

REGIONAL MARKET BRIEF

Tomatoes

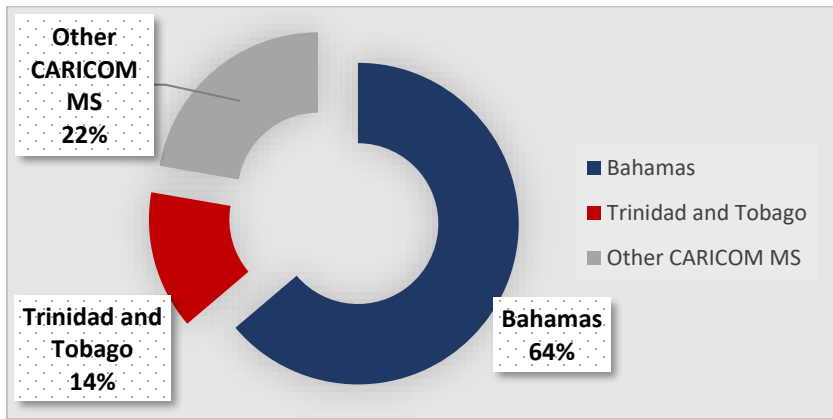


Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) are prized for their nutritional richness and culinary versatility. Packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, **Tomatoes** play a vital role in promoting health and well-being. With the region's growing hospitality industry, focus on promoting healthy eating habits and sustainable production and consumption, IESC is supporting farmers' capacity to meet the growing demand for produce like **Tomatoes**.


Import quantities and values.

Two CARICOM Member States, Bahamas (64%), and Trinidad and Tobago (14%), accounted for approximately 78% of all regional imports between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 1), averaging US \$5.38 million in annual imports. Details on other CARICOM market opportunities are provided in Table I.

Figure 1: Imported values of Tomatoes by percentage by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022)



Intra-regional trade for tomatoes remains limited.

Explore intricate details on the next page, where import dynamics and trends are uncovered. 

About CAPA

A USAID-funded program, implemented by Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC), focused on enhancing regional food security by increasing fruit and vegetable productivity, building the capacity of buyers and input suppliers, to strengthen relationships with farmers, and improving farm-level extension systems.

CAPA is being implemented in Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

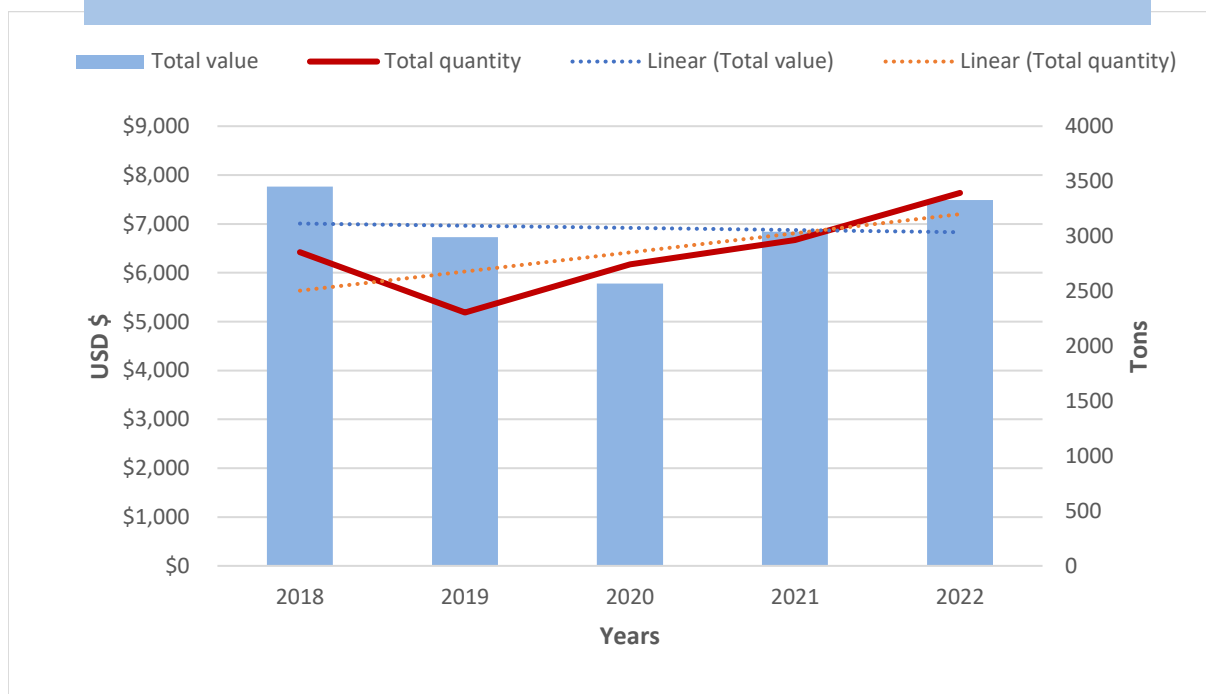
- **Objective 1:** Increase smallholder market-led production of fruits and vegetables.
- **Objective 2:** Improve domestic and regional market linkages for smallholder farmers.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen public/private sector extension skills, capacity, and systems to transfer best practices to smallholder farmers.

Table I: Total and Average values and quantities of Tomatoes imported by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022) in US \$'000 and Tons, respectively.

Importers	Total Import Value US \$'000	Average Import Value US \$'000	Total Import Quantity (Tons)	Average Import Quantity (Tons)
Bahamas	22,075	4,415	7,820	1,564
Trinidad and Tobago	4,823	965	3,476	695
Antigua and Barbuda	2,607	521	985	197
Barbados	1,849	370	1,206	241
Haiti	1,766	353	0	0
Saint Lucia	573	115	226	45
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	356	71	139	28
Grenada	186	37	99	20
Guyana	118	24	125	25
Montserrat	72	14	32	8
Dominica	65	13	33	7
Jamaica	60	12	92	18
Saint Kitts and Nevis	18	4	0	0
Suriname	12	2	25	5
Belize	12	2	2	0
Total	34,592	6,918	14,260	2,853

Source: <https://www.trademap.org>

Figure 2: Regional trend in import values and quantities over the period (2018-2022).



Explore the regulatory and market requirements for importing and exporting tomatoes on the next page.





Import Requirements.

- Phytosanitary Risk Assessment (PRA) required for the first entry.
- Plant Certification (PC) issued after inspection and in accordance with conditions of the importing country. Must state all pest control treatments applied to tomatoes. Must declare Tomatoes to originate in areas/production sites officially designated free of *Tuta absoluta*.
- Surface disinfection and disinfestation required.
- Import Permit (IP) to be obtained before commodity leaves exporting country, valid for 60 days from the date of issue.
- Valid Import Permit with stipulations must be issued from the importing country to meet entry requirements.
- Certification of freedom from soil and pests of plant quarantine significance.



Export Requirements.

- Phytosanitary Certification (PC) required, issued no more than 72 hours before export.
- Surface disinfection and disinfestation of the commodity by the exporter, overseen by a plant quarantine inspector.
- Traceability of production, processing, and distribution maintained. Notification must be given by existing pack house facilities to the NPPO/Plant Protection Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture to ascertain pack house requirements.
- Use of pesticides must conform to the regulations of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and collaborating agencies.
- Must follow the market guidelines for pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest

Regulatory Regimes/Market Requirements

Quality Requirements:

Tomatoes must be whole, sound, clean, and practically free from pests, damage, abnormal moisture, and foreign odors or tastes. The stalks of trusses must be fresh, healthy, and free of leaves and debris. They must exhibit sufficient maturity and ripeness to withstand transportation and handling while continuing their ripening process to achieve the desired degree of ripeness. Three classes exist:

"Extra" Class: Tomatoes must meet superior quality criteria, including firm flesh, characteristic shape, appearance, and uniform size. They must be free of defects, except for minor superficial imperfections that do not affect overall quality.

Class I: Tomatoes are of good quality, with reasonably firm flesh and uniform size. They may have slight defects in shape, color, or skin, but these must not compromise their overall appearance or quality.

Class II: Tomatoes, while still meeting minimum quality requirements, may exhibit more pronounced defects and slightly less firm flesh compared to Class I.

Sizing: Tomatoes can be sized by diameter, with options ranging from 0 ($\leq 20\text{mm}$) to 10 ($> 102\text{mm}$), or by uniformity provisions that limit differences in diameter between tomatoes in the same package.

Tolerances: For all classes, a total tolerance of 10% is permitted for produce not meeting class requirements. Quality tolerances differ between Class I and Class II tomatoes, with stricter requirements for the former.

Uniformity: Each package must contain uniform tomatoes of the same origin, variety, quality, and size (if sized). For "Extra" Class and Class I tomatoes, uniformity in ripeness and coloring is also essential.

Packaging: Tomatoes must be packed to ensure their proper protection during transportation and storage. Packaging materials must be clean, new, and of suitable quality to prevent damage. Must be clearly marked with identification details, including packer/dispatcher information, nature of produce, origin, and commercial specifications.

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