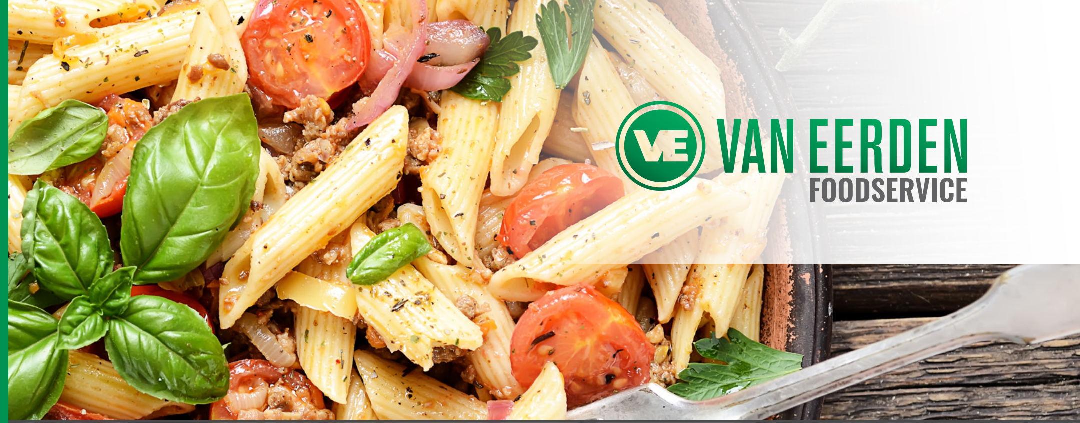

Market MINUTE

COMMODITY TRENDS

May 31, 2026 | Issue 146

VAN EERDEN FOODSERVICE

COMMODITY REPORTS

UNIPRO PRO*ACT

GROCERY

SUGAR

WHEAT

SOYBEAN OIL

WHEAT | Wheat markets are moving higher as poor crop conditions across the U.S. Plains continue to reduce yield expectations for Hard Red Winter wheat. Ongoing drought stress and uneven development are limiting both production volume and quality, tightening available supply. At the same time, competitive global origins are active, but logistical challenges and quality concerns are keeping support under domestic markets. Operators should expect continued pressure on flour, buns and breaded items as buyers remain cautious ahead of harvest results.

OILS & SHORTENING | Oil and shortening markets are trending higher as soybean oil continues to lead the complex upward, supported by strong domestic demand and tightening inventories. Elevated palm oil pricing from Southeast Asia is also contributing to higher global vegetable oil costs, limiting relief for buyers. Biofuel demand remains a key driver, keeping additional pressure on supply availability. Operators should expect continued increases across frying oils, dressings and baked goods as markets remain firmly supported.

SUGAR | Sugar markets are moving higher as tighter supply out of key exporting regions like Brazil and India continues to support global pricing. Weather variability and shifting ethanol production in Brazil are limiting cane allocation for sugar, tightening export availability. At the same time, steady demand from beverage and confectionery manufacturers is keeping buyers active despite higher costs. Operators should expect continued upward pressure across desserts, sweetened beverages and pantry staples in the near term.

DAIRY & EGGS

EGGS

BUTTER

CHEESE BLOCKS

CHEESE BARRELS

BUTTER | Butter markets are holding steady as cream availability and production levels have balanced with consistent demand. Inventories are sufficient to meet current needs, helping keep pricing relatively stable. While buying activity remains active across both foodservice and retail, it is not creating significant upward pressure. Operators can expect mostly stable costs across butter and butter-based applications in the near term.

CHEESE | Cheese markets are trending lower as improved milk availability has supported increased production across key cheese varieties. Inventories have begun to build, easing some of the supply pressure seen in previous weeks. While demand from foodservice remains steady, it is not strong enough to absorb the additional output at higher price levels. Operators may begin to see some relief across cheese-heavy menu items, including pizzas, sandwiches and appetizers.

EGGS | Egg markets are holding steady as supply and demand have come into better balance following earlier volatility. Production levels continue to recover, helping rebuild inventories and stabilize pricing across most sizes. Demand from foodservice remains consistent, but is no longer outpacing available supply. Operators can expect relatively stable costs across shell eggs and egg-based menu items in the near term.

CENTER OF THE PLATE

CHICKEN

BEEF

PORK

CHICKEN | Chicken markets are trending higher as production remains tight, particularly on jumbo wings and select breast meat cuts. Strong foodservice demand, especially for wings and sandwiches, continues to outpace available supply and support pricing. Feed costs and processing constraints are also contributing to elevated market levels. Operators should expect continued pressure across core chicken menu items, especially wings, tenders and sandwiches.

BEEF | Beef markets are trending higher as cattle supplies remain historically tight, limiting overall production levels. Strong demand for middle meats like ribeyes and strip loins is continuing to push prices upward, particularly in foodservice channels. Packers are managing harvest levels carefully, which is keeping supply constrained and supporting elevated pricing. Operators should expect continued pressure across steaks, burgers and premium beef cuts moving forward.

PORK | Pork markets are holding steady as production levels remain balanced with consistent demand across retail and foodservice channels. Ham and belly markets are showing some variability, but overall supply is sufficient to meet current buying needs. Packers continue to maintain stable harvest levels, helping keep pricing relatively range-bound. Operators can expect mostly steady costs across pork cuts, with potential short-term movement in items like bacon and ribs.

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 5-8% increase in most Polystyrene and Polyethylene items like can liners, t-sacks, produce bags, and all foodservice packaging products.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

MARKET VARIABILITY | Produce markets remain active with ongoing supply and pricing pressure driven primarily by weather variability, regional growing challenges and strong seasonal demand. Lettuce and leafy greens continue to see fluctuations due to quality concerns and inconsistent field performance, keeping markets elevated. Tomato supplies remain tight, particularly on rounds and romas, as production gaps persist in key growing areas. Cucumbers and peppers are showing some improvement in availability, helping stabilize pricing in those categories. Onion and potato markets are generally steady, though sizing and storage quality continue to vary, impacting yields. Citrus remains firm as inventories tighten, while berry markets continue to shift week to week based on harvest conditions and availability. Avocado supplies have improved, offering some price relief. Across the board, freight costs, labor constraints and weather disruptions continue to create inconsistency in supply chains. Operators should stay flexible with specifications and take advantage of items with improved supply to help manage overall produce costs.

LETTUCE

CARROTS

TOMATOES

BLACK-BERRIES