

China Denies It's Hoarding Food, but Facts Show Otherwise

People crowd as they shop for food at a supermarket in Chaoyang District in Beijing, China, on April 25. (Kevin Frayer/Getty Images)

By Marisa Herman | Tuesday, 26 April 2022 06:42 AM

<https://www.newsmax.com/platinum/china-coronavirus-variant-stockpiling-food/2022/04/26/id/1067234/>

Beijing residents are flooding supermarkets amid fears they'll soon be subjected to a lengthy lockdown as a new coronavirus variant spreads through the city – but stockpiling food in China is not limited to just those worried residents in the nation's capital.

The Chinese government's own massive food shopping spree hasn't slowed either, resulting in the country amassing huge stockpiles of corn, rice, and wheat that many experts say is causing the prices of agricultural goods to skyrocket around the globe.

China hawks agree that China's draconian — and failed — "zero-COVID" policy is what is fueling the current scramble to secure food in Beijing. For weeks, Shanghai has been on a hard lockdown in an effort to curb the number of coronavirus cases and other areas are worried they could be next.

"Unfortunately, yes, lockdowns are prompting just about everybody to hoard, and it's just not in the lockdown cities," said Stanley Chao, author of "Selling to China." "Chinese citizens are hoarding even in cities that just got out of lockdown or have no threat of lockdown like Xian, Chengdu, and the Northeast cities."

Chao, who has friends and family residing in Beijing, said his contacts are lining up at grocery stores to "buy up everything from flour, rice, meats to vegetables, and baby food."

Those who can afford to use grocery delivery services are ordering up to "six weeks' worth of groceries" while others load up o

The report is in line with what Qin Yuyun, head of grain reserves at the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, told reporters in November, saying that China is keeping its food stockpiles at a "historically high level" and that it has enough wheat supply to last a year and a half.

And while that may be a worry for another day, it still affects the present, as China's stockpiling continues to impact food prices.

"Prices will go up," Chang said. "That will be imminent and it will continue."

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