

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

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Venezuela

Post: Caracas

Supermarket Tour

Report Categories:

Retail Food Sector

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Report Highlights:

FAS/Caracas visited two major supermarket chains in Maracay to check grocery supply levels. Post reports on food availability and shortages.

General Information:

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Visits to Major Supermarket Chains in Maracay

Recently, newspaper articles have reported that there are some food shortages in supermarkets outside of Caracas. Post visited selected stores of several major supermarket chains in the neighboring city of Maracay (about an hour from Caracas) to learn about the current situation of food and beverages availability. The two stores were well supplied. The levels of supplies are similar to the supermarket visits that were done by this office last month in Caracas.

Among the products verified as readily available were: apples, pears, oatmeal, powdered milk, UHT milk, beef, poultry, eggs, salt, breakfast cereals, rice, corn flour, tuna, vegetable oil, butter, margarine, coffee, juices, yellow cheese, and wheat flour.

Shortages of Some Products Continue

Similar to the visits in Caracas, some products were in shortage in one of the two stores visited. For example, one store had not sugar at all, but in the next we found a good quantity. Sector representatives have explained that they are receiving small quantities of sugar two or three times during the week, but after three hours it is gone from the shelves. The other products that were in shortage in one store were milk and vegetable oil.