



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 26, 2004  
VOL. 51 NO. 142

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices in the West were one cent lower, unchanged in the Midwest, but one cent higher in the East when compared to a week earlier. Weekend demand was moderate to light, but keeping the offerings balanced to well cleared. Trade sentiment was weak in the West, steady to full steady in the Midwest, and steady to firm in the East. Processing schedules were less than normal on Friday to the holiday down time. In the parts structure, bone-in breast were at least adequate to available, dark meat was adequate to close, wings were barely adequate to tight and moving well. In production areas, live supplies were moderate; weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

**Preliminary Report** of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 29-NOV-2004 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	58.00-61.00	54.00-74.25	61.38	27
Los Angeles	80.00			
New York	63.00-65.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	70.00-73.00	55.00-74.500	71.69	77

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 74.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

### PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
918	69.75-76.25	74.10
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	166.50	1,153
BREASTS - B/S	142.50	4,641
BREASTS - WHOLE	73.00	1,110 THIGH
MEAT - B/S	71.00	926
LEG QUARTERS	31.00	5,808
WINGS	91.00	2,556

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

**MIDWEST** Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago market area were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady on whole fryers. Offerings were light for the like interest. Movement into retail and food service was light overall, instances moderate and best into fast food around major shopping malls. Floor stocks were adequate to in close balance. Weights were mostly desirable. Trade on parts was active on wings and limited on the balance of items. Parts item supplies were tight on wings, available to close on dark meat and moderate to heavy on breast items. The market tone was firm on wings, steady with a fully steady undertone on dark meat, and cautiously steady on the balance.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was weak in the West, steady to firm in the Midwest and East. However, definite price levels are yet to be established. Retail demand was still light entering the weekend. Whole bird supplies were also light but still about sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules for this week were part time as many plants were down one or two days. In the parts structure, trading was only fair with wings balanced to tight, dark meat balanced, and breast items were mixed, with bone-in breast available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**WESTERN** Preliminary majority prices 1 cent lower throughout the region. Trade sentiment barely steady to weak. Trading reported for next weeks' deliveries at generally lower to unchanged prices. Offerings were ample overall for immediate needs. In production areas, the majority of plants were closed for the holiday; few worked reduced schedules. Retailer demand moderate at best, with limited features in progress. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances.

**Ads noted** (per pound unless otherwise stated):

**Southern California** – whole body 67, boneless breast 199, boneless breast and boneless thigh combo 199, boneless leg meat 89- 99, split breast 99-138, wing 99, drumstick 67-99, thigh 67-99,

**(deli food service** – fried 8 piece drumstick and thigh 348, roasted 599 each).

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers were seasonally light to moderate entering the weekend and sufficient in keeping floor stocks in close balance with anticipated needs. Offerings of all sizes were in close balance and well cleared. Retail and distributive movement was light to fair. The market tone was at least steady. In the parts complex, breast items were at least adequate to available. Dark meat items were sufficient. Wings were in good balance and well cleared.

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light to moderate and remained sufficient in keeping offerings in generally good balance to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate to light, weights were mostly desirable. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged to 1 cent higher at 64 to 78 cents. Trade sentiment continued at least steady. In the parts complex, wings were well cleared. Breast items, particularly supplies of bone-in were available and slow to clear. Other items were generally noted as adequate and clearing 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		61-83
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		65.12
NO. OF BOXES		8,939
CUMULATIVE	11/22/04-11/26/04	66.49
	11/24/03-11/28/03	63.77
NO. OF BOXES	11/22/04-11/26/04	30,266
	11/24/03-11/28/03	32,623

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S		TOO FEW TO REPORT			2,515	117.35
TENDERLOINS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			1,080	120.39
BREAST - LINE RUN		TOO FEW TO REPORT			365	72.21
FRONT HALVES		TOO FEW TO REPORT			235	57.57
LEGS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			240	34.49
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)		TOO FEW TO REPORT			1,800	25.53
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	575	26.00-29.00	27-28	27.63 3,710	27.44	
WINGS (WHOLE)		TOO FEW TO REPORT			1,131	86.79
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			146	35.86
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			138	34.21
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			390	72.28

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 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2004— F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
39.50 - 44.50	41.39	41.55

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 entering the weekend. Offerings of boneless skinless breasts were at least adequate; bone-in breasts were readily available. Dark meat cuts were sufficient. Wings were in good balance and clearing. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair. The market tone was fully steady on wings; about steady to barely steady for breast items and generally steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	WEEKLY VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	125-130	128.08	382,120	125.38	2,257,280
TENDERLOINS	110	113.55	88,490	110.31	494,810
BREAST - WITH RIBS	68-69	74.60	136,520	72.02	435,260
BREAST - LINE RUN	68	65.74	124,200	67.15	402,840
LEGS	42-43	39.51	247,560	39.50	887,600
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28-29	29.08	327,189	29.65	1,666,521
DRUMSTICKS	25-26	36.37	77,640	33.01	347,270
THIGHS	26-27	38.20	69,440	37.56	245,130
B/S THIGHS	76-77	71.40	58,800	72.39	239,420
WINGS (WHOLE)	93-94	104.80	82,600	100.56	499,820
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.58	37,440	11.63	178,240
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	29.41	20,320	29.92	89,700
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	68.04	24,440	68.78	73,520

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). \* TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	(1,000)		(1,000)				(1,000)			
	11/26	11/25	11/24	11/23	11/24	11/23	11/19	11/17		
Alabama	3,190	0	3,777	4,035	5.17	5.25	4,191	5.31		
Arkansas	2,964	0	5,106	5,388	5.13	5.15	6,557	5.12		
Delmarva	2,210	0	1,972	2,155	5.64	5.65	1,907	5.77		
KY-LA-TN	1,756	0	2,091	2,171	4.77	5.12	2,048	4.95		
Mississippi	2,039	0	2,934	2,995	5.48	5.62	3,312	5.39		
North Carolina	2,290	0	2,459	2,506	6.54	6.51	2,755	6.68		
Texas	2,439	0	2,900	250	4.52	5.06	2,545	5.19		
Total	16,888	0	21,239	19,500	5.28	5.47	23,315	5.40		
Mon-Fri	81,379 (A)						108,184 (A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 26-Nov-04 and 27-Nov-04 is estimated to be 25,266,000 head down 27.78 percent from a week ago and down -3.14 percent from a year ago. (Last week 34,986,000, last year 26,086,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 27-Nov-04 is estimated to be 116,390,000 head down 25.42 percent from a week ago, and down 1.64 percent from a year ago. (Last week 156,060,000, last year 118,334,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	107
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	65-68
DUCKS	-
RABBITS WHOLE	-
CUT UP	-

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

	ICE PACK	DRY PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS			105-106
ROASTERS 4# & UP			106-110
HENS OVER 5#			108-111
DUCKS			111
			89-93
			89-95
			175-192

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 13-Nov-04 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning  
Food service  
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

-----THOUSANDS-----

	(A)	(B)	(C)
Head	25,919	20,132	44,675
Avg Weight	3.77	4.71	6.46
% of total /1	29%	22%	49%

**Comparisons**

	(A)	(B)	(C)
Last week	27,901	18,669	52,801
Avg Weight	3.75	4.75	6.35
% of total /1	28%	19%	53%

	(A)	(B)	(C)
Same week, yr ago /2	28,162	29,689	47,181
Avg Weight	3.72	4.78	6.27
% of total /1	27%	28%	45%

	(A)	(B)	(C)
To date/2004	1,172,418	961,843	2,077,709
To date/2003	1,056,659	1,088,667	2,010,686

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

**LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION** (Preliminary)

W/E 20-Nov-04	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	156,060	1,380	1,501	2,881	503
Avg Wt	5.28	3.42	8.01	5.81	6.71
Last week	161,965	1,516	1,534	3,050	485
Same wk yr ago	151,254	1,097	1,427	2,524	446
Avg Wt	5.25	3.36	8.22	6.11	6.82
To-date/2004	7,230,431	63,169	62,970	126,139	21,629
To-date/2003	7,111,231	66,012	65,049	131,061	19,112

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 154.1 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 158.0 million head, or 3.9 million more than estimated available.

**GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION -** NOVEMBER 23, 2004

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

\*\*AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY\*\*

	RANGE	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.15 - 1.20	Geese 9-14 LBS .35 - .50
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.15 - 1.20	Pigeons 2.25 - 2.50 ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.20 - .22	White Pigeons 3.75 - 4.00 ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.24 - .30	Rabbits 4-6 LBS .90 - 1.00
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits 6-9 LBS .80 - .90
4-6 LBS	.90 - 1.00	Bunnies .50 - 2.00 ea.
Crossbred Roosters		Guinea Pigs .01 - .02 ea.
7-11 LBS	.75 - .80	Goats 45.00 - 50.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.35 - 1.50	Kid Goats 35.00 - 40.00 ea.
Banty Roosters	2.25 - 2.50ea.	Doves 3.00 - 3.25 ea.
Banty Hens	1.75 - 2.00ea.	
Leghorn Roosters	.40 - .60ea.	Total Coops Sold 368

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY** FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 22-NOVEMBER-2004

**DUCKLINGS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	143-145	149-151
MOSTLY		

MIDWEST	127-131	128-133
MOSTLY		

**ROASTERS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED, CENTS PER POUND

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	63.00-70.50	68.00-70.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-86.50	68.00-76.50

**SQUABS:** NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-71.28
14 OZ.	66.96-77.92
16 OZ.	73.44-86.67

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

**CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS** Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Demand was good to very good due to some extra interest for the holiday. Supplies were adequate to close for current needs. Schedules were full-time. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 22-NOVEMBER-2004

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	116-134	118-139
MOSTLY		

**ESTIMATED U.S. FRYER SLAUGHTER/ FRYER AVAILABILITY COMPARISON**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT	
October	16	163.4	164.4	99%	5.46
	23	164.1	163.9	100%	5.41
	30	162.5	163.4	99%	5.33
November	6	161.5	162.0	100%	5.32
	13	163.9	159.1	103%	5.30
	20	158.0	154.1	103%	5.28
Year to date		7318.3	7423.4	99%	
November	27		153.1		
December	4		155.3		

**BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER**

Under Federal Inspection

W/E	11/27/04	11/20/04	% CHG	11/29/03	% CHG
Broilers	116,390	156,060*	-25.42	118,334	-1.64
Cattle	473	607	-22	542	-13
Hogs	1,867	2,114	-12	1,881	-01

\*ACTUAL

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Trading was too few to report on heavy canners; unchanged on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for light canners; fairly good to good for heavies with most available supplies being used internally. Offerings were well cleared and were adequate to about adequate for current trade needs. Processing schedules were noted as normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady to fully steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b> <b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b> 28-32 MAJORITY 28-30	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b> <b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b> TOO FEW TO REPORT
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CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b> <b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b> 29-34 MAJORITY 30-33	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b> <b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b> TOO FEW TO REPORT
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**LIGHT TYPE HENS**

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

**EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN** Prices were generally unchanged when compared to a week ago. Demand was mostly fair to moderate with offerings of spent hens generally sufficient for current trade needs. Processing schedules were reduced due to the holiday. Opinions on removal costs were steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	4-9	6-9

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Negotiations were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings of light fowl. Schedules were normal. Finished sales were fair. Costs of disposal were expected to remain constant.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Prices unchanged. Offerings were in close balance to adequate with demand reported as fair while the Thanksgiving holiday is observed. Schedules generally full-time for next week with a few processors seeking additional spent hens to fill production schedules. Trade sentiment steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-5	

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**HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \***

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 29-NOV-04

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was at least moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules for next week were normal to less than normal. Sales of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was at least steady to fully steady.

<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS** Trading levels were too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were seasonally active. Schedules were reduced for the holiday week. Trade sentiment was about steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plants worked holiday slaughter schedules. Offerings generally adequate.

**NEW YORK CITY SEASONAL POULTRY  
FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF NOV-22-04**

**CAPONS:**

Supplies of USDA grade A frozen capons continued in close balance with anticipated demand. Most product booked for December needs will begin shipping late week. Shipper asking prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment as steady to fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:  
6-9 LBS. 1.65-1.80 MOSTLY 1.65-1.75

**GEESE:**

Shipper asking prices were unchanged from last week. Supplies of frozen USDA Grade A geese were in close balance with anticipated demand. Processors were operating reduced schedules. Product for December needs will begin shipping next week. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:  
8-16 LBS. 2.40-2.55 MOSTLY 2.45-2.55

PRICES REPORTED FROM LATE OCTOBER THRU MID DECEMBER.