



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mixed, but overall steady. Retail demand was slow to fair with few features. Food service was mixed, but had strongest movement for fast food ads, delis, and into restaurants. Supplies were balanced to well cleared, particularly smaller sizes, and were held with confidence. In the parts structure, breast items were in the strongest position with supplies in good balance to tight and trading at higher levels. Wings were mixed with smaller cuts closest, and dark meat was at least sufficient with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range.

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 73.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 64.00 cents last year on March 19, 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	238.50
BREASTS - B/S	210.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	110.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	119.50
LEG QUARTERS	35.00
WINGS	126.50

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mixed, but at least steady. Retail demand was light to fair with few ads. Food service was fair to moderate, best for fast food promotional activity. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared, especially smaller weights. In the parts structure, breast items were barely adequate to tight of an active call, and continued to trade at premium levels. Wings were close balanced to sufficient and moving, but dark meat was at least adequate or readily available with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to moderate. Offerings of the 2.5 to 3 pound birds were in very good balance. The 3.5 to 4 pound sizes were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was about fair. The market tone was fully steady on the 3 pound and lighter birds, mostly steady on the balance. In the parts complex, breast items and tenderloins were remained closely cleared. Dark meat cuts were at least adequate with thighs and b/s thighs available. Wings were balanced.

MIDWEST The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was unchanged, steady to fully steady. Offerings remained limited with sellers holding product with confidence. Buyer interest was light overall, but enough to keep seller offerings current. Movement into all channels was slow to fair for the most part with instances of fairly good demand into some fast food promotions, delicatessens and restaurants. Floor stocks were mixed, mostly adequate. Weights were desirable to heavy. Parts trade was cautious and selective with frozen product form, regular wings and boneless/skinless breast most active. Offerings of dark meat cuts and large wings were fully sufficient for trade interest and needs; all white meat lines, except jumbo wings, were either in close balance or short of needs. The market tone was steady to firm on white meat cuts and cautiously steady to weak on dark meat items.

WESTERN The market tone was about steady. Offerings were generally adequate and confidently held. Buying activity was fair. Buyers focused on immediate needs as interest in addition commitments slow to develop. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good best to cover features. Floor stocks adequate for needs. Trade sentiment remained weak on leg quarters, firm on breast and overall steady on balance of parts.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE		
WEEK ENDING 03/13/04	2004	2003	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	210,020	204,958	+02
CHICKS PLACED	170,462	167,239	+02

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 March 13, 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 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 170 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 13, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 13, 2004 were 1.85 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 24-Apr-04 is estimated at 156.3 million head. This compares to 155.2 million head the previous week and to 156.2 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 155.2 million head and the composite weighted average pr 57.61cents per pound.

MARCH 16, 2004

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 17, 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	848	198.00-279.00	203-208	210.46	BREAST - B/S	863	198.00-279.00	206-211	214.44
TENDERLOINS	223	228.00-271.00	228-232	239.53	TENDERLOINS	188	228.00-273.00	230-234	240.96
BREAST - LINE RUN	80	102.00-105.50	102-105	105.00	BREAST - LINE RUN	80	104.00-113.00	104-107	106.25
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	87	42.00-60.00	43-44	43.45	LEGS	88	41.00-58.00	42-43	42.55
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	628	30.00-33.00	-	30.77	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	588	30.00-33.00	-	30.69
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	755	33.00-39.00	34-37	34.89	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	955	31.00-35.00	32-35	33.51
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	122.00-126.00	122-124	125.32	WINGS (WHOLE)	293	122.00-130.00	122-124	126.01
WINGS (CUT)	469	136.00-144.00	139-142	139.19	WINGS (CUT)	504	136.00-144.00	139-142	139.41
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	110	104.00-127.00	-	118.55	B/S THIGHS	105	102.00-123.00	-	117.81

***** F.O.B. DOCK. *****

RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
65.75 - 72.50		67.19	66.50 - 73.50		68.51	68.52

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 fair to moderate during midweek trading. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were in good balance and bone-in breasts and tenderloins remained tight and were clearing with premiums noted. Thighs and b/s thighs were adequate to available and the balance of dark meat cuts were at least sufficient. Wings were balanced to adequate for current needs. Retail and distributive movement was moderate. The market tone remained fully steady to firm on breast items and tenderloins, fully steady on wings and no better than steady on dark meat cuts.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT

MARCH 16, 2004				MARCH 17, 2004			
ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	205-210	199.60	861,853	BREAST - B/S	210	202.69	602,033
TENDERLOINS	225-230	196.02	156,920	TENDERLOINS	230	210.92	116,780
BREAST - WITH RIBS	108-109	112.27	141,200	BREAST - WITH RIBS	110-111	114.83	102,146
BREAST - LINE RUN	108	111.29	147,760	BREAST - LINE RUN	110	111.85	98,200
LEGS	43-44	44.42	329,760	LEGS	43-44	45.02	370,640
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	33.97	564,098	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	33.73	330,413
DRUMSTICKS	32-33	39.97	109,440	DRUMSTICKS	32-33	41.51	153,254
THIGHS	42-43	48.32	83,840	THIGHS	42-43	48.07	70,240
B/S THIGHS	116-117	110.46	100,060	B/S THIGHS	114-115	114.15	71,320
WINGS (WHOLE)	115-116	124.39	129,800	WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	124.12	182,440
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.74	28,880	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.90	33,680
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	34.28	22,400	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.49	12,400
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	62.48	24,920	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	62.56	25,680

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	
	03/17	03/16	03/15	03/12	03/15	03/12	03/10	03/08
ALA	3,865	3,910	3,833	4,154	5.26	5.09	3,708	5.21
ARK	5,387	5,426	5,327	5,103	5.05	4.87	5,095	5.08
DELMARVA	2,188	2,175	2,119	2,097	5.55	5.40	1,964	5.52
KY-LA-TN	1,998	2,007	2,040	1,929	5.08	4.83	1,961	5.13
MISS	3,101	3,095	2,947	2,600	5.45	5.32	3,065	5.44
NC	2,493	2,507	2,393	2,003	6.53	6.36	2,427	6.38
TEXAS	2,287	2,262	2,321	2,347	5.17	4.94	2,369	5.06
TOTAL	21,319	21,382	20,980	20,233	5.38	5.18	20,589	5.35
MON-WED	64,081 (A)				62,327 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 17-Mar is estimated to be 31,896,000 up 3.2 percent from a week ago and up 6.7 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,896,000; last year 29,880,000)

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		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	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 20-Mar-04

CLASS	Current Week	Previous Week
	03/20/04(1)	03/13/04
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	157,909(2)	157,083
LT HENS	1,298	1,381
HVY HENS	1,324	1,398
TOTAL	160,531	159,862

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 20-Mar-04 is 158.6 million head compared to 154.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.2 million head or 0.4 million less than estimated available. For week of 27-Mar-04 the estimated available is 158.0 million head.

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 15, 2004

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

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

		TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM	03/15/04	174,570	39,884
AM	03/01/04	169,441	39,330
CHG		5129	554
PCT CHG		3%	1%

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/15/04	03/08/04	03/17/03	03/15/04	03/08/04	03/17/03
PACIFIC COAST	6,363	6,202	11,013	4,089	4,196	8,240
LOS ANGELES	372	363	1,376	2,272	2,268	4,069

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	LO			HI			AVG		
	LO	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	1.40	1.55	1.47	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	1.20	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	.10	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	5.25	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.20	1.60	1.40	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.75	5.25	-	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-						
TOTAL COOPS 19									

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 12, 2004

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	
RAYON						
Low	65.48	124.34	82.89	12.43	12.43	53.88
High	68.39	136.77	91.18	20.72	16.58	53.88
Mostly	65.48	136.77	91.18	16.58	16.58	53.88
SAN JUAN						
Low	65.48	124.34	82.89	12.43	12.43	53.88
High	67.97	132.63	91.18	16.58	16.58	53.88
Mostly	67.56	124.34	82.89	12.43	16.58	53.88
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	65.48	124.34	82.89	12.43	12.43	55.95
High	68.39	136.77	91.18	16.58	16.58	55.95
Mostly	67.56	136.77	91.18	16.58	16.58	55.95
BECERRA						
Low	66.31	124.34	82.89	12.43	12.43	55.95
High	68.39	136.77	91.18	20.72	16.58	55.95
Mostly	67.56	136.77	91.18	16.58	16.58	55.95

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained fair to moderate, and was sufficient in keeping the bulk of available offerings cleared satisfactorily. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. In the parts complex, continuing demand for breast items generally kept offerings well cleared. Leg items, with the exception of boneless/skinless thighs, which were in excess, were usually noted as at least adequate, and at manageable levels. Wings cleared satisfactorily.

*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	65-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	78.49
NO. OF BOXES	7,646

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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