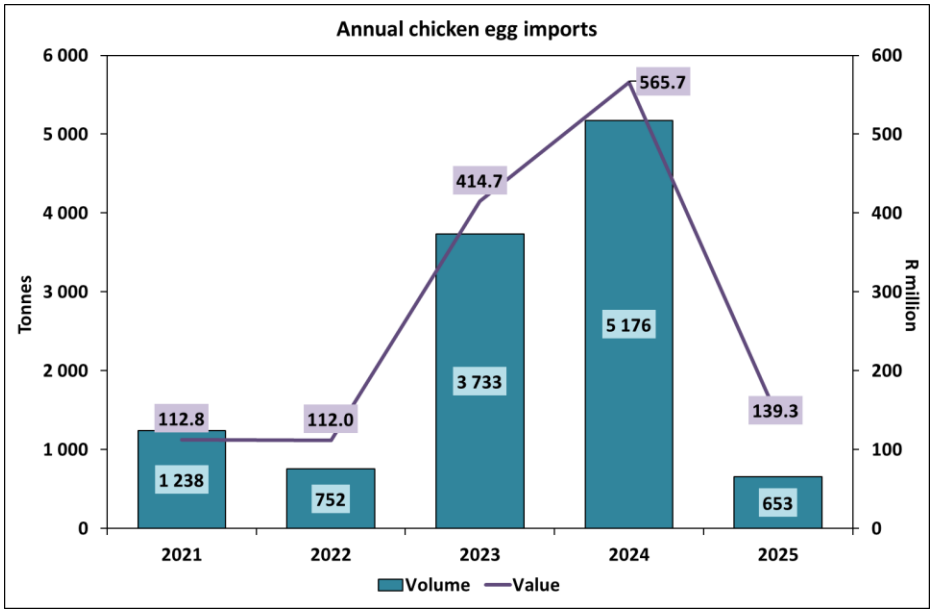


Figure 19: Annual egg imports