

South African grape exports held back by shipping delays

The South African grape export season has got off to a good start despite delayed harvesting in the Orange River area. Total export volumes are down but these are expected to pick up as the season progresses.

2017/2018 FIRST CROP ESTIMATE							
REGION	CROP ESTIMATE 2017/2018		ACTUAL PACKED VOLUMES				
	LOW	HIGH	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015	2013/2014	2012/2013
Northern Provinces	6 000 000	6 500 000	5 537 784	4 730 931	4 510 726	4 083 599	4 155 648
Orange River	21 500 000	22 500 000	20 532 515	18 642 605	17 686 726	15 118 961	16 039 382
Olifants River	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 968 073	3 157 059	3 788 287	3 121 056	2 725 942
Berg River	11 200 000	12 500 000	15 426 175	12 599 726	13 062 448	11 379 002	12 672 168
Hex River	17 200 000	18 500 000	22 110 612	18 849 218	20 331 091	16 846 196	18 286 725
TOTAL	58 900 000	63 000 000	67 575 159	57 979 539	59 379 279	50 548 814	53 879 865

The overall conditions in the Northern Provinces are favourable with very healthy looking vineyards. This region started well with volumes 29% higher compared to the same time last year.

Harvesting in the Orange River region started about 7 days later than usual leading to a lag in packing volumes, this region is expected to make up the volumes as the season progresses, other than that, this the region is experiencing normal harvesting conditions.

The Olifants River Region started harvesting a few days late in week 49. The other two late regions, namely the Berg and Hex River regions have not started packing yet.

Equivalent (4.5 kg) Cartons				
MARKETS	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
European Union	3 153 714	4 400 703	3 366 460	3 690 216
United Kingdom	1 218 034	1 706 955	1 430 931	976 500
Middle East	230 451	202 462	390 621	87 216
South East Asia	96 200	163 096	62 664	39 772
Far East	97 898	123 884	34 286	96 622
Russia	119 369	91 394	131 653	16 432
USA	14 972	30 309	-	-
Canada	359 022	420 606	132 701	96 116
Other Markets	73 896	167 616	260 096	14 701
TOTAL	5 363 638	7 496 484	5 809 832	4 946 673

Shipping delays

Shipping lines have warned of vessel delays particularly on the European schedules. This is due to delays at the Durban port through major congestion causing disruptions to some vessels exceeding 10

days at anchorage. This could cause a delay in vessels calling Cape Town or cause disruptions to the weekly shipments from Cape Town.

Lien article : <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/186378/South-African-grape-exports-held-back-by-shipping-delays>