



FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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.

Türkiye 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.

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.

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 Türkiye. Owing to her great production potential, Türkiye 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 10,1% of total agricultural exports were approximately 3 billion USD 12,2% up compared to the previous year in 2020. Citrus fruits led the list among exportable fresh fruits with a significant value of 934 million USD in 2021. Mandarins (455 million USD) rank first in total citrus fruit exports in terms of value and major export variety is “Satsuma”. Turkish lemons, second with 292 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 12,0% in terms of value, which corresponds to 360 million USD.

Other major exported crops are grapes with 6,8 % share and cherries which account for 6,1 % 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 Türkiye'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. Türkiye 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 33,8% share in Türkiye's total fresh fruit and vegetables with 1 billion USD in 2021. 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	2019		2020		2021		Share 2021 (%)
	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	(Quantity)
Mandarins	752.715	344.565	871.438	444.035	931.519	455.117	18,1%
Lemons	472.818	243.540	470.764	271.438	621.665	292.283	12,1%
Tomatoes	534.615	303.001	518.446	311.759	616.958	360.739	12,0%
Apples	255.951	89.487	210.837	110.638	354.054	178.525	6,9%
Onions	227.052	52.414	219.554	51.302	273.686	44.818	5,3%
Potato	144.314	26.444	123.942	22.552	265.025	46.994	5,1%
Grapes	205.685	150.017	212.323	157.863	264.888	205.326	5,1%
Oranges	236.326	91.191	280.793	130.513	256.163	104.826	5,0%
Peppers	111.319	124.540	150.853	156.266	190.675	197.981	3,7%
Pomegranates	155.159	97.439	187.210	125.077	178.504	133.028	3,5%
Peaches	105.331	89.784	163.380	152.145	170.437	169.141	3,3%
Grapefruits	139.249	71.355	184.476	91.986	148.999	81.719	2,9%
Pumpkin	72.260	48.181	75.822	51.036	109.871	69.219	2,1%
Cucumbers	54.613	36.775	69.955	50.550	92.839	67.538	1,8%
Pears	43.115	23.939	64.585	42.517	83.517	51.601	1,6%
Cherries	80.506	183.835	87.253	223.709	70.467	183.452	1,4%
Apricots	67.637	38.096	64.709	55.638	69.959	61.839	1,4%
Strawberries	25.333	24.846	25.301	24.476	42.151	46.172	0,8%
Plum	44.454	17.018	47.793	31.641	38.748	26.941	0,8%
Aubergine	19.803	13.188	28.809	17.940	34.054	20.247	0,7%
Total (inc. others)	3.976.173	2.192.805	4.306.818	2.669.756	5.150.950	2.995.748	100

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

Table 3: Exports of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables by Countries

Countries	2019		2020		2021		Share 2021(%)
	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	Tons	\$1000	Value
Rusya Federasyonu	1.039.492	743.667	1.369.402	953.688	1.490.691	1.012.335	33,8%
Almanya	900.046	220.632	570.513	202.479	179.505	278.171	9,3%
Irak	134.519	209.746	158.214	241.688	760.123	232.263	7,8%
Ukrayna	325.612	159.163	366.911	192.437	430.224	214.812	7,2%
Romanya	162.544	124.068	218.669	167.756	264.437	207.345	6,9%
Bulgaristan	137.155	68.182	149.017	80.314	186.227	104.102	3,5%
Suriye	55.975	42.050	85.630	62.980	453.634	95.428	3,2%
Polonya	274.308	61.199	222.367	48.789	96.178	73.982	2,5%
Hindistan	36.300	44.234	50.851	54.589	90.431	68.032	2,3%
Belarus	24.273	29.880	27.193	41.551	81.491	62.024	2,1%
Total (inc. others)	3.976.173	2.192.805	4.306.818	2.669.756	5.150.950	2.995.748	100

Source: *Turkiye Statistical Institute*

TRADE FAIRS

- [Fairs in Türkiye](#)

USEFUL LINKS

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