

# Gordon Food Service Market Updates

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## Meat | Beef

Beef prices have dropped to more normal levels following the Labor Day runup. Prices are still 7% higher than 2018 which could be a little high for the current level of beef production.

### Ground Beef:

Prices are trending lower but remain well above where they were last September. Limited supply of imported lean beef may keep prices above 2018's October low.

### Ribs:

Rib prices are trending higher along the same path they followed last year. Seasonal peaks could come by early November.

### Briskets:

Packers jumped their forward pricing signaling they are happy with their sold position on briskets. Prices are pushing up towards summer highs.

### Rounds:

Cash prices are still at a premium to forward prices, suggesting we could a little more discounting.

### Strips:

Cash strip prices continue to adjust down and are now about equal to forward pricing levels. With ribeye prices rising, strips could level out.

### Tenders:

Tender prices have started their seasonal uptrend right on schedule.

Thin Meats:

With thin meat prices below 2018 levels, we could see prices start to level out.

## **Meat | Pork**

Pork production is record large and exports have not grown fast enough, so far, to keep pace. There is too much product available which is depressing hog and pork prices.

Butts:

Butts prices adjusted lower and are now at levels which should attract export interest.

Hams:

Ham prices have stopped going down and seem to have found balance despite record pork output.

Bacon/Bellies:

Belly prices set new lows for 2019 as packers struggle to place extra production. Low prices should attract another round of features.

Ribs:

Spare and back rib prices are under 2018 levels. Given the risk of increasing China pork demand, retailers have started booking for freezer programs.

Loins:

Bone-in and boneless loin prices are weak due to large output.