

# Gordon Food Service Market Updates

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## Meat | Pork

This week's harvest is forecast to be 2.7 million head, up fractionally from last week.

Bone in Butt prices are steady this week as retail prices increased this October versus prior year due to the supply chain disruptions, possibly decreasing demand. Boneless pork butt prices are declining as customers are not willing to pay the premium to bone in butts. Boneless loin prices continue to decline.

Belly prices are bouncing around as the market is unsettled.

Spares and St Louis prices are slightly lower, Back rib prices are stable.

## Meat | Beef

Harvest numbers are slightly higher than previous year's numbers as smaller cattle have dropped the production pounds per head slightly. Choice grading is starting to slip and currently running a bit below previous years percentage. Prime has continued to drop percentage-wise making it even more difficult to come by. Expect to see the choice/select spread to increase as we move closer to September. Logistical issues with both container ships and port warehouses have slowed the processing of imports and exports. Late August and into September should show good numbers of exports as ports and warehouses work on catching up on the backlog of orders.

The choice cutout has started to move higher, up \$0.50 bouncing off the dip we had in mid-July. Demand is picking up again as prices became more realistic. Most middle meat items have started to trend higher as retail took interest and took positions in late July. Ribeyes are higher, expect to see these prices for the next few weeks with retailers booking for deep chill programs to support the holidays.

Striploin and short loins have captured some retail attention and should keep support under these cuts through most of September. Briskets have been booked up by retail on forward bookings to help cover Labor Day ads with a cheap BBQ beef option, prices have shot back up. End cuts are steady to higher, holding well above historical prices for this time of year. Thinmeats and labor-intensive items are steady to slightly higher across the category as labor is an issue across all beef packers and specialty cutters. Grinds have started moving already, retail has already stepped in on ground beef packages for the upcoming holiday.