

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Greece

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Greece Stone Fruit 2010

Report Categories:

Stone Fruit

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Report Highlights:

MY 2010/11 (June/May) Greek peach and nectarine production is forecast at 810,000 metric tons (MT). This is significantly down from the previous year due to unusually cold winter weather and heavy hail storms in spring 2010 that severely damaged the crop. The initial MY 2009/10 Greek estimate (900,000 MT) has been revised downward to 822,000 MT (consisting of 733,900 MT of peaches and 88,100 MT of nectarines) to reflect current estimates.

General Information:

I. Greek Fresh Peaches and Nectarines

PRODUCTION

Table 1: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

| Fresh Peaches & Nectarines Greece | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Est 2008/2009 | Est 2009/2010 | Forecast 2010/2011* |
| | Market Year Begin: June 2008 | Market Year Begin: June 2009 | Market Year Begin: June 2010 |
| | Post Data | Post Data | Post Data |
| Area Production | 42,600 | 42,600 | 42,600 |
| Production | 836,500 | 822,000 | 810,000 |
| Imports | 4,138 | 5,036 | 5,000 |
| Total Supply | 840,638 | 827,036 | 815,000 |
| Fresh Dom. Consumption | 307,091 | 307,599 | 315,000 |
| Exports | 103,547 | 79,437 | 90,000 |
| For Processing | 410,000 | 320,000 | 390,000 |
| Losses & Withdraws | 20,000 | 120,000 | 20,000 |
| Total Distribution | 840,638 | 827,036 | 815,000 |

Source: Eurostat and Europech * Forecast Min Agr Rural & Dev & Foods + Incofruit

Greece is the third largest producer of peaches in the EU-27, after Italy and Spain. Greek farms are typically four to five hectares, much smaller than the average size in either the EU or the United States. According to industry estimates, there are approximately 42,600 hectares

currently cultivated for peaches and nectarines. The main producing areas include six territories (Imathia, Pella, Pieria, Kozani, Larissa, and Kilkis) of Central Macedonia and Thessaly, located in northern Greece. The peach production area is located in an active hail belt that stretches from the Iberian peninsula to northern Greece. Most of the crop is harvested in June and July.

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CONSUMPTION

MY 2010/11 Greek peach and nectarine consumption is forecast at 315,000 MT. Greek nectarine production is mainly destined for the fresh market, while peaches are marketed for both the fresh and processing industry. Freestone peaches are marketed for fresh consumption, while clingstone peaches are predominantly used in processing (although some are consumed fresh).

Demand for peach purée, which uses a large amount of fresh peaches, is expanding in Greece and most Greek peach processors have started a purée line. The EU subsidizes approximately 40 percent of the financing for investment in new product lines, including purée equipment, which costs between €1.5 and €2 million to install.

TRADE

Greece is an important exporter of fresh (and canned) peaches (see GAIN Report GR9013 for 2010 Greek Canned Deciduous Fruit). MY 2010/11 exports of fresh (free stone) peaches and nectarines are forecast to decrease by about 25 percent to 59,349 MT due to reduced supplies and competition from other producers. The Romanian market, at 21,087 MT, continues to be the main destination for Greek stone fruit exports, accounting for almost 27 percent of Greek exports. The Russian and Ukrainian markets, respectively at 16,432 MT and 9,031 MT, are also important markets for Greek stone fruit exports. Greece imports small amounts of fresh peaches and nectarines. MY 2009/10 fresh peach and nectarine imports reached 5,036 MT, of which 1,564 MT came from Spain and 1,113 MT came from Italy. MY 2010/11 imports are expected to

be similar.

Table 2: Exports (MT)

| Greece Export Statistics | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Commodity: 080930, Peaches, Including Nectarines, Fresh | | | |
| Year To Date: January - December | | | |
| Partner Country | Quantity | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| World | 83,343 | 103,547 | 79,437 |
| EU-27 | 48,681 | 59,693 | 41,361 |
| Romania | 19,521 | 24,228 | 21,087 |
| Bulgaria | 10,532 | 8,243 | 4,966 |
| Poland | 7,314 | 5,952 | 4,962 |
| Germany | 4,408 | 5,660 | 4,473 |
| United Kingdom | 2,051 | 2,236 | 432 |
| Extra EU-27 | 34,662 | 43,854 | 38,076 |
| Russia | 22,754 | 30,179 | 16,432 |
| Ukraine | 2,283 | 7,597 | 9,031 |
| Moldova | 4,017 | 606 | 5,477 |
| Albania | 2,730 | 3,098 | 3,464 |

Source: Eurostat Global Trade Atlas

II. Other Greek Stone Fruits

Apricots

Greece is the third largest apricot producer in the EU-27 after Italy and France. Greek apricots are grown in Crete, Thessaly, and Peloponnesos, located in the southern Greece. MY 2010/2011 is forecast at 75.400 MT—an increase of 35% compared to 2009 (52,100 MT) due to better weather. Greek exports, at 11,744 MT, decreased by 29 percent compared to 2008 (16,515 MT). Germany and Romania continue to be the main destination for Greek apricot exports, accounting for 73 percent of the total. Greece imports small amounts of apricots from Turkey, Spain, and Italy.

Cherries

According to the industry previously forecast good expectations for the Greek cherry crops will need to be revised due to hail and constant rainfalls that affected the most productive areas in June 2010.

Table 3: Fresh Cherries - Production, Supply and Demand (MT)

| Fresh Cherries, (Sweet&Sour) Greece | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Est 2008/2009 | Est 2009/2010 | Forecast 2010/2011* |
| | Market Year Begin: June 2008 | Market Year Begin: June 2009 | Market Year Begin: June 2010 |
| | Post Data | Post Data | Post Data |
| Area Production | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 |
| Production | 44,800 | 44,700 | 50,000 |
| Imports | 278 | 839 | 500 |
| Total Supply | 45,078 | 45,539 | 50,500 |
| Fresh Dom. Consumption | 34,784 | 38,706 | 43,500 |
| Exports | 10,294 | 6,833 | 7.000 |
| For Processing | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Distribution | 45,078 | 45,539 | 50,500 |

Source: Eurostat * Forecast Min Agr Rural &Dev &Foods & Incofruit

