



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 31, 2004  
VOL. 51 NO. 39

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE

 Trade sentiment was overall steady. Retail demand was mostly slow to fair with few features; however, ads for more traditional holiday meat items appeared. Supplies were usually sufficient for light trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was slow to fair. Breast items were balanced and in the best position, dark meat and wings were mixed, but readily available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable to heavy.

**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 74.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.50 cents last year on April 2, 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	254.00
BREASTS - B/S	228.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	122.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	117.00
LEG QUARTERS	34.50
WINGS	129.50

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

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was seasonally light to fair as interest shifted towards more traditional holiday items. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient to satisfy trade needs. In the parts structure, breast items were in good balance to well cleared, wings were adequate, and dark meat was at least adequate or available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light to fair at best during midweek trading. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds ranged adequate to balanced. The heavier weights were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair. The market tone was mostly steady. In the parts complex, breast items were balanced. Dark meat lines were at least sufficient. Wings were generally adequate.

**MIDWEST** Whole broiler/fryer market tone continued mostly steady. Offerings remained in balance for the light to fair trade call. Movement into retail centers was generally slow, to instances fair at best; few features shown and several market participants indicated features starting to break on hams and turkeys. Food service demand was mostly moderate, occasionally good into fast food promotions. Floor stocks were in a full range. Weights were desirable to at times heavy. In the parts structure, breast cuts and regular wings were clearing somewhat slower than prior week, leg quarters were in better balance and demand was picking up, while drums and thighs were available and receiving a mixed call. The market tone was mostly steady, instances firm on breast items and regular wings; steady to weak on leg quarters and thighs; drums weak.

**WESTERN** The market tone was fully steady. Offerings in fair balance. Retailer demand was moderate, fairly good where features in progress. Floor stocks adequate.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 03/27/04	2004	2003	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	210,955	205,168	+03
CHICKS PLACED	172,440	169,325	+02

### BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 3 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 211 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 27, 2004. This was up 3 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 172 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 27, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through March 27, 2004 were 2.19 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 8-May-04 is estimated at 158.4 million head. This compares to 157.4 million head the previous week and to 159.2 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 157.5 million head and the composite weighted average price was 57.89 cents per pound.

MARCH 30, 2004

## SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 31, 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				ITEM	POUNDS				
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	883	208.00-296.00	208-210	210.83	BREAST - B/S	845	205.00-296.00	208-210	210.33	
TENDERLOINS	229	235.00-278.00	235-238	240.33	TENDERLOINS	183	230.00-278.00	230-237	240.71	
BREAST - LINE RUN	150	114.00-127.00	114-116	115.93	BREAST - LINE RUN	93	115.00-127.00	115-117	118.48	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				
LEGS	113	37.00-60.00	37-39	40.04	LEGS	113	37.00-56.00	37-39	39.76	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	576	30.00-33.00	30-31	30.75	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	580	30.00-33.00	30-31	30.78	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,095	33.00-38.00	33-35	34.20	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	980	33.00-38.00	33-35	34.31	
WINGS (WHOLE)	294	122.00-134.00	122-125	124.67	WINGS (WHOLE)	298	120.00-134.00	120-126	123.98	
WINGS (CUT)	439	137.00-142.00	137-140	139.52	WINGS (CUT)	632	137.00-142.00	137-139	138.77	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	88	40.00-56.00	-	44.41	
B/S THIGHS	87	98.00-122.00	-	111.66	B/S THIGHS	142	95.00-122.00	-	104.68	
*****					*****					
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
69.50 - 74.00		71.47			69.00 - 74.00		71.34			71.31

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 remained fair at best and was noted as typical of midweek trading. Offerings of breast items continued adequate to balanced. Dark meat lines were at least sufficient and wings were generally adequate. Retail and distributive draw was light to fair. The market tone was mostly steady.

\*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. MARCH 30, 2004

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**					TRADING*	AVG**			
BREAST - B/S	220	216.88	736,679		BREAST - B/S	220	218.21	527,921			
TENDERLOINS	235	211.30	198,540		TENDERLOINS	235	218.10	92,840			
BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	119.22	144,720		BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	118.52	124,000			
BREAST - LINE RUN	114	117.92	105,920		BREAST - LINE RUN	114	116.82	119,680			
LEGS	43-44	41.48	296,241		LEGS	43-44	42.77	289,585			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	33.63	483,658		LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	33.92	416,857			
DRUMSTICKS	32-33	39.41	152,190		DRUMSTICKS	32-33	40.89	135,880			
THIGHS	42-43	47.07	83,960		THIGHS	42-43	48.48	43,640			
B/S THIGHS	110-111	107.28	104,480		B/S THIGHS	110-111	108.70	62,380			
WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	123.29	165,840		WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	127.04	133,920			
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.13	32,960		BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.77	33,720			
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	29.85	23,555		LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	28.79	18,520			
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.83	15,780		GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.56	17,640			

\*\*\*\*\*  
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	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	WTS	WTS	WTS	WTS
	03/31	03/30	03/29	03/26	03/29	03/26	03/24	03/22
ALA	3,936	4,010	3,825	3,920	5.22	5.17	3,814	5.23
ARK	5,323	5,392	5,157	4,988	5.11	4.79	4,968	5.01
DELMARVA	1,922	2,105	2,122	2,102	5.58	5.50	2,074	5.59
KY-LA-TN	1,953	2,030	2,043	1,897	5.04	4.75	1,901	5.07
MISS	3,054	3,150	3,059	3,005	5.44	5.35	2,971	5.46
NC	2,445	2,452	2,365	2,299	6.39	6.45	2,401	6.45
TEXAS	2,259	2,293	2,393	2,345	5.16	4.83	2,401	5.14
TOTAL	20,892	21,432	20,964	20,556	5.37	5.20	20,530	5.36
MON-WED	63,618 (A)						62,257 (A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 31-Mar is estimated to be 31,257,000 up 1.5 percent from a week ago and up 1.5 percent from a year ago. (Last week 30,807,000; last year 30,802,000)

## 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	102-104
	DRY PACK	104-107
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 03-APR-04

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	04/03/04 (1)		03/27/04	
	THOUSAND HEAD			
BRO-FRY	159,305	(2)	156,496	
LT HENS	1,298		1,345	
HVY HENS	1,459		1,307	
CHECK TOTAL	162,062		159,148	

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 03-Apr-04 is 156.9 million head compared to 158.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 159.6 million head or 2.7 million more than estimated available. For week of 10-Apr-04 the estimated available is 157.6 million head.

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

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 03/29/04	183,852		42,490	
AM 03/01/04	169,441		39,330	
CHG	14,411		3,160	
PCT CHG	9		8	

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)**

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/29/04	03/22/04	03/31/03	03/29/04	03/22/04	03/31/03
<b>PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES</b>	6,926	6,704	11,214	3,951	3,918	9,386
	391	355	1,370	2,388	2,290	4,217

**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 29, 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 03/30/04**

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.	-	1.85	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	.20
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	.60	-	BUNNIES ea.	2.75	9.50
ROOSTERS lb.	-	2.00	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	1.35	1.40	1.38	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.00	2.00	1.62	RABBITS ea.	1.75	5.25
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	3.75	6.75
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	4.75	6.25	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS	80					

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending March 26, 2004

	Whole Chickens		Legs w/ Thighs	Necks, Back & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts	w/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	Hens
<b>RAYON</b>						
Low	63.68	123.25	73.95	12.32	12.32	53.41
High	65.73	135.57	82.16	16.43	16.43	53.41
Mostly	64.09	135.57	82.16	12.32	16.43	53.41
<b>SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	62.86	123.25	73.95	12.32	12.32	51.35
High	65.73	131.46	82.16	16.43	16.43	51.35
Mostly	64.09	123.25	73.95	12.32	12.32	51.35
<b>NEW SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	63.68	123.25	73.95	12.32	12.32	53.41
High	65.73	135.57	82.16	16.43	16.43	53.41
Mostly	64.09	135.57	82.16	12.32	12.32	53.41
<b>BECERRA</b>						
Low	64.09	123.25	73.95	12.32	12.32	53.41
High	65.73	135.57	82.16	16.43	16.43	53.41
Mostly	64.09	135.57	82.16	16.43	16.43	53.41

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was light as normal reduced needs during the end of the month coupled with buyer interest shifting to other items more commonplace during the upcoming holiday period. Seller offerings were at least adequate, particularly on the heavier sizes. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were light and included some downtime. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, supplies were generally adequate. Breast items were in best balance.

\*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	74-88
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	78.52
NO. OF BOXES	5,094

\*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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