



California Farm News

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Media Contact: Jack Rutz, 1-800-851-1127 · February 9, 2007

PRELIMINARY GRAPE CRUSH REPORT, 2006 CROP

SACRAMENTO – California's 2006 crush totaled 3,479,933 tons, down 20 percent from the record 2005 crush of 4,330,064 tons, according to the Preliminary Grape Crush Report released today.

Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 1,867,247 tons. Despite a 16 percent decline from 2005, the red wine crush was the second largest on record. The 2006 white wine variety crush totaled 1,260,132 tons, down 17 percent from 2005. Tons crushed of raisin type varieties totaled 267,021, down 43 percent from 2005, and tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 85,533, down 19 percent from 2005.

California grape growers received prices in 2006 for raisin grapes and white wine grapes that were, on average, below the 2005 prices, while the prices received for table grapes and red wine grapes were, on average, above the 2005 prices. The 2006 average price of all varieties, at \$546.80, was up 3 percent from 2005 because of a larger portion of higher value grapes. Average prices for the 2006 crop by type were as follows: red wine grapes, \$634.31, up only slightly from 2005; white wine grapes, \$502.83, down 1 percent from 2005; raisin grapes, \$153.79, down 6 percent; and table grapes, \$137.17, up 13 percent. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

In 2006, Chardonnay accounted for the largest percentage of the total crush volume with 15.8 percent. Cabernet Sauvignon accounted for the second leading percentage of crush with 12.1 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) brought the highest average price of \$3,050.73 per ton, up 2 percent from 2005. District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) received the second highest return of \$1,987.29, up 6 percent from 2005. The 2006 Chardonnay price of \$751.80 was up 5 percent from 2005, and the Cabernet Sauvignon price of \$953.44 was up 2 percent from 2005. The 2006 average price for Zinfandel was \$508.13, up 8 percent from 2005, while the Merlot average price was down 9 percent from 2005, at \$663.28 per ton.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2006 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2007. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 9, 2007.

###