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## THE CHARTIST

FOOD  
FOR  
THOUGHT

**ONION HOAGIES, ANYONE?** Food prices are hitting record highs, and that could spell trouble for restaurants and fast-food chains. Major chains like Subway are more insulated than most, thanks to their collective buying power and long-term contracts—which is why the Cold Cut Combo pictured below, one of Subway's "\$5 Footlongs," still costs \$5. Small businesses and international consumers, however, might not be so lucky; the price of lettuce has nearly quadrupled, thanks to freezes in the Southwest (onions weren't affected). Another boost to Subway: Many of its featured footlongs contain no beef (up 19% in a year). In fact, both the "salami" and "ham" in the Cold Cut Combo are actually turkey (but even that is up almost 15%). —*Anne VanderMey*

THE PERCENTAGE  
CHANGE IN  
GOVERNMENT-  
REPORTED  
WHOLESALE  
PRICES, FROM  
FEBRUARY 2010  
TO FEBRUARY  
2011 (LATEST DATA  
AVAILABLE)

+ 289.8%  
LETTUCE

+ 29.6%  
CUCUMBERS

+ 145%  
GREEN PEPPERS

+ 84.7%  
TOMATOES

+ 1.1%  
PROCESSED CHEESE

- 11.1%  
ONIONS

+ 14.7%  
PROCESSED TURKEY

SOURCES: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS; MALCOLM KNAOP, AMERICAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION; THE FOOD INSTITUTE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; TECHNOLOGIC; SUBWAY RESTAURANT FRANCHISES