

South Africa more than doubles grape exports to North America

As demand continues to be strong for South African grapes, the European market especially is seeing good prices, this had been helped by the rain in the Northern province and Orange River, which saw a short break in the harvest. The Middle East has received less volumes than at the same time last year as has Russia; the big winner is Canada which is becoming an increasingly popular destination for South African grapes - volumes sent there have more than doubled this season. The Far Eastern market has also seen an increase in volumes as the protocol for China was changed this season.

Northern Provinces

About 80% of the harvest has been packed in this region. The good rains affected sugars on Crimson but most vineyards in this region are already cultivated under plastic covers. Producers are still very positive about the harvest and expect the region to end in line with the crop estimate.

INTAKES WEEK 1 (*PPECB)				
Equivalent (4.5 kg) Cartons				
REGIONS	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
Northern Provinces	4 237 563	3 934 887	3 249 822	2 897 437
Orange River	17 830 654	17 750 050	15 014 351	10 753 474
Olifants River	1 458 989	1 513 105	1 542 388	711 360
Berg River	2 360 148	3 078 018	2 607 721	457 686
Hex River	1 354 282	1 395 227	1 143 625	170 801
TOTAL	27 241 636	27 671 287	23 557 907	14 990 758

Orange River

Over 90% of the harvest has been packed in this region. Rain fell in certain parts of the region over the past week. It is not expected that the rain will have a big impact on the total volume due to many grapes being under plastic covers. Producers remain positive that they will end within the crop estimate.

Olifants River

The grapes are healthy and quality looks good in general. The region had some rain, but it will not have a noteworthy effect on the harvest. The colour development is better than in the previous season.

EXPORTS WEEK 1 (*AGRIHUB)				
Equivalent (4.5 kg) Cartons				
MARKETS	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
European Union	13 085 362	12 457 067	15 359 859	9 086 761
United Kingdom	5 884 159	5 774 294	6 094 534	4 120 314
Middle East	857 963	1 283 817	838 190	386 636
South East Asia	1 220 785	1 103 077	639 812	348 494
Far East	1 273 499	979 112	897 752	550 288
Russia	171 975	557 907	170 798	285 576
USA & Canada	1 270 086	523 742	230 364	120 783
Other Markets	265 047	339 875	162 910	79 227
TOTAL	24 028 876	23 018 891	24 394 219	14 978 079

Berg River

Although early in the season the hot and dry weather promises a good start to the harvest. The persistent drought is of concern, however berry size is back to standard. Midnight Beauty, Flame, and Victoria are some of the cultivars that are promising at this stage.

Hex River

The start of the season was very positive with good volumes being packed. The grapes are healthy and of good quality. Flame appeared good while Sugraone was slightly lighter than expected. The weather is hot and no rain has been predicted.

Lien article : <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/169399/South-Africa-more-than-doubles-grape-exports-to-North-America>