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Report Highlights:

For Marketing Year (MY) 2024/2025, Post forecasts a reduction in fresh lemon production due to persistent rainfall during the blooming period, which is expected to adversely affect fruit development. Similarly, for MY 2023/2024, Post adjusts its production estimates, primarily driven by unfavorable weather conditions, since frosts in August and September weakened the plants, increasing their susceptibility to heat stress and leading to lower yields and diminished fruit quality. Moreover, there has been a reduction in both planted and harvested areas, as producers are increasingly shifting their production to more profitable crops, such as sugarcane.

Executive Summary

For Marketing Year (MY) 2024/25, Post projects lemon production at 1.38 million metric tons (MMT), representing a 20 percent decrease compared to the most recent official USDA estimates. This significant reduction is attributed to adverse weather conditions, including unexpected and persistent rainfall during the blooming period, which negatively impacted fruit development and quality.
For MY 2023/24, Post has revised its production forecast downward to 1.45 MMT. This adjustment reflects the impact of prolonged frosts, which weakened the plants and subsequently reduced expected yields.
The decrease in production will translate to lower exports. Lemon exports are anticipated to decrease to 165 MT for MY 2024/25.

Fresh oranges and tangerines also exhibit a production decrease for MY 2024/2025. Fresh orange production is forecasted to experience a significant decrease, reaching 620,000 MT, while fresh tangerine production is expected to reach a total of 200,000 MT. These projections follow a phenomenon called alternate bearing, which refers to a process in fruit trees where they produce a high yield in one year and a significantly lower yield the next year.
Likewise, sweet citrus exports are expected to decrease by 30 percent.

Production

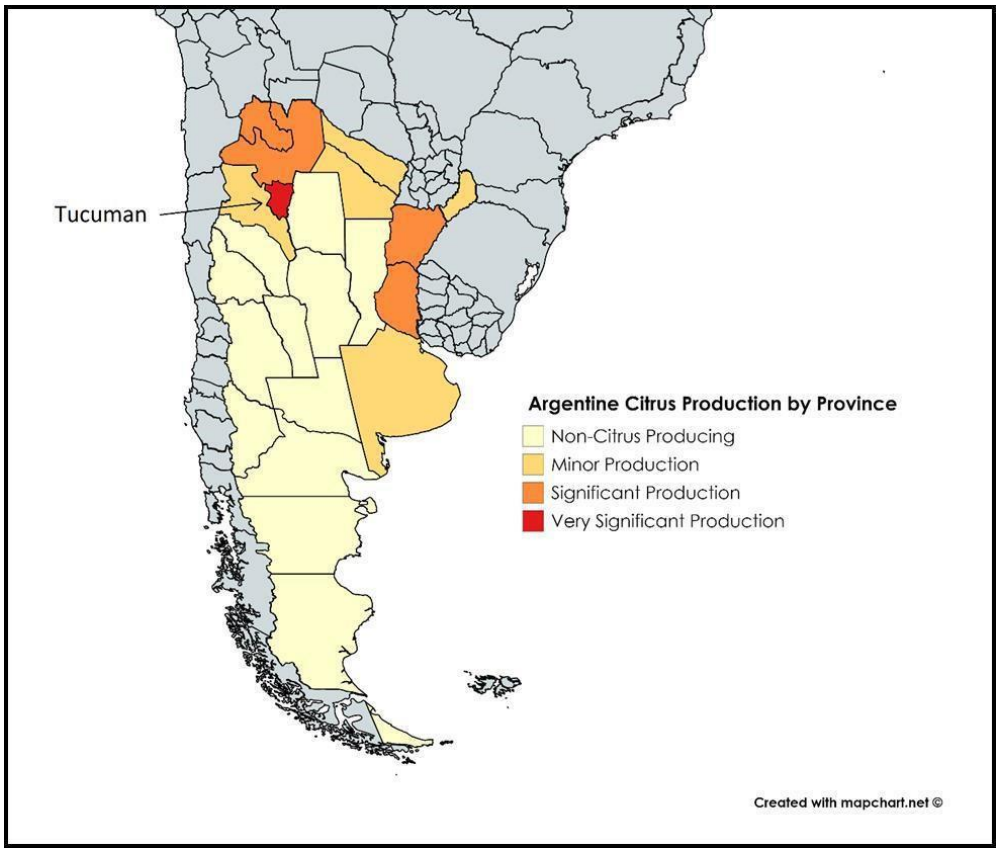
Lemons

For Marketing Year (MY) 2024/25, fresh lemon production is forecast to decline to 1.38 million metric tons (MMT), primarily due to early and persistent rainfall during the blooming season, which is expected to negatively affect fruit quality. Climate change has emerged as a complex and ongoing challenge in this context. Similarly, MY 2023/2024 production forecast has been revised downward to 1.45 MMT, as frosts during the growing season impaired plant health and hindered fruit development. In addition, many producers are shifting their focus to more profitable crops, such as sugarcane, which offers a better cost-benefit ratio.
Post has also revised its estimate for MY 2022/23 lemon production down to 1.70 MMT, as the average fruit size was smaller than initially projected, contributing to a lower total output. This smaller fruit size can be attributed to a combination of adverse weather conditions and other production challenges.

Lemons in Argentina are primarily grown in the northwest provinces of Tucumán, Salta, and Jujuy, with some minor production in the northeastern region. The main lemon varieties cultivated include Eureka Frost, Lisboa Frost, Limoneira 8 A, and Génova EEAT. Over the past decade, the sector has received significant investments in new production techniques and technology, with 70-75 percent of total production dedicated to exports of processed lemon products, such as essential oil, frozen pulp, and dehydrated peel. However, the sector has faced increasing competition in global markets, alongside economic contraction, posing challenges to its growth and profitability.

Argentine lemon producers have been significantly impacted by international overproduction in the fresh citrus market, coupled with stagnant demand. This combination has resulted in a prolonged period of lower prices over the past five years compared to the previous decade, creating a considerable economic strain for local producers in a market characterized by surplus supply.

Argentine Citrus Production by Province



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

Oranges and Tangerines

Post forecasts Argentine fresh oranges production to decrease by 30 percent in MY 2024/25 to 620,000 MT from last official estimates. For the same MY, post projects tangerine production at 200,000 MT. The decrease in production in both sweet citruses is due to a combination of factors, which are led by the alternate bearing phenomenon suffered by the trees.

Post's MY 2023/24 fresh orange production estimate is revised at 760,000 MT, while fresh tangerine production is revised at 280,000 MT.

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, main varieties 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

Post estimates MY 2024/25 lemon planted area will decrease to 41,000 hectares. Argentine lemon producers have been significantly affected by the international overproduction in the fresh citrus market coupled with a stagnant demand, leading to a prolonged period of lower prices over the past five years compared to the previous decade. This has presented a considerable economic challenge for the local producers to deal with a market characterized by excess supply resulting in fewer trees.

A recent trend has been to decrease the number of plants per hectare, suggesting a strategic adjustment to the challenges of overproduction and market dynamics, lowering production costs. In response, some lemon producers have diversified their agricultural pursuits, venturing into sugarcane, grains, or avocados, among others, highlighting their adaptability facing changing economic landscapes in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, the reduction in lemon planted area can also be attributed to an increase in production costs, especially labor 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 2024/25 and MY 2023/24 remains unchanged for oranges and tangerines at 37,000 HA and 26,900 HA, respectively, from the last estimates. There has been no significant investment in area expansion in recent years.

The challenges faced by smaller citrus producers in Argentina are becoming increasingly apparent, as they struggle to remain competitive in an evolving market. A clear trend has emerged where many of these smaller-scale growers are exiting the industry, often opting to sell their orchards to larger agricultural enterprises. This consolidation of land reflects the economic pressures and barriers that smaller producers encounter, ultimately leading to a concentration of citrus cultivation in the hands of larger, potentially more economically resilient farming operations.

In response to these challenges, some producers are adapting by shifting their focus to more profitable crops, such as yerba mate, or diversifying into other agricultural activities like livestock farming. This shift highlights the dynamic nature of the industry, with growers making strategic decisions to pursue alternative ventures that offer greater financial stability amid a changing economic landscape.

Moreover, the citrus sector exhibits noticeable regional disparities, with growers in the northeast typically working with smaller plots compared to those in the northwest, adding a geographical dimension to the challenges and adaptations within the industry. These differences further complicate the ability of smaller producers to compete effectively, as processing plants are outdated and require investment.

At the same time, the recent surge in sweet citrus prices, driven by a sudden global shortage of the product, has reshaped expectations within the sector. This unexpected shift in market dynamics has introduced an additional layer of complexity to the decision-making processes of sweet citrus producers, prompting them to reevaluate their strategies considering new opportunities and risks.

Processing

Lemons

The volume of fresh lemons that will be processed in MY 2024/2025 is projected to decrease to 1.09 MMT. This decrease is attributed to lower lemon production in Argentina.

Post also updated the volume of lemons processed in MY 2023/2024 to 1.13 MMT, marking a decrease from the previous official estimates. This adjustment is driven by lower lemon production in Argentina, due to frosts and persistent rains affecting the crops. This reduction is attributed to a smaller than estimated fruit size, impacting the overall production during this period.

Oranges and Tangerines

The volume of oranges projected for processing in MY 2024/2025 is expected to decrease to 220,000 metric tons (MT), in line with the overall decline in production.

The volume of tangerines destined for processing in MY 2024/2025 is also projected to decrease to 40,000 MT.

For MY 2023/2024, the quantity of oranges processed is revised to 231,000 MT, while the volume of tangerines processed is expected at 50,000 MT.

Investment

Producers are hesitant to invest as prices decline due to the global overproduction of lemons. Despite this, some of the larger lemon producers are actively replacing unproductive trees and investing in new genetic material to enhance yields. The newly replanted orchards also feature higher tree densities. Private sector investments are directed towards enhancing efficiency in processing and packing facilities, irrigation systems, and various research and development projects.

In recent times, citrus exporters have further increased their investments to align with protocols mandated by emerging export markets, including the United States and China. Additionally, efforts have been intensified to meet the European Union (EU) Citrus Black Spot (CBS) requirements, aimed at preventing any potential detection issues in the export process.

Consumption

Lemons

Argentine domestic fresh lemon consumption is expected to reach to 135,000 MT in MY 2024/205.

Post revised the domestic consumption for MY 2023/24 to 138,000 MT from the last estimate. These adjustments align with changes made to the calculation methodology for determining consumption volumes, underscoring the commitment to refining analytical approaches for a more accurate representation of domestic market trends are in line with a review of the Argentine official statistics for lemon consumption.

Price inelasticity was also observed in the fresh lemon market. This phenomenon implies consumer demand for lemons remains stable, even in the face of price fluctuations due to factors like lower production. 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 and believed to directly support the immune system. The versatility of lemons across various industries, including beverages, foods, cleaning, aromatherapy, and natural dyes, further contributes to their unwavering and stable consumption patterns.

Oranges and Tangerines

Domestic consumption of fresh oranges is forecast to decrease to 350,000 MT in MY 2024/25, in line with the production decrease.
Simultaneously, fresh tangerine domestic consumption is projected at 141,000 MT due to the decrease in production as well.

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 at the following link: *Resolución* SENASA 31/2015 - http://www.senasa.gob.ar/tags/dtv.

Trade

Lemons

Forecasted fresh lemon exports in MY 2024/25 stand at 155,000 MT. The main destination is expected to be the United States, followed by the European Union. The United States was one of the main destinations for lemon production during MY 2023/2024.
South Africa has positioned itself as Argentina's main competitor in the European Union market, as it can export fresh lemons with higher pesticide residues, which provides longer shelf life and better presentation.
Furthermore, the competitiveness of the lemon sector has been affected by significant production cost increases (especially labor, inputs, energy, inland, and ocean freight costs), a shortage of containers, and high inflation.

Oranges and Tangerines

For MY 2024/25, fresh orange and fresh tangerine exports are expected to decrease by 30 percent, following the production decrease, with a total of 52,000 MT for oranges, and 20,000 MT for tangerines. Fresh orange exports from Argentina are revised at 61,600 MT for MY 2023/24. Simultaneously, tangerine exports for MY 2023/24 are revised at 33,600 MT. Exports of both fruits were 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. The opening of the U.S. market is a priority, as Argentina is running out of options in other markets. East Asia, which is very important for Argentina, is seeing a decline in container traffic, as most of the containers that come to the region are directed to Brazil. Also, since Argentina's foreign trade has decreased due to lower competitiveness, transit times are becoming much longer, which is especially challenging for perishable products.

Export Destinations

In 2023, the Argentine lemon sector concentrated its export efforts primarily on the United States market. Approximately 34 percent of lemon 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 Ukraine and Poland. During January-September 2023, the EU retained its status as the largest export market for Argentine fresh

lemons, accounting for 37 percent of total exports. Russia shifted to the third position with 16 percent of total exports.

In February 2023, Argentina's SENASA 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 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

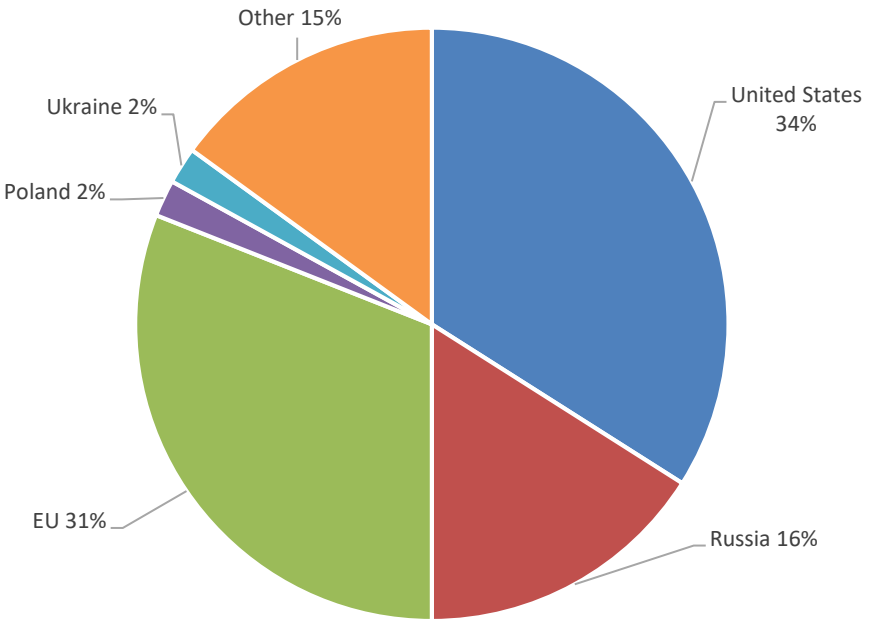
Fresh Lemon Exports to the U.S.	
Marketing Year	**Metric Tons**
MY 2017/18	10,640
MY 2018/19	23,179
MY 2019/20	33,963
MY 2021/22	72,998
MY 2022/23	55,253
MY 2023/24	74,487

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 United States exhibited a notable upward trend. The exports volumes went by approximately 117 percent from 10,640 to 23,179 metric tons in MY 2018/19, followed by a further increase of about 46 percent 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 115 percent, peaking at 72,998 metric tons. However, the subsequent year, MY 2022/23, witnessed a decline of about 24 percent, decreasing to 55,253 metric tons. On MY 2023/24, export volumes followed an upward trend, increasing to 74,847 MT exported to the United States.

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.

Argentine Fresh Lemon Exports by Volume in 2023

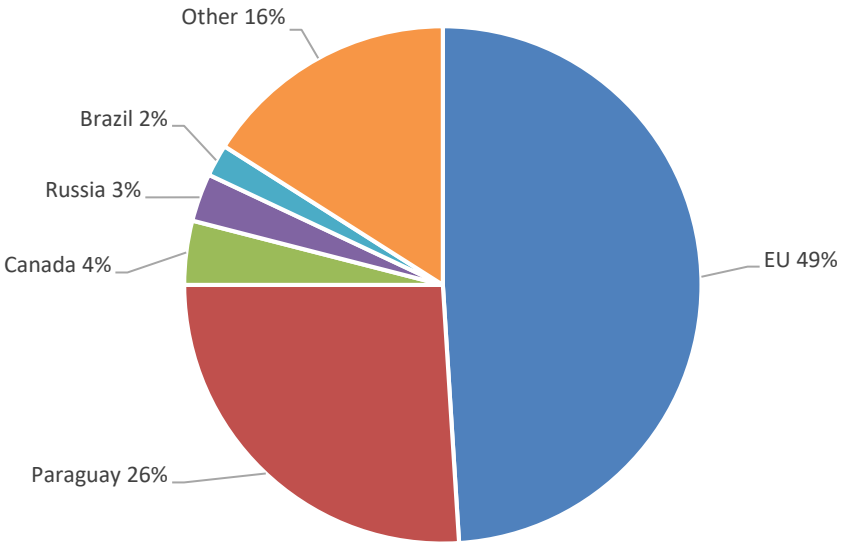


Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

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

During MY 2023/2024, the UE accounts for 49 percent of the volume of fresh orange exports, followed by Paraguay with 26 percent.

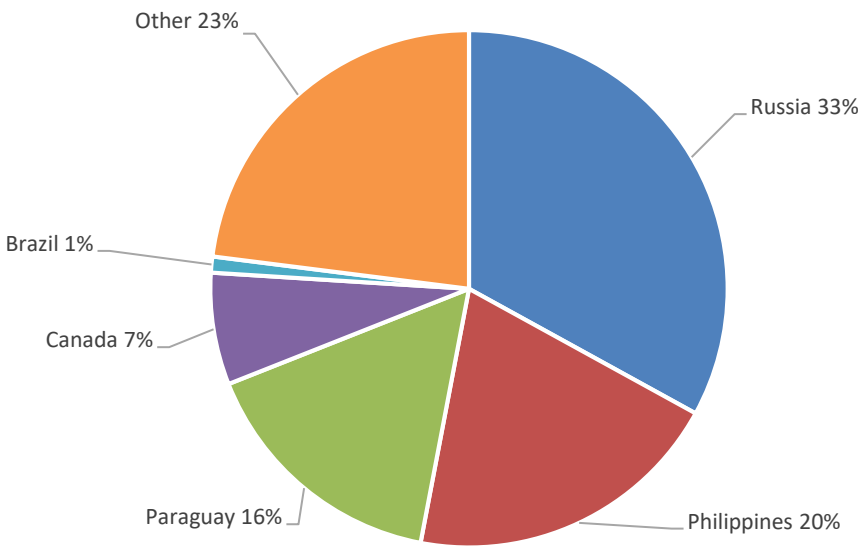
Argentine Fresh Orange Exports by Volume in 2023



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

Tangerine exports were reduced as well during year 2023, registering a 30 percent decline in comparison to the same period in 2022. The noteworthy downturns in the Russian market by 36 percent and the Canadian market by 50 percent during this period provide explanatory factors for this overall decrease.

Argentine Fresh Tangerine Exports by Volume in 2023



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

Export policies and Trade agreements

In June 2023, after more than 20 years, the EU approved the shipment of all Argentine organic citrus treated post-harvest with sodium bicarbonate. This approval marks an expansion to include sweet citrus from the previous authorization which was restricted solely to organic lemons. The decision by European authorities heralds a positive impact on the production of organic citrus fruits in 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.

Also, in November 2024 Argentina, as part of the Mercosur, signed the Mercosur-European Union (EU) trade agreement. The agreement is a significant trade deal signed between the Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and the European Union. This agreement, which has been in the works for over two decades, aims to enhance economic ties between the two regions by reducing trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, and increasing access to markets for a wide range of goods and services. One of the most immediate benefits of the EU-Mercosur agreement for Argentina’s citrus sector is increased access to the European market. With tariff reductions and more favorable terms, Argentine citrus producers (especially lemons and oranges) will have a better opportunity to expand exports to the EU, one of the world's largest markets for fresh fruit.

While Argentina stands to benefit from tariff reductions, competition will likely increase as other countries (especially from within the EU’s trade network) may also benefit from the trade agreement. This means that Argentine citrus growers will face stronger competition from other exporters to the European market, particularly in pricing and quality standards. South Africa, for instance, has long been a key competitor for Argentina in the EU citrus market. The trade agreement could open the EU market even further to South African citrus, which could impact Argentina's market share.

With tariffs reduced, prices for Argentine citrus exports to the EU could become more competitive, which might help maintain or even increase market share. However, this will depend on how well Argentina can compete with other global citrus exporters, such as Spain, South Africa, and Morocco, who are also key players in the European market. Price pressure could arise if producers in Mercosur countries overproduce citrus to take advantage of the new market access, which could lead to falling prices in the EU market.

The success of the agreement for the citrus sector will depend on how well producers can navigate these opportunities and challenges, ensuring they remain competitive while meeting increasingly stringent market demands.

Export Promotion

"ALL LEMON Tested & Certified for Export" (ALL LEMON) is a seal that guarantees the quality of fresh Argentine lemons for export. It involves an audit program of the sixteen leading lemon producers, packers, and exporters in Argentina, which certifies quality standards for export of about 85 percent of the country's total lemon production. Lemons identified under ALL LEMON parameters must comply with:

- Food safety standards
- Traceability
- Freshness
- Firmness
- Durability
- High juice content
- Aesthetic care
- Balanced color
- Uniform format.

For additional information on All Lemon: http://www.latinlemon.com.ar/all-lemon-english.html

Imports

Post forecasts lemon imports at 1,000 metric tons (MT) for MY 2024/2025, maintaining the same level as in MY 2023/2024, where imports are also stable at 1,000 MT.

Similarly, post projects orange imports to reach 2,000 metric tons (MT) in MY 2024/2025. A slight decrease from 3,000 MT, recorded in MY 2023/2024.

For tangerines, post expects imports to remain steady at 1,000 metric tons (MT) in MY 2024/2025, consistent with the previous year's imports in MY 2023/2024.

Policy

Import and Export Regulations

The Argentine government's investment in the citrus sector has been limited. This has led to some producers without access to all the resources required for international market competitiveness. Despite the complex macroeconomic context, the government of Argentina successfully established the *Programa de Incremento Exportador para las Economías Regionales* (PIER) to provide financial and technical assistance to a specific group of ag producers. This program offered several benefits, such as a preferential exchange rate exceeding the official rate. This implies that exporters can secure a higher value in pesos for each dollar exported, thereby enhancing their overall profitability.

Moreover, over the past months there has been a reduction in the exchange rate gap. The exchange rate gap in Argentina refers to the difference between the official exchange rate (set by the government) and the exchange rate in the parallel market, commonly known as the "blue dollar." This disparity arises from restrictions on the purchase of foreign currency and a lack of confidence in the stability of the Argentine peso, which leads to high demand for dollars outside the official market. The exchange rate gap in Argentina creates a complex economic situation for lemon producers, characterized by increased costs, investment uncertainty, and difficulties in accessing financing. While some producers may temporarily benefit from more favorable export opportunities due to the exchange rate, the long-term effects are often negative due to distorted production costs and economic instability.
A reduced exchange rate gap as seen on the last couple on months, meaning a smaller difference between the official exchange rate and the parallel market rate, can have several important implications for Argentina's agricultural sector, including the production of citrus. These impacts can be both positive and negative, depending on the broader economic context and the specific circumstances of producers. A reduced exchange rate gap can provide much-needed stability and lower costs for Argentina's citrus producers, promoting long-term growth and reducing the economic pressure on smaller producers. However, the full impact depends on how the gap is reduced and whether broader economic policies address Argentina's underlying structural challenges, such as labor costs for example, which accounts for 40 percent of total production costs. A smaller gap may help contain inflation, as expectations of devaluation diminish. This can lead to more stable domestic prices for inputs and labor, indirectly benefiting agricultural production, it also means producers no longer have as much of a financial advantage from settling exports at a favorable rate. This could reduce the profitability of exporting citrus and encourage producers to focus more on the domestic market.
For citrus producers, a stable and predictable exchange rate environment is crucial to maintaining profitability and fostering sustainable growth in both domestic and export markets.

The presence of numerous 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

Moreover, The PAIS tax (Impuesto Para una Argentina Inclusiva y Solidaria) is a tax that was introduced in Argentina in 2019 as part of an economic stabilization plan. The government implemented the PAIS tax to curb the demand for foreign currency in Argentina and to boost local currency reserves. This was especially important during periods of economic instability when Argentina faced high inflation and declining foreign reserves.

The tax is applied to a variety of transactions, including the purchase of foreign currency, certain foreign goods and services, and expenses abroad. The PAIS tax is added on top of the exchange rate for the foreign currency or purchase, it impacts agriculture in several ways, including fertilizer prices and import costs of goods, translating in higher production costs.

The PAIS Tax has recently been extended until December 24, 2024, when the current decree is set to expire. The national government reduced the PAIS Tax rate from 17.5% to 7.5% through Decree 777/2024. The reduction in the PAIS tax can benefit Argentina's agricultural sector in several ways, particularly by lowering the cost of imported inputs, increasing competitiveness in global markets, and

encouraging investment in technology and infrastructure. However, the full impact will depend on how other economic factors evolve, including exchange rates, inflation, and government fiscal policies.

Also, as mentioned before, in November 2024 the Mercosur block signed the Mercosur-European Union (EU) trade agreement. The agreement is a significant trade deal signed between the Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and the European Union. This agreement, which has been in the works for over two decades, aims to enhance economic ties between the two regions by reducing trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, and increasing access to markets for a wide range of goods and services. One of the most immediate benefits of the EU-Mercosur agreement for Argentina's citrus sector is increased access to the European market. With tariff reductions and more favorable terms, Argentine citrus producers (especially lemons and oranges) will have a better opportunity to expand exports to the EU, one of the world's largest markets for fresh fruit.

Phytosanitary Issues: Citrus Greening

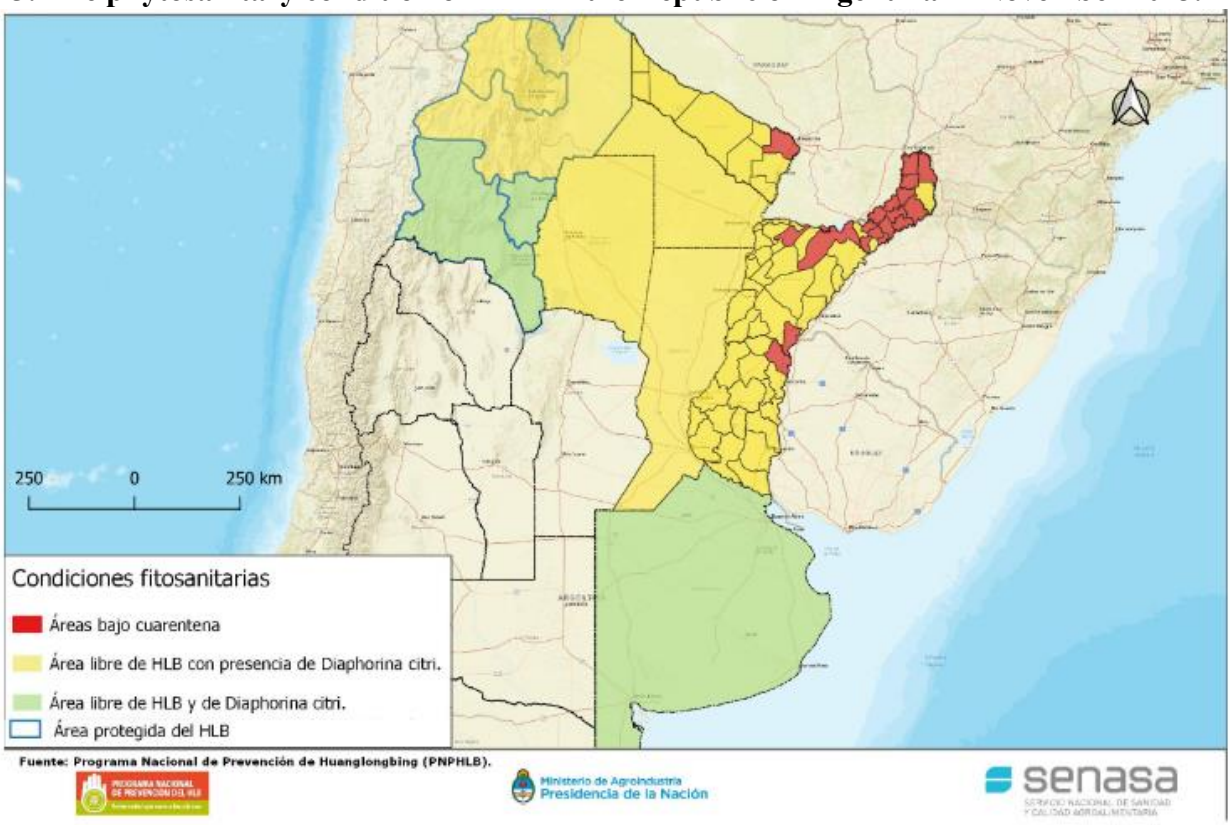
In July 2014, a non-commercial case of Huanglongbing (HLB) was found in Mocoreta, Corrientes province (Northeastern region of Argentina – near the border with Uruguay). The Argentine government immediately implemented its monitoring system in the area, per the National HLB Prevention Program and subsequently 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 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 November 2023.



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 approximately 400 trapping sites across the country for the 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 Department of Federación (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

FOB prices for fresh lemons were lower during January-October 2023 than the same period in MY 2022/2023. 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. There was as slight increase during the first months of 2024, attributed to a higher global demand.

There was a noteworthy increase in orange prices during 2022 and 2023, with a slight decrease towards 2024, due to a higher demand for orange and orange juice.

The FOB prices for fresh tangerines remained stable over the past three years, showing consistent pricing trends. The overall stability in FOB prices suggests a degree of resilience in the fresh tangerine market.

Table 3: Argentine export prices for Lemons

US$/MT	2022	2023	2024
Jan	595	571	557
Feb	684	495	592
Mar	607	532	561
Apr	610	569	545
May	637	562	571
Jun	635	558	582
Jul	602	563	598
Aug	577	582	574
Sep	483	515	554
Oct	408	313	--
Nov	516	548	--
Dec	--	432	--
Average	578	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	60	66	49
Feb	53	51	56
Mar	58	50	56
Apr	59	41	47
May	93	107	94
Jun	299	306	227
Jul	352	603	498
Aug	394	579	366
Sep	397	390	321
Oct	425	388	260
Nov	453	124	--
Dec	95	72	--
Average	228	231	197

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
Feb	62	0	0
Mar	0	0	0
Apr	626	667	0
May	636	597	555
Jun	676	617	621
Jul	695	648	642
Aug	604	575	557
Sep	473	456	393
Oct	270	83	300
Nov	131	160	--
Dec	113	0	--
Average	395	745	511

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.

The link below to the Buenos Aires Central Market provides updated wholesale citrus prices:
http://www.mercadocentral.gob.ar/informacipercent C3percent B3n/precios-mayoristas

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

Lemons/Limes, Fresh	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2023		Jan 2024		Jan 2025	
Argentina	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	45000	45000	34500	50000	0	45000
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	43200	43200	32500	45000	0	41000
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	10462	10462	10332	10000	0	9500
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	788	788	789	750	0	700
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	11250	11250	11121	10750	0	10200
Production (1000 MT)	1850	1700	1700	1450	0	1380
Imports (1000 MT)	1	1	1	1	0	1
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1851	1701	1701	1451	0	1381
Exports (1000 MT)	258	196	221	180	0	165
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	130	100	140	139	0	126
For Processing (1000 MT)	1463	1405	1340	1132	0	1090
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1851	1701	1701	1451	0	1381
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

Oranges, Fresh	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2023		Jan 2024		Jan 2025	
Argentina	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	37000	37000	37000	37000	0	37000
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	33300	33300	33300	33300	0	33300
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	16500	16500	16500	16500	0	16500
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	1400	1400	1400	1400	0	1400
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	17900	17900	17900	17900	0	17900
Production (1000 MT)	623	700	650	760	0	620
Imports (1000 MT)	3	3	3	3	0	2
Total Supply (1000 MT)	626	703	653	763	0	622
Exports (1000 MT)	32	35	35	62	0	52
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	478	500	450	470	0	350
For Processing (1000 MT)	116	168	168	231	0	220
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	626	703	653	763	0	622
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2023		Jan 2024		Jan 2025	
Argentina	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	26900	26900	27500	27500	0	27500
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	22058	22058	22500	22500	0	22500
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	12500	12500	12600	12600	0	12600
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	1300	1300	1350	1350	0	1350
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	13800	13800	13950	13950	0	13950
Production (1000 MT)	275	275	280	280	0	200
Imports (1000 MT)	1	1	1	1	0	1
Total Supply (1000 MT)	276	276	281	281	0	201
Exports (1000 MT)	30	30	24	34	0	20
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	196	196	197	197	0	141
For Processing (1000 MT)	50	50	60	50	0	40
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	276	276	281	281	0	201
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

Attachments:

No Attachments