

**PMAC weekly update 22nd to 29th August**

 **International news**

This weeks’ edition contains information on:

GAIN reports; USDA to invest up to $300 million in new organic transition initiative, Which countries have experienced the greatest increase in fruit and vegetable prices in 2022?, US and Taiwan announce trade deal negotiations, defying Chinese warnings, Vietnam: Imported Chinese fruits no longer disguised as Australian and American produce, Extreme weather set to cut European topfruit crop, Southern European solar greenhouses adapt their production to new consumption habits



**Comment**

* 1. **GAIN reports**

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. With regard to import regulations for a particular market New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site. These are collated specifically for New Zealand product. However, the Gain reports often provide additional information that is useful e.g., on grading and labelling, economic profiles. To see the full report, click on the link in each notification This week see:

1. **China Retail Annual Report** [China Retail Annual Report\_Shanghai ATO\_China - People's Republic of\_CH2022-0088](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=China%20Retail%20Annual%20Report_Shanghai%20ATO_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0088)
2. **Germany Product Brief Fresh Fruit** [Product Brief Fresh Fruit\_Berlin\_Germany\_GM2022-0024](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Product%20Brief%20Fresh%20Fruit_Berlin_Germany_GM2022-0024)
3. **Japan Sets New 2030 Targets for Green Food System Strategy** The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries released 2030 targets for its “Green Food System Strategy,” including a 10.6 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, a 20 percent reduction in use of chemical fertilizers, and a 10 percent reduction in use of chemical pesticides. MAFF previously set both 2030 and 2050 targets for other key performance indicators, including electrification of agricultural equipment, expansion of organic production, and consideration of sustainability for imported food and agricultural products.
4. [Japan Sets New 2030 Targets for Green Food System Strategy \_Tokyo\_Japan\_JA2022-0063](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20Sets%20New%202030%20Targets%20for%20Green%20Food%20System%20Strategy%20_Tokyo_Japan_JA2022-0063)
5. **Japan 250th Food Safety Group** Outlines proposed revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 9 agricultural chemicals (Fosthiazate, Mepanipyrim, Pyrifluquinazon, Tolclofos-methyl, Diaveridine, Glycalpyramide, Sulfathiazole, Tiopronin and Enramycin) for various agricultural commodities. [Japan 250th Food Safety Group\_Tokyo\_Japan\_JA2022-0066](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20250th%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_JA2022-0066)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. [USDA to invest up to $300 million in new organic transition initiative](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9452364/usda-to-invest-up-to-300-million-in-new-organic-transition-initiative/)

# According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, the number of non-certified organic farms actively transitioning to organic production has dropped by nearly 71 percent since 2008. Through the comprehensive support provided by this initiative, USDA hopes to reverse this trend, opening opportunities for new and beginning farmers and expanding direct consumer access to organic foods through increased production

* 1. [Which countries have experienced the greatest increase in fruit and vegetable prices in 2022?](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9453488/which-countries-have-experienced-the-greatest-increase-in-fruit-and-vegetable-prices-in-2022/)

Picodi.com analysts have drawn up a ranking of the countries where the average price of the most popular fruits and vegetables increased the most in 2022. The list includes potato, tomato, onion, lettuce, orange, banana, and apple prices in a total of 94 countries. *A chart is provided in this article which shows New Zealand has had the 12th highest increase*

* 1. [US and Taiwan announce trade deal negotiations, defying Chinese warnings](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9452068/us-and-taiwan-announce-trade-deal-negotiations-defying-chinese-warnings/)

The United States and Taiwan have announced they will begin trade deal negotiations this fall, defying the latest threats from Bejing after a top-level US congressional visits to the island.

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. [Vietnam: Imported Chinese fruits no longer disguised as Australian and American produce](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9453764/vietnam-imported-chinese-fruits-no-longer-disguised-as-australian-and-american-produce/)

Vietnam is a big exporter of fruits to China but its imports of Chinese fruit have also increased sharply every year. For a long time, Chinese fruits were only traded at wholesale markets, and were sold in the retail market as Vietnamese or products from Australia, the US, Japan or Korea.

Now, traders don’t hesitate to tell their customers about the Chinese origin of their fruits. The most popular products include Beijing peaches, Yunnan grapes, Chinese red apples. Traders also describe the growing area as well as the Chinese product quality.

* 1. [Extreme weather set to cut European topfruit crop](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/extreme-weather-set-to-cut-european-topfruit-crop/246999.article)

Drought conditions in Europe are expected to slash apple and pear volumes this season, with squeezed growers hoping for better prices as a result. The continued heat and extreme drought being experienced across much of Europe are likely to lead to the downward revision of this season’s apple and pear production forecasts delivered at Prognosfruit earlier this month.

France, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands all face water shortages, riverbeds are drying out across the continent and arid conditions are severely affecting energy production, agriculture and river transportation.



* 1. [Southern European solar greenhouses adapt their production to new consumption habits](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9453190/southern-european-solar-greenhouses-adapt-their-production-to-new-consumption-habits/)

Ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables, mini and seedless watermelons, organic produce, and gourmet tomatoes are just some of the trends demanded by shoppers.