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**Report Highlights:**

Stone fruit production in Australia is forecast to increase in marketing year (MY) 2024/25, after above-average rainfall impacted some regions during the harvest period for MY 2023/24, which impacted overall production and quality. Cherry production is forecast to rise by eight percent, while peaches and nectarines are forecast to increase by six percent. Favorable conditions, including very good cold chill hours and around average rainfall, are forecast for the coming months are anticipated to support higher production. Growers expect improved fruit quality if average or below-average rainfall continues into the harvest period. Consequently, cherry exports are forecast to increase by 25 percent, and peaches and nectarine exports by four percent. Imports of stone fruits are also forecast to rise in MY 2024/25 from low levels.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Stone fruit production in Australia is forecasted to increase in the marketing year (MY) 2024/25 following a period where some regions experienced above-average rainfall during the MY 2023/24 harvest. This weather decreased overall production and quality, although it was less damaging than the previous two years (MY 2021/22 and MY 2022/23), which were also affected by COVID-19-related issues. Cherry production is expected to rise by eight percent, reaching peak levels, and the production of peaches and nectarines is forecasted to increase by six percent.

Most major stone fruit growing regions have experienced average to below-average minimum temperatures during the late fall and winter. This has provided excellent winter chill hours, encouraging a strong bud burst.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecasts an even chance of exceeding median rainfall from September to November 2024 in most cherry, peach, and nectarine-producing regions. However, cherry growers in New South Wales can expect above-average rainfall. With forecasted average rainfall and ample irrigation water availability, growers are well-placed to manage fruit growth and disease pressures. If these conditions continue into harvest, production and quality will improve compared to MY 2023/24.

Cherry exports are forecasted to increase by 25 percent, potentially becoming the second highest on record, while peach and nectarine exports are expected to rise by four percent in MY 2024/25. Imports of cherries, peaches, and nectarines (almost entirely from the U.S.) are also forecasted to increase in MY 2024/25, recovering from low levels in MY 2023/24 due to a three-week trade suspension caused by a biosecurity issue with a shipment from California.

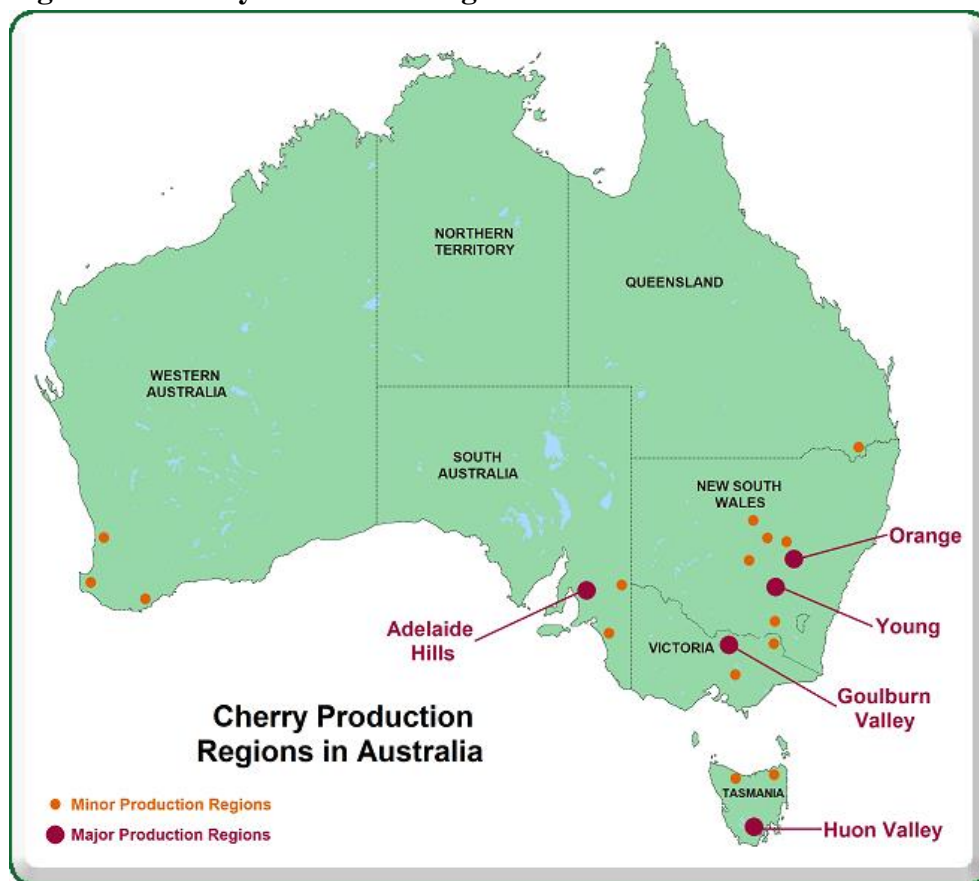
## **CHERRY**

### **Background**

The main growing regions for cherries in Australia are the Huon Valley in Tasmania, the Goulburn Valley in central Victoria, Young and Orange in central eastern New South Wales, and the Adelaide Hills in southeast South Australia (see Figure 1). Smaller production regions include Stanthorpe in southern Queensland, the southeastern corner of Western Australia, Yarra Valley in Victoria, and central New South Wales pockets. Tasmania is the southernmost region with the coolest climate and longest growing season, enabling large, high-quality cherry production. The disadvantage is that the Tasmanian harvest season is also the latest of all the regions, mainly after the peak Christmas demand, resulting in their focus on export markets. The more northern regions have a warmer and less optimal climate, but harvest commences in late October, aligning with the prime period of domestic demand leading up to Christmas.

The harvest season for the producers in the warmest climates of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia typically commences in mid to late October and is completed by around mid-January (see Table 1). A little further south in Victoria, the harvest period generally commences in early to mid-November and finishes in mid to late February. These regions are able to take advantage of the period leading up to Christmas when cherries are in the greatest demand domestically. Tasmania is the southernmost producing region with the coolest climate, where harvest commences in late December and is typically completed by mid-February. As the majority of Tasmanian cherries are exported, harvest timing aligns well with the strong demand during Chinese New Year in China and Hong Kong.

**Figure 1 – Cherry Production Regions in Australia**





Source: *Information from Cherry Growers Australia Inc*

**Table 1 – Cherry Harvest Seasonality in Australia**

Cherry Harvest Seasonality in Australian													
	October			November			December			January		February	
Victoria													
New South Wales													
South Australia													
Tasmania													
Western Australia													
Queensland													

Source: *Cherry Growers Australia Inc.*

Notes:  Main harvest period  Minor harvest period

Sweet cherries are typically more sensitive to climatic variables than other fruit crops. The most critical climatic conditions for growing cherries are:

- Sufficiently low temperatures during winter to accumulate adequate chilling units (dormancy period), typically over 800 hours at temperatures between 2°C and 12°C (36°F to 54°F), ensure even and full bud break in spring.
- During the blossoming period, temperatures above 13°C (54°F) are needed to ensure bees are active and support an optimized pollination process.
- No severe frosts between bud swell and shuck fall (when flower petals have fallen away from young fruit).
- Low rainfall when trees are in blossom (typically late August to late October) as rain can cause reduced pollination and blossom infection by bacteria and fungi, hindering fruit set.
- Low rainfall and no hail during ripening are also important to minimize fruit damage and reduce disease pressure. Rainfall during warmer temperatures when the fruit is ripening creates a humid environment, enabling pests to proliferate.
- Low humidity throughout the growing season to minimize disease outbreaks.
- Low to moderate winds are important to minimize physical injury to trees and fruit, typically from rubbing against tree limbs. However, adequate wind is important to ensure sufficient aeration in the orchard to minimize humidity within the crop, particularly after rainfall.
- Sufficient water for irrigation to meet tree water demands.

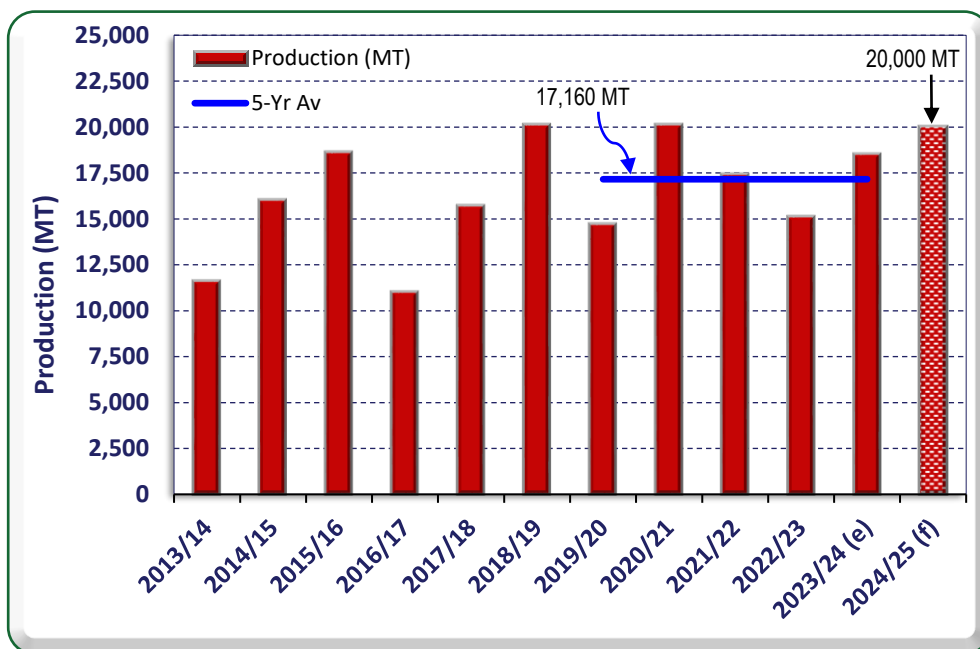
Some of the growing condition issues can be mitigated via tree trellising support system designs, and pruning techniques, along with hail netting structures over the orchard.

Cherries in Australia are predominantly eaten fresh, with relatively small quantities sold frozen, dried or canned. Cherries are used to produce a range of products such as jams, liqueurs, brandy, ice cream and confectionaries.

## Production

Cherry production in Australia for MY 2024/25 is forecast to increase to 20,000 metric tons (MT), up from the downward-revised estimate of 18,500 MT for MY 2023/24. This production forecast is 17 percent above the previous five-year average and eight percent above the prior year (see Figure 2). Despite this increase, the forecast remains subdued, aligning with two past results over recent years, despite growth in cherry plantings. The anticipated increase for MY 2024/25 is mainly due to expected favorable production conditions. It also reflects a continued rebound from the significantly lower-than-usual harvest in MY 2022/23, caused by unseasonably wet conditions during the harvest in New South Wales and Victoria. Production in MY 2023/24 was well below expectations due to a second successive year of wet conditions at harvest in the same regions, though the impact was less severe.

**Figure 2 – Australian Cherry Production**

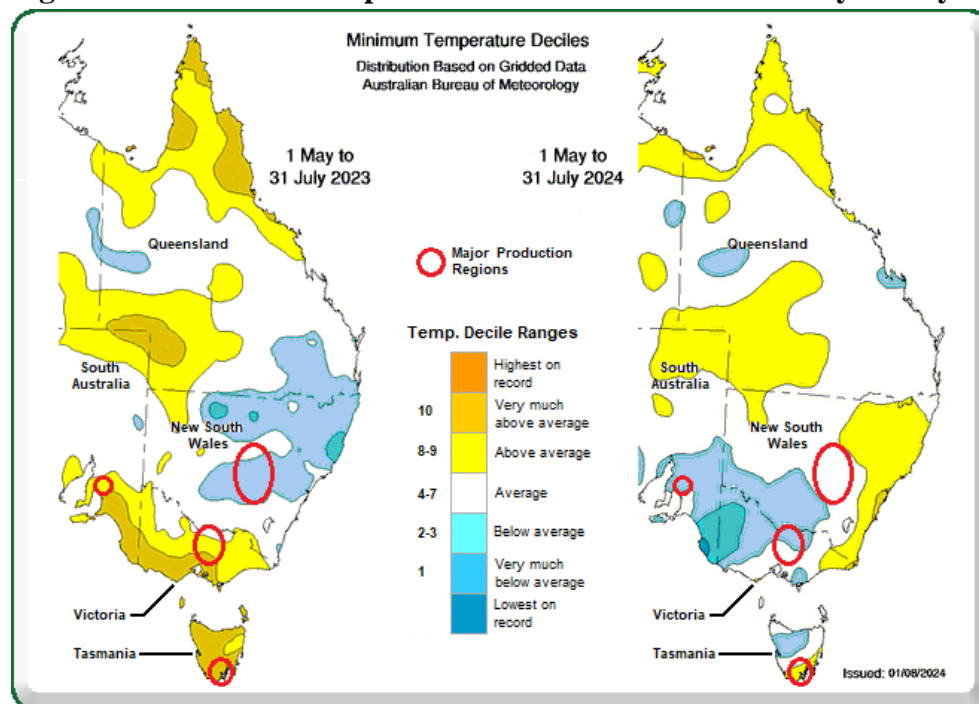


Source: PSD online and FAS/Canberra estimates and forecasts

Note: (e) = estimate, (f) = forecast

Temperatures across most of the major cherry-growing regions have been at average to below average over the late fall and winter period, with minimum temperatures lower than the previous year (see Figure 3) in these areas. This has provided cherry orchards with more than adequate winter chill hours, encouraging a strong bud burst.

**Figure 3 – Minimum Temperature Deciles in Australia – May to July 2023 and 2024**



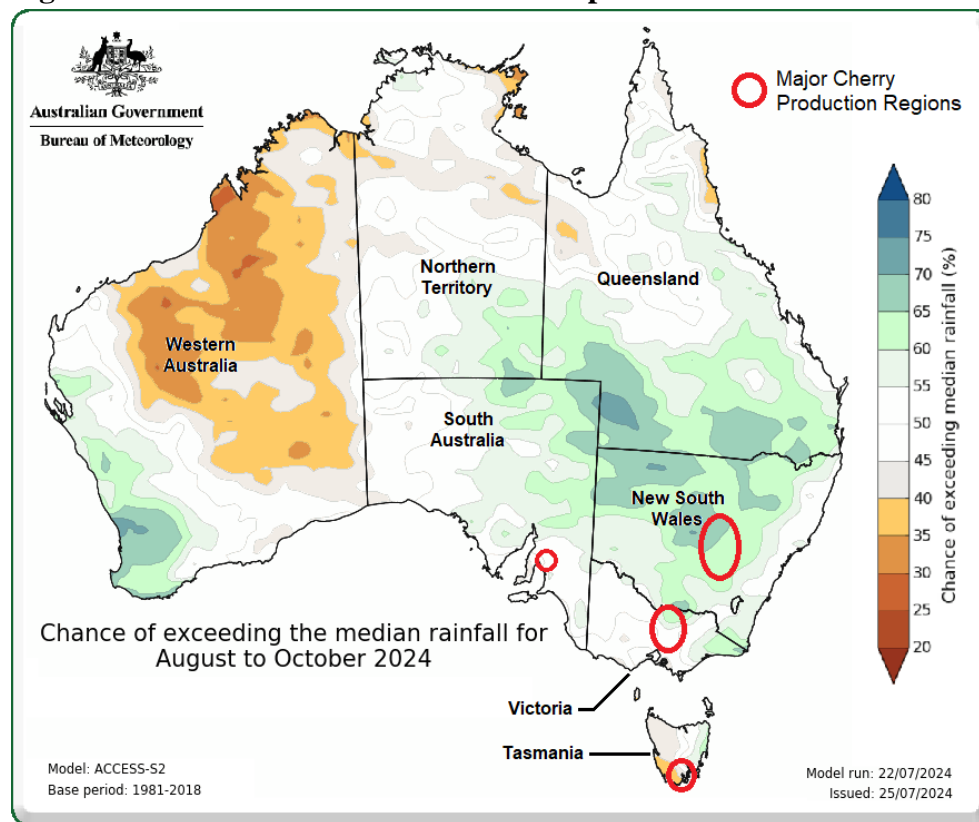
Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecasts an even chance of exceeding median rainfall from September to November 2024 (see Figure 4) for most cherry-producing regions. There is a higher chance of exceeding median rainfall for New South Wales cherry growers, which is unwanted after the impacts of the previous years, particularly MY 2022/23. Average or below-average rainfall leading up to harvest is preferred, especially in years with ample irrigation water availability. This reduces the risk of disruptions during pollination, fungal infestations, and excessive soil moisture. Growers have greater control over the development and quality of the fruit with irrigation water rather than excessive spring rains.

The major irrigated cherry-producing region in the Goulburn Valley, located in northern Victoria, expects ample water availability. Irrigation storage dams are already at high levels before the typical spring period inflows.

With the forecast of around average rainfall for the main growing period of September to November 2024, coupled with an excellent cold chill period and expected ample irrigation water availability, cherry producers can anticipate an improved MY 2024/25 production season.

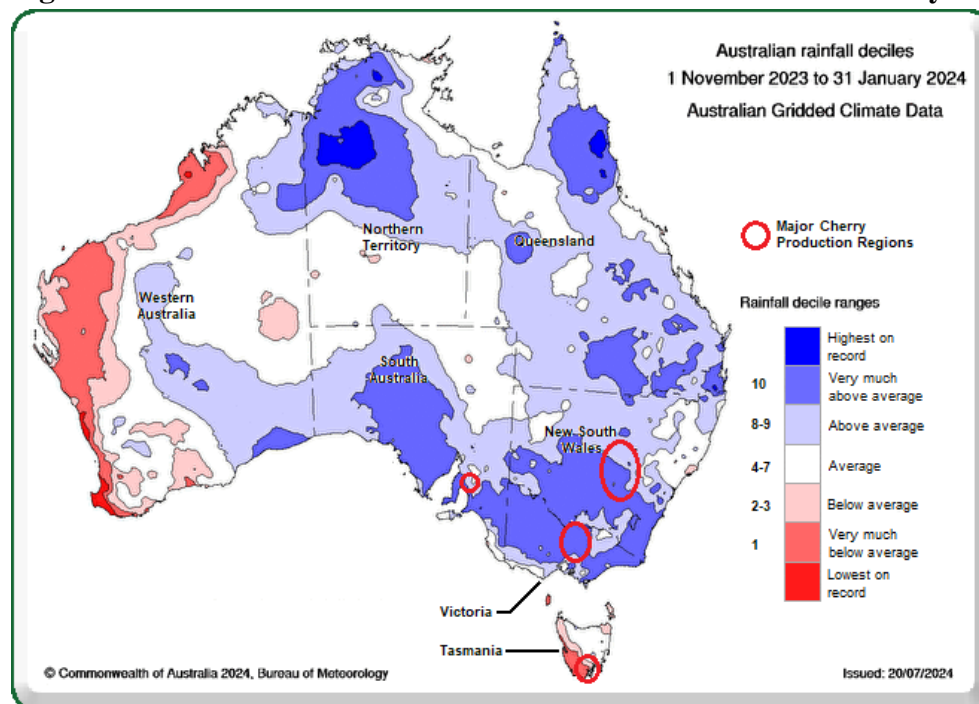
**Figure 4 - Australia Rainfall Forecast – September to November 2024**



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology / FAS/Canberra

The FAS/Canberra cherry production estimate for MY 2023/24 has been revised down to 18,500 MT from the official USDA estimate of 20,000 MT. This decline is mainly related to the well above-average rainfalls during harvest from November 2023 to January 2024, primarily affecting New South Wales and the Goulburn Valley area of Victoria (see Figure 5). These conditions negatively impacted fruit quality but were far less detrimental than the flooding rains in mid-October 2022, coupled with a hail event in early November 2022 for the Goulburn Valley region, which had a more adverse influence on the MY 2022/23 production season. With harvest significantly later in the cooler southern climate of Tasmania and rainfalls of around or below average during the harvest, producers in the state were largely unaffected, enabling them to produce a good crop.

**Figure 5 – Rainfall Deciles in Australia – November 2023 to January 2024**



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

## Consumption

With an expected eight percent increase in production for MY 2024/25 and increased imports, domestic consumption of cherries is forecast to rise to 17,000 MT, up from an estimated 15,500 MT in MY 2023/24. This forecasted level of consumption is approximately in line with MY 2018/19 and MY 2020/21, when production reached 20,100 MT, a similar level to the projected 20,000 MT for MY 2024/25

The last three production seasons have been disrupted by wet spring weather to varying degrees, adversely impacting the volume and quality of cherries produced in Australia. COVID-19-related labor availability and supply chain-related issues had abated by MY 2023/24. For the forecast year, the main factors influencing domestic cherry consumption are the overall production level and fruit quality. With a good start to the season, anticipated around average rainfall in the coming months, and ample irrigation water availability, there is an expectation of good quality and high production for the forecast year. This is expected to drive significant growth in cherry exports, potentially limiting the growth of domestic consumption. However, consumption is anticipated to reach typical levels associated with high production years.

The estimate for cherry consumption in MY 2023/24 has been revised downward to 15,500 MT from the official USDA estimate of 17,000 MT. This revision is mainly due to lower-than-expected production and imports. Wet conditions during parts of the cherry harvest led to fewer cherries that were suitable



for export. Additionally, cherry imports for MY 2023/24 were disrupted, impacting out-of-season consumption, as discussed in the trade section below.

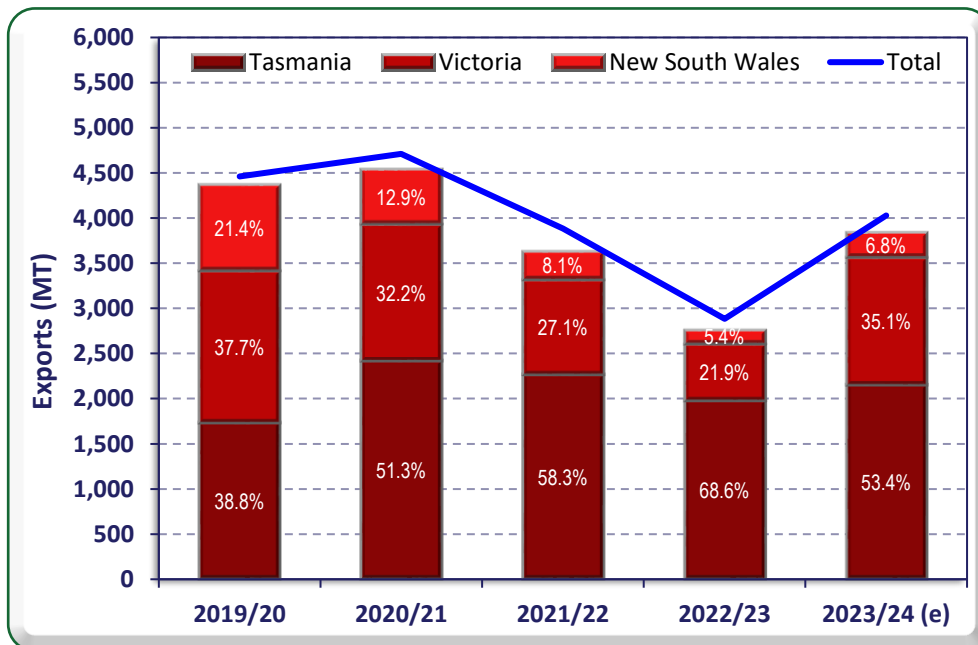
## Trade

### Exports

Fresh cherry exports are forecast to increase significantly to 5,000 MT in MY 2024/25, up from a downward-revised estimate of 4,000 MT in MY 2023/24. If achieved, this forecast export level would be the second highest on record, aligning with export volumes achieved over the last decade when production was similar to those forecasted for MY 2024/25. The improved conditions, along with favorable rainfall forecasts over the coming months, may lead to an overall improvement in fruit quality, which has been affected by above-average rains during recent harvests. This is expected to result in a higher proportion of cherries being of export quality, supporting a strong export program.

Tasmania’s cherry production relies heavily on the export market since its harvest period falls outside the peak domestic demand period leading up to Christmas. Tasmania’s cooler, slower-growing climate is more suited for producing high-quality cherries making them more attractive for export. With better-growing conditions anticipated for the forecast year compared to MY 2023/24 and particularly MY 2022/23, there is expected to be an increase in the volume of cherries exported from Victoria and New South Wales, regions previously impacted by excessive spring rains (see Figure 6).

**Figure 6 – Australian Cherry Exports by State and Total – MY 2019/20 to 2023/24**

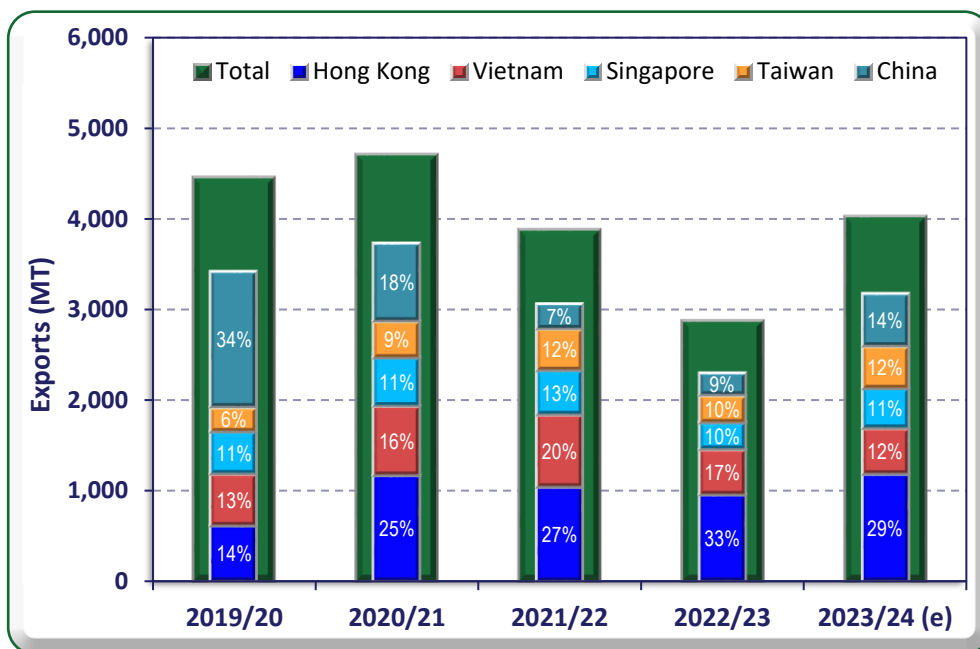


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note: MY 2023/24 = November 2023 to May 2024, (e) = estimate

The top five export destinations - Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan, and China - account for over 75 to 80 percent of overall exports despite year-to-year fluctuations in overall export volumes (see Figure 7). These markets, all in Asia and relatively close to Australia, enable cost-effective air freight compared to longer-haul destinations. With the anticipated improvement in cherry quality and overall export volume for MY 2024/25, exports to these top five destinations are expected to grow. The volume of cherries exported to China in MY 2023/24 showed strong growth from the prior year but remains below peak levels, offering substantial opportunities for Australian cherry exporters in the coming years.

**Figure 7 – Major Australian Cherry Export Destinations – MY 2019/20 to 2023/24**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note: (e) = estimate

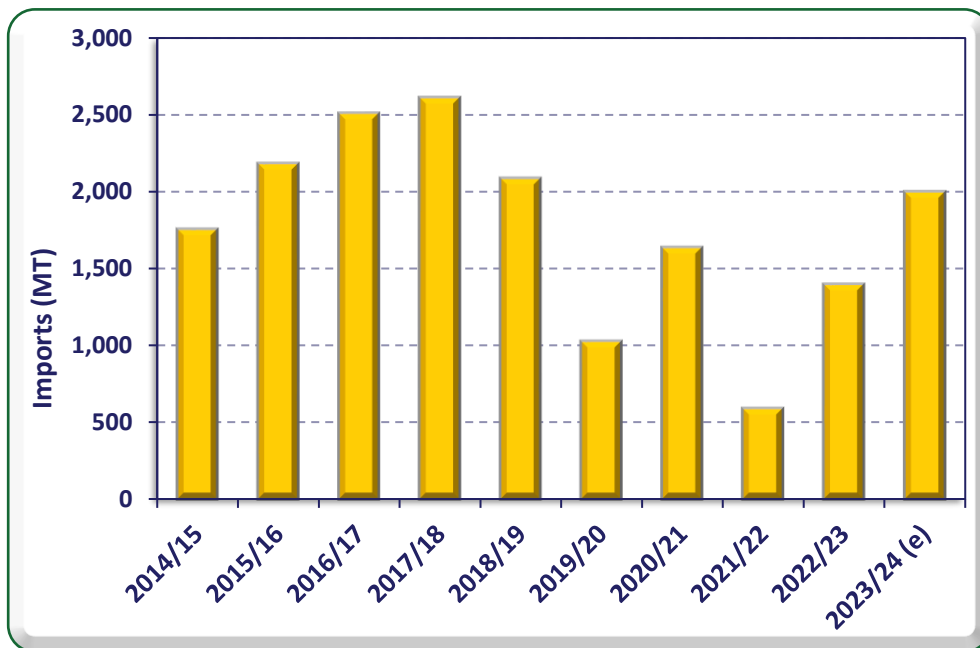
Australian cherry exports predominantly occur from November to March, so MY 2023/24 (November 2023 through June 2024) is virtually finalized, with an estimated 4,000 MT. This is 1,000 MT lower than the official USDA estimate, mainly due to lower estimated production and quality in MY 2023/24, impacted by above-average rainfalls during harvest, particularly in Victoria and New South Wales.

### Imports

Imports are forecast to improve to 2,000 MT in MY 2024/25, up from an estimated 1,000 MT for MY 2023/24. Stone fruit imports are counter-seasonal and almost entirely from the United States, arriving via air freight. The improved import forecast assumes no disruptions to trade, unlike for MY 2023/24, when the government suspended stone fruit exports from the US to Australia during a peak period due to a biosecurity issue.

The forecast cherry import level of 2,000 MT for MY 2024/25 aligns with past levels (see Figure 8) prior to recent years affected by weather events in U.S. cherry production regions and COVID-19-related supply chain impacts.

**Figure 8 –Australian Cherry Import Volumes – MY 2014/15 to 2023/24**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note: (e) = estimate

Import volumes for the start of MY 2023/24 (May and June 2024) were strong at 800 MT, the highest since MY 2016/17. With such a strong start, the season was expected to reach 2,000 MT, the highest in five years. However, a biosecurity issue in a shipment of cherries from California to Australia led to a trade suspension for a critical three-week period from late June 2024 to mid-July 2024. July trade volumes over the last five years typically accounted for over half of the season's (i.e., May to August). The government lifted the suspension after the peak production season for the Pacific Northwest region. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the suspension, industry sources indicate that the supply of cherries to Australia for the remainder of MY 2023/24 is expected to be low.

**Table 2 - Production, Supply, and Distribution of Fresh Cherries**

Cherries (Sweet&Sour), Fresh Market Year Begins Australia	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Nov 2022		Nov 2023		Nov 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	3200	3200	3200	3200	0	3200
Area Harvested (HA)	2500	2500	2550	2550	0	2550
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	2600	2600	2650	2650	0	2650
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	2600	2600	2650	2650	0	2650
Commercial Production (MT)	17000	15100	20000	18500	0	20000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	17000	15100	20000	18500	0	20000
Imports (MT)	1500	1400	2000	1000	0	2000
Total Supply (MT)	18500	16500	22000	19500	0	22000
Domestic Consumption (MT)	15600	13600	17000	15500	0	17000
Exports (MT)	2900	2900	5000	4000	0	5000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	18500	16500	22000	19500	0	22000
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: <a href="#">PSD Online Advanced Query</a>						

## PEACH/NECTARINE

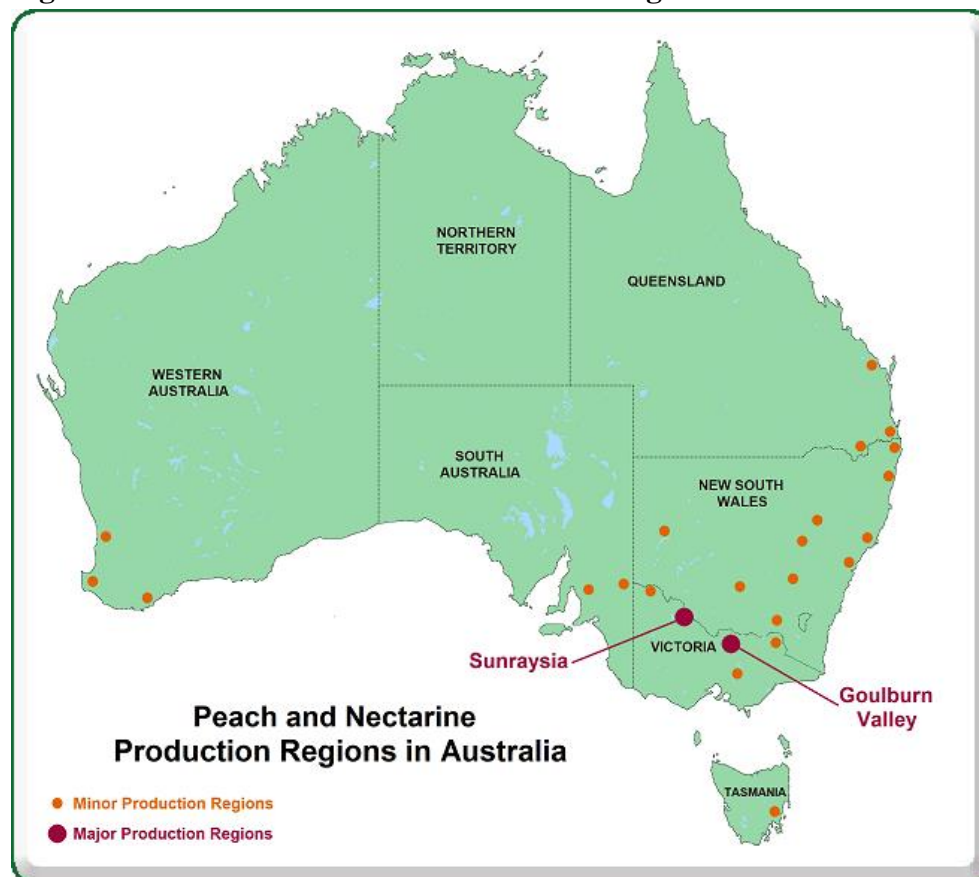
### Background

Around three-quarters of the peaches and nectarines grown in Australia are in Victoria in the key regions of the Goulburn Valley in central Victoria and Sunraysia in north-western Victoria. Around one-eighth of the total production is in New South Wales in multiple locations with no predominant region. Peaches and nectarines are also grown in southern Queensland, Adelaide Hills in southeast South Australia, and the south-eastern corner of Western Australia (see Figure 9). Unlike cherries, there is minimal production of peaches and nectarines in Tasmania.

In general, the more northern, warmer production regions have an earlier commencement to harvest. This condition provides a marketing advantage to growers but also tends to result in the fruit from these more northern regions having a lower sugar content and less flavor than fruits from regions further south. The harvest period for the more northern warmer regions is from October to March; for the more southern growing areas harvest is typically from November to April.

The growing conditions required for peaches and nectarines are similar to that for cherries. A key difference is that peaches and nectarines require less cold chill hours than cherries. Furthermore, peaches and nectarines tend to grow in somewhat warmer regions.

**Figure 9 – Peach and Nectarine Production Regions in Australia**



Source: Information from Summerfruit Australia Ltd

## Production

MY 2024/25 production of peaches and nectarines is forecast to rise to 90,000 MT, an increase of 5,000 MT (six percent) from the downward-revised MY 2023/24 estimate of 85,000 MT. Early-stage growing conditions for the forecast crop are expected to be positive. Key factors include very good cold chill hours, average rainfall in the coming months, and ample irrigation water availability. The forecast rise in production is mainly associated with a rebound from a lower-than-anticipated harvest in MY 2023/24, which was impacted by above-average rainfall around harvest time in Victoria and New South Wales, adversely affecting fruit quality.

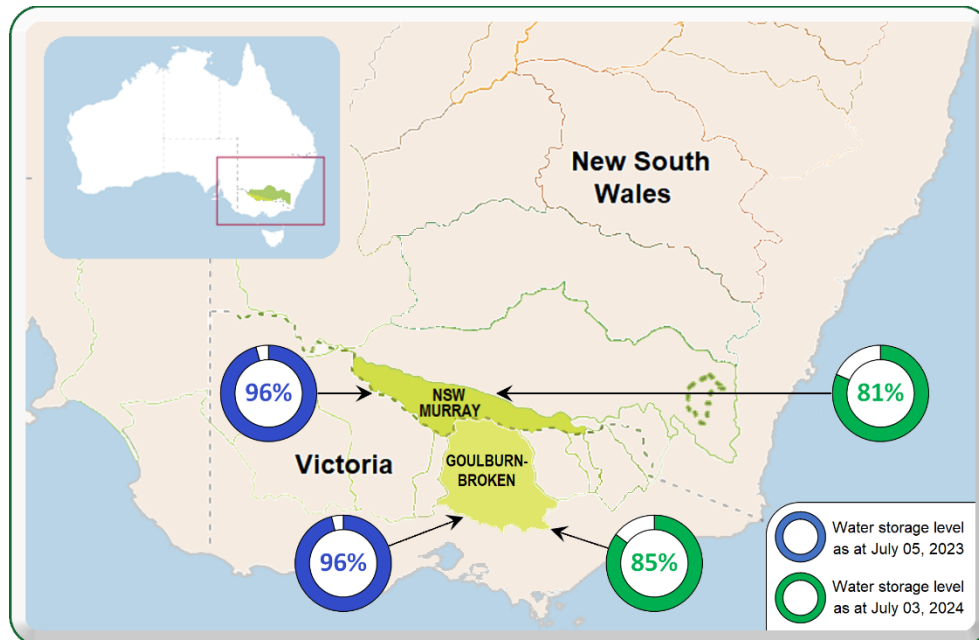
Industry reports a cool winter with ample cold chill hours to date, is expected to produce a very good bud burst for the forecast crop, setting the trees up for improved production compared to the prior year.

As mentioned for cherries, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecasts an average chance of exceeding median rainfall from September to November 2024 (see Figure 4) in the main peach and nectarine growing regions. Growers prefer below-average rainfall, enabling them to manage fruit development and quality better, especially when ample irrigation water is available. However, average

rainfall in the spring months (September to November) is far more manageable than well above-average rains, which increase the risk of issues at pollination, disease infestations, and excessive soil moisture, all of which can affect fruit development and flavor.

The major irrigated stone fruit producing regions in the Goulburn Valley and Sunraysia, located in northern Victoria, are both expecting ample water availability for the MY 2024/25 crop. The well above-average rains, particularly across the eastern states of Australia over the last three years, have led to irrigation storage dams already being at high levels at the start of July 2024 (see Figure 10) prior to the typical spring period inflows. This is partly due to the very high levels of irrigation water storage from the previous year. Even if the spring (September to November 2024) inflows this season are below average, there is expected to be ample water availability for the forecast year's crop.

**Figure 10 – Irrigation Storage Levels – July 05, 2023 and July 03, 2024**



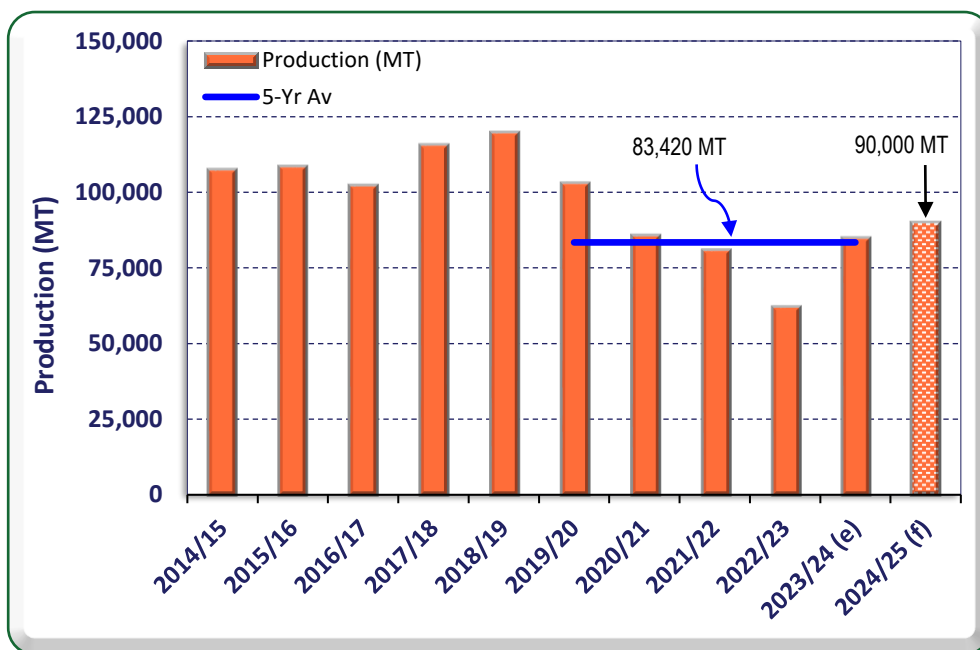
Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority

The COVID-19-related impacts on fertilizer, chemical, and energy costs along with labor shortages, have largely decreased. Although input costs remain above pre-COVID-19 levels and the harvest labor availability remains challenging, these issues were more manageable in MY 2023/24 and are expected to stay similar for MY 2024/25.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the production trend for Australian peaches and nectarines was relatively flat but showed signs of increasing. However, during the pandemic years (MY 2020/21 and MY 2021/22), the following year (MY 2022/23) due to an unseasonably wet spring period, and MY 2023/24 due to a wetter-than-usual harvest period, production significantly declined (see Figure 11). Although some recovery in production is expected in the forecast year, it is still well below pre-

pandemic levels but eight percent above the average over the last five years. Industry sources indicate no significant expansion in the planted area coming into production. Despite this, gradual growth in production in the coming years is anticipated by replacing old trees with new improved varieties with higher yield potential. With a return to good seasonal conditions, there is potential for a return towards past production levels of over 100,000 MT in the coming years.

**Figure 11 – Peach and Nectarine Production Trend**

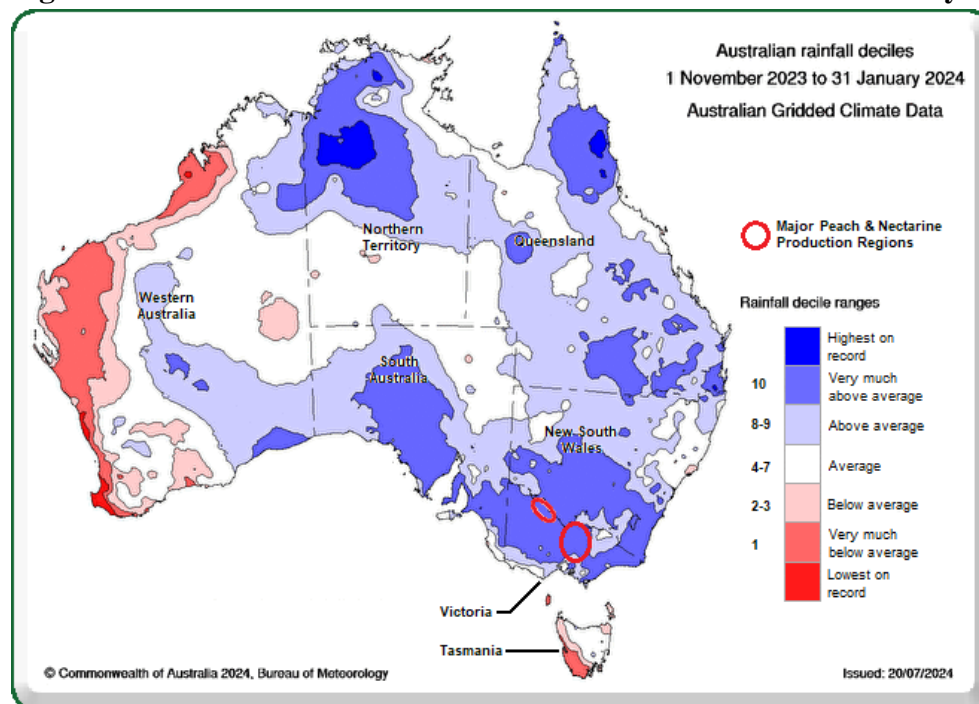


Source: PSD online and FAS/Canberra estimates and forecasts

Note: (e) = estimate, (f) = forecast

MY 2023/24 production is estimated at 85,000 MT, a six percent downward revision from the official USDA estimate of 90,000 MT. This decline is directly related to the above-average rainfall during the main harvest period (November 2023 to January 2024) in the two major production areas of the Goulburn Valley and Sunraysia areas of Victoria (see Figure 12).

**Figure 12 – Rainfall Deciles in Australia – November 2023 to January 2024**



Source: Australian Bureau of Meteorology

## Consumption

Domestic consumption in MY 2024/25 is forecast to rise to 77,500 MT, up from the downward-revised MY 2023/24 consumption estimate of 72,300 MT. This increase is primarily due to the forecasted 5,000-MT production increase. Additionally, the anticipated improvement in fruit quality in the forecast year compared to MY 2023/24 is expected to support higher consumption levels.

FAS/Canberra has revised the peach and nectarine consumption estimate for MY 2023/24 downward from the official USDA estimate of 77,800 MT to 72,300 MT. This adjustment is mainly due to the 5,000-MT downward revision in production and lower imports resulting from the trade suspension of stone fruit from the U.S., as previously mentioned. Furthermore, lower fruit quality caused by above-average rains during the harvest period negatively impacted the demand for peaches and nectarines in MY 2023/24.

## Trade

### Exports

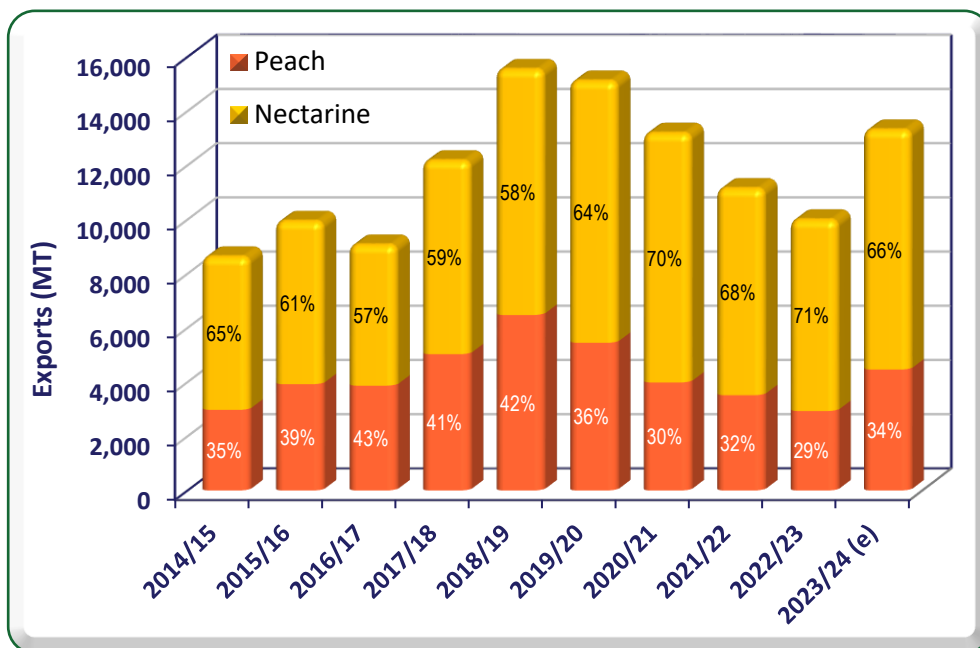
Fresh peach and nectarine exports are forecast to increase to 14,000 MT in MY 2024/25, up from an estimated 13,400 MT in MY 2023/24, which was downwardly revised from the official USDA estimate of 14,000 MT. The increase is primarily related to the anticipated growth in production for MY 2024/25. Additionally, the expected improvement in fruit quality is anticipated to expand the volume of peaches and nectarines suitable for export.



Peach and nectarine exports for MY 2024/25 are expected to shift back to a pre-pandemic focus on peach exports, following significant growth in MY 2023/24. During recent years, export shipping and air freight were disrupted by COVID-19-related impacts, leading to steep increases in air freight rates, which abated significantly by MY 2023/24.

Peaches have soft flesh, resulting in a short shelf life, making them generally unsuitable for long sea freight, unlike nectarines, which have a firmer flesh and are more suited to sea transport. During the pandemic, Australian exporters responded to high air freight rates by marginally increasing the proportion of peaches transported by sea freight from less than five percent to nearly 10 percent. However, the primary response was to reduce the proportion of peaches exported and channel more towards the domestic market. Before the pandemic, peaches constituted around 40 percent of the overall peach and nectarine exports, compared to 60 percent for nectarines (see Figure 13). During the pandemic (MY 2020/21 to MY 2022/23), peach exports dropped to around 30 percent of the overall peach and nectarine exports. With the strong recovery of international air travel in MY 2023/24 and declining air freight rates, Australian exporters increased peaches exports by 34 percent. They channeled more of Australia’s peach production towards exports. This is expected to rise further in the forecast year towards the pre-pandemic levels of around 40 percent.

**Figure 13 – Australian Peach & Nectarine Exports – MY 2014/14 to MY 2023/24**



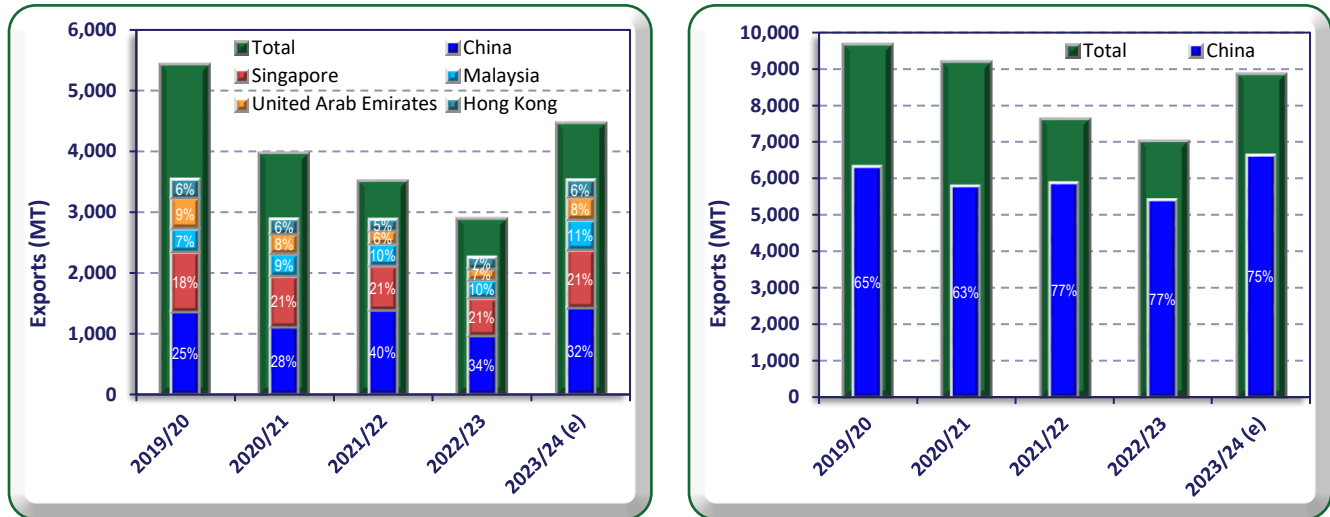
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note: MY 2023/24 = November 2023 to May 2024, (e) = estimate

Australian peach exports are somewhat diversified with around 85 percent of the trade going to five countries, mainly in Asia. China is the main destination, accounting for around one-third of overall exports in recent years (see Figure 14). However, in recent years, nectarine exports to China have

comprised over three-quarters of overall exports. Combined peach and nectarine exports to China have represented 60 to 65 percent of overall exports, with volumes growing alongside increased supply in MY 2023/24.

**Figure 14 – Australia Peach and Nectarine Exports – Nov to Jun 2019/20 to 2023/24**

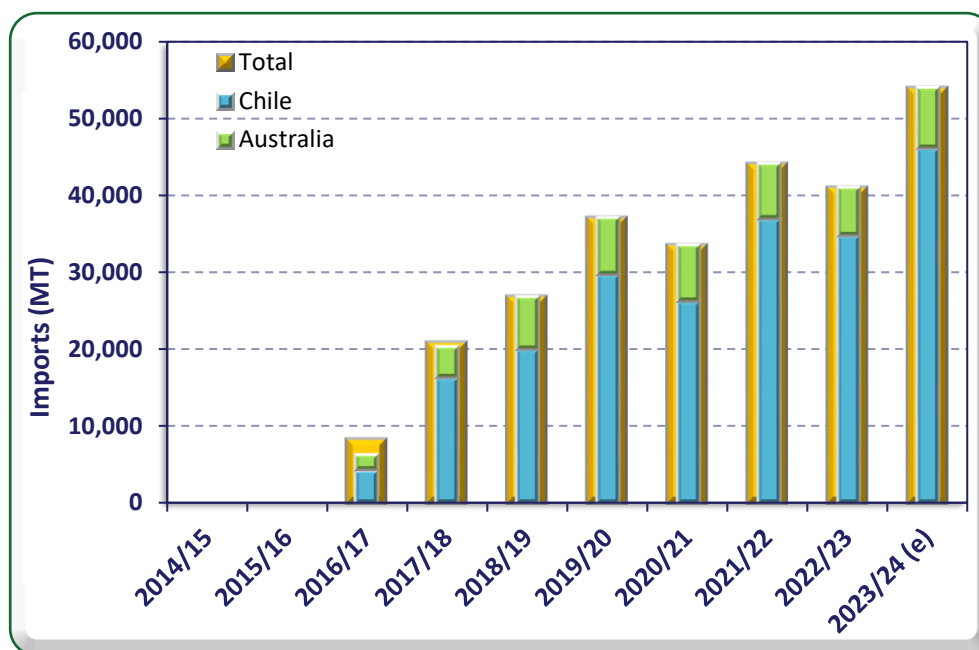


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note: (e) = estimate

China began importing peaches and nectarines only eight years ago, and the overall volume has grown rapidly. Over the last six years, China’s imports have been from only two sources: Chile and Australia. Recently, Australia has supplied around 15 percent of China’s peach and nectarine imports (see Figure 15). If China’s increasing trend of peach and nectarine imports continues, Australia will likely benefit from volume growth even if market share remains unchanged. Chinese consumers prefer white-flesh peaches and nectarines, known as sub-acid varieties, which are generally sweeter than yellow-flesh varieties. Industry reports indicate that Australian growers are aware of this preference, which forces new tailored plantings accordingly.

**Figure 15 – Australian Peach & Nectarine Imports by China**



Source: Trade Data Monitor

Note: (e) = estimate

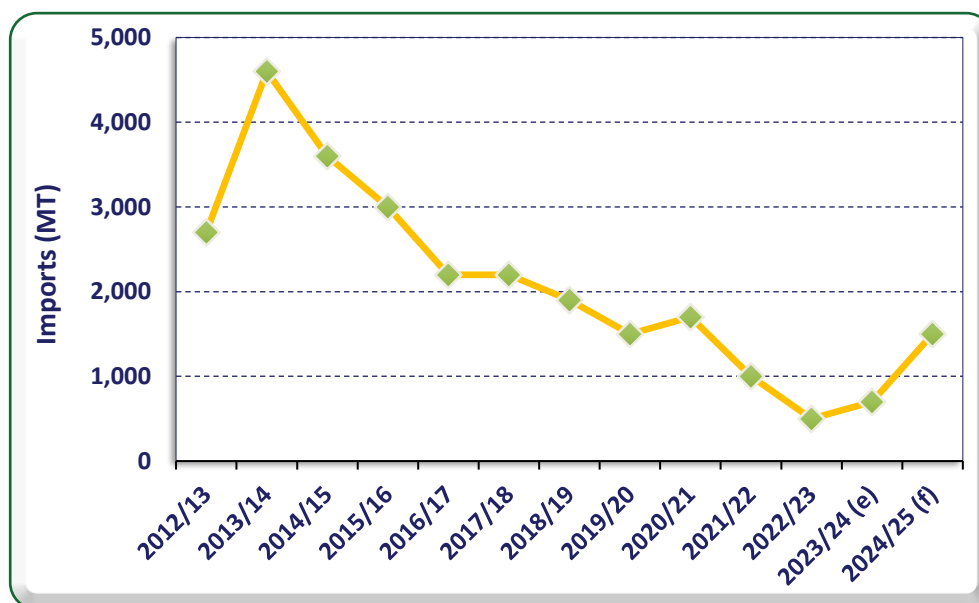
### Imports

Imports are forecast to improve to 1,500 MT in MY 2024/25 from a downward revised 700 MT estimated for MY 2023/24. This growth marks a return to pre-COVID-19 trade levels after recent years have been affected by supply chain disruptions. The forecast growth (114 percent) from MY 2023/24 is primarily due to a three-week suspension of stone fruit trade from the U.S. to Australia associated with a biosecurity issue.

Peach and nectarine imports are counter-seasonal and have almost entirely come from the United States, all arriving via air freight. The improved import forecast assumes no disruption to the trade. For MY 2023/24, the trade for stone fruit from the U.S. to Australia was suspended in the lead-up to the peak peach and nectarine production period in the Pacific Northwest region, which is Australia main U.S. source of imports.

Import volumes for the start of MY 2023/24 (May and June 2024) were relatively weak at 70 MT, the lowest since significant imports began in MY 2012/13. Given that the trade suspension was lifted in mid-July 2024, it is anticipated that imports for the latter half of July will remain very low before resuming normal trade in August and early September when the Pacific Northwest production season typically ends. The short trade period at the end of the U.S. production season and a slow start to trade is estimated to result in a total import volume of 700 MT for MY 2023/24, the second-lowest volume since trade began in MY 2012/13 (see Figure 16).

**Figure 16 – Peach and Nectarine Import Trend**



Source: PSD online and FAS/Canberra estimates and forecasts

Note: (e) = estimate, (f) = forecast

A key impediment to Australian imports of U.S. peaches and nectarines in MY 2023/24 is that the country’s two major supermarket chains have opted out of selling counter-seasonal peaches and nectarines. Currently, imported peaches and nectarines are mainly sold through smaller supermarket chains and independent retail stores. Driving consumer demand through the creative promotion of out-of-season peaches and nectarines can draw the major Australian supermarket chains back into the market, which in turn would support increasing import volumes in the coming years.

**Table 3 - Production, Supply, and Distribution of Fresh Peaches & Nectarines**

Peaches & Nectarines, Fresh Market Year Begins	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Nov 2022		Nov 2023		Nov 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
<b>Australia</b>						
Area Planted (HA)	1850	1850	1850	1850	0	1850
Area Harvested (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	3700	3700	3700	3700	0	3700
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	400	400	400	400	0	400
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	4100	4100	4100	4100	0	4100
Commercial Production (MT)	80000	62200	90000	85000	0	90000
Non-Comm. Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	80000	62200	90000	85000	0	90000
Imports (MT)	1000	500	1800	700	0	1500
Total Supply (MT)	81000	62700	91800	85700	0	91500
Domestic Consumption (MT)	71000	52700	77800	72300	0	77500
Exports (MT)	10000	10000	14000	13400	0	14000
Withdrawal From Market (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	81000	62700	91800	85700	0	91500

(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)

OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

**Attachments:**

No Attachments