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Turkey

Stone Fruit Annual

Big Year for Turkish Peach and Fresh Cherry Exports

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Report Highlights:

The total cherry production forecast in Turkey in Marketing Year (MY) 2018/19 is 590,000 metric tons (MT), which is 70,000 MT more than the MY 2017/18 estimate. The peach and nectarine production forecast in Turkey for MY 2018/19 is 600,000 MT, up 18 percent compared to last year. Stone fruits exports are increasing due to abundant production and strong demand from the Russian and EU markets. This report covers cherries, peaches, and nectarines.

Commodities:

Fresh Cherries,(Sweet&Sour)

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines

PRODUCTION

Sweet and Sour Cherries

Despite fluctuating cherry production each year, Turkey has been among the top cherry producing countries and is usually a top three exporter in the world. The crop area for cherry production in Turkey continues to gradually increase due to new investment, which has been stimulated by demand for Turkish cherries in export markets. Sweet cherry trees are grown mainly in the Aegean, Central Anatolia, Marmara, and Mediterranean Regions in Turkey. Izmir, Konya and Manisa are the top provinces where the cherries are produced. Total cherry production in MY 2017/18 decreased slightly compared to the previous year to 520,000 metric tons (MT). This was due to hail damage during June, which resulted in reduced fruit set. High yields in Konya and Manisa areas partly offset some hail damage in Afyon and Balikesir areas.

For the MY 2018/19 season, post forecasts total sweet and sour cherry production will increase to 590,000 MT, of which 440,000 MT are cherry and 150,000 MT are sour cherry. Farmers in major growing areas are generally satisfied with yields and quality in MY 2018/19.

With the help of a warm winter and spring compared to previous years, there is almost no frost damage this year. The warm winter accelerated fruit growth throughout the country and harvest took place 10 days before the normal harvest time in almost all regions. Despite general increases in production, some regions suffered from yield losses, such as Kemalpaşa, a town in Izmir where heavy winds during the flowering and anthesis periods caused a decline in production.

Cherry trees can be cultivated in different parts of Turkey with a variety of different physical and climatic conditions. Because of this, harvest time can differ 40-45 days according to the region of planting. Strong export demand in recent years is the driving force of cherry production. Turkey has been slowly changing from traditional to modern cherry production. Recently, modern high density orchards have been established using new cultivars, rootstocks, training systems, and growing techniques.

Despite the recent growing interest in high density planting cherry orchards, most cherry production is still carried out using predominantly traditional methods among the agricultural holdings operated by family-owned farmers. These methods include using tall trees and local cultivars without regular training, and less use of pruning and modern irrigation systems. However, these smaller family-owned farms have the advantage of a stable labor supply. Seasonal workers are also hired by the larger private sector entities that have investments in juice production or fruit for export.

There are more than one hundred varieties of sweet cherries produced in Turkey. The *0900 Ziraat* variety, also known as a *Turkish Napoleon*, was developed in Turkey and is the most popular variety in Turkey because it meets the characteristics demanded by export markets. However, producers have

started to try new cherry varieties such as *Sweet Heart*, *Celeste*, *Kordia*, *Regina* and *Sunburst* for higher quality products, later harvest (to capture higher prices later in the season) and higher yields.

According to Turkish official data, the total estimated number of all cherry trees was about 34.5 million in 2017. The total number of bearing trees for sweet cherries increased from six million in 2005 to 21.5 million in 2016. Sweet cherries tree numbers have increased 35 percent in the last five years alone. Sour cherry production area has not been increasing during the same period. Farmers have been replacing their older variety sweet cherry trees with higher yield varieties that meet the specifications of export markets. The increase in better quality cherries also helps also to increase quality of cherries for the domestic market.

Fresh Peaches & Nectarines

Turkey has been among the top ten exporters in the world and accounts for about 3 percent of total world peach production. The provinces of Bursa, Canakkale (both in the Marmara region), Izmir (Aegean region) and Mersin (Mediterranean region) are the major growing areas in Turkey. The crop area for peach production in Turkey continues to gradually increase due to new investments. Typically, peaches and nectarines are harvested between late May and early October. This wide range is due to the fact that peach trees can be cultivated in different parts of Turkey with a variety of different physical and climatic conditions. The majority of the peach varieties planted in Turkey are *Early Amber*, *Spring Crest*, *May Crest*, *Red Haven*, *Cardinal*, *J.H.Hale* and *Early Red*.

As a sensitive fruit, peach production fluctuates in Turkey depending on weather conditions. The production estimate for MY 2017/18 is 505,000 MT, which is slightly lower than the previous year. This decrease is mainly because some farmers experienced hail damage in the Marmara region in June, such as in the Lapseki area, despite a successful pollination in spring. However, farmers in other major growing areas are generally satisfied with yields.

The total Turkey peach and nectarine production forecast for MY 2018/19 is 600,000 MT of which peaches are 530,000 MT, and nectarines are 70,000 MT due to favorable weather conditions during winter and spring. Peach producers have enjoyed good growing conditions.

According to Turkish official data, tree numbers increased by 20 percent in last decade. Farmers have gradually been replacing old trees with varieties which are more popular in export markets. Nectarine tree numbers doubled in the last ten years, driven by growth in export demand.

CONSUMPTION

With one hundred varieties, cherries find different ways to be on the table. More than half of the cherries produced in Turkey are consumed fresh domestically. Approximately 30 percent of all cherry production is used in the processing sector to make canned products, marmalades, frozen fruits, and fruit

juice. The majority of these products are from sour cherries. According to the Turkish juice industry, the juice sector is growing about at 6.5 percent annually. Consumption for processing is forecast at 175,000 MT, which is in line with the growth in the juice sector in MY 2018/19.

Approximately 20 percent of all peach production is used for juice. Turkish consumers prefer fruit juices of peach, cherry and apricot in “nectar” form. Nectars are very popular, but there is also a growing trend to prefer 100 percent fruit juices. According to industry sources, juice/nectar consumption per capita is 10 liters annually in 2017 and is increasing. Peaches are also used to make canned products, marmalades, and are sold as frozen fruits.

As Turkey increases their fruit and vegetable exports, it also leads to rejection at the border for some products for residues. These instances are widely covered by the media, and as consumers see this, they become more conscious with food safety. This is not particularly related to cherries or stone fruit, but covers all fruit and vegetables and is a growing issue in Turkey.

TRADE

Turkey exports about one billion dollars value of fresh agricultural products, a quarter of which is fresh stone fruit. Turkey is one of the largest exporters of stone fruit in the world. Turkey’s exports vary between 200,000 and 250,000 MT of stone fruits annually; the majorities go to EU countries and Russia. Turkish exporters are also looking for opportunities for stone fruits such as cherries in Far East countries, particularly China. Turkey exported 206,874 MT of stone fruit during the first six months of 2018, which was only 142,000 MT in same period last year. Besides the increase in production, the recent devaluation of the Turkish Lira against other currencies helps to make Turkish products more attractive in the global market. This is expected to increase exports in MY 2017/18. Though not included in this report, Turkey is the top exporter of dried apricots in the world.

Table 1: Turkey’s Fresh Stone Fruit Exports

Turkey Export Statistics To World							
Commodity: 0809, Apricots, Cherries, Peaches (Including Nectarines), Plums (Including Prune Plums) & Sloes, Fresh							
Metric ton, Thousand dollar							
Commodity	Description	2016		2017		2018 (6 months)*	
		USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
0809	Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, Plums & Sloes, Fresh	<i>247,638</i>	212,613	<i>297,508</i>	258,256	<i>234,821</i>	206,874
080929	Cherries, Fresh, Nesoi	<i>182,723</i>	79,789	<i>159,460</i>	60,121	<i>136,791</i>	60,057
080930	Peaches, Including Nectarines, Fresh	<i>25,681</i>	50,638	<i>69,865</i>	88,811	<i>52,632</i>	63,827
080910	Apricots, Fresh	<i>24,307</i>	37,166	<i>44,274</i>	63,538	<i>32,524</i>	56,093
080940	Plums, Prune Plums And Sloes, Fresh	<i>14,860</i>	44,724	<i>23,779</i>	45,700	<i>12,867</i>	26,895
080921	Sour Cherries, Fresh	<i>66</i>	297	<i>131</i>	87	<i>6</i>	2

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA), in MT and 1000 USD

*First six months of 2018.

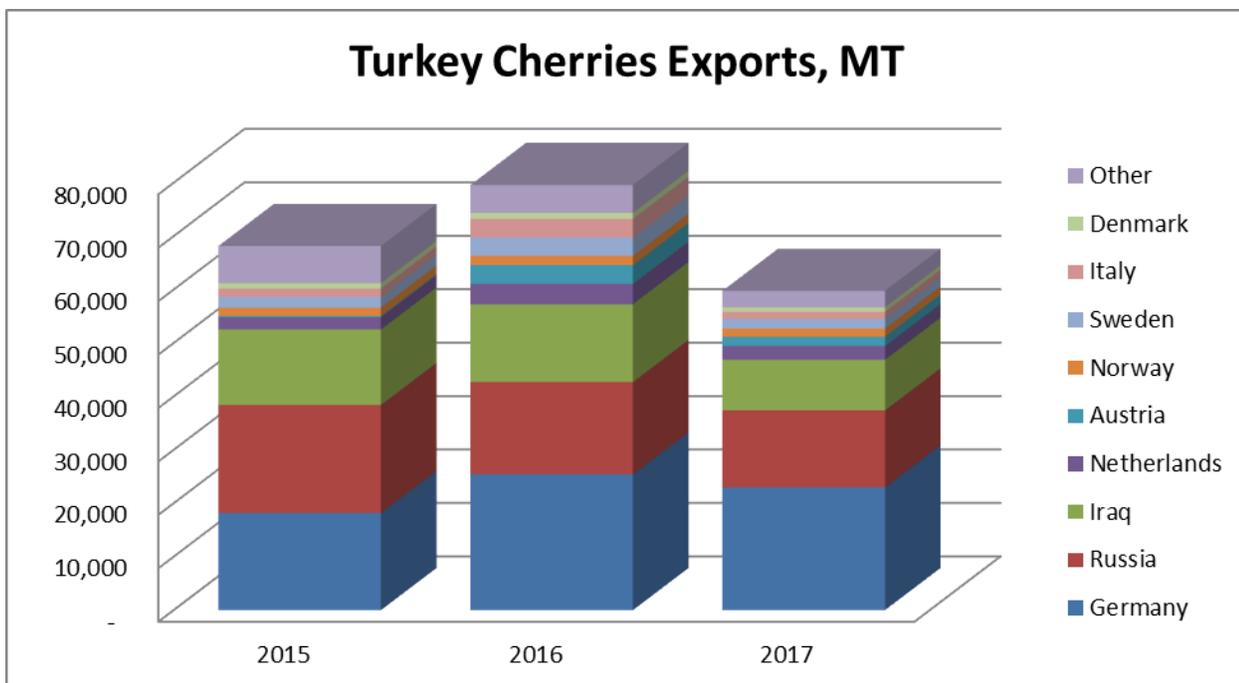
Turkey is one of the largest exporters of cherries in the world, representing about 15 percent of total global cherry exports. Chile and the United States are the other leading global exporters. In 2017, the main destinations for Turkish cherries were Germany (22,964 MT), Russia (14,414 MT) and Iraq (9,479 MT). While other stone fruits were impacted by Russia's ban on many Turkish products in 2016, cherries were not, so that export market was maintained.

Table 2: Turkey Cherries Exports

Commodity: 080929-080921, Turkey Cherries Exports (Calendar year, MT)						
Partner Country	2015		2016		2017	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Germany	<i>52,345,608</i>	18,167	<i>82,078,889</i>	25,392	<i>84,229,794</i>	22,964
Russia	<i>21,424,124</i>	20,219	<i>26,787,170</i>	17,290	<i>21,778,997</i>	14,416
Iraq	<i>4,995,315</i>	14,135	<i>4,126,344</i>	14,592	<i>3,776,066</i>	9,479
Netherlands	<i>8,888,394</i>	2,274	<i>16,300,822</i>	3,772	<i>12,121,940</i>	2,558
Sweden	<i>5,541,680</i>	2,003	<i>10,022,160</i>	3,403	<i>5,408,059</i>	1,788
Austria	<i>559,624</i>	227	<i>10,601,468</i>	3,517	<i>7,162,212</i>	1,775
Norway	<i>6,549,630</i>	1,608	<i>7,754,224</i>	1,761	<i>7,097,119</i>	1,520
Italy	<i>3,347,295</i>	1,526	<i>8,923,507</i>	3,498	<i>3,508,440</i>	1,303
Belgium	<i>3,271,828</i>	551	<i>3,408,610</i>	514	<i>3,028,734</i>	454
Denmark	<i>3,142,015</i>	1,061	<i>3,603,910</i>	1,129	<i>2,838,669</i>	885
Other	<i>12,391,314</i>	6,925	<i>9,116,364</i>	5,218	<i>8,509,727</i>	3,066
Total	<i>122,456,827</i>	68,696	<i>182,723,468</i>	80,086	<i>159,459,757</i>	60,208

Source: Global Trade Atlas, (Calendar year, MT)

Figure 1: Turkey Cherries Exports (Calendar year 2015-2017, MT)



Source: Global Trade Atlas, Commodity: 080929-080921

Due to abundant production figures, Turkish exporters hoped to increase their exports in the first six months of 2018. In the first six months of 2018, cherry exports increased about 57 percent compared to the same period in 2017 (see Table 3 below) due to an increase in quality and yields with the help of favorable weather conditions. Turkey’s cherry exports are forecast at 77,000 MT for MY 2018/19. Meanwhile, peach exports increased to 63,827 MT, up 40 percent compared to last year’s same period. Turkey’s peach exports are forecast at 90,000 MT for MY 2018/19. Exports are helped by the devaluation in the Turkish currency, making Turkish products more attractive on the global market.

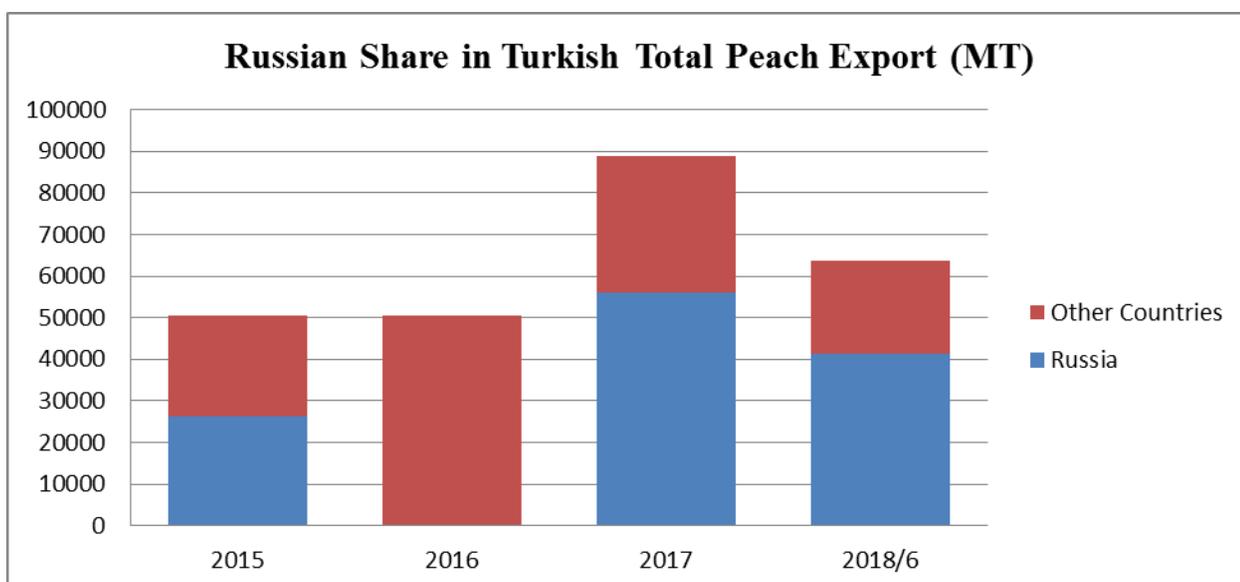
Table 3: Turkey Stone Fruit Exports from January to June, Comparison of 2017 and 2018

(Quantity MT)		
	Jan-June 2017	Jan-June 2018
Cherry	38,221	60,057
Sour cherry	51	2
Peach	44,956	63,827

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Turkey did not export peaches to Russia during 2016 due to a Russian ban put in place on January 1, 2016 on some Turkish agricultural products. The Russian government removed the import ban on October 11, 2016. It had covered Turkish oranges, mandarins, tangerines, apricots, nectarines, peaches and plums. After the ban was lifted in 2017, peach and nectarine exports increased about 75 percent compared to 2016. Turkey exported about 55,000 MT of peaches to Russia in 2017 and 41,000 MT in the first six months of 2018.

Figure 2: Russian Share in Turkish Total Peach Export (MT)



Source: Global Trade Atlas; Note 2018 figures are only including six months.

Table 4: Turkey Peaches and Nectarines Exports

Commodity: 080930, Turkey Peaches and Nectarines Exports (Calendar year, MT)						
Partner Country	2015		2016		2017	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Russia	26,463,208	26,276	-	-	54,261,543	55,907
Iraq	4,273,508	12,237	5,921,937	21,326	4,727,186	13,842
Saudi Arabia	2,907,421	5,376	6,325,142	9,104	4,384,437	7,780
Romania	1,078,169	1,014	2,094,853	1,899	1,693,977	1,620
Syria	237,543	890	161,822	770	1,052,017	3,546
Ukraine	115,930	188	1,227,602	2,130	593,786	1,195
Turkmenistan	841,269	931	485,832	618	518,179	671
Turk. Rep. N.Cyprus	427,066	671	602,637	947	445,630	992
Belarus	144,138	197	2,870,539	4,679	378,616	850
United Arab Emirates	278,232	565	610,153	796	343,904	563
Other	2,039,376	2,119	5,380,721	8,369	1,465,295	1,845
Total	38,805,860	50,464	25,681,238	50,638	69,864,570	88,811

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Stocks

There are no official stocks of fresh stone fruits in Turkey.

Policy

Stable export demand and government support have helped Turkish farmers to invest in new orchards. There are payments for producers who are registered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry farmer registration system. According to [an official announcement](#) in 2018, the ministry provides supports of 140 Turkish Lira (TL)/ha of fuel and fertilizer. In 2018, the government allocated 25 million TL (~USD \$4 Million, USD=6.5TL as of August 2018) for certified sapling support for the entire fruit sector (including deciduous and citrus trees), slightly down from 2017 levels of 28 Million TL (~USD \$8 million, USD=3.5TL as of August 2017). This program is to support farmers' investments who buy government-certified dwarf saplings to ensure higher quality trees are being planted in Turkey. When broken down to the farmer level, this support amounts to 4,000 TL/ha. They also support organic farming and good farming practices, which vary from 100TL/ha to 1000 TL/ha. The government has been implementing a crop insurance support program for orchards, subsidizing 50 percent of the cost of crop insurance. Turkey also subsidizes juice exporters through an [export refund program](#), which allows a tax refund of 320 TL/MT on up to 15 percent of the exported quantity, not to exceed 12 percent of the total value of the exports.

Production, Supply, and Distribution

Cherries (Sweet&Sour), Fresh	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
Market Begin Year	June 2016		June 2017		June 2018	
Turkey	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	96000	96000	97000	97000	0	98000
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees	25000	25000	26000	26000	0	26500
Non-Bearing Trees	8000	8000	8000	8000	0	8000
Total Trees	33000	33000	34000	34000	0	34500
Commercial Production	525000	525000	500000	520000	0	590000
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	525000	525000	500000	520000	0	590000
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	525000	525000	500000	520000	0	590000
Fresh Dom. Consumption	289900	289900	275000	295000	0	338000
Exports	80100	80100	60000	60000	0	77000

For Processing	155000	155000	165000	165000	0	175000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	525000	525000	500000	520000	0	590000
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

Peaches & Nectarines, Fresh	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
	June 2016		June 2017		June 2018	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Begin Year						
Turkey						
Area Planted	42000	42000	42000	42000	0	44000
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees	15250	15250	15500	15500	0	16500
Non-Bearing Trees	3000	3000	3000	3000	0	3000
Total Trees	18250	18250	18500	18500	0	19500
Commercial Production	510000	510000	505000	505000	0	600000
Non-Comm. Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	510000	510000	505000	505000	0	600000
Imports	100	100	100	100	0	100
Total Supply	510100	510100	505100	505100	0	600100
Fresh Dom. Consumption	339500	339500	445100	320100	0	390100
Exports	50600	50600	60000	60000	0	90000
For Processing	120000	120000	0	125000	0	130000
Withdrawal From Market	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	510100	510100	505100	505100	0	600000
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						

