



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was weak in the Northeast, steady to weak, mostly barely steady to weak elsewhere. Retail demand continued to lack interest except where features were noted. Food service was slightly better with fast food promotions aiding movement. Supplies were at least adequate and readily available with attractive pricing to help increase buying interest. In the parts structure, dark meat was balanced with fair movement; however, availability of the remaining items was more than sufficient and continued to outweigh the light demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading declined .25 cents to 57.75 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 61.25 cents last year on the 10th of February, 1999.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)	
BREASTS - B/S	138.50	
BREASTS - WHOLE	70.00	
THIGH MEAT - B/S	77.00	
LEG QUARTERS	20.50	
WINGS	61.00	

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

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 02/05/00	2000	1999
EGGS SET	178,849	178,393
CHICKS PLACED	144,303	139,657
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		0
		+03

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up Slightly

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 179 million eggs during the week ending February 5, 2000. This was up slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 144 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 5, 2000. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through February 5, 2000, were 724 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 18-Mar-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 153.3 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 153.5 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 150.2 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 152.2 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 56.85 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Offerings ample and slow to clear. Buyers' needs just fair. Sharp discounts unable to stimulate interest in extra product. Retail demand was fairly good overall, best to cover features. Floor stocks generally adequate. The market tone was barely steady to weak on breasts and wings, about steady on balance of parts.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Buying interest was slow with little trading. Supplies were more than sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, all items were at least adequate and available with breast items and wings longest. Movement was extremely light to fair. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Whole fryer trade sentiment was steady to weak. Offerings of whole fryers and wogs were at least adequate. Retail movement was mostly light to fair. Food service was in a full range. Retail features in Chicago on leg quarters at 49 and 59 cents. Floor stocks were adequate to instances ample. Sizes ranged desirable to instances heavy. Supplies of parts exceeded demand. Leg quarters were steady, other items were barely steady to steady at best.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was slow and disappointing despite attractive pricing. Offerings continued to exceed current trade requirements. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair. The market tone remained weak. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were in the most available position followed by boneless, skinless breasts and wings. The balance was no better than steady.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally limited to previous commitments with most plants noting typical midweek inactivity. Offerings were readily available and competitively priced to stimulate buyer interest. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were desirable to heavier than desired. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent lower at 46 to 58 cents. Trade sentiment was weak and unsettled. In the parts complex, all items were at least adequate for the very light and highly selective buying interest.

*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	42-63
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	50.47
NO. OF BOXES	6,774

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

FEBRUARY 08, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEBRUARY 09, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	687	112.00-186.00	125-130	132.00
TENDERLOINS	143	110.00-162.00	-	120.22
BREAST - LINE RUN	200	67.00-75.50	67-69	70.40
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	47	28.00-34.00	28-29	28.89
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	388	16.50-19.50	17-18	17.31
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,220	18.50-22.00	21-22	20.97
WINGS (WHOLE)	97	41.00-53.00	44-46	46.73
WINGS (CUT)	432	60.00-78.00	61-63	63.39
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	41	62.00-73.00	-	62.27

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	713	110.00-186.00	120-125	127.47
TENDERLOINS	111	111.00-162.00	115	121.90
BREAST - LINE RUN	108	67.00-76.00	67-69	67.67
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	398	16.50-19.50	16.5-17.5	17.15
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,296	18.50-22.00	21-22	21.01
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	44.00-54.00	-	48.02
WINGS (CUT)	408	55.00-77.00	60-63	62.35
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	41	62.00-73.00	-	62.27

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 08, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
30.75 - 34.00	32.03

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
31.25 - 33.25	31.83	32.39

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 activity was usually disappointing. Offerings were at least adequate to ample with bone-in breasts in the most available position. Discounting on most products continued. Retail and distributive movement was fair at best. The market tone continued weak on breast items and wings and was no better than steady on the balance.

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

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	130-135	137.29	377,160	
TENDERLOINS	110-115	120.11	73,880	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	53-54	69.08	133,160	
BREAST - LINE RUN	53	49.68	111,680	
LEGS	26-27	32.23	268,260	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	19.43	563,171	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	33.76	116,480	
THIGHS	21-22	30.59	91,320	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	73.66	25,400	
WINGS (WHOLE)	52-53	57.98	192,840	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.06	41,680	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.17	48,060	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.62	53,080	

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	130	132.82	342,480	
TENDERLOINS	110-115	119.96	57,760	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	51-52	65.44	166,160	
BREAST - LINE RUN	51	51.05	196,480	
LEGS	26-27	33.30	127,520	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	19.85	370,963	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	35.07	80,960	
THIGHS	21-22	29.42	54,760	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.00	31,320	
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	58.74	197,360	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.07	33,000	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.25	33,960	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.15	50,640	

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE 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	
	02/09	02/08	02/07	02/04	02/07	02/04	02/02	01/31
ALA	3,883	3,870	3,776	5,008	5.06	5.09	3,850	5.18
ARK	5,185	5,216	5,153	5,014	5.05	4.87	5,150	4.95
DELMARVA	2,408	2,336	2,404	2,905	5.37	5.25	2,450	5.37
KY-LA-TN	2,002	2,011	1,979	1,933	4.45	4.33	1,948	4.49
MISS	2,780	2,837	2,811	3,082	5.20	5.09	2,723	5.34
NC	2,631	2,608	2,587	3,748	5.93	6.01	2,523	5.89
TEXAS	2,204	2,194	2,183	2,750	4.85	4.74	2,248	4.86
TOTAL	21,093	21,072	20,893	24,440	5.14	5.08	20,892	5.13
MON-WED	63,463	(A)					60,545	(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 09-Feb 00 is estimated to be 31,557,000 up 0.66 percent from a week ago and up 7.8 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,351,000; last year 29,284,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	77-81
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#		-
HENS OVER 5#		79-88
DUCKS		125
RABBITS-WHOLE		299
RABBITS-CUT UP		316
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-97
	DRY PACK	104-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	95
DUCKS		149-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING FEB -12-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/12/00 (1)	02/05/00
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	160,241 (2)	143,667
LT HENS	1,950	1,912
HVY HENS	1,412	1,279
CHECK TOTAL	163,603	146,858

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 12-Feb-00 is 152.1 million head compared to 152.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 162.2 million head or 10.1 million more than estimated available. For week of 19-Feb-00 the estimated available is 152.5 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS
(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS	LBS	LBS	LBS
AM 7-Feb-00	95,006	72,051		
AM 1-Jan-00	65,047	75,162		
CHG	29,959	-3,111		
PCT CHG	46	-4		

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/07/00	01/31/00	02/08/99	02/07/00	01/31/00	02/08/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	9,010	8,578	20,137	11,263	11,957	13,695
LOS ANGELES	133	146	330	2,984	3,247	7,111

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 02/08/00

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.45	1.00	.78	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.55	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.95	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.30	.70	.50	BANTAMS ea.	-	-
BROILERS lb.	.60	.70	.65	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	5.00
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	2.75
ROOSTERS lb.	.80	1.90	1.21	ROOSTERS ea.	3.00	4.25
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	1.15	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.60	1.10	.84	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.40	1.80	1.31	RABBITS ea.	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.35	4.50
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	7.00	8.25
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	4.25	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	2.50	-			

TOTAL COOPS 98

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2000

	RANGE
HENS ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	58-63
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-66

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 4, 2000

	Whole		Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
RAYON						
Low	67.06	143.70	76.64	23.95	5.75	52.69
High	69.45	153.28	86.22	33.53	7.18	52.69
Mostly	68.50	153.28	86.22	23.95	7.18	52.69
SAN JUAN						
Low	65.14	129.33	81.43	26.34	5.75	52.69
High	68.02	143.70	86.22	38.32	11.97	52.69
Mostly	66.58	136.51	86.22	33.53	8.62	52.69
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	68.02	143.70	76.64	19.16	5.75	52.69
High	69.45	153.28	86.22	28.74	7.18	52.69
Mostly	68.50	143.70	86.22	23.95	7.18	52.69
BECERRA						
Low	65.14	134.12	76.64	23.95	7.18	53.65
High	67.06	141.30	86.22	38.32	11.97	53.65
Mostly	65.14	136.51	81.43	31.13	7.18	53.65

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