



AMCHAM  
GUATEMALA  
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: CP24

## US suspends avocado imports from Mexico after threat to US inspector

The United States has suspended avocado imports from Mexico's western state of Michoacan after a US official received a threat, Mexico's Agriculture Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

According to the statement, the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) decided to pause until further notice the avocado inspection activities in Michoacan after one of its officers, who was carrying out inspection work in Uruapan, Michoacan, received a threatening call to his official cell phone. Michoacan is the only state in Mexico authorized to export avocados to the United States. APHIS-USDA reported that an investigation is currently underway to assess the threat and determine the necessary measures to guarantee the physical integrity of all of its personnel working in Michoacan.

A meeting was held between APHIS personnel and representatives of the Association of Avocado Exporting Producers and Packers of Mexico (APEAM) with local and state police to address the issue.

## Microsoft tells workers to prepare to return to the office

Microsoft told employees that they will need to return to office next month, transitioning back to its corporate campus for the first time since the Omicron coronavirus variant tore through the nation. The company has long said it would embrace a hybrid work environment, with most employees able to work from home up to 50 percent of the time.

In a Monday morning blog post focused on its headquarters near Seattle, Chris Capossela, an executive, said that starting Feb. 28, "employees will have 30 days to make adjustments to their routines and adopt the working preferences they've agreed upon with their managers".



Foto: Wall Street Journal



Foto: cnbc.com

## January home sales jump 6.7% despite a record low supply

Sales of previously owned homes in January rose 6.7% from December to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 6.5 million units, according to the National Association of Realtors. That exceeded Wall Street expectations significantly. Sales were 2.3% lower compared with January 2021.

The supply of homes for sale fell to a record low, down 16.5% from a year ago. There were just 860,000 homes for sale at the end of January. At the current sales pace it would take just 1.6 months to exhaust that inventory. A 4 to 6-month supply is considered a balanced market. That is also a record low.

"Seller traffic is very very low, implying that inventory is struggling to make the turn. Realtors are indicating multiple bidding wars are still happening," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the Realtors.

## FDA Warns Consumers Not to Use Certain Powdered Infant Formula Produced in Abbott Nutrition's Facility in Sturgis, Michigan

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced it is investigating consumer complaints of *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella* Newport infections. All of the cases are reported to have consumed powdered infant formula produced from Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis, Michigan facility. As a result of the ongoing investigation, along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local partners, the FDA is alerting consumers to avoid purchasing or using certain powdered infant formula products produced at this facility. This is an ongoing investigation, and the firm is working with the FDA to initiate a voluntary recall of the potentially affected product.

The FDA is investigating complaints of four infant illnesses from three states. All four cases related to these complaints were hospitalized and *Cronobacter* may have contributed to a death in one case. The FDA has initiated an onsite inspection at the facility. Findings to date include several positive *Cronobacter sakazakii* results from environmental samples taken by the FDA and adverse inspectional observations by the FDA investigators.



Foto: RLS Media

### Fuente

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/18/january-home-sales-jump-6point7percent-despite-a-record-low-supply.html>

### Fuente

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-warns-consumers-not-use-certain-powdered-infant-formula-produced-abbott-nutrition-facility>



Foto: East Idaho News

## A cargo ship full of luxury cars is on fire and adrift in the middle of the Atlantic

An abandoned cargo ship packed with cars is adrift in the Atlantic Ocean, after a rapidly-spreading fire on board forced the crew to escape.

The 656 foot-long Felicity Ace roll-on/roll-off car-carrying ship caught fire in the North Atlantic on Wednesday as it carried cargo, including Porsches and Volkswagens, from Emden, Germany to Davisville, Rhode Island. At the time of the fire's outbreak, the ship was sailing 90 nautical miles southwest of Portugal's Azores, according to

a statement on Wednesday by the Portuguese Navy.

After the fire broke out in the cargo hold, it spread and forced all 22 crew members to abandon ship. According to another statement by the Portuguese Navy, the crew was safely picked up and taken to a local hotel, with the rescue coordinated by the Ponta Delgada Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center. There has been no noticeable source of pollution from the fire, according to the statement.