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Report Highlights:

For marketing year (MY) 2023/24, Post updates fresh lemon production down to 1,700 metric tons (MT). This revision is attributed to the unexpected weather conditions with temperatures higher than usual and rains during harvest that affected original production estimates. Post also updates MY 2022/23 production to 1,850 MT, attributed to severe drought conditions than initially expected. For MY 2023/24, fresh orange production is estimated to drop to 653,000 MT. Similarly, fresh tangerine production is expected to decrease to 280,000 MT. Due to the increase in production, lemon exports are expected to rise to 220,000 MT. Sweet citrus exports are also expected to rise from the last official estimates, with fresh orange exports forecast at 35,000 MT and tangerine exports forecast at 24,000 MT.

Executive Summary

For marketing year (MY) 2023/24, Post updated the fresh lemon production to 1,700 metric tons (MT), down by 11 percent from the last official USDA estimates. This revision is attributed to the unexpected weather conditions with temperatures higher than usual and rains during harvest that affected the original production estimates.

Post also updated the fresh lemon production for MY 2022/23 to 1,850 MT, reflecting an increase of 12 percent from official USDA estimates attributed to less severe drought conditions than initially expected, indicating a more favorable operational environment for production.

Fresh orange production is forecasted to reach 653,000 MT showing a drop of 28 percent from last official estimates, while fresh tangerine production is expected to decrease by 30 percent, reaching a total of 280,000 MT. These projections follow a severe drought worse than expected on production estimates and heavy rains during harvest. Post also updated the tangerine production for MY 2022/23 at 275,000 MT, down by 4 percent from the last official estimates due to the more severe drought conditions than initially anticipated. It seems that the fresh oranges and tangerines exhibit a climate change impact.

Lemon exports are revised to 220,000 MT, showing a 12 percent increase from the official estimates. Sweet citrus exports are poised for an uptick, with fresh orange exports forecasted at 75,000 MT (a 36 percent increase) and tangerine exports projected to reach 56,000 MT (an impressive 87 percent increase). Also, in June 2023, and after more than 20 years, the EU has approved the shipment of all Argentine organic citrus treated post-harvest with sodium bicarbonate. This approval marks a departure from the previous restriction solely to organic lemons, expanding the authorization to include sweet citrus fruits as well.

Production

Lemons

For MY 2023/24, Post updated its fresh lemon production forecast to decrease by 11 percent to 1,700 thousand metric tons (MT) from USDA official estimates of 1,907 thousand metric tons. This negative trajectory can be attributed to worst climate conditions with higher temperatures than expected and during harvest season there were irregular and severe rains, which have not only impacted the size of the lemons but have also damaged numerous lemon trees. Also, the average fruit size was smaller than originally estimated, reducing total production but producers expect a high-quality level of the fruit.

During MY 2023/24, the lemon harvest started approximately 30 days later than the usual starting week, a delay also attributed to the multifaceted effects of climate change. Despite this delay, the shift turned out to compensate for the negative expectation of production concerning the quality and size of the fruit.

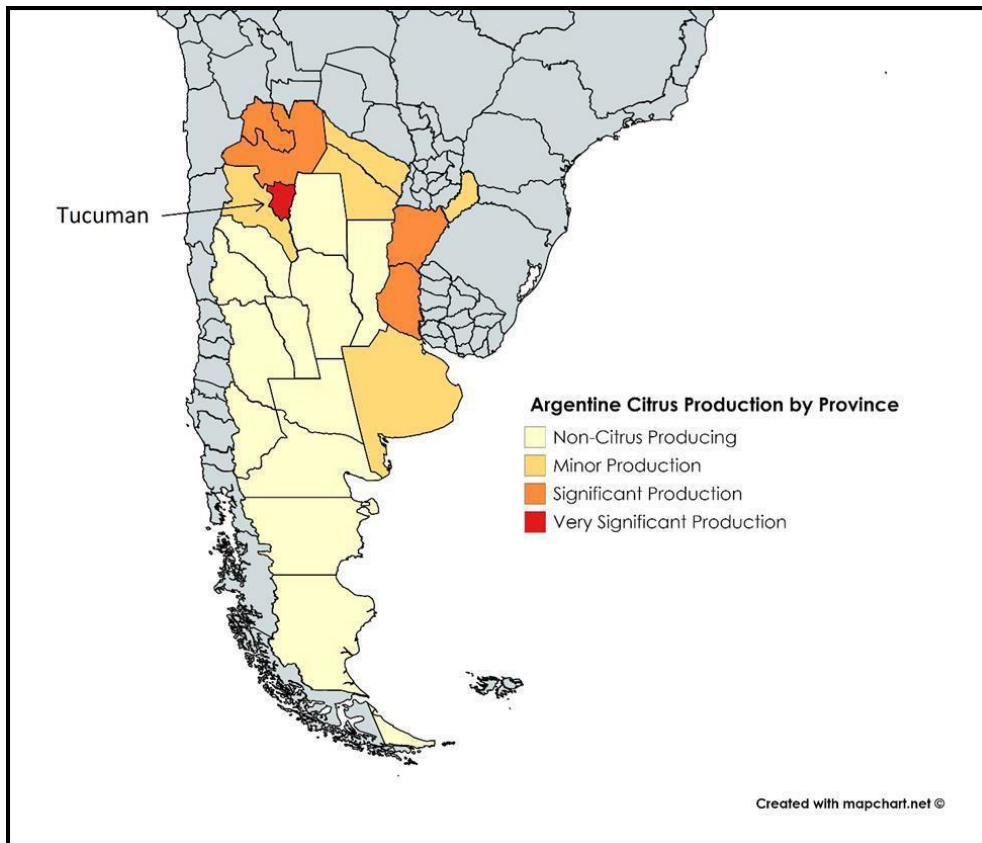
Post also revised the forecast on fresh lemon production to 1,850 MT for the preceding marketing year 2022/23 with an increase of 12 percent from last official USDA official estimates. The adverse effects of the drought were less severe than expected.

Argentinian lemon producers have faced substantial economic challenges due to persistent international overproduction in the fresh citrus market and stagnant demand. This has resulted in prolonged periods of lower prices over the past five to seven years compared to the previous decade. Navigating a market characterized by excess supply has been particularly difficult for local producers.

Despite these challenges, the lemon sector has seen significant investment in new production techniques and technology over the past decade. Notably, 70-75 percent of Argentina's total lemon production is now dedicated to the export of processed lemon products, including essential oils, frozen pulp, and dehydrated peel. These improvements have helped the industry's resilience and adaptability in a highly competitive global market.

Lemons are grown primarily in the northwest provinces of Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy, with some minor production in northeastern Argentina as shown in Figure 1. Eureka Frost, Lisboa Frost, Limoneira 8 A, and Génova EEAT are the main lemon varieties grown in Argentina according to *Estacion Experimental Agroindustrial Obispo Colombes (EEAOC)*.

Figure 1: Argentine Citrus Production by Province



Source: FAS (Foreign Agricultural Service) Buenos Aires based on statistics from SAGyP

Oranges and Tangerines

Post forecasts that Argentine fresh oranges production to decrease by 44 percent in MY 2023/24 to 650,000 MT from last official estimates. Post projects also that tangerine production at 280,000 MT with a decrease of 30 percent from last official estimate. The decrease in production in both sweet citrus is due to a combination of factors, including worse than expected weather conditions like drought and untimely rain during harvest. The adverse weather, worsened by the extended drought being more severe than expected, led to damage to many orange and tangerine trees. Consequently, the fruit's size and yield were negatively affected, reducing overall production. As a result, producers are shifting their focus towards ensuring the highest quality for the smaller quantity of fruit available.

Sweet citrus is grown in both the northwestern (oranges) and northeastern (oranges and tangerines) regions of Argentina. The main orange varieties grown in northwestern Argentina are Hamlin, Pineapple, Robertson, and Navel, while in the northeast they are Navel, Salustiana, and improved Valencia (Midnight, Delta Seedless). The main tangerine varieties are Clementina, Clemenvilla,

Ellendale, Malvasio, Montenegrina, Murcott, and Ortanique. The expansion of sweet citrus includes seedless varieties such as Tango for oranges and Clementines and Clemenules for tangerines.

Planted Area

Lemons

For MY 2023/24, Post updated its estimates for fresh lemon planted area to 34,500 hectares with a 16 percent decrease and the harvested area to 32,500 hectares with a 17 percent decrease. This situation can be attributed to the challenges faced by Argentinian lemon producers, who have been significantly affected by the international overproduction in the fresh citrus market coupled with a stagnant international demand. Over the past five years, this situation has led to a prolonged period of prices below the last decade's average and has presented a considerable economic challenge for the local producers to deal with a market characterized by excess supply.

In recent years, there has been a recent trend of decreasing the number of plants per hectare, suggesting a strategic adjustment to the challenges of overproduction and market dynamics. In response, some lemon producers have diversified their agricultural pursuits, venturing into sugarcane, grains, or avocados, among others, highlighting their adaptability facing the changing economic landscapes in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, the reduction in lemon planted area can also be attributed to an increase in production costs, adding another layer of complexity to the economic dynamics affecting fresh lemons production in Argentina.

Oranges and Tangerines

The projected planted area for MY 2023/24 and MY 2022/23 remains unchanged for oranges and tangerines at 37,000 HA and 26,900 HA, respectively, from last official estimates. There has been no significant investment in area expansion in recent years.

The complex market poses significant challenges for smaller citrus producers, such as limited access to resources, difficulty negotiating favorable contracts with distributors, and higher per-unit production costs compared to larger farms. These pressures often lead to smaller producers exiting the industry and the consolidation of citrus orchards into the hands of larger, more economically resilient farms.

Additionally, there is a discernible shift in the industry, with some producers choosing to transition to more profitable crops like yerba mate or diversifying into other activities such as livestock production. This shift suggests a dynamic response to market conditions and changing economic landscapes, as growers seek alternatives that may offer greater financial viability.

Furthermore, regional disparities are apparent, with growers in the northeast typically operating on smaller plot sizes compared to their counterparts in the northwest, adding a geographical dimension to the challenges and adaptations within the citrus industry.

The resurgence in sweet citrus prices, triggered by a sudden global scarcity of the product, has started a shift in expectations among sweet citrus producers. This unexpected turn in the market dynamics adds another layer of complexity to the strategic decisions and outlook of sweet citrus producers.

Processing

Lemons

Post has also revised the number of fresh lemons that will be processed in MY 2023/2024 to 1,340 MT, reflecting a 6 percent decrease from last USDA official estimates of 1,418 MT. This decrease is attributed to the lower in production of lemons in Argentina for this marketing year.

Post also updated the lemons processed in MY 2022/2023 to 1,370 MT, marking a 3 percent increase from the previous official estimates. This adjustment is driven by the higher lemon production in Argentina, and the impact of the drought was less severe than initially anticipated.

In contrast, the forecast for the number of fresh lemons processed in MY 2022/2023 shows an increase from 1,323 MT to 1,463 MT. This increase is attributed to increase in production but also to some government incentives established during that period related to the unofficial exchange rate which are no longer available.

Oranges and Tangerines

The number of oranges that will be processed in MY 2023/2024 is projected to increase to 220,000 MT. This projection reflects a 10 percent upswing from the last official estimates and is primarily attributed to the raise of production of oranges in Argentina. Similarly, the tangerines that will be processed in MY 2023/2024 is projected to increase to 80,000 MT, reflecting a 33 percent rise from the last official estimates. This increase is attributed to the higher production of tangerines in Argentina.

The number of fresh oranges that will be processed is expected to reach to 168,000 MT in MY 2022/2023 with a decrease of 24 percent from last official estimates. Fresh tangerines for processing are also projected to 60,000 MT, down 25 percent from last official estimates. Both lower processing volumes aligns with the anticipated decline in oranges and tangerines production levels for MY 2023/24.

Investment

The lemon production industry faces challenges due to declining prices from global overproduction, leading to hesitation in investments. Despite this situation, there are ongoing efforts to enhance operations. Unproductive trees are left behind, and new, disease-resistant genetic material is being introduced to improve yields.

Investments are also being made to modernize processing and packing facilities, improving operational efficiency and quality control. Upgraded irrigation systems, such as drip irrigation, are being

implemented to reduce water usage and ensure sustainability. Continuous research and development efforts are driving innovations in cultivation techniques, pest management, and post-harvest handling, boosting productivity and quality.

These strategic investments are setting the stage for a more efficient, productive, and sustainable lemon production industry, capable of thriving when market conditions improve.

Consumption

Lemons

Post has revised its estimates for domestic consumption of fresh lemons in Argentina to 140,000 MT for MY 2023/24 which means a decrease of 42 percent from last official estimate. This decline is primarily attributed to several factors: a modification in the methods used to calculate consumption volumes which are in line with the Argentinean official statistics for lemon consumption., the complex macroeconomic situation in Argentina, and lower production recorded during this marketing year.

Consumers are likely to maintain consistent lemon purchases, particularly during periods of illness or health concerns, as lemons are valued for their vitamin C content, believed to directly support the immune system. The versatility of lemons across various industries, including beverages, foods, cleaning, aromatherapy, and natural dyeing, further contributes to their unwavering and stable consumption patterns.

Oranges and Tangerines

Domestic consumption of fresh oranges is forecast to increase to 608,000 MT in MY 2023/24, up 64 percent from the last official estimate. This escalation is intricately tied to the anticipated surge in production of oranges for the same period. Simultaneously, fresh tangerine domestic consumption is projected to increase by 33 percent to 265,000 MT due to the increase in production as well for the upcoming marketing year.

In the context of the marketing year 2022/23, projections from Post indicate that domestic consumption of oranges is forecasted to be 478,000 MT with an increase of 29 percent from last official estimates, while tangerines are expected to maintain a consumption level of 196,000 MT. This stability in consumption levels is attributed to the impact of a scarcity in supply, particularly affecting the availability of fresh sweet citrus, notably oranges.

Internal Fruit Tracking

The implementation of “Plant Transit Certificates” (DTVs, in Spanish) by the Argentine Animal and Plant Health Service (SENASA) to control the transport of plants and plant material, continues to

improve the information on the domestic movement of such products, including fruit. As a result, more complete data on fruit consumption is available (*Resolución SENASA 31/2015* <http://www.senasa.gob.ar/tags/dtv>).

Trade

Exports

Lemons

For MY 2023/24, Post updated fresh lemon exports to 220,000 MT reflecting a 12 percent down from last official USDA estimates of 250,000 MT. This decrease is in line with the decline in production. Furthermore, the competitiveness of the lemon sector has been affected by significant production cost increases especially labor, inputs, energy, among other costs and high inflation rates.

In MY 2022/2023, Post also updated the fresh lemon exports to 258,000 MT, with a 29 percent increase from last official estimate of 200,000 MT. This positive adjustment is attributed to the impact of the weather conditions on lemon production was less severe than initially expected.

Oranges and Tangerines

Fresh orange exports from Argentina are forecasted to 35,000 metric tons (MT) for MY 2023/24, showing a decrease of 53 percent from last USDA official estimates. Simultaneously, tangerine exports for MY 2023/24 are estimated at 24,000 MT with a decrease of 57 percent from last USDA official estimates. Both dynamics in line with the evolution of production trends.

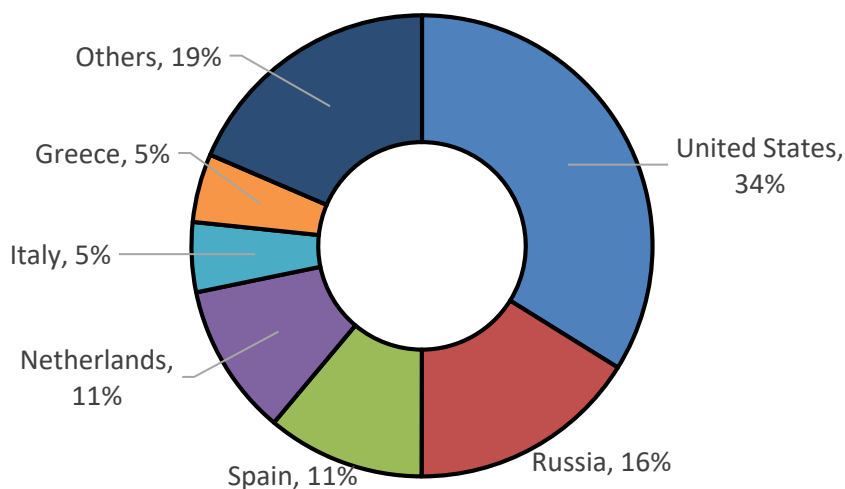
For MY 2022/23, Post's estimate oranges exports at 32,000 MT, down 42 percent from last official and 30,000 MT for tangerines with no change in the same comparison. However, exports of both fruits will be below normal levels due to poor economic and financial conditions affecting the domestic citrus business. In addition, both sweet citrus fruits continue to face fierce competition from Southern Hemisphere competitors, primarily South Africa, and other non-traditional competitors, such as Peru, Chile, and Uruguay.

Export Destinations

During the first three months of 2024, there was a decline in volume of 21 percent of fresh lemons exports compared to the same period in 2022 explained by the decline of the Russian demand. As a result, it's expected that the Argentine citrus sector will focus its exports with a significant concentration on the United States market. Approximately 34 percent of the exports were sent to the United States, representing a notable increase from the 21 percent market share during the same period in 2022. However, it is worth highlighting the diversification efforts into nontraditional markets, such

as Albania and Ukraine. In 2023, the EU retained its status as the largest export market for Argentine fresh lemons, accounting for 37percent of total exports. Russia shifted to the third position with 16percent of total exports.

Figure 2: Argentine Fresh Lemon Exports by Volume in 2023



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

In June 2023, and after more than 20 years, the EU has approved the shipment of all Argentine organic citrus treated post-harvest with sodium bicarbonate. This approval marks a departure from the previous restriction solely to organic lemons, expanding the authorization to include sweet citrus fruits as well. The decision by European authorities heralds a positive impact on the production of organic citrus fruits in the Republic of Argentina, where approximately 3,342 hectares are currently cultivated under these conditions, as per Argentina's official estimations for 2023. This development is poised to open new opportunities for Argentina's organic citrus sector in the European market.

In February 2023, Argentina's Senasa has introduced rigorous measures to reduce the spread of Black Spot in citrus shipments for the European Union (EU). The Resolution 131/2023 mandates additional preventive treatments, including the use of strobilurins, for all citrus production units during the susceptibility period. This update extends treatments to all citrus varieties, such as oranges, mandarins, and grapefruits. Establishments with previous Black Spot detections are now required to apply strobilurins twice for export-bound produce. The resolution also increases sampling percentages for establishments with previous detections, emphasizing a comprehensive risk approach. Penalties for

non-compliance, including exclusion from exporting citrus to the EU for a campaign period, remain unchanged.

On May 1, 2021, the EU reopened its market to Argentine fresh lemons and oranges after the detection of CBS (Citrus Black Spot) in MY 2019/20. Argentine exporters had to make additional investments to ensure their compliance with the EU's technical requirements, which resulted in virtually zero CBS detections during the MY 2021/22 marketing season. In February 2021, following Brexit, the United Kingdom deregulated citrus imports from all origins allowing Argentina to export citrus fruit without a phytosanitary certificate.

Table 1: Lemon Export Volume to the U.S. by Marketing Year

Fresh Lemon Exports to the U.S.	
Marketing Year	Metric Tons
MY 2017/18	10,640
MY 2018/19	23,179
MY 2019/20	33,963
MY 2021/22	72,998
MY 2022/23	55,253
MY 2022/23	74,487

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

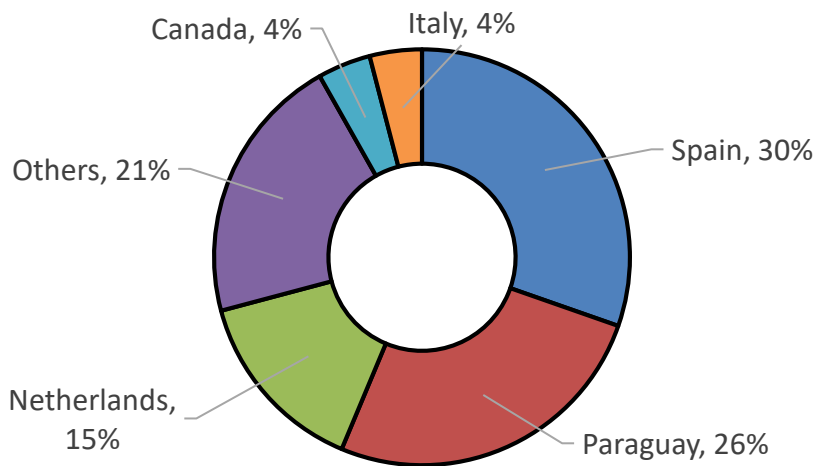
After regaining market access to the United States in MY 2016/17, the Argentina's fresh lemon exports to the U.S. exhibited a notable upward trend. The exports volumes went by approximately 117percent from 10,640 to 23,179 metric tons in MY 2018/19, followed by a further increase of about 46percent to reach 33,963 metric tons in MY 2019/20. The most significant growth occurred in MY 2021/22, with a remarkable upswing of approximately 115percent, peaking at 72,998 metric tons. However, the subsequent year, MY 2022/23, witnessed a decline of about 24percent, decreasing to 55,253 metric tons. The Argentinean exports of fresh lemons to MY 2023/24 recorded the last five year's peak with 74,487 MT with an increase of 35 percent year on year.

Argentina has access to Brazil for all citrus fruits but faces competitive challenges in this market. In 2017, the Brazilian market for citrus fruits was reopened to Argentine exports after being closed for two years due to the detection of the citrus greening disease. However, the reopening of the market was accompanied by strict sanitary measures, which have made it more difficult for Argentina to export citrus fruits to Brazil. The access of citrus fruits from other countries, such as Uruguay and Chile, into the Brazilian market has made it more competitive for Argentine producers.

Argentina has had access to sweet citrus from China since 2004, and access to South Korea, Indonesia, and the Philippines since 2017.

During the period January-September 2023, orange exports were affected by the drought and lower production, and Paraguay accounted for 44-96 percent of total exports, but there was a 71 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

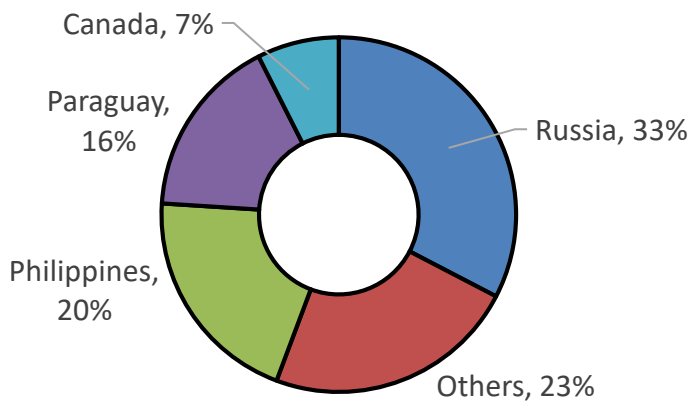
Figure 3: Argentine Fresh Oranges Exports by Volume in 2023



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

During 2023, Argentina faced a substantial contraction in the volume of fresh orange exports, registering a 53 percent decline in comparison to 2022. Notably, the Argentine citrus industry has strategically centered its fresh orange exports, allocating in 5 destinations almost 80 percent of the total exports. Also, during the 2023, Argentina the same situation on the volume of tangerine exports, registering a 57 percent decline in comparison to 2022.

Figure 4: Argentine Fresh Tangerine Exports by Volume in 2023



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Policy

Import and Export Regulations

The government has published Decree 385/2024, which, among other issues, implements a reduction in import tariffs for certain agricultural inputs. Fertilizers will have a 0percent import tariff, including urea, ammonium nitrate, and a mixture of both, which previously had import tariffs of 5.4 percent, 6 percent, and 3.6 percent, respectively. The same decree also reduced import tariffs on agricultural machinery and equipment used in the agro-industrial sector. In most of the cases, import tariffs went from 12.6 percent to 2.0 percent which includes apparatus for spraying herbicides; control and power supply apparatus; sensors; electric conductors provided with connection pieces and compressors, among others. However, according to farmers, the impact of these measures on production costs is very limited.

Argentina's government has expanded the scope of the "Tax for an Inclusive and Solidary Argentina (PAÍS)" through Decree 385/2024. This tax now applies to the purchase of foreign currency for distributing profits and dividends to shareholders, as well as for repatriating portfolio investments made by non-residents in Argentina. The tax rate for these specific operations is 17.5percent, encouraging the use of foreign currency for these purposes. Additionally, non-residents can now subscribe to "Bonds for the Reconstruction of a Free Argentina (BOPREAL)" in pesos to pay profits and dividends or repatriate investments, with the PAÍS tax also being 17.5 percent for such subscriptions. The measures took effect on May 6, 2024.

The Argentine government has made limited investment in the citrus sector. However, the Programa de Incremento Exportador para las Economías Regionales (PIER) stands as an exception. This program provides financial assistance to apple and pear producers in Argentina which continues even after devaluation of 108percent in last December. Under this program, exporters benefit from an exchange rate higher than the official rate, allowing them to receive more pesos for each export. Consequently, this measure is enhancing their profitability.

An essential aspect of the PIER is its mechanism for currency valuation. As of the latest update, exporters receive 80 percent of their dollars valued at the official exchange rate. However, the remaining 20 percent is calculated based on the *contado con liquidación* (CCL) exchange rate. This dynamic approach ensures that producers can maximize the benefits of their exports while mitigating the impact of currency fluctuations. For example, on May 9th, 2024, the official rate was 901 pesos per dollar and the export dollar is 914 pesos per dollar, resulting in an "export dollar gap" of approximately 2 percent. In the context of a "crawling peg" finance strategy implemented by the Argentine government, where the exchange rate is adjusted monthly at 2 percent to maintain macro stability, the levels of inflation in pesos is still significantly high. Although there has been a downward trend in inflation since its peak, data from March 2024 indicates a monthly inflation exceeding 11percent. Even this complex context,

the disparity between the export dollar and the official exchange rate is a symptom of the distortion in the Argentine foreign exchange market. The new government is still regulating the foreign exchange market through a variety of financial instruments; however, it is expected to change this macroeconomic framework.

The availability of long-term loans to citrus producers is limited even at provincial level.

The presence of many exchange rates, distinct from the official rate, shows the distortions on the Argentine foreign exchange market. The government employs various financial instruments to regulate this market, leading to many exchange rates across various economic activities, including the citrus sector. Table 2 below includes current tariffs, taxes, and rebates for all types of citrus fruit:

Table 2: Tariffs, taxes, & rebates for all citrus fruit.

Tariffs, taxes, & rebates for all citrus fruit	
(HTS codes: 080510, 080521, 080522, 080529, 080550)	percent
Import Tariff (outside Mercosur)	10.00
Advance Value-added Tax	10.5
Statistical Tax	3.00
Value-added Tax	21
Export Tax	0.00
Export Rebate (bulk) (*)	1.00

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Tarifar. () The export rebate applies equally within and outside Mercosur*

Phytosanitary Issues: Citrus Greening

In July 2014, a non-commercial case of Huanglongbing (HLB) was found in Mocoreta, Corrientes province (Northeastern region of Argentina – close to the border with Uruguay). The Argentine government immediately implemented its monitoring system in the area, as per the National HLB Prevention Program and subsequently found no further evidence of the disease. The program was established by Secretariat of Agriculture Resolution No. 517/2009, and ratified by National Law No. 26.888/2013, and SENASA Resolution 336/14.

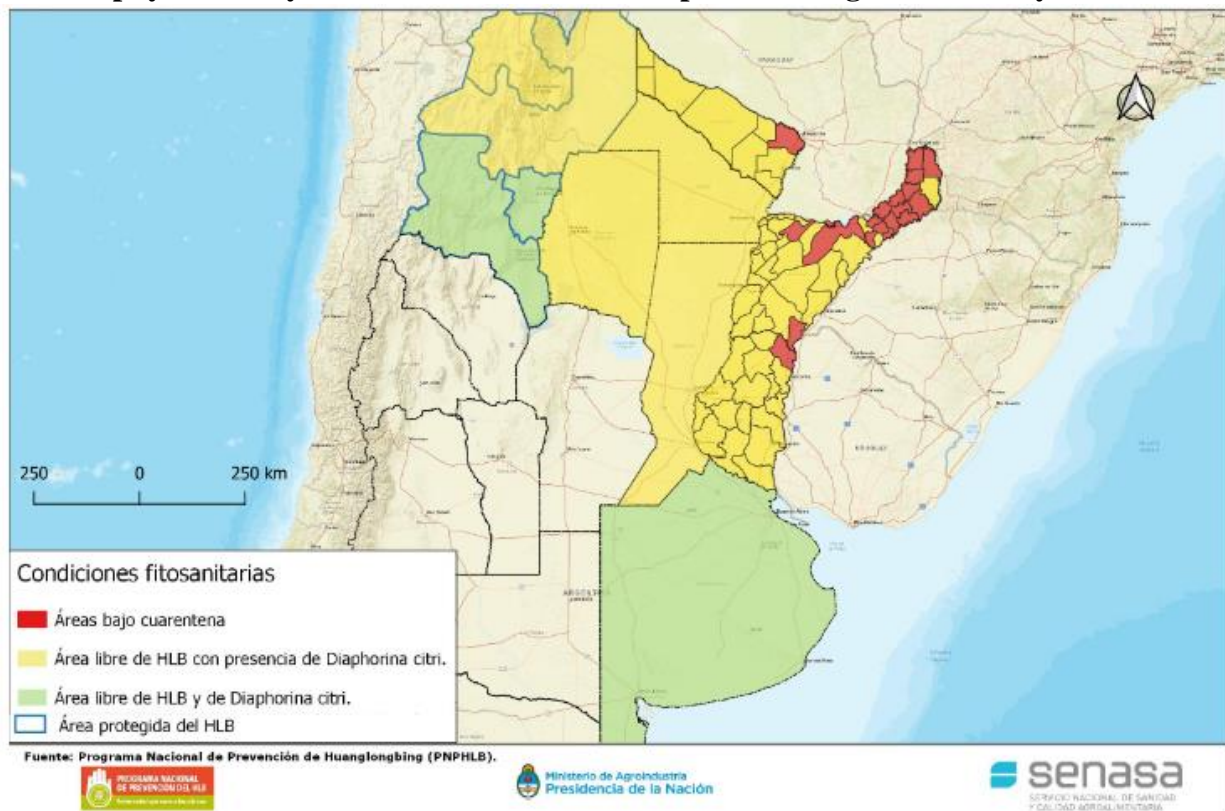
On July 4, 2012, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was officially notified that a case of HLB had been reported in one infected tangerine tree in Puerto Deseado, Misiones province (northeastern region of Argentina – close to the border with Brazil). The infected tree was destroyed as a precautionary action. In addition, SENASA intensified the surveillance for citrus species

in the area with sampling in 150 premises with negative results for both: the symptoms and the vector (*Diaphorina citri*) of the disease. SENASA stated that, since the location is not a citrus commercial area, and it is surrounded by national parks, it is likely that this was an illegal introduction from outside the country. Nevertheless, *Diaphorina citri* was reported in other areas of Argentina. A few additional cases were detected in Misiones and Corrientes provinces and, in 2016, for the first time, in citrus commercial areas (i.e., vector presence, no disease).

In November 2017, the Ministry of Agroindustry and the Argentine Citrus Federation (FEDERCITRUS, in Spanish) signed an agreement to work jointly on the prevention of HLB into Argentina and, in March 2019, under the framework of the National Program for HLB Prevention, SENASA, the Secretariat of Agroindustry's National Trust Fund (FONDAGRO, in Spanish), and the Phytosanitary Association of the Northwest of Argentina (AFINOA, in Spanish) signed an agreement for resource contribution and management. SENASA recently made some changes to the national program for HLB Prevention to protect citrus production. Since the presence of the pest was detected in new areas, these recently affected areas were declared under quarantine in Resolution Nr 875/2020.

In the province of Entre Ríos, HLB was initially identified in samples of the *Diaphorina citri* in November 2017. This marked the beginning of the Phytosanitary Contingency Plan in the area. Throughout 2018, HLB detections persisted in the vector, and by June, the first positive HLB results were confirmed in plant samples taken from eradicated plants.

Figure 5: The phytosanitary condition of HLB in the Republic of Argentina in May 2024.



*Source: SENASA - Red means area under HLB-related quarantine. Yellow means area free of HLB with presence of *Diaphorina citri* and green area means area free of hlb and/or *Diaphorina citri*.*

SENASA has defined the following areas based on HLB presence or absence, as follows:

- Area free of HLB and/or *Diaphorina citri*: Buenos Aires, Catamarca, and Tucuman. Green area of Figure 5.
- Area free of HLB with presence of *Diaphorina citri*: Jujuy, Salta, Santa Fe, Chaco, Misiones, Entre Ríos (some departments), Corrientes, Formosa, and Santiago del Estero. Yellow area of Figure 5.
- Areas under quarantine: Corrientes (some departments); Misiones (some departments), Entre Ríos (Federación), and Formosa (some departments). Red area of Figure 5.
- Area protected from HLB: Northwest Argentina (NOA) region.

Currently, SENASA operates a network of about 400 trapping sites across the country for early detection of the HLB vector insect. These traps undergo inspection every 15 or 30 days, depending on

their specific installation conditions. They serve as an additional tool focused on the early detection of the vector insect in areas where it is currently absent.

Based on Senasa data, the existence of this disease in the Federación department (Entre Ríos) and Monte Caseros department (Corrientes), recognized as integral citrus regions along the Uruguay River coast, presents a significant obstacle to sustaining current production in the long term. This suggests an uncertain outlook for citrus cultivation in these areas.

For additional information on HLB in Argentina visit:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/senasa/micrositios/hlb>

Marketing

International (FOB) Prices for Fresh Citrus Fruit

The average FOB prices for fresh lemons were 2 percent lower during 2023 than 2022. This decline is attributed to the increased supply of these fruits in the market, resulting in an oversupply situation putting some pressure to push prices down. However, during the first three months of 2024, average FOB prices for fresh lemons reached a solid new equilibrium at 570 US\$/MT with an increase of almost 10 percent from last year's prices as shown in Table 3.

There is a noteworthy increase in orange prices during July and August across the three years (2021, 2022, and 2023). In 2021, prices surged from 447 US\$/MT in July to 487 US\$/MT in August. Similarly, in 2022, there was a notable rise from 352 US\$/MT in July to 394 US\$/MT in August. The most pronounced increase occurred in 2023, with prices escalating from 603 US\$/MT in July to 579 US\$/MT in August due to a smaller than expected crop in many major producing countries as shown in Table 4. Prices rose at a slower pace than anticipated during the first three months of 2024.

The FOB prices for fresh tangerines remained stable over the past three years, showing consistent pricing trends. Notably, there was a common surge in prices during June, with values of 311 US\$/MT in 2021, 299 US\$/MT in 2022, and 306 US\$/MT in 2023. Despite this periodic increase, the overall stability in FOB prices suggests a degree of resilience in the fresh tangerine market as shown in Table 5.

Table 3: Argentine export prices for lemons

US\$/MT	2022	2023	2024
Jan	595	571	557
Feb	684	495	592
Mar	607	532	560
Apr	610	569	
May	637	562	
Jun	635	558	

Jul	602	563	
Aug	577	582	
Sep	483	515	
Oct	408	313	
Nov	516	548	
Dec	0	432	
Average	530	520	570

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Table 4: Argentine export prices for oranges

US\$/MT	2022	2023	2024
Jan	59,8	65,7	48,9
Feb	53,4	50,5	56,1
Mar	57,6	49,8	65,0
Apr	58,8	41,3	
May	93,3	107,0	
Jun	298,7	306,3	
Jul	351,8	603,1	
Aug	394,5	579,1	
Sep	396,8	389,8	
Oct	424,6	387,7	
Nov	453,5	124,4	
Dec	95,0	71,6	
Average	228,2	231,3	56,7

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Table 5: Argentine export prices for tangerines

US\$/MT	2022	2023	2024
Jan	56,0	0,0	0,0
Feb	62,1	0,0	0,0
Mar	0,0	0,0	0,0
Apr	626,1	667,0	
May	636,0	596,6	
Jun	675,8	617,2	
Jul	695,4	647,6	

Aug	604,2	575,0	
Sep	473,2	455,9	
Oct	270,0	82,6	
Nov	130,7	159,7	
Dec	113,1	0,0	
Average	361,9	316,8	0,0

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

The observed trend in Argentine tangerine export prices reveals distinctive dynamics over the analyzed years. The yearly averages underscore the fluctuating nature of tangerine export prices. The average cost per metric ton was 506 US\$/MT in 2021, declining notably to 395 US\$/MT in 2022, and then increasing to 594 US\$/MT in 2023. This implies a market that experiences significant shifts in pricing dynamics.

Table 6: Domestic retail prices for fresh citrus fruit in Argentina:

Fresh Citrus Fruit	US\$/kg
Lemon (Standard)	0,7
Lemon (Premium)	0,9
Orange “Valencia” (Standard)	1,1
Orange “Valencia” (Premium)	1,3
Orange “Navel” (Standard)	1,3
Orange “Navel” (Premium)	1,8
Tangerine “Nova”	0,9
Tangerine “Criolla”	1,1

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on data gathered from supermarkets and grocery stores.

Exchange rate: Argentine pesos 907.5/US\$1. Date of quote: 01/14/2023

The link below to the Buenos Aires Central Market provides updated wholesale citrus prices:

<http://www.mercadocentral.gov.ar/informacion/C3n/precios-mayoristas>

Tables 7-9: Production, Supply and Distribution of Lemons, Oranges, and Tangerines

Lemons/Limes, Fresh	2021/2022			2022/2023			2023/2024			
Market Begin Year	Jan 2022			Jan 2023			Jan 2024			
Argentina	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	
Area Planted	51000	51000	51000	45000	52000	45000	41000	41000	34500	(HECTARES)
Area Harvested	49000	49000	49000	43200	50000	43200	39000	39000	32500	(HECTARES)
Bearing Trees	12050	12050	12050	10462	12300	10462	10332	10332	10332	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	900	900	900	788	950	788	789	789	789	(1000 TREES)
Total No. Of Trees	12950	12950	12950	11250	13250	11250	11121	11121	11121	(1000 TREES)
Production	2050	1900	1930	1650	1770	1850	1907	1907	1700	(1000 MT)
Imports	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	(1000 MT)
Total Supply	2052	1901	1932	1653	1771	1851	1908	1908	1700	(1000 MT)
Exports	258	260	258	200	235	258	250	250	220	(1000 MT)
Fresh Dom. Consumption	150	150	273	130	130	130	240	240	140	(1000 MT)
For Processing	1644	1491	1401	1323	1406	1463	1418	1418	1340	(1000 MT)
Total Distribution	2052	1901	1932	1653	1771	1851	1908	1908	1700	(1000 MT)

Oranges, Fresh	2021/2022			2022/2023			2023/2024			
Market Begin Year	Jan 2022			Jan 2023			Jan 2024			
Argentina	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	
										(Units)
Area Planted	38000	38000	38000	37000	37000	37000	37000	0	37000	(HECTARE S)
Area Harvested	35000	35000	35000	33300	34500	33300	33300 0	0	33300 0	(HECTARE S)
Bearing Trees	16800	16800	16800	16500	16500	16500	16500	0	16500	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	1500	1500	1500	1400	1400	1400	1400	0	1400	(1000 TREES)
Total No. Of Trees	18300	18300	18300	17900	17900	17900	17900	0	17900	(1000 TREES)
Production	830	830	726	623	800	623	900	0	650	(1000 MT)
Imports	2	1	2	3	1	3	3	0	3	(1000 MT)
Total Supply	832	831	728	626	801	626	903	0	653	(1000 MT)
Exports	63	63	63	55	60	32	75	0	35	(1000 MT)
Fresh Dom. Consumption	569	568	549	371	541	478	608	0	450	(1000 MT)
For Processing	200	200	116	200	200	116	220	0	168	(1000 MT)
Total Distribution	832	831	728	626	801	626	903	0	653	(1000 MT)

Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh	2021/2022			2022/2023			2023/2024			
Market Begin Year	Jan 2022			Jan 2023			Jan 2024			
Argentina	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	
										(Units)
Area Planted	27500	27500	27500	26900	26900	26900	27500	0	27500	(HECTARES)
Area Harvested	22550	23000	22550	22058	23000	22058	22500	0	22550	(HECTARES)
Bearing Trees	12600	12600	12600	12500	12500	12500	12600	0	12600	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	1350	1350	1350	1300	1300	1300	1350	0	1350	(1000 TREES)
Total No. Of Trees	13950	13950	13950	13800	13800	13800	13950	0	13950	(1000 TREES)
Production	380	380	380	285	380	275	400	0	280	(1000 MT)
Imports	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	(1000 MT)
Total Supply	380	380	380	286	380	276	401	0	281	(1000 MT)
Exports	33	33	33	30	57	30	56	0	24	(1000 MT)
Fresh Dom. Consumption	277	277	277	196	263	196	265	0	197	(1000 MT)
For Processing	70	70	70	60	60	50	80	0	60	(1000 MT)
Total Distribution	380	380	380	286	380	276	401	0	281	(1000 MT)

Attachments:

No Attachments