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# GAIN Report

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## Turkey

### Dried Fruit

### Raisins Update

## 2009

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**Report Highlights:**

The Turkish raisin cooperative union, TARIS, has announced that the MY 2008 raisin harvest is 30 percent higher than the previous season's. The total harvest yield is estimated to be 310,000 tons. Grade nine raisin prices decreased to 1.475 YTL. TARIS has requested support in order to purchase surplus supply from the market.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Ankara [TU1]  
[TU]

TARIS, the Turkish Union of Raisin Agricultural Sales Cooperatives, recently announced that the 2008/09 raisin harvest was 30 percent higher than the previous year. The harvest is estimated to be 310,000 tons. TARIS simultaneously requested government support for the dried fruit sector as global demand has fallen due to economic crisis. Increased supply and lower demand have caused prices to plummet. Last season grade nine raisin prices rose as high as 3.1 YTL/kg, but in the last two months prices have fallen to 1.475 YTL/kg (USD 1=YTL 1.64). Because farmers do not want to sell their crop below their production cost, they are holding on to their products. TARIS requested government support in order to purchase surplus supplies from the market.

A TARIS official noted that 90% of production is exported, and stated: "The farmers are in a tight spot. Because they have to pay their bank credits and their loans, they are resisting selling below cost. Before the Ramadan holiday [November 2008] there were high expectations of government support of TARIS. However, thus far, these expectations have not been met."

A Manisa Trade Market official complained in the press that the surplus harvest is not being used to benefit exporters and that the government can make purchases to support producers and exporters. There is project about distributing surplus raisins to elementary school students. He said: "Last year we were making contracts for 1,600 dollars [per ton] now we cannot make it for 1,200 dollars."

Exporters announced that if interest-free credit is provided by the government, they can purchase 40-50,000 tons of surplus supply. An Aegean Dried Fruits and Products Exporters Union official noted: Global crisis has changed buying dynamics for the sector. Previously the programs were made yearly, nowadays shorter programs are used. Turkey normally exports about 250,000 tons per year due to 310,000 tons of harvest there is a surplus of 40,000 tons. If 0% interest credit is supplied, they can buy the surplus products from the market. They (*exporters*) want to move together with TARIS but TARIS is not cooperating. He said: "In the past most export contracts were made for 6 months, now the terms are shorter. Our exports did not decrease but the prices did. This is due to the global crisis and the increases in exchange rates".

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