

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
GOOD

Apples movement has been steady. Pricing is steady. Freight costing has dropped off the peak rates back in Dec/Jan but are currently turning back up due to increasing fuel prices. Quality and pack out are remaining at or above expectations. The fruit coming out of CA is doing remarkably well despite the heat they experienced the previous summer. Projecting to have year-round supplies on Reds, Granny, Gala, Fuji and Honeycrisp.

Asparagus



SUPPLY
GOOD
QUALITY
FAIR

Peruvian vessel is delayed a week, but the production has increase. Asparagus production from Caborca region is winding down. San Luis region still has product to pack due to the late start of harvesting and limited labor. All sizes are steady except for Jumbo being limited. Market is active due to Mexico winding down with bigger sizes and Easter ads. Pricing has increased due to the holiday demands.

Avocados



SUPPLY
GOOD
QUALITY
GOOD

For the 3rd week in-a-row Mexico came under volume projections. With total volumes down another 15% last week, the excess inventories have dried up. All leading to increased demand in the field and new fruit crossing being more expensive. Market outlook for April – higher pricing is already happening and is expected to continue through Cinco pull. With Holy Week landing right when the harvest for Cinco needs to ramp up, there isn't a lot of time for pricing relief before the 2nd biggest avocado holiday of the year. Fruit is cutting great with nice oil content.

MARKET ALERT

Bananas



SUPPLY
GOOD
QUALITY
GOOD

Banana availability is picking up and so is the quality. The weather is improving and the issues in Europe are increasing the supply as less fruit is being shipped there.

MARKET ALERT

Berries



SUPPLY
BAD
QUALITY
FAIR

Blackberries ALERT: Prices for Blackberries are trending up this week. Growers out of Mexico are working through challenges with red cell. Growers are expecting tight supplies for the next couple weeks.

Blueberries: Prices for Blueberries are stable this week. Imports from Chili is considered done for the season. Production out of Mexico is picking up. Growers out of Georgia are still cleaning up from the recent freeze. Supply is Fair and Quality is Good.

Raspberries ALERT: Prices for Raspberries are trending up this week. Production has been hampered by heat in Mexico. Growers are expecting tight markets for a least the next couple weeks.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Beans



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

FAIR

Green Beans: Quality has improved out of Mexico and production is good. With upcoming holiday demands, prices will remain slightly elevated as labor issues continues to leave this item a demand exceed supply issue.

Snow Peas: Mexico product quality has been fair, and prices are increasing on the West coast. On the East coast, supply and quality has been good out of Guatemala.

MARKET ALERT

Broccoli



SUPPLY

SHORT

QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies will be short this week. Growers are finishing up in the Yuma area. Supplies are limited out of Salinas, CA. Quality is currently reported as good. We should be fully transitioned from Yuma to Salinas next week. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$17.20 - \$18.15)

Brussels Sprouts



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies continue to be very good this week. Quality is reported as good at this time. Growers are reporting improved yields, expect steady supplies for a few weeks. Demand is currently down, excellent time to promote Brussel Sprouts. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$14.20 - \$15.50)

MARKET ALERT

Carrots



SUPPLY

POOR

QUALITY

GOOD

Supply is good on every size except Jumbo carrots. Shortage on jumbo is industrywide and due to the cooler weather, that put the Imperial crop behind. Expecting the jumbos to improve in May. Stick production is expecting to pick up in the next week.

Cantaloupes



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

The cantaloupe market has spiked, due to very strong retail promotions over the past week. Retailers seem eager to continue promoting melons for their Easter and Spring ads because of shortages/costs with other commodities. Due to continuing cost increases (fuel surcharges, etc.) there was less overall acreage planted for the Spring crop which is also having an effect from a supply standpoint. Larger cantaloupe is in a demand exceeds supply situation right now with limited availability. Quality has been outstanding with color improving each week. Internal quality has seen brix levels improving to mostly the 12-14% range.

MARKET ALERT

Cauliflower



SUPPLY

SHORT

QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies continue to be very limited this week. Overall quality is reported as good. Growers are finishing up in the Yuma area. Supplies are limited in Salinas. We should be fully transitioned from Yuma to Salinas next week. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$25.05 - \$27.55)

MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

Celery



SUPPLY
SHORT
QUALITY
GOOD

Supplies continue to be limited this week. Quality is reported as good. Expect supplies to be limited for a few weeks. Celery will be moving to Oxnard CA and Santa Maria CA. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$18.25 - \$18.48)

MARKET ALERT

Citrus



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
FAIR

Limes ALERT - FORCE MAJEURE: Large fruit continues to rise in cost and decrease in production, including [especially] 110/150's & 175's. The price on small fruit (250/230's) remains elevated although it accounts for approximately 60% of total yields. *We highly recommend considering altering your spec during this time from a pricing/availability standpoint.* Our growers predict approximately four more weeks of elevated market trends. Optimal weather conditions are forecasted in the main growing region this week, which will lower the risk of quality concerns (i.e., oil spots). Prime weather this week paired with frequent rain events over the past few weeks will also help the fruit grow, achieving slightly greater yields of larger-sized supplies Demand trends will dictate the velocity of further cost shifts. During this time, please plan supply in advance and be cognizant of frequent price changed and availability shortages.

Lemons: Due to the weather CA has experience along with a lot of rain in December, the fruit had matured a lot quicker than anticipated. All the growers had to pick which caused a lot of lemons in storage. Value and volume mainly on 115's and larger. Will see market change on 140's and smaller towards end of month.

Oranges RADAR: Some growers have move into their late navel crop earlier than expected which will cause the Navels season to be done at the end of May instead of June. The crop is extremely light, and the fruit is large. Growers are holding off on picking Valencia's for a couple weeks to try and get growth. If the industry not picking Valencia's, small fruit will get tight, and the market will be strong.

MARKET ALERT

Corn



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
FAIR

Prices for corn are trending up this week. Supplies are expected to be tighter than usual for another week and then it will pick up. Prices should come off soon. Growing areas in Georgia experienced some freezing weather last week. Growers are forecasting that the freeze could possibly negatively impact volumes during the Memorial Day holiday.

Cucumbers



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
FAIR

Prices for Slicing Cucumbers are steady this week. The February freeze in Florida impacted the current volumes due to bloom drop. Growers are expecting volumes to pick up in the weeks to come. Recent cool weather in Mexico slowed down production.

Eggplant



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
GOOD

Prices for Eggplant are trending up this week. Production of Florida is working its way higher. Mexico has about another 4 weeks left. California will come online after that.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Garlic



SUPPLY
SHORT
QUALITY
GOOD

Domestic garlic is finishing up until mid-June. Import is on the low side for now but, will show a slight increase once we see the delay on cargo ships again next month.

MARKET ALERT

Grapes



SUPPLY
GOOD
QUALITY
GOOD

Weather in Chile is going perfectly for grapes and has been for a few weeks which is increasing the supplies being imported into the US. Red Grape pricing continues to be low with plenty of supply. Greens remain higher as fewer supplies have been shipped.

Honeydews



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
GOOD

Honeydews remain in a mostly shorter position overall. Strong demand on honeydews has remained in place since at least last August and projections are not showing much a variance with future arrivals. Sizing is currently more to 5/6s but with very few jumbo fruits available the 5s are being used by processors leaving little for the spot market. Only minimal quantities of 8s are finding their way to market.

MARKET ALERT

Iceberg



SUPPLY
LIMITED
QUALITY
FAIR

EXTREME ALERT: Supplies will continue to be limited this week. Quality and Weights will be only fair. Expect for weights to be on the lighter side. Growers are expecting supplies to be limited for another week, until supplies improve in Huron CA and Salinas CA. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$23.03 - \$24.03)

MARKET ALERT

Leaf



SUPPLY
SHORT
QUALITY
FAIR

Romaine EXTREME ALERT: Supplies continue be limited next week. Growers are encountering some quality issues at field level, light blistering, and light epidermal peel. Romaine and Romaine Hearts quality will only be fair next week. Growers are expecting supplies to continue to be limited the next few weeks until we transition to Huron Ca and Salinas CA. (Romaine pricing for this week \$24.65 - \$26.03) (Romaine Hearts pricing for this week \$34.60 - \$36.40)

Green & Red Leaf Lettuce: Supplies continue to be good this week. Growers are reporting steady yields. Quality is reported as only fair with light color and irregular sizing. Yuma season is winding down, as growers transition to Salinas CA. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$10.18 - \$13.45)

Tender Leaf: Supplies continue to be good this week. Demand is good on tender leaf; quality is very good. Supplies should remain steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$4.65 - \$4.75)

MARKET OUTLOOK



MARKET ALERT

Mushrooms



SUPPLY
SHORT
QUALITY
FAIR

Shitake Mushrooms: Due to uncontrollable rise in cost of imported Shitake logs from China. Shitake mushrooms supplies will be short, prices will be changing almost weekly. Long delays to unload shipments at the ports have caused some interruptions with supplies. This is caused by labor shortage and limited freight availability.

The mushroom industry continues with a shortage of labor, as well as cost inflation increases in raw materials. Specifically corrugated cardboard and packaging materials. Additionally, the price increases in freights nationally have greatly impacted cost to mushroom growers. Pricing on mushrooms must increase at this time due to Labor, Transportation, and packaging.

MARKET ALERT

Onions



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
FAIR

EXTREME ALERT: Onions supplies continue to get tight in the NW. Markets is still active on all sizes and colors. Reds are the tightest, but all colors are a demand exceeds supply. Onions continue to get worse; demand exceeds supply is extreme. This is vastly affecting precut onions as well. Quality continues to be a concern and not lasting on the supply that is left either. CA is expecting to start production the last week of April. The crop looks very good, and the area has had great growing weather this season. Should have good sizing.

Onions Green



SUPPLY
GOOD
QUALITY
GOOD

Supplies continue to be good this week. Market pricing has also improved and should continue improving. Supplies coming from Mexico continue to be steady the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$9.75 - \$10.25)

Pears



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
FAIR

Anjou supplies are good and are not expecting to end until June/July. Domestic Bartletts are done for the season. Imported Bartletts are beginning to arrive with small volume. Domestic Bosc will also be done in the next 2-3 weeks as import Bosc is expecting to arrive. Expect higher price on the import fruit since the ocean container freight cost are much higher this year.

MARKET ALERT

Peppers Bell



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
GOOD

Prices for Green Bell Peppers are steady this week. Prices for Red and Yellow Bell Peppers are trending up. Volumes are recovering in Florida from the February freeze. Growers are forecasting higher volumes out of Immokalee and Plant City in the weeks to come. Production out of Mexico is expected to last for another 3 to 4 weeks. California will come online in early May. Water and Labor is a negative factor for production in California.

MARKET ALERT

Peppers Chili



SUPPLY
FAIR
QUALITY
FAIR

Prices for Chili Peppers are trending up this week. Supplies out of South Fl is expected to be tight for the next couple weeks. Production is expected to ramp up out of Plant City in the middle of April. That should help relieve some of the pressure off the markets. Volumes out of Mexico is expected to be tight until May.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Pineapples



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Pineapple volume continue to be good on all sizes, leaning towards more of the larger size due to great growing condition. Dry weather is still dominant in most area. Quality and taste profile are great.

MARKET ALERT

Potatoes



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

This market remains of high concern for the duration of this crop. Potato market has stabilized on all sizes for now but it's a mixed profile depending on the region. Price remains much higher than average with reduced yields. Cold weather and snow are now playing a part in the northwest along with continued shortage of trucks and freight concerns. With the shortage on trucks, freights continue to be extremely high.

Squash



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

FAIR

Prices for Zucchini Squash are trending down this week. Prices for Yellow Squash is steady with a downward bias. Production is off out of Florida due to the freeze in February. Production out of Plant City is coming online and that should help take some pressure off the markets. Production in Mexico is in transition. Volumes are expected to pick up as we move forward. Look for California to come online in the middle of May.

Strawberries



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Strawberries are trending up this week. Growers in California are working through cool wet weather and are expected to receive the same this weekend. Production is moving West as Florida and Mexico end their seasons. Growers in California are expecting volumes to ramp up in the weeks to come.

Tomatoes



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Tomatoes are trending up this week. Impact from the freeze last February in Florida is currently showing up in production. Plants experienced bloom drop after the freeze and that slowed down volumes. That product would have been hitting the markets right now. The Palmetto/Ruskin area will come online in a few weeks. That should help to take some pressure off the markets. Mexico is holding its own right now. Prices are still reasonable.

Watermelons



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

GOOD

Expect to see a slight gap in production on the seedless watermelon with only limited arrivals anticipated. Mexican supplies are drastically reduced shipping out of Texas and Arizona. Offshore volume arriving in Florida is limited. Domestic Florida is starting with light volume.



MARKET OUTLOOK

Soaring crude prices make the cost of pretty much everything else go up too because we almost literally eat oil

By [Veronika Dolar](#), Assistant Professor of Economics, SUNY Old Westbury | March 28, 2022

The price of oil has been spiking in recent weeks in response to concerns that the war in Ukraine will significantly reduce supply. But what happens in oil markets never stays in oil markets.

The price of U.S. crude oil jumped to a 13-year high of US\$130 on March 6, 2022. It has come down but has been trading above \$110 since March 17. That's over 60% higher than it was in mid-December, before fears of a Russian invasion began to mount.

Of course, this has pushed up the cost of gasoline, which hit an average of \$4.32 per gallon in the U.S. on March 14. But it's less well understood how rising energy prices leak into the prices consumers pay for toys, electronics, food and almost every other product you could think of.

Energy is becoming one of the main causes of inflation, by which I mean a sustained, generalized increase in the prices of goods and services in an economy. The latest data shows prices are rising at an annualized pace of 7.9%, the highest in 40 years.

In my economics classes, I like to joke to my students that we eat petroleum. Students have a hard time imagining drinking crude oil or gasoline, but in fact it's both figuratively and almost literally true – and I'm not even referring to how humans ingest about a credit card's worth of oil-based plastic every week. Let me explain.

Planes, packages and polyester

Oil prices affect the prices of other goods and services in a few significant ways.

The most obvious is that petroleum powers the vast majority of cars, planes and other vehicles that move stuff around. About 71% of the 6.6 billion barrels of petroleum the U.S. consumed in 2020 was used for various types of fuels, such as gas, diesel and jet fuel.

This pushes up transportation costs and makes shipping everything from refrigerator components to everyday items like toothpaste more expensive. Businesses can choose to absorb the cost – for example, if their market is highly competitive – but usually pass it on to customers.

But oil is also a key ingredient in much of the stuff people buy, both in the packaging and in the products themselves, especially food. That's where most of the other 29% of the oil Americans use comes in.

Petrochemicals derived from petroleum are used to manufacture clothes, computers and more. For example, the quantity of oil-based polyester in clothing has doubled since 2000. Over half of all fibers produced around the world are now made from petroleum, requiring over 1% of all oil consumed.

In addition, the cosmetic industry is heavily dependent on petroleum since items such as hand cream, shampoo and most makeup are made out of petrochemicals. And like with many products, all those creams and beauty liquids are put in single-use plastic containers made from oil.

Similarly, the vast majority of toys produced today are made out of plastic.

Crude in our cookies

Fertilizer is the biggest use of oil in industrial farming.

The food industry is especially sensitive to the price of energy, more so than any other sector because petroleum is such a key component of its supply chain at every step of the way, from planting and harvesting through processing and packaging.

Interestingly, the biggest usage of petroleum in industrial farming is not transportation or fueling machinery but rather the use of fertilizers. Vast amounts of oil and natural gas go into fertilizers and pesticides that are used to produce and protect grains, vegetables and fruits.

That's one of the reasons it takes 283 gallons of oil to raise one 1,250-pound steer. And it's why even a loaf of bread requires an unusually high amount of energy.

Oil is also an ingredient in the food we consume. The main food product that comes from petroleum is known as mineral oil. It's commonly used to make foods last longer because petroleum doesn't go rancid. Packaged baked goods like cookies and pizza often contain mineral oil as a way of preserving their shelf life.

Petrochemicals are also used to make food dyes, which can be found in cereals and candy.

Paraffin wax, a colorless or white wax made from petroleum, is used in the production of some chocolates and sprayed onto fruits to slow down spoilage and give them a glossy finish. It also helps chocolates stay solid at room temperature.

And plastic is a vital part of food packaging because it is relatively cheap, durable and lightweight, it provides protection and is sanitary.

Fruit and other foods commonly come in plastic containers made from oil.

Oil inflation and the Fed

The importance of oil to the U.S. economy has been a big concern since the oil crisis of 1973, when prices spiked, prompting calls to conserve energy.

Since then, the amount of oil consumed for every dollar of economic output has...

For full story: <https://theconversation.com/soaring-crude-prices-make-the-cost-of-pretty-much-everything-else-go-up-too-because-we-almost-literally-eat-oil-179809>

If you have any specific questions or concerns on any commodities not mentioned in this report, please feel free to reach out to dforsythe@nproduce.com and we will be happy to give you those current market conditions. Also look for our Spanish version that will be released on Monday. Have a great week!

Your Dedicated NPC, LLC Staff

