

## EVOLUTION OF TRADE AND CONSUMPTION OF TABLE GRAPES IN ROMANIA

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**Abstract:** Trade and consumption of table grapes in recent years have known major changes. This paper presents and analyses the evolution of trade and consumption of table grapes in Romania in the last decades. The research methodology consisted in analysing, processing and interpreting data from literature. Between 1980 and 1990, Romania did not import fresh grapes, but between 1990 and 2000, it imported 17,856 t. compared to 2000, imports increased more than seven times, reaching almost 30,000 t.

**Keywords:** table grapes, trade, consumption, evolution.

### INTRODUCTION

The importance of grape consumption derives from their beneficial effect on human health. Fresh table grapes rank as elite fruit due to their pleasant taste and great food value. They have a complex structure with direct energising, comforting, fortifying, and mineralising effects on the human body, in addition to their diet and therapeutic features.

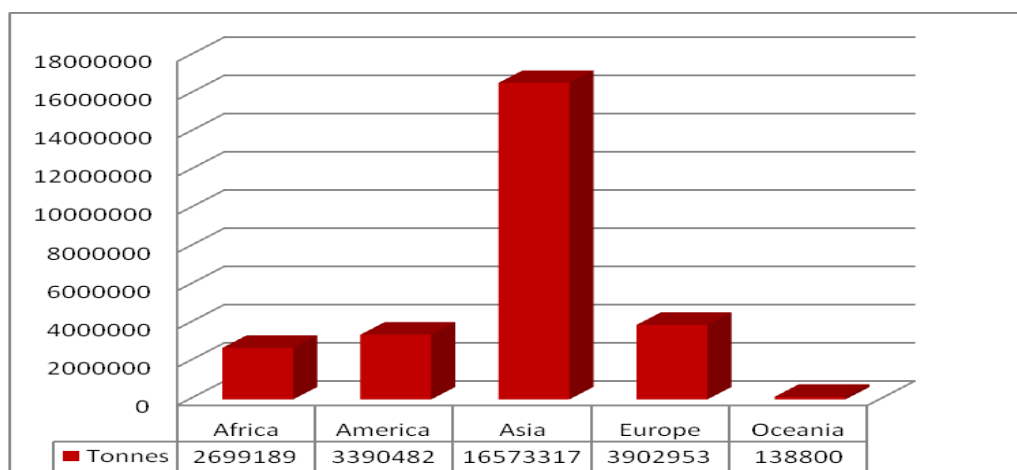
The paper presents the evolution of table grape production, table grape export and import, as well as table grape consumption in Romania.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is based on documenting and synthesis of information from literature. The main data sources used in this paper come from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Vine and Wine Organisation, and the Romanian National Institute of Statistics.

### RESEARCH RESULTS

Table grape production worldwide in 2014 reached almost 27 million t, i.e. over 55% more than in 1995; among continents, the greatest table grape producer was Asia with a share of 62.1%, followed by Europe with 14.6% and America with 12.7%.



**Figure 1. World fresh grape production in 2014**

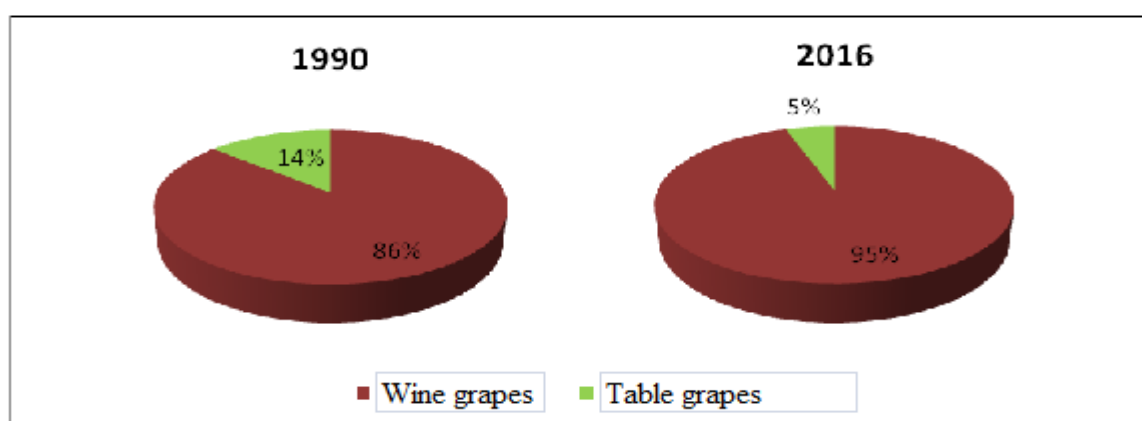
Source: After O.I.V.

Table 1.

**Grape production in Romania between 1990 and 2016 (t)**

| Year         | 1990   | 1995    | 2000    | 2005   | 2007   | 2010   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | ± 1990                         |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Wine grapes  | 823934 | 1173767 | 1177335 | 464610 | 791879 | 690462 | 747731 | 756677 | 698086 | -125848                        |
| Table grapes | 130064 | 140162  | 117928  | 31486  | 81345  | 49656  | 35959  | 42088  | 38806  | <b>-91258</b><br><b>(-70%)</b> |
| <b>Total</b> | 953998 | 1313929 | 1295263 | 505849 | 873224 | 740118 | 783690 | 798765 | 736892 | -217106<br>(-23%)              |

Source: After INSSE



**Figure 2. Grape production in Romania (%)**

As for table grape production in Romania compared to 1990, it decreased with over 70%: the main cause was the decrease with 73% of the areas cultivated with grapevine cultivars for table grapes.

About 16% of the total world production was for international trade (import/export). Of the total exports and imports of table grapes, Europe exported 31% (1.31 million t) and imported almost 52% (2.1 million t).

Table 2.

**Grape trade in Romania between 1980 and 2014**

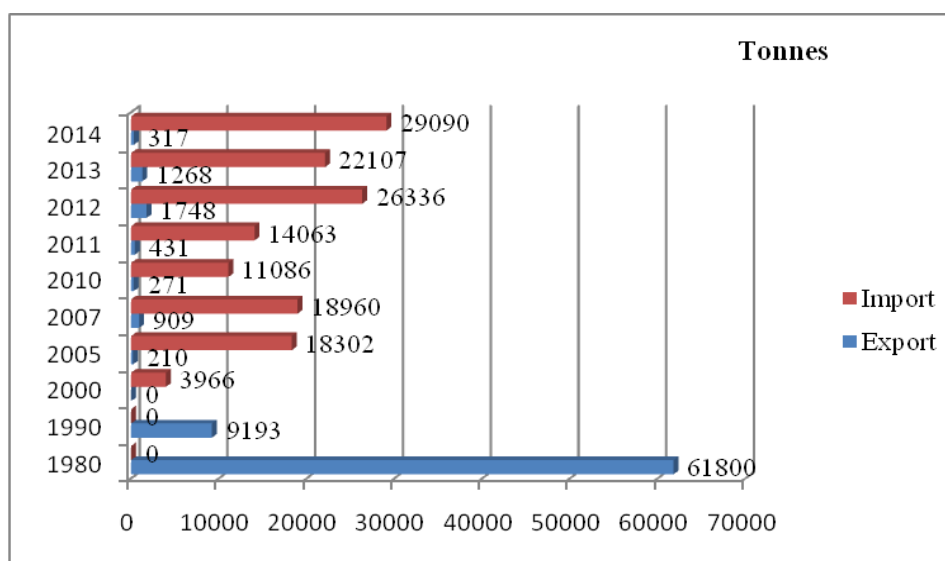
| Year | EXPORT<br>(t) | IMPORT<br>(t) |
|------|---------------|---------------|
| 1980 | 61800         | 0             |
| 1990 | 9193          | 0             |
| 2000 | 0             | 3966          |
| 2005 | 210*          | 18302         |
| 2007 | 909           | 18960         |
| 2010 | 271           | 11086         |
| 2011 | 431           | 14063         |
| 2012 | 1748          | 26336         |
| 2013 | 1268          | 22107         |
| 2014 | 317*          | 29090*        |

Source: After F.A.O. 2017, \*O.I.V. 2017

Of the total exports and imports of Europe in 2014, Romania shared an insignificant export of 317 t (0.02%) and an import of 29,090 t (1.38%).

Export and import of fresh grapes in Romania have undergone major changes in the last decades. Exports decreased very much from 61,800 t in 1980 to only 317 tone in 2014, while imports increased considerably. Between 1980 and 1990, Romania did not import

fresh grapes, but between 1990 and 2000, it imported 17,856 t. Compared to 2000, imports increased more than seven times: thus, in 2014, they reached almost 30,000 tone (*calculus based on data from O.I.V., 2017*).



**Figure 3. Export and import of grapes between 1980 and 2014**

Compared to 1995, grape consumption worldwide evolved rather much since in 2014 it was 33.5% higher. This increasing trend also characterised Europe, where it increased with 24.7%. In exchange, during the same period of time, grape consumption in Romania decreased with 46% (O.I.V., 2017).

**Table 3.**

**Grape consumption in Romania between 1995 and 2014**

| Year | Grape consumption (t) | Grape consumption per capita (kg) |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1995 | 135200                | 5,9                               |
| 2000 | 133700                | 6,0                               |
| 2005 | 95000                 | 4,4                               |
| 2007 | 99100                 | 4,7                               |
| 2010 | 65100                 | 3,2                               |
| 2011 | 65500                 | 3,3                               |
| 2012 | 76100                 | 3,8                               |
| 2013 | 76300                 | 3,9                               |
| 2014 | 74200                 | 3,8                               |

Source: After O.I.V., 2017

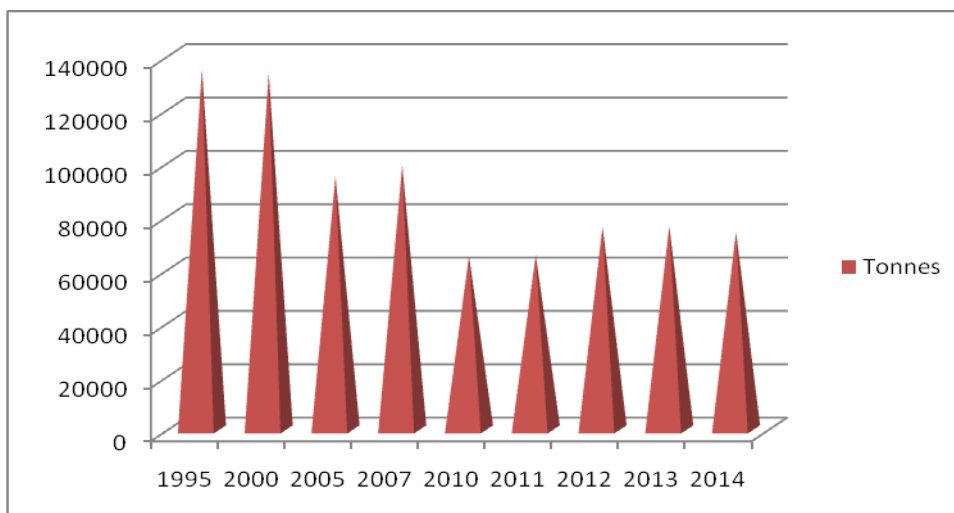


Figure 4. Grape consumption in Romania between 1995 and 2014

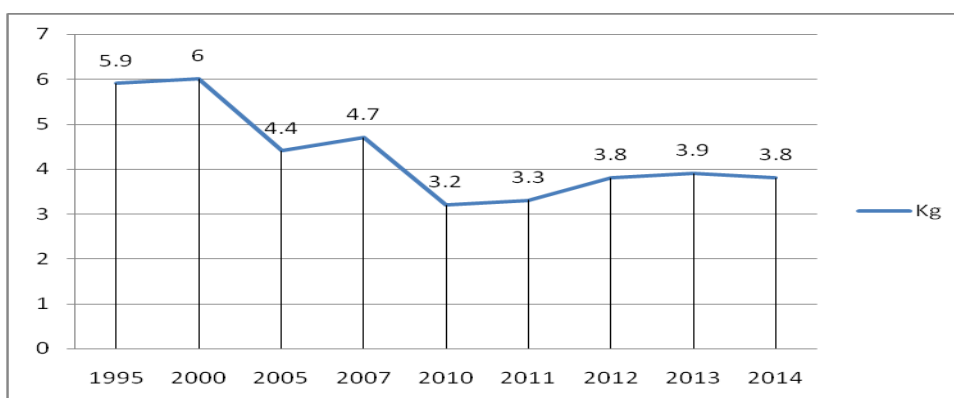


Figure 5. Grape consumption per capita in Romania between 1995 and 2014

### CONCLUSIONS

- Compared to 1990, in 2016 table grape production decreased with over 70% mainly because of the decrease with 73% of the areas cultivated with table grape cultivars.
- Compared to 2000, imports increased over seven times reaching, in 2014, almost 30,000 t.
- As far as exports are concerned, they decreased very much from 61,800 t in 1980 to only 317 t in 2014.
- The same decreasing trend was also in grape consumption: compared to 1995, it decreased with over 45%, from 5.9 kg/capita to only 3.8 kg/capita in 2014.

### REFERENCES

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