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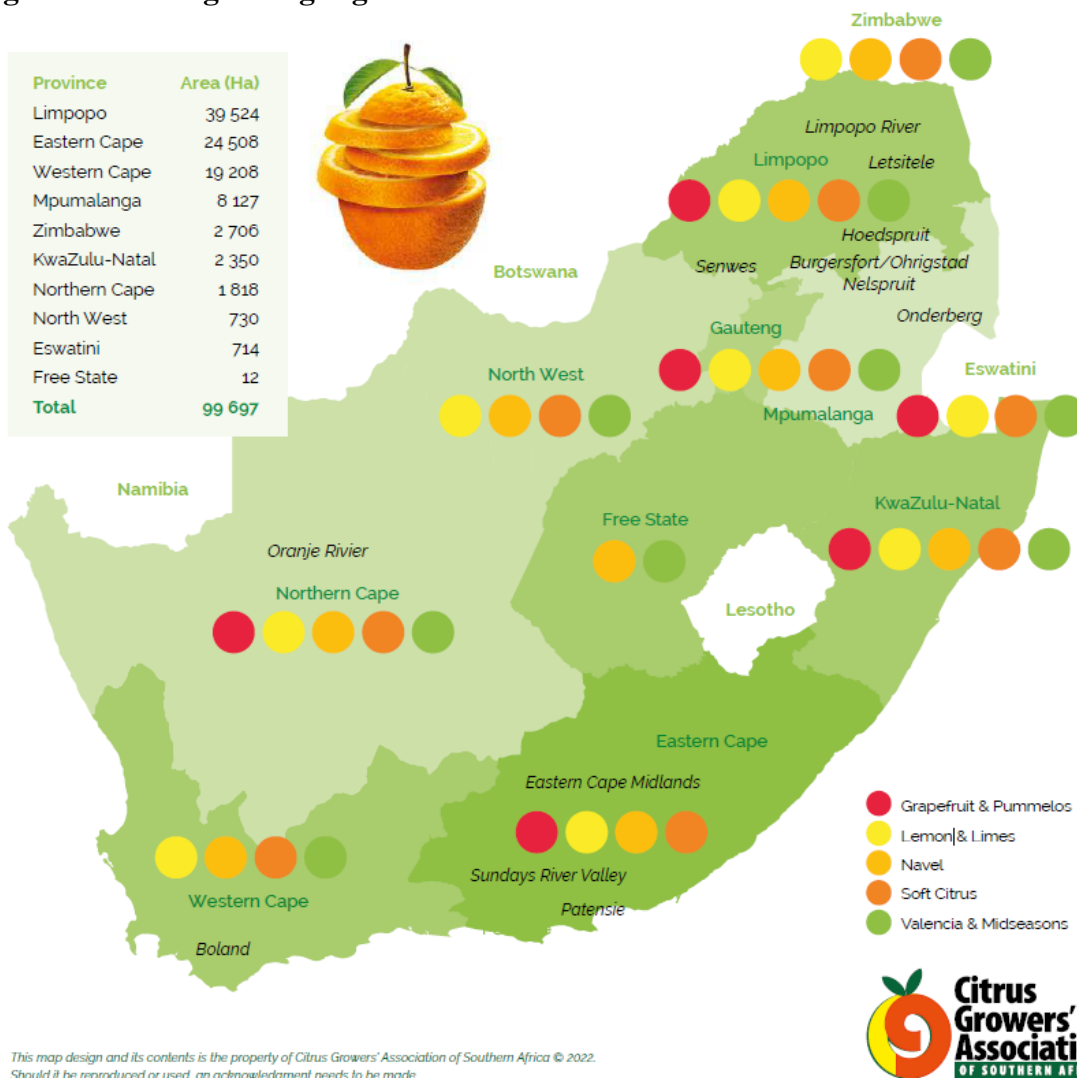
Report Highlights:

South African production of lemons is forecast to rise by 10 percent in MY 2023/24 on sufficient irrigation and greater input investments by producers, while tangerine/mandarins production is forecast to increase by 4 percent. The remaining citrus types are expected to drop slightly, grapefruit by 5 percent and oranges by 1 percent due to a reduction in area planted as producers are less optimistic on prospects of these citrus types and are not replacing old trees. Orange juice production is forecast to drop by 3 percent on increased routing of oranges to the export market. Despite anticipation of stronger demand from export markets, the citrus industry is challenged by inefficient port operation, degrading transportation infrastructure, and ongoing pest and disease concerns that continue to hinder exports. Duty-free exports of citrus to the United States under the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) are expected to continue their strong annual growth, as the United States is considered a premium market.

Background

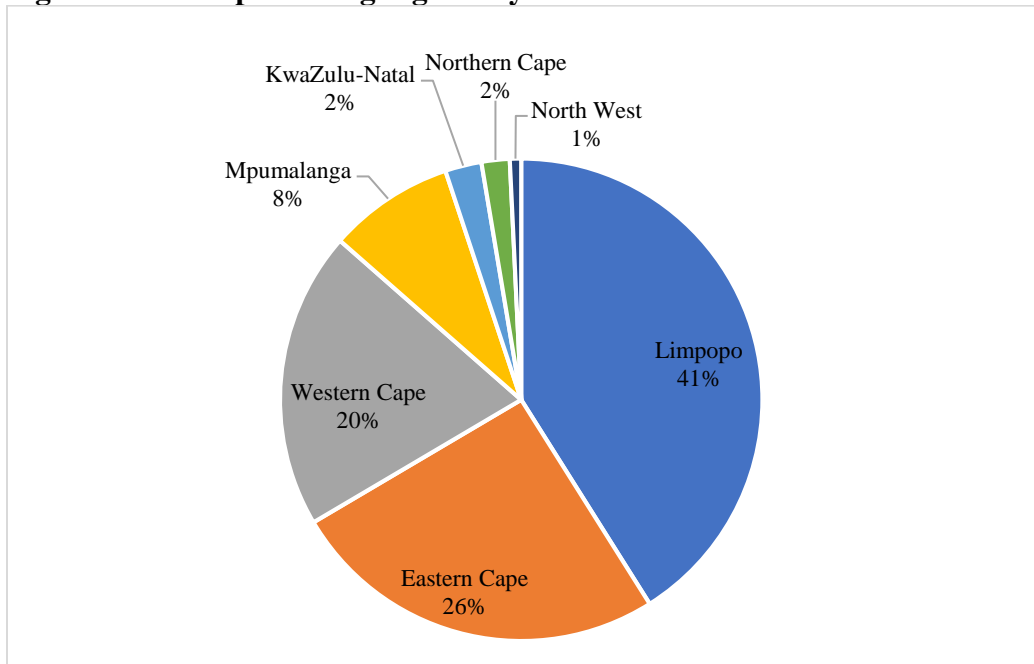
The total area planted to citrus in South Africa declined by one percent to 96,277 ha in MY 2021/22 from 97,550 on MY 2020/21. The decline is due to several challenges facing the industry such as logistical challenges, rising input costs, erratic electricity supply and phytosanitary requirements particularly in the E.U. market. Citrus in South Africa is mainly produced in Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Mpumalanga provinces (see **Figure 1**). The Western Cape and Eastern Cape have a cooler climate, which is suited for the production of the navel oranges, lemons and easy peelers such as Clementines and Satsumas. The Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal provinces have a warmer climate which is better suited to the cultivation of grapefruit and Valencia oranges.

Figure 1: Citrus growing regions in South Africa



Source: Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

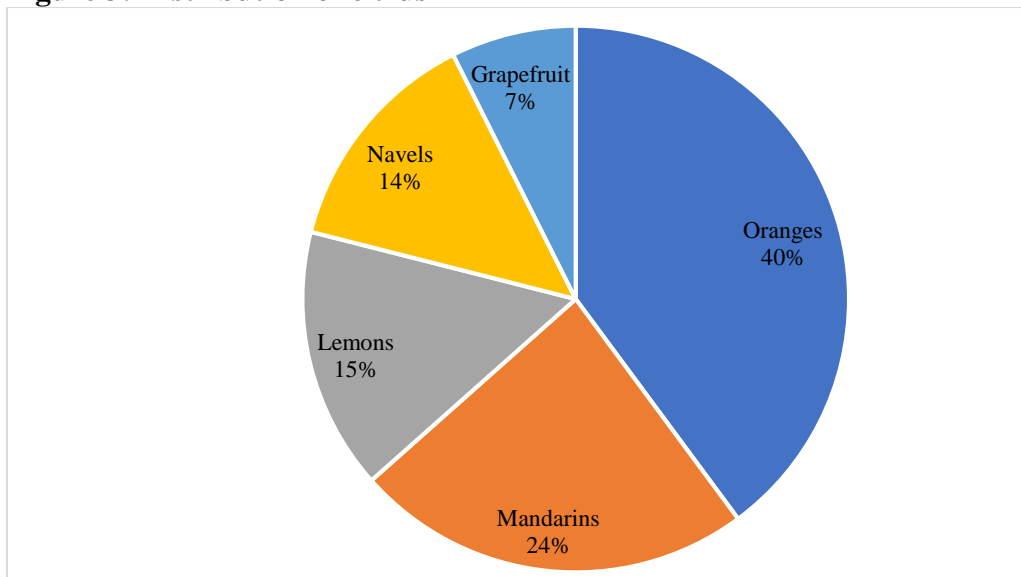
Figure 2: Citrus producing regions by area



Source: CGA

Figure 3 shows that oranges are the biggest citrus type produced in South Africa and accounted for 40 percent of the total citrus area planted in MY 2021/22. Mandarins/Tangerines have, however, shown a largest increase in the share of total citrus production, from a share of about 16 percent in MY2015/16 to 24 percent in MY 2020/21.

Figure 3: Distribution of citrus



There are at least 210 commercial citrus varieties being planted in South Africa. Table 1 shows the most common citrus varieties planted in South Africa. Star Ruby is the most planted grapefruit variety due to its high global demand. Producers prefer Valencia oranges over Navels as Valencia's have a longer shelf

life and produce higher yields than Navels. Nardocott is one of the most popular soft citrus cultivars in South Africa. In 2016, the Tango citrus variety which was developed by the University of California Riverside's Citrus Breeding Program, was granted a plant breeders right in South Africa and is expected to provide competition to the Nardocott variety.

Table 1: Citrus Varieties

Citrus	Variety
Grapefruit	Star Ruby, Marsh, Jackson, Pomelit, Rose, Redheart
Oranges	Valencia/Midseason: Midknight, Valencia Late, Delta, Turkey, Bennie, Du Roi, Gusocora, Jassie
	Navels: Cambria, Palmer, Bahianinha, Washington, Witkrans, Cara Cara, Navelina, Robyn, Lane Late, Autumn Gold, Newhall
Mandarins/ Tangerines	Satsumas: Miho Wase, Queen, Owari, Belabela, Miyagawa Wase
	Clementines: Mules, Andes-1, Octubrina, Esbal, Marisol
	Mandarins: Nadorcott, Nadocorcott Ls, Tango, Nova, Leanri, Orri, Rhm, Mor, Valley Gold, Tambor, Sigal
Lemons/Lime	Eureka, Lisbon, 2Ph Seedless, Limoneira 8A, Genoa, Eureka Seedless, Lemoneria

Source: CGA

Table 2: South Africa Harvest Period for Citrus

Citrus	Harvest Period
Marsh Grapefruit	March to June
Star Ruby Grapefruit	April to September
Navel Oranges	March to July
Valencia Oranges	July to September
Mandarins/Tangerines	March to August
Lemons/Lime	February to September

Source: CGA

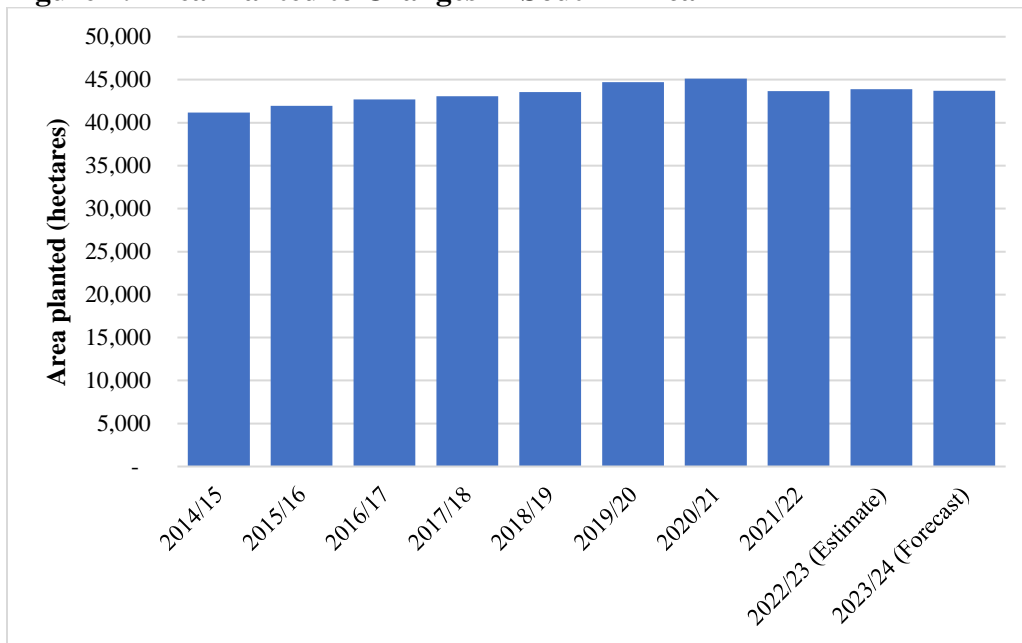
Oranges, Fresh

Crop Area

The area under orange production is forecast to reduce by 0.5 percent in MY 2023/24. **Figure 4** illustrates the historical trend for area planted to oranges, which peaked in MY 2020/21. Growth in orange area has been limited by an aggressive shift to soft citrus in the growing regions of the Western Cape and Limpopo provinces. New plantings are limited and appear insufficient to replace the orchards that are aging out of production.

Post contacts indicate that producers are limiting expansion due to concerns regarding export market access, especially with regard to European Union phytosanitary requirements. Inefficient port operations, erratic electricity supply, deteriorating road networks and rising input costs are diminishing the profitability of orange producers and limiting continued investment by the industry. In MY 2022/23, area planted is estimated up by 0.5 percent as new plantings slightly outpace old trees.

Figure 4: Area Planted to Oranges in South Africa



Source: CGA & Post Estimates/Forecast

Limpopo province is the leading orange-growing region in South Africa, accounting for 50 percent of total area, followed by the Eastern Cape (24 percent) and Western Cape (15 percent) provinces. Valencias account for two-thirds of total orange area, with Navels accounting for the other third. The predominant cultivar planted is the Midnight, representing 26 percent of total area, followed by the Valencia Late (10 percent), Delta (9 percent), Bennie (7 percent) and Turkey (7 percent) cultivars. Other cultivars planted in South Africa include Palmer, Cambria, Bahianinha, and Washington.

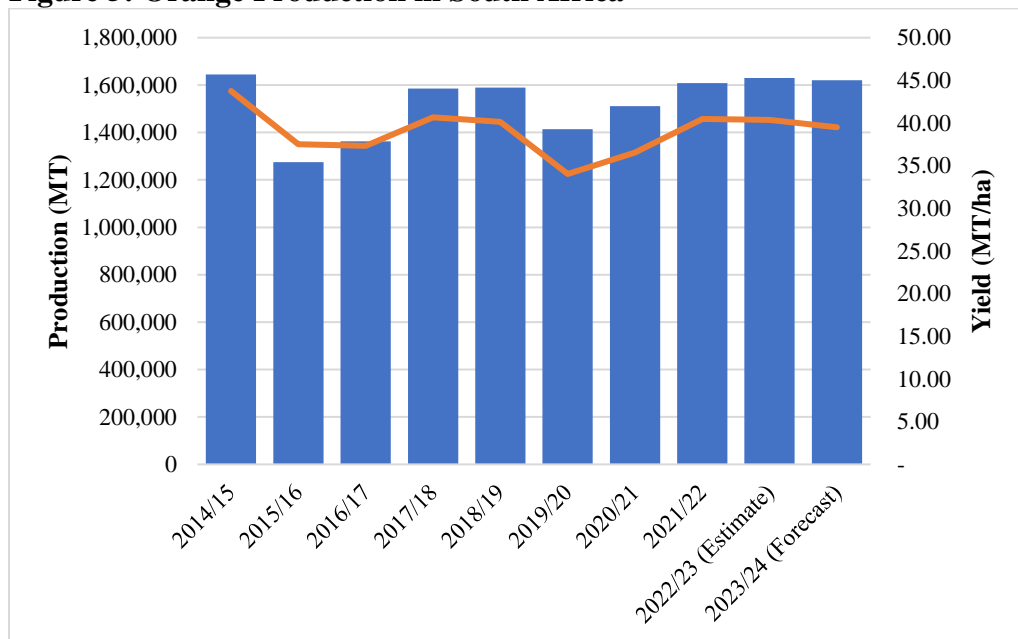
Production

Post forecasts that orange production in South Africa will decrease by 1 percent in MY 2023/24 based on a 1 percent decline area harvested. Overall, orange producing regions have received sufficient rain for irrigation, which is expected to help maintain the relatively high yields achieved in the past two seasons. Despite overall positive weather conditions, in June 2023, the Western Cape province experienced heavy rains and floods. This damaged some orange orchards and farm infrastructure, which is expected to limit MY 2023/2024 yields for smallholder farmers in the area who did not have sufficient insurance and have been unable to repair on-farm infrastructure such as irrigation systems and netting.

In MY 2022/23, Post estimates that the production of oranges is estimated to increase by 1 percent based on sufficient rains received in major orange producing regions and many orange trees are in peak production age-range. This improved production was only slightly mitigated by heavy rains in the Western Cape during peak season. Industry sources report that the rains primarily affected the quality of navels as the bulk of the season's produce was already harvested.

In MY 2021/22 production increased by 6 percent year over year. This surge in production was driven by above-average rainfall received throughout the season in the main growing regions, ensuring sufficient irrigation water and providing conducive growing conditions that positively impacted production. **Figure 5** shows South Africa's orange production volumes since MY 2014/15.

Figure 5: Orange Production in South Africa



Source: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) & Post Estimates/Forecast

Consumption

South African producers prioritize supplying export markets, while fruit that does not meet export standards is usually used for fresh domestic consumption and for processing. Fresh oranges are the most

widely consumed citrus in South Africa. Post forecasts that domestic consumption of oranges will decline by 28 percent in MY 2023/24, returning to more typical consumption levels as improved fruit quality and increased export demand will limit the volumes in country and livestock feeding will reduce. Furthermore, consumer preference is shifting towards consumption of soft citrus.

In MY 2022/23, domestic consumption surged by 30 percent based on a large supply in the domestic market as fewer oranges were sent for processing. Consumption figures include fresh market sales for both human and animal feed. This followed the heightened supply of oranges in the local market in MY 2021/22 caused primarily by unfavorable export conditions.

Exports

Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24 orange exports from South Africa will strengthen by 2 percent. Although high volumes of exportable fruit and reduced shipping costs would indicate potential for stronger growth, industry sources assert that the Port of Durban and Cape Town are in worse condition than last year and pose a threat for the upcoming season. The Port of Cape Town has caused challenges for many exporting industries and received a ranking of 344 out of 347 in the 2022 World Bank Container Terminal Performance Index, while the Port of Durban ranked 341. Port of Cape Town in particular experiences breakdowns in gantries used to load and unload ships, and this leads to increased congestions. Industry continues to engage with port authorities to resolve anticipated delays and food spoilage that may occur due to breakdowns in port infrastructure.

In MY 2022/23, exports are estimated to have gone up by 3 percent based on higher production of exportable fruit and more favorable export conditions due to the weakened South African rand. Additionally, exports from the Western Cape were delayed during a period of floods due to damages to the road infrastructure.

South Africa exports oranges to more than 100 countries around the world, but the EU remains South Africa's largest export market, accounting for approximately 31 percent of orange export share. Exports to the EU in MY 2021/22 declined by 11 percent, reflecting rising inflation in the EU, which is affecting consumer buying power. Additionally, despite a free trade agreement with the EU that allows duty-free access for citrus exports, South Africa continues to face phytosanitary challenges in the market due to the prevalence of citrus black spot (CBS) and false codling moth (FCM).

Starting July 2022, the EU requires that imports of citrus fruit undergo specified cold treatment processes and precooling steps for specific periods before importation to ensure protection against FCM. South Africa launched a consultation process with the EU at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in July 2022 regarding the cold treatment prescribed within the new regulations. To date, consultations have not concluded. However, volumes to the market have remained high.

Table 3: South African Fresh Orange Exports

Partner Country	2020/21 MY	2021/22 MY	% Change	2021/22MY	2022/23 MY	% Change
	(MT)	(MT)		(MT)	(MT)	
				Jan - Sept		
Netherlands	283,466	264,586	-7%	240,684	257,174	7%
United Arab Emirates	105,057	110,113	5%	86,670	121,588	40%
China	72,744	96,892	33%	95,456	82,155	-14%
Russia	86,289	85,153	-1%	67,135	87,005	30%
United Kingdom	68,670	73,686	7%	62,293	48,534	-22%
Saudi Arabia	74,370	66,208	-11%	55,993	40,868	
Bangladesh	61,624	59,977	-3%	53,495	25,692	-52%
Portugal	71,154	59,261	-17%	57,970	63,489	10%
United States	47,501	59,192	25%	53,284	53,576	1%
Malaysia	41,380	49,160	19%	43,336	33,499	-23%
Hong Kong	46,506	47,692	3%	44,405	46,265	4%
Canada	40,404	42,630	6%	36,647	41,691	14%
Iraq	41,810	41,475	-1%	35,054	19,209	-45%
Italy	42,747	34,538	-19%	34,286	38,598	13%
India	21,093	28,173	34%	27,311	24,654	-10%
Qatar	11,341	15,542	37%	11,387	7,651	-33%
Singapore	10,174	12,894	27%	11,229	8,977	-20%
Kuwait	17,218	10,689	-38%	8,196	7,655	-7%
France	5,512	10,091	83%	9,030	13,778	53%
Others	146,677	130,775	-11%	107,216	107,388	0%
Total	1,295,737	1,298,727	0%	1,141,077	1,129,446	-1%

Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC

China is now South Africa's third largest market for oranges after growth of almost 33 percent in MY 2021/22. The export of citrus from the Port of Maputo in Mozambique, which started in 2021, is a breakthrough that lowers shipping time and costs to China. The Port of Maputo provides a gateway for South African citrus to markets in Asia and the Middle East. Significant volumes of South Africa's oranges are produced in the northeastern parts of the country, which is substantially closer to Maputo than the Port of Durban. Given numerous challenges and backups at the Port of Durban, an even higher percentage of South African oranges are expected to be exported via Maputo in MY 2023/24.

South Africa's exports to the United States are expected to continue to grow based on lower production forecasts. Benefitting from duty-free access under the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), exports of oranges to the United States increased to a record of 59,192 MT in the MY 2021/22 growing by 25 percent from 47,501 MT in MY 2020/21. A new record is expected in MY 2022/23, since South African exports of oranges to the U.S for the period January – September are even higher. South Africa predominantly exports Midnight oranges to the U.S. during the U.S. summer months. The season for orange exports to the U.S. concluded in October.

Imports

Post forecasts South Africa's orange imports will remain unchanged at 3,000 MT in MY 2023/24 on steady demand for domestic consumption during the festive season. Relatively small volumes of oranges are usually imported into South Africa in November and December to close supply gaps. In MY 2022/23 imports are estimated to have dropped by 40 percent on increased domestic production.

Prices

Table 4 indicates the average local, export, and processed market prices of oranges over the past seven years. The export market continues to provide the highest prices, mainly due to the depreciation of the South African rand against a strong foreign demand. However, since MY 2015/16, average export prices for South African oranges traded largely sideways. The exception is MY 2019/20, when global orange prices spiked due to firm demand worldwide for products rich in Vitamin C, a knock-on effect of the pandemic.

Table 4: Orange Prices in South Africa

Marketing Year	Local Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Export Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Processed Average Price (rand/MT)
2014/15	2,535	6,576	652
2015/16	3,799	8,570	1,002
2016/17	3,604	8,656	1,069
2017/18	3,361	8,600	693
2018/19	3,643	8,268	699
2019/20	4,897	10,329	519
2020/21	3,999	8,989	639
2021/22	3,350	9,635	643

Source: CGA

Table 5: Orange Production, Supply, and Distribution

Oranges, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Feb 2022		Feb 2023		Feb 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	43668	43668	43900	43900	0	43700
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	39738	39738	40388	40250	0	40000
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	42130	42130	42500	42500	0	42150
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	4495	4495	4000	4000	0	4100
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	46625	46625	46500	46500	0	46250
Production (1000 MT)	1609	1609	1630	1630	0	1620
Imports (1000 MT)	5	5	3	3	0	3
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1614	1614	1633	1633	0	1623
Exports (1000 MT)	1299	1299	1363	1338	0	1370
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	135	100	115	130	0	93
For Processing (1000 MT)	180	215	155	165	0	160
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1614	1614	1633	1633	0	1623

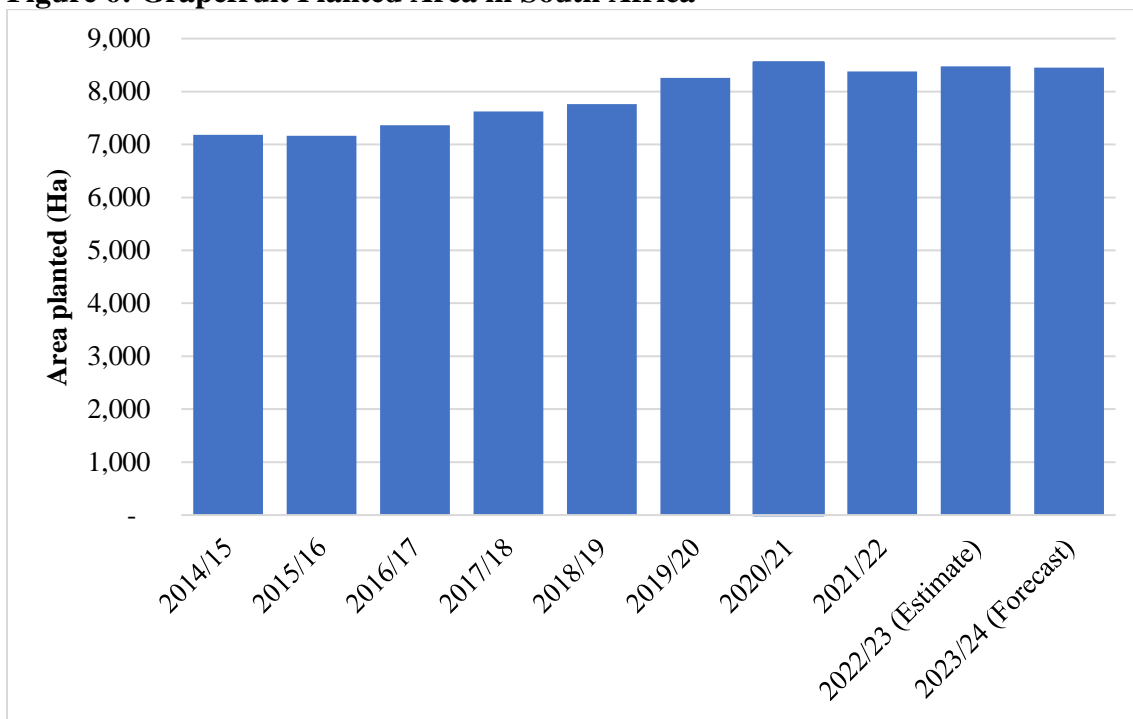
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)

Grapefruit, Fresh

Crop Area

Post forecasts that area planted to grapefruit in MY 2023/24 will remain unchanged at 8,450 ha due to minimal plantings and uprooted old orchards. Budwood sale of grapefruit are on a downward trend as producers are observed to be moving towards soft citrus varieties. South Africa's grapefruit area peaked at around 9,900 ha in MY 2011/12. This growth was mainly driven by a surge in global demand, especially in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. However, since 2012/13, growth has declined at an annual average of 1 percent and is expected to flatten in the coming years due to softening in global demand. In addition, accelerating farming input costs and higher shipping rates are diminishing the profitability of grapefruit producers, which limits continuing investments in the industry.

Figure 6: Grapefruit Planted Area in South Africa



Source: CGA & Post Estimates/Forecast

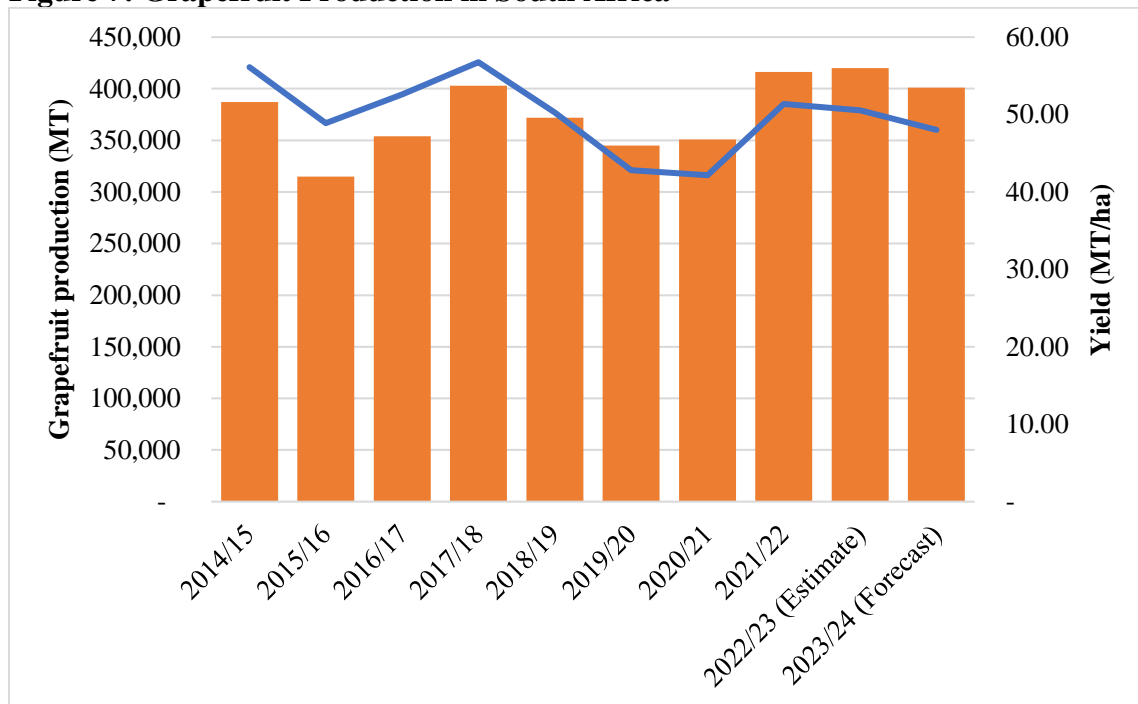
Limpopo province is the leading growing region for grapefruit in South Africa, accounting for 56 percent of total area planted, followed by Mpumalanga (20 percent), KwaZulu-Natal (10 percent), and Northern Cape (6 percent) provinces. Star Ruby, due to its high global demand, is the predominant cultivar planted, accounting for 88 percent of total area. Other grapefruit cultivars planted in South Africa include Marsh, Fe 1(Jackson), Pomelit, Rose, and Redheart.

Production

Post forecasts that grapefruit production will decrease by 5 percent in MY 2023/24 based on average yield and negligible growth in area harvested. Overall, current dams supplying major producing regions in Limpopo have sufficient water to ensure irrigation with dam levels similar to last season.

In MY 2022/23 grapefruit production is estimated to have increased slightly by 1 percent based on above-normal rainfall received in major grapefruit producing regions. South Africa’s production of grapefruit in MY 2021/22 increased by 19 percent. The summer rainfall season in MY 2021/22 started normally in most growing regions with widespread rains that continued throughout the season, ensuring sufficient irrigation water, and providing conducive growing conditions that supported greater production. In addition, an increasing number of young trees started to bear fruit. **Figure 7** illustrates grapefruit production and yields in South Africa since MY 2014/15.

Figure 7: Grapefruit Production in South Africa



Source: DALRRD & Post Estimates/Forecast

Consumption

Grapefruit is an unpopular citrus fruit in the South African domestic market, with many consumers largely unfamiliar with its qualities and taste. As a result, there is little demand for fresh grapefruit in South Africa. Post estimates local grapefruit consumption in MY 2022/23 at 5,000 MT and forecasts that volume will remain unchanged in MY 2023/24.

Processing

Local processing of grapefruit offers an alternative to exports. Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24 grapefruit processing will drop by 17 percent year-on-year, based on higher exports. MY 2022/23, grapefruit sent for processing is estimated to have increased by 15 percent based on an increase in production and industry decision to hold off on exports of class 2 and non-standard sized grapefruit. Posts contacts confirm that grapefruit processing prices were up compared to 2021/22 prices. In MY 2021/22, the volume of grapefruit delivered for processing surged by 203 percent over the previous year,

reaching 179,000 MT due to a decrease in exports as shipping costs were high and diminished the profitability of exports.

Grapefruit is processed to juice and concentrate, the majority of which is exported to Europe. The left-over pulp from commercial juice extraction is an important source of grapefruit oil which is used as a flavoring agent in many soft drinks and an ingredient in fragrances. The inner peel is a source of pectin and citric acid, which are both used by the food industry to preserve fruits, jams, and marmalades. Naringin is also extracted from grapefruit peel and gives tonic-water its distinctive bitter flavor.

Exports

Post forecasts that grapefruit exports will rise by 6 percent in MY 2023/24, as volumes recover from the prior MY when producers voluntarily reduced shipments of class 2 product. Shipping costs have recovered (yet not to pre-Covid levels) and if these costs are sustained at current levels or lower, grapefruit exports are expected to rise to 230,000 MT. Grapefruit requires timely movement to export markets to avoid spoilage. The Port of Durban, the export port for the majority of South African grapefruit, is experiencing congestion and delays which has resulted in some fruit spoilage. Recent media reports indicate that Port of Durban is congested with a backlog of approximately 70,000 containers. Port authorities estimate that the port will return to normalcy by February 2024, about a month before the MY 2023/2024 grapefruit export season commences. Industry groups are attempting to coordinate with port authorities to ensure that fruit moves through the port expeditiously to avoid spoilage.

MY 2022/23 exports are estimated to have dropped by 8 percent as some grapefruit regions reduced packing of class 2 fruit for exports and moved it towards domestic processing and consumption. In MY 2021/22 grapefruit exports decreased by 18 percent year over year. Accelerating input costs and higher shipping rates meant that certain grades of grapefruit could not be exported profitably.

China was the leading market for South African grapefruit exports in MY 2021/22, accounting for 27 percent (63,470 MT) of foreign sales (see **Table 6**), followed by the Netherlands (27 percent or 63,408 MT), Japan (10 percent or 22,866 MT), and Russia (8 percent or 19,4269 MT). Together, these four countries represented more than 70 percent of South Africa's total exports of grapefruit last year. While total volumes are still low, grapefruit exports to the United States have been growing exponentially over the past 10 years, from 275 MT in MY 2010/11, to 6,184 MT in MY 2021/22. Although grapefruit exports to the United States dropped by 30 percent in MY 2021/22, mirroring lower exports across the board, growth is expected to return in MY 2022/23. Star Ruby grapefruit produced in the Northern Cape is popularly exported to the U.S during the U.S summer months.

Table 6: South African Fresh Grapefruit Exports

Partner Country	2020/21 MY (MT)	2021/22 MY (MT)	% Change	2021/22 MY	2022/23 MY	% Change
				(MT)	(MT) Jan - Sept	
China	77,707	63,470	-18%	63,315	30,861	-51%
Netherlands	73,231	63,408	-13%	62,515	72,523	16%
Japan	30,029	22,866	-24%	22,865	17,311	-24%
Russia	22,127	19,429	-12%	18,428	21,101	15%
United Kingdom	10,347	8,978	-13%	8,773	9,145	4%
South Korea	4,547	7,427	63%	7,175	3,844	-46%
Canada	8,351	7,168	-14%	6,880	6,758	-2%
Hong Kong	13,130	6,862	-48%	6,810	6,346	-7%
United States	8,827	6,184	-30%	6,161	8,990	46%
Italy	11,118	4,854	-56%	4,705	7,157	52%
Portugal	5,475	4,472	-18%	4,472	5,375	20%
United Arab Emirates	4,795	3,831	-20%	3,275	4,961	51%
Eswatini	2,135	3,372	58%	3,318	2,701	-19%
Taiwan	3,557	2,970	-17%	2,970	2,774	-7%
Germany	719	1,744	143%	1,703	1,127	-34%
Greece	1,093	1,439	32%	1,439	1,539	7%
France	820	812	-1%	811	1,193	47%
Ireland	673	656	-3%	610	672	10%
Others	11,926	7,811	-35%	7,235	9,573	32%
Total	290,607	237,753	-18%	233,460	213,951	-8%

Source: Trade Data Monitor

Imports

South Africa is not a major importer of grapefruit as supply far exceeds domestic demand. Imports mainly originate from Eswatini to fill the small demand gap towards the end of the season. Imports are forecast to decline to 5,000 MT in MY 2023/24 based on production volumes and limited consumption of grapefruit in the domestic market. In MY 2022/23 grapefruit imports are estimated at 7,600 MT, increasing from 5,000 MT in 2021/22.

Prices

Table 7 illustrates the average local, export, and processed market prices for grapefruit since MY 2014/15. Grapefruit prices in the export market have increased steadily, reaching record levels in MY 2019/20 on the weakening of the South African currency (rand) and growing demand. However, with softening demand in the global market, export prices took a dip in MY 2021/22. Domestic prices for fresh grapefruit and processing tend to fluctuate based on supply availability.

Table 7: Grapefruit Prices in South Africa

Marketing Year	Local Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Export Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Processed Average Price (rand/MT)
2014/15	3,866	5,737	310
2015/16	5,154	7,898	409
2016/17	2,472	7,762	596
2017/18	5,246	8,234	1,593
2018/19	2,908	7,990	1,523
2019/20	6,563	8,960	1,571
2020/21	6,147	8,185	1,345
2021/22	4,636	8,606	784

Source: CGA

Table 8: Grapefruit Production, Supply, and Distribution

Grapefruit, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jan 2022		Jan 2023		Jan 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	8377	8377	8477	8477	0	8450
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	8100	8100	8307	8307	0	8350
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	8500	8500	8595	8595	0	8450
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	1000	1000	955	955	0	900
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	9500	9500	9550	9550	0	9350
Production (1000 MT)	416	416	420	420	0	400
Imports (1000 MT)	5	5	2	8	0	5
Total Supply (1000 MT)	421	421	422	428	0	405
Exports (1000 MT)	238	238	220	218	0	230
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	4	4	4	5	0	5
For Processing (1000 MT)	179	179	198	205	0	170
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	421	421	422	428	0	405

(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)

Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh

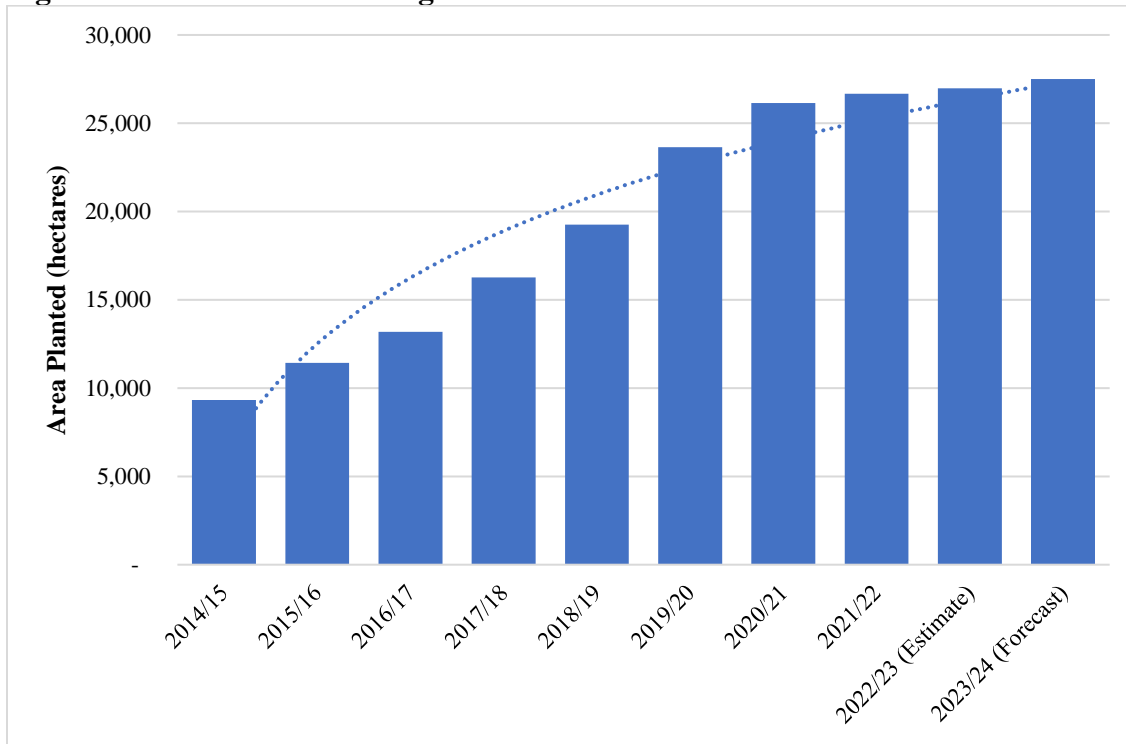
Crop Area

The rapid expansion in area planted to tangerines/mandarins (soft citrus) has slowed. Farmer interest driven by higher global demand for seedless soft citrus and relatively higher profit margins compared to other citrus types led to substantial new plantings and have left many growers wondering if the market is oversaturated (see **Figure 8**). Accelerating farming input costs, higher shipping rates, infrastructure inefficiencies, ineffective ports operations, and deteriorating road networks are diminishing the profitability of soft citrus producers and limiting continued investment in the industry. Post expects that area planted to tangerines/mandarins will increase slightly by 2 percent in MY 2023/24. The slight increase reflects a move from other citrus types such as grapefruit to soft citrus due to relatively higher demand for soft citrus in the export market.

In MY 2022/23, area planted to tangerines/mandarins increased by 1 percent based on a decline in the rate of budwood sales. In MY 2021/22, the area planted with tangerines/mandarins increased by 2 percent year-on-year. In MY 2021/22, shipping costs increased, which diminished the profitability of exporting class 2 tangerines/mandarins, which further limited investment in area expansion. As a result, more class 2 and class 3 fruits were available in the local market. Post contacts confirm that a small portion of last year's tangerine/mandarin crop went unutilized due to limited commercial opportunities. Without any viable market for a percentage of the production, producers are hesitant to expand further. During field visits, producers indicated that investments were focused on producing higher quality fruits rather than higher yields due to the large disparity in profitability between grades. An expanding number of hectares of tangerine/mandarin production are under netting to better control pests, enable better water-management practices, and protect the fruit from adverse weather conditions such as strong winds, hail, or sun damage.

The predominant cultivar planted is the Nardocott, accounting for almost 19 percent of total area. Nardocott is followed by Arccit 9 (14 percent), Tango (13 percent), Nules, (11 percent), Nova (10 percent), Leanri (8 percent), and Orri (7 percent). The Western Cape province is the predominate producer of soft citrus, accounting for 37 percent of total production, followed by the Limpopo (28 percent) and Eastern Cape (25 percent) provinces. More than 40 percent of the soft citrus area in South Africa consists of orchards five years and younger, meaning that a growing volume of soft citrus will reach the market in coming years.

Figure 8: Area Planted to Tangerines/Mandarins



Source: CGA & Post Estimates/Forecast

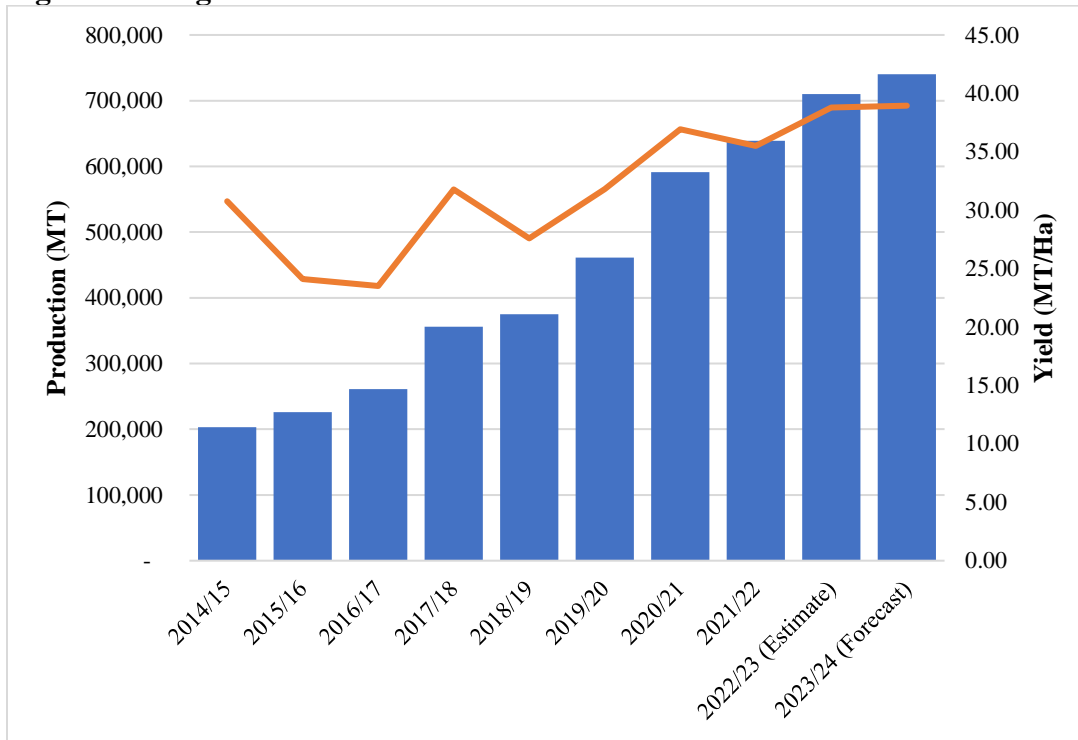
Production

Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24 tangerines/mandarins will rise by 4 percent as young trees come into production. Additionally, tangerines/mandarins growing regions are reported to have received normal to heavy rains which will ensure enough water for irrigation.

Tangerine/mandarin production is estimated to have surged by 11 percent in MY 2022/23 based on newly-bearing trees and decent rains that have led to sufficient water resources for irrigation in major production areas. Although Western Cape experienced heavy rains and flooding, which led to a reduction in the production of late citrus such as clementines, the floods occurred after the vast majority of the crop had been harvested.

The production of tangerines/mandarins expanded in MY 2021/22, climbing 8 percent year-over-year (see **Figure 9**) on the expansion of planted area, conducive weather conditions, and use of netting.

Figure 9: Tangerine/Mandarin Production



Source: DALRRD & Post Estimates/Forecast

Consumption

Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24, domestic consumption of tangerines/mandarins will increase by 4 percent year-on-year based on increased production and supply in the local market. Consumers are shifting more towards the consumption of tangerines/mandarins from oranges as the skin is easier to peel and the fruit is considered juicier and sweeter than other citrus types. In MY 2022/23, local consumption of tangerines/mandarins is estimated to have risen by 4 percent, corresponding to greater supplies due to expanded production. In MY 2021/22, South Africa consumed 45,000 MT of tangerines/mandarins, with a small portion of the crop also used for livestock feed.

The South African industry prioritizes export markets for soft citrus and only supplies surplus fruit to the local market. The increased use of netting has yielded higher quality produce and has reduced the percentage of soft citrus that is considered surplus. However, some high-end retail chains such as Woolworths sell export-grade citrus to domestic consumers. Domestic consumption figures include both for human consumption and animal feed.

Processing

South Africa prioritizes supplying export markets, while fruit that does not meet export standards is usually used for processing. South African deliveries of tangerines/mandarins for processing typically averages about 17 percent of total production. Post forecasts tangerine/mandarin deliveries for processing in MY 2023/24 will drop by 3 percent based on an increase in exportable supply. In MY 2022/23, tangerines/mandarins deliveries for processing is estimated to decline by 13 percent based on

exportable and growing domestic demand for fresh product. Processing volumes in MY 2021/22 increased by 73 percent representing greater production supplies, especially for domestic use due to high shipping costs limiting export opportunities. South African tangerines/mandarins are mostly processed into juice and concentrate.

Exports

Post forecasts that South Africa's tangerines/mandarins will increase by 5 percent in MY 2023/24 based on increasing production and investments in quality improvements. A bulk of tangerines/mandarins are exported through the Port of Cape Town. Port operations currently pose a risk for MY 2023/24 exports as there are growing concerns with regards to operational constraints which impacts the movement of produce to the export market. In MY 2022/23, tangerines/mandarins exports are estimated to have increasing by 15 percent on high production volumes, and the availability of more reasonable shipping rates. In MY 2021/22, South Africa exported 520,565 MT of tangerines/mandarins, which was an increase of 3 percent (see **Table 9**).

Table 9: South African Fresh Tangerine/Mandarin Exports

Export destination	2020/21 MY (MT)	2021/22 MY (MT)	% Change	2021/22 MY	2022/23 MY	%
				(MT) Jan - Sept	(MT)	Change
Netherlands	107,572	101,995	-5%	97,659	127,372	30%
United Kingdom	87,359	87,821	1%	83,036	90,879	9%
United States	43,665	53,489	22%	48,820	48,963	0%
Russia	39,600	51,336	30%	49,547	49,837	1%
United Arab Emirates	39,997	39,962	0%	36,877	52,593	43%
China	24,098	23,117	-4%	22,719	30,695	35%
Canada	20,497	22,906	12%	21,176	26,938	27%
Bangladesh	33,598	21,762	-35%	21,643	21,479	-1%
Portugal	9,651	10,853	12%	10,652	17,098	61%
Malaysia	6,748	10,744	59%	10,086	7,874	-22%
Hong Kong	6,866	9,475	38%	9,313	11,236	21%
Saudi Arabia	9,357	9,437	1%	9,101	9,961	9%
Ireland	7,797	8,288	6%	8,047	8,664	8%
Iraq	10,112	6,137	-39%	6,137	6,140	0%
Taiwan	4,486	6,020	34%	6,020	1,681	-72%
India	2,917	5,161	77%	5,004	8,687	74%
Senegal	5,189	4,997	-4%	4,800	5,906	23%
France	5,459	4,461	-18%	3,938	5,259	34%
Others	41,800	42,604	2%	39,103	59,514	52%
Total	506,768	520,565	3%	493,678	590,776	20%

Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC

The EU and the United Kingdom are the largest foreign markets for South African soft citrus, accounting for 45 percent of total exports, followed by the United States (10 percent), Russia (10 percent), and the United Arab Emirates (8 percent), and China (4 percent). South Africa’s exports of soft citrus to the United States under AGOA have grown exponentially over the past five years, from 13,695 MT in MY 2017/18, to 53,489 MT in MY 2021/22. This growth trend is expected to continue based on the expanding consumer preference for “easy peeler” varieties. In MY2022/23 the U.S. is expected to remain as one of the largest markets for South Africa’s exports of tangerines/mandarins based on the pace of exports through September of MY 2022/23 (see **Table 10**).

Imports

Post forecasts that South Africa’s imports of tangerines/mandarins will remain flat at 3,000 MT in MY 2023/24, continuing the volume established in MY 2021/22 and MY 2022/23. South Africa imports minimal volumes of citrus to satisfy off-season demand.

Prices

Table 10 indicates the local, export, and processed market prices for tangerines/mandarins over the past seven years. Export market prices for tangerines/mandarins remain the highest of all citrus categories for South Africa, supporting the surge in production. In MY 2021/22 average prices for fresh and processed fruit dropped to R5,938/MT (\$300.35/MT) and R320/MT (\$16.19/MT), respectively, due to a surge in produce available in the local market that was meant for the export market.

Table 10: Tangerine/Mandarin Prices

Marketing Years	Local Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Export Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Processed Average Price (rand/MT)
2014/15	5,606	11,392	391
2015/16	6,785	14,242	532
2016/17	6,037	13,489	614
2017/18	6,617	13,498	709
2018/19	5,586	13,344	502
2019/20	6,866	16,387	280
2020/21	6,552	14,565	366
2021/22	5,938	14,360	320

Source: CGA

Table 11: Tangerine/Mandarin Production, Supply, and Distribution

Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Feb 2022		Feb 2023		Feb 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	26677	26677	26977	26977	0	27500
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	18000	18000	20000	18500	0	19000
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	10500	10500	12000	12000	0	12200
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	5000	5000	4950	4950	0	5100
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	15500	15500	16950	16950	0	17300
Production (1000 MT)	639	639	680	710	0	740
Imports (1000 MT)	3	3	3	3	0	3
Total Supply (1000 MT)	642	642	683	713	0	743
Exports (1000 MT)	521	521	560	600	0	630
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	45	45	50	47	0	49
For Processing (1000 MT)	76	76	73	66	0	64
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	642	642	683	713	0	743
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

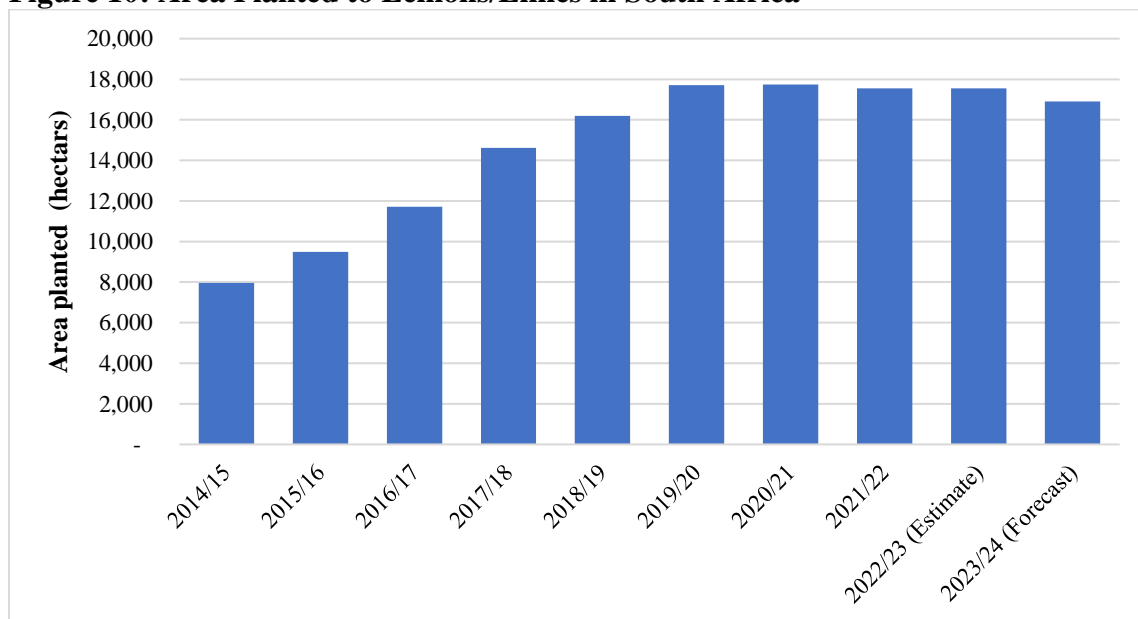
Lemons/Limes, Fresh

Crop Area

The area planted with lemons/limes in South Africa has more than doubled over the past seven years, driven by global demand and rising global prices (see **Figure 10**). However, the positive trend in area planted with lemons/limes has flattened in recent years due to the bearish movement of export prices received by producers. Post forecasts that area planted to lemons will decline by 4 percent year-on-year to 16,900 ha in MY 2023/24 based on old trees that have gone out of production. Furthermore, producers are discouraged from planting any more lemons due to an oversupply and limited intake for processing. In MY2022/23, area planted is estimated unchanged 17,550 ha, as the number of newly planted trees appears to only be replacing older orchards. The pace of expansion for lemon area has slowed as orchards five years and younger only make up 14 percent of total area, compared to the 50 percent that are six to ten years old.

The Eastern Cape, which is a leading production area for lemons, experienced hail damage in November 2022 which affected area harvested in MY 2022/23. Although the cost of shipping fruit has declined in MY 2022/23, costs remain higher than pre-2020 levels and continue to limit profit margins for lemons producers. Lemon growers were also affected in MY 2021/22 by a worker strike in the Eastern Cape's lemon-producing regions during the harvest period, resulting in a delay in harvesting for about three weeks, which affected fruit quality. Post contacts confirm that small portion of MY 2021/22 lemon crop went unutilized due to a lack of a market.

Figure 10: Area Planted to Lemons/Limes in South Africa



Source: CGA & Post Estimates/Forecast

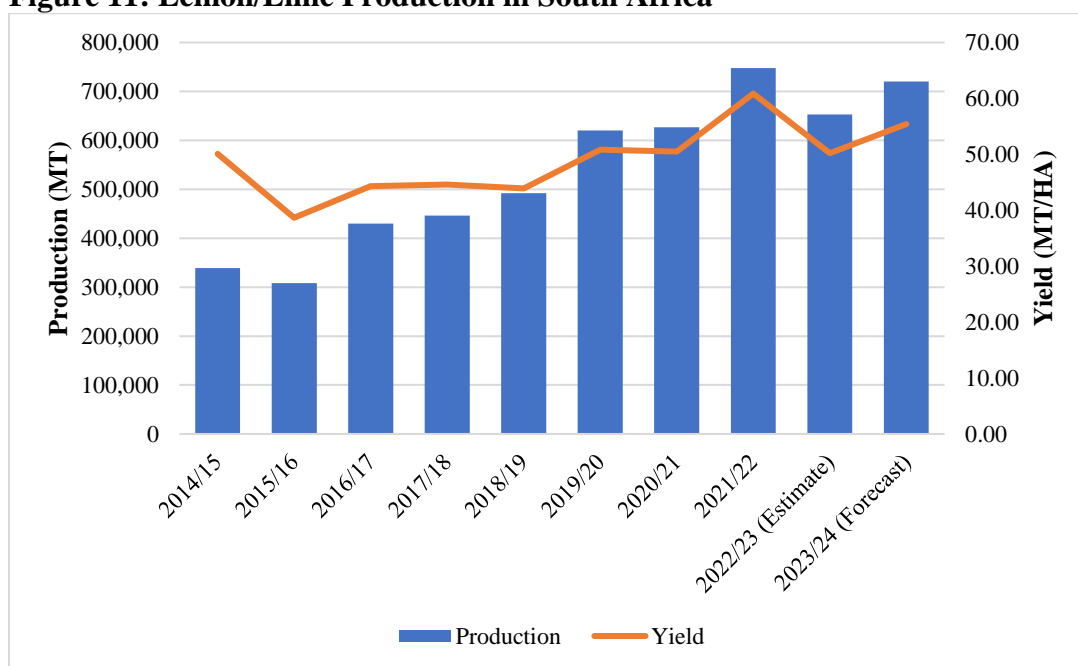
The largest growing region for lemons/limes in South Africa is the Eastern Cape province, accounting for 41 percent of total area planted, followed by the Limpopo (32 percent) and Western Cape (15 percent) provinces. By far, the most popular cultivar of lemons planted in South Africa is Eureka,

representing 74 percent of total area. Eureka is followed by the Lisbon (8 percent) and 2Ph Seedless (6 percent) cultivars.

Production

Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24, South African lemon production will increase by 10 percent year-on-year as yields increase on improved water availability and increased investment in fertilizer and pesticide inputs from local growers who are more optimistic about prices than they were in MY 2022/23. Kouga dam in the Eastern Cape province, which represents over 40 percent of lemon production area in South Africa, is reported to be 100 percent full due to heavy rains received particularly in September 2023. The dam is reported to be full for the first time in 8 years. This will ensure sufficient irrigation water and improved yield for MY 2023/24 lemon production. In MY 2022/23 lemon production is estimated to have declined by 13 percent from record production in MY 2021/22. The decline is mainly due to the hailstorm damage in the Eastern Cape particularly during the flowering stage, resulting in yield loss. In MY 2021/22, South Africa’s production of lemons/limes, increased by 19 percent due to favorable weather condition and new trees coming in production.

Figure 11: Lemon/Lime Production in South Africa



Source: DALRRD & Post Estimates/Forecast

Consumption

Post forecasts that lemon consumption will remain flat at 40,000 MT in MY 2023/24 as increased volumes will be routed primarily to the export market. Consumption is estimated at 40,000 MT in MY 2022/23 based on increased demand driven by health-conscious consumers and a decline in lemons deliveries for processing. Consumption also accounts for lemons/limes used for livestock feed, as was the case for a significant portion of the domestic consumption in MY 2022/23 and MY2021/22.

Lemons and limes are considered luxury food items in South Africa and are primarily associated with garnishing of beverages at restaurants. Limes are very rarely found in dishes in South Africa as most consumers are unfamiliar with the taste. They are not consistently found in grocery stores. Producers have indicated that although lime demand increases in the summer for cocktail garnishing, there is negligible demand in the remainder of the year.

Processing

Post anticipates that lemons/limes delivered for processing will fall by 2 percent year-on-year to 42,000 MT in MY 2023/24 due to a depressed market for lemon juice. Processors are currently holding high stocks of lemon juice due to a decline in lemon juice export opportunities. In MY 2022/23, lemon deliveries for processing are estimated to have shrunk by 73. Industry contacts confirmed that in MY2021/22 and MY 2022/23 processors were restricting lemon intake due to large available lemon juice stocks caused by a surge in class 2 and class 3 fruit in the local market. About 159,000 MT of lemons were delivered for processing in MY 2021/22 on the back of record production and an increase in fruit being sold for processing due to unfavorable export market conditions.

Processed lemons and limes are used as flavorings for confectionary and dairy products. In the beverage industry, lemons/limes are used to make lemon juice, lemonade, smoothies, and liquors. In the cleaning industry, lemon juice is used as a degreaser and disinfectant, due to its high concentration of citric acid, which can inhibit the proliferation of some molds and bacteria.

Exports

South African's exports of lemons/limes are forecast to grow by 12 percent to a record level in MY2023/24 on expected increase in production of exportable fruit. Exports are expected to continue rising in the Middle East, U.K., E.U. and Asia based on sustained growth in demand. In MY 2022/23, lemon exports are estimated to have increased by 3 percent on increased export quality lemons. The Middle East imports a portion of class 2 lemons. In MY 2021/22 South Africa's exports of lemons/limes increased by 12 percent on record production.

The EU and UK remained the main export markets for South African lemons/limes, accounting for almost 50 percent of total exports (see **Table 12**) in MY 2021/22. Lemon/lime exports to Russia, representing 7 percent of total exports, stayed flat in MY 2021/22, indicating the limited impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Lemons exports to China surged in MY 2021/22 after the easing of cold treatment requirements in August 2021 which reduced chilling injury and subsequent decay.

Table 12: South African Fresh Lemon/Lime Exports

Export Destination	2020/21 MY (MT)	2021/22 MY (MT)	% Change	2021/22 MY	2022/23 MY	% Change
				(MT)	(MT)	
				Jan - Sept		
Netherlands	90,658	116,091	28%	116,048	122,753	6%
United Arab Emirates	60,021	68,358	14%	65,571	62,106	-5%
United Kingdom	38,289	43,635	14%	42,761	42,805	0%
Portugal	25,657	42,179	64%	42,179	25,834	-39%
Russia	40,746	41,126	1%	39,590	47,934	21%
Saudi Arabia	36,527	34,228	-6%	33,266	30,298	-9%
Canada	27,833	30,793	11%	27,863	29,498	6%
Iraq	31,799	30,132	-5%	29,965	39,269	31%
Italy	27,999	29,802	6%	29,802	32,646	10%
Hong Kong	17,043	18,349	8%	17,513	14,089	-20%
Malaysia	13,487	16,138	20%	15,150	14,573	-4%
China	716	9,325	1202%	8,913	10,300	16%
Kuwait	11,436	9,007	-21%	8,687	7,347	-15%
Spain	10,718	8,484	-21%	8,484	18,683	120%
Others	65,811	59,832	-9%	55,786	57,336	3%
Total	498,740	557,479	12%	541,578	555,471	3%

Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC

Imports

Post forecasts MY 2023/24 imports of lemons/limes will shrink to around 2,000 MT, as the available domestic production will sufficiently meet local demand for most of the year. Imports are minimal, mainly coming from Eswatini. In MY 2022/23, lemon imports are estimated at 3,000 MT, remaining unchanged from MY 2021/22 import volumes based on high domestic production.

Prices

Table 13 indicates the average local, export, and processed market prices for lemons/limes over the past seven years. Lemon/lime prices displayed strong upward trends until MY 2015/16 after which the trend reversed and flattened. However, the export markets provided higher prices for South African lemons/limes compared to local market and processed prices.

Table 13: Lemon/Lime Prices

Marketing years	Local Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Export Market Average Price (rand/MT)	Processed Average Price (rand/MT)
2014/15	7,453	12,340	1,378
2015/16	7,697	16,483	1,842
2016/17	7,445	13,289	1,657
2017/18	6,697	11,151	1,463
2018/19	6,494	11,710	2,301
2019/20	5,804	13,570	770
2020/21	5,695	10,359	568
2021/22	5,061	10,508	307

Source: CGA

Table 14: Lemon/Lime Production, Supply, and Distribution

Lemons/Limes, Fresh Market Year Begins South Africa	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Jan 2022		Jan 2023		Jan 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	17555	17555	17550	17550	0	16900
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	12289	12289	13000	13000	0	13000
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	8410	8410	8700	8700	0	8500
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	2140	2140	1910	1910	0	1600
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	10550	10550	10610	10610	0	10100
Production (1000 MT)	748	748	653	653	0	720
Imports (1000 MT)	3	3	2	3	0	2
Total Supply (1000 MT)	751	751	655	656	0	722
Exports (1000 MT)	557	557	570	573	0	640
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	35	35	45	40	0	40
For Processing (1000 MT)	159	159	40	43	0	42
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	751	751	655	656	0	722

(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)

Orange Juice

Production

Although the large majority of growers produce for the fresh market, some growers, particularly those in areas prone to hailstorm damage and other quality-degrading weather effects, produce oranges largely, and in some instances even solely, to supply processing facilities. Processors continue to be saturated as citrus production continues to rise, which has a downward effect on juicing prices. Post contacts indicated processing costs have increased significantly due to increased demand of fuel to operate generators during rolling blackouts, locally known as load shedding. Fruit juice must be kept at a specific temperature to maintain quality, so an uninterrupted supply of electricity is important for the processing sector. Processors compete with the domestic informal market for the supply of lower quality oranges.

South African orange juice production is forecast to decrease by 3 percent in MY 2023/24. This is based on expected slight decline in orange fruit production, and increased routing of oranges to the export market. Orange juice production in MY 2022/23 declined by 9 percent based on increased demand for oranges by export markets. In MY 2021/22, South Africa's orange juice production surged by 58 percent based on increased supply of oranges delivered for processing. from the previous year when strict lockdown measures in South Africa severely limited processing. Record orange juice production in MY 2021/22 was due in part to a portion of class 2 fruit that was diverted from exports to Russia due to high shipping costs. A significant volume of this fruit was then sold for processing.

The industry keeps carry-over stocks from the previous season to ensure year-round availability. Concentrated orange juice accounts for at least 90 percent of total orange juice produced in South Africa. Industry statistics for orange juice are largely unavailable in South Africa. The production, consumption, and stock levels represent Post's estimates and forecasts based on information derived from various sources, contacts, and calculations of extractions from data regarding fresh oranges delivered for processing.

Consumption

Domestic consumption of orange juice is forecast to decrease by 1 percent in MY 2023/24 based on lower production and easily substitutable juices in local juice blends. In MY 2022/23 domestic juice consumption is estimated to have dropped by 2 percent based on inflationary pressure.

While higher-end juices in domestic retail are pure orange, juice consumed on the local market is typically made from a juice blend of both apple and orange juices, and often contains varying amounts of grape, mango, and pear juice based on market conditions. Processors primarily source apple and pear concentrate from China, which is used as a base for blended juice. Post contacts confirm that the price of apple and pear concentrates increased significantly in MY 2022/23 which further increased the cost of the final product and led to a slight drop in the consumption of orange juice.

South Africa imposes a Health Promotion Levy also known as sugar tax of 2.1 cents per gram on soft drinks and fruit juice with added sugar of more than 4 grams of sugar content per 100 grams (see GAIN

report, [South African Sugar Industry Crushed by Not So Sweet Tax](#)) and is expected to increase again in 2025. The government is considering extending the sugar tax to apply to 100 percent fruit juices, which, if enacted, could limit orange juice consumption.

Exports

Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24 orange juice exports will decrease by 7 percent based on tighter supply. Orange juice exports in MY 2022/23 are estimated to have dropped by 4 percent based on a decline in orange deliveries. Post adjusted all orange juice export data to the equivalent of 65 Degrees Brix based on the respective conversion factors shown on the export tables below. Orange juice exports under HS200919 were converted using a factor of 1.02, while orange juice exports under HS200912 were converted using a factor of 0.18. Orange juice exports under HS200911 were not converted as it is already equivalent to 65 Degrees Brix. Degrees Brix represents the strength of the juice based on the sugar content. Thus, 65 Degrees Brix means that the orange juice has at least 65 grams of sucrose per 100 grams of juice.

South Africa exports orange juice mainly to countries in Southern Africa, including Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe (see **Table 15**). However, Europe also remains an important market for South African orange juice. South Africa increased orange juice exports to the United States by over 900 percent from 186 MT in 2020/21 to 1,871 MT in 2021/22. Exports of orange juice from South Africa to the United States are expected to grow in MY 2023/24, as the pace of trade between January and September MY 2022/23 already exceeded MY 2021/22 exports by 241 percent.

Table 15: South African Orange Juice Exports (HS200919, HS200911 and HS200912)

Export destination	2020/21 MY (MT)	2021/22 MY (MT)	% Change	2021/22 MY	2022/23 MY	% Change
				(MT)	(MT)	
				Jan - Sept		
Netherlands	4,965	9,275	87%	2,790	7,066	153%
Botswana	3,433	3,860	12%	524	3,387	546%
Eswatini	3,323	2,924	-12%	1,326	1,278	-4%
Namibia	2,082	2,014	-3%	737	1,124	53%
Israel	470	1,959	317%	563	700	24%
Lesotho	1,119	1,005	-10%	214	327	53%
Italy	406	930	129%	200	997	399%
Spain	643	928	44%	214	797	272%
Zimbabwe	1,217	896	-26%	609	314	-48%
Ethiopia	309	803	160%	410	443	8%
Zambia	589	677	15%	344	365	6%
Mozambique	397	203	-49%	89	111	25%
Belgium	468	38	-92%	38	77	103%
Others	2,319	5,663	144%	2,155	2,228	3%
Total	21,740	31,175	43%	10,213	19,214	88%

Source: Trade Data Monitor

Imports

Post forecasts that imports of orange juice will remain relatively flat at around 800 MT in MY 2023/24 based on volumes of juice produced in the domestic market. In MY 2022/23 orange juice imports are estimated to have increased by 18 percent. Zimbabwe is the main supplier of orange juice to South Africa as it exports a popular juice brand which has gained popularity in South Africa, especially amongst Zimbabwean nationals who reside in South Africa.

Table 16: Orange Juice Production, Supply, and Distribution

Orange Juice Market Year Begins	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Apr 2022		Apr 2023		Apr 2024	
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Deliv. To Processors (MT)	180000	215000	155000	165000	0	160000
Beginning Stocks (MT)	12150	12150	12365	11952	0	9852
Production (MT)	32500	35000	31313	32000	0	31000
Imports (MT)	798	981	1000	800	0	800
Total Supply (MT)	45448	48131	44678	44752	0	41652
Exports (MT)	25883	31179	23850	30000	0	28000
Domestic Consumption (MT)	7200	5000	7500	4900	0	4850
Ending Stocks (MT)	12365	11952	13328	9852	0	8802
Total Distribution (MT)	45448	48131	44678	44752	0	41652
(MT)						

Policies and Regulations

Exports of Cold-Treated Citrus from South Africa to All U.S. Ports of Entry: On November 4, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced that it had authorized the import of cold-treated fresh citrus fruit from South Africa into all U.S. ports of entry. APHIS determined that South African citrus from approved areas that is cold treated in transit can safely enter all American ports of entry without increasing the risk of introducing false codling moth (FCM) or other pests of concern. Previously, APHIS restricted the entry of cold-treated citrus fruit from South Africa to four U.S. ports that have cold treatment facilities, namely, Newark, Philadelphia, Houston, and New Orleans. This action broadened the reach of South African citrus to other regions within the United States, provided flexibility to retailers and wholesalers, and lowered transportation costs of imported citrus.

U.S. Cold Sterilization Protocol: South Africa exports citrus to the United States under a cold treatment schedule to address FCM. APHIS has reduced the cold treatment schedule from 24 to 22 days, which has been beneficial to South Africa by reducing shipping costs and fruit loss from cold damage.

South African Citrus Exports from Citrus Black Spot (CBS) Areas to the United States: Currently, South Africa can only export citrus to the United States from officially recognized CBS-free areas. The CBS-free areas are found in the Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces, as well as relevant districts of the Free State and North West provinces. In 2014, APHIS issued a notice proposing to amend fruit and vegetable regulations to allow the import of several varieties of fresh citrus fruit, as well as citrus hybrids, into the United States from areas in South Africa where CBS has been known to occur. The regulation would authorize imports on the condition of satisfying certain systems and SPS treatment procedures. The comment period closed, and the regulation remains under departmental review.

EU Requirements Related to CBS: South Africa still faces challenges in the EU market because of CBS requirements, and normally voluntarily suspends citrus exports to the EU every season to avoid any further interceptions of fruit with CBS. For example, in September 2022 South Africa voluntarily suspended citrus exports to the EU as a precaution and risk mitigation measure to prevent a ban on all citrus exports to the market.

South Africa Fresh Produce Importers Association: The Fresh Produce Importers Association (FPIA) assists members with the importation of fresh fruit and vegetables in South Africa. Information on their members, contact details, and services can be found on the [FPIA website](#).

South African Import Regulations: The following links provide useful resources and regulations pertaining to importing fruit into South Africa.

- Procedures for importing to South Africa: [Import Procedure](#)
- Maximum Residue Limits: [South African Citrus MRLs](#)
- Agricultural Pests Amendment Act No. 9 of 1992: [Agricultural Pest Act](#)
- South African Special Export Protocols/Programs/Directives: [Special-export-protocols](#)

Customs Duties: Citrus exports to South Africa face a 4 percent customs duty. **Table 17** reflects the applicable custom duties when exporting citrus and orange juice to South Africa.

Table 17: Custom Duties Applicable to Citrus Exports to South Africa

HS Code	Article description	Unit	Rate of Duty					
			General	EU	EFTA	SADC	MERCOSUR	AFCFTA
08.05	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried:							
0805.10	Oranges							
0805.10.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.10.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.40	Grapefruit, including pomelos:							
0805.40.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.40.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.50	Lemons (Citrus Limon, Citrus Limonium) and limes (Citrus aurantifolia, Citrus latifolia):							
0805.50.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.50.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.90	Other:							
0805.90.10	Fresh	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
0805.90.90	Other	kg	4%	free	4%	free	4%	3.2%
2009.1	Orange juice							
2009.11	Frozen	kg	25%	free	25%	free	25%	25%
2009.12	Not frozen, of Brix value not exceeding 20	kg	25%	free	25%	free	25%	25%
2009.19	Other	kg	25%	free	25%	free	25%	25%

Source: South African Revenue Service (SARS) *updated November 30, 2023*

Notes:

Exchange rate: U.S. dollar to rand = R18.668 (as of November 28, 2023)

Marketing Year (MY) = January to December

MT = Metric Tons

Sources:

Citrus Growers' Association (CGA) - <http://www.cga.co.za/>

Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) - <http://www.dalrrd.gov.za/>

South African Revenue Service (SARS) - <https://www.sars.gov.za/>

Attachments:

No Attachments