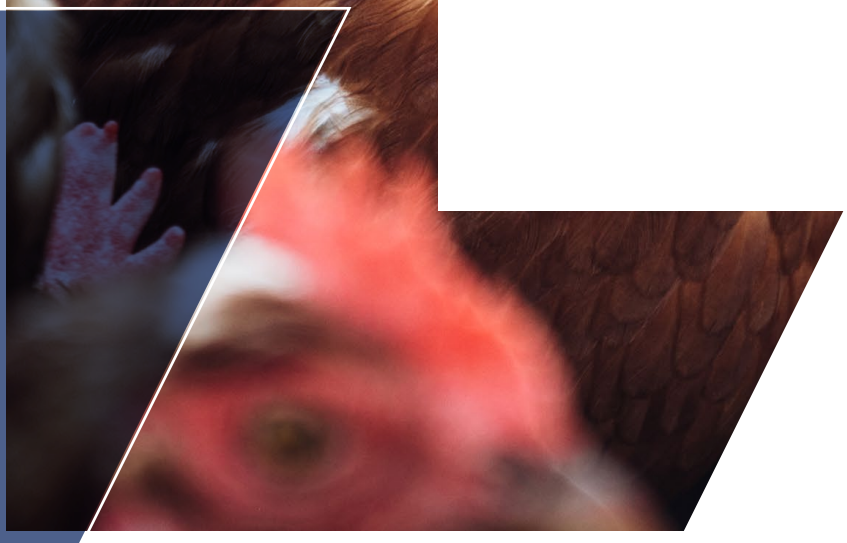
EGGXIT

Egg Transition Index & Transparency Report









Editor's Letter

Today, approximately 8.29 billion hens are exploited worldwide for egg production, with over 84% still kept in cages. This makes them the most exploited land animals globally. However, shifting consumer behaviors, higher ethical standards, and rising expectations are rapidly transforming the industry, gradually shaping a future in which extreme animal suffering ends. Public pressure on the industry to adopt and uphold animal welfare standards is also increasing. According to the World Egg Organization's report, Global Egg Industry Outlook 2025, sustainability and animal welfare are becoming central to competitiveness, and compassionate alternatives are already reshaping supply chains and investment priorities.[1] This raises the key question for companies seeking growth and success: not if they should change, but **when**.

For over a decade, Mercy For Animals and many other groups have partnered with companies and stakeholders in various sectors to support a shift toward more ethical, responsible supply chains through cage-free egg commitments. Yet, there is still much work to be done in transparency and compliance. Animal rights organizations, consumers, and stakeholders struggle to verify whether companies have genuinely made progress, as they face industry tactics such as misrepresentation, misleading statistics, evasive actions, and deliberate omissions. Particularly in methodologies, terminology, and definitions that do not accurately reflect progress toward these commitments.

One of the industry's common excuses for justifying poor practices or avoiding public scrutiny, particularly in Global South markets, is the lack of alternative, more ethical supply options. However, as shown in this report, many companies with poor performance delayed their implementation

[1] N.-D. Mulder, Global Egg Industry Outlook 2035: Long-Term Egg Market and Investment Perspectives (World gg Organisation; Rabobank, September 2025), https://www.worldeggorganisation.com/resource/global-egg-industry-outlook-2035/

actions, showing progress in their commitment only long after animal organizations asked them to start publishing results. Long-term contracts with suppliers, which are inherently gradual, typically require changes to be implemented over time, shaping the supply chain and enabling companies to meet their targets. Naturally, late action from companies results in delayed implementation and unmet commitments, which could have been avoided with better planning and internal coordination.

Another significant challenge in evaluating global progress toward cage-free commitments is assessing equity across regions. While companies often advance more quickly in the Global North markets due to stricter legal obligations (such as partial or total bans on cages), regulatory frameworks, transparency requirements, and every so often, many other markets lag significantly or remain completely overlooked. As a result, the transition largely depends on corporate will and accountability. This inequality creates uncertainty and distrust among stakeholders, since the effort to build a more compassionate supply chain should be driven by strong ethical conviction and organizational consistency, rather than simply differences in regulation.

This evaluation seeks to present the clearest view of companies' dedication to cage-free practices and to ensure fair, consistent assessments. Differences in how companies measure and report progress can sometimes complicate this standardization. Nonetheless, companies were included in the report because of their importance and potential impact on hen welfare.

To promote transparency and standardization across regions, our evaluation used methodologies such as estimates for underreported or grouped regions. Before publishing, we contacted companies and provided electronic access to the data for verification. If no response was received, we assumed corrections were unnecessary.

As an organization, we echo the collective call for companies to take meaningful action and commit genuinely to animal welfare. The current global ethical standards demand substantial action and reject empty promises or superficial branding efforts that deceive consumers and perpetuate the suffering of billions of sentient beings.

We invite industry leaders, stakeholders, and consumers to use this report not just as a scorecard but as a compass to guide the transition toward a more ethical supply chain, fostering trust, transparency, and more compassionate practices. Mercy For Animals will continue working through strategic campaigns, with our main focus on developing solutions, achieving results, and improving animal welfare. We are ready to collaborate with those with the confidence to lead the way.

The Global Corporate Relations Team

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Executive Summary

Methodological Disclaimer & Data Integrity Note

Transparency and Data Collection
All data and findings presented in the *Global Egg Transition Index & Transparency Report (EGG-XIT 2026)* were compiled by our Global Corporate Relations team using publicly available information, to the highest standards of technical accuracy and diligence. Given the varying structures, frequencies, and metrics of corporate sustainability disclosures globally, standardized estimations were applied where necessary to facilitate comparable cross-regional benchmarking. While these assessments aim to reflect operational realities as closely as possible, we acknowledge that corporate disclosures may not always capture real-time supply chain adjustments with 100% precision. The analysis contained herein is intended strictly for constructive benchmarking, educational awareness, and corporate accountability purposes.

Stakeholder Engagement & Pre-Publication Notice
In alignment with our commitment to fairness and open communication, all evaluated companies were provided notice and draft copies of their individual one-pager evaluations before publication. This process allowed companies to review their preliminary scores, provide feedback, and clarify any discrepancies in their publicly available disclosures before the final report was released. When no feedback was provided, we proceeded with the evaluation as it was provided to the company.

Introduction

This report is published by Mercy For Animals as a constructive compass and diagnostic guide for the global food industry. Over the past decade, civil organizations worldwide have worked alongside corporate leaders to foster a transition toward more compassionate, ethical supply chains. This evaluation is designed to be fully complementary to and supportive of the publications and benchmarks released by peer NGOs, providing a clear lens to understand Mercy For Animals' specific technical focus, regional engagement, and collaborative approach.

Mercy For Animals firmly believes that corporate engagement should be grounded in partnership, solution-building, and mutual guidance. While we recognize each company's strengths, the primary goal of this evaluation is to highlight specific "Areas of Opportunity" where corporate supply chains can advance. This emphasizes Mercy For Animals' complete readiness to advise, support, and guide companies in fulfilling their cage-free commitments.

The scope of this evaluation encompasses 48 major global corporations, selected for their substantial "egg footprint," global market influence, or significant regional leadership. Crucially, the evaluation includes companies that currently hold regional cage-free commitments but have not yet expanded them globally. Because we believe that these companies possess the operational power, supply chain infrastructure, and brand leadership to drive systemic change, Mercy For Animals encourages them to leverage their market position to establish comprehensive global policies.

The "Eggs-Ray" Methodology: Standardization & Transparency

To provide an objective, transparent assessment, this report acts as an "Eggs-Ray" of corporate cage-free performance. Evaluating corporate disclosures across diverse markets requires a standardized methodology to ensure fair, comparable benchmarking. Where corporate disclosures lacked disaggregated data, estimations were made based on public information and industry standards:

- **Product Estimations:** Where corporations reported cage-free progress separately, such as distinguishing liquid eggs from shell eggs (a highly detailed reporting practice we recognize as good practice), estimates were calculated to assess the total operational scope.

- **Disaggregating Regional Blocks & Preventing Regional Masking:** Companies frequently report progress using broad regional groupings, such as "EMEA" (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) or "APAC" (Asia-Pacific). A central methodological goal of this report is to disaggregate these blocks into six standardized geographic regions: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, wherever public data allow us to make estimates. Aggregated regional reporting can obscure significant regional disparities. For example, reporting progress under an "EMEA" banner can make a company's performance appear strong if Western Europe is near 100% cage-free, while completely hiding zero progress or a lack of reporting in African operations.
- **Scope:** In this edition, if a company has a global commitment limited strictly to shell eggs, its progress score was evaluated within that scope. Expanding commitments to encompass all egg categories—including liquid eggs, egg powders, and processed ingredients—is framed as a key area of opportunity for future growth.

Before publication, Mercy For Animals contacted all the evaluated companies and provided access to their preliminary 'Eggs-Ray' summaries, offering an opportunity for verification, constructive dialogue, and feedback on their standings.

Overall Performance and Regional Implementation Equity Overview

Across the 48 major corporations evaluated in this report, the findings highlight both industry gold standards and those lagging among their peers:

Leading & Strong Performers

Fulfilled, Gold, Silver & Bronze Tiers—18 companies:

- **Fulfilled Leaders (100% Global Completion & High Equity):** Aldi Nord, Alimentation Couche-Tard, Crepes & Waffles, MBRF, and Royal Caribbean have achieved 100% cage-free sourcing across all their operating markets by EOY 2025 (as reported by each company, within the scope of its commitment), setting the gold standard for global implementation.
- **Gold Tier (Advanced Progress & High Equity):** Rewe Group stands out for near-complete global implementation (99%+) paired with strong regional equity.
- **Silver & Bronze Tiers with High or Medium Equity:** LIDL (*Bronze / High Equity*), Hilton (*Silver / Medium Equity*), Compass Group, Costco Wholesale, Kellanova, and Restaurant Brands International (RBI) (*all Bronze / Medium Equity*) demonstrate solid implementation momentum while maintaining balanced, progress across regions.

Note: Other established companies in the Silver and Bronze tiers—such as Arcos Dorados, Auchan, Sodexo, Yum! Brands, General Mills, and Nestlé—have achieved high overall progress scores but present key opportunities to improve their regional equity.

Moderate Progress

Green & Yellow Tiers—13 companies:

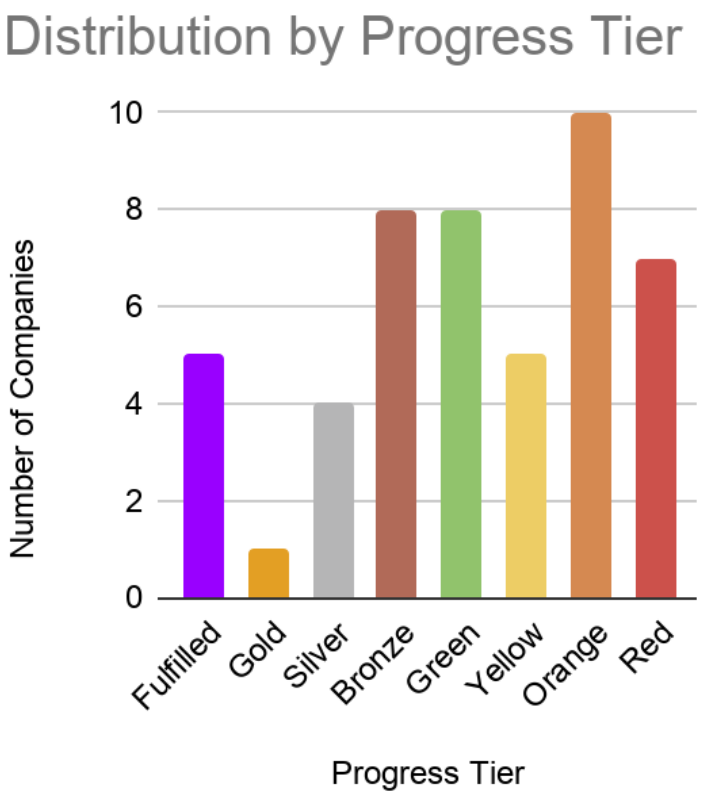
- Green Tier: Accor Hotels and Best Western (*Medium Equity*), alongside Aramark, Gate Group, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), Kraft-Heinz, Marriott International and Kewpie (*Low Equity*), demonstrate active implementation but require accelerated roadmaps to close regional gaps.

- Yellow Tier: Unilever, alongside its peers Aldi Süd, Choice Hotels, Mars Inc., and Mondelēz International (*Low Equity*) demonstrates moderate progress. While this entire tier requires course improvements, Unilever carries a higher expectation of accountability given the company's global scale and recognized positioning in sustainability based on its own statements. To ensure the successful delivery of its mandate, these companies must now formalize an updated execution roadmap and provide detailed volume disclosures.

Lagging & Critical Progress
Orange & Red Tiers—17 companies:

This group represents the single largest area of opportunity in the report. These 17 companies exhibit significant gaps in global implementation, restricted policy scopes, incomplete geographic disclosures, or a lack of transparent reporting across key operating markets:

- Orange Tier**:** Associated British Foods, Cencosud, Grupo Bimbo, IHOP, Jollibee, Nissin Foods, Puratos, Starbucks, Subway, and Toridoll demonstrate substantial implementation delays, restricted policy scopes (such as omitting franchise operations), or unaddressed regional markets.
- Red Tier: Positioned at the lowest tier, these companies represent primary areas of opportunity for constructive advisory, strategic transition planning, and enhanced reporting transparency: Aeon, Inspire Brands, LSG Group, and McCormick currently lack publicly available, volume-backed geographic progress metrics or clear implementation roadmaps. Ajinomoto, Seven & i Holdings, and Walmart Global exhibit notable regional implementation disparities, maintaining a prominent commercial presence across emerging markets where cage-free sourcing remains unaddressed.

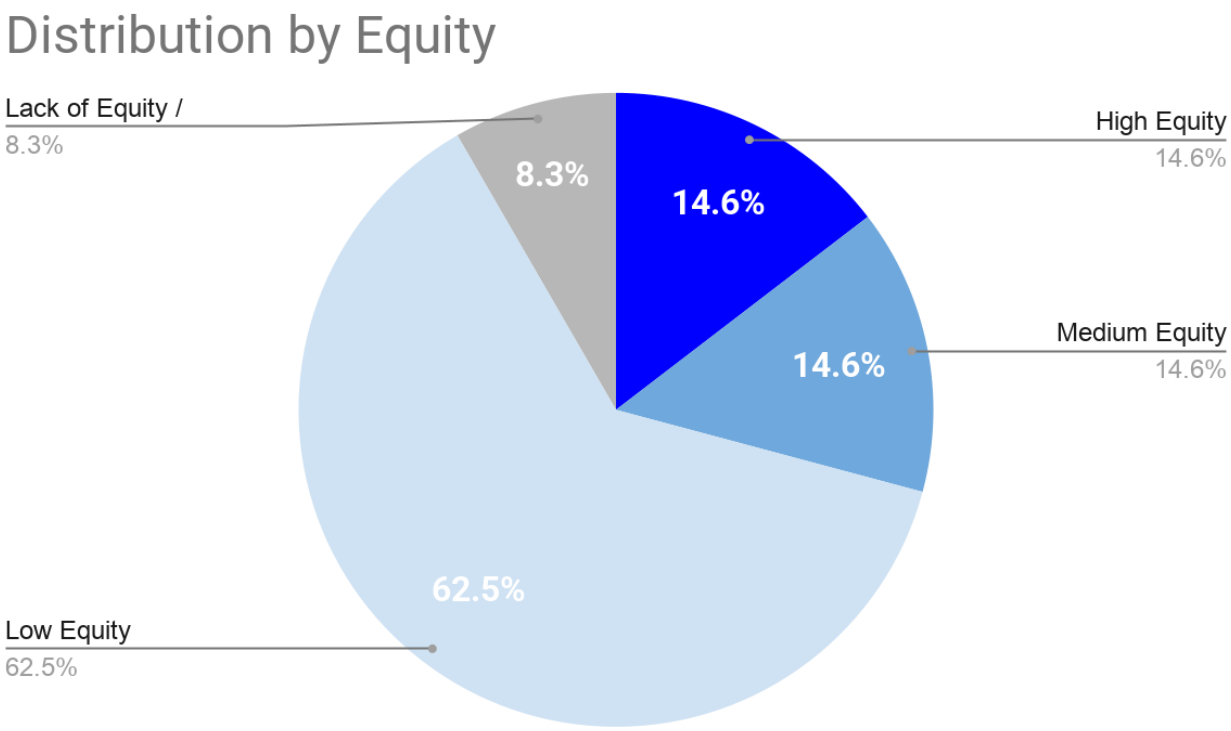


Regional Implementation Equity Summary

Overall, 14 companies achieved High or Medium Equity by advancing cage-free sourcing similarly across their markets. However, 34 companies (70.8%) fell into the Low Equity or Lack of Transparency categories—underlining that expanding implementation beyond North America and Western Europe and into Latin America, Asia, and Africa remains the single greatest strategic opportunity for the global food sector.

Consumers across all regions deserve complete reporting transparency, and animals in every market deserve consistent animal welfare standards. Corporate leadership is most impactful when ethical commitments are applied consistently across all operating territories, rather than prioritizing some markets while neglecting others. While supply chain scale and egg volumes vary by corporation, early planning, transparent roadmaps, and strategic supplier partnerships are essential for creating the local market conditions needed to achieve fulfillment across all operating regions.

The Global Corporate Relations team at Mercy For Animals presents this analysis as a clear guideline for future collaboration, aiming to support lagging companies in becoming industry leaders. These ratings are dynamic evaluations that will adapt over time as companies take concrete, verifiable steps to end one of the worst practices in the food industry—cages—across their global supply chains.



Why Cage-Free Work Matters

By 2023, the global population of hens exploited[2] for egg production exceeded 8.29 billion, with 70.5% in Asia, 9.3% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 7.9% in Europe, 6.9% in Africa, 5% in North America, and 0.3% in Oceania (see Table 1). Of this total, an estimated 84.2%, or **6.98 billion hens**, are still housed in cages, mostly in conventional battery cages.[3]

Table 1. Exploited hens for egg production: regional distribution[4]

Region	Exploited hens for egg production (millions)	Share of globally exploited hens (%)
Global	**8,298.00**	**100.0%**
Asia	5,850.29	70.5%
Latin America & the Caribbean	773.80	9.3%
Europe	654.11	7.9%
Africa	576.39	6.9%
North America	417.95	5.0%
Oceania	25.60	0.3%

From the previous figure, it is worth highlighting that 71.6% of these birds are concentrated in just 10 countries: China (with 40.2% of the global total), India (8.1%), Indonesia (5.2%), the United States (4.6%), Brazil (3.2%), Mexico (2.6%), Bangladesh (2.5%), Russia (2.1%), the Philippines (1.6%), and Japan (1.5%).[5]

The number of confined birds continues to rise due to overwhelming industry demand: in just a decade, global egg production increased by 32.1%, adding nearly 21 million tons and reaching 84.5 million tons in 2021.[6] Furthermore, from 2025 onwards, the egg market is projected to grow at an annual rate of 2%, resulting in a total growth of 22% by 2035.[7] Of this, 90% will be concentrated in emerging regions such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America; this has positioned it as one of the fastest-growing animal protein markets in the last decade, matched only by poultry meat.[8]

This growth, however, is accompanied by a paradigm shift from prioritizing volume to emphasizing value. Changes in consumption behavior and increasing consumer expectations urge companies to upgrade their production systems and value chains to remain competitive. Data indicate that as markets mature and consumer tastes evolve, demand grows for higher-value segments like cage-free and organic eggs.[9]

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[2] Note: In this report, we use the terminology, "hens exploited for egg production" to highlight the conditions in which hens in industrial egg farming live in cages.
[3] Compassion in World Farming, Review of Global Egg Production 2023, September 20, 2023, accessed July 28, 2026, https://www compassioninfoodbusiness.com/resources/laying-hens/review-of-global-egg-production-2023.
[4] Note: Own elaboration, based on data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products - Livestock Primary (Chickens, Layers), 2026, accessed July 27, 2026, https://www.fao.org/faostat/en.
[5] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products
[6] Global Coalition for Animal Welfare, Cage-Free Eggs: A Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary, December 2023, https://www.gc-animalwelfare.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GCAW-Knowledge-Share-Cage-Free-Eggs-Global-Landscape-Review-Executive-Summary.pdf
[7] Mulder, *Global Egg Industry Outlook 2035*.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.

Although some emerging markets may not currently focus on animal welfare, their future development is likely to lead to such preferences. Consequently, systems should be preconfigured to meet future consumer demands, enabling companies to stay competitive.

This paradigm shift responds to the growing awareness and concern among consumers about the inhumane treatment and deplorable conditions in which exploited hens are kept by the egg industry. In the intensive battery cage model, extreme confinement and restricted movement can lead to hens living their entire lives in an area ranging from 350 to 450 square centimeters.[10] This is equivalent to standing in a space smaller than a sheet of paper.

Consequently, this makes it impossible for hens to express behaviors and movements inherent to their biological needs, such as nesting, dust bathing, perching, and foraging. This results in increasing experiences of anxiety, frustration, and suffering, as they lack the capacity to adapt to extreme confinement conditions.[11] Within a few weeks, this leads to behavioral indicators associated with depression-like states, such as reduced feed intake, lower attention levels, heightened vigilance toward potential threats, and physiological signs consistent with stress-induced immunosuppression.[12]

Trauma and constant tension also lead birds to develop aggressive behaviors toward their peers. For example, lacking structures and barriers for protection and cover, subordinate hens remain in constant proximity to the dominant birds in the flock. This creates a social stress environment with ongoing aggression such as severe feather pecking, skin tearing, and even cannibalism.[13] Knowing this, the egg industry resorts to cruel practices to prevent these crowded groups from killing each other, such as beak trimming, a procedure that involves cutting or burning the sensitive, nerve-rich tip of the beak. This causes acute stress, chronic pain, and permanent loss of sensory feedback.[14]

In addition to cognitive damage, battery cages have severe effects on hens' physical health. For example, the lack of dust bathing forces the hens to perform a 'sham dust bathing' directly against wire floors; since they cannot satisfy the positive feedback of this biological impulse, the birds constantly rub themselves, resulting in feather breakage, skin abrasions, and multiple wounds.[15] Additionally, the lack of physical activity collapses their bodies: for instance, calcium depletion from egg-laying is worsened by immobility, leading to higher rates of disuse osteoporosis and skeletal fragility, which can culminate in metabolic diseases such as "cage layer fatigue" (characterized by paralysis, vertebral collapse, and spinal cord compression) and hemorrhagic fatty liver syndrome (which causes the bird to experience sudden liver rupture and fatal internal bleeding).[16]

In 2023, at the request of the European Commission and as part of initiatives such as the "End the Cage Age," the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a landmark scientific opinion. After evaluating the condition of hens kept in various commercial housing systems, it identified 11 welfare issues related to cage systems and, based on these findings, recommended transitioning to cage-free housing.[17]

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[10] E. P. Lucente and V. A. Vieira, "Sistema de Produção de Ovos: Cage-Free (Galinhas Livres de Gaiolas)," Revista Interface Tecnológica 22, no. 2 (2025): 568-578.
[11] K. M. Hartcher and B. Jones, "The Welfare of Layer Hens in Cage and Cage-Free Housing Systems," World's Poultry Science Journal 73, no. 4 (2017): 767-782.
[12] J. Calderón-Amor, B. Lecorps, D. Luna, M. Soto-Gamboa, F. Ovando, E. Ruiz, M. J. Montero, and T. Tadich, "Environmental Downgrading to Battery Cages Induces Depression-like States in Hens," Applied Animal Behaviour Science 297 (2026): 106908, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2025.106908.
[13] Hartcher and Jones, "The Welfare of Layer Hens."
[14] EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (AHAW), S. S. Nielsen, J. Alvarez, D. J. Bicout, P. Calistri, E. Canali, ... V. Michel, "Welfare of Laying Hens on Farm," EFSA Journal 21, no. 2 (2023): e07789.
[15] Hartcher and Jones, "The Welfare of Layer Hens."
[16] Ibid.
[17] EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (AHAW), S. S. Nielsen, J. Alvarez, D. J. Bicout, P. Calistri, E. Canali, ... V. Michel, "Welfare of Laying Hens on Farm," EFSA Journal 21, no. 2 (2023): e07789.

The numerous indicators of cruelty associated with cage systems, along with recognition of the sentience of chickens (and other animals exploited by the agro-food industry), have led to significant changes within the scientific community and in global regulatory frameworks. The shift toward a more responsible industry has moved away from viewing animal welfare simply as the absence of disease, hunger, or thirst to embracing a more holistic perspective that recognizes true well-being as dependent on positive emotional states and the freedom to express natural behaviors.[18]

The Market Has Already Moved: There is no excuse

The increasing concern and demand from consumers worldwide for better treatment of hens and other farm animals have sparked a series of regulatory reforms, sectoral dialogues, and agreements across different countries and regions. These efforts have led to unprecedented progress toward a cage-free transition. For example, from 2005 to 2025, the global share of cage-free eggs more than doubled, increasing from 5% to 11%, and it is expected to reach one-fifth by 2035.[19]

In Europe, for example, Austria and Switzerland have already completely banned cages in the industry;[20] Germany has set a deadline of 2026 for the transition,[21] and the Czech Republic will phase out its ban by 2027.[22] Sweden, on the other hand, has made a leap toward a cage-free system through dialogues, corporate commitments, private certifications, and informational campaigns within the country.[23] Meanwhile, the United Kingdom has already begun formal consultation processes to eliminate cages entirely by 2032.[24]

In the United States, the banning of cages is progressing rapidly, with ten states having already enacted cage-free laws, including California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, while others are still developing proposals.[25] These legislative advances, combined with industry transformations and changing consumer expectations, have resulted in a peak in the percentage of hens in cage-free housing, reaching 45.7% in 2025.[26]

Furthermore, the shift towards more compassionate housing systems is reaching other regions of the world. For example, in Oceania, New Zealand fully banned conventional battery cages in January 2023; meanwhile, consumer pressure has pushed major retail companies to go beyond legal requirements by publishing commitments to eliminate all types of cages from their supply chains, with several setting deadlines for 2027.[27] In the Middle East, Israel has committed to gradually phasing out cages, with a regulatory deadline set for the end of 2037[28] and has also published standards that penalize cruel practices against hens, such as beak mutilation and starvation.[29]

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[18] K. M. Hartcher and B. Jones, "The Welfare of Layer Hens in Cage and Cage-Free Housing Systems," *World's Poultry Science Journal* 73, no. 4 (2017): 767-782.
[19] Mulder, *Global Egg Industry Outlook 2035*.
[20] EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare, "Welfare of Laying Hens on Farm."
[21] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Reapestaport*, Open Wing Alliance, 2025, https://openwingalliance.org/2025-cage-free-fulfillment-report.
[22] Radio Prague International, Czechia to Ban Hen Cages by 2027, Radio Prague International, September 2020, https://english.radio.cz/czechia-ban-hen-cages-2027-8866729.
[23] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report*
[24] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and The Rt Hon Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP, *New Plans to Improve Welfare for Laying Hens and Lambs*, GOV.UK, January 12, 2026, https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-improve-welfare-for-laying-hens-and-lambs.
[25] The Humane League, *2026 Eggsposé: The State of Cage-Free in Foodservice*, The Humane League, 2026, https://thehumaneleague.org/article/2026-eggspose.
[26] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.*
[27] SPCA New Zealand, Colony Cages: The Struggle Continues for Chickens, SPCA New Zealand, 2025, https://www.spca.nz/news-and-events/news-article/colony-cages.
[28] Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Israel), The Chicken Coop Regulations Were Unanimously Approved: In Israel, No More Egg Laying Chicken Coops with Cages Will Be Built, Government of Israel, 2025, https://www.gov.il/en/pages/from_2037_no_chicken_cages_in_israel.
[29] The Times of Israel, Regulations Enter into Effect to Ban Starvation of Hens to Increase Egg Production, The Times of Israel, 2025, https://www.timesofisrael.com/regulations-enter-into-effect-to-ban-starvation-of-hens-to-increase-egg-production.

In Asia, South Korea has mandated an increase in the minimum space for hen housing by 2027, ending the use of the smallest and most restrictive types utilized in the industry.[30] In Indonesia, the government published a national guideline book in 2025 for cage-free production as part of their effort to accelerate animal welfare in the national industry, responding to changes in the international sector's dynamics.[31]

In 2020, Brazil, through its state company Embrapa, published the Manual of Good Practices for the Well-Being of Cage-Free Laying Hens, which provides voluntary technical guidelines to promote better animal welfare in the industry.[32] Meanwhile, in Mexico, in 2024, a constitutional milestone was achieved in 2024, recognizing the state's obligation to protect and care for animal welfare, laying the groundwork for future regulations.

In addition to legislative efforts, the industry has undergone significant transformations, driving more companies to commit to eliminating cage housing for hens and uphold that commitment. In 2025, for example, records from the Open Wing Alliance reflected a new milestone in the movement, with over 2,600 corporate commitments worldwide to transition to a cage-free supply.[33] Furthermore, the fulfillment rate of these commitments increased from 89% in July 2024 to 92% in July 2025.[34]

These changes, in turn, reflect shifting consumer preferences linked to an increased emphasis on conscious and ethical spending. While this trend is usually highlighted in the economies of the Global North, data indicate that consumers in emerging economies are increasingly associating differentiated-value product segments when making purchasing decisions. For example, it has been shown that in emerging markets, spending on wellness-related products is three times higher than in developed economies,[35] making cage-free eggs (associated with higher standards of quality and responsibility) more in demand.

Emerging markets are rapidly adapting, attracting investment to modernize supply chains and expand the availability of eggs from more compassionate systems, thereby demonstrating their viability and scalability. For example, in China, Tudama Agricultural Development Co. opened the country's largest cage-free egg farm in Guangdong province in 2024.[36] By the end of 2025, in Malaysia, Huat Lai Resources, one of the largest egg producers in the country and Southeast Asia, completed construction of the nation's largest commercial cage-free chicken farm, in response to increasing corporate demand.[37]

In summary, changes worldwide are happening at different times and scales across multiple dimensions: from new global commitments and civil society and animal rights movements to the development of legal frameworks that establish minimum standards for animal welfare in the industry.

To better understand this complex landscape, the next section provides a comprehensive overview of regional industries. It describes the status of cage-free initiatives and animal welfare efforts across various countries. This analysis includes regional market trends, commercial activities, market studies, consumption patterns, industry milestones, regulatory updates, and government incentives. Information will be organized into regional sections, listing selected countries ranked from highest to lowest by the number of hens exploited. Countries were chosen based on where the evaluated companies have the most significant operational presence in each region.

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[30] Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Expansion of Cage Area for Laying Hens and Additional Measures to Stabilize Egg Supply and Prices, September 7, 2025, https://www.mafra.go.kr/bbs/home/792/575030/artclView.do.
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[32] Iran José Oliveira da Silva, Paulo Giovanni de Abreu, and Helenice Mazzuco, Manual de boas práticas para o bem-estar de galinhas poedeiras criadas livres de gaiolas [Manual of Good Practices for the Welfare of Laying Hens Raised Cage-Free], 1st ed. (Concórdia: Embrapa Swine and Poultry, 2020), https://www.infoteca.cnptia.embrapa.br/infoteca/bitstream/doc/1127416/1/Cartilha.pdf.
[33] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfilment Report*.
[34] Ibid.
[35] Mulder, *Global Egg Industry Outlook 2035*.
[36] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report*.
[37] https://www.leverfoundation.org/news/anatomy-of-an-agricultural-shift

Regional Industry Overview

1. Asia

The continent is one of the most critical for transforming animal welfare, as it accounts for the largest number of hens exploited worldwide. By 2025, the region made significant progress in the fulfillment rate of major companies with cage-free commitments, according to OWA records, reaching 86% for those with a deadline of 2024 or earlier.[38]

1.1. China

China is the world's leading egg producer, accounting for 40% of the global hen population exploited by this industry.[39] As of the end of 2023, approximately 10% of hens are cage-free.[40] Although there is no federal legislation banning cages, consumption patterns are rapidly evolving, prompting the market to develop its own benchmarks to standardize quality and meet rising ethical standards.

In this context, at the end of 2021, the country officially launched the "Evaluation Guidelines of Cage-Free Egg Production" group standard, which provides a standardized framework defining cage-free and free-range systems.[41] Additionally, in 2024, the government implemented a digital traceability system for cage-free eggs to combat food fraud and greenwashing by strictly controlling and monitoring certified farm production, ensuring producers cannot sell more cage-free eggs than their certified capacity.[42]

1.2. India

In India, nearly 670 million hens are exploited by the egg industry, accounting for 8.9% of the global share.[43] The percentage of cage-free hens in the country is about 20%.[44] This is mainly because small-scale, backyard, subsistence-style systems used by local producers and families are an important part of market production.[45]

Additionally, the Indian market shows significant concern for and empathy toward animal welfare. For example, a survey by Animal Equality and Ipsos found that 94% of participants believe food companies should adopt comprehensive animal welfare policies.[46] Additionally, an article in the journal Frontiers in Veterinary Science showed that 71.9% think it is essential whether chickens suffer and 64% prefer to buy eggs from non-caged hens.[47]

On the producer side, a 2024 survey revealed that 63.6% of respondents indicated that transitioning to cage-free models requires government support, such as subsidies or land grants, to ensure viability.[48] In response to these needs, organizations like Global Food Partners and GCAW launched the India Cage-Free initiative, which provides technical training and support to regional producers.[49]

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[38] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.*
[39] FAO, *FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.*
[40] GCAW, *Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.*
[41] The Poultry Site. *First Cage-Free Production Standard Launched in China.* January 2022. https://www.thepoultrysite.com/news/2022/01/first-cage-free-production-standard-launched-in-china.
[42] Zhang, Y., Li, H., and Chen, X. Implementing Cage-Free Egg Commitments in China: An Explorative Qualitative Interview Study of Corporate and Certification Perspectives on Cage-Free Egg Procurement. Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, 2024. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC13372731.
[43] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[44] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[45] Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), "Poultry Products," *APEDA*, updated August 17, 2026, https://apeda.gov.in/PoultryProducts.
[46] Animal Equality, *India's Perception towards Animal Welfare Policies: Report from a Primary Survey* (New Delhi: Animal Equality, 2024).
[47] Jaydip Rokade, Abhijeet Champati, Nagesh Sonale, Prasad Wadajkar, Monika Madheshwaran, Darshana Bhaisare, and Ashok Kumar Tiwari, "The Cage-Free Egg Sector: Perspectives of Indian Poultry Producers," *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* 11 (August 7, 2024): 1442580, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11335667.
[48] Ibid.
[49] Global Coalition for Animal Welfare (GCAW). "GCAW Launches India Cage-Free Egg Initiative with Industry Partners to Strengthen Supply Chain." *Global Agriculture*, August 2026. https://www.global-agriculture.com/animal-health-welfare/gcaw-launches-india-cage-free-egg-initiative-with-industry-partners-to-strengthen-supply-chain.

1.3. Indonesia

Indonesia has approximately 434.75 million hens.[50] The country has strengthened its market guidelines and direction by publishing the Cage-Free Layer Production System Guidebook in collaboration with Catalyst. This guidebook helps standardize practices and improve quality among producers who are moving away from cage cruelty.[51]

1.4. Japan

Japan has approximately 128.57 million hens being exploited by the industry.[52] The country's shift to cage-free systems faces notable hurdles compared with other developed countries, with only about 3% of eggs being cage-free.[53] However, this stands in stark contrast to increasing consumer ethical standards. A 2022 multinational public opinion survey by Mercy For Animals revealed that 76% of Japanese respondents believe companies should commit to animal welfare.[54]

The supply is primarily dominated by large industrial players, but more actors are increasingly committing to cage-free practices. Recently, Kewpie has set new targets in Japan to accelerate its transition toward cage-free eggs, committing to increase the share of cage-free eggs used in its mayonnaise products to 10 percent by 2027 and 20 percent by 2030. It is also launching consumer awareness initiatives and introducing transparent product labeling to support this shift.[55] As Japan's leading mayonnaise producer and a significant egg consumer in the region, the company marks a notable milestone for hens in Asia with this initiative.

1.5. Malaysia, a significant regional exporter, houses approximately 108.03 million chickens in its territory.[56] Currently, it is undergoing important transformations, including the launch of the country's largest commercial cage-free farm by Huat Lai Resources.[57]

1.6. South Korea

South Korea houses approximately 72.2 million hens exploited by the industry,[58] with about 5% reared in cage-free systems.[59] Public opinion data from the 2022 multinational survey conducted by Mercy For Animals showed that 83% of South Koreans believed companies should commit to animal welfare standards. [60]

Recently, the country has advanced legislation aimed at enhancing animal welfare, notably by banning smaller, more restrictive cages traditionally used by the industry and establishing a new legal minimum space of 0.075 m² per hen.[61] Additionally, since late 2018, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety has enforced regulations requiring producers to identify the rearing and feeding environments of their eggs through printed codes.[62]

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[50] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[51] Liputan6. Kementan Resmi Luncurkan Pedoman Sistem Produksi Ayam Petelur Cage-Free, Ini Tujuannya [Ministry of Agriculture Officially Launches Guidelines for Cage-Free Layer Hen Production System, Here's the Purpose]. Liputan6 Bisnis, August 2026. https://www.liputan6.com/bisnis/read/6237742/kementan-resmi-luncurkan-pedoman-sistem-produksi-ayam-petelur-cage-free-ini-tujuannya.
[52] FAO, FAOSTAT: *Crops and Livestock Products.*
[53] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[54] Mercy For Animals. Public Opinion Report: Japan. Multinational Public Opinion Survey. Mercy For Animals, 2022. https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FjpCAGnPkL0gGlJp1d5rMcJChybv3cX4.
[55] Surowinski, Hannah. "The Future of Eggs in Japan." The Humane League, March 18, 2026. https://thehumaneleaque.org/article/the-future-of-eggs-in-japan
[56] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[57] The Edge Malaysia, "Huat Lai to Complete Malaysia's Largest Cage-Free Chicken Farm in 4Q," The Edge Malaysia, August 2026, https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/757930.
[58] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[59] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[60] Mercy For Animals, Multinational Public Opinion Survey: Public Opinion Report: Korea (Mercy For Animals, 2022), https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/search?q=south%20korea.
[61] 한국식품의약신문. "산란계 사육면적 확대, 2027년 9월로 2년간 유예 [Expansion of Cage Area for Laying Hens, Postponed to September 2027 for Two Years]" August 2026. https://www.kfmn.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=35450.
[62] Ministry of Food and Drug Safety. "Our Works > Food > Regulations > View Details." 2026. https://www.mfds.go.kr/eng/brd/m_15/view.do?seq=72427.

Likewise, it is notable that in 2017, a scandal emerged in the country, damaging consumer confidence in egg farms after contamination with the pesticide fipronil was found on cage facilities, prompting the government to implement stricter industry controls.[63]

1.7. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has approximately 31.8 million hens housed for egg production.[64] Although the country currently lacks cage-free policies, market demand for compassionate alternatives is growing. Market analysis indicates that consumers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for value-added products, creating opportunities for the industry to innovate and adopt higher animal welfare standards.[65]

For example, the growth of free-range alternatives is expanding rapidly, with an estimated compound annual growth rate of 7.23% projected through 2030. Similarly, organic eggs are expected to grow at 7.96% between 2026 and 2031.[66]

In light of these market developments, Almarai, the country's leading food conglomerate, announced in 2024 that it had fully adopted the NSF Global Animal Wellness Standards (GAWS) certification across all its poultry and dairy operations.[67] This move sets a benchmark and signals a momentum that industry competitors are likely to follow.

1.8. Israel

Israel, with approximately 10.3 million hens,[68] has recently enacted one of the most progressive animal welfare frameworks in the region. In 2022, it announced a complete ban on cages, with a transition deadline set for 2037. Additionally, the country has implemented immediate measures, prohibiting the industry's most cruel practices, such as hunger feeding and beak trimming.[69]
To facilitate this sector overhaul, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has allocated NIS 380 million to support farmers in upgrading their facilities. It has also announced compensation of up to NIS 100 million for those choosing to exit the industry.[70]

This initiative has received strong public support. Since 2020, 89% of the population has believed that cages should be banned.[71] Moreover, 93% of Israelis agree that confining animals in crowded cages throughout their lives constitutes animal abuse.[72]

1.9. Singapore's egg market relies heavily on imports, with 70% of its supply coming from Southeast Asian nations such as Malaysia and Thailand.[73] It has approximately 2.88 million hens housed within its territory.[74] In the country, the hospitality industry is leading change, with 63% of top hotels adopting a cage-free policy.[75]

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[63] The Poultry Site. "More Fipronil-tainted Eggs Found in Korea; Govt Apologises for Fiasco." August 2017.https://www.thepoultrysite.com/news/2017/08/more-fipronil tainted-eggs-found-in-korea-govt-apologises-for-fiasco.
[64] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[65] Charity Entrepreneurship. Cage-Free Farming in the Middle East. Charity Entrepreneurship, 2026. Accessed August 11, 2026. https://www.charityentrepreneurship.com/research-reports-2026/cagefree-farming-middle-east.
[66] Mordor Intelligence, Saudi Arabia Eggs Market Size & Share Outlook to 2031, Mordor Intelligence, 2026, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/saudi-arabia-eggs-market.
[67] Almarai, Animal Welfare | Producing Responsible Products | Sustainability Report 2024, Almarai, 2024, accessed August 12, 2026. https://sustainability.almarai.com/en/animal-welfare.html.
[68] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[69] Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Israel), The Chicken Coop Regulations Were Unanimously Approved: In Israel, No More Egg Laying Chicken Coops with Cages Will Be Built, Government of Israel, 2025, accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.gov.il/en/pages/from_2037 no_chicken_cages in israel.
[70] Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Israel), An End to Old Style Chicken Coops: The Reform in the Egg Laying Industry is Underway, Government of Israel, 2025, accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.gov.il/en/pages/end_of_the_age_of_old_chicken_coops
[71] Animals Now, Victory for the Chickens: Israel Bans Cages in the Egg Industry, Animals Now, 2026, accessed August 12, 2026, https://animals-now.org/en/victory-for-the-chickens.
[72] The Jerusalem Post, Most Israelis Think Gov't Should Ban Cages, Minimize Animal Suffering, December 14, 2020, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.ipost.com/israel-news/most-israelis-think-govt-should-ban-cages-minimize-animal-suffering-652026.
[73] Singapore Food Agency, "Hatching Plans for a Secure Supply of Eggs," Food for Thought, Singapore Food Agency, April 2026, https://www.sfa.gov.sg/food-for-thought/article/detail/hatching-plans-for-a-secure-supply-of-eggs.
[74] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[75] Lever Foundation, "Nearly Two-Thirds of Singapore's Top Hotel Groups Now Have Cage-Free Egg Policies," Lever Foundation News, August 2026, https://www.leverfoundation.org/news/fk89yl9e8p53htmkrjb7x8wc4kfoz6.

2. Latin America

By 2025, the region had made significant progress in fulfilling its corporate commitments. According to OWA records, it achieved a 90% fulfillment rate among companies with cage-free commitments due in 2024 or earlier. [76]

2.1. Brazil

Brazil is Latin America's leading economy and the world's fifth-largest egg producer, with a population of 263.43 million hens in the egg industry.[77] Although compassionate alternatives in egg production still have room to grow, cage-free systems account for about 5% of national egg production.[78] The country demonstrates a high level of empathy toward farmed animals. According to a 2022 public opinion study by Mercy For Animals, 94% of Brazilians believe that companies should commit to animal welfare.[79] A significant development in the industry occurred in 2020 when the national corporation Embrapa published a manual of good practices for the welfare of cage-free laying hens.[80] This manual provides voluntary technical guidelines for producers and clarifies industry practices for this type of housing.

2.2. Mexico

Mexico ranks as the second-largest economy in Latin America and the sixth-largest egg producer worldwide.[81] The country has a poultry population of 185.1 million hens exploited by the egg industry.[82] Additionally, egg consumption in Mexico is among the highest globally, averaging 24.19 kilograms per person per year, or approximately 410 eggs.[83]

Currently, the cage-free segment accounts for roughly 6% of total production.[84] However, this proportion is steadily rising as more Mexican consumers support better animal welfare conditions. According to the 2022 multinational public opinion survey by Mercy For Animals, 92% of Mexicans agree that companies should commit to animal welfare.[85]Additionally, a peer-reviewed study found that 54% of consumers are willing to pay a premium for cage-free eggs.[86] Recognizing this rising consumer consciousness, Mexico achieved a legal milestone in 2024 by enacting a constitutional reform that explicitly recognizes the state's obligation to ensure and promote animal welfare, while also strictly prohibiting animal abuse.[87] This legislative development is paving the way for new regulations that will extend protections to animals exploited by the agro-food industry.

2.3. Colombia

The country has a flock of 68 million laying hens,[88] with a per capita consumption of 366 eggs annually.[89] In legislative terms, Law 1774 of 2016 recognized animal sentience and shifted the legal framework towards Animal Law principles. In 2025, Law 2455 (or "Ley Ángel") strengthened the National Animal Protection Statute and the Colombian Penal Code with new sanctions and procedural measures.[90]

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[76] Open Wing Alliance, *2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.*
[77] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[78] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[79] Mercy For Animals, Public Opinion Report: Brazil, Multinational Public Opinion Survey (DOMO, 2022), https://drive.google.com/open?id=11vawNb7PtF-8KwRNOJpi10gf6AXeg3Qv.
[80] Oliveira da Silva, Abreu, and Mazzuco, Manual de boas práticas [Manual of Good Practices]
[81] Comunidad Avícola México, Estadísticas de producción avícola en México 2025 [Statistics of Poultry Production in Mexico 2025], Comunidad Avícola México, 2025, https://www.avicola.com.mx/estadisticas-de-produccion-avicola-en-mexico-2025.
[82] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[83] Benjamin Ruiz, Ranking latinoamericano de consumo de huevo de 2025 [Latin American Egg Consumption Ranking 2025], Benjamin Ruiz Noticias, August 2025, https://www.benjaminruiz.com/noticias/ranking-latinoamericano-de-consumo-de-huevo-de-2025.
[84] GCAW, Cage-Free Eggs: A Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary
[85] Mercy For Animals, Multinational Public Opinion Survey: Public Opinion Report: Mexico (Mercy For Animals, 2022), https://drive.google.com/open?id=16si21zbVkML53p-yWox713xQtUS5K-sw.
[86] Laura X. Estévez-Moreno, Morris Villarroel, and Genaro C. Miranda-de la Lama, "Do Mexican Consumers Really Care about Hen Welfare? Understanding Their Attitudes, Constraints and Willingness to Pay for Cage-free Eggs," Food Quality and Preference 122 (2025): 105292, accessed August 17, 2026, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodqual.2024.105292.
[87] Juan-Francisco Díez-Spelz, "La prohibición del maltrato animal en la Constitución mexicana y los desafíos de la titularidad de derechos: comentario crítico a la reforma constitucional del 2 de diciembre de 2024 a los artículos 30., 40. y 73 [The Prohibition of Animal Abuse in the Mexican Constitution and the Challenges of Rights Holder Status: Critical Commentary on the Constitutional Reform of December 2, 2024 to Articles 3, 4, and 73]," Cuestiones Constitucionales 54 (2026).
[88] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[89] Federación Nacional de Avicultores de Colombia (FENAVI), Con Huevos Queda Mejor [With Eggs It's Better], FENAVI, 2026, consultado el 17 de agosto de 2026, https://fenavi.org/centro-de-noticias/con-huevos-queda-mejor.
[90] Congreso de la República de Colombia, Ley 1774 de 2016 - Ley Animalista o Ley de Protección de los Animales [Law 1774 of 2016 - Animal Welfare Law or Law for the Protection of Animals], Bogotá: Congreso de la República, 2016, accessed August 10, 2026. https://www.anla.gov.co/wanla/eureka/normativa/leyes/ley-1774-de-2016-ley-animalista-o-ley-de-proteccion-de-los-animales.

94% of Colombians believe companies should be committed to promoting animal welfare.[91] This has sparked discussion around the Draft Bill No. 163/25 ("Cage-Free Hens" bill) in 2026. The bill seeks to gradually ban battery cages and transition to alternative production methods, while also proposing a mandatory labeling system to improve transparency in egg production.[92]

2.4. Argentina

Argentina houses 51.62 million hens,[93] and as of 2023, 11% of the nation's egg production comes from cage-free systems.[94] It was a pioneer in animal protection laws when they enacted Law 14.346 in 1954, which prescribes prison sentences for animal cruelty.[95] Furthermore, 90% of Argentine consumers believe that companies should treat animals well.[96]

2.5. Peru

Peru houses over 28.26 million hens,[97] with an average egg consumption of 242 eggs per person.[98] In 2023, cage-free production reached 7%.[99] Legislative discussions on Bill 13829/2025-CR, one of the most significant advances in recent animal welfare efforts, began in 2026. The bill aims to implement best practices in the Peruvian poultry industry and seeks to abolish forced molting, an inhumane practice that involves starving and stressing hens to restart their laying cycles.[100] This legislative progress is bolstered by widespread public opposition to the cruelty of cage systems; according to an IPSOS Peru survey, 79% of Peruvians find the use of cages for hens unacceptable.[101]

2.6. Chile

Chile has a total of 12.55 million hens,[102] of which about 2% are kept in cage-free systems.[103] The country exhibits a highly progressive public demand for ethical sourcing: 61% of Chileans are concerned about the living conditions of exploited hens, and 60% are willing to change where they buy eggs to purchase cage-free eggs.[104] Additionally, Chile leads the way in scientific research on animal welfare, particularly concerning hens. For example, a 2026 study found that hens transitioned from cage-free environments to barren battery cages exhibited signs similar to depressive behaviors, highlighting the emotional and cognitive impacts of such environments.[105]

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[91] Mercy For Animals, Multinational Public Opinion Survey: Public Opinion Report: Colombia (Los Angeles, CA: Mercy For Animals, 2022).
[92] Agrolatam, "¿Colombia prohibirá las jaulas en la producción de huevos? [Will Colombia Ban Cages in Egg Production?]," Agrolatam, 2026, accessed August10,2026, https://www.agrolatam.com/mercados-922/colombia-proyecto-ley-prohibe-jaulas-industria-avicola.
[93] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[94] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggsmillones Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary
[95] Chequeado, "¿Qué es la Ley Conan y en qué otros países está penado el maltrato animal? [What Is the Conan Law and in Which Other Countries Is Animal Abuse Punished?]," Chequeado, 2026, accessed August 10, 2026, https://chequeado.com/el-explicador/que-es-la-ley-conan-y-en-que-otros-paises-esta-penado-el-maltrato-animal.
[96] Mercy For Animals. Multinational Public Opinion Survey: Public Opinion Report: Argentina. Los Angeles, CA: Mercy For Animals, 2022. https://drive.google.com/file/d/10mjXpAOXGMxZVzJCWhUbASgygBsPnR27/view?usp=sharing
[97] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[98] Asociación Peruana de Avicultura (APA). Carta N° 002-2024: Análisis técnico del proyecto de ley que promueve los derechos del consumidor en el etiquetado de huevos [Letter No. 002-2024: Technical Analysis of the Bill Promoting Consumer Rights in Egg Labeling]. Lima: APA, January 9, 2024.
[99] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[100] Compromiso Verde, "Más de 200 personas se sumaron al debate sobre bienestar animal en nuestra jornada en la PUCP [More Than 200 People Joined the Debate on Animal Welfare at Our PUCP Event]," Compromiso Verde, May 2026, accessed August 11, 2026, https://compromisoverde.org/2026/05/mas-de-200-personas-se-sumaron-al-debate-sobre-bienestar-animal-en-nuestra-jornada-en-la-pucp.
[101] Infobae. "Siete de cada diez peruanos rechaza el maltrato animal en la industria peruana del huevo, según encuesta [Seven out of Ten Peruvians Reject Animal Abuse in the Peruvian Egg Industry, According to Survey]" Infobae, November 6, 2025. Accessed August 11, 2026. https://www.infobae.com/peru/2025/11/06/siete-de-cada-diez-peruanos-rechaza-el-maltrato-animal-en-la-industria-peruana-del-huevo-segun-encuesta.
[102] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[103] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[104] Ipsos, Un 61% de los chilenos se preocupan activamente por las condiciones de vida de las gallinas ponedoras [61% of Chileans Actively Care about the Living Conditions of Laying Hens], Ipsos Chile, 2026, accessed August 10, 2026, https://www.ipsos.com/es-cl/un-61-de-los-chilenos-se-preocupan-activamente-por-las-condiciones-de-vida-de-las-gallinas.
[105] J. Calderón-Amor, B. Lecorps, D. Luna, M. Soto-Gamboa, F. Ovando, E. Ruiz, M. J. Montero, and T. Tadich, "Environmental Downgrading to Battery Cages Induces Depression-like States in Hens," *Applied Animal Behaviour Science 297*(2026): 106908, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2025.106908.

3. Europe

In Europe, particularly among the 27 member countries of the European Union, progress is being made rapidly in the global cage-free movement through the harmonization and combination of legislative measures and regulations, as well as significant achievements in corporate advocacy. These efforts have inspired progress in other regions around the world. Since 2012, under Council Directive 1999/74/EC, the use of battery cages (the most restrictive form of housing) has been officially banned.[106] According to data from the OWA, by 2025, 96% of cage-free commitments that were originally due by 2024 have already been fulfilled.[107]

The EU countries house over 391.4 million hens and produce about 6.4 million tons of eggs each year. As of 2024, it is estimated that 61.9% of this production comes from cage-free systems.[108]

The rapid phase-out of cages across the continent reflects a strong, coordinated response from grassroots movements. A notable example is the mobilization of millions of people supporting the European Citizens' Initiative "End the Cage Age", officially registered in September 2018. This initiative garnered over 1.4 million verified signatures, compelling the European Commission to conduct systematic evaluations regarding the potential phase-out of all cages within EU territory.[109]

3.1. France

France's hen population is around 62.9 million.[110] By 2025, almost 82% of the 7.3 billion eggs sold by retailers came from cage-free systems, with the National Egg Council (CNPO) aiming for 90% cage-free production by 2030.[111]

France also reinforces EU regulations through more detailed national standards. In particular, it has implemented a standardized information system at bulk sales points, such as open-air markets: eggs sold in open trays must be accompanied by an official sign that clearly and uniformly explains the producer code and production method, with an explicit description in French placed alongside the eggs.[112]

In 2021, France took a gradual step by joining the ban against the cruel practice of chick culling, which came into effect in 2022.[113] Strong public awareness backs this regulatory move. For instance, 81% of French consumers recognize the official shell-stamp codes, and their egg choices are primarily influenced by production methods, which 43% consider important. This factor has a greater impact than French origin (18%) and retail price (13%).[114]

3.2. Germany

Germany maintains a national flock of 57.82 million laying hens in a production landscape that has largely shifted to housing systems with higher animal welfare standards.[115] Currently, more than 95% of eggs produced in the country come from cage-free environments.[116] This transformation was based on the 2010

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[106] European Parliament, End the Cage Age: Looking for Alternatives, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, 2020, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/658539/IPOL_STU(2020)658539_EN.pdf.
[107] Open Wing Alliance, 2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.
[108] Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (Austria), Egg Production in Austria, Government of Austria, 2026, accessed August 11, 2026, https://www.bmluk.gv.at/en/topics/agriculture/agriculture-in-austria/animal-production-in-austria/egg-production-in-austria.html.
[109] European Parliament, End the Cage Age: Looking for Alternatives.
[110] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[111] Oeuf-info. Les chiffres clés [Key Figures]. Oeuf-Info, 2026. Accessed August 11, 2026. https://oeuf-info.fr/les-chiffres-cles.
[112] Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Instruction technique DGAL/SDSSA/2019-8: Normes de commercialisation des ufs et leurs contrôles [Technical Instruction DGAL/SDSSA/2019-8: Marketing Standards for Eggs and Their Controls], Direction générale de l'alimentation, Paris, January 9, 2019, accessed August 11, 2026.
[113] Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Instruction technique DGAL/SDSSA/2019-8: Normes de commercialisation des ufs et leurs contrôles [Technical Instruction DGAL/SDSSA/2019-8: Marketing Standards for Eggs and Their Controls], Direction générale de l'alimentation, Paris, January 9, 2019, accessed August 11, 2026.
[114] Compassion in World Farming, Information Sheet 2 - Consumer Perception of Egg Production, Food Business, April 3, 2026, accessed August 11, 2026, https://www.compassionfoodbusiness.es/media/4gmozvyr/en-consumer-perception-of-egg-production-review-2026.pdf.
[115] European Commission, Eggs Dashboard Report.
[116] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.

national ban on conventional cages, which the Federal Constitutional Court later expanded to cover all cages. Starting in 2012, no new cage installations could be established in the country, and it also mandated the elimination of all cages, with 2026 set as the final deadline for a complete industry-wide phase-out.[117]

Germany has also shown leadership in welfare standards by enacting a complete ban on cruel practices like beak trimming in 2017. Additionally, it launched the "Ohne Kükentöten" initiative in 2022 to stop the systematic and industrial culling of male chicks.[118]

On the other hand, public support for strengthening protections and industry regulations remains robust. For instance, the Humane World for Animals Animal Welfare Barometer 2026 revealed that 81.5% of German consumers favor mandatory labeling to increase transparency regarding the production methods of egg-based ingredients in processed foods.[119]

3.4. The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has a national flock of 54.6 million hens,[120] with 86.0% being cage-free as of 2026, reflecting its gradual move toward eliminating cages.[121] In this context, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has initiated a formal consultation to establish a timetable for ending the use of enriched colony cages by 2032.[122]

Meanwhile, the UK government offers the Laying Hen Housing for Health and Welfare Grants to commercial egg producers, administered through the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). These grants support co-financing for the construction of new or improved cage-free facilities, aiming to enhance hen health and ensure compliance with national environmental and animal welfare standards.[123] Additionally, regulations emphasize transparency in labeling; under the UK Poultry Marketing Standards, all retail shell eggs must bear a printed stamp indicating their method of production.[124]

The UK's regulatory advancements are driven by a strong national consciousness favoring higher animal welfare standards. Evidence of this can be seen in public attitudes: more than two-thirds of the British public are willing to pay a premium for cage-free eggs, and 75% believe that cage-based farming is cruel.[125]

3.5. Poland

Poland, a leading egg producer and exporter in the EU with a flock of 53.64 million hens, has one of the lowest cage-free housing rates in the EU at only 37.8%.[126] Nonetheless, evolving consumer preferences are fueling a swift move toward cage-free systems. Industry data indicates that the sales of cage-free eggs in retail increased from 23% of all egg sales in 2020 to 59% in 2023.[127]

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[117] Albert Schweitzer Foundation, "Germany's Path to Ending Cages for Hens," Albert Schweitzer Foundation, 2026, accessed August 11, 2026, https://albertschweitzerfoundation.org/news/germanys-path-to-ending-cages-for-hens.
[118] Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Animal Welfare - Phasing-out of Chick Culling, Government of Germany, 2026, accessed August 18, 2026, https://www.bmleh.de/EN/topics/animals/animal-welfare/research-poultry-in-ovo.html.
[119] Humane World for Animals, "Large Majority Calls for Stronger Animal Welfare Policies - Germany's Federal Government Ignores Clear Public Mandate," Humane World for Animals, 2026, accessed August 11, 2026, https://www.humaneworld.org/en/news/animal-welfare-barometer-2026-germany.
[120] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[121] Compassion in World Farming, End the Cage Age: End Caging of Farmed Animals, Compassion in World Farming, 2026, accessed August 11, 2026, https://www.ciwf.org.uk/our-campaigns/end-the-cage-age.
[122] British Hen Welfare Trust, Plan to Ban Cages for Laying Hens by 2032, British Hen Welfare Trust, 2026, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.bhwt.org.uk/blog/news/plan-to-ban-cages-for-laying-hens-by-2032 The UK government provides the Laying Hen Housing for Health and Welfare Grants to commercial egg producers, managed by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). These grants assist with funding for building new or improved cage-free facilities, focused on improving hen health and meeting national environmental and animal welfare regulations. Furthermore, UK regulations highlight the importance of transparent labeling; according to the UK Poultry Marketing Standards, all retail shell eggs must carry a printed stamp showing their production method.
[123] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Introducing Laying Hen Housing for Health and Welfare Grants, Farming Blog, GOV.UK, May 15, 2024, https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2024/05/15/introducing-laying-hen-housing-for-health-and-welfare-grants.
[124] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (UK), EMR01 Guidance on Legislation Covering Egg Marketing (London: DEFRA, November 2025), https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69382d2de447374889cd8f73/EMR01_Guidance_on_ legislation_covering egg marketing November_202 5.pdf.
[125] Compassion in World Farming International, 2025 Cage-Free Egg Commitment Deadline Looms, June 17, 2025, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.ciwf.org.uk/news/2025-cage-free-egg-commitment-deadline-looms.
[126] European Commission, Eggs Dashboard Report.
[127] Compassion in World Farming Polska, Polski rynek jaj 2024: a perspektywy tranzycji do chowu bezklatkowego [Polish Egg Market 2024: and Prospects for Transition to Cage-Free Systems], Warszawa: Compassion in World Farming Polska, 2024, https://www.ciwf.pl/media/7460334/polski-rynek-iai-2024-food-business-compassion-in-world-farming-polska.pdf.

3.6. Spain's egg industry exploits 47.22 million hens, with approximately 40.2% kept in cage-free environments.[128] Despite the transition gap, consumer demand is accelerating calls for swifter reforms. A survey revealed that 67% of Spaniards support a ban on cages for laying hens across the EU, aligning with the European Citizens' Initiative "End the Cage Age."[129] Additionally, a 2025 public opinion poll indicated that nearly 45% of people recognize a profound cognitive, social, and emotional bond between humans and animals.[130]

3.7. Italy

Italy is the fourth-largest egg producer in the European Union, with a national flock of 44.17 million hens.[131] Around 64% of the country's egg production comes from cage-free systems.[132] While there is no federal ban on cages beyond existing European directives, public opinion is strongly opposed to confinement, with 91% of Italians opposing the use of individual cages in animal farming.[133]

Although there is still progress to be made for a more comprehensive legal framework (similar to the progressive approaches in Germany or Sweden), the private sector has stepped in. Italian producers are increasingly shifting away from caged-egg retail, aiming to enhance their reputation and capitalize on the higher margins of more compassionate, higher-value production segments.[134]

3.8. Belgium

Belgium has approximately 11.30 million hens, with 66.4% housed in cage-free systems.[135] Public concern for animal welfare has driven progress toward cage-free environments since 2005, when 73% of Belgians considered hen welfare to be 'bad' or 'awful.'[136] Recently, public opinion has shown opposition to industry cruelty; for instance, in 2025, GAIA reported that 83% of Belgians favor banning chick culling.[137] Legally, the Wallonia region approved a ban on all types of cages in 2018 and prohibited the installation of new ones, with a plan to phase out all cages by 2028.[138] Meanwhile, Flanders approved similar laws in 2023, banning new cage farms after 2024 and aiming to convert or close existing facilities by 2036.[139]

3.9. Sweden

Sweden has approximately 9.38 million hens[140] and has reached a milestone by becoming completely cage-free, making it the leading country to eliminate cages without enacting a formal law. This landmark success was forged through decades of steady, collaborative engagement between the food industry and animal advocacy organizations.[141] Its strong dedication to welfare stems from a long history of regulatory advancements; notably, the country was among the first to ban cruel beak-trimming practices with a comprehensive ban in 1988.[142]

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[128] European Commission, Eggs Dashboard Report.
[129] Observatorio de Bienestar Animal, La opinión pública: a favor de prohibir las jaulas [Public Opinion: In Favor of Banning Cages], accessed August 12, 2026, https://observatoriodebienestaranimal.org/actualidad/blog-oba/opinion-prohibir-jaulas-gallinas.html
[130] Fundación BBVA, Estudio de opinión pública: percepciones de la naturaleza y los animales [Public Opinion Study: Perceptions of Nature and Animals], accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.fbbva.es/noticias/estudio-opinion-publica-animales-espana-2025.
[131] European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Eggs Dashboard Report (Brussels: European Commission, 2025), accessed August 12, 2026, https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9bdf9842-1eb6-41a2-8845-49738b812b2b_en
[132] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[133] Humane World for Animals, Italy Makes Progress for Farmed Animals with New Cage-Free Fund, Humane World for Animals, June 2026, accessed August12,2026, https://www.humaneworld.org/en/blog/italy-progress-farmed-animals.
[134] Lorenza Bianchi, A Possible Transition Towards a Cage-Free Era: Laying Hens in Italy (Rome: LAV, 2022), accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/files/eurogroupforanimals/2022-06/laying_hens_LAV report.pdf.
[135] European Commission, Eggs Dashboard Report.
[136] European Commission, Attitudes of Consumers Towards the Welfare of Farmed Animals: Special Eurobarometer 229 (Brussels: European Commission, 2005), accessed August 20, 2026, https://www.politique-animaux.fr/sites/www.politique-animaux.fr/fichiers/eurobarometer_-attitudes_of_consumers towards the welfare_of farmed animals-_2005.pdf.
[137] GAIA, 65,000 Chicks Crushed or Gassed Every Day in Belgium: GAIA Launches an Unprecedented Operation, press release, June 2025, accessed August12,2026, https://press.gaia.be/65000-poussins-broyes-ou-gazes-chaque-jour-en-belgique--gaia-lance-une-operation-inedite-r54jdo.
[138] Government of Wallonia, Animal welfare - Final adoption of the Animal Welfare Code, October 8, 2018, accessed August 12, 2026, https://bienetreanimal.wallonie.be/news/adoption-definitive-du-code-du-bien-etre-animal-1.
[139] Government of Flanders. Vlaamse Codex Dierenwelzijn: wat verandert er? [Flemish Animal Welfare Codex: What Will Change?]. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.vlaanderen.be/dierenwelzijn/werking-en-beleid/vlaamse-codex-dierenwelzijn-wat-verandert-er.
[140] European Commission, Eggs Dashboard Report.
[141] Project 1882, "How Sweden Became Cage-Free," Project 1882, 2026, accessed August 11,remains 2026, https://www.project1882.org/news/how-sweden-became-cage-free.
[142] European Parliament, End the Cage Age: Looking for Alternatives.

4. Africa

The region is characterized by the coexistence of two production systems: one in which intensive industrial confinement models face changes in the global landscape and must adapt, and another where traditional family and subsistence farming remains prevalent, traditionally cage-free. Companies in the region have responded positively, with compliance rates for cage-free commitments set for 2024 or earlier reaching up to 88% in 2025, according to OWA reports.[143]

However, the region faces the threat of poultry dumping, as technologies and tools that are becoming obsolete in countries from the Global North are being transferred to the region. However, in response to this, innovative financial instruments such as impact incentives (cage-free credits) are available locally. These incentives promote the development of infrastructure that enables producers to install commercial cage-free facilities, gradually overcoming supply-chain challenges and bottlenecks.

4.1. Nigeria

Nigeria is the largest egg producer and the second-largest poultry country in Africa, with approximately 126.8 million hens exploited by the egg industry. The country's poultry sector is highly fragmented, with 44% of hens kept in extensive backyard and family subsistence systems (primarily cage-free), 33% in semi-intensive systems, and only 22% in commercial battery cage facilities.[144]

Meanwhile, Nigerian consumers express their concern for animal welfare. According to an international research project by the University of Queensland, it was found that eight out of ten individuals are concerned about the suffering of hens.[145]

In line with its agricultural export strategy, the Nigerian government announced in July 2026 that it would begin developing a national animal identification and traceability framework. This system will be integrated with the ABIS Digital Marketplace to create a technology-driven framework that ensures the verification and transparent sourcing of ethically raised, traceable animal proteins, thereby boosting consumer confidence and product transparency.[146]

4.2. Morocco

In Morocco, the number of hens exploited by the egg industry exceeds 20 million.[147] Although cage-free industrial egg production remains limited nationwide, the traditional backyard system of small family producers and subsistence farms (locally known as "beldi eggs") plays an important cultural role.[148] It provides eggs for local weekly open-air markets and is popular among consumers who are worried about health risks linked to intensive production methods.[149]

Growing public awareness and swift market changes, especially among middle-class and urban consumers, are prompting initiatives to develop more compassionate systems for hens. In this context, new opportunities are emerging on the public agenda. For instance, the Generation Green 2020-2030 national strategy, focused on modernizing agriculture and encouraging sustainable growth, has sparked increased interest in alternative egg production systems.[150]

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[143] Open Wing Alliance, 2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.
[144] CSIRO. LiveGAPS Factsheet: Poultry Production in Nigeria, 22 April 2020. Canberra: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, 2020. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://research.csiro.au/livegaps/wp-content/uploads/sites/37/2021/03/1.-LiveGAPS-factsheet-Poultry-production-in-Nigeria-22-April-2020.pdf
[145] Michelle Sinclair, Natasha YP Lee, Maria José Hötzel, Maria Catalina T. de Luna, Arvind Sharma, Musadig Idris, Mohammad Ariful Islam, et al. "Consumer 15,.iMo in Nigia pl 202et al. Consume Attitudes towards Egg Production Systems and Hen Welfare across the World." Frontiers in Animal Science 3(2022): 995430.https://doi.org/10.3389/fanim.2022.995430
[146] Premium Times. "FG Begins Work on Animal Identification, Traceability to Boost Export." Premium Times Nigeria, August 2024. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/894454-fg-begins-work-on-animal-identification-traceability-to-boost-export.html.
[147] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[148] Animal Welfare League. "Egg Producers Workshop in Morocco." Animal Welfare League Blog. 2024. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.animalwelfareleaque.org/blog/egg-producers-workshop-in-morocco.
[149] A. Fagrach, R. Abdeladim, S. Fellahi, and M. Bouslikhane, "Etude rétrospective des systèmes d'élevage et dominantes pathologiques du poulet traditionnel 'beldi' au Maroc [Retrospective Study of Farming Systems and Dominant Pathologies of Backyard Chicken 'Beldi' in Morocco]," Revue Marocaine des Sciences Agronomiques et Vétérinaires 9, no. 3 (September 2021): 370-376.
[150] Animal Welfare League, "Egg Producers Workshop in Morocco."

Additionally, activism within the country is gaining momentum. Ahead of the 2030 FIFA World Cup, the Animal Welfare League has submitted a formal petition to the Ministry of Agriculture, urging them to adopt cage-free systems before the international tournament. They emphasize Morocco's potential to become a regional ethical leader in farm animal welfare.[151]

4.3. Kenya

Kenya's egg production structure is quite distinctive, with approximately 17.9 million hens.[152] Approximately 76% of this population is housed in backyard and traditional subsistence systems, which are usually cage-free.[153] Kenyan consumers generally favor the implementation of higher animal welfare standards in the poultry and egg industry. According to a market study, around 72% of respondents indicated they would be willing to pay a premium for products with animal welfare labeling.[154]

Legally, Kenya's Constitution allocates the authority and responsibility to the national government for "the protection of animals and wildlife."[155] In 2022, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) published the Chicken Code of Practice as part of a new set of standards for poultry farming. While this code is not mandatory, it is notably progressive for the region, introducing improved biosecurity practices, minimum standards for transportation and housing, product labeling and traceability, and measures to discourage overcrowding.[156] The regulations promote more compassionate and alternative systems by encouraging better management practices.

5. North America

The North American market is characterized by a significant and growing disparity between the highly active, decentralized legislative environment of the United States and the supply-managed, industry-protected voluntary framework of Canada.

Despite these differing strategies in the two countries, according to OWA compliance records, the regional movement towards cage-free practices achieved a 77% compliance rate for corporate commitments due by 2024 or earlier as of July 2025.[157] Notably, the primary driver of this transformation in the region is the effort toward corporate accountability.

5.1. The United States

The United States houses over 382.33 million hens.[158] As of June 2025, the country achieved a milestone in its transition towards cage-free systems, reaching a 45.7% adoption rate.[159] This progress reflects a steady and widespread shift in the market away from confinement systems, resulting in positive impacts on international standards, as the country ranks fourth worldwide in poultry population.[160]

Regulatory efforts are characterized by a decentralized movement toward eliminating cages. At present, ten states have passed laws prohibiting the production and/or sale of eggs from caged systems.[161] Specifically, the sales bans have been effective in preventing producers in unregulated states from dumping cheap, caged eggs into the markets of regulated states.

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[151] Hespress English. "Animal Welfare Group Urges Morocco to Back Cage-Free Egg Production Ahead of 2030 World Cup." Hespress, August 2024. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://en.hespress.com/116936-animal-welfare-group-urges-morocco-to-back-cage-free-egg-production-ahead-of-2030-world-cup.html.
[152] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[153] Animal Advocacy Africa, Cage-Free Farming and Egg Production Awareness, Animal Advocacy Africa, 2026, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.animaladvocacyafrica.org/blog/cage-free-farming-and-egg-production-awareness.
[154] Menale Kassie, Bekele Shiferaw, and Solomon Zewdu, Consumer Willingness to Pay for Chicken Welfare Attributes in Kenya, Journal of International Food & Agribusiness Marketing 32, no. 4(2019): 379-394. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/08974438.2019.1673275.
[155] Republic of Kenya, The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 (Nairobi: National Council for Law Reporting, 2010). https://www.parliament.go.ke/sites/default/files/2017-05/The_Constitution_of_Kenya_2010.pdf.
[156] Animal Ask, Animal Advocacy in Kenya: Opportunities for Impact, Animal Ask, 2026, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.animalask.org/post/animal-advocacy-in-kenya-opportunities-for-impact.
[157] Open Wing Alliance, 2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.
[158] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[159] The Humane League, The Tipping Point: 45.7% of US Hens Are Now Free from Cages, The Humane League, 2026, accessed August 12, 2026, https://thehumaneleague.org/article/45-percent-cage-free-in-the-us.
[160] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[161] Animal Legal Defense Fund, Michigan Becomes Latest State to Ban Eggs from 'Caged Hens, Animal Legal Defense Fund, 2023, accessed August 12, 2026, https://aldf.org/article/michigan-becomes-latest-state-to-ban-eggs-from-caged-hens/.

This regulatory landscape responds to the rapidly evolving consumer expectations and concerns regarding animal welfare. For example, data show that eight out of ten Americans actively support corporate retailers' commitments to phase out eggs from caged systems.[162] Furthermore, a public opinion survey conducted by Mercy for Animals revealed that 81% of Americans think corporations should treat animals well, and 77% support their government to pass laws to ensure that farmed animals are treated well.[163]

5.2. Canada

Canada houses around 35.6 million hens.[164] Based on 2025 data, cage-free eggs hold 21% of the market, more than twice the 10% seen in 2016.[165] In terms of regulation, the country took measures to phase out conventional cages in March 2017, when the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) officially incorporated this rule into the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Laying Hens. This established a binding mandate to eliminate this type of cage by 2036.[166]

Although there is no nationwide mandate yet requiring the removal of enriched cages, public opposition to caged housing systems is strong, with 80% of Canadians supporting a national ban on cage systems. Additionally, 60% of Canadians are willing to pay more for cage-free eggs.[167]

Furthermore, the government has provided a pathway for producers to adapt to market demands, particularly concerning animal welfare. In May 2021, as part of the initiatives by the Canadian Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC), the Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) was launched. This program allocates CAD 759 million over 10 years to help farmers upgrade their infrastructure, including support for transitioning to cage-free and free-range housing systems.[168]

6. Oceania

As of 2023, Oceania has 25.6 million hens, accounting for under 1% of the world's total.[169] The continent is at the forefront of fulfilling corporate promises to phase out caged systems. OWA reports that 94% of companies in the region with commitments due by 2024 or earlier have already achieved their goals.[170]

6.1. Australia

Australia has a national flock of 16.52 million hens,[171] with approximately 45% of eggs produced in cage-free systems.[172] Recent data show that Australian consumers now prioritize animal welfare more than ever, believing that free-range hens experience better emotional well-being. They also associate higher welfare standards with healthier, premium-quality products.[173]

In response to these evolving ethical expectations and to combat greenwashing, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) strictly enforces consumer laws. The agency takes action against industry entities that use deceptive branding, idealized imagery, or unsupported claims on packaging, especially when such claims do not meet legal standards regarding outdoor access and housing density.[174]

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[162] Vincenzina Caputo, Christopher A. Wolf, and Nicole Olynk Widmar, U.S. Consumer Preferences for Cage-Free Eggs and Hen Housing Policies, Agribusiness 36, no. 1(2020): 32-48. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/agr.22068.
[163] Mercy For Animals. Multinational Public Opinion Survey: United States. Mercy For Animals, 2022. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1pl9PxnDEjxSa8060pXF_rRtAat3PmTnk
[164] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[165] Egg Farmers of Canada. Annual Report 2025. Ottawa: Egg Farmers of Canada, March 18, 2026. https://www.eggfarmers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-03-18 Egg-Farmers-of-Canada_Annual-Report-2025.pdf.
[166] National Farm Animal Care Council. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens. NFACC, 2017. Accessed August 12, 2026.https://www.nfacc.ca/poultry-layers-code-of-practice.
[167] Animal Justice. Cage-Free Eggs in Canada: New Report on Failing Standards. Animal Justice, January 22, 2026. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://animaljustice.ca/blog/cage-free-eggs.
[168] Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program. Government of Canada, 2021. August 12, 2026, 2026. https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/poultry-egg-farm-investment.
[169] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[170] Open Wing Alliance, 2025 Cage-Free Fulfillment Report.
[171] FAO, FAOSTAT: Crops and Livestock Products.
[172] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[173] Food Dive. Study: Consumers Think Cage-Free Eggs Come from 'Happier' Birds, Boosting Quality. Food Dive, November 28, 2017. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.fooddive.com/news/study-consumers-think-cage-free-eggs-come-from-happier-birds-boosting-q/443023/
[174] New South Wales Government. Free Range Egg Labelling. NSW Government, 2026. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.nsw.gov.au/legal-and-justice/consumer-rights-and-protection/advertising-product-packaging-and-pricing-laws/free-range-egg-labelling.

6.2. New Zealand

New Zealand has approximately 4.01 million hens housed within its territory, and it is estimated 34% of the eggs produced in the country come from cage-free systems.[175] The country reached a milestone in animal welfare with the implementation of the Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare, which, in January 2023, banned the conventional use of most battery cages.[176] Although this regulatory update allows, in certain cases, the use of larger, enriched colony cages, major supermarket chains (including Foodstuffs and Woolworths NZ) have united in their commitment to phase out the sale of all eggs from cage systems by 2027.[177]

Regulatory progress is driven by rising ethical expectations among consumers, with surveys indicating that 90% of New Zealanders believe it is important or critical to protect the welfare of farmed animals.[178] This aligns with a study of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), which found that 95% of the population recognizes the importance of the protection of farmed animals in the country.[179]

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[175] GCAW, Knowledge Share: Cage-Free Eggs Global Landscape Review - Executive Summary.
[176] New Zealand Government, New Welfare Code to Phase Out Battery Cages, Beehive.govt.nz, December 13, 2022, accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-welfare-code-phase-out-battery-cages.
[177] Stuff. Controversy over Lack of Eggs Has Been Years in the Making. Stuff, January 9, 2023. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/130886982/controversy-over-lack-of-eggs-has-been-years-in-the-making.
[178] Animal Policy International. Poll: Over 80% of Kiwis Say Imports Should Respect NZ Animal Welfare Standards. Animal Policy International, July 27, 2023. Accessed August 12, 2026. https://www.animalpolicyinternational.org/post/poll-over-80-of-kiwis-say-imports-should-respect-nz-animal-welfare-standards.
[179] Kari Schmidt, "Farmed Animals and the Law in New Zealand," Scope: Art & Design 19(2020), accessed August 12, 2026, https://www.thescopes.org/assets/Uploads/Scope-Art-and-Design-19-SCHMIDT.pdf.



Methodology

Company Selection Methodology

To ensure our report focuses on the companies with the greatest potential for positive impact, we have developed a structured selection process. From major companies worldwide, we selected a group based on a weighted scoring system.

Each company was assessed across four key criteria, with scores ranging from 1 to 5 for each. These scores are then weighted to determine a final impact score, helping us identify the companies whose policy fulfillment can drive the most meaningful change.

Criteria:

- **Hens Still in Cages (35%):** An estimation of the number of hens currently confined in cages within the company's supply chain.
- **Egg Usage Volume (30%):** The annual volume of eggs used by the company across all global markets.
- **Market Influence (20%):** A qualitative assessment of the company's global market footprint and brand recognition. This score is based on a combination of team analysis and public sentiment indicators.
- **Regional Operations (15%):** The company's geographic footprint, assessing its presence across regions.

Evaluation Methodology

We evaluate each company using two independent metrics: a **Progress Score** and an **Equity Score**. The Progress Score measures the total advancement made, while the Equity Score assesses whether that progress is distributed consistently across all regions of a company's operations.

Progress Score

Companies with **Global Cage-Free Commitments** are weighted most heavily, as these represent a comprehensive pledge to apply animal welfare policies across all operations.

Companies without a global commitment but with **Regional Commitments** are weighted at 80% of the value of a global commitment. These companies are scored based on the number of countries excluded from their commitment, assuming equal market share to ensure transparency. This ensures that companies without global commitments cannot outweigh those that have pledged to cover their entire operation.

To calculate the progress, we compare a company's achievements against its original commitment deadlines, measuring actual progress against the progress expected had the company acted immediately. We calculate these scores based on publicly reported progress by a company as of Sep 21st, 2026.

Once the ratio of actual to expected progress is calculated, each company gets points (0 to 1400), placed on an eight-level scale. The first seven levels: Red (0-24.5%), Orange (24.6-49.5%), Yellow (49.6-62%), Green (62.1-74.5%), Bronze (74.6-87%), Silver (87.1-99%), and Gold (99.1-100%) represent increasing degrees of being behind, on, or ahead of pace. Fulfilled is above Gold and is reserved exclusively for companies that have reported 100% completion of their Global Commitment.

Extra points:
Beyond the base scores, companies can earn extra points. These are applied after the initial calculation and may elevate a company's final classification. Advancing is more demanding for companies currently in the Red or Orange tiers, those not yet halfway toward completion. For these companies, earning a higher status requires a more substantial commitment, as they must explicitly demonstrate their willingness to fulfill promises made to stakeholders, including NGOs.

These points reward specific actions independent of current implementation progress. Consequently, a company falling behind schedule can still improve its score by prioritizing transparency and adopting rigorous planning as it works toward full commitment.

Category	What it rewards	Eligibility
Impact Incentives	Verifiable purchase of Cage-Free Credits	Applies only to companies with operations in Latin America and/or Asia. Companies without operations in these regions are not scored on this criterion.
Complete Roadmaps	Publishing a public roadmap describing how the commitment will be achieved.	Full credit requires a roadmap covering every region of operation; partial roadmaps earn proportional credit. To qualify, roadmaps must include a 100% completion deadline and specific actions/ milestones; they cannot exclude any countries within a region.
Regional Reporting	Publishing progress broken down by region, rather than a single global figure.	Credit scales are based on the number of operating regions reported individually. To earn points, the report cannot exclude any country within a region (even if they are 0%).

When companies report data by subregions or regional blocks (i.e., "EMEA" and "APAC"), estimates are derived from public reports, historical data, and sector comparisons to ensure fairness and consistency. Recognizing that this method can introduce inaccuracies, efforts are made to verify details directly with the companies. This approach serves as a methodological tool for monitoring progress on commitments and should not be understood as an exact measurement.

Furthermore, if companies disclose all operations regionally, a global estimate can be generated. However, when the data is presented in an aggregated or partial form, estimating becomes more complicated. Consequently, no progress may be reported unless the company provides publicly available and verifiable information.

Equity Score

A single global percentage can conceal an uneven reality. A company might report high progress on a global commitment that is driven entirely by strong performance in one or two regions, while making little or no progress elsewhere. The Equity Score is designed to detect this pattern and hold companies accountable for their global pledges.

In calculating the Equity Score, every region in which a company operates is given equal weight, regardless of that region's market share. This is a deliberate methodological choice. Equal weighting means a region representing 2% of a company's footprint counts as much as one representing 40%. This ensures that a company's commitment is implemented everywhere it was made, not just where it is easiest.

When a company commits to cage-free eggs in every region where it operates, that obligation applies to each region individually. A region that represents a small share of a company's business is not a small part of the promise made to the people who live and work there. Equal weighting removes the incentive to concentrate efforts only where they are most visible and ensures that no region can be deprioritized simply because it is smaller.

To determine a region's effective reporting rate, we integrate two distinct metrics for every geographic area of operation:

- **Country Coverage:** This measures the proportion of countries within a region for which the company provided data (e.g., reporting on 8 out of 10 countries), ensuring that transparency is not merely assumed.
- **Reported Progress:** This reflects the specific percentage of completion disclosed for those countries included in the report.

By multiplying these values, we ensure that partial transparency is accurately reflected; a region with incomplete coverage cannot achieve a full score. Any region where operations exist but no data is shared results in a zero. Maintaining operations without disclosure is viewed as the most inequitable practice and is penalized rather than omitted from the final assessment.

The gap between a company's strongest and weakest operating region is translated into one of three levels:

- **High Equity**—Regions are reporting at a similar pace. Implementation appears genuinely consistent across the company's footprint. Max gap 25%
- **Medium Equity**—A noticeable gap exists between the strongest and weakest regions. Max gap: 50%
- **Low Equity**—One or more regions are being left far behind (more than 50%) or are not being reported on at all, while others advance.

Finally, in cases where a company operates solely within a single region (i.e., Europe or Asia), the equity calculation is based on the progress made in each country within that region.

Reading the Two Scores Together

Because the Progress Score and the Equity Score are calculated independently, a company's full picture requires looking at both. Readers are encouraged to read both figures side by side rather than relying on the Progress Score alone. A company's level (Red through Gold) answers "How much progress?" Its equity level answers "Progress for whom?"

To help readers review companies' status and progress toward meeting their cage-free commitments, we've included visual elements (including the range of stamps) in the company profiles below. These elements make the information easier to navigate and understand and are part of Mercy For Animals' own evaluation methodology.

Evaluation: Companies' Eggs-Ray

Accor

Company Profile

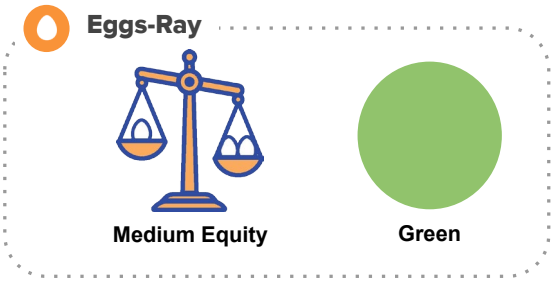
Sector: Hospitality

Original year global commitment was made: 2016

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania

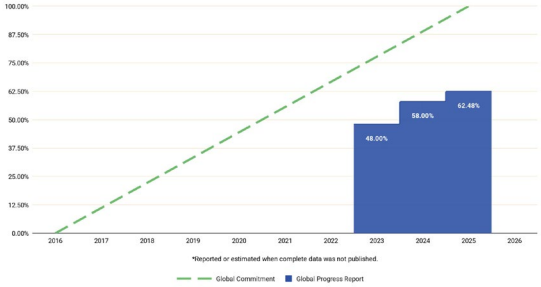


In its 2026 animal welfare policy, while manifesting a desire to continue advancing, the company removed any references to a deadline to a full transition in the Americas.

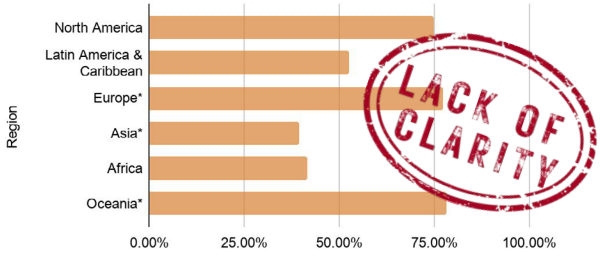


* To account for gaps in Accor's public reporting regarding war zones, MFA has calculated an adjusted estimate (-1.52%) that incorporates all global operations to ensure a comprehensive evaluation.

Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress*



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Estimated when complete / disaggregated data was not published

Because the Accor report fails to show volume data for all the regions (the complying data may embellish the true scope of advancement, evidenced by the discrepancy between percentage-based egg volume figures and hotel compliance metrics for Europe). Consequently, we couldn't give them the additional points regarding their regional reporting.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Country-by-country breakdown.
- Open dialogue with NGOs.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Transparency and accuracy are essential, and we urge Accor Hotels to provide detailed egg volume data for each region.
- Must publish roadmaps for all the regions where operates, including timeline and major milestones.

Latest public report available: LINK

Aeon

Company Profile

Sector: Retail

No complete global commitment.

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Asia (Japan, China, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand)

Other cage-free egg commitments:
- Malaysia:(100% of shell eggs by 2030
- Japan: (20% of private label shell eggs by 2025



*Although this company operates exclusively within Asia, its egg supply footprint is significant enough to warrant inclusion in this report.



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open dialogue with NGOs.
- Partial cage-free sourcing in Japan (sells cage-free products).

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Publish a global commitment to include all areas of operations.
- Demonstrate higher equity by committing to making progress in key Asia markets.
- Publish progress reports on their existing commitments

Commitment links: Japan Malaysia

Ajinomoto

Company Profile

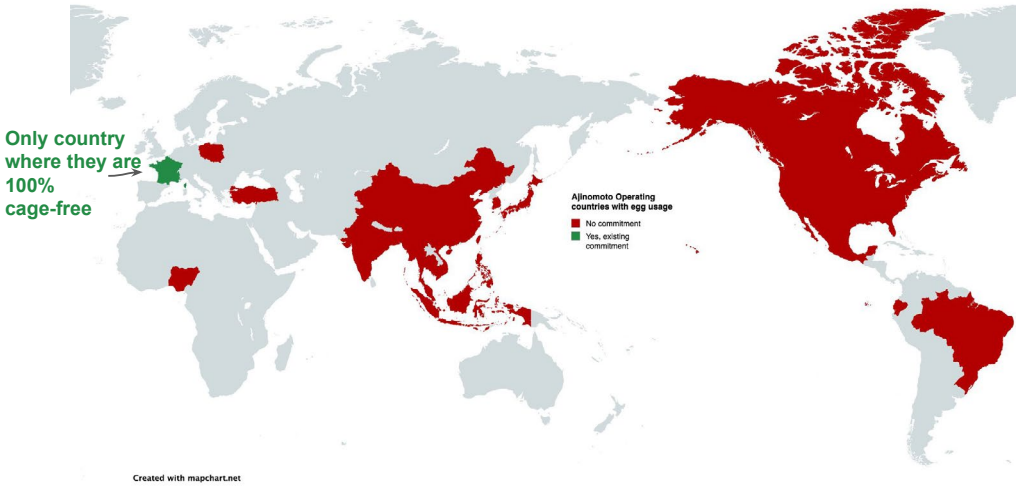
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

No complete global commitment.

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa

Other cage-free egg commitments:
- In 2024, 100% CF in France by 2025





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open dialogue with NGOs.
- Does partial cage-free sourcing in Japan (sells cage-free products)

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Publish a global commitment to include all areas of operations.
- Demonstrate higher equity by sourcing cage-free in all operating areas.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

Aldi Nord

Company Profile

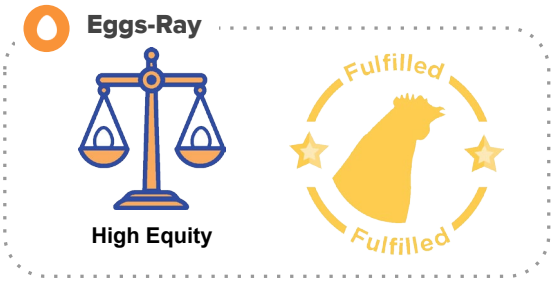
Sector: Retail

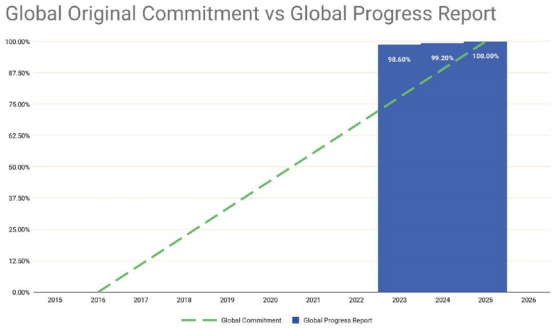
Original year global commitment was made: 2016

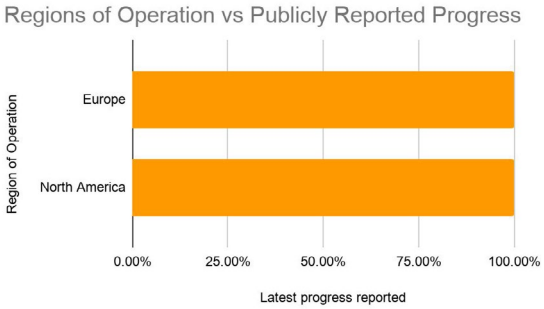
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: All shell eggs and eggs as ingredient in private brands

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Europe







Aldi Nord has established separate commitments that encompass all operations across both regions in which it operates (in North America they operate independently under the brand Trader Joe's). Because the company has reported the fulfillment of its cage-free policy in both regions, this is recognized as a global and completed commitment.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Report with clear country-by-country progress breakdown.
- Strategic actions taken over recent years that allowed the company to accelerate their progress and successfully fulfill their commitment on schedule.
- Showed equity by advancing all their regions in a similar pace.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Extending the cage-free commitment to include egg ingredients in third-party brands

Latest public report available - Europe: LINK

Latest public report available - North America: LINK

Aldi Sud

Company Profile

Sector: Retail

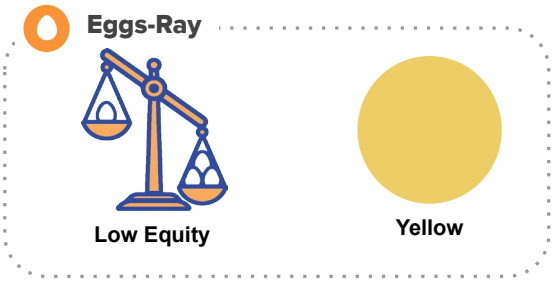
Original year global commitment was made: 2018

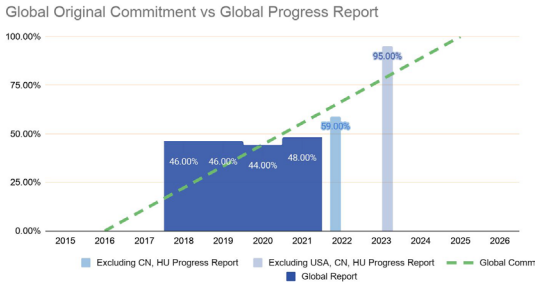
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

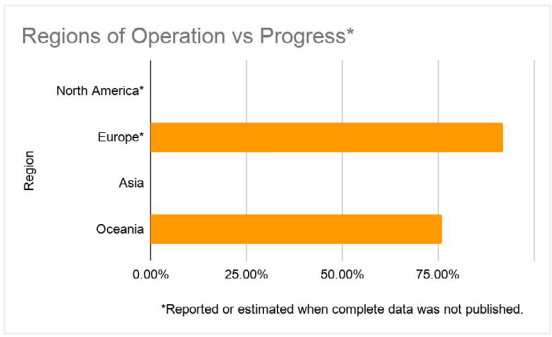
Original scope: Shell eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania

Other cage-free egg commitments: Publicly extended their Australian commitment to 2030







"GLOBAL REPORTING" WITH INCOMPLETE DATA

Aldi Süd has omitted key market data from global reports. Since 2022, it has excluded some markets, including China and Hungary, from its implementation percentage. Its 2023 report claimed 95% compliance while also excluding the United States, Hungary, and China, which represent a significant share of its business. This selective reporting distorts actual implementation levels. No new data has been published or made available since 2023.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Successfully implemented a 100% cage-free supply chain for shell eggs across Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, and the UK.
- Advanced animal welfare standards in the UK. ALDI UK, now sources 100% of its private label shell eggs from free-range systems.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.
- Needs to report regional and global progress that includes all the countries every year.
- Has to advance implementation and report on progress in China, Hungary and the U.S.

Latest public report available - Global Incomplete: LINK

Latest public report available - Oceania (Aus): LINK

Alimentation Couche-Tard

Company Profile

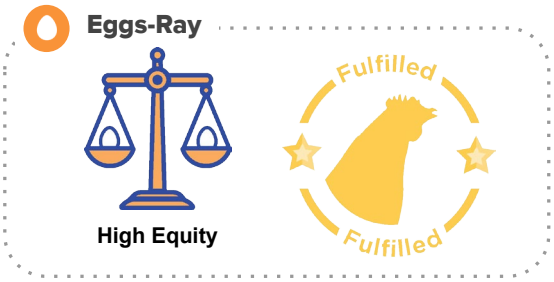
Sector: Retail

Original year global commitment was made: 2023

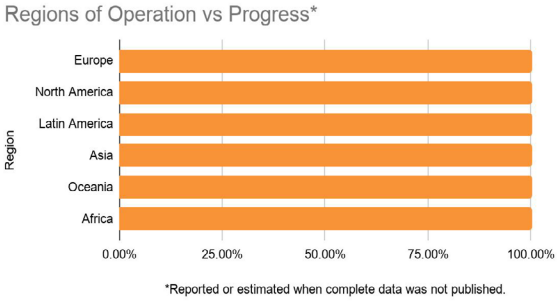
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Hard boiled and shell eggs.

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America, Europe







According to their report, Alimentation Couche-Tard had previously committed to cage-free eggs for corporate stores in 2018 but extended this commitment in 2023 to add several thousand franchised and licensed stores in 12 more countries.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Fulfilled commitment by global deadline.
- Sourcing 100% cage-free for hard boiled, packaged, and grocery eggs.
- Show equity by advancing all their regions in a similar pace.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Expand cage-free commitment to third-party supplier for eggs.
- Have open and stronger communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Aramark

Company Profile

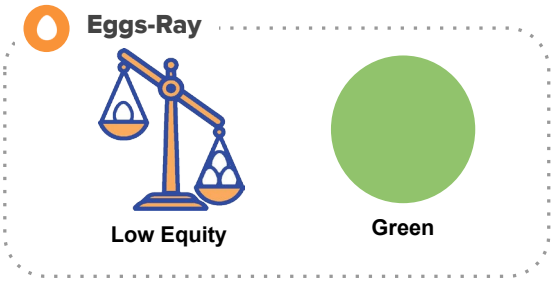
Sector: Food Service Provider

Original year global commitment was made: 2017

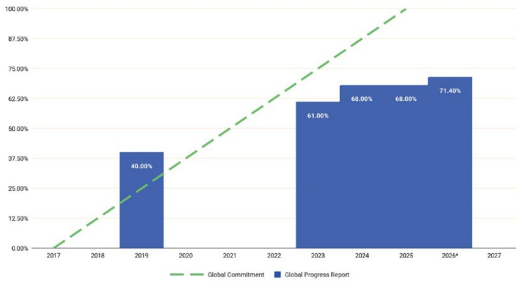
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell, liquid eggs and other further processed eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Europe, Asia, Latin America

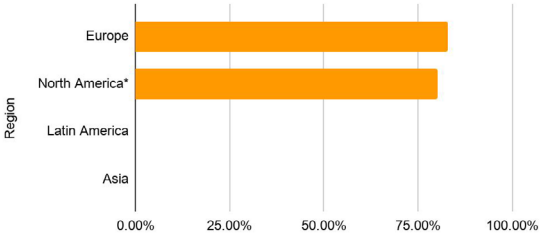


Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report*



*Progress estimated from the latest public company update (as of April 2026).

Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when overall data was not published.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Clear regional progress breakdown in some regions,

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by advancing & reporting progress in Latin America & Asia
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).
- Reinstate timeline/roadmaps towards 100% fulfillment in all regions.

Latest public report available: LINK

Arcos Dorados

Company Profile

Largest independent McDonald's franchisee

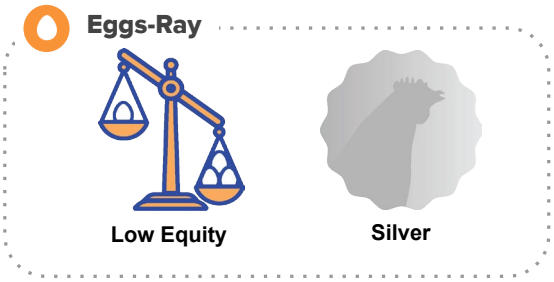
Sector: Restaurant

Original year Latam commitment was made: 2016

Original Latam commitment deadline: 2025

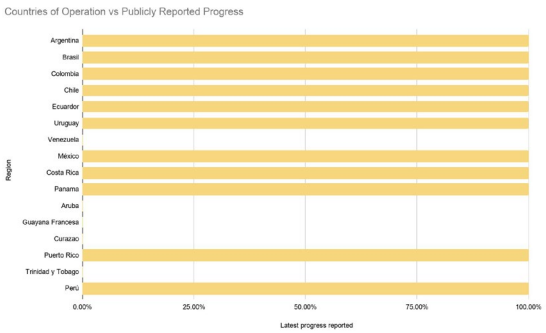
Original scope: Shell eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Latin America & Caribbean



Despite its regional operational focus and reliance on a McDonald's licensing agreement, this company has been included in this report due to its substantial market influence and significant egg supply chain footprint.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Reports 100% cage-free fresh shell eggs in 11 markets.
- Maintains a regional cage-free commitment covering its Latin American (& Caribbean) operations.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Disclose country-level cage-free progress for the remaining markets.
- Publish a roadmap with a renewed deadline and clear milestones to achieve 100% cage-free sourcing in those markets.
- Expand the scope of the commitment to include egg ingredients in all their operations.

Latest public report available: LINK

Associated British Foods

Company Profile

Sector: Retail

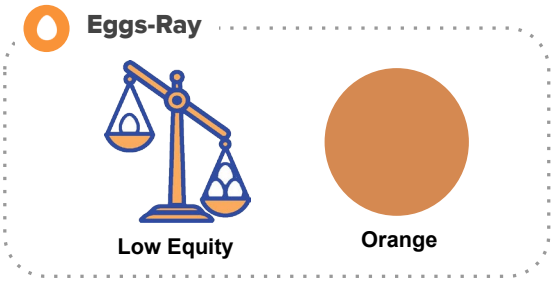
Original year global commitment was made: 2022

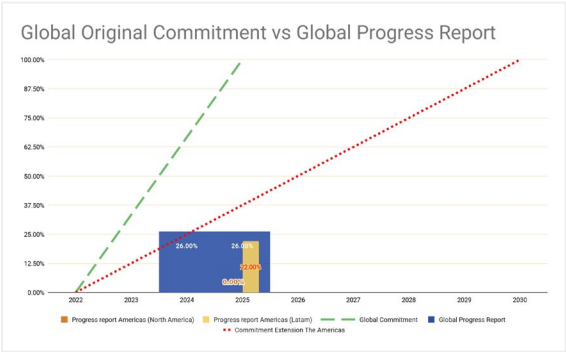
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

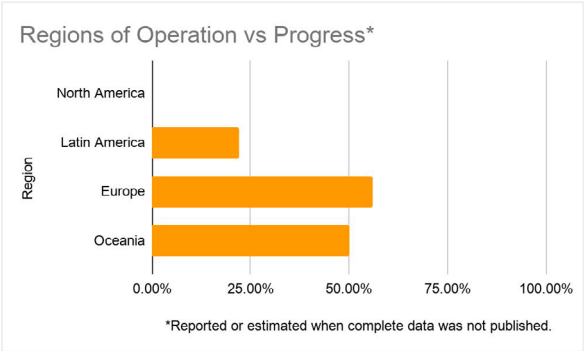
Original scope: Shell eggs and eggs as ingredients

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Oceania

Commitment extension:
AB Mauri - 100% cage-free egg across the Americas by 2030.







Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Acknowledge their deadline has passed and are maintaining their commitment with a renewed timeline based on specific milestones for the Americas.
- Reporting for all their regions.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Should publish a comprehensive roadmap to fulfill commitments in Europe and Oceania.
- Accelerate progress across Latin America by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

Auchan

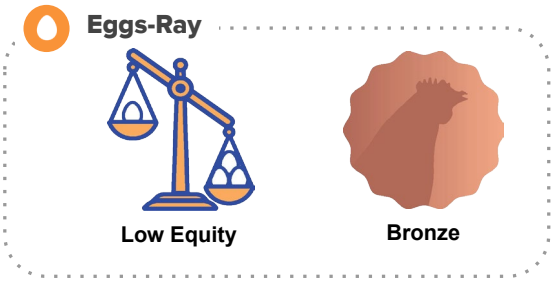
Company Profile

Sector: Retail

No global commitment.

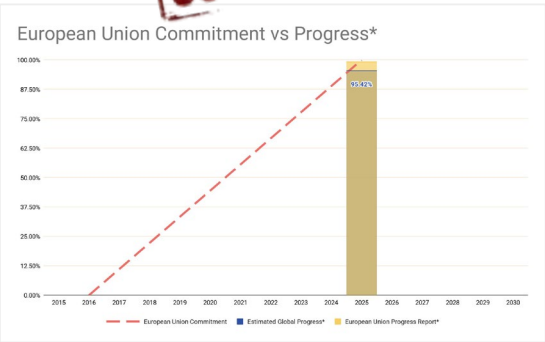
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Europe and Africa

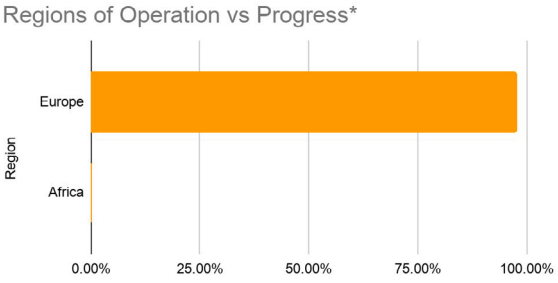
Other cage-free egg commitments:
-In 2017 France: 100% CF eggs used in private label products by 2022
-**In 2019 European Union: 100% CF own brand shell eggs**
-In 2019 Spain and Poland: 100% CF shell eggs all brands by 2025





Despite estimates indicating their global CFE footprint could place them in a more favorable category, according to our methodology the lack of a comprehensive global commitment is holding them back. Because their current policy doesn't cover all of their operations (ie. Africa, Ukraine), their overall progress cage-free score has dropped.





*Estimated when complete data was not published.
**Graphic shows all estimated progress in Europe, not only European Union.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, and solutions-oriented dialogue with some NGOs.
- Fulfilled commitments in almost all European countries.
- Expanding the scope of their commitments (i.e. eggs as ingredients) in many European countries.
- Overall global footprint for own label eggs is cage-free or free range.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Publish a comprehensive global commitment covering all operational regions and countries.
- Following Indotek Group's acquisition of Auchan in Hungary in 2026, to encourage them to align with brand standards and uphold their commitments.
- Foster open dialogue with local NGOs to secure commitments in remaining countries.

Latest public report available: LINK

Best Western

Company Profile

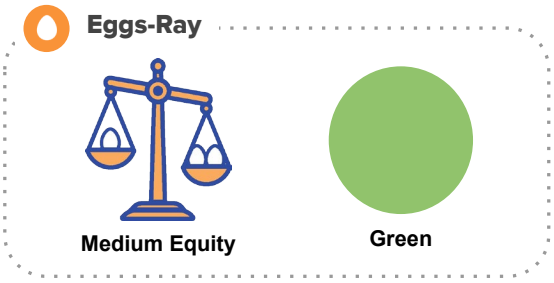
Sector: Hospitality

Original year global commitment was made: 2019

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

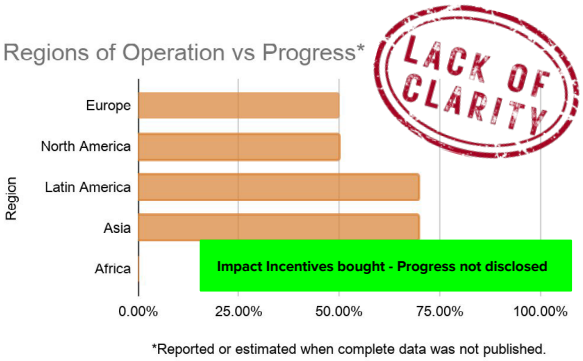
Original scope: Shell, liquid, and egg products

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America



This evaluation overlooks the narrowing gap in Best Western's progress by omitting the impact of purchased cage-free credits, and we encourage the company to provide a comprehensive figure that accurately reflects its good work on initiatives like this. Furthermore, the phrasing "using cage-free eggs" lacks necessary clarity regarding whether the adoption is complete or fractional, which obscures transparency surrounding their global commitment.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Purchased Impact Incentives (cage-free credits) in Asia to fulfill their gap in the region.
- Their commitment applies to owned, managed, or franchised hotels.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish roadmaps for Asia and Latin America, including timeline and major milestones.
- Has to advance implementation and report on progress in Latin America.
- Needs to disclose how many credits were bought to fulfill the gap in Asia.
- Have open and stronger communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Cencosud S.A.

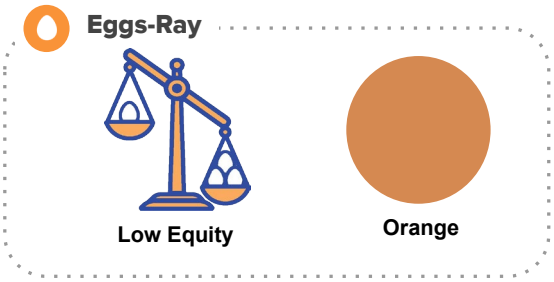
Company Profile

Sector: Retail

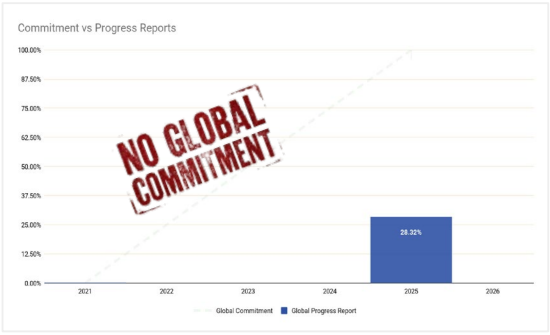
No public global commitment.

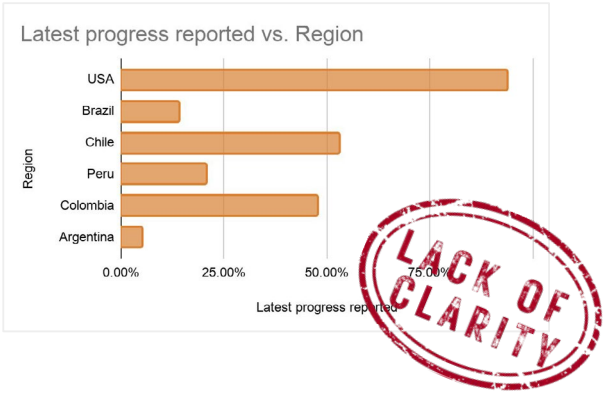
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America

Cage-free egg commitments:
-Chile: 100% CF private shell eggs by 2025
-Peru: 100% CF private shell eggs by 2028
-Colombia: 100% CF private shell eggs by 2025
-Brasil: 100% CF private shell eggs by 2025 and 100% CF all shell eggs by 2028



Although Cencosud lacks a global cage-free egg commitment, it has public policies in Chile, Brazil, Peru, and Colombia, but none in Argentina or the United States. However, it discloses cage-free egg sales across all markets.





Tracking progress across markets with inconsistent metrics like sales revenue hinders clear, comparable percentage evaluations of cage-free commitments. Additionally, revenue-based reporting distorts actual progress, as cage-free eggs generally cost more than caged eggs.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Reports cage-free progress across multiple countries of operation.
- Has established cage-free commitments in Chile, Brazil, Peru, and Colombia.
- Demonstrates progress toward cage-free sourcing across several Latin American markets.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Establish consistent cage-free commitments across all countries of operation, with comparable scope and deadlines.
- Standardize progress reporting using consistent, volume-based metrics.
- Expand partial commitments to a 100% cage-free shell eggs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Choice Hotels

Company Profile

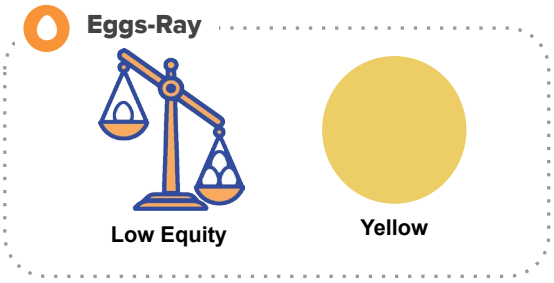
Sector: Hospitality

Original year global commitment was made: 2020

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell, liquid, egg as ingredient

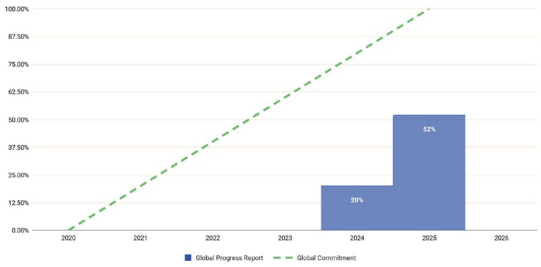
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania



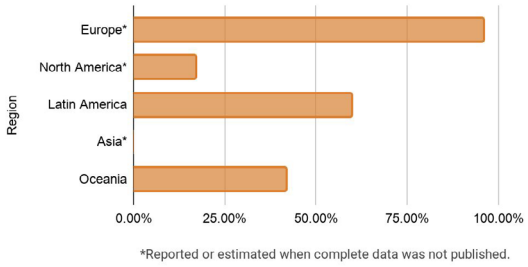
Because a hotel can be classified as cage-free simply by operating under a specific brand or in a certain jurisdiction, the company report does not explicitly guarantee or verify that 100% of the actual egg volume utilized on-property is sourced from cage-free suppliers for all hotels included in that metric. .



Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when complete data was not published.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Country by country progress breakdown.
- Significant reported increase in global progress compared to 2024.
- 100% of the all-day dining restaurants at their managed hotels use only cage-free eggs

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish roadmaps for regions that have no data or have not reached 100% such as China, Japan, India, rest of Europe, etc. including timelines and major milestones.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.
- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by increasing progress in lagging regions.

Latest public report available: LINK

Compass Group

Company Profile

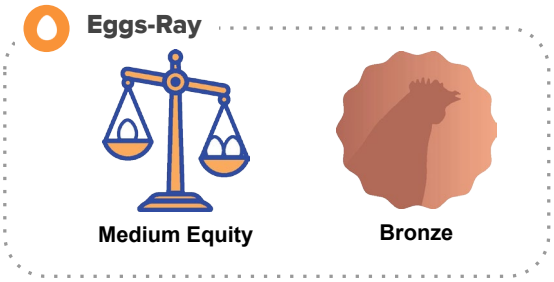
Sector: Food Service Provider

Original year global commitment was made: 2016

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

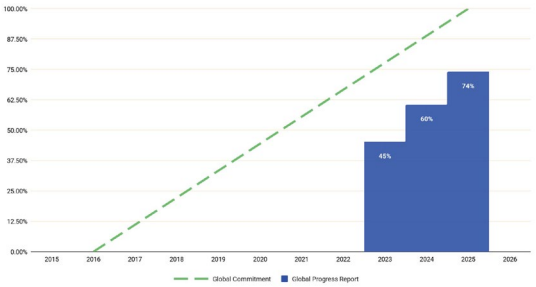
Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, Oceania

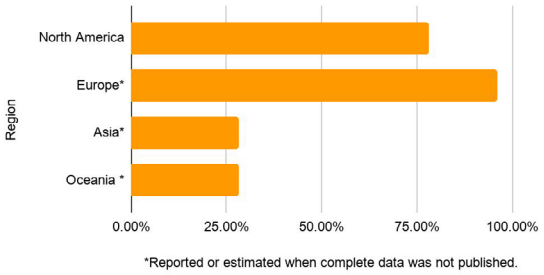


*Note: Compass Group is excluded from Latin American analysis due to its complete exit from the region between 2024 and early 2025.

Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when complete data was not published.

The reporting could be made clearer by listing Turkey separately or as apart of Europe – not both. Separating it would help ensure consistency and clarity across the regional reporting.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Clear regional progress breakdown.
- Purchased Impact Incentives (cage-free credits) in India to fulfill their gap in the Asia.
- Have achieved 100% cage-free sourcing in Europe & Middle East as of Dec 2025 (including Turkey).
- Clear timeline to reach 100% cage-free in NA by 2026.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to disclose how much cage-free credits covered operations in India.
- Must publish roadmaps for Asia Pacific region, including timeline and major milestones.

Latest public report available: LINK

Costco Wholesale Corporation

Eggs-Ray



Medium Equity



Bronze

Company Profile

Sector: Retail

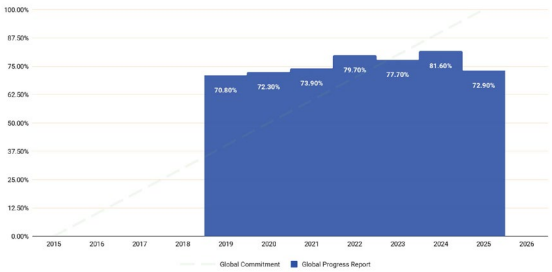
Original year global commitment was made: 2015

Original global commitment deadline: No clear deadline

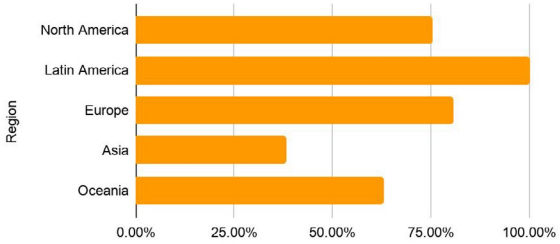
Original scope: Shell eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

Global Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when complete data was not published.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Clear country by country breakdown.
- Reporting annual progress and has high transparency around setbacks/challenges faced in each region.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Set a concrete deadline for reaching 100% global cage-free.
- Have open and stronger communication with NGOs.
- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by advancing progress in China and Japan.

Latest public report available: LINK

Crepes & Waffles

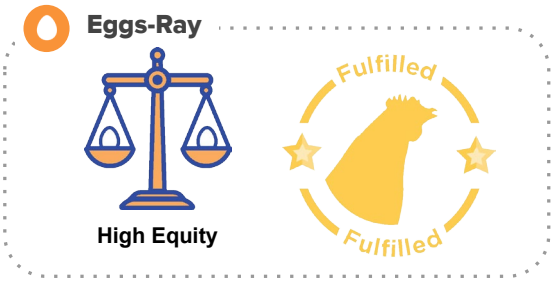
Company Profile

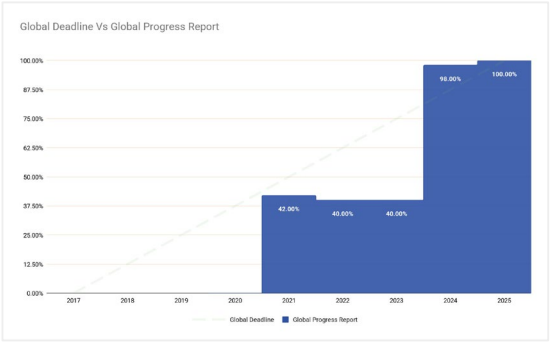
Sector: Restaurant

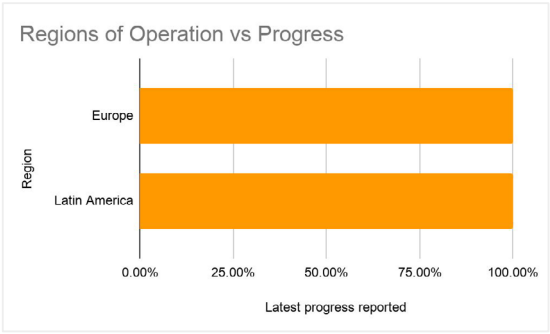
Cage-free egg commitments:
–National 100% CFE commitments by 2025 in all the countries where they operate, covering their global footprint

Original scope of all commitments: Shell and liquid eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Latin America, Europe







Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Shows equity by achieving 100% cage-free sourcing across all regions of operation.
- Clear country-by-country progress breakdown, including cage-free volumes.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Strengthen collaboration with vendors to further advance animal welfare across its supply chain in third-party products.

Latest public report available: LINK

Gategroup

Company Profile

Sector: Food Service Provider

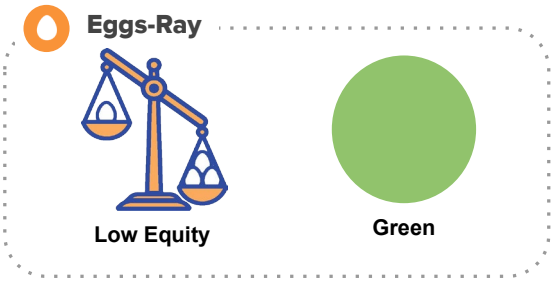
Original year global commitment was made: 2022

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

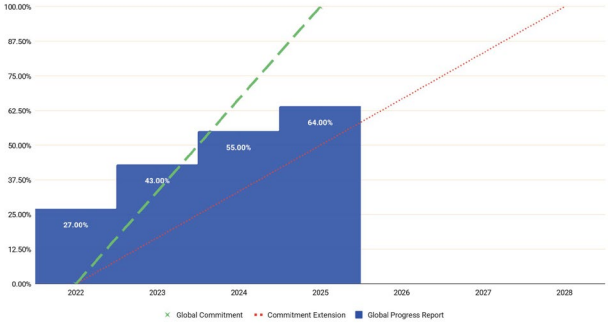
Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs. Mixes containing more than 80% egg

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania

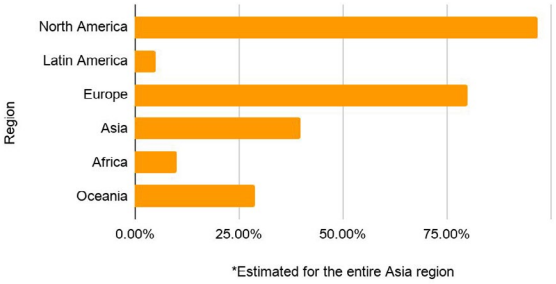
Commitment extension: 2028



Global Commitment vs Progress Reports



Regions of Operation vs Publicly Reported Progress



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Acknowledge their deadline has passed and are maintaining their commitment with a renewed timeline based on specific milestones.
- Clear regional progress breakdown.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- To drive progress and bridge gaps in Asia and Latin America, leverage Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).
- Simultaneously, foster equity in lagging markets like Africa and Oceania by strengthening partnerships with local organizations.

COMPREHENSIVE & CLEAR REPORT

Latest public report available: LINK

General Mills

Company Profile

Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

Original year global commitment was made: 2015

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: [Insert Commitment Scope]

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America

Eggs-Ray

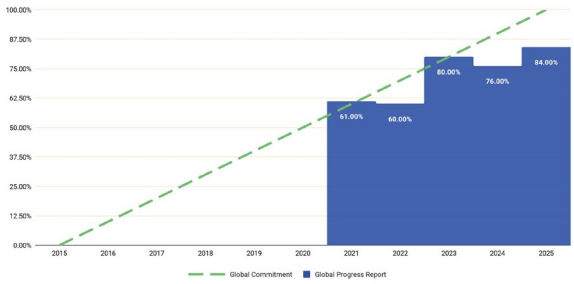


Low Equity



Bronze

Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report





The absence of regional progress prevents an accurate assessment of whether commitments are being implemented uniformly across all markets. Since North America serves as their primary operation, global metrics may be masking potentially slower progress in other regions.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Clear global progress reporting throughout the years.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Disclose regional progress for all areas of operation.
- Must publish roadmaps for all the regions where operates, including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Grupo Bimbo

Company Profile

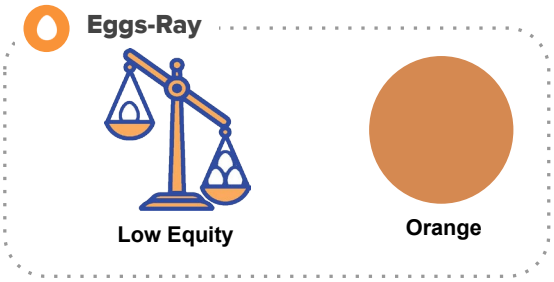
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

Original year global commitment was made: 2015

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

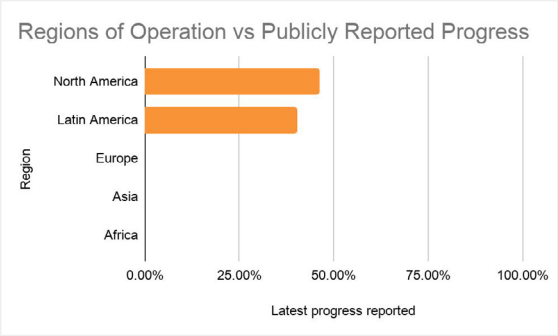
Original scope: Eggs as ingredients

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America.



Reporting lacks equity by failing to disaggregate data for Africa, Europe, and Asia. These regions face distinct challenges; high performance in Europe, such as the 100% reported for the UK and France, makes it difficult to determine progress in Africa and Asia.





Although Grupo Bimbo publicly committed to cage-free egg sourcing, their latest complete 2025 Annual Report omits any mention of this goal despite updating other sustainability initiatives. Furthermore, the company has failed to publish a roadmap or action plan to fulfill this commitment.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Maintains open dialogue with NGOs.
- Reports global progress.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Set a concrete deadline for achieving 100% cage-free globally.
- Publish roadmaps for all regions of operation, including timelines and major milestones.
- Provide separate progress reporting for Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- Reinstate cage-free progress reporting in its annual global report to ensure consistent and transparent disclosure.

Latest public report available: LINK

Hilton

Company Profile

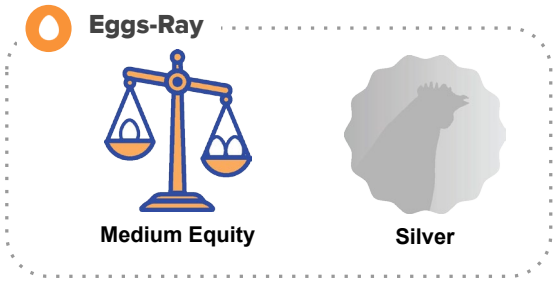
Sector: Hospitality

Original year global commitment was made: 2019

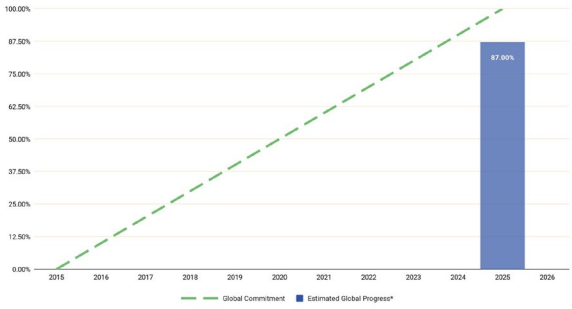
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs, egg products where egg as primary ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

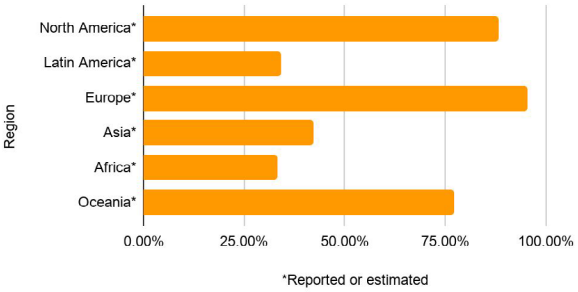


Global Original Commitment vs Estimated Global Progress*



*Estimated from the regional numbers as the company didn't publish it

Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Estimated when figures differ from our regional format

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Clear progress breakdown including managed and franchised.
- Reached 100% in Austria, Belgium, Fiji, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, and Switzerland. Exceeded 95% in Malaysia and Thailand, and reached 93% in Singapore.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Publish global progress numbers.
- Must include time-bound roadmaps or clear timelines in action plans for regions that are less than 50% such as LATAM, Africa and Asia.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

IHOP

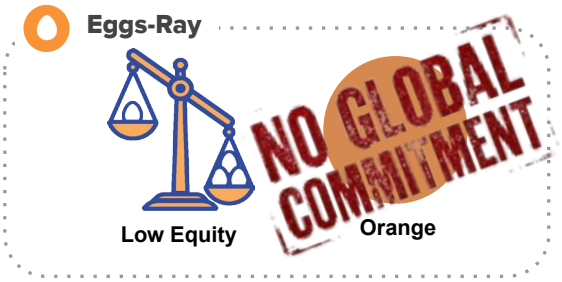
Company Profile

Sector: Restaurant

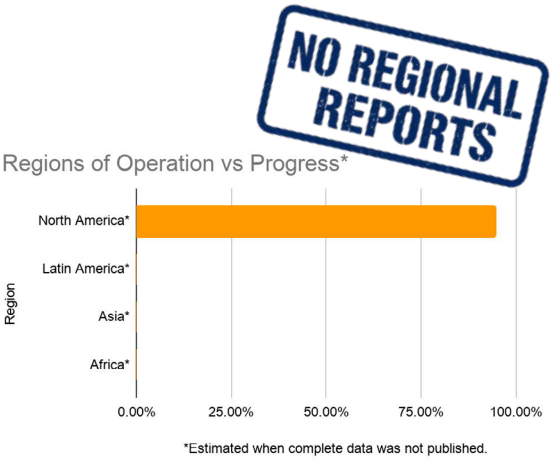
No global commitment

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Latin America, North America, Asia, Africa

Other cage-free egg commitments:
- USA & Latin America: Committed in 2016 to be 100% CF by 2025







Despite their commitment to sourcing cage-free eggs in both the United States and Latin America, the company has not published a comprehensive progress report detailing the implementation of this initiative, limiting their public reporting exclusively to U.S. locations. Additionally, there is a lack of clarity regarding whether Mexico is apart of North America or Latin America for the commitment purposes.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Have met deadline and cage-free fulfillment in US locations.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish a global commitment that encompasses all regions of operations.
- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by reporting progress in Latin America.
- Must publish roadmaps for Latin America including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Inspire Brands

Company Profile

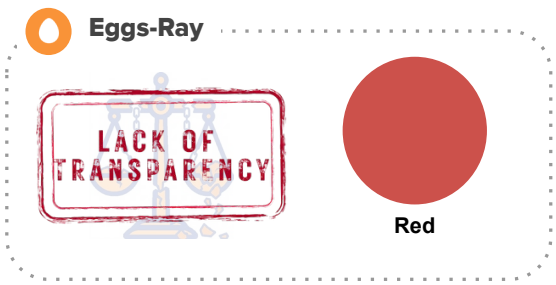
Sector: Restaurant

Original year global commitment was made: 2020

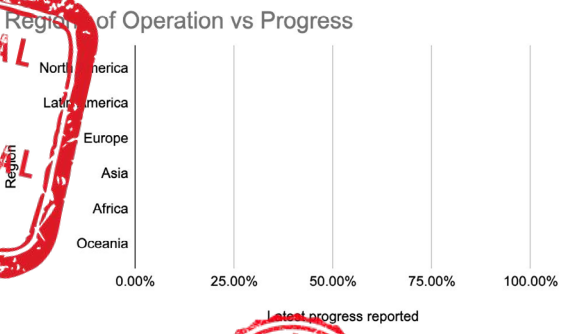
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs, eggs as ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania









Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Has fulfilled 100% cage-free in all Arby locations in the US, making it the only brand to preserve its original implementation deadline.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Reinstate commitments to protect company reputation and reassure stakeholders.
- Publish global and regional progress reports, including roadmaps, timelines, and key milestones toward 100% goals.
- Demonstrate equity by ensuring transparent reporting across all operational regions.
- Establish open, ongoing dialogue with NGOs.

Latest public report available:



Inter Continental Hotel Group

Company Profile

Sector: Hospitality

Original year global commitment was made: 2016

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania

Eggs-Ray



Low Equity

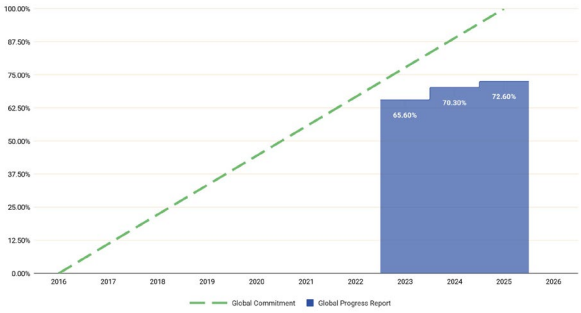


Green

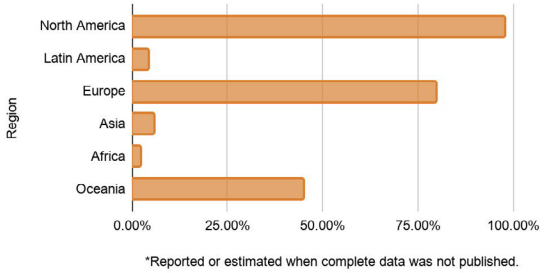
The company's "cage-free" classification relies on brands adopting relevant standards, being in a place with local regulations, or the absence of egg products. Consequently, these reports do not verify that 100% of the egg volume used across all properties is sourced from cage-free suppliers.



Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when complete data was not published.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Demonstrating progress in certain regions.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish roadmaps for all the regions, including timelines and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Has to advance implementation on Latin America, Asia, and Africa.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

Jollibee

Company Profile

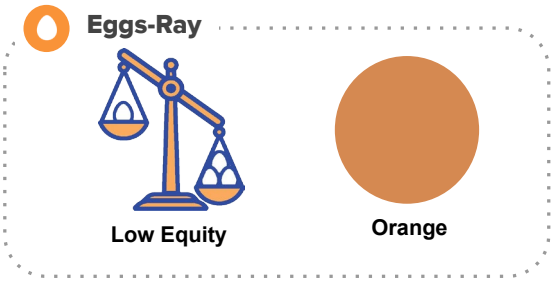
Sector: Restaurant

Original year global commitment was made: 2023

Original global commitment deadline: 2035

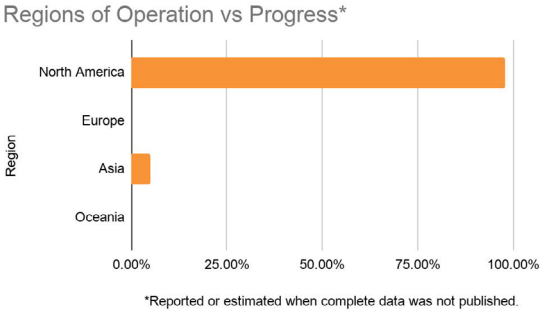
Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania





Jollibee's reporting is limited to specific countries and a subset of its restaurants. Due to the lack of comprehensive regional data, it is not possible to accurately estimate the company's global cage-free implementation status.



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Asia-based company with a global commitment covering all operations
- Demonstrating progress in North America

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.
- Needs to progress globally and by region
- Should close the gap in Asia markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

Kellanova

Kellanova was acquired by Mars Inc in 2025.

Company Profile

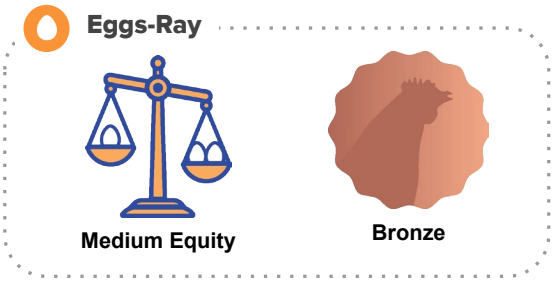
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

Original year global commitment was made: 2017

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

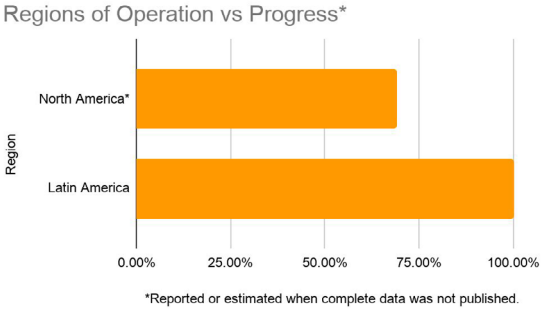
Original scope: Eggs as ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Latin America & North America



Although Mars acquired the company in 2025 and Kellanova stated this report would be their final one, they **BOTH** have CFE commitments. We will continue monitoring their progress and holding them accountable, noting that Kellanova omitted transparent progress updates for North America in their last report and the progress has been estimated. After merging Mars, Kellanova removed their global cage-free timeline.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Has fulfilled 100% cage-free in Latin America regions and eliminated eggs from portfolio in other regions of operation (ex. Asia (which includes Oceania) /Europe/Africa)
- Clear global progress reporting throughout the years.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Disclose accurate progress number for North America region.
- Must publish roadmaps for North America region including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Re-establish open and stronger communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Kewpie

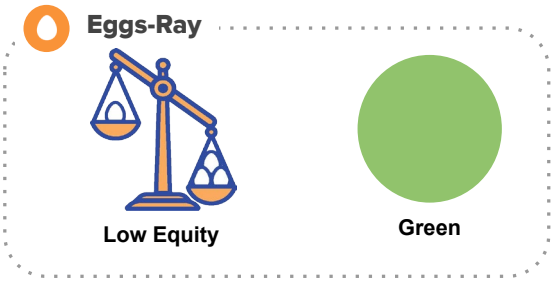
Company Profile

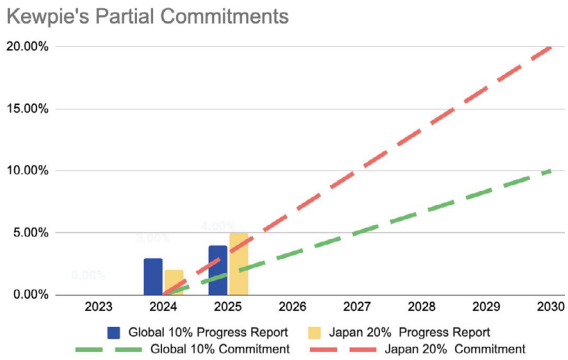
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

No complete global commitment

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe

Global partial commitment: Committed in 2024 to transition 10% of their mayonnaise egg supply to cage-free by 2027 globally







* 100% cage-free eggs in the ingredients procured for manufacturing Kewpie Brand products.

Although Kewpie lacks a 100% cage-free commitment, its policy reflects the evolving state of animal welfare in Asia: Companies headquartered in the region are adopting initial partial commitments, supported by local organizations, with the expectation of expanding to a complete transition in the long term.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Asia-based company with a partial global commitment and a separate commitment for Japan operations
- Open dialogue with NGOs.
- Demonstrating good-paced progress with their current commitments

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to report global and regional progress with clear numbers
- Take advantage of their current success to publish more ambitious, long-term commitments >10% with incremental increases until full transition to cage-free.
- Expand their cage-free policies to include all eggs used in their supply chains, not just the eggs used in their mayonnaise production

Latest public report available: LINK

Kraft-Heinz

Company Profile

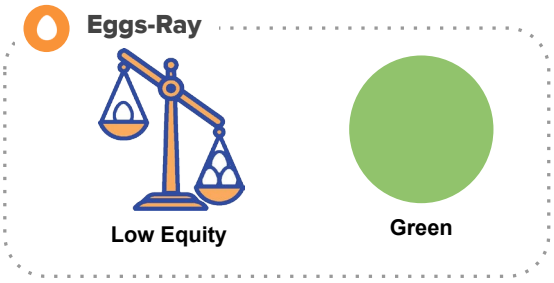
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

Original year global commitment was made: 2017

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

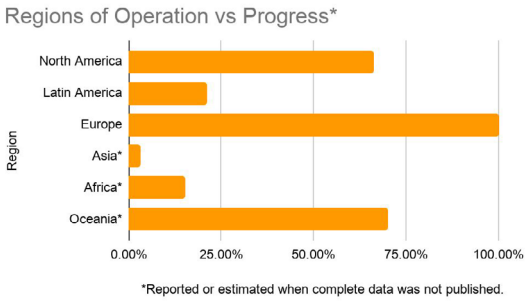
Original scope: All sourced egg

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania



There is a lack of clarity regarding progress in the Middle East and Africa, as all three regions are reported together under EMEA. This inflates the overall EMEA progress figures, given that Europe has already achieved 100% cage-free, making it difficult to assess progress in the Middle East and Africa independently.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Global progress reporting throughout the years.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Accelerate global progress toward 100% cage-free commitments.
- Publish regional roadmaps with clear timelines and milestones
- Foster ongoing dialogue with NGOs
- Prioritize equitable advancement in Asia and Latin America
- Disaggregate reporting for Europe, Middle East and Africa to accurately reflect regional progress.

Latest public report available: LINK

LIDL

Company Profile

Sector: Retail

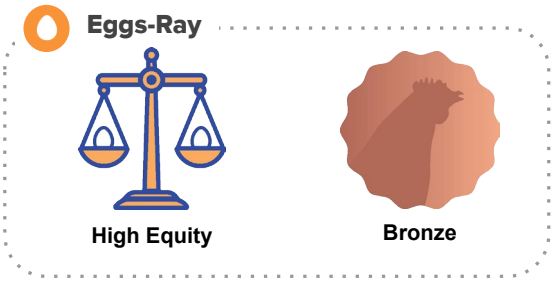
Original year global commitment was made: 2016

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell eggs

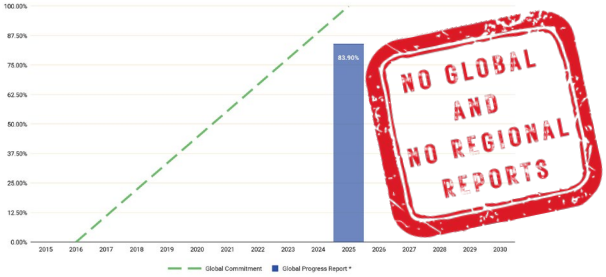
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Europe and North America

Other cage-free egg commitments: The company extended their commitment to egg products in Europe



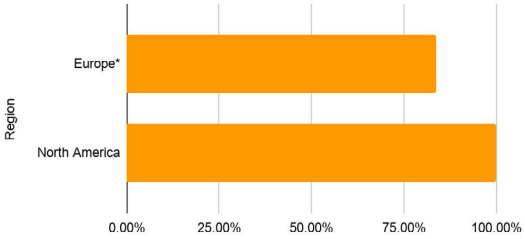
Due to a lack of public global and regional reporting from Lidl, their operational figures must be estimated from the available countries reporting. This lack of comprehensive data makes it difficult to accurately evaluate their performance, particularly given their omissions in several European markets. A more granular, country-by-country evaluation of equity could expose a potential deficiency in equitable practices in the region.

Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report*



*Estimated from the regional numbers as the company didn't publish it

Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when complete data was not published.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open and positive with global NGOs.
- They have completed the cage-free fresh egg transition in Austria, Belgium, Poland, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Germany, and the U.S. This transition also includes egg products in all these countries, except for the U.S.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to report global/regional progress
- We strongly advise Lidl Hungary to establish open dialogue & communication with local NGOs.
- Must publish data and roadmaps for all the countries where they did not fulfill the transition, including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.

Latest public report available: Individual reports on local websites

LSG Group

Company Profile

Sector: Food Service Provider

Original year global commitment was made: 2023

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs, eggs as ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, Oceania

Eggs-Ray

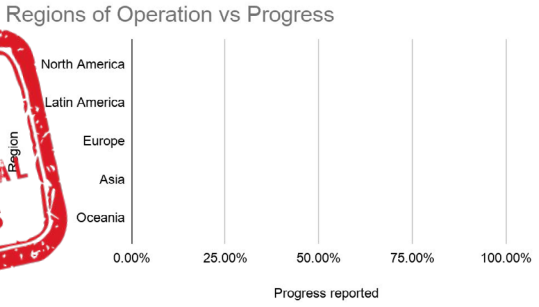
LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Red

Lufthansa restructured the LSG Group by selling its European catering operations to gategroup in 2020 and its international business to AURELIUS in October 2023. Public records indicate that Sky Chefs and Retail inMotion currently operate under the Aurelius-owned LSG Group. LSG Group committed in 2023, to achieving a 100% global cage-free egg supply chain by 2025, a pledge that must be honored across all ownership changes.



NO GLOBAL AND NO REGIONAL REPORTS



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- N/A

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Publicly reaffirm the company's commitment to this cause, ensuring annual progress reports are released.
- Develop and publish detailed roadmaps and clear timelines for transitioning to a 100% cage-free supply chain on a global scale.
- Reestablish open dialogues and partnerships with NGOs to foster collaboration.

Latest public report available: NO REPORTS AVAILABLE

Marriott International

Company Profile

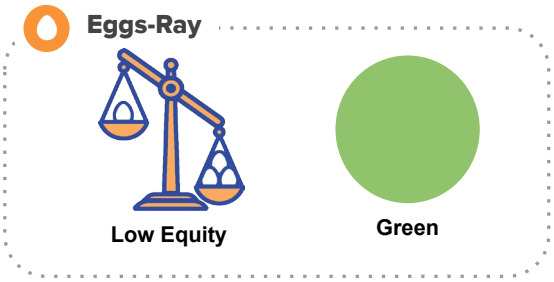
Sector: Hospitality

Original year global commitment was made: 2018

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

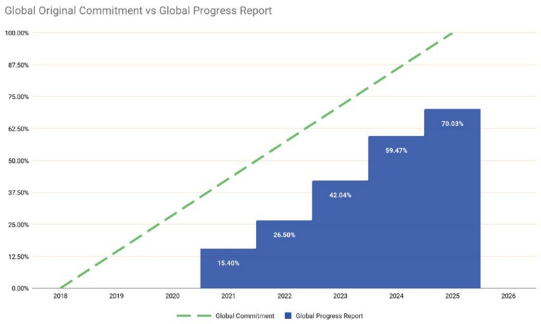
Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs, egg products in all owned, managed and franchised properties

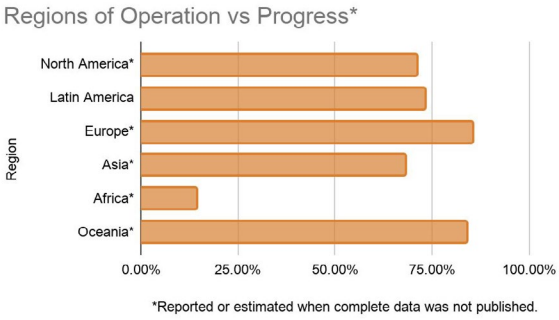
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania



Progress reporting excludes progress for owned hotel even though the original commitment extends to owned, managed and franchised properties. Furthermore, the company reports with a “cage-free spend %” metric, which can inflate the value of their overall progress.







Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Regional progress reporting throughout the years.
- Clear global progress reporting throughout the years.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Should make progress and fulfill commitment in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).
- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by advancing in Africa.
- Re-establish open and stronger communication with NGOs.
- Establish a definitive timeline for fulfilling the global commitment.

Latest public report available: LINK

Mars Inc

Company Profile

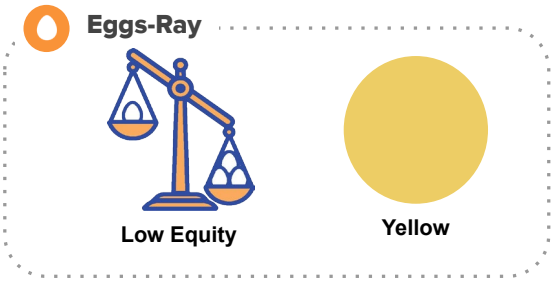
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

No global commitment (lack of deadline)

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

Other cage-free egg commitments:
-2016 in US, Canada and Australia: 100% cage-free eggs for all human food products by 2020.

Commitment extension:
-Australia: Extended to 2025

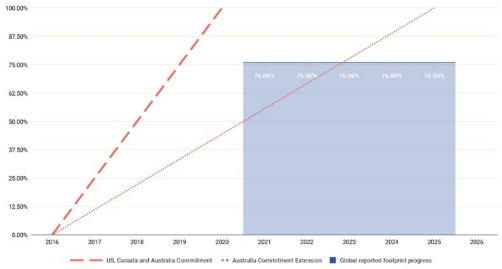


Since 2021, the company has pledged to source 100% CFE globally, but without a deadline, roadmap, or progress report, this commitment remains merely symbolic.

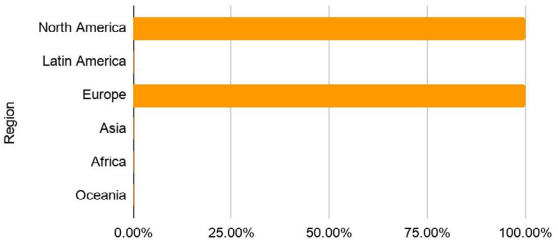
Cage free commitment only applies to all human food products (e.g. confectionery, rice, sauces).

NO GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Partial Original Commitment vs Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



*Reported or estimated when complete data was not published.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Has fulfilled 100% cage-free in EU, US and Canada.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to disclose annual global progress.
- Disclose regional progress for all areas of operation.
- Must publish roadmaps for all the regions outside of Global North including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

MBRF

Company Profile

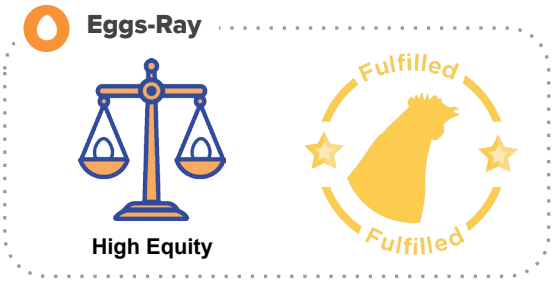
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

Original year global commitment was made: 2017

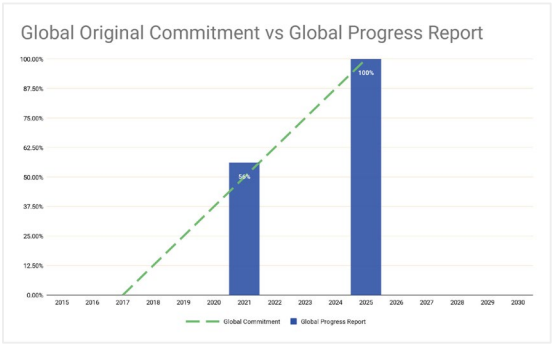
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

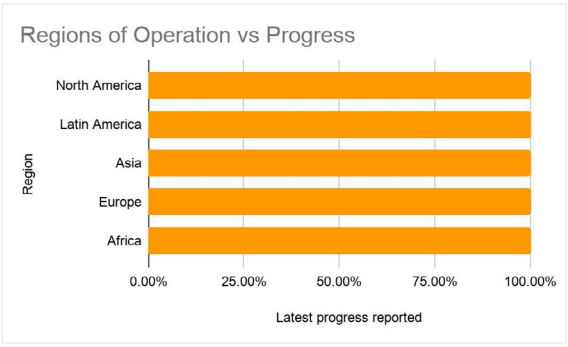
Original scope: Eggs used in processed products (industrial processes).

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Latin America, North America, Europe, Asia, Africa.



By partnering with local suppliers in markets such as Turkey and the UAE to enable investments and new practices, the company reports extending cage-free egg sourcing to all its international operations, showing that supply-chain collaboration can overcome cage-free supply constraints.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Reported 100% cage-free eggs in processed products globally, ahead of its December 2025 deadline.
- Extended cage-free implementation from Brazil to international operations.
- Worked with local suppliers to enable cage-free sourcing in challenging markets.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Maintain annual public reporting to demonstrate continued global compliance.
- Strengthen open communication with NGOs on cage-free progress.

Latest public report available: LINK

McCormick

Company Profile

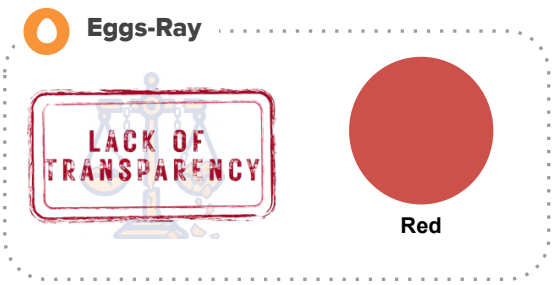
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

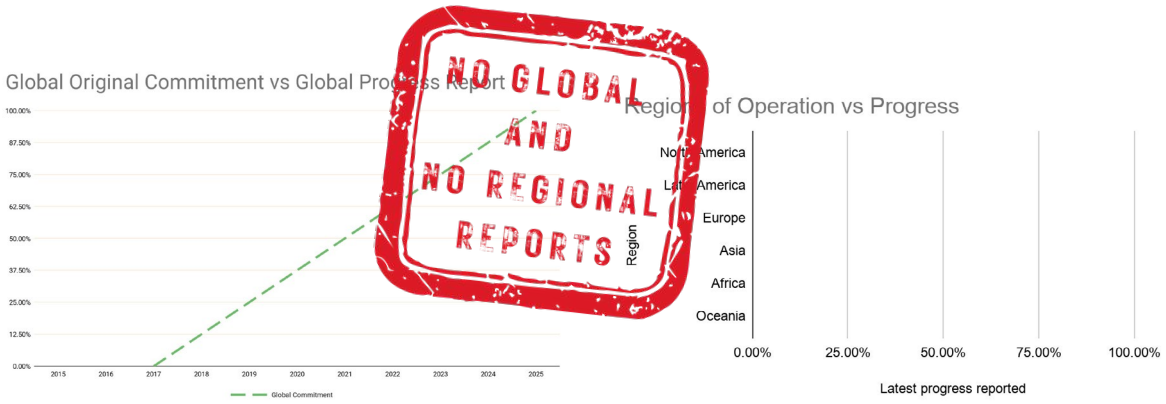
Original year global commitment was made: 2017

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: All eggs for their products

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- N/A

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Has to advance implementation and report annual progress.
- Disclose regional progress.
- Must publish roadmaps for all the regions where operates, including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.
- Reinstate their cage-free deadline to affirm company reputation and reassure consumers/stakeholders

Latest public report available: NO REPORTS AVAILABLE

Mondelēz International

Company Profile

Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

No complete global commitment.

Original year partial global commitment was made: 2017

Original partial global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs, eggs as ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

Commitment extension:
-2027 (excluding, China, Morocco, Russia & Ukraine).
-2030 in Vietnam

Eggs-Ray



Low Equity

Yellow

Despite estimates indicating their global CFE footprint could place them in a more favorable category, according to our methodology the lack of a comprehensive global commitment is holding them back. Because their current policy doesn't cover all of their operations (ie. China, Morocco, Russia and Ukraine), their overall progress cage-free score has dropped.

Partial Global Original Commitment vs Partial Global Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Consistent annual reporting.
- Clear outlined action plan for Vietnam region to reach deadline.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Disclose progress for all regions of operation.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.
- Must publish roadmaps for China, Vietnam, Morocco, Russia and Ukraine including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%
- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by advancing outside of the Global North.

Latest public report available: LINK

Nestlé

Company Profile

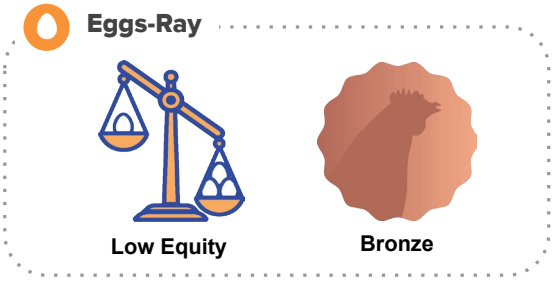
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

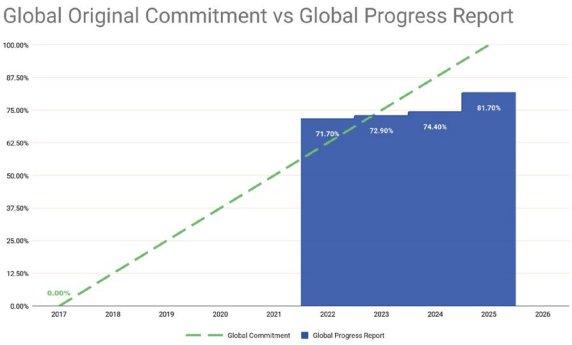
Original year global commitment was made: 2017

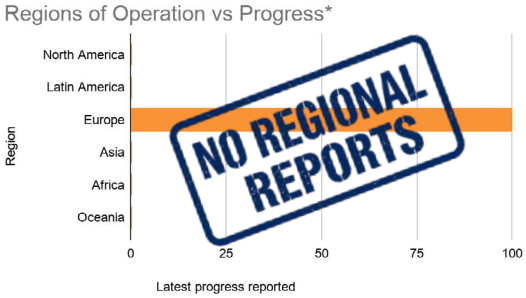
Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: All sourced eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania







Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Clear global progress reporting throughout the years.
- 100% cage-free in United States and Europe.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Re-establish open and stronger communication with NGOs.
- Must publish progress and roadmaps for all the regions where did not meet their target, including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.

Latest public report available: LINK

Nissin Foods Holdings

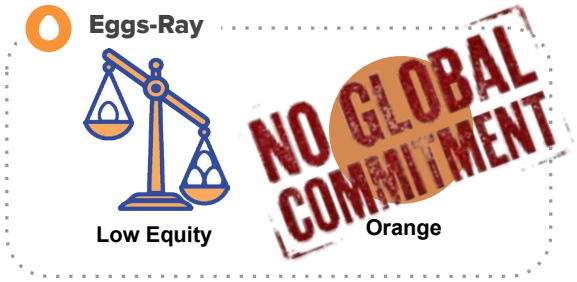
Company Profile

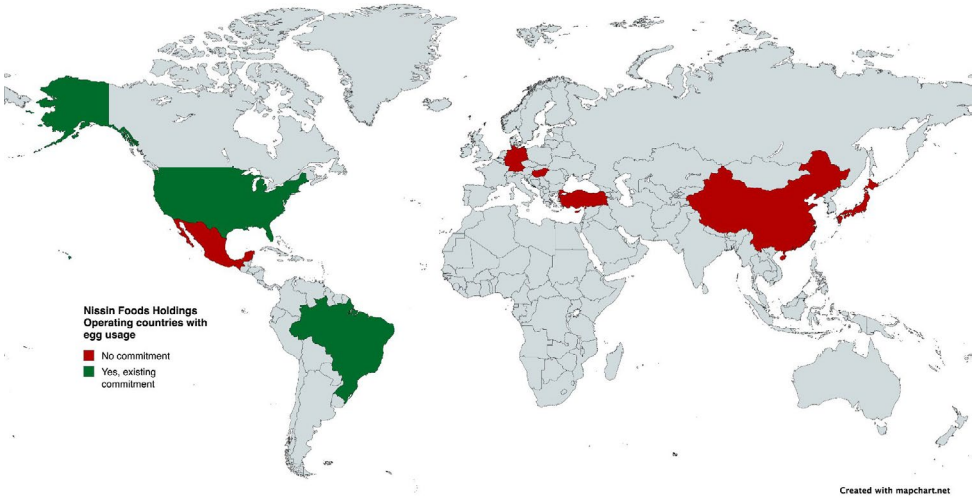
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

No complete global commitment.

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Asia, Europe

Other cage-free egg commitments:
-Brazil: 100% CF all eggs by 2024
-United States: 100% CF all eggs by 2025





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open dialogue with NGOs.
- As outlined in the company's official "Approach to Eggs" policy:
  - 100% fulfilled in the U.S. and Brazil.
  - Partial procurement of cage-free eggs in Japan.
  - Published that they are developing egg alternatives.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish a time-bound, global commitment that encompasses all areas of operations.
- Disclose the current percentage of cage-free egg procurement in Japan.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

Puratos

Company Profile

Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

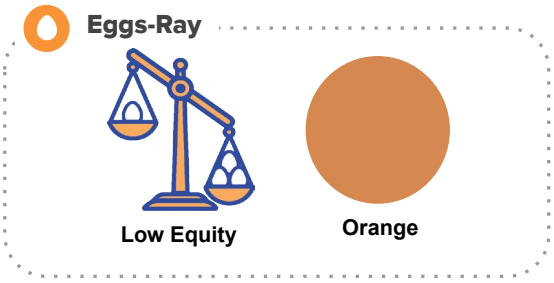
Original year global commitment was made: 2020

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Shell and liquid eggs, eggs as ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania

Commitment extension:
-Europe: 100% CF by the end of 2028
-By the end of 2030, all products in our standard product range containing eggs will use cage-free eggs across the EU, North America, Africa, and Asia (excluding customer-tailored formulas)

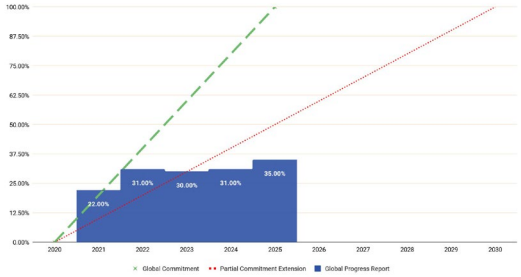


Other cage-free egg commitments:
-By the end of 2030, help reduce the use of eggs across the market by the equivalent of 1 billion eggs

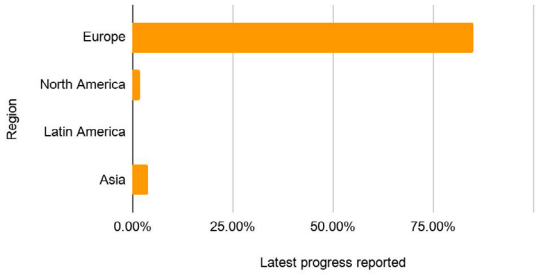
They fell short of their global commitment by excluding South America from their 2030 goals, no goal for Australia operations, and exempting customer-tailored products from deadlines.



Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report



Latest progress reported vs. Region



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Acknowledge their deadline has passed and are maintaining their commitment
- Rather than relying solely on cage-free sourcing, they actively innovate egg-reducing and egg-replacing ingredients.
- Other cage-free egg commitments.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish Latin America roadmaps with timelines and milestones for 100%.
- Should close regional gaps using Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).
- Should avoid labeling custom products as dependent on customer collaboration without firm target dates, ensuring binding deadlines for all egg volume.

Latest public report available: LINK

Restaurant Brands International

Company Profile

Sector: Restaurant

Original year global commitment was made: 2020

Original global commitment deadline: 2030

Original scope: Whole eggs, liquid eggs, egg products and egg ingredients

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

Other cage-free egg commitments:
-Originally 100% CFE in North America and Latin America by 2025. They have now extended that commitment to 2030.

Eggs-Ray



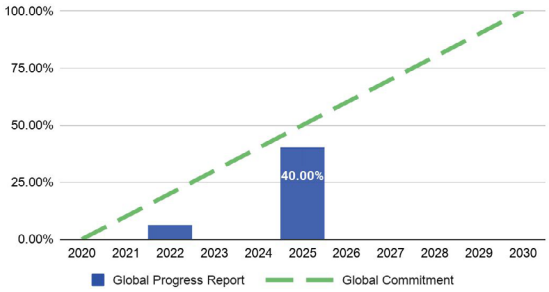
Medium Equity



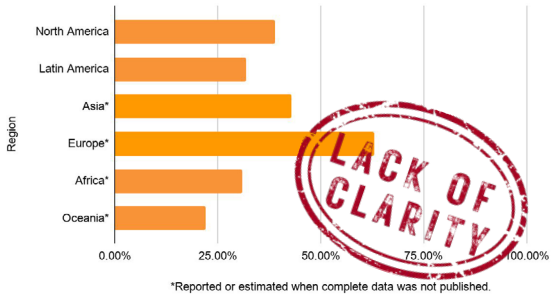
Bronze

*In the U.K. and Oceania, exclusively cage-free whole eggs are used across all Burger King locations.

Global Original Commitment vs Global Progress Report



Regions of Operation vs Progress*



Estimations were done as the reporting lacks clarity because it does not disaggregate regional data. Because Africa, Europe, and Asia face distinct challenges and progress at different rates, strong performance in one region could mask lagging results in others.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Has clear roadmaps/timelines that outline progress towards 100% fulfillment in NA.
- Significant progress increases in regions that have historically lagged behind (ex. LATAM & NA)

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Publish roadmaps for LATAM region including timelines and major milestones.
- Can demonstrate greater equity by considering the purchase of Impact Incentives (cage-free credits), in regions such as Asia and Latin America if cage-free supply is limited.

Latest public report available: LINK

Rewe Group

Company Profile

Sector: Retail

Original year global commitment was made: 2016

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: All shell eggs and eggs as ingredient in private brands

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Europe

Commitment extension:
-Hungary: 100% CFE by 2028

Despite its regional operational focus this company has been included in this report due to its substantial market influence and significant egg supply chain footprint.

Eggs-Ray



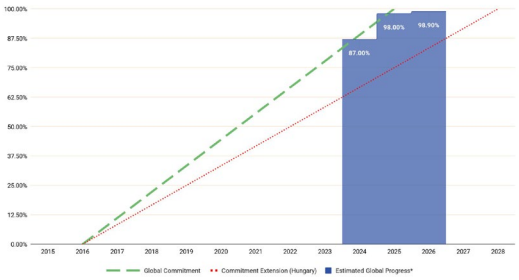
High Equity



Gold

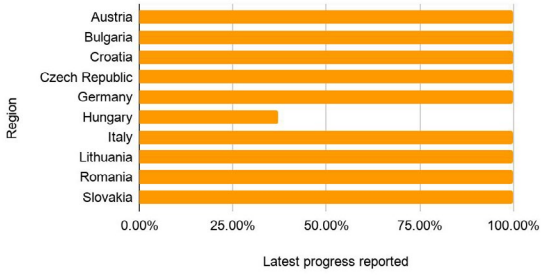
Despite lagging in its cage-free egg transition, Hungary has revised its timeline and is actively collaborating with animal rights organizations to ensure steady progress, securing a high equity rating.

Global Original Commitment vs Estimated Global Progress*



*Estimated from the regional numbers as the company didn't publish it

Countries of Operation vs Progress



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Acknowledged their deadline has passed and are maintaining their commitment with a renewed timeline based on specific milestones.
- Clear country-by-country progress breakdown.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Has to advance implementation in Hungary.

Latest public report available: LINK

Royal Caribbean

Company Profile

Sector: Hospitality

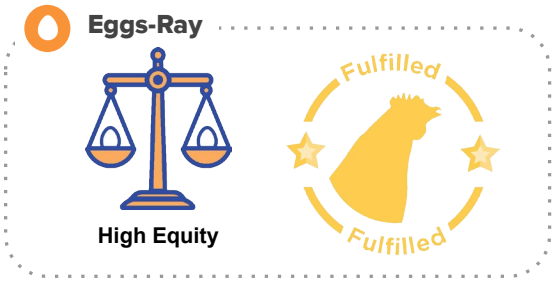
Original year global commitment was made: 2015

Original global commitment deadline: 2022

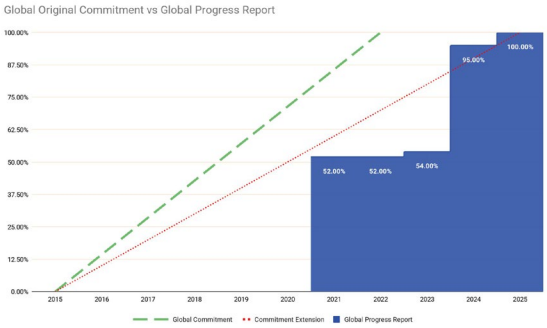
Original scope: All sourced eggs

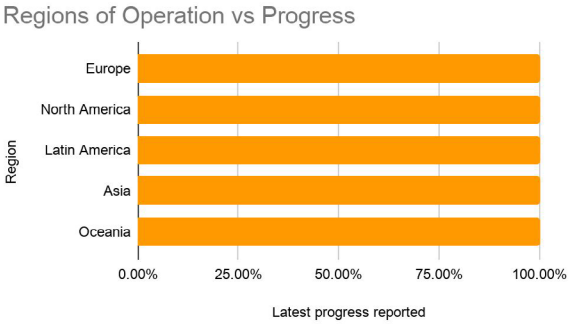
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Oceania

Commitment extension: 100% CFE by 2025



Royal Caribbean originally had a 2022 deadline which was then extended to 2025. With clear timelines and roadmaps in place, this extension was accepted by NGOs, and allowed the company to fulfill their commitment with more feasibility.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Fulfilled global 100% cage-free commitment by deadline.
- Established commitment to monitor their 100% cage-free sourcing in the coming years.
- Maintains open communication with NGOs.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards:

- Maintain annual transparency and public reporting regarding their cage-free egg supply chain.

Latest public report available: LINK

Seven & i Holdings

Company Profile

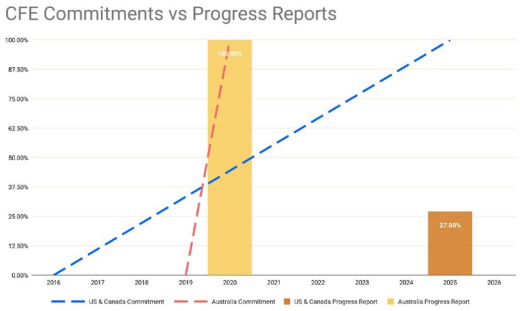
Sector: Retail

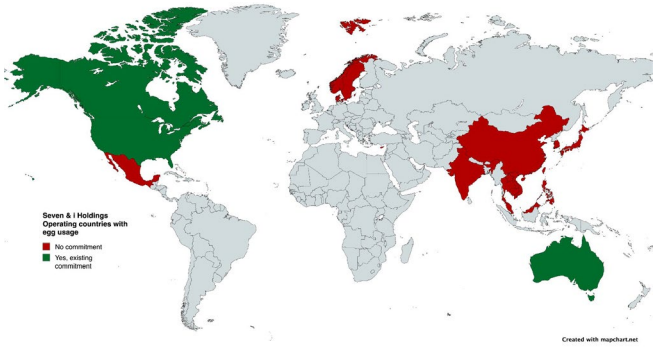
No global commitment.

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Oceania

Other cage-free egg commitments:
-North America (US & Canada): 100% CF shell eggs. 100% CF hard-boiled and eggs as ingredient in private labels
-Australia: 100% CF shell eggs by 2019
[Excludes franchises]







Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open dialogue with NGOs.
- Disclosed sales of cage-free shell eggs in certain countries.
- 100% cage-free fulfillment for shell eggs in Australia.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Must publish a time-bound, global commitment that encompasses all areas of operations.
- Must publish roadmaps for the existing North America commitment including timeline and major milestones.
- Commit to sourcing cage-free ingredient eggs in Australia.

Latest public report available: LINK

Sodexo

Company Profile

Sector: Food Service Provider

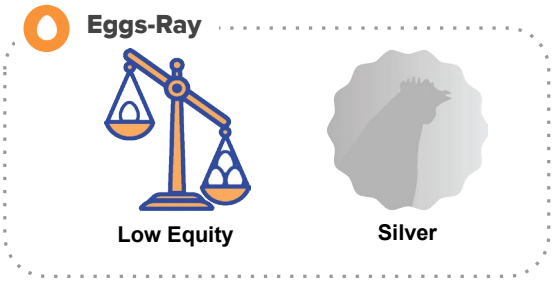
Original year global commitment was made: 2016

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

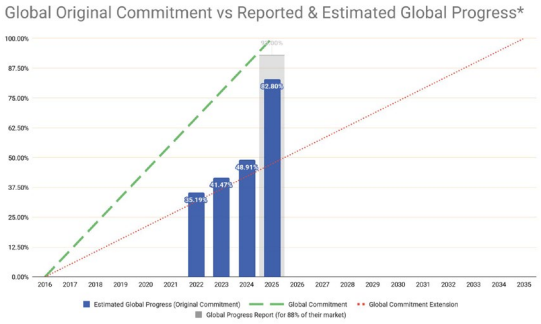
Original scope: Shell, processed and liquid eggs

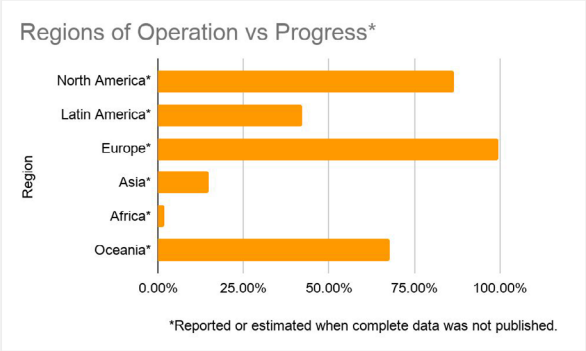
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

Commitment extension:
-Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Israel and Turkey: 100% CF by 2030
-Globally: 100% CF by 2035



Because Sodexo's reported global figure accounted for 88% of their market, the overall global total was adjusted in the evaluation to more accurately reflect progress against the original commitment.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.
- Clear country by country reporting.
- Has clear roadmaps/timelines that outline progress towards 100% fulfillment per country.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to demonstrate greater equity by advancing in Asia and Latin America countries as well as France.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).

Latest public report available: LINK

Starbucks

Company Profile

Sector: Restaurant

No complete global commitment

Original year partial global commitment was made: 2018

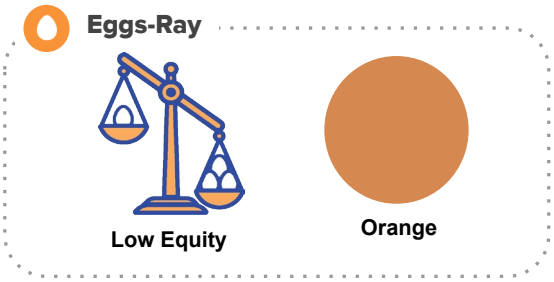
Original partial global commitment deadline: 2020

Partial scope: All eggs in company-operated stores

Regions where the company has stores: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

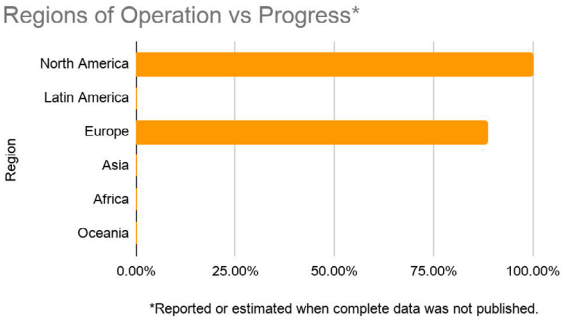
Other cage-free egg commitments (mostly licensed):

- UK: 100% CF by 2026
-Latin America (Alsea): 100% CF by 2025 - Extended to 2030
-South Korea: 100% CF by 2029
-Australia & New Zealand 100% CF by 2025



Starbucks' 2025 Annual Report shows company-operated stores make up 52% of locations, while 48% are licensed stores outside its "global" cage-free policy. Without comprehensive policies and progress reports for these licensed locations, their true global egg footprint remains unclear. Companies must ensure consistent animal-welfare standards across their entire operational footprint just as they do for all other brand standards.





Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Met 100% cage-free commitment for North America and Europe regions by 2025 deadline.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Set a concrete deadline for cage-free fulfillment in Asia (China & Japan).
- Must publish roadmaps for all regions including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and LATAM markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits).
- Re-establish open and stronger communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Subway

Company Profile

Sector: Restaurant

No complete global commitment.

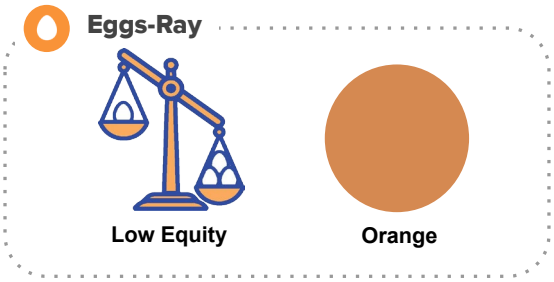
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania, Africa

Other cage-free egg commitments:

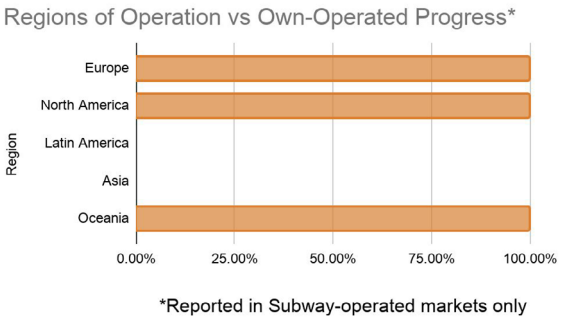
- NA, LATAM, Asia: 100% CF by 2025.
- Australia: 100% CF since 2014.
- NZ/Europe 100% CF since 2017.

*Due to the fact that the majority of Subway restaurants are managed by independent franchisees, yet their cage-free commitment is only applicable to Subway-operated restaurants, there is a lack of clarity and accuracy in the reported cage-free progress. It is unclear how many Subway locations are actually 100% cage-free given the lack of communication and transparency around this.

Without comprehensive policies and progress reports for these franchised locations, Subway's true global egg footprint remains unclear. Companies must ensure consistent animal-welfare standards across their entire operational footprint just as they do for all other brand standards.







*Reported in Subway-operated markets only

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Met 100% cage-free commitment for North America and Oceania regions of operation.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Report progress in Asia countries under their original commitment.
- Must publish roadmaps for all regions of operation including timeline and major milestones to reach 100%.
- Needs to establish open dialogue & communication with NGOs.

Latest public report available: LINK

Toridoll Holdings

Company Profile

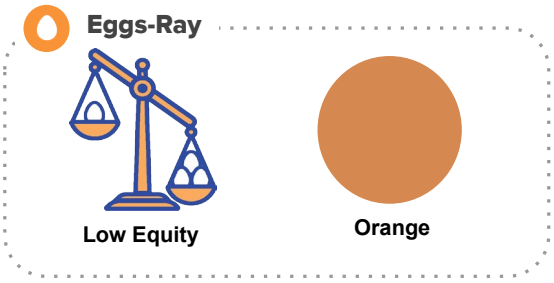
Sector: Restaurant

Original year global commitment was made*: 2022

Original global commitment deadline*: 2030

Original scope: shell and liquid eggs, eggs as ingredient

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia



***Their global commitment excludes Japan. However they have publicly pledged to also advance their procurement in the country as follows:** 4.5% CF by 2026 with subsequent increases to the target.





Toridoll Holdings provides reporting limited to a subset of its restaurants in specific countries, making it impossible to estimate their global cage-free progress. Furthermore, while they pledge annual cage-free procurement increases in Japan, their actual progress remains unclear.

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Asia-based company with a global commitment covering all operations (separate commitment for Japan).
- Conducts dialogue with NGOs.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to report global and regional progress.
- Clear, transparent progress reports for Japan that include what percentage has actually been fulfilled.
- Should publish a more ambitious, long-term goal for operations in Japan.

Latest public report available: LINK

Unilever

Company Profile

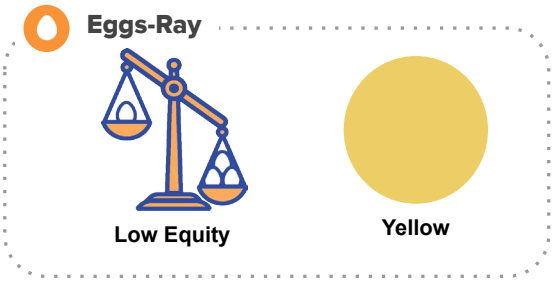
Sector: Consumer Packaged Goods

Original year global commitment was made: 2018

Original global commitment deadline: 2025

Original scope: Eggs as ingredients

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania



Despite claiming to 'take concerns about animal welfare extremely seriously,' Unilever abandoned its cage-free commitment in 2024. While public reports highlight historical progress and fulfilled commitments in Europe and North America, data reveals limited progress in the Latin American and Asian markets. Adding to this discrepancy, Unilever previously reported 100% fulfillment in Africa for FY2024, but has since removed all mention of this progress from its website.



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- They had a strong regional reporting and clear global progress reporting.
- Have fulfilled commitment in three regions (Africa, North America & Europe) already.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Re-instate global cage-free commitment and set a deadline.
- Re-establish open and stronger communication with NGOs.
- Should make progress and close the gap in Asia and Latin America markets by utilizing Impact Incentives (cage-free credits) as told to stakeholders in their 'Animal Welfare 2024 Progress Report'

Latest public report available: LINK

Walmart

Company Profile

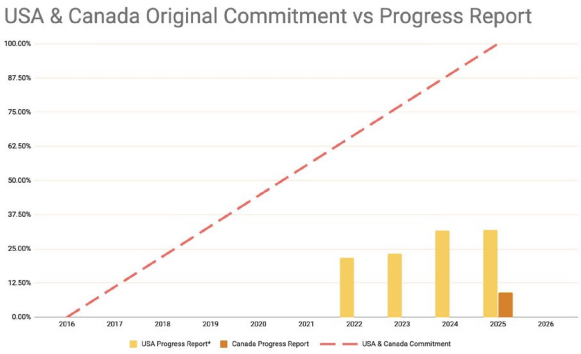
Sector: Retail

No complete global commitment.

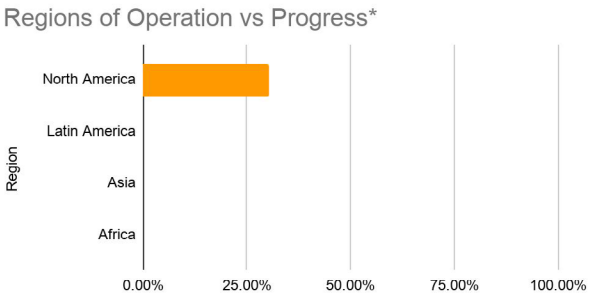
Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America

Other cage-free egg commitments:
- In 2016 U.S.A & Canada: 100% CFE supply chain by 2025





*Estimated based on reported data (SAM's + Walmart stores)



*Estimated based on public available data of progress and footprint

Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

- Clear progress reporting between Walmart & Sam's club.
- Open, positive, and solutions-oriented dialogue with NGOs.

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Expand current North America only commitment to global commitment.
- Establish clear roadmaps to fulfill 100% cage-free in all regions of operation for Walmart & Sam's Club.
- Has missed deadline and needs to advance implementation in North America.

Latest public report available (U.S.A): LINK

Latest public report available (Canada): LINK

YUM! Brands

Company Profile

Sector: Restaurant

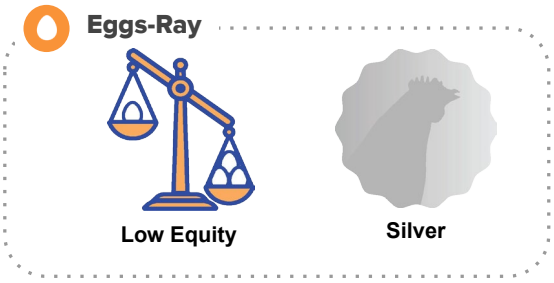
Original year global commitment was made: 2021

Original global commitment deadline: 2030

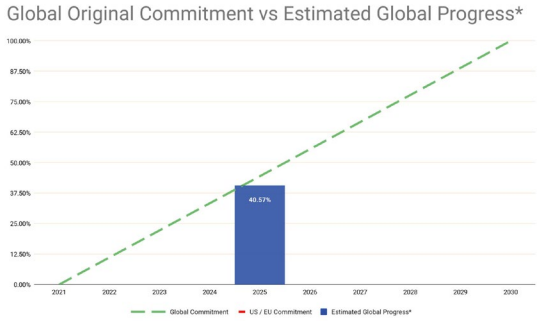
Original scope: All eggs

Regions where the company operates and uses eggs: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Oceania

Other cage-free egg commitments:
-100% CFE across at least 25,000 restaurants, including the U.S., Western Europe and other leading markets by 2026



The 2026 commitment language lacks clarity due to the phrase "other leading markets" which is undefined. Additionally, reporting by store count fails to accurately represent the true egg footprint, obscuring regional progress outside of the US and Western Europe.



*Estimated based on reported data and footprint



Strengths

Key areas where the company demonstrates leadership, transparency, and positive commitment:

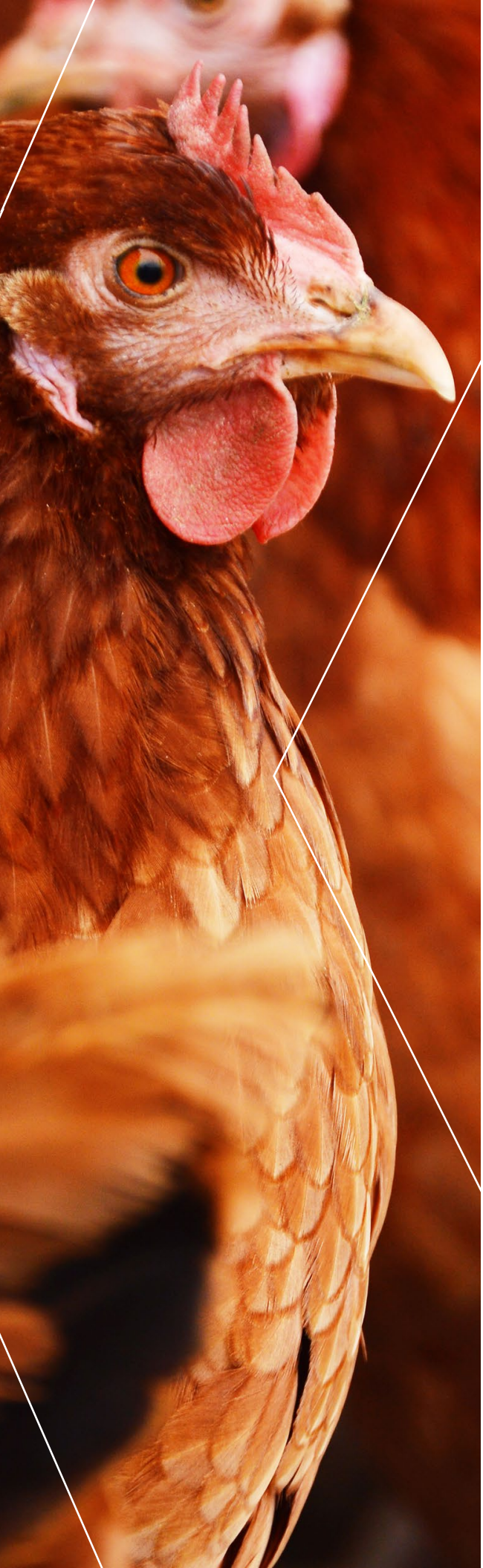
- 99% progress in their 2026 commitment

Areas of opportunity

Strategic opportunities to improve hen welfare standards and accelerate progress:

- Needs to keep open dialogue & communication with NGOs.
- Needs to disclose overall global volume progress numbers.
- Disclose regional progress for all regions of operation.
- Must publish roadmaps for all regions outside Global North, including timelines and major milestones to reach 100%.

Latest public report available: LINK



Conclusions and Call to Action

As discussed throughout this report, our aim is to give the public a clear, consistent picture of corporate progress toward stronger animal welfare standards worldwide. We recognize companies that have made meaningful progress and highlight where the industry must do more, especially to ensure commitments are fully, transparently, and equitably implemented across all markets.

The achievements highlighted here, including those of companies that have achieved full global compliance or are nearing the end of their transition, show that eliminating battery cages is possible across retail, hospitality, food service, and quick-service restaurants. Their progress demonstrates the importance of planning ahead, working closely with suppliers, and providing clear leadership across regions.

However, much remains to be done. Regional disparities are a particular concern: more than 70% of the companies evaluated either demonstrate limited regional equity or fail to report transparently in developing markets. Companies should apply consistent standards across all markets and report progress in Latin America, Asia, and Africa as clearly as they do in North America and Western Europe. Animals everywhere deserve the same welfare protections, and consumers worldwide deserve clear information and reliable reporting.

Accountability must also extend beyond whole shell eggs. Effective, lasting welfare policies should cover every egg category, including liquid, frozen, and powdered eggs, as well as processed ingredients. International franchisors and hospitality groups should ensure their commitments apply throughout their brand footprint, including franchised, licensed, and joint-venture locations.

Mercy For Animals shares these findings as a starting point for dialogue and action. They complement work published by peer NGOs by identifying specific technical priorities and setting out a clear path to further progress.

Our organization remains committed to working with corporate leaders who are ready to act, offering guidance and constructive support as they develop binding roadmaps and fulfill their public commitments to a more compassionate global food system.

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