

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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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 June 5, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.



1. **Indore:** As part of an easing of restrictions, grocery stores and dairy shops will be allowed to operate in the central part of the city, but only to handle home delivery orders. Fruit and vegetable vendors will also be allowed to operate.
2. **Ahmedabad:** The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation will restrict movement in 46 micro containment zones. Grocery shopping will only be allowed in these zones from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM daily.
3. **Goa:** One retail store chain reports that operations are normalizing. All staff are reporting to work, except those in containment areas. The procurement of fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, and seafood is not a problem, while securing processed foods and imported products is a challenge. Processed food stocks are limited as manufacturers are operating at lower levels, due to the lack of labor and raw materials, along with transportation challenges. Consumers are increasingly relying on local mom and pop shops for bread, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and seafood, because these retailers can supply directly to housing societies. As such, most consumers are only visiting modern retail chains to stock up on lentils, flour, rice, and grains.
4. **Chennai:** According to a retailer, the supply situation is improving with distributors/suppliers operating only through cash. This retail chain's store shelves are 90-95 percent stocked, with only a shortage of premium and seasonal products, such as blueberries, lychees, and mangoes. Procuring fresh vegetables is a challenge as the main wholesale market in the city remains closed. As a result, the store is now procuring directly from farmers. While more staff members are returning to work (over 50 percent are back), there is still a lack of labor to handle deliveries and store maintenance. Despite pleas from the Koyambedu Food Grains Traders' Association, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has ruled out the possibility of reopening any part of the Koyambedu Market Complex until the COVID-19 outbreak is contained.
5. **Kolkata:** On June 1, authorities eased restrictions, allowing for the reopening of major food wholesale markets around the city.
6. **Pune:** The Gultekdi Wholesale Market reopened on May 31 after being closed for 50 days. The market opened to a subdued response with the arrival of approximately 1.3 million pounds (lbs) of fresh produce, compared to the daily arrival average of almost 4 million lbs. Poultry prices have seen a significant increase over the past month as demand rises but supplies remain limited. On May 30, retailers reported wholesale chicken prices at INR 120-130 per kilogram (kg), compared to pre-lockdown prices of INR 70-INR 74 per kg.
7. **Bhopal:** In an effort to reduce overcrowding at stores, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation will allow only a third of shops to open on any given day from Monday to Saturday. The city's 26,000 shops will be assigned numbers 1, 2, and 3 by local authorities to distinguish which days they can operate. Local business leaders worry this approach is confusing and impractical.

Attachments:

No Attachments.