



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to about steady, except for lighter weights in the Northeast which were steady to weak. Demand was irregular and covered the full range with best movement for retail ads and into fast food accounts. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate with smaller weights in the longest position in the East. In the parts structure, thighs remained close balanced and showed good movement. All other parts were adequate to ample with light demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable.

**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 57.75 cents last year on the 31st 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	142.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	73.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	85.00
LEG QUARTERS	19.50
WINGS	57.00

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 03/25/00	2000	1999	
EGGS SET	183,658	182,901	0
CHICKS PLACED	147,468	146,241	+01

### Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up Slightly

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 184 million eggs during the week ending March 25, 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 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 147 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 25, 2000. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through March 25, 2000, were 1.73 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 6-May-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 156.2 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 153.6 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 154.8 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 155.6 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 58.43CENTS PER POUND.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** The market tone was generally steady. Offerings easily adequate. Retail demand was moderate to fairly good. Floor stocks adequate. The market tone was fully steady on thigh meat, barely steady on wings and generally steady on balance of parts.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was fair at best with light trading. Supplies were at least sufficient to satisfy needs. In the parts structure, thighs and thigh meat were in the strongest positions and held with confidence, and wings were adequate to fully sufficient and slow to clear. All other items were more than adequate with light movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

**MIDWEST** Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was about steady. Offerings of additional whole fryers were adequate for the seasonal trade needs. Movement into all channels was irregular, very light to occasionally fairly good. Best demand noted where features were planned or in progress and into food service accounts. Floor stocks balanced with inventories building. Weights were in a desirable range. Parts trading was slow and selective with thighs and leg quarters the best call. In Ohio, retail feature noted on leg quarters at 29 cents. Wings, drums and boneless/skinless breasts remained in the longest position. Trade sentiment was steady to firm on thighs, barely steady to weak on wings and boneless/skinless breasts, and about steady on all other items.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light to fair. Offerings of larger birds were generally sufficient for current trade needs. Three-pound and lighter sizes ranged adequate to ample. Retail and distributive movement was slow to moderate. The market tone was steady on heavier sizes, generally steady to barely steady on the lighter birds. In the parts market, thighs were in close balance, all other items were adequate to ample for current trade needs.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally slow, typical of end-of-the month, mid week activity and the lenten period. Seller offerings varied by both size and volume, but were more than sufficient for current buying interest. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 51 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was barely steady. In the part complex, thighs continued to clear well. Other items were at least adequate. ACTUAL SLAUGHTER WEEK ENDING 03/17/2000 WAS 11,672,201 @ 5.03  
\*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	50-65
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	54.21
NO. OF BOXES	7,832
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

MARCH 28, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 29, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	533	125.00-187.00	127-135	133.61
TENDERLOINS	65	125.00-190.00	125-130	145.00
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	74	65.50-69.00	-	66.64
LEGS	45	27.00-33.00	27-28	27.67
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	587	14.00-18.00	14-15	14.70
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	976	16.00-20.00	17-19	18.20
WINGS (WHOLE)	121	49.00-57.00	49-51	53.20
WINGS (CUT)	346	61.00-77.00	65-66	65.17
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	93	28.00-33.00	-	28.70
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	647	125.00-187.00	126-135	132.57
TENDERLOINS	170	125.00-190.00	125-128	132.76
BREAST - LINE RUN	147	65.00-69.00	-	67.91
FRONT HALVES	105	59.00-67.00	-	64.17
LEGS	46	27.00-33.00	27-28	27.78
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	666	14.00-17.00	14-16	14.78
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,041	16.00-20.00	18-19	18.35
WINGS (WHOLE)	96	47.00-53.00	48-49	50.14
WINGS (CUT)	376	59.00-77.00	61-65	62.98
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 28, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

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

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE
39.75 - 43.50	40.67

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
36.50 - 42.00	39.48	40.50

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 and generally unaggressive. Offerings were adequate to tight on thigh products. Wings were readily available. Boneless skinless breast were fully adequate. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally slow. The market tone was fully steady on thighs, cautiously steady to barely steady on the remainder of items.

\*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	130-135	138.07	436,820	
TENDERLOINS	125-130	130.14	79,200	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	63-64	72.51	168,680	
BREAST - LINE RUN	63	67.11	128,800	
LEGS	26-27	31.59	222,120	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	18.81	394,166	
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	33.18	133,660	
THIGHS	26-27	30.68	67,560	
B/S THIGHS	76-77	82.08	30,300	
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	60.03	180,680	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.13	39,880	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.71	28,810	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.14	64,760	

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	130-135	138.42	338,880	
TENDERLOINS	125-130	130.03	64,480	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	63-64	72.26	197,000	
BREAST - LINE RUN	63	68.00	111,160	
LEGS	26-27	30.56	206,160	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	18.68	261,460	
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	33.73	130,470	
THIGHS	27-28	31.82	52,010	
B/S THIGHS	78-79	83.50	36,640	
WINGS (WHOLE)	49-50	60.38	195,720	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.12	42,600	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.48	38,960	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	48.60	59,760	

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	
	03/29	03/28	03/27	03/24	03/27	03/24	03/22	03/20
ALA	3,906	3,912	3,872	3,909	5.08	5.03	3,907	5.14
ARK	5,152	5,282	5,166	5,071	4.84	5.02	5,160	4.87
DELMARVA	2,372	2,334	2,339	2,237	5.10	4.98	2,289	5.00
KY-LA-TN	1,956	2,033	2,020	1,991	4.45	4.21	2,004	4.47
MISS	2,709	2,739	2,692	2,029	5.13	4.77	2,292	5.16
NC	2,578	2,498	2,580	2,637	5.84	6.01	2,507	6.19
TEXAS	1,182	2,227	2,200	2,236	4.84	4.70	2,147	4.86
TOTAL	19,855	21,025	20,869	20,110	5.04	4.97	20,306	5.09
MON-WED	62,099 (A)						61,016 (A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 29-Mar 00 is estimated to be 29,705,000 down 2.51 percent from a week ago and down 1.8 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,471,000; last year 30,263,000)

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 APRIL 01-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	04/01/00 (1)	03/25/00
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	155,808 (2)	156,127
LT HENS	1,877	2,071
HVY HENS	1,378	1,527
CHECK TOTAL	159,063	159,725

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 01-Apr-00 is 152.9 million head compared to 146.3 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 157.7 million head or 4.8 million more than estimated available. For week of 08-Apr-00 the estimated available is 150.5 million head.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS**

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 27-Mar-00	121,063		79,483	
AM 1-Mar-00	112,828		78,929	
CHG	8,235		554	
PCT CHG	7		1	

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)**

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/27/00	03/20/00	03/29/99	03/27/00	03/20/00	03/29/99
<b>PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES</b>	15,346	13,910	24,276	13,833	12,642	15,437
	132	115	988	3,660	3,496	9,557

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 03/28/00

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
	HEAVY FOWL lb.	.75	1.05	.84	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.15	.30	.17	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.75	.90	.83	BANTAMS ea.	1.00	3.75
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	.90	1.00	.96	PULLETS ea.	-	2.55
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	4.75
ROOSTERS lb.	1.00	2.05	1.22	ROOSTERS ea.	2.50	3.00
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.50	.70	.61	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.95	1.35	1.21	RABBITS ea.	-	5.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.50	2.50
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	10.00	11.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	14.00
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-			

TOTAL COOPS 71

**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 27, 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 24, 2000

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/Gizzards	Hens
<b>RAYON</b>						
Low	75.16	138.44	79.11	24.72	4.94	49.44
High	76.64	148.33	89.00	34.61	5.93	49.44
Mostly	75.16	138.44	89.00	24.72	5.93	49.44
<b>SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	72.19	138.44	79.11	29.67	7.42	58.84
High	75.16	148.33	89.00	39.56	9.89	58.84
Mostly	74.17	143.39	81.58	32.14	8.90	58.84
<b>NEW SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	74.17	138.44	79.11	24.72	4.94	49.44
High	76.64	148.33	89.00	34.61	5.93	49.44
Mostly	74.66	138.44	89.00	24.72	5.93	49.44
<b>BECERRA</b>						
Low	72.19	138.44	84.06	27.19	7.42	58.34
High	74.17	150.80	93.94	39.56	9.89	58.34
Mostly	73.67	145.86	89.00	34.61	8.90	58.34

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