



Perspective on Blueberry Opportunity

December 5 2019

John Shelford ©

Agenda/Topics

- **2019 Production Update – Implications**
- **Utilization by source**
- **Fresh Blueberry market channel**
- **Frozen Blueberry Utilization**
- **A look ahead**

US/CA Production Highbush and Lowbush 2000 to 2016; Forecast to 2027

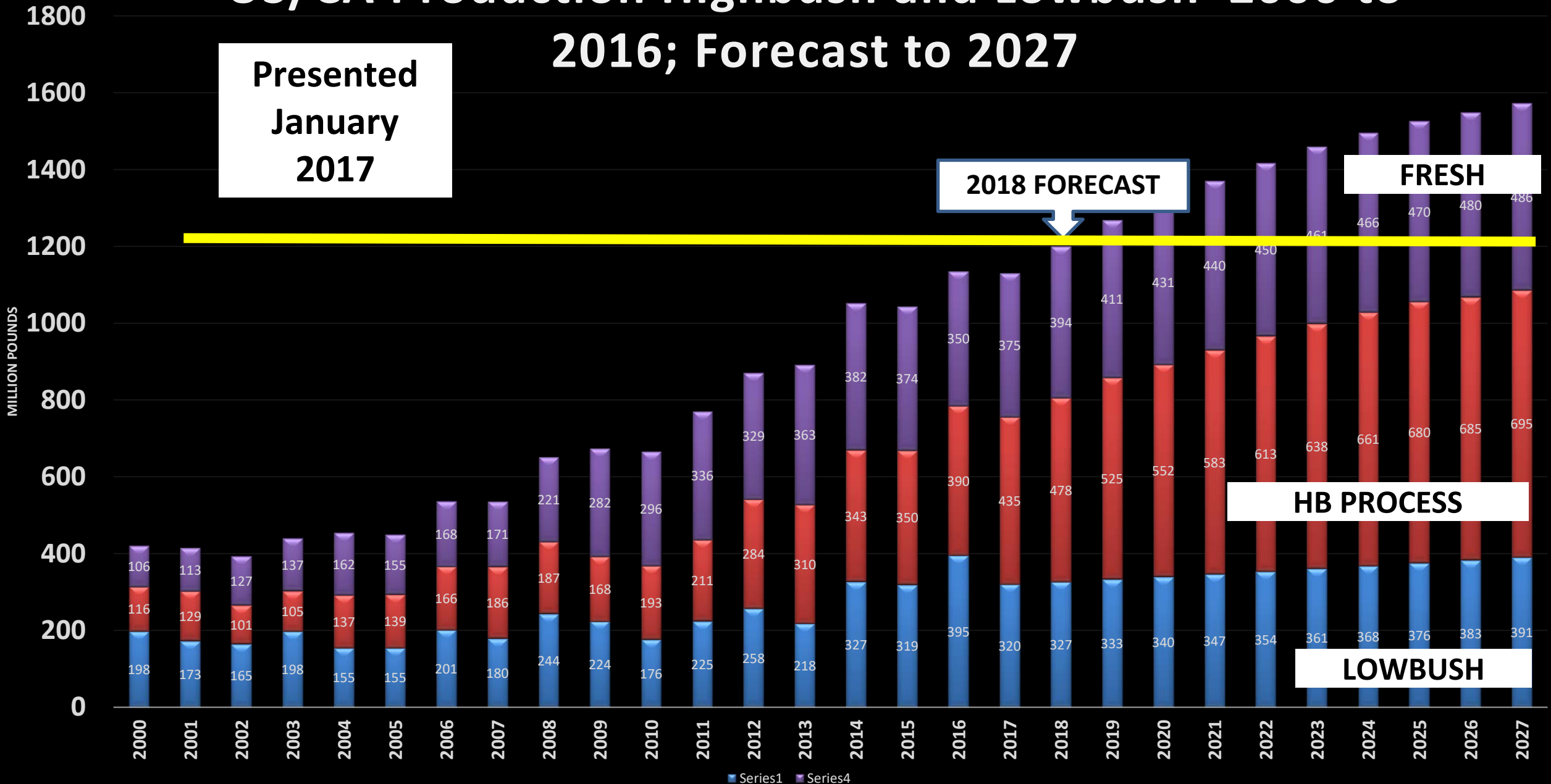
**Presented
January
2017**

2018 FORECAST

FRESH

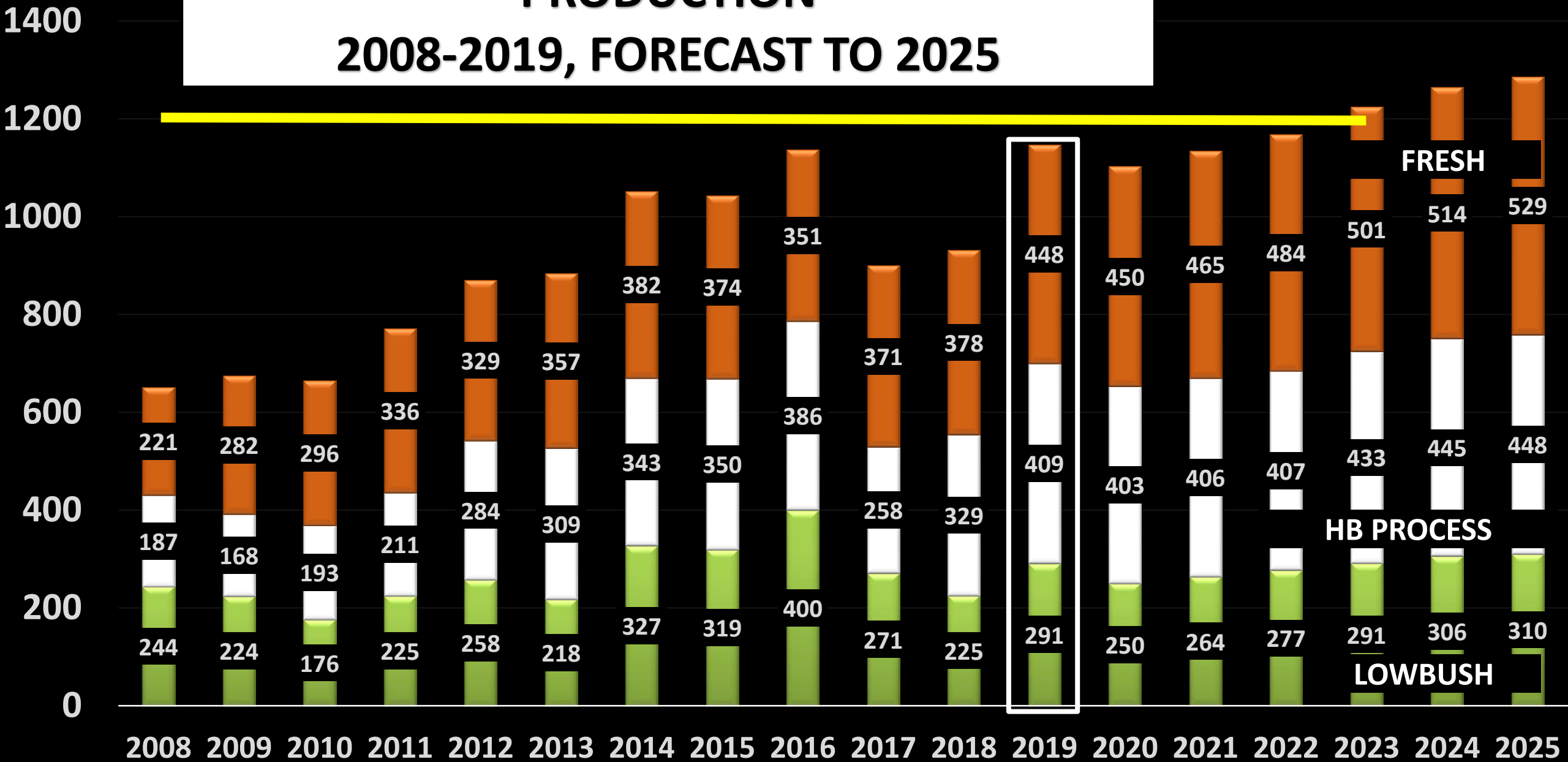
HB PROCESS

LOWBUSH



US AND CANADA HIGHBUSH AND LOWBUSH PRODUCTION

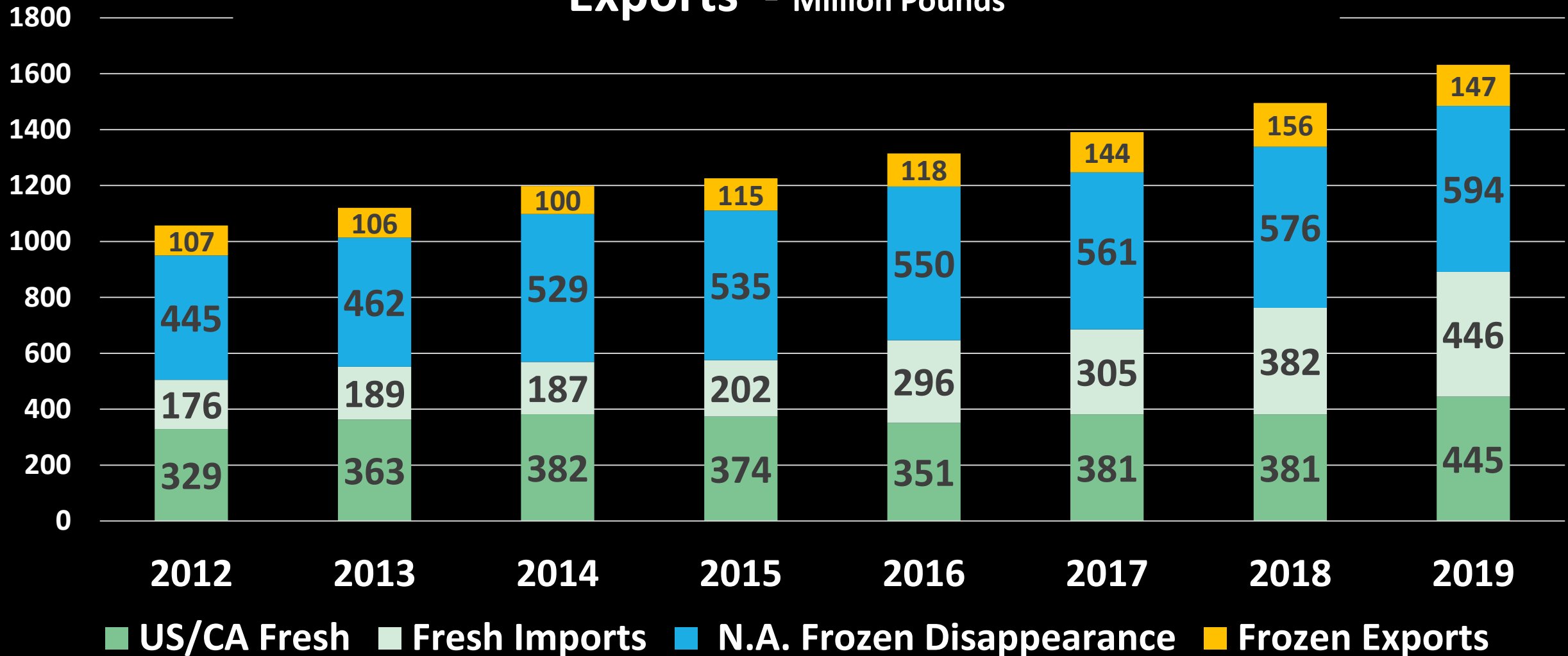
2008-2019, FORECAST TO 2025



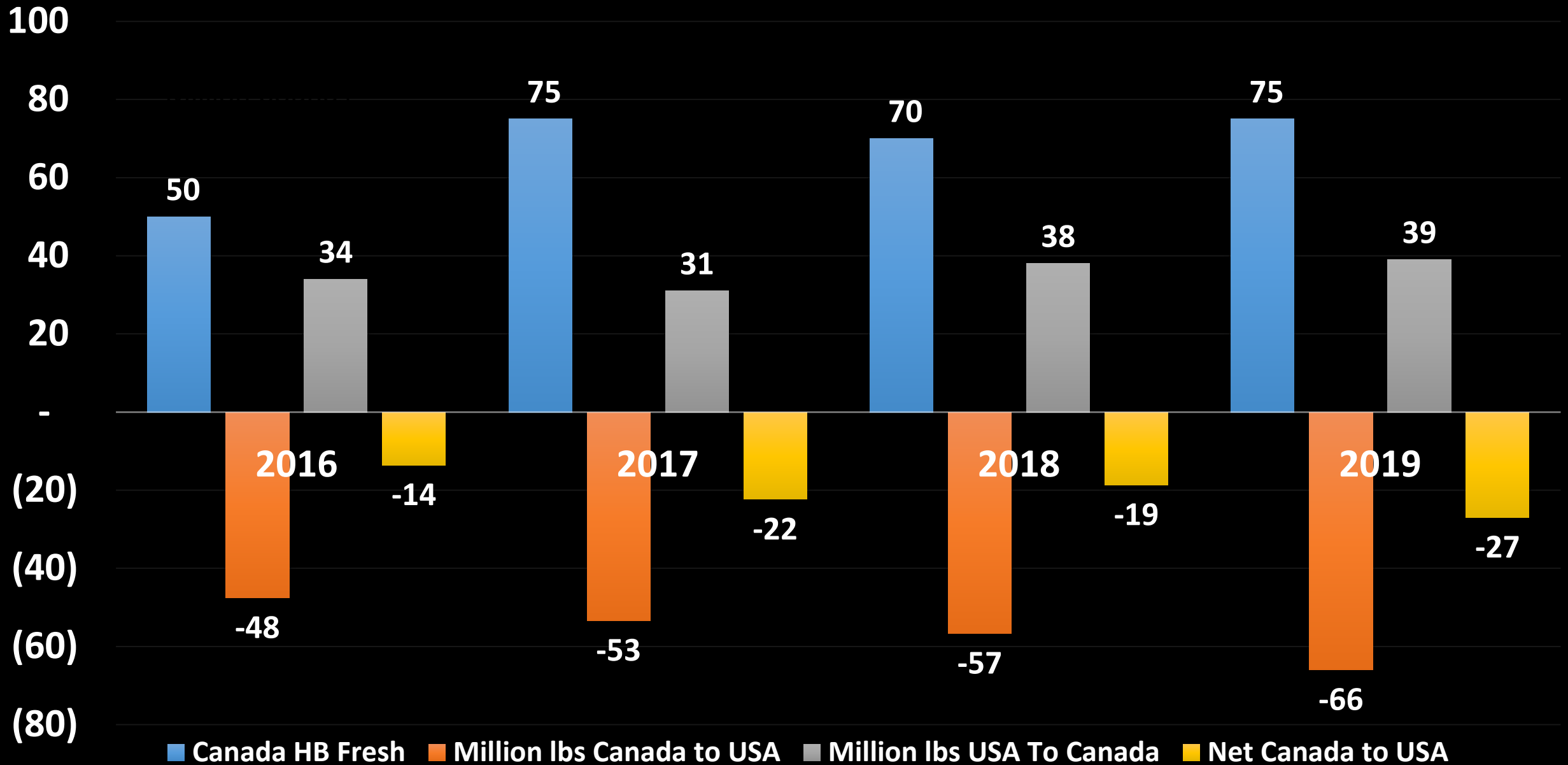
Annual Blueberry Disappearance in US/Canada

Fresh, Fresh Imports, Frozen HB and LB & Frozen Exports

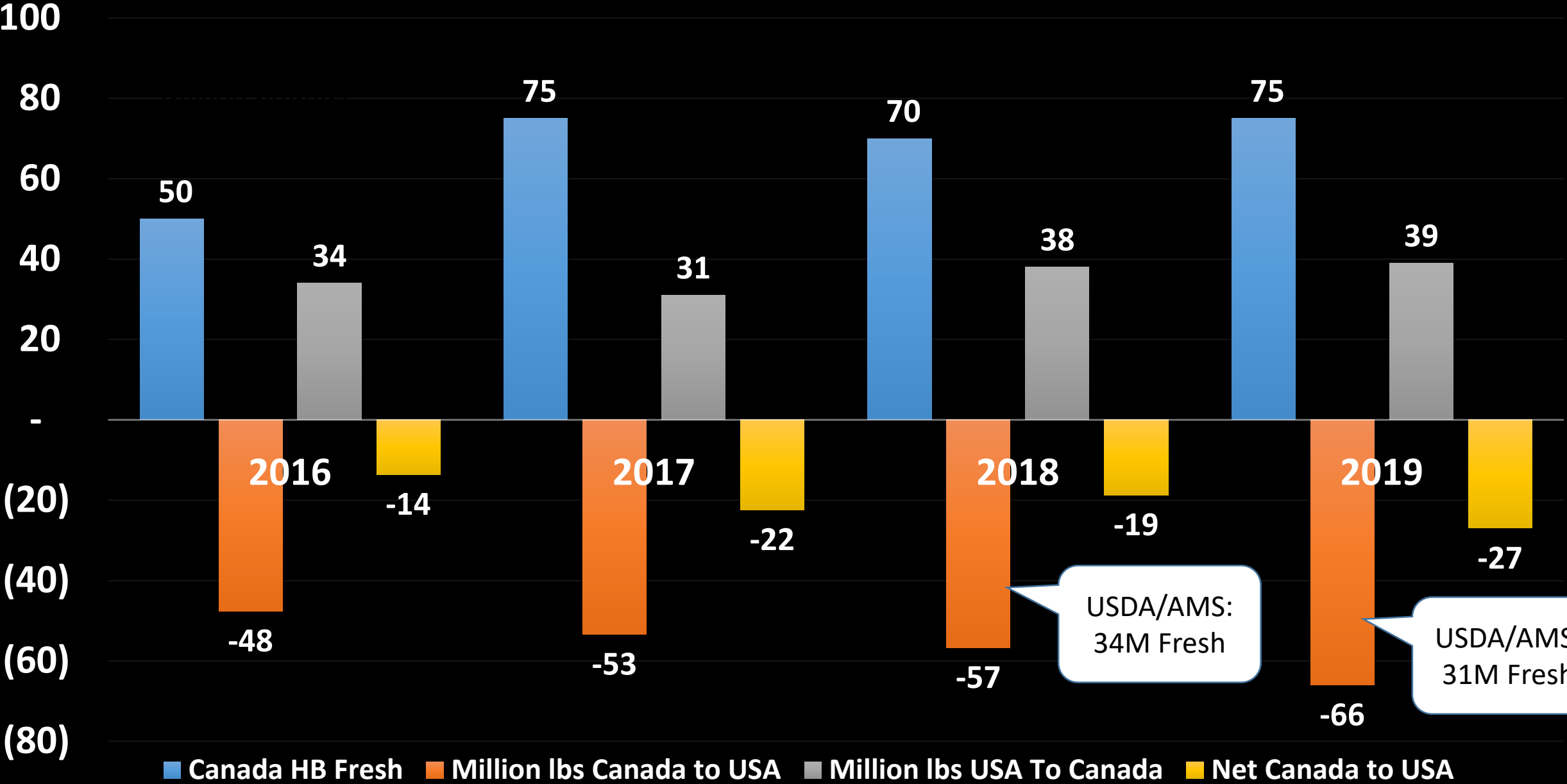
Exports - Million Pounds



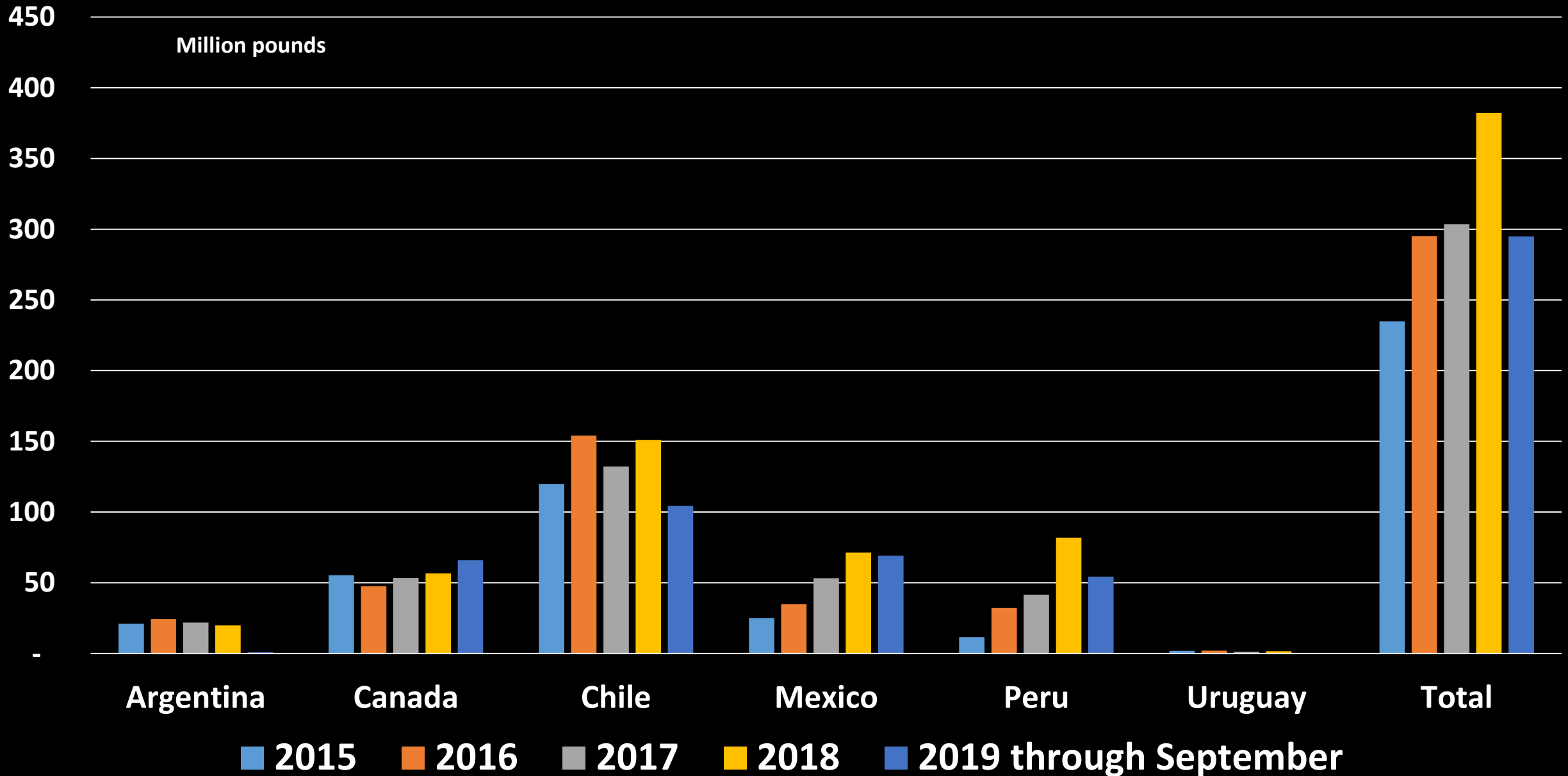
Canada/US Fresh Export/Import Relationships



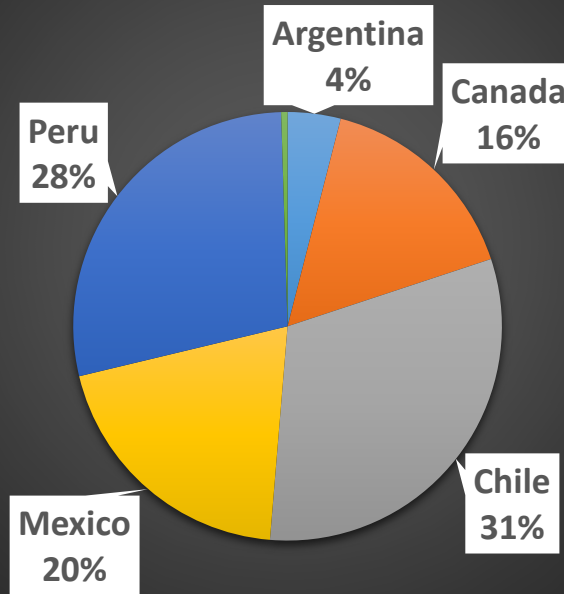
Canada/US Fresh Export/Import Relationships



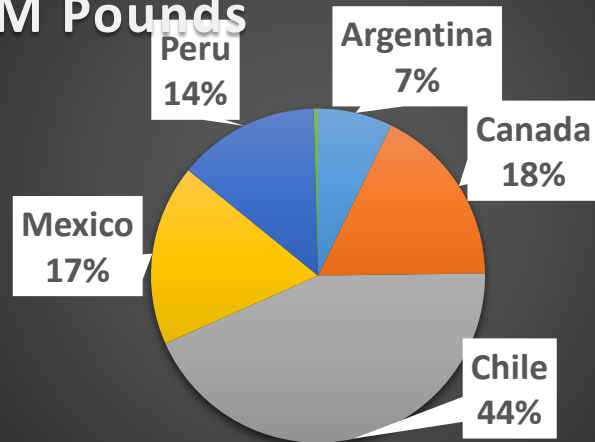
US Imports Fresh HB by Origin and Year



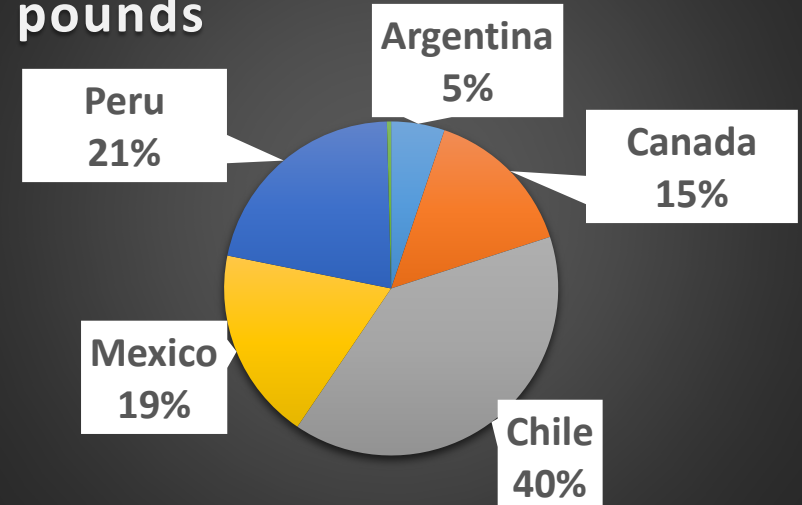
2019 USA Fresh Imports – 446M lbs



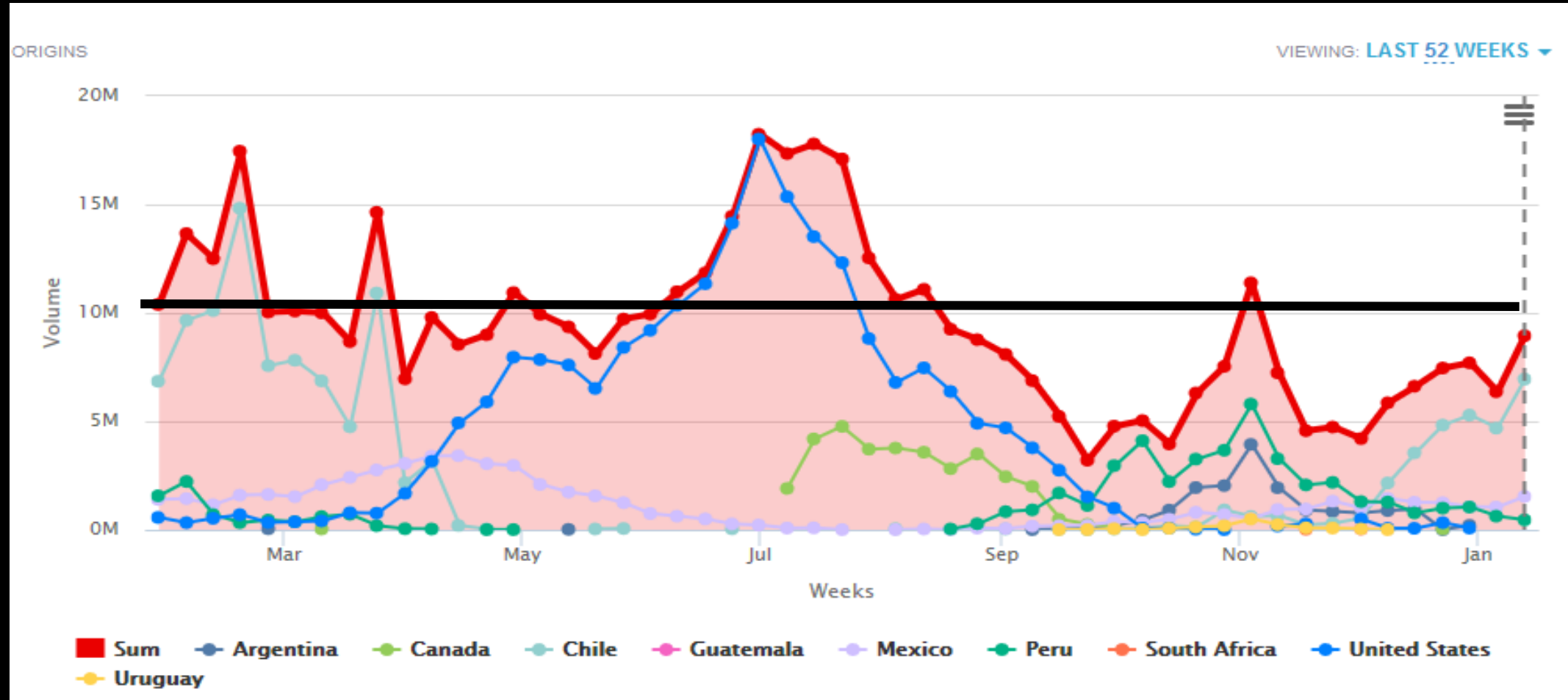
2017 Fresh Imports to USA – 303M Pounds



2018 USA Fresh Imports – 382M pounds

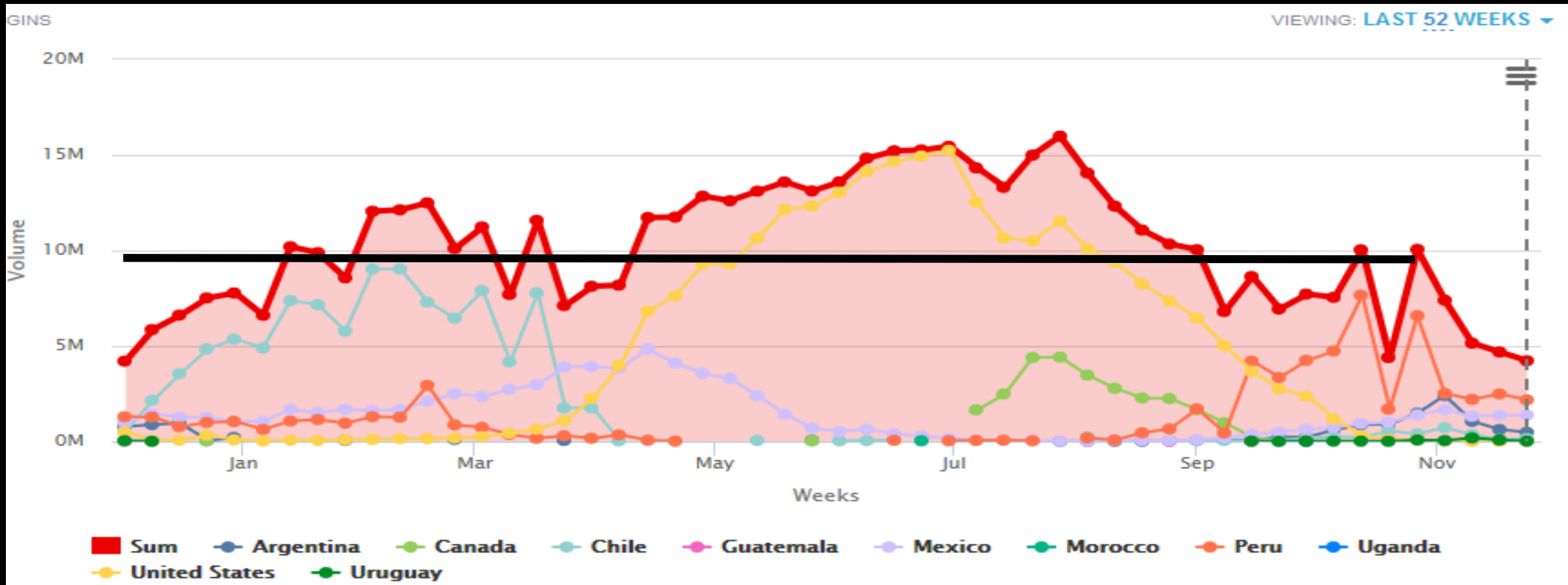


Weekly Fresh Volumes in USA (lbs) Jan 2019



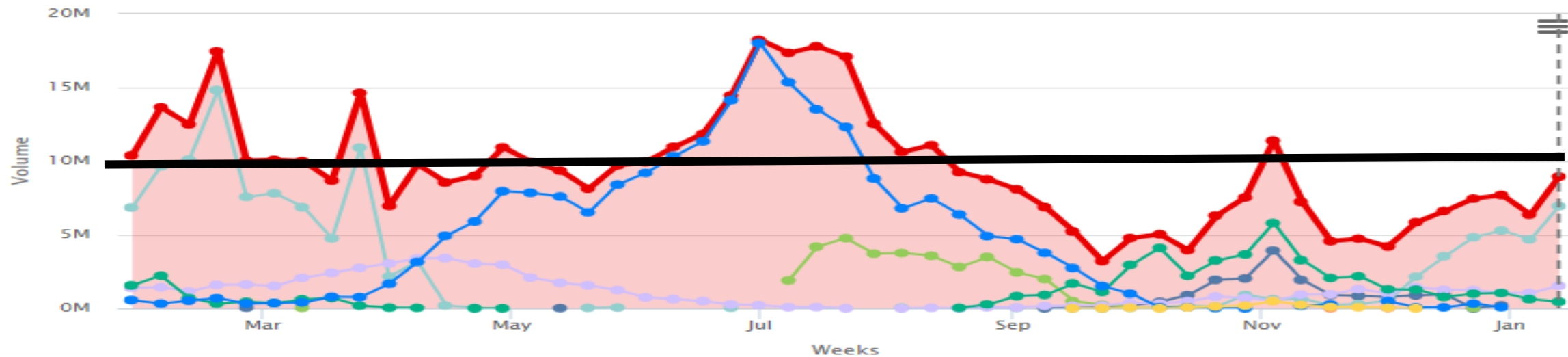
<https://www.internationalblueberry.org/live-stats/>

Weekly Fresh Volumes in USA (lbs) to Nov 19



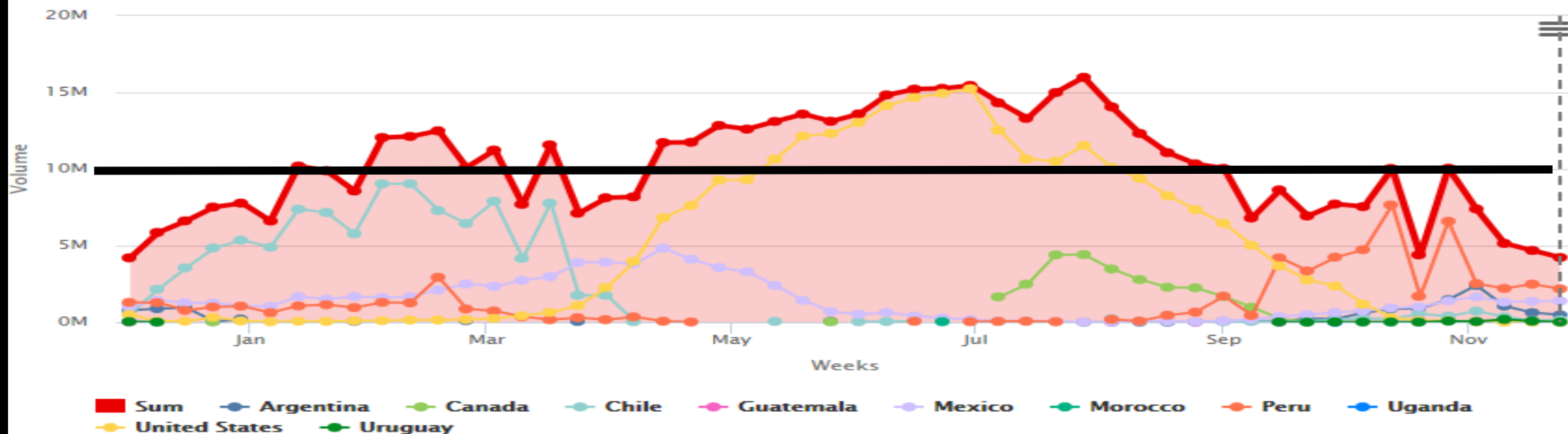
ORIGINS

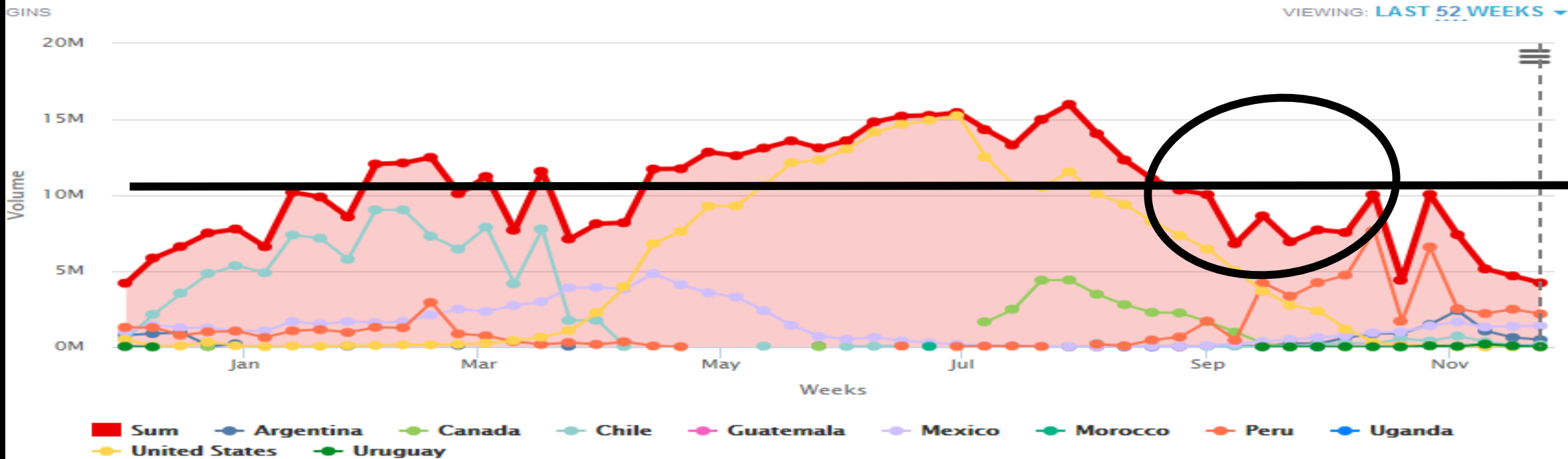
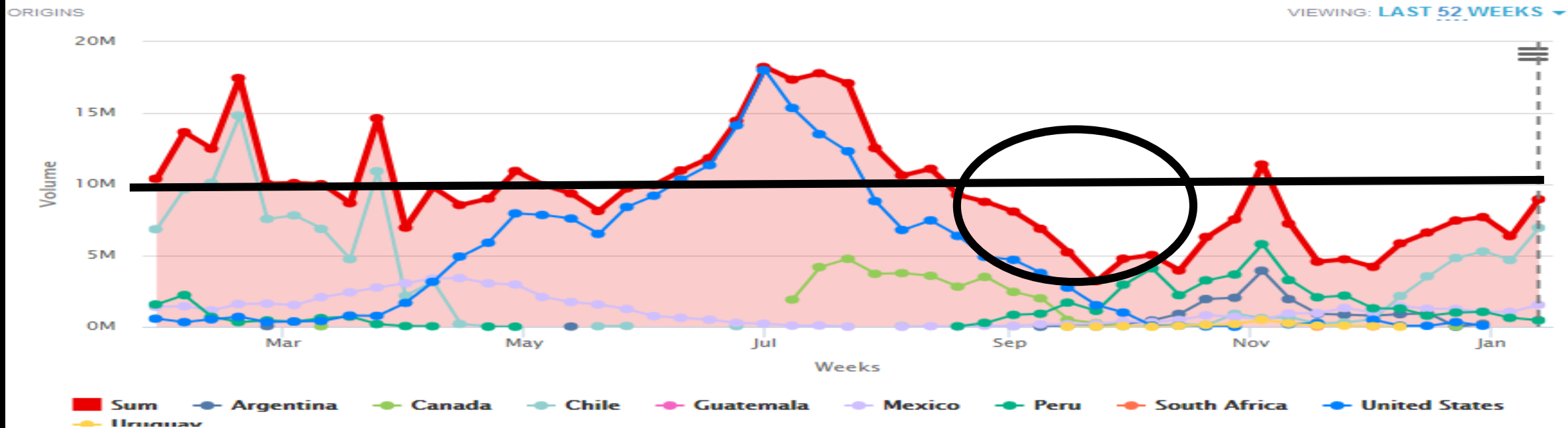
VIEWING: [LAST 52 WEEKS](#)



ORIGINS

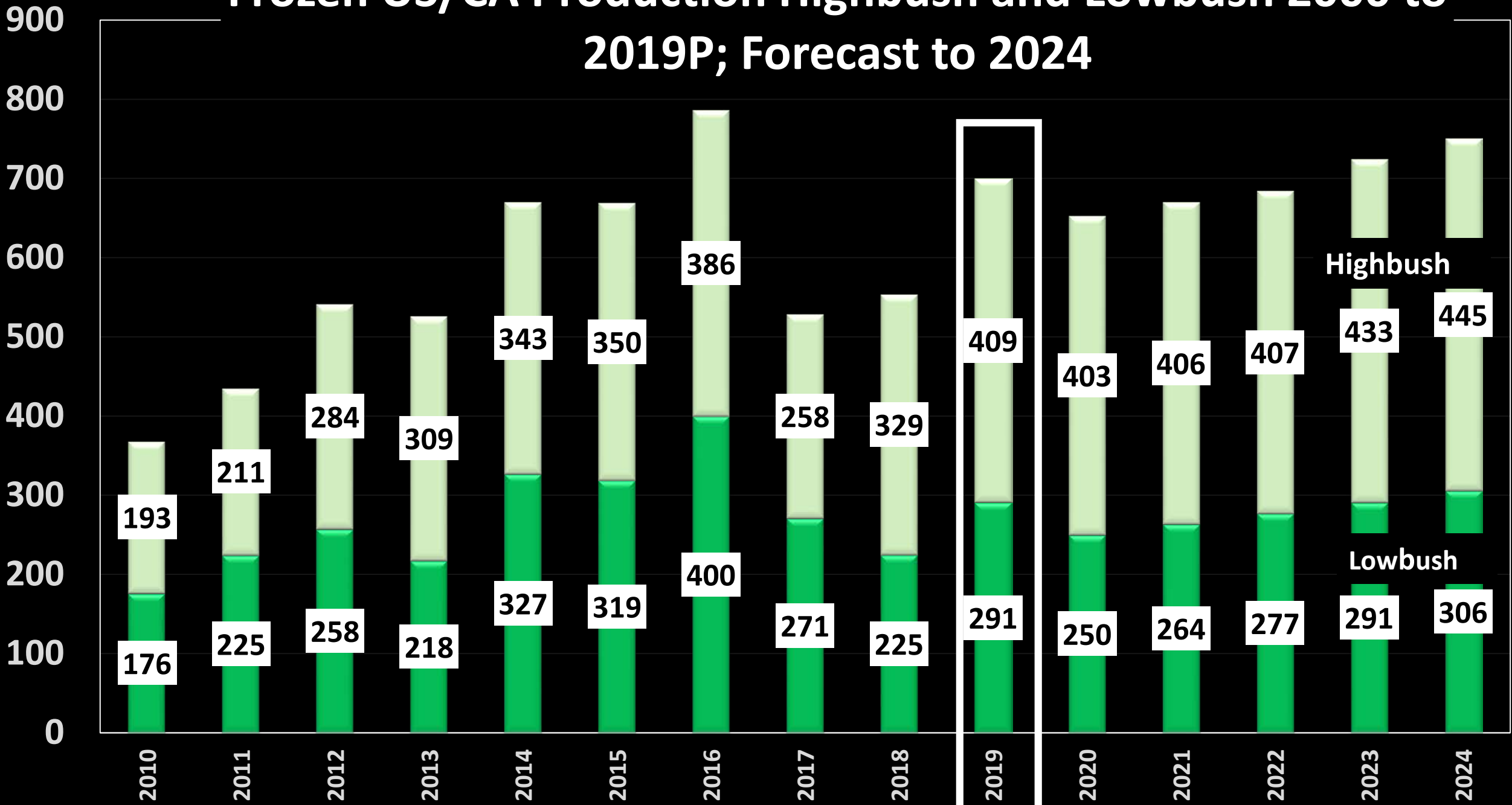
VIEWING: [LAST 52 WEEKS](#)





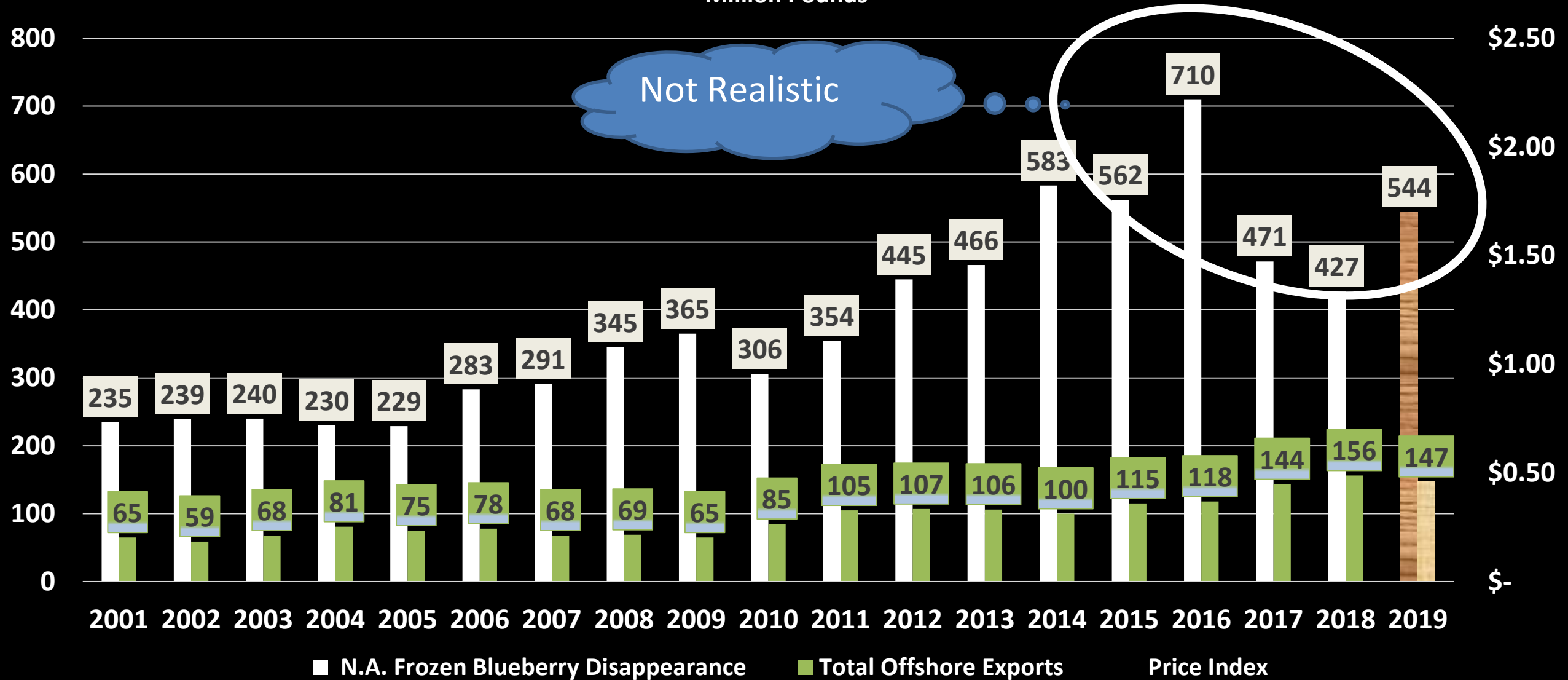
Frozen Pack Considerations

Frozen US/CA Production Highbush and Lowbush 2000 to 2019P; Forecast to 2024



Disappearance of Frozen Blueberries in N.A. and Export with Price Index USDA Cold Storage Only

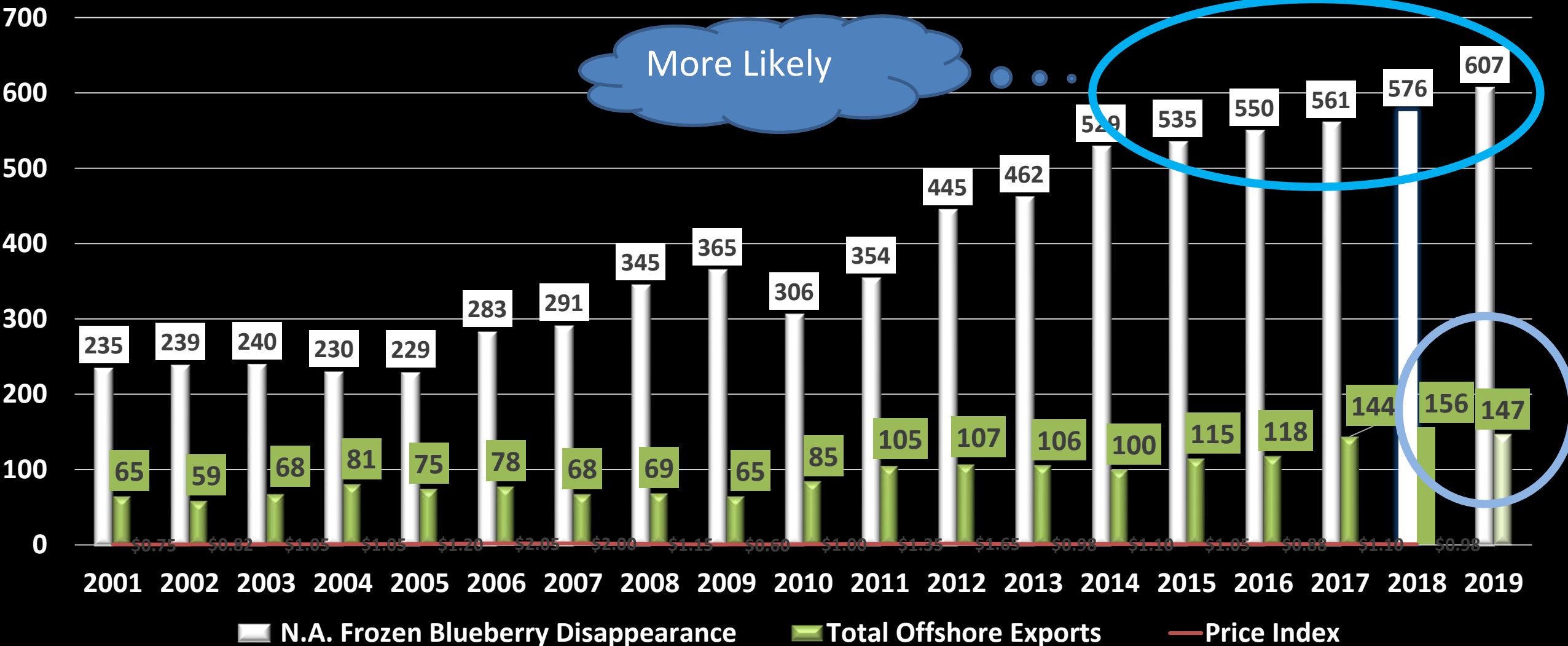
Million Pounds



Disappearance of Frozen Blueberries in N.A. including Export

USDA Cold Storage and Estimate of Private Cold Storage

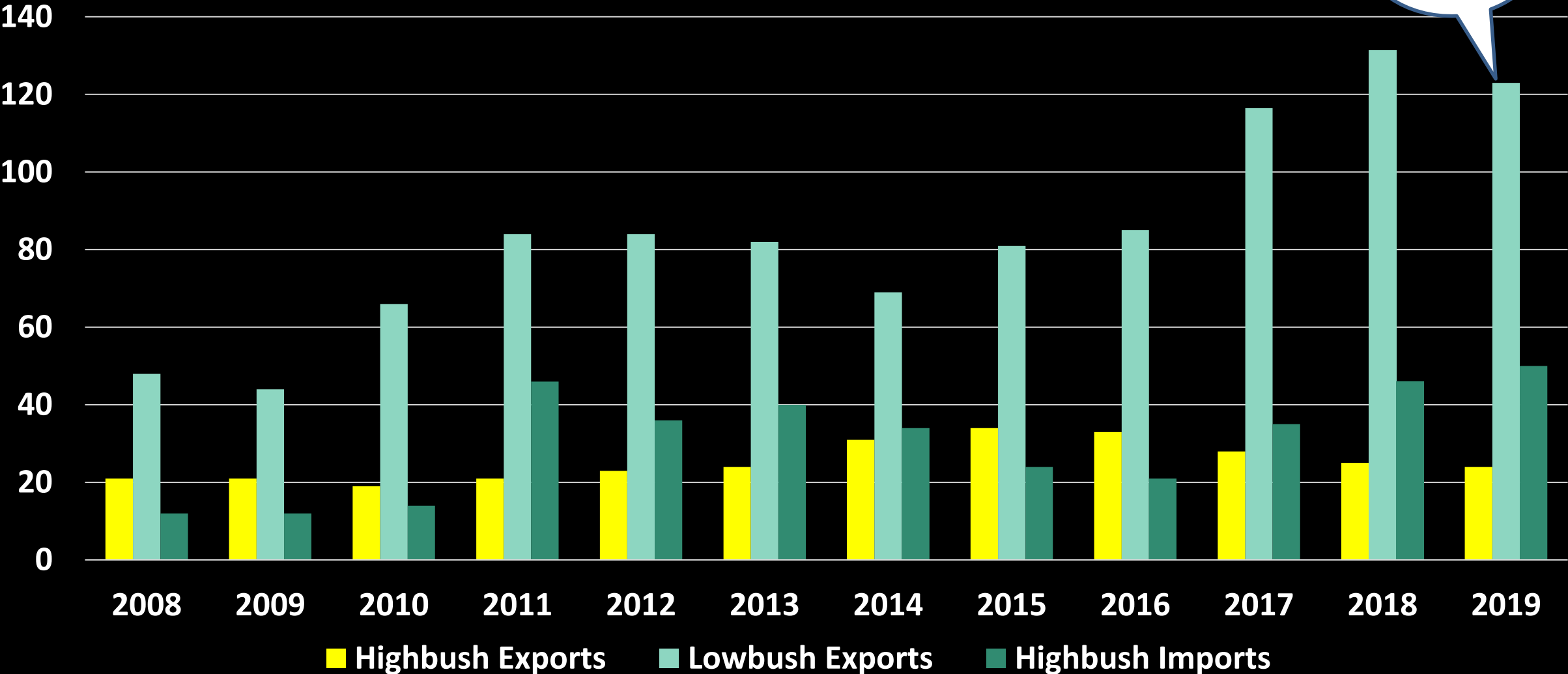
Million Pounds



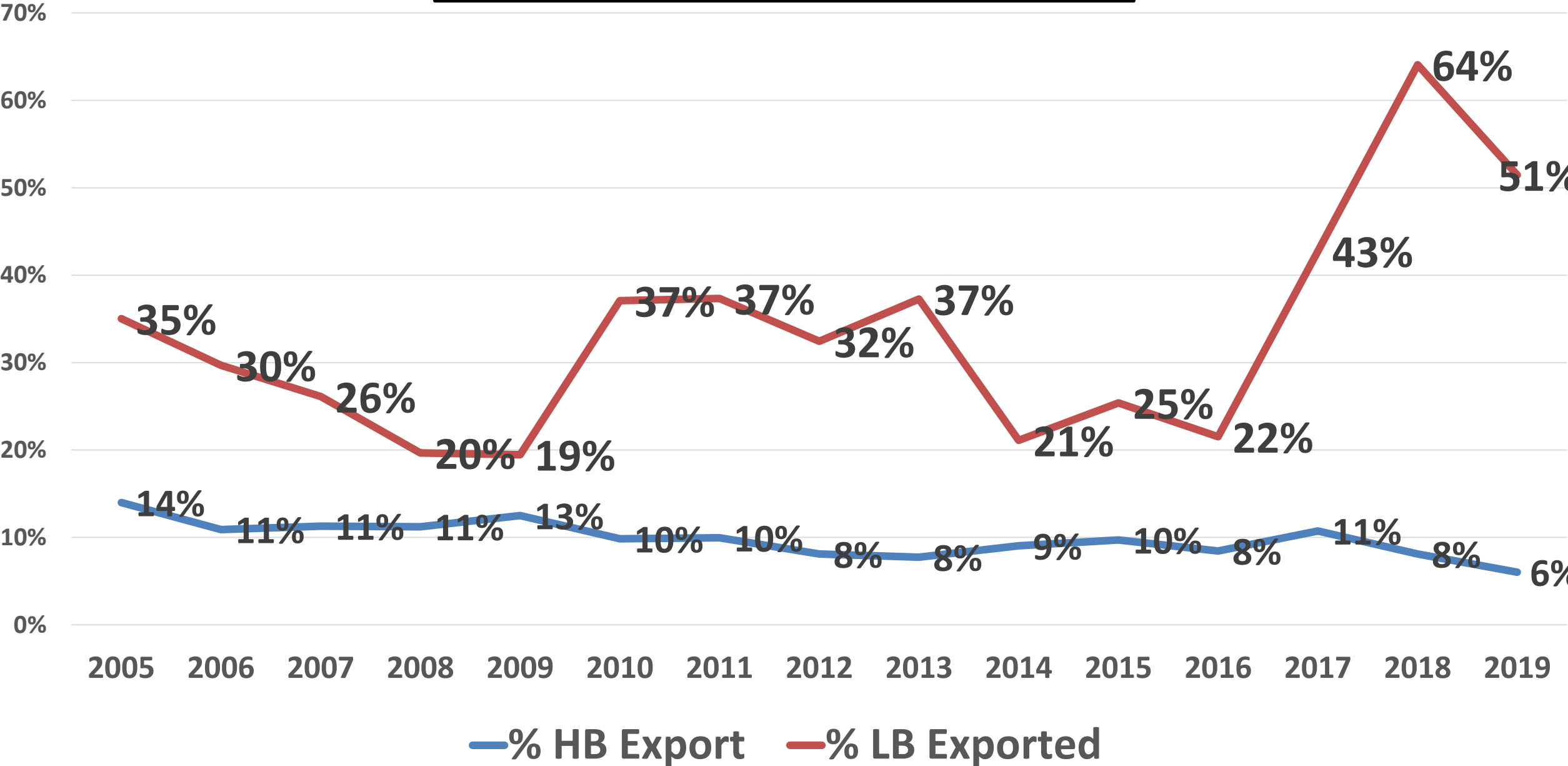
Offshore Frozen Exports - USA/Canada

HB and LB - Million Pounds

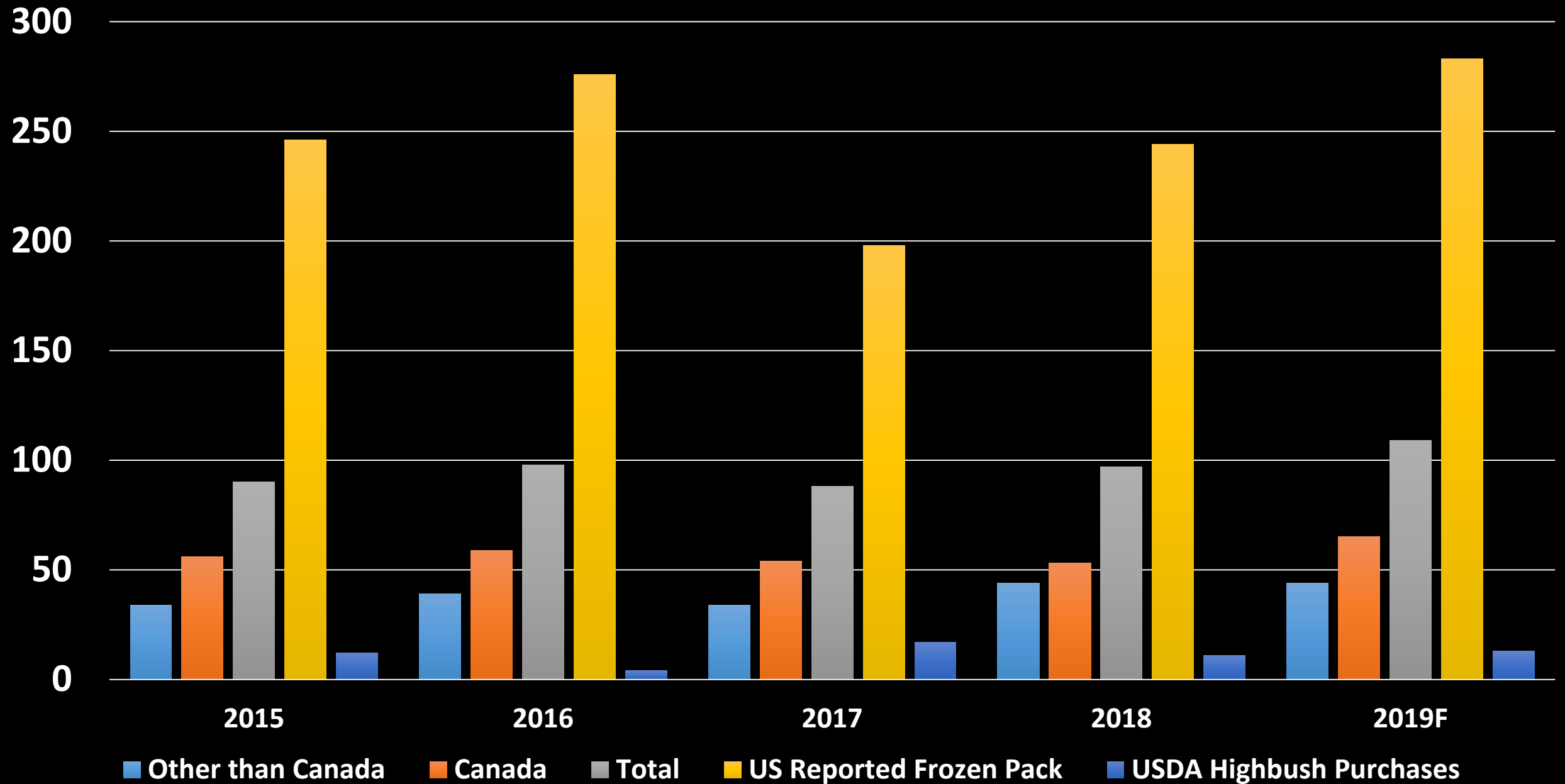
Forecast
for 2019



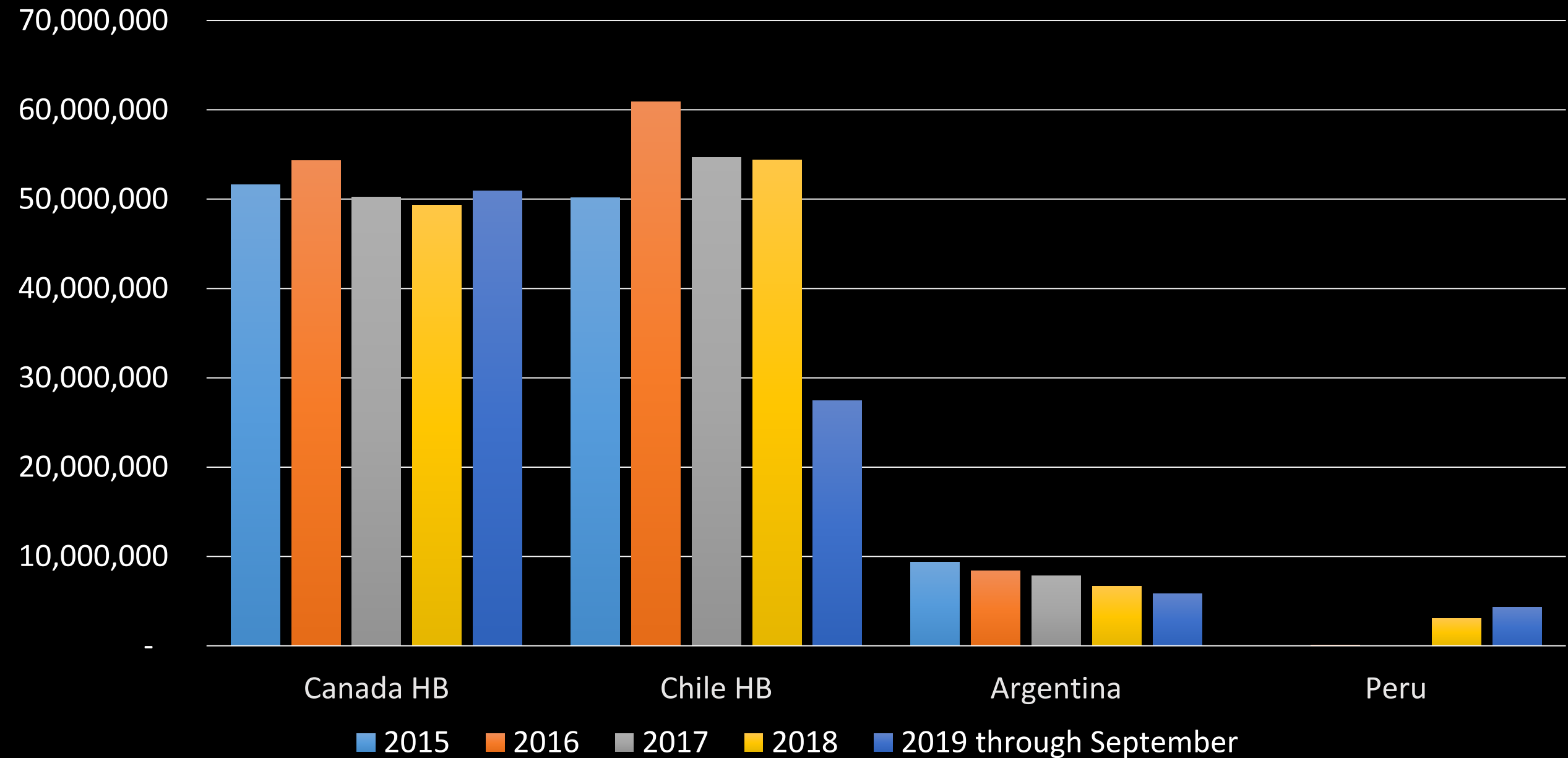
Exports as % of Annual Frozen Production
Million pounds



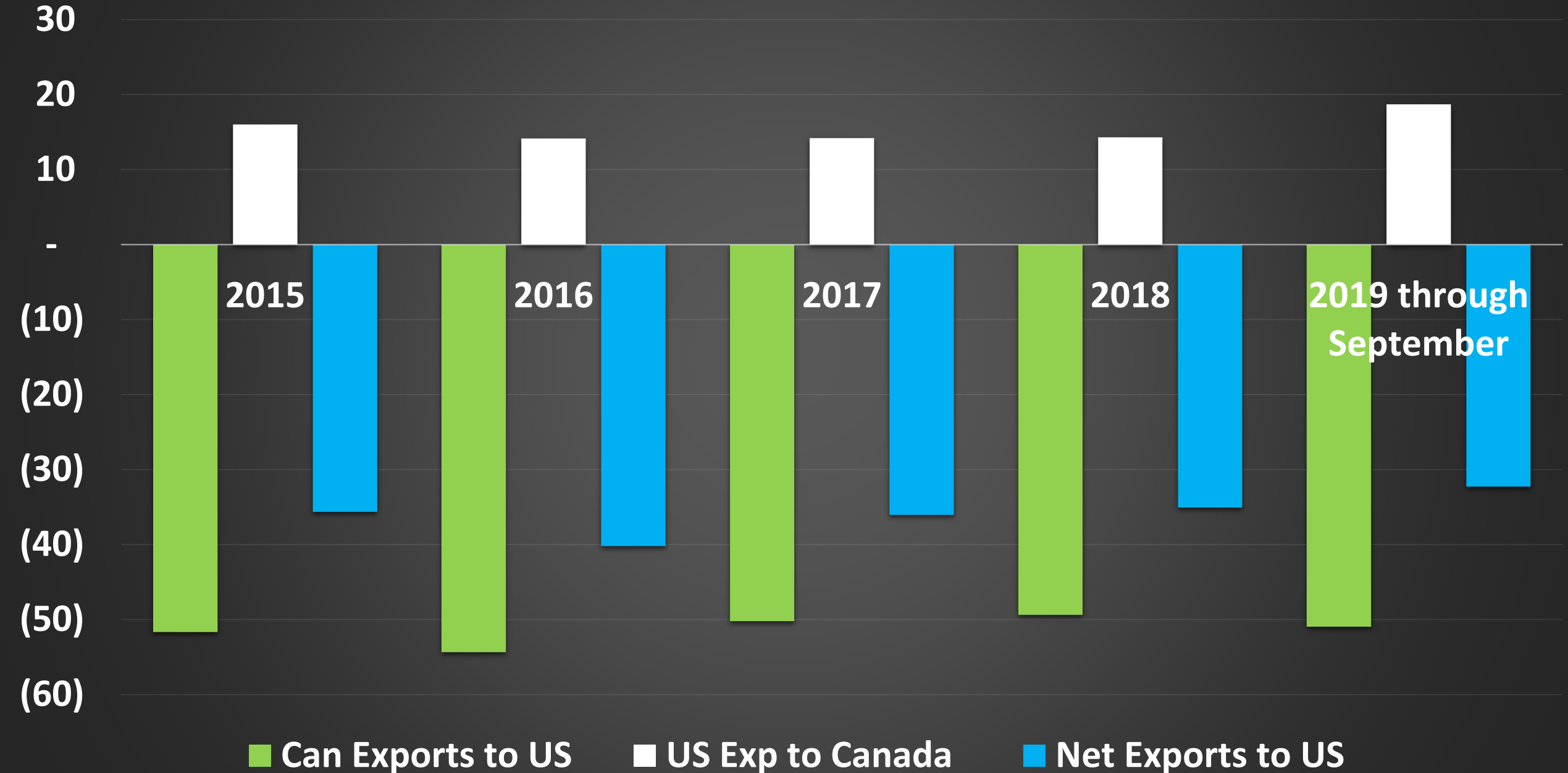
Frozen Highbush Relationships – Imports, USA production and USDA Purchases



US Frozen HB Imports by Origin Country



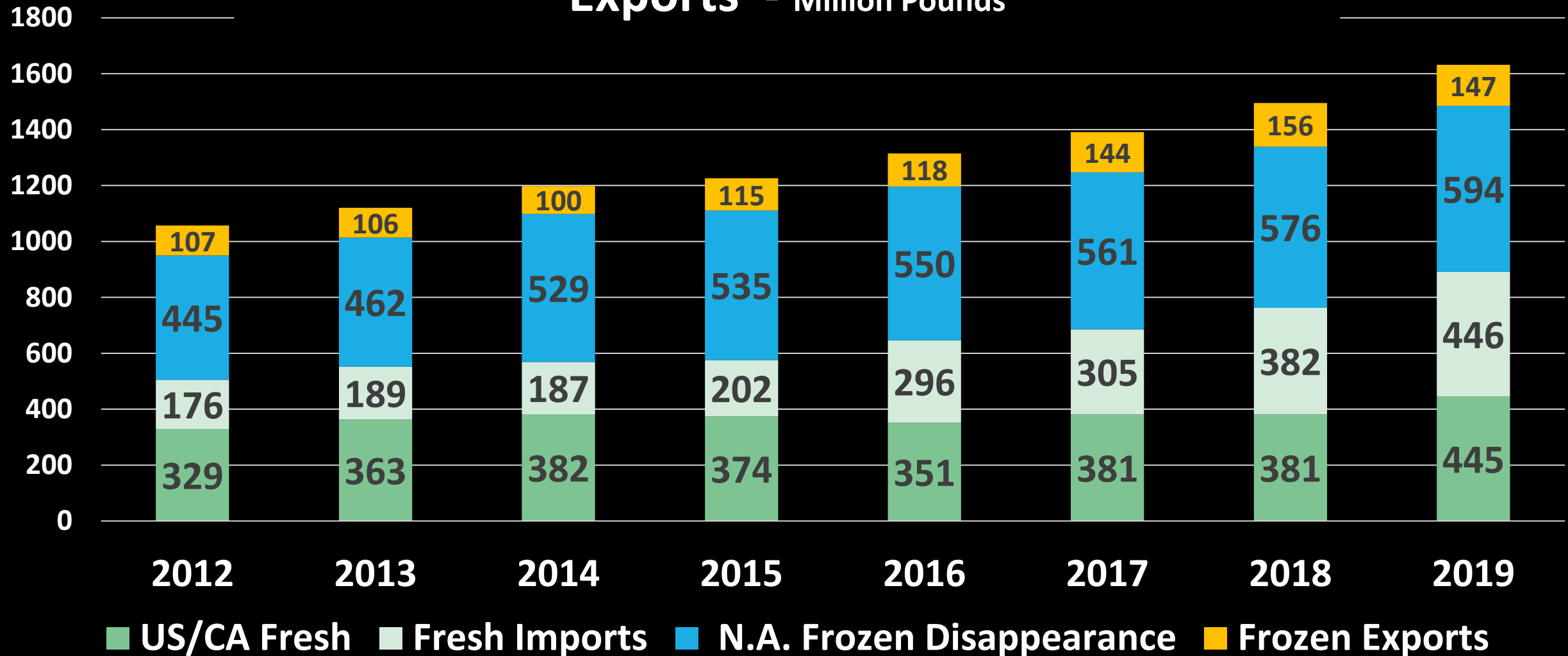
Frozen Highbush Blueberry Trade US/Canada



Annual Blueberry Disappearance in US/Canada

Fresh, Fresh Imports, Frozen HB and LB & Frozen Exports

Exports - Million Pounds



Let's do the Math – US and Canada combined

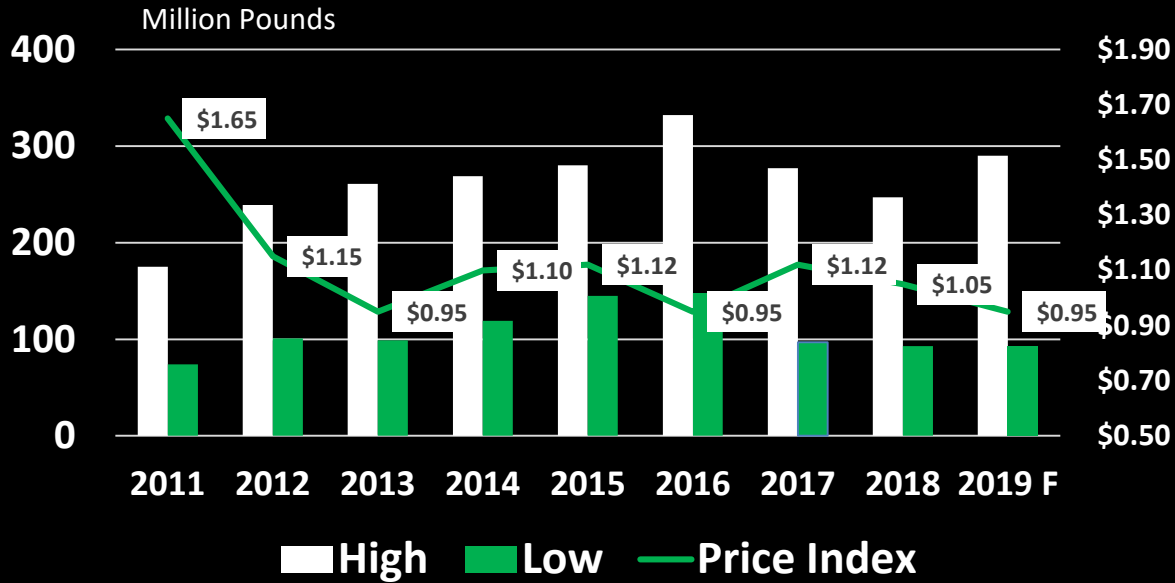
- Frozen Utilized 600M
- Frozen Exported 150M - This is a key
- Total 750M

- Source

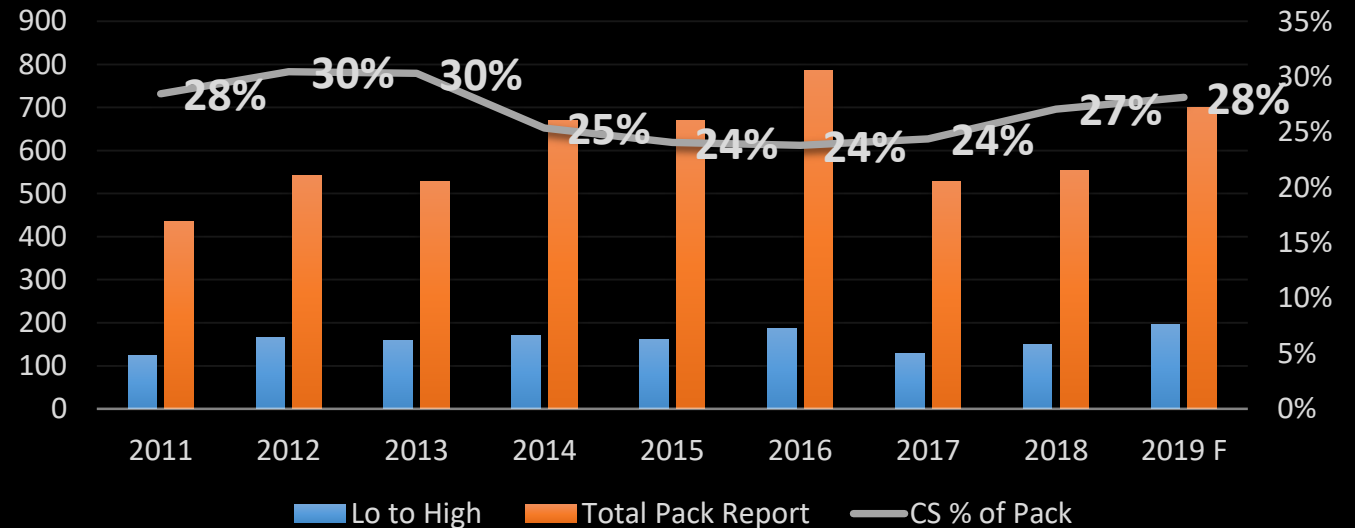
- N.A Production 700M
- Imports, Chile, etc 65M
- Total 765M
- Increase Cold Storage 15M - Forecast June 2020 at 110M +/-

USDA Cold Storage Hi and Lo by Crop Cycle

Price Index - Harvest Time



USDA Cold Storage Lo to High, NA Pack Reported, % "in" of pack

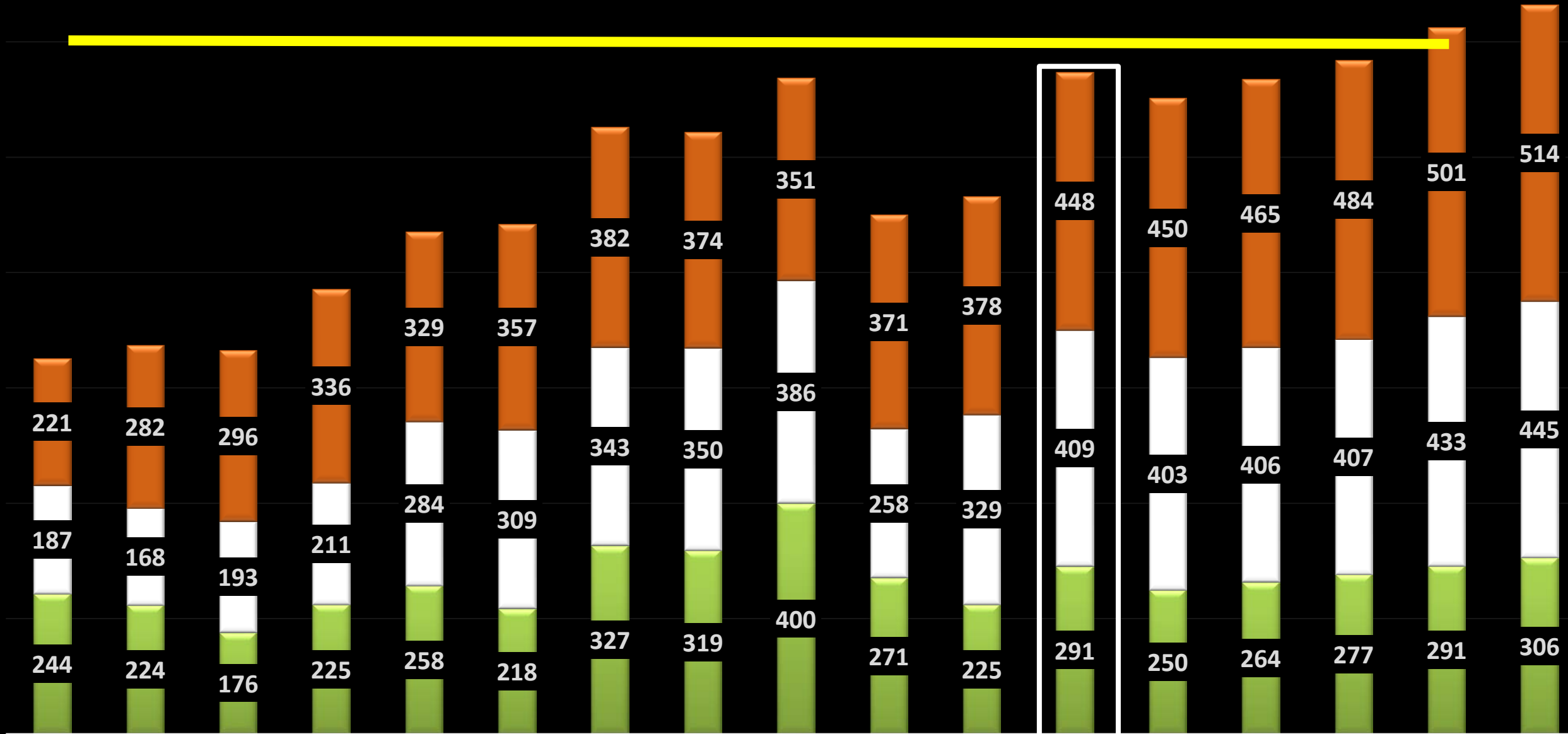


2008-2019, FORECAST TO 2025

■ Lowbush Frozen

■ Highbush Frozen

■ Highbush Fresh



Chile Frozen Blueberry Shipments					
Twelve Months: Jan - Dec					
(Million Pounds)			% OR/Total	\$/pound	
All Destinations	2017	2018	CY % of PY	2017	2018
Conv	53.8	56.9	106%		
Organic	22.8	26.1	115%	30%	31%
Total	76.6	83.0	108%		
Selected Destinations - Conventional			% to US/CA		
USA/Canada	8.2	8.5	104%	15%	15%
SoKorea	3.8	7.8	204%		
Holland/N Euro	9.6	9.5	99%		
Australia/NZ	12.6	11.1	88%		
UK	5.0	4.7	94%		
Japan	2.1	1.9	92%		
China	10.8	11.2	104%		
Russia	0.2	0.2			
Other	1.5	1.9	125%		
Selected Destinations - Organic					
USA/Canada	20.6	24.3	118%	91%	93%
S Korea	0.5	0.1	11%		
Australia	0.8	1.0	131%		
UK	0.0	0.0			
New Zealand	0.6	0.4	69%		
Holl/Bel/Poland	0.3	0.3	106%		
Other	0.0	0.1			
Total Conv and Organics - Selected Destinations					
USA/Canada	28.8	32.8	114%	38%	40%
S Korea	4.3	7.9	183%		
Holland/N Euro	9.6	9.5	99%		
Australia	13.3	12.1	91%		
UK	5.0	4.7	94%		
China	10.8	11.2	104%		
Other	4.4	4.5	102%		
Source: PriComReit Ltda					

Chile Frozen Blueberry Shipments					
Nine Months: Jan - Sept					
				% OR/Total	
All Destinations	2018	2019	CY % of PY	2018	2019
Conv	49.0	45.8	93%		
Organic	23.0	21.3	93%	32%	32%
Total	72.0	67.1	93%		
Selected Destinations - Conventional				% to US/CA	
USA/Canada	7.1	7.4	104%	14%	16%
SoKorea	6.6	5.0	76%		
Holland/N Euro	9.0	6.2	68%		
Australia/NZ	8.4	9.7	116%		
UK	4.4	6.2	142%		
Japan	1.4	1.8	127%		
China	10.7	8.4	78%		
Brazil	0.3	0.5			
Other	1.1	0.6	54%		
Selected Destinations - Organic					
USA/Canada	21.6	19.7	91%	94%	92%
S Korea	0.05	0.1	257%		
Australia	0.8	1.0	137%		
UK	0.0	0.0			
New Zealand	0.3	0.2	88%		
Poland/Belgium	0.3	0.2	75%		
Other	0.0	0.0			
Total Conv and Organics - Selected Destinations					
USA/Canada	28.7	27.1	95%	40%	40%
S Korea	6.6	5.1	77%		
Holland/N Euro	9.0	6.2	68%		
Australia	9.1	10.8	118%		
UK	4.4	6.2	142%		
China	10.7	8.4	78%		
Other	3.2	3.2	100%		
Source: PriComReit Ltda					

2017 & 2018 US/Canada Export Offshore – Highbush and Lowbush

TOTAL U.S. and CANADA Highbush					
12 Months					
Million Pounds	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018
TOTAL	94,810	92,123	-3%	% of Total HB Exports	
U.S. + Canada	67,082	67,141	0%	71%	73%
Balance-other US/Canada	27,728	24,983	-10%	29%	27%
				% of Offshore Export	
Korea, South	6,613	6,735	2%	24%	27%
Japan	10,194	8,899	-13%	37%	36%
Australia	2,486	3,264	31%	9%	13%
Hong Kong + China	809	872	8%	3%	3%
New Zealand	1,493	972	-35%	5%	4%
United Kingdom	1,113	643	-42%	4%	3%
OTHERS	5,019	3,598	-28%	18%	14%

Record Total Exports at 156M, up 12M pounds from 2017. Lowbush share increased from 81% to 84%, a 16M pound increase vs 2017. Highbush declined 3M pounds.

- >67% of Wild/lowbush frozen exports are to Europe. Japan combined HB and LB total 28M pounds is a strong market paying premium prices.

TOTAL U.S. and CANADA Wild					
12 Months					
Million Pounds	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018
TOTAL	176,197	197,541	12%	% of Total LB Exports	
U.S. + Canada	59,723	66,289	11%	34%	34%
Balance	116,474	131,252	13%	66%	66%
				% of Offshore Export	
Germany	30,874	33,392	8%	27%	25%
Japan	16,215	18,905	17%	14%	14%
Poland	9,046	9,862	9%	8%	8%
Belgium	9,933	12,885	30%	9%	10%
Switzerland	5,176	6,705	30%	4%	5%
Hong Kong + China	10,793	10,322	-4%	9%	8%
France	6,776	5,327	-21%	6%	4%
Netherlands	8,733	10,575	21%	7%	8%
United Kingdom	2,600	3,891	50%	2%	3%
Italy	2,120	2,733	29%	2%	2%
Austria	2,302	2,396	4%	2%	2%
South Korea	1,987	1,372	-31%	2%	1%
OTHERS	9,919	12,888	30%	9%	10%
Total NA HB and Wild exported offshore					
	144,202	156,235	8%		
% Highbush	19%	16%			

Nine Months 2018 & 2019 US/Canada Export Offshore – Highbush and Lowbush

TOTAL U.S. and CANADA Highbush					
9 Months - Jan- Sept					
000 Pounds	2018	2019	% Change	2018	2019
TOTAL	68,318	89,830	31%	% of Total HB Exports	
Canada to US	38,014	55,419	46%	56%	62%
US to Canada	10,608	17,973	69%		
Balance Offshore	19,696	16,440	-17%	29%	18%
Korea, South	5,570	4,328	-22%	28%	26%
Japan	7,246	4,970	-31%	37%	30%
Australia	1,722	2,427	41%	9%	15%
Hong Kong + China	731	844	15%	4%	5%
New Zealand	919	1,047	14%	5%	6%
United Kingdom	496	625	26%	3%	4%
Netherlands	496	625		3%	4%
Mexico	255	40	-84%	1%	0%
Chile	145	315	117%	1%	2%
Poland	595	203	-66%	3%	1%
OTHERS	1,504	1,522	1%	8%	9%

TOTAL U.S. and CANADA Wild Exports					
9 Months - Jan- Sept					
000 Pounds	2018	2019	% Change	2018	2019
TOTAL	154,522	173,278	12%	% of Total LB Exports	
U.S. + Canada	54,208	73,764	36%	35%	43%
Balance Offshore	100,313	99,514	-1%	65%	57%
				% of Offshore Exports	
Germany	26,071	26,940	3%	26%	27%
Japan	14,411	15,449	7%	14%	16%
Belgium	7,251	6,803	-6%	7%	7%
Poland	10,915	7,055	-35%	11%	7%
Switzerland	5,904	5,797	-2%	6%	6%
Hong Kong + China	7,424	7,774	5%	7%	8%
France	3,804	6,788	78%	4%	7%
Netherlands	7,326	7,301	0%	7%	7%
United Kingdom	2,642	2,804	6%	3%	3%
Italy	2,240	1,595	-29%	2%	2%
Austria	5,432	6,518	20%		
South Korea	852	282	-67%		
OTHERS	6,041	4,409	-27%	6%	4%
Total NA HB and Wild exported offshore					
	120,009	115,954	-3%		
% Highbush	16%	14%			

Looking Forward Five Years

- **Supply growth exceeding 3% annually – Highbush, Lowbush, Fresh and Frozen**
- **Price stagnation – Supply growing more rapidly than demand**
- **Fresh Import – Rapid growth continue – Mexico – Peru**
 - **Chile less**
- **Exit of high cost acreage and operators**
- **Consolidation – increasing number of large acreage operations**
- **Venture Capital equity funding interest remains, particularly for vertical – growing, processing and distribution**
- **Labor scarce and more costly**

Looking Forward Five Years

- **Robots and technical advance in all segments**
- **Food safety protocol validation and transparent**
- **More regulation, SLO – “Social License to Operate”**
- **HB Export Growth – Fresh or Frozen – will be painfully slow**
- **Export of Wild to Europe – must be retained and grow**
- **Organic Production – Fresh and frozen market channels**
 - **Supply growing MUCH more rapidly than demand**
 - **Price premium sharply narrowing.**

US Highbush Blueberry Council

- **President Kasey Cronquist**
 - **Energized**
 - **Evaluation of spend and outcome**
 - **Agency relationships under intense review**
 - **Just announced new agency to drive Food Service sales**
 - **SRG – Boulder CO**
 - **Mission – to drive volume sales timed to peak supply periods**
- **Encourage to participate – Great meeting in Pasco in October, see you in Washington DC in March**

Credits and Thank you!!

- **Naturipe Value Added Foods LLC**
- **USDA Cold Storage Reports**
- **Statistics Canada**
- **US Bureau of Census – USA Trade Online**
- **Agrometrics.com – Colin Fain**
- **Many industry colleagues willing to share**

Annual Disappearance of Frozen Blueberries

- **Disappearance – the quantity no longer apparent in the supply pipeline**
- **Calculation: Carry-in + Production + Imports – Exports – Carry-out = disappearance**
- **Will look at**
 - **Frozen utilized in US/Canada**
 - **Frozen exported offshore – Lowbush and highbush**
 - **Fresh and Frozen in US/Canada**

2019 Frozen Prices (Feb 2019)

- **May 2019 Cold Storage Stock forecast - lowest since 2011 – combined Public and private**
- **Anticipate stronger price for “in-season” contracts**
- **Lowbush production will increase as price advances, therefore limiting the price advance**
- **Lowbush prices lower than highbush large blueberries**
- **Highbush new and maturing production assure growth**
- **My prediction – if frozen pack returns to 650 million pounds or more, post season prices will stagnant.**

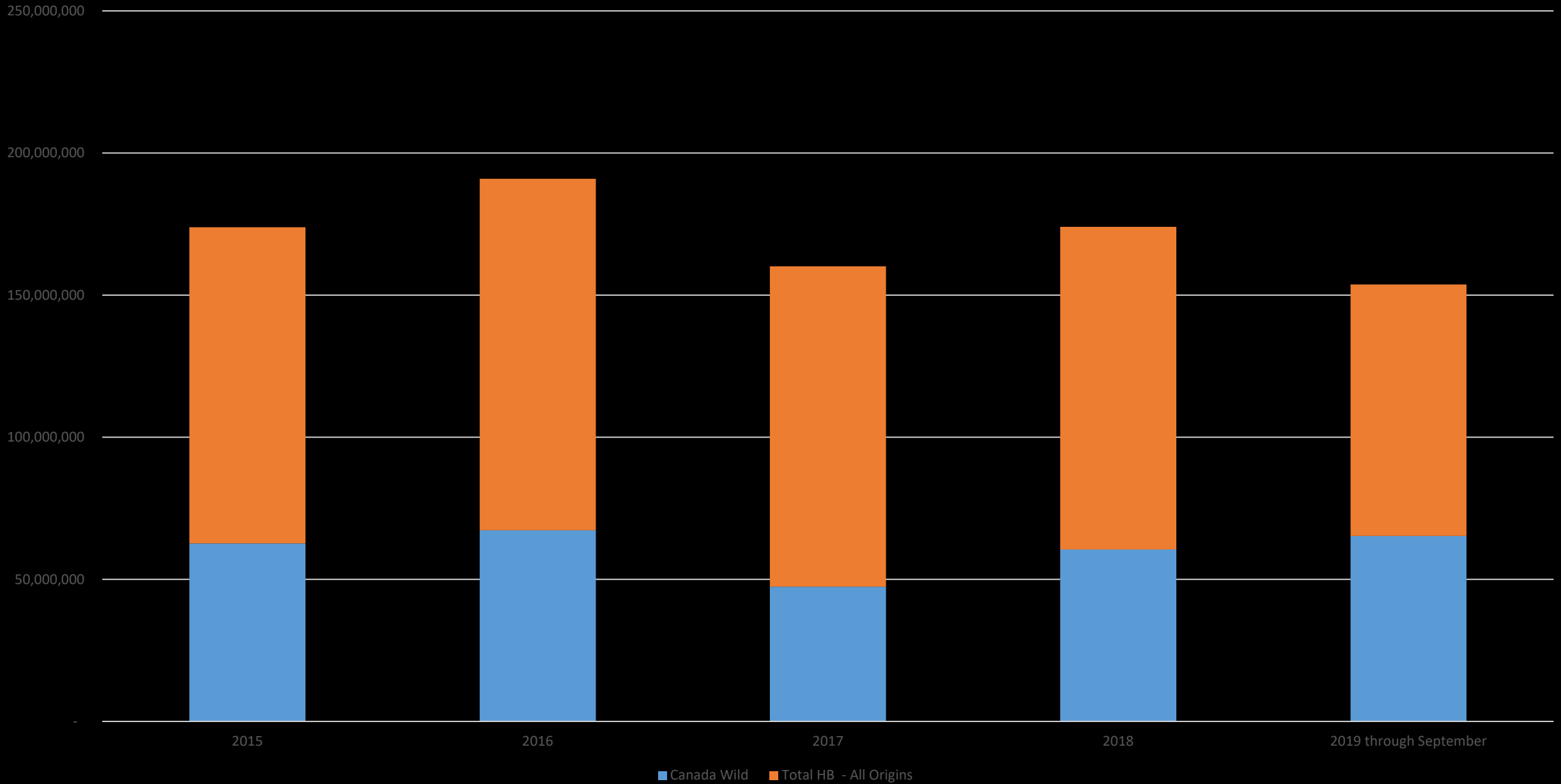
2019 Frozen Prices (Feb 2019)

- May 2019 Cold Storage Stock forecast - lowest since 2011 – combined Public and private – DID NOT ACHIEVE – 20m HIGHER
- Anticipate stronger price for “in-season” contracts – +++
- Lowbush production will increase as price advances, therefore limiting the price advance – prices advance to \$1.05-\$1.15
- Lowbush prices lower than highbush large blueberries – **Did not occur**
- Highbush new and maturing production assure growth - Yes
- My prediction – if frozen pack returns to 650 million pounds or more, post season prices will stagnant. Total 2019 pack Prelim report at 637M, predict finally number will be greater than 650M and prices stagnant.

Why Stagnant Frozen price?

- **Abundant supply**
- **Storage levels the portion of supply offered**
- **2019 Lowbush harvest greater than forecast -**
- **Fresh import growth – taking “share of stomach” that may displace frozen sales**
- **Frozen pack will continue to grow – restraint is economic, not bearing surface or horticultural practices – weather impact**
- **Growth limited by declining margins – increased costs**

US Frozen Imports LB and HB Totals



Frozen Highbush Imports into USA by Source

