Almond Sizes: Understanding the Process Used to Determine Sizing



<u>A Range of Sizes:</u> Almond sizing is determined by the weight of a kernel – the number of whole kernels (excluding double and broken kernels) needed to make one ounce of almonds.



*Note, this almond size photo merely provides a representation of a standard range of sizes for the Nonpareil variety, which has been determined by almond sizing screens and weighed in ounces.

<u>Sizing Procedure:</u> A standardized sampling technique is used to determine almond kernel size, following these basic steps:

- 1. Three samples, each weighing 8 ounces (226.8g) or 10 ounces (283.5g), are taken at random portions of the volume of almonds being graded. Doubles and broken kernels are excluded from kernel sizing samples. Then, the number of kernels in each sample is counted.
- 2. After this, the total number of kernels in the three samples is divided by the weight of the three samples (either 24 ounces or 30 ounces). If the kernel count per ounce calculated is within one-half kernel above the maximum or below the minimum range specified, the three-sample process is repeated and the results among the first and second three-portion samples are averaged.

3. Kernels sized using this count-per-ounce sampling method must be "fairly uniform" in size. This can be checked by dividing the weight of the largest 10 percent of kernels by the weight of the smallest 10 percent of kernels. The result of this check for "fairly uniform" calculation should be less than 1.7.

Checking Sizes of Almonds





Weighing 10 ounces - 283.5 grams (whole kernels) for size

Counting the number of almonds in the 283.5 gram (whole kernels) sample

Marketing Size: The marketing size may be specified in terms of range in count of whole almond kernels per ounce. When a range in count is specified, the whole kernels shall be fairly uniform in size, and the average count per ounce shall be within the range specified. To get the optimal price for your intended use, consider what marketing size is required for your specific use.

Common Marketing Size	
18/20	26/28
20/22	27/30
22/24	30/34
23/25	34/40
24/26	40/50

One ounce of almonds equals 28.35 grams. This chart represents common marketing sizes. Be sure to work with your supplier to determine specific characteristics to meet your needs.

