



Status of Fruit Export Programs to USA: Progress & Challenges

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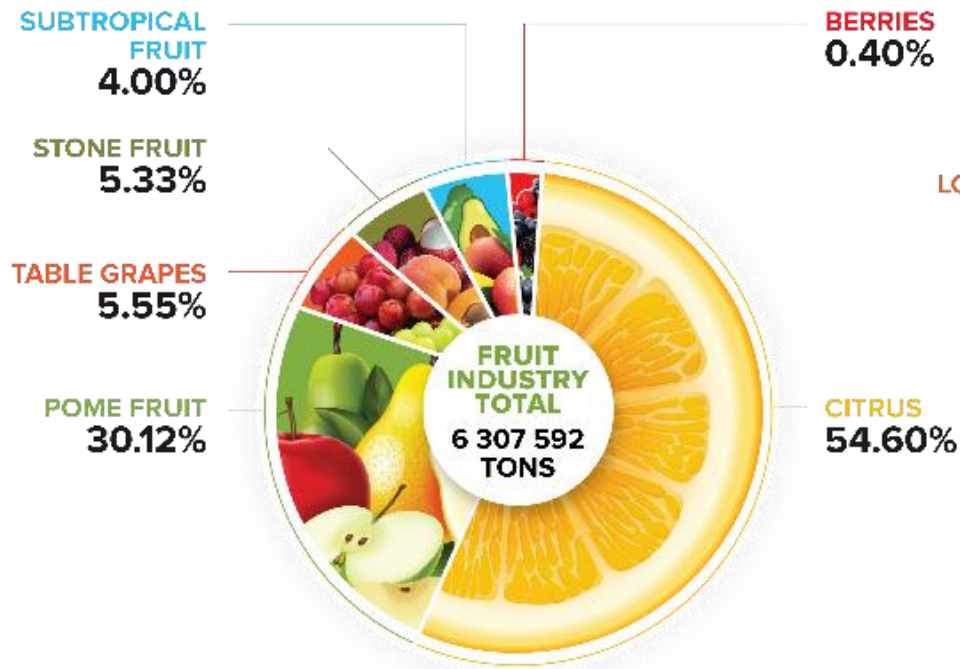
28 October
2023



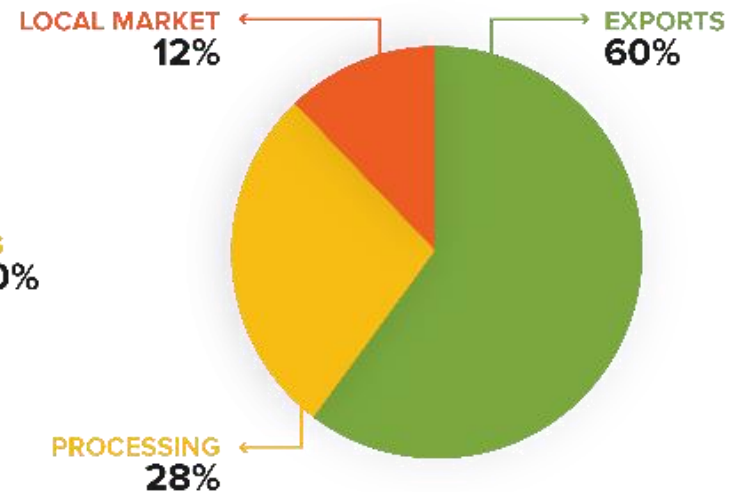
About Fruit South Africa



The South African Fruit Industry



MARKET SEGMENTS



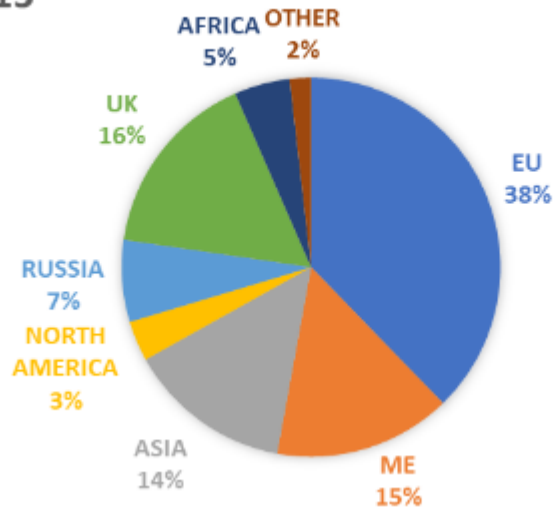
324 177 PEOPLE DIRECTLY EMPLOYED ON FRUIT FARMS (1.3 M DEPENDANTS)



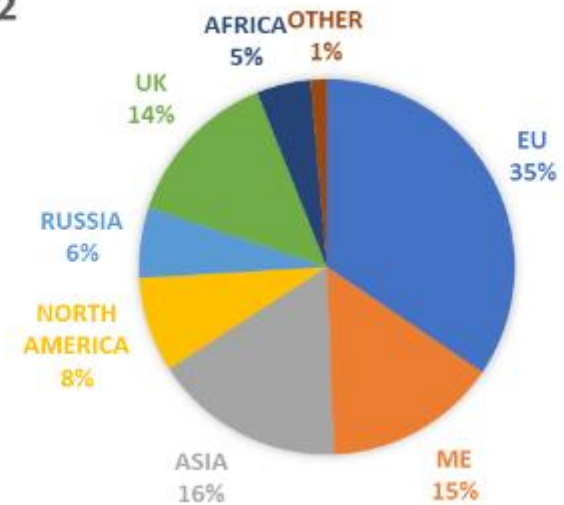
South African Fruit Exports



2013



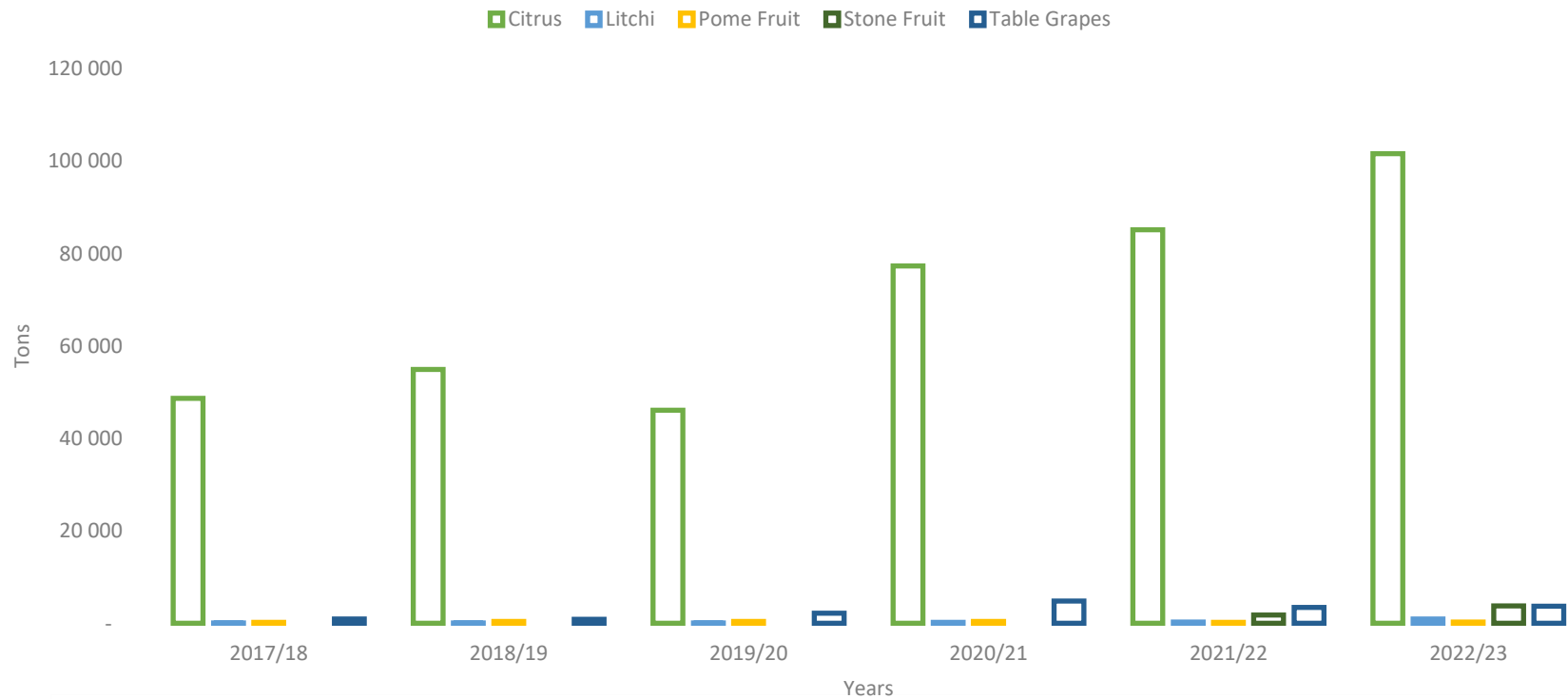
2022



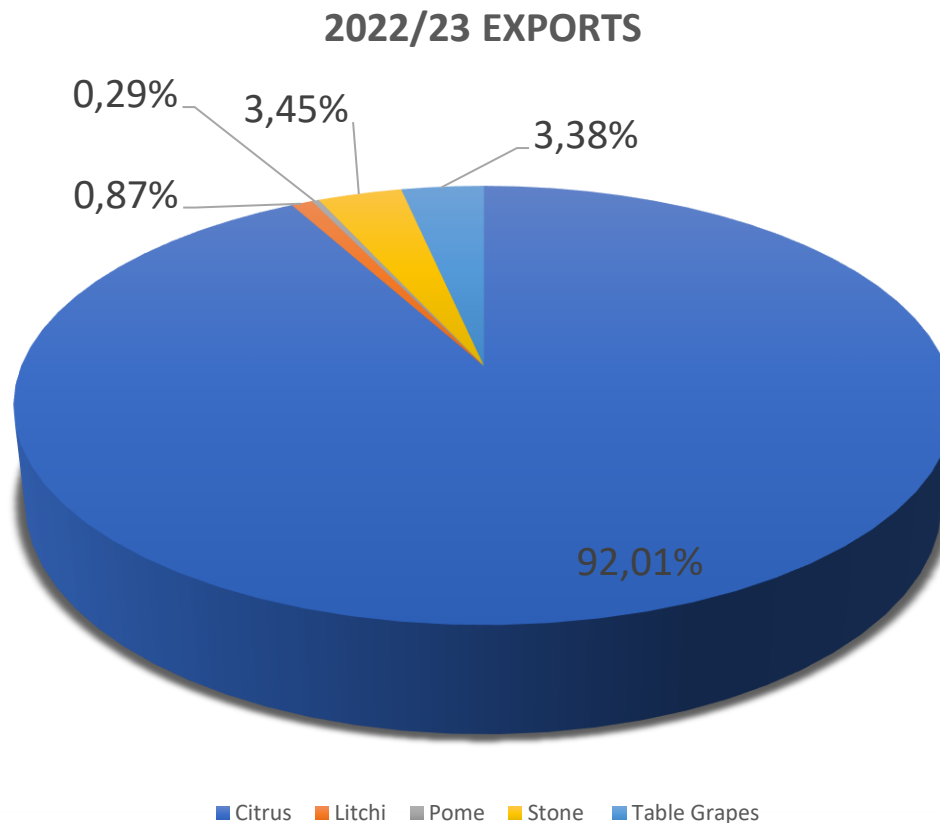
SA Fruit Exports to USA (5-Year Trend)



EXPORTS TO THE USA (5 YEAR-TREND)



South African Fruit Exports to USA (2022/23)



110 415 Tons



- A pre-clearance programme with USDA APHIS is in place for all fruit exported except for litchis.
 - Industry carries the costs of US inspectors
 - Challenging to estimate volumes and ensuring capacity of US inspectors is not exceeded
- The cold treatment protocol required is detrimental to fruit quality.
 - Lack of clarity on when the temperature can be raised once the cold treatment has been completed, before offloading in USA port
- Dual loads for plums and nectarines are no longer allowed
- The phyto treatment for litchis is irradiation either in SA or on arrival in the USA
 - Currently, all exports are irradiated in the US - no suitable irradiation facilities in SA
 - SA applied for cold treatment but not yet finalised

Conclusion



- The USA is a viable alternative market for SA fruit
- Need for clarity on when temperature can be increased
- In the long term, there would be a need to 'soften' some protocols
- Need to resolve the dual loads matter for plums and nectarines
- Need to finalise litchi cold treatment application
- Need to conclude the current applications as discussed in the FIVCRT Trade Working Group
 - Avocado (USDA is reviewing comments from the published revised avocado PRA. DALRRD is awaiting a response from the USDA)
 - Citrus (the issue of granting wider access for citrus remains unresolved)
- Need to have adequately resourced Embassy in Washington
 - Ambassador, agricultural attaché and trade counsellor



Conclusion



- Continuation of AGOA benefits in the short term
- Negotiation of trade agreement for long term stability in exports



Thank you



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