

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Chile

Post: Santiago

Export Fruit Crops Put at Risk due to Unexpected Hail Storms

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Stone Fruit

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

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Report Highlights:

On Monday, November 12, a highly unusual hail storm damaged fruit crops that were in development in the O'Higgins region, one of the top fruit producing areas in Chile. The hail damaged fruit crops including cherries, apples, pears, blueberries, nectarines, plums, and peaches.

General Information:

Chile's Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Walker, [stated](#) that damages reached between \$120 million to \$200 million. The president of the Chilean Agriculture Society (SNA), Ricardo Ariztia, estimated that [cherry production would decrease](#) between five and eight percent on MY2018/19. The president of the Chilean Fruit Producers Association (FEDEFRUTA), Jorge Valenzuela, [estimates that hail affected 30,000 hectares](#) of fruit crops in the O'Higgins region, which will ultimately reduce fruit production and the demand for temporary jobs.

For more information on Chilean fruit production see [Chile: Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual](#) and [Chile: Stone Fruit Annual](#) GAIN reports.

FAS Santiago is monitoring the situation and will report any developments.