

Source and Description of Information

This bulletin is a study of the movement of the principal fresh fruits and vegetables in the United States during the calendar years 1924, 1925 and 1926.

The first part of the bulletin deals with the shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables in general. The second part relates to the shipments of specific commodities. These are indexed on page 28.

The bulletin deals with 33 items or commodities, 16 of which are fruits and 17 are vegetables. For each fruit or vegetable, for all fruits and all vegetables, and for the fruits and vegetables combined, statistics are presented showing the total annual movement (page 3), the seasonal movement by months (page 6), and the movement by states (page 27). The analyses of the several commodities (pages 7 to 26) bring out the seasonal movement by principal producing states or groups of states.

The bulletin includes principally the rail shipments of those

commodities for which complete information for the three years is available. Some water shipments, however, are included, which in the aggregate amount to about one per cent of the total shipments of all fresh fruits and vegetables. The figures do not include shipments in less than carload lots by freight or by express, except what are known as "pick ups," which consist of loadings made into one car at various stations. When such cars contain 10,000 pounds or over, they are reported as "carload shipments by express."

The bulletin does not include shipments by wagon or by motor truck.

The basic information, unless otherwise specified, is taken from compilations made by the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, from reports furnished by the railways of the United States.

The commodities dealt with in this bulletin are listed in the table at the foot of this page.

Shipments of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables—United States

The following table shows the total shipments of each commodity for the United States as a whole, during the calendar years 1924, 1925 and 1926.

The shipments of the fruits and vegetables combined amounted to 943,932 carloads in 1924, 949,421 carloads in 1925, and 1,010,724 carloads in 1926, or an average of 968,025 cars annually during the three years. As between fruits and vegetables, the average annual shipments for the three years were about equally divided. In 1924 and 1925 the shipments of vegetables exceeded those of fruits, while in 1926 the reverse was the case. In 1926 the shipments of fruits increased 12.1 per cent over 1924, while those of vegetables increased 2.2 per cent. The total increase of fresh fruits and vegetables in 1926 over 1924 amounted to 66,792 cars, or 7.1 per cent.

In number of cars shipped, potatoes take the lead. Shipments of white potatoes averaged 242,013 carloads annually, or 25 per cent of the total shipments of all fresh fruits and vegetables. Apples stood next in importance, representing 12.6 per cent of the total, followed in order by grapes, 7.9 per cent; oranges, 7 per cent; watermelons, 5 per cent; peaches, 4.8 per cent; cabbage, 4.2 per cent; lettuce, 3.8 per cent; onions, 3.3 per cent; cantaloupes, 3.0 per cent, and tomatoes, 2.8 per cent. These eleven commodities in the aggregate accounted for nearly four-fifths of the total shipments.

The shipments of the majority of commodities increased during the three years. These increases in some instances were marked. The decreases that occurred in a few commodities were generally smaller than the range of increases in the other commodities.

Out of the total of 33 items, 24 showed increased shipments in 1926 over 1924, while 9 showed decreased shipments. "Other melons" (principally casaba melons) increased 152.8 per cent; cranberries, 129.8 per cent; asparagus, 95.9 per cent; plums and prunes, 88.5 per cent; pears, cherries and sweet potatoes, from 50 to 55 per cent; peaches, carrots and cauliflower, from 40 to 50 per cent; spinach and lettuce, from 30 to 40 per cent; watermelons, 20.5 per cent; apples and grapes, 12 to 15 per cent. The remaining commodities namely, lemons, string beans, celery, cucumbers, onions and peppers increased from 1.3 per cent to 5.4 per cent. Shipments of mixed citrus fruits, mixed deciduous fruits, and mixed vegetables showed increases of 10.4 per cent, 14.5 per cent, and 8.1 per cent, respectively.

Commodities showing decreased shipments in 1926 under 1924 were eggplant, 51.7 per cent; strawberries, 28.7 per cent; grapefruit, 20.1 per cent; oranges, 10.2 per cent; white potatoes, cantaloupes, tomatoes, turnips and cabbage, less than 10 per cent.

Shipments of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables—United States—By Commodities Years 1924, 1925, and 1926

Commodity	Carloads				Commodity	Carloads			
	1924	1925	1926	3 year average		1924	1925	1926	3 year average
FRESH FRUITS:					FRESH VEGETABLES:				
Deciduous:					Asparagus	1 235	1 906	2 419	1 853
Apples	116 181	118 034	132 561	122 259	Beans, string	4 618	5 224	4 854	4 899
Cherries	2 046	2 304	3 155	2 502	Cabbage	41 115	39 956	40 385	40 485
Grapes	69 938	81 865	78 608	76 803	Carrots	3 082	3 491	4 563	3 712
Peaches	39 395	40 845	58 465	46 235	Cauliflower	4 652	5 288	6 661	5 534
Pears	16 253	21 015	25 080	20 783	Celery	18 591	21 108	19 520	19 740
Plums and prunes	3 978	5 195	7 499	5 557	Cucumbers	7 182	8 492	7 272	7 649
Mixed deciduous	5 736	7 165	6 569	6 490	Egg plant	230	367	111	236
Citrus:					Lettuce	30 935	37 306	42 105	36 782
Grapefruit	19 931	20 047	15 931	18 636	Onions	31 922	31 072	33 651	32 215
Lemons	13 552	11 590	14 266	13 136	Peppers	2 271	2 372	2 317	2 320
Oranges	76 254	57 400	68 467	67 374	Potatoes, white	252 095	241 523	232 422	242 013
Mixed citrus	5 534	4 924	6 109	5 522	Potatoes, sweet	14 853	18 571	22 349	18 591
Berries:					Spinach	7 535	7 955	10 494	8 661
Cranberries	2 112	2 014	4 853	2 993	Tomatoes	26 817	28 221	26 043	27 027
Strawberries	18 973	12 246	13 530	14 916	Turnips	1 323	1 709	1 264	1 432
Melons:					Mixed vegetables	28 352	32 213	30 651	30 405
Cantaloupes	28 931	30 165	26 940	28 679	SUMMARY:				
Watermelons	45 745	44 184	55 126	48 352	Total fresh fruits	467 124	462 647	523 643	484 471
Other melons	2 565	3 654	6 484	4 234	Total fresh veg's.	476 808	486 774	487 081	483 554
					Grand Total	943 932	949 421	1 010 724	968 025