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**Report Highlights:**

In 2022, the European Union (EU)-27 imported \$6.8 billion in tree nuts from the world. The EU remains a net importer of tree nuts for all products since demand highly exceeds domestic production. The United States is the largest EU-27 tree nuts supplier, accounting for 39 percent of total imports, with \$2.67 billion, up 7 percent compared to the previous year, despite total import value decreasing 4 percent from 2021. Greater awareness of the health benefits of tree nuts continues to increase consumer demand year-round, although inflation and price sensitive markets may have an impact on high value products such as tree nuts. However, manufacturers are developing creative products and packaging to attract new and traditional consumers.

## **Executive Summary**

### **The EU Continues to be a Key Trading Partner for U.S. Tree Nuts**

In 2022, the European Union (EU)-27 imported \$6.8 billion in tree nuts from the world. The United States, with \$2.67 billion, is the largest EU-27 tree nuts supplier, accounting for 39 percent of total imports. Turkey is the second largest supplier with almost 20 percent of imports, mainly hazelnuts, followed by Vietnam (cashews) and Chile (walnuts). U.S. almonds (both in-shell and shelled) totaled \$1.27 billion, followed by pistachios with \$787 million and walnuts with almost \$477 million. Within the EU, the most significant importers of U.S. tree nuts are Germany, Spain, and Italy.

### **The Food Processing and Snack Industry Remain the Most Significant Buyers**

The growing popularity of healthier snacking and eating habits among European consumers continues to encourage consumption of nuts, both tree nuts and ground nuts. Nuts also continue to be a strong part of traditions, mainly at Christmas. Many consumers perceive nuts as having health benefits and increasingly include them in their diets. The desire for general health and wellbeing, the increasing interest in plant-based diets (vegan and vegetarian) – along with the publication of scientific studies highlighting the benefits of nut consumption – continue fueling demand for these products.

Tree nuts consumption has been affected by the current economic situation, namely financial instability and inflation. As a result, purchase decisions could be affected in favor of staple food products or cheaper options, particularly in more price-sensitive countries. However, the consumption forecasts show some positive results, as this market has high potential, with the products' high nutritional value increasing the attractiveness to consumers. In fact, measures are already being taken to avoid passing on all expense increases to consumers, with companies assuming part of the costs, while reducing their own margins, so that this economic situation affects demand as little as possible. In addition, companies are investing in the efficiency and improvement of production processes to continue being competitive. Despite the uncertainty, the sector has the potential to grow, a fact that brings optimism to the companies that operate in it and, therefore, maintain their investment plans, while continuing to invest in innovation.

The snacking industry continues to work to satisfy the evolving demands and consumer preferences, offering consumers new products and ways to consume nuts. Characteristics that meet the demands of health, pleasure and convenience have led the evolution of tree nuts in recent years. Greater interest in raw (unroasted and with no added salt), natural, and organic products were some of the clearest trends. In addition, consumers are paying more attention to sustainability and responsible consumption. More eco-friendly production, packaging, and distribution are becoming more popular amongst European consumers, particularly in the northern countries.

### **Expanding Business in the EU Market**

Trade shows are an excellent opportunity to get to know the market and to meet potential importers. Some of Europe's leading trade shows are:

### USDA-Endorsed Trade Shows

<a href="#">ANUGA</a>	October 7-11, 2023	Cologne, Germany
<a href="#">Biofach</a>	February 13-16, 2023	Nuremberg, Germany
<a href="#">Fruit Logistica</a>	February 7-9, 2024	Berlin, Germany
<a href="#">SIAL</a>	October 19-23, 2024	Paris, France

### Other Relevant (Non-Endorsed) Trade Shows

<a href="#">Food Ingredients</a>	November 28-30, 2023	Frankfurt, Germany
<a href="#">Alimentaria</a>	March 18-21, 2024	Barcelona, Spain
<a href="#">PLMA</a>	May 28-29, 2024	Amsterdam, Netherlands
<a href="#">Snackex</a>	June 19-20, 2024	Stockholm, Sweden

New-to-market exporters interested in getting a better understanding of EU food regulations and market opportunities are encouraged to reference the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) reports and Exporter Guides produced by our [EU FAS Offices](#).

### **U.S. Cooperators Active in the EU Market**

Trade associations like the [Almond Board of California](#), [American Pistachio Growers](#), and the [California Walnut Commission](#) continue to develop strategies for the EU market. These trade associations, in cooperation with FAS offices, work actively to further develop the market for U.S. tree nuts.

### **Almonds, Shelled Basis**

#### **Production**

The EU-27 is the single largest export region for California almonds, with Spain as the leading European importer. In 2022, the EU-27 represented 32 percent of California's total almond exports.

Spain is the EU-27's largest producer of almonds. For Marketing Year (MY) 2023/24, the latest official forecast published by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ([MAPA](#)) estimates a production of 102,121 metric tons (MT) (shelled basis). The nut production table estimates a higher result to reach 120,633 MT. In 2022, the total area in Spain planted with almond trees was 761,662 hectares (HA), of which 634,292 are in production. Of the area in production, 535,6445 correspond to non-irrigated and 98,649 HA to irrigated production. The organic production area exceeds 100,000 hectares, which represents almost 20 percent of the total productive area.

The estimated production for the current campaign is close to 50 percent above the average of the last three years, and this is partly due to the entry in production of more than 16,000 new hectares. The new hectares are mainly irrigated in the regions of Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha and Andalusia, which have partially mitigated the negative impact of the current adverse weather episodes and the long period of drought that the main producing areas are suffering, with a higher incidence in non-irrigated orchards.

Italy is the second largest EU-27 almond producer after Spain. Sicily and Puglia are the main almond-producing areas, accounting together for approximately 97 percent of total supply. Tuono, Genco, and Lauranne are the leading varieties grown in the country. Italy's MY 2023/24 almond production is

forecast to decrease from the previous season, mainly due to the summer drought that affected Sicily. Quality is expected to be good.

Currently, Italian farmers are facing some challenges, such as high production costs, which results in farmers sometimes preferring to leave the fruit on the plant rather than harvesting, as well as strong competition from California.

**Table 1. Major EU Almond Producers by Volume in MT (Shelled Basis)**

COUNTRY	MY 2021/22	MY 2022/23	MY 2023/24
Spain	112,564	60,455	102,121
Italy	19,338	20,140	18,900

Source: FAS Europe Offices

## Trade

### Imports

Tree nut imports are crucial for EU consumers. Traditionally, consumers prefer locally grown products mainly due to consumer loyalty and habits. However, EU consumption of nuts is higher than production, generating an increase in both domestic production and in imports. In MY 2021/22, the United States was the main almond supplier for European importers. U.S. almonds face competition from Australia and locally grown almonds, mainly originating in Spain. By volume, the main EU destinations for U.S. almonds were Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands. Many countries import large quantities of almonds destined both for domestic consumption and re-export markets, as well as for the food and snack industry.

**Table 2. EU-27 Imports of Almonds by Origin in MT (Shelled Basis)**

Country of origin	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22	MY2022/23
United States	272,063	272,039	260,792
Australia	16,320	14,538	18,405
United Kingdom	4,890	1,241	835
Morocco	958	724	749
Vietnam	30	15	682
Other	3,524	3,025	2,760
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>297,785</b>	<b>291,582</b>	<b>284,223</b>

Source: [TDM](#)

### Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 almonds in MY 2021/22 were the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Turkey. The largest EU almond exporter is Spain, whose main customers are mainly other EU Member States.

**Table 3. EU-27 Exports of Almonds by Destination in MT (Shelled Basis)**

Country of origin	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22	MY2022/23
United Kingdom	8,538	4,440	3,856
Switzerland	3,236	3,080	3,057
Turkey	619	2,943	3,006
United States	2,602	2,199	1,492
Egypt	448	865	1,192
Other	7,414	7,604	7,107
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>22,857</b>	<b>21,131</b>	<b>19,710</b>

Source: [TDM](#)**Table 4: Almonds Production, Supply and Distribution Data Statistics**

Almonds, Shelled Basis Market Year Begins	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Aug 2021		Aug 2022		Aug 2023	
European Union	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	0	903,890	0	909,331	0	886,246
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	0	760,079	0	779,624	0	756,757
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (MT)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	18,000
Production (MT)	137,500	153,927	105,000	107,157	0	147,641
Imports (MT)	293,800	291,582	310,000	284,223	0	280,000
Total Supply (MT)	449,300	463,509	433,000	409,380	0	445,641
Exports (MT)	21,100	21,131	21,000	19,710	0	20,000
Dom. Consumption (MT)	410,200	424,378	394,000	371,670	0	407,641
Ending Stocks (MT)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	18,000
Total Distribution (MT)	449,300	463,509	433,000	409,380	0	445,641

(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)

Not official USDA data. Sources: Trade for MY 2020/21 and 2021/22: Trade Data Monitor, LLC (TDM);

All other: FAS EU posts

## Walnuts, In-shell Basis

### Production and Crop Area

Romania is the largest walnut producer in the European Union. Most Romanian walnut trees are owned by small farmers, but there is an increasing commercial interest in walnut production. The number of walnut trees has been growing steadily from 1.9 million in 2018 to 2.35 million trees in 2022. In the upcoming years the number of productive trees is expected to grow, due to earlier plantings encouraged by the EU subsidies for fruit trees. Due to dry conditions in some areas, the size of the fruits is smaller than average. In terms of walnut production, Romania is expected to harvest a volume of 54,500 MT in 2023, 1.5 percent lower than in 2022.

Walnuts are very popular in Romania and are generally consumed as snacks, plain, or in mixes, raw or processed, and as ingredients in baking. Local walnut-processing companies improved their presence on the retail shelves. Over the past few years, the investments in innovative packaging, sorting, and

labelling have increased in order to capture the attention of consumers searching for healthy snack alternatives. Although still a small share, the organic walnuts are gaining popularity among consumers.

France has an average annual output of 38,000 tons, with production concentrated in southern France, in the Rhône-Alpes, Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrénées regions. The French walnut grove has become the second largest orchard in France in terms of surface area. Along with kiwifruit, these are the only two fruit crops whose surface area has increased in 10 years.

The 2022 French harvest is exceptional (50,660 tons), up 34 percent on 2021 and 40 percent on the five-year average (source Agreste, Agriculture Ministry data). As a result of successive droughts and hot spells, most of the harvested sizes are small, particularly in the South-East basin. However, the lack of water is having a beneficial effect on product quality, limiting the pressure exerted by pests and diseases.

Large stocks of quality walnuts are lying idle on farms and cooperatives, which will have to vacate their cold stores before the summer fruit harvest. While the increase in production can theoretically compensate for the drop in prices paid to growers, there is still a need to sell more. Consumers have reduced their purchases by 20 percent during the 2022 autumn-winter season, and the same goes for supermarkets and hypermarkets, due to the fall in household purchasing power.

After a large harvest in 2022 in France and around the world, combined with a saturated market and low consumption, the South-West walnut industry is going through an unprecedented crisis. Prices of around €1/kg are well below the cost of production (€2.53/kg in 2021). Finally, the size of the 2022 harvest is causing major storage problems, in a context of high energy prices. For 2023, both area and production figures are expected down, close to 10 percent down and 30 percent down respectively. Sales of walnuts worldwide have been plummeting in recent months. Most French producers have not sold their entire or in extreme cases any of their 2022 harvest. In Corrèze, in the heart of the Noix du Périgord PDO zone, some producers have decided to uproot their walnut trees to grow something else. Furthermore, the weather in the South of France has alternated between heatwaves and heavy rain and has impacted production to some extent; yields are expected higher than in 2021 though.

In Spain, the main walnut growing regions are Andalucía, Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha, and the Valencia region. As of the date of this report, MAPA has not yet published the official walnut production data for MY 2023/24. If weather conditions remain favorable, Post expects a production of 17,000 MT for the current MY.

Italy lost its walnut market leadership a few decades ago and now is a leading importer, mainly from the United States. Since farmers generally grow walnut trees for both timber and nuts, nut yields and quality have suffered. Leading walnut producing regions in Northern Italy are Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, and Piemonte, where farmers have established efficient and profitable orchards planted with Lara and Chandler varieties. In the South, most walnuts are cultivated in the Campania region, where the main varieties are Sorrento, Malizia, and Chandler. Italy's MY 2023/24 walnut production is forecast to decrease from the previous season due to heavy rains during flowering in May. Moreover, the floods that hit Emilia-Romagna in May and recent hailstorms in Veneto and Emilia-Romagna contributed to lower volumes. Quality is expected to be good. Calibers are expected to be smaller.

**Table 5. Major EU Walnut Producers in MT (In-shell Basis)**

COUNTRY	MY 2021/22	MY 2022/23	MY 2023/24
Romania	56,300	55,300	54,500
France	37,700	50,660	41,500
Spain	18,883	17,200	17,000
Italy	14,656	21,868	18,000

Source: FAS Europe Offices

## Trade

### Imports

The wide gap between EU walnut production and imports provides excellent opportunities for walnut exporters. The EU imports various types of nuts for direct consumption as well as for further processing and re-export within the region in different forms, such as salted, baked, fried, or mixed with other nuts. The main competitor of U.S. walnuts, other than local production, is Chile (off season).

**Table 6. EU-27 Imports of Walnuts by Origin in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of origin	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY2021/22
United States	148,898	157,326	175,999
Chile	55,032	59,530	63,266
Ukraine	36,537	38,764	41,301
China	9,841	11,835	22,312
Moldova	23,270	13,992	9,286
Other	13,754	11,529	12,222
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>287,332</b>	<b>292,976</b>	<b>324,386</b>

Source: [TDM](#)

### Exports

EU-27 walnut exports are very limited. The top destinations for EU-27 walnuts in MY 2021/22 were the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Moldova.

**Table 7. EU-27 Exports of Walnuts by Destination in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of origin	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY2021/22
United Kingdom	7,640	7,151	5,542
Switzerland	3,580	3,794	3,846
Moldova	3,005	3,030	1,982
Turkey	699	159	768
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,025	370	581
Other	4,317	3,103	3,248
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>20,266</b>	<b>17,607</b>	<b>15,967</b>

Source: [TDM](#)

**Table 8: Walnuts Production, Supply and Distribution Data Statistics**

Walnuts, Inshell Basis Market Year Begins	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Sept 2021		Sept 2022		Sept 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
European Union						
Area Planted (HECTARES)	0	72,659	0	70,906	0	69,656
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	0	60,075	0	60,791	0	59,541
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (MT)	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000
Production (MT)	146,000	144,012	146,000	162,588	0	148,300
Imports (MT)	320,000	324,386	325,000	275,000	0	290,000
Total Supply (MT)	506,000	508,398	511,000	477,588	0	478,300
Exports (MT)	16,200	15,967	17,000	18,000	0	19,000
Dom. Consumption (MT)	449,800	452,431	454,000	419,588	0	419,300
Ending Stocks (MT)	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000
Total Distribution (MT)	506,000	508,398	511,000	477,588	0	478,300

Not official USDA data. Sources: Trade for MY 2020/21 and 2021/22: Trade Data Monitor, LLC (TDM);  
All other: FAS EU posts

## Pistachios, In-shell Basis

### Production

Pistachio is a traditional crop in Italy, especially in the Sicily region (Bronte area), which accounts for approximately 90 percent of total supply. In recent years, pistachio production has slightly expanded to other areas in Sicily and Basilicata, where newer and input-intensive orchards have been planted. Bianca (also called Napoletana) is the main pistachio variety grown in the country and is normally harvested in September. Since 2004, pistachio from Bronte has been awarded by the European Commission as a PDO (Protected Designation of Origin), distinguishing it from all other pistachio varieties worldwide. Pistachio tree production is cyclical, bearing heavily in alternate years. Therefore, after the lower MY 2022/23 campaign, MY 2023/24 will be a higher bearing year. Quality is expected to be excellent.

**Table 9. Italy Pistachio Production by Volume in MT (In-Shell Basis)**

COUNTRY	MY 2021/22	MY 2022/23	MY 2023/24
Spain	16,725	19,889	23,000
Italy	3,000	900	3,000

Source: FAS Europe Offices

The pistachio area in Spain continues to expand rapidly. The next five years will be key for the Spanish pistachio sector with the vast majority of the planted area coming into production, as stated in the study prepared by a panel of experts from PistachoPro based on data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. From 2014 to 2021, Spanish pistachio planted area increased by 370 percent and production jumped by 313 percent, bringing total production to 16,725 MT in 2021. Over the last decade, its market potential and profitability has encouraged the planting of more trees. The turning



point occurred in 2015, when the pace of pistachio area accelerated with more than 4,000 new hectares each year.

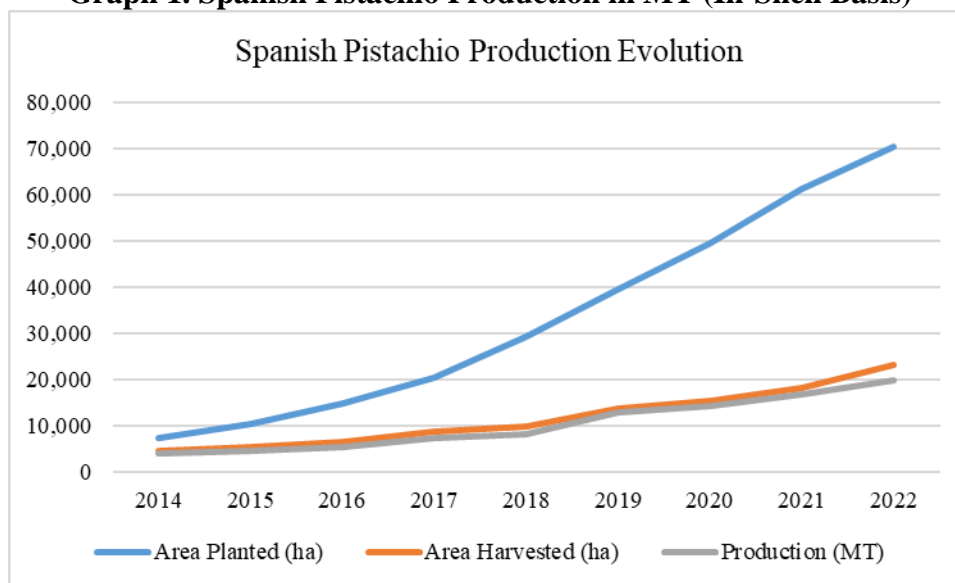
**Table 10. Spain Pistachio Production in MT (In-Shell Basis)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Area Planted (ha)	7,334	10,529	14,974	20,415	29,235	39,456	49,534	61,231	70,235
Area Harvested (ha)	4,617	5,362	6,467	8,802	9,930	13,815	15,427	18,112	23,264
Production (MT)	4,052	4,764	5,618	7,545	8,210	13,106	14,337	16,725	19,889

Source: [MAPA](#)

Pistachios have become an investment opportunity not only for farmers but also for investment funds and companies. Planted area continues to increase at double digit rates. Despite the fast growth in production, demand still greatly exceeds supply and imports are necessary to meet demand. The strong domestic demand, the ideal weather conditions for its cultivation in Spain, as well as higher margins than other traditional crops, make pistachios an attractive crop for investment.

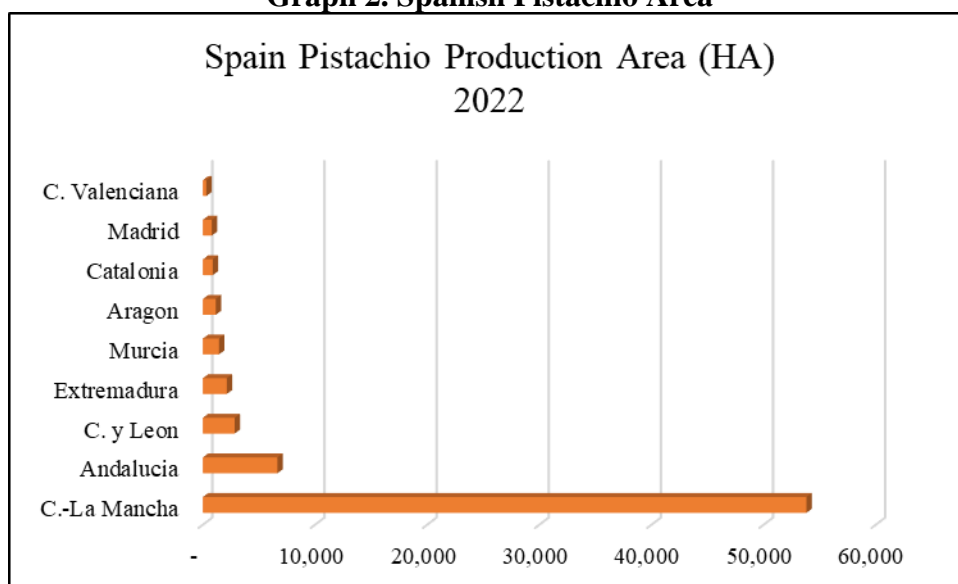
**Graph 1. Spanish Pistachio Production in MT (In-Shell Basis)**



Source: [MAPA](#)

The crop adapts well to extreme climates and grows well in inland regions such as Castile-La Mancha, which currently comprises 76 percent of Spain's pistachio planted area.

**Graph 2. Spanish Pistachio Area**



Source: [MAPA](#)

## Trade

### Imports

Due to its very limited production and the high demand, the EU pistachio trade balance remains negative, which results in significant imports from the United States and Iran, who together account for 93 percent of total imports. However, the quality and reliability of U.S. pistachios are appreciated assets, making it the chief source of EU imports. In recent years, Morocco has continued to increase their market share, but is still very far from the main two origins.

**Table 11. EU-27 Imports of Pistachios by Origin in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of origin	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY2021/22
United States	75,021	78,173	87,485
Iran	22,793	32,792	19,825
Turkey	2,993	9,094	12,279
Syria	126	454	541
Other	1,180	1,352	1,021
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>102,113</b>	<b>121,865</b>	<b>121,151</b>

Source: [TDM](#)

### Exports

EU-27 exports of pistachios are very limited. The main destination for EU-27 pistachios in MY 2021/22 was Morocco.

**Table 12. EU-27 Exports of Pistachios by Destination in MT (Inshell Basis)**

Country of origin	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY2021/22
United Kingdom	2,959	2,796	1,654
Switzerland	312	347	401
Turkey	0	4	269
Morocco	112	450	203
Other	706	1,105	1,125
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS</b>	<b>4,089</b>	<b>4,702</b>	<b>3,652</b>

Source: [TDM](#)

**Table 13: Pistachios Production, Supply and Distribution Data Statistics**

Pistachios, Inshell Basis Market Year Begins	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Sept 2021		Sept 2022		Sept 2023	
European Union	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HECTARES)	0	74,173	0	83,210	0	88,100
Area Harvested (HECTARES)	0	30,474	0	35,652	0	40,510
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total No. Of Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (MT)	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
Production (MT)	24,815	24,795	23,940	25,839	0	31,000
Imports (MT)	121,200	121,151	135,000	110,000	0	120,000
Total Supply (MT)	147,515	147,446	160,440	137,339	0	152,500
Exports (MT)	3,100	3,652	3,000	4,500	0	4,000
Dom. Consumption (MT)	142,915	142,294	155,940	131,339	0	147,000
Ending Stocks (MT)	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
Total Distribution (MT)	147,515	147,446	160,440	137,339	0	152,500

(HECTARES) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)

Not official USDA data. Sources: Trade for MY 2020/21 and 2021/22: Trade Data Monitor, LLC (TDM);  
All other: FAS EU posts

## Policy

### Aflatoxin Certification for Tree Nuts

Aflatoxin certification is an import instrument for U.S. exporters of almonds and pistachios to the EU. Information on the product specific programs is available from the respective commodity groups as well as from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service ([AMS](#)).

### Almonds

At the request of the [Almond Board of California \(ABC\)](#), AMS administers a program for aflatoxin testing of almonds destined for export to the European Union (EU) through the [Pre-Export Certification program of ABC](#). For information on aflatoxin certification on almonds, please go to the links below:

- [Almond Board of California \(ABC\)](#)
- [USDA-AMS Laboratory Approval Service – Aflatoxin Program](#)

## Pistachios

At the request of the [Administrative Committee for Pistachios](#) (ACP), AMS administers a program for aflatoxins and ochratoxin A testing of pistachios destined for EU through the [Pistachio Export Aflatoxin Reporting \(PEAR\)](#) Program.

AMS administers mandatory domestic aflatoxin requirements for pistachio nuts under *Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico* ([7 CFR Part 983](#)) and administers mandatory import requirements for pistachio nuts under *Specialty Crops; Import Regulations* ([7 CFR Part 999, Section 999.600](#)). The regulations require domestic and import shipments of pistachios intended for human consumption to be tested for aflatoxin contamination by a USDA or USDA-approved lab.

For information on aflatoxin certification on pistachios, please go to the links below:

- [Administrative Committee for Pistachios \(ACP\)](#)
- [USDA-AMS Technical Services – Pistachio Aflatoxin Program](#)

## EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin

Official controls are carried out by the competent authorities in the EU countries to verify business compliance with the requirements set out in agri-food chain legislation. [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017](#) is the framework regulation setting common rules for carrying out these official controls. The scope of the regulation does not only cover food and feed safety throughout production, processing and distribution, but also covers plant health and plant protection, animal health and welfare, and organic production and labeling rules. Official controls can take place at all stages of marketing. The regulation also covers official controls on imports. A subsequent [Commission notice on the implementation of Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(Official Controls Regulation\) 2022/C 467/02](#) compiles further clarifications and best practices in order to contribute to a harmonized understanding and application of the provisions by Member States' competent authorities and stakeholders.

## EU Controls on Almonds

Almonds fall under Pre-Export Checks regime. [Regulation \(EU\) 2015/949](#) approves the pre-export checks carried out on certain food by certain third countries regarding the presence of certain mycotoxins.

This regime is in place if a third country's control system is accepted under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/949. For the accepted product/origin combinations, the regulation requires that import authorities subject the consignments to less than a one percent physical control level at the border if they are accompanied by the appropriate pre-export check certificate. This document must be issued by the exporting country's competent authority and include the sampling and laboratory analysis results. This documentation (government-issued certificate plus sampling/analysis data) is not a pre-condition for import. However, in the absence of this documentation, Member States are not required to apply the reduced testing levels upon import. Under this system, there is no charge to the operator for testing and the rejection rates are not specifically tracked or reported.

For more information details, please check GAIN Report “[EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin.](#)”

### **Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for Tree Nuts – Upcoming reviews**

Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticides, including import tolerances, have been harmonized throughout the EU and can be found in the [EU MRL database](#). The following tables provide interested stakeholders with advance notice of active ingredients under review for renewal of approval in the EU and are listed with a U.S. MRL in the [global MRL database](#). For additional information, please consult the FAS/Brussels’ website on [EU Early Alerts](#).

**Upcoming reviews for MRLs:** Article 12 review:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/pesticides-MRL-review-progress-report.pdf>

**Upcoming reviews for active substances:**

<b>Active substance</b>	<b>Expiration date</b>	<b>Last day of application for renewal of the active substance</b>
Fenpicoxamid	10/11/2028	11/10/2025
Isofetamid	09/15/2026	09/15/2023
Oxathiapiprolin	03/03/2027	03/03/2024

### **Maximum Levels for Contaminants in Food**

Maximum levels of aflatoxins (aflatoxins B1, B2, G1, G2 and M1) are laid down in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 165/2010](#). The European Commission’s web page on [contaminants](#) provides further specific information on contaminants in general, and Plant toxins and mycotoxins and [aflatoxins](#) in particular.

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1323](#), amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 introduced maximum levels for Cadmium in certain foodstuffs.

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2022/1370](#), amending Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of ochratoxin A in certain foodstuffs.

## Related Reports

Report Number	Title	Date Released
<a href="#">E42023-0017</a>	European Commission Proposes to Update Marketing Standards for Agricultural Products	05/02/2023
<a href="#">BU2022-0032</a>	Bulgaria Tree Nuts Annual 2022	12/22/2023
<a href="#">E42022-0059</a>	EU-27 Tree Nuts Annual 2022	09/28/2023
<a href="#">E42023-0012</a>	EU Early Alert – Pesticide Review – March 2023	04/19/2023
<a href="#">E42020-0047</a>	Regulatory Levels for Aflatoxins in Tree Nuts and Peanuts	08/13/2020
<a href="#">E42020-0046</a>	EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin	08/11/2020
These reports can be accessed through the <a href="#">FAS GAIN Reports</a> website		

**Disclaimer:** This report presents the situation and outlook for tree nuts (almonds, walnuts, and pistachios) in the EU-27. This report presents the views of the authors and does not reflect the official views of the United States. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The data are not official USDA data.

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Marcel Pinckaers, FAS/The Hague covering The Netherlands  
Gerda Vandercammen and Tania De Belder, FAS/Brussels covering EU policy

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report:

Conversion factors: conversion factor is used to convert shelled to in-shell tree nuts.

Almonds: 0.6  
Walnuts: 2.34  
Pistachios: 2.0

HA hectare; 1 hectare = 2.471 acres

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

EU MS European Union Member State(s)

HS Codes: Harmonized System codes for commodity classification used to calculate trade data.

Almonds: Shelled 080212; In-shell 080211

Walnuts: Shelled 080232; In-shell 080231

Pistachios: In-shell 080251, Shelled 080252 (since January 2012)

### Attachments:

No Attachments