# *FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (20/19)*

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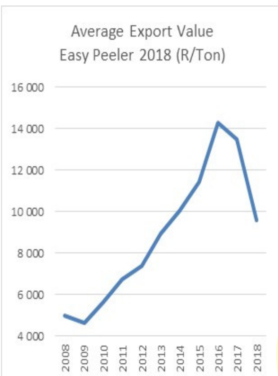
Citrus Growers' Association
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
*Grower levies working for you!*

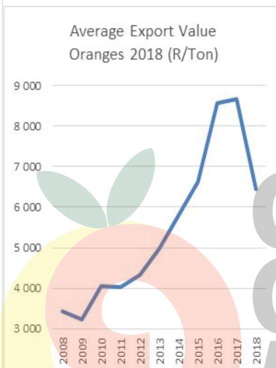
*Justin Chadwick 17 May 2019*

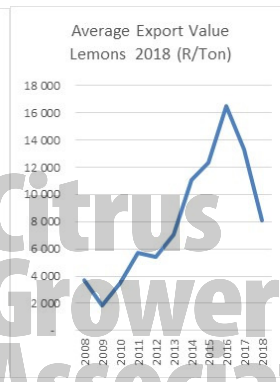
***" After China and India, Indonesia was the biggest new nation-state to emerge in the mid-twentieth century" Pankaj Mishra***

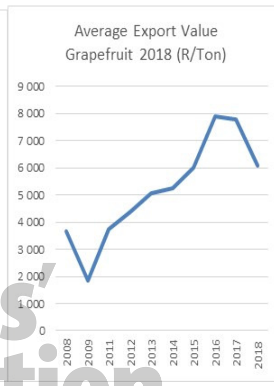
## 2018 AVERAGE RETURNS

There was a lot of hype about the record volume of citrus exported from southern Africa in 2018 – but many growers cautioned that the returns to growers may not have been as exciting. Although also a record in total export earnings was achieved, the returns per ton were said to be lower than the previous few years. John Edmonds (CGA Information Manager) is putting the finishing touches to the Statistics Book (which will be sent to all growers in the next week), and it reflects that the average price achieved from all four citrus sectors was lower than in 2017 – and appreciable so for lemons and soft citrus. On average lemon returns are 50% of the levels achieved in 2016.




It must be remembered that this is average returns achieved per sector across all markets, across all varieties and across all grades of citrus sold – some markets and some grades/varieties performed better than others. However, it does indicate a worrying reversal in the trend that started in 2009, and a signal to exporters to pay attention to supplying the market with what they want, and when they want it, in 2019.

## INDONESIA

Recently, a Fruit South Africa/PPECB delegation visited Indonesia. The good news is that the moratorium on permits that was instituted in February 2019 has been lifted, and Indonesian importers who can meet the requirements can now apply for permits across all citrus lines. In addition, DAFF, PPECB and CRI have revised the shipping temperature rules to fall in line with Indonesian requirements, which involves the lifting of the set point. This will allow shipping at slightly higher temperatures. The shipment temperatures will be monitored in 2019 in order to review the requirements in the future. Exporters sending fruit to Indonesia should contact PPECB to discuss the latest developments. There is no doubt that Indonesia presents an exciting market for southern African citrus. If Jakarta is anything to go by, the country is on the move with regard to development; with new, modern designed buildings dominating the sky line. There was a noticeable improvement in traffic congestion in Jakarta which is due to the construction of new roads and infrastructure in the city. South Africa has an active Embassy in Jakarta, with Ambassador Fisher and his staff fully briefed on the opportunities and challenges for South African fruit.

## PACKED AND SHIPPED

| Million 15 Kg Cartons to end Week 19 | Packed | Packed | Packed | Shipped | Shipped | Original Estimate | Latest Prediction | Final Packed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SOURCE: PPECB/AgriHub** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2018** | **2019** | **2019** | **2019** | **2018** |
| Grapefruit | 3.9 m | 3.2 m | 3.9 m | 2.5 m | 2.2 m | 17.1 m | **16.1 m** | 18.8 m |
| Soft Citrus | 2.3 m | 2.7 m | 2 m | 2.6 m | 1.7 m | 18.3 m | **17.8 m** | 16.2 m |
| Lemons | 4.8 m | 5.5 m | 3.8 m | 5.1 m | 3.2 m | 22 m | **21.4 m** | 19.9 m |
| Navels | 0.8 m | 0.6 m | 0.3 m | 0.6 m | 0.1 m | 26.9 m | 26.9 m | 26.7 m |
| Valencia | | 0.1 m | | | | 52.9 m | 52.9 m | 54.4 m |
| **Total** | **11.8 m** | **12.1 m** | **10 m** | **10.8 m** | **7.2 m** | **137.2 m** | **135.1 m** | **136 m** |

**CGA GROUP OF COMPANIES (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE FUNDED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS**