



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CALIFORNIA PRELIMINARY GRAPE CRUSH REPORT

SACRAMENTO – California's 2008 crush totaled 3,665,375 tons, down less than 1 percent from the 2007 crush of 3,674,453 tons, according to the Preliminary Grape Crush Report released today. Wine type grapes crushed, at 3,054,152 tons were down 6 percent from the previous year.

Red wine varieties accounted for the largest share of all grapes crushed, at 1,709,040 tons, down 9 percent from 2007. The 2008 white wine variety crush totaled 1,345,112 tons, down 2 percent from 2007. Tons crushed of raisin type varieties totaled 494,124, up 36 percent from 2007, and tons crushed of table type varieties totaled 117,099, up 85 percent from 2007.

California grape growers received prices in 2008 for red wine, white wine, raisin and table grapes that were, on average, above the 2007 prices. The 2008 average price of all varieties was \$544.18, up 4 percent from 2007. Average prices per ton for the 2008 crop by type were as follows: red wine grapes, \$642.87, up 3 percent from 2007; white wine grapes, \$538.74, up 12 percent from 2007; raisin grapes, \$224.02, up 44 percent; and table grapes, \$189.27, up 37 percent. These price levels have not been adjusted for inflation.

In 2008, Chardonnay accounted for the largest percentage of the total crush volume with 15.4 percent. Thompson Seedless accounted for the second leading percentage of crush with 11.9 percent of the total crush. The next eight highest percentages of grapes crushed were all wine varieties.

Grapes produced in District 4 (Napa County) received the highest average price of \$3,390.64 per ton, up 4 percent from 2007. District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) received the second highest return of \$2,235.30, up 7 percent from 2007. The 2008 Chardonnay price of \$815.00 was up 14 percent from 2007, and the Cabernet Sauvignon price of \$1,098.47 was up 11 percent from 2007. The 2008 average price for Zinfandel was \$459.53, down 2 percent from 2007, while the Merlot average price was up 9 percent from 2007 at \$646.52 per ton.

This preliminary report includes all grape tonnage crushed during the 2008 season, as well as purchased tonnage and pricing information with final prices prior to January 10, 2009. The Final Grape Crush Report will be available March 10, 2009.

The entire Grape Crush Report is available online at www.nass.usda.gov/ca.

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