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Report Name: Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual

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Post: Pretoria

Report Category: Fresh Deciduous Fruit

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Report Highlights:

Despite industry consolidation resulting in limited expansion, deciduous fruit production is expected to grow marginally as plantings come into production. The production of apples, pears and table grapes is forecast to grow by 7 percent, 2 percent, and 8 percent respectively in MY 2023/24 based on average yield and normal weather conditions. Post foresees that South African exports of deciduous fruit in MY 2023/24 will increased due to higher production of export quality fruit. South Africa gained market access for pears to China since the signing of the food safety protocols in 2021. Domestic consumption of pears and table grapes is expected to decline in MY 2023/24 due to food inflation pressure on consumers and improved quality which will shift product towards export markets for higher returns. South Africa is self-sufficient in the production of deciduous fruits and only imports small quantities to fulfill niche markets or to satisfy demand during the off-season when supply is limited.

Report Highlights: Commodities
Apples, Fresh
Pears, Fresh
Grapes, Table, Fresh

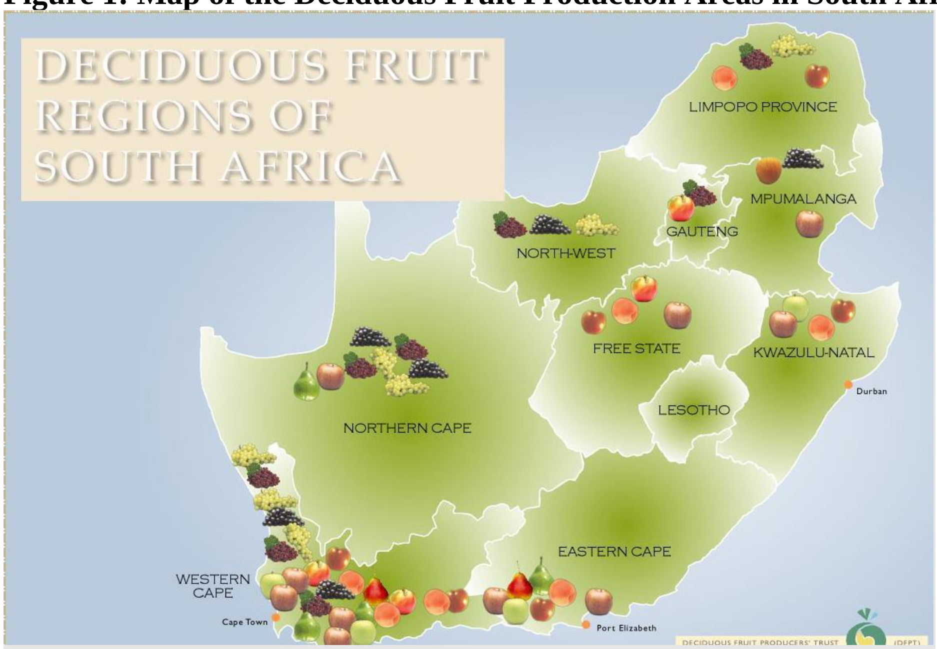
Apple and Pears Marketing Year (MY) – January – December
Table Grapes MY – October to September
MT – Metric Tons

Sources:
Hortgro - http://www.hortgro.co.za
South African Table Grapes Industry (SATGI) - http://www.satgi.co.za/
South African Revenue Services (SARS) - https://www.sars.gov.za/

Apples, Fresh

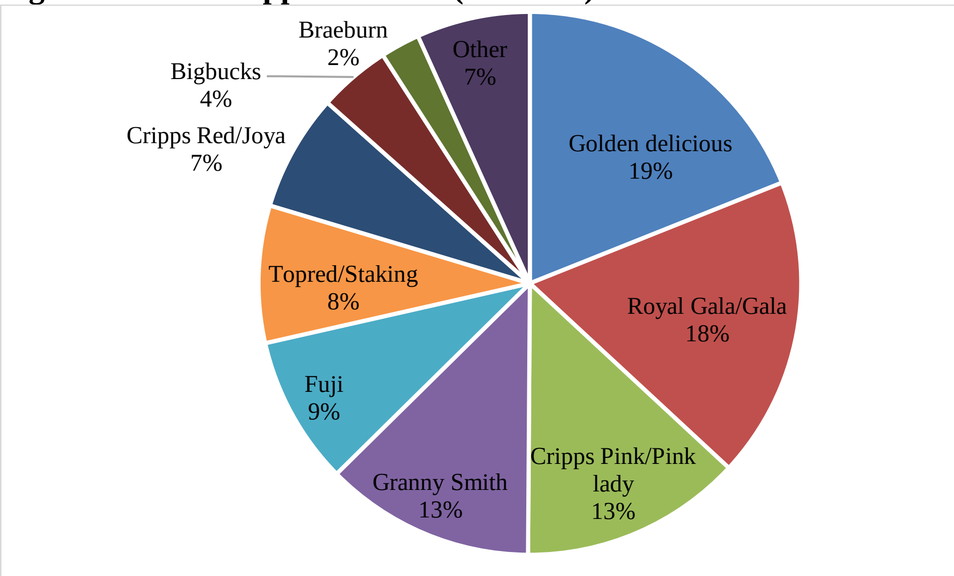
The Western Cape province is the largest apple producing area in South Africa, and together with the Eastern Cape province, accounts for more than 95 percent of the apple production (see Figure 1). Small, but growing production areas were established further north mainly in the Free State, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo Provinces. Harvest for South African apples typically begins at the end of January and runs through to June, with peak harvest times falling between February and April. Controlled atmosphere (CA) storage allows the industry to provide product to both the domestic and international markets year-round. Class 1, fruits which are popularly sold in the export market, are usually stored in CA for about 9 months, then released into Regular Atmosphere (RA) storage for a shorter term (3 months).

Figure 1: Map of the Deciduous Fruit Production Areas in South Africa



Source: Hortgro

Figure 2: Planted apple varieties (Hectares)



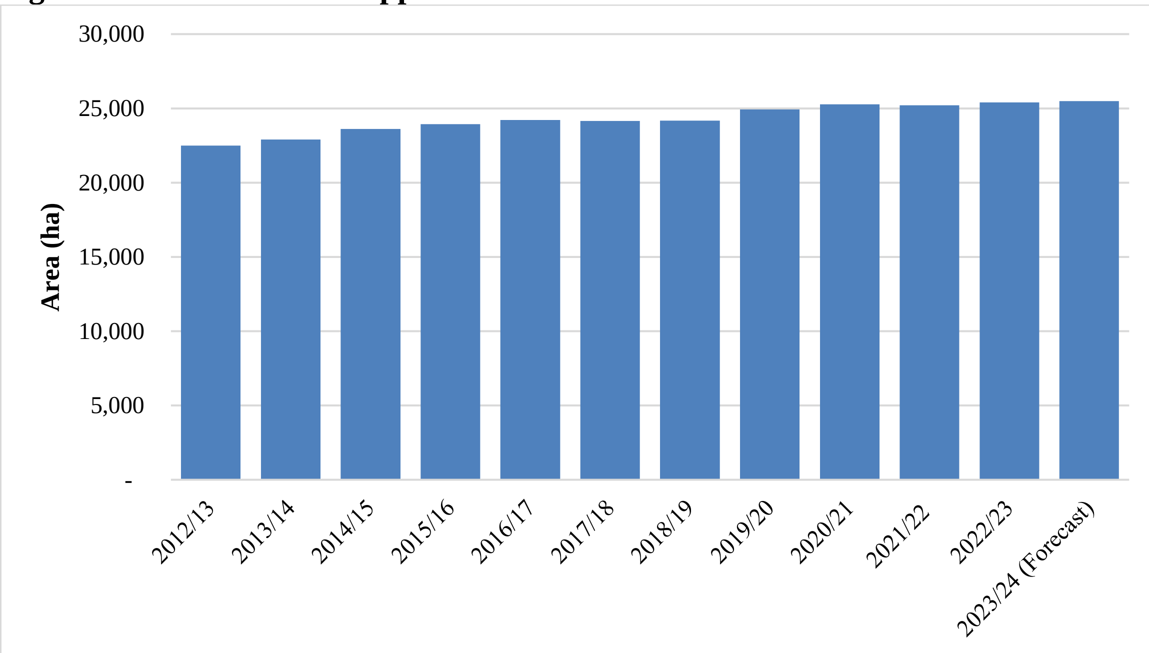
Source: Hortgro Tree Census, 2022

Six cultivars dominate apple production in South Africa and account for approximately 80 percent of area planted. The cultivars of choice are mainly determined by consumer preference and demand in South Africa’s export markets (see figure 2). However, plantings over the past five years have been driven by producers’ desire to improve yields.

Area

In recent years, area under apple production in South Africa has been negatively affected by increasing input cost, a depressed domestic market, limited processing capacity, limited cold storage facilities, logistical challenges at the Port of Cape Town and erratic electricity supply. These challenges have led to a stagnated growth in area under production averaging at one percent as growers seem to be focusing investments on reliable sources of power and water, and vertical integration to offset high input costs. Therefore, area under apple production in South Africa is estimated to flatten in MY 2023/24 at 25,500 hectares (ha) or almost 36.8 million apple trees, with limited new plantings (see figure 3).

Figure 3: Area Planted to Apples in South Africa



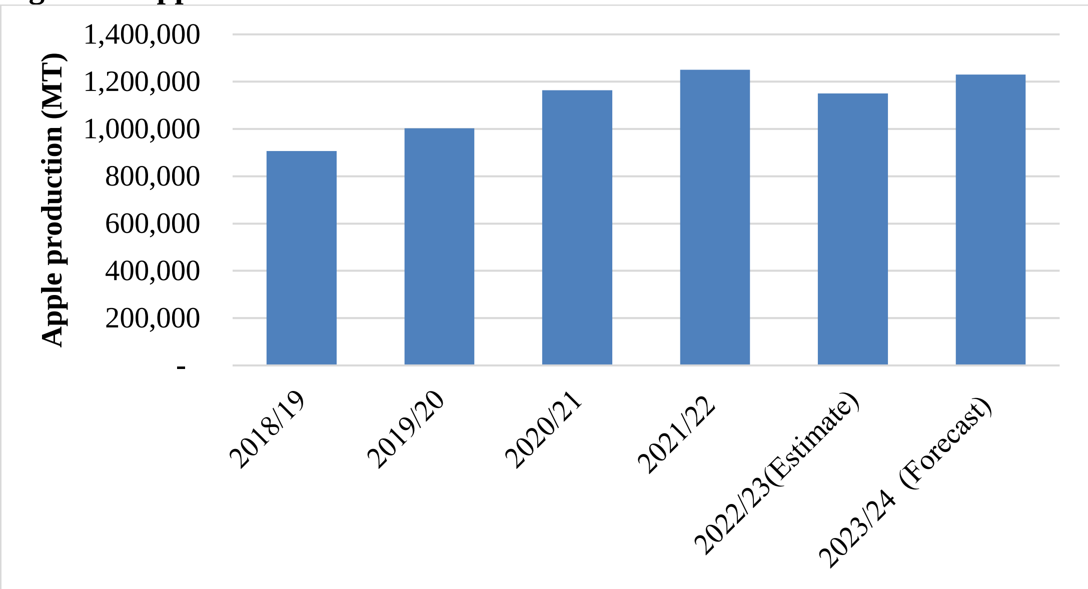
Source: Hortgro

Production

Post forecasts that apple production in South Africa will increase by 7 percent in MY 2023/24 to 1.23 million metric tons (MMT) based on a slight increase in area planted, average yield and normal weather conditions. In November 2022, apple producing regions in the Western Cape, more specifically Ceres and Langkloof regions were affected were by hail. This resulted in a decline in apple production and physical damage to the fruit. Growers in the region reported that the percentage of apples destined for processing increased from an average of 20-25 percent to 55-60 percent in MY 2022/23. Post contacts suggested that about 100,000 tons of apples and pears that would usually be intended for fresh consumption have been diverted for processing in MY 2022/23. As a result, many juicing factories are at capacity for the season and closed doors to non-affiliated producers. Therefore, apple production in MY 2022/23 is estimated at 1.15 MMT, an 8 percent decline from 1.25 MMT in MY 2021/22. Without a clear market for lower-quality product, Post estimates that unharvested area will grow slightly in MY 2022/23, reducing production volumes.

In MY 2021/22, South Africa produced a record apple crop of 1.25 MMT. Favorable rains and adequate chill units during the winter of 2021, guaranteed that producers had enough water for irrigation and favorable fruit development. Conducive weather conditions continued throughout the season ensuring an excellent crop and fruit quality. In addition, young orchards planted during a phase of sector expansion came into production, contributing to higher volumes.

Figure 4: Apple Production in South Africa

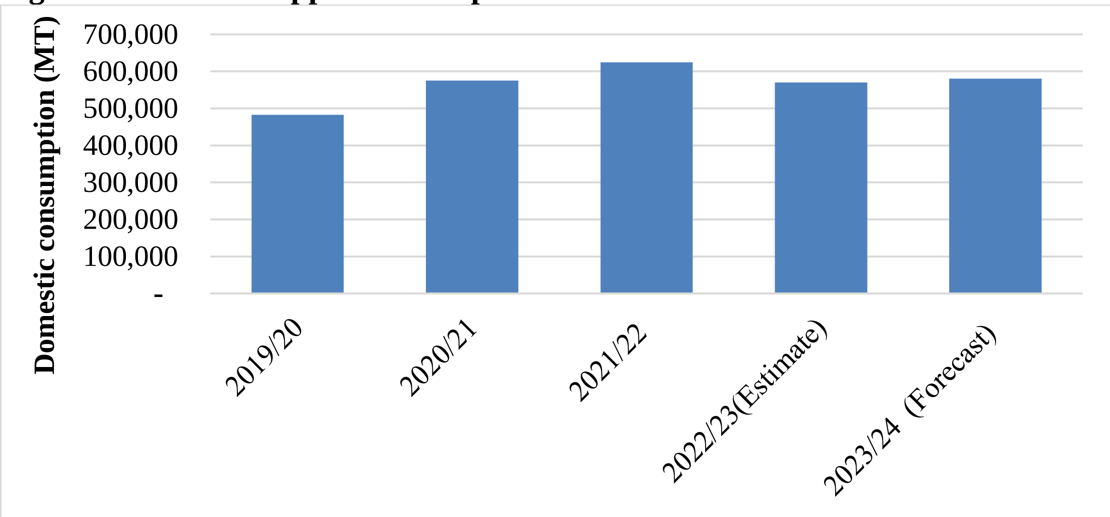


Source: Hortgro and Post estimates

Consumption

Apples are popular in South Africa and are widely consumed throughout the year. Post forecast that domestic consumption of apples will increase by 2 percent to 580,023 MT on increased production. In MY 2022/23 domestic consumption declined by 9 percent to 570,025 MY due to a decline in production. Although hailstorms in MY 2022/23 increased supply of non-export quality apples and apple juice in the local market, consumption was lower than in MY 2021/22 when a record crop and sufficient juicing capacity bolstered domestic consumption by 9 percent (see Figure 5). Consumption figures include fresh market sales, as well as apples destined for processing.

Figure 5: Domestic Apple Consumption in South Africa



Source: Hortgro and Post estimates

Exports

Post forecast that apple exports will increase by 12 percent to 650,000 MT in MY 2023/24 on increased production of exportable supply. In MY 2022/23 exports are estimated to decline by 7 percent to 580,000 MT from 625,103 MT in MY 2021/22. This is based on lower production of export-quality apples due to hail in major growing region. In MY2021/22 apple exports increased by 6 percent to 625,103 MT on a record crop. The growth rate could have been larger, but South Africa's exports of apples in MY 2021/22 were under pressure due to raising shipping cost, local port challenges, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on established trading patterns and inflationary pressure in the United Kingdom (UK).

Exports to Africa are largely driven by growing demand (especially for pink lady, gala, and golden delicious varieties), limited competition in these markets, and apples' ability to endure suboptimal handling conditions. However, exporting to African countries is limited by the high cost of trade and logistical challenges. South Africa has free trade agreements with both the European Union (EU) and the UK, and benefits from duty free exports in these markets.

Although African and European markets have been traditionally strong, growth is expected to be driven primarily by increasing exports to the East. South Africa's apple exports to India grew by almost 67 percent in MY 2021/22, after the government of India approved in-transit cold treatment for South African apple and pear exports. Exports to India are forecast to grow even higher in MY 2023/24 as South African exporters seize opportunities created by increased tariffs on competitors.

Table 1: South African Fresh Apple Exports

Partner Country	Unit	MY 2021/22	Jan - Aug MY 2021/22	Jan - Aug MY 2022/23	%Δ
United Kingdom	T	77,948	73,176	63,627	-13%
Nigeria	T	56,937	34,697	28,518	-18%
Bangladesh	T	38,008	35,803	39,449	10%
Malaysia	T	37,413	26,458	26,432	0%
United Arab Emirates	T	34,791	32,236	35,258	9%
Russia	T	26,463	26,218	11,863	-55%
Vietnam	T	23,783	14,279	17,448	22%
Senegal	T	22,772	14,328	13,399	-6%
Netherlands	T	21,786	20,817	21,377	3%
Kenya	T	17,558	11,753	11,147	-5%
India	T	17,470	17,194	22,502	31%
Zimbabwe	T	16,095	9,868	9,237	-6%
Zambia	T	15,508	10,013	10,168	2%
Botswana	T	14,172	9,314	9,094	-2%
China	T	13,223	11,835	15,161	28%
Ghana	T	12,667	8,710	7,139	-18%
Germany	T	11,987	11,835	6,309	-47%
Cameroon	T	10,784	6,937	6,168	-11%
Namibia	T	10,678	6,188	7,941	28%
Others	T	145,061	103,694	112,963	9%
Total	**T**	**625,103**	**485,353**	**475,200**	**-2%**

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Imports

South African production of apples has been increasing on average by 7 percent annual since MY 2017/18. Production gains and improvements in storage technologies have substantially dampened import demand. Post forecasts that in MY 2023/24 imports will decline further to 23 MT from an estimated 25 MT in MY 2022/23 based on an increase in production for local supply.

The customs duties payable on imports are indicated in Table 2. United States apple exports are subject to a four percent customs duty. The United States currently has market access for apples from areas free of Rhagoletis Pomonella (apple maggot). The protocol stipulating the phytosanitary import requirements is available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) (Phytosanitary import requirements for importation of Apples from USA,PNW to South Africa).

Table 2: Tariff Rates, Fresh Apples

Heading Subheading	Article Description	Rate of Duty					
		General	**EU/UK**	**EFTA**	**SADC**	**Mercosur**	**AfCFTA**
0808.10	Apples, fresh	4%	Free	4%	Free	4%	3.2%

Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS)

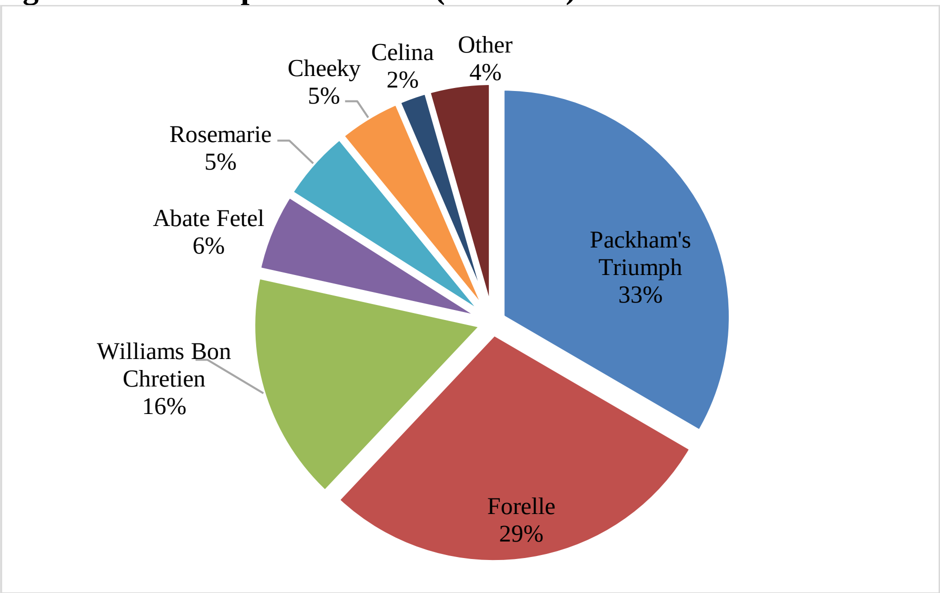
Table 3: Production, Supply and Distribution of Fresh Apples

Apples, Fresh	**2021/2022**		**2022/2023**		**2023/2024**	
Market Year Begins	**Jan 2022**		**Jan 2023**		**Jan 2024**	
South Africa	**USDA Official**	**New Post**	**USDA Official**	**New Post**	**USDA Official**	**New Post**
Area Planted (HA)	24956	25209	24950	25400	0	25500
Area Harvested (HA)	22850	22850	22300	22300	0	23500
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	33637	33637	33700	33700	0	33800
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	3100	3100	2700	3000	0	3000
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	36737	36737	36400	36700	0	36800
Commercial Production (MT)	1201100	1250000	1150000	1150000	0	1230000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	1201100	1250000	1150000	1150000	0	1230000
Imports (MT)	25	25	25	25	0	23
Total Supply (MT)	1201125	1250025	1150025	1150025	0	1230023
Domestic Consumption (MT)	576025	624922	615025	570025	0	580023
Exports (MT)	625100	625103	535000	580000	0	650000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	1201125	1250025	1150025	1150025	0	1230023
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

Pears, Fresh

Pears grow well in areas with moderate temperatures. Like apples, pears are predominately grown in the Western Cape province of South Africa, which receives most of its rainfall during the winter months (May to July). Collectively, the top three cultivars represent almost 80 percent of pear plantings in South Africa (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Planted pear varieties (Hectares)

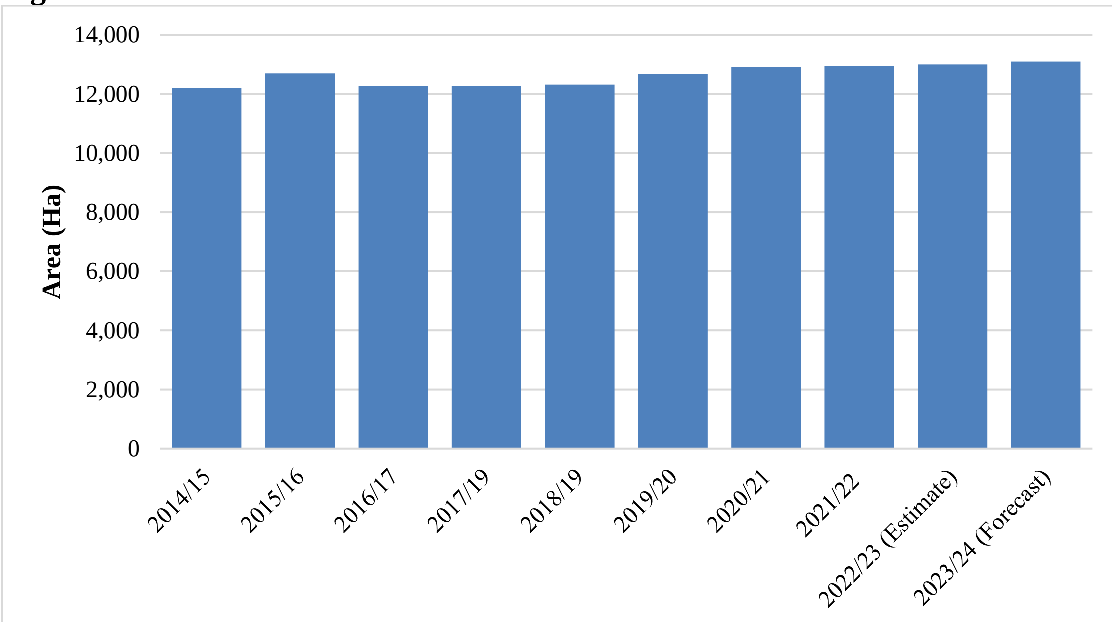


Source: Hortgro Tree Census, 2022

Area Planted

The area under pear production has increased slowly but steadily at a rate of about 1 percent per annum over the past decade, driven mainly by relatively high earnings from export markets and sound financial returns on investments. However, accelerating farming input costs and high shipping rates are diminishing the profitability of pear producers which limit continued investments in the industry. Furthermore, contacts have suggested that the industry is in a stage of caution due to macroeconomic factors and an uncertain future for the pear canners (See GAIN Report: South African Canned Fruit Trade). Post forecasts that expansion in area under pear production will contract slightly in MY 2023/24, growing at 0.8 percent to an estimated 13,100 ha or 18 million trees in MY 2023/24 (see Figure 7).

Figure 7: Area Planted to Pears in South Africa

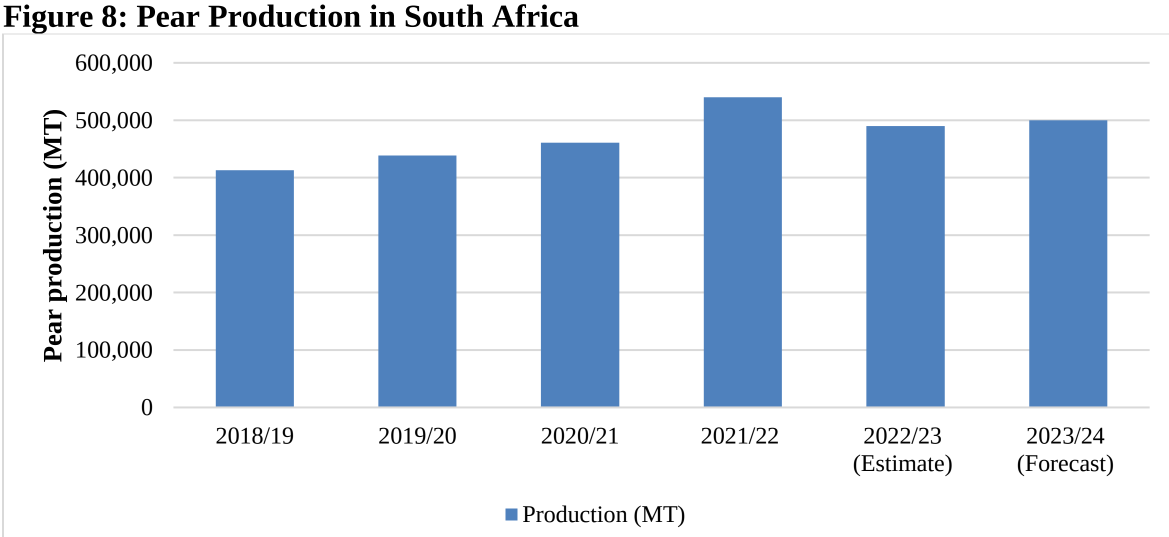


Source: Hortgro

Production

Post forecasts that pear production will rebound by 2 percent to 500,000 MT in MY 2023/24 from 490,000 MT in MY 2022/23 based on three-year average yield and normal weather conditions. In MY 2022/23 pear production is estimated at 490,000 MT, a 9 percent drop from record production of 540,000 MT in MY 2021/22 due to hail damage in a major pear producing region and minimal growth in production area. Pear production in MY 2021/22 was at a record 540,000 MT. Pear orchards received good rain and sufficient chill units in 2021, resulting in excellent fruit set and quality (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Pear Production in South Africa



Source: Hortgro and Post estimates

Consumption

The industry is export orientated with more than 50 percent of pear production destined for foreign markets. Locally, less than 25 percent of total pear demand is consumed fresh, while the majority is destined for the processing industry. Post forecasts that domestic consumption will decline by 4 percent to 220,030 MT in MY 2023/24 based on an increase in exportable pears. In MY 2022/23, domestic consumption of pears is estimated at 230,050 MT, a 9 percent decrease from MY 2021/22 based on a decline in pear production and domestic inflationary pressure (see GAIN report Food Inflation Surged to a 14-Year High in South Africa). Local consumption of pears in MY 2021/22 was 252,763 MT in MY 2021/22, an increase by two percent from 214,259 MT in MY 2020/21 on record production. Consumption figures include fresh market sales, as well as pears destined for processing.

Exports

Post forecasts pear exports will rise by 8 percent to 280,000 MT in MY 2023/24 on increased production of exportable supply. Exports in MY 2022/23 is estimated at 260,000 MT, declining 10 percent based on a decline in exportable supply due to the hailstorm damage. In MY 2021/22 pear exports increased by 16 percent to 287,409 MT on record production.

Pear exports to India grew by 35 percent between MY 2020/21 and MY 2021/22 based on approved in-transit cold treatment for South African apple and pear exports. South Africa’s pear exports to the United States are minimal at less than a 1,000 MT per annum.

With the signing of the food safety protocols in 2021, South Africa received final approval to export pears to China. As a result, South Africa’s inaugural pear shipment arrived in China on September 2022. Exports to China are expected to increase due to promotional efforts made by the South African pome industry association, Hortgro. Industry expects growth in the China market to be driven by Forelle, Cheeky, Packham’s Triumph, Abate Fetel, and Celina.

Table 4: South African Fresh Pear Exports

Partner Country	Unit	MY 2021/22	Jan - Aug		
			MY 2021/22	**MY 2022/23**	**%Δ**
Netherlands	T	50,806	50,781	37,640	-26%
Russia	T	51,868	38,966	28,242	-28%
United Arab Emirates	T	28,224	21,883	21,434	-2%
India	T	28,507	19,416	15,656	-19%
United Kingdom	T	13,754	13,679	15,547	14%
Portugal	T	4,309	4,309	7,580	76%
Indonesia	T	9,957	6,251	7,013	12%
Canada	T	6,920	6,920	6,625	-4%
Saudi Arabia	T	7,402	6,459	6,215	-4%
Italy	T	7,718	7,718	5,471	-29%
Malaysia	T	8,618	6,054	5,303	-12%
Hong Kong	T	3,023	2,222	3,780	70%
Singapore	T	4,821	3,327	3,180	-4%
Germany	T	5,470	5,445	3,153	-42%
France	T	4,674	4,507	2,930	-35%
Nigeria	T	4,394	2,989	2,637	-12%
China	T	558	49	2,578	5161%
Oman	T	3,211	2,777	2,256	-19%
Botswana	T	3,036	1,990	1,970	-1%
Qatar	T	3,230	2,594	1,588	-39%
Senegal	T	2,452	2,033	1,572	-23%
Others	T	34,457	27,188	22,795	-16%
Total	**T**	**287,409**	**237,557**	**205,165**	**-14%**

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Imports

As the second largest pear producer in the Southern Hemisphere after Argentina, South Africa imports minimal quantities of pears (around 200 MT in MY 2021/22 and only 1 ton in MY 2022/23 between January and August) mainly from China and United Arab Emirates (trans-shipments). Post forecasts pear imports in MY 2023/24 at 30 MT based on sustained diminished demand, though there is certainly the possibility that imports will become negligible. In MY 2022/23 Post estimates imports at 50 MT based on increased supply of pears in the domestic market. In MY 2021/22 South Africa imported 172 MT of pears due to record production. The United States does not have market access for pear exports to South Africa.

In July 2010, the United States requested market access for pears, however progress on this request stalled and the process has not been finalized. If South Africa grants access, United States exports of pears would be subject to a four percent customs duty as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Tariff Rates, Fresh Pears

Heading Subheading	Article Description	Rate of Duty					
		General	EU/UK	EFTA	SADC	Mercosur	AfCFTA
0808.30	Pears, fresh	4%	Free	4%	Free	4%	3.2%

Source: SARS

Table 6: Production, Supply and Distribution of Fresh Pears

Pears, Fresh	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2022		Jan 2023		Jan 2024	
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	12743	12950	12700	13000	0	13100
Area Harvested (HA)	12000	12000	11600	11800	0	12100
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	16970	16970	17115	17230	0	17350
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	1045	1045	900	900	0	850
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	18015	18015	18015	18130	0	18200
Commercial Production (MT)	506200	540000	470000	490000	0	500000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	506200	540000	470000	490000	0	500000
Imports (MT)	200	172	200	50	0	30
Total Supply (MT)	506400	540172	470200	490050	0	500030
Domestic Consumption (MT)	219000	252763	195200	230050	0	220030
Exports (MT)	287400	287409	275000	260000	0	280000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	506400	540172	470200	490050	0	500030
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

Apple and pear prices

The apple and pear prices indicated in Table 7 are the average prices (Rand/MT) earned in the respective markets. In MY 2021/22 price for apples and pears in the local market decreased due to increased production and volumes sold in the local market. Local prices are based on sales on the 21 wholesale fresh produce markets in South Africa, while prices for the export market typically reflect higher quality fruit. Export prices for both apples and pears increased in MY 2021/22 and remains lucrative in comparison to the local and processed markets.

Table 7: Local and Export Price of Apples and Pears

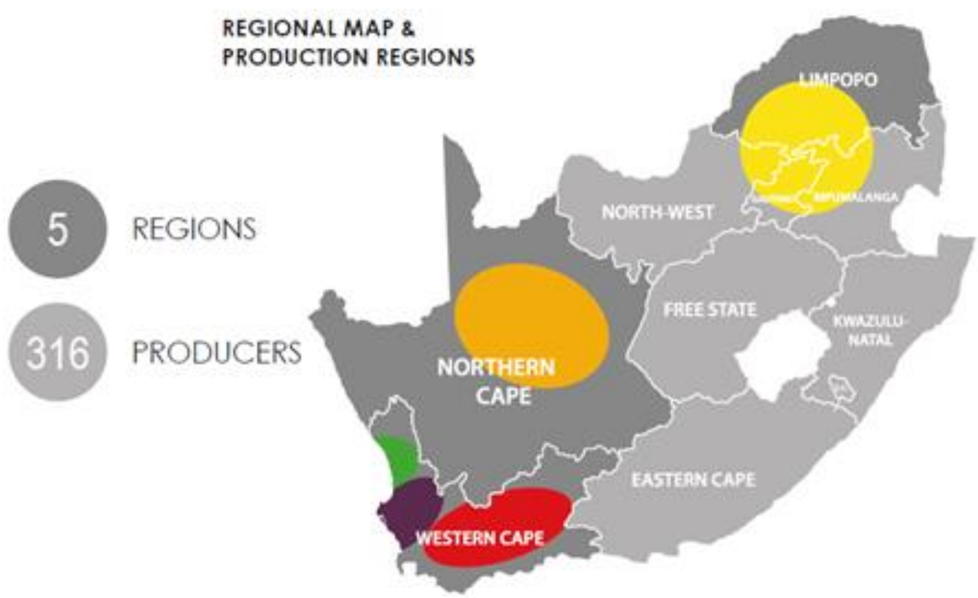
	APPLES			PEARS		
	Local Market	Export Market	Processed Market	Local Market	Export Market	Processed Market
Marketing years	(R/MT)	(R/MT)	(R/MT)	(R/MT)	(R/MT)	(R/MT)
2019/20	7,454.00	15,905.29	2,020.66	7,127	13,468	1,894
2020/21	7,590.00	14,403.42	1,614.44	7,192	12,331	1,930
2021/22	7,421.00	14,574.09	1,925.99	7,078	13,081	2,006

Source: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

Table Grapes, Fresh

South Africa’s major growing areas for table grapes, include the Hex River which accounts for 32 percent, the Berg River Valley (23 percent), Olifants River (6 percent) in the Western Cape province, the Orange River in the Northern Cape province (29 percent), and Limpopo province (10 percent) in northeastern South Africa (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Map of Table Grape Production Areas in South Africa

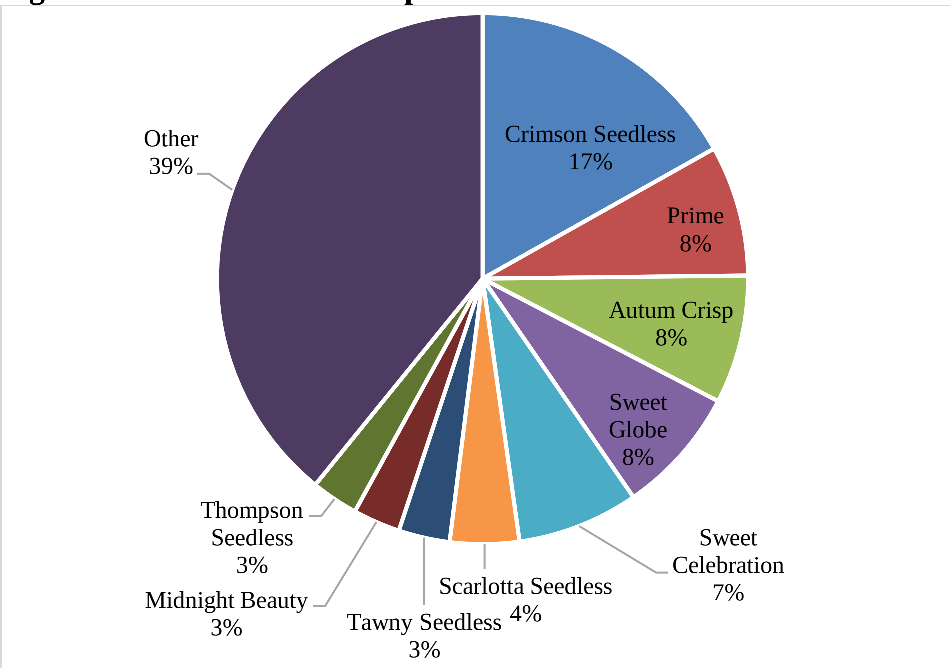


Northern Provinces **Orange River** **Olifants River** **Berg River** **Hex River**

Source: SATGI

According to SATGI Tree Census (2023), area planted to table grapes was mostly covered with vines aged between 3-9 years (53 percent), followed by vines aged 10-15 years (20 percent), and new vines younger than 2 years (15 percent). The cultivar profile of table grapes in South Africa has changed significantly over the past decade. Consumers prefer seedless grapes, and, as a result, seeded cultivars are declining while the production of seedless table grapes varieties are growing. Less than 8 percent of current vineyards are still seeded table grapes. New plantings heavily favor three varietals: Autumn Crisp, Sweet Celebration, and Sweet Globe.

Figure 10: Planted Table Grape Varieties



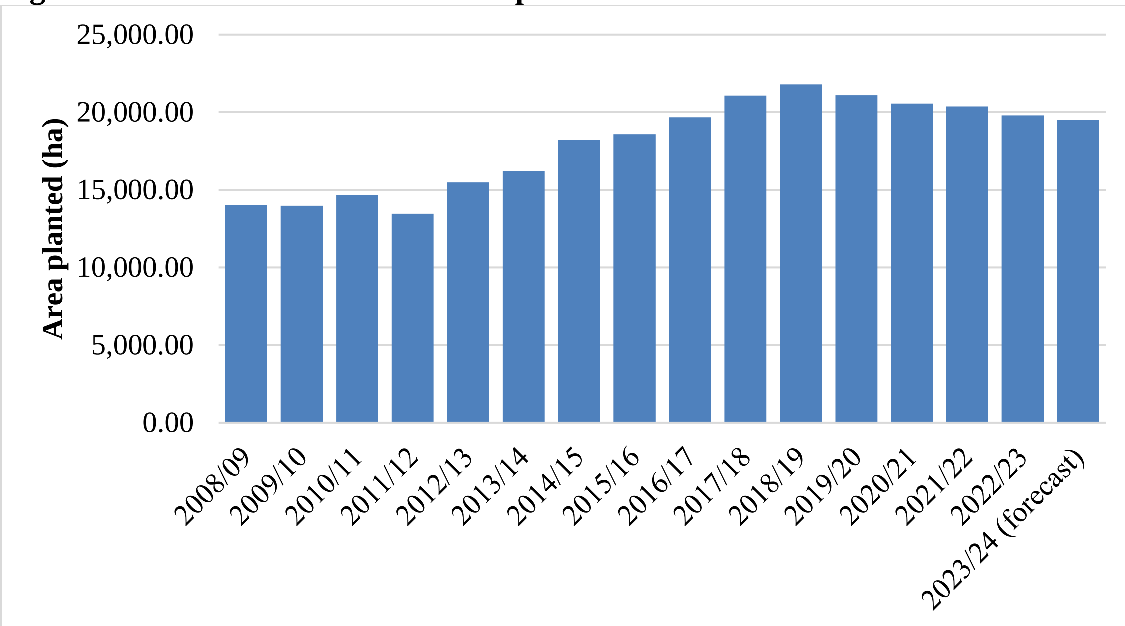
Source: 2023 SATGI Tree Census

Area Planted

Post forecasts that area planted with table grapes in South Africa will decline slightly by one percent to 19,500 ha in MY 2023/24, compared to 19,788 ha in MY 2022/23. After a sharp increase in table grape area from 2012 to 2019 (see Figure 11), mainly driven by growing export earnings, the crop's area stagnated at an average of 20,726 ha in the last five seasons. The surge in the cost of farming inputs, ineffective ports operations, deteriorating road networks, increased competition from other southern hemisphere countries, and frequent disruptions to the electricity supply (for more information, see Post's GAIN report: Load Shedding and Economic Strain on the Food Supply) are diminishing the profitability of table grape producers in South Africa and limiting new investments in the industry.

Producers saw increased input costs in MY 2022/23 particularly for electricity, maintenance and fuel, and fertilizer. According to the industry association, the biggest direct cost component for producers in MY 2022/23 is labor cost, which makes up almost 55 percent of total direct cost. The South African Department of Employment and Labor published a new national minimum wage of R25.42 ($1.34) per hour as of March 1, 2023, a 10 percent increase from R23.19 ($1.23) in 2022. In response, some producers are reducing labor costs by limiting the planting and grafting of new cultivars.

Figure 11: Area Planted to Table Grapes in South Africa



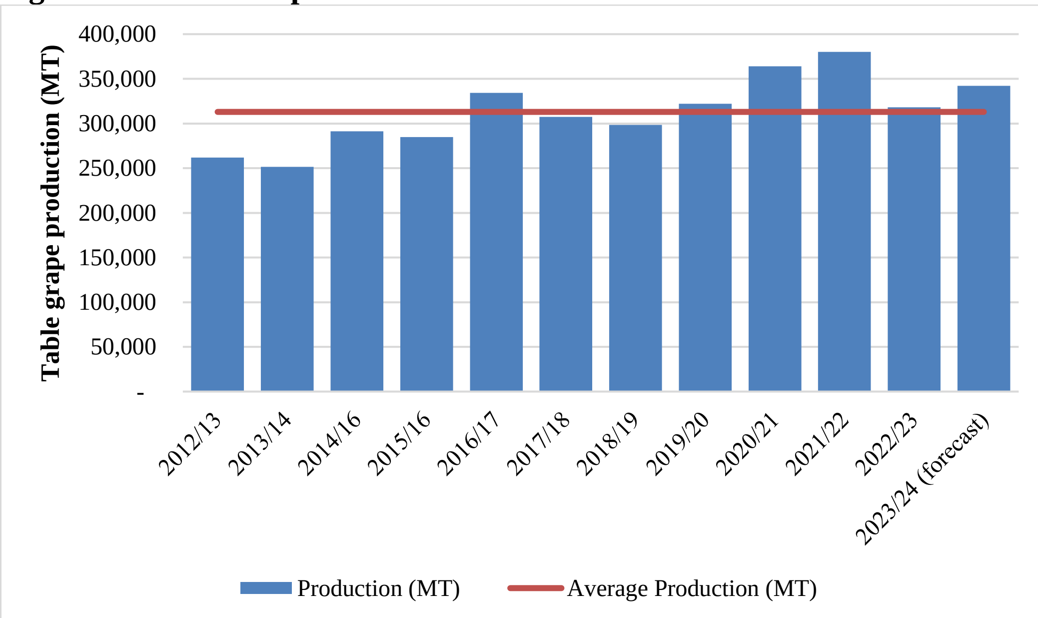
Source: South African Table Grape Industry (SATGI) and Post estimate

In MY 2022/23, the area under production declined by 3 percent to 19,788 ha from 20,379 ha in MY 2021/22. All table grape production areas with the exception of Orange River saw a drop in area planted, with the Northern Province recording the largest decline.

Production

Post forecast that table grape production in South Africa will increase by 8 percent to 342,000 MT in MY 2023/24 from 318,000 MT in 2022/23 based on normal weather condition, 5-year average yield and newer cultivars coming into production. In MY 2022/23, table grape production decreased by 16 percent to 318,000 MT after a record crop of 380,000 MT produced in MY 2021/22 (see Figure 12). This is based on a marginal reduction in production area and adverse weather conditions. The Northern Cape province's Orange River region experienced a heatwave in January 2023, the Hex and Berg River valley received above average rainfall in December and January. These weather conditions led to a drop in production volumes across all production regions, particularly for late varieties as table grapes are sensitive to extreme temperature and excessive rainfall. Although table grape production areas consolidated, in MY 2021/22 record crop was achieved by new higher yielding cultivars coming into full production and favorable weather conditions during the season.

Figure 12: Table Grape Production in South Africa



Source: USDA, SATGI, and Post forecast

Consumption

South Africa's table grape industry is mainly export-orientated, with more than 85 percent of production destined for foreign markets. The supply of table grapes to the domestic market is dependent on exports, with table grapes that cannot be sold to foreign buyers or those that do not meet export quality standards being sold to the domestic fresh produce market or supplied to processors. As a result, for MY 2023/24, Post forecasts domestic consumption to recede to 42,000 MT, down by 5 percent from 44,150 MT in MY 2022/23 based on increased exportable supply. Additionally, table grapes are mainly consumed by upper middle-income and affluent consumers. Food price inflation in South Africa increased by an average of 11.5 percent in 2023, causing even higher-income consumers to look at ways to curb supermarket spending. As a result, consumers substituted higher-cost exotic fruits for lower-priced fruit "staples" such as apples. Increased exports are putting downward pressure on local table grape consumption. MY 2022/23, Post estimates domestic table grape consumption at 44,150 MT, down 18 percent from the 53,962 MT consumed in MY 2021/22 based on a dip in production coupled with domestic inflationary pressure (see GAIN report Food Inflation Surged to a 14-Year High in South Africa).

Exports

Post forecasts that South African table grape exports will increase by 9 percent to 310,000 MT in MY 2023/24 from 285,000 MT in MY 2022/23 based on recovery in production and improvement in port operations. In MY 2022/23 South Africa exported 285,000 MT of table grapes, declining by 15 percent from MY 2021/22 exports of 335,750 MT due to a decline in production and challenges at the port. Inefficiencies at the Port of Cape Town, shipping delays, and high reefer container prices are placing significant pressure on the industry. Approximately

95 percent of South Africa's table grapes exports move through the Port of Cape Town, and the reminder leave through the Port of Durban. Table grapes are highly perishable and rely on smooth port throughput. In February 2023, during the peak of the table grape export season, the Cape Town harbor was closed for about 240 hours due to strong winds, which significantly disrupted operations for this highly perishable product. Leading exported varieties in MY 2022/23 are Crimson Seedless (16 percent), Prime (8 percent), Sweet Globe (8 percent), Sweet Celebration (7 percent) and Autumn Crisp (7 percent), closely mirroring overall production. In MY 2021/22, table grape exports grew by 4 percent to reach a record level of 335,750 MT on historically high production (see Table 8).

Europe is the leading export market for South African table grapes, accounting for about 75 percent of total table grape exports in MY 2022/23. The Netherlands is the largest single country export market for South Africa's table grapes, accounting for more than 40 percent of total exports. South Africa benefits from a shorter shipping distance to Europe than other Southern Hemisphere competitors, and preferential trade agreements with the EU and United Kingdom. Exports to Asia, the Middle East, and Africa also have strong growth potential and are a core focus for the South African table grape industry. Export volumes to the United States have grown significantly over the past five years, but volumes are still below 5,000 MT, accounting for less than 2 percent of total table grape exports. The main varieties exported to the United States includes Autumn Crisp, Red Seedless, and Adora Seedless.

Table 8: South Africa's Table Grape Exports

Export destinations	**MY 2021/22 (MT)**	**MY 2022/23 (MT)**
European Union	179,554	154,406
United Kingdom	75,027	57,557
Middle East	17,945	20,320
Canada	20,152	14,441
Southeast Asia	15,839	14,169
China & Hong Kong	11,290	8,153
Africa	5,957	4,171
Russia	3,452	3,728
United States	3,719	3,460
Indian Ocean Island	1,690	1,407
All others	1,126	1,445
Total	**335,750**	**283,255**

Source: SATGI

Imports

South Africa is a net exporter of table grapes. Imports primarily fill the off-season demand from around July to November. Spain, Egypt, and Namibia are the primary suppliers (see Table 9), with both Namibian and Spanish grapes entering the market duty-free. Namibian table grape season starts a few weeks earlier than South Africa's, and exports are mainly between October and January. Post forecasts table grape imports at 10,000 MT in MY 2023/24, a decrease of 10 percent from 11,150 MT imported in 2022/23, due to improved production and expected lower demand by South African consumers, as discussed above. In MY 2022/23, table grape imports increased by 15 percent, to 11,150 MT based on a decline in domestic production.

Table 9: South Africa's Table Grape Imports

Partner Country	Unit	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*
World	**T**	**9,053**	**9,712**	**9,702**
Namibia	T	2,474	2,051	4,140
Egypt	T	3,203	3,750	3,615
Spain	T	3,299	3,887	1,948
Rest of the world	T	77	24	-

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC *Import data through September 2023

The United States does not have market access for table grapes into South Africa. However, if access were granted to the United States, exports would be subject to a 4 percent customs duty, as shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Tariff Rates, Grapes Fresh

Heading / Subheading	Article Description	Rate of Duty					
		General	EU/UK	EFTA	SADC	Mercosur	AfCFTA
0806.10	Grapes, fresh	4%	Free	4%	Free	4%	3.2%

Source: SARS

Table 11: Production, Supply and Distribution of Table Grapes

Grapes, Fresh Table	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
Market Year Begins	Oct 2021		Oct 2022		Oct 2023	
South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	20379	20379	20270	19788	0	19500
Area Harvested (HA)	18500	18500	18250	18000	0	18000
Commercial Production (MT)	376000	380000	340000	318000	0	342000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	376000	380000	340000	318000	0	342000
Imports (MT)	9700	9712	8000	11150	0	10000
Total Supply (MT)	385700	389712	348000	329150	0	352000
Fresh Dom. Consumption (MT)	49900	53962	48000	44150	0	42000
Exports (MT)	335800	335750	300000	285000	0	310000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	385700	389712	348000	329150	0	352000
(HA) ,(MT)						

Policies and Regulations

Table 12 provides a list of the regulations applicable to apples, pears, and table grapes in South Africa. Exporters should also be aware that an importer may request additional certifications over and above the minimum legislation and regulations indicated in this section.

Table 12: List of Key Legislations and Regulations

Policy or Regulation	Website Links
Agriculture Product Standards Act No 119 of 1990	Agricultural Product Standard Act
Agricultural Pests, Act, 36 of 1983	Agricultural Pests Act
Foodstuffs, cosmetics, and disinfectants Act 54 of 1972	Foodstuffs, cosmetics and disinfectants act
Procedures for exporting to South Africa	Plant Health (Import into SA)
Maximum Residue Limits	Maximum Residue Limits
Regulations relating to standards, grading, packing, and marking	Apples Local Import Regulations - Apples Pears Local Import Regulations - Pears Table Grapes Local Import Regulations - Table grapes
Import Protocols	Phytosanitary import requirements for importation of Apples from China to South Africa Phytosanitary import requirements for importation of Apples from Netherlands to South Africa Phytosanitary import requirements for importation of Pears from China to South Africa Phytosanitary import requirements for importation of Apples from USA, PNW to South Africa

Source: DALRRD

Attachments:

No Attachments