

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Chile

**Post:** Santiago

### Chilean Cherries to Reach Unprecedented Export Record

**Report Categories:**

Stone Fruit

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**Report Highlights:**

Post export forecast for marketing year (MY) 2017/18 is revised up to 150,000 MT. This represents a 56 percent increase in exports over MY2016/17.

## General Information:

Chilean climatic conditions have been optimal for cherry production. Mild temperatures have favored yields and there was no rainfall at the beginning of the harvest campaign in November or during December 2017.

[According to the Chilean cherry export commission](#), 30 million boxes of cherries, nearly 141,000 MT have already been exported to the world and shipments are expected to continue even until February. As such, Chile is set to hit the highest recorded volume of cherry exports in MY2017/18. Chile ships 89.1 percent of all cherry exports to the Asian market, where China is the main market, 4.8 percent to the United States, 3.2 percent to Latin American countries, 2.4 percent to Europe, and the rest (0.5 percent) goes to Canada and the Middle East.

**Table 1. Production, supply and demand statistics**

Fresh Cherries,(Sweet&Sour) Market Begin Year Chile	MY2016/17		MY2017/18		MY2018/19	
	Nov 2016		Nov 2017		Nov 2018	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	27,397	27,397	29,500	29,500	0	0
Area Harvested	25,000	25,000	27,000	27,000	0	0
Bearing Trees	21,175	21,175	23,000	23,000	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees	2,039	2,039	2,000	2,000	0	0
Total Trees	23,214	23,214	25,000	25,000	0	0
Commercial Production	115,000	115,000	122,870	170,000	0	0
Non-Comm. Production	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Production	116,000	116,000	123,870	171,000	0	0
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	116,000	116,000	123,870	171,000	0	0
Fresh Dom. Consumption	14,800	14,800	13,544	16,000	0	0
Exports	96,000	96,000	105,000	150,000	0	0
For Processing	5,200	5,200	5,326	5,000	0	0
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	116,000	116,000	123,870	171,000	0	0

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

Source: Post estimations

## **FAS Santiago Visits Cherry Orchards and Packing Plant in O'Higgins Region**

During the first weeks of December, Post observed first-hand how Chilean cherry producers have switched to more productive varieties with a longer post-harvest life and invested on new technologies to improve orchard management and protection including conduction systems technology, rooftops to cover orchards to avoid rain damage, fans to avoid frost damage, and training and hiring of specialized farm laborers. Additionally, fruit export companies have invested in top of the line technology for packing, processing, and cold storage.



Cherry orchard in the O'Higgins region. Rooftops are used to protect cherries against potential rain.



Large calibers (30 mm) and high quality cherries are the result of proper conduction systems, sufficient water irrigation, variety improvement, and practices such as thinning of trees. In MY2017/18 favorable climatic conditions in the spring and during harvest season were also critical to achieve record export volumes.



Cherry producers use large fans to reduce damage caused by frosting and chilling temperatures throughout the growing season.



Cherries arrive from the orchard to the packing plant in small bins, which pass through a cooling process using a hydro cooler system. Cherries are processed using automatized systems to classify them by color and caliber and packing staff monitors for quality control. Cherries are packed in 2.5 kilograms (kg) or 5.0 kg boxes for exports.

\*Note: 5.0 kg = 11.02 pounds (lbs).

For more information on Chilean cherry exports see [Stone Fruit Annual GAIN Report](#).