In a special survey conducted from June 11-23, California tomato processors reported 9.40 million tons contracted for the 1998 harvest, 2 percent more than last year's final contracted production. Acreage contracted, at 280 thousand acres, is up 5 percent from last year.

Extreme weather continues to delay planting and growth, while bacteria and fungal problems increase. Most of the San Joaquin Valley expects to start harvesting by mid-July. Some processors anticipate receiving tomatoes until mid-October.

This processing tomato survey was a follow-up to the report released on June 1. With the continuation of wet, cool weather, the industry requested that we recontact the tomato processors to obtain updated information. The California League of Food Processors funded the survey in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The USDA estimate for all states will be issued on July 9, 1998.