



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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 figures of Turkish Statistical Institute, with a massive amount of 51.6 million tons in 2017, around 45% of Turkey's total vegetative production derives from the fruit and vegetables sector.

Table 1: Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Production in Turkey (1000 Tons)

PRODUCTS	2016	2017	Annual Change (%)	Share (2016) (%)
Tomatoes	12,600	12,750	1.2	24.7
Watermelons & Melons	5,783	5,284	-8.6	10.2
Grapes	4,000	4,200	5.0	8.1
Apples	2,926	3,032	3.6	5.9
Peppers	2,502	2,606	4.2	5.0
Onions, dry	2,121	2,132	0.5	4.1
Oranges	1,850	1,950	5.4	3.8
Cucumbers & Gherkins	1,812	1,828	0.9	3.5
Tangerines	1,337	1,550	15.9	3.0
Eggplants	854	884	3.5	1.7
Lemons	851	1,007	18.3	2.0
Cabbages	780	779	-0.1	1.5
Apricot	730	985	34.9	1.9
Peaches	674	771	14.4	1.5
Green Beans	639	630	-1.4	1.2
Cherries	600	627	4.5	1.2
Carrots	555	570	2.7	1.1
Pears	472	503	6.6	1.0
Pomegranates	465	503	8.2	1.0
Strawberries	415	400	-3.6	0.8
Total (including others)	44,254	51,633	11.5	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 11,5% up from 44.3 million tons to 51.6 million in 2017 mainly due to significant increase in some production such as citrus fruits and grapes.

12.7 million tons of production makes tomatoes the most produced vegetable in 2017. Tomato production increased by 1,2%. Accordingly, its share in the total production is accounted for 24,7% in the same year.

Watermelons and melons, having a share of 10,2% in overall fresh fruit and vegetable production, ranked the second. Production of these vegetables decreased by 8,6% from 5,8 million to 5,3 million tons in 2017.

Grapes are the other major crop in Turkey's fresh fruit and vegetable output with production of 4.2 million tons, and constitute 8,1% of the annual production.

With a share of 8,8%, citrus fruit production has utmost importance in the vegetative production. Within total citrus output of almost 4,7 million tons, oranges account for 1,9 million tons and the rest of the group; including tangerines, grapefruits and lemons, constitutes 2,8 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 3 million tons in 2017. Quinces of which, 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 potentially popular among our fruits.

Stone fruits, taking a share of 5,6% 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 Turkish greenhouses.

Stuffing peppers, green peppers and capsicums together represent annual production of 2,6 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, eggplants, 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 12,9% of total agricultural exports were approximately 2.2 billion USD 12,5% up compared to the previous year in 2017. Citrus fruits led the list among exportable fresh fruits with a significant value of 853 million USD in 2017. Mandarins (335 million USD) rank first in total citrus fruit exports in terms of value and major export variety is “Satsuma”. Turkish lemons, second with 293 million USD, 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 13,3%, which corresponds to 290 million USD.

Other major exported crops are grapes with 9% share and cherries which account for 7,3% of total fresh fruit and vegetable exports. The volume of Turkish sweet cherry exports has shown remarkable increase in the last decade due to the fact that they are gaining great popularity among buyers owing to their high quality, attractive appearance and delicious taste. Among table grapes, “Sultana” is the most popular export variety.

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

In the last five years Turkey's fresh fruit and vegetables have become very popular and thanks to this popularity, are being shipped to more than 120 destinations (including free zones) throughout the world. Turkey has begun to enhance her market shares in the CIS, the EU, Middle East and the Gulf countries.

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

The Russian Federation, Iraq, Germany, Ukraine, Romania, and Ukraine have been major destinations for Turkish fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Russian Federation, one of the leading export destinations of the aforementioned product group, had a 25,6% share in Turkey's total fresh fruit and vegetables with 637 million USD in 2017. Iraq is another major market, which has increased its share in Turkish fresh fruit and vegetables exports in recent years.

Table 2: Exports of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables by Years

Products	2015		2016		2017		Share 2017 (%)
	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	(Quantity)
Mandarins	559,886	294,678	672,664	321,871	699,644	334,878	19.2
Lemons	471,044	293,782	448,781	304,405	472,640	293,115	13.0
Tomatoes	541,089	365,292	485,963	239,875	525,946	290,191	14.5
Grapes	68,569	122,668	173,156	104,735	277,907	195,489	7.6
Cherries	331,913	166,845	79,789	182,539	60,128	159,044	1.7
Oranges	175,189	141,408	402,949	179,614	390,428	157,028	10.7
Pomegranates	147,769	96,686	184,274	104,213	163,819	97,321	4.5
Peppers	88,012	77,859	97,314	90,019	95,015	96,445	2.6
Peaches	153,697	74,548	50,638	25,700	88,842	69,810	2.4
Grapefruits	142,155	50,211	182,303	87,498	130,469	68,073	3.6
Apples	50,502	32,357	140,329	38,483	201,299	61,171	5.5
Figs (Fresh)	69,654	47,887	14,036	32,291	15,978	45,867	0.4
Apricots	50,464	38,913	37,166	24,310	63,539	44,193	1.7
Onions	55,337	39,236	105,910	12,545	248,303	40,594	6.8
Cucumbers	13,283	1,427	47,802	28,167	49,244	33,825	1.4
Pumpkin	34,030	15,684	59,738	33,913	48,585	31,247	1.3
Potato	93,390	18,434	190,656	22,732	200,590	26,338	5.5
Plum	20,419	12,923	44,724	14,869	45,714	23,775	1.3
Strawberries	51,267	6,911	17,214	8,806	35,280	20,067	1.0
Pears	54,833	12,552	9,557	7,685	21,755	12,362	0.1
Total (inc. others)	3,276,934	2,020,297	3,636,329	1,933,192	3,998,774	2,174,328	100

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute**Table 3: Exports of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables by Countries**

Countries	2015		2016		2017		Share 2016(%)
	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	Quantity
Russian Federation	1,278,938	875,177	555,889	329,677	1,021,991	636,689	25.6%
Iraq	662,977	258,239	933,067	317,807	961,161	262,132	24.0%
Germany	112,604	153,954	135,393	192,470	121,716	196,738	3.0%
Romania	109,721	75,308	148,910	111,518	147,572	130,582	3.7%
Ukraine	162,816	92,534	268,608	132,362	238,325	111,713	6.0%
Belarus	49,534	28,872	211,976	112,069	174,076	100,997	4.4%
Saudi Arabia	142,803	71,414	231,609	118,998	229,105	100,191	5.7%
Poland	48,039	34,736	78,031	50,092	66,154	53,723	1.7%
The Netherlands	42,360	42,570	52,878	54,521	45,727	53,655	1.1%
Bulgaria	102,062	44,625	102,362	45,480	86,113	47,829	2.2%
Total (inc. others)	3,276,934	2,020,297	3,636,329	1,933,192	3,998,774	2,174,328	100

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

TRADE FAIRS

- [Fairs in Turkey](#)

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- Mediterranean Exporters Union
www.akib.org.tr
- Aegean Exporters Union
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- Uludag Exporters Union
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- West Mediterranean Exporters Union
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- İstanbul Exporters Union
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- Turkish Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Portal
www.yms.org.tr



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