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Report Name: Citrus Semi-annual

Country: Argentina

Post: Buenos Aires

Report Category: Citrus

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Report Highlights:

For marketing year (MY) 2022/23, Post revises fresh lemon production estimates to 1.65 million metric tons (MMT), down 6.5 percent from the official USDA estimate due to continued adverse weather and poor economic conditions, especially for smaller producers. Fresh orange production is estimated at 623,000 MT, down 177,000 MT from official USDA estimates, and fresh tangerine production is estimated at 285,000 MT, down 95,000 MT. As a result of lower production, lemon exports are expected to fall to 200,000 MT. This is a decline of 8 percent from official USDA estimates. Sweet citrus exports are also expected to fall, with fresh orange exports forecast at 55,000 MT, a decrease of 8 percent, and tangerine exports forecast at 30,000 MT, a decrease of 47 percent from official USDA estimates.

Executive Summary

Persistent unfavorable weather conditions are expected to have a significant impact on citrus production in Marketing Year (MY) 2022/23. Post forecasts lemon production to decline by 10 percent from MY 2021/22 to 1.65 million metric tons (MMT). Orange production is projected to fall by 13 percent to 623,000 MT, and tangerine production is expected to decrease by 18 percent to 285,000 MT.

Lemon exports are expected to decline to 200,000 MT in MY 2022/23, due to lower production. Orange exports are projected to decrease slightly to 55,000 MT, and tangerine exports are estimated to decrease to 30,000 MT, both due to smaller production.

In MY 2022/23, the area planted with fresh lemon is estimated to decrease by 13 percent to 45,000 hectares. This is due to the overproduction of lemons produced in the two previous MYs, which led to a decrease in prices and made it less profitable for growers to plant lemons. In contrast, the Post's projected area planted with fresh oranges and tangerines is expected to remain unchanged from last official estimates.

The amount of fresh lemon that will be processed is projected to fall to 1.32 MMT, a decline of 6 percent from the previous estimate, due to lower production. However, Post's forecast on fresh orange and tangerine that will be processed is in line with the previous official forecast, despite the lower production in both citrus.

Domestic consumption of lemon is expected to remain unchanged at 130,000 MT in MY 2022/23. This is because domestic consumption of lemons tends to be price inelastic, meaning that consumers do not significantly change their consumption in response to changes in price. However, the decline in production of sweet citrus in MY 2022/23 is expected to have a significant impact on domestic consumption. Fresh orange domestic consumption is projected to drop to 371,000 MT, down 32 percent from earlier estimates and domestic fresh consumption is projected to decline 25 percent to 196,000 MT.

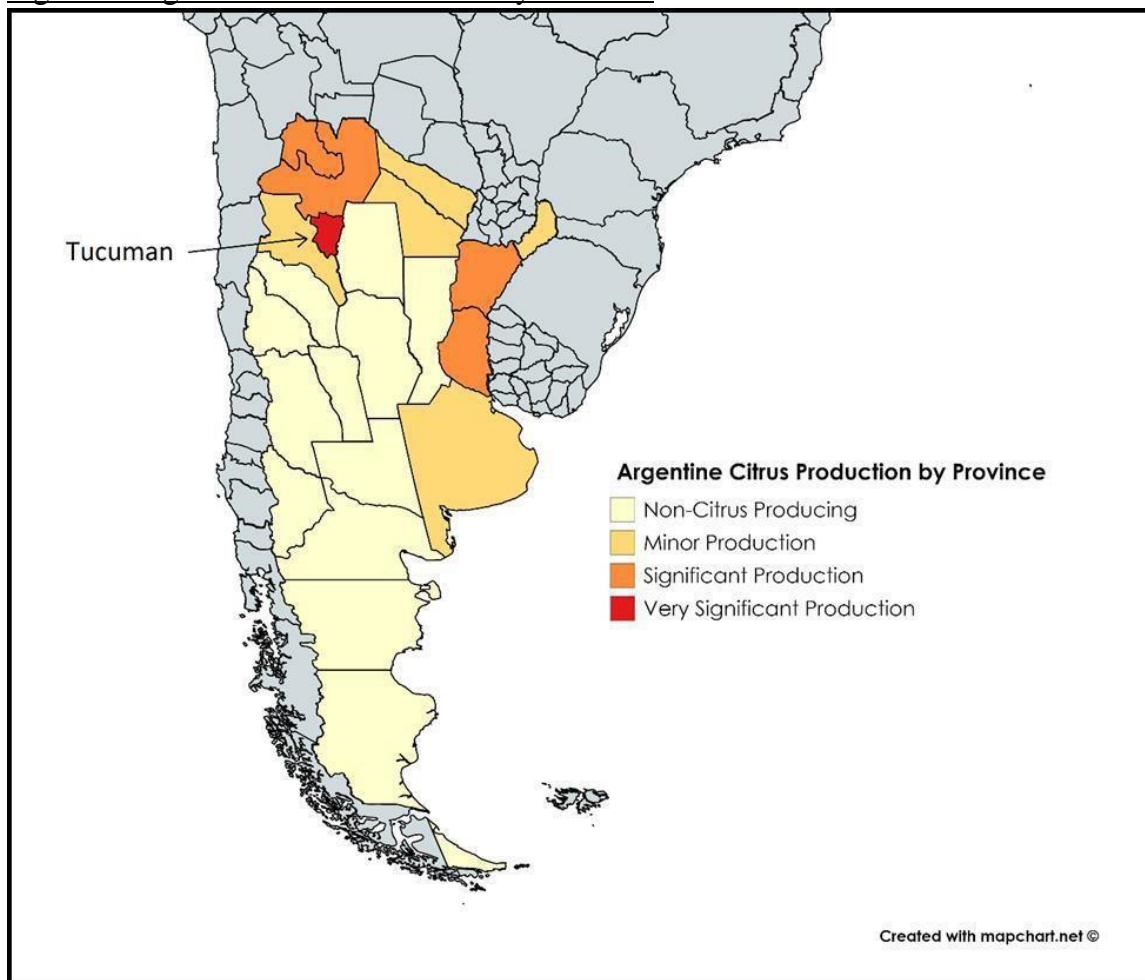
Production

Lemons

For MY 2022/23, fresh lemon production is forecast to decline by 6.5 percent to 1.65 million metric tons, from USDA official estimates. This is due to the impact of rising costs, which have prompted smaller producers to limit the maintenance needed on lemon-bearing trees and even abandon or convert their orchards. Prolonged unfavorable weather conditions have also played a role in the decline in lemon production. A severe drought in the main lemon-growing region of Argentina during the 2022 spring damaged many trees and reduced the size of the lemons that were produced.

Post also adjusted its estimate upward for lemon production for MY 2021/22 to 2.1 million metric tons. The average fruit size ended up being larger than originally estimated, resulting in higher total production. The larger fruit size was due to a combination of factors, including better than expected weather conditions and good agricultural practices. A severe drought in the main lemon-growing region of Argentina during the 2021 spring was expected to have a negative impact on the volume and size of the fruit. However, heavy rains during the summer season allowed the lemon trees to gradually recover, increasing production above the low initial estimates. Initially, producers did not expect the fruit size to meet market standards due to low temperatures and drought in Tucumán. However, milder winter temperatures and more rain than in the previous marketing season helped to improve the size of the fruit. Additionally, isolated frosts did not affect blossoms as much as usual. As a result, lemon production was higher than previously expected, and MY 2021/22 was considered an exceptional season in terms of production levels.

Figure 1: Argentine Citrus Production by Province



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on statistics from SAGyP

Lemons are grown primarily in the northwest provinces of Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy, with some minor production in northeastern Argentina. Eureka Frost, Lisboa Frost, Limoneira 8 A, and Génova EEAT are the main lemon varieties grown in Argentina (source: Estacion Experimental Agroindustrial Obispo Colombres - EEAOC). Over the past decade, the lemon sector has been boosted by investments in new production and technology, with 70-75 percent of total production devoted to exports of processed lemon products, such as essential oil, frozen pulp, and dehydrated peel. However, increasing global competition and domestic economic contraction have had a negative impact on the lemon sector.

Oranges and Tangerines

Post forecasts that Argentine fresh oranges and tangerines production will decline in MY 2022/23. Post projects fresh orange production at 623,000 MT, down 177,000 MT from last official estimate. Fresh tangerine production is projected to decrease to 285,000 MT, down 95,000 MT from the previous estimate.

The decline in production is due to a combination of factors, including adverse weather conditions and rising costs. The main sweet citrus-growing region of northeastern Argentina experienced a prolonged drought in the spring of 2021, which damaged many orange and tangerine trees. The cost of production has also increased, which has made it more difficult for producers to maintain their orange and tangerine orchards. Weather conditions were unfavorable for both types of sweet citrus as the effects of the prolonged drought. This led to a decline in the size and yield of the fruit, which ultimately resulted in lower production.

Post's estimate for fresh orange production in MY 2021/22 remains unchanged at 830,000 MT, and fresh tangerine production also remains unchanged at 380,000 MT.

Sweet citrus is grown in both the northwestern (oranges) and northeastern (oranges and tangerines) regions of Argentina. The main orange varieties grown in northwestern Argentina are Hamlin, Pineapple, Robertson, and Navel, while in the northeast they are Navel, Salustiana, and improved Valencia (Midnight, Delta Seedless). The main tangerine varieties are Clementina, Clemenvilla, Ellendale, Malvasio, Montenegrina, Murcott, and Ortanique. The expansion of sweet citrus includes seedless varieties such as Tango for oranges and Clementines and Clemenules for tangerines.

Planted Area

Lemons

In recent years, lemon growers in northwestern Argentina have expanded their planted area. This has been done both by existing producers and new market entrants. The removal and replanting of trees have increased the number of plants per hectare and improved production efficiency and yields.

However, for MY 2022/23, Post estimates that the lemon planted area has decreased by 13 percent to 45,000 hectares.

The profitability of lemon producers has been under strain in recent years due to the increase in production costs and the exceptional overproduction of lemons in the last two marketing years. The rising cost of fertilizers, pesticides, and labor wages have contributed to the increase in production costs, while the lower prices of fresh lemons have put further pressure on profitability. This has led some lemon producers to reduce their planted area, as they are unable to make a profit from their crops.

For MY 2021/22, Post's estimates for lemon planted area remains unchanged.

Oranges and Tangerines

Post's estimates for oranges and tangerines planted area for MY 2022/23 and MY 2021/22 remains unchanged at 37,000 HA and 26,900 HA, respectively, in line with last official USDA estimates. There has been no significant investment in area expansion in recent years.

Smaller producers are struggling to compete, and when they exit the business, they tend to sell their orchards to larger farmers. There is also a new trend for producers to switch to more profitable crops, such as yerba mate, and other activities, such as livestock production. Growers in the northeast tend to produce on smaller plot sizes than those in the northwest.

The lack of investment in area expansion is a concern for the Argentine citrus industry. The industry is facing a number of challenges, including rising production costs and competition from other countries.

Processing

Lemons

Post estimates that the amount of fresh lemons for processing in MY 2022/23 will decrease to 1.32 MMT, down 6 percent from the last official USDA estimates. This is due to the lower production of lemons in Argentina. The main reason for the lower production is the drought that affected the main lemon-growing region in the spring of 2021.

In contrast, Post projected an increase of 10 percent in the amount of fresh lemons for processing in MY 2021/2022 from 1.49 MMT of the last official estimate to 1.64 MMT. This is because the fruit size ended up being larger than originally estimated. The larger fruit size resulted in a higher yield, which offset the lower production due to the drought.

Oranges and Tangerines

Post's forecast remains unchanged in the amount of fresh oranges that will be processed in MY 2022/23 at 200,000 MT. Post's estimates in fresh tangerines for processing remain unchanged at 60,000 MT in MY 2022/23 based on the current market conditions and local expectations for this marketing year.

Investment

Larger lemon producers continue to replace unproductive trees and invest in new genetic material to improve yields. These replanted orchards also tend to have higher tree densities. New investments by the private sector are primarily focused on improving efficiency in processing and packing facilities, irrigation, and research and development projects. Some factory retrofitting is taking place as exporters look to expand cold-chain capacity to meet export market requirements.

In recent years, citrus exporters have made additional investments to comply with protocols required by new export markets such as the United States and China, and to meet European Union (EU) Citrus Black Spot (CBS) requirements to prevent further detection.

Consumption

Lemons

Post's estimate for domestic consumption of fresh lemons in Argentina remains unchanged at 130,000 MT for MY 2022/23. This is despite the lower production, as domestic consumption of fresh lemons tends to be price inelastic.

Price inelasticity means that the demand for a product does not change significantly when the price of the product changes. In the case of fresh lemons, this means that even though the price of lemons may increase due to lower production, consumers are still likely to buy the same amount of lemons.

The reason for this is that consumers tend to buy lemons during times of illness or when they are concerned about their health since lemons are a good source of vitamin C, which they believe to directly benefit the immune system. The consistent consumption of lemons is also due to their versatility. Lemons can be used in a variety of industries, including lemon-based beverages and foods, cleaning, aromatherapy, and natural dyeing.

In MY 2021/22, Post's consumption forecast also remains unchanged at 130,000 MT from last official USDA estimate. This is because the factors that affect domestic consumption of fresh lemons, such as the price of lemons and the health concerns of consumers, are expected to remain the same.

Oranges and Tangerines

Post is forecasting a decline of 32 percent on domestic consumption of fresh oranges to 371,000 MT from last official estimates in MY 2022/23, because of lower production that was severely impacted by the drought. Post also revised the fresh tangerine domestic consumption projection to a decrease of 25 percent to 196,000 MT due to a drop in production.

In MY 2021/22, Post projects domestic consumption of fresh sweet citrus to remain unchanged at 569,000 MT for oranges, and 277,000 MT for tangerines. This is because consumption of fresh sweet citrus, especially oranges, is trending back to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. These levels were historically high due to consumer demand for vitamin C. Consumption for both types of fruit remained at relatively historically high levels this MY.

Internal Fruit Tracking

The Electronic Plant Transit Certificate (DTV-e) is an electronic document that is used to record the movement of plant products within Argentina. The DTV-e is issued by the Argentine National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Quality (SENASA) and must be presented by the carrier of the plant products to the regulatory authorities. The DTV-e contains information on the origin, destination, type of plant product, quantity of plant product, and date of transport. The DTV-e is an important tool for the prevention of the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases in Argentina.

The DTV-e has improved the accuracy and reliability of statistical information on the domestic movement of plant products, including fresh citrus fruit. This is because the DTV-e is a mandatory document that must be presented by all carriers of plant products, and it contains detailed information on the movement of plant products. As a result of the DTV-e, the Argentine government has a better understanding of the domestic movement of plant products, which allows them to take better measures to protect the country's plant health. For additional information on DTV-e regulations visit:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/senasa/solicitar-documento-de-tr%C3%A1nsito-vegetal-electronico-dtv-e>

Trade

Exports

Lemons

For MY 2022/23, Post adjusted its forecast of fresh lemon exports to 200,000 MT. This is a decrease of 35,000 MT from official estimates, and it is due to the lower production of lemons that was severely impacted by the drought.

In MY 2021/22, Post also revises its forecasts fresh lemon exports to 258,000 MT, a slight drop of 2,000 MT from last official estimate. This is because the factors that affect fresh lemon exports, such as the price of lemons and the demand from foreign markets, are expected to remain the same.

The fresh lemon export business remains profitable. However, the competitiveness of the lemon sector has been affected by significant production cost increases (especially labor, inputs, energy, inland, and ocean freight costs), a shortage of containers, and high inflation rates.

Oranges and Tangerines

Post's estimates for fresh orange exports from Argentina have decrease to 55,000 metric tons (MT) in MY 2022/2023. This is a decrease of 5,000 MT from the last official estimate, and it is due to the lower production of oranges that was severely impacted by the drought.

Post also revises its estimates for tangerine exports from Argentina to 30,000 MT in MY 2022/23. This is a decrease of 47 percent from last official estimate of 57,000 MT. The decrease is due to a number of factors like the lower production of tangerines which were affected by the drought.

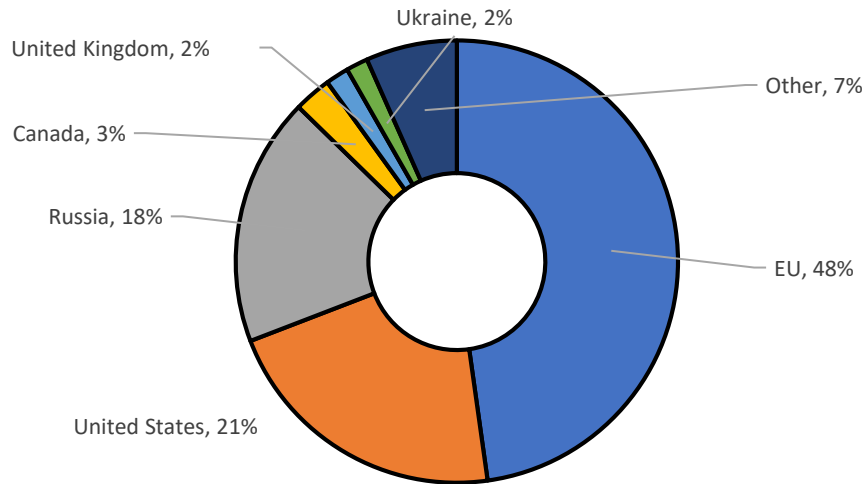
Exports of both fruits will be below normal levels also due to poor economic and financial conditions affecting the domestic citrus business with higher production cost. This means that there will be less sweet citrus available for export during MY 2022/23.

For MY 2021/22, Post's estimate for sweet citrus exports remains unchanged at 63,000 MT for oranges and 33,000 MT for tangerines. Exports of both fruits will be below historically normal levels due to poor economic and financial conditions affecting the domestic citrus business. In addition, both sweet citrus fruits continue to face strong competition from Southern Hemisphere competitors, primarily South Africa, and other non-traditional competitors, such as Peru, Chile, and Uruguay.

Export Destinations

During MY 2022/23, the Argentine citrus sector managed to diversify fruit exports shifting destinations from the EU and Russia to other important markets such as the United States and Canada, as well as nontraditional markets such as Mexico, China, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia. Argentina is also beginning to stablish a presence in other Asian markets. During MY 2022/23, Argentina strengthened its presence in its traditional markets and markets recently opened to Argentine citrus fruits, with continued interest in Asian markets for expansion.

Figure 2: Argentine Fresh Lemon Exports by Volume in 2022



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

On May 1, 2021, the EU reopened its market to Argentine fresh lemons and oranges after the detection of CBS in MY 2019/20. Argentine exporters had to make additional investments to ensure their compliance with the EU’s technical requirements, which resulted in virtually zero CBS detections during the MY 2020/21 marketing season.

Argentina has had access to sweet citrus from China since 2004, and access to South Korea, Indonesia, and the Philippines since 2017.

In February 2021, following Brexit, the United Kingdom deregulated citrus imports from all origins allowing Argentina to export citrus fruit without a phytosanitary certificate.

During January-May 2023, the EU remained the largest export market for Argentine fresh lemons with 40 percent of Argentina’s total exports, followed by the United States with 32 percent. Russia has now shifted to the third position with 15 percent of total exports.

After regaining market access to the United States in MY 2016/17, Argentine lemon exports to the United States have shown increasing trend but fell in MY 2021/22 due to lower production, as shown in the table below. The highest level of exports was in marketing year (MY) 2020/2021, when 72,998 metric tons (MT) were exported. This was followed by MY 2019/2020, when 33,963 MT were exported. The lowest level of exports was in MY 2017/2018, when only 10,640 MT were exported.

Table 1: Lemon Export Volume to the U.S. by Marketing Year

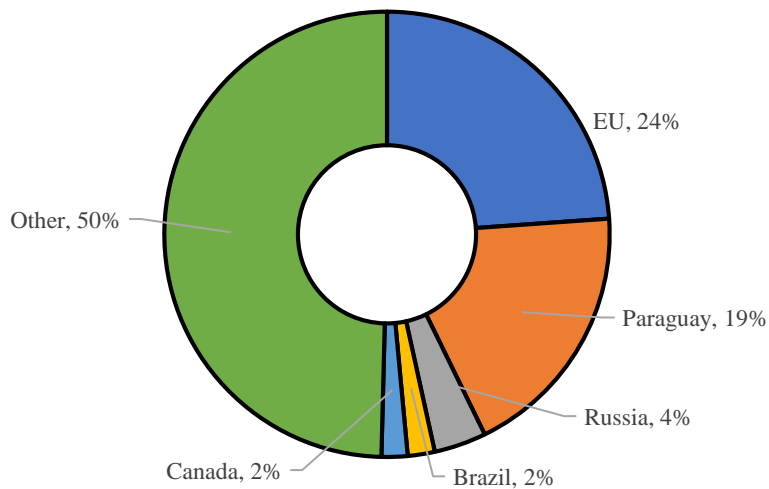
Fresh Lemon Exports to the U.S.	
Marketing Year	Metric Tons
MY 2017/18	10,640
MY 2018/19	23,179
MY 2019/20	33,963
MY 2020/21	72,998
MY 2021/22	55,253

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Argentina has access to Brazil for all citrus fruits but faces competitive challenges in this market. In 2017, the Brazilian market for citrus fruits was reopened to Argentine exports after being closed for two years due to the detection of the citrus greening disease. However, the reopening of the market was accompanied by strict sanitary measures, which have made it more difficult for Argentina to export citrus fruits to Brazil. Additionally, the entry of citrus fruits from other countries, such as Uruguay and Chile, into the Brazilian market has made it more competitive for Argentine producers.

Orange exports from Argentina decreased by 71% in the period January-May 2023, due to drought and lower production. Paraguay accounted for 96% of total exports during this time.

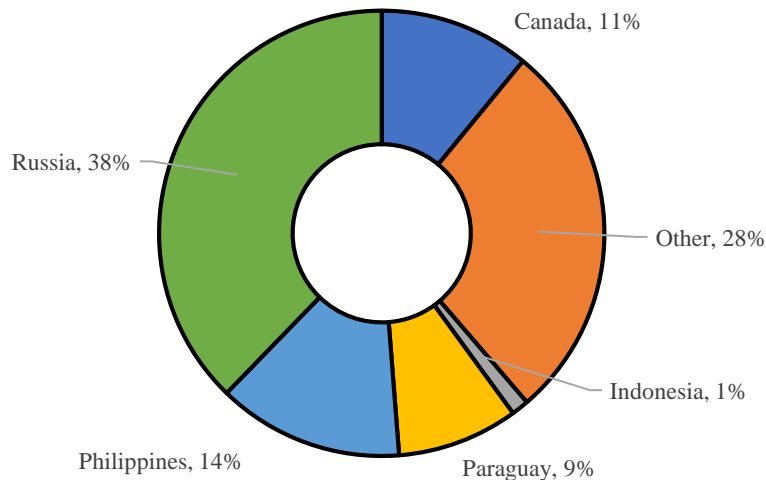
Figure 3: Argentine Fresh Oranges Exports by Volume in 2022



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

During January-May 2023, Russia was the primary export market for Argentina’s fresh tangerines accounting for 51.5 percent of total exports, followed by Philippines with 16 percent, Canada with 12.7 percent, and Paraguay with 2.7 percent.

Figure 4: Argentine Fresh Tangerine Exports by Volume in 2022



Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Export Promotion

The ALL LEMON seal is recognized by major retailers and foodservice distributors around the world. It is a valuable tool for Argentine lemon exporters to differentiate their products and gain market share. As of 2023, the ALL LEMON seal is awarded to 16 leading lemon producers, packers, and exporters in Argentina. These companies account for about 85 percent of the country's total lemon production. The ALL LEMON seal is a valuable asset for the Argentine lemon industry.

Lemons identified under ALL LEMON parameters must comply with:

- Food safety standards
- Traceability
- Freshness
- Firmness
- Durability

- High juice content
- Aesthetic care
- Balanced color
- Uniform format.

For additional information on All Lemon: <http://www.latinlemon.com.ar/all-lemon-english.html>

Imports

Post forecasts that lemon imports will rise marginally to 2,000 metric tons (MT) in MY 2022/23. Orange imports have been revised upward from the previous estimate to 3,000 MT for MY 2022/23, and tangerine imports have been revised upward to 1,000 MT for MY 2022/23. The imports of lemons are expected to come mostly from Brazil, while the imports of oranges and tangerines are expected to come mostly from Spain.

The increase in citrus imports is a sign of the challenges that the Argentine citrus industry is facing. The drought, rising production costs, competition from other countries, and continued economic difficulties and currency devaluation have all contributed to higher production costs for domestic citrus producers. The devaluation of the Argentine peso has made it more expensive for domestic producers to import inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides.

Policy

Import and Export Regulations

In July 2019, the government published Decree No. 464/2019, which applied an export tax of 3 Argentine pesos for every 1 U.S. dollar, by value or Free On Board (FOB) export price, on commodities including citrus fruits.

On December 31, 2020, the Government of Argentina published Decree No. 1060/2020 (<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/normativa/nacional/decreto-1060-2020-345886>) in the Official Gazette modifying or eliminating export taxes on 4,593 HTS codes related to industrial and agricultural products, including fresh citrus fruit. While the citrus sector welcomed the elimination of export taxes on fresh citrus fruit exports, some taxes on citrus products were reduced and not eliminated. Lemon essential oil and dehydrated peel were reduced to three percent.

In recent months the citrus sector was included in the *Programa de Incremento Exportador para las Economías Regionales* (PIER) instated by the Decree No. 194/2023 on April 10, 2023. The PIER offers a number of benefits for many agricultural producers like citrus fresh fruit producers, including an exchange rate that is higher than the official rate. This means that exporters can get more local currency for each dollar exported, which can help to improve their profitability. Indeed, the PIER offered a fixed subsidized exchange rate referred to as the “agro

dollar”. The exchange rate was set at 300 Argentine pesos per US dollar from April 10, 2023, to August 31, 2023. This was a 40 percent premium over the official exchange rate at the beginning of the program, but it had decreased to almost only 10 percent by the end of the program due to domestic inflation. The PIER has been a valuable tool for apple and pear producers in Argentina because it has helped them to marginally reduce their costs from import inputs.

Argentina relaunched the PIER program by the Decree No. 377/2023 with an exchange rate of 340 pesos from July 24, 2023 to August 31, 2023 because domestic inflation had continued to rise to interannual levels over 100 percent, and the 300 peso exchange rate was no longer providing a significant subsidy to agricultural producers. The new exchange rate of 340 pesos per US dollar was intended to offset the rising costs of imported inputs for agricultural producers. The higher exchange rate would give agricultural producers more pesos for each US dollar they earned, which would help them to pay for the more expensive imported inputs. However, following primary elections in mid August that led to another devaluation, the 340 peso rate is no longer offering a benefit to exporters.

Also, the Decree No. 377/2023 establish that all imports of goods will be subject to a 7.5% tax called the PAIS tax (For an Inclusive and Solidary Argentina). The tax will be 7.5%, with a few exceptions. Medicines and firefighting materials are exempt from the tax, as are fuels, lubricants, and goods related to energy generation. Additionally, intermediate goods and inputs for the basic food basket are exempt. The tax will not be charged if importers use their own dollars for the operations, and it will not be applied to inputs and intermediate goods directly linked to basic food products. However, this tax could increase the cost of importing inputs for citrus fresh fruit producers.

The disparity between the agro dollar and the official exchange rate is a symptom of the distortion in the Argentine foreign exchange market. The government regulates the foreign exchange market through a variety of financial instruments, which generate a significant number of exchange rates in many economic activities.

Table 2 below includes current tariffs, taxes, and rebates for all types of citrus fruit:

Table 2: Tariffs, Taxes, & Rebates for All Fresh Citrus Fruit

Tariffs, Taxes, & Rebates for All Fresh Citrus Fruit	
(HTS codes: 080510, 080520, 080521, 080522, 080529, 080550)	%
Import Tariff (outside Mercosur)	10.00
Import Tariff (within Mercosur)	0.00
Statistical Tax	3.00
Value-added Tax	10.5

Export Tax	0.00
Export Rebate (bulk) (*)	1.00

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Tarifas

() The export rebate applies equally within and outside Mercosur*

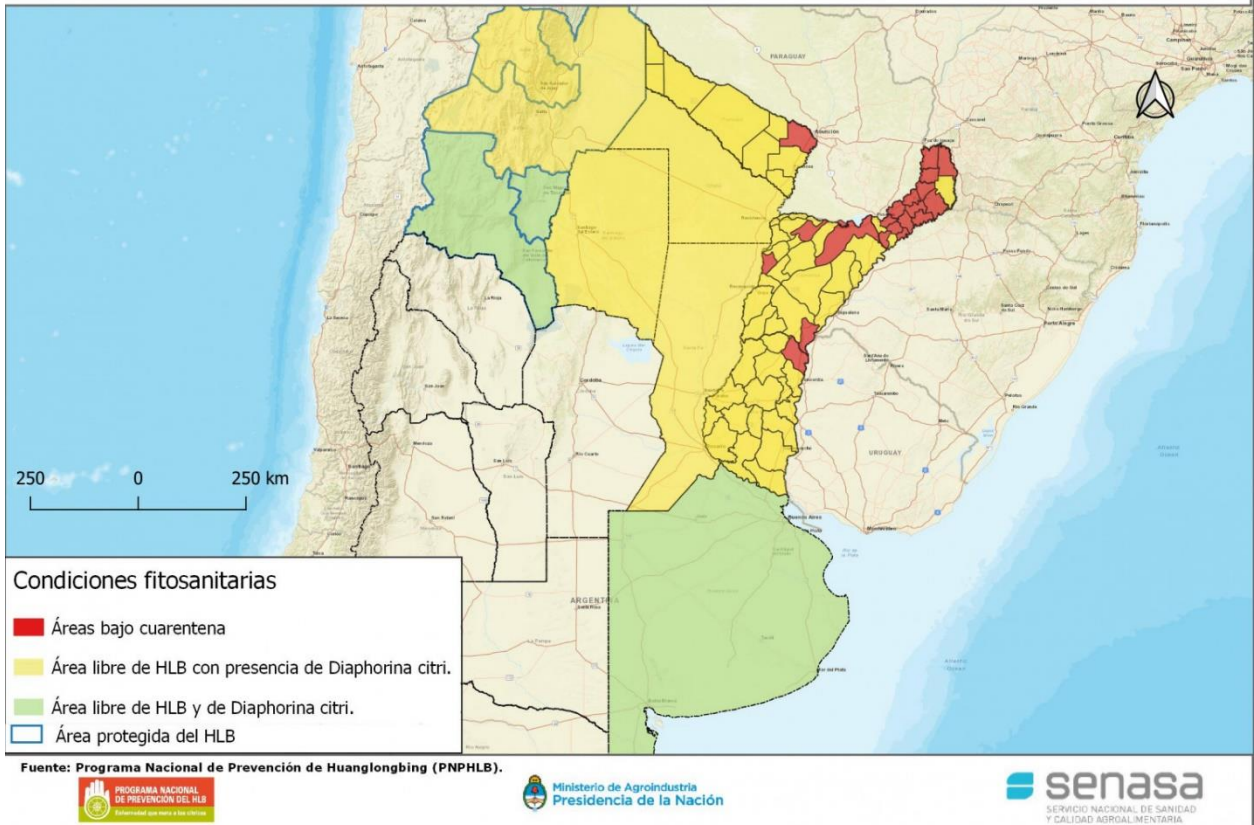
Phytosanitary Issues: Citrus Greening

In July 2014, a non-commercial case of Huanglongbing (HLB) was found in Mocoreta, Corrientes province (Northeastern region of Argentina – close to the border with Uruguay). The Argentine government immediately implemented its monitoring system in the area, as per the National HLB Prevention Program and subsequently found no further evidence of the disease. The program was established by Secretariat of Agriculture Resolution No. 517/2009, and ratified by National Law No. 26.888/2013, and SENASA Resolution 336/14.

On July 4, 2012, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was officially notified that a case of HLB had been reported in one infected tangerine tree in Puerto Deseado, Misiones province (northeastern region of Argentina – close to the border with Brazil). The infected tree was destroyed as a precautionary action. In addition, SENASA intensified the surveillance for citrus species in the area with sampling in 150 premises with negative results for both: the symptoms and the vector (*Diaphorina citri*) of the disease. SENASA stated that, since the location is not a citrus commercial area, and it is surrounded by national parks, it is likely that this was an illegal introduction from outside the country. Nevertheless, *Diaphorina citri* was reported in other areas of Argentina. A few additional cases were detected in Misiones and Corrientes provinces and, in 2016, for the first time, in citrus commercial areas (i.e. vector presence, no disease).

Figure 5: Phytosanitary Condition of HLB in the Argentine Republic

Áreas definidas para el PNPHLB



Source: SENASA - Red means area under HLB-related quarantine

In November 2017, the Ministry of Agroindustry and the Argentine Citrus Federation (FEDERCITRUS, in Spanish) signed an agreement to work jointly on the prevention of HLB into Argentina and, in March 2019, under the framework of the National Program for HLB Prevention, SENASA, the Secretariat of Agroindustry's National Trust Fund (FONDAGRO, in Spanish), and the Phytosanitary Association of the Northwest of Argentina (AFINOA, in Spanish) signed an agreement for resource contribution and management. SENASA recently made some changes to the national program for HLB Prevention in an effort to protect citrus production. Since the presence of the pest was detected in new areas, these recently affected areas were declared under quarantine in Resolution #875/2020.

In November 2018, the Government of Entre Rios Province, through Decree #3757, declared a phytosanitary e in the province after finding the HLB vector in commercial farms and in urban areas.

SENASA has defined the following areas based on HLB presence or absence, as follows:

- Area free of HLB and/or Diaphorina citri: Buenos Aires, Catamarca, and Tucuman.
- Area free of HLB with presence of Diaphorina citri: Jujuy, Salta, Santa Fe, Chaco, Misiones, Entre Ríos (some departments), Corrientes, Formosa, and Santiago del Estero.
- Areas under quarantine: Corrientes (some departments); Misiones (some departments), Entre Ríos (Federación), Formosa (some departments), and Santiago del Estero (Banda).
- Area protected from HLB: Northwest Argentina (NOA) region.

For additional information on HLB in Argentina visit:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/senasa/micrositios/hlb>

Marketing

International (FOB) Prices for Fresh Citrus Fruit

FOB prices for fresh lemons and oranges were lower during January-May 2023 than during the same period in MY 2021/22. This was due to the higher supply of these fruits in the Northern Hemisphere. However, FOB prices for fresh tangerines were higher during the same period due to a smaller than expected crop in many major producing countries, such as Spain, China, and Morocco, and increased demand.

Overall, FOB prices for both fresh oranges and fresh lemons remained historically low and insufficient to cover production costs. This has resulted in increased financial constraints for the local fruit sector.

The highest FOB prices during MY 2022/23 were \$571/MT (Jan) for lemons; \$41/MT for oranges (April); and \$667/MT (April) for tangerines.

Tables 3-6: Export prices for Lemons, Oranges, and Tangerines

Lemons

US\$/MT	2021	2022	2023
Jan	--	595	571
Feb	--	684	495
Mar	628	607	532
Apr	642	610	569
May	657	637	562
Jun	667	635	--
Jul	656	602	--
Aug	643	577	--
Sep	654	483	--
Oct	--	408	--
Nov	589	516	--
Dec	619	--	--
Average	640	578	546

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Orange

US\$/MT	2021	2022	2023
Jan	52	60	66
Feb	61	53	51
Mar	56	58	50
Apr	53	59	41
May	107	93	107
Jun	311	299	--
Jul	447	352	--
Aug	487	394	--
Sep	442	397	--
Oct	415	425	--
Nov	306	453	--
Dec	78	95	--
Average	235	228	63

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Tangerine

US\$/MT	2021	2022	2023
Jan	--	56	--
Feb	--	62	--
Mar	638	--	--
Apr	687	626	667
May	698	636	598
Jun	673	676	--
Jul	722	695	--
Aug	673	604	--
Sep	530	473	--
Oct	281	270	--
Nov	74	131	--
Dec	84	113	--
Average	506	395	633

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Table 7: Domestic retail prices for fresh citrus fruit in Argentina:

Fresh Citrus Fruit	US\$/kg
Lemon (Standard)	0.67
Lemon (Premium)	0.89
Orange "Valencia" (Standard)	1.41
Orange "Valencia" (Premium)	1.68
Orange "Navel" (Standard)	1.41
Orange "Navel" (Premium)	1.68
Tangerine "Okitsu"	1.30
Tangerine "Murcot"	1.12
Tangerine "Criolla"	1.49
Tangerine "Nova"	1.30

Source: FAS Buenos Aires based on data gathered from supermarkets and grocery stores.

Exchange rate: Argentine pesos 268/US\$1

Date of quote: 03/07/2023

The link below to the Buenos Aires Central Market provides updated wholesale citrus prices:
<http://www.mercadocentral.gob.ar/informaci%C3%B3n/precios-mayoristas>

Tables 8-10: Production, Supply and Distribution of Lemons, Oranges, and Tangerines

Lemons/Limes, Fresh Market Year Begins Argentina	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
	Jan 2021		Jan 2022		Jan 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	50,000	50,000	51,000	51,000	52,000	45,000
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	48,000	48,000	49,000	49,000	50,000	43,200
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	11,800	11,800	12,050	12,050	12,300	10,462
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	860	860	900	900	950	788
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	12,660	12,660	12,950	12,950	13,250	11,250
Production (1000 MT)	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,050	1,770	1,650
Imports (1000 MT)	2	2	1	2	1	2
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1,802	1,802	1,901	2,052	1,771	1,652
Exports (1000 MT)	264	264	260	258	235	200
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	150	150	150	150	130	130
For Processing (1000 MT)	1,388	1,388	1,491	1,644	1,406	1,322
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1,802	1,802	1,901	2,052	1,771	1,652
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

Oranges, Fresh Market Year Begins Argentina	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
	Jan 2021		Jan 2022		Jan 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	39,000	39,000	38,000	38,000	37,000	37,000
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	34,500	33,300
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	17,200	17,200	16,800	16,800	16,500	16,500
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	1,400	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,400
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	18,600	18,600	18,300	18,300	17,900	17,900
Production (1000 MT)	750	750	830	830	800	623
Imports (1000 MT)	2	2	2	2	2	3
Total Supply (1000 MT)	752	752	832	832	802	626
Exports (1000 MT)	88	88	63	63	60	55
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	478	478	569	569	542	371
For Processing (1000 MT)	186	186	200	200	200	200
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	752	752	832	832	802	626
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

Tangerines/Mandarins, Fresh Market Year Begins Argentina	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
	Jan 2021		Jan 2022		Jan 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	28,000	28,000	27,500	27,500	26,900	26,900
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	23,000	23,000	23,000	22,550	23,000	22,058
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,500	12,500
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,300
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	14,000	14,000	13,950	13,950	13,800	13800
Production (1000 MT)	380	380	380	380	380	285
Imports (1000 MT)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total Supply (1000 MT)	380	380	380	380	380	286
Exports (1000 MT)	52	52	33	33	57	30
Fresh Dom. Consumption (1000 MT)	268	268	277	277	263	196
For Processing (1000 MT)	60	60	70	70	60	60
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	380	380	380	380	380	286
(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(1000 MT)						

Attachments:

No Attachments