



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 26, 2003
VOL. 50 NO. 36

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 mixed, ranging about steady to weak. Retail demand was seasonally slow to fair with few features; food service was slow to moderate with best interest into fast food for promotions. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient for limited needs. In the parts structure, trading was minimal. Tenders were in the best position with supplies balanced to closely cleared. The remaining items were at least adequate to ample and frequently discounted, but met with resistance. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were light to heavy, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading DECLINED .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 62.50 cents last year on March 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	173.00
BREASTS - B/S	156.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	86.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	63.00
LEG QUARTERS	22.00
WINGS	70.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was overall no better than steady. Demand for mid-week was seasonally slow to fair with light trading. Supplies of all sizes were readily available and often discounted to aid in movement. In the parts structure, trading was light. Tenders were in good balance and moving, but the remaining parts were at least adequate to ample. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly light during midweek trading as dealers remained cautious and selective. Offerings varied in availability, although, the 2.5 pound birds were ample and the heavier sizes were at least adequate. Retail and distributive draw was seasonally slow. The market tone was barely steady on the 2.5 pound birds and no better than steady on the balance. In the parts complex, boneless-skinless breasts were fully adequate and bone-in breasts were more than sufficient. Tenderloins were noted as better balanced. Wings were ample and the balance of cuts were at least adequate.

MIDWEST Whole fryer market tone was about steady to weak. Producer offerings continued moderate to heavy for the mostly inactive buyer interest. Retail demand was generally slow, instances light to fair and best for scattered features. Retail features noted in the Ohio area on leg quarters at 49 and 51 cents, boneless/skinless breasts at \$2.99 and 2 1/2 pound IQF boneless/skinless breasts at \$4.99; in the Chicago area whole birds noted at 69 cents and wings at \$1.29. Food service demand was slow to moderate, best into fast food promotions. Floor stocks were in a full range. Weights desirable to heavy. In the parts sector, trading was very limited, outside of tenders which saw a fair to fairly good draw. Supplies were limited on tenders; remaining items were fully adequate to ample with discounting more prevalent to stimulate trade interest. The market tone was fully steady to firm on tenders, and barely steady to weak on all other items.

WESTERN The market tone was about steady. Offerings were fully adequate for current needs. Buying activity was fair. Retailer demand was moderate to good best where store ads and fast food specials in progress. Floor stocks were adequate. Trade sentiment was generally steady on parts with wings showing some weakness.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 03/22/03	2003	2002
EGGS SET	204,902	208,762
CHICKS PLACED	169,014	171,346
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		-02
		-01

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 22, 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 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 169 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 22, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 22, 2003 were 1.98 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 3-May-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 154.9 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.9 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 160.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 159.6 MILLION HEAD AND THE COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 53.84 CENTS PER POUND.

MARCH 25, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 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	902	125.00-235.00	130-137	133.73
TENDERLOINS	303	112.00-180.00	120-130	136.07
BREAST - LINE RUN	88	82.00-88.00	83-85	85.11
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	91	27.00-38.00	29-30	30.50
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	626	17.00-21.00	18-20	18.85
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,030	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.79
WINGS (WHOLE)	257	45.00-71.00	-	69.81
WINGS (CUT)	387	63.00-84.00	81-83	81.78
DRUMSTICKS	67	38.00-47.00	-	38.94
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	902	130.00-235.00	130-134	132.85
TENDERLOINS	183	115.00-183.00	120-125	130.19
BREAST - LINE RUN	103	82.00-88.00	82-85	84.37
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	91	28.00-38.00	29-30	30.54
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	632	17.00-20.50	18-20	18.82
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,070	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.74
WINGS (WHOLE)	102	45.00-71.00	-	61.62
WINGS (CUT)	440	63.00-84.00	79-82	80.83
DRUMSTICKS	67	38.00-47.00	-	38.94
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
46.00 - 50.00	47.93	44.50 - 49.75	47.16	47.91

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 remained light and selective during midweek trading as dealers saw no need to extend floor stocks beyond current needs. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were available at discounted levels and bone-in breasts were at least sufficient. Tenderloins were noted as closely cleared. Wings were fully sufficient and the balance of cuts ranged adequate to fully adequate. Retail and distributive draw was seasonally light. The market tone was steady to fully steady on tenderloins, barely steady to weak on boneless-skinless breasts and wings; no better than steady on the remainder of items.

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

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	150-155	147.79	488,160
TENDERLOINS	110-115	115.92	149,910
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	84.07	243,000
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	81.73	92,840
LEGS	32-33	34.19	182,240
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.08	916,288
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	26.69	130,480
THIGHS	22-23	32.54	70,190
B/S THIGHS	62-63	66.39	88,220
WINGS (WHOLE)	65-66	69.02	191,022
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.20	26,600
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	30.69	18,460
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	48.87	27,520

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145-150	147.86	400,800
TENDERLOINS	110-115	121.12	63,880
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	84.70	220,800
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	79.14	63,000
LEGS	32-33	33.90	256,320
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.80	366,341
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	28.25	83,000
THIGHS	22-23	31.97	51,380
B/S THIGHS	62-63	69.84	76,060
WINGS (WHOLE)	64-65	65.53	186,280
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.89	44,480
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.73	15,480
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	47.28	20,680

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	
	03/26	03/25	03/24	03/21	03/24	03/21	03/19	03/17
ALA	3,780	3,808	3,745	3,995	5.24	5.04	3,830	5.24
ARK	5,240	5,285	5,194	5,031	5.12	4.75	5,025	5.05
DELMARVA	2,259	2,234	2,284	2,157	5.13	5.05	2,220	5.15
KY-LA-TN	1,908	1,921	1,959	2,019	4.90	4.51	1,999	4.94
MISS	2,783	2,921	2,825	2,636	5.36	5.20	2,721	5.38
NC	2,273	2,575	2,491	2,659	6.03	6.03	2,260	5.97
TEXAS	2,458	2,425	2,442	2,393	5.07	4.92	2,260	4.84
TOTAL	20,701	21,169	20,940	20,665	5.26	5.04	20,315	5.22
MON-WED	63,009 (A)				62,490 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 26-Mar 03 and is estimated to be 30,971,000 up 1.59 percent from a week ago and up 3.3 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,485,000; last year 29,974,000)

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	155-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 29-Mar-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/29/03 (1)	03/22/03
	—THOUSAND HEAD—	
BRO-FRY	158,032(2)	151,312
LT HENS	1,684	1,735
HVY HENS	1,476	1,324
TOTAL	161,192	154,371

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 29-Mar-03 is 155.7 million head compared to 147.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.3 million head or 2.6 million more than estimated available. For week of 05-Apr-03 the estimated available is 155.4 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 03/24/03	185,901	62,110
AM 03/01/03	174,509	68,879
CHG	11,392	-6,769
PCT CHG	7	-10

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	3/24/03	3/17/03	3/25/02	3/24/03	3/17/03	3/25/02
PACIFIC COAST	10,966	11,013	18,055	8,779	8,240	3,892
LOS ANGELES	1,376	1,376	89	4,199	4,069	2,140

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 24, 2003

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

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	LOW HIGH AVG			FOR 3/25/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.50	2.40	1.07	HEAVY FOWL ea.	4.00	10.00
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	1.85	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	4.75
BANTAMS lb.	-	1.30	-	BANTAMS ea.	2.25	6.25
BROILERS lb.	.75	.90	.81	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.20	.55
PULLETS lb.	-	.80	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	3.75	7.00
ROOSTERS lb.	1.00	1.45	1.20	ROOSTERS ea.	5.75	6.00
GEESE lb.	-	1.15	-	GEESE ea.	6.75	7.00
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.75	2.45	1.83	DUCKS ea.	6.50	8.50
RABBITS lb.	1.00	1.95	1.65	RABBITS ea.	3.00	4.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.75	6.50
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea	10.00	12.50
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	1.25	2.75
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	9.00
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-

TOTAL COOPS 151

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 21, 2003

	Whole		Legs W/ Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
RAYON						
Low	55.79	126.79	71.85	16.91	12.68	59.17
High	60.01	135.24	76.07	21.13	16.91	59.17
Mostly	59.17	135.24	71.85	16.91	16.91	59.17
SAN JUAN						
Low	58.75	126.79	80.30	21.13	12.68	53.25
High	60.86	135.24	88.75	27.47	16.91	53.25
Mostly	58.75	131.02	88.75	25.36	14.79	53.25
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	55.79	126.79	67.62	12.68	12.68	59.17
High	60.01	135.24	76.07	21.13	16.91	59.17
Mostly	59.17	126.79	71.85	16.91	16.91	59.17
BECERRA						
Low	58.32	126.79	84.53	25.36	14.79	54.94
High	59.17	139.47	97.21	27.47	16.91	54.94
Mostly	58.32	135.24	88.75	25.36	14.79	54.94

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was slow and often noted as insufficient in keeping seller offerings cleared satisfactorily. Live supplies were moderate; weights continued to vary in a full range, but tended to be more readily available on the smaller sizes. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 52 to 62 cents. Trade sentiment was at best steady. In the parts complex, tenders cleared well. Leg quarters, drums and thighs were adequate and in manageable balance. Other cuts were available and were generally slow in clearing.

*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	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
45-67	54.14	7,728	

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

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