



ALDI Future Forecasting VFA User Guide

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ALDI Future Forecasting VFA User



Specifications

- **Product Name:** Vendor Forecasting Application (VFA)
- **System Compatibility:** Works for regions transitioning onto new systems
- **Features:** Order forecasts, Sales forecasts, Suggested Order Quantities (SOQ's)

Product Usage Instructions

Introduction

Welcome to the Vendor Forecasting Application (VFA) guide for ALDI's future forecasting. This guide will help you understand key forecasting improvements and navigate the changes effortlessly.

Key Improvements

The VFA introduces order forecasts for the first time, providing you with the latest sales and order forecasts for each region as they transition onto the new systems. Access the VFA for user-friendly functions and data exports.

Getting Started

Ensure you have an activated Empower ID account with the Supplier Admin / Employee role assigned. Contact the key Empower ID user in your business or email BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk for assistance.

Accessing Demand Data

Starting from February 2024, you can access sales forecasts and SOQ's for regions not on the new systems through the VFA. Sales and order forecasts for regions on the new systems are also available.

Important Notes

Sales forecasts are accessible on the VFA for all regions you supply to. Use sales and order forecasts in the VFA only for live regions. Stay updated on transitions to new systems.

Support

For queries related to EmpowerID, contact the EmpowerID Key User in your organization. For VFA or forecast

queries, email your availability contact.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I access the VFA?**

- The VFA can be accessed through a tile on the Supplier Portal or directly via this [link](#).

- **My forecasts do not look quite right. What do I do?**

- If your forecasts seem off, consider upcoming events, recent communications about forecast adjustments, changes to sales, or new/discontinued articles. If unsure, contact your availability contact with specific details.

- **Someone has joined/left the business; how do I manage their VFA access?**

- To manage VFA access, ensure the individual has an Empower ID account with the Supplier Admin / Employee role. Contact the key Empower ID user in your business for account creation/deletion. Email

THE VENDOR FORECASTING APPLICATION (VFA)

VENDOR GUIDE TO ALDI'S FUTURE FORECASTING

Welcome to the future of ALDI forecasting! This guide is your go to resource to understand the key forecasting improvements and navigate this positive change effortlessly.

For all non live regions, The Edge is the system used to find sales forecasts and Suggested Order Quantities (SOQ's) (PTZ Business Partners only) for regions not on our new systems.

Please no longer use The EDGE for live regions.

KEY IMPROVEMENTS



UPGRADED SALES FORECASTING ENGINE

Introducing SAP UDF (Unified Demand Forecasting) –smarter, efficient, and ready to elevate forecast accuracy. Sales forecasts will be in the VFA for all regions.



INTRODUCTION OF ORDER FORECASTS

Exciting news! We're giving you order forecasts for the first time. You can find them in the VFA, available for each region as they transition onto our new systems.



VENDOR FORECASTING APPLICATION (VFA)

Get ready for the VFA! It's your go-to tool for checking the latest sales and order forecasts. It has a user-friendly feel, better functions, and effortless data exports. Access it here.

WHAT AND WHEN?

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Please ensure you have an activated Empower ID account with the Supplier Admin / Employee role assigned. Not sure if you have an account or need to create one? Please contact the key Empower ID user (with the 'Supplier Admin' role) in your business, or email BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk.

ACCESSING YOUR DEMAND IN THE FUTURE

From February 2024, this is where you will access your demand data:



Sales forecasts and SOQ's* for regions not on our new systems

Please no longer use The EDGE for any Sawley information.

*SOQs – Suggested Order Quantities (for PTZ vendors only). See FAQs for more information.



Sales forecasts and order forecasts for regions on our new systems

(Order forecasts for Sawley were made available and ready to use towards the end of February. We will let you know in advance when each region is live)

Sawley was the first region that were onboarded to our new systems in February 2024.

PLEASE NOTE

Sales forecasts are available on the VFA for all regions you supply to. Please only use the sales and order forecasts in the VFA for live regions.

We'll keep you posted with the key updates, changes, and milestones, including when each region transitions onto the new systems.

SUPPORT

For any queries relating to EmpowerID, please contact the EmpowerID Key User within your organisation, or BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk

For any queries relating to the VFA or forecasts, please email your availability contact.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I access the VFA?

The VFA will be available as a tile on the Supplier Portal. Alternatively, you can access the VFA here: VFALINK.



I would like to learn more about the order forecasts.

Order forecasts will be available in the VFA for regions on our new systems. They are driven by our new sales forecasting engine, SAP UDF, whilst considering factors such as current stock levels, order optimization requirements, article grouping requirements, and existing open orders. You can view order forecasts on a daily view for the next 14 days, or a weekly view for the next full 4 calendar weeks. Our pilot region, Sawley, was the first to have an order forecast, in February 2024.



My forecasts do not look quite right. What do I do?

Please consider if there are any upcoming key events; recent comms about forecast adjustments; changes to recent sales; new / disc articles etc. Still unsure? Please reach out to your availability contact with the affected article code(s), region(s), date(s), vendor ID, forecast type (sales or order forecast) and what the query is.



Someone has joined/ left the business; how do I manage their VFA access?

One must have an Empower ID account with the Supplier Admin / Employee role to automatically gain VFA access. Please contact the key Empower ID user (with the 'Supplier Admin' role) in your business, they can support with creation/ deletion of an Empower ID account. Please email BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk if you have any queries about this.



How often does the VFA update?

The VFA is updated daily (around 6am) with the latest demand data. You will know the VFA has updated when the first sales forecast date you see is tomorrow's date.



There is a problem with the VFA. What do I do?

Please refresh the page or clear your cookies and cache and re-open your browser. If the problem persists, please kindly reach out to your availability contact.



When will I see forecast adjustments for key events?

Our new forecasting engine, SAPUDF, naturally captures many key event and seasonal trends. The timing of any final adjustments may vary based on the specific nature and timing of each key event.



The closer we are to the event, the more precise and accurate our forecasts become. Your availability contact will continue to communicate any key adjustments to you.



I would like some more information on SOQs(Suggested Order Quantities) PTZ vendors only. SOQ's, are the daily updated figures shown on The EDGE excel extract (in column BG) to give you an indication of the order expected to be placed with you later that day. SOQs will eventually be replaced by the order forecasts in the VFA for regions on our new systems. Please use the SOQ information on

The EDGE for regions not on our new systems and use the VFA for order forecasts for regions on our new systems.

Why do I need an EmpowerID account?

An Empower ID account allows you to securely access relevant ALDI applications, such as the VFA. Your SAP vendor ID(s) are assigned to your Empower ID account.



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An Empower ID account allows you to securely access relevant ALDI applications, such as the VFA. Your SAP vendor ID(s) are assigned to your Empower ID account.



I have multiple SAP vendor ID codes; how do I see all my data in one place?

Please ensure all your SAP vendor ID codes are assigned to your Empower ID account. Please use the drop-down function in the business partner selection to view your different SAP vendor IDs. If all your articles sit under 1 SAP vendor ID, then all articles will show under that SAP vendor ID on the VFA.



When will I see the forecast for a new article?

Please typically expect to see your demand data for new articles approx. 4-6 weeks before the on-sale date.

When will I see the forecast for a new article?

Please typically expect to see your demand data for new articles approx. 4-6 weeks before the on-sale date.

HOW TO USE THE VFA – CRITERIA SELECTION

For a video demonstration, please visit the Vendor Forecasting Application page on the Merchandise Business Partner Website via the link here.

WRITTEN MATERIAL ON HOW TO USE THE VFA

Access the VFA with your Empower ID account via the Supplier Portal, or by clicking here. Selecting a Sales Forecast

- Data available on a daily level for the next 14 days, or a weekly level for the next full 14 calendar weeks.
- The Sales Date is simply the date we expect to sell the stock in store.
- Sales forecasts are available for all regions (please only use for regions on our new systems for now).

The screenshot shows the 'Forecast Selection' interface. It includes a search bar for 'Business Partner Number' with a magnifying glass icon. Below it, 'Your Filters' section lists 'AHEAD Code', 'CBIS Code', 'Description', 'Category', and 'Sub-Cat'. The main selection area has four dropdown menus: 'Forecast Type' (with options 'Sales Forecast' and 'Order Forecast'), 'Forecast Horizon' (with options 'Next 14 days' and 'Next 14 weeks'), 'Forecast Date' (with options 'Sales Date' and 'Sales Date'), and a fourth dropdown menu.

Selecting an Order Forecast

- Data available on a daily level for the next 14 days, or a weekly level for the next full 4 calendar weeks.
- You can view the data by Order Date, or Delivery to DC Date.
- Order forecasts are available for regions on our new systems, starting with Sawley, from February 2024.

Forecast Selection

Business Partner Number:

Forecast Type:
Order Forecast
Sales Forecast
Order Forecast

Forecast Horizon:
Next 14 days
Next 14 days
Next 4 weeks

Forecast Date:
Order Date
Order Date
Delivery to DC Date

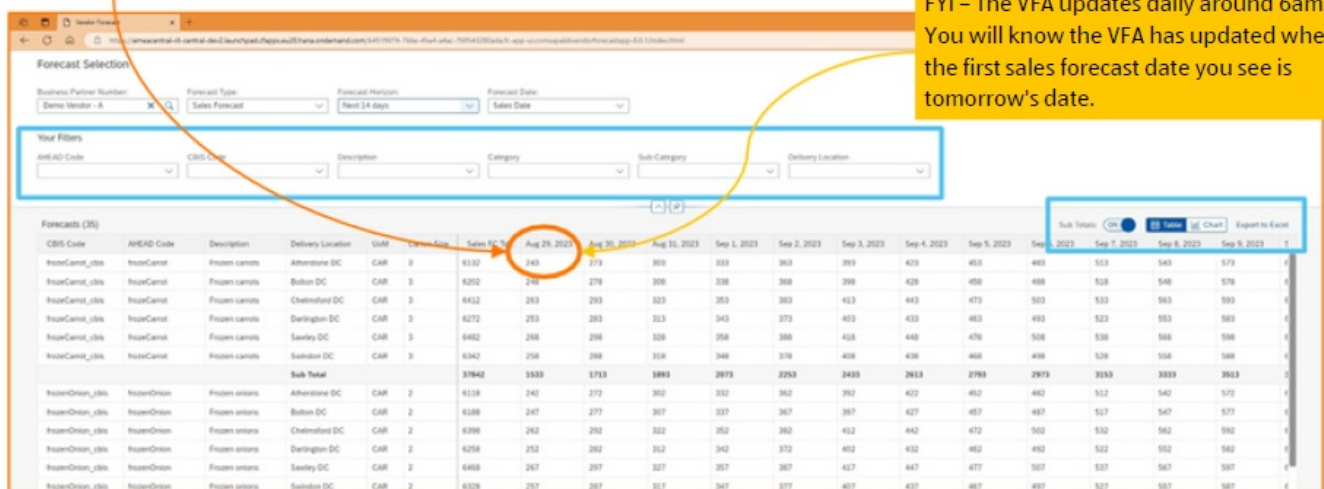
Your Filters
AHEAD Code
CBIS Code
Description
Category
Sub-

HOW TO USE THE VFA – VISUAL IN-APP DATA

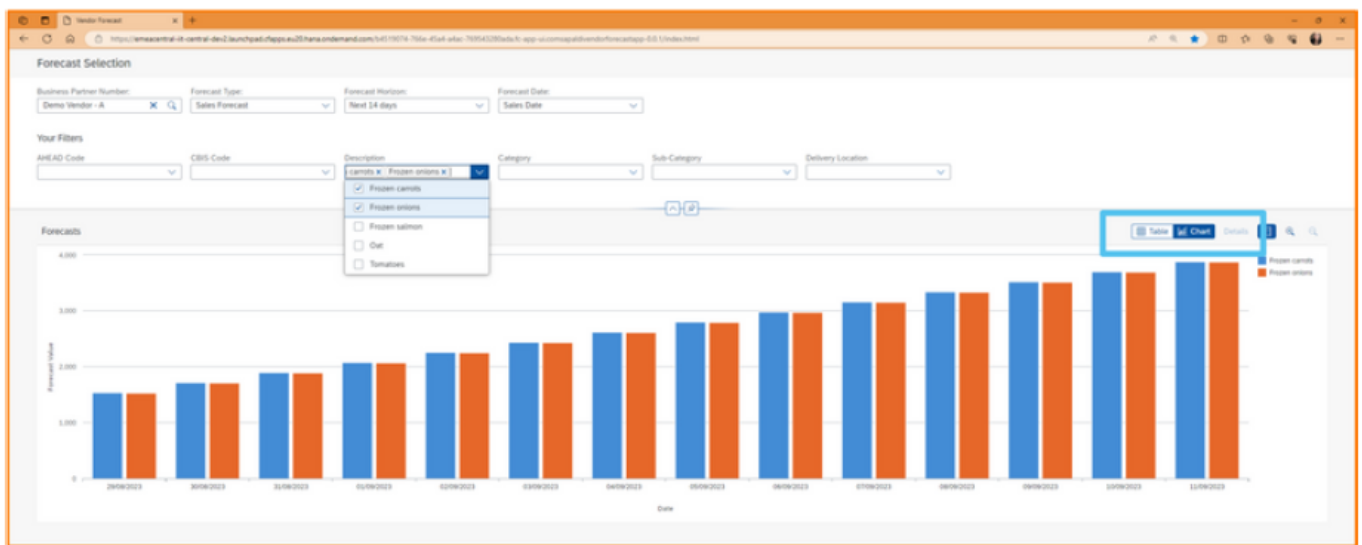
Here is what the data looks like.

- You can use the filters along the top to narrow down your search, and toggle on/ off sub totals
- CBIS Code = your old article code (what you see on The EDGE)
- AHEAD Code= your new article code (display)
- UoM – CAR = Unit of measure in cartons (our new term for 'cases')
- Carton Size= How many units are in a carton
- Sales/ Order FC Total= The total of the visible forecast in the VFA, based on your selection criteria

For example: We expect to sell 243 cartons of Frozen Carrots in the Atherstone region on August 29th



- You can view your demand data in a graph by selecting the 'Chart' button
- The filters along top are useful for this view
- This view is helpful if you wanted a quick visual of the trends over time. You can select multiple articles.
- If you click on a bar, you can view the forecast details by clicking the 'Details' button



- Lastly, you can export all your demand data into excel by clicking the 'Export To Excel' button. You can select a 'Standard File', or a 'Flat File'.
- Here is an example of a Standard File – Similar format to the app, instantly shareable, and easy to read

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|--|--|
| File | Home | Insert | Page Layout | Formulas | Data | Review | View | Developer | Help | Power Pivot | Table Design | Comments | Share | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forecast Type: Sales Forecast, Forecast Horizon: Next 34 days, Forecast Date: Sales Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AHEAD Code | CBS Code | Description | Category | Sub-Category | Delivery Location | UNIT | Quantity | 2018-08-01 | 2018-08-02 | 2018-08-03 | 2018-08-04 | 2018-08-05 | 2018-08-06 | 2018-08-07 | 2018-08-08 | 2018-08-09 | 2018-08-10 | 2018-08-11 | 2018-08-12 | 2018-08-13 | 2018-08-14 | 2018-08-15 | 2018-08-16 | 2018-08-17 | 2018-08-18 | 2018-08-19 | 2018-08-20 | 2018-08-21 | 2018-08-22 | 2018-08-23 | 2018-08-24 | 2018-08-25 | 2018-08-26 | 2018-08-27 | 2018-08-28 | 2018-08-29 | 2018-08-30 | 2018-08-31 | | | |
| 1 | FrozenCarrot_0lbs | FrozenCarrot | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Athensville DC | CAAR | 3 | 8252 | 269 | 275 | 289 | 335 | 360 | 379 | 423 | 455 | 483 | 519 | 542 | 573 | 605 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | FrozenCarrot_1lbs | FrozenCarrot | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Bethel SC | CAAR | 3 | 6202 | 268 | 278 | 307 | 338 | 368 | 398 | 428 | 458 | 488 | 518 | 548 | 578 | 608 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | FrozenCarrot_2lbs | FrozenCarrot | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Chattahoochee DC | CAAR | 3 | 5412 | 269 | 289 | 329 | 353 | 389 | 413 | 449 | 479 | 509 | 533 | 569 | 593 | 629 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | FrozenCarrot_3lbs | FrozenCarrot | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Darlington DC | CAAR | 3 | 6272 | 259 | 289 | 339 | 345 | 379 | 409 | 439 | 469 | 499 | 529 | 559 | 589 | 619 | 644 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | FrozenCarrot_4lbs | FrozenCarrot | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Sealeville SC | CAAR | 3 | 6482 | 268 | 288 | 328 | 358 | 388 | 418 | 448 | 478 | 508 | 538 | 568 | 598 | 628 | 650 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | FrozenCarrot_5lbs | FrozenCarrot | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Tennille SC | CAAR | 3 | 6342 | 258 | 288 | 318 | 348 | 378 | 408 | 438 | 468 | 498 | 528 | 558 | 588 | 618 | 646 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | FrozenOnion_0lbs | FrozenOnion | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Athensville DC | CAAR | 2 | 6128 | 242 | 252 | 302 | 312 | 362 | 392 | 422 | 452 | 482 | 512 | 542 | 572 | 602 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | FrozenOnion_1lbs | FrozenOnion | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Bethel SC | CAAR | 2 | 6208 | 247 | 277 | 307 | 327 | 367 | 387 | 427 | 457 | 487 | 517 | 547 | 577 | 607 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | FrozenOnion_2lbs | FrozenOnion | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Chattahoochee DC | CAAR | 2 | 5798 | 242 | 262 | 322 | 332 | 382 | 412 | 442 | 472 | 502 | 532 | 562 | 592 | 622 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | FrozenOnion_3lbs | FrozenOnion | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Darlington DC | CAAR | 2 | 4208 | 252 | 262 | 312 | 322 | 372 | 402 | 432 | 462 | 492 | 522 | 552 | 582 | 612 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | FrozenOnion_4lbs | FrozenOnion | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Sealeville SC | CAAR | 2 | 4448 | 247 | 267 | 317 | 327 | 377 | 407 | 437 | 467 | 497 | 527 | 557 | 587 | 617 | 647 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | FrozenOnion_5lbs | FrozenOnion | Frozen onions | Frozen onions | Vegetable | Tennille SC | CAAR | 2 | 4508 | 257 | 267 | 317 | 327 | 377 | 407 | 437 | 467 | 497 | 527 | 557 | 587 | 617 | 647 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | FrozenSalmon_0lbs | FrozenSalmon | Frozen salmon | Frozen salmon | Fish | Athensville DC | CAAR | 3 | 4304 | 240 | 270 | 300 | 310 | 360 | 390 | 420 | 450 | 480 | 510 | 540 | 570 | 600 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | FrozenSalmon_1lbs | FrozenSalmon | Frozen salmon | Frozen salmon | Fish | Bethel SC | CAAR | 3 | 4274 | 240 | 270 | 300 | 310 | 360 | 390 | 420 | 450 | 480 | 510 | 540 | 570 | 600 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | FrozenSalmon_2lbs | FrozenSalmon | Frozen salmon | Frozen salmon | Fish | Chattahoochee DC | CAAR | 3 | 4384 | 240 | 260 | 320 | 330 | 380 | 410 | 440 | 470 | 500 | 530 | 560 | 590 | 620 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | FrozenSalmon_3lbs | FrozenSalmon | Frozen salmon | Frozen salmon | Fish | Darlington DC | CAAR | 3 | 4244 | 250 | 260 | 310 | 320 | 370 | 400 | 430 | 460 | 490 | 520 | 550 | 580 | 610 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | FrozenSalmon_4lbs | FrozenSalmon | Frozen salmon | Frozen salmon | Fish | Sealeville SC | CAAR | 3 | 4404 | 240 | 260 | 320 | 330 | 380 | 410 | 440 | 470 | 500 | 530 | 560 | 590 | 620 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | FrozenSalmon_5lbs | FrozenSalmon | Frozen salmon | Frozen salmon | Fish | Tennille SC | CAAR | 3 | 4514 | 250 | 260 | 310 | 320 | 370 | 400 | 430 | 460 | 490 | 520 | 550 | 580 | 610 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Oat_0lbs | Oat | Oat | Ambient | Cereal | Athensville DC | CAAR | 3 | 4548 | 240 | 270 | 300 | 310 | 360 | 390 | 420 | 450 | 480 | 510 | 540 | 570 | 600 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Oat_1lbs | Oat | Oat | Ambient | Cereal | Bethel SC | CAAR | 3 | 4230 | 240 | 260 | 300 | 310 | 360 | 390 | 420 | 450 | 480 | 510 | 540 | 570 | 600 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Oat_2lbs | Oat | Oat | Ambient | Cereal | Chattahoochee DC | CAAR | 3 | 4440 | 240 | 260 | 320 | 330 | 380 | 410 | 440 | 470 | 500 | 530 | 560 | 590 | 620 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Oat_3lbs | Oat | Oat | Ambient | Cereal | Darlington DC | CAAR | 3 | 4380 | 250 | 260 | 310 | 320 | 370 | 400 | 430 | 460 | 490 | 520 | 550 | 580 | 610 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Oat_4lbs | Oat | Oat | Ambient | Cereal | Sealeville SC | CAAR | 3 | 4510 | 250 | 260 | 310 | 320 | 370 | 400 | 430 | 460 | 490 | 520 | 550 | 580 | 610 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Oat_5lbs | Oat | Oat | Ambient | Cereal | Tennille SC | CAAR | 3 | 4570 | 260 | 270 | 320 | 330 | 380 | 410 | 440 | 470 | 500 | 530 | 560 | 590 | 620 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Tomato_0lbs | Tomato | Tomatoes | Ambient | Vegetable | Athensville DC | CAAR | 4 | 4340 | 244 | 274 | 304 | 314 | 364 | 394 | 424 | 454 | 484 | 514 | 544 | 574 | 604 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | Tomato_1lbs | Tomato | Tomatoes | Ambient | Vegetable | Bethel SC | CAAR | 4 | 4214 | 249 | 279 | 309 | 319 | 369 | 399 | 429 | 459 | 489 | 519 | 549 | 579 | 609 | 631 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Tomato_2lbs | Tomato | Tomatoes | Ambient | Vegetable | Chattahoochee DC | CAAR | 4 | 4440 | 244 | 264 | 324 | 334 | 384 | 414 | 444 | 474 | 504 | 534 | 564 | 594 | 624 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Tomato_3lbs | Tomato | Tomatoes | Ambient | Vegetable | Darlington DC | CAAR | 4 | 4380 | 254 | 264 | 314 | 324 | 374 | 404 | 434 | 464 | 494 | 524 | 554 | 584 | 614 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Tomato_4lbs | Tomato | Tomatoes | Ambient | Vegetable | Sealeville SC | CAAR | 4 | 4490 | 249 | 269 | 329 | 339 | 389 | 419 | 449 | 479 | 509 | 539 | 569 | 599 | 629 | 651 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Tomato_5lbs | Tomato | Tomatoes | Ambient | Vegetable | Tennille SC | CAAR | 4 | 4550 | 259 | 269 | 319 | 329 | 379 | 409 | 439 | 469 | 499 | 529 | 559 | 589 | 619 | 641 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Here is an example of a Flat File – Perfect for those wanting to build the data into their own analysis tools

[illegible]

Documents / Resources

References

- User Manual

[Manuals+](#), [Privacy Policy](#)

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