

UPDATE: 07 March 2023

Kia ora

In this update, growers and exporters in cyclone-affected regions move to reassure overseas customers as the clean up and recovery gets underway, and estimates of the damage start to be totalled up. With adverse weather and other events disrupting supplies of fresh produce globally, supporting local producers and food security are becoming a common catch cry of governments. Meanwhile supermarkets and retailers signal their own expectations on worker conditions in the supply chain and the method of transportation. You’ll find new items on these well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last two weeks

* Chile has been updated in: section 2.3 to clarify this requirement and include the new link to the ONZPR database; section 2.4 Quarantine Pests to include High plains virus (HPV); and section 4.4.1 Seeds, grains and nuts for sowing to add *Raphanobrassica* spp. and include additional declaration for *Zea mays*. [ICPR Chile](https://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/629)
* Philippines has been updated with a cross reference in section 3.1.1 and an additional declaration for *Prunus avium* (cherry) under section 4.1.1 Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. [ICPR Philippines](https://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/678)
* Great Britain has been updated in: sections 2.4 Phytosanitary Certificates; section 3.4 Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage; section 4.2 Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage; and section 4.4 Seed, Grain and Nuts for Sowing - the note for *Capsicum spp*. and *Solanum lycopersicum*.

A sentence has also been removed under section 2.3.1 Exemption for prohibited items (Scientific license/Letter of Authority). [ICPR Great Britain](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39653)

## Consultations

#### Improving Economic Resilience to Supply Chain Disruptions

The outlook for supply chains is not a simple return to pre-pandemic operations. Global trends indicate that disruptions are likely to be more frequent. In response, governments of most advanced economies, including New Zealand, have started to explore policy options for enhancing economic resilience – the capacity of industries and communities to anticipate, prepare, absorb, recover and learn from supply chain disruptions.

The Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into the resilience of the New Zealand economy to supply chain disruptions. An “Improving Economic Resilience’ Issues Paper was launched on the 28 February 2023 and submissions are invited on the issues paper until 17 April 2023. More information on the inquiry, issues paper and how to make a submission are on the New Zealand Productivity Commission [website](https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiries/resilience/).

## WTO and TBT Notifications

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.



# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Opinion piece:

#### Nadine's update: Clean up’s underway in earnest

In this week’s update, Nadine Tunley reflects on the tough road ahead for our growers as the clean up and recovery starts, providing future support and the longer-term questions on where we live, grow and farm. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/clean-ups-underway-in-earnest/)

## Government News:

#### Government approves $26 million grant extension for farmers and growers

As farmers and growers continue their work to re-establish their businesses in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Government is providing a boost of $26 million to meet the need in the recovery efforts. This sits alongside the initial $4 million rural community recovery fund already available to sector and regional organisations.

$26 million boost to fund that is successfully helping farmers and growers with post-cyclone clean-up - taking total primary sector support to $55 million.

2,846 applications received so far for grants, and already more than $17.4 million paid out to farmers and growers.

Up to $10,000 for pastoral and arable farmers/growers and up to $2,000 per hectare (up to a maximum of $40,000) for growers.

Grant Robertson said the funding extended the help available through the $25 million farmer and grower grant package announced in February. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-approves-26-million-grant-extension-farmers-and-growers)

#### Customs publishes cargo clearance study

The New Zealand Customs Service has published its latest Time Release Study (TRS), which looks at how quickly imports and exports are cleared in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Study analysed Customs’ performance in moving cargo through our border, measuring the time taken for various events and procedures from when the goods first arrive into the country to its clearance or release. It captured a one-week period in September 2022.

Group Manager Revenue and Assurance, Craig Chitty, says the key finding shows Customs has efficient processes and systems to support getting goods through our border. This includes electronic reporting of shipment details, a risk management and alerts system to flag high risk shipments, post-clearance auditing and ongoing engagement with industry. [Full article here](https://www.customs.govt.nz/about-us/news/media-releases/customs-publishes-cargo-clearance-study/)

## Industry news

#### Some 4000 hectares of Hawke's Bay apple orchards affected by Gabrielle

A new analysis of the damage to apple orchards in Hawke's Bay shows nearly half of the crop was affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in one way or another. New Zealand Apples and Pears Chairperson Richard Punter said 47 percent of the crop has been affected, with the level of damage being broken down into three categories.

Category one was orchards that have been completely destroyed, the trees and infrastructure was gone and they were going to require complete redevelopment. Category two was orchards that have been completely submerged and have deep silt through them which will result in significant tree death. Punter said those two categories combined was about 25 percent of the planted area in Hawke's Bay or around 2100 hectares. The third category was being classed as 'workable', the orchards will have a reduced crop percentage, they have had water through them, the trees are water logged but some of the fruit is salvageable. Punter said around 1800 hectares sits under category three - so, all told, the impacted hectares is about 3900.

"The good news is that 53 percent of the orchards in Hawke's Bay are not affected which is about 4400 hectares. Those apples are being picked, packed and prepared for export. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/485387/about-4000-hectares-of-apple-orchards-in-hawke-s-bay-affected-by-cyclone-gabrielle)

#### Mr Apple commits to customers and community

Mr Apple, one of New Zealand’s biggest apple grower-packer-exporters, remains committed to supplying its international customers with premium quality fruit this season. Like many businesses based in Hawke’s Bay, Mr Apple’s orchards and packhouses were hit by Cyclone Gabrielle in mid-February.

However, after ensuring its staff and families were safe, the company’s focus turned to ensuring that this season’s harvest and export programmes continue. The main apple growing areas affected by the flooding were between the two main rivers in Hawke’s Bay. Production on two of Mr Apple’s orchards, which represent around 10-15 per cent of the company’s overall crop, was affected. All other Mr Apple orchards are reporting a good crop with little or no damage. “Despite the recent weather, our team has rallied, so we’re in a good position for harvesting and packing,” McLeod explained. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/mr-apple-commits-to-customers-and-community/248480.article)

#### "We won’t know the true impact to our crop until we reach the end of harvest"

It’s been a challenging week for Te Matau-a-Māui, Aotearoa (Hawke’s Bay, New Zealand), and Rockit's thoughts continue to be with their Hawke’s Bay and Gisborne growers, people, partners and community who have all been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

"The health and safety of our people remains our top priority and we are grateful that all of us here at Rockit are accounted for and safe. In true Rockit style, our attitude and passion drives our team forward to turn challenges into opportunity. We’re excited to have started our harvest and our packhouse has kicked off the season strong.  Some of our orchards have been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, and fortunately others have not. We are currently assessing the extent of this and won’t know the true impact to our crop until we reach the end of harvest. The good news is that while our volume will be well down on forecast for the year, we expect to be at or above our 2022 volumes. That means a record volume of Rockit™ apples will still be exported to our global markets in 2023. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9506091/we-won-t-know-the-true-impact-to-our-crop-until-we-reach-the-end-of-harvest/)

#### Seeka Gisborne ready to support locals following Cyclone Gabrielle

New Zealand produce company Seeka has announced its Gisborne packhouse is back up and running following the devastating impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the region. While the effects on countless orchards have been devastating, many still have fruit that needs to be processed. Michael Franks, Seeka’s Chief Executive said, “The financial implications Cyclone Gabrielle has caused for local growers is vast. We want to support them as much as possible to minimise further losses, so we have worked hard to get our services back up and running to process their fruit”. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9505618/seeka-gisborne-ready-to-support-locals-following-cyclone-gabrielle/)

#### NZ kiwifruit growers cast their votes

New Zealand kiwifruit growers are voting on whether to continue a compulsory levy on their exports, except fruit sent to Australia. The process will be conducted via a postal and online referendum, running from 23 February to 24 March. If approved, the levy would continue to fund New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers’ (NZKGI) activities. The last referendum took place in 2017[. Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/nz-kiwifruit-growers-cast-their-votes/248403.article)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Chile – a beachhead market for New Zealand exports

The Chilean economy shrank 6% in 2020, but rebounded in 2021 - growing 11.7%. Although a deceleration is expected in 2023, investors remain confident in the long-term stability of the Chilean economy and foreign investment is continuing.

Chile’s ratification of CPTPP, which will enter into force for the country in February 2023, unlocks additional trade liberalisation in particular in the areas of services and investment. New Zealand companies often use Chile as a beachhead market for South America, given its like-mindedness, economic structure, and welcoming business practices. Chile’s size, about four times that of New Zealand, makes for a far more manageable market than Latin America’s giants such as Mexico (26 times) and Brazil (43 times). [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-americas/chile-a-beachhead-market-for-new-zealand-exports-february-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=bbd55d2279-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_02_22_07_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-bbd55d2279-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: NZ business thrives in South Korea despite slowdown

2022 saw record-breaking exports from New Zealand to South Korea. For year-end September 2022, total goods and services trade hit NZ$7.18 billion - a 50 percent increase on the previous year. Bilateral trade had been hit hard by COVID, but 2022 saw a big bounce back. The last quarter of 2022 saw dairy, at NZ$371.46 million, take over as New Zealand’s number one export to Korea. Dairy surpassed wood and aluminium, which had held the top two spots for decades. This expansion has occurred despite an economic slowdown in South Korea. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/rok-nz-business-thriving-despite-slowdown-february-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=feeacf05fd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_02_22_08_34&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-feeacf05fd-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Thailand economic and market update

New Zealand’s goods exports to Thailand grew through the Covid-19 pandemic – 8% since 2019 – reaching a total annual value of just over NZ$1 billion in 2021, led by dairy. By contrast, New Zealand’s tourism and education exports to Thailand are recovering gradually following the pandemic. There is good potential in Thailand for both sectors. Pre-COVID, Thailand was the largest source market for New Zealand education in South East Asia. Thailand was also New Zealand’s number one ‘off-peak season’ tourism market. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/thailand-economic-and-market-update-february-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=4dca7ad072-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_02_21_03_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-4dca7ad072-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

## Upcoming events and webinars:

* IFPA A-NZ Webinar “Microbiological Testing of Fresh Produce”, 21 March 2023, 10am AEDT, Free. [Full details here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/microbiological-testing-of-fresh-produce-webinar-tickets-536628328777?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_eid=ba99fc8413&mc_cid=25e71795f6)
* ICC Future Trade Forum 2023, 28-31 March 2023, Singapore. [Full details here](https://futuretradeforum.org/)
* World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. [Full details here.](https://www.wacnz2023.com/)
* Value Project and NZTE Webinar series “Winning the Green Premium”, Horticulture sector: 18 April 2023, 9–10am. Free [Full details here](https://ourlandandwater.hubspotpagebuilder.com/greenpremium?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=244240286&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_UD9sg9lvRLk7_GFZTikzw9H3VGi2-13tbGr9zl_iuhNwQuZqkKnZrNfLlAjiDhAtovLXXa6bvpcmY_R72Cp9eweGArg&utm_content=244240286&utm_source=hs_email)
* Hort Connections 2023, 5-7 June 2023, Adelaide Convention Centre, Australia. [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/program/)
* 2023 Horticulture Conference / RSE Conference, 1- 4 August 2023, Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch. [Full details here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/events/).
* Asia Fruit Logistica, 6-8 September 2023, AsiaWorld Expo, Hong Kong[. Full details here](https://www.asiafruitlogistica.com/)
* CBAFF Conference 2023, 13-15 September, 2023, Wellington
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asian-seed-congress%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## 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. For import regulations for a particular market, New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

**China: RCEP Expected to Expand Regional Ag Trade**

China’s two-way agricultural trade with members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership increased to $123.5 billion in 2022, one year after the regional free trade agreement came into force. The trade growth is not directly attributed to tariff reductions, most of which are scheduled to reduce over a span of 10 years. Rather, the non-tariff rules focusing on trade facilitation, accumulative rules of origin, E-commerce options, and investment appear to have supported trade development in the region and should likely continue. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=RCEP%20Expected%20to%20Expand%20Regional%20Ag%20Trade_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0025)

**China: National Food Safety Standards for Public Comment Draft Released**

On February 13, 2023, the National Health Commission (NHC) published an announcement to collect public comments from domestic stakeholders on the formulation or revision of 38 national food safety standards, including one standard for contaminants, two standards for food products, seven standards for nutritional and special dietary foods, one production and operational standard, two standards for food additives, two standards for food related products, eighteen standards for physical and chemical testing methods and procedures, and five standards for microbiological testing methods and procedures. This report provides an unofficial translation of the list of standards that are open for public domestic comment by March 20, 2023. The revisions and newly formulated standards have not been notified to the World Trade Organization. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=National%20Food%20Safety%20Standards%20for%20Public%20Comment%20Draft%20Released_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0030)

**China Notifies National Standard Restricting Excessive Packaging for Edible Agricultural Products**

On February 3, 2023, China notified a new national standard to the World Trade Organization (WTO) restricting excessive packaging for edible agricultural products (G/TBT/N/CHN/1715). The deadline for comment submission is April 4, 2023. The proposed date of entry into force is to be determined. This report provides an unofficial translation of the draft standard. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=China%20Notifies%20National%20Standard%20Restricting%20Excessive%20Packaging%20for%20Edible%20Agricultural%20Products_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0024)

## In The News:

#### DHL opens new Australian perishable facility

DHL Global Forwarding, the freight specialist arm of Deutsche Post DHL Group, has opened its newest facility in Brisbane to meet the surging demand for Australian perishable goods export, with an investment of A$17m over ten years.

The Australian state of Queensland’s total agricultural and food exports hit A$10.72bn in 2022, a steep 25 per cent increase from the previous year. To cater to this growing demand, the newly launched 4,880m² facility houses the largest international cold chain services in Brisbane at 1,700m², offering complete cold chain services for goods such as high-quality meat, fresh produce and seafood.  [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/dhl-opens-new-australian-perishable-facility/248472.article)

#### Australian horticulture value continues growth

New data released by Hort Innovation has revealed the value of Australian horticulture grew in 2021/22 (12 months to 30 June 2022), maintaining a trend that has seen value grow A$6.15bn (US$4.14bn) in the last decade.

The grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture, published the data in its annual Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook. The Handbook revealed in 2021/22, the production value of Australia’s horticulture industry grew A$381.3m (2.5 per cent) to A$15.62bn year-on-year.

“Australia is producing 850,000 additional tonnes of produce than we were in 2012/13, and the annual value of horticulture production is up A$6.15bn compared to the same period. This means the industry has added, on average, around A$680m in value every year for the past decade,” said Hort Innovation’s Chief Executive Officer Brett Fifield  [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/australian-horticulture-value-continues-growth/248458.article) [Link to handbook](https://www.horticulture.com.au/growers/help-your-business-grow/research-reports-publications-fact-sheets-and-more/grower-resources/mt21006-assets/australian-horticulture-statistics-handbook/)

#### Report highlights produce safety issues in Vietnam

A report has looked at the food safety of produce in Vietnam and suggested ways to improve the situation. The study, published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focused on fruit and vegetable value chains in the country and included laboratory analysis of samples from the field.

Most consumers buy fruits and vegetables from traditional wet markets, where production does not have safety labels and it is not certified or traceable to farms. Cold storage rooms at markets could reduce postharvest losses and the risk of microbial contamination found the report.

The Government of Vietnam has designated areas for safe vegetable production. Farmers in these zones have been encouraged to form producer cooperatives. The government regularly tests soil and water quality plus vegetables for pesticide residues once a year. Livestock farming is not allowed to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Researchers recommended expanding this idea to other parts of the country to promote fruit and vegetable safety. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/02/report-highlights-produce-safety-issues-in-vietnam/)

#### Singaporeans urged to ‘buy local’ due to Malaysian vegetable farms being hit by floods

Singaporeans have been urged to buy locally grown vegetables to support farms and businesses here and mitigate prices as farms across the Causeway continue to be inundated by floods. This will help local farmers stay in business and encourage them to produce more, said Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu . [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9509063/singaporeans-urged-to-buy-local-due-to-malaysian-vegetable-farms-being-hit-by-floods/)

#### UK cukes sent to Singapore as retailers continue price strategy

Empty shelves in UK supermarkets, but British cucumbers are for sale in Singapore. It has been another eventful week for the British fresh produce industry.

The fresh battle in the UK continues. Over the last couple of weeks supermarket shelves were empty. due to retailers refusing to pay a higher price for fresh produce - and due to the cold in Spain and the high energy prices, fresh produce prices spiked over the last couple of weeks. Environment Minister Therese Coffey called on Brits to eat more local, seasonal produce such as turnips rather than imported foodstuffs in short supply. However, UK wholesalers and growers made it clear there is enough produce available in the UK. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9508686/uk-cukes-sent-to-singapore-as-retailers-continue-price-strategy/)

#### Banana Link welcomes UK retailer commitment

NIne major UK retailers have made a public commitment to close the living wage gap in their banana supply chains. Aldi, Asda, Co-op, Lidl GB, Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury’s, Tesco, and Waitrose will work together, supported by the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), to collectively ensure that banana plantation workers in their supply chains are paid a living wage by 2027.

The UK retailers commitment follows similar initiatives that have been announced in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, with retailers collaborating to ensure banana workers employed on plantations across the Global South will receive an income that is sufficient to live a dignified life.

The news means that Europe’s two biggest banana markets- Germany and the UK – are now covered by a retailer led-commitment to addressing the right to a living wage in their banana supply chains, and represents further evidence of an emerging ‘race to the top’, a key motivator of which has been the development of mandatory human rights due diligence legislation in Germany. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9509038/banana-link-welcomes-uk-retailer-commitment/)

#### Supermarkets and suppliers raise awareness of forced labour risk

A not-for-profit organisation called Stronger Together has produced a short film that draws attention to the issue of forced labour in Spain. The episode was funded by major European supermarkets Lidl, Migros, Ocado and Sainsbury’s, as well as BerryWorld and Driscoll’s-owned Berry Gardens, two of the world’s largest soft fruit suppliers, Asda-owned fresh produce importer IPL, and Innocent Drinks.

Called Two Stories, One Land, it depicts two migrant workers who travelled to Spain from Morocco on the promise of a job. One was able to find safe, secure employment, but the other ended up exploited and maltreated.

According to Stronger Together, 22 per cent of workers in Spain’s fruit and vegetable industry are migrant workers who come from outside the country. “Unfortunately, not all opportunities advertised are genuine, and for some, the reality is very different to what was promised,” the group says. Last year, the government proposed a new law that would require Spanish multinationals to undertake human rights and environmental due diligence in their supply chains was proposed. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/supermarkets-and-suppliers-raise-awareness-of-forced-labour-risk/248418.article)

#### Albert Heijn airfreight ban touches down at start of June

Dutch retail chain Albert Heijn has confirmed that it will no longer sell fresh fruit and vegetables that have been transported by air. By the middle of this year, products including sugar snap peas, green beans and passion fruit will only be stocked if they arrive by sea or road.

The decision, which was first announced in 2022, is part of the company’s strategy to source fresh produce from within the Netherlands whenever possible and to use more sustainable modes of transport for imported items. Its end goal, it says, is to buy fruit and vegetables “as close as possible and as far away as necessary”, and that balance all depends on four main priorities: quality, sustainability, safety and cost. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/albert-heijn-airfreight-ban-touches-down-at-start-of-june/248399.article)

#### Spanish fruit and vegetable export volume decreased by 10% in 2022

Spain exported 12 million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables in 2022, i.e., 10.4% less than in 2021, confirming the downward forecasts made by FEPEX. The value of these exports increased by 1.6%, less than initially estimated, totalling 15,930 million euros. According to FEPEX, the sharp decline in the fresh fruit and vegetable export volume in 2022 is largely due to adverse weather conditions that have caused all kinds of incidents. The spring frosts, for example, led to a sharp reduction in stone fruit, especially in Aragon and Catalonia. Meanwhile, the incessant rains during April and May affected regions that are eminently horticultural, such as Murcia. In addition, there were very strong summer heat waves and a very warm winter start, which affected Andalusian fruit and vegetable production. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9505915/spanish-fruit-and-vegetable-export-volume-decreased-by-10-in-2022/)

#### Onion shortages might be a new chapter in world food crisis

Onions are the staple of cuisines across the world, the most consumed vegetable after the tomato (technically a fruit). About 106 million tons are produced annually — roughly the same as carrots, turnips, chillies, peppers and garlic combined. Now, all over the world, prices are soaring, fuelling inflation and prompting countries to take action to secure horticulture supplies. Morocco and Turkey have halted some exports, as has Kazakhstan. The Philippines has ordered an investigation into onion cartels.

Restrictions have also gone beyond onions to include carrots, tomatoes, potatoes and apples, hampering availability worldwide, the United Nations  and the World Bank warned this month. In Europe, empty shelves have forced UK supermarkets to ration purchases of some fruit and vegetables after a weak harvest in southern Spain and North Africa. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9506643/onion-shortages-might-be-a-new-chapter-in-world-food-crisis/)

#### Top 10 European Countries By Fruit And Vegetable Consumption

While the World Health Organization recommends consumption of at least five portions of fresh fruit and vegetables per day, just 13.9% of EU citizens achieve that target, according to Eurostat.

Data\* for the entire EU-28 region shows that more than a third of citizens (34.7%) don't consume any fruit and vegetables at all on a daily basis, with the majority (51.2%) consuming between one and four portions of fresh produce. The countries in which fruit and vegetable consumption is lowest include Romania, where 65.1% of the population state that they don't consume any fruit and vegetables day-to-day (with just 3.5% consuming the recommended five a day) and Bulgaria, where 58.7% say that they don't consume any fruit and vegetables.

European Supermarket Magazine (ESM) looks at the ten European countries in which fruit and vegetable consumption (either 'five portions a day', or 'between one and four portions per day') is highest, based on Eurostat data: Topping the list is Belgium, with Portugal and the United Kingdom taking up the next two spots. [Full article here](https://www.esmmagazine.com/fresh-produce/top-10-european-countries-by-fruit-and-vegetable-consumption-233253)

#### Drewry’s composite World Container Index down 3% this week

Drewry's detailed assessment for Thursday, 23 February 2023 showed that the composite index has decreased by 3% this week, and has dropped by 80% when compared with the same week last year. The latest Drewry WCI composite index of $1,898 per 40-foot container is now 82% below the peak of $10,377 reached in September 2021. It is 30% lower than the 10-year average of $2,692, indicating a return to more normal prices, but remains 34% higher than average 2019 (pre-pandemic) rates of $1,420. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9506440/drewry-s-composite-world-container-index-down-3-this-week/)

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