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# Retail Market Report

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

## Tomatoes

**Florida** The Ruskin-Palmetto harvest area will finish up by next week. Quincy Florida should see tomato production begin next week and South Carolina projected to start harvest the following.

**Mexico** Jalisco is currently in tomato production with good availability on light demand. All sizes are readily available. Baja California is also in production on round and roma tomatoes. Excellent quality reported.

**California** Indio has started with excellent quality and volume against light demand.

**Heirloom Tomatoes** Supplies are limited due to cooler weather. New crop out of Baja will start in two weeks.

**Grape Tomatoes** Mexico's tomato supply remains light as production transitions from Mainland to Baja. Some western buyers have looked to Florida this week, where production has been mostly steady despite some rain in the growing area.

## Weather Outlook

**California** A series of cold low-pressure systems are set to move into California bringing cold temperatures, strong winds, scattered showers and thunderstorms going into early next week. This is an unusual pattern for May that looks to continue through early June.

**Mexico** Slightly below seasonal temperatures along with isolated showers and thunderstorms are forecasted across Central Mexico into early June. To the north, breezy conditions forecasted as the storm track passes with a gradual warming over the weekend into next week.

**Florida** High pressure strengthen over the Southeast with warming temperatures and dry conditions through next week.



## Organic Tomatoes

**Organic Vine Ripe Tomatoes** New crop out of Central Mexico started this week which will give some relief until Baja production begins the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> week of May.

**Organic Roma Tomatoes** Volume is improving against new crop out of Central Mexico. The market is down in comparison to last week. Baja production due to begin 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> week of May.

**Organic Heirloom Tomatoes** Supplies are down out of Central Mexico due to cooler weather. New crops out of Baja and California anticipated to start by mid-June.

**Organic Cherry Tomatoes** Production is finished in Central Mexico. Volume out of Baja is in transition and volume remains light.



## Berries

**Blueberries** Steady supplies coming primarily out of Mexico, but that trend will be giving way to increased production from Central California. The recent rains have caused some slight delays though shippers are reporting improved volume for the weekend.

**Strawberries** Multiple rain events have pelted fields in Central California with up to 1-3/4 inches of rain over the last few days putting a damper on Memorial Day strawberry supplies. The unusual amount of rain for this time of year is problematic since the spring varieties are not suited for this type of weather. Being engineered for early spring, these plants are more easily damaged by uncommonly harsh weather that we are currently experiencing. The market looks to remain firm through next week.

## Pineapples

**Costa Rica** Supplies are steady, and quality looks solid with a nice brix. With Monday being a holiday, expect some delays at the ports depending on release time from the USDA.

## Onions

**California** Onions are all but finished in the Northwest, and Southern California now dominates the supply line. The Spring growing season was productive and is now providing some good quality harvested product as well as some large sizes on all 3 color varieties. The transition is projected to be smooth from the Southern districts to Central California with decent growing conditions as well.

## Avocados

**California** The market is strong as we see increased pricing this week. Crops are currently smaller, peaking on medium to larger sized fruit. Excellent eating quality and extended shelf life. Growers are anticipating production to taper off in June and finish by mid-July.

**Peru** The majority of volume will hit the US market by mid-June. Reports indicate fruit to peak on 48s/40s.

**Mexico** Rain is expected this week in the growing region of Michoacán, Mexico with temperatures in the 70s-80s. Mexico continues to control its harvest in efforts to sustain available volume through mid-July. Field prices increased dramatically last week resulting in a stronger market. The current crops are winding down and will likely finish up in June. Late season fruit has an excellent flavor profile and eats well, though has reduced shelf life and rough exterior skin. New crop fruit will ramp up in July. Growers are anticipating a 20% increase in production for the summer crop.

## Citrus

**Lemons** Market prices continue to elevate weekly. California's winter rains have increased fruit sizing; 165ct and smaller will remain tight through June.

**Limes** The market for large sized fruit will remain elevated over the next 3-5 weeks. Pricing on small fruit will continue to ease. Good quality reported with occasional issues of scarring and stylar end rot.

## Bell Peppers

**Florida/Georgia** Eastern bell peppers are making the transition from Florida to Georgia with supplies slightly tighter during the process. All of Florida's volume is coming from Plant City where quality and volume are on the decline as they move into short rows. Georgia just started in a light way and volume should increase next week as more growers get up and running. The new crops look to have excellent quality.

**Mexico/California** Western availability is split between Mexico and the California desert. Nogales shippers still have decent volume, but heat and tired plants are starting to take a toll on quality and shelf life. Coachella has the best quality peppers; bell peppers have thick walls, healthy stems and nice shape.

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