

Australian Melon Export – Monthly Update

January 2021



For the 7 months ending 31 January 2021, Australian Melon exports recorded 7,443 tonnes and down 52 per cent compared to the same period in 2020, worth A\$15.12 million. Eighty-five per cent (6,334 tonnes) were musk melons and 15 per cent (1,108 tonnes) were watermelons. The MAT was 13,741 tonnes, down 35 per cent from June.

Musk Melons

By end January 2021 musk melon exports were 6,334 tonnes worth A\$12.28m. The result was 38 per cent below the same period in 2020 (Table 1). Unit values were 10 per cent higher, and the overall value decreased by 37 per cent for the period.

Table 1 : Musk Melon Key Measures

EXPORTS	YTD	Chg LY
Volume (tonnes)	6,334	-38%
Value (M AUD)	12.28	-34%
\$ per kg	\$1.94	5%

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Japan has increased 46 per cent to 3,077 tonnes and is the leading destination year to date as Singapore declined 36 per cent to 2,174 tonnes. Malaysia eased 2 per cent to 202 tonnes.

The United Arab Emirates recorded 80 per cent decrease to 159 tonnes and was impacted by the restricted air freight and lack of demand for melons in food service.

The market access issue due to cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) for New Zealand is now impacting trade where exports to New Zealand were nil to date (Table 2) compared to 2,256 tonnes last year to date.

On a month by month basis exports in January were 1,401 tonnes compared to 1,426 tonnes last year returning to some consistency with last year. The lack of air freight capacity and the market access issue for New Zealand impacted on the results in the year to date.

Table 2 : Musk Melon Exports by Market

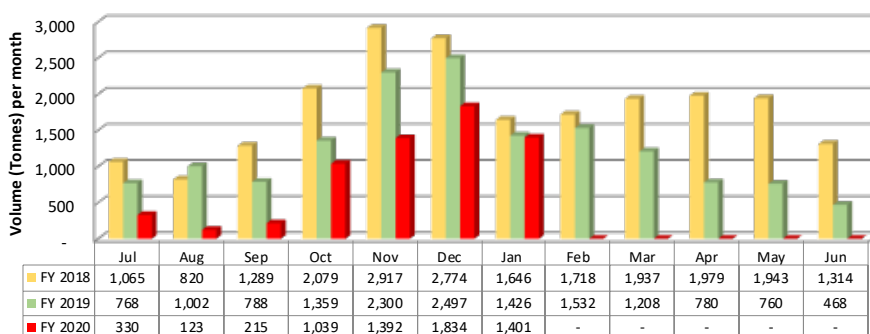
Market	July to January		
	2020/21	Chg LY	MAT
	Tonnes	%	Tonnes
Singapore	2,174	-36%	4,303
Japan	3,077	46%	4,055
United Arab Emirates	159	-80%	854
Hong Kong	325	-65%	649
Malaysia	202	-2%	500
Qatar	91	-15%	178
Brunei Darussalam	78	114%	129
China	111		111
New Caledonia	34	-23%	72
Papua New Guinea	36	-34%	62
Kuwait	11	-88%	36
New Zealand	-	-100%	32
Seychelles	22		32
French Polynesia	-	-100%	15
Fiji	2	-95%	13
all other	38		42
Total YTD Tonnes	6,334	-38%	11,082

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Ranked by annual volume

MAT - Moving Annual Total

Figure 1 Musk Melon Exports per month vs last 2 years



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Air freight accounted for 30 per cent of export shipments and was 66 per cent lower in the period ending January 2021

	July to January		
	Tonnes	share	change
		%	%
Sea	4,423	70%	0%
Air	1,912	30%	-66%
Total	6,334	100%	-38%

Watermelons

For the same period, exports of watermelons reached **1,108** tonnes worth A\$2.84m. The result was around 79 per cent lower than the same period last year (Table 4). Unit values were 43 per cent higher to \$2.84 / kg and this has meant that the overall value has decreased by 70 per cent for the 7-month period.

Table 4 : Watermelon Key Measures

EXPORTS	YTD	Chg LY
Volume (tonnes)	1,108	-79%
Value (M AUD)	2.84	-70%
\$ per kg	\$2.56	43%

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

New Zealand access suspension caused trade to fall from 2,314 tonnes last year to nil. Trade to United Arab Emirates dropped by 82 per cent to 418 tonnes. These were the largest destinations in previous years.

Conversely Qatar lifted strongly and offset some of the losses to the UAE although combined trade to the Middle East is 70 per cent lower at 848 tonnes influenced by lack of demand by food service operators and air freight.

Japan received 188 tonnes, which was new trade since 2019 and is now the No.3 destination to date.

On a month by month basis exports were 201 tonnes in January, down 65 per cent influenced by the New Zealand suspension, lack of food service demand due to COVID19 and lack of air freight capacity.

Table 5 : Watermelon Exports by Market

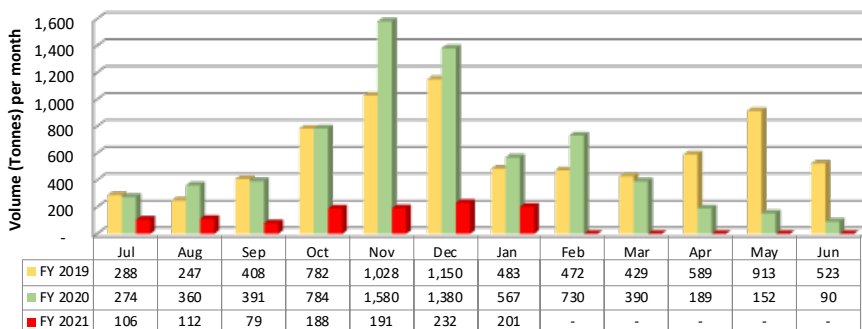
Market	July to January	
	2020/21	Chg LY MAT
	Tonnes	% Tonnes
United Arab Emirates	418	-82% 1,298
Qatar	370	4% 757
Japan	188	196% 302
Kuwait	53	-40% 86
Papua New Guinea	38	-15% 68
Seychelles	-	-100% 38
New Caledonia	25	2699% 29
Singapore	2	-91% 22
French Polynesia	-	-100% 19
Oman	-	9
Nauru	6	-10% 8
Bahrain	2	-51% 8
Lebanon	3	-13% 6
Fiji	-	3
Saudi Arabia	1	1
all other	5	4
Total YTD Tonnes	1,108	-79% 2,659

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Ranked by MAT

MAT - Moving Annual Total

Figure 2 Watermelon Exports per month vs last 2 years



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Air freight accounted for 86 per cent of export shipments and was 68 per cent lower in the period ending January 2021

	July to January	
	Tonnes	share change
		% %
Sea	154	14% -94%
Air	955	86% -68%
Total	1,108	100% -79%

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