



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady in the East, mostly steady in the remaining areas. Retail demand was seasonally light to fair, best for ads, and food service was fair to moderate. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient to at times better balanced, but longest for heavier weights. In the parts structure, trading was light with regular commitments able to satisfy needs; however, post Easter and first of the month interest improved. Breast items were balanced, instances tight for boneless skinless breasts and tenders, wings and dark meat items were readily available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy weights.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 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 17, 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	183.00
BREASTS - B/S	156.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	86.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	63.50
LEG QUARTERS	21.00
WINGS	69.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was generally steady. Demand was seasonally slow to fair with light trading; however, optimism is high for next week as first of the month approaches and Easter has passed. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient to at times closer balanced due to reduced holiday schedules and limited interest. In the parts structure, breast items were in good balance, closest for tenders, and the remaining items were available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally light and unaggressive as dealers kept floor stocks in very close balance. Offerings of all sizes ranged balanced to adequate. Retail and distributive draw was limited. The market tone was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, boneless-skinless breasts were adequate to available. Bone-in breasts were sufficient. Dark meat cuts and wings were at least adequate.

MIDWEST Whole fryer trade sentiment was steady, instances weak on heavy weight birds. Producer offerings varied with spot discounts noted. Buyers were non-aggressive and satisfied through regular commitments. Demand into all channels was mixed, slow to fairly good; retail light to fair, instances fairly good with food service demand mostly moderate and best into restaurants and sports bars. Floor stocks were in close balance to ample. Weights were desirable to occasionally heavy. Trading on parts items remained limited for prompt shipments, moderate to fairly good interest for out-front orders. Buyers were cautious and price sensitive. Supplies of dark meat items were adequate to plentiful, white meat items balance to somewhat tight. The market tone was cautiously steady, undertone weak on leg quarters and thighs with all other items steady.

WESTERN Trade sentiment was generally steady. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate. Small sized whole body product in the closest position. Retail demand focused on Easter items but was seasonally moderate. Floor stocks were generally adequate to instances heavier than desired.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 04/12/03	2003	2002
EGGS SET	209,026	211,198
CHICKS PLACED	169,038	169,433
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		-01
		0

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 209 million eggs in incubators during the week ending April 12, 2003. This was down 1 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 SLIGHTLY

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 169 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 12, 2003. Placements were down slightly from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through April 12, 2003 were 2.49 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 24-May-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 155.0 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 155.1 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 160.0 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 160.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 56.77 CENTS PER POUND.

APRIL 15 **SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS** APRIL 16
 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	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	915	131.00-230.00	135-139	137.62
TENDERLOINS	265	130.00-190.00	132-136	139.55
BREAST - LINE RUN	90	82.00-89.00	83-85	83.78
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	89	22.00-38.00	25-27	27.92
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	638	16.00-19.50	17-18	17.40
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,037	18.00-26.00	19-21	20.38
WINGS (WHOLE)	102	45.00-70.00	-	61.42
WINGS (CUT)	437	60.00-84.00	79-80	78.95
DRUMSTICKS	61	38.00-49.00	-	38.16
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	910	134.00-229.00	136-140	138.98
TENDERLOINS	325	132.00-190.00	134-138	150.37
BREAST - LINE RUN	80	82.00-89.00	83-85	84.00
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	128	24.00-38.00	25-27	26.75
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	638	16.00-19.50	17-18	17.40
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	997	18.00-26.00	19-21	20.55
WINGS (WHOLE)	282	45.00-70.00	-	66.90
WINGS (CUT)	485	60.00-84.00	75-77	77.71
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR
 APRIL 15, 2003 -- FOB DOCK

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR
 APRIL 16, 2003 -- FOB DOCK

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
42.50 - 45.75	44.58	44.00 - 47.25	46.08	45.04

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 as dealers continued with a hand-to-mouth approach and kept floor stocks closely balanced. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were adequate to available and bone-in breasts were sufficient. Dark meat cuts and wings were at least adequate. Retail and distributive draw was limited. The market tone was mostly steady.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

APR 15	CURRENT NEG	WTD			CURRENT NEG	WTD	APR 16
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145-150	145.93	523,310	BREAST - B/S	145-150	150.91	484,470
TENDERLOINS	125-130	137.03	131,340	TENDERLOINS	125-130	134.21	92,210
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	84.24	226,280	BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	83.92	196,840
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	80.65	104,760	BREAST - LINE RUN	78	80.45	124,120
LEGS	32-33	30.54	252,520	LEGS	32-33	31.73	373,120
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.01	538,526	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.08	348,218
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	28.83	120,850	DRUMSTICKS	23-24	30.32	100,000
THIGHS	22-23	32.40	82,054	THIGHS	22-23	29.85	73,780
B/S THIGHS	62-63	63.68	68,290	B/S THIGHS	62-63	68.21	89,120
WINGS (WHOLE)	58-59	59.01	171,090	WINGS (WHOLE)	58-59	67.01	204,700
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.21	37,840	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.85	36,280
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	31.16	16,845	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	29.57	15,160
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	43.85	19,340	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	42.94	26,720

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	
	04/16	04/15	04/14	04/11	04/14	04/11	04/09	04/07
ALA	3,899	4,034	3,982	3,849	5.23	5.00	3,706	5.29
ARK	5,247	5,263	5,240	5,620	5.02	4.95	5,231	5.09
DELMARVA	2,285	2,330	2,364	2,173	5.23	5.10	2,368	5.28
KY-LA-TN	1,699	1,889	1,868	1,854	5.00	4.79	1,884	4.94
MISS	2,547	2,753	2,934	2,527	5.40	5.27	2,740	5.44
NC	2,422	2,401	2,520	2,659	6.10	5.92	2,422	6.15
TEXAS	2,457	2,147	2,170	2,406	5.07	5.02	2,439	5.09
TOTAL	20,556	20,817	21,078	20,591	5.27	5.11	20,790	5.31
MON-WED	62,584(A)						62,704(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 16-Apr 03 and is estimated to be 30,754,000 down 1.42 percent from a week ago and down 2.6 percent from a year ago.
 (Last week 31,197,000; last year 31,591,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	87-93
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	63-65
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY	
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS	
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK 103-104
	ICE PACK 96-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK 113
	ICE PACK 104-105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 91-98
	DRY PACK
DUCKS	155-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 19-APR-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	04/19/03 (1)		04/12/03	
	THOUSAND HEAD			
BRO-FRY	152,643	(2)	158,820	
LT HENS	1,908		2,130	
HVY HENS	1,271		1,263	
TOTAL	155,822		162,213	

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 19-Apr-03 is 154.5 million head compared to 160.6 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 152.9 million head or 1.6 million less than estimated available. For week of 26-Apr-03 the estimated available is 156.2 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 04/14/03	192,775		61,323	
AM 03/01/03	189,905		61,778	
CHG	2,870		-455	
PCT CHG	2		-1	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	4/14/03	4/07/03	4/15/02	4/14/03	4/07/03	4/15/02
PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES	9,783	10,720	13,595	9,124	9,180	3,454
	116	898	94	3,653	3,831	1,958

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 APRIL 14, 2003

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

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	FOR 4/15/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.35	1.00	.50
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	1.05	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.50	-
BANTAMS lb.	1.10	1.45	1.30
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	.25	1.05	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	1.50	12.50	-
ROOSTERS lb.	1.00	1.60	1.15
GEESE lb.	-	.85	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.30	-
DUCKS lb.	.60	2.15	1.55
RABBITS lb.	1.75	2.20	2.02
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	1.00	3.00	-

TOTAL COOPS 242

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending April 11, 2003

	Whole		Legs W/ Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards Hens	
	Chickens	Breasts				
RAYON						
Low	54.33	127.34	67.91	12.73	12.73	55.18
High	57.30	135.83	76.40	21.22	16.98	55.18
Mostly	55.18	127.34	72.16	16.98	16.98	55.18
SAN JUAN						
Low	59.00	123.09	84.89	19.10	12.73	53.48
High	61.97	140.07	89.14	23.35	16.98	53.48
Mostly	61.12	131.58	89.14	21.22	12.73	53.48
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	54.33	127.34	67.91	12.73	12.73	55.18
High	57.30	135.83	76.40	21.22	16.98	55.18
Mostly	56.03	127.34	67.91	12.73	16.98	55.18
BECERRA						
Low	58.57	127.34	89.14	21.22	10.61	53.06
High	61.55	140.07	101.87	25.47	14.86	53.06
Mostly	61.12	135.83	89.14	21.22	12.73	53.06

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light to fair and sufficient in keeping the bulk of seller offerings in generally good balance, particularly on the 3.50 and 4.00 pound sizes. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 52 to 62 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Boneless skinless breasts were tight at some plants, fully adequate at others. Bone-in breasts were at least adequate. Tenders generally cleared well. Leg cuts were fully adequate to ample. Wings were adequate to fully 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	50-63
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	55.35
NO. OF BOXES	8,042

*8 of 8 plants reporting.



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