

U.S. total fruit imports grew by a quarter in April 2021, surpassing the \$2 billion mark for the first time, according to USDA data.

Imports of all fruit categories - including fresh, frozen, and processed - rose to \$2.12 billion, up 25 percent from the \$1.69 billion registered in April 2020 - the first full calendar month of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The figure registered in April this year is also up on the previous record of \$1.99 billion set in the same month in 2019.

The increase was driven largest by avocados, berries and table grapes.

The value of avocado imports rose by 30 percent year-on-year to \$231 million - the second-highest level recorded in April, behind the \$303 million in 2019.

All four major berry categories also saw significant increases. Raspberries grew by 17 percent to \$143 million, strawberries by 45 percent to \$121 million, blackberries by 48 percent to \$89 million, and blueberries by 42 percent to \$95 million.

In addition, table grape imports rose by 31 percent to \$190 million, mangoes by 87 percent to \$57 million, and limes nearly tripled to \$79 million.

A notable decline came in bananas, with imports falling by 6 percent to \$158 million.

In terms of top-five supplying countries, imports from Mexico saw the biggest growth, rising by 39 percent to \$1.1 billion. Imports from Chile increased by 19 percent to \$216 million, from Guatemala by 18 percent to \$216 million, from Costa Rica by 5 percent to \$107 million, and from Canada by 17 percent to \$53 million.