



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Trade Commission**

## Fruit and vegetables to Mauritius.

### Trends and opportunities

#### The market

The local supply of fruit and vegetable is seasonal and depends on prevailing climatic conditions. During the rainy and cyclonic season, there is a scarcity of these commodities, and consequently, an increase in the volume of imports. Religious fasting periods undertaken by various ethnic groups decreases on the demand for fruits and vegetables.

Mauritius imports approximately **20,000 tonnes per year of fresh and dried fruits**. The main imported fruits are:

- ✍ oranges and mandarins – 6000 tonnes
- ✍ apples - 5600 tonnes
- ✍ pears and quinces – 1300 tonnes
- ✍ grapes - 1250 tonnes

Mauritius imports approximately **37,000 tonnes per year of fresh vegetables**. The main imported vegetables are:

- ✍ onions and shallots
- ✍ potatoes
- ✍ dried lentils
- ✍ dried split peas
- ✍ garlic

Mauritius imports over **500 tonnes per year of frozen vegetables**. The main items within this category are frozen peas and mixed vegetables.

Fruits and vegetables have traditionally been sold in markets but nowadays, with the changing lifestyles of consumers, they are also sold in supermarkets and hypermarkets.

#### Opportunities

**Many types of fruits are not grown in Mauritius** and they have to be imported to satisfy local demand. Similarly, some vegetables are not grown, or not grown in sufficient quantities to meet consumers' needs. The best opportunities for Australian suppliers are for the following products:

- ✍ Fresh fruits – melons, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, currants, apples, oranges
- ✍ Fresh vegetables – potatoes and small quantities of mushroom, broccoli, lettuce, cauliflower, asparagus
- ✍ Frozen mixed vegetables
- ✍ Dried vegetables – shelled lentils, chick peas and split peas

#### Competitive environment

**South Africa is the largest supplier of fruits to Mauritius**. Staple fruits such as oranges and apples are mainly imported from South Africa at very competitive prices.

The main advantages South Africa presents over Australia are:

- ✍ Price competitiveness at source
- ✍ Geographical proximity
- ✍ Regular, direct and reasonably priced shipping

**Australia is facing increased competition from other lower cost producing countries** such as Egypt and Pakistan, and has lost market share to the latter. Egypt and Pakistan supply the Mauritian market with fresh and dried fruits

including oranges, dates, lemons and mandarins.

India, Australia and South Africa are the major suppliers of vegetables to Mauritius.

**New Zealand and Australia were the traditional suppliers of frozen vegetables** to Mauritius but are facing competition from emerging and cheaper sources such as Egypt and Belgium. The respective market shares are:

- ✂ New Zealand – 21 per cent
- ✂ Egypt – 16 per cent
- ✂ Australia – 12 per cent
- ✂ Belgium – 11 per cent

**More information**

For further information please contact Austrade on 13 28 78 or email [info@austrade.gov.au](mailto:info@austrade.gov.au).

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