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South Africa, Republic of

Dried Fruit

Annual

2000

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Report Highlights:

Current estimates show that South Africa's total raisin production will reach about 38,000 MT in 2000, a decrease of 5% compared to last year because of damage caused by heavy rains during the fruit drying season. Exports are expected to decrease from 28,214 MT to about 27,000 MT because of the expected decline in production.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
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Pretoria [SF1], SF

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Executive Summary

Dried fruit is produced mainly in the Western Cape, the South Western Districts, North Western Cape, the Little Karoo, the Olifants River area and the Lower and Upper Orange River area.

Of the vine fruits, the most important dried products are Thompson seedless raisins, golden sultanas, unbleached sultanas, and hanepoot raisins. Prunes, peaches, and apricots are also important dried fruit products. Most raisins are produced in the area along the Lower Orange river, and prunes are grown most exclusively in the Tulbagh district.

Total raisin production is expected to decrease by about 5% in 2000 to 38,000 MT as a result of damage caused by heavy rains during the fruit drying period. Exports during 2000 are expected to decrease by 4% from previous year. Domestic consumption is expected to remain stable while stocks will decrease significantly as a result of reduced output.

Production

Total production of dried fruit is largely determined by output along the Orange River and the Olifants River.

PSD Table						
Country:	South Africa, Republic of					
Commodity:	Raisins					
		1997		1998		1999
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Area Planted	11683	11683	12346	12346	12400	12400
Area Harvested	11683	11683	12346	12346	12400	12400
Beginning Stocks	10306	10306	0	5744	0	5288
Production	25361	27063	37000	40358	36000	38142
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	35667	37369	37000	46102	36000	43430
Exports	25981	20200	27000	28214	26500	27000
Domestic Consumption	9686	11425	10000	12600	9500	12600
Ending Stocks	0	5744	0	5288	0	3830
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	35667	37369	37000	46102	36000	43430

South Africa's total raisin production for 2000 is expected to decrease by 5% as a result of excessive rainfall in the dried fruit producing areas, especially during the fruit drying period. Fresh grape production also suffered damage and low crop quality from heavy rains in December 1999, which also contributed to low intake by the drying industry.

Consumption

Domestic consumption of raisins is expected to remain virtually stable this year.

Trade

South Africa's total raisin exports are expected to fall to 27,000 MT in 2000, from 28,214 MT in 1999 because of a decrease in total production as a result of damage caused by heavy rains.

Stocks

Total raisin stocks for 2000 are expected to decrease by about 28% from last year due to a reduced production and strong exports and consumption.

Trade

Export Trade Table

Commodity: Raisins

Units: Metric Tons

Time Period: Jan-Dec 1999

U.S.	931
Gabon	6078
Netherlands	4741
Germany	4284
Canada	4020
France	2841
Japan	2130
Hongkong	443
Switzerland	432
Philippines	407
New Zealand	363
Total for listed	25739
Others not listed	1544
Grand Total	28214

The South African Dried fruit industry has successfully maintained its share of the world markets because of the quality of its products. The European Union is South Africa's major export destination point for agricultural products, including dried fruit.

Marketing

South Africa's agriculture is operating under a free market system. Dried fruit is therefore free from government intervention.

For exports and retail distribution, dried products are packed and branded according to names which are associated with certain qualities, sizes or mixtures.

Under the EU/SA Free Trade Agreement, South African dried fruit, like the canned fruit, will be subject to preferential tariff quotas in the European market. However, these products will not have duty free entry that other South African products will eventually enjoy.