



Scheduled Report - public distribution

Date: 1/6/1999

GAIN Report #AR9002

Argentina

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

Stone Fruit Situation

1999

Prepared by:
Gary C. Groves
U.S. Embassy
Drafted by:
Edna Accari

Report Highlights:

Stone fruit exports are expected to rise in 1999 due to greater production.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Buenos Aires [AR1], AR

Executive Summary	1
Stone Fruit Production	1
Stone Fruit Consumption	2
Stone Fruit Trade	2
Table 1. Exports of stone fruits during 1994 through 1997, by country of destination, in metric tons and U.S. dollars.	3
Table 2. Imports of stone fruits during 1994 through 1997, by country of destination, in metric tons and U.S. dollars.	5
Policy	6
Marketing	6

Executive Summary

Argentine stone fruit production in 1999 is forecast to increase 4 percent to 428,000 metric tons, compared with 412,000 metric tons in 1998, due to favorable weather conditions during all stages of development of the fruits. Consequently exports are also projected to increase. Little change in export markets is expected.

Stone Fruit Production

The Secretariat of Agriculture has no official data published on area planted to stone fruits. According to difference sources, there are about 33,330 hectares planted and 29,300 hectares harvested to these fruits in Argentina, of which Mendoza accounts for 55 percent, Buenos Aires 20 percent, Rio Negro and Cordoba 8 percent each, and other provinces the remaining 9 percent.

The principal peach production regions in Argentina are the provinces of Mendoza, northern Buenos Aires and Cordoba, which accounts for nearly 80 percent of total Argentine peach production, followed by Rio Negro, Neuquen and Santa Fe, with approximately 10, 7, and 3 percent, respectively. Total Argentine peach production for 1994 through 1997 is estimated by the Secretariat of Agriculture as follows: 1994, 243,722 metric tons; 1995, 199,000 metric tons; 1996, 281,000 metric tons; 1997, 290,000 metric tons. Fresh peach output in 1998 is estimated at 280,000 metric tons, down three percent from the previous season's due to excessive rains. In spite of a reduced crop the quality of the fruit was considered good. Providing climatic conditions continue favorable, 1999 fresh peach output is forecast to reach 295,000 metric tons. The largest increase is expected in Mendoza Province where favorable conditions during flowering and fruit setting coupled with alternate bearing effect following last season's reduced crop, are expected to boost 1999 output by 5 percent to 163,000 metric tons. If realized, this could be a bumper crop for Mendoza and a record fresh peach crop for Argentina. The principal peach varieties produced in Mendoza are Fortuna, Loadel, Palora, J.H.Hale, Cristalino, Red Haven, Halford for fresh consumption and Carson, Loadel, Bowen, Andross, Loadel, and Ross, for canning among others.

According to private sources, the area planted to plums is estimated at 18,600 hectares, Mendoza accounts for 17,000 hectares, of which 30 percent is for fresh consumption, Rio Negro with 1,200 hectares of which 63 percent are for fresh consumption, and Buenos Aires with 400 hectares of which all goes to the fresh consumption. In Mendoza the principal plum varieties for fresh consumption are Santa Rosa and Linda Rosa, while in Rio Negro Pond's Seedling, Linda Rosa, Santa Rosa and Roysum, account for 50 percent of the varieties dedicated for fresh consumption. Reportedly, in Mendoza plum bearing hectares continue to increase, and in Rio Negro many young trees are beginning to bear fruits.

Estimated plum production by the Argentine Secretariat of Agriculture for 1994 through 1997 is as follows: 1994, 78,000 metric tons; 1995, 56,000 metric tons; 1996, 128,000 metric tons; 1997 130,000 metric tons. Production for 1998 is estimated at 132,000 metric tons and is forecast at 133,000 metric tons, if the good weather prevails until and during the harvest time.

Stone Fruit Consumption

Consumption of fresh peaches is erratic, increasing with larger supplies and lower prices, and decreasing somewhat when price goes up due to a reduced crop as consumer purchasing power takes its toll. Freestone peaches are used for consumption and exports, and clingstone is mostly used for canning. Consumption of plums is somewhat similar to peaches, and as no official data is available, we use consumption as a residual for both fruits.

Stone Fruit Trade

Exports of fresh peaches usually take place in January. Exports of peaches during January - June 1998 (latest data available) totaled 2,602 metric tons, valued at \$US 2.5 million. Brazil, Belgium and Spain were Argentina's principal export markets, accounting for 70, 15 and 5 percent respectively.

During the above period Argentina imported 62 metric tons of fresh peaches, 66 percent from Chile and 26 percent from the United States.

Plum shipments during the first six months of 1998 totaled 10,856 metric tons. Brazil was the main purchaser accounting for 87 percent of total imports, followed by Belgium with 7 percent, and The Netherlands with 3 percent.

Imports of plums during January-June 1998 totaled 682 metric tons of which 88 percent came from Chile, and 10 percent from Brazil.

Exports of stone fruits during 1994 through 1997, by country of destination, in metric tons and U.S. dollars, follows:

Table 1. Exports of stone fruits during 1994 through 1997, by country of destination, in metric tons and U.S. dollars.

PEACHES	1994	1995	1996	1997
Brazil	280	479	1,205	1,978
Paraguay	64	40	127	80
France	9	-	8	-
Netherlands	12	30	4	73
Germany	12	30	4	73
Belgium	-	37	97	265
Spain	-	2	3	48
Italy	-	140	-	9
Canada	-	-	-	16
Peru	-	-	18	-
Bolivia	-	-	-	19
Colombia	-	-	-	21
Portugal	-	-	-	2
U.K.	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	367	730	1,471	2,654
TOTAL US DOLLARS	440,780	982,248	1,429,010	2,794,131
NECTARINES				
France	-	-	-	1
Brazil	-	50	168	360
Belgium	-	52	27	34
Luxemburg	-	6	-	-
Netherlands	-	52	2	59
Germany	-	3	10	-

Paraguay	-	-	13	108
Italy	-	-	81	5
U.K.	-	-	1	-
Bolivia	-	-	-	3
Uruguay	-	-	-	2
Spain	-	-	-	9
TOTAL	-	133	302	581
TOTAL US DOLLARS	-	184,993	374,409	2,794,131
PLUMS				
Brazil	5,017	9,839	17,738	8,896
Paraguay	27	7	140	69
Uruguay	16	-	-	20
France	2	-	-	3
Netherlands	187	357	224	288
Spain	-	1	-	10
Italy	-	12	8	1
U.K.	-	2	10	36
Japan	-	-	12	-
Belgium	-	-	2	428
Germany	-	-	5	4
Canada	-	-	-	3
Chile	-	-	-	2
Portugal	-	-	-	20
TOTAL	5,249	10,218	17,915	9,688
TOTAL US DOLLARS	5,174,883	10,282,983	12,521,111	9752918

Table 2. Imports of stone fruits during 1994 through 1997, by country of destination, in metric tons and U.S. dollars.

PEACHES	1994	1995	1996	1997
Canada	7	8	2	20
Chile	4,701	2,184	1,756	610
U.S.	15	75	2	105
Uruguay	85	35	66	13
Spain	64	-	15	-
Italy	88	-	-	-
Paraguay	-	-	69	65
TOTAL	4,960	2,302	1,910	813
TOTAL U.S. DOLLARS	3,384,901	1,865,172	1,100,523	72,444
NECTARINES				
Chile	-	1,900	1,756	1,183
France	-	-	1,790	-
U.S.	-	38	19-	59
Brazil	-	-	8	9
Israel	-	-	1	-
Spain	-	-	6	-
TOTAL	-	1,938	1,790	1,251
TOTAL US DOLLARS	-	1,403,888	1,185,089	952,279
PLUMS				
Chile	2,693	1,289	1,790	1,398
France	-	-	-	41

U.S.	86	65	-	77
Italy	95	-	74	18
Brazil	-	189	-	19
Israel	-	17	17	48
TOTAL	2,874	1,560	1,881	1,601
TOTAL US DOLLARS		1,206,868	1,448,616	1,339,849

Policy

All fresh stone fruit imports pay a 13 percent import tax, and a 0.5 percent statistical tax. Exports receive a tax rebate of 5.4 percent. The import tax from Mercosur countries is zero.

Marketing

Total imports of plums by Argentina during the last three years (95-97) have been close to 1.4 million dollars per year, and for fresh peaches during the same period averaged about 2.5 million dollars. Small quantities of both fruits have been imported during the first months of 1998.

In spite of U.S. higher freight costs compared to Chile, (Argentina's principal foreign stone fruit supplier), there is always a niche market for U.S. stone fruits. There are some restrictions for exporting stone fruits from some counties from California. For additional information on these requirements, please contact the nearest Animal and Plant Health Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.