

ALDI VFA Vendor Forecasting Application User Manual

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**THE VENDOR FORECASTING
APPLICATION (VFA)
VENDOR GUIDE TO
ALDI'S FUTURE FORECASTING**

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VFA Vendor Forecasting Application

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 optimisation 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 who will be able to support with the 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.

When will I see the forecast for a new article?



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

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How can I see my sales history?



We are hoping to include this in the VFA soon. In the meantime, please use The Edge for regions not on our new systems or reach out to your availability contact.

We have more than one supplier code, can forecasts be merged together for multiple supplier codes to avoid having to view and download multiple different forecasts (which we have to do in The Edge currently)?



Please reach out to BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk - they can support with assigning multiple vendor ID's to your Empower ID account. This means you can quickly switch between your vendor IDs directly in the VFA without having to log out and in again. We are hoping to soon introduce a development where you can multi select vendor IDs to aggregate and export the data in one go. We'll keep you posted with any progress. Please note, that to use the Manhattan SE/AS portal, you will need a separate account for each vendor ID. To learn more, reach out to the Business Partner Enablement Team.

There's a limit to the amount of people on EmpowerID. Will this be increased?



The limit is currently set to 5 users per Business Partner. However, by emailing BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk you can request to increase this limit to 25.

Where can we find our Vendor IDs?



Please reach out to BPET.GBIE@aldi.co.uk, they will be able to assist.

Will historical sales data be included in the VFA like The Edge?



We are hoping to include this in the VFA soon. In the meantime, please use The Edge for regions not on our new systems or reach out to your availability contact for AHEAD region sales data.

Will the VFA also show a forecast accuracy measure? For example, how accurate the VFA forecast was once we have some sales data to compare?



No, however on the VFA you can export your forecasting data into a 'Flat File' which is in a format perfect for building into your own analysis tools should you wish.

Will there be a timetable of the roll out for the other regions/when will The Edge be stopped?



We are hoping to fully transition over to the VFA and turn off The Edge in the coming months when we have made improvements to the data quality of other regions. We will keep you updated.

Will we be able to access data for any markets outside of the UK?



VFA utilisation in other countries is being explored and will be communicated by the respective national business once decided.

Is the AHEAD product code the same as the SAP sellable or display?



The AHEAD code on the VFA is the display code (orderable code).

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Does the VFA take into account rolling shortages?



The sales forecast is based on 100% service level. However, the order forecast is considering open orders and current stock on hand so will be reflective of any recent shortages.

Are the dates on the VFA depot or store dates?



Our sales forecasts display what we are anticipating to sell on that date. For our order forecasts, an option is available to toggle between delivery to DC date and order date.

Will seasonal listing sales appear on the VFA once a discontinue bulletin has been raised as currently we cannot access store sales once allocated seasonal volumes have been ordered?



Sales history is not currently available within the VFA, however forecasting data (on the VFA and The Edge), and sales history (on The Edge) will stop once the contract has ended or the article is marked as discontinued.

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).

Forecast Selection

Business Partner Number:

Forecast Type:

Forecast Horizon:

Forecast Date:

Your Filters

AHEAD Code CBIS Code Description Category Sub-Cat

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:

Forecast Horizon:

Forecast Date:

Your Filters

AHEAD Code CBIS Code Description Category Sub-Cat

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

Forecast Selection

Business Partner Number
Demo Vendor 1

Forecast Type
Sales Forecast

Forecast Horizon
Next 20 days

Forecast Date
Sales Date

Your Filters

AHEAD Code

CBIS Code

Description

Category

Sub-Category

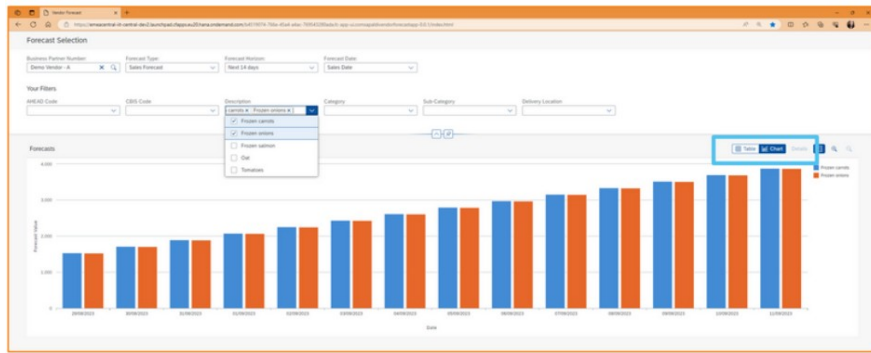
Delivery Location

Forecasts (36)

CBIS Code	AHEAD Code	Description	Delivery Location	Unit	Unit Price	Aug 25, 2023	Aug 26, 2023	Aug 27, 2023	Aug 28, 2023	Aug 29, 2023	Aug 30, 2023	Sep 1, 2023	Sep 2, 2023	Sep 3, 2023	Sep 4, 2023	Sep 5, 2023	Sep 6, 2023	Sep 7, 2023	Sep 8, 2023	Sep 9, 2023	Sep 10, 2023
FrozenCarrots_001	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Atherstone DC	CAR	3	6100	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_002	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Boston DC	CAR	3	6202	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_003	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Chesham DC	CAR	3	6422	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_004	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Darlington DC	CAR	3	6272	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_005	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Sawley DC	CAR	3	6402	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_006	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	3	6402	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_007	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	3	6402	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_008	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	3	6402	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_009	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	3	6402	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_010	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	3	6402	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_011	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Atherstone DC	CAR	2	6108	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_012	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Boston DC	CAR	2	6188	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_013	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Chesham DC	CAR	2	6398	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_014	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Darlington DC	CAR	2	6208	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_015	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Sawley DC	CAR	2	6498	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_016	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_017	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_018	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_019	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_020	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_021	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_022	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_023	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_024	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_025	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_026	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_027	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_028	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_029	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_030	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_031	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_032	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_033	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_035	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_036	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_037	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_039	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_041	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_043	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_044	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_045	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_046	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_047	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_048	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_049	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_051	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_053	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_054	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_055	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_056	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_057	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FrozenCarrots_061	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_062	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FrozenCarrots_063	FrozenCarrots	Frozen carrots	Widmore DC	CAR	2	6207	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FYI – The VFA updates daily around 6am.

You will know the VFA has updated when the first sales forecast date you see is tomorrow's date.




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:

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



	<p>ALDI VFA Vendor Forecasting Application [pdf] User Manual</p> <p>VFA Vendor Forecasting Application, Vendor Forecasting Application, Forecasting Application, Application</p>
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References

- [User Manual](#)

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