



FAIR & FOWL

2026 CAGE-FREE EGG REPORT

**The global shift to cage-free eggs:
Who's leading, and who's lagging?**

INTRODUCTION

The State of the Food Industry

From 2015 to 2022, a wave of the world's largest food companies—from hotel chains and contract caterers to manufacturers, restaurant groups, and supermarket retailers—made public promises to eliminate cages from their egg supply chains within a decade. Those ten years are now up. As *Forbes* reports, [2025 marked the single largest deadline year for cage-free egg commitments in the history of the global food industry](#).

A cage-free commitment is a company's public pledge to source 100% of its eggs from hens housed outside of battery and enriched and/or colony cages. In these systems, hens are confined to wire crates with less floor space than a standard sheet of paper. Cage-free pledges are not aspirational goals. They are achievable, time-bound, public-facing obligations that carry the full weight of a company's credibility.

The results are clear. As of July 2025, [92%](#) of cage-free egg commitments with deadlines of 2024 or earlier have been fulfilled, up from 89% the year prior. More than [2,800](#) companies worldwide have pledged to go cage-free. [The Cheesecake Factory](#) eliminated cages six years ahead of schedule. [Caffè Nero](#) hit its goal ahead of its 2026 deadline. [Viking Cruises](#) reached full global compliance within a year of publishing its commitment. **The companies that have acted decisively are now the standard the rest of the industry will be measured against.**

The Transparency Gap

Making a commitment is not the same as delivering on one.

A number of companies earned the reputational value of a cage-free pledge only to let their deadlines pass without disclosing progress or publishing any plan for compliance. Some have gone further, silently removing deadlines from sustainability pages or ceasing to report altogether. This practice is known as [greenhushing or humanewashing](#).

The contrast between leaders and laggards is stark. While leaders such as Cathay Pacific reported openly and fulfilled its commitment, Norwegian Cruise Line, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Grupo Bimbo, Le Pain Quotidien, and Aldi Süd are all failing to meet the terms of their commitments. Others declined to update their data at all despite requests from The Humane League and other animal protection organizations.

Consumers—particularly Gen Z and millennial buyers—demand measurable progress, not vague intent. A full [72%](#) of Gen Z shoppers look for animal welfare as a value when choosing food. A missed deadline is recoverable if a company publishes a revised, transparent roadmap. A disappeared commitment is not. Every company in this report was given an equitable opportunity to update its data before publication. Those that were transparent—and those that chose silence—are reflected accordingly.



METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

Company data was gathered using [ChickenWatch](#) records, publicly available corporate disclosures, and sustainability reports. Rankings reflect what each company has made available to its stakeholders, the same information accessible to consumers, investors, and civil society.

EARLY BIRDS

Companies reporting meaningful cage-free progress by fulfilling their commitment, reporting progress on regional levels, and/or demonstrating clear steps to fulfill their commitments in emerging markets.

BAD EGGS

Companies not taking meaningful steps to fulfill their cage-free commitment and/or not reporting comprehensively.

✔ Company fulfilled its cage-free commitment



HOSPITALITY

State of the Sector

The hospitality sector operates one of the most multifaceted cage-free supply chains in the food industry. Hotel groups and cruise lines source eggs across dozens—sometimes hundreds—of countries, navigating fragmented supplier networks, franchise-heavy business models, and uneven cage-free infrastructure from market to market.

Yet the sector has also produced some of the movement's clearest success stories. [Viking Cruises](#) reached 100% cage-free sourcing globally by early 2025, and peers such as [Melco Resorts, Capella Hotel Group and Aman Resorts](#) have also fully eliminated cages worldwide.

Consumer expectations are accelerating the pressure. More than [86%](#) of people around the world agree that the welfare of farmed animals in their country is important to them, raising the reputational stakes for any hospitality brand still relying on caged supply.





EARLY BIRDS

1	Royal Caribbean Group	✓
2	Viking Cruises	✓
3	Melco Resorts	✓
4	Capella Hotel Group	✓
5	Motel One GmbH	✓
6	Starhotels	✓
7	Dorchester Collection	✓
8	Aman Resorts	✓
9	MSC Group	
10	Belmond	
11	Best Western Hotels & Resorts	
12	Carnival Corporation	
13	Club Med	
14	Accor	
15	The Ascott Limited	

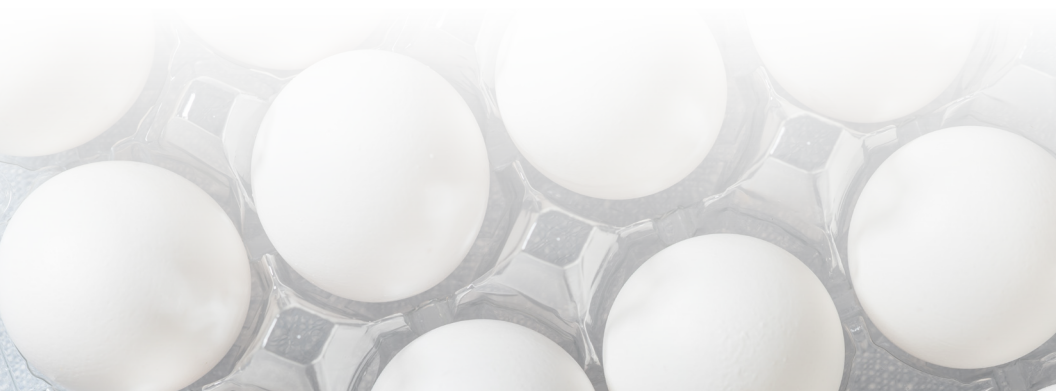
BAD EGGS

1	Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts
2	RIU Hotels & Resorts
3	Kempinski Hotels
4	Marriott International
5	Banyan Tree
6	Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels (HSH)
7	Choice Hotels
8	Barceló Hotel Group
9	Langham Hospitality Group
10	Minor Hotels
11	Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Plc
12	H10 Hotels
13	COMO Hotels and Resorts
14	Wyndham Hotels and Resorts
15	Norwegian Cruise Line



EARLY BIRDS (Continued)

16	Hilton Worldwide
17	Louvre Hotels
18	Meliá Hotels International
19	Las Vegas Sands
20	Mandarin Oriental
21	InterContinental Hotel Group (IHG)
22	Palladium Hotel Group
23	MGM Resorts International
24	Travel + Leisure Co
25	Hyatt Hotels
26	Radisson Hotels





WORST OF THE WORST

 STATUS: CRITICAL

HOTELS

USA

PARTIAL REPORTING

WORST OF THE WORST

LAGGARD

WYNDHAM
HOTELS RESORTS

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts continues to lag behind its peers, reporting only on properties with the option to buy cage-free eggs instead of exclusively sourcing cage-free. This is unacceptable and especially concerning for an organization celebrated as one of the world's most ethical companies by Ethisphere.



vs.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

HOTELS

USA

REPORTING GLOBALLY + REGIONALLY

LEADING THE WAY

BW | **Best Western**
Hotels & Resorts

Best Western is making significant progress toward its commitment by purchasing cage-free egg credits. Through their purchase, Best Western will help expand cage-free egg supply in regions where availability remains limited, while also demonstrating the company's commitment to advancing its cage-free goals.



WORST OF THE WORST

 STATUS: CRITICAL

CRUISES

USA

PARTIAL REPORTING

WORST OF THE WORST

LAGGARD



Not only has Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings diminished its original commitment to only cover shell eggs, which is completely out of line with industry standards; its overall cage-free egg percentage for shell eggs has also dramatically decreased, demonstrating the company's disregard for the suffering of hens in its supply chain.



VS.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

CRUISES

USA

FULFILLED

LEADING THE WAY



Royal
Caribbean
Group

Royal Caribbean Group reached its goal of sourcing 100% cage-free eggs globally for all fresh, frozen, and liquid products, marking a significant milestone in its sustainability journey and setting an example for the larger cruise industry to follow.



FOODSERVICE

State of the Sector

Foodservice companies occupy a unique position in the cage-free transition. Their long-term institutional contracts create the kind of stable, predictable demand that egg suppliers look for to invest in cage-free infrastructure. Companies that locked in cage-free supply agreements early were largely insulated from the 2022–2025 [bird flu crisis](#) that sent conventional egg prices spiking—a concrete demonstration that cage-free sourcing is not just an ethical choice but a strong strategy for supply chain resilience.

The sector shows a widening gap between leaders and laggards. Operators like JetBlue have been 100% cage-free for years, and other companies, such as [Cathay Dining](#), have already met their cage-free target. [Compass Group](#), the world's largest contract caterer, reached 74% globally by September 2025 and 86% across its top markets by December, using [cage-free impact incentives](#) to close gaps in emerging markets. Meanwhile, other operators such as [LSG Group](#) have covertly removed their cage-free policies altogether. The egg supply has now recovered and prices have stabilized. Cage-free laws are in effect in [10 US states](#), with many EU countries already banning the use of cages, the [European Commission](#) will present legislation by the end of 2026 to phase out cages for laying hens, and [South Korea's ban on battery cages](#) is set to begin in 2027. The remaining holdouts face not just reputational risk but also regulatory exposure.





EARLY BIRDS

1	Compass Group	
2	Cathay Dining	✓
3	JetBlue	✓
4	Sodexo	
5	Delaware North	
6	SSP Group	
7	Gategroup	
8	DO&CO	
9	International Service System (ISS)	



BAD EGGS

1	Elior
2	Newrest
3	Aramark
4	Cebu Pacific
5	LSG Group





WORST OF THE WORST

 STATUS: CRITICAL

FOODSERVICE

GERMANY

REMOVED COMMITMENT

WORST OF THE WORST

LAGGARD

LSGgroup

LSG Group, comprising of SkyChefs and Retail inMotion, made its global 100% cage-free commitment in 2023, but then dropped its commitment completely. With its original deadline of 2025 passed, the company needs to reinstate its commitment with a new timeline and publicly disclose its current progress status.



VS.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

FOODSERVICE

UK

REPORTING GLOBALLY + REGIONALLY

LEADING THE WAY



Compass Group continues to report global and regional progress and to engage positively about its cage-free transition. It has achieved 100% cage-free status across Europe and the Middle East. In the US, it is making significant progress, and in Asia, it is driving meaningful cage-free initiatives and have purchased cage-free egg credits, helping to drive progress in the region.



MANUFACTURERS

State of the Sector

Food manufacturers sit at the intersection of consumer trust and supply-chain scale. As the companies behind the consumer packaged goods (CPGs) that fill grocery store shelves, kitchen pantries, and school lunchboxes, their sourcing decisions land directly in consumers' hands — making every egg procurement choice a brand decision, whether a company treats it that way or not. Roughly [31%](#) of all eggs in the US—and a similar percentage [global-ly](#)—are processed into egg products primarily for use by manufacturers, giving this sector an outsized footprint in the cage-free transition.

The competitive pressure is intensifying. Brands that align with consumer demand for quality and ethical sourcing are gaining market share from other manufacturers that treat these practices as optional. According to a 2026 report, consumers are pursuing [“greater value and food with higher perceived benefits.”](#) Products with ESG-related claims on packaging averaged [28%](#) cumulative growth over five years versus 20% without them. An unfulfilled cage-free commitment undermines a company's ESG narrative and hands a competitive advantage to every brand that does follow through.





EARLY BIRDS

1	Groupe Savencia	✓
2	Vicky Foods	✓
3	Reina Group	✓
4	Dr. Schär	✓
5	Dr. Oetker	✓
6	Groupe Pasquier	✓
7	Kėdainių konservų fabrikas	✓
8	Barilla Group	✓
9	Danone	✓
10	Giovanni Rana	✓
11	Rians	✓
12	Arla Foods	✓
13	Carma	✓
14	Gū Puds	✓
15	Hotel Chocolat	✓

BAD EGGS

1	Grupo Bimbo
2	Kellanova
3	Jacquet Brossard
4	Mondelez International
5	Kraft-Heinz
6	Divella
7	Puratos
8	Havanna
9	McCormick
10	Igreca
11	Unilever



EARLY BIRDS (Continued)

16	Loc Maria Biscuits	✓
17	Mette Munk	✓
18	Papadopoulos S.A.	✓
19	Pierre Hermé	✓
20	Soréal Ilou	✓
21	MBRF Global Foods Company	✓
22	Cepêra	✓
23	The Hershey Company	✓
24	Hain Celestial Group	✓
25	Hormel Foods	✓
26	Open Farm	✓
27	Ferrero Group	
28	Cerealto Siro	
29	ARYZTA	
30	Lactalis Group	

31	Lindt & Sprüngli
32	Groupe Pomona
33	Baker & Baker
34	Kewpie
35	Otoki (FKA Ottogi)
36	Nestlé
37	Ebro Foods
38	Vivescia (FKA Nutrixo)
39	Colombina
40	Europastry
41	Condito
42	General Mills
43	McCain
44	PepsiCo
45	Orkla
46	Associated British Foods



WORST OF THE WORST

STATUS: CRITICAL

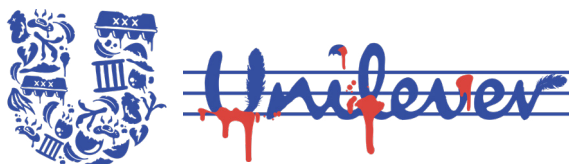
MANUFACTURER

UK

PARTIAL REPORTING

WORST OF THE WORST

LAGGARD



Completely out of line of all the companies above that are making progress on their cage-free egg commitments, Unilever has publicly abandoned their global cage-free egg commitment. It went from championing the End the Cage Age campaign to now restricting its cage-free efforts to North America and Europe, showing complete lack of global equity and betraying millions of hens in its supply chain. The public demands that Unilever reinstate its 100% global cage-free egg commitment across all regions and publish a transparent action plan. But it continues to refuse, ignoring the promise it made to hens and to the public.



vs.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

MANUFACTURER

LUXEMBOURG

REPORTING GLOBALLY + REGIONALLY

LEADING THE WAY

FERRERO

Ferrero has reported significant progress in its global cage-free egg transition. It has been 100% cage-free in the EU since 2014, and have now also reached 100% in Mexico and Turkey. The remaining transition relates to its newly acquired US business, which has set a clear timeline for full completion by 2028.



RESTAURANTS

State of the Sector

The global restaurant industry is expected to grow to [\\$3.95 trillion](#) by 2030—with a [\\$1.55 trillion](#) market in the US alone—under pressure from every direction. Persistent inflation, tightening consumer budgets, and a sharp generational focus on food quality mean that every sourcing decision carries reputational risk. Diners are already pulling back. Among consumers planning to reduce their restaurant spending, [nearly three-quarters intend to cut by up to half](#). In that environment, a broken cage-free sourcing promise means people might take their wallets elsewhere.

Cage-free eggs have become the industry baseline, not a differentiator. [Caffè Nero](#) achieved 100% cage-free status ahead of its 2026 deadline. [Pizza Express](#) transitioned to 100% cage-free eggs across its [entire global supply chain](#), the UK, Republic of Ireland, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Macau, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Yet a number of chains have not yet reported progress or have fallen behind in their reporting cadence, such as Panda Express, Krispy Kreme, Le Pain Quotidien, illy, Shake Shack, and Au Bon Pain. With the majority of major restaurant companies already cage-free or on track to be, the holdouts are choosing to fall behind an established industry standard.





EARLY BIRDS

1	Famous Brands Group	✓
2	Groupe Holder	✓
3	Pizza Express	✓
4	Caffè Nero	✓
5	Joe & The Juice	✓
6	Columbus Café & Co	✓
7	The Cheesecake Factory	✓
8	Pret A Manger	
9	International Dairy Queen	
10	Wagamama	
11	Groupe Le Duff	
12	Bloomin Brands	
13	BigChefs	
14	Spur Corporation	
15	Lai Sun Dining	

BAD EGGS

1	Costa Coffee
2	Panda Express
3	Krispy Kreme
4	Caribou Coffee
5	CKE Restaurants
6	Papa Johns International
7	Starbucks
8	illy
9	Shake Shack
10	Alsea
11	Inspire Brands
12	GoTo Foods
13	Retail Food Group
14	Au Bon Pain
15	Le Pain Quotidien



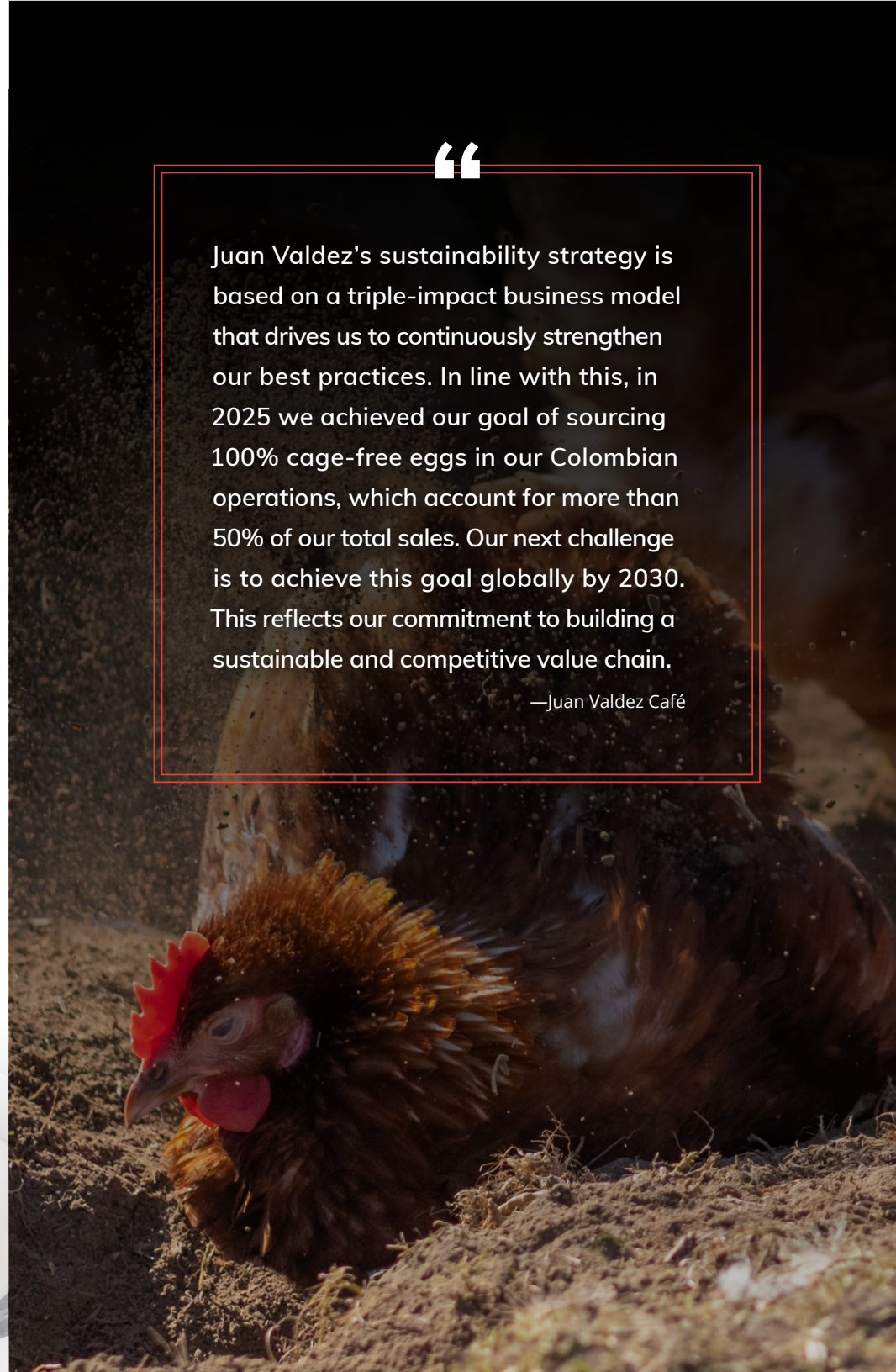
EARLY BIRDS (Continued)

16	Vapiano SE
17	Nandos
18	Food Delivery Brands
19	Restaurant Brands International (RBI)
20	Brinker International
21	Minor Food
22	Toridoll
23	Jollibee
24	JDE Peet's
25	Juan Valdez Café
26	YUM! Brands
27	Darden Restaurants

“

Juan Valdez's sustainability strategy is based on a triple-impact business model that drives us to continuously strengthen our best practices. In line with this, in 2025 we achieved our goal of sourcing 100% cage-free eggs in our Colombian operations, which account for more than 50% of our total sales. Our next challenge is to achieve this goal globally by 2030. This reflects our commitment to building a sustainable and competitive value chain.

—Juan Valdez Café





WORST OF THE WORST

 STATUS: CRITICAL

RESTAURANT

USA

NOT REPORTING

WORST OF THE WORST

LAGGARD



Le Pain Quotidien made a public commitment to achieve a 100% cage-free supply chain by 2025. However, it has not only missed that deadline, but also continue to provide no public reporting on its progress, ignoring the promise it made to consumers.



VS.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

RESTAURANT

UK

FULFILLED

LEADING THE WAY



Pizza Express fulfilled its global cage-free egg commitment, reaching 100% cage-free eggs across its entire supply chain. They have met their original timeline and the expectations of its consumers, and are leading the way in the restaurant sector. It has purchased egg credits in countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Macau, and Saudi Arabia, driving progress in these markets.



RETAIL

State of the Sector

Retailers are the most visible link between cage-free commitments and consumers. About **78%** of all eggs globally—and **55%** of all US eggs—are sold through retail, meaning supermarket sourcing decisions directly shape what lands in shoppers' carts. As consumers shift toward a holistic definition of value that incorporates transparency and trust alongside price and quality, retailers who can't demonstrate follow-through on public sourcing commitments face a credibility gap.

The sector is split. **Lagardère Travel Retail** has fully cage-free store-brand eggs, as does **REWE Group** in all countries except Hungary. **Ahold Delhaize** has published detailed year-by-year roadmaps. **Target** has released an updated commitment with a 2030 timeline and clear progress reporting. On the other end, Aldi Süd is failing to publish reports of any regional progress toward cage-free status, and SPAR Group is similarly providing only partial reporting. With nearly **half** the US laying flock already cage-free and cage-free egg prices coming down in 2026, the supply-side arguments for delay are eroding fast. Globally, cage-free is becoming the norm: By July 2025, **92%** of cage-free commitments due in 2024 or earlier had been fulfilled, including 96% in Europe, 90% in Latin America, 86% in Asia, 94% in Oceania, and 88% in Africa. With cage-free capacity expanding in Brazil, China, and Malaysia, retailers with international footprints have diminishing grounds to treat cage-free sourcing as a solely North American or European proposition.





EARLY BIRDS

1	Lagardère Travel Retail	✓
2	Marks and Spencer	✓
3	Valora	✓
4	Jeff de Bruges	✓
5	REWE Group	
6	Alimentation Couche-Tard	✓
7	Costco	
8	Carrefour	
9	Grupo Dia	
10	IKEA	
11	Lidl	
12	Metro AG	
13	Majid Al Futtaim	

BAD EGGS

1	SPAR Group Ltd
2	Aldi Süd



Animal welfare is an important part of REWE Group's sustainability approach. The progress we have made in advancing cage-free egg sourcing has been achieved through close cooperation with our country organisations, suppliers and other stakeholders across the value chain. We believe that transparency, continuous improvement and constructive dialogue are important elements in driving positive change. Together with our partners, we remain committed to further advancing responsible sourcing practices and supporting higher animal welfare standards over time.

—Andreas W. Streit, Head of Sustainability
REWE International AG



WORST OF THE WORST

 STATUS: CRITICAL

RETAIL

GERMANY

NEEDS GLIDE PATH

WORST OF THE WORST

LAGGARD



Aldi Süd has not reported any global cage-free progress since 2023 and continues to exclude several markets from its reporting (Hungary, the USA, and China), despite its 2025 timeline (to achieve 100% cage-free globally). It has been asked to publish a comprehensive progress update and a clear plan of action to reach 100% cage-free for all operations, but instead it has chosen to ignore the promise it made to hens and the public, casting serious doubt on its corporate responsibility, credibility, and willingness to follow through.



VS.

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

RETAIL

GERMANY

REPORTING GLOBALLY + REGIONALLY

LEADING THE WAY

REWE 
GROUP

REWE Group has reported significant progress in its cage-free egg transition, having reached 100% cage-free in all of its markets of operation except Hungary. It is transparent about progress, keen to work collaboratively, and making good progress in Hungary too, with a clear timeline set for full completion by 2028.

INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS

A global cage-free transition is achievable. The companies ranked in this report that ranked highest made cage-free commitments and then they built systems to deliver on them. For companies that have fallen behind or are navigating complex global supply chains, the path forward is clear: **publish a roadmap, close infrastructure gaps with proven tools, and engage with the Open Wing Alliance.**



1

Build a Cage-Free Roadmap

A [cage-free roadmap](#) is a public-facing, time-bound, step-by-step plan that establishes how and when a company will reach 100% cage-free sourcing. Effective roadmaps include interim volume benchmarks, year-by-year targets, supplier engagement strategies, and regular public reporting on progress.

Companies such as [Ahold Delhaize](#) have demonstrated what best-practice disclosure looks like, with detailed timelines, clear metrics, and defined steps that hold the company accountable to its own stakeholders. A missed deadline paired with a credible, transparent roadmap is recoverable. A missed deadline with no plan is not.

2

Leverage Cage-Free Credits

For companies operating in regions where cage-free infrastructure is still developing, [impact incentives](#)—a cage-free credit system developed by [Global Food Partners](#)—offer a practical path to compliance. The system works on a book-and-claim model: Companies purchase credits that fund cage-free producers directly, offsetting the higher costs of transitioning facilities in emerging markets. The result is immediate, verifiable progress toward a company's commitment while simultaneously expanding cage-free supply capacity in regions that need it most. [Compass Group](#), [Lagardère](#), [Pizza Express](#), and [Best Western](#) have already adopted [impact incentives](#), and their rankings in this report reflect it.

3

Partner With Us

[The Open Wing Alliance](#) is a global coalition of [80+ animal protection organizations](#) working across six continents to end the use of cages in the egg industry. Founded in 2016 by [The Humane League](#), the OWA has driven more than 2,750 corporate cage-free commitments and monitors compliance. We work with companies at every stage—from drafting initial commitments to building roadmaps, connecting with cage-free suppliers, and implementing impact incentives in challenging markets.



CONTACT US

Companies seeking to improve their standing in future editions of this report, or to begin their cage-free transition, can reach out to the Open Wing Alliance at report@openwingalliance.org.

