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Vegetables and Melons Outlook

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Per Capita Use Declines in 2005

In 2005, per capita use (also known as disappearance or consumption) of all vegetables and melons declined 1 percent to 444 pounds. Disappearance of all vegetables and melons totaled 131 billion pounds in 2005, compared with 120 billion pounds a decade earlier. Per capita use of fresh market vegetables and melons totaled 174 pounds—down less than 1 percent from the previous year. Led by increased disappearance of processing tomatoes, per capita use of vegetables for canning totaled 103 pounds—up 3 percent from a year earlier and the highest canning use since 1995.

Including asparagus and onions but excluding melons, selected fresh-market vegetable area for harvest was forecast to decline 3 percent to 290,300 acres this spring season (largely Apr.-June). Much of the expected decline is due to asparagus and head lettuce. California, which accounts for more than half of spring vegetable area, expects to harvest 3 percent fewer acres, while Florida, which accounts for one-fourth of spring acreage, expects to harvest 1 percent fewer fresh vegetable acres. Despite reduced area, spring season f.o.b. shipping-point prices for commercial fresh-market vegetables are expected to average about a 10th below the highs of a year earlier as shipments rise in the coming months.

This spring, area for harvest for the three top melon crops is forecast to increase 6 percent to 78,200 acres. The bulk of the increase is due to a 10-percent gain in cantaloup area, with watermelon acreage also projected to rise (up 4 percent). Prices for watermelon have been above year-earlier levels, while cantaloup prices were near those of a year ago.

Given smaller supplies and flat demand, year-to-date potato shipments are down 11 percent through March 2006. Potatoes utilized for processing are also down from a year ago. However, early export demand in 2006 appears to be stronger, with January-February sales to each of the top three markets—Japan, Mexico, and Canada—up from a year earlier.

Area planted to dry edible beans is expected to rise 3 percent from last year's 1.67 million acres. Despite increased plantings, production may not increase, largely because yields are expected to return to trend levels, which are below last fall's strong yields. During the first 6 months of the marketing year, U.S. exports of dry beans rose 60 percent from a year earlier to 4.1 million hundredweight (cwt)—due mostly to lower prices.

The United States produces 2 percent of the world's cauliflower, ranking sixth behind China, India, Italy, Spain, and France. While U.S. domestic demand for cauliflower has been waning, exports remain strong. The United States exported 28 percent of its fresh cauliflower supplies during 2003-05—about the same as 1993-95.

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The next release is
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World Agricultural
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Industry Overview

All vegetables and melons: In 2005, per capita use of all vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulse crops, and mushrooms fell 1 percent to 444 pounds. Most of this reduction was due to reduced potato production and consumption. In 2006, potatoes (because of the small 2005/06 crop) are expected to once again be the primary force pulling vegetable use down slightly from year-earlier levels.

Fresh vegetables: On a per person basis, consumption of fresh-market vegetables (excluding melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms) fell about 1 percent to 148 pounds. Per capita use increased for such crops as spinach, asparagus, squash, pumpkins, and romaine and leaf lettuce and dropped for garlic, bell peppers, snap beans, and onions. In 2006, fresh vegetable disappearance is expected to rise slightly from that of a year earlier.

Melons: Estimated disappearance of all melons totaled 7.7 billion pounds in 2005—the first year-over-year increase since 2001. On a per capita basis, consumption of melons increased 3 percent from a year earlier to 25.9 pounds, driven largely by a 7-percent gain in watermelon use.

Processing vegetables: Per capita use of processing vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) increased 2 percent to 125 pounds in 2005 as a 3-percent increase in use of canning vegetables outweighed a small decline in use of vegetables for freezing and dehydrating. The outlook for 2006 indicates a slight reduction in the use of processing vegetables, with lower use of canning tomatoes and sweet corn outweighing rising use of pickling cucumbers and green beans for canning.

Potatoes: According to preliminary data, per capita disappearance of potatoes declined 4 percent in calendar 2005 to 129 pounds, with both fresh-market and processing potatoes registering declines. A further (albeit smaller) decline in disappearance is expected in 2006 due to the influence of the small 2005 crop on 2006 potato shipments.

Sweet potatoes: Because of the smaller 2005 crop and stronger export demand, domestic disappearance of sweet potatoes for all uses declined 4 percent in 2005 to 4.5 pounds per person. Little change is expected in per capita use in 2006 as a small increase in production is offset by rising exports and population growth.

Dry edible beans: Per capita disappearance of dry beans increased 5 percent in 2005 to 6.3 pounds—reversing a string of five consecutive annual declines in dry bean consumption. Further improvement in domestic dry bean use is expected in 2006 as both prices and supplies remain relatively steady.

Dry peas and lentils: Per capita use of dry peas (excluding chickpeas) and lentils for domestic human food is estimated at 0.7 pound, about the same as the previous year. Export demand and other uses (e.g., livestock feed) each exceed estimated domestic food use.

Mushrooms: For the 2005/06 season, per capita use of all mushrooms is projected to decline 3 percent from year-earlier levels, with small reductions expected for both fresh-market and processing uses.

Cauliflower: During 2003-05, per capita use of fresh-market cauliflower averaged 1.55 pounds annually—down 19 percent from the 1993-95 average, but 88 percent above the 1973-75 average. Between 1993-95 and 2003-05, per capita use of cauliflower for processing (largely freezing) declined 41 percent to 0.37 pound.

Table 1--U.S. vegetable industry at a glance, 2003-06

Item	Unit	2003	2004	2005	2006 1/
<i>Area harvested</i>	1,000 ac.	6,538	6,580	7,149	7,607
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	1,000 ac.	1,928	1,940	1,936	1,955
Processing	1,000 ac.	1,337	1,297	1,286	1,295
Potatoes	1,000 ac.	1,249	1,167	1,085	1,095
Dry beans	1,000 ac.	1,347	1,219	1,563	1,562
Other 2/	1,000 ac.	677	957	1,320	1,700
<i>Production</i>	Mil. cw t	1,295	1,355	1,300	1,333
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	Mil. cw t	469	485	473	481
Processing	Mil. cw t	314	356	317	350
Potatoes	Mil. cw t	458	456	421	425
Dry beans	Mil. cw t	22	18	27	26
Other 2/	Mil. cw t	32	41	44	51
<i>Crop value</i>	\$ mil.	15,524	15,533	15,862	16,100
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	9,769	9,701	9,819	10,100
Processing	\$ mil.	1,367	1,473	1,323	1,530
Potatoes	\$ mil.	2,686	2,575	2,903	2,600
Dry beans	\$ mil.	423	453	526	480
Mushrooms	\$ mil.	890	919	908	910
Other 2/	\$ mil.	388	412	434	480
<i>Unit value 3/</i>	\$/cw t	11.99	11.46	12.20	12.07
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$/cw t	20.85	20.02	20.77	21.00
Processing	\$/cw t	4.36	4.14	4.17	4.37
Potatoes	\$/cw t	5.89	5.67	6.90	6.12
Dry beans	\$/cw t	18.40	25.70	18.40	18.29
Other 2/	\$/cw t	12.05	10.15	9.91	9.38
<i>Trade</i>					
<i>Imports</i>	\$ mil.	5,435	6,185	6,578	6,720
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	3,028	3,458	3,667	3,800
Processing	\$ mil.	1,276	1,448	1,587	1,625
Potatoes & products	\$ mil.	682	764	763	740
Dry beans	\$ mil.	49	65	83	65
Other 4/	\$ mil.	400	449	479	490
<i>Exports</i>	\$ mil.	3,313	3,468	3,832	4,095
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	\$ mil.	1,302	1,364	1,512	1,690
Processing	\$ mil.	798	794	823	825
Potatoes & products	\$ mil.	646	735	831	835
Dry beans	\$ mil.	157	145	157	195
Other 4/	\$ mil.	410	432	508	550
<i>Per capita use</i>	Pounds	447	448	444	442
<i>Vegetables</i>					
Fresh & melons	Pounds	171	174	174	176
Processing	Pounds	122	123	125	125
Potatoes & products	Pounds	138	135	129	126
Dry beans	Pounds	7	6	6	7
Other 2/	Pounds	10	10	10	10

1/ ERS forecasts. 2/ Other includes sweet potatoes, dry peas, lentils, and mushrooms.

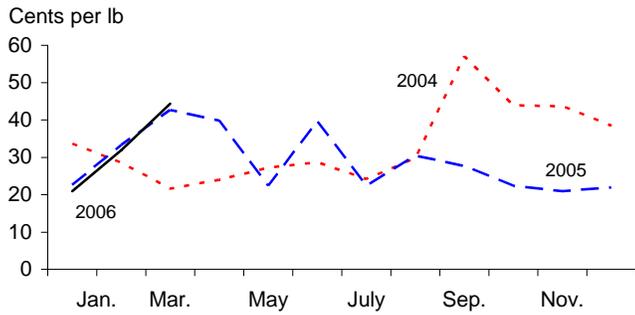
3/ Ratio of total value to total production. 4/ Other includes mushrooms, dry peas, lentils, sweet potatoes, and vegetable seed. All trade data are on a calendar-year basis.

Sources: ERS and National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

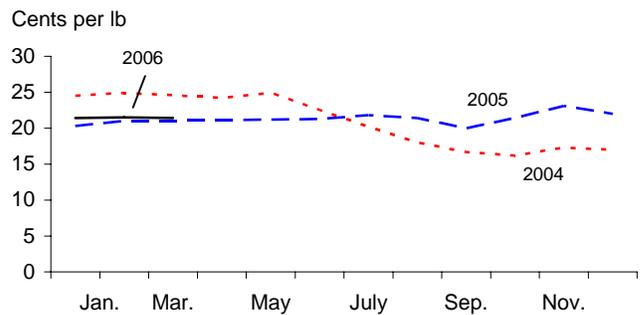
Figure 1

F.o.b. shipping-point prices for fresh-market vegetables

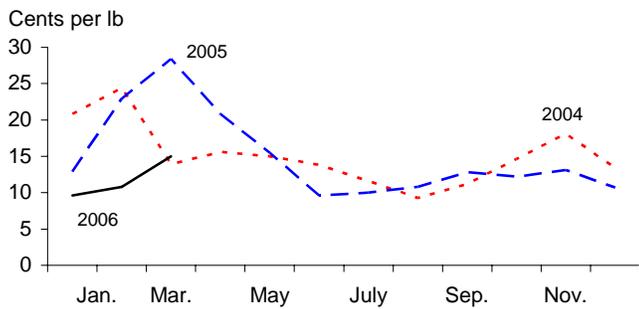
Broccoli



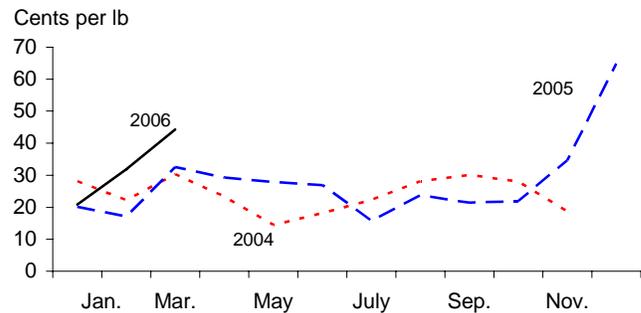
Carrots



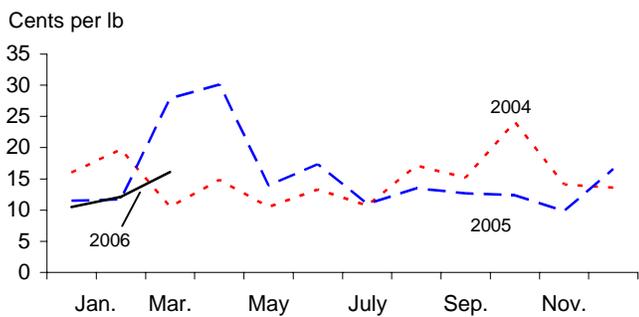
Celery



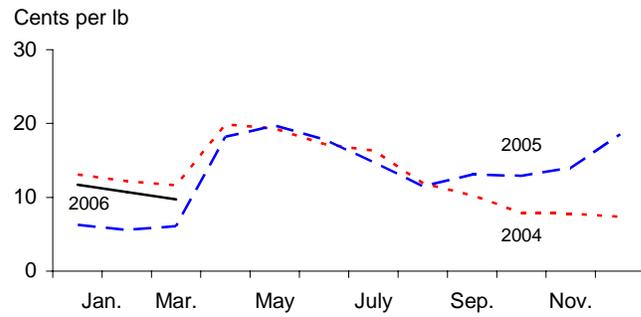
Cucumbers



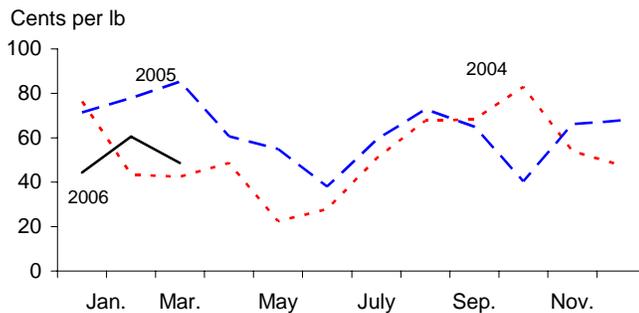
Head lettuce



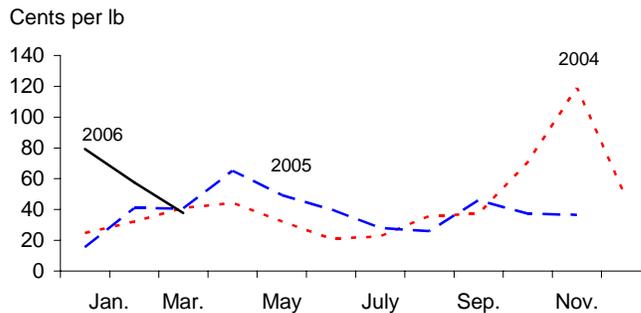
Onions



Snap beans



Tomatoes



Fresh-Market Vegetables

Spring Acreage Down

Including asparagus and onions but excluding melons, selected fresh-market vegetable area for harvest was forecast to decline 3 percent to 290,300 acres this spring season (largely April-June). Much of the expected decline is due to asparagus and head lettuce. California, which accounts for more than half of spring vegetable area, expects to harvest 3 percent fewer acres with much of this reduction due to head lettuce (down 8 percent), asparagus (down 16 percent), and tomatoes (down 2 percent). As has been the pattern over the last few years, cool, wet winter weather delayed planting and other field activity and slowed growth of some spring crops in California. Area for spring harvest of head lettuce (most of which comes from California) is expected to be down 8 percent, largely as a result of persistently low prices over the past year. Since averaging 20 cents per pound during the spring of 2005, f.o.b. shipping point prices for head lettuce averaged 12 to 13 cents per pound over the following three quarters.

Florida, where crop growth was slowed by earlier cold weather, is expected to harvest about one-fourth of all spring vegetable area. Florida's area is expected to drop 1 percent from a year ago due to lower area for snap beans (down 4 percent) and bell peppers (down 3 percent). Area for tomatoes, which annually accounts for about one-third of Florida's \$1.5 billion in vegetable cash receipts, remained steady at 17,500 acres despite strong prices last spring. However, spring tomato yields may be affected by earlier whitefly damage. Florida's spring sweet corn crop, much of which had to be replanted following the destructive Valentine's Day freeze, was also unchanged from a year earlier at 21,000 acres. Because the freeze effectively reduced the market window by a month for most of the Florida crop, growers were not able to fully respond to last year's favorable sweet corn prices.

Assuming normal weather, spring-season f.o.b. shipping-point prices for commercial fresh vegetables are expected to average about a 10th below the highs

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

Item	2003	2004	2005	2006 f	Change
					2005-06 2/
					Percent
--Acres--					
Snap beans	20,900	22,400	22,200	21,400	-4
Broccoli	33,500	33,500	33,500	33,300	-1
Cabbage	7,900	8,200	7,700	8,100	5
Carrots	19,900	19,300	19,100	19,700	3
Cauliflower	8,500	8,500	8,200	8,000	-2
Celery	5,200	5,300	5,100	5,200	2
Sweet corn	38,300	36,200	32,500	34,500	6
Cucumbers	8,000	7,400	7,200	7,200	0
Head lettuce	37,200	43,850	36,650	33,600	-8
Bell pepper	7,500	7,600	8,000	7,600	-5
Tomatoes	27,000	29,000	28,500	28,300	-1
Subtotal	213,900	221,250	208,650	206,900	-1
Onions 2/	32,500	35,700	35,300	37,900	7
Asparagus 2/ 3/	58,000	61,500	54,000	45,500	-16
Total	304,400	318,450	297,950	290,300	-3

f = Forecast area.

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during April-June. Excludes melons. 2/ Harvested area except estimated area for harvest in 2006. 3/ Includes area destined for processing.

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

Table 3--Selected fresh-market vegetable shipments 1/

Item	Annual 2005	February 2006	March		Change previous: 2/	
			2005	2006	Month	Year
	--1,000 cwt--				Percent	
Snap beans	2,596	273	150	359	32	140
Broccoli	9,803	1,067	864	1,108	4	28
Cabbage	1,364	1,143	1,706	1,747	53	2
Cantaloup	28,587	893	2,115	1,637	83	-23
Carrots	11,085	761	1,039	1,023	34	-2
Cauliflower	4,293	448	390	474	6	22
Celery	17,848	1,424	1,567	1,752	23	12
Chinese cabbage	1,197	126	108	162	29	50
Sweet corn	9,972	471	749	735	56	-2
Cucumbers	14,100	1,133	1,242	1,313	16	6
Greens	2,437	190	309	246	29	-20
Head lettuce	38,255	2,697	2,573	3,315	23	29
Romaine	14,510	1,244	1,247	1,472	18	18
Onions, dry bulb	50,296	3,276	4,206	4,144	26	-1
Onions, green	3,540	323	332	409	27	23
Peppers, bell	16,577	1,464	1,470	1,839	26	25
Peppers, chile	4,009	428	398	623	46	57
Spinach	1,156	136	92	144	6	57
Squash	7,019	810	832	946	17	14
Tomato, round	28,920	2,465	2,805	3,524	43	26
Tomato, roma	11,098	1,305	990	1,636	25	65
Tomato, ghouse 3/	8,468	681	643	699	3	9
Tomato, cherry 4/	4,227	418	473	512	22	8
Watermelon	35,110	846	1,240	1,671	98	35
Selected total	326,467	24,022	27,540	31,490	31	14

1/ All data are preliminary. Includes domestic and imported product. 2/ Change in March 2006. 3/ Includes all types of tomatoes produced under cover. 4/ Includes grape tomatoes.

Source: Market News, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Table 4--Fresh vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes

Item	2005	2006		Change previous:		
	March	Feb.	March	Month	Year	
	-- Index --			-- Percent --		
Consumer Price Indexes (1982/84=100)						
Fresh vegetables	267.0	289.7	279.7	-3.5	4.8	
Potatoes	228.3	264.7	264.6	0.0	15.9	
Tomatoes, all	297.1	354.7	311.5	-12.2	4.8	
Lettuce, all	253.5	258.0	254.2	-1.5	0.3	
Other vegetables	279.4	289.6	285.8	-1.3	2.3	
Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)						
Fresh vegetables (excl. potatoes)	168.5	138.8	137.7	-0.8	-18.3	
Cabbage 1/	144.9	185.8	223.0	20.0	53.9	
Greens 1/	125.8	130.0	131.8	1.4	4.8	
Lettuce	209.2	97.2	132.7	36.5	-36.6	
Onions, green 1/	354.3	420.2	442.3	5.3	24.8	
Onions, dry bulb	75.9	121.7	110.3	-9.4	45.3	
Peppers, green 1/	350.9	312.6	199.0	-36.3	-43.3	
Radishes 1/	267.4	321.5	221.0	-31.3	-17.4	
Spinach 1/	484.5	173.4	219.1	26.4	-54.8	
Squash 1/	297.8	255.4	157.6	-38.3	-47.1	
Tomatoes	193.7	178.2	119.8	-32.8	-38.2	

1/ Index base is December 1991=100.

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

of a year earlier and just above the average of the previous 5 years. Although shipping-point prices this spring are expected to average below those of a year earlier for most fresh-market vegetables (including tomatoes and onions), higher prices are possible for asparagus and celery.

Winter weather began and ended with cool, wet spells in the West and featured cold weather in Florida, including a hard freeze in central Florida in February. As a result, fresh-vegetable (excluding melons) shipment volume was down 2 percent during the winter quarter (Jan.-Mar.). Coupled with a relatively mild winter in most major population centers, prices were under upward pressure for the first 2 months of the winter. As a result, winter quarter shipping-point prices for fresh-market vegetables averaged about 5 percent above those of a year earlier. Given higher shipping-point prices for fresh-market vegetables and fresh potatoes, first quarter fresh vegetable retail prices increased nearly a 10th from a year earlier.

Storage Onion Acreage Up

Storage onions, which are harvested in late summer and early fall and marketed into the following spring, account for about 70 percent of annual U.S. onion production. The top five producing States for storage onions are California, Washington, New York, Oregon, and Idaho. Although water issues are an ongoing concern, irrigation water is not expected to be a limiting factor this summer in most of these States, with favorable snow packs and average- to above-average runoff expected in the West. Area planted to summer storage onions is forecast to rise 1 percent in 2006. Storage onion area in California, most of which is earmarked for dehydrated products, is expected to rise 3 percent to 29,900 acres—well below the 1999 record high of 41,600 acres. Excluding the California crop, area for U.S. storage onions is forecast up less than 1 percent from last year, but 5 percent below the acreage of 2004. Given normal weather and average yields this fall, production of storage onions is likely to be only slightly larger than a year ago.

Given last year's smaller fresh-market storage crop (excluding processing), prices received by onion shippers were improved from the lows of the 2004/05 season.

Table 5—U.S. quarterly f.o.b. shipping-point prices, selected vegetables and melons, 2005-06

Commodity	2005				2006				Change 1st Q 1/ Percent
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	First	Second*	Third*	Fourth*	
--- Dollars per 100 lb ---									
Asparagus	95.90	91.20	164.00	175.00	199.50	125.00	175.00	125.00	108.0
Broccoli	32.83	33.97	26.87	21.77	27.20	28.00	31.00	34.00	-17.1
Cantaloup	--	18.45	9.97	13.27	--	17.25	14.00	19.00	--
Carrots	20.77	21.20	21.07	22.17	21.43	21.00	20.00	19.50	3.2
Cauliflower	38.83	34.83	28.53	29.70	34.23	33.25	29.00	36.00	-11.8
Celery	21.40	15.31	11.20	12.00	11.81	16.25	11.50	13.00	-44.8
Sweet corn	25.33	20.73	22.40	28.00	35.70	19.00	21.00	25.00	40.9
Cucumbers	23.33	28.03	20.30	40.47	32.37	21.00	23.00	22.00	38.7
Lettuce, head	17.03	20.43	12.40	12.94	12.90	19.00	16.00	18.00	-24.3
Onions, dry bulb	6.01	18.57	13.10	15.13	10.71	18.00	13.00	11.00	78.2
Snap beans	78.17	51.27	65.60	58.10	51.20	45.00	61.00	54.00	-34.5
Tomatoes, field	32.33	51.50	33.40	36.90	58.20	37.50	31.00	40.00	80.0
All vegetables 2/	845	1,019	813	893	884	920	875	870	4.6

-- = not available. * = ERS forecast. 1/ Change in 1st-quarter 2006 over 1st-quarter 2005.

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

Source: Derived by ERS from data published by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Despite higher prices, domestic and export demand were considered good during most of the season. During the first quarter (Jan.-Mar.) of 2006, f.o.b. shipping-point prices for fresh dry bulb onions averaged 10.71 cents per pound, up 78 percent from the extreme lows of a year earlier but down 13 percent from 2 years ago. As storage supplies give way to spring onions, market dynamics could shift with strong supplies of onions expected from both Texas and Georgia, putting pressure on shipping-point prices. As a result, f.o.b. shipping-point prices for onions are expected to remain at or below the 18.6 cents per pound average of last spring (Apr.-June).

Per Capita Use Down in 2005, Expected Up in 2006

According to preliminary data, disappearance of fresh-market vegetables (excluding potatoes, melons, sweet potatoes, dry pulses, and mushrooms which are each analyzed by ERS as separate markets) remained little changed from the record-high 44 billion pounds in 2005. On a per person basis, consumption of fresh market vegetables dropped about 1 percent to 148 pounds (table 6). Including melons, per capita use of fresh vegetables fell 1 pound to about 174 pounds in 2005. Per capita use of fresh vegetables declined even as total disappearance remained steady because population continued to increase.

Per capita disappearance increased for spinach (up 14 percent), asparagus (8 percent), squash (5 percent), pumpkins (5 percent), and romaine and leaf lettuce (3 percent). Per capita use declined for items such as garlic (7 percent), bell peppers

Table 6--Fresh-market vegetables: Estimated per capita disappearance 1/

Item	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 f
Head lettuce	22.54	22.22	21.25	20.34	21.33
Onions 2/	19.32	19.50	21.63	21.22	20.23
Tomatoes 3/	20.31	19.47	20.08	20.60	20.71
Other lettuce	9.59	11.06	11.39	11.74	11.96
Sweet corn	8.97	9.51	9.22	8.93	9.04
Carrots	8.42	8.82	8.84	8.67	8.61
Cabbage	8.29	7.55	8.32	8.09	8.14
Bell pepper	6.79	6.85	6.97	6.57	6.93
Cucumbers	6.54	6.05	6.46	6.51	6.50
Celery	6.30	6.26	6.23	6.09	6.05
Broccoli	5.35	5.47	5.87	5.64	5.70
Squash	4.64	4.44	4.47	4.68	4.62
Pumpkins	4.10	3.89	4.84	5.09	5.10
Garlic	2.50	2.82	2.57	2.40	2.54
Spinach	1.43	1.77	2.02	2.30	2.39
Snap beans	2.09	1.98	1.88	1.78	1.87
Cauliflower	1.43	1.56	1.54	1.51	1.54
Asparagus	0.96	1.04	1.12	1.21	1.20
Others	4.52	4.76	4.83	4.87	4.85
Subtotal	144.09	145.02	149.53	148.24	149.31
Potatoes	44.27	46.84	45.83	43.01	41.96
Total	188.36	191.86	195.36	191.25	191.27

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Excludes melons, mushrooms, and sweet potatoes. 2/ Fresh-market dry bulb onions. 3/ Includes both domestic and imported hothouse tomatoes.

Source: Estimates developed by Economic Research Service, USDA.

(6 percent), snap beans (5 percent), and onions (2 percent). In 2006, per capita fresh-vegetable disappearance (excluding potatoes) is expected to rise about 1 percent from a year earlier as rising use of lettuce, bell peppers, and snap beans outweighs potential reductions for onions, squash, and celery. Interest in spinach continues to be reflected in increasing per capita consumption. During 2003-05, per capita use of fresh-market spinach averaged nearly 3 times that of a decade earlier (1993-95) and continues to inch closer to the 1939 record-high of 2.9 pounds.

Imports Up, Exports Down

During the first 2 months of 2006, the volume of fresh vegetable (excluding potatoes and melons) imports increased 11 percent from a year earlier (table 7). While import volume for crops such as tomatoes (up 38 percent), bell peppers (26 percent), and snap beans (28 percent) were higher due largely to weather-reduced output from Florida, the import volume of such products as cucumbers (down 7 percent), onions (down 10 percent) and asparagus (down 9 percent) declined. Import volume increased across the board for most fresh-market tomatoes, including greenhouse tomatoes (up 39 percent), roma tomatoes (39 percent), other round tomatoes (36 percent), and grape and cherry tomatoes (each up 40 percent).

Because of the lingering effects of hurricanes and cold weather on early 2006 U.S. production, the January-February export volume of fresh-market vegetables (excluding potatoes and melons) declined 7 percent compared with the first 2 months of 2005. The quantity of fresh vegetables shipped to Canada (down 5 percent) and Japan (down 25 percent) decreased, while volume shipped to Mexico was down 1 percent. Combined, these three nations accounted for 94 percent of U.S. export volume (90 percent in all of 2005). During the first 2 months of 2006, U.S. export volume declined for such items as onions, tomatoes, and peppers, and was partially offset by increased shipments of broccoli, cauliflower, and celery.

Table 7--Selected fresh-market vegetable trade volume, 2004-06 1/

Item	2005	January - February			Change
	Annual	2004	2005	2006	2005-06
		--1,000 cwt--			Percent
Exports, fresh:					
Onions, dry bulb	6,672	1,250	1,648	1,198	-27
Lettuce, head	4,487	704	726	675	-7
Lettuce, other	4,856	802	975	830	-15
Broccoli	3,140	542	451	524	16
Tomatoes	3,262	497	518	397	-23
Other	16,101	2,648	2,570	2,777	8
Total	38,518	6,443	6,888	6,402	-7
Imports, fresh:					
Tomatoes, all	20,983	4,599	4,302	5,938	38
Cucumbers	9,549	2,504	2,711	2,512	-7
Onions, dry bulb	6,592	1,234	1,404	1,263	-10
Peppers, sweet	6,526	1,660	1,801	2,276	26
Squash 2/	5,244	1,162	1,332	1,359	2
Other	28,025	4,944	5,452	5,585	2
Total	76,919	16,103	17,002	18,933	11

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

Source: U.S. trade data from Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Melons

Spring Melon Area Up

Area for harvest (across comparable States) for the three top melon crops is forecast to increase 6 percent to 78,200 acres this spring (largely Apr.-June). The bulk of the increase is due to a 10-percent gain in cantaloup area (table 8). Watermelon area is projected to rise 4 percent while honeydew area is expected to remain unchanged from a year earlier. The domestic spring melon crop accounts for about one-third of annual U.S. melon acreage. The summer crop accounts for more than half of all melon acreage, with less than 10 percent of melon acres harvested during the fall season. Few commercial melons are produced domestically during the winter.

This spring, Florida, which accounts for one-third of spring melon area, expects to harvest 2 percent fewer acres than a year ago, while California (23 percent of spring melon area) is projected to harvest 3 percent fewer acres. Meanwhile, Texas (20 percent of spring melon area) is forecast to harvest 15 percent more acres, with all the gain due to increased area devoted to watermelon (up 20 percent). Texas, like California, produces commercial volumes of each of the three leading melon crops. Although Texas watermelon growers increased acreage this spring in response to stronger prices for watermelon last spring, total melon acreage in the State has been on a downward trend over the past decade. In 2000, spring melon acreage in Texas was nearly double the 15,500 acres expected to be harvested in 2006.

According to USDA's Market News Service, 46 percent of all melon shipments (includes domestically-produced and imported product) occurred in the April-June quarter during 2001-05. During this 5-year period, 73 percent of all spring-season shipments came from U.S. farms. During the winter quarter, virtually all melons are imported. According to preliminary 2006 data, winter-season melon shipments fell 16 percent from a year earlier.

Watermelon Wholesale Prices Up

Wholesale prices (as measured in the Chicago terminal market) for melons have been mixed so far in 2006. While watermelon prices have been running consistently above a year earlier since January, honeydews have been lower, and

Table 8--Spring-season fresh-market melon area 1/

Item	2003	2004	2005	2006 f	Change
					2005-06 2/
					Percent
--Acres--					
Cantaloup	29,100	32,100	29,200	32,200	10
Honeydew	5,200	4,700	4,100	4,100	0
Watermelon 2/	43,000	43,000	40,300	41,900	4
Total	77,300	79,800	73,600	78,200	6

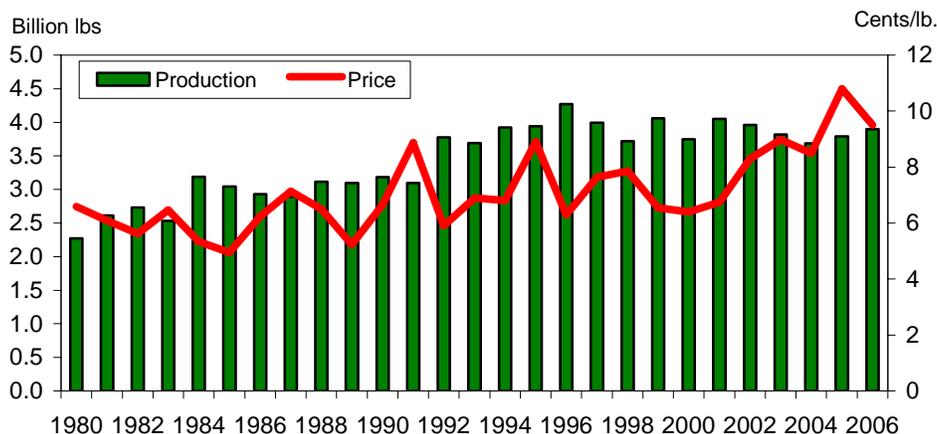
f = Forecast area.

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during April-June. 2/ After 2002, Arizona was removed from the watermelon seasonal estimates program (area was 5,000 acres in 2002).

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

Figure 2

U.S. watermelon: Production and average grower price 1/



1/ Largely for the fresh market. Prices not adjusted for inflation.

Source: Prepared by ERS based largely on data from *Vegetables Summary*, NASS, USDA.

cantaloups have remained near the prices reported a year ago. The following wholesale price comparisons with a year ago were noted in early April:

- Cantaloup from Guatemala--\$16.50 per 40-pound carton containing 12 melons, down 1 percent;
- Honeydew from Honduras--\$11.50 per 30-pound carton containing five melons, down 15 percent;
- Seedless red-flesh watermelon from Mexico--\$0.35 per pound for a carton of four melons, up 9 percent;
- Seeded red-flesh watermelon from Mexico--\$0.34 per pound for a carton of three melons, up 10 percent.

Import Volume Down

During January and February 2006, melon import volume was down 1 percent from a year earlier. These imports were valued at \$70 million—up 3 percent from a year earlier. During these 2 months, cantaloup is the dominant melon imported, accounting for more than half of total volume. Honduras (38 percent), Costa Rica (39 percent), and Guatemala (22 percent) were the leading suppliers of cantaloup in early 2006. The volume of watermelon imports was up 14 percent from a year earlier during the first 2 months of 2006, with Mexico and Honduras accounting for the bulk of the shipments.

Imports are an important contributor to the U.S. melon sector. During 2003-05, 23 percent of all U.S. melons consumed were imported. During this time, 14 percent of U.S. watermelon consumption came from imports. This was double the share experienced during 1993-95. Cantaloup is the most popular imported melon, with 32 percent of consumption coming from imports during 2003-05, reflecting the year-round popularity of this melon at breakfast and on restaurant breakfast bars.

Melon Use Increased in 2005

Estimated disappearance of all melons totaled 7.7 billion pounds in 2005—the first year-over-year increase since 2001. Although melon production was only up 1 percent in 2005, imports were 9 percent higher, leading to the first increase in

annual supply over the past 4 years. Since melon exports declined 9 percent in 2005, the remainder of supply was available for domestic consumption. As a result, per capita use of melons totaled 25.9 pounds in 2005, up 3 percent from a year earlier, encouraged by a 6-percent decline in wholesale melon prices during 2005. The outlook for 2006 indicates another small gain in melon consumption is likely as production and imports both register gains.

In 2005, cantaloup disappearance rose 2 percent to 3.0 billion pounds as production (up 1 percent) and imports (up 4 percent) each increased. Per capita use rose 1 percent from a year earlier to 10.1 pounds, but remained below the 1999 record of 11.4 pounds. Despite a 27-percent jump in season-average grower prices, watermelon disappearance rose 7 percent to 4.1 billion pounds (13.8 pounds per person), reflecting increased production (up 3 percent) and record-large imports (up 21 percent). Given the smallest crop since 1995, disappearance of honeydew melons dropped 11 percent to 578 million pounds. Per capita use of honeydews fell 12 percent to 1.95 pounds—the lowest per capita use since 1995.

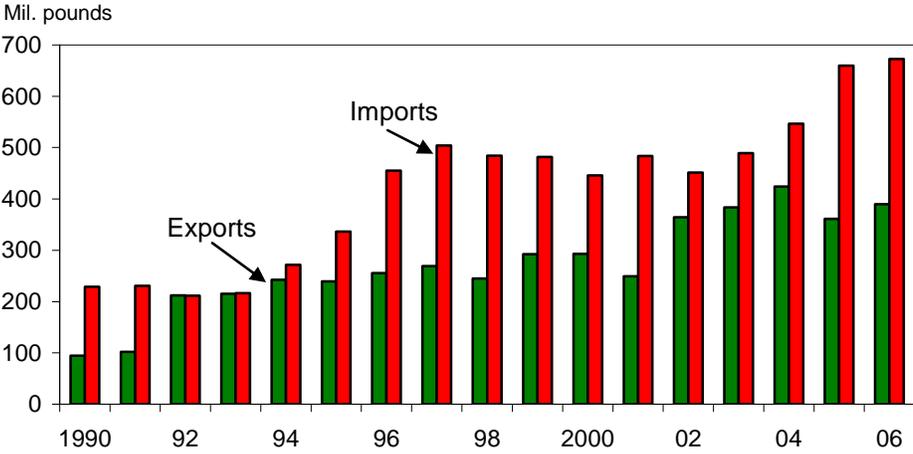
Table 9--U.S. melon crops: Per capita use 1/

Item	Average					
	1997-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 f
-- Pounds/person --						
Cantaloup	11.0	11.1	10.8	10.0	10.1	10.3
Honeydew	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1
Watermelon	14.8	14.0	13.5	13.0	13.8	13.7
Top three melons	28.0	27.3	26.5	25.2	25.9	26.1

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Calendar year consumption for selected items.

Source: Estimates developed by Economic Research Service, USDA.

Figure 3
U.S. watermelon: Import and export volume, 1990-2006



Source: U.S. trade data provided by the Bureau of the Census, USDC.

Processing Vegetables

Canning Acreage Down, Freezing Up

Contract acreage for the five leading processing vegetables (tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, green peas, and cucumbers) is expected to remain steady with a year earlier at 1.22 million acres (table 10). Assuming yields remain near the average of the previous three seasons, total production of 11 selected processing vegetables could increase a 10th from the 15.8 million short tons harvested in 2005. The majority of any gain in 2006 processing output will likely stem from an expected increase in California's tomato crop from last year's weather-reduced level.

Canneries, which account for two-thirds of all processing vegetable area, expect to contract for 1 percent less acreage than a year ago. Given average yields, contract production of the five leading canning vegetables could rise a 10th above that of 2005. Green pea canning acreage is expected to rise 9 percent—the second consecutive annual increase following the small 2004 stock-depleting crop. Processors plan an 11-percent reduction in area devoted to canning snap beans following strong crops in both 2004 and 2005, which likely led to burdensome stocks and weaker wholesale prices.

U.S. tomato processors have contracted for 12.1 million short tons in 2006—up 22 percent from a year earlier. Although production was reduced in 2005 by lower acreage and weather-reduced yields, domestic demand for tomato products was strong during calendar year 2005. As a result, stocks of U.S. tomato products (on a fresh-weight basis) coming into 2006 were the lowest since 1998. Given an expected drop in 2006 contract tomato output in Italy and several other major world producers due to large stocks, U.S. wholesale tomato product prices may remain relatively strong during the coming marketing season.

For processors of frozen vegetables, contract area is expected to rise 3 percent as increased sweet corn plantings outweigh a 3-percent cut in projected green pea area. Forecast area for snap beans destined for freezing is expected to remain about the

Table 10--Contract plantings of selected processing crops 1/

Item	Contract plantings				Change 2005-06 2/
	2003	2004	2005	2006 f	
	1,000 acres				Percent
Canning	860.0	843.5	858.1	846.6	-1
Tomatoes	306.7	313.1	281.9	310.5	10
Sweet corn	220.3	215.3	241.6	204.9	-15
Snap beans	141.6	143.4	149.1	132.2	-11
Green peas	106.7	84.4	93.5	102.0	9
Cucumbers	84.7	87.3	91.9	97.0	6
Freezing	419.3	383.4	365.8	378.2	3
Sweet corn	224.5	197.1	179.4	195.0	9
Snap beans	56.7	59.6	64.2	64.2	0
Green peas	138.1	126.7	122.2	119.0	-3
Total	1,279.3	1,226.9	1,223.9	1,224.7	0

f = Prospective area.

1/ Excludes open market plantings. 2/ Percent change based on a comparable list of States and not on table data.

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

Table 11--Processing vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes

Item	2006		2005	Change previous:	
	March	Feb.	March	Month	Year
	-- Index --			-- Percent --	
Consumer Price Indexes (12/97=100)					
Processed fruits and vegetables	122.4	122.5	116.3	-0.1	5.2
Canned vegetables	126.6	125.0	117.9	1.3	7.4
Frozen vegetables (1982-84=100)	179.7	182.9	174.7	-1.7	2.9
Dry beans, peas, lentils	117.1	117.3	116.4	-0.2	0.6
Olives, pickles, relishes	111.0	110.7	115.2	0.3	-3.6
Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)					
Canned vegetables and juices	136.8	136.3	136.1	0.4	0.5
Pickles and products	189.3	188.7	183.0	0.3	3.4
Tomato catsup and sauces 1/	130.4	129.9	128.9	0.4	1.2
Canned dry beans	131.4	131.4	131.3	0.0	0.1
Vegetable juices 1/	113.6	113.6	111.3	0.0	2.1
Frozen vegetables	139.1	138.0	137.4	0.8	1.2
Frozen vegetable combinations	105.9	105.5	106.6	0.4	-0.7
Dried/dehy. fruit & vegetables	158.5	157.4	145.2	0.7	9.2

1/ Index base year is 1987.

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

same as a year earlier. Given average yields, contract production of the three leading vegetables for freezing is projected to increase 5 to 7 percent from a year ago.

Sweet Corn Area: Canning Down, Freezing Up

Only tomatoes exceed sweet corn in terms of economic importance among canning vegetables. Based on price movements and the large crop last year, it is likely that canned sweet corn inventory positions (especially for food service sizes) were above a year earlier coming into 2006. As a result, sweet corn canneries intend to contract for 15 percent fewer acres in 2006. The bulk of the acreage reduction is expected to take place in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Assuming average acreage abandonment and yields around the average of the previous 3 years, this suggests that canning sweet corn production could decline by about one-sixth from a year ago. Although wholesale prices for retail sizes (24-300) are running a little above year-earlier levels, the price for food service sizes (cases containing six number 10 cans) is running around 15 percent below year-earlier levels. According to a USDA food consumption survey, about 16 percent of canned sweet corn is purchased through food service outlets, with the southern region of the country accounting for more than 40 percent of all consumption.

Contract area for sweet corn destined for freezing is expected to rise 9 percent in 2006. Contract acreage is expected to be higher in such major States as Washington and Oregon. In 2005, output of sweet corn destined for frozen products declined 3 percent to 2.93 billion pounds--the second smallest crop since 1993. With the smaller 2005 crop, stocks of sweet corn on January 1, of 2006, were down 5 percent from a year earlier, however, they were still the third largest on record. This is partly a reflection of sluggish demand for frozen sweet corn this decade. Per capita use of all sweet corn for freezing has declined 16 percent since peaking in 1996 at 10.4 pounds. Wholesale prices for consumer-sized packages of frozen sweet corn are averaging modestly higher than year-earlier levels, while food service sizes are running as much as a 10th lower. About 90 percent of frozen sweet corn is

Table 12--Value of processed vegetable trade 1/

Item	2005	January - February			Change
	Annual	2004	2005	2006	2005-06
		--Million dollars--			Percent
Imports:					
Canned	803	103	130	132	2
Frozen	493	76	85	90	6
Dehydrated 2/	291	40	47	55	18
Exports:					
Canned	536	88	83	86	4
Frozen	160	24	23	27	18
Dehydrated 2/	128	19	20	18	-9

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

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

purchased at retail and consumed at home, with per capita use strongest in the Midwest.

Disappearance Rises in 2005

Per capita use of processing vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) increased 2 percent to 124 pounds in 2005. On a fresh-equivalent basis, disappearance of vegetables used in manufacturing frozen, canned, and dehydrated products in 2005 was estimated to be a record-high 36.8 billion pounds—up 3 percent from a year earlier. With low beginning stocks about offsetting increased production, the outlook for 2006 indicates a slight decline in per capita disappearance of processing vegetables to just under 125 pounds as declining use of canning tomatoes and sweet corn outweighs rising use of pickling cucumbers and sweet corn for freezing.

Freezing vegetables—Disappearance of vegetables for freezing (excluding potatoes) decreased less than 1 percent to 6.1 billion pounds (22.3 billion including potatoes) in 2005. On a per capita use basis, freezing vegetables (excluding potatoes) decreased 1 percent to 20.7 pounds last year (table 13). Reduced use of sweet corn and spinach accounted for most of the drop in vegetables for freezing in 2005. Including potatoes, freezing vegetable use fell 4 percent to 75.4 pounds per person. Projections for 2006 indicate a small gain is possible in per capita disappearance of most vegetables for freezing (excluding potatoes) as strong economic growth and employment supports consumer spending.

Canning vegetables—Per capita use of canning vegetables (excluding potatoes) increased 3 percent to 103.3 pounds—the strongest canning use since 1995. Total domestic disappearance of canning vegetables in 2005 rose nearly 4 percent to a record high 30.6 billion pounds. Increases were noted for tomatoes, sweet corn, and snap beans, with declines coming in cucumbers, carrots, and green peas (table 14). Despite reduced production (down 17 percent), use of tomatoes increased 4 percent as imports increased and stocks were drawn down. Tomatoes accounted for 71 percent of 2005 canning vegetable disappearance. The outlook for 2006 indicates a small reduction in the per capita use of canning vegetables, caused partly by higher tomato-product prices (which could extend into 2007) and a resulting slow down in use of tomato products.

Onions for dehydration—Domestic disappearance of onions for dehydration totaled an estimated 303 million pounds in 2005, with per capita use declining to 1.02 pounds. Per capita use of onions for dehydration has averaged 1.34 pounds during the 2000s, down 7 percent from 1.44 pounds during the 1990s. Use is expected to increase in 2006 as processors increase production to help rebuild inventories drawn down over the past two seasons.

Table 13--Vegetables for freezing: Per capita use 1/

Item	Average					
	1997-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 f
--Pounds/person, fresh-weight--						
Sweet corn	9.7	9.3	9.0	9.1	8.7	8.9
Snap beans	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
Green peas	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6
Carrots	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5
Broccoli	2.2	2.1	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
Spinach	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8
Cauliflower	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asparagus	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Green limas	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other freezing	2.0	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.2
Subtotal	21.9	21.5	21.1	21.0	20.7	21.5
Potatoes 2/	58.0	55.2	57.2	57.3	54.7	52.9
Total	79.9	76.7	78.3	78.3	75.4	74.5

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Calendar year consumption for selected items.

2/ Includes french fries and other frozen potato products.

Source: Estimates developed by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

Table 14--Vegetables for canning: Per capita use 1/

Item	Average					
	1997-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 f
--Pounds/person, fresh-weight--						
Tomatoes	70.7	69.3	69.8	70.5	73.6	71.7
Sweet corn	9.0	7.8	8.3	8.2	9.0	8.5
Chile peppers 2/ 3/	4.8	5.8	5.6	6.1	6.0	6.2
Cucumbers 4/	4.4	5.4	4.4	4.9	3.8	4.4
Snap beans	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.8
Carrots 3/	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.6
Green peas	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2
Cabbage	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Beets	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Asparagus	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other canning	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.4
Subtotal	99.4	97.8	98.6	100.7	103.3	101.7
Potatoes 3/	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1
Total	101.0	99.2	100.0	101.9	104.4	102.8

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Calendar year consumption for selected items. 2/ Includes fresh and all processing uses of chiles. 3/ Estimates for 2005 are preliminary. 4/ For pickling.

Source: Estimates developed by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

Potatoes

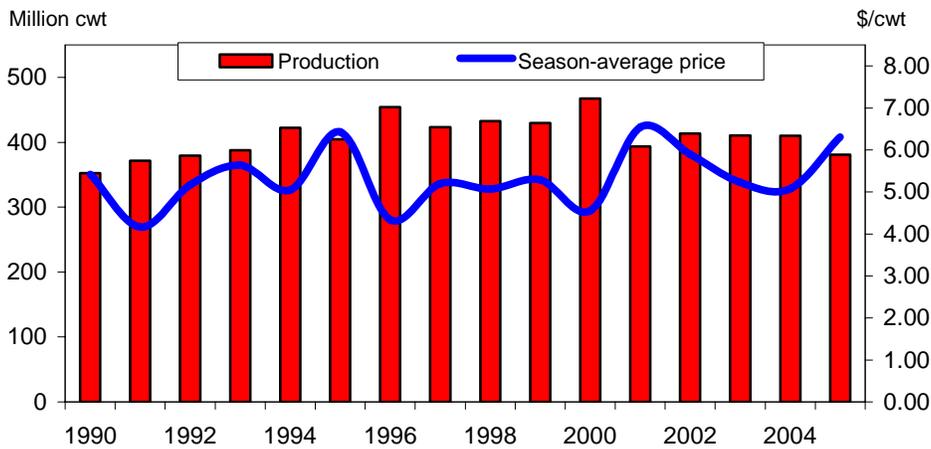
Demand Strong Relative to Reduced Supply

Smaller area harvested (down 7 percent) and lower yields (down 1 percent) combined to reduce U.S. potato production 8 percent in 2005. As a result, potato supply fell relative to demand, lifting potato prices in most States. Given that the flexibility of potato grower prices with respect to a change in production averaged -2.2 from 1990 to 2005, the 22-percent gain in prices resulting from the 8-percent production decline in 2005 exceeded expectations. This suggests that demand for U.S. potatoes (domestic and export) slightly exceeded supply in 2005. Thus, if demand remains unchanged in 2006, supply can increase somewhat without putting significant downward pressure on prices.

The demand-supply relationship experienced in 2005 and witnessed in the form of higher prices was not lost on some potato growers who have already planted and are expected to harvest a few more acres for the 2006 spring crop. Given that early survey samples indicate higher yields, production volume could overshoot demand and increase the risk of downward price pressure. One outlet for excess production, which was successfully used in 2005, is the export market. Indeed, U.S. potato exports have trended up since 2003. Also, Japan recently agreed to import U.S. chipping potatoes, and Mexico's imports continue to rise. Canada's 18-percent production drop in 2005 is also likely to trigger higher import demand into this summer.

Lower Canadian potato production in 2005 was due to reduced acreage and yields. All provinces reported lower yields as well as fewer acres planted and harvested. The accompanying higher prices, however, will invariably tempt growers to increase seeded area in 2006. A vibrant export market will entice growers despite production constraints urged by the newly formed United Potato Growers of Canada. Canadian fryer companies, who are major exporters of frozen french fried potatoes, may demand larger contracts. If yields increase as they initially already have in the United States, potato production in Canada will rebound in 2006, and prices are likely to ease. As in the United States, the direction prices take depends on domestic and export demand during the coming marketing year. For Canadian potatoes, U.S. demand is particularly important, especially for frozen fries.

Figure 4
U.S. fall potato production declines and prices rise



Source: *Crop Production and Agricultural Prices*, NASS, USDA.

Potato Use Drops On Lower Supplies

In 2005, the season-average price of U.S.-grown potatoes was estimated to be \$6.90 per hundredweight (cwt)—a return to the levels experienced in 2001 and 2002. Largely because potato production in 2001 and 2002 totaled well below the 2000 record-high, U.S. per capita use of potatoes fell from 139 pounds in 2001 to 132 pounds in 2002. Thus, given that potato production of 422 million cwt in 2005 was 18 percent lower than production in 2000, per capita use is expected to fall below 130 pounds for the first time since 1990. Total domestic use of potatoes in 2005 is expected to be close to 38 billion pounds, about the same as in 1998 when there were 20 million fewer people in the United States.

Year-to-date potato shipments through March are 10 percent lower than in 2005, an indication of both smaller grower sales and flat demand. Thus far, potatoes used for processing are also down from last year as are stocks from the 2005 fall crop. As a share of production, stocks are unchanged from last year, reflecting similar domestic demand conditions. Export demand, however, appears to be stronger in 2006, based on early export values and volumes. Exports to Japan, Mexico, and Canada were all up in January and February 2006. Higher exports of frozen fries to these three countries and potato chips to Mexico stand out early this year.

Prices Boost Production Value in 2005

The production value of the fall crop in 2005 jumped by \$314 million compared with the 2004 crop, a 15-percent gain. The average price of the fall 2005 crop is

Table 15--Potatoes: U.S. supply and use values, 2001 to date

Item	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005p	Change 2004-05
	-- Million dollars --					Percent
Value of sales						
Fresh-market	1,322.3	1,264.8	974.6	881.6	--	--
Processed	1,264.9	1,355.6	1,311.9	1,308.3	--	--
Seed and feed	215.7	191.6	171.2	154.5	--	--
Total sales	2,803.0	2,812.0	2,457.6	2,344.5	2,643.6	12.8
Import value 1/						
Fresh-market	51.9	79.1	67.1	58.2	76.4	31.4
Processed	475.0	489.1	611.4	716.3	695.8	-2.9
Seed	15.5	25.0	22.9	16.4	14.8	-9.8
Total imports	542.4	593.1	701.3	791.0	787.0	-0.5
Export value 1/						
Fresh-market	83.0	117.5	82.7	65.9	101.9	54.5
Processed	615.5	606.4	564.5	671.9	727.8	8.3
Seed	6.5	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.8	11.3
Total exports	705.0	729.4	653.2	744.8	837.5	12.4
Domestic value per capita 2/						
	-- Dollars --					
Fresh-market	4.53	4.26	3.30	2.98	--	--
Processed	3.94	4.30	4.67	4.61	--	--
Seed and feed	0.79	0.73	0.65	0.56	--	--
Total value	9.26	9.29	8.62	8.14	8.73	7.3

-- = not available. p = preliminary or projected.

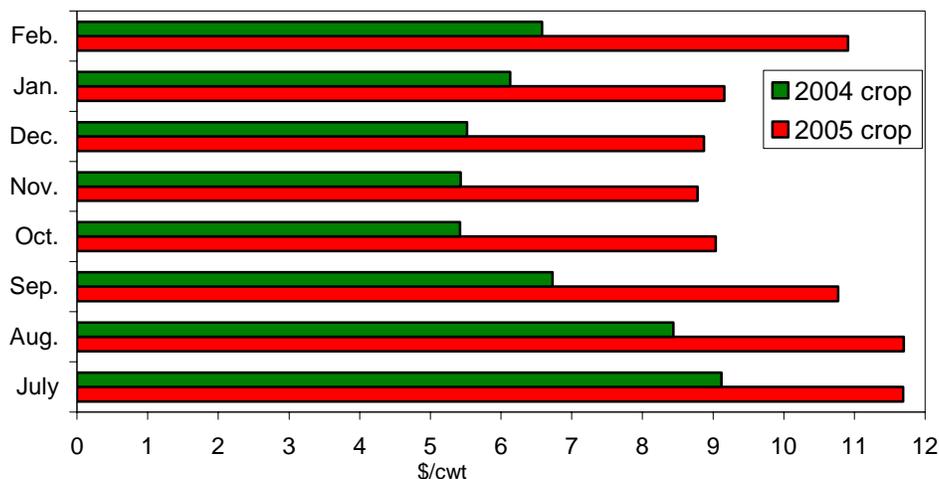
1/ Trade data are in calendar year to correspond with crop harvest months.

2/ Domestic value per capita equals value of sales plus net trade divided by population.

Sources: *Potatoes Annual Summary*, NASS, USDA; Bureau of the Census, USDC.

Figure 5

Prices of fall-crop 2005 potatoes are significantly higher than 2004 crop



Source: *Agricultural Prices*, NASS, USDA.

estimated at \$6.31 per cwt, or 24 percent higher than in 2004. The gain in production value of 2005’s fall potatoes largely benefited the Western States of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. Nevertheless, growers in Michigan, Wisconsin, and some Eastern States also experienced higher production values. Despite smaller planted and harvested acreage, higher yields in Washington, Oregon, and Colorado pushed production higher. Idaho’s production volume declined 11 percent as average yield per acre fell 9 percent.

The shipping-point value of total domestic potatoes used in 2005 (from both domestic and import sources), is estimated by ERS at \$2.6 billion. This represents an 8.5-percent gain over 2004 and is largely due to a projected 13-percent gain in total farm sales value of U.S. potatoes. On a per-person basis, the estimated value is \$8.73, including seed and feed use (about \$0.60). Although the 2005 estimated per capita value is up 7 percent from a year earlier, it is still 6 percent below 2002’s \$9.30 per capita. The share of imports in the value of domestic use was 30 percent in 2005, twice as large as in 1997. On the other hand, the value of potato exports as a share of U.S. farm sales value was 32 percent, up from 25 percent in 2001.

The Export Market Looks Promising

U.S. exports of potatoes and potato products climbed strongly in value in 2004 and 2005, boosted by foreign economic growth and demand for processed food. Exports to Japan and Mexico grew at double-digit rates in the past 2 years. U.S. frozen french fries led this recent charge in foreign markets, including China whose imports of potato products in 2004 almost matched Canada’s. U.S. potato chip exports to Mexico in 2005 exceeded exports to Canada for the first time. Despite this healthy growth in U.S. potato exports, most foreign markets, including Mexico, Japan, and China, have dragged their feet in removing trade barriers to U.S. potatoes, especially fresh-market potatoes. Given that half of U.S. potato exports are frozen fries, markets in developing countries that are fast-growing, such as China, are more promising than mature markets in developed countries.

The reason for the return to a U.S. trade surplus in potatoes—\$51 million in 2005—is the 13-percent jump in export value and 1-percent drop in imports. Export unit

values in 2005, which averaged 38 cents per pound, were 10 cents more than import unit values. Of the additional \$96 million export earnings from potatoes in 2005, about half was earned from shipments of frozen fries. Another \$10 million was earned from dehydrated potato products—flakes, granules, pellets, flour, and meal. On the import side, U.S. purchases of frozen fries were \$44 million less than in 2004, which are shipped largely from Canada.

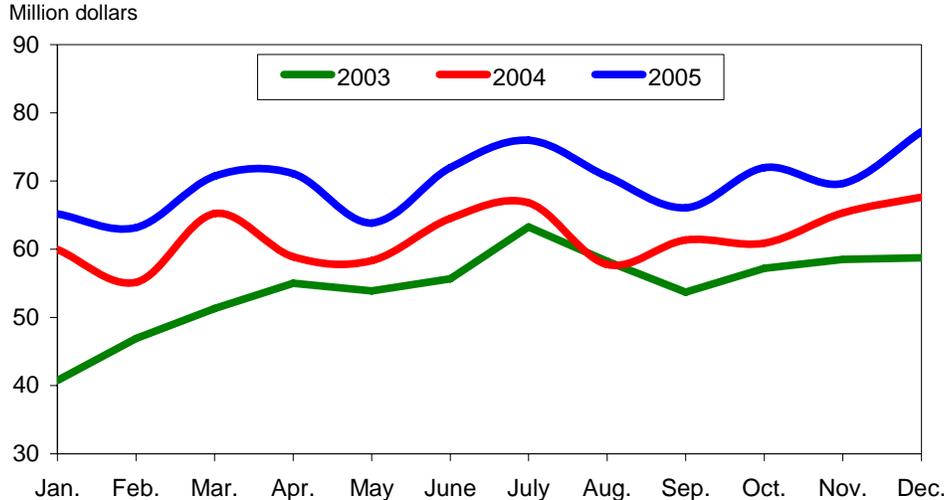
Despite the almost \$100-million turnaround in U.S. potato trade—from a \$49-million deficit in 2004 to a \$50-million surplus—and \$407 million in frozen fry exports in 2005, the United States still has a trade deficit of \$116 million in frozen fries and in potato starch (Canada has an energy-cost advantage for fries and the United States is a minor producer of potato starch). The largest U.S. trade surplus is in potato chips, flakes and granules, and canned (preserved) potatoes, which together amounted to \$147 million more than corresponding imports in 2005. While the United States has a trade deficit of \$392 million with Canada in potatoes, it is more than offset by a trade surplus with the rest of the world in 2005. This surplus is largely accounted for by higher-value exports versus lower-value imports, a favorable measure of terms-of-trade.

Table 16--U.S. potato exports to the three top markets are rising

Destination	January - December				Change
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004-05
	--Million dollars--				Percent
Japan	199.0	178.3	203.5	226.5	11
Canada	217.5	171.6	169.2	179.4	6
Mexico	68.6	85.9	107.5	149.5	39
Others	244.3	217.4	264.6	282.1	7
World	729.4	653.2	744.8	837.5	12

Source: U.S. trade data provided by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 6
U.S. potato exports are trending up in value as export volume rises



Source: U.S. trade data provided by the Bureau of the Census, USDC.

Dry Edible Beans

Acreage May Rise in 2006

According to the USDA's *Prospective Plantings* report, area planted to dry edible beans is expected to rise 3 percent this spring from last year's 1.67 million acres (table 19). Dry bean area is up largely because prices for such dry bean classes as garbanzo, black, and red kidney are more attractive than those for alternative crops like wheat, corn, and soybeans. Acreage is expected to rise or remain stable in 10 of the 18 surveyed States. Since planting does not finish until June in some areas, further adjustments to indicated acreage are likely to take place. The next acreage estimate for dry beans will be released in the June 30 *Acreage* report.

In the late-March *Prospective Plantings* report, a few indicated area intentions were as follows:

- North Dakota, the leading producer of all dry beans (including pinto and navy), indicated a 16-percent increase in area planted to the third highest on record;
- Michigan, the second-leading producer in 2005 and the top source for black beans, plans to reduce seeded area 4 percent;
- Minnesota plans a 21-percent reduction in dry bean area to 115,000 acres—the same area planted in 3 of the past 5 years;
- Colorado indicated a 20-percent decrease in dry bean area for 2006. Compared with the 1990s, Colorado farm receipts from dry beans have dropped 40 percent to an annual average of \$31 million this decade;
- California expects to plant 65,000 acres of dry beans in 2006, down 2 percent from a year ago. Acreage this decade is averaging 40 percent below the average of the 1990s;
- Nebraska, the leading source of Great Northern beans, indicated a 6-percent decline in total 2006 dry bean area. This decade, although average Nebraska dry bean grower prices (unadjusted for inflation) are down 13 percent from the 1990s, revenue per acre is up 12 percent due to improved yields.

Table 17--Dry edible beans: Planted area 1/

Item	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 f	Change
						2005-06 2/
						1,000 acres
						Percent
California	92.0	77.0	60.0	66.0	65.0	-2
Colorado	92.0	80.0	75.0	125.0	100.0	-20
Idaho	95.0	75.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	0
Michigan	270.0	170.0	190.0	235.0	225.0	-4
Minnesota	170.0	115.0	115.0	145.0	115.0	-21
Montana	26.9	13.0	13.0	18.0	18.0	0
Nebraska	185.0	155.0	120.0	175.0	165.0	-6
New York	25.0	25.0	24.0	25.0	25.0	0
North Dakota	790.0	540.0	560.0	620.0	720.0	16
Texas	37.5	50.0	20.0	17.0	15.0	-12
Washington	44.5	27.5	30.0	49.0	70.0	43
Wyoming	32.0	30.0	25.0	34.0	30.0	-12
Others	69.8	48.6	42.3	56.0	62.3	11
U.S.	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,354.3	1,665.0	1,710.3	3

f = Prospective area.

1/ Excludes garden seed.

Source: *Prospective Plantings* and *Crop Production*, NASS, USDA.

Figure 7

U.S. dry bean grower prices: All dry beans and pinto beans, 1990-2006

\$/cwt

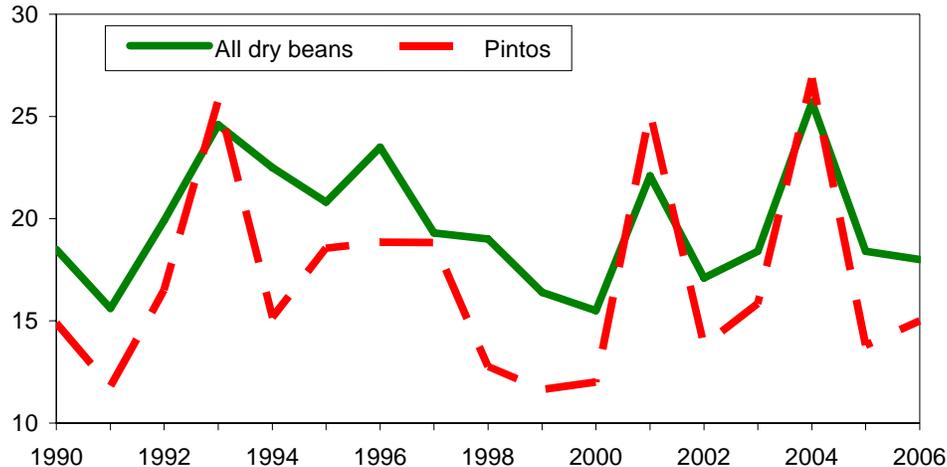
Source: *Agricultural Prices*, NASS, USDA and *Bean Market News*, AMS, USDA.

Table 18--U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2005-2006 1/

Commodity	2005		2006		Chg. prev. year:	
	March	April	March	April 2/	March	April
	--- Cents per pound ---				--- Percent ---	
All dry beans	26.60	28.70	19.50	--	-26.7	--
Pinto (ND/MN)	28.80	25.75	13.50	13.50	-53.1	-47.6
Navy (pea bean) (MI)	26.00	25.88	19.25	19.50	-26.0	-24.7
Great Northern (NE/WY)	17.50	16.50	16.00	17.50	-8.6	6.1
Black (MI)	20.60	19.75	21.88	21.65	6.2	9.6
Light red kidney (MI)	27.50	27.50	21.50	21.50	-21.8	-21.8
Dark red kidney (MN/WI)	26.00	25.00	20.75	21.00	-20.2	-16.0
Baby lima (CA)	39.60	40.00	35.25	35.75	-11.0	-10.6
Large lima (CA)	41.90	42.00	45.25	45.85	8.0	9.2
Blackeye (CA)	28.50	29.50	40.25	47.00	41.2	59.3
Small red (ID)	22.80	22.88	19.50	19.50	-14.5	-14.8
Pink (ID)	22.60	22.50	19.50	19.50	-13.7	-13.3
Cranberry (MI)	25.00	25.00	--	--	--	--

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

Source: *Bean Market News*, AMS, USDA except "all dry beans" from *Agricultural Prices*, NASS, USDA.

The preliminary 2005/06 season-average grower price for all dry beans was estimated at \$18.40 per hundredweight (cwt)—down 28 percent from a year earlier but the same as 2 years ago. The decline in prices this season stems from larger production last fall and the resultant lower prices for a majority of bean classes, including volume leader, pintos. Since pintos account for nearly half of the national dry bean crop, they have the greatest weight in the calculation of the season-average dry bean price. As a result, the season-average all dry bean price generally moves in concert with average pinto grower prices (fig. 6).

At \$13 to \$14 per cwt (upper Midwest origin), grower prices for pintos are now averaging nearly half those of the previous year. With navy bean prices also down by 25 percent (but still relatively attractive compared with other classes), the strength within the dry bean complex remains outside the top two bean classes.

Table 19--U.S. dry edible beans: Estimated per capita disappearance by class

Item	Average					
	1997-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006f
--Pounds/person--						
Pinto	3.41	3.24	3.05	2.76	2.79	3.16
Navy (pea)	1.17	0.90	0.85	0.55	0.68	0.72
Black	0.51	0.46	0.46	0.53	0.50	0.48
Great Northern	0.44	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.31	0.39
Light-red kidney	0.38	0.23	0.34	0.29	0.33	0.34
Garbanzo	0.26	0.28	0.17	0.25	0.30	0.29
Dark-red kidney	0.18	0.26	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.25
Blackeye	0.23	0.18	0.23	0.13	0.16	0.15
Small red	0.16	0.09	0.17	0.16	0.20	0.19
Pink	0.19	0.12	0.22	0.19	0.17	0.20
Large lima	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08
Cranberry	0.13	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07
Baby lima	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.09
Others 1/	0.14	0.41	0.28	0.38	0.38	0.39
All dry beans	7.40	6.75	6.64	5.98	6.26	6.80

f = ERS forecast. Calendar year estimates. Includes net trade.

1/ Includes small white and all others.

Source: Developed by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

Grower prices are running above year-earlier levels for black beans, blackeyes, large lima, garbanzos, and most recently, Great Northern beans.

Per Capita Use Rises

Disappearance of dry edible beans appears to have turned around in 2005. Following two small crops in 2003 and 2004, available supplies improved in 2005, and prices eased. At the same time, consumers have been moving away from fad diets that may have discouraged the consumption of several key dry bean products. With continued support from a burgeoning Hispanic population, 2005 per capita disappearance of dry beans increased 5 percent to nearly 6.3 pounds—reversing a string of five consecutive annual declines in dry bean consumption. Further improvement in domestic dry bean use is expected in 2006 as both prices and supplies remain relatively steady.

In 2005, gains in disappearance were noted for both white (up 8 percent) and nonwhite bean (up 4 percent) classes. White beans (e.g., navy, Great Northern, baby lima) accounted for just 18 percent of all dry beans used domestically, down from 31 percent a decade earlier. Meanwhile, nonwhite beans (e.g., pinto, dark red kidney, black) continue to wrest market share from the white bean classes, led by pinto and black beans. Per capita use of pinto beans totaled 2.8 pounds, up slightly from a year ago but 1 pound below the peak consumption reached in 1992.

Domestic disappearance of navy (pea) beans was also estimated to have regained consumers in 2005 due to improved production and lower exports. Navy bean disappearance is estimated to have increased by nearly one-fourth from the historic low reached in 2004, totaling an estimated 200 million pounds (0.7 pound per person) in 2005. With a smaller crop, dwindling stocks, and higher prices, black bean use declined slightly in 2005 but remained near 0.5 pound per person.

Exports Up 60 Percent

During the first 6 months of the marketing year (September 2005 - February 2006), U.S. exports of dry beans jumped 60 percent from a year earlier to 4.1 million bags (cwt). Among the leading dry bean classes, exports of pintos (up 84 percent), black (up 60 percent), and Great Northern (25 percent) posted increases. Short world supplies and drought in Spain have helped boost exports of garbanzos 182 percent from a year earlier. With higher U.S. prices, exports of large limas and cowpeas declined. Recent interest from Iraq for Great Northern beans will further boost exports, enhance prices for Great Northern beans, and possibly make room for some additional acreage this spring. With merchantable dry bean stocks reportedly low in Mexico due to the drought-shortened spring/summer 2005 crop, export opportunities in Mexico may arise in coming months.

With lower prices and the weaker U.S. dollar, export volume was higher among many of the top export destinations, including Mexico (up 163 percent) and Canada (up 146 percent). U.S. exports to the United Kingdom, Japan, and France (up 48 percent) were also higher. For all dry beans, the September-February 2005/06 average U.S. dry bean export unit value was down 9 percent from the previous year to 27 cents per pound.

Table 20--U.S. dry beans: Crop year export volume to date

Item	Crop year 2004/05	September - February		Change 2004-05	
		2003/04	2004/05		2005/06
		1,000 cwt		Percent	
Pinto	1,188	1,165	669	1,233	84
Navy	1,005	752	601	689	15
Black	605	492	216	346	60
Great Northern	370	323	267	332	25
Light red kidney	56	36	29	76	161
Dark red kidney	166	118	99	157	59
Small red	137	146	57	106	88
Garbanzo	227	57	111	282	154
Baby lima	131	107	104	127	22
Large lima	128	51	100	99	-1
Blackeyes	56	15	26	23	-12
Cranberry	45	62	25	52	108
Other	564	308	230	528	129
Total	4,679	3,633	2,533	4,051	60

Source: U.S. trade data from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 21--U.S. dry bean crop year export volume to date, by selected destination

Destination	September - February			Change 2004-05	
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05		2005/06
		--1,000 cwt--		Percent	
Mexico	731	613	380	999	163
Canada	296	203	191	470	146
United Kingdom	356	235	310	410	32
Dominican Republic	124	337	106	357	237
Japan	182	169	190	181	-5
Haiti	131	217	147	243	65
Other	1,566	2,076	1,356	1,634	20
Total	3,385	3,633	2,533	4,051	60

Source: U.S. trade data from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Commodity Highlight: Cauliflower

The United States produces 2 percent of the world's cauliflower, ranking sixth behind China, India, Italy, Spain, and France. 1/ As with most vegetables, output of cauliflower in China has been rising steadily over the past decade, moving from 27 percent of world output in 1991-95 to 44 percent of production during 2001-05. During this time, India's production rose much more slowly and as a result, its share of the world market fell from 34 to 30 percent. Thanks to growth in China, world cauliflower output has jumped 51 percent over the past decade. However, excluding China, world output has only moved 17 percent higher and has declined in the United States.

Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea var. botrytis*), a cool season cruciferous vegetable (cole crop), is a member of the same family that features broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts, and kale. Although most cauliflower sold in the United States have white or cream colored heads (known as "curds"), colors such as green (as in brocoverde or broccoflower), purple, orange, and chartreuse are also produced. Miniature cauliflower (smaller versions of the same varieties) can also be found in specialty produce stores. To produce the white curds favored in the United States, cauliflower heads are protected from sunlight (which can also affect flavor) by tying a few leaves over the curd. So-called "self-blanching" varieties have leaves that curl naturally over the heads. The curd of green cauliflower varieties does not generally require protection from sunlight.

The word cauliflower was derived from the Latin *caulis* (which means stalk) and *floris* (meaning flower). The exact origin of cauliflower is debatable but it is thought to have originated in Asia and/or the Mediterranean. Cauliflower was one of the many crops planted by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. It was known in the United States in the late 1800s (and was referred to by Mark Twain 2/) but it did not become a commercial crop until the early 1900s (1920 acc to Dole) when it was grown in California.

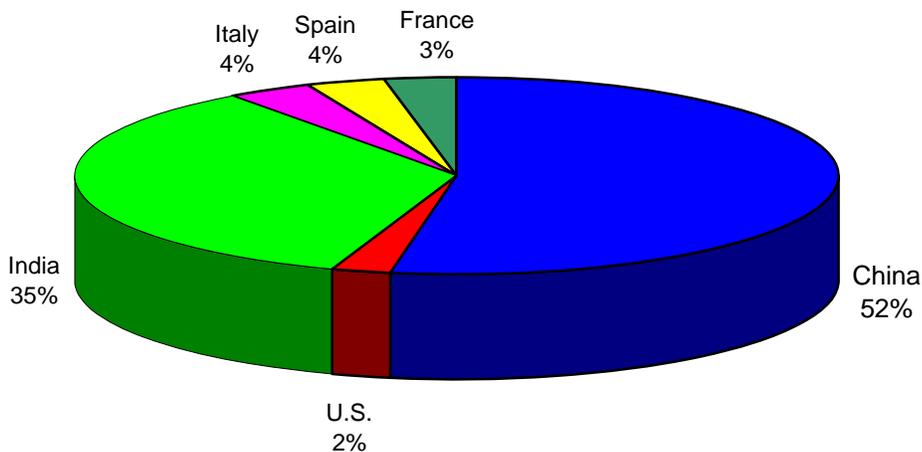
More than 90 percent of U.S. cauliflower is produced for the fresh market with the remainder used for processing (largely frozen products with a smaller amount used for pickling). U.S. production declined over the past decade due to increased

1/ FAOStat database (4/2006), Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations.

2/ In his 1894 novel "*The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins*", one of the characters in Mark Twain's book referred to cauliflower as "...nothing but cabbage with a college education".

Figure 8

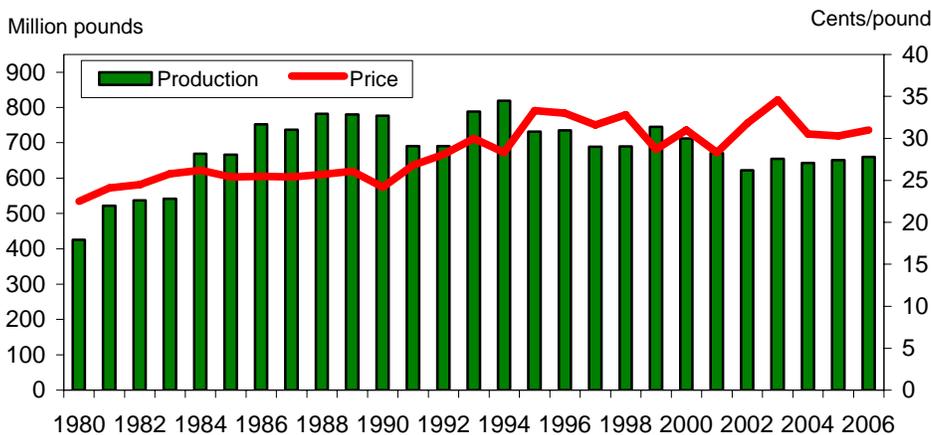
World cauliflower: Share of production, average 2003-05



Source: Prepared by ERS from FAOStat, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations.

Figure 9

U.S. cauliflower: Production and average grower price 1/



1/ Includes fresh and processing. Prices not adjusted for inflation.
 Source: *Vegetables Summary*, NASS, USDA and ERS forecasts for 2006.

imports of processed product and waning demand for fresh and frozen cauliflower. Between 1993-95 and 2003-05, average domestic output of cauliflower for processing declined 61 percent, while fresh market production fell 8 percent.

According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture (census), 10 percent of the 1,032 farms reporting cauliflower acreage accounted for 87 percent of cauliflower harvested area. These same farms each harvested at least 100 acres of cauliflower. Another 6 percent of acreage is on farms that harvested between 50 and 100 acres of the crop. About 90 percent of fresh-market cauliflower is produced by farms harvesting at least 100 acres of cauliflower, while only 55 percent for processing came from farms with 100 acres or more of cauliflower.

California is the Leading Source

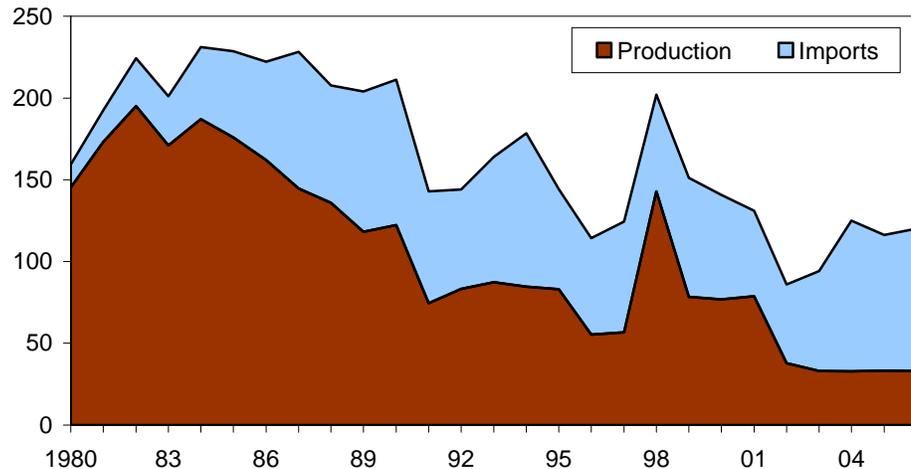
California is the leading producer of cauliflower for fresh market and processing uses. According to the census, 256 California farms harvested 35,494 acres of cauliflower for all uses in 2002. About 96 percent of this acreage was used for fresh-market production. Harvested area in California was down 5 percent from 1997. According to data from USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, average California acreage during 2003-05 was also well below the 1986 peak of 53,000 acres, when demand for most fresh-market and frozen vegetables was strong. Most California cauliflower is produced from greenhouse-grown transplants, rather than from field-sown seed. All cauliflower is hand-harvested, with harvest crews making several passes through fields during harvest periods which feature attractive prices. California ships fresh cauliflower year round, with volume peaking during spring and early fall.

Cauliflower production in California accounted for 84 percent of the U.S. total during 2003-05. Production takes place primarily along the Central and South Coastal areas (which can produce 2-3 crops annually), with smaller volumes coming from the Desert and the San Joaquin Valley. According to the California County Agricultural Commissioners, Monterey County was the top producer of cauliflower in the State with about half of the crop, followed by Santa Barbara County with one-fourth of production, and San Luis Obispo County with about a

Figure 10

U.S. cauliflower for freezing: Production and imports, 1980-2006

Mil. pounds



Source: *Vegetables Summary*, NASS, USDA and U.S. trade from Bureau of the Census, USDC.

10th of production. During 2003-05, the farm value of the California cauliflower crop averaged \$171 million—down 4 percent from a decade earlier due to smaller production.

Arizona is the second leading producer of cauliflower, with 18 farms reporting 4,632 acres in the 2002 census—one-third more area than in 1997. Most of the State’s crop moves into the fresh market and is largely produced in Yuma County, with lesser acreage in La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties. Arizona ships cauliflower from November to early April with volume peaking in January. During 2003-05, the farm value of cauliflower in Arizona averaged \$34 million.

Oregon is a distant third in the production of cauliflower, with the majority of the crop used in processed (largely frozen) products. Cauliflower acreage has been trending lower in Oregon. In 2002, 94 farms harvested 1,748 acres—23 percent fewer acres than in 1997 and half the acreage harvested in 1987. Marion County harvested two-thirds of the cauliflower acreage in 2002.

Prices Little Changed Over Past Decade

Shipping-point prices for fresh-market cauliflower (unadjusted for inflation) have crept higher over the past two decades. During 2003-05, farm prices for cauliflower averaged 32.1 cents per pound, just 2 percent higher than the 1993-95 average and 4 percent above the 1983-85 value. After adjusting for inflation, fresh cauliflower prices have dropped 36 percent since 1983-85. Retail prices are not reported for cauliflower.

In the frozen market, the majority of cauliflower is grown under contract. Despite contraction in the number of processors over the past two decades and weaker demand for cauliflower, contract prices paid by processors have risen. Prices received by growers at the processing plant door for cauliflower averaged 24.2 cents per pound in 2003-05—up 7 percent since 1993-95 but 86 percent higher than the 1983-85 average. Unlike such processing crops as sweet corn and snap beans, cauliflower for processing is still harvested by hand, which means the cost of

production differential from the fresh market is not as large as for other mechanically-harvested processing vegetables.

Why the jump in processing prices for cauliflower between the 1980s and the 1990s? One possible explanation suggests that waning cauliflower demand by processors since the late 1980s may have actually contributed to higher prices. Cauliflower is considered a “dual use crop”—meaning the same product can be used for either the fresh or processing markets. Until the late 1980s when the domestic processing industry began to shrink, Western cauliflower growers may have routinely over planted, knowing excess product could be sold (at a substantial discount) to processors. This ready supply from the larger fresh-market sector prevented processing door prices from rising. As processing firms closed, leaving a shrinking domestic processing industry, growers began to plant for the market at hand, reducing the supply and forcing the remaining processors to offer more lucrative prices to obtain contract supplies for processing. As a result, between 1989 and 1991, the grower price offered by processors jumped by more than half and basically remains at that level today (limited by weak consumer demand and import pressure). The average processing price for cauliflower has been discounted from the fresh market price by about 25 percent since the early 1990s, compared with a 55 percent discount in the 1970s and 1980s.

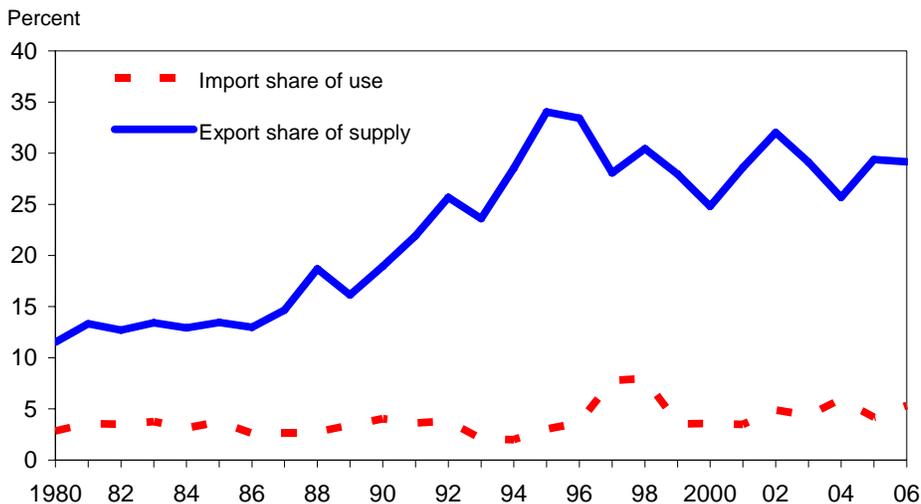
Fresh Exports Are Key to the Industry

The U.S. exported 28 percent of its fresh cauliflower supplies during 2003-05—about the same as 1993-95. In 2005, the United States exported 187 million pounds of fresh-market cauliflower valued at \$64 million. Average export volume during 2003-05 was 8 percent less than in 1993-95 but 3 times greater than in 1983-85, reflecting increased Canadian demand. The top markets in 2005 included Canada (72 percent of export volume) and Japan (14 percent). Export data are not available for processed products.

Imports of fresh-market cauliflower are relatively low, accounting for 5 percent of domestic use during 2003-05—double the 1993-95 import share. During 2003-05,

Figure 11

U.S. fresh-market cauliflower: Trade shares of the domestic market



Source: Estimated by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

the United States imported an average of 23 million pounds of fresh-market cauliflower valued at \$6 million. This was twice the volume of 1993-95 and 64 percent larger than in 1983-85. The top import sources in 2005 were Canada (73 percent) and Mexico (23 percent). U.S. import volume peaks during the summer when Canada's crop is in season.

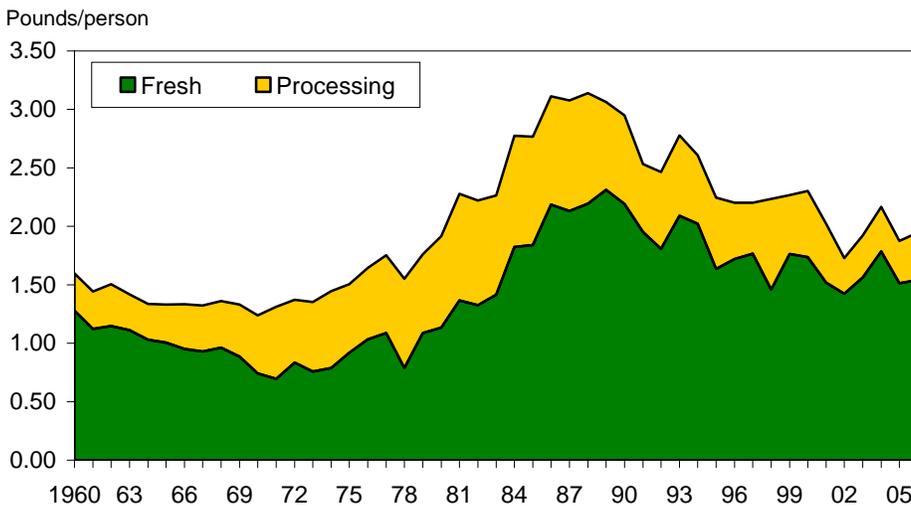
Similar to frozen broccoli florets, preparing cauliflower florets for freezing can be a labor intensive process. As a result, when processors decided to move production to Mexico (and later to Guatemala) to take advantage of lower labor costs in the late 1980s, U.S. imports of frozen cauliflower began to surge. During 2003-05, the United States imported an average of 55 million pounds of frozen cauliflower valued at \$21 million. This was just 2 percent more than in 1993-95 but 86 percent larger than in 1983-85. The top sources for frozen imports in 2005 include Mexico (76 percent) and Guatemala (11 percent).

Demand Soft and Unsteady

Most cauliflower produced domestically is sold fresh or frozen, with fresh-market production accounting for 95 percent of the U.S. crop. Fresh-market cauliflower also includes value-added fresh-cut and prepared products such as bagged florets and mixes with other products. Limited quantities of cauliflower are also used in pickled products and for various dehydrated products (e.g., powders, soup mixes, freeze-dried).

Domestic use of fresh-market cauliflower averaged 476 million pounds during 2003-05. After peaking in 1989 at 2.31 pounds, per capita consumption has been trending lower. Fresh consumption averaged 1.62 pounds in 2003-05, down 15 percent from the 1993-95 average. Domestic use of frozen cauliflower (expressed on a fresh-weight basis) averaged 108 million pounds during 2003-05—down 35 percent from 1993-95 and one-half that of 1983-85. On a per capita basis, use of cauliflower for frozen products averaged 0.37 pound in 2003-05 compared with 0.63 pound in 1993-95 and 0.91 pound in 1983-85.

Figure 12
U.S. cauliflower: Annual per capita disappearance, 1960-2006



Source: Developed by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

Contacts and Links

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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. *Fruit and Vegetable Backgrounder*

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

Fruit and Vegetable Backgrounder describes the economic characteristics of the U.S. fruit and vegetable industry, providing supply, demand, and policy background for an industry that accounts for nearly a third of U.S. crop cash receipts and a fifth of U.S. agricultural exports. A variety of challenges face this complex and diverse industry in both domestic and international markets, ranging from immigration reform and its effects on labor availability, to international competitiveness.

2. *Greenhouse Tomatoes Change the Dynamics of the North American Fresh Tomato Industry*

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR2/>

The North American greenhouse tomato industry has grown rapidly since the early 1990s and now plays a major role in the fresh tomato industry. However, relatively little is known about this new industry, in part because of the lack of reliable production, trade, and price data. Both analysts and industry members will benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the rising greenhouse industry and its effect on the entire fresh field tomato sector.

3. *Understanding Fruit and Vegetable Choices—Research Briefs*

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib792/>

USDA's Food Guide Pyramid recommends 2-4 servings of fruit and 3-5 servings of vegetables daily. As a member of the 5-A-Day public-private partnership, USDA partners with other government agencies and private sector groups to promote the health benefits of fruits and vegetables. Yet consumption of these healthful foods still does not meet dietary recommendations. How can we better understand the reasons for the persistent difficulty in increasing produce consumption? This series of research briefs provides information on the economic, social, and behavioral factors influencing consumers' fruit and vegetable choices.

E-mail Notification

Readers of ERS outlook reports have two ways to 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/ess_netid.html 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.

4. Price Premiums Hold on as U.S. Organic Produce Market Expands

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/vgs/may05/VGS30801/>

Price premiums for organic products have contributed to growth in certified organic farmland and, ultimately, market expansion. This article explores price premiums and market margins for a limited set of fresh organic produce items, including carrots, broccoli, and mesclun mix.

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 use (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. Vegetables and Melons: ERS' Vegetables and Melons Briefing Room contains special articles, data, and links.

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

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

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

C. Tomatoes: ERS' Tomato Briefing Room contains special articles, data, and links.

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

D. Dry Beans: 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.ams.usda.gov/fv/mnacs/index.htm>

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

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/fruit/pvg-bb/>

G. FAS, HTP: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service's Horticultural and Tropical Products web site.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/http/default.htm>

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

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

I. Truck Rate Report: USDA, AMS weekly report on cost of shipping by trailer truck.

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/wa_fv190.txt

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Price table 1—Commercial vegetables and potatoes: Indexes of prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 1995-2006 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
--1910-14=100--														
Commercial vegetables 2/	1995	803	772	989	1,161	1,037	808	653	680	781	651	658	678	806
	1996	631	742	986	818	691	774	661	775	679	727	747	643	740
	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	769	808
	2001	810	980	923	916	964	805	837	968	894	688	731	1,144	888
	2002	1,054	1,283	1,816	803	770	731	771	807	795	704	735	694	914
	2003	752	755	824	865	924	1,015	797	920	964	955	1,041	1,171	915
	2004	842	960	770	879	749	742	830	886	899	1,065	1,110	805	878
	2005	635	805	1,095	1,225	894	938	761	798	881	764	787	1,128	893
2006	874	835	942											
Potatoes 3/	1995	466	450	484	505	529	612	729	586	497	539	548	547	541
	1996	564	589	633	668	696	707	700	521	482	461	452	434	576
	1997	426	431	433	433	477	431	499	544	440	433	457	477	457
	1998	491	524	554	546	559	539	517	481	449	415	450	475	500
	1999	489	497	520	546	532	557	610	517	451	429	474	463	507
	2000	475	496	519	545	529	511	559	464	406	384	383	395	472
	2001	409	450	437	466	453	486	532	632	516	461	538	578	497
	2002	620	645	715	699	748	806	884	651	520	466	524	547	652
	2003	533	554	567	592	590	559	570	483	458	443	479	493	527
	2004	488	504	530	568	558	558	552	485	492	450	486	510	515
	2005	531	533	560	564	616	675	743	591	524	484	537	584	579
2006	596	578	622											
--1990-92=100--														
Commercial vegetables 2/	1995	120	116	148	174	155	121	98	102	117	97	98	101	121
	1996	94	111	147	122	103	116	99	116	102	109	112	96	111
	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	107	136	131	117	119	129	143	125	144	115	121
	2001	121	147	138	137	144	120	125	145	134	103	109	171	133
	2002	158	192	272	120	115	109	115	121	119	105	110	104	137
	2003	112	113	123	129	138	152	119	138	144	143	156	175	137
	2004	126	144	115	131	112	111	124	133	134	159	166	121	131
	2005	95	121	164	183	134	140	114	119	132	114	118	169	134
2006	131	124	141											
Potatoes 3/	1995	92	89	96	100	105	121	144	116	98	106	108	108	107
	1996	111	116	125	132	138	140	138	103	95	91	89	86	114
	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	96	97	89	96	101	102
	2005	105	105	111	111	122	133	147	117	104	96	106	115	114
2006	118	123	138											

1/ Prices for 2006 are preliminary. 2/ Includes fresh and processing vegetables. 3/ Includes fresh potatoes and dry edible beans.

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

Price table 4—Vegetables: Consumer Price Indexes, by month, 1999-2006 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
--1982-84=100--														
Fresh vegetables 2/	1999	224.5	209.8	209.2	206.2	207.7	203.1	206.0	204.8	208.0	208.9	209.1	214.0	209.3
	2000	223.0	211.0	212.1	213.6	219.1	217.7	216.7	217.3	218.9	218.6	224.6	240.2	219.4
	2001	235.9	240.6	238.2	232.6	226.2	226.4	226.3	224.9	228.2	229.1	228.6	230.4	230.6
	2002	251.6	258.1	265.3	255.9	238.6	239.3	241.8	238.9	236.1	233.5	240.6	245.2	245.4
	2003	253.7	250.9	250.7	244.3	246.3	250.5	248.3	245.4	247.2	251.2	253.5	263.8	250.5
	2004	265.2	262.8	261.3	251.7	251.0	247.2	244.6	245.6	248.4	270.7	291.0	295.1	261.2
	2005	271.0	263.2	267.0	280.1	280.6	266.9	268.5	261.0	265.6	274.1	274.6	288.3	271.7
2006	300.6	289.7	279.7											
Potatoes, fresh	1999	184.5	184.0	185.9	183.3	191.5	194.7	205.0	212.1	204.6	194.8	186.1	190.7	193.1
	2000	196.6	198.1	197.9	194.9	200.4	201.7	208.3	210.7	195.4	191.5	181.2	179.4	196.3
	2001	186.6	186.8	189.3	187.0	192.2	205.0	213.4	224.5	218.3	216.3	203.4	205.2	202.3
	2002	213.4	225.7	230.2	244.1	248.0	253.4	260.7	263.8	246.4	232.0	221.8	222.2	238.5
	2003	230.6	226.9	227.5	225.0	231.9	231.4	235.1	238.8	233.8	223.7	217.7	214.5	228.1
	2004	228.2	226.0	230.5	224.3	229.0	237.4	240.7	238.9	228.5	232.0	226.9	230.5	231.1
	2005	237.5	235.8	228.3	235.0	239.1	246.7	256.7	263.8	258.6	265.8	253.5	251.7	247.7
2006	261.1	264.7	264.6											
Lettuce, fresh	1999	207.9	200.6	217.0	213.4	207.7	198.5	196.0	202.0	208.5	218.5	216.6	212.7	208.3
	2000	229.3	203.9	210.0	209.4	234.0	211.1	207.8	213.1	262.7	235.5	238.5	281.6	228.1
	2001	233.3	249.6	245.7	227.3	243.5	215.1	211.7	226.5	254.1	238.5	228.6	231.6	233.8
	2002	272.0	301.9	398.0	299.6	219.7	213.1	215.1	213.4	221.9	226.9	229.0	218.5	252.1
	2003	223.8	219.7	222.9	227.4	253.1	266.0	243.1	226.1	260.9	250.2	259.4	301.8	246.2
	2004	271.7	245.8	242.3	232.1	224.1	221.7	219.8	228.4	229.2	236.2	249.0	276.9	239.8
	2005	258.3	237.9	253.5	287.5	271.6	257.6	247.7	247.4	249.4	258.4	258.7	260.0	257.3
2006	260.8	258.0	254.2											
Tomatoes, fresh	1999	299.8	239.9	224.6	215.7	214.3	213.8	218.6	198.9	208.2	208.4	213.8	233.4	224.1
	2000	237.0	214.0	224.4	239.6	226.8	221.4	216.6	217.5	224.8	234.3	273.7	285.9	234.7
	2001	272.7	260.3	259.5	273.8	234.0	247.8	235.5	225.0	222.6	238.1	266.3	264.2	250.0
	2002	279.1	256.9	255.7	262.4	244.5	242.2	238.9	230.1	224.6	232.3	256.5	288.5	251.0
	2003	299.5	275.3	285.2	272.0	244.2	252.9	262.6	271.5	262.7	261.2	281.0	284.2	271.0
	2004	283.2	282.8	285.0	274.4	272.3	252.9	243.5	249.5	253.8	316.3	422.7	425.0	296.8
	2005	309.6	274.8	297.1	310.6	333.6	293.0	287.3	267.6	273.5	297.2	299.0	342.3	298.8
2006	393.1	354.7	311.5											
Other, fresh	1999	223.6	215.1	214.2	212.8	214.2	206.2	206.7	206.3	211.0	214.6	217.2	219.8	213.5
	2000	230.1	218.9	216.6	216.1	222.9	226.7	224.2	222.9	218.5	223.0	225.9	243.4	224.1
	2001	247.4	256.7	252.1	241.9	235.7	233.4	234.3	226.7	230.1	231.4	229.4	232.2	237.6
	2002	256.0	264.8	253.5	251.8	242.1	243.9	246.8	243.4	244.2	241.8	249.6	250.1	249.0
	2003	258.7	264.1	259.2	250.7	255.6	257.9	254.2	248.1	248.0	263.9	260.9	271.0	257.7
	2004	276.2	279.0	274.2	263.7	263.0	259.8	257.1	255.3	263.5	282.8	283.5	282.5	270.1
	2005	277.9	280.8	279.4	289.9	284.8	272.2	276.0	265.2	274.0	277.4	282.7	295.2	279.6
2006	298.2	289.6	285.8											
Frozen vegetables	1999	154.1	153.2	151.8	152.0	154.2	151.9	153.7	155.2	155.2	155.6	153.9	154.3	153.8
	2000	156.8	155.7	154.7	155.0	157.6	157.4	157.6	159.9	160.2	161.1	157.3	159.1	157.7
	2001	162.0	164.5	162.5	164.4	166.2	166.9	169.0	166.6	168.3	169.8	168.3	168.8	166.4
	2002	172.7	172.8	168.8	169.9	169.9	171.5	173.8	171.4	172.1	171.7	169.4	168.6	171.1
	2003	169.0	171.0	170.6	169.0	172.7	174.4	174.2	176.0	175.0	171.9	173.0	173.2	172.5
	2004	176.3	177.6	174.9	173.5	176.9	174.5	177.0	178.1	177.6	177.5	173.8	171.4	175.8
	2005	177.0	176.3	174.7	177.2	178.6	176.5	180.2	177.7	181.5	179.1	176.8	177.5	177.8
2006	179.4	182.9	179.7											
--December 1997=100--														
Processed fruits and vegetables	1999	104.1	103.8	103.6	103.5	104.9	104.5	105.6	105.7	104.6	105.5	104.4	103.4	104.5
	2000	105.4	105.2	105.0	104.3	105.7	105.9	106.2	106.7	105.9	106.6	104.5	105.3	105.6
	2001	108.1	107.8	107.1	106.9	108.2	109.1	109.9	110.2	110.0	110.5	109.7	110.1	109.0
	2002	112.6	113.0	111.5	112.6	113.4	112.5	114.0	114.3	114.1	113.6	111.7	113.3	113.1
	2003	113.0	113.7	113.6	112.0	115.3	115.5	115.6	116.1	114.4	114.6	113.0	112.4	114.1
	2004	115.1	115.4	115.4	114.2	115.9	115.3	116.6	117.2	115.6	116.2	115.0	114.2	115.5
	2005	117.9	117.1	116.3	118.8	119.3	119.7	121.3	120.6	121.2	120.6	118.8	120.3	119.3
2006	121.8	122.5	122.4											
Canned vegetables	1999	106.7	105.5	104.7	104.7	106.5	106.1	107.6	107.2	105.8	107.3	105.4	103.6	105.9
	2000	107.0	106.9	105.2	105.6	107.6	108.6	107.5	107.3	107.0	108.4	104.5	105.7	106.8
	2001	110.9	108.8	107.6	107.9	108.5	111.2	111.3	113.3	112.6	112.9	111.3	113.7	110.8
	2002	115.7	115.6	114.0	117.0	117.2	114.5	117.1	117.7	116.7	115.2	112.5	116.1	115.8
	2003	114.2	115.0	115.9	114.8	118.2	116.7	117.9	118.6	115.8	115.3	114.9	112.2	115.8
	2004	116.1	116.0	115.7	115.8	118.0	116.9	118.3	119.7	117.0	117.7	115.9	116.5	117.0
	2005	119.3	117.5	117.9	120.5	121.0	121.0	125.6	125.5	124.8	126.0	121.9	124.4	122.1
2006	124.8	125.0	126.6											
Dried beans, peas, lentils	1999	101.3	101.8	102.2	101.4	101.7	102.2	101.3	101.2	100.1	100.0	100.5	98.4	101.0
	2000	99.9	99.5	99.2	98.3	97.6	99.1	99.4	99.1	100.2	100.1	100.4	99.0	99.3
	2001	99.0	99.1	98.9	97.7	99.7	99.5	99.6	99.9	99.5	100.0	102.0	103.6	99.9
	2002	102.1	105.5	107.5	110.1	111.0	112.0	110.2	110.8	111.7	111.0	111.3	110.1	109.4
	2003	109.8	109.1	108.9	109.6	108.3	109.1	109.3	108.9	109.3	109.4	109.2	108.9	109.2
	2004	108.6	109.9	110.6	110.0	109.4	110.2	110.1	110.7	108.3	111.2	111.9	113.8	110.4
	2005	115.2	116.0	116.4	118.4	117.5	118.3	118.3	118.1	118.3	118.7	118.9	116.6	117.6
2006	117.2	117.3	117.1											

1/ Not seasonally adjusted. 2/ Includes potatoes.

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

Price table 5—Fresh-market vegetables: U.S. average retail prices, by month, 1996-2006

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Change from yr
															earlier, Mar.- Mar.
															Percent
--Cents/pound --															
Potatoes, white	1996	38.5	38.5	39.2	39.4	39.2	40.1	40.8	40.3	37.5	35.9	34.3	33.5	38.1	--
	1997	33.5	33.1	33.0	33.5	33.8	34.5	36.7	38.8	38.8	37.4	36.6	37.0	35.6	-15.8
	1998	36.2	36.2	36.8	36.9	38.1	39.0	39.2	38.2	37.6	37.9	37.0	37.5	37.6	11.5
	1999	38.1	38.2	38.4	38.0	38.8	39.1	41.1	42.9	41.3	39.3	38.4	39.5	39.4	4.3
	2000	39.2	40.1	39.3	38.8	37.9	37.6	39.0	40.0	37.4	36.7	35.1	34.7	38.0	2.3
	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	-9.4
	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	30.6
	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	-0.4
	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	-0.9
	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	-4.1
2006	50.4	51.7	51.7											17.5	
Broccoli	1996	103.7	92.6	99.9	94.1	87.4	95.5	97.1	78.8	84.3	80.1	92.4	86.2	91.0	--
	1997	109.8	115.6	103.2	92.2	88.6	92.1	96.8	90.5	90.3	104.0	100.3	92.6	98.0	3.3
	1998	137.9	106.6	112.2	111.4	123.8	108.7	107.6	103.0	101.4	104.0	101.6	97.4	109.6	8.7
	1999	112.3	99.9	99.0	101.2	95.2	94.4	99.3	96.2	105.2	102.8	100.1	100.4	100.5	-11.8
	2000	118.2	98.9	106.9	101.3	117.4	123.6	113.9	112.0	105.2	108.0	108.5	151.8	113.8	8.0
	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	1.3
	2002	137.4	168.1	114.7	120.4	103.6	109.3	111.9	113.5	124.7	107.3	116.5	105.2	119.4	5.9
	2003	112.2	110.1	119.9	113.9	115.1	112.7	113.3	109.3	130.3	135.8	131.2	135.6	120.0	4.5
	2004	131.9	121.6	112.5	102.2	110.7	106.0	106.9	106.7	120.8	139.9	133.5	141.4	119.5	-6.2
	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	17.2
2006	135.5	149.3	135.8											3.0	
Lettuce, iceberg	1996	76.9	58.7	64.7	64.6	61.3	67.2	62.7	61.5	59.5	63.4	74.6	62.2	64.8	--
	1997	65.1	59.4	61.4	66.6	59.8	59.3	64.9	69.4	73.7	82.3	101.0	69.9	69.4	-5.1
	1998	107.2	64.3	69.5	83.7	87.7	71.1	69.2	68.6	71.0	75.7	76.5	63.5	75.7	13.2
	1999	64.9	65.8	77.4	75.3	69.1	65.2	62.7	65.2	62.3	66.9	67.7	66.8	67.4	11.4
	2000	74.8	65.0	67.1	65.0	80.3	68.6	65.6	67.3	89.7	77.2	77.4	85.1	73.6	-13.3
	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	33.4
	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	72.3
	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	-57.5
	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	24.1
	2005	81.7	73.0	82.9	100.4	92.6	89.5	88.5	85.5	84.8	92.6	87.3	85.4	87.0	2.0
2006	87.4	79.4	81.5											-1.7	
Tomatoes, field grown	1996	110.3	108.4	146.7	186.7	137.9	112.7	103.1	100.6	98.0	108.4	118.2	121.0	121.0	--
	1997	121.3	131.4	165.4	134.8	117.5	130.0	114.1	113.0	109.1	116.2	137.0	161.7	129.3	12.7
	1998	145.2	135.6	151.5	139.8	147.2	139.3	151.5	131.2	124.1	157.3	168.9	179.8	147.6	-8.4
	1999	190.4	147.6	139.5	129.8	128.4	130.4	128.7	123.2	127.2	127.9	130.0	140.5	137.0	-7.9
	2000	144.3	128.6	136.4	148.7	136.6	131.8	128.2	126.2	131.9	138.7	150.3	156.7	138.2	-2.2
	2001	141.4	131.3	133.6	143.3	124.3	135.6	125.7	118.5	116.8	126.7	146.8	140.4	132.0	-2.1
	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	-3.3
	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	25.3
	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	-5.6
	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	1.2
2006	216.2	191.0	164.9											6.5	
Lettuce, romaine 1/	2006	134.1	140.5	138.3											--

1/ Romaine data was first reported by BLS in January 2006.

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

Price table 6—Representative wholesale prices for selected fresh-market vegetables and melons in Chicago, 2005-06

Commodity	Shipping point 1/	Shipping container	2005											2006				
			Jan 4	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 2	June 1	July 1	Aug 1	Sep 1	Oct 3	Nov 1	Dec 5	Jan 3	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 3
Artichokes	CA	Carton, 24s	38.00	38.00	14.00	23.00	26.00	28.00	21.75	15.00	27.00	23.00	21.00	18.00	33.00	27.00	23.00	29.00
Beans, round green, machine-pick	FL, GA, MI	Bushel cartons	26.00	31.00	17.50	11.00	34.00	19.00	18.50	24.00	29.00	24.00	21.00	45.50	15.00	19.00	20.00	25.00
Beets, medium	TX, IL, CA	25 lb sacks/filmbags	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	7.25	7.75	9.00	8.50	8.50	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00	10.00	10.00
Bok choy	CA, FL	30 lb cartons	16.50	17.00	20.00	24.50	20.00	14.50	13.00	13.00	13.00	11.00	21.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.00	11.00
Brussels sprouts	CA, MX	25 lb cartons	20.00	17.00	32.00	32.50	--	45.50	42.00	29.00	16.00	22.00	19.00	23.00	16.50	17.00	17.00	25.50
Cabbage, round-green, medium	NY, GA	50 lb cartons	10.50	7.25	8.00	8.25	13.50	8.50	10.75	8.00	10.25	11.00	13.00	10.50	12.00	8.75	8.75	9.50
Chinese cabbage (Napa)	CA	30 lb cartons	12.75	13.00	13.00	24.50	16.00	14.50	16.00	13.00	14.50	13.00	12.00	12.50	12.00	11.00	14.50	14.50
Carrots, baby peeled	CA	Carton, 24-1 lb filmbag	17.00	17.00	16.00	16.75	16.75	17.00	17.25	16.50	17.00	17.00	17.00	15.75	16.50	16.00	16.25	14.50
Eggplant, medium	FL, NJ, MX	1 1/9 bushel cartons	14.00	12.50	15.50	17.50	24.00	12.50	12.00	11.50	9.50	11.00	11.00	14.00	16.00	9.50	13.00	17.00
Garlic, white colossal	CA, MX	30 lb cartons	39.00	38.00	37.00	37.00	38.00	39.00	38.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	40.00	38.00	40.00	38.00	37.50	37.50
Greens, kale	CA	Carton, 24s	11.00	10.00	10.00	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.75	9.25	11.50	11.50	10.50	12.00	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50
Greens, kohlrabi	CA, TX	Carton, 12s/24s	17.50	17.25	16.50	18.50	21.50	24.00	24.00	18.00	18.00	28.00	15.00	19.50	19.00	19.50	18.50	18.50
Greens, turnip tops	GA, IL	Carton, 24s	10.50	10.50	11.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	9.50	9.25	12.00	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.75	9.75	9.50	9.75
Greens, mustard	CA	Carton, 24s	10.50	10.50	11.00	9.50	18.00	11.00	9.50	9.25	12.00	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.75	9.75	9.50	9.75
Greens, collards	GA, CA	Carton, 24s	10.50	10.50	11.00	9.50	10.00	9.75	11.00	9.25	12.00	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.75	9.75	9.50	9.75
Leeks	CA, IL, MX	Carton, bunched 12s	15.00	14.50	12.50	11.50	13.50	13.50	26.00	17.00	17.50	21.00	22.50	20.50	24.50	18.00	14.00	19.00
Lettuce, Boston	CA	Carton, 24s	11.00	10.00	12.00	19.00	25.50	12.00	9.50	9.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	9.50	11.00	11.00
Lettuce, Romaine	CA	Carton, 24s	12.50	11.50	11.50	23.00	15.50	15.50	12.25	12.50	12.50	11.00	11.50	12.00	12.50	10.50	13.00	13.50
Mushrooms, button, large	PA	10 lb carton	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Mushrooms, shiitake	PA	5 lb carton	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Mushrooms, oyster	PA	5 lb carton	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50
Mushrooms, cremini, medium	PA	10 lb carton	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
Mushrooms, portobellas, lrg	PA	5 lb carton	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Okra, small-medium	FL, MX	1/2 bushel carton	24.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	29.00	14.50	18.00	15.00	15.00	11.50	27.00	29.00	20.00	27.00	19.00	9.50
Onions, green	CA, MX	Carton, bunched 48s	26.00	13.50	18.00	27.00	9.50	9.50	10.50	12.75	14.00	10.25	12.00	12.25	12.50	10.50	9.50	13.00
Parsley, curly	CA	Cartons, bunched 60s	16.50	13.00	12.00	13.00	16.50	14.50	16.00	15.00	16.00	14.00	14.00	20.50	16.00	13.00	12.00	13.00
Peas, snow	CA, GU	10 lb carton	11.50	16.50	9.00	13.50	11.50	23.00	19.35	26.00	10.00	13.50	11.00	13.00	10.00	10.75	10.00	12.50
Peas, sugar snap	CA, GU	10 lb carton	16.50	11.00	8.00	17.00	22.00	16.00	21.00	17.00	24.00	16.00	12.50	13.00	20.00	11.00	10.00	14.00
Peppers, green bell, large	FL, CA	1 1/9 bushel carton	12.00	8.50	8.50	12.00	13.00	13.50	13.00	8.00	8.50	14.00	24.50	17.00	23.00	8.50	12.50	9.00
Peppers, jalapeno, medium	FL, GA, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	13.50	15.00	10.00	14.00	15.00	13.00	7.25	9.50	8.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	19.00	18.00	16.00	16.00
Radishes	FL, MI	Carton, 30-6oz filmbag	7.75	7.75	7.75	13.00	9.75	10.50	8.50	8.00	7.75	6.75	7.75	13.00	14.00	8.75	9.00	7.50
Spinach	CA	Cartons, bunched 24s	13.00	11.50	11.00	19.00	21.00	12.75	11.50	17.00	14.50	14.00	11.50	10.50	16.00	12.50	13.00	14.50
Squash, zucchini, medium	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	14.25	11.00	8.50	9.50	11.00	9.00	5.00	7.00	10.25	7.00	8.00	11.00	10.00	14.50	9.00	11.50
Squash, yellow straightneck, med.	FL, NJ, MI	1/2 & 5/9 bushel crates	20.00	10.00	12.00	24.00	13.50	14.50	6.00	8.00	12.00	6.50	10.00	30.50	13.00	15.00	16.50	13.50
Sweet potatoes, US #1, Beauregard	LA	40 lb carton	17.75	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	16.50	16.00	18.50	17.75	17.00	18.50	18.00	17.75	17.75	17.00
Tomatoes, mature green, lrg, 6x6	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	9.00	6.50	15.00	14.00	13.50	15.00	12.50	7.50	9.50	15.00	12.50	24.50	36.00	14.50	17.00	9.00
Tomatoes, vine ripe, large, 6x6	MX, CA, FL	25 lb carton	11.00	7.50	15.50	17.50	26.50	16.50	15.00	11.00	10.50	17.00	15.00	25.00	33.00	13.00	12.75	10.50
Tomatoes, greenhse, v. ripe, md/lrg	CD, NL, MX	5 kg carton (on vine)	16.00	22.00	16.75	16.00	17.50	13.00	9.50	11.50	9.00	11.00	12.50	10.25	12.00	17.00	13.00	13.00
Tomatoes, cherry	FL, CA, MX	Flats, 12 1-pint buckets	11.00	7.50	17.50	14.50	14.00	9.00	13.50	9.00	11.50	9.50	20.00	16.00	24.00	12.50	11.00	9.00
Tomatoes, plum-type, med/lrg	FL, CA, MX	25 lb carton	10.50	7.50	14.50	12.50	25.50	11.50	18.00	11.00	10.00	14.50	15.50	20.50	19.50	21.50	9.50	14.00
Turnips, purple top, medium-large	CA, IL	25 lb filmbags	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	10.50	10.50	11.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	9.50	9.00	8.50	10.00	10.00	10.00
Cantaloups	CA, CR, MX	1/2 carton 15s	16.00	13.25	12.25	11.50	19.00	11.50	13.50	9.50	11.50	11.25	13.50	20.00	13.00	14.00	12.50	15.50
Honeydews	CA, HD, CR	2/3 cartons 6s	18.50	15.00	18.50	11.50	14.50	11.50	19.00	10.50	8.25	8.50	10.50	9.25	10.00	12.50	10.75	10.50
Watermelon, various red	CA, TX, MX	Carton 3s or 4s, per lb	0.34	0.25	0.30	0.28	0.37	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.38	0.39	0.40	0.33	0.32
Watermelon, red seedless	CA, MX	Carton 4s or 5s, per lb	0.35	0.30	0.29	0.27	0.39	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.29	0.31	0.35	0.39	0.42	0.45	0.33	0.34

-- = 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: Fruit & Vegetable Market News, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Price table 7—Canned vegetables: Quarterly wholesale price trends, 1997-2006 1/

Year & quarter	Sweet corn 2/		Snap beans 3/		Green peas 4/		Carrots 5/		Beets 6/		Tomato paste 7/		
	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	24/300	6/10	55-drum	6/10	
											-- \$/case --	\$/lb	\$/case
1997													
I	7.38	11.75	7.08	9.67	9.05	14.46	7.79	10.46	7.63	11.50	0.30	17.17	
II	7.00	10.83	6.67	8.75	8.88	13.75	7.75	10.46	7.83	11.50	0.30	15.13	
III	7.05	11.08	6.75	8.75	8.58	13.63	7.67	10.50	8.00	11.08	0.30	15.42	
IV	7.17	10.38	7.00	9.84	8.88	13.00	7.88	10.50	7.88	10.33	0.31	16.25	
Average	7.15	11.01	6.88	9.25	8.85	13.71	7.77	10.48	7.84	11.10	0.30	15.99	
1998													
I	7.21	10.63	7.05	8.63	8.13	11.25	7.84	11.00	7.92	10.58	0.33	16.42	
II	7.38	10.88	7.13	9.75	8.50	10.88	7.88	11.13	7.88	10.75	0.33	16.92	
III	7.25	10.75	7.21	9.96	8.21	12.58	7.25	10.58	7.25	10.92	0.38	19.00	
IV	7.25	10.75	7.21	9.96	8.38	12.75	7.25	10.50	7.25	11.00	0.45	21.00	
Average	7.27	10.75	7.15	9.58	8.31	11.87	7.56	10.80	7.58	10.81	0.37	18.34	
1999													
I	7.25	10.75	7.50	10.38	8.80	13.30	7.33	10.67	7.42	11.00	0.45	21.00	
II	7.33	10.63	7.50	10.38	8.71	13.21	7.79	11.29	8.09	11.83	0.46	21.00	
III	7.50	10.63	7.50	10.38	8.75	13.58	7.88	11.38	8.09	12.00	0.46	21.00	
IV	7.63	12.34	7.46	10.92	8.75	13.58	7.88	11.13	8.04	11.75	0.35	20.29	
Average	7.43	11.09	7.49	10.52	8.75	13.42	7.72	11.12	7.91	11.65	0.43	20.82	
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	14.04	8.54	13.54	8.96	15.67	9.00	11.75	8.83	14.58	0.30	20.25	
II	8.75	13.58	8.63	13.25	9.13	15.42	9.00	11.75	9.00	14.17	0.30	20.17	
III	8.75	13.42	8.80	12.96	9.13	15.33	8.88	12.00	9.00	13.92	0.30	20.00	
IV	8.50	13.25	8.50	13.25	9.13	15.25	8.75	11.75	9.00	13.63	0.31	20.50	
Average	8.65	13.57	8.62	13.25	9.09	15.42	8.91	11.81	8.96	14.08	0.30	20.23	
2006													
I p	8.63	12.25	8.88	12.13	9.25	15.44	8.88	12.00	9.13	12.80	0.36	21.75	
II f	8.50	12.00	8.75	12.00	9.38	15.63	8.88	12.00	9.13	12.63	0.39	21.25	
III f	8.55	12.25	8.80	12.25	9.15	15.25	9.00	12.00	9.00	12.75	0.39	21.50	
IV f	8.50	12.75	8.50	12.75	9.10	15.25	9.00	12.00	9.00	13.00	0.34	21.50	
Average	8.55	12.31	8.73	12.28	9.22	15.39	8.94	12.00	9.07	12.80	0.37	21.50	

p = Preliminary. f = ERS forecast.

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

Price table 8—Frozen vegetables: Quarterly wholesale price trends, 1997-2006 1/

Year and quarter	Sweet corn 2/		Snap beans 3/		Green peas 4/		Cauliflower 4/		Broccoli 6/		Spinach 7/	
	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
--\$ per case--												
1997												
I	6.90	0.50	6.88	0.48	7.10	0.51	9.20	0.65	10.23	0.68	7.98	0.42
II	6.90	0.50	6.83	0.47	7.10	0.50	9.20	0.65	9.93	0.69	8.30	0.42
III	6.90	0.50	6.83	0.47	7.10	0.49	9.20	0.65	9.93	0.69	8.30	0.42
IV	6.83	0.47	6.83	0.47	6.90	0.48	9.20	0.65	9.93	0.69	8.30	0.42
Average	6.88	0.49	6.84	0.47	7.05	0.50	9.20	0.65	10.01	0.69	8.22	0.42
1998												
I	6.83	0.46	6.83	0.47	6.90	0.47	9.20	0.65	10.08	0.70	8.30	0.42
II	6.83	0.45	6.83	0.47	6.90	0.46	9.20	0.65	10.15	0.70	8.30	0.42
III	6.83	0.44	6.83	0.45	6.75	0.45	9.20	0.65	10.15	0.70	8.30	0.42
IV	6.83	0.44	6.83	0.45	6.87	0.45	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.33	0.42
Average	6.83	0.45	6.83	0.46	6.86	0.46	9.27	0.66	10.13	0.71	8.31	0.42
1999												
I	6.83	0.44	6.83	0.45	6.88	0.46	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.44
II	6.83	0.44	6.83	0.45	6.88	0.46	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.44
III	6.83	0.45	6.83	0.46	6.91	0.51	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43
IV	6.83	0.45	6.83	0.47	6.93	0.54	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.43
Average	6.83	0.45	6.83	0.46	6.90	0.49	9.47	0.70	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.44
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
2005												
I	7.30	0.54	7.33	0.58	7.28	0.57	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50
II	7.30	0.54	7.33	0.58	7.28	0.57	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50
III	7.30	0.54	7.30	0.56	7.30	0.56	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50
IV	7.30	0.55	7.30	0.55	7.30	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50
Average	7.30	0.54	7.31	0.57	7.29	0.56	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.50
2006												
I p	7.10	0.50	7.25	0.56	7.21	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.15	0.72	8.30	0.52
II f	7.55	0.42	7.53	0.63	7.20	0.52	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.30	0.52
III f	7.55	0.43	7.53	0.63	7.30	0.54	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.30	0.51
IV f	7.50	0.48	7.50	0.63	7.30	0.55	9.47	0.72	10.38	0.73	8.30	0.51
Average	7.43	0.46	7.45	0.61	7.25	0.53	9.47	0.72	10.32	0.73	8.30	0.51

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. 7/ Chopped.

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

Price table 9—Potatoes and pulses: Prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 1996-2006 1/

Item	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Season
														average
--\$/cwt--														
Potatoes, all uses	1996	6.65	6.92	7.51	7.82	8.09	8.16	7.79	5.58	4.92	4.75	4.44	4.28	4.91
	1997	4.22	4.56	4.64	4.67	5.31	4.66	5.66	6.31	5.08	4.93	5.12	5.36	5.64
	1998	5.41	5.88	6.41	6.27	6.46	6.13	5.78	5.38	5.08	4.55	5.02	5.29	5.56
	1999	5.50	5.75	6.12	6.50	6.06	6.54	7.35	5.91	5.33	4.98	5.58	5.68	5.76
	2000	5.56	5.78	6.14	6.49	6.28	5.97	6.58	5.32	4.79	4.39	4.50	4.93	5.08
	2001	4.72	5.28	5.12	5.47	5.22	5.71	6.36	7.20	6.23	5.28	6.16	6.93	6.99
	2002	7.34	7.33	8.24	8.01	8.59	9.38	10.59	7.39	6.29	5.53	6.24	6.62	6.67
	2003	6.44	6.47	6.79	6.99	6.94	6.67	6.84	5.57	5.24	5.03	5.42	5.76	5.89
	2004	5.70	5.87	6.09	6.62	6.47	6.47	6.44	5.46	5.32	4.70	5.02	5.36	5.67
	2005	5.59	5.76	6.21	6.17	6.72	7.66	8.69	6.84	6.16	5.54	6.31	6.93	6.90
2006	7.07	7.44	8.31											
Potatoes, table stock	1996	7.99	8.52	8.85	9.01	9.78	10.50	9.74	7.06	5.82	5.31	4.02	3.73	5.05
	1997	3.21	3.82	3.46	3.92	4.60	5.34	7.02	9.04	7.02	6.65	6.07	6.05	6.65
	1998	5.76	6.81	7.54	6.83	7.31	7.23	6.94	6.73	6.62	5.75	5.77	5.41	6.94
	1999	6.08	6.94	7.85	8.32	7.70	9.08	9.79	9.67	7.23	6.26	6.58	7.00	6.94
	2000	6.21	6.62	6.74	6.61	7.30	7.40	8.81	8.15	5.90	4.66	4.16	4.77	5.27
	2001	3.54	5.41	4.48	5.53	7.23	8.31	8.93	12.96	10.96	8.69	8.68	9.37	10.79
	2002	10.49	11.63	13.19	12.17	14.69	16.28	16.70	15.31	11.52	8.34	8.62	8.60	9.59
	2003	8.09	8.54	8.58	8.80	9.09	9.16	8.96	8.04	7.08	6.95	6.70	6.52	7.32
	2004	6.26	6.68	7.20	7.82	7.76	9.04	9.07	7.77	7.25	5.34	5.08	5.56	6.76
	2005	5.89	6.53	7.19	7.24	9.00	11.86	13.66	11.41	10.77	9.18	8.52	8.96	--
2006	9.16	10.91												
Potatoes, processing	1996	5.42	5.44	5.71	5.87	6.59	6.47	5.92	4.91	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.77	4.82
	1997	4.98	4.90	5.11	5.02	6.04	5.04	4.33	4.81	4.61	4.60	4.71	4.96	5.00
	1998	5.07	5.26	5.24	5.48	5.97	5.58	5.04	4.83	4.55	4.31	4.61	5.22	4.86
	1999	5.11	4.94	5.14	5.30	5.32	5.30	5.28	4.43	4.59	4.67	5.04	4.95	4.99
	2000	5.18	5.27	5.21	5.41	5.37	5.34	4.89	4.46	4.48	4.34	4.69	5.07	4.70
	2001	4.95	5.15	5.10	5.19	5.10	4.96	5.24	4.43	4.56	4.47	4.89	5.15	5.05
	2002	5.37	5.27	5.34	5.66	6.02	5.83	6.09	4.67	4.62	4.79	5.14	5.35	5.16
	2003	5.38	5.32	5.28	5.33	5.59	5.60	5.39	4.69	4.64	4.52	4.85	5.31	5.10
	2004	5.29	5.24	5.24	5.54	5.64	5.54	5.30	4.62	4.64	4.50	4.98	5.23	5.06
	2005	5.34	5.26	5.40	5.39	5.75	5.66	5.18	4.70	4.66	4.61	4.87	5.52	--
2006	5.69	5.57												
Dry edible beans	1996	19.60	19.90	19.90	22.70	24.80	25.80	26.80	26.90	24.40	24.00	25.10	24.10	23.50
	1997	23.20	23.60	23.30	23.00	22.20	21.20	21.90	20.40	16.20	16.90	18.60	20.30	19.30
	1998	21.10	21.20	20.20	20.80	20.80	20.90	21.30	19.60	19.00	19.40	20.30	19.90	19.00
	1999	19.70	18.30	17.00	16.60	19.90	18.90	18.50	18.00	18.00	17.10	17.20	16.10	16.40
	2000	15.80	15.60	14.50	15.70	16.20	14.70	14.20	13.80	15.50	15.70	15.50	14.40	15.50
	2001	15.10	15.30	14.90	15.60	16.90	16.40	16.80	17.40	18.40	19.20	22.70	21.70	22.10
	2002	21.50	26.10	27.10	27.50	27.80	27.40	24.50	23.20	17.90	16.60	15.90	16.10	17.10
	2003	16.40	19.20	15.90	18.70	19.10	16.60	17.20	18.00	17.60	17.60	19.10	17.40	18.40
	2004	17.20	17.50	20.20	19.60	19.90	20.00	19.20	20.90	22.90	24.50	25.80	26.70	25.70
	2005	27.40	27.80	26.60	28.80	31.90	27.50	25.40	21.30	18.00	18.80	18.30	18.60	18.40
2006	19.30	17.40	19.50											
Green peas, whole-dry 2/	1996	8.30	8.75	9.50	9.95	10.15	10.85	11.65	12.50	12.30	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.60
	1997	11.50	12.60	14.25	13.80	13.00	11.90	9.00	7.70	7.65	7.90	8.00	8.00	7.82
	1998	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.95	7.75	7.75	7.70	6.85	6.15	6.00	6.19	6.31	6.48
	1999	6.46	6.50	6.53	6.56	6.75	6.88	6.91	6.53	6.22	6.03	6.03	5.83	5.76
	2000	5.79	5.78	5.78	5.69	5.68	5.59	5.41	5.25	5.13	5.20	5.38	5.50	5.95
	2001	5.84	6.28	6.44	6.53	6.43	6.28	6.25	6.19	6.21	6.35	6.56	6.88	6.96
	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	9.08
	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	9.17
	2004	9.56	9.94	10.50	10.94	11.25	8.43	7.38	6.45	6.41	6.66	6.93	6.69	6.41
	2005	6.63	6.56	6.03	5.88	5.68	5.60	5.47	5.25	5.00	4.88	4.88	4.88	5.12
2006	5.13	5.57	5.71											
Yellow peas, whole-dry 2/	1996	8.75	9.50	8.80	9.05	9.30	10.40	11.00	12.00	12.25	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.08
	1997	11.40	12.50	13.60	12.80	11.75	10.40	8.50	7.60	7.55	7.60	7.75	7.60	7.46
	1998	7.50	7.50	7.60	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.05	6.50	5.65	5.69	5.78	5.94	6.13
	1999	6.00	6.06	6.35	6.19	6.38	6.30	6.50	6.75	6.34	6.25	6.33	6.29	6.05
	2000	6.38	6.13	6.03	6.00	5.88	5.91	5.72	5.30	5.16	5.15	5.31	5.38	5.92
	2001	5.81	6.31	6.44	6.38	6.40	6.25	6.25	6.19	6.17	6.25	6.56	6.79	7.02
	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	7.78
	2003	7.50	7.94	8.03	8.50	8.75	8.83	8.44	6.63	6.43	6.75	7.53	7.75	7.90
	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	6.04
	2005	6.00	6.00	5.73	5.50	5.58	5.53	5.31	5.18	4.66	4.63	4.63	4.63	4.85
2006	4.75	4.97	5.00											
Lentils, regular (Brewer) 2/	1996	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.70	17.25	19.00	19.75	20.60	19.75	18.50	18.15	17.25	17.10
	1997	17.00	17.40	17.50	17.00	16.50	16.25	16.00	14.75	13.80	12.90	12.10	11.50	13.00
	1998	11.40	12.00	11.60	11.10	10.75	11.00	12.00	11.30	10.15	10.70	10.81	10.94	11.21
	1999	10.92	11.25	11.55	11.38	11.69	11.90	11.94	12.15	12.13	12.28	13.05	13.17	12.54
	2000	12.88	12.45	12.13	12.31	12.73	12.81	12.81	11.75	11.19	11.03	10.97	10.88	10.44
	2001	10.84	10.50	10.22	10.25	9.90	9.91	9.78	9.84	9.81	9.75	9.80	9.70	9.56
	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	14.30
	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	17.20
	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	14.40
	2005	14.69	14.19	13.45	12.50	11.90	11.31	11.25	11.25	11.35	11.28	10.78	10.25	11.70
2006	10.38	10.31	10.25											

-- = not available. 1/ Prices for 2006 are preliminary. 2/ Grower bids for U.S. no. 1 grade reported by the Bean Market News for Idaho & Washington.

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

Price table 10—U.S. fresh-market herbs: Selected monthly wholesale prices in San Francisco, CA, 2005-2006

Herb	Unit	2005			2006			Change from prev. year		
		January	February	March	January	February	March	January	February	March
		-- \$/cwt --						--- Percent ---		
Anise	24-ct crtn	32.63	29.63	22.25	12.38	12.44	19.25	- 62.1	- 58.0	- 13.5
Arrugula	12-ct ctns	8.50	8.88	8.38	7.50	7.50	7.50	- 11.8	- 15.5	- 10.5
Basil	12-ct ctns	7.63	7.50	7.69	7.81	8.38	8.50	2.4	11.7	10.5
Celeriac	12-ct ctns	10.50	10.50	10.50	11.75	10.25	10.38	11.9	- 2.4	- 1.1
Chervil	12-ct flmbag	7.00	7.00	6.88	7.00	7.00	7.00	.0	.0	1.7
Chives	12-ct flmbag	5.38	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	- 16.4	.0	.0
Cilantro	60-ct ctns	12.63	13.75	14.63	8.97	12.88	12.13	- 29.0	- 6.3	- 17.1
Cipolinos	10-lb ctns	18.75	17.50	17.50	18.50	18.56	18.50	- 1.3	6.1	5.7
Dill	12-ct ctns	7.13	7.50	7.44	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.7	3.3	4.2
Dry Eschallot	5-lb sack	4.94	4.63	4.63	4.63	4.50	5.00	- 6.3	- 2.8	8.0
Epasote	50-lb sack	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Horseradish	50-lb sack	1.95	1.98	1.99	2.05	2.05	2.05	5.1	3.5	3.0
Lemon grass	Per lb-ctns	0.68	0.75	0.75	0.70	0.70	0.70	2.9	- 6.7	- 6.7
Majoram	12-ct flmbag	6.50	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	5.25	- 19.2	- 4.5	- 4.5
Oregano	12-ct flmbag	6.38	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	5.25	- 17.7	- 4.5	- 4.5
Rosemary	12-ct flmbag	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	5.25	- 12.5	- 4.5	- 4.5
Mint	12-ct ctns	7.50	7.63	7.50	8.13	8.25	8.00	8.4	8.1	6.7
Sage	12-ct flmbag	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	5.25	- 12.5	- 4.5	- 4.5
Salsify	5-1kg flmbg	26.50	26.50	26.50	24.63	25.00	24.63	- 7.1	- 5.7	- 7.1
Savory	24-ct flmbag	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	- 8.3	.0	.0
Sorrel	12-ct flmbag	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	5.25	- 12.5	- 4.5	- 4.5
Tarragon	12-ct flmbag	6.50	6.50	6.38	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.7	7.7	9.7
Thyme	12-ct flmbag	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	- 8.3	.0	.0
Verdulaga	24-ct flmbag	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Watercress	12-ct ctns	8.50	9.00	9.38	8.00	8.00	8.00	- 5.9	- 11.1	- 14.7

Source: Derived from data provided by Market News, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Price table 11—Farm-retail price spreads, 2002-05

	Annual			2004	2005					
	2002	2003	2004	Sep.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Market basket 1/										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	180.3	185.3	194.9	193.7	200.6	201.9	201.2	202.4	202.6	202.9
Farm value (1982-84=100)	104.3	110.4	124.4	120.2	122.9	122.4	122.4	122.9	122.0	127.1
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	221.2	225.6	232.9	233.3	242.5	244.7	243.6	245.3	246.1	243.8
Farm value-retail cost (%)	20.3	20.9	22.4	21.7	21.5	21.2	21.3	21.3	21.1	21.9
Fresh fruit										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	298.0	309.0	328.5	301.1	371.0	390.3	396.5	415.6	427.6	429.9
Farm value (1982-84=100)	154.4	163.2	200.5	211.1	158.9	167.1	159.2	155.1	164.6	181.9
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	364.2	376.3	387.6	342.6	468.9	493.4	506.0	535.9	549.0	544.4
Farm value-retail cost (%)	16.4	16.7	19.3	22.1	13.5	13.5	12.7	11.8	12.2	13.4
Fresh vegetables										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	245.4	250.5	261.2	248.4	280.1	280.6	266.9	268.5	261.0	265.6
Farm value (1982-84=100)	145.8	149.9	146.5	124.5	178.3	157.4	167.8	147.1	136.8	149.8
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	296.6	302.2	320.2	312.1	332.4	343.9	317.8	330.9	324.9	325.1
Farm value-retail cost (%)	20.2	20.3	19.0	17.0	21.6	19.0	21.4	18.6	17.8	19.2
Processed fruits and vegetables										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	166.2	171.9	183.1	183.9	190.0	191.0	191.5	194.0	192.8	193.8
Farm value (1982-84=100)	110.5	108.4	125.4	126.4	145.7	149.6	151.8	153.1	153.4	155.2
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	183.6	191.8	201.1	201.8	203.8	203.9	203.9	206.8	205.1	205.9
Farm value-retail cost (%)	15.8	15.0	16.3	16.3	18.2	18.6	18.9	18.8	18.9	19.0
Fats and oils										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	155.4	157.4	167.8	170.4	169.4	167.8	164.5	167.3	167.6	169.4
Farm value (1982-84=100)	91.7	113.4	128.4	113.4	109.7	109.0	110.5	119.8	109.5	107.4
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	178.9	173.5	182.3	191.4	191.4	189.4	184.4	184.8	189.0	192.2
Farm value-retail cost (%)	15.9	19.4	20.6	17.9	17.4	17.5	18.1	19.3	17.6	17.1
Meat products										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	160.3	169.0	183.2	185.9	188.3	189.1	189.2	187.7	187.0	186.8
Farm value (1982-84=100)	102.6	108.4	116.9	119.0	122.3	123.3	123.6	124.2	124.5	125.1
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	219.5	231.1	251.3	254.5	256.0	256.6	256.5	252.9	251.1	250.1
Farm value-retail cost (%)	32.4	32.5	32.3	32.4	32.9	33.0	33.1	33.5	33.7	33.9
Dairy products										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	168.1	167.9	180.2	181.6	182.2	183.3	181.0	181.6	182.9	181.8
Farm value (1982-84=100)	97.6	99.1	125.9	119.8	118.9	116.1	114.2	117.1	117.0	116.1
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	233.1	231.3	230.3	238.6	240.6	245.3	242.6	241.1	243.7	242.4
Farm value-retail cost (%)	27.8	28.3	33.5	31.7	31.3	30.4	30.3	30.9	30.7	30.6
Poultry										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	167.0	169.1	181.7	186.4	184.1	183.7	184.9	185.9	186.9	188.9
Farm value (1982-84=100)	102.0	113.0	142.9	130.9	138.2	139.2	139.8	141.0	142.0	149.2
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	242.0	233.7	226.4	250.3	236.9	235.0	236.8	237.5	238.6	234.6
Farm value-retail cost (%)	32.7	35.8	42.1	37.6	40.2	40.5	40.5	40.6	40.7	42.3
Eggs										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	138.2	157.3	167.0	146.3	138.6	138.5	135.4	140.0	137.3	148.3
Farm value (1982-84=100)	72.1	102.0	92.2	60.3	44.9	40.6	39.7	56.0	44.3	79.9
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	256.9	256.5	301.4	300.8	307.0	314.5	307.4	290.9	304.3	271.1
Farm value-retail cost (%)	33.5	41.7	35.5	26.5	20.8	18.8	18.8	25.7	20.7	34.6
Cereal and bakery products										
Retail cost (1982-84=100)	198.0	202.8	206.0	206.4	209.1	209.7	209.4	209.4	210.1	208.3
Farm value (1982-84=100)	86.4	93.5	103.7	98.4	94.0	95.8	94.0	95.0	92.9	97.7
Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)	213.6	218.0	220.3	221.5	225.2	225.6	225.5	225.4	226.5	223.7
Farm value-retail cost (%)	5.3	5.6	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.7

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: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/2005/11nov/aotab08.xls>

Price table 12—U.S. tomato retail price: Year, month, and level of record highs 1/

Item	Retail		Farm	
	Year	Price	Year	Price
		<i>Cents/pound</i>		<i>Cents/pound</i>
Fresh tomatoes				
January	2006	216.20	1990	116.00
February	1990	236.10	1990	97.60
March	1990	176.50	1996	81.70
April	1996	186.70	2005	65.10
May	2005	191.10	1993	58.10
June	1991	167.20	1991	59.50
July	2005	160.70	1998	40.90
August	2003	151.30	2003	40.00
September	2003	143.80	2005	46.10
October	2004	171.50	2004	70.80
November	2004	233.70	2004	119.00
December	2004	246.70	2005	--

-- = not disclosed. 1/ Nominal dollar prices (unadjusted for inflation).

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, USDL and National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.