

Commodities at a Glance



 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MUSHROOM	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		

Produce News

December 16, 2022



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Market Alerts

Apples – Apple inventories continue to be low. Overall, supplies are limited and prices remain elevated.

Asparagus –On the west coast, with less volume and good retail demand, supplies are tightened up. On the east coast, good demand and good supplies are keeping pricing steady.

Avocados –There is a good supply on all sizes. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady. Suppliers dealing on volume.

Bell Peppers – The market is fairly steady and the quality is good. Improved supply in Florida and Mexico. Red bells are starting to trickle into Nogales but pricing and demand remain very strong.

Berries (Blackberries) –Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Berries (Blueberries) –Chilean season has begun accompanying the product of Mexico and the last of the Peruvians. Overall, the quality is good and pricing is steady.

Berries (Raspberries) –Overall, the quality is fair and pricing is steady.

Berries (Strawberries) –The market is trending downward due to lighter demand and new growing areas coming into play.

Broccoli –Supplies continue to be very limited in Yuma due to the cold weather. Quality issues such as pin rot have been causing lower yields. Look for supplies to continue to be limited as we approach the weekend.

Brussels Sprouts –Supplies continue to be on the tighter side. Expect good quality and the market to be steady as we approach the weekend. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is steady.

Carrots – Carrot supplies are ample. Organic rainbow and conventional jumbo carrots are in a better spot. Lake Park Georgia carrots are now available for loading. Overall, quality is good and pricing is steady.

Continued

Cauliflower – Cauliflower supplies continue to be limited in Salinas, Santa Maria and Yuma. The cold weather has stunted the growing process. Look for supplies to remain on the tighter side going into next week.

Celery –This commodity continues to gain strength in the marketplace. Thirty-count sizing has the best availability but all sizing is available. Value-added product is escalated with all processors. Oxnard/Santa Maria continues to be the region this product is coming from. Good quality continues to be reported.

Citrus (Lemons) –California Desert/Arizona Region and San Joaquin Region are the main growing regions. Overall, the quality is good and pricing is steady.

Citrus (Limes)–Prices are starting to inch up. Current production cycle is winding down; quality and shelf life have been impacted. Expect prices to gradually increase as we get into January.

Citrus (Oranges) - Domestic navels are now the main variety. 72ct and larger will get better as the season progresses. Current gas times are 48-72 hrs; Brix is currently 11-12. Cooler nights are upon us which will help color up the fruit naturally.

Cucumbers –Good supply on both coasts. Florida supply is switching over to imports out of Honduras starting next week. Quality is good. Good supplies and quality also coming out of Nogales.

Eggplant –Overall, good supplies in all regions. The quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Garlic –The garlic supplies have improved. The new California crop for 2022 is helping supplies. Overall, the quality is good and the price is steady.

Grapes (Green) –Domestic green grapes are mostly steady as a split market develops between stronger larger grapes and weaker fruit that needs to be moved. Imports are already being quoted on the East coast at higher pricing. If you are East of Denver you should consider switching to the imports.

Continued

Grapes (Red) –The domestic red grape market is mostly steady as the season starts to wind down. There will be domestic reds available until Christmas. However, inventories are declining quickly and quality from here on out is suspect. Imported reds are already being quoted on the East Coast at much cheaper prices. If you are East of Denver you should consider switching to imports.

Green Onions – Green Onion supplies continue to slowly improve. The weather in Mexico does look good in the short term. Green Onion supplies will continue to improve going into the weekend.

Kale –Supplies are moderate due to the cold weather in Yuma. Look for this market to steadily go up going into the weekend. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady.

Lettuce (Iceberg) –With multiple shippers, demand continues to exceed supplies. Lightweights remain with liner products averaging 25-34 pounds. There continues to be a price gap of five to ten dollars as shippers continue to reach for products that should not be harvested. Demand and high market prices are making this happen. Expect this to last for two to four weeks minimum. Soft small heads and puffiness continue along with lightweights and misshapen heads. Value-added items continue to increase at record highs for all processors.

Lettuce Leaf –Romaine along with butter, red and green leaf continues to be light in availability in the marketplace. Light weights and short sizing are common characteristics of these commodities. Romaine hearts has better availability compared to past weeks with multiple shippers. Processors continue to be escalated on all value-added items. This will likely continue through the month of December.

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Lettuce Tender Leaf – All spring mix, parsleys, spinach and arugula continue to be extremely limited due to the cold overnight lows. Expect shortages going through the weekend. The cooler weather in Yuma and Mexico is causing slow growth and causing fields to be behind. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is higher.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Offshore inventories are growing. Good supplies of small fruit, mainly 12's, and lighter demand. Overall, quality is good and pricing is steady.

Melons (Honeydew) – Nogales/Mexico is going strong with plenty of fruit. Overall, fair quality and pricing is steady. Offshore imports have started at better quality and higher pricing than Mexico.

Melons (Watermelon) – There has been better volume out of Mexico this week, as well as offshores are building inventory.

Mushrooms – There are better mushroom supplies. Overall, quality is good and pricing is higher.

Onions – The quality is excellent and the pricing is lower. Good availability on all sizes.

Pears – The market is higher on light inventories. Most shippers are done with Bartletts. Overall, quality is good and pricing is higher.

Pineapples – Steady open market volume. Overall, the quality is good and pricing is steady.

Potatoes – With cold weather being forecasted, production time will be affected. Increased order lead time is recommended. Overall, quality is good and pricing is higher.

Squash – Good supplies on both coasts. Improved weather in regions has improved production. Overall, the quality is good and pricing is steady.

Continued

Stone Fruit – California kiwi is peaking on smaller sizes. Pomegranates are starting to wind down in the Central Valley. Persimmons are nearly done. Imported peaches and Nectarines should start the week after Christmas.

Tomatoes – Demand remains strong but the market is starting to ease, more so on rounds and romas. Cherries and grapes remain elevated. Expect pricing and availability to gradually improve in Mexico and Florida. By the first week of January, all regions are expected to be in full swing.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Blueberries

Weather

California – Throughout the weekend, high pressure and offshore flow will keep temperatures near to below average. Through Friday, lows will remain in the low 30s to low 40s, before warming to the mid-30s to upper 40s this weekend. The temperature stays in the 50s to low 60s during the day.

Mexico – Across Central Mexico, mornings will remain cool with light patchy frost possible through the weekend. Saturday's highs will be in the low 70s to near 80. Through this morning, morning temperatures will cool into the low-upper 40s, and for Thursday through Saturday, they will drop into the mid-30s to mid-40s. Over the next five days, there is no chance of rain. New cold fronts may bring drier air over the weekend.

Florida – There will be stronger southerly winds through Thursday as another, much stronger front approaches from the west. Gusts of 15-20mph in the Tampa Bay area increased to 20-30mph Thursday. As showers and thunderstorms spread from north to south Thursday morning, the heaviest activity will be over central and northeast Florida between 5 and 7 p.m.

Arizona – Following an unseasonably cool low-pressure system, widespread freezing temperatures will result in moderate-heavy to severe lettuce ice today and tomorrow. The morning lows will be moderate a few degrees Friday (mid-30s to upper 40s). Saturday morning lows cooled to the upper 20s-mid 30s, resulting in widespread moderate to severe lettuce ice.

Freight

Trucks in California/Arizona remain steady. Trucks in the Northwest and Idaho remain tight. The national average continues to fall and is currently at 4.754 per gallon. California's price has also dropped and is now at 5.562 per gallon.