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Report Highlights:

The United States continues to be the largest supplier of tree nuts to Europe. While EU investment and production of tree nuts continue to increase, production is still far from meeting domestic demand. In 2020, EU-27 tree nuts imports from the United States reached \$2.8 billion USD. The COVID-19 health crisis and the logistical issues and delays experienced globally moderately decreased U.S. exports of tree nuts to the EU, but exports began recovering in the first half of 2021. The demand for tree nuts is expected to remain strong, as consumers continue to demand healthy snacks and the hospitality, HRI, and impulse purchase channels are steadily recovering.

Executive Summary

The EU Market: A Key Trading Partner for U.S. Tree Nuts

In 2020, the European Union (EU)-27 imported \$7.2 billion in tree nuts from the world. The United States, with \$2.8 billion, is the largest EU-27 tree nuts supplier, accounting for 39 percent of total imports. Turkey is the second largest supplier with 22 percent of imports, followed by Vietnam, Chile, and Iran.

U.S. almonds (both in-shell and shelled) totaled \$1.5 billion, followed by pistachios with \$699 million and walnuts with almost \$393 million. Within the EU, the most significant importers of U.S. tree nuts (in order of importance) are Germany, Spain, and The Netherlands.

These numbers prove the importance of the United States as an agricultural trading partner to the EU.

The Food Processing and the 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. Tree nuts are covered in the media and food blogs for their health benefits. Many consumers perceive them as beneficial 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.

In addition, the European food processing and snack industries are the largest users of tree nuts, both as an ingredient (for traditional sweets and pastries) and for re-processing and re-export to third countries. Almonds are mainly used as an ingredient for the manufacturing of marzipan, nougat, turrón (a Spanish traditional Christmas confection), and many other pastries and sweets. European food manufacturers also use walnuts and pistachio nuts as an ingredient for manufacturing ice cream and confectionary products.

The snacking industry is channeling its efforts to offer consumers new products and new ways to consume nuts. Thus, due to the mature nature of the European market, EU manufacturers are focusing their strategies on launching new value-added innovative products rather than focusing on volume sales. They continue to emphasize the health benefits of tree nuts, both through advertising campaigns and in packaging.

During the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, retail was the big winner, particularly in the first half of 2020, with the closure of the HRI channel in most countries. With nuts becoming an increasingly important part of European consumers' diet, the challenge for retailers will be to find the right balance between price, quality and formats that best suit consumer demand. In addition, consumers are paying more attention to sustainability and responsible consumption. Eco-friendly production, packaging, and distribution is becoming more popular amongst European consumers, especially in northern countries.

Expanding Business in the EU Market

The COVID-19 impact on trade shows has been significant since trade shows came to a halt with the pandemic. With the gradual removal of restrictions, the trade show industry is slowly but surely reopening. 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

Anuga	October 9-13, 2021	Cologne, Germany
Fruit Logistica	February 9-11, 2022	Berlin, Germany
Biofach	February 15-18, 2022	Nuremberg, Germany
SIAL	October 15-19, 2022	Paris, France

Other Relevant (Non-Endorsed) Trade Shows

Food Ingredients	November 30- December 2, 2021	Frankfurt, Germany
PLMA	December 14-15, 2021	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Alimentaria	April 4-7, 2022	Barcelona, Spain
Snackex	July 6-7, 2022	Hamburg, Germany

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 various [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 European Union is one of the world's leading producers and consumers of almonds. Furthermore, the EU-27 is the single largest export region for California almonds, with Spain as the leading European importer. Every year, California almond production is exported to more than 100 countries worldwide, and in 2020, the EU-27 represented 32 percent of California's total almond exports.

For Marketing Year (MY) 2021/22, the latest official forecast published by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ([MAPA](#)) estimates a production of 94,293 MT (shelled basis). In 2020, the total area in Spain planted with almond trees was 718,540 hectares (HA), of which 600,338 correspond to non-irrigated and 118,202 HA to irrigated production.

The almond harvest in Spain in MY 2021/22 is estimated to be 12 percent lower than the previous year, despite the increase in productive area due to the large number of intensive and super-intensive almond orchards planted in recent years that has already begun to enter production. The MY 2021/22 production is marked by the following factors:

- Good weather conditions during the flowering period in practically all production areas;
- Generalized frosts in almost all the provinces during the second half of March and with a strong impact on the production of several areas;
- General good rainfall above the average;
- Good vegetative development of trees this year, with a low incidence of cryptogamic diseases;
- Rotation in production in some areas.

The frosts this year caused a considerable reduction in the production potential. The most affected region was Castilla-La Mancha, as well as provinces such as Lleida, Huesca, Granada, and Almeria. Andalusia is, by far, the region that will provide the highest production for the 2021 harvest, with almost a third of the national production. Despite frosts in the provinces of Granada and Almeria, irrigation in the provinces of Seville and Cordoba had a great harvest.

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, Pizzuta d'Avola, Fascionello, Filippo Ceo, Fragiulio Grande, Genco, Falsa Barese, Ferragnés are the leading varieties grown in the country. Italy's marketing year (MY) 2021/22 almond production is forecast to significantly drop from the previous season, mainly due to the drought that affected Sicily from April to August. Moreover, heavy frosts in April in Puglia, coupled with the summer drought, contributed to the decline. Quality however is expected to be excellent.

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

COUNTRY	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22
Spain	100,592	107,391	94,293
Italy	20,871	21,739	13,500

Source: FAS Europe Offices

Consumption

Nut consumption remained strong during COVID-19, since they are considered a healthy snacking option. The increasing popularity of plant-based diets is also helping to drive demand for nuts, as consumers look for alternative forms of protein to meat and fish. Thus, nuts are becoming increasingly popular throughout Europe. Nuts in diets for weight control or the recommended consumption for pregnant women are just some examples of the benefits, supported by scientific studies, that continue to encourage the consumption of nuts both as snacks and as ingredients.

Tree nut imports are indispensable for EU consumers. Traditionally, consumers prefer locally grown products mainly due to consumer loyalty and habits. In the EU, however, consumption of nuts is higher than production, generating an increase in both domestic production and in imports.

Trade

Imports

In MY 2019/20, 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 2017/18	MY 2018/19	MY2019/20
United States	242,903	234,800	250,059
Australia	17,608	14,776	13,363
United Kingdom	12,143	10,319	12,708
Morocco	1,036	927	1,121
Chile	527	1,194	579
Other	2,545	4,925	3,120
TOTAL IMPORTS	276,762	266,941	280,950

Source: [Trade Data Monitor Inc.](#)

Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 almonds in MY 2019/20 were the United Kingdom, the United States, and Switzerland. The largest EU almond exporter is Spain, with Spanish exports destined mainly for other EU Member States.

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

Country of origin	MY 2017/18	MY 2018/19	MY2019/20
United Kingdom	11,324	13,184	13,508
United States	8,197	9,899	5,146
Switzerland	2,657	2,497	2,767
Turkey	351	897	910
Canada	359	815	689
Other	8,943	9,703	6,286
TOTAL EXPORTS	31,831	36,995	29,306

Source: [Trade Data Monitor Inc.](#)

Production, Supply and Distribution Data Statistics

Almonds, Shelled Basis EU-27	2019		2020		2021		
	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		
	Market Year Begin: Aug 2019		Market Year Begin: Aug 2020		Market Year Begin: Aug 2021		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Planted	0	800,972	0	841,248	0	826,185	(HA)
Area Harvested	0	697,515	0	718,511	0	704,640	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	18,000	(MT)
Production	137,200	139,102	140,000	145,191	0	123,645	(MT)
Imports	283,400	271,394	325,000	284,500	0	287,000	(MT)
Total Supply	438,600	428,496	483,000	447,691	0	428,645	(MT)
Exports	15,900	23,891	25,000	22,000	0	25,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	404,700	386,605	440,000	407,691	0	385,645	(MT)
Ending Stocks	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	18,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	438,600	428,496	483,000	447,691	0	428,645	(MT)

Walnuts, In-shell Basis

Production and Crop Area

Romania is the largest walnut producer in the EU. Most Romanian walnut trees are owned by small farmers, but there is increasing commercial interest in walnut production, particularly since EU subsidies for fruit trees have become available. As a result, the number of walnut trees has been growing steadily from 1.842 million in 2017 to 2.067 million trees in 2020. Romanian walnut production decreased by 2.6 percent in 2020, due to the rainfall deficit. Post forecasts that Romania's walnut harvest will recover in 2021 and grow by 1.5 percent to 51,000 metric tons (MT).

For several years, France was the top walnut European Union producer but is now in second place behind Romania. The forecast for 2021 area harvested is two percent above the 2020 figure, although this still does not compensate for the 2019 tree losses due to extreme wind and hail events. The 2021 harvest should be a successful one (on average for the south-west but above average in the South-East), increasing by 14 percent .

In the south-west regions, significant weather variations led to a drop in volumes and the 2020 harvest was marked by a high rate of waste (worm-eaten, hollow, burnt nuts). In contrast, in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, production conditions were much better than in 2019. The 2020 harvest is higher than 2019, but below the five-year average. Over the past two years, the two producing regions have been alternatively hit by weather events, impacting production numbers negatively.

France produces about two percent of global production, being the tenth world walnut supplier. The French walnut industry is looking for ways to increase walnut production and remain competitive on the world market, as Chilean and Chilean walnuts are taking over international markets. In France, there are two main production areas: the south-west (Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie regions) and the southeast (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region) with two different protected geographical indications (AOP), *Noix de Grenoble* (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) and *Noix du Périgord* (Nouvelle-Aquitaine). The market is segmented into fresh walnuts (one percent), dry walnuts (65 percent), and kernels (about 34 percent).



In Spain, the main walnut growing regions are Andalucia, 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 MY2021/22. If weather conditions remain favorable, Post expects a higher production of 15,000 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 and Malizia. Italy’s MY 2021/22 walnut production is forecast to decrease from the previous season due to lower volumes in the north that is expected to experience lower yields after a bigger crop in MY 2020/21. Quality is expected to be good to excellent.

Table 4. Major EU Walnut Producers in MT (In-shell Basis)

COUNTRY	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22
Romania	51,600	50,300	51,000
France	34,946	35,698	40,786
Spain	15,100	14,400	15,000
Italy	16,500	15,488	12,000

Source: FAS Europe Offices

Consumption

Both in-shell and shelled walnuts are mainly purchased in wintertime for fresh consumption, particularly during Christmas time. More consumers are increasingly purchasing walnuts all year round due to their perceived nutritional benefits. These healthy snacking trends are expected to continue driving EU consumption in the forecast period. The ongoing release of scientific studies and research highlighting cardiovascular benefits have made walnuts very popular among health-conscious consumers.

Following the global health crisis, commercial prospects were still uncertain at the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021 (lockdown, restaurant closures, travel restrictions, etc.). As the situation continues to improve, both in health and economically, the industry is looking forward to consumption recovering some of its lost ground. In addition, industry will continue to promote the value of walnuts as a health food in all its forms (organic, oils, etc.).

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, and mixed nuts.

Table 5. EU-27 Imports of Walnuts by Origin in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2017/18	MY 2018/19	MY2019/20
United States	138,182	134,068	149,999
Chile	45,886	56,113	54,296
Ukraine	28,784	32,357	36,348
Moldova	28,827	19,856	23,389
China	7,816	3,397	9,181
Other	17,110	12,580	13,926
TOTAL IMPORTS	266,605	258,371	287,139

Source: [Trade Data Monitor Inc.](#)

Exports

EU-27 walnut exports are very limited. The top destinations for EU-27 walnuts in MY 2018/19 were the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Moldova.

Table 6. EU-27 Exports of Walnuts by Destination in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2017/18	MY 2018/19	MY2019/20
United Kingdom	8,230	7,700	7,614
Switzerland	3,668	3,300	3,611
Moldova	3,300	2,876	3,005
Bosnia-Herzegovina	489	879	1,061
Algeria	363	907	903
Other	4,594	6,433	4,206
TOTAL EXPORTS	20,644	22,095	20,400

Source: [Trade Data Monitor Inc.](#)

Production, Supply and Distribution Data Statistics

Walnuts, Inshell Basis EU-27	2019		2020		2021		
	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		
	Market Year Begin: Aug 2019		Market Year Begin: Aug 2020		Market Year Begin: Aug 2021		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Planted	0	69,968	0	67,304	0	68,312	(HA)
Area Harvested	0	53,834	0	53,871	0	54,774	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	(MT)
Production	133,000	125,411	127,000	123,651	0	126,601	(MT)
Imports	300,000	272,755	340,000	270,000	0	275,000	(MT)
Total Supply	473,000	438,166	507,000	433,651	0	441,601	(MT)
Exports	12,900	14,582	15,000	16,000	0	17,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	420,100	383,584	452,000	377,651	0	384,601	(MT)
Ending Stocks	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	40,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	473,000	438,166	507,000	433,651	0	441,601	(MT)

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 Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), distinguishing it from all other pistachio varieties worldwide. Pistachio tree production is cyclical, bearing heavily in alternate years. Therefore, after the lower MY 2020/21 campaign, MY 2021/22 will be a 'higher' bearing year, but with lower quantities due to the drought that affected Sicily from April to August. Quality is expected to be excellent.

Table 7. Italy Pistachio Production by Volume in MT (In-Shell Basis)

COUNTRY	MY 2019/20	MY 2020/21	MY 2021/22
Italy	3,852	1,300	2,800

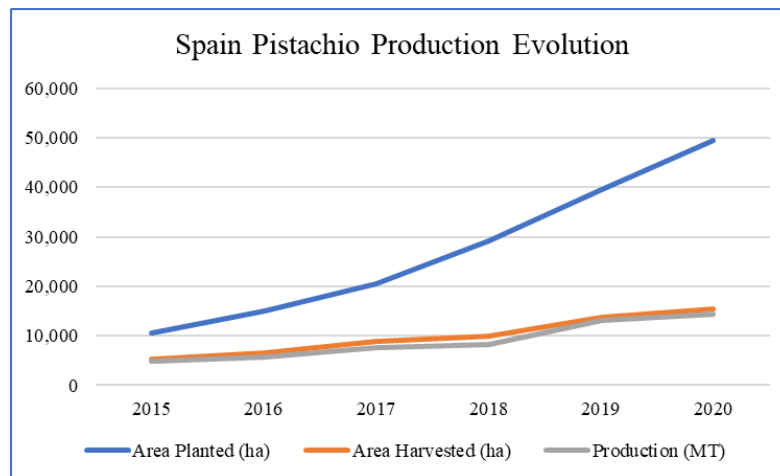
Source: FAS Europe Offices

The pistachio acreage in Spain continues to expand rapidly. From 2015 to 2020, Spanish pistachio planted area increased by 370 percent and production jumped by 200 percent, bringing total production to 14,337 MT in 2020. Over the last decade, its market potential and demand has encouraged the planting of more trees.

Pistachio has become an investment opportunity not only for farmers, but also for investment funds and companies. The best proof of this is that the pistachio planted area increased by 25 percent in the last year alone, according to the data published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 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, along with greater margins than other traditional crops, make pistachios an attractive crop to invest in.

Many Spanish producers are betting on pistachio cultivation due to its rising market potential. In addition, the crop adapts well to extreme climate and grows well in inland regions such as Extremadura and Castile-La Mancha, which currently contribute 80 percent of Spain’s pistachio planted area.

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



Source: MAPA

Consumption

Domestic EU pistachio production is not enough to cover domestic demand, resulting in significant imports from Iran and the United States. The overall use of pistachios can be split many ways, starting from the in-shell pistachios basically traded as a snack food or as an ingredient utilized in restaurants. Shelled pistachios are used by bakeries and food companies (bakeries, cosmetic companies, sweet food companies), and milled pistachios used in ice-cream manufacturing.

The popularity of pistachios continues to increase across Europe. Overall consumption is increasing, as well as the duration of consumption. That is, pistachios are now on demand throughout the year due to a wide range of health benefits, including weight control, blood sugar control, and lower risk of cardiovascular disease.

Trade

Imports

Due to its very limited production, the EU's pistachio trade balance remains negative. The United States continues to lead the world in pistachio production. In the EU-27, the United States and Iran together account for 99 percent of total imports. However, the quality and reliability of U.S. pistachios are appreciated assets, making it the chief source of EU imports.

Table 8. EU-27 Imports of Pistachios by Origin in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2017/18	MY 2018/19	MY2019/20
United States	54,204	70,207	65,901
Iran	17,405	6,688	11,868
United Kingdom	427	306	419
Turkey	34	260	79
Other	304	489	260
TOTAL IMPORTS	72,374	77,950	78,527

Source: [Trade Data Monitor Inc.](#)

Exports

EU-27 exports of pistachios are very limited. The main destination for EU-27 pistachios in MY 2019/20 was the United Kingdom.

Table 9. EU-27 Exports of Pistachios by Destination in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2017/18	MY 2018/19	MY2019/20
United Kingdom	1,468	1,226	1,387
Morocco	23	32	82
United States	81	11	73
Albania	23	35	69
Other	673	607	382
TOTAL EXPORTS	2,268	1,911	1,993

Source: [Trade Data Monitor Inc.](#)

Production, Supply and Distribution Data Statistics

Pistachios, Inshell Basis EU-27	2019		2020		2021		
	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		
	Market Year Begin: Aug 2019		Market Year Begin: Aug 2020		Market Year Begin: Aug 2021		
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Planted	0	52,493	0	62,578	0	63,044	(HA)
Area Harvested	0	26,274	0	27,892	0	29,455	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	1,500	1,500	1,900	1,500	0	1,500	(MT)
Production	21,600	21,988	18,330	17,667	0	23,330	(MT)
Imports	104,800	81,206	120,000	83,000	0	86,000	(MT)
Total Supply	127,900	104,694	140,230	102,167	0	110,830	(MT)
Exports	1,100	685	1,000	1,000	0	1,500	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	124,900	102,509	137,730	99,667	0	107,830	(MT)
Ending Stocks	1,900	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	(MT)
Total Distribution	127,900	104,694	140,230	102,167	0	110,830	(MT)

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

For additional information on aflatoxin certification under the Pre-Export Checks (PEC) Program please go to:

[Almond Board of California \(ABC\)](#)

[USDA-AMS Laboratory Approval Service – Aflatoxin Program](#)

Pistachios

For information on the Pistachio Export Aflatoxin Reporting (PEAR) program, please visit:

[Administrative Committee for Pistachios \(ACP\)](#)

[USDA-AMS Laboratory Approval Service – Aflatoxin Program](#)

EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin

[Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) is the legislative framework for the rules applicable to official controls on in the agri-food sector. The basic provisions for the EU import control systems on food and feed of plant origin are included in this comprehensive regulation while further implementing regulations provide additional details on the controls for specific hazards. Controls vary depending on the risk linked to origin of the food and feed related as perceived by the EU.

EU Controls on Almonds

Almonds fall under Pre-Export Checks regime: [Regulation 2015/949](#) approves the pre-export checks carried out on certain food by certain third countries as regards 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 product/origin combinations that have been included, 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 competent authority in the exporting country's government 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 for the operator for testing and the rejection rates are not specifically tracked or reported.

EU Controls on Pistachios

U.S. Pistachios fall under the "Temporary Increase of Official Controls" regime. When a country is listed under temporary increased controls for a specified hazard under [Regulation 2019/1793](#), no specific health certificate is required. The increased testing rates are specified by the EU and testing is paid for by the operator. Member States report the rejection rates to the European Commission. This application of this import regime is a serious indication that the EU has concerns with the control regime at origin but does not currently consider these concerns or the available data to be sufficient to impose special conditions for entry.

For all the details, please check GAIN Report "[EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin](#)".

Upcoming MRL reviews under Article 12 of Regulation 396/2005 for tree nuts

Plant protection products (PPPs) along with maximum residue levels (MRLs) and import tolerances are an increasingly important issue in the EU, since there is a significant reduction in the number of active substances that are available for use. Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 regulate PPPs and MRLs respectively. There is a consistent review of active substances for which the approval is up for renewal, as well as their associated MRLs. Additionally, existing MRLs are also being reviewed through a process known as an Article 12 Review. The first list below indicates the upcoming MRL reviews under this Article 12 process. The second list includes the active substances that are, or will soon be, up for renewal. It is important to note that these lists are not all-inclusive. Due to the complexity of the renewal process and the importance of the issue, stakeholders should actively engage early in these review processes by reaching out to the applicant. Together with the applicant, they can ensure that the necessary data are already available

for the review or if trials for data collection are in progress or should be initiated, especially if the substance is not used or authorized in the EU. It is highly recommended to contact the assigned "Rapporteur Member State" (RMS) which will carry out the first evaluation of the active substance and existing EU pesticide MRLs. Stakeholders are encouraged to engage with FAS on substances and MRLs of importance to their commodities.

1) Article 12 review

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

2) Active substances up for review

Active Substance	Expiry date	Application
Chlorantraniliprole	12/31/2024	12/31/2021
Emamectin	11/30/2024	11/30/2021
Amisulbrom	09/30/2024	09/30/2021
Ascorbic acid	09/30/2024	09/30/2021
S-Abscisic acid	09/30/2024	09/30/2021
Spinetoram	09/30/2024	09/30/2021
Thiencarbazone	09/30/2024	09/30/2021
Valifenalate (formerly Valiphenal)	09/30/2024	09/30/2021
Acequinocyl	11/30/2024	11/30/2021
Flubendiamide	11/30/2024	11/30/2021
Ipconazole	11/30/2024	11/30/2021
Pendimethalin*	11/30/2024	11/30/2021
Imazamox*	01/31/2025	01/31/2022
Aminopyralid	12/31/2024	12/31/2021
Metaflumizone	12/31/2024	12/31/2021
Metobromuron	12/31/2024	12/31/2021

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](#). If you would like to read more on the subject, 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](#) introduced maximum levels for Cadmium in nuts.

Related Reports

Report Number	Title	Date Released
BU2020-0033	Bulgaria Tree Nuts Annual 2020	10/2/2020
E42020-0058	European Union Tree Nuts Annual 2020	09/15/2020
E42020-0046	EU Import Controls on Food and Feed of Plant Origin	08/11/2020
E42020-0047	Regulatory Levels for Aflatoxins in Tree Nuts and Peanuts	08/13/2020
These reports can be accessed through the FAS GAIN Reports 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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Monica Dobrescu, FAS/Bucharest covering Romania
Marcel Pinckaers, FAS/The Hague covering the Benelux
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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