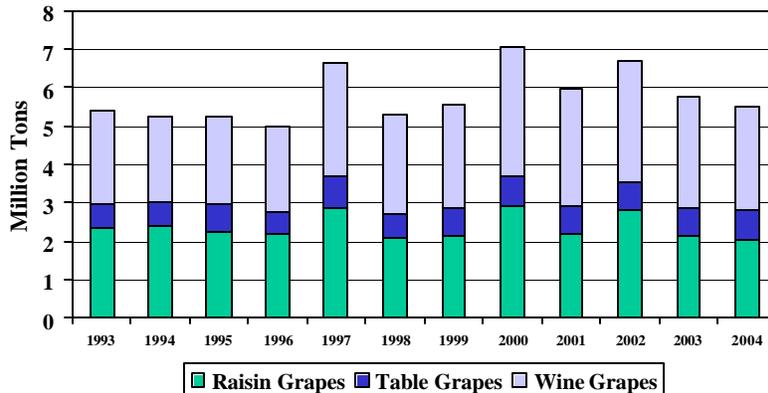


## Table Grape Update

Production of all grapes in the United States is expected to be down to 8 percent due to declines in grape production in Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will release the *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts 2004 Summary* on January 25, 2005, which will give an indication of grape utilization in the fresh market. Total California fresh-market grape production was revised down about 44,000 tons to 730,792 for 2003, according to the October 12, 2004, NASS *Crop Production* Report. The California crop accounts for about 91 percent of total utilized grape production for wine, raisins, and table grapes. Based on historical data, about 13 percent of total utilized production in the United States goes to the fresh market.

## California Grape Production

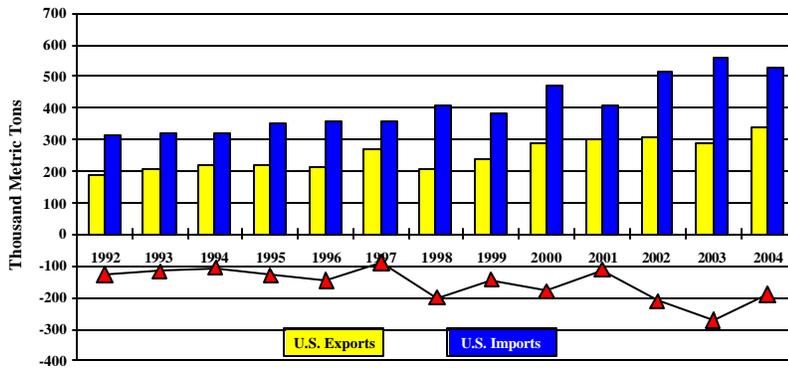
(91 Percent of U.S. Grape Production)



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

The trade balance in table grapes is expected to improve for 2004. U.S. table grapes are exported year round, but most are shipped from July through December. Exports have been much stronger than expected, supported by movement to Canada, Malaysia, and Mexico. Mexico, as one of our top markets, imports U.S. grapes during January and February and then from August to December, before and after the Mexican grape season. Therefore, direct competition in the Mexican market is quite limited. U.S. imports of grapes are expected to decline in 2004, breaking from the recent upward trend, with imports from Italy and Argentina down from the previous year's level. In addition, shipments from Mexico are off 31 percent through September of 2004 due to a late harvest that affected Mexican

## U.S. Table Grape Trade Balance



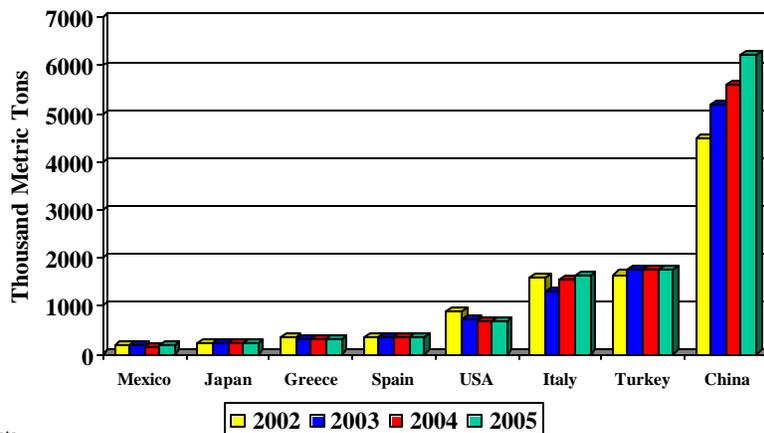
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

grape quality.

China continues its expansion in fresh table grape production. China exports a small percentage of production to other Asian countries while importing grapes from Chile (31,138 tons during 2003) during the off-season. China also imports grapes from the United States, with imports totaling 22,028 tons in 2003. China consumes close to 4 million tons of grapes per year.

## Northern Hemisphere Fresh Table Grape Production

(Select Countries)



\* Estimate

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.

Periodic worldwide voluntary reports are also available. Also, please visit our trade database on line at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade>. Check out the grape webpage at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/hp/horticulture/grapes.html>. For information on production and trade, contact Heather Velthuis at 202-720-9792. For information on marketing, contact Jeff Jones at 202-720-8495.

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Horticultural and Tropical Products Division/FAS

