

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: August 29, 2024

Report Number: E42024-0025

Report Name: Stone Fruit Annual

Country: European Union

Post: Madrid

Report Category: Stone Fruit

Prepared By: Marta Guerrero

Approved By: Karisha Kuypers

Report Highlights:

In MY 2024/25, EU production of stone fruits (peaches and nectarines, and cherries) is estimated to exceed last season's levels. Favorable conditions across many growing Member States support a production recovery, which is projected to allow for both larger exports and domestic consumption.

Disclaimer: 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.

Table of Contents:

Executive Summary	2
Fresh Peaches & Nectarines.....	3
Fresh Cherries (Sweet and Sour).....	7
Trade Shows	11
Policy	11
Acknowledgements	15
Abbreviations and References	16

Executive Summary

The stone fruit season is looking promising in the EU. Harvest started up to about ten days earlier given the warmer weather in spring, allowing for faster growth of fruit. Producers benefited from placing early harvest fruit on the market at favorable prices. Marketing Year (MY) 2024/25 output is expected to exceed previous season levels despite the long-term decline in stone fruit area.

In spite of the production recovery, consumption is expected to grow only slightly. One of the factors behind this trend includes food inflation, forcing the most price-sensitive consumers to switch away from fresh fruit consumption. Another factor discouraging stone fruit consumption is the lower-than-average early summer temperatures prevailing in the EU’s northwest. Interestingly, despite its comparatively higher prices, the interest for exotic fruits continues to expand, at the expense of more traditional fruits categories such as citrus, fresh deciduous, and stone fruits.

The EU is a net exporter of peaches with exports largely exceeding imports. The larger domestic availability is anticipated to allow exports to grow. Imports, particularly in the off-season, are projected to remain flat. In the case of cherries, the EU is a net importer, largely reliant on the Turkish supply.

Like other EU minor crop farmers, stone fruit producers are concerned about the burden imposed by European Union (EU) regulations (affecting plant health, environment, and packaging) which ultimately have a direct impact on production cost. Stone fruits are also increasingly affected by changing climate conditions. Farmers are searching for varieties with lower chill hour requirements suitable for less cold regions, or early season varieties, as they have the potential to offer improved income opportunities. Similarly to other tree crop producers, labor availability during harvest time remains a significant problem for stone fruit growers.

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines

Table 1. Production, Supply, and Distribution Data Statistics

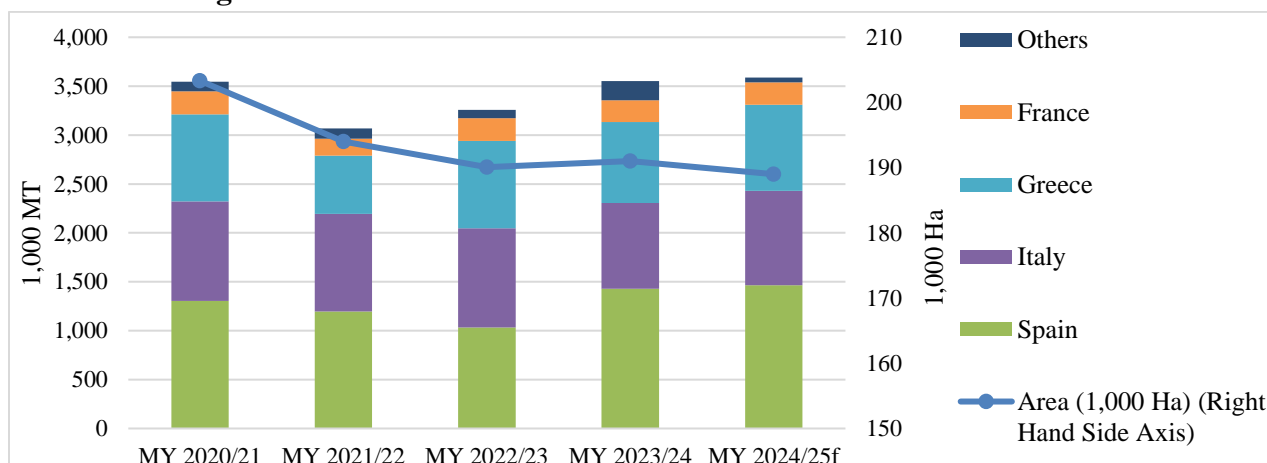
Peaches & Nectarines, Fresh	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jan 2022		Jan 2023		Jan 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Year Begins						
European Union						
Area Planted (HA)	197,087	201,260	195,953	191,306		189,310
Area Harvested (HA)	182,341	186,315	181,434	170,889		174,424
Commercial Production (MT)	3,220,959	3,091,066	3,617,061	3,390,258		3,589,467
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	32,535	29,275	36,536	34,245		36,257
Production (MT)	3,253,494	3,120,341	3,653,597	3,424,503		3,625,724
Imports (MT)	41,000	40,922	40,000	47,580		47,700
Total Supply (MT)	3,294,494	3,161,263	3,693,597	3,472,083		3,673,424
Domestic Consumption ¹ (MT)	3,169,494	3,036,220	3,523,597	3,335,493		3,476,399
Exports (MT)	125,000	125,043	170,000	136,590		197,025
Total Distribution (MT)	3,294,494	3,161,263	3,693,597	3,472,083		3,673,424

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

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Source: FAS EU offices.

Figure 1. EU Peaches and Nectarines Planted Area and Production



Source: FAS EU Posts estimates based on Member States statistical sources.

MY 2024/25 EU area planted for peaches and nectarines is estimated at 189 thousand Hectares (Ha), down from the 191 thousand Ha that [Eurostat](#) reports for MY 2023/24. Area planted to peaches and nectarines in the EU follows a downward trend in response to the pressure caused by production surplus-related low prices in main EU growing Member States. A part of the area losses at the EU level is also attributed to the negative impact of *Sharka* disease in the trees. In Spain, farmers are switching to more profitable alternative tree crops such as tree nuts. In MY 2024/25, this situation seems to be stabilized as planted area is expected to drop only marginally.

¹The values of “For Processing” and the negligible volumes “Withdrawn from Market” have been added to the attribute “Domestic Consumption”.

In MY 2024/25, EU production is expected to exceed previous season's levels and amount to 3.6 million MT, consolidating production recovery for the third consecutive season. The largest producers of peaches and nectarines in the EU include Spain, Italy, Greece, and France. To a lesser extent, production also exists in Hungary, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Poland.

In Spain, the EU largest peach and nectarine producer accounting for forty percent of the bloc's production, MY 2024/25 growing conditions have been favorable and production is projected to exceed five-year average levels. However, uneven results are reported across the different producing regions within Spain. In Catalonia, a production decline is anticipated as tree crops show the consequences of the water deficit they experienced during the previous season. In most growing regions, early spring precipitations contributed to restore soil moisture and water storage levels, and flowering and fruit setting occurred uneventfully. Some regions like Murcia report early ripening, whereas in the Ebro Valley the fruits are developing somewhat behind schedule. Reportedly, hail episodes only produced minimal impact in produced volumes as they affected small areas or took place when a large share of the fruit harvest had already taken place. In Extremadura, where low temperatures and precipitation delayed the beginning of the harvest operations, a similar peach and nectarine output to previous season is projected.

According to the National Service Center of Fruit and Horticultural Companies (CSO), Italy's marketing year MY 2024/25 peach and nectarine production is forecast up from previous season levels when production was marked by frost and flooding in Emilia-Romagna. Although no major weather hazards have been reported in MY 2024/25, except for some sporadic hailstorms, production remains 3 percent below the 2018-2022 average as the removal of plantations are not compensated by new investments. Italy's MY 2024/25 cling peach harvest is likely to reach 59,563 MT, flat from the previous season.

Greece's MY 2024/25 peach and nectarine production is forecasted to bounce back to MY 2022/23 production levels. Cling peach crop production is forecast to remain flat at approximately 450,000 MT. Fruit quality is expected to be good although some varieties were affected by poor fruit-set and the average fruit size was smaller, reducing mostly peach crop yields.

MY 2024/25 peaches and nectarines production in France is expected to recover from MY 2023/24 levels and exceed the five-year average. The southern half of France, where most of the peaches and nectarines are grown, was less impacted by the wet spring that prevailed in other regions and the fruit growth benefited from regular rain and mild weather, which allowed for improved production expectations.

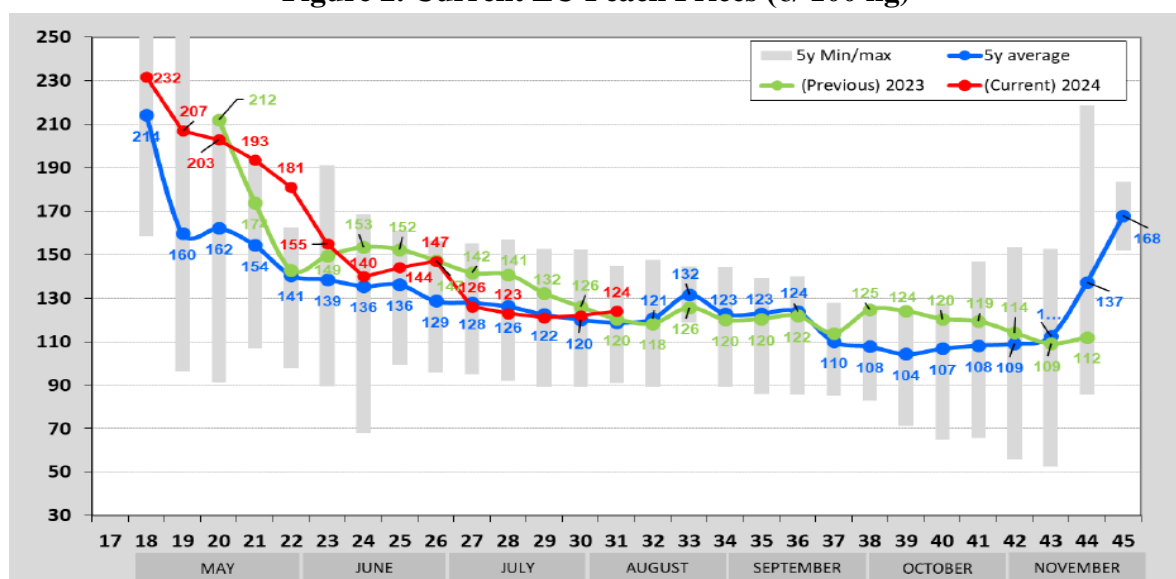
In Hungary, spring frosts did not cause a drastic decline in production levels, although the fruit size is smaller than usual due to the cold spells in April, and there was early and accelerated ripening because of high temperatures in June and extreme heatwaves in July.

The mild winter in Poland enabled fruit trees to remain in good condition, as there was no frost damage to the roots of fruit trees. The continuation of mild temperatures in late winter and early spring accelerated growth, with trees developing between two to three weeks ahead of normal. A combination of frosts in late April and hail episodes in the second half of May reduced production expectations to similar levels to the previous season frost-affected crop.

The adverse weather phenomena affecting cherries were less harmful for the peach crop in Portugal, where for MY 2024/25 a closer to average harvest is anticipated.

According to [EU Peaches and Nectarines Dashboard](#), the 2024 season for peaches started off at significantly higher price levels (232 Euros/100 Kg) than the five-year average (see Figure 2), given the early availability of the production. In week 31, prices are starting to show signs of recovery given that less fruit is left as the end of the season approaches.

Figure 2. Current EU Peach Prices (€/ 100 kg)



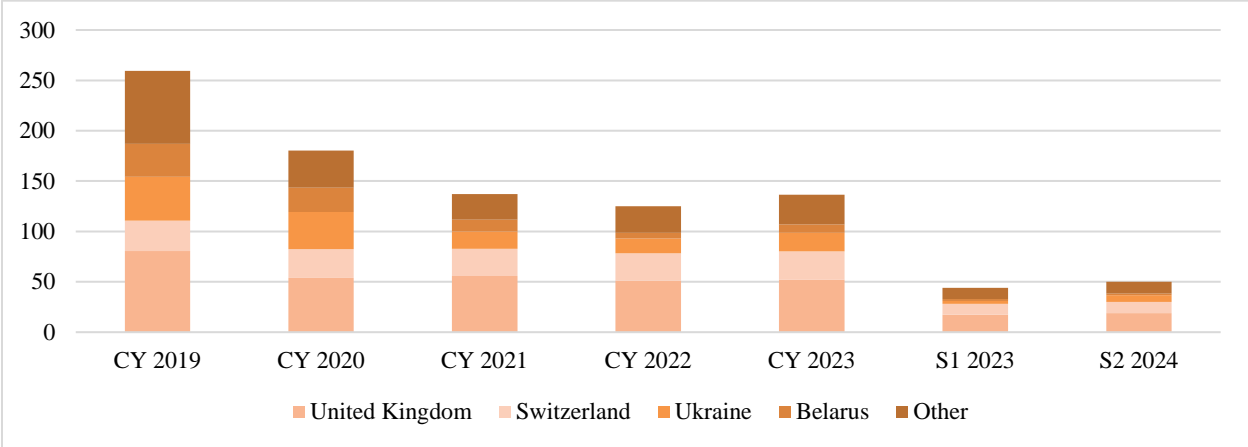
Source: [EU Peaches and Nectarines Dashboard](#).

The EU is self-sufficient in peaches and nectarines, which are mostly consumed fresh. In MY 2024/25, consumption of peaches and nectarines in the EU is projected to grow. The larger EU domestic supply and the increase of tourism activity across the EU are expected to offset the impact of the EU's inflation rate on price-sensitive consumers, with the weather and cooler temperatures in June and July 2024 also discouraging consumption, particularly in the EU's northwest. Likewise, a larger quantity of peaches and nectarines is expected to be used for processing, mainly in Spain and Greece, the major fruit processing producers, in line with the larger availability.

For MY 2024/25, the rebound in domestic production is projected to result in a recovery of exports. In MY 2023/24, despite the somewhat shorter crop, the EU managed to marginally expand its exported volumes. The EU is a net exporter of peaches and nectarines with exports largely exceeding imports. The United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland, Ukraine, and Belarus are the EU’s main destinations for peaches and nectarines (Figure 3).

Ten years since the closure of the Russian market, EU peaches and nectarines producers have managed to adapt and diversify their exports and find new markets. In parallel, EU producers also responded to this trade disruption by reducing area and production of peaches and nectarines.

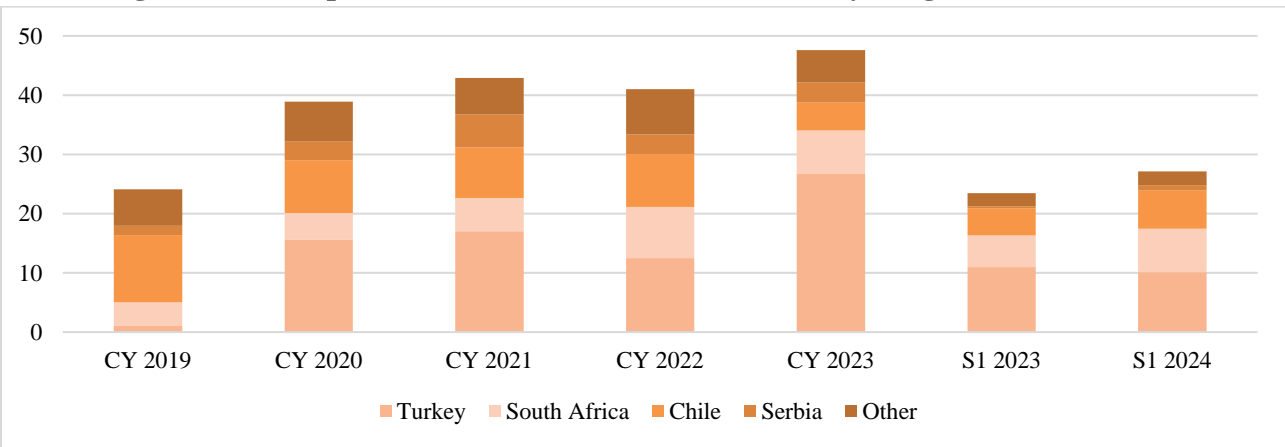
Figure 3. EU Exports of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines by Destination (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

In MY 2024/25, despite the recovery in the domestic crop, EU peaches and nectarines imports are expected to increase marginally compared to the previous season driven by the steady demand. Main origins for EU imports of peaches and nectarines include Türkiye and to a far lesser extent, Serbia, overlapping with the EU production season and South Africa and [Chile](#) in the off-season.

Figure 4. EU Imports of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines by Origin and (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

Fresh Cherries (Sweet and Sour)

Table 2. Production, Supply, and Distribution Data Statistics

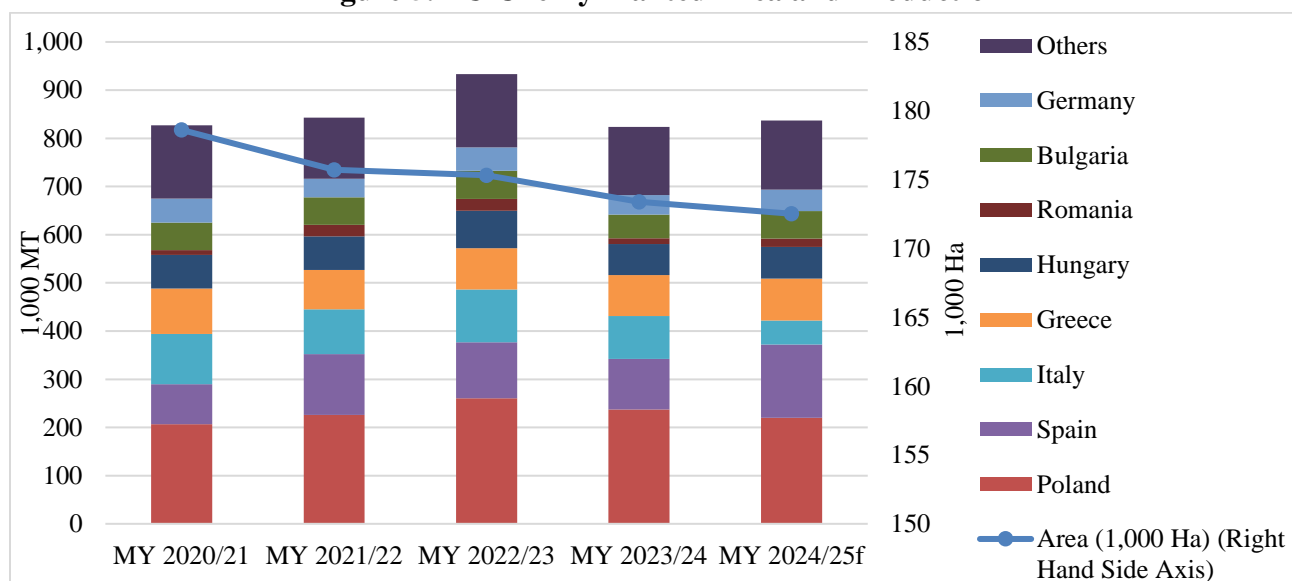
Cherries (Sweet & Sour), Fresh	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Apr 2022		Apr 2023		Apr 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Year Begins						
European Union						
Area Planted (HA)	165,381	164,324	165,286	160,607		159,892
Area Harvested (HA)	157,596	155,731	153,756	154,189		153,093
Commercial Production (MT)	830,996	823,983	657,435	702,110		713,546
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	-	3,891	-	2,712		1,800
Production (MT)	830,996	827,874	657,435	704,822		715,346
Imports (MT)	29,000	29,062	40,000	57,923		60,000
Total Supply (MT)	859,996	856,936	697,435	762,745		775,346
Domestic Consumption (MT) ²	843,596	840,765	682,435	750,557		758,346
Exports (MT)	16,400	16,171	15,000	12,188		17,000
Total Distribution (MT)	859,996	856,936	697,435	762,745		775,346

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

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Area planted to cherry trees in the EU continues to decline slowly as old orchards are not renewed. Producers across the EU blame the lack of disease resistant varieties as well as the high production cost including but not limited to labor costs.

Figure 5. EU Cherry Planted Area and Production



Source: FAS EU Posts estimates based on Member States statistical sources.

² The values of “For Processing” and the negligible volumes “Withdrawn from Market” have been added to the attribute “Domestic Consumption”.

Total EU cherry production in MY 2024/25 is projected to recover only marginally from last year's low levels and amount to 715 thousand MT up from the 705 thousand MT produced in 2023. In 2024, the production declines in Poland and most prominently in Italy will push the overall EU output forecast down.

In Poland, the mild winter enabled fruit trees to remain in good condition with an absence of frost damage in the roots of the trees. Favorable weather conditions in January and February also helped to stimulate the plants. Spring plant growth started very early with vegetation developing between two to three weeks earlier compared to normal. However, the condition of fruit trees worsened due to frosts at the end of April and the first half of May. Frosts caused significant damage to both flower buds and already set fruit. In some areas, hailstorms in the second half of May also caused damage to the trees' structure. Consequently, MY 2024/25 cherry production in Poland is forecasted below last year's levels.

Italy's MY 2024/25 cherry production is forecast to decline significantly from the previous season levels as adverse weather conditions consisting of cold nights and hot days negatively impacted cherry flowering in April.

According to official estimates, overall Spanish cherry production for MY 2024/25 is projected to recover from the low volumes registered the previous season despite the mild temperatures that prevailed in the main growing regions, which in some instances did not meet the chill hour requirements for cherry trees. Likewise, precipitations and mild temperatures delayed fruit ripening and harvest operations. In some instances, particularly for early varieties, precipitations resulted in fruit cracking.

Greece's MY 2024/25 (April/March) cherry production is forecast to remain stable compared with last season's levels.

Like in Poland, vegetative development of trees in Hungary started three weeks earlier than usual because of mild winter and the early arrival of spring. Cold spells hit some parts of the country in mid-March, causing frost damage to a few orchards, and negatively affecting fertility. During the flowering period, the weather was unusually warm with low relative humidity. Despite the pollinators' sufficient activity, buds dried up quickly hindering fertilization and lowering crop prospects. Another cold and overcast period followed flowering for about four weeks and jeopardized fruit setting. On a positive note, rainfalls had a positive effect on fruit size. All in all, cherry production in Hungary in MY 2024/25 is expected to slightly exceed MY 2023/24 results.

Weather conditions in Bulgaria have been favorable for cherry crop development. Mild winter weather until mid-March, although drier than usual, was good for the orchards. The first half of April was unusually warm and dry, which allowed for good blossoming and pollination of stone fruit orchards. Since mid-April, the country had cooler than normal temperatures and frequent rainfall that improved the soil moisture conditions and were favorable for the orchards' development. In June, the average temperatures increased and the rainfall became less frequent, providing good harvest conditions for the cherries. Likewise, improved quality compared to the previous season is projected as a larger average size of fruits and no significant cracking is expected. Consequently, most of this year harvest will be devoted to fresh consumption.

Based on crop assessments carried out in June 2024 by the German Federal Office of Statistics, MY 2024/25 [German](#) cherry production is expected to slightly exceed the low production obtained in MY 2023/24. The only slight recovery in production levels is largely due to of unfavorable weather conditions at pollination. Late spring frosts reduced production particularly in the east of Germany, where some areas are said to have lost 90 percent of their production to frosts. Additionally, in the north, wet and cold weather reduced the activity of bees during the pollination time of late varieties. Actual harvested production may be substantially lower due to thunderstorms in late June and early July, with heavy rain and hail.

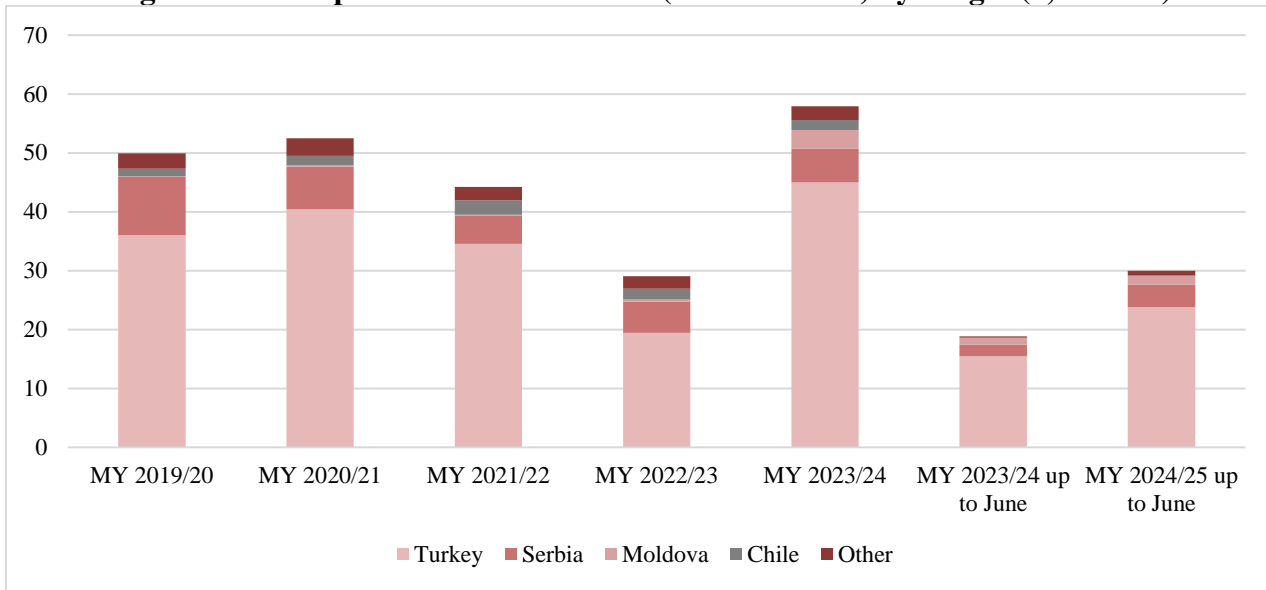
The MY 2024/25 cherry crop in France is expected to remain stable from MY 2023/24 levels and exceed the five-year average. Rainfall and local hailstorms in May damaged the early varieties in Provence. In other regions, the wet weather boosted insect attacks, especially of *Drosophila Suzukii*.

In Portugal, where adverse weather conditions, namely hail, frost, wind, and large temperature oscillations, hampered flowering and fruit setting, MY 2024/25 cherry production is expected to register a decline for the second consecutive year. Additionally, the unusually low temperatures in May, combined with excessive precipitation levels resulted in fruit cracking during the latest stages of ripening. Early varieties are comparatively more affected than late varieties.

EU consumption of cherries in MY 2024/25, including cherries for processing, is expected to increase given the large domestic availability and the good pace of imports at the beginning of the season in the North Hemisphere. Southern EU Member States (Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal and France), along with Germany, are the EU's largest consumers of fresh sweet cherries. Sour cherries, largely produced in northern producing EU Member States such as Poland, are mainly devoted to frozen fruits, juice concentrates, and jams or marmalade production by the processing industry.

After hitting record levels in MY 2023/24, data available for EU imports of cherries during the first two months of the calendar year show a new expansion, despite the ample domestic supply. The EU is a net importer of cherries, with Türkiye accounting for nearly 70 percent of EU imports. Other relevant suppliers include Serbia, and Chile and Argentina during the off-season.

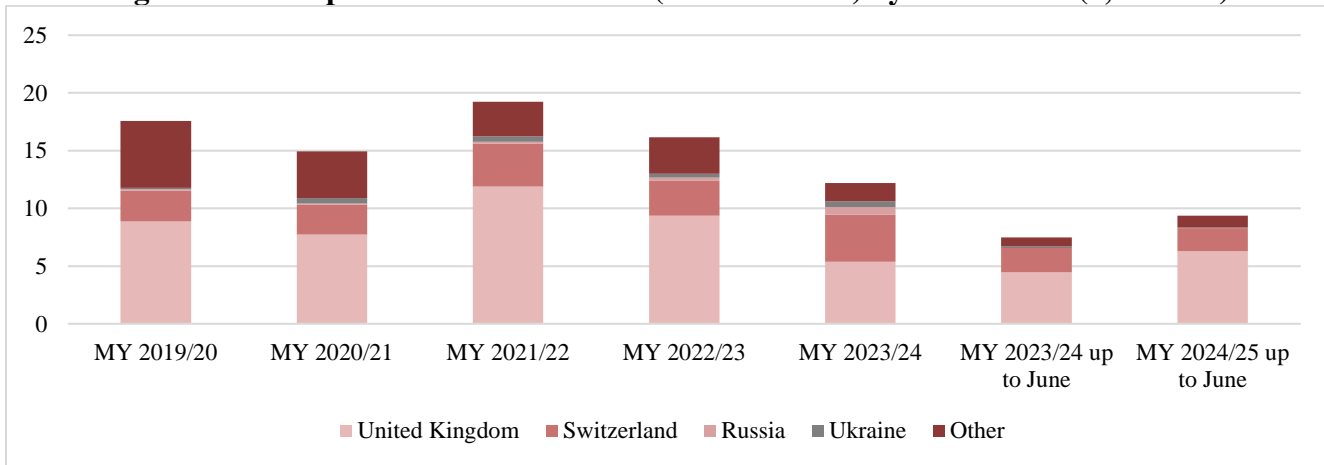
Figure 6. EU Imports of Fresh Cherries (Sweet & Sour) by Origin (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

In MY 2024/25, EU cherry exports are projected to return to average levels after hitting bottom in MY 2023/24, when the drought-driven short crop prevented large export volumes from materializing. Main extra-EU destinations of cherries include United Kingdom, Switzerland, Russia, and Ukraine.

Figure 7. EU Exports of Fresh Cherries (Sweet & Sour) by Destination (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

Trade Shows

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

FRUIT ATTRACTION Madrid, Spain (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Spain/EU/International 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. http://www.fruitattraction.com	Next Edition: October 8-10, 2024
FRUIT LOGISTICA Berlin, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/EU/Central & Eastern Europe FRUIT LOGISTICA is the leading European trade show for fresh and dried fruit, nuts, and related products. https://www.fruitlogistica.de/en/	Next Edition: February 5-7, 2025
BIOFACH Nuremberg, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/Europe The leading European trade show for organic food and non-food products. http://www.biofach.de/en	Next Edition: February 11-14, 2025

Policy

Marketing Standards

Fresh fruit and vegetable imports into the EU must comply with EU-harmonized marketing standards. These standards apply at all marketing stages and include criteria such as quality, size, labeling, packaging, and presentation.

EU marketing standards were revised in August 2023. [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2430](#) and [Delegated Regulation 2023/2429](#) provide for a general marketing standard for all fresh fruits and vegetables. Specific marketing standards are in place for stone fruits, such as peaches and nectarines, and are set out on pages 45-48 in Delegated Regulation 2023/2429.

EU Promotion Program

EU promotion programs for agricultural products have been available to EU farmers through a range of provisions in the Common Agricultural Policy since 2001. Current programs are regulated by Regulation (EU) 1144/2014. A key element of the EU's promotion policy called "Enjoy! It's from Europe" is the adoption of annual work programs that set out strategic priorities for promotion measures in terms of products, schemes, target markets, and available resources. The objective is to adapt the program each year to emerging market opportunities and the needs of certain sectors. In 2024, €18 million out of a total budget of €185.9 million were set aside for the promotion of EU fresh fruit and vegetables in the EU and in third countries. For more information, please see [GAIN Report EU 2024 Promotion Programs for Agricultural Products](#).

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)

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 substances under review for renewal of approval in the EU and those listed with a U.S. MRL can also be found in the [EU Early Alert](#).

Captan is an active substance used as a fungicide on a variety of fruits. On September 28, 2022, the European Commission notified to the WTO its intention to renew *Captan* with restriction to uses in greenhouses. However, in January 2024, some Member States stressed the need to retain *Captan*-based plant protection products (PPPs) for field uses. The vote was postponed at both the March and June 2024 Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) meetings for Phytopharmaceuticals. During the July 10-11, 2024, PAFF meeting, Member States voted in favor of the revised renewal regulation restricting the use of PPPs containing *Captan* to uses outside flowering of the crop and when no flowering weeds are present in the rows of the treated crops. With the restriction of approval for *Captan*, MRLs could be impacted in the future.

- **Upcoming reviews for MRLs:** The following active substances have MRLs that are being reviewed under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The latest is [available here](#).

Active Substance	Start of MRL review	Reasoned Opinion
Clopyralid	09/15/2024	09/15/2025
Clofentezine	09/15/2024	09/15/2025
Difeniconazole	09/17/2021	06/30/2024
Gamma-cyhalothrin	01/15/2023	03/29/2024

Source: FAS Brussels.

In March 2024, EFSA held a data call to generate additional toxicological data not considered in the targeted reviews and addressing the data gaps identified in the evaluation of MRLs for 10 EU-non approved active substances. The information is [available here](#).

- **Relevant ongoing MRLs updates for stone fruit:**

Active Substance	Status of MRLs for Stone Fruit	Activity in PAFF Meetings
<i>Benomyl</i>	Once the regulation is published, MRLs will be lowered to LOD (0.01 ppm) and be applicable six months after the regulation shall enter into force.	During the April 2024, PAFF meeting, Member States voted in favor of the Commission's proposal to reduce MRLs.
<i>Carbendazim</i>	Once the regulation is published, MRLs will be lowered to LOD (0.01 ppm) (except for mandarins, lemons, and limes) and be applicable six months after the regulation shall enter into force.	During the April 2024 PAFF meeting, Member States voted in favor of the Commission's proposal to reduce MRLs.
<i>Cypermethrin</i>	MRLs could be impacted.	Discussions are ongoing within PAFF as of the April 2024 meeting.
<i>Flupyradifurone</i>	The active substance is set to expire on December 9, 2025, but the registrant submitted a renewal application, and it is being evaluated.	At the February 2024 PAFF meeting, Member States voted in favor of MRL changes, including increases for stone fruit (application date TBD – PLAN/2023/2305).
<i>Flubendiamide</i>	The active substance will expire on August 31, 2024, so MRLs could be impacted.	
<i>Isofetamid</i>	The active substance is set to expire on September 15, 2026, and the registrant needed to complete a renewal application by September 15, 2023. MRLs could be impacted if the substance is not renewed.	
<i>Spirotetramat</i>	The active substance expired on April 30, 2024, so MRLs could be impacted.	
<i>Spinetoram</i>	The active substance expired on June 30, 2024, so MRLs could be impacted.	
<i>Thiacloprid</i>	In February 2024, French authorities took emergency measures to insist on zero tolerance use of this substance on fruit and vegetables imported into France.	On April 22, 2024, the Commission proposed provisionally lowering all MRLs to LOD and notified the WTO on May 8 (comments closed on July 7). A vote took place in PAFF on July 11, 2024.
<i>Thiophanate-methyl</i>	Once the regulation is published, MRLs will be lowered to LOD (0.01 ppm) (except for limes) and be applicable six months after the regulation shall enter into force.	During the April 2024 PAFF meeting, Member States voted in favor of the Commission's proposal to reduce MRLs.

Source: FAS Brussels.

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 that 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. The tariff and statistical nomenclature and the Common Custom tariff levels for 2023 are published in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2364](#). This version applies as of January 01, 2024. The tariffs for stone fruits can be found on page 761 to 766.
- 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 code				Quantity (Kg)	Tariff quota Period	Origin	In-Quota Duty
Fresh (sweet) cherries	0809 29 00				15,100 Kg	June 16-July 15	All third countries except the UK	4 percent <i>ad valorem</i>
Preserved fruit including apricots, cherries, and peaches	2008 20 11	2008 40 11	2008 50 51	2008 70 31	2,820,000 Kg	January 1-December 31	All third countries	20 percent <i>ad valorem</i>
	2008 20 19	2008 40 19	2008 50 59	2008 70 39				
	2008 20 31	2008 40 21	2008 50 71	2008 70 51				
	2008 20 39	2008 40 29	2008 60 11	2008 70 59				
	2008 20 71	2008 40 31	2008 60 19	2008 80 11				
	2008 30 11	2008 40 39	2008 60 31	2008 80 19				
	2008 30 19	2008 50 11	2008 60 39	2008 80 31				
	2008 30 31	2008 50 19	2008 60 60	2008 80 39				
	2008 30 39	2008 50 31	2008 70 11	2008 80 70				
	2008 30 79	2008 50 39	2008 70 19					

Source: TARIC, European Commission.

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 fruits, 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 from the start of the ban in 2014 until 2017. The emergency measures for fruit and vegetables were phased out on June 30, 2018. Overall, the EU granted \$588 million (€500 million) of aid to EU producers of fruit and vegetables corresponding to 1.7 million tons of withdrawals from the market.

Free Trade Agreements 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 major EU stone fruit partners like Chile, Türkiye, Morocco, the UK, and Canada, which include concessions on food products. Additional information is available on the website of the EC at: [EU Trade agreements \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eu_trade/)

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 products 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 [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2072](#). There is more information available on the DG SANTE website: [Trade in plants and plant products from non-EU countries](#).

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 for certain products when justified, as per [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2389](#) of December 07, 2022. There is more information available on the DG SANTE website: [Reduced frequency checks](#).

Acknowledgements

This report was a group effort of the following FAS analysts:

Xavier Audran	FAS/Paris covering France
Ornella Bettini	FAS/Rome covering Italy
Sophie Bolla	USEU/FAS Brussels covering EU policy
Mila Boshnakova	FAS/Sofia covering Bulgaria
Dimosthenis Faniadis	FAS/Rome covering Greece
Gellert Golya	FAS/Budapest covering Hungary
Mira Kobuszynska	FAS/Warsaw covering Poland
Sabine Lieberz	FAS/ Berlin covering Germany
Marta Guerrero	FAS/Madrid covering Spain and Portugal, and report coordinator

Abbreviations and References

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CY	Calendar Year
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
€	Euro
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service
HA	Hectares
LOD	Limit of detection
TDM	Trade Data Monitor, LLC
MY	Marketing year
MS	EU Member State
MRL	Maximum Residue Limits
MT	Metric ton (1,000 kg)
MMT	Million Metric Tons
PS&D	Production, Supply and Distribution
(SC)PAFF	Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
S1	First Semester on CY basis
UK	United Kingdom
U.S.	United States
\$	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.

Harmonized System (HS) Codes:

Peaches and nectarines HS Code 080930

Cherries HS Code 080921, 080929

Marketing year:

Peaches and nectarines January/December

Cherries April/March

Attachments:

No Attachments