



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2002
VOL. 49 NO. 148

ISSN 1522-0567

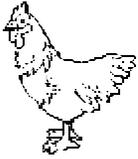
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mixed, but overall mostly steady. Retail demand was limited to fair at best with few features present. Food service was fair to good with strongest movement for fast food promotions and catering services. Availability was irregular, but at least adequate and easily obtained. In the parts structure, trading was light and selective to fair due partially to weather conditions in the East and interest in other holiday items. Breast items and wings were mixed with some locations reporting increased supplies, but improved in others. Dark meat was more than sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remained unchanged at 61.25 based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.25 cents last year on December 12, 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	163.00
BREASTS - B/S	129.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	65.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	55.50
LEG QUARTERS	18.00
WINGS	47.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was generally steady. Retail demand was seasonally light to fair with few features, and food service was fair to good, strongest into fast food and for catering services. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient to satisfy trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was mixed, best for breast items which moved into a more balanced to closely cleared position. Wings were available, and dark meat was at least adequate with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly light. Distributors were limiting purchases for immediate movement and getting ready for the seasonal holiday items. Overall, retail and distributive movement was seasonally light to fair. Offerings of all sizes ranged balanced to adequate with heavier sizes somewhat more prevalent. The market tone was steady. In the parts complex, b/s breast were reported as improved from the South, other breasts were generally sufficient. Dark meat cuts were fully adequate. Wings were irregular but adequate.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole birds remained steady. Offers were adequate for the fair at best trade interest. Movement into all channels was in a full range and spotty; retail light to fair at best overall and food service interest was moderate for the most part. Best demand was into catering and promotions on fast food. Floor stocks were in a full range. Weights were in a desirable range. Parts interest was cautious and selective, best demand noted on wings and boneless/skinless breasts. Supplies were sufficient for immediate trade needs. The market tone was steady to instances fully steady on boneless/skinless breasts and about steady on other items.

WESTERN The market tone was about steady. Offerings easily adequate. Fast Food demand good, light to only fair elsewhere. Floor stocks adequate. White meat parts stronger, dark meat parts just steady.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE		
WEEK ENDING 12/07/02	2002	2001	
EGGS SET	200,727	204,465	PREVIOUS YEAR
CHICKS PLACED	161,965	167,382	-03

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 201 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 7, 2002. This was down 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 DOWN 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 162 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 7, 2002. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through December 7, 2002 were 8.16 billion.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 18-Jan-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 149.0 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 145.5 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 150.6 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 161.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 57.56 CENTS PER POUND.

DECEMBER 10, 2002

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 11, 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 (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	977	112.00-191.00	119-126	122.61
TENDERLOINS	156	105.00-179.00	110-115	122.38
BREAST - LINE RUN	113	64.00-66.00	-	64.18
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	91	19.00-33.00	20-21	22.01
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	431	13.00-18.00	13-14	14.57
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,331	15.00-24.00	17-19	18.41
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	38.00-49.00	44-46	46.81
WINGS (CUT)	1,048	56.00-63.00	57-59	57.85
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	985	112.00-191.00	119-124	122.33
TENDERLOINS	149	105.00-166.00	110-115	122.03
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	103	19.00-33.00	19-20	21.64
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	391	13.00-18.00	13-14	14.32
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,411	15.00-24.00	17-19	18.25
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	38.00-47.50	44-46	45.74
WINGS (CUT)	433	56.00-63.00	57-59	57.49
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 F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
34.00 - 39.50	36.29

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
35.50 - 39.00	36.66	35.59

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 due in part to weather conditions and a shift of interest for other seasonal items. Floor stocks were adequate with increased offerings of breast items reported. Dark meat cuts were fully sufficient. Wings were available. Retail and distributive movement was irregular but usually limited. The market tone was mostly steady.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES **DECEMBER 10, 2002** **DECEMBER 11, 2002**

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	120-125	123.73	499,690
TENDERLOINS	100-105	101.70	135,461
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	67.52	142,040
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	63.39	168,800
LEGS	31-32	31.85	195,680
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	17.72	563,038
DRUMSTICKS	21-22	24.48	169,520
THIGHS	20-21	31.48	57,830
B/S THIGHS	62-63	63.93	73,210
WINGS (WHOLE)	41-42	43.49	283,960
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.23	32,040
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	32.78	15,690
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.72	26,370

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	120-125	124.74	553,160
TENDERLOINS	100-105	103.99	105,400
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	67.69	191,120
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	61.12	82,400
LEGS	31-32	29.32	205,120
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	18.67	392,305
DRUMSTICKS	21-22	25.27	129,020
THIGHS	20-21	29.53	50,480
B/S THIGHS	62-63	66.82	82,460
WINGS (WHOLE)	41-42	47.10	167,787
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.82	48,280
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	30.70	19,160
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	64.06	17,920

 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	
	12/11	12/10	12/09	12/06	12/09	12/06	12/04	12/02
ALA	3,954	4,099	4,142	3,905	5.20	4.91	3,993	5.22
ARK	4,960	5,296	5,131	5,122	5.01	5.06	4,848	5.22
DELMARVA	2,340	2,378	1,969	2,346	5.17	5.12	2,095	5.20
KY-LA-TN	1,973	1,974	1,989	2,500	4.78	4.80	1,651	4.86
MISS	2,784	2,893	2,892	2,528	5.39	5.43	2,731	5.49
NC	2,619	2,714	2,619	2,659	6.20	6.12	2,332	6.25
TEXAS	2,470	2,447	2,123	2,523	5.07	4.92	2,441	5.05
TOTAL	21,100	21,801	20,865	21,916	5.25	5.18	20,091	5.32
MON-WED	64,349	(A)					62,453	(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 11-Dec 02 and is estimated to be 31,568,000 up 4.71 percent from a week ago and up 2.6 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,149,000; last year 30,76 ,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	88-90
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#		-
HENS OVER 5#		75-76
DUCKS		-
RABBITS-WHOLE		-
RABBITS-CUT UP		-
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-93
	DRY PACK	96-101
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104
	DRY PACK	113
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	92-98
	DRY PACK	-
DUCKS		152-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 14-Dec-02

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	12/14/02 (1)	12/07/02
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	159,275 (2)	159,604
LT HENS	1,991	1,856
HVY HENS	1,388	1,526
TOTAL	162,654	162,986

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 14-Dec-02 is 146.7 million head compared to 156.6 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 159.6 million head or 12.9 million more than estimated available. For week of 21-Dec-02 the estimated available is 144.4 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 12/09/02	109,413		70,609	
AM 12/01/02	112,050		77,481	
CHG	-2,637		-6,872	
PCT CHG	-2		-9	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/09/02	12/02/02	12/10/01	12/09/02	12/02/02	12/10/01
PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES	6,623	9,327	5,746	5,016	5,659	3,127
	105	94	206	3,701	3,894	1,733

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 09, 2002

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		61-66
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	62-79

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	FOR 12/10/02		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.40	.70	.56
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.75	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.40	.70	.56
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	.45	.55	.48
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.40	1.00	.65
GEESE lb.	.50	.55	.52
TURKEYS lb.	.35	1.25	.45
DUCKS lb.	.40	1.60	1.19
RABBITS lb.	.90	1.60	1.26
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	3.50	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-
TOTAL COOPS	114		

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending December 6, 2002

Hens	Whole	Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings
RAYON				Gizzards
Low	53.56	123.94	70.82	17.71
High	59.76	132.79	79.67	22.13
Mostly	50.90	54.00	132.79	79.67
SAN JUAN				
Low	59.76	119.51	75.25	22.13
High	61.97	128.36	84.10	30.98
Mostly	51.79	60.64	123.94	75.25
NEW SAN JUAN				
Low	53.12	123.94	70.82	13.28
High	59.31	132.79	79.67	22.13
Mostly	50.90	55.33	132.79	79.67
BECERRA				
Low	57.10	123.94	79.67	22.13
High	61.53	132.79	88.53	30.98
Mostly	53.12	59.76	128.36	79.67
DELMARVA				
Low	26.56	17.71	53.12	

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was slow to fair and typical of normal mid-week activity. Seller offerings were adequate and generally well balanced on the 3.0 pound size, adequate to fully adequate on the 3.5, and adequate to ample on the 2.5 and 4.0 pound sizes. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 51 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. All parts were at least adequate. Bone-in breasts increased in availability and were 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

RANGE	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	45-64
NO. OF BOXES	54.00
	7,586

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

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 (Southern States Area Supervisor)
	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	