



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 28, 2003  
VOL. 50 NO. 63

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 at least steady, mostly steady. Demand into retail was light to fair. Food service was fair to fairly good with best interest into fast food, catering services, and delis. Movement in some areas showed a decline once post holiday fill-in requirements were met. Supplies were in balance to well cleared for trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair, but with first of the month approaching, optimism was reported. Breast items and wings were adequate, but becoming more available, and dark meat items were in good balance with increased interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

The Composite Weighted Average Price for 05/27/03 was 61.33, compared to 60.00 last week, and 58.47 a year ago.



**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 to 65.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.75 cents last year on May 29, 2002.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

### **DOCK PRICE**

ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	198.50
BREASTS - B/S	180.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	99.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	71.00
LEG QUARTERS	25.00
WINGS	73.00

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

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was generally steady. Demand was light to moderate, best for retail features and fast food promos. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle post-holiday needs. In the parts structure, trading was fair to moderate with supplies of all items available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to moderate during midweek trading. Offerings of all sizes were at least adequate for current needs, with best draw centering around the heavier birds. Movement through retail and distributive channels was about fair. The market tone was at least steady. In the parts complex, breast items were generally sufficient. Dark meat cuts were clearing well. Wings were at least adequate.

**MIDWEST** The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was mostly steady. Offerings were light to moderate for the limited and cautious buyer interest. Movement was noted as tapering after fill-in needs from long holiday weekend were fulfilled. Retail demand was light to fair at best. Food service demand was mixed light to fairly good, best into fast food, delicatessens and catering. Floor stocks were well cleared to fully adequate. Weights were mixed. Parts offerings remained generally in balance, although more available on a spot basis than previous trading period. The market tone was mostly steady overall with breast items and wings unsettled.

**WESTERN** The market tone was steady to fully steady. Offerings were tight on small sized whole body product with weights over 4 pounds fully adequate. Buyers' were cautious when seeking product as they watched further market developments. Retail demand was fairly good. Floor stocks were generally adequate.

## CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 05/24/03	2003	2002	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	210,039	213,027	-01
CHICKS PLACED	171,823	171,336	0

## BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 210 million eggs in incubators during the week ending May 24, 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.

## CHICKS PLACED UP SLIGHTLY

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 172 million chicks for meat production during the week ending May 24, 2003. Placements were up slightly from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through May 24, 2003 were 3.51 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-Jul-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 157.5 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 156.7 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 161.2 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 138.6 MILLION HEAD AND THE COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 57.38 CENTS PER POUND.

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

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.

**POUNDS**

ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	842	155.00-255.00	156-160	160.20
TENDERLOINS	167	155.00-211.00	155-160	166.82
BREAST - LINE RUN	100	95.00-107.00	95-97	97.50
FRONT HALVES		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
LEGS	90	28.00-40.00	28-29	30.86
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	637	21.00-23.50	22	22.02
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	660	23.00-27.00	25	25.03
WINGS (WHOLE)	100	69.00-74.50	70-72	71.90
WINGS (CUT)	457	83.00-90.00	83-85	84.62
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
B/S THIGHS	61	60.00-80.00	-	66.56

\*\*\*\*\*  
 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR MAY 28, 2003 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
51.50 - 54.75	53.29	53.09

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 fair to moderate during midweek trading as dealers kept floor stocks in good balance with demand. Offerings of breast items were generally sufficient. Dark meat cuts were clearing well. Wings were manageable. Retail and distributive movement was mostly fair. Trade sentiment was cautious following the holiday, but guardedly optimistic as buyers looked to approaching first of the month business to help the market maintain an even keel. The market tone was at least steady.

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

ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOLUME /LBS
BREAST - B/S	175	172.68	463,403
TENDERLOINS	155-160	161.63	143,760
BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96	101.49	187,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	95	97.05	117,880
LEGS	34-35	33.60	290,524
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	26-27	25.24	560,628
DRUMSTICKS	28-29	31.85	222,702
THIGHS	27-28	34.97	145,944
B/S THIGHS	67-68	70.98	99,960
WINGS (WHOLE)	66-67	72.07	248,530
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.01	47,440
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	25-30	25.23	14,425
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	35-40	41.09	34,510

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		ACTUAL		AVG	
	05/28	05/27	05/26	05/23	05/26	05/23	05/21	05/19	05/26	05/23
ALA	3,973	4,065	(A)	4,088	(A)	4.95	4,048	5.27		
ARK	5,311	5,298	(A)	5,185	(A)	4.82	5,203	5.06		
DELMARVA	2,366	2,369	(A)	2,801	(A)	5.20	2,385	5.29		
KY-LA-TN	1,976	1,945	(A)	2,550	(A)	4.73	1,893	4.93		
MISS	3,023	3,007	(A)	2,517	(A)	5.23	2,881	5.43		
NC	2,623	2,637	(A)	2,659	(A)	6.27	2,472	6.24		
TEXAS	2,478	2,459	(A)	2,481	(A)	4.87	2,472	4.93		
TOTAL	21,750	21,780		8,784	22,332	5.00	5.11	21,354	5.29	
MON-WED	52,553(B)						64,278(B)			

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations  
 (B) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 28-May 03 and is estimated to be 32,540,000 up 1.55 percent from a week ago and up 2.7 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 32,044,000; last year 31,672,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	88-94
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	63
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104-105
	ICE PACK	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	113
	ICE PACK	104-105
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	
	ICE PACK	91-98
DUCKS		155-166

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 31-MAY-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	05/31/03 (1)	05/24/03
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	146,972 (2)	163,640
LT HENS	2,031	1,770
HVY HENS	1,328	1,514
CHECK TOTAL	150,331	166,924

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 31-May-03 is 158.0 million head compared to 147.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 147.3 million head or 10.7 million less than estimated available. For week of 07-Jun-03 the estimated available is 159.0 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 05/26/03	218,471	43,620
AM 05/01/03	190,005	62,870
CHG	28,466	-19,250
PCT CHG	15	-31

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT** (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	5/26/03	5/19/03	5/27/02	5/26/03	5/19/03	5/27/02
<b>PACIFIC</b>						
<b>COAST</b>	11,385	11,857	20,000	6,829	7,050	4,342
<b>LOS ANGELES</b>	147	128	341	3,173	3,023	2,808

**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 MAY 26, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	58-64 62-79

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

	FOR 5/27/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.501	.50	.88
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.50	.95	.83
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-1.30	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.702	1.15	1.15
RABBITS lb.	.502	0.00	1.76
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	2.75	3.00	-
SILKIES ea.	1.50	2.00	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-
HEAVY FOWL ea.	4.00	4.50	-
LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	3.25	-
MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS ea.	1.00	1.25	-
BROILERS ea.	1.00	1.25	-
ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS ea.	.20	5.00	-
PULLETS ea.	4.50	6.75	-
BUNNIES ea.	4.25	6.00	-
ROOSTERS ea.	-	5.00	-
GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS ea.	5.00	7.00	-
PIGEONS ea.	2.00	4.00	-
GUINEA FOWL ea.	8.00	12.50	-
DUCKLINGS ea.	.75	2.00	-
CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
GOSLINGS ea.	2.75	3.00	-
TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-

TOTAL COOPS 122

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending May 23, 2003

	Whole		Legs W/ Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
<b>RAYON</b>						
Low	60.38	142.08	79.92	17.76	17.76	62.16
High	65.71	146.52	88.80	26.64	22.20	62.16
Mostly	63.49	146.52	84.36	22.20	22.20	62.16
<b>SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	59.94	124.32	84.36	22.20	11.10	52.39
High	63.05	137.64	97.68	26.64	15.54	52.39
Mostly	61.72	128.76	93.24	22.20	13.32	52.39
<b>NEW SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	59.94	133.20	75.48	17.76	17.76	62.16
High	64.82	142.08	84.36	22.20	22.20	62.16
Mostly	62.16	142.08	79.92	17.76	22.20	62.16
<b>BECERRA</b>						
Low	61.27	124.32	84.36	19.98	13.32	53.28
High	64.38	133.20	93.24	24.42	15.54	53.28
Mostly	62.16	128.76	88.80	22.20	14.65	53.28

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was fair to good and best on the over 3.0 sizes. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mixed in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate, instances moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 57 to 67 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, boneless skinless breasts continued to clear well. Bone-in breasts were at least adequate. Leg items were in good demand and clearances were generally well maintained. Wings were at least adequate and increasing in availability.

\*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	53-71
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	59.37
NO. OF BOXES	7,859

\*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	