

CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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PRELIMINARY GRAPE CRUSH

California's 2002 crush totaled 3,784,797 tons, up 12 percent from the 2001 crush of 3,368,265 tons, according to the Preliminary Grape Crush Report released today.

Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 1,816,243 tons, up 6 percent from 2001. The 2002 white wine variety crush totaled 1,285,996 tons, down 1 percent from 2001. Tons crushed of raisin type varieties totaled 621,928, up 138 percent from 2001, while tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 60,629, down 40 percent from 2001.

Thompson Seedless accounted for the largest percentage of crush volume with 16 percent. Chardonnay accounted for the second leading percentage of crush with 15.7 percent of the total crush. The next eight highest percentages of grapes crushed were all wine varieties.

California grape growers received prices in 2002 for raisin, table, white and red wine grapes that were, on average, less than the 2001 prices. The 2002 average price of all varieties was \$460.27, down 17 percent from 2001. Average prices for the 2002 crop by type were as follows: red wine grapes, \$612.83, down 10 percent from 2001; white wine grapes, \$428.18, down 13 percent from 2001; raisin grapes, \$75.51, down 12 percent; and table grapes, \$80.49, down 8 percent. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

Statewide, Graciano received the highest average price of \$2,733.33 per ton followed by Aleatico with \$2,646.00 per ton. Vernaccia received the third highest average price of \$2,141.85 per ton followed by Negrette with \$2,131.91 per ton and Melon with \$2,058.93 per ton. Although these were the five highest prices, each purchase was for less than 50 tons. The 2002 Chardonnay price of \$678.01 was down 20 percent from 2001, while the 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon price of \$1,026.34 was down 4 percent from 2001. The 2002 average price for Merlot and Zinfandel grapes decreased to \$863.22 and \$475.80, down 14 percent and 10 percent from 2001, respectively. The Thompson Seedless price of \$75.89 was down 12 percent from last year and the lowest since 1985.

Of the 17 grape price districts, District 4 (Napa County) received the highest average price of \$2,938.28 per ton, up 4 percent from 2001. District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) received the second highest return of \$2,055.25, down 5 percent from 2001.

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 2002 season, this total was 752,295 tons, approximately 20 percent of the 2002 grape crush total.

California leads the nation in the production of all grape varieties, with an estimated 2002 value of production at \$2.60 billion.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2002 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2003. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 10, 2003.

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