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Turkey

Stone Fruit Annual

Turkey Stone Fruit Annual 2017

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Report Highlights:

Total cherry production forecast in Turkey in Marketing Year (MY) 2017/18 is 500,000 MT, down five percent from the MY 2016/17 estimate. Peach and nectarine production forecast in Turkey for MY 2017/18 is 505,000 MT, down slightly compared to last year. Cherry exports are decreasing due to quality issues, and peach exporters are hopeful because of the opening of the Russian market.

Commodities:

Fresh Cherries,(Sweet&Sour)

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines

Production

Sweet and Sour Cherries

Turkey has been among the top cherry producing countries and usually a top three exporter in the world. Despite fluctuating cherry production year by year, Turkey aims to be a major exporter in the future with a goal to produce about 10 percent of total world cherry production.

Total cherry production in MY2015/16 increased twenty percent over the previous season to 565,000 metric tons (MT) due to good weather during flowering, followed by an increased fruit set. Yields were high in Konya and Manisa. Total sweet and sour cherry production estimation for 2016/17 was revised to 525,000 MT. High yields in Bursa area partly offset some frost damage in Canakkale and Balikesir areas.

For the 2017/8 season, post forecasts total sweet and sour cherry production will decrease to 500,000 MT, as there was some hail damage during June, resulting in reduced fruit set. Of this forecast for 2017/18 production, 350,000 MT are cherry and 150,000 MT are sour cherry.

Cherry trees can be cultivated in different parts of Turkey with a variety of different physical and climatic conditions. Because of this, harvest time can differ 40-45 days according to the region of planting. Cherries are grown mainly in the Marmara region, which is near Istanbul, and Central Anatolia, which is the center of Turkey. Despite a hopeful spring period during flowering, heavy rainfall and hail damage in some regions just before the harvest period negatively affected the quality of products in MY 2017/18. According to industry contacts, exporters in Bursa complained about not being able to meet the demand from new markets such as China due to low quality. Farmers who were not able to sell their products to export markets were unhappy with the low domestic prices.

There are more than one hundred varieties of sweet cherries produced in Turkey. Although producers have started to try new cherry varieties such as *Sweet Heart*, *Celeste*, *Kordia*, *Regina* and *Sunburst*, the *0900 Ziraat* variety (Also known as a Turkish Napoleon), which was developed domestically, is the most popular type in Turkey because it meets the characteristics demanded by export markets.

According to Turkish official data, total amount of all cherry trees are estimated at about 34 million in 2016. Total amount of bearing trees for sweet cherries are estimated at about 21 million in 2016, up 300 percent from 1995; at that time the number planted was six million. Sweet cherries tree numbers have increased 35 percent in last five years. Farmers have gradually been replacing old trees with varieties which are more popular in export markets. The numbers are increasing regularly because of growing demand for Turkish cherries in export markets and government support to the sector.

Peach

Turkey accounts for about 3 percent of total world peach production. The provinces of Bursa, Canakkale (both in the Marmara region), Izmir (Aegean region) and Mersin (Mediterranean region) are the major growing areas in Turkey. Typically, peaches and nectarines are harvested between late May and early October. This wide range is due to the fact that peach trees can be cultivated in different parts of Turkey with a variety of different physical and climatic conditions. Majority of the peach varieties planted in Turkey are *Early Amber, Spring Crest, May Crest, Red Haven, Cardinal, J.H.Hale and Early Red*.

As a sensitive fruit, peach production fluctuates in Turkey depending on weather conditions. Although total peach and nectarine production in MY 2015/16 was estimated at 560,000 MT, production estimate for MY 2016/17 is 510,000 MT– is which is 10 percent lower due to the impacts of weather.

The total Turkey peach and nectarine production forecast for MY2017/18 is 505,000 MT (peach: 445,000 MT, nectarine: 60,000 MT), which is down slightly from the MY2016/17 estimate. This decrease is mainly because some farmers experienced hail damage in Marmara region in June, such as in the Lapseki area, despite a successful pollination in spring. However, farmers in other major growing areas are generally satisfied with yields.

The total amount of trees in 2016 is estimated at about 18.25 million, which is up from only 15 million in 2007. Farmers have gradually been replacing old trees with varieties which are more popular in export markets. Nectarine tree numbers doubled in the last ten years due to growth in export demand.

Consumption

About sixty percent of cherries are consumed fresh domestically. According to the Turkish juice industry, the juice sector is growing about at 6.5 percent annually. Consumption for processing is forecast at 165,000 MT, which is in line with the growth in the juice sector in MY2017/18. Approximately 30 percent of all cherry production is used in the processing sector to make canned products, marmalades, frozen fruits and fruit juice. Majority of these products are from sour cherries. Approximately 20 percent of all peach production is used in the juice sector as well. It is also use to make canned products, marmalades, frozen fruits. In Turkey, the most popular juices are peach, apricot, cherry and apple and their consumption is widespread.

Strong export demand in recent years is the driving force of cherry production. Farmers have been replacing their trees with higher yield varieties that meet the specifications of export markets. The increase in better quality cherries also helps also to increase quality of cherries for the domestic market.

As Turkey increases their fruit and vegetable exports, it also leads to rejection at the border for some products for residues. These instances are widely covered by the media, and as consumers see this, they become more conscious with food safety. This is not particularly related to cherries or stone fruit, but covers all fruit and vegetables and is a growing issue in Turkey.

Trade

Turkey is one of the largest exporters of cherries in the world, along with Chile and USA, which represents about 15 percent of total world cherry exports. Turkey’s exports vary between 50,000 and 80,000 MT (which is 15-25 percent of total production) of sweet cherries annually; the majorities go to EU states and Russia. Cherry exports increased in recent years as the domestic supply and its quality increased. Turkey exported 80,000 MT of cherries in 2016, which was driven by strong demand from EU countries and Russia.

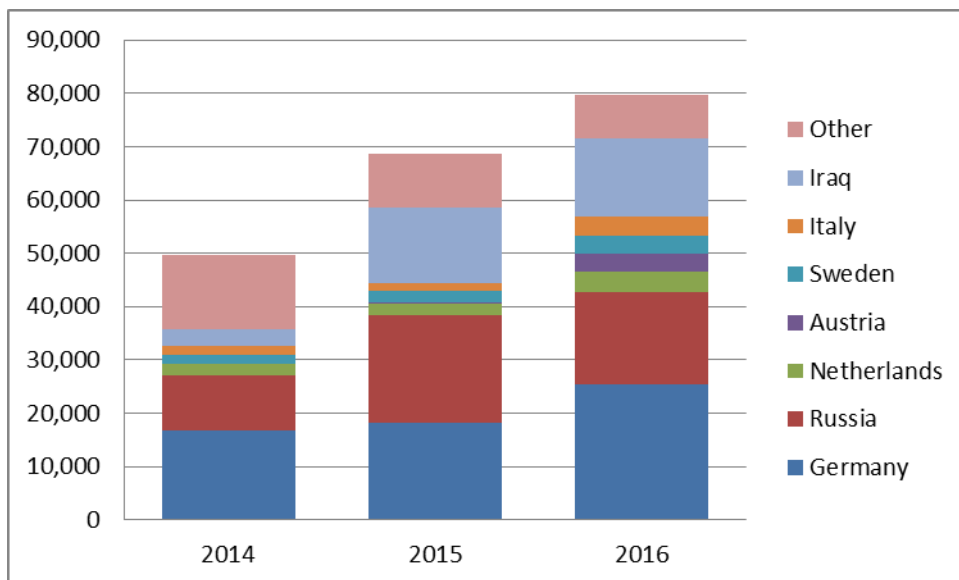
Table 1: Turkey Cherries Exports

Commodity: 080929-080921, Turkey Cherries Exports (Calendar year, MT)						
Partner Country	2014		2015		2016	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Germany	67,039,214	16,790	52,345,608	18,167	82,078,889	25,392
Russia	12,950,766	10,359	21,424,124	20,219	26,787,170	17,290
Netherlands	9,554,344	2,040	8,888,394	2,274	16,300,822	3,772
Austria	434,017	113	559,624	227	10,601,468	3,517
Sweden	5,865,379	1,589	5,541,680	2,003	10,022,160	3,403
Italy	5,845,696	1,691	3,347,295	1,526	8,923,507	3,498
Norway	8,505,808	1,548	6,549,630	1,608	7,754,224	1,761
Iraq	1,929,393	3,142	5,014,302	14,135	4,126,344	14,592
Denmark	4,064,009	978	3,142,015	1,061	3,603,910	1,129
Belgium	3,248,519	487	3,271,828	551	3,408,610	514
United Kingdom	5,178,902	1,107	4,418,713	1,546	3,166,016	1,338
Other	20,307,208	9,914	7,953,614	5,252	5,950,348	3,583
Total	144,923,255	49,758	122,456,827	68,569	182,723,468	79,789

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Though Turkey did begin solving issues with Russia, Turkey has not been able to export cherries to France since last year. On April 22 2016, France decided to ban the import and sale of cherries in France produced in countries that do not prohibit the use of insecticides using dimethoate as the active compound on cherry trees. Though apparently this was not commonly used by farmers for cherry trees for years, MinFAL has since officially banned the usage of Dimethoate in cherry. MinFAL has also warned Turkish cherry farmers to be careful not to use products which may contain the active compound dimethoate.

Figure 1: Turkey Cherries Exports (Calendar year 2014-2016, MT)



Source: Global Trade Atlas, Commodity: 080929-080921

Due to quality issues in domestic production, Turkish exporters had difficulty meet demand from export markets. In the first six months of 2017, cherry exports decreased about 25 percent compared to last year. Turkey's cherry exports are forecast at 50,000 MT for MY2017/2018.

Table 2: Turkey Stone Fruit Exports from January to June 2016-2017

	Jan-June 2016	Jan-June 2017
Cherry	51,060	38,221
Sour cherry	101	51
Peach	33,290	44,956

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Table 3: Turkey Peaches and Nectarines Exports

Partner Country	2014		2015		2016	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Russia	21,022,938	19,178	26,463,208	26,276	0	0
Saudi Arabia	2,798,531	4,237	2,907,421	5,376	6,325,142	9,104
Iraq	2,770,797	6,564	4,273,508	12,237	5,921,937	21,326
Belarus	239,419	285	144,138	197	2,870,539	4,679
Georgia	47,603	82	99,466	259	2,548,384	4,692
Romania	1,257,504	1,056	1,078,169	1,014	2,094,853	1,899
Ukraine	554,905	1,022	115,930	188	1,227,602	2,130
Other	6,171,172	6,965	3,724,020	4,917	4,692,781	6,808
Total	34,862,869	39,389	38,805,860	50,464	25,681,238	50,638

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Turkey did not export peaches to Russia due to a Russian ban on some Turkish agricultural products during 2016. After the ban was lifted, in the first six months of 2017, peach and nectarine exports increased 25 percent compared to last year. Turkey exported about 30,000 MT of peaches to Russia in the first six months of 2017. Turkey's peach and nectarine exports are forecast at 60,000 MT in MY2017/18.

Stocks

There are no official stocks of stone fruits in Turkey.

Policy

Stable export demand and government support have helped Turkish farmers to invest in new orchards. There are payments for producers who are registered in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock's (MinFAL) farmer registration system. According to official announcement in 2016, MinFAL provides supports of 110 Turkish Lira (TL)/Ha of fuel and fertilizer. To farmers who plant new orchards, the MinFAL provides 1,500 TL/Ha to help farmers buy standard dwarf fruit saplings and establish orchards, or they pay 4,000 TL/Ha for those who buy government-certified dwarf saplings to ensure higher quality trees are being planted in Turkey. Farmers who already have orchards and want to change the variety of trees in their orchard by grafting can receive 2,500 TL/Ha. MinFAL also supports organic farming and good farming practices. The GOT also implemented an insurance program for orchards. The GOT provides a 50 percent grant for companies who establish new plant nursery facilities for fruit tree saplings.

The GOT allocated 28 Million TL (USD \$8 Million) for certified sapling support for the entire fruit sector (including deciduous and citrus trees) in 2017.

Production, Supply and Distribution Data

Fresh Cherries,(Sweet&Sour) Market Begin Year Turkey	2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
	Jan 2015		Jan 2016		Jan 2017	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	95000	95000	96000	96000	0	97000
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees	23000	23000	25000	25000	0	26000
Non-Bearing Trees	8000	8000	8000	8000	0	8000
Total Trees	31000	31000	33000	33000	0	34000
Commercial Production	565000	565000	475000	525000	0	500000
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	565000	565000	475000	525000	0	500000
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	565000	565000	475000	525000	0	500000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	341300	341300	230000	0	0	0
Exports	68700	68700	90000	80,000	0	50,000
For Processing	155000	155000	155000	155000	0	165000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	565000	565000	475000	525000	0	500000

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

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines Market Begin Year Turkey	2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
	Jan 2015		Jan 2016		Jan 2017	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	42000	0	42000	42000	0	42000
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees	15000	0	15250	15250	0	15500
Non-Bearing Trees	3000	0	3000	3000	0	3000
Total Trees	18000	0	18250	18250	0	18500
Commercial Production	560000	0	510000	510000	0	505000
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	560000	0	510000	510000	0	505000
Imports	200	0	100	100	0	100
Total Supply	560200	0	510100	510100	0	505100
Fresh Dom. Consumption	389700	0	335100	335100	0	335100
Exports	50500	0	55000	50500	0	60000
For Processing	120000	0	120000	120000	0	120000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	560200	0	510100	510100	0	505100

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