



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mixed, ranging steady to firm. Retail demand was light to moderate with few features present. Food service covered the full range but was limited in parts of the Midwest due to snow and cold weather. Supplies were usually sufficient to close balanced. In the parts structure, trading was fair to moderate. Breast items and wings were adequate, closer balanced for tenders and wings. Dark meat was balanced to short and held confidently as export needs increased demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at irregular, but 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 advanced .50 cents to 71.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.75 cents last year on February 05, 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	213.00
BREASTS - B/S	187.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	98.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	106.00
LEG QUARTERS	36.00
WINGS	119.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was fully steady. Demand was fair to moderate, best for retail ads, fast food promotions, and active first of the month business. Supplies were in balance to well cleared. In the parts structure, movement was fair to good. Dark meat items were in good balance to tight and clearing, aided by export interests. Breast items and wings were sufficient to short and moving well. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly fair to moderate at best. Offerings ranged adequate to balanced for current needs. Movement through retail and distributive channels was mostly fair. The market tone was steady. In the parts complex, breast items were in good balance. Dark meat cuts continued to clear under strong export demand. Wings and tenderloins were closely cleared.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole fryers was fully steady to firm on light offerings. Trade interest was cautious and limited to needs only. Fill in trade noted on 3 up wogs into the Chicago area at 71 cents. Movement into all channels was in a full range; mostly light to moderate into retail and moderate to instances good into food service. Retail features noted on whole fryers at 99 cents; pick of the chick at 99 cents; drums and thighs at 99 and 68 cents; drums or thighs at \$1.19 and boneless/skinless at \$1.79. Very cold temperatures and more winter storms forecast for the region were dampening shopper enthusiasm overall. Floor stocks were closely watched with several receivers were lightening incoming loads in order to maintain balance. Sizes were desirable to occasionally light. Trade on parts items was on as needed basis. Offerings were limited and supplies were closely balanced. Trade sentiment was steady to firm on breast items and wings and fully steady to firm on all other items.

WESTERN The market tone was fully steady overall. Offerings were adequate. Buying activity was fair. Buyers' focused their interest on regular commitments with new negotiations made only if there is a need. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good best to cover features. Floor stocks were adequate.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	WEEK ENDING 01/31/04		PERCENT CHANGE
	2004	2003	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	204,704	203,905	0
CHICKS PLACED	168,331	166,420	+01

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP SLIGHTLY

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 205 million eggs in incubators during the week ending January 31, 2004. This was up slightly 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 DOWN UP 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending January 31, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through January 31, 2004 were 835 million, 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 12-Mar-04 is estimated at 153.7 million head. This compares to 152.8 million head the previous week and to 156.5 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 153.2 million head and the composite weighted average price 61.12 cents per pound.

FEBRUARY 03, 2004

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEBRUARY 04, 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 AVG	ITEM	POUNDS				WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY				(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY		
BREAST - B/S	882	178.00-258.00	178-181		186.66	BREAST - B/S	943	177.00-258.00	177-180		186.20
TENDERLOINS	265	175.00-220.00	175-179		192.87	TENDERLOINS	225	178.00-220.00	178-182		183.87
BREAST - LINE RUN	90	96.00-99.00	98-99		97.94	BREAST - LINE RUN	105	95.00-100.00	96-98		97.67
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT					FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				
LEGS	103	53.00-55.00	53-54		53.30	LEGS	113	52.00-55.50	54-55		54.69
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	470	33.00-36.00	34-35		34.36	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	550	33.00-37.50	35-36		35.51
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,140	35.00-37.00	36-37		36.23	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	950	35.00-39.00	37-38		37.69
WINGS (WHOLE)	287	116.00-123.00	116-119		117.40	WINGS (WHOLE)	287	118.00-123.00	118-119		119.31
WINGS (CUT)	388	130.00-141.00	134-138		135.92	WINGS (CUT)	530	130.00-141.00	132-135		134.66
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				
B/S THIGHS	90	99.00-104.00	-		100.00	B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				

 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
64.00 - 68.50	66.32	63.50 - 71.25	68.26	66.47

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 mostly fair to moderate during midweek trading. Offerings of breast items remained balanced. Legs and leg quarters were clearing well. Thighs and b/s thighs were closely cleared and commanding premiums. Tenderloins and wings were balanced to no more than adequate. Movement through retail channels was fair to moderate. The market tone was fully steady on breast items and fully steady to firm 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. FEBRUARY 03, 2004

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*						TRADING*				
BREAST - B/S	180-185			176.62	670,494	BREAST - B/S	180-185			179.22	687,559
TENDERLOINS	175			164.84	178,030	TENDERLOINS	175-180			160.70	207,920
BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96			101.78	143,760	BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96			101.91	113,400
BREAST - LINE RUN	95			97.35	95,080	BREAST - LINE RUN	95			98.64	39,600
LEGS	47-48			48.26	249,081	LEGS	47-48			50.25	326,720
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	36-37			36.26	441,477	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	36-37			36.41	382,957
DRUMSTICKS	40-41			44.66	162,980	DRUMSTICKS	40-41			45.41	136,260
THIGHS	40-41			47.11	83,420	THIGHS	41-42			49.73	58,100
B/S THIGHS	100-101			99.80	94,810	B/S THIGHS	104-105			102.78	106,040
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115			119.90	147,720	WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115			119.36	144,690
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12			11.98	35,160	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12			11.81	33,080
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40			33.21	15,120	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40			34.93	17,520
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65			69.48	27,830	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65			69.54	18,440

 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	
	02/04	02/03	02/02	01/30	02/02	01/30	01/28	01/26
ALA	3,857	3,848	3,911	4,245	5.22	5.04	3,739	5.25
ARK	5,330	5,343	5,174	5,366	4.97	4.71	4,982	5.09
DELMARVA	2,218	2,167	2,172	3,115	5.42	5.24	2,172	6.22
KY-LA-TN	2,012	2,007	1,997	1,850	5.07	4.64	1,963	5.02
MISS	2,799	2,968	2,963	2,681	5.46	5.46	2,873	5.37
NC	2,481	2,478	2,393	4,661	6.51	6.50	1,959	7.22
TEXAS	2,041	1,938	2,135	2,130	5.15	4.94	2,282	5.15
TOTAL	20,738	20,749	20,745	24,048	5.34	5.28	19,970	5.38
MON-WED	62,720(A)				57,301(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 4-Feb is estimated to be 31,026,000 up 3.5percent from a week ago and up 8.1percent from a year ago. (Last week 29,967,000; last year 28,710,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		92-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP		81-95
HENS UNDER 5#		-
HENS OVER 5#		63-66
DUCKS		-
RABBITS-WHOLE		-
RABBITS-CUT UP		-
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	103-105
	ICE PACK	101-102
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	89-105
	ICE PACK	105-108
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	89
DUCKS		152-175

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 07-FEB-04

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/07/04 (1)	01/31/04
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	155,047 (2)	157,658
LT HENS	1,185	1,389
HVY HENS	1,341	1,299
CHECK TOTAL	157,573	160,346

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 07-Jan-04 is 159.1 million head compared to 152.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 155.4 million head or 3.7 million less than estimated available. For week of 14-Feb-04 the estimated available is 158.5 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 02/02/04	141,357	40,964
AM 01/01/04	119,108	43,610
CHG	22,249	-2,646
PCT CHG	19	-6

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/02/04	01/26/04	02/03/03	02/02/04	01/26/04	02/03/03
PACIFIC COAST	6,269	6,255	7,464	4,456	4,188	6,225
LOS ANGELES	452	429	1,375	2,273	1,917	3,918

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 FEBRUARY 2, 2004

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		58-65
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-76

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES FOR 02/03/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
	HEAVY FOWL lb.	.85	1.00	.92	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.65	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	.95	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	2.00	3.00
BROILERS lb.	.65	.80	.71	BROILERS ea.	-	2.00
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	5.50
BUNNIES lb.	.60	1.20	.85	BUNNIES ea.	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.85	1.50	1.17	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	1.30	1.60	1.48	DUCKS ea.	-	4.50
RABBITS lb.	.80	1.50	1.35	RABBITS ea.	2.25	2.50
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	3.25
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	7.00
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS	54					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending January 30,2004

	Whole	Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	
				Gizzards	Hens
RAYON					
Low	54.47	115.54	74.28	12.38	12.38 53.64
High	57.77	123.79	82.53	16.51	16.51 53.64
Mostly	55.71	115.54	74.28	16.51	16.51 53.64
SAN JUAN					
Low	55.29	115.54	74.28	12.38	10.32 53.64
High	57.77	123.79	82.53	16.51	14.44 53.64
Mostly	56.12	115.54	74.28	12.38	10.32 53.64
NEW SAN JUAN					
Low	54.47	115.54	74.28	12.38	12.38 55.71
High	57.77	123.79	82.53	16.51	16.51 55.71
Mostly	56.12	115.54	74.28	12.38	12.38 55.71
BECERRA					
Low	56.12	115.54	74.28	12.38	12.38 55.71
High	57.77	123.79	82.53	16.51	14.44 55.71
Mostly	56.94	123.79	82.53	12.38	12.38 55.71

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds varied and was generally centered on the balanced to short supply of heavier weights; 2.5 and 3.0 pound sizes were at least adequate. Live supplies were moderate; weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to light. Processor schedules were mostly moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 77 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. Boneless/skinless breasts were generally well balanced. Bone-in breasts were adequate. Leg cuts were well balanced to short with developments in export channels creating confidence in additional holdings. Wings were about 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	68-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	80.82
NO. OF BOXES	6,733

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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