

Market MINUTE

COMMODITY TRENDS

May 17, 2026 | Issue 144



GROCERY



SUGAR



WHEAT



SOYBEAN OIL

COMMODITY REPORTS



UNIPRO



PRO*ACT

WHEAT | Wheat prices moved lower over the past week alongside broader grain market declines, despite underlying concerns about tighter supplies and potential yield issues in key growing regions. The selloff suggests that improved global balances and shifting trade expectations are currently outweighing production risks, at least in the near term. Looking ahead, market direction will depend on incoming crop data and whether supply concerns regain influence.

OILS & SHORTENING | Oil markets softened last week as crude prices pulled back amid improving supply expectations and shifting geopolitical sentiment, creating downward pressure across related inputs like edible oils and shortening. This easing in energy costs can influence production pricing, leaving both oil and shortening markets sensitive to broader macro trends. Near term, continued changes in geopolitics and weather will likely guide direction.

SUGAR | Sugar prices rose early in the week before weakening later, with market direction largely tied to crude oil as energy trends influence how much sugarcane is used for ethanol in Brazil. Softer oil prices have pressured sugar and point to a continued weaker outlook, leaving the market highly sensitive to broader macro conditions rather than supply and demand alone. Near term, any rebound or further decline in energy markets will likely drive the next move in sugar.

DAIRY & EGGS



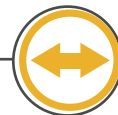
EGGS



BUTTER



CHEESE BLOCKS



CHEESE BARRELS

BUTTER | Butter prices eased over the past week, contributing to broader softness across dairy markets as demand remains relatively sluggish despite strong seasonal production. Elevated milk output continues to support ample butter supplies, limiting upside potential and keeping pricing under pressure. Near term, market direction will depend on whether demand improves enough to offset strong production levels.

CHEESE | Cheese markets were mixed over the past week, with prices easing slightly as domestic demand remains uneven despite stronger export interest. Ample milk production continues to support cheese output, keeping supplies comfortable and limiting upward price momentum. Near term, cheese pricing will depend on whether demand strengthens enough to absorb ongoing supply levels.

EGGS | Egg prices moved lower over the past week as market conditions continued to soften, driven by ample supply and easing demand pressures. The sharp decline highlights how quickly the egg market has corrected from prior highs, keeping pricing subdued in the current environment. Near term, prices are likely to remain stable to lower unless demand shows meaningful improvement. Continued strong production levels will likely limit any near term price recovery.



CENTER OF THE PLATE



CHICKEN



BEEF



PORK

CHICKEN | Chicken markets remained under pressure over the past week as strong production levels continued to outweigh demand, keeping prices for key items like breast meat and wings trending lower. Ongoing expansion in output, supported by strong producer margins, is sustaining ample supply and limiting any meaningful price recovery. Near term, continued production growth is likely to cap upside potential and keep the market biased lower. Strong supply trends are expected to persist, which could delay any seasonal price rebound.

BEEF | Beef markets remained firm over the past week as tighter production continued to support higher pricing, with output running below prior year levels due to reduced cattle slaughter. Strong demand for premium cuts tied to grilling season also helped lift values, keeping overall pricing elevated. Near term, limited supply is expected to sustain upward pressure, though higher prices may begin to temper demand. Continued constraints in cattle availability will likely keep the market supported.

PORK | Pork markets were mixed over the past week, with overall prices easing slightly as increased production and heavier weights supported ample supply. While weakness in bellies weighed on the broader market, pork butt pricing both boneless and bone in moved higher, providing some support. Near term, seasonal supply declines may offer modest upside, though gains are expected to be more limited due to steady production levels. Continued balanced supply conditions are likely to keep the market from seeing significant price increases.

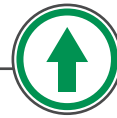
NON-FOODS & BEVERAGE



TAKE-OUT SOLUTIONS



COFFEE & BEVERAGE



GLOVES



CAN LINERS

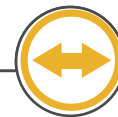


CHEMICALS

PACKAGING CHALLENGES | Resin suppliers are implementing price increases on all grades of polyethylene raw materials; citing the improved domestic and export demand, rising feedstock cost, low inventory levels, an escalated operational and supply chain costs. Expect 8-10% increase in most Polystyrene and Polyethylene items like can liners, t-sacks, produce bags, and all foodservice packaging products.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

GRADUAL RELIEF | Produce markets are stabilizing after post-Mother's Day demand, though conditions remain uneven as supply challenges persist across key categories. Row crops like lettuce, celery, and leafy greens continue to face pressure from disease and reduced yields, keeping availability tight with elevated pricing and inconsistent quality. Fruit markets are mixed, with strawberries still limited due to strong demand while blueberries are improving as more regions begin production, and citrus remains heavily skewed toward larger sizes with shortages of smaller fruit. Vegetable supply is in transition as Florida winds down and Georgia and California ramp up, creating variability in peppers, cucumbers, squash, and eggplant, while tomatoes are improving with stronger harvests. Domestic stone fruit has also begun its season and is expected to gain momentum with better volume and pricing in the coming weeks. At the same time, grape supply from Mexico is increasing ahead of California's season. Overall, easing demand is helping reduce pressure, but flexibility in sizing, grade, and sourcing remains important as markets continue to shift through May.



CARROTS



STRAWBERRIES



LETTUCE



TOMATOES