United States Department of Agriculture

VGS-331

Feb. 25, 2009

A Report from the Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov

Vegetables and Melons Outlook

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Sweet Potato Production Rallies Despite Storms

The next release is April 16, 2009.

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board.

The outlook for fresh vegetables this winter features a 5-percent reduction in acreage and reduced availability of some warm season crops like green beans and sweet corn due to a February freeze in Florida. At the same time, demand is expected to remain soft as consumers spend conservatively. Given supply reductions, the winter price outlook favors higher prices compared with the relatively low levels of a year earlier.

Plentiful supplies, strong world demand, and favorable exchange rates outweighed high domestic prices to nearly double the volume (expressed on a fresh-weight basis) of U.S. tomato product exports to 5.5 billion pounds in calendar 2008—the greatest year-to-year gain since 1973. Tomato paste export volume nearly tripled to a record-high 686 million pounds as tight world supplies focused buying interest on U.S. product.

Reflecting the smaller 2008 fall crop, U.S. potato shipments have been running below year-earlier levels. Fresh market shipments in December and January were down an average of 9 percent from a year earlier. As a result, potato prices remain strong with U.S. prices for all uses in January up 29 percent from a year earlier.

Although sweet potato production was up 2 percent from a year earlier to 18.3 million cwt, preliminary 2008 price estimates of $21.50 reflected high demand. Crop year to date (July-December) sweet potato exports were valued at $22 million, up from $17.7 million during 2007.

With both higher prices and rising volume, the value of dry bean exports during the first 4 months of the 2008/09 marketing year (September-December) leaped 55 percent to $128 million—the highest for the first 4 months since 1990. Reflecting good demand, dry bean export volume was up 32 percent from a year earlier despite an 18-percent increase in the average export price. Although pinto bean exports to Mexico were little changed, the volume of black, navy, light-red kidney, and mung beans were higher.

The growth experienced by the U.S. dry pea and lentil industry over the past decade was reflected in an increase in the number of farms producing these products. In 2007, the number of dry edible pea farms increased 97 percent to 3,048, with lentils up 25 percent to 811 farms. Most of the growth in farm numbers occurred in the upper Midwest.

Industry Overview

Fresh vegetables: The value of production for fresh-market vegetables totaled a record-high $10.4 billion in 2008, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Tomatoes replaced head lettuce (due to higher tomato prices) as the top fresh vegetable at $1.4 billion—up 21 percent from a year ago. Increases for bell peppers (up 26 percent), tomatoes (up 21 percent), and squash (up 17 percent) easily outweighed declines for chile peppers (down 21 percent), romaine lettuce (down 19 percent), and celery (down 17 percent). Fresh-market gross revenue increased just 1 percent to $5.3 billion in California, which accounted for 50 percent of the national value of fresh-market vegetables, compared with 52 percent a year earlier. Production of fresh vegetables generated nearly $1.6 billion in crop value in Florida—up 15 percent from 2007 as higher prices outweighed reduced aggregate production.

Melons: The value of melon production totaled $931 million in 2008—up 17 percent from 2007. Record-high yields pushed watermelon production higher and good demand pulled average prices up, leaving crop value up 17 percent to a record $492 million. Although the value of the honeydew crop fell 8 percent, higher prices pushed the value of the cantaloup crop up 23 percent to $371 million.

Processing vegetables: Largely because of much stronger contract prices for most crops and another large tomato crop, the value of production for processing vegetables (including dual use crops) jumped 15 percent to $1.9 billion. Driven by stronger contract prices, the value of the processing-tomato crop rose 5 percent to a record $950 million. The value of the sweet corn crop surged 39 percent to $330 million as the plant-door price jumped 43 percent to a record $117 per ton.

Potatoes: According to preliminary estimates, the value of U.S. potato production rose 17 percent to $3.9 billion in 2008/09. With the season-average farm price rising 26 percent to a record 9.46 cents per pound, revenue rose in most States, with the most notable exceptions being North Dakota and Florida. With both production and price higher, production value surged 53 percent in Colorado and 45 percent in California—two States heavily dependant on the fresh market.

Sweet potatoes: The estimated farm value of the 2008 U.S. sweet potato crop was $395 million—up 20 percent to a second consecutive record-high. Although output was up 2 percent, the average price was expected to rise 17 percent, with higher prices boosting value 61 percent in California and 46 percent in North Carolina.

Dry edible beans: Sharply higher prices pushed the farm value of the 2008 U.S. dry bean crop up 30 percent to $975 million—the second-consecutive record high. The farm value of North Dakota's crop was estimated to be $315 million—32 percent of U.S. crop value and 14 percent above the previous high set in 2007.

Dry peas and lentils: Based on preliminary estimates of marketing year average prices, the value of all U.S. dry pea and lentil production (including small chickpeas and wrinkled seed peas) in 2008/09 totaled $329 million—down 9 percent from a year earlier. Within this total, lentils were valued at $87 million (down 5 percent), with higher prices outweighed by reduced output. Although dry pea prices were the highest since 1973, the value of the crop fell 15 percent due to reduced production.

Mushrooms: The value of the 2007/08 mushroom crop was estimated to be up less than 1 percent to $964 million, reflecting a 3-percent increase in average prices to $1.19 per pound. With higher prices more than offset by a smaller crop, the value of the Agaricus mushroom crop fell slightly to $914 million. In contrast, a larger crop outweighed lower average prices to push the value of the 2007/08 specialty mushroom crop up 9 percent to $50 million.

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

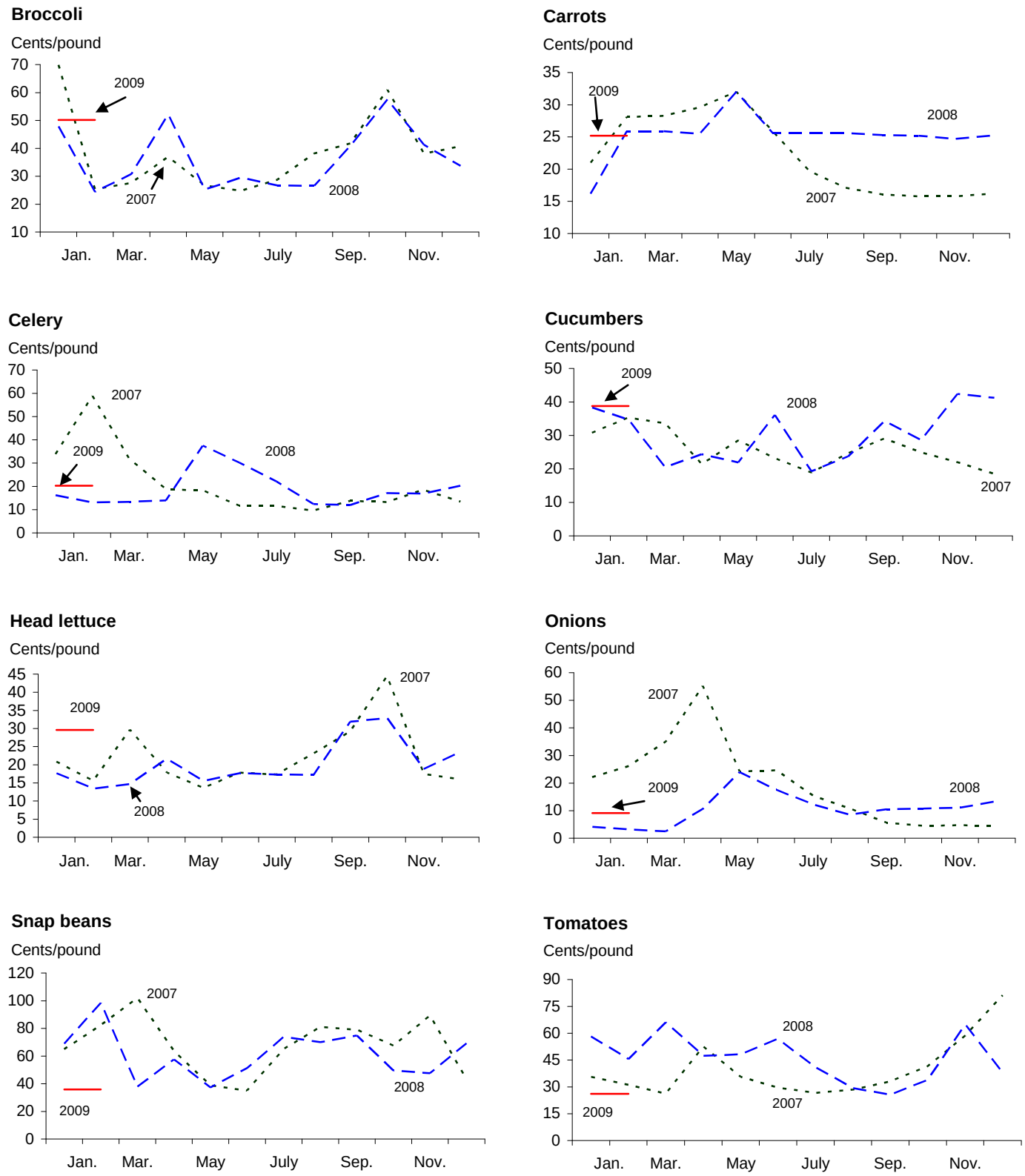
Item	Unit	2006	2007	2008	2009 1/
Area harvested	1,000 ac.	7,139	6,852	6,667	6,861
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	1,000 ac.	1,830	1,784	1,733	1,725
Processing	1,000 ac.	1,253	1,249	1,226	1,245
Potatoes	1,000 ac.	1,120	1,122	1,045	1,071
Dry beans	1,000 ac.	1,532	1,479	1,445	1,535
Other 2/	1,000 ac.	1,404	1,217	1,219	1,285
Production	Mil. cwt	1,285	1,332	1,278	1,301
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	Mil. cwt	461	459	449	448
Processing	Mil. cwt	318	356	350	356
Potatoes	Mil. cwt	441	445	413	426
Dry beans	Mil. cwt	24	26	26	26
Other 2/	Mil. cwt	42	46	41	45
Crop value	$ mil.	16,601	17,385	18,819	17,930
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	$ mil.	10,151	10,048	10,415	10,375
Processing	$ mil.	1,371	1,651	1,901	1,850
Potatoes	$ mil.	3,209	3,340	3,899	3,450
Dry beans	$ mil.	554	749	975	690
Mushrooms	$ mil.	889	961	964	970
Other 2/	$ mil.	427	636	665	595
Unit value 3/	$/cwt	12.91	13.05	14.73	13.79
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	$/cwt	22.03	21.87	23.22	23.18
Processing	$/cwt	4.31	4.64	5.44	5.20
Potatoes	$/cwt	7.31	7.51	9.46	8.10
Dry beans	$/cwt	22.10	28.80	37.70	26.55
Other 2/	$/cwt	10.27	13.71	16.13	13.16
Trade					
Imports	$ mil.	7,275	7,921	8,515	8,790
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	$ mil.	4,091	4,433	4,605	4,775
Processing 4/	$ mil.	1,748	1,916	2,170	2,200
Potatoes & products	$ mil.	856	908	997	1,035
Dry beans	$ mil.	84	107	155	170
Other 5/	$ mil.	496	556	588	610
Exports	$ mil.	4,233	4,621	5,414	5,430
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	$ mil.	1,624	1,741	1,852	1,880
Processing 4/	$ mil.	860	942	1,220	1,300
Potatoes & products	$ mil.	950	1,051	1,186	1,200
Dry beans	$ mil.	211	199	317	250
Other 5/	$ mil.	588	686	839	800
Per capita use	Pounds	430	435	433	434
Vegetables:					
Fresh & melons	Pounds	175	174	175	174
Processing	Pounds	116	119	123	123
Potatoes & products	Pounds	124	125	120	121
Dry beans	Pounds	6	7	6	6
Other 2/	Pounds	10	10	10	10

1/ ERS forecasts. 2/ Includes sweet potatoes, dry peas, lentils, and mushrooms (except for crop value). 3/ Ratio of total value to total production. 4/ Includes canned, frozen, and dried. Excludes potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms. 5/ Other includes mushrooms, dry peas, lentils, sweet potatoes, and vegetable seed. All trade data are on a calendar-year basis.
Note: Cwt = hundredweight, a unit of measure equal to 100 pounds.

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



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

Fresh-Market Vegetables

Cold Damages and Delays Crops

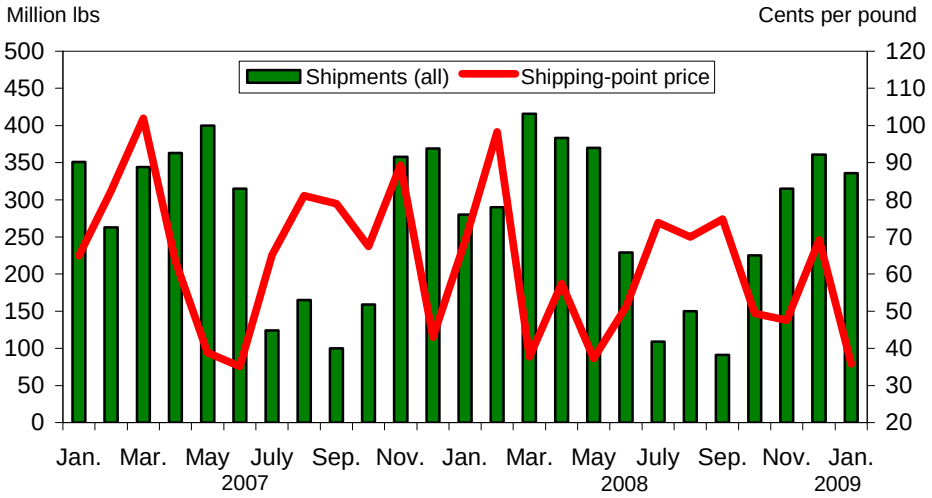
Cold early-December temperatures in California and several nights below freezing in Florida slowed growth, singed crops, caused bloom drop, created gaps in supply, and raised farm prices for several fresh-market vegetables. In Florida, winds and freezing temperatures (as low as 23 degrees F) reached down into the major gulf coast vegetable areas around Immokalee and Belle Glade on January 20-22 and again Feb 5. The west-central inland growing areas appear to have had the lowest temperatures and the most severe damage, with damage less severe along the East coast and the Homestead area (where the majority of the winter snap bean crop is produced). Damage was reportedly most severe for portions of the late winter/early spring snap bean and sweet corn crops. Due to ample freeze warnings and strong grower countermeasures, crop damage was limited and product shipments were able to continue with minor delays. Because much of the damage occurred in areas growing for the late winter or early spring harvest, any price impact for crops like snap beans and sweet corn may occur in the next month as delayed shipments miss anticipated market windows.

Most tomato plants survived the cold weather but generally when the temperature dips below 50 degrees for an extended period of time, tomato plants will begin to drop blossoms. It then takes about 2 weeks for undamaged plants to reset new blossoms. As a result, a price surge could occur in early to mid-March as shipments decline due to the loss of blossoms that would have matured into marketable product. In early February, mature-green tomato prices were averaging around $9.45 per 25-pound box—up from the lows of early January, but about 30 percent below the relatively strong levels of a year ago.

Along coastal California and in the Imperial and Yuma Valleys in the desert southwest, early January supplies were slowed due to cold temperatures. The bulk of the crops produced in the desert region during the winter are hardy cool-season crops, which are able to withstand a limited amount of cold temperatures. These

Figure 2

U.S. fresh green beans: Shipments & shipping-point price, 2007-09



Sources: USDA, AMS, *Market News* and USDA, NASS, *Agricultural Prices.*

Table 2--Selected U.S. fresh-market vegetable shipments 1/

Item	Annual 2008	December 2008	January 2008	January 2009	Change previous: 2/ Month	Change previous: 2/ Year
		--1,000 cwt --			Percent	
Asparagus	3,148	133	280	237	78	-15
Snap beans	3,219	361	280	336	-7	20
Broccoli	10,043	870	946	984	13	4
Cabbage	11,702	1,153	1,296	1,318	14	2
Cantaloup	25,963	874	931	313	-64	-66
Carrots	9,162	676	889	641	-5	-28
Cauliflower	3,726	356	337	339	-5	1
Celery	16,082	1,516	1,514	1,506	-1	-1
Sweet corn	12,134	600	537	619	3	15
Cucumbers	14,460	1,350	1,483	1,592	18	7
Greens	2,185	280	213	230	-18	8
Head lettuce	32,438	2,650	2,562	2,504	-6	-2
Romaine	15,170	1,445	1,291	1,379	-5	7
Leaf lettuce	3,972	436	386	408	-6	6
Onions, dry bulb	47,640	3,738	4,454	4,200	12	-6
Onions, green	3,451	352	322	345	-2	7
Peppers, bell	15,659	1,418	1,665	1,659	17	0
Peppers, chile	6,460	431	538	551	28	2
Squash	7,198	764	781	888	16	14
Tomato, round	26,994	2,511	2,590	2,866	14	11
Tomato, roma	11,609	1,003	1,369	1,330	33	-3
Tomato, ghouse 3/	13,356	820	928	1,043	27	12
Tomato, small 4/	4,415	380	496	476	25	-4
Watermelon	43,587	692	897	578	-16	-36
Selected total	343,773	24,809	26,985	26,342	6	-2

1/ Data for 2009 are preliminary. Includes domestic and imported product. 2/ Change in January 2009. 3/ Includes all tomatoes produced under cover. 4/ Includes grape and cherry tomatoes.

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

include iceberg lettuce, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, celery, and carrots. Despite reduced acreage, sluggish demand and harvest bunching kept shipping-point prices for iceberg lettuce in early February around the cost of production at $6 to $9 per 24-head carton. Prices are expected to average higher over the remainder of the winter as short-term harvest gaps appear.

The lion's share of celery at this time of year is produced in Ventura County around the city of Oxnard and further north in coastal California in the Santa Maria Valley. The celery harvest, which had been accelerated by unusually warm temperatures in late November and early December, was then slowed by cool temperatures, widening the supply gap left by the earlier accelerated harvest and doubling shipping-point prices from a month earlier. Celery supplies may have been slightly lower anyway this winter due to a small reduction in area for harvest. However, prices for a 28-pound carton of celery hearts began easing (due to rising shipments) by early February from a high of nearly $27 per carton during the third week of January.

Winter Acreage Lower

The outlook for the remainder of the winter season is again largely dependant on the weather in southern Florida, various areas in Mexico (particularly Sinaloa), and the desert growing regions of California and Arizona. The outlook for fresh vegetables

Table 3--Winter-season U.S. fresh-market vegetable area 1/

Item	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2008-09
			-- *Acres for harvest* --			*Percent*
Snap beans	12,500	13,200	14,800	13,500	11,600	-14
Broccoli	27,000	26,000	28,000	26,000	24,000	-8
Cabbage	12,600	10,600	11,400	11,300	12,300	9
Carrots	19,500	20,700	18,400	16,400	16,200	-1
Cauliflower	8,500	8,500	8,200	8,000	8,500	6
Celery	7,500	7,600	7,600	7,300	7,200	-1
Sweet corn	7,800	3,600	8,600	9,200	8,400	-9
Head lettuce	67,600	66,800	58,900	50,700	45,500	-10
Bell pepper	6,300	6,100	6,600	6,400	6,800	6
Spinach	2,100	2,200	800	1,100	1,100	0
Tomatoes	12,500	10,000	10,000	9,100	9,300	2
Total	183,900	175,300	173,300	159,000	150,900	-5

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during January-March.

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

this winter features a reduction in harvested acreage, the potential for reduced yields or availability of some crops due largely to cold weather, and a challenging demand situation caused by the recession. Demand is expected to be soft as consumers are cutting back on purchases of fresh produce for both away-from-home eating and as premium products (such as hothouse vegetables) for home consumption due to rising unemployment and income insecurity. Given supply reductions, the winter price outlook favors higher prices compared with the relatively modest levels experienced a year earlier. Although some input prices have eased, growers also continue to face relatively high input prices this winter, especially for fertilizer, chemicals, land rent, and seed.

This winter (largely January-March), fresh-market vegetable and melon area for harvest (excluding onions) is expected to decline 5 percent from that of a year earlier. Yields in Florida were likely trimmed by bouts with cold, wet, windy weather, while crops in the California and Arizona desert area experienced several frosty mornings but nothing close to the severe freeze of two years ago. Given lower acreage and variable yields, the volume of shipments for the leading fresh-market crops declined 2 percent in January from a year earlier. Despite sluggish demand caused by the impact of the economic recession, shipping-point prices this winter are expected to average 10 to 15 percent above the relatively low levels of a year earlier.

Acreage for harvest of the 11 selected vegetables fell to 150,900 acres this winter season (largely January to March) with area down in 3 of the 4 producing States. California, which accounts for 47 percent of winter vegetable acreage, reduced area 5 percent, with acreage lower for each crop except cauliflower. Arizona, which harvests 20 percent of winter area (concentrated mostly in lettuce), expects to harvest 10 percent less area this winter. Growers in Florida, who have 27 percent of winter area concentrated largely in warm season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and snap beans, expect to harvest 5 percent fewer acres. Acreage increased in Texas this winter, with growers planting more cabbage but keeping spinach and carrot area constant. Winter-season area for harvest accounts for about 9 percent of the annual fresh vegetable and melon harvested area (1.73 million acres in 2008), with imports contributing a larger share of shipments than during any other season.

Table 4—U.S. quarterly grower (point-of-first-sale) prices, 2008-09

Commodity	2008 First	2008 Second	2008 Third	2008 Fourth	2009 * First	2009 * Second	2009 * Third	Change 1st Q 1/
	Cents/pound							*Percent*
Asparagus	107.00	96.93	--	--	124.00	98.00	--	15.9
Broccoli	34.37	35.63	31.47	44.13	38.00	36.00	34.00	10.6
Cantaloup	--	21.70	14.07	27.40	--	27.00	15.00	--
Carrots	22.67	27.70	25.50	25.03	25.00	26.00	23.00	10.3
Cauliflower	41.17	47.53	36.97	40.63	52.00	40.00	33.00	26.3
Celery	14.27	27.17	15.47	17.00	20.00	18.00	14.00	40.2
Sweet corn	27.47	20.77	27.60	25.57	31.00	20.00	23.00	12.9
Cucumbers	31.20	27.47	25.77	37.43	33.00	25.00	23.00	5.8
Lettuce, head	15.23	18.27	22.13	25.07	22.00	22.00	20.00	44.5
Onions, dry bulb	3.27	17.37	10.41	11.77	10.00	24.00	11.00	205.8
Snap beans	68.27	48.67	72.90	55.40	70.00	43.00	69.00	2.5
Tomatoes, field	56.80	50.80	31.97	45.53	35.00	43.00	35.00	-38.4
All vegetables 2/	929	1,115	1098	1,161	1,075	1,150	1040	15.7

-- = not available. * = ERS forecast. 1/ Change in 1st-quarter 2009 over 1st-quarter 2008.
2/ Price index with base period of 1910-14 (the period when the index equaled 100).

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

California Drought Continues

As was the case a year earlier, more snow and rain is badly needed in California this winter to recharge shrinking irrigation water supplies. The California Department of Water Resources January survey showed a mountain snow water content of 61 percent of normal. The current weather outlook also does not support strong storm activity in the Sierras over the next 90 days. Reduced water deliveries could again affect the April transitional acreage (from the desert to coastal California) of leafy crops (especially lettuce) based in the Huron area. Although any market impact would likely be brief (a month or less) as the harvest focus shifts to the Salinas Valley (which largely relies on wells for irrigation) in late April.

Given the current weather outlook, irrigation water deliveries in the Central Valley are likely to be reduced again (or even totally withheld) this year due to environmental concerns and low reservoir storage. In addition to the early spring crops, other major vegetable crops are at risk and include early summer melons (largely grown on the west side of the Valley) and processing tomatoes (largely grown in Fresno County). Shifting acreage to other areas of the state and modifying planting/harvesting schedules may lessen some of these supply impacts. The official estimate of spring fresh vegetable area will be released by USDA on April 3.

Fresh-Market Production Drops 2 Percent in 2008

According to USDA's annual Vegetables 2008 Summary, fresh-market vegetable production fell 2 percent from a year earlier to 449 million cwt. This was 3 percent below the output of 2006 and the lowest since 2002 (442 million cwt). Although average yield per acre continued to trend higher (up 1 percent), production fell because of a 3-percent drop in harvested area. Fresh-market output dropped in 21 of the 37 surveyed states, with each of the top 4 producing States California (down 1 percent), Florida (down 1 percent), Arizona (down 10 percent), and Georgia (down 4 percent) producing less fresh vegetables in 2008. With lower volume outweighed

Table 5--Annual U.S. production of selected fresh-market vegetables

Year	Average 2003-05	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08 2/
		-- Million pounds --			*Percent*
Artichokes 1/	90.1	117.5	105.6	118.8	13
Asparagus 1/	181.3	115.3	112.5	95.2	-15
Snap beans	564.4	621.3	650.2	620.9	-5
Broccoli 1/	1,901.7	1,904.0	1,918.8	1,976.6	3
Cabbage	2,317.2	2,341.1	2,388.6	2,491.0	4
Carrots	2,659.6	2,429.0	2,443.0	2,456.5	1
Cauliflower 1/	672.2	696.5	682.8	680.9	0
Celery 1/	1,914.0	1,923.0	2,001.1	2,002.5	0
Sweet corn	2,701.1	2,574.5	2,850.4	2,906.8	2
Cucumbers	955.0	907.9	970.0	990.7	2
Garlic 1/	541.2	431.2	410.4	428.3	4
Lettuce, head	6,657.5	6,249.4	5,747.4	5,295.2	-8
Lettuce, leaf	1,369.1	1,331.7	1,224.0	1,193.8	-2
Lettuce, romaine	2,236.2	2,650.0	2,640.9	2,572.4	-3
Onions, dry bulb 1/	7,204.0	7,306.6	7,963.8	7,383.7	-7
Peppers, bell 1/	1,618.5	1,571.0	1,610.0	1,665.6	3
Pumpkins 1/	965.9	1,048.4	1,145.8	1,066.3	-7
Spinach	598.0	604.5	507.9	523.6	3
Squash 1/	732.0	794.6	626.6	668.7	7
Tomatoes	3,711.5	3,627.4	3,362.7	3,113.7	-7

1/ Includes some processing.

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

by higher average prices, the farm value of U.S. fresh market vegetable production rose 4 percent to $10.4 billion. California accounted for 50 percent of U.S. fresh-market vegetable crop value in 2008, with Florida a distant second at 15 percent.

Census Indicates Most Vegetable Farms Produce for Fresh Market

The recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture indicated that of the 69,172 farms reporting vegetable, potato, sweet potato, and melon acreage, an estimated 62,495 farms (90 percent) produced for the fresh market. An estimated 4,791 farms produced vegetables for both the fresh and processing (preserved using heat) markets. Area devoted to fresh market vegetables in 2007 totaled 2.62 million acres—56 percent of all vegetable area.. Among the top 10 fresh-market states, Minnesota had the smallest share of area devoted to the fresh market (13 percent) and Arizona had the greatest (96 percent). California, the top producer of fresh vegetables but also a leading source of processing vegetables (such as tomatoes and onions) indicated that 68 percent of area was geared toward the fresh market. Florida's fresh market share dropped from 96 percent in 2002 to 86 percent in 2007 as growers in the state have increased area for crops such as pickling cucumbers. Producers in Idaho (55 percent fresh) and New York (51 percent) grow heavily for both the fresh and processing markets.

The 2007 agricultural census indicated that farms with at least 750 acres of vegetables and melons accounted for 55 percent of the Nation's fresh market vegetable and melon area. About 13 percent of fresh acreage was found on the 60 farms that harvest at least 5,000 acres of vegetables and melons. Another 17 percent of fresh market area was grown on the 432 farms that harvest between 1,000 and 2,000 acres of vegetables and melons.

Value of Fresh Imports and Exports Rise in 2008

In 2008, the value of fresh vegetable (excluding melons and potatoes) imports rose 4 percent to $4.2 billion, with the increase reflecting both higher prices and rising import volume. Volume was greater for crops such as greenhouse tomatoes (up 14 percent), cucumbers (up 8 percent), and chile peppers (up 12 percent). Mexico and Canada remain the top two foreign suppliers of fresh-market vegetables to the U.S. market. In 2008, Mexico accounted for 70 percent of U.S. fresh-market vegetable import value, while Canada garnered 16 percent of the import market. Rounding out the top five import sources in 2008 were Peru (4 percent), China (2 percent), and Costa Rica (2 percent).

On the outgoing side of trade, with higher prices and greater export volume (up 5 percent) in 2008, the value of fresh vegetable (excluding melons and potatoes) exports rose 7 percent from a year earlier to nearly $1.8 billion. Canada remained the leading foreign destination for U.S. fresh-market vegetable and melon exports, with 73 percent of total value, followed distantly by Mexico (11 percent) and Japan (5 percent). At $300 million, leaf/romaine lettuce was the leading fresh export vegetable by value in 2008, followed by all tomatoes ($210 million), carrots ($141 million), broccoli ($131 million), and head lettuce ($130 million). In volume terms, dry onions were the top export crop at 6.1 million cwt in 2008 (table 6).

Table 6--Selected U.S. fresh-market vegetable trade volume, 2005-08 1/

Item	January - December				Change
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007-08
			--1,000 cwt--		*Percent*
Exports, fresh:					
Onions, dry bulb	6,678	6,588	5,508	6,120	11
Lettuce, other	4,863	4,610	4,534	4,662	3
Tomatoes	3,265	3,177	3,557	3,751	5
Lettuce, head	4,501	3,639	3,532	3,380	-4
Broccoli	3,147	3,053	3,110	3,031	-3
Carrots	2,847	2,531	2,575	2,751	7
Celery	2,692	2,553	2,597	2,559	-1
Other	14,004	13,700	13,380	14,301	7
Total	39,306	37,298	36,195	37,995	5
Imports, fresh:					
Tomatoes, all	20,981	21,879	23,611	24,611	4
Cucumbers	9,551	9,743	10,122	10,980	8
Peppers, sweet	6,526	7,161	7,264	7,309	1
Onions, dry bulb	6,592	6,432	9,025	7,142	-21
Peppers, chile	4,254	5,086	5,634	6,283	12
Squash 2/	5,244	5,304	5,658	5,402	-5
Asparagus, all	2,388	2,653	2,735	3,083	13
Other	20,633	21,658	23,378	24,032	3
Total	76,169	79,916	87,427	88,841	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.

Processing Vegetables

Prospective Tomato Area Up

An early (Jan. 16) crop intentions report indicated that California tomato processors anticipate contracting for more tomatoes in 2008. Processors intend to contract for 15 percent more processing tomatoes than a year earlier—a total of 13.3 million short tons if they were to carry through with these early intentions. If realized, output would exceed the 1999 record high of 12.8 million short tons. With more growers moving to drip irrigation to save water, a yield of nearly 43.2 tons per acre was assumed—up from last year's near record 41.5 tons and easily a new record high. An additional 0.6 million tons would likely be processed from open market purchases and other States. In 2008, 97 percent of the 11.9 million tons of tomatoes processed in the United States were grown under contract, down from 99 percent a year earlier. California is the source for about 95 percent of the tomatoes grown nationally for processed products such as sauces, paste, soup, juice, and ketchup.

According to the California Tomato Growers Association, reduced or no irrigation-water deliveries in the San Joaquin Valley could discourage growers from planting tomatoes since well water is not an option for everyone. In 2008, the base price (price at the first delivery point, excluding premiums) averaged a record-high (unadjusted for inflation) $70 per short ton, up from $63 the previous season. The base price this year may have to rise to another record high to entice growers to again battle a projected water shortage (to dig wells and pump well water, install drip tape, etc), cover higher input costs, and reduce the lure of high-priced alternative grain crops. Although the California Tomato Growers Association made an opening base price offer of $95 per ton last fall, processors had reportedly remained mum on the offer through January.

Although industry data indicate that tomato stocks on Dec 1, 2008 were up 1 percent to a record high, average monthly disappearance was also higher—jumping 14 percent over the previous 6 months (due largely to strong export demand). On a fresh-equivalent basis, estimated disappearance has been running at 1.1 million tons per month. However, preliminary estimates suggest that domestic per capita use

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

Item	2008		2009	Change previous:	
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Month	Year
	---------- *Index* ----------			------ *Percent* -----	
Consumer Price Indexes (12/97=100)					
Processed fruits and vegetables	130.8	145.9	148.4	1.7	13.4
Canned vegetables	133.1	157.0	159.1	1.4	19.6
Frozen vegetables (1982-84=100)	184.1	195.6	201.3	2.9	9.3
Dry beans, peas, lentils	141.3	176.3	176.6	0.2	25.0
Olives, pickles, relishes	123.8	132.5	133.8	0.9	8.1
Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)					
Canned vegetables and juices	147.8	167.8	169.3	0.9	14.5
Pickles and products	200.3	210.1	210.1	0.0	4.9
Tomato catsup and sauces 1/	141.0	153.7	156.2	1.6	10.8
Canned dry beans	131.1	146.0	144.5	-1.0	10.2
Vegetable juices 1/	118.0	123.7	123.7	0.0	4.8
Frozen vegetables	153.3	176.6	176.5	-0.1	15.1
Frozen vegetable combinations	109.9	116.8	116.8	0.0	6.3
Dried/dehy. fruit & vegetables	185.3	193.8	198.6	2.5	7.2

1/ Index base year is 1987.

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

of processing tomatoes fell 2 percent in 2008 to 67.2 pounds, meaning most of the increased movement was funneled into the export market. With most analysts projecting the domestic economy to remain very weak in 2009 (discouraging away-from-home eating in particular), domestic use of processed tomato products may depend more on retail sales than usual. Retail sales of tomato products are expected to pick up this year as more consumers rediscover the value of home-cooked meals.

Tomato Product Exports Soar

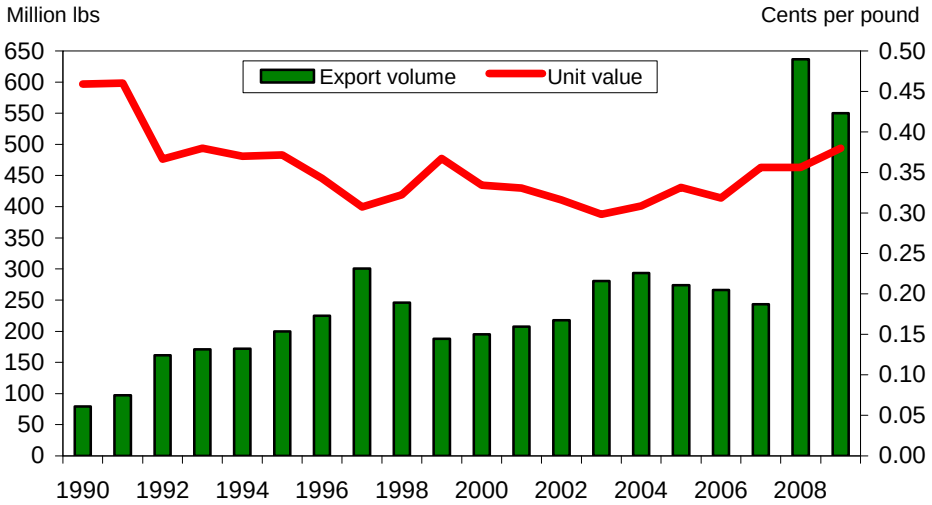
Plentiful supplies, strong world demand, and favorable exchange rates outweighed high domestic prices to nearly double the volume (expressed on a fresh-weight basis) of tomato product exports to 5.5 billion pounds in calendar 2008—the most significant rise since the 183-percent jump in 1973. Most of the gain was centered in tomato paste, which nearly tripled to a record-high 686 million pounds as tight world supplies and high prices around the world focused buying interest on U.S. product. Although paste export volume was much higher, volume also increased for tomato pulp and purees (up 47 percent), whole tomato products (up 24 percent), and tomato sauces (up 11 percent).

The volume of tomato products shipped to each of the top four markets increased in 2008. Traditionally, the top 4 markets for tomato products have been Canada, Mexico, Japan, and South Korea. However, in 2008 sharply higher volume to Italy (up 695 percent) and Australia (up 301 percent) vaulted these 2 nations into the top four. While volume was up, the per unit export value declined 1 percent to just under 40 cents per pound, helping to boost volume. The total value of 2008 tomato product exports increased 63 percent to $518 million. The value of exports to Italy (the second leading foreign market in 2008) rose 663 percent to $74 million as weather reduced the tomato crop in the primary northern paste production region. U.S. paste exports will likely remain strong until world supplies are buoyed by an expected larger crop later this year.

With low stocks and higher wholesale prices prevailing during the first three quarters, 2008 import volume (on a fresh-equivalent basis) fell 23 percent from last year's record 1.7 billion pounds. However, with strong prices, the value of imports

Figure 3

U.S. tomato paste: Export volume and unit value, 1990-2009



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

Table 8--Value of U.S. processed vegetable trade 1/

Item	January - December 2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08
		--Million dollars--			Percent
Imports:					
Canned	812	883	911	988	8
Tomato products	138	168	194	182	-6
Frozen	493	526	630	748	19
Broccoli	176	171	209	252	21
Dehydrated 2/	299	353	391	442	13
Garlic	24	49	52	37	-28
Exports:					
Canned	539	555	592	811	37
Tomato products	288	307	317	518	63
Frozen	161	175	212	261	23
Sweet corn	60	63	64	69	7
Dehydrated 2/	128	129	139	150	8
Onion products	64	66	79	85	9

1/ Excludes potatoes and mushrooms. 2/ Includes dried.

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

Table 9--Value of U.S. canned vegetable exports by destination 1/

Source	January - December 2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08
		--Million dollars--			Percent
Canada	240	262	289	308	7
Italy	0	0	10	74	662
Mexico	60	64	52	71	36
Japan	77	61	60	62	3
South Korea	26	28	35	32	-9
Others	135	141	146	265	82
Total	539	555	592	811	37

1/ Excludes potatoes and mushrooms.

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

dropped just 6 percent to $182 million. Canada accounted for 43 percent of the 2008 U.S. tomato product import market (largely due to ketchup), followed by Italy (35 percent) and Mexico (12 percent). Driven largely by sales of sauces, the value of tomato product imports from Italy has increased each year since 2000. Although import volume was lower, U.S. imports of tomato sauce from Italy rose 10 percent in 2008 to $64 million and accounted for most of the tomato product imports from that nation.

Processing Output Down But Crop Value Up in 2008

Production of the major vegetables used for processing decreased 2 percent to 17.5 million short tons in 2008 (table 10). Five of the 11 crops registered decreased output with tomatoes again the major change agent. Excluding tomatoes, output of processing vegetables increased 1 percent, with much of the gain coming from snap beans, carrots, and cucumbers. Production of sweet corn used for canned products increased 6 percent as both area and yields increased, while reduced area and yield dropped sweet corn output for frozen products to the lowest level since 2000.

Table 10--Annual U.S. production of selected processing vegetables

Year	Average 2003-05	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08 2/
		1,000 short tons			*Percent*
Canning:					
Tomatoes	10,759.7	10,611.8	12,659.9	12,305.8	-3
Sweet corn	1,538.1	1,439.0	1,275.5	1,355.8	6
Snap beans	552.6	540.1	483.8	523.4	8
Cucumbers	594.1	505.2	541.2	566.2	5
Green peas	165.9	158.8	158.5	143.6	-9
Asparagus	22.0	8.0	5.9	7.1	20
Lima beans	5.2	5.5	4.1	5.0	22
Spinach	10.6	4.2	14.7	13.5	-8
Subtotal	13,648.2	13,272.6	15,143.6	14,920.4	-1
Freezing:					
Sweet corn	1,598.3	1,646.5	1,622.0	1,476.7	-9
Green peas	239.3	233.6	260.6	268.2	3
Snap beans	241.7	245.8	270.0	284.6	5
Spinach	105.6	65.4	83.1	90.0	8
Lima beans	44.1	50.9	49.0	44.1	-10
Asparagus	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.6	15
Subtotal	2,233.3	2,246.3	2,288.7	2,168.2	-5
Undefined:					
Carrots	446.9	403.6	377.2	404.7	7
Broccoli 1/	83.6	25.1	45.0	33.7	-25
Cauliflower 1/	16.5	14.4	10.6	16.3	53
Subtotal	546.9	443.0	432.8	454.7	5
Selected total	16,428.4	15,961.9	17,865.1	17,543.3	-2

1/ Due to data limitations, the average only reflects 2003-04.

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

Given strong contract prices influenced by high corn and soybean prices, the value of production for processing vegetables jumped 15 percent to a record-high $1.9 billion. For example, the average price (delivered to the processing-plant door) for sweet corn for freezing jumped 48 percent to a record $120 per ton. As with production, the top two crops in terms of farm value were tomatoes ($950 million) and sweet corn ($330 million). The top four processing vegetable States in terms of farm value remained California ($949 million), Wisconsin ($179 million), Washington ($125 million), and Minnesota (as projected by ERS since the State data was not disclosed).

Census Indicates Processing Acreage

The recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture again reported the vegetable area harvested for processing by commodity (2002 was the first time). For all vegetables and melons (excluding mushrooms and pulse crops), processing accounted for 44 percent of total vegetable, potato, sweet potato, and melon harvested area in 2007. Area for processing was harvested by 17 percent (11,468 farms) of all farms reporting vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and melons on their operation. Table 11 indicates the share of area devoted to processing for several selected vegetables. Farms harvesting potatoes reported the greatest number of acres devoted to processing followed by sweet corn and tomatoes. Among all vegetables and herbs, farms producing horseradish had the highest concentration of acreage moving into processing, followed closely by green peas and more distantly by tomatoes. Okra

had the lowest share of acres devoted to processing (3 percent) among those crops that typically have a processing (does not include fresh-cut products) component.

The census also indicated that 47 percent of the vegetable and melon area devoted to processing was produced on farms growing at least 1,000 acres of vegetables for processing. This area was farmed by just 5 percent of the growers harvesting vegetables for processing. About 17 percent of operations harvested between 100 and 250 acres of processing vegetables in 2007 (the most common enterprise size for processing vegetables), accounting for 13 percent of the area for vegetable processing.

Table 11--Harvested processing area for selected vegetables, 2007 1/

	All uses		Processing		
Item	Farm numbers	Harvested area	Farm numbers	Harvested area	Share 2/
	Number	*Acres*	*Number*	*Acres*	*Percent*
Potatoes	15,014	1,131,963	1,739	599,604	53.0
Sweet corn	28,241	622,946	3,670	361,886	58.1
Tomatoes	25,809	442,225	1,761	319,549	72.3
Peas, green	4,532	214,057	2,047	206,092	96.3
Snap beans	17,300	303,997	1,999	198,101	65.2
Dry onions	4,249	166,484	335	40,199	24.1
Carrots	2,543	90,292	202	24,931	27.6
Peppers, chile 3/	6,124	37,372	466	23,278	62.3
Sweet potatoes	1,910	105,284	259	21,360	20.3
Garlic	2,277	26,172	128	14,285	54.6
Spinach	1,202	44,071	112	14,226	32.3
Pumpkins	15,088	92,955	444	12,306	13.2
Peppers, bell	9,572	62,363	315	11,872	19.0
Asparagus	2,605	43,010	219	11,087	25.8
Cabbage, head	4,086	80,620	175	9,866	12.2
Broccoli	3,087	130,603	94	6,399	4.9
Beets	2,744	8,412	117	5,275	62.7
Peas, snow/sugar	863	8,859	86	4,915	55.5
Squash, winter	4,798	20,360	193	3,773	18.5
Horseradish	112	3,692	28	3,597	97.4
Squash, summer	9,170	34,094	229	2,933	8.6
Cauliflower	1,136	39,515	49	2,019	5.1
Celery	326	29,907	30	1,606	5.4
Collards	1,374	11,223	54	1,572	14.0
Parsley	370	4,240	11	933	22.0
Brussels sprts	483	3,874	16	924	23.9
Turnips	914	3,632	39	582	16.0
Rhubarb	574	1,404	42	448	31.9
Eggplant	2,904	6,038	25	228	3.8
Kale	954	3,994	12	211	5.3
Okra	2,555	2,444	92	81	3.3
All vegetables 4/	69,172	4,682,588	11,468	2,059,160	44.0

1/ 2007 Census of Agriculture harvested acreage. 2/ Processing share of acres for all uses.
3/ Peppers other than bell. 4/ Includes potatoes, sweet potatoes, and fresh herbs.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Potatoes

Winter Crop Not A Prelude for the Entire Crop Year

The 2009 crop year is getting off to a slow start with decreased acreage planted in California and cold weather in Florida hampering yields. Florida experienced several cold snaps the end of January and into February, causing some damage to inland crops and delaying harvest by two weeks in some areas. Meanwhile, California growers decreased winter plantings 18 percent from 2008 to 9,000 acres. Yields are estimated to be down 9 percent to 210 cwt per acre, dropping production to 1.9 million cwt, down substantially from 2.5 million cwt in 2008. California's production decrease along with reduced fall potato stocks are reflected in high winter potato prices of $22.70 per cwt reported in January, up from $17.80 per cwt from last year.

Potato seed shipments for December and January were 41 percent below the three year December/January average with 195 thousand cwt shipped in December and 391 thousand cwt in January. Lower recent movement may be due to earlier heavy seed shipments in October and November. Domestic seed shipments may be accented by the January 28 announcement that the Alberta seed potato import ban has been lifted due to the decreased risk of the potato cyst nematode.

Although winter production is estimated to be down from last year and seed shipments are a bit sluggish, this is not a full reflection of what the 2009 growing year will bring. The winter harvest is geared heavily toward fresh market crops and specialty markets. With the current economic conditions, it would not be a surprise if specialty demand is down, but later season plantings increase.

Table 12--U.S. potatoes: Monthly shipments by type, 2006-2008 2/

Crop year 1/	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Year-to-date
			1,000 cwt			
Tablestock						
2006	8,277	8,169	9,398	8,984	9,161	43,988
2007	8,015	8,815	9,453	9,379	9,364	45,025
2008	8,254	8,195	9,175	8,495	8,595	42,713
Idaho 3/						
2006	2,335	2,669	2,749	2,575	2,728	13,057
2007	2,345	2,793	2,849	2,502	2,703	13,192
2008	1,970	2,480	2,461	2,754	2,829	12,494
Chipper						
2006	4,111	3,572	3,608	5,093	3,669	20,053
2007	4,692	3,699	3,454	4,738	3,307	19,892
2008	3,508	3,659	4,363	3,644	3,534	18,708
Total						
2006	12,397	11,765	13,123	14,782	13,358	65,424
2007	12,757	12,603	12,984	14,435	13,182	65,962
2008	11,764	11,984	13,773	12,334	12,520	62,375

1/ Crop year is September-August of following year. 2/ Shipments include exports but exclude imports; transported by truck, rail, and piggyback from surveyed States.
3/ Excludes chipper and seed potatoes.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Shipments.*

Industry Rationing Supply To Last Through 2009

Packers in most States have been paying close attention to potato stocks in hopes of not re-creating the short market conditions prevalent throughout 2008. Total potato shipments were down 15 percent in December at 12.3 million cwt, compared with the previous year, but gained a bit in January at 12.5 million cwt, only 5 percent below the previous year. Fresh tablestock shipments in December and January were down an average 9 percent from the same time period in 2008. January shipments were 8.6 million cwt, up 1 percent from December.

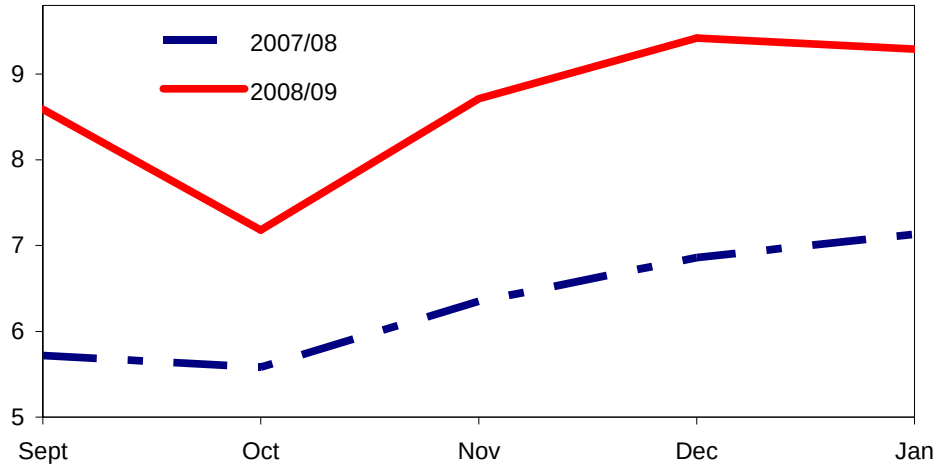
Attempting to take advantage of high fall prices and generate cash flow, shipments from Idaho were slightly higher compared with last year. Shipments in December were 10 percent higher compared with the year before at 2.7 million cwt and January posted a 5 percent higher shipment rate at 2.8 million cwt. Shipments from Idaho are not expected to be sustained at this level through the spring. Other States such as Colorado are expected to increase their shipments given the buildup of stocks.

Reflecting the slower shipment atmosphere, potato stocks as a percentage of total production are healthy in most potato States. As of February 1, Idaho had 64 million cwt of potatoes in storage, down from 71.5 million cwt last year. Minnesota, North Dakota and Colorado all reported higher stocks in storage compared to February 1, 2008. Colorado is estimated to have 12.5 million cwt in storage, compared with 11.2 million cwt last year. This suggests Colorado packers are paying careful attention to rationing their supplies through the current year, instead of repeating last year's supply constraints. Minnesota and North Dakota are estimated to have 20.9 million cwt in storage between the two States, up from 19.9 million cwt last year. Across the 13 major potato producing States however, stocks are 8 percent below last year at 183 million cwt.

Figure 4

U.S. potatoes: Average price recieved by month

$ per cwt



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

Prices Remain at Record Levels

Prices for potatoes remained strong throughout December and January. Average potato prices across the United States averaged $9.49 per cwt in January, up from $7.33 per cwt the previous year. December fresh tablestock prices averaged $14.69 per cwt, substantially higher then $8.65 per cwt offered last year. Despite Idaho's aggressive shipping pattern over the past few months, prices remained 21 percent higher in January compared with a year earlier at $6.90 per cwt. Colorado's limited shipping pattern seems to be reflected in higher prices, with January's average posting at $13.80 per cwt, compared with $8.90 per cwt, although January prices declined 3 percent from December's $14.20 per cwt.

The preliminary 2008/09 U.S. average price was estimated to be $9.24 per cwt, up from $7.51 per cwt in 2007. This values the 2008 crop at $3.9 billion, up from $3.3 billion in 2007. Tight supplies throughout the year were reflected in average State prices ranging from $7.10 per cwt in Idaho to $18.80 in Virginia. Idaho, Washington and Colorado comprised 48 percent of the U.S. crop value with Idaho's crop valued at $815 million, Washington's crop valued at $739 million and Colorado reporting a value of $328 million.

Foreign Demand for French Fries Remains Strong

U.S. exports remained strong through November and December, with December's export volume of 4.2 million cwt (fresh weight equivalent) being valued at $94.5 million, 11 percent above the three year January average. French fry exports remained especially strong in January with 2.6 million cwt, up 1 percent from last year. Much of the export demand for frozen french fries was fueled by Japan and Mexico. Exports to Japan totaled $40 million in December and January, up 9 percent from the same time period last year. Mexico exhibited strong demand importing $7.9 million in January, 33 percent higher from last year.

Chip exports dropped from $15.8 million in November to $13.8 million in December. Mexico accounted for a portion of the decline with December exports down 51 percent from a year earlier valued at $90 thousand. Canada's demand for U.S. potato chips remained constant through November and December at $4.5 million, while Japanese demand for potato chips increased slightly from last year with imports of $7 million over the two month period, up 71 percent. Fresh tablestock export volume of 421 thousand cwt was valued at $11.7 million in December, 32 percent above the three year December average. Both Canada and Mexico fueled the increased demand with December exports valued at $6.7 million and $2.8 million, up an average of 21 percent from December 2007.

Import volumes picked up through the last part of 2008 in the potato chip and frozen french fry sectors, cushioning the domestic processing supply which had a smaller fall harvest that produced large volumes of high quality potatoes, many of which will be sold in the fresh market to capture high market prices. December chip imports increased to 100 thousand cwt, up 24 percent from 2007, but still below the three year December average of 145 thousand cwt. Frozen french fry imports for November and December totaled 521 thousand cwt, up from the two month total of 493 thousand cwt in 2007. Overall import volumes in December were down 7 percent from last year at 472 thousand cwt.

Sweet Potatoes

Despite Weather Constraints, 2008 Crop Fares Well

Despite multiple hurricanes during the 2008 growing season, sweet potato production increased 2 percent from a year earlier to 18.3 million cwt. North Carolina, the largest sweet potato-producing State, had an exceptionally favorable growing season. Both harvested area (up 7 percent) and yields (up 23 percent) were higher, leading to a 30-percent increase in production to 8.7 million cwt. Despite an 8-percent decrease in yields from 2007, California delivered a 1-percent increase in total production to 4.3 million cwt.

Louisiana and Mississippi both experienced losses, due in large part to hurricane damage. Louisiana's harvested area decreased 27 percent from last year, with only 11 thousand acres being harvested. Yields were down 50 percent to 100 cwt per acre leading to a crop of 1.1 million cwt—down 63 percent from 3 million cwt of the previous year. Mississippi's harvested area decreased 3 percent from 2007. Yield fell 2 percent to 172 cwt per acre, reducing the State's production 4 percent from the previous year to 3.3 million cwt.

High Prices Make for Favorable Shipping Conditions

Although production was up 2 percent from 2007, it was still smaller than expected and prices reflected this. The preliminary estimate of average prices for sweet potatoes in 2008 was up 17 percent from the previous year at $21.50. California sweet potatoes fetched an average price of $30.40 per cwt (up 60 percent from the previous year), followed by North Carolina's $18.20 per cwt (up from $16.40), and New Jersey's price of $35.30 per cwt (up 29 percent from 2007). Not surprisingly, North Carolina and California posted the highest crop values in 2008 of $159 million and $130 million, respectively. Louisiana suffered a 64-percent reduction in crop value from last year with $20.5 million. The harvest in Mississippi was of higher quality and fetched an average price of $20.70, pushing the State's sweet potato production value up 5 percent to $60 million. Nationwide, the 2008 sweet potato crop was valued at $394 million, up 19 percent from 2007.

Table 13--Sweet potatoes: Domestic shipments from surveyed States

Mkt. year 1/	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Year-to-date
				- - 1,000 cwt - -				
Louisiana								
2006	59	73	133	93	289	159	77	882
2007	18	17	67	80	294	155	71	703
2008 p	64	73	57	86	247	73	68	668
North Carolina								
2006	197	194	241	261	574	324	261	2,053
2007	247	253	246	272	620	322	254	2,214
2008 p	282	287	266	367	718	412	350	2,682
Mississippi								
2007	60	73	86	97	198	99	80	692
2008 p	100	105	110	138	236	109	89	887
Total Shipments								
2006	341	355	486	446	1,039	602	424	3,693
2007	325	342	399	449	1,113	576	405	3,609
2008 p	446	464	434	591	1,202	594	507	4,237

p = preliminary.

1/ Sweet potato marketing year: July-June.

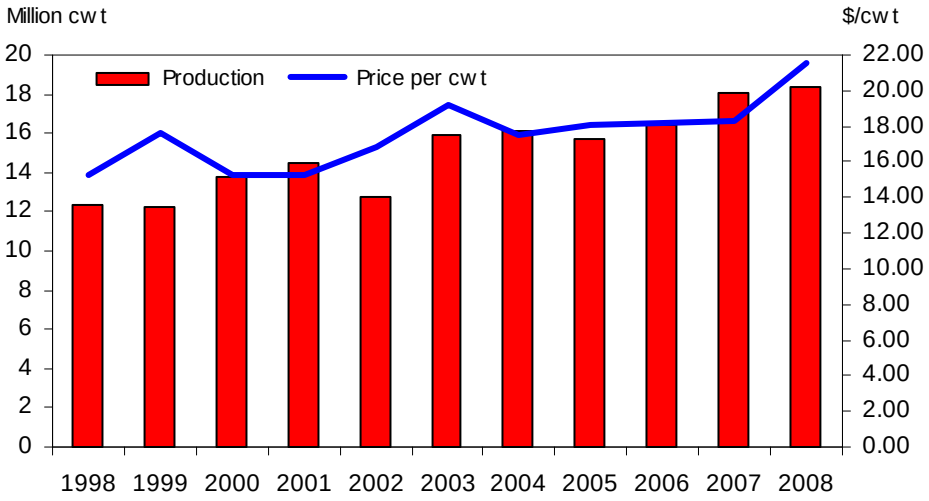
Sourece: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Shipments* .

Shipments of sweet potatoes were 19 percent above a year earlier through the fall months of 2008. November shipments, traditionally featuring heavy volume due to the Thanksgiving holiday, were 8 percent ahead of 2007 at 1.2 million cwt. Shipments remained strong through December and January at 594,000 cwt and 507,000 cwt. North Carolina fueled the heavy shipment pace with crop year-to-date shipments (July-January) totaling 2.7 million cwt, compared with 2.2 million cwt in 2007. Louisiana's crop year-to-date shipments were down 5 percent from 2007 to 668,000 cwt. Mississippi has moved their crop quickly with year-to-date shipments of 682,000 cwt, up 22 percent from the same period in 2007.

Crop year to date (July-December) sweet potato exports were valued at $22 million, up from $17.7 million during 2007. December exports were particularly strong at $5.1 million, up 37 percent from the previous December. Canadian demand for U.S. sweet potatoes fueled a portion of this export increase, with year-to-date values of $11.6 million, up from $10.9 million last year. National and international demand for U.S. sweet potatoes remains strong.

Figure 5

U.S. sweet potatoes: Production and price, 1998-2008



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

Dry Beans

Outlook for 2009

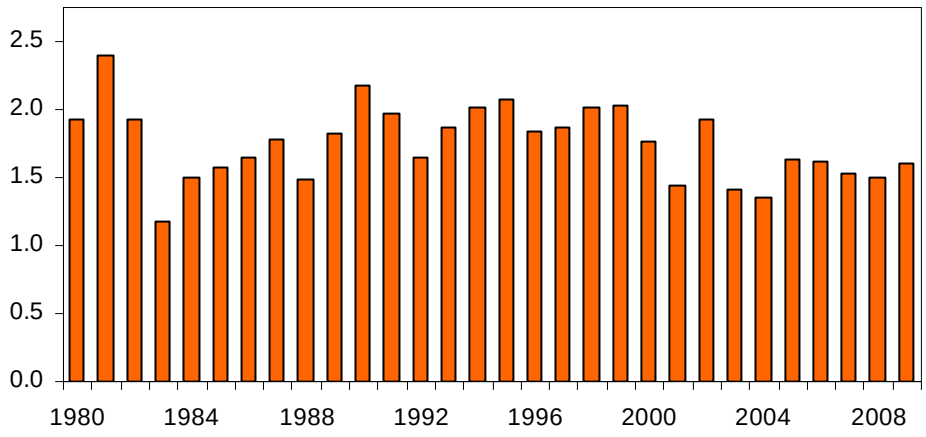
As was the case a year ago, much uncertainty remains in the acreage outlook for dry edible beans with growers again presented with several profitable choices (depending on growing region). Although price strength remains broad compared with past years for virtually all competing field crops, prices are currently lower than the unusual highs of a year earlier and full of uncertainty. In addition, production costs could also average slightly higher in 2009 despite lower fuel and fertilizer prices. Thus, projected returns above direct costs will not be as strong as a year earlier for most crops, although they remain much higher than pre-2006 levels. To this point in the season, although weakening, the aggregate dry bean price remains above that of a year earlier. However, the aggregate dry bean price masks changes among bean classes. Marketing year average prices are expected to be lower for pinto, navy, Great Northern, and garbanzo beans but could be higher for light and dark red kidney, baby and large limas, small red, and pink beans.

In January, the preliminary all-dry-bean price averaged 32.3 cents per pound, up 18 percent from a year earlier. In December, the price was 28 percent above a year earlier. The average field corn price was up 4 percent from a year earlier in January, while soybeans was little changed. The ratio of dry-bean-to-corn prices was 7.8 in January compared with 6.9 a year earlier—favoring dry beans this year. Also, the dry bean/corn price ratio is expected to rise in 2008/09 following 2 consecutive declines. The declines in the ratio in 2006/07 and 2007/08 coincided with reduced dry bean area in 2007 and 2008. If this relationship holds, the projected increase in the price ratio for 2008/09 would be an indicator of increased dry bean acreage this spring. However, weakening of dry bean prices or stronger corn prices in the next several months could soften any changes to dry bean area.

Other evidence suggesting a possible increase in dry bean area this spring includes the current attractive returns over direct costs for dry beans compared with a number of crop alternatives. While the average marketing year dry bean price is projected to be $00.00 in 2008/09 (up from $28.80 in 2007/08), the average price

Figure 6

U.S. dry beans: Acres planted, 1980-2009



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Crop Production* (except ERS estimate for 2009).

Table 14--U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2008-09 1/

Commodity	2008		2009		Chg. prev. year:	
	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb. 2/	Jan.	Feb.
	--- Cents/pound ---				--- Percent ---	
All dry beans	27.40	32.00	32.30	--	17.9	--
Pinto (ND/MN)	25.50	27.75	26.25	26.33	2.9	-5.1
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	30.50	31.50	25.00	25.00	-18.0	-20.6
Great Northern (NE/WY)	32.00	32.75	--	--	--	--
Black (MI)	30.56	31.75	32.50	32.50	6.3	2.4
Light red kidney (MI)	40.38	40.50	--	--	--	--
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	37.00	--	--	--	--	--
Baby lima (CA)	40.00	40.75	55.00	55.33	37.5	35.8
Large lima (CA)	60.00	61.25	70.00	70.00	16.7	14.3
Blackeye (CA)	38.50	38.50	45.00	45.00	16.9	16.9
Small red (WA/ID)	34.63	37.88	40.75	39.50	17.7	4.3
Pink (WA/ID)	26.88	29.63	38.50	38.83	43.2	31.0
Garbanzo (WA/ID)	29.88	31.38	29.00	29.17	-2.9	-7.0

-- = 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.*

for field corn is currently projected to be about $3.90 in 2008/09—down from $4.20 a year earlier and $3.04 two years ago. In 2009/10, the corn price could decline slightly again given a high degree of uncertainty over demand strength and area to be seeded.

Assuming increasing acreage for such classes as pinto, kidney, lima, and black beans, U.S. dry bean seeded area is expected to rise 5 to 9 percent from a year earlier. With average yields (which would be about 4 percent below last year's record-high 17.68 cwt) and average acreage losses, the 2008 dry bean crop would come in around 26 million cwt—just above that of a year earlier. The first survey-based examination of 2009 row crop area (including dry beans) will be available on March 30 when USDA releases the *Prospective Plantings* report.

For 2009/10, grower revenue is expected to recede from the strong 2008/09 performance. The preliminary marketing year average price for all dry beans rose 31 percent to $37.70 per cwt in 2008/09. With production little changed from a year earlier, the farm value of the 2008 dry bean crop jumped 30 percent to a record $975 million—the second consecutive record high. The farm value of North Dakota's crop was estimated to be $315 million—32 percent of U.S. crop value and 14-percent above the previous high set in 2007. Minnesota's crop value was a distant second at $139 million (up 83 percent from a year earlier), while Michigan's dry bean crop had a farm value of $137 million—up 38 percent from 2007 but well below the state's 1980 record high of $205 million.

Grower Prices Mixed

Reflecting below average world supplies, tight holding of unsold stocks, and competitive pressure from high-priced field crops, dealers and growers have largely resisted the downturns which have affected most commodity markets over the past several months. Although price discovery remains problematic with thin sales for many classes, some weakness has been noted over the past few weeks for classes such as pinto, navy, and small red beans. This has been noted in the all-bean price which peaked at $40/cwt in October before declining to $32.30/cwt in January. The

Table 15--U.S. dark red kidney beans: Acreage, yield, production, and value, 1990-2008

Crop year	Acreage 1/		Yield 1/	Produc-tion 1/	Farm value	
	Planted	Harvested			Per unit 2/	Crop 3/
	1,000 acres		*Cwt/acre*	*1,000 cwt*	*$/cwt*	*Million $*
1990	65.5	62.6	17.52	1,097	29.60	32,471
1991	78.4	76.0	17.37	1,320	19.01	25,093
1992	64.2	59.9	14.44	865	33.95	29,367
1993	72.5	64.3	12.89	829	31.21	25,873
1994	86.7	81.8	17.86	1,461	20.11	29,381
1995	74.4	65.1	14.41	938	27.65	25,936
1996	69.3	65.5	16.40	1,074	25.71	27,613
1997	67.1	64.1	15.48	992	21.67	21,497
1998	64.2	61.8	13.62	842	26.74	22,515
1999	66.9	64.3	16.17	1,040	20.25	21,060
2000	65.3	62.5	16.22	1,014	19.01	19,276
2001	57.4	52.8	13.94	736	27.99	20,601
2002	71.1	65.6	17.32	1,136	19.37	22,004
2003	49.9	48.4	17.46	845	22.94	19,384
2004	51.3	46.6	14.72	686	27.40	18,796
2005	60.7	58.0	18.07	1,048	20.92	21,924
2006	48.8	46.4	17.76	824	26.86	22,133
2007	40.2	39.1	16.96	663	36.40	24,133
2008 p	50.8	49.3	20.12	992	38.00	37,696

p = ERS forecast for 2008/09 open market value.

1/ Source: USDA, NASS, *Crop Production.* 2/ Grower bids from USDA, AMS, *Bean Market News.*
3/ Source: Calculated by USDA, ERS.

U.S. aggregate grower price for all dry beans averaged 35 percent above a year earlier during the initial 5 months of the marketing year (September 2008 through January 2009). Although the markets were thin, grower bids for every major dry bean class averaged above a year earlier during September to January.

At the wholesale level, early February dealer prices for several of the major classes changed as follows:
- Pintos (CO), $40.75—up 4 percent from a year earlier;
- Navy (MI), $35.50—down 11 percent;
- Black (MI), $45.50—up 13 percent;
- Small red (ID/WA), $50.00—up 2 percent;
- Light red kidney (MI), $50.00—down 12 percent;
- Baby lima (CA), $58.25—up 37 percent;
- Garbanzo beans (ID/WA), $37.50—down 6 percent.

Exports Surge

During the first 4 months of the 2008/09 marketing year (September-December), dry bean export volume jumped 32 percent from a year earlier—the strongest start to the dry bean export season since 2000. Volume was up despite an 18 percent increase in the average export price to 37 cents per pound. With both higher prices and rising volume, the value of dry bean exports during this period leaped 55 percent to $128 million—the highest for the first 4 months since 1990. As usual, export performance was mixed by class with increases for black, pinto, light-red kidney, small red, and navy (pea) beans easily outweighing reductions for most other classes. Volume was up 160 percent for black beans and 47 percent for pintos

Table 16--U.S. dry beans: Crop year export volume to date

Item	Crop year 2007/08	September - December 2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Change 2007-08
		1,000 cwt			*Percent*
Pinto	2,204	943	849	1,252	47
Navy	1,532	660	470	863	84
Black	980	341	194	506	160
Garbanzo	515	209	190	110	-42
Great Northern	766	156	160	164	3
Baby lima	248	117	90	68	-24
Light red kidney	185	72	54	87	60
Dark red kidney	267	55	130	35	-73
Cranberry	97	45	41	35	-13
Large lima	74	36	49	43	-12
Small red	73	33	27	38	42
Mung & urd	27	9	8	12	58
Blackeye	22	8	12	12	0
Pink	56	7	28	2	-93
Other	1,146	240	332	242	-27
Total	8,191	2,931	2,635	3,469	32

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

Table 17--U.S. dry bean crop year export volume to date, by selected destination 1/

Destination	Crop year 2007/08	September - December 2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Change 2007-08
		-- 1,000 cwt (bags) --			Percent
Mexico	1,932	805	445	719	62
Canada	989	475	347	546	57
United Kingdom	895	258	254	409	61
South Africa	1	0	1	366	--
Tanzania	48	0	42	272	541
Dominican Republic	389	88	143	162	13
Japan	328	134	121	134	11
Spain	268	107	113	87	-23
Haiti	167	136	23	71	208
France	115	28	20	58	188
Cuba	0	347	0	0	--
Other	3,058	555	1,126	645	-43
Total	8,191	2,931	2,635	3,469	32

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

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

due largely to increased demand from Mexico. Navy beans jumped 84 percent due to increased sales to Canada, the United Kingdom, and Mexico.

The leading destinations for U.S. dry beans were Mexico (21 percent of total volume), Canada (16 percent), the United Kingdom (12 percent), and South Africa (11 percent). Exports to Mexico (up 62 percent) and Canada (up 57 percent) each increased despite higher U.S. prices because of reduced domestic supplies in those nations and a more favorable exchange rate. Although pinto exports to Mexico were little changed from a year ago, the volume of black, navy, light-red kidney, and mung beans were higher. Meanwhile, greater movement of pinto beans to South Africa, Tanzania, Central America, and Europe boosted volume above a year

Table 18--U.S. dry beans: Crop year import volume to date

Item	Crop year 2007/08	September - December 2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Change 2007-08
		1,000 cwt			*Percent*
Garbanzo, all	363	90	110	140	28
Mung & urd	343	126	90	103	14
Black	473	105	125	96	-24
Pinto	305	16	82	86	5
Light red kidney	150	43	41	55	33
Navy	219	42	55	50	-9
Other	1,368	427	412	434	5
Total	3,220	850	916	965	5

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

earlier. Exports to Spain declined 23 percent due mostly to a reduction in chickpea sales during the first 4 months of the marketing year.

With world supplies tightening during the first 4 months of the marketing year, U.S. dry bean import volume was up just 5 percent from a year earlier despite sharply higher prices. Canada (35 percent of total volume), Mexico (14 percent), China (13 percent), and Peru (12 percent) were the top import sources. Imports rose for garbanzo, mung, and light-red kidney, but were lower for black and navy beans. Volume brought in from Canada (down 8 percent), Mexico (down 22 percent), and China (down 27 percent) declined, while volume from Peru (up 210 percent), Nicaragua, and El Salvador increased.

Fewer U.S. Farms Grow Dry Beans

The recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture indicated there were 6,236 U.S. farms harvesting dry beans (excluding dry limas which were produced by 167 farms), down 28 percent from the 2002 census. In comparison, the number of farms growing field corn changed little, while those producing dry edible peas surged 97 percent between 2002 and 2007. Dry bean production also became more concentrated on larger operations between 2002 and 2007. In 2007, 46 percent of the U.S. dry bean crop was produced by farms growing 500 acres or more, up from 36 percent in 2002. About 13 percent of all farms reporting dry bean acreage harvested at least 500 acres of dry beans in 2007, compared with 9 percent in 2002. The share of harvested acres that were produced under irrigation declined from 34 percent in 2002 to 24 percent in 2007 as area became more concentrated in the lightly irrigated upper Midwest.

In North Dakota, the top producer, there were 16 percent fewer farms with dry beans in 2007. However, a greater share of national dry bean farms were in North Dakota in 2007 (27 percent) than in 2002 (23 percent). The number of farms growing dry beans in Michigan, the second-leading producer, declined 25 percent to 1,183—19 percent of the national total. Partly reflecting the continued concentration of the industry in fewer States and on larger farms, the number of farms producing dry beans declined heavily in New York (down 53 percent), Colorado (down 59 percent), and California (down 38 percent).

Dry Peas and Lentils

Area and Output Expected To Rise in 2009

Dry pea and lentil prices are currently running below those of a year earlier after beginning the crop year at very strong levels. Since July, grower prices for all dry peas (food and feed use) have dropped 24 percent (feed grade prices have dropped the most), while lentil prices are down 10 percent. Early February grower bids for top food-grade whole green peas were running 27 percent below their July highs, while whole yellow peas were down 39 percent. Despite this decline, prices remain well above the average of the 3 previous years, with whole green peas and Brewer lentils currently more than double their 2004-06 February average.

These general price movements were also witnessed by most all other field crop markets, which went through the general commodity price decline this past fall but remain well above their 2004-06 averages. As a result, although price levels are lower and input costs are generally higher, returns remain in the profitable range for most crops. Thus, growers will once again decide their acreage mix among several attractive choices, including dry peas and lentils. Because lentil prices have retained more of the gains made in the past year, their potential return per acre is higher than most competing field crops such as spring wheat and barley. Returns for dry edible peas appear to be further back in "the pack" with many other crops. As a result, given current price relationships, potential returns, and other market fundamentals, it appears that lentil acreage could increase in 2009, while little or no gain is expected for dry edible peas.

Table 19--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	27.10	27.10	--	13.70	26.20
December	14.20	29.10	31.00	20.80	14.10	28.30
January	14.30	30.70	31.10	21.00	11.40	26.00
February	16.40	30.30	32.10	23.80	--	29.00
March	17.30	30.50	30.60	25.60	12.60	29.90
April	17.70	31.20	33.60	--	16.50	33.70
May	16.70	35.40	37.50	24.80	--	30.20
June	17.20	27.60	28.10	23.90	--	30.00
2008/09						
July 1/	16.40	35.50	40.70	27.70	--	32.80
August	15.40	38.60	40.60	25.20	--	30.90
September	15.50	37.90	40.30	34.90	20.80	36.30
October	13.70	39.10	39.20	37.70	24.00	37.80
November	13.00	35.40	35.60	35.00	--	38.10
December	12.90	35.50	36.10	29.50	--	34.30
January	12.40	45.00	45.00	--	--	29.60
Percent change year ago Jan.	-13.3	46.6	44.7	--	--	13.8

-- = not available. 1/ Prices for January 2009 are mid-month averages.

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

Table 20--U.S. dry peas and lentils: Production by class

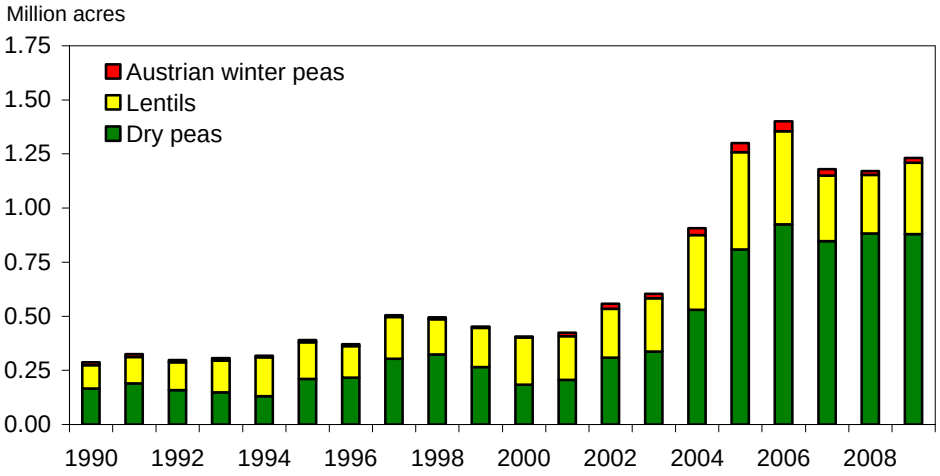
Item	Average 2002-04	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2007-08
			--1,000 cwt--			Percent
Dry peas	7,116	14,003	13,203	16,287	12,270	-24.7
Austrian winter peas	216	307	259	118	104	-11.9
Chickpeas, all	624	1,061	1,539	1,515	1,098	-27.5
Small	--	149	149	129	109	-15.5
Large	--	912	1,390	1,386	989	-28.6
Lentils	3,065	5,247	3,244	3,650	2,411	-33.9
Total	11,021	20,618	18,245	21,570	15,883	-26.4
Wrinkled seed peas	724	665	590	541	580	7.2

-- = not available.

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

Figure 8

U.S. dry peas and lentils: Acres planted, 1990-2009



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

Given an increase in planted area, output of all dry peas and lentils is expected to rise in 2009 under the assumption of average yields. The 3-year average for dry pea and lentil yields would each be about one-fifth above the relatively poor 2008 performance. As a result, present projections point to a combined dry pea and lentil crop that could regain much of the 26 percent decline experienced due to poor yields in 2008. The first USDA estimate of 2009 acreage for dry peas and lentils will be released in the *Prospective Plantings* report on March 31.

Crop Value Declines in 2008/09

Based on preliminary estimates of season average prices, the value of all U.S. dry pea and lentil production totaled $329 million in 2008/09—down 8 percent from a year earlier. All dry pea (dry peas, Austrian winter peas, wrinkled seed peas, and small chickpeas) crop value fell 9 percent to $242 million as the smaller crop was outweighed by higher prices. The dry edible pea price rose 12 percent to $14.70 per cwt—the highest since 1973. Chickpeas (all) rose 30 percent to $37.60 per cwt—the highest since 1995. The value of lentil output dropped 5 percent to $87 million as a smaller crop outweighed a 39-percent gain in the estimated marketing-year average price. Strong export demand, dwindling stocks, and competition with grain crops pushed average lentil prices to a nominal dollar record-high $36.20 per cwt.

More Farms Produce Dry Peas and Lentils

According to the recently released 2007 census of agriculture, most commodity groups experienced a decline in the number of farms producing a given product. However, the growth experienced by the U.S. dry pea and lentil industry over the past decade was reflected in an increase in the number of farms producing these products with dry edible peas increasing 97 percent to 3,048 farms and lentils moving up 25 percent to 811 farms. As expected, most of this growth in farm numbers was experienced in the Northern Plains (North Dakota and Montana), while the traditional producing States (Idaho and Washington) saw the number of operations producing peas and lentils decline. About 76 percent of the 2007 dry edible pea crop was produced by farms harvesting at least 250 acres—up from 63 percent in 2002.

July-December Export Volume Down 5 Percent

With a weak world economy, high domestic prices, and dwindling domestic supplies, U.S. export volume (including food aid) of all dry peas and lentils (excluding seed) declined 5 percent during the first 6 months (July-December) of the 2008/09 crop year to 7.3 million cwt. Although lentil (up 46 percent) and split pea (up 103 percent) exports jumped, shipments to foreign destinations declined for every other category. Shipments to India, the key to dry pea export movement over the past 2 years, are down 1 million cwt so far this year. U.S. lentil exports, which were strong a year ago, have been a bright spot in the sector this year despite lower supplies and high prices. Given limited supplies, U.S. lentil exports are expected to slow in the coming months.

Table 21--U.S. dry peas & lentils: Foreign trade volume by class 1/

	Crop year	July-December			Change
Item	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2007-08
		--1,000 cwt--			*Percent*
Exports:					
Green peas	4,168.8	2,049.7	2,501.5	2,105.4	-16
Yellow peas	4,486.8	2,108.7	2,263.1	1,994.6	-12
Split peas	707.8	97.0	275.1	558.4	103
Austrian winter pea	33.0	23.7	17.2	7.1	-59
Misc. dry peas	2,083.8	739.6	1,154.2	693.7	-40
Chickpeas, all	535.1	231.2	255.0	154.2	-40
Lentils, all	2,741.9	1,239.9	1,197.2	1,746.5	46
Total	14,757.2	6,489.8	7,663.3	7,259.8	-5
Imports:					
Green peas	209.9	107.0	105.4	90.8	-14
Yellow peas	79.8	26.1	46.9	53.9	15
Split peas	320.5	200.2	164.3	173.0	5
Austrian winter	1.6	1.7	1.4	0.0	--
Misc. dry peas	92.3	92.7	58.3	65.5	12
Chickpeas, all	359.8	143.0	165.0	199.0	21
Lentils, all	227.6	178.2	96.5	214.1	122
Total	1,291.5	748.9	637.7	796.3	25

1/ Excludes planting seed.

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

Commodity Highlight: Canned Potatoes

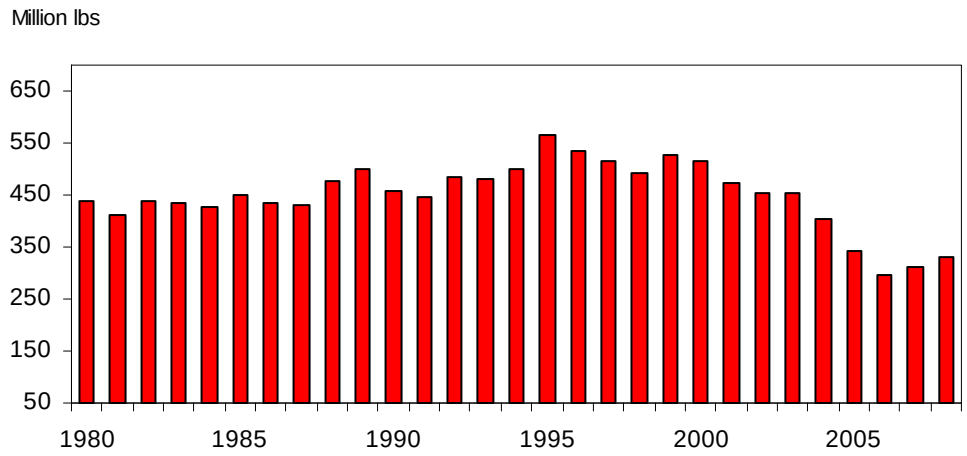
A Little Known But Important Potato Sector

Canned potatoes are not a high-profile product line within the realm of processed potato products, but they are a sector that should not be discounted. In 2008, canned potatoes accounted for an estimated 3.3 million hundredweight (cwt), roughly 0.6 percent of all potatoes utilized in the United States. Canned potatoes are primarily used for soup, stews, and prepared-food production, but there is some amount of at-home-use by those who don't enjoy prepping and peeling potatoes. The types of potatoes used for canning usually are tubers that are too small for fresh marketing, but larger potatoes may be utilized in diced form for soups and stews. After harvest, small or lesser grade potatoes are sorted and transferred to canneries for processing. At the canneries, potatoes are washed to remove refuse and loosen the skins for peeling. The potatoes are then peeled by methods such as abrasion peelers, lye, or high-pressure steam peeling. The potatoes are canned whole, diced or sliced in a salt brine to prevent discoloration.

Potatoes utilized for canning averaged 451 million pounds during 1970-1989, jumped to 501 million pounds in the 1990s and settled at 390 million pounds since 2000. Per capita use of canned potatoes averaged 2.1 pounds per person in the 1970s, and dipped to 1.2 pounds per person since 2000. According to the 2002 Census of Manufacturers, there were six companies with at least $100,000 in shipments of canned white potatoes. This was down from 11 firms in 1997. These six firms shipped $47 million of canned white potatoes in 2002, down from $48 million in 1997. Although the value was largely unchanged between 1997 and 2002, the volume shipped declined 14 percent to 5.7 million cases. This data does not include the industrial use of potatoes in products such as soups, stews, and other manufactured products.

Retail prices of canned potatoes have reflected current price trends in potato markets with on farm prices received for processing potatoes trending to record-high levels.

Figure 8
U.S. canned potatoes: Utilized production, 1980-2008 1/

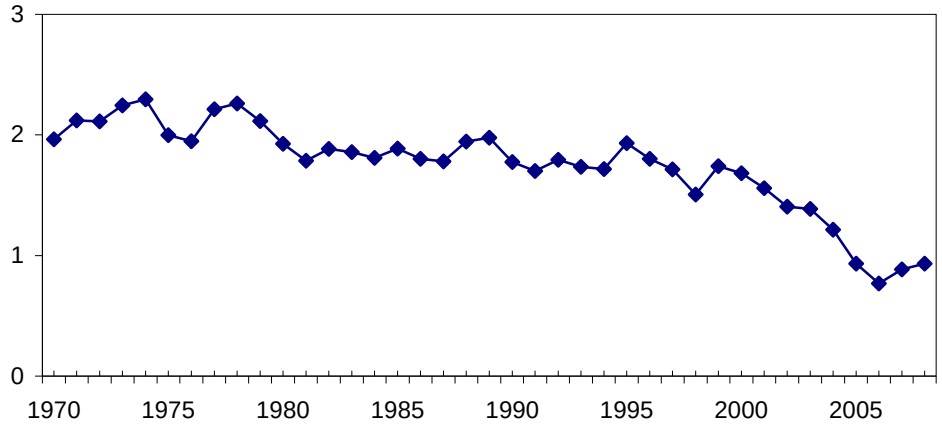


1/ Crop year is October-September.
Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Potatoes*.

Figure 9

U.S. canned potatoes: Per capita net domestic utilization, 1970-2008

Lbs/person



Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service.

According to the Food Institute, the average price per unit of canned potatoes increased 16 percent in 2008 compared to the 3-year average. Although the volume of sales dropped 7 percent in 2008, total sales of canned potatoes increased 4 percent from 2007. Clearly there is profit to be made in this small processing sector.

Foreign Markets Gaining Sector Importance

Imports of canned potatoes have supplemented domestic production, averaging 2.3 million pounds throughout the 1990s. Since 2000, imports have increased an average 29 percent a year, climbing to 20.4 million pounds in 2007. Canada and Mexico supply the majority of imports into the United States, averaging 35 percent of import demand over the past two years. Canned potato imports spiked to 50.6 million pounds in 2008, with monthly imports throughout 2008 doubling from the 3-year monthly import average. This import spike most likely reflects the tight potato supplies throughout the previous summer, high domestic prices and a smaller fall harvest yielding high quality potatoes, leaving fewer low quality potatoes for canning.

Foreign demand for U.S. canned potatoes has also steadily increased since the 1990s, averaging 42 million pounds of exports during the decade. Since 2000, exports have grown an average 8 percent a year, settling at 72.4 million pounds in 2008 or 19 percent of U.S. canned potato supply. Most U.S. exports of canned potatoes are consumed by Canada, Mexico and South Korea. Combined, these three countries comprised 88 percent of canned export demand in 2008, with exports to Canada valued at $36 million, Mexico valued at $1.2 million and South Korea valued at $1.7 million.

Understanding the Canned-Potato Consumer

Given the steady market presence of canned potatoes, it is interesting to note the characteristics of consumers who buy canned potatoes. This information can be

quite useful to those in the processing industry trying to understand and expand the market. To this end, Nielsen Homescan data were utilized to gain an understanding of the types of consumers who are purchasing canned potatoes through the retail side of the market. Homescan tracks grocery purchases and captures demographics of 8,000 households across the United States. All frequencies reported are weighted to represent the total U.S. population from 1998-2006.

Since 1998, yearly expenditures averaged $35 million, spiking in 2003 to $41 million and settling at $28 million in 2006. The demographics of consumers who purchase canned potatoes also remained fairly consistent between 1998 and 2006 when comparing demographic frequencies between the 2 years. In 2006, 87 percent of canned-potato consumers were Caucasian, followed by African Americans (6 percent), Hispanic consumers (2 percent), and Asian consumers (less than 1 percent). Regionally, canned-potato consumers resided primarily in Southern States (43 percent). Eastern consumers comprised 31 percent of canned-potato buyers, followed by 13 percent located in the Central States, and 12 percent in the west.

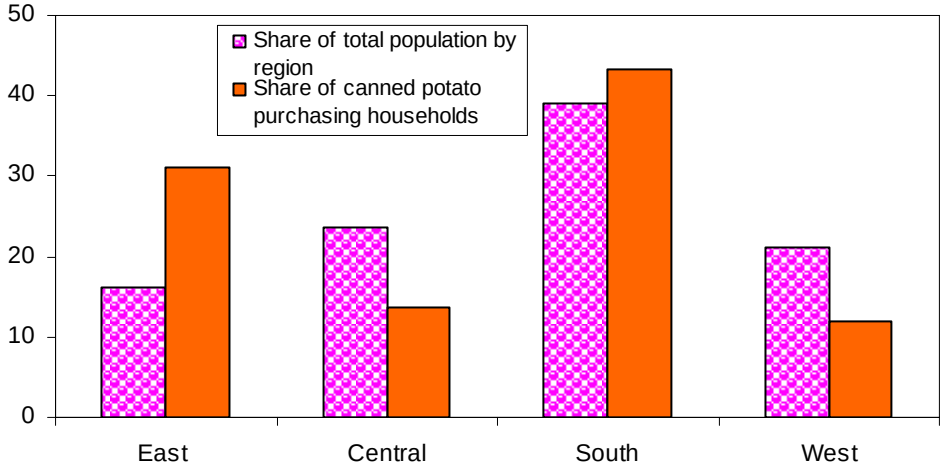
Thirty-two percent of canned-potato consumers had some college education, and 30 percent had either a 4-year college degree or more. Correlated with this finding, 46 percent of households who purchased canned potatoes were of medium income levels (between $30,000 and $59,000), 34 percent were of high income (between $60,000 and higher), and 19 percent had income levels lower than $30,000.

Canned potatoes are a small but important sector in the potato market. It is clearly an industry that has maintained a consistent market presence throughout the years. Although the majority of canned potatoes are utilized in the processed-food industry, there is growth potential in both at-home use and within the processing sector by offering innovative new products. In line with current trends of increased at-home meal preparations, there is room for industry growth in further marketing the reduced preparation time of canned potatoes for at-home use.

Figure 10

Canned potatoes: Share of consumers by region

Share of households



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

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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. Canned Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in the United States
http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ap/ap032/DBGen.htm

Examines consumer perceptions and consumption of canned fruits and vegetables. If current trends prevail, total fruit and vegetable availability will continue to rise, but canned fruits and vegetables will account for a declining share of that total.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

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

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

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/htp/fruit_veg.asp

Price table 1—Commercial vegetables and potatoes: Indexes of prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 1997-2009 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	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	743	918
	2003	786	797	880	924	988	1,084	852	983	1,030	1,025	1,283	1,132	980
	2004	911	1,000	792	906	771	761	713	910	924	1,109	1,128	847	898
	2005	663	839	1,176	1,296	962	987	801	843	908	808	811	1,088	932
	2006	914	822	951	1,077	1,111	937	849	1,088	1,140	882	848	1,071	974
	2007	1,268	1,179	1,375	1,294	1,030	948	897	1,047	1,111	1,403	994	988	1,128
	2008	983	846	958	1,155	1,099	1,091	1,025	1,025	1,245	1,274	1,103	1,107	1,076
	2009	1,229												
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	534	555	568	593	591	560	571	484	458	443	479	494	528
	2004	488	504	531	569	559	559	552	496	486	444	477	507	514
	2005	535	536	578	567	577	573	623	575	492	473	540	579	554
	2006	597	572	706	700	662	703	809	653	527	500	579	601	634
	2007	620	649	689	746	685	666	741	601	533	525	596	630	640
	2008	655	680	744	756	815	932	1,057	989	805	709	801	851	816
	2009	832												
								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	110	112	123	129	138	152	119	138	144	143	180	158	137
	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	138	118	134	162	154	153	143	143	174	178	154	155	151
	2009	172												
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	114	119	125
	2007	122	128	136	147	135	131	146	119	105	104	118	124	126
	2008	129	134	147	149	161	184	209	195	159	140	158	168	161
	2009	164												

1/ Prices for 2009 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 data product* 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, 2005-09 1/

Commodity	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Season average	Prcnt change Jan.-Jan.	Prcnt change 4th quarter
		Dollars per cwt													*Percent*	*Percent*
Asparagus	2005	--	--	88.60	103.00	68.70	73.50	143.00	150.00	162.00	162.00	--	--	87.40	--	--
	2006	--	122.00	133.00	110.00	72.70	94.10	105.00	162.00	122.00	127.00	--	--	88.90	--	-21.6
	2007	--	--	107.00	106.00	91.90	87.70	--	--	--	--	--	--	98.90	--	--
	2008	--	--	107.00	125.00	84.30	81.50	--	--	--	--	--	--	103.00	--	--
	2009	--	--												--	--
Broccoli	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	--	--
	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	43.8	36.3
	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	114.8	33.4
	2008	47.90	24.40	30.80	52.10	25.20	29.60	26.70	26.60	41.10	57.50	41.20	33.70	36.10	-31.4	-5.3
	2009	50.20													4.8	--
Cantaloups	2005	--	--	--	--	22.60	18.10	13.80	10.70	14.90	14.40	15.60	--	15.90	--	-32.7
	2006	--	--	--	--	29.20	18.40	16.00	20.70	10.40	16.10	28.20	--	17.20	--	47.7
	2007	--	--	--	--	28.20	12.60	12.00	13.30	13.10	30.50	38.50	--	14.80	--	55.8
	2008	--	--	--	--	27.00	16.40	16.10	8.30	17.80	22.60	32.20	--	19.20	--	-20.6
	2009	--	--	--	--										--	--
Carrots	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	-17.1	31.1
	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	6.9	-10.7
	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	22.10	-3.2	-19.1
	2008	16.20	25.90	25.90	25.50	32.00	25.60	25.60	25.60	25.30	25.20	24.70	25.20	24.40	-22.9	57.1
	2009	25.20													55.6	--
Cauliflower	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	1.5	-12.6
	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	19.9	10.8
	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	38.1	28.9
	2008	51.80	30.00	41.70	63.80	24.90	53.90	38.20	43.20	29.50	48.50	29.50	43.90	40.30	13.3	-2.6
	2009	82.60													59.5	--
Celery	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	-38.0	-23.0
	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	-25.3	94.9
	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	251.7	-34.4
	2008	16.20	13.20	13.40	14.00	37.40	30.10	22.10	12.40	11.90	17.10	20.20	20.30	16.90	-52.2	26.9
	2009	20.30													25.3	--
Corn, sweet	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	-29.7	-1.7
	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	23.00	64.3	-14.9
	2007	27.40	23.60	30.20	25.60	21.40	17.30	22.20	22.80	23.20	21.40	20.60	34.10	22.70	-21.7	21.6
	2008	30.80	23.00	28.60	20.50	21.90	19.90	28.50	27.20	27.10	23.70	30.80	22.20	25.90	12.4	0.8
	2009	23.10													-25.0	--
Cucumbers	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	-28.1	71.1
	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	18.3	-31.0
	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	24.60	28.9	-12.8
	2008	38.40	34.70	20.50	24.40	21.90	36.10	19.30	23.70	34.30	28.60	42.40	41.30	24.50	24.7	71.5
	2009	38.80													1.0	--
Head lettuce	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	-28.1	-26.0
	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	-7.8	21.4
	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	21.70	96.2	67.3
	2008	17.60	13.40	14.70	21.60	15.50	17.70	17.30	17.20	31.90	32.90	18.80	23.50	20.00	-15.4	-3.3
	2009	29.60													68.2	--
Onions, dry bulb	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	-61.1	84.9
	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	16.10	67.3	13.4
	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	11.10	159.1	-64.7
	2008	4.13	3.15	2.53	10.60	23.90	17.60	12.20	8.52	10.50	10.80	11.10	13.40	12.70	-81.3	160.3
	2009	9.10													120.3	--
Snap beans	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	-6.3	15.0
	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	50.00	-38.4	-18.6
	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	61.20	47.5	15.8
	2008	68.80	98.30	37.70	57.50	37.30	51.20	73.90	70.00	74.80	49.40	47.60	69.20	53.30	6.0	-16.8
	2009	35.80													-48.0	--
Tomatoes	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	-37.7	-48.7
	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	43.70	437.0	-28.4
	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	34.80	-57.0	73.7
	2008	58.20	45.50	66.10	47.40	48.20	56.80	40.90	29.40	25.60	33.80	64.90	37.90	45.40	63.5	-24.7
	2009	26.20													-55.0	--

-- = Not available. 1/ 2009 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, 1999-2009 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Change Jan- Jan.
		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	-15.6
	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	32.1
	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	-0.6
	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	1.2
	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	-2.7
	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	-15.2
	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	70.2
	2007	175.3	190.3	222.4	222.5	142.1	145.4	146.0	137.8	162.7	218.3	177.4	204.5	178.7	-15.6
	2008	200.2	158.3	194.1	179.3	170.7	191.7	168.3	146.1	158.7	185.1	200.3	155.9	175.7	14.2
	2009	180.0													-10.1
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	--
	2002	--	--	--	--	--	74.7	80.5	58.7	60.1	66.2	55.3	--	65.9	--
	2003	--	--	--	--	120.5	60.6	60.1	35.8	49.0	64.9	106.8	--	71.1	--
	2004	106.8	141.3	157.3	90.2	95.4	75.1	56.1	66.6	76.6	108.8	114.4	150.6	103.3	--
	2005	156.1	75.4	96.5	162.2	114.8	99.9	83.8	62.3	80.7	67.3	--	--	99.9	46.2
	2006	--	--	99.8	99.8	95.6	93.8	70.3	80.2	75.0	76.2	105.1	154.7	95.1	--
	2007	126.2	102.9	96.9	127.6	153.5	74.6	60.0	71.0	87.4	122.9	175.2	165.6	113.7	--
	2008	141.1	140.1	85.8	167.1	140.5	92.6	82.3	78.9	71.3	131.0	121.3	113.8	113.8	11.8
	2009	98.9													-29.9
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	0.6
	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	0.1
	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	5.7
	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	0.4
	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	2.1
	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	3.2
	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	1.7
	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	3.5
	2008	147.8	148.4	149.6	151.2	150.2	151.3	153.3	158.6	162.5	165.0	165.4	167.8	156.1	3.5
	2009	169.3													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	-0.3
	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	1.8
	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	1.9
	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	2.6
	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	1.3
	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	1.6
	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	0.0
	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	4.9
	2008	153.3	153.8	155.6	156.5	156.7	157.1	158.8	161.1	163.9	168.8	171.5	176.6	161.1	6.5
	2009	176.5													15.1
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	0.6
	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	-6.6
	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	6.5
	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	1.6
	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	-3.5
	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	0.1
	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	6.3
	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	13.6
	2008	185.3	185.7	188.1	189.5	189.7	190.9	195.0	194.0	194.2	195.5	196.4	193.8	191.5	5.5
	2009	198.6													7.2

-- = not available. 1/ Indexes for 2009 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, 2005-09 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
		1982-84=100												
Fresh vegetables 2/	2005	271.0	263.2	267.0	280.1	280.6	266.9	268.5	261.0	265.6	274.1	274.6	288.3	271.7
	2006	300.6	289.7	279.7	276.8	275.6	272.9	271.5	274.4	294.2	301.8	288.6	286.1	284.3
	2007	298.3	308.6	302.4	299.3	293.3	283.5	280.1	274.4	282.3	292.7	300.4	306.1	293.5
	2008	317.5	305.0	301.5	299.8	298.5	307.2	313.8	313.4	311.3	314.5	319.3	315.8	309.8
	2009	320.2												
Potatoes, fresh	2005	237.5	235.8	228.3	235.0	239.1	246.7	256.7	263.8	258.6	265.8	253.5	251.7	247.7
	2006	261.1	264.7	264.6	261.5	270.4	276.0	282.5	293.6	290.4	278.2	267.8	266.8	273.1
	2007	272.4	269.9	276.0	277.6	284.7	291.6	294.5	283.4	283.0	278.8	278.7	274.7	280.4
	2008	282.9	286.3	285.4	293.1	294.6	311.3	347.0	366.8	376.3	365.4	351.1	335.3	324.6
	2009	349.2												
Lettuce, fresh	2005	258.3	237.9	253.5	287.5	271.6	257.6	247.7	247.4	249.4	258.4	258.7	260.0	257.3
	2006	260.8	258.0	254.2	267.2	285.5	264.0	246.9	265.8	274.2	269.7	265.1	281.9	266.1
	2007	292.2	294.7	287.6	283.3	265.6	261.6	254.7	260.6	273.3	298.2	295.7	295.3	280.2
	2008	292.9	282.6	278.3	277.0	268.3	269.6	276.6	286.0	297.4	306.3	303.2	300.0	286.5
	2009	302.3												
Tomatoes, fresh	2005	309.6	274.8	297.1	310.6	333.6	293.0	287.3	267.6	273.5	297.2	299.0	342.3	298.8
	2006	393.1	354.7	311.5	297.9	293.9	276.1	271.8	271.8	336.5	405.5	347.8	318.5	323.3
	2007	307.2	317.2	291.9	309.8	309.7	283.5	278.7	273.8	280.8	304.7	341.3	378.7	306.5
	2008	385.2	329.6	345.1	334.9	322.1	346.3	330.7	317.7	303.0	304.3	334.6	337.8	332.6
	2009	322.5												
Other, fresh	2005	277.9	280.8	279.4	289.9	284.8	272.2	276.0	265.2	274.0	277.4	282.7	295.2	279.6
	2006	298.2	289.6	285.8	282.4	273.5	278.2	279.1	276.1	291.5	288.1	286.8	288.0	284.8
	2007	311.5	328.6	324.9	313.0	303.4	291.9	287.7	280.4	290.3	297.3	300.6	300.4	302.5
	2008	318.2	313.8	303.3	301.2	304.8	307.9	312.0	306.3	300.9	307.9	312.8	311.2	308.4
	2009	319.5												
Frozen vegetables	2005	177.0	176.3	174.7	177.2	178.6	176.5	180.2	177.7	181.5	179.1	176.8	177.5	177.8
	2006	179.4	182.9	179.7	179.7	178.1	175.7	178.8	181.3	179.6	177.7	178.1	178.7	179.1
	2007	179.0	182.1	180.4	178.2	181.2	178.6	182.6	182.5	183.4	181.1	180.2	179.8	180.8
	2008	184.1	184.0	184.0	187.2	190.4	192.6	193.1	192.7	193.6	195.4	195.0	195.6	190.6
	2009	201.3												
							December 1997=100							
Processed fruits and vegetables	2005	117.9	117.1	116.3	118.8	119.3	119.7	121.3	120.6	121.2	120.6	118.8	120.3	119.3
	2006	121.8	122.5	122.4	121.3	122.6	122.8	123.8	124.1	123.3	122.8	122.7	123.5	122.8
	2007	124.9	125.5	125.4	124.9	126.2	127.7	129.0	129.2	129.6	129.3	126.7	128.5	127.2
	2008	130.8	132.9	131.5	134.7	136.8	138.7	140.5	142.8	145.2	146.6	145.6	145.9	139.3
	2009	148.4												
Canned vegetables	2005	119.3	117.5	117.9	120.5	121.0	121.0	125.6	125.5	124.8	126.0	121.9	124.4	122.1
	2006	124.8	125.0	126.6	124.1	126.0	126.5	128.1	127.9	125.3	124.7	125.5	125.9	125.9
	2007	127.1	127.0	127.6	126.2	126.7	130.5	131.2	131.7	133.2	132.8	128.4	131.9	129.5
	2008	133.1	136.9	134.9	141.2	142.1	144.5	148.1	153.7	157.3	159.2	156.2	157.0	147.0
	2009	159.1												
Dried beans, peas, lentils	2005	115.2	116.0	116.4	118.4	117.5	118.3	118.3	118.1	118.3	118.7	118.9	116.6	117.6
	2006	117.2	117.3	117.1	119.4	118.7	119.3	120.7	121.3	120.8	120.5	121.0	123.6	119.7
	2007	126.1	124.5	126.8	129.3	131.6	133.0	134.6	135.3	136.3	136.3	136.9	139.0	132.5
	2008	141.3	145.5	141.1	147.2	151.8	160.0	162.6	165.0	168.0	172.2	177.0	176.3	159.0
	2009	176.6												
Olives, pickles and relishes	2005	110.0	107.5	115.2	112.0	101.1	98.4	100.4	108.8	106.7	119.5	109.1	110.2	108.2
	2006	115.7	110.7	111.0	110.9	108.6	110.9	110.3	117.6	117.5	118.6	112.2	112.6	113.1
	2007	118.4	120.8	118.1	117.7	121.2	120.9	121.2	115.8	129.9	125.8	123.1	117.2	120.8
	2008	123.8	125.9	123.1	121.9	127.1	124.7	126.0	128.5	129.5	132.4	129.6	132.5	127.1
	2009	133.8												

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, 2001-09

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Change Jan. - Jan.
		Cents/pound													Percent
Potatoes, white	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	--
	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	20.0
	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	13.4
	2004	45.7	44.6	45.9	46.1	43.5	46.2	47.1	46.4	44.6	45.0	44.3	44.9	45.4	-5.4
	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	0.2
	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	10.0
	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	2.6
	2008	52.5	53.1	54.2	54.6	56.2	59.8	67.2	72.4	76.3	73.0	69.9	67.8	63.1	1.5
	2009	67.6													28.8
Broccoli	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	--
	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	39.2
	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	-18.3
	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	17.6
	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	-6.4
	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	9.7
	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	34.9
	2008	173.3	163.9	157.4	173.7	165.2	160.0	167.0	160.1	158.3	181.2	179.1	170.3	167.5	-5.2
	2009	172.8													-0.3
Lettuce, iceberg	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	--
	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	36.3
	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	-26.8
	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	19.3
	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	-6.7
	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	7.0
	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	5.9
	2008	95.0	89.5	87.3	90.2	86.8	86.0	87.5	87.8	90.6	99.8	97.9	87.7	90.5	2.6
	2009	94.4													-0.6
Tomatoes, field grown	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	--
	2002	145.1	129.8	129.2	131.9	133.2	129.9	124.3	118.1	115.8	123.6	143.0	165.5	132.5	2.6
	2003	171.1	156.5	161.9	155.5	140.1	139.8	146.0	151.3	143.8	143.6	148.0	153.3	150.9	17.9
	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	-14.0
	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	12.8
	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	30.2
	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	-25.0
	2008	203.2	173.5	183.5	177.3	167.5	181.4	171.3	169.4	159.1	161.1	172.2	173.4	174.4	25.4
	2009	166.1													-18.3
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	20.2
	2008	172.4	168.2	158.7	155.7	158.1	159.0	160.9	174.8	188.4	183.6	191.2	182.1	171.1	6.9
	2009	185.1													7.4
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	12.4
	2008	216.6	233.0	271.0	234.6	239.5	242.7	262.9	220.2	205.5	--	--	--	236.2	13.7
	2009	--													-100.0
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	71.1	61.9	63.3	64.1	2.6
	2009	59.6													-4.8
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	80.2	--	--	79.5	--
	2009	--													-100.0

-- = 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—Fresh-market vegetables: U.S. average monthly advertised retail prices, 2008-09

Item	Units	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug. *	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Change Jan - Jan
			-- Dollars per unit --												Percent
Asparagus	Pound	2008	2.97	2.41	2.23	2.46	2.68	2.55	2.61	2.92	2.76	2.68	2.68	3.00	--
		2009	2.71	2.47											-8.8
Beans, round green	Pound	2008	1.46	1.65	1.42	1.27	1.35	1.33	1.36	1.22	1.28	1.46	1.41	1.52	--
		2009	1.52	1.40											4.1
Broccoli	Bunch	2008	1.67	1.51	1.56	1.46	1.66	1.59	1.68	1.60	1.57	1.75	1.88	1.68	--
		2009	1.64	1.70											-1.8
Broccoli, Organic	Bunch	2008	2.23	2.18	2.03	2.26	2.36	1.97	2.34	1.99	1.93	2.68	2.54	2.49	--
		2009	2.54	2.42											13.9
Cabbage	Pound	2008	0.43	0.42	0.33	0.43	0.41	0.43	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.45	--
		2009	0.46	0.46											7.0
Carrots, baby	Pound	2008	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.42	1.44	1.45	1.43	1.36	1.40	1.41	1.31	--
		2009	1.34	1.33											-4.3
Carrots, baby organic	Pound	2008	1.69	1.73	1.61	1.66	1.74	1.73	1.76	1.84	1.74	1.82	1.80	1.72	--
		2009	1.71	1.74											1.2
Celery	Each	2008	1.20	1.15	1.16	1.13	1.04	1.10	1.38	1.19	1.17	1.22	1.22	1.32	--
		2009	1.35	1.33											12.5
Sweet corn	Ear	2008	0.39	0.54	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.47	0.45	0.40	0.31	--
		2009	0.54	0.49											38.5
Cucumbers	Each	2008	0.67	0.60	0.62	0.60	0.57	0.60	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.65	0.64	0.71	--
		2009	0.66	0.82											-1.5
Lettuce, iceberg	Head	2008	0.98	0.96	0.91	0.99	0.93	1.00	0.98	0.99	1.03	0.96	0.92	0.98	--
		2009	1.10	1.09											12.2
Lettuce, romaine	Each	2008	1.11	1.13	1.32	1.05	1.04	1.07	1.12	1.15	1.29	1.14	1.06	1.32	--
		2009	1.06	1.06											-4.5
Mushrooms, white	8-oz pkg	2008	1.66	1.69	1.71	1.66	1.80	1.77	1.71	1.77	1.71	1.71	1.76	1.63	--
		2009	1.70	1.63											2.4
Onions, yellow	3-lb bag	2008	1.70	1.59	1.64	1.56	1.71	1.75	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.89	1.79	1.91	--
		2009	1.83	1.82											7.6
Onions, sweet yellow	Pound	2008	1.13	1.18	1.11	0.95	0.93	0.97	1.07	1.09	1.09	1.18	1.26	1.09	--
		2009	1.22	1.30											8.0
Peppers, bell green	Pound	2008	1.43	1.44	1.47	1.37	1.39	1.47	1.59	1.39	1.49	1.49	1.44	1.51	--
		2009	1.54	1.52											7.7
Peppers, bell red	Pound	2008	2.54	2.37	2.93	2.45	2.57	2.45	2.58	2.49	2.18	2.48	2.53	2.65	--
		2009	2.48	2.33											-2.4
Squash, zucchini	Pound	2008	1.23	1.20	1.16	1.20	1.24	1.19	1.20	1.17	1.15	1.22	1.31	1.46	--
		2009	1.24	1.31											0.8
Sweet potatoes	Pound	2008	0.86	0.85	0.76	0.86	0.87	0.84	0.78	0.80	0.87	0.87	0.73	0.83	--
		2009	0.89	0.87											3.5
Tomatoes	Pound	2008	2.15	1.66	1.89	1.65	1.46	1.57	1.48	1.46	1.33	1.47	1.67	1.65	--
		2009	1.29	1.34											-40.0
Tomatoes, organic	Pound	2008	2.99	1.80	2.82	2.69	2.90	3.23	2.55	2.95	2.83	1.84	2.99	2.92	--
		2009	2.32	--											-22.4
Tomatoes, on the vine	Pound	2008	2.53	2.60	2.39	2.12	1.97	2.03	2.13	1.95	1.94	2.03	2.16	2.42	--
		2009	2.14	2.41											-15.4
Tomatoes, grape	Pint	2008	2.41	2.40	2.39	2.43	2.23	2.25	2.41	2.25	2.42	2.34	2.44	2.37	--
		2009	2.27	2.41											-5.8
Artichokes	Each	2008	--	--	1.48	1.98	1.82	2.00	2.11	--	--	--	--	--	--
		2009	--	--						--	--	--	--	--	--
Cantaloup	Each	2008	2.43	2.45	2.23	2.15	2.40	2.25	2.19	2.16	2.15	2.37	2.57	2.57	--
		2009	2.24	2.56											-7.8
Watermelon, seedless	Each	2008	3.49	--	4.67	5.27	4.83	4.58	4.31	4.16	3.40	2.00	1.50	3.36	--
		2009	3.04	3.20											-12.9

-- = not available. * = partial month average for February 2009. Compiled from weekly data first reported in October of 2007.

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

Price table 7—Representative wholesale prices for selected fresh-market vegetables and melons in Chicago, 2008-09

Commodity	Shipping point 1/	Shipping container	2008 Jan. 3	Feb. 1	Mar. 3	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	July 1	Aug 1	Sep 2	Oct 1	Nov 3	Dec 1	2009 Jan 2	Feb 2
Artichokes	CA	Carton, 24s	48.00	32.00	36.00	23.00	18.50	12.00	35.50	22.00	25.00	25.00	16.50	20.00	0.00	0.00
Beans, round green, machine-pick	FL, GA, MI	Bushel cartons	18.50	37.00	15.50	11.50	11.00	13.50	44.00	49.85	15.00	27.00	20.50	22.50	0.00	0.00
Beets, medium	TX, IL, CA	25 lb sacks/filmbags	6.75	7.25	7.00	7.50	8.25	11.00	9.50	11.50	9.50	9.75	9.75	10.00	0.00	0.00
Bok choy, baby	CA, FL	30 lb cartons	13.00	13.00	18.00	16.00	13.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	12.50	13.00	16.00	16.00	0.00	0.00
Brussels sprouts	CA, MX	25 lb cartons	27.50	24.00	32.00	31.00	46.00	25.00	27.50	21.50	15.00	23.00	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.00
Cabbage, round-green, medium	NY, GA	50 lb cartons	9.00	9.50	9.50	10.75	12.25	10.75	17.00	15.00	11.00	10.00	9.50	9.50	0.00	0.00
Chinese cabbage (Napa)	CA	30 lb cartons	13.00	15.00	12.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	15.00	18.00	12.00	15.00	16.00	18.50	0.00	0.00
Carrots, baby peeled	CA	Carton, 24-1 lb filmbag	17.00	17.00	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	18.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	0.00	0.00
Eggplant, medium	FL, GA, MX	1 1/9 bushel cartons	10.50	15.00	17.00	17.00	23.00	13.00	12.25	12.00	15.50	14.50	18.00	13.00	0.00	0.00
Garlic, white colossal	CA, MX	30 lb cartons	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	41.50	46.00	46.00	43.00	0.00	0.00
Greens, kale	CA	Carton, 24s	12.50	13.50	13.50	11.50	13.50	15.00	15.00	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	0.00	0.00
Greens, kohlrabi	CA, TX, IL	Carton, 12s/24s	20.50	24.00	20.50	20.00	20.50	20.50	24.00	27.00	27.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Greens, turnip tops	GA, IL	Carton, 24s	10.00	11.50	10.50	11.50	10.75	12.50	11.50	11.50	10.75	10.75	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
Greens, mustard	CA	Carton, 24s	10.00	11.50	10.50	11.50	10.75	12.50	11.50	11.50	10.75	10.75	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
Greens, collards	GA, CA	Carton, 24s	10.00	11.50	10.50	11.50	10.75	12.50	11.50	11.50	10.75	10.75	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
Leeks	CA, IL, MX	Carton, bunched 12s	29.50	22.50	25.00	20.50	28.00	20.50	20.00	19.50	19.00	15.50	23.00	23.50	0.00	0.00
Lettuce, Boston	CA	Carton, 24s	14.50	13.00	12.50	13.00	15.50	15.00	14.00	14.00	14.50	19.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
Lettuce, Romaine	CA	Carton, 24s	15.00	14.00	14.50	12.00	14.50	13.00	16.00	15.00	22.50	23.50	18.50	17.50	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00
Mushrooms, cremini, medium	PA	10 lb carton	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00
Okra, small-medium	FL, MX, TN	1/2 bushel carton	25.00	29.00	25.00	26.25	21.00	13.00	22.00	22.00	20.00	20.00	29.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
Onions, green	CA, MX	Carton, bunched 48s	17.50	24.50	13.75	11.50	12.50	12.50	16.00	27.05	17.00	17.00	13.00	17.00	0.00	0.00
Parsley, curly	CA	Cartons, bunched 60s	16.00	24.00	14.75	13.50	15.50	19.00	24.00	19.00	19.00	16.50	18.00	19.00	0.00	0.00
Peas, snow	CA, GU	10 lb carton	20.50	9.00	21.00	17.00	15.50	30.00	28.00	22.50	16.00	22.00	25.00	24.00	0.00	0.00
Peas, sugar snap	CA, GU	10 lb carton	21.50	11.00	14.50	16.00	15.00	22.00	30.00	33.00	30.00	25.50	25.00	22.00	0.00	0.00
Peppers, green bell, large	FL, CA	1 1/9 bushel carton	10.00	24.50	15.50	12.50	24.00	16.00	21.00	34.50	18.50	13.00	21.50	15.50	0.00	0.00
Peppers, jalapeno, medium	FL, GA, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	9.50	17.50	9.50	9.50	22.50	9.50	13.00	18.50	17.00	10.50	9.50	31.00	0.00	0.00
Radishes	FL, MI	Carton, 30-6oz filmbag	10.00	9.00	8.75	8.75	8.75	9.00	9.00	11.00	9.50	10.00	12.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Spinach, flat	CA	Cartons, bunched 24s	21.00	19.00	12.50	13.00	15.50	13.00	13.50	19.00	18.50	15.00	23.00	16.50	0.00	0.00
Squash, zucchini, medium	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	25.00	13.00	10.00	9.50	10.50	10.00	9.50	12.00	8.25	17.50	7.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Squash, yellow straightneck, med.	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	19.00	13.00	17.00	13.00	15.00	10.25	9.50	15.00	10.00	22.00	12.00	26.00	0.00	0.00
Sweet potatoes, US #1, Beauregrd	LA	40 lb carton	21.00	21.00	21.00	20.00	20.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.50	20.50	20.50	20.50	0.00	0.00
Tomatoes, mature green, lrg, 6x6	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	18.00	12.00	24.50	15.00	11.00	20.50	13.00	12.50	9.00	11.00	21.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
Tomatoes, vine ripe, md/lrg	MX, CA, FL	25 lb carton	24.50	14.50	15.00	15.50	15.00	24.00	12.00	16.00	10.25	11.50	21.00	10.50	0.00	0.00
Tomatoes, greenhse, v. ripe, md/lrg	CD, NL, MX	5 kg carton (on vine)	11.00	29.00	15.00	11.50	11.50	14.00	15.00	13.00	8.75	8.50	6.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
Tomatoes, cherry	FL, CA, MX	Flats, 12 1-pint buckets	11.00	11.00	10.50	20.00	11.00	14.50	20.50	11.00	9.00	6.00	15.00	11.50	0.00	0.00
Tomatoes, plum-type, med/lrg	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	19.00	11.75	19.00	14.50	13.00	14.00	20.50	16.50	10.00	12.50	15.00	17.50	0.00	0.00
Turnips, purple top, medium-large	CA, IL	25 lb filmbags	8.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.50	11.50	0.00	0.00
Cantaloups	CA, CR, MX	1/2-2/3 carton 12s	13.00	19.00	10.50	8.00	19.00	11.00	12.00	11.50	9.50	16.50	12.50	18.50	0.00	0.00
Honeydews	CA, HD, CR	2/3 cartons 6s	11.50	14.00	15.75	11.50	13.50	10.00	14.00	11.00	7.00	10.25	7.25	8.25	0.00	0.00
Watermelon, various red (85 lb ctn)	CA, TX, MX	Carton 3s or 4s, per lb	0.34	0.40	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.22	0.21	0.28	0.29	0.00	0.00
Watermelon, red seedless	CA, MX	Carton 4s or 5s, per lb	0.40	0.36	0.30	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.36	0.35	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

Year &	Sweet corn 2/		Snap beans 3/		Green peas 4/		Carrots 5/		Beets 6/		Tomato paste 7/	
quarter	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	12.00	9.23	14.03	0.43	23.78
II	9.64	17.10	9.71	16.22	9.98	16.50	11.53	15.55	9.80	15.03	0.46	27.50
III	10.93	18.22	10.93	17.70	11.18	18.18	11.53	15.55	10.95	16.74	0.56	27.50
IV f	10.93	18.28	10.93	17.78	11.18	18.25	11.53	15.55	10.95	17.10	0.63	27.50
Average	10.12	17.16	10.17	16.56	10.40	17.23	11.53	14.66	10.23	15.72	0.52	26.57
2009												
I f	10.93	18.28	10.93	17.78	11.18	18.25	11.53	15.55	10.95	17.10	0.63	27.50
II f	11.25	18.96	11.14	18.75	11.34	18.35	11.55	16.48	11.20	17.02	0.65	29.15
III f	11.66	19.30	11.44	19.11	11.37	18.73	11.62	16.55	11.38	17.54	0.68	29.39
IV f	11.71	19.00	11.56	19.12	11.50	18.69	11.62	16.61	11.25	18.01	0.72	29.58
Average	11.39	18.89	11.27	18.69	11.35	18.51	11.58	16.30	11.20	17.42	0.67	28.90

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

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

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

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

Year and quarter	Sweet corn 2/		Snap beans 3/		Green peas 4/		Cauliflower 4/		Broccoli 6/		Spinach 7/		Okra 8/
	12/16	12/2.5	12/16	12/2	12/16	12/2.5	12/16	12/2	24/10	12/2	24/10	12/3	12/2
	Dollars/case												
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	11.05	0.58	11.04	0.71	8.87	0.64	14.04	0.92	10.70	0.86	8.88	0.58	0.77
III	11.78	0.77	11.75	0.71	11.76	0.73	14.04	0.98	--	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
IV f	11.78	0.82	11.75	0.71	11.78	0.73	14.04	0.98	10.70	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
Average	11.32	0.67	11.30	0.71	9.96	0.68	13.86	0.94	10.70	0.87	8.88	0.62	0.79
2009													
I f	11.78	0.82	11.75	0.71	11.78	0.73	14.04	0.98	10.70	0.89	8.88	0.70	0.83
II f	11.95	0.84	11.96	0.75	12.55	0.75	14.24	0.98	10.73	0.90	8.98	0.71	0.84
III f	12.37	0.90	12.36	0.76	13.35	0.78	14.24	1.00	10.66	0.91	9.00	0.75	0.85
IV f	12.42	0.91	12.66	0.76	13.36	0.78	14.24	1.00	10.76	0.92	8.96	0.75	0.85
Average	12.13	0.87	12.18	0.76	12.76	0.76	14.19	0.99	10.73	0.90	8.95	0.73	0.84

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

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

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

Price table 10—Potatoes and pulses: Prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 2002-09 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Season average
		Dollars/hundredweight (cwt)												
Potatoes, all uses	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	6.98	6.93	6.69	6.82	5.78	5.16	4.85	5.21	5.56	5.88
	2004	5.70	5.93	6.11	6.62	6.37	6.44	6.14	5.57	5.16	4.61	4.89	5.28	5.65
	2005	5.64	5.83	6.44	6.19	6.06	6.31	7.10	6.48	5.64	5.38	6.35	6.87	7.04
	2006	7.09	6.80	8.48	8.36	7.73	8.46	9.32	7.55	6.12	5.68	6.68	6.92	7.31
	2007	7.15	7.38	7.92	8.69	7.94	7.74	7.96	6.70	5.79	5.67	6.47	7.02	7.51
	2008	7.33	7.51	8.37	8.45	9.16	10.78	12.33	11.33	8.79	7.38	8.91	9.62	9.46
	2009	9.49												
Potatoes, table stock	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	8.05	8.51	8.57	8.35	9.09	9.20	8.95	8.48	6.87	6.21	6.19	6.13	7.34
	2004	6.28	6.79	7.38	7.84	7.65	9.01	7.99	7.76	6.75	5.07	4.89	5.57	6.70
	2005	6.15	6.64	8.06	7.24	7.36	8.29	10.05	11.00	9.61	8.80	9.04	9.18	10.31
	2006	9.58	9.14	13.82	12.39	10.56	12.02	12.70	13.97	9.81	8.67	8.63	8.70	10.25
	2007	9.05	10.05	11.04	13.09	10.37	10.36	9.74	10.53	7.85	7.68	8.11	8.52	10.84
	2008	9.26	9.86	11.42	11.66	14.30	18.61	19.40	24.93	19.15	16.57	15.37	14.69	--
	2009	--												
Potatoes, processing	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	5.29	5.27	5.28	5.49	5.59	5.59	5.38	4.88	4.62	4.46	4.77	5.19	5.11
	2004	5.30	5.40	5.24	5.56	5.62	5.53	5.15	4.76	4.59	4.46	4.87	5.10	5.06
	2005	5.29	5.28	5.37	5.45	5.69	5.51	5.52	4.91	4.65	4.66	4.89	5.51	5.39
	2006	5.65	5.58	5.73	6.04	6.30	6.46	6.40	5.43	5.20	5.11	5.68	5.94	5.90
	2007	6.14	6.03	6.36	6.55	6.74	6.65	6.51	5.55	5.34	5.29	5.62	6.14	6.01
	2008	6.17	6.25	6.15	6.50	6.71	6.54	6.55	5.56	5.71	5.57	5.92	6.51	--
	2009	--												
Dry edible beans	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	24.60	26.00	28.10	27.30	28.80
	2008	27.40	32.00	32.20	34.30	35.60	33.50	36.30	38.00	36.80	40.00	34.50	34.50	37.70
	2009	32.30												
Green peas, whole-dry 2/	2002	7.04	7.06	7.13	7.40	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.13	7.38	7.68	7.91	8.33	8.89
	2003	9.08	9.81	10.88	10.60	10.44	9.92	9.30	7.56	7.63	8.09	8.84	9.08	9.26
	2004	9.56	9.94	10.50	10.56	10.88	8.43	7.38	6.45	6.41	6.66	6.93	6.69	6.36
	2005	6.63	6.56	6.03	5.69	5.47	5.38	5.31	5.15	4.84	4.81	4.80	4.75	5.26
	2006	4.97	5.31	5.50	5.78	6.00	5.91	5.84	5.93	6.44	6.70	7.19	7.58	8.07
	2007	7.81	8.69	9.50	10.19	10.33	10.63	10.63	10.72	11.78	13.00	13.50	14.08	15.19
	2008	15.56	17.31	18.44	19.20	19.00	19.00	18.90	18.33	17.25	14.50	14.75	13.50	14.75
	2009	13.69	13.75											
Yellow peas, whole-dry 2/	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	14.11
	2008	14.81	16.06	17.44	17.80	17.50	--	17.63	14.75	13.15	11.63	11.75	11.00	12.00
	2009	10.69	10.75											
Lentils, regular (Brewer) 2/	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	--	--	28.50
	2009	27.67	28.67											

-- = not available. 1/ Prices for 2009 are preliminary. 2/ Grower bids for U.S. no. 1 grade reported by the *Bean Market News* for Idaho & Washington.
The season averages for peas and lentils presented here are calculated by ERS based on a July-June marketing year.

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

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

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

1/ Data not available

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

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

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

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

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

Item	Annual			2007	2008					
	2005	2006	2007	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
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