



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

VGS-332

April 16, 2009



A Report from the Economic Research Service

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

# Vegetables and Melons Outlook

Gary Lucier, Rachael L. Dettmann, and Michelle Da Pra

## Record Processing-Tomato Crop Sought

Despite water shortages in California where 96 percent of processing tomatoes are grown, U.S. tomato processors expect to contract for 13.9 million short tons in 2009—up 14 percent from a year earlier and 8 percent above the 1999 record. Although production was relatively robust in 2008, export demand for tomato products (particularly paste) was well above average during calendar year 2008, providing a foundation for strong wholesale prices and higher contract prices for U.S. tomato growers in 2009.

Fresh-market area for harvest for 11 selected vegetables was forecast to decline 4 percent to 194,200 acres this spring (largely April-June). Prospective area was down for 8 of the 11 crops, with the greatest percentage declines for cauliflower, cabbage, and carrots. California, which accounts for more than half of spring vegetable area, expects to harvest 6 percent fewer acres, with much of the reduction occurring in carrots, broccoli, and head lettuce crops. Although scarce and more costly this year, water is not expected to be a limiting factor in fresh-market vegetable supplies this spring.

Estimated spring acreage for potatoes is at 72,200 acres, up 5 percent from 2008. Potato prices remained strong in March at \$9.07 per hundredweight (cwt), compared with \$8.37 last year. Foreign demand for U.S. potatoes continued at a healthy pace through February with exports valued at \$90 million, up 1 percent from last year.

Area to be planted to dry edible beans is expected to rise 3 percent in 2009 from last year's 1.5 million acres. Dry bean area is up largely because dry bean prices are running at or above the average of the three previous years and remain competitive with prices for alternative crops like wheat, corn, and soybeans. Despite greater area, average yields (which would be lower than in 2008) could result in a smaller crop in 2009.

Area planted to dry peas, Austrian winter peas, small chickpeas, and lentils is expected to increase 16 percent this spring from the 1.25 million acres of a year earlier. Driven by continued strong prices, lentil growers intend to seed 38 percent more area in 2009.

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms growing fresh-market herbs, in the open and in greenhouses, increased 14 percent to 2,053 farms, while harvested acreage increased 20 percent to over 13,000 acres, from 2002.

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The next release is  
June 25, 2009.  
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Approved by the  
World Agricultural  
Outlook Board.

## Industry Overview

**All vegetables and melons:** In 2008, per capita disappearance (also known as net domestic use, a proxy for consumption) of all vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulse crops, and mushrooms declined 3 percent to 420 pounds. This was the largest annual percentage decline since 1952 and was due largely to reduced potato, processing-sweet-corn, processing-tomato, and lettuce disappearance. Given the current economic downturn, little change is anticipated in net domestic use of most vegetables and melons during 2009.

**Fresh vegetables:** On a per person basis, net domestic use of fresh-market vegetables (excluding melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms) fell 2 percent to about 145 pounds. While fresh use rose for such crops as broccoli, bell peppers, cucumbers, cabbage, and asparagus, use declined for head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cauliflower, and snap (green) beans. In 2009, fresh-vegetable use is expected to change little with demand remaining weak.

**Melons:** Estimated disappearance of all melons totaled 7.9 billion pounds in 2008—the third-highest on record. On a per capita basis, domestic disappearance of the top 3 melon crops increased fractionally from a year earlier to 26 pounds, as a 7-percent gain in watermelon use offset reduced use of cantaloup and honeydew.

**Processing vegetables:** Per capita disappearance of processing vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) declined 3 percent to 115 pounds in 2008, as use of vegetables fell for freezing (down 7 percent) and canning (down 2 percent). The outlook for 2009 indicates a small gain in the use of processing vegetables led by increased use of canning tomatoes and pickling cucumbers.

**Potatoes:** According to preliminary estimates, per capita disappearance of potatoes dropped 5 percent in calendar 2008 to 119 pounds, with both fresh-market and processing potatoes registering losses. A slight increase in per capita use is expected in 2009 due partly to expectations for a larger crop and lower prices this fall.

**Sweet potatoes:** With much of the increase in the 2008 crop earmarked to satisfy continued strong export demand, net domestic disappearance of sweet potatoes for all uses declined 1 percent to 5 pounds per person—still the second highest per capita use since 1985. Given a 1-percent decrease in prospective plantings and trend yields, 2009 production is expected to increase slightly for the fourth consecutive year and result in continued gains in domestic use and export volume.

**Dry edible beans:** Per capita use of dry beans fell 8 percent in 2008 to 6.3 pounds—the first decline after three consecutive annual increases. Given increased area and production in 2009 and a weak economy favoring use of a low-cost protein substitute like dry beans, net domestic dry bean use is expected to rise slightly.

**Dry peas and lentils:** Per capita disappearance of dry peas (excluding chickpeas) and lentils for domestic human food is estimated at 0.7 pound, down from 0.8 pound a year earlier and the record high 1.2 pounds of two years previous. Export movement utilized two-thirds of the annual supply of dry peas and lentils in 2009.

**Mushrooms:** For the 2008/09 season, disappearance of all mushrooms on a fresh-weight basis is expected to total 1.2 billion pounds. On a per capita basis, use of all mushrooms is projected to decline 3 percent to 3.8 pounds, with most of the decline centered in processing uses.

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

| Item                  | Unit      | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009 1/ |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| <i>Area harvested</i> | 1,000 ac. | 7,139  | 6,852  | 6,667  | 6,899   |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | 1,000 ac. | 1,830  | 1,784  | 1,733  | 1,710   |
| Processing            | 1,000 ac. | 1,253  | 1,249  | 1,226  | 1,240   |
| Potatoes              | 1,000 ac. | 1,120  | 1,122  | 1,045  | 1,071   |
| Dry beans             | 1,000 ac. | 1,532  | 1,479  | 1,445  | 1,484   |
| Other 2/              | 1,000 ac. | 1,404  | 1,217  | 1,219  | 1,395   |
| <i>Production</i>     | Mil. cw t | 1,285  | 1,332  | 1,278  | 1,298   |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | Mil. cw t | 461    | 459    | 449    | 445     |
| Processing            | Mil. cw t | 318    | 356    | 350    | 355     |
| Potatoes              | Mil. cw t | 441    | 445    | 413    | 426     |
| Dry beans             | Mil. cw t | 24     | 26     | 26     | 25      |
| Other 2/              | Mil. cw t | 42     | 46     | 41     | 47      |
| <i>Crop value</i>     | \$ mil.   | 16,601 | 17,385 | 18,819 | 18,026  |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | \$ mil.   | 10,151 | 10,048 | 10,415 | 10,375  |
| Processing            | \$ mil.   | 1,371  | 1,651  | 1,901  | 1,890   |
| Potatoes              | \$ mil.   | 3,209  | 3,340  | 3,899  | 3,450   |
| Dry beans             | \$ mil.   | 554    | 749    | 975    | 715     |
| Mushrooms             | \$ mil.   | 889    | 961    | 964    | 970     |
| Other 2/              | \$ mil.   | 427    | 636    | 665    | 626     |
| <i>Unit value 3/</i>  | \$/cw t   | 12.91  | 13.05  | 14.73  | 13.88   |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | \$/cw t   | 22.03  | 21.87  | 23.22  | 23.31   |
| Processing            | \$/cw t   | 4.31   | 4.64   | 5.44   | 5.32    |
| Potatoes              | \$/cw t   | 7.31   | 7.51   | 9.46   | 8.10    |
| Dry beans             | \$/cw t   | 22.10  | 28.80  | 37.70  | 28.28   |
| Other 2/              | \$/cw t   | 10.27  | 13.71  | 16.13  | 13.25   |
| <i>Trade</i>          |           |        |        |        |         |
| <i>Imports</i>        | \$ mil.   | 7,275  | 7,921  | 8,515  | 8,690   |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | \$ mil.   | 4,091  | 4,433  | 4,605  | 4,650   |
| Processing 4/         | \$ mil.   | 1,748  | 1,916  | 2,170  | 2,225   |
| Potatoes & products   | \$ mil.   | 856    | 908    | 997    | 1,035   |
| Dry beans             | \$ mil.   | 84     | 107    | 155    | 170     |
| Other 5/              | \$ mil.   | 496    | 556    | 588    | 610     |
| <i>Exports</i>        | \$ mil.   | 4,233  | 4,621  | 5,414  | 5,355   |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | \$ mil.   | 1,624  | 1,741  | 1,852  | 1,880   |
| Processing 4/         | \$ mil.   | 860    | 942    | 1,220  | 1,200   |
| Potatoes & products   | \$ mil.   | 950    | 1,051  | 1,186  | 1,200   |
| Dry beans             | \$ mil.   | 211    | 199    | 317    | 275     |
| Other 5/              | \$ mil.   | 588    | 686    | 839    | 800     |
| <i>Per capita use</i> | Pounds    | 430    | 434    | 420    | 431     |
| <i>Vegetables:</i>    |           |        |        |        |         |
| Fresh & melons        | Pounds    | 175    | 174    | 171    | 171     |
| Processing            | Pounds    | 116    | 118    | 115    | 123     |
| Potatoes & products   | Pounds    | 124    | 125    | 119    | 121     |
| Dry beans             | Pounds    | 6      | 7      | 6      | 6       |
| Other 2/              | Pounds    | 10     | 10     | 10     | 10      |

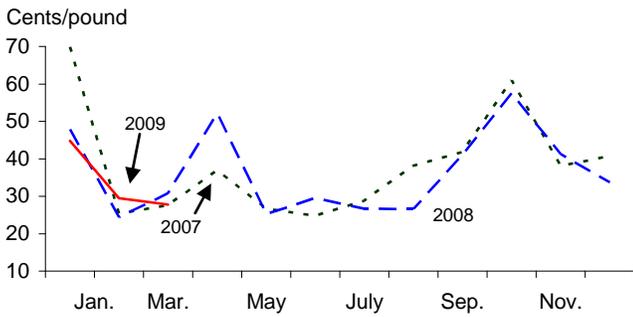
1/ ERS forecasts. 2/ Includes sweet potatoes, dry peas, lentils, and mushrooms (except for crop value). 3/ Ratio of total value to total production. 4/ Includes canned, frozen, and dried. Excludes potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms. 5/ Other includes mushrooms, dry peas, lentils, sweet potatoes, and vegetable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

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

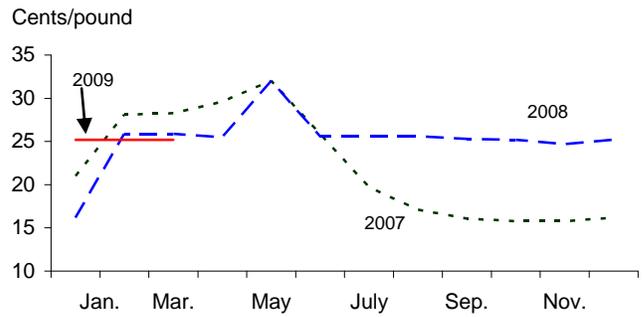
Figure 1

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

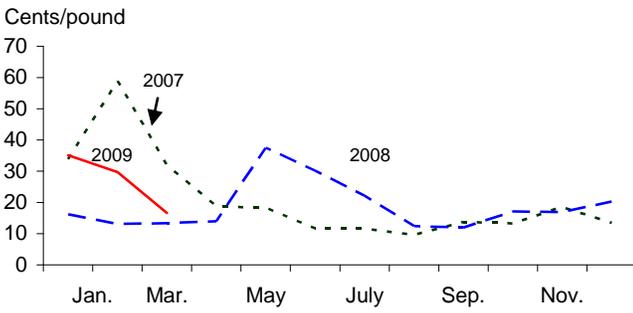
**Broccoli**



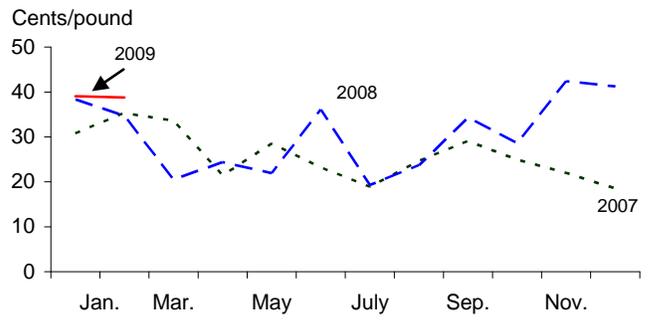
**Carrots**



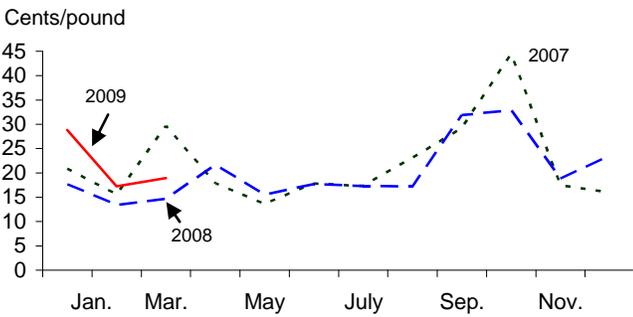
**Celery**



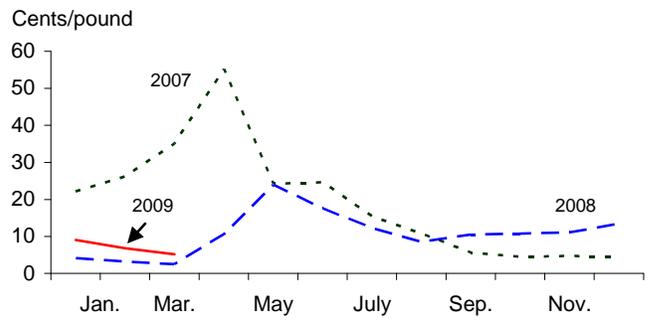
**Cucumbers**



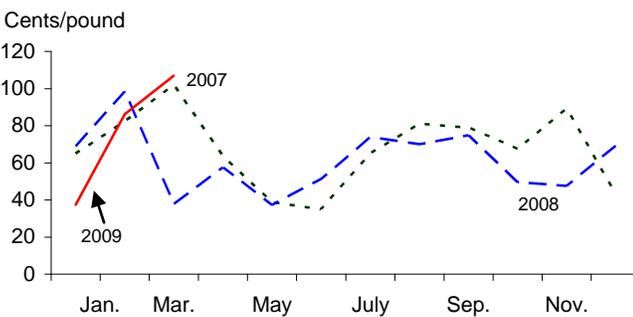
**Head lettuce**



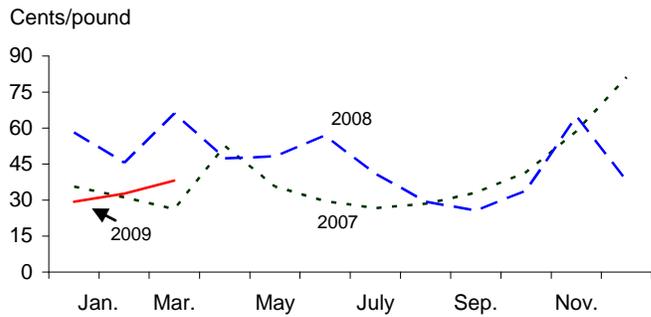
**Onions**



**Snap beans**



**Tomatoes**



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

## Fresh-Market Vegetables

### *Spring Acreage Down Again*

Excluding asparagus, onions, and melons, fresh-market area for harvest for 11 selected vegetables was forecast to decline 4 percent to 194,200 acres this spring (largely April-June). Prospective area was down for 8 of the 11 crops with the greatest percentage declines for cauliflower, cabbage, and carrots (table 2). California, which accounts for more than half of spring vegetable area, expects to harvest 6 percent fewer acres, with much of the reduction due to carrots, broccoli, and head lettuce.

Early April weather was on the cool, damp side in central California growing areas and followed a period of cool temperatures in the Salinas area and a light early-March frost in the San Joaquin Valley. Cool temperatures delayed crop development, with some vegetables a week or two behind schedule. Otherwise, weather was average during the growing season in California with few pest or disease problems noted. Although irrigation water in the Central Valley of California will be even more limited this year than last and the cost of water may be higher, the impact on spring fresh vegetable acreage, supplies, and prices is expected to be small. Although water is limited, acreage is lower and yields may be reduced in the early spring growing area around Bakersfield-Huron. However, water supplies are expected to be sufficient over the brief 4-to 6-week growing season in this area before the focus begins to shift in mid-to-late April to the coastal Salinas Valley. Crops in the Salinas Valley are irrigated using groundwater (which has its own set of issues and problems) and are not directly impacted by current shortages in the Federal and State water systems. Salinas produces the bulk of the Nation's leafy and cruciferous vegetables throughout the summer into early fall.

Precipitation and temperatures were below normal in Florida this past winter and early plantings of spring vegetables got off to a slow start due to frost in February.

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

| Item            | 2006    | 2007    | 2008    | 2009 f  | Change            |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
|                 |         |         |         |         | 2008-09 2/        |
|                 |         |         |         |         | ----- Acres ----- |
|                 |         |         |         |         | Percent           |
| Snap beans      | 22,200  | 21,300  | 20,500  | 20,300  | -1                |
| Broccoli        | 32,000  | 33,000  | 33,000  | 31,000  | -6                |
| Cabbage         | 6,300   | 6,480   | 7,790   | 6,600   | -15               |
| Carrots         | 18,100  | 15,900  | 14,200  | 12,300  | -13               |
| Cauliflower     | 8,500   | 8,200   | 7,800   | 6,600   | -15               |
| Celery          | 5,600   | 5,700   | 6,000   | 6,000   | 0                 |
| Sweet corn      | 33,000  | 37,200  | 38,400  | 37,100  | -3                |
| Cucumbers       | 7,100   | 9,300   | 9,700   | 9,200   | -5                |
| Head lettuce    | 34,300  | 33,000  | 33,000  | 31,000  | -6                |
| Bell pepper     | 7,600   | 7,900   | 7,700   | 7,800   | 1                 |
| Tomatoes        | 28,500  | 27,100  | 24,500  | 26,300  | 7                 |
| Subtotal        | 203,200 | 205,080 | 202,590 | 194,200 | -4                |
| Onions 2/       | 34,300  | 30,200  | 28,400  | 27,400  | -4                |
| Asparagus 2/ 3/ | 43,200  | 38,600  | 32,200  | 31,000  | -4                |
| Total           | 280,700 | 273,880 | 263,190 | 252,600 | -4                |

f = Forecast area.

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during April-June. Excludes melons. 2/ Harvested area except estimated area for harvest in 2009. 3/ Includes area destined for processing.

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

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

| Item              | Annual<br>2008 | February<br>2009 | March  |        | Change previous: 2/ |      |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|------|
|                   |                |                  | 2008   | 2009   | Month               | Year |
|                   |                | --1,000 cwt--    |        |        | Percent             |      |
| Asparagus         | 3,794          | 441              | 545    | 533    | 21                  | -2   |
| Snap beans        | 3,213          | 222              | 412    | 278    | 25                  | -33  |
| Broccoli          | 10,043         | 928              | 888    | 794    | -14                 | -11  |
| Cabbage           | 12,340         | 1,232            | 1,599  | 1,662  | 35                  | 4    |
| Cantaloup         | 27,831         | 1,393            | 2,160  | 1,067  | -23                 | -51  |
| Carrots           | 11,045         | 605              | 1,040  | 768    | 27                  | -26  |
| Cauliflower       | 3,905          | 324              | 343    | 287    | -11                 | -16  |
| Celery            | 16,211         | 1,409            | 1,508  | 1,499  | 6                   | -1   |
| Sweet corn        | 12,203         | 376              | 690    | 529    | 41                  | -23  |
| Cucumbers         | 15,414         | 1,466            | 1,683  | 1,321  | -10                 | -22  |
| Greens            | 2,190          | 185              | 280    | 176    | -5                  | -37  |
| Head lettuce      | 32,722         | 2,577            | 2,707  | 2,907  | 13                  | 7    |
| Romaine           | 15,170         | 1,315            | 1,204  | 1,396  | 6                   | 16   |
| Leaf lettuce      | 4,319          | 380              | 359    | 383    | 1                   | 7    |
| Onions, dry bulb  | 48,643         | 4,176            | 3,880  | 4,434  | 6                   | 14   |
| Onions, green     | 3,371          | 321              | 321    | 316    | -2                  | -2   |
| Peppers, bell     | 17,018         | 1,341            | 1,747  | 1,533  | 14                  | -12  |
| Peppers, chile    | 6,691          | 560              | 491    | 611    | 9                   | 24   |
| Squash            | 7,409          | 692              | 835    | 841    | 22                  | 1    |
| Tomato, round     | 26,980         | 2,420            | 2,349  | 2,571  | 6                   | 9    |
| Tomato, roma      | 11,273         | 1,110            | 1,275  | 1,168  | 5                   | -8   |
| Tomato, ghouse 3/ | 12,299         | 942              | 1,118  | 1,234  | 31                  | 10   |
| Tomato, small 4/  | 4,432          | 476              | 445    | 440    | -8                  | -1   |
| Watermelon        | 43,397         | 861              | 1,583  | 1,181  | 37                  | -25  |
| Selected total    | 351,913        | 25,752           | 29,462 | 27,929 | 8                   | -5   |

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

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

As a result, the spring vegetable crop is generally maturing a bit later than usual. Normal spring volume may be delayed a week or two due to the effects of cool temperatures, which may result in price spikes through early May. Florida growers expect to harvest one-third of spring area for the 11 selected crops. Florida's area is expected to decline 1 percent from a year ago as increased area for tomatoes (up 12 percent) and bell peppers (up 1 percent) is outweighed by reductions for all other crops. Area for tomatoes, which annually accounts for about one-third of Florida's \$1.6 billion in vegetable cash receipts, is expected to increase after sinking to its lowest since 2000.

Due to supply gaps caused by earlier freeze damage, sweet corn prices exceeded 60 cents per pound in March, double the average for that month over the previous 3 years. With recovery in supplies expected in late April, prices should begin to ease. Sweet corn area for harvest is expected to drop 5 percent in Florida, although the relatively dry weather over the growing season should yield good quality and yields this spring. Per capita use of fresh-market sweet corn has been trending higher over the past several years thanks to higher quality brought about by improved varieties and better handling.

Given adequate domestic supplies, average import supplies, and continued sluggish demand due to the weak economy, U.S. spring-season grower/shipper prices for commercial fresh vegetables are expected to average at or below a year earlier. Grower/shipper prices this spring are expected to average lower for crops such as celery, tomatoes, and cauliflower, while averaging higher for onions, sweet corn, and asparagus.

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

| Item  | 2008              | 2009  |       | Change previous:  |       |
|---|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|
|   | March             | Feb.  | March | Month             | Year  |
|   | ----- Index ----- |       |       | ---- Percent ---- |       |
| <b>Consumer Price Indexes (1982/84=100)</b> |                   |       |       |                   |       |
| Food at home                                | 208.2             | 218.4 | 217.1 | -0.6              | 4.3   |
| Food away from home                         | 212.5             | 222.0 | 222.2 | 0.1               | 4.6   |
| Fresh vegetables                            | 301.5             | 311.8 | 305.7 | -1.9              | 1.4   |
| Potatoes                                    | 285.4             | 338.7 | 336.2 | -0.8              | 17.8  |
| Tomatoes, all                               | 345.1             | 296.9 | 295.9 | -0.4              | -14.3 |
| Lettuce, all                                | 278.3             | 292.9 | 288.2 | -1.6              | 3.5   |
| Other vegetables                            | 303.3             | 317.5 | 308.2 | -2.9              | 1.6   |
| <b>Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)</b>    |                   |       |       |                   |       |
| Fresh vegetables (excl. potatoes)           | 194.1             | 163.6 | 167.4 | 2.3               | -13.8 |
| Beets 1/                                    | 131.8             | 141.8 | 141.0 | -0.6              | 7.0   |
| Cabbage 1/                                  | 159.4             | 184.2 | 207.8 | 12.8              | 30.4  |
| Eggplant 1/                                 | 376.3             | 309.7 | 284.6 | -8.1              | -24.4 |
| Greens 1/                                   | 151.9             | 174.1 | 163.7 | -6.0              | 7.8   |
| Lettuce                                     | 121.5             | 140.2 | 132.4 | -5.6              | 9.0   |
| Onions, green 1/                            | 317.9             | 222.1 | 179.5 | -19.2             | -43.5 |
| Onions, dry bulb                            | 86.3              | 111.6 | 103.1 | -7.6              | 19.5  |
| Peppers, green 1/                           | 395.5             | 339.5 | 380.2 | 12.0              | -3.9  |
| Radishes 1/                                 | 282.9             | 295.9 | 256.3 | -13.4             | -9.4  |
| Spinach 1/                                  | 359.1             | 483.2 | 409.4 | -15.3             | 14.0  |
| Squash 1/                                   | 212.7             | 206.2 | 257.0 | 24.6              | 20.8  |
| Tomatoes                                    | 409.5             | 144.8 | 143.7 | -0.8              | -64.9 |

1/ Index base is December 1991=100.

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

### *Winter Volume Down, Prices Up*

Winter fresh-market vegetable (excluding potatoes and melons) shipment volume (domestic plus import) was estimated to be down 1 percent from a year earlier. Stronger volume for artichokes, broccoli, onions, peppers, and tomatoes was outweighed by reduced shipments for lettuce, radishes, squash, sweet corn, and cucumbers. Despite weak demand, smaller supplies managed to exert upward pressure on most fresh-market shipping-point prices during the January-March quarter. As a result, winter-quarter farm prices (prices received at the point of first sale) for fresh-market vegetables increased 17 percent from the relatively weak levels of a year earlier. However, despite sharply lower fuel costs, input prices for vegetable growers continued to increase during the first quarter of 2009—rising about 5 percent from a year earlier led by seed, fertilizer, and pesticides.

The produce department has long been one of the main profit centers for food retailers. According to industry analysts, in a typical year more than three-fourths of produce purchases are made on impulse. However, given rising unemployment and underemployment, consumers may now be a little more discriminating in their shopping habits. As a result, this could put more pressure on store profit margins with retailers likely to run more ads and special sales to maintain volume. Although grower prices for fresh-market vegetables were higher this winter, transportation and marketing costs have moderated since last spring and summer. This helped keep the increase in first-quarter retail prices for all fresh vegetables below 2 percent for the second consecutive year. First quarter fresh retail prices had risen 9 percent in 2006 and 5 percent in 2007.

Table 5—U.S. quarterly grower (point-of-first-sale) prices, 2008-09

| Commodity         | 2008               |        |       |        | 2009 * |        |       | Change<br>1st Q 1/<br>Percent |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|
|                   | First              | Second | Third | Fourth | First  | Second | Third |                               |
|                   | <i>Cents/pound</i> |        |       |        |        |        |       |                               |
| Asparagus         | 107.00             | 96.93  | --    | --     | 87.35  | 97.00  | --    | -18.4                         |
| Broccoli          | 34.37              | 35.63  | 31.47 | 44.13  | 34.03  | 33.00  | 34.00 | -1.0                          |
| Cantaloup         | --                 | 21.70  | 14.07 | 27.40  | --     | 30.00  | 15.00 | --                            |
| Carrots           | 22.67              | 27.70  | 25.50 | 25.03  | 25.20  | 27.00  | 23.00 | 11.2                          |
| Cauliflower       | 41.17              | 47.53  | 36.97 | 40.63  | 45.47  | 38.00  | 33.00 | 10.4                          |
| Celery            | 14.27              | 27.17  | 15.47 | 17.00  | 27.13  | 18.00  | 14.00 | 90.1                          |
| Sweet corn        | 27.47              | 20.77  | 27.60 | 25.57  | 43.87  | 21.00  | 23.00 | 59.7                          |
| Cucumbers         | 31.20              | 27.47  | 25.77 | 37.43  | 39.10  | 26.00  | 23.00 | 25.3                          |
| Lettuce, head     | 15.23              | 18.27  | 22.13 | 25.07  | 21.63  | 19.00  | 20.00 | 42.0                          |
| Onions, dry bulb  | 3.27               | 17.37  | 10.41 | 11.77  | 7.01   | 21.00  | 11.00 | 114.4                         |
| Snap beans        | 68.27              | 48.67  | 72.90 | 55.40  | 76.87  | 44.00  | 69.00 | 12.6                          |
| Tomatoes, field   | 56.80              | 50.80  | 31.97 | 45.53  | 33.37  | 40.00  | 35.00 | -41.3                         |
| All vegetables 2/ | 929                | 1,115  | 1,098 | 1,161  | 1,084  | 1,075  | 1,030 | 16.7                          |

-- = not available. \* = ERS forecast. 1/ Change in 1st-quarter 2009 over 1st-quarter 2008.

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

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

According to the *USDA Market News* report on advertised retail prices at major retail supermarket outlets, March average advertised retail prices for selected vegetables compared with a year earlier were as follows:

- green beans rose 18 percent to \$1.68/lb;
- broccoli rose 8 percent to \$1.66/lb;
- sweet corn on the cob rose 30 percent to \$0.48/ear;
- romaine lettuce fell 17 percent to \$1.09/each;
- round field-grown tomatoes fell 32 percent to \$1.29/lb;
- red bell peppers fell 30 percent to \$2.04/lb.

### ***Storage Onion Area Steady***

Area expected to be planted to summer storage onions is forecast to rise less than 1 percent in 2009 to 110,020 acres. California plants the greatest area to storage onions annually, but the majority of this area is devoted to processing uses (largely dehydration). Despite a shortage of irrigation water, storage onion area in California is expected to rise 3 percent to 33,500 acres—the largest area since 2003. Given normal weather and average yields (which would be slightly lower than 2008 yields) this fall, production of storage onions outside of California is expected to be down 1 to 3 percent from a year ago. Storage onion output in 2009 would equal the average of the first 9 years of this decade.

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 storage-onion States during 2006-08 were California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and New York. Despite lower-than-anticipated prices for the last half of the 2008 storage crop, weak demand (especially for foodservice), and above-average prices for alternative crops such as corn and soybeans, growers decided to make few changes to onion area in 2009. Bulb onion prices moved from one extreme to the other over the past year. With a smaller crop last fall and reduced import volume, fresh bulb onion prices began the season on a strong note but prices peaked at 13.4 cents per pound in December before trending lower along

Table 6--Fresh-market vegetables: Per capita disappearance (net domestic use) 1/

| Item          | Average                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|               | 2000-04                   | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009f  |
|               | ----- Pounds/person ----- |        |        |        |        |        |
| Onions 2/     | 19.62                     | 20.91  | 19.93  | 21.63  | 20.23  | 21.50  |
| Tomatoes 3/   | 19.58                     | 20.16  | 19.78  | 19.23  | 18.53  | 18.66  |
| Head lettuce  | 22.50                     | 20.93  | 20.07  | 18.39  | 16.87  | 16.83  |
| Other lettuce | 9.77                      | 9.67   | 11.99  | 11.55  | 11.11  | 11.27  |
| Bell pepper   | 8.33                      | 9.21   | 9.46   | 9.37   | 9.85   | 9.35   |
| Sweet corn    | 9.07                      | 8.66   | 8.33   | 9.23   | 9.21   | 9.29   |
| Cabbage       | 8.30                      | 7.76   | 7.76   | 7.96   | 8.19   | 8.18   |
| Carrots       | 8.90                      | 8.67   | 8.11   | 8.06   | 8.07   | 7.93   |
| Cucumbers     | 6.37                      | 6.20   | 6.15   | 6.43   | 6.74   | 6.61   |
| Celery        | 6.29                      | 5.88   | 6.03   | 6.22   | 6.23   | 6.23   |
| Broccoli      | 5.46                      | 5.35   | 5.77   | 5.64   | 5.94   | 5.69   |
| Pumpkins      | 4.33                      | 5.05   | 4.88   | 5.28   | 4.88   | 4.92   |
| Squash        | 4.39                      | 4.45   | 4.61   | 4.15   | 4.17   | 4.29   |
| Garlic, all   | 2.51                      | 2.44   | 2.70   | 2.72   | 2.77   | 2.79   |
| Snap beans    | 2.03                      | 1.80   | 2.08   | 2.20   | 2.11   | 2.12   |
| Spinach       | 1.47                      | 2.33   | 1.96   | 1.62   | 1.62   | 1.58   |
| Cauliflower   | 1.56                      | 1.75   | 1.70   | 1.68   | 1.57   | 1.57   |
| Asparagus     | 1.00                      | 1.12   | 1.13   | 1.16   | 1.18   | 1.20   |
| Others 1/     | 5.87                      | 5.96   | 5.96   | 5.49   | 5.26   | 5.39   |
| Subtotal      | 147.35                    | 148.30 | 148.40 | 148.01 | 144.53 | 145.40 |
| Potatoes      | 46.16                     | 41.40  | 38.60  | 39.10  | 36.70  | 37.20  |
| Total         | 193.51                    | 189.70 | 187.00 | 187.11 | 181.23 | 182.60 |

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 USDA, Economic Research Service.

with the prices of other field crops, reaching 5.2 cents per pound in March. Although storage-onion supplies were dwindling and Georgia's spring volume was slightly delayed due to cool weather, spring-season onion growers entered an average-priced market in April. However, onion prices could show modest gains from a year earlier since available supplies may be lower. Given reduced area, an indication of strong yields in Texas, and assuming average yields elsewhere, spring onion output should match that of a year ago. Thus, with little change in the spring onion crop, supplies could be lower because fall stocks entering spring are down and import gains will likely be modest due to earlier lackluster prices.

### ***Per Capita Use Drops in 2008, Steady in 2009***

According to preliminary data, disappearance (also known as net domestic use, a proxy for consumption) of fresh-market vegetables (excluding potatoes, melons, sweet potatoes, dry pulses, and mushrooms, which are each analyzed by ERS as separate markets) declined 1 percent to 44.0 billion pounds in 2008. On a per person basis, use of fresh vegetables declined 2 percent to about 145 pounds (table 6). Including melons, per capita fresh use was down 3 pounds to about 171 pounds in 2008 and is expected to rise slightly (1 pound) in 2009. About 7 pounds was shaved from per capita disappearance estimates by revisions to production estimates. Including estimates for melons, fresh potatoes, sweet potatoes, and fresh mushrooms, per capita use of all fresh vegetables totaled 215 pounds in 2008, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Little gain is currently expected in 2009 due to expectations of continued weakness in employment and consumer incomes.

In 2008, net domestic use increased for such crops as broccoli, bell peppers, cucumbers, cabbage, garlic, and asparagus while declining for head lettuce, leaf and romaine lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cauliflower, pumpkins, and snap (green) beans. Total net domestic disappearance of fresh market broccoli rose 6 percent to a record-high 1.8 billion pounds as both production and imports increased. While imports continued to trend higher (reaching a record 201 million pounds) domestic production was the third highest on record at 1.9 million pounds. Exports of fresh market broccoli, which have changed little over the past 6 years, continued to languish in 2008 (down 3 percent to 303 million pounds)—24 percent below their 2000 peak. In 2009, per capita fresh-vegetable use (excluding potatoes and melons) is expected to decline slightly as weak demand continues to limit consumer purchases. Current estimates for 2009 suggest that higher use projected for bulb onions, squash, sweet corn, and leaf and romaine lettuce could outweigh potential reductions for broccoli, carrots, spinach, and bell peppers.

### *Imports Decline*

During the first 2 months of 2009, the volume of fresh vegetable (excluding potatoes, mushrooms, and melons) imports decreased 2 percent from a year earlier (table 7). Despite higher domestic prices, the value of imports during this time declined 11 percent from a year earlier. Although the value of imports from Canada rose 1 percent to \$24 million, the value of fresh vegetable imports from Mexico fell 9 percent to \$804 million. The recession may be having an effect on tomato imports. Within the tomato category, growth of greenhouse-grown product slowed considerably, with volume up just 4 percent during the first 2 months of the year. Among other premium tomato products, imports of roma tomatoes fell 7 percent while grape tomatoes declined 9 percent. In contrast, the volume of lower-priced field-grown tomatoes, which had been on a downward trend, rose 8 percent.

Table 7--Selected fresh-market vegetable trade volume, 2007-09 1/

| Item                   | 2008                  | January - February |        |        | Change  |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|
|                        | Annual                | 2007               | 2008   | 2009   | 2008-09 |
|                        | ----- 1,000 cwt ----- |                    |        |        | Percent |
| <b>Exports, fresh:</b> |                       |                    |        |        |         |
| Onions, dry bulb       | 6,120                 | 960                | 782    | 829    | 6       |
| Lettuce, head          | 4,662                 | 514                | 479    | 445    | -7      |
| Lettuce, other         | 3,751                 | 753                | 784    | 744    | -5      |
| Tomatoes               | 3,380                 | 518                | 546    | 541    | -1      |
| Broccoli               | 3,031                 | 460                | 507    | 442    | -13     |
| Carrots                | 2,751                 | 372                | 479    | 393    | -18     |
| Celery                 | 2,559                 | 520                | 498    | 447    | -10     |
| Other                  | 10,607                | 1,586              | 1,699  | 1,587  | -7      |
| Total                  | 36,861                | 5,684              | 5,773  | 5,428  | -6      |
| <b>Imports, fresh:</b> |                       |                    |        |        |         |
| Tomatoes, all          | 24,611                | 5,528              | 6,179  | 6,160  | 0       |
| Cucumbers              | 10,980                | 2,496              | 2,922  | 2,955  | 1       |
| Onions, dry bulb       | 7,309                 | 1,538              | 1,432  | 1,199  | -16     |
| Peppers, sweet         | 7,142                 | 1,921              | 1,117  | 2,087  | 87      |
| Squash 2/              | 6,283                 | 1,513              | 1,419  | 1,367  | -4      |
| Peppers, chile         | 5,402                 | 811                | 1,903  | 965    | -49     |
| Asparagus, all         | 3,083                 | 603                | 748    | 786    | 5       |
| Other                  | 23,880                | 4,843              | 5,134  | 4,923  | -4      |
| Total                  | 88,690                | 19,254             | 20,854 | 20,442 | -2      |

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

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

## Melons

### *Spring Melon Area Down*

Area for harvest (across comparable States) for the three top melon crops is forecast to decline 3 percent to 65,300 acres this spring (largely April-June). Acreage is expected to decline for all three melons, with cantaloupe expected to exhibit the greatest decline (table 8). All the reduction in cantaloupe area will come from Arizona where area is down 12 percent to 10,500 acres—the smallest spring area since 2003. Lower prices for imported melons this winter and anticipation of weaker demand, especially from foodservice clients, may lie behind a portion of the acreage cuts, especially for watermelon since farm prices and use have generally been trending higher the past few years. The domestic spring melon crop accounts for about one-third of annual U.S. melon acreage, while the summer crop accounts for more than half of all melon acreage. This spring, Florida, which accounts for one-third of spring melon area, expects to harvest 1 percent fewer acres than a year ago, while California (22 percent of spring melon area) is projected to harvest 2 percent fewer acres. Meanwhile, Texas (17 percent of spring melon area) is forecast to harvest 1 percent more area with the gain spread between watermelon and cantaloupe.

In 2008, higher prices (especially for cantaloupe and watermelon) pushed the farm value of the 3 leading melon crops up 17 percent to \$931 million. Despite the weak economy, this was the highest melon crop farm value on record and reflects prices pushed up by high input prices, summer crop irrigation water shortages in California, and general commodity price inflation in 2008. Despite 3 percent fewer harvested acres, melon production rose 1 percent on the strength of increased watermelon yields. Yield improvement was noted in several States but was most pronounced in Texas and South Carolina since these States were recovering from drought-reduced yields in 2007.

According to USDA's Market News Service, 45 percent of all melon shipments (includes domestically-produced and imported product) occurred in the April-June quarter during 2006-08. During this 3-year period, 69 percent of all spring-season shipments came from U.S. farms. During the winter quarter, virtually all melons are imported. According to preliminary 2009 data, winter-season melon shipments fell 31 percent from a year earlier due in part to a combination of reduced supplies and recession-affected demand.

### *Melon Use Up in 2008*

Estimated disappearance of all melons totaled 7.9 billion pounds in 2008, up 1 percent from a year earlier and the third highest on record. Although domestic

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

| Item              | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009 f | Change     |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
|                   |        |        |        |        | 2008-09 2/ |
| ----- Acres ----- |        |        |        |        | Percent    |
| Cantaloupe        | 28,700 | 26,400 | 26,100 | 25,000 | -4         |
| Honeydew          | 3,400  | 3,350  | 3,100  | 3,000  | -3         |
| Watermelon        | 37,700 | 36,300 | 37,800 | 37,300 | -1         |
| Total             | 69,800 | 66,050 | 67,000 | 65,300 | -3         |

f = NASS forecast area for harvest.

1/ Selected crops for harvest largely during April-June.

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

Table 9--Selected melons: U.S. acreage, yield, production, and value, 2006-08

| Crop<br>year       | Acreage                |           | Yield<br>Cwt/acre | Produc-<br>tion<br>1,000 cwt | Farm value         |                    |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                    | Planted<br>1,000 acres | Harvested |                   |                              | Per unit<br>\$/cwt | Crop<br>Mil. dols. |
| <i>Watermelon:</i> |                        |           |                   |                              |                    |                    |
| 2006               | 141.1                  | 131.0     | 304               | 39,865                       | 10.40              | 414,111            |
| 2007               | 140.7                  | 129.0     | 290               | 37,349                       | 11.30              | 422,546            |
| 2008               | 133.7                  | 125.6     | 315               | 39,551                       | 12.50              | 492,446            |
| <i>Cantaloup:</i>  |                        |           |                   |                              |                    |                    |
| 2006               | 81.3                   | 79.3      | 246               | 19,498                       | 17.20              | 335,526            |
| 2007               | 75.9                   | 73.8      | 277               | 20,426                       | 14.80              | 302,485            |
| 2008               | 73.5                   | 71.7      | 269               | 19,294                       | 19.20              | 370,821            |
| <i>Honeydew:</i>   |                        |           |                   |                              |                    |                    |
| 2006               | 18.5                   | 18.3      | 231               | 4,221                        | 18.20              | 76,943             |
| 2007               | 17.9                   | 17.6      | 236               | 4,144                        | 17.70              | 73,517             |
| 2008               | 16.9                   | 16.7      | 221               | 3,687                        | 18.40              | 67,970             |

Source: USDA, NASS, *Vegetables Annual Summary*.

Table 10--Melons: Quarterly wholesale price index (PPI)

| Year                     | I     | II    | III  | IV    | Annual |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| – Index, 1991=100 –      |       |       |      |       |        |
| 2000                     | –     | 66.2  | 49.6 | 108.9 | 71.3   |
| 2001                     | –     | 86.0  | 62.2 | 87.5  | 76.2   |
| 2002                     | –     | 74.7  | 66.4 | 60.8  | 65.9   |
| 2003                     | –     | 90.6  | 48.3 | 85.9  | 71.1   |
| 2004                     | 135.1 | 86.9  | 66.4 | 124.6 | 103.3  |
| 2005                     | 109.3 | 125.6 | 75.6 | 67.3  | 97.4   |
| 2006                     | 99.8  | 96.4  | 75.2 | 112.0 | 92.7   |
| 2007                     | 108.7 | 118.6 | 72.8 | 154.6 | 113.7  |
| 2008                     | 122.3 | 133.4 | 77.5 | 122.0 | 113.8  |
| 2009                     | 98.7  | –     | –    | –     | –      |
| – Percent –              |       |       |      |       |        |
| <b>Percent change 1/</b> |       |       |      |       |        |
| 2007                     | 8.9   | 23.0  | -3.2 | 38.0  | 22.6   |
| 2008                     | 12.5  | 12.5  | 6.5  | -21.1 | 0.1    |
| 2009                     | -19.3 | –     | –    | –     | –      |

-- = not available or applicable. 1/ Percentage change from the previous year.

Source: Derived by ERS from data of U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

production was up just 1 percent in 2008, imports continued their upward trend, rising 3 percent to a record high 2.2 billion pounds. The volume of melon exports rose 5 percent, which took most of the gain in production. However, with import volume up and wholesale prices holding steady with a year earlier, per capita net domestic melon use rose one-tenth of a pound to 26 pounds. This is still below the most recent high of 29 pounds set in 1999. The consumption outlook for 2009 indicates little change with domestic use declining as lower domestic output (especially in California) is largely offset by increased imports.

In 2008, the cantaloup market remained in the doldrums with domestic disappearance declining 7 percent to 2.7 billion pounds—the lowest since 1995. With both domestic production (down 6 percent) and imports (down 8 percent), the average

Table 11--U.S. melon crops: Per capita disappearance (net domestic use) 1/

| Item             | Average                   |       |       |       |       |        |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
|                  | 2000-04                   | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009 f |
|                  | ----- Pounds/person ----- |       |       |       |       |        |
| Cantaloup        | 10.80                     | 9.58  | 9.26  | 9.59  | 8.88  | 8.99   |
| Honeydew         | 2.13                      | 1.87  | 1.88  | 1.84  | 1.65  | 1.71   |
| Watermelon       | 13.88                     | 13.56 | 15.13 | 14.42 | 15.45 | 15.26  |
| Top three melons | 26.81                     | 25.01 | 26.27 | 25.85 | 25.98 | 25.96  |

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Disappearance is a proxy estimate for calendar year consumption.

Source: Estimates developed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

Table 12--U.S. fresh-market melons: Import volume, January - February

| Item             | Annual | January - February |       |       | Change  |
|------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
|                  | 2008   | 2007               | 2008  | 2009  | 2008-09 |
|                  |        | --1,000 cwt--      |       |       | Percent |
| Cantaloups       | 9,310  | 2,865              | 2,814 | 2,834 | 1       |
| Watermelon, all  | 10,571 | 1,133              | 1,377 | 1,075 | -22     |
| Seedless         | 9,203  | 869                | 1,117 | 805   | -28     |
| Honeydew & other | 4,066  | 841                | 975   | 846   | -13     |
| Total            | 23,947 | 4,839              | 5,166 | 4,755 | -8      |

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

cantaloup farm price jumped 30 percent to a nominal dollar record 19.2 cents per pound. Advertised retail prices averaged \$2.30 per melon in 2008, with prices peaking during the fall quarter. Through early April of 2009, the retail price of imported cantaloup averaged about 10 percent below that of a year earlier. With relatively high prices in 2008, per capita use fell 7 percent from a year earlier to 8.9 pounds, remaining well below the 1999 record of 11.4 pounds.

In 2008, most indicators were up for watermelon. With the popularity of the mini “personal” melons, supply increased as domestic production rose 6 percent and import volume jumped 17 percent to a record high 1.1 billion pounds. Despite the larger supply, good demand allowed the season-average grower price to rise 11 percent to a record-high 12.5 cents per pound. At retail, a premium was demanded for the new miniature melons, with the advertised price averaging \$3.23 per melon in 2008, compared with \$3.82 each for the heavier, standard-sized seedless melons. Despite these prices, watermelon net domestic disappearance rose 8 percent to 4.7 billion pounds (15.5 pounds per person).

### **Import Volume Down**

During January and February 2009, melon import volume was down 8 percent from a year earlier. These imports were valued at \$74 million—down 5 percent from a year earlier. During these 2 months, cantaloup is the dominant melon imported, accounting for 60 percent of total volume. Honduras (44 percent), Costa Rica (30 percent), and Guatemala (26 percent) were the leading suppliers of cantaloup in early 2009. The volume of watermelon imports was down 22 percent from a year earlier during the first 2 months of 2009, with Mexico (69 percent) and Honduras (20 percent) accounting for the bulk of the shipments. Seedless varieties accounted for 75 percent of watermelon imports so far in 2009, down from 81 percent a year earlier and 87 percent during all of 2008. The recession may be hampering movement of the costly miniature melons in 2009.

## Processing Vegetables

### *Canning Acreage Up, Freezing Down*

Contract acreage for the five leading processing vegetables (tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, green peas, and cucumbers) is expected to increase 4 percent from a year earlier to 1.20 million acres (table 13). Assuming yields remain near the average of the previous 3 seasons, total production of 11 selected processing vegetables could exceed the sizeable 17.5 million short tons harvested in 2008 by more than 1 million tons. The majority of any gain in 2009 processing output will likely stem from another large processing tomato crop in California. However, due to expected shortages of irrigation water in the San Joaquin Valley this year, there is greater uncertainty than usual regarding the tomato crop (e.g., yield, area loss, etc.)

For processors of frozen vegetables, contract area is expected to drop 4 percent as increased sweet corn area is outweighed by a cut in projected green pea and snap bean area. Forecast area for snap beans destined for freezing is expected to decline 18 percent from a year earlier as processors attempt to bring stocks (the highest since 1991) back into line. Given average yields, contract production of the three leading vegetables for freezing is projected to remain near that of a year earlier as a larger corn crop is offset by smaller bean and pea crops. During the first quarter of 2009, frozen vegetable wholesale prices averaged 16 percent above a year ago, with higher prices for virtually all major retail-sized packages including cut sweet corn, green beans, and broccoli (each up 10 percent). First quarter retail prices for frozen vegetables averaged 9 percent higher after rising 8 percent during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Canneries, which account for two-thirds of all processing vegetable area, expect to contract for 8 percent more acreage than a year ago. Given average yields, contract production of the five leading canning vegetables could rise 6 to 10 percent above that of 2008. Following last year's smaller crop, green pea canning acreage is expected to rise 9 percent. Processors only plan an 1-percent increase in area devoted to canning snap beans following last year's strong crop, which replenished canner's stocks drawn down by a small 2007 crop. During the first quarter of 2009, canned vegetable wholesale prices averaged 13 percent above a year ago with higher prices for virtually all major products including cut sweet corn (up 29 percent), green beans (up 28 percent), and green peas (up 29 percent). Higher

Table 13--Contract plantings of selected processing crops 1/

| Item            | Contract plantings      |         |         |         | Change<br>2008-09 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
|                 | 2006                    | 2007    | 2008    | 2009 f  |                   |
|                 | ----- 1,000 acres ----- |         |         |         | Percent           |
| <b>Canning</b>  | 811.8                   | 798.8   | 760.6   | 820.9   | 8                 |
| Tomatoes        | 297.7                   | 316.3   | 296.3   | 326.2   | 10                |
| Sweet corn      | 197.6                   | 180.0   | 177.8   | 188.2   | 6                 |
| Snap beans      | 139.7                   | 129.8   | 129.8   | 131.3   | 1                 |
| Green peas      | 90.6                    | 80.8    | 77.5    | 84.8    | 9                 |
| Cucumbers       | 86.2                    | 91.9    | 79.1    | 90.4    | 14                |
| <b>Freezing</b> | 385.8                   | 402.6   | 398.0   | 382.7   | -4                |
| Sweet corn      | 196.8                   | 200.1   | 186.0   | 194.0   | 4                 |
| Snap beans      | 66.8                    | 75.0    | 73.4    | 60.1    | -18               |
| Green peas      | 122.2                   | 127.5   | 138.6   | 128.7   | -7                |
| <b>Total</b>    | 1,197.6                 | 1,201.4 | 1,158.5 | 1,203.6 | 4                 |

f = NASS prospective area for harvest. 1/ Excludes open market plantings.

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

Table 14--Processing vegetables: Consumer and producer price indexes 1/

| Item                                      | 2009              |       | 2008  | Change previous:    |      |
|---|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|------|
|   | March             | Feb.  | March | Month               | Year |
|   | ----- Index ----- |       |       | ----- Percent ----- |      |
| <b>Consumer Price Indexes (12/97=100)</b> |                   |       |       |                     |      |
| Processed fruits and vegetables           | 149.0             | 148.5 | 131.5 | 0.3                 | 13.3 |
| Canned vegetables                         | 162.5             | 162.3 | 135.4 | 0.2                 | 20.0 |
| Frozen vegetables (1982-84=100)           | 198.9             | 198.1 | 184.0 | 0.4                 | 8.1  |
| Dry beans, peas, lentils                  | 174.0             | 173.1 | 141.1 | 0.5                 | 23.3 |
| Olives, pickles, relishes                 | 135.4             | 133.8 | 123.1 | 1.2                 | 10.0 |
| <b>Producer Price Indexes (1982=100)</b>  |                   |       |       |                     |      |
| Canned vegetables and juices              | 169.4             | 169.3 | 149.6 | 0.1                 | 13.2 |
| Pickles and products                      | 210.1             | 210.2 | 202.4 | 0.0                 | 3.8  |
| Tomato catsup and sauces 2/               | 155.8             | 156.5 | 143.0 | -0.4                | 9.0  |
| Canned dry beans                          | 147.2             | 146.5 | 135.3 | 0.5                 | 8.8  |
| Vegetable juices 2/                       | 126.7             | 126.7 | 118.6 | 0.0                 | 6.8  |
| Frozen vegetables                         | 178.2             | 178.2 | 155.6 | 0.0                 | 14.5 |
| Frozen vegetable combinations             | 116.8             | 116.8 | 112.1 | 0.0                 | 4.2  |
| Dried/dehy. fruit & vegetables            | 198.1             | 198.8 | 188.1 | -0.4                | 5.3  |
| Spices 3/                                 | 185.0             | 184.1 | 169.3 | 0.5                 | 9.3  |

-- = not available. 1/ Not seasonally adjusted. 2/ Index base year is 1987. 3/ Index base year is 1991.

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

wholesale prices reflect the sharp upturn in contract prices required last year to ensure competitive returns and adequate processing stock. Given elevated wholesale prices, first quarter retail prices for canned vegetables averaged 20 percent higher after rising 20 percent during the fourth quarter of 2008.

### ***Despite Drought, Tomato Crop May Rise***

U.S. tomato processors expect to contract for a record 13.9 million short tons in 2009—up 14 percent from a year earlier. Although production was relatively robust in 2008, export demand for tomato products (particularly paste) was also well above average during calendar year 2008, providing a firm foundation for wholesale prices. However, domestic use sagged a bit in 2008 resulting in an increase in stocks of U.S. tomato products. On December 1 of last year, tomato stocks (on a fresh-weight basis) were the highest on record. Despite these stocks and the likelihood of a larger 2009 crop worldwide, U.S. wholesale tomato product prices are likely to remain high relative to historical trend. For example, the wholesale price for tomato ketchup averaged 11 percent above a year earlier during the first 3 months of 2009. Meanwhile the cost of industrial tomato paste (31 percent soluble solids) which is later used to manufacture products such as sauces, ketchup, and juice, averaged 47 percent higher than a year ago and 75 percent above 3 years ago.

Part of the driving force behind higher tomato product prices has been a surge in the acquisition cost of raw tomatoes this year and last (the cost of fresh tomatoes accounts for around half of the cost of producing tomato paste). In 2008, the base price (price at the first delivery point, excluding premiums) for raw tomatoes averaged a record-high (unadjusted for inflation) \$70 per short ton, up from \$63 per short ton the previous season. The base price this year is expected to rise to around \$82 per ton and will help entice water-short growers to use limited water supplies on processing tomatoes rather than on field crops such as cotton. To the extent that available water is allocated among competing crops, higher returns could be important in areas such as the Westlands Water District where (among other crops) 86,011 acres of processing tomatoes (one-third of the state total) and 7,357 acres of onions for

Table 15--Value of processed vegetable trade 1/

| Item                        | 2008   | January - February |      |      | Change  |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------|------|------|---------|
|                             | Annual | 2007               | 2008 | 2009 | 2008-09 |
| ----- Million dollars ----- |        |                    |      |      | Percent |
| <b>Imports:</b>             |        |                    |      |      |         |
| Canned                      | 988    | 146                | 154  | 155  | 0       |
| Tomato products             | 220    | 35                 | 30   | 31   | 2       |
| Frozen                      | 748    | 96                 | 133  | 131  | -2      |
| Broccoli                    | 252    | 31                 | 50   | 48   | -4      |
| Dehydrated 2/               | 442    | 68                 | 66   | 70   | 7       |
| Garlic                      | 37     | 15                 | 7    | 5    | -21     |
| <b>Exports:</b>             |        |                    |      |      |         |
| Canned                      | 811    | 86                 | 111  | 124  | 12      |
| Tomato products             | 518    | 48                 | 66   | 78   | 18      |
| Frozen                      | 261    | 29                 | 40   | 36   | -11     |
| Sweet corn                  | 69     | 10                 | 9    | 9    | 4       |
| Dehydrated 2/               | 150    | 19                 | 25   | 21   | -16     |
| Onion products              | 85     | 11                 | 14   | 10   | -26     |

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

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

dehydration were grown in 2008—both down from a year earlier due in part to reduced water supplies.

Periods of drought have long been a part of California's normal climate history. The current drought is entering its third year, with reservoir levels substantially below average and groundwater supplies stressed. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that water users in western Fresno and Kings Counties (the Westlands Water District) in the central San Joaquin Valley will receive no water from the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) this year (compared with 45 percent last year). The more than 600,000 acres of farmland in this district receives the majority of its water from the CVP via the San Luis Reservoir (filled largely by water pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta). But Westlands also has substantial groundwater resources serving a portion of the farms in the district and which originally built and sustained agriculture in the area prior to the first CVP surface water deliveries in 1968 (was designed to ease groundwater reliance in the area).

### *Sweet Corn Area 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 below the average of the previous 3 years coming into 2009. As a result, sweet-corn canneries intend to contract for 6 percent more acres in 2009. The bulk of the acreage increase is expected to take place in Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin. Assuming average acreage abandonment and yields around the average of the previous 3 years (which would be less than a year ago), this suggests that canning sweet-corn production could increase by 1 to 3 percent from a year ago.

With average stocks and higher prices, contract area for sweet corn destined for freezing is expected to rise 4 percent in 2009. Contract acreage is expected to be higher in such major States as Washington and Oregon. In 2008, output of sweet corn destined for frozen products declined 9 percent to 2.95 billion pounds—the

smallest crop since 2000. Despite the small 2008 crop, stocks of sweet corn on January 1, 2009 were up 1 percent from a year earlier, but were in line with the average of the previous 3 years. This is largely a reflection of sluggish demand for frozen sweet corn this decade. Per capita use of all sweet corn for freezing has declined 19 percent since peaking in 1996 at 10.4 pounds.

### ***Domestic Use Declines in 2008***

Per capita net domestic use of processing vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) declined 3 percent to 115 pounds in 2008. On a fresh-equivalent basis, disappearance of vegetables used in manufacturing frozen, canned, and dehydrated products in 2008 was estimated to be 35.1 billion pounds—down 2 percent from a year earlier. With low beginning stocks about offsetting increased production, the outlook for 2009 indicates a small increase in per capita disappearance of processing vegetables to just under 123 pounds due mostly to rising use of canning tomatoes and pickling cucumbers.

**Canning vegetables**—Per capita use of canning vegetables (excluding potatoes) declined 2 percent to 92.8 pounds—the second weakest canning use since 1988. Total domestic disappearance of canning vegetables in 2008 fell about 1 percent to 28.3 billion pounds. Decreases were noted for most commodities including tomatoes, sweet corn, pickling cucumbers, and snap beans (table 16). Despite historically high beginning stocks and a sizeable crop in 2008, domestic use of processing tomatoes fell 1 percent as imports dropped by 23 percent and exports surged by 92 percent. Tomatoes accounted for 72 percent of 2008 canning vegetable disappearance. The outlook for 2009 indicates a modest increase in per capita use of canning vegetables, as consumers turn more to home-cooked meals and comfort foods featuring products such as tomato sauces.

**Freezing vegetables**—Disappearance of vegetables for freezing (excluding potatoes) decreased 6 percent to 6.4 billion pounds (22.2 billion including potatoes) in 2008. On a per capita use basis, freezing vegetables (excluding potatoes)

Table 16--Vegetables for canning: Per capita disappearance (net domestic use) 1/

| Selected items                          | Average 2000-04 | 2005   | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009 f |
|---|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| ----- Pounds/person, fresh-weight ----- |                 |        |       |       |       |        |
| Tomatoes                                | 69.09           | 73.81  | 64.60 | 68.76 | 67.23 | 72.65  |
| Sweet corn                              | 8.42            | 8.59   | 8.36  | 6.85  | 6.75  | 6.62   |
| Chile peppers 2/ 3/                     | 5.58            | 6.06   | 6.36  | 6.09  | 6.15  | 6.48   |
| Cucumbers 4/                            | 4.67            | 3.84   | 2.99  | 3.74  | 3.55  | 4.17   |
| Snap beans                              | 3.71            | 4.00   | 3.88  | 3.48  | 3.31  | 3.36   |
| Carrots 3/                              | 1.07            | 1.12   | 0.97  | 0.92  | 0.96  | 0.93   |
| Green peas                              | 1.31            | 1.04   | 1.11  | 1.14  | 1.07  | 1.07   |
| Cabbage                                 | 1.20            | 1.21   | 1.21  | 1.18  | 1.19  | 1.16   |
| Beets                                   | 0.65            | 0.57   | 0.40  | 0.42  | 0.51  | 0.46   |
| Asparagus                               | 0.21            | 0.19   | 0.17  | 0.14  | 0.21  | 0.22   |
| Other canning                           | 1.88            | 2.30   | 2.20  | 2.18  | 1.91  | 2.07   |
| Subtotal                                | 97.79           | 102.73 | 92.25 | 94.90 | 92.84 | 99.19  |
| Potatoes 3/                             | 1.51            | 0.93   | 0.77  | 0.88  | 0.98  | 0.86   |
| Total                                   | 99.30           | 103.66 | 93.02 | 95.78 | 93.82 | 100.05 |

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Disappearance (use) is a proxy for calendar year consumption.

2/ Fresh and all processing uses of chiles. 3/ Estimates for 2008 are preliminary. 4/ For pickling.

Source: Estimates developed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

decreased 7 percent to 21 pounds last year (table 17). Reduced use of sweet corn accounted for most of the drop in vegetables for freezing in 2008. Including potatoes, freezing vegetable use fell 4 percent to 72.8 pounds per person. Projections for 2009 indicate a small gain in per capita disappearance of most vegetables for freezing (excluding potatoes) despite the weak economy and reduced employment hindering consumer spending.

**Onions for dehydration**—Domestic disappearance of onions for dehydration totaled an estimated 442 million pounds in 2008, with per capita use rising to 1.45 pounds. Use of onions for dehydration has averaged 1.37 pounds during the 2000s, down 4 percent from the 1990s. Use is expected to decline in 2009 as processors reduce production to help manage inventories during the economic downturn.

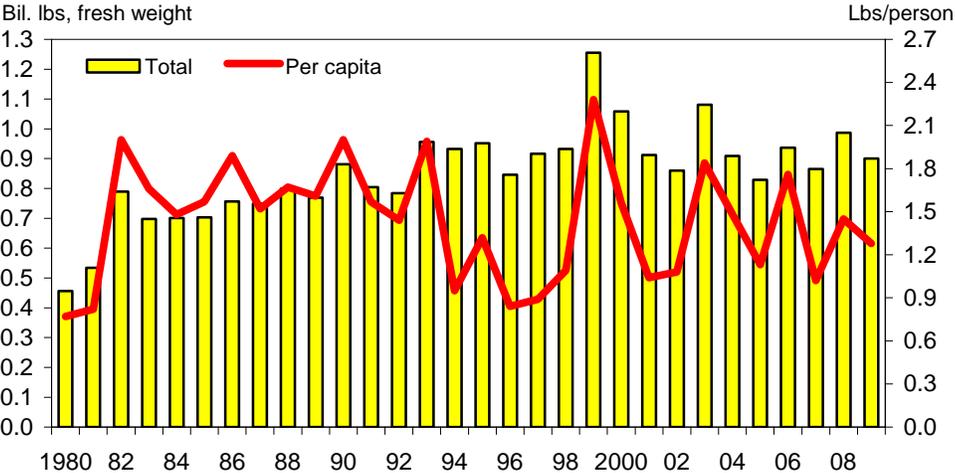
Table 17--Vegetables for freezing: Per capita disappearance (net domestic use) 1/

| Selected items                          | Average 2000-04 | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009 f |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| ----- Pounds/person, fresh-weight ----- |                 |       |       |       |       |        |
| Sweet corn                              | 9.15            | 9.47  | 9.33  | 9.99  | 8.42  | 8.68   |
| Carrots                                 | 2.22            | 1.98  | 2.07  | 1.51  | 1.56  | 1.77   |
| Broccoli                                | 2.33            | 2.71  | 2.26  | 2.68  | 2.70  | 2.88   |
| Green peas                              | 1.84            | 1.62  | 1.59  | 1.83  | 1.80  | 1.87   |
| Snap beans                              | 1.86            | 1.80  | 1.87  | 2.12  | 2.12  | 2.24   |
| Spinach                                 | 0.80            | 0.66  | 0.44  | 0.71  | 0.76  | 0.71   |
| Cauliflower                             | 0.42            | 0.37  | 0.36  | 0.37  | 0.50  | 0.40   |
| Green limas                             | 0.38            | 0.29  | 0.36  | 0.34  | 0.33  | 0.31   |
| Asparagus                               | 0.07            | 0.06  | 0.10  | 0.09  | 0.09  | 0.12   |
| Other freezing                          | 2.49            | 2.89  | 3.10  | 2.84  | 2.70  | 3.13   |
| Subtotal                                | 21.56           | 21.85 | 21.48 | 22.48 | 20.98 | 22.11  |
| Potatoes 2/                             | 57.11           | 54.48 | 52.96 | 53.51 | 51.85 | 52.63  |
| Total                                   | 78.67           | 76.33 | 74.44 | 75.99 | 72.83 | 74.74  |

f = ERS forecast. 1/ Disappearance (also called use) is a proxy for calendar year consumption. 2/ Includes french fries and other frozen potato products. Data for 2009 are preliminary.

Source: Estimates developed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

Figure 2  
**U.S. onions for dehydration: Net domestic disappearance, 1980-2009**



1/ Converted to a fresh-weight basis using a 9-to-1 ratio. Source: Computed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

## Potatoes

### *Lagging Demand Reflected in High Stocks and Slow Shipments*

Reflecting slack demand from potato processors and food service sectors, early season concerns of whether 2008's thin potato harvest would comfortably stretch through the year appear to have diminished given current stock and shipment levels. Over 12 million cwt of processed potatoes were reported to be in cold storage in February, up 8 percent from a year earlier. February's frozen-french-fry stocks were 9.5 million hundredweight (cwt), up from the average of the previous 3 years of 8.9 million cwt. Concurrently, the year-to-date (December-March) quantity of potatoes used for processing averaged 5 percent below the three year average with 117 million cwt utilized for processing from the 2008 crop. There is growing industry concern that current economic conditions both domestically and abroad will further impact the demand for processing potatoes.

Year-to-date (September-March) potato shipments totaled 89 million cwt, with March potato shipments of 14 million cwt falling 18 percent below the previous year. Since September, monthly shipments have averaged six percent below last year's levels, but exhibited a large slowdown in February and March with fresh tablestock shipments averaging 12 million cwt, 14 percent below the same time period last year. The sluggish shipping pace reflects diminishing demand in the processing and retail sectors for both fresh and processed potatoes. Falling potato prices may also be a factor motivating packers to pace their shipments at a slower rate.

### *Prices Remain High but Begin Downward Trend*

After posting record high prices throughout the fall, potato prices have seen a steady decline since January. Although the monthly average price growers received for

Table 18--U.S. potatoes: Monthly shipments 1/

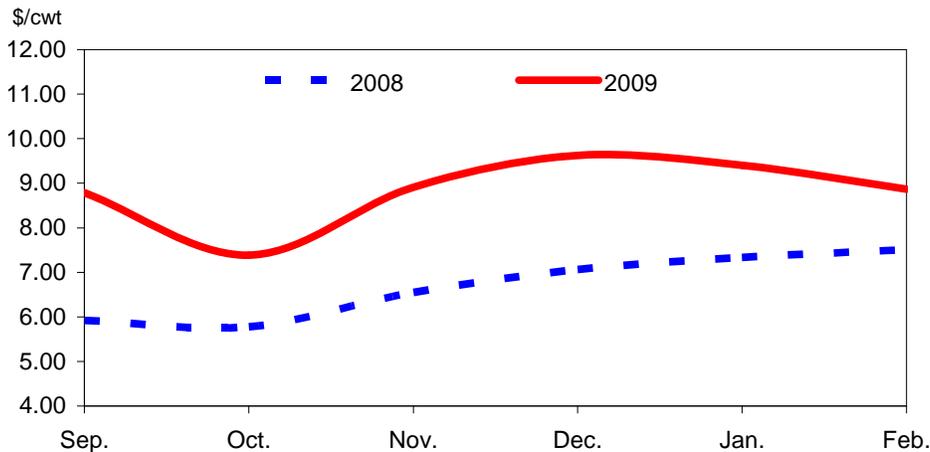
| Item/year             | Jan.                  | Feb.   | Mar.   | Year to date |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
|                       | ----- 1,000 cwt ----- |        |        |              |
| <b>Seed</b>           |                       |        |        |              |
| 2007                  | 528                   | 790    | 4,375  | 6,547        |
| 2008                  | 511                   | 658    | 3,603  | 5,306        |
| 2009                  | 522                   | 798    | 3,020  | 4,958        |
| % change              | 2                     | 21     | -16    | -7           |
| <b>Fresh market</b>   |                       |        |        |              |
| 2007                  | 9,161                 | 8,071  | 9,242  | 61,302       |
| 2008                  | 9,364                 | 8,522  | 9,622  | 63,169       |
| 2009                  | 8,980                 | 7,218  | 8,357  | 59,045       |
| % change              | -4                    | -15    | -13    | -7           |
| <b>Total potatoes</b> |                       |        |        |              |
| 2007                  | 13,358                | 12,032 | 17,890 | 95,346       |
| 2008                  | 13,182                | 12,328 | 17,201 | 95,490       |
| 2009                  | 13,932                | 10,899 | 14,120 | 89,065       |
| % change              | 5.7                   | -11.6  | -17.9  | -6.7         |

1/ Domestic shipments plus net exports.

Sources: Derived by ERS from data of USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, *Market News* and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 3

**U.S. potatoes: Average monthly price received 2008 crop year to date 1/**



1/ Crop year is September - August.

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

potatoes has averaged 18 percent above last year since January, March was the first month that this price gap dipped below 10 percent in over nine months with March prices posting \$9.07 per cwt, compared with \$8.37 a year previous. Prices historically post a small hike in March due to increased potato demand for the Easter Holiday, which may account for Idaho’s average monthly price of \$7.90 per cwt, compared to February’s \$6.75. Colorado’s average price of \$9.80 per cwt in March was actually 2 percent below March prices last year, reflecting industry speculation of supply build ups within the State. Prices within the Northern Plains (North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin) appear to have stabilized over the past 3 months. North Dakota and Minnesota both averaged \$8.98 per cwt and \$7.13 per cwt since January, while prices in Wisconsin (reflecting tighter supplies) averaged \$11.60 per cwt since January.

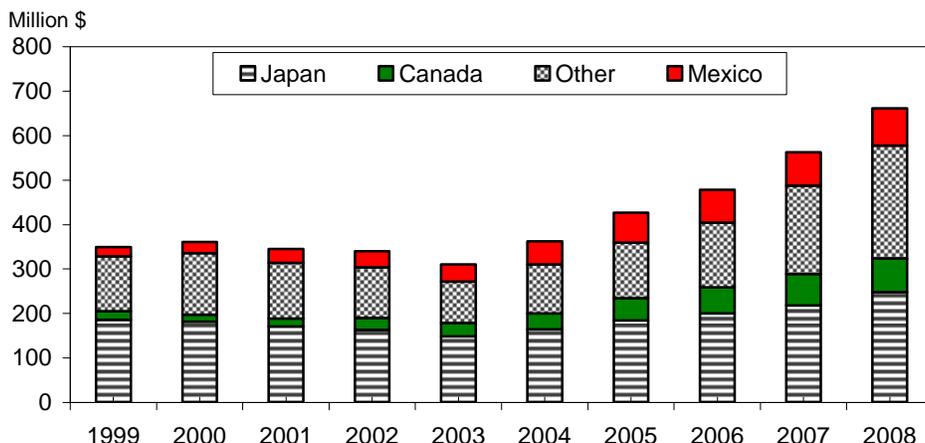
***Mexican Potato Tariffs Could Cause a Stir Within U.S. Markets***

On March 19, Mexican officials implemented a tariff on U.S. frozen-potato products exported to Mexico, opening the possibility of detrimental long term industry impacts. Ongoing disagreements over whether Mexican trucks should be allowed in the United States spurred the Mexican government to levy an average 20-percent tariff on various targeted U.S. products exported to Mexico. Frozen potatoes are among the targeted products.

Frozen-potato exports (including frozen french fries and hash browns) to Mexico have risen from \$21 million in 1999 to \$83 million in 2008, and represent 12 percent of the total U.S. frozen-potato exports. If a solution is not brokered between the two nations resolving the current trade dispute, the U.S. risks losing this export market to Canada, as the 20-percent tariff could cancel out the increased transportation costs of exporting Canadian potatoes to Mexico. Processors within the industry are watching this situation closely, especially with many growers getting ready to plant potatoes for processing. If Mexico significantly reduces their demand for U.S. frozen potatoes, the industry would have to either develop new markets or shift any excess processing potatoes into the fresh market.

Figure 4

**U.S. frozen potatoes: Export value by country, 1999-2008**



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

Despite the recession, foreign demand for U.S. potatoes continued at a healthy pace through February with year-to-date (September-February) exports valued at \$571 million, up 7 percent from the same time period last year. Japan, which accounted for 25 percent of U.S. exports in 2008, is fueling a portion of this export increase with year-to-date exports to the country totaling \$156 million, 21 percent above the three year average.

Although export levels for most potato products remain above the 3-year average, February export numbers seem to suggest a slowing foreign demand for U.S. potato products. Frozen-french-fry exports valued at \$49 million in February saw a 2-percent drop from January with Mexico and Canada averaging a 13-percent decline in demand for U.S. frozen french fries between the 2 months. Fresh tablestock exports decreased 20 percent from January, with February exports totaling 35 million pounds, and value remaining steady at \$9.4 million compared to a year earlier. Potato chip exports, however, continued at a healthy pace with year-to-date exports valued at \$91.7 million, up slightly from \$91.2 million during the same time period last year. Chip exports to Japan in February totaled \$6.2 million, up significantly from \$2.5 million in 2008.

February potato imports were 8 percent ahead of last year's pace at \$81 million. Compared with February 2008, imports were up in fresh (\$12.9 million), frozen potatoes (\$52.6 million) and chips (\$3.4 million). If domestic supplies of fresh and processed potatoes remain greater than expected given slack domestic demand, imports are expected to ease through the spring.

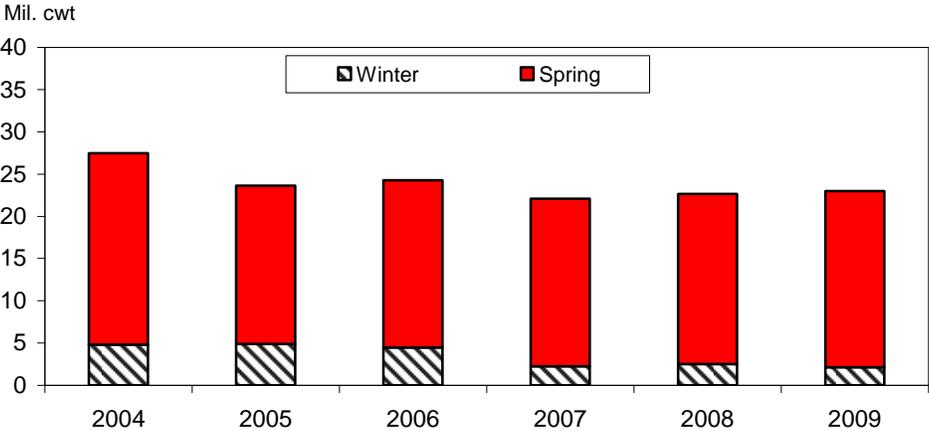
***Spring Acreage Up, 2009 Crop Year Remains Uncertain***

Although winter potato production declined 15 percent in 2009 to 2.2 million cwt, spring production is expected to be 20.8 million cwt, up 3 percent from 2008. Estimated spring harvest area is at 72,200 acres, up 5 percent from 2008. Spring potato yields are expected to be slightly lower from 2008 at 288 cwt per acre, down

from 293 cwt per acre. Arizona, California and Florida are expected to average 5 percent yield reductions. A portion of Florida's yield decline can be attributed to a series of frosts plaguing the State from late January through March. As a result, Florida's spring crop is expected to be down 2 percent from last year to 7.8 million cwt. Although it has also been cool in California, a portion of that State's decline in spring yields may be attributable to the water shortages plaguing the San Joaquin Valley, particularly Kern County, where most of California's spring potatoes are grown. Although yield is not expected to be higher, California's production is expected to increase 1 percent to 7 million cwt.

Judging by the healthy shipments of potato seed, it seems many fall potato growers are anticipating either maintaining acreage levels from last year, or a slight increase in acres planted. Year-to-date seed shipments have averaged 16 percent above last year since October, with 5,000 cwt of seed being shipped so far this crop year. Preliminary seed shipments did decline slightly from 3,000 cwt in March, compared to 3,600 cwt in shipments a year earlier. This slowdown could be reflection that growers are beginning to anticipate reduced demand for the 2009 crop, and in an attempt to keep prices high, may be cutting back on seed purchases and therefore area planted to potatoes. There is debate throughout the industry whether overall 2009 acreage will increase or decrease given current market conditions and conjecture on future demand from the processing and fresh sectors.

Figure 5  
**U.S. potatoes: Winter and spring production, 2004-09**



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

## Dry Beans

### *Acreage Expected To Rise in 2009*

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 1.5 million acres (table 19). The acreage estimates in this report are based on producers' planting intentions surveyed during the first 2 weeks of March. As one would expect, actual acreage may not match intentions as producers adjust their business plans over the next few months based on weather and various price and income expectations. Dry bean area is up largely because prices for most classes of dry beans are running at or above the average of the three previous years and remain competitive with prices for alternative crops like wheat, corn, and soybeans. Acreage is expected to rise or remain stable in 14 of the 17 surveyed States with the U.S. total virtually identical to the average planted area over the previous 3 years. Despite greater area, given average weather, acreage losses, and yields (the average of yields over the past 3 years would be about 4 percent lower than the highs of 2008), a smaller dry bean crop would be in store for 2009. The next acreage estimate for dry beans will be released in the June 30 *Acreage* report.

According to the March *Prospective Plantings*:

- North Dakota, the leading producer of all dry beans (including pinto and navy), indicated no increase in area planted compared with last year. The late March flood in the Red River Valley is not expected to affect plantings later this spring;
- Michigan, the second-leading producer in 2008 and the top source for black beans, plans to increase seeded area 5 percent;
- Minnesota plans a 3-percent increase in dry bean area to 155,000 acres—the largest area since 2002;
- Colorado indicated no change to dry bean area for 2009, remaining at 48,000 acres for the third consecutive year, down from an average of 169,000 acres during 1994-98;

Table 19--Dry edible beans: Planted area 1/

| Item                    | 2005           | 2006           | 2007           | 2008           | 2009 f         | Change   |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
|                         |                |                |                |                |                | 2008-09  |
| ----- 1,000 acres ----- |                |                |                |                |                | Percent  |
| North Dakota            | 620.0          | 670.0          | 690.0          | 660.0          | 660.0          | 0        |
| Michigan                | 235.0          | 225.0          | 200.0          | 200.0          | 210.0          | 5        |
| Minnesota               | 145.0          | 145.0          | 150.0          | 150.0          | 155.0          | 3        |
| Nebraska                | 175.0          | 140.0          | 110.0          | 135.0          | 115.0          | -15      |
| Idaho                   | 100.0          | 105.0          | 90.0           | 80.0           | 95.0           | 19       |
| California              | 66.0           | 67.0           | 59.0           | 52.0           | 60.0           | 15       |
| Washington              | 49.0           | 61.0           | 60.0           | 50.0           | 60.0           | 20       |
| Colorado                | 83.0           | 63.0           | 48.0           | 48.0           | 48.0           | 0        |
| Texas                   | 17.0           | 20.0           | 17.0           | 24.0           | 41.0           | 71       |
| Wyoming                 | 34.0           | 29.0           | 25.0           | 31.5           | 34.0           | 8        |
| New York                | 25.0           | 19.0           | 17.0           | 17.0           | 17.0           | 0        |
| Montana                 | 18.0           | 19.5           | 18.3           | 11.2           | 10.7           | -4       |
| Others                  | 56.0           | 59.3           | 43.1           | 36.3           | 40.4           | 11       |
| <b>U.S.</b>             | <b>1,623.0</b> | <b>1,622.8</b> | <b>1,527.4</b> | <b>1,495.0</b> | <b>1,546.1</b> | <b>3</b> |

f = Prospective area.

1/ Excludes garden seed.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Prospective Plantings*.

- California expects to plant 60,000 acres of dry beans, up 15 percent from a year ago and the first increase since 2006. A shortage of irrigation water could prevent these intentions from being fully realized;

- Nebraska, the leading source of Great Northern beans and the second-leading source of pinto beans, indicated a 15-percent decline in dry bean area. High prices and limited markets for the ample 2008 crop have left burdensome stocks which weighed heavily on grower intentions for 2009. To ease the oversupply situation paralyzing the market, USDA is considering a purchase request from the Nebraska industry (through the Governor) for around 25,000 metric tons.

The preliminary 2008/09 marketing year average grower price for all dry beans was estimated at \$37.70 per hundredweight (cwt)—up 31 percent from a year earlier and 71-percent above 2 years ago. Given the sharp decline in monthly commodity prices since last fall, the final 2008/09 average price will likely average a few dollars below the preliminary estimate. In March, the grower price for all dry beans averaged 11 percent below a year earlier. Among the major dry-bean-growing States, prices were lower in North Dakota, Nebraska, Michigan, and Colorado. The concentrated production of such classes as lima and blackeye in California and small red and pink in Idaho served to push average dry bean prices above a year earlier in those two States.

In early April, grower prices were running below the unusual highs of a year earlier for the majority of dry bean classes. At \$24 per cwt (upper Midwest origin), grower prices for pintos are now averaging 19 percent below the highs experienced a year earlier and are just above 2 years earlier. Navy bean prices were 34 percent lower than a year earlier (but still attractive compared with prices 2 and 3 years ago). Black bean prices averaged 15 percent below a year ago but were 15 percent above 2 years ago. Although prices for small red beans were down 5 percent from last year, they were 65 percent above those of 2 years ago. With the exception of large chickpeas (garbanzo beans), prices for the major bean classes produced in California remained above a year earlier, including baby lima, large lima, and blackeyes. After beginning the marketing year on a strong note, garbanzo bean prices began to fall and are now down 24 percent from a year earlier and are also

Table 20--U.S. dry beans: Monthly grower prices for selected classes, 2008-09 1/

| Commodity               | 2008                |       | 2009  |         | Chg. prev. year: |       |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|---------|------------------|-------|
|                         | Mar.                | Apr.  | Mar.  | Apr. 2/ | Mar.             | Apr.  |
|                         | --- Cents/pound --- |       |       |         | --- Percent ---  |       |
| All dry beans           | 32.20               | 34.30 | 28.80 | --      | -10.6            | --    |
| Pinto (ND/MN)           | 29.75               | 29.20 | 24.00 | 24.00   | --               | -17.8 |
| Navy (pea bean) (MI)    | 34.00               | 36.10 | 24.80 | 24.00   | -27.1            | -33.5 |
| Great Northern (NE/WY)  | 35.75               | 38.00 | --    | --      | --               | --    |
| Black (MI)              | 33.69               | 35.42 | 32.00 | 30.00   | -5.0             | -15.3 |
| Light red kidney (MI)   | --                  | --    | --    | --      | --               | --    |
| Dark red kidney (MN/WI) | --                  | --    | --    | --      | --               | --    |
| Baby lima (CA)          | 41.50               | --    | 54.75 | 53.00   | 31.9             | --    |
| Large lima (CA)         | 62.50               | 63.00 | 70.00 | 70.00   | 12.0             | 11.1  |
| Blackeye (CA)           | 38.50               | --    | --    | --      | --               | --    |
| Small red (WA/ID)       | 41.00               | 41.00 | 39.00 | --      | -4.9             | --    |
| Pink (WA/ID)            | 31.67               | 32.00 | 38.00 | --      | 20.0             | --    |
| Garbanzo (WA/ID)        | 32.83               | 34.67 | 27.00 | 25.00   | -17.8            | -27.9 |

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

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

Table 21--U.S. dry edible beans: Per capita disappearance (net domestic use) 1/

| Item             | Average                   |      |      |      |      |        |
|------------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|--------|
|                  | 2000-04                   | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 f |
|                  | ----- Pounds/person ----- |      |      |      |      |        |
| Pinto            | 3.15                      | 2.56 | 2.71 | 2.95 | 2.71 | 2.75   |
| Navy (pea)       | 0.89                      | 0.66 | 0.94 | 0.98 | 0.86 | 0.86   |
| Black            | 0.50                      | 0.49 | 0.54 | 0.69 | 0.67 | 0.67   |
| Great Northern   | 0.41                      | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.21   |
| Light-red kidney | 0.30                      | 0.34 | 0.21 | 0.30 | 0.26 | 0.27   |
| Garbanzo         | 0.29                      | 0.29 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 0.32 | 0.49   |
| Blackeye         | 0.20                      | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.19 | 0.15   |
| Dark-red kidney  | 0.22                      | 0.28 | 0.22 | 0.21 | 0.29 | 0.27   |
| Pink             | 0.15                      | 0.21 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18   |
| Small red        | 0.13                      | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.27 | 0.25   |
| Cranberry        | 0.07                      | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03   |
| Large lima       | 0.09                      | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.09   |
| Baby lima        | 0.07                      | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.05   |
| Others 2/        | 0.32                      | 0.39 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.16   |
| All dry beans    | 6.79                      | 6.11 | 6.36 | 6.82 | 6.30 | 6.43   |

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

1/ Disappearance is a proxy estimate for consumption. 2/ Includes small white and all others.

Source: Estimates developed by USDA, Economic Research Service.

below the prices received 2 years ago. With prices lower, growers intend to plant 3 percent fewer large chickpeas in 2009.

### *Per Capita Use Declines*

After rising for three consecutive years, net domestic disappearance of dry edible beans declined 7 percent in calendar year 2008 to 1.9 billion pounds. Although total dry-bean supply increased for the fourth consecutive year (up 2 percent), a surge in foreign demand left a smaller residual for the domestic market. In calendar year 2008, dry bean exports rose 35 percent to 908 million pounds—the largest foreign movement since 1998. At the same time, consumers have been buffeted by rising economic uncertainty with unemployment up and disposable incomes down. In fact, 2009 is expected to mark the first time in more than 40 years that consumer spending declines in not only the United States, but in all major developed countries.

Despite higher retail prices, dry beans remain an economical protein source that some consumers have yet to rediscover or in the case of younger consumers not accustomed to severe recessions—discover for the first time in their adult lives. Also, with the economic downturn, it is possible some recent Latin and Hispanic immigrants (whose diets heavily favor dry beans) may have returned to their homelands to wait out the recession. As a result, 2008 per capita net disappearance of dry beans declined 8 percent to 6.3 pounds—reversing a string of three consecutive annual gains in dry-bean consumption. Some slight improvement in domestic dry-bean use is expected in 2009 as prices begin to decline across more bean classes, export demand eases, and cash-strapped consumers begin to rediscover the protein value in dry beans.

In 2008, reductions in net disappearance were noted for both white (down 15 percent) and nonwhite bean (down 6 percent) classes. White beans (e.g., navy, Great Northern, baby lima) accounted for just 19 percent of all dry beans used domestically, down from 24 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 garbanzo and black beans. Per capita use of black beans totaled 0.66 pounds, down 4 percent from a year ago but 27 percent above a decade earlier. Dark red kidney beans, which in the 1990s relied on the export market for 40 to 50 percent of sales, continued to experience stronger domestic disappearance as export markets dwindled with increasing world competition. With more reliance now on the U.S. market, per capita use was estimated to be 0.29 pounds in 2008, the highest since 1990 when estimates for the class began. Strong domestic production, increased imports, and lower exports resulted in the best domestic disappearance on record at 88 million pounds. However, with an expected smaller crop and reduced imports offsetting the effect of lower prices, dark red kidney bean use is expected to decline slightly in 2009 but remain among the highest since 1990.

### **Exports Up 27 Percent**

During the first 6 months of the marketing year (September 2008-February 2009), U.S. exports of dry beans increased 27 percent from a year earlier to 4.9 million bags (cwt). Among the leading dry bean classes, exports of black (up 146 percent), navy (73 percent), and pintos (up 52 percent) posted the largest increases. The leading destinations for U.S. dry beans during the first 6 months of the crop year were Mexico (25 percent of total volume), Canada (12 percent), the United Kingdom (11 percent), and South Africa (9 percent). Exports to Mexico (up 75 percent) and Canada (up 45 percent) each increased despite higher U.S. prices because of reduced domestic supplies in those nations.

Volume was up black beans and for pintos due largely to increased demand from Mexico, while the healthy increase in navy bean exports was attributed to higher demand from Canada, the United Kingdom, and Mexico. Although the value of the dollar is expected to gain more strength against the Mexican peso and the Canadian dollar and begin chipping away at export value later in 2009, it is projected to fall less than 10 percent against the British pound and the Euro, helping to maintain dry bean exports in that region.

Table 22--U.S. dry beans: Crop year export volume to date

| Item             | Crop year             | September - February |         |         | Change  |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  | 2007/08               | 2006/07              | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2007-08 |
|                  | ----- 1,000 cwt ----- |                      |         |         | Percent |
| Pinto            | 2,204                 | 1,273                | 1,148   | 1,740   | 52      |
| Navy             | 1,532                 | 722                  | 599     | 1,038   | 73      |
| Black            | 980                   | 526                  | 378     | 927     | 146     |
| Garbanzo         | 515                   | 267                  | 305     | 154     | -50     |
| Great Northern   | 766                   | 239                  | 323     | 258     | -20     |
| Baby lima        | 248                   | 169                  | 147     | 103     | -30     |
| Light red kidney | 185                   | 120                  | 89      | 104     | 17      |
| Dark red kidney  | 267                   | 77                   | 152     | 53      | -65     |
| Cranberry        | 97                    | 65                   | 58      | 36      | -37     |
| Large lima       | 74                    | 74                   | 60      | 63      | 5       |
| Small red        | 73                    | 38                   | 45      | 51      | 13      |
| Mung & urd       | 27                    | 15                   | 11      | 15      | 33      |
| Blackeye         | 22                    | 11                   | 15      | 12      | -21     |
| Pink             | 56                    | 9                    | 43      | 7       | -83     |
| Other            | 1,146                 | 168                  | 481     | 329     | -32     |
| Total            | 8,191                 | 3,774                | 3,855   | 4,890   | 27      |

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

## Dry Peas and Lentils

### *More Planted Area Expected*

According to the USDA's *Prospective Plantings*, area planted to dry peas, Austrian winter peas, small chickpeas, and lentils is expected to increase 16 percent this spring from the 1.25 million acres of a year earlier (table 23). Dry pea and lentil acreage had declined for 2 consecutive years after peaking in 2006 at 1.54 million acres. With good demand for limited stocks, farm prices have declined less than those for competing crops like durum wheat. Because these are early March intentions, actual plantings will likely vary as weather and changes in relative price relationships among crops influence grower decisions. Pulse growers expect to plant more pea and lentil acres because the returns (especially for lentils) for pulse crops are much stronger this year relative to other crops. Although March grower prices for all dry peas (food and feed), lentils, and small chickpeas were below the highs of a year earlier, large chickpea prices averaged 31 percent higher than a year earlier (table 24). If higher prices for large chickpeas are maintained this spring, it could result in more acres shifting into this crop than indicated by the 3-percent decline in prospective plantings.

Dry-edible-pea acreage is expected to increase in all surveyed States led by Washington, where growers intend to plant 90,000 acres—the largest since 1999. In North Dakota, the leading dry-pea producing State, competition with crops such as spring wheat has been much more limited this year allowing dry pea area to gain. The gain in dry-pea area intentions can be traced to dry-pea markets holding their values relative to wheat. Much of this is because March dry-pea prices were running 35 percent below the highs of last year while durum wheat prices, for example, were averaging 54 percent less than a year ago. Global supplies of both wheat and dry peas are larger than a year earlier and have been a drag on prices.

Table 23--Dry peas and lentils: Planted area 1/

| Item                        | 2006                    | 2007    | 2008    | 2009 f  | Change<br>2008-09 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
|                             | ----- 1,000 acres ----- |         |         |         | Percent           |
| <b>Dry peas</b>             | 925.5                   | 847.5   | 882.5   | 966.0   | 9                 |
| N. Dakota                   | 610.0                   | 515.0   | 520.0   | 570.0   | 10                |
| Washington                  | 67.0                    | 67.0    | 75.0    | 90.0    | 20                |
| Others                      | 248.5                   | 265.5   | 287.5   | 306.0   | 6                 |
| <b>Austrian winter peas</b> | 46.0                    | 29.0    | 17.5    | 19.0    | 9                 |
| Montana                     | 32.0                    | 20.0    | 10.0    | 10.0    | 0                 |
| Idaho                       | 9.0                     | 6.0     | 5.0     | 6.0     | 20                |
| Others                      | 5.0                     | 3.0     | 2.5     | 3.0     | 20                |
| <b>Lentils, all</b>         | 429.0                   | 303.0   | 271.0   | 375.0   | 38                |
| N. Dakota                   | 160.0                   | 110.0   | 95.0    | 140.0   | 47                |
| Washington                  | 77.0                    | 68.0    | 55.0    | 55.0    | 0                 |
| Others                      | 192.0                   | 125.0   | 121.0   | 180.0   | 49                |
| <b>All chickpeas</b>        | 136.8                   | 125.2   | 81.9    | 96.6    | 18                |
| Idaho                       | 44.0                    | 41.5    | 31.0    | 27.0    | -13               |
| Washington                  | 41.0                    | 41.5    | 29.5    | 35.0    | 19                |
| Others                      | 51.8                    | 42.2    | 21.4    | 34.6    | 62                |
| <b>Total</b>                | 1,537.3                 | 1,304.7 | 1,252.9 | 1,456.6 | 16                |

f = Prospective area.

1/ 2007 was the first year these crops have been included in the *Prospective Plantings* report.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Prospective Plantings*.

Table 24--U.S. dry peas and lentils: Monthly grower prices by class, 2007/08-2008/09

| Crop year & month            | Dry peas | Chickpeas |       |       | Austrian winter peas | All lentils |
|------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------------|
|                              |          | All       | Large | Small |                      |             |
| ----- Cents/pound -----      |          |           |       |       |                      |             |
| <b>2007/08</b>               |          |           |       |       |                      |             |
| July                         | 9.26     | 27.20     | 28.70 | --    | --                   | 13.80       |
| August                       | 8.92     | 29.50     | 29.60 | --    | 11.40                | 15.50       |
| September                    | 9.85     | 30.90     | 31.70 | --    | 12.30                | 19.10       |
| October                      | 12.10    | 25.20     | 27.00 | 14.50 | 13.10                | 24.50       |
| November                     | 12.20    | 27.10     | 27.10 | --    | 13.70                | 26.20       |
| December                     | 14.20    | 29.10     | 31.00 | 20.80 | 14.10                | 28.30       |
| January                      | 14.30    | 30.70     | 31.10 | 21.00 | 11.40                | 26.00       |
| February                     | 16.40    | 30.30     | 32.10 | 23.80 | --                   | 29.00       |
| March                        | 17.30    | 30.50     | 30.60 | 25.60 | 12.60                | 29.90       |
| April                        | 17.70    | 31.20     | 33.60 | --    | 16.50                | 33.70       |
| May                          | 16.70    | 35.40     | 37.50 | 24.80 | --                   | 30.20       |
| June                         | 17.20    | 27.60     | 28.10 | 23.90 | --                   | 30.00       |
| <b>2008/09</b>               |          |           |       |       |                      |             |
| July 1/                      | 16.40    | 35.50     | 40.70 | 27.70 | --                   | 32.80       |
| August                       | 15.40    | 38.60     | 40.60 | 25.20 | --                   | 30.90       |
| September                    | 15.50    | 37.90     | 40.30 | 34.90 | 20.80                | 36.30       |
| October                      | 13.70    | 39.10     | 39.20 | 37.70 | 24.00                | 37.80       |
| November                     | 13.00    | 35.40     | 35.60 | 35.00 | --                   | 38.10       |
| December                     | 12.90    | 35.50     | 36.10 | 29.50 | --                   | 34.30       |
| January                      | 13.70    | 34.40     | 36.20 | 21.90 | --                   | 30.50       |
| February                     | 12.20    | 37.10     | 37.20 | 18.10 | --                   | 29.50       |
| March                        | 11.30    | 40.00     | 40.00 | --    | --                   | 29.10       |
| Percent change year ago Mar. | -34.7    | 31.1      | 30.7  | --    | --                   | -2.7        |

-- = not available. 1/ Prices for March 2009 are midmonth averages.

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

Lentil growers intend to seed 38 percent more area in 2009 led by North Dakota and Montana, where area is expected to increase for the first time since 2005. While 3 of the 4 surveyed States indicated gains of at least 45 percent in lentil area, Washington growers intend to plant the same acreage as a year earlier, which also happened to be the lowest since 1989. Washington lentils are largely grown under contract, which tends to foster more consistency in acreage and partly explains the lack of acreage volatility seen in less established growing areas. Although weakening, grower prices for lentils had remained above a year earlier before slipping 3 percent below a year ago in March. However, because lentil prices have retained more of the gains made in the past year, their potential return per acre is higher than most competing field crops such as spring wheat and barley.

Assuming an increase in planted area, output of all dry peas and lentils is expected to increase in 2009, given average yields. The 5-year average yield for dry peas and lentils would represent an improvement of at least 20 percent over the weather-reduced levels of 2008. Last year, national dry pea yields were the lowest this decade, while national lentil yields were the second lowest. Thus, with probable increases in both area and yield, the present outlook points to the possibility of a record crop in 2009 as dry pea and lentil output increases by about one-third from a year earlier. The next acreage estimate for dry peas and lentils will be released in the July 10 *Crop Production* report.

## Exports Down, Imports Up

U.S. export volume (including food aid) of all dry peas and lentils (excluding seed) totaled 8.9 million cwt over the first 8 months (July-February) of the 2008/09 crop marketing year—down 11 percent from a year earlier. The world economic recession, relatively high domestic prices, a strengthening dollar and strong world competition, and dwindling domestic supplies has restrained U.S. export movement. The value of the dollar is expected to rise a tenth or more against the Indian rupee and the Canadian dollar, which (among other factors) may have helped slow movement of pulse crops to those countries. However, the dollar is projected to decline (less than 10 percent) against the euro and yen, helping to maintain U.S. competitiveness.

During the first 8 months of the 2008/09 crop year lentil (up 33 percent) and split pea (up 32 percent) exports jumped, while shipments to foreign destinations declined for every other category. Shipments to India, the key to dry-pea export movement over the past 2 years, are down 49 percent so far this year. U.S. lentil exports, which were also strong a year ago, have been a bright spot in the sector this year despite much lower supplies and high prices. However, given limited supplies, U.S. lentil exports are expected to slow in the remaining months of the crop year. Split peas have continued to experience strong foreign movement this season led by food aid shipments to Ethiopia and Somalia. Foreign movement of split peas in 2008/09 will likely exceed the record 70.8 million pounds of a year earlier.

Imports of all dry peas and lentils totaled 1.01 million cwt over the first 8 months of the 2008/09 marketing year—up 21 percent from a year earlier. Lentil imports were up 91 percent aided by stronger Canadian supplies and a more favorable exchange rate for Canadian shippers.

Table 25--U.S. dry peas & lentils: Foreign trade volume by class 1/

| Item                | Crop year<br>2007/08 | July-February         |         | Change<br>2007-08 |         |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
|                     |                      | 2006/07               | 2007/08 |                   | 2008/09 |
|                     |                      | ----- 1,000 cwt ----- |         |                   | Percent |
| <b>Exports:</b>     |                      |                       |         |                   |         |
| Green peas          | 4,168.8              | 2,673.2               | 2,924.8 | 2,574.5           | -12     |
| Yellow peas         | 4,486.8              | 2,770.7               | 3,010.9 | 2,573.8           | -15     |
| Split peas          | 707.8                | 134.7                 | 481.1   | 637.0             | 32      |
| Austrian winter pea | 33.0                 | 40.2                  | 24.0    | 10.2              | -57     |
| Misc. dry peas      | 2,083.8              | 994.9                 | 1,526.3 | 730.1             | -52     |
| Chickpeas, all      | 535.1                | 289.8                 | 370.0   | 198.5             | -46     |
| Lentils, all        | 2,741.9              | 1,763.0               | 1,642.3 | 2,176.4           | 33      |
| Total               | 14,757.2             | 8,666.5               | 9,979.3 | 8,900.4           | -11     |
| <b>Imports:</b>     |                      |                       |         |                   |         |
| Green peas          | 209.9                | 140.9                 | 136.2   | 129.7             | -5      |
| Yellow peas         | 79.8                 | 31.7                  | 56.5    | 59.9              | 6       |
| Split peas          | 320.5                | 242.0                 | 226.4   | 221.6             | -2      |
| Austrian winter     | 1.6                  | 2.6                   | 1.5     | 0.0               | -100    |
| Misc. dry peas      | 92.3                 | 118.1                 | 64.9    | 79.0              | 22      |
| Chickpeas, all      | 359.8                | 190.8                 | 218.4   | 267.4             | 22      |
| Lentils, all        | 227.6                | 218.2                 | 134.5   | 256.9             | 91      |
| Total               | 1,291.5              | 944.4                 | 838.4   | 1,014.6           | 21      |

1/ Excludes planting seed.

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

# Fresh-Cut and Dried Herbs

## Census Indicates Increased Fresh-Cut Herb Production

Despite slight declines in California, fresh-cut herb production increased in 2007 to meet growing fresh market demand. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the total number of farms growing herbs for the fresh market, in the open and in greenhouses, increased 14 percent to 2,053 farms, while harvested acreage increased 20 percent to over 13,000 acres, from 2002 (fig. 6) 1/. Although California remains the lead producer of fresh-cut herbs—with 262 farms and 4,900 acres—harvested area in the State was down 3 percent from five years prior. In 2007, production swelled in North Carolina, as harvested acres jumped 90 percent to 1,800 acres, making it the second largest producing State. The greatest share of fresh-cut herbs is in the Pacific Region (includes California), while the Southern Region (includes North Carolina) accounted for 31 percent of area in 2007 (fig. 7).

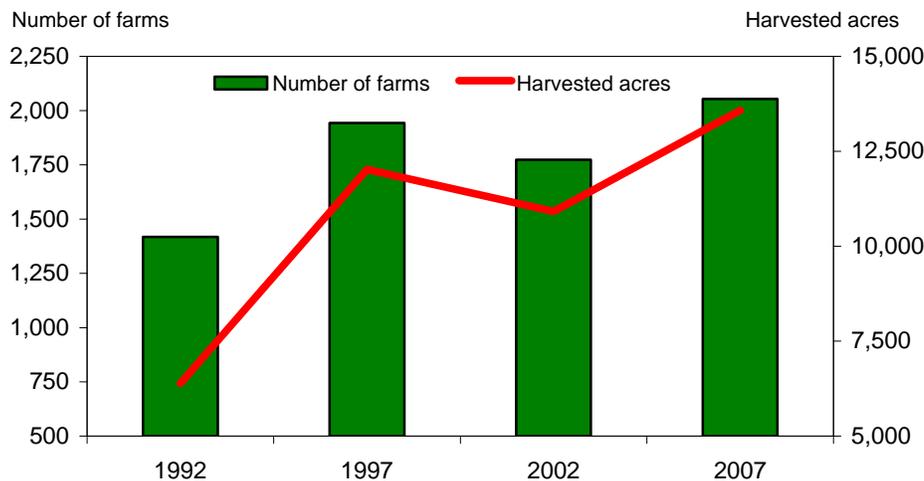
According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms producing vegetables and fresh-cut herbs in greenhouses jumped 17 percent from 3,416 in 2002 to 4,075 in 2007 and now accounts for over \$553 million in sales. 2/ Of these farms, about half grew fresh herbs and vegetables other than tomatoes, accounting for \$159 million in sales. California is the top producer of fresh-cut herbs grown in greenhouses, with 140 growers, over \$61 million in sales, and 7 million square feet under glass or other covering. 3/

If present trends continue, fresh-cut herb production is expected to grow over the next 5 years. Herbs have potential to grow as a cash crop in areas not well suited for growing traditional field crops due to water or soil quality restrictions (Miller, American Vegetable Grower 2000). Also, small farms are well-suited to producing fresh herbs as production is not heavily capital intensive, volume demanded is typically less than for major field crops, and because fresh-cut herbs are often marketed locally or directly to end-users.

## Fresh-Market Herb Prices Steady

Despite larger production, monthly average wholesale prices for various fresh-market herbs remained flat January-April 2009 from the previous year (table 26).

Figure 6  
**U.S. fresh-cut herbs: Harvested area and number of farms, 1992-2007**



Sources: USDA, NASS, *Census of Agriculture (1997-2007)*; U.S. Census Bureau (1992).

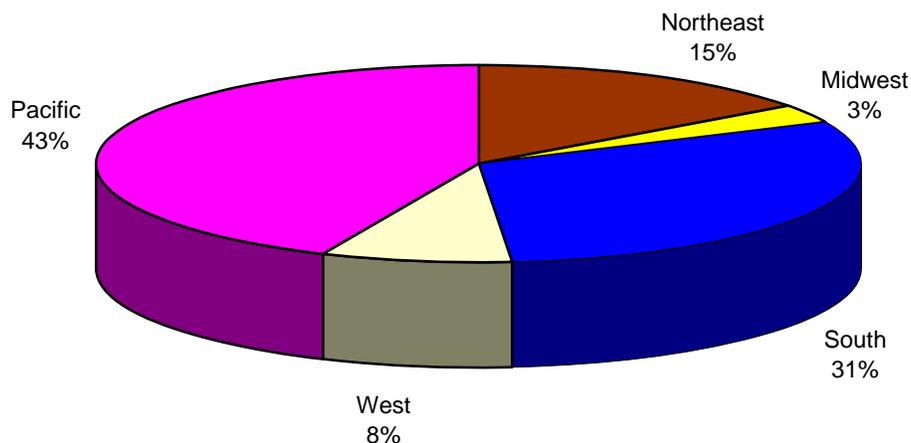
1/ In the open refers to uncovered production, outside of greenhouses.

2/ This figure includes some vegetables grown in greenhouses, including tomatoes.

3/ Numbers include some vegetables, such as peppers, grown in greenhouses other than tomatoes. USDA, NASS, [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full\\_Report/usv1.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/usv1.pdf)

Figure 7

**Fresh-cut herbs: Regional share of harvested acres, 2007**



Source: Prepared by ERS from data of USDA, NASS, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Table 26— Selected U.S. fresh-market herbs: Estimated average wholesale prices, 2007-09

| Herb       | Units         | January-April |       |         |        |            |       |         |        |
|------------|---------------|---------------|-------|---------|--------|------------|-------|---------|--------|
|            |               | Boston        |       |         |        | Miami      |       |         |        |
|            |               | 2007          | 2008  | 2009    | Change | 2007       | 2008  | 2009    | Change |
|            |               | --\$/cwt--    |       | Percent |        | --\$/cwt-- |       | Percent |        |
| Anise      | 24-ct crtn    | 31.00         | 15.83 | 15.75   | -0.5   | 33.25      | 23.50 | 21.88   | -6.9   |
| Basil      | 12-ct flmbag  | 8.00          | 7.17  | 6.50    | -9.3   | 3.75       | 4.00  | 3.88    | -3.1   |
| Celeriac   | 20-lb ctns    | 17.25         | 20.25 | 23.00   | 13.6   | 14.00      | 22.00 | 28.25   | 28.4   |
| Chives     | 12-ct flmbag  | 8.75          | 8.00  | 7.75    | -3.1   | 5.00       | 5.50  | 5.50    | 0.0    |
| Cilantro   | 30-ct ctns    | 13.67         | 10.88 | 10.75   | -1.1   | 13.25      | 12.50 | 12.75   | 2.0    |
| Dill       | 24/12-ct ctns | 17.38         | 15.00 | 14.25   | -5.0   | 6.75       | 7.00  | 6.50    | -7.1   |
| Rosemary   | 12-ct flmbag  | 8.00          | 8.00  | 8.00    | 0.0    | 4.75       | 4.50  | 4.75    | 5.6    |
| Mint       | 1/2 bshl ctns | 12.75         | 12.00 | 12.00   | 0.0    | 10.50      | 9.75  | 9.75    | 0.0    |
| Tarragon   | 12-ct flmbag  | 11.00         | 10.00 | 10.00   | 0.0    | 6.25       | 6.25  | 6.25    | 0.0    |
| Watercress | 12-ct flmbag  | 8.50          | 9.44  | 8.81    | -6.6   | 5.33       | 5.38  | 5.67    | 5.4    |

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

Wholesale herb prices are typically volatile and fluctuations usually vary by terminal market location. For example, wholesale prices for watercress averaged 5 percent above a year earlier in Miami but decreased 7 percent in Boston. However, overall, wholesale herb prices were flat to lower than during January-April 2008, possibly reflecting decreased demand for food-away-from-home and luxury food products such as fresh culinary herbs in 2009. Because fresh-cut herbs are highly perishable and lower-price seasonings such as dried herbs or salt can be substituted for them, it is possible that reduced demand for fresh-cut herbs will result in downward pressure on wholesale fresh-cut herb prices throughout 2009.

***Dried-Herb Farm Numbers Drop, Area Increases in 2007***

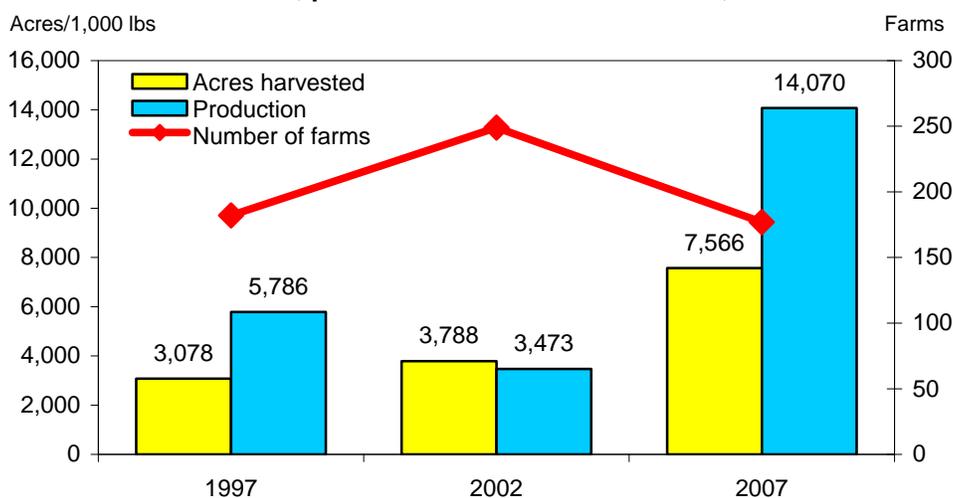
According to industry sources, increases in demand for ethnic and convenience foods has driven the market for dried herbs used in manufacturing and processing. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, domestic harvested acres increased 50 percent to 7,600 acres while production rose 75 percent to 14 million pounds between 2002 and 2007 (fig. 8). However, a 41-percent decline in the number of farms suggests that acreage per farm is up from 2002.

## Imports of Fresh-Cut and Dried Herbs Decline

Imports of selected fresh-cut herbs dropped an average of 30 percent, while foreign shipments of selected dried herbs declined over 300 percent in the first two months of 2009 from the previous year (table 27). In 2008, imports were largest for origanum, with fresh foreign shipments exceeding 9 million pounds and dried foreign shipments over 4 million. Origanum, a genus of over 20 herbs species including marjoram and oregano, declined 49 percent during January-February of 2009, despite a 15 percent drop in import prices. Turkey (54 percent) and Mexico (40 percent) are the top two foreign suppliers of origanum. Turkey is also the main foreign supplier of bay leaves, for which foreign shipments were up 69 percent from January-February 2008. Foreign shipments of certain herbs may decrease throughout 2009 due to low demand for luxury items such as culinary herbs, dietary supplements, and cosmetics, which are typically produced using imported herbs.

Figure 8

### U.S. dried herbs: Area, production and number of farms, 1997-2007



Source: Compiled by USDA, ERS from data USDA, NASS, Census of Agriculture.

Table 27-- Selected fresh and dried herb import volume, 2007-2009

| Item                           | 2008<br>Annual | January-February |       |       | Change<br>2008-09 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|
|                                |                | 2007             | 2008  | 2009  |                   |
|                                |                | ---1,000 lbs---  |       |       | Percent           |
| <b>Fresh-cut herbs</b>         |                |                  |       |       |                   |
| Origanum 1/                    | 9,463          | 1,868            | 2,029 | 1,722 | -18               |
| Ginseng 2/                     | 1,370          | 397              | 315   | 227   | -39               |
| Dill, fresh                    | 2,109          | 516              | 362   | 186   | -95               |
| Chicory 3/                     | 6,694          | 2,117            | 1,263 | 1,219 | -4                |
| Thyme and bay leaves, fresh 4/ | 4,673          | 1,005            | 869   | 642   | -35               |
| Various herbs, fresh 5/        | 4,012          | 886              | 554   | 626   | 12                |
| <b>Dried herbs</b>             |                |                  |       |       |                   |
| Origanum 1/                    | 4,275          | 425              | 766   | 423   | -81               |
| Thyme, dried                   | 2,985          | 551              | 1,272 | 98    | -1,198            |
| Bay leaves, dried              | 527            | 80               | 113   | 360   | 69                |
| Parsely, dried                 | 5,509          | 1,101            | 1,440 | 635   | -127              |
| Various herbs, dried 5/        | 356            | 56               | 60    | 20    | -200              |

1/ Includes marjoram and oregano. 2/ Includes wild and cultivated ginseng and may include dried, crushed or powder. 3/ Excludes endive. 4/ Includes unmanufactured thyme and bay leaves. 5/ Includes crude fennel, marjoram, savory & tarragon.

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

## Contacts and Links

### Contact Information

**Gary Lucier**

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

**Rachael Dettmann**

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

Covers potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms.

**Michelle Da Pra**

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

Covers fresh & dried herbs, spices, and organics.

### Subscription Information

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

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

### Articles

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

#### **1. Supermarket Loss Estimates for Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, and Seafood and Their Use in the ERS Loss-Adjusted Food Availability Data**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB44/>

Analyzes updated food loss estimates. The new data for fresh vegetables would increase annual per capita estimates at the retail level by 4.2 pounds (2.7 percent).

#### **2. Canned Fruit and Vegetable Consumption in the United States**

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ap/ap032/DBGen.htm>

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

#### **3. Production Expenses of Specialized Vegetable and Melon Farms**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Data Tables**

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

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

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

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

### **2. Vegetable prices**

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

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

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

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

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

### **4. Processing vegetables**

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

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

### **5. Potatoes**

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

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

### **6. Sweet potatoes**

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

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

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

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

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

### **8. Mushrooms**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 12. Mexican and Canadian vegetable production

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

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

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

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

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

## Web Sites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Price table 1—Commercial vegetables and potatoes: Indexes of prices received by U.S. growers, by month, 1997-2009 1/**

| Item                     | Year  | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sep.  | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  | Annual |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| ----- 1910-14=100 -----  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| Commercial vegetables 2/ | 1997  | 740   | 700   | 789   | 754   | 710   | 751   | 747   | 817   | 794   | 971   | 817   | 911   | 792    |
|                          | 1998  | 816   | 775   | 837   | 1,042 | 859   | 736   | 806   | 764   | 760   | 886   | 756   | 779   | 818    |
|                          | 1999  | 702   | 749   | 806   | 870   | 786   | 732   | 696   | 709   | 700   | 650   | 654   | 776   | 736    |
|                          | 2000  | 656   | 572   | 719   | 907   | 874   | 785   | 795   | 862   | 958   | 835   | 964   | 768   | 808    |
|                          | 2001  | 810   | 980   | 923   | 916   | 964   | 805   | 837   | 968   | 894   | 688   | 731   | 1,144 | 888    |
|                          | 2002  | 1,054 | 1,283 | 1,816 | 803   | 770   | 731   | 771   | 807   | 795   | 704   | 735   | 743   | 918    |
|                          | 2003  | 786   | 797   | 880   | 924   | 988   | 1,084 | 852   | 983   | 1,030 | 1,025 | 1,283 | 1,132 | 980    |
|                          | 2004  | 911   | 1,000 | 792   | 906   | 771   | 761   | 713   | 910   | 924   | 1,109 | 1,128 | 847   | 898    |
|                          | 2005  | 663   | 839   | 1,176 | 1,296 | 962   | 987   | 801   | 843   | 908   | 808   | 811   | 1,088 | 932    |
|                          | 2006  | 914   | 822   | 951   | 1,077 | 1,111 | 937   | 849   | 1,088 | 1,140 | 882   | 848   | 1,071 | 974    |
|                          | 2007  | 1,268 | 1,179 | 1,375 | 1,294 | 1,030 | 948   | 897   | 1,047 | 1,111 | 1,403 | 994   | 988   | 1,128  |
|                          | 2008  | 983   | 846   | 958   | 1,155 | 1,099 | 1,091 | 1,025 | 1,025 | 1,245 | 1,274 | 1,103 | 1,107 | 1,076  |
| 2009                     | 1,237 | 972   | 1,043 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| Potatoes 3/              | 1997  | 426   | 431   | 433   | 433   | 477   | 431   | 499   | 544   | 440   | 433   | 457   | 477   | 457    |
|                          | 1998  | 491   | 524   | 554   | 546   | 559   | 539   | 517   | 481   | 449   | 415   | 450   | 475   | 500    |
|                          | 1999  | 489   | 497   | 520   | 546   | 532   | 557   | 610   | 517   | 451   | 429   | 474   | 463   | 507    |
|                          | 2000  | 475   | 496   | 519   | 545   | 529   | 511   | 559   | 464   | 406   | 384   | 383   | 395   | 472    |
|                          | 2001  | 409   | 450   | 437   | 466   | 453   | 486   | 532   | 632   | 516   | 461   | 538   | 578   | 497    |
|                          | 2002  | 620   | 645   | 715   | 699   | 748   | 806   | 884   | 651   | 520   | 466   | 524   | 547   | 652    |
|                          | 2003  | 534   | 555   | 568   | 593   | 591   | 560   | 571   | 484   | 458   | 443   | 479   | 494   | 528    |
|                          | 2004  | 488   | 504   | 531   | 569   | 559   | 559   | 552   | 496   | 486   | 444   | 477   | 507   | 514    |
|                          | 2005  | 535   | 536   | 578   | 567   | 577   | 573   | 623   | 575   | 492   | 473   | 540   | 579   | 554    |
|                          | 2006  | 597   | 572   | 706   | 700   | 662   | 703   | 809   | 653   | 527   | 500   | 579   | 601   | 634    |
|                          | 2007  | 620   | 649   | 689   | 746   | 685   | 666   | 741   | 601   | 533   | 525   | 596   | 630   | 640    |
|                          | 2008  | 655   | 680   | 744   | 756   | 815   | 932   | 1,057 | 989   | 805   | 709   | 801   | 851   | 816    |
| 2009                     | 843   | 776   | 787   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| 1990-92=100              |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| Commercial vegetables 2/ | 1997  | 111   | 105   | 118   | 113   | 106   | 112   | 112   | 122   | 119   | 145   | 122   | 136   | 118    |
|                          | 1998  | 122   | 116   | 125   | 156   | 129   | 110   | 121   | 114   | 114   | 133   | 113   | 117   | 123    |
|                          | 1999  | 105   | 112   | 121   | 130   | 118   | 110   | 104   | 106   | 105   | 97    | 98    | 116   | 110    |
|                          | 2000  | 98    | 86    | 108   | 136   | 131   | 117   | 119   | 129   | 143   | 125   | 144   | 115   | 121    |
|                          | 2001  | 121   | 147   | 138   | 137   | 144   | 120   | 125   | 145   | 134   | 103   | 109   | 171   | 133    |
|                          | 2002  | 158   | 192   | 272   | 120   | 115   | 109   | 115   | 121   | 119   | 105   | 110   | 104   | 137    |
|                          | 2003  | 110   | 112   | 123   | 129   | 138   | 152   | 119   | 138   | 144   | 143   | 180   | 158   | 137    |
|                          | 2004  | 127   | 140   | 111   | 127   | 108   | 107   | 100   | 127   | 129   | 155   | 158   | 119   | 126    |
|                          | 2005  | 93    | 117   | 165   | 181   | 135   | 138   | 112   | 118   | 127   | 113   | 113   | 152   | 130    |
|                          | 2006  | 128   | 115   | 133   | 151   | 156   | 131   | 119   | 152   | 160   | 123   | 119   | 150   | 136    |
|                          | 2007  | 177   | 165   | 192   | 181   | 144   | 133   | 126   | 147   | 155   | 196   | 139   | 138   | 158    |
|                          | 2008  | 138   | 118   | 134   | 162   | 154   | 153   | 143   | 143   | 174   | 178   | 154   | 155   | 151    |
| 2009                     | 173   | 136   | 146   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| Potatoes 3/              | 1997  | 84    | 85    | 86    | 85    | 94    | 85    | 99    | 107   | 87    | 85    | 90    | 94    | 90     |
|                          | 1998  | 97    | 104   | 109   | 108   | 111   | 106   | 102   | 95    | 89    | 82    | 89    | 94    | 99     |
|                          | 1999  | 97    | 98    | 103   | 108   | 105   | 110   | 121   | 102   | 89    | 85    | 94    | 91    | 100    |
|                          | 2000  | 94    | 98    | 103   | 108   | 105   | 101   | 110   | 92    | 80    | 76    | 76    | 78    | 93     |
|                          | 2001  | 81    | 89    | 86    | 92    | 90    | 96    | 105   | 125   | 102   | 91    | 106   | 114   | 98     |
|                          | 2002  | 123   | 127   | 141   | 138   | 148   | 159   | 175   | 129   | 103   | 92    | 104   | 108   | 129    |
|                          | 2003  | 105   | 110   | 112   | 117   | 117   | 110   | 113   | 96    | 90    | 87    | 95    | 97    | 104    |
|                          | 2004  | 96    | 100   | 105   | 112   | 110   | 110   | 109   | 98    | 96    | 88    | 94    | 100   | 102    |
|                          | 2005  | 106   | 106   | 114   | 112   | 114   | 113   | 123   | 113   | 97    | 93    | 106   | 114   | 109    |
|                          | 2006  | 118   | 113   | 139   | 138   | 131   | 139   | 160   | 129   | 104   | 99    | 114   | 119   | 125    |
|                          | 2007  | 122   | 128   | 136   | 147   | 135   | 131   | 146   | 119   | 105   | 104   | 118   | 124   | 126    |
|                          | 2008  | 129   | 134   | 147   | 149   | 161   | 184   | 209   | 195   | 159   | 140   | 158   | 168   | 161    |
| 2009                     | 166   | 153   | 155   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |

1/ Prices for 2009 are preliminary. 2/ Includes fresh and processing vegetables. 3/ Includes fresh potatoes and dry edible beans.

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

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

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

**Price table 2--Fresh vegetables: U.S. monthly and season-average f.o.b. shipping-point prices, 2005-09 1/**

| Commodity               | Year | Jan.  | Feb.   | Mar.   | Apr.   | May   | June  | July   | Aug.   | Sep.   | Oct.   | Nov.  | Dec.  | Season average | Prct change    | Prct change    |
|-------------------------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                         |      |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | Mar.-Mar.      | 1st quarter    |
| <i>Dollars per cwt</i>  |      |       |        |        |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| <b>Asparagus</b>        | 2005 | --    | --     | 88.60  | 103.00 | 68.70 | 73.50 | 143.00 | 150.00 | 162.00 | 162.00 | --    | --    | 87.40          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | --    | 122.00 | 133.00 | 110.00 | 72.70 | 94.10 | 105.00 | 162.00 | 122.00 | 127.00 | --    | --    | 88.90          | 50.1           | 43.9           |
|                         | 2007 | --    | --     | 107.00 | 106.00 | 91.90 | 87.70 | --     | --     | --     | --     | --    | --    | 98.90          | -19.5          | -16.1          |
|                         | 2008 | --    | --     | 107.00 | 125.00 | 84.30 | 81.50 | --     | --     | --     | --     | --    | --    | 103.00         | 0.0            | 0.0            |
|                         | 2009 | --    | 78.10  | 96.60  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | -9.7           | -18.4          |
| <b>Broccoli</b>         | 2005 | 22.60 | 33.30  | 42.60  | 39.80  | 22.40 | 39.70 | 22.40  | 30.50  | 27.70  | 22.40  | 20.40 | 34.10 | 28.50          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 32.50 | 23.80  | 27.60  | 32.40  | 29.00 | 51.10 | 26.20  | 56.90  | 39.40  | 24.60  | 27.40 | 52.80 | 33.70          | -35.2          | -14.8          |
|                         | 2007 | 69.80 | 25.40  | 27.60  | 36.90  | 26.70 | 24.80 | 28.80  | 38.20  | 41.80  | 61.00  | 38.10 | 40.70 | 36.70          | 0.0            | 46.4           |
|                         | 2008 | 47.90 | 24.40  | 30.80  | 52.10  | 25.20 | 29.60 | 26.70  | 26.60  | 41.10  | 57.50  | 41.20 | 33.70 | 36.10          | 11.6           | -16.0          |
|                         | 2009 | 44.80 | 29.50  | 27.80  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | -9.7           | -1.0           |
| <b>Cantaloups</b>       | 2005 | --    | --     | --     | --     | 22.60 | 18.10 | 13.80  | 10.70  | 14.90  | 14.40  | 15.60 | --    | 15.90          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | --    | --     | --     | --     | 29.20 | 18.40 | 16.00  | 20.70  | 10.40  | 16.10  | 28.20 | --    | 17.20          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2007 | --    | --     | --     | --     | 28.20 | 12.60 | 12.00  | 13.30  | 13.10  | 30.50  | 38.50 | --    | 14.80          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2008 | --    | --     | --     | --     | 27.00 | 16.40 | 16.10  | 8.30   | 17.80  | 22.60  | 32.20 | --    | 19.20          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2009 | --    | --     | --     | --     |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | --             | --             |
| <b>Carrots</b>          | 2005 | 20.30 | 21.00  | 21.00  | 21.10  | 21.20 | 21.30 | 21.80  | 21.20  | 21.00  | 21.10  | 23.10 | 22.00 | 20.90          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 21.70 | 21.50  | 21.50  | 21.50  | 20.80 | 21.40 | 21.50  | 22.40  | 19.30  | 19.80  | 20.20 | 19.10 | 20.60          | 2.4            | 3.9            |
|                         | 2007 | 21.00 | 28.10  | 28.30  | 29.60  | 32.00 | 25.90 | 19.70  | 17.10  | 16.10  | 15.80  | 15.80 | 16.20 | 22.10          | 31.6           | 19.6           |
|                         | 2008 | 16.20 | 25.90  | 25.90  | 25.50  | 32.00 | 25.60 | 25.60  | 25.60  | 25.30  | 25.20  | 24.70 | 25.20 | 24.40          | -8.5           | -12.1          |
|                         | 2009 | 25.20 | 25.20  | 25.20  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | -2.7           | 11.2           |
| <b>Cauliflower</b>      | 2005 | 27.60 | 38.00  | 50.60  | 36.70  | 29.70 | 38.10 | 25.60  | 31.50  | 28.50  | 19.70  | 23.60 | 44.30 | 30.30          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 33.10 | 24.90  | 35.60  | 44.40  | 27.10 | 27.90 | 24.00  | 28.40  | 47.10  | 20.90  | 34.50 | 41.70 | 32.30          | -29.6          | -19.4          |
|                         | 2007 | 45.70 | 29.40  | 51.40  | 51.60  | 24.90 | 30.00 | 22.30  | 27.90  | 27.20  | 46.20  | 26.60 | 52.40 | 34.30          | 44.4           | 35.1           |
|                         | 2008 | 51.80 | 30.00  | 41.70  | 63.80  | 24.90 | 53.90 | 38.20  | 43.20  | 29.50  | 48.50  | 29.50 | 43.90 | 40.30          | -18.9          | -2.4           |
|                         | 2009 | 66.90 | 30.20  | 39.30  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | -5.8           | 10.4           |
| <b>Celery</b>           | 2005 | 12.90 | 22.90  | 28.40  | 20.80  | 15.50 | 9.62  | 9.69   | 9.82   | 12.00  | 11.70  | 13.10 | 10.70 | 13.90          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 9.64  | 10.80  | 14.90  | 16.60  | 12.70 | 17.80 | 21.00  | 23.20  | 27.70  | 27.00  | 22.00 | 20.20 | 18.20          | -47.5          | -45.0          |
|                         | 2007 | 33.90 | 58.90  | 31.90  | 18.80  | 18.30 | 11.60 | 11.60  | 9.64   | 13.80  | 13.30  | 18.60 | 13.50 | 20.40          | 114.1          | 252.9          |
|                         | 2008 | 16.20 | 13.20  | 13.40  | 14.00  | 37.40 | 30.10 | 22.10  | 12.40  | 11.90  | 17.10  | 20.20 | 20.30 | 16.90          | -58.0          | -65.7          |
|                         | 2009 | 35.10 | 29.70  | 16.60  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | 23.9           | 90.2           |
| <b>Corn, sweet</b>      | 2005 | 21.30 | 28.60  | 26.10  | 21.50  | 18.00 | 22.50 | 22.30  | 20.40  | 24.70  | 25.50  | 25.70 | 22.40 | 22.10          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 35.00 | 35.00  | 34.00  | 27.10  | 15.40 | 21.50 | 21.00  | 21.70  | 25.10  | 21.10  | 20.70 | 20.80 | 23.00          | 30.3           | 36.8           |
|                         | 2007 | 27.40 | 23.60  | 30.20  | 25.60  | 21.40 | 17.30 | 22.20  | 22.80  | 23.20  | 21.40  | 20.60 | 34.10 | 22.70          | -11.2          | -21.9          |
|                         | 2008 | 30.80 | 23.00  | 28.60  | 20.50  | 21.90 | 19.90 | 28.50  | 27.20  | 27.10  | 23.70  | 30.80 | 22.20 | 25.90          | -5.3           | 1.5            |
|                         | 2009 | 24.90 | 46.40  | 60.30  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | 110.8          | 59.7           |
| <b>Cucumbers</b>        | 2005 | 20.20 | 17.20  | 32.60  | 29.30  | 30.70 | 28.70 | 15.70  | 21.10  | 20.10  | 23.10  | 32.60 | 53.10 | 23.00          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 23.90 | 27.70  | 40.70  | 29.40  | 21.30 | 24.30 | 26.80  | 27.20  | 22.50  | 18.50  | 29.60 | 27.00 | 25.30          | 24.8           | 31.9           |
|                         | 2007 | 30.80 | 35.30  | 33.60  | 21.40  | 28.50 | 23.20 | 18.90  | 24.60  | 29.10  | 25.00  | 22.00 | 18.50 | 24.60          | -17.4          | 8.0            |
|                         | 2008 | 38.40 | 34.70  | 20.50  | 24.40  | 21.90 | 36.10 | 19.30  | 23.70  | 34.30  | 28.60  | 42.40 | 41.30 | 24.50          | -39.0          | -6.1           |
|                         | 2009 | 39.10 | --     | --     |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | -100.0         | 25.3           |
| <b>Head lettuce</b>     | 2005 | 11.50 | 11.70  | 27.80  | 30.10  | 13.90 | 17.30 | 11.00  | 13.50  | 12.70  | 12.40  | 9.81  | 16.10 | 15.50          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 10.60 | 12.10  | 19.10  | 22.40  | 33.70 | 11.80 | 12.20  | 20.70  | 16.30  | 11.80  | 12.50 | 22.20 | 16.90          | -31.3          | -18.0          |
|                         | 2007 | 20.80 | 15.50  | 29.70  | 17.80  | 13.60 | 17.80 | 17.30  | 23.10  | 29.20  | 44.40  | 17.40 | 16.00 | 21.70          | 55.5           | 57.9           |
|                         | 2008 | 17.60 | 13.40  | 14.70  | 21.60  | 15.50 | 17.70 | 17.30  | 17.20  | 31.90  | 32.90  | 18.80 | 23.50 | 20.00          | -50.5          | -30.8          |
|                         | 2009 | 28.80 | 17.20  | 18.90  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | 28.6           | 42.0           |
| <b>Onions, dry bulb</b> | 2005 | 5.10  | 4.23   | 4.44   | 17.70  | 19.50 | 17.80 | 16.80  | 11.20  | 10.50  | 12.80  | 11.60 | 9.45  | 12.40          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 8.53  | 8.19   | 7.60   | 15.20  | 16.30 | 17.80 | 14.90  | 13.30  | 12.40  | 10.40  | 11.40 | 16.60 | 16.10          | 71.2           | 76.6           |
|                         | 2007 | 22.10 | 26.20  | 35.00  | 55.20  | 24.20 | 24.60 | 15.40  | 10.80  | 5.57   | 4.47   | 4.70  | 4.39  | 11.10          | 360.5          | 242.5          |
|                         | 2008 | 4.13  | 3.15   | 2.53   | 10.60  | 23.90 | 17.60 | 12.20  | 8.52   | 10.50  | 10.80  | 11.10 | 13.40 | 12.70          | -92.8          | -88.2          |
|                         | 2009 | 9.05  | 6.80   | 5.18   |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | 104.7          | 114.4          |
| <b>Snap beans</b>       | 2005 | 71.40 | 77.80  | 85.30  | 60.70  | 55.20 | 38.40 | 58.90  | 72.70  | 65.30  | 40.80  | 89.10 | 82.00 | 54.20          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 44.00 | 56.00  | 44.90  | 44.30  | 34.50 | 33.40 | 61.10  | 77.00  | 74.60  | 58.60  | 48.30 | 65.50 | 50.00          | -47.4          | -38.2          |
|                         | 2007 | 64.90 | 82.30  | 102.00 | 63.50  | 38.80 | 35.10 | 65.10  | 81.10  | 78.90  | 67.40  | 89.30 | 43.00 | 61.20          | 127.2          | 72.0           |
|                         | 2008 | 68.80 | 98.30  | 37.70  | 57.50  | 37.30 | 51.20 | 73.90  | 70.00  | 74.80  | 49.40  | 47.60 | 69.20 | 53.30          | -63.0          | -17.8          |
|                         | 2009 | 37.40 | 86.20  | 107.00 |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | 183.8          | 12.6           |
| <b>Tomatoes</b>         | 2005 | 15.40 | 40.90  | 40.70  | 65.10  | 49.40 | 40.20 | 28.20  | 26.20  | 46.40  | 36.40  | 32.80 | 76.80 | 41.80          | --             | --             |
|                         | 2006 | 82.70 | 46.50  | 24.80  | 34.40  | 23.30 | 30.90 | 28.20  | 34.70  | 82.10  | 55.30  | 28.00 | 21.20 | 43.70          | -39.1          | 58.8           |
|                         | 2007 | 35.60 | 31.20  | 26.30  | 52.60  | 35.60 | 29.60 | 26.70  | 28.60  | 33.10  | 41.60  | 58.70 | 81.20 | 34.80          | 6.0            | -39.5          |
|                         | 2008 | 58.20 | 45.50  | 66.10  | 47.40  | 48.20 | 56.80 | 40.90  | 29.40  | 25.60  | 33.80  | 64.90 | 37.90 | 45.40          | 151.3          | 82.4           |
|                         | 2009 | 29.30 | 32.70  | 38.10  |        |       |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |                | -42.4          | -41.0          |

-- = Not available. 1/ 2009 prices are preliminary. One hundredweight (cwt) is equal to 100 pounds. The prices in this table can also be read as cents per pound. Prices beginning in 2006 are measured at the point of first sale. They are f.o.b. (free on board) shipping point prices in prior years.

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

Price table 3—Vegetables: Producer Price Indexes, by month, 1999-2009 1/

| Item               | Year  | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sep.  | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  | Annual | Change     |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------------|
|                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | Mar.- Mar. |
| -----1982=100----- |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | Percent    |
| Fresh 2/           | 1999  | 131.9 | 93.1  | 117.4 | 144.4 | 111.3 | 125.8 | 103.4 | 113.7 | 117.5 | 101.6 | 100.9 | 151.6 | 117.7  | --         |
|                    | 2000  | 111.3 | 100.5 | 122.3 | 126.8 | 152.0 | 128.1 | 127.2 | 136.7 | 155.9 | 165.0 | 173.9 | 120.3 | 135.0  | 4.2        |
|                    | 2001  | 147.0 | 168.6 | 178.7 | 145.6 | 144.9 | 129.4 | 109.7 | 127.2 | 132.3 | 112.3 | 105.9 | 121.0 | 135.2  | 46.1       |
|                    | 2002  | 146.1 | 188.7 | 242.5 | 101.7 | 107.2 | 123.2 | 127.1 | 125.4 | 116.7 | 126.9 | 127.4 | 119.0 | 137.7  | 35.7       |
|                    | 2003  | 147.8 | 127.5 | 153.0 | 167.7 | 165.0 | 138.8 | 133.3 | 136.6 | 164.7 | 156.9 | 148.4 | 184.7 | 152.0  | -36.9      |
|                    | 2004  | 143.8 | 125.9 | 140.3 | 133.1 | 132.9 | 101.0 | 102.8 | 128.3 | 141.9 | 200.0 | 211.1 | 143.7 | 142.1  | -8.3       |
|                    | 2005  | 122.0 | 152.8 | 168.5 | 174.7 | 144.2 | 160.0 | 126.8 | 132.3 | 153.3 | 144.0 | 163.1 | 200.8 | 153.5  | 20.1       |
|                    | 2006  | 207.6 | 138.8 | 137.6 | 174.4 | 147.9 | 128.7 | 134.1 | 179.5 | 193.1 | 167.7 | 138.3 | 178.4 | 160.5  | -18.3      |
|                    | 2007  | 175.3 | 190.3 | 222.4 | 222.5 | 142.1 | 145.4 | 146.0 | 137.8 | 162.7 | 218.3 | 177.4 | 204.5 | 178.7  | 61.6       |
|                    | 2008  | 200.2 | 158.3 | 194.1 | 179.3 | 170.7 | 191.7 | 168.3 | 146.1 | 158.7 | 185.1 | 200.3 | 155.9 | 175.7  | -12.7      |
| 2009               | 180.0 | 163.6 | 167.4 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | -13.8      |
| Melons             | 1999  | --    | --    | --    | --    | 86.6  | 62.8  | 42.4  | 62.1  | --    | 63.4  | 59.1  | --    | 62.7   | --         |
|                    | 2000  | --    | --    | --    | --    | 68.0  | 64.3  | 56.4  | 43.8  | 48.7  | 93.6  | 124.2 | --    | 71.3   | --         |
|                    | 2001  | --    | --    | --    | --    | 118.6 | 53.4  | 53.3  | 76.1  | 57.1  | 60.0  | 114.9 | --    | 76.2   | --         |
|                    | 2002  | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | 74.7  | 80.5  | 58.7  | 60.1  | 66.2  | 55.3  | --    | 65.9   | --         |
|                    | 2003  | --    | --    | --    | --    | 120.5 | 60.6  | 60.1  | 35.8  | 49.0  | 64.9  | 106.8 | --    | 71.1   | --         |
|                    | 2004  | 106.8 | 141.3 | 157.3 | 90.2  | 95.4  | 75.1  | 56.1  | 66.6  | 76.6  | 108.8 | 114.4 | 150.6 | 103.3  | --         |
|                    | 2005  | 156.1 | 75.4  | 96.5  | 162.2 | 114.8 | 99.9  | 83.8  | 62.3  | 80.7  | 67.3  | --    | --    | 99.9   | -38.7      |
|                    | 2006  | --    | --    | 99.8  | 99.8  | 95.6  | 93.8  | 70.3  | 80.2  | 75.0  | 76.2  | 105.1 | 154.7 | 95.1   | 3.4        |
|                    | 2007  | 126.2 | 102.9 | 96.9  | 127.6 | 153.5 | 74.6  | 60.0  | 71.0  | 87.4  | 122.9 | 175.2 | 165.6 | 113.7  | -2.9       |
|                    | 2008  | 141.1 | 140.1 | 85.8  | 167.1 | 140.5 | 92.6  | 82.3  | 78.9  | 71.3  | 131.0 | 121.3 | 113.8 | 113.8  | -11.5      |
| 2009               | 98.9  | 101.0 | 96.2  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 12.1       |
| Canned 3/          | 1999  | 120.6 | 120.6 | 120.9 | 120.9 | 121.0 | 121.0 | 120.8 | 120.9 | 120.7 | 120.7 | 121.3 | 121.3 | 120.9  | --         |
|                    | 2000  | 121.3 | 120.8 | 121.2 | 120.9 | 121.2 | 121.5 | 121.1 | 120.9 | 121.1 | 121.6 | 121.7 | 121.3 | 121.2  | 0.2        |
|                    | 2001  | 121.4 | 121.4 | 121.3 | 121.3 | 121.4 | 121.9 | 124.1 | 124.9 | 125.3 | 126.5 | 128.0 | 128.1 | 123.8  | 0.1        |
|                    | 2002  | 128.3 | 128.2 | 128.0 | 128.2 | 128.3 | 128.0 | 127.7 | 129.4 | 128.7 | 129.5 | 129.1 | 129.1 | 128.5  | 5.5        |
|                    | 2003  | 128.8 | 129.0 | 128.9 | 129.3 | 129.4 | 129.3 | 129.4 | 129.1 | 130.0 | 130.7 | 131.1 | 131.3 | 129.7  | 0.7        |
|                    | 2004  | 131.5 | 131.7 | 131.9 | 131.9 | 131.7 | 132.8 | 133.0 | 133.3 | 133.4 | 134.6 | 135.4 | 135.5 | 133.1  | 2.3        |
|                    | 2005  | 135.7 | 135.9 | 136.1 | 136.3 | 137.6 | 137.6 | 137.7 | 137.7 | 137.5 | 137.7 | 137.6 | 138.0 | 137.1  | 3.2        |
|                    | 2006  | 138.0 | 136.8 | 137.1 | 137.3 | 138.8 | 140.2 | 140.0 | 140.5 | 141.4 | 141.5 | 142.2 | 142.2 | 139.7  | 0.7        |
|                    | 2007  | 142.8 | 142.9 | 143.1 | 143.3 | 143.5 | 143.6 | 143.1 | 143.1 | 144.0 | 143.9 | 144.2 | 144.6 | 143.5  | 4.4        |
|                    | 2008  | 147.8 | 148.4 | 149.6 | 151.2 | 150.2 | 151.3 | 153.3 | 158.6 | 162.5 | 163.0 | 164.2 | 167.8 | 156.1  | 4.5        |
| 2009               | 169.3 | 169.3 | 169.4 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 13.2       |
| Frozen             | 1999  | 125.8 | 126.6 | 125.6 | 126.7 | 125.9 | 126.0 | 126.8 | 126.1 | 126.0 | 126.4 | 125.5 | 125.3 | 126.1  | --         |
|                    | 2000  | 125.4 | 126.2 | 125.7 | 126.3 | 126.3 | 124.9 | 125.9 | 126.4 | 126.2 | 126.9 | 126.1 | 126.2 | 126.0  | 0.1        |
|                    | 2001  | 127.6 | 128.5 | 127.7 | 128.7 | 128.4 | 127.7 | 128.9 | 128.8 | 128.8 | 130.0 | 129.2 | 129.1 | 128.6  | 1.6        |
|                    | 2002  | 130.0 | 131.1 | 130.1 | 131.2 | 130.7 | 129.7 | 131.4 | 131.3 | 131.5 | 132.2 | 131.9 | 132.6 | 131.1  | 1.9        |
|                    | 2003  | 133.4 | 134.1 | 133.3 | 134.0 | 134.1 | 133.9 | 134.9 | 134.2 | 134.2 | 135.2 | 135.1 | 135.0 | 134.3  | 2.5        |
|                    | 2004  | 135.1 | 136.0 | 135.3 | 135.3 | 134.3 | 134.7 | 135.4 | 135.8 | 136.8 | 138.1 | 137.2 | 137.0 | 135.9  | 1.5        |
|                    | 2005  | 137.3 | 137.3 | 137.4 | 137.5 | 137.5 | 137.4 | 137.2 | 136.8 | 136.6 | 136.7 | 136.1 | 136.4 | 137.0  | 1.6        |
|                    | 2006  | 137.3 | 137.7 | 138.7 | 138.6 | 138.8 | 139.5 | 139.4 | 139.3 | 139.9 | 142.0 | 142.7 | 142.6 | 139.7  | 0.9        |
|                    | 2007  | 144.0 | 144.0 | 144.0 | 145.2 | 145.9 | 146.7 | 148.2 | 149.3 | 149.9 | 151.5 | 152.5 | 153.2 | 147.9  | 3.8        |
|                    | 2008  | 153.3 | 153.8 | 155.6 | 156.5 | 156.7 | 157.1 | 158.8 | 161.1 | 163.9 | 170.6 | 172.7 | 176.6 | 161.4  | 8.1        |
| 2009               | 176.5 | 178.2 | 178.2 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 14.5       |
| Dehydrated 4/      | 1999  | 148.0 | 148.0 | 148.4 | 147.7 | 146.1 | 146.1 | 146.0 | 146.5 | 147.1 | 146.7 | 147.4 | 151.1 | 147.4  | --         |
|                    | 2000  | 148.9 | 149.8 | 149.9 | 149.5 | 149.3 | 149.0 | 148.6 | 144.9 | 144.0 | 144.9 | 143.4 | 140.8 | 146.9  | 1.0        |
|                    | 2001  | 139.1 | 135.6 | 136.2 | 136.9 | 139.9 | 140.6 | 140.4 | 140.9 | 142.4 | 142.7 | 144.6 | 145.9 | 140.4  | -9.1       |
|                    | 2002  | 148.2 | 149.3 | 150.3 | 151.0 | 150.1 | 151.2 | 152.6 | 152.3 | 151.2 | 151.1 | 150.2 | 151.1 | 150.7  | 10.4       |
|                    | 2003  | 150.6 | 150.2 | 149.8 | 147.8 | 147.5 | 147.3 | 146.5 | 145.2 | 144.2 | 143.3 | 143.5 | 146.1 | 146.8  | -0.3       |
|                    | 2004  | 145.4 | 145.1 | 144.5 | 144.4 | 144.2 | 144.2 | 144.3 | 144.1 | 145.7 | 144.8 | 143.9 | 144.5 | 144.6  | -3.5       |
|                    | 2005  | 145.6 | 145.9 | 145.2 | 145.7 | 146.8 | 146.0 | 145.3 | 145.9 | 150.4 | 150.6 | 152.3 | 154.3 | 147.8  | 0.5        |
|                    | 2006  | 154.7 | 156.4 | 158.1 | 159.3 | 163.0 | 165.0 | 165.1 | 165.5 | 168.1 | 168.5 | 169.8 | 171.9 | 163.8  | 8.9        |
|                    | 2007  | 175.7 | 176.2 | 175.0 | 176.4 | 180.2 | 179.3 | 179.8 | 179.5 | 179.6 | 180.1 | 184.1 | 184.0 | 179.2  | 10.7       |
|                    | 2008  | 185.3 | 185.7 | 188.1 | 189.5 | 189.7 | 190.9 | 195.0 | 194.0 | 194.2 | 195.5 | 195.9 | 193.8 | 191.5  | 7.5        |
| 2009               | 198.6 | 198.8 | 198.1 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 5.3        |

-- = not available. 1/ Indexes for 2009 are preliminary. 2/ Excludes potatoes. 3/ Includes vegetable juices. 4/ Includes both fruits and vegetables.

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

Price table 4—Vegetables: Consumer Price Indexes, by month, 2005-09 1/

| Item                                   | Year | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sep.  | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  | Annual |
|--|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| ----- 1982-84=100 -----                |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Fresh vegetables 2/</b>             | 2005 | 271.0 | 263.2 | 267.0 | 280.1 | 280.6 | 266.9 | 268.5 | 261.0 | 265.6 | 274.1 | 274.6 | 288.3 | 271.7  |
|  | 2006 | 300.6 | 289.7 | 279.7 | 276.8 | 275.6 | 272.9 | 271.5 | 274.4 | 294.2 | 301.8 | 288.6 | 286.1 | 284.3  |
|  | 2007 | 298.3 | 308.6 | 302.4 | 299.3 | 293.3 | 283.5 | 280.1 | 274.4 | 282.3 | 292.7 | 300.4 | 306.1 | 293.5  |
|  | 2008 | 317.5 | 305.0 | 301.5 | 299.8 | 298.5 | 307.2 | 313.8 | 313.4 | 311.3 | 314.5 | 319.3 | 315.8 | 309.8  |
|  | 2009 | 320.2 | 311.8 | 305.7 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Potatoes, fresh</b>                 | 2005 | 237.5 | 235.8 | 228.3 | 235.0 | 239.1 | 246.7 | 256.7 | 263.8 | 258.6 | 265.8 | 253.5 | 251.7 | 247.7  |
|  | 2006 | 261.1 | 264.7 | 264.6 | 261.5 | 270.4 | 276.0 | 282.5 | 293.6 | 290.4 | 278.2 | 267.8 | 266.8 | 273.1  |
|  | 2007 | 272.4 | 269.9 | 276.0 | 277.6 | 284.7 | 291.6 | 294.5 | 283.4 | 283.0 | 278.8 | 278.7 | 274.7 | 280.4  |
|  | 2008 | 282.9 | 286.3 | 285.4 | 293.1 | 294.6 | 311.3 | 347.0 | 366.8 | 376.3 | 365.4 | 351.1 | 335.3 | 324.6  |
|  | 2009 | 349.2 | 338.7 | 336.2 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Lettuce, fresh</b>                  | 2005 | 258.3 | 237.9 | 253.5 | 287.5 | 271.6 | 257.6 | 247.7 | 247.4 | 249.4 | 258.4 | 258.7 | 260.0 | 257.3  |
|  | 2006 | 260.8 | 258.0 | 254.2 | 267.2 | 285.5 | 264.0 | 246.9 | 265.8 | 274.2 | 269.7 | 265.1 | 281.9 | 266.1  |
|  | 2007 | 292.2 | 294.7 | 287.6 | 283.3 | 265.6 | 261.6 | 254.7 | 260.6 | 273.3 | 298.2 | 295.7 | 295.3 | 280.2  |
|  | 2008 | 292.9 | 282.6 | 278.3 | 277.0 | 268.3 | 269.6 | 276.6 | 286.0 | 297.4 | 306.3 | 303.2 | 300.0 | 286.5  |
|  | 2009 | 302.3 | 292.9 | 288.2 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Tomatoes, fresh</b>                 | 2005 | 309.6 | 274.8 | 297.1 | 310.6 | 333.6 | 293.0 | 287.3 | 267.6 | 273.5 | 297.2 | 299.0 | 342.3 | 298.8  |
|  | 2006 | 393.1 | 354.7 | 311.5 | 297.9 | 293.9 | 276.1 | 271.8 | 271.8 | 336.5 | 405.5 | 347.8 | 318.5 | 323.3  |
|  | 2007 | 307.2 | 317.2 | 291.9 | 309.8 | 309.7 | 283.5 | 278.7 | 273.8 | 280.8 | 304.7 | 341.3 | 378.7 | 306.5  |
|  | 2008 | 385.2 | 329.6 | 345.1 | 334.9 | 322.1 | 346.3 | 330.7 | 317.7 | 303.0 | 304.3 | 334.6 | 337.8 | 332.6  |
|  | 2009 | 322.5 | 296.9 | 295.9 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Other, fresh</b>                    | 2005 | 277.9 | 280.8 | 279.4 | 289.9 | 284.8 | 272.2 | 276.0 | 265.2 | 274.0 | 277.4 | 282.7 | 295.2 | 279.6  |
|  | 2006 | 298.2 | 289.6 | 285.8 | 282.4 | 273.5 | 278.2 | 279.1 | 276.1 | 291.5 | 288.1 | 286.8 | 288.0 | 284.8  |
|  | 2007 | 311.5 | 328.6 | 324.9 | 313.0 | 303.4 | 291.9 | 287.7 | 280.4 | 290.3 | 297.3 | 300.6 | 300.4 | 302.5  |
|  | 2008 | 318.2 | 313.8 | 303.3 | 301.2 | 304.8 | 307.9 | 312.0 | 306.3 | 300.9 | 307.9 | 312.8 | 311.2 | 308.4  |
|  | 2009 | 319.5 | 317.5 | 308.2 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Frozen vegetables</b>               | 2005 | 177.0 | 176.3 | 174.7 | 177.2 | 178.6 | 176.5 | 180.2 | 177.7 | 181.5 | 179.1 | 176.8 | 177.5 | 177.8  |
|  | 2006 | 179.4 | 182.9 | 179.7 | 179.7 | 178.1 | 175.7 | 178.8 | 181.3 | 179.6 | 177.7 | 178.1 | 178.7 | 179.1  |
|  | 2007 | 179.0 | 182.1 | 180.4 | 178.2 | 181.2 | 178.6 | 182.6 | 182.5 | 183.4 | 181.1 | 180.2 | 179.8 | 180.8  |
|  | 2008 | 184.1 | 184.0 | 184.0 | 187.2 | 190.4 | 192.6 | 193.1 | 192.7 | 193.6 | 195.4 | 195.0 | 195.6 | 190.6  |
|  | 2009 | 201.3 | 198.1 | 198.9 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| December 1997=100                      |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Processed fruits and vegetables</b> | 2005 | 117.9 | 117.1 | 116.3 | 118.8 | 119.3 | 119.7 | 121.3 | 120.6 | 121.2 | 120.6 | 118.8 | 120.3 | 119.3  |
|  | 2006 | 121.8 | 122.5 | 122.4 | 121.3 | 122.6 | 122.8 | 123.8 | 124.1 | 123.3 | 122.8 | 122.7 | 123.5 | 122.8  |
|  | 2007 | 124.9 | 125.5 | 125.4 | 124.9 | 126.2 | 127.7 | 129.0 | 129.2 | 129.6 | 129.3 | 126.7 | 128.5 | 127.2  |
|  | 2008 | 130.8 | 132.9 | 131.5 | 134.7 | 136.8 | 138.7 | 140.5 | 142.8 | 145.2 | 146.6 | 145.6 | 145.9 | 139.3  |
|  | 2009 | 148.4 | 148.5 | 149.0 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Canned vegetables</b>               | 2005 | 119.3 | 117.5 | 117.9 | 120.5 | 121.0 | 121.0 | 125.6 | 125.5 | 124.8 | 126.0 | 121.9 | 124.4 | 122.1  |
|  | 2006 | 124.8 | 125.0 | 126.6 | 124.1 | 126.0 | 126.5 | 128.1 | 127.9 | 125.3 | 124.7 | 125.5 | 125.9 | 125.9  |
|  | 2007 | 127.1 | 127.0 | 127.6 | 126.2 | 126.7 | 130.5 | 131.2 | 131.7 | 133.2 | 132.8 | 128.4 | 131.9 | 129.5  |
|  | 2008 | 133.1 | 136.9 | 134.9 | 141.2 | 142.1 | 144.5 | 148.1 | 153.7 | 157.3 | 159.2 | 156.2 | 157.0 | 147.0  |
|  | 2009 | 159.1 | 162.3 | 162.5 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Dried beans, peas, lentils</b>      | 2005 | 115.2 | 116.0 | 116.4 | 118.4 | 117.5 | 118.3 | 118.3 | 118.1 | 118.3 | 118.7 | 118.9 | 116.6 | 117.6  |
|  | 2006 | 117.2 | 117.3 | 117.1 | 119.4 | 118.7 | 119.3 | 120.7 | 121.3 | 120.8 | 120.5 | 121.0 | 123.6 | 119.7  |
|  | 2007 | 126.1 | 124.5 | 126.8 | 129.3 | 131.6 | 133.0 | 134.6 | 135.3 | 136.3 | 136.3 | 136.9 | 139.0 | 132.5  |
|  | 2008 | 141.3 | 145.5 | 141.1 | 147.2 | 151.8 | 160.0 | 162.6 | 165.0 | 168.0 | 172.2 | 177.0 | 176.3 | 159.0  |
|  | 2009 | 176.6 | 173.1 | 174.0 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| <b>Olives, pickles and relishes</b>    | 2005 | 110.0 | 107.5 | 115.2 | 112.0 | 101.1 | 98.4  | 100.4 | 108.8 | 106.7 | 119.5 | 109.1 | 110.2 | 108.2  |
|  | 2006 | 115.7 | 110.7 | 111.0 | 110.9 | 108.6 | 110.9 | 110.3 | 117.6 | 117.5 | 118.6 | 112.2 | 112.6 | 113.1  |
|  | 2007 | 118.4 | 120.8 | 118.1 | 117.7 | 121.2 | 120.9 | 121.2 | 115.8 | 129.9 | 125.8 | 123.1 | 117.2 | 120.8  |
|  | 2008 | 123.8 | 125.9 | 123.1 | 121.9 | 127.1 | 124.7 | 126.0 | 128.5 | 129.5 | 132.4 | 129.6 | 132.5 | 127.1  |
|  | 2009 | 133.8 | 133.8 | 135.4 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |

1/ Not seasonally adjusted. 2/ Includes potatoes.

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

Price table 5—Fresh-market vegetables: U.S. average retail prices, by month, 2001-09

| Item                         | Year | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sep.  | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  | Annual | Change    |
|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|
|                              |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | Mar.-Mar. |
| -----Cents/pound-----        |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | Percent   |
| <b>Potatoes, white</b>       | 2001 | 35.5  | 34.8  | 35.6  | 36.2  | 36.3  | 38.8  | 40.9  | 43.9  | 42.2  | 41.8  | 41.0  | 41.0  | 39.0   | --        |
|                              | 2002 | 42.6  | 44.7  | 46.5  | 49.3  | 50.8  | 51.7  | 54.9  | 55.9  | 51.1  | 49.2  | 47.3  | 47.9  | 49.3   | 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  | 52.2  | 53.3  | 54.1  | 55.6  | 57.2  | 56.3  | 54.5  | 51.7  | 51.7  | 53.4   | 17.5      |
|                              | 2007 | 51.7  | 51.4  | 51.8  | 52.9  | 53.0  | 53.8  | 54.5  | 52.2  | 52.0  | 51.7  | 52.7  | 52.0  | 52.5   | 0.2       |
|                              | 2008 | 52.5  | 53.1  | 54.2  | 54.6  | 56.2  | 59.8  | 67.2  | 72.4  | 76.3  | 73.0  | 69.9  | 67.8  | 63.1   | 4.6       |
|                              | 2009 | 67.6  | 66.0  | 65.2  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 20.3      |
| <b>Broccoli</b>              | 2001 | 98.7  | 97.8  | 108.3 | 95.4  | 99.9  | 100.5 | 98.1  | 97.8  | 96.9  | 101.1 | 89.7  | 97.3  | 98.5   | --        |
|                              | 2002 | 137.4 | 168.1 | 114.7 | 120.4 | 103.6 | 109.3 | 111.9 | 113.5 | 124.7 | 107.3 | 116.5 | 105.2 | 119.4  | 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 | 136.7 | 137.3 | 143.2 | 151.1 | 152.1 | 168.9 | 140.9 | 138.9 | 146.0 | 144.6  | 3.0       |
|                              | 2007 | 182.8 | 172.0 | 145.8 | 154.1 | 141.2 | 137.3 | 147.5 | 154.2 | 153.6 | 174.9 | 174.1 | 165.5 | 158.6  | 7.4       |
|                              | 2008 | 173.3 | 163.9 | 157.4 | 173.7 | 165.2 | 160.0 | 167.0 | 160.1 | 158.3 | 181.2 | 179.1 | 170.3 | 167.5  | 8.0       |
|                              | 2009 | 172.8 | 167.7 | 169.6 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 7.8       |
| <b>Lettuce, iceberg</b>      | 2001 | 73.6  | 84.7  | 89.5  | 76.7  | 87.0  | 72.2  | 66.3  | 78.4  | 89.7  | 81.1  | 73.4  | 78.8  | 79.3   | --        |
|                              | 2002 | 100.3 | 106.1 | 154.2 | 114.7 | 72.0  | 67.5  | 67.4  | 68.9  | 70.2  | 68.7  | 75.4  | 68.0  | 86.1   | 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  | 86.9  | 96.7  | 84.8  | 78.3  | 86.4  | 95.3  | 87.3  | 85.0  | 89.6  | 86.6   | -1.7      |
|                              | 2007 | 92.6  | 92.0  | 91.5  | 98.6  | 87.9  | 85.6  | 84.9  | 87.9  | 92.7  | 106.6 | 98.8  | 94.9  | 92.8   | 12.3      |
|                              | 2008 | 95.0  | 89.5  | 87.3  | 90.2  | 86.8  | 86.0  | 87.5  | 87.8  | 90.6  | 99.8  | 97.9  | 87.7  | 90.5   | -4.6      |
|                              | 2009 | 94.4  | 93.0  | 87.5  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 0.2       |
| <b>Tomatoes, field grown</b> | 2001 | 141.4 | 131.3 | 133.6 | 143.3 | 124.3 | 135.6 | 125.7 | 118.5 | 116.8 | 126.7 | 146.8 | 140.4 | 132.0  | --        |
|                              | 2002 | 145.1 | 129.8 | 129.2 | 131.9 | 133.2 | 129.9 | 124.3 | 118.1 | 115.8 | 123.6 | 143.0 | 165.5 | 132.5  | -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 | 157.3 | 154.3 | 145.7 | 147.9 | 148.8 | 190.8 | 218.8 | 178.4 | 163.9 | 173.2  | 6.5       |
|                              | 2007 | 162.1 | 164.4 | 155.5 | 163.0 | 168.5 | 151.0 | 148.6 | 148.5 | 149.6 | 164.9 | 185.1 | 214.7 | 164.7  | -5.7      |
|                              | 2008 | 203.2 | 173.5 | 183.5 | 177.3 | 167.5 | 181.4 | 171.3 | 169.4 | 159.1 | 161.1 | 172.2 | 173.4 | 174.4  | 18.0      |
|                              | 2009 | 166.1 | 155.6 | 151.1 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | -17.7     |
| <b>Lettuce, romaine 1/</b>   | 2006 | 134.1 | 140.5 | 138.3 | 147.6 | 147.6 | 132.0 | 123.7 | 135.9 | 143.0 | 141.0 | 142.9 | 145.5 | 139.3  | --        |
|                              | 2007 | 161.2 | 181.7 | 163.1 | 154.5 | 150.4 | 142.5 | 134.4 | 137.3 | 149.4 | 157.1 | 175.7 | 177.5 | 157.1  | 17.9      |
|                              | 2008 | 172.4 | 168.2 | 158.7 | 155.7 | 158.1 | 159.0 | 160.9 | 174.8 | 188.4 | 183.6 | 191.2 | 182.1 | 171.1  | -2.7      |
|                              | 2009 | 185.1 | 175.8 | 176.2 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | 11.0      |
| <b>Peppers, sweet 2/</b>     | 2005 | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | 192.7 | --    | --    | --     | --        |
|                              | 2006 | --    | --    | --    | --    | 163.8 | 169.5 | 176.8 | 171.3 | 171.0 | 208.0 | 195.5 | 189.0 | 180.6  | --        |
|                              | 2007 | 190.5 | 211.9 | 218.2 | 235.2 | 222.6 | 221.9 | 195.3 | 181.6 | 188.7 | 208.0 | 219.8 | 218.7 | 209.4  | --        |
|                              | 2008 | 216.6 | 233.0 | 271.0 | 234.6 | 239.5 | 242.7 | 262.9 | 220.2 | 205.5 | --    | --    | --    | 236.2  | 24.2      |
|                              | 2009 | --    | --    | --    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | --        |
| <b>Cabbage 2/</b>            | 2006 | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | 56.1  | 60.0  | 58.5  | 59.5  | 60.6  | 58.9   | --        |
|                              | 2007 | 61.0  | 66.5  | 68.9  | 65.1  | 61.0  | 58.1  | 58.6  | 57.1  | 56.8  | 62.6  | 60.6  | 61.3  | 61.5   | --        |
|                              | 2008 | 62.6  | 58.3  | 58.7  | 59.5  | 62.5  | 66.9  | 70.8  | 65.8  | 67.4  | 71.1  | 61.9  | 63.3  | 64.1   | -14.8     |
|                              | 2009 | 59.6  | 60.7  | 57.1  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | -2.7      |
| <b>Celery 2/</b>             | 2007 | --    | 128.3 | --    | 92.1  | --    | 82.9  | --    | 75.1  | 78.0  | --    | --    | --    | 91.3   | --        |
|                              | 2008 | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | --     | --        |
| <b>Carrots 2/</b>            | 2007 | --    | --    | --    | --    | --    | 80.5  | 77.8  | 77.6  | 78.2  | --    | 75.3  | 75.0  | 77.4   | --        |
|                              | 2008 | 78.0  | 77.7  | 76.8  | 76.8  | 79.3  | 86.8  | 80.1  | 79.7  | 79.4  | 80.2  | --    | --    | 79.5   | --        |
|                              | 2009 | --    | --    | --    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        | --        |

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

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

Price table 6—Fresh-market vegetables: U.S. average monthly advertised retail prices, 2008-09

| Item                     | Units    | Year | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  | June | July | Aug. * | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Change<br>Mar. - Mar. |
|--------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| -- Dollars per unit --   |          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      | Percent               |
| Asparagus                | Pound    | 2008 | 2.97 | 2.41 | 2.23 | 2.46 | 2.68 | 2.55 | 2.61 | 2.92   | 2.76 | 2.68 | 2.68 | 3.00 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.71 | 2.31 | 2.25 | 2.31 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Beans,<br>round green    | Pound    | 2008 | 1.46 | 1.65 | 1.42 | 1.27 | 1.35 | 1.33 | 1.36 | 1.22   | 1.28 | 1.46 | 1.41 | 1.52 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.52 | 1.48 | 1.68 | 1.47 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Broccoli                 | Bunch    | 2008 | 1.67 | 1.51 | 1.56 | 1.46 | 1.66 | 1.59 | 1.68 | 1.60   | 1.57 | 1.75 | 1.88 | 1.68 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.64 | 1.58 | 1.66 | 1.62 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Broccoli,<br>Organic     | Bunch    | 2008 | 2.23 | 2.18 | 2.03 | 2.26 | 2.36 | 1.97 | 2.34 | 1.99   | 1.93 | 2.68 | 2.54 | 2.49 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.54 | 2.33 | 2.24 | 2.21 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Cabbage                  | Pound    | 2008 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.33 | 0.43 | 0.41 | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.47   | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.44 | 0.45 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.40 | 0.43 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Carrots, baby            | Pound    | 2008 | 1.40 | 1.41 | 1.41 | 1.41 | 1.42 | 1.44 | 1.45 | 1.43   | 1.36 | 1.40 | 1.41 | 1.31 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.34 | 1.30 | 1.40 | 1.38 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Carrots,<br>baby organic | Pound    | 2008 | 1.69 | 1.73 | 1.61 | 1.66 | 1.74 | 1.73 | 1.76 | 1.84   | 1.74 | 1.82 | 1.80 | 1.72 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.71 | 1.70 | 1.64 | 1.75 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Celery                   | Each     | 2008 | 1.20 | 1.15 | 1.16 | 1.13 | 1.04 | 1.10 | 1.38 | 1.19   | 1.17 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.32 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.35 | 1.18 | 1.25 | 1.15 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Sweet corn               | Ear      | 2008 | 0.39 | 0.54 | 0.37 | 0.41 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37   | 0.47 | 0.45 | 0.40 | 0.31 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 0.54 | 0.46 | 0.48 | 0.50 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Cucumbers                | Each     | 2008 | 0.67 | 0.60 | 0.62 | 0.60 | 0.57 | 0.60 | 0.62 | 0.62   | 0.62 | 0.65 | 0.64 | 0.71 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 0.66 | 0.78 | 0.69 | 0.69 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Lettuce,<br>iceberg      | Head     | 2008 | 0.98 | 0.96 | 0.91 | 0.99 | 0.93 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.99   | 1.03 | 0.96 | 0.92 | 0.98 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.10 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 1.05 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Lettuce,<br>romaine      | Each     | 2008 | 1.11 | 1.13 | 1.32 | 1.05 | 1.04 | 1.07 | 1.12 | 1.15   | 1.29 | 1.14 | 1.06 | 1.32 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.06 | 1.05 | 1.09 | 1.08 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Mushrooms,<br>white      | 8-oz pkg | 2008 | 1.66 | 1.69 | 1.71 | 1.66 | 1.80 | 1.77 | 1.71 | 1.77   | 1.71 | 1.71 | 1.76 | 1.63 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.70 | 1.68 | 1.71 | 1.76 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Onions,<br>yellow        | 3-lb bag | 2008 | 1.70 | 1.59 | 1.64 | 1.56 | 1.71 | 1.75 | 1.83 | 1.86   | 1.87 | 1.89 | 1.79 | 1.91 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.83 | 1.79 | 1.87 | 1.85 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Onions, sweet<br>yellow  | Pound    | 2008 | 1.13 | 1.18 | 1.11 | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.97 | 1.07 | 1.09   | 1.09 | 1.18 | 1.26 | 1.09 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.22 | 1.18 | 1.06 | 0.96 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Peppers,<br>bell green   | Pound    | 2008 | 1.43 | 1.44 | 1.47 | 1.37 | 1.39 | 1.47 | 1.59 | 1.39   | 1.49 | 1.49 | 1.44 | 1.51 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.54 | 1.49 | 1.58 | 1.23 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Peppers,<br>bell red     | Pound    | 2008 | 2.54 | 2.37 | 2.93 | 2.45 | 2.57 | 2.45 | 2.58 | 2.49   | 2.18 | 2.48 | 2.53 | 2.65 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.48 | 2.27 | 2.04 | 2.29 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Squash,<br>zucchini      | Pound    | 2008 | 1.23 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.20 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1.20 | 1.17   | 1.15 | 1.22 | 1.31 | 1.46 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.24 | 1.26 | 1.19 | 1.28 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Sweet<br>potatoes        | Pound    | 2008 | 0.86 | 0.85 | 0.76 | 0.86 | 0.87 | 0.84 | 0.78 | 0.80   | 0.87 | 0.87 | 0.73 | 0.83 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 0.89 | 0.85 | 0.88 | 0.78 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Tomatoes                 | Pound    | 2008 | 2.15 | 1.66 | 1.89 | 1.65 | 1.46 | 1.57 | 1.48 | 1.46   | 1.33 | 1.47 | 1.67 | 1.65 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 1.29 | 1.34 | 1.29 | 1.31 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Tomatoes,<br>organic     | Pound    | 2008 | 2.99 | 1.80 | 2.82 | 2.69 | 2.90 | 3.23 | 2.55 | 2.95   | 2.83 | 1.84 | 2.99 | 2.92 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.32 | 1.98 | 2.18 | 2.49 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Tomatoes,<br>on the vine | Pound    | 2008 | 2.53 | 2.60 | 2.39 | 2.12 | 1.97 | 2.03 | 2.13 | 1.95   | 1.94 | 2.03 | 2.16 | 2.42 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.14 | 2.35 | 2.27 | 2.09 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Tomatoes,<br>grape       | Pint     | 2008 | 2.41 | 2.40 | 2.39 | 2.43 | 2.23 | 2.25 | 2.41 | 2.25   | 2.42 | 2.34 | 2.44 | 2.37 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.27 | 2.32 | 2.17 | 2.21 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Artichokes               | Each     | 2008 | --   | --   | 1.48 | 1.98 | 1.82 | 2.00 | 2.11 | --     | --   | --   | --   | --   | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | --   | --   | --   | --   |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Cantaloup                | Each     | 2008 | 2.43 | 2.45 | 2.23 | 2.15 | 2.40 | 2.25 | 2.19 | 2.16   | 2.15 | 2.37 | 2.57 | 2.57 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 2.24 | 2.41 | 1.80 | 2.11 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |
| Watermelon,<br>seedless  | Each     | 2008 | 3.49 | --   | 4.67 | 5.27 | 4.83 | 4.58 | 4.31 | 4.16   | 3.40 | 2.00 | 1.50 | 3.36 | --                    |
|                          |          | 2009 | 3.04 | 3.20 | 4.01 | 5.59 |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |                       |

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

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

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

| Commodity                           | Shipping point 1/ | Shipping container         | 2008   |        |        |        |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |       | 2009  |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                     |                   |                            | Jan. 3 | Feb. 1 | Mar. 3 | Apr. 1 | May 1 | June 1 | July 1 | Aug 1 | Sep 2 | Oct 1 | Nov 3 | Dec 1 | Jan 2 | Feb 2 | Mar 1 | Apr 1 |
| Artichokes                          | CA                | Carton, 24s                | 48.00  | 32.00  | 36.00  | 23.00  | 18.50 | 12.00  | 35.50  | 22.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 16.50 | 20.00 | 34.50 | 32.00 | 31.00 | 30.00 |
| Beans, round green, machine-pick    | FL, GA, MI        | Bushel cartons             | 18.50  | 37.00  | 15.50  | 11.50  | 11.00 | 13.50  | 44.00  | 49.85 | 15.00 | 27.00 | 20.50 | 22.50 | 19.00 | 23.00 | 37.00 | 19.50 |
| Beets, medium                       | TX, IL, CA        | 25-lb sacks/filmbags       | 6.75   | 7.25   | 7.00   | 7.50   | 8.25  | 11.00  | 9.50   | 11.50 | 9.50  | 9.75  | 9.75  | 10.00 | 8.75  | 7.50  | 7.50  | 7.00  |
| Bok choy, baby                      | CA, FL            | 30-lb cartons              | 13.00  | 13.00  | 18.00  | 16.00  | 13.00 | 18.00  | 18.00  | 19.00 | 12.50 | 13.00 | 16.00 | 16.00 | 15.00 | 17.50 | 17.00 | 14.00 |
| Brussels sprouts                    | CA, MX            | 25-lb cartons              | 27.50  | 24.00  | 32.00  | 31.00  | 46.00 | 25.00  | 27.50  | 21.50 | 15.00 | 23.00 | 17.00 | 17.00 | 33.00 | 19.00 | 17.00 | 17.50 |
| Cabbage, round-green, medium        | NY, GA            | 50-lb cartons              | 9.00   | 9.50   | 9.50   | 10.75  | 12.25 | 10.75  | 17.00  | 15.00 | 11.00 | 10.00 | 9.50  | 9.50  | 10.75 | 10.25 | 8.00  | 11.25 |
| Chinese cabbage (Napa)              | CA                | 30-lb cartons              | 13.00  | 15.00  | 12.00  | 20.00  | 20.00 | 15.00  | 15.00  | 18.00 | 12.00 | 15.00 | 16.00 | 18.50 | 15.00 | 13.50 | 14.00 | 12.50 |
| Carrots, baby peeled                | CA                | Carton, 24 (1-lb) filmbags | 17.00  | 17.00  | 17.50  | 17.50  | 17.50 | 17.50  | 18.00  | 18.00 | 18.00 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| Eggplant, medium                    | FL, GA, MX        | 1 (1/9-bushel) cartons     | 10.50  | 15.00  | 17.00  | 17.00  | 23.00 | 13.00  | 12.25  | 12.00 | 15.50 | 14.50 | 18.00 | 13.00 | 12.50 | 15.00 | 15.50 | 36.00 |
| Garlic, white colossal              | CA, MX            | 30 lb cartons              | 41.50  | 41.50  | 41.50  | 41.50  | 41.50 | 41.50  | 41.50  | 41.50 | 41.50 | 46.00 | 46.00 | 43.00 | 43.00 | 46.00 | 46.00 | 47.00 |
| Greens, kale                        | CA                | Carton, 24s                | 12.50  | 13.50  | 13.50  | 11.50  | 13.50 | 15.00  | 15.00  | 13.50 | 13.50 | 13.50 | 13.50 | 13.50 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 |
| Greens, kohlrabi                    | CA, TX, IL        | Carton, 12s/24s            | 20.50  | 24.00  | 20.50  | 20.00  | 20.50 | 20.50  | 24.00  | 27.00 | 27.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 24.50 | 20.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 |
| Greens, turnip tops                 | GA, IL            | Carton, 24s                | 10.00  | 11.50  | 10.50  | 11.50  | 10.75 | 12.50  | 11.50  | 11.50 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.50 |
| Greens, mustard                     | CA                | Carton, 24s                | 10.00  | 11.50  | 10.50  | 11.50  | 10.75 | 12.50  | 11.50  | 11.50 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.25 | 11.50 |
| Greens, collards                    | GA, CA            | Carton, 24s                | 10.00  | 11.50  | 10.50  | 11.50  | 10.75 | 12.50  | 11.50  | 11.50 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 11.50 |
| Leeks                               | CA, IL, MX        | Carton, bunched 12s        | 29.50  | 22.50  | 25.00  | 20.50  | 28.00 | 20.50  | 20.00  | 19.50 | 19.00 | 15.50 | 23.00 | 23.50 | 19.00 | 15.50 | 15.50 | 14.00 |
| Lettuce, Boston                     | CA                | Carton, 24s                | 14.50  | 13.00  | 12.50  | 13.00  | 15.50 | 15.00  | 14.00  | 14.00 | 14.50 | 19.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 13.00 | 11.00 | 11.50 | 13.00 |
| Lettuce, Romaine                    | CA                | Carton, 24s                | 15.00  | 14.00  | 14.50  | 12.00  | 14.50 | 13.00  | 16.00  | 15.00 | 22.50 | 23.50 | 18.50 | 17.50 | 15.50 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 13.00 |
| Mushrooms, button, large            | PA                | 10-lb carton               | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00 | 15.00  | 15.00  | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 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               | 12.50  | 12.50  | 12.50  | 12.50  | 12.50 | 12.50  | 12.50  | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 |
| Mushrooms, portobellas, lrg         | PA                | 5-lb carton                | 10.00  | 10.00  | 10.00  | 10.00  | 10.00 | 10.00  | 10.00  | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Okra, small-medium                  | FL, MX, TN        | 1/2-bushel carton          | 25.00  | 29.00  | 25.00  | 26.25  | 21.00 | 13.00  | 22.00  | 22.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 29.00 | 30.00 | 31.00 | 27.00 | 25.00 | 31.00 |
| Onions, green, medium               | CA, MX            | Carton, bunched 48s        | 17.50  | 24.50  | 13.75  | 11.50  | 12.50 | 12.50  | 16.00  | 27.05 | 17.00 | 17.00 | 13.00 | 17.00 | 16.25 | 9.00  | 10.00 | 9.50  |
| Parsley, curly                      | CA                | Cartons, bunched 60s       | 16.00  | 24.00  | 14.75  | 13.50  | 15.50 | 19.00  | 24.00  | 19.00 | 19.00 | 16.50 | 18.00 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 14.50 | 13.50 | 14.00 |
| Peas, snow                          | GU, CA            | 10-lb carton               | 20.50  | 9.00   | 21.00  | 17.00  | 15.50 | 30.00  | 28.00  | 22.50 | 16.00 | 22.00 | 25.00 | 24.00 | 11.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 15.00 |
| Peas, sugar snap                    | GU, CA            | 10-lb carton               | 21.50  | 11.00  | 14.50  | 16.00  | 15.00 | 22.00  | 30.00  | 33.00 | 30.00 | 25.50 | 25.00 | 22.00 | 26.00 | 12.00 | 10.00 | 14.50 |
| Peppers, green bell, large/x-lrg    | FL, CA            | 1 (1/9-bushel) cartons     | 10.00  | 24.50  | 15.50  | 12.50  | 24.00 | 16.00  | 21.00  | 34.50 | 18.50 | 13.00 | 21.50 | 15.50 | 10.50 | 18.00 | 17.00 | 13.00 |
| Peppers, jalapeno, medium           | FL, GA, MI        | 1/2- & 5/9-bushel crates   | 9.50   | 17.50  | 9.50   | 9.50   | 22.50 | 9.50   | 13.00  | 18.50 | 17.00 | 10.50 | 9.50  | 31.00 | 26.00 | 15.00 | 14.50 | 11.00 |
| Radishes                            | FL, MI            | Carton, 30 (6-oz) filmbags | 10.00  | 9.00   | 8.75   | 8.75   | 8.75  | 9.00   | 9.00   | 11.00 | 9.50  | 10.00 | 12.00 | 10.00 | 9.00  | 9.00  | 10.00 | 9.50  |
| Spinach, flat                       | CA                | Carton, bunched 24s        | 21.00  | 19.00  | 12.50  | 13.00  | 15.50 | 13.00  | 13.50  | 19.00 | 18.50 | 15.00 | 23.00 | 16.50 | 18.00 | 15.00 | 16.50 | 20.50 |
| Squash, zucchini, medium            | FL, NJ, MI        | 1/2- & 5/9-bushel crates   | 25.00  | 13.00  | 10.00  | 9.50   | 10.50 | 10.00  | 9.50   | 12.00 | 8.25  | 17.50 | 7.00  | 20.00 | 7.50  | 10.00 | 13.00 | 8.00  |
| Squash, yellow straightneck, med.   | FL, NJ, MI        | 1/2- & 5/9-bushel crates   | 19.00  | 13.00  | 17.00  | 13.00  | 15.00 | 10.25  | 9.50   | 15.00 | 10.00 | 22.00 | 12.00 | 26.00 | 10.00 | 13.50 | 26.00 | 14.00 |
| Sweet potatoes, US #1, Beauregard   | LA                | 40-lb carton               | 21.00  | 21.00  | 21.00  | 20.00  | 20.50 | 20.00  | 20.00  | 20.00 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 20.50 | 20.50 |
| Tomatoes, mature green, lrg, 6x6    | FL, CA, MX        | 25-lb carton               | 18.00  | 12.00  | 24.50  | 15.00  | 11.00 | 20.50  | 13.00  | 12.50 | 9.00  | 11.00 | 21.00 | 14.00 | 11.50 | 9.00  | 7.00  | 11.50 |
| Tomatoes, vine ripe, md/lrg         | MX, CA, FL        | 25-lb carton               | 24.50  | 14.50  | 15.00  | 15.50  | 15.00 | 24.00  | 12.00  | 16.00 | 10.25 | 11.50 | 21.00 | 10.50 | 11.00 | 9.50  | 12.00 | 14.00 |
| Tomatoes, greenhse, v. ripe, md/lrg | MX, CD, AZ        | 5-kg carton (on vine)      | 11.00  | 29.00  | 15.00  | 11.50  | 11.50 | 14.00  | 15.00  | 13.00 | 8.75  | 8.50  | 6.00  | 12.00 | 13.00 | 15.00 | 11.00 | 11.50 |
| Tomatoes, cherry                    | FL, CA, MX        | Flats, 12 (1-pint) buckets | 11.00  | 11.00  | 10.50  | 20.00  | 11.00 | 14.50  | 20.50  | 11.00 | 9.00  | 6.00  | 15.00 | 11.50 | 8.50  | 14.00 | 11.00 | 7.00  |
| Tomatoes, plum-type, med/lrg        | FL, CA, MX        | 25-lb carton               | 19.00  | 11.75  | 19.00  | 14.50  | 13.00 | 14.00  | 20.50  | 16.50 | 10.00 | 12.50 | 15.00 | 17.50 | 14.50 | 9.00  | 9.25  | 22.50 |
| Turnips, purple top, medium-large   | CA, IL            | 25-lb filmbags             | 8.00   | 8.00   | 9.00   | 10.00  | 8.00  | 10.00  | 10.00  | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 11.50 | 11.50 | 11.50 | 11.50 | 10.00 | 11.00 |
| Cantaloups                          | CA, CR, MX        | 1/2-2/3 carton 12s         | 13.00  | 19.00  | 10.50  | 8.00   | 19.00 | 11.00  | 12.00  | 11.50 | 9.50  | 16.50 | 12.50 | 18.50 | 13.00 | 21.50 | 9.50  | 14.50 |
| Honeydews                           | CA, HD, CR        | 2/3 carton 6s              | 11.50  | 14.00  | 15.75  | 11.50  | 13.50 | 10.00  | 14.00  | 11.00 | 7.00  | 10.25 | 7.25  | 8.25  | 13.00 | 21.50 | 10.50 | 11.00 |
| Watermelon, various red (85 lb ctn) | CA, TX, MX        | Carton 3s or 4s, per lb    | 0.34   | 0.40   | 0.19   | 0.21   | 0.29  | 0.27   | 0.27   | 0.25  | 0.22  | 0.21  | 0.28  | 0.29  | --    | --    | 0.30  | 0.35  |
| Watermelon, red seedless            | CA, MX            | Carton 4s or 5s, per lb    | 0.40   | 0.36   | 0.30   | 0.37   | 0.38  | 0.36   | 0.28   | 0.25  | 0.25  | 0.25  | 0.36  | 0.35  | 0.43  | 0.38  | 0.30  | 0.41  |

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

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

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

| Year & quarter           | Sweet corn 2/ |       | Snap beans 3/ |       | Green peas 4/ |       | Carrots 5/ |       | Beets 6/ |       | Tomato paste 7/ |         |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|-----------------|---------|
|                          | 24/300        | 6/10  | 24/300        | 6/10  | 24/300        | 6/10  | 24/300     | 6/10  | 24/300   | 6/10  | 55-drum         | 6/10    |
| ----- Dollars/case ----- |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       | \$/lb           | \$/case |
| <b>2000</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 7.75          | 13.84 | 7.50          | 11.67 | 8.75          | 14.79 | 7.88       | 10.88 | 8.21     | 11.75 | 0.34            | 19.63   |
| II                       | 7.84          | 15.00 | 7.50          | 11.92 | 8.84          | 16.33 | 7.88       | 10.88 | 8.38     | 11.38 | 0.34            | 20.04   |
| III                      | 7.71          | 15.00 | 7.25          | 12.00 | 8.79          | 16.00 | 7.96       | 11.13 | 8.46     | 11.38 | 0.32            | 19.50   |
| IV                       | 7.63          | 15.09 | 7.38          | 11.17 | 8.75          | 16.13 | 7.75       | 11.01 | 8.50     | 11.75 | 0.32            | 19.00   |
| Average                  | 7.73          | 14.73 | 7.41          | 11.69 | 8.78          | 15.81 | 7.87       | 10.97 | 8.39     | 11.57 | 0.33            | 19.54   |
| <b>2001</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 7.25          | 14.75 | 7.25          | 10.25 | 8.63          | 15.46 | 7.75       | 10.88 | 7.75     | 11.75 | 0.31            | 17.88   |
| II                       | 7.25          | 14.75 | 7.25          | 10.25 | 8.63          | 15.25 | 7.75       | 10.88 | 7.75     | 11.75 | 0.31            | 17.88   |
| III                      | 7.67          | 14.92 | 7.67          | 10.42 | 8.96          | 15.42 | 7.92       | 11.05 | 7.92     | 11.75 | 0.32            | 17.88   |
| IV                       | 8.25          | 15.25 | 8.25          | 12.55 | 9.00          | 15.42 | 8.33       | 11.25 | 8.42     | 11.83 | 0.32            | 17.88   |
| Average                  | 7.61          | 14.92 | 7.61          | 10.87 | 8.81          | 15.39 | 7.94       | 11.02 | 7.96     | 11.77 | 0.32            | 17.88   |
| <b>2002</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 9.00          | 15.75 | 9.00          | 14.59 | 9.00          | 15.25 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.32            | 17.63   |
| II                       | 8.33          | 15.08 | 8.33          | 12.05 | 8.75          | 15.08 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.31            | 17.80   |
| III                      | 8.00          | 14.75 | 8.00          | 10.88 | 8.63          | 15.00 | 9.00       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.31            | 18.50   |
| IV                       | 8.00          | 14.67 | 8.00          | 11.05 | 8.88          | 15.09 | 8.75       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.31            | 20.38   |
| Average                  | 8.33          | 15.06 | 8.33          | 12.14 | 8.82          | 15.11 | 8.94       | 11.75 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.31            | 18.58   |
| <b>2003</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 8.00          | 14.00 | 8.00          | 11.13 | 9.00          | 15.42 | 8.63       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.32            | 18.46   |
| II                       | 8.00          | 14.00 | 8.00          | 11.38 | 9.00          | 15.50 | 8.71       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.30            | 19.46   |
| III                      | 8.00          | 14.00 | 8.00          | 11.75 | 9.00          | 16.00 | 8.63       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.29            | 17.63   |
| IV                       | 8.00          | 14.13 | 8.00          | 12.38 | 9.00          | 16.00 | 8.63       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.29            | 17.63   |
| Average                  | 8.00          | 14.03 | 8.00          | 11.66 | 9.00          | 15.73 | 8.65       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.30            | 18.30   |
| <b>2004</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 8.17          | 14.80 | 8.17          | 14.38 | 9.17          | 16.00 | 8.63       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 12.00 | 0.29            | 18.67   |
| II                       | 8.42          | 15.46 | 8.33          | 15.92 | 9.13          | 15.75 | 8.75       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 13.00 | 0.30            | 20.25   |
| III                      | 8.50          | 15.63 | 8.33          | 16.17 | 9.00          | 15.59 | 9.00       | 11.50 | 9.00     | 14.00 | 0.30            | 20.25   |
| IV                       | 8.42          | 15.29 | 8.46          | 15.84 | 8.92          | 15.54 | 9.00       | 11.75 | 8.50     | 15.00 | 0.30            | 20.25   |
| Average                  | 8.38          | 15.30 | 8.32          | 15.58 | 9.06          | 15.72 | 8.85       | 11.56 | 8.88     | 13.50 | 0.30            | 19.86   |
| <b>2005</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 8.58          | 14.08 | 8.54          | 13.54 | 8.96          | 15.67 | 9.00       | 11.75 | 8.83     | 14.58 | 0.30            | 20.25   |
| II                       | 8.75          | 13.42 | 8.67          | 13.25 | 9.13          | 15.33 | 9.00       | 11.75 | 9.00     | 14.00 | 0.30            | 20.25   |
| III                      | 8.67          | 13.58 | 8.71          | 12.83 | 9.13          | 15.42 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 9.00     | 13.63 | 0.31            | 20.54   |
| IV                       | 8.71          | 12.25 | 8.88          | 12.50 | 9.13          | 15.25 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 8.96     | 13.38 | 0.33            | 21.13   |
| Average                  | 8.68          | 13.33 | 8.70          | 13.03 | 9.09          | 15.42 | 9.00       | 11.88 | 8.95     | 13.90 | 0.31            | 20.54   |
| <b>2006</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 8.63          | 12.25 | 8.88          | 12.13 | 9.25          | 15.46 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 9.05     | 12.80 | 0.36            | 21.46   |
| II                       | 8.63          | 12.25 | 8.75          | 12.13 | 9.17          | 15.50 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 9.03     | 12.25 | 0.37            | 22.58   |
| III                      | 8.38          | 11.75 | 8.45          | 12.00 | 8.71          | 15.50 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 8.50     | 11.88 | 0.40            | 23.25   |
| IV                       | 8.38          | 11.75 | 8.57          | 12.00 | 8.63          | 15.50 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 8.50     | 11.88 | 0.44            | 23.25   |
| Average                  | 8.51          | 12.00 | 8.66          | 12.07 | 8.94          | 15.49 | 9.00       | 12.00 | 8.77     | 12.20 | 0.39            | 22.64   |
| <b>2007</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 8.38          | 12.50 | 8.63          | 12.38 | 9.25          | 15.50 | 8.88       | 12.00 | 8.43     | 13.10 | 0.46            | 23.25   |
| II                       | 8.60          | 13.00 | 8.73          | 13.13 | 9.17          | 16.00 | 8.88       | 12.00 | 8.71     | 11.90 | 0.46            | 23.25   |
| III                      | 9.16          | 13.33 | 8.95          | 13.30 | 8.71          | 16.00 | 8.88       | 12.00 | 8.85     | 11.97 | 0.43            | 23.25   |
| IV                       | 9.38          | 13.83 | 9.00          | 13.92 | 9.38          | 16.00 | 8.88       | 12.00 | 8.85     | 12.67 | 0.41            | 23.41   |
| Average                  | 8.88          | 13.17 | 8.83          | 13.18 | 9.13          | 15.88 | 8.88       | 12.00 | 8.71     | 12.41 | 0.44            | 23.29   |
| <b>2008</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I                        | 9.00          | 15.05 | 9.10          | 14.55 | 9.28          | 16.00 | 11.53      | 12.00 | 9.23     | 14.03 | 0.43            | 23.78   |
| II                       | 9.64          | 17.10 | 9.71          | 16.22 | 9.98          | 16.50 | 11.53      | 15.55 | 9.80     | 15.03 | 0.46            | 27.50   |
| III                      | 10.93         | 18.22 | 10.93         | 17.70 | 11.18         | 18.18 | 11.53      | 15.55 | 10.95    | 16.74 | 0.56            | 27.50   |
| IV                       | 10.93         | 18.28 | 10.93         | 17.78 | 11.18         | 18.25 | 11.53      | 15.55 | 10.95    | 17.10 | 0.63            | 27.50   |
| Average                  | 10.12         | 17.16 | 10.17         | 16.56 | 10.40         | 17.23 | 11.53      | 14.66 | 10.23    | 15.72 | 0.52            | 26.57   |
| <b>2009</b>              |               |       |               |       |               |       |            |       |          |       |                 |         |
| I p                      | 11.63         | 18.28 | 11.63         | 17.78 | 12.00         | 19.23 | 11.53      | 15.65 | 11.63    | 17.18 | 0.63            | 29.73   |
| II f                     | 11.63         | 18.13 | 11.63         | 17.70 | 12.00         | 19.23 | 11.53      | 15.65 | 11.63    | 17.18 | 0.63            | 29.73   |
| III f                    | 11.29         | 17.39 | 11.23         | 17.51 | 11.40         | 19.23 | 11.53      | 15.65 | 10.95    | 16.66 | 0.67            | 29.98   |
| IV f                     | 11.29         | 17.39 | 11.39         | 17.51 | 11.29         | 19.23 | 11.53      | 15.65 | 10.95    | 16.66 | 0.70            | 30.18   |
| Average                  | 11.39         | 18.89 | 11.27         | 18.69 | 11.35         | 18.51 | 11.58      | 16.30 | 11.20    | 17.42 | 0.67            | 28.90   |

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

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

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

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

| Year and quarter       | Sweet corn 2/ |        | Snap beans 3/ |      | Green peas 4/ |        | Cauliflower 4/ |      | Broccoli 6/ |      | Spinach 7/ |      | Okra 8/ |
|------------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|------|---------------|--------|----------------|------|-------------|------|------------|------|---------|
|                        | 12/16         | 12/2.5 | 12/16         | 12/2 | 12/16         | 12/2.5 | 12/16          | 12/2 | 24/10       | 12/2 | 24/10      | 12/3 | 12/2    |
| -----Dollars/case----- |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| <b>2000</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 6.83          | 0.48   | 6.83          | 0.47 | 6.93          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.63    |
| II                     | 6.83          | 0.48   | 6.83          | 0.47 | 6.93          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.63    |
| III                    | 6.83          | 0.47   | 6.83          | 0.47 | 6.93          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.63    |
| IV                     | 6.83          | 0.47   | 6.83          | 0.47 | 6.93          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.63    |
| Average                | 6.83          | 0.47   | 6.83          | 0.47 | 6.93          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.63    |
| <b>2001</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 6.83          | 0.46   | 6.83          | 0.47 | 6.93          | 0.53   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.64    |
| II                     | 6.83          | 0.46   | 6.84          | 0.47 | 6.88          | 0.53   | 9.47           | 0.70 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.43 | 0.64    |
| III                    | 6.88          | 0.49   | 6.85          | 0.47 | 6.88          | 0.55   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.45 | 0.64    |
| IV                     | 6.88          | 0.49   | 6.85          | 0.49 | 6.88          | 0.55   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.45 | 0.65    |
| Average                | 6.86          | 0.47   | 6.84          | 0.48 | 6.89          | 0.54   | 9.49           | 0.71 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.44 | 0.64    |
| <b>2002</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 6.88          | 0.49   | 6.93          | 0.49 | 6.88          | 0.55   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| II                     | 7.10          | 0.50   | 7.10          | 0.50 | 7.05          | 0.55   | 9.49           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| III                    | 7.10          | 0.50   | 7.10          | 0.51 | 7.07          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| IV                     | 7.10          | 0.51   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| Average                | 7.05          | 0.50   | 7.06          | 0.51 | 7.02          | 0.55   | 9.48           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| <b>2003</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| II                     | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.64    |
| III                    | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.66    |
| IV                     | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.69    |
| Average                | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.66    |
| <b>2004</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.10          | 0.55   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.69    |
| II                     | 7.10          | 0.55   | 7.10          | 0.54 | 7.38          | 0.55   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.48 | 0.69    |
| III                    | 7.38          | 0.56   | 7.38          | 0.58 | 7.38          | 0.58   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.50 | 0.69    |
| IV                     | 7.30          | 0.54   | 7.33          | 0.58 | 7.28          | 0.57   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.50 | 0.69    |
| Average                | 7.22          | 0.55   | 7.23          | 0.56 | 7.29          | 0.56   | 9.50           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.49 | 0.69    |
| <b>2005</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 7.00          | 0.48   | 7.33          | 0.57 | 7.28          | 0.52   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.52 | 0.69    |
| II                     | 7.04          | 0.47   | 7.33          | 0.56 | 7.28          | 0.52   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.52 | 0.69    |
| III                    | 7.12          | 0.48   | 7.33          | 0.56 | 7.28          | 0.52   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.53 | 0.69    |
| IV                     | 7.10          | 0.48   | --            | 0.56 | 7.28          | 0.52   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.52 | 0.69    |
| Average                | 7.07          | 0.48   | 7.33          | 0.56 | 7.28          | 0.52   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.30       | 0.52 | 0.69    |
| <b>2006</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 7.10          | 0.50   | 7.25          | 0.56 | 7.28          | 0.52   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.15       | 0.72 | 8.32       | 0.52 | 0.69    |
| II                     | 7.35          | 0.50   | 7.63          | 0.56 | 7.63          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.30       | 0.72 | 8.81       | 0.49 | 0.69    |
| III                    | 7.58          | 0.50   | 7.63          | 0.56 | 7.34          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.38       | 0.73 | 8.88       | 0.50 | 0.69    |
| IV                     | 7.58          | 0.50   | 7.63          | 0.56 | 7.20          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.38       | 0.73 | 8.88       | 0.50 | 0.69    |
| Average                | 7.40          | 0.50   | 7.53          | 0.56 | 7.36          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.30       | 0.72 | 8.72       | 0.50 | 0.69    |
| <b>2007</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 7.58          | 0.44   | 7.63          | 0.56 | 7.20          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.38       | 0.73 | 8.38       | 0.52 | 0.74    |
| II                     | 7.50          | 0.48   | 7.61          | 0.57 | 7.49          | 0.55   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.38       | 0.73 | 8.81       | 0.49 | 0.75    |
| III                    | 7.58          | 0.44   | 7.95          | 0.59 | 7.34          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.38       | 0.73 | 8.88       | 0.48 | 0.75    |
| IV                     | 7.84          | 0.44   | 7.75          | 0.59 | 7.60          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.42       | 0.79 | 8.71       | 0.50 | 0.73    |
| Average                | 7.63          | 0.45   | 7.74          | 0.58 | 7.41          | 0.54   | 9.47           | 0.72 | 10.39       | 0.74 | 8.70       | 0.50 | 0.74    |
| <b>2008</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I                      | 10.68         | 0.53   | 10.67         | --   | 7.43          | 0.60   | 13.32          | 0.89 | 10.70       | 0.85 | 7.05       | 0.52 | 0.74    |
| II                     | 11.05         | 0.58   | 11.04         | 0.71 | 8.87          | 0.64   | 14.04          | 0.92 | 10.70       | 0.86 | 7.50       | 0.58 | 0.77    |
| III                    | 11.78         | 0.77   | 11.75         | 0.71 | 11.76         | 0.73   | 14.04          | 0.98 | 11.75       | 0.89 | 7.50       | 0.70 | 0.83    |
| IV                     | 11.78         | 0.82   | 11.75         | 0.71 | 11.78         | 0.82   | 14.04          | 0.98 | 11.75       | 0.89 | 7.67       | 0.73 | 0.83    |
| Average                | 11.32         | 0.67   | 11.30         | 0.71 | 9.96          | 0.70   | 13.86          | 0.94 | 10.70       | 0.87 | 8.88       | 0.63 | 0.79    |
| <b>2009</b>            |               |        |               |      |               |        |                |      |             |      |            |      |         |
| I p                    | 11.78         | 0.82   | 11.75         | 0.71 | 11.78         | 0.82   | 14.04          | 0.98 | 11.75       | 0.89 | 8.00       | 0.73 | 0.83    |
| II f                   | 11.73         | 0.74   | 11.75         | 0.71 | 11.78         | 0.81   | 14.04          | 0.96 | 11.79       | 0.89 | 8.12       | 0.72 | 0.83    |
| III f                  | 12.00         | 0.73   | 12.00         | 0.73 | 11.61         | 0.81   | 14.04          | 0.96 | 11.82       | 0.90 | 8.13       | 0.72 | 0.83    |
| IV f                   | 12.07         | 0.73   | 12.00         | 0.73 | 11.61         | 0.81   | 14.04          | 0.96 | 11.83       | 0.92 | 8.09       | 0.73 | 0.83    |
| Average                | 11.89         | 0.75   | 11.87         | 0.72 | 11.69         | 0.81   | 14.04          | 0.96 | 11.80       | 0.90 | 8.09       | 0.72 | 0.83    |

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

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

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

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

| Item                                | Year | Jan.  | Feb.  | Mar.  | Apr.  | May   | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sep.  | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  | Season average |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| ----- Dollars/cwt -----             |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Potatoes, all uses</b>           | 2002 | 7.34  | 7.33  | 8.24  | 8.01  | 8.59  | 9.38  | 10.59 | 7.39  | 6.29  | 5.53  | 6.24  | 6.62  | 6.67           |
|                                     | 2003 | 6.44  | 6.47  | 6.79  | 6.98  | 6.93  | 6.69  | 6.82  | 5.78  | 5.16  | 4.85  | 5.21  | 5.56  | 5.88           |
|                                     | 2004 | 5.70  | 5.93  | 6.11  | 6.62  | 6.37  | 6.44  | 6.14  | 5.57  | 5.16  | 4.61  | 4.89  | 5.28  | 5.65           |
|                                     | 2005 | 5.64  | 5.83  | 6.44  | 6.19  | 6.06  | 6.31  | 7.10  | 6.48  | 5.64  | 5.38  | 6.35  | 6.87  | 7.04           |
|                                     | 2006 | 7.09  | 6.80  | 8.48  | 8.36  | 7.73  | 8.46  | 9.32  | 7.55  | 6.12  | 5.68  | 6.68  | 6.92  | 7.31           |
|                                     | 2007 | 7.15  | 7.38  | 7.92  | 8.69  | 7.94  | 7.74  | 7.96  | 6.70  | 5.79  | 5.67  | 6.47  | 7.02  | 7.51           |
|                                     | 2008 | 7.33  | 7.51  | 8.37  | 8.45  | 9.16  | 10.78 | 12.33 | 11.33 | 8.79  | 7.38  | 8.91  | 9.62  | 9.46           |
|                                     | 2009 | 9.40  | 8.87  | 9.07  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Potatoes, table stock</b>        | 2002 | 10.49 | 11.63 | 13.19 | 12.17 | 14.69 | 16.28 | 16.70 | 15.31 | 11.52 | 8.34  | 8.62  | 8.60  | 9.59           |
|                                     | 2003 | 8.05  | 8.51  | 8.57  | 8.35  | 9.09  | 9.20  | 8.95  | 8.48  | 6.87  | 6.21  | 6.19  | 6.13  | 7.34           |
|                                     | 2004 | 6.28  | 6.79  | 7.38  | 7.84  | 7.65  | 9.01  | 7.99  | 7.76  | 6.75  | 5.07  | 4.89  | 5.57  | 6.70           |
|                                     | 2005 | 6.15  | 6.64  | 8.06  | 7.24  | 7.36  | 8.29  | 10.05 | 11.00 | 9.61  | 8.80  | 9.04  | 9.18  | 10.31          |
|                                     | 2006 | 9.58  | 9.14  | 13.82 | 12.39 | 10.56 | 12.02 | 12.70 | 13.97 | 9.81  | 8.67  | 8.63  | 8.70  | 10.25          |
|                                     | 2007 | 9.05  | 10.05 | 11.04 | 13.09 | 10.37 | 10.36 | 9.74  | 10.53 | 7.85  | 7.68  | 8.11  | 8.52  | 10.84          |
|                                     | 2008 | 9.26  | 9.86  | 11.42 | 11.66 | 14.30 | 18.61 | 19.40 | 24.93 | 19.15 | 16.57 | 15.37 | 14.69 | --             |
|                                     | 2009 | 13.70 | 12.36 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Potatoes, processing</b>         | 2002 | 5.37  | 5.27  | 5.34  | 5.66  | 6.02  | 5.83  | 6.09  | 4.67  | 4.62  | 4.79  | 5.14  | 5.35  | 5.16           |
|                                     | 2003 | 5.29  | 5.27  | 5.28  | 5.49  | 5.59  | 5.59  | 5.38  | 4.88  | 4.62  | 4.46  | 4.77  | 5.19  | 5.11           |
|                                     | 2004 | 5.30  | 5.40  | 5.24  | 5.56  | 5.62  | 5.53  | 5.15  | 4.76  | 4.59  | 4.46  | 4.87  | 5.10  | 5.06           |
|                                     | 2005 | 5.29  | 5.28  | 5.37  | 5.45  | 5.69  | 5.51  | 5.52  | 4.91  | 4.65  | 4.66  | 4.89  | 5.51  | 5.39           |
|                                     | 2006 | 5.65  | 5.58  | 5.73  | 6.04  | 6.30  | 6.46  | 6.40  | 5.43  | 5.20  | 5.11  | 5.68  | 5.94  | 5.90           |
|                                     | 2007 | 6.14  | 6.03  | 6.36  | 6.55  | 6.74  | 6.65  | 6.51  | 5.55  | 5.34  | 5.29  | 5.62  | 6.14  | 6.01           |
|                                     | 2008 | 6.17  | 6.25  | 6.15  | 6.50  | 6.71  | 6.54  | 6.55  | 5.56  | 5.71  | 5.57  | 5.92  | 6.51  | --             |
|                                     | 2009 | 6.68  | 6.84  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Dry edible beans</b>             | 2002 | 21.50 | 26.10 | 27.10 | 27.50 | 27.80 | 27.40 | 24.50 | 23.20 | 17.90 | 16.60 | 15.90 | 16.10 | 17.10          |
|                                     | 2003 | 16.40 | 19.20 | 15.90 | 18.70 | 19.10 | 16.60 | 17.20 | 18.00 | 17.60 | 17.60 | 19.10 | 17.40 | 18.40          |
|                                     | 2004 | 17.20 | 17.50 | 20.20 | 19.60 | 19.90 | 20.00 | 19.20 | 20.90 | 22.80 | 24.50 | 25.90 | 27.00 | 25.70          |
|                                     | 2005 | 27.20 | 27.80 | 26.60 | 28.70 | 31.10 | 27.70 | 25.40 | 21.40 | 18.00 | 18.80 | 18.00 | 18.10 | 18.50          |
|                                     | 2006 | 19.20 | 17.40 | 17.10 | 18.90 | 19.30 | 19.00 | 21.70 | 19.50 | 18.80 | 19.50 | 21.80 | 21.80 | 22.10          |
|                                     | 2007 | 22.70 | 25.40 | 25.70 | 24.50 | 24.40 | 24.40 | 28.50 | 25.70 | 24.60 | 26.00 | 28.10 | 27.30 | 28.80          |
|                                     | 2008 | 27.40 | 32.00 | 32.20 | 34.30 | 35.60 | 33.50 | 36.30 | 38.00 | 36.80 | 40.00 | 34.50 | 34.50 | 37.70          |
|                                     | 2009 | 35.50 | 30.10 | 28.80 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Green peas, whole-dry 2/</b>     | 2002 | 7.04  | 7.06  | 7.13  | 7.40  | 7.25  | 7.25  | 7.25  | 7.13  | 7.38  | 7.68  | 7.91  | 8.33  | 8.89           |
|                                     | 2003 | 9.08  | 9.81  | 10.88 | 10.60 | 10.44 | 9.92  | 9.30  | 7.56  | 7.63  | 8.09  | 8.84  | 9.08  | 9.26           |
|                                     | 2004 | 9.56  | 9.94  | 10.50 | 10.56 | 10.88 | 8.43  | 7.38  | 6.45  | 6.41  | 6.66  | 6.93  | 6.69  | 6.36           |
|                                     | 2005 | 6.63  | 6.56  | 6.03  | 5.69  | 5.47  | 5.38  | 5.31  | 5.15  | 4.84  | 4.81  | 4.80  | 4.75  | 5.26           |
|                                     | 2006 | 4.97  | 5.31  | 5.50  | 5.78  | 6.00  | 5.91  | 5.84  | 5.93  | 6.44  | 6.70  | 7.19  | 7.58  | 8.07           |
|                                     | 2007 | 7.81  | 8.69  | 9.50  | 10.19 | 10.33 | 10.63 | 10.63 | 10.72 | 11.78 | 13.00 | 13.50 | 14.08 | 15.19          |
|                                     | 2008 | 15.56 | 17.31 | 18.44 | 19.20 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 18.90 | 18.33 | 17.25 | 14.50 | 14.75 | 13.50 | 14.75          |
|                                     | 2009 | 13.69 | 13.88 | 14.50 | 15.25 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Yellow peas, whole-dry 2/</b>    | 2002 | 7.04  | 7.25  | 7.31  | 7.68  | 7.66  | 7.59  | 7.38  | 6.50  | 6.72  | 7.10  | 7.34  | 7.58  | 7.66           |
|                                     | 2003 | 7.42  | 7.94  | 8.03  | 8.50  | 8.75  | 8.67  | 8.44  | 6.63  | 6.43  | 6.75  | 7.53  | 7.75  | 7.97           |
|                                     | 2004 | 7.91  | 8.72  | 9.03  | 9.25  | 9.42  | 7.73  | 7.13  | 6.08  | 5.97  | 6.25  | 6.43  | 6.25  | 6.05           |
|                                     | 2005 | 6.00  | 6.00  | 5.73  | 5.56  | 5.59  | 5.55  | 5.25  | 5.15  | 4.66  | 4.63  | 4.63  | 4.63  | 4.99           |
|                                     | 2006 | 4.75  | 4.97  | 5.00  | 5.25  | 5.50  | 5.50  | 5.53  | 5.35  | 5.78  | 6.10  | 6.66  | 7.04  | 7.30           |
|                                     | 2007 | 7.13  | 7.94  | 8.63  | 8.75  | 9.20  | 9.50  | 9.60  | 9.75  | 10.69 | 11.80 | 13.00 | 13.33 | 14.11          |
|                                     | 2008 | 14.81 | 16.06 | 17.44 | 17.80 | 17.50 | --    | 17.63 | 14.75 | 13.15 | 11.63 | 11.75 | 11.00 | 12.00          |
|                                     | 2009 | 10.69 | 10.75 | 10.75 | --    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |
| <b>Lentils, regular (Brewer) 2/</b> | 2002 | 9.44  | 9.06  | 9.03  | 9.75  | 9.59  | 9.44  | 9.40  | 9.50  | 10.75 | 12.85 | 13.81 | 14.25 | 14.84          |
|                                     | 2003 | 15.42 | 17.63 | 18.63 | 18.70 | 18.63 | 18.56 | 15.20 | 14.50 | 14.85 | 16.50 | 16.88 | 16.50 | 17.41          |
|                                     | 2004 | 17.13 | 19.00 | 20.90 | 21.25 | 20.38 | 15.80 | 14.19 | 13.25 | 14.38 | 15.56 | 15.95 | 15.38 | 13.93          |
|                                     | 2005 | 14.69 | 14.19 | 13.45 | 12.56 | 12.19 | 11.40 | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11.34 | 11.25 | 10.78 | 10.08 | 10.77          |
|                                     | 2006 | 10.38 | 10.31 | 10.25 | 10.69 | 10.75 | 10.94 | 10.94 | 12.25 | 13.06 | 14.15 | 14.25 | 14.50 | 14.05          |
|                                     | 2007 | 14.59 | 14.81 | 14.75 | 14.94 | 15.05 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 18.00 | 20.38 | 24.40 | 28.00 | 30.00 | 27.59          |
|                                     | 2008 | 30.38 | 30.13 | 32.38 | 34.25 | 33.88 | 34.00 | 34.20 | 34.50 | 38.25 | 38.00 | --    | --    | 28.50          |
|                                     | 2009 | 27.67 | 28.75 | 29.10 | 31.00 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |                |

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

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

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

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

1/ Data not available

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

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

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

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

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

| Item                                   | Annual |       |       | 2008  |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2006   | 2007  | 2008  | June  | July  | Aug   | Sept  | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   |
| <b>Market basket</b>                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 201.8  | 211.0 | 225.1 | 224.0 | 227.1 | 228.8 | 230.5 | 231.1 | 230.4 | 229.6 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 119.5  | 141.9 | 147.3 | 154.3 | 152.9 | 151.2 | 149.8 | 142.2 | 141.3 | 134.3 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 246.2  | 248.3 | 267.0 | 261.6 | 267.1 | 270.7 | 273.9 | 279.0 | 278.3 | 281.0 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 20.7   | 23.6  | 22.9  | 24.1  | 23.6  | 23.1  | 22.8  | 21.6  | 21.5  | 20.5  |
| <b>Fresh fruit</b>                     |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 350.6  | 367.6 | 381.8 | 381.4 | 378.5 | 386.4 | 395.1 | 386.9 | 375.7 | 372.6 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 195.8  | 193.4 | 191.0 | 203.6 | 193.6 | 209.2 | 201.6 | 172.9 | 160.6 | 162.8 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 422.1  | 448.1 | 469.9 | 463.5 | 463.9 | 468.2 | 484.5 | 485.7 | 475.0 | 469.5 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 17.6   | 16.6  | 15.8  | 16.9  | 16.2  | 17.1  | 16.1  | 14.1  | 13.5  | 13.8  |
| <b>Fresh vegetables</b>                |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 283.0  | 293.5 | 309.8 | 307.2 | 313.8 | 313.4 | 311.3 | 314.5 | 319.3 | 315.8 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 156.7  | 169.0 | 170.8 | 200.7 | 180.6 | 174.2 | 170.4 | 180.4 | 187.8 | 166.4 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 347.9  | 357.4 | 381.3 | 361.9 | 382.3 | 385.0 | 383.8 | 383.4 | 386.9 | 392.6 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 18.8   | 19.6  | 18.7  | 22.2  | 19.5  | 18.9  | 18.6  | 19.5  | 20.0  | 17.9  |
| <b>Processed fruits and vegetables</b> |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 201.2  | 208.7 | 228.5 | 227.4 | 230.4 | 234.2 | 238.1 | 240.4 | 238.7 | 239.2 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 140.1  | 151.0 | 164.8 | 167.5 | 167.3 | 164.9 | 165.8 | 165.1 | 164.1 | 161.7 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 220.3  | 226.7 | 248.3 | 246.1 | 250.1 | 255.8 | 260.7 | 263.9 | 262.0 | 263.4 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 16.6   | 17.2  | 17.1  | 17.5  | 17.3  | 16.7  | 16.6  | 16.3  | 16.4  | 16.1  |
| <b>Fats and oils</b>                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 167.8  | 172.9 | 196.8 | 196.2 | 201.2 | 203.1 | 206.3 | 208.3 | 205.8 | 206.7 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 101.9  | 150.9 | 207.2 | 260.9 | 243.0 | 199.7 | 202.5 | 154.2 | 141.1 | 135.0 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 192.1  | 181.1 | 192.9 | 172.4 | 185.8 | 204.3 | 207.7 | 228.2 | 229.6 | 233.1 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 16.3   | 23.5  | 28.3  | 35.8  | 32.5  | 26.4  | 26.4  | 19.9  | 18.4  | 17.6  |
| <b>Meat products</b>                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 188.9  | 195.0 | 201.8 | 199.7 | 202.3 | 205.8 | 208.1 | 209.7 | 208.0 | 206.9 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 116.7  | 124.7 | 124.3 | 126.9 | 130.7 | 131.3 | 130.8 | 122.5 | 125.0 | 119.0 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 263.0  | 267.1 | 281.3 | 274.4 | 275.7 | 282.3 | 287.4 | 299.2 | 293.2 | 297.1 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 31.3   | 32.4  | 31.2  | 32.2  | 32.7  | 32.3  | 31.8  | 29.6  | 30.4  | 29.1  |
| <b>Dairy products</b>                  |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 181.2  | 194.8 | 210.4 | 209.1 | 214.0 | 214.7 | 213.5 | 212.7 | 213.1 | 210.8 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 101.7  | 152.9 | 145.4 | 151.6 | 154.4 | 147.3 | 145.5 | 139.8 | 136.5 | 124.1 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 254.5  | 233.3 | 270.3 | 262.1 | 268.9 | 276.9 | 276.2 | 279.9 | 283.7 | 290.7 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 26.9   | 37.7  | 33.2  | 34.8  | 34.6  | 32.9  | 32.7  | 31.5  | 30.7  | 28.2  |
| <b>Poultry</b>                         |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 182.0  | 191.4 | 200.9 | 199.8 | 201.8 | 203.5 | 205.1 | 204.4 | 205.6 | 205.2 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 128.5  | 154.8 | 155.4 | 159.2 | 165.1 | 158.1 | 154.1 | 153.2 | 153.2 | 151.6 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 243.7  | 233.4 | 253.3 | 246.6 | 244.1 | 255.8 | 263.8 | 263.4 | 266.0 | 266.9 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 37.8   | 43.3  | 41.4  | 42.6  | 43.8  | 41.6  | 40.2  | 40.1  | 39.9  | 39.5  |
| <b>Eggs</b>                            |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 150.6  | 195.3 | 222.7 | 217.2 | 218.7 | 209.9 | 219.5 | 213.3 | 214.0 | 212.8 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 69.5   | 136.3 | 160.6 | 159.3 | 114.8 | 140.1 | 147.1 | 152.8 | 153.6 | 147.8 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 296.2  | 301.3 | 334.4 | 321.2 | 405.4 | 335.3 | 349.5 | 322.0 | 322.0 | 329.6 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 29.7   | 44.8  | 46.3  | 47.1  | 33.7  | 42.9  | 43.1  | 46.0  | 46.1  | 44.6  |
| <b>Cereal and bakery products</b>      |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Retail cost (1982-84=100)              | 213.0  | 222.1 | 244.9 | 245.8 | 250.3 | 250.1 | 250.9 | 252.8 | 252.7 | 253.1 |
| Farm value (1982-84=100)               | 111.1  | 149.5 | 191.2 | 195.1 | 184.0 | 190.4 | 184.0 | 167.3 | 163.0 | 155.6 |
| Farm-retail spread (1982-84=100)       | 227.2  | 232.2 | 252.3 | 252.9 | 259.6 | 258.4 | 260.2 | 264.7 | 265.2 | 266.7 |
| Farm value-retail cost (percent)       | 6.4    | 8.2   | 9.6   | 9.7   | 9.0   | 9.3   | 9.0   | 8.1   | 7.9   | 7.5   |

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

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