



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 05, 2003
VOL. 50 NO. 27

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 overall steady. Retail demand was slow to moderate where featured, but limited in some areas due to Lent. Food service was fair to good, best for first of the month fast food promotions. Supplies were at least sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, mid-week trading was light. Breast items were adequate to at times tight, dark meat was better balanced to close, and wings were in the longest supply with some discounting noted. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed 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 63.75 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 March 6, 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	168.50
BREASTS - B/S	153.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	85.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	60.00
LEG QUARTERS	21.50
WINGS	71.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Supplies were usually sufficient for the light to moderate demand. In the parts structure, breast items were balanced to closely cleared and moving. Dark meat was available, and wings were at least adequate. 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 light and selective as dealers cautiously assessed the market during midweek trading. Offerings of all sizes were generally sufficient for most immediate needs. Retail and distributive draw was slow. The market tone was steady. In the parts complex, breast items were adequate. Legs and thighs had moved into more manageable positions. Wings were available.

MIDWEST Whole fryer market tone was mostly steady. Offerings were in balance with heavier sizes more available for the light trade interest. Retail movement was for the most part light to fair at best, instances good in the Chicago area, on limited feature activity. Food service demand was in a full range, mostly moderate with some pick up noted for first of the month fast food promotions. Floor stocks were adequate. Sizes were mixed. Trading on parts was cautious, selective and limited. Supplies of wings were adequate or available, breast items somewhat tight and dark meat cuts in balance with trade needs. The market tone was steady to fully steady on boneless/skinless breasts and dark meat and steady to barely steady on wings.

WESTERN Trade sentiment was generally steady. Offerings were adequate to ample with lightweight product in the best position. Buying activity was moderate at best as Lent began. Retailer demand was fairly good where featured otherwise only fair. Floor stocks in better balance with needs than earlier in the week. The market tone was generally steady to fully steady on parts with boneless breast in the strongest position.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 03/01/03	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
EGGS SET	205,205	210,211
		PREVIOUS YEAR
CHICKS PLACED	164,349	169,215
		-02
		-03

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 205 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 1, 2003. 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 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 164 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 1, 2003. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 1, 2003 were 1.48 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 12-Apr-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 151.6 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.4 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 157.9 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 154.4 MILLION HEAD AND THE COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 53.64 CENTS PER POUND.

MARCH 04, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 05, 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			WTD	ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	790	127.00-235.00	132-136	137.15	BREAST - B/S	888	131.00-235.00	132-135	135.17
TENDERLOINS	117	125.00-172.00	125-130	137.98	TENDERLOINS	65	115.00-172.00	-	143.32
BREAST - LINE RUN	147	82.00-88.00	84-86	85.86	BREAST - LINE RUN	112	84.00-89.00	85-88	86.84
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	124	27.00-35.00	27-29	28.87	LEGS	88	29.00-35.00	-	29.55
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	630	17.00-20.00	18-19	18.79	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	672	18.00-20.00	19	18.93
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,028	19.00-26.00	21-23	22.01	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,018	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.97
WINGS (WHOLE)	275	57.00-73.00	-	70.67	WINGS (WHOLE)	275	57.00-72.00	-	69.80
WINGS (CUT)	267	75.00-84.00	81-83	81.68	WINGS (CUT)	484	75.00-84.00	79-82	80.67
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	68	35.00-45.00	-	36.18
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	35	57.00-60.00	-	58.71	B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

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

RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
44.00 - 49.00		46.65	45.00 - 49.50		47.22	47.72

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 dealers remained very cautious and held floor stocks in tight balance. Offerings of breast items were sufficient for most immediate needs. Legs and thighs had moved into better balanced positions. Wings remained available with spot discounting noted. Retail and distributive draw was light to fair. The market tone was fully steady on legs and thighs, steady on breast items and no better than steady on wings.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES MARCH 04, 2003

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	TRADING*		AVG**	VOL/LBS		
BREAST - B/S	150-155	147.49	504,480	BREAST - B/S	150-155	148.18	386,870		
TENDERLOINS	110-115	111.30	108,520	TENDERLOINS	110-115	114.18	109,180		
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	84.06	247,160	BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	87.15	156,000		
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	82.82	143,880	BREAST - LINE RUN	78	82.94	81,480		
LEGS	31-32	32.76	299,880	LEGS	32-33	32.16	315,640		
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.86	544,971	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.08	418,721		
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	28.13	146,820	DRUMSTICKS	23-24	29.01	104,080		
THIGHS	21-22	33.53	59,870	THIGHS	22-23	31.77	55,296		
B/S THIGHS	62-63	65.01	71,240	B/S THIGHS	62-63	68.62	50,780		
WINGS (WHOLE)	66-67	68.35	203,190	WINGS (WHOLE)	66-67	71.62	246,940		
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.29	29,920	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.92	54,280		
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.35	21,710	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	26.74	20,940		
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	48.84	22,380	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.14	26,940		

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		AVG	
	03/05	03/04	03/03	02/28	03/03	02/28	02/26	02/24
ALA	3,832	3,882	3,821	3,947	5.14	4.88	3,757	5.26
ARK	5,095	5,207	5,212	5,445	5.11	4.84	4,352	4.97
DELMARVA	2,342	2,344	2,160	2,224	5.14	5.06	2,337	5.17
KY-LA-TN	1,946	1,932	1,922	2,181	4.90	5.17	1,792	4.97
MISS	2,676	2,884	2,883	2,447	5.36	5.22	2,821	5.37
NC	2,374	2,483	2,465	2,659	5.99	5.85	2,357	6.03
TEXAS	2,447	2,439	2,441	3,107	5.02	4.89	1,987	4.55
TOTAL	20,712	21,171	20,904	21,962	5.23	5.07	19,403	5.19
MON-WED	63,146(A)				58,773(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 05-Mar 03 and is estimated to be 30,987,000 up 6.43 percent from a week ago and up 0.2 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,116,000; last year 30,925,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		91-93
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	96-99
	DRY PACK	103-104
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 08-Mar-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/08/03 (1)	03/01/03
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	149,672 (2)	152,386
LT HENS	1,597	1,734
HVY HENS	1,299	1,584
TOTAL	152,568	155,704

(1) ESTIMATED

(2) The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 08-Mar-03 is 155.2 million head compared to 157.0 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 150.0 million head or 5.2 million less than estimated available. For week of 15-Mar-03 the estimated available is 156.5 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 03/03/03	174,509		68,879	
AM 02/01/03	155,703		76,443	
CHG	18,806		-7,564	
PCT CHG	12		-10	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	3/03/03	2/24/03	3/04/02	3/03/03	2/24/03	3/04/02
PACIFIC						
COAST	7,155	7,161	7,431	4,609	6,897	3,707
LOS ANGELES	1,369	1,390	72	1,383	3,845	2,519

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 MARCH 03, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		58-64
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-79

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	LOW HIGH AVG			FOR 3/04/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.65	1.30	1.15	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.60	.70	.63	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.90	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	3.00	7.50
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	.65	.90	.77	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.70	1.55	1.10	ROOSTERS ea.	-	3.00
GEESE lb.	.55	.95	.80	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.90	1.55	1.33	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.25	1.80	1.56	RABBITS ea.	-	4.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	3.75	6.75
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	10.00
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	6.50
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
TOTAL COOPS	94					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 28, 2003

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards
Hens					
RAYON					
Low	58.53	123.66	82.44	16.49	12.37 63.89
High	62.65	131.90	90.68	20.61	16.49 63.89
Mostly	58.53	131.90	82.44	20.61	16.49 63.89

SAN JUAN

Low	56.88	127.78	90.68	16.49	14.43 53.17
High	59.35	136.02	98.92	22.67	18.55 53.17
Mostly	56.88	127.78	90.68	18.55	14.43 53.17

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	57.71	123.66	74.19	16.49	12.37 65.95
High	62.65	131.90	82.44	20.61	16.49 65.95
Mostly	60.18	131.90	82.44	20.61	16.49 65.95

BECERRA

Low	57.71	123.66	78.32	24.73	16.49 53.17
High	59.77	136.02	90.68	28.85	20.61 53.17
Mostly	58.53	127.78	86.56	26.79	18.55 53.17

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds and parts was slow to moderate at best as many buyers continued to limit incoming receipts to previous commitments. Seller offerings on whole birds were fully sufficient. Live supplies were moderate; weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment remained about steady. In the parts complex, breast items were generally noted as in good balance. Leg items were fully adequate. Wings were fully adequate to ample.

*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	49-69
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	60.50
NO. OF BOXES	8,164

*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	