



United States
Department of
Agriculture

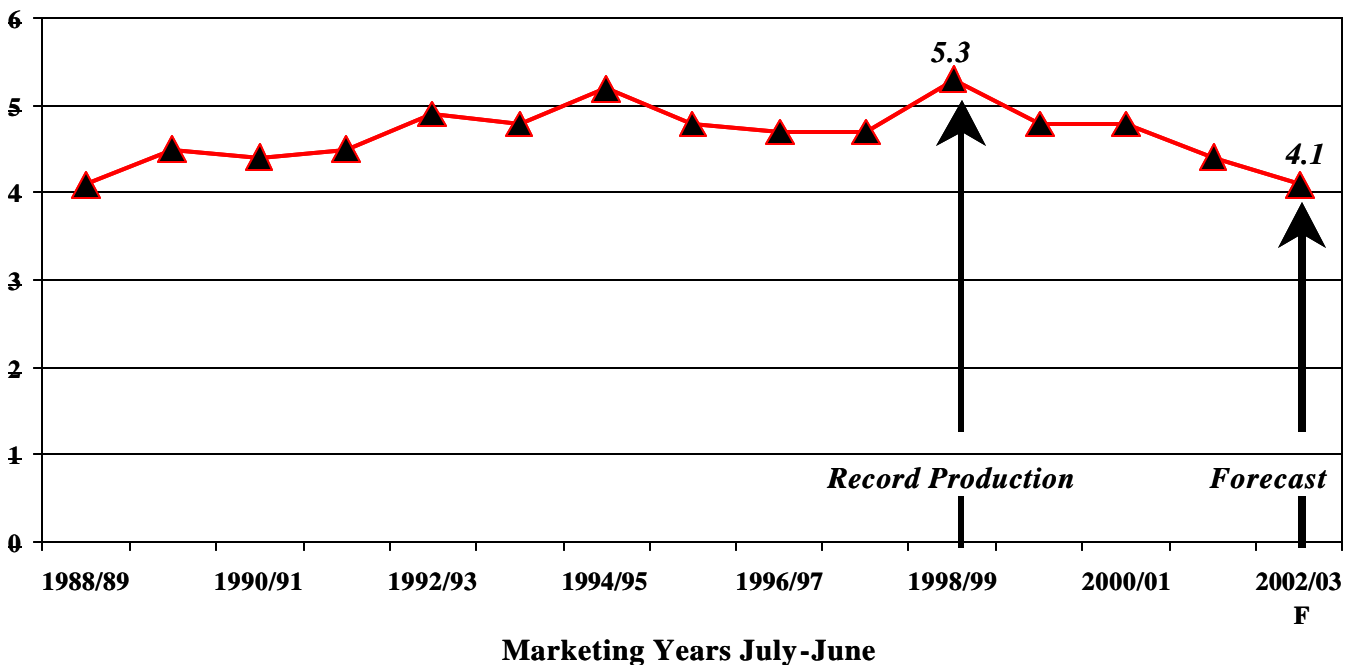
Foreign
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World Horticultural Trade and U.S. Export Opportunities

U.S. Apple Production Expected to Decline for the Third Consecutive Season

Million Metric Tons



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

U.S. apple production in 2002/03 is forecast to decrease for the third consecutive season to 4.1 million tons, the smallest volume since 1988/89. Smaller apple crops are anticipated in most major U.S. producing states, including New York (down 35 percent), Michigan (down more than 40 percent), and California (down 15 percent), due to unfavorable weather during the spring and to a reduction in bearing acreage. Apple production in Washington, on the other hand, is forecast at 2.4 million tons, up 6 percent from last season. Although apple-bearing acreage in Washington has been reduced as well, favorable weather during the spring is expected to boost the volume of its apple crop in 2002/03. The 2002/03 U.S. apple production forecast reflects in part the difficult economic challenges facing the domestic apple industry. Overproduction, stagnant domestic demand, and increased imports of lower-priced apple juice from China have put downward pressure on U.S. apple prices and, as such, have contributed to the reduction in apple acreage. This trend is expected to continue.

[Check Out the New U.S. Trade Internet System Website. Go to
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade>]