

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 11/9/2017

GAIN Report Number: TS1706

Tunisia

Post: Tunis

No More Import Financing for Consumer Products

Report Categories:

Fishery Products

Dairy and Products

Tree Nuts

Wine

Beverages

Raisins

Dried Fruit

Retail Foods

Snack Foods

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Trade Policy Incident Report

Approved By:

Morgan Haas

Prepared By:

FAS Tunis

Report Highlights:

Effective October 27, Tunisian banks stopped financing the importation of non-essential consumer products, adversely impacting between \$5-30 million of U.S. food and agricultural sales.

General Information

In response to Tunisia's efforts to shore up scarce foreign currency reserves amid a negative trade balance and a weakening exchange rate, on October 27, 2017, Tunisia's Central Bank ordered local banks to stop financing the importation of several consumer products considered non-essential. According to Post calculations, the new regulation adversely impacts between \$5-30 million of U.S. food and agricultural sales, which accounts for 15% of total U.S. agricultural and related product exports to Tunisia. U.S. sales likely to be the most impacted by this measure include cheese and almonds. U.S. exports of chocolate and chocolate products, condiments and sauces, and non-alcoholic beverages are also likely to feel the pinch, having already reached record annual sales through the first nine months of the year. See below table for a full list of affected agricultural and related product exports.

The new regulation does not apply to imports initiated before October 27th, 2017, importers who do not apply for loans, and state procurement. To this extent, state procurement accounts for a significant portion of alcohol imports under HS-2207.

Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) Halts Financing for Imports of Several Consumer-Oriented Products

(Thousands of US Dollars)

HS	Description	Tunisia Imports from World						Tunisia Imports from US		US Exports to Tunisia	
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-yr Avg	5-yr Avg	% of Tunisia Imports from World	5-yr Avg	% of Tunisia Imports from World
Tunisia BCT New Regulation		\$96,939.3	\$93,417.0	\$108,157.1	\$99,069.3	\$118,881.1	\$103,292.8	\$4,903.1	4.7%	\$32,043.1	31.0%
030541	Pacific, Atlantic And Danube Salmon, Smoked	\$11.7	\$18.6	\$68.5	\$117.9	\$133.8	\$70.1				
040620	Cheese Of All Kinds, Grated Or Powdered	\$29.6	\$60.5	\$118.4	\$72.7	\$181.1	\$92.5	\$13.8	15.0%		
040630	Cheese, Processed, Not Grated Or Powdered	\$122.3	\$0.0	\$20.5	\$3.7	\$4.6	\$30.2				
040640	Cheese, Blue-Veined, Nesoi	\$30.4	\$81.3	\$98.1	\$77.3	\$118.4	\$81.1				
040690	Cheese, Nesoi, Including Cheddar And Colby	\$12,366.0	\$9,273.4	\$8,809.9	\$6,155.7	\$8,446.4	\$9,010.3	\$2,354.4	26.1%	\$2,114.0	23.5%
040900	Honey, Natural	\$1,232.5	\$1,407.7	\$2,155.6	\$762.8	\$707.3	\$1,253.2				
0603	Cut Flowers & Buds For Bouquets Etc., Prepared	\$69.9	\$46.3	\$22.1	\$17.5	\$17.8	\$34.7				
0801	Coconuts, Brazil Nuts & Cashew Nuts, Fresh Or Dry	\$1,860.2	\$976.2	\$1,155.2	\$1,753.3	\$1,902.7	\$1,529.5				
080211	Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	\$10.0	\$45.5	\$14.7	\$7.8	\$15.5	\$18.7	\$8.5	45.7%	\$186.3	997.3%
080212	Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	\$2,213.9	\$2,132.1	\$1,697.8	\$1,258.4	\$3,572.4	\$2,174.9	\$1,561.4	71.8%	\$4,671.0	214.8%
080251	Pistachios, In Shell, Fresh Or Dried	\$653.4	\$464.3	\$638.3	\$638.8	\$745.7	\$628.1	\$0.5	0.1%	\$35.1	5.6%
080252	Pistachios, Shelled, Fresh Or Dried	\$179.3	\$240.0	\$191.8	\$420.0	\$205.6	\$247.3	\$10.4	4.2%	\$45.4	18.3%
080390	Bananas, Fresh Or Dried, Nesoi	\$1,609.8	\$4,680.3	\$9,648.0	\$15,045.1	\$15,530.3	\$9,302.7				
080410	Dates, Fresh Or Dried	\$637.6	\$649.8	\$1,124.4	\$773.1	\$1,922.0	\$1,021.4			\$57.1	5.6%
080420	Figs, Fresh Or Dried	\$48.9	\$91.0	\$56.3	\$26.5	\$11.7	\$46.9				
080430	Pineapples, Fresh Or Dried	\$41.3	\$145.6	\$152.1	\$190.3	\$202.9	\$146.4				
080440	Avocados, Fresh Or Dried	\$29.9	\$33.1	\$19.2	\$59.6	\$25.5	\$33.4				
080450	Guavas, Mangoes And Mangosteens, Fresh Or Dried	\$2.5	\$2.7	\$1.5	\$3.7	\$0.4	\$2.2				
080610	Grapes, Fresh	\$59.6	\$8.8	\$12.7	\$25.0	\$47.2	\$30.7				
080620	Grapes, Dried (Including Raisins)	\$415.1	\$395.7	\$408.8	\$356.8	\$370.1	\$389.3	\$0.5	0.1%		
080711	Watermelons, Fresh	\$0.0	\$30.5	\$15.8	\$26.7	\$49.8	\$24.6				
080719	Melons(Except Watermelons) And Papayas, Fresh	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.3	\$0.7				
080910	Apricots, Fresh	\$656.1	\$4.2	\$390.1	\$210.8	\$0.0	\$252.2				
080930	Peaches, Including Nectarines, Fresh	\$11.9	\$0.0	\$12.3	\$0.0	\$0.9	\$5.0				
080940	Plums, Prune Plums And Sloes, Fresh	\$37.8	\$2.0	\$5.3	\$0.0	\$12.1	\$11.4				
081050	Kiwi Fruit (Chinese Gooseberries) Fresh	\$180.3	\$341.1	\$369.1	\$734.9	\$1,917.6	\$708.6				
081070	Persimmons, Fresh	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.6	\$2.4	\$0.8				
081090	Fruit Nesoi, Fresh	\$0.7	\$2.0	\$1.1	\$0.2	\$20.3	\$4.9				

HS	Description	Tunisia Imports from World						Tunisia Imports from US		US Exports to Tunisia	
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-yr Avg	5-yr Avg	% of Tunisia Imports from World	5-yr Avg	% of Tunisia Imports from World
081120	Raspberries/Blackberries/Etc Uncooked/Cooked Water Fz	\$30.9	\$43.1	\$58.8	\$49.2	\$57.5	\$47.9				
120600	Sunflower Seeds, Whether Or Not Broken	\$468.3	\$1,919.6	\$3,497.2	\$4,139.1	\$5,631.4	\$3,131.1	\$58.8	1.9%	\$188.9	6.0%
160413	Sardines/Sardinella/Brisling Prep/Pres, Not Minced	\$213.2	\$0.2	\$43.0	\$4.5	\$102.9	\$72.8				
160414	Tunas/Skipjack/Bonito Prep/Pres Not Minced	\$9,040.9	\$6,635.5	\$11,360.1	\$5,721.0	\$10,173.5	\$8,586.2	\$0.0	0.0%		
1605	Crustaceans, Molluscs Etc. Prepared Or Preserved	\$38.0	\$51.3	\$34.5	\$16.4	\$165.1	\$61.1				
1704	Sugar Confection (Incl White Chocolate), No Cocoa	\$2,577.1	\$2,902.3	\$3,421.6	\$2,606.1	\$2,673.2	\$2,836.1				
180631	Chocolate & Other Cocoa Preps, Not Bulk, Filled	\$3,881.8	\$3,509.8	\$4,273.7	\$4,306.3	\$6,534.0	\$4,501.1				
180632	Chocolate & Other Cocoa Preps, Not Bulk, Not Filled	\$1,730.5	\$1,423.6	\$1,743.2	\$1,556.7	\$1,650.0	\$1,620.8				
180690	Cocoa Preparations, Not In Bulk Form, Nesoi	\$3,699.7	\$3,841.7	\$2,983.9	\$2,281.3	\$2,525.8	\$3,066.5	\$2.2	0.1%	\$55.3	1.8%
1902	Pasta, Prepared Or Not; Couscous, Prepared Or Not	\$450.9	\$637.5	\$1,073.3	\$1,010.1	\$1,250.6	\$884.5				
1903	Tapioca And Substitutes From Starch In Flakes, Etc	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$0.1				
1904	Foods Prep By Swell Cereal; Cereal Nesoi, Grain Fin	\$1,880.0	\$1,935.1	\$2,009.0	\$1,356.5	\$1,483.0	\$1,732.7				
190531	Cookies (Sweet Biscuits)	\$1,383.2	\$1,150.0	\$2,562.2	\$1,834.5	\$2,446.5	\$1,875.3				
190532	Waffles And Wafers	\$880.7	\$375.6	\$339.4	\$190.2	\$330.8	\$423.4	\$0.2	0.0%		
190540	Rusks, Toasted Bread And Similar Toasted Products	\$28.7	\$17.0	\$9.0	\$4.6	\$3.5	\$12.6	\$0.3	2.5%	\$0.6	4.8%
190590	Bread, Pastry, Cakes, Etc Nesoi & Puddings	\$1,648.9	\$1,695.4	\$2,517.3	\$2,357.6	\$2,105.7	\$2,065.0	\$5.8	0.3%	\$364.6	17.7%
2001	Veg, Fruit, Nuts Etc, Prep Or Pres By Vinegar Etc	\$132.0	\$170.4	\$112.8	\$276.5	\$226.8	\$183.7	\$3.8	2.1%	\$0.5	0.3%
2003	Mushrooms And Truffles Prepared Or Preserved Nesoi	\$1,277.5	\$811.7	\$921.6	\$505.7	\$848.6	\$873.0				
2004	Vegetables Nesoi Prepared Or Preserved Nesoi, Frozen	\$1,809.7	\$2,154.8	\$2,078.3	\$1,757.7	\$1,822.3	\$1,924.6	\$1.1	0.1%	\$0.6	0.0%
2005	Vegetables Nesoi Prepared Etc Nesoi, Not Frozen	\$5,234.2	\$6,246.9	\$5,239.0	\$5,143.2	\$4,559.7	\$5,284.6	\$170.0	3.2%	\$41.3	0.8%
2006	Veg/Fruit/Nuts/Fruit-Peel Etc, Preserved By Sugar	\$88.3	\$30.9	\$39.0	\$30.9	\$21.9	\$42.2				
2007	Jams, Fruit Jellies, Marmalades Etc, Cooked	\$4,604.0	\$5,353.6	\$4,684.2	\$3,625.9	\$3,574.0	\$4,368.3	\$3.2	0.1%		
2008	Fruit, Nuts Etc Prepared Or Preserved Nesoi	\$3,134.9	\$2,603.8	\$2,313.4	\$1,871.2	\$2,471.2	\$2,478.9	\$27.2	1.1%	\$688.9	27.8%
2009	Fruit Juice Not Fermented With Vit/Mineral Veg Juice No Spirit	\$8,691.7	\$8,314.3	\$6,961.9	\$5,847.1	\$4,191.7	\$6,801.4				
2103	Sauces & Prep; Mixed Condiments, Mustard Flour Etc	\$4,482.7	\$4,242.6	\$4,886.1	\$3,965.5	\$4,434.0	\$4,402.2	\$24.0	0.5%	\$35.2	0.8%
2104	Soups, Broths & Preps; Homogenized Comp Food Preps	\$539.2	\$297.5	\$437.3	\$186.9	\$311.5	\$354.5	\$1.7	0.5%	\$0.8	0.2%

HS	Description	Tunisia Imports from World						Tunisia Imports from US		US Exports to Tunisia	
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5-yr Avg	5-yr Avg	% of Tunisia Imports from World	5-yr Avg	% of Tunisia Imports from World
2105	Ice Cream And Other Edible Ice, With Cocoa Or Not	\$1,430.2	\$1,292.3	\$1,569.3	\$4,877.4	\$3,859.4	\$2,605.7	\$2.3	0.1%	\$5.0	0.2%
2201	Waters, Natural Etc, Not Sweetened Etc; Ice & Snow	\$10.9	\$17.1	\$20.7	\$14.3	\$19.9	\$16.6	\$0.1	0.4%	\$0.0	0.0%
220290	Nonalcoholic Beverages, Nesoi	\$4,538.3	\$6,247.9	\$5,499.1	\$4,157.6	\$4,133.7	\$4,915.3	\$529.4	10.8%		
220300	Beer Made From Malt	\$165.1	\$30.2	\$18.3	\$139.3	\$104.2	\$91.4	\$0.6	0.7%	\$1.0	1.1%
220410	Sparkling Wine Of Fresh Grapes	\$604.7	\$549.6	\$900.2	\$629.2	\$876.0	\$711.9			\$3.3	0.5%
220421	Wine, Fr Grape Nesoi & Gr Must W Alc, Nov 2 Liters	\$698.6	\$574.8	\$563.9	\$898.3	\$646.0	\$676.3	\$4.5	0.7%		
220510	Vermouth/Grpe Wine Flavored Wth Plants Etc Ctr 2L<	\$45.2	\$0.0	\$100.2	\$28.5	\$131.8	\$61.1				
220600	Fermented Beverages Nesoi (Cider, Perry, Mead Etc)	\$1.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$7.5	\$0.0	\$1.8			\$2.0	114.4%
220710	Ethyl Alcohol, Udenat, Alchol Not Un 80% By Volum	\$4,906.4	\$3,615.0	\$2,829.2	\$3,229.1	\$2,262.2	\$3,368.4	\$0.0	0.0%	\$3,874.9	115.0%
220720	Ethyl Alcohol & Oth Spirits Denatured Any Strength	\$116.5	\$205.3	\$115.6	\$111.7	\$135.9	\$137.0			\$19,671.2	14355.9%
220820	Grape Brandy	\$235.6	\$213.7	\$379.4	\$126.2	\$246.1	\$240.2				
220830	Whiskies	\$1,468.1	\$1,469.6	\$2,413.5	\$2,868.6	\$4,717.7	\$2,587.5	\$104.5	4.0%		
220840	Rum And Tafia	\$98.8	\$137.4	\$249.9	\$83.3	\$188.4	\$151.6	\$13.3	8.8%		
220850	Gin And Geneva	\$143.2	\$127.4	\$204.5	\$164.3	\$391.6	\$206.2				
220860	Vodka	\$1,419.5	\$888.4	\$1,657.1	\$1,789.4	\$4,312.5	\$2,013.4				
220870	Liqueurs And Cordials	\$599.7	\$551.2	\$828.9	\$559.7	\$1,092.3	\$726.4	\$0.6	0.1%		

Source: IHS Markit, Inc.