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## Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

### Tree Nuts Annual

**Report Categories:**

Tree Nuts

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**Report Highlights:**

Post forecasts that Romania's walnut harvest in 2017 will decline by 3.2 percent from 2016 to 33,000 metric tons (MT), mostly due to unfavorable weather conditions. U.S. tree nut exports to Romania reached \$8.3 million in 2016, with almonds accounting for 75 percent of U.S. tree-nuts exports. Tree-nut consumption growth in Romania is supported by changing consumer trends, including a growing interest in healthful food products and habits.

*Note: Further information about the U.S. exports to the European Union may be read in the EU 28 Consolidated Report [GAIN report](#).*

## General Information:

### Production

Romania is the second-largest walnut producer in the European Union after France and the tenth-largest producer worldwide. Over the past few years Romanian walnut production has grown steadily. Post estimates that the number of walnut trees will reach 1.85 million in 2017, producing about 33,000 MT of walnuts (please see Table 1). Most Romanian walnut trees are owned by small farmers, but there is increasing commercial interest in walnut production, particularly as EU subsidies for fruit trees became available. Post expects that this interest will be reflected in future expanded production.

Although lower-altitude trees benefited from warm temperatures in March and many trees began to bud, a cold spell and snow hit during mid-April 2017 affecting their development. Consequently, walnut trees located in the southern, eastern, and northeastern regions are expected to perform below average and result in a 3.2-percent production decrease in 2017.

**Table 1: Walnut area and production, Romania, 2012-2017**

Walnut trees		Years					
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Number of trees	'000	1,818	1,810	1,838	1,840	1,846	1,850
Production	MT	30,546	31,764	31,514	33,394	34,095	33,000

Source: National Institute of Statistics; \* FAS estimates for 2017

Romanian almond acres are limited and are concentrated in the southwestern region of the country, where the Mediterranean climate provides good conditions for tree development. Almond production is small-scale and general consumer demand is met almost entirely by imported nuts.

### Trade

Romania's total tree-nut imports expanded by almost 50 percent during the first half of 2017 over the same period in the previous year. This increase followed an overall 24-percent import decrease in 2016, from 8,212 MT to 6,208 MT, almost entirely due to walnuts (please see table 2). In 2016, Romanian walnut production and domestic stocks increased and many consumers may have preferred other nut varieties. That same year, imports of hazelnuts, almonds, and chestnuts actually increased.

**Table 2: Romania – Nuts Import, Fresh or dried (MT)**

Description	Calendar Year					January – June	
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
<b>TOTAL Nuts, Fresh Or Dried</b>	<b>4,579</b>	<b>5,882</b>	<b>8,383</b>	<b>8,212</b>	<b>6,208</b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>3,147</b>
Walnuts, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	901	1,738	2,186	2,567	615	367	395
Walnuts, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	670	1,264	3,053	2,286	1,423	163	831
<b>Total Walnuts</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>3,002</b>	<b>5,239</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1,226</b>
Hazelnuts Or Filberts, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	1,184	1,348	1,486	1,631	1,952	775	843
Hazelnuts Or Filberts, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	69	13	38	65	146	23	15
<b>Total Hazelnuts</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>858</b>
Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	922	737	916	746	938	430	646
Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	19	84	40	30	31	26	2
<b>Total Almonds</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>648</b>

Pistachios, In Shell, Fresh Or Dried	509	333	246	243	224	95	88
Pistachios, Shelled, Fresh Or Dried	19	25	24	56	58	8	127
<b>Total Pistachios</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>215</b>
Chestnuts, In Shell, Fresh Or Dried	132	208	241	375	396	40	8
Chestnuts, Shelled, Fresh Or Dried	0	15	29	24	136	37	7
<b>Total Chestnuts</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Nuts Nesoi, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled Or Not</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>185</b>

*Source: Global Trade Atlas*

The major tree-nut suppliers to Romania include Italy and Hungary for hazelnuts, the United States for almonds with upwards of 50 percent of market share, Ukraine and Poland for walnuts, and Hungary and Germany for pistachios. Romania is also a walnut exporter, with Germany, France, Slovenia, and Italy being its main European markets. Jordan and Turkey are Romania's most important non-EU walnut markets. Similarly to import data, Romanian walnut exports declined in 2016 by 38 percent, from 8,973 MT to 5,719 MT. Walnut exports fell an additional 2.3 percent during the first six months of 2017.

The United States is the fourth largest supplier of tree nuts supplier to Romania, following Hungary, Italy, and Germany, with a market share of 11 percent in terms of value (2016 data). U.S. direct-export volumes grew by 74 percent in the first half of 2017, as compared to the previous year (please see table 3).

**Table 3: U.S. tree nut direct exports to Romania - Fresh or dried (MT)**

Description	Calendar Year					Year To Date		
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	06/2016	06/2017	% Change
Nuts, Fresh Or Dried	562	320	661	849	441	209	364	74.31
Almonds, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	562	260	355	239	441	209	345	65.18
Walnuts, Fresh Or Dried, Shelled	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	∞
Walnuts, Fresh Or Dried, In Shell	0	60	306	610	0	0	0	n/a

*Source: Global Trade Atlas*

In terms of value, U.S. tree nut exports – both direct and indirect – continued to grow, from \$5.2 million in 2014 to \$8.3 million in 2016. Almonds made up the largest percentage of U.S. tree nut exports at 75 percent in 2016, followed by walnuts (shelled) at 15 percent.

## Consumption

Nuts are in generally consumed as snacks, plain or in mixes, and used as ingredients for professional bakers and in household baking. Walnut consumption tends to be consistent throughout the year, with seasonal spikes during the winter months, and peaking during Christmas and Easter, when traditional cakes are prepared in-house.

Demand continues to expand as consumers adopt healthier eating habits and consume tree nuts for nutritional benefits.