

Australian Melon Export – Monthly Update

September 2021



For the September quarter of the 2021/22 season, Australian Melon exports recorded 2,137 tonnes which was 122 per cent higher compared the same period last year, worth \$4.4 million. Seventy-two per cent (1,528 tonnes) were musk melons and 28 per cent (609 tonnes) were watermelons.

The Moving Annual Total (MAT) was 14,063 tonnes, rising 2.7 per cent in the month indicating a positive momentum.

Musk Melons

in 3 months to September 2021 musk melon exports were 1,528 tonnes worth A\$3.01m. The result was 129 per cent above the same period in 2020 (Table 1). Unit values were 16 per cent lower, and the overall value increased by 93 per cent for the period compared to 2020.

Table 1 : Musk Melon Key Measures

EXPORTS	YTD	Chg LY
Volume (tonnes)	1,528	129%
Value (M AUD)	3.01	93%
\$ per kg	\$1.97	-16%

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence ana

Singapore has increased 141 per cent to 665 tonnes and regained the leading position. Japan increased 135 per cent to 266 tonnes. The UAE was 13 per cent lower at 44 tonnes.

Trade to New Zealand continued to ramp up with 296 tonnes recorded in 3 months (Table 2). While trade has re started the levels are still below the levels in the pre suspension periods.

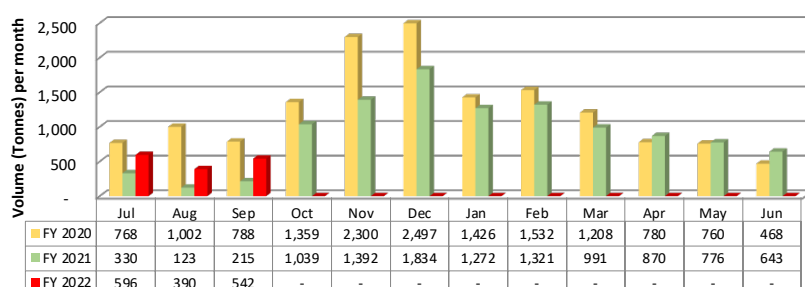
On a month by month basis exports in September were 542 tonnes compared to 215 tonnes last year and 788 tonnes in 2019 prior to the New Zealand suspension. Export trade over the next few months from October to January should be stronger.

Table 2 : Musk Melon Exports by Market

Market	July to September		Chg LY %	MAT Tonnes
	2020/21 Tonnes	2021/22 Tonnes		
Singapore	276	665	141%	4,613
Japan	113	266	135%	4,589
Hong Kong	63	104	65%	572
United Arab Emirates	51	44	-13%	522
New Zealand	-	296	++	456
Malaysia	77	28	-63%	257
New Caledonia	22	58	169%	168
Qatar	22	24	8%	158
Brunei Darussalam	24	28	13%	119
China	-	-		111
Papua New Guinea	15	10		54
Kuwait	0	-		22
Saudi Arabia	0	2		9
Nauru	1	1		4
Canada	-	-		4
all other	4	6		9
Total YTD Tonnes	668	1,528	129%	11,667

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence ana ++ >500% increase
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 39 per cent of export shipments in July to September compared to 75 per cent last

	2020/21	2021/22
Sea	25%	61%
Air	75%	39%
Tonnes	668	1528

Watermelons

For the same period to September, exports of watermelons reached **609 tonnes** worth A\$1.39m. The result was around 106 per cent higher than last year (Table 4). Unit values were 14 per cent lower to \$2.28 per kg and this has meant that the overall value has increased by 76 per cent for the period compared to the same period last year (Table 4).

Table 4 : Watermelon Key Measures

EXPORTS	YTD	Chg LY
Volume (tonnes)	609	106%
Value (M AUD)	1.39	76%
\$ per kg	\$2.28	-14%

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis:

New Zealand access suspension impacted trade in 2020 and has restarted recording 293 tonnes. Trade to United Arab Emirates increased 26 per cent to 138 tonnes. These were the largest destinations in previous years.

Trade to Japan lifted 12 per cent to 47 tonnes, mostly in August.

Qatar is lower by 22 per cent to 74 tonnes. The combined trade to the Middle East is now 5 per cent higher at 229 tonnes for the 3 months to September.

On a month by month basis exports were 174 tonnes in September, compared to 79 tonnes in the same month last year though well below 391 tonnes in September 2019. The New Zealand suspension was lifted 16 March 2021 and is helping to see a return toward the pre suspension levels.

Table 5 : Watermelon Exports by Market

Market	July to September		Chg LY	MAT
	2020/21	2021/22		
	Tonnes	Tonnes	%	Tonnes
United Arab Emirates	109	138	26%	851
Qatar	95	74	-22%	647
New Zealand	-	293		311
Japan	42	47	12%	259
Kuwait	13	8	-33%	108
New Caledonia	14	32	134%	104
Singapore	0	-	-100%	53
Papua New Guinea	20	3	-83%	33
Nauru	2	3	36%	11
Saudi Arabia	-	9		10
Lebanon	-	-		5
French Polynesia	-	2		2
Kiribati	0	-		1
Oman	-	-		0
Hong Kong	-	0		0
all other	2	0		1
Total YTD Tonnes	296	609	106%	2,397

Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

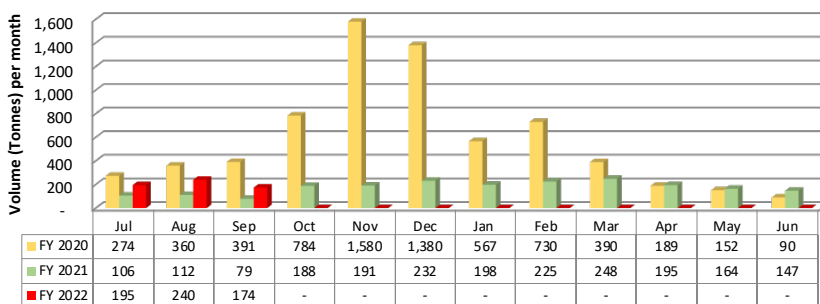
Ranked by MAT

MAT - Moving Annual Total

share of season

25.4%

Figure 2 Watermelon Exports per month vs last 2 years



Source: IHS Global Trade Atlas; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Air freight accounted for 42 per cent of July – September export shipments compared to 78 per cent for the same period in 2020.

	2020/21	2021/22
	%	%
Sea	22%	58%
Air	78%	42%
Tonnes	296	609

Prepared by Wayne Prowse
wayne.prowse@bigpond.com

Fresh Intelligence Consulting
 0408 164 966



This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the melon research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au