

California Field Crop Review



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Compared with February 1997, the All Farm Products Index was five points (4.8 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1997 for hogs, broilers, cattle, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, onions, potatoes, and calves

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 1998

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for dry edible beans, all potatoes, and all types of hay. Rice, fall potatoes, and Upland cotton lint were below the previous month. Mid-February prices for wheat and barley were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, all potatoes and fall potatoes, and hay other than alfalfa. Rice, all hay, alfalfa hay, and Upland cotton lint were below February 1997 levels.

The February all crops index was 108, down 1.8 percent from January and 4.4 percent below February 1997. From January, price decreases for vegetables, feed grains and hay, and oilseeds more than offset price increases for fruits, food grains, tobacco, and potatoes and dry beans.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS 3 POINTS

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 100 based on 1990-92=100, down three points (2.9 percent) from January. Price decreases from January for lettuce, cattle, corn, and eggs more than offset price increases for oranges, broilers, tomatoes, and onions. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton more than offset the relatively higher marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs. These changes contributed one point of the three-point decrease in the overall index.

The February food grains index, at 119, was up 2.6 percent from the previous month, but 11 percent below February 1997. The February all wheat price, at \$5.60 per cwt., was up \$0.05 from January, but \$0.88 below the February 1997 price.

The February feed grains & hay index was 112, down 0.9 percent from last month and 5.1 percent below February 1997. The corn price, at \$4.46 per cwt., was down \$0.11 from January and was \$0.27 below the February 1997 price. The all hay price, at \$97.20 per ton, was down \$0.90 cents from January.

The February cotton index, at 101, was up 1 percent from last month, but 9.8 percent below February 1997. The February cotton price, at 61.1 cents per pound, was up 0.3 cent from January, but \$0.07 per pound below February 1997.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS a/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 1997	January 1998	February 1998	February 1997	January 1998	Feb. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.73	4.57	4.46
Wheat b/	Cwt.	7.30	c/	c/	6.48	5.55	5.60
Oats b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.66	4.97	4.97
Barley b/	Cwt.	c/	5.90	c/	5.10	4.94	4.73
Sorghum Grain b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.17	4.02	4.07
Rice b/	Cwt.	---	---	---	10.10	9.52	9.53
Dry Edible Beans b/	Cwt.	39.60	29.10	28.60	23.60	21.10	21.70
All Potatoes d/	Cwt.	8.70	9.25	9.95	4.50	5.55	5.78
Winter	Cwt.	14.30	16.60	20.10	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	4.80	7.85	7.75	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	132.00	121.00	123.00	102.00	98.10	97.20
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	133.00	122.00	124.00	113.00	105.00	106.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	87.00	94.00	98.00	77.40	79.20	74.10
Upland Cotton Lint b/	Lb.	0.776	0.718	0.683	0.681	0.608	0.611
Cottonseed	Ton	---	c/	---	119.00	122.00	108.00

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	668	653 e/	636	105	103	100
All Crops	558	541 e/	532	113	110 e/	108
Food Grains	426	369 e/	377	134	116 e/	119
Feed Grains and Hay	423	404 e/	399	118	113	112
Cotton	576	514 e/	516	112	100 e/	101
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	435	501 e/	515	86	99	102
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates f/	1,523	1,523 e/	1,515	116	116	115
Parity Ratio g/	44	43	42	91	89	87

a/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. b/ Previous month revised to monthly average. c/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure. d/ Monthly average. e/ Revised. f/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. g/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS

Fall potatoes in California storage facilities totaled 2.00 million cwt. as of March 1, 1998, 9 percent less than a year ago.

California's March 1 stocks remained the same as the previous year at 48 percent of fall potato production.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS BY STATE

State	Crop of 1996			Crop of 1997		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1997	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1998	Percent of Production
	---- 1,000 Cwt. ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt. ----		Percent
California	4,600	2,200	48	4,200	2,000	48
Colorado	29,175	15,500	53	25,377	13,300	52
Idaho	142,800	70,000	49	135,430	64,500	48
Maine	21,175	11,200	53	19,170	10,300	54
Michigan	13,800	3,300	24	14,250	4,200	29
Minnesota	24,600	11,000	45	20,440	8,600	42
Montana	3,213	2,700	84	3,328	2,890	87
Nebraska ^{1/}	4,402	1,930	---	7,527	2,835	---
New York	7,980	800	10	8,408	600	7
North Dakota	28,820	12,400	43	21,525	10,000	46
Ohio ^{1/}	1,275	---	---	1,175	---	---
Oregon	30,124	16,000	53	27,161	13,000	48
Pennsylvania	4,208	880	21	3,190	800	25
Washington	94,990	30,000	32	88,060	29,500	33
Wisconsin	31,590	11,500	36	27,923	7,800	28
15-STATE TOTAL	442,752	189,410	43	407,164	170,325	42

^{1/} Combined Nebraska and Ohio to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY

CROP	UNIT	YIELD				PRODUCTION			
		1996	1997	Record High	Record Year	1996	1997	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.44	1.32	1.68	1995	288,000	237,600	1,996,896	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	18.90	22.50	22.50	1997	2,325,000	2,970,000	4,109,000	1955
Corn for Grain	Tons	4.48	4.76	4.76	1994/97	985,600	1,237,600	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	^{1/}	1,153.00	1,207.00	1,359.00	1992	2,390,000	2,200,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	---	---	---	---	1,020,000	967,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.52	5.74	5.74	1997	8,008,000	8,616,000	8,652,000	1988
Alfalfa	Tons	7.00	7.20	7.20	1997	6,580,000	7,056,000	7,260,000	1988
Other	Tons	2.80	3.00	3.50	1995	1,428,000	1,560,000	1,855,000	1995
Oats	Tons	1.20	1.12	1.36	1995	36,000	39,200	121,312	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	363.00	370.00	381.00	1986	15,651,000	16,188,000	35,166,000	1966
Rice	Cwt.	74.90	83.00	85.00	1992/94	37,459,000	42,341,000	42,341,000	1997
Sugar Beets	Tons	29.50	30.00	30.00	1997	2,419,000	2,970,000	9,031,000	1972
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	225.00	205.00	225.00	1996	2,160,000	1,989,000	2,160,000	1996
Wheat, All	Tons	2.26	2.41	2.53	1988	1,552,500	1,310,400	3,166,350	1981

^{1/} Yield in pounds, production in bales.