



Turkish cherry exporters expect record breaking year

Turkish cherry exports reached 20,000 tons between January and May, a 165% increase in a year. Senih Yazgan, the Vice President of the Uludag Association of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Exports, says that 2018 could be record breaking with exports reaching 85,000 tons and worth \$200 million.

Mr Yazgan says that the producers are expecting an exceptional harvest this year. Exports to Russia are back on track as the sanctions on Turkish imports over the summer of 2017 have been lifted. The Chinese market could also become more accessible for Turkish exports as an update of the export protocols are being negotiated.

According to the Uludag Exporters' Association, Turkish exports have increased by 184% between January and May compared to the same time last year. Total cherry export value over the first five months of 2018 have reached \$53.8 million compared to \$18.9 million at the same time last year. The highest export figure was in 2016, when exports reached 78,700 tons and \$182.7 million. Last year cherry exports totalled 65,000 and \$159 million.

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