

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: September 15,2020

Report Number: IN2020-0118

Report Name: COVID-19 in India - Weekly Food Retail Update

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Retail Foods

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Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of September 11, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.

INDIA

COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



- Kolkata:** Vegetable prices at wholesale and retail markets have increased by almost 50 percent compared to mid-August prices. This increase is due to heavy rains across West Bengal and other parts of the country that damaged production and supplies. Authorities are closely monitoring these prices and warned merchants not to charge excessively high prices, according to local media reports.
- Goa:** According to a local retail chain contact, retail stores are operating again with most staff having returned. Stores are taking the necessary COVID-19 precautions, including regular temperature checks and frequent sanitization of store facilities. Food supplies are generally plentiful, and no shortages have been experienced in the last two months. Fresh vegetables and fruits are available, except for exotic items like Italian lemons, asparagus, etc. Retailers across Goa experienced huge increases in the prices of imported goods over the past few months, but prices have begun to stabilize in the past week. This price increase can be attributed to higher freight/logistics costs, product handling expenses, and losses incurred during the lockdown. Certain imported product supplies, especially cheese and salmon, unstable. Across the state, many consumers still prefer to shop in-person, instead of heavily relying on online purchases. Overall, footfall traffic across retail stores is down 30-35 percent.
- Hyderabad:** According to a local retail contact, most retail stores are returned to normal with 80 percent of staff reporting to work. Online sales for numerous grocery retail chains have increased over 50 percent, but shoppers most frequently prefer to buy in-person. Grocery supplies are adequate, with only 2-5 percent of imported food items being in short supply or unavailable. At the beginning of the lockdown, increased product costs affected margins, especially for imports, however, as lockdown measures continue to ease, margins are improving due to declining freight costs.
- Chennai:** According to local wholesale market traders, most vegetable prices are expected to increase by INR 10 (approximately USD \$0.14) due to a decline in supply arrivals. Rains across Tamil Nadu have damaged potato, onion, and other vegetable production, which has hurt supplies.

Attachments:

No Attachments.