



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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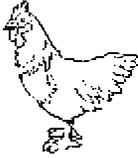
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was steady to firm. Retail demand was slow to instances moderate, best for other holiday items. Food service was light to good, best for catering businesses, restaurants, and fast food. Supplies of smaller sized product was in good balance and at times held with confidence, heavier weights were readily available. Spot locations were running part time schedules which kept floor stocks parallel with seasonal demand. In the parts structure, trading was light to active. Breast items were mixed, but available and in the best position, wings were balanced and clearing, and dark meat was at least adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced to 61.50 based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.00 cents last year on December 19, 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	167.00
BREASTS - B/S	136.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	66.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	55.50
LEG QUARTERS	18.00
WINGS	50.50

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Demand into retail was seasonally light with few features, and best for other holiday meat items. Food service was fair to good, best for fast food promotions and catering. Supplies were sufficient to short of full trade needs with reduced plant schedules keeping availability manageable. In the parts structure, breast items were in good balance to closely cleared and moving well. Wings were balanced and continued to clear, and dark meat was available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light to fair during midweek trading as dealers kept orders limited normal commitments. Offerings of the 3 to 3.5 pound birds were in good balance, and the heavier sizes were sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally light to fair. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm. In the parts complex, breast items were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were fully adequate. Wings continued to clear well.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole birds was generally steady to firm. Offers were limited for a light to fair interest. Retail demand was light to moderate at best. Features were receiving the best movement. Feature noted in the Chicago area: boneless skinless breasts at \$1.49 and \$1.99. Food service movement was light to good best into caters, restaurants, and fast food. Floor stocks were balanced; weights were in the desirable range. Part sales were slow with most interest centering on wings and boneless skinless breasts. Trade sentiment was about steady on leg items and fully steady to firm on breast items.

WESTERN The market tone was firm. Offerings were tight to adequate with lightweight product in the strongest position. Buying interest was seasonal. Demand by stores good where features in progress otherwise only fair, restaurants and fast food fairly good overall. Floor stocks generally adequate. White meat items remained in the strongest position with balance of parts generally steady.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES WEEK ENDING 12/14/02	2002	2001	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	203,843	207,067	-02
CHICKS PLACED	162,745	166,079	-02

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 204 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 14, 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 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 163 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 14, 2002. Placements were down 2 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through December 14, 2002 were 8.32 billion.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 25-Jan-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 149.5 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 149.0 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 155.0 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 160.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 56.98 CENTS PER POUND.

DECEMBER 17, 2002

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 18, 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		MAJORITY	WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE		
BREAST - B/S	890	120.00-193.00	124-132	127.53
TENDERLOINS	149	107.00-166.00	115-120	127.01
BREAST - LINE RUN	82	64.00-68.00	64-65	64.29
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	103	19.00-33.00	20-22	22.42
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	357	15.00-18.00	15-16	15.98
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,411	17.00-24.00	17-19	18.53
WINGS (WHOLE)	280	44.00-47.50	46-47	46.82
WINGS (CUT)	402	59.00-63.00	60-62	60.60
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE		
BREAST - B/S	937	120.00-193.00	123-130	126.46
TENDERLOINS	152	107.00-180.00	110-120	127.61
BREAST - LINE RUN	123	64.00-70.00	64-66	65.22
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	88	22.00-33.00	22-23	23.00
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	397	15.00-18.00	15-16	15.98
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,330	17.00-24.00	17-19	18.68
WINGS (WHOLE)	280	44.00-52.00	46-48	50.04
WINGS (CUT)	527	55.50-64.00	59-62	59.83
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	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
37.25 - 40.50	38.62	37.50 - 41.00	38.99	38.01

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 noted as light to fair during midweek trading as dealers kept floor stocks no more than adequate for most immediate needs. In addition, processing plant closings were helping to keep product in very close balance with the seasonally lackluster demand. Offerings of breast items were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Wings were clearing. Retail and distributive movement was sluggish. The market tone was steady.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES **DECEMBER 17, 2002****DECEMBER 18, 2002**

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	125-130	128.56	431,475
TENDERLOINS	100-105	100.44	92,461
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	65.97	179,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	64.04	143,520
LEGS	31-32	31.74	174,200
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	17.78	625,411
DRUMSTICKS	21-22	26.65	145,980
THIGHS	20-21	31.62	56,360
B/S THIGHS	62-63	60.17	69,220
WINGS (WHOLE)	45-46	49.59	150,420
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.23	47,000
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	31.58	20,335
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	62.02	32,510

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	125-130	127.89	530,120
TENDERLOINS	100-105	105.64	166,760
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	67.10	212,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	63.91	120,600
LEGS	31-32	28.45	278,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	17.59	310,556
DRUMSTICKS	21-22	23.13	133,750
THIGHS	20-21	29.58	55,140
B/S THIGHS	62-63	66.70	71,600
WINGS (WHOLE)	45-46	51.41	222,910
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.72	33,560
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	31.53	15,320
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.72	20,200

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	
	12/18	12/17	12/16	12/13	12/16	12/13	12/11	12/09
ALA	3,869	4,139	4,084	3,823	5.11	4.98	3,848	5.20
ARK	5,015	5,228	5,187	4,926	4.87	4.89	5,004	5.01
DELMARVA	1,723	2,391	2,259	2,307	5.17	5.19	2,292	5.17
KY-LA-TN	1,955	1,809	1,910	2,144	4.65	4.71	1,956	4.78
MISS	2,429	2,881	2,948	2,688	5.40	5.24	2,843	5.39
NC	2,552	2,607	2,546	2,659	6.11	6.04	2,532	6.20
TEXAS	2,475	2,212	2,227	2,709	4.91	4.84	2,416	5.07
TOTAL	20,018	21,267	21,161	21,360	5.16	5.11	20,891	5.25
MON-WED	63,177(A)				63,078(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 18-Dec 02 and is estimated to be 29,949,000 down 4.47 percent from a week ago and up 2.8 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,349,000; last year 29,146,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

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

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	ICE PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		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 21-Dec-02

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	12/21/02 (1)	12/14/02
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	158,055 (2)	159,275
LT HENS	1,942	1,991
HVY HENS	1,491	1,388
TOTAL	161,488	162,654

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 21-Dec-02 is 144.4 million head compared to 161.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.4 million head or 14.0 million more than estimated available. For week of 28-Dec-02 the estimated available is 140.8 million head.

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

		PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
		LBS	LBS
AM	12/16/02	109,515	80,345
AM	12/01/02	112,050	77,481
CHG		-2,535	2,864
PCT CHG		-2	4

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/16/02	12/09/02	12/17/01	12/16/02	12/09/02	12/17/01
PACIFIC COAST	7,542	6,623	5,216	5,510	5,016	3,142
LOS ANGELES	86	105	201	3,840	3,701	1,559

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 16, 2002

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

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	FOR 12/17/02		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.20	1.00	.56
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.50	.50
MIXED FOWL lb.	.40	.85	.61
BANTAMS lb.	-	1.40	1.40
BROILERS lb.	-	.40	.40
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	.95	.95
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.50	1.65	1.02
GEESE lb.	.40	.50	.46
TURKEYS lb.	.20	.50	.30
DUCKS lb.	.50	2.60	-
RABBITS lb.	1.40	2.25	1.81
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	2.00	2.50	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-

TOTAL COOPS 176

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending December 13, 2002

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	55.73	124.83	80.25	17.83	17.83	55.73
High	63.31	133.74	89.16	22.29	22.29	55.73
Mostly	57.96	133.74	89.16	17.83	17.83	55.73
SAN JUAN						
Low	60.19	129.29	80.25	26.75	15.60	55.73
High	63.31	142.66	93.62	31.21	17.83	55.73
Mostly	60.19	133.74	84.70	26.75	15.60	55.73
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	54.39	124.83	80.25	13.37	17.83	57.96
High	62.41	133.74	89.16	22.29	22.29	57.96
Mostly	60.19	133.74	89.16	17.83	17.83	57.96
BECERRA						
Low	60.19	124.83	84.70	22.29	13.37	54.39
High	62.41	138.20	98.08	31.21	17.83	54.39
Mostly	60.19	129.29	89.16	28.98	14.71	54.39

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light. Offerings were adequate, although irregularly available, as several plants closed to keep production in closer balance with the reduced demand. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were very light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged to higher at 52 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to full steady. In the parts complex, supplies were generally noted as adequate for the limited buying interest.

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*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	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	NO. OF BOXES
	45-66	53.83	7,720

*8 of 8 plants reporting.



USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.

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