

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Greece

**Post:** Rome

### Tree Nuts Annual 2013

**Report Categories:**

Tree Nuts

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**Report Highlights:**

Greece is the third largest producer of almonds in the EU-28, after Spain and Italy. Per capita consumption of tree nuts in Greece at 17 kilos/year is the highest in the EU and one of the highest in the world. Greece's MY 2013/14 almond production is forecast at 5,000 MT. The United States is the main almond supplier to the Greek market, accounting for 60 percent of total imports.

## I. ALMONDS

**Table 1: Production, Supply and Demand (MT)**

Almonds, Shelled Basis	2011	2012	2013
	Estimates 2011/2012	Estimates 2012/2013	Forecast 2013/2014
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Planted	40,000	40,000	40,000
Area Harvested	37,000	39,950	39,900
Production	10,000	8,000	5,000
Imports	6,273	5,797	5,800
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>16,273</b>	<b>13,797</b>	<b>10,800</b>
Exports	905	1,009	1,000
Domestic Consumption	15,368	12,788	9,800
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>16,273</b>	<b>13,797</b>	<b>10,800</b>

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA (Global Trade Atlas)

### PRODUCTION

Greece is the third largest producer of almonds in the EU-28, after Spain and Italy. Almond cultivation in Greece has a long tradition and history. The main almond producing areas include five prefectures (Katerini, Serres, Kavala, Magnisia, and Larissa) of Central Macedonia and Thessaly, located in northern Greece. The quality of Greek almonds is considered excellent and the most popular varieties are Ferragnes, Texas, Troito, and Retsou. The Ferragnes variety is growing in popularity and replacing many traditional ones.

According to industry estimates, there are approximately 40,000 hectares currently cultivated for almonds, including all types of systematically cultivated orchards and a large number of scattered trees, which yield about 1,200 MT annually that is mostly for own consumption. Greece's MY 2013/14 almond production is forecast at 5,000 MT.

### CONSUMPTION

Per capita consumption of tree nuts in Greece at 17 kilos/year is the highest in the EU and one of the highest in the world. Almonds represent an important component of the Greek diet. Greeks consume almonds mainly as a snack food, and, to a lesser extent, as an ingredient for confectionary products, such as ice cream and chocolate.

### TRADE

Greece is a net importer of almonds. The United States is the main almond supplier to the Greek market, accounting for 60 percent of total imports. In addition, Spain is an important supplier to the Greek market, accounting for 30.7 percent of total imports. Imported almonds are destined mainly for the confectionary, ice cream, and chocolate industries, both for the domestic and re-export markets, mainly Bulgaria and Italy.

Greece exports small amounts of almonds that are destined for both the snack and confectionary industry. Bulgaria and Italy continue to be the main destinations for Greek almonds.

## II. PISTACHIOS

**Table 2: Production, Supply and Demand (MT)**

Pistachios, In-shell Basis	2011	2012	2013
	Estimates 2011/2012	Estimates 2012/2013	Forecast 2013/2014
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Planted	4,900	9,000	9,000
Area Harvested	4,850	8,850	8,780
Beginning Stocks	405	390	375
Production	3,150	5,000	2,500
Imports	165	140	150
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>3,025</b>
Exports	472	500	470
Domestic Consumption	2,858	4,655	2,185
Ending Stocks	390	375	370
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>3,025</b>

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

### PRODUCTION

According to industry estimates, MY 2013/14 Greek pistachio production is forecast at 2,500 MT. Pistachio trees production is cyclical, bearing heavily in alternate years. MY 2013/14 will be a “lower” bearing year. Greek pistachios are produced mainly in the Island of Egina and in the area of Lamia, located in Central Greece. New producing areas include the Makrakomi area of Central Greece and the municipality of Oropos, in East Attica. Due to its exceptional flavor, shapely form, and full kernel, the Aegina pistachio has been awarded by the European Commission as a PDO (Protected Designation of Origin), distinguishing it from all other pistachio varieties worldwide.

### CONSUMPTION

Greeks mainly consume pistachios fresh, as a snack food, and, to a lesser extent, as an ingredient for confectionary products, such as ice cream and chocolate. Imported pistachios comprise a significant portion of Greek consumption.

## **TRADE**

Greece is an emerging pistachio exporter. France represents the main destination for Greek pistachios. Greece's pistachio imports come mainly from the United States and France. Imported pistachios are destined for the confectionary and ice cream sectors.

## **Abbreviations and Definitions Used in this Report**

### **MY Marketing Year**

Almonds and Pistachios: September/August

### **HS Codes:**

Almonds: Shelled 080212; In-shell 080211

Pistachios: 080250

### **Conversion factors used to convert shelled to in-shell tree nuts:**

Almonds: 3.3

Pistachios: 1.5

Ha hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

MS EU member state(s)