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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY



Food
&
Agriculture



FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



TURKEY
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FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

PRODUCTION

Vegetal production is the leading sector of Turkish agriculture, and vegetal perishables constitute the backbone of the sector. The availability of diverse ecological conditions has resulted in growing all temperate, most subtropical and some tropical products.

According to the latest forecasts of TurkStat statistics, with a massive amount of 44,7 million tons, around 56% of Turkey's total vegetative production derives from the fruit and vegetables sector.

Table 1. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Production in Turkey (1,000 Tons)

PRODUCTS	2010	2011	Annual Change %	Share (2011) (%)
Tomatoes	10,052	11,003	9,5	24,6
Watermelons&melons	5,294	5,512	4,1	12,3
Grapes	4,255	4,296	1,0	9,6
Apples	2,600	2,680	3,1	6,0
Onions, dry	1,900	2,141	12,7	4,8
Peppers	1,986	1,975	-0,6	4,4
Cucumbers & Gherkins	1,739	1,749	0,6	3,9
Oranges	1,710	1,730	1,2	3,9
Tangerines	859	872	1,5	2,0
Eggplants	847	822	-3,0	1,8
Lemons	787	790	0,4	1,8
Apricots	450	650	44,4	1,5
Carrots	533	602	12,9	1,3
Peaches	539	546	1,3	1,2
Cherries	418	439	5,0	1,0
Pears	380	386	1,6	0,9
Figs	254	261	2,8	0,6
Grapefruits	213	219	2,8	0,5
Pomegranates	209	218	4,3	0,5
Total	42,460	44,705	5,3	100,0

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

Table 1 illustrates the production of major fresh fruit and vegetables and the diversity of products.

According to the Turkstat total fresh fruit and vegetable production is up 4.9% from 42,5 million tons to 44,7 million in 2011 mainly due to significant increase in tomato production.

The production of 11 million tons makes tomatoes the most produced vegetable in 2011. Tomato production increased by 9.6% from 10 million tons to 11 million tons. Accordingly, its share in the total production is accounted for 24.6% in the same year.

Watermelons and melons, having a share of 12.3% in overall fresh fruit and vegetable production, ranked second. Production of these vegetables increased by 3.5% from 5,3 million to 5,5 million tons in 2011.

Grapes are the other major crop in Turkey's fresh fruit and vegetable output with production of approximately 4,3 million tons, and constitute 9,6% of annual production.

With a share of 8.1%, citrus fruit production has utmost importance in the vegetative production. Within total citrus output of almost 3,7 million tons, oranges account for 1,7 million tons and the rest of the group, including tangerines, grapefruits and lemons, constitutes 2 million tons.

Turkey is the leading producer and exporter of fresh figs in the world. Bursa Siyahi grown in the Bursa province and Mut Figs grown in Mut are the most popular varieties in world's fresh consumption in terms of production and export.

Pome fruits are the second group in order of importance in Turkish fruit cultivation. Apples were the most outstanding species of this group with an annual average production figure of approximately 2.7 million tons in 2011. Quinces, the production dates back to early ages, used to be fruits grown only for domestic consumption but parallel to the increasing demand for exotic fruits in the world, Turkish quinces have lately become potential export fruits.

Stone fruits, taking a share of 4.7% in overall fruit and vegetable production, rank fifth. This group involves apricots, peaches, plums, cherries and sour cherries.

Crispy cucumbers are excellent for salads with their juicy flesh and pleasant taste. All these qualities make them highly popular among buyers. Cucumbers are one of the traditional vegetables grown in greenhouses.

Stuffing peppers, green peppers and capsicums together represent annual production of 1,97 million tons on average. Besides outdoor cultivation, greenhouse production has been widely used in recent years.

In addition to the above-mentioned products, many vegetables are available all year round thanks to adaptation of greenhouse production techniques. Major products grown in greenhouses are tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, melons, eggplants, green beans, squashes, etc.

The demand for organic products has also created new export opportunities for Turkey. Owing to her great production potential, Turkey has started exporting remarkable quantities of organically grown fresh fruits and vegetables in recent years.

Turkish fresh fruit and vegetable exporters are aware of the health and environmental considerations of customers and satisfy their needs by offering products which comply with both legislative and market requirements. Instruments such as ISO 9001, ISO 22000, HACCP, GAP and THE GLOBALGAP are indicators of quality, food safety and

environmental consciousness. Turkish exporters have been successfully adopting these requirements which have an impact on world fresh fruit and vegetables trade.

EXPORTS

The value of fresh fruit and vegetables exports which constitute around 16% of total agricultural exports were up 6,7% from 2,16 billion USD in 2010 to 2,3 billion in 2011. Citrus fruits led the list among exportable fresh fruits with a significant value of 1 billion US dollars in 2011. Lemons (354 million USD) rank first in total citrus fruit exports in terms of value. Turkish lemons are available throughout the year thanks to natural and modern cold storage facilities. Major export varieties are Interdonato and Lamas.

On the other hand, tomatoes have a significant place in total fresh fruit and vegetables exports with a share of 24.6%, which corresponds to 433 million US dollars.

Other major exported crops are grapes which account for 7.6% of total fresh fruit and vegetable exports. Among table grapes, Sultana is the most popular export variety, taking the biggest share in the overall fruit exports. Although Turkish sweet cherry exports date back to very recent years, the volume has shown remarkable increase due to the fact that they are gaining great popularity among buyers owing to their high quality, attractive appearance and delicious taste.

In the meantime, Turkish exotic fruits namely figs, quinces and pomegranates are becoming more and more familiar to foreign importers.

Turkey's export drive has resulted in its fresh fruit produce being shipped to more than 50 countries throughout the world. Turkey has begun to enhance her market shares in the CIS countries.

Other principal export products of the fresh fruit and vegetables sector are cucumbers-gherkins, peppers and onions.

The Russian Federation, Iraq, Germany, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Poland have been major destinations for Turkish fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Russian Federation, the leading export destination of the aforementioned product group, had a 36% share in Turkey's total fresh fruit and vegetables with 829 million USD. Iraq is another major market, which has dramatically increased its share in Turkish fresh fruit and vegetables exports during recent years.

Table 2. Exports of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables by Years
(Quantity: Million Tons-Value: US \$ Million)

Products	2009		2010		2011		Share 2011 (%)
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
TOMATOES	542,231	406,412	574,279	476,867	576,543	432,462	0,4
LEMONS	407,007	277,666	426,713	312,931	487,035	354,334	14,1
MANDARINS	364,228	253,369	429,401	290,722	470,882	337,995	9,7
ORANGES	236,596	146,995	212,832	143,474	360,912	258,654	69,6
GRAPES	188,486	155,623	237,86	203,925	239,577	175,325	0,7
CHERRIES	51,089	132,939	65,294	147,828	46,477	131,001	-28,8
GRAPEFRUITS	136,544	88,282	156,692	101,942	158,055	109,914	0,9
PEPPERS	64,767	61,01	61,247	69,366	68,569	77,544	12
POMEGRANATES	41,087	39,381	63,148	59,6	86,148	70,624	36,4
CUCUMBERS	95,17	66,482	105,06	75,463	80,991	59,176	-22,9
APPLES	59,945	22,862	80,698	32,865	87,238	36,591	8,1
FIGS	12,941	25,989	13,615	26,749	13,547	29,291	-0,5
APRICOTS	18,428	20,586	25,845	26,641	28,488	28,936	10,2
ONIONS	135,521	16,608	95,769	16,115	119,799	21,393	25,1
PEACHES	32,279	23,906	41,392	28,852	32,857	21,668	-20,6
STRAWBERRIES	23,2	25,26	25,867	28,101	21,103	20,441	-18,4
POTATOES	68,768	5,772	84,962	9,727	100,483	17,374	18,3
PEARS AND QUINCES	22,641	16,512	24,619	17,111	18,027	13,01	-26,8
CARROTS	56,256	9,954	56,374	10,284	64,711	11,938	14,8
TOTAL	2 692,338	1,872,211	2,897,050	2,156,585	3,195,190	2,301,617	10,3

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

Table 3. Exports of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables by Countries
(Quantity: Million Tons-Value: US \$ Million)

Countries	2009		2010		2011		Share 2011 (%)
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	820,516	614,78	987,239	779,018	1,127,544	828,356	14,2
IRAQ	366,909	116,171	347,766	146,544	486,621	259,234	39,9
GERMANY	127,191	175,809	151,133	202,28	132,454	195,38	-12,4
UKRAINE	219,832	139,399	275,889	180,82	284,717	187,415	3,2
BULGARIA	268,561	197,314	210,451	166,847	159,381	115,94	-24,3
SAUDI ARABIA	148,05	86,812	147,148	94,719	170,604	109,417	15,9
ROMANIA	161,412	100,42	187,641	122,775	155,38	103,721	-17,2
IRAN	54,538	27,535	44,9	28,609	91,147	64,159	103
UNITED KINGDOM	26,822	35,232	22,778	31,132	27,302	35,221	19,9
MOLDOVA	24,104	13,781	27,343	16,353	52,023	34,918	90,3
TOTAL	2,692,338	1,872,211	2,897,050	2,156,585	3,195,190	2,301,617	10,3

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

USEFUL LINKS

- Mediterranean Exporters Union
www.akib.org.tr
- Aegean Exporters Union
www.eib.org.tr
- Uludag Exporters Union
www.uib.org.tr
- Antalya Exporters Union
www.aib.org.tr
- Eastern Blacksea Exporters Union
www.dkib.org.tr
- İstanbul Exporters Union
www.iib.org.tr
- Turkish Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Portal
www.ffv.org.tr



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