



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to firm, strongest in the Northeast. Demand was slow to moderate, best for food service and where features were present; however, inquiries were decreasing in some areas due to onset of Lenten. Supplies were easily adequate to tight for larger birds in the East. In the parts structure, breast items and wings were in the shortest positions and continued to clear well. Dark meat was more than sufficient with light demand. 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 remained 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 59.25 cents last year on the 10th of March, 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	143.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	72.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	78.00
LEG QUARTERS	19.50
WINGS	54.50

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

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	DOCK PRICE		PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 03/04/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	183,772	184,036	0
CHICKS PLACED	141,127	144,008	-02

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Down Slightly

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 184 million eggs during the week ending March 4, 2000. This was down 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 Down 2 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 141 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 4, 2000. Placements were down 2 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through March 4, 2000, were 1.30 billion, up 1 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 15-Apr-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 149.3 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 150.4 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 150.4 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 149.7 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 54.61 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Offerings were fully adequate for the light buyer interest. Retail demand was light for whole body and fairly good for parts, best to cover features. Floor stocks adequate. The market tone was steady on parts with white meat items in the strongest position.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was at least steady. Movement was fair to moderate with retail ads and fast food receiving best interest. Supplies were mostly in good balance. In the parts structure, breast items and wings were in the strongest positions with supplies adequate to tight. All other items were usually sufficient with light demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

MIDWEST Trade sentiment on whole broiler/fryers was at least steady. Additional offerings of whole fryers and wogs were light to balanced for trade needs. Movement into retail channels was slow to fair, occasionally good, best where features active. Retail features were reported in Chicago on whole birds at 49 and 59 cents. Food service demand was moderate to fairly good, mostly moderate. Floor stocks were adequate to ample sizes were desirable. In the parts complex, wings and whole breasts trading active, remainder of parts trading was slow to moderate. Supplies of bone-in breasts and wings in the shortest position, all other items at least adequate for trade needs. Trade sentiment was steady to firm on wings, steady to fully steady on bone-in breasts, cautiously steady on all other items

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was generally fair. Offerings of lighter birds were adequate and heavier birds were tight to adequate. Retail and distributive movement was moderate. The market tone was steady to fully steady. In the parts market, supplies of wings remained short to sufficient and all other parts were adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained sufficient to keep 3 pound and heavier weights in good balance to well cleared. However, overall inquiry was slowing, typical of both normal midweek activity and the beginning of lent. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were mostly desirable to light. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 49 to 61 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Breast items and wings continued to clear well. Leg items were ample for the light and spotty 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	46-67
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	51.15
NO. OF BOXES	6,607
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

MARCH 07, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 08, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	483	130.00-187.00	130-135	135.57
TENDERLOINS	64	120.00-168.00	-	136.20
BREAST - LINE RUN	124	65.00-70.00	66-68	68.74
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	48	26.50-34.00	26-27	27.75
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	542	15.00-19.00	15-16	15.63
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,060	16.50-20.00	19-20	19.17
WINGS (WHOLE)	103	48.00-54.00	48-49	49.73
WINGS (CUT)	392	59.00-72.00	59-60	62.13
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	523	130.00-187.00	130-135	135.22
TENDERLOINS	54	120.00-168.00	120-125	139.20
BREAST - LINE RUN	124	66.00-70.00	66-68	68.82
FRONT HALVES	70	58.00-62.00	-	60.00
LEGS	58	26.00-34.00	26-27	27.45
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	529	15.00-19.00	15-16	15.62
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,180	16.50-20.00	19-20	19.12
WINGS (WHOLE)	103	49.00-54.00	49-50	50.41
WINGS (CUT)	435	59.00-73.00	60-61	62.86
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 MARCH 07, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S	5-DAY
RANGE	AVERAGE
38.00 - 40.75	38.69

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

TODAY'S	5-DAY
RANGE	AVERAGE
36.50 - 40.50	37.81

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 light to no better than fair with best interest noted for wings. Offerings were usually tight to adequate on wings and adequate on the balance. Movement into retail and distributive outlets was about moderate to sometimes better where limited features were in progress. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings and steady with caution noted on the remainder of parts.

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

MARCH 07, 2000

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	135	138.26	522,090	
TENDERLOINS	120	125.42	76,520	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	72.73	159,080	
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	67.21	160,900	
LEGS	26-27	30.82	198,160	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.30	496,168	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	31.81	89,280	
THIGHS	21-22	28.78	75,240	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	71.32	44,120	
WINGS (WHOLE)	45-46	52.50	215,040	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.07	49,840	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.52	32,385	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.27	51,010	

MARCH 08, 2000

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	135	141.65	299,240	
TENDERLOINS	120	125.05	50,080	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	72.59	180,160	
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	68.24	162,600	
LEGS	26-27	31.13	100,640	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.86	353,339	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	32.83	84,060	
THIGHS	21-22	29.15	57,660	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.46	39,340	
WINGS (WHOLE)	46-47	54.11	222,320	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.13	52,160	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.51	44,600	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.19	47,960	

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		AVG	
	03/08	03/07	03/06	03/03	03/06	03/03	03/01	02/28
ALA	3,868	3,884	3,858	3,888	5.20	4.97	3,890	5.20
ARK	5,211	5,251	5,068	5,390	4.96	4.84	4,939	4.94
DELMARVA	2,378	2,347	2,354	2,722	5.12	5.13	2,375	5.14
KY-LA-TN	2,100	2,027	2,034	1,960	4.55	4.26	2,069	4.37
MISS	2,640	2,473	2,643	2,723	5.15	4.98	2,569	5.13
NC	2,299	2,598	2,462	2,882	5.88	6.01	2,558	5.82
TEXAS	2,215	2,224	2,302	2,222	4.88	4.70	2,216	4.85
TOTAL	20,711	20,804	20,721	21,787	5.11	4.95	20,616	5.07
MON-WED	62,666 (A)						61,777 (A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 08-Mar 00 is estimated to be 30,986,000 up 0.16 percent from a week ago and up 6.3 percent from a year ago.
(Last week 30,936,000; last year 29,150,000)

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

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 92-96
	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 MARCH 11-00

CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
	CURRENT WEEK 03/11/00 (1)	PREVIOUS WEEK 03/04/00
BRO-FRY	155,444 (2)	156,481
LT HENS	2,118	2,133
HVY HENS	1,615	1,451
CHECK TOTAL	159,177	160,065

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 11-Mar-00 is 153.8 million head compared to 152.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 157.3 million head or 3.5 million more than estimated available. For week of 18-Mar-00 the estimated available is 153.3 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS	LBS	LBS	LBS
AM 6-Mar-00	115,238	79,365		
AM 1-Feb-00	94,257	72,756		
CHG	20,981	6,609		
PCT CHG	22	9		

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/6/00	02/28/00	03/8/99	03/6/00	02/28/00	03/8/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	11,779	10,563	21,826	12,541	11,869	13,910
LOS ANGELES	147	100	489	3,257	3,079	7,936

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/7/00

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.50	1.25	.85	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.15	.20	.18	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.90	1.05	1.00	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.85	1.05	.91	BANTAMS ea.	3.00	8.00
BROILERS lb.	.80	.90	.86	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	2.65	-	PULLETS ea.	-	5.00
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.60	1.35	.82	ROOSTERS ea.	1.00	3.75
GEESE lb.	-	.10	-	GEESE ea.	-	5.00
TURKEYS lb.	.30	1.30	.80	TURKEYS ea.	-	12.50
DUCKS lb.	.10	.85	.55	DUCKS ea.	2.00	4.00
RABBITS lb.	.40	2.05	1.24	RABBITS ea.	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.50	3.75
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	7.00	10.50
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	11.50	12.50
SILKIES ea.	-	3.50	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	1.00	-			

TOTAL COOPS 118

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 MARCH 6, 2000

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	55-63
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	66-68

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 3, 2000

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	
RAYON						
Low	76.07	146.29	82.90	29.26	5.85	56.08
High	77.04	156.04	92.65	34.13	7.31	56.08
Mostly	76.07	156.04	92.65	34.13	7.31	56.08
SAN JUAN						
Low	70.71	131.66	78.02	21.94	7.31	56.08
High	73.14	146.29	92.65	34.13	9.75	56.08
Mostly	70.71	136.53	87.77	29.26	7.31	56.08
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	75.58	146.29	82.90	24.38	5.85	53.64
High	76.56	156.04	92.65	34.13	7.31	53.64
Mostly	76.07	146.29	87.77	34.13	7.31	53.64
BECERRA						
Low	70.71	126.78	68.27	7.31	7.31	58.03
High	73.14	141.41	87.77	10.73	10.73	58.03
Mostly	70.71	136.53	82.90	7.31	7.31	58.03

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