

# California Farm News



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Media Contact: Jack Rutz, 1-800-851-1127  
CA Web Site: [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

## PRELIMINARY GRAPE CRUSH REPORT, 2005 CROP

SACRAMENTO – California's 2005 crush totaled a record 4,318,083 tons, up 19 percent from the 2004 crush of 3,615,278 tons, according to the Preliminary Grape Crush Report released today.

Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 2,220,096 tons, up 35 percent from 2004. The 2005 white wine variety crush totaled 1,524,404 tons, up 34 percent from 2004. Tons crushed of raisin type varieties totaled 467,477, down 36 percent from 2004, while tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 106,106, down 6 percent from 2004.

California grape growers received prices in 2005 for raisin and table grapes that were, on average, below the 2004 prices, while the prices received for red and white were, on average, above the 2004 prices. The 2005 average price of all varieties was \$531.65, up 10 percent from 2004. Average prices for the 2005 crop by type were as follows: red wine grapes, \$634.40, up 1 percent from 2004; white wine grapes, \$503.15, up 3 percent from 2004; raisin grapes, \$164.24, down 18 percent; and table grapes, \$121.21, down 39 percent. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

In 2005, Chardonnay accounted for the largest percentage of crush volume with 17.1 percent. Cabernet Sauvignon accounted for the second leading percentage of crush with 12.5 percent of the total crush. The next eight highest percentages of grapes crushed were all wine varieties, with the exception of Thompson Seedless.

Grapes produced in District 4 (Napa County) received the highest average price of \$2,989.36 per ton, up 2 percent from 2004. District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) received the second highest return of \$1,868.17, virtually unchanged from 2004. The 2005 Chardonnay price of \$712.12 was up 3 percent from 2004, while the Cabernet Sauvignon price of \$939.23 was down 4 percent from 2004. The 2005 average price for Merlot was \$728.99, down 9 percent from 2004, while the Zinfandel average price of \$471.20 was down less than 1 percent from 2004.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2005 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2006. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 10, 2006.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Agricultural Statistics Branch operates under a cooperative agreement between CDFA and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, California Field Office.

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