

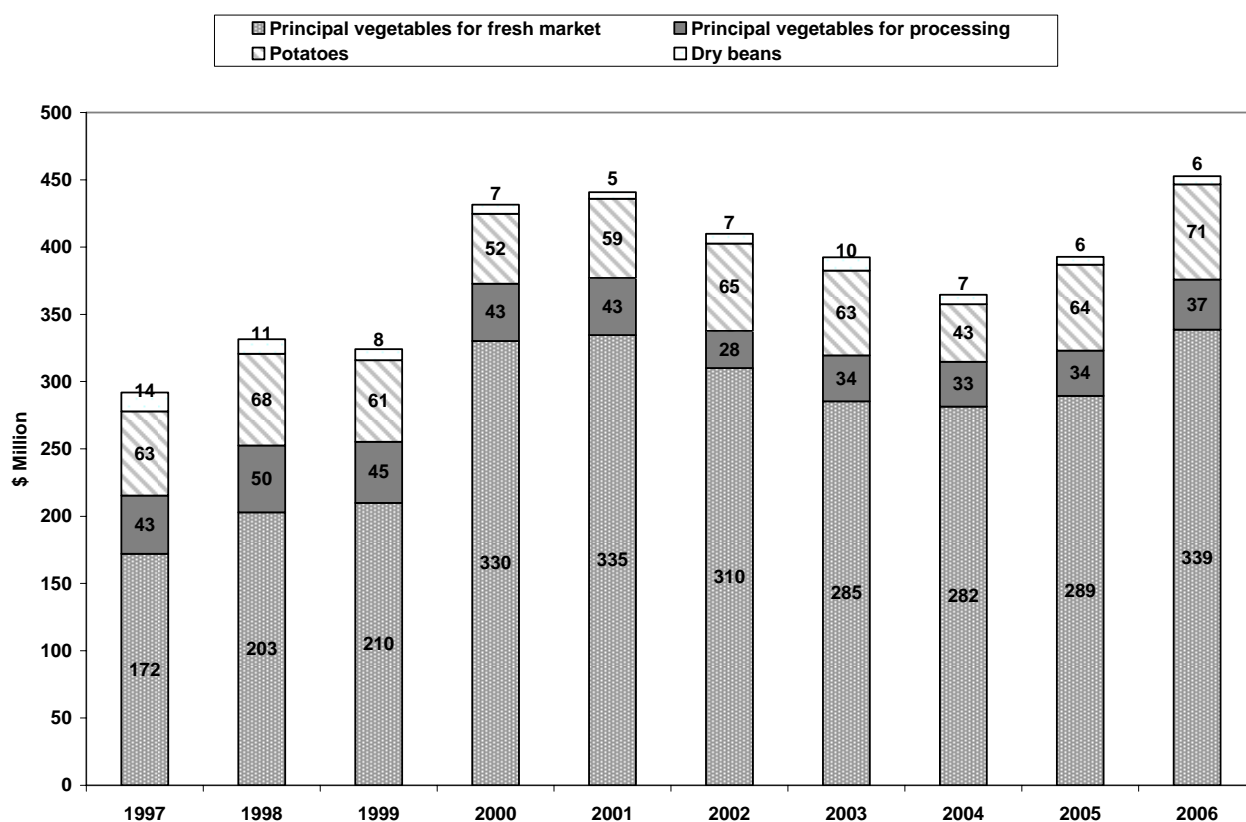
## Chapter 10. Vegetables

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The value of New York vegetable production (including principal vegetables for fresh and processing markets, potatoes, and dry beans) set a record in 2006 and totaled \$453 million (Figure 10-1). It surpassed the previous high of \$442 million set in 2001. New York now ranked fifth in the nation for the value of principal fresh market vegetables. The increase in value came despite an erratic weather pattern during the growing season that started with a warm, dry spring, followed by monsoonal rains and ending with a cool, wet fall. Total planted acreage remained similar to 2005.

According to Dr. Steve Reiners, a vegetable specialist at Cornell University, 2007 realized a very dry production season. Western New York was especially dry, while Eastern New York, the Capital District, for example, picked up more rain but also had some localized hail events that caused problems. With irrigation, the combination of heat and sunlight resulted in excellent quality vegetables and good prices.

FIGURE 10-1. VALUE OF PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET AND PROCESSING, POTATOES, AND DRY BEANS, NEW YORK, 1997-2006



Source: New York Agricultural Statistics, 2007 Annual Bulletin.

Table 10-1 compares production value per acre for selected principal vegetable crops produced in New York from 2004 to 2006. Tables 10-2 through 10-4 show production values, production levels, and average farm prices for major vegetable crops produced in New York from 2004 to 2006 and compare them with U.S. production.

### **Fresh Market Vegetables**

The top four fresh market vegetables produced in New York were sweet corn, cabbage, snap beans, and onions. Tomatoes generated the highest per acre value (\$15,380) in three consecutive years (Table 10-1). Four crops had increased production values between 2005 and 2006 (Table 10-2) – snap beans (up 109 percent), cucumbers (up 73 percent), sweet corn (up 25 percent) and tomatoes (up 43 percent).

During the 2006 growing season, the state saw some excessively hot weather in July. The combination of heat and rain negatively affected crops such as onions, but gave New York record-high yields of sweet corn and tomatoes.

### **Processed Vegetables, Potatoes, and Dry Beans**

The production of New York processing vegetables was valued at \$37 million in 2006, 11 percent higher than 2005. The 2006 value of processing snap beans, green peas, and cabbage for kraut increased 18 percent, 17 percent, and 3 percent, respectively, from the year before (Table 10-2). Total New York acreage is estimated to be down 5 percent in 2006 from 2005.

The 2006 value of potato production in New York was \$70.7 million, 11 percent higher than in 2005. New York potato growers harvested an estimated 19.0 thousand acres, down 5.5 percent from a year earlier. Production totaled 5.7 million hundredweight (cwt.), up 9 percent from the 5.23 million cwt. produced in 2005. The price was up 2% in 2006 from the year before.

In 2006, production of dry beans in New York totaled 239,000 cwt., down 15 percent from 2005. Acres harvested totaled 18,000 acres, down 500 acres from a year before. The 2006 dry bean production in New York was valued at \$6.0 million, almost the same as 2002.

2007 was the first season that Allen Canning Company began producing products in New York. Allen Canning Company took over for Birds Eye which is now just repacking products in New York. Things seem to be going well. However, some growers decided to switch from growing processing vegetables to field corn for ethanol production. The high price for grain corn did seem to drive up the price processing vegetable growers received.

TABLE 10-1. VALUE PER ACRE OF PRODUCTION FOR SELECTED PRINCIPAL VEGETABLE CROPS IN NEW YORK, 2004-2006				
	2004	2005	2006	Change 2005-2006
<b>Vegetables for Fresh Market</b>		----- dollars/acre-----		%
Sweet corn	2,140	2,147	2,820	31%
Cabbage	3,992	6,800	6,101	-10%
Onions	4,161	3,530	3,740	6%
Snap beans	1,843	2,844	4,673	64%
Cucumbers	5,244	3,396	6,593	94%
Tomatoes	9,525	10,728	15,380	43%
Pumpkins	4,030	4,140	3,424	-17%
Squash	9,246	6,775	7,854	16%
Cauliflower	920	3,721	5,025	35%
<b>Vegetables for Processing</b>				
Sweet corn	453	531	518	-2%
Snap beans	637	604	757	25%
Green peas	650	574	768	34%
Cabbage for kraut	2,000	1,837	1,327	-28%
<b>Fall Potatoes</b>	2,228	3,172	3,720	17%
<b>Dry Beans</b>	293	262	332	27%
Source: New York Agricultural Statistics, 2007 Annual Bulletin.				

TABLE 10-2. VALUE OF PRODUCTION, SELECTED VEGETABLE CROPS,  
NEW YORK AND UNITED STATES, 2004-2006

	New York				United States				NY as % of U.S.
	2004	2005	2006 <sup>P</sup>	% Change 2005-2006	2004	2005	2006 <sup>P</sup>	% Change 2005-2006	2006
	--- (\$ million) ---			%	--- (\$ million)---			%	%
<b>Vegetables for Fresh Market</b>									
Sweet Corn	59.9	60.5	75.6	25%	537.5	596.7	619.1	4%	12%
Cabbage	42.3	66.6	64.1	-4%	322.4	326.0	354.9	9%	18%
Onions	54.1	48.0	43.8	-9%	671.6	848.8	962.0	13%	5%
Snap Beans	14.0	23.0	48.1	109%	261.0	300.6	324.3	8%	15%
Cucumbers	24.1	15.3	26.4	73%	204.1	223.2	250.2	12%	11%
Tomatoes	22.9	21.5	30.8	43%	1,429.7	1,598.8	1,596.3	0%	2%
Pumpkins	25.4	21.9	18.8	-14%	92.7	103.7	101.3	-2%	19%
Squash	37.9	29.1	28.3	-3%	222.7	214.5	229.4	7%	12%
Cauliflower	0.9	3.3	2.8	-16%	188.0	197.4	248.4	26%	1%
<b>Vegetables for Processing</b>									
Sweet Corn	8.6	9.3	8.9	-5%	214.0	217.1	206.0	-5%	4%
Snap Beans	13.0	12.8	15.1	18%	131.9	114.6	123.2	7%	12%
Green Peas	11.7	11.4	13.4	17%	99.3	101.7	99.6	-2%	13%
Cabbage for Kraut	4.0	3.9	4.0	3%	4.0	3.9	4.0	3%	100%
<b>Potatoes</b>	42.8	63.8	70.7	11%	2,575	2,991	-	-	-
<b>Dry Beans</b>	6.9	6.0	6.0	-1%	453	516	518	0%	1%

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary.

Sources: ERS, USDA, Vegetables and Melons Situation and Outlook Yearbook, 2007.  
New York Agricultural Statistics, 2007 Annual Bulletin.

**TABLE 10-3. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED VEGETABLE CROPS,  
NEW YORK AND UNITED STATES, 2004-2006**

	New York				United States				NY as % of U.S.
				% Change				% Change	2006
	2004	2005	2006	2005-2006	2004	2005	2006	2005-2006	
	--- (Million cwt) ---			%	--- (Million cwt) ---			%	%
<b>Vegetables for Fresh Market</b>									
Sweet Corn	2.80	2.68	3.22	20%	27.9	27.0	26.7	-1%	12%
Cabbage	3.71	4.61	4.62	0%	25.0	24.3	25.7	6%	18%
Onions	5.20	3.81	3.86	1%	83.1	73.5	73.1	-1%	5%
Snap Beans	0.19	0.30	0.59	96%	5.8	5.5	6.4	15%	9%
Cucumbers	0.87	0.54	0.76	41%	10.1	9.7	9.9	2%	8%
Tomatoes	0.36	0.36	0.40	11%	38.1	38.3	36.8	-4%	1%
Pumpkins	0.82	0.80	0.80	0%	10.2	10.8	10.2	-5%	8%
Squash	0.94	0.80	0.76	-5%	7.8	8.3	9.5	14%	8%
Cauliflower	0.03	0.10	0.07	-36%	6.1	6.2	7.1	15%	1%
<b>Vegetables for Processing</b>	--- (1,000 tons) ---			%	--- (1,000 tons) ---			%	%
Sweet Corn	110.2	116.2	115.2	-1%	2968	3175	3086	-3%	4%
Snap Beans	66.3	69.0	73.7	7%	836	819	786	-4%	9%
Green Peas	34.3	29.7	38.7	30%	398	383	410	7%	9%
Cabbage for Kraut	80.0	75.9	72.3	-5%	80	76	72	-5%	100%
	--- (1,000 cwt) ---			%	--- (Million cwt) ---			%	%
<b>Fall Potatoes</b>	5,184	5,226	5,700	9%	456	424	435	3%	1%
<b>Dry Beans</b>	247	282	239	-15%	18	27	24	-9%	1%

Sources: NASS, USDA, Agricultural Statistics 2007, Vegetables and Melons.  
New York Agricultural Statistics, 2007.

TABLE 10-4. AVERAGE FARM PRICES OF MAJOR VEGETABLE CROPS,  
NEW YORK AND UNITED STATES, 2004-2006

	New York				United States			
	2004	2005	2006	% Change 2005-2006	2004	2005	2006	% Change 2005-2006
	--- (\$/cwt) ---			%	--- (\$/cwt) ---			%
<b>Vegetables for Fresh Market</b>								
Sweet Corn	21.4	22.6	23.5	4%	19.3	22.1	23.2	5%
Cabbage	12.8	15.9	15.4	-3%	12.9	13.4	13.8	3%
OnionS	12.1	15.2	13.5	-11%	8.1	11.5	13.2	14%
Snap Beans	73.7	76.8	82.0	7%	45.2	54.2	51.0	-6%
Cucumbers	27.6	28.3	34.7	23%	20.2	23.0	25.2	10%
Tomatoes	63.5	59.6	76.9	29%	37.6	41.8	43.3	4%
Pumpkins	31.0	27.6	23.6	-14%	9.1	9.6	9.9	3%
Squash	40.2	36.6	37.4	2%	28.7	25.7	24.2	-6%
Cauliflower	36.8	32.2	42.0	30%	30.8	32.0	35.0	9%
	--- (\$/ton) ---			%	--- (\$/ton) ---			%
<b>Vegetables for Processing</b>								
Sweet Corn	77.7	80.4	77.3	-4%	72.1	68.4	66.8	-2%
Snap Beans	195.0	186.0	204.0	10%	158.0	140.0	157.0	12%
Green Peas	343.0	385.0	345.0	-10%	250.0	266.0	243.0	-9%
Cabbage for Kraut	50.5	50.8	55.1	8%	50.5	50.8	55.1	9%
	--- (\$/cwt) ---			%	--- (\$/cwt) ---			%
<b>Fall Potatoes</b>	8.25	12.20	12.40	2%	5.65	7.05	-	-
<b>Dry Beans</b>	27.90	21.40	25.00	17%	25.70	18.50	20.00	8%
Source: ERS, USDA, Vegetables and Melons Situation and Outlook, 2007. New York Agricultural Statistics, 2007 Annual Bulletin								

### Consumption of Fresh-Market Vegetables

In 2006, per capita use of fresh-market vegetables (excluding melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes and mushrooms) declined 2 percent to 172.8 pounds. There were several notable changes in vegetable consumption from a year ago. These changes included a 21 percent gain in fresh-market cauliflower use to 1.8 pounds. Fresh-market snap bean consumption rose 17 percent to a record 2.1 pounds. Despite various low-carb diets, consumers continue to be drawn to the improved quality and value offered by today's new varieties.

**TABLE 10- 5. U.S. PER CAPITA UTILIZATION OF SELECTED FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES**

Item	Average 1999-2004	2005	2006	2007 <sup>b</sup>
		---- Pounds/ person ----		
Lettuce, all	31.5	31.6	29.7	29.5
<i>Iceberg/head</i>	22.2	21.0	18.7	18.4
<i>Leaf /romaine</i>	9.3	10.6	11.0	11.2
Tomatoes	19.6	20.2	19.9	20.4
Onions	20.3	21.0	20.2	20.4
Carrots	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.8
Sweet Corn	9.2	8.8	8.6	9.0
Cabbage	8.3	8.1	8.5	8.2
Bell Peppers	6.9	7.1	7.7	7.8
Cucumbers	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4
Broccoli	6.1	5.6	5.7	5.8
Snap Beans	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.0
Cauliflower	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.9
Asparagus	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
Total <sup>a</sup>	171.3	173.2	172.8	173.5
<sup>a</sup> Total excludes melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms.				
<sup>b</sup> 2007 figures are projected estimates.				
Source: ERS, USDA, <i>Vegetable and Melons Situation and Outlook</i> , 2007.				

### Industry Outlook

The short-term outlook for vegetables is for continuing growth in demand for fresh, locally grown and organic produce. Dietary concerns will continue to expand the demand for fruits and vegetables, but food safety issues can pose a threat to this growth unless the industry can address this challenge.

Other big concerns for growers today are labor availability and fuel costs. Pending immigration legislation could impact growers if labor supplies are restricted. Rising energy prices increased the cost of production and the cost of delivering produce to market. However, it should impact imports more than local production. A growing consumer demand for local produce and the negative impact of higher energy prices on imports should help eastern growers to be more competitive in the market.