



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Yugoslavia

Dried Fruit

Dried Prunes (Yugoslavia)

1999

Prepared by:

Jamie Rothschild

U.S. Embassy

Drafted by:

Nebojsa Djurovic

Report Highlights:

Prune production is forecasted to continue its decline to 3,700 MT due to decreased demand from Russia, the major export market.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
, YU

General Summary

For reporting purposes, Yugoslavia includes the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro. The Republics of Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized by the United States.

In this report, we have reduced our earlier estimate (see YU7039) for Yugoslavia's MY 1997/98 dried prune production from 5,000 MT to 3,800 MT, due primarily to lower-than-expected exports. The decline in exports was mainly due to the lack of financial support resulting from domestic budgetary problems. A severe economic/financial crisis in Russia (traditionally, No.1 market for Yugoslavia's prunes) have also contributed to the shortfall in 1997/98 prune exports. As in the previous years, sales to Russia accounted for more than 75 percent of the total prune exports. Some smaller amounts (less than 100 MT) were shipped to various other markets such as Germany, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Prospects appear poor for MY 1998/99 Yugoslavia's dried prune production and exports. An expected decline in Russian demand for prunes, driven by a continuation of the economic crisis in this country, is forecast to negatively impact on both Yugoslavia's dried prune production and exports. Total MY 1998/99 Yugoslavia's dried prune production is currently projected at 3,700 MT, down 3 percent from a year earlier, while this year's prune exports are forecast to drop to 900 MT, down 10 percent from the previous year. Domestic prune consumptions should remain flat in MY 1998/99, determined by relatively low consumer purchasing power.

The outlook for Yugoslavia's dried prune production is generally negative due to relatively low domestic/foreign interest for capital investments in both fresh plum production and the processing sector.

PSD Table Prunes

PSD Table						
Country:	Yugoslavia					
Commodity:	Dried Prunes					
		1996		1997		1998
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1996		10/1997		10/1998
Area Planted	144500	144500	144500	144000	0	140000
Area Harvested	136500	136500	136300	136000	0	136000
Bearing Trees	46901	46901	46850	46000	0	46000
Non-Bearing Trees	4103	4103	4050	4000	0	4000
Total Trees	51004	51004	50900	50000	0	50000
Beginning Stocks	1100	1100	1000	1000	1000	1000
Production	5700	5700	5000	3800	0	3700
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	6800	6800	6000	4800	1000	4700
Exports	1000	1000	2200	1000	0	900
Domestic Consumption	4800	4800	2800	2800	0	2800
Ending Stocks	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	1000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	6800	6800	6000	4800	0	4700