



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Turkey

### Agricultural Situation

#### Russia lifts ban on imports of Turkish fresh fruits and vegetables

**2008**

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**Report Highlights:**

On June 7, 2008 Russia banned imports of some fresh fruits and vegetables from Turkey. Turkish officials took action to resolve this problem as Russia is one of the top markets for Turkish fresh fruits and vegetables. The ban was lifted on July 3, 2008 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Ankara [TU1]  
[TU]

## Russia Bans Imports of Important Fruits and Vegetables from Turkey

The Russian government banned imports of tomatoes, lemons, eggplant, potatoes and grapes from Turkey on June 7, 2008, stating that they have been detecting excessive pesticide residues.

According to the Global Trade Atlas database, Turkey accounts for 40 percent of all tomato imports to Russia in 2007. Turkish media report that the prices of the banned products in Russia increased up to 40 percent, while Turkish wholesale prices reportedly fell.

Turkish officials invited their counterparts to Turkey to work on the solutions to the pesticide residue problem. A delegation of leading Turkish exporters and officials from Ministry of Agriculture also went to Russia to conduct meetings.

Turkish Exports of Selected Fruits and Vegetables, 2007 (\$millions)		
	To Russia	Rest of World
Table Grapes	62	125
Tomatoes, fresh	172	290
Eggplant	23	47
Potatoes	12	21

Source: World Trade Atlas

Turkish Exports of Fresh Tomatoes			
Destination	(\$millions)		
	2005	2006	2007
World	145	167	290
Russia	59	98	172
EU-27	57	37	84
Other	29	32	34

Source: World Trade Atlas

## Memorandum Resolves Issue

On July 2, Turkish Agriculture Minister Eker and Russian Agriculture Minister Gordayev signed a Memorandum of Understanding resolving the issue, and the ban was lifted as of July 3, 2008.

According to the MOU, Turkey promises to issue the following documents for all fresh fruit and vegetable exports to Russia:

- 1) Plant Health Certificate
- 2) Report of Analysis
- 3) Report on Pesticides used during production

Turkish government officials claim that the pesticide residue limits that Russia implements are much lower than EU and WTO requirements. Turkish industry contacts say that overuse of chemicals by small-scale, poorly-educated producers had been a problem in the past, but that the situation had improved significantly as a result of efforts of exporters and Ministry of Agriculture's officials.