



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

FRIDAY  
FEBRUARY 21, 2003  
VOL. 50 NO. 22

ISSN 1522-0567

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices for next week were trending higher in the East, unchanged elsewhere. Trade sentiment was steady to firm in the East, steady in the remaining areas. Retail demand was slow to moderate with limited feature activity. Food service was in a full range, best into fast food and lodging restaurants. Supplies of smaller sizes were sufficient to close balanced, heavier sizes at least adequate. Several plants in the East plan to process on Saturday to compensate for downtime during this week's snowstorms. In the parts structure, trading increased slightly for weekend needs, but otherwise, was light and selective. Breast items were adequate to fully adequate, wings were readily available, and dark meat was in balance to close. In production areas, live supplies were moderate with weights 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 02/24/03-02/29/03 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	53.00-56.00	46.00-62.00	54.91	25
Los Angeles	68.00			
New York	54.00-57.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	60.00-63.00	55.00-66.00	62.80	83

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 63.25 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.
890	57.25-65.75	63.09

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	170.50	1,338
BREASTS - B/S	150.00	4,798
BREASTS - WHOLE	84.00	1,128
THIGH MEAT - B/S	56.00	866
LEG QUARTERS	20.50	8,466
WINGS	71.50	3,307

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

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices into the Chicago area were unchanged from last Monday's final. Whole fryer market tone was steady. Offerings were limited for the generally light trade needs. Retail movement was slow to moderate, best for limited feature activity. Food service demand was in a full range with fast food promotions and hotel/motel restaurants providing best interest. Floor stocks were in close balance to long, weights desirable to heavy. Offerings of parts was light on leg items, varied on wings and adequate to instances fully adequate on breast items. The market tone was steady to firm on leg quarters, steady to weak on wings and about steady on breast items.

**SOUTHERN BROILER** Trade sentiment was generally steady. Retail and food service demand was mixed, strongest where retail ads and fast food promotions were active. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was fair to moderate. Breast items were available, wings were at least adequate, and dark meat was in good balance. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices were unchanged from last week's levels. Early trading finalized for next week's deliveries reported at generally unchanged prices. Offerings were fully adequate overall with whole body product over 3.5 pounds in the longest position. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good best where features in progress. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances. Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated): Southern California - whole 48-69, whole seasoned 139, cornish hen 98-139 and 12 count case 1999, marinated Cornish hen 199, boneless breast 187-458, boneless breast 4# IQF 899, breast fillets 377-399, breast fillets 377-399, breast tenders 4# IQF 1099 and 3# IQF 799, breast tenders 377-399, split breast 179, boneless thigh meat 228, boneless leg meat 59-119 and marinated boneless leg meat 199, split breast 179, whole leg 99, leg quarter 99, leg quarter 10# bag 290-490 and 40# case 899, marinated leg quarter 89, party wing 5# IQF 699, thigh 48-169, drumstick 48-169 and 5# bag 195-245, 8 piece mixed fried 349; Northern California - whole body 79-89, whole cut-up 99, boneless breast 249-299, boneless thigh 249, split breast 139-199, thigh 99, organic boneless breast 649 or thigh 229 or drumstick 199; Colorado - Cornish hen 149, boneless breast 179-369, boneless thigh meat 199-249, drumstick 99, thigh 99; Arizona - whole body 47, Cornish hen 2 for 500, boneless breast 139-459, boneless thigh meat 249-299, seasoned split breast 79, drumstick 59-99, thigh 59-99.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of the 3.5 pound and lighter birds were in good balance. However, the heavier weights were adequate to available. Retail and distributive movement was limited. The market tone was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, breast items were at least sufficient. Legs and leg quarters were at least adequate, but noted as better balanced. Wings were available.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was mostly fair to moderate and was sufficient in keeping the bulk of offerings in generally good balance; sizes were irregular for immediate delivery. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights were desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were very heavy when combined with several plants plans to operate this Saturday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 57 to 67 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Boneless skinless breast were clearing well. Bone-in breasts, tenders and wings were readily available. Leg quarters and thighs were clearing satisfactorily.

\*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		52-68
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		59.14
NO. OF BOXES		7,715
CUMULATIVE	02/17/03-02/21/03	57.98
	02/18/02-02/22/02	52.28
NO. OF BOXES	02/17/03-02/21/03	30,635
	02/18/02-02/22/02	47,102

\*8 of 8 plants reporting.

FEB 20

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

FEB 21

ITEM	POUNDS				POUNDS				WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	930	121.00-234.00	124-131	129.88	923	124.00-234.00	124-130	129.73	3,648	129.87
TENDERLOINS	465	118.00-172.00	118-122	122.12	113	118.00-172.00	118-125	136.58	860	127.68
BREAST - LINE RUN	112	82.00-88.00	83-85	85.95	92	82.00-88.00	85-86	86.80	408	86.33
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				221	73.70
LEGS	88	27.00-35.00	27-28	27.73	103	25.00-35.00	26-27	27.33	279	27.29
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	632	17.00-20.00	18-19	18.35	632	17.00-20.00	17-19	18.42	2,614	17.84
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,059	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.53	1,099	19.00-26.00	21-22	22.04	4,068	21.32
WINGS (WHOLE)	95	63.00-73.00	-	68.89	95	63.00-73.00	-	68.89	744	70.98
WINGS (CUT)	512	81.00-86.00	82-85	83.51	497	81.00-91.00	84-87	85.44	1,825	84.17
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				270	36.12
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				112	37.88
B/S THIGHS	24	54.00-59.00	-	58.26	TOO FEW TO REPORT				127	57.36

\*\*\*\*\*  
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR FEB 20, 2003 F.O.B. DOCK.

**TODAY'S****RANGE**  
44.50 - 48.00**AVERAGE**  
47.00\*\*\*\*\*  
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR FEB 21, 2003 F.O.B. DOCK.

**TODAY'S****RANGE**  
43.00 - 48.00**AVERAGE**  
46.89**5-DAY****AVERAGE**  
46.29

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 increased slightly entering the weekend, but was mostly fair as dealers remained cautious and selective. Offerings of breast items were at least sufficient. Legs and leg quarters were noted as adequate to better balanced. Wings remained available. Retail and distributive draw was fair to moderate, with best interest centering around scattered feature activity. The market tone was about steady.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

FEB 20

**CURRENT NEG** **WTD**  
**TRADING\*** **AVG\*\*** **VOL/LBS**

BREAST - B/S	140-145	137.29	422,640
TENDERLOINS	110-115	106.68	213,080
BREAST - WITH RIBS	83-84	88.26	207,600
BREAST - LINE RUN	83	87.37	99,318
LEGS	31-32	30.67	357,280
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.95	488,362
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	29.52	113,680
THIGHS	21-22	32.26	55,840
B/S THIGHS	62-63	63.41	80,120
WINGS (WHOLE)	68-69	74.55	169,480
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.98	62,800
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	30.57	8,040
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.14	16,440

**CURRENT NEG** **WTD**  
**TRADING\*** **AVG\*\*** **VOL/LBS**

BREAST - B/S	140-145	139.56	430,200	137.68	1,477,551
TENDERLOINS	110-115	112.40	124,800	110.48	439,940
BREAST - WITH RIBS	83-84	91.38	172,440	89.67	634,800
BREAST - LINE RUN	83	86.79	145,720	86.52	426,558
LEGS	31-32	31.59	292,640	30.85	1,091,560
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.04	454,381	21.03	1,944,754
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	30.47	132,100	29.58	424,430
THIGHS	21-22	31.48	76,860	32.33	231,000
B/S THIGHS	62-63	66.84	84,880	64.38	275,040
WINGS (WHOLE)	68-69	73.86	158,870	74.53	570,060
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.23	34,120	12.22	164,160
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	30.13	21,720	30.55	57,705
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.57	30,110	49.21	89,040

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		AVG WTS	
	02/21	02/20	02/19	02/18	02/19	02/18	02/14	02/12	02/14	02/12
ALA	3,946	3,887	3,550	3,832	5.17	5.17	4,018	5.08		
ARK	4,819	5,117	4,800	5,047	4.86	4.97	4,465	4.83		
DELMARVA	3,521	2,382	2,363	1,306	5.14	5.31	2,419	5.10		
KY-LA-TN	2,007	1,836	1,817	1,821	5.01	5.03	1,987	4.96		
MISS	2,474	2,924	2,742	2,903	5.34	5.31	2,735	5.39		
NC	3,269	2,603	2,397	2,659	6.03	5.64	2,682	5.87		
TEXAS	2,443	2,451	2,344	2,327	4.91	4.87	2,539	5.00		
TOTAL	22,479	21,200	20,013	19,238	5.17	5.15	20,845	5.15		
MON-FRI	106,444(A)				102,482(A)					

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 21-Feb 03 and 22-Feb-03 is estimated to be 33,631,000 up 7.52 percent from a week ago and up 6.8 percent from a year ago.  
(Last week 31,280,000; last year 31,492,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 22-Feb-03 is estimated to be 151,129,000 head down 1 percent from a week ago, and down 3 percent from a year ago  
(Last week 152,044,000 Last year 155,982,000)

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

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	90-92
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	65-66
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	102-103
	ICE PACK	95-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-105
	DRY PACK	113
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91-98
	DRY PACK	
DUCKS		152-166

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 08-Feb-03 (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	26,723	27,698	43,415
Avg Weight	3.75	4.93	6.26
% of total /1	27%	28%	44%

**COMPARISONS**

Last week	27,057	20,919	44,740
Avg Weight	3.80	4.77	6.18
% of total /1	29%	23%	48%
Same week, yr ago /2	32,165	17,526	53,890
Avg Weight	3.73	4.77	6.12
% of total /1	31%	17%	52%

To date/2003	131,006	124,964	241,731
To date/2002	184,062	124,825	280,888

/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 15-Feb-2003 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
HEAD	152,044	1,793	1,257	3,050	418
AVG WT	5.15	3.43	7.77	5.22	6.90
LAST WEEK	150,335	1,689	1,377	3,066	421
SAME WK YR AGO	157,980	1,719	1,186	2,905	458
AVG WT	5.03	3.70	7.90	5.42	6.71
TO-DATE/2003	1,030,168	11,563	9,414	20,977	2,896
TO-DATE/2002	1,059,932	12,688	8,839	21,527	3,106

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 153.6 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 153.9 million head or 0.3 million head more than or 100% of estimated fryers available.

**EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY -**

DATE OF AUCTION: FEB 18, 2003

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NO SALES TO REPORT  
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

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**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY**

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 17-FEB-2003

**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)	60-66	64-65
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	63-85	68-73

**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 at times good. Weights were desirable. 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 17-FEB-2003

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	PCT	AVG WT
JANUARY	11	154.4	104%	5.11
	18	155.0	102%	5.14
	25	145.9	95%	5.17
FEBRUARY	1	153.0	99%	5.21
	8	152.2	99%	5.05
	15	153.9	100%	5.15
YEAR TO DATE	1042.7	1058.4	99%	
FEBRUARY	22	153.7		
MARCH	1	153.4		

**BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER**

W/E	-----THOUSANDS-----		% CHG	02/23/01	% CHG
Broilers	151,129	152,044*	-01	155,982*	-03
Cattle	618	616	0	643*	-04
Hogs	1,879	1,915	-02	1,850*	+02

Under Federal Inspection

\* ACTUAL

**EASTERN LIGHT LIVE HEN** Majority values were unchanged. Offerings of spent hens were fully adequate. Demand was fair to moderate. Processing schedules for next week were reported as mostly normal.

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Removal values ranged unchanged to slightly higher. Demand was moderate to instances fairly good with rendering operators seeking additional spent hens at this call. Offerings of light live hens were usually adequate for current production schedules. Opinions on removal costs were about steady.

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Salvage costs were too few to report. Demand remained selective for spent leghorn fowl. Processing schedules were as needed. Finished sales cleared planned volumes. Disposal values were viewed as about steady.

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Majority prices were generally unchanged on light canners; unchanged on heavies. Demand continued in a full range with very light trading on the heavies. Offerings were in close balance to tight and well cleared. The undertone was at least steady on both light and heavies.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITH OUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
20-26 MAJORITY 22-22.5	30-35 MAJORITY 31-32

CENTS/POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
22.5-28 MAJORITY 24.5	31.5-37 MAJORITY 33-34

**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plant schedules heavy. Offerings ample.

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate for the mostly fully sufficient offerings. Processing schedules were reported as normal at most operations. The undertone was generally steady.

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN** Trading was too few to report. Demand for spent hens was fair. Offerings were at least adequate. Schedules were normal. Finished sales were moderate. Trade sentiment was about steady.

**LIVE TYPE HENS**

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

<b>LIGHT</b>	<b>RANGE</b>		<b>MAJORITY</b>
Eastern Light	0-7	(1)	3-6
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)	
No. Central Light	3-6	(1)	4-4.5

(1) Removal Cost  
(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE FOLLOWING WEEK

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

(1) Buyer Loading (2) Producer Loading  
(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

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