



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady in the West, steady to barely steady in the Midwest, and barely steady to weak in the East. Demand was seasonally light to fair, best for other meat items as the holiday approaches. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient to satisfy trade needs. Floor stocks were adequate to long as buyers reduced orders to maintain balance prior to Easter. Processing schedules were mixed with some plants down or running lighter schedules Friday in observance of Good Friday. In the parts structure, movement was light and selective and usually limited to regular commitments. Wings were adequate to ample with slow movement. Breast items were fully adequate to readily available and often discounted. Dark meat was in the best position with supplies adequate to well cleared and moving satisfactorily. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at desirable to heavy 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 81.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 76.75 cents last year on March 21, 2007.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading:

### DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	173.00
BREASTS - B/S	147.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	84.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	121.50
LEG QUARTERS	43.50
WINGS	123.50

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

**SOUTHERN REGION** Trade sentiment was about steady to instances weak. Demand was seasonally slow to fair with most taking a wait and see attitude until after Easter. Supplies of all sizes were more than sufficient to satisfy trade needs. Processing schedules were mixed with a few plants down or running lighter schedules Friday in observance of Good Friday. In the parts structure, movement was fair to at times moderate for midweek trading. Dark meat cuts were in the strongest position with supplies well balanced to short, aided by export interest. Wings were fully adequate to ample, and breast items were at least adequate with tenders in the longest balance. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST REGION** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light and generally unaggressive as dealers were cautious and looked to other more traditional holiday meat items. Offerings of all sizes were available and competitively priced. Retail and distributive movement was seasonally slow. The market tone was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, breast items were more than sufficient for current needs with bone-in breasts noted as slightly more available. Wings and tenders were readily available and slow to clear. Leg quarters, drums and thighs were well cleared.

**MIDWEST REGION** Whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady to instances barely steady. Offerings on whole birds were adequate for the very selective buyer interest. Retail and food service demand was slow to moderate at best. Floor stocks were adequate to long with buyers trying to keep product in balance with needs before Easter. Weights were desirable to heavy. Supplies of wings adequate to ample, dark meat cuts adequate to close, and breast items were adequate. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on dark meat items, mixed on breast cuts, and barely steady to weak on wings.

**WESTERN REGION** Market tone mixed depending on your needs but overall steady. Offerings in close balance to fully adequate. Heavy weight product, generally over 4 pounds, was in the longest position. Buyer's interest only fair for immediate needs. Retailer demand was moderate. Floor stocks were in fair balance with current interest. The market tone was fully steady on leg quarters, barely steady on wings and mainly steady on balance of dark and white meat items.

## Broiler-Type Eggs Set In 19 Selected States

### Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 219 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 15, 2008. This was up 1 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 Up 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 180 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 15, 2008. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2007 through March 15, 2008 were 1.96 billion, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

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

WEEK ENDING 03/15/08	PERCENT CHANGE		
	2008	2007	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	218,902	215,713	+01
CHICKS PLACED	180,022	174,417	+03

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 26-Apr-08 is estimated at 165.4 million head. This compares to 164.1 million head the previous week and to 164.3 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 163.3 million head and the composite weighted average price was 78.37 cents per pound.

MAR 18

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAR 19

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	378	121.00-192.00	-	128.68	BREAST - B/S	420	122.00-188.00	-	132.07
TENDERLOINS	156	119.00-153.00	-	128.54	TENDERLOINS	127	125.00-150.00	-	128.87
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT				BREAST - LINE RUN	114	75.00-82.00	-	79.37
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	275	60.00-67.00	62-63	63.42	LEGS	214	59.00-67.00	62-63	62.32
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	368	40.00-43.00	40	40.52	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	378	38.00-44.00	40	40.52
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	466	42.00-46.00	42-43	43.06	LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	882	40.00-46.00	42-43	42.55
WINGS (WHOLE)	195	80.00-115.00	-	103.64	WINGS (WHOLE)	150	80.00-112.00	-	98.87
WINGS (CUT)	TOO FEW TO REPORT				WINGS (CUT)	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
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
52.00 - 55.50	53.41	51.50 - 56.50	54.04	53.99

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 was light and selective as dealers worked hand-to-mouth and saw no need to extend floor stocks beyond regular commitments as they look to other holiday meat items. Offerings of breast items were fully sufficient for current needs. Tenders and wings were readily available and slow to clear. Most dark meat cuts were adequate with drums and thighs noted as well cleared. Movement through retail and distributive channels was seasonally slow. The market tone was about steady for breast items; weak for wings and tenders. Drums and thighs were at least steady to instances firm.

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

MAR 18	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS	MAR 19	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
ITEM	TRADING*	AVG		ITEM	TRADING*	AVG	
BREAST - B/S	145	142.20	689,882	BREAST - B/S	145	139.15	709,461
TENDERLOINS	130-135	136.10	162,940	TENDERLOINS	130	132.41	127,920
BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	86.76	96,040	BREAST - WITH RIBS	78-79	88.69	72,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	78	80.56	70,200	BREAST - LINE RUN	78	80.55	75,600
LEGS	64-65	62.81	229,400	LEGS	64-65	64.85	177,360
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	43-44	43.76	172,960	LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	43-44	44.36	127,000
DRUMSTICKS	54-55	62.74	79,760	DRUMSTICKS	55-56	65.61	45,360
THIGHS	58-59	65.40	68,080	THIGHS	58-59	61.10	67,480
B/S THIGHS	118-119	121.09	84,240	B/S THIGHS	118-119	120.03	67,800
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	103.72	189,520	WINGS (WHOLE)	112-113	105.70	174,000
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	12-14	11.41	28,840	BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	12-14	10.98	21,160
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	37.22	9,560	LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.41	9,280
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.72	21,240	GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.07	22,200

INCLUDES NY CITY METRO. AREA, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, RI, & 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**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL		AVG
	(1,000)	03/18	(1,000)	03/14	03/17	03/14	(1,000)	03/10	WTS
Alabama	4,141	3,971	4,180	4,533	5.48	5.03	3,730	5.68	
Arkansas	5,397	5,432	4,892	4,736	5.54	5.18	5,326	5.49	
Delmarva	2,164	2,293	2,260	2,046	5.80	5.58	2,236	5.76	
KY-LA-TN	2,154	2,461	2,372	2,795	5.14	4.94	2,333	4.91	
Mississippi	3,065	3,085	3,035	3,331	5.93	5.65	3,017	5.78	
North Carolina	2,883	2,887	2,758	3,150	7.09	6.94	2,497	7.21	
Texas	2,541	2,560	2,541	2,519	5.28	5.25	2,520	5.43	
Total	22,345	22,689	22,038	23,110	5.73	5.47	21,659	5.74	
Mon-Wed	67,873 (A)								65,607 (A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 19-Mar-08 is estimated to be 33,431,000 head up 2.86 percent from a week ago and up 5.91 percent from a year ago. (Last week 32,502,000, last year 31,566,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DLVRD TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	100-107
ROASTERS 4# & UP	109-118
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	67-78
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DLVRD TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

	RANGE
BROILER 2# & OVER	ICE PACK 142
	DRY PACK 135
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 140
	DRY PACK 127
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 110
	DRY PACK 120
DUCKS	199-207

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

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 22-Mar-08

Class	CURRENT WEEK		PREVIOUS WEEK	
	03/22/08 (1)	Thousand head	03/15/08	Thousand head
Broiler/fryer	163,435(2)		166,846	
Light hens	1,349		1,089	
Heavy hens	1,411		1,530	
Total	166,195		169,465	

(1)ESTIMATED

2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 22-Mar-08 is 165.9 million head compared to 160.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 163.8 million head or 2.1 million less than estimated available. For the week of 29-Mar-08 the estimated available is 166.6 million head.

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

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 03/17/08	86,427		72,157	
AM 03/01/08	89,106		76,373	
CHG	-2,679		-4,216	
PCT CHG	-3		-6	

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)**

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/17/08	03/10/08	03/19/07	03/17/08	03/10/08	03/19/07
<b>PACIFIC COAST</b>	2,801	2,762	2,202	6,237	7,259	6,543
<b>LOS ANGELES</b>	48	44	112	956	1,172	1,748

**CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S.GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5LBS AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2008

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE	
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	73-81	71-94

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES FOR 03/19/08**

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY	LOW HIGH AVG			HEAVY FOWL ea.	LOW HIGH AVG		
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.80	1.10	.85	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	.90	1.00	.95	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	1.00	1.10	1.03	BANTAMS ea.	5.00	5.50	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	9.00	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	2.25	5.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	1.00	1.35	1.18	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	2.00	2.80	2.27	RABBITS ea.	3.75	6.25	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	4.75	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	1.25	2.75	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	4.00	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	288						

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-MEXICO CITY**

Cents per pound for the week ending March 14, 2008

	Whole Chickens		Legs	Necks,Backs	Livers	Hens	
	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	Hens		
<b>RAYON</b>							
Low	70.93	160.43	75.99	12.67	4.22	63.33	
High	81.06	168.87	84.44	16.89	8.44	63.33	
Mostly	77.26	164.65	84.44	16.89	4.22	63.33	
<b>SAN JUAN</b>							
Low	70.50	151.99	75.99	12.67	4.22	63.33	
High	80.21	164.65	88.66	16.89	8.44	63.33	
Mostly	75.99	164.65	80.21	12.67	6.33	63.33	
<b>NEW SAN JUAN</b>							
Low	72.62	160.43	75.99	16.89	4.22	63.33	
High	81.90	173.10	92.88	21.11	8.44	63.33	
Mostly	77.68	164.65	88.66	16.89	8.44	63.33	
<b>BECERRA</b>							
Low	73.88	164.65	80.21	16.89	8.44	67.55	
High	82.75	177.32	97.10	25.33	12.67	67.55	
Mostly	78.53	168.87	88.66	21.11	8.44	67.55	

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light for mid-week trading as buyers looked into more traditional holiday items. Offerings were fully adequate to available for trade needs. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were noted as usually moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were one cent lower at 78 to 88 cents. Trade sentiment was about steady to barely steady. In the parts complex, breast items were fully sufficient to readily available with discounting reported. Wings and tenders were readily available and slow to clear. Most dark meat cuts were adequate to well cleared.

		<b>BRANDED U.S. GRADE A</b>	
RANGE		64-91	
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		(A)	
NO. OF BOXES		(A)	

(A) Not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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