



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

FRIDAY  
MARCH 24, 2006  
VOL. 53 NO. 36

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices for next week were trending unchanged in the West, mostly lower elsewhere. Trade sentiment was unsettled in the East, about steady in the West, and barely steady to instances weak in the Midwest. Retail and food service demand was light to fair, at times moderate for active fast food business. Supplies were at least sufficient with heavier sizes in the longest balance. In parts of Georgia, availability and some plant schedules were affected due to a boycott by Latino employees and the community. In the parts structure, movement was light to fair, but slightly better where weekend needs increased. Supplies of all items were fully adequate to ample and often discounted. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

**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-MAR-2006 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	48.00-51.00	41.00-68.50	49.44	27
New York	50.00-53.00			
Los Angeles	75.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	65.00-68.00	52.00-72.00	66.68	90

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 68.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

### PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
911	65.00-70.00	67.73
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice-packed parts:	WTD. AVG.	VOLUME
ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	137.50	1,128
BREASTS - B/S	111.00	5,402
BREASTS - WHOLE	58.00	1,253
THIGH MEAT - B/S	71.00	1,050
LEG QUARTERS	17.00	7,565
WINGS	91.50	2,727

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

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** The preliminary majority price for next week's delivery into the Chicago area was 3 cents lower than Monday's final majority price. The whole fryer market tone was barely steady to instances weak. Additional offerings were adequate to ample for the limited interest. Retail demand was light to instances moderate. Movement into distributive channels was light to moderate with fast food entities capturing most consumer appeal. Floor stocks were balanced to long, while sizes were mostly desirable. Parts supplies were fully adequate to ample with buyers continuing to purchase for immediate needs. The trade sentiment was steady on tenders, barely steady to weak on the remainder of breast items, and weak on wings and dark meat cuts.

**SOUTHERN BROILER** Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Demand entering the weekend was moderate at best; supplies were at least sufficient. In parts of Georgia, product availability and some plant schedules have been affected due to a boycott by Latino employees. In the parts structure, interest was fair at best. Supplies of all items were fully adequate to ample with minimal movement, even at discounted levels. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at generally desirable weights.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** The preliminary majority prices were unchanged, throughout the region. Limited early trading reported for next weeks' delivery, with regular commitments at unchanged prices and new negotiations mixed but mainly lower. Offerings remained in a generally ample position for full needs. Retail demand was moderate overall, best where promoted. Dealers anticipated moderate to heavy weekend carryovers.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers increased slightly under normal weekend demand but generally was noted as light to fair at best entering the weekend. Offerings of all sizes were fully adequate to readily available. Retail and distributive movement was mostly light to fair. The market tone was weak and unsettled. In the parts complex, breast items were at least adequate. Leg cuts and wings were fully adequate to ample and slow to clear. Tenders were at least sufficient.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally noted as disappointingly slow to no better than fair entering the weekend. Offerings were readily available for both immediate and early next week delivery. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cents lower at 51 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment remained unsettled. In the parts complex, supplies were fully adequate to ample for the light to fair and highly selective buying interest.

\*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	38-69
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	(A)
NO. OF BOXES	(A)
CUMULATIVE	03/20/06-03/24/06 (A)
	03/21/05-03/25/05 (A)
NO. OF BOXES	03/20/06-03/24/06 (A)
	03/21/05-03/25/05 (A)

(A)Not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS											
ITEM	POUNDS				POUNDS					MAR 24 WEEKLY WTD AVG	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)		
BREAST - B/S	610	78.00-145.00	-	92.24	615	80.00-142.00	-	92.29	2,985	91.28	
TENDERLOINS	303	82.00-141.00	90-98	89.76	178	85.00-141.00	90-98	93.42	1,262	92.97	
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT					486	54.86
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT					245	58.41
LEGS	220	16.00-42.00	17-18	17.55	180	16.00-42.00	17-19	17.89	900	17.78	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	586	11.00-22.00	12-13	12.78	601	11.00-22.00	12-13	12.87	2,820	12.88	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,250	13.00-25.00	14-16	16.58	1,105	13.00-25.00	15-16	16.27	5,450	16.40	
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	70.00-98.00	71-75	78.07	295	70.00-98.00	-	77.05	1,475	81.57	
WINGS (CUT)	230	90.00-102.00	94-99	97.04	235	90.00-100.00	-	95.28	1,265	96.90	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT					320	20.34
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT					210	21.07
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT					464	57.01
*****					*****					*****	
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						
TRADING FOR MAR 23, 2006 -- F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR MAR 24, 2006 -- 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>		
34.50 - 40.50		35.39			33.50 - 40.00		34.94		35.59		

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 but still noted as generally light to no better than fair and selective. Offerings of breast items were at least adequate; leg items and wings were fully adequate to available and competitively priced. Tenders were at least sufficient for current needs. Movement through retail and distributive channels was light to fair. The market tone was about steady to instances weak.

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

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	CURRENT NEG			WTD	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS	MAR 24 WEEKLY WTD AVG
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS					
BREAST - B/S	100-105	98.05	529,520	97.17	603,560	97.95	2,602,400					
TENDERLOINS	95-100	96.94	97,960	96.46	86,400	97.32	613,162					
BREAST - WITH RIBS	56-57	64.00	113,840	66.56	67,640	64.66	420,000					
BREAST - LINE RUN	56	58.11	81,000	56	58.50	72,000	383,840					
LEGS	29-30	25.44	223,720	29-30	29.92	344,560	1,404,170					
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	14-15	16.10	326,310	14-15	16.80	250,640	1,316,766					
DRUMSTICKS	20-21	23.32	90,760	20-21	24.74	111,720	393,760					
THIGHS	23-24	28.88	39,960	23-24	30.58	63,080	263,270					
B/S THIGHS	69-70	69.48	77,280	69-70	61.46	64,400	316,120					
WINGS (WHOLE)	74-75	76.13	154,800	73-74	80.66	138,360	874,680					
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.27	53,840	10-12	11.84	12,400	136,080					
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	25-30	24.78	11,680	25-30	27.37	19,440	71,840					
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.46	6,680	45-50	49.87	28,080	96,880					

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). \* TODAY'S NEG. 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 WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Alabama	4,039	3,977	3,590	3,907	5.36	5.36	4,176	5.30		
Arkansas	5,284	5,322	5,375	5,384	5.17	5.30	5,222	5.10		
Delmarva	2,247	2,253	2,244	2,559	5.78	5.79	2,182	5.65		
KY-LA-TN	2,465	2,296	2,200	2,309	5.13	5.15	2,419	4.97		
Mississippi	3,921	2,913	2,896	2,859	5.81	5.87	3,345	5.67		
North Carolina	2,528	2,615	2,512	2,414	6.85	6.93	2,691	6.79		
Texas	2,510	2,546	2,505	2,538	5.33	5.33	2,557	5.28		
Total	22,994	21,922	21,322	21,613	5.57	5.61	22,592	5.47		
Mon-Fri	109,981(A)						108,040(A)			
Saturday	2,323(included in total for date shown)						942			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 24-Mar-06 and 25-Mar-06 is estimated to be 34,402,000 head up 1.47 percent from a week ago and up 28.21 percent from a year ago. (Last week 33,902,000, last year 26,833,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 25-Mar-06 is estimated to be 163,777,000 head up 0.91 percent from a week ago, and up 8.35 percent from a year ago. (Last week 162,304,000, last year 151,161,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS			RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK		94-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK		97-105
HENS UNDER 5#	ICE PACK		-
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK		65-73
DUCKS	ICE PACK		-
RABBITS WHOLE	DRY PACK		-
CUT UP	ICE PACK		-

  

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS			RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK		89-103
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK		114
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK		100
DUCKS	DRY PACK		118
	ICE PACK		88-102
	DRY PACK		102-109
	ICE PACK		185-190

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 11-Mar-06 (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	28,352	24,324	53,330
Avg Weight	3.71	4.79	6.46
% of total /1	27%	23%	50%
Comparisons			
Last week	26,554	19,671	52,345
Avg Weight	3.77	4.75	6.37
% of total /1	27%	20%	53%
Same week, yr ago /2	30,595	19,126	47,714
Avg Weight	3.52	4.68	6.40
% of total /1	31%	20%	49%
To date/2006	266,972	183,872	541,105
To date/2005	264,943	211,308	480,527

/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-MAR-2006	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Head	162,304	1,001	1,441	2,442	519
Avg Wt	5.31	3.35	8.09	6.15	6.22
Last week	160,615	977	1,580	2,557	526
Same wk yr ago	157,335	1,385	1,402	2,787	512
Avg Wt	5.20	3.40	8.03	5.73	6.73
To-date/2006	1,764,662	13,515	15,657	29,172	5,551
To-date/2005	1,726,029	15,920	14,321	30,241	5,599

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 164.3 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 164.3 million head, or 0.0 million less than estimated available.

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

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
February 11	166.5	164.0	102%	5.41
18	164.3	164.0	100%	5.38
25	160.4	163.9	98%	5.48
March 4	160.3	163.4	98%	5.34
11	162.6	164.2	99%	5.32
18	164.3	164.3	100%	5.31
Year to date	1786.1	1793.0	100%	
March 25		164.9		
April 1		164.9		

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

Under Federal Inspection

W/E	03/25/06	03/18/06	% CHG	03/26/05	% CHG
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
Broilers	163,777	162,304*	+0.91	151,161*	+8.35
Cattle	583	623	+06	567*	+03
Hogs	1,943	2,009	-03	1,949*	0

\*ACTUAL

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY**

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 20-MAR-2006

**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 MOSTLY	151-155	157-161
MIDWEST MOSTLY	132-142	133-143

**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)	46.00-58.00	56.00-57.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	64.00-86.00	71.00-75.00

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

12 OZ.	63.36-72.90
14 OZ.	69.84-81.00
16 OZ.	74.88-89.10

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 were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Demand was usually moderate to at times fairly good. Supplies were adequate for current needs. Schedules were full time. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$3.50-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.45-1.95, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.50-0.65, livers at \$0.95-1.70, and feet at \$1.00-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 20-MAR-2006

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	126-146	128-148

**GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - DATE OF AUCTION: 03-21-06**

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

Prices paid per pound, except as noted.

	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.80 - .90
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.80 - .90
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.95 - 1.00
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.80 - .90
Crossbred Roosters 4-6 LBS	.75 - .80
Guinea Fowl	1.50 - 1.60ea.
Banty Roosters	2.00 - 2.75ea.
Banty Hens	1.50 - 2.00ea.
Pigeons	5.00 - 5.10ea.
White Pigeons	6.25 - 7.00ea.
Rabbits 4-6 LBS	2.75 - 2.80
Rabbits 6-9 LBS	2.60 - 2.70
Bunnies	3.00 - 12.00ea.
Guinea Pigs	3.50 - 7.00ea.
Goats	45.00 - 55.00ea.
Doves	4.00 - 5.00ea.
Pullets	1.00

Total Coops Sold 384

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Trading was too few to report for heavy canners; generally unchanged on lights when compared to the previous week. Offerings of light canners were more than sufficient for the light and unaggressive demand; heavy canners supplies were mostly being used internally with demand generally fair. Offerings were at least adequate for current trade needs. Processing schedules were mostly normal. The undertone was no better than steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST  
**LIGHT CANNER HENS**                      **HEAVY CANNER HENS**  
**(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**        **(WITHOUT NECKS)**  
 18-28 MAJORITY 23-24                      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)**  
 20-29 MAJORITY 24.5-25.5                      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 HEN** Prices were generally unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to fairly good best into rendering operations. Offerings of spent hens were at least adequate for current needs. Processing schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	3-11	9-10

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Values of spent light hens were TFEWR. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings from primary users. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were slow. Trade sentiment was about steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Removal prices remain unchanged. Offerings were adequate to instances fully adequate with demand moderate to fairly good. Trade sentiment steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	2-10	5-9

**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plant schedules light. Offerings light.

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

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 24-MARCH-06

**SOUTHEAST LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was about fair to no better than moderate for the at least adequate offerings of spent hens. Processing schedules for next week were noted as normal. Sales of finished product was fair. The undertone was generally 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	

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS** Trading levels were too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent heavy hens. Schedules were normal. Finished sales were moderate. Trade sentiment was steady at best.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats	Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Branch Chief)		Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman		Recorded	(515)284-4545	
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)	Long Beach, CA	Voice	(562)388-7337	Jim Derby
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown		Fax	(562)432-8295	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Fax	(601)359-1175	(Southern States Area Supervisor)		Recorded	(213)534-1335	