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**Chile**

**Fresh Deciduous Fruit**

**Stone Fruit**

**1999**

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**Report Highlights:**

**Harvests and exports of peaches, plums and nectarines rebound due to better weather conditions.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
Unscheduled Report  
Santiago [CI9004], Chile

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## **Executive Summary**

Chilean production of peaches, nectarines and plums, like other stone fruits in 1998/99, is estimated to be higher when compared to last season. Good weather during most of the growing period explains the increase. Weather was responsible for the significant fall in production during the previous two years.

Total exports of stone fruit are also expected to increase, reflecting the good quality of the harvest. The outlook in the future is for only small increase in Chile's total stone fruit area. Output will vary mainly due to yearly changes in climatic conditions.

Note:

- 1) For information about dried prunes please check the annual dried fruit report for Chile submitted in April.
- 2) Data in the export trade matrix for 1998 covers from January through November only.

## **PEACHES AND NECTARINES**

### **PRODUCTION**

Total planted area to peaches and nectarines has remained more or less stable during the last few years. A small increase observed in 1997 is the result of the latest agricultural census published that year. Most new plantings are replacing older orchards and or replacing old, less acceptable varieties with newly developed ones.

There are over 36 varieties of peaches for fresh consumption and another 36 varieties of nectarines grown and exported in Chile. Peach and nectarine varieties often become obsolete because of changing consumer tastes, sometimes before trees begin bearing fruit. This, together with high fluctuations in prices during the last few seasons and diminishing returns, will likely prevent any increase in total planted area or production in the long term. However, some expansion of output could be expected in the next few years as orchards reach mature stages of production and as new plantings, which replace aging ones, are undertaken with higher yielding varieties.

Output variations during the last few years are the result of changing weather conditions. A significant fall in production in 1997 was the result of a prolonged drought observed in most growing areas together with abnormal weather conditions which had an adverse effect on the quality of the production. In 1998 excess rain during the growing and blooming spring time period resulted in the worst stone fruit production harvest in many years.

This marketing year a significant increase in output of peaches and nectarines is due to a mild winter and good spring time weather and sufficient precipitation which allowed the snow pack in the mountains to recuperate thereby assuring irrigation water for the next two seasons. A good quality crop is also expected which will increase exports.

**CHILE : Peaches & Nectarines**

(In Ha. &amp; MT) - NOTE: Marketing year is Jan.- Dec.

Years		Planted Area	Production	Exports
1992		17,075	190,000	79,164
1993		17,195	198,000	68,791
1994		17,340	210,000	75,291
1995		17,380	230,000	84,342
1996		17,400	220,000	93,609
1997		17,898	195,000	74,552
1998	1/	17,920	165,000	57,000
1999	2/	17,930	210,000	75,000

Note: 1/ Preliminary data.

2/ Estimated data.

## CONSUMPTION

Over 60 percent of the total peach and nectarine production is either consumed as fresh fruit or canned for export. There is no breakout on the volume of clingstone versus freestone produced or consumed in Chile.

## TRADE

Over 50 percent of Chile's total peach and nectarine exports are bound for the United States. Latin America is the second largest export market. The relatively short shelf-life of peaches and nectarines is the major factor influencing exporters to search for nearby markets.

As with other stone fruit, an increase in average quality of the peach and nectarine crop this season will result in a larger export quantity compared to last year. Preliminary data shows a significant increase in shipments. Currently, nectarines account for about 60 percent of the volume of total peach and nectarine exports.

Chile's export diversification efforts have been aided by bilateral accords and free trade agreements with a number of Latin American countries and Canada in recent years. Many of these agreements provide preferential duties for imports of Chilean fruit.

**Table: Chile - Stone Fruit Export Prices (FOB) (In US\$ / MT)**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Peaches</b>	<b>Nectarines</b>	<b>Plums</b>
1995	856	900	1,128
1996	994	953	1,200
1997	1,062	1,047	1,231
1998	782	770	879

Source: Central Bank.

**Export Trade Matrix - Fresh Peaches & Nectarines - 1995/1996**

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	M.T.
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Exports for	1995		1996
U.S.	45143	U.S.	45527
Others		Others	
Brazil	11364	Brazil	18847
Netherlands	7403	Netherlands	8411
Argentina	5132	Argentina	3641
Mexico	4258	Mexico	3094
Peru	2347	Colombia	2707
Colombia	2157	Peru	2403
Saudi Arabia	1243	U.K.	1762
U.K.	896	Saudi Arabia	1280
Bolivia	578	Bolivia	967
Spain	561	Spain	846
Total for Others	35939		43958
Others not listed	3260		4124
Grand Total	84342		93609

**Export Trade Matrix - Fresh Peaches & Nectarines - 1997/1998**

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	M.T.
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Exports for	1997		1998
U.S.	39780	U.S.	27399
Others		Others	
Brazil	11432	Brazil	6935
Netherlands	5202	Mexico	3563
Mexico	3905	Netherlands	2399
Colombia	2406	Colombia	1924
Argentina	1857	Peru	1539
U.K.	1495	U.K.	920
Peru	1474	Bolivia	659
Bolivia	1154	Argentina	457
Hong Kong	952	Venezuela	411
Saudi Arabia	760	Costa Rica	345
Total for Others	30637		19152
Others not listed	4135		2523
Grand Total	74552		49074



## PLUMS

### PRODUCTION

As with other stone fruits, plantings and output of plums are not expected to change dramatically. A large increase in planted area shown in our production table during 1997 is the result of last Agricultural Census published that year. Slight increases can be expected in the coming years as new plantings to replace aging orchards are planted with higher yielding varieties.

Plum varieties have changed significantly over the last ten years. As a result of the introduction of new varieties, the harvest and export season have now expanded to include a period of more than six months, compared to only a two-month season in the past. Over 36 plum varieties are planted in Chile. The Friar, Angelo, Larry Ann, Black Ambar and Laroda are the most popular varieties which cover over 50 percent of the total planted area. An estimated 57 percent of the total planted area to plums and prunes are the fresh consumption varieties. The remainder are varieties suitable only for dried prune production.

Although plums are more resistant to adverse weather than other stone fruits, total output was also affected by adverse climatic conditions during the last two years. For this season, excellent spring weather will increase production significantly. As a result, exports are also expected to increase significantly since a good quality crop is expected.

#### CHILE : Plums & Prunes Production and Trade

(In Ha. & MT) .

Years		Planted Area	Production	Exports
1992		8,910	105,000	50,113
1993		9,210	115,000	55,805
1994		9,355	120,000	54,416
1995		9,380	128,000	55,312
1996		9,400	124,000	50,000
1997		11,406	115,500	59,038
1998	1/	11,480	106,200	54,500
1999	2/	11,500	123,000	63,200

Note: 1/ Preliminary data.

2/ Estimated data.

### CONSUMPTION

Fresh plum consumption is small in Chile. Large amounts of plums are processed into prunes. However, no data exist on the break-out between fresh plum and prune production.

## **TRADE**

The United States is Chile's largest fresh plum market. Exports to Latin American countries have been increasing during the last few years as a result of a market diversification efforts undertaken by many exporters. This development is true not only for plums, but for most fresh fruit exports.

**Export Trade Matrix - Fresh Plums & Prunes - 1995/1996**

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	M.T.
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Exports for	1995		1996
U.S.	22480	U.S.	20903
Others		Others	
Brazil	8495	Brazil	13413
Netherlands	6717	U.K.	5309
U.K.	3541	Netherlands	7228
Mexico	2155	Spain	1793
Saudi Arabia	1965	Hong Kong	2995
Peru	1611	Saudi Arabia	1476
Argentina	1381	Peru	1587
Hong Kong	1333	Mexico	1429
Spain	1145	Colombia	1091
Venezuela	574	Argentina	1819
Total for Others	28917		38140
Others not listed	3915		4496
Grand Total	55312		63539

### Export Trade Matrix - Fresh Plums & Prunes - 1997/1998

Export Trade Matrix			
Country:		Units:	M.T.
Commodity:			
Time period:	Jan-Dec		
Exports for	1997		1998
U.S.	22172	U.S.	17062
Others		Others	
Brazil	8614	Brazil	5830
Netherlands	5467	U.K.	3930
U.K.	4868	China	2986
Hong Kong	4072	Netherlands	3516
Mexico	2514	Mexico	2386
Argentina	1443	Venezuela	1076
Colombia	1315	Colombia	1157
Spain	1293	Taiwan	642
Peru	967	Spain	757
Saudi Arabia	942	Italy	445
Total for Others	31495		22725
Others not listed	5371		4608
Grand Total	59038		44395

Note: For your information, Export Trade Matrix for Fresh Peaches & Nectarines and for Fresh Plums & Prunes for years 1997 and 1998 do not appear in GAIN system, so tables are Word Perfect tables.