



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was irregular ranging steady to firm in the East, steady to instances barely steady in the Midwest, and generally steady elsewhere. Movement was fair to good with best interest noted for retail specials and food service promotions. Supplies were well balanced to instance tight in parts of the Northeast. In the parts structure, thighs and thigh meat continued to have good movement with supplies adequate to short; however, breast items were improved and receiving more interest. Wings and dark meat were more than sufficient 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 57.50 cents last year on the 7th of April, 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 | 141.50 |
| BREASTS - WHOLE | 75.00 |
| THIGH MEAT - B/S | 93.50 |
| LEG QUARTERS | 19.00 |
| WINGS | 56.00 |

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

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

| 15 STATES WEEK ENDING 04/01/00 | 2000 | 1999 | PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| EGGS SET | 184,506 | 181,878 | +101% |
| CHICKS PLACED | 149,943 | 146,244 | +103% |

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up 2 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 185 million eggs during the week ending April 1, 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 Up Slightly

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 150 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 1, 2000. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through April 1, 2000, were 1.88 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 13-May-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 157.2 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 156.2 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 154.6 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 156.3 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 60.83 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was about steady. Offerings easily adequate, to cover current needs. Retail demand was moderate to fairly good, best for parts. Floor stocks generally adequate. Boneless thigh firm with balance of parts generally steady.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was fair to moderate and improved where first of the month activity and retail features were active. Supplies were usually sufficient to satisfy needs. In the parts structure, thighs and thigh meat continued to show strong movement with supplies close to tight. Breast items were improved and in a more balanced position, and all other items were at least sufficient with light movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Whole fryer trade sentiment was steady instances barely steady. Additional offerings of whole fryers were limited, wogs adequate or available for the light buyer interest. Retail movement was slow to moderate. Food service demand was irregular, best movement noted in the Chicago and Ohio areas. Retail features were noted in Ohio on whole birds at 59 cents and tenders at \$1.88. Floor stocks were adequate, weights desirable. Parts trading was irregular with leg quarters the best call. Instances of fairly good movement on split breasts reported in the St. Louis area. Parts supplies were at least adequate, except thighs continued adequate to short. Trade sentiment was steady to firm on thighs and whole breasts, barely steady on boneless/skinless breasts and wings, steady on the balance.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was moderate. Offerings were about adequate to instances tight for current trade needs. Movement into retail and distributive channels was mostly fair. The market tone was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, thighs and bone-in breasts were in the closest positions. Wings were more than sufficient. All other items were adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was fairly good and was sufficient to keep the bulk of seller offerings cleared satisfactorily. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were mixed in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules continued to reflect some plants curtailing operations and were moderate in total. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 52 to 64 cents. Trade sentiment was firm. Bone-in breasts and thighs were adequate to well cleared. Other items were at least adequate with boneless skinless breasts in the better balance. ACTUAL SLAUGHTER WEEK ENDING 4/1/2000 WAS 11,783,978 @ 5.06#

| | BRANDED U.S. GRADE A |
|------------------|----------------------|
| RANGE | 49-65 |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE | 54.05 |
| NO. OF BOXES | 7,350 |

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

APRIL 4, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

APRIL 05, 2000

| ITEM | POUNDS | | MAJORITY | WTD |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|--------|
| | (000) | RANGE | | AVG |
| BREAST - B/S | 653 | 110.00-185.00 | 125-135 | 132.38 |
| TENDERLOINS | 160 | 125.00-195.00 | - | 133.75 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN | 122 | 69.00-72.00 | 69-70 | 69.20 |
| FRONT HALVES | 105 | 65.00-68.00 | - | 66.00 |
| LEGS | 46 | 28.00-33.00 | - | 28.65 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 472 | 14.00-17.50 | 14-16 | 14.92 |
| LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 1,016 | 17.00-20.00 | 18-19 | 18.37 |
| WINGS (WHOLE) | 127 | 52.00-56.00 | 52-54 | 53.45 |
| WINGS (CUT) | 492 | 57.00-74.00 | 60-63 | 63.15 |
| 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 | 553 | 126.00-185.00 | 130-135 | 134.90 |
| TENDERLOINS | 75 | 125.00-195.00 | 125-130 | 143.67 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN | 122 | 69.00-72.50 | 69-71 | 69.23 |
| FRONT HALVES | 70 | 58.00-66.00 | - | 62.00 |
| LEGS | 46 | 29.00-33.00 | - | 29.52 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 512 | 14.00-17.50 | 14-16 | 15.00 |
| LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 1,176 | 17.00-20.00 | 17-18 | 18.28 |
| WINGS (WHOLE) | 103 | 52.00-56.00 | 52-54 | 53.53 |
| WINGS (CUT) | 447 | 60.00-74.00 | 61-64 | 63.82 |
| 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 APRIL 04, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR APRIL 5, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

| RANGE | TODAY'S AVERAGE |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 39.50 - 42.75 | 40.46 |

| RANGE | TODAY'S AVERAGE | 5-DAY AVERAGE |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 36.00 - 41.75 | 38.50 | 39.45 |

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 had improved slightly today. Offerings of bone-in breasts and thighs were tight to adequate. Wings continued more than adequate. All other items were mostly adequate. Retail and distributive movement was slow to fair and was best for limited features and food service. The market tone was steady to firm on bone-in breasts and thighs. The remainder of products was generally steady.

*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 AVG** | VOL/LBS |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| | TRADING* | WTD | | |
| BREAST - B/S | 130-135 | 138.45 | 138.45 | 489,240 |
| TENDERLOINS | 125-130 | 128.40 | 128.40 | 101,520 |
| BREAST - WITH RIBS | 63-64 | 72.72 | 72.72 | 164,810 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN | 63 | 67.58 | 67.58 | 186,000 |
| LEGS | 28-29 | 31.66 | 31.66 | 266,440 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 17-18 | 18.61 | 18.61 | 566,686 |
| DRUMSTICKS | 34-35 | 33.01 | 33.01 | 131,110 |
| THIGHS | 27-28 | 32.01 | 32.01 | 80,930 |
| B/S THIGHS | 81-82 | 84.42 | 84.42 | 34,720 |
| WINGS (WHOLE) | 48-49 | 59.31 | 59.31 | 155,600 |
| BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12 | 12.07 | 12.07 | 42,000 |
| LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS) | 30-35 | 31.79 | 31.79 | 41,560 |
| GIZZARDS (HEARTS) | 40-45 | 43.53 | 43.53 | 67,020 |

| ITEM | CURRENT NEG | | WTD AVG** | VOL/LBS |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| | TRADING* | WTD | | |
| BREAST - B/S | 130-135 | 138.15 | 138.15 | 448,000 |
| TENDERLOINS | 125-130 | 128.37 | 128.37 | 73,400 |
| BREAST - WITH RIBS | 65-66 | 73.79 | 73.79 | 176,320 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN | 65 | 68.86 | 68.86 | 193,760 |
| LEGS | 28-29 | 33.69 | 33.69 | 137,640 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 17-18 | 18.37 | 18.37 | 383,709 |
| DRUMSTICKS | 34-35 | 34.06 | 34.06 | 104,630 |
| THIGHS | 28-29 | 32.78 | 32.78 | 66,000 |
| B/S THIGHS | 82-83 | 88.98 | 88.98 | 34,480 |
| WINGS (WHOLE) | 48-49 | 58.48 | 58.48 | 202,040 |
| BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12 | 12.05 | 12.05 | 42,720 |
| LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS) | 30-35 | 33.84 | 33.84 | 33,960 |
| GIZZARDS (HEARTS) | 40-45 | 43.78 | 43.78 | 61,960 |

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 WTS | | AVG | |
|----------|------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | 04/05 | 04/04 | 04/03 | 03/31 | 04/03 | 03/31 | 03/29 | 03/27 |
| ALA | 3,719 | 3,940 | 3,816 | 3,749 | 5.14 | 4.87 | 3,754 | 5.08 |
| ARK | 5,118 | 5,238 | 5,124 | 5,212 | 4.95 | 4.68 | 5,073 | 4.84 |
| DELMARVA | 2,281 | 2,300 | 2,287 | 2,445 | 5.14 | 5.02 | 2,372 | 5.10 |
| KY-LA-TN | 2,024 | 2,055 | 1,916 | 2,014 | 4.38 | 4.29 | 1,919 | 4.45 |
| MISS | 2,785 | 2,752 | 2,750 | 2,640 | 5.10 | 5.04 | 2,578 | 5.13 |
| NC | 2,622 | 2,590 | 2,571 | 2,430 | 5.80 | 6.01 | 2,436 | 5.84 |
| TEXAS | 2,118 | 2,221 | 2,232 | 2,222 | 4.93 | 4.71 | 2,130 | 4.84 |
| TOTAL | 20,667 | 21,096 | 20,696 | 20,712 | 5.08 | 4.89 | 20,262 | 5.04 |
| MON-WED | 62,771 (A) | | | | | | 61,849(A) | |

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 05-Apr 00 is estimated to be 30,920,000 up 1.69 percent from a week ago and up 5.4 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,405,000; last year 29,328,000)

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

| | RANGE |
|------------------|-------|
| FRESH FRYERS | 76-80 |
| ROASTERS 4# & UP | 80-90 |
| 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 08-00

| CLASS | THOUSAND HEAD | |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | CURRENT WEEK 04/08/00 (1) | PREVIOUS WEEK 04/01/00 |
| BRO-FRY | 156,511 (2) | 155,808 |
| LT HENS | 2,021 | 1,877 |
| HVY HENS | 1,414 | 1,378 |
| CHECK TOTAL | 159,946 | 159,063 |

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 08-Apr-00 is 150.5 million head compared to 149.7 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.4 million head or 7.9 million more than estimated available. For week of 15-Apr-00 the estimated available is 149.4 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

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

| | PROCESSED TURKEY | | | PROCESSED POULTRY | | |
|-------------|------------------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
| | LBS | | | LBS | | |
| AM 3-Apr-00 | 124,850 | | | 78,991 | | |
| AM 1-Mar-00 | 112,828 | | | 78,929 | | |
| CHG | 12,022 | | | 62 | | |
| PCT CHG | 11 | | | 0 | | |

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

| | PROCESSED TURKEYS | | | PROCESSED POULTRY | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| | 04/03/00 | 03/27/00 | 04/05/99 | 04/03/00 | 03/27/00 | 04/05/99 |
| PACIFIC COAST | 15,746 | 15,346 | 25,749 | 13,217 | 13,833 | 15,838 |
| LOS ANGELES | 176 | 132 | 1,220 | 4,065 | 3,660 | 10,288 |

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

| | LOW HIGH AVG | | | FOR 04/04/00 | | |
|------------------|--------------|------|------|-----------------|------|-------|
| | LOW | HIGH | AVG | LOW | HIGH | AVG |
| HEAVY FOWL lb. | - | .90 | - | HEAVY FOWL ea. | - | - |
| LIGHT FOWL lb. | .30 | .45 | .33 | LIGHT FOWL ea. | - | - |
| MIXED FOWL lb. | .40 | .95 | .76 | MIXED FOWL ea. | 3.00 | 5.75 |
| BANTAMS lb. | - | 1.15 | - | BANTAMS ea. | 3.00 | 7.00 |
| BROILERS lb. | .80 | .85 | .82 | BROILERS ea. | - | - |
| ROASTERS lb. | - | - | - | ROASTERS ea. | - | - |
| FRYERS lb. | - | - | - | FRYERS ea. | - | - |
| CHICKS lb. | - | - | - | CHICKS ea. | .40 | 1.10 |
| PULLETS lb. | - | 1.15 | - | PULLETS ea. | - | - |
| BUNNIES lb. | - | - | - | BUNNIES ea. | 4.50 | 10.50 |
| ROOSTERS lb. | .80 | 1.30 | .99 | ROOSTERS ea. | 4.25 | 7.50 |
| GEESE lb. | .20 | .50 | .36 | GEESE ea. | 3.00 | 4.50 |
| TURKEYS lb. | .25 | 1.05 | .64 | TURKEYS ea. | - | - |
| DUCKS lb. | .60 | .85 | .67 | DUCKS ea. | 4.50 | 9.00 |
| RABBITS lb. | .20 | 1.45 | 1.03 | RABBITS ea. | 3.00 | 3.50 |
| PIGEONS lb. | - | - | - | PIGEONS ea. | 1.50 | 3.75 |
| GUINEA FOWL lb. | - | - | - | GUINEA FOWL ea. | 6.50 | 9.00 |
| DUCKLINGS lb. | - | - | - | DUCKLINGS ea. | 3.25 | 5.50 |
| GUINEA KEETS ea. | - | - | - | CALL DUCKS ea. | - | 15.00 |
| SILKIES ea. | - | 4.25 | - | GOSLINGS ea. | - | 7.50 |
| GUINEA PIGS ea. | - | 2.50 | - | | | |

TOTAL COOPS 142

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 APRIL 03, 2000

| HENS | | RANGE |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|
| ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX) | | 57-61 |
| VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX) | | 65-66 |

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 31, 2000

| | Whole | | Legs | Necks, Backs & Wings | Livers/ Gizzards | Hens |
|--------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------------|------------------|-------|
| | Chickens | Breasts | | | | |
| RAYON | | | | | | |
| Low | 74.33 | 136.92 | 78.24 | 24.45 | 4.89 | 46.45 |
| High | 75.30 | 146.70 | 88.02 | 34.23 | 5.87 | 46.45 |
| Mostly | 75.30 | 136.92 | 88.02 | 29.34 | 5.87 | 46.45 |
| SAN JUAN | | | | | | |
| Low | 69.44 | 129.58 | 83.13 | 22.00 | 7.33 | 56.72 |
| High | 72.86 | 146.70 | 88.02 | 36.67 | 9.78 | 56.72 |
| Mostly | 72.86 | 141.81 | 83.13 | 29.34 | 7.33 | 56.72 |
| NEW SAN JUAN | | | | | | |
| Low | 74.33 | 136.92 | 73.35 | 24.45 | 4.89 | 46.45 |
| High | 75.79 | 146.70 | 88.02 | 34.23 | 5.87 | 46.45 |
| Mostly | 74.33 | 136.92 | 78.24 | 24.45 | 5.87 | 46.45 |
| BECERRA | | | | | | |
| Low | 70.90 | 127.14 | 78.24 | 24.45 | 5.87 | 58.19 |
| High | 72.37 | 141.81 | 88.02 | 39.12 | 9.78 | 58.19 |
| Mostly | 71.39 | 136.92 | 83.13 | 34.23 | 7.33 | 58.19 |

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

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| Washington, DC | Voice | (202)720-6911 | Grover T. Hunter (Chief) |
| | Fax | (202)720-2403 | |
| Atlanta, GA | Voice | (404)562-5850 | Johnny Freeman (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Fax | (404)562-5875 | |
| | Recorded | (404)562-5856 | |
| Jackson, MS | Voice | (601)965-4662 | Gary Brown (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Fax | (601)965-4661 | |
| Des Moines, IA | Voice | (515)284-4471 | Mary L. Adkins (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Fax | (515)284-4468 | |
| | Recorded | (515)284-4545 | |
| Bell, CA | Voice | (323)269-4154 | Jim Derby (Officer-In-Charge) |
| | Fax | (323)269-5926 | |
| | Recorded | (323)260-4676 | |