



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

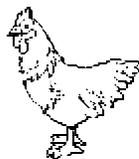
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 20, 2002
VOL. 49 NO. 34

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to weak, mostly barely steady to weak. Retail demand was seasonally slow to fair with buying interest focused towards more traditional holiday items. Food service was strongest into fast food for promotions. Supplies were adequate to ample and frequently discounted to clear. In the parts structure, trading was light and limited to immediate needs. Tenders were in the best balance, but not difficult to find, and all other items were at least fully sufficient and barely moving. 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 62.75 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.00 cents last year on March 21, 2001.

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

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	183.00
BREASTS - B/S	134.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	68.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	84.50
LEG QUARTERS	21.50
WINGS	72.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was no better than steady to instances weak. Demand into retail and food service areas was slow to fair, best for features and more traditional holiday items. Supplies were more than sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, dark meat was fully adequate to burdensome and difficult to clear even at lower levels. The remaining items were at least adequate or available with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light and unaggressive. Offerings of all sizes were fully adequate to readily available and competitively priced. Movement into retail and distributive channels was seasonally slow. The market tone was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, breast items were available and slow in clearing. Wings were fully adequate. Dark meat cuts were ample.

MIDWEST The undertone for broiler/fryers was barely steady to weak. Most dealers are staying out of the market unless they have product sold. Traditional Easter product continues to garner most of the attention. Offerings of additional product were adequate to fully adequate. Demand was fairly good in spots as the weather improved but overall slow. Best movement was noted into food service. Floor stocks were generally balanced to long. Weights were generally desirable. In the parts market tenderloins were in good balance with needs and remained steady. Everything else was noted as available with many buyers looking past Easter. Prices were barely steady to weak on the complex with the noted exception of tenders.

WESTERN The market tone was steady to barely steady. Although whole body offerings of product under 3 pounds in fairly good balance heavier weights were generally ample to cover needs. Demand was moderate to good, best for whole body and parts where promotions in progress by stores and fast food. Floor stocks adequate overall. Leg quarters remained weak with balance of parts about steady.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	WEEK ENDING 03/16/02		PERCENT CHANGE
	2002	2001	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	186,677	184,715	+01
CHICKS PLACED	151,097	148,973	+01
19 STATES			
EGGS SET	208,112	-	-
CHICKS PLACED	172,289	-	-

BROILER EGGS SET IN 15 SELECTED STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 187 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 16, 2002. This was up 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 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 151 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 16, 2002. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through March 16, 2002 were 1.64 billion, up 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Four Additional States in Weekly Program

Beginning May 16, 2001 four additional States were added to the weekly program for broiler eggs set in incubators and broiler chicks placed for meat production. The four additional States are Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Data collection and weekly estimates began with the week ending April 7, 2001.

Commercial hatcheries for the 19 States set a total of 208 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 16, 2002. Broiler growers in the 19 States placed 172 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 16, 2002. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through March 16, 2002 in the 19 States totaled 1.85 billion.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 27-Apr-02 IS ESTIMATED AT 157.0 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 156.5 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 153.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 153.1 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 58.95 CENTS PER POUND.

MARCH 19, 2002

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 20, 2002

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			WTD	ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	792	117.00-193.00	118-125	122.97	BREAST - B/S	790	108.00-193.00	112-118	118.05
TENDERLOINS	139	130.00-204.00	130-135	142.82	TENDERLOINS	149	125.00-195.00	125-130	138.70
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	88	28.00-40.00	28-29	29.09	LEGS	88	27.00-40.00	27-28	28.18
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	406	13.00-18.00	13-14	13.86	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	446	13.00-18.00	13-14	13.54
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,262	15.00-25.50	17-19	17.99	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,259	15.00-25.50	17-20	19.14
WINGS (WHOLE)	305	60.00-76.00	-	73.48	WINGS (WHOLE)	305	56.00-73.00	-	71.05
WINGS (CUT)	435	78.00-87.00	79-82	80.57	WINGS (CUT)	357	74.00-86.00	75-79	79.25
DRUMSTICKS	68	41.00-50.00	-	48.94	DRUMSTICKS	68	41.00-50.00	-	48.94
THIGHS	21	41.00-47.00	-	41.23	THIGHS	28	41.00-47.00	-	45.29
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

 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
38.00 - 41.50	38.77	38.25 - 42.00	39.15	39.04

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

Trucklot buying activity was mostly light and unaggressive during mid-week trading as most dealers remained cautious and limited product to immediate needs. Offerings of bone-in breasts were fully adequate and boneless-skinless breasts were more than sufficient for trade needs. Wings were readily available. Dark meat cuts were ample. Movement through retail and distributive channels was seasonally slow. The market tone was barely steady to weak on breast items and wings. Weak on dark meat cuts.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES MARCH 19, 2002

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	TRADING*		AVG**	VOL/LBS		
BREAST - B/S	125-130	128.55	400,190		BREAST - B/S	125	127.01	409,320	
TENDERLOINS	125-130	127.72	117,840		TENDERLOINS	125-130	129.31	81,400	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	65-66	70.46	178,720		BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	69.29	210,240	
BREAST - LINE RUN	65	64.77	161,760		BREAST - LINE RUN	64	63.15	152,560	
LEGS	34-35	37.23	134,040		LEGS	33-34	40.48	154,480	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	19.86	611,445		LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	19.97	359,844	
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	35.10	133,250		DRUMSTICKS	35-36	37.40	99,030	
THIGHS	27-28	34.01	67,470		THIGHS	27-28	32.97	91,670	
B/S THIGHS	83-84	82.31	84,680		B/S THIGHS	84-85	83.29	76,800	
WINGS (WHOLE)	67-68	63.15	398,480		WINGS (WHOLE)	66-67	70.40	267,480	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.24	27,000		BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.02	42,640	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	25-30	20.10	14,550		LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	20-25	21.28	12,880	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	42.88	23,970		GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	43.52	32,392	

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	
	03/20	03/19	03/18	03/15	03/18	03/15	03/13	03/11
ALA	3,623	4,007	4,017	4,558	5.09	5.11	3,945	5.16
ARK	5,204	5,131	5,135	5,473	4.97	4.81	5,151	5.05
DELMARVA	2,282	2,031	2,260	2,132	5.26	5.06	1,989	5.13
KY-LA-TN	2,017	1,987	2,008	1,714	4.60	4.47	1,984	4.62
MISS	2,604	2,781	2,731	2,910	5.19	5.27	2,664	5.24
NC	2,351	2,644	2,531	2,430	6.06	5.79	2,545	5.92
TEXAS	2,421	2,391	2,131	2,474	4.96	4.68	2,419	4.99
TOTAL	20,502	20,972	20,813	21,691	5.15	5.03	20,697	5.16
MON-WED 62,923 (A)						62,855 (A)		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 20-Mar 02 and is estimated to be 30,673,000 down 1.24 percent from a week ago and up 6.5 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,058,000; last year 28,811,000)

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

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	86-88
ROASTERS 4# & UP	85-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	75
DUCKS	139
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	ICE PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		93-94
	DRY PACK	95-102
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-113
	DRY PACK	113
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	94-98
	DRY PACK	-
DUCKS		152-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 23-02

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/23/02 (1)	03/16/02
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	155,461 (2)	158,522
LT HENS	1,977	1,783
HVY HENS	1,407	1,410
CHECK TOTAL	158,845	161,715

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 23-Mar-02 is 154.3 million head compared to 152.0 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 155.8 million head or 1.5 million more than estimated available. For week of 30-Mar-02 the estimated available is 155.9 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 18-Mar-02	156,973	76,813
AM 1-Feb-02	141,676	77,105
CHG	15,297	-292
PCT CHG	11	0

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/18/02	03/11/02	03/19/01	03/18/02	03/11/02	03/19/01
PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES	12,953	8,137	11,433	3,911	4,005	5,989
	84	62	180	2,383	2,561	2,432

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 MARCH 18, 2002

	RANGE
HENS ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	57-60
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-69

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	FOR 3/19/02				FOR 3/19/02		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.45	1.60	.77	HEAVY FOWL	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.85	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	1.00	1.30	1.19	BANTAMS ea.	1.00	10.00	-
BROILERS lb.	.35	.60	.55	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.15	1.10	-
PULLETS lb.	2.50	2.70	2.59	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	13.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.80	1.75	1.41	ROOSTERS ea.	4.00	7.00	-
GEESE lb.	.65	.90	.79	GEESE ea.	-	8.50	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.50	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.65	2.15	1.89	DUCKS ea.	4.00	10.00	-
RABBITS lb.	.80	2.35	1.73	RABBITS ea.	3.00	10.50	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	3.00	8.00	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	6.00	13.50	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	1.00	2.50	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	6.50	10.00	-
SILKIES lb.	-	-	-	SILKIES ea.	3.00	4.50	-
GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-	GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-

TOTAL COOPS 205

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 15, 2002

	Whole		Legs		Necks, Backs		Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	Hens		
RAYON								
Low	62.49	139.97	79.98	20.00	20.00	44.99		
High	67.49	149.97	89.98	24.99	24.99	44.99		
Mostly	65.99	139.97	79.98	20.00	24.99	44.99		

SAN JUAN

Low	57.49	139.97	84.98	27.49	15.00	44.99
High	59.99	144.97	89.98	37.49	17.50	44.99
Mostly	59.99	139.97	89.98	29.99	15.00	44.99

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	62.49	139.97	79.98	15.00	20.00	44.99
High	67.49	149.97	89.98	24.99	24.99	44.99
Mostly	64.99	139.97	79.98	20.00	24.99	44.99

BECERRA

Low	59.99	134.97	84.98	29.99	15.00	47.49
High	62.49	144.97	89.98	34.99	17.50	47.49
Mostly	61.99	139.97	87.48	32.49	16.50	47.49

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds and parts was limited. Seller offerings of whole birds were readily available, competitively priced, and slow in clearing. Live supplies were seasonally moderate; weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to heavy. Processing schedules varied, and were moderate overall. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 49 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was generally weak. In the parts complex, all items remained fully sufficient for the generally lackluster buying 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	44-64
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	50.50
NO. OF BOXES	8,589

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS,

POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

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