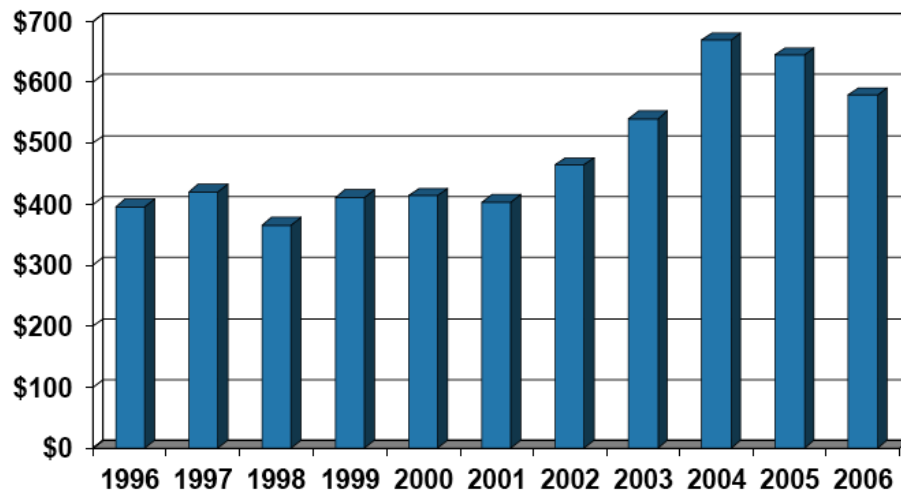


## Air Cargo and California's Agricultural Exports

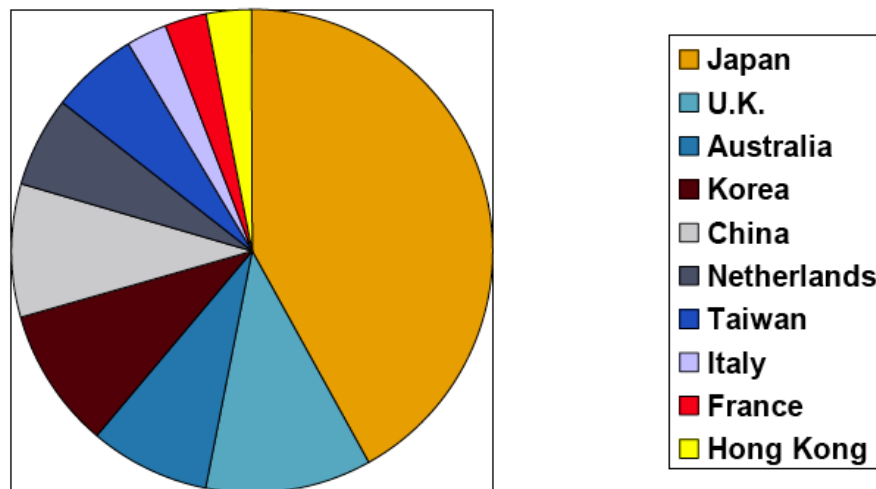
Air cargo is usually associated with very high value commodities, or with emergency delivery of products when the surface modes break down. California's agricultural export business demonstrates a field in which the availability of air freight significantly enhances the value of a product. It allows fresh produce to be delivered to distant markets while it is still at its peak of value.



**Figure 1:** California's Airborne Agricultural Import (Billions of Dollars)

Airborne agricultural exports from California have grown steadily over the past eleven years. In inflation adjusted terms the value of this trade grew by nearly 25 percent during this eleven-year period.

Much of the market for airborne agricultural products is in Japan, but the United Kingdom, Australia, and Italy also figure strongly into the mix (Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** Top Destinations for Air Freighted Agricultural Products from California

The products that leave California by air range from live horses to fresh produce and seeds (Figure 3).

- Food Preparations NESOI (\$105.3 million)
- Seeds for Sowing Vegetables (\$82.2 million)
- Fresh Cherries (\$73.1 million)
- Fresh Strawberries (\$35.8 million)
- Purebred Breeding Animals (\$26.4 million)
- Fresh Grapes (\$22.1 million)
- Asparagus (\$19.0 million)
- Seeds for Sowing Flowers (\$17.7 million)
- Bovine Semen (\$15.9 million)
- Wine (14.8 million)
- Fruit Seeds for Sowing (\$12.4 million)
- Lettuce (\$9.5 million)
- Onions and Shallots (\$8.8 million)
- Live Horses (\$8.6 million)
- Fresh Miscellaneous Berries (7.9 million)
- Fresh Fruit NESOI (\$7.6 million)
- Peaches and Nectarines (\$6.9 million)
- Fresh Tomatoes (\$4.7 million)
- Chicory (\$3.8 million)
- Guavas and Mangoes (\$1.9 million)

**Figure 3:** Top Airborne Agricultural Exports over a Three-Year-Average Period

While air moves only a small part of the total California agricultural exports (between five and seven percent), without air, this highly specialized portion of the market would likely not exist.

*Source: O'Connell and Mason*