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THE FRUIT SITUATION

Summary

Fruit prices in terminal markets are reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to have declined slightly during the past month. Mid-February prices of apples were generally lower than in mid-January but considerably higher than a year earlier. Citrus prices have changed little in recent weeks, with those for California navel oranges declining slightly and those for Florida oranges and Florida and Texas grapefruit rising slightly. Prices of Florida strawberries have continued to decline seasonally.

Favorable growing conditions in California and Texas increased production prospects in those States. As a consequence close to 1,000,000 boxes were added to the prospective winter orange crop, about 400,000 boxes to summer orange production and 200,000 boxes to both the grapefruit and lemon crops.

Cold storage holdings of apples on February 1 totaled 20.6 million boxes or 5.7 million boxes less than a year earlier and indicate that the out-of-storage movement in January was larger than usual.

CITRUS FRUITS

Favorable growing conditions during January resulted in further improvement in the citrus crops of California and Texas. As of February 1 the estimate of the California navel orange crop was increased over a month earlier by nearly 1,200,000 boxes and the Texas crop by 200,000 boxes. As a result the winter orange crop is now indicated to total 51.7 million boxes or 14 percent more than the 1937 crop and 61 percent more than the 1927-36 average.

The California Valencia or summer orange crop also showed some improvement in January, and on February 1 was indicated to total 29,230,000 boxes. This was about 9 percent greater than the production from the 1937 bloom and about two-thirds larger than the recent 10-year average production.

United States grapefruit production indicated at 40,896,000 boxes is about 200,000 boxes larger than indicated a month ago, about 32 percent more than last year and almost 2-1/2 times the 1927-36 average crop.

The California lemon crop also increased slightly during January. The February 1 indication of 11,234,000 boxes is one-fifth larger than the previous year and 50 percent larger than the average.

Because of these large supplies of citrus fruits, auction market prices of the different varieties remain at near-record low levels. Mid-February auction prices of California navel oranges were slightly lower than a month earlier and were about 35 cents per box under the average for the corresponding week a year earlier. On the other hand auction prices of Florida oranges rose slightly during the early part of February but averaged 10 to 15 cents under the average for mid-February 1938. Auction prices of Florida and Texas grapefruit also rose slightly in early February and were generally slightly higher than in the same weeks of 1938. California lemon prices rose slightly in Chicago but weakened some at New York City from mid-January to mid-February.

Carlot shipments of citrus fruits in recent weeks have increased sharply in recent weeks as the usual peak of the season approaches. Shipments of grapefruit for relief purposes also increased sharply in February.

APPLES

Cold storage holdings of apples as of February 1 totaled 20,585,000 bushels or about 5.7 million bushels less than a year earlier but about 600,000 bushels more than the 10-year average for February 1. About as many apples are held in the Western States this year as in the East in contrast with the situation last year when a greater portion of the total was in the Eastern States. Approximately 5.6 million bushels of apples were moved out of storage in January 1939 against only 5.2 million a year earlier. Of course, it is probable that more apples were moved out of common storage in January 1938 than in the same month this year.

Auction prices of western apples declined about 8 cents per box during the 4 weeks ended February 10. Prices of Rome Beauty and Winesap varieties were definitely lower. Shipping prices also declined slightly. Mid-February prices of eastern apples at New York City were also generally lower than a month earlier although prices of some varieties advanced slightly. Mid-February prices of mid-western varieties at Chicago were generally higher than in mid-January.

Table 1.- Citrus fruits: Production, average 1927-36, annual 1937 and 1938

Crop and State	Production 1/				
	Average 1927-36	1937	1938	1938 as percentage of average	1938 as percentage of 1937
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	Percent	Percent
Oranges:					
Winter and spring varieties:					
Calif. navels and misc.	14,871	16,680	18,480	124.3	110.8
Fla., all.....	16,121	26,700	29,900	185.5	112.0
Early and mid-season...	2/ 10,475	13,700	15,500	148.0	113.1
Valencias.....	2/ 6,300	10,700	11,200	177.8	104.7
Tangerines.....	2/ 2,275	2,300	3,200	140.7	139.1
Tex.....	540	1,440	2,400	444.4	166.7
Ariz.....	151	350	360	238.4	102.9
Ala. 3/.....	81	76	96	118.5	126.3
Miss. 3/.....	37	67	80	216.2	119.4
La.....	251	238	385	153.4	161.8
Total.....	32,052	45,551	51,701	161.3	113.5
Summer and early fall varieties:					
Calif. Valencias.....	17,526	28,925	29,230	166.8	101.1
Total 7 States 4/.....	49,578	74,476	80,931	163.2	108.7
Grapefruit:					
Fla. all.....	12,194	14,600	21,000	172.2	143.8
Seedless.....	2/ 4,225	5,500	7,500	177.5	136.4
Other.....	2/ 9,650	9,100	13,500	139.9	148.4
Tex.....	2,410	11,800	15,000	622.4	127.1
Ariz.....	746	2,750	3,000	402.1	109.1
Calif.....	1,422	1,943	1,896	133.3	97.6
Total 4 States 4/.....	16,772	31,093	40,896	243.8	131.5
Lemons:					
Calif. 4/.....	7,487	9,355	11,234	150.0	120.1
Limes:					
Fla.....	12	70	5/ 95	791.7	135.7

1/ Relates to crop from bloom of year shown, picking beginning November 1 in California and September 1 in other States.

2/ Short-time average.

3/ Production estimated in terms of standard boxes, each equal to about 2 of the "halfstraps" commonly used.

4/ Net content of boxes varies. In California and Arizona the approximate average for oranges is 70 pounds net and grapefruit 60 pounds; in Florida and other States, oranges 90 pounds and grapefruit 80 pounds; California lemons about 76 pounds net.

5/ December 1 indicated production.

Table 2.- Oranges: Weekly shipments from producing areas, by varieties and totals, November to February 1937-38 and 1938-39

Week ended	1937					1938					Total	
	Calif.	Calif. Ariz.	Calif. Ariz. Navels & miscellaneous	Fla.	Tex.	Calif. Ariz. Valencias	Calif. Ariz. Navels & miscellaneous	Fla.	Tex.	Com-mer-cial	Relief pur-chase	
Nov. 5:	38	17	1,232	211	1,529	615		1,282	181	2,172	1	
12:	10	273	966	192	1,513	338	5	1,231	168	1,991	-	
19:	8	867	1,531	132	2,648	195	293	1,836	205	2,884	-	
26:	13	1,224	979	96	2,490	144	1,047	1,387	224	3,232	-	
Dec. 3:	--	1,702	1,361	159	3,553	77	1,332	1,704	260	3,853	-	
10:	--	1,767	1,960	155	4,440	40	1,447	2,251	287	4,688	-	
17:	--	857	2,324	128	4,054	16	946	3,092	355	5,180	-	
24:	--	491	1,083	83	2,131	2	671	2,055	217	3,556	-	
31:	--	663	997	55	2,255	4	713	1,315	143	2,719	-	
Jan. 7:	--	907	1,356	57	2,703	3	762	1,889	242	3,560	-	
14:	--	957	1,445	91	2,780	-	787	2,035	197	3,407	-	
21:	--	848	1,417	126	2,695	-	990	2,130	255	3,648	-	
28:	--	1,191	1,438	108	3,035	-	1,010	2,050	218	3,612	2	
Feb. 4:	--	915	1,597	105	2,880	-	885	1,948	327	3,481	13	
11:	--	1,313	1,940	138	3,618	-	619	2,304	374	3,577	26	

1/ Includes shipments from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and tangerines, and a few shipments of California-Arizona Navels and miscellaneous.

2/ Excluding relief shipments.

3/ Purchases made by Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Table 3.- Grapefruit: Weekly shipments from producing areas and totals, November to February 1937-38 and 1938-39

Week ended	Florida	Cali- fornia- Arizona	Texas	Total	Florida	Cali- fornia- Arizona	Texas	Total	
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Com- mercial	Relief pur- chases 1/
	<u>1937</u>					<u>1938</u>			
Nov. 5	346	46	411	803	494	32	504	1,030	
12	360	53	399	812	622	32	511	1,165	
19	417	48	361	826	636	25	718	1,379	
26	451	31	548	1,030	543	25	506	1,074	
Dec. 3	528	27	736	1,291	571	33	619	1,223	
10	519	46	593	1,158	608	42	753	1,403	
17	531	42	519	1,092	688	27	654	1,369	11
24	354	21	330	705	406	15	387	808	18
31	339	27	570	936	451	16	413	880	8
	<u>1938</u>					<u>1939</u>			
Jan. 7	513	40	510	1,063	592	36	747	1,375	74
14	548	54	755	1,357	684	38	826	1,548	130
21	600	53	1,003	1,656	712	42	671	1,425	86
28	484	74	776	1,334	697	50	574	1,321	35
Feb. 4	480	61	557	1,098	746	44	754	1,544	102
11	534	68	665	1,267	752	44	774	1,570	198

1/ Purchases made by Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Table 4.- Citrus fruits: Weighted average auction price per box, New York and Chicago, by specified weeks, 1938-39

Market and week	Oranges				Grapefruit				Lemons	
	Calif. navels		Florida		Florida		Texas		California	
	1938	1939	1938 ^{1/}	1939	1938 ^{1/}	1939	1938 ^{1/}	1939	1938	1939
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York										
Jan. 14	2.43	2.68	2.18	1.86	2.14	1.68	2.36	2.19	4.44	3.79
21	2.46	2.65	2.16	1.79	2.01	1.77	2.26	2.40	4.38	3.74
28	2.55	2.56	2.16	1.81	2.05	1.96	1.88	2.41	4.35	3.83
Mo. av.	2.44	2.68	2.22	1.85	2.13	1.78	2.11	2.20	4.52	3.86
Feb. 4	2.52	2.53	2.18	1.83	2.21	1.75	1.84	2.26	4.08	3.68
11	2.90	2.53	2.14	2.04	2.25	1.73	1.99	2.14	4.02	3.71
Chicago										
Jan. 13	2.32	2.66	2.06	2.02	2.11	1.86	1.96	1.93	4.67	3.83
20	2.39	2.62	2.09	1.89	2.35	1.68	2.00	1.95	4.44	4.10
27	2.43	2.49	2.05	1.95	1.52	1.67	1.79	2.06	4.13	3.83
Mo. av.	2.37	2.58	2.15	1.97	1.90	1.72	1.86	1.95	4.56	3.89
Feb. 3	2.64	2.37	2.30	2.04	1.52	1.80	1.76	2.10	4.14	4.02
10	2.64	2.32	2.26	2.10	1.86	2.05	1.90	1.97	4.25	4.03

^{1/} Includes 2-bushel Bruce boxes converted to basis of standard boxes.

Table 5.- Apples: February 1 cold storage holdings, 1928-39

Year	Baskets and barrels ^{1/}	Western boxes	Total
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
1928	6,114	9,809	15,923
1929	8,238	12,388	20,626
1930	7,953	10,149	18,102
1931	6,970	15,347	22,317
1932	11,660	11,761	23,421
1933	9,985	10,124	20,109
1934	7,183	9,239	16,422
1935	8,455	12,329	20,784
1936	11,731	12,944	24,675
1937	8,159	9,201	17,360
Average 1928-37	8,645	11,329	19,974
1938	15,322	10,958	26,280
1939	10,169	10,416	20,585

^{1/} Includes eastern boxes or crates. Barrels converted on basis of 1 barrel equivalent to 3 bushels.

Table 6.- Apples: February 1 cold storage holdings, by States, and containers, 1938 and 1939

State	Feb. 1, 1939			Feb. 1, 1938	
	Barrels	Western boxes	Baskets	Total bushels	Total bushels
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Vt.....	--	--	44	44	100
Mass.....	--	3	166	169	431
N. Y.....	14	37	3,381	3,460	4,434
N. J.....	--	11	744	755	852
Pa.....	4	70	1,007	1,089	1,368
Ohio.....	--	26	234	260	698
Ind.....	--	19	108	127	276
Ill.....	--	46	506	552	1,118
Mich.....	--	56	660	716	719
Wis.....	--	18	47	65	117
Minn.....	--	57	6	63	106
Mo.....	--	46	249	295	780
Va.....	127	22	1,766	2,169	3,513
W. Va.....	1	1	230	234	440
Tex.....	--	67	--	67	78
Wash.....	--	7,705	--	7,705	8,077
Oreg.....	--	674	--	634	618
Calif.....	--	1,416	--	1,416	1,363
Other States.....	4	182	571	765	1,192
United States.....	150	10,416	9,719	20,585	26,280

Table 7.- Pears: February 1 cold storage holdings, by States, 1938 and 1939

State	Feb. 1, 1939		Feb. 1, 1938	
	Boxes and bushel baskets		Boxes and bushel baskets	
	Thousands		Thousands	
N. Y.....	77		34	
N. J.....	13		30	
Pa.....	8		16	
Ill.....	9		25	
Wash.....	49		98	
Oreg.....	561		364	
Calif.....	136		47	
Other States.....	25		48	
United States.....	878		662	

Table 10.-Apples, western: Price per box, extra fancy grade, medium size, f.o.b. usual terms, Wenatchee-Yakima, Washington, by specified varieties and weeks, 1938-39

Week ended	1938		1939	
	Delicious	Winesap	Delicious	Winesap
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Jan. 14 .....	.91	.79	1.51	1.28
21 .....	.86	.75	1.45	1.25
28 .....	.84	.74	1.43	1.24
Feb. 4 .....	.85	.74	1.44	1.25
11 .....	.94	.75	1.42	1.24

Table 11.-Apples, eastern: Price per bushel, U. S. No. 1 2½ inch minimum, f.o.b. usual terms, Rochester, New York by specified varieties and weeks, 1938-39

Week ended	1938			
	Baldwin	McIntosh	Rhode Island Greening	All varieties
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Jan. 15	---	.92	.73	.77
22	---	.95	.75	.80
29	---	.92	.76	.81
Feb. 5	---	.93	.76	.80
12	---	<u>1/</u> .85	.77	.77
1939				
Jan. 14	---	<u>1/</u> 1.25	.91	.93
21	<u>2/</u> 1.08	1.30	.87	1.01
28	1.08	<u>2/</u> 1.32	.92	.96
Feb. 4	1.09	1.34	.89	1.06
11	1.16	1.25	.88	.98

1/ Average for 1 day.

2/ Average for 2 days.

Table 12.- Pears: Cold storage holdings, by varieties and containers, February 1, 1938 and 1939, with comparisons

Variety	Unit	Jan. 1,	Feb. 1,			
		5-yr. av.	5-yr. av.	Feb. 1,	Jan. 1,	Feb. 1,
		1934-38	1934-38	1938	1939	1939
		<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Pears, Bartletts	Packed boxes	--	--	18	15	9
Pears, Bartletts	Loose boxes	--	--	4	8	6
Pears, all others	Boxes	905	532	620	1,294	795
Pears	Baskets (bu)	46	31	20	87	68
Total	Boxes and baskets	951	563	662	1,404	878

Table 13.- Strawberries ^{1/}: Acreage and indicated production 1939, with comparisons

Group and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	10-yr. av. 1928-37	1938	1939	10-yr. av. 1928-37	1938	Ind. 1939	10-yr. av. 1928-37	1938	Ind. 1939
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Crates</u>	<u>Crates</u>	<u>Crates</u>	<u>crates</u>	<u>crates</u>	<u>crates</u>
Early Florida	8,120	7,500	9,000	68	70	75	559	525	675
Other States ^{2/}	27,500	27,610	25,850	64.2	53.7		1,766	1,433	Mar. 9
Group total	35,620	35,110	34,850	65.3	57.2		2,325	2,008	
Second Early ^{2/}	53,130	46,650	53,700	58.5	59.7		3,106	2,787	Apr. 1
Intermediate ^{2/}	45,240	44,350	49,200	62.5	65.2		2,826	2,890	May 10
Late ^{2/}	46,450	53,900	57,000	66.1	70.2		3,069	3,784	June 9
Total all States	180,430	179,990	194,750	62.3	63.7		11,326	11,469	

^{1/} Estimates include undetermined quantities used for manufacture, frozen pack, etc.

^{2/} Data are from release of October 12, 1938 (Tc-38: 1017).

Table 14.- Strawberries: Price per pint at wholesale markets, and truck-loads, cash to growers, Plant City, Florida, by weeks, 1938-39

Week ended	New York		Chicago		Plant City, Florida	
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Jan. 14	.27	.14	.26	.14	<u>1/</u> .18	.10
21	.18	.13	.20	.14	.12	.11
28	.14	.14	.14	.15	.10	.10
Feb. 4	.14	.11	.14	.13	.09	.08
11	.12	.11	.12	.12	.08	.07

1/ Average for one day.

Table 15.- Frozen fruits: Cold storage holdings, by varieties, February 1, 1938 and 1939, with comparisons

Varieties	Jan. 1,	Feb. 1,	Feb. 1,	Jan. 1,	Feb. 1,
	5-yr. av.	5-yr. av.	1938	1939	1939
	:1934-38	:1934-38	:	:	:
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Blackberries <u>1/</u>	Data		--	3,355	2,614
Blueberries	for		7,079	5,048	5,029
Cherries	these		21,147	20,617	18,230
Logan and similar berries <u>1/</u>	earlier		--	3,242	2,989
Raspberries <u>1/</u>	years		--	8,578	7,199
Strawberries	not		25,852	35,902	33,728
Other fruits	comparable		<u>2/</u> 64,564	20,801	17,467
Classification not reported <u>1/</u>				28,218	28,775
Total		79,826	74,285	118,642	125,761
				125,761	116,031

1/ Data for this item prior to July 1, 1938, included under "other".

2/ Includes items designated by note 1/.

Table 16.- Frozen fruits: January 1 and February 1 cold storage holdings segregated by method of processing, 1939

Commodity	Quick freeze		Frozen and preserved	
	processed		(cold packed)	
	Jan. 1,	Feb. 1,	Jan. 1,	Feb. 1,
	1939	1939	1939	1939
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Blackberries	362	344	2,993	2,270
Blueberries	1,159	1,248	3,889	3,781
Cherries	1,733	2,456	18,884	15,774
Logan and similar berries	723	737	2,519	2,252
Raspberries	1,254	1,139	7,324	6,060
Strawberries	10,811	12,173	25,091	21,555
Other fruits	5,944	5,577	14,857	11,890
Classification not reported	5,933	5,116	22,285	23,659
Total	27,919	28,790	97,842	87,241

