



# 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, ranging steady to fully steady, at times firm. Retail demand was light to moderate, fairly good for features; food service was moderate to good, best for fast food ads. Supplies were in good balance with smaller sizes closest and heavier weights more available. In the parts structure, trading for mid-week was slow and selective to fair. Breast items remained close to tight and moving, and wings were adequate to short for light weights. Dark meat was at least adequate, but more manageable. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy, 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 73.75 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 26, 2003.

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 | 249.00                          |
| BREASTS - B/S    | 223.00                          |
| BREASTS - WHOLE  | 119.00                          |
| THIGH MEAT - B/S | 120.00                          |
| LEG QUARTERS     | 35.00                           |
| WINGS            | 129.00                          |

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 mostly light to fair; food service was fair to fairly good with best interest for fast food promotions. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared and moving well. In the parts structure, breast items had the strongest movement with supplies barely adequate to tight and trading at higher levels. Wings were in balance, and dark meat was at least sufficient with limited demand. 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 only fair for midweek trading. Buyers were somewhat more selective and unaggressive. Offerings of 3 pound birds ranged adequate to good balance and the 3.5 to 4 pound birds were generally sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was light and cautious. The market tone was irregular ranging from fully steady on the 3 pound and lighter birds to about steady on the balance. In the parts complex, breast items and tenderloins remained tight and usually well cleared. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were sufficient and fully adequate on thigh meat. Wings were adequate to available.

**MIDWEST** The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was steady to fully steady. Offerings were limited with light interest. Chicago fill in noted on 3 up wog's at 76 cents. Movement into retail channels was light to moderate with best interest into specials. Food service trade was moderate, fairly good demand into fast food promotions. Floor stocks were adequate. Weights were desirable to at times heavy. Parts trade was cautious and selective with wings and boneless/skinless breast most sought. The market tone was fully steady to firm on white meat cuts and cautiously steady with a weak undertone on dark meat items.

**WESTERN** The market tone was fully steady to firm. Offerings in fairly good balance. Retailer demand was moderate to good best to cover feature activities. Floor stocks adequate overall. Trade sentiment was firm on breast, weak on leg quarters and about steady on balance of parts.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

| 19 STATES     | WEEK ENDING 03/20/04 |         | PERCENT CHANGE |
|---------------|----------------------|---------|----------------|
|               | 2004                 | 2003    | PREVIOUS YEAR  |
| EGGS SET      | 209,673              | 206,460 | +02            |
| CHICKS PLACED | 171,496              | 169,125 | +01            |

### 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 20, 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 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 171 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 20, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 20, 2004 were 2.02 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 1-May-04 is estimated at 157.4 million head. This compares to 156.3 million head the previous week and to 158.3 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 158.7 million head and the composite weighted average price was 58.10 cents per pound.

MARCH 23, 2004

## SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 24, 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.

| POUNDS              |       |                   |          |            | POUNDS              |       |                   |          |            |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|------------|
| ITEM                | (000) | RANGE             | MAJORITY | WTD<br>AVG | ITEM                | (000) | RANGE             | MAJORITY | WTD<br>AVG |
| BREAST - B/S        | 903   | 212.00-290.00     | 215-219  | 221.89     | BREAST - B/S        | 873   | 215.00-290.00     | 215-217  | 222.26     |
| TENDERLOINS         | 228   | 234.00-275.00     | 234-236  | 238.51     | TENDERLOINS         | 183   | 230.00-275.00     | 230-236  | 238.85     |
| BREAST - LINE RUN   |       | TOO FEW TO REPORT |          |            | BREAST - LINE RUN   |       | TOO FEW TO REPORT |          |            |
| FRONT HALVES        |       | TOO FEW TO REPORT |          |            | FRONT HALVES        |       | TOO FEW TO REPORT |          |            |
| LEGS                |       | TOO FEW TO REPORT |          |            | LEGS                |       | TOO FEW TO REPORT |          |            |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 556   | 30.00-33.00       | 30-31    | 30.74      | LEG QUARTERS (BULK) | 588   | 30.00-33.00       | 30-31    | 30.69      |
| LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 1,015 | 33.00-38.00       | 33-35    | 34.43      | LEG QUARTERS (4/10) | 1,055 | 32.00-38.00       | 33-35    | 34.03      |
| WINGS (WHOLE)       | 293   | 122.00-130.00     | 125-130  | 128.05     | WINGS (WHOLE)       | 293   | 122.00-130.00     | 125-130  | 128.05     |
| WINGS (CUT)         | 544   | 137.00-142.00     | 139-142  | 140.44     | WINGS (CUT)         | 523   | 137.00-145.00     | 137-142  | 141.04     |
| 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          |       | 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 |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 68.50 - 73.00 | 70.46           | 68.00 - 73.00 | 70.54           | 69.54         |

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 slow with most traders a little more cautious and saying that midweek business was inactive. Offerings of breast items and tenderloins remained in close balance, wings were usually adequate, and dark meat items were in a workable position, but b/s thighs were slightly more available. Retail demand was light with distributive draw limited. The market tone was steady to fully steady on breast items and tenderloins, unsettled on thigh meat and generally steady on balance of items.

\*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. MARCH 23, 2004

| ITEM                       | CURRENT NEG |        |         | WTD                        | ITEM    | CURRENT NEG |         |  | WTD |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|---------|----------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|--|-----|
|                            | TRADING*    | AVG**  | VOL/LBS | TRADING*                   |         | AVG**       | VOL/LBS |  |     |
| BREAST - B/S               | 215-217     | 204.61 | 830,357 | BREAST - B/S               | 215-220 | 211.63      | 598,121 |  |     |
| TENDERLOINS                | 230-235     | 222.17 | 157,430 | TENDERLOINS                | 230-235 | 216.01      | 66,320  |  |     |
| BREAST - WITH RIBS         | 112-113     | 117.19 | 76,120  | BREAST - WITH RIBS         | 113-114 | 117.68      | 121,160 |  |     |
| BREAST - LINE RUN          | 112         | 115.73 | 115,480 | BREAST - LINE RUN          | 113     | 115.32      | 120,800 |  |     |
| LEGS                       | 43-44       | 40.95  | 309,640 | LEGS                       | 43-44   | 41.36       | 325,320 |  |     |
| LEG QUARTERS (BULK)        | 33-34       | 33.96  | 561,126 | LEG QUARTERS (BULK)        | 33-34   | 29.96       | 486,729 |  |     |
| DRUMSTICKS                 | 32-33       | 40.70  | 162,845 | DRUMSTICKS                 | 32-33   | 41.51       | 78,320  |  |     |
| THIGHS                     | 42-43       | 46.26  | 105,510 | THIGHS                     | 42-43   | 48.54       | 59,440  |  |     |
| B/S THIGHS                 | 111-112     | 110.57 | 70,270  | B/S THIGHS                 | 111-112 | 107.98      | 79,680  |  |     |
| WINGS (WHOLE)              | 116-117     | 124.79 | 131,800 | WINGS (WHOLE)              | 116-117 | 125.91      | 141,680 |  |     |
| BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12       | 11.88  | 30,280  | BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED) | 10-12   | 11.75       | 37,800  |  |     |
| LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)      | 35-40       | 33.84  | 15,200  | LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)      | 35-40   | 35.39       | 11,960  |  |     |
| GIZZARDS (HEARTS)          | 55-60       | 61.99  | 24,560  | GIZZARDS (HEARTS)          | 55-60   | 59.93       | 20,320  |  |     |

\*\*\*\*\*  
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    |       |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
|                    | 03/24     | 03/23  | 03/22  | 03/19  | 03/22 | 03/19     | 03/17  | 03/15 |
| ALA                | 3,880     | 3,821  | 3,873  | 3,948  | 5.23  | 5.06      | 3,737  | 5.26  |
| ARK                | 5,170     | 5,399  | 5,197  | 4,740  | 5.01  | 4.90      | 5,256  | 5.05  |
| DELMARVA           | 2,013     | 2,231  | 2,109  | 1,977  | 5.59  | 5.40      | 2,106  | 5.55  |
| KY-LA-TN           | 1,888     | 1,867  | 2,058  | 1,914  | 5.07  | 4.87      | 1,973  | 5.08  |
| MISS               | 3,006     | 2,934  | 3,050  | 2,829  | 5.46  | 5.28      | 3,043  | 5.45  |
| NC                 | 2,456     | 2,445  | 2,391  | 2,505  | 6.45  | 6.26      | 2,430  | 6.53  |
| TEXAS              | 2,314     | 2,282  | 2,382  | 2,414  | 5.14  | 4.92      | 2,354  | 5.17  |
| TOTAL              | 20,727    | 20,979 | 21,060 | 20,327 | 5.36  | 5.20      | 20,899 | 5.38  |
| MON-WED 63,071 (A) |           |        |        |        |       | 62,861(A) |        |       |

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 24-Mar is estimated to be 31,010,000 down 1.1 percent from a week ago and up 4.0 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,361,000; last year 29,805,000)

## 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 | 105-109 |
| 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 27-MAR-04

| CLASS       | CURRENT WEEK  |     | PREVIOUS WEEK |  |
|-------------|---------------|-----|---------------|--|
|             | 03/27/04 (1)  |     | 03/20/04      |  |
|             | THOUSAND HEAD |     |               |  |
| BRO-FRY     | 156,496       | (2) | 157,909       |  |
| LT HENS     | 1,345         |     | 1,298         |  |
| HVY HENS    | 1,307         |     | 1,324         |  |
| CHECK TOTAL | 159,148       |     | 160,531       |  |

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 27-Mar-04 is 158.0 million head compared to 154.7 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 156.8 million head or 1.2 million less than estimated available. For week of 03-Apr-04 the estimated available is 156.9 million head.

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

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

|             | PROCESSED TURKEY |  | PROCESSED POULTRY |  |
|-------------|------------------|--|-------------------|--|
|             | LBS              |  | LBS               |  |
| AM 03/22/04 | 173,026          |  | 41,082            |  |
| AM 03/01/04 | 169,441          |  | 39,330            |  |
| CHG         | 3,585            |  | 1,752             |  |
| PCT CHG     | 2                |  | 4                 |  |

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)**

|                                  | PROCESSED TURKEYS |          |          | PROCESSED POULTRY |          |          |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|
|                                  | 03/22/04          | 03/15/04 | 03/24/03 | 03/22/04          | 03/15/04 | 03/24/03 |
| <b>PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES</b> | 6,704             | 6,363    | 10,966   | 3,918             | 4,089    | 8,779    |
|                                  | 355               | 372      | 1,376    | 2,290             | 2,272    | 4,199    |

**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 22, 2004

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

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 03/23/04

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.       | -            | 5.50 | - |
| BROILERS lb.     | 1.00         | 1.20 | 1.12 | BROILERS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| ROASTERS lb.     | -            | -    | -    | ROASTERS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| FRYERS lb.       | -            | -    | -    | FRYERS ea.        | -            | -    | - |
| CHICKS lb.       | -            | -    | -    | CHICKS ea.        | -            | -    | - |
| PULLETS lb.      | -            | -    | -    | PULLETS ea.       | -            | -    | - |
| BUNNIES lb.      | -            | .95  | -    | BUNNIES ea.       | -            | 3.00 | - |
| ROOSTERS lb.     | -            | 1.75 | -    | ROOSTERS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| GEESE lb.        | -            | -    | -    | GEESE ea.         | -            | -    | - |
| TURKEYS lb.      | -            | -    | -    | TURKEYS ea.       | -            | -    | - |
| DUCKS lb.        | -            | -    | -    | DUCKS ea.         | -            | -    | - |
| RABBITS lb.      | .95          | 1.40 | 1.22 | RABBITS ea.       | -            | 2.25 | - |
| PIGEONS lb.      | 4.00         | 4.50 | -    | PIGEONS ea.       | -            | -    | - |
| GUINEA FOWL lb.  | -            | -    | -    | GUINEA FOWL ea.   | -            | -    | - |
| DUCKLINGS lb.    | -            | -    | -    | DUCKLINGS ea.     | 1.00         | 1.10 | - |
| GUINEA KEETS ea. | -            | -    | -    | CALL DUCKS ea.    | -            | -    | - |
| SILKIES ea.      | -            | -    | -    | GOSLINGS ea.      | -            | -    | - |
| GUINEA PIGS ea.  | -            | -    | -    | TURKEY POULTS ea. | -            | -    | - |
| CHUKARS ea.      | -            | -    | -    |                   |              |      |   |
| TOTAL COOPS      | 25           |      |      |                   |              |      |   |

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending March 19, 2004

|                     | Whole    |         | Legs w/Thighs | Necks,Back &Wings | Livers/Gizzards | Hens  |
|---------------------|----------|---------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|
|                     | Chickens | Breasts |               |                   |                 |       |
| <b>RAYON</b>        |          |         |               |                   |                 |       |
| Low                 | 66.17    | 132.34  | 82.71         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 53.76 |
| High                | 68.24    | 136.47  | 90.98         | 16.54             | 16.54           | 53.76 |
| Mostly              | 67.41    | 136.47  | 82.71         | 16.54             | 16.54           | 53.76 |
| <b>SAN JUAN</b>     |          |         |               |                   |                 |       |
| Low                 | 65.34    | 124.06  | 74.44         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 53.76 |
| High                | 67.82    | 132.34  | 82.71         | 16.54             | 16.54           | 53.76 |
| Mostly              | 67.00    | 124.06  | 74.44         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 53.76 |
| <b>NEW SAN JUAN</b> |          |         |               |                   |                 |       |
| Low                 | 66.17    | 132.34  | 74.44         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 53.76 |
| High                | 68.24    | 136.47  | 82.71         | 16.54             | 16.54           | 53.76 |
| Mostly              | 67.41    | 132.34  | 82.71         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 53.76 |
| <b>BECERRA</b>      |          |         |               |                   |                 |       |
| Low                 | 66.17    | 132.34  | 74.44         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 55.83 |
| High                | 68.24    | 136.47  | 90.98         | 16.54             | 16.54           | 55.83 |
| Mostly              | 68.24    | 136.47  | 82.71         | 12.41             | 12.41           | 55.83 |

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained fair to moderate and was sufficient in keeping offerings in generally good balance to well cleared, particularly on the smaller sizes. Live supplies were moderate to light; weights were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. In the parts complex, breast items cleared well, and were usually no more than adequate. Leg cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Wings were in uneven distribution and were usually noted as adequate to closely balanced on the smaller sizes.

\*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            | 62-91                |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE | 77.35                |
| NO. OF BOXES     | 7,395                |

\*7 of 7 plants reporting.



**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

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|-----------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Washington, DC  | Voice    | (202)720-6911 | Mike Sheats                       |
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| Atlanta, GA     | Voice    | (404)562-5850 | Johnny Freeman                    |
|                 | Fax      | (404)562-5875 | (Officer-In-Charge)               |
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| Jackson, MS     | Voice    | (601)965-4662 | Gary Brown                        |
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| Des Moines, IA  | Voice    | (515)284-4471 | Mary L. Adkins                    |
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| Los Angeles, CA | Voice    | (213)534-1330 | Jim Derby                         |
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