

Arabica: A busy week for Brazilian coffee producers. The window of opportunity is wide open, and buyers were able to meet asking prices, resulting in a good volume and coffee flow. Local prices rose rapidly, reaching favorable levels even for forward contracts. However, a significant amount of coffee remains in the hands of producers.

Conilon: The market remains robust and resilient due to continuous demand. While current crop trades have eased off slightly, most of the reported business activity revolves around new crop as local prices continue to climb. Harvest is expected to begin soon in the Conilon-growing areas and increase its pace in the coming days.

COLOMBIA

It has been relatively quiet in Colombia during the “in between” crops period but things are about to change with the Mitaca crop ready to start. Shortage of available parchment is keeping differentials steady. It’s a common saying in Colombia that the coffee will begin to flow down from the mountains just after Easter, and this might be the case for 2024 as well. Mitaca is expected to show some deterioration in quality, but this might only affect the lower elevation regions. It is still too early to tell, but based on how the Mitaca develops, there is a possibility that we might have the Mitaca overlapping with the main crop towards the end of the year. On the weather front, El Niño's transition to neutrality and then to La Niña is behaving as expected. By May/June, it is expected to be neutral, with July marking the beginning of La Niña.

BURUNDI

Coffee harvest season has begun. The official price for cherries has been announced and is 8% higher than last season. Meanwhile fuel shortages persist, disrupting economic activities and the local currency continues to depreciate.

ETHIOPIA

The NY market rally has incentivized sales and improved coffee flow. Several local collectors (Akrabis) have started to increase prices. This is making most traders take a conservative approach while prices settle down. The Coffee and Tea Authority (CTA) has released its eight month export report, and so far Ethiopia’s coffee export value has dropped 9% compared to the same period last season. On the weather front moderate rainfall is expected over central and south-western regions in the days ahead.

TANZANIA

It’s relatively quiet for both Robusta and Arabica in this off season. The TCB (Tanzania Coffee Board) announced last week that there will be structural changes to the way that arabica is auctioned. The announcement included a new format of 'parchment auctions'. The announcement left more questions than answers, as no further details have been provided yet.