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Report Highlights:

EU's cherry and peaches and nectarines production for MY2022/23 is anticipated to amount to just over 726,000 MT and 3.1 million MT, respectively. The favorable growing conditions in the main producing Member States support cherry production expansion, while in the case of peaches and nectarines, improved production levels in Greece, Italy, and France, have offset poor performance registered in Spain. EU cherry and peaches and nectarines consumption is projected to expand given the larger domestic availability and the increase of tourism activity across the EU, despite inflation-led reduced purchasing power.

Disclaimer: This report presents the situation and outlook for stone fruit including peaches, nectarines, and cherries in the EU. The report presents the views of the authors and does not reflect the official view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The data are not official USDA data.

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Abbreviations and References

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CY	Calendar Year
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service
MY	Marketing year
MS	EU Member State
MT	Metric ton (1,000 kg)
MMT	Million Metric Tons
MY	Marketing year (For peaches and nectarines is January/December, for cherries April/March)
PS&D	Production, Supply and Demand
USD	U.S. Dollar

Harmonized System (HS) Codes: For peaches and nectarines 080930, for cherries, 080921 and 080929.

Note: The European Union Member States (MS) are mandated to annually provide the EU Commission with data concerning the "production area" of permanent crops. This means "the area that can potentially be harvested in the reference harvest year. It excludes all non-producing areas, such as new plantations that have not yet started to produce" (Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009, Article 2 (f)). In this report, this corresponds to the line "Planted Area." Not all MS publish harvested data. Hence, in this report, the line "Area Harvested" is a FAS Post estimate.

Executive Summary

In MY2022/23, the EU production of peaches and nectarines is projected to amount to 3.1 MMT, a recovery from the previous marketing year's low levels. The increase in production is expected to materialize in the main producing Member States (Italy, Greece, and France) with the notable exception of Spain, where a cool spell and frosts during spring significantly compromised yielding potential. According to FAS Post projections, area planted to peaches and nectarines is anticipated to remain stable. Italy and France are the exception to the rule, as poor economic performance and plant diseases continue to push area down. For cherries, EU production in MY2022/23 is expected to amount to 726,550 MT, up from the 667,045 MT obtained in MY2021/22. The main EU producing Member States, except for Spain, Portugal and Hungary, report improved production levels in MY2022/23. Total EU cherry planted area is anticipated to remain stable just above the 164,000 Ha.

Despite the positive production outlook, higher agricultural inputs costs, especially for plant protection products and fuel, along with an agricultural labor deficit, remain concerns for stone fruit producers across the EU.

The EU is a net exporter of peaches and nectarines, with Spain as the major Member State exporting outside the EU. Despite the increase in domestic production of peaches and nectarines in other EU main producing Member States, such as Italy, Greece or France, the shorter Spanish crop is projected to drive exports down. Imports are projected slightly up as the recovery of tourism activity allows for increased consumption. In the case of cherries, the EU is a net importer. The ample anticipated Turkish crop is expected to result in higher EU imports, which combined with the increase domestic supply, should allow for a recovery in EU cherry consumption levels.

Soaring energy prices could potentially dampen the EU's economic recovery given the impact on consumers' disposable income and companies' profit margins. In addition, the EU's agri-food industry is concerned about continuing effects of the war in Ukraine, such as additional sanctions or countersanctions, input prices, food supply, and trade disruptions.

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines

Table 1. Production, Supply, and Distribution Data Statistics: Peaches and Nectarines

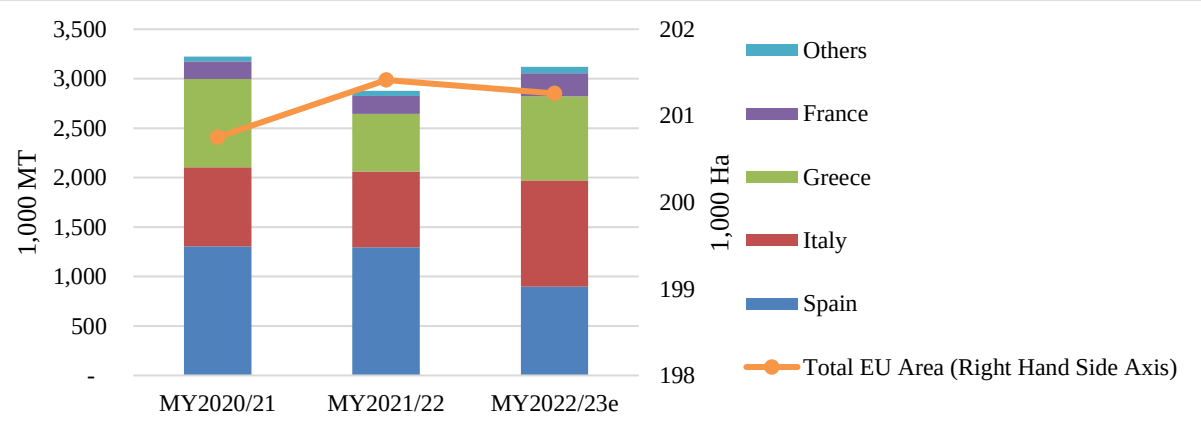
Peaches & Nectarines, Fresh	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
Market Year Begins	Jan 2020		Jan 2021		Jan 2022	
European Union	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	202,369	200,753	200,623	201,413		201,260
Area Harvested (HA)	193,918	192,501	190,926	182,843		186,315
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)						
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)						
Total Trees (1000 TREES)						
Commercial Production (MT)	3,204,536	3,223,773	2,670,645	2,875,509		3,120,341
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	32,369		26,976			
Production (MT)	3,236,905	3,223,773	2,697,621	2,875,509		3,120,341
Imports (MT)	38,800	38,900	40,000	42,890		47,000
Total Supply (MT)	3,275,705	3,262,673	2,737,621	2,918,399		3,167,341
Domestic Consumption (MT)	3,071,305	3,058,153	2,557,621	2,776,165		3,040,341
Exports (MT)	180,200	180,320	175,000	137,234		125,000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	24,200	24,200	5,000	5,000		2,000
Total Distribution (MT)	3,275,705	3,262,673	2,737,621	2,918,399		3,167,341
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

Source: FAS EU offices.

Note: The values of "For Processing" have been added to the attribute "Domestic Consumption

Area and Production

Figure 1. EU Peaches and Nectarines Area and Production

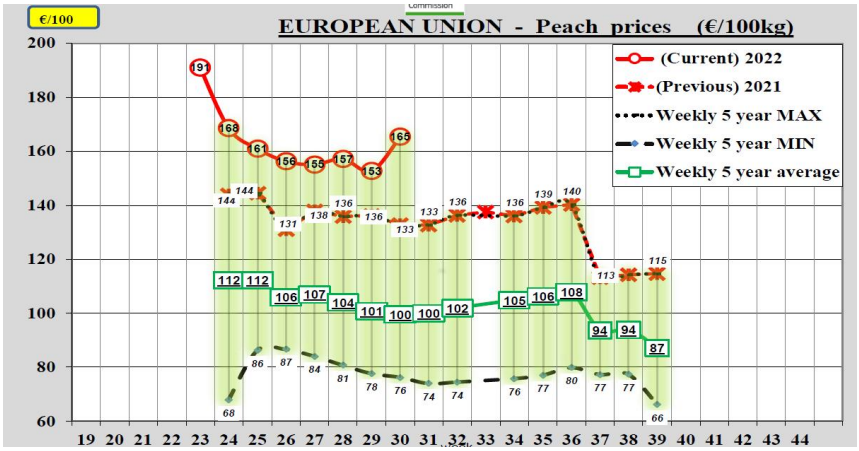


Source: FAS EU Posts estimates based on Member States statistical sources.

In MY2022/23, EU production of peaches and nectarines is estimated to be larger than in the previous marketing year and amount to 3.1 million MT (MMT). The rebound in production levels in Greece, Italy, and France, after hitting low levels in MY2021/22, have offset the poor performance registered in Spain, the largest producer in the EU, where production is anticipated to decline by 30 percent. Conversely, few variations are anticipated in terms of area planted to peaches and nectarines.

According to EU Peaches and Nectarines Dashboard, the 2022 season for peaches started off at significantly higher price levels than the previous season and the five-year average (see Figure 1). Despite the ample EU peaches and nectarines crop, EU peach prices are experiencing significant increases, driven by the short crop in Spain, which normally supplies peaches and nectarines for non-producing Member States. Conversely, with the notable exception of Italy, prices are closer to previous season levels in other EU producing Member States such as France or Greece.

Figure 1. Current EU Peach Prices (€/ 100 kg)



Source: [EU Peaches and Nectarines Dashboard](#).

Spain is the EU's biggest producer, consumer, and exporter of peaches and nectarines. Spanish peaches and nectarines benefit from climate conditions that allow it to produce and market early season produce. This season, Spain's peaches and nectarines production is anticipated to decline by over 30 percent compared to previous season output. The main cause for this drop in production is the cold spell and intense frosts affecting the Ebro Valley producing regions (Aragon and Catalonia) in the months of May and April. Producing areas in the Mediterranean coast (Murcia and Comunidad Valenciana) were also negatively affected by the excessive rainfall in May.

Italy's MY2022/23 peach and nectarine production is forecast at approximately 1 MMT, up from the previous season, but still below the 2015-2019 average. Italy's peach and nectarine production area continues to decrease due to grubbing not compensated by new investments.

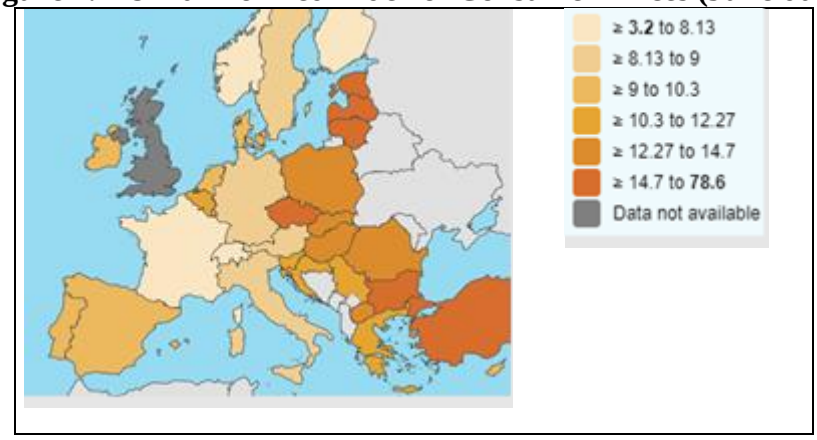
MY2022/23 peach and nectarine production in Greece is forecast to rebound following the previous low-yield year. Greece is the third largest producer of peaches in the EU. According to industry estimates, there are approximately 46,500 hectares currently cultivated for peaches and nectarines.

In France, peach and nectarines crop in MY2022/23 is expected to be increase by 41 percent from the low level of 2021. Late March/early April frosts were limited and only locally impacted some orchards. As for other spring fruits, good and dry weather throughout the spring limited diseases and pest infestations. Peaches and nectarines orchards continued to stagnate due to poor economic conditions for peaches producers in recent years combined with losses of trees due to the Sharka disease.

Consumption

In MY2022/23, consumption of peaches and nectarines in the EU is projected to expand given the larger domestic availability of EU domestic supply and the increase of tourism activity across the EU, despite the inflation-led reduced purchasing power (Figure 2). Likewise, a larger quantity of peaches and nectarines is expected to be used for processing, mainly in Greece, in line with the larger production. Withdrawals from market are anticipated to be below previous season levels, in line with the lower supply in Spain.

Figure 2. EU Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (June data)

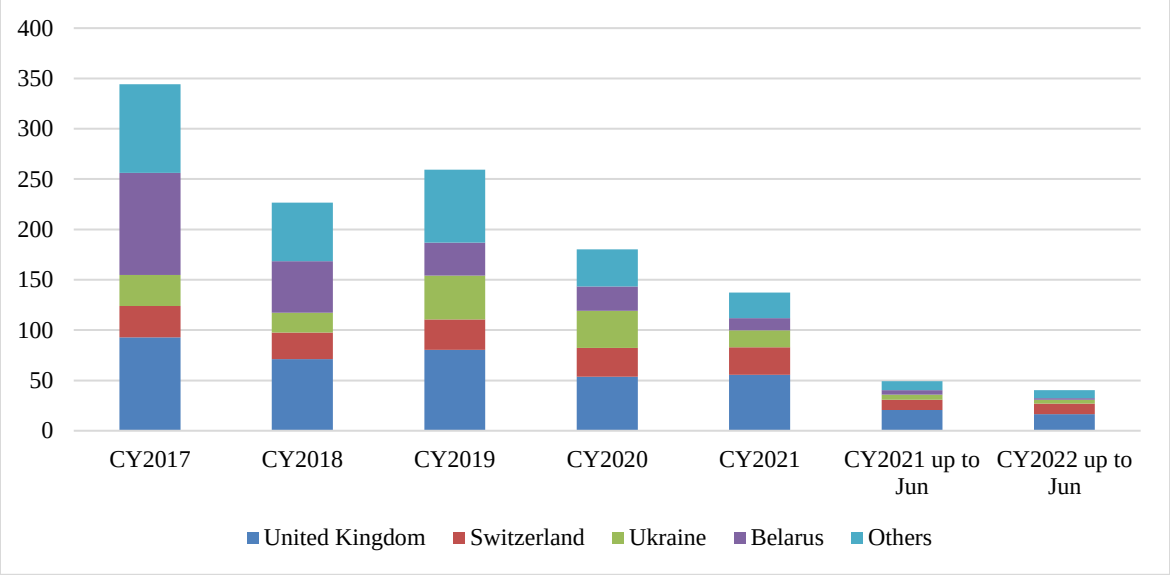


Source: Eurostat. June data.

Trade

The EU is a net exporter of peaches and nectarines with exports largely exceeding imports. However, the EU's positive trade balance for these products continues to narrow. Spain is the EU's leading Member State in terms of exports. In MY2022/23, EU exports are expected to decline significantly given the 30 percent production drop projected for Spain. The EU peaches and nectarines export campaign started slowly due to the lower domestic availability and the low temperatures that delayed fruit ripening, and consequently, harvest operations. The United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland, Ukraine, and Belarus are the EU's main destinations for peaches and nectarines (Figure 3).

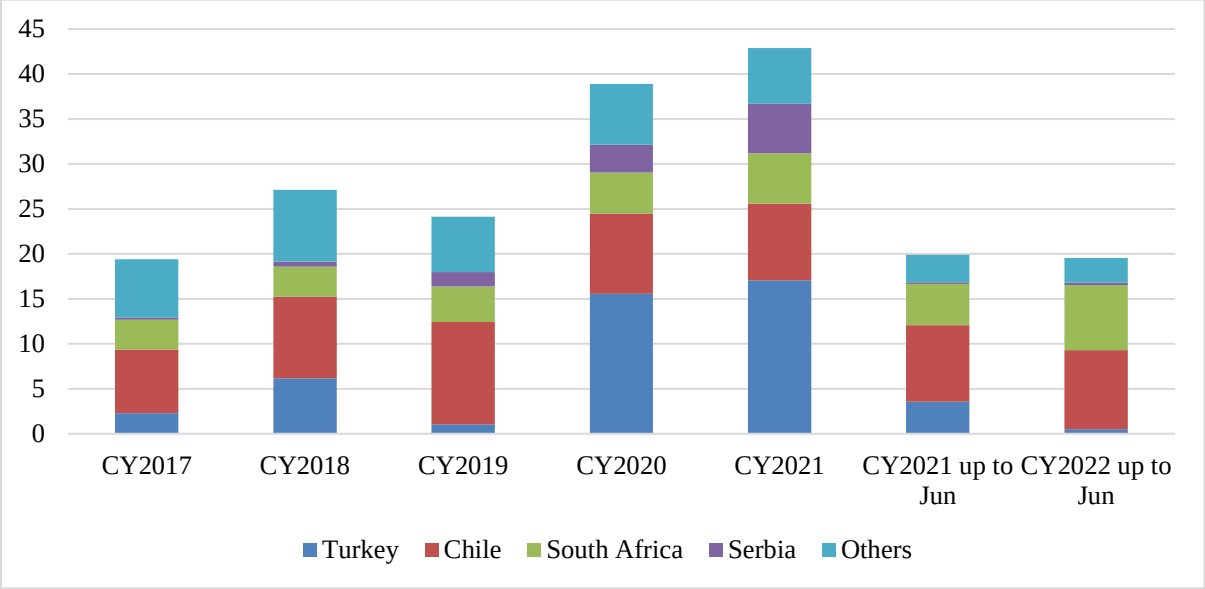
Figure 3. EU Exports of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines by Destination (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

EU peaches and nectarine imports are projected to continue with their ongoing upward trend and amount to 47,000 MT in MY2022/23. The main origin of EU imports of peaches and nectarines include other Northern Hemisphere suppliers, such as Turkey or Serbia, that supplement the EU peach and nectarine summer campaign. Imports from Chile or South Africa mainly occur during the EU's off-season (Figure 4). Additionally, the peaches and nectarines import needs of countries such as France and Poland are covered to a large extent by intra-EU trade, mainly originating in Spain. The reduced access to the Ukrainian market is expected to result in increased competition from Turkish peaches and nectarines exports to the EU.

Figure 4. EU Imports of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines by Origin and (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

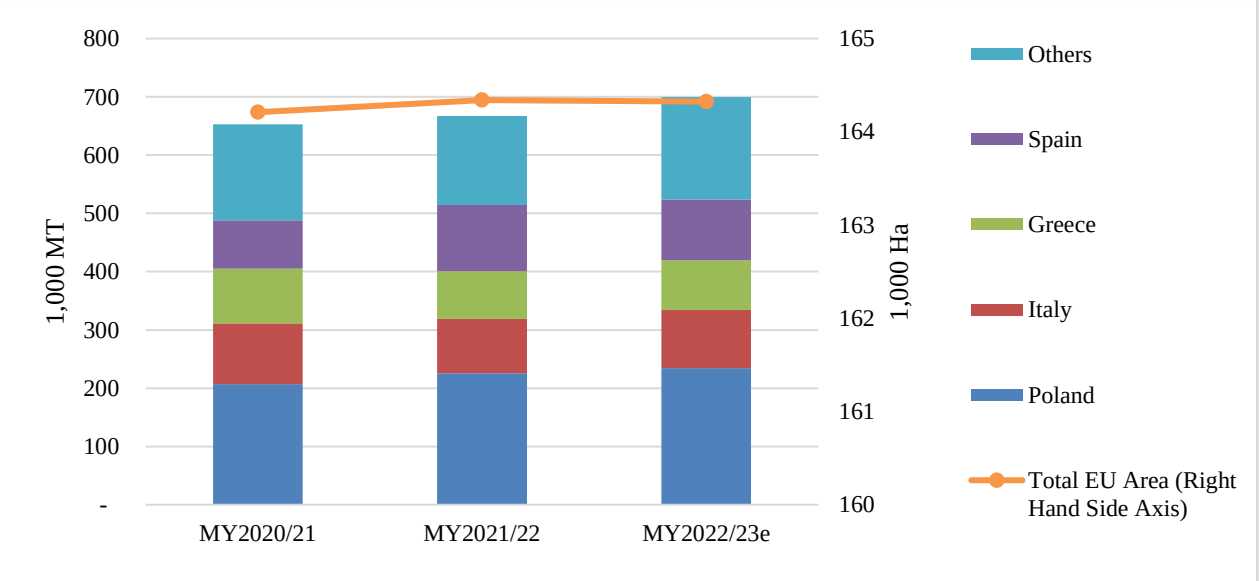
Fresh Cherries (Sweet and Sour)

Table 2. Production, Supply, and Distribution Data Statistics: Cherries

Cherries (Sweet&Sour), Fresh	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
Market Year Begins	Apr 2020		Apr 2021		Apr 2022	
European Union	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	164,029	164,210	164,069	164,340		164,324
Area Harvested (HA)	157,258	157,758	156,884	155,928		155,731
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)						
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)						
Total Trees (1000 TREES)						
Commercial Production (MT)	667,116	653,070	631,560	667,045		726,550
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	35,111		33,240			
Production (MT)	702,227	653,070	664,800	667,045		726,550
Imports (MT)	52,400	52,484	55,000	44,205		53,000
Total Supply (MT)	754,627	705,554	719,800	711,250		779,550
Domestic Consumption (MT)	737,227	690,611	704,800	691,979		764,550
Exports (MT)	14,900	14,943	15,000	19,271		15,000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	2,500					
Total Distribution (MT)	754,627	705,554	719,800	711,250		779,550
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

Note: The values of "For Processing" have been added to the attribute "Domestic Consumption"
Source: FAS offices

Figure 5. EU Cherry Area and Production



Source: FAS EU Posts estimates based on Member States statistical sources.

Area and Production

Total cherry production in MY2022/23 is projected to amount to 726,550 MT, up from the 667,045 MT produced in MY2021/22, as main EU cherry producing Member States (Poland, Italy and Greece) report good growing conditions for cherries. Spain, Portugal, and Hungary are an exception to the rule, as in these three countries, heat and drought conditions reduced yield potential.

According to EU FAS Posts, total cherry planted area is anticipated to increase moderately to just over 164,000 Ha, led by the restructuring of fruit plantations as some apple growers in main producing Member States like Poland are changing their production profile to cherries, which are more profitable.

In Poland, where over one third of EU cherries are produced, Post expects MY2022/23 sweet and sour cherries production to exceed MY2021/22 levels and amount to 261,500 MT. Winter conditions were favorable for fruit trees and abundant rainfall in the fall of 2021 allowed sufficient water to accumulate in the soil. Consequently, cherry orchards were able to cope with early spring dry conditions. Weather conditions improved in early April. Flowering of cherry trees in orchards over most of the country was intense and proceeded under good conditions, although locally slight delays were noted. Pollination was good this year. In the case of sour cherry trees, Poland's larger cherry production category, there was a greater fallout of buds this year than on sweet cherries.

Italy's MY2022/23 cherry production is preliminarily forecast at 100,000 MT, up from previous season levels but still below its full yield potential. Increased volumes are forecast in Veneto, while lower quantities are forecast in Puglia. Fruit quality is expected to be excellent. Puglia, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, and Lazio are the leading producing areas. Furthermore, new orchards are entering production in Trentino and Alto-Adige

According to official estimates, Spanish cherry production for MY2022/23 is projected at 105,000 MT. The initial delay of the cherry ripening was accelerated by the heatwave in May and June, causing overlaps in the harvest of different varieties. Some producing areas like Extremadura report inconsistency in the fruit set, which partially curbed yielding potential. In Aragón, the effects of spring frosts, excessive rain, and hail, coinciding with trees blooming or beginning of fruit set were also detrimental for yields. The main cherry producing areas include Extremadura, with 35 percent of the country's total, followed by Aragon, with over 20 percent of Spain's cherries production.

Greece's MY2022/23 (April/March) cherry production is forecast to increase four percent compared to the previous year. Early varieties yield was affected by the late spring frost. Moreover, rainfall during harvest further reduced yields in areas of Northern Greece. Nevertheless, the quality of the fruit is expected to be good.

Cherry production in Hungary, which mostly consists of sour cherries, was negatively affected by the drought conditions affecting Central Europe in recent months and has driven crop prospects significantly down. Beyond reduced volumes, fruit caliber has also been affected and a significant share of production is not expected to reach the right size for the freezing and canning industry. Likewise, the low flesh-to-seed ratio will impede its use for juice production.

In MY2022/23 to date, weather conditions have been generally favorable for the stone fruit development in Bulgaria, where most of the local produce is likely to be used for processing. Mild winter weather until early April was positive for the orchards but April's late frost negatively affected cherries development. Conversely, warmer temperatures and sufficient rains until mid-June supported improved yields. Sweet cherry production was officially reported to increase by 11 percent this season to about 60,000 MT.

The harvested area for sweet and sour cherries in Germany is expected to amount to approximately 6,000 and 1,800 Ha. German cherry production for MY2022/23 is estimated at 54,700 MT, a rebound from the exceptionally low production registered in 2021, when German cherry production was hit by late spring frosts, drought, and heavy rains during harvest. Sweet and sour cherry production is estimated at 40,600 and 14,100 MT, respectively.

After hitting bottom in MY2021/22, France's cherry crop in MY2022/23 is anticipated to rebound to almost 40,000 MT. Cherries in France benefited from very limited frost impact. The dry weather throughout the spring limited diseases and lowered pest incidence, especially of *Drosophila Suzukii*.

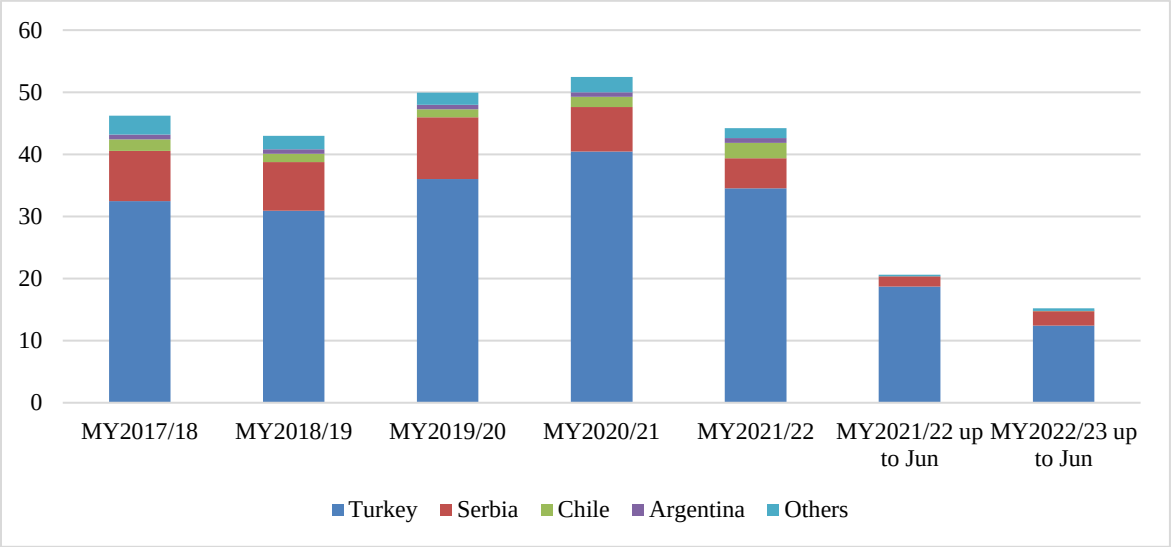
Consumption

The somewhat higher domestic supply, combined with the increased tourism arrivals to the EU, is expected to result in an increase of cherry consumption. Cherry fruit processing is projected higher in Poland, the EU's largest grower and processor.

Trade

A large amount of intra-EU trade exists from producing to cherry-consuming Member States. The EU is a net importer of cherries sourced mostly from Turkey, which accounts for nearly 75 percent of EU imports. MY2022/23 EU imports of cherries have started off slowly due to the delayed harvest in Turkey. The later arrival of Turkish cherries has increased the overlap with domestic production in the EU market. Other relevant suppliers to the EU include Serbia, Chile, and Argentina, with the latter two being particularly relevant during the North Hemisphere off-season. The Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) established for Dimethoate on cherries, in place since December 2020, has allowed for air cargo deliveries of U.S. cherries to the EU intended for the high-end restaurant market. EU imports of cherries are largely driven by Germany, which is the third largest importer of cherries in the world after China/Hong Kong and Russia.

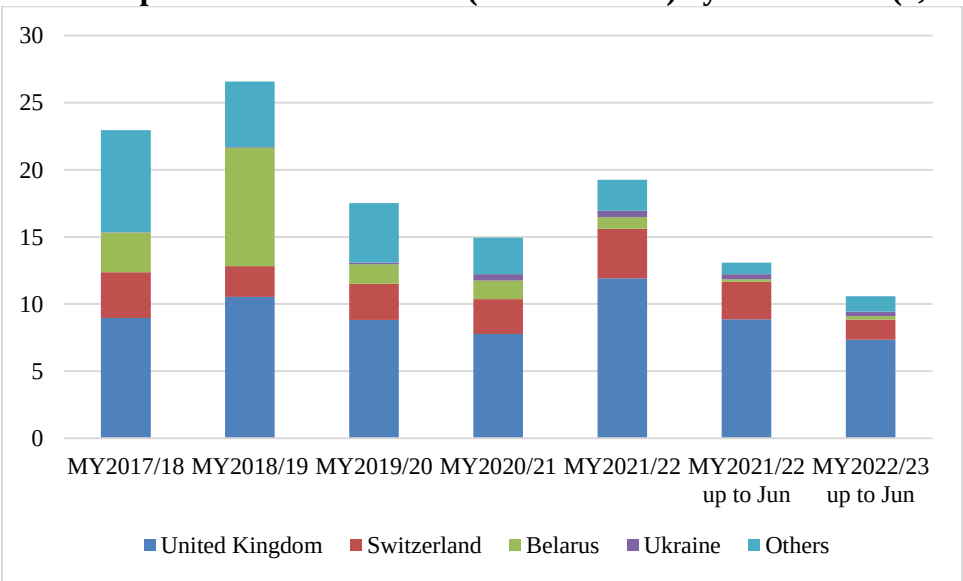
Figure 6. EU Imports of Fresh Cherries (Sweet & Sour) by Origin (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

While a large portion of trade takes place within in the EU, main extra-EU destinations of cherries include United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belarus, and Ukraine. Prior to the Russian import ban, Russia was the main cherry export market for both EU sour and sweet cherries, particularly from Poland. The loss of the Russian market due to the 2014 Russian embargo (see Policy section) has not been compensated for by the increase in EU stone fruit exports to other third countries.

Figure 7. EU Exports of Fresh Cherries (Sweet & Sour) by Destination (1,000 MT)



Source: Trade Data Monitor LLC.

Trade Shows

Trade shows play a key role in presenting new products to the trade or in finding additional buyers and importers. The most important trade shows related to the fruit and vegetable sector in the EU include:

FRUIT LOGISTICA Berlin, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/EU/Central & Eastern Europe FRUIT LOGISTICA is the leading European trade show for fresh and dried fruit, nuts, and related products. https://www.fruitlogistica.de/en/	Next Edition: February 8-10, 2023
BIOFACH Nuremberg, Germany (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Germany/Europe The leading European trade show for organic food and non-food products. http://www.biofach.de/en	Next Edition: February 14-17, 2023
FRUIT ATTRACTION Madrid, Spain (Interval: yearly) Target Market: Spain/EU/International Fruit Attraction is an international trade show for the fruit and vegetable industry sector with more than 1,600 exhibitor companies from around the world. http://www.fruitattraction.com	Next Edition: October 4-6, 2022

Policy

In 2021, EU policymakers were faced with many challenges: the COVID-19 crisis, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, the implementation of the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), and the first full year without the UK in the EU. Resiliency of the food system has been front and center in policy debates in Brussels for the past two years and these concerns were raised to a higher level following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

EU Policy Response to the War in Ukraine

In February 2022, Russia launched an invasion in Ukraine and the ensuing war is continuing to threaten global food security and create crises in food supply chains. On March 23, 2022, the European Commission published a Communication on 'Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems,' which outlines short-term and medium-term actions that the EU will take to enhance global food security and support EU farmers given rising commodity prices and costs for energy and fertilizer inputs due to the war in Ukraine. The EU will distribute €500 million euros in national allocations to directly support EU farmers most affected by higher input costs and the closure of export markets. Member States can supplement this support up to 200 percent using national funds.

Additionally, the Commission has granted an exceptional and temporary derogation from certain greening obligations. Member States may allow production of any food and feed crop on fallow lands that are part of Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) for the duration of 2022, while still providing the full level of greening payment that would be given if the land was kept fallow. This temporary flexibility aims to allow EU farmers to adjust and expand their cropping plans in response to the new market dynamics. Despite the measures, the European fresh produce sector remains concerned about market stability since the focus is on crops and fertilizer availability.

The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 outlines a framework for market measures under the CAP by the single Common Market Organization (CMO) and it entered into force on January 1, 2014.

Producer Organizations (PO) are still the key elements in the EU's CMO for fruit and vegetables. POs are legal entities established by producers to market commodities, including stone fruit. These POs are eligible to receive EU subsidies instead of individual producers. To qualify for EU subsidies, a PO must submit an operational program financed through an operational fund and directly receive the EU's financial contribution. The basis for the calculation of the estimated amount of the operational fund is the operational program and the value of the marketed production. The approval of operational programs happens under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

On June 1, 2017, Commission Delegated Regulation 2017/891 entered into force with supplementing measures for fruit and vegetable POs. This framework seeks to make POs more attractive to non-members, provide greater clarity about what actions are eligible for EU funding and set a maximum percentage of produce that can be marketed outside the organization at 25 percent to create short supply chains whereby producers sell directly to consumers. It simplifies and clarifies legislation regarding payments to transnational POs and their associations. It also increases the limit for withdrawals from the market. These market measures under the CAP aim to create a more competitive and market-oriented sector.

In 2021, the European institutions adopted the CAP 2020 reform consisting of four basic regulations, supplemented by delegated acts, and amending the implementing rules for the fresh and processed fruit and vegetables sectors (Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011). This reform will enter into force on January 1, 2023. The Commission is currently developing implementing and delegated acts ahead of the entry into force.

Maximum Residue Levels for Fruit

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticides, including import tolerances, have been harmonized throughout the EU and can be found in the EU MRL database. The following tables provide interested stakeholders with advance notice of active ingredients under review for renewal of approval in the EU and are listed with a U.S. MRL for stone fruit in the global MRL database.

Phosmet is the active ingredient in a priority insecticide that is used by U.S. cherry growers to control a variety of insect pests. The European Commission has published the official Implementing Regulation withdrawing the approval of phosmet. The decision not to renew approval of phosmet means that European farmers will no longer be able to use phosmet after November 1, 2022. The current EU cherry MRL for phosmet is 1 ppm, which is more restrictive than the U.S. MRL (10 ppm). If the EU MRL would be reduced, this could jeopardize the cherry industry's ability to use this insecticide and export to the EU without concern. The current MRLs for phosmet remain valid for the time being, but the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has announced the start of the review of existing MRLs for phosmet under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005**.** For additional information, please consult the FAS/Brussels' website on EU Early Alerts.

Upcoming reviews for MRLs:

Article 12 review: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/pesticides-MRL-review-progress-report.pdf

Upcoming reviews for active substances:

Active substance	Expiration date	Last day of application for renewal of the active substance
Flucapyroxad	05/31/2025	05/31/2022
Bixafen	05/31/2025	05/31/2022
Pyriofenone	01/31/2025	01/31/2025
Disodium phosphonate	01/31/2026	01/31/2023
Penflufen	05/31/2025	05/31/2022
Sedaxane	05/31/2025	05/31/2022
Benalaxyl-	04/30/2025	04/30/2022
Pyroxsulam	04/30/2025	04/30/2022
Penthiopyrad	05/31/2025	05/31/2022
1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene	06/30/2025	06/30/2022
Pyridalyl	06/30/2025	06/30/2022

Tariffs

Entry Price System

EU imports of fresh fruit and vegetables are subject to the Entry Price System, which has been in place in its current form since the Uruguay Round. It is a complex tariff system that provides a high level of protection to EU producers. In this system, fruits and vegetables imported at or above an established entry price are charged an ad valorem duty only. Tariff levels for 2022 are published in Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/1832. The tariffs for stone fruits can be found on page 105.

First Come, First Served Principle

Regarding the administration of import tariff quotas, certain types of stone fruit are subject to the 'first come, first served' principle:

Product	**Tariff codes**	**Quantity (kg)**	**Period**	**Origin**	**In-Quota Duty**
Fresh (sweet) cherries	0809 29 00	105 000	May 21 – July 15	All origins	4%
Preserved fruit including preserved cherries and peaches	2008 20 11 2008 20 19 2008 20 31 2008 20 39 2008 20 71 2008 30 11 2008 30 19 2008 30 31 2008 30 39 2008 30 79 2008 40 11 2008 40 19 2008 40 21 2008 40 29 2008 40 31 2008 40 39 2008 50 11 2008 50 19 2008 50 31 2008 50 39 2008 50 51 2008 50 59 2008 50 71 2008 60 11 2008 60 19 2008 60 31 2008 60 39 2008 60 60 2008 70 11 2008 70 19 2008 70 31 2008 70 39 2008 70 51 2008 70 59 2008 80 11 2008 80 19 2008 80 31 2008 80 39 2008 80 70	2 820 000	January 1 – December 31	All origins	20 %

On June 28, 2019, the European Union became the first major partner to strike a trade agreement with the Southern Common Market (or MERCOSUR) countries of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The EU Parliament and Commission must still ratify the agreement, but it will eliminate 93 percent of tariffs for MERCOSUR exports to the EU, while offering preferential treatment for the remaining seven percent. Although a final tariff schedule has not yet been publicly released, a preliminary analysis indicates that U.S. agricultural products that compete with MERCOSUR and EU products will be at a significant disadvantage.

Other Free Trade Agreement affecting stone fruit exports to the EU

The EU is negotiating and has implemented several Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with other countries and regions such as the major EU stone fruit partners: Chile, South Africa, Turkey, Morocco, the UK, and Canada, which include concessions on food products. Additional information is available on the website of the EC at: https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/negotiations-and-agreements/

Bans Impacting Stone Fruit Trade

Russian Ban on Agricultural Products

On August 7, 2014, the Russian government implemented a (then) one-year ban on a range of agricultural and food products, including stone fruit, from the United States, the EU, Canada, Australia, and Norway, in response to U.S. and EU sanctions over Russian actions in Ukraine. Russia has continued to extend the ban every year. The Commission introduced specific market support measures for the European fruit and vegetable sector from the start of the ban in 2014 until 2017. The emergency measures for fruit and vegetables were phased out on June 30, 2018. Overall, the EU granted $588 million (€500 million) of aid to EU producers of fruit and vegetables corresponding to 1.7 million tons of withdrawals from the market.

French ban of dimethoate on cherries

On April 8, 2020, France published its fifth emergency decree banning fresh cherry imports from countries where the use of the chemical dimethoate is permitted in cherry production. France made the decision because the EU, despite prohibiting dimethoate use, had not yet set MRLs for the substance dimethoate. Growers use dimethoate to fight Drosophila suzukii, an Asian fruit fly that causes considerable damages in cherry orchards. For more information, see GAIN Report France extends ban on US cherries over dimethoate use despite new EU rules.

On May 26, 2020, the Commission published the MRLs for dimethoate (Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/703), which have been applied since December 16, 2020. The MRLs for dimethoate on cherries then dropped to the limit of detection (0.01 ppm). Given the Commission's decision to set up MRLs for dimethoate, France decided not to renew its emergency decree.

Marketing Standards

Fresh fruit and vegetable imports into the EU also must comply with the EU-harmonized marketing standards. These standards apply at all marketing stage and include criteria such as quality, size, labeling, packaging, and presentation. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 provides for a general marketing standard for all fresh fruits and vegetables. Specific marketing standards are still in place for ten products, including peaches and nectarines, and are set out in Section 5 of Part B of Annex I.

European School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Scheme

The European "School Fruit Scheme" originated in 2009 as a measure to combat child obesity. It includes three elements: free distribution of fruit and vegetables in schools, informational campaigns on healthy eating habits, and monitoring and evaluation. It allocates EU funds of $271 million (€223 million) for the school year 2022/2023 to all of the Member States according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/493 , which will apply as of August 1, 2022.

In addition to the school fruit scheme, there is another way to encourage the increase in consumption of fruit and vegetables since the sector may also benefit from the European promotion budget for agricultural products and quality schemes. The Commission reformed its promotion policy with an extension of the product scope and a greater focus on export markets. The focus is on promoting products and farming methods that support more directly the European Green Deal objectives, prioritizing organic products, fruit and vegetables and sustainable agriculture. As part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the European Commission announced in April 2021 that it would review the European Union's policy on the promotion of agricultural products both inside and outside the Union. This review fits in the Commission's Green Deal efforts to promote more sustainable production and consumption of food. More information about the EU's promotion program is available in GAIN Reports EU 2021 Promotion Programs for Agricultural Products and Review of the EU Policy on the Promotion of Agricultural Products.

Certification of Fruit Shipments

Fruit and vegetables exported to the EU require a phytosanitary certificate. A USDA/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspector issues these certificates. This standard-setting body coordinates cooperation between nations to control plant and plant product pests and to prevent their spread.

Regulation 2016/2031 concerning protective measures against pests of plants since December 14, 2019, contains provisions concerning compulsory plant health checks. This includes documentary, identity, and physical plant health checks to verify compliance with EU import requirements and uniform conditions for its implementation that are established in Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission monitors imports of fruit and vegetables on an annual basis to determine the frequency of testing consignments. There is a reduced frequency of plant health checks when justified, as published in the latest updated list of products available at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/trade-plants-plant-products-non-eu-countries/reduced-frequency_en.

Related Reports

Title	Date
Stone Fruit Annual 2021	08/26/2021
Poland Stone Fruit Annual 2021	08/20/2021
Overview on the German Cherry Sector 2021	08/05/2021
Bulgaria Stone Fruit Annual 2021	07/12/2021

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Attachments:

No Attachments