



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

FRIDAY  
FEBRUARY 25, 2005  
VOL. 52 NO. 24

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were generally unchanged in the major terminal markets when compared to a week earlier. Trade sentiment was usually steady in the West and Midwest, but no better than steady in the East. Retail demand was only fair, although fast food movement was fairly good. In the Eastern region, limited to nil delays were being reported because of the adverse weather conditions. Supplies were sufficient with heavier weights slightly more available than the lighter sizes. In the parts structure, trading was usually confined to immediate needs. However, tenders remain close; breast items improved, but were still adequate. Leg quarters were clearing at most plants, although spot locations reported slight increase in availability. Other dark meat items were sufficient to tight. Wings were available on heavier sizes, but well cleared on lighter weights. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**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 28-FEB-2005 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	63.00-66.00	60.00-74.00	65.92	29
New York	67.00-70.00			
Los Angeles	80.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	73.00-75.00	61.00-76.00	73.24	86

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 73.75 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.
995	69.00-75.25	73.63

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	171.50	1,262
BREASTS - B/S	143.50	5,735
BREASTS - WHOLE	82.50	1,331
THIGH MEAT - B/S	93.50	1,028
LEG QUARTERS	32.00	7,089
WINGS	117.00	2,984

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

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged from Tuesday's majority; the market tone was steady. Offers were light to for the like trade interest. Overall, demand was light to moderate; best call on scattered features and fast food. Floor stocks were in a full range; weights mixed. Parts trade was slow. All parts were available with large wings and boneless/skinless breasts ample. The market tone was firm on tenderloins, steady on regular wings, unsettled on dark meat cuts, and cautiously steady to weak on remaining parts.

**SOUTHERN BROILER** Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was light to moderate with trading mixed. Supplies were sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was fair to moderate. Leg quarters slowed but were still clearing, big wings were fully sufficient, although smaller wings were well cleared. Breast items improved but were still adequate for requirements. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at irregular, but mostly desirable weights.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices were unchanged. The market tone was about steady. Trading reported for next weeks' deliveries at generally unchanged prices. Offerings were easily adequate to cover immediate needs. Buying activity just fair. Retailer demand was fairly good to cover features otherwise only fair. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. The market tone was mixed on parts with dark meat in the strongest position.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers increased slightly entering the weekend and was noted as seasonally light to moderate. Offerings were more than sufficient for current trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was mostly to fair. The market tone was generally steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breast, boneless skinless breast were adequate to at least adequate. Tenderloins were adequate and clearing. Wings were fully adequate.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds generally increased entering the weekend and was seasonally light to moderate. Seller offerings were in good balance to fully adequate. Live supplies were moderate; weights were irregular. Processing schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 69 to 83 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, supplies remained adequate and were generally noted as in a closer better balance than much of the earlier part of the week.

\*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		63-88
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		72.67
NO. OF BOXES		7,100
CUMULATIVE	02/21/05-02/25/05	72.38
	02/23/04-02/27/04	80.46
NO. OF BOXES	02/21/05-02/25/05	40,870
	02/23/04-02/27/04	30,626

FEB 24

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEB 25

ITEM	POUNDS				POUNDS				(000)	WTD AVG
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG		
BREAST - B/S	690	122.00-208.00	-	135.00	610	128.00-209.00	132-136	137.72	2,665	135.29
TENDERLOINS	208	142.00-175.00	145-149	147.69	213	140.00-170.00	142-149	145.49	855	146.70
BREAST - LINE RUN	96	82.00-91.00	84-89	85.74	125	82.00-91.00	85-87	86.44	420	85.75
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				190	73.92
LEGS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				49	38.00-51.00	40-41	41.76	233	41.55
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	512	28.00-32.00	29	29.11	512	28.00-32.00	29	29.11	2,073	29.27
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,100	29.00-36.00	31	31.27	1,060	29.00-36.00	31	31.02	4,136	31.13
WINGS (WHOLE)	271	82.00-122.00	110-113	107.33	328	82.00-118.00	112-115	109.17	1,187	110.01
WINGS (CUT)	315	120.00-137.00	130-134	130.43	552	118.00-137.00	130-134	131.01	1,827	130.35
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				165	41.16
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				109	43.28
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				320	93.25
*****										
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					
TRADING FOR FEB 24, 2005 F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR FEB 25, 2005 F.O.B. DOCK.					
<u>RANGE</u>		<u>TODAY'S AVERAGE</u>			<u>RANGE</u>		<u>TODAY'S AVERAGE</u>		<u>5-DAY AVERAGE</u>	
49.50 - 53.50		50.91			49.00 - 53.50		50.95		51.52	

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 increased slightly entering the weekend and was noted as mostly fair. Offerings of breast items were at least adequate for current trade needs. Tenderloins were in good balance. Dark meat cuts were adequate. Wings were at least adequate to fully adequate. Movement through retail and distributive channels was light to no better than fair with limited features noted. The market tone was generally steady.

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

FEB 24, 2005

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	CURRENT NEG			WTD	FEB 25, 2005	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		WTD AVG	WEEKLY
BREAST - B/S	140-145	141.95	664,130	140-145	142.80	658,400	142.14	3,115,850		
TENDERLOINS	145-150	146.45	116,410	145-150	146.55	141,400	147.05	699,883		
BREAST - WITH RIBS	82-83	90.75	84,760	82-83	90.62	149,400	88.69	574,520		
BREAST - LINE RUN	82	82.10	98,200	82	80.16	103,800	82.18	583,560		
LEGS	44-45	41.33	233,040	44-45	40.73	228,200	42.20	1,165,360		
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	30-31	32.48	303,894	30-31	30.58	213,411	31.30	1,494,697		
DRUMSTICKS	30-31	38.34	104,580	30-31	38.71	143,630	38.65	544,930		
THIGHS	37-38	43.00	60,200	37-38	46.23	69,560	45.23	294,840		
B/S THIGHS	96-97	95.42	101,680	96-97	94.77	99,040	95.43	430,880		
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	121.68	151,480	114-115	119.74	193,040	122.09	657,440		
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	25,680	10-12	11.83	13,640	11.88	83,320		
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	28.14	15,440	30-35	30.03	7,400	29.01	64,000		
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	62.65	19,080	60-65	64.10	17,320	63.73	100,560		

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		<u>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED</u>	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	<u>POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS</u>	
Alabama	02/25	02/24	02/23	02/22	02/23	02/22	02/18	02/16			<u>RANGE</u>	
Arkansas	4,016	4,012	3,867	4,059	5.23	5.28	3,867	5.23			FRESH FRYERS	97-99
Delmarva	5,306	5,426	5,099	5,300	5.16	5.17	4,949	5.02			ROASTERS 4# & UP	99-107
KY-LA-TN	2,134	2,167	2,210	2,213	5.39	5.52	2,191	5.50			HENS UNDER 5#	
Mississippi	1,772	1,951	2,083	2,115	5.04	5.04	2,107	5.05			HENS OVER 5#	65-73
North Carolina	3,143	2,860	2,871	2,910	5.57	5.60	2,803	5.71			DUCKS	
Texas	3,212	2,478	2,447	2,416	6.42	6.51	2,515	6.57			RABBITS-WHOLE	
Total	2,264	2,378	2,351	2,394	5.33	5.28	2,802	5.30			RABBITS-CUT UP	
Mon-Fri	21,847	21,272	20,928	21,407	5.41	5.44	21,234	5.42			<u>SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY</u>	
	107,233(A)						105,995(A)				<u>DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS</u>	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 25-Feb-05 and 26-Feb-05 is estimated to be 32,686,000 head up 2.58 percent from a week ago and up 11.76 percent from a year ago.  
(Last week 31,864,000, last year 29,246,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 26-Feb-05 is estimated to be 155,218,000 head down 0.92 percent from a week ago, and up 1.65 percent from a year ago.  
(Last week 156,653,000, last year 152,700,000)

<u>SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY</u>		<u>RANGE</u>
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	103-105
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	103-108
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	108-111
DUCKS	DRY PACK	111
RABBITS-WHOLE	ICE PACK	89-93
RABBITS-CUT UP	DRY PACK	89-95
		180-192

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 12-Feb-05 (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	24,705	22,136	46,515
Avg Weight	3.65	4.80	6.40
% of total /1	26%	24%	50%
Comparisons			
Last week	25,179	22,749	46,825
Avg Weight	3.68	4.78	6.53
% of total /1	27%	24%	49%
Same week, yr ago /2	28,938	20,603	44,512
Avg Weight	3.71	4.80	6.26
% of total /1	31%	22%	47%
To date/2004	150,770	125,445	282,717
To date/2003	137,205	126,662	240,493

/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 19-Feb-2005	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	156,653	1,277	1,161	2,438	462
Avg Wt	5.16	3.23	7.79	5.40	6.71
Last week	154,449	1,305	1,246	2,551	455
Same wk yr ago	152,287	1,291	1,314	2,605	480
Avg Wt	5.05	3.29	7.91	5.62	6.78
To-date/2005	1,094,548	9,757	8,674	18,431	3,501
To-date/2004	1,073,294	9,125	8,979	18,104	3,170

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 162.8 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 158.6 million head, or 4.2 million less than estimated available.

**GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION -** Feb 22, 2005

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

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

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.20 - 1.30	Guinea Fowl	1.75 - 2.00ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.25 - 1.30	Banty Roosters	2.75 - 3.25ea.
Pekin Ducks	1.25 - 1.50	Banty Hens	1.75 - 2.00ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.40 - .45	Geese 9-14 LBS	.60
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.60 - .80	Pigeons	3.30 - 3.40ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.70 - .75	White Pigeons	5.00ea.
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits 4-6 LBS	1.30 - 1.40
4-6 LBS	.85 - .90	Rabbits 6-9 LBS	1.10 - 1.20
Crossbred Roosters		Bunnies	2.50 - 6.25ea.
7-11 LBS	.80 - .85	Guinea Pigs	.15 - .50ea.

Total Coops Sold 256

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY** FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 21-FEBRUARY-2005

**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)	66.00-74.00	72.00-74.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	68.00-86.00	77.00-80.00

**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** Whole bird prices were higher. Trade sentiment mostly steady. Demand was moderate to good. Supplies were adequate to at times close for current needs. Schedules full-time to over-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 21-FEBRUARY-2005

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	123-135	127-139

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

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
January	15 161.4	158.8	102%	5.25
	22 151.2	161.5	94%	5.33
	29 159.7	162.4	98%	5.28
February	5 158.5	162.5	98%	5.35
	12 156.3	162.1	96%	5.29
	19 158.6	162.8	97%	5.16
Year to date	1107.9	1125.0	98%	
February	26	163.4		
March	5	163.0		

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

Under Federal Inspection

W/E	-----THOUSANDS-----				
	02/26/05	02/19/05	% CHG	02/28/04	% CHG
Broilers	155,218	156,653*	-0.92	152,700*	+1.65
Cattle	574	576	0	583*	-0.2
Hogs	1,974	2,075	-0.5	1,974	0

\*ACTUAL

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Trading was too few to report on heavy canners; irregular on lights when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to at least moderate for both light and heavy canners with most available supplies of heavy canners being used internally. Offerings were generally adequate and clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were mostly normal. The undertone was at least steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b> <b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b> 28-33 MAJORITY 28-30	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b> <b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b> TOO FEW TO REPORT
---	---

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b> <b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b> 30-35 MAJORITY 32-34	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b> <b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b> TOO FEW 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 HEN** Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week ago. Demand was at least moderate with offerings of spent hens sufficient for current trade needs. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Trade sentiment was steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	3-13	8-11

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Negotiations were too few to report. Offerings were only adequate but easily sufficient for needs. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were fair. Costs of disposal were expected to remain steady.

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

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Prices ranged unchanged. Demand was fairly good to good with offerings adequate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-7	6.5-7

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

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 28-FEB-05

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was at least moderate for the mostly adequate offerings. Processing schedules noted as normal. Sales of finished product were sufficient and well cleared. The undertone was at least 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 TFEWR. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were as desired. Finished sales were moderate. Trade sentiment was generally 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** Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings adequate.

**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS,  
POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

<b>Washington, DC</b>	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
<b>Atlanta, GA</b>	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
<b>Jackson, MS</b>	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Southern States Area Supervisor)
<b>Des Moines, IA</b>	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
<b>Los Angeles, CA</b>	Voice	(213)534-1330	Jim Derby
	Fax	(213)534-1333	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	