more than 90 percent of its agricultural exports and almost 80 percent of its total exports.

This export dependency on a single commodity made Palestine vulnerable to the price fluctuations of the world market for citrus. The extent of this vulnerability can also be seen from the share of citrus in the total wage labor and national income of Palestine: According to one estimate, the former was 7 or 8 percent and the latter about 10 percent.[33]

The export dependency on a single commodity was aggravated by its dependency on one country, the United Kingdom. Between 1920-1921 and 1939-1940, excluding 1925-1926, nearly 70 percent of all citrus exports went to the United Kingdom (see Table 4.5). These dependencies were to prove disastrous after the 1936-1937 season when prices and profits declined sharply.

The increase in the output and export of citrus in the 1930s was not confined to Palestine, although it had the highest rate of increase, but included other citrus-growing countries, most notably Spain, Italy, the United States, South Africa, and Brazil.[34] This increase in supply had a worldwide impact in the lowering of citrus prices. However, Palestine in its competition for markets with other countries had peculiar disadvantages stemming from its Mandate status.

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[33]Nathan et al., 209.

[34]Horowitz and Hinden, 67.