



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was barely steady in the West, barely steady to weak in the Midwest, about steady elsewhere. Retail demand was slow to fair with few features. Food service was also slow to at times moderate into fast food for promotions. Supplies were mixed, ranging better balanced in some locations, to ample on heavier weights. In the parts structure, trading was light. Tenders were close balanced to well cleared and moving best, and the remaining parts were at least adequate or available with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to heavy.

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 63.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.50 cents last year on April 3, 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	176.50
BREASTS - B/S	156.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	85.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	63.50
LEG QUARTERS	22.00
WINGS	69.50

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was steady at best. Demand into all channels was mostly slow to fair with first of the month business mixed. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient for current trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light. Tenders were in good balance and continued to move. The remaining parts were at least adequate or readily available with limited interest. 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 noted as fair at best during midweek trading as dealers were content to limit orders to regular commitments. Offerings were generally sufficient. Retail and distributive draw was seasonally slow. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, tenderloins were closely cleared. Breast items were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate.

MIDWEST Whole fryer market tone remained barely steady, undertone weak. Offerings were fully available on heavy weight product and adequate on lighter whole fryers and Wogs. Trade interest was noncommittal and limited. Demand into all channels was unexpectedly sluggish; slow to occasionally fair into retail and light to moderate into food service. Floor stocks were adequate to long. Weights desirable to heavy. In the parts complex, tenders remain active and supplies were in close balance; remaining parts were slow to clear and supplies were building. The market tone was fully steady to firm on tenders, and barely steady to weak on the balance.

WESTERN The market tone was barely steady. Offerings were ample. Buying activity was fair, but not as aggressive as anticipated for first-of-the month. Retailer demand was fair to moderate for whole body and moderate to good for parts, best where featured. Floor stocks were generally adequate. Trade sentiment was about steady on parts.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	2003		2002	PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 03/29/03	2003	2002	PREVIOUS YEAR	
EGGS SET	204,138	207,728		-02
CHICKS PLACED	169,261	171,323		-01

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 March 29, 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 29, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 29, 2003 were 2.15 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 10-May-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 155.6 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 154.9 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 160.0 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 159.7 MILLION HEAD AND THE COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 55.83 CENTS PER POUND.

APRIL 01, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

APRIL 02, 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	897	130.00-230.00	130-135	134.28
TENDERLOINS	261	119.00-187.00	119-125	131.25
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	79.00-86.00	82-84	84.04
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	122	25.00-38.00	27-29	28.37
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	592	17.00-21.00	18-19	18.84
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	910	19.00-26.00	21-22	21.91
WINGS (WHOLE)	102	45.00-71.00	-	61.62
WINGS (CUT)	497	63.00-84.00	75-79	78.82
DRUMSTICKS	102	29.00-47.00	-	35.53
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	653	129.00-230.00	130-135	134.14
TENDERLOINS	258	119.00-187.00	125-130	131.38
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	92	25.00-38.00	28-29	29.63
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	616	17.00-21.00	18-19	18.81
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	900	19.00-26.00	20-22	21.14
WINGS (WHOLE)	282	45.00-70.00	-	66.90
WINGS (CUT)	615	63.00-87.00	76-79	78.32
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	55	52.00-61.00	-	55.27

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR F.O.B. DOCK.

 F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
43.00 - 46.50	45.29

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
41.00 - 47.00	43.91	45.77

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

Midweek trucklot buying activity was cautious and selective as demand generally maintained an even keel and dealers saw no need to extend floor stocks beyond most immediate needs. Offerings of breast items were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Wings remained ample with discounting noted. Tenderloins were in very close balance. Retail and distributive draw was seasonally slow. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on tenderloins, barely steady to weak on wings, and no better than 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 **APRIL 01, 2003**

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145-150	146.72	404,380
TENDERLOINS	120	127.89	138,060
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	83.47	152,120
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	80.03	124,280
LEGS	32-33	33.91	167,760
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	20.86	555,895
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	28.68	126,710
THIGHS	22-23	31.26	50,090
B/S THIGHS	62-63	68.27	80,660
WINGS (WHOLE)	59-60	56.95	241,750
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.22	30,960
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.31	16,795
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	40.68	22,010

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145-150	148.94	502,940
TENDERLOINS	120-125	127.47	125,660
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	86.23	170,040
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	77.82	90,360
LEGS	32-33	34.63	216,080
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.04	351,843
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	28.97	116,470
THIGHS	22-23	32.03	78,230
B/S THIGHS	62-63	69.66	80,340
WINGS (WHOLE)	59-60	61.04	266,890
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.80	43,800
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.35	12,880
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	40.24	25,640

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	
	04/02	04/01	03/31	03/28	03/31	03/28	03/26	03/24
ALA	3,910	3,999	3,959	4,171	5.24	5.09	3,705	5.24
ARK	5,282	5,249	5,193	4,576	5.04	4.85	5,164	5.12
DELMARVA	2,300	2,294	2,262	2,177	5.14	5.08	2,246	5.13
KY-LA-TN	1,856	1,885	1,926	1,825	4.94	4.68	1,710	4.90
MISS	2,849	2,850	2,853	2,631	5.28	5.39	2,636	5.36
NC	2,444	2,602	2,425	2,659	6.02	5.90	2,303	6.03
TEXAS	2,468	2,438	2,447	2,564	5.02	5.01	2,430	5.07
TOTAL	21,109	21,317	21,065	20,485	5.22	5.13	20,194	5.26
MON-WED	63,716 (A)		62,145(A)					

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 02-Apr 03 and is estimated to be 31,581,000 up 4.22 percent from a week ago and up 0.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,303,000; last year 31,291,000)

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 05-APR-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	04/05/03(1)		03/29/03	
	THOUSAND HEAD			
BRO-FRY	155,248(2)			
158,032				
LT HENS	1,961		1,684	
HVY HENS	1,444		1,476	
TOTAL	158,653		161,192	

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 05-Mar-03 is 159.0 million head compared to 154.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 155.6 million head or 3.4 million less than estimated available. For week of 12-Apr-03 the estimated available is 154.3 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 03/31/03	188,765		61,764	
AM 03/01/03	174,509		68,879	
CHG	14,256		-7,115	
PCT CHG	8		-10	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	3/31/03	3/24/03	4/01/02	3/31/03	3/24/03	4/01/02
PACIFIC COAST	11,214	10,966	14,272	9,386	8,779	3,801
LOS ANGELES	1,370	1,376	96	4,217	4,199	2,040

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 31, 2003

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

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	LOW HIGH AVG			FOR 4/01/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.60	1.25	.74	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	1.30	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.75	.90	.82	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	2.00	6.75
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.10	.40
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.50	4.50
ROOSTERS lb.	.80	1.30	1.10	ROOSTERS ea.	5.00	6.50
GEESE lb.	-	1.70	-	GEESE ea.	4.50	7.00
TURKEYS lb.	.55	.65	.59	TURKEYS ea.	17.00	18.00
DUCKS lb.	-	2.00	-	DUCKS ea.	3.00	14.00
RABBITS lb.	.30	1.85	1.56	RABBITS ea.	3.50	7.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.75	5.75
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	6.50	9.50
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	7.00
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
TOTAL COOPS	142					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 28, 2003

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards
Hens					
RAYON					
Low	56.27	127.88	72.47	12.79	12.79
High	59.68	60.53	136.41	76.73	21.31
Mostly	17.05	59.68	58.40	136.41	72.47
	17.05	17.05	59.68		
SAN JUAN					
Low	59.25	127.88	85.25	21.31	12.79
High	54.56	61.38	136.41	93.78	31.97
Mostly	14.92	54.56	59.68	132.14	85.25
	25.58	14.92	54.56		
NEW SAN JUAN					
Low	55.42	127.88	68.20	12.79	12.79
High	57.55	60.53	136.41	76.73	21.31
Mostly	17.05	57.55	58.83	127.88	72.47
	17.05	12.79	57.55		
BECERRA					
Low	59.25	132.14	89.52	25.58	14.92
High	54.56	62.24	140.67	93.78	27.71
Mostly	19.18	54.56	60.53	136.41	89.52
	25.58	14.92	54.56		

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally slow to fair. Offerings remained at least adequate, but were in a closer, better balance compared to last several days. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were mostly moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 52 to 62 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, supplies were fully sufficient for immediate needs. Breast items were adequate to fully adequate and were generally noted as in manageable balance. Leg items were fully adequate to ample. Wings were ample. Tenders cleared well
 *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	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	50-65	54.24
NO. OF BOXES		6,455

*8 of 8 plants reporting.

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