



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

VGS-330

Dec. 16, 2008



A Report from the Economic Research Service

[www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)

# Vegetables and Melons Outlook

**Gary Lucier, Rachael L. Dettmann, Michelle Da Pra,  
and Alberto Jerardo**

## Potato Crop Lower, Prices To Remain Higher

Given reduced acreage and slightly lower yields, fall production of U.S. potatoes decreased 8 percent to 374 million hundredweight (cwt), topping off 2008's total crop at 411 million cwt. With a smaller crop, market shipments during October and November averaged about 5 percent below a year earlier. Although grower prices have weakened seasonally, they remain about one-third above a year earlier.

Following a 4-percent drop in October, the volume of fresh vegetable and melon market shipments declined more than a tenth in November. As a result, shipping-point prices are expected to average 5-10 percent above a year earlier during the fourth quarter—led by higher prices for crops such as bulb onions, carrots, cucumbers, and sweet corn.

After increasing an average of about 2 percent annually since 1990, retail prices for processed vegetables are up 9 percent through November this year, reflecting higher farm input costs, higher costs for packaging materials and boiler energy, and sharply higher contract prices for raw processing vegetables. Retail prices for canned vegetables averaged 13-percent above a year earlier during January-November 2008.

Pinto bean production declined 11 percent from a year earlier as both area harvested and yield declined. Pinto beans easily remain the top bean class with 40 percent of the 2008 crop—down from 46 percent a year earlier. Prices have begun to slip lower despite limited open market activity and considerable uncertainty in most crop markets. Grower bids in North Dakota-Minnesota had slipped to \$27.00 by mid-December, which was still 13 percent above the favorable levels of a year earlier.

Demand for herbs and spices has been increasing due to growth in processed and convenience food and greater demand for ethnic food. As a result, 2008 fresh herb shipments (through early December) are up more than a tenth from the previous year. Third quarter wholesale prices for herbs and spices were up 8 percent from a year.

Total vegetable production volume is projected to expand 0.6 percent annually between 2008 and 2018, with the farm value reaching \$27 billion by 2018. Domestically, the gradual rise in U.S. vegetable production volume keeps farm producer prices for vegetables at an annual 1.3 percent climb through the next decade.

### Contents

[Industry Overview](#)  
[Fresh-Market](#)  
[Vegetables](#)  
[Processing](#)  
[Vegetables](#)  
[Potatoes](#)  
[Dry Edible Beans](#)  
[Dry Peas & Lentils](#)  
[Herbs and Spices](#)  
[Longrun Outlook](#)  
[Commodity](#)  
[Highlight:](#)  
[Sweet potatoes](#)  
[Contacts & Links](#)  
[Appendix Tables](#)

### Web Sites

[Veg. & Melons](#)  
[Potatoes](#)  
[Tomatoes](#)  
[Dry Beans](#)  
[U.S. Trade Data](#)  
[Market News](#)  
[NASS Statistics](#)  
[Organics](#)  
[Transportation](#)

-----  
The next release is  
February 25, 2009.  
-----

Approved by the  
World Agricultural  
Outlook Board.

## Industry Overview

**Fresh vegetables:** The outlook for fresh vegetables this winter indicates reduced acreage and supplies. At the same time, demand is expected to be soft as consumers remain conservative with regard to away from home eating and premium products such as hothouse and organic vegetables. Although the winter price outlook is uncertain (given average weather), it favors steady to slightly higher prices compared with the relatively modest levels experienced a year earlier. As a result, growers and shippers may face a cost-price squeeze, with input prices this winter still relatively high, especially for fertilizer, chemicals, land rent, and seed.

**Melons:** According to Market News, during the fourth quarter of 2008 (through early December), the shipping-point price for U.S. cantaloup averaged about 29 cents per pound—28 percent lower than a year earlier. The U.S. market is now transitioning to imported melons, largely from Central America, with the winter outlook reportedly tilted toward reduced supplies due to high input costs, weather damage, and economic uncertainty.

**Processing vegetables:** There is a great deal of uncertainty with regard to processed vegetable acreage in the coming year. Tomato processors are expected to contract for a crop similar to that of 2008. Growers continue to push processors for another sizeable increase in contract pricing, reflecting increased input costs, the risk of water shortages, current high wholesale prices for processed tomato products, and the lure offered by high-priced alternative field crops.

**Potatoes:** With fall production down 8 percent in 2008, fresh-market potato prices during November averaged about a third higher than a year earlier at \$8.00 per cwt. As a result of these strong prices, potato growers are expected to increase acreage in 2009.

**Sweet potatoes:** With 2008 sweet potato production projected by ERS to increase modestly, a slight reduction is anticipated in the 2008/09 season-average price from the \$18.30 per cwt of 2007. As a result of lower prices, higher input costs, and weak foodservice demand, growers are expected to reduce acreage slightly in 2009.

**Longrun outlook:** The average annual growth rate for vegetable and melon production is forecast at 0.6 percent through 2018, with the value of vegetables expected to reach \$27 billion by 2018. About two-thirds of the 714 pounds of fruits and vegetables expected to be consumed per person in 2018 will consist of vegetables and melons.

**Dry edible beans:** With stocks of several dry bean classes likely to be low again by next summer, reduced supplies and higher prices over the coming marketing year will backstop the need for increased acreage next spring. Currently, potential dry bean returns are very competitive with most all alternative crops, suggesting that in the absence of major changes to these commodity price relationships this winter, U.S. dry bean acreage could increase 5 to 10 percent in 2009.

**Dry peas and lentils:** Even with some reduction in prices in the coming months, spring price prospects for lentils (and dry peas to a lesser extent) are expected to remain strong relative to spring wheat. As a result, dry pea and lentil planted area is expected to increase in 2009 with small acreage gains are expected for dry peas (3-5 percent) and larger increases projected for lentils (10-20 percent).

**Mushrooms:** Compared with a year earlier, January-October 2008 all mushroom import value was up 7 percent to \$240 million. China, Canada, and Indonesia were the top three foreign sources of fresh and processed mushrooms.

Table 1--U.S. vegetable industry at a glance, 2006-09

Item	Unit	2006	2007	2008 1/	2009 1/
<i>Area harvested</i>	1,000 ac.	7,264	7,020	6,836	7,013
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	1,000 ac.	1,944	1,943	1,880	1,863
Processing	1,000 ac.	1,257	1,251	1,250	1,245
Potatoes	1,000 ac.	1,122	1,130	1,046	1,071
Dry beans	1,000 ac.	1,538	1,479	1,448	1,545
Other 2/	1,000 ac.	1,404	1,218	1,212	1,290
<i>Production</i>	Mil. cw t	1,308	1,367	1,311	1,323
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	Mil. cw t	483	494	488	485
Processing	Mil. cw t	318	355	345	341
Potatoes	Mil. cw t	441	447	411	426
Dry beans	Mil. cw t	24	25	26	26
Other 2/	Mil. cw t	41	46	41	45
<i>Crop value</i>	\$ mil.	17,159	18,178	18,874	19,031
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	10,726	10,910	11,075	11,500
Processing	\$ mil.	1,341	1,605	1,755	1,825
Potatoes	\$ mil.	3,223	3,361	3,660	3,450
Dry beans	\$ mil.	556	725	790	691
Mushrooms	\$ mil.	889	961	964	970
Other 2/	\$ mil.	424	616	630	595
<i>Unit value 3/</i>	\$/cw t	13.12	13.30	14.40	14.39
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$/cw t	22.23	22.10	22.72	23.71
Processing	\$/cw t	4.21	4.52	5.10	5.35
Potatoes	\$/cw t	7.30	7.51	8.90	8.10
Dry beans	\$/cw t	22.10	28.80	30.75	26.50
Other 2/	\$/cw t	10.23	13.39	15.30	13.22
<i>Trade</i>					
<i>Imports</i>	\$ mil.	7,286	7,935	8,550	8,820
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	4,091	4,433	4,670	4,800
Processing 4/	\$ mil.	1,748	1,916	2,165	2,200
Potatoes & products	\$ mil.	856	908	955	1,035
Dry beans	\$ mil.	84	107	160	170
Other 5/	\$ mil.	507	570	600	615
<i>Exports</i>	\$ mil.	4,233	4,621	5,405	5,380
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	1,624	1,741	1,840	1,865
Processing 4/	\$ mil.	860	942	1,240	1,290
Potatoes & products	\$ mil.	950	1,051	1,215	1,200
Dry beans	\$ mil.	211	199	250	225
Other 5/	\$ mil.	588	686	860	800
<i>Per capita use</i>	Pounds	434	443	442	441
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	Pounds	179	183	181	181
Processing	Pounds	116	118	121	122
Potatoes & products	Pounds	123	125	124	123
Dry beans	Pounds	6	7	6	6
Other 2/	Pounds	10	10	10	10

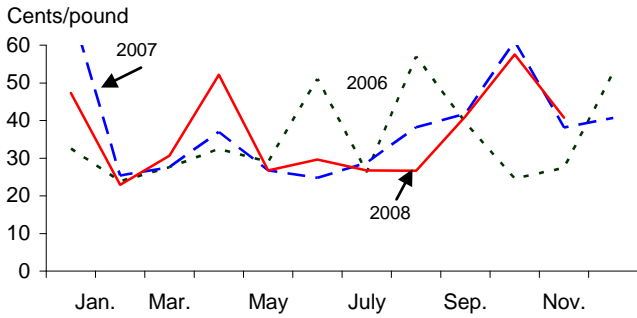
1/ ERS forecasts. 2/ Includes sweet potatoes, dry peas, lentils, and mushrooms (except for crop value). 3/ Ratio of total value to total production. 4/ Includes canned, frozen, and dried. Excludes potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms. 5/ Other includes mushrooms, dry peas, lentils, sweet potatoes, and vegetable seed. All trade data are on a calendar-year basis.

Sources: Derived by ERS using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production, Acreage, Agricultural Prices, Crop Values, Mushrooms, and Potatoes*; and from U.S. trade data of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

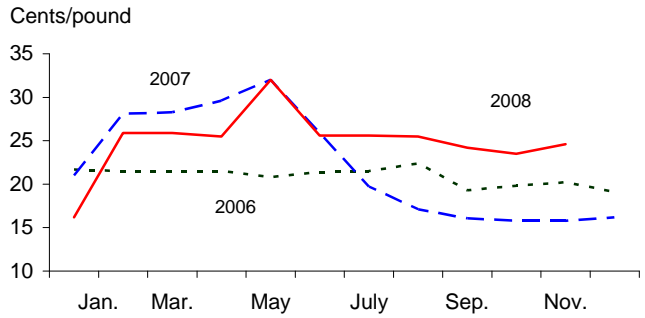
Figure 1

**Point-of-first-sale (farm) price for fresh-market vegetables**

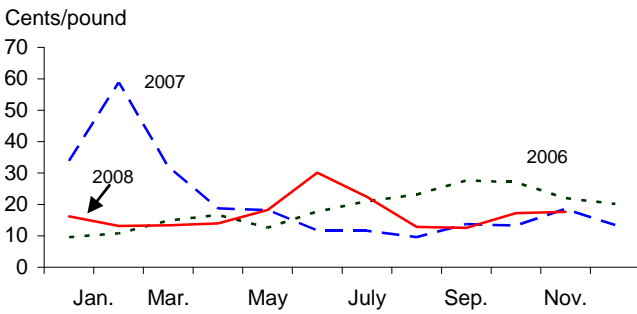
**Broccoli**



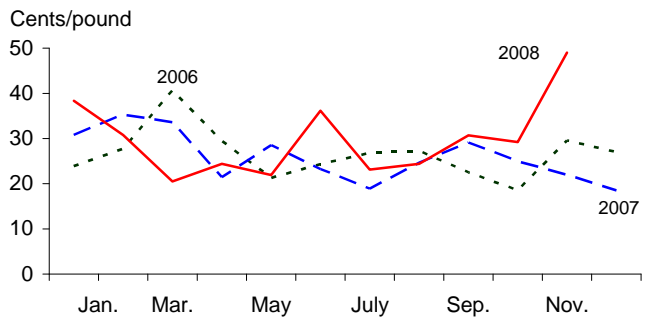
**Carrots**



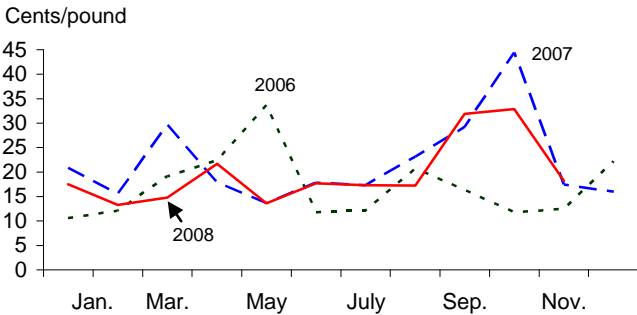
**Celery**



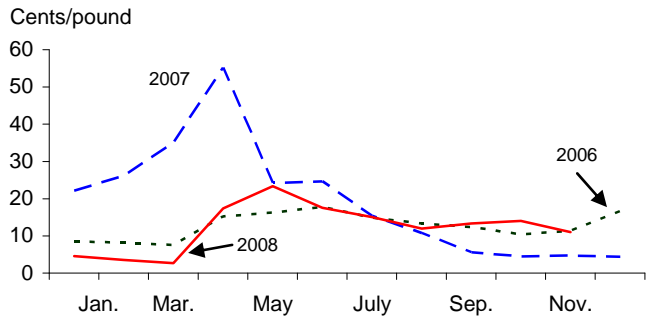
**Cucumbers**



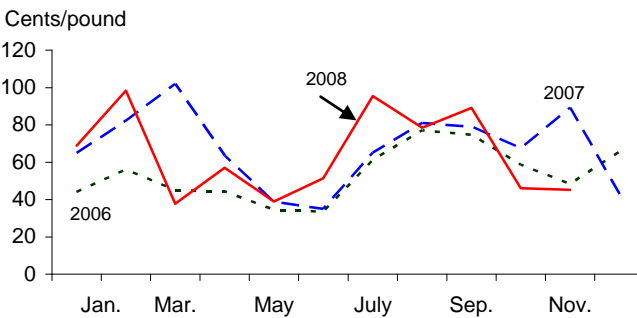
**Head lettuce**



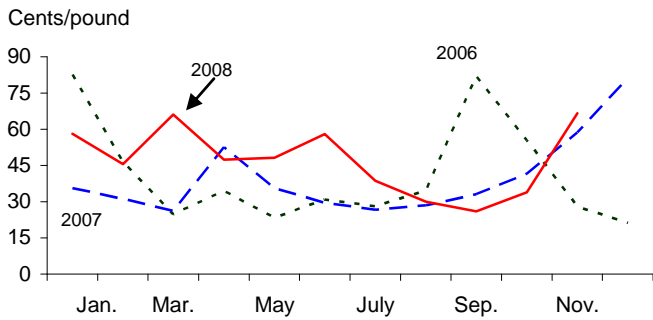
**Onions**



**Snap beans**



**Tomatoes**



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

## Fresh-Market Vegetables

### Prices Above Year Earlier

During the fourth quarter of 2008, fresh-market vegetable prices at the point of first sale (largely the shipping point) have generally been running above the relatively strong levels of a year earlier. A weak economy and rising unemployment have reportedly slowed traffic within the foodservice sector, but weaker demand has been more than offset by weather-reduced shipments, helping to maintain price strength.

Table 2—U.S. quarterly grower (point-of-first-sale) prices, 2007-09

Commodity	2007		2008 *				2009	Change 4th Q 1/ Percent
	Third	Fourth	First	Second	Third	Fourth	First	
Asparagus	--	--	88.40	91.80	--	--	115.00	--
Broccoli	36.27	46.60	33.60	36.17	31.47	47.00	33.00	0.9
Cantaloup	12.80	34.50	--	21.90	14.61	29.00	--	-15.9
Carrots	17.63	15.93	22.67	27.70	25.10	24.00	23.00	50.7
Cauliflower	25.80	41.73	41.77	47.47	36.97	42.00	37.00	0.6
Celery	11.68	15.13	14.27	20.80	15.93	17.00	18.00	12.4
Sweet corn	22.73	25.37	27.47	20.93	25.97	32.00	28.00	26.1
Cucumbers	24.20	21.83	29.45	27.50	26.07	37.00	28.00	69.5
Lettuce, head	23.20	25.93	15.20	17.67	22.13	24.00	17.00	-7.4
Onions, dry bulb	10.59	4.52	3.60	19.43	13.47	12.50	14.00	176.5
Snap beans	75.03	66.57	68.27	49.07	87.67	49.00	66.00	-26.4
Tomatoes, field	29.47	60.50	56.60	51.20	31.53	51.00	40.00	-15.7
All vegetables 2/	952	1,055	878	1,029	1,017	1,125	925	6.6

-- = not available. \* = ERS forecast. 1/ Change in projected 4th-quarter 2008 over 4th-quarter 2007.

2/ Price index with base period of 1910-14 (the period when the index equaled 100).

Source: Derived by ERS using data from USDA, National Agric. Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

Table 3--Fresh vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes

Item	2007		2008		Change previous:	
	Nov.		Oct.	Nov.	Month	Year
----- Index -----						
----- Percent -----						
<b>Consumer Price Indexes (1982/84=100)</b>						
Fresh vegetables	300.4		314.5	319.3	1.5	6.3
Potatoes	278.7		365.4	351.1	-3.9	26.0
Tomatoes, all	341.3		304.3	334.6	10.0	-2.0
Lettuce, all	295.7		306.3	303.2	-1.0	2.5
Other vegetables	300.6		307.9	312.8	1.6	4.1
<b>Producer Price Indexes (Dec. 1991 =100)</b>						
Fresh vegetables (excl. potatoes) 1/	177.4		185.1	200.3	8.2	12.9
Beets	127.0		129.3	124.6	-3.6	-1.9
Cabbage	212.7		196.7	200.7	2.0	-5.6
Eggplant	360.2		226.9	445.8	96.5	23.8
Greens	150.4		159.5	152.6	-4.3	1.5
Green peas	107.9		143.3	167.8	17.1	55.5
Onions, green	445.0		348.5	253.7	-27.2	-43.0
Onions, dry bulb 1/	87.1		146.7	137.1	-6.5	57.4
Peppers, green	341.5		259.8	334.3	28.7	-2.1
Radishes	337.6		269.9	231.3	-14.3	-31.5
Spinach	257.5		362.4	349.1	-3.7	35.6
Squash	215.4		138.7	275.8	98.8	28.0
Tomatoes 1/	267.2		158.5	290.0	83.0	8.5

1/ Index base is 1982=100. Data are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>).

Table 4--Selected U.S. fresh-market vegetable shipments 1/

Item	Annual 2007	October 2008	November		Change previous: 2/	
			2007	2008	Month	Year
	-----1,000 cwt-----				Percent	
Asparagus	3,621	143	263	148	3	-44
Snap beans	3,343	225	360	315	40	-13
Broccoli	9,538	850	923	806	-5	-13
Cabbage	12,707	864	998	919	6	-8
Cantaloup	28,284	1,491	1,011	807	-46	-20
Carrots	9,762	745	787	618	-17	-21
Cauliflower	3,944	290	396	264	-9	-33
Celery	16,487	1,278	1,896	1,753	37	-8
Sweet corn	11,262	367	353	474	29	34
Cucumbers	15,876	848	1,543	1,167	38	-24
Greens	2,391	108	279	276	156	-1
Head lettuce	34,969	2,853	2,723	2,397	-16	-12
Romaine	15,455	1,353	1,290	1,113	-18	-14
Leaf lettuce	4,215	335	328	314	-6	-4
Onions, dry bulb	48,320	4,828	4,508	3,598	-25	-20
Onions, green	2,931	267	254	295	10	16
Peppers, bell	17,860	1,109	1,380	1,187	7	-14
Peppers, chile	6,094	679	539	566	-17	5
Squash	7,008	558	818	675	21	-17
Tomato, round	28,293	1,737	1,988	1,878	8	-6
Tomato, roma 5/	11,849	823	825	881	7	7
Tomato, ghouse 3/	10,720	892	969	1,106	24	14
Tomato, small 4/ 5/	4,601	239	425	357	49	-16
Watermelon	39,909	1,016	760	663	-35	-13
Selected total	349,439	23,898	25,616	22,577	-6	-12

1/ Data for 2008 are preliminary. Includes domestic and imported product. 2/ Change in Nov. 2008. 3/ Excludes roma and small. 4/ Includes cherry and grape. 5/ Includes hothouse product.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Fruit and Vegetable Market News*.

Fresh vegetable prices were pushed higher as shipments were reduced in November by a combination of lower fall-season acreage, delayed planting caused by heavy late summer and early fall rains, cool weather in the desert southwest, which delayed the start of harvest in November by about a week, and cold fall weather in the southeast, which damaged some crops and slowed growth of others. Yields were cut for crops such as squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, and bell peppers. The volume of fresh vegetable and melon market shipments declined 12 percent from a year earlier in November and follows a 4-percent decline in October. Shipping-point prices are expected to average 5-10 percent above a year earlier during the fourth quarter—led by higher prices for bulb onions, carrots, cucumbers, and sweet corn. Prices are expected to average below a year-earlier for tomatoes, cantaloupe, and snap beans.

The market situation during November 2008 for the leading fresh-market vegetable crops compared with a year earlier was as follows:

### Broccoli

- Shipment volume (75 percent domestic) was down 13 percent from a year ago.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 40.8 cents per pound—up 7 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail price averaged \$1.88 per bunch (up 23 percent from 2007), with organic selling for \$2.54 per bunch.
- January-October import volume was up 17 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is expected to be 6.1 pounds in 2008, up 2 percent from a year ago.

### Snap (string) beans

- Shipment volume (87 percent domestic) was down 13 percent from a year ago.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 45.1 cents per pound—down 49 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail price for round green beans averaged \$1.41 per pound, 4 percent less than a year earlier.
- January-October import volume was up 13 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 2.1 pounds in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007.

### Cabbage

- Shipment volume (96 percent domestic) was down 8 percent from a year ago.
- Shipping-point prices for green cabbage averaged 12.6 cents per pound—down 19 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices for cabbage averaged \$0.44 per pound, up 2 percent from a year earlier.
- January-October import volume was down 7 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 8.6 pounds in 2008, the same as in 2007.

### Carrots

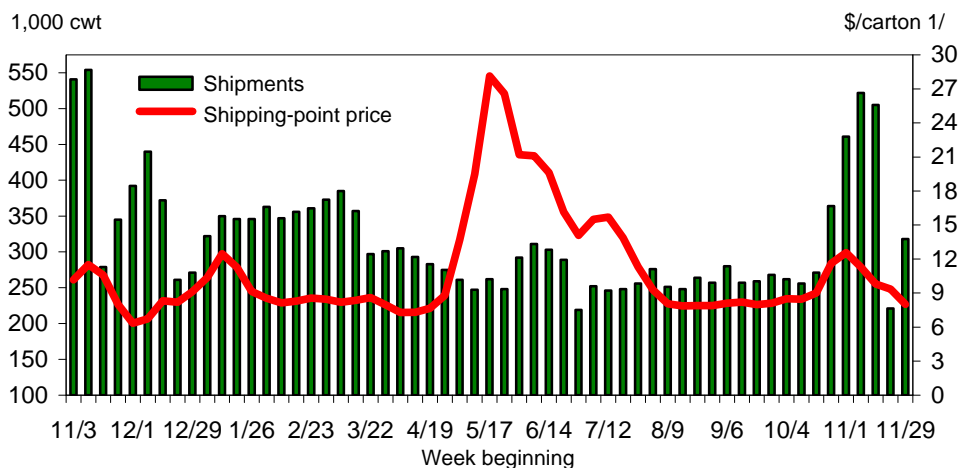
- Shipment volume (91 percent domestic) was down 21 percent from a year ago.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 24.6 cents per pound—up 56 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices for baby carrots averaged \$1.41 per pound (up 1 percent from a year earlier), with organic selling for \$1.80 per pound.
- January-October import volume was up 10 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is forecast to be 8.6 pounds in 2008, down 4 percent from 2007.

### Celery

- Shipment volume (99 percent domestic) was down 8 percent from a year earlier.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 17.7 cents per pound—down 5 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices averaged \$1.22 per bunch, up 8 percent from 2007.
- January-October import volume was down 7 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 6.4 pounds in 2008, about the same as in 2007.

Figure 2

#### U.S. celery: Weekly shipments & shipping-point price, 2007-08



1/ \$ per 28-30 lb carton.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Market News*.

Table 5--Selected fresh-market vegetable trade volume, 2006-08 1/

Item	2007	January - October			Change
	Annual	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
		--1,000 cwt--			Percent
<b>Exports, fresh:</b>					
Onions, dry bulb	5,508	4,812	4,245	4,964	17
Lettuce, other	4,534	3,848	3,668	3,834	5
Tomatoes	3,557	2,583	2,966	3,089	4
Carrots	2,575	2,165	2,199	2,382	8
Broccoli	3,110	2,629	2,581	2,571	0
Lettuce, head	3,532	3,081	2,947	2,837	-4
Celery	2,597	2,034	2,064	2,031	-2
Other	10,783	9,343	8,851	9,912	12
Total	36,195	30,495	29,522	31,620	7
<b>Imports, fresh:</b>					
Tomatoes, all	23,611	19,128	20,009	20,993	5
Cucumbers	10,122	7,482	7,925	8,730	10
Onions, dry bulb	9,025	4,981	7,767	5,943	-23
Peppers, sweet	7,264	6,036	5,900	5,971	1
Squash 2/	5,658	3,897	4,238	4,080	-4
Peppers, chile	5,634	4,293	4,616	5,359	16
Asparagus, all	2,735	2,160	2,220	2,563	15
Other	23,550	18,068	19,250	19,758	3
Total	87,599	66,045	71,924	73,398	2

1/ Excludes melons, potatoes, mushrooms, and dry pulses. 2/ Excludes chayote.

Source: Prepared by ERS using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

### Sweet corn

- Shipment volume (93 percent domestic) was up 34 percent from a year earlier.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 32.7 cents per pound—up 59 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail price averaged \$0.40 per ear, down 7 percent from 2007.
- January-October import volume was up 15 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 9.0 pounds in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007.

### Cucumbers

- Shipment volume (23 percent domestic) was down 24 percent from a year ago.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 49.0 cents per pound—up 123 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices averaged \$0.64 each, up 10 percent from 2007.
- January-October import volume was up 10 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 6.4 pounds in 2008, up 1 percent from 2007.

### Head lettuce

- Shipment volume (96 percent domestic) was down 12 percent from a year ago.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 18.2 cents per pound—up 5 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices averaged \$0.92 per head (up 7 percent), with romaine selling for \$1.06 per head.
- January-October head lettuce import volume was up 18 percent from a year ago.
- Per capita use is projected to be 20.1 pounds in 2008, down 1 percent from 2007.

### Onions (bulb)

- Shipment volume (85 percent domestic) was down 20 percent from a year ago.
- Prices at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 11.0 cents per pound—up 134 percent from the lows of a year earlier.



- *Market News* retail prices for yellow onions averaged \$1.79 per 3-pound bag (up 8 percent from 2007), with sweet yellow onions selling for \$1.26 per pound.
- January-October import volume was down 23 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is forecast to be 20.4 pounds in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007.

### Sweet (Bell) peppers

- Shipment volume (69 percent domestic) was down 14 percent from a year ago.
- F.o.b. shipping point prices for green bell peppers averaged 49 cents per pound—up 2 percent from a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices for green bell peppers averaged \$1.44 per pound (up 10 percent from 2007), with red bell peppers selling for \$2.53 per pound.
- January-October import volume was up 1 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 9.4 pounds in 2008, up 4 percent from 2007.

### Squash

- Shipment volume (17 percent domestic) was down 17 percent from a year ago.
- F.o.b. shipping point prices for zucchini averaged 85 cents per pound—double that of a year earlier.
- *Market News* retail prices for zucchini squash averaged \$1.31 per pound, up 8 percent from a year earlier.
- January-October import volume was down 4 percent from a year earlier.
- Per capita use is projected to be 4.5 pounds in 2008, up 2 percent from 2007.

### Tomatoes, all (excluding grape/cherry)

- Shipment volume (69 percent domestic) was down 2 percent from a year ago.
- Greenhouse tomato shipments were up 14 percent from 2007.
- Prices for field-grown product at the point of first sale (largely grower or f.o.b. shipping point) averaged 66.7 cents per pound—up 14 percent from a year ago.
- *Market News* retail prices for field-grown round tomatoes averaged \$1.67 per pound (down 6 percent from 2007), with organic selling for \$2.99 per pound.
- January-October import volume (all tomatoes) was up 5 percent from a year earlier. Greenhouse/hothouse tomato imports were up 16 percent.
- Per capita use is projected to be 20.0 pounds in 2008, down 1 percent from 2007.

Table 6--U.S. fresh-market vegetable import volume: Top 10 sources

Rank	1998	2000	2005	2006	2007
1	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico
2	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada
3	Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Peru	Peru	Peru
4	Netherlands	Peru	Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Costa Rica
5	Peru	Netherlands	China	China	China
6	Domin. Rep.	Domin. Rep.	Honduras	Honduras	Honduras
7	Guatemala	Guatemala	Netherlands	Guatemala	Guatemala
8	Argentina	Chile	Guatemala	Netherlands	Chile
9	Honduras	Spain	Chile	Domin. Rep.	Domin. Rep.
10	Spain	Honduras	Domin. Rep.	Chile	New Zealand
-- Percent --					
<b>Import shares:</b>					
Top 1	78.5	73.5	71.0	71.1	71.9
Top 3	91.3	90.1	88.7	88.8	88.4
Top 10	97.4	97.4	97.6	97.6	97.2

1/ Based on volume of fresh market vegetables, excluding melons and potatoes.

Source: Derived by ERS using data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service.

## Processing Vegetables

### *Canned Vegetables Lead Price Gains*

In November 2008, retail prices for all processed fruits and vegetables averaged 15 percent above a year earlier. The size of the increase is unusual in that retail prices for canned and frozen vegetables have each increased about 2 percent annually since 1990. This year's price gain, the sharpest in many years, reflects several factors including higher farm input costs, higher costs for metal cans and boiler energy, and sharply higher contract prices for raw processing vegetables. These higher contract prices reflect competition for limited acreage with field crops such as corn and soybeans. Retail prices for canned vegetables exhibited the greatest increase this year, averaging 13 percent above a year earlier over January-November 2008. In November, consumer prices for canned vegetables were running 22 percent higher than a year previous.

Tomato products are the leading canned (shelf stable) vegetable with a number of products ranging from tomato paste to tomato juice exhibiting price increases. For example, the wholesale price of bulk (31 percent solids) industrial tomato paste which is used by manufacturers to produce products such as pizza sauces and ketchup, is likely to average about 52 cents per pound in 2008—up 18 percent from a year ago. However, the average price has continued to rise during the year with the October-December average expected to be about 63 cents per pound—54 percent greater than a year earlier. Further increases are expected in 2009 despite the expected impact of a weak economy on food demand. Wholesale prices in 2008 for sweet corn, the second most consumed canned vegetable, are expected to average 14 percent above a year earlier for retail-sized cans with even greater increases reported for the larger foodservice-sized cans. As with tomato products, further increases are projected for 2009.

Within the frozen vegetable sector, retail prices also increased although at a more subdued rate—rising 5 percent through November. In November, consumer prices for frozen vegetables averaged 8 percent higher than a year earlier. It appears that retailers have not fully passed wholesale price increases to consumers. Wholesale

Table 7--Processing vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes

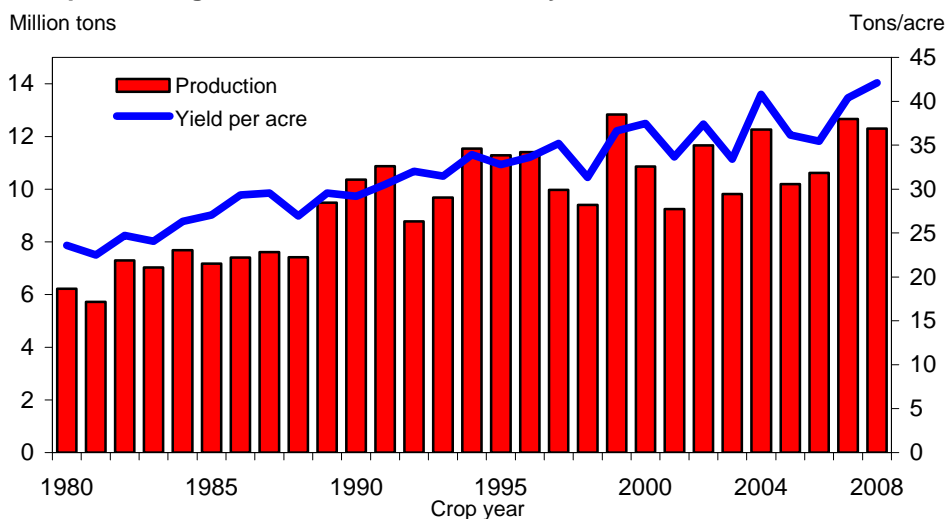
Item	2007	2008		Change previous:	
	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Month	Year
	----- Index -----			----- Percent -----	
<b>Consumer Price Indexes (12/97=100)</b>					
Processed fruits and vegetables	126.7	146.6	145.6	-0.7	14.9
Canned vegetables	128.4	159.2	156.2	-1.9	21.7
Frozen vegetables (1982-84=100)	180.2	195.4	195.0	-0.2	8.2
Dry beans, peas, lentils	136.9	172.2	177.0	2.8	29.3
Olives, pickles, relishes	123.1	132.4	129.6	-2.1	5.3
<b>Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)</b>					
Canned vegetables and juices	144.2	165.0	165.4	0.2	14.7
Pickles and products	199.9	203.9	203.9	0.0	2.0
Tomato ketchup and sauces 1/	138.8	154.0	154.6	0.4	11.4
Canned dry beans	133.1	140.6	141.9	0.9	6.6
Vegetable juices 1/	117.3	123.7	123.7	0.0	5.5
Frozen vegetables	152.5	168.8	171.5	1.6	12.5
Frozen vegetable combinations 2/	109.9	116.8	116.8	0.0	6.3
Dried/dehy. fruit & vegetables	184.1	195.5	196.4	0.5	6.7

1/ Index base (the period it equals 100) is 1987. 2/ Index base is Dec. 1990.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>).

Figure 3

**U.S. processing tomatoes: Production and yield**



Sources: USDA, NASS, *Vegetables* except 2008 estimated by ERS.

prices for retail-size packages of sweet corn, snap beans, and green peas are averaging one-third or more above a year ago in 2008. One exception to sharply higher frozen vegetable prices is broccoli, which is up about 3 percent from a year ago. This reflects both the high import share for this product (Mexico is the primary supplier) and the dual nature of domestic production (prices in the fresh market may influence the volume and value of product sent to processors).

***Record High Tomato Yields Expected***

Despite water shortages, reduced harvested area, and soaring input costs, preliminary information suggests that California’s production of processing tomatoes fell less than 2 percent from a year earlier as favorable weather led to record-high yields. According to the California Processing Tomato Advisory Board, output in California totaled about 11.8 million tons with yield expected to exceed both that of a year earlier (40.82 tons) and the 2004 record of 41.54 tons per acre. This is only the third year that California yields have exceeded 40 tons per acre. California produces 96 percent of the nation’s tomatoes used in processed products. Fresno County accounted for 35 percent of the State’s output, followed by Yolo (13 percent), and Kings (12 percent) counties. Supplies of processed tomato products are expected to remain adequate given the possibility of weak domestic demand over the coming year. Despite good supplies and weakening demand, wholesale prices for various tomato products remain high relative to recent history given the higher costs of producing, acquiring, and processing tomatoes in 2008.

The outlook for 2009 presents some interesting contrasts which makes projecting area and production difficult. On one hand, the industry has relatively high inventories of many tomato products, yet the market in both the U.S. and the world currently supports higher product prices. Although some California tomato growers suffered severe water restrictions in 2008 and could face even more extreme cutbacks in 2009, California growers likely produced record-high yields—something that may be difficult to accomplish in two consecutive years as it also requires the continued cooperation of Mother Nature. Although several alternative field crops offered strong returns in 2008 and will likely do so again in 2009, growers decided to plant tomatoes despite sharp increases in input costs (up 15 to

20 percent). In 2009, input costs are expected to be less of a factor (and could ease) assuming reduced energy and fertilizer costs. When these factors are taken together, it suggests that acreage would be similar to that of 2009, with lower yields resulting a slightly smaller crop in 2009. In mid-January, NASS (California) will release the early estimate of processing tomato contract intentions in cooperation with the California League of Food Processors and the Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture.

It is likely that growers will continue to push processors for another increase in contract pricing, reflecting increased input costs, the risk of water shortages, current high wholesale prices for processed products, and the continued lure offered by high-priced (and easier to grow) alternative field crops. Given these factors, the California Tomato Growers Association has opened negotiations by offering a base price (excludes premiums and incentives) of \$95 per ton—up sharply from the \$70 average for 2008. Thus, it seems likely that the 2009 first delivery point price will rise for the fourth consecutive year. After remaining around \$50 per ton during the first 6 years of this decade, tomato prices have increased by 40 percent between 2005 and 2008. The combination of record yields and high prices likely pushed the value of the 2008 processing tomato crop to more than \$1 billion for the first time.

### ***Processed Imports Up, Canned Volume Down***

The value of processed (canned, frozen, dried) vegetable and melon imports rose 14 percent from a year earlier during January to October 2008. Processed vegetable import value has risen each year this decade. By value, Mexico (25 percent of the total), China (12 percent), and Canada (12 percent) remain the top three suppliers of processed vegetables. Import value for the canned, frozen, and dehydrated categories were each above a year earlier (table 8). However, despite the lure of much higher average domestic prices, the volume of canned vegetable imports was down 4 percent from a year earlier. Decreased volume was seen for bulk industrial tomato paste, tomato ketchup, tomato sauces, cucumber pickles, and juices which outweighed gains in volume for canned sweet corn, asparagus, and pimento peppers. The volume of canned imports from three of the top five foreign suppliers (Canada, China, and Italy) declined.

For Peru, again the fifth-leading foreign supplier of canned vegetables to the United States in 2008, volume was up 26 percent. Asparagus, the top canned import from Peru, continued to trend higher with volume up 52 percent from a year earlier. Pimento peppers were up 141 percent, while canned artichoke volume also continued to soar (up 36 percent) as imports from Peru displaced volume from Spain, Chile, and Italy.

Table 8--Value of processed vegetable trade 1/

Item	2007	January - October			Change
	Annual	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
	----- Million dollars -----				Percent
<b>Imports:</b>					
Canned	911	713	747	804	8
Frozen	630	428	510	619	21
Dehydrated 2/	391	283	324	363	12
<b>Exports:</b>					
Canned	592	460	476	668	40
Frozen	212	143	171	224	31
Dehydrated 2/	139	106	113	123	10

1/ Excludes potatoes and mushrooms. 2/ Includes dried vegetables except dry pulses.

Source: Derived by ERS using data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

## Potatoes

### *Slow Start to 2008 Shipments Leave Prices High*

Potato shipments for October and November totaled 24 million cwt—5 percent below the same time period in 2007. Fresh tablestock shipments for November experienced a 10-percent decline from a year earlier to 8.5 million cwt. Idaho, which comprised 30 percent of this year's fall production, saw a 14-percent decline in potato shipments. Although total 2008 U.S. potato production is down 8 percent from last year, slower seasonal shipments are also attributable to late harvests in many States and decreased supplies. In addition, there has been some speculation that packers are attempting to apportion supply to avoid late season shortages experienced during 2007.

Given supply injections from the fall harvest, prices have dropped slightly from the record highs of this past summer. Relative to historical levels, potato prices remain high across the Nation due in part to paced shipments and decreased production. Since September, potato prices have averaged \$2.26 per cwt greater than those of a year earlier. Average prices received for all potatoes in November were \$8.87 per cwt, compared with \$6.55 per cwt in November 2007. Prices averaged highest in Colorado during November at a record \$17.20 per cwt—2.5 times the level of a year earlier. Idaho's potato prices averaged \$7.25 per cwt in November, up from \$5.50 a year earlier, while November potato prices for Washington averaged 13 percent higher than last year at \$6.75 per cwt. Red River Valley potatoes also reflected strong prices, with Minnesota and North Dakota averaging \$8.13 per cwt in November—a 25-percent increase from a year earlier.

Table 9--U.S. potatoes: Monthly shipments and grower price, 2006-08

Shipments / Price	Sep	Oct	Nov	Crop Yr to Date 1/	Change
	----- 1,000 cwt -----				Percent
<b>Shipments</b>					
Fresh					
2006	8,277	8,169	9,398	25,844	-2.6
2007	8,015	8,815	9,453	26,282	1.7
2008	8,298	8,070	8,475	24,843	-5.5
Total					
2006	12,397	11,765	13,123	37,284	-2.8
2007	12,757	12,603	12,984	38,345	2.8
2008	11,808	11,816	12,593	36,218	-5.5
<b>Grower price</b>					
Fresh					
2006	9.67	9.06	8.48	9.07	-5.2
2007	7.92	7.87	8.32	8.04	-11.4
2008	19.15	16.57	---	17.86	122.2
All					
2006	6.12	5.76	6.65	6.18	6.4
2007	5.92	5.78	6.55	6.08	-1.5
2008	8.79	7.38	8.87	8.35	37.2

--- = not available. 1/ Crop year, September-August.

Sources: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Fruit and Vegetable Market News*, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

## Decreased Fall Production Motivates Current Trends

Fall production of U.S. potatoes decreased 8 percent this year to 374 million cwt, topping off 2008's total crop of 411 million cwt. Production declines were accentuated by a 1-percent decrease in yields, averaging 406 cwt per acre for the fall crop. Although down slightly from last year, this is still the second highest yield on record after last year's record setting 409 cwt per acre. All but five States posted reductions in production, with the Western States posting a 9-percent decline in production at 260 million cwt. Within the region, Idaho posted the largest decline of 12 percent (to 115 million cwt) as yields increased 1 percent to 378 cwt per acre.

Oregon posted a 9-percent production decline of 18 million cwt as yields declined 6 percent to 521 cwt per acre. Colorado and California each reported slight increases in production of 2 and 4 percent, respectively. Colorado growers managed to produce a larger crop despite some losses resulting from late season storms in mid-August.

All major potato producing States in the Central U.S. posted production declines ranging from 4 to 9 percent. Ohio, a small producer, was an exception with a 31-percent decline to 683 thousand cwt in 2008. Minnesota and North Dakota together produced 43 million cwt this year, based on an average yield of 332 cwt per acre. Wisconsin produced 26 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The smaller crop was the result of reduced acreage planted and a 6-percent drop in yields (to 415 cwt per acre)—partially attributable to inclement weather during the growing season.

Production increases were noted in New York (up 9 percent to 6 million cwt) and Pennsylvania (up 14 percent to 2.5 million cwt). Together, these two States represent 2 percent of total fall production. Output gains in New York and Pennsylvania were aided by higher yields (up 14 and 20 percent, respectively), with New York reporting 320 cwt per acre and Pennsylvania posting 265 cwt per acre.

Table 10--U.S. potatoes: State acreage and production of fall crop, 2006-08

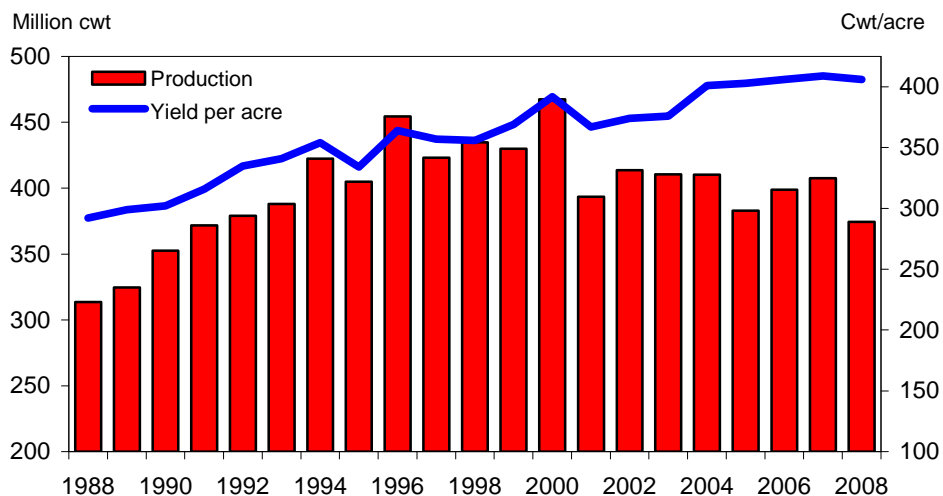
State	Harvested area			Production		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	---1,000 acres---			---1,000 cwt---		
Colorado	59.7	59.1	56.9	22,686	20,981	21,338
Idaho	334.0	349.0	304.0	128,915	130,010	114,805
Maine	58.0	57.0	54.7	17,980	16,815	14,496
Michigan	43.0	42.0	42.5	14,190	14,700	13,600
Minnesota	48.0	47.0	48.0	20,400	20,680	20,160
New York	19.0	18.3	17.8	5,700	5,216	5,696
North Dakota	98.0	91.0	81.0	25,480	23,660	22,680
Oregon	35.0	36.5	35.3	18,533	20,238	18,387
Wisconsin	66.0	64.0	62.0	29,370	28,160	25,730
Pennsylvania	10.5	10.0	9.5	2,730	2,200	2,518
Washington	155.0	165.0	155.0	89,900	102,300	93,000
Other 1/	56.8	57.9	55.1	23,037	22,557	21,950
U.S. total	983.0	996.8	921.8	398,921	407,517	374,360

1/ Includes California, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.

Figure 4

**U.S. potatoes, fall season: Yield per acre and production, 1988-2008**



Sources: USDA, NASS, *Crop Production and Potatoes*.

Meanwhile, Maine, representing 4 percent of fall production, shed 14 percent of its potato production from 2007 to 14 million cwt, accentuated by a 10-percent decrease in yields to 265 cwt per acre. The nationwide decrease in fall production was somewhat expected given the initial reports of reduced potato acreage, followed by inclement weather damaging crops in many major producing areas throughout the season.

***Slower Foreign Demand for U.S. Potatoes***

Total potato exports exceeded imports by \$38 million from September through October. Fresh tablestock imports saw a record 86 percent increase of \$24 million in Sept-Oct, compared to the same time last year. During the same time period, frozen french fries saw smaller import increases of 7 percent to \$103 million. Potato chip imports slowed to \$3.2 million in October (down from 5.3 million in 2007), while imports of dehydrated potato products dipped 2 percent to \$4 million from 2007.

Exports of U.S. potatoes slowed slightly from their record summer pace to \$198 million but still remain 11 percent above this time last year (September-October). Frozen french fry exports rose 14 percent from September-October over last year to \$108 million. Chips slowed by 4 percent in foreign demand with \$33 million being exported from September through October, compared to \$35 million last year. Exports to Canada slowed to \$18 million in October compared to September, as demand for frozen french fries slowed by 10 percent, and chips by 3 percent to \$4.2 million. Exports to Japan also slowed to \$47 million from September-October, down 12 percent from July-August. With the slumping economic climate worldwide leading to weakened currencies in Europe and Canada, 2009 demand for U.S. potatoes will most likely not continue the record pace established in 2008.

## Dry Edible Beans

### *Caution Rules Dry Bean Market*

As is the case for many other commodity markets, dry bean markets will end the calendar year on a very quiet note with the majority of product movement occurring under contract. Because open market sales volume has been very limited, price discovery in the U.S. dry bean market has been challenging. Few grower bids or dealer prices have been established for most bean classes since harvest was completed. Combined with the traditionally sluggish movement over the holiday period in December, little additional price information will likely be forthcoming until early 2009. Given the wide fluctuations experienced in commodity and world economic markets over the past year, market participants have become very conservative, waiting for the dust to settle. As light is shed on some of the unknowns (South American crop potential, production by class in the U.S., commodity price trends, world economic well being, etc.) in U.S. and world markets over the next few months, dry bean markets should begin to thaw as participants slowly gain confidence in the changing market environment.

### *Record High Yield in 2008*

The U.S. dry edible bean crop was estimated to be 25.7 million cwt—up 1 percent from a year earlier (table 11). Although harvested area was down 2 percent, ideal weather in most major growing areas aided crop development and yield potential. As a result, the preliminary national per-acre yield averaged 17.75 cwt, up 3 percent from a year earlier and 9 percent above the average of the previous 5 years. If realized, this would also exceed the previous U.S. record-high yield set in 1991. Production declined 5 percent in North Dakota, which remained the top producing State, with 39 percent of the 2008 crop. Crop conditions in Michigan, which remained the second leading State in 2008, were favorable until heavy late season rain, with State yield rising 16 percent to 18.5 cwt per acre—the third highest on record. In Nebraska, the third leading producer, dry bean yields set a new standard for the second consecutive year, rising 4 percent to 23.5 cwt. This was the highest dry bean yield in the Nation, reflecting the use of irrigation (used on over 90 percent of the crop) in this relatively dry State.

Table 11--U.S. dry beans: Production by class, 2004-08

Item	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08
	--1,000 cwt--					Percent
Pinto	7,814	12,601	9,618	11,631	10,354	-11.0
Navy	2,142	3,995	4,353	3,815	4,601	20.6
Great Northern	951	1,585	1,190	1,186	1,628	37.3
Black	1,870	1,798	2,661	2,773	2,935	5.8
Lt. red kidney	806	1,103	742	804	1,008	25.4
Dk. red kidney	682	1,047	823	661	855	29.3
Garbanzo	593	1,061	1,539	1,511	1,067	-29.4
Small red	601	903	649	535	798	49.2
Pink	521	662	731	578	607	5.0
Blackeye	384	406	533	497	369	-25.8
Baby lima	267	385	304	377	270	-28.4
Large lima	307	359	239	302	340	12.6
Cranberry	180	162	149	124	141	13.7
Others	670	705	716	577	728	26.2
United States	17,788	26,772	24,247	25,371	25,701	1.3

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.



Table 12--U.S. dry pinto beans: Area, production, and value 1/

Crop year	Acres		Yield per acre	Production	Average price 1/	Crop value 2/
	Planted	Harvested				
	1,000 acres		Cwt	1,000 cwt	\$/cwt	\$ mil.
1990	964.2	925.1	1,476	13,650	14.89	203.2
1995	841.0	758.2	1,484	11,253	18.56	208.9
2002	832.3	742.3	1,777	13,188	13.79	181.9
2003	663.9	639.2	1,635	10,453	15.84	165.6
2004	650.9	573.7	1,362	7,814	26.87	210.0
2005	784.8	726.1	1,735	12,601	13.95	175.8
2006	690.9	652.6	1,474	9,618	21.17	203.6
2007	694.1	674.6	1,724	11,631	27.92	324.7
2008 f	629.2	605.3	1,711	10,354	28.00	289.9

f = ERS forecast for 2008 price and value.

1/ Season-average grower bids. 2/ Estimated by ERS.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Bean Market News*.

### ***Navy and Great Northern Crops Up, Pinto and Garbanzo Down***

The first estimate of dry bean production by class was released by USDA on December 11. Production of 11 of the 15 identified bean classes increased or remained even with a year earlier, with the biggest percentage gains for Great Northern, small red, and dark red kidney beans (table 11). Output of garbanzo beans (chickpeas) fell 29 percent in 2008 as area harvested fell 30 percent and a cool spring combined with a dry summer kept yields about steady. With lagging prices relative to alternative crops discouraging planted area in several States, the garbanzo bean (small and large chickpeas) crop was the smallest since 2005. Large kabuli chickpeas accounted for 87 percent of the total garbanzo crop. Given a smaller crop, prices in the large chickpea/garbanzo market remain relatively strong, with early December grower bids 25 percent above year-earlier levels.

Although the total dry bean crop was little changed from a year ago, most classes of dry beans experienced production gains in 2008. Production of navy beans, the second-leading dry bean class, increased 21 percent as output was higher in both North Dakota (up 30 percent), Minnesota (up 17 percent), and Michigan (up 17 percent). Output of black beans was marginally higher as good yields in the 2 leading states, Michigan and North Dakota, offset reduced acreage.

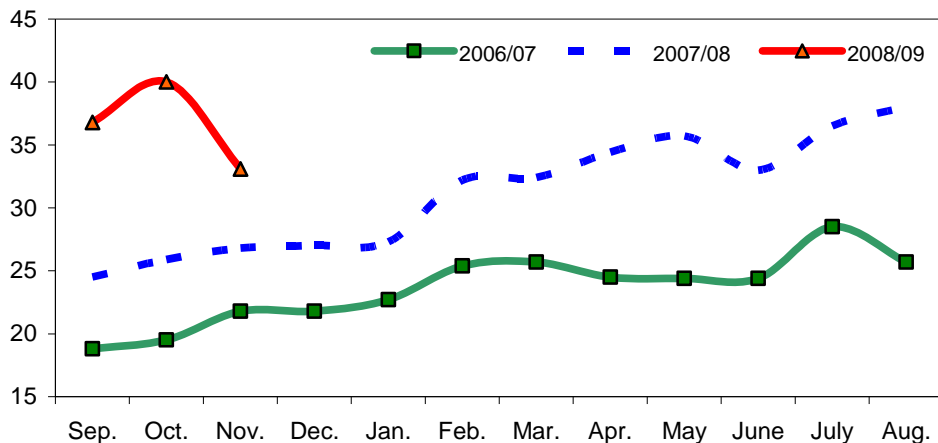
Pinto bean production declined 11 percent from a year earlier as a reduction in harvested area combined with a slight drop in yield. Pinto beans easily remain the top bean class with 40 percent of the 2008 crop—down from 46 percent a year earlier. Pinto bean harvested area was down 10 percent to 605,300 acres, while average yield fell just 1 percent from last year's favorable level, with good yields in places such as North Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado. Pinto bean output was down in 9 of the 14 producing States. Output in North Dakota, the leading producer, fell 12 percent from the state's record-large 2007 crop. Output of pinto beans fell 5 percent in Nebraska, the second-leading producer, largely because of a 4-percent drop in harvested area. Growers in Colorado produced 6 percent more pintos thanks to a 12-percent increase in yield.

Grower prices (ND/MN) for pinto beans began the marketing year in September at \$32.50 per cwt, up 39 percent from a year earlier and 84 percent higher than 2 years

Figure 5

**U.S. dry edible beans: Average monthly grower price**

Cents/pound



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

earlier. With limited open market activity and considerable uncertainty in commodity markets, grower bids in North Dakota-Minnesota had slipped to \$27.00 by mid-December, which was still 13 percent above the favorable levels of a year earlier.

***Outlook for 2009/10***

With stocks of several dry bean classes likely to be low again by next summer, reduced supplies and strong prices (relative to historical trend) over the coming marketing year will backstop the need for increased acreage next spring. However, dry bean acreage has declined for three consecutive years, the general economic outlook is weak, and the industry continues to face a substantial (although weakened) challenge from traditional rotational crops such as corn, soybeans, barley, and wheat. Although prices for these grains have declined substantially in recent months, they remain above longrun trends. However, dry bean prices are also well above their longrun averages and have proven much stickier on their way down as the industry resists price reductions. As a result, potential dry bean returns are currently very competitive with virtually all alternative crops. This suggests that in the absence of major changes to these commodity price relationships this winter, U.S. dry bean acreage could increase 5 to 10 percent (or more) in 2009. If dry bean yields return to either trend or the longrun average in 2009, lower yields would result (the three-year average would be down 5 percent from 2008, while the five-year average would be 7 percent lower). Thus, a portion of any acreage increase in 2009 could be partly offset by lower yields, blunting any gain in output.

***September-October Exports Up***

U.S. dry edible bean export volume for the initial two months of the 2008/09 marketing year increased 13 percent from a year earlier (table 13). While the majority of dry beans experienced reduced export volume, sharply higher volume was experienced by light red kidney beans, navy beans, and black beans. The top destinations (in rank order) were Mexico (up 16 percent), Canada (up 111 percent), and the United Kingdom (up 101 percent). In 2007/08, navy bean exports were the highest since 2000/01, reaching 1.53 million cwt. This strength has carried over into the first two months of 2008/09, with navy volume more than double that of the same time a year ago. Strong movement into Canada and the United Kingdom

account for most all of the gain. In 2009, with the effects of strong food aid demand and lower prices offset by a stronger dollar and weak commercial demand, U.S. dry bean export volume is expected to remain near year-earlier levels in 2008/09.

U.S. dry bean imports (including garbanzo) during September-October were up 4 percent from a year earlier, led by pinto, garbanzo, and mung beans. While dry bean import volume from Canada (up 3 percent) and Peru (up 84 percent) was up, it was down for the other two major suppliers, Mexico (down 25 percent) and China (down 41 percent). The small gain in volume was likely driven by dwindling preharvest supplies and strong wholesale prices. During September-October, the producer price index (PPI) for canned dry beans was up 5 percent from a year earlier, while the PPI for dry pinto beans was 34 percent above a year earlier.

Table 13--U.S. dry bean crop-year export volume

Bean class	Crop year 2007/08	September - October		2008/09	Change 2007-08 Percent
		2006/07	2007/08		
-- 1,000 cwt (bags) --					
Navy (pea)	1,532	453	275	584	112
Pinto	2,204	550	486	426	-12
Black	980	240	154	254	65
Great Northern	766	54	72	71	-2
Garbanzo	515	113	97	67	-31
Light-red kidney	185	22	13	61	361
Cranberry	97	17	17	27	57
Small red	73	20	14	17	22
Baby lima	248	34	24	15	-37
Dark-red kidney	267	29	107	15	-86
Large lima	74	9	17	12	-31
Blackeye	22	4	3	11	322
Mung & urd	27	5	4	7	58
Pink	56	6	28	1	-95
Other	1,146	194	182	126	-31
Total	8,191	1,748	1,496	1,693	13

Source: Compiled by ERS from data of U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 14--U.S. dry bean crop year export volume to date, by selected destination 1/

Destination	Crop year 2007/08	September - October		2008/09	Change 2007-08 Percent
		2006/07	2007/08		
-- 1,000 cwt (bags) --					
Mexico	1,932	670	412	477	16
Canada	989	381	207	438	111
United Kingdom	895	112	110	221	101
South Africa	7	0	6	147	2203
Guatemala	90	15	15	57	277
Japan	328	34	38	46	21
Tanzania	48	0	42	36	-16
Angola	397	8	44	34	-21
Haiti	167	54	10	34	231
Spain	268	58	59	24	-59
Jamaica	75	7	10	24	137
Other	2,995	416	552	178	-68
Total	8,191	1,748	1,496	1,693	13

1/ Includes commercial sales and movement under food aid programs such as PL-480.

Source: Prepared by ERS using data of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

## Dry Peas and Lentils

### Poor Yields Pull Output Down

Production of dry peas and lentils declined 24 percent from a year earlier as yields were reduced by a cold spring and a hot, dry summer (table 14). Area for harvest of dry peas and lentils declined 1 percent, with a 10 percent reduction in lentil area outweighing increases for dry peas and Austrian winter peas. With yields well below both a year earlier and the five-year average, U.S. production of dry edible peas was estimated at 12.1 million cwt—down 24 percent from a year earlier (fig. 6).

Given a combination of lower acreage and yields, lentil output dropped 30 percent in 2008, with each of the 4 reporting states experiencing smaller crops. Despite lower dry pea and lentil output, modest beginning stocks, and strong world demand, weakness in field crop markets (particularly wheat) is spilling over into dry pea markets (and to a lesser extent in lentils), pulling prices down from their lofty summer highs. Prices for top grade (U.S. No. 1) food peas reported by USDA's *Bean Market News* show both grower and dealer (wholesale) prices down about

Table 15--U.S. dry peas and lentils: Production by class, 2004-08

Item	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change
						2007-08
	--1,000 cwt--					Percent
Dry peas	11,419	14,003	13,203	15,903	12,120	-23.8
Austrian winter peas	291	307	259	127	111	-12.6
Chickpeas, all	593	1,061	1,539	1,511	1,067	-29.4
Small	76	149	149	128	135	5.5
Large	517	912	1,390	1,383	932	-32.6
Lentils	4,182	5,163	3,244	3,408	2,393	-29.8
Total	16,485	20,534	18,245	20,949	15,691	-25.1
Wrinkled seed peas	899	665	590	541	--	--

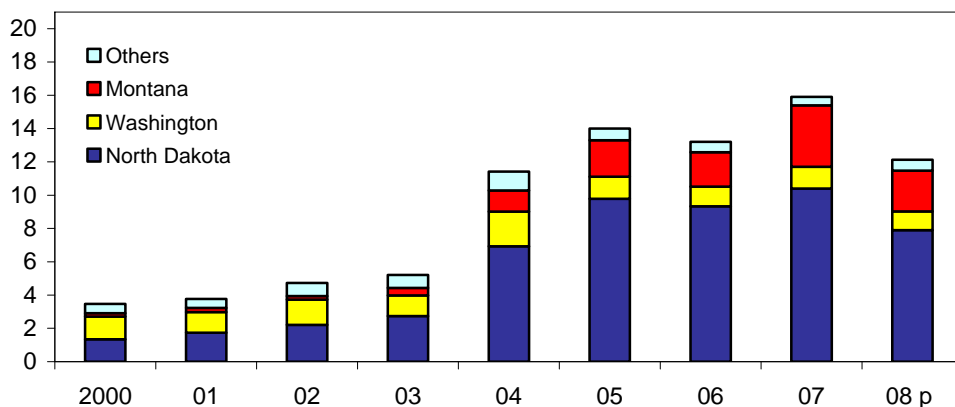
-- = not available.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.

Figure 6

### U.S. dry edible peas: Production, 2000-08 1/

Mil cwt

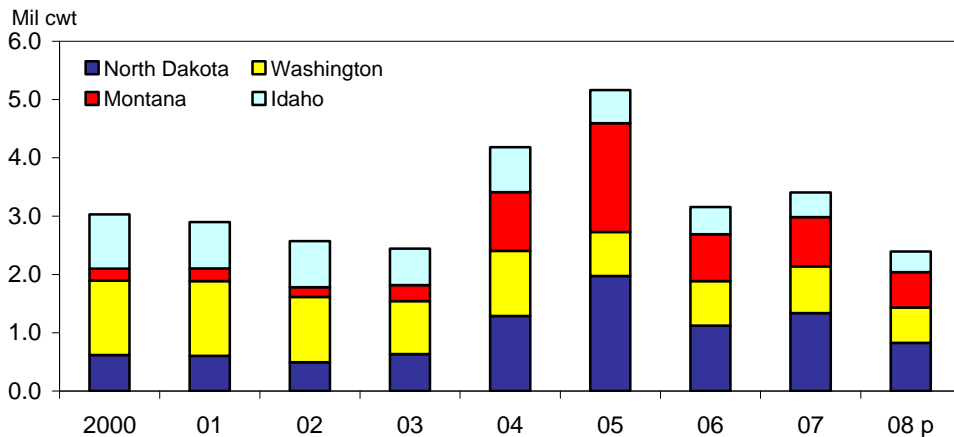


p = preliminary estimate. 1/ Excludes Austrian winter peas and wrinkled seed peas.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.

Figure 7

**U.S. dry lentils: Production, 2000-08 1/**



p = preliminary estimate.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.

Table 16--U.S. dry peas and lentils: Monthly grower prices by class, 2007/08-08/09

Crop year & month	Dry peas	Chickpeas			Austrian winter peas	All lentils
		All	Large	Small		
----- Cents/pound -----						
<b>2007/08</b>						
July	9.26	27.20	28.70	--	--	13.80
August	8.92	29.50	29.60	--	11.40	15.50
September	9.85	30.90	31.70	--	12.30	19.10
October	12.10	25.20	27.00	14.50	13.10	24.50
November	12.20	27.10	27.10	--	13.70	26.20
December	14.20	29.10	31.00	20.80	14.10	28.30
January	14.30	30.70	31.10	21.00	11.40	26.00
February	16.40	30.30	32.10	23.80	--	29.00
March	17.30	30.50	30.60	25.60	12.60	29.90
April	17.70	31.20	33.60	--	16.50	33.70
May	16.70	35.40	37.50	24.80	--	30.20
June	17.20	27.60	28.10	23.90	--	30.00
<b>2008/09</b>						
July 1/	16.40	35.50	40.70	27.70	--	32.80
August	15.40	38.60	40.60	25.20	--	30.90
September	13.20	45.00	45.00	--	--	33.90
October	13.70	39.10	39.20	37.70	24.00	37.80
November	13.00	--	--	--	24.00	38.90
Percent change year ago Nov.	6.6	--	--	--	75.2	48.5

-- = not available. 1/ Prices for November 2008 are mid-month averages.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

one-third from the extreme highs of this past summer. Reflecting reduced domestic supplies, lentil prices have been slower to react. Although national posted prices reported for lentils have eased over the past two months, the November preliminary average price reported by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service remained 19 percent above that seen in July and 49 percent above a year earlier.

In the months ahead, lentil prices could weaken a bit more in sympathy with other crop markets, but will likely remain strong relative to spring wheat, the primary rotational crop in most pea and lentil growing areas. Even with some softening in coming months, spring price prospects for lentils (and dry peas to a lesser extent) are expected to remain strong relative to wheat. As a result, dry pea and lentil planted area is expected to increase in 2009. Small acreage gains are expected for dry peas (3-5 percent) with larger increases projected for lentils (10-20 percent). In the coming year, assuming yields improve to the five-year average, U.S. production of peas and lentils could recover most of the losses experienced in 2008.

### ***Exports Expected Lower, Imports Higher***

With sharply reduced supplies, commercial exports of dry peas and lentils are expected to slow down in the coming months. During the first four months of the marketing year (July-October), pea and lentil crop export volume was running just 1-percent ahead of a year earlier. While yellow pea volume was up 11 percent from a year earlier, both green and split pea exports were below year-ago levels. Because of much higher prices, the value of dry pea and lentil exports during this time was up 42 percent from a year ago. Backstopped by strong commercial export demand, lentil export volume was running 10 percent above a year ago, with higher prices pushing value up 28 percent from a year earlier. Volume shipped to Spain and Belgium was more than twice that of a year earlier, which more than made up for the lack of sales to Cuba, which had purchased 10 million pounds a year earlier.

During July-October, the volume of dry pea and lentil imports was up 25 percent from a year earlier, while sharply higher prices pushed the value of imports up 88 percent. So far, most all the gain in imports has come from lentils and chickpeas. With lower U.S. lentil supplies and attractive prices, most of the gain in import volume has come from Canada where supplies are slightly greater than a year ago.

Table 17--U.S. dry peas & lentils: Foreign trade volume by class 1/

Item	Crop year 2007/08	July-October		Change 2/ 2007-08 Percent	
		2006/07	2007/08		2008/09
--1,000 cwt--					
<b>Exports:</b>					
Green peas	4,168.8	1,573.8	1,705.7	1,589.8	-7
Yellow peas	4,486.8	1,056.3	1,417.3	1,575.7	11
Split peas	707.8	68.9	233.7	200.2	-14
Austrian winter pea	33.0	14.8	12.4	6.2	-50
Misc. dry peas	2,083.8	558.5	660.9	676.6	2
Chickpeas, all	535.1	135.7	161.9	112.0	-31
Lentils, all	2,741.9	765.9	808.4	890.9	10
Total	14,757.2	4,173.8	5,000.3	5,051.3	1
<b>Imports:</b>					
Green peas	209.9	77.6	61.4	58.6	-5
Yellow peas	79.8	15.7	41.2	41.9	2
Split peas	320.5	141.9	98.3	99.9	2
Austrian winter	1.6	0.5	0.9	0.0	-100
Misc. dry peas	92.3	68.5	44.2	47.6	7
Chickpeas, all	359.8	101.8	108.8	138.6	27
Lentils, all	227.6	141.6	70.6	147.3	108
Total	1,291.5	547.6	425.4	533.8	25

1/ Excludes planting seed. 2/ Percentage change from 2007/08 to 2008/09.

Source: Compiled by ERS using data from U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

## Herbs and Spices

### *Demand Drives Prices Up*

According to industry sources, demand for herbs and spices has been steady and increasing in recent years due to growth in processed and convenience food consumption and heightened demand for ethnic food from a growing Hispanic and Asian population. Nationwide, shipments of miscellaneous herbs in January through early December 2008 increased 14 percent from the previous year to 107 million pounds. The increase was mainly due to higher shipments from Central California, the chief domestic supplier. With domestic demand remaining relatively strong, wholesale prices for herbs and spices have increased over 5 percent in the past two years (January-October). According to the producer price index calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, wholesale prices were up 8 percent in the third quarter and 6 percent during January-October 2008 from the previous year (fig. 8). Demand for herbs and spices is price inelastic, therefore it is unlikely that higher prices will affect the quantity demanded over the coming months.

### *U.S. Spice Imports Up*

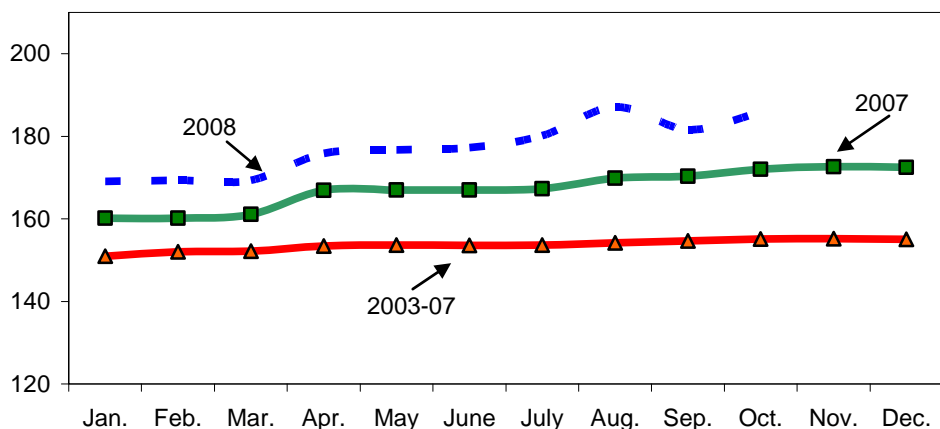
The United States is the world's largest importer of spices, both in terms of value and volume. While the United States imports herbs and spices from roughly 100 countries, five countries (China, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Peru) provided 70 percent of import supplies during the first three quarters of 2008. Due to expanding demand for herbs and spices, import volume has generally been trending higher since ERS began tracking these data, with a peak of 500 million pounds imported in 2006 (table 18). U.S. imports through September 2008 increased 5 percent from the previous year, and 6 percent from the five-year average. Some spices such as paprika, tumeric, and nutmeg grew more than 20 percent, while others like coriander seeds, pepper, and cinnamon declined.

In terms of volume, mustard seed and black pepper imports have ranked first and second, respectively over the last three years, reflecting common use in the home and in fast food restaurants. In 2007, mustard seed and pepper together accounted for 50 percent of the spice volume imported and 37 percent of the value imported. Canada supplies almost all foreign mustard seed, while Indonesia and India are the main foreign suppliers of black and white pepper.

Figure 8

#### **Spices: U.S. monthly wholesale price, 2007-08 and 2003-07 average**

Percent of 1991



Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov/data](http://www.bls.gov/data).

## *U.S. Exports Strong in 2008, Especially Mustard*

During January-September 2008, higher wholesale prices and favorable exchange rates pushed spice exports up 22 percent from a year earlier to record high 83 million pounds. Canada (46 percent), South Korea (7 percent) and United Kingdom (6 percent) were the top three foreign sources for U.S. herbs and spices. The majority of this surge in spice exports was due to a 17-percent increase in mustard shipments to Canada. Mustard accounts for the majority of U.S. spice exports, as 74 percent of the spice volume shipped to Canada and 64 percent of volume shipped worldwide was either mustard flour or prepared mustard.

Year-to-date spice export value reached a record high \$81 million in September, 22 percent above a year earlier and 34 percent above the five-year average (table 19). Mustard and black and white pepper make up a growing share of value, as unit prices have increased alongside higher volume. Spice import values exceeded exports by \$476 million through the first three quarters of 2008, the greatest spice trade deficit on record. Although China is the largest supplier of foreign spices in volume terms, Indonesia and India remain the top suppliers in terms of value.

Table 18--Selected U.S. spice import volume, 2006-08

Item	2007	January-September			Change
	Annual	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
	-----1,000 lbs -----				Percent
Pepper 1/	140,895	107,222	110,104	104,875	-5
Sesame Seeds	89,195	70,905	70,263	69,486	-1
Ginger	78,289	54,439	60,146	70,850	18
Paprika	41,378	40,288	32,207	42,777	33
Cinnamon 2/	40,152	29,104	31,085	27,549	-11
Oregano	16,154	7,390	9,400	9,536	1
Dried Pepper 3/	13,627	8,259	10,439	9,617	-8
Fennel and Juniper 4/	8,478	6,278	6,393	6,547	2
Tumeric	6,271	4,611	5,002	6,456	29
Curry	4,052	2,920	3,006	3,269	9
Nutmeg	3,260	2,750	2,439	2,974	22
Spice subtotal 5/	441,751	334,167	340,484	353,936	4
Herbs	176,897	165,385	124,366	135,744	9
Total herbs & spices	618,648	499,552	464,850	489,680	5

1/ Includes crushed or ground white and black pepper. 2/ Includes ground or crushed cinnamon and flowers. 3/ Includes dried bell and jalapeno peppers used as spices. 4/ Includes seeds. 5/ Includes spices listed above.

Source: Compiled by ERS using data from U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 19--U.S. spice export value, January-September

Item	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008
	----- Million dollars -----				
Mustard	2.506	7.572	13.846	19.532	28.917
Black & white pepper	3.573	4.903	8.690	6.199	13.634
Capsicum peppers	3.619	5.784	10.173	9.185	4.088
Other spices	17.518	16.399	26.863	23.117	34.669
Total	27.215	34.657	59.572	58.033	81.309

Source: Compiled by ERS using data from U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.



## Longrun Outlook

### *Vegetable Farm Value May Reach \$27 Billion by 2018*

Farm sales of horticultural crops are forecast to exceed \$71 billion by 2018, up from \$58 billion in 2008, a 23-percent increase. Annual growth is expected to average 2.1 percent over the next decade. By crop group, vegetables and melons continue to rank first in farm sales value over fruits/nuts and greenhouse/nursery crops. In 2008, the estimated sales value for vegetables, fruits, and nursery crops were \$21.9, \$18.4, and \$17.5 billion, respectively. These grow to \$26.7, \$23.8, and \$20.5 billion by 2018. Annual growth over the next 10 years is expected to be fastest for fruits and tree nuts at 2.6 percent, followed by vegetables at 2 percent, and nursery crops at 1.6 percent.

The volume of farm production for horticultural crops is projected to rise 0.4 percent annually, which is lower than U.S. population growth of 0.9 percent through 2018. This means that imports will increasingly supplement the domestic supply of horticulture crops and products. Total vegetable production volume is projected to expand 0.6 percent annually and fruit production is forecast to decline on average by 0.1 percent in the next decade. Given that the domestic use of horticultural-based foods is expected to be close to the 0.9 percent annual population growth rate, consumption of vegetables is forecast to grow 1 percent and fruits at 0.6 percent. The average growth of their combined total use volume is 0.9 percent through 2018.

Since the resulting domestic use rate of horticultural crops of 0.9 percent equals population growth, the plausibility of the forecasts is enhanced. Import growth of horticultural crops and products is projected at a 3.2-percent pace (by volume), close to twice the rate of U.S. horticultural exports at 1.7 percent. In per capita terms, U.S. domestic use or consumption of horticultural products is expected to average 714 pounds annually over the next decade. About two-thirds of this will consist of vegetables and melons and one third fruits and tree nuts. These relative

Table 20--Projected production and crop value for vegetables and melons, 2004-18

Crop group	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
----- <i>Billion pounds</i> -----								
<b>Production:</b>								
All vegetables 1/	138.3	135.3	135.8	137.9	139.6	141.3	143.1	145.0
Fresh market	57.0	59.1	60.0	60.4	61.8	63.2	64.7	66.3
Processing	35.8	32.0	34.8	34.5	34.4	34.3	34.1	34.0
Potatoes	45.6	44.1	41.1	43.0	43.4	43.8	44.3	44.7
Pulses 2/	3.5	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.5
<b>Farm value:</b>								
----- <i>\$ Billion</i> -----								
All vegetables 1/ 3/	17.1	19.4	21.9	22.8	23.7	24.6	25.6	26.7
Fresh market	6.0	6.5	6.7	7.1	7.5	7.8	8.1	8.5
Processing	2.2	2.0	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.6
Potatoes	2.4	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.6
Pulses 2/	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Other crops 4/	6.0	7.3	8.1	8.5	8.8	9.2	9.5	9.9

1/ Includes specialty and minor vegetables grown in California. 2/ Includes dry beans, dry edible peas, and lentils. 3/ Represents total farm cash receipts which is more inclusive than the sum of the crop value components estimated by NASS. 4/ All fresh and processing vegetables not covered in the table or by NASS crop value estimates but included by ERS in farm cash receipts.

Sources: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (2004-06); projections by USDA, ERS.

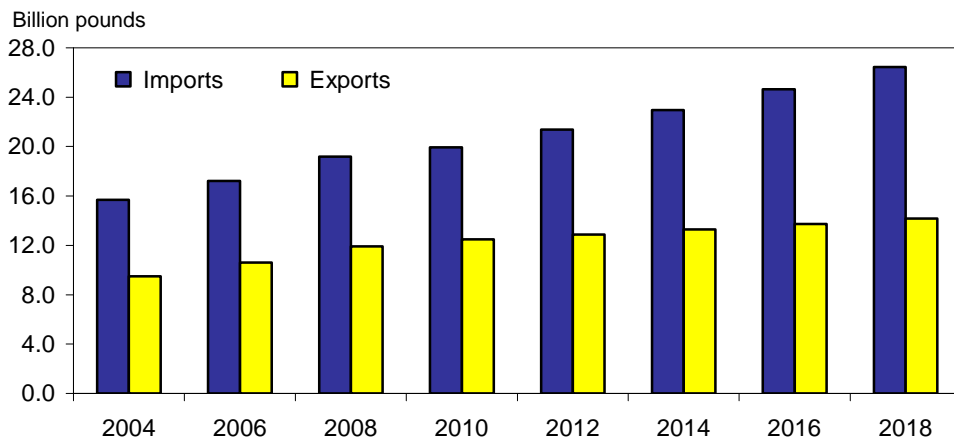
estimates follow directly from the farm-weight production ratio of vegetables and melons being twice that of fruits and nuts.

The average growth of U.S. horticultural import value is forecast at 3.8 percent from 2009 to 2018. The value of exports is forecast to grow 3 percent, with both fruits and vegetables averaging 2.8 percent over the next 10 years. The import and export growth of fresh-market vegetables and fruits exceeds that of their processed products. The U.S. trade deficit in horticulture crops and products increases from \$14 billion in 2008 to more than \$22 billion in 2018. Although the share of the trade deficit rises for both vegetables and fruits over time, the deficit for vegetables remains significantly larger than for fruits. The trade deficit with respect to other horticultural products (nursery crops, essential oils, wine, beer, and others) declines as a share of the total deficit but continues to exceed the combined deficits of fruits and vegetables.

The share of imports in U.S. consumption of horticulture crops and products (based on dollar value) is projected to climb from 48 percent in 2008 to 54 percent by 2017. Horticultural exports are projected to increase as a share of U.S. production value from 36 percent in 2008 to 40 percent in 2018. The import and export shares of fruits and nuts are about twice as large as the corresponding import and export shares of vegetables. In volume terms, however, the import share of domestic use of total fruits, nuts, and vegetables is relatively lower at 23.7 percent in 2018, up from 19 percent in 2008. With respect to exports, the share of fruits, nuts, and vegetables gradually climbs to 13 percent in 2018 from 11.5 percent in 2008. The import and export shares of fruits and nuts continue to significantly exceed those of vegetables over the forecast period.

Of the total \$28.4 billion U.S. exports of horticultural products in 2018, fruits and nuts contribute \$12.8 billion and vegetables represent \$6.5 billion. The total import bill of \$50.5 billion in 2018 includes \$16 billion worth of fruits and nuts, and \$12 billion of vegetables and vegetable products. Domestically, the gradual incline in U.S. vegetable production volume keeps farm producer prices for vegetables at an annual 1.3 percent climb through the next decade. Combined with price inflation of 2.7 percent on average for fruits and nuts, farm produce prices are estimated to increase by 1.9 percent annually during the forecast period. Production, prices, and trade estimates in 2009 reflect the most recent short-term ERS forecasts which serve as initial values for the 10-year projections.

Figure 9  
**U.S. vegetable and melon trade volume, 2004-18 1/**



Source: Historical data from USDC, U.S. Census Bureau; Projections by USDA, ERS (2008-18).

## Commodity Highlight: Sweet Potatoes

### *Concentrated Production Supplies Expanding Demand*

The sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) has always been a staple holiday food in the United States, but is now experiencing increasing year-round popularity with American consumers. Originating from South America, the sweet potato is an orange-fleshed (although some varieties are white, yellow, or purple) storage root, similar to a parsnip or carrot. Sweet potatoes are also referenced as yams in some parts of the United States, but in reality (and to the rest of the world) they are two different vegetables, with the white starchy tuberous yam originating from West Africa and Asia.

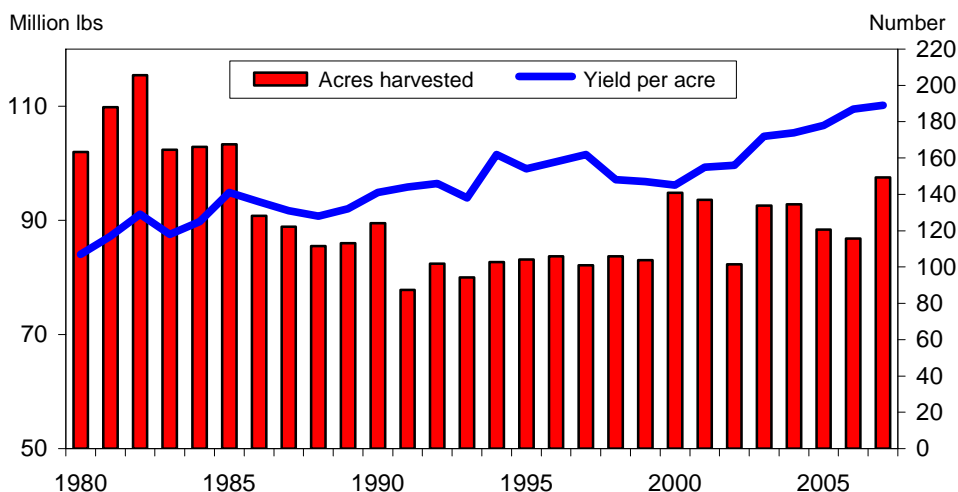
Sweet potatoes require long, warm growing seasons, which is why 96 percent of U.S. production is concentrated in North Carolina (36 percent), California (24 percent), Mississippi (19 percent), and Louisiana (17 percent). The early stages of sweet potato production commence in early spring when stored sweet potato roots are pre-sprouted in a warm, humid environment. After several weeks, the sprouts are transferred to a bedding area, usually a greenhouse, where they produce slips (plants), which are transplanted into the field about a month later (after possible frost dangers have passed). In North Carolina, harvest generally begins in September and wraps up the beginning of November. Under proper conditions, storage capacity of sweet potatoes is up to 12 months and the formal crop year is defined as July through June.

### *Not Just Your Holiday Staple*

U.S. sweet potato production experienced a steady decline from the Great Depression in the 1930s until the 1980s, when production averaged 12 million cwt per year and harvested acreage averaged 99 thousand acres. Through the 1990s, production increased by 1 to 3 percent, with yields increasing to an average of 150 cwt per acre, up 18 percent from average yields of the previous decade. Recently, with yields averaging 170 cwt per acre, production has taken off, with a 34 percent increase from 13.8 million cwt in 2000 to 18.5 million cwt in 2007.

Figure 10

#### **U.S. sweet potatoes: Harvested acreage and yields, 1980-2007 1/**



1/ The July-June crop year ends with year listed (e.g., 1980=1979/80).

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production*.

Table 21--U.S. sweet potatoes: Monthly shipments and price for select years

Item	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Year-to-date 1/	Change
	-----1,000 cwt-----						Percent
Shipments							
1998	148	153	263	385	737	1,686	
2003	160	206	224	313	733	1,636	-2.9
2008	446	464	434	591	1,202	3,137	91.7
	----- Dollars per 40-lb carton -----						
Price 2/							
1998	8.42	9.33	9.19	8.27	8.18	8.68	
2003	15.21	17.85	17.50	16.38	15.63	16.51	90.3
2008	16.28	16.20	21.85	19.66	18.50	18.50	12.0

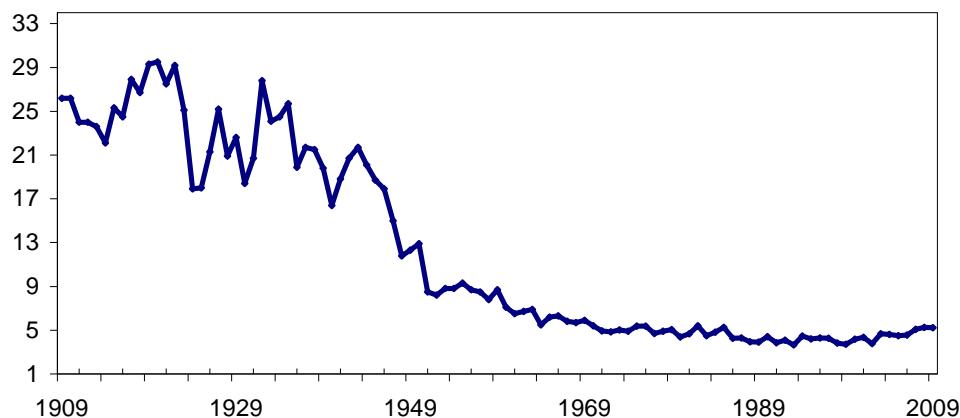
1/ Crop year, July-June. 2/ Average monthly prices are U.S. No. 1.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Fruit and Vegetable Market News*.

Figure 11

**U.S. sweet potatoes: Per capita net domestic utilization, 1909-2009 1/**

Lbs/person



1/ ERS forecast for 2009.

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service.

Sweet potato shipments and prices have experienced significant increases in the past 10 years. Sweet potato shipments are historically highest from October through December, peaking in November. In November 1998, sweet potato shipments were 737 thousand cwt, with prices for 40-lb. cartons of U.S. No. 1's averaging \$8.18. During the same month in 2008, shipments were 1.2 million cwt, a 92-percent increase from 10 years earlier. Prices for the same month averaged \$18.50 a carton. To put these numbers into further perspective, crop year-to-date (July-November) totals for sweet potato shipments in 2008 were 3.1 million cwt, versus 1.7 million cwt in 1998.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, sweet potatoes were relatively popular, with Americans consuming an average of 25 pounds per person annually between 1909 and 1929. Disappearance gradually dropped to 4.1 pounds per person by the 1990s, reaching a low of 3.6 pounds in 1993. In recent years, per capita use has reflected changing consumer attitudes toward sweet potatoes. From 2006-08, per capita use has averaged 5 pounds per person, nearly 1 pound higher than a decade earlier. The

only other time per capita use exceeded the 5-pound mark since 1980 was in 1982 and 1985.

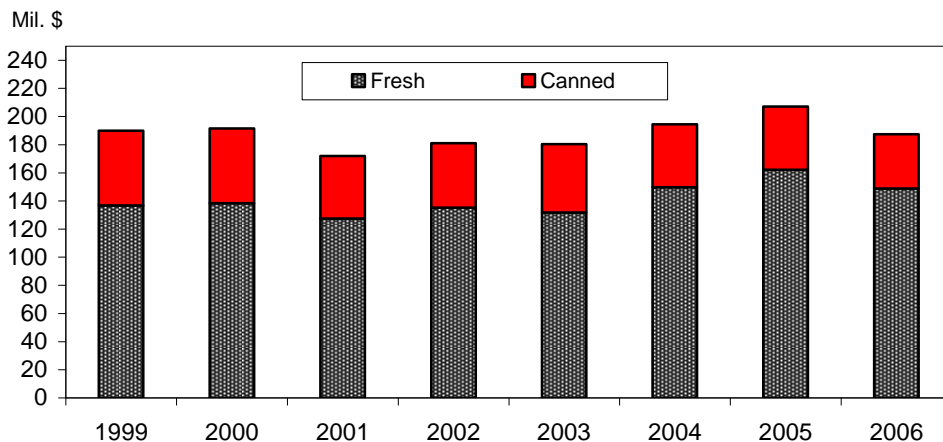
The increased interest in sweet potatoes has been spurred by a dramatic shift in how Americans traditionally consume potatoes. Historically, sweet potatoes have been viewed as a holiday staple, or a low-budget food. Recently this vegetable has seen comfortable sales increases, with the public becoming more aware of health benefits associated with sweet potato consumption (e.g., high amounts of potassium, fiber and vitamin A). Congruently, there has been increased usage within the foodservice industry in the form of side items (replacing white potatoes in some cases) and processed products, such as sweet potato chips and fries. Retailers have also seen increased marketing of value-added sweet potato products such as shrink-wrapped (microwavable), mashed, and frozen sweet potatoes.

### *Understanding the Sweet Potato Consumer*

Given the recent growth trends in sweet potato demand, it's interesting to note the characteristics of consumers purchasing sweet potatoes. This information can be quite useful to those in the sweet potato industry trying to understand and expand the market. To this end, Nielsen Homescan data were utilized to gain an understanding of the types of consumers who are purchasing sweet potatoes through the retail side of the market. Homescan tracks grocery purchases and captures demographics of 8,000 households across the United States. All frequencies reported are weighted to represent the total U.S. population from 1999-2006.

Between 1999 and 2006 total sweet potato purchases (including canned and fresh) averaged \$188 million a year. Retail purchases peaked in 2005 at \$206 million and dropped off in 2006 to \$187 million. Averaging 76 percent of total sweet potato expenditures, the majority of retail expenditure growth has been in fresh sweet potatoes, with total annual expenditures expanding 9 percent between 1999 and 2006 to \$149 million. However, aside from positive growth from 2001-02, canned sweet potatoes experienced negative growth, with average expenditures declining 4 percent annually between 1999 and 2006.

Figure 12  
**Sweet potatoes: Annual household expenditures, 1999-2006**

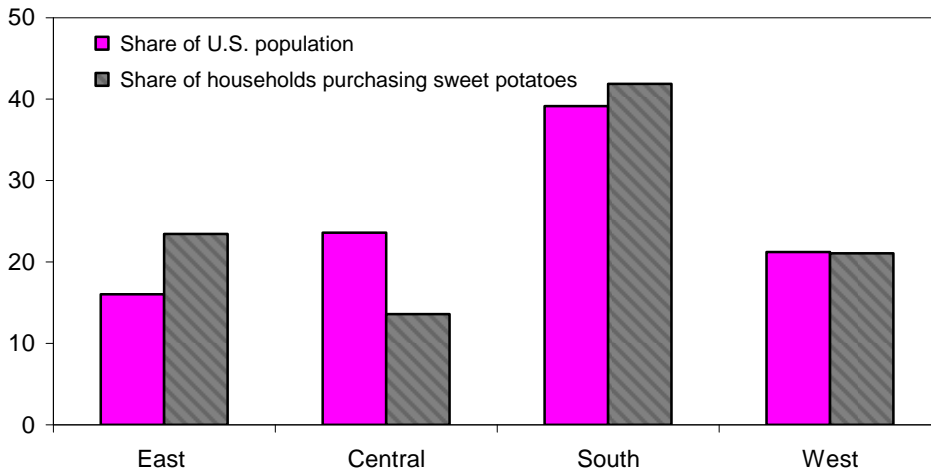


Source: Compiled by USDA, ERS from Nielsen Homescan data.

Figure 13

**U.S. sweet potatoes: Share of household consumption by region, 2006**

Share of households

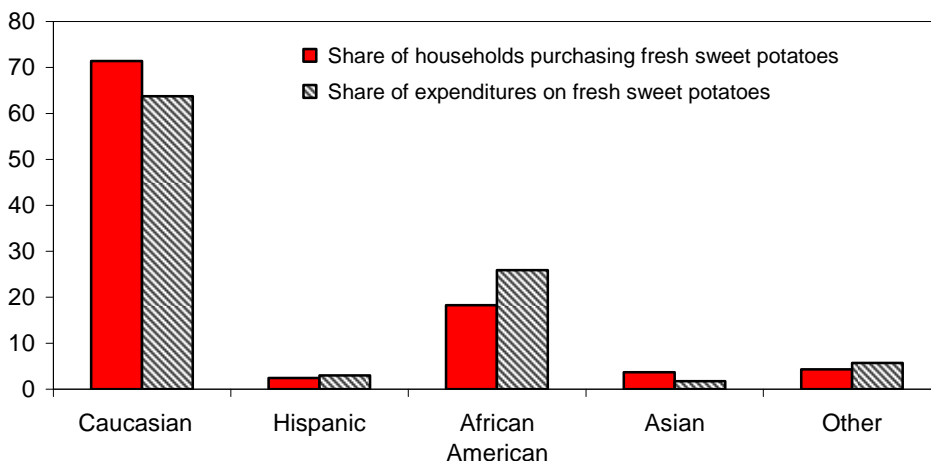


Source: Compiled by USDA, ERS from Nielsen Homescan data.

Figure 14

**Fresh sweet potatoes: Share of expenditures by race/ethnicity, 2006**

Share of households



Source: Compiled by USDA, ERS from Nielsen Homescan data.

Regionally in 2006, sweet potato consumers were concentrated in the South with 42 percent of sweet potato purchasing households, while 23 percent of households were located in the East and the Central and Western portions of the country housed 14 and 21 percent of consumers. In proportion to the total regional population, a greater share of sweet potato consumers resided in southern, and eastern United States, meaning per household share of sweet potato consumption was greatest in the East and South (fig. 13).

When considering the racial composition of sweet potato purchasing households, it is interesting to compare the share of sweet potato expenditures with the share of households purchasing sweet potatoes. The majority of households purchasing sweet potatoes in 2006 were Caucasian (71 percent), but Caucasian households only accounted for 64 percent of total sweet potato expenditures. African Americans, on

the other hand, accounted for 18 percent of sweet potato purchasing households, but comprised 26 percent of total sweet potato expenditures. This indicates that African American households accounted for a greater share of sweet potato retail purchases. Hispanic and Asian households comprised 2 and 4 percent of purchasing households and roughly the same amount in total expenditures (3 percent for Hispanic and 2 percent for Asian).

Household incomes of sweet potato purchasing households were divided into three categories: high, medium, and low. Sweet potato purchasing households with medium incomes (\$30,000-\$59,999) comprised 40 percent of purchases across income categories. Lower income households (less than \$5,000-\$29,999) accounted for 24 percent of purchases, while upper income households (\$60,000 and above) made up 36 percent of purchases. This is a somewhat surprising frequency since sweet potatoes have had a historical reputation of being a lower income food.

### ***Additional Growth Expected in Export Markets***

Although most U.S. sweet potatoes are consumed domestically, a small (but rising) percentage is exported. Over the past 18 years, the U.S. sweet potato market has seen steady export gains. Exports moved from 6,000 cwt in 1989 to 103,000 cwt in 2007, an annual average growth rate of 19 percent. Canada is the largest consumer of U.S. sweet potatoes, comprising 58 percent of U.S. sweet potato exports valued at \$20 million during the 2007 crop year. The United Kingdom is second, demanding \$12 million of sweet potatoes in 2007. Export growth rates are expected to increase as the popularity of the sweet potato continues to spread.

Sweet potato imports are small and have been relatively steady, averaging 18,000 cwt in the 1990s and dropping to an average 13,000 cwt since 2000. The Dominican Republic remains our top import source, with 14,000 cwt imported in 2007. Most of this volume is shipped from the Dominican Republic to nearby Puerto Rico. The remaining imports are from Mexico, China, and other minor sources.

Sweet potatoes have experienced a “sweet” resurgence in popularity over the past few years, both domestically and abroad. There is plenty of room for further growth, particularly in various minority and regional demographics in the domestic market. As rising interest in the U.K. has shown, the international market may also offer further opportunities as well. If the sweet potato industry can continue to offer innovative sweet potato products and further enhance consumer awareness of the crop’s health benefits and culinary potential, future growth within the industry looks promising both domestically and abroad.



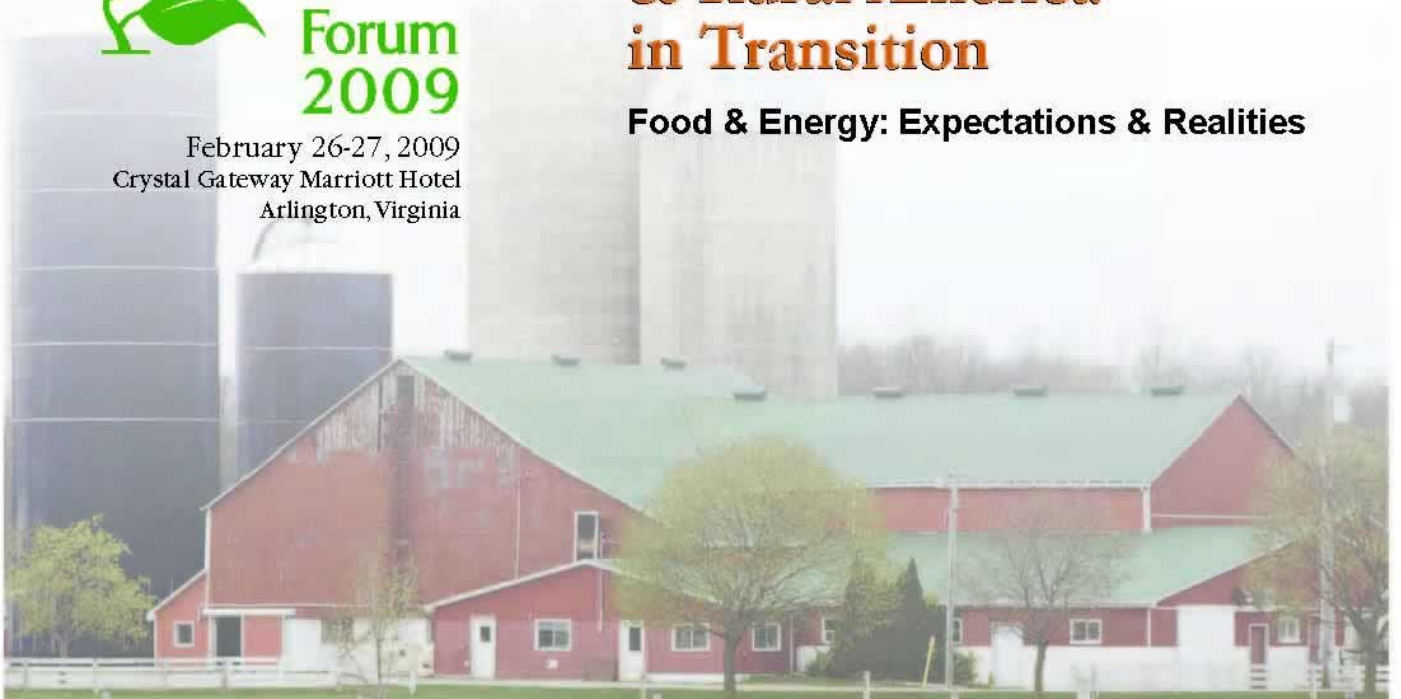


**Agricultural  
Outlook  
Forum  
2009**

February 26-27, 2009  
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel  
Arlington, Virginia

## **Global Agriculture & Rural America in Transition**

**Food & Energy: Expectations & Realities**



**Early Bird Registration \$350 until January 23, 2009 • \$375 after January 23**

[www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum)



## Contacts and Links

### Contact Information

**Gary Lucier**

Tel: (202) 694-5253 Fax: (202) 694-5820 Email: [Glucier@ers.usda.gov](mailto:Glucier@ers.usda.gov)

**Rachael Dettmann**

Tel: (202) 694-5286 Fax: (202) 694-5820 Email: [RDettmann@ers.usda.gov](mailto:RDettmann@ers.usda.gov)

Covers potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms.

**Michelle Da Pra**

Tel: (202) 694-5262 Fax: (202) 694-5820 Email: [MDaPra@ers.usda.gov](mailto:MDaPra@ers.usda.gov)

Covers fresh herbs, spices, and organics.

**Alberto Jerardo**

Tel: (202) 694-5266 Fax: (202) 694-5820 Email: [AJerardo@ers.usda.gov](mailto:AJerardo@ers.usda.gov)

Covers longrun (baseline) forecasts.

### Subscription Information

Subscribe to ERS' e-mail notification service <http://www.ers.usda.gov/updates/> to receive timely notification of newsletter availability. Printed copies may be purchased from the USDA Order Desk by calling 1-800-999-6779 (specify the issue number or series SUB-VGS-4039).

### E-mail Notification

Readers of ERS outlook reports have two ways they can receive an e-mail notice about release of reports and associated data.

- Receive timely notification (soon after the report is posted on the web) via USDA's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (which is housed at Cornell University's Mann Library). Go to <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/aboutEmailService.do> and follow the instructions to receive e-mail notices about ERS, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board products.

- Receive weekly notification (on Friday afternoon) via the ERS website. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Updates/> and follow the instructions to receive notices about ERS outlook reports, *Amber Waves* magazine, and other reports and data products on specific topics. ERS also offers RSS (really simple syndication) feeds for all ERS products. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/rss/> to get started.

### Articles

The following are links to articles released on subjects directly related to the vegetable and melon industry. These articles are in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format:

**1. Production Expenses of Specialized Vegetable and Melon Farms**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/2008/09Sep/vgs32801/>

Using data from USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), this article presents and explores the major expense components of specialized U.S. and regional vegetable and melon farms during 1998-2006. Labor accounted for 30 percent of cash expenses, followed by fertilizer and chemicals at 18 percent.

**2. Food Safety and Imports: An Analysis of FDA Import Refusal Reports**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB39/>

This report examines U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) data on refusals of food offered for importation into the United States from 1998 to 2004. Vegetables and vegetable products were found to have the most violations due largely to pesticide residues or other sanitary issues.

**3. Effects of Marketing Loans on U.S. Dry Peas and Lentils: Supply Response and World Trade**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR58/>

Acreage for dry peas and lentils has increased since passage of the 2002 Farm Act. This report examines the role of marketing loans in the acreage increase and the impact on international trade.

**4. Fruit and Vegetable Background**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/vgs/apr06/VGS31301/>

*Fruit and Vegetable Background* describes the economic characteristics of the U.S. fruit and vegetable industry, providing supply, demand, and policy background for an industry that accounts for nearly a third of U.S. crop cash receipts and a fifth of U.S. agricultural exports.

## **5. Profile of Hired Farmworkers, A 2008 Update**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR60/>

This report presents an economic profile of hired farmworkers, which make up a third of the total agricultural labor force and are critical to U.S. agricultural production, particularly in labor-intensive sectors such as fruits and vegetables.

## **Data Tables**

The following links provide the most recent data on vegetables and melons. You may choose links for Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) table compilations or the original Excel workbook (spreadsheet) tables:

### **1. Per capita availability (a.k.a. domestic use or consumption)**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/percap.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/percap.xls>

### **2. Vegetable prices**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/price.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/price.xls>

### **3. Fresh vegetables and melons**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/fresh.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/fresh.xls>

### **4. Processing vegetables**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/proc.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/proc.xls>

### **5. Potatoes**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/potat.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/potat.xls>

### **6. Sweet potatoes**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/swpot.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/swpot.xls>

### **7. Dry edible beans**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/drybn.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/drybn.xls>

### **8. Mushrooms**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/mush.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/mush.xls>

### **9. Vegetable and melon trade**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/trade.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/trade.xls>

### **10. Dry peas and lentils**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/drypea.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/drypea.xls>

### **11. World vegetable production and harvested area**

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/world.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/world.xls>

## 12. Mexican and Canadian vegetable production

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/Mexcan.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/Mexcan.xls>

## 13. U.S. farm cash receipts and cost indicators

PDF file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/Receipt.pdf>

Excel file: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/tables/Receipt.xls>

## Web Sites

**A. U.S. Trade Data—FASonline:** This relatively simple, yet powerful online application allows the user to freely access and download detailed U.S. export and import data.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade/>

**B. Vegetables and Melons:** ERS' Vegetables and Melons Briefing Room contains special articles, data sets, and links (the tomato background page is found here).

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/vegetables/>

**C. Potatoes:** ERS' Potato Briefing Room contains special articles, data, and links.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/potatoes/>

**D. Dry Beans, Peas, and Lentils:** ERS' Dry Bean Briefing Room contains special articles, data, and links.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/drybeans/>

**E. USDA Market News:** Agricultural Marketing Service's web site containing fresh shipments, f.o.b. and terminal market prices, weekly truck rates, annual reports, and more.

<http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>

**F. NASS Vegetables:** Links to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's annual and quarterly reports on vegetables & melons.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1177>

**G. Refrigerated Truck Quarterly:** USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service's quarterly newsletter detailing refrigerated truck movement, rates, and issues.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5069457&acct=atgeninfo>

**I. Organic Farming and Marketing:** USDA, ERS Briefing Room contains articles, data, graphics, and links.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Organic/>

**J. FAS Fruit and Vegetable Page:** USDA, Foreign Agricultural Services page with special articles, country horticultural reports, presentation and charts, data, and links.

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/http/fruit\\_veg.asp](http://www.fas.usda.gov/http/fruit_veg.asp)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Price table 1—Commercial vegetables and potatoes: Indexes of prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 1997-2008 1/**

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	
----- 1910-14=100 -----															
Commercial vegetables 2/	1997	740	700	789	754	710	751	747	817	794	971	817	911	792	
	1998	816	775	837	1,042	859	736	806	764	760	886	756	779	818	
	1999	702	749	806	870	786	732	696	709	700	650	654	776	736	
	2000	656	572	719	907	874	874	785	795	862	958	835	964	768	808
	2001	810	980	923	916	964	805	837	968	894	688	731	1,144	888	
	2002	1,054	1,283	1,816	803	770	731	771	807	795	704	735	694	914	
	2003	752	755	824	865	924	1,015	797	920	964	959	1,201	1,059	920	
	2004	852	936	741	848	722	712	666	852	864	1,037	1,055	792	840	
	2005	620	785	1,100	1,212	900	923	749	789	849	756	758	1,017	872	
	2006	855	768	890	1,007	1,040	877	794	1,018	1,066	825	793	1,001	911	
2007	1,186	1,103	1,286	1,210	963	887	839	979	1,039	1,312	930	924	1,055		
2008	930	799	904	1,099	975	1,026	971	943	1,141	1,225	1,057				
Potatoes 3/	1997	426	431	433	433	477	431	499	544	440	433	457	477	457	
	1998	491	524	554	546	559	539	517	481	449	415	450	475	500	
	1999	489	497	520	546	532	557	610	517	451	429	474	463	507	
	2000	475	496	519	545	529	511	559	464	406	384	383	395	472	
	2001	409	450	437	466	453	486	532	632	516	461	538	578	497	
	2002	620	645	715	699	748	806	884	651	520	466	524	547	652	
	2003	533	554	567	592	590	559	570	483	458	443	479	493	527	
	2004	488	504	530	568	558	558	552	495	485	444	477	506	514	
	2005	534	535	578	566	576	573	622	574	491	472	539	578	553	
	2006	596	571	706	700	661	702	808	652	526	503	578	600	634	
2007	619	649	689	745	686	670	740	605	540	532	603	631	642		
2008	654	680	743	756	814	929	1,056	988	804	709	791				
----- 1990-92=100 -----															
Commercial vegetables 2/	1997	111	105	118	113	106	112	112	122	119	145	122	136	118	
	1998	122	116	125	156	129	110	121	114	114	133	113	117	123	
	1999	105	112	121	130	118	110	104	106	105	97	98	116	110	
	2000	98	86	108	136	131	117	119	129	143	125	144	115	121	
	2001	121	147	138	137	144	120	125	145	134	103	109	171	133	
	2002	158	192	272	120	115	109	115	121	119	105	110	104	137	
	2003	112	113	123	129	138	152	119	138	144	143	180	159	138	
	2004	127	140	111	127	108	107	100	127	129	155	158	119	126	
	2005	93	117	165	181	135	138	112	118	127	113	113	152	130	
	2006	128	115	133	151	156	131	119	152	160	123	119	150	136	
2007	177	165	192	181	144	133	126	147	155	196	139	138	158		
2008	139	120	135	164	146	154	145	141	171	183	158				
Potatoes 3/	1997	84	85	86	85	94	85	99	107	87	85	90	94	90	
	1998	97	104	109	108	111	106	102	95	89	82	89	94	99	
	1999	97	98	103	108	105	110	121	102	89	85	94	91	100	
	2000	94	98	103	108	105	101	110	92	80	76	76	78	93	
	2001	81	89	86	92	90	96	105	125	102	91	106	114	98	
	2002	123	127	141	138	148	159	175	129	103	92	104	108	129	
	2003	105	110	112	117	117	110	113	96	90	87	95	97	104	
	2004	96	100	105	112	110	110	109	98	96	88	94	100	102	
	2005	106	106	114	112	114	113	123	113	97	93	106	114	109	
	2006	118	113	139	138	131	139	160	129	104	99	113	116	125	
2007	122	128	136	147	136	132	146	120	107	105	119	125	127		
2008	129	134	147	149	161	184	209	195	159	140	156				

1/ Prices for 2008 are preliminary. 2/ Includes fresh and processing vegetables. 3/ Includes fresh potatoes and dry edible beans.

For longer historical price series, see the *Vegetables and Melons Situation and Outlook Yearbook* at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1212>

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

**Price table 2--Fresh vegetables: U.S. monthly and season-average f.o.b. shipping-point prices, 2004-08 1/**

Commodity	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Season average	Prnt change	Prnt change
															Nov.-Nov.	3rd quarter
<i>Dollars per cwt</i>															<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Asparagus</b>	2004	--	171.00	76.50	81.70	74.30	64.60	146.00	138.00	129.00	127.00	--	--	81.30	--	--
	2005	--	--	88.60	103.00	68.70	73.50	143.00	150.00	162.00	162.00	--	--	87.40	--	20.3
	2006	--	122.00	133.00	110.00	72.70	94.10	105.00	162.00	122.00	127.00	--	--	88.90	--	-13.3
	2007	--	--	107.00	106.00	91.90	87.70	--	--	--	--	--	--	99.10	--	--
	2008	--	--	84.80	97.60	94.70	83.10	106.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Broccoli</b>	2004	33.60	28.50	21.60	24.00	27.20	28.70	24.20	29.70	57.00	43.90	43.70	38.50	33.20	--	--
	2005	22.60	33.30	42.60	39.80	22.40	39.70	22.40	30.50	27.70	22.40	20.40	34.10	28.50	-53.3	-38.3
	2006	32.50	23.80	27.60	32.40	29.00	51.10	26.20	56.90	39.40	24.60	27.40	52.80	33.70	34.3	50.0
	2007	69.80	25.40	27.60	36.90	26.70	24.80	28.80	38.20	41.80	61.00	38.10	40.70	36.70	39.1	16.6
	2008	47.30	22.90	30.60	52.20	26.70	29.60	26.70	26.60	41.10	57.50	40.80	--	--	7.1	-11.2
<b>Cantaloups</b>	2004	--	--	--	--	15.30	12.10	11.00	14.30	15.50	14.80	18.30	33.80	14.70	--	--
	2005	--	--	--	--	22.60	18.10	13.80	10.70	14.90	14.40	15.60	--	15.90	-14.8	-10.3
	2006	--	--	--	--	29.20	18.40	16.00	20.70	10.40	16.10	28.20	--	17.20	80.8	18.0
	2007	--	--	--	--	28.20	12.60	12.00	13.30	13.10	30.50	38.50	--	14.80	36.5	20.6
	2008	--	--	--	--	25.90	17.90	17.00	9.12	17.70	22.40	29.60	--	--	-23.1	-13.5
<b>Carrots</b>	2004	24.50	24.90	24.60	24.20	24.90	22.50	20.20	18.00	16.70	16.20	17.30	17.00	20.20	--	--
	2005	20.30	21.00	21.00	21.10	21.20	21.30	21.80	21.20	21.00	21.10	23.10	22.00	20.90	33.5	24.4
	2006	21.70	21.50	21.50	21.50	20.80	21.40	21.50	22.40	19.30	19.80	20.20	19.10	20.60	-12.6	-2.8
	2007	21.00	28.10	28.30	29.60	32.00	25.90	19.70	17.10	16.10	15.80	15.80	16.20	22.60	-21.8	-20.3
	2008	16.20	25.90	25.90	25.50	32.00	25.60	25.60	25.50	24.20	23.50	24.60	--	--	55.7	49.4
<b>Cauliflower</b>	2004	27.20	42.20	24.20	23.50	28.80	46.20	27.50	26.00	31.00	32.20	27.10	40.90	30.80	--	--
	2005	27.60	38.00	50.60	36.70	29.70	38.10	25.60	31.50	28.50	19.70	23.60	44.30	30.30	-12.9	-10.7
	2006	33.10	24.90	35.60	44.40	27.10	27.90	24.00	28.40	47.10	20.90	34.50	41.70	32.30	46.2	21.0
	2007	45.70	29.40	51.40	51.60	24.90	30.00	22.30	27.90	27.20	46.20	26.60	52.40	34.30	-22.9	5.1
	2008	53.40	30.20	41.70	63.60	24.90	53.90	38.20	43.20	29.50	48.50	27.30	--	--	2.6	19.6
<b>Celery</b>	2004	20.80	24.40	13.90	15.60	15.00	13.80	11.60	9.25	11.20	14.60	18.10	13.40	14.80	--	--
	2005	12.90	22.90	28.40	20.80	15.50	9.62	9.69	9.82	12.00	11.70	13.10	10.70	13.90	-27.6	-4.4
	2006	9.64	10.80	14.90	16.60	12.70	17.80	21.00	23.20	27.70	27.00	22.00	20.20	18.20	67.9	132.4
	2007	33.90	58.90	31.90	18.80	18.30	11.60	11.60	9.64	13.80	13.30	18.60	13.50	20.40	-15.5	-52.8
	2008	16.20	13.20	13.40	14.00	18.30	30.10	22.40	12.90	12.50	17.20	17.70	--	--	-4.8	15.9
<b>Corn, sweet</b>	2004	30.30	20.90	20.30	17.20	15.60	12.50	16.60	20.90	21.30	27.50	29.30	18.10	19.30	--	--
	2005	21.30	28.60	26.10	21.50	18.00	22.50	22.30	20.40	24.70	25.50	25.70	22.40	22.10	-12.3	1.3
	2006	35.00	35.00	34.00	27.10	15.40	21.50	21.00	21.70	25.10	21.10	20.70	20.80	22.90	-19.5	-3.8
	2007	27.40	23.70	30.20	25.60	21.40	17.30	22.20	22.80	23.20	21.40	20.60	34.10	22.20	-0.5	-0.7
	2008	30.80	23.00	28.60	21.00	22.60	19.20	28.10	25.60	24.20	32.70	32.70	--	--	58.7	22.4
<b>Cucumbers</b>	2004	28.10	22.20	30.30	23.30	13.60	15.50	18.20	23.60	25.00	23.70	18.70	--	20.20	--	--
	2005	20.20	17.20	32.60	29.30	30.70	28.70	15.70	21.10	20.10	23.10	32.60	53.10	23.00	74.3	-11.1
	2006	23.90	27.70	40.70	29.40	21.30	24.30	26.80	27.20	22.50	18.50	29.60	27.00	25.30	-9.2	6.1
	2007	30.80	35.30	33.60	21.40	28.50	23.20	18.90	24.60	29.10	25.00	22.00	18.50	24.40	-25.7	15.4
	2008	38.40	--	20.50	24.40	21.90	36.20	23.10	24.40	30.70	29.20	49.00	--	--	122.7	7.1
<b>Head lettuce</b>	2004	16.00	19.70	10.50	14.80	10.50	13.30	10.70	17.10	15.20	24.10	14.10	13.60	16.90	--	--
	2005	11.50	11.70	27.80	30.10	13.90	17.30	11.00	13.50	12.70	12.40	9.81	16.10	15.50	-30.4	-31.6
	2006	10.60	12.10	19.10	22.40	33.70	11.80	12.20	20.70	16.30	11.80	12.50	22.20	16.90	27.4	26.4
	2007	20.80	15.50	29.70	17.80	13.60	17.80	17.30	23.10	29.20	44.40	17.40	16.00	22.00	39.2	98.2
	2008	17.50	13.30	14.80	21.70	13.60	17.70	17.30	17.20	31.90	32.90	18.20	--	--	4.6	-15.2
<b>Onions, dry bulb</b>	2004	13.10	12.20	11.60	19.40	17.60	16.10	13.00	9.92	8.44	6.27	6.28	5.76	9.06	--	--
	2005	5.10	4.23	4.44	17.70	19.50	17.80	16.80	11.20	10.50	12.80	11.60	9.45	12.40	84.7	40.1
	2006	8.53	8.19	7.60	15.20	16.30	17.80	14.90	13.30	12.40	10.40	11.40	16.60	15.70	-1.7	4.6
	2007	22.10	26.20	35.00	55.20	24.20	24.60	15.40	10.80	5.57	4.47	4.70	4.39	11.50	-58.8	-42.3
	2008	4.54	3.55	2.71	17.40	23.30	17.60	15.10	12.00	13.30	14.00	11.00	--	--	134.0	88.6
<b>Snap beans</b>	2004	76.20	43.50	42.50	48.60	22.50	27.90	50.70	67.60	68.30	82.90	53.90	47.50	45.20	--	--
	2005	71.40	77.80	85.30	60.70	55.20	38.40	58.90	72.70	65.30	40.80	89.10	82.00	54.20	65.3	-18.3
	2006	44.00	56.00	44.90	44.30	34.50	33.40	61.10	77.00	74.60	58.60	48.30	65.50	50.50	-45.8	17.6
	2007	64.90	82.30	102.00	63.50	38.80	35.10	65.10	81.10	78.90	67.40	89.30	43.00	60.50	84.9	8.2
	2008	68.80	98.30	37.70	57.00	38.90	51.30	95.40	78.50	89.10	46.00	45.10	--	--	-49.5	-6.1
<b>Tomatoes</b>	2004	24.70	32.30	41.00	44.20	32.20	21.10	22.50	35.80	37.30	70.80	119.00	--	37.60	--	--
	2005	15.40	40.90	40.70	65.10	49.40	40.20	28.20	26.20	46.40	36.40	32.80	76.80	41.80	-72.4	-24.3
	2006	82.70	46.50	24.80	34.40	23.30	30.90	28.20	34.70	82.10	55.30	28.00	21.20	44.00	-14.6	57.9
	2007	35.60	31.20	26.30	52.60	35.60	29.60	26.70	28.60	33.10	41.60	58.70	81.20	34.50	109.6	-40.0
	2008	58.20	45.50	66.10	47.40	48.20	58.00	38.60	30.00	26.00	33.80	66.70	--	--	13.6	-13.1

-- = Not available. 1/ 2008 prices are preliminary. One hundredweight (cwt) is equal to 100 pounds. The prices in this table can also be read as cents per pound. Prices beginning in 2006 are measured at the point of first sale. They are f.o.b. (free on board) shipping point prices in prior years.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

**Price table 3—Vegetables: Producer Price Indexes, by month, 1999-2008 1/**

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Change
															Nov- Nov.
-----1982=100-----															Percent
Fresh 2/	1999	131.9	93.1	117.4	144.4	111.3	125.8	103.4	113.7	117.5	101.6	100.9	151.6	117.7	--
	2000	111.3	100.5	122.3	126.8	152.0	128.1	127.2	136.7	155.9	165.0	173.9	120.3	135.0	72.3
	2001	147.0	168.6	178.7	145.6	144.9	129.4	109.7	127.2	132.3	112.3	105.9	121.0	135.2	-39.1
	2002	146.1	188.7	242.5	101.7	107.2	123.2	127.1	125.4	116.7	126.9	127.4	119.0	137.7	20.3
	2003	147.8	127.5	153.0	167.7	165.0	138.8	133.3	136.6	164.7	156.9	148.4	184.7	152.0	16.5
	2004	143.8	125.9	140.3	133.1	132.9	101.0	102.8	128.3	141.9	200.0	211.1	143.7	142.1	42.3
	2005	122.0	152.8	168.5	174.7	144.2	160.0	126.8	132.3	153.3	144.0	163.1	200.8	153.5	-22.7
	2006	207.6	138.8	137.6	174.4	147.9	128.7	134.1	179.5	193.1	167.7	138.3	178.4	160.5	-15.2
	2007	175.3	190.3	222.4	222.5	142.1	145.4	146.0	137.8	162.7	218.3	177.4	204.5	178.7	28.3
2008	200.2	158.3	194.1	179.3	170.7	191.7	168.3	146.1	158.7	185.1	200.3			12.9	
Melons	1999	--	--	--	--	86.6	62.8	42.4	62.1	--	63.4	59.1	--	62.7	--
	2000	--	--	--	--	68.0	64.3	56.4	43.8	48.7	93.6	124.2	--	71.3	110.2
	2001	--	--	--	--	118.6	53.4	53.3	76.1	57.1	60.0	114.9	--	76.2	-7.5
	2002	--	--	--	--	--	74.7	80.5	58.7	60.1	66.2	55.3	--	65.9	-51.9
	2003	--	--	--	--	120.5	60.6	60.1	35.8	49.0	64.9	106.8	--	71.1	93.1
	2004	106.8	141.3	157.3	90.2	95.4	75.1	56.1	66.6	76.6	108.8	114.4	150.6	103.3	7.1
	2005	156.1	75.4	96.5	162.2	114.8	99.9	83.8	62.3	80.7	67.3	--	--	99.9	--
	2006	--	--	99.8	99.8	95.6	93.8	70.3	80.2	75.0	76.2	105.1	154.7	95.1	--
	2007	126.2	102.9	96.9	127.6	153.5	74.6	60.0	71.0	87.4	122.9	175.2	165.6	113.7	66.7
2008	141.1	140.1	85.8	167.1	140.5	92.6	82.3	78.9	71.3	131.0	121.3			-30.8	
Canned 3/	1999	120.6	120.6	120.9	120.9	121.0	121.0	120.8	120.9	120.7	120.7	121.3	121.3	120.9	--
	2000	121.3	120.8	121.2	120.9	121.2	121.5	121.1	120.9	121.1	121.6	121.7	121.3	121.2	0.3
	2001	121.4	121.4	121.3	121.3	121.4	121.9	124.1	124.9	125.3	126.5	128.0	128.1	123.8	5.2
	2002	128.3	128.2	128.0	128.2	128.3	128.0	127.7	129.4	128.7	129.5	129.1	129.1	128.5	0.9
	2003	128.8	129.0	128.9	129.3	129.4	129.3	129.4	129.1	130.0	130.7	131.1	131.3	129.7	1.5
	2004	131.5	131.7	131.9	131.9	131.7	132.8	133.0	133.3	133.4	134.6	135.4	135.5	133.1	3.3
	2005	135.7	135.9	136.1	136.3	137.6	137.6	137.7	137.7	137.5	137.7	137.6	138.0	137.1	1.6
	2006	138.0	136.8	137.1	137.3	138.8	140.2	140.0	140.5	141.4	141.5	142.2	142.2	139.7	3.3
	2007	142.8	142.9	143.1	143.3	143.5	143.6	143.1	143.1	144.0	143.9	144.2	144.6	143.5	1.4
2008	147.8	148.4	149.6	151.2	150.2	151.3	153.3	164.9	164.9	165.0	165.4			14.7	
Frozen	1999	125.8	126.6	125.6	126.7	125.9	126.0	126.8	126.1	126.0	126.4	125.5	125.3	126.1	--
	2000	125.4	126.2	125.7	126.3	126.3	124.9	125.9	126.4	126.2	126.9	126.1	126.2	126.0	0.5
	2001	127.6	128.5	127.7	128.7	128.4	127.7	128.9	128.8	128.8	130.0	129.2	129.1	128.6	2.5
	2002	130.0	131.1	130.1	131.2	130.7	129.7	131.4	131.3	131.5	132.2	131.9	132.6	131.1	2.1
	2003	133.4	134.1	133.3	134.0	134.1	133.9	134.9	134.2	134.2	135.2	135.1	135.0	134.3	2.4
	2004	135.1	136.0	135.3	135.3	134.3	134.7	135.4	135.8	136.8	138.1	137.2	137.0	135.9	1.6
	2005	137.3	137.3	137.4	137.5	137.5	137.4	137.2	136.8	136.6	136.7	136.1	136.4	137.0	-0.8
	2006	137.3	137.7	138.7	138.6	138.8	139.5	139.4	139.3	139.9	142.0	142.7	142.6	139.7	4.8
	2007	144.0	144.0	144.0	145.2	145.9	146.7	148.2	149.3	149.9	151.5	152.5	153.2	147.9	6.9
2008	153.3	153.8	155.6	156.5	156.7	157.1	158.8	161.7	164.5	168.8	171.5			12.5	
Dehydrated 4/	1999	148.0	148.0	148.4	147.7	146.1	146.1	146.0	146.5	147.1	146.7	147.4	151.1	147.4	--
	2000	148.9	149.8	149.9	149.5	149.3	149.0	148.6	144.9	144.0	144.9	143.4	140.8	146.9	-2.7
	2001	139.1	135.6	136.2	136.9	139.9	140.6	140.4	140.9	142.4	142.7	144.6	145.9	140.4	0.8
	2002	148.2	149.3	150.3	151.0	150.1	151.2	152.6	152.3	151.2	151.1	150.2	151.1	150.7	3.9
	2003	150.6	150.2	149.8	147.8	147.5	147.3	146.5	145.2	144.2	143.3	143.5	146.1	146.8	-4.5
	2004	145.4	145.1	144.5	144.4	144.2	144.2	144.3	144.1	145.7	144.8	143.9	144.5	144.6	0.3
	2005	145.6	145.9	145.2	145.7	146.8	146.0	145.3	145.9	150.4	150.6	152.3	154.3	147.8	5.8
	2006	154.7	156.4	158.1	159.3	163.0	165.0	165.1	165.5	168.1	168.5	169.8	171.9	163.8	11.5
	2007	175.7	176.2	175.0	176.4	180.2	179.3	179.8	179.5	179.6	180.1	184.1	184.0	179.2	8.4
2008	185.3	185.7	188.1	189.5	189.7	190.9	195.0	194.2	194.4	195.5	196.4			6.7	

-- = not available. 1/ Indexes for 2008 are preliminary. 2/ Excludes potatoes. 3/ Includes vegetable juices. 4/ Includes both fruits and vegetables.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>.



Price table 4—Vegetables: Consumer Price Indexes, by month, 2004-08 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
----- 1982-84=100 -----														
<b>Fresh vegetables 2/</b>	2004	265.2	262.8	261.3	251.7	251.0	247.2	244.6	245.6	248.4	270.7	291.0	295.1	261.2
	2005	271.0	263.2	267.0	280.1	280.6	266.9	268.5	261.0	265.6	274.1	274.6	288.3	271.7
	2006	300.6	289.7	279.7	276.8	275.6	272.9	271.5	274.4	294.2	301.8	288.6	286.1	284.3
	2007	298.3	308.6	302.4	299.3	293.3	283.5	280.1	274.4	282.3	292.7	300.4	306.1	293.5
	2008	317.5	305.0	301.5	299.8	298.5	307.2	313.8	313.4	311.3	314.5	319.3		
<b>Potatoes, fresh</b>	2004	228.2	226.0	230.5	224.3	229.0	237.4	240.7	238.9	228.5	232.0	226.9	230.5	231.1
	2005	237.5	235.8	228.3	235.0	239.1	246.7	256.7	263.8	258.6	265.8	253.5	251.7	247.7
	2006	261.1	264.7	264.6	261.5	270.4	276.0	282.5	293.6	290.4	278.2	267.8	266.8	273.1
	2007	272.4	269.9	276.0	277.6	284.7	291.6	294.5	283.4	283.0	278.8	278.7	274.7	280.4
	2008	282.9	286.3	285.4	293.1	294.6	311.3	347.0	366.8	376.3	365.4	351.1		
<b>Lettuce, fresh</b>	2004	271.7	245.8	242.3	232.1	224.1	221.7	219.8	228.4	229.2	236.2	249.0	276.9	239.8
	2005	258.3	237.9	253.5	287.5	271.6	257.6	247.7	247.4	249.4	258.4	258.7	260.0	257.3
	2006	260.8	258.0	254.2	267.2	285.5	264.0	246.9	265.8	274.2	269.7	265.1	281.9	266.1
	2007	292.2	294.7	287.6	283.3	265.6	261.6	254.7	260.6	273.3	298.2	295.7	295.3	280.2
	2008	292.9	282.6	278.3	277.0	268.3	269.6	276.6	286.0	297.4	306.3	303.2		
<b>Tomatoes, fresh</b>	2004	283.2	282.8	285.0	274.4	272.3	252.9	243.5	249.5	253.8	316.3	422.7	425.0	296.8
	2005	309.6	274.8	297.1	310.6	333.6	293.0	287.3	267.6	273.5	297.2	299.0	342.3	298.8
	2006	393.1	354.7	311.5	297.9	293.9	276.1	271.8	271.8	336.5	405.5	347.8	318.5	323.3
	2007	307.2	317.2	291.9	309.8	309.7	283.5	278.7	273.8	280.8	304.7	341.3	378.7	306.5
	2008	385.2	329.6	345.1	334.9	322.1	346.3	330.7	317.7	303.0	304.3	334.6		
<b>Other, fresh</b>	2004	276.2	279.0	274.2	263.7	263.0	259.8	257.1	255.3	263.5	282.8	283.5	282.5	270.1
	2005	277.9	280.8	279.4	289.9	284.8	272.2	276.0	265.2	274.0	277.4	282.7	295.2	279.6
	2006	298.2	289.6	285.8	282.4	273.5	278.2	279.1	276.1	291.5	288.1	286.8	288.0	284.8
	2007	311.5	328.6	324.9	313.0	303.4	291.9	287.7	280.4	290.3	297.3	300.6	300.4	302.5
	2008	318.2	313.8	303.3	301.2	304.8	307.9	312.0	306.3	300.9	307.9	312.8		
<b>Frozen vegetables</b>	2004	176.3	177.6	174.9	173.5	176.9	174.5	177.0	178.1	177.6	177.5	173.8	171.4	175.8
	2005	177.0	176.3	174.7	177.2	178.6	176.5	180.2	177.7	181.5	179.1	176.8	177.5	177.8
	2006	179.4	182.9	179.7	179.7	178.1	175.7	178.8	181.3	179.6	177.7	178.1	178.7	179.1
	2007	179.0	182.1	180.4	178.2	181.2	178.6	182.6	182.5	183.4	181.1	180.2	179.8	180.8
	2008	184.1	184.0	184.0	187.2	190.4	192.6	193.1	192.7	193.6	195.4	195.0		
December 1997=100														
<b>Processed fruits and vegetables</b>	2004	115.1	115.4	115.4	114.2	115.9	115.3	116.6	117.2	115.6	116.2	115.0	114.2	115.5
	2005	117.9	117.1	116.3	118.8	119.3	119.7	121.3	120.6	121.2	120.6	118.8	120.3	119.3
	2006	121.8	122.5	122.4	121.3	122.6	122.8	123.8	124.1	123.3	122.8	122.7	123.5	122.8
	2007	124.9	125.5	125.4	124.9	126.2	127.7	129.0	129.2	129.6	129.3	126.7	128.5	127.2
	2008	130.8	132.9	131.5	134.7	136.8	138.7	140.5	142.8	145.2	146.6	145.6		
<b>Canned vegetables</b>	2004	116.1	116.0	115.7	115.8	118.0	116.9	118.3	119.7	117.0	117.7	115.9	116.5	117.0
	2005	119.3	117.5	117.9	120.5	121.0	121.0	125.6	125.5	124.8	126.0	121.9	124.4	122.1
	2006	124.8	125.0	126.6	124.1	126.0	126.5	128.1	127.9	125.3	124.7	125.5	125.9	125.9
	2007	127.1	127.0	127.6	126.2	126.7	130.5	131.2	131.7	133.2	132.8	128.4	131.9	129.5
	2008	133.1	136.9	134.9	141.2	142.1	144.5	148.1	153.7	157.3	159.2	156.2		
<b>Dried beans, peas, lentils</b>	2004	108.6	109.9	110.6	110.0	109.4	110.2	110.1	110.7	108.3	111.2	111.9	113.8	110.4
	2005	115.2	116.0	116.4	118.4	117.5	118.3	118.3	118.1	118.3	118.7	118.9	116.6	117.6
	2006	117.2	117.3	117.1	119.4	118.7	119.3	120.7	121.3	120.8	120.5	121.0	123.6	119.7
	2007	126.1	124.5	126.8	129.3	131.6	133.0	134.6	135.3	136.3	136.3	136.9	139.0	132.5
	2008	141.3	145.5	141.1	147.2	151.8	160.0	162.6	165.0	168.0	172.2	177.0		
<b>Olives, pickles and relishes</b>	2004	107.7	105.7	111.1	105.3	102.1	98.0	101.2	102.9	107.9	112.1	111.0	109.7	106.2
	2005	110.0	107.5	115.2	112.0	101.1	98.4	100.4	108.8	106.7	119.5	109.1	110.2	108.2
	2006	115.7	110.7	111.0	110.9	108.6	110.9	110.3	117.6	117.5	118.6	112.2	112.6	113.1
	2007	118.4	120.8	118.1	117.7	121.2	120.9	121.2	115.8	129.9	125.8	123.1	117.2	120.8
	2008	123.8	125.9	123.1	121.9	127.1	124.7	126.0	128.5	129.5	132.4	129.6		

1/ Not seasonally adjusted. 2/ Includes potatoes.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>.

Price table 5—Fresh-market vegetables: U.S. average retail prices, by month, 2000-08

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Change
															Nov. - Nov.
-----Cents/pound-----															Percent
<b>Potatoes, white</b>	2000	39.2	40.1	39.3	38.8	37.9	37.6	39.0	40.0	37.4	36.7	35.1	34.7	38.0	--
	2001	35.5	34.8	35.6	36.2	36.3	38.8	40.9	43.9	42.2	41.8	41.0	41.0	39.0	16.8
	2002	42.6	44.7	46.5	49.3	50.8	51.7	54.9	55.9	51.1	49.2	47.3	47.9	49.3	15.4
	2003	48.3	47.2	46.3	46.6	46.6	46.2	46.4	46.4	44.4	44.1	43.8	43.9	45.9	-7.4
	2004	45.7	44.6	45.9	46.1	43.5	46.2	47.1	46.4	44.6	45.0	44.3	44.9	45.4	1.1
	2005	45.8	44.8	44.0	45.0	45.2	45.5	47.7	49.1	48.2	50.5	49.9	49.8	47.1	12.6
	2006	50.4	51.7	51.7	52.2	53.3	54.1	55.6	57.2	56.3	54.5	51.7	51.7	53.4	3.6
	2007	51.7	51.4	51.8	52.9	53.0	53.8	54.5	52.2	52.0	51.7	52.7	52.0	52.5	1.9
	2008	52.5	53.1	54.2	54.6	56.2	59.8	67.2	72.4	76.3	73.0	69.9			32.6
<b>Broccoli</b>	2000	118.2	98.9	106.9	101.3	117.4	123.6	113.9	112.0	105.2	108.0	108.5	151.8	113.8	--
	2001	98.7	97.8	108.3	95.4	99.9	100.5	98.1	97.8	96.9	101.1	89.7	97.3	98.5	-17.3
	2002	137.4	168.1	114.7	120.4	103.6	109.3	111.9	113.5	124.7	107.3	116.5	105.2	119.4	29.9
	2003	112.2	110.1	119.9	113.9	115.1	112.7	113.3	109.3	130.3	135.8	131.2	135.6	120.0	12.6
	2004	131.9	121.6	112.5	102.2	110.7	106.0	106.9	106.7	120.8	139.9	133.5	141.4	119.5	1.8
	2005	123.5	134.6	131.8	148.9	129.9	130.7	144.2	132.0	135.2	119.6	128.8	122.9	131.8	-3.5
	2006	135.5	149.3	135.8	136.7	137.3	143.2	151.1	152.1	168.9	140.9	138.9	146.0	144.6	7.8
	2007	182.8	172.0	145.8	154.1	141.2	137.3	147.5	154.2	153.6	174.9	174.1	165.5	158.6	25.3
	2008	173.3	163.9	157.4	173.7	165.2	160.0	167.0	160.1	158.3	181.2	179.1			2.9
<b>Lettuce, iceberg</b>	2000	74.8	65.0	67.1	65.0	80.3	68.6	65.6	67.3	89.7	77.2	77.4	85.1	73.6	--
	2001	73.6	84.7	89.5	76.7	87.0	72.2	66.3	78.4	89.7	81.1	73.4	78.8	79.3	-5.2
	2002	100.3	106.1	154.2	114.7	72.0	67.5	67.4	68.9	70.2	68.7	75.4	68.0	86.1	2.7
	2003	73.4	68.2	65.5	72.3	79.5	83.2	80.8	70.9	89.8	85.8	92.7	125.5	82.3	22.9
	2004	87.6	80.5	81.3	80.1	71.0	75.1	73.7	80.8	77.1	83.0	84.9	82.3	79.8	-8.4
	2005	81.7	73.0	82.9	100.4	92.6	89.5	88.5	85.5	84.8	92.6	87.3	85.4	87.0	2.8
	2006	87.4	79.4	81.5	86.9	96.7	84.8	78.3	86.4	95.3	87.3	85.0	89.6	86.6	-2.6
	2007	92.6	92.0	91.5	98.6	87.9	85.6	84.9	87.9	92.7	106.6	98.8	94.9	92.8	16.2
	2008	95.0	89.5	87.3	90.2	86.8	86.0	87.5	87.8	90.6	99.8	97.9			-0.9
<b>Tomatoes, field grown</b>	2000	144.3	128.6	136.4	148.7	136.6	131.8	128.2	126.2	131.9	138.7	150.3	156.7	138.2	--
	2001	141.4	131.3	133.6	143.3	124.3	135.6	125.7	118.5	116.8	126.7	146.8	140.4	132.0	-2.3
	2002	145.1	129.8	129.2	131.9	133.2	129.9	124.3	118.1	115.8	123.6	143.0	165.5	132.5	-2.6
	2003	171.1	156.5	161.9	155.5	140.1	139.8	146.0	151.3	143.8	143.6	148.0	153.3	150.9	3.5
	2004	147.2	151.0	152.9	151.9	151.0	133.1	125.3	131.2	132.1	171.5	233.7	246.7	160.6	57.9
	2005	166.0	142.8	154.8	171.0	191.1	165.5	160.7	141.6	142.9	154.7	157.4	184.8	161.1	-32.6
	2006	216.2	191.0	164.9	157.3	154.3	145.7	147.9	148.8	190.8	218.8	178.4	163.9	173.2	13.3
	2007	162.1	164.4	155.5	163.0	168.5	151.0	148.6	148.5	149.6	164.9	185.1	214.7	164.7	3.8
	2008	203.2	173.5	183.5	177.3	167.5	181.4	171.3	169.4	159.1	161.2	172.2			-7.0
<b>Lettuce, romaine 1/</b>	2006	134.1	140.5	138.3	147.6	147.6	132.0	123.7	135.9	143.0	141.0	142.9	145.5	139.3	--
	2007	161.2	181.7	163.1	154.5	150.4	142.5	134.4	137.3	149.4	157.1	175.7	177.5	157.1	23.0
	2008	172.4	168.2	158.7	155.7	158.1	159.0	160.9	174.8	188.4	183.6	191.2			8.8
<b>Peppers, sweet 2/</b>	2005	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	192.7	--	--	--	--
	2006	--	--	--	--	163.8	169.5	176.8	171.3	171.0	208.0	195.5	189.0	180.6	--
	2007	190.5	211.9	218.2	235.2	222.6	221.9	195.3	181.6	188.7	208.0	219.8	218.7	209.4	12.4
	2008	216.6	233.0	271.0	234.6	239.5	242.7	262.9	220.2	205.5	--	--			--
<b>Cabbage 2/</b>	2006	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	56.1	60.0	58.5	59.5	60.6	58.9	--
	2007	61.0	66.5	68.9	65.1	61.0	58.1	58.6	57.1	56.8	62.6	60.6	61.3	61.5	1.8
	2008	62.6	58.3	58.7	59.5	62.5	66.9	70.8	65.8	67.4	71.1	61.9			2.1
<b>Celery 2/</b>	2007	--	128.3	--	92.1	--	82.9	--	75.1	78.0	--	--	--	91.3	--
	2008	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			--
<b>Carrots 2/</b>	2007	--	--	--	--	--	80.5	77.8	77.6	78.2	--	75.3	75.0	77.4	--
	2008	78.0	77.7	76.8	76.8	79.3	86.8	80.1	79.7	79.4	80.2	--			--

-- = not available. 1/ Romaine data was first reported by BLS in January 2006. 2/ Reported by BLS as statistically valid data are available.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>.



**Fresh table 13—Fresh-market vegetables: U.S. average monthly advertised retail prices, 2007-08**

Item	Units	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug. *	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Change
															Nov - Nov
															Percent
															-- Dollars per unit --
Asparagus	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.58	2.63	2.84	--
		2008	2.97	2.41	2.23	2.46	2.68	2.55	2.61	2.92	2.76	2.68	2.68	3.00	1.9
Beans, round green	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.33	1.47	1.37	--
		2008	1.46	1.65	1.42	1.27	1.35	1.33	1.36	1.22	1.28	1.46	1.41	1.52	-4.1
Broccoli	Bunch	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.42	1.53	1.57	--
		2008	1.67	1.51	1.56	1.46	1.66	1.59	1.68	1.60	1.57	1.75	1.88	1.68	22.9
Broccoli, Organic	Bunch	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.01	2.05	2.34	--
		2008	2.23	2.18	2.03	2.26	2.36	1.97	2.34	1.99	1.93	2.68	2.54	2.49	23.9
Cabbage	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.43	0.43	0.40	--
		2008	0.43	0.42	0.33	0.43	0.41	0.43	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.45	2.3
Carrots, baby	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.32	1.40	1.42	--
		2008	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.42	1.44	1.45	1.43	1.36	1.40	1.41	1.31	0.7
Carrots, baby organic	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.68	1.71	1.70	--
		2008	1.69	1.73	1.61	1.66	1.74	1.73	1.76	1.84	1.74	1.82	1.80	1.72	5.3
Celery	Each	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.09	1.13	1.15	--
		2008	1.20	1.15	1.16	1.13	1.04	1.10	1.38	1.19	1.17	1.22	1.22	1.32	8.0
Sweet corn	Ear	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.47	0.43	0.36	--
		2008	0.39	0.54	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.47	0.45	0.40	0.31	-7.0
Cucumbers	Each	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.52	0.58	0.59	--
		2008	0.67	0.60	0.62	0.60	0.57	0.60	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.65	0.64	0.71	10.3
Lettuce, iceberg	Head	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.94	0.86	1.00	--
		2008	0.98	0.96	0.91	0.99	0.93	1.00	0.98	0.99	1.03	0.96	0.92	0.98	7.0
Lettuce, romaine	Each	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.29	1.19	1.19	--
		2008	1.11	1.13	1.32	1.05	1.04	1.07	1.12	1.15	1.29	1.14	1.06	1.32	-10.9
Mushrooms, white	8-oz pkg	2004	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.80	1.62	1.70	--
		2005	1.66	1.69	1.71	1.66	1.80	1.77	1.71	1.77	1.71	1.71	1.76	1.63	8.6
Onions, yellow	3-lb bag	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.79	1.66	1.70	--
		2008	1.70	1.59	1.64	1.56	1.71	1.75	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.89	1.79	1.91	7.8
Onions, sweet yellow	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.03	1.06	1.12	--
		2008	1.13	1.18	1.11	0.95	0.93	0.97	1.07	1.09	1.09	1.18	1.26	1.09	18.9
Peppers, bell green	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.29	1.31	1.25	--
		2008	1.43	1.44	1.47	1.37	1.39	1.47	1.59	1.39	1.49	1.49	1.44	1.51	9.9
Peppers, bell red	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.67	2.71	2.53	--
		2008	2.54	2.37	2.93	2.45	2.57	2.45	2.58	2.49	2.18	2.48	2.53	2.65	-6.6
Squash, zucchini	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.00	1.21	1.17	--
		2008	1.23	1.20	1.16	1.20	1.24	1.19	1.20	1.17	1.15	1.22	1.31	1.46	8.3
Sweet potatoes	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.66	0.68	0.79	--
		2008	0.86	0.85	0.76	0.86	0.87	0.84	0.78	0.80	0.87	0.87	0.73	0.83	7.4
Tomatoes	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.84	1.78	2.54	--
		2008	2.15	1.66	1.89	1.65	1.46	1.57	1.48	1.46	1.33	1.47	1.67	1.65	-6.2
Tomatoes, organic	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.50	--	3.99	--
		2008	2.99	1.80	2.82	2.69	2.90	3.23	2.55	2.95	2.83	1.84	2.99	2.92	--
Tomatoes, on the vine	Pound	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.15	2.36	2.49	--
		2008	2.53	2.60	2.39	2.12	1.97	2.03	2.13	1.95	1.94	2.03	2.16	2.42	-8.5
Tomatoes, grape	Pint	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.52	2.41	2.41	--
		2008	2.41	2.40	2.39	2.43	2.23	2.25	2.41	2.25	2.42	2.34	2.44	2.37	1.2
Artichokes	Each	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		2008	--	--	1.48	1.98	1.82	2.00	2.11	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cantaloup	Each	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.22	2.34	2.68	--
		2008	2.43	2.45	2.23	2.15	2.40	2.25	2.19	2.16	2.15	2.37	2.57	2.57	9.8
Watermelon, seedless	Each	2007	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.49	--	--
		2008	3.49	--	4.67	5.27	4.83	4.58	4.31	4.16	3.40	2.00	1.50	3.36	--

-- = not available. \* = partial month average for December 2008. Compiled from weekly data first reported in October of 2007.

Source: Compiled by ERS from data of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Market News Service, *Retail Price Report*.

**Price table 7—Representative wholesale prices for selected fresh-market vegetables and melons in Chicago, 2007-08**

Commodity	Shipping point 1/	Shipping container	2007			2008											
			Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Dec. 1	Jan. 3	Feb. 1	Mar. 3	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	July 1	Aug 1	Sep 2	Oct 1	Nov 3	Dec 1
			\$/unit														
Artichokes	CA	Carton, 24s	30.00	33.00	41.00	48.00	32.00	36.00	23.00	18.50	12.00	35.50	22.00	25.00	25.00	16.50	20.00
Beans, round green, machine-pick	FL, GA, MI	Bushel cartons	29.00	27.50	23.00	18.50	37.00	15.50	11.50	11.00	13.50	44.00	49.85	15.00	27.00	20.50	22.50
Beets, medium	TX, IL, CA	25 lb sacks/filmbags	7.00	7.00	7.50	6.75	7.25	7.00	7.50	8.25	11.00	9.50	11.50	9.50	9.75	9.75	10.00
Bok choy, baby	CA, FL	30 lb cartons	20.00	13.00	12.50	13.00	13.00	18.00	16.00	13.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	12.50	13.00	16.00	16.00
Brussels sprouts	CA, MX	25 lb cartons	33.00	20.00	21.50	27.50	24.00	32.00	31.00	46.00	25.00	27.50	21.50	15.00	23.00	17.00	17.00
Cabbage, round-green, medium	NY, GA	50 lb cartons	12.00	11.25	11.50	9.00	9.50	9.50	10.75	12.25	10.75	17.00	15.00	11.00	10.00	9.50	9.50
Chinese cabbage (Napa)	CA	30 lb cartons	22.50	14.00	14.00	13.00	15.00	12.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	15.00	18.00	12.00	15.00	16.00	18.50
Carrots, baby peeled	CA	Carton, 24-1 lb filmbag	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	18.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
Eggplant, medium	FL, GA, MX	1 1/9 bushel cartons	13.00	13.00	16.50	10.50	15.00	17.00	17.00	23.00	13.00	12.25	12.00	15.50	14.50	18.00	13.00
Garlic, white colossal	CA, MX	30 lb cartons	36.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	46.00	46.00	43.00
Greens, kale	CA	Carton, 24s	11.50	11.50	9.00	12.50	13.50	13.50	11.50	13.50	15.00	15.00	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50
Greens, kohlrabi	CA, TX, IL	Carton, 12s/24s	22.00	22.00	20.50	20.50	24.00	20.50	20.00	20.50	20.50	24.00	27.00	27.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Greens, turnip tops	GA, IL	Carton, 24s	13.75	10.00	10.50	10.00	11.50	10.50	11.50	10.75	12.50	11.50	11.50	10.75	10.75	11.00	11.00
Greens, mustard	CA	Carton, 24s	14.00	10.50	10.50	10.00	11.50	10.50	11.50	10.75	12.50	11.50	11.50	10.75	10.75	11.00	11.00
Greens, collards	GA, CA	Carton, 24s	13.50	10.00	11.00	10.00	11.50	10.50	11.50	10.75	12.50	11.50	11.50	10.75	10.75	11.00	11.00
Leeks	CA, IL, MX	Carton, bunched 12s	18.00	29.00	39.50	29.50	22.50	25.00	20.50	28.00	20.50	20.00	19.50	19.00	15.50	23.00	23.50
Lettuce, Boston	CA	Carton, 24s	16.00	13.00	14.50	14.50	13.00	12.50	13.00	15.50	15.00	14.00	14.00	14.50	19.00	14.00	14.00
Lettuce, Romaine	CA	Carton, 24s	17.00	17.50	12.00	15.00	14.00	14.50	12.00	14.50	13.00	16.00	15.00	22.50	23.50	18.50	17.50
Mushrooms, button, large	PA	10 lb carton	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Mushrooms, shiitake	PA	5 lb carton	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Mushrooms, oyster	PA	5 lb carton	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50
Mushrooms, cremini, medium	PA	10 lb carton	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
Mushrooms, portobellas, lrg	PA	5 lb carton	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Okra, small-medium	FL, MX, TN	1/2 bushel carton	17.00	17.00	28.00	25.00	29.00	25.00	26.25	21.00	13.00	22.00	22.00	20.00	20.00	29.00	30.00
Onions, green	CA, MX	Carton, bunched 48s	12.50	17.00	20.50	17.50	24.50	13.75	11.50	12.50	12.50	16.00	27.05	17.00	17.00	13.00	17.00
Parsley, curly	CA	Cartons, bunched 60s	14.00	17.00	17.00	16.00	24.00	14.75	13.50	15.50	19.00	24.00	19.00	19.00	16.50	18.00	19.00
Peas, snow	CA, GU	10 lb carton	21.00	16.00	16.00	20.50	9.00	21.00	17.00	15.50	30.00	28.00	22.50	16.00	22.00	25.00	24.00
Peas, sugar snap	CA, GU	10 lb carton	18.00	16.00	36.50	21.50	11.00	14.50	16.00	15.00	22.00	30.00	33.00	30.00	25.50	25.00	22.00
Peppers, green bell, large	FL, CA	1 1/9 bushel carton	13.50	17.00	14.50	10.00	24.50	15.50	12.50	24.00	16.00	21.00	34.50	18.50	13.00	21.50	15.50
Peppers, jalapeno, medium	FL, GA, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	16.00	9.50	20.00	9.50	17.50	9.50	9.50	22.50	9.50	13.00	18.50	17.00	10.50	9.50	31.00
Radishes	FL, MI	Carton, 30-6oz filmbag	10.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	8.75	8.75	8.75	9.00	9.00	11.00	9.50	10.00	12.00	10.00
Spinach, flat	CA	Cartons, bunched 24s	15.50	16.00	16.25	21.00	19.00	12.50	13.00	15.50	13.00	13.50	19.00	18.50	15.00	23.00	16.50
Squash, zucchini, medium	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	13.50	8.00	15.00	25.00	13.00	10.00	9.50	10.50	10.00	9.50	12.00	8.25	17.50	7.00	20.00
Squash, yellow straightneck, med.	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	12.00	9.00	10.50	19.00	13.00	17.00	13.00	15.00	10.25	9.50	15.00	10.00	22.00	12.00	26.00
Sweet potatoes, US #1, Beauregrd	LA	40 lb carton	23.50	23.00	21.50	21.00	21.00	21.00	20.00	20.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.50	20.50	20.50	20.50
Tomatoes, mature green, lrg, 6x6	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	13.00	15.75	20.00	18.00	12.00	24.50	15.00	11.00	20.50	13.00	12.50	9.00	11.00	21.00	14.00
Tomatoes, vine ripe, md/lrg	MX, CA, FL	25 lb carton	11.00	16.25	21.00	24.50	14.50	15.00	15.50	15.00	24.00	12.00	16.00	10.25	11.50	21.00	10.50
Tomatoes, greenhse, v. ripe, md/lrg	CD, NL, MX	5 kg carton (on vine)	12.50	10.50	17.50	11.00	29.00	15.00	11.50	11.50	14.00	15.00	13.00	8.75	8.50	6.00	12.00
Tomatoes, cherry	FL, CA, MX	Flats, 12 1-pint buckets	13.00	13.00	11.50	11.00	11.00	10.50	20.00	11.00	14.50	20.50	11.00	9.00	6.00	15.00	11.50
Tomatoes, plum-type, med/lrg	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	24.00	19.00	20.00	19.00	11.75	19.00	14.50	13.00	14.00	20.50	16.50	10.00	12.50	15.00	17.50
Turnips, purple top, medium-large	CA, IL	25 lb filmbags	7.75	7.75	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.50	11.50
Cantaloups	CA, CR, MX	1/2-2/3 carton 12s	11.50	24.50	24.50	13.00	19.00	10.50	8.00	19.00	11.00	12.00	11.50	9.50	16.50	12.50	18.50
Honeydews	CA, HD, CR	2/3 cartons 6s	10.50	16.50	10.50	11.50	14.00	15.75	11.50	13.50	10.00	14.00	11.00	7.00	10.25	7.25	8.25
Watermelon, various red (85 lb ctn)	CA, TX, MX	Carton 3s or 4s, per lb	0.29	0.32	0.34	0.34	0.40	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.22	0.21	0.28	0.29
Watermelon, red seedless	CA, MX	Carton 4s or 5s, per lb	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.40	0.36	0.30	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.36	0.35

-- = Not available. 1/ Major shipping points by commodity into the Chicago Wholesale Market. CA=California, FL=Florida, TX=Texas, MI=Michigan, IL=Illinois, NY=New York, NJ= New Jersey, GA=Georgia, PA=Pennsylvania, LA = Louisiana, MX=Mexico, CR=Costa Rica, HD=Honduras, GU=Guatemala, CD=Canada, NL=Netherlands.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Fruit & Vegetable Market News*, FV Market News Portal, <http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>

**Price table 8—Canned vegetables: Quarterly wholesale price trends, 2000-09 1/**

Year & quarter	Sweet corn 2/		Snap beans 3/		Green peas 4/		Carrots 5/		Beets 6/		Tomato paste 7/	
	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	55-drum	6/10
----- Dollars/case -----											\$/lb	\$/case
<b>2000</b>												
I	7.75	13.84	7.50	11.67	8.75	14.79	7.88	10.88	8.21	11.75	0.34	19.63
II	7.84	15.00	7.50	11.92	8.84	16.33	7.88	10.88	8.38	11.38	0.34	20.04
III	7.71	15.00	7.25	12.00	8.79	16.00	7.96	11.13	8.46	11.38	0.32	19.50
IV	7.63	15.09	7.38	11.17	8.75	16.13	7.75	11.01	8.50	11.75	0.32	19.00
Average	7.73	14.73	7.41	11.69	8.78	15.81	7.87	10.97	8.39	11.57	0.33	19.54
<b>2001</b>												
I	7.25	14.75	7.25	10.25	8.63	15.46	7.75	10.88	7.75	11.75	0.31	17.88
II	7.25	14.75	7.25	10.25	8.63	15.25	7.75	10.88	7.75	11.75	0.31	17.88
III	7.67	14.92	7.67	10.42	8.96	15.42	7.92	11.05	7.92	11.75	0.32	17.88
IV	8.25	15.25	8.25	12.55	9.00	15.42	8.33	11.25	8.42	11.83	0.32	17.88
Average	7.61	14.92	7.61	10.87	8.81	15.39	7.94	11.02	7.96	11.77	0.32	17.88
<b>2002</b>												
I	9.00	15.75	9.00	14.59	9.00	15.25	9.00	12.00	9.00	12.00	0.32	17.63
II	8.33	15.08	8.33	12.05	8.75	15.08	9.00	12.00	9.00	12.00	0.31	17.80
III	8.00	14.75	8.00	10.88	8.63	15.00	9.00	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.31	18.50
IV	8.00	14.67	8.00	11.05	8.88	15.09	8.75	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.31	20.38
Average	8.33	15.06	8.33	12.14	8.82	15.11	8.94	11.75	9.00	12.00	0.31	18.58
<b>2003</b>												
I	8.00	14.00	8.00	11.13	9.00	15.42	8.63	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.32	18.46
II	8.00	14.00	8.00	11.38	9.00	15.50	8.71	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.30	19.46
III	8.00	14.00	8.00	11.75	9.00	16.00	8.63	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.29	17.63
IV	8.00	14.13	8.00	12.38	9.00	16.00	8.63	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.29	17.63
Average	8.00	14.03	8.00	11.66	9.00	15.73	8.65	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.30	18.30
<b>2004</b>												
I	8.17	14.80	8.17	14.38	9.17	16.00	8.63	11.50	9.00	12.00	0.29	18.67
II	8.42	15.46	8.33	15.92	9.13	15.75	8.75	11.50	9.00	13.00	0.30	20.25
III	8.50	15.63	8.33	16.17	9.00	15.59	9.00	11.50	9.00	14.00	0.30	20.25
IV	8.42	15.29	8.46	15.84	8.92	15.54	9.00	11.75	8.50	15.00	0.30	20.25
Average	8.38	15.30	8.32	15.58	9.06	15.72	8.85	11.56	8.88	13.50	0.30	19.86
<b>2005</b>												
I	8.58	14.08	8.54	13.54	8.96	15.67	9.00	11.75	8.83	14.58	0.30	20.25
II	8.75	13.42	8.67	13.25	9.13	15.33	9.00	11.75	9.00	14.00	0.30	20.25
III	8.67	13.58	8.71	12.83	9.13	15.42	9.00	12.00	9.00	13.63	0.31	20.54
IV	8.71	12.25	8.88	12.50	9.13	15.25	9.00	12.00	8.96	13.38	0.33	21.13
Average	8.68	13.33	8.70	13.03	9.09	15.42	9.00	11.88	8.95	13.90	0.31	20.54
<b>2006</b>												
I	8.63	12.25	8.88	12.13	9.25	15.46	9.00	12.00	9.05	12.80	0.36	21.46
II	8.63	12.25	8.75	12.13	9.17	15.50	9.00	12.00	9.03	12.25	0.37	22.58
III	8.38	11.75	8.45	12.00	8.71	15.50	9.00	12.00	8.50	11.88	0.40	23.25
IV	8.38	11.75	8.57	12.00	8.63	15.50	9.00	12.00	8.50	11.88	0.44	23.25
Average	8.51	12.00	8.66	12.07	8.94	15.49	9.00	12.00	8.77	12.20	0.39	22.64
<b>2007</b>												
I	8.38	12.50	8.63	12.38	9.25	15.50	8.88	12.00	8.43	13.10	0.46	23.25
II	8.60	13.00	8.73	13.13	9.17	16.00	8.88	12.00	8.71	11.90	0.46	23.25
III	9.16	13.33	8.95	13.30	8.71	16.00	8.88	12.00	8.85	11.97	0.43	23.25
IV	9.38	13.83	9.00	13.92	9.38	16.00	8.88	12.00	8.85	12.67	0.41	23.41
Average	8.88	13.17	8.83	13.18	9.13	15.88	8.88	12.00	8.71	12.41	0.44	23.29
<b>2008</b>												
I	9.00	15.05	9.10	14.55	9.28	16.00	11.53	12.00	9.23	14.03	0.43	23.78
II	9.64	17.10	9.71	16.22	9.98	16.50	11.53	15.55	9.80	15.03	0.46	27.50
III	10.93	18.22	10.93	17.70	11.18	18.18	11.53	15.55	10.95	16.74	0.56	27.50
IV f	10.93	18.28	10.93	17.78	11.18	18.25	11.53	15.55	10.95	17.10	0.63	27.50
Average	10.12	17.16	10.17	16.56	10.40	17.23	11.53	14.66	10.23	15.72	0.52	26.57
<b>2009</b>												
I f	10.93	18.28	10.93	17.78	11.18	18.25	11.53	15.55	10.95	17.10	0.63	27.50
II f	11.25	18.96	11.14	18.75	11.34	18.35	11.55	16.48	11.20	17.02	0.65	29.15
III f	11.66	19.30	11.44	19.11	11.37	18.73	11.62	16.55	11.38	17.54	0.68	29.39
IV f	11.71	19.00	11.56	19.12	11.50	18.69	11.62	16.61	11.25	18.01	0.72	29.58
Average	11.39	18.89	11.27	18.69	11.35	18.51	11.58	16.30	11.20	17.42	0.67	28.90

p = Preliminary. f = ERS forecast. -- = not available.

1/ Some prices calculated as averages of quoted ranges. 2/ Whole kernel corn, Midwest. 3/ 4-sieve cut, Midwest. 4/ 4-sieve, Midwest. 5/ Medium sliced, Midwest. 6/ Medium sliced, Midwest. 7/ 26-percent solids for 6/10 and 31 percent for 55-gallon drum, California.

Source: American Institute of Food Distribution, *Price Trends*.

**Price table 9—Frozen vegetables: Quarterly wholesale price trends, 2000-09 1/**

Year and quarter	Sweet corn 2/		Snap beans 3/		Green peas 4/		Cauliflower 4/		Broccoli 6/		Spinach 7/		Okra 8/
	12/16	12/2.5	12/16	12/2	12/16	12/2.5	12/16	12/2	24/10	12/2	24/10	12/3	12/2
-----Dollars/case-----													
<b>2000</b>													
I	6.83	0.48	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.54	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.63
II	6.83	0.48	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.54	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.63
III	6.83	0.47	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.54	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.63
IV	6.83	0.47	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.54	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.63
Average	6.83	0.47	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.54	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.63
<b>2001</b>													
I	6.83	0.46	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.53	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.64
II	6.83	0.46	6.84	0.47	6.88	0.53	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43	0.64
III	6.88	0.49	6.85	0.47	6.88	0.55	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.45	0.64
IV	6.88	0.49	6.85	0.49	6.88	0.55	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.45	0.65
Average	6.86	0.47	6.84	0.48	6.89	0.54	9.49	0.71	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.44	0.64
<b>2002</b>													
I	6.88	0.49	6.93	0.49	6.88	0.55	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
II	7.10	0.50	7.10	0.50	7.05	0.55	9.49	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
III	7.10	0.50	7.10	0.51	7.07	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
IV	7.10	0.51	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
Average	7.05	0.50	7.06	0.51	7.02	0.55	9.48	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
<b>2003</b>													
I	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
II	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.64
III	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.66
IV	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.69
Average	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.66
<b>2004</b>													
I	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.10	0.55	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.69
II	7.10	0.55	7.10	0.54	7.38	0.55	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.48	0.69
III	7.38	0.56	7.38	0.58	7.38	0.58	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50	0.69
IV	7.30	0.54	7.33	0.58	7.28	0.57	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50	0.69
Average	7.22	0.55	7.23	0.56	7.29	0.56	9.50	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.49	0.69
<b>2005</b>													
I	7.00	0.48	7.33	0.57	7.28	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.52	0.69
II	7.04	0.47	7.33	0.56	7.28	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.52	0.69
III	7.12	0.48	7.33	0.56	7.28	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.53	0.69
IV	7.10	0.48	--	0.56	7.28	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.52	0.69
Average	7.07	0.48	7.33	0.56	7.28	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.52	0.69
<b>2006</b>													
I	7.10	0.50	7.25	0.56	7.28	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.32	0.52	0.69
II	7.35	0.50	7.63	0.56	7.63	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.30	0.72	8.81	0.49	0.69
III	7.58	0.50	7.63	0.56	7.34	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.88	0.50	0.69
IV	7.58	0.50	7.63	0.56	7.20	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.88	0.50	0.69
Average	7.40	0.50	7.53	0.56	7.36	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.30	0.72	8.72	0.50	0.69
<b>2007</b>													
I	7.58	0.44	7.63	0.56	7.20	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.88	0.50	0.74
II	7.50	0.48	7.61	0.57	7.49	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.88	0.50	0.75
III	7.58	0.44	7.95	0.59	7.34	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.88	0.48	0.75
IV	7.84	0.44	7.75	0.59	7.60	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.42	0.79	8.71	0.50	0.73
Average	7.63	0.45	7.74	0.58	7.41	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.39	0.74	8.84	0.50	0.74
<b>2008</b>													
I	10.68	0.53	10.67	--	7.43	0.60	13.32	0.89	10.70	0.85	8.88	0.52	0.74
II	11.05	0.58	11.04	0.71	8.87	0.64	14.04	0.92	10.70	0.86	8.88	0.58	0.77
III	11.78	0.77	11.75	0.71	11.76	0.73	14.04	0.98	--	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
IV f	11.78	0.82	11.75	0.71	11.78	0.73	14.04	0.98	10.70	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
Average	11.32	0.67	11.30	0.71	9.96	0.68	13.86	0.94	10.70	0.87	8.88	0.62	0.79
<b>2009</b>													
I f	11.78	0.82	11.75	0.71	11.78	0.73	14.04	0.98	10.70	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
II f	11.95	0.84	11.96	0.75	12.55	0.75	14.24	0.98	10.73	0.90	8.98	0.71	0.84
III f	12.37	0.90	12.36	0.76	13.35	0.78	14.24	1.00	10.66	0.91	9.00	0.75	0.85
IV f	12.42	0.91	12.66	0.76	13.36	0.78	14.24	1.00	10.76	0.92	8.96	0.75	0.85
Average	12.13	0.87	12.18	0.76	12.76	0.76	14.19	0.99	10.73	0.90	8.95	0.73	0.84

-- = not available. p = Preliminary. f = ERS forecast.

1/ Some prices calculated as averages of quoted ranges. 2/ Whole kernel (cut) corn, f.o.b. West Coast basis. 3/ Regular cut. 4/ Poly bags. 5/ Sliced, poly bags. 6/ Spears, f.o.b. Northwest. 7/ Chopped. f.o.b. West Coast. 8/ Cut, IQF poly bag, f.o.b. Northwest.

Source: American Institute of Food Distribution, *Price Trends*.

Price table 10—Potatoes and pulses: Prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 2001-08 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Season average
----- Dollars/hundredweight (cwt) -----														
<b>Potatoes, all uses</b>	2001	4.72	5.28	5.12	5.47	5.22	5.71	6.36	7.20	6.23	5.28	6.16	6.73	6.99
	2002	7.34	7.33	8.24	8.01	8.59	9.38	10.59	7.39	6.29	5.53	6.24	6.62	6.67
	2003	6.44	6.47	6.79	6.99	6.94	6.67	6.84	5.57	5.24	5.03	5.42	5.76	5.89
	2004	5.70	5.87	6.09	6.62	6.47	6.47	6.44	5.60	5.23	4.61	4.89	5.28	5.66
	2005	5.64	5.79	6.44	6.20	6.23	6.30	7.05	6.61	5.69	5.37	6.36	6.89	7.06
	2006	7.08	6.76	8.50	8.35	7.83	8.41	9.77	7.70	6.12	5.70	6.65	6.95	7.30
	2007	7.17	7.41	7.93	8.71	7.92	7.68	8.48	6.78	5.81	5.68	6.47	7.02	7.51
	2008	7.33	7.51	8.37	8.45	9.16	10.78	12.33	11.33	8.79	7.38	8.87		
<b>Potatoes, table stock</b>	2001	3.54	5.41	4.48	5.53	7.23	8.31	8.93	12.96	10.96	8.69	8.68	9.37	10.79
	2002	10.49	11.63	13.19	12.17	14.69	16.28	16.70	15.31	11.52	8.34	8.62	8.60	9.59
	2003	8.09	8.54	8.58	8.80	9.09	9.16	8.96	8.04	7.08	6.95	6.70	6.52	7.32
	2004	6.26	6.68	7.20	7.82	7.76	9.04	9.07	7.87	6.97	5.09	4.89	5.56	6.75
	2005	6.13	6.58	8.04	7.22	7.43	8.23	10.37	11.30	10.77	8.90	9.02	9.17	10.36
	2006	9.58	9.13	13.78	12.32	10.51	11.90	13.14	13.99	9.67	8.73	8.48	8.81	10.27
	2007	9.11	10.09	11.04	13.07	11.08	10.20	11.33	10.67	7.84	7.70	8.12	8.52	10.80
	2008	9.26	9.86	11.42	11.66	14.30	18.61	19.40	24.93	19.15	16.57			
<b>Potatoes, processing</b>	2001	4.95	5.15	5.10	5.19	5.10	4.96	5.24	4.43	4.56	4.47	4.89	5.15	5.05
	2002	5.37	5.27	5.34	5.66	6.02	5.83	6.09	4.67	4.62	4.79	5.14	5.35	5.16
	2003	5.38	5.32	5.28	5.33	5.59	5.60	5.39	4.69	4.64	4.52	4.85	5.31	5.10
	2004	5.29	5.24	5.24	5.54	5.64	5.54	5.30	4.76	4.60	4.45	4.88	5.10	5.06
	2005	5.29	5.30	5.37	5.47	5.68	5.51	5.45	4.92	4.65	4.66	4.89	5.51	5.39
	2006	5.65	5.59	5.74	6.04	6.30	6.46	6.51	5.47	5.22	5.10	5.70	5.96	5.90
	2007	6.14	6.04	6.36	6.55	6.73	6.66	6.53	5.57	5.34	5.29	5.63	6.15	6.01
	2008	6.17	6.25	6.15	6.50	6.71	6.54	6.55	5.56	5.71	5.57			
<b>Dry edible beans</b>	2001	15.10	15.30	14.90	15.60	16.90	16.40	16.80	17.40	18.40	19.20	22.70	21.70	22.10
	2002	21.50	26.10	27.10	27.50	27.80	27.40	24.50	23.20	17.90	16.60	15.90	16.10	17.10
	2003	16.40	19.20	15.90	18.70	19.10	16.60	17.20	18.00	17.60	17.60	19.10	17.40	18.40
	2004	17.20	17.50	20.20	19.60	19.90	20.00	19.20	20.90	22.80	24.50	25.90	27.00	25.70
	2005	27.20	27.80	26.60	28.70	31.10	27.70	25.40	21.40	18.00	18.80	18.00	18.10	18.50
	2006	19.20	17.40	17.10	18.90	19.30	19.00	21.70	19.50	18.80	19.50	21.80	21.80	22.10
	2007	22.70	25.40	25.70	24.50	24.40	24.40	28.50	25.70	24.50	25.90	28.40	27.00	26.40
	2008	27.30	32.20	32.40	34.40	35.70	33.00	36.50	38.00	36.80	40.00	33.10		
<b>Green peas, whole-dry 2/</b>	2001	5.84	6.28	6.44	6.53	6.43	6.28	6.25	6.19	6.21	6.35	6.56	6.88	6.80
	2002	7.04	7.06	7.13	7.40	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.13	7.38	7.68	7.91	8.33	8.89
	2003	9.08	9.81	10.88	10.60	10.44	9.92	9.30	7.56	7.63	8.09	8.84	9.08	9.26
	2004	9.56	9.94	10.50	10.56	10.88	8.43	7.38	6.45	6.41	6.66	6.93	6.69	6.36
	2005	6.63	6.56	6.03	5.69	5.47	5.38	5.31	5.15	4.84	4.81	4.80	4.75	5.26
	2006	4.97	5.31	5.50	5.78	6.00	5.91	5.84	5.93	6.44	6.70	7.19	7.58	8.07
	2007	7.81	8.69	9.50	10.19	10.33	10.63	10.63	10.72	11.78	13.00	13.50	14.08	15.19
	2008	15.56	17.31	18.44	19.20	19.00	19.00	18.90	18.33	17.25	14.50	14.75	13.50	
<b>Yellow peas, whole-dry 2/</b>	2001	5.81	6.31	6.44	6.38	6.40	6.25	6.25	6.19	6.17	6.25	6.56	6.79	6.90
	2002	7.04	7.25	7.31	7.68	7.66	7.59	7.38	6.50	6.72	7.10	7.34	7.58	7.66
	2003	7.42	7.94	8.03	8.50	8.75	8.67	8.44	6.63	6.43	6.75	7.53	7.75	7.97
	2004	7.91	8.72	9.03	9.25	9.42	7.73	7.13	6.08	5.97	6.25	6.43	6.25	6.05
	2005	6.00	6.00	5.73	5.56	5.59	5.55	5.25	5.15	4.66	4.63	4.63	4.63	4.99
	2006	4.75	4.97	5.00	5.25	5.50	5.50	5.53	5.35	5.78	6.10	6.66	7.04	7.30
	2007	7.13	7.94	8.63	8.75	9.20	9.50	9.60	9.75	10.69	11.80	13.00	13.33	13.80
	2008	14.81	16.06	17.44	17.80	17.50	--	17.63	14.75	13.15	11.63	11.75	11.00	
<b>Lentils, regular (Brewer) 2/</b>	2001	10.84	10.50	10.22	10.25	9.90	9.91	9.78	9.84	9.83	9.75	9.72	9.71	9.58
	2002	9.44	9.06	9.03	9.75	9.59	9.44	9.40	9.50	10.75	12.85	13.81	14.25	14.84
	2003	15.42	17.63	18.63	18.70	18.63	18.56	15.20	14.50	14.85	16.50	16.88	16.50	17.41
	2004	17.13	19.00	20.90	21.25	20.38	15.80	14.19	13.25	14.38	15.56	15.95	15.38	13.93
	2005	14.69	14.19	13.45	12.56	12.19	11.40	11.25	11.25	11.34	11.25	10.78	10.08	10.77
	2006	10.38	10.31	10.25	10.69	10.75	10.94	10.94	12.25	13.06	14.15	14.25	14.50	14.05
	2007	14.59	14.81	14.75	14.94	15.05	15.25	15.25	18.00	20.38	24.40	28.00	30.00	27.59
	2008	30.38	30.13	32.38	34.25	33.88	34.00	34.20	34.50	38.25	38.00	--	--	

-- = not available. 1/ Prices for 2008 are preliminary. 2/ Grower bids for U.S. no. 1 grade reported by the *Bean Market News* for Idaho & Washington. The season averages for peas and lentils presented here are calculated by ERS based on a July-June marketing year.

Sources: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*, and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Bean Market News*.

**Price table 11—U.S. fresh-market herbs: Selected monthly wholesale prices in San Francisco, CA, 2007-08**

Herb	Unit	2007			2008			Change from prev. year		
		Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anise	24-ct crtn	11.50	10.00	13.50	13.00	13.00	14.00	13.0	30.0	3.7
Arrugula	12-ct flmbag	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	.0	.0	.0
Basil	12-ct flmbag	7.25	7.50	8.50	8.25	9.50	9.75	13.8	26.7	14.7
Celeriac	12-ct ctns	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	.0	.0	.0
Chervil	12-ct flmbag	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.25	6.00	6.00	- 7.4	- 11.1	- 11.1
Chives	12-ct flmbag	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	.0	.0	.0
Cilantro	60-ct ctns	14.00	11.50	13.00	18.75	14.62	12.00	33.9	27.1	- 7.7
Cipolinos	10-lb ctns	17.50	17.50	17.50	19.50	20.00	20.00	11.4	14.3	14.3
Dill	12-ct ctns	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.12	7.12	.0	- 11.0	- 11.0
Dry Eschallot	5-lb sack	6.00	1/	5.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	16.7	1/	20.0
Horseradish	Per lb-bg	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.40	2.40	2.40	11.6	11.6	11.6
Lemon grass	Per lb-ctns	2.25	2.25	2.25	0.80	0.68	0.68	- 64.4	- 70.0	- 70.0
Marjoram	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3
Oregano	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3
Rosemary	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3
Mint	12-ct ctns	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.50	7.75	.0	- 6.3	- 3.1
Sage	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.2	- 2.2
Salsify	5-1kg flmbg	29.25	29.25	29.25	30.00	30.00	30.00	2.6	2.6	2.6
Savory	24-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3
Sorrel	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3
Tarragon	12-ct flmbag	7.50	7.50	7.50	6.63	6.50	6.50	- 11.6	- 13.3	- 13.3
Thyme	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.50	5.50	2.1	- 2.3	- 2.3
Verdulaga	36-ct crts	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.0	10.0	10.0
Watercress	12-ct ctns	15.00	1/	14.50	13.75	13.75	13.75	- 8.3	1/	- 5.2

1/ Data not available

Source: Derived from data provided by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, FV Data Portal, <http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>

**Price table 12—U.S. fresh-market herbs: October-December average wholesale prices in Miami, FL, 2007-08**

Herb	Unit	2007	2008	Change
		----- Dollars/unit -----		Percent
Anise	24-ct crtn	11.67	13.33	- 5.1
Arrugula	12-ct ctns	8.00	8.00	23.6
Basil	12-ct ctns	7.75	9.17	- 6.1
Celeriac	20-lb ct ctns	12.50	12.50	39.1
Chervil	12-ct flmbag	6.75	6.08	12.2
Chives	12-ct flmbag	5.50	5.50	4.9
Cilantro	60-ct ctns	12.83	15.12	- 9.2
Cipolinos	10-lb ctns	17.50	19.83	- 2.4
Dill	12-ct flmbag	8.00	7.41	- 3.6
Dry Eschallot	5-lb sack	5.50	6.33	.0
Horseradish	5-lb bag	2.15	2.40	.0
Lemon grass	12-ct flmbag	2.25	0.72	- 5.7
Marjoram	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	.0
Oregano	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	- 6.1
Rosemary	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	- 19.0
Mint	12-ct flmbag	8.00	7.75	11.1
Sage	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	.0
Savory	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	.0
Sorrel	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	- 5.9
Tarragon	12-ct flmbag	7.50	6.54	8.1
Thyme	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.58	3.4
Watercress	12-ct ctns	14.75	13.75	6.6

Source: Derived from data provided by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, FV Data Portal, <http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv>



**Price table 13—Farm-retail price spreads, 2005-08**

Item	Annual			2007	2008					
	2005	2006	2007	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
<b>Market basket</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	198.2	201.8	211.0	216.4	219.0	219.0	218.4	220.9	222.4	224.0
Farm value (1982-84=100)	122.2	119.5	141.9	152.4	151.1	147.9	146.2	144.7	149.8	153.9
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	239.2	246.2	248.3	250.8	255.6	257.3	257.3	261.9	261.6	261.8
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	21.6	20.7	23.6	24.7	24.2	23.6	23.4	22.9	23.6	24.1
<b>Fresh fruit</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	330.7	350.6	367.6	385.1	392.1	377.0	367.1	378.1	390.5	381.4
Farm value (1982-84=100)	173.4	195.8	193.4	214.2	253.2	175.4	161.6	178.0	219.9	203.6
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	403.3	422.1	448.1	464.0	456.2	470.1	462.0	470.5	469.3	463.5
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	16.6	17.6	16.6	17.6	20.4	14.7	13.9	14.9	17.8	16.9
<b>Fresh vegetables</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	271.7	283.0	293.5	306.1	317.5	305.0	301.5	299.8	298.5	307.2
Farm value (1982-84=100)	145.5	156.7	169.0	165.5	147.9	131.9	158.1	167.3	183.9	200.7
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	336.7	347.9	357.4	378.4	404.7	394.0	375.2	367.9	357.4	361.9
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	18.2	18.8	19.6	18.4	15.8	14.7	17.8	19.0	20.9	22.2
<b>Processed fruits and vegetables</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	192.3	201.2	208.7	210.7	214.4	218.0	215.7	220.9	224.3	227.4
Farm value (1982-84=100)	137.7	140.1	145.8	154.9	151.4	155.4	157.1	158.5	158.6	159.6
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	209.4	220.3	228.3	228.1	234.0	237.5	234.0	240.4	244.8	248.6
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	17.0	16.6	16.6	17.5	16.8	16.9	17.3	17.1	16.8	16.7
<b>Fats and oils</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	167.7	167.8	172.9	176.1	181.8	184.9	182.8	190.6	193.4	196.2
Farm value (1982-84=100)	108.2	101.9	150.9	187.5	208.8	228.1	234.1	235.1	243.9	260.9
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	189.6	192.1	181.1	171.9	171.9	169.0	163.9	174.2	174.8	172.4
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	17.3	16.3	23.5	28.6	30.9	33.2	34.4	33.2	33.9	35.8
<b>Meat products</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	187.5	188.9	195.0	195.6	196.0	195.6	195.9	196.5	197.3	199.7
Farm value (1982-84=100)	121.4	116.7	124.7	124.3	122.8	121.3	117.7	118.2	125.5	126.9
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	255.4	263.0	267.1	268.8	271.1	271.8	276.2	276.9	270.9	274.4
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	32.8	31.3	32.4	32.2	31.7	31.4	30.4	30.5	32.2	32.2
<b>Dairy products</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	182.4	181.2	194.8	205.3	206.9	208.2	206.2	207.7	207.8	209.1
Farm value (1982-84=100)	118.7	101.7	152.9	170.9	163.5	152.5	141.8	143.0	145.0	151.6
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	241.1	254.5	233.3	237.0	246.9	259.6	265.5	267.3	265.7	262.1
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	31.2	26.9	37.7	39.9	37.9	35.1	33.0	33.0	33.5	34.8
<b>Poultry</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	185.3	182.0	191.4	194.0	196.9	195.8	196.1	197.5	199.1	199.8
Farm value (1982-84=100)	139.4	128.5	154.8	144.7	151.8	158.5	150.3	151.3	158.2	159.2
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	238.1	243.7	233.4	250.8	248.8	238.7	248.9	250.7	246.2	246.6
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	40.3	37.8	43.3	39.9	41.3	43.3	41.0	41.0	42.5	42.6
<b>Eggs</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	144.1	150.6	195.3	234.0	237.9	238.8	240.1	233.2	217.1	217.2
Farm value (1982-84=100)	60.1	69.5	136.3	220.0	206.2	209.7	223.4	151.9	120.0	159.3
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	295.2	296.2	301.3	259.2	294.8	291.1	270.0	379.2	391.6	321.2
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	26.8	29.7	44.8	60.4	55.7	56.4	59.8	41.8	35.5	47.1
<b>Cereal and bakery products</b>										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	209.0	213.0	222.1	226.5	228.7	233.4	236.3	240.0	244.2	245.8
Farm value (1982-84=100)	96.4	111.1	149.5	187.3	181.6	216.8	230.5	220.2	206.3	195.1
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	224.6	227.2	232.2	232.0	235.3	235.7	237.1	242.8	249.5	252.9
Farm value-retail cost (percent)	5.7	6.4	8.2	10.1	9.7	11.4	11.9	11.2	10.3	9.7

1/ Retail costs are based on CPI-U of retail prices for domestically produced farm foods, published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Farm value is the payment for the quantity of farm equivalent to the retail unit, less allowance for byproduct. Farm values are based on prices at first point of sale, and may include marketing charges such as grading and packing for some commodities. The farm-retail spread, the difference between the retail value and farm value, represents charges for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/2008/08Aug/aotab08.xls>