



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 light as winter weather continued to have an effect on movement; however, interest for other holiday items was strong. Food service was fair to good, best for catering services and into fast food outlets and restaurants where Christmas shoppers frequented. Availability was mixed ranging sufficient to ample, but less available where deliveries were altered due to weather or commitments reduced for lack of interest. In the parts structure, wings were close to tight with good movement. All other parts were at least adequate 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 61.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 58.50 cents last year on the 22nd of December, 1999.

DOCK PRICE

ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)
BREASTS - B/S	128.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	64.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	83.00
LEG QUARTERS	25.50
WINGS	85.50

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 12/16/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	179,497	181,050	-01
CHICKS PLACED	144,999	144,828	0

BROILER EGGS SET IN 15 SELECTED STATES DOWN 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 179 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 16, 2000. This was down 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 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 145 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 16, 2000. Placements were up slightly from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through December 16, 2000, were 7.19 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-Jan-01 IS ESTIMATED AT 149.1 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 148.6 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 150.6 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 149.7 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 53.74 CENTS PER POUND.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers remained seasonally light during midweek trading. Offerings of all sizes were generally sufficient for the light and selective dealer interest. The market tone was about steady. Traditional items dominated bulk of movement through retail channels, however, fast food and restaurant lines were siphoning product in anticipation of holiday weekend shoppers. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were ample, and boneless-skinless breasts were usually available. Wings continued to see active interest and were clearing well. The balance of parts were more than sufficient.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was about steady. Retail demand was slow to fair with limited interest as other holiday meat items received best movement. Food service was better, especially for fast food and restaurants due to holiday shoppers eating out. Supplies were at least sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, wings continued to have strong movement with supplies barely adequate and often sought. All other items were at least sufficient with some discounting reported on breast items to help clear. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was steady to barely steady. Offerings of additional product were light with supplies of Wogs ample and whole birds very limited. Retail demand was seasonal with good interest on holiday items. Scattered features meeting with lackluster shopper interest. Food service demand was spotty and quiet overall with improved demand noted in the Michigan and St. Louis areas for catering and restaurants. Harsh winter weather conditions continued to check demand and affect deliveries. Floor stocks were hand to mouth with many buyers continuing to curtail regular commitments for lack of interest. Weights were mixed, mostly desirable. In the parts complex, wings were well cleared, boneless/skinless breasts trading light to moderate and very light trading reported on all other items. Supplies of wings and gizzards were tight with the balance of items fully adequate for trade needs. The trade sentiment was fully steady to firm on wings mostly steady on boneless/skinless breasts and steady at best on the remaining items.

WESTERN The market tone was generally steady. Offerings ample for the fair buyers interest. Demand by stores, although focused on holiday items, was moderate best to cover features. Demand by restaurants good, best by fast food. Floor stocks generally adequate. Leg quarters and bone-in breasts weak, wings fully steady with balance of parts about steady.

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was limited and was generally noted as typical for both midweek and the season. Seller offering were fully sufficient for current trade needs. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderate to light. Trade sentiment remained about steady. In the parts complex, all items were fully sufficient for the light and selective inquiry. Bone-in breasts and tenders were noted as readily available and competitively priced in an effort to stimulate buyer 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	41-60
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	49.79
NO. OF BOXES	13,727

*7 of 8 plants reporting.

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SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 20, 2000

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	862	105.00-200.00	130-135	134.90
TENDERLOINS	140	130.00-195.00	135-140	139.29
BREAST - LINE RUN	81	63.00-67.00	64-65	63.50
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	86	29.00-45.00	29-30	30.12
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	342	17.00-24.00	17-18	18.15
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,677	21.00-27.00	22-23	22.75
WINGS (WHOLE)	288	83.00-88.00	83-85	84.59
WINGS (CUT)	534	87.00-110.00	92-94	95.71
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	605	105.00-200.00	120-130	126.22
TENDERLOINS	203	135.00-200.00	140-145	160.02
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	86	28.00-45.00	28-29	29.19
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	382	18.00-24.00	18-19	18.45
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,580	21.00-27.00	23-25	23.28
WINGS (WHOLE)	324	80.00-85.00	82-84	83.98
WINGS (CUT)	506	94.00-110.00	94-97	97.55
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	60	65.00-87.00	-	71.67

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

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
35.00-40.50	36.64	34.50 - 39.50	35.85	36.04

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

Midweek trucklot buying interest was limited today as dealers continued with a light and highly selective posture and maintained closely balanced floorstocks. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were at least adequate to available, bone-in breasts were usually ample. Dark meat items were more than sufficient. Active call kept wings no more than adequate to tight at times. Movement through retail and distributive channels was seasonally light, however, fairly good draw was noted through fast food and restaurant lines in anticipation of consumer activity this holiday weekend. The market tone weak on bone-in breasts, fully steady on wings, and no better than steady on the balance.

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

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ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	120	119.83	699,130
TENDERLOINS	130-135	134.18	176,340
BREAST - WITH RIBS	57-58	65.55	332,360
BREAST - LINE RUN	57	59.00	180,040
LEGS	33-34	37.09	189,140
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	21-22	21.43	641,002
DRUMSTICKS	26-27	33.11	257,830
THIGHS	30-31	30.61	282,510
B/S THIGHS	78-79	82.52	64,500
WINGS (WHOLE)	81-82	89.87	433,200
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.04	103,680
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	40-45	43.89	98,740
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	65-70	69.86	125,630

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	120	119.20	622,240
TENDERLOINS	130-135	134.08	169,320
BREAST - WITH RIBS	55-56	64.76	288,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	55	56.00	108,000
LEGS	33-34	36.45	219,920
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	21-22	21.61	655,884
DRUMSTICKS	26-27	33.12	230,660
THIGHS	30-31	34.71	143,320
B/S THIGHS	78-79	82.08	73,280
WINGS (WHOLE)	81-82	90.40	431,060
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.95	97,920
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	39.59	97,560
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	65-70	69.89	131,200

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 WTS	
	12/20	12/19	12/18	12/15	12/18	12/15	12/13	12/11
ALA	3,665	3,887	3,677	3,793	5.01	4.85	3,488	5.12
ARK	5,374	5,384	5,193	8,028	5.05	5.01	2,071	4.91
DELMARVA	2,168	2,119	2,052	2,065	4.99	5.02	2,370	4.95
KY-LA-TN	2,024	1,953	1,738	2,099	4.46	4.41	1,818	4.51
MISS	2,452	2,582	2,796	2,818	5.18	5.06	2,698	5.08
NC	2,639	2,567	2,298	2,629	5.90	6.01	2,603	5.91
TEXAS	2,311	2,082	2,110	2,617	4.93	4.74	2,053	4.85
TOTAL	20,633	20,574	19,864	24,049	5.09	4.98	17,101	5.06
MON-WED	61,436 (A)						58,802 (A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 20-Dec 00 is estimated to be 30,869,000 down 0.98 percent from a week ago and up 17.2 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,173,000; last year 26,344,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		81-84
ROASTERS 4# & UP		71-93
HENS UNDER 5#		-
HENS OVER 5#		81
DUCKS		139
RABBITS-WHOLE		294
RABBITS-CUT UP		299
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	93-96
	DRY PACK	103-106
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	105-112
	DRY PACK	112-119
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	98
	DRY PACK	94
DUCKS		152-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING DEC-23-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	12/23/00 (1)	12/16/00
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	155,650 (2)	158,054
LT HENS	1,329	1,894
HVY HENS	1,190	1,214
CHECK TOTAL	158,169	161,162

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 23-Dec-00 is 141.3 million head compared to 118.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 156.0 million head or 14.7 million more than estimated available. For week of 30-Dec-00 the estimated available is 137.1 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGSSELECTED STORAGE CENTERS
(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 18-Dec-00	67,289		74,696	
AM 1-Dec-00	71,624		75,849	
CHG	-4,335		-1,153	
PCT CHG	-6		-2	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/18/00	12/11/00	12/20/99	12/18/00	12/11/00	12/20/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	6,231	6,355	6,546	7,222	7,689	13,329
LOS ANGELES	119	157	203	2,022	2,059	4,105

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**REPORT NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME****CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2000

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	58-63
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-69

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending December 15, 2000

	Whole	Legs	Necks,Backs	Livers/	Hens	
	Chickens	Breasts	w/ Thighs	& Wings Gizzards		
RAYON						
Low	61.49	135.14	86.87	24.13	1.93	48.26
High	65.06	154.44	106.18	33.78	2.90	53.57
Mostly	63.90	144.79	96.53	33.78	2.41	48.26
SAN JUAN						
Low	59.85	135.14	91.70	24.13	4.83	48.07
High	64.58	159.27	111.00	38.61	8.69	52.12
Mostly	63.71	144.79	96.53	33.78	7.24	48.07
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	63.42	135.14	86.87	24.13	1.93	45.85
High	64.96	154.44	106.18	33.78	2.90	54.54
Mostly	63.90	144.79	96.53	24.13	2.41	50.68
BECERRA						
Low	59.85	135.14	91.70	28.96	7.24	47.49
High	64.00	159.27	111.00	38.61	8.69	47.78
Mostly	63.13	149.61	96.53	31.37	7.24	47.78

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