



# Understanding the Potential Produce Consumer

IFPA Retail Conference 2024





# IFPA and Circana Partnership

- Sales Performance
- Shopper Behavior
- Monthly Articles
- Quarterly Deep Dive Reports

## Direct IFPA Member Access to Produce Category Insights on Circana's Unify Platform:

**Produce:** <https://advantage.iriworldwide.com/unify-internal/plus/public/087df6d77f618147:-27f37680:18eae8b1b6c:-2ce9>

**Floral:** <https://advantage.iriworldwide.com/unify-internal/plus/public/7d6eaaf620446a48:1cef8e22:18ee35432be:-5b43>





# Today's discussion

01 Produce Performance

02 Retail Landscape

03 Produce: Current and Potential

Who are they?

Trends & Dynamics

Questions? Ask at the end!



# Perception is US Consumers' Reality – Younger HHs Least Optimistic

95%

of all households are **concerned** about food cost inflation in 2024, **70%** say its harder to stay in budget compared to prior months



85%

Say they've seen prices increase in recent months, despite the actual ARP down- **+10 pts from Dec 2023**



84%

Making one or more changes due to increased grocery prices, +5 pts in one month

95%

of shoppers age 33 and younger



51%

Shoppers age 34-42 bought at least some of their groceries online in March vs. less than 25% of shoppers age 59 & older



# Produce Seeing Steady \$ and Vol Growth While Other Food/Bev Fueled Mainly by Inflation

● Dollar Sales vs. 2019

● Volume / Unit Sales vs. 2019

● Price per Volume vs. 2019

□ Indicates Fresh Dept



## Total Edible\*

\$781.3B / 30.8% | 195.4B / -1.0%

\$4.00 / 32.2%



## General Food\*

\$215.5B / 32.8% | 65.1B / -3.5%

\$3.31 / 37.6%



## Beverages

\$98.2B / 44.5% | 462.7B / 5.7%

\$0.21 / 36.6%



## Meat

\$86.6B / 25.1% | 19.4B / -1.0%

\$4.46 / 26.3%



## Refrigerated\*

\$13.7B / 34.4% | 3.8B / 3.1%

\$3.55 / 30.3%



## Produce

\$76.5B / 22.2% | 41.1B / 3.2%

\$1.86 / 18.4%



## Frozen\*

\$74.0B / 37.0% | 14.7B / 0.6%

\$5.05 / 36.2%



## Deli\*

\$46.3B / 28.5% | 7.7B / 4.6%

\$5.98 / 22.9%



## Bakery\*

\$43.5 / 33.7% | 11.7B / -5.3%

\$3.71 / 41.2%



## Liquor\*

\$41.0B / 11.3% | 3.3B / -4.4%

\$12.31 / 16.4%



## Floral

\$8.0B / 42.7% | 1.4B / 18.2%

\$5.57 / 20.7%



## Seafood

\$6.3B / 15.9% | 680.0M / -0.4%

\$9.26 / 16.4%

# Unlike Other Fresh Depts, Produce Frequency Growth Keeping Pace with Center-Store

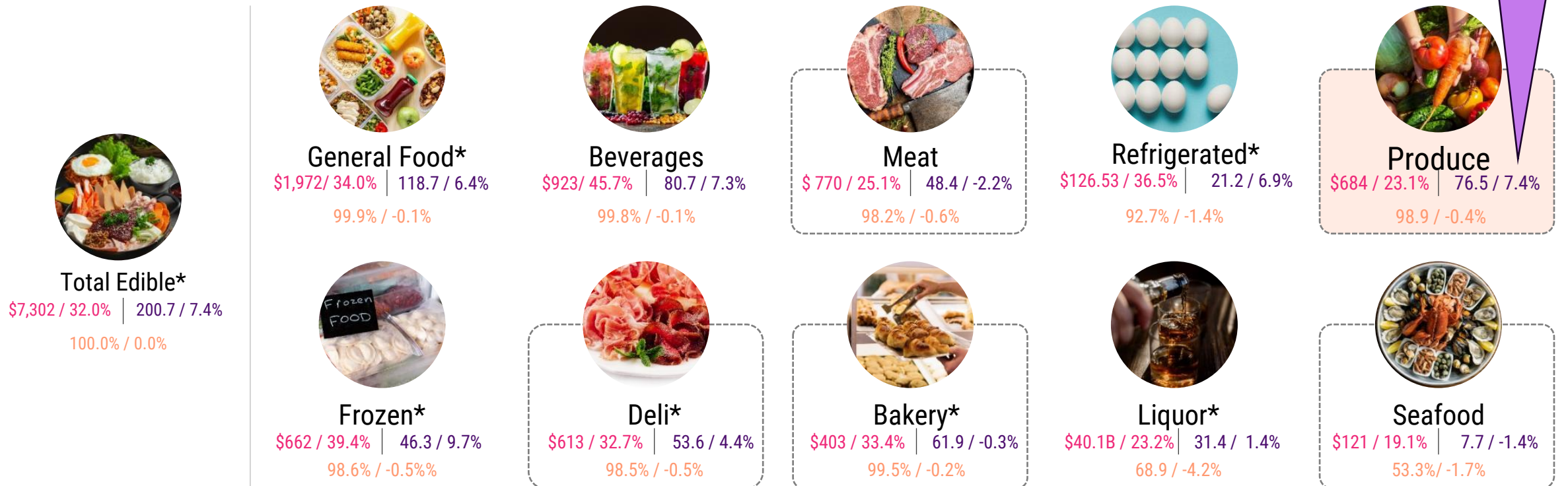
● Dollars per Buyer vs. 2019

● Product Trips per Buyer vs. 2019

● %HH Penetration vs. 2019

□ Indicates Fresh Dept

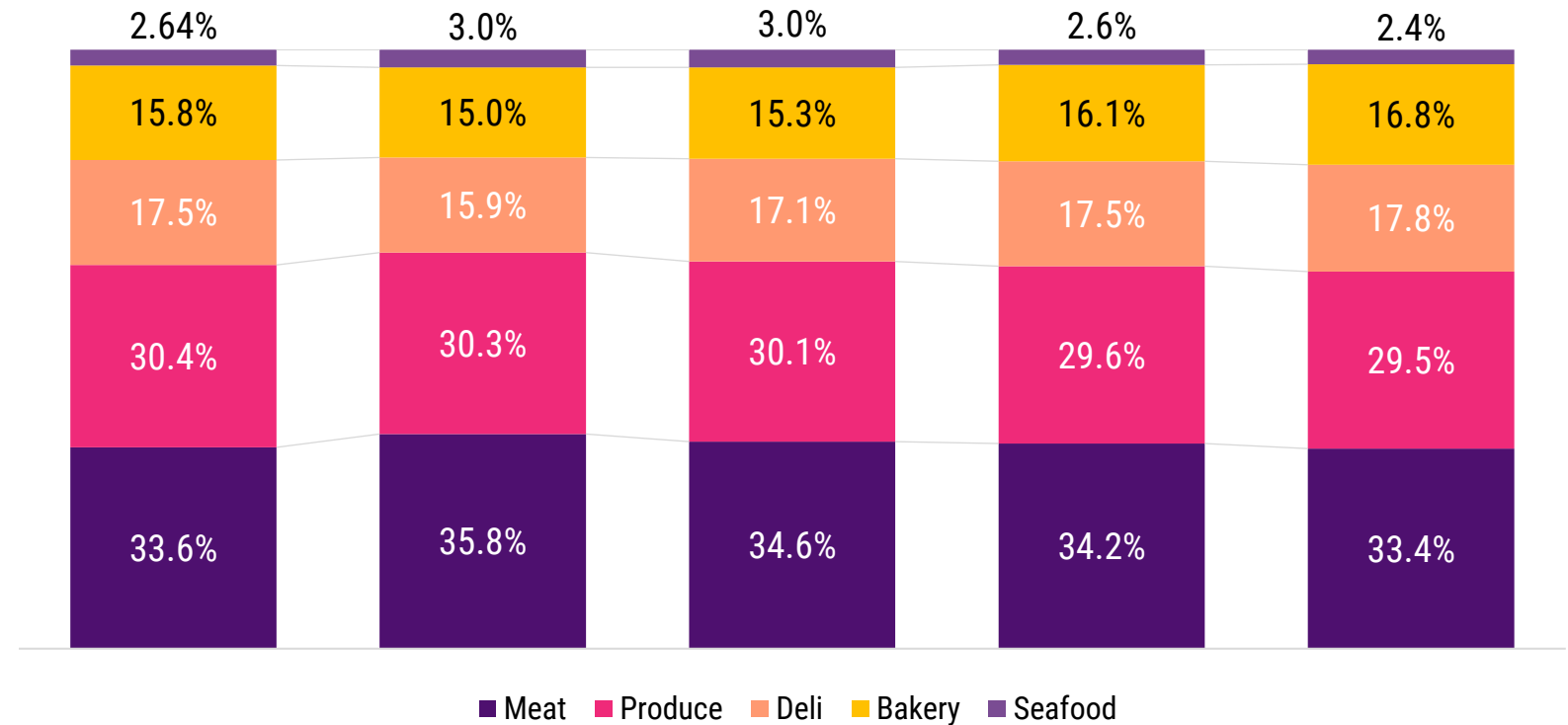
Most trips in Fresh!



# Fresh sales are shifting in this new normal

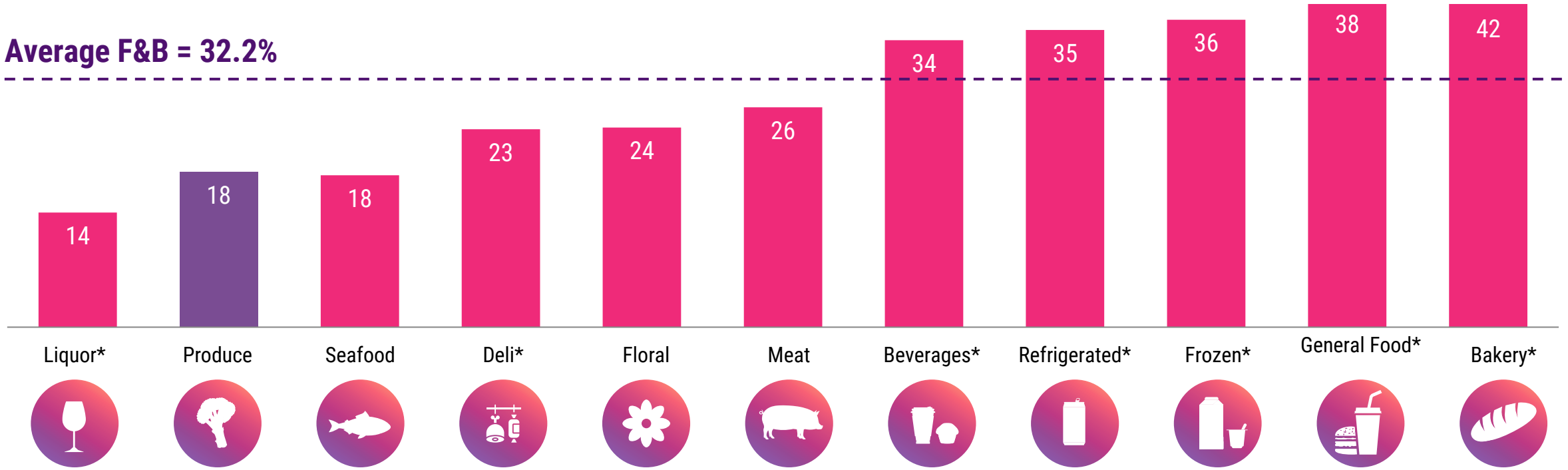
Bakery is the biggest winner while produce struggles to maintain share.

Department	23' vs 19'
Meat	▼ 0.2pts
Produce	▼ 0.9pts
Deli	▲ 0.4pts
Bakery	▲ 1.0pts
Seafood	▼ 0.2pts



# Prices Truly are Up Significantly Across Food and Beverages, Fresh Less than Center-of-Store

Although price increases are less for produce compared to total food and beverage, there has still been an 18% increase since 2019



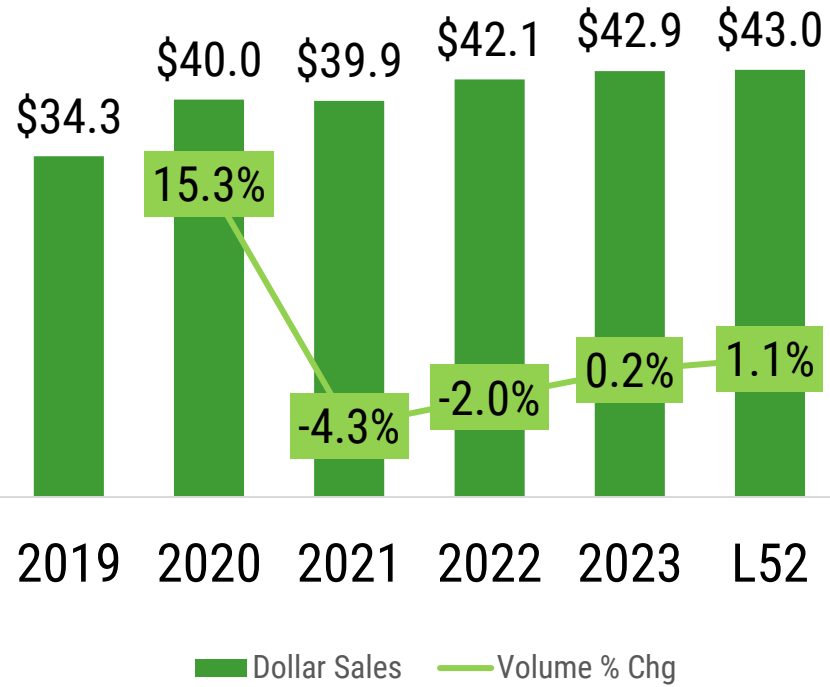
Price realization by F&B Department YTD 2023 vs 2019, MULOC



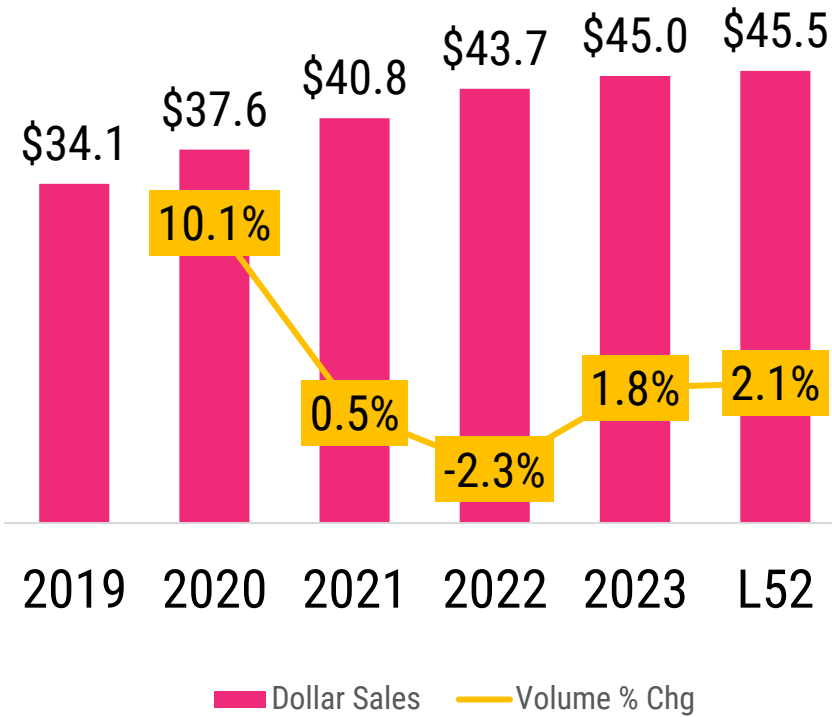
# Fresh Vegetables volume decline has improved since 2022; Fruit volume is growing in 2023



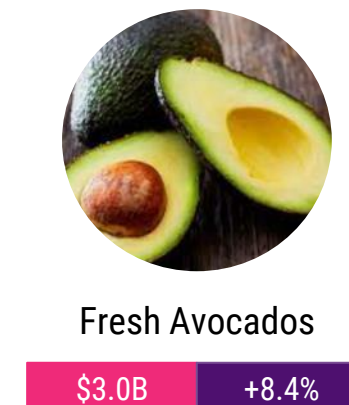
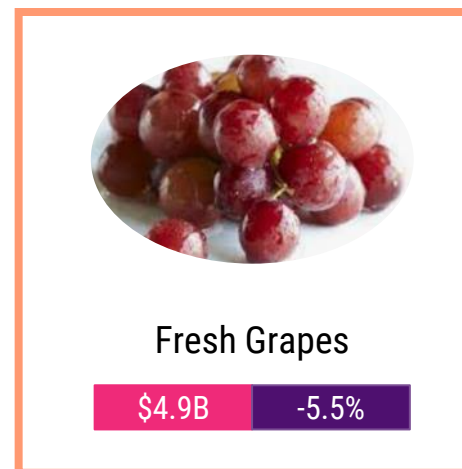
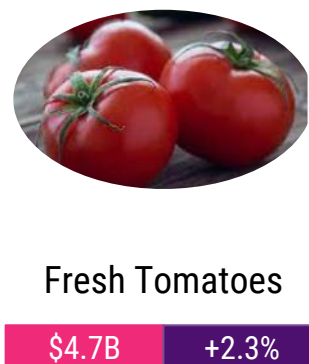
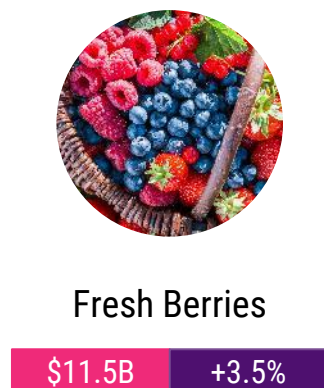
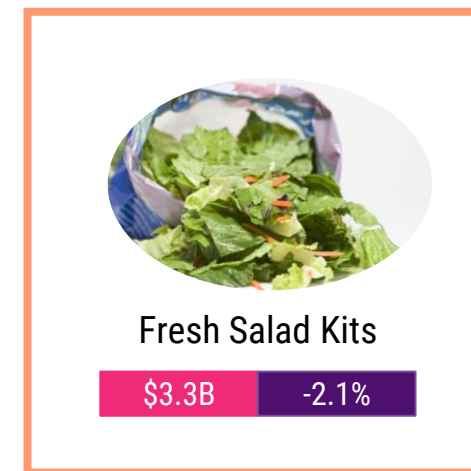
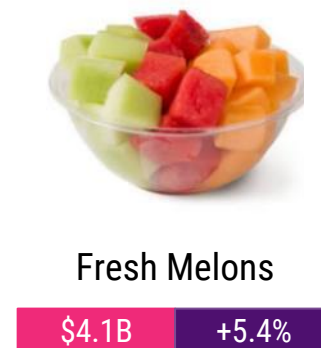
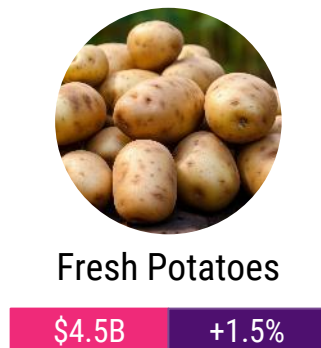
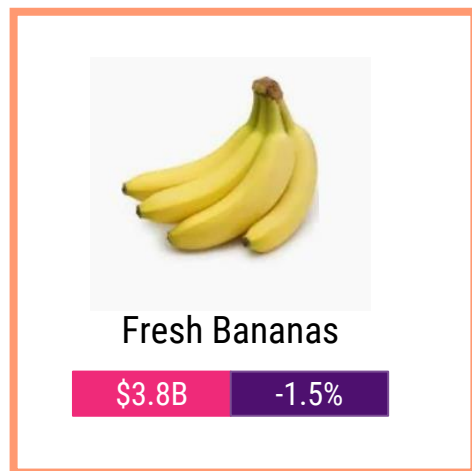
## FRESH VEGETABLES



## FRESH FRUIT



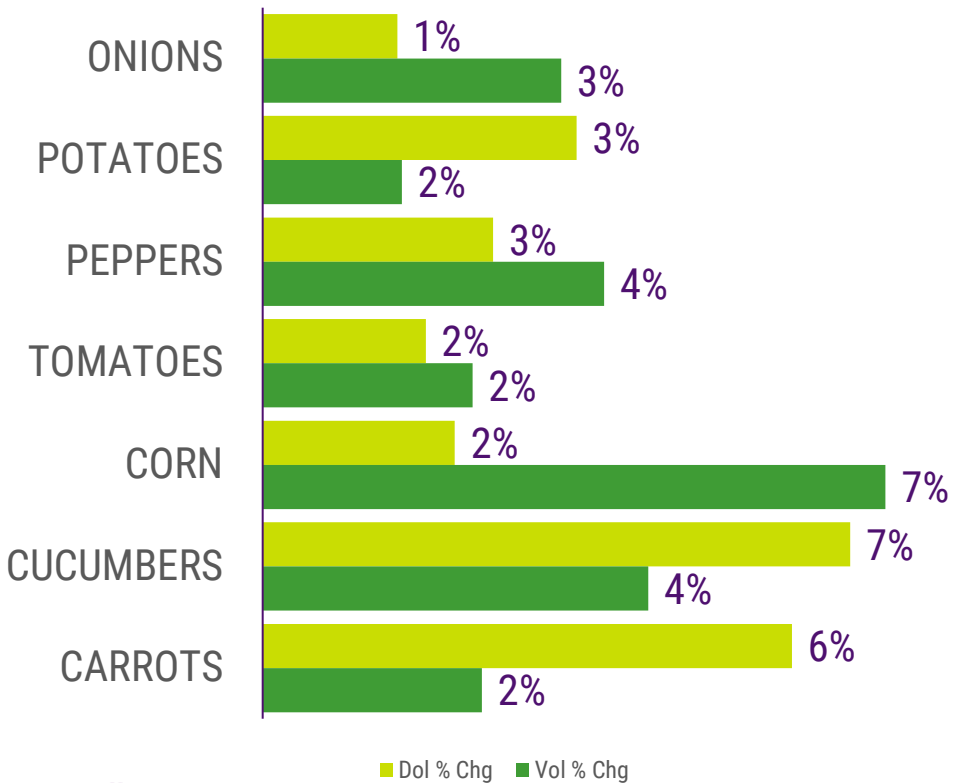
# Uneven Pound Trends in Top Selling Produce Categories



● Dollar Sales    ● Volume % Change vs. YA



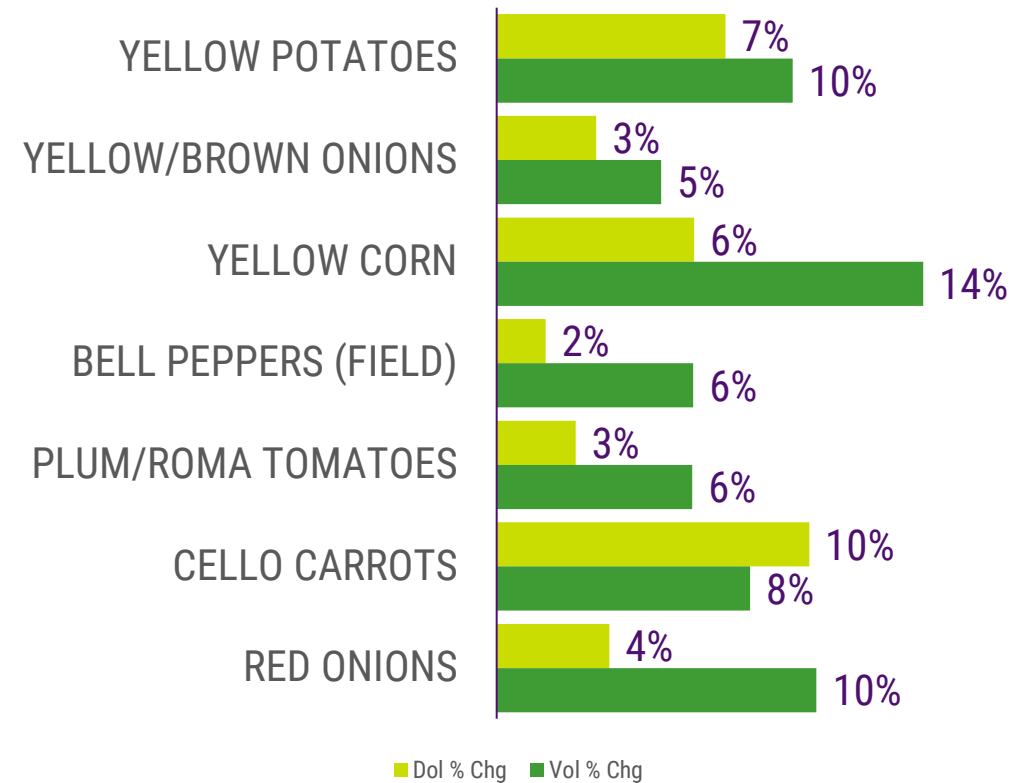
### Top Growth Vegetable Sub-Categories



Many Cooking Vegetables and Snacking Vegetables experienced volume growth



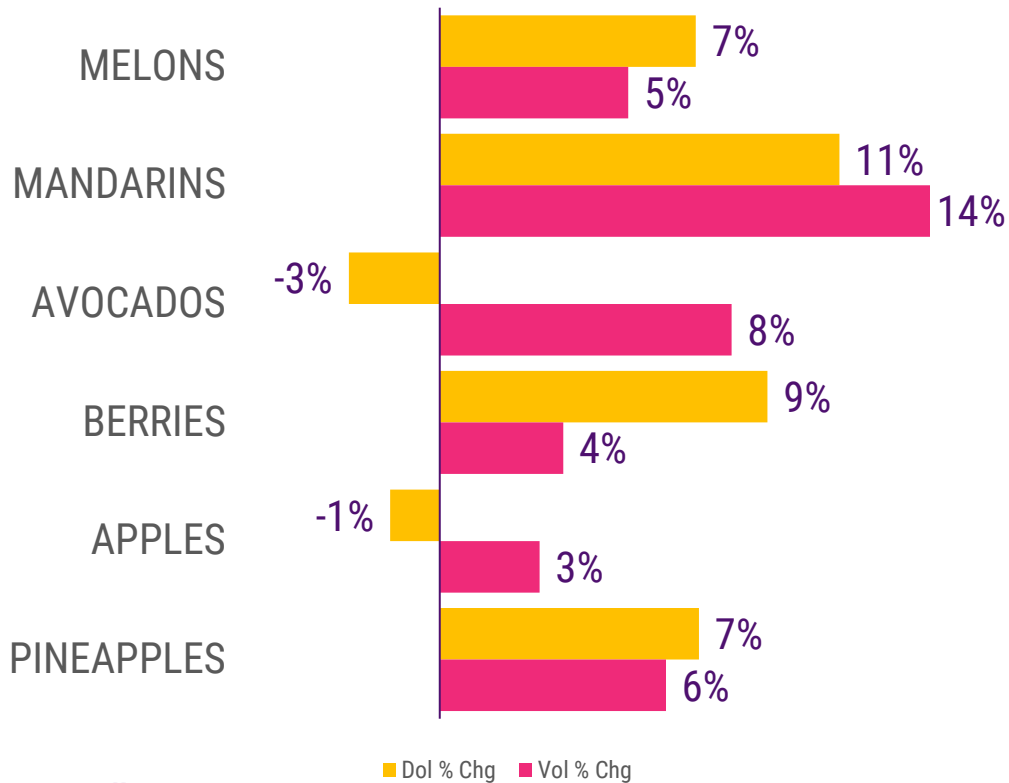
### Top Growth Vegetable Segments







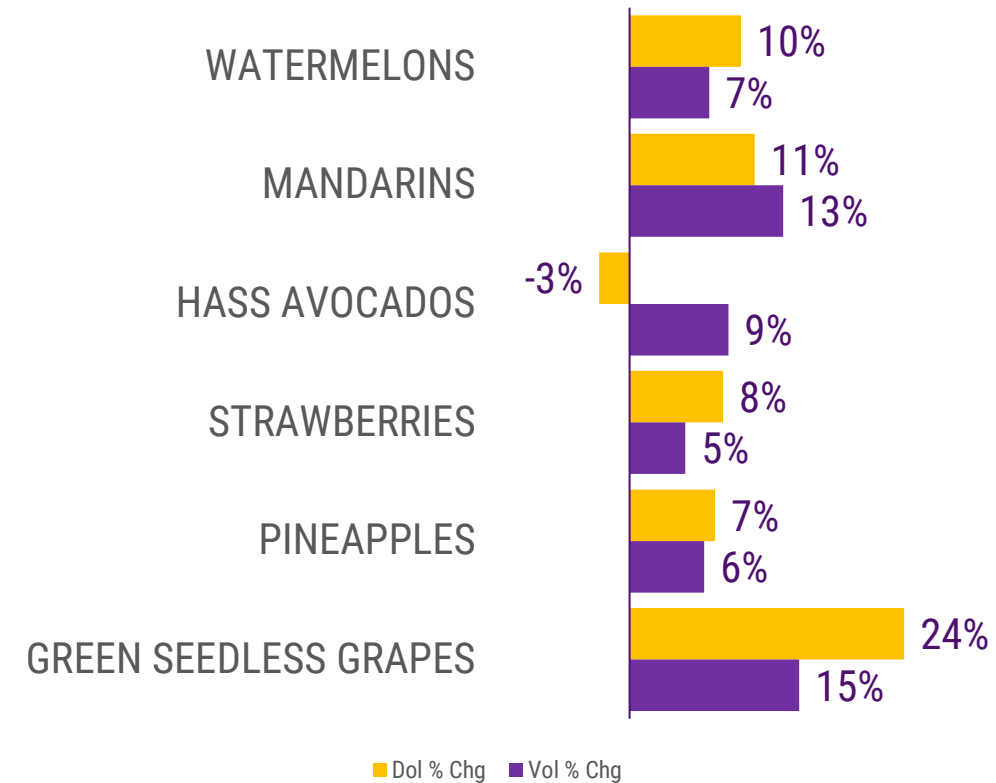
### Top Growth Fruit Sub-Categories



Fruit volume is growing this year, driven by tropical fruits and staples like Avocados, Berries and Apples

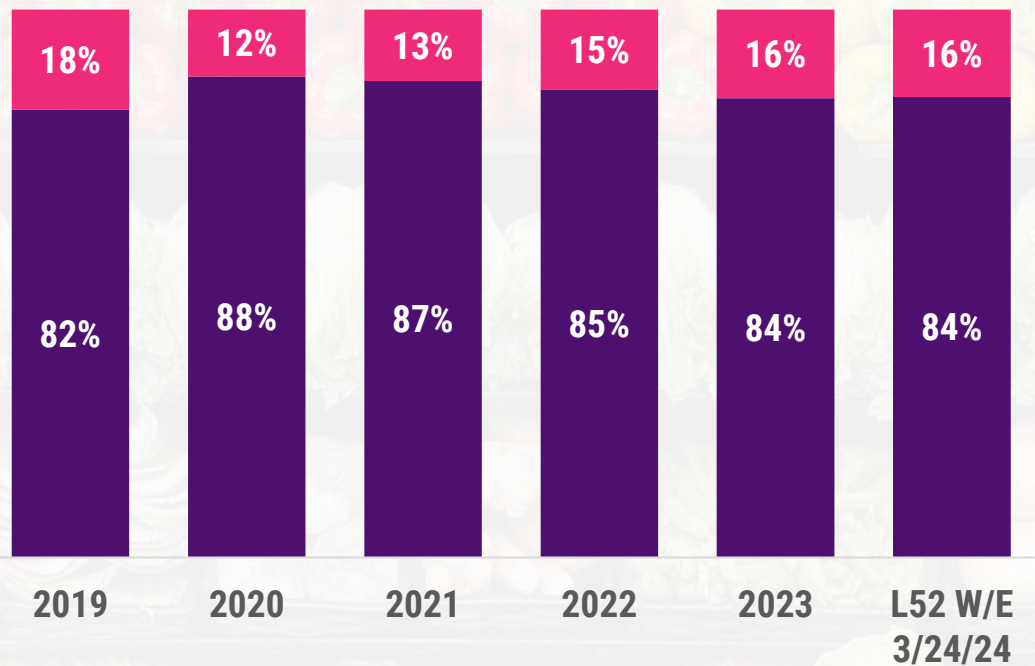


### Top Growth Fruit Segments



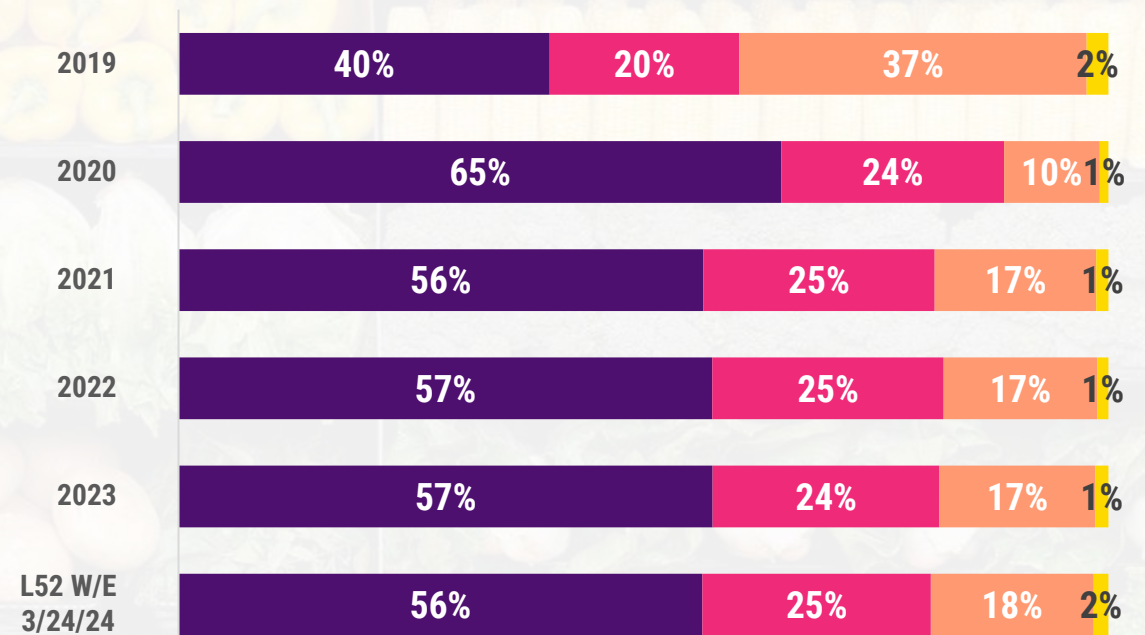
# Produce is increasing share of incremental sales with Price Reductions maintaining the majority of promos

Share of Total Produce Volume Sales



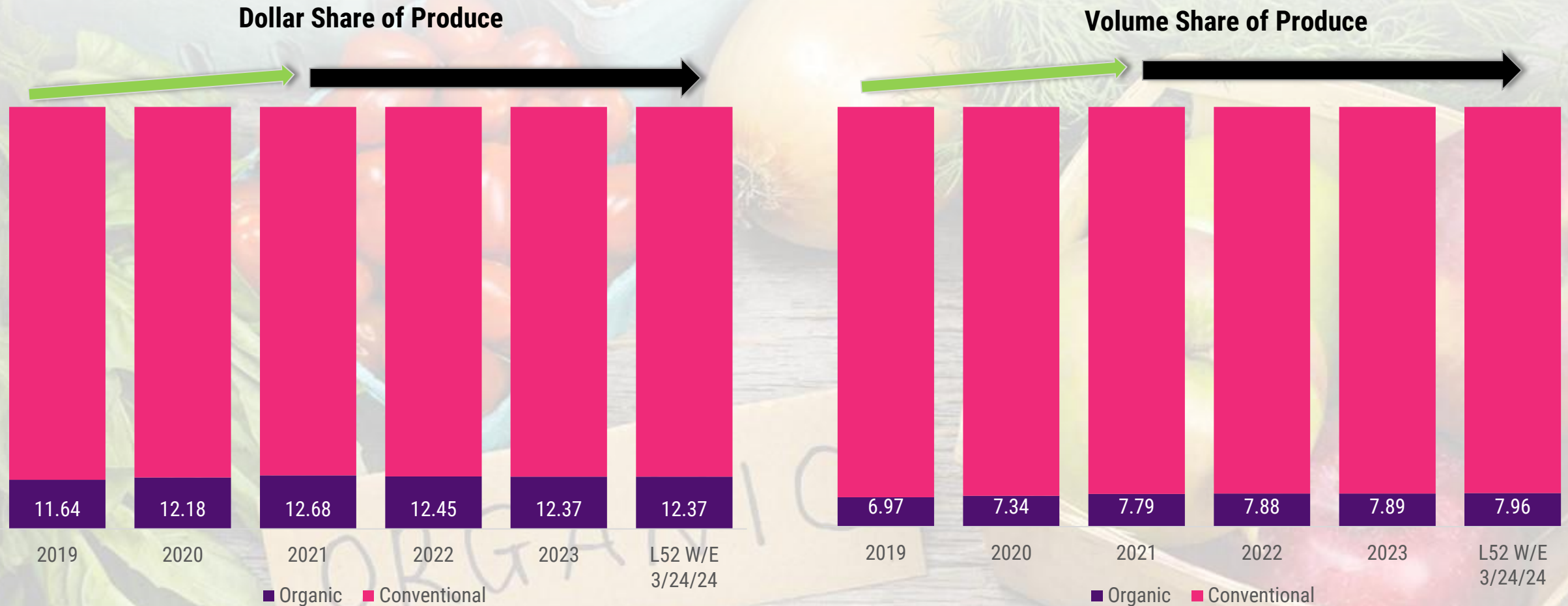
■ Base Volume ■ Incremental Volume

Produce % Incremental Volume by Merch



■ Price Reductions Only ■ Feature Only ■ Display Only ■ Feature and Display

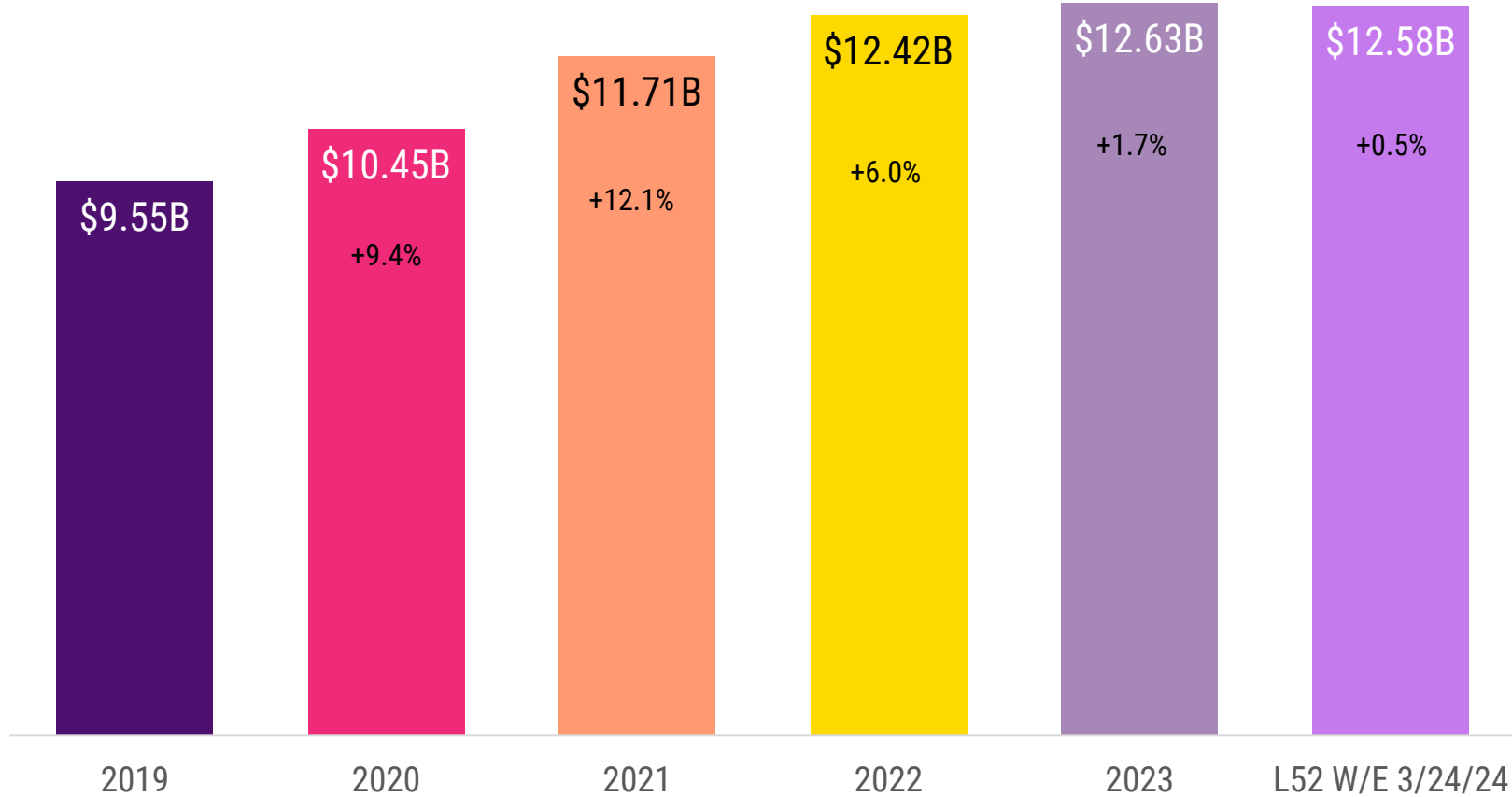
# Despite inflation and economic headwinds, organic produce is maintaining its volume share in the most recent 52 weeks





# Value-Add Produce Continues to Grow, but at a Slower Rate than Previously- Convenience + Relevance + Minimize Waste Key Messages

Value Add Produce \$ Sales, \$ % Chg YA



# Produce is the Most Frequently Bought Fresh Department & Reaches Nearly Every US HH – but Latest Trends are Showing Erosion



VEGETABLES			
	FRESH	FROZEN	SHELF STABLE
% HH Buying	97.7	75.6	91.9
Chg v YA	-0.1	-1.3	-0.2
Trips (MM)	6,636	759	1,772
%Chg v YA	0.5	-1.6	0.1

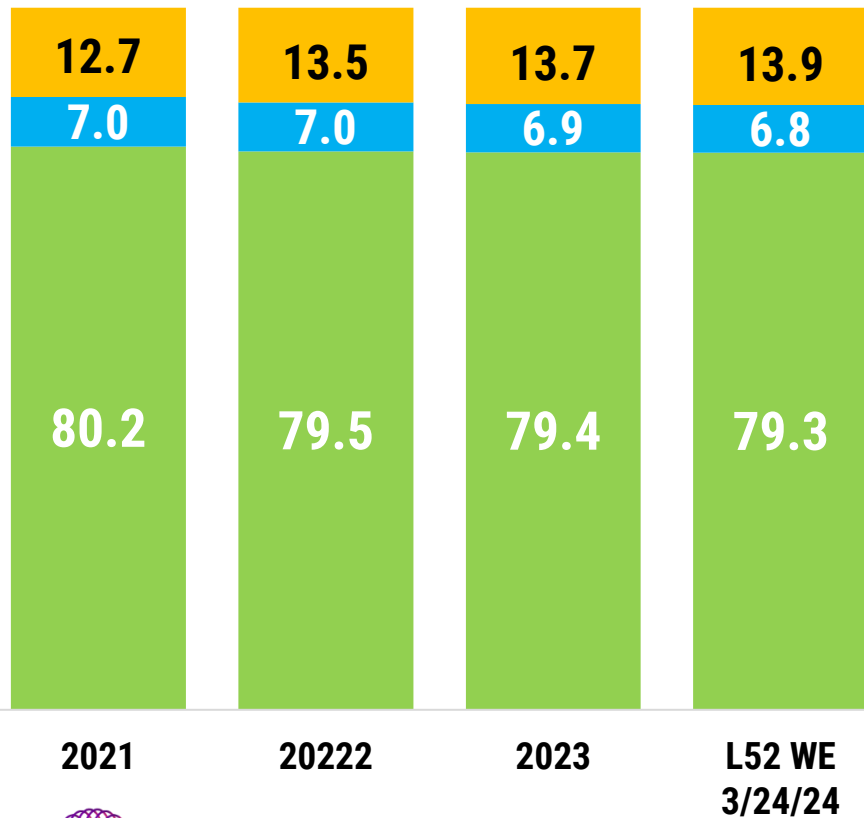
FRUIT			
	FRESH	FROZEN	SHELF STABLE
% HH Buying	97.5	41.6	84.5
Chg v YA	-0.0	1.2	-0.6
Trips (MM)	6,743	262	938
%Chg v YA	1.4	6.8	-2.2



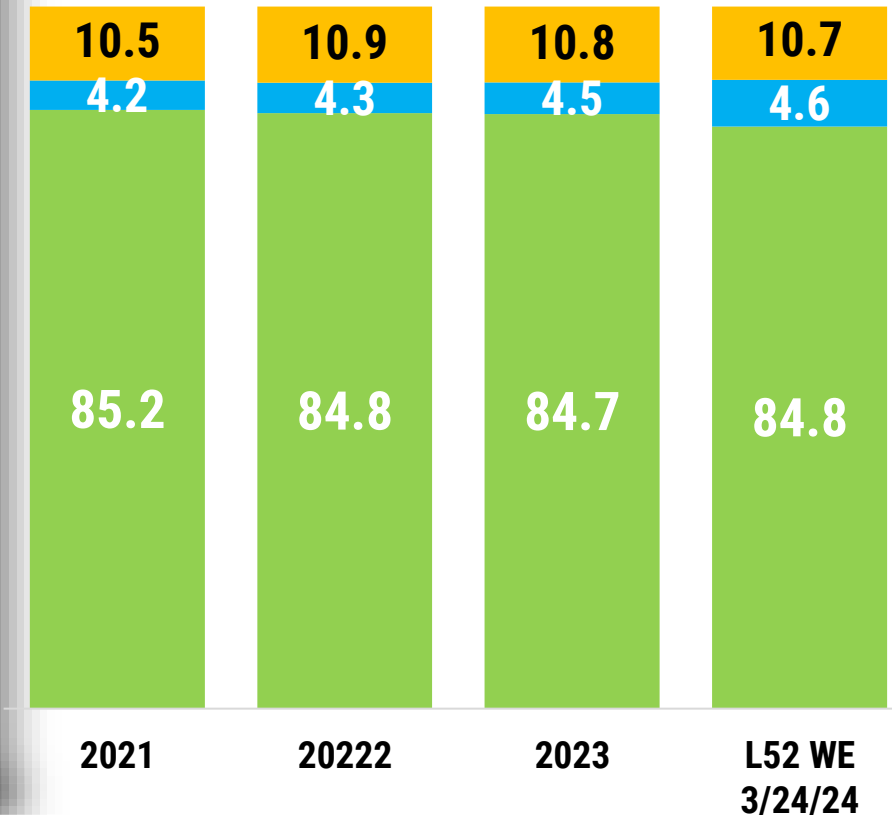


Fresh remains the dominant temperature state among fruit and vegetables; however, there has been slight gains in shelf stable for vegetables and frozen in fruit

### VEGETABLES



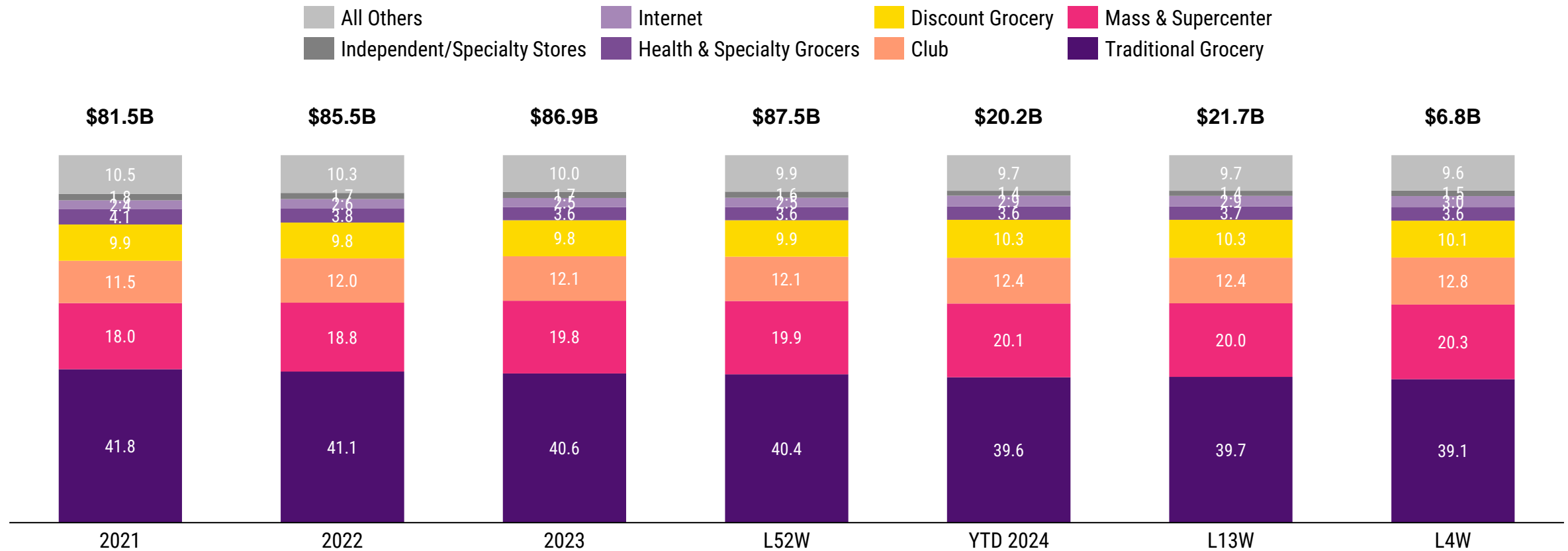
### FRUIT





# We Have to Recognize Produce is Now Purchased Everywhere

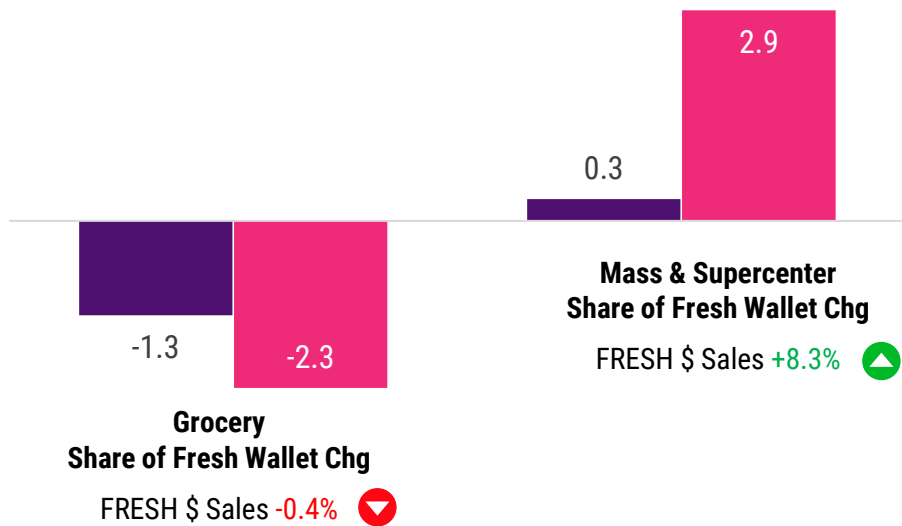
Produce has gained dollar share in Mass/Super and Club since 2021 and is continuing to grow in the last 4 weeks, while traditional grocery is losing share



Source: OmniConsumer Integrated Fresh CY 2021-2023, L52W, YTD 2024, L13W, L4W data ending 03/24/24, All Outlets.

# Mass continues to gain fresh wallet share

- Heavy Grocery Channel Shoppers
- Heavy Mass & Supercenter Channel Shoppers



%Dollar Sales Change by Shopper Group

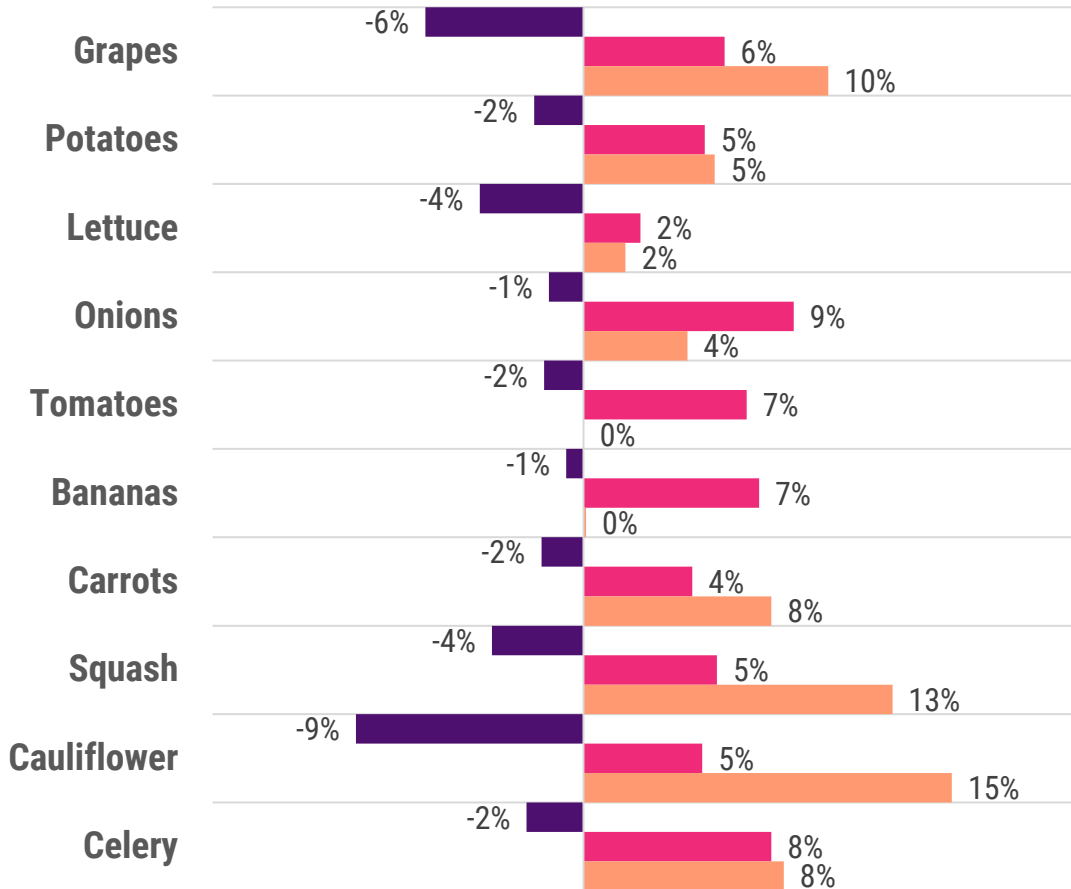
**1.9%**  
Grocery

**1.0%**  
Mass & Supercenter

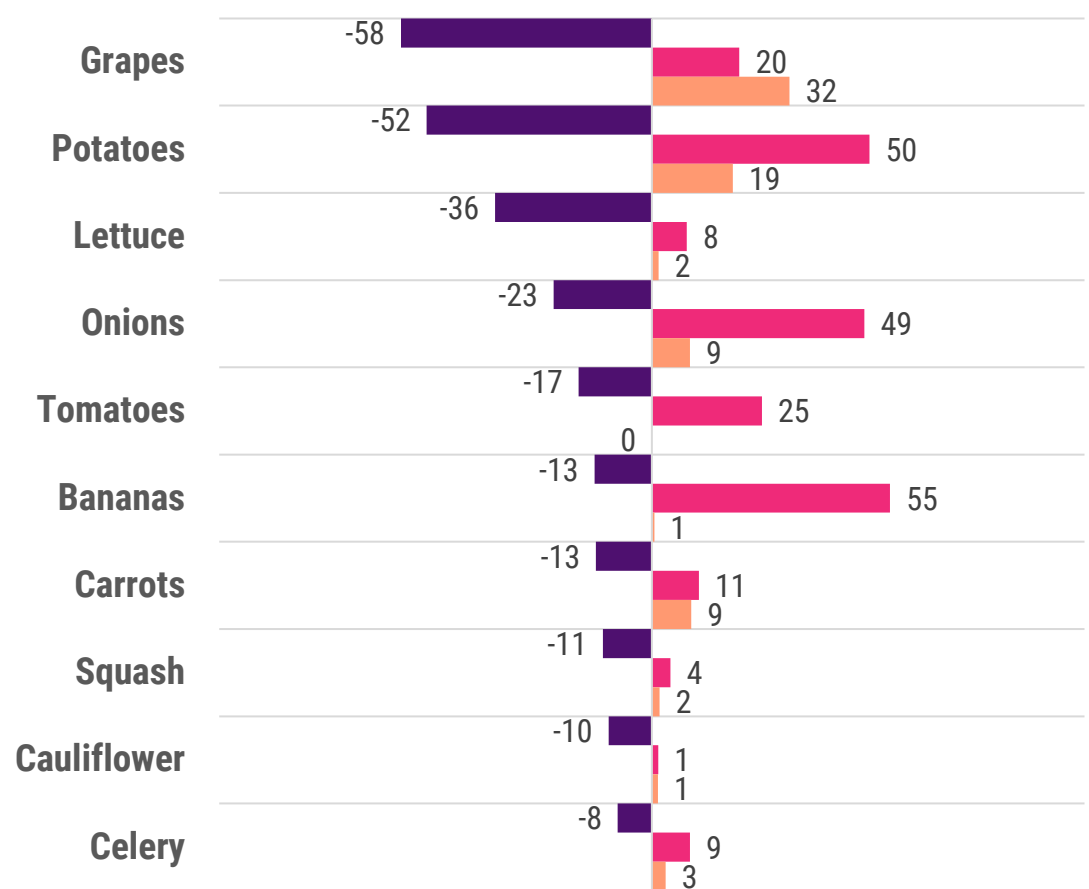


# Top Produce volume Shifting from Food to Mass and Club

Volume % Change



Volume Change in Millions



■ Food ■ Mass ■ Club



# Across All Retail Channels, The Future Is Only Semi-Bright for Produce

- ✓ Leveraged Circana **Demand Forecasting Platform** to develop causal based econometric demand model for each F&B department
- ✓ Leveraged **100+ variables** to test hypotheses for each model developed
- ✓ **Machine learning algorithm and over 500 Random Forest models** to determine most important causal variables
- ✓ Models finalized **based on best fit, significance levels and intuitiveness**
- ✓ Developed **forward looking input variable assumptions** using historical trends and industry experts
- ✓ Platform allows us to run scenarios and **estimate future sales and decomposition of its drivers**

## Circana retail Produce Outlook for 2024

*On-par with Food & Bev – but behind Deli and Beverages:*

**2 - 3%** Dollar Growth

**1 - 2%** Price per Vol Growth

**0 - 1%** Volume/Unit Growth

# Are We Satisfied with Status Quo?

The Broader Business World, and Consumers, Are Not



## Cool Comes to the Humble Produce Aisle

Fruits and vegetables are the latest section of the supermarket to get a branding push as investors and marketers target the agriculture industry

*“This isn’t ‘designer’ produce with designer price tags... It’s the everyday apple, now with a Pepsi-style marketing strategy.”*







**If we do what  
we've always done...**

**We will get to where  
we've always been.**



# Leverage Produce's Size & Relevance To Help Convert & Retain Shoppers





# Who is Produce Winning with Today?

Top indexing demographics purchasing Produce



## Generation

Boomers (Born 1946-1964)

**109 Dollar Index**

35% of Dollars

33% of Buyers



## Income

Income greater than \$100K

**126 Dollar Index**

39% of Dollars

32% of Buyers



## Race

Asian

**129 Dollar Index**

8% of Dollars

6% of Buyers



## Life Stage

1+ Child

**109 Dollar Index**

33% of Dollars

30% of Buyers

*Any one of these demographic groups still has 60% or more households available to focus on!*

# Opportunity: WIC Eligible Households

- Low-Income per Capita
- Age of Children 0 to 5
- Head of Household 35-44 years old
- Millennials-Older (Born 1981-1989)
- 4+ Person HH
- White & Hispanic
- No Pets

The average monthly WIC-eligible population is **12 million US households**



\* Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service



Source: Circana Integrated Fresh Panel, Total US – All Outlets, 52 weeks ending 3/24/2024,

Lowest Income per Capita (bottom third of HHs) and have children under age 5 in the home

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# What Produce Do WIC-Eligible HHs Buy Today?

Increase Frequency for Melons and Mandarins, while Grapes increased Spend per Trip

Produce Categories	Dollar Sales (M)	Dollars % Chg	Dollars per Buyer	\$ per Buyer Chg	Dollars per Trip	\$ per Trip Change	Product Trips	Trips Change
<b>Berries</b>	\$805	15%	\$157.59	8%	\$7.2	5%	21.8	2%
<b>Apples</b>	\$381	7%	\$77.87	3%	\$5.2	0%	15.0	2%
<b>Grapes</b>	\$273	22%	\$59.46	21%	\$5.0	12%	11.9	8%
<b>Melons</b>	\$181	22%	\$45.62	14%	\$5.3	1%	8.7	13%
<b>Mandarins</b>	\$155	13%	\$40.44	10%	\$5.0	-5%	8.1	16%



Source: Circana Integrated Fresh Panel, Total US – All Outlets, WIC Eligible defined as Low Income, HHS with Children under age 5, 52 weeks ending 3/24/2024

# What is Declining Among WIC-Eligible HHs

Decline in sales for Cauliflower and Brussel Sprouts

Produce Categories	Dollar Sales (M)	Dollars % Chg	Dollars per Buyer	\$ per Buyer Chg	Dollars per Trip	\$ per Trip Change	Product Trips	Trips Change
<b>Cabbage</b>	\$19	29%	\$9.05	12%	\$2.5	7%	3.6	4%
<b>Cauliflower</b>	\$16	-14%	\$11.31	-6%	\$3.4	-8%	3.3	2%
<b>Celery</b>	\$42	8%	\$12.15	1%	\$2.3	-2%	5.3	3%
<b>Asparagus</b>	\$16	26%	\$12.71	21%	\$5.0	17%	2.5	3%
<b>Brussel Sprouts</b>	\$15	-4%	\$12.82	-19%	\$4.3	-6%	3.0	-13%

# Further: Younger Generations are limitedly engaged in today's Traditional Grocery produce department which skews heavily towards consumers nearing 60 yo+

Generations	Convenience	Grocery	Club	Mass/ Supercenter	Internet
<b>Younger Millennials (Born 1990 – 1996)</b>	152	78	64	90	125
<b>Older Millennials (Born 1981 – 1989)</b>	77	94	113	148	110
<b>Gen Xers (Born 1965 – 1980)</b>	80	97	115	116	97
<b>Younger Boomers (Born 1956 – 1964)</b>	100	110	103	68	100
<b>Older Boomers (Born 1946 – 1955)</b>	97	119	98	79	91
<b>Retirees &amp; Seniors (Born Before 1946)</b>	143	114	75	60	63





# What are Gen Z buying in Produce?

Top growing Dollar % Change







# It's Possible

Let's Go Sell Produce Differently – and  
Take Advantage of The Tremendous  
Opportunity We Have to Grow Retail  
Produce Sales!





# Kick start 2024 with Liquid Data Go™

The industry-leading source of trusted insights!

- ✓ Circana and International Fresh Produce Associations, insights and an expert perspective
- ✓ Easy to use, and quick to implement
- ✓ Flexible solutions for every stage of growth

Questions?

Email us:  
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