

# E. coli crisis forces vegetable prices down

The European Commission has raised its offer of aid to farmers hit by the E. coli outbreak to €210m, or 50% of market prices. Farmers say the epidemic is costing fruit and vegetable producers €417 million a week

Cucumbers  
**€0.15 per kg**  
Fall since May 1  
**79%**

Tomatoes  
**€0.13 per kg**  
Fall since May 1  
**78%**

Lettuce  
**€0.05 per kg**  
Fall since May 1  
**93%**

EU trade in fresh fruit and vegetables is worth around **€2.5 billion per week**

 **Spain** Exported 449,600 tonnes of cucumbers worth €3.73 billion in 2010. Lost revenue: Up to **€225 million per week**


 **Italy** EU's largest vegetable producer harvested 13.7m tonnes in 2009. Lost revenue: Up to **€100 million per week**

 **Netherlands**  
**€50 million per week**

 **France**  
**€30 million per week**

 **Germany**  
**€20 million per week**

 **Belgium**  
**€4 million per week**

 **Portugal**  
**€3 million per week**

 **Poland:**  
**€1.4 million per week**