



USDA TURKEY MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0575

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2008
VOL. 55 NO. 137

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

NATIONAL TURKEY MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE

DOMESTIC MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

The market tone on frozen 8-16 lb. hens and 16-24 lb. toms was steady to weak; fresh whole turkeys was steady. Limited trading was reported for prompt shipments. Demand was light. Offerings of fresh whole turkey was light, frozen offerings were light to adequate, instances burdensome. The market tone on 4-8 lb. breasts, tom breast meat and tenders steady to barely steady with the balance of meats and parts mostly steady. Demand was slow. Offerings light to adequate. Thanksgiving is less than two weeks away and whole turkeys and bone-in breast are the the star attractions for retail features. Many stores offer multiple choices of brand labels on fresh and frozen whole birds, although average prices trend higher on frozen, lower on fresh.



EXPORT MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Trading was slow and centered on tom drums and full cut wings. Demand was light. Offerings were light to adequate.

WHOLE YOUNG TURKEYS, FROZEN 1/, CONSUMER SIZES, COMMODITY PACK OR EQUIVALENT, US GRADE A, CENTS PER LB, DELIVERED (MINIMUM 10,000 LB LOTS) **NOVEMBER 13, 2008**

CURRENT SHIPMENTS 2/

| | OFFERS | SALES | WTD VOLUME | | FORWARD SHIPMENTS 6/ | | | OPEN COMMITMENTS 7/ | |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|------------|-------|----------------------|--------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| | | | AVG | (000) | WTD AVG | VOLUME (000) | DEL. PER | VOLUME (000) | DEL PER |
| 8-16 LB HENS | | | | | | | | | |
| EASTERN REGION 3/ | 87-94 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| CENTRAL REGION 4/ | 87-94 | 87.5-90.5 | 88.70 | 300 | - | - | - | - | - |
| WESTERN REGION 5/ | 87-94 | 87.5 | 87.50 | 180 | - | - | - | 160 | NOV |
| 16-24 LB TOMS | | | | | | | | | |
| EASTERN REGION | 87-93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| CENTRAL REGION | 87-93 | 87 | 87.00 | 60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| WESTERN REGION | 87-93 | 87-88.5 | 88.09 | 220 | - | - | - | - | - |

WHOLE YOUNG TURKEYS, FROZEN 1/, CONSUMER SIZES, COMMODITY PACK OR EQUIVALENT, US GRADE A, CENTS PER LB, DELIVERED (MINIMUM 10,000 LB LOTS) **NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

CURRENT SHIPMENTS 2/

| | OFFERS | SALES | WTD VOLUME | | FORWARD SHIPMENTS 6/ | | | OPEN COMMITMENTS 7/ | |
|----------------------|--------|-------|------------|-------|----------------------|--------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| | | | AVG | (000) | WTD AVG | VOLUME (000) | DEL. PER | VOLUME (000) | DEL PER |
| 8-16 LB HENS | | | | | | | | | |
| EASTERN REGION 3/ | 87-94 | 88.5 | 88.50 | 120 | - | - | - | - | - |
| CENTRAL REGION 4/ | 87-94 | 89 | 89.00 | 40 | - | - | - | - | - |
| WESTERN REGION 5/ | 87-94 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16-24 LB TOMS | | | | | | | | | |
| EASTERN REGION | 87-93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| CENTRAL REGION | 87-93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| WESTERN REGION | 87-93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

1/ May include product stored at temperatures in range of 1 to 25 degrees F. 2/ Includes product priced for shipment within 14 days. 3/ Includes product with 3 percent broth basting. 4/ Includes product with 3-6 percent broth basting. 5/ Includes products with 6 percent broth basting. 6/ Includes product committed for pricing during the previous 24 hours but shipment in more than 14 days from date of commitment. 7/ Includes product committed during previous 24 hours at prices to be determined at later date.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES FOR WHOLE YOUNG TURKEYS, FROZEN CONSUMER SIZES, COMMODITY PACK OR EQUIVALENT, US GRADE A, CENTS PER LB, DELIVERED (MINIMUM 10,000 LB LOTS)

| WEEK OF NOV 14, 2008 | CURRENT | LAST WEEK | SAME WEEK YEAR AGO | WEEK |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| 8-16 LB HENS | | | | |
| EASTERN REGION | | 91.00 | 94.00 | 94.93 |
| CENTRAL REGION | | 88.74 | 91.73 | 95.38 ** |
| WESTERN REGION | | 87.50 | 93.00 ** | 95.38 ** |
| 16-24 LB TOMS | | | | |
| EASTERN REGION | | 90.50 ** | 90.90 ** | 94.50 |
| CENTRAL REGION | | 87.00 | 92.00 | 95.38 ** |
| WESTERN REGION | | 88.09 | 92.10 ** | 95.38 ** |

**BASED ON OFFERS

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED TURKEY
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

| | RANGE |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| TURKEYS Y HENS | 122-164 |
| TURKEYS Y TOMS UNDER 22# | 123-164 |
| TURKEYS Y TOMS 22-24# | 123-164 |
| TURKEYS Y TOMS 24-26# | 123-164 |
| TURKEYS Y TOMS 26 LBS & OVER | 125-164 |

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED
TURKEY DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

| | RANGE |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| FRESH TURKEYS Y HENS 8-16# | 129-139 |
| FRESH TURKEYS Y TOMS 14-24# | 139 |
| FROZEN TURKEYS Y HENS 8-16# | 95-96 |
| FROZEN TURKEYS Y TOMS 14-24# | 95 |
| FROZEN TURKEYS Y TOMS 24-28# | 100-101 |

TURKEY MOVEMENT TRENDS

(In Thousand Pounds)

Slaughter-certified ready-to-cook turkeys

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| October | 552,797* |
| November 1 - 8, 2008 | 129,731* |
| To date 2008 | 5,050,391* |
| To date 2007 | 4,762,170* |

*Preliminary

NATIONAL FRESH TURKEYS

U.S. GRADE A, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS
(prices reflect turkeys with timers), Week of 17-NOV-2008

| | Price (cents/lb.) | Volume (lbs.) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| PRICED AT TIME OF SALE | | |
| 8-16 lbs. | 126.12 | 10,909,600 |
| 16-24 lbs. | 126.79 | 15,697,800 |
| PRICE TO BE DETERMINED | | |
| 8-16 lbs. | -- | 100,000 |
| 16-24 lbs. | -- | 100,000 |
| Total Volume: 26,807,400 | | |

TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED IN FEDERALLY INSPECTED PLANTS

W/E 08-NOV-2008 (Preliminary)

| | -----Young turkeys----- | | | Old Banded | Total turkeys | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------|---------|
| | Pct Chg | Avg | Live wt | | Avg | Live wt |
| | -Thousand Head- | Prev wk | Live wt | --Thousand head-- | Live wt | |
| North East | 891 | 4 | 23.82 | (A) | 891 | 23.82 |
| South Atlantic | 735 | 1 | 34.15 | (A) | 735 | 34.15 |
| North Central | 2,420 | 4 | 32.90 | (A) | 2,420 | 32.90 |
| South Central | 902 | -12 | 18.25 | (A) | 902 | 18.25 |
| West | 858 | 10 | 23.00 | (A) | 858 | 23.00 |
| U.S. total | 5,806 (B) | 1 | 27.93 | 0 | 5,806 | 27.93 |
| To-date | | | | | | |
| 2008 | 216,846 (B) | | | 428 | 217,274 | |
| To-date | | | | | | |
| 2007 | 211,764 (B) | | | 233 | 211,997 | |

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
(B) Number of young banded breeder turks included: this week 28,000; for the current year to date 1,334,000; for last year to date 1,057,000.

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

W/E 08-NOV-2008 (Preliminary)

| | Young | | Old Breeders | Total Turkeys |
|---|---------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| | Hens | Toms | | |
| | -----Thousands----- | | | |
| Head | 2,826 | 2,952 | 28 | 0 |
| Avg Wt | 17.75 | 37.71 | 23.51 | 0.00 |
| Last week | 2,731 | 2,965 | 25 | 7 |
| Same wk yr ago | 2,705 | 3,192 | 41 | 4 |
| Avg Wt | 16.46 | 36.06 | 26.85 | 24.49 |
| To-date/2008 | 91,055 | 124,457 | 1,334 | 428 |
| To-date/2007 | 90,642 | 120,065 | 1,057 | 233 |
| Ready-to-Cook Weight and Dressing Percentage | | | | |
| Current week | 40,129 | 89,056 | 500 | 0 |
| Last week | 39,414 | 89,567 | 512 | 144 |
| Same wk yr ago | 35,619 | 92,083 | 837 | 74 |
| Dressing % | 80.0% | 80.0% | 76.0% | 76.0% |

(A) Dressing % adjustments reflect quarterly update.

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

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

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS, INCLUDING BULK MEAT and FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 13 NOVEMBER 2008.

The market tone on tom drums was mostly steady with some isolated caution noted, tom 2-joint wings steady at best, tom full-cut wings and necks steady, tails steady to barely steady with some spot weakness noted on mixed tails into export channels. Demand light to instances moderate. Offerings mixed with some having troubles finding mixed loads of product from single suppliers. The market tone on thigh meat was steady. Demand and offerings light. The market tone on mechanically separated turkey (MST) was steady to barely steady with fresh weakest. Demand slow with some turning to pet foods to move excess fresh production. Offerings adequate to instances burdensome. Trading seasonally slow. For domestic: fresh -20% MST 2009 contracts 24-25, tails 49 cents delivered.

| DOMESTIC TRADING | PRICE RANGE | L.S.T. CODE 1/ | WTD AVG PRICE | VOLUME (000) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| BREASTS, 4-8 LBS GRADE A 2/ | 115.00-124.00 | | 118.80 | 200 |
| BREASTS, 4-8 LBS GRADE A--FRESH 2/ | 162.00 | | 162.00 | 14 |
| BREASTS, 4-8 LBS PLANT GRADE 2/ | | | | |
| DRUMSTICKS, TOM | 54.00-55.00 | | 54.46 | 74 |
| DRUMSTICKS, TOM--FRESH | | W | 51.00 | 40 |
| DRUMSTICKS, HEN | 52.50-53.00 | | 52.75 | 80 |
| WINGS, FULL-CUT, TOM | 51.00-53.00 | | 51.42 | 59 |
| WINGS, FULL-CUT, HEN | | W | 47.00 | 20 |
| WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM | 63.00 | | 63.00 | 20 |
| WINGS, V-TYPE, HEN | 76.00 | | 76.00 | 40 |
| NECKS, TOM | 32.00-33.00 | | 32.67 | 122 |
| NECKS, HEN | | W | 34.00 | 41 |
| BREASTS, B/S, TOM 3/ | | R | 160.18 | 55 |
| BREASTS, B/S, TOM--FRESH 3/ | | M | 169.00 | 80 |
| THIGH MEAT | 103.00 | | 103.00 | 40 |
| THIGH MEAT--FRESH | 103.00 | | 103.00 | 32 |
| BREAST TRIM MEAT | | | | |
| SCAPULA MEAT | | F | 124.00 | 6 |
| WING MEAT WITH SKIN | | F | 75.00 | 34 |
| TENDERLOINS | | | | |
| DESTRAPPED TENDERS | | | | |
| DESTRAPPED TENDERS--FRESH | 150.00 | | 150.00 | 42 |
| MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/ | 24.00 | | 24.00 | 80 |
| MECHANICALLY SEPARATED--FRESH 4/ | 25.00-27.00 | | 25.67 | 60 |
| EXPORT TRADING | | | | |
| DRUMSTICKS, TOMS | 55.00 | | 55.00 | 40 |
| WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS | | | | |
| WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM | | | | |
| TAILS | 31.00 | | 31.00 | 104 |
| MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/ | | F | 24.00 | 80 |
| THIGH MEAT - FROZEN | | F | 102.00 | 40 |

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY
 2/ Breasts are bagged; rib, back, and wing meat included; and basted. 3/ Boneless and skinless without tenderloins. 4/ 15-20% fat with skin added.

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS, INCLUDING BULK MEAT and FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 14 NOVEMBER 2008.

The market tone on tom breast meat was steady to instances weak, mostly steady to barely steady; destrapped tenderloins steady at best; balance of white meat mostly steady. Inquiry on tom breast meat nil to sluggish with some spot interest noted on frozen. Demand on destrapped tenderloins was light at best and light to sometimes moderate on the balance of white meat. Offerings of tom breast meat adequate to instance burdensome, destrapped tenderloins light to fully adequate, balance of white meat uneven ranging light to fully adequate, mostly light to adequate. The market tone on Grade A 4-8 lb. breasts was steady to weak with some noting plant grades not as weak as Grade As. Demand nil to instances fair with holiday fill-in activity varying by processor. Offerings of Grade A 4-8 lb. breasts adequate to instances burdensome. Trading slow to moderate and centered on tom drums for domestic and export shipments. For domestic: mature hen necks 30, mature tails 41, fresh - necks 32, tom wings 49, frozen tails 48, tom defatted gizzards 90, fresh - wing meat 101, scapula 123, breast trim 135 cents delivered.

| DOMESTIC TRADING | PRICE RANGE | LST CODE | WTD AVG PRICE | WEEKLY VOLUME (000) | WTD AVG PRICE | WEEKLY VOLUME (000) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| BREASTS, 4-8 LBS GRADE A 2/ | | R | 118.80 | 200 | 118.80 | 200 |
| BREASTS, 4-8 LBS GRADE A--FRESH 2/ | | R | 162.00 | 14 | 162.00 | 14 |
| BREASTS, 4-8 LBS PLANT GRADE 2/ | 115.00 | | 115.00 | 120 | 115.00 | 120 |
| DRUMSTICKS, TOM | 53.75-56.00 | | 54.76 | 238 | 54.65 | 317 |
| DRUMSTICKS, TOM--FRESH | 51.00 | | 51.00 | 120 | 51.00 | 160 |
| DRUMSTICKS, HEN | 53.00 | | 53.00 | 40 | 52.83 | 120 |
| WINGS, FULL-CUT, TOM | 47.00-53.00 | | 51.05 | 189 | 51.09 | 253 |
| WINGS, FULL-CUT, HEN | | W | 47.00 | 20 | 47.00 | 20 |
| WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM | 59.00-63.00 | | 59.28 | 43 | 61.88 | 143 |
| WINGS, V-TYPE, HEN | | R | 76.00 | 40 | 76.60 | 100 |
| NECKS, TOM | 33.00 | | 33.00 | 37 | 32.78 | 204 |
| NECKS, HEN | | W | 34.00 | 41 | 34.00 | 41 |
| BREASTS, B/S, TOM 3/ | | | | | | |
| BREASTS, B/S, TOM--FRESH 3/ | | M | 169.00 | 80 | 169.00 | 80 |
| THIGH MEAT | | R | 103.00 | 40 | 103.00 | 40 |
| THIGH MEAT--FRESH | 103.00-104.50 | | 103.18 | 66 | 103.12 | 98 |
| BREAST TRIM MEAT | 137.00 | | 137.00 | 40 | 137.00 | 40 |
| SCAPULA MEAT | | F | 124.00 | 6 | | |
| WING MEAT WITH SKIN | | F | 75.00 | 34 | | |
| TENDERLOINS | | | | | | |
| DESTRAPPED TENDERS | 150.00 | | 150.00 | 12 | 150.00 | 12 |
| DESTRAPPED TENDERS--FRESH | | R | 150.00 | 42 | 150.00 | 182 |
| MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/ | 26.50 | | 26.50 | 48 | 25.19 | 168 |
| MECHANICALLY SEPARATED--FRESH 4/ | 24.00-26.50 | | 24.57 | 264 | 24.77 | 324 |
| EXPORT TRADING | | | | | | |
| DRUMSTICKS, TOMS | 54.00-55.00 | | 54.16 | 248 | 54.24 | 328 |
| WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS | 53.00 | | 53.00 | 40 | 53.00 | 40 |
| WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM | | | | | | |
| TAILS | | R | 31.00 | 104 | 33.26 | 124 |
| MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 4/ | | F | 24.00 | 80 | | |
| THIGH MEAT - FROZEN | | F | 102.00 | 40 | | |

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY
 2/ Breasts are bagged; rib, back, and wing meat included; and basted. 3/ Boneless and skinless without tenderloins. 4/ 15-20% fat with skin added.