

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Turkish Government Intervenes in Lemon Exports

Country: Turkiye

Post: Ankara

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Citrus

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Trade temporarily banned lemon exports as of April 8, 2025, due to a predicted supply shortage following cold weather and frost damage in the southeast. However, the Ministry lifted the export ban days later following intense negative reactions from lemon producers and exporters.

Cold Weather Conditions Lead to Swift Reaction

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AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

The Turkish Ministry of Trade (MoT), in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MinAF), imposed a ban on lemon exports on April 8, 2025, due to a fear of a supply shortage following a cold snap which caused frost damage across several areas of the country. According to a MoT statement, it was decided that “all measures should be taken in order to protect the food supply and safety, to facilitate public access to available food at reasonable prices, and to prevent manipulative price increases that may occur in food markets.”

Having not been consulted in advance, Turkish lemon exporters expressed concern, as they noted that existing stocks were more than enough to meet Türkiye’s needs. They also noted a risk of domestic lemon producer prices falling, and fear of permanently losing market share in key export markets during this critical period for Turkish lemon exports. They highlighted that warehoused lemon stocks should have been taken into consideration before any export ban was considered. Post assesses that Turkish stocks are above average this year due to an earlier start to the harvest following to favorable weather conditions early in the season.

In response to the concerns of industry, on April 10, 2025, the MoT announced that the restriction on lemon exports would be temporarily lifted. They cautioned, though, that price fluctuations in the domestic market would be closely monitored.

Turkish exporters believe that government interventions affecting exports should be gradually implemented to decrease sudden pressure on lemon producers and exporters. Turkish producers (in several sectors) have expressed concern about the government’s approach to implementing trade bans, taxes/tariffs, etc., often without stakeholder consultations.

Legislative Background

In January 2022, the Turkish government published a [regulation](#) delegating specific authority to MinAF to ban exports, when necessary, to stabilize domestic market conditions. Since then, Türkiye has temporarily banned exports of more than a dozen agricultural products, including vegetable oils, meat, pulses, and some dairy products. Export quotas have also been instituted, as needed, to regulate some exports.

Attachments:

No Attachments.