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Spain

Tree Nuts

Annual

2005

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Report Highlights:

The Spanish confectionary and food distribution industries will import California almonds during Marketing Year (MY) 2005/06 and MY 2006/07, but considerably below the record pace set during MY 2004/05. Aflatoxin rejections, resulting in U.S. exporters being put under the Spanish health "alert" system, the application of a new European Community (EC) health regulation in 2006, and domestic producer protectionist inclinations may further influence U.S. exports. (LR40CM2PM4SH10).

Includes PSD Changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Unscheduled Report
Madrid [SP1]
[SP]

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Executive Summary

- We expect Spanish almond imports in MY 2005/06 and MY 2006/07 at about 40,000 metric tons (MT), shelled basis (63,000 MT in MY 2004/05), because we are forecasting a return to more normal weather conditions, almond harvests, and export levels.
- Spanish hazelnut imports will be up in MY 2005/06 at 14,000 MT, in-shell basis (10,000 MT in MY 2004/05), as the hazelnut crop was very negatively affected by drought conditions (for drought reports please see SP5004, SP5013 and SP5024).
- The Spanish application of EC 882/2004, due to come into effect January 1, 2006, has the potential to increase export costs when the detection of aflatoxin in U.S. exports exceeds the EC standard.
- The GOS has proposed a new labeling requirement for almonds and hazelnuts, which appears to favor local producers.
- As a result of Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform, Spanish tree nut producers may receive production subsidies from the EC, Government of Spain (GOS), and Autonomous Regional Governments. Under new requirements put in place at the beginning of Calendar Year (CY) 2005, only farmers with areas exceeding 0.2 hectares can apply for these subsidies. Local producer organizations have asked the GOS to give them an exemption from this requirement, because, they say, many small farmers are going out of business.

Commodity Name: Almonds, Shelled

Production, Supply & Distribution (PSD) Table

PSD Table**Country**
Commodity**Spain**
Almonds, Shelled
Basis(HA)(1000
TREES)(MT)

Market Year Begin	2004/05	Revised	2005	Estimate	2006	Forecast
	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]
	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07	
Area Planted	670	658800	665	660000	0	660000
Area Harvested	650	641700	660	641700	0	641700
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks	8000	8000	1000	5182	0	4182
Production	23000	26182	56000	61000	0	65000
Imports	63000	63000	55000	40000	0	37000
TOTAL SUPPLY	94000	97182	112000	106182	0	106182
Exports	44000	41000	59000	50000	0	51000
Domestic Consumption	49000	51000	51000	52000	0	52000
Ending Stocks	1000	5182	2000	4182	0	3182
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	94000	97182	112000	106182	0	106182

Production**SPAIN: Almond Production Series (1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.)**

MY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Units: 1,000 MT								
Prod. In-shell	280.7	225.2	254.6	299.2	214.4	86.4	201	214.5
Converted to Shelled	85.1	68.2	77.1	90.7	65	26.2	61	65

Sources: In-shell almonds: MAPYA until 2005; FAS Office forecast for 2006 (in-shell production converted to shelled by dividing by 3.3).

SPAIN: 2003/04-05/06 In-shell Almond Production by Region

Region	2003/04 Definite	2004/05 Provisional	2005/06 Estimate	Percent Increase (2004/05 = 100)
C. Valenciana	55.3	25.6	57.7	225.4
Andalucía	48.0	11.8	42.1	366.7
Aragón	30.4	11.4	34.4	302.0
R. de Murcia	26.9	8.5	8.5	100.0
Cataluña	18.0	8.5	16.8	196.7
Castilla-Mancha	12.3	3.7	18.4	500.1
Baleares	11.4	10.0	12.0	120.0
Extremadura	4.3	3.5	3.5	100.0
La Rioja	4.1	1.9	4.5	236.8
All Other	3.7	1.5	3.1	106.7
Total	214.4	86.4	201.0	232.6

SOURCE: MAPYA, "AVANCES" from June 2005.

- Spanish MY 2005/06 almond production will be up relative to previous year levels, due to overall improved weather conditions. Nevertheless, it will be some 4 percent under the previous five-year average, and 17 percent under the previous 10-year one.
- Average almond yields in the current year were only slightly affected (nothing compared to the MY 2004/05 crop) by late January 2005 frosts and the drought. The severe drought has only slightly hampered nut development, because of the crop's relative rusticity and drought-resistance. For more details on this year's weather conditions in Spain, please check SP5004, SP5013 and SP5024.
- Spanish MY 2006/07 production of almonds should be up, provided normal weather conditions during the flowering period.
- Spanish almond orchards are regionally concentrated in Mediterranean regions, namely Andalucía and Valencia. Other significant areas are Murcia, Catalonia, Aragon, the Balearic Islands and Castilla-La Mancha.
- Dominant varieties are Marcona, Largueta, Planeta, Valencia (Comuna) and Mallorca. Only 7 percent of almond orchards are irrigated. Modern orchards tend to be installed with spring flowering varieties to avoid the winter frosts. According to producer sources, the current EU subsidy regime is conducting to an activity abandon by the smaller farmers. For more details on production, please check the Production policy section below.
- Domestic growers are generally grouped into cooperatives which process and market their almonds both domestically and internationally.
- The most significant Spanish almond importer organization is ALMENDRAVE.

Consumption

- Spanish almond consumption may be up in MY 2005, due to a rebound in local production. However, the growth rate of recent years will slow due to the very high level of almond prices, which make walnuts, pistachios, peanuts or hazelnuts a better buy.
- Some 70 to 80 percent of the total almond supply is used by the confectionary industry. Of this total, the bulk is used to manufacture nougat during the months immediately before Christmas. The rest is mostly used to produce un-blanched roasted, and blanched fried almonds, which are marketed in small snack packs.
- The domestic Marcona variety is sold in stores in consumer packages and used to manufacture premium almond brand products, because of the variety's distinctive taste and high oil content.
- Spanish varieties also tend to be favored for the production of snack-type products, especially roasted blanched almonds, due to the easy-to-peel properties of these varieties.
- U.S. almonds tend to be used in other almond products. Due to their uniformity, they tend to be in demand by processors to produce food ingredients, including almond flour, dices and fillets. Processing is trending upwards, due to the local industry's development of EU markets. U.S. almonds are also in demand for the production of sugared almonds.

SPAIN: Almond Wholesale Prices

Average Prices (€ / kg)			
	Period	Shelled Almonds	Shelled Hazelnuts
Lonja de Reus	July 12, 2005	6.49	6.25
Mercabana	July 18-24, 2005	6.80	6.00
	Jan/July Average	6.47	5.70
ALMENDRAVE	Sep 04/July 05	5.40	5.83
	July 2005	6.40	7.00

Trade

General

SPAIN: Almond Imports (Shelled weight basis) (1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.)

Marketing Yr:	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Units: MT							
In-shell	804	1,117	915	576	356	400	250	220
Shelled	32,419	28,038	41,268	48,678	57,988	62,600	39,750	36,780
	33,223	29,155	42,183	49,254	58,344	63,000	40,000	37,000

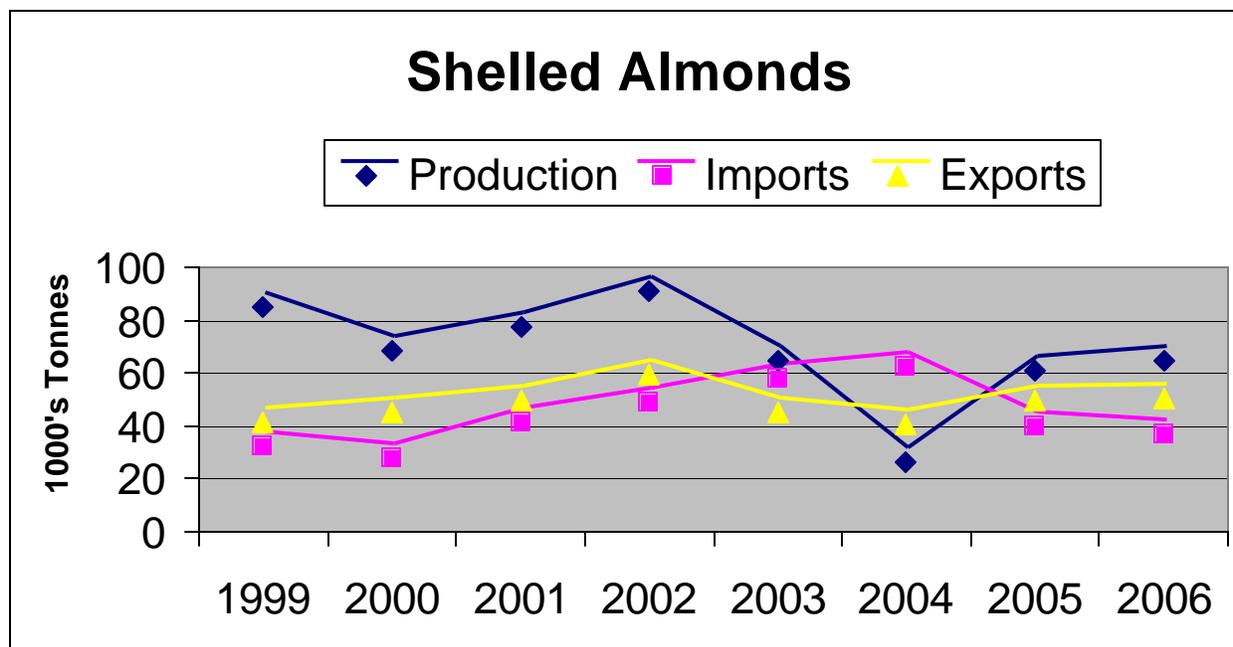
Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA) till 2003/04. FAS Office estimate for remaining period. We converted in-shell imports into shelled basis through use of a 3.30 conversion coefficient.

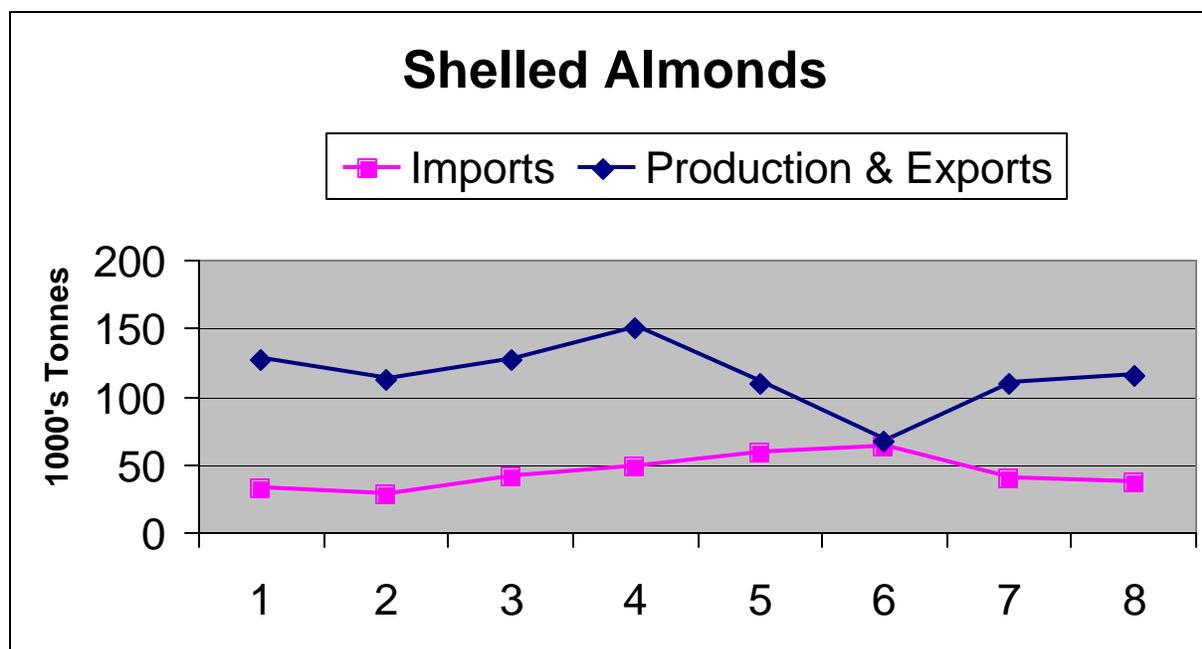
SPAIN: Almond Exports (Shelled weight basis) (1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.)

Marketing Yr:	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Units: MT							
In-shell	754	657	845	657	672	600	750	750
Shelled	41,715	44,768	49,832	59,437	44,850	40,400	49,250	50,250
	42,469	45,425	50,677	60,094	45,522	41,000	50,000	51,000

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA) till 2003/04. FAS Office estimate for remaining period. We converted in-shell imports into shelled basis through use of a 3.30 conversion coefficient.

For charts below: 1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.





- During MY 2005/06, total Spanish almond imports will tend to decline from 2004/05 levels, due to the higher level of the domestic crop;
- Spanish total almond imports will be down again in MY 2006/07 if local production rebounds as anticipated.
- Total almond imports from the U.S. will tend to be down in MY 2005/06, due to the reduction in total quantities imported. The competitiveness of U.S. almonds will depend primarily on the prices of the new harvest. Trade/processor sources report right now there is no almond in Europe, and there are no price quotations for almond from the new crop. Trade sources report that prices of U.S. almond are currently some 30 to 40 percent above price levels a year ago.
- There is no change in Spanish exporting pasterns. Local almonds will continue to be exported primarily into other EU countries during MY 2005/06 and MY 2006/07.

Factors Affecting U.S. Trade

- Level of U.S. almond exports into Spain is a function of domestic production and Spanish almond/products exports (please see "Shelled Almonds" graphs above);
- Regarding the maximum aflatoxin levels set by EC Regulation 466/2001, nuts, including almonds and dried fruit intended for human consumption or as ingredients in foodstuffs, maximum limits allowed are 2 parts per billion (2 PPB), or 2 micrograms/kilogram for aflatoxin B1, and 4 PPB for aflatoxins B1, B2, G1 and G2 combined.

- EC Regulation 466/2001 also determines that nuts and dried fruit with aflatoxin levels up to 5 PPB and 10 PPB may be allowed in, provided the fruit is subject to sorting or another physical treatment before human consumption, or use as ingredient in foodstuffs. The sorting or physical treatment applied must lower the aflatoxin levels down to 2 and 4 PPB limits.
- The Spanish Ministry of Health (MOH) has a surveillance system in place for imports. When sanitary inspectors detect above-limit aflatoxin presence in almond shipments, the shipment is refused entry, and the MOH places the exporter under "alert," which requires aflatoxin testing of all shipments from the same grower or packer.
- MOH requires a minimum of three satisfactory aflatoxin tests before lifting the "alert" on the exporter, or before recommending that the EC lift the EC "alert" on the exporter.
- During MY 2004/05, the MOH has placed U.S. exporters under "alert" 19 times for elevated aflatoxin levels. Each exporter's "alert" status remained in effect until, at least, MOH had tested three shipments with acceptable aflatoxin levels.
- The new EC food safety regulation that will come into effect on January 1, 2006 (EC 882/2004), leaves Member States to decide if and when imported product, that does not meet EU standards, needs to be destroyed. Spanish almond importers have met with Spanish MOH officials to encourage an administrative approach consistent with current practices. Currently, if an almond shipment is found to have an elevated aflatoxin level and is rejected at port by the Autonomous Regional Government MOH inspectors, or is rejected after attempts to bring it into conformity with EC aflatoxin limits, it can be re-exported or returned to the shipper.
- The GOS has recently developed a Royal Decree (RD) proposing to the EC new labeling requirements for almonds and hazelnuts sold at retail. The GOS notified the EC of a proposed RD, and the EC has until August 24 to react. The draft RD proposes that packed almond and hazelnuts to be sold at retail must include the following information on the label:
 - In case of products from Spain: "product grown in Spain and/or Autonomous Community, and/or Province;"
 - For products from other E.U. countries: "product of/from (Member State where produced)"
 - From other origins: "product of/from (country produced)."
- We expect the EC to reject the proposal, because it appears to violate national treatment provisions, including for other Member States.

Trade Matrix

Import Trade Matrix**Country**

Spain

Commodity

Almonds, Shelled Basis

Time Period

Sep/Aug

Units:

MT

Imports for:

2003

2004

U.S.

52309

U.S.

54000

Others

Others

France	3178	Italy	3000
Italy	939	France	2500
Portugal	584	Greece	800
Germany	350	Portugal	500
Greece	101	Germany	200
Other EU-25	309	Other EU-25	400
Chile	347	Chile	600
Australia	185	Australia	100
Total for Others	5993		8100
Others not Listed	42		900
Grand Total	58344		63000

Export Trade Matrix**Country**

Spain

Commodity

Almonds, Shelled Basis

Time Period

Sep/Aug

Units:

MT

Exports for:

2003

2004

U.S.

135

U.S.

400

Others

Others

Germany	16071	Germany	14000
France	6884	France	7300
Italy	6421	Netherlands	4000
Netherlands	3520	Italy	4000
Belgium	2766	Belgium	2500
Portugal	1710	Portugal	1500
U.K.	1509	U.K.	1400
Greece	1232	Poland	900
Other EU-25	2902	Other EU-25	2400
Switzerland	1216	Switzerland	1400
Total for Others	44231		39400
Others not Listed	1156		1200
Grand Total	45522		41000

Policy

Production Policy

- Spanish tree nut production takes place within the legal framework set by the EU common fruit and vegetables policy. This policy encourages the constitution of Producer Organizations (POs) to concentrate and market production. POs can apply to EU co-financing of so-called Operational Programs. These are investment programs designed to increase producer competitiveness and marketing efficiency.
- Up till 2004, tree nut producers were eligible to a special subsidy paid on a hectare-basis, subject to presentation of so-called Improvement Plans on farms. This subsidy was set at € 241.50 per hectare, and was co-financed by the EU, MAPYA and the Autonomy Regions. In addition to almonds, this regime applies to hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios and carob.
- In 2005, new dispositions concerning the tree nut subsidy regime, which were approved under the 2003 CAP Reform, came into force. Level of individual farmer subsidy remained unchanged, and subsidy payments continued to be co-financed by the EU, Spanish Central Government and Autonomies.
- However, farmers now must apply individually and not through the OP, even if OP membership remains a condition for subsidy access. Further, there is a minimum area restriction for subsidy access, set at 0.2 hectares.
- Producer sources have been complaining at this restriction, especially in the Valencia Community, where tree nuts are produced largely in disadvantaged areas. Farmer sources report that areas in producer subsidy applications in 2005 declined 15 percent in this region relative to previous year levels on account of this restriction. Same sources report that at national level, out of 16,000 ha under Improvement Plans finalized in 2004, only some 2,200 ha were submitted for subsidy in 2005.
- According to Spanish farmer organizations, the new policy could lead to a progressive abandon of tree nuts in less productive regions, and are requesting Spanish authorities to negotiate with the EU a change in this disposition.
- Spain has a Maximum Guaranteed Area (MGA) for tree nuts of 568,000 hectares, of which 167,000 ha in the Valenciana Community (800,000 hectares in total EU) in over 252,000 farms. This MGA includes almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios and carobs.

Tariffs

- Spanish almond imports are subject to payment of an *ad valorem* duty. For tariffs currently in effect, please check the table below.
- Almonds sold in Spain are subject to a 7 percent VAT.

SPAIN: Almond Import Tariffs

	Duty (Percent)	
	2004	2005
0802.11.90	5.6 (1)	5.6 (1)
0802.12.90	3.5 (1)	3.5 (1)

(1) There is a WTO tariff rate quota for the EU of 90,000 MT/year, under which third-country almonds can be brought into the EU at a 2 percent tariff.

Marketing

- According to almond consumption trends outlined in the Consumption section above, Spain offers attractive marketing opportunities for US. Almonds.
- These opportunities could expand over the medium-term, if more farmers abandon the activity, as suggested by recent producer reports.
- Almond importers/users are concentrated in three important industries:
 - Roasters for the production of almond and hazelnut snacks, generally in packs;
 - Candy producers, who make nougat, marzipan, ice-cream and chocolate products;
 - Bakers.
- For current price information, please check the statistical section in report.
- For additional information to target the Spanish market, please contact the following:

Office of Agricultural Affairs
 U.S. Embassy, Madrid
 Telf.: + 34-91- 587 2555
 Fax: + 34-91 587 2556
 E-Mail: Agiberia@usda.gov

Commodity Name: Hazelnuts, In-Shell Basis

Production, Supply & Distribution Table

PSD Table**Country
Commodity****Spain
Filberts, Inshell
Basis**(HA)(1000
TREES)(MT)

	2004 USDA Official [Old]	Revised Post Estimate [New]	2005 USDA Official [Old]	Estimate Post Estimate [New]	2006 USDA Official [Old]	Forecast Post Estimate [New]
Market Year Begin		09-2004		09-2005		09-2006
Area Planted	23	26000	23	26000	0	26000
Area Harvested	21	21600	21	21600	0	21600
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks	5000	5000	1000	4200	0	3400
Production	9000	25700	24000	18200	0	20000
Imports	14000	10000	14000	14000	0	13000
TOTAL SUPPLY	28000	40700	39000	36400	0	36400
Exports	7000	10500	12000	6000	0	6500
Domestic Consumption	20000	26000	25000	27000	0	28000
Ending Stocks	1000	4200	2000	3400	0	1900
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	28000	40700	39000	36400	0	36400

Production**SPAIN: Hazelnut Production Series (1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.)**

MY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Units: 1,000 MT							
Production - In-shell	29.8	25.2	26.7	22.8	12.6	25.7	18.2	20.0

Sources: MAPYA until 2004. FAS Office estimates for 2005 and 2006.

SPAIN: In-shell Almond Production

Region	2003/04 Definite	2004/05 Provisional	2005/06 Estimate	Percent Increase (2004/05 = 100)
Cataluña	11.7	25.2	17.5	69.6
All Other	0.9	0.5	0.7	40.0
Total	12.6	25.7	18.2	70.9

SOURCE: MAPYA, "AVANCES" from June 2005.

- Spanish MY 2005/06 hazelnut production will be down drastically from previous year levels, due to the effects of the drought;
- We expect the 2006/07 harvest to recover, provided normal precipitation levels in the Spring and Summer months of 2006;
- Spanish MY 2006/07 hazelnut production could be hampered if significant numbers of hazelnut trees were affected by drought stress.
- Catalonia accounts for some 93 percent of total Spanish hazelnut areas, with the Tarragona province representing some 88 percent of the Catalonia total. The main cultivated variety is "Negreta," which is grown nearly 80 percent of the area. Some 60 percent of Spain's hazelnut orchard area is under irrigation.

Consumption

- Domestic hazelnut consumption should be up in 2005/06, due to the popularity of the "Mediterranean diet," as well as in tree nut processing activity. For more details, please check the same section under "Almonds."
- Some 60 to 70 percent of locally used hazelnuts are consumed by the confectionary and chocolate industries. The rest is generally marketed in snack packs.

Trade

General

SPAIN: Hazelnut Imports (In-shell weight basis) (1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.)

MY	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Units: MT								
In-shell	1,374	927	1,000	884	1,060	1,000	1,400	1,300
Shelled	9,212	7,682	12,237	12,560	12,736	9,000	12,600	11,700
	10,586	8,609	13,237	13,444	13,796	10,000	14,000	13,000

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA) till 2003/04. FAS Office estimate for remaining period. We converted shelled imports into in-shell basis through use of a 2.03 conversion coefficient.

SPAIN: Hazelnut Exports (In-shell weight basis) (1999 = MY 1999/2000, etc.)

MY:	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Units: MT								
In-shell	251	72	165	267	215	1,050	600	650
Shelled	13,049	9,435	6,778	10,203	6,943	9,450	5,400	5,850
	13,300	9,507	6,943	10,470	7,158	10,500	6,000	6,500

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA) till 2003/04. FAS Office estimate for remaining period. We converted shelled imports into in-shell basis through use of a 2.03 conversion coefficient.

- Spanish total MY 2005/06 hazelnut imports should be up relative to previous year levels, on account of the very short crop;
- The bulk of MY 2005 imports should continue to come from Turkey. Local trade sources report to have made recent contracts with Turkish hazelnut exporters at prices some 15 percent below a year ago.
- Total Spanish hazelnut imports should come down in 2006/07, if local outputs recover as expected;
- U.S. share of total hazelnut imports will continue to be largely influenced by the marketing strategies of Turkish producers.

Factors Affecting U.S. Trade

- Please check the same section under "Almonds."

Trade Matrix

Import Trade Matrix

Country

Spain

Commodity

Filberts, Inshell Basis

Time Period

Sep/Aug

Units:

MT

Imports for:

2003

2004

U.S.

831

U.S.

1100

Others

Others

France	798	Italy	450
Italy	503	France	400
Netherlands	326	Netherlands	100
Other EU-25	2	Other EU-25	50
Turkey	11077	Turkey	7500
Georgia	130	Georgia	200
Total for Others	12836		8700
Others not Listed	129		200
Grand Total	13796		10000

Export Trade Matrix

Country

Spain

Commodity

Filberts, Inshell Basis

Time Period

Sep/Aug

Units:

MT

Exports for:

2003

2004

U.S.

U.S.

Others

Others

Germany	2247	Germany	6000
Poland	1366	Italy	1500
Italy	1232	Poland	1100
France	659	France	900
Other EU-25	812	Other EU-25	500
Venezuela	451	Venezuela	400
Total for Others	6767		10400
Others not Listed	391		100
Grand Total	7158		10500

Policy

General

- For general policy dispositions, please check the same section under "Almonds";
- In addition to the € 241.5 per hectare paid to all tree nut producers under the new tree nut regime, hazelnut growers are eligible to an additional subsidy of € 105/hectare supported by the EU Guarantee Fund (Feoga-Guarantee).
- High producer prices in recent years and EU policies have discouraged farmers to abandon hazelnut production in recent years. However, local farmers report that due to new restrictions to subsidy access (see Almonds), lower yielding areas could be abandoned over the next coming years.

Tariffs

- Hazelnut imports from non-EU origins are subject to an ad valorem import duty.
- For import tariffs currently in effect, please check the tariff table below.
- Hazelnuts sold in Spain are subject to a 7 percent VAT.

SPAIN: Hazelnut Import Tariffs

	Duty (Percent)	
	2004	2005
0802.21.00	3.2	3.2
0802.22.00	3.2	3.2

Marketing

- According to trends outlined in the Consumption section, Spain has attractive market potentials for U.S. hazelnuts;
- The leading Spanish wholesale market for nuts, including hazelnuts and almonds, is located in the hazelnut producing area of *Reus*, close to *Tarragona* in the *Catalonia* Autonomy. The bulk of the domestic crop is traded the in-shell form, just like U.S. hazelnuts. All Turkish hazelnut imports are shelled.
- For additional information to target the Spanish market, please contact the following:

Office of Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Madrid
Telf.: + 34-91- 587 2555
Fax: + 34-91 587 2556
E-Mail: Agiberia@usda.gov