United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

2023 California Processing Tomato Report

Pacific Region · 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-100· Sacramento, CA 95814 · (916) 738-6600 · (855) 270-2722 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

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As of May 15, California's tomato processors reported they have or will have contracts for 12.7 million tons of processing tomatoes for 2023. This production estimate is 2.4% higher than the January intentions forecast of 12.4 million tons and 21.4% above the final 2022 contracted production total.

The May contracted acreage of 254,000 is 2.4% above the January intentions forecast of 248,000 acres and 24,000 acres more than last year's final contracted acreage.

Fresno County remains the top California county in contracted planted acreage for 2023 with 62,300 acres. Yolo, Merced, San Joaquin, and Kings make up the remaining top five counties, accounting for 63.8% percent of the 2023 total contracted planted acreage for California.

After three years of drought conditions, heavy winter storms brought an unprecedented amount of rain to the state, flooding areas in the Central Valley. Fields were wet and muddy well into spring, preventing farmers from planting on schedule. Transplanting continued through May and temperatures remained cooler than normal, resulting in a lag in crop maturity. There is concern that harvest will not be staggered enough for a balanced flow of tomatoes to the canneries. Despite the setbacks, the availability of water and another increase in price agreements have encouraged producers to contract the highest number of planted acres since 2016.

This early processing tomato estimate is funded by the California League of Food Producers.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION (CONTRACT AND TOTAL) - CALIFORNIA

Year	Total crop			Contract only			
	Planted	Harvested	Production	Planted	Harvested	Production	
	acres		*tons*	*acres*		*tons*	*metric tons*
2006	283,000	282,000	10,104,000	280,000	279,000	10,024,000	9,094,000
2007	301,000	296,000	12,082,000	298,000	293,000	11,965,000	10,854,000
2008	281,000	279,000	11,822,000	278,000	276,000	11,691,000	10,606,000
2009	312,000	308,000	13,314,000	308,000	304,000	13,148,000	11,928,000
2010	271,000	270,000	12,297,000	269,000	268,000	12,212,000	11,079,000
2011	255,000	250,000	11,941,000	254,000	249,000	11,900,000	10,796,000
2012	260,000	258,000	12,640,000	258,000	256,000	12,540,000	11,376,000
2013	263,000	260,000	12,100,000	259,000	256,000	11,900,000	10,796,000
2014	292,000	289,000	14,010,000	291,000	288,000	13,965,000	12,669,000
2015	299,000	296,000	14,361,000	297,000	295,000	14,307,000	12,979,000
2016	262,000	258,000	12,647,000	260,000	256,000	12,527,000	11,364,000
2017	230,000	222,000	10,464,000	229,000	221,000	10,407,000	9,441,000
2018	241,000	236,000	12,284,000	235,000	230,000	11,994,000	10,881,000
2019	235,000	228,000	11,186,000	234,000	227,000	11,130,000	10,097,000
2020	234,000	228,000	11,312,000	234,000	228,000	11,312,000	10,262,000
2021	230,000	228,000	10,775,000	229,000	227,000	10,739,000	9,742,000
2022	231,000	225,000	10,496,000	230,000	224,000	10,464,000	9,493,000
2023	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	254,000	(NA)	12,700,000	11,521,000

(NA) Not available.

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CALIFORNIA PROCESSING TOMATOES BY COUNTY

County	Contracted and Open Market - 2022 Crop				2023 Crop
	Area planted	Area harvested	Yield per acre	Production [1]	Contracted acres
	acres		*tons*		
Butte	860	860	54.4	46,800	1,310
Colusa	12,700	12,400	50.2	622,700	16,300
Contra Costa	3,000	3,000	57.6	172,800	3,300
Fresno	53,000	50,000	47.3	2,364,000	62,300
Glenn	800	800	41.1	32,900	1,690
Kern	10,300	10,200	54.9	559,600	16,400
Kings	28,800	28,200	54.2	1,529,000	17,600
Madera	4,500	4,400	43.3	190,600	5,300
Merced	24,700	24,600	44.2	1,086,000	27,000
Monterey	850	850	52.6	44,700	1,320
Sacramento	4,100	3,800	33.6	127,700	9,900
San Benito [2]	940	740	35.0	25,900	(D)
San Joaquin	18,500	18,300	43.0	787,100	20,900
Solano	11,800	11,600	37.8	439,000	13,900
Stanislaus	9,000	9,000	44.3	398,800	6,700
Sutter	9,800	9,600	39.0	374,800	12,300
Tehama	270	270	43.3	11,700	370
Yolo	34,600	33,900	45.6	1,544,000	34,300
Other Counties [2]	2,480	2,480	55.6	137,780	3,110
Total	231,000	225,000	46.7	10,495,880	254,000

[1] On the basis of "paid for tonnage" purchased from growers as reported by processors, dockage not included.

[2] To avoid disclosure of individual operations, "Other Counties" includes:
2022: Santa Clara and Tulare.
2023: San Benito, Santa Clara, and Tulare.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

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