



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to firm, mostly steady to fully steady. Retail demand was fair to moderate with some increase in interest for first of the month. Food service was fair to good, best for fast food where promotions were present. Supplies were generally adequate overall with larger weights short in the Northeast. In the parts structure, bone in breasts were in the tightest position and moving well as some buyers paid premiums for needed product. All other items were usually in balance. Trading was light to moderate with numerous retail features for dark meat and breast items reported. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 57.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 59.75 cents last year on the 3rd of March, 1999.

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

DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
BREASTS - B/S	139.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	70.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	78.00
LEG QUARTERS	20.00
WINGS	52.50

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 02/26/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	182,503	181,421	+01
CHICKS PLACED	141,120	142,736	-01

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 183 million eggs during the week ending February 26, 2000. This was up 1 percent 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 Down 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 141 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 26, 2000. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through February 26, 2000, were 1.15 billion, 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 8-Apr-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 150.4 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.9 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 148.8 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 146.3 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 53.62 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was steady to fully steady. Offerings were adequate overall from California growers and out-of-state production areas. Retail demand was moderate to fairly good, best for parts and where featured. Floor stocks generally adequate. Breasts were firm, leg quarters weak and balance of parts generally steady.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Demand was fair to good, best for features and where first of the month business was active. Supplies were balanced to short for trade requirements. In the parts structure, breast items were sufficient to tight with good movement, wings were in better balance and moving, and dark meat items were more than sufficient with light demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Trade sentiment on whole broiler/fryers was steady to instances fully steady. Additional offerings of whole fryers and wogs were limited. Buyers generally satisfied with current commitments. Retail demand was slow to fair at best with some increased activity noted for first of the month. Food service demand was moderate to fairly good with promotions in St. Louis stimulating movement. Floor stocks were at least adequate, sizes desirable. Parts trading was light to fair for the mostly adequate offerings. Supplies of whole breasts were in the shortest position, balance of items were sufficient for trade needs. Features noted in Chicago at one major retailer on drums and thighs at 69 cents. Trade sentiment was barely steady to steady on leg quarters and steady to fully steady on all other items.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly moderate to good. Offerings varied in size. Larger sizes were generally short and the lighter weights were more than sufficient for current needs. Retail and distributive movement was fair. The market tone remained steady on smaller birds and fully steady to firm on the heavier birds. In the parts market, bone-in breasts were in the strongest position. Boneless, skinless breasts were at least fully steady. The balance was mostly steady.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was good on the adequate to short supply of 3 pound and heavier sizes; fair on the fully adequate supply of lighter weights. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 47 to 59 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Bone-in breasts were no more than adequate. Boneless skinless breasts were adequate and clearing well. Leg quarters and wings were in fairly good balance.

*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	44-61
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	49.48
NO. OF BOXES	7,681

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 01, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	639	123.00-180.00	125-130	130.43
TENDERLOINS	214	115.00-162.50	115-120	122.84
BREAST - LINE RUN	186	64.00-69.00	-	66.15
FRONT HALVES	80	58.00-60.50	-	59.53
LEGS	84	27.50-34.00	-	27.81
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	421	16.00-19.00	16-17	16.20
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,258	17.50-22.00	19-20	19.93
WINGS (WHOLE)	94	47.00-54.50	48-49	49.15
WINGS (CUT)	462	50.00-72.00	55-57	55.15
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	825	125.00-180.00	130-135	134.94
TENDERLOINS	84	120.00-162.50	125-130	129.61
BREAST - LINE RUN	186	64.00-69.00	64-66	66.15
FRONT HALVES	150	56.00-61.00	59-60	58.77
LEGS	84	28.00-34.00	28-29	28.29
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	461	16.00-19.00	17-18	17.09
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,138	17.50-22.00	20	20.03
WINGS (WHOLE)	94	45.00-54.50	46-48	48.40
WINGS (CUT)	451	51.00-72.00	55-58	56.87
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 29, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 29, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE
37.00 - 39.75	37.87

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
36.00 - 40.00	37.93	37.20

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 was light to moderate with best activity on breast items. Offerings of bone-in breasts were mostly tight and buyers in need were paying premiums. Boneless, skinless breasts were mixed. The balance was generally adequate. Movement into retail and distributive channels was fair to occasionally good where features were in progress. The market tone was firm on bone-in breasts, fully steady on boneless, skinless breasts, and usually 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	FEBRUARY 29, 2000		
	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130-135	132.39	523,993
TENDERLOINS	115-120	117.01	90,083
BREAST - WITH RIBS	62-63	68.76	167,240
BREAST - LINE RUN	62	65.65	95,240
LEGS	26-27	30.52	186,380
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.21	455,977
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	33.84	98,756
THIGHS	21-22	28.27	70,452
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.15	33,860
WINGS (WHOLE)	41-42	50.76	194,466
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.09	50,920
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	37.96	43,480
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.52	44,000

ITEM	MARCH 01, 2000		
	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	138.08	245,080
TENDERLOINS	115-120	120.04	70,440
BREAST - WITH RIBS	63-64	69.41	165,520
BREAST - LINE RUN	63	68.38	140,400
LEGS	26-27	32.02	119,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.40	373,715
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	34.73	88,960
THIGHS	21-22	28.95	48,360
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.23	36,520
WINGS (WHOLE)	41-42	50.72	171,360
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.04	51,800
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	29.38	45,000
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.94	52,320

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 WTS	
	03/01	02/29	02/28	02/25	02/28	02/25	02/23	02/21
ALA	3,903	3,789	3,713	4,091	5.20	4.98	3,783	5.07
ARK	5,133	5,252	5,017	4,953	4.94	4.67	5,135	4.93
DELMARVA	2,372	2,354	2,382	2,395	5.14	5.06	2,433	5.19
KY-LA-TN	2,043	2,055	1,899	1,886	4.37	4.25	1,861	4.51
MISS	2,578	2,738	2,724	2,599	5.13	4.79	2,222	5.07
NC	2,571	2,598	2,335	2,551	5.82	6.01	2,603	5.73
TEXAS	2,227	2,209	2,221	2,206	4.85	4.75	1,924	4.88
TOTAL	20,827	20,995	20,291	20,681	5.07	4.88	19,961	5.04
MON-WED 62,637 (A)					60,194 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 01-Mar 00 is estimated to be 31,160,000 up 4.03 percent from a week ago and up 5.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,953,000; last year 29,423,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	77-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY	
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS	
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 104-108
	DRY 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 MARCH 4-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/04/00(1)	02/26/00
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	156,481(2)	159,182
LT HENS	2,133	1,965
HVY HENS	1,451	1,394
CHECK TOTAL	160,065	162,541

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 04-Mar-00 is 153.3 million head compared to 151.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.4 million head or 5.1 million more than estimated available. For week of 11-Mar-00 the estimated available is 153.8 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 28-Feb-00	111,221		78,639	
AM 1-Feb-00	94,257		72,756	
CHG	16,964		5,883	
PCT CHG	18		8	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/28/00	02/21/00	03/1/99	02/28/00	02/21/00	03/1/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	10,563	10,439	18,967	11,869	11,857	13,513
LOS ANGELES	100	74	412	3,079	3,222	7,575

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 02/29/00

	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.50	.85	.61	HEAVY FOWL ea.	.200	4.00
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.10	.15	.12	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.40	.55	.47	BANTAMS ea.	.75	2.75
BROILERS lb.	-	.25	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	4.25	5.25
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	1.50
ROOSTERS lb.	.50	1.30	.81	ROOSTERS ea.	.90	3.25
GEESE lb.	-	.60	-	GEESE ea.	4.00	10.00
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.35	.65	.46	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.10	1.35	.77	RABBITS ea.	1.50	3.75
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	3.50
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	6.00	9.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-			

TOTAL COOPS 130

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 28, 2000

HENS		RANGE
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 25, 2000

	Whole		Legs		Necks, Backs		Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	Hens		
RAYON								
Low	75.09	145.33	87.20	29.07	5.81	53.29		
High	76.06	155.02	140.49	33.91	7.27	53.29		
Mostly	75.09	155.02	92.04	33.91	7.27	53.29		
SAN JUAN								
Low	70.24	125.96	72.67	24.22	7.27	57.16		
High	73.64	140.49	87.20	38.76	9.69	57.16		
Mostly	72.67	130.80	87.20	31.49	7.27	57.16		
NEW SAN JUAN								
Low	75.09	145.33	87.20	24.22	5.81	53.29		
High	76.54	155.02	96.89	33.91	7.27	53.29		
Mostly	75.57	145.33	92.04	33.91	7.27	53.29		
BECERRA								
Low	70.24	125.96	77.51	21.80	7.27	57.65		
High	72.67	135.64	82.36	36.33	10.66	57.65		
Mostly	72.67	130.80	77.51	29.07	8.72	57.65		

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