



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were mixed, but mostly trending unchanged for next week's trading. Trade sentiment was generally steady in the West, steady to weak elsewhere. Retail demand was light to moderate with some improvements noted entering the weekend and expected for next week. Food service was fair to fairly good, best into fast food channels and for catering services. Supplies were balanced to ample and even at discounted levels were still slow to clear in some areas. In the parts structure, demand for breast items was mixed with bone in breasts longest, but boneless skinless better balanced. The remaining items were usually sufficient with light to fair movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/20-12/25/99 (cents per lb)

AREAS	US GRADE A (Including branded product)		COMPOSITE	
	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Bos/New Eng	TFEWR	—		
Chicago	49.00-52.00	48.00-61.00	51.88	25
Cincinnati	TFEWR	—		
Cleveland	TFEWR	—		
Denver	63.50	—		
Detroit	TFEWR	—		
Los Angeles	64.00	—		
New York	49.00-54.00	—		
Philadelphia	TFEWR	—		
Pittsburgh	TFEWR	—		
St. Louis	TFEWR	—		
San Francisco	64.50	—		
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	57.00-59.00	40.50-59.50	57.71	82

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 58.50 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
554	53.79-61.00	58.22

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
BREASTS - B/S	135.00	3,897
BREASTS - WHOLE	69.50	1,590
THIGH MEAT - B/S	70.00	544
LEG QUARTERS	20.00	7,382
WINGS	76.00	2,782

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady at best. Demand was fair to good, best for food service accounts, as holiday parties, consumer shopping, and specials continue to aid movement. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was slow for breast items with supplies adequate to ample; however, dark meat items were adequate to close balanced and showing good movement. Wings were more available with only fair interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices remained unchanged. The market tone was generally steady on regular commitments. Offerings ample for full trade needs, and slow to clear. Surplus product offered at sharp discounts but little interest noted for additional product. Buyers needs only fair. Demand by stores light to moderate best to cover features, restaurants moderate overall. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. Trade sentiment was generally steady on leg quarters and barely steady on breasts with bone-in product in the weakest position.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's trading were unchanged into Chicago and TFEWR elsewhere. Trade sentiment on whole fryers was steady to barely steady, instances weak. Offerings of whole birds easily satisfied trade needs. Retail demand was light to fair at best. Food service movement was fairly good, best into catering and fast food accounts. Floor stocks were at least adequate, instances ample, sizes desirable. Parts trading slow to light, wings the best call. Supplies of all parts were adequate to fully adequate. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak on whole breasts, balance of items steady.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly fair entering the weekend. Offerings were more than sufficient for trade needs. Retail and dsistributive movement was light to fair. The market tone was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, all items were at least adequate, with bone-in breast in the longest position.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds increased entering the weekend and was seasonally moderate. Offerings remained fully sufficient and were competitively priced in several instances. Live supplies were moderate; weights were in a range of light to heavy, mostly desirable to light. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 54 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment remained barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, all items were at least adequate. Boneless skinless breasts were in better balance; however, bone-in breasts were competitively priced to clear.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	45-66
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	56.56
NO. OF BOXES	9,163
CUMULATIVE	56.44
	12/13/99-12/17/99
	12/14/98-12/18/98
NO. OF BOXES	59.31
	12/13/99-12/17/99
	12/14/98-12/18/98
	43,094
	32,103

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

DEC 16, 1999

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DEC 17, 1999

ITEM	POUNDS			WTD AVG	POUNDS			WTD AVG	WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY		(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	552	118.00-183.00	120-130	131.69	640	118.00-183.00	120-130	133.97	2,841	134.14
TENDERLOINS	90	125.00-165.00	130-135	136.67	183	125.00-200.00	125-130	165.33	783	149.69
BREAST - LINE RUN	147	66.00-73.00	66-68	69.81	75	66.00-73.00	67-68	66.75	471	68.32
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				353	59.22
LEGS	49	24.00-34.00	24-26	25.84	49	25.00-34.00	26-27	26.65	243	25.93
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	426	15.00-19.00	15-16	15.90	506	15.50-19.00	16-17	16.47	2,476	16.36
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,197	17.00-21.00	19-20	19.53	1,257	17.50-21.00	19-20	19.71	6,027	19.62
WINGS (WHOLE)	93	72.00-77.00	72-75	73.18	93	72.00-77.00	72-75	73.18	484	73.64
WINGS (CUT)	472	80.00-90.00	85-87	85.32	520	80.00-90.00	85-88	85.42	2,128	85.50
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				160	34.00
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				268	34.00
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				312	64.62

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
 TRADING FOR DEC 16, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

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 TRADING FOR DEC 17, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
36.00 - 40.50	38.49	33.75 - 40.50	37.15	37.82

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying interest generally fair, with some improvements noted entering the weekend. Offerings were more than sufficient for trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was light. The market tone was barely steady to weak for bone-in breast. Wings were available and slow to clear. Other items were generally about steady.

PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	DEC 16, 1999			DEC 17, 1999			WEEKLY		
	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	125-130	135.36	339,240	125-130	132.68	584,600	133.72	2,126,080	
TENDERLOINS	125	128.82	93,440	125	130.13	146,600	131.35	465,840	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	59-60	68.99	257,040	59-60	66.57	268,440	69.17	1,135,400	
BREAST - LINE RUN	59	59.45	198,000	59	58.16	191,880	60.73	802,320	
LEGS	26-27	29.49	195,240	26-27	28.89	199,800	29.73	871,160	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.61	369,226	16-17	20.20	630,400	19.12	2,307,079	
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	32.40	110,570	34-35	31.83	169,400	32.17	570,860	
THIGHS	21-22	28.83	84,760	21-22	29.24	92,080	28.21	421,720	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	73.42	50,520	70-71	73.85	60,640	73.59	218,420	
WINGS (WHOLE)	71-72	80.75	227,280	71-72	79.67	284,440	80.51	1,070,520	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.98	63,000	10-12	12.03	85,160	12.00	298,080	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	40-45	39.78	52,080	40-45	39.96	59,400	39.69	227,095	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	64.91	84,840	55-60	64.96	101,920	64.76	381,120	

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		AVG WTS	
	12/17	12/16	12/15	12/14	12/15	12/14	12/10	12/08
ALA	3,633	3,794	3,898	3,816	5.17	5.08	4,047	5.20
ARK	5,367	5,120	5,224	4,927	4.78	4.84	5,747	4.90
DELMARVA	2,347	2,385	2,473	2,063	5.24	5.30	2,165	5.01
KY-LA-TN	1,763	1,897	1,806	1,839	4.59	4.59	1,554	4.47
MISS	3,300	2,766	2,781	2,385	4.97	4.99	3,219	4.99
NC	2,756	2,513	2,542	2,557	5.78	5.90	2,612	5.82
TEXAS	2,730	2,195	2,096	1,911	4.87	4.74	2,686	4.83
TOTAL	21,896	20,670	19,355	19,498	5.05	5.06	22,030	5.06

MON-FRI 102,479(A)

102,238(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 17-Dec and 18-Dec-99 is estimated to be 32,759,000 down 0.90 percent from a week ago and down 9.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 33,058,000; last year 36,345,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 18-Dec-99 is estimated to be 154,663,000 head up 2.1

percent from a week ago, and unchanged percent from a year ago

(Last week 151,438,000 Last year 154,374,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	78-82
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	88
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	309
RABBITS-CUT UP	326

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104
	ICE PACK	92-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	98
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-162

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live weight, week ending Dec. 04, 1999 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service	(B) Retail	(C) Deboning
	4.20 Lbs & down	4.21-5.25 Lbs	5.26 Lbs & Up
-----THOUSANDS-----			

Head	36,769	32,291	42,819
Avg Weight	3.86	4.83	6.17
% of total /1	33%	29%	38%

COMPARISONS

Last week	26,456	25,637	33,432
Avg Weight	3.79	4.88	6.07
% of total /1	31%	30%	39%
Same week, yr ago /2	27,051	21,101	32,849
Avg Weight	3.88	4.85	6.25
% of total /1	33%	26%	41%
To date/1999	1,529,572	1,487,372	1,947,742
To date/1998	1,609,708	1,701,820	1,442,356

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 11-Dec-99 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
-----THOUSANDS-----					
HEAD	151,438(A)	2,167	1,425	3,592	545
AVG WT	5.01	3.41	7.93	5.20	6.69
LAST WEEK	154,008	2,090	1,439	3,529	489
YR AGO	148,532	2,379	1,277	3,656	469
AVG WT	5.09	3.45	7.83	4.98	6.60
TO-DATE/1999	7,392,751	100,886	69,171	170,057	21,725
TO-DATE/1998	7,149,607	98,806	61,677	160,483	22,045

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 144.1 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 153.3 million head or 9.2 million head more than or 106 percent of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY -- DATE OF AUCTION DEC 07, 1999
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.52 - .68	Silkie	2.00 - 3.00ea
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.52 - .66	Geese 9-14	.30 - .48
Pekin Ducks	.60 - .94	Pigeons	1.75 - 2.50ea
Red Fowl 4-4.5	.50 - .64	White Pigeons	2.25 - 2.75ea
Red Fowl 5-6	.60 - .82	Rabbits 4-6	1.10 - 1.54
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.50 - .94	Rabbits 7-11	.90 - 1.34
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	.60 - .92	Bunnies	1.00 - 5.00ea
Crossbred Roosters 7-11	.50 - .86	Guinea Pigs	4.00 - 8.50ea
Guinea Fowl	2.05 - 2.35	Kid Goats	22.00 - 30.00ea
Banty Roosters	2.00 - 5.50ea	Doves	2.75 - 4.00ea
Banty Hens	2.00 - 3.50ea	Chukars	1.75 - 2.25ea
Leghorn Hens	.12 - .24	Pullets 4-6	.60 - .92
Leghorn Roosters	.30 - .48		

Total Coops Sold 580

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FED-STATE FOR WEEK OF 13-DEC-99
DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
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LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	121-125	122-126
MOSTLY	121-123	122-124

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
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ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	59-60	
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-83	65-71

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA,RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Demand was good. Sizes were desirable to at times heavy. Slaughter schedules were full-time to over-time to make up for the upcoming holidays. Prices to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.65-5.25, legs at \$2.80-2.95, bone in legs at \$1.15-1.70, gizzards at \$1.30-1.40, wings at \$0.40-0.60, and leg quarters at \$1.08-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 13-DEC-1999

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
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MIDWEST AND OTHERS	117-119	118
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 6	156.6	148.3	106	5.12
13	150.2	144.2	104	5.02
20	147.3	140.5	105	4.97
27	111.1	140.3	79	4.97
DECEMBER 4	155.9	143.6	109	5.08
11	153.3	144.1	106	5.01
YEAR TO DATE	7484.2	7399.5	101	
DECEMBER 18		139.5		
25		137.9		

CALIFORNIA PLTRY SLTR UNDER FED. INSP W/E 11-Dec-99

IN THOUSANDS
Broilers 4,127 HD, 21,295 lbs., Light Hens 200 HD, 688 lbs., Heavy Hens 0 HD, 0 lbs.

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

W/E	12/18/99	12/11/99	% CHG	12/12/98	% CHG
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Broilers	154,663	*151,438	+02	*154,374	0
Cattle	677	661	+02	*677	0
Hogs	2,155	1,988	+08	*2,265	-05

Under Federal Inspection

* ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Prices were generally unchanged on light cannery, and unchanged to slightly lower on heavy cannery. Offerings increased on heavy as retail interest slowed. Demand was usually disappointing. Offerings of light cannery were adequate for an unaggressive but moderate demand. The undertone was steady on light cannery but barely steady on heavies.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
25-26 MAJORITY	32.5-34.25 MAJORITY 33-34.25

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
26-27 MAJORITY	31-36.75 MAJORITY 36-36.75

EASTERN LIGHT Prices were unchanged. Demand was slow for fully adequate to ample offerings. Processing schedules were normal for current week but reduced for next week. the undertone was no better than steady.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY HENS Sales were too few to report prices. The undertone was steady to barely steady. Offerings were sufficient for reduced holiday requirements. Demand was only fair as retail business slowed.

NORTH CENTRAL LIVE LIGHT HEN Prices were unchanged. Offerings were adequate to usually ample for needs. Some sellers of spent fowl were seeking alternative sources of disposal. Trade sentiment about steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT Plants worked full schedules. Offerings ample.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

HEAVY	RANGE	MAJORITY
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
Southeast Heavy f.o.b. plant	TFEWR (2)	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
LIGHT	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern Light	0 (1)	
Eastern Light	0 (2)	
So. Central Light	TFEWR (2)	
No. Central Light	TFEWR (1)	
No. Central Light	0-.5 (2)	0
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

NEW YORK SEASONAL HOLIDAY ITEMS. FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 1999.

CAPONS:

Supplies of USDA grade A frozen capons continued in close balance with anticipated needs. Production has been completed and shipments for the December holiday are in progress. Prices were unchanged. Weights were in a full range. Trade sentiment was steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-9 LBS.	1.52-1.65	MOSTLY 1.56
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GEESE:

Supplies of frozen USDA grade A geese were in good balance. Last of the regular December orders are being delivered. Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-8 LBS.	TFEWR
8-10 LBS.	1.62-1.75
10-12 LBS.	1.62-1.75
12 LBS. AND UP	1.62-1.75

*** THIS WILL BE THE LAST HOLIDAY ITEMS REPORT FOR THE SEASON ***

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT