

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: September 03, 2021

Report Number: E42021-0064

Report Name: Stone Fruit Annual

Country: European Union

Post: Madrid

Report Category: Stone Fruit

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Report Highlights:

Unfavorable weather conditions with frost and heavy rainstorms during the blossoming and fruit set account for the overall drop in EU stone fruit production in MY 2021/22. According to industry estimates, EU production of peaches and nectarines may decline 16.6 percent compared to the previous year to 2.67 million MT, also affected by the continuous decline in area planted due to low profits. Similarly, EU cherry production is projected to decline 5.3 percent compared to last season to 664,800 MT. The expected drop in EU stone fruit production may rebalance supply and demand and recover EU stone fruit prices. EU stone fruit exports continue to decline because of the shortage in supply and new markets have never fully compensated for the 2014 Russian embargo imposed on EU food products. Conversely, in MY 2021/22, EU imports of stone fruits may continue to increase in line with declining EU domestic supplies. In addition, to date Brexit is not negatively impacting the stone fruit trade with the EU.

Disclaimer: Unless otherwise noted, "EU" in this report refers to EU-27, the current EU Customs Union. Thus, regarding trade, United Kingdom is considered as a non-EU market. This report presents the situation and outlook for stone fruit including peaches, nectarines, and cherries in the EU. The report presents the views of the authors and does not reflect the official view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The data are not official USDA data.

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Harmonized System (HS) Codes:

Peaches and nectarines HS Code 080930
 Cherries HS Code 080921, 080929

MY Marketing year:

Peaches and nectarines January/December
 Cherries April/March

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report

- CAP Common Agricultural Policy
- CMO Common Market Organization
- EC European Commission
- EU European Union
- FAS Foreign Agricultural Service
- GTA Global Trade Atlas
- MY Marketing year
- MS EU Member State
- MT Metric ton (1,000 kg)
- MMT Million Metric Tons
- PS&D Production, Supply and Demand
- USD U.S. Dollar

Note: The European Union Member States (MS) are mandated to annually provide the EU Commission with data concerning the “production area” of permanent crops. This means “the area that can potentially be harvested in the reference harvest year. It excludes all non-producing areas, such as new plantations that have not yet started to produce” (Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009, Article 2 (f)). In this report, this corresponds to the line “Planted Area.” Not all MS publish harvested data. Hence, in this report, the line “Area Harvested” is a FAS Post estimate.

Executive Summary

In MY 2021/22 (January/December), the European Union (EU) production of peaches and nectarines may decline 16.6 percent compared to the previous year to 2.67 million MT. This drop is expected in most of the major EU producing countries due to unfavorable weather conditions during spring and a continuous decrease in area planted. This estimated drop in EU peaches and nectarines production is one of the smallest in the last three decades and follows another significant shortage in supply in MY 2020/21 ([see GAIN EU Stone Fruit 2020](#)). According to FAS Post projections, the area planted is anticipated to trend down at 200,000 ha (hectares) in MY 2021/22. Total cherry production in MY 2021/22 is projected to lower 5.3 percent to 664,800 MT due to the expected decline in the major producing countries. According to FAS projections, in MY 2021/22, the updated data for total EU cherry planted area will remain stable at around 164,000 ha. During this marketing year, the EU stone fruit market is expected to rebalance and improve EU market prices for stone fruits.

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, the EU stone fruit sector was not negatively impacted. The harvest season developed normally following the COVID-19-related sanitary standards and with available seasonal workers. In addition, the EU implemented special measures to ensure the continuance of operational programs of fruits and vegetables (see Policy section). However, COVID-19 increased fruit production costs, due to the related sanitary standards, logistics, organization of workflows, and new work requirements.

The EU is self-sufficient in peaches and nectarines to satisfy domestic demand. It is a net exporter of peaches and nectarines, with Spain as the major Member State exporting outside the EU. However, there are small amounts of imports due to the decline in EU production during 2020: according to Trade Data Monitor (TDM), in MY 2020/21 the EU’s imports of peaches and nectarines were valued at 60 million U.S. dollars (USD) and amounted to 38,872 MT, a 60 percent increase from the previous year. The main suppliers of peaches and nectarines to the EU were Turkey, Chile, and South Africa. In addition, imports within the EU may increase to respond to domestic demand, sourced mainly from Spain. In MY 2021/22, the estimated drop in EU peaches and nectarines production may continue to encourage imports. In MY 2020/21, EU exports of peaches and nectarines were valued at 244 million USD, and the volume declined 30 percent to

180,199 MT due to the shorter supply during the previous season. The EU main export destination for peaches and nectarines were the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Switzerland, and Belarus. In MY 2021/22, EU exports of peaches and nectarines may continue trending downward due to the expected significant decline in supply.

Conversely, the EU is not self-sufficient in cherry production, thus the EU is a net importer of cherries sourced mostly from other Member States and Turkey. Prior to Brexit, the EU imported U.S. cherries mainly through the United Kingdom. In the last three seasons, due to the shortage of EU cherry supply, EU cherry imports significantly increased and may continue growing in MY 2021/22. According to TDM, in MY 2020/21, EU imports of fresh cherries were valued at 185 million USD with a total volume of 52,413 MT, a five percent increase compared to the previous season due to lower domestic supply. The main export destinations for EU producers are other Member States; other destinations outside the EU are the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Belarus.

Up to now, according to TDM, Brexit is not impacting the stone fruit trade within the EU. Conversely, the loss of the Russian market due to the 2014 Russian embargo (see Policy section) has not been compensated by the increase in EU stone fruit exports inside the EU and to third countries.

Commodities

FRESH PEACHES & NECTARINES

Table 1. Production, Supply, and Distribution Data Statistics

Peaches & Nectarines, Fresh Market Begin Year European Union-27	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022	
	Jan 2019		Jan 2020		Jan 2021	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	220,026	211,156	216,550	202,369		200,623
Area Harvested	200,226	200,416	196,894	193,918		190,926
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0		0
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0		0
Total Trees	0	0	0	0		0
Commercial Production	4,076,740	4,025,233	3,439,966	3,204,536		2,670,645
Non-Comm. Production	41,179	40,659	34,747	32,369		26,976
Production	4,117,919	4,065,892	3,474,713	3,236,905		2,697,621
Imports	33,700	24,117	35,000	38,782		40,000
Total Supply	4,151,619	4,090,009	3,509,713	3,275,687		2,737,621
Domestic Consumption	3,942,719	3,800,596	3,324,713	3,071,288		2,557,621
Exports	178,900	259,413	155,000	180,199		175,000
Withdrawal From Market	30,000	30,000	30,000	24,200		5,000
Total Distribution	4,151,619	4,090,009	3,509,713	3,275,687		2,737,621
(HA),(1000 TREES),(MT)						

Note: The values of “For Processing” have been added to the attribute “Domestic Consumption”.

Source: FAS EU offices

In order of importance, the main EU producers of peaches and nectarines are Spain, Italy, Greece, and France. There is also limited production in other EU MS, including Hungary, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Poland. Spain is the biggest producer, consumer, and exporter due to its early season harvest and yielding varieties. Greece is the EU’s leading peach processor.

PRODUCTION

In Marketing Year (MY) 2020/21 (January/December), the EU area planted for peaches and nectarines was around 202,000 hectares (ha), six percent smaller than previously estimated due to adjustments of area planted according to [Eurostat data](#). Spain and Italy continued to decrease their area planted due to a surplus of peach production that has put downward pressure on market price and resulted in poor economic conditions for farmers. In Spain, there is a shift in production toward tree nuts, particularly almonds. According to FAS Post projections, in MY 2021/22, the EU planted area for peaches and nectarines is forecast to continue its decline. In addition, productivity

gains for peaches and nectarines have been achieved with the introduction of new and higher yielding varieties that bring more diversity in the types of fruit and in harvest dates.

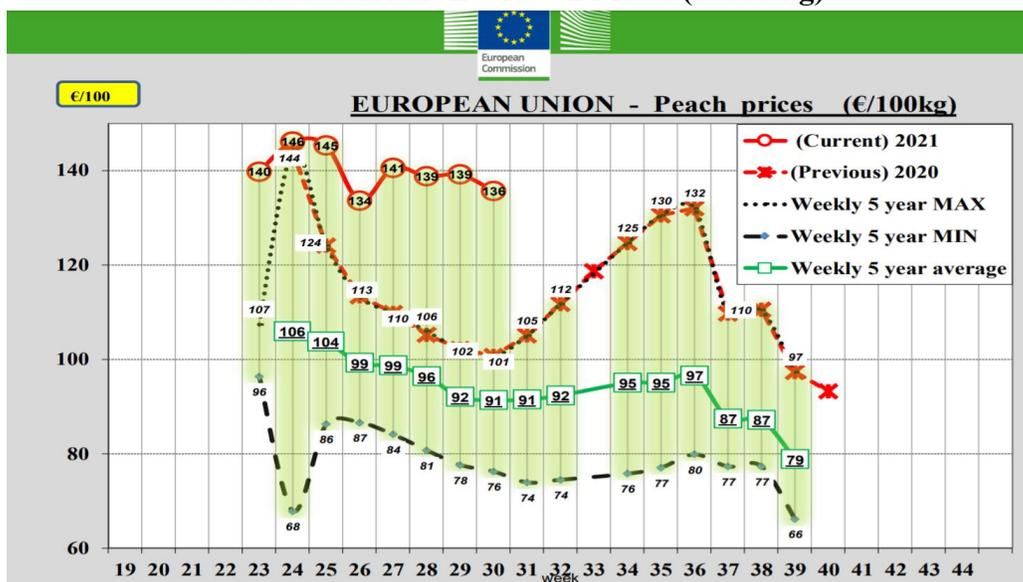
In MY 2021/22, EU production of peaches and nectarines is estimated to drop 16.6 percent to 2.67 million metric tons (MMT). The expected decrease in most of the major EU producing countries is due to unfavorable weather conditions and strong spring frosts affecting blossoming (see Table 2). Industry observers remark that the MY2020/21 EU harvest was one of the smallest in the last 30 years, marked by the COVID-19 crisis and a yield deficit. As a consequence of the EU production shortfall, EU peach and nectarine prices are experiencing significant increases as well as in the major EU producing regions. According to [EU Peaches and Nectarines Dashboard](#), in week 30 of 2021, EU average peach and nectarine prices stood at 136 €/100kg, which are 149 percent higher than the last five-year average and 34.6 higher than the same period last year (see Chart 1).

Table 2. Major EU Fresh Peach & Nectarine Producers by Volume in MT

Country	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22
Spain	1,545,610	1,306,020	1,218,694
Italy	1,235,254	799,318	722,727
Greece	968,060	875,477	550,000
France	202,800	175,800	125,600

Not official USDA data. Source: FAS EU offices

Chart 1. Current EU Peach Prices (€/ 100 kg)



Source: DG AGRI

Spain is the largest peach and nectarine producer in the EU. Larger planted area and production growth in Spain’s most important peach and nectarine regions of Aragon, Catalonia, and Murcia, as well as significant increases in Extremadura, Andalusia, and Valencia, were the main factors

contributing to the expansion in overall Spanish production. In recent years, a vast varietal renewal took place and Spain planted newer varieties with more intense flavors and color. However, an excess domestic supply of peaches and nectarines put downward pressure on the market price; hence, for the last five years, the Spanish peach and nectarine sector decreased its planted area by 15 percent in 2020 to around 72,000 ha.

Spain's production contributes to 40 percent of the total EU peach and nectarine production. Based on latest industry estimates, Spanish peach and nectarine production for MY 2021/22 is projected to decline to 1.2 MMT, a 6.7 percent drop compared to the previous period. This production drop is due to the reduction of planted area and the unfavorable weather conditions during the spring season with heavy frosts and rainstorms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all the Spanish stone fruit crops were successfully harvested without major problems and developed normally under strong hygiene standards.

Italy is the second leading EU peach and nectarine producer. Emilia-Romagna, Campania, Sicilia, Piemonte, Puglia, Calabria, Basilicata, and Veneto are the main producing regions. Italy's MY 2021/22 peach and nectarine production is forecast at 722,727 MT, a 9.6 percent drop from the previous season due to frost at the end of March and early April that affected productivity, mainly in the regions of Emilia-Romagna, Piemonte, and Veneto. Italy's MY 2021/22 cling peach harvest is likely to reach 55,431 MT, 15.3 percent higher than the previous season. Italy's peach and nectarine production area continues to decrease due to grubbing (clearing of land) not compensated by new investments.

Greece is the third largest producer of peaches in the EU, after Spain and Italy. Greek farms are typically up to five hectares, much smaller than the average size in either the EU or the United States. According to industry estimates, there are approximately 47,000 hectares currently cultivated for peaches and nectarines. The main producing regions include four areas (Imathia, Pella, Pieria, Kozani) of Central Macedonia located in northern Greece, and the area of Larissa, in Thessaly, Central Greece. Greece's MY 2021/22 peach and nectarine production is preliminarily forecasted to decrease by 37.2 percent due to unfavorable weather conditions in spring that significantly reduced peach yields. Temperatures during this period strongly contrasted with a warm weather anomaly at the end of March. Cling peach crop production is forecast to decrease by 42 percent to approximately 220,000 MT.

In MY 2021/22, France's peaches and nectarines crop is expected to be down by 37 percent from its five-year average due to deep and lasting frosts in early April right at the time of blossoming, followed by excessive rains in May that hampered the fruit growth and increased losses due to pests. Peaches and nectarines orchards continued to stagnate due to poor economic conditions for peach producers in recent years combined with loss of trees due to the Sharka disease.

Unfavorable weather conditions with frost and heavy rains during the 2021 spring season may also result in strong drops of peach and nectarine production in Hungary and in Portugal. On the other hand, Bulgarian peach and nectarine productions are forecast to rise after a serious decline due to drought in 2020. Poland's peach and nectarine production is expected to remain flat in MY 2021/22.

CONSUMPTION

The EU is self-sufficient in peaches and nectarines. In MY 2021/22, consumption of peaches and nectarines in the EU is projected to decrease to 2.5 MMT in line with lower supply. This may result in a more balanced EU supply and demand of peaches and nectarines. EU peaches and nectarines for processing may lower in response to higher domestic demand. Greece is the major peach processor in the EU followed by Spain. Freestone peach varieties are used for fresh consumption, while clingstone varieties are predominantly used for processing.

As the major producing regions in the EU, Spain and Italy are also the major consumers of peaches and nectarines. Most Spanish and Italian peaches and nectarines are consumed fresh. Consumers in southern countries generally prefer large, sweet, and pulpy fruits, while the North European markets prefer smaller, slightly sour, and crunchy fruits. France, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Poland consume more peaches and nectarines than they produce while Hungary's market situation is more balanced.

TRADE

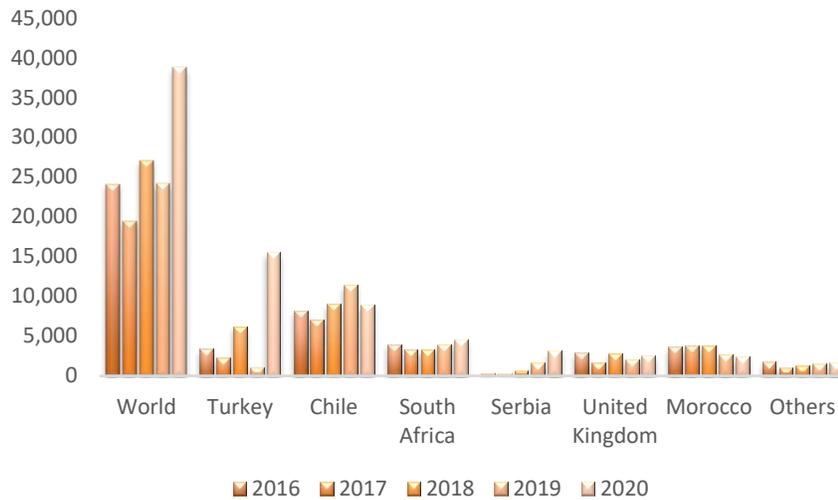
The EU is self-sufficient in peaches and nectarines to satisfy domestic and external demand. Thus, the EU is a net exporter of peaches and nectarines, with Spain as the top Member State exporting outside the EU.

Imports

In MY 2020/21, the main suppliers of peaches and nectarines to the EU were Turkey, Chile, and South Africa (see Chart 2). In addition, EU imports of peaches and nectarines from Serbia increased strongly while Turkey became the major EU supplier. In MY 2020/21, the EU's imports of peaches and nectarines were valued at 60 million USD and amounted to 38,872 MT, a 60 percent growth from the previous year due to a decrease in production during 2020. France and Poland have a massive peach and nectarine trade deficit, mainly importing from Spain. EU imports are sourced from the southern hemisphere during the European off-season.

In MY 2021/22, EU peaches and nectarines imports are expected to continue rising in response to a forecast decrease in production. In addition, imports within the EU may increase to satisfy domestic demand, sourced mainly from Spain.

Chart 2. EU Imports of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines by Origin and MY in MT

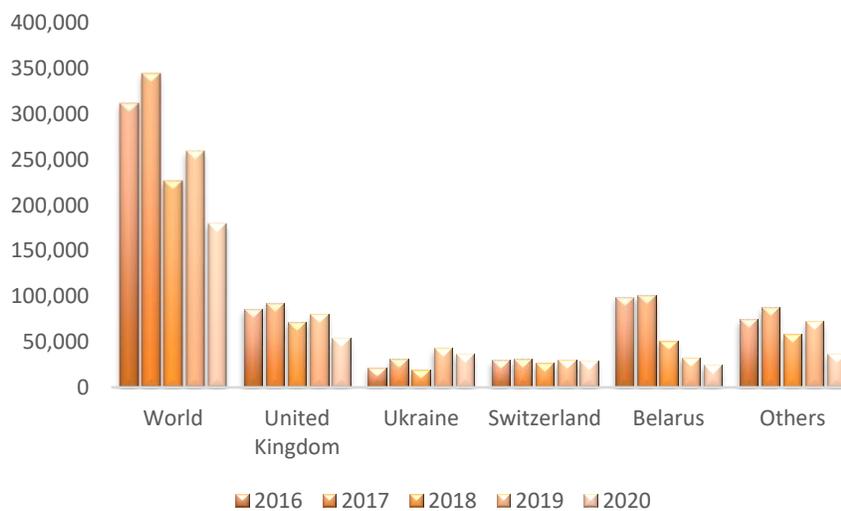


Source: TDM

Exports

The EU is a net exporter of peaches and nectarines with exports largely exceeding imports. In MY 2020/21, EU exports of peaches and nectarines were valued at 244 million USD, with exported volume declining 30 percent to 180,199 MT due to a shorter supply in 2020. In MY 2020/21, the main export destinations for EU peaches and nectarines were the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Switzerland, and Belarus (see Chart 3). In MY 2021/20, EU exports of peaches and nectarines may continue trending downward due to the expected significant decline in supply.

Chart 3. EU Exports of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines by Destination and MY in MT



Source: TDM

The EU’s major producers compete for sales within the European market. Thanks to an earlier harvesting period with high quality products, Spain continues to dominate the European market. Spanish total exports in MY 2020/21 were valued at 969 million USD and amounted to 654,755 MT, which was 22 percent lower than the previous season due to the strong drop in Spanish supply. Almost 90 percent of Spain’s peaches and nectarines exports are mainly shipped to the EU, with the UK and Switzerland as its major non-EU markets. Up to now, Spain remains the main supplier of peaches and nectarines to the United Kingdom, so Brexit may not impact the EU peach and nectarine exports to this market. The loss of the Russian market due to the 2014 Russian embargo (see Policy section) has been somewhat compensated with an increase in exports to other Member States and to third countries such as Switzerland, Brazil, and Middle East. In July 2016, China authorized imports of peaches and nectarines from Spain. However, to date, Spanish exports of peaches and nectarines to China remain negligible due to logistical issues.

FRESH CHERRIES (SWEET & SOUR)

Table 3. Production, Supply, and Distribution Data Statistics

Cherries (Sweet&Sour), Fresh Market Begin Year	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022	
	Apr 2019		Apr 2020		Apr 2021	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
European Union						
Area Planted	162,793	162,793	162,634	164,029		164,069
Area Harvested	155,744	155,918	155,668	157,258		156,884
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0		0
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0		0
Total Trees	0	0	0	0		0
Commercial Production	701,255	701,416	667,565	667,116		631,560
Non-Comm. Production	36,908	36,917	35,135	35,111		33,240
Production	738,163	738,333	702,700	702,227		664,800
Imports	52,500	49,892	60,000	52,413		55,000
Total Supply	790,663	788,225	762,700	754,640		719,800
Dom. Consumption	781,463	770,201	752,200	747,200		704,300
Exports	8,700	17,524	8,000	14,912		15,000
Withdrawal From Market	500	500	2,500	2,500		500
Total Distribution	790,663	788,225	762,700	764,612		719,800

(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)

Note: The values of “For Processing” have been added to the attribute “Domestic Consumption”
Source: FAS offices

The main EU cherry producers are Poland, Spain, and Italy followed by Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Germany. There is also limited production in other EU member states, including France and Portugal. Poland is also the EU’s largest cherry processor, transforming 75 percent of its cherry

production. Spain and Greece are the major exporters, namely to the EU, due to their early harvest season while Germany is the biggest EU importer. Italy is the number one consumer of fresh cherries.

PRODUCTION

Total cherry production in MY 2021/22 is projected to decline 5.3 percent to 664,800 MT due to the expected decline in the major producing countries. Unfavorable weather conditions with frost and heavy rainstorms during the spring season account for the drop in production (see Table 4).

According to FAS projections, in MY 2021/22 the updated data for total EU cherry planted area will remain stable at around 164,000 ha. Additionally, Hungarian planted area has been updated for MY 2020/21 and MY 2021/22, resulting in a higher total EU cherry area than previously estimated.

Table 4. Major EU Fresh Cherries (Sweet & Sour) Producers by Volume in MT

Country	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22
Poland	196,300	201,000	213,000
Spain	115,400	102,700	100,100
Italy	98,602	104,380	90,000
Greece	81,600	84,822	78,000

Not official USDA data. Source: FAS EU offices

Poland's MY 2021/22 forecast for sweet and sour cherries production stands at 213,000 MT, a six percent increase from last season. The total production number consists of 165,000 MT sour cherries and 48,000 MT sweet cherries. In MY 2021/22, cherry orchard's acreage increased by 0.5 percent in comparison with the previous year and amounted to 40,000 ha. Modernization of cherry orchards is progressing, with some cherry producers replacing old trees with more profitable cherry varieties.

According to official estimates, Spanish cherry production for MY 2021/22 is projected to lower 2.5 percent to 100,100 MT due to unfavorable weather conditions with frost and heavy rainstorms during the spring season. The main cherry producing areas are Extremadura, accounting for over 35 percent of Spain's total. Aragon accounts for over 20 percent of Spain's production. Total Spanish cherry area planted is around 27,000 ha. In Spain, cherry harvesting takes place from the end of April through mid-August. The dominant varieties are *Napoleon*, which is sold fresh and used for jams; *Ambrunesa*, which is a late variety with a crispy consistency and sweet taste; and *Burlat*, an early harvested variety bearing a thick fruit with red, strong, juicy and sweet pulp.

Italy's MY 2021/22 cherry production is preliminarily forecast at 90,000 MT, 13.8 percent less than the previous period due to the frost and severe hailstorms that occurred at the end of March. Puglia, Campania, Veneto, and Emilia-Romagna are the leading producing

areas. Furthermore, new orchards are entering production in Trentino. *Bigarreau*, *Regina*, *Kordia*, *Giorgia*, and *Ferrovina* are the main cherry varieties grown in Italy. Total Italian cherry area planted is around 30,000 ha.

Greece's MY 2021/22 cherry production is forecast to decrease eight percent to 78,000 MT due to unfavorable weather conditions during fruit set. Pella, Imathia, Kozani (Northern Greece), and Larissa, Lamia (Central Greece) are the leading producing areas.

Hungary is one of Europe's largest sour cherry producers. The area planted with sour cherries is 13,000 ha. Domestic varieties are almost exclusively cultivated in the country. Technology and production level vary widely. Total cherry production in Hungary is expected to increase slightly in MY 2021/22 to 60,000 MT. Meanwhile, new Hungarian hybrids, such as *Carmen*, *Rita*, and *Vera* are getting more popular among farmers. Total German cherry production for MY 2021/22 is initially estimated to strongly decline around 30 percent to 34,000 MT due to heavy rains that occurred in July 2021 and resulted in significant damages. Popular varieties planted in Germany include *Bellise*, *Burlat*, *Kordia*, and *Regina* for sweet cherries and *Schattenmorelle* and *Morellenfeuer* for sour cherries.

Additionally, in MY 2021/22 France's cherries crop is expected to be at the lowest level for the past 50 years. The 2021/22 season will be less than 50 percent of average. A very deep frost in early April that lasted several days completely destroyed the cherries flowers in most orchards in the Rhone Valley and Languedoc region. The losses were exacerbated with excessive rains in May that weakened the growing fruits. Pest infestations and insect attacks, especially *Drosophila Suzukii*, in the Provence area further lowered the crop's volume and quality. The cherry planted area has also stagnated as old orchards are not systematically replaced. In addition, the 2016 French decision to ban a pesticide (Dimethoate) efficient against *Drosophila Suzukii* was suspended on December 2020 (see Policy Section). Bulgaria's MY 2021/22 expects a marginal decline in total stone fruit production due to reduced cherry yields. Deteriorated cherry quality is likely to result in stable use for processing. Conversely, Portugal's MY 2021/22 cherry production is forecast to rise strongly to around 20,000 MT. Portuguese official data estimates a jump of 200 percent on cherry production yields, partly due to the fact that Portuguese cherry production last season was one of the smallest in the last three decades.

CONSUMPTION

In MY 2021/22, EU consumption of cherries including cherries for processing may decline to an estimated volume of around 704,000 MT, slightly higher than EU cherry production. Southern EU countries are the biggest EU consumers of fresh cherries together with Germany. In Poland, the major EU cherry processor, the forecast for cherry fruit processing is almost unchanged from the previous year. The structure of processing can change for a higher share of cherry juice

concentrate in production at the expense of jam production. Production of frozen cherries will likely increase due to the availability of good quality fruits for the industry this year.

Sweet cherry is a seasonal fruit consumed fresh. Sour cherry is mainly used by the processing industry. The main sour cherry products are frozen fruits, juice concentrates, and jams or marmalade. In countries such as Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, and Greece, domestic consumption is almost exclusively fresh. In Germany, fresh cherries are considered a seasonal product and stocked in supermarkets mainly during the German marketing season (June/July). In Hungary, the average per capita fresh fruit consumption is under the EU average. The share of frozen cherries and cherry juice production is also notable mainly for export purposes. Depending on availability and quality, 2,000-5,000 MT of Hungarian sour cherries are utilized for dried fruit and brandy (palinka) production.

TRADE

The EU is not self-sufficient in cherry production, thus the EU is a net importer of cherries sourced mostly from other Member States and Turkey. In the last three seasons, due to the shortage of EU cherry supply, EU cherry imports trended upwards. The main export destinations for the EU producers are other Member States; other destinations outside the EU are the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Belarus.

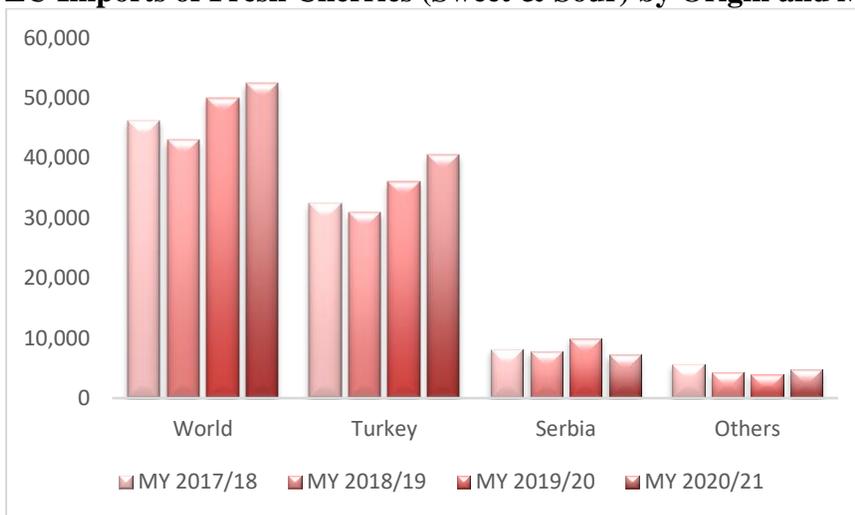
Imports

According to TDM, in MY 2020/21, EU imports of fresh cherries were valued at 185 million USD with a total volume of 52,413 MT, a 5 percent up compared to previous season due to lower supply. Turkey is by far the major cherry supplier to the EU (see Chart 4). In addition, prior to Brexit, the EU imported U.S. cherries mainly through the United Kingdom. Spain, the leading cherry supplier to the EU, also imports cherries mainly from Turkey, Argentina, Chile, the UK, and some volume also from North America. In MY 2021/22, EU imports of cherries may increase as EU cherry production is expected to decline.

Germany is the third largest importer of cherries in the world after China and Hong Kong. From 2010 to 2020, between 52 and 77 percent of the cherries consumed in Germany were imported, with imports varying between 45,000 and 73,000 MT of cherries. The majority of imports originates from other EU member states, mainly Austria for sweet cherries and Hungary for sour cherries. The largest non-EU suppliers are Turkey for sweet cherries and Serbia for sour cherries. For 2021/22, German cherry imports from Greece and Turkey are expected to significantly increase because of the lower German domestic production.

France has a large trade deficit in cherries, importing mainly from other EU countries (mainly Spain followed by Germany). Serbia, Chile, and Turkey are the primary non-EU suppliers of cherries to France. With an annual volume of about 300 MT, the United States used to be the third largest non-EU supplier of cherries to France after Turkey and Chile. However, in 2016, France’s decision to ban on imports of cherries from countries where Dimethoate can be legally used on cherry trees, cut U.S. access to the French market. The lifting of this ban is not likely to lead to a full resumption of U.S. cherry exports to France due to the uncertainty regarding controls on MRLs for dimethoate (see Policy Section).

Chart 4. EU Imports of Fresh Cherries (Sweet & Sour) by Origin and MY in MT



Source: TDM

Exports

In MY 2020/21, EU exports of fresh cherries declined 15 percent in volume to 14,912 MT, valued at 48 million USD, compared to the previous year in line with the short EU cherry supply. In MY 2021/22, EU exports of cherries may continue to decline in line with EU cherry production.

Poland has been looking for new export markets since the 2014 Russian ban imposed on the EU food in August 2014 (see Policy section). Prior to the ban, Russia was the main cherry export market for both tart and sweet cherries, capturing 60 percent of Poland’s total cherry exports. In MY 2020/21, the main non-EU export destinations for Polish cherries were Belarus and Moldova. Spain focused its exports to the EU market, while Greek cherry exports hit a record high, registering 30,987 MT, mainly to the EU.

TRADE SHOWS

Trade fairs play a key role in presenting new products to the trade or in finding additional buyers and importers. The most important EU trade shows related to the fruit and vegetable sectors are:

<p>FRUIT LOGISTICA Berlin, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/EU/Central & Eastern Europe</p> <p>FRUIT LOGISTICA is the leading European trade show for fresh and dried fruit, nuts, and related products. More than 2,400 companies from across the entire fresh produce value chain will participate, including major global players, as well as small and medium-sized suppliers from around the world.</p> <p>https://www.fruitlogistica.de/en/</p>	<p>Next Fair: February 9-11, 2022</p>
<p>BIOFACH Nuremberg, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/Europe</p> <p>The leading European trade show for organic food and non-food products.</p> <p>http://www.biofach.de/en</p>	<p>Next Fair: February 15-18, 2022</p>
<p>FRUIT ATTRACTION Madrid, Spain (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Spain/EU/International</p> <p>Fruit attraction is an international trade show for the fruit and vegetable industry sector with more than 1,600 exhibitor companies from around the world.</p> <p>http://www.fruitattraction.com</p>	<p>Next Fair: October 5-7, 2021</p>

POLICY

Overview

Over the past year, agricultural EU policy makers in Brussels have been consumed by the COVID-19 crisis, the European Green Deal, the Common Agricultural Policy reform (CAP), and Brexit. In particular, the coronavirus pandemic shaped EU policy making and politics with concerns over resilient supply chains and sustainability. These trepidations influenced the Green Deal’s agri-food vision under the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity Strategies and sparked debates over CAP reform. Other issues concerning changes in pesticide regulations and agricultural bans influenced global stone fruit trade as well.

The Farm to Fork Strategy

The F2F Strategy highlights 27 actions aimed to transform the way EU food is produced, processed, transported, presented, and sold. The full Strategy is available [here](#). The Strategy seeks to position the EU's food systems on a more sustainable path. At the production level, the Commission proposes actions to reduce the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50 percent by 2030 as well as the reduction of the use of fertilizers by at least 20 percent, among other cuts. Additionally, the Commission is aiming for 25 percent of agricultural lands to be used for organic farming, up from the current eight percent. See [GAIN report: Pesticides Initiatives in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy](#) for more information. The reduction of pesticide use could affect the availability of active substances for stone fruit producers in the EU and therefore incur potential trade implications with regard to stone fruit imports into the EU.

Biodiversity Strategy

The Biodiversity Strategy provides a broad focus on nature conservation and tackling biodiversity loss in the EU and globally. The two main pesticide reduction initiatives presented in F2F are emphasized in the Biodiversity Strategy and complemented by the Biodiversity Strategy's pledge to review and possibly revise the EU 2018 Pollinators Initiative. This Strategy also aims for further soil and nature conservation by setting aside a minimum of 10 percent of the existing agricultural area into higher biodiversity landscape features, such as buffer strips and rotational and non-rotational fallow land. The Commission's proposed conservation measure is nested within the overarching target of the Biodiversity Strategy to protect 30 percent of all EU land. See [GAIN report: Green Deal Strategies for the EU Agri-Food Sector Present a Politically Ambitious Policy Roadmap](#).

Common Agricultural Policy Reform

Stone fruit falls under the EU fruit and vegetables regime and is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Established in the 1958 Treaty of Rome, the CAP continues to be the EU's principal agriculture sector legislative framework. It currently supports approximately 10.5 million farms and thousands of rural communities across the EU. At the July 2020 European Council summit, EU heads of state and government allocated €344 billion for the CAP under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, comprising 32 percent of the overall 2021-2027 budget.

Every five to seven years, the Commission begins multi-year stakeholder consultations on the next CAP, adjusting the framework to social and political priorities and gradually modifying the way farming operates in the EU. The Commission drafts the initial CAP proposal, which is provided to the European Parliament (EP) and Council who deliberate and vote to accept or amend the

Commission’s proposal. Agricultural sector stakeholder consultations for the current CAP proposal began in 2018. On June 25, 2021, the Parliament, Council, and Commission reached a provisional political agreement on the new Common Agricultural Policy, which will enter into force in 2022. Technical discussions still have to take place between the three institutions. At the time of writing no texts of the new CAP are publicly available.

Marketing Standards

Fresh fruit and vegetable imports into the EU also have to comply with the EU-harmonized marketing standards. These standards apply at all marketing stages and include criteria such as quality, size, labeling, packaging, and presentation. [Commission implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 543/2011](#) provides for a general marketing standard for all fresh fruits and vegetables. Specific marketing standards are still in place for ten products, including peaches and nectarines, and are set out in Section 5 of Part B of Annex I.

European School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Scheme

The European “School Fruit Scheme” originated in 2009 as a measure to combat child obesity. It includes three elements: free distribution of fruit and vegetables in schools, informational campaigns on healthy eating habits, and monitoring and evaluation. The total EU budget for the scheme, in the period 2017-23, was set at €250 million per school year of which up to €150 million is for fruit and vegetables and up to €100 million for milk. This budget is broken down by country based on the number of children and the level of regional development. More information about the EU budget by country for the 2021/2022 school year can be found [here](#).

In addition to the school fruit scheme, there is another way to encourage an increase in the consumption of fruit and vegetables since the sector may also benefit from the European promotion budget for agricultural products and quality schemes. The Commission reformed its promotion policy with an extension of the product scope and a greater focus on export markets. For 2021, the European Commission allocated a total of 182.9 million euros for the promotion of the European Union’s agri-food products both in Europe and worldwide. The focus is on promoting products and farming methods that support more directly the European Green Deal objectives, prioritizing organic products, fruit and vegetables and sustainable agriculture. As part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the European Commission announced in April 2021 that it would review the European Union’s policy on the promotion of agricultural products both inside and outside the Union. This review fits in the Commission’s Green Deal efforts to promote more sustainable production and consumption of food. More information about the EU’s promotion program please see GAIN Reports [EU 2021 Promotion Programs for Agricultural Products](#) and [Review of the EU Policy on the Promotion of Agricultural Products](#).

Certification of Fruit Shipments

Fruit and vegetables exported to the EU require a phytosanitary certificate. A USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspector issues these certificates. This standard-setting body coordinates cooperation between nations to control plant and plant product pests and to prevent their spread.

[Regulation 2016/2031](#) concerning protective measures against pests of plants since December 14, 2019, contains provisions concerning compulsory plant health checks. This includes documentary, identity, and physical plant health checks to verify compliance with EU import requirements and uniform conditions for its implementation that are established in [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2072](#). There is more information available on the DG SANTE website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/non_eu_trade/index_en.htm. The Commission monitors imports of fruit and vegetables on an annual basis to determine how to adjust the frequency of testing consignments. There is a reduced frequency of plant health checks when justified, as published in the latest updated list of products that is available at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/trade-plants-plant-products-non-eu-countries/reduced-frequency_en.

Maximum Residue Levels for Fruit

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticides, including import tolerances, have been harmonized throughout the EU and can be found in the [EU MRL database](#). The following tables provide interested stakeholders with advance notice of active ingredients under review for renewal of approval in the EU and are listed with a U.S. MRL for citrus fruit in the [global MRL database](#).

In particular, the Commission recently put forward a proposal for the non-renewal of the active substance phosmet and submitted its intention to not renew the substance to the WTO. Phosmet will likely be voted upon at an upcoming Standing Committee meeting on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed for Phytopharmaceuticals (Legislation). If phosmet is not renewed, this will likely have an impact on MRLs for future U.S. exports of cherries to the EU. For additional information, please consult the FAS/Brussels' website on [EU Early Alerts](#).

Upcoming reviews for MRLs:

Active Substance Under Article 12 MRL Review	RMS	Start of Data Collection	Adoption of the RO* (expected date)
Alpha-cypermethrin	BE	04/16/2021	04/16/2022
Aluminium silicate	EL	03/05/2021	03/05/2022
Azadirachtin	DE	To be defined	To be defined
Beta-cyfluthrin	DE	09/15/2020	10/27/2021
Beta-cypermethrin	BE	05/12/2021	04/16/2022
Clofentezine	ES	To be defined	To be defined
Clopyralid	FI	To be defined	To be defined
Cyflumetofen	ES	06/15/2020	07/31/2021
Cyfluthrin	DE	09/15/2020	10/27/2021
Cypermethrin	BE	04/15/2021	04/16/2022
Difenoconazole	ES	To be defined	To be defined
Dimethoate	IT	Not applicable	Not applicable
Dithianon	EL	03/15/2021	04/23/2022
Epoxiconazole	PL	Not applicable	Not applicable
Ethoprophos	IT	Not applicable	Not applicable
Halosulfuron-methyl	IT	To be defined	To be defined
Isoxaben	SE	10/16/2020	12/20/2021
Malathion	CZ	To be defined	To be defined
Mancozeb	EL	12/15/2020	03/02/2022
Novaluron	DE	11/18/2019	01/12/2022
Penthiopyrad	SE	02/18/2020	07/31/2021
Phosmet	ES	09/15/2021	09/15/2022
Pyrethrins	IT	To be defined	To be defined
Pyriproxyfen	NL	08/15/2021	08/15/2022
Spirodiclofen	AT	08/18/2020	11/29/2021
Tetraconazole	FR	10/16/2020	12/06/2021
Ziram	IT	11/16/2020	03/02/2022
Zoxamide	LV	To be defined	To be defined

**Expected date for the 'Reasoned Opinion' by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which is the risk assessment agency, on which the Commission will base its proposal for the MRLs.*

Upcoming reviews for active substances:

Active Substance	Expiration Date	Last Day of Application for Renewal of the Active Substance:
Spinetoram	06/30/2024	09/30/2021
Acequinocyl	08/31/2024	11/30/2021
Pendimethalin	08/31/2024	11/30/2021
Metaflumizone	12/31/2024	03/31/2022

Glyphosate

The active substance glyphosate is approved for use at the EU level and is set to expire on December 15, 2022. Its renewal procedure is currently ongoing, and its last reauthorization was limited to [five years](#) instead of the more typical 10 to 15 years. Although the substance is still approved at the EU level, some Member States are banning its sale or restricting its use in plant protection products at the national level, such as Luxembourg, Austria, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

Despite the restrictions, the EU MRLs for glyphosate remain in place in these Member States. At the time of this report, impact on trade has been limited as there are no restrictions on imported products that are treated with products containing glyphosate. However, some Member States may be under political pressure to restrict imported products containing glyphosate because some EU farmers are not allowed to use the substance.

Tariffs

Entry Price System

EU imports of fresh fruit and vegetables are subject to the Entry Price System, which has been in place in its current form since the Uruguay Round. It is a complex tariff system, which provides a high level of protection to EU producers. In this system, fruits and vegetables imported at or above an established entry price are charged an ad valorem duty only. Tariff levels for 2021 are published in [Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1577](#). The tariffs for stone fruits can be found on page 110.

First Come, First Served Principle

Regarding the administration of import tariff quotas, certain types of stone fruit are subject to the [‘first come, first served’ principle](#):

Product	Tariff codes	Quantity (kg)	Period	Origin	In-Quota Duty
Fresh (sweet) cherries	0809 29 00	105 000	May 21 – July 15	All origins	4%
Preserved fruit including preserved cherries and peaches	2008 20 11 2008 20 19 2008 20 31 2008 20 39 2008 20 71 2008 30 11 2008 30 19 2008 30 31 2008 30 39 2008 30 79 2008 40 11 2008 40 19 2008 40 21 2008 40 29 2008 40 31 2008 40 39 2008 50 11 2008 50 19 2008 50 31 2008 50 39 2008 50 51 2008 50 59 2008 50 71 2008 60 11 2008 60 19 2008 60 31 2008 60 39 2008 60 60 2008 70 11 2008 70 19 2008 70 31 2008 70 39 2008 70 51 2008 70 59 2008 80 11 2008 80 19 2008 80 31 2008 80 39 2008 80 70	2 820 000	January 1 – December 31	All origins	20%

Tariff Rate Quota's Under Free Trade Agreements

On June 28, 2019, the European Union became the first major partner to strike a trade agreement with the Southern Common Market (or MERCOSUR) countries of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The EU Parliament and Commission still have to ratify the agreement, but it will eliminate 93 percent of tariffs for MERCOSUR exports to the EU, while offering preferential treatment for the remaining 7 percent. Although a final tariff schedule has not yet been publicly released, a [preliminary analysis](#) indicates that U.S. agricultural products that compete with MERCOSUR and EU products will be at a significant disadvantage.

Other Free Trade Agreement affecting stone fruit exports to the EU

The EU is negotiating and has implemented several Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with other countries and regions such as the major EU stone fruit partners: Chile, South Africa, Turkey, Morocco, the UK, and Canada, which include concessions on food products. Additional information is available on the website of the EC at: <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/negotiations-and-agreements/>

Bans Impacting Stone Fruit Trade

Russian Ban on Agricultural Products

On August 7, 2014, the Russian government implemented a (then) one-year ban on a range of agricultural and food products, including stone fruit, from the United States, the EU, Canada, Australia, and Norway, in response to U.S. and EU sanctions over Russian actions in Ukraine. Russia has continued to extend the ban every year. The Commission introduced specific market support measures for the European fruit and vegetable sector since the start of the ban in 2014 until 2017. The last emergency 20 measures for fruit and vegetables were phased out on June 30, 2018. Overall, the EU granted 588 million USD (€500 million) of aid to EU producers of fruit and vegetables corresponding to 1.7 million tons of withdrawals from the market. Please find more information on the Commission's response to the Russian ban here: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/russian-import-ban/index_en.htm

French ban of dimethoate on cherries

On April 8, 2020, France published its fifth emergency decree banning fresh cherry imports from countries where the use of the chemical dimethoate is permitted in cherry production. France made the decision because the EU, despite prohibiting dimethoate use, had not yet set the maximum residue limits for the substance dimethoate. Growers use dimethoate to fight *Drosophila suzukii*, an Asian fruit fly that causes considerable damages in cherry orchards. For more information, see GAIN Report [France extends ban on US cherries over dimethoate use despite new EU rules](#).

On May 26, 2020, the Commission published the MRLs for dimethoate (Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/703), which went into force on December 16, 2020. The MRLs for dimethoate on cherries will then drop to the limit of detection (0.01 ppm). Given the Commission’s decision to set up MRLs for dimethoate, France decided not to renew its emergency decree.

School Scheme

The European “School Scheme” is a measure to combat child obesity. It includes three elements: free distribution of fruit and vegetables and milk in schools, informational campaigns on healthy eating habits, and monitoring and evaluation. It allocates EU funds of 271 million USD (€223 million) for the school year 2021/2022 to all of the Member States according to [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2021/462](#) , which will apply as of August 1, 2021.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/600](#) extends the time limits for the submission of aid applications for accompanying educational measures because of the temporary closure of educational establishments in the Member States during the pandemic.

Attachments:

No Attachments