

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Stone Fruit Annual 2016

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Stone Fruit

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Report Highlights:

Italy is the largest peach and nectarine producer in the EU-28. Italy's MY (Marketing Year) 2016/17 peach and nectarine production is forecast to be lower than the previous campaign, because of unfavorable weather. Italy is a major peach and nectarine exporter, mainly within the EU-28. In 2015, Italy exported 258,685 Metric Tons (MT) of peaches and nectarines, 13 percent less than 2014. Lower volumes were exported to Germany (-21 percent), the leading destination, representing 40 percent of total exports.

**General Information:
ITALY**

I. PEACHES AND NECTARINES

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

Peaches & Nectarines	2014	2015	2016
	Estimates 2014/2015	Estimates 2015/2016	Forecast 2016/2017
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Planted	74,474	72,153	72,000
Area Harvested	70,071	67,506	67,250
Production	1,382,137	1,408,504	1,259,093
Imports	97,179	108,000	114,000
Total Supply	1,479,316	1,516,504	1,373,093
Exports	258,685	269,000	260,000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	1,158,795	1,163,838	1,038,302
For Processing	61,836	83,666	74,791
Losses & Withdraws	0	0	0
Total Distribution	1,479,316	1,516,504	1,373,093

Sources: Istat (Italian Institute of Statistics); Industry contacts; GTA (Global Trade Atlas)

PRODUCTION

Italy is the largest peach and nectarine producer in the EU-28. Stone fruit production plays a key role in the agricultural sector of several Italian regions, both in the North (Emilia-Romagna and Piedmont) and the South (Campania). The bulk of the Italian harvest occurs in June and July. Italy's MY (Marketing Year) 2016/17 peach and nectarine production is forecast to be lower than the previous campaign, because of unfavorable weather. Peach production is forecast at 536,341 Metric Tons (588,860 MT in MY 2015/16), while nectarine production is forecast at 649,199 MT (735,978 MT in MY2015/16). The cling peach harvest is likely to reach 73,553 MT (83,666 MT in MY2015/16). Peach production is expected to drop in the South, especially in Campania, while nectarine production is predicted to fall mostly in the North. However, according to Italy's Fresh Produce Service Centre (CSO), despite the lower product availability, the fruit should be available gradually and better distributed throughout the season. Fruit quality is forecast to be very good.

CONSUMPTION

The majority of the Italian peaches and nectarines are consumed fresh. Italian consumers generally prefer large, sweet, and pulpy fruits, while the North European markets prefer smaller, slightly sour, and crunchy fruits. Apart from the difficult economic situation and the industry's concern for the increasing complexity of the destination markets, the crucial target is to encourage consumption for a product that is the main summer fruit.

TRADE

Italy is a major peach and nectarine exporter, mainly within the EU-28. In 2015, Italy exported 258,685 MT of peaches and nectarines, 13 percent less than 2014. Lower volumes were exported to Germany (-21 percent), the leading destination, representing 40 percent of total exports. In 2015, Italy imported 97,179 MT of peaches and nectarines, a surge of 29 percent compared to 2014 driven by increased volumes from Spain (+27 percent), the main supplier, accounting for approximately 84 percent of total imports.

II. CHERRIES

Table 2: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Cherries	2014	2015	2016
	Estimates 2014/2015	Estimates 2015/2016	Forecast 2016/2017
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Planted	29,766	30,123	30,280
Area Harvested	28,969	29,346	29,495
Production	110,766	111,119	70,000
Imports	10,285	8,770	9,150
Total Supply	121,051	119,889	79,150
Exports	6,715	10,870	7,000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	107,690	102,352	67,950
For Processing	6,646	6,667	4,200
Losses & Withdraws	0	0	0
Total Distribution	121,051	119,889	79,150

Sources: ISTAT; Industry contacts; GTA

PRODUCTION

Italy's MY 2016/17 cherry production is preliminarily forecast at 70,000 MT. Southern Italy, which accounts for two thirds of the national cherry production, is forecast to register a production decrease (especially for early varieties), due to adverse weather conditions during fruit set and the *Drosophila Suzuki* fruit fly. Overall, calibers are on average, but the quality registered is not as good as last year. *Bigarreau* and *Giorgia* varieties are forecast to register lower quantities than the excellent past campaign. Despite the lower production, the Italian cherry area is forecast to keep an upward trend, thanks to new orchards entering in regime in Veneto, Piemonte, Trentino, Emilia-Romagna, and Puglia. Turi (Puglia), Vignola (Emilia- Romagna), Verona (Veneto), and Cuneo (Piedmont) are the main cherry producing areas.

TRADE

In 2015, Italy exported 6,715 MT of cherries, a decline of 35 percent compared to the previous year,

mainly because of reduced volumes to Germany (-29 percent), the leading destination, accounting for 49 percent of total exports. In 2015, Italy imported 10,285 MT of cherries, mainly from Spain, Turkey, and Austria.

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report:

MY Marketing year: June/May

Peaches/nectarines: HS Code 080930

Cherries: HS Codes 080921; 080929

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

Ha Hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres