

AGRICULTURE MARKET BULLETIN 04/20



Introduction: Our market bulletin helps inform vendors, farmers and consumers of the types of fresh produce grown and sold for the month by its unit, price and total quantity in \$NZ. For further information, contact Ministry of Agriculture (Corporate Services) on phone number 28711 or email us at moa.support@cookislands.gov.ck

Root Crops Sales:

Taro and Maniota were the two most constant root crops sold at the Punanga Nui market with an average selling price of \$5.50/kg and \$4/kg respectively. Similar to the previous month, Tarua and Kumara were the other root crops supplied to the market. Although these crops have been constantly supplied to the market due to being lucrative and always in demand, a decrease in the supply of taro and maniota was noted for this month. Limited opening days because of the restrictions in place for COVID-19 and the major bridge upgrade near the market main entrance led to these reductions in supply at the market by the vendors. Farmers would also leave these root crops in plantations rather than uprooting it, as it might not be sold. On the other hand, a significant increase in the supply of Kumara by at least five times was noted for this month when compared to March 2020. This was due to more vendors supplying the crop at the market instead of the hotels. Tumeric and carrots were the other two root crops supplied to the market for the first time by a new vendor, though in smaller quantities. These two root crops are normally grown by the vendor for own consumption but decided to sell the extras that were harvested.

Root Crops	April 2020				March 2020	
	No of Vendors	Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$NZ)	No of Vendors	Total Weight (Kg)
Taro	8	5.50	146.0	803.00	10	353.0
Maniota	5	4.00	111.5	446.00	9	319.0
Tarua	2	3.90	70.2	273.59	3	69.5
Kumara	2	6.00	66.0	396.00	1	12.0
Tumeric	1	6.00	17.0	102.00		
Carrot	1	6.00	5.0	30.00		

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL

Fruit Sales:

Drinking Nuts, banana and pawpaw continues to be the most supplied fruits at the market. A significant increase in the supply of all fruits apart from dragon fruit and avocado was noted this month. The increase in the fruit numbers were mainly due to vendors opting to bring more supplies for sale at the market as less is being demanded by the hotels and restaurants.

Widening of the scope for data collection by the Ministry whereby inclusion of more road side stalls and farmers was the secondary reasoning for the improved numbers. On the other hand, the off-peak season for dragon fruit led to the reduction in supply by 44%. Although, this is an off-peak season for avocado as well, some farmers still managed to maintain a supply to the market from a new variety - "Hass". This particular variety stays on the tree for a longer period before harvest.

Fruits	April 2020				March 2020	
	No of Vendors	Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$NZ)	No of Vendors	Total Weight (Kg)
Drinking Nut	9	3.50	937.0	3,279.50	18	740.7
Pawpaw	12	3.90	420.6	1,640.34	8	323.0
Banana	12	4.00	412.3	1,649.20	14	349.4
Cucumber	5	3.30	327.0	1,079.10	8	255.9
Watermelon	1	4.80	290.0	1,392.00	2	174.0
Tomatoes	2	6.40	219.5	1,404.80	2	28.2
Beans	3	6.10	209.5	1,277.65	2	35.8
Dragonfruit	1	5.70	137.9	786.09	3	247.5
Avocado	4	4.20	105.1	441.42	8	143.1
Orange	5	4.70	95.5	448.85	1	10.0

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL

Vegetable Sales:

Rukau, lettuce and pak choy were the three types of vegetables constantly supplied to the market in this quarter. Rukau, a favorite local delicacy continues to be sold at the market at \$10.40/kg by most vendors. Although, the number of vendors selling lettuce has reduced, the supply has doubled for this month when compared to March 2020. This was due to less demand by restaurants and hotels, resulting in farmers bringing this produce to the market. A similar trend was also noted for the supply of pak choy, where the quantity sold at the local market increased by almost eight times. The supply of spinach was also noted for this month, as the demand by one of the predominate supermarket had decreased, leading to the vendor selling the excess at the market.

Vegetables	April 2020				March 2020	
	No of Vendors	Average Price (\$NZ) per Kg	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$NZ)	No of Vendors	Total Weight (Kg)
Rukau	11	10.40	155.6	1,618.24	7	96.7
Lettuce	3	7.30	78.3	571.59	4	37.4
Pak Choy	2	8.00	80.2	641.60	1	10.4
Spinach	1	6.80	55.2	375.36		

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, AgINTEL