



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2006
VOL. 53 NO. 155

ISSN 1522-0567

U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service Poultry Programs Poultry Market News and Analysis Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was mostly steady to fully steady. Retail demand was light to moderate, instances fairly good where features were active. Food service was fair to good, best into fast food channels and catering services. Supplies were generally sufficient to closely cleared for trade needs. In the parts structure, demand was moderate to good. Wings were barely adequate to tight and continued to move well. Breast items were mixed, but sufficient, with tenders well cleared. Dark meat was close balanced to adequate. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights. The Composite Weighted Average Price for 12/25/06 was 67.63, compared to 66.39 last week, and 62.33 a year ago.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cents to 70.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 70.50 cents last year on December 28, 2005.

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	163.00
BREASTS - B/S	136.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	83.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	94.50
LEG QUARTERS	32.50
WINGS	109.50

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

SOUTHERN REGION Trade sentiment was mixed, but at least steady. Post holiday retail demand was light to moderate, best where featured. Food service was fair to good, best for fast food promotions. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient with wogs occasionally short and clearing satisfactorily. In the parts structure, movement was moderate to good. Wings were close balanced to tight and continued to move strong. Breast items were in balance to well cleared with tenders in the closest balance, and dark meat was adequate to short. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST REGION Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fully steady to firm. Offerings were not that available, but usually about sufficient for current requirements. Retail and distributive movement was seasonal. In the parts complex, tenders, wings and thigh meat were well cleared to often short of needs. Other dark meat items were improving. Breast items were usually sufficient but clearing satisfactorily.

MIDWEST REGION The market tone on whole broiler/fryers was steady to fully steady. Offers were very limited on mid-sized birds, adequate on heavy weights; trade inquiry was light to moderate. Retail demand was noted as generally light with a few reports of fairly good trade noted in Ohio and Michigan. Food service movement was moderate to good; best into catering and fast food. Floor stocks were in a full range; weights desirable. Parts trade focused on wings, which were short of needs; breast cuts saw moderate to good inquiry and trade activity; and dark meat cuts were in balance and clearing. The market tone was steady to firm on all parts.

WESTERN REGION The market tone was steady to fully steady. Offerings were generally adequate for trade needs. Buying activity was fair. Retailer demand was fairly good overall best where features in progress. Floor stocks in good balance with immediate needs. The market tone was steady to firm on parts. Boneless meat items and wings were in the strongest position.

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

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 209 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 23, 2006. This was down 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 PLACED DOWN 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 172 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 23, 2006. Placements were down 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2006 through December 23, 2006 were 8.78 billion, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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

WEEK ENDING	2006	2005	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
12/23/06	208,739	212,232	-02
EGGS SET	172,047	174,733	-02
CHICKS PLACED			

Source: NASS, USDA

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for marketing during the week ending 03-Feb-07 is estimated at 158.4 million head. This compares to 158.4 million head the previous week and to 165.4 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 165.3 million head and the composite weighted average price was 63.66 cents per pound.

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

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 (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	690	119.00-191.00	124-127	128.12
TENDERLOINS	178	114.00-177.00	116-119	118.46
BREAST - LINE RUN		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
FRONT HALVES		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
LEGS	188	41.00-49.00	43-45	43.04
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	605	28.00-34.00	32	31.82
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	770	32.00-37.00	34-35	34.54
WINGS (WHOLE)	325	92.00-107.00	95-98	98.92
WINGS (CUT)	290	113.00-125.00	119-122	119.17
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR DECEMBER 27 2006 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
44.50 - 48.50	47.08	45.99

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 interest improved slightly and was reported as moderate for mid-week business. Offerings of wings, tenders and b/s thighs were well cleared and where available held with confidence. Other dark meat items were close balance to occasionally adequate. Breast items were irregular, but usually sufficient for current needs. Movement through retail and distributive channels was fair to moderate. The market tone was fully steady to firm for tenders, wings and b/s thighs; fully steady on other dark meat and generally steady on the balance of items.

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

ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOLUME /LBS
BREAST - B/S	130-135	120.82	742,479
TENDERLOINS	117-121	112.55	226,530
BREAST - WITH RIBS	70-71	76.54	150,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	70	73.46	70,200
LEGS	46-47	46.18	245,040
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	32-33	32.57	434,840
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	37.87	126,420
THIGHS	37-38	46.59	74,090
B/S THIGHS	98-99	93.04	165,560
WINGS (WHOLE)	104-105	104.40	248,080
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.75	29,480
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	35.31	23,600
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	52.12	36,440

INCLUDES: NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, RI AND 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		ACTUAL		AVG		
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	WTS		
	10/11	10/10	10/09	10/06	10/09	10/06	10/04	10/02	
	12/27	12/26	12/25	12/22	12/25	12/22	12/20	12/18	
Alabama	4,035	2,676	Holiday	3,982	Holiday	5.23	3,676	5.52	
Arkansas	5,310	4,085	Holiday	4,346	Holiday	5.08	5,227	5.35	
Delmarva	2,314	2,347	Holiday	2,559	Holiday	5.76	2,296	5.88	
KY-LA-TN	2,406	2,003	Holiday	2,317	Holiday	4.87	1,936	5.16	
Mississippi	2,912	2,036	Holiday	2,244	Holiday	5.78	2,203	5.68	
North Carolina	2,638	2,486	Holiday	2,812	Holiday	6.85	2,703	6.92	
Texas	2,560	2,520	Holiday	2,499	Holiday	5.30	2,515	5.25	
Total	22,175	18,153	0	20,425	0.00	5.51	20,556	5.64	
Mon-Wed	40,328(A)							63,651(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 27-Dec-06 is estimated to be 33,176,000 head up 7.55 percent from a week ago and down -0.03 percent from a year ago.
(Last week 30,846,000, last year 33,187,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS			RANGE
FRESH FRYERS			91-100
ROASTERS 4# & UP			99-108
HENS UNDER 5#			
HENS OVER 5#			65-74
DUCKS			
RABBITS-WHOLE			
RABBITS-CUT UP			
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS			
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK		93-105
	DRY PACK		110-114
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK		98-98
	DRY PACK		111-118
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK		86-100
	DRY PACK		100-107
DUCKS			190-195

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 30-Dec-06

CLASS	Current Week	Previous Week
	12/30/06(1)	12/23/06
	—————THOUSAND HEAD—————	
Broiler/fryer	131,780(2)	162,044
Light hens	787	1,165
Heavy hens	1,043	1,513
Total	133,610	164,722

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 30-Dec-06 is 149.2 million head compared to 143.7 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 132.0 million head or 17.2 million less than estimated available. For the week of 06-Jan-07 the estimated available is 150.0 million head.

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

		TURKEY LBS	POULTRY LBS
AM 12/26/06		34,715	64,055
AM 12/01/06		38,753	65,295
CHG		-4038	-1240
PCT CHG		-10%	-2%

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/25/06	12/18/06	12/26/05	12/25/06	12/18/06	12/26/05
PACIFIC						
COAST	1,595	1,586	334	8,677	8,727	5,400
LOS ANGELES	198	207	35	2,399	2,433	3,088

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	LO			HI			AVG			FOR 12/26/06
	LO	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG	
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	-	-	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.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-	-	-	3.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.30	2.10	1.63	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
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 11**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending December 22, 2006

	Whole	Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	
RAYON					
Low	75.26	150.51	108.70	20.90	10.45
High	79.44	158.88	112.89	29.27	14.63
Mostly	77.77	154.69	108.70	25.09	12.54
SAN JUAN					
Low	74.42	146.33	104.52	16.72	12.54
High	79.02	158.88	117.07	25.09	14.63
Mostly	77.77	150.51	110.79	20.90	12.54
NEW SAN					
Low	75.26	146.33	100.34	12.54	10.45
High	79.02	154.69	112.89	20.90	12.54
Mostly	77.77	150.51	104.52	16.72	10.45
BECERRA					
Low	77.35	146.33	104.52	20.90	12.54
High	79.44	158.88	112.89	29.27	14.63
Mostly	79.02	154.69	108.70	25.09	12.54

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 25, 2006

RANGE		
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	67-76
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	69-85

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally fair. Offerings were adequate to closely cleared for immediate delivery. Buying interest for late week was a bit slow in developing. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 64 to 74 cents. Trade sentiment was steady and more a reflection of available supply than any significant demand from buyers. In the parts complex, Wings, Tenders and Thighs were well cleared to short. Other cuts were adequate with legs and leg quarters occasionally noted in tight balance.

*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	57-78
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	(A)
NO. OF BOXES	(A)

(A) Not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS AND ANALYSIS BRANCH OFFICES

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