



**WEEK 25 : June 20 - June 26, 2022**

# MARKET OUTLOOK

**Transportation:**

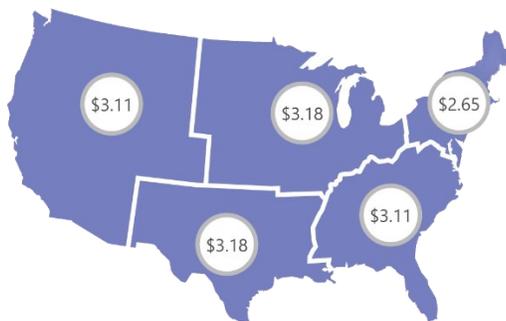
**National Diesel Average: \$5.718**

**Compared to Last Year: \$3.286**

**National Fuel Surcharge: \$0.81**

**Shortages:** Seeing high freight rates, with **extreme** shortages remain in FL, NC & SC; **slight** shortage in: CO & GA

**National Posted Rate per mile**  
*previous week's average outbound reefer rate for each region*



**Regional Weather Update:**

**Oxnard, CA:** Sunny with highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 50s to 60s.

**Salinas, CA:** Sunny with highs in the mid-70s to 80s and lows in the 50s.

**Yuma, AZ:** Sunny with highs in the 100s to 110s and lows in the 70s to 80s.

**Immokalee, FL:** Scattered thunderstorms with highs in 90s and lows in the 70s with partly cloudy on Wednesday.

**Idaho Falls, ID:** Partly cloudy on Monday then sunny the rest of the week with highs in the mid-60s to high 80s and lows in the high 40s to 50s.

**MARKET ALERT**

- Avocado**
- Blueberries**
- Brussels Sprouts**
- Cabbage: Green & Red**
- Carrots (Jumbo)**
- Mushrooms**
- Potatoes**
- Romaine Hearts**
- Tomatoes**

# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Apples



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Apples are currently coming out of WA State. Red Delicious volume is down from last year and projected to be out by mid-Sept. The transition from CA Reds to New Crop is on target so gap is not expected. Golden Delicious are about the same as last season and expecting to be out the first week of Aug. New crop starts around Aug. 10th. During the Summer, it usually slows down so transitioning into New Crop should be perfect. Gala volume are less this same time last season and expected to be out the first of August. New Crop is expected to start around Aug. 8th. Fuji volume are down from last year and expected to be done mid-August. There could be a gap as New Crop are expected to start mid-Sept. Granny Smith should transition into New Crop without any issues. Pinks is another variety where WA is in a good position. With movement slower through the summer, CA crop will go through Sept. New Crop will start mid-to-end of Oct. so good possibility of a two-week gap.

## Asparagus



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Asparagus from Guanajuato has decreased due to the heat in the fields which is causing lower than normal yield. Peruvian production continues to slow down due to the cold weather. XL/Jumbo continue to be short. Market is active and price is increasing due to the low production in Peru and Mexico.

## **MARKET ALERT**

## Avocados



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Situation in Mexico continues to worsen as there are less available orchards to harvest and a stealthy increase in field pricing over the past 5 weeks. There seems to be no ceiling on the cost of the last of the late season/ Negra crop. The remaining fruit for the season will be priced high and will be a challenge to procure as there is less quality fruit left on the trees and essentially a battle to harvest in the limited acreage. Due to the limited fruit available in Mexico, there are more packing houses that are shutting down and plan to resume packing only once the Flora Loca crop is available to harvest. There has been a push to start the harvest of the Loca crop early, however it is looking like start date will be around July 4th, which will keep the market in short supply of MX avocados well into July to allow time to harvest, pack, and cross the border. Expect to see light supply and strong pricing on MX avocados through mid-late-July. It is imperative to be flexible where you are able on sizes and open to all countries of origin until the market is in better supply of fruit.

## Bananas



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Banana availability is starting to increase due to the current issues in Europe. Less fruits are being shipped to Europe, which means more are arriving to the States. Quality is good.

## Berries



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
GOOD

**Blackberries:** Prices for Blackberries are trending down this week. Growers report some rain in the growing area. The market has tightened up. Imports from Guatemala is currently arriving in South Fl. Look for better supplies next week.

**Blueberries ALERT:** Prices for Blueberries are trending up this week. Production out of Mexico is declining. Georgia reported Rain. California is reporting high temperatures. The Pacific Northwest is running behind due to cooler temperatures earlier in the growing season. Production out of Canada is expected to start towards the end of June.

**Raspberries:** Prices for Raspberries are trending up this week. Same as with Blackberries, growers report some rain in the growing area. The market has tightened up. Look for better supplies next week.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Beans



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

FAIR

**Green Beans:** Georgia beans continue to show quality issues due to the weather. Transition north has started. West coast supply and quality remains stable.

**Snow Peas:** Domestic supplies and quality continues to be good. Central America continues to struggle as the rain has slowed down production and cause product to be tight. Quality is showing improvement.

## Broccoli



### SUPPLY

GOOD

### QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies continue to be very good this week. Steady supplies coming from Santa Maria, and Salinas CA. Very good quality continues to be reported at this time. Expect markets to remain steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$9.60 - \$10.75)

### MARKET ALERT

## Brussels Sprouts



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

FAIR

Supplies continue to be limited this week. Quality has been reported as only fair at this time. Strong demand continues for this week. Markets have increased with higher demands and lower yields due to quality issues. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$27.00 - \$28.00)

### MARKET ALERT

## Cabbages



### SUPPLY

FAIR

### QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies have improved this week. Growers are reporting some signs of improvement with better supplies. Supplies are expected to improve the next few weeks. We are waiting for Cabbage yields to improve in Salinas Ca. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$17.00 - \$17.85)

### MARKET ALERT

## Carrots



### SUPPLY

POOR

### QUALITY

GOOD

Crop sizing still small, so jumbos are extremely limited. We encourage all to be open to use table carrots instead. Due to some precuts are taken from jumbo, there has been low supply on carrots sticks and other pre-cuts as well.

## Cantaloupes



### SUPPLY

GOOD

### QUALITY

GOOD

Extreme temperatures hit the region over this past weekend which caused some fields to be harvested earlier than expected as crews worked limited morning hours. Combined with lower demand since the Memorial Day holiday this caused a temporary glut with some shippers who were already behind on inventory. We are now seeing a two-tiered market between shippers who are current on new inventory, and able to ship anywhere, while others try to peddle older fruit to western markets at lower levels. With limited to no harvest being done over the weekend we anticipate this situation will start to clear up by the end of this week. Current new cantaloupe production has shifted significantly to the larger fruit (9s and larger) leaving 12s in a very limited position with few being harvested. Quality continues to be at optimal levels both externally and internally. Cantaloupes have a very good shell color with brix levels maintaining mostly 12-15%.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Cauliflower



**SUPPLY**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

GOOD

Supplies continue to be very good this week. Very good quality is reported at this time. Steady supplies are coming from Santa Maria, and Salinas. Expect markets to remain steady for a few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$9.60 - \$10.53)

## Celery



**SUPPLY**

FAIR

**QUALITY**

GOOD

Supplies have improved this week. Improved quality is also reported at this time. Market pricing is much better this week. Supplies are currently coming from Salinas and Santa Maria. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$17.00 - \$17.58)

## Citrus



**SUPPLY**

FAIR

**QUALITY**

FAIR

**Limes:** The market is firmer this week as rain in Mexico prevents harvesting and packing; leading to fewer crossings, declined availability, and a slight increase in quality concerns. Fruit is expected to have a decreased shelf life and lighter color. Small fruit still represents majority of yields, while large sizes are still scarce. We are seeing slightly greater availability on mid-sized fruit. The price on all sizes has just about bottomed out given current yields per size. The market is expected to firm up again the first week of July due to drought conditions impacting quality and grove dehydration, leading to fewer yields and higher costs. Volume out of the Martinez region is expected to remain tight through the end of July into early August.

**Lemons:** Lemons have started to tighten up. Central Valley is finished for the season. Coastal region has had very little Fancy fruit, very heavy on choice and standards but some rough fruit this season. Fruit is very yellow, soft and has heavy scars; this is normal for this region. Right now, is the only real lemon option for food service. Argentina has started to arrive but only to the East and all 140s and larger Fancy. Chile will arrive and MX will start around mid-July. Due to the quality this season, Coast Region is trying to be done by end of August, they usually go until end of September. Market will be tight until Chilean and MX get started. With all the imports coming in and Coast Region pushing to be done early it may create a congestion in the market and cause the market to tumble. We will be watching this close both Chile and Argentina are hopeful for a good market.

**Oranges:** CA Valencia is in full swing and expected to last until end of September. Peak sizing on smaller fruit. Quality is excellent. Valencia crop is slightly down from last year. Market will stay strong. The fruit is the smallest it's been in years to start. Many shippers are planning to stop harvesting until August when school starts back up. Most years in mid-August when school start back up, demand has exceeded supply. Some shippers are thinking the market on small Valencia will be \$28-30 in August, so they want to keep fruit for this time frame.

## Corn



**SUPPLY**

FAIR

**QUALITY**

GOOD

Prices for Corn out of the East are trending down this week. Prices for Corn out of the West is trending up. Production is currently coming out of Georgia for the East and Scottsdale AZ for the West. 105+ Temperatures in Arizona is putting pressure on production.

## Cucumbers



**SUPPLY**

GOOD

**QUALITY**

FAIR

Prices for Slicing Cucumbers are stable this week. Production out of Georgia is at its peak. North Carolina and New Jersey are ramping up. Central and Baja Mexico is reporting steady volumes.

# MARKET OUTLOOK



## Eggplant



**SUPPLY**  
GOOD  
**QUALITY**  
GOOD

Prices for Eggplant are trending down this week. Lots of local programs are currently ramping up in the East. Fresno California is just starting up for the West.

## Grapes



**SUPPLY**  
GOOD  
**QUALITY**  
FAIR

Crop is expected to be about the same as last year, 100 million cartons +/- . Of course, Mother Nature always has the last word. Peak sizing continues to move towards X-Large as older and smaller varieties (Flames) exit the market and replaced by the very popular proprietary varieties (Timco, Allison, Jack Salute, and others). Quality barring a weather event should be very good. Domestic Flames out of Arvin, CA start dates about July 1st and follow with Greens 7 to 10 days later.

## Honeydews



**SUPPLY**  
SHORT  
**QUALITY**  
GOOD

Domestic honeydew production has increased slightly while volume coming from Mexico have scaled back a little. Market remains very strong. Sizing with that fruit is primarily 5s with some 6s. 8s have been non-existent.

## Iceberg



**SUPPLY**  
GOOD  
**QUALITY**  
GOOD

Supplies continue to be good this week. Quality continues to be good this week. Weights will be back to normal, improved weights. Expect for markets to continue improving and steady supplies the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$12.55 - \$13.55)

## **MARKET ALERT**

## Leaf



**SUPPLY**  
GOOD  
**QUALITY**  
GOOD

**Romaine (ALERT Romaine Hearts):** Supplies continue improving this week. Romaine supplies are very good this week. Romaine Heart supplies continue to struggle this week. We are expecting supplies and markets to continue improving. Good quality and weights are to be expected for next week. (Romaine pricing for this week \$11.00 - \$12.55; Romaine Hearts pricing for this week \$17.60 - \$20.60)

**Green & Red Leaf Lettuce:** Supplies continue to be very good this week. Quality has also improved now that we are in Salinas CA. We are expecting better supplies and steady markets the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$10.45 - \$11.60)

**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 now that we are back in the Salinas Valley. (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.

### Onions



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Onions has transition to Central California and supplies are ramping up. Market remains steady. Quality is excellent and demand is good. NM is in full swing. AZ will be done soon while TX/MX and CA is expected to go through August. Freight and fuel rate continues to escalate.

### Onions Green



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Supplies are steady this week. Market pricing has improved with better supplies. Green onions are coming from Mexico supplies continue to be stable the next few weeks. (F.O.B pricing for this week \$9.00 - \$9.30)

### Pears



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Anjou supplies are good and are not expecting to end until June/July. Pricing is steady. Imported Bartletts are arriving along with small volume of Bosc. Expect higher price on the import fruit since the ocean container freight cost are much higher this year.

### Peppers Bell



SUPPLY

GOOD

QUALITY

GOOD

Prices for Green Peppers are trending down this week. Red and Yellow Bell Peppers are trending up. Production is coming out of Georgia. Production out of South & North Carolina is slowly ramping up. Kentucky, Virginia and New Jersey are just around the corner. Coachella is winding down and Bakersfield is just starting.

### Peppers Chili



SUPPLY

FAIR

QUALITY

FAIR

**ALERT on Poblanos:** Prices on Chili Peppers are stable this week. Volume is coming out of Georgia and Mainland Mexico. Poblano Peppers is still extremely tight at this time.

# MARKET OUTLOOK

## Pineapples



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Costa Rica volume is up. Quality is reported as good but still experiencing some water spotting due to the rain, especially on the large fruit. Mexico's season is wrapping up. Quality is reported as good. Yields are still lower on small-count fruit, with the curve leaning more toward 5s/6s and limited availability on 7s. Demand is moderate, and market is steady.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Potatoes



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Fingerling shortage until August. Short supply, high prices on reds/yellows. Russets up another buck and we have entered the 20+ FOB range on markets. Potatoes are showing shoulder bruising, which is caused from constant contact with adjacent potatoes, or the floor, while raw product sits in storage piles and hollow heart (internal craters), which develops internally during the season when potatoes grow faster than normal due to adverse weather.

## Squash



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Prices for Yellow and Zucchini Squash are trending down this week. Growers are reporting Good supplies and Quality out of Georgia, New Jersey, Virginia. North Carolina, Kentucky & California. Lots of local programs are ramping up too.

## Strawberries



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Prices for Strawberries are trending down this week. Prices are near the bottom. Growers are sending fruit to the freezers. The market only has one direction to go and that's up.

**MARKET ALERT**

## Tomatoes



SUPPLY  
FAIR  
QUALITY  
FAIR

Prices for 25 lb and 25 lb Round tomatoes are stable but still elevated this week. Prices for Grape Tomatoes are trending down. Prices for Roma Tomatoes are trending up. Production for the East is coming out of Quincy. Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia are forecasted to begin in early July. Fruit in the West is coming from San Joaquin California, Eastern Mexico, and Baja. Local Programs are ramping up all over the country.

## Watermelons



SUPPLY  
GOOD  
QUALITY  
GOOD

Supplies on Seedless remain good while minis are still tight. Volume is good from Northern Florida and Georgia. North Carolina is expecting to start mid-July. Northern Mexico is starting to drop off, while Yuma and Phoenix have good supplies. Quality has been very good.



# MARKET OUTLOOK

## USDA: Field worker wages up 9% this year

By **TOM KARST** June 15, 2022

U.S. field worker wages are up 9% this year, according to the latest farm labor survey by the USDA.

The 28-page report said field workers in April received an average of \$16.50 per hour, up 9% from April 2021. The survey is further evidence that inflation is hitting growers hard.

The report said the average wage for field workers in California in April was \$18.25 per hour, up about 6% from \$17.25 per hour a year ago.

The farm labor survey reported 630,000 workers were hired directly by U.S. farm operators during the week of April 10-16, up 3% from April 2021.

By way of comparison, the workers hired by farm operators numbered 507,000 during the week of Jan. 9-15 this year, up slightly from the same period in January 2021.



(File image)

### Wages way up

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$17.22 per hour in the April survey, up 8% compared with year-ago levels:

Wages, compared with year-ago levels:

- Field workers received an average of \$16.50 per hour, up 9%;
- Livestock workers earned \$15.82 per hour, up 7%;
- The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$16.27 per hour, was up 8%; and
- Hired laborers worked an average of 39.7 hours during the April 2022 reference week, down 3%.

**For full article:** <https://www.thepacker.com/news/industry/usda-field-worker-wages-9-year>

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](mailto: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

