

Southern Hemisphere citrus forecast: Production down 6 percent, exports expected to rise 4 percent

During the [World Citrus Organization](#)'s 7th Annual General Meeting, the industry shared the **preliminary citrus forecast for the upcoming Southern Hemisphere season**. Projections included numbers from producing countries such as Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, South Africa, and Uruguay.



Citrus production is expected to **decrease by nearly six percent year on year**, to an estimated 26,409,093 tonnes.

Exports, however, are expected to continue increasing, with a projected **growth of four percent** compared to 2025, reaching 4,742,014 tonnes.

Southern Hemisphere Citrus Recap

Southern Hemisphere Citrus Production (million t)



	Forecast (t)	YOY%	4Y AVG%
Production	26,409,093	-5.86%	-3.29%
Exports	4,742,014	+3.96%	+18.11%

	Forecast (t)	YOY%	4Y AVG%
Oranges	17,517,898	-8.37%	-5.26%
Soft citrus	3,416,432	-0.84%	+5.25%
Lemons	3,168,541	+2.36%	+2.33%
Limes	1,738,745	-9.64%	-11.28%
Grapefruits	567,477	+21.21%	+10.34%

These first estimates will be revised following the publication of the Fundecitrus forecast for Brazil on May 8th, 2026.

Citrus forecast: Oranges, lemons, and limes see contractions

In the Southern Hemisphere citrus forecast, **orange production is forecast to decrease by over eight percent** compared to 2025, to 17,517,898 tonnes. **Soft citrus will only decrease slightly** by less than one percent to 3,416,432 tonnes.

Lemon production is estimated to shrink by a little over two percent to 3,168,541 t in total, while limes will see a much more dramatic contraction of nearly 10 percent, totaling 1,738,745 tonnes.

On a more positive note, grapefruits are forecast to reach 567,477 tonnes, **a more than 21 percent jump** from 2025's total.

Production (t)		All citrus fruits					
Country	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	YOY%	4Y AVG%
 Argentina	2,818,167	3,122,923	3,134,446	2,420,466	2,679,500	+10.70%	-6.77%
 Australia	783,394	808,018	808,850	853,171	853,171	-	+4.89%
 Bolivia	42,050	32,500	38,850	35,000	43,000	+22.86%	+15.90%
 Chile	451,203	607,653	612,511	655,666	758,136	+15.63%	+30.32%
 Peru	1,605,128	1,443,216	1,616,322	1,535,430	1,560,619	+1.64%	+0.68%
 South Africa	3,444,232	3,437,129	3,533,338	3,964,195	4,170,088	+5.19%	+16.01%
 Uruguay	304,360	234,730	261,244	265,446	312,427	+17.70%	+17.26%
Total SH (without Brazil)	9,448,534	9,686,169	10,005,561	9,729,374	10,376,940	+6.66%	+6.79%
 Brazil	19,511,474	18,245,552	14,281,750	18,322,460	16,032,153	-12.50%	-8.86%
Tot. Southern Hemisphere	28,960,008	27,931,721	24,287,311	28,051,834	26,409,093	-5.86%	-3.29%



The challenges facing the Southern Hemisphere citrus industry

In a press release announcing the citrus forecast, the World Citrus Organization emphasized the citrus community's **deep concern about the direct and indirect impacts of the Middle East crisis** in the region and beyond. These, **they** say, will strongly impact logistics costs, availability, and the access and costs of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers.

Consumption trends also remain a concern.

The industry body said that last year's Southern Hemisphere trade boom **did not reflect stronger demand for citrus but rather a supply shortage** in the Mediterranean basin, which presented a significant opportunity for Southern Hemisphere producers.

For the region's new season, the organization recommended a more careful approach to supply in Europe and the Middle East, where consumption drivers will need to be monitored.

**Graphs courtesy of the World Citrus Organization.*

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