Retail Supply Chain Update
May 15, 2020

**Retail sales drop to lowest on record in April**

- An advance reading from the Census Bureau showed US retail sales plummeted by 16.4% from the prior month in April, the largest since this data series began in 1992.
- The drop was far worse than economists had expected.
- This April's retail sales are down 21.6% compared to April 2019.

**Map of meat processing and packing plant temporary closures due to COVID-19**

- Here is a [map](#) showing the temporary closures as of May 15, as well as list of the closures and re-openings.

**New Zealand meat producer adding more red meat for US consumers**

- Silver Fern Farms, a New Zealand-based lamb, beef and venison producer, announced that it will increase the availability of its product to US consumers and customers.
- The company sells meat in the Tri-State region of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.
- New Zealand is the fourth-largest international supplier of meat to the US food market.

**Tyson Foods**

- Tyson will temporarily suspend operations at its plant in Wilkesboro, NC so the facility can be deep cleaned and sanitized.
- Employees at the plant have tested positive and Wilkes County health officials confirmed the majority of its 274 COVID-19 cases are linked to the outbreak at the plant.

**JBS**

- 67 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed at its processing plant in Louisville, KY, an increase of 10 cases since last week. One employee has died.
- A [corporate office employee in Greeley, CO](#) has died after testing positive for COVID-19.
- The corporate office has 5 confirmed cases, while the processing plant in Greeley has 316 confirmed cases.
- Six workers at the plant in Greeley have died.
Amazon

- A total of 7 warehouse workers have died of COVID-19.
- The company won’t comment on the number of employees who have tested positive for, or have died from the virus.
- Workers have repeatedly criticized the company for failing to notify employees when their colleagues were diagnosed with the virus. The company now sends text alerts or automated calls when a worker is diagnosed, but the alerts often refer only to “multiple new cases,” so workers have been left to tally alerts themselves to figure out the prevalence of the coronavirus at their facility.