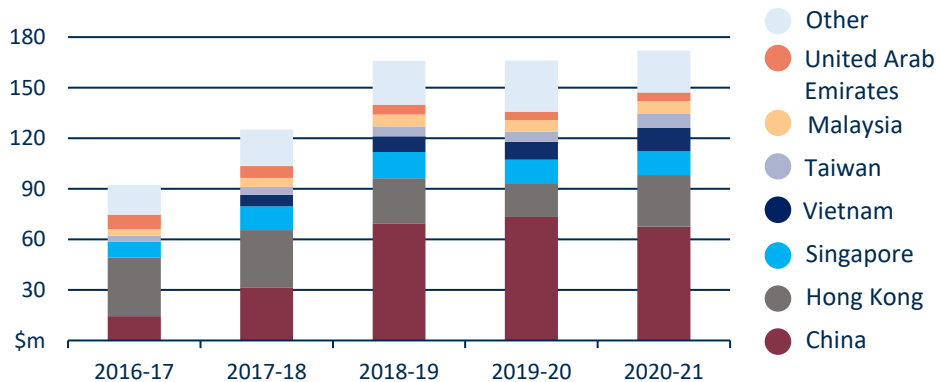


Favourable seasonal conditions in south-eastern Australia and constrained global supply will support Australian stone fruit exports this summer. Disruptions to logistic networks, including high costs and delays, are the main challenge for exporters.

## Australian summer stone fruit export overview

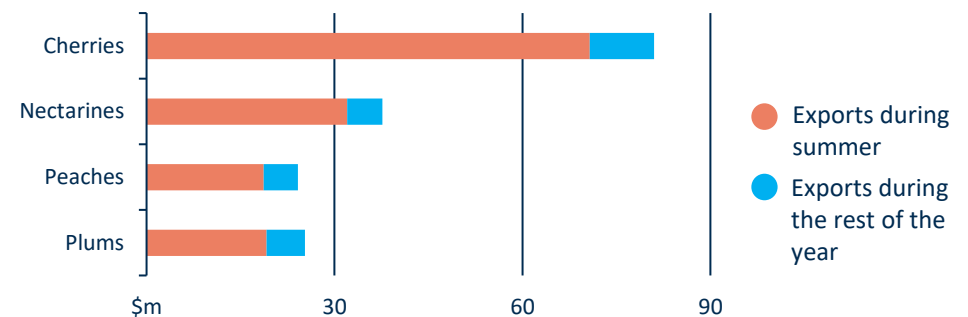
- > Summer is the key harvesting and exporting time for fresh Australian cherries, nectarines, peaches and plums (stone fruit).
  - > Collectively, 84% of exports for these four stone fruit varieties occur between December and February.
- > Most of Australia's stone fruit exports are grown in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.
- > The value of Australian stone fruit exports grew strongly in the years leading up to 2018-19 and have been steady over the last three years.
- > China is the key market for most stone fruit exports. Other Asian markets, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam are also important.
- > Australia produces summer fruit during Northern Hemisphere winter. This supports demand for Australian fruit in international markets.

## Australian stone fruit exports 2016-17 to 2020-21



Data sources: ABS Catalogue 9920.0; ABARES Agricultural commodities; ABARES Labour use in Australian agriculture; USDA Stone fruit: World markets and trade (September 2021).

## Australian stone fruit exports by season (2018-19 to 2020-21 avg.)



## Outlook for summer 2021-22

- > Generally favourable seasonal conditions in south-eastern Australia should support average to good production for the 2021-22 season. Untimely rain and storms can have a substantial impact on crop size and fruit quality, which means actual production outcomes can vary right up until harvest.
- > Chile is Australia's major global competitor for stone fruit during December-February. Drought may slightly reduce Chilean stone fruit production; however, export volumes are unlikely to be affected. As a result, global prices in 2021-22 are likely to be similar to 2020-21.
- > Logistics are the major challenge for stone fruit exporters in 2021-22. Airfreight availability remains limited, and transports costs are elevated. Even short delays at ports have the potential to cause spoilage.
- > Horticulture producers are likely to continue to face workforce challenges in 2021-22. This will increase costs for stone fruit producers.

Cherries = 0809.29.00; peaches = 0809.30.10; nectarines = 0809.30.20; plums = 0809.40.00.