

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary Public

Date: 1/24/2014

GAIN Report Number: AU1404

EU-28

Post: Vienna

EU-U.S. Organic Trade Update - January 2014

Report Categories:

Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal

Market Development Reports

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

For the first eleven months of 2013 (January through November), a new classification system for tracking organic trade showed that the U.S. exported \$7.6 million worth of organic goods to the European Union. This is an increase of 55 percent compared to the same period in 2012.

This report includes an update on EU-U.S. trade of organic products for which an HS code for “certified organic” fresh or processed agricultural products has been introduced. The report does not cover the total EU-U.S. organic trade. It is recommended that this report be read in conjunction with the EU [“Export opportunities for U.S. organics in the EU market”](#) GAIN report.

EU-U.S. organic trade up since agreement

New Way to Track Exports - Organic HS Codes

In January 2011, for the first time, the United States introduced specific HS (Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System) tariff codes for a selected fresh or processed agricultural products certified under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program (NOP).

Separately, on June 1, 2012, the EU-U.S. Organic Equivalence Cooperation Arrangement came into force, making it easier for U.S. organic products to be sold in the EU.

The new HS coding does not fully capture existing organic trade with the EU but it is a useful tool for tracking covered products and to look for changes in trade that may be due to the new EU-U.S. arrangement.

Trade

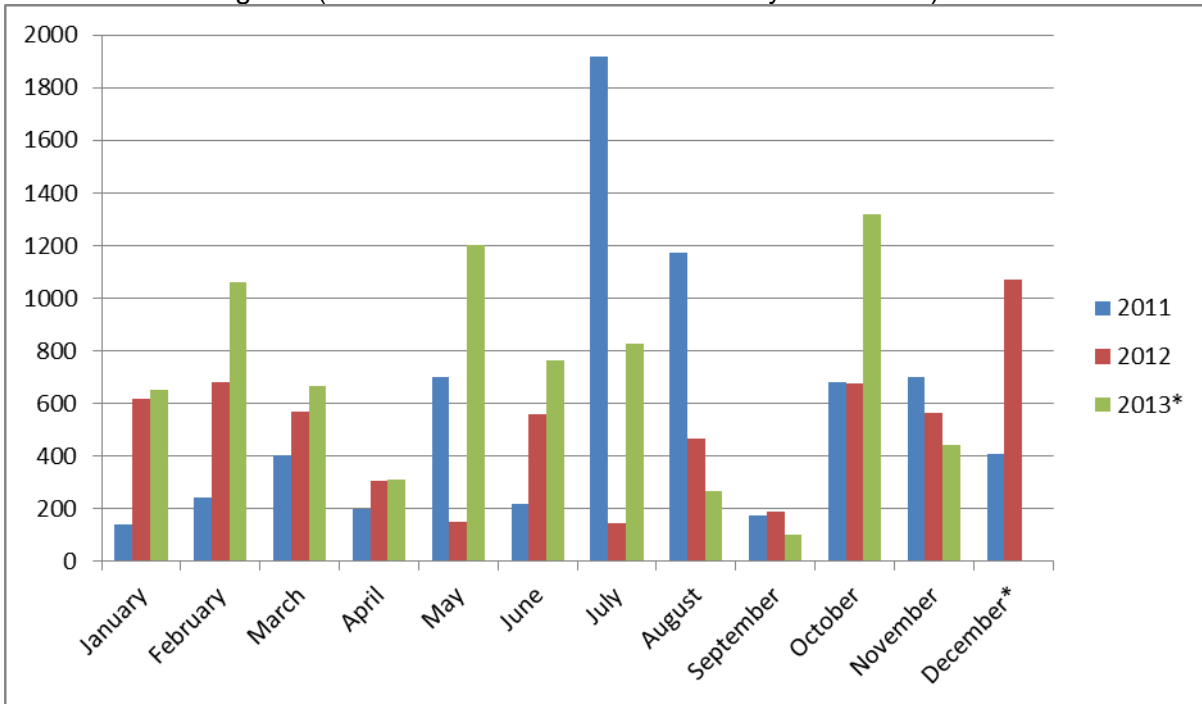
In the first eleven months of 2013 (January through November), the United States exported to the EU \$7.6 million worth of organic products covered under the organic HS codes. This is an increase of 55 percent compared to the same period in 2012. The largest increase in exports occurred in fresh apples. U.S. organic apples shipments from January to November 2013 were up 104 percent (plus \$1.5 million) compared to the same period in 2012. Fresh apples are the most important U.S. organic products exported to the European Union. Fresh organic apples accounted for 16.8 percent of total U.S. fresh apple's exports to the EU for the first eleven months of 2013.

Other U.S. organic products exports showing export increases are fresh strawberries, peppers, broccoli, carrots, oranges and cultivated blueberries.

During the first eleven months of 2013 most U.S. organic exports to the European Union occurred in October (fresh apples) followed by May (lettuce, strawberries and peppers) and February (apples).

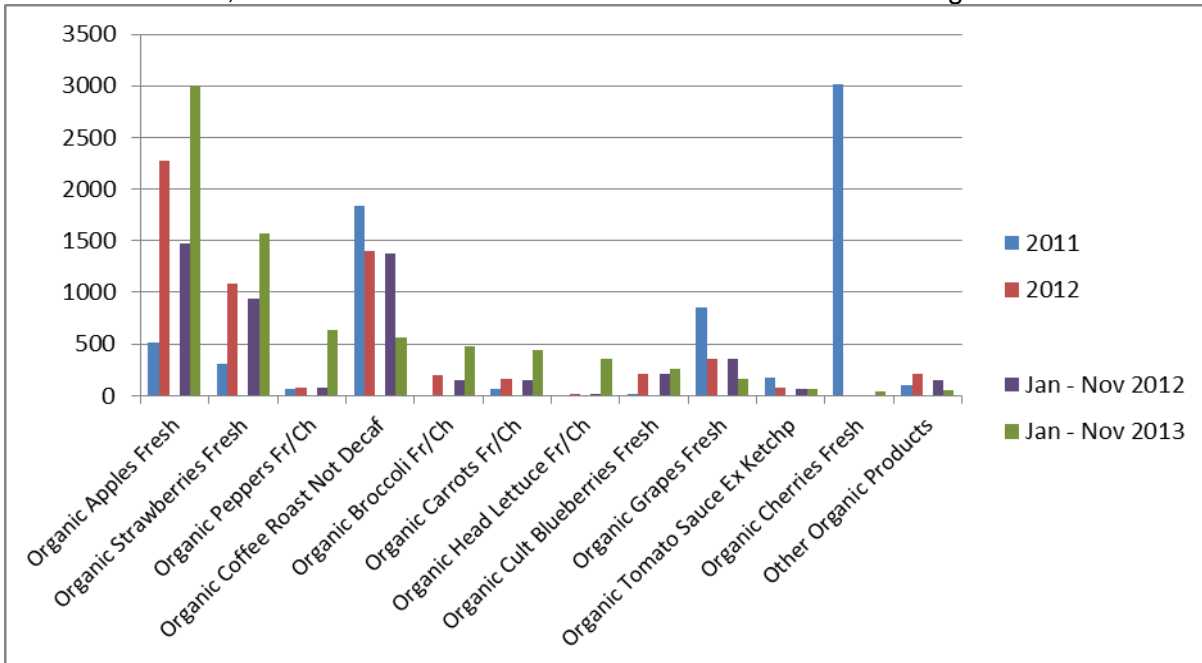
The following charts include U.S. trade from the beginning of 2011 to November 2013 (trade statistics for December 2013 were not available at the time of this report).

Figure 1. U.S. exports of total selected organic products to EU per month, in thousand USD, 2011, 2012 and 2013* figures (*December numbers for 2013 not yet available)



Source: USDA’s Global Agricultural Trade System Online

Figure 2. U.S. exports of selected organic products to the EU by product group, in thousand USD, 2011 - 2012 and Jan to Nov 2012 – Jan to Nov 2013 figures

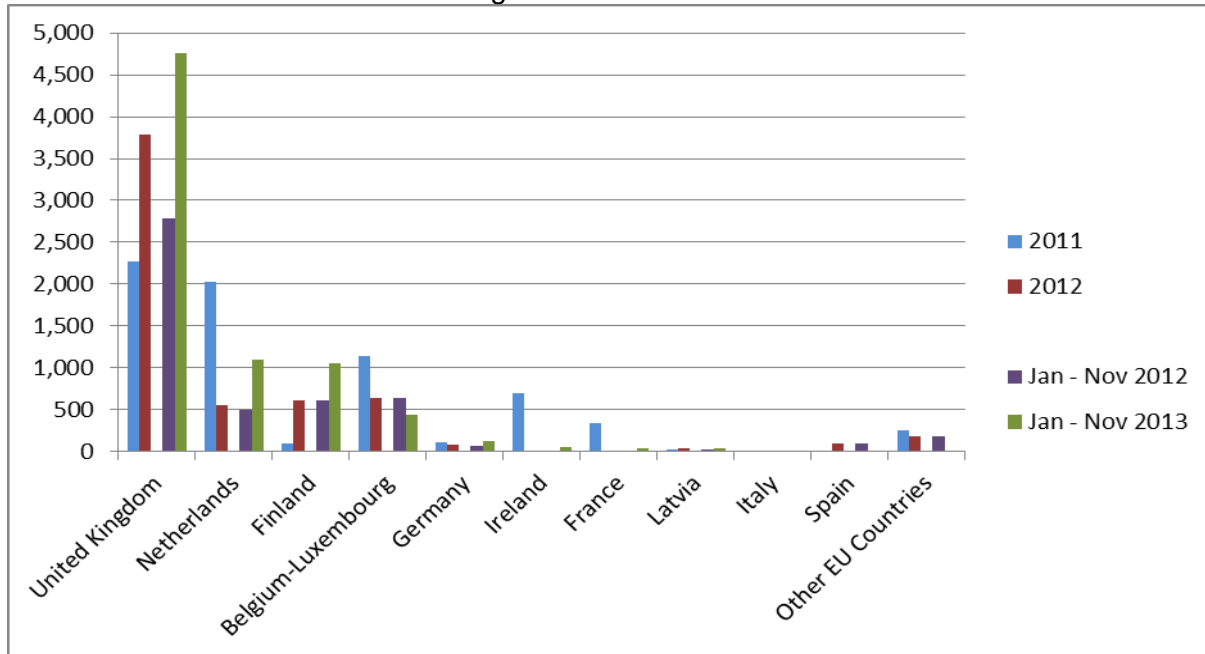


Source: USDA’s Global Agricultural Trade System Online

Major EU-28 Importers of U.S. Organic Products

The most important European Union ports of entry for U.S. organics are the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Finland, and Belgium. These four countries imported 96 percent of selected U.S. organic products during the period January to November 2013. Major EU importers act as distributors and transship organic products to other EU Member States.

Figure 3. Top 10 EU importers of selected U.S. organic products, in thousand USD, 2011 - 2012 and Jan to Nov 2012 – Jan to Nov 2013 figures

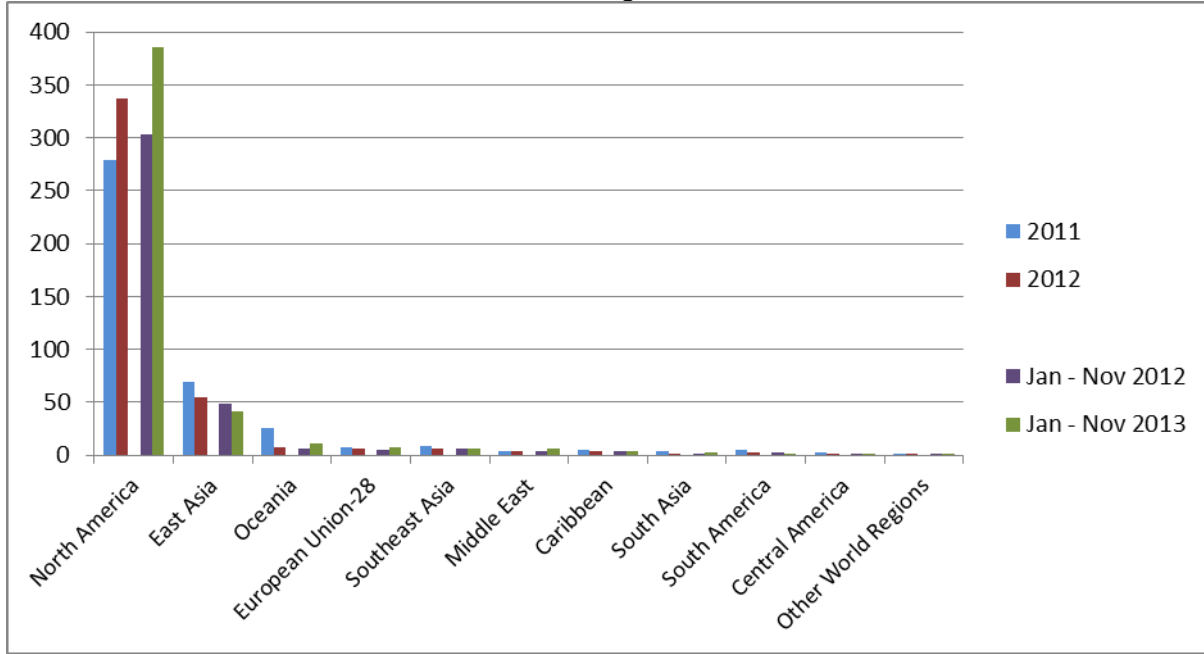


Source: USDA's Global Agricultural Trade System Online

Global U.S. Organic Trade with Selected Organic Products Covered by HS Codes

Total North American (Canada and Mexico) sales were valued at \$386 million during January to November 2013. Other significant markets include East Asia (most importantly Japan), Oceania and the European Union (most importantly the United Kingdom).

Figure 4. U.S. exports of selected organic products to world, top 10 regions, in million USD, 2011 - 2012 and Jan to Nov 2012 – Jan to Nov 2013 figures



Source: USDA’s Global Agricultural Trade System Online

Source Notes:

United States’ export and import statistics on the above mentioned organic products can be obtained through the USDA’s Global Agricultural Trade System Online (GATS): <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx> by running a standard query and selecting “Organics-Selected” under “Product Groups”.

The organic products which tracked by HS codes can be found at the [United States International Trade Commission’s webpage](#).

A list of organic trade HS codes introduced through 2013 can be obtained at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/organic-trade-hs-codes>

Export HS codes 2011 include:

Potatoes, tomatoes, onions, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, carrots, celery, peppers, spinach, oranges, lemons, grapes, blueberries, apples, pears & quinces, cherries, strawberries, coffee, and tomato sauce.

Additional export HS codes introduced in 2012 include:

Cabbage, cucumbers, grapefruits, and pears (replacing pears & quinces).

Import HS codes 2011 include:

Peppers, avocados, apples, pears & quinces, blueberries, coffee, green tea, black tea, durum wheat, rice, and soybeans.

Additional import HS codes introduced in 2012 include:
Honey, quinces (replacing pears & quinces).

Additional import HS codes introduced in 2013 include:
Garlic, almonds, bananas, mangoes, ginger, flaxseed, olive oil, wine & sparkling wine, and corn.