

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Venezuela

**Post:** Caracas

### **Retail sector might be affected by the rains**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

**Approved By:**

Randall Hager

**Prepared By:**

Jonathan Martinez

**Report Highlights:**

According to retail sector contacts, the heavy rains that have fallen in Venezuela during the last two weeks have affected the food industry.

**General Information:**

Venezuela has experienced heavy rains during the last three months in almost all northern and Andean parts of the country. In the last two weeks, rains have essentially not stopped, reportedly causing damage to vegetable crops (please see report VE1117 for further information).

According to industry contacts, the current emergency has not affected major supermarket chains yet. However, there are hundreds of small supermarket and "mom-and-pops" shops affected in the following states: Falcon, Miranda and Vargas. Falcon has been hit the worst with several flooded areas.

The main concern for supermarkets is shortages of vegetables like tomatoes, onions, carrots, peppers, and fruits supplied from Trujillo, Merida, Carabobo, Guarico, and Lara states. If the rain continues, the shortages will be felt in Caracas in two days. The rains are already affecting supplies to markets like Coche and Quinta Crespo, both well-known wholesalers located in Caracas.

Major supermarket chains are giving out several food items to homeless shelters. Some supermarkets are serving as "distribution centers" for those shelters. Cavidea (Venezuela's food industry chamber) and the Government of Venezuela are working together to distribute food to affected areas.