



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was irregular, ranging fully steady to firm in the West, no better than steady in the East, steady in the Midwest. Retail demand was typically light for this time of year with interest focused on more traditional holiday items. Food service covered the full range, mostly moderate to good for fast food; movement into restaurants is expected to improve over the weekend for Easter. Supplies were at least adequate or available. In the parts structure, trading was usually light. Availability was mixed, but overall obtainable and easy to locate. 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 .25 cents to 74.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.50 cents last year on April 9, 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	256.50
BREASTS - B/S	228.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	123.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	113.50
LEG QUARTERS	34.50
WINGS	130.00

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

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Mid-week demand was seasonally light to fair with limited trading. Supplies were usually sufficient for trade needs; however, wogs were in a closer balance with reports of increased interest. In the parts structure, breast items were balanced to at times well cleared for fronts. Wings were available, and dark meat was at least adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers remained seasonally light and unaggressive during midweek trading. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds continued adequate to balanced. The 3.5 pound and larger sizes were adequate to available. Retail and distributive draw was cautious and selective as traditional holiday items in the market dominate features. The market tone was about steady on the 3 pound and lighter birds, no better than steady on the larger sizes. In the parts complex, breast items were adequate to instances available. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Wings were generally sufficient.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer market tone remained mostly steady. Offerings were sufficient for light buyer interest. Fill in trade on 3 up wogs at 77 cents noted into the Chicago area. Demand into retail outlets as expected, light to fair, best for traditional holiday items, although some establishments noted decent movement for chicken for first of the month. Fast food continued to do well in the food service sector with some expectations for increased movement into restaurants over the weekend for Easter. Floor stocks were in a full range with spot shortages noted on wings and eight-piece cutup. Weights for the most part were in a desirable range. In the parts sector, buyers continue to be cautious and maintain supplies in close balance, limiting trade activity. Wings and tenderloins were most sought after items and closely balanced; boneless/skinless breasts offerings moderate to instances long and usually discounted; dark meat cuts were clearing slowly. The market tone was steady to firm on tenderloins, mostly steady on wings with the balance of white meat cuts steady with a cautious undertone; dark meat items barely steady to weak.

WESTERN The market tone was fully steady to firm. Offerings were adequate for immediate needs. Buying activity fair with interest centered on holiday items. Retailer demand was moderate. Floor stocks adequate overall. The market tone was firm on breast with balance of parts generally steady.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES WEEK ENDING 04/03/04	2004	2003	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	211,195	210,423	0
CHICKS PLACED	172,271	167,811	+03

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP SLIGHTLY

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 211 million eggs in incubators during the week ending April 3, 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 UP 3 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 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through April 3, 2004 were 2.36 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 15-May-04 is estimated at 158.6 million head. This compares to 158.4 million head the previous week and to 158.7 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 157.4 million head and the composite weighted average price was 59.20 cents per pound.

APR 06 **SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS** APR 07
 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		MAJORITY	WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE		
BREAST - B/S	872	205.00-296.00	208-210	217.40
TENDERLOINS	151	225.00-278.00	225-235	237.16
BREAST - LINE RUN	128	114.00-127.00	114-118	117.53
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	113	38.00-56.00	38-40	40.69
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	620	29.00-33.00	30-31	30.71
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	940	32.00-36.00	33-35	34.11
WINGS (WHOLE)	355	120.00-135.00	120-126	124.86
WINGS (CUT)	448	137.00-142.00	137-139	138.48
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE		
BREAST - B/S	917	207.00-296.00	209-213	217.44
TENDERLOINS	508	215.00-278.00	225-235	223.62
BREAST - LINE RUN	118	115.00-127.00	116-118	117.96
FRONT HALVES	73	106.00-116.00	108-116	110.68
LEGS	113	38.00-56.00	38-40	40.69
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	565	29.00-33.00	30-31	30.73
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,180	31.00-38.00	33-35	33.22
WINGS (WHOLE)	297	120.00-134.00	124-126	126.96
WINGS (CUT)	638	137.00-142.00	137-139	138.58
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	122	99.00-118.00	-	108.16

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR
 APR 06, 2004 -- FOB DOCK

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR
 APR 07, 2004 -- FOB DOCK

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
68.50 - 74.00	71.32	67.50 - 74.50	70.71	71.29

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 light and unaggressive and noted as typical of midweek trading. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were adequate to available with spot discounting occasionally noted where product was in excess. Bone-in breasts were at least sufficient. Dark meat items were adequate to fully adequate with leg quarters in a slightly longer position today. Wings were sufficient. Retail and distributor draw was seasonally light and selective. The market tone remained cautious on breast items and no better than steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
TENDERLOINS	235	224.77	131,010
BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	119.02	171,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	114	114.73	138,840
LEGS	42-43	40.44	366,799
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	32.81	508,481
DRUMSTICKS	31-32	38.87	185,800
THIGHS	42-43	46.85	81,040
B/S THIGHS	110-111	107.00	95,360
WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	124.74	162,840
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.30	33,720
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	30.78	23,380
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	57.01	39,070

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
TENDERLOINS	235	224.63	109,580
BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	120.84	129,280
BREAST - LINE RUN	114	112.03	119,520
LEGS	42-43	43.70	287,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	33.99	314,013
DRUMSTICKS	31-32	42.44	105,960
THIGHS	42-43	48.14	60,240
B/S THIGHS	110-111	105.29	65,360
WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	125.46	177,120
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.74	28,760
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	29.55	17,160
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.00	22,680

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	
	04/07	04/06	04/05	04/02	04/05	04/02	03/31	03/29
ALA	3,951	3,940	3,644	3,685	5.34	5.08	3,887	5.22
ARK	5,324	5,458	5,176	5,403	4.94	4.90	5,149	5.11
DELMARVA	2,187	2,143	2,179	2,149	5.59	5.41	1,925	5.58
KY-LA-TN	2,031	1,999	1,748	1,905	4.97	4.88	1,929	5.04
MISS	3,135	3,102	3,068	3,123	5.49	5.34	2,996	5.44
NC	2,468	2,422	2,319	2,582	6.48	6.29	2,316	6.39
TEXAS	2,225	2,248	2,330	2,216	5.13	4.95	2,356	5.16
TOTAL	21,321	21,312	20,464	21,063	5.36	5.22	20,558	5.37
MON-WED	63,510 (A)				62,207 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 7-Apr is estimated to be 31,899,000 up 3.4percent from a week ago and up 5.0percent from a year ago.
 (Last week 30,849,000; last year 30,371,000)

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	DRY PACK 104-113
	ICE PACK 104
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK 107-109
	ICE PACK 105-107
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 88-93
	DRY PACK 93-95
DUCKS	162-185

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 10-APR-04

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	04/10/04(1)		04/03/04	
	THOUSAND HEAD			
BRO-FRY	155,106	(2)	159,305	
LT HENS	1,495		1,298	
HVY HENS	1,360		1,459	
TOTAL	157,961		162,062	

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 10-Apr-04 is 157.6 million head compared to 154.0 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 155.4 million head or 2.2 million less than estimated available. For week of 17-Apr-04 the estimated available is 158.8 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 04/05/04	182,868		40,646	
AM 03/01/04	169,441		39,330	
CHG	13,427		1,316	
PCT CHG	8		3	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	04/05/04	03/29/04	04/07/03	04/05/04	03/29/04	04/07/03
PACIFIC COAST	7,020	6,926	10,720	3,640	3,951	9,180
LOS ANGELES	432	391	898	2,138	2,388	3,831

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 APRIL 5, 2004

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

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 04/06/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY						
	LO	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	-	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.40	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	1.25	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.75	1.05
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	11.75
ROOSTERS lb.	.65	.80	.75	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	1.25	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.80	1.25	1.09	RABBITS ea.	-	4.25
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.25	7.00
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	6.50
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS	90					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending April 2, 2004

	Whole		Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	
RAYON						
Low	61.82	122.02	73.21	12.20	12.20	52.88
High	63.04	130.15	81.35	16.27	16.27	52.88
Mostly	62.64	130.15	73.21	16.27	16.27	52.88
SAN JUAN						
Low	61.01	122.02	73.21	12.20	12.20	52.88
High	62.64	130.15	81.35	16.27	16.27	52.88
Mostly	62.23	130.15	73.21	12.20	12.20	52.88
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	61.01	122.02	73.21	12.20	12.20	52.88
High	62.64	130.15	81.35	16.27	16.27	52.88
Mostly	62.64	130.15	73.21	16.27	12.20	52.88
BECERRA						
Low	61.82	122.02	73.21	12.20	12.20	54.91
High	63.04	134.22	81.35	20.34	16.27	54.91
Mostly	62.64	134.22	73.21	16.27	16.27	54.91

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light and unaggressive. Offerings were fully adequate, occasionally ample. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied in a range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was about steady. In the parts complex, buyer interest was light and selective, and usually kept in close balance with immediate needs. Supplies were fully sufficient.

*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	75-92
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	79.79
NO. OF BOXES	6,883

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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