

# California Crop Production Report

Released: February 10, 2005

California's 2004 crush totaled 3,616,951 tons, up 7 percent from the 2003 crush of 3,370,121 tons, according to the Preliminary Grape Crush Report released today.

Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 1,637,024 tons, virtually unchanged from 2003. The 2004 white wine variety crush totaled 1,139,588 tons, down 7 percent from 2003. Tons crushed of raisin type varieties totaled 726,946, up 72 percent from 2003, while tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 113,393, up 35 percent from 2003.

Beginning with the 1999 season, the Grape Crush Report includes the total number of tons crushed for concentrate production. In determining grape tonnage crushed for concentrate production, each processor was required to report the estimated equivalent tons of grapes crushed for grape concentrate. For the 2004 season, this total was 658,048 tons, approximately 18 percent of the 2004 grape crush total. This report provides only the aggregate figure for grapes crushed for concentrate production and does not include information by district, type, or variety.

California grape growers received prices in 2004 for raisin, table, and white and red wine grapes that were, on average, above the 2003 prices. The 2004 average price of all varieties was \$481.91, up 2 percent from 2003. Average prices for the 2004 crop by type were as follows: red wine grapes, \$626.18, up 3 percent from 2003; white wine grapes, \$486.94, up 13 percent from 2003; raisin grapes, \$199.86, up 110 percent; and table grapes, \$198.52, up 117 percent. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

In 2004, Thompson Seedless accounted for the largest percentage of crush volume with 19 percent. Chardonnay accounted for the second leading percentage of crush with 15 percent of the total crush. The next eight highest percentages of grapes crushed were all wine varieties.

Grapes produced in District 4 (Napa County) received the highest average price of \$2,942.53 per ton, down 3 percent from 2003. District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) received the second highest return of \$1,868.33, down 4 percent from 2003. The 2004 Chardonnay price of \$693.49 was up 4 percent from 2003, while the Cabernet Sauvignon price of \$982.38 was down 3 percent from 2003. The 2004 average price for Merlot was \$795.58, virtually unchanged from 2003, while the Zinfandel average price of \$471.97 was up 10 percent from 2003.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2004 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2005. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 10, 2005.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. The next production forecast will be issued March 10, 2005.