Coffee Price spikes

April 1977: Brazilian frost: The price of coffee in 1977 was approximately $0.69 per pound. However, due to factors such as frost destroying Brazil's coffee bean crops, coffee prices reached an all-time high, soaring to an inflation-adjusted price of $6.28 per pound, almost 1000% higher than today's prices. In the U.S., the retail price for roasted coffee reached $4.19 per pound in the Spring of 1977.

January 1986: Brazilian frost: The initial reason for the increases, according to Donald Schoenholt, founding chairman of the Specialty Coffee Association of America, a trade group of small specialty coffee shops and roasters, is ''the nervous, frightening climate'' in the coffee-growing world caused by news that frost in Brazil killed more than 40 percent of that country's coffee crop for sale in 1987. Brazil supplies one-third of all the coffee sold in the world.

September 1994: Brazilian production drop: Now, prices are rising amid concern that Brazil's crop, the world's largest, will be smaller than expected. Brazil exported 77.3 million pounds of coffee in April, a 48 percent drop from March and the lowest monthly shipment since April 1989.

May 1997: Speculation: Coffee prices on Wednesday soared to a 20-year high, prompting Starbucks Corp. and Nestle to raise prices, on speculation that Brazil’s winter could bring damaging frost to the world’s largest crop, further reducing low global stockpiles.

April 2011: Supply chain issues, market expansion: A drop in supplies of high-grade arabica coffee beans and a growing taste for upmarket coffee among the middle classes of China, Brazil, Indonesia and India are blamed for the sharp rise.

November 2024: Supply chain disruption fears: COFFEE prices have surged to their highest levels since April 1977, driven by fears over supply disruptions in top-producing nations like Brazil and Vietnam, and the anticipation of the EU Deforestation Directive (EUDR)

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