



United States
Department
of Agriculture

FTS-323

July 26, 2006



Electronic Outlook Report from the Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov

Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook

Susan Pollack and Agnes Perez

Crops Forecast To Be Bigger for Sweet Cherries And Almonds But Smaller for Tart Cherries and Peaches in 2006 Than A Year Ago

Contents

[Price Outlook](#)
[Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook](#)
[Fruit and Tree Nuts Trade Outlook](#)
[Commodity Highlight: Raspberries](#)
[Contacts and Links](#)

Tables

[Grower prices](#)
[Retail prices](#)
[Sweet cherry production](#)
[Tart cherry production](#)
[Fruit exports](#)
[Fruit imports](#)

Briefing Rooms

[Fruit & Tree Nuts](#)

The next release is
Sept. 28, 2006

Approved by the
World Agricultural
Outlook Board.

Growers received higher prices in May and June 2006 for many fruit compared with the same 2 months in 2005. This May, prices were higher for all lemons, oranges, fresh apples, and strawberries than last May. In June, record-high prices for fresh grapes, along with higher prices for fresh apples and peaches, drove up the grower price index to a record high.

The forecast for the U.S. sweet cherry production for 2006 is 536.8 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago, but 5 percent below 2004. Larger crops are expected in Washington and Oregon, two of the leading sweet-cherry producing States; as well as in Idaho, New York, and Utah. California's crop is forecast down from a year ago, driving up prices early in the season.

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 255.7 million pounds, 5 percent lower than a year ago, but 20 percent above 2004. A smaller crop is forecast for Michigan, the largest tart cherry-producing State in the country. While the smaller domestic crop may put upward pressure on tart cherry grower prices, large carryover stocks of frozen tart cherries from the big 2005 crop will likely mitigate any significant increase in prices growers will be receiving from processors.

U.S. peach production is forecast at 2.12 billion pounds, down 11 percent from 2005 and 19 percent below 2 years ago. Of the three major producing States, production declines are expected in California and South Carolina, but the Georgia crop is forecast up. Reduced production and a late start to the season, especially in California, have driven peach prices higher for this season through June.

The 2006 almond crop is forecast to reach 1.050 billion pounds (shelled basis). If realized it would be 15 percent larger than last year and the second-largest crop on record. Beginning stocks for the 2006/07 season will likely be below the past few years due to the small 2005 crop, somewhat moderating an expected increase in total supplies as well as any expected decline in grower prices.

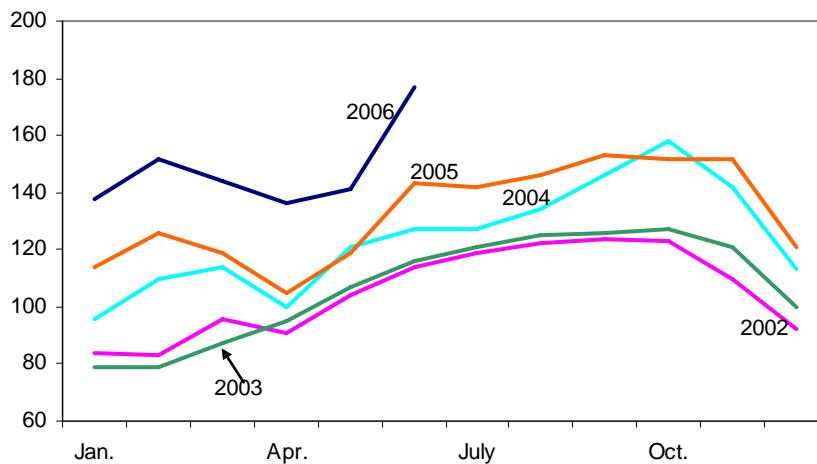
Price Outlook

Grower Prices Stay Strong in Late Spring and Early Summer

The May index of prices received by growers, at 141 (1990-92 = 100) is up 4 percent from April and 18 percent higher than May 2005 (fig. 1). Growers received higher prices this May over last for all lemons, oranges, fresh apples, and strawberries, offsetting price declines for grapefruit and fresh pears (table 1). Navel orange harvesting was winding down in California, and lemon harvesting was finishing up in the San Joaquin Valley, helping to drive up prices. Fresh-apple prices were 41 percent higher than last May as demand stayed strong and already small stocks continue to dwindle while the season winds down. With new apple crop harvesting getting underway in the Northeast and Midwest in July, prices will likely moderate in the coming months.

The June index hit an unprecedented high of 177, a 26-percent increase from May and 24 percent over June 2005. Record-high prices for fresh grapes, along with higher prices for fresh apples and peaches drove the index up. Harvesting of table grapes in the Coachella Valley got underway in May, however, shipments were running behind last year through June, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). At the same time, Chilean shipments ended and grapes began arriving from Mexico. Shipments from Mexico, however, were also running behind last season in May and June, creating tight supplies in U.S. markets. With demand for fresh grapes remaining strong in U.S. supermarkets throughout the year, U.S. grape grower prices rose to \$1.135 per pound, 68 cents higher than last June and 88 cents higher than the average price for June based on 1990-92 dollars. As harvesting continues in California and moves up into the major production region in the San Joaquin Valley, prices should fall, but will likely remain above last year due to an expected smaller crop for 2006.

Figure 1
Index of prices received by growers for fruit and tree nuts
1990-92=100



Source: *Agricultural Prices*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

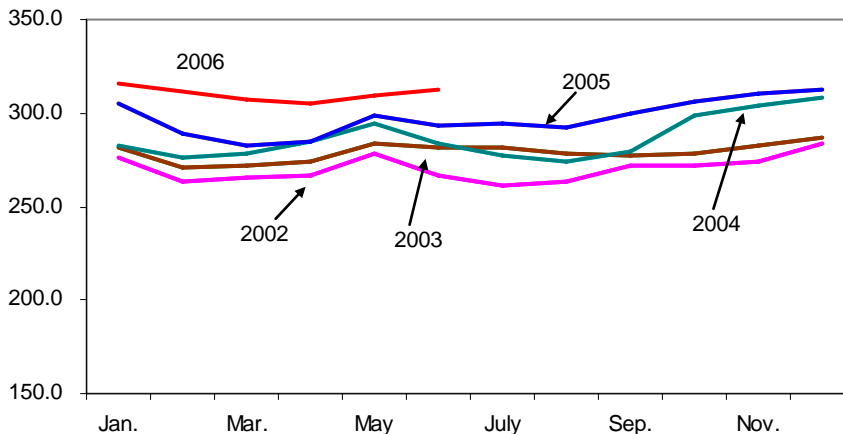
Consumer Price Index Up Seasonally in May and June

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased in May and June as it does most years, reflecting the beginning of the summer fruit season (fig. 2). Although the increase between April and May this year was not as great as during the same period the previous few years, the May index of 309.8 (1982-84 = 100) was 4 percent higher than last May, and the monthly index for 2006 has remained above the past several years (fig. 2).

Consumers paid more at the retail level for most fresh fruit except Anjou pears and Thompson Seedless grapes (table 2). The higher prices this May reflect tighter supplies of most citrus fruit and the slowed shipments of strawberries due to harvesting difficulties in California because of rain. Red Delicious apple prices have been more expensive at retail this year because of the smaller 2005/06 U.S. apple crop. Bad weather in Central and South America last fall reduced banana supplies throughout the first half of 2006 and increased their retail price.

In June, the CPI rose to 312.3, less than 1 percent higher than May, but 7 percent higher than 2005. Traditionally, the CPI drops slightly in June as the harvesting of domestic summer fruit, such as fresh peaches, grapes, and strawberries, is fully underway. This year, however, many of these fruit had been late to mature and harvesting was delayed in some regions. Higher prices also reflect smaller peach and table grape crops this year. As a result, supplies were below usual quantities, driving up retail prices.

Figure 2
Consumer Price Index for fresh fruit
1982-84=100



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor
(<http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>)

Table 1--Monthly fruit prices received by growers, United States

Commodity	2005		2006		2005-06 Change	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	-----Dollars per box-----				Percent	
Citrus fruit: 1/						
Grapefruit, all	12.28	18.06	11.96	14.42	-2.6	-20.2
Grapefruit, fresh	19.52	21.09	16.34	16.68	-16.3	-20.9
Lemons, all	5.46	20.08	10.75	15.99	96.9	-20.4
Lemons, fresh	19.97	22.37	23.47	23.67	17.5	5.8
Oranges, all	5.11	5.43	6.81	8.21	33.3	51.2
Oranges, fresh	9.99	9.34	10.39	13.96	4.0	49.5
	-----Dollars per pound-----					
Noncitrus fruit:						
Apples, fresh 2/	0.174	0.162	0.246	0.277	41.4	71.0
Grapes, fresh 2/	0.510	0.460	--	1.135	--	146.7
Peaches, fresh 2/	0.378	0.298	--	0.410	--	37.4
Pears, fresh 2/	0.241	0.257	0.210	0.278	-13.1	8.4
Strawberries, fresh	0.549	0.564	0.604	0.548	10.0	-2.8

1/ Equivalent on-tree price.

2/ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only), OR (pears only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other States.

Source: *Agricultural Prices*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Table 2--U.S. monthly retail prices, selected fruit, 2005-2006

Commodity	Unit	2005		2006		2005-06 Change	
		May	June	May	June	May	June
		--- Dollars ---		--- Dollars ---		--- Percent ---	
Fresh:							
Valencia oranges	Lb	--	--	--	--	--	--
Navel oranges	Lb	0.899	1.012	0.990	1.119	10.1	10.6
Grapefruit	Lb	1.039	1.147	1.091	1.128	5.0	-1.7
Lemons	Lb	1.405	1.455	1.451	1.441	3.3	-1.0
Red Delicious apples	Lb	0.915	0.974	1.021	1.053	11.6	8.1
Bananas	Lb	0.497	0.493	0.514	0.511	3.4	3.7
Peaches	Lb	--	1.601	--	1.609	--	--
Anjou pears	Lb	1.183	1.057	1.163	1.213	-1.7	14.8
Strawberries 1/	12-oz pint	1.727	1.763	1.734	1.650	0.4	-6.4
Thompson seedless grapes	Lb	2.506	1.894	2.395	2.478	-4.4	30.8
Processed:							
Orange juice, concentrate 2/	16-fl. oz	1.840	1.809	1.912		3.9	-100.0
Wine	liter	7.188	8.378	7.348		2.2	-100.0

-- Insufficient marketing to establish price.

1/ Dry pint.

2/ Data converted from 12 fluid ounce containers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor (<http://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm>)

Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook

2006 U.S. Sweet Cherry Crop Larger Than A Year Ago

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecast U.S. sweet cherry production for 2006 at 536.8 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago, but 5 percent below 2004 (table 3). The overall production increase may be attributed mainly to expected larger crops in Washington and Oregon, two of the leading sweet-cherry producing States in the country. Although regarded as relatively small producers, Idaho, New York, and Utah are also expecting larger production this year. Approximately 92 percent of the U.S. sweet cherry crop this year will be produced in Washington, Oregon, and California.

The sweet cherry crops in both Washington and Oregon received no major damage this winter. Growing conditions were generally favorable until more recently, when rain around the second week in June disrupted the early-season harvest and caused some fruit to split open. Overall crop damage associated with these rains still needs to be assessed and may likely lead to a downward revision to the current crop forecast in the Northwest. However, the potential for increased production this year is still very likely as industry sources have indicated that there are still plenty of good quality cherries on trees that were not affected by the rains. Cherry production in Washington is forecast to increase to 300.0 million pounds, up 9 percent from last year and the largest on record. A relatively cold spring has caused some frost damage in the Wenatchee area and has put the Washington crop several days behind last year. Some fruit had dropped off from the trees as a result of a May heat wave, however, this has contributed to better fruit sizing. Younger trees planted to new varieties are coming into production, also helping to increase this year's crop size. Production in Oregon is forecast to increase from last year's very small crop, increasing 79 percent, to 100.0 million pounds, the same as the 1997 crop which was the largest throughout the 1990s and in recent years.

Table 3--Sweet cherries: Total production and season-average price received by growers, 2003-2005, and indicated 2006 production

State	Production				Price		
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003	2004	2005
	-- Million pounds --				-- Cents per pound --		
California	131.2	146.0	105.4	90.0	83.5	87.5	87.0
Idaho	5.8	6.2	3.4	6.4	70.0	69.5	97.5
Michigan	26.0	49.4	54.0	34.0	41.5	33.0	31.0
Montana	4.1	4.7	2.5	1/	85.5	100.5	176.5
New York	1.2	1.8	1.6	2.2	88.5	70.0	85.5
Oregon	82.0	86.0	57.2	100.0	54.0	57.5	72.5
Pennsylvania	0.7	0.8	2/	2/	118.0	149.0	2/
Utah	4.4	3.2	3.6	4.2	45.0	49.8	69.0
Washington	236.0	268.0	274.0	300.0	71.5	88.5	122.0
United States	491.4	566.1	501.7	536.8	70.0	78.5	99.5

1/ The first estimate for 2006 will be released in January 2007.

2/ Estimates discontinued in 2005.

Source: *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts Summary* (various issues), National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Forecast production in California is set at 90.0 million pounds, down 15 percent from 2005, and the smallest crop since 1996. Poor pollination due to too much rain, lack of chilling hours, and an extreme freeze in February negatively affected fruit set. In Michigan, production this year is forecast to decline 17 percent, to 34.0 million pounds. Many of Michigan's sweet cherry growing areas experienced frost damage, and fruit drop was higher than average. In the relatively smaller producing States of Idaho, Utah, and New York, production is forecast up 88 percent, 17 percent, and 38 percent, respectively.

Cherry harvesting in most of California's growing areas was underway by the end of May, and peak harvest occurred during the first 2 weeks in June. Harvesting in the Northwest was just getting started around the second week in June. The late start to this year's cherry season brought cumulative shipments in California through May down sharply from the same time last year, driving prices higher. F.o.b. shipping-point prices quoted at California's Stockton-Lodi-Linden growing district as of early June ranged from \$65.00-\$68.00 for a 10-row, 18-pound carton of the Bing variety. For an 11-row, 18-pound carton of the same variety, prices ranged from \$50.00-\$55.00. The same time last year, prices ranged from \$42.00-\$49.00 and \$35.00-\$40.00, respectively. Shipments through the first 2 weeks in June picked up, exceeding last year's ending-season weekly volume, and although prices have declined seasonally from earlier in the season, they remain higher than last year. F.o.b. cherry prices as of the second week in June have declined to a range of \$55.00-\$63.00 for a 10-row size and to \$40.00-\$48.00 for an 11-row size. This time last year, corresponding prices ranged from \$42.00-\$49.00 and \$35.00-\$40.00, respectively.

Fairly light supplies together with strong demand pushed early-season prices higher than a year ago in Washington's Yakima and Wenatchee cherry growing districts. Harvesting began around mid-June with supplies peaking in July. As of June 23, f.o.b. shipping-point prices for an 18-pound carton of Bing cherries (10 ½ row size) ranged from \$40.00-\$45.00, compared with \$30.00 around the same time last year. Weekly shipments increased during the succeeding weeks through mid-July, exceeding last year's shipments and pushing f.o.b. prices below last year.

Light supplies and high prices for California cherries have dampened U.S. export prospects, particularly to Japan, its most important export market. U.S. cherry exports through May were down 50 percent from the same time last year, declining to most major markets. As of July 2005, the U.S. Bureau of the Census began reporting cherry trade as an aggregate of sweet and tart cherries. Although actual sweet cherry export and import quantities may no longer be obtained, current reported figures may be used as an indicator of trends in sweet cherry trade as they make up the bulk of total U.S. cherry export and import volumes. From 2001-2004, sweet cherries averaged 92 percent of all fresh cherries exported by the United States each year and about 90 percent of annual U.S. cherry import volume. As the U.S. Northwest (Washington and Oregon) cherry season gets in full swing, increased availability, good fruit size, and lower prices may improve export prospects for the remainder of the season. Also, domestic demand will likely be better met by the Northwest growing regions, boosting domestic consumption. Although small relative to domestic production, fresh cherry imports through May were up sharply from the same period a year ago due mainly to a very big increase in shipments from Chile. For 2006, U.S. cherry consumption is forecast to increase to an estimated 0.93 pound per person, up from the 2005 estimate of 0.86 pound.

2006 Tart Cherry Production Forecast To Decline

U.S. tart cherry production is forecast at 255.7 million pounds, 5 percent lower than a year ago, but 20 percent above the estimated production in 2004 (table 4). The decline in overall production is mostly attributed to the smaller crop forecast for Michigan, the largest tart-cherry-producing State in the country. Michigan's production is forecast to decline 11 percent from a year ago, to 185 million pounds, making up 72 percent of overall production. Some growing areas, particularly in the northwest portion of the State, are experiencing reduced yields as a result of a severe freeze in early May when the crop was in its late-bloom stage. In Central and Southwest Michigan, the crop is progressing well. Aside from Michigan, Wisconsin is the only other State (out of the seven States that NASS reports annual tart cherry production statistics) with forecast smaller production this year due to reduced yields resulting from wet and windy conditions during the pollination period. Production in Wisconsin is forecast to decline 40 percent, to 4.5 million pounds.

Despite some frost problems reported in some of the other tart-cherry-producing States, growing conditions have been generally favorable. Production increases are expected for New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. In Utah, production is forecast unchanged, at 28.0 million pounds.

While the smaller domestic crop may put upward pressure on tart cherry grower prices, large carryover stocks of frozen tart cherries from last year's big crop will likely offset some of the increase in prices growers will be receiving from processors. Frozen tart cherries are the largest category in the U.S. tart cherry processing sector, accounting for about 70 percent of the total quantity processed. Carryover stocks at the beginning of 2006 were 46 percent higher than 2005 and 81 percent higher than the 2 previous years. By June 30, 2006, stocks of frozen tart cherries were running 69 percent higher than a year ago.

Table 4--Tart cherries: Total production and season-average price received by growers, 2003-2005, and indicated 2006 production

State	Production				Price		
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003	2004	2005
	-- Million pounds --				-- Cents per pound --		
Colorado	0.4	0.2	1/	1/	38.0	21.0	1/
Michigan	154.0	149.0	208.0	185.0	37.6	33.5	22.9
New York	7.2	10.7	7.5	9.5	31.4	40.9	43.2
Oregon	1.4	3.9	0.3	3.0	36.1	36.9	38.0
Pennsylvania	3.9	3.0	2.6	4.2	43.4	35.3	31.5
Utah	26.0	22.0	28.0	28.0	22.8	23.8	23.3
Washington	20.1	17.5	16.5	21.5	32.3	30.9	23.9
Wisconsin	13.3	6.7	7.5	4.5	39.4	37.5	33.2
United States	226.3	213.0	270.4	255.7	35.4	32.8	23.9

1/ Estimates discontinued in 2005.

Source: *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts Summary* (various issues), National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

During 2005, domestic production of frozen tart cherries increased for the third straight year, reaching 187.9 million pounds, the largest production since the 192.0 million pounds produced in 1992. Although lower than average for the third consecutive year, carryover stocks were 10 percent higher in 2005, and together with increased production drove processing tart cherry grower prices down significantly from \$0.32 in 2004 to \$0.24 last year. The 46-percent larger ending stocks in 2005 than the previous year likely reflected increased processor demand due to the low prices and weak demand in export markets. Meanwhile, market supplies were large enough to meet domestic demand, boosting consumption to an estimated 0.49 pound per person in 2005. Although this is up slightly from the 2002-2004 estimates, it is still lower than the consumption estimates during most of the 1990s.

Large stocks and continued weak demand thus far in international markets are aiding in boosting domestic supplies of frozen tart cherries, raising the prospects for increased domestic consumption in 2006. However, this trend may be reversed should the rate of increase in cold storage stocks buildup continue at the mid-year rate of 69 percent through the end of the year and export demand regains strength.

U.S. Peach Production To Decline in 2006

USDA's NASS forecasts U.S. peach production at 2.12 billion pounds, down 11 percent from 2005 and 19 percent below 2 years ago. Production declines are expected from 13 out of the 29 States reported by NASS and 2 were expecting production to be unchanged. Of the three major producing States, production declines are expected in California and South Carolina, but the Georgia crop is forecast to be 5 percent bigger. Forecast crop size in California was revised down 1 percent from the initial crop forecast reported in May and now is set at 1.52 billion pounds. If realized, this will be down 13 percent from a year ago, and the smallest crop since the 1.37 billion pounds produced in 1995. The clingstone crop was revised down 5 percent to 760,000 pounds, while the freestone crop was revised up 3 percent to 760,000 pounds. Both the clingstone and freestone crops, however, remain smaller than a year ago, declining 22 percent and 1 percent, respectively. Rainy and cool weather in March and April delayed crop maturity in California, and lighter fruit sets are reported among the mid- to late-season varieties.

South Carolina is a distant second to California in peach production. Adequate chill hours this past winter made for a good start to South Carolina's peach growing season. However, crop prospects were dampened by a late frost and freeze during the bloom and early fruit development stages in the northern portion of the State. Hailstorms have also caused severe damage to some orchards. Much later in the growing season, lots of moisture from tropical storm Alberto around mid-June and thunderstorms later in the month aided in fruit development and fruit sizing. Still, South Carolina's production for 2006 is forecast at 120.0 million pounds, down 20 percent from a year ago, and 14 percent lower than in 2004.

Crop conditions for much of the growing season in Georgia were reported to be good but hot, dry weather in June resulted in smaller fruit size, lowering the expected production. Georgia's 2006 peach crop is forecast at 84.0 million pounds, 16 percent smaller than the initial forecast set on June 1st, but 5 percent bigger than last year's smaller-than-average crop. A relatively cool spring has delayed fruit

maturity, and production from some early varieties was curtailed due to a late March freeze. While fruit size was negatively affected by the dry conditions, the same conditions helped reduce disease incidence in orchards, contributing to a stronger, healthier crop and providing very sweet fruit. Harvest in Georgia started about a week late in mid-May, and as of July 10, 51 percent of the crop had been harvested with a majority of the crop in fair to good condition.

Reduced production and a late start to the season, especially in California, have driven peach prices higher for this season through June. The U.S. average grower price for fresh-market peaches in June was \$819 per ton (41 cents per pound), up from \$596 per ton (29.8 cents per pound) in June 2005. Fresh peach prices at the retail level also averaged slightly higher than a year ago in June, at \$1.609 per pound. Domestic shipments are expected to be heaviest around July and August, likely putting downward pressure on prices. However, lighter supplies overall, particularly among mid- to late-season varieties, should keep prices strong for the rest of the season, and together will limit sales potential in both the domestic and export markets.

2006 Bartlett Pear Crop Larger

USDA's first forecast of the 2006 Bartlett pear crop is set at 440,000 tons, 13 percent bigger than last year, but 4 percent smaller than in 2004. The total forecast represents the combined production in California, Washington, and Oregon, the only three States for which USDA reports Bartlett pear production. About 85 percent of all U.S. pears utilized by the processing sector are Bartlett pears. Hence, the forecast increase in Bartlett pear production suggests that there will be more supplies made available to processors for the 2006/07 marketing season, likely putting downward pressure on the grower prices for processing pears.

Overall growing conditions have been mostly favorable, except for a few weather glitches. The combined three-State production increase for this year reflects the anticipated bigger crops in all three States. Production in California is forecast at 195,000 tons, up 17 percent from last year, but down 13 percent from 2 years ago. Forecast at 185,000 tons, the Washington crop will be 11 percent bigger than last year's crop and 8 percent bigger than 2 years ago. From within the State, there were some reported damage from scattered hail but damage was not widespread. In Oregon, above-normal rainfall has caused some disease problems, but production is forecast up 3 percent from last year, at 60,000 tons.

Walnut Production and Prices Rose in 2005

Despite a 9-percent bigger crop in 2005, walnut grower prices also increased 9 percent to a near-record high of \$1,520 per ton. As a result of both the bigger crop and higher prices, the 2005 crop value reached \$539.6 million, the highest ever. With strong returns from walnut production throughout the 2000s, growers continue to plant new walnut acreage. In 2005, NASS reports there were 215,000 bearing acres; and 26,000 nonbearing acres. While the number of bearing acres has grown annually since 2000, the number of nonbearing acres is gradually declining, and at the present rate, the increase in bearing acreage is likely to slow in the coming years. At the same time, yields per acre also have been increasing. In 2005, California's walnut trees produced an average of 1.65 tons per acre, up 9 percent

from 2004 and the highest yield to date. From 2003 to 2005 yields averaged 1.57 tons per acre, up from 1.27 tons from 1990-1992.

Walnut production is concentrated in California, with over half the walnut production located in San Joaquin, Butte, Tulare, Stanislaus, and Sutter Counties. The Chandler continues to be the most popular walnut variety grown in California. In 2005, 30 percent of the bearing acres were planted to Chandlers. The Hartley is the second most popular variety, although in recent years new plantings of Hartleys have been falling behind plantings of less popular varieties such as Howards and Tulares.

According to the July management report from the Walnut Marketing Board, total shipments through June 2006 were 2 percent above last June. Shipments to the domestic market fell 1 percent, but exports rose 7 percent. Exports accounted for 46 percent of the shipment through June, on an inshell equivalent basis.

The domestic market received 63 percent of the shelled walnuts shipped through June, with Germany and Japan accounting for another 14 percent. On the other hand, the domestic market accounted for only 19 percent of the inshell shipments, while European Union-25 (EU-25) markets, particularly Spain, Italy, and Germany, accounted for about 65 percent of the shipments. Although still the major destination for inshell walnuts, shipments to the EU-25 fell 8 percent through June compared with the same period in 2004/05. During the same time, inshell shipments to Turkey more than doubled, and those to China increased 288 percent. Shipments to Hong Kong increased 468 percent.

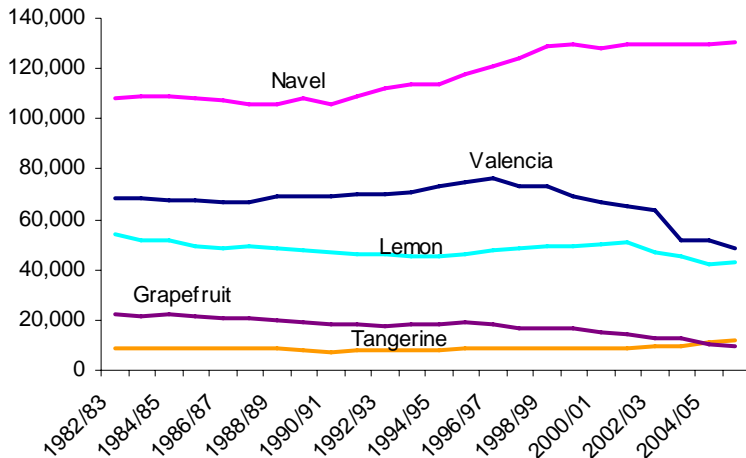
Higher Yields Drive Up Almond Production Forecast for 2006

On July 6, the NASS California Field Office released its *2006 California Almond Objective Measurement Report*. According to the report, the 2006 almond crop is forecast to reach 1.050 billion pounds (shelled basis). If realized it would be 15 percent larger than last year and the second-largest almond crop on record. Bearing acres remain the same as last year at 580,000 acres, the first year there would not be an increase since 1996. Yields this year, however, are forecast at 1,810 pounds per acre, 15 percent higher than in 2005, and driving up crop size. Although the 2006 crop is forecast to be large, stocks going into the new season will be below the past few years due to the small crop in 2005, somewhat moderating an expected increase in total supplies. With continued strong demand both domestically and internationally, the grower prices could fall to the \$2-per-pound range, down from the 2005 price of \$2.60, but still strong.

California Citrus Acreage in Transition Likely To Result in Fewer Valencia Oranges During the Summer Months in the Future

California's citrus acreage is declining for Valencia oranges, lemons, and grapefruit, the major domestic citrus fruit available during the summer months. At the same time, bearing acreage is growing for navel oranges and various tangerine varieties which are marketed from the late fall through early spring (fig. 3). The number of Valencia orange bearing acres has been steadily declining over the past 20 years, as have those for lemons and grapefruit. Since 2000, however, the decline in Valencia and grapefruit acreage has been growing more rapidly without

Figure 3
California citrus bearing acreage, 1982/83-2005/06
 Bearing acres



Source: *Citrus Summary*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

sufficient new plantings to maintain the same quantity of production in the future. On the other hand, while lemon acreage is unlikely to be as high as 20 years ago, new acres are being planted, and supplies should be in line with recent years.

Growers are often replacing acres planted to Valencia oranges with various navel orange varieties, including later-maturing navels to extend the navel orange season and different tangerine varieties, such as Murcotts and clementines, as well as to noncitrus crops such as avocados.

In recent years, California Valencia orange growers have seen an increase of imported navel oranges entering the United States in the late spring and summer months directly competing with their crop. As consumers appear to have a preference for navel-variety oranges, these imports have had an adverse effect on Valencia orange prices, resulting in a move away from the crop to others growers believe will be more profitable.

This May and June, however, Valencia orange grower prices have been strong, averaging \$10.72 per 75-pound box, almost a dollar higher than the same time last year. A 46-percent smaller crop this season than last, due more to the large quantity of small-sized fruit than the reduced acreage, has helped boost prices. Valencia prices may decline once imported navel shipments increase, however, due to the smaller crop, prices should remain above last season. Navel shipments from Australia and South Africa should be about the same as last summer. Several freezes damaged Australia's navel crop this year, but the crop was originally forecast to be bigger than last year, and the industry expects it will have sufficient quantities to meet U.S. needs.

Lemon Prices Start Out the Summer Season Strong

Lemon demand is traditionally strongest during the summer months and because of this, July through September is usually when grower prices are the highest. This

season, a slowdown in shipments in May and June has brought higher prices earlier in the season than the same time in 2005. This May and June prices have averaged \$23.57 per 76-pound box, over \$2 per box more than last year and almost \$5 per box more than in 2004. According to AMS data, shipments for the 2 months were down 43 percent from the same 2 months last year. While prices are likely to stay high throughout the summer months, the increase in imports, which begins in June and peaks in July and August, and an anticipated increase in domestic shipments, should bring prices more in line with previous years.

California Stone Fruit Exports Start Their Season Off Slow

Exports of California sweet cherries and peaches through May 2006 lagged behind the same time last year (table 5). Smaller crops and unfavorable weather conditions reduced the quantity of these fruit available for export at the start of the 2006 season. A 41-percent drop in sweet cherry exports this May could have adverse effects on the overall crop's value because of the very high prices received from selling the early cherries to markets such as Japan. According to data from the Bureau of the Census, May's sweet cherry exports brought a value of \$28.1 million, down \$27 million from last May and \$42 million from May 2004. Fresh peach exports were 58 percent below May 2005. Shipments fell by 54 percent to Canada, which received three-quarters of the shipments and fell 78 percent to Taiwan, the second biggest market in May. At \$6 million, the export value of the May fresh peach shipments was the lowest since 1999, and almost \$6 million below last year's very high-valued shipments.

While California's sweet cherry and peach shipments were down this May, its fresh grape exports rose. Unlike the cherry and peach shipments where the bulk of the shipments went to one or two markets, the May fresh grape shipments were more spread out around the world. Canada, which the past two seasons received about a third of the shipments, received only 14 percent this May. The biggest shipments went to Malaysia, which accounted for 37 percent of the total. Since 2001, these two countries have been the two major markets for fresh grape shipments in May. At the same time, China is becoming an increasingly important market for California fresh grapes since 2004, when its markets were first opened. This May, 15 percent of the shipments went to China, more than double its share last season, and up from less than 1 percent of total shipments 2 years ago.

Tree nut exports were up for all major crops except pistachio nuts. With big crops of walnuts and pecans in 2005, there were ample supplies for exporting. With pistachio production on its off cycle in 2005, total supplies were down 6 percent, despite strong beginning stocks, resulting in a reduced quantity of pistachios available to export. Despite exports being down from last season through May, they accounted for a larger share of total shipments this marketing year than in 2004/05.

Banana Imports Down, Mangos Up for First 5 Months of 2006

Banana imports fell 3 percent during January through May 2006, compared with the same time last year. Increased shipments from Costa Rica and Ecuador were not sufficient to offset the decline in shipments from Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia. Tropical storms last fall in Guatemala and Honduras reduced production. As a result, Guatemala's shipments to the United States for the first 5 months of 2006 have been the lowest since 2000. Guatemala became the largest U.S. supplier of fresh bananas in 2004, replacing Ecuador. So far this year, Ecuador has provided the largest share of bananas to the U.S. market, accounting for 28 percent of the shipments.

Mango imports rose 8 percent in 2006 through May over the same period in 2005. Shipments were up from all major sources—Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Haiti. While Mexico continues to be the major mango supplier for the U.S. market, Peruvian mangoes are gaining in market share. In the early 2000s, Mexico accounted for about 65 percent of U.S. mango imports, and Peru accounted for about 15 percent. Over the last 2 years, Mexico's share of the imports has declined to 55 percent and Peru's share increased to 25 percent. However, because their production is counterseasonal, the imports from both countries complement each other, with Peru providing mangoes to the U.S. market during the winter months while Mexico provides them the rest of the year.

Table 5--U.S. exports of selected fruit and tree nut products

Commodity	Marketing season	Season-to-date (through May)		Year-to-date change
		2005	2006	
		--- 1,000 pounds ---		Percent
Fresh-market:				
Oranges	November-October	1,048,907	1,020,974	-2.7
Grapefruit	September-August	483,616	517,384	7.0
Lemons	August-July	188,216	201,179	6.9
Apples	August-July	1,145,923	1,343,054	17.2
Grapes	May-April	8,798	12,290	39.7
Pears	July-June	320,209	319,925	-0.1
Peaches (including nectarines)	January-December	25,648	10,780	-58.0
Straw berries	January-December	96,199	103,222	7.3
Sweet cherries 1/	January-December	19,126	11,231	-41.3
		--- 1,000 case gallons 2/ ---		
Processed:				
Orange juice, frozen concentrate	October-September	29,703	38,903	31.0
Orange juice, not-from-concentrate	October-September	47,515	48,748	2.6
Grapefruit juice	October-September	16,139	12,389	-23.2
Apple juice and cider	August-July	4,678	6,159	31.7
Wine	January-December	36,759	40,085	9.0
		--- 1,000 pounds ---		
Raisins	August-July	214,466	196,134	-8.5
Canned pears	August-July	21,570	22,108	2.5
Canned peaches	July-June	67,540	54,842	-18.8
Frozen straw berries	January-December	8,543	9,546	11.7
		--- 1,000 pounds ---		
Tree nuts:				
Almonds (shelled basis)	August-July	596,867	603,148	1.1
Walnuts (shelled basis)	August-July	126,934	194,458	53.2
Pecans (shelled basis)	September-August	26,130	27,798	6.4
Pistachios (shelled basis)	September-August	69,433	60,031	-13.5

1/ Beginning July 2005, includes tart cherries.

2/ Single-strength equivalent.

Source: U.S. trade data provided by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 6--U.S. imports of selected fruit and tree nut products

Commodity	Marketing season	Season-to-date (through May)		Year-to-date change
		2005	2006	
		--- 1,000 pounds ---		Percent
Fresh-market:				
Oranges	November-October	29,944	19,753	-34.0
Tangerines (including clementines)	October-September	156,780	158,752	1.3
Lemons	August-July	60,647	55,395	-8.7
Limes	January-December	270,805	248,118	-8.4
Apples	August-July	149,725	205,990	37.6
Grapes	May-April	108,095	83,770	-22.5
Pears	July-June	156,277	163,425	4.6
Peaches (including nectarines)	January-December	142,849	110,605	-22.6
Bananas	January-December	3,568,643	3,467,037	-2.8
Mangoes	January-December	268,769	291,004	8.3
		--- 1,000 sse gallons 1/ ---		
Processed:				
Orange juice, frozen concentrate	October-September	222,987	187,855	-15.8
Apple juice and cider	August-July	374,176	342,528	-8.5
Wine	January-December	69,774	76,065	9.0
		--- 1,000 pounds ---		
Canned pears	August-July	36,182	54,059	49.4
Canned peaches (including nectarines)	July-June	76,223	99,762	30.9
Canned pineapple	January-December	320,421	333,372	4.0
Frozen straw berries	January-December	95,248	115,264	21.0
		--- 1,000 pounds ---		
Tree nuts:				
Brazil nuts (shelled basis)	January-December	9,197	5,015	-45.5
Cashew s (shelled basis)	January-December	121,494	104,261	-14.2
Pine nuts (shelled basis)	January-December	4,822	3,765	-21.9
Pecans (shelled basis)	September-August	63,034	62,413	-1.0

1/ Single-strength equivalent.

Source: U.S. trade data provided by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Commodity Highlight: Raspberries

The United States is the world's third-largest producer of raspberries, accounting for about 12 percent of total production during 2000-2004. U.S. production is surpassed by the Russian Federation (34 percent of total) and Serbia (18 percent of total) where harvested acreage is much larger. Other leading producers include Poland, Germany, Ukraine, Canada, Hungary, France, and the United Kingdom.

Raspberries belong to the genus *Rubus* and is a member of the Rosaceae (rose) family. It is closely related to the strawberry. Cultivated raspberries in North America are derived mainly from two species, the red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) and the black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*). The black raspberry is native to North America but the red raspberry, which is native to Asia Minor and largely grown in Europe, is more popular in commercial production in the United States because it is generally more cold-tolerant, higher yielding, and less prone to diseases. Black raspberries are mostly grown in home gardens or on small retail farms. Similarly, production of purple and yellow raspberries is very small.

While there are many varieties of raspberries grown in the United States for the fresh and processing markets, the red raspberry is generally of two main types. One type is the summer bearing variety because the fruit ripens in early- to mid-summer. The other type is the everbearing raspberry which produces a crop during the early summer from the previous season's growth and then produces another crop in the fall from the current season's growth. Increasing domestic production of both these types, along with growing imports, have given domestic consumers greater and more year round access to the fruit.

Domestic Production Concentrated In Three States

According to the *Census of Agriculture*, there were 4,521 farms in 46 U.S. States that produced raspberries in 2002. Although production occurs across much of the country, most of it is concentrated in Washington, California, and Oregon. These three States had the largest acreage devoted to raspberry production in 2002, and together accounted for 80 percent of the U.S. total. Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts had the next largest acreages for a total of 13 percent. Because raspberries require relatively cool summers, commercial production has not really adapted well in the southern United States where summers are typically hot and often humid. In 2002, acreage in the southern United States was approximately only less than 1 percent.

In this report, the discussion on industry production and price trends will only reflect data for the three primary raspberry-producing States. Annual production statistics on U.S. raspberries is not available for all States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service reports yearly production only for Washington (red only), Oregon (red and black), and California (total only). Reporting of annual black raspberry production in Washington was discontinued in 1988. However, based on the *2002 Census of Agriculture*, black raspberries in Washington were produced by 37 farms on a total of 18 acres that year. This represents a small segment of Washington's raspberry-growing industry. Farm numbers for black raspberries accounted for 9 percent of the total raspberry farms in Washington and the corresponding planted acreage was less than 1 percent.

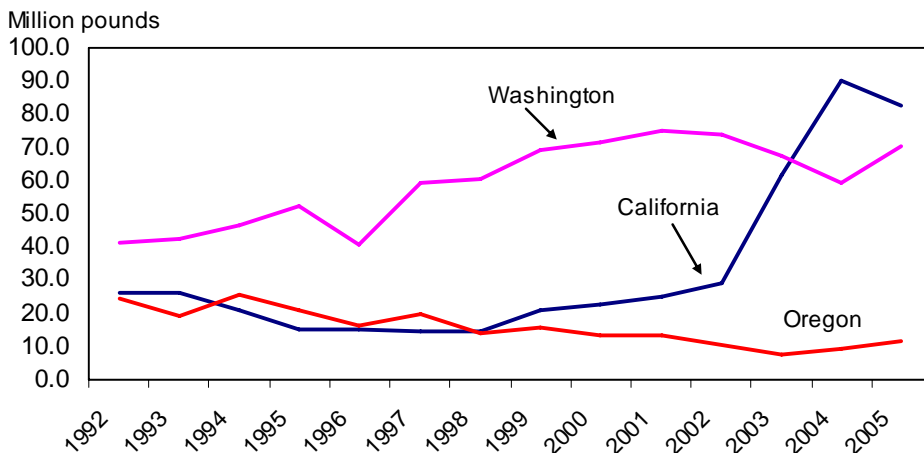
California Production Surpasses Washington

Washington was the Nation's number one producer of raspberries until it was surpassed recently (2004) by California's total raspberry production (fig. 4). Crop size in California (all varieties) during the 1990s averaged almost 20 million pounds, 60 percent lower than what was normally produced in Washington for red raspberries. From 2000-2002, average production in California reached 25.6 million pounds, the same time Washington was experiencing peak levels of production and below-average grower prices, especially for their crop going to processors.

Since Washington's record-large crop of 75.1 million in 2001, acreage and yield reductions have led to production declines during 2002 to 2004. Harvested acreage declined from 9,500 acres in 1999 to 9,000 acres in 2004, and yields also fell from the all-time high of 7,900 pounds per acre in 2001 to 6,600 in 2004. Meanwhile, a reverse in this trend has been occurring in California, more so in recent years, narrowing the gap in production between the two States. Producer response to favorable pricing of the California crop has encouraged continued expansion. Harvested acreage in California has increased each year since 1999, more than doubling in size and reaching 4,200 acres in 2005. Average yields have increased for most of this period, reaching a peak of 22,000 pounds per acre in 2004. California produced a record crop of 90.0 million pounds in 2004, while Washington's crop continued to decline to 59.4 million pounds. California only had less than half of the acreage harvested in Washington during 2004, but yields were nearly three times higher. Increased acreage and improved yields in 2005 have brought Washington's production back up to 70.3 million pounds, but California continued to take the lead, with 82.5 million pounds.

Figure 4

Raspberry production in three major States*



* Includes red raspberries for Washington, all for California, and red and black raspberries for Oregon.

Source: *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts Summary (various issues)*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nearly all of California's production is grown in Santa Cruz, Ventura, and Monterey Counties. About 70 percent of the raspberry acreage in Washington is in Whatcom County, and another 24 percent is in Skagit, Clark, and Cowlitz Counties. In Oregon, production acreage is mostly concentrated in Washington (37 percent), Clackamas (29 percent), Multnomah (17 percent), and Marion (12 percent) Counties.

Markets Differ for Major Raspberry-Producing States

Raspberry production in Washington and Oregon is heavily geared toward the processing sector. An average of 96 percent of Washington's red raspberry production was marketed to processors over the last 5 years (2001-2005) while in Oregon, this share averaged 90 percent of the State's combined red and black raspberry output. NASS does not breakdown California's production into fresh market and processing, however, approximately 95 percent of its raspberry crop is sold in the fresh market, according to a farm advisor at the University of California-Davis. Under this assumption, it is estimated that California growers produced about 78.4 million pounds of raspberries for the fresh market in 2005 and approximately 4.12 million pounds for the processing sector. In the same year, processing production totaled 68.9 million pounds of red raspberries in Washington and 10.1 million pounds of both red and black raspberries in Oregon.

By far, Washington remains the top supplier of raspberries for processing in the United States, accounting for an estimated over 80 percent of total processing volume. Oregon ranks second, accounting for over 10 percent.

Processing Dominates Production, but Growth in Fresh Market Faster

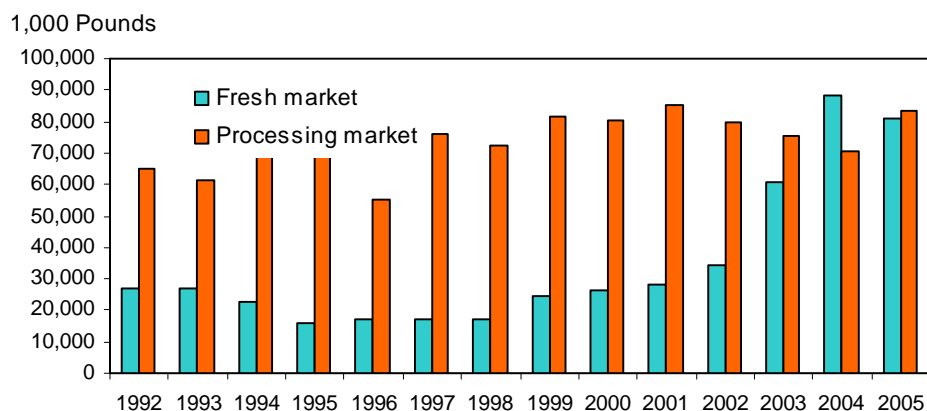
Based on production data from the three States and on the assumption that only about 5 percent of California's raspberry crop is used for processing, estimates on the three-State fresh and processing output were derived for the period 1992-2005. The processing sector is still the largest market for domestically produced raspberries, but more rapid growth in fresh-market production in recent years has narrowed the difference between the three-State fresh-market and processing production (fig. 5). Estimated three-State production for fresh use grew at an average rate of 29 percent annually over the last 5 years (2001-2005), while average annual production growth for processing use was 1 percent.

There are many food products that make use of raspberries. Much of the fruit destined for processing gets frozen in bulk containers for institutional use or is reprocessed into jams, jellies, preserves, pie filling, ice cream, and yogurt. Some of the fruit is combined with sugar and packaged in retail-sized containers. The best quality whole fruit is typically preferred for processing into Individually Quick-Frozen (IQF) berries, while the lower quality fruit is usually destined for juice.

Processing Use Farm Prices More Volatile Than Fresh-Market Prices

The weighted-average grower price for Washington and Oregon red raspberries used for processing fluctuated year-to-year between 1992 and 2005 (fig. 6). During

Figure 5
Raspberries: Fresh-market and processing production in Washington, Oregon, and California*



* Production breakdown in California is estimated based on assumption that 95 percent of the crop goes to the fresh market.

Source: *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts Summary* (various issues), National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); California estimates derived by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

most of this period, prices moved inversely with production. Little production growth for processing use berries together with volatile prices suggest that processor demand for the berries was fairly steady over time. In the fresh market, rising grower prices in Washington and Oregon, in the face of increasing production during 2004 and 2005, suggest strong market demand (fig. 7). This is similar to the trend experienced in the market during the early 1990s.

In California, the season-average grower price for raspberries reported by NASS is heavily geared toward the fresh market because a majority of the crop goes to this market. Grower prices have also remained volatile over the last several years. Producer response to strong market demand is indicated by increases in harvested acreage in recent years. Coinciding with the acreage expansion are high grower prices, averaging \$2.00 per pound, and increased production, particularly in 2003 and 2004.

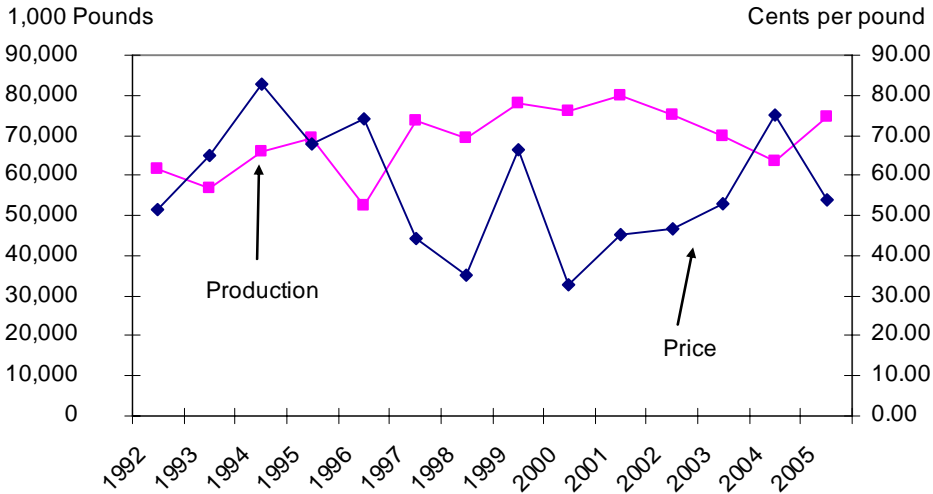
Generally, prices received by growers for fresh-market raspberries are almost always at a premium over the berries for processing. In Oregon, prices for fresh-market red raspberries averaged more than double the prices for processing berries during 2001 to 2005, while in Washington fresh-market prices were more than three times higher. Partly contributing to the higher value in the fresh market is the higher harvesting and marketing costs associated with hand picking the delicate berries and packaging most of them in retail-sized containers.

Demand for Fresh Raspberries Rising

Raspberries continue to rank as the third most popular berry in the United States for fresh use, after strawberries and blueberries. Consumption has grown for all these berries over the last several years, but annual per capita consumption increases for raspberries averaged 3 to 7 percent higher than for strawberries and blueberries from 2000-2005.

Figure 6

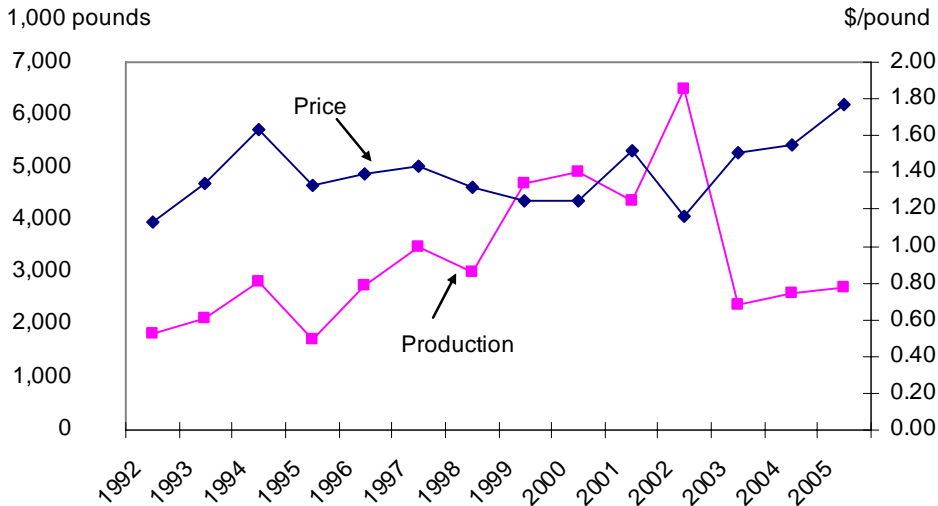
Washington and Oregon red raspberries: Combined processing production and weighted-average grower price



Source: *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts Summary* (various issues), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); weighted-average price derived from NASS data by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

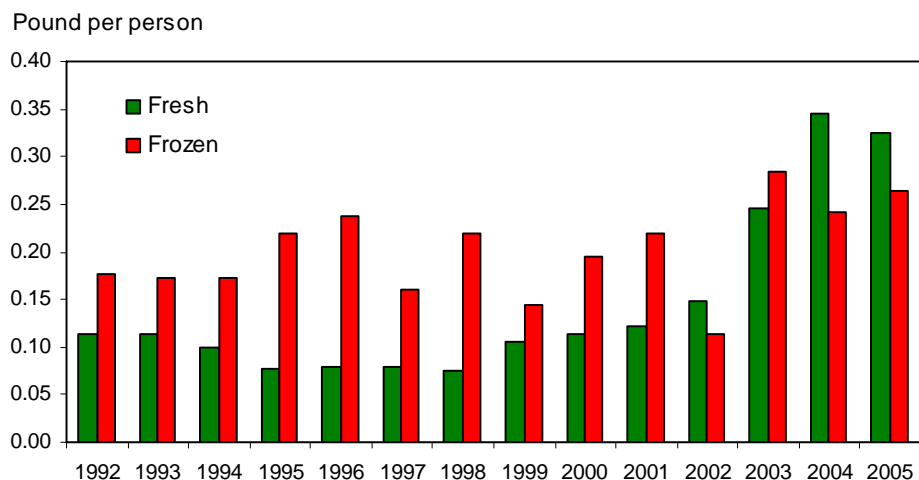
Figure 7

Washington and Oregon Red Raspberries: Combined fresh-market production and weighted-average grower price



Source: *Noncitrus Fruit and Nuts Summary* (various issues), National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; weighted-average price derived from NASS data by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

Figure 8
U.S. per capita consumption of fresh and frozen raspberries*



* Fresh-weight equivalent basis.

Source: Estimated by the Economic Research Service, USDA.

U.S. consumption of fresh raspberries has tripled since the early 1990s, to an estimated 0.33 pound per person in 2005. While up sharply from earlier in the decade, much of the growth in fresh-market consumption occurred in recent years (fig. 8). Meanwhile, U.S. frozen raspberry consumption has fluctuated between 0.10 pound and 0.30 pound per person, fresh-weight equivalent basis, during 1992-2005.

Rapid production growth in California in the past few years has been a major driving force behind the sharp growth in consumption observed in the domestic fresh market beginning in the late 1990s. Relatively low grower prices in California around the mid-1990s kept domestic fresh-market production low during that period, limiting market availability and resulting in fairly flat U.S. consumption of fresh raspberries from around 1995 through 1998. Higher prices in recent years, however, triggered in part by strong market demand, have encouraged increased production. Production in California reached a peak in 2004, driving consumption that year to a record-high, estimated at 0.35 pound per person. That was also the first year that fresh raspberry consumption surpassed frozen consumption on a per capita basis.

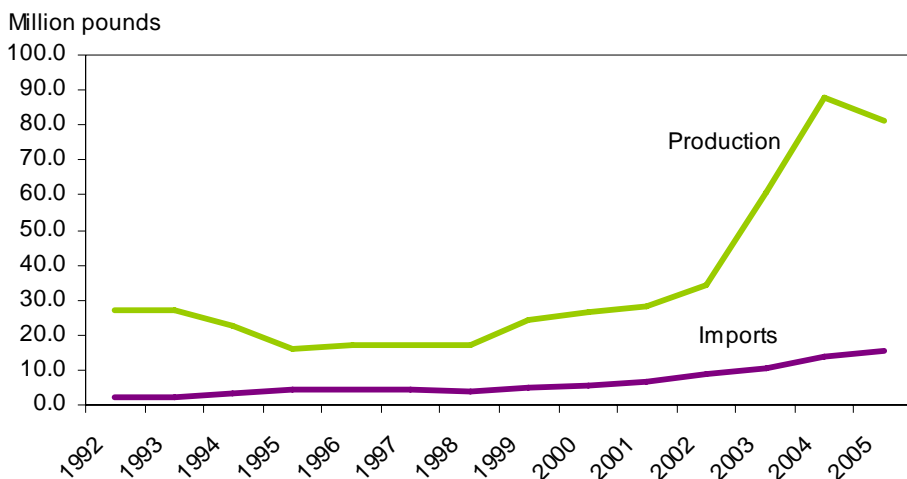
Acreage expansion in California and the development of improved fresh-market varieties targeting fruit appearance, flavor, size, and durability, as well as productivity of the shrubs all have contributed to the marketability of the fruit, either by increasing availability and/or enhancing its appeal to consumers. Also, with a growing consumer awareness of the benefits of eating a healthy diet, it helps that raspberries are a very versatile fruit with known health-promoting attributes.

Imports Rising for Both Fresh and Frozen Raspberries

Fresh raspberry demand in the United States has been met mostly by domestic production which accounts for over 80 percent of U.S. fresh raspberry consumption.

Figure 9

U.S. fresh raspberry supply: Domestic production and imports, 1992-2005



Source: Fresh-market production derived from data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; trade data obtained from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Although small relative to domestic production, fresh imports have experienced remarkable growth, especially in recent years (fig. 9). U.S. raspberry imports for fresh use have grown more than six-fold since 1992, reaching a record 15.4 million pounds in 2005. The bulk of fresh imports in the United States come from Chile, Mexico, and Canada. Most shipments from Chile and Mexico arrive from November through May, and those from Canada arrive mostly from June through August.

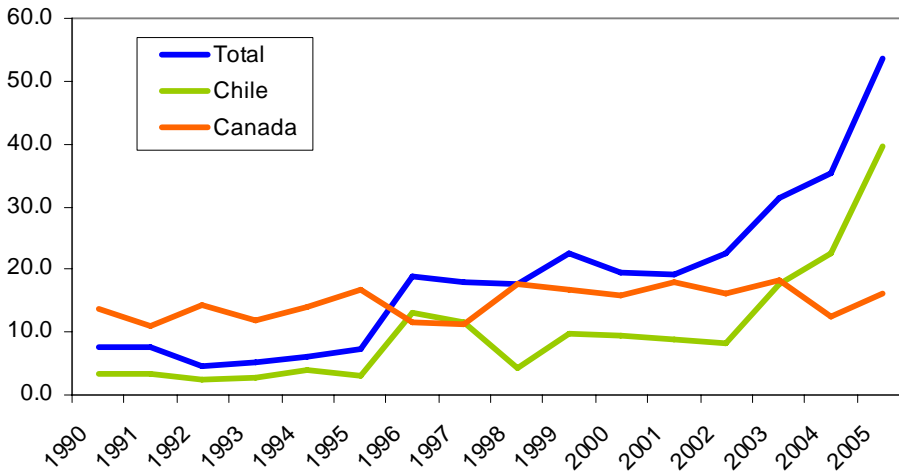
Throughout the 1990s, Canada exported the largest volume of fresh raspberry shipments to the United States, averaging almost 80 percent of total import volume. However, despite higher overall shipments, much of Canada’s fresh shipments to the United States are used by the processing sector, and only about 5 percent go to the fresh market, downplaying its role in the fresh market. Beginning in the mid-1990s, a downward trend in Canada’s overall fresh shipments to the United States has moved together with rapid increases in imports from Chile and Mexico, narrowing the gap in their shipments in recent years. As of 2004 and 2005, each of these three countries supplied around one-third of total fresh import volume, and imports from Chile and Mexico had surpassed total shipments from Canada.

U.S. imports of frozen raspberries also grew sharply over the last 14 years, increasing from 17.7 million pounds in 1992 to a record 60.2 million pounds in 2005. During 1992-1995, imports accounted for approximately 20 percent of overall frozen raspberry supplies available in the U.S. market, including ending-year cold storage stocks. By 2001-2005, this share averaged 31 percent. Chile and Canada supply the bulk of the frozen imports to the United States, accounting for over 90 percent of the total import volume. Shipments from Canada, including fresh volume going to processors, have remained relatively steady since the 1990s while shipments from Chile have generally been on an upward trend, showing sharp increases during 2003 to 2005 (fig. 10). Other countries supplying smaller quantities of frozen raspberry to the United States, including Serbia, Poland, China, Bulgaria, and Argentina, have also increased their U.S. shipments in recent years.

Figure 10

U.S. imports of frozen raspberries*

Million



Source: Trade data obtained from the Bureau of the Census,
U.S. Department of Commerce.

Contacts and Links

Contact Information

Agnes Perez (Noncitrus and tropical fruit), (202) 694-5255, acperez@ers.usda.gov
Susan Pollack (Citrus fruit and tree nuts), (202) 694-5251, pollack@ers.usda.gov

Subscription Information

Subscribe to ERS' e-mail notification service at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/updates/> to receive timely notification of newsletter availability. Printed copies can be purchased from the National Technical Information Service by calling 1-800-999-6779 (specify the issue number or series SUB-FTS-4036).

E-mail Notification

Readers of ERS outlook reports have two ways they can receive an e-mail notice about release of reports and associated data.

- Receive timely notification (soon after the report is posted on the web) via USDA's Economics, Statistics and Market Information System (which is housed at Cornell University's Mann Library). Go to http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/ess_netid.html and follow the instructions to receive e-mail notices about ERS, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board products.

- Receive weekly notification (on Friday afternoon) via the ERS website. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Updates/> and follow the instructions to receive notices about ERS outlook reports, Amber Waves magazine, and other reports and data products on specific topics. ERS also offers RSS (really simple syndication) feeds for all ERS products. Go to <http://www.ers.usda.gov/rss/> to get started.

Data

The *Fruit and Tree Nuts Situation and Outlook Yearbook* has over 130 tables of annual or monthly time-series data on specific fruit commodities. Data include bearing acreage, production, prices, trade, per capita use, and more. To order a copy call 1-800-999-6779.

Recent Article

Fruit and Vegetable Backgrounder

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/vgs/apr06/VGS31301/>

This article describes the economic characteristics of the U.S. fruit and vegetable industry, providing supply, demand, and policy background for an industry that accounts for nearly a third of U.S. crop cash receipts and a fifth of U.S. agricultural exports. A variety of challenges face this complex and diverse industry in both domestic and international markets, ranging from immigration reform and its effect on labor availability to international competitiveness.

Related Websites

Fruit and Tree Nuts Briefing Room,
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FruitAndTreeNuts/>

Organic Farming and Marketing
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Organic/>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.