

UPDATE: 22 November 2022

Kia ora

Supply chains feature in our latest update as countries – including New Zealand – begin to reflect on their disruptions during COVID-19, the solutions put in place by industry, and governments look to implement tools to make supply chains more resilient for the future. You’ll find news items and links for these as well as our regular items of opinion pieces, reports and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## Consultations

#### Proposed changes to the Official Organic Assurance Programme Organic Export Requirements: Organic Production Rules

New Zealand Food Safety invites comments on proposed amendments to the Organic Export Requirements: Organic Production Rules (OER: OPR). The requirements that organic operators must meet if they are to export, or supply for export, organic products under the OOAP are set out in OER: OPR. Consultation is open from 17 November to 15 December 2022. You can find more information about the proposed changes and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website.](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-official-organic-assurance-programme-organic-export-requirements-organic-production-rules/?utm_source=notification-email)

*Note: This consultation is separate to the development of the Organic Products and Production Bill, and the proposed new regulations and national standard for organic food, beverages, and plant and animal products.*

#### Proposed amendments to the import health standards for fresh table grapes from Chile, the Republic of Korea, and the USA – California

MPI is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to import requirements for table grapes from the Republic of Korea, and additional phytosanitary treatment options for table grapes from Chile and the USA (California). Consultation is open from 13 October to 12 December 2022. You can find more information about the proposed amendments and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-amendments-to-the-import-health-standards-for-fresh-table-grapes-from-chile-the-republic-of-korea-and-the-usa-california/?utm_source=notification-email).

#### Proposed amendments to the import health standards for fresh lychee from Thailand

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) invites comment on proposed changes to the import requirements for fresh lychee (*Litchi chinensis*) from Thailand. Consultation is open 7 November 2022 to 7 December 2022. You can find more information on the proposed changes and details on how to provide a submission on the MPI [website.](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-amendments-to-the-import-health-standards-for-fresh-lychee-from-thailand/)

#### 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: Frustrated by the rush

In this week’s update, Nadine Tunley voices the concerns and frustrations of growers at the Government’s rush to complete its’ ambitious reform programme before June-July 2023, including most recently the RMA[. Full article here.](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/frustrated-by-the-rush/)

## Government News

#### NZ’s resilience to supply chain disruptions to be investigated

The Government has asked the Productivity Commission to hold an inquiry into the resilience of the New Zealand economy to supply chain disruptions. This inquiry aims to identify ways to enhance the resilience of New Zealand’s economy to persistent medium-term supply chain disruptions. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz%E2%80%99s-resilience-supply-chain-disruptions-be-investigated). [Link to inquiry](https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiries/resilience/)

#### NZ-UK Free Trade Agreement a step closer to ratification

The benefits of New Zealand’s free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom are now a step closer with the passing of two Bills, Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor said. The United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement Legislation Bill and the Apple Transitional Export Quota Bill recently passed their third readings. The Apple Transitional Export Quota Bill, which was split out from the rest of the Bill at committee stage, creates a new regime required to administer a transitional apple export quota. “The Agreement will eliminate all tariffs on apples over three years, with a significant new duty-free quota for off-season exports during this time.” Damien O’Connor said. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-uk-free-trade-agreement-step-closer-ratification)

#### ASEAN trade deal upgrade boost for exporters

New Zealand’s new free trade agreement upgrade with the Association of South East Asian Nations and Australia has recently been announced by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. “As the world feels the impact of global economic pressures, the importance of securing high-quality, modern free trade agreements is essential to the economic security of all New Zealanders,” Jacinda Ardern said. The benefits of the AANZFTA upgrade include improved conditions for investors and service providers, more streamlined customs procedures, and commitments to support the flow of essential goods in times of crisis. The upgrade is expected to be signed and enter into force in 2023. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/asean-trade-deal-upgrade-boost-exporters)

#### New Zealand ranked first in Sustainable Trade Index

The Sustainable Trade Index, launched by the Hinrich Foundation and the International Institute for Management Development, recently ranked New Zealand first of 30 economies that undertake international trade in a manner that supports long-term global sustainable development. The Index assesses three core pillars – economic growth, environmental protection and societal development. “We have placed trade at the centre of our economic recovery, successfully securing four FTAs in the past five years,” Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Damien O’Connor said. “Our standard of living depends on our ability to trade and that in turn depends on adapting to changing markets. This ranking is a strong validation of our approach and goes to the heart of our global brand. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-ranked-first-sustainable-trade-index)

## Industry news

#### Final Zespri kiwifruit charter vessel departs

Zespri’s last charter vessel carrying some of the final volumes of this season’s New Zealand kiwifruit crop has now departed the Port of Tauranga, bound for Tokyo and Kobe in Japan. In total, Zespri has used four charter vessels to Northern Europe, eight to the Mediterranean, four to North America’s West Coast and forty-one to Asia, along with almost 17,000 refrigerated containers to ship more than 160 million trays of New Zealand-grown Zespri Kiwifruit this season.

Zespri’s Chief Global Supply Officer Alastair Hulbert says that there had been a huge effort right across the industry and supply chain to ensure fruit could get to market this season given the headwinds experienced in 2022. “This has been a really challenging season given the ongoing impact of COVID-19 across the global supply chain, as well as the need to manage our fruit quality. We’ve faced significant shipping congestion and container shortages at a number of international ports, and we’ve been fortunate that our longstanding partnerships and charter vessels have allowed us to avoid much of this congestion. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9477279/final-zespri-kiwifruit-charter-vessel-departs/)

#### EastPack seeks investment

EastPack, leading New Zealand kiwifruit post-harvest operator and one of the country’s largest cooperatives, announced its intention to raise NZ$30m to help expand packing capacity. The investment will be raised via an issue of five-year subordinated notes to New Zealand investors and EastPack has the ability to take oversubscriptions of up to NZ$10m. EastPack chief executive Hamish Simson, said the funds will be used to improve processing and packing efficiency. “Over the next five years, kiwifruit volumes are set to grow significantly with Zespri’s latest five-year outlook seeing an increase in total New Zealand Class 1 supply from 178m to 238m trays in 2026,” said Simson. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/eastpack-seeks-investment/247624.article)

#### Kane Williamson and Rockit build on partnership

New Zealand cricket captain signs on for another year as global brand ambassador for Rockit apples and takes stake in Longlands orchard. After 18 months as global brand ambassador for Rockit apples, New Zealand cricket captain Kane Williamson has underscored his belief in the product by taking a stake in the Longlands Rockit apple orchard just south of Hastings. Mark O’Donnell, Rockit Global CEO, said Williamson’s support has already helped Rockit make in-roads into the market across India and South Asia over the past 18 months. But he said it’s the attitude of Bay of Plenty-born Wiillamson that has impressed the company most.  [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/kane-williamson-and-rockit-build-on-partnership/247659.article)

#### Heavy rain hit T&G's Envy crop, may lead to a loss of 5-10 million NZ$

A poor apple harvest may cause a loss of between $1 million and $5m for T&G Global in the current financial year to December 31. T&G said the loss would be down to two key factors - apple quality and its trading performance in the Northern Hemisphere. “There has been a rapid deterioration in the quality of T&G’s premium New Zealand ‘Envy’ apples, particularly those apples exposed to the unusually heavy rains during the 2022 harvest,” the company said. “This, combined with the late arrival of fruit into markets as a result of global supply chain disruptions, has unfortunately resulted in crop quality issues, with fruit rapidly deteriorating and consumers having an inconsistent eating experience,” it said. [Full article here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/heavy-rain-takes-the-shine-off-tgs-envy-apples-sees-loss/XFZIEF37K5GQTP3BL5GBJA34FQ/)

#### Israeli shipping company, ZIM opens fully-owned agency in New Zealand

Replacing the current third-party agent, the new ZIM New Zealand office will commence operations on 1 November and will be led by David Mitchell, the current country manager, who will join the ZIM team. ZIM said the purpose of its new agency in New Zealand is to further develop and expand its activities in the region and provide customers with high quality shipping services. [Full article here](https://container-news.com/zim-opens-fully-owned-agency-in-new-zealand/)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: EU proposes new tool to prevent supply chain disruptions in future crises

The European Commission has proposed a new Single Market Emergency Instrument (SMEI) designed to prevent supply chain disruptions within the EU during future crises, such as those experienced at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SMEI can also be seen as an attempt to reflect the lessons learned early on during the COVID-19 pandemic when there was enormous pressure on Member State governments to close borders and restrict the export of personal protective equipment and medicines. While those concerns were short-lived, there remains a desire to minimise any such future risks to EU unity. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/eu-proposes-new-tool-to-prevent-supply-chain-disruptions-in-future-crises-november-2022/)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Saudi Arabia: the fastest growing economy fighting for its future

Saudi Arabia (and the Gulf) will play an increasingly important role in New Zealand’s market diversification objectives for our traditional goods exports. Saudi Arabia’s population is young and increasingly affluent, and willing to pay a premium for safe, high quality food products. There is an explosion of opportunities for services and non-traditional exports to Saudi Arabia, particularly around the Vision 2030 economic development projects, which are now awash with funding and seeking global expertise in many areas of strength for New Zealand. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-middle-east/saudi-arabia-the-fastest-growing-economy-fighting-for-its-future-november-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=d5e6fff1da-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_11_07_04_49_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-d5e6fff1da-578465829)

#### Supply chains have proved resilient in the worst of times

Supply chains have performed well under really trying circumstances over the COVID period, but we need to kick on, NZIER find in a recently-released Insight report.

“New Zealand has dodged an economic bullet. Under extreme pressure, supply chains have proven themselves to be exceptionally resilient, both for imports and exports,” said Chris Nixon, Principal Economist and lead author of the Insight. “While we are not celebrating, there at least should be a collective sigh of relief,” commented Chris Nixon. Nixon warns that as some sort of normalcy returns – COVID-19 willing – New Zealand must remain vigilant and remain focused on improving supply chains. “With solid demand for New Zealand products and a firming outlook, supply chain participants need to keep at it. This is particularly so for perishable products which require supply chain flexibility,” commented Chris Nixon. [Full report here](https://www.nzier.org.nz/hubfs/Public%20Publications/Insights/NZIER%20Insight%20104%20Supply%20chains.pdf)

## Upcoming events:

* World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. [Full details here.](https://www.wacnz2023.com/)
* 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/).

# 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.

* **Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual: New Zealand, NZ2022-0016**

The outlook for the 2022/23 apple season in New Zealand is much more optimistic with the opening of international borders following COVID-19 restrictions. While the last two apple harvests were severely impacted by the lack of labour, the return of overseas workers under the Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme is expected to help allow a recovery in production, with the forecast up 12 percent from the previous year’s estimated crop. Exports are also expected to rise from the lowest level in seven years. In addition to the larger crop, an improvement in logistics and shipping could also support exports, although export volumes are still expected to remain below the record export levels reached in the years prior to COVID-19. Expansion in apple area has largely stagnated, however with a greater emphasis from growers on profitability, older less valuable varieties have continued to be replaced with newer varieties more in demand from export markets. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Wellington_New%20Zealand_NZ2022-0016)

* **Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annuals**: [Mexico MX2022-0062](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Monterrey%20ATO_Mexico_MX2022-0062), [Turkey TU2022-0050](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Ankara_Turkey_TU2022-0050), [China CH2022-0118](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0118), [Peru PE2022-0026](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Lima_Peru_PE2022-0026), [Chile CI2022-0025](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Santiago_Chile_CI2022-0025)
* **Avocado annual**: [Chile CI2022-0027](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Avocado%20Annual_Santiago_Chile_CI2022-0027), [China CH2022-0121](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=2022%20Fresh%20Avocado%20Report_Guangzhou%20ATO_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0121)

## In The News:

#### Australia "It is important to have technical expert boots on the ground to support growers in improving their food safety systems"

Growers, researchers, regulators, and industry members have gathered for the first produce safety and traceability symposium, to draw up plans for supporting growers and supply-chain members deal with upcoming regulatory changes to food safety standards in coming years. Three new primary production and processing standards have been introduced in the Australian Food Standards Code for berries, leafy vegetables and melons. These standards will be enforced from 12 February 2025, allowing a two-year window of opportunity for preparedness across the industry.

"Some of the key recommendations from the symposium are using a through-chain systems approach for managing food safety risks, with a well-designed and inclusive support system for primary producers and processors," commented Dr SP Singh from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) who convened the symposium. "Also, investing in science- and data-driven approaches to develop and implement best practices to mitigate food safety risks and enable food safety compliance. It is important to have technical expert ‘boots on the ground’ to support growers in improving their food safety systems, with practical considerations in risk assessments and management strategies. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9477620/it-is-important-to-have-technical-expert-boots-on-the-ground-to-support-growers-in-improving-their-food-safety-systems/)

#### Asia Fruit Logistica makes strong return

Asia Fruit Logistica succeeded in reuniting the global fresh fruit and vegetable business in Asia earlierthis month. High-level trade visitors from all over the world converged on Bangkok’s Queen Sirikit National Convention Center on 2-4 November 2022 for the first in-person edition of Asia Fruit Logistica since 2019. According to Global Produce Events, it attracted nearly 10,000 trade visitors from more than 70 countries. Thailand, India, Malaysia, Vietnam and Australia were the top five countries represented in terms of visitor numbers. Australia was the single-largest exhibiting country, with the US, Italy, New Zealand and Thailand making up the top five exhibiting nations. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/asia-fruit-logistica-makes-strong-return/247590.article)

#### Railway to connect Vietnamese trade to China and Eurasia planned

Vietnam has seen the increase of trade with China balloon to $2.33 billion in bilateral trade, which is why a new railway is being planned to support the cargo movement. A standard-gauge railway is planned that will be able to handle cargo trains at higher speeds of up to 200 km/h to ferry the goods from Vietnam's Hanoi and other main cities to and from China. Rail cargo between Vietnam and China over the past 10 months has grown by 58.6% to 607 000 tons. Experts say the rail lines could eventually connect Vietnam, China, Cambodia and Thailand to other lines to reach Europe with exports. [Full article here](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202211/1279394.shtml)

#### New Refrigerated Rail Route: Fujian To Russia

A new rail route carrying refrigerated containers from Xiamen, China to Moscow commenced operation in late October. It is Fujian province’s first ever international cold chain rail route. The route’s first train, loaded with 906 metric tons of fruit, vegetables and frozen seafood, made the trip to Moscow in 15 days. The containers on these international rail shipments are outfitted with equipment allowing for real-time location tracking, along with temperature and humidity monitoring. According to China Railway Nanchang Group, these monitoring tools keep the cold chain unbroken all the way from the producer’s factory to the buyer’s warehouse, ensuring freshness and quality. Local authorities in Xiamen praised the connection by rail of another Chinese province to the western Russia market and highlighted the route’s short transit time. [Full article here](https://www.producereport.com/article/new-refrigerated-rail-route-fujian-russia)

#### Chilean fresh fruit industry hit hard by new 25% increase in ocean freight rates

The presidents of the National Agricultural Society (SNA), Cristián Allendes; the Federation of Fruit Producers of Chile (Fedefruta), Jorge Valenzuela, and the Association of Fruit Exporters of Chile (Asoex), Iván Marambio, held an emergency meeting following the announcement by the shipping companies of a new 25% increase in refrigerated maritime freight, which coincides with the start of the 2022-2023 cherry, blueberry, and nectarine export season. "The price of refrigerated shipping has inexplicably increased. In addition, the shipping companies haven't complied with deadlines, so our products have arrived late and in poor conditions, and they haven't taken responsibility for this poor service. For the beginning of this season, the rate has increased by almost 100% over the last two years," stated the president of the SNA. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9478009/chilean-fresh-fruit-industry-hit-hard-by-new-25-increase-in-ocean-freight-rates/)

#### Real impact of cost pressure on UK fresh produce industry measured

The soaring cost of energy and a lack of labour to pick crops are posing a serious threat to the United Kingdom's fruit and vegetable industry. These are the finds in a report by Promar International to measure the real impact of the cost pressures on farmers. It has found that the cost of production has increased by as much as 27% over the past 12 months. Products such as broccoli, apples, root vegetables and tomatoes are the most affected. The main drivers are energy, increased by 165%, fertiliser up by 40% and employment costs up by 13%. Importantly the report warned that although food inflation is at record highs, producers are not getting the returns needed to sustain their business on a profitable basis. There are additional concerns on future increased energy prices after the end of the government's six-month energy cap, with the situation likely to get worse for British producers. [F ull article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9478585/real-impact-of-cost-pressure-on-uk-fresh-produce-industry-measured/)

#### SPS standards “key” to international trade

Freshfel Europe has called for the ”meticulous implementation” of the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS and Trade Facilitation agreements principles. During a meeting in Geneva of a thematic session of the WTO SPS Committee, Freshfel questioned the numerous ongoing SPS barriers faced by European fresh produce exports for market access due to difficulties and burdens in negotiating the opening of new markets. ”Too many third countries ignore the basics of the WTO SPS and TFA rules and set out unrealistic requirements, which, combined with a lack of international IPPC standards, prevents trade development,” Freshfel stated. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/sps-standards-key-to-international-trade/247604.article)

#### Data-driven technology and the future of food safety

With the growth of global food trade, the management of food systems has become increasingly complex, time consuming, and is easily impacted by food supply chain disruptions. Innovative, data-driven and digital solutions are reshaping how we manage food supply chains, improving access to markets and overcoming unexpected challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recently held Vienna Food Safety Forum explored new data-driven innovations to improve food safety management practices, particularly using digital approaches. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) organized the event, which was attended by 400 participants from 65 countries. Experiences shared addressed remote audits, e-certification and voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes. Several STDF initiatives were presented and discussed, including a global survey on the application of remote audit practices in food safety as well as the three ongoing STDF projects piloting the use of vTPA programmes in East and West Africa and in Central America. [Conference presentations here](https://standardsfacility.org/vienna-food-safety-forum-2022?mc_cid=83bd6f6c65&mc_eid=f93013672e)

#### The global shipping industry is facing a new problem — too many containers

The latest data shows a new problem facing global shipping, that of too many empty containers. This is a complete turnaround from the shortage earlier this year and during the pandemic. It points to slowing global demand as container depots are filling up or full. While shipping rates are trending downwards as well, experts say it shows a decline in global consumption and not a recovery to normal. The usual pre-Christmas peak season of goods shipments is flatter than usual. Container depots are full with little space to receive more empty ones. Blank sailings are also on the decrease. [Full article here](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/11/global-shipping-industry-faces-a-new-problem-too-many-containers.html)

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