

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: US Buyers Are Seeking Turkish Eggs

Country: Türkiye

Post: Ankara

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

In response to elevated egg prices in the United States, Türkiye has ramped up its breaking egg shipments to the United States. U.S. imports of Turkish table/breaking chicken eggs (HS 040721) slightly more than doubled in 2024 to 6.2 million dozen eggs and Turkish industry reports that it has already contracted to ship about 460 million (38.3 million dozen) eggs to the United States during the first half of this year. Türkiye's current animal health status requires that the eggs only be imported for processing at a USDA-approved facility.

Elevated U.S. Egg Prices Spur Demand for Turkish Eggs

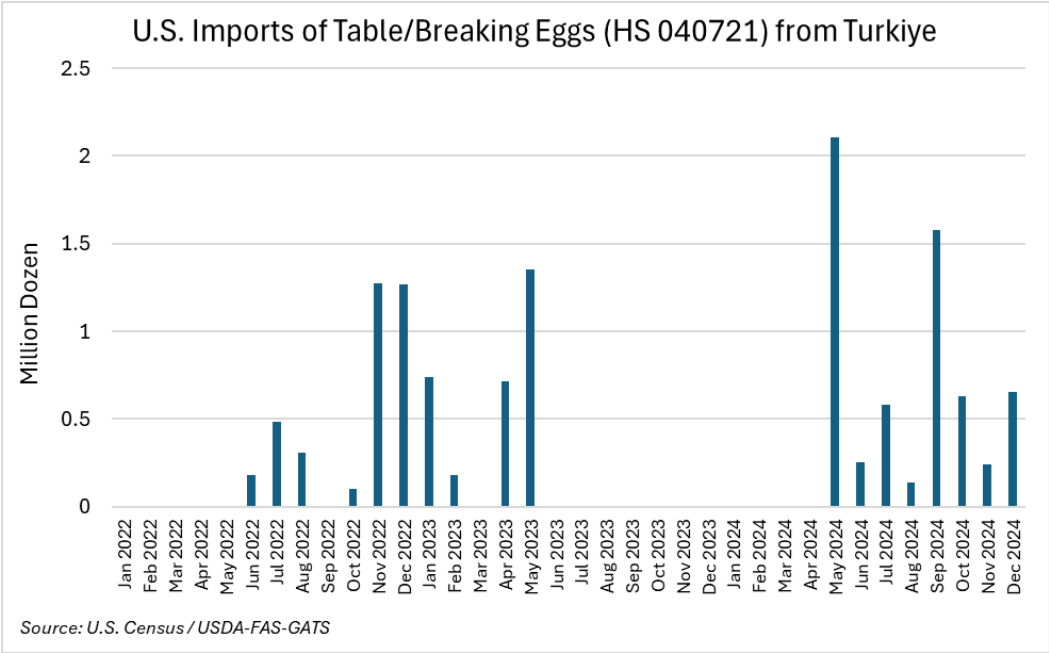
The depopulation of millions of U.S. laying hens due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has resulted in elevated U.S. egg prices. Facing tighter supplies of higher-priced eggs, U.S. importers, particularly the breaking industry, have turned to Türkiye to source eggs.

This increase in import demand, albeit to a lesser degree, began in 2024 when U.S. imports of Turkish eggs (HS 040721) slightly more than doubled year-on-year to 6.2 million dozen eggs. As U.S. prices in early 2025 are forecast higher than the same period in 2024, U.S. demand for Turkish eggs is projected to remain strong in the near term.

According to industry sources, Turkish egg exporters have contracted as of February 20th to deliver approximately 460 million (38.3 million dozen) eggs to U.S. buyers during the first half of this year. From January to mid-February, Türkiye exported almost as much to the United States than it did during all of last year, with exports reaching approximately 70 million (5.83 million dozen) eggs, according to industry sources. The domestic egg industry sees these expanding exports to the United States as an important step in increasing their prominence on the world stage as a reliable egg supplier.

In 2024, according to the Turkish Egg Producers Association, Türkiye was the 9th largest egg producer in the world, with an annual production of 26 billion (2.17 billion dozen) eggs of which about one-third were exported. Türkiye’s egg production was down year-over-year by about 9 percent in 2024 due to domestic HPAI cases that started in late 2023 and continue up to the present. These detections have been notified to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and Türkiye has taken quarantine measures to stop the spread of the virus.

Chart 1. 2022-24 Monthly U.S. Imports of Eggs from Türkiye



Because of Türkiye’s ongoing HPAI cases and its general poultry disease situation, Turkish eggs exported to the United States are only authorized for processing at four USDA designated breaking facilities upon arrival and are not allowed for direct table consumption.¹ Meanwhile, Turkish exporters are reportedly shipping table grade quality eggs (Turkish Grade A), but because of Türkiye’s disease status the eggs can only go for processing and, therefore, have to be sold at a lower price. Exporters are interested in accessing the United States table egg market which would allow them to sell at a higher price point and to a larger number of U.S. customers. U.S. and Turkish animal health regulators are responsible for negotiating and establishing appropriate conditions to ensure the safe trade of agricultural products, including eggs.

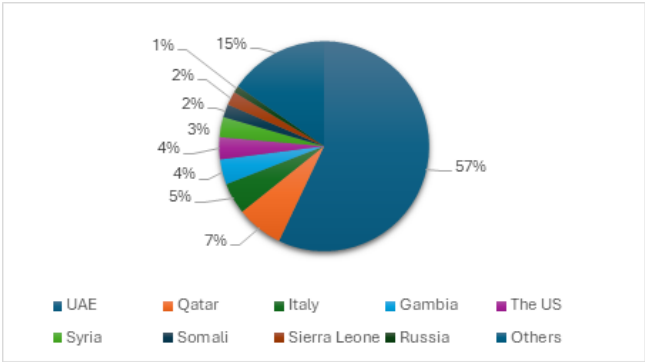
Potential Threat of Export Restrictions on Turkish Eggs

In the past, the Turkish government has restricted exports of select agricultural products to stabilize domestic supply and demand conditions and reduce upward price pressure. There is a risk that the Turkish government might decide to halt egg exports at any time, depending on the local market conditions, especially with the upcoming Ramadan religious observance (February 28th -March 29th), when demand for certain food items, like meat, dairy, and eggs, tends to increase. However, the Turkish egg export industry is not overly concerned about a potential ban since they report that Turkish egg supplies are adequate to meet both domestic and export demand.

UAE is the Top Destination for Turkish Egg Exports in 2024

In 2024, Türkiye exported 2.6 billion (214 million dozen) table/breaking eggs (HS 040721), valued at \$184 million. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the single largest export destination, accounting for more than half of all exports. Most of the remaining eggs were exported to markets in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

Chart 2. Turkish Egg Exports in 2024, by Destination



Source: TurkSTAT (Turkish Statistic Institute)

¹ The four USDA approved cracking facilities are all located on the east coast of the United States. DEB EL Food Products, LLC in New York; Sonstegard Foods in Georgia; Papetti’s Hygrade Egg Product in New Jersey; and Pappetti’s Hygrade Egg Product in Pennsylvania.

Attachments:

No Attachments.