



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Retail demand was seasonally slow to light with most interest focused on more traditional holiday items. Food service was mixed, best for fast food. Supplies were more than sufficient for needs. Due to upcoming holiday and limited buying interest, some slaughter schedules were reduced. In the parts structure, breast items were adequate to heavily supplied and slow to clear. All other items were adequate to available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, 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 21st of April, 1999.

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

DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

BREASTS - B/S	140.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	76.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	99.00
LEG QUARTERS	19.00
WINGS	54.00

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 04/15/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	186,921	183,420	+02
CHICKS PLACED	148,220	145,524	+02

BROILER EGGS SET IN 15 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 187 million eggs during the week ending April 15, 2000. This was up 2 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 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 148 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 15, 2000. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through April 15, 2000, were 2.18 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 27-May-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 152.9 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 153.7 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 152.8 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 157.2 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 59.81 CENTS PER POUND.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light and unaggressive. Offerings varied, but were more than sufficient for trade needs with smaller sizes becoming more available. Movement into retail and distributive channels was light as buyer interest centered on other traditional holiday items. The market tone was steady to barely steady. In the parts market, supplies of bone-in breast were readily available and slow to clear. All other items were at least adequate to fully adequate.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was steady at best. Demand was seasonally light to fair, best for features. Supplies were more than sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, all items were at least adequate. Demand was slow to fair. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, but mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Offerings of wogs and whole fryers fully adequate for the very limited trade needs. Retail demand was slow to light and typical for pre-Easter movement. Food service movement was light to fair, occasionally good, best for fast food accounts. Retail features in progress in Chicago on split breasts at \$.99, drums and thighs at 79 cents. Floor stocks balanced to ample, sizes desirable. Parts trading struggled, slow to light for the at least adequate supplies. Discounts noted on offerings of wings and breast items with limited buyer response. Trade sentiment was steady on thighs and leg quarters, steady to weak on the remainder of items.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Offerings readily available to cover current needs. Most processors worked reduced slaughter schedules as buyer interest was limited due to the upcoming holiday. Demand by stores moderate at best and fairly good by fast food. Floor stocks adequate. Trade sentiment was barely steady on bone-in breasts and generally steady on balance of parts. Ads noted in independent and/or major chains [small and/or max packs]: N. CA - whole cut-up 99, drumsticks 119, thighs 119, bone-in breasts 199 and boneless breasts 197; S. CA - whole body 65, leg quarters 39, whole legs 79, thighs 69-139, drumsticks 69-139, bone-in breasts 149-199, boneless breasts 188-229, boneless thighs 129, boneless leg meat 98, roasters 99-119 and cornish hens 139.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light and unaggressive. Offerings varied by size and volume from plant to plant, but were fully sufficient, particularly the under 3 pound sizes. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights continued to vary in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 68 cents. Trade sentiment was barely steady. Breast items were ample, especially bone-in which were competitively priced and remained slow to clear.

*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	55-68
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	59.15
NO. OF BOXES	7,001

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

APRIL 18, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

APRIL 19, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD
	(000)	RANGE		AVG
BREAST - B/S	483	130.00-196.00	130-135	135.73
TENDERLOINS	48	125.00-195.00	-	154.17
BREAST - LINE RUN	123	73.00-78.00	73-75	73.33
FRONT HALVES	105	54.00-62.00	-	59.33
LEGS	48	27.00-34.00	27-28	28.17
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	421	15.00-18.00	16-17	16.19
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,193	17.00-20.00	19-20	19.08
WINGS (WHOLE)	62	52.00-56.00	-	53.42
WINGS (CUT)	392	60.00-68.00	62-64	63.13
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	643	125.00-196.00	130-135	133.53
TENDERLOINS	112	125.00-195.00	-	139.06
BREAST - LINE RUN	123	73.00-78.00	73-75	73.33
FRONT HALVES	70	56.00-62.00	-	59.00
LEGS	48	27.00-34.00	27-29	28.17
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	501	15.00-18.00	16-17	16.32
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,113	18.00-20.00	19-20	19.25
WINGS (WHOLE)	62	52.00-56.00	-	53.42
WINGS (CUT)	472	55.00-73.00	60-63	61.10
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 18, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

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TRADING FOR APRIL 19, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
34.50 - 40.00	37.76

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
35.50 - 40.00	37.66	39.08

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 seasonally light as buyer interest centered on other traditional holiday items. Offerings of bone-in breast were readily available and slow in clearing with some discounting noted. Other items were more than sufficient for trade needs. Movement into retail and distributive channels was slow. The market tone was barely steady to weak.

*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	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	135	137.90	137.90	419,480
TENDERLOINS	125-130	139.95	139.95	86,800
BREAST - WITH RIBS	66-67	76.65	76.65	132,880
BREAST - LINE RUN	66	65.70	65.70	113,680
LEGS	29-30	33.69	33.69	163,520
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	21.41	21.41	208,120
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	34.27	34.27	80,560
THIGHS	28-29	33.55	33.55	61,600
B/S THIGHS	86-87	94.45	94.45	26,560
WINGS (WHOLE)	48-49	59.71	59.71	138,000
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	12.00	38,920
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.14	33.14	48,400
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	45.00	45.00	64,800

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	135	137.56	137.56	392,240
TENDERLOINS	125-130	139.81	139.81	87,440
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	75.80	75.80	135,880
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	61.26	61.26	216,200
LEGS	29-30	32.53	32.53	160,640
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	20.21	20.21	256,904
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	34.09	34.09	100,280
THIGHS	28-29	33.36	33.36	51,960
B/S THIGHS	86-87	94.57	94.57	31,760
WINGS (WHOLE)	48-49	58.97	58.97	177,760
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.06	12.06	42,840
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.94	34.94	51,680
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	45.01	45.01	72,560

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	
	04/19	04/18	04/17	04/14	04/17	04/14	04/12	04/10
ALA	3,602	3,931	3,836	3,707	5.12	4.88	3,504	5.08
ARK	5,218	5,250	5,085	5,180	4.90	4.85	5,076	5.00
DELMARVA	2,390	2,355	2,090	2,060	5.14	5.02	2,360	5.12
KY-LA-TN	2,046	2,006	2,046	2,349	4.52	4.22	1,692	4.43
MISS	2,405	2,558	2,738	2,961	5.15	5.05	2,767	5.11
NC	2,574	2,551	2,437	2,182	5.90	6.01	2,370	5.80
TEXAS	2,243	2,152	2,265	1,945	4.90	4.88	2,249	4.96
TOTAL	20,478	20,803	20,497	20,384	5.08	4.93	20,018	5.07
MON-WED 62,171 (A)						61,092 (A)		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 19-Apr 00 is estimated to be 30,637,000 down 1.72 percent from a week ago and up 2.8 percent from a year ago.
(Last week 31,173,000; last year 29,817,000)

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 22-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	04/22/00 (1)	04/15/00
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	147,390 (2)	156,613
LT HENS	2,089	2,332
HVY HENS	1,483	1,390
CHECK TOTAL	150,962	160,335

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 22-Apr-00 is 149.9 million head compared to 154.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 147.7 million head or 2.2 million less than estimated available. For week of 29-Apr-00 the estimated available is 153.5 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS	LBS	LBS	LBS
AM 17-Apr-00	123,915	85,954		
AM 1-Apr-00	124,850	78,991		
CHG	-935	6,963		
PCT CHG	-1	9		

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	04/17/00	04/10/00	04/19/99	04/17/00	04/10/00	04/19/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	15,340	15,337	27,649	14,553	13,734	15,626
LOS ANGELES	152	196	1,468	5,260	4,451	10,173

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 04/18/00

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG			
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.30	1.25	.59	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	6.75	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.05	.45	.10	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	2.85	-
BANTAMS lb.	.10	1.00	.84	BANTAMS ea.	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.50	2.50	-
PULLETS lb.	-	2.00	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	9.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.10	1.25	.88	ROOSTERS ea.	.50	5.25	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	3.00	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	1.15	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.65	.70	.67	DUCKS ea.	-	8.00	-
RABBITS lb.	.15	1.25	.97	RABBITS ea.	1.00	4.50	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.00	7.00	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	7.50	10.50	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	2.25	8.00	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	10.00	-
SILKIES ea.	-	4.25	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	3.00	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-				

TOTAL COOPS 168

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 17, 2000

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

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending April 14, 2000

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	
RAYON						
Low	71.71	124.30	76.49	23.90	5.74	54.98
High	73.15	133.86	86.05	28.68	7.17	54.98
Mostly	72.67	133.86	86.05	28.68	7.17	54.98
SAN JUAN						
Low	67.89	124.30	76.49	26.29	7.17	53.55
High	70.76	138.64	90.84	38.25	9.56	53.55
Mostly	70.76	133.86	86.05	33.47	8.61	53.55
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	72.19	124.30	71.71	19.12	5.74	54.98
High	73.62	133.86	86.05	28.68	7.17	54.98
Mostly	72.67	124.30	81.27	23.90	7.17	54.98
BECERRA						
Low	69.80	124.30	76.49	26.29	7.17	54.98
High	71.23	138.64	90.84	38.25	9.56	54.98
Mostly	70.76	133.86	86.05	33.47	8.61	54.98

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