

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Morocco**

### **CITRUS SEMI-ANNUAL**

#### **2009 CITRUS SEMI-ANNUAL**

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**Report Highlights:**

The Moroccan citrus export season of 2008/09 has been disappointing. Total citrus exports are estimated at 469,150 tons, a decline of 15 percent compared to exports in 2007/08 and about 28 percent below the government's target for this year. Most of the decline occurred in orange exports. Exports to Russia, the main export market, suffered a sharp decline.

**Commodities:**

Citrus, Other, Fresh

**Trade:**

With the export season almost completed, recent reports on Morocco's fresh citrus exports indicate that the 2008/2009 campaign has been disappointing. Export data (as of May 24) shows that Morocco citrus exports in 2008/09 totaled 469,150 tons, a drop of 15 percent compared to exports in 2007/08. This export level is about 28 percent lower than the ambitious target set by the Moroccan government for this year. The drop in Morocco's citrus exports was mostly due to a 37 percent decline in orange exports, from 266,118 tons in 2007/08 to 168,432 tons in 2008/09, while exports of small fruits increased by 9 percent.

The table below provides estimates for Morocco's citrus exports in 2007/08 and 2008/09

Marketing Year	Exports (1000 Metric Tons)		
	07/08	08/09	% Incr.
<b>Total Small Citrus Fruit</b>	<b>272.2</b>	<b>293.5</b>	<b>9%</b>
Clementine	181.2	178.3	-2%
Nour	60.0	86.6	45%
Ortanique	10.5	8.1	-22%
Nova	4.8	6.0	-20%
<b>Total Oranges</b>	<b>266.1</b>	<b>168.4</b>	<b>-37%</b>
Navel	31.7	24.2	-24%
Sanguine	43.0	30.4	-29%
Maroc-Late	143.0	83.7	-41%
Others	28.1	19.2	-32%
<b>Other Citrus</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>-49%</b>
<b>Total Fresh Citrus</b>	<b>541.4</b>	<b>469.1</b>	<b>-15%</b>

Source : E.A.C.C.E. (Export Quality Control Office)

The decline in Morocco's orange exports this year was in part due to bad weather conditions and flooding during harvest, but also to a sharp reduction in demand by main importing countries such as Russia. Adverse weather conditions and flooding in the North

and the Gharb areas have caused damage to about 50,000 tons of bloody and navel oranges.

With export contracts made in U.S. dollars, analysts attribute much of the decline in Moroccan citrus sales to Russia, which absorbs about 50 percent of Morocco's exports, to a sharp decline in the value of the Russian ruble against the Moroccan dirham during the export season. Morocco citrus exports to the EU also experienced a significant drop this year. In addition to the exchange rate impact, there was some slowing in demand by European customers in general as well as reluctance by some banks to open line of credits for Moroccan citrus buyers.