

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Chile

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The Chilean Agricultural Sector keeps on growing

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

The Chilean agricultural sector just keeps on growing and the destination keeps on diversifying. U.S. export of fresh fruits to Chile grow every year.

General Information:

The Chilean Central Bank reported this week that the agricultural sector increased 11 percent in 2011 over the previous year. Strong growth in the fruit sector lead the pack, followed by forestry and agriculture. Fruit production increased in three of the four quarters of 2011. The only quarter that didn't see any growth was due to reduced avocado production.

According to Minister of Agriculture, Luis Mayol: "This growth of 11 percent demonstrates that this sector is dynamic and active. Nevertheless, we will continue working on competitiveness and innovation to continue growing this sector." Minister Mayol also reported that "the agricultural trade balance grew 4.5% reaching \$831.4 million in the first two months of the year. The livestock sector grew by almost 12 percent, reaching \$31.5 million during the same period".

According to the World Trade Atlas, the destination with mayor increase were China with a growth of 141.89 percent, from US\$39 million to US\$95 million and Hong Kong with an increase in 66.56 percent, from US\$ 86 million to US\$143. Nevertheless the increase of exports and the change in destinations, imports of fresh fruits from the U.S. show a firm and steady growth from US\$ 1.8 million in 2009 to US\$10.5 million in 2011.