

FRESH LINK MARKET REPORTS

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RE: TOMATOES

Rounds

The round tomato market is relatively stable, with consistent supply and demand. California continues production through October before transitioning to Florida's crop, and Mexico is maintaining a steady flow of partial loads across the border, with prices slightly elevated. Fruit sizes have normalized, providing a broad range of sizes. Quality remains fair to good across both U.S. and Mexican sources. However, the upcoming transition from California to Florida is a key factor to watch, as any disruptions could impact market dynamics. The round tomato market is expected to stay steady in the short term, though the potential impact of Hurricane Hellene on Florida and Georgia could lead to future supply concerns, especially for fall crops in the eastern U.S.

Roma's

Roma tomato markets are seeing varied conditions across regions. In the eastern U.S., rain in Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia has constrained production, leading to an increase in FOB prices. Many eastern growers pre-harvested ahead of the rain, but with narrow windows for harvesting this week, supply will remain limited. In contrast, Central California has stable production, though higher freight costs may reduce its competitiveness in the eastern market. Mainland Mexico has increased volumes crossing through McAllen, Texas, due to a softening national market, resulting in lower FOB prices, though some lots have quality issues. Baja California has limited availability but excellent quality, keeping prices high, especially as most of the crop remains on the west coast. The overall outlook sees eastern demand pressuring supplies from Mexico and California, with quality and freight considerations influencing price fluctuations.

Grape

Eastern U.S. grape tomato production is also suffering due to rain in critical growing areas, including North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. This has halted much of the harvest, and there is little expectation for any supply from these areas in the coming days. With Michigan also receiving rain but expected to resume production later in the week, the eastern shortfall is driving demand to Mexico, Baja California, and Canadian greenhouses. As demand shifts to these regions, FOB prices are expected to rise. The eastern market remains volatile, with production disruptions likely to keep supplies tight and prices high until weather conditions improve.

Cherry

Cherry tomato production in the eastern U.S. is significantly affected by heavy rainfall, especially in key regions such as North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. The rain has sharply reduced availability, and the supply from these areas is expected to remain low. As a result, demand is shifting towards Mexico and Canadian greenhouse-grown cherry tomatoes, but these regions lack the capacity to fully meet the shortfall. This imbalance has led to an increase in FOB prices rising this week. The market outlook indicates continued supply challenges, and prices are likely to rise further as demand remains high while production in the east is stalled.

