



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was light to moderate, best where retail ads were planned or in progress. Food service was fair to fairly good. Supplies were more than sufficient for trade needs, with heavier sizes generally in the best balance. In the parts structure, wings were in close balance to tight. Breast items were balanced. All other items were at least adequate. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate with weights ranging desirable to light, mostly desirable.

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 58.75 cents last year on the 17th 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	144.00	
BREASTS - WHOLE	73.50	
THIGH MEAT - B/S	78.00	
LEG QUARTERS	19.50	
WINGS	57.50	

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 03/11/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	184,647	183,423	+01
CHICKS PLACED	142,524	146,463	-03

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 185 million eggs during the week ending March 11, 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 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 143 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 11, 2000. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through March 11, 2000, were 1.44 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 22-Apr-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 149.9 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 149.3 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 151.6 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 153.7 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 55.53CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady. Offerings adequate. Buyers' needs were only fair. Demand was light to moderate by stores and moderate to fairly good by restaurants, best for parts. Floor stocks generally adequate. The market tone was steady to fully steady with breasts in the strongest position.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was generally steady. Demand was fair to moderate, best where feature activity was in progress. Supplies were adequate for trade needs. In the parts structure, wings were in close balance and clearing well. Breast items were sufficient for the generally fair to good demand. Dark meat items mostly fully adequate and slow to clear. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

MIDWEST Trade sentiment on whole broiler/fryers was steady. Additional offerings of whole fryers and wogs were varied, light to moderate with buyers disinterested. Movement into retail channels was slow to fair at best. Food service demand was generally fair instances fairly good. Features and promotions provided best interest. Floor stocks were adequate to ample, weights desirable. Parts trading on wings continued moderate, leg quarters trading was fairly active in Chicago, balance of items trading was slow to light. In general supplies were balanced for trade needs with wings in the tightest position. Trade sentiment was steady to instances firm on wings, steady on all other parts.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly light to fair. Smaller birds were more than adequate and heavier weights were adequate to instances short of full needs. Movement into retail and distributive outlets was no better than moderate. The market tone remained about steady. In the parts market, overall, supplies were generally in balance with limited needs. Occasionally, however, wings were short and drums were long.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was slow to fair at best and about as expected as normal lighter mid-week and mid-month activity combined with buyers shifting interest to corn beef and cabbage. Offerings varied by size and volume but were at least adequate overall. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were light to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 49 to 61 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. In the parts complex, all items were adequate. Wings were in closest balance. Leg cuts were in heaviest supply.

*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	47-69
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	52.16
NO. OF BOXES	7,715
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

MARCH 14, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 15, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	493	120.00-187.00	130-135	134.64
TENDERLOINS	65	125.00-177.00	125-130	139.63
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	71	63.00-65.00	-	63.77
LEGS	10	25.00-33.00	25-27	29.80
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	646	15.00-18.00	15-16	15.94
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	877	18.00-26.50	19-20	19.82
WINGS (WHOLE)	82	52.00-54.00	-	52.85
WINGS (CUT)	338	60.00-73.00	64-65	64.72
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	553	129.00-187.00	130-135	134.46
TENDERLOINS	63	120.00-177.00	120-125	137.33
BREAST - LINE RUN	118	66.00-70.00	66-67	68.64
FRONT HALVES	90	63.00-67.00	-	64.94
LEGS	46	26.00-33.00	26-28	26.91
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	486	15.00-18.00	15-16	15.67
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,047	17.00-20.00	19	19.02
WINGS (WHOLE)	167	49.00-54.00	49-51	51.52
WINGS (CUT)	460	62.00-75.00	64-66	66.84
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 14, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MARCH 15, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE
39.00 - 41.50	39.86

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
39.00 - 42.50	40.31	39.48

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 typically quiet for midweek. Wings were about adequate. The balance of items was adequate to fully adequate and dark meat remained in the most available positions. Retail and distributive movement continued fair at best. The market tone was steady with much caution noted.

*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	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	135-140	139.84	534,836	
TENDERLOINS	125	130.12	80,019	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	72.15	192,440	
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	67.54	200,000	
LEGS	26-27	31.37	186,760	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.15	431,360	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	30.64	124,640	
THIGHS	21-22	29.47	78,480	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	73.82	43,030	
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	56.64	191,800	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.11	61,000	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.99	45,525	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.15	61,140	

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	135-140	141.73	326,360	
TENDERLOINS	125	129.87	77,440	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	72.36	196,920	
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	68.71	126,400	
LEGS	26-27	31.62	158,920	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.37	242,160	
DRUMSTICKS	35-36	32.31	108,100	
THIGHS	21-22	30.05	59,700	
B/S THIGHS	70-71	74.32	54,560	
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	59.13	169,200	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.12	53,880	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.47	51,400	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.32	68,120	

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		ACTUAL WTS	
	03/15	03/14	03/13	03/10	03/13	03/10	03/08	03/06
ALA	3,838	3,856	3,773	4,237	5.03	4.94	3,738	5.20
ARK	5,184	5,161	5,013	4,736	4.89	4.84	5,109	4.96
DELMARVA	2,379	2,206	2,360	2,211	5.18	4.91	2,411	5.12
KY-LA-TN	2,022	1,973	1,988	1,948	4.47	4.25	2,060	4.55
MISS	2,758	2,718	2,708	2,786	5.09	5.00	2,695	5.15
NC	2,562	2,596	2,569	2,499	5.93	6.01	2,180	5.88
TEXAS	2,206	2,232	2,252	2,357	4.82	4.66	2,204	4.88
TOTAL	20,949	20,742	20,663	20,774	5.06	4.91	20,397	5.11
MON-WED	62,825	(A)					63,707	(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 15-Mar 00 is estimated to be 31,342,000 up 2.40 percent from a week ago and up 5.8 percent from a year ago.
(Last week 30,608,000; last year 29,632,000)

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

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	75-90
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

	ICE PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		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 18-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/18/00 (1)	03/11/00
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	159,120 (2)	155,444
LT HENS	1,973	2,118
HVY HENS	1,538	1,615
CHECK TOTAL	162,631	159,177

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 18-Mar-00 is 153.3 million head compared to 150.6 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 161.1 million head or 7.8 million more than estimated available. For week of 25-Mar-00 the estimated available is 153.4 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 13-Mar-00	119,217		75,624	
AM 1-Mar-00	112,828		78,929	
CHG	6,389		-3,305	
PCT CHG	6		-4	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/13/00	03/6/00	03/15/99	03/13/00	03/6/00	03/15/99
PACIFIC COAST	13,203	11,779	22,041	12,331	12,541	6,632
LOS ANGELES	157	147	718	3,451	3,257	864

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/14/00

	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb..	.90	.05	.98	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb..	.05	.10	.09	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-.75	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	.253	.50
BROILERS lb.	.40	.50	.47	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb..	.45	.50	.48	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-.60	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	3.00	3.50
ROOSTERS lb..	1.01	1.15	.58	ROOSTERS ea.	1.50	3.00
GEESE lb.	-.30	-	-	GEESE ea.	-8.50	-
TURKEYS lb.	.60	2.05	1.33	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.20	.50	.37	DUCKS ea.	4.00	9.00
RABBITS lb.	.30	1.10	.75	RABBITS ea.	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.50	2.00
GUINEA FOWL lb.-	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea	5.00	12.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	8.00	9.00
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TOTAL COOPS 97

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 13, 2000

HENS		RANGE
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)		57-61
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)		65-67

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 10, 2000

	Whole		Legs W/ Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
RAYON						
Low	75.58	146.29	87.77	29.26	5.85	51.20
High	76.56	156.04	92.65	34.13	7.31	51.20
Mostly	76.07	146.29	92.65	34.13	7.31	51.20
SAN JUAN						
Low	71.19	126.78	78.02	24.38	7.31	57.54
High	73.14	141.41	87.77	34.13	8.78	57.54
Mostly	73.14	131.66	82.90	31.70	7.31	57.54
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	75.09	136.53	82.90	24.38	5.85	51.20
High	76.07	146.29	92.65	34.13	7.31	51.20
Mostly	76.07	146.29	87.77	34.13	7.31	51.20
BECERRA						
Low	71.19	126.78	78.02	26.82	7.31	58.03
High	74.12	146.29	87.77	36.57	9.75	58.03
Mostly	73.14	136.53	87.77	34.13	7.31	58.03

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