



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 17, 2003  
VOL. 50 NO. 150

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, but overall no better than steady. Demand was seasonally light with limited trading, but was best for other holiday items and into fast food and catering businesses. Supplies of all sizes were at least adequate with spot discounting noted to help clear product. In the parts structure, movement was light with orders hand to mouth. All items were mixed in availability, but at least adequate and at times attractively priced to help clear additional product. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable 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 69.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 61.50 cents last year on December 18, 2002.

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

| ITEM             | DOCK PRICE<br>(CENTS PER POUND) |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| LINE RUN TENDERS | 198.50                          |
| BREASTS - B/S    | 169.00                          |
| BREASTS - WHOLE  | 88.50                           |
| THIGH MEAT - B/S | 93.50                           |
| LEG QUARTERS     | 30.50                           |
| WINGS            | 104.00                          |

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was steady to about steady. Demand was seasonally light with limited trading, and interest was focused on more traditional holiday items. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient to handle needs. In the parts structure, all items were at least adequate or available for the light demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally light as dealers try and maintain inventories in good balance with the lackluster demand. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds were available with limited discounting reported. Movement through retail and distributive channels was fair at best. The market tone was no better than steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were adequate with some discounting noted. Boneless-skinless breasts were sufficient. Wings were clearing, and dark meat was slightly more available but still in a satisfactory position. The balance of cuts were generally adequate.

**MIDWEST** Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was barely steady to steady. Market activity was noted as inactive. Demand was lacking and quiet overall; features noted in the Chicago area received moderate consumer interest, catering establishments and a few fast food outlets noted moderate to fairly good movement on eight piece cut-up and boneless/skinless breasts. Retail features reported on cut-up whole fryers at 97 and 79 cents; rotisserie birds at 2/\$7.00; roasters at 99 cents; boneless/skinless breasts at \$1.98; split breasts at \$1.69 and 99 cents; ground chicken at 99 cents; drums at 69 cents. Floor stocks were in close balance to adequate. Weights were mixed. Trade on parts was very light overall with fair interest noted on wings and leg quarters. Supplies were building, but in a manageable position. The market tone on all cuts was generally steady.

**WESTERN** The market tone was steady overall. Offerings were easily adequate to cover the seasonal buyers' interest. Buying activity was light with interest centered on holiday needs. Retailer demand was light for whole body product, fairly good overall for parts; best where features in progress. Floor stocks were adequate.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

| 19 STATES<br>WEEK ENDING 12/06/03 | 2003    | 2002    | PERCENT CHANGE<br>PREVIOUS YEAR |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| EGGS SET                          | 206,418 | 203,251 | +02                             |
| CHICKS PLACED                     | 166,780 | 163,147 | +02                             |

### BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 206 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 13, 2003. This was up 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 UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 13, 2003. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 13, 2003 were 8.31 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.

**WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING** Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 23-Jan-04 is estimated at 154.0 million head. This compares to 152.4 million head the previous week and to 152.9 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 145.9 million head and the composite weighted average price was 60.05 cents per pound.

DECEMBER 16, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 17, 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 | ITEM                | POUNDS (000)      | RANGE         | MAJORITY | WTD AVG |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|---------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|---------|
| BREAST - B/S        | 802               | 131.00-223.00 | 132-137  | 135.64  | BREAST - B/S        | 872               | 132.00-223.00 | 135-137  | 136.37  |
| TENDERLOINS         | 212               | 140.00-215.00 | 140-147  | 151.39  | TENDERLOINS         | 178               | 140.00-216.00 | 140-147  | 151.96  |
| BREAST - LINE RUN   | 98                | 79.00-93.00   | 82-84    | 82.31   | BREAST - LINE RUN   | 98                | 80.00-93.00   | 80-84    | 82.56   |
| FRONT HALVES        | TOO FEW TO REPORT |               |          |         | FRONT HALVES        | TOO FEW TO REPORT |               |          |         |
| LEGS                | 106               | 35.00-50.00   | 35-37    | 36.63   | LEGS                | 113               | 35.00-50.00   | 35-37    | 37.48   |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 565               | 24.00-29.00   | 26       | 26.11   | LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 610               | 24.00-29.00   | 26       | 26.17   |
| LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 975               | 28.00-33.00   | 29-31    | 30.01   | LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 1,175             | 28.00-32.00   | 29-31    | 29.68   |
| WINGS (WHOLE)       | 295               | 99.00-107.00  | 100-102  | 101.98  | WINGS (WHOLE)       | 295               | 99.00-107.00  | 100-102  | 101.98  |
| WINGS (CUT)         | 465               | 110.00-119.00 | -        | 113.75  | WINGS (CUT)         | 465               | 110.00-119.00 | 112-115  | 113.73  |
| DRUMSTICKS          | TOO FEW TO REPORT |               |          |         | DRUMSTICKS          | TOO FEW TO REPORT |               |          |         |
| THIGHS              | TOO FEW TO REPORT |               |          |         | THIGHS              | TOO FEW TO REPORT |               |          |         |
| B/S THIGHS          | 115               | 75.00-100.00  | -        | 88.22   | B/S THIGHS          | 97                | 75.00-100.00  | -        | 86.03   |

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

| RANGE         | TODAY'S AVERAGE | RANGE         | TODAY'S AVERAGE | 5-DAY AVERAGE |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 50.50 - 55.00 | 52.49           | 50.00 - 55.50 | 52.75           | 52.00         |

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 seasonally quite as traders work hand-to-mouth to balance floor stocks. Boneless-skinless breast were at least sufficient, bone-in breasts were available and discounted at some locations. Dark meat cuts were slightly more available but generally adequate and clearing. Wings were sufficient for most trade needs. Retail and distributive interest was lackluster as interest for other holiday items picked up and midweek movement was somewhat slow. The market tone was steady to weak on bone-in-breasts, mostly steady with caution noted on boneless/skinless breast and generally 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. **DECEMBER 16, 2003** **DECEMBER 17, 2003**

| ITEM                       | CURRENT NEG TRADING* | WTD AVG** | VOL/LBS | ITEM                       | CURRENT NEG TRADING* | WTD AVG** | VOL/LBS |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| BREAST - B/S               | 145                  | 147.41    | 659,223 | BREAST - B/S               | 145                  | 146.31    | 529,071 |
| TENDERLOINS                | 145                  | 142.97    | 201,280 | TENDERLOINS                | 145                  | 144.87    | 155,400 |
| BREAST - WITH RIBS         | 76-77                | 85.10     | 170,080 | BREAST - WITH RIBS         | 76-77                | 85.58     | 146,480 |
| BREAST - LINE RUN          | 76                   | 77.06     | 146,680 | BREAST - LINE RUN          | 76                   | 72.01     | 151,200 |
| LEGS                       | 38-39                | 37.12     | 336,399 | LEGS                       | 38-39                | 38.03     | 391,838 |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK)        | 29-30                | 29.62     | 519,528 | LEG QUARTERS (BULK)        | 29-30                | 29.86     | 324,598 |
| DRUMSTICKS                 | 36-37                | 38.53     | 141,940 | DRUMSTICKS                 | 36-37                | 38.43     | 158,200 |
| THIGHS                     | 35-36                | 41.74     | 55,180  | THIGHS                     | 35-36                | 39.72     | 75,520  |
| B/S THIGHS                 | 85-86                | 86.15     | 129,110 | B/S THIGHS                 | 85-86                | 87.36     | 71,880  |
| WINGS (WHOLE)              | 93-94                | 99.85     | 171,160 | WINGS (WHOLE)              | 93-94                | 99.56     | 107,880 |
| BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12                | 11.96     | 32,120  | BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12                | 11.75     | 50,200  |
| LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)      | 35-40                | 33.42     | 24,405  | LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)      | 35-40                | 33.22     | 30,800  |
| GIZZARDS (HEARTS)          | 60-65                | 67.85     | 27,048  | GIZZARDS (HEARTS)          | 60-65                | 69.11     | 25,580  |

\*\*\*\*\*  
 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 | ACTUAL    | AVG WTS |
|----------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 12/10    | 12/09     | 12/08  | 12/05   | 12/03     | 12/01   |
| 12/17    | 12/16     | 12/15  | 12/12   | 12/10     | 12/08   |
| ALA      | 3,884     | 3,916  | 3,851   | 4,248     | 5.26    |
| ARK      | 5,222     | 5,218  | 5,145   | 5,081     | 5.15    |
| DELMARVA | 1,691     | 2,138  | 2,180   | 2,088     | 5.61    |
| KY-LA-TN | 2,002     | 2,025  | 1,955   | 1,948     | 5.01    |
| MISS     | 2,714     | 2,745  | 2,878   | 2,513     | 5.38    |
| NC       | 2,289     | 2,450  | 2,355   | 2,376     | 6.37    |
| TEXAS    | 2,238     | 2,473  | 2,639   | 2,471     | 4.87    |
| TOTAL    | 20,040    | 20,965 | 21,003  | 20,725    | 5.34    |
| MON-WED  | 61,964(A) |        |         | 63,249(A) |         |

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 12/17 is estimated to be 29,982,000 down 4.4 percent from a week ago and up 2.7 percent from a year ago. (Last week 31,346,000; last year 29,199,000)

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

| DELIVERED TO RETAILERS                           | RANGE            |
|--|------------------|
| FRESH FRYERS                                     | 91-97            |
| ROASTERS 4# & UP                                 | 81-95            |
| HENS UNDER 5#                                    | -                |
| HENS OVER 5#                                     | 60-63            |
| DUCKS  | -                |
| RABBITS-WHOLE                                    | -                |
| RABBITS-CUT UP                                   | -                |
| <b>SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY</b>           |                  |
| <b>DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS</b> |                  |
| FRESH FRYERS                                     | ICE PACK 99-100  |
|  | DRY PACK 101-103 |
| ROASTERS 4# & UP                                 | ICE PACK 105     |
|  | DRY PACK 89-105  |
| HENS OVER 5#                                     | ICE PACK 91      |
|  | DRY PACK 89      |
| DUCKS  | 152-175          |

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

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 20-DEC-03

| CLASS       | CURRENT WEEK |               | PREVIOUS WEEK |          |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
|             | 12/20/03 (1) | THOUSAND HEAD |               | 12/13/03 |
| BRO-FRY     | 169,762 (2)  |               |               | 161,100  |
| LT HENS     | 1,461        |               |               | 1,501    |
| HVY HENS    | 1,510        |               |               | 1,337    |
| CHECK TOTAL | 172,733      |               |               | 163,938  |

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 20-Dec-03 is 147.8 million head compared to 154.7 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 170.1 million head or 22.3 million more than estimated available. For week of 27-Dec-03 the estimated available is 145.8 million head.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS**

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

|             | PROCESSED TURKEY |  | PROCESSED POULTRY |  |
|-------------|------------------|--|-------------------|--|
|             | LBS              |  | LBS               |  |
| AM 12/15/03 | 111,389          |  | 44,291            |  |
| AM 12/01/03 | 110,555          |  | 45,473            |  |
| CHG         | 834              |  | -1,182            |  |
| PCT CHG     | 1                |  | -3                |  |

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)**

|                      | PROCESSED TURKEYS |          |          | PROCESSED POULTRY |          |          |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|
|                      | 12/15/03          | 12/08/03 | 12/16/02 | 12/15/03          | 12/08/03 | 12/16/02 |
| <b>PACIFIC COAST</b> | 10,959            | 11,772   | 7,542    | 3,485             | 3,726    | 5,510    |
| <b>LOS ANGELES</b>   | 398               | 396      | 86       | 1,772             | 1,751    | 3,840    |

**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 DECEMBER 15, 2003

| HENS | ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)     | RANGE |       |
|------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
|      |                             | 58-65 | 66-76 |
|      | VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX) | 58-65 | 66-76 |

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 12/16/03

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

|                  | LOW HIGH AVG |      |      |                   | LOW HIGH AVG |      |   |
|------------------|--------------|------|------|-------------------|--------------|------|---|
|                  |              |      |      |                   |              |      |   |
| HEAVY FOWL lb.   | .60          | .65  | .62  | HEAVY FOWL ea.    | -            | -    | - |
| LIGHT FOWL lb.   | .70          | 1.00 | .87  | LIGHT FOWL ea.    | -            | -    | - |
| MIXED FOWL lb.   | -            | .75  | -    | MIXED FOWL ea.    | 4.00         | 6.50 | - |
| BANTAMS lb.      | -            | -    | -    | BANTAMS ea.       | .75          | 4.75 | - |
| BROILERS lb.     | -            | .40  | -    | BROILERS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| ROASTERS lb.     | -            | -    | -    | ROASTERS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| FRYERS lb.       | -            | -    | -    | FRYERS ea.        | -            | -    | - |
| CHICKS lb.       | -            | -    | -    | CHICKS ea.        | -            | -    | - |
| PULLETS lb.      | 3.00         | 4.00 | -    | PULLETS ea.       | -            | -    | - |
| BUNNIES lb.      | -            | -    | -    | BUNNIES ea.       | -            | -    | - |
| ROOSTERS lb.     | .60          | 1.25 | 1.10 | ROOSTERS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| GEESE lb.        | -            | -    | -    | GEESE ea.         | -            | -    | - |
| TURKEYS lb.      | -            | -    | -    | TURKEYS ea.       | 4.00         | 4.50 | - |
| DUCKS lb.        | .60          | 1.60 | 1.16 | DUCKS ea.         | 3.00         | 6.50 | - |
| RABBITS lb.      | 1.20         | 1.55 | 1.36 | RABBITS ea.       | -            | 1.00 | - |
| PIGEONS lb.      | -            | -    | -    | PIGEONS ea.       | 1.75         | 6.00 | - |
| GUINEA FOWL lb.  | -            | -    | -    | GUINEA FOWL ea.   | 4.25         | 5.75 | - |
| DUCKLINGS lb.    | -            | -    | -    | DUCKLINGS ea.     | -            | -    | - |
| GUINEA KEETS ea. | -            | -    | -    | CALL DUCKS ea.    | -            | -    | - |
| SILKIES ea.      | -            | 2.00 | -    | GOSLINGS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| GUINEA PIGS ea.  | -            | 3.50 | -    | TURKEY POULTS ea. | -            | -    | - |
| CHUKARS ea.      | -            | -    | -    |                   |              |      |   |
| TOTAL COOPS      | 101          |      |      |                   |              |      |   |

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending December 12 2003

|                     | Whole Chickens |         | Legs w/ Thighs | Necks,Back & Wings | Livers/ Gizzards | Hens  |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
|                     |                | Breasts |                |                    |                  |       |
| <b>RAYON</b>        |                |         |                |                    |                  |       |
| Low                 | 42.42          | 105.04  | 56.56          | 8.08               | 12.12            | 42.42 |
| High                | 43.23          | 113.12  | 64.64          | 16.16              | 16.16            | 42.42 |
| Mostly              | 42.42          | 113.12  | 60.60          | 12.12              | 16.16            | 42.42 |
| <b>SAN JUAN</b>     |                |         |                |                    |                  |       |
| Low                 | 42.02          | 105.04  | 52.52          | 8.08               | 12.12            | 42.42 |
| High                | 42.82          | 113.12  | 60.60          | 16.16              | 16.16            | 42.42 |
| Mostly              | 42.42          | 109.08  | 56.56          | 12.12              | 16.16            | 42.42 |
| <b>NEW SAN JUAN</b> |                |         |                |                    |                  |       |
| Low                 | 42.02          | 105.04  | 52.52          | 8.08               | 12.12            | 44.44 |
| High                | 42.82          | 113.12  | 60.60          | 16.16              | 16.16            | 44.44 |
| Mostly              | 42.42          | 109.08  | 60.60          | 12.12              | 16.16            | 44.44 |
| <b>BECERRA</b>      |                |         |                |                    |                  |       |
| Low                 | 42.42          | 105.04  | 56.56          | 8.08               | 12.12            | 44.44 |
| High                | 42.82          | 113.12  | 64.64          | 16.16              | 16.16            | 44.44 |
| Mostly              | 42.82          | 113.12  | 60.60          | 16.16              | 16.16            | 44.44 |

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds had slowed and was seasonally light. Seller offerings were at least adequate. Live supplies were moderate; weights were generally desirable. Processor schedules were very light as some plants shut for the day. Others curtailed operations in line with seasonally reduced needs, as buyers shifted interests to other items more commonly used during the upcoming holiday period. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 61 to 71 cents. Trade sentiment was at best steady. In the parts complex, volumes available varied from plant to plant, however, supplies were generally noted as 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            |  | 55-75                |  |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE |  | 63.49                |  |
| NO. OF BOXES     |  | 7,730                |  |

\*7 of 7 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 |                                   |
| Los Angeles, CA | Voice    | (213)534-1330 | Jim Derby                         |
|                 | Fax      | (213)534-1333 | (Officer-In-Charge)               |
|                 | Recorded | (213)534-1335 |                                   |