

# CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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## PRELIMINARY GRAPE CRUSH

California's 2001 crush totaled 3,367,336 tons, down 15 percent from the record 2000 crush of 3,951,185 tons, according to the Preliminary Grape Crush Report released today.

Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 1,716,911 tons, down 5 percent from 2000. The 2001 white wine variety crush totaled 1,302,768 tons, down 13 percent from 2000. Tons crushed of raisin type varieties totaled 261,263, down 49 percent from 2000, while tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 86,394, down 28 percent from 2000.

Chardonnay accounted for the largest percentage of crush volume with 17 percent. Cabernet Sauvignon accounted for the second leading percentage of crush with 12 percent of the total crush. The next eight highest percentages of grapes crushed, with the exception of Thompson Seedless, were all wine varieties.

California grape growers received prices in 2001 for raisin, table, and white wine grapes that were, on average, less than the 2000 prices, while the prices received for red were, on average, above the 2000 prices. The 2001 average price of all varieties was \$548.10, up 9 percent from 2000. Average prices for the 2001 crop by type were as follows: red wine grapes, \$669.57, up 7 percent from 2000; white wine grapes, \$483.11, down 3 percent from 2000; raisin grapes, \$85.65, down 32 percent; and table grapes, \$87.45, down 26 percent. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

Statewide, Negrette received the highest average price of \$2,142.58 per ton followed by Vernaccia with \$2,033.32 per ton. Marechal Foch, Blaufrankisch, and De Chaunac rounded out the top five highest average prices with \$2,000.00 per ton each. The prices of other notable varieties for 2001 were as follows: Chardonnay, \$836.74; Cabernet Sauvignon, \$1,062.37; Merlot, \$992.69; Zinfandel, \$518.69.

Of the 17 grape price districts, District 4 (Napa County) received the highest average price of \$2,838.72 per ton, up 15 percent from 2000. District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) received the second highest return of \$2,155.07, up 6 percent from 2000.

Beginning with the 1999 season, the Grape Crush Report includes the total number of tons crushed that will be marketed as grape concentrate. In determining grape tonnage crushed for concentrate production, each processor was required to report the estimated equivalent tons of grapes crushed that are expected to be marketed as grape concentrate. For the 2001 season, this total was 446,593 tons, approximately 13 percent of the 2001 grape crush total.

California leads the nation in the production of all grape varieties, with an estimated 2001 value of production at \$2.5 billion.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2001 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2002. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 8, 2002.