



## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices in the West trended slightly lower, Midwest majorities were unchanged and the Eastern region was slightly higher when compared to Monday majorities. Retail demand was light to moderate as traditional holiday items received the best interest. Supplies were adequate, but offerings were light as plant schedules were mostly closed on Friday. Deliveries of product was hampered by lack of availability of trucks and winter weather conditions in some areas in the Midwest. In the parts structure, trading was seasonally moderate with wings in a tight to short position, breast items were adequate but in a better balance position, leg quarters were sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), for the week ending 18-Dec-04, broiler egg sets were up 3%, and chick placements were up 2% when compared to the previous year. Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 29-Jan-2005 were estimated at 159.0 million head.

**Preliminary report** Prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 27-DEC-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	54.00-73.25	61.21	30
New York	64.00-67.00			
Los Angeles	79.00			
<b>Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent</b>				
Mississippi	70.00-73.00	56.00-73.50	71.30	84

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 73.25 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.
1,062	58.00-75.00	72.08

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	161.50	1,331
BREASTS - B/S	144.00	5,031
BREASTS - WHOLE	74.50	1,420
THIGH MEAT - B/S	73.50	871
LEG QUARTERS	31.00	6,857
WINGS	102.50	2,819

This information is supplied by the GA Dept. of Agriculture's poultry market news service.

**MIDWEST** The whole broiler/fryer market tone was mostly steady. Offerings of whole fryers were light. Retail and food service movement was light to moderate, best interest into catering and fast food going into Christmas. Floor stocks were adequate to short of needs as yesterday's storms wreaked havoc with trucks driving through between 2 and 22 inches of snow and ice in parts of the South and Midwest. Weights were mostly desirable with instances heavier than desired. Supplies of boneless skinless breasts and wings were tight with dark meat adequate. The market tone was firm on wings, fully steady on dark meat items, and steady on boneless skinless breasts.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was generally steady in the Midwest, steady to full steady in the East and weak in the West. Market conditions are being affected by reduced processing schedules, truck shortage and snowy weather in some areas. Demand was seasonal, but clearing the available offerings. Supplies were sufficient to short of trade needs. Plant schedules this week are less than normal as most locations are down Friday for Christmas. In the parts structure, movement was light to fairly good. Wings were barely adequate to short, breast items were in better balance but adequate, and dark meat was usually sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally fair to moderate. Offerings were in good balance and well cleared on 3 pound and heavier sizes; slightly more available on the 2.5 pound sizes. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair as consumers look to more traditional holiday items. The market tone was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, wings were in close balance to tight. Other items were generally adequate.

**WESTERN** The preliminary majority prices lower throughout the region. Early trading reported for next weeks' deliveries at unchanged to lower prices on regular commitments and lower to instances higher on new negotiations. Offerings generally adequate for small sized product, heavy weights ample with discounts offered to help stimulate interest. Retailer demand was moderate at best for whole body and good for parts. Wings were fully steady with balance of parts generally steady. Dealers expected fair weekend carryovers due to anticipated late deliveries.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA** – whole body 99, boneless breast free range 449;

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** – whole body 57-79, roaster 129, cornish 6 count half-case 1299 and 12 pack case 2195, boneless breast 159-179, boneless breast 4# bag IQF 716, boneless leg meat 89, split breast 99-109, leg quarter 49, leg quarters 10# bag 290, leg quarter 40# case 1499, drumstick and thigh combo pack 98, thigh 79, drumstick 79, drumstick 5# bag 245, (deli food service – fried 8 piece mixed 699, rotisserie 499 each, hot wing 349, tenders 349).

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained seasonal entering the Holiday lengthened weekend. Offering were in good balance to well cleared on the 3.00 pound and heavier weights; irregularly available on the 2.50 pound sizes. Live supplies were moderate; weights were desirable to light. Processing schedules were moderate to light with plants slated to close tomorrow, Friday in observance of Christmas. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cents higher at 65 to 79 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, wings were tight under seasonal active inquiry. Other items were adequate.

\*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	62-83
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	68.72
NO. OF BOXES	5,973
CUMULATIVE	12/20/04-12/24/04 67.69
	12/22/03-12/26/03 64.57
NO. OF BOXES	12/20/04-12/24/04 30,597
	12/22/03-12/26/03 32,005

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	395	118.00-150.00	120-125	127.34	2,385	123.87
TENDERLOINS	260	118.00-170.00	118-120	134.88	1,122	125.75
BREAST - LINE RUN	93	70.00-75.00	70-72	72.00	349	72.73
FRONT HALVES	55	57.00-62.00	-	58.73	240	58.52
LEGS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			182	36.31
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	510	24.00-29.00	26-27	26.49	2,080	26.37
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,210	25.00-29.00	27-28	27.75	4,200	27.93
WINGS (WHOLE)	270	97.00-108.00	99-102	100.93	1,185	102.96
WINGS (CUT)	405	121.00-125.00	122-125	122.41	1,944	121.95
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			81	46.26
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			132	46.21
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT			345	75.84

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 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR DECEMBER 23, 2004— F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
40.50 - 45.50	42.61	42.45

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 seasonally fair to moderate as dealers attempted to enter the holiday period with closely cleared floor stocks. Offerings of breast items were generally sufficient for current trade needs. Wings were tight. Thighs and boneless skinless thighs were clearing satisfactorily. Leg and Leg quarters are adequate. Retail and distributive movement was limited as consumers looked to other more traditional holiday items. The market tone was fully steady on wings. Other items were generally steady. ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

December 23 ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	December 24 ITEM	WEEKLY WTD AVG	WEEKLY VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	131.05	579,800	BREAST - B/S	129.04	2,531,840
TENDERLOINS	110	109.56	78,120	TENDERLOINS	112.92	482,420
BREAST - WITH RIBS	68-69	77.00	127,800	BREAST - WITH RIBS	75.70	494,320
BREAST - LINE RUN	68	68.65	114,440	BREAST - LINE RUN	69.14	438,240
LEGS	42-43	42.50	256,960	LEGS	40.16	1,178,560
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28-29	28.91	225,885	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28.82	1,247,023
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	32.47	115,520	DRUMSTICKS	32.52	567,040
THIGHS	27-28	40.96	72,280	THIGHS	40.81	298,980
B/S THIGHS	80-81	77.74	61,040	B/S THIGHS	72.40	321,760
WINGS (WHOLE)	103-104	113.97	107,800	WINGS (WHOLE)	113.64	461,640
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.69	35,200	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	11.73	132,400
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	25.33	55,840	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	28.17	112,240
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	64.20	13,560	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	62.91	89,040

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)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
	12/24	12/23	12/22	12/21	12/22	12/21	12/17	12/15		
Alabama	(A) 3,254	3,934	4,019	5.19	5.26	4,452	5.27			
Arkansas	(A) 3,558	5,194	5,324	4.91	5.07	5,476	5.00			
Delmarva	(A) 2,166	2,226	2,194	5.65	5.60	2,041	5.16			
KY-LA-TN	(A) 2,002	2,067	2,137	5.12	5.21	2,287	4.99			
Mississippi	Holiday 2,868	2,909	2,796	5.38	5.58	3,346	5.66			
North Carolina	(A) 2,444	2,333	2,451	6.51	6.44	2,265	6.46			
Texas	Holiday 2,459	2,485	2,489	5.25	5.22	2,138	5.12			
Total	1,652 18,751	21,148	21,410	5.34	5.41	22,005	5.33			
Mon-Fri	86,065(B)					107,971(B)				

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations

(B) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 24-Dec-04 and 25-Dec-04 is estimated to be 2,472,000 head down 92.51 percent from a week ago and down -93.06 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 33,021,000, last year 35,636,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 25-Dec-04

is estimated to be 123,247,000 head down 22.60 percent from a week ago, and up 9.00 percent from a year ago.

www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

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

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	99-107
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	63-67
DUCKS	-
RABBITS WHOLE	-
CUT UP	-

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

	ICE PACK	DRY PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	103-105	103-108	
ROASTERS 4# & UP	108-111	111	
HENS OVER 5#	89-93	89-95	
DUCKS	175-192		

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 11-Dec-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-----

Head	28,244	18,354	47,661
Avg Weight	3.62	4.64	6.37
% of total /1	30%	19%	51%

## Comparisons

Last week	24,347	20,460	51,282
Avg Weight	3.68	4.74	6.50
% of total /1	25%	21%	53%

Same week, yr ago /2	25,306	29,485	42,058
Avg Weight	3.69	4.46	6.49
% of total /1	26%	30%	43%

To date/2004	1,272,719	1,030,592	2,256,025
To date/2003	1,146,873	1,191,604	2,178,265

/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 18-Dec-04	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	159,224	1,499	1,462	2,961	540
Avg Wt	5.22	3.26	7.87	5.54	6.75
Last week	159,818	1,534	1,403	2,937	523
Same wk yr ago	154,431	1,340	1,509	2,849	440
Avg Wt	5.34	3.72	7.84	5.90	7.08
To-date/2004	7,829,779	68,411	68,047	136,458	23,659
To-date/2003	7,692,409	70,798	70,184	140,982	20,704

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 154.3 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 161.2 million head, or 6.9 million more than estimated available.

**GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION -** DECEMBER 21, 2004  
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

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

	RANGE	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.40 - 1.50	Silkie 2.00 - 2.25 ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.60 - 1.70	Geese 9-14 LBS .75 - .80
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.35 - .45	Pigeons 2.10 - 2.50 ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .60	White Pigeons 4.00 - 4.25 ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.70 - .75	Rabbits 4-6 LBS 1.20 - 1.35
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits 6-9 LBS 1.00 - 1.10
4-6 LBS	.85 - .90	Bunnies 2.00 - 4.00 ea.
Crossbred Roosters		Guinea Pigs .05 - .25 ea.
7-11 LBS	.70 - .90	Doves 2.85 - 3.00 ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.90 - 2.10ea.	
Banty Roosters	4.00 - 4.25ea.	
Banty Hens	3.00 - 3.25ea.	Total Coops Sold 384
Leghorn Roosters	.50 - .75ea.	

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY** FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 20-DECEMBER-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)	63.00-71.50	67.00-71.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-86.50	68.00-75.00

**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 remained unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was moderate to very good due to the upcoming holidays. Supplies were adequate 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 20-DECEMBER-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
November 13	163.9	159.1	103%	5.30
20	158.0	154.1	103%	5.28
27	119.1	153.1	78%	5.27
December 4	164.6	155.3	106%	5.41
11	161.8	155.8	104%	5.21
18	161.2	154.3	104%	5.22
Year to date	7925.0	8041.9	99%	
December 25		152.1		
January 1		152.6		

**BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER****Under Federal Inspection**

W/E	12/25/04	12/18/04	% CHG	12/20/03	% CHG
Broilers	123,247	159,224*	-22.60	113,075*	+9.00
Cattle	497	624	-20	449*	+11
Hogs	1,714	2,241	-24	1,592*	+08

\*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 ranged fair to good for both light and heavy canners with most available supplies of heavies being used internally. Offerings were about adequate and well cleared. Processing schedules were reduced due to the holiday. Trade sentiment was at least steady to fully steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST  
**LIGHT CANNER HENS**                      **HEAVY CANNER HENS**  
**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**        **(WITHOUT NECKS)**  
 28-32 MAJORITY 28-30      TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT  
 CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED  
**LIGHT CANNER HENS**                      **HEAVY CANNER HENS**  
**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**        **(WITHOUT NECKS)**  
 29-34 MAJORITY 30-34      TOO FEW SALES TO REPORT

#### 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 HENS** Prices were unchanged when compared to a week ago. Demand was moderate with offerings of spent hens generally sufficient for current trade needs. Processing schedules were less than normal. Opinions on removal costs were steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	5-9	7-9

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS** Values were too few to report. Demand was moderate for at least adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were fair at best. Costs required for disposal were expected to remain constant.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS** Prices were unchanged. Offerings were adequate with demand moderate. Schedules reduced this week and mostly full-time for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-5	2-5

**WEST COAST LIGHT** Plants worked compressed Holiday slaughter schedules. Demand was generally good. Offerings in fair balance with current needs.

**HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \***  
 PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR  
 SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 27-DEC-04

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules were less than normal due to the holiday. Sales of finished product were generally sufficient and clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady to fully steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN** Trading levels were generally unchanged. Demand was moderate for spent heavy hens. Finished sales were active in shipping channels. Kills were reduced for the holiday week. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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