

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Chile

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Chilean fruit export volumes increased 5.8 percent during 2011

Report Categories:

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

Approved By:

Rachel Bickford, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Luis Hennicke, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Chilean fresh fruit and nut exports, lead by major increases of cherries, plums and blueberries, increased 5.8 percent in 2011.

General Information:

The volume of Chilean fresh fruit exported during the period January - December 2011 increased 5.8 percent when compared to the same period of 2010, reaching 2.579.458 tons.

According to figures released by ODEPA (Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Studies and Policies) increases were led by cherries (46.6 percent), followed by plums (35.7 percent), blueberries (34.0 percent), tangerines (20.0 percent), oranges (18.7 percent) and Pears (14.9 percent) together with the nectarines (13.5 percent), grapes (9.3 percent), lemons (3.7 percent) and peaches (2.8 percent). Cherries totaled 64.668 tons, plums 100.927 tons and cranberries 73.741 tons.

Meanwhile, apples, kiwis and avocados were the only species that showed a fall in the volumes exported with a fall of 1.8, the 4.3 and 5.1 percents respectively. Apple exports totaled 800.834 tons, while the kiwis and avocados recorded only 178.566 and 102.373 tons each. Although avocados production and exports show a fall in during the period of January - October 2011, the 2011-2012 seasons shows a recovery of exports, these increased from 60.388 tons from August to December of 2010 to 75.653 tons for the same period of 2011, reflecting the increased production expected for the season.

"Virtually all fruit species showed a growth in its export volume as a result of favorable weather conditions during periods of pre harvest and harvest during the 2010-2011 season, which allowed for the expression of their productive potential and export", as was indicated by ODEPA.

Nuts

Exports of nuts grew 36.3 percent in volume during 2011 over 2010. ODEPA reported that in-shell walnuts capture half of the increase in exports (38.4 percent) followed in volume by in-shell hazelnuts which increased 126.9 percent when compared to the previous year. Shelled almond exports the third largest in volume, expanded 40.9 percent. Exports of fresh chestnuts show a significant increase of 240 percent, but total production volumes are still very low.

Markets

Total fresh fruit exports to the United States, Chile's main destination, increased its volume slightly by 1.8 percent but reduced its share of the total volume exported by Chile as the volumes exported of cherries, apples, nectarines, peaches and grapes fell from a 35.2 to a 33.7 percent. But on the other hand large increases in blueberries, avocados, plums, tangerines, oranges and pears were observed.

The Netherlands, gateway for the Chilean fruit to Europe came second to the United States as Chile's main export destination. Exports to the European market also show an increase in volume, mainly in blueberries, plums, apples, peaches, nectarines, pears and table grapes.

Colombia became a major destination for Chilean fruit in 2011, reaching a fifth place with 4 percent of the total Chilean fruit exports.

As a result of good marketing conditions in the Asian countries, mainly China and Hong Kong, Chile increased its market share, by increasing its export volumes of most fruits exported to the Asian countries.