

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 12/6/2018

GAIN Report Number: CI1834

Chile

Post: Santiago

Chilean Cherries Export Volume Down due to Hailstorm Damage

Report Categories:

Stone Fruit

SP1 - Expand International Marketing Opportunities

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Report Highlights:

On November 12, near the beginning of the cherry harvest season, a hailstorm damaged orchards in the O'Higgins region. As a result, Post estimates Chilean cherry exports will decrease to 170,000 metric tons (MT) in marketing year (MY) 2018/19, a seven percent fall from MY2017/18.

On Monday, November 12, a highly unusual hailstorm damaged fruit crops (cherries, apples, pears, blueberries, nectarines, plums, and peaches) in the O’Higgins region, one of the top fruit producing areas in Chile. Fifteen days after the hailstorm, Chilean Fruit Exporters Association (ASOEX) initial crop assessments indicated that the cherry would be the most affected crop. Cherries were in a critical development stage when the hailstorm happened, right near the harvest season (from November to January).

According to ASOEX, the Chilean Cherry Commission estimates that cherry export volume will decrease by 7.1 percent in MY2018/19 due to the damage caused by the hailstorms. To see the press release in *Spanish*, click [here](#). In November 2018, [exports decreased by 9 percent](#) over the same period last year.

Chile is the top supplier of cherries to China. In 2017, China imported 68,951 MT from Chile and 27,026 MT from the United States (its second largest supplier).

As a result, Post estimates that Chilean cherry exports to the world will reach 170,000 MT in MY2018/19, a seven percent decrease from MY2017/18.

On December 5, the Chilean Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Walker, [declared a state of emergency](#) on the O’Higgins region. This will allow the government to allocate \$1.5 million to help small farmers.

As of today, December 6, Post is not aware of any impact on the trade volume of any fruit crops other than cherries.

Table 1. Production, Supply and Demand statistics.

Cherries (Sweet&Sour), Fresh Market Begin Year	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
	Nov 2016		Nov 2017		Nov 2018	
Chile	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	27,397	0	31,175	31,174	34,000	34,000
Area Harvested	25,000	0	29,000	29,000	32,500	32,500
Bearing Trees	21,175	0	23,000	23,000	25,000	25,000
Non-Bearing Trees	2,039	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Trees	23,214	0	25,000	25,000	27,000	27,000
Commercial Production	115,000	0	205,741	205,741	209,000	190,000
Non-Comm. Production	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Production	116,000	0	206,741	206,741	210,000	191,000
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	116,000	0	206,741	206,741	210,000	191,000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	15,400	0	16,041	16,000	13,000	15,000
Exports	95,400	0	184,700	184,741	190,000	170,000
For Processing	5,200	0	6,000	6,000	7,000	6,000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	116,000	0	206,741	206,741	210,000	191,000

(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)

Source: Post estimates