

Horticulture



April Monthly Update



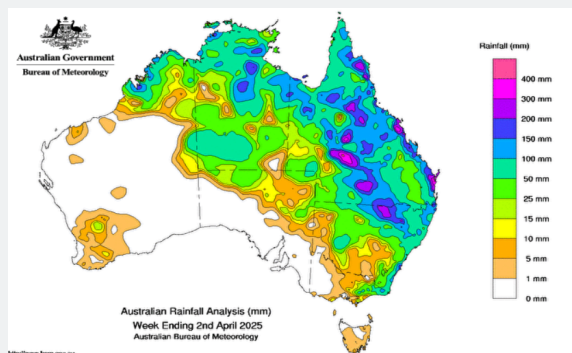
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Key Watchpoints – March

- Heavy rainfall is continuing to impact both fruit and vegetable availability out of Queensland.
- Fruit and veg prices remain elevated following seasonal weather disruptions. Price volatility through early April is anticipated.
- US tariffs are expected to have minimal impact on horticultural producers, though changing global trade flows will be one to watch...

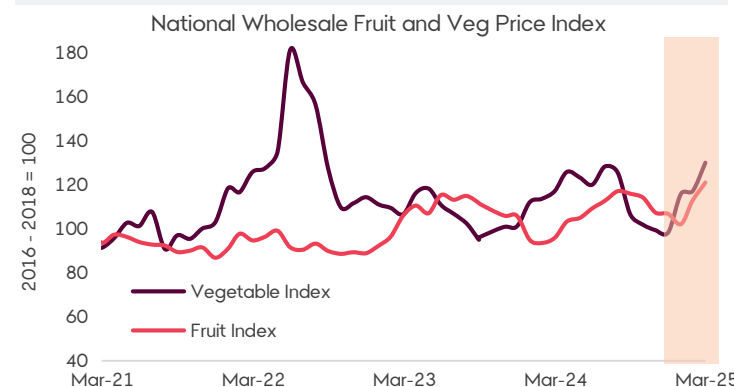
Weather is continuing to impact horticultural producers across QLD

Substantial rainfall totals across regions of Queensland including the Atherton tablelands, Burdekin and Bowen are continuing to impact horticultural producers. Avocados, bananas, citrus, and mixed vegetables remain at risk with harvesting activities slowed, while quality also remains a key concern. This may see limited availability throughout the east coast over the coming weeks. Vegetable producers throughout these regions are also struggling to get crops in the ground with the peak autumn planting of crops underway (think broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, kale, lettuce, spinach, peas). This may have a longer-term impact with the potential for reduced availability of these vegetables when harvest kicks off in early-winter. The recent impact of Cyclone Alfred resulted in less damage to crops than anticipated. Macadamias were at significant risk however the Australian Macadamia Society noted that impact was limited. The 2025 crop forecast has been adjusted down to 55,960 tonnes in-shell from 56,890 tonnes.



Fruit and vegetable prices to lift through April

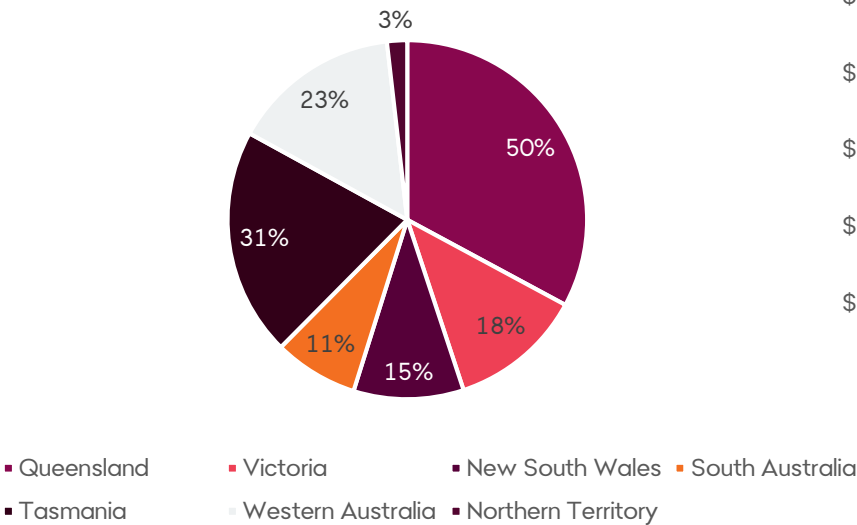
Ongoing supply chain disruptions throughout key production areas of Queensland and northern New South Wales have seen fruit and veg prices surge higher over the first quarter of 2025. This trend is expected to continue throughout April following the substantial rainfall totals received across Queensland last week. The wholesale price index for both fruit and vegetables now sits well above the same point last season and are continuing to weigh on consumer purchasing as a result. Should seasonal weather disruptions ease throughout April, we may see prices decline coming into May with a greater availability of winter veg beginning to hit the market out of Queensland. Hass avocados will also be coming to market towards the end of April and into May. Prices are expected to return closer to the \$2 mark with a strong season expected in Queensland.



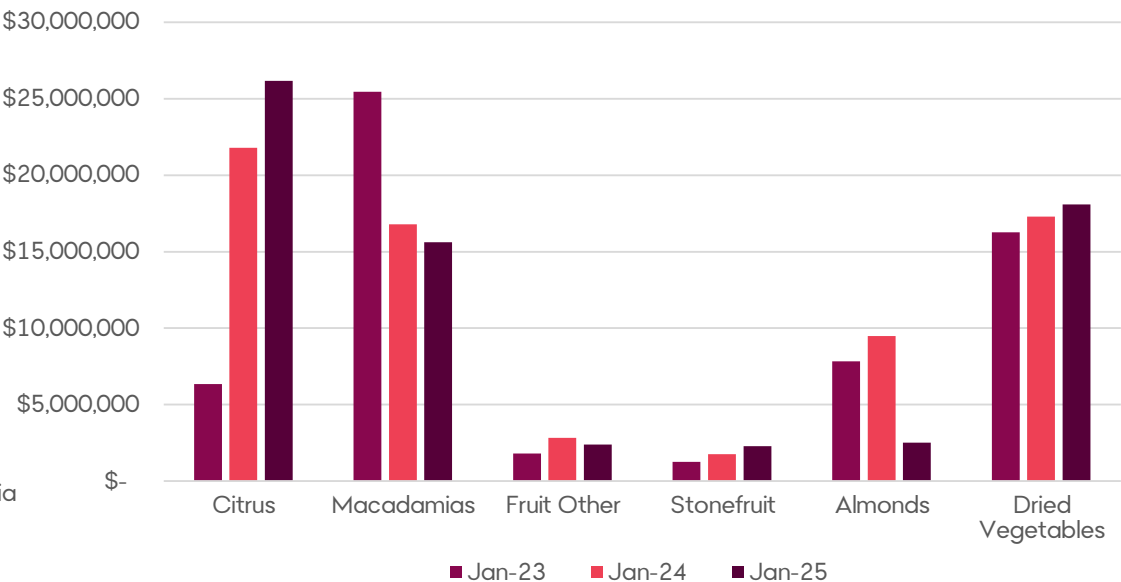
What impact will the US import tariffs have on Australian horticulture?

The recent US announcement that Australia will be hit with a 10 per cent tariff on all exports into the US has been met with widespread condemnation across the agricultural sector. From a horticultural perspective, the direct impact of the trade measure is expected to be relatively limited. Our largest horticultural exports to the US over the last 12 months include citrus (A\$26m), dried vegetables (A\$18m) and macadamias (A\$16m). While these totals are relatively limited compared to other export destinations, the indirect impact on Australian horticultural producers remains a key unknown. While the largest exporters of fruit and vegetables into the US including the likes of Mexico, Canada and Guatemala mostly produce counter seasonal produce and as a result are less likely to compete directly with Australian goods, seasonal competitors including Chile, which has also been hit with a 10 per cent tariff by the US, may begin competing into more typical Australian export markets. For reference Chile typically exports upwards A\$350 million of fruit and vegetables into the US. They have also become increasingly competitive in recent years thanks to improving production systems that have resulted in greater quality. Chile is already a major competitor across blueberries, cherries, nectarines, peaches, plums and table grape exports. We would expect the shifting trade flows to result in more competitive markets for citrus exports. However, with the US facing ongoing challenges with citrus greening (primarily in Florida), we expect US demand for citrus to remain high, supporting exports. The other key risk to the Australian horticultural sector from the tariff announcement remains the prospect of a slowing Chinese economy resulting for the growing trade war with the US. China remains by far our largest market for horticultural exports, with any reduction in demand to be keenly felt across our fruit and nut sectors in particular.

Horticultural exports to US by state (%)



Horticultural exports to US by product (\$A)



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