USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
June 2020

Fresh Apples, Grapes, and Pears: World Markets and Trade

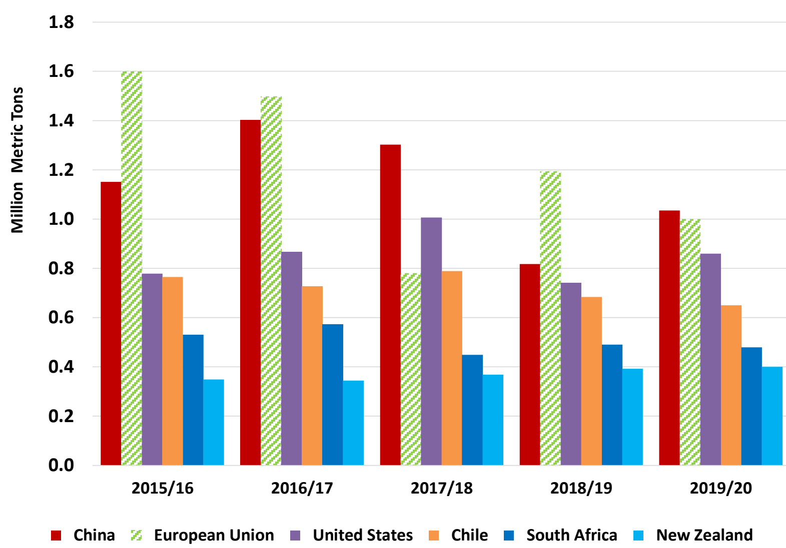
Impacts of COVID-19 have been taken into consideration in the global forecast for trade and consumption in apples, tables grapes, and pears. However, the exact impact of the pandemic is still unclear since its duration and effects on the global economy are still uncertain. For country-specific details, please refer to the specific Fresh Deciduous Fruit Semi-annual reports published in the FAS GAIN system at https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/.

FRESH APPLES

World production for 2019/20 is estimated to rise nearly 5.0 million metric tons (tons) to 75.8 million as China rebounds from last year's frost, more than offsetting plummeting production in the European Union. Despite higher supplies, exports are projected lower on reduced shipments from the European Union, Moldova, and Turkey.

China's production is expected to jump 8.0 million tons to a near-record level of 41.0 million as good growing conditions were experienced in most of the major growing provinces. Despite disruptions due to COVID-19, exports are estimated to exceed 1.0 million tons, returning China to the position of top exporter. Higher supplies prompted greater shipments in the first half of the marketing year, especially to Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Thailand. Despite higher supplies, imports are up 22,000 tons to 115,000 as lower volumes of high-quality domestic apples spur demand.

China Leads Apple Exports Again Amidst COVID-19



EU production is anticipated to drop 3.6 million tons to 11.5 million as combinations of frost, drought, heat, and hail caused losses in most Member States, especially Poland. This will mark the second time in 3 years that output will suffer greater than 20-percent losses. Lower supplies will reduce exports nearly 200,000 tons to 1.0 million, while imports are also estimated lower at 470,000 tons on smaller shipments from Southern Hemisphere suppliers

U.S. production is estimated up over 300,000 tons to 4.8 million on rebounding output in top grower Washington resulting from favorable summer weather. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics service (NASS) surveyed industry and updated U.S. production in the May 2020 *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2019 Summary* report. Higher and good quality supplies are expected to boost exports over 100,000 tons to 860,000, especially to top markets Mexico and Canada, and to lower import demand to 125,000 tons.

Turkey's production is projected to repeat last year's record of 3.0 million tons as orchards experienced a second straight year of mild winter weather and good spring conditions for flowering and fruit development. Despite higher supplies, exports are expected to drop nearly 40 percent to 180,000 tons on reduced shipments to top markets Iraq and Syria during the latter half of the marketing year.

India's production is estimated to remain unchanged at 2.4 million tons as late monsoon rains inhibited higher output. Lower shipments from Iraq and Pakistan, a continued ban on China apples, and retaliatory tariffs on U.S. apples are expected to drive imports nearly 40 percent lower to 175,000 tons.

Russia's production is expected to continue its upward trend and reach 1.7 million tons, a second straight record year. The industry continues to receive government assistance in a variety of areas, including planting new orchards, orchard care and maintenance, and cold storage facilities. Imports are anticipated to contract nearly 150,000 tons to 645,000 as elevated supplies and higher-quality domestic output reduces demand despite losses from the ongoing ban on China apples.

Chile's production is expected to ease 66,000 tons to 1.1 million as drought conditions persist and acreage declines for the sixth straight year. Exports are anticipated to ease 34,000 tons to 650,000 on lower supplies.

South Africa's production is estimated up nearly 50,000 tons to a record 942,000 on new plantings coming into production and on higher yields resulting from improved winter rainfall and water management. Despite higher supplies, disruptions due to COVID-19 are expected to curb exports to 480,000 tons, while boosting domestic consumption and processing.

Mexico's production is anticipated to rebound from last year's frost, up over 130,000 tons to nearly 680,000 on higher yield and new trees coming into production. Planting area has slowly expanded in the top growing state of Chihuahua and investments continue to be made in new high-density orchards. With the removal in May 2019 of the 20-percent retaliatory tariff on U.S. apples, imports are expected to rise 23,000 tons to 270,000.

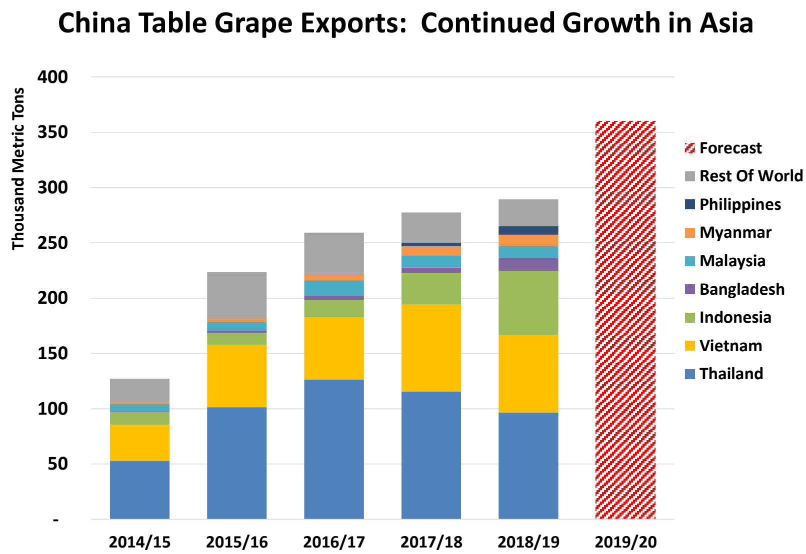
New Zealand's production is expected to continue its upward trend, rising 16,000 tons to 593,000 on expanded harvested area and a good growing season. Though acreage is still expanding, the rate of growth is easing as growers look to increase production by replacing orchards with new higher-density plantings. Exports are anticipated to continue their long upward trend as higher supplies lift exports to 400,000 tons.

Argentina's production is anticipated to persist in its downward trend, sliding 70,000 tons to 480,000 as hail during January adds to losses from the continued decline in planting area, further exacerbating a situation fraught with challenges such as rising input costs and a declining ability to maintain orchard health. Exports are expected to contract 12,000 tons to 100,000 on lower supplies.

Note: Due to lack of data, production and exports for Iran apples have not been revised since the December 2019/20 forecast. If data remains unavailable, the forecast will be discontinued and historical data will no longer be revised.

FRESH TABLE GRAPES

World production for 2019/20 is estimated at 23.4 million, rising over 900,000 tons on rebounding China supplies. Exports are expected to ease slightly as lower shipments from India and the United States more than offset gains from China and Mexico.



China's production is anticipated to jump 900,000 tons to 10.8 million as vineyards bounce back from last year's severe frost. Rebounding supplies are expected to drive exports to a record 360,000 tons as higher shipments to the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Vietnam facilitate China's continuing upward trend. Imports are estimated 27,000 tons lower to 235,000 on reduced shipments from top suppliers Chile, Peru, and the United States. Small deliveries from the European Union have commenced on recent market access for Spain and Portugal; however, the United States currently remains China's top Northern Hemisphere supplier.

India's production is expected up only 200,000 tons to 3.0 million as heavy rains in September and October affected yields in northern Maharashtra. Additional later-season rains also lowered quality. Reduced levels of export-quality supplies and the impact of domestic COVID-19 measures are anticipated to cut exports sharply by 45 percent to 135,000 tons.

Turkey's production is estimated up only 50,000 tons to 2.0 million as hail affected parts of the Aegean Region. Output gains are expected to boost exports 26,000 tons to 205,000, especially to Russia and Ukraine.

EU production is expected to decline 220,000 tons to 1.4 million mostly due to damaging rains during flowering in Italy, the top Member State. Exports are expected nearly unchanged at 75,000 tons. Despite lower supplies, imports are estimated to ease slightly to 675,000 tons as reduced shipments from India, Peru, and Brazil more than offset gains from Egypt and Turkey. Reduced output is anticipated to drive consumption to its lowest level since 2001/02.

U.S. production is expected to contract 90,000 tons to 906,000 on lower yield as excessive spring moisture made mildew a greater than normal concern. NASS surveyed industry and updated U.S. production in the May 2020 *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2019 Summary* report. Final trade data shows exports fell 42,000 tons to 326,000 reflecting reduced supplies and lower demand from Mexico, while imports rose over 100,000 tons to 672,000 on record June deliveries from Mexico in the beginning of the marketing year.

Chile's production is expected to remain steady at 840,000 tons though the industry has suffered a 24-percent decline over an 11-year drought. Growers have invested in various strategies to mitigate drought effects, including installing drip irrigation systems, planting drought-resistant varieties, and investing in private water reservoirs. In line with production, exports are anticipated to remain nearly unchanged at 645,000 tons on steady demand from the United States, China, and the European Union.

Peru's production is estimated up 18,000 tons to 648,000 as acreage and harvest area continues to expand. Exports are expected to see a modest gain of 7,000 tons to 395,000 as deliveries increase to top market United States but decline to the European Union and China.

Russia's production is expected to remain unchanged at 21,000 tons as planting area remains constant. Imports are anticipated to contract slightly to 275,000 tons as lower shipments from Uzbekistan more than offset gains from Turkey.

South Africa's production is anticipated to rise 20,000 tons to 320,000 on good growing conditions, adequate water supplies, new varieties and plantings coming into full production, and increased planting area which has nearly doubled since 2010/11. Higher output is expected to lift exports 10,000 tons to 295,000 on sustained shipments to the European Union and Canada.

FRESH PEARS

World production for 2019/20 is estimated to jump 2.5 million tons to 23.0 million as rebounding output in China more than offsets weather-related losses in the European Union. Exports should strengthen on China's recovery.

China's production is estimated to have regained all of last year's lost output resulting from severe weather, rising 3.0 million tons to 17.0 million. Revived supplies are projected to drive exports up nearly 60 percent to 580,000 tons on elevated shipments in the first half of the marketing year, particularly to Thailand and Malaysia. Imports are expected to hold steady at 11,000 tons.

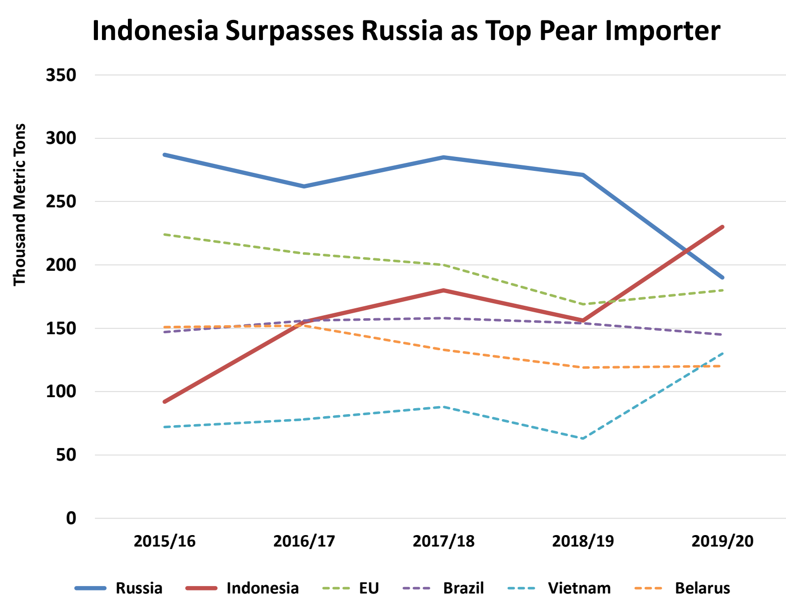
EU production is estimated down over 400,000 tons to 2.2 million due to fruit damage. Brown marmorated stinkbugs impacted production in top grower Italy, while many Member States suffered weather-related losses. Exports are expected to ease slightly to 295,000 tons as reduced supplies are directed towards overseas markets and fresh consumption while processing is slashed over 50 percent to 250,000 tons.

U.S. production is estimated down nearly 70,000 tons to 658,000 as gains in California are more than offset by losses in Washington due to fire blight, hail, rain-damaged trees, and heat-induced fruit drop. NASS surveyed industry and updated U.S. production in the May 2020 *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts 2019 Summary* report. Exports are projected down 14,000 tons to 130,000 as lower supplies curtail shipments to Canada. Reduced output is anticipated to lift imports to 75,000 tons.

Argentina's production is estimated to decline 50,000 tons to 550,000 due to hail in January which affected output. Reduced output is expected to have a more significant impact on processing, down 25,000 tons to 165,000. Exports are anticipated to contract only 15,000 tons to 295,000, supported by higher deliveries to Russia and the European Union in the beginning of the marketing year.

South Africa's production is expected to contract slightly to 407,000 tons as lower yield stemming from high temperatures during flowering and fruit set is partially offset by higher output from expanding acreage. Growing area is projected to rise for a fourth straight year as it continues to recover from the drought that started in 2016/17. Exports are estimated down 15,000 tons to 210,000 on lower supplies and reduced shipments stemming from COVID-19-related disruptions.

Russia's production is estimated up slightly to 245,000 tons on improved output in non-commercial, or house-hold, orchards which account for over 90 percent of domestic production. Imports are anticipated to continue to drop, this year by 30 percent to 190,000 tons as losses from Belarus and China more than offset improved shipments from Argentina, South Africa, and Turkey. If realized, Russia will no longer be the top importer but become the second largest behind Indonesia.



Chile's production is expected to decline for the third straight year as reduced planting area and ongoing drought push output down 25,000 tons to 227,000. Reduced supplies are anticipated to push exports lower to 120,000 tons, the lowest level since 2013/14.

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NOTES

European Union definition: includes countries in the customs union, including the UK (Austria, Belgium/Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom). The United Kingdom remains a member of the EU Customs Union for the duration of the transition period which expires December 31, 2020. A notice will be posted on respective USDA web pages to inform the public of how we intend to handle splitting the United Kingdom from the rest of the EU in our forecasts, GAIN reporting, and other data well in advance of any changes. The WASDE, FAS reports, and FAS databases will continue to reflect the EU-28 (EU-27+UK) until further notice.

Marketing Years:

- **Apples -** The United States and Mexico are on an August-July marketing year. All other Northern Hemisphere countries are on a July-June marketing year. Southern Hemisphere countries are on a calendar year indicated as the second year of the split year.

- **Table Grapes -** The United States and Mexico are on a May-April marketing year. All other Northern Hemisphere countries are on a June-May marketing year. Southern Hemisphere producer countries of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Peru, and South Africa are on an October-September marketing year; Brazil remains on a calendar year basis indicated as the second year of the split year.

- **Pears -** Northern Hemisphere countries are on a July-June marketing year. Southern Hemisphere countries are on a calendar year indicated as the second year of the split year.

Apples, Fresh: Production, Supply and Distribution in Selected Countries

(1,000 Metric Tons)

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Dec 2019/20	Jun 2019/20
Production						
China	38,900	40,393	41,390	33,000	41,000	41,000
European Union	12,453	12,723	10,005	15,030	11,477	11,477
United States	4,546	5,010	5,085	4,486	4,665	4,821
Turkey	2,740	2,900	2,750	3,000	3,000	3,000
India	2,520	2,258	1,920	2,371	2,370	2,370
Iran	2,470	2,097	2,097	2,097	2,097	2,097
Russia	1,311	1,509	1,360	1,611	1,714	1,714
Brazil	1,049	1,301	1,301	1,301	1,301	1,301
Chile	1,335	1,310	1,330	1,210	1,144	1,144
Ukraine	1,099	1,076	1,076	1,076	1,076	1,076
Other	6,215	5,855	5,892	5,795	5,878	5,836
Total	74,638	76,432	74,205	70,978	75,722	75,834
Fresh Dom. Consumption						
China	33,826	34,662	35,351	29,775	38,050	38,080
European Union	7,534	7,739	6,524	8,178	7,401	7,346
Turkey	2,532	2,573	2,450	2,594	2,631	2,710
United States	2,553	2,817	2,672	2,518	2,589	2,635
India	2,309	2,230	1,919	2,330	2,365	2,290
Russia	1,646	1,583	1,807	1,867	1,884	1,816
Iran	2,036	1,864	1,372	1,814	1,814	1,814
Other	10,764	10,552	10,341	9,618	10,174	10,116
Total	63,199	64,019	62,437	58,694	66,907	66,807
For Processing						
European Union	3,601	3,817	3,229	6,151	3,601	3,601
China	4,000	4,400	4,800	2,500	2,000	2,000
United States	1,404	1,497	1,540	1,372	1,361	1,450
Russia	335	459	349	455	460	460
Chile	320	310	310	286	256	260
South Africa	192	144	190	199	130	243
Canada	142	172	151	166	164	164
Other	623	596	587	581	545	474
Total	10,616	11,395	11,156	11,710	8,517	8,652
Imports						
Russia	746	657	859	793	710	645
European Union	451	425	531	493	500	470
Iraq	297	241	307	319	330	319
Bangladesh	203	245	245	173	240	280
Mexico	218	267	287	247	280	270
Egypt	268	145	72	266	215	245
Vietnam	141	150	160	151	190	220
Canada	230	221	222	203	220	210
Hong Kong	160	182	162	179	178	180
India	202	370	249	277	250	175
Other	3,558	3,350	2,971	2,617	2,856	2,621
Total	6,473	6,254	6,064	5,718	5,969	5,635
Exports						
China	1,151	1,402	1,302	818	1,050	1,035
European Union	1,600	1,498	781	1,195	975	1,000
United States	778	868	1,007	742	860	860
Chile	765	726	789	684	660	650
South Africa	531	573	449	490	570	480
New Zealand	349	345	369	393	405	400
Iran	435	233	725	283	283	283
Serbia	253	243	156	187	175	190
Moldova	170	168	164	299	230	185
Turkey	110	218	191	297	260	180
Other	586	476	494	596	501	450
Total	6,727	6,750	6,427	5,984	5,969	5,713

Note: The United States and Mexico are on an August-July marketing year. All other Northern Hemisphere countries are on a July-June marketing year. Southern Hemisphere countries are on a calendar year indicated as the second year of the split year.

Grapes, Fresh Table: Production, Supply and Distribution in Selected Countries

(1,000 Metric Tons)

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Dec 2019/20	Jun 2019/20
Production						
China	10,000	10,100	10,500	9,900	10,800	10,800
India	2,590	2,784	2,800	2,800	3,000	3,000
Turkey	2,005	2,350	2,120	1,900	1,950	1,950
Uzbekistan	1,570	1,626	1,626	1,626	1,626	1,626
European Union	1,753	1,718	1,448	1,597	1,376	1,376
Brazil	985	985	985	985	985	985
United States	947	943	935	997	998	906
Chile	868	917	915	835	809	840
Peru	540	611	623	630	648	648
Mexico	282	256	339	371	375	375
Other	929	861	850	823	864	874
Total	22,468	23,150	23,140	22,462	23,430	23,378
Fresh Dom. Consumption						
China	10,022	10,080	10,464	9,873	10,730	10,675
India	2,220	2,358	2,401	2,329	2,477	2,562
European Union	2,280	2,280	2,057	2,200	1,988	1,976
Turkey	1,831	2,177	1,841	1,721	1,770	1,745
Uzbekistan	1,461	1,529	1,501	1,509	1,526	1,531
United States	1,150	1,189	1,217	1,199	1,298	1,253
Brazil	982	964	964	954	955	959
Korea, South	296	286	285	309	301	296
Russia	346	228	412	310	300	295
Peru	231	294	343	242	250	253
Other	1,335	1,367	1,458	1,492	1,433	1,459
Total	22,153	22,753	22,944	22,137	23,026	23,001
Imports						
European Union	615	649	688	682	690	675
United States	530	593	618	570	645	672
Russia	256	212	387	290	280	275
China	249	237	242	262	250	235
Hong Kong	232	229	250	259	240	235
Canada	170	176	180	180	180	188
Thailand	131	157	143	124	145	130
Vietnam	74	74	101	100	115	110
Indonesia	49	68	81	112	115	95
Mexico	82	88	101	127	100	95
Other	369	398	375	375	369	369
Total	2,758	2,881	3,166	3,081	3,129	3,079
Exports						
Chile	688	731	731	655	640	645
Peru	297	311	277	388	400	395
China	227	257	278	289	320	360
United States	328	347	336	368	345	326
South Africa	255	304	279	285	285	295
Mexico	164	156	196	147	220	220
Turkey	175	173	280	179	180	205
Hong Kong	190	212	214	226	210	195
Australia	110	107	110	146	175	160
India	160	200	210	247	220	135
Other	241	236	251	244	226	210
Total	2,834	3,033	3,162	3,174	3,221	3,145

Note: The United States and Mexico are on a May-April marketing year. All other Northern Hemisphere countries are on a June-May marketing year. Southern Hemisphere producer countries of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Peru, and South Africa are on an October-September marketing year, and Brazil is on a calendar year indicated as the second year of the split year. Some countries may include raisin-type and/or table-type grapes.

Pears, Fresh: Production, Supply and Distribution in Selected Countries

(1,000 Metric Tons)

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Dec 2019/20	Jun 2019/20
Production						
China	16,530	15,960	16,410	14,000	17,000	17,000
European Union	2,513	2,340	2,384	2,592	2,184	2,184
United States	729	668	663	726	726	658
Argentina	580	540	580	600	590	550
Turkey	415	440	420	450	490	490
South Africa	430	432	408	413	415	407
India	323	340	280	340	340	340
Japan	278	275	275	275	275	275
Russia	155	236	218	243	245	245
Chile	267	290	262	252	227	227
Other	604	602	634	572	577	577
Total	22,824	22,122	22,534	20,463	23,069	22,952
Fresh Dom. Consumption						
China	14,437	13,938	14,325	12,445	14,915	14,831
European Union	2,048	1,966	1,955	1,898	1,894	1,819
Turkey	381	414	366	398	435	430
United States	390	406	398	434	425	421
India	300	327	261	322	360	355
Russia	417	400	423	403	382	319
Japan	277	273	273	273	273	273
Indonesia	92	155	180	156	160	230
Korea, South	228	202	230	171	174	174
Brazil	162	178	180	176	177	167
Other	1,174	1,218	1,245	1,201	1,274	1,360
Total	19,906	19,477	19,836	17,877	20,471	20,379
For Processing						
China	1,700	1,520	1,550	1,200	1,600	1,600
European Union	356	275	285	552	250	250
United States	262	209	222	220	230	182
Argentina	170	160	160	190	190	165
South Africa	132	119	144	145	127	156
Russia	9	55	47	69	70	70
Chile	56	57	57	51	44	44
Turkey	10	10	10	10	10	10
Korea, South	10	10	4	5	6	6
Mexico	4	4	4	5	4	4
Other	9	10	9	10	3	3
Total	2,718	2,430	2,493	2,457	2,535	2,490
Imports						
Indonesia	92	155	180	156	160	230
Russia	287	262	285	271	253	190
European Union	224	209	200	169	180	180
Brazil	147	156	158	154	155	145
Vietnam	72	78	88	63	130	130
Belarus	151	152	133	119	110	120
Mexico	77	67	72	92	90	90
Other	582	590	604	573	600	625
Total	1,632	1,668	1,720	1,596	1,678	1,710
Exports						
China	401	509	543	366	500	580
Argentina	310	280	320	310	300	295
European Union	310	308	345	310	220	295
South Africa	250	266	222	225	245	210
United States	156	126	122	144	150	130
Chile	129	152	129	132	117	120
Turkey	24	16	44	42	45	50
Other	171	145	140	121	120	68
Total	1,752	1,800	1,864	1,650	1,697	1,748

Note: Northern Hemisphere countries are on a July-June marketing year. Southern Hemisphere countries are on a calendar year indicated as the second year of the split year.