

FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE
Fruit and Vegetable Branch

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing
Administration

Michigan Department of
Agriculture, Bureau of
Foods & Standards Coop

BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMARY

1949 Season, May 20 to November 14

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Benton Harbor, Mich.
Friday, Dec. 23, 1949

Final figures for 1949 assembled from records furnished by the Benton Harbor Cash Market show a heavy increase in volume over the 1948 totals. In reviewing the season most major commodities passing over the Market showed marked increases. These were Apples, Beans, Red Raspberries, Strawberries, Cantaloups, Cucumbers, Pears, Plums and Tomatoes. Commodities showing decreases in volume were Black Raspberries, Grapes and Peaches.

This heavy increase in volume was due almost entirely to production increases rather than extended acreages. Favorable growing weather with adequate moisture and an unusually heavy "set" produced heavy crops of good quality fruits and vegetables in most instances. Apple production in the State was at or near a record high and more than double the 1948 crop. Other items of major importance while showing good increases over 1948 production were not so heavy as apples. A considerable volume of this apple crop was lost due to windfall and shattering as well as economic abandonment. Peach production was about the same as in 1948 but poor marketing conditions led to abandonment of some varieties because of poor marketing conditions during their harvest season. Had the usual marketable portion of these large crops been moved to Market the final figures would no doubt have been even greater than is shown.

The volume of packages checked across the Benton Harbor Cash Market during the 1949 season totaled 4,292,988 units as compared to the rather low 1948 total of 3,586,665 packages and the about average figure of 4,295,749 packages in 1947. The ten-year (1940-1949) average is 4,407,035 packages per year.

1949 carlot equivalent volume was also higher with a total of 6,831 carlot equivalents moving over the Market. Comparable figures for 1948 totaled 5,689 carlots and 6,738 carlot equivalents in 1947. The yearly average for the ten-year (1940-1949) period is 6,452 carlot equivalents. On another page of this summary is a table of factors used for converting the volume figures of package receipts to approximate carlot equivalents. It is included for those who wish to make a further study of these figures.

As was expected, with the increase in production and package volume the grower loads moving across the Market were also higher. During the 1949 season 97,410 grower loads of produce were checked through the Market gates. This was the highest figure since 1942. The 1948 total was 88,008 grower loads with a total of 95,205 loads recorded in 1947. Ten-year (1940-1949) average is 93,957 grower loads per year.

The number of day-buyers coming to the Market, always an important factor in the marketing picture, was encouraging. 6,785 day-buyers were checked in on the Market during the 1949 season. This was a heavy increase, 1,620 buyers, over the 1948 total of 5,165 day buyers. 1947 totals showed 5,515 buyers recorded during that season. Yearly average for day-buyers on the Market during the ten-year (1940-1949) period was 5,717 day-buyers per season.

The 1949 cash return to growers was disappointing. With a total increase of 725,422 packages during the season the total cash return was still \$239,596 below the 1948 cash return. Considering a weighted average price for all items passing over the Benton Harbor Cash Market the total 1949 cash return to growers was \$6,745,243 as compared to \$6,984,839 in 1948 and \$8,387,448 during 1947. Ten-year (1940-1949) average cash return is \$6,619,614.

For the first time in the history of the Market a small fruit, strawberries had the largest cash return of all commodities moving over the Market. In past years tree fruits, generally apples or peaches, produced a greater cash return to the grower. In 1949, however, strawberries returned a total of \$1,811,964 as compared to the \$790,312 return for apples and \$1,369,919 for peaches. Tomatoes also scored high in 1949 and surpassed even apples with a \$874,415 cash return.

The tabulations below are compiled from daily Market News bulletins issued during the 1949 season and records furnished by the Market Master's office of the Benton Harbor Cash Market.

Season	Growers Loads	Day Buyers	Number Packages	Carlot Equiv.	Cash Return
Season	Season Totals	Season Totals	Season Totals	Season Totals	Season Totals
1940	113,681	6,332	6,224,333	7,258	\$ 3,749,664
1941	108,853	6,894	5,333,029	7,690	4,256,035
1942	106,035	6,103	5,323,041	7,078	6,162,056
1943	90,305	4,490	3,806,073	4,866	8,007,736
1944	88,445	5,271	3,968,762	6,050	7,568,691
1945	59,187	4,074	2,659,914	4,823	4,972,889
1946	92,627	6,337	4,601,900	7,493	9,361,540
1947	95,205	5,515	4,295,749	6,738	8,387,448
1948	88,008	5,165	3,586,665	5,689	6,984,839
1949	97,410	6,785	4,292,988	6,831	6,745,243
10-year Average	93,957	5,717	4,407,035	6,452	\$ 6,619,614
Season	Carlot Equiv. Averages	Cash Returns	Carlot Equiv. Averages	Cash Returns	
Season	Season Total	Season Total	Season Total	Season Total	
	APPLES (Bu bsk)		RED RASPBERRIES (24-pt crt)		
1940	1,021	\$.82	439,564	176	\$ 1.90
1941	1,225	1.00	642,877	107	2.46
1942	1,540	1.28	1,034,899	147	3.06
1943	1,060	2.55	1,419,238	99	4.35
1944	1,150	2.42	1,461,445	58	5.45
1945	33	3.70	63,769	12	5.04
1946	1,507	2.06	1,630,092	66	7.00
1947	519	1.74	470,311	119	4.60
1948	852	2.27	1,015,116	110	4.43
1949	1,297	1.17	790,312	150	2.84
10-year Average	1,019	\$ 1.90	896,762	104	\$ 4.10

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BENTON HARBOR CASH MARKET FRUIT & VEGETABLE SUMMARY (Cont'd)
 1949 Season, May 20 to November 14

Season	Carlot Equiv	Averages	Cash Returns	Carlot Equiv	Averages	Cash Returns
Season	Season Total	Season	Season Total	Season Total	Season	Season Total
CANTALOUPS				STRAWBERRIES		
	(Bus)	(Crt)		(16-qt crts)		
1940	236	.95	156,629	895	1.20	601,183
1941	286	.98	196,524	546	1.73	529,149
1942	211	1.32	194,612	542	2.16	655,704
1943	94	2.43	159,782	348	4.40	855,276
1944	109	2.10	160,528	88	5.00	247,515
1945	82	1.95	112,113	72	5.76	232,882
1946	124	1.91	166,404	243	7.14	973,060
1947	107	2.01	149,861	648	5.20	1,887,577
1948	168	1.53	152,238	473	5.52	1,463,253
1949	243	1.35	182,192	633	4.74	1,811,253
10-year Average	167	\$ 1.44	\$ 163,088	454	\$ 4.29	\$ 925,756
CUCUMBERS				BLACK RASPBERRIES		
	(Bus)	(12-qt)		(24-pt crt)		
1940	84	.45	45,423	91	1.90	130,368
1941	103	.52	64,387	45	2.25	76,055
1942	91	.62	67,879	144	2.48	267,738
1943	86	.78	80,430	185	3.60	501,246
1944	64	.73	55,959	108	4.80	390,149
1945	34	1.12	45,941	32	4.68	113,148
1946	98	.68	79,750	80	5.79	348,506
1947	93	2.59	113,116	113	4.74	402,108
1948	92	1.79	81,834	74	4.45	248,092
1949	126	1.65	92,621	48	4.31	155,625
10-year Average	87	\$ 2.01	\$ 72,614	92	\$ 3.90	\$ 256,454
PEACHES				PEARS		
	(Bu bsk)			(Bu bsk)		
1940	1,394	1.25	697,052	307	.95	145,696
1941	2,956	.93	1,135,158	381	.83	158,022
1942	1,844	2.05	1,512,412	249	1.57	195,490
1943	1,133	4.40	2,029,453	138	3.05	210,908
1944	2,658	2.53	2,689,465	338	1.91	370,503
1945	3,575	2.10	3,002,974	33	2.50	41,080
1946	3,613	2.18	3,150,839	161	2.31	186,308
1947	3,235	1.91	2,471,331	121	1.73	105,055
1948	2,379	2.03	1,931,549	30	2.30	34,371
1949	2,314	1.48	1,369,549	227	1.49	168,841
10-year Average	2,510	2.09	1,899,015	204	1.86	161,627
TOMATOES				PLUMS		
	(Crt)	(12-qt)		(1/2 Bu bsk)		
1940	671	.48	338,434	155	1.45	89,825
1941	683	.58	416,197	105	.70	92,641
1942	736	.74	571,901	102	1.23	100,695
1943	678	.97	690,307	63	2.90	145,355
1944	577	.87	527,094	65	2.30	119,413
1945	515	.98	530,428	66	2.51	132,372
1946	569	1.26	752,139	150	1.60	192,033
1947	495	1.09	506,130	69	1.94	106,344
1948	739	1.80	655,192	74	1.45	85,968
1949	958	1.30	874,715	126	1.05	105,646
10-year Average	662	\$ 1.80	\$ 592,224	104	\$ 1.61	\$ 117,030
GRAPES						
	(50# crt)	(8 2-qt)	(12-qt)	(4qts)		
1940	1,542		.20	.12		424,803
1941	617		.42	.18		333,348
1942	904		.50	.24		581,753
1943	487		1.04	.43		626,239
1944	539		1.01	.45		674,773
1945	147		1.43	.51		254,126
1946	489		1.26	.53		765,103
1947	734		.96	.46		882,592
1948	340	2.00	3.00	1.00	.46	356,125
1949	271	1.50	3.30	.88	.42	309,314
10-year Average	607	\$ 1.75	\$ 3.15	\$.87	\$.38	\$ 520,823

The tabulation below shows detailed figures of individual commodities, number of packages and types of containers, weighted average price for the season, total cash return for the season with volume figures reduced to carlot equivalent, of all major fruits and vegetable which passed across the Benton Harbor Cash Market during the 1949 season. Other tables indicate this same information for the miscellaneous fruits and vegetables and items other than fruits and vegetables moving across the Market.

Commodities : Usual Type : Number of : Avg. Value : Cash Returns : Carlot
 : Containers : Packages : For Season : Season Total : Equiv.

MAJOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Commodity	Usual Type	Number of Packages	Avg. Value For Season	Cash Returns Season Total	Carlot Equiv.
Apples					
Transparents	Bu bsk	44,510	\$ 1.30	\$ 57,860.00	84.8
Duchess	" "	49,505	1.17	57,920.85	94.3
Wealthys	" "	51,626	1.19	61,434.94	98.3
McIntosh	" "	96,286	1.04	100,137.44	183.4
Jonathan	" "	214,477	1.12	240,214.24	408.5
Delicious	" "	65,958	1.53	104,213.64	125.6
Other Varieties	" "	153,118	1.10	168,429.80	291.7
Total all		675,480	1.17	790,311.60	1,286.6

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 1949 Season, May 20 to November 14

Commodities	: Usual Type	: Number of	: Avg. Value	: Cash Returns	: Carlot
	: Containers	: Packages	: For Season	: Season Total	: Equiv.
MAJOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: (Cont'd)					
Beans					
Green String	12-qt bsk	6,309	\$ 1.05	\$ 6,624.45	3.9
Limas	" "	36,818	1.15	42,340.70	23.0
Romain	" "	3,844	1.18	4,535.92	2.4
Wax	" "	708	.93	658.44	.5
Berries					
Blackberries	16-qt crt	2,402	2.80	6,725.60	4.3
Black Raspberries	24-pt crt	36,108	4.31	155,624.48	48.1
Blueberries	16-qt crt	8,094	6.62	53,582.28	14.5
"	16-pt crt	9,440	4.32	40,780.80	9.4
"	12-pt crt	13,105	3.51	45,998.55	8.7
Boysenberries	16-qt crt	90	3.00	270.00	.2
Dewberries	16-qt crt	16,174	3.64	58,873.36	28.8
Gooseberries	16-qt crt	611	4.97	3,036.67	1.1
Red Raspberries	24-pt crt	112,610	2.84	319,612.40	150.1
Strawberries	16-qr crt	382,271	4.74	1,811,964.54	682.6
Cabbage	50-lb skk	3,838	1.00	3,838.00	7.7
Cantaloups	Bu bsks	108,586	1.35	146,591.10	217.1
"	crt	21,445	1.66	35,598.70	30.6
Cauliflower	Fony crts	2,515	1.61	4,049.15	5.0
Cherries - Sour	16-qt crt	6,346	4.22	26,780.12	11.3
" Sweet	16-qt crt	15,163	3.81	57,771.03	27.1
Corn - Sweet	Doz ears	13,384	.32	4,282.88	4.5
Cucumbers	Bu bsks	50,440	1.65	78,182.00	112.1
"	12-qt bsk	17,189	.84	14,438.76	14.3
Currants	16-qt crt	7,465	2.25	16,796.25	13.3
Eggplant	Bu bsk	9,205	1.47	13,531.35	15.3
Grapes	12-qt bsk	263,202	.88	231,617.76	219.3
"	4-qt bsks	176,266	.42	74,031.72	49.0
"	8 2-qt crt	563	3.30	1,857.90	1.0
" (Juice)	50-lb crt	1,211	1.50	1,816.50	2.4
Onions	50-lb skk	6,675	2.10	14,017.50	13.3
"	10-lb skk	8,911	.48	4,277.28	3.6
Peaches					
Redhovens	Bu bsks	83,306	1.51	125,792.06	208.3
Golden Jubilees	" "	46,281	1.33	61,553.73	115.7
Halohovens	" "	203,637	1.37	278,982.69	509.1
Elbertas	" "	425,785	1.52	647,193.20	1,064.4
Other Varieties	" "	168,612	1.54	256,582.48	416.5
Total all		925,621	1.48	1,369,919.08	2,314.0
Pears	Bu bsks	113,316	1.49	168,840.84	226.6
Peppers	Bu bsks	18,428	1.61	29,669.08	30.7
"	12-qt bsk	2,049	.96	1,967.04	1.3
Plums	1/2 bu bsk	105,746	1.05	105,645.75	125.9
Potatoes - White	100-lb skk	10,452	2.10	21,949.20	29.1
Quince	Bu bsks	2,328	1.60	3,724.80	4.6
Squash	Bu bsks	956	1.00	956.00	1.9
Tomatoes	12-qt bsk	905,991	.86	779,152.26	862.8
"	8 2-qt crt	52,924	1.80	95,263.20	94.5
TOTALS: Major Fruits & Vegetables		4,149,279		\$ 6,647,706.04	6,702.4
Miscellaneous F. & V.		93,344		53,410.95	89.5
Miscellaneous (Other)		50,365		44,125.75	39.0
GRAND TOTALS:		4,292,988		\$ 6,745,242.74	6,830.9

MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Apricots	Lugs (western)	369	\$ 1.50	\$ 553.50	.4
Asparagus	Dozen Bchs	206	1.50	309.00	-
Bananas	Boxes (cut)	1,459	4.80	7,051.20	2.9
Beans	Dozen Bchs	137	.80	109.60	.1
Broccoli	Dozen Bchs	29	2.00	58.00	-
Carrots	Dozen Bchs	300	.30	240.00	.2
Celery	Bunch (1-doz)	8,035	.50	4,017.50	3.6
Celery-Cabbage	Bunch (1-doz)	244	1.00	244.00	.1
Dill	Dozen Bchs	390	1.50	585.00	-
Garlic	Pounds	2,000	.30	600.00	-
Grapefruit	Boxes	33	5.00	165.00	-
Grapes	Lugs (western)	149	2.65	394.85	.1
Lemons	Boxes	181	8.00	1,448.00	.5
Lettuce	Bu bsks	239	1.25	298.75	.4
Limes	1/4 boxes	18	1.50	27.00	-
Onions	Bu bsks	50	4.00	200.00	-

Commodities	Usual Type : Containers	Number of : Packages	Avg. Value : For Season	Cash Returns : Season Total	Carlot : Equiv.
MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: (Cont'd)					
Oranges	Boxes	163	\$ 6.00	\$ 978.00	.5
Parsley	Dozen Bchs	45	.60	27.00	-
Peas	12-qt bsk	50	1.50	75.00	-
Pineapples	1/2 crt	57	5.00	285.00	.1
Pumpkins	Bu bsks	764	1.25	955.00	1.5
Radishes	Dozen Bchs	262	.60	157.20	.1
Rhubarb	Dozen Bchs	2	.80	1.60	.1
Spinach	Bu bsks	309	1.25	386.25	.4
Sweetpotatoes	Bu bsks	1,370	2.65	3,630.50	2.3
Turnips	Dozen Bchs	124	.60	74.40	-
Watermelons	Each	76,349	.40	30,539.60	76.3
TOTAL		93,344		\$ 53,410.95	89.5

MISCELLANEOUS: (Other than Fruits and Vegetables)

Beans - Navy	Pounds	4,000	\$.07	\$ 280.00	.1
Cherry Mix	Case (6 1/2-gal)	641	1.85	1,185.85	.3
Cider	Case (4 1-gal)	20,810	1.30	27,053.00	34.7
Corn - Pop	Pounds	3,730	.08	298.40	.1
Eggs	Dozen	4,219	.55	2,320.45	.2
Gladiolas	Bunches	8,313	.25	2,078.25	1.3
Grape Juice	Case (24 1-pt)	1,288	5.20	6,697.60	1.5
Honey	1-lb jars	1,112	.25	278.00	-
"	5-lb pails	382	1.00	382.00	-
Maple Syrup	Gallons	300	5.35	1,605.00	.1
Nuts - Chestnut	Pounds	100	.45	45.00	-
" Hickory	Bus bsks	10	3.00	30.00	-
" Pecans	Pounds	5,000	.25	1,250.00	.2
" Walnuts	12-qt bsk	68	.80	52.80	-
Plants	Flats (100)	304	1.10	334.40	-
Sorghum	Gallons	90	1.50	135.00	-
TOTAL		50,365		\$ 44,125.75	39.0

In the table below is contained "Factors for use in Fruit and Vegetable Offices in cities east of the Rocky Mountains for converting Truck, Boat and L. C. L. receipts of Fruits to carlot equivalents". (Effective January 1, 1937).

Commodity:	Packages in Which Received	Carlot Factor	Commodity:	Packages in Which Received	Carlot Factor
Apples	Bu bsks & boxes	525	Grapes	50-lb crts (juice)	500
Apricots	Lugs (western)	1,000	"	Lugs (western)	1,100
Asparagus	Dozen bunches	1,200	Lemons	Boxes 1 2/5 bu	400
Bananas	Boxes 50-lb	500	Lettuce	Bu bsks	600
Beans (all)	12-qt bsks	1,600	Limes	Boxes 2/5 bu	1,600
Beets	Dozen bunches	1,500	Onions	50-lb sacks	500
Berries	16-qt crates	560	"	10-lb sacks	2,500
"	24-pt crates	750	Oranges	Boxes 1 3/5 bu	400
"	16-pt crates	1,000	Parsley	Dozen bunches	2,500
"	12-pt crates	1,500	Peaches	Bu bsks & boxes	400
Broccoli	Dozen bunches	1,500	Pears	Bu bsks & boxes	500
Cabbage	Bu bsks & 50-lb scks	500	Peas	12-qt bsks	1,600
Cantaloups	Bu bsks	500	Peppers	Bu bsks	600
"	Crates	700	"	12-qt bsks	1,600
Carrots	Dozen bunches	1,500	Pineapples	1/2 crates	600
Cauliflower	Pony crates	500	Plums	1/3-bu bsks	800
Celery	Bchs 1-doz stalks	2,200	Potatoes	100-lb sacks	360
Celery-cabbage	Bchs 1-doz stalks	2,200	Pumpkins	Bu bsks	500
Cherries	16-qt crates	560	Quince	Bu bsks	500
Corn-sweet	Dozen ears	2,500	Radishes	Dozen bunches	2,500
Cucumbers	Bu bsks	450	Rhubarb	Dozen bunches	1,500
"	12-qt bsks	1,200	Spinach	Bu bsks	700
Currants	16-qt crates	560	Squash	Bu bsks	500
Dill	Dozen bunches	2,500	Sweetpotatoes	Bu bsks & crates	500
Eggplant	Bu bsks	600	Tomatoes	12-qt bsks	1,050
Garlic	Pounds	30,000	"	8 2-qt crates	560
Grapefruit	Boxes 1 3/5 bu	400	Turnips	Dozen bunches	1,500
Grapes	12-qt bsks	1,200	Watermelons	Each 24-28 lb avg	1,000
"	4-qt bsks	3,600			
"	8 2-qt crtn & crts	560			

Requests for additional copies of this summary should be directed to the: U. S. Department of Agriculture, P. & M. A., Fruit & Vegetable Branch, Washington 25 D.C.

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