



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2005
VOL. 52 NO. 152

ISSN 1522-0567

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mixed, but overall no better than steady. Retail demand was seasonally light to fair with few features, best for other holiday meats. Food service was fair to moderate, best into sports bars, fast food, and for holiday celebrations. Supplies of all sizes were at least sufficient for trade needs. Some plants were running reduced schedules due to the holiday and to accommodate limited buying interest. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair. Wings were balanced to tight and clearing well, and all other items were adequate to ample. In production areas, live supplies were moderate to heavy; weights were desirable to heavy, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading declined .25 cent to 70.75 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 73.25 cents last year on December 22, 2004.

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	139.00
BREASTS - B/S	110.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	59.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	93.50
LEG QUARTERS	30.00
WINGS	80.50

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

SOUTHERN REGION Trade sentiment was generally steady. Pre-holiday demand was seasonally light to fair into retail channels, but fair to fairly good into food service for fast food and holiday festivities. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient for trade requirements. Processing schedules were mostly part time with plants down either Friday or Monday for the holiday. In the parts structure, trading was mostly fair. Wings were in the best position and moving well. All other parts were mixed, but readily available, and with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate to heavy. Weights were mixed, but mostly desirable.

NORTHEAST REGION Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly fair to instances moderate during midweek trading. Offerings were at least sufficient for current trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally light. The market tone was no better than steady. In the parts complex, wings were in good balance to well cleared. Breast items were at least adequate to readily available. Dark meat cuts were at least adequate.

MIDWEST REGION The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady with additional offerings light to fully adequate for the light trade call. Fill in trading was noted on 3 up wogs delivered into Chicago at 45 cents. Market activity into retail channels was light to fair with the onset of seasonal demand for the limited features. Food service movement was light to moderate with holiday festivities, sports bars, and fast food entities providing best consumer draw. Floor stocks were mostly balanced to instances long as most buyers were purchasing to only fill regular commitments. Sizes were mostly desirable, instances light to heavier than desired. Part supplies ranged adequate to plentiful with the exception of wings, which were in the shortest position. The market tone was steady to firm on wings; steady to barely steady on breast cuts, and barely steady to weak on leg quarters, drums, and thighs.

WESTERN REGION Trade sentiments were barely steady to generally steady. Offerings were adequate to ample with whole body product over 3 pounds in the longest position. Buying activity was seasonal. Retailer demand fair to fairly good best to cover restaurants and fast food needs. Floor stocks were generally adequate. The market tone was about steady on parts with some white meat items in the weakest position.

BROILER-TYPE EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 216 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 17, 2005. This was up 2 percent 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.

BROILER CHICKS UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 176 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 17, 2005. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2005 through December 17, 2005 were 8.69 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BROILER-TYPE EGGS SET AND BROILER CHICKS PLACED TOTAL 19 SELECTED STATES

WEEK ENDING 12/17/05	2005	2004	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	215,898	211,111	+02
CHICKS PLACED	175,812	172,727	+02

Source: USDA, NASS

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 28-Jan-06 is estimated at 160.1 million head. This compares to 159.0 million head the previous week and to 162.4 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 159.7 million head and the composite weighted average price was 71.64 cents per pound.

DECEMBER 20, 2005

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 21, 2005

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	ITEM	POUNDS			WTD
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	595	85.00-142.00	-	95.04	BREAST - B/S	601	84.00-142.00	-	94.95
TENDERLOINS	204	70.00-140.00	-	88.24	TENDERLOINS	193	70.00-140.00	-	87.41
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	242	27.00-51.00	-	28.66	LEGS	232	27.00-51.00	-	28.30
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	660	17.00-25.00	20-21	20.27	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	640	17.00-25.00	20-21	20.25
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	982	22.00-34.00	23-24	23.79	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	977	22.00-34.00	23-24	23.74
WINGS (WHOLE)	333	72.00-80.00	74-76	76.16	WINGS (WHOLE)	330	73.00-80.00	74-76	76.30
WINGS (CUT)	259	90.00-95.00	91-94	94.34	WINGS (CUT)	269	90.00-95.00	91-94	94.33
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
*****					*****				
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR F.O.B. DOCK.					*****				
RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE			RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE		5-DAY AVERAGE
30.50-37.00		33.26			30.00-36.50		32.92		33.47

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 light to fair at best as dealers look to other holiday meat items. Offerings of breast items were fully adequate to readily available. Dark meat cuts ranged adequate to instances ample. Wings were ceasing satisfactorily. Retail and distributive movement was light to fair. The market tone was at least steady for wings; barely steady to instances weak for breast items. The balance of items were no better than steady.

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

DECEMBER 20, 2005

DECEMBER 21, 2005

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS	ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**			TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	100-105	101.25	711,000	BREAST - B/S	100-105	101.55	784,150
TENDERLOINS	95-100	98.18	119,028	TENDERLOINS	95-100	101.13	136,900
BREAST - WITH RIBS	53-54	66.78	55,800	BREAST - WITH RIBS	53-54	66.28	78,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	53	54.81	89,400	BREAST - LINE RUN	53	53.19	91,880
LEGS	39-40	39.27	227,000	LEGS	39-40	40.51	215,880
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	22-23	23.59	404,680	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	22-23	24.43	388,120
DRUMSTICKS	29-30	34.05	97,690	DRUMSTICKS	29-30	34.59	115,280
THIGHS	32-33	39.65	37,630	THIGHS	32-33	40.80	50,560
B/S THIGHS	95-96	90.88	52,760	B/S THIGHS	95-96	92.85	117,920
WINGS (WHOLE)	77-78	82.72	166,000	WINGS (WHOLE)	77-78	80.86	294,280
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.17	33,720	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.26	27,120
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	50-55	53.48	15,764	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	50-55	53.77	12,003
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	70-75	74.27	29,720	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	70-75	74.46	16,520

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)

AVG SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL		WTS
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)		
Alabama	12/21	12/20	12/19	12/16	12/19	12/16	12/14	12/12	
Arkansas	3,934	3,991	3,980	4,169	5.49	5.34	3,983	5.27	
Delmarva	5,354	5,389	5,325	6,208	5.36	5.41	5,153	5.33	
KY-LA-TN	2,245	2,036	2,230	2,550	5.90	5.56	1,990	5.90	
Mississippi	2,187	2,023	2,196	2,112	4.97	4.67	2,267	5.14	
North Car	2,782	2,727	2,703	3,458	5.63	5.66	2,909	5.60	
Texas	2,502	2,543	2,497	2,754	6.70	6.66	2,494	7.04	
Total	2,502	2,496	2,226	2,447	5.31	5.12	2,458	5.27	
Mon-Wed	21,506	21,205	21,157	23,698	5.59	5.50	21,254	5.59	
	64,036(A)						63,458(A)		

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	97-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	99-107
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	65-73
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	95-107
	DRY PACK	114
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	100-112
	DRY PACK	118
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	90-105
	DRY PACK	109
DUCKS		185-188

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 21-Dec-05 is estimated to be 32,175,000 head up 0.88 percent from a week ago and down -0.19 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,894,000, last year 32,237,000)

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 24-Dec-05

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	12/24/05 (1)	THOUSAND HEAD	12/17/05	THOUSAND HEAD
Broiler/fryer	150,374 (2)		162,560	
Light hens	1,513		1,462	
Heavy hens	1,332		1,448	
Total	153,219		165,470	

(1)ESTIMATED (2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 24-Dec-05 is 158.5 million head compared to 161.8 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 150.7 million head or 7.8 million less than estimated available. For the week of 31-Dec-05 the estimated available is 157.9 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 12/19/05	29,488		71,055	
AM 12/01/05	33,192		75,095	
CHG	-3,704		4,040	
PCT CHG	-11		-5	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/19/05	12/12/05	12/20/04	12/19/05	12/12/05	12/20/04
PACIFIC COAST	349	385	2,495	5,350	4,869	7,612
LOS ANGELES	45	53	43	3,047	2,795	3,940

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 19, 2005

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		76-80
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	82-86

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 12/20/05

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW HIGH AVG			LOW HIGH AVG		
	HEAVY FOWL lb.	.35	.40	.36	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.65	.80	.73	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	3.50
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	2.75	4.00
ROOSTERS lb.	1.35	1.45	1.36	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.70	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	4.00	5.25
RABBITS lb.	1.80	2.05	1.93	RABBITS ea.	-	4.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	4.25
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	2.00	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-			
TOTAL COOPS	55					

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending December 16, 2005

	Whole		Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts				
RAYON						
Low	42.17	109.65	50.61	4.22	2.11	63.26
High	63.26	118.08	63.26	4.22	2.11	63.26
Mostly	63.26	113.87	54.82	4.22	2.11	63.26
SAN JUAN						
Low	40.06	109.65	54.82	4.22	2.11	59.04
High	59.04	118.08	59.04	8.43	4.22	59.04
Mostly	59.04	113.87	54.82	4.22	2.11	59.04
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	33.74	105.43	50.61	4.22	2.11	63.26
High	63.26	109.65	54.82	8.43	4.22	63.26
Mostly	63.26	105.43	50.61	4.22	2.11	63.26
BECERRA						
Low	37.96	118.08	63.26	8.43	4.22	63.26
High	63.26	122.30	71.69	12.65	8.43	63.26
Mostly	63.26	118.08	67.48	8.43	4.22	63.26

DELMARVA

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds improved and was at least moderate. Offerings of whole product were in a better position but still sufficient for trade needs. Live supplies were moderate; weights were desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 70 cents. Trade sentiment improved but was usually no better than steady. In the parts complex, supplies were well cleared on wings, balance of items were at least adequate, although bone-in breast were at some locations ample for current requirements.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

RANGE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	NO. OF BOXES	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
			51-72
			(A)
			(A)



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