USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network



Voluntary _ Public

**Date:** 8/17/2011

**GAIN Report Number:** GR1108

# Greece

**Post:** Rome

# Greece Stone Fruit Annual 2011

**Report Categories:**

Stone Fruit

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**Report Highlights:**

MY 2011/12 Greek demand for peaches, nectarines, and apricots is forecast to stagnate due to concerns caused by the E. coli outbreak in Germany. MY 2011/12 apricot production is forecast to decline 43 percent from the previous year due to heavy frost during flowering in March.

## I. Peaches and Nectarines

Table 1: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

| Peaches & Nectarines | 2009 Estimates 2009/2010 Post Data | 2010 Estimates 2010/2011 Post Data | 2011 Forecast 2011/2012 Post Data |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area Production | 42,600 | 42,600 | 42,600 |
| Production | 779,800 | 681,300 | 630,000 |
| Imports | 4,776 | 3,500 | 5,000 |
| **Total Supply** | **780,277** | **684,800** | **635,000** |
| Fresh Dom. Consumption | 69,730 | 150,800 | 155,000 |
| Exports | 80,547 | 110,000 | 110,000 |
| For Processing | 510,000 | 404,000 | 340,000 |
| Losses & Withdraws | 120,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| **Total Distribution** | **780,277** | **684,800** | **635,000** |

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

**PRODUCTION**

Greece is the third largest producer of peaches in the EU-27, after Italy and Spain. Greek farms are typically four to five hectares, much smaller than the average size in either the EU or the United States. According to industry estimates, there are approximately 42,600 hectares currently cultivated for peaches and nectarines. The main producing areas include six territories (Imathia, Pella, Pieria, Kozani, Larissa, and Kilkis) of Central Macedonia and Thessaly, located in northern Greece. The peach production area is located in an active hail belt that stretches from the Iberian Peninsula to northern Greece. Most of the crop is harvested in June and July.

Excluding the crop grown for industry (clingstone peaches), MY 2011/12 fresh freestone peach and nectarine production is forecast at 290,000 MT—an increase of 4.6 percent compared to the previous year. However, MY 2011/12 clingstone production is forecast to decline by 16 percent due to the growing trend to uproot clingstone orchards in favor of freestone and nectarine production.

**CONSUMPTION**

MY 2011/12 Greek demand for peaches and nectarines is forecast to stagnate due to concerns caused by the E. coli outbreak in Germany. Greek nectarine production is destined mainly for the fresh market; freestone peaches are used for fresh consumption, and clingstone peaches are predominantly used in processing (although some are consumed fresh).

**TRADE**

Greece is an important exporter of fresh (and canned) peaches (see GAIN Report GR1008 for Greek Canned Deciduous Fruit 2010). MY 2011/12 exports of fresh (free stone) peaches and nectarines are forecast to remain steady. The Russian, Romanian, and Ukrainian markets continue to be the main destination for Greek stone fruit exports. Greece imports small amounts of fresh peaches and nectarines. Italy and Spain are the main suppliers to the Greek market.

## II. Other Greek Stone Fruits

### Apricots

Table 2: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

| Apricots | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Estimates 2009/2010 | Estimates 2010/2011 | Forecast 2011/2012 |
| | Post Data | Post Data | Post Data |
| Area Production | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Production | 52,100 | 74,000 | 42,500 |
| Imports | 406 | 337 | 330 |
| **Total Supply** | **52,506** | **74,337** | **42,830** |
| Fresh Dom. Consumption | 10,435 | 16,810 | 7,455 |
| Exports | 13,416 | 16,827 | 12,000 |
| For Processing | 28,655 | 40,700 | 23,375 |
| **Total Distribution** | **52,506** | **74,337** | **42,830** |

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

**PRODUCTION**

Greece is the third largest apricot producer in the EU-27, after Italy and France.  Greek apricots are grown in Crete, Thessaly, and Peloponnesos, located in the southern Greece.  According to industry estimates, MY 2011/12 Greek apricot production is expected to decline 43 percent due to heavy frost during flowering in March.  The apricot harvest begins in June and lasts until July. Tirinthos, Aurora, Bebekou, and the sweet Diamantopoulou are the major apricot varieties grown in Greece.

**CONSUMPTION**

Apricots demand is forecast to decrease and prices are expected to decline.  Most of the apricot production (50–60 percent) goes to the canning industry.  Approximately 20 percent is destined for the fresh market, while a small percentage is processed into puree and concentrate.  The "Bebekou" variety is predominantly used in processing.

**TRADE**

Fresh and canned apricots are sold either in the local or exported to other EU markets.  Germany and Romania continue to be the main destination for Greek apricot exports.  Greece imports small amounts of apricots from Turkey, Netherlands, and Italy.

**Cherries**

Table 3: Fresh Cherries - Production, Supply and Demand (MT)

| Cherries | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Estimates 2009/2010** | **Estimates 2010/2011** | **Forecast 2011/2012** |
| | **Post Data** | **Post Data** | **Post Data** |
| Area Production | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 |
| Production | 44,712 | 50,160 | 39,000 |
| Imports | 836 | 420 | 500 |
| **Total Supply** | **45,539** | **50,500** | **39,500** |
| Fresh Dom. Consumption | 37,094 | 40,992 | 30,550 |
| Exports | 6,209 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| For Processing | 2,236 | 2,508 | 1,950 |
| **Total Distribution** | **45,539** | **50,500** | **39,500** |

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

**PRODUCTION**

MY 2011/12 Greek cherries production is forecast to decrease due to hail and constant rainfalls in spring 2010 that severely damaged the crop in the main producing areas, Pella and Imathia.

**CONSUMPTION**

MY 2011/12 Greek demand for cherries is likely to decline as a consequence of the Greece's economic downturn and reduced purchasing power. Greek cherries production is mainly destined for the fresh market, with a small percentage processed into jams, spoon sweets and the Vissinada, a traditional sour cherry concentrate mixed with iced water.

**TRADE**

Netherlands and Germany continue to be the main destination for Greek cherries exports. Greece imports small amounts of cherries from Turkey, and Spain.

**Abbreviations and definitions used in this report:**

Ha Hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres

Peaches/nectarines:  HS Code 080930

Apricots: HS Code 080910

Cherries: HS Code 080920

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

MY Marketing year: June/May