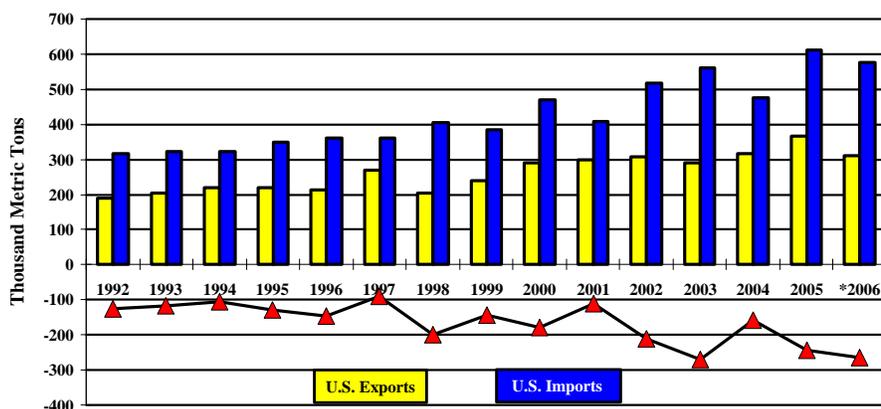


## Table Grape Update

Grape production in the United States during the 2006 season is forecast at 710,000 metric tons, off 18 percent from the previous year's large harvest due to lower grape production in California, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. On January 23, 2007, The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will release the *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts 2006 Summary* indicating grape utilization in the fresh market.

The U.S. trade balance in table grapes is expected to widen for 2006 with tighter domestic supplies and a downturn in exports. With less production, export volumes are off to eight of the top ten markets. Mexico, one of our top markets, imports U.S. grapes from August to February (before and after the Mexican grape season). During January through September 2006, U.S. imports of grapes are up for most markets except Mexico, which is off 50 percent compared to the same period last year. This is more than off setting increases from other supplying countries including Chile, Brazil, Peru, and Canada. Table grape production in Mexico is down due to an off year cycle and freezing temperatures.

### U.S. Table Grape Trade Balance



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census  
\*Forecast

China continues its expansion in fresh table grape production. However, most is going to domestic wet markets with less than one percent of total production being exported to countries like Pakistan, Russian, and Vietnam. China also imports about 34,000 tons from Chile followed by 22,000 tons from the United States. China is expected to consume over 4 million tons of grapes next year, up slightly from last year.

For a complete selection on FAS worldwide reporting, visit <http://www.fas.usda.gov>. Regular fresh deciduous fruit reports containing information on grapes are published on Chile, Greece, Italy, South Africa, Spain, Mexico, Japan, Turkey, and China, along with periodic worldwide voluntary report. Also, please visit our trade database on line at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade>. For more information on production and trade, contact Heather Velthuis at 202-720-9792.