



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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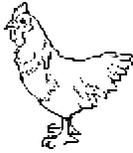
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were unchanged in the West and Midwest, but slightly higher in the East when compared to a week earlier. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Retail demand was seasonally light to fair with fast food movement somewhat better. Offerings were adequate but very irregular. In the parts structure, trading was seasonally active on fronts, b/s breast and wings. Offerings of bone-in breast were in a better position but still adequate for most needs. Dark meat was at least sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/16/02-12/21/02 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	41.00-44.00	41.00-56.75	44.52	23
Los Angeles	66.00			
New York	49.00-52.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	56.00-60.00	42.00-61.50	60.33	80

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 61.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
809	53.45-65.01	61.04

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	164.00	1,339
BREAST - B/S	130.00	4,598
BREASTS - WHOLE	64.00	1,138
THIGH MEAT - B/S	53.50	856
LEG QUARTERS	18.00	8,397
WINGS	47.00	3,365

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

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged from last Monday's final. The market tone on whole birds was mostly steady. Offers were sufficient for the light to moderate buyer interest. Retail and food service activity was irregular and covered a full range; retail demand was mostly light to fair, food service demand mostly moderate to fairly good. Best movement noted into fast food promotions, catering and hotel/motel restaurants. Floor stocks were balanced for the most part, weights desirable. Interest on parts items generated mostly through producer to processor trading with increased receiver demand on small sized wings and boneless/skinless breasts. Supplies of boneless/skinless breasts tightening, wings adequate for current needs with remaining items fully sufficient. The market tone was steady to firm on boneless/skinless breasts and occasionally wings, about steady on all other items.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment steady to fully steady. Retail demand was moderate, fast food movement was moderate to good. Supplies were adequate but in a better balanced position. In the parts structure, trading was fairly active on fronts and b/s breast, generally fair on dark meat and wings. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was steady with most trading for next week at unchanged prices. Offerings easily adequate. Retailer demand best to fast food, just fair overall. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. White meat parts strong, dark just steady. Ads noted: Southern California- whole fryers 89-119, boneless breasts fresh 148-399, IQF 2.5# 699, boneless leg meat 89-119, breasts 97, leg quarters 29-77, wings 79-99, thighs 69-99, drums 69-99, mixed parts 117-169, Cornish hens 197; Arizona- wholebody fryers 50% off, boneless breasts 179-269, boneless thighs 199-249, breasts 79-169, legs 79, roasters 99; Colorado-boneless breasts fresh 199-299, IQF 4# 799-899, tenders 299, boneless thighs 199, leg quarters 59, roasters 99.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was about fair to moderate. Offerings were reported in a full range, although heavier weights were slightly more available. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally light to fair. The market tone was steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were adequate to availability. Boneless-skinless breasts were in a workable position and reported as clearing at most locations. Dark meat items were fully sufficient for current requirements. Wings were reported as a improved balanced position.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained seasonally fair for the most part. Ongoing cutbacks in production had placed the bulk of offerings for prompt shipment in generally good balance. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 51 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to full steady. In the parts complex, supplies of boneless skinless breasts were well cleared at some plants. Other cuts were at least adequate, mostly fully adequate to ample for immediate needs.

*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	46-63
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	54.16
NO. OF BOXES	8,860
CUMULATIVE	54.11
	12/09/02-12/13/02
	12/10/01-12/14/01
NO. OF BOXES	50.91
	12/09/02-12/13/02
	12/10/01-12/14/01
	41,457
	52,289

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

DEC 12

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DEC 13

ITEM	POUNDS				POUNDS				WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	865	114.00-191.00	121-127	122.76	982	116.00-191.00	121-125	124.36	4,736	122.88
TENDERLOINS	284	107.00-166.00	109-115	125.08	229	110.00-166.00	-	136.71	970	126.64
BREAST - LINE RUN	98	62.00-67.00	63-65	64.20	93	64.00-68.00	64-66	64.75	500	64.12
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				385	59.07
LEGS	98	20.00-33.00	20-21	21.88	98	19.00-33.00	20-22	22.59	478	22.04
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	431	13.00-18.00	13-14	14.47	387	14.00-18.00	14-15	15.21	2,031	14.57
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,371	15.00-24.00	17-19	18.43	1,451	17.00-24.00	18-19	18.74	7,095	18.53
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	39.00-47.50	44-46	45.87	280	44.00-47.50	45-47	46.82	1,404	46.49
WINGS (CUT)	447	56.00-63.00	57-59	58.18	447	56.00-63.00	58-60	58.52	2,744	57.80
DRUMSTICKS	68	33.00-46.00	-	34.53	TOO FEW TO REPORT				333	33.02
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				133	33.92
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				142	48.46

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

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TRADING FOR DEC 12, 2002 F.O.B. DOCK.

TRADING FOR DEC 13, 2002 F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
34.50 - 39.50	36.49

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
35.50 - 40.00	37.77	36.76

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 fair. Dealers floor stocks were adequate and in a closer balanced position. Inclement weather and talk of a possible transportation strike has created some concern. Offerings of bone-in breasts were at least adequate, boneless-skinless breasts were in a workable position. Dark meat cuts were fully adequate. Spot improved interest was noted on wings. Retail and distributive movement was irregular but often limited. The market tone was steady but improved on wings and b/s breast and about steady on the balance.

TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WEEKLY	
	TRADING*	WTD	AVG**			TRADING*	WTD	AVG**			WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	120-125	124.04	440,560	125-130	127.40	529,800	125.62	2,254,440				
TENDERLOINS	100-105	105.22	92,200	100-105	106.85	206,481	104.58	598,702				
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	67.38	146,920	60-61	64.54	235,400	66.60	910,400				
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	60.96	168,840	60	61.52	117,320	62.09	614,760				
LEGS	31-32	28.85	110,680	31-32	30.91	321,760	30.64	982,520				
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	18.42	414,818	17-18	17.71	361,662	18.09	2,102,599				
DRUMSTICKS	21-22	23.67	139,220	21-22	26.05	121,110	24.96	644,620				
THIGHS	20-21	30.87	43,770	20-21	31.65	54,210	30.83	248,670				
B/S THIGHS	62-63	63.91	71,800	62-63	65.23	73,400	65.08	345,350				
WINGS (WHOLE)	42-43	46.67	131,630	43-44	46.56	226,590	46.01	918,057				
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.50	29,960	10-12	12.11	36,880	12.12	184,520				
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	29.69	13,360	30-35	30.31	14,640	30.84	75,810				
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.76	14,560	60-65	63.52	20,480	63.81	96,330				

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG)* TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG 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		ACTUAL WTS	
	12/13	12/12	12/11	12/10	12/11	12/10	12/06	12/04
ALA	4,011	4,012	3,848	4,034	5.24	5.10	3,905	5.12
ARK	5,423	5,256	5,004	5,084	4.71	5.10	5,122	4.90
DELMARVA	2,265	2,354	2,292	2,408	5.14	5.20	2,346	5.27
KY-LA-TN	1,885	1,903	1,956	1,938	4.76	4.70	2,500	4.93
MISS	2,548	2,951	2,843	2,951	5.49	5.42	2,528	5.51
NC	2,543	2,530	2,532	2,659	6.10	6.12	2,992	6.14
TEXAS	2,776	2,471	2,416	2,324	4.95	5.07	2,523	4.91
TOTAL	21,451	21,477	20,891	21,322	5.16	5.24	21,916	5.21
MON-FRI107,277(A)	104,060(A)							

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 13-Dec 02 and 14-Dec-02 is estimated to be 32,093,000 down 2.41 percent from a week ago and up 2.3 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 32,887,000; last year 31,377,000) Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 14-Dec-02 is estimated to be 154,659,000 head up 2 percent from a week ago, and unchanged from a year ago

(Last week 151,980,000 Last year 154,764,000)

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

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	88-90
ROASTERS 4# & up	80-95
HENS UNDER 5 LBS	-
HENS OVER 5 LBS	75-76
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	96-101
	ICE PACK	92-93
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	113
	ICE PACK	104
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	92-98
	DRY PACK	-
DUCKS		152-166

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 30-Nov-02 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service 4.20 Lbs & down	(B) Retail 4.21-5.25 Lbs	(C) Deboning 5.26 Lbs & Up
-----THOUSANDS-----			

Head	22,727	20,197	34,432
Avg Weight	3.79	4.74	6.18
% of total /1	29%	26%	45%

COMPARISONS

Last week	24,263	25,229	37,723
Avg Weight	3.75	4.73	6.19
% of total /1	28%	29%	43%

Same week, yr ago /2	25,351	16,423	41,335
Avg Weight	3.76	4.70	6.09
% of total /1	31%	20%	50%

To date/2002	1,229,295	1,080,063	1,976,526
To date/2001	1,478,041	1,296,014	2,067,460/1

May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 07-Dec-2002 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
-----THOUSANDS-----					

HEAD	151,980	1,739	1,425	3,164	408
AVG WT	5.13	3.62	7.87	5.53	6.55
LAST WEEK	115,454	1,223	1,010	2,233	312
SAME WK YR AGO	156,932	1,901	1,684	3,585	508
AVG WT	5.26	3.45	7.88	5.53	6.81
TO-DATE/2002	7,570,901	84,862	69,353	154,215	20,356
TO-DATE/2001	7,520,213	87,091	67,838	154,929	24,741

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 146.7 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 153.8 million head or 7.1 million head more than or 105% of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: DEC 10, 2002

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL POULTRY

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.00 - 1.10	Leghorn Hens	.02
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.75 - .80	Geese	
Red Fowl 4-4.5 LBS	.50 - .70	9-14 LBS	.50 - .60
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .80	Pigeons	.85 - 1.25ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.50 - .60	Rabbits	
Crossbred Roosters		4-6 LBS	1.30 - 1.70
4-6 LBS	.50 - .80	Rabbits	
Crossbred Roosters		7-11 LBS	1.15 - 1.40
7-11 LBS	.40 - .60	Bunnies	1.25 - 3.50ea.
Guinea Fowl	.60 - .75	Guinea Pigs	8.00 - 10.25ea.
Banty Roosters	2.25 - 3.00ea.	Doves	1.75 - 2.50ea.
Banty Hens	1.50 - 2.00ea.	Pullets	.60 - .80

Total Coops Sold 322

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 09-DEC-2002

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND MOSTLY	140	146
MIDWEST MOSTLY	122-126	123-127

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	54-58	56-58
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	63-85	68-75

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices remained unchanged. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was moderate to fairly good. Weights were in the desirable range. Schedules full-time. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$.35-.50, livers at \$.75-1.70, and feet at \$.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 09-DEC-2002

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS MOSTLY	116-124	125

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 2	157.1	156.2	101% 5.24
9	157.5	155.3	101% 5.13
16	156.0	151.3	103% 5.29
23	151.5	146.2	104% 5.16
30	116.9	145.5	80% 4.98
DECEMBER 7	153.8	146.7	105% 5.13
YEAR TO DATE	7661.7	7709.2	99%
DECEMBER 14		146.7	
21		144.4	

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	-----THOUSANDS-----				
W/E	12/14/02	12/07/02	% CHG	12/15/01	% CHG
Broilers	154,659	151,980*	+02	154,764*	0
Cattle	641	672	-05	702*	-09
Hogs	2,018	2,029	-01	2,051*	-02

Under Federal Inspection

* ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were generally unchanged on both light and heavy canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to good with trading extremely light. Supplies and offerings were in close balance to tight and well cleared. The undertone was at least steady to fully steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITH OUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) 20.5-25 MAJORITY 21.5-22.5	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS) 3-36 MAJORITY 31-33
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CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) 21.5-26.5 MAJORITY 23.5-24.5	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS) 32-38 MAJORITY 33-34
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EASTERN LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Offerings were at least adequate. Demand was light to fair at best and unaggressive. Processing schedules for next week were normal to less than normal. Movement of finished product was moderate to good and clearing satisfactory. The undertone was generally steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent light hens. Finished sales were seasonally active. Schedules were at desired levels. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices continued unchanged. Offerings were fully adequate to ample for the current light to moderate demand. Schedules were full-time for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

NEW YORK SEASONAL HOLIDAY ITEMS. FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 09, 2002.

CAPONS:

Prices to first receivers were unchanged. Supplies were in close balance with seasonal needs. Trade sentiment was fully steady. Weights were in a full range of light to heavy, but mostly desirable.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-9 LBS.	1.53-1.60	MOSTLY	1.57-1.59
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GEESE:

Shipper asking prices were unchanged from prior week. Supplies of frozen USDA Grade A geese were in close balance. Trading winding down for the December holiday period. Trade sentiment was fully steady. Average weights are in a full range.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-8 LBS.	TFEWR		
8-10 LBS.	2.10-2.30	MOSTLY	2.10-2.20
10-12 LBS.	2.10-2.30	MOSTLY	2.10-2.20
12 LBS. AND UP	2.10-2.30	MOSTLY	2.10-2.20

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

HEAVY	RANGE	MAJORITY
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (2)	
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR (1)	

LIGHT	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern Light	0-0 (1)	
Eastern Light	0-0 (2)	
So. Central Light	TFEWR (2)	
No. Central Light	TFEWR (1)	
No. Central Light	0 (2)	
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was fair to moderate. Offerings were generally sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. Finished product supplies varied but were mostly in close balance to short and well cleared. The undertone was generally steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked full schedules. Offerings ample.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent heavy hens. Finished sales were seasonally active. Schedules were at desired levels. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

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