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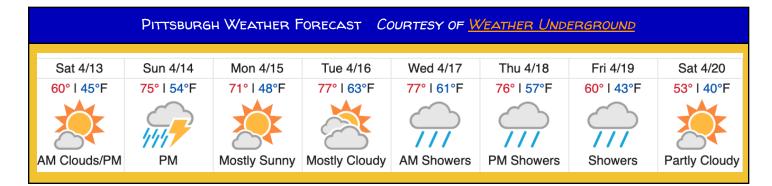
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# **PRODUCE NEWS & UPDATES**

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The Packer

# Sales show a steady rise for lemons and limes

Lemons and limes are on the rise. Expanding per capita consumption, increasing imports and moderate retail growth in sales point to a strong category, data and industry leaders indicate. "We're still seeing an increased demand for lemons at retail, with lemon volume up 30% compared to pre-COVID season year to date, and lime demand is up 45%," said Cassie Howard, senior director of category management and marketing at

Sunkist Growers Inc. "Foodservice is continuing to regain its footing following the pandemic and inflation, and lemons are one of the most demanded items in the category." Both total sales and volume were up for lemons and limes for the 52 weeks ending Jan. 28, 2024, according to Circana retail scan data.

#### LIMES RISING

Fueled entirely by imports (the USDA reports no significant lime production in the U.S.), retail per capita available of limes has surged from 1.3 pounds in 2000 to 4.4 pounds in 2022. Circana data showed that total dollar sales of limes for the 52 weeks ending Jan. 28 were \$801.3 million, up 2.4% compared with the previous year. Conventional lime sales rose 2.6%, while organic lime sales were down 1.9%, according to retail scan data.

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