



**Schreiber Foods  
International, Inc.**

**Bits & Bites**

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## Fall 2009

As the world tries to recover from the recession, the two big factors affecting all of us are; 1) demand, and 2) value of the US Dollar. Demand for many foodstuffs has been soft, as everyone is trying to keep lower inventories with respect to sluggish sales. Despite some lower production of some crops, soft demand has put downward pressure on some prices. Eventually, this trend will reverse itself...when that will be is anyone's guess. Secondly, the value of the US Dollar, generally speaking, has been very weak against many other world currencies. A weak dollar buys less than a strong dollar. A year ago it took \$1.28 to buy one Euro, and on December 11, 2009 it cost \$1.47, a 15% decrease in value!

Due to the volatility of so many food prices we still think it is prudent to buy as you go, and not to buy large quantities to save small amounts of money.

**Mushrooms:** The two world's main producers are China and India. India's main exporter has been very erratic due to organizational issues, and cannot be relied on. China has been supplying the dominant share of the US market, and at that, China's exports to the US for the first 9 months of 2009 are down 40% from the previous year. This big reduction in shipments has discouraged farmers from growing mushrooms this season resulting in reduced production raising prices for raw material for the beginning of the packing season which runs from November to March, weather permitting. Prices have already increased by 10-20% and the market looks to remain very strong. The only factor that could reverse this trend is low demand.

**Jalapeno Peppers:** We import Jalapeno Peppers from several countries around the world which gives us uninterrupted supply, and an edge on good prices. Jalapeno Peppers in No. 10 cans can have a wide range in drained weights. Buyers beware! Our Ambrosia no. 10 Sliced Jalapeno Peppers have a minimum dr. wt. of 60 oz. We also have 4/1 gal. Sliced Jalapeno Peppers or 28 oz. cans! Pouches of Sliced Jalapenos are on the horizon so if you have an interest in these, please let us know!

**Lemon Juice:** This has been a terrific item for us as most every chef uses Lemon Juice. We are importing Lemon Juice from several sources to ensure continuity of supply. Lemon Juice is used in many recipes to reduce food odors, with some fish, and as an acidic ingredient for many other recipes. You will find Lemon Juice in most every kitchen! Ours is packed in 32 oz. PET.

**Sesame Oil, Tahini Paste** made with Sesame Seeds will be increasing in price due to a short sesame seed crop. We only import pure Sesame Oil which gives the best flavor. If a chef wants to reduce the cost, then he/she can 'cut' it with the amount and variety of other oil of his/her choice. Tahini Paste is made from ground sesame seeds. Tahini mixed with ground Garbanzo beans, and lemon juice makes Humus, a popular Mid Eastern garnish.

**Pineapple** is in good supply from both China and Thailand. Most of the pineapple from China is the Queen Victoria variety which is not as smooth in texture as the Cayenne variety from Thailand. Now that anti-dumping duties have been eliminated on Thai pineapple, for those wanting a little better quality, Thai Pineapple is a good option. We have some in stock now!

**For samples, please call or e-mail Joann Longinetti**

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