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South Africa, Republic of

Dried Fruit

Semi-Annual

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Report Highlights:

South Africa's total raisin production is expected to reach about 36,000 MT in 2000, a decrease of 11% compared to last year because of damage caused by heavy rains during the fruit drying season. Exports are expected to increase only slightly to about 26,000 MT because of an expected decrease in total production.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Annual Report
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Executive Summary

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

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

Total raisin production is expected to decrease by about 11% in 2000 as a result of damage caused by heavy rains during the fruit drying period. Commercial production of dried raisins is expected to reach about 36,000 MT compared to 40,438 MT of 1999. Exports during 2000 are expected to increase slightly to about 26,500 MT. Domestic consumption is expected to remain stable while stocks will decrease significantly as a result of reduced output.

Production

Total production of dried fruit is largely determined by output along the Orange River and the Olifants River. The table below shows a five year production trend for raisins as supplied by the Dried Fruit Board and published by the National Department of Agriculture, S.A..

Year Sultana types	1995 (t)	1996 (t)	1997 (t)	1998 (t)	1999* (t)
Unbleached	5,891	3,593	9,300	3,700	5,097
Golden	6,731	5,154	6,945	6,912	8,539
Thompson seedless raisins	25,591	19,586	23,950	16,451	26,722
Currants	1,117	1,473	1,730	1,181	1,702
Raisins	328	271	59	91	534
Total vine fruit	41,486	31,545	44,228	30,035	44,692

* Preliminary

Marketing

South Africa's agriculture is operating under a free market system. Dried fruit is therefore free from government intervention. However, in case of exports, phytosanitary requirements and quality standards must be adhered to.

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

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

Exports

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

Production

PSD Table						
Country:	South Africa, Republic of					
Commodity:	Raisins					
		1997		1998		1999
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Area Planted	11683	11683	12346	12346	0	12400
Area Harvested	11683	11683	12346	12346	0	12400
Beginning Stocks	10306	10306	0	5744	0	7102
Production	25361	27063	37000	40358	0	36000
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	35667	37369	37000	46102	0	43102
Exports	25981	20200	27000	26400	0	26500
Domestic Consumption	9686	11425	10000	12600	0	12500
Ending Stocks	0	5744	0	7102	0	4102
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	35667	37369	37000	46102	0	43102

South Africa's total raisin production for 2000 is expected to decrease by 11% as a result of more than enough rainfall in the dried fruit producing areas, especially during the fruit drying period. Fresh grape production also suffered damage and low crop quality from heavy rains in December 1999, which also contributed to low intake by the drying industry.

Consumption

Domestic consumption of raisins is expected to remain virtually stable this year as a result of low total production.

Exports

South Africa's total raisin exports are expected to increase insignificantly in 2000, as compared to last year. This increase is mainly due to increased demand by EU for SA's high quality raisins.

Stocks

Total raisin stocks for 2000 are expected to decrease by about 40% from last year due to a reduced production and strong exports and consumption.

Trade

Trade data received from the Department of Customs and Excise for 1999 are still not complete because of the production period in the Southern Hemisphere. The table below indicates export data(in metric tons) for raisins from January to September 1999.

Exports

South African exports of raisins Jan-Sept 1999

U.S	763
United Kingdom	4581
Netherlands	3488
Germany	3381
Canada	2956
France	1840
Japan	1498
New Zealand	336
Switzerland	316
Australia	296
Others not listed	1353
Grand Total	20808

Imports

South African imports of raisins Jan-Sept ,1999 in Metric Tons

U.S	0
South Africa	57
Turkey	5
Others not listed	0
Grand Total	62