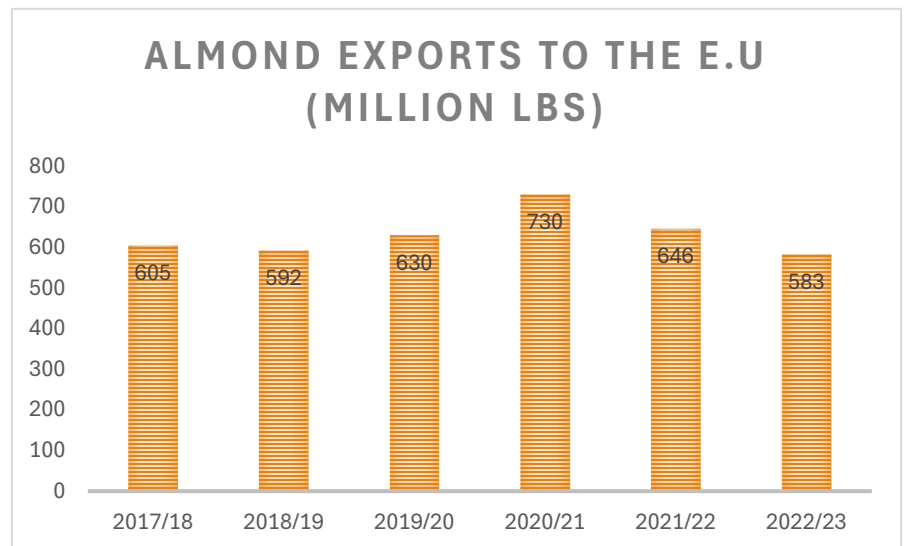




Trade

- Tree nuts are the largest agricultural export to the EU (value basis): soy and almonds are the top individual export commodities.
- Shipments were down about 10% compared to FY 21/22 owing to shipment/logistics issues, pandemic, war in Ukraine, and lingering inflation.
- #2 export region for California almonds in FY 22/23 (25%) behind Asia-Pacific (28%).
- Spain, Germany, Netherlands, and Italy account for 82% of the exports to EU in FY 22/23, receiving about 480 million pounds.
- Spain is also the 3rd largest producer of almonds shipments and a major transshipment point for the EU.



Europe leads in global new almond product introductions, with almost half of the total global product introductions, twice that of any other market.

Key Issues

- Inconsistencies in Member State approaches to import controls, and recognition of Pre-Export Check (PEC) program parameters.
- California almonds are the only U.S. commodity recognized under EU food import control legislation for pre-export checks, in effect since August 1, 2016. The program reduces import controls to < 1%.
- It remains to be seen how transshipments between EU and UK will be affected post-Brexit.
- ABC exploring options to eliminate the EU tariffs on kernels (3.5%) and inshell (5.6%).
- EU's Green Deal and aspirational 'Farm to Fork' strategy has put increased focus on sustainability, organic production, phaseout/elimination of chemical tools and implementing an ecolabel scheme for all products. ABC continues to monitor various EU proposals under this strategy that may impact almond exports.
- Pesticide cut-off criteria and hazard-based approach to risk assessments are not scientifically supported and are resulting in the elimination of chemical tools necessary to maintain plant health.
- E.U. funded 'Iberian Almonds' advertising program that aims to take advantage of increasing production in Portugal and emphasize local origins.