

Zimbabwe's citrus exports up 69% in the first four months of 2026

Zimbabwe's citrus industry recorded \$2.2 million in export earnings in the first four months of 2026, a 69% increase from the \$1.3 million recorded in the same period the previous year, according to data from the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat) compiled by agrifocusafrica.

The total exported volume surged by 90%, rising from 5,060 metric tons a year ago to 9,600 metric tons in this four-month period. This timeframe aligns with the start of the peak harvest season, when producers intensify harvesting and processing to meet international demand.

The exportable range encompasses fresh and dried oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, lemons, limes, citrus juices, and other fruit concentrates. Grapefruit and Chinese grapefruit are leading growth, with a 205% volume increase, bringing shipments to 3,800 metric tons and generating \$617,509 in foreign exchange, a 197% increase in value.

Lemons and limes are also performing exceptionally well. Export volumes increased from 2,800 metric tons to 4.9 million metric tons, bringing in \$893,670 in foreign exchange and achieving a net growth of 154%.

Projections for the remainder of the 2025/26 production cycle indicate continued growth. ZimStat reports that orange output will increase by 18% to 222,138 tons, supported by expanded cultivation areas and higher yields per hectare. Additionally, lemon and lime harvests are expected to grow by 11% to 7,462 tons.

This segment is part of the Agricultural Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy 2 (AFSRTS 2), Zimbabwe's long-term plan. It identifies the citrus industry as a key contributor to foreign exchange, formal employment growth, and rural development. The government anticipates the citrus value chain will expand from 347,000 tons in 2025/26 to 482,000 tons by 2030/31. As production increases, the market's gross value is projected to grow from \$576 million to \$925 million by the end of the decade.

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Source: frutasdechile.cl (<https://frutasdechile.cl/news/zimbabue-exportaciones-de-citricos-crecen-un-69-en-los-primeros-meses-del-ano/>)

Publication date: Fri 26 Jun 2026

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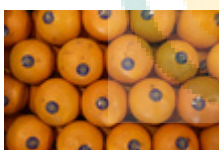
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