



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was irregular, ranging firm in the West, steady in the Midwest and South, and barely steady to weak in the East. Demand was slow to moderate, best for ads and fast food promotions, with some optimism present for first of the month. Supplies were generally sufficient; however, in the East, all sizes were at least adequate with heavier sizes often discounted. Winter storms in parts of the south and south central areas affected deliveries and some production schedules. In the parts structure, wings were readily available and boneless skinless breasts were adequate to barely adequate and moving. All other items were mixed in availability, but overall obtainable. In production areas, live supplies were moderate with desirable to heavy, 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 .25 cents to 63.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.75 cents last year on February 27, 2002.

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	168.00
BREASTS - B/S	151.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	85.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	59.50
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 mostly steady. Retail demand was slow to fair with hopes for improvements for first of the month and ads. Food service was fair to fairly good, best into fast food. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, breast items moved into a better position, aided by planned retail ads. Wings were readily available, and dark meat was balanced and moving. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers remained light and unaggressive during midweek trading. Offerings of the 3.5 pound and larger birds were readily available at discounted levels, and the smaller sizes were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was lackluster. The market tone was barely steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were ample. However, boneless-skinless breasts were in good balance. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Wings were fully adequate to ample.

MIDWEST Whole fryer market tone remained steady. Offerings were very limited for a mostly light buyer interest. Movement into retail channels was slow to fair with some improvement expected by week's end for first of the month. Food service demand was in a full range, but generally improving as fast food promotion gained interest. Floor stocks were adequate. Some receivers were increasing their attention to weather developments to the south and southwest as winter storms in those areas had decreased regular transport routes and disrupted some production. Weights were desirable. Trading on parts remained selective and light overall. Offerings of parts continued light. Supplies of wings varied, adequate to plentiful, all remaining items were barely adequate to in some cases tight. The market tone was steady to fully steady on leg quarters, fully steady on boneless/skinless breasts and steady on remaining items.

WESTERN The market tone was firm. Offerings in good balance on small sized whole body product with heavy weights generally adequate. Buying interest was moderate. Retailer demand was moderate to good best where featured. Floor stocks were adequate.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	2003		2002	PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 02/22/03	2003	2002		PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	203,562	211,110		-04
CHICKS PLACED	164,979	170,461		-03

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 204 million eggs in incubators during the week ending February 22, 2003. This was down 4 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 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 165 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 22, 2003. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through February 22, 2003 were 1.32 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 5-Apr-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 152.4 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.4 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 155.9 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 147.9 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 52.95 CENTS PER POUND.

FEBRUARY 25, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2003

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	935	124.00-234.00	132-136	135.50
TENDERLOINS	154	118.00-172.00	118-122	130.87
BREAST - LINE RUN	109	83.00-88.00	84-86	86.35
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	128	25.00-35.00	26-27	26.88
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	590	17.00-20.00	18-19	18.93
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	979	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.80
WINGS (WHOLE)	275	60.00-73.00	-	71.20
WINGS (CUT)	457	78.00-87.00	84-86	83.75
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	824	127.00-234.00	130-135	134.98
TENDERLOINS	122	126.00-172.00	-	139.31
BREAST - LINE RUN	102	84.00-88.00	84-86	87.02
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	98	25.00-35.00	26-27	27.45
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	590	17.00-20.00	18-19	18.78
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	909	19.00-26.00	21-22.5	21.83
WINGS (WHOLE)	95	60.00-73.00	-	67.79
WINGS (CUT)	397	78.00-89.00	81-84	83.71
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

***** F.O.B. DOCK. *****

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
43.50 - 48.50	46.22	45.75 - 50.00	47.84	47.15

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 midweek trading as the lackluster demand warranted a cautious and selective posture. Offerings of bone-in breasts were ample and sharply discounted to stimulate interest. In contrast, boneless skinless breasts ranged balanced to adequate. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient. Wings remained readily available. Retail and distributive movement was limited. The market tone was weak on bone-in breasts and wings, at least steady on boneless-skinless breasts and about steady on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES FEBRUARY 25, 2003

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	140-145	133.28	646,070	BREAST - B/S	140-145	139.49	345,560
TENDERLOINS	110-115	116.37	157,180	TENDERLOINS	110-115	119.41	68,480
BREAST - WITH RIBS	83-84	89.73	208,240	BREAST - WITH RIBS	80-81	84.77	250,320
BREAST - LINE RUN	83	81.09	158,640	BREAST - LINE RUN	80	75.87	168,640
LEGS	31-32	30.30	393,840	LEGS	31-32	31.32	263,480
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.07	668,364	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.95	341,535
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	26.41	170,280	DRUMSTICKS	23-24	31.47	77,070
THIGHS	21-22	32.93	61,200	THIGHS	21-22	32.10	61,820
B/S THIGHS	62-63	63.23	113,380	B/S THIGHS	62-63	64.69	37,520
WINGS (WHOLE)	68-69	68.90	205,690	WINGS (WHOLE)	67-68	70.52	221,430
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.28	24,760	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.95	52,760
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.36	13,830	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	27.65	22,800
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	48.47	21,480	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	48.23	29,680

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	
	02/26	02/25	02/24	02/21	02/24	02/21	02/19	02/17
ALA	3,733	3,692	3,689	3,861	5.26	5.03	3,550	5.15
ARK	4,848	5,157	4,732	4,576	4.97	4.84	4,800	4.91
DELMARVA	2,384	2,360	2,331	3,489	5.17	5.15	2,363	0.00
KY-LA-TN	1,896	1,864	1,875	1,829	4.97	5.05	1,817	4.99
MISS	2,811	2,920	2,910	2,471	5.37	5.31	2,742	5.40
NC	2,377	2,565	2,533	2,659	6.03	6.18	2,397	5.63
TEXAS	2,264	2,100	2,062	2,383	4.55	5.05	2,344	4.99
TOTAL	20,313	20,658	20,132	21,202	5.19	5.19	20,013	5.13
MON-WED	61,817 (A)				55,974 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 26-Feb 03 and is estimated to be 30,391,000 up 1.20 percent from a week ago and down 1.4 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,032,000; last year 30,836,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

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

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 01-Mar-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/01/03 (1)	02/22/03
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	152,386 (2)	150,856
LT HENS	1,734	1,671
HVY HENS	1,584	1,500
TOTAL	155,704	154,027

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 01-Mar-03 is 153.4 million head compared to 156.8 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 152.7 million head or 0.7 million less than estimated available. For week of 08-Mar-03 the estimated available is 155.2 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS	LBS	LBS	LBS
AM 02/24/03	162,316	73,736		
AM 02/01/03	155,703	76,443		
CHG	6,613	-2,707		
PCT CHG	4	-4		

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	2/24/03	2/17/03	2/25/02	2/24/03	2/17/03	2/25/02
PACIFIC COAST	7,161	7,378	5,168	6,897	6,343	4,276
LOS ANGELES	1,390	1,390	77	3,845	3,969	2,467

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 FEBRUARY 24, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		61-64
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	61-79

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	LOW HIGH AVG			FOR 2/25/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.50	.75	.67	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.30	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	1.25	-	BANTAMS ea.	1.25	4.75
BROILERS lb.	-	.60	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	.70	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	6.50
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	2.50
ROOSTERS lb.	1.00	1.60	1.13	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	.50	.60	.57	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	1.30	1.85	1.53	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.50	1.70	1.25	RABBITS ea.	.50	5.50
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	3.50	6.25
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	4.50	9.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	7.00
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
TOTAL COOPS	95					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 21, 2003

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards Hens
RAYON					
Low	58.79	124.20	74.52	16.56	12.42 64.17
High	62.93	132.48	82.80	20.70	16.56 64.17
Mostly	58.79	124.20	82.80	20.70	16.56 64.17
SAN JUAN					
Low	57.13	124.20	86.94	24.84	14.49 53.82
High	60.03	136.62	95.22	28.98	18.63 53.82
Mostly	58.79	132.48	86.94	26.91	14.49 53.82
NEW SAN JUAN					
Low	57.96	124.20	74.52	12.42	12.42 64.17
High	62.93	132.48	82.80	20.70	16.56 64.17
Mostly	57.96	124.20	82.80	20.70	16.56 64.17
BECERRA					
Low	57.96	120.06	86.94	20.70	14.49 53.82
High	58.79	136.62	95.22	31.05	18.63 53.82
Mostly	57.96	132.48	91.08	24.84	16.56 53.82

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally noted as slow and typical of end of the month February activity. Offerings were adequate to ample with spot sales on over 3 pound sizes as low as 49 cents delivered to stimulate buyer interest. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 57 to 67 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly weak and unsettled. Boneless skinless breasts continued to clear well. Bone-in breasts and wings were difficult to clear. Other cuts were at least adequate.

*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	49-70
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	59.04
NO. OF BOXES	9,057

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats
	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	