



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mostly steady in East and Midwest, steady to firm in the West. Retail demand was irregular ranging from light to improved for planned first of month features. In the Southern region, fast food activity was fairly good keeping wogs in a well cleared position. Offerings of 3.5 to 4 pound sizes were adequate to available in the East. In the East and elsewhere, lighter sizes ranged from balanced to available. In the parts structure, trading was light to moderate for mid-week business. Tenders were tight to well cleared. Wings were irregular ranging from short to adequate. B/S breast were balanced to occasionally tight. B/S thigh meat was short to balanced, other dark meat items were usually available due in part to the uncertainty of export trading. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were in a full range, 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 advanced .25 cents to 72.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.75 cents last year on March 5, 2003.

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	225.00
BREASTS - B/S	197.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	101.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	125.00
LEG QUARTERS	38.50
WINGS	124.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady in terminal markets, but slightly stronger on local markets. Demand improved and was at least moderate for first of month business, also some features were planned for the weekend. Supplies of whole product and wogs remain in close balance to adequate. In the parts structure, movement was also moderate. Tenders were tight to close balance, B/S breast were well cleared, wings were balanced to tight. Thigh meat was short, other dark meat items were irregular with drum slightly more available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable but lighter trending weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was cautious and selective during midweek trading. Offerings of the 3 pound birds ranged adequate to balanced. The remainder of sizes were at least sufficient. Movement through retail and distributive channels was slow. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, breast items were balanced and tenderloins were tight. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were available. Wings were generally sufficient.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was steady. Offerings were light for a light to fair buyer interest. Fill in trade at 72 and 77 cents on 3 up Wogs reported in the Chicago area. Movement into retail centers for first of the month business was light to instances fair; some receivers anticipating slight increased demand through the weekend. Food service demand was mostly moderate occasionally good into some fast food and casual dining restaurants. Floor stocks were generally in balance. Weights were desirable to trending light. Interest on parts was mixed. Wings and tenderloins were receiving moderate to good call with all other items light to fair interest. Supplies of dark meat cuts were fully adequate, boneless skinless breasts varied, close to adequate, wings were well cleared and tenderloins tight. Trade sentiment was steady to firm on tenderloins, steady to fully steady on wings and breast cuts, and cautiously steady to weak on dark meat items.

WESTERN Market tone was steady to fully steady. Offerings were adequate on small sized whole body and fully adequate on heavy weights. Buying activity fair and focused on immediate needs. Retailer demand fair for bagged whole body product and fairly good for parts best to cover features in progress. Floor stocks generally adequate. Trade sentiment mixed on parts with leg quarters barely steady, breasts fully steady and balance of parts about steady.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	WEEK ENDING 02/28/04		PERCENT CHANGE
	2004	2003	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	209,927	206,547	+02
CHICKS PLACED	168,074	163,548	+03

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 210 million eggs in incubators during the week ending February 28, 2004. 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.

CHICKS PLACED UP 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 28, 2004. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 28, 2004 were 1.51 billion, up 2 percent 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 10-Apr-04 is estimated at 155.1 million head. This compares to 154.5 million head the previous week and to 154.3 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 154.0 million head and the composite weighted average price was 57.71 cents per pound.

MARCH 02, 2004

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 03, 2004

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	ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	882	187.00-264.00	187-188	194.80	BREAST - B/S	893	184.00-264.00	186-192	189.70
TENDERLOINS	235	205.00-222.00	205-208	207.93	TENDERLOINS	428	210.00-249.00	-	231.21
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				BREAST - LINE RUN	132	97.00-103.00	97-99	99.38
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				LEGS	103	48.00-62.00	48-50	50.64
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	596	34.00-38.00	34-35	34.91	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	607	33.00-38.00	34-35	34.80
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	815	38.00-43.00	38-40	39.21	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	775	36.00-41.00	38-40	38.97
WINGS (WHOLE)	297	120.00-123.00	121-123	122.23	WINGS (WHOLE)	297	120.00-123.00	121-123	122.23
WINGS (CUT)	414	132.00-142.00	134-137	136.20	WINGS (CUT)	750	134.00-144.00	134-137	135.91
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				B/S THIGHS	115	115.00-127.00	-	121.26
*****					*****				
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
		64.75 - 70.50	67.08				64.00 - 73.00	68.37	68.93
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 noted as fair at best during midweek trading. Offerings of breast items remained in very good balance and tenderloins were tight and commanding premiums. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were available and discounted to clear. Wings were adequate to balanced. Retail draw was about fair and distributive movement was slow. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on breast items and tenderloins, barely steady on legs, leg quarters and drumsticks; about 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. MARCH 02, 2004

MARCH 03, 2004

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**			TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	190-195	191.92	628,463	BREAST - B/S	195	191.93	460,168
TENDERLOINS	200-205	182.81	136,970	TENDERLOINS	205-210	202.56	96,900
BREAST - WITH RIBS	98-99	104.66	150,120	BREAST - WITH RIBS	98-99	104.86	87,040
BREAST - LINE RUN	98	100.81	106,640	BREAST - LINE RUN	98	99.87	81,760
LEGS	44-45	50.29	337,600	LEGS	44-45	49.69	350,082
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	36-37	36.85	494,219	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	35-36	36.44	462,723
DRUMSTICKS	38-39	42.11	138,720	DRUMSTICKS	37-38	41.90	65,320
THIGHS	42-43	47.75	66,040	THIGHS	42-43	48.30	41,240
B/S THIGHS	116-117	116.97	56,080	B/S THIGHS	116-117	123.87	41,960
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	122.77	99,400	WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	122.13	169,680
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.14	33,560	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.70	36,400
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	34.08	23,395	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	37.27	14,200
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	68.85	27,460	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.10	14,600

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		AVG	
	03/03	03/02	03/01	02/27	03/01	02/27	02/25	02/23
ALA	3,923	3,925	3,846	3,957	5.26	5.02	3,757	5.10
ARK	5,381	5,375	5,344	4,817	5.11	4.85	5,168	5.06
DELMARVA	2,165	2,165	2,167	1,951	5.55	5.43	2,176	5.42
KY-LA-TN	1,977	2,009	2,040	1,841	5.08	4.87	2,039	5.08
MISS	3,104	3,120	3,073	2,364	5.50	5.58	3,052	5.11
NC	2,479	2,483	2,389	1,982	6.52	6.07	2,329	6.38
TEXAS	2,182	2,294	2,273	2,494	5.14	5.21	2,191	5.26
TOTAL	21,211	21,371	21,132	19,406	5.40	5.21	20,712	5.29
MON-WED	63,759 (A)				61,916 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 3-Mar is estimated to be 31,734,000 up 2.1 percent from a week ago and up 4.6 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,080,000; last year 30,345,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	ICE PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		102-103
	DRY PACK	104-106
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	109
	DRY PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	93
	DRY PACK	93-95
DUCKS		152-175

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 06-MAR-04

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	03/06/04 (1)	02/28/04
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	154,615 (2)	157,143
LT HENS	1,325	1,259
HVY HENS	1,333	1,376
CHECK TOTAL	157,273	159,814

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 06-Mar-04 is 156.2 million head compared to 153.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 154.9 million head or 1.3 million less than estimated available. For week of 13-Mar-04 the estimated available is 157.0 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 03/01/04	169,441	39,330
AM 02/01/04	141,357	40,964
CHG	28,084	-1,634
PCT CHG	20	-4

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/01/04	02/23/04	03/03/03	03/01/04	02/23/04	03/03/03
PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES	5,982	6,236	7,155	4,314	4,029	4,609
	366	442	1,369	2,161	1,953	1,383

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 1, 2004

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		66-71
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	68-78

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/02/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
	HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	-	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	2.75	3.00
ROOSTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.90	1.40	1.02	RABBITS ea.	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	2.75	5.25
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS	27					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 27, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs w/Thighs	Necks,Back &Wings	Livers/Gizzards	Hens
	RAYON					
Low	62.38	123.11	73.87	12.31	16.41	53.35
High	64.02	135.42	82.07	20.52	20.52	53.35
Mostly	63.20	135.42	82.07	16.41	16.41	53.35

SAN JUAN

Low	62.38	123.11	73.87	12.31	12.31	53.35
High	63.61	131.32	82.07	16.41	16.41	53.35
Mostly	63.20	131.32	82.07	16.41	16.41	53.35

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	62.38	123.11	73.87	12.31	12.31	55.40
High	63.61	131.32	82.07	16.41	16.41	55.40
Mostly	63.20	131.32	82.07	16.41	16.41	55.40

BECERRA

Low	63.20	123.11	73.87	12.31	12.31	55.40
High	64.02	135.42	82.07	16.41	16.41	55.40
Mostly	63.20	135.42	82.07	16.41	16.41	55.40

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was mostly fair. Offerings were at least adequate on the 2.50 and 3.00 pound sizes; adequate to instances short of the heavier weights. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to light. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Bone-in breasts were no more than adequate. Boneless/skinless breasts and tenders were adequate to closely cleared. Leg quarters and drums were plentiful. Legs were ample. Thighs were balanced to closely cleared. Wings were 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		72-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		79.83
NO. OF BOXES		6,091

*7 of 7 plants reporting.



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