Week 36 Fruit Wholesale Market Report:

Imported apple prices rise while South African citrus market shows mixed performance

The South African citrus market is showing mixed performance. South African Midknight oranges, which arrived earlier in the season, are currently priced at approximately ¥130-160 (US$19.37-23.84) per box for #64 size fruit, depending on quality. According to traders, the overall quality of current arrivals is not as good as in previous years, with some batches showing lighter color and higher spoilage rates. Better-quality batches are selling for around ¥160 (US$23.84) per box, similar to prices in previous years, but more buyers are currently seeking lower-priced options. Meanwhile, gift boxes of South African Cambria oranges have recently seen faster sales. South African lemons are nearing the end of their season, with arrivals becoming limited and prices reaching approximately ¥220-230 (US$32.78-34.27) per box. South African grapefruits, however, remain relatively inexpensive due to ample market supply, with prices around ¥120 (US$17.88) per box.

Left: South African Midknight oranges; Right: Gift boxes of South African Cambria oranges

Imported apple prices have continued to increase. New Zealand Gala apples are currently priced at approximately ¥360-380 (US$53.64-56.62) per box. According to traders, the increase is mainly due to lower arrival volumes and relatively high spoilage rates. After accounting for losses during sorting, traders have raised their selling prices accordingly. New Zealand Ambrosia apples are even more expensive, at approximately ¥480-490 (US$71.52-73.01) per box. South African Fuji apples have also increased in price, with different sizes currently selling for approximately ¥260-300 (US$38.74-44.70) per box. Some traders indicated that the higher prices have slowed sales, while demand for apple gift boxes has yet to pick up.

South African Fuji apples (left) and New Zealand Gala apples (right)

Regarding American stone fruits, Emerald Beaut plums arrived this week. Most current arrivals are smaller sizes, such as #32 and #36, and are priced at approximately ¥260-290 (US$38.74-43.21) per box. Larger sizes commonly available in previous years, including #24, #26, and #28, have not yet arrived. Traders indicated that the large supply of domestically produced plums currently available on the market has had a certain impact on sales of imported stone fruits.

Left: American Emerald Beaut plums; Right: Peruvian blueberries

Overall blueberry supply is lower than last week. Prices for Peruvian blueberries have declined, with 18mm+ fruit currently selling for approximately ¥125-130 (US$18.63-19.37) per box. Domestic blueberry supply has also decreased, with larger 12-in-1 packages becoming less available than last week. Medium-sized 14mm+ blueberries in the same packaging format are currently selling for approximately ¥80-90 (US$11.92-13.41) per box.

Regarding durians, Vietnamese durians continue to dominate the market, with traders reporting relatively stable prices and quality. Vietnamese Monthong A3 durians are currently priced at around ¥300 (US$44.70) per box, with strong demand reported for three-count packs.

Xinjiang pluots (left) and Xinjiang plums (right)

Xinjiang plums continue to arrive in large quantities, keeping overall prices low, although prices vary considerably depending on quality. The mainstream price for crate-packed plums is around ¥20 (US$2.98) per box, while premium batches sell for approximately ¥30 (US$4.47) per box. Some less firm batches are priced as low as ¥12 (US$1.79) per box. Currently, crate-packed plums remain the main sellers. Cardboard box-packed plums are expected to see stronger sales as the Mid-Autumn Festival approaches. Among domestically produced fruits, plums continue to be one of the most sought-after products in the market.

Left: Soft-seeded pomegranates; Right: Xinjiang small apples

Among other Chinese-grown fruits, sales of Xinjiang small apples have increased. Traders stated that although demand is not as strong as for plums, the market remains stable and offers a certain profit margin. In previous years, smaller packs of these apples were particularly popular in supermarkets, as they were convenient for consumers to purchase in larger quantities for gifting. The supply of soft-seeded pomegranates has increased compared with last week but remains lower than in previous years. One trader explained that weather conditions and insufficient sunshine have slowed the coloring process, meaning traders need to wait until the fruit develops a deeper red color before bringing it to market. As a result, current arrivals—particularly of high-quality batches—remain lower than in previous years.

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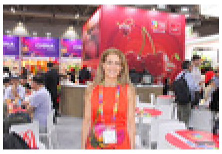

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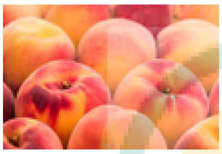

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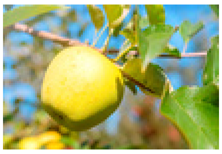

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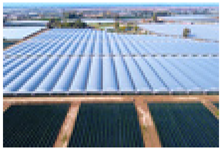

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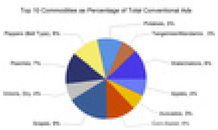

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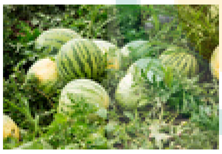

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