



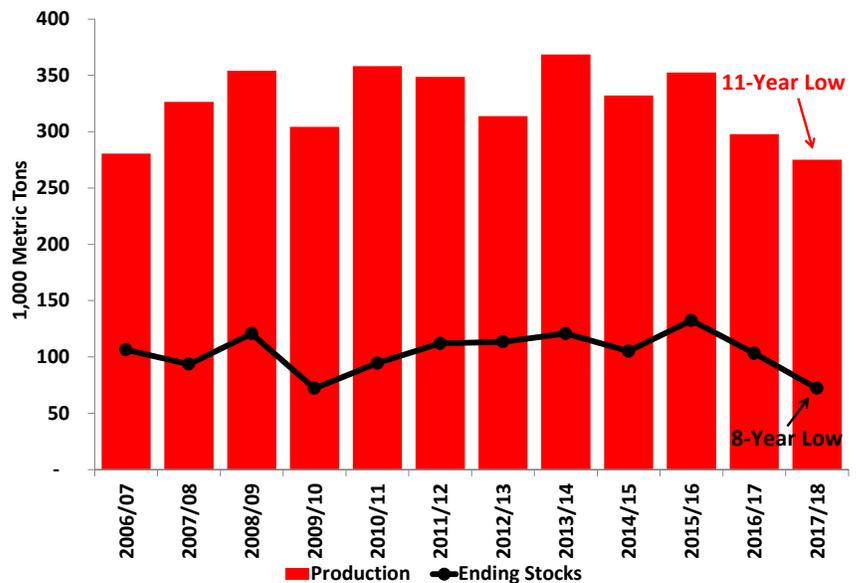
Raisins: World Markets and Trade

Global Raisin Production to Slip

Global raisin production for 2017/18 is forecast to ease 2 percent to 1.2 million metric tons (tons) as modest gains in China are more than offset by lower output in Turkey, United States and Iran. As a result of reduced available supplies, total ending stocks are expected to plunge 22 percent to 84,000 tons, an 8-year low. Global exports are forecast unchanged at 779,000 tons, as lower shipments from Turkey and the United States are offset by Argentina, Iran and Afghanistan.

U.S. production is forecast down 23,000 tons to an 11-year low of 275,000 tons. Although the [California Raisin Grape Objective Measurement Report](#) was not carried out again this year, the National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed the industry and published the forecast for California's raisin-type grape production in the August 2017 [Crop Production Report](#). Exports are forecast to fall 7,000 tons to 120,000 on lower shipments to the European Union, and to a lesser extent, China. Ending stocks are expected to plummet 31,000 tons to an 8-year low of 72,000 tons.

U.S. Production and Stocks Forecast Lowest in Years



China's production is forecast up 5,000 tons to 190,000 on favorable growing conditions in the major growing region of Turpan. In addition, drier weather during fruit development lowered pest and disease occurrence and improved grape quality. Exports are forecast to rebound to 25,000 tons on modest gains to the European Union and Japan.

Located in Xinjiang, Turpan is China's largest raisin producing region, producing more than 80 percent. Although there are more than a dozen varieties, Thompson Seedless accounts for a vast majority of the region's grape area, largely because it can serve both the fresh consumption and raisin-producing markets. Raisins have historically been processed and sold from more than 100 small facilities, most of which use outdated technology and equipment. However, in June 2017, a modern raisin sorting, grading, and storage facility was built in Turpan with an annual capacity of up to 100,000 tons.

Green raisins account for approximately 60 percent of total production and are mostly consumed as snack foods, while dark raisins account for the remainder and are used by the domestic food processing industry. Green raisins are mainly produced by individual farmers using special drying houses, while most dark raisins are produced in factories with sun-drying yards.

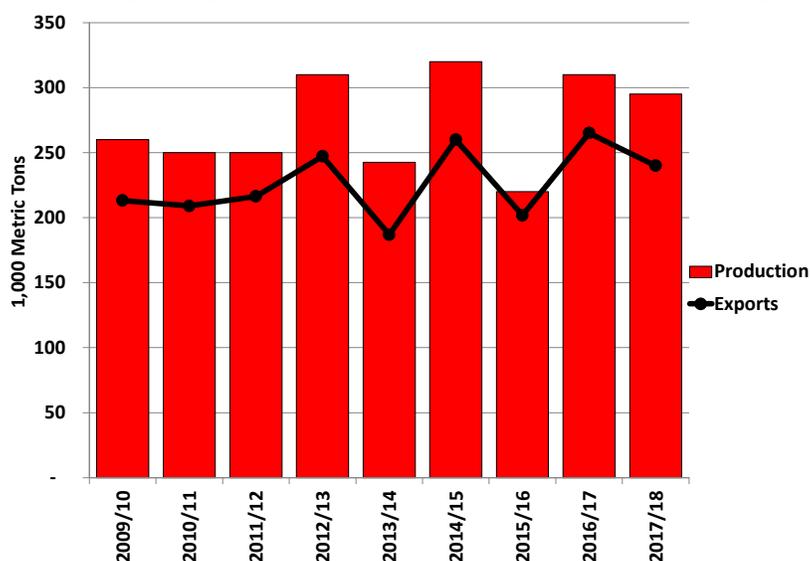
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Turkey's production is forecast to drop slightly to 295,000 tons due to sporadic frost and hail damage during the spring in some growing regions in Manisa and Izmir. With lower available supplies, exports are expected down 25,000 tons to 240,000 on slower shipments to the European Union, its primary market.

Although there are over 1,200 grape varieties grown throughout Turkey, Sultana seedless grapes account for approximately 40 percent by volume and are grown in the Aegean region. The Sultana Raisins Association has over 15,000 members and is the basis of TARIS Raisins Agricultural Sales

Cooperatives Union. TARIS announces a procurement price for raisins every year, which also serves as a support price. While TARIS is required to buy raisins from its members, members are allowed to sell to other buyers. In general, TARIS purchases around 20 percent of total production and is the largest Sultana exporter.

Turkey's Exports Forecast Lower on Smaller Crop



Chile's production and exports are forecast nearly unchanged. Most raisins are produced from discarded table grapes unsuitable for fresh consumption. Nearly all production is exported; key markets include Europe, the United States, and Mexico.

South Africa's production and exports are forecast unchanged at 55,000 and 47,000 tons, respectively, on expectations of normal growing conditions. Approximately 90 percent of output is concentrated in the Orange River basin in northern Cape Province due to its ideal climate for drying grapes and availability of irrigated water. The remaining 10 percent is in the Namaqualand region. Grapes for raisins are harvested later than table grapes, usually from January to March, in order to maximize sugar content. The Thompson Seedless variety accounts for over half of output, followed by Sultana and Golden raisins. There are seven major raisin processors in South Africa. Sun drying is the most common processing method for Thompson Seedless, because it is quick and inexpensive, whereas Golden raisins are usually treated with sulfur dioxide and dried in a ventilated facility.

The confectionary and baking industry is the largest consumer of raisins in South Africa for products such as biscuits, cakes, and buns that are consumed during festive times such as Christmas, Easter, and Ramadan. Sultana raisins are ideal for baking while Golden raisins are popular in salads and several traditional dishes. Raisins are also consumed as snacks, and the industry is hopeful that demand for raisins as a snack will continue to improve as consumers' preferences move towards healthier and natural choices. However, current domestic consumption is largely influenced by available prices, competition from fresh table grapes, exports, and consumer income growth.

Argentina's production is forecast to rebound 9,000 tons from last year's frost damage to 40,000 on expectations of normal weather. Nearly all raisins are produced in the Province of San Juan, located alongside the Andes Mountains. Since this region averages only 8 inches of rain annually, plantations are irrigated from snowmelt from the Andes. Although land is available for expansion, area planted is

expected to remain unchanged at 6,600 hectares due to the combination of high input costs and low prices. Exports are forecast up 7,000 tons to 35,000 on higher shipments to the European Union.

Revised 2016/17

World **production** is revised down from the September 2016 estimate by 7,000 tons to 1.2 million.

- United States is lowered 17,000 tons to 298,000.
- Iran is increased 20,000 tons to 170,000.
- Afghanistan is down 9,000 tons to 26,000.

World **exports** are revised up 30,000 tons to 779,000.

- Turkey is boosted 45,000 tons to 265,000.
- Iran is raised 14,000 tons to 134,000.

World **imports** are revised slightly higher 5,000 tons to 738,000.

- Kazakhstan is raised 10,000 tons to 55,000.
- Mexico is lowered 6,000 tons to 11,000.

World **ending stocks** are revised down 42,000 tons to 108,000.

- Turkey is down 36,000 tons to 3,000.

For additional information, please contact Tony Halstead at 202-720-4620, or Tony.Halstead@fas.usda.gov

To download additional data tables, go to Production, Supply and Distribution Database (PSD Online): (<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdHome.aspx>), scroll down to Reports, and Click the plus sign [+] next to Fruits and Vegetables

FAS Reports and Databases:

Current *World Market and Trade* Reports:

<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdDataPublications.aspx>

Archives *World Market and Trade* Reports:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewTaxonomy.do?taxonomyID=7>

Production, Supply and Distribution Database (PSD Online):

<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdHome.aspx>

Global Agricultural Information Network (Agricultural Attaché Reports):

<http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

Global Agricultural Trade System (U.S. Exports and Imports):

<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>

Raisin Production, Supply and Distribution for Select Countries

Metric Tons (Dry Weight Basis)

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Sep 2017/18
Production						
Turkey	310,000	242,635	320,000	220,000	310,000	295,000
United States	313,795	368,408	332,211	352,441	297,738	275,000
China	150,000	165,000	180,000	190,000	185,000	190,000
Iran	180,000	160,000	130,000	139,000	170,000	160,000
Uzbekistan	22,000	18,000	51,700	69,500	73,000	75,000
Chile	68,500	69,200	65,000	57,000	59,000	60,000
South Africa	46,000	46,000	65,900	54,629	55,000	55,000
Argentina	32,000	20,500	37,000	40,000	31,000	40,000
Afghanistan	24,000	31,000	37,000	35,000	26,000	30,000
Australia	12,500	10,000	12,000	15,000	18,000	20,000
Other	21,000	20,000	21,000	19,500	19,000	20,000
Total	1,179,795	1,150,743	1,251,811	1,192,070	1,243,738	1,220,000
Domestic Consumption						
European Union	344,000	330,900	334,800	320,500	339,500	337,000
United States	205,122	215,636	238,039	235,136	214,004	205,000
China	138,200	144,400	186,939	192,400	203,100	200,000
Kazakhstan	6,300	13,200	36,500	42,800	54,500	52,000
Turkey	47,133	58,100	55,225	42,500	50,000	50,000
Japan	29,800	30,000	31,000	31,800	35,500	37,000
Australia	33,600	32,175	27,100	30,100	36,000	36,000
Russia	47,500	34,100	26,600	27,300	30,000	30,000
Brazil	26,000	25,400	23,200	25,800	28,000	28,000
Canada	27,500	28,800	26,100	25,200	27,000	26,000
Other	221,150	216,000	213,900	197,429	219,400	202,500
Total	1,126,305	1,128,711	1,199,403	1,170,965	1,237,004	1,203,500
Ending Stocks						
United States	113,329	120,693	104,944	132,418	103,139	72,139
Turkey	21,167	20,602	28,177	6,177	2,977	10,477
Argentina	0	0	2,000	3,000	1,000	1,000
Chile	375	300	500	500	500	500
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	134,871	141,595	135,621	142,095	107,616	84,116
Exports						
Turkey	247,200	186,900	259,900	201,800	265,000	240,000
Iran	149,700	130,700	102,200	112,700	134,000	140,000
United States	123,899	159,389	127,279	114,497	127,054	120,000
Uzbekistan	20,000	15,700	49,400	67,300	70,000	72,000
Chile	67,150	66,000	62,000	55,600	57,000	59,000
South Africa	31,900	35,050	52,900	47,000	47,000	47,000
Argentina	29,050	16,300	29,700	34,200	28,000	35,000
Other	65,300	78,700	70,000	79,100	51,300	65,500
Total	734,199	688,739	753,379	712,197	779,354	778,500
Imports						
European Union	340,200	328,900	332,800	321,600	337,000	335,000
Kazakhstan	6,300	13,200	36,500	42,800	54,500	52,000
Japan	29,800	30,000	31,000	31,800	35,500	37,000
China	20,900	18,700	29,339	33,600	35,500	35,000
Russia	47,500	34,100	26,600	27,300	30,000	30,000
Brazil	26,000	25,400	23,200	25,800	28,000	28,000
Canada	27,500	28,800	26,100	25,200	27,000	26,000
Iraq	20,900	18,300	14,100	16,300	23,500	22,000
Australia	23,800	24,375	19,200	20,300	22,000	21,000
United Arab Emirates	22,100	23,300	19,700	17,500	22,000	21,000
Other	134,718	128,356	136,458	135,366	123,141	131,500
Total	699,718	673,431	694,997	697,566	738,141	738,500

The marketing year begins in August of the first year for Northern Hemisphere countries and January of the second year for Southern Hemisphere countries.