



HAWAII BANANAS

ANNUAL SUMMARY

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1997 HAWAII BANANA OUTPUT HIGHER

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Hawaii banana production totaled **13.7** million pounds during 1997, 5 percent above the previous year according to the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service (HASS). Improved yields and production from younger Cavendish orchards were the reason for the increase, more than offsetting a small decline in total harvested acreage. High winds in February 1997 temporarily set back East Hawaii orchards. New plantings made good progress during the year. Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) was identified in Kilauea, Kauai in September 1997. Rainfall was limited in December and beginning 1998 affecting some plantings. Total acreage in-crop reached a record high 1,590 acres. The average farm price for 1997 slipped 2.0 cents from 1996 to 38.0 cents per pound; however, the increase in Cavendish production helped boost the farm value to a record \$5.2 million. Larger production of Cavendish bananas is expected in 1998 as more acreage begins to bear fruit.

ACREAGE

Total in-crop acreage February 1, 1998 was an all time high of 1,590 acres, 350 acres more than last year. Harvested acreage decreased 20 acres to 1,020 acres. Most of the growth in total acreage happened on Hawaii island and Oahu, mainly the Cavendish variety. Growers planted 500 new acres Statewide in 1997. About 300 acres are expected to be planted in 1998, with most of the planting intended for Hawaii and Oahu.

(Continued on page 4)



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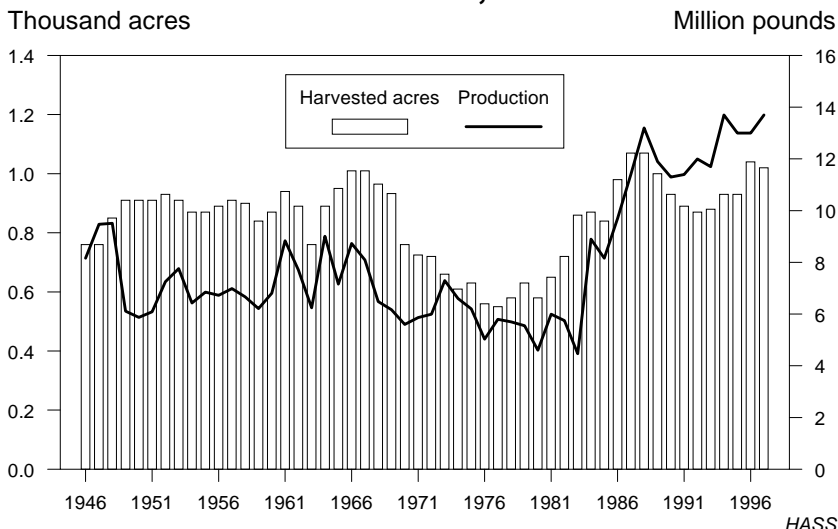
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BANANAS: Acres Harvested and Production, State of Hawaii, 1946-97



HASS

BANANA STATISTICS BY ISLAND

Table 1. BANANAS: Acreage by variety, by islands, 1996-97, with 1998 intentions¹

Island	Variety				New plantings 1997	Planting intentions 1998
	Brazilian ²		Cavendish ³			
	1996	1997	1996	1997		
<i>Acres</i>						
Hawaii	135	4	560	4	4	4
Kauai	25	4	30	4	4	4
Maui/Molokai/Lanai	20	4	35	4	4	4
Oahu	380	4	55	4	4	4
Total	560	540	680	1,050	500	300

¹ As of February following year, i.e., acreage data shown for 1997 is as of February 1, 1998. ² Includes Dwarf Brazilian and Apple bananas. ³ Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim. Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas are also included with Cavendish. ⁴ Island data not shown separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations but combined and included in the State total.

Table 2. BANANAS: Number of farms, acreage, yield, production, price, and value, by islands, 1993-97

Year	Farms	Acreage		Yield per acre (harvested)	Production	Farm price ³	Value of sales
		In crop ¹	Harvested ²				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>----- Acres -----</i>		<i>----- 1,000 pounds -----</i>		<i>Cents per pound</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
State⁴							
1993	130	980	880	13.3	11,700	38.0	4,446
1994	145	1,020	930	14.7	13,700	37.0	5,069
1995	170	1,120	930	14.0	13,000	40.0	5,200
1996	170	1,240	1,040	12.5	13,000	40.0	5,200
1997	170	1,590	1,020	13.4	13,700	38.0	5,206
Hawaii							
1993	21	440	440	20.7	9,100	34.7	3,158
1994	34	505	485	20.8	10,100	33.5	3,384
1995	41	600	480	18.1	8,700	35.0	3,045
1996	41	695	565	14.9	8,400	35.5	2,982
1997	48	840	600	16.3	9,800	34.0	3,352
Kauai							
1993	20	60	35	4.0	140	43.3	61
1994	24	55	45	9.8	440	42.0	185
1995	29	55	45	9.3	420	44.0	184
1996	29	55	45	11.3	510	42.5	218
1997	28	40	35	12.9	450	43.5	196
Maui/Molokai/Lanai							
1993	13	35	25	16.8	420	50.8	213
1994	15	55	45	12.4	560	52.0	291
1995	22	60	45	18.2	820	52.0	426
1996	22	55	45	19.8	890	50.0	445
1997	19	75	50	14.0	700	54.5	382
Oahu							
1993	76	445	380	5.4	2,040	49.7	1,014
1994	72	405	355	7.3	2,600	46.5	1,209
1995	78	405	360	8.5	3,060	50.5	1,545
1996	78	435	385	8.3	3,200	48.5	1,555
1997	75	635	335	8.2	2,750	46.5	1,276

¹ As of February following year, i.e., acreage data shown for 1997 is as of February 1, 1998. ² Acreage reflects highest quarterly total during the year. ³ Price rounded to nearest 0.5 cent beginning 1994. ⁴ Island totals may not add to State totals due to rounding.

BANANA STATISTICS BY VARIETY

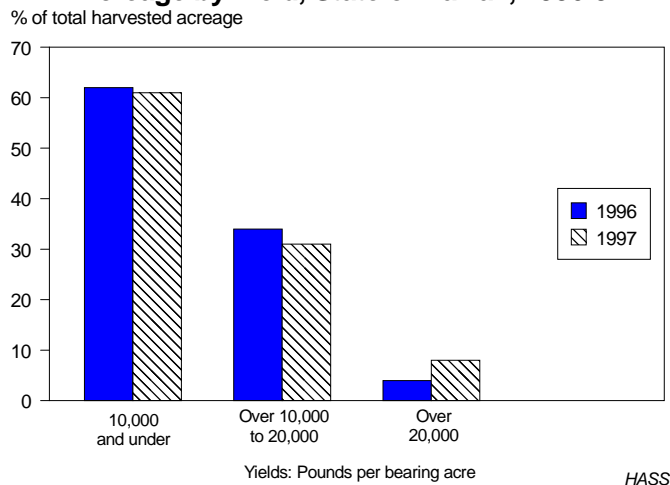
Table 3. BANANAS: Production, acreage, and price, State of Hawaii, 1993-97

Year	Production													Acreage	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total or average	In crop	Harvested
----- 1,000 pounds -----													----- Acres -----		
All Bananas															
1993	947	928	897	774	823	672	911	984	1,106	1,146	1,278	1,234	11,700	980	880
1994	1,097	1,086	1,059	1,006	977	969	1,175	1,469	1,246	1,301	1,177	1,138	13,700	1,020	930
1995	1,020	931	980	1,055	972	1,083	1,120	1,060	1,035	1,190	1,241	1,313	13,000	1,120	930
1996	1,175	840	825	825	816	862	1,200	1,544	1,281	1,442	1,264	926	13,000	1,240	1,040
1997	1,021	840	764	802	990	1,118	1,362	1,419	1,230	1,432	1,365	1,357	13,700	1,590	1,020
Brazilian ¹															
1993	129	127	137	163	155	151	160	212	269	258	239	200	2,200	500	415
1994	231	224	250	274	279	248	248	281	260	240	252	213	3,000	490	420
1995	220	219	298	307	306	327	275	326	355	347	345	375	3,700	535	460
1996	333	272	254	270	322	300	354	438	427	487	424	319	4,200	560	525
1997	369	327	342	303	311	279	303	364	326	364	349	363	4,000	540	455
Cavendish ²															
1993	818	801	760	611	668	521	751	772	837	888	1,039	1,034	9,500	480	465
1994	866	862	809	732	698	721	927	1,188	986	1,061	925	925	10,700	530	510
1995	800	712	682	748	666	756	845	734	680	843	896	938	9,300	585	470
1996	842	568	571	555	494	562	846	1,106	854	955	840	607	8,800	680	515
1997	652	513	422	499	679	839	1,059	1,055	904	1,068	1,016	994	9,700	1,050	565
FARM PRICE FOR FRESH MARKET ³															
Cents per pound															
All Bananas ⁴															
1993	38.4	38.5	39.1	40.5	40.1	40.6	38.7	37.1	37.2	36.7	36.3	36.4	38.0		
1994	37.0	38.0	38.5	39.5	39.0	38.0	36.5	35.5	36.0	35.5	36.5	36.5	37.0		
1995	38.0	38.0	40.0	40.0	41.5	40.5	40.0	41.5	42.0	40.0	39.5	39.5	40.0		
1996	39.5	41.0	41.0	41.0	42.5	41.5	39.5	39.0	40.0	39.0	39.0	39.5	40.0		
1997	44.0	44.5	45.0	43.0	38.0	36.0	34.5	35.5	36.0	35.5	34.5	34.5	38.0		
Brazilian ¹															
1993	53.9	53.8	54.9	54.2	54.3	54.4	53.4	52.3	51.6	50.4	50.3	51.2	52.5		
1994	49.5	50.5	51.0	51.0	50.0	50.5	50.0	49.0	48.5	48.5	47.0	48.0	49.5		
1995	50.5	51.0	51.5	51.5	52.0	52.0	52.0	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.0	51.0	51.5		
1996	50.5	52.0	52.0	52.0	51.5	51.5	50.0	49.5	49.5	49.0	49.5	50.0	50.5		
1997	48.5	49.5	49.5	50.0	50.5	52.0	51.5	51.0	51.0	50.0	50.0	49.5	50.0		
Cavendish ⁵															
1993	35.9	36.1	36.2	36.8	36.7	36.6	35.5	32.8	32.4	32.7	33.0	33.4	34.6		
1994	33.5	34.5	34.5	35.0	34.5	34.0	32.5	32.0	32.5	33.0	33.5	34.0	33.5		
1995	34.0	34.0	35.0	35.0	36.0	35.5	36.0	36.5	36.5	35.5	35.0	35.0	35.5		
1996	34.5	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.5	36.0	35.5	35.0	35.0	33.5	34.0	34.0	35.0		
1997	38.0	41.5	42.0	42.0	38.5	32.0	30.5	29.5	30.0	30.0	30.0	29.0	33.0		

¹Includes Dwarf Brazilian and Apple bananas. ²Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim. Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas are combined with Cavendish beginning 1993. Previous publications provide a breakdown for Bluefields. ³Price rounded to nearest 0.5 cent beginning 1994. ⁴Includes Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas. ⁵Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim.

BANANA ACREAGE DISTRIBUTED BY YIELD

BANANAS: Distribution of Harvested Brazilian Acreage by Yield, State of Hawaii, 1996-97



BANANAS: Distribution of Harvested Cavendish Acreage by Yield, State of Hawaii, 1996-97

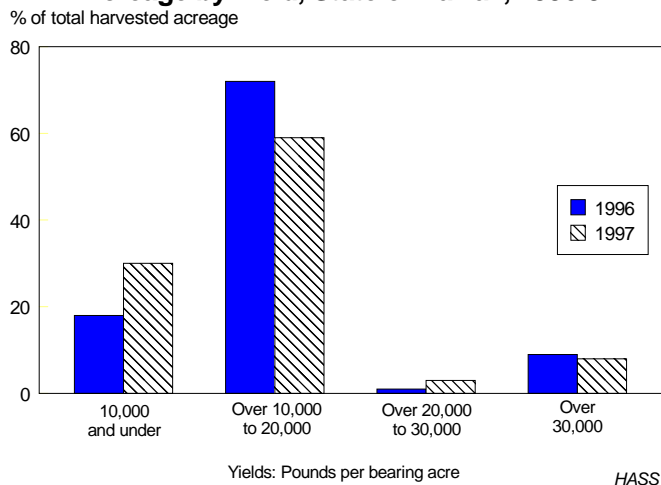


Table 4. BANANAS: Distribution of harvested acreage by yield, State of Hawaii, 1996-97

Stratum: Yield per harvested acre	Variety							
	Brazilian ¹				Cavendish ²			
	Harvested acres		Average yield		Harvested acres		Average yield	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
<i>Pounds</i>			<i>Pounds</i>				<i>Pounds</i>	
Over 30,000	3	3	3	3	45	46	39,500	37,200
20,001 - 30,000	⁴ 24	⁴ 35	25,500	25,200	4	20	22,200	25,500
10,001 - 20,000	177	143	13,900	13,400	373	332	17,200	18,800
10,000 and Under	324	277	3,500	4,200	93	167	5,400	7,400
Overall Average Yield	525	455	8,000	8,800	515	565	17,100	17,200

¹ Includes Apple and dwarf varieties.

² Includes Chinese, Williams, Valery, and Grand Naim. Bluefields, Dwarf Bluefields, and other bananas are included with Cavendish.

³ Data not shown separately but combined and included in "20,001-30,000" pounds per acre.

⁴ Includes "Over 30,000" pounds per acre.

PRODUCTION AND YIELD

Overall Statewide yields averaged 13,400 pounds per acre, 900 pounds more than a year ago. Cavendish production totaled 9.7 million pounds in 1997, 10 percent more than 1996, accounting for 71 percent of the State total. The overall average yield for Cavendish was 17,200 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from 1996. The bulk of the Cavendish acreage averaged under 20,000 pounds per acre with new plantings coming into harvest. Brazilian output was 5 percent less than 1996 to 4.0 million pounds. Brazilian bananas yielded 8,800 pounds per acre, up 800 pounds from the previous year. About 61 percent of the Brazilian acreage averaged 10,000 pounds or less per acre. Hawaii island comprised about 72 percent of the State's total output with 9.8 million pounds, 17 percent above a year ago. Oahu growers produced 2.8 million pounds, 14 percent below 1996, the first decline after three consecutive years of increases. Maui County and Kauai accounted for 8 percent of the overall production.

FARM PRICES AND VALUE

The 1997 farm price for all varieties of local bananas averaged 38.0 cents per pound, down 2.0 cents from the previous year. The average farm price for Brazilian was 50.0 cents per pound, down .5 cent from the previous year. Cavendish bananas averaged 33.0 cents compared with 35.0 cents per pound in 1996. The farm value was a record \$5.2 million.

HISTORICAL DATA

Table 5. BANANAS: State of Hawaii, 1946-97

Year	Farms	Acreage		Yield per acre (harvested)	Production	Farm price ¹	Value of sales
		In crop	Harvested				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>----- Acres -----</i>		<i>----- 1,000 pounds -----</i>	<i>Cents per pound</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	
1946	NA	1,000	760	10.7	8,163	4.6	373
1947	NA	1,020	760	12.5	9,475	6.4	608
1948	NA	1,020	850	11.2	9,510	6.0	572
1949	NA	1,010	910	6.7	6,115	7.6	464
1950	NA	1,020	910	6.5	5,870	7.2	424
1951	NA	990	910	6.7	6,085	7.4	451
1952	NA	1,010	930	7.8	7,250	6.7	489
1953	NA	980	910	8.5	7,760	6.5	503
1954	NA	930	870	7.4	6,430	6.8	436
1955	NA	950	870	7.9	6,850	6.5	444
1956	NA	1,000	890	7.6	6,725	6.8	454
1957	NA	1,050	910	7.7	6,985	5.7	398
1958	NA	1,050	900	7.4	6,665	6.8	435
1959	NA	1,010	840	7.4	6,210	7.1	438
1960	NA	1,130	970	7.8	6,810	6.4	435
1961	NA	1,160	940	9.4	8,835	6.7	592
1962	NA	1,110	890	8.7	7,710	6.6	509
1963	NA	1,040	760	8.2	6,245	7.8	484
1964	246	1,090	890	10.1	9,010	7.7	690
1965	243	1,160	950	7.5	7,160	7.7	545
1966	229	1,150	1,010	8.6	8,730	7.7	668
1967	216	1,155	1,010	8.0	8,095	7.0	567
1968	207	1,115	965	6.7	6,485	7.7	499
1969	170	1,038	933	6.6	6,170	9.4	580
1970	182	820	760	7.4	5,600	10.6	594
1971	172	810	725	8.1	5,865	11.6	680
1972	172	795	720	8.3	6,000	12.0	720
1973	171	730	660	11.1	7,295	10.6	773
1974	173	670	610	10.8	6,600	13.1	865
1975	154	690	630	9.8	6,200	13.8	856
1976	152	615	560	9.0	5,030	15.5	780
1977	153	610	550	10.5	5,800	15.6	905
1978	147	660	580	9.8	5,700	18.5	1,055
1979	148	690	630	8.8	5,550	20.5	1,138
1980	159	730	580	7.9	4,600	23.9	1,099
1981	152	760	650	9.2	6,000	25.7	1,542
1982	179	940	720	8.0	5,750	28.6	1,645
1983	183	1,100	860	5.2	4,470	31.2	1,395
1984	180	990	870	10.2	8,900	30.0	2,670
1985	178	1,060	840	9.7	8,160	30.3	2,472
1986	185	1,140	980	9.9	9,700	30.0	2,910
1987	175	1,220	1,070	10.7	11,400	29.7	3,386
1988	160	1,220	1,070	12.3	13,200	33.0	4,356
1989	150	1,150	1,000	11.9	11,900	36.5	4,344
1990	150	1,000	930	12.2	11,300	38.0	4,294
1991	145	970	890	12.8	11,400	41.0	4,674
1992	135	960	870	13.8	12,000	41.0	4,920
1993	130	980	880	13.3	11,700	38.0	4,446
1994	145	1,020	930	14.7	13,700	37.0	5,069
1995	170	1,120	930	14.0	13,000	40.0	5,200
1996	170	1,240	1,040	12.5	13,000	40.0	5,200
1997	170	1,590	1,020	13.4	13,700	38.0	5,206

¹ Price rounded to nearest 0.5 cent beginning 1994.

HAWAII FRESH BANANA MARKET SUPPLY

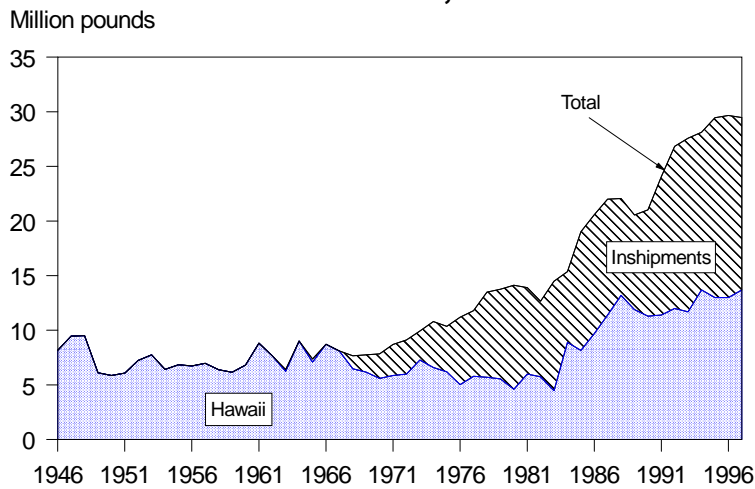
Table 6. BANANAS: Fresh Cavendish banana inshipments into Hawaii, 1993-97

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>1,000 pounds</i>													
1993	1,113	1,299	1,595	1,383	1,397	1,378	1,245	1,354	1,247	1,350	1,149	1,381	15,891
1994	1,112	1,125	1,405	1,342	1,638	1,182	1,186	1,261	927	1,106	1,153	1,003	14,440
1995 ¹	1,167	1,150	1,576	1,480	1,588	1,445	1,284	1,329	1,282	1,715	1,242	1,055	16,460
1996 ¹	1,306	1,304	1,386	1,586	1,702	1,539	1,497	1,180	1,064	1,494	1,041	1,422	16,668
1997¹	1,546	1,331	1,770	1,657	1,522	1,357	1,208	1,020	1,269	1,012	1,043	1,043	15,778

¹ Monthly data for 1995-97 are inshipments to Honolulu only. Monthly data are not available for inshipment to other islands which accounted for about 1% in 1994. Annual total for 1995-96 were estimated.

Source: Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Market Analysis and News Branch.

MARKET SUPPLY: Fresh Market Bananas, State of Hawaii, 1946-97¹



¹ 1997 inshipments are for Honolulu only.

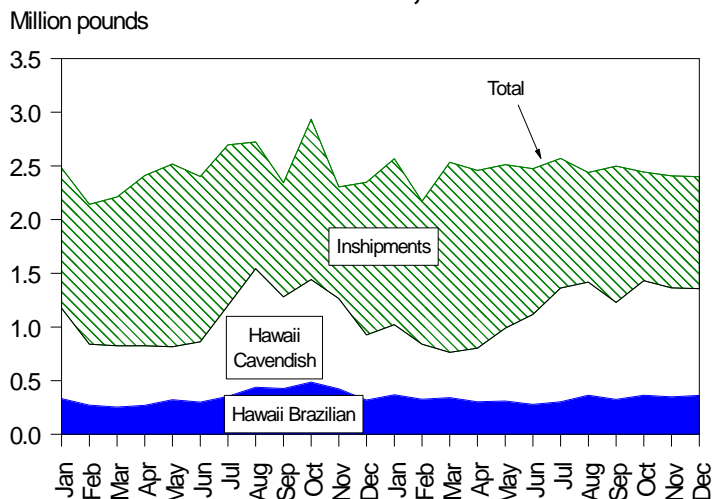
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Table 7. BANANA: Market supply, 1993-97

Year	Hawaii	Inshipments
<i>Percentage</i>		
1993	42	58
1994	49	51
1995	44	56
1996	44	56
1997	NA	NA

NA = Not available at time of publication.

MARKET SUPPLY: Fresh Market Bananas, by Month, State of Hawaii, 1996-97¹



¹ 1996-97 inshipments are for Honolulu only.

HASS

U.S. FRESH BANANA IMPORTS

Table 8. BANANAS: U.S. fresh banana imports, quantity and value, 1994-97

Year	Quantity	Custom value
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
1994	3,693,983	996,159
1995	3,663,821	1,062,446
1996	3,776,992	1,098,440
1997	3,772,694	1,120,839

The conversion for 1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 9. BANANAS: U.S. fresh banana imports, quantity and value, by country, 1997¹
Harmonized number: 0803002020

Country	Quantity	Custom value
	<i>Metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Mexico	202,368	61,865
Guatemala	462,681	129,881
Honduras	563,959	145,754
Costa Rica	954,056	297,369
Panama	214,776	59,706
Dominican Republic	8,140	2,683
Colombia	466,136	145,391
Venezuela	5,438	2,676
Ecuador	873,193	270,494
Nicaragua	21,938	5,014
Canada	2	1
St. Lucia	6	3
Total	3,772,694	1,120,839

¹ Data may not add due to rounding.
The conversion for 1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds.
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce.

In 1997, the U.S. imported 3.8 million metric tons of fresh bananas from foreign sources, slightly down from the previous year. Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Honduras respectively, accounted for 63 percent of the total imports. The value posted \$1.1 billion, 2 percent more than the 1996 value.