



# 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 steady in the West, steady to fully steady in the Midwest, and fully steady to firm in the East. Retail and food service demand was slow to moderate, best into fast food channels. Supplies of all sizes were in good balance to well cleared with some premiums reported. In the parts structure, trading was fair to moderate. Wings remained short with good movement, and dark meat was available to well cleared. Breast items were mixed, usually sufficient, but at times limited for tenders and boneless skinless breasts. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but 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 remains unchanged at 73.25 based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 69.00 cents last year on December 31, 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	162.50
BREASTS - B/S	143.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	74.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	75.00
LEG QUARTERS	31.00
WINGS	105.50

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

**SOUTHERN REGION** Trade sentiment was at least steady to firm. Demand was light to moderate, best for features and fast food, with active trading. Supplies were barely adequate to short and held with confidence. Availability may continue to be limited due to many plants down Friday and truck shortages. In the parts structure, movement was light to moderate. Wings were tight and clearing well, and dark meat was sufficient, but close for leg and thigh meats. Breast items were usually in good balance and moving satisfactorily. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST REGION** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was moderate to good for the available supplies. Offerings of all sizes were in close balance and well cleared. Retail and distributive movement was fair to moderate. The market tone was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, wings were short under seasonal inquiry. Breast cuts increased in availability but were clearing satisfactorily. Thighs and boneless skinless thigh meat were well cleared. Other items were generally adequate.

**MIDWEST REGION** The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady to fully steady. Additional offerings were limited, yet in balance with the current trade interest. Retail and food service movement was light to moderate with best interest into fast food outlets as the first of the month approaches. Floor stocks were adequate to in close balance; weights mostly desirable. Parts interest was focused on wings, tenders, and boneless/skinless breasts with all three in a very limited supply. The balance of parts items was adequate. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings, fully steady on dark meat cuts and boneless/skinless breasts, and steady on the balance.

**WESTERN REGION** The market tone was steady. Offerings adequate. Retailer demand moderate to fairly good. Floor stocks adequate.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 12/25/04	2004	2003	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	210,007	205,908	+02
CHICKS PLACED	170,610	168,199	+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 December 25, 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 84 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 December 25, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through December 25, 2004 were 8.21 billion, up 3 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 marketing during the week ending 05-Feb-05 is estimated at 158.3 million head. This compares to 159.0 million head the previous week and to 159.1 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 155.7 million head and the composite weighted average price was 74.90 cents per pound.

DEC 28 **SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS** DEC 29  
 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			WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	
BREAST - B/S	545	120.00-150.00	120-125	128.04
TENDERLOINS	248	105.00-170.00	115-120	128.45
BREAST - LINE RUN	87	70.00-75.00	70-72	72.14
FRONT HALVES	55	58.00-63.00	-	59.36
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	510	24.00-29.00	26-27	26.41
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,130	25.00-34.00	27-28	28.93
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	97.00-110.00	100-102	100.78
WINGS (CUT)	323	124.00-130.00	124-126	124.84
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS			WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	
BREAST - B/S	520	122.00-150.00	122-125	128.94
TENDERLOINS	230	105.00-170.00	115-120	129.74
BREAST - LINE RUN	86	70.00-75.00	70-72	72.16
FRONT HALVES	35	57.00-64.00	-	60.00
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	510	24.00-29.00	26-27	26.41
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,130	25.00-34.00	27-28	29.00
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	97.00-111.00	101-102	101.51
WINGS (CUT)	315	125.00-131.00	125-127	126.05
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

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 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR  
 DECEMBER 28, 2004 -- FOB DOCK

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 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR  
 DECEMBER 29, 2004 -- FOB DOCK

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
41.00 - 46.00	42.89

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
40.50 - 46.50	43.21	42.85

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 as dealers attempted to enter the holiday weekend with closely cleared floor stocks. Offerings of breast items were generally sufficient for trade needs. Wings were short of full needs. Dark meat cuts were adequate to at least adequate. Retail and distributive movement was noted as fair to moderate. The market tone was firm on wings. Other items were steady to about steady.

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

DEC 28	CURRENT NEG	WTD		DEC 29
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	ITEM
BREAST - B/S	135	130.00	673,390	BREAST - B/S
TENDERLOINS	110	112.83	168,720	TENDERLOINS
BREAST - WITH RIBS	68-69	76.34	112,000	BREAST - WITH RIBS
BREAST - LINE RUN	68	70.07	118,880	BREAST - LINE RUN
LEGS	42-43	41.68	180,560	LEGS
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	28-29	28.23	449,400	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	31.32	182,020	DRUMSTICKS
THIGHS	27-28	36.87	46,460	THIGHS
B/S THIGHS	80-81	72.36	133,240	B/S THIGHS
WINGS (WHOLE)	105-106	110.78	131,000	WINGS (WHOLE)
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.70	36,160	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	29.78	21,930	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	64.60	20,920	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)

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
	(1,000)	ACTUAL (1,000)	AVG WTS		(1,000)	AVG WTS			
	12/29	12/28	12/27	12/24	12/27	12/24	12/22	12/20	
Alabama	4,095	4,080	4,061	(A)	5.39	4.24	3,934	5.35	
Arkansas	5,359	5,587	4,646	(A)	5.20	4.25	5,194	5.04	
Delmarva	2,237	2,156	1,920	(A)	5.66	5.84	2,226	5.68	
KY-LA-TN	2,159	2,106	2,148	(A)	5.31	3.75	2,067	5.29	
Mississippi	2,969	3,049	3,067	Holiday	5.70	0.00	2,909	5.63	
North Carolina	2,535	2,535	1,975	Holiday	6.80	0.00	2,333	6.63	
Texas	2,430	2,475	2,428	(A)	4.92	4.99	2,485	5.20	
Total	21,784	21,988	20,245	1,498	5.49	4.53	21,148	5.45	
Mon-Wed	65,300(B)				64,026(B)				

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations

(B) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 29-Dec-04 is estimated to be 32,591,000 head up 2.70 percent from a week ago and down -20.20 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,735,000, last year 40,840,000)

**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#	63-71
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-
<b>SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY</b>	
<b>DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS</b>	
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 103-105
	DRY PACK 103-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 108-111
	DRY PACK 111
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 89-93
	DRY PACK 89-95
DUCKS	175-192

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 01-Jan-04

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	01/01/05 (1)	12/25/04
	THOUSAND HEAD	
Broiler/fryer	135,098 (2)	128,618
Light hens	1,348	1,188
Heavy hens	1,269	1,163
Total	137,715	130,969

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 01-Jan-05 is 152.6 million head compared to 136.5 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 135.4 million head or 17.2 million less than estimated available. For the week of 08-Jan-05 the estimated available is 154.9 million head.

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

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 12/27/04	53,863	58,624
AM 12/01/04	66,595	60,214
CHG	-12,732	-1,590
PCT CHG	-19	-3

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)**

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/27/04	12/20/04	12/29/03	12/27/04	12/20/04	12/29/03
<b>PACIFIC COAST LOS ANGELES</b>	1,868	2,495	8,468	7,574	7,612	3,518
	62	43	396	3,804	3,940	1,684

**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 DECEMBER 27, 2004

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		72-78
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	74-83

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES FOR 12/28/04**

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW HIGH AVG				LOW HIGH AVG		
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.70	.80	.74	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	.75	-	BUNNIES ea.	.75	1.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	1.20	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.60	1.05	.87	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	6.00	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS 26							

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending December 24, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/Gizzards	Hens
	<b>RAYON</b>					
Low	72.97	122.29	81.53	20.38	10.19	51.36
High	75.41	134.52	89.68	24.46	14.27	51.36
Mostly	74.19	126.37	85.60	22.42	12.23	51.36
<b>SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	73.38	126.37	81.53	20.38	12.23	51.36
High	75.41	134.52	93.76	28.53	14.27	51.36
Mostly	74.19	130.45	89.68	24.46	12.23	51.36
<b>NEW SAN JUAN</b>						
Low	73.38	122.29	81.53	16.31	10.19	50.55
High	75.41	134.52	93.76	22.42	14.27	50.55
Mostly	75.41	130.45	89.68	20.38	12.23	50.55
<b>BECERRA</b>						
Low	74.19	122.29	85.60	20.38	10.19	50.96
High	75.82	134.52	93.76	28.53	14.27	50.96
Mostly	74.19	130.45	89.68	24.46	14.27	50.96

**DELMARVA**

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally good for the available offerings. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were desirable to light. Processing schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 67 to 81 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, wings remain tight and short under a seasonal active inquiry. Breast items slowed, but were clearing; thighs and thigh meat were well cleared. Other items were balanced.

\*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	67-84
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	71.49
NO. OF BOXES	5,943

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