

CGA Variety Update (2017_Weeks 23/24)

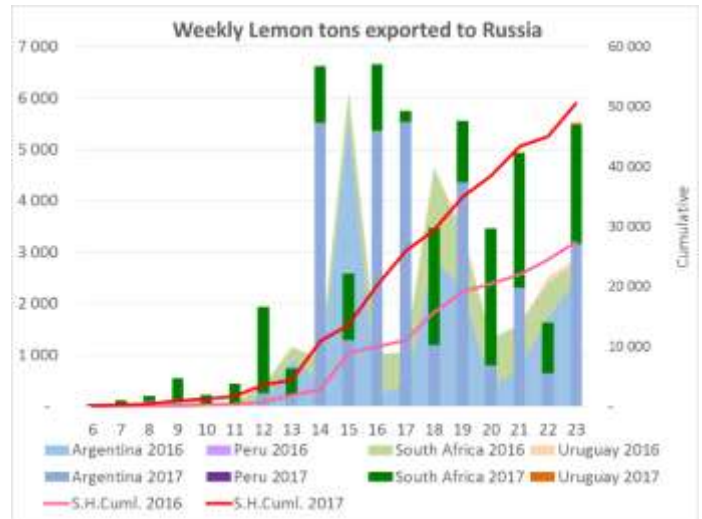
John Edmonds (23 June 2017)



Citrus Growers Association (CGA)

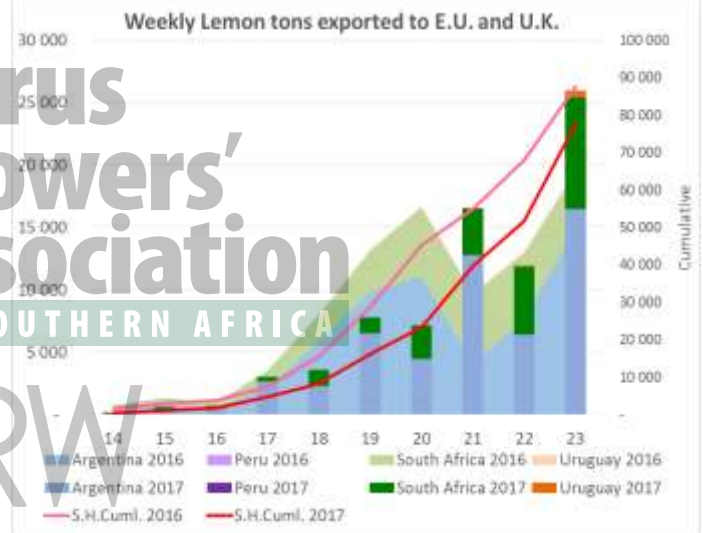
Lemons:

The projected final export remains at March's estimate of 17.5 million cartons. Current shipping is up to 10.2 million cartons; 22% up on the 8.4 million cartons last year at the end of week 24. SHAFTE data shows Russia having imported 23 000 tons more lemons from South Africa and Argentina by the end of week 23. Consequently the lemon market has collapsed according to a report from Russia this week saying that Argentinean exporters flooded Russian wholesale markets with low standard fruits resulting in chaos in this segment. During the week lemons from Argentina and RSA were traded in interval between USD 16.85 and 19.74. Middle East remains the biggest market, taking a 42% share of South African exports. The Lemon Focus Group were of the opinion that, with the volume of South African export grade lemons currently available for all export markets, sending process grade lemons to the Middle East would be ill advised.



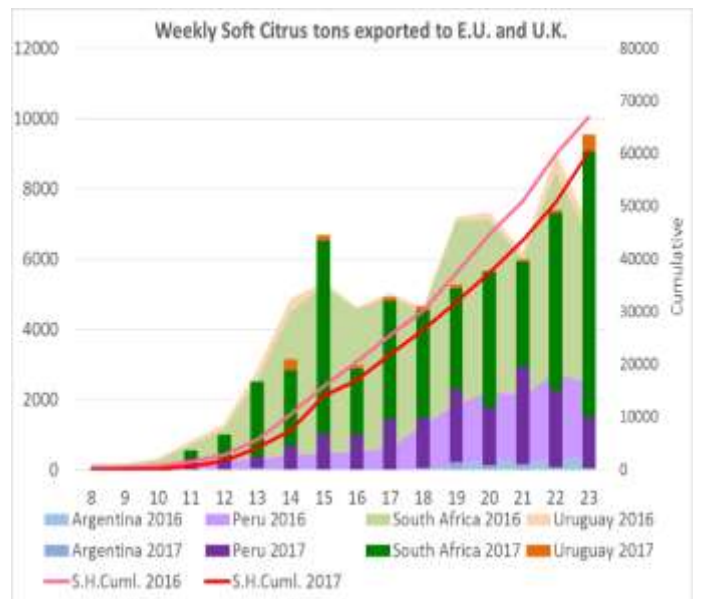
Soft citrus:

The projection remains at the original 13.2 million cartons. Current packing volumes (end week 24) show soft citrus down 3% at 6.8 million cartons packed to date. Clems down 15% to 2.6 million cartons whilst other mandarin types are up 19% to 2.5 million cartons. Similarly, soft citrus shipments at 5.7 million cartons are 3% behind last year's 5.9 million cartons. Data from other Southern Hemisphere exporters shows a stable supply to UK and E.U. Likewise Russia received a balanced supply to keep prices at traditional levels of the last 4 years (SA satsumas \$14.92 for 10 kg carton, clementines \$16.67 and novas \$17.55.)



Oranges:

Overall orange projections for the season are unchanged with Navels at 22.6 million cartons and Valencias still projected at 48.4 million cartons, although Sunday's River Valley are likely to drop their projection by 1 million cartons at next week's Valencia Focus Group meeting due to tree burn and fruit drop after a severe wind storm of 2 weeks ago. At end week 24, PPECB packing data shows navels down 23% (10.5 vs 13.6 million cartons) and valencias starting early, up 57% (2.6 vs 1.6 million cartons). Overall orange packing is down 14%. Agrihub data shows shipping of oranges is 32% down at end week 24 (7.9 vs 11.7 million cartons) at end week 24.



Grapefruit:

Both PPECB packing data (10.1 million 17kg cartons) and Agrihub shipping data (7.1 million 17kg cartons) indicate volumes are up on last year's by 18% to end week 24 packing. The Grapefruit Focus Group met this week and sentiment was that prospects still look good for a favourable distribution of the grapefruit exports with the early start of packing meeting the early demand the sentiment remains that the volumes may drop off earlier than normal. The projection was revised down slightly to 13.1 million cartons; down on the initial estimate of 13.8 million cartons.