



United States
Department
of Agriculture

VGS-329

Oct. 23, 2008



A Report from the Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov

Vegetables and Melons Outlook

Gary Lucier, Rachael L. Dettmann and Michelle Da Pra

Fall Vegetable Area Down, Prices Up

This fall (primarily October-December), area for harvest for the leading fresh-market vegetables (excluding melons) is expected to decline 4 percent from a year earlier. The fall market is expected to feature reduced volume, sluggish demand, and slightly higher prices. For bulb onions, an expected 10-percent reduction in the fall storage crop will keep farm and retail prices well above last year's anemic lows into next spring.

Although processed tomato product marketers face strong supplies and the prospect of weakening demand due to rising unemployment and consumer cutbacks, wholesale prices for tomato products will likely maintain strength in the coming year due primarily to sharply higher production costs for tomatoes and tomato processing. For example, the September wholesale price for a case of fancy ketchup is one-fifth above a year ago.

Utilization data for the 2007/08 potato crop indicate that 25 percent of the crop was used in fresh form, leaving the majority for processing. Among processing uses, 51 percent consisted of frozen french fries, 19 percent went to make traditional potato chips, 18 percent was used for dehydrated products (including chips made from potato flakes), and 12 percent went into other products (largely frozen, canned, flour, and starches).

During 2007/08 (September-August), U.S. dry bean exports increased 20 percent from a year earlier to 8.19 million cwt. Volume was 29 percent above the average of the past 5 years and was the highest since 2000/01. Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom remained the top three export destinations, accounting for 47 percent of volume.

During August-October of 2008, wholesale prices for such fresh herbs as anise, horseradish, and watercress rose more than 10 percent from a year earlier in San Francisco, while arugula, celeriac and mint prices rose more than 10 percent in Miami. Rosemary prices increased on the west coast but decreased in Miami due to lower import prices from Colombia and Peru. For other wholesale herbs such as tarragon, prices fell on the west coast but rose on the east coast due to higher import prices.

Despite, sharply higher production costs, the average price per pound for mushrooms during the 2007/08 crop year was only 3 percent higher than the previous year at \$1.19 per pound. On average, prices have increased annually at this rate since 2000.

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The next release is
December 16, 2008.

Approved by the
World Agricultural
Outlook Board.

Industry Overview

Fresh vegetables: Retail prices for fresh-market vegetables averaged 6 percent above a year earlier through the first 9 months of 2008. With the exception of iceberg lettuce, retail prices averaged higher for most major vegetables. Given reduced area and average weather this fall, fresh-market vegetable supplies are expected to be lower and retail prices slightly higher than a year earlier during October-December 2008.

Melons: Wholesale prices for all melons averaged about 11 percent above a year earlier over the first 9 months of 2008. Meanwhile, advertised retail prices this summer (July-September) for seedless watermelon averaged \$3.96 each, down 19 percent from the spring quarter. Prices for small (“personal-size”) watermelons averaged \$3.04, or 5 percent lower than the \$3.20 spring average. Cantaloup retail prices were also seasonally lower this summer (down 4 percent) at \$2.17 each.

Processing vegetables: Retail prices for processed fruits and vegetables averaged 8 percent above a year earlier through the first 9 months of 2008. Consumers paid 5 percent more for frozen vegetables but 11 percent more for canned vegetables, reflecting surging costs for farm products. Despite favorable growing weather that boosted yields and supply of processed tomato products in the United States, wholesale prices for tomato products (e.g., paste, sauces, ketchup, diced, etc.) are expected to remain high into next summer due to higher costs and continued favorable export demand.

Potatoes: Retail prices for all fresh-market potatoes (Russet, white, and red) averaged 12 percent above a year earlier through the first 9 months of 2008. Given dwindling stocks and good demand for potatoes used to make processed products, tablestock prices were pushed higher this summer, with grower prices reaching record highs. Despite the sluggish economy, lower supplies this fall will provide continued strength to retail potato and potato product prices into next spring.

Sweet potatoes: During the first 9 months of 2008, wholesale prices for U.S. fresh-market sweet potatoes averaged 7 percent below a year earlier, due mostly to stocks from the large 2007/08 crop. Advertised retail prices for sweet potatoes this summer were down 5 percent from the spring to \$0.82 per pound.

Dry edible beans: With modest supplies and higher wholesale prices during the first 9 months of 2008, retail prices for dry packaged edible beans averaged \$1.15 per pound, up 25 percent from a year earlier. Despite little change in production in 2008, the market price outlook for virtually all types of dry beans remain uncertain but are expected to move in sympathy with most other field crop markets, which have largely declined this month.

Dry peas and lentils: With good demand, lower stocks, and a smaller crop in prospect for 2008, wholesale prices for dry lentils during January-September 2008 averaged 108 percent above a year earlier. Similarly, wholesale prices for dry peas averaged 73 percent above a year earlier during the same time period. In the year ahead, grower and dealer prices for peas and lentils will depend on world demand, domestic stocks, and the prices of competing crops such as wheat.

Mushrooms: According to *Market News*, national advertised retail prices for white button mushrooms averaged \$1.72 per 8-ounce package during the first 9 months of 2008. The October retail price averaged \$1.75 through mid-month, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Table 1--U.S. vegetable industry at a glance, 2005-08

Item	Unit	2005	2006	2007	2008 1/
<i>Area harvested</i>	1,000 ac.	7,128	7,264	7,020	6,798
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	1,000 ac.	1,916	1,944	1,943	1,880
Processing	1,000 ac.	1,270	1,257	1,251	1,250
Potatoes	1,000 ac.	1,087	1,122	1,130	1,041
Dry beans	1,000 ac.	1,534	1,538	1,479	1,435
Other 2/	1,000 ac.	1,321	1,404	1,218	1,193
<i>Production</i>	Mil. cw t	1,281	1,308	1,367	1,316
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	Mil. cw t	472	483	494	488
Processing	Mil. cw t	314	318	355	345
Potatoes	Mil. cw t	424	441	447	414
Dry beans	Mil. cw t	27	24	25	25
Other 2/	Mil. cw t	44	41	46	44
<i>Crop value</i>	\$ mil.	15,906	17,159	18,131	18,614
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	9,829	10,726	10,910	11,075
Processing	\$ mil.	1,255	1,341	1,605	1,755
Potatoes	\$ mil.	2,991	3,223	3,361	3,400
Dry beans	\$ mil.	516	556	677	770
Mushrooms	\$ mil.	909	889	961	964
Other 2/	\$ mil.	406	424	616	650
<i>Unit value 3/</i>	\$/cw t	12.42	13.12	13.26	14.14
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$/cw t	20.82	22.23	22.10	22.72
Processing	\$/cw t	3.99	4.21	4.52	5.10
Potatoes	\$/cw t	7.06	7.30	7.51	8.20
Dry beans	\$/cw t	18.50	22.10	26.40	30.30
Other 2/	\$/cw t	9.29	10.23	13.39	14.65
<i>Trade</i>					
<i>Imports</i>	\$ mil.	6,622	7,286	7,935	8,550
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	3,668	4,091	4,433	4,670
Processing 4/	\$ mil.	1,602	1,748	1,916	2,165
Potatoes & products	\$ mil.	787	856	908	955
Dry beans	\$ mil.	82	84	107	160
Other 5/	\$ mil.	483	507	570	600
<i>Exports</i>	\$ mil.	3,899	4,233	4,621	5,405
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	1,515	1,624	1,741	1,840
Processing 4/	\$ mil.	828	860	942	1,240
Potatoes & products	\$ mil.	841	950	1,051	1,215
Dry beans	\$ mil.	160	211	199	250
Other 5/	\$ mil.	555	588	686	860
<i>Per capita use</i>	Pounds	441	434	443	442
<i>Vegetables:</i>					
Fresh & melons	Pounds	174	179	183	181
Processing	Pounds	126	116	118	121
Potatoes & products	Pounds	126	123	125	124
Dry beans	Pounds	6	6	7	6
Other 2/	Pounds	9	10	10	10

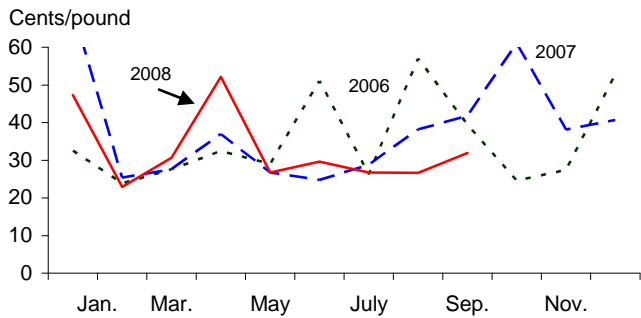
1/ ERS forecasts. 2/ Includes sweet potatoes, dry peas, lentils, and mushrooms (except for crop value). 3/ Ratio of total value to total production. 4/ Includes canned, frozen, and dried. Excludes potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms. 5/ Other includes mushrooms, dry peas, lentils, sweet potatoes, and vegetable 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.

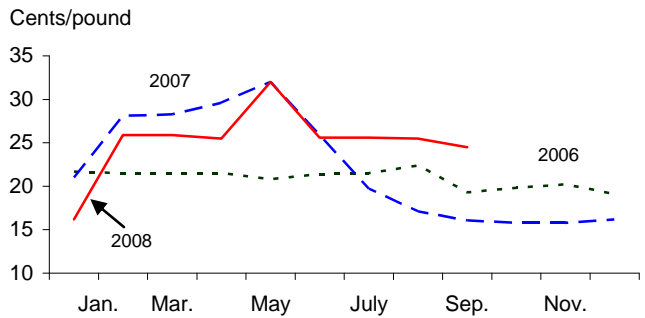
Figure 1

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

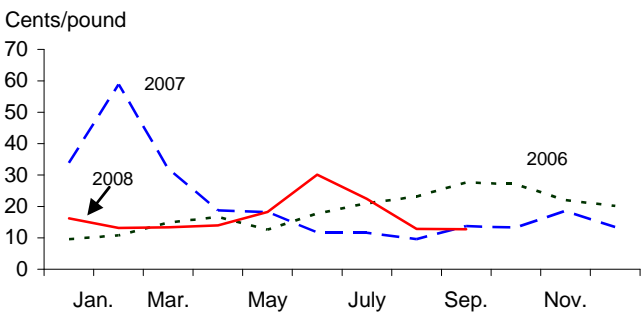
Broccoli



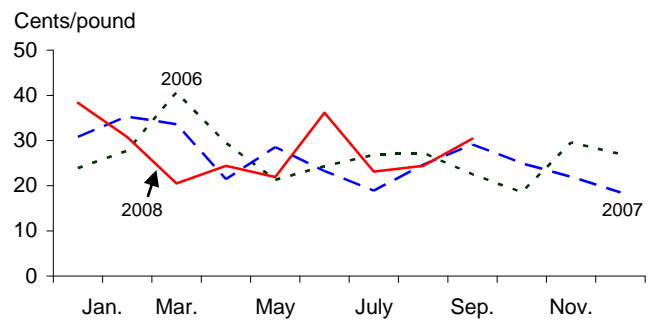
Carrots



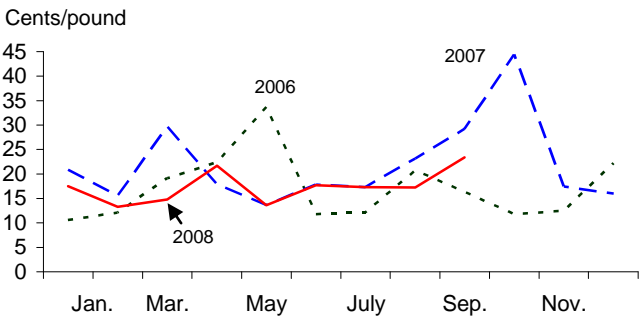
Celery



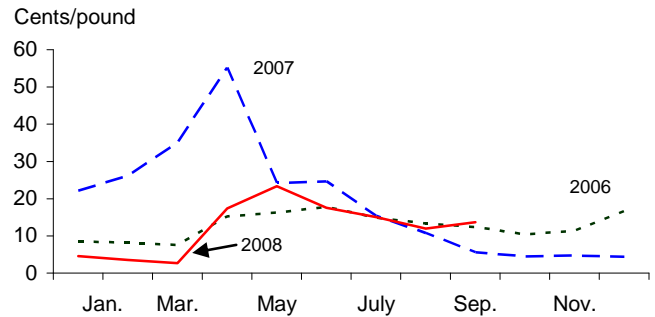
Cucumbers



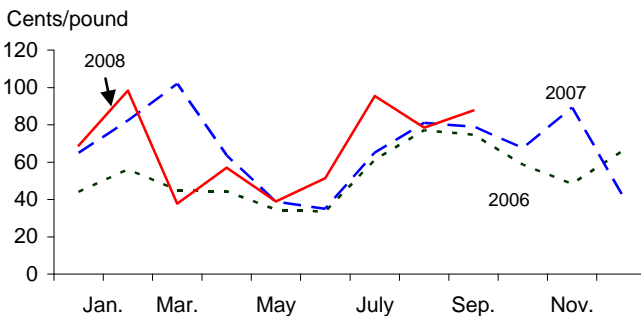
Head lettuce



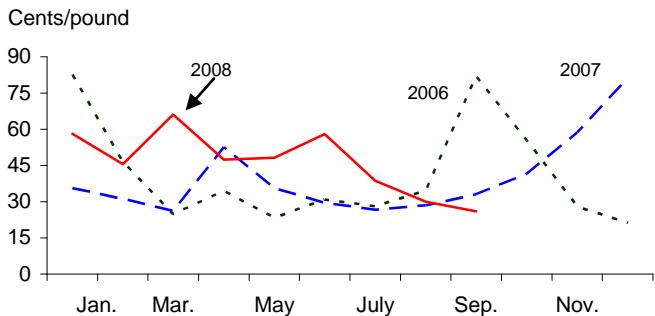
Onions



Snap beans



Tomatoes



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

Fresh-Market Vegetables

Fall Acreage Lower

Fresh-market vegetable acreage (excluding melons and storage onions) is expected to remain in the doldrums during the fourth quarter of 2008, declining 4 percent from a year earlier (table 2). With average yields, market shipments would be expected to decline about 3 percent from last fall. Weather has been favorable in the West with good yields expected, while tropical downpours left standing water and delayed planting in Florida and Georgia. California accounts for about 71 percent of the fall fresh vegetable area (excluding melons and onions), while Florida expects to harvest about 20 percent of the fall fresh-vegetable crop.

Growers of 6 of the 11 surveyed crops are expected to reduce acreage this fall. The largest reductions from a year ago were for snap beans, bell peppers, and head lettuce, while sweet corn and tomatoes were the most notable increases. The decline in bell pepper area is likely a reaction to excess supplies and lower prices received last fall (especially in light of much higher production costs this year) and delayed or prevented planting caused by heavy tropical rains in southern Florida (fig. 2). Bell pepper acreage was also the same or lower during the winter, spring, and summer seasons. This is curious since import volume is up 3 percent so far in 2008 and domestic bell pepper demand appears to be relatively steady. While some growers may no longer be willing to risk the large investment required to produce, pack, and sell bell peppers, it is more likely that some of the retail demand for field-grown peppers has been supplanted by greenhouse-grown product (which is not currently captured in domestic production statistics). This is also likely part of the reason that field-grown fresh tomato acreage has been on a declining path the past several years. With an economic recession and consumer belt-tightening looming, some cash-strapped consumers may switch back to lower-priced field-grown vegetables in the year ahead.

Acreage has declined during each of the quarterly seasons in 2008 with the fall season decline following reductions of 6 percent this past summer, 1 percent in the spring, and 3 percent during the winter. As a result, annual 2008 fresh-market vegetable acreage is also projected to be lower than a year ago. Given acreage for melon crops (down 5 percent), bulb onions (down 7 percent), and asparagus for all

Table 2--Fall-season fresh-market vegetable area 1/

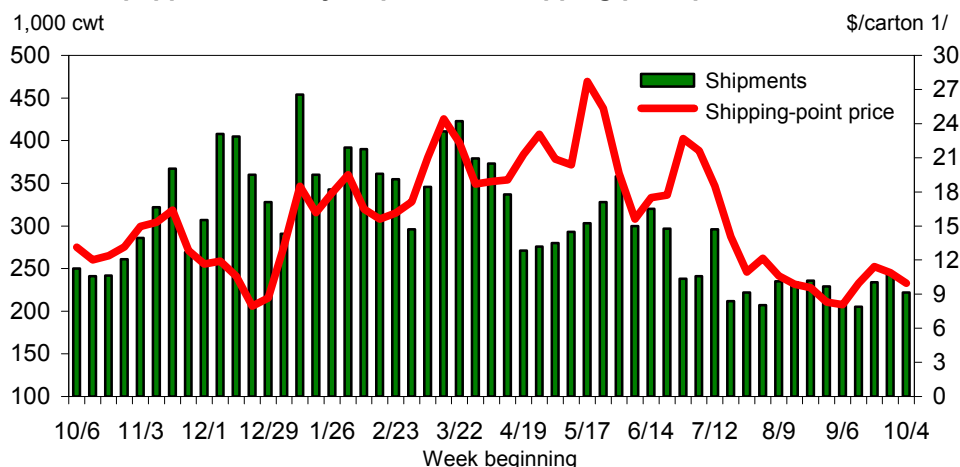
Item	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08
	--Harvested acres--				Percent
Snap beans	18,200	13,100	18,500	16,200	-12
Broccoli	30,000	30,000	28,000	28,000	0
Cabbage	6,500	6,600	6,300	5,770	-8
Carrots	16,200	15,200	19,100	19,300	1
Cauliflower	9,000	8,500	8,300	7,900	-5
Celery	6,700	6,800	7,100	7,000	-1
Sweet corn	9,000	5,200	8,300	8,800	6
Cucumbers	6,800	6,300	5,600	5,700	2
Head lettuce	30,300	31,100	33,200	30,000	-10
Bell pepper	5,400	3,000	4,400	3,700	-16
Tomatoes	22,000	21,000	18,400	19,000	3
Total	160,100	146,800	157,200	151,370	-4

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during Oct.-Dec.

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

Figure 2

U.S. bell peppers: Weekly shipments & shipping-point price, 2007/08



1/ \$ per 28-30 lb carton.

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

uses (down 16 percent) is also expected lower for the year, annual fresh market vegetable and melon harvested area is projected to be down about 3 percent from the 1.94 million acres of 2007. If realized, this would be the lowest harvested area since 1998. Given this area and average yields, production of fresh-market vegetables and melons may have dropped 3 percent in 2008 back to around 2006 levels (483 million hundredweight (cwt)).

Shipments Down, Prices Up

The impact of the sluggish economy on demand was outweighed by reduced acreage during the summer quarter of 2008 (July-September), leaving fresh-market vegetable prices up 2 percent from a year earlier. With market shipments down an estimated 8 percent from a year earlier (table 3), prices at the point of first sale (grower or shipping-point) averaged higher for such crops as carrots, cauliflower, celery, onions, snap beans, and sweet corn. September prices for carrots (up 52 percent) and bulb onions (up 146 percent) were easily the biggest gainers from their low levels of a year earlier. On the other hand, good yields for crops such as tomatoes, broccoli, and celery pushed prices lower during September.

September movement of cucumbers (fresh and pickling-types) increased 5 percent from a year earlier. Michigan was the leading shipper with 35 percent of September volume, followed by Mexico (24 percent), Georgia (17 percent), New York (13 percent), and Ohio (8 percent). Imports of greenhouse-produced cucumbers (excluding Mexico) accounted for 1 percent of market volume in September. Shipments of cucumbers grown for pickling accounted for 4 percent of movement, with most of this volume coming from Michigan. In addition to pickles, pickling cucumbers have also gained a small niche in the fresh cucumber market over the past few years. Despite rising shipments, cucumber retail prices remained steady at 62 cents each in early October. The advertised retail price for cucumbers has remained steady since July. However, an increasing number of stores featured cucumbers in their advertisements in early October, likely reflecting improved market volume.

After an early fall with average volume and relatively favorable prices, the fall market is expected to feature reduced volume, sluggish demand, and moderately

higher prices. With acreage and market volume lower, retail prices moved higher for some fresh-market vegetables in late September and early October. Average advertised retail prices in early October for crops such as onions, bell peppers, sweet corn, iceberg lettuce, and squash were running above year-earlier levels.

Table 3--Selected U.S. fresh-market vegetable shipments 1/

Item	Annual 2007	August 2008	September		Change previous: 2/	
			2007	2008	Month	Year
	-----1,000 cwt-----				Percent	
Asparagus	3,621	191	220	146	-24	-34
Snap beans	3,343	148	100	90	-39	-10
Broccoli	9,538	659	607	661	0	9
Cabbage	12,707	791	899	802	1	-11
Cantaloup	28,284	3,308	2,347	2,178	-34	-7
Carrots	9,762	520	755	574	10	-24
Cauliflower	3,944	246	313	273	11	-13
Celery	16,487	1,039	1,120	1,053	1	-6
Sweet corn	11,262	512	257	330	-36	28
Cucumbers	15,876	899	734	774	-14	5
Greens	2,391	61	129	87	43	-33
Head lettuce	34,969	2,601	2,736	2,333	-10	-15
Romaine	15,455	1,064	1,119	1,047	-2	-6
Leaf lettuce	4,215	237	316	252	6	-20
Onions, dry bulb	48,320	3,353	4,249	3,679	10	-13
Onions, green	2,931	173	141	186	8	32
Peppers, bell	17,860	934	1,366	890	-5	-35
Peppers, chile	6,094	426	592	572	34	-3
Squash	7,008	211	181	220	4	22
Tomato, round	28,293	2,060	2,328	2,002	-3	-14
Tomato, roma	11,849	652	673	650	0	-3
Tomato, ghouse 3/	10,720	579	677	824	42	22
Tomato, small 4/	4,601	268	311	205	-23	-34
Watermelon	39,909	5,252	863	1,421	-73	65
Selected total	349,439	26,184	23,033	21,250	-19	-8

1/ Data for 2008 are preliminary. Includes domestic and imported product. 2/ Change in Sept. 2008. 3/ Includes all types of tomatoes produced under cover. 4/ Includes cherry and grape.

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

Table 4—U.S. quarterly grower (point-of-first-sale) prices, 2007-08

Commodity	2007			2008 *				Change 3rd Q 1/
	Second	Third	Fourth	First	Second	Third	Fourth	
	-----Cents/pound-----							Percent
Asparagus	95.20	--	--	88.40	91.80	--	--	--
Broccoli	29.47	36.27	46.60	33.60	36.17	28.40	41.00	-21.7
Cantaloup	20.40	12.80	34.50	--	21.90	12.41	24.00	-3.0
Carrots	29.17	17.63	15.93	22.67	27.70	25.20	21.00	42.9
Cauliflower	35.50	25.80	41.73	41.77	47.47	35.87	39.00	39.0
Celery	16.23	11.68	15.13	14.27	20.80	16.03	17.00	37.2
Sweet corn	21.43	22.73	25.37	27.47	20.93	25.87	26.00	13.8
Cucumbers	24.37	24.20	21.83	29.45	27.50	25.97	25.00	7.3
Lettuce, head	16.40	23.20	25.93	15.20	17.67	19.30	26.00	-16.8
Onions, dry bulb	34.67	10.59	4.52	3.60	19.43	13.60	13.00	28.4
Snap beans	45.80	75.03	66.57	68.27	49.07	87.20	68.00	16.2
Tomatoes, field	39.27	29.47	60.50	56.60	51.20	31.53	49.00	7.0
All vegetables 2/	1,020	952	1,055	878	1,029	973	1,125	2.2

-- = not available. * = ERS forecast. 1/ Change in 3rd-quarter 2008 over 3rd-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*.

Storage Onion Output Drops

Production of summer/fall storage onions is expected to decline 10 percent from a year earlier to 51.5 million cwt. California's storage crop, which is primarily used for dehydration and other processed products, is expected to decline 1 percent. Excluding California, the storage onion crop would be down 13 percent from a year earlier and 16 percent from the record-large 2004 crop. Storage onion harvested area (including California) was down 8 percent and was the lowest since 1992. With a cool wet spring in several areas, national yield per acre was down 3 percent from the near-record highs of 2007 and was the same or lower for every State except California and Colorado. Production is expected to be lower in each of the top three states (Oregon, California, and Washington) with production also down in New York due to damaging hail. As a result of the smaller fresh-market storage crop and continued good demand for onions (per capita use was a near record 21.6 pounds in 2007), prices will remain well above the anemic lows of a year earlier into next spring.

Asparagus Crop Down 22 Percent

Production of fresh-market asparagus declined 22 percent in 2008 to 0.72 million cwt with reduced acreage (especially in California) accounting for the drop. California growers have reduced asparagus area 50 percent over the last decade in response to increased import competition, greater acreage in other States and lower prices. Area has also been seriously eroded in Washington State, largely the result of plant closings/moving by asparagus processors. In 1989, Washington harvested 32,000 acres of asparagus but is now down to just 6,500 acres. In Michigan, where most of the crop is processed, harvested area dropped from 23,000 in 1989 to 11,200 acres in 2008. Between 2000 and 2008, the value of the U.S. fresh-market asparagus crop has dropped from \$176 million to \$64 million.

Table 5--Fresh vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes

Item	2007	2008		Change previous:	
	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	Month	Year
	----- Index -----			---- Percent ----	
Consumer Price Indexes (1982/84=100)					
Fresh vegetables	282.3	313.4	311.3	-0.7	10.3
Potatoes	283.0	366.8	376.3	2.6	33.0
Tomatoes, all	280.8	317.7	303.0	-4.6	7.9
Lettuce, all	273.3	286.0	297.4	4.0	8.8
Other vegetables	290.3	306.3	300.9	-1.8	3.6
Producer Price Indexes (Dec. 1991 =100)					
Fresh vegetables (excl. potatoes) 1/	162.7	146.1	158.7	8.6	-2.5
Beets	134.7	123.8	139.6	12.8	3.6
Cabbage	190.3	200.3	193.7	-3.3	1.8
Eggplant	252.4	207.0	213.9	3.3	-15.3
Greens	176.8	164.3	164.2	-0.1	-7.1
Green peas	80.4	63.6	85.5	34.4	6.3
Onions, green	284.3	299.7	327.9	9.4	15.3
Onions, dry bulb 1/	100.6	154.3	156.8	1.6	55.9
Peppers, green	154.3	212.5	180.0	-15.3	16.7
Radishes	315.1	282.4	305.0	8.0	-3.2
Spinach	376.9	481.7	357.0	-25.9	-5.3
Squash	187.3	180.1	170.7	-5.2	-8.9
Tomatoes 1/	127.0	142.9	127.7	-10.6	0.6

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>).

Imports have continued to fill in behind domestic producers in 2008. The volume of fresh asparagus imports during January-July was up 15 percent from the same period a year earlier and 73 percent above that of 5 years ago. Fresh asparagus imports are three times as large as a decade earlier, with imports now satisfying two-thirds of domestic consumption. Mexico and Peru accounted for most of the fresh asparagus volume imported through July. Although both countries are year-round asparagus suppliers, volume from Mexico is greatest during the winter, while shipments from Peru are strong from late summer through the end of the year. With imports filling in for domestic output, U.S. per capita use of asparagus in 2008 is expected to remain steady at 1.17 pounds.

Export Volume Up

Driven largely by a weaker U.S. dollar exchange rate, the volume of fresh-market vegetable (excluding melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) exports rose 5 percent from a year ago over the first 8 months of 2008 (Jan.-Aug.). Volume increased for commodities such as tomatoes, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, and leaf/romaine lettuce. Export volume was reduced for commodities such as head lettuce, celery, cucumbers, snap beans, and bulb onions. Fresh vegetable export volume was greater than a year earlier for each month of the year with the strongest year-over-year gain in July (up 11 percent). The gain in 2008 comes after two consecutive weak export periods (Jan-Aug) in 2006 (down 7 percent) and 2007 (down 3 percent). Exports to Canada (which accounted for 76 percent of total fresh volume) were up about 2 percent, while volume sent to Mexico (which accounted for 8 percent of the total) was up 13 percent. Fresh vegetable exports were also higher to the United Kingdom (up 15 percent due largely to sweet corn), South Korea (up 335 percent due to sweet corn), and Japan (up 11 percent due largely to onions and broccoli) during January-August.

Table 6--Selected fresh-market vegetable trade volume, 2006-08 1/

Item	2007	January - August			Change
	Annual	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
		--1,000 cwt--			Percent
Exports, fresh:					
Onions, dry bulb	5,508	3,474	3,255	3,184	-2
Lettuce, other	4,534	3,174	2,954	3,056	3
Tomatoes	3,557	2,013	2,276	2,528	11
Carrots	2,575	1,895	1,915	2,057	7
Broccoli	3,110	2,179	2,175	2,187	1
Lettuce, head	3,532	2,570	2,317	2,189	-6
Celery	2,597	1,758	1,792	1,745	-3
Other	10,783	8,050	7,608	8,469	11
Total	36,195	25,112	24,293	25,415	5
Imports, fresh:					
Tomatoes, all	23,611	17,218	17,780	18,379	3
Cucumbers	10,122	6,613	7,100	7,842	10
Onions, dry bulb	9,025	3,792	6,083	4,448	-27
Peppers, sweet	7,264	5,360	5,113	5,208	2
Squash 2/	5,658	3,327	3,689	3,569	-3
Peppers, chile	5,634	3,248	3,350	4,101	22
Asparagus, all	2,735	1,623	1,707	1,998	17
Other	23,550	14,432	15,667	16,192	3
Total	87,599	55,614	60,490	61,737	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.

Melons

Fall Acreage Up

Spurred by relatively favorable wholesale prices this summer, melon area is expected to rise 1 percent this fall to 15,600 acres. Although cantaloup area is expected to remain steady, honeydew area is expected to rise 6 percent. Weather in California and Arizona has been favorable and melon yield and quality is expected to be good this fall. Arizona is the top melon producer during the fall, harvesting about two-thirds of the acreage devoted to these crops.

Wholesale prices for melons moved lower each month from April through September. During the summer months, wholesale melon prices averaged about 10 percent above a year earlier, reflecting planting disruptions in some midwest and eastern growing areas caused by a cool, wet spring. Although cantaloup and honeydew prices eased by mid-summer, watermelon prices remained relatively high reflecting reduced acreage and higher production costs.

Per capita melon consumption has risen to an annual average of 27 pounds this decade—up 3 percent from the average of the 1990s. This demand has been satisfied by both domestic producers and melon importers. While imports between the 1990s and the 2000s are up 53 percent (an increase of 621 million pounds), domestic production is up 7 percent (an increase of 445 million pounds). However, domestic producers have also met a 48 percent increase in export demand since the 1990s (up 148 million pounds). Thus, both domestic producers and importers have shared fairly equally in satisfying increasing melon demand this decade.

Table 7--Fall-season fresh-market melon area 1/

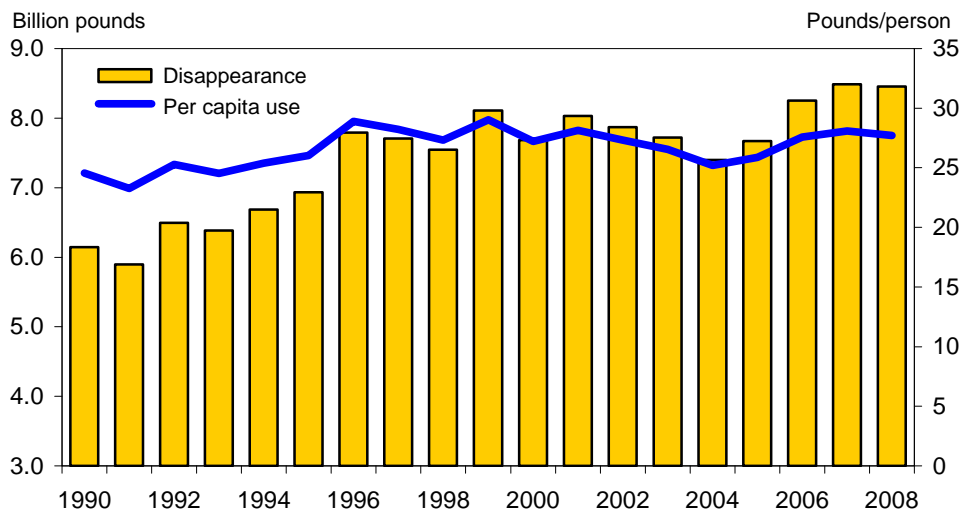
Item	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08
--Harvested acres--					
Cantaloup	12,300	12,400	12,100	12,100	0
Honeydew	3,100	3,600	3,300	3,500	6
Total	15,400	16,000	15,400	15,600	1

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during Oct.-Dec.

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

Figure 3

U.S. melons, all: Net domestic disappearance, 1990-2008



Source: Computed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

Processing Vegetables

Tomato Harvest Exceeds Expectations

Because of the slow start of the season, reduced planted area, and acreage losses due to shortages of irrigation water in California, there was uncertainty as to the size of this year's processing tomato crop. However, with excellent yields in California (and average yields in the Midwest), it now appears that the U.S. crop will be near the 12.1-million-ton USDA projection. With harvest beginning to wind down in mid-October, administrative data from the California Tomato Advisory Board indicated that 11.6 million tons had been processed through the week of October 11, with another 0.1 million tons expected the following week. This is near the the USDA projection of 11.6 million tons, thought by some to be optimistic given the circumstances this year. California will likely report record-high yields on a good quality crop (low mold percentage and average or better solids).

Although tomato product marketers face strong supplies and the prospect of weakening demand due to rising unemployment and consumer cutbacks, wholesale prices for tomato products will likely maintain strength due primarily to sharply

Table 8--Contract production of selected vegetables for processing 1/

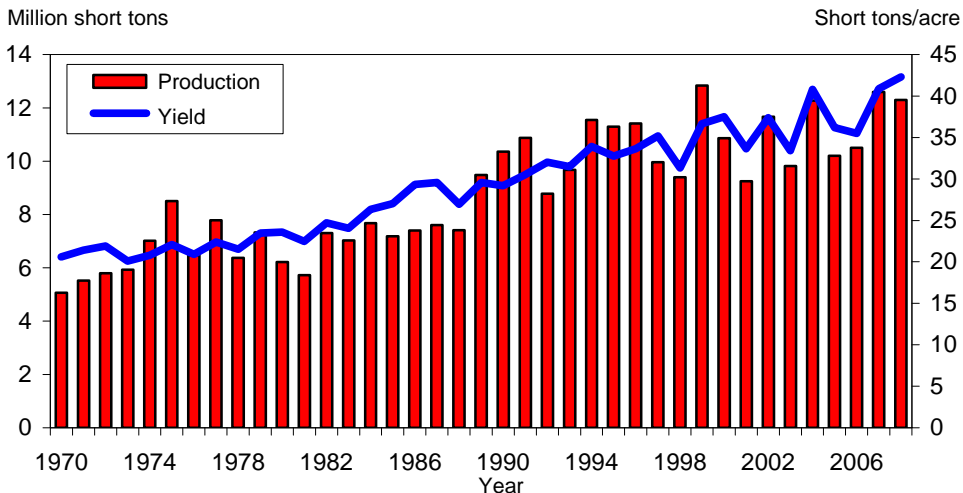
Item	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change
					2007-08
-- 1,000 short (2000 lb) tons --					Percent
Tomatoes	10,033.1	10,531.7	12,542.9	12,113.2	-3
California	9,440.0	10,024.0	11,965.0	11,600.0	-3
Sweet corn	3,170.2	3,085.6	2,897.4	2,988.0	3
Minnesota	977.8	964.7	794.9	840.4	6
Snap beans	808.0	767.3	751.1	769.8	2
Wisconsin	310.0	297.0	259.8	293.2	13
Green peas	370.1	405.3	435.9	426.8	-2
Minnesota	105.1	130.2	129.0	119.4	-7

1/ U.S. contract production and output in the leading producing state (based on 2008 data).

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

Figure 4

U.S. processing tomatoes: Production and yield, 1970-2008 1/



1/ Yield is per harvested acre.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Vegetables, Vegetables Summary*.

Table 9--Processing vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes

Item	2007		2008		Change previous:	
	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	Aug.	Month	Year
	----- Index -----				----- Percent -----	
Consumer Price Indexes (12/97=100)						
Processed fruits and vegetables	129.6	142.8	145.2		1.7	12.0
Canned vegetables	133.2	153.7	157.3		2.3	18.1
Frozen vegetables (1982-84=100)	183.4	192.7	193.6		0.5	5.6
Dry beans, peas, lentils	136.3	165.0	168.0		1.8	23.3
Olives, pickles, relishes	129.9	128.5	129.5		0.7	-0.3
Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)						
Canned vegetables and juices	144.0	164.9	164.9		0.0	14.5
Pickles and products	197.3	204.1	203.9		-0.1	3.3
Tomato ketchup and sauces 1/	138.8	154.9	153.3		-1.0	10.4
Canned dry beans	134.2	143.5	138.8		-3.3	3.4
Vegetable juices 1/	116.6	123.7	123.7		0.0	6.1
Frozen vegetables	149.9	161.7	164.5		1.7	9.7
Frozen vegetable combinations 2/	109.9	116.2	117.0		0.7	6.5
Dried/dehy. fruit & vegetables	179.6	194.2	194.4		0.1	8.2

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>).

higher production costs for tomatoes and tomato processing. In early October, the wholesale price for industrial tomato paste (31 percent brix) in 300-gallon bins was averaging 53 cents per pound—up 29 percent from a year earlier and 39 percent higher than 2 years before. In the export market, which has been a strong point for the industry this year, higher tomato product prices may be partly offset by the depreciating U.S. dollar, fostering export demand while discouraging imports over the next year.

Sweet Corn and Snap Bean Output Up

Contract production of sweet corn destined for canning and freezing is expected to rise 3 percent to 2.99 million short tons. Based on acres planted and regional yields, the pack of frozen corn is expected to increase while output of canned sweet corn remains about steady. While yields were expected to remain near those of a year earlier, greater harvested area (up 3 percent) was primarily responsible for the larger crop. Although national yields are expected to be steady, they would be the second-largest on record in Oregon and Washington. The sweet corn crop is expected to rise 6 percent in Minnesota, the top producing State. Minnesota accounts for 28 percent of the crop.

Despite the expectation of a larger frozen pack this year, the average wholesale price for frozen sweet corn was running well above a year earlier for the same reasons as most other processed vegetables—higher costs of product acquisition and processing. According to the survey of processors, brokers, and buyers by The Food Institute, in early October the processor price for retail packs of frozen sweet corn was running 51 percent above a year ago at \$11.73 per case (12 units of 16 ounce poly bags), with foodservice sizes also substantially higher than the \$0.44 per pound (based on a case of 12-2.5 lb packages) of a year earlier.

Contract production of snap beans for processing in 2008 is expected to rise 2 percent from a year earlier to about 0.77 million tons. Based on an analysis of acreage changes and regional yields, canning production is expected to decline, while output of frozen snap beans increases. Despite a cool, wet spring which delayed the crop, yields are expected to be improved from a year earlier, especially

in Oregon, Michigan, and Wisconsin. This helped offset a 6-percent reduction in area for harvest. Although final data will not be published until January, a national yield of 4.12 tons per acre would be second only to the 2004 record of 4.16 tons, with record highs projected in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Given the expectation of a reduced canning crop this year, the average processor price for retail-sized (24/300s) canned snap beans was running about one-fifth higher than a year earlier in early October. Foodservice sizes (for a case of six No.10 cans) were averaging more than one-fourth above a year ago. Although supplies may be tightening, the rapid increase in wholesale prices is largely a reflection of sharply higher acquisition and processing costs for raw snap beans.

Over the past two decades, the markets for fresh and frozen snap beans have generally done well, while the canned market has gently trended lower after a sharp downturn in the early 1980s. A brief overview comparing averages during 1990-97 and 2000-07 for basic market indicators for snap beans in canned products reveals:

- U.S. production of snap beans for canning is up 7 percent;
- Import volume, although still small, rose 138 percent;
- Import share of consumption doubled to 3 percent;
- Export volume, also small, was down 21 percent;
- Export share of supply remains less than 1 percent;
- Average ending stocks were 5 percent lower;
- Total domestic disappearance was up 10 percent to 1.1 billion pounds;
- Per capita disappearance was down 2 percent to an average of 3.7 pounds;
- Delivered price (plant door) for beans to be processed was down 16 percent;
- Delivered price at the plant door adjusted for inflation was down 31 percent.

Processed Imports Up

Despite the weaker dollar, the value of processed (canned, frozen, dehydrated) vegetable imports (excluding potatoes and mushrooms) rose 12 percent to \$1.4 billion from a year earlier during January-August. The top suppliers were Mexico (26 percent), China (12 percent), Canada (11 percent), Peru (9 percent), and Italy (4 percent). The only difference from a year ago is that Italy replaced Spain as the fifth-leading supplier this year. Among the top three suppliers, Mexico primarily supplied frozen vegetables such as broccoli and cauliflower, China primarily shipped dehydrated vegetables such as garlic and peppers, and Canada largely supplied ketchup and various frozen vegetables. In 2007, Peru shipped \$165 million in processed vegetables to the United States, with imports running 51 percent above a year earlier so far in 2008. Dried paprika was the top import product from Peru through August, followed closely by canned asparagus and canned artichokes.

Table 10--Value of processed vegetable trade 1/

Item	2007	January - August			Change
	Annual	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
	----- Million dollars -----				Percent
Imports:					
Canned	911	556	589	625	6
Frozen	630	338	400	490	23
Dehydrated 2/	391	225	259	286	11
Exports:					
Canned	592	358	368	508	38
Frozen	212	112	135	176	30
Dehydrated 2/	139	84	88	94	8

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

Delayed Harvest, Excellent Quality

Much of the 2008 potato crop was slow to develop, with delayed plantings and cool weather in many growing areas. Attempting to make up for lost time, growers delayed fall harvests by two weeks in order to allow crops extra time to bulk up. By mid-September, when crops should have been coming off the fields, growers were just beginning to kill vines in Idaho. As of October 10, industry sources reported roughly 85 percent of the Idaho crop had come off the fields. The decision to delay harvest may have paid off, with reports of favorable yields and excellent crop quality throughout Idaho and major growing regions. The first USDA forecast for fall potato production will be released November 10 in *Crop Production*.

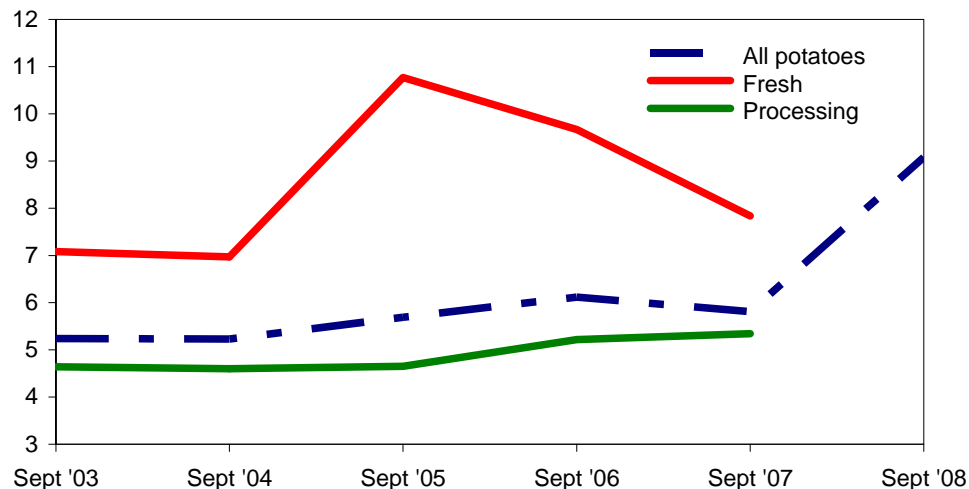
Although Idaho's potato quality will be strong this year, there will likely be fewer potatoes produced in the Gem State. Idaho growers expect to harvest 14-percent fewer acres than a year ago—the largest decline among the major producing States. Washington's harvested acreage decreased 6 percent from 2007, but growers experienced favorable weather throughout the season, increasing the likelihood of strong yields. Hot weather during the last part of August through early September diminished hopes of a bumper crop for the State, but yields are still reported to be high. The fall harvest in Colorado's San Luis Valley reportedly fared better than expected, despite damage from hail storms and high winds in mid-August.

Wisconsin's harvested area was revised to 63,000 acres—down 2 percent from 2007. The State experienced damage from summer flooding but growers were able to replant some of the lost acreage. It is thought that favorable yields from the Red River Valley in Minnesota and North Dakota will balance out any losses in Wisconsin. Industry sources report that New York's harvest could be the strongest in years with favorable weather likely offsetting a 5-percent reduction in harvested area. In Maine, production is not expected to reach last year's 17 million cwt given a 4-percent drop in harvested area.

Figure 5

U.S. potatoes: Average September price received, 2003-08

\$ per cwt



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

Prices Strong, Shipments Lower

Potato prices remained at record high levels through September, but are expected to decline slightly as the fall harvest wraps up and supplies increase. Average prices received in September for potatoes were \$9.08 per cwt, drastically higher than \$5.92 posted in 2007 and the \$5.68 average for 2003-07. Prices for Idaho potatoes reflected the nationwide uptrend at \$8.65 per cwt. As a result of higher prices and the delayed harvest, September shipments from Idaho slowed to 1.9 million cwt, dipping 16 percent from a year earlier.

Nationwide, potato shipments in September fell 9 percent to 12 million cwt, reflecting delayed harvests, tight storage supplies, and higher prices. With prices remaining high for potatoes and a smaller 2008 crop being projected, there has been speculation within the industry over the timing of shipments during the fall, especially the early fall as packers may try to boost cash flow by taking advantage of current high prices. With smaller supplies and increased demand from processors, potato prices will likely remain strong, which may boost imports to help satisfy the needs of tablestock and processing users.

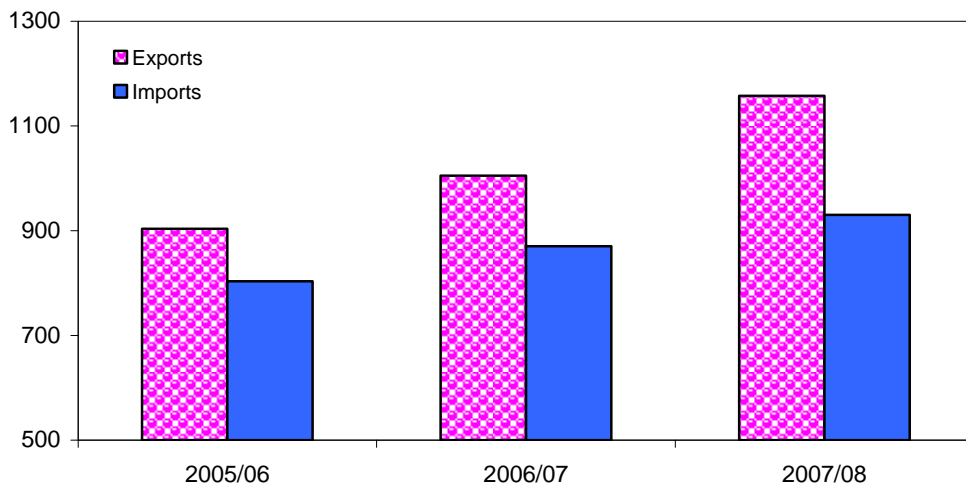
Record High Foreign Demand for U.S. Potatoes

Weaker dollar values aided in boosting crop year (September-August) exports 15 percent to \$1.2 billion with July and August exports totaling a record-breaking \$226 million alone. Frozen french fry exports rose 19 percent over last year to \$624 million, with monthly export values averaging 2 percent above the previous year. Japan was the largest consumer of U.S. fries, comprising 35 percent of sales and increased consumption of U.S. frozen fries by 14 percent from 2006/07 to \$219 million. Chip exports were valued at \$190 million, up 10 percent from 2006/07. Canada purchased 29 percent U.S. chip exports, followed by Japan (18 percent) and Mexico (13 percent).

Figure 6

U.S. potatoes: Total export and import values, 2005-07 1/

Million \$



1/ Crop year is September - August.

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

Total potato exports exceeded imports by \$227 million, despite a 7-percent increase in potato imports during the 2007/08 crop year to \$930 million. Much of the gain in imports reflects the tight domestic supply situation within both the fresh and processing sectors. Compared to a year earlier, fresh tablestock imports increased 28 percent to \$144.1 million, while frozen french fry imports experienced a 7-percent increase to \$623 million. Potato chip imports saw a significant 50-percent decrease from the previous year to \$44 million, while imports of dehydrated potato products increased 28 percent to \$50.2 million.

Final Recap of 2007 Crop

Final utilization of the 2007 U.S. potato crop show 447 million cwt was used throughout the year, with 278 million cwt devoted to processing. Of the processing potatoes, 51 percent were processed as frozen french fries, followed by traditional potato chips (19 percent), potatoes used in dehydrated products (18 percent), and other processed potato products such as other frozen and canned products (12 percent). Fresh tablestock comprised 25 percent of overall potato utilization at 112 million cwt. The remaining 33 million cwt of potatoes were classified as non-sales uses (seed, feed, and shrinkage). With prices for fresh and processed potatoes averaging \$10.80 and \$6.01 per cwt, sales of the 2007 crop were valued at \$3 billion, with \$2.6 billion sold from the fall crop alone. Idaho produced 29 percent of 2007's crop, accounting for 130 million cwt of the 447 million cwt crop. Washington was the second largest producer with 102 million cwt, followed by Wisconsin with 28 million cwt.

Table 11--Potatoes: U.S. crop utilization, by product, crop years 2003-07 1/

Potato Products	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change
	<i>Million cwt</i>					<i>Percent</i>
Sales, all seasons	417.0	413.8	390.6	406.8	413.6	1.7
Table stock	133.1	130.4	114.1	113.9	111.8	-1.8
Processing	257.2	258.6	252.2	267.5	278.3	4.0
Frozen french fries	126.5	131.6	126.4	125.4	140.9	12.3
Other frozen	23.9	23.0	25.4	24.1	27.0	12.1
Chips	52.8	50.1	52.3	65.2	53.5	-18.0
Dehydrated	48.4	48.5	43.4	48.6	49.5	1.9
Canned	4.3	3.8	2.2	1.9	2.5	29.8
Starch, flour, other	4.3	3.8	2.2	1.9	2.5	199.7
Other sales	26.6	24.9	24.3	25.3	23.5	-7.2
Seed	24.6	22.9	22.3	23.7	22.3	-5.9
Feed	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.2	-25.9
Non-sales	40.8	42.2	33.3	34.6	33.2	-4.0
Seed, feed, home	5.5	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.1	-13.4
Loss and shrinkage	35.3	37.4	28.5	29.9	29.1	-2.5
Total production	457.8	456.0	423.9	441.3	446.8	1.2

1/ Crop year, September-August.

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

Dry Edible Beans

Acres Revision Pulls Output Even With 2007

The October estimate of 2008 U.S. dry edible bean planted area was pegged at 1.5 million acres—down 2 percent from a year ago but 7 percent greater than the August 2008 projection. As a result, estimated dry bean production has increased 5 percent since the initial August crop forecast. Output for all dry bean classes is currently estimated at 25.4 million cwt—up less than 1 percent from a year earlier. National yield was estimated to be 17.72 cwt per acre—down from the August forecast but up 3 percent from a year earlier. Output is expected to rise for 9 of the 14 major bean classes, with declining output possible for pinto, garbanzo, black, pink, baby lima, and blackeye beans. Estimated production by class will be released by USDA on December 11.

Prices for a few dry bean classes began to decline seasonally as harvest neared its conclusion in mid-October. Dry bean harvest generally ran later than normal due mostly to the weather-delayed start to the season and harvest-period rain showers.

Table 12--U.S. dry beans: Production, 2005-08

Item	2005	2006	2007	2008 p	Change 2007-08
	--1,000 cwt--				Percent
North Dakota	8,588	7,680	10,574	9,920	-6.2
Michigan	3,910	4,085	3,120	3,610	15.7
Nebraska	3,870	2,728	2,418	2,938	21.5
Minnesota	2,430	2,228	2,610	2,520	-3.4
Idaho	1,862	1,906	1,602	1,541	-3.8
California	1,385	1,209	1,212	1,071	-11.6
Colorado	1,320	1,140	736	792	7.6
Washington	792	968	1,020	850	-16.7
Wyoming	776	590	555	690	24.3
Others	1,839	1,713	1,524	1,491	-2.2
United States	26,772	24,247	25,371	25,423	0.2

p = NASS October estimate.

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

Table 13--U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2007-08 1/

Commodity	2007		2008		Chg. prev. year:	
	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct. 2/	Sept.	Oct.
	--- Cents per pound ---				--- Percent ---	
All dry beans	24.50	25.90	39.10	--	59.6	--
Pinto (ND/MN)	23.33	25.40	32.50	27.25	39.3	7.3
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	27.00	30.50	40.13	--	48.6	--
Great Northern (NE/WY)	31.33	32.00	41.50	41.50	32.5	29.7
Black (MI)	26.50	30.00	42.08	--	58.8	--
Light red kidney (MI)	35.50	40.00	52.00	--	46.5	--
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	34.00	37.00	--	--	--	--
Baby lima (CA)	40.00	40.00	--	60.50	--	51.3
Large lima (CA)	60.00	60.00	--	70.00	--	16.7
Blackeye (CA)	38.50	38.50	--	45.00	--	16.9
Small red (ID)	25.50	27.90	43.50	43.67	70.6	56.5
Pink (ID)	25.50	26.30	37.50	37.50	47.1	42.6
Garbanzo (ID)	30.50	32.50	42.50	40.00	39.3	23.1

-- = not available. 1/ Prices are U.S. No. 1, cleaned basis. 2/ Partial month estimate.

Sources: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Bean Market News*, except "all dry beans" from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Agricultural Prices*.

With the upward revision in the October crop estimate, prices for some dry beans such as pintos and garbanzo beans began to weaken as the new harvest replenished elevators and warehouses. However, new crop market prices remain slow to develop for many classes on limited selling because of turbulent financial markets, uncertainty in world commodity markets, and dry bean harvest running later than normal this year. The 2008/09 dry bean season opened in September with a preliminary estimate of \$39.10 per cwt for the industry aggregate grower price—60 percent above a year earlier. Although the turbulence in financial markets led to confusion and uncertainty in most commodity markets over the past month, prices for everything from crude oil to pinto beans generally weakened from their highs of the past few months. However, through mid-October, dry bean quotes remained above both a year earlier and the average of the past few years.

Dry bean prices over the coming market year will continue to reflect the internal supply-and-demand situation for each bean class. However, these market fundamentals will play out alongside the largely uncertain trends established by general commodity markets. Despite the recent drop in commodity prices, it seems likely that corn and soybean markets (which dry beans compete for acreage) will remain well above loan rates due simply to rising demand from biofuel producers. In mid-October, the futures market was pegging field corn around \$4.50/bushel (bu) next May and soybeans at \$9.80/bu. At these levels, which would be similar to 2007/08 averages, aggregate dry bean prices would average around \$30/cwt in 2008/09. However, if the cash corn price were \$1/bu higher next year than futures markets currently suggest, the aggregate dry bean price would likely average closer to \$35/cwt.

Exports Up Strongly in 2007/08

During the 2007/08 marketing year (September-August), the weaker U.S. dollar and continued strong food aid demand boosted U.S. dry bean export volume 20 percent above a year earlier to 8.19 million cwt. Volume was 29 percent above the average of the past 5 years and was the highest since 2000/01. The United States shipped dry beans to 122 nations in 2007/08, with more than two-thirds of those importing

Table 14--U.S. dry bean crop-year export volume

Item	Crop year, September-August				Change
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2006-07
	--1,000 cwt--				Percent
Pinto	1,234	2,555	1,915	2,204	15
Navy	1,005	1,061	1,217	1,532	26
Black	617	749	1,186	980	-17
Garbanzo	227	380	455	515	13
Great Northern	370	852	366	766	109
Baby lima	132	265	251	248	-1
Lgt red kidney	56	154	181	185	2
Dk red kidney	166	252	158	267	69
Cranberry	45	84	132	97	-27
Large lima	128	135	103	74	-28
Small red	137	182	99	73	-27
Mung & urd	29	36	27	27	0
Blackeye	56	32	19	22	15
Pink	19	65	15	56	278
Other	528	754	718	1,146	60
Total	4,749	7,556	6,841	8,191	20

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

nations receiving a greater volume than the previous year. Mexico, Canada, and the United Kingdom remained the top 3 export destinations, accounting for 47 percent of dry bean volume in 2007/08. Exports to the United Kingdom (up 44 percent), Canada (43 percent), and Spain (23 percent) were higher, but shipments decreased to Saudi Arabia (down 77 percent) and Mexico (11 percent), among others.

Pinto beans remained the export volume leader with 2.2 million cwt, up 15 percent from a year earlier but down 14 percent from the strong 2005/06 total. Navy beans remained the second-leading dry bean export at 1.53 million cwt, up 26 percent from a year earlier. Black beans remained the third-leading export class with 0.98 million cwt—down 17 percent from a year earlier but up 31 percent from 2 years ago. The greatest percentage export gains from a year earlier occurred in pink beans (up 278 percent) and Great Northern beans (up 109 percent) with the most notable declines occurring in exports of cranberry beans and small red beans (each down 27 percent).

Great Northern beans were the fourth-largest export class in 2007/08, rising 109 percent to 0.77 million cwt—recovering a large portion of the previous season’s loss. This was the second-largest export volume for this class in the past 6 years. Turkey, which did not import any U.S. Great Northern beans a year ago, accounted for 36 percent of the volume, followed by France with 14 percent of the total. The value of exports increased 91 percent to \$21.2 million, with the export unit value declining 9 percent to 27.7 cents per pound.

Dry bean imports into the United States rose 16 percent to a record 322 million pounds during the 2007/08 crop year. Canada (up 42 percent from a year earlier), China (up 8 percent), and Mexico (up 23 percent) remained the top three foreign suppliers of dry beans over the past marketing year, together accounting for 75 percent of U.S. dry bean imports. Imports of black beans declined 5 percent to 47.3 million pounds. Black beans were the leading import class in 2007/08, accounting for 15 percent of volume in 2007/08. Garbanzo bean imports rose 23 percent from the previous year and were the second leading import class with 11 percent of the volume. In the year ahead, import volume is expected to continue trending higher given attractive prices and reduced domestic output of black and garbanzo beans.

Table 15--U.S. dry bean crop year export volume by selected destination 1/

Destination	September - August				Change
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2006-07
	--1,000 cwt--				Percent
Mexico	1,062	2,356	2,160	1,932	-11
Canada	333	667	693	989	43
United Kingdom	645	668	619	895	44
Angola	75	328	208	397	91
Dominican Republic	245	423	330	389	18
Zimbabwe	11	116	93	333	256
Japan	232	359	321	328	2
Turkey	14	81	1	291	--
Spain	105	168	218	268	23
India	3	18	22	171	665
Haiti	339	374	169	167	-1
Other	1,685	1,999	2,007	2,030	1
Total	4,749	7,556	6,841	8,191	20

-- not applicable.

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

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

Dry Peas and Lentils

Commodity Prices Lose Steam, Peas and Lentils May Follow

With harvest largely complete, growers and dealers turn to the task of selling their crop in a volatile and uncertain market. World supply and demand will again be the primary determinant of dry pea and lentil price levels. As world prices for crops such as corn and wheat decline with instability in financial markets and the slowing economy, it is likely that pea and lentil prices will also eventually decline since a portion of their upward momentum over the past year was the result of maintaining competitiveness with alternative crops.

Although softening seasonally, early October prices for dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas remained well above a year earlier. This reflected elevated commodity markets at that time, limited movement during harvest, and continued favorable food aid and commercial export demand. While September grower prices for both lentils and chickpeas averaged higher than at any point in the past year, larger world supplies began pushing dry-edible-pea prices lower from their April high of \$17.70 per cwt. In September, the all dry-pea price averaged \$13.20 per cwt, the lowest since November 2007, but still one-third above a year earlier and 130 percent higher than 2 years earlier. Dry-yellow-pea grower bids moved below their strong year-earlier levels but remained well above 2 years earlier. However, by mid-October, cash prices for corn, soybeans, and wheat had tumbled with erosion in the general economic outlook and commodity funds liquidating their positions. Although dry pea prices have already weakened, U.S. lentil prices have yet to budge on limited selling. With higher input costs sunk into the 2008 crop, growers of all crops will likely be keeping a close eye on price changes during the marketing year.

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 -----						
2007/08						
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	26.90	26.90	--	13.70	26.20
December	14.20	29.50	30.90	19.60	14.10	28.30
January	14.30	30.40	30.90	21.10	11.40	26.00
February	16.40	30.20	32.10	23.90	--	29.00
March	17.30	32.90	33.40	25.70	12.60	29.90
April	17.70	31.20	33.60	--	16.50	33.70
May	16.70	35.00	37.30	24.80	--	30.20
June	17.20	27.50	28.10	23.80	--	30.00
2008/09						
July 1/	16.40	--	--	--	--	32.80
August	15.40	40.10	40.60	26.00	--	30.90
September	13.20	45.00	45.00	--	--	33.90
Percent change year ago Sept.	34.0	45.6	42.0	--	--	77.5

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

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

Export Volume Remains Strong

During the first 2 months of the 2008/09 marketing year (July-August), combined dry pea and lentil export volume (excluding seed) continued to climb, rising 16 percent above a year earlier. India and Spain, the top markets in 2007/08, remained the top two destinations in early 2008/09, with Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, and Belgium rounding out the top five. Most of the volume shipped to India consisted of green and yellow peas, while the majority of sales to Spain were concentrated in lentils and yellow peas. Export movement for dry peas was up during the first 2 months of the marketing year. Exports of dry yellow peas, a popular food aid crop, have been steadily rising this decade and accounted for the greatest volume among pea and lentil exports in 2007/08. Movement of yellow peas to foreign nations was up 73 percent during the first 2 months of the crop year and was nearly double the average of the previous 3 years. However, given much larger supplies in Canada and Europe this year and expectations for a smaller U.S. crop, commercial exporters of dry yellow peas will be hard-pressed to help create a fifth consecutive annual increase in 2008/09. Although Canadian production is not expected to change greatly this year, the U.S. dry green pea crop may be smaller, which may trim annual export prospects in the coming months. Despite this outlook, during the first 2 months of the 2008/09 marketing year, export volume for of dry green peas rose 30 percent.

Smaller U.S. and world lentil supplies and high domestic prices throughout the summer caused U.S. lentil export volume to drop 21 percent from last year's strong level. With lower supplies, U.S. lentil exports are expected to remain below year-earlier levels in 2008/09. With a smaller crop expected this year, chickpea exports are also expected to remain below a year earlier. During the first 2 months of 2008/09, volume dropped 31 percent, with smaller chickpea volume shipped to Spain, Italy, and Colombia.

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

Item	Crop year 2007/08	July-August			Change 2/ 2007-08 Percent
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
--1,000 cwt--					
Exports:					
Green peas	4,168.8	819.1	530.5	688.7	30
Yellow peas	4,486.8	448.6	457.3	789.6	73
Split peas	707.8	31.7	161.8	155.6	-4
Austrian winter pea	33.0	4.3	3.3	0.9	-71
Misc. dry peas	2,083.8	234.4	252.7	271.6	7
Chickpeas, all	535.1	22.5	64.6	44.5	-31
Lentils, all	2,741.9	394.0	651.7	513.8	-21
Total	14,757.2	1,954.6	2,121.8	2,464.7	16
Imports:					
Green peas	209.9	43.2	28.5	21.9	-23
Yellow peas	79.8	7.0	10.3	11.4	10
Split peas	320.5	52.0	38.5	34.3	-11
Austrian winter	1.6	0.5	0.4	0.0	-100
Misc. dry peas	92.3	33.6	17.2	15.0	-13
Chickpeas, all	359.8	53.0	55.3	58.5	6
Lentils, all	227.6	60.9	33.7	63.7	89
Total	1,291.5	250.4	184.0	204.9	11

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.

Fresh Herbs

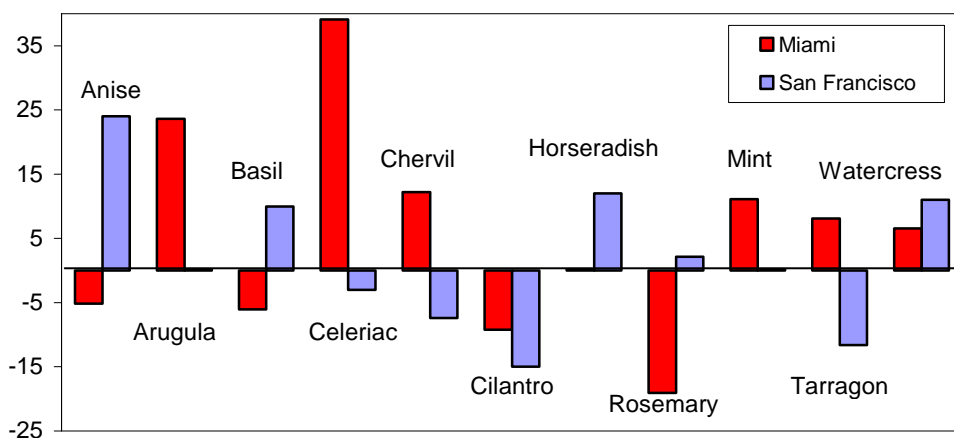
Wholesale Herb Prices Slightly Increase

Average herb wholesale prices slightly increased in August-October 2008 relative to 2007 and fluctuation varied by herb type and terminal market location. The total average price increase for fresh herbs was 2 percent in San Francisco and 4 percent in Miami. For 2008, fresh herb prices for anise, horseradish, and watercress rose more than 10 percent in San Francisco, while arugula, celeriac and mint prices rose more than 10 percent in Miami. Rosemary prices increased on the west coast but decreased in Miami due to lower import prices from Columbia and Peru. For other wholesale herbs like tarragon, prices fell on the west coast where there is substantial domestic production, but rose on the east coast due largely to rising transportation costs and higher import shipment prices.

Figure 7

Selected fresh herbs: Wholesale price changes during Aug.-Oct., 2007-08

Percent change 1/



1/ Change from 2007 to 2008 in average prices during the August-October quarter.

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

Table 18—Selected U.S. fresh herbs: Aug.-Oct. average wholesale prices, 2007-08

Commodity	Unit	August-October					
		San Francisco			Miami		
		2007	2008	Change	2007	2008	Change
		\$/unit	Percent			\$/unit	Percent
Anise	24-ct crtn	11.50	15.08	31	26.00	24.67	-5
Arugula	12-ct flmbag	8.00	8.00	0	12.00	14.83	24
Basil	12-ct flmbag	7.92	8.25	4	4.13	3.88	-6
Celeriac	12-ct ctns	12.83	12.50	-3	23.00	32.00	39
Chives	12-ct flmbag	5.50	5.50	0	8.00	8.39	5
Cilantro	60-ct ctns	18.75	15.00	-20	19.83	18.00	-9
Dill	12-ct ctns	8.00	7.92	-1	7.00	6.75	-4
Horseradish	5-lb bag	2.15	2.40	12	7.00	7.00	0
Oregano	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.75	2	5.03	4.72	-6
Rosemary	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.75	2	5.83	4.72	-19
Mint	12-ct ctns	8.00	8.00	0	4.50	5.00	11
Tarragon	12-ct flmbag	7.50	6.63	-12	8.25	8.92	8
Thyme	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.75	2	3.90	4.03	3
Watercress	12-ct flmbag	14.67	14.98	2	5.08	5.42	7

Source: Compiled by ERS from data of USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Market News*.

Table 19--Fresh herb and spice production, California, 2004-07

Calendar year	Harvested area 1,000 acres	Yield per acre Tons/acre	Production Short tons	Price \$/ton	Crop value \$ 1,000
2004	6.1	4.5	27.6	1,127	31,119
2005	5.8	5.9	34.0	1,300	45,357
2006	2.7	8.5	22.4	1,486	34,440
2007	4.0	15.9	63.4	643	41,258

Source: Compiled by ERS using data from USDA, NASS, Calif. County Agric. Commissioners Report.

Herb and Spice Production Up in California

According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, California is the largest producer of fresh market herbs, accounting for 46 percent of U.S. harvested acres. According to the California County Agricultural Commissioners annual report, harvested area in California increased in 2007 from a year earlier to 4,000 acres, but area remains under the 2005 level of 5,800 acres. Production rose in 2007 due to higher acreage and a reported increase in yield per acre. With larger volume, the farm value of herb production in California rose 20 percent in 2007 to \$41.3 million.

Thriving Spearmint Acreage, Prices High in 2007

In 2007, U.S. growers harvested 19,600 acres of spearmint, up 6 percent from the previous year. Washington (65 percent) and Oregon (11 percent) accounted for the majority of spearmint acreage. While spearmint acreage in lower-producing states like Indiana and Wisconsin decreased slightly last year, harvested area in Washington was up 10 percent from a year earlier. With national yields also rising, spearmint production jumped 17 percent to 2.4 million pounds in 2007. Despite sharply higher production, the average farm price for spearmint reached \$12.70 per pound, up 12 percent from 2006.

Outlook for Fresh Herb Trade, Demand for U.S. Garlic Rebounds

A steady decline in domestic ginger acreage and production in Hawaii has encouraged increased imports of fresh ginger, up 20 percent from a year ago over the first seven months of 2008 (January-July). Ginger exports have decreased 24 percent due to higher prices and reduced shipments to Canada. With import prices rising, the U.S. imported about 40 percent less chicory, fennel, marjoram, savory, and tarragon during Jan.-July of 2008.

Increased demand in Canada, coupled with the effects of a weaker U.S. dollar and lower shipping-point prices have pushed the export volume of fresh garlic up 67 percent in January-July of 2008 from the previous year. Shipment volume has increased as unit export prices decreased from \$1.02/lb in Jan.-July of 2007 to \$.85/lb in Jan.-July of 2008.

Additionally, the United States remains the world's largest importer of fresh garlic. Due to falling import prices in January-July 2008, garlic import volumes increased 7 percent from the previous year to over 127 million lbs. Garlic import volume from China increased 38 percent during January-July of 2008 over the previous year. The

share of imported garlic coming from China was 73 percent during the first 7 months of 2008—up from 49 percent in the first 7 months of 2007.

The total value of U.S fresh garlic exports is estimated to exceed \$8.7 million in 2008, with the majority of exports going to Canada and Mexico. During the first 7 months of the year (Jan.-July), low prices caused fresh garlic exports to Canada to jump to 2.7 million pounds relative to 0.3 million lbs. in 2007. Even if the current pace were to slow through the rest of the year, U.S. fresh garlic export volume will likely rebound toward the 2006 level of 10.6 million pounds.

Table 20--Selected fresh herb trade volume, 2006-08

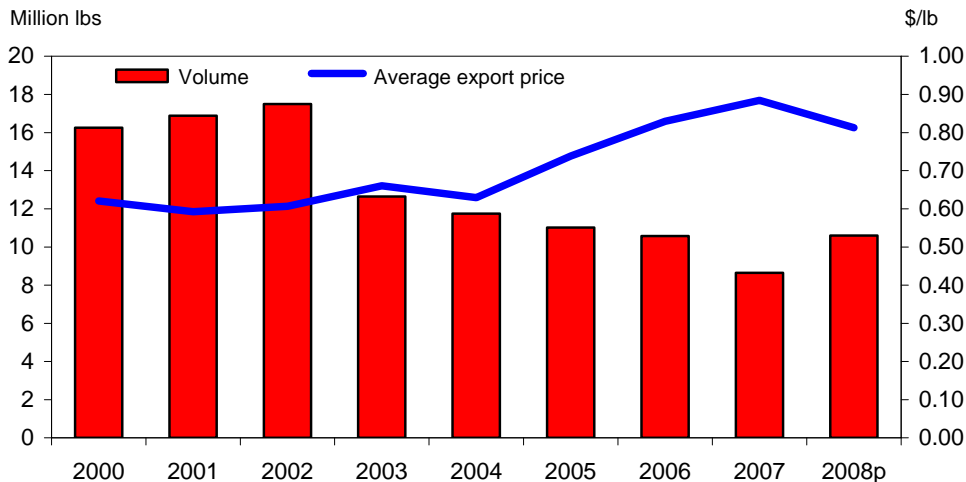
Item	2007	January-July			Change
	Annual	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
		-----1,000 lbs-----			Percent
Imports					
Garlic, all 1/	195,612	112,318	119,251	127,482	7
Ginger 2/	75,083	38,589	43,586	52,158	20
Curry leaves	4,052	2,310	2,168	2,691	24
Chicory, except witloof	11,181	9,335	9,860	5,617	-43
Thyme and Bay leaves 3/	8,137	5,242	4,720	5,394	14
Various herbs 4/	5,886	3,045	3,797	2,204	-42
Dill	1,920	1,204	1,360	1,398	3
Exports					
Garlic, all 1/	8,653	2,263	2,548	4,244	67
Ginger 2/	1,084	668	670	507	-24
Curry leaves	177	82	76	90	18
Chicory, except witloof	8,510	6,337	5,480	5,236	-4
Thyme and bay leaves 3/	412	157	309	134	-57

1/ Excludes dried garlic or garlic powder, includes fresh whole bulbs, cloves, and chilled garlic. 2/ Excludes ground ginger. 3/ Includes unmanufactured Thyme and bay leaves. 4/ Includes crude fennel, majoram, savory & tarragon

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

Figure 8

U.S. fresh garlic export volume and unit value, 2000-08 1/



p = ERS projection. 1/ Unit value is export value divided by export volume.

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

Commodity Highlight: Mushrooms

Mushroom Production Changes Slowly with Market Demand

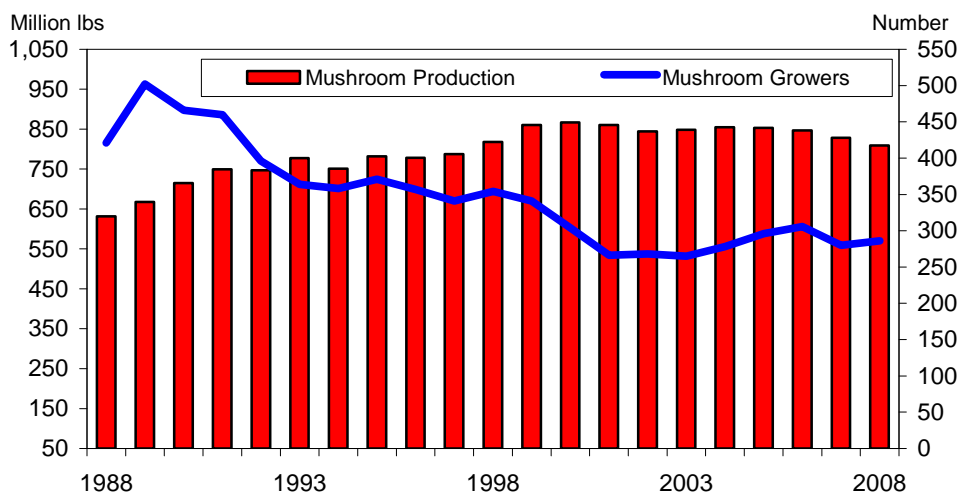
Mushrooms have long played an important role in American culinary traditions. Although mushroom production is relatively stable from year to year given the specialization and capital investments required of growers, there have been gradual changes in markets, particularly with industry consolidation, increased demand for specialty varieties (such as Shiitake or Oyster), and organic production. Despite these changes, overall U.S. mushroom production has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years, with sales volume averaging 847 million pounds.

Mushroom production is concentrated in Pennsylvania (60 percent), while California accounts for 14 percent of production and the remaining 26 percent is distributed among the remaining States. Although production occurs year round, the mushroom crop year is defined as July through June. The number of mushroom growers has steadily declined since the 1980s from 502 growers in the 1988 crop year to 286 in 2007. On average, the number of mushroom growers has shrunk 2.5 percent each year since 1990.

Rising production costs have spurred industry consolidation. Compost inputs, such as hay, manure, and cotton seed hulls have recently risen in cost. Given compost is the No. 1 input necessary for mushroom production, and cannot be reused once a crop is harvested, this greatly impacts already tight production margins. Rising transportation costs are also affecting producers. Mushrooms are primarily transported from grower to market by truck given the short shelf life of mushrooms. Fuel costs have greatly increased, making production and shipping much more expensive. Despite, rising production costs, average price per pound for mushrooms during the 2007/08 crop year was only 3 percent higher from the previous year at \$1.19 per lb; however, on average, prices have increased annually at this rate since 2000.

Figure 9

U.S. mushrooms: Number of growers and total sales volume, 1988-2008 1/

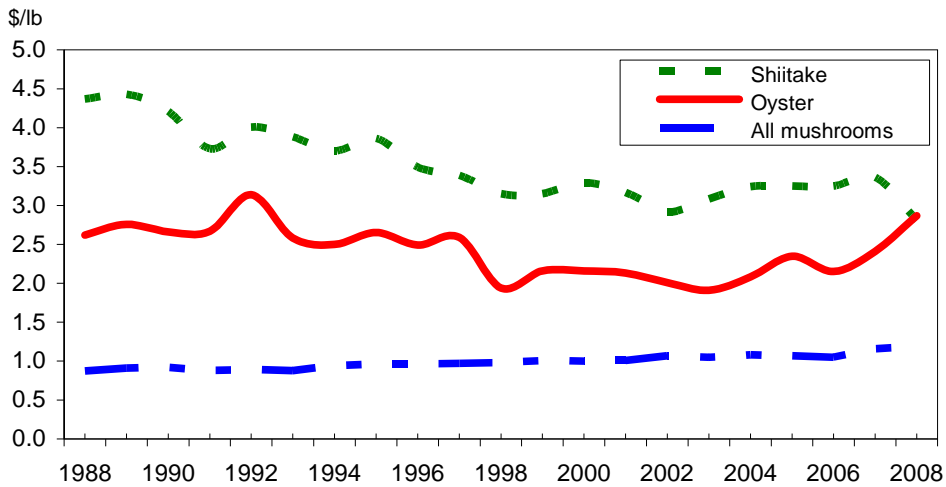


1/ The July-June crop year ends with year listed (e.g., 1988=1987/88).

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

Figure 10

U.S. mushrooms: Price per pound, 1988-2007 1/



1/ The July-June crop year ends with year listed (e.g., 1988=1987/88).
 Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Mushrooms*.

Although the majority of mushrooms produced in the U.S. are consumed domestically, 29 million pounds were exported in 2007 (January-December calendar year). Fresh mushrooms comprise 46 percent of exports, followed by 12.6 million pounds of spawn (43 percent), and the remaining 10 percent of exports were prepared or preserved mushrooms. Import volumes, on the other hand, greatly outweigh exports with 247 million pounds imported in 2007. The majority of imports (71 percent) are devoted to processed products such as canned, frozen or dried mushrooms. Remaining imports included 69 million pounds of fresh mushrooms (28 percent) and 4 million pounds of spawn (1 percent).

Specialty Mushrooms Gain in Market Importance

Traditionally, Agaricus mushrooms have dominated markets. ‘White button’ Agaricus make up 85 percent of total mushroom sales volume, while brown Agaricus (including Crimini and Portobello) form 13 percent of total sales volumes. The majority of Agaricus are sold for fresh market, but 15 percent are sold for processing. Both brown and white varieties grow in either tray or bed formats in permanent mushroom houses. The main difference between the two production methods is trays can be moved in and out of mushroom houses, while beds are stationary wooden bunk bed-like structures. Yields per square foot averaged 2.7 lbs in 1974/75 and have increased to 5.7 lbs per square ft average over the past three years. Mushroom yields are typically higher in the winter since maximum yields require cooler temperatures—more easily achieved in the winter months.

Since the 1990s, specialty mushrooms have steadily increased their market presence. Varieties such as Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms were first introduced to markets in the early 1980s. But these varieties didn’t gain consumer acceptance until the 1990s when sales began increasing. Slow acceptance of specialty mushrooms is attributable to large startup costs of producing new varieties and minimal consumer awareness of new varieties.

Table 21--U.S. Agaricus mushrooms: Sales, price, and value, selected States

State	Volume of sales		Price		Value of sales	
	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
	1,000 pounds		Dollars per pound		1,000 dollars	
Pennsylvania	496,566	496,721	0.891	0.912	442,292	453,013
California	117,851	114,318	1.590	1.620	187,473	185,662
Other States	199,432	181,807	1.433	1.510	285,796	274,911
United States	813,849	792,846	1.120	1.500	915,561	913,586

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

Table 22--U.S. Brown Agaricus & specialty mushrooms: Sales, price, and value

State	Volume of sales		Price		Value of sales	
	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
	1,000 pounds		Dollars per pound		1,000 dollars	
Brown 1/	99,189	104,862	1.41	1.37	139,899	143,435
All specialty	14,153	16,188	2.86	3.08	40,438	49,936
Shiitake	6,985	9,890	3.22	2.81	22,508	27,794
Oyster	5,055	4,253	2.26	2.87	11,424	12,206
Other	2,113	2,045	3.08	4.86	6,506	9,936
Total	113,342	121,050	1.59	1.60	180,337	193,371

1/ Includes Portobello and Crimini.

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

Shiitake, Oyster and other specialties now make up 16.2 million lbs or 2 percent of total mushroom sales volumes. Specialty sales volume grew 20 percent over the past 3 years alone. This growth is fueled in part by the healthy prices commanded by specialties. Fresh Shiitake and Oysters averaged \$3.42 per pound during the 2007 crop year, compared with fresh Agaricus at \$1.24 per pound. Although growers may be tempted to capture sector profits, there are a number of market entry barriers within these specialized markets.

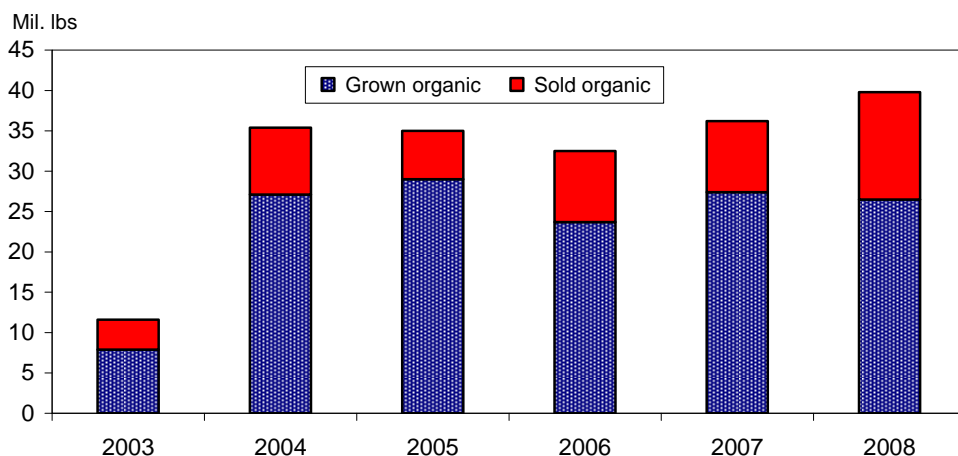
Specialty mushrooms vary greatly in production methods, and yields are lower than for Agaricus. Shiitakes are grown on 'logs,' and Oysters are grown both on logs and in bottles. In the 2007 crop year, there were 2,564 square feet of production area for specialty mushrooms (compared with 139,783 square feet for Agaricus mushrooms). Successful specialty growers have managed to carve out niche markets for their products, with many varieties being shipped to high-end restaurants or grocers. Higher prices for specialty varieties also limits consumer demand, along with limited consumer understanding of how to prepare many of the specialty varieties.

Organic Mushroom Demand Slowly Catching up to Supply

Organic mushrooms have maintained a steady market presence over the past 4 years. The organic shares of total mushroom sales hovered around 1 percent prior to 2003, and jumped to 4-5 percent after 2003. This jump is partly attributable to formal implementation of the USDA's organic certification standards in 2002, making certified organic sales volumes easier to track. Organic growers make up 15 percent of all mushroom growers, and since 2003 have increased an average 7 percent a year, reaching a level of 42 growers in 2007.

Figure 11

Organic mushrooms: Grown and sold organic, 2003-08 1/



1/ The July-June crop year ends with year listed (e.g., 1988=1987/88)
 Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Mushrooms*.

An interesting aspect of the organic mushroom market is the difference between the volume of mushrooms grown as organic and the volume that are actually marketed as organic. On average during the past 5 years, 36 million pounds of mushrooms were grown organically, but only 9 million pounds were marketed as certified organic. This suggests supply more than meets consumer demand for organic mushrooms. However organic mushroom demand has appeared to slowly catch up to produced supply over the past 2 years. Between the 2006 and 2007 crop years, there was a 50-percent increase in mushrooms sold as organic, jumping from 8.8 million pounds in the 2006 crop year to 13.3 million lbs in the 2007 crop year.

Who Buys Mushrooms?

Per capita utilization of mushrooms (both fresh and processed) has increased from 2.7 pounds per person in 1978 to a high of 4.1 pounds per person in 2004. Since then, per capita utilization has dropped slightly to 3.9 pounds per person in 2007. Understanding the demographics of those who purchase mushrooms is important to growers, retailers and handlers. To accomplish this task, the Nielsen Homescan data set was used. Homescan tracks grocery purchases and demographics of 41,000 households across the United States. All frequencies reported are weighted to represent the total U.S. population in 2006.

In the data set 15,000 households made 80,000 mushroom purchases. Of the households who purchased mushrooms throughout 2006, the majority (97 percent) were categorized as “light” users, making only one purchase of mushrooms a month. Roughly 2 percent of households were “medium” mushroom consumers, making 2-3 monthly purchases, and 0.2 percent of households were categorized as “heavy” users, purchasing mushrooms 4 or more times a month. Organic mushroom purchases were made by 2.6 percent of households, and the remaining households made conventional mushroom purchases throughout the year.

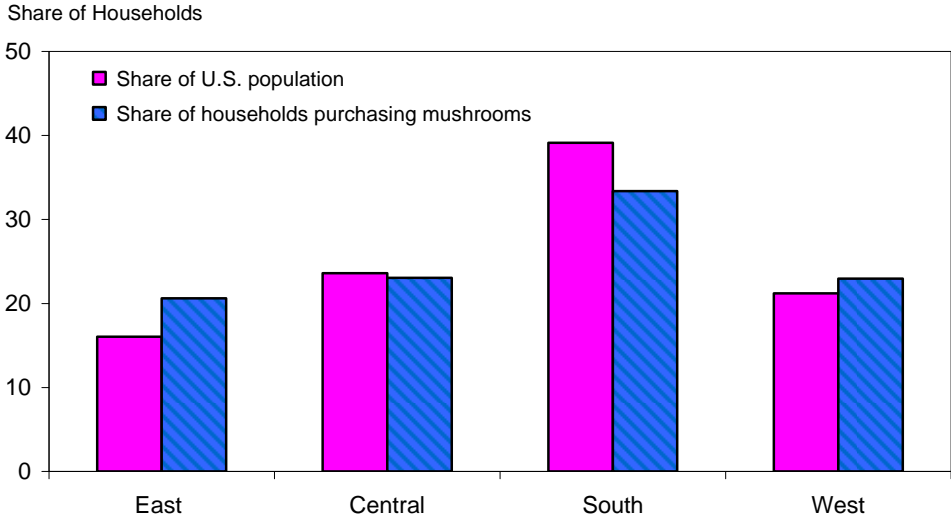
Regionally, households who made mushroom purchases were relatively evenly distributed across the United States with the eastern, central and western regions all

averaging 20-23 percent of households. The southern region of the United States housed 33 percent of consumers. This highlights solid market access and distribution of mushrooms to consumers throughout the country. In proportion to the total regional population, a greater share of mushroom consumers resided in the eastern and western United States, meaning per-household share of mushroom consumption was greatest in the East and West (figure 12). When compared with the total regional population, a smaller share of southern U.S. households purchased mushrooms, whereas central States were virtually equal in the share of mushroom households compared to total regional populations.

Caucasians make up 77 percent of mushroom-consuming households, followed by African American households (7 percent), Hispanic households (5 percent), and Asian households (4 percent). The primary age group of mushroom purchasers is between 35 and 49 years old. This group was 33 percent of mushroom-purchasing households, while all other age groups ranged between 14 and 19 percent of mushroom-purchasing households. When looking at household income, high income households (greater than \$60,000) were 50 percent of mushroom-consuming households. Medium and low income households made up 29 and 21 percent of mushroom-purchasing households.

Mushrooms have maintained a solid market presence throughout the years. Rising input and production costs will be a challenge for growers in coming years, but there are areas for growth within the sector, particularly when analyzing consumer demographics of different mushroom consumers. Marketing that informs consumers on how to prepare different varieties and targets certain consumer demographics currently lacking in mushroom consumption would be an excellent opportunity for the industry to further expand mushroom markets.

Figure 12
U.S. mushrooms: Share of household consumption by region



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

Contacts and Links

Contact Information

Gary Lucier

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

Rachael Dettmann

Tel: (202) 694-5266 Fax: (202) 694-5286 Email: RDettmann@ers.usda.gov

Covers potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms.

Michelle Da Pra

Tel: (202) 694-5262 Fax: (202) 694-5286 Email: MDaPra@ers.usda.gov

Covers fresh herbs and spices.

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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. A variety of challenges face this complex and diverse industry in both domestic and international markets, ranging from immigration reform and its effects on labor availability, to international competitiveness.

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

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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	1,010						
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	836						
----- 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	151						
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	165						

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
															Sep-Sep	3rd quarter
<i>Dollars per cwt</i>															<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Asparagus	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	25.6	20.3
	2006	--	122.00	133.00	110.00	72.70	94.10	105.00	162.00	122.00	127.00	--	--	88.90	-24.7	-13.3
	2007	--	--	107.00	106.00	91.90	87.70	--	--	--	--	--	--	99.10	--	--
	2008	--	--	84.80	97.60	94.70	83.10	106.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Broccoli	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	-51.4	-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	42.2	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	6.1	16.6
	2008	47.30	22.90	30.60	52.20	26.70	29.60	26.70	26.60	31.90	--	--	--	--	-23.7	-37.8
Cantaloups	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	-3.9	-10.3
	2006	--	--	--	--	29.20	18.40	16.00	20.70	10.40	16.10	28.20	--	17.20	-30.2	18.0
	2007	--	--	--	--	28.20	12.60	12.00	13.30	13.10	30.50	38.50	--	14.80	26.0	20.6
	2008	--	--	--	--	25.90	17.90	17.00	9.12	11.10	--	--	--	--	-15.3	-46.7
Carrots	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	25.7	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	-8.1	-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	-16.6	-20.3
	2008	16.20	25.90	25.90	25.50	32.00	25.60	25.60	25.50	24.50	--	--	--	--	52.2	53.1
Cauliflower	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	-8.1	-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	65.3	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	-42.3	5.1
	2008	53.40	30.20	41.70	63.60	24.90	53.90	38.20	43.20	26.20	--	--	--	--	-3.7	2.8
Celery	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	7.1	-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	130.8	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	-50.2	-52.8
	2008	16.20	13.20	13.40	14.00	18.30	30.10	22.40	12.90	12.80	--	--	--	--	-7.2	4.9
Corn, sweet	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	16.0	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	1.6	-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	-7.6	-0.7
	2008	30.80	23.00	28.60	21.00	22.60	19.20	28.10	25.60	23.90	--	--	--	--	3.0	10.2
Cucumbers	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	-19.6	-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	11.9	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	29.3	15.4
	2008	38.40	--	20.50	24.40	21.90	36.20	23.10	24.40	30.40	--	--	--	--	4.5	4.4
Head lettuce	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	-16.4	-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	28.3	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	79.1	98.2
	2008	17.50	13.30	14.80	21.70	13.60	17.70	17.30	17.20	23.40	--	--	--	--	-19.9	-37.0
Onions, dry bulb	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	24.4	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	18.1	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	-55.1	-42.3
	2008	4.54	3.55	2.71	17.40	23.30	17.60	15.10	12.00	13.70	--	--	--	--	146.0	85.0
Snap beans	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	-4.4	-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	14.2	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	5.8	8.2
	2008	68.80	98.30	37.70	57.00	38.90	51.30	95.40	78.50	87.70	--	--	--	--	11.2	9.6
Tomatoes	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	24.4	-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	76.9	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	-59.7	-40.0
	2008	58.20	45.50	66.10	47.40	48.20	58.00	38.60	30.00	26.00	--	--	--	--	-21.5	-18.7

-- = 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
															Sep- Sep
-----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	32.7
	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	-15.1
	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	-11.8
	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	41.1
	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	-13.8
	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	8.0
	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	26.0
	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	-15.7
2008	200.2	158.3	194.1	179.3	170.7	191.7	168.3	146.1	158.7					-2.5	
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	--
	2001	--	--	--	--	118.6	53.4	53.3	76.1	57.1	60.0	114.9	--	76.2	17.2
	2002	--	--	--	--	--	74.7	80.5	58.7	60.1	66.2	55.3	--	65.9	5.3
	2003	--	--	--	--	120.5	60.6	60.1	35.8	49.0	64.9	106.8	--	71.1	-18.5
	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	56.3
	2005	156.1	75.4	96.5	162.2	114.8	99.9	83.8	62.3	80.7	67.3	--	--	99.9	5.4
	2006	--	--	99.8	99.8	95.6	93.8	70.3	80.2	75.0	76.2	105.1	154.7	95.1	-7.1
	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	16.5
2008	141.1	140.1	85.8	167.1	140.5	92.6	82.3	78.9	71.3					-18.4	
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	3.5
	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	2.7
	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	1.0
	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	2.6
	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	3.1
	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	2.8
	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	1.8
2008	147.8	148.4	149.6	151.2	151.2	152.5	153.6	164.9	164.9					14.5	
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	0.2
	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	2.1
	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	2.1
	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	1.9
	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	-0.1
	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	2.4
	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	7.1
2008	153.3	153.8	155.6	156.5	156.7	156.5	158.3	161.7	164.5					9.7	
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	-2.1
	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	-1.1
	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	6.2
	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	-4.6
	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	1.0
	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	3.2
	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	11.8
	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	6.8
2008	185.3	185.7	188.1	189.5	189.7	188.4	194.4	194.2	194.4					8.2	

-- = 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 -----														
Fresh vegetables 2/	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				
Potatoes, fresh	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				
Lettuce, fresh	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				
Tomatoes, fresh	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				
Other, fresh	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				
Frozen vegetables	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				
December 1997=100														
Processed fruits and vegetables	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				
Canned vegetables	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				
Dried beans, peas, lentils	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				
Olives, pickles and relishes	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				

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	Cents/pound												Annual	Change
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Sep - Sep
Potatoes, white	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	12.8
	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	21.1
	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	-13.1
	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	0.5
	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	8.1
	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	16.8
	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	-7.6
	2008	52.5	53.1	54.2	54.6	56.2	59.8	67.2	72.4	76.3					46.7
Broccoli	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	-7.9
	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	28.7
	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	4.5
	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	-7.3
	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	11.9
	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	24.9
	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	-9.1
	2008	173.3	163.9	157.4	173.7	165.2	160.0	167.0	160.1	158.3					3.1
Lettuce, iceberg	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	0.0
	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	-21.7
	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	27.9
	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	-14.1
	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	10.0
	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	12.4
	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	-2.7
	2008	95.0	89.5	87.3	90.2	86.8	86.0	87.5	87.8	90.6					3.1
Tomatoes, field grown	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	-11.4
	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	-0.9
	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	24.2
	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	-8.1
	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	8.2
	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	33.5
	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	-21.6
	2008	203.2	173.5	183.5	177.3	167.5	181.4	171.3	169.4	159.1					6.4
Lettuce, romaine 1/	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	4.5
	2008	172.4	168.2	158.7	155.7	158.1	159.0	160.9	174.8	188.4					26.1
Peppers, sweet 2/	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	10.4
	2008	216.6	233.0	271.0	234.6	239.5	242.7	262.9	220.2	205.5					8.9
Cabbage 2/	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	--
	2008	62.6	58.3	58.7	59.5	62.5	66.9	70.8	65.8	67.4					18.7
Celery 2/	2007	--	128.3	--	92.1	--	82.9	--	75.1	78.0	--	--	--	91.3	--
	2008	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					--
Carrots 2/	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					1.5

-- = 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>.

Price table 6—Representative wholesale prices for selected fresh-market vegetables and melons in Chicago, 2007-08

Commodity	Shipping point 1/	Shipping container	2007					2008									
			Aug. 1	Sep. 3	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
Artichokes	CA	Carton, 24s	21.50	31.00	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
Beans, round green, machine-pick	FL, GA, MI	Bushel cartons	12.00	29.00	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
Beets, medium	TX, IL, CA	25 lb sacks/filmbags	9.50	9.00	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
Bok choy, baby	CA, FL	30 lb cartons	12.00	12.00	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
Brussels sprouts	CA, MX	25 lb cartons	36.00	19.00	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
Cabbage, round-green, medium	NY, GA	50 lb cartons	9.50	9.25	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
Chinese cabbage (Napa)	CA	30 lb cartons	11.00	13.00	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
Carrots, baby peeled	CA	Carton, 24-1 lb filmbag	17.00	17.00	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
Eggplant, medium	FL, GA, MX	1 1/9 bushel cartons	7.00	12.50	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
Garlic, white colossal	CA, MX	30 lb cartons	40.00	39.00	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
Greens, kale	CA	Carton, 24s	11.50	11.50	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
Greens, kohlrabi	CA, TX, IL	Carton, 12s/24s	21.00	22.00	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
Greens, turnip tops	GA, IL	Carton, 24s	9.50	11.50	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
Greens, mustard	CA	Carton, 24s	9.50	11.50	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
Greens, collards	GA, CA	Carton, 24s	9.50	11.50	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
Leeks	CA, IL, MX	Carton, bunched 12s	15.25	13.00	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
Lettuce, Boston	CA	Carton, 24s	11.00	17.00	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
Lettuce, Romaine	CA	Carton, 24s	11.50	17.00	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
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	12.75	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	9.50	12.00	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
Onions, green	CA, MX	Carton, bunched 48s	12.50	13.50	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
Parsley, curly	CA	Cartons, bunched 60s	13.00	13.50	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
Peas, snow	CA, GU	10 lb carton	15.00	15.00	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
Peas, sugar snap	CA, GU	10 lb carton	15.00	17.00	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
Peppers, green bell, large	FL, CA	1 1/9 bushel carton	9.50	12.50	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
Peppers, jalapeno, medium	FL, GA, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	9.75	8.00	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
Radishes	FL, MI	Carton, 30-6oz filmbag	8.25	10.00	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
Spinach, flat	CA	Cartons, bunched 24s	13.00	21.00	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
Squash, zucchini, medium	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	5.75	14.00	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
Squash, yellow straightneck, med.	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	6.75	17.00	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
Sweet potatoes, US #1, Beauregrd	LA	40 lb carton	22.50	23.50	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
Tomatoes, mature green, lrg, 6x6	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	7.50	13.00	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
Tomatoes, vine ripe, md/lrg	MX, CA, FL	25 lb carton	5.50	11.00	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
Tomatoes, greenhse, v. ripe, md/lrg	CD, NL, MX	5 kg carton (on vine)	9.00	9.00	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
Tomatoes, cherry	FL, CA, MX	Flats, 12 1-pint buckets	7.00	9.00	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
Tomatoes, plum-type, med/lrg	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	11.50	16.00	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
Turnips, purple top, medium-large	CA, IL	25 lb filmbags	9.50	7.75	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
Cantaloups	CA, CR, MX	1/2-2/3 carton 15s	12.50	12.00	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
Honeydews	CA, HD, CR	2/3 cartons 6s	10.50	10.25	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
Watermelon, various red (85 lb ctn)	CA, TX, MX	Carton 3s or 4s, per lb	0.18	0.18	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
Watermelon, red seedless	CA, MX	Carton 4s or 5s, per lb	0.17	0.19	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

-- = 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 7—Canned vegetables: Quarterly wholesale price trends, 2000-08 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
2000												
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
2001												
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
2002												
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
2003												
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
2004												
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
2005												
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
2006												
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
2007												
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
2008												
I	9.00	15.05	9.10	14.55	9.28	16.00	11.53	15.88	9.23	14.03	0.43	23.78
II	9.64	17.10	9.71	16.22	9.98	16.50	11.53	15.88	9.80	15.03	0.46	27.50
III	11.16	18.22	11.16	17.70	11.45	18.35	11.53	15.88	11.18	16.74	0.56	27.50
IV f	11.63	18.28	11.63	17.78	12.00	18.78	11.53	15.88	11.63	17.10	0.62	27.50
Average	10.36	17.16	10.40	16.56	10.68	17.41	11.53	15.88	10.46	15.72	0.52	26.57

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 8—Frozen vegetables: Quarterly wholesale price trends, 2000-08 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 -----													
2000													
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
2001													
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
2002													
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
2003													
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
2004													
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
2005													
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
2006													
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
2007													
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
2008													
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	11.04	0.58	11.03	0.71	8.87	0.64	14.04	0.92	10.70	0.86	8.88	0.58	0.77
III p	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	11.73	0.62	11.75	0.71	11.78	0.75	14.04	0.96	9.38	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
Average	11.31	0.62	11.30	0.71	9.96	0.68	13.86	0.93	10.26	0.87	8.88	0.62	0.79

-- = not available. p = Preliminary. f = ERS forecast. Except for peas and broccoli, foodservice prices carried over from the 4th quarter of 2007.

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 9—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) -----														
Potatoes, all uses	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	10.75	12.33	11.33	9.08				
Potatoes, table stock	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					
Potatoes, processing	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					
Dry edible beans	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	39.10				
Green peas, whole-dry 2/	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	14.25			
Yellow peas, whole-dry 2/	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	11.50			
Lentils, regular (Brewer) 2/	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 10—U.S. fresh-market herbs: Selected monthly wholesale prices in San Francisco, CA, 2007-08

Herb	Unit	2007			2008			Change from prev. year					
		Aug	Sept.	Oct	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Aug	Sept	Oct			
								----- Dollars/unit -----			----- Percent -----		
Anise	24-ct crtn	12.00	11.00	11.50	17.25	15.00	13.00	43.8	36.4	13.0			
Arrugula	12-ct flmbag	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	.0	.0	.0			
Basil	12-ct flmbag	8.25	8.25	7.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	.0	.0	13.8			
Celeriac	12-ct ctns	13.00	13.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	- 3.8	- 3.8	.0			
Chervil	12-ct flmbag	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.25	6.25	6.25	- 7.4	- 7.4	- 7.4			
Chives	12-ct flmbag	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	.0	.0	.0			
Cilantro	60-ct ctns	19.50	22.75	14.00	10.25	16.00	18.75	- 47.4	- 29.7	33.9			
Cipolinos	10-lb ctns	17.50	17.50	17.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	11.4	11.4	11.4			
Dill	12-ct ctns	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	8.00	8.00	- 3.1	.0	.0			
Dry Eschallot	5-lb sack	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.13	7.50	7.00	2.1	25.0	16.7			
Horseradish	5-lb bag	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	0.80	0.80	- 64.4	- 64.4	- 64.4			
Marjoram	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
Oregano	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
Rosemary	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
Mint	12-ct ctns	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	.0	.0	.0			
Sage	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
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	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
Sorrel	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
Tarragon	12-ct flmbag	7.50	7.50	7.50	6.63	6.63	6.63	- 11.6	- 11.6	- 11.6			
Thyme	12-ct flmbag	5.63	5.63	5.63	5.75	5.75	5.75	2.1	2.1	2.1			
Verdulaga	24-ct ctns	9.50	9.00	9.00	11.50	11.50	11.00	21.1	27.8	22.2			
Watercress	12-ct ctns	14.50	14.50	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	3.4	3.4	.0			

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

Price table 11—U.S. fresh-market herbs: August-October average wholesale prices in Miami, FL, 2007-08

Herb	Unit	2007	2008	Change
		----- Dollars/unit -----		Percent
Anise	24-ct crtn	26.00	24.67	- 5.1
Arrugula	12-ct ctns	12.00	14.83	23.6
Basil	12-ct ctns	4.13	3.88	- 6.1
Celeriac	20-lb ct ctns	23.00	32.00	39.1
Chervil	12-ct flmbag	7.50	8.42	12.2
Chives	12-ct flmbag	8.00	8.39	4.9
Cilantro	60-ct ctns	19.83	18.00	- 9.2
Cipolinos	10-lb ctns	20.50	20.00	- 2.4
Dill	12-ct flmbag	7.00	6.75	- 3.6
Dry Eschallot	5-lb sack	6.50	6.50	.0
Horseradish	5-lb bag	7.00	7.00	.0
Lemon grass	12-ct flmbag	5.83	5.50	- 5.7
Marjoram	12-ct flmbag	5.50	5.50	.0
Oregano	12-ct flmbag	5.03	4.72	- 6.1
Rosemary	12-ct flmbag	5.83	4.72	- 19.0
Mint	12-ct flmbag	4.50	5.00	11.1
Sage	12-ct flmbag	7.63	7.63	.0
Savory	12-ct flmbag	5.67	5.67	.0
Sorrel	12-ct flmbag	8.50	8.00	- 5.9
Tarragon	12-ct flmbag	8.25	8.92	8.1
Thyme	12-ct flmbag	3.90	4.03	3.4
Watercress	12-ct ctns	5.08	5.42	6.6

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

Price table 12—Farm-retail price spreads, 2005-08

Item	Annual			2007	2008					
	2005	2006	2007	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Market basket										
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
Fresh fruit										
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
Fresh vegetables										
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
Processed fruits and vegetables										
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
Fats and oils										
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
Meat products										
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
Dairy products										
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
Poultry										
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
Eggs										
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
Cereal and bakery products										
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>