

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
and the
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Foods and Standards
Cooperating

MARKET NEWS SERVICE ON FRUITS & VEGETABLES

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET
SUMMARY OF 1960 SEASON

by
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Benton Harbor, Michigan

December, 1960

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMARY
1960 Season, June 5 to November 4

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December 14, 1960

Total value of all commodities sold over the Benton Harbor Cash Market in the 1960 season was 9% above the 1959 returns and 8% above the 10 year average (1950-1959). The 1959 total cash sales amounted to \$9,119,706.00 and compares to \$8,371,852.00 for the 1959 season and \$8,637,221.00 for the 10 year average (1950-1959). Increases in the value of apples, peaches, plums, strawberries, black and red raspberries resulted in most of this increase in total sales value over 1959 and average, as the number of packages handled over the Market was nearly the same as a year ago.

The total movement over the Market amounted to 5,503 carlot equivalents and was only slightly below the 1959 movement of 5,532 cars, but was 5% below the 10 year average movement of 5,817 cars.

The total number of packages sold over the Market in the 1960 season totaled 3,934,704 and exceeded the 1959 slightly - 2%, when a count of 3,863,397 packages was recorded, but was 12% less than the 10 year average of 4,450,782 packages.

Day Buyer registration declined again this season and numbered 3,137, 18% less than 1959 registrations of 3,827 day buyers and 34% below the 10 year average of 4,745 day buyers.

Strawberries again ranked first in the commodities sold over the Market, with sales of \$2,357,181; peaches were second with sales of \$1,910,199; tomatoes third with sales of \$1,147,150; Apples fourth with sales of \$968,931. Rankings by commodities in 1960 were the same as a year ago.

Grower loads over the Market totaled 71,334, a decline of 9% from last year when grower loads totaled 78,503 and was 18% below the 10 year average.

Weather was generally favorable for yields and quality of fruits and vegetables sold over the Benton Harbor Cash Market during the past season. There were a few exceptions. The apple crop was lighter due to poor pollenization weather, especially on Jonathans. The same conditions occurred on plums, sweet cherries and in some locations, Bartlett pears.

Good processor demand at prices higher than a year ago placed a stronger floor under several fresh market fruits such as strawberries, black raspberries, blueberries, plums and apples.

The Benton Harbor Cash Market continued to be the principal source of trading for fresh market offering from South West Michigan of green beans, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, gooseberries, cantaloups, cherries sweet and sour, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, grapes, currants, pears, peppers, plums and tomatoes.

The 1960 peach volume sold over the Market amounted to 749,093 bushels, a decline of 7% from the 1959 volume, but was 8% above the previous 10 year average of 687,488 bushels. Volume in 1960 was exceeded in only 3 of the previous 10 years, 1950 to 1959. The Benton Harbor Cash Market continued to be the market place for most of the earlier varieties of peaches in South West Michigan, and for near the usual proportion of mid-season and late varieties.

The volume of apples handled over the Market declined for the third consecutive year and amounted to 420,405 bushels, 20% below 1959 and 31% below average. The Benton Harbor Market continued to be the principal trading point on summer apples, but more of the fall and late varieties were sold at farms or packing houses away from the Market. The lighter apple crop in South West Michigan in the 1960 season was also a big factor in the decline in apples movement over the Market.

STRAWBERRIES: Michigan's 1960 acreage revised as of October 1, 1960 was estimated at 9,600 acres, 3% below the 10 year average. Yields per acre in 1960 were estimated at 4,100 lb. as compared to the 1950-1959 average 3,468 lb. Patches came through the previous growing season and winter in good shape. Favorable weather prevailed at blossom time. Maturity was behind the 1959 season. Cool weather with frequent rains prevailed in the month of June. The weather was unusually fine for sizing fruit and for keeping in good condition. The condition and size was not only good for fresh market but also for processor offerings.

The weighted average price for fresh market stock sold over the Benton Harbor Cash Market was placed at \$4.77 per 16 qt crate and was the best return received since 1955, and in the previous 10 year period was exceeded only twice, in 1954 and 1955. Fresh market offerings over the Benton Harbor Cash Market amounted to 824 carlot equivalents (basis 600 16 qt crates per car, the same conversion figure used in previous years.) The movement was virtually the same as in 1959 when 827 cars were handled and was only slightly less than the previous 10 year average movement of 861 carlot equivalents. The total cash value of strawberries sold over the Market amounted to \$2,357,181.00 and was up 9% from the 1959 returns of \$2,175,243.00 and also 5% above the 10 year average of \$2,240,989.00. Total cash returns exceeded the 1960 offerings in 3 seasons in the previous 10 year period.

PEACHES: The 1960 Michigan peach crop was estimated October 1 by the Crop Reporting Board at 3,150,000 bushels, nearly the same as the 1959 production when the crop was estimated at 3,100,000 bushels and 8% above average (1949-58) of 2,908,000 bushels. Michigan peach production is mostly concentrated in frost protected sites in West Michigan, principally South West Michigan.

The peach crop came through the winter and blossom period with little or no injury. Moisture was adequate during the growing season.

Competitive peach states in the Midwest and East had favorable yields, but the Colorado Elberta crop was drastically reduced, which aided the fresh market movement of Michigan Elbertas and other late varieties.

Open bushel peach offerings continued to increase in 1960 over the Market. The average price of peaches was reduced by the increase of open packages which sell at lower prices than packed stock.

There was increase of graded stock in crates and bushels that moved through hydrocoolers on the Benton Harbor Cash Market in the 1960 season.

Peaches ranked first in volume moved over the Market. The movement reduced to carlot equivalents amounted to 1362 cars and was 7% below the 1959 volume (Same carlot equivalent ratio) but 8% above the previous 10 year average. The weighted average price per bushel of all varieties and packs for 1960 amounted to \$2.55 and was 2% above the 1959 and 10 year average values of \$2.50. The total cash value of peaches sold over the Market this season amounted \$1,910,199.00 as compared to \$2,008,908.00 in 1959 and \$1,619,719.00 for the 10 year average.

APPLES: The 1960 apple crop in South West Michigan was down in volume for the first time in several seasons due to poor set. Cold rainy weather during bloom period impaired pollenization. Moisture was adequate during the growing season. A hot spell the first part of September delayed coloring. But weather was favorable during late September and October for proper coloring and harvesting.

Summer varieties were in good demand at improved prices for the first time in several seasons. Fall and winter varieties also sold at better prices.

Apples ranked fourth in volume of commodities handled over the Market.

Average weighted price of all apples over the Market in 1960 were higher, but the increase in offerings of open bushels, which sell at lower prices than packed fruit, held down the average somewhat. The 1960 average value was the highest since 1955.

The 1960 weighted average prices on all apples sold over the Market amounted to \$2.30 and compares to 1959 values of \$1.98 and \$2.24 for the previous 10 year average. The total cash value of apples sold over the Market this season was placed at \$966,931.00 as compared to \$1,040,409.00 sales for 1959, and \$1,295,463.00 for the 10 year average.

GRAPES: The movement of grapes over the Benton Harbor Cash Market amounted to 172 carlot equivalents and was 21% below the 1959 offerings and 33% below the previous 10 year average. There was a large grape crop in South West Michigan but the declining demand for fresh market offerings noted in the past two seasons continued in 1960.

The weighted average price of grapes sold over the Benton Harbor Cash Market was as follows: 12qt climax baskets 1960 \$1.10, 1959 \$1.17, 10 year average \$1.00; 4qt climax baskets 1960 57¢, 1959 53¢, and 10 year average 50¢; 8-2qt crates or cartons 1960 \$3.47, 1959 \$3.18 and the previous 10 year average \$3.01.

The total cash value of grapes sold over the Market this season amounted to \$279,614.00 and compares to 1959 sales of \$338,405.00 and \$315,634.00 for the 10 year average.

TOMATOES: Favorable production weather for garden and commercial crop tomatoes prevailed in nearly all areas in the Mid West including Michigan especially during August and early September. This resulted in active competition of home grown stock for Benton Harbor Cash Market offerings. Market values during much of this period were low.

The movement over the Market amounted to 707 carlot equivalents and was 6% above 1959 offerings of 667 carlot equivalents but 28% less than the 10 year average of 980 carlot equivalents.

The 1960 average season prices were as follows: 8qt cartons 87¢, 12qt baskets 68¢ and crates 8-2qt baskets \$2.31. This compares to 1959 values of 8qt cartons 91¢, 12qt baskets 69¢ and crates 8-2qt baskets \$2.48. The total value of all the tomatoes sold over the Market in the 1960 season amounted to \$1,147,150 and compares to the 1959 value of \$1,100,318 and the previous 10 year average of \$1,487,346.

Data in the preceding tabulations was compiled from price information taken from Market News bulletins, issued from the Benton Harbor Fruit and Vegetable Market News Office. Truck shipments were reduced to carlot equivalents in accordance with "Table of Factors for Use By Fruit and Vegetable Market News Offices to Convert Truck Shipments and Receipts to approximate carlot Equivalents" - dated effective January 1, 1960.

Package count, grower loads and dry buyer information was collected and furnished by the Benton Harbor Market Manager.

Tabulations of the peach and apple movement by bushels over the Benton Harbor Cash Market for 1960 and the preceding 10 years are listed below. This is given to indicate the movement as the carlot conversion figures were changed in 1960. In 1960 apples were converted to carlot equivalents on basis of 800 bushels per car while in previous years the conversion figure was 650 bushels per car. In 1960 the conversion figure on peaches was 550 bushels per carlot while in previous years the conversion figure was 400 bushels per carlot.

The carlot conversion data on the various berry crops and tomatoes was unchanged.

	PEACHES	APPLES		PEACHES	APPLES
1960	749,008	430,405	1953	613,206	676,389
1959	802,050	524,958	1952	846,040	376,343
1958	718,907	626,505	1951	58,062	624,776
1957	794,482	600,990	1950	1,430,735	693,276
1956	591,482	709,840			
1955	530,190	617,026			
1954	489,733	401,998			
				Ten year average	
				687,488	585,210

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMARY 1960 SEASON:

GENERAL SUMMARY OF MARKET VOLUME, 1950 THROUGH 1960:

Season	Growers Loads	Number Packages	Carlot Equip.	Day Buyer	Cash Returns
Season	Season Totals	Season Totals	Season Totals	Load Totals	Season Totals
1950	110,073	5,203,716	7,777	6,393	9,767,666
1951	78,246	3,552,295	4,050	2,466	6,188,517
1952	95,749	4,672,780	6,077	5,406	8,389,164
1953	89,661	4,330,995	5,723	5,680	9,116,471
1954	77,900	4,198,637	4,917	4,691	7,572,189
1955	84,989	4,076,643	5,384	4,776	9,088,701
1956	80,170	4,860,753	5,855	4,544	8,634,963
1957	87,549	4,928,222	6,489	4,634	9,697,901
1958	89,061	4,820,086	6,373	5,041	9,544,786
1959	78,503	3,863,697	5,532	3,827	8,371,852
10-year Average	87,190	4,450,782	5,817	4,745	8,637,221
1960	71,334	3,934,704	5,503	3,137	9,119,706

Figures in the the following tabulations are compiled from data assembled from past seasonal summary records of the Benton Harbor Cash Market on important commodities. Average prices are on a weighted basis, except the 10-year average = simple average.

Season	Carlot Equip.	Season	Cash Returns	Carlot Equip.	Season	Cash Returns
Season	Season Total	Averages	Season Total	Season Total	Averages	Season Total
APPLES (Du Baskets)						
1950	1,067	\$1.97	\$1,365,909	164	\$3.13	\$385,209
1951	961	1.55	968,403	72	4.71	236,197
1952	579	2.71	1,031,179	79	4.53	250,373
1953	1,041	2.55	1,725,157	71	5.53	276,201
1954	618	2.86	1,148,828	45	5.18	164,652
1955	949	2.44	1,506,048	78	5.75	179,554
1956	1,092	2.26	1,673,465	31	6.32	135,526
1957	925	2.17	1,510,036	47	5.80	190,970
1958	964	1.88	1,182,347	84	4.55	269,023
1959	807	1.98	1,040,409	50	5.63	195,124
10-year Average	900	2.24	1,295,468	71	5.14	228,282
1960	526	2.30	968,931	102	6.00	430,206
RED RASPBERRIES (24-pint crates)						
1950	759	4.03	1,326,267	759	4.03	1,326,267
1951	891	4.06	2,169,672	891	4.06	2,169,672
1952	808	3.83	1,856,206	808	3.83	1,856,206
1953	922	4.46	2,466,057	922	4.46	2,466,057
1954	510	5.45	1,568,065	510	5.45	1,568,065
1955	878	5.31	2,798,226	878	5.31	2,798,226
1956	666	4.21	1,682,783	666	4.21	1,682,783
1957	1056	3.92	2,484,825	1056	3.92	2,484,825
1958	1294	4.10	3,182,555	1294	4.10	3,182,555
1959	827	4.38	2,175,243	827	4.38	2,175,243
10-year Average	861	4.37	2,240,989	861	4.37	2,240,989
1960	824	4.77	2,357,181	824	4.77	2,357,181
CUCUMBERS (BU) (12-qt)						
1950	118,097	1.34	118,097	118,097	1.34	118,097
1951	113,029	1.92	113,029	113,029	1.92	113,029
1952	134,193	1.01	134,193	134,193	1.01	134,193
1953	145,592	1.08	145,592	145,592	1.08	145,592
1954	141,212	1.85	141,212	141,212	1.85	141,212
1955	124,367	1.03	124,367	124,367	1.03	124,367
1956	101,055	1.07	101,055	101,055	1.07	101,055
1957	141,742	1.02	141,742	141,742	1.02	141,742
1958	102,689	1.02	102,689	102,689	1.02	102,689
1959	140,889	1.95	140,889	140,889	1.95	140,889
10-year Average	126,286	1.02	126,286	126,286	1.02	126,286
1960	141,983	2.62	141,983	141,983	2.62	141,983
BLACK RASPBERRIES (24-pint crates)						
1950	197	2.98	426,304	197	2.98	426,304
1951	91	3.75	238,365	91	3.75	238,365
1952	77	4.01	216,909	77	4.01	216,909
1953	38	5.44	144,024	38	5.44	144,024
1954	13	6.06	54,873	13	6.06	54,873
1955	56	5.01	111,492	56	5.01	111,492
1956	24	5.75	96,094	24	5.75	96,094
1957	48	4.83	161,094	48	4.83	161,094
1958	111	3.37	225,180	111	3.37	225,180
1959	53	4.34	160,523	53	4.34	160,523
10-year Average	70	4.55	183,485	70	4.55	183,485
1960	102	4.68	334,966	102	4.68	334,966

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMRY 1960 SEASON:

Season	Carlot Equiv. Season Total	Season Averages	Cash Returns Season Total	Carlot Equiv. Season Total	Season Averages	Cash Returns Season Total
PEACHES (BU BASKETS)						
1950	3,577	\$2.04	\$2,918,990	133	\$2.21	\$162,424
1951	1,477	3.37	1,977,489	119	2.04	125,880
1952	2,115	1.97	1,666,701	131	2.23	175,155
1953	1,533	2.35	1,442,530	180	2.35	254,089
1954	1,224	2.25	1,103,891	111	2.63	175,875
1955	1,326	3.27	1,731,499	94	2.45	138,182
1956	1,479	2.61	1,542,774	129	2.61	201,946
1957	1,986	2.50	1,986,439	93	2.47	138,223
1958	1,797	2.22	1,597,971	129	2.42	187,082
1959	2,005	2.50	2,008,908	130	2.48	193,586
10-year Average	1,718	2.50	1,619,719	123	2.38	177,244
1960	1,362	2.55	1,910,199	118	2.50	177,227
TOMATOES (8-qt) (12-qt) (Crt)						
1950	860	.77	1,111,373	122	1.66	175,542
1951	957	.72	1,210,717	33	1.91	54,380
1952	1,128	.91	1,749,000	119	1.42	147,622
1953	893	.93	1,396,692	83	1.69	121,870
1954	1,174	.95	1,866,966	78	1.80	122,261
1955	988	.90	1,383,402	77	1.76	118,611
1956	1,105	.91	1,750,712	61	2.07	109,492
1957	976	1.01	1,720,587	96	1.57	130,683
1958	1,054	.84	1,583,700	115	1.68	168,366
1959	667	.91	1,100,318	96	1.74	145,124
10-year Average	980	.91	1,487,346	88	1.73	129,385
1960	707	.87	1,147,150	107	2.43	233,948
GRAPES (8-qt) (12-qt) (4-qt)						
1950	203	3.30	1,017,488	48	4.80	369,271
1951	115	3.15	1,077,533	53	4.66	162,550
1952	334	2.89	1,847,266	26	4.26	374,293
1953	253	3.02	1,127,505	50	5.18	375,905
1954	185	3.12	1,177,533	53	5.18	289,150
1955	122	3.33	1,207,575	57	5.18	200,706
1956	409	2.51	1,697,424	42	4.46	424,080
1957	410	2.59	1,717,466	46	4.66	403,466
1958	235	3.01	1,057,533	53	5.18	318,521
1959	218	3.18	1,177,533	53	5.18	338,405
10-year Average	256	3.01	1.00	50	3.15	315,634
1960	172	3.47	1.10	57	3.47	279,614

The following charts are tabulations of the 1960 Benton Harbor Cash Market movement by commodities, package type and number, carlot equivalents, weighted average prices, and total cash value of all commodities moving over the Market. The weighted average prices as well packed and open container include all grades, sizes quality and condition and all varieties:

SEASONAL TOTALS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES:

COMMODITIES	Usual Type	Number of Containers	Number of Packages	Carlot Equivalents	Average Price For Season	Cash Returns Season Total
IMPORTANT FRUITS & VEGETABLES:						
Apples:	Bushel bs kts					
Total All			420405	526	\$2.30	\$966,931.50
Beans, Green	Bushel bs kts		38313	59	2.29	87,736.77
Berries:						
Blackberries	24-pt crates		3823	5	4.80	18,350.40
Black Raspberries	24-pt crates		71574	102	4.68	334,966.32
Blueberries	12-pt crts, & ctns		22732	16	3.27	74,333.64
Dewberries	16-qt crates		8388	14	5.18	43,449.84
Gooseberries	16-qt crates		4106	7	4.62	18,969.72
Red Raspberries	24-pt crates		21701	102	6.00	430,206.00
Strawberries	16-qt crates					
Total All			494168	824	4.77	2,357,181.36
Cabbage	50-lb sacks		110	0	.80	88.00
Cantaloups	Bu ctn & bu bs kts		96787	138	2.20	212,931.40
Cherries:						
Sour	16-qt crates		4977	8	4.74	23,590.98
Sweet	16-qt crates		9937	17	7.53	74,825.61
Corn, Sweet	Bushel bs kts		13424	22	1.65	22,149.60
Cucumbers	Bushel bs kts		54192	87	2.62	141,983.04

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMARY 1960 SEASON:

SEASONAL TOTALS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES (Cont'd):

COMMODITIES	Usual Type : Containers	Number of : Packages	Carlot : Equivalents	Average Price : For Season	Cash Returns : Season Total
IMPORTANT FRUITS & VEGETABLES (Cont'd)					
Currents	16-qt crates	2235	4	\$5.45	\$ 12,180.75
Eggplant	Bushel bsks	832	1	1.92	1,597.44
Grapes	4-qt bsks	36726	1	.57	20,933.82
"	12-qt bsks	172854	138	1.10	190,139.40
"	8-2qt crts &ctns	19753	33	3.47	68,542.91
Peaches:	Bushel bsks				
Total all		749098	1362	2.55	1,910,199.90
Pears	Bushel bsks	70899	118	2.50	177,247.50
Peppers	Bushel bsks	32389	43	2.04	66,073.56
Plums	Half bu bsks &ctns	96275	107	2.43	233,948.25
Potatoes, White	100-lb sacks	183	0	2.50	457.50
Squash	Bushel bsks	28372	44	1.63	46,246.36
Tomatoes	8-qt ctns	773123	309	.87	672,617.01
"	12-qt bsks	250484	179	.38	170,329.12
"	8-2qt crts	131630	219	2.31	304,203.90
"	4-qt bsks	1905	0	.40	752.00
Miscellaneous (See chart below)		253248	194		436,533.00
GRAND TOTALS		3934704	5503		9,119,706.60

MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES:

Minor commodities moving over the Benton Harbor Cash Market were not tabulated individually in the 1960 season as in past years. They were grouped in one heading "Miscellaneous".

To arrive at average and total values of produce sold over the Market this office estimated this count by commodities. Average daily values were compiled by the Market News office as usual. The miscellaneous commodities are not weighted averages, but estimated average from very close daily observation on the Market. Tabulation of miscellaneous commodities on this basis is as follows:

COMMODITIES	Usual Type : Containers	Number of : Packages	Carlot : Equivalents	Average Price : For Season	Cash Returns : Season Total
Beans:					
Green & Wax	12-qt bsks	1500	4	\$1.05	1,575.00
" Lima	12-qt bsks	20000	13	1.35	27,000.00
" Remain	12-qt bsks	5000	3	1.43	7,150.00
Cauliflower	Crates, 1-doz hds	15000	30	1.75	26,250.00
Cider	Case (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ gal & 4 gallons)	19000	17	2.15	21,500.00
Cucumbers	12-qt bsks	15000	1	1.25	18,750.00
Onions	10-lb sacks	10000	3	.35	3,500.00
"	50-lb sacks	1500	2	1.25	1,875.00
Peppers	12-qt bsks	1500	1	1.25	1,875.00
Squash	8-qt ctns	50000	20	.95	47,500.00
Quince	Bushel bsks	1500	2	3.00	4,500.00
		122248	101	2.25	275,058.00
TOTAL		253248*	194		436,533.00

* Total miscellaneous number of packages were tabulated by Market officials. The break down by commodities was estimated by the Market News Office.

#Major commodities not tabulated at start or end of season, and other miscellaneous commodities not listed above.