

The U.S. saw significant increases in Hass avocado imports from all Latin American origins through September this year, USDA data shows.

Over the nine-month period, total imports from the region rose by 20% year-on-year from US\$1.7bn to US\$2bn.

The growth came amid the lowest California avocado crop in a decade, which created a supply gap for overseas producers.

Mexico was responsible for much of the import uptick this year, with volumes rising from US\$1.52bn to US\$1.8bn.

But there were also substantial increases in percentage terms from Peru, Chile, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia.

Imports from Peru - the next biggest origin - rose by 24% from US\$168m to US\$208m. That figure is more than triple imported from Peru in 2016, and also comes amid a [15% reduction in total exports](#) this season.

Chilean supplies in the U.S. rose by 61% from US\$17m to US\$27m this year through September. This increase came despite the Chilean avocado industry also forecasting lower total supplies year-on-year for the 2019-20 season.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imported five-times more Hass avocados from the Dominican Republic. Imports rose from a mere US\$485,000 to US\$2.4m.

And imports from Colombia rose eight-fold from US\$393,000 to US\$3.2m. Colombia [scored U.S. market access](#) in August 2017 under a restrictive export protocol, which was [eased slightly earlier this year](#). It is expected to increase avocado shipments to the U.S. significantly over the next few years.