



# ABC GLOBAL UPDATE

August 2019 - July 2020

## FY 19/20 Strong Shipments Despite Challenges!

Almonds exports have continued to expand despite a complex market environment with significant global challenges.

Certainly COVID-19 has produced its fair share of logistical bottlenecks and market uncertainty. The trade war with China continues to drive exports down to that market...an array of technical barriers to trade and evolving documentation requests also created problems for exporters. Nevertheless, the California almond industry continues to be a leader in proactively engaging and addressing evolving situations, keeping markets strong and long-term opportunities for almonds growing.

## Algerian Government Closes Market to Imported Almonds

ABC has learned that the Algerian Government has moved to place seasonal import limitations on 13 agricultural commodities. This was done in order to protect local industry from foreign imports. **Almonds have been included** in this group and have been listed as being banned for the **entire year**. This came after the instruction of the President of Algeria during his June Ministers Council regarding the total restrictions on agricultural imports during harvest.

The suspension of imports took **effect on July 12**. Consignments shipped prior to July 12 should be allowed in. Any shipments after July 12 will be stopped at the port of entry.

For more information please contact:  
[gbogart@almondboard.com](mailto:gbogart@almondboard.com)

## India Certificate of Origin Requirements

The USDA/FAS in Delhi continues to work with the Food Safety and Standards of India (FSSAI) to address questions related to Certificates of Origin (COO) for a number of food and ag exports. FAS has emphasized that India's own regulations *do not specify who the issuing party must be* nor that there is a prescribed format.

Some handlers are issuing a COO from the American World Trade Chamber of Commerce ([www.awtcc.org](http://www.awtcc.org)) as an interim measure. Meantime, FAS is explaining to FSSAI that local Chambers of Commerce are official 3<sup>rd</sup> party authorities, and that COOs signed/stamped by them (the long-standing procedure) should be accepted.

Please keep Julie Adams advised of any issues you are having ([jadams@almondboard.com](mailto:jadams@almondboard.com)); if your consignments are being detained, specific details can be sent to the FAS office in Delhi ([ManiR@state.gov](mailto:ManiR@state.gov)).

## Aflatoxin Rejections in the EU and Japan

As the 2019/20 crop comes to a close, GTRA staff report that there were only **five EU** border rejections during the August 2019-July 2020 timeframe for consignments with Aflatoxin levels exceeding maximum tolerances. Some of the consignments were returned to the U.S. while others were reprocessed in the EU. *This is a major improvement from the 2018/19 crop year which saw 27 rejections.*

In terms of Japan, FY 2019/20 saw **19** rejections for Aflatoxin – also down from 33 rejections during 2018/19.

This continues to be a problem as Japan inspects 100% of almond shipments. Upon a rejection, the only alternative is to return these consignments to the U.S. as reconditioning in Japan is not permitted. GTRA is engaged with U.S. and Japanese officials in Tokyo and DC and is working to expand the coalition of countries concerned about Japan's import control system.

## CFAP and AMS Purchase Program to Assist Almonds

In April, USDA announced the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to assist growers who have suffered losses due to COVID-19. Almonds were included as one of the specialty crops covered under the program; the Farm Services Agency (FSA) will accept grower applications through August 28, 2020.

COVID-19 resources plus links to ABC/Almond Alliance webinars can be found on the ABC website [here](#).

USDA/AMS has also now announced a \$40 million purchase program for almonds. Details are expected shortly.

Please contact Bunnie Ibrahim at [bibrahim@almondboard.com](mailto:bibrahim@almondboard.com) with any questions you may have regarding the CFAP program or webinars.

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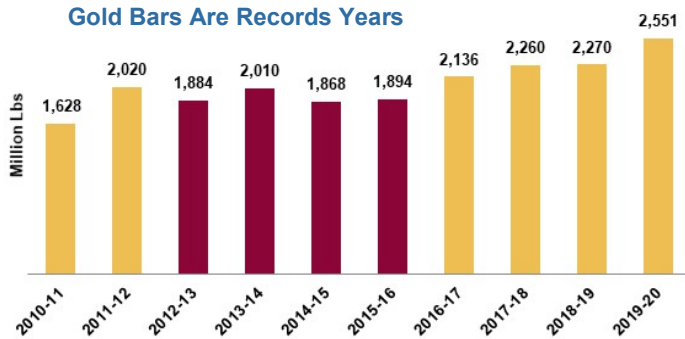


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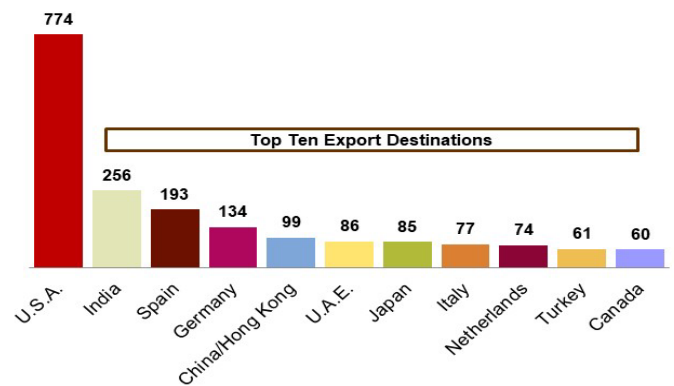
## FY19/20 Global Shipments in Review

**Production: 2.55 billion pounds**

Gold Bars Are Records Years

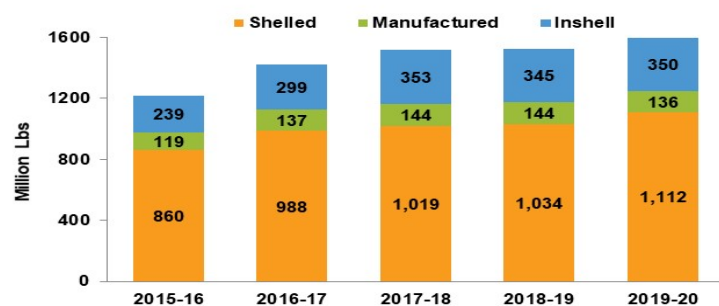
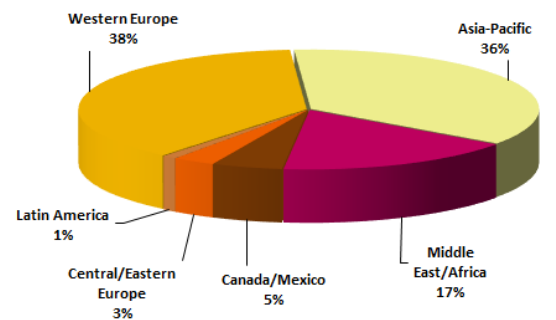
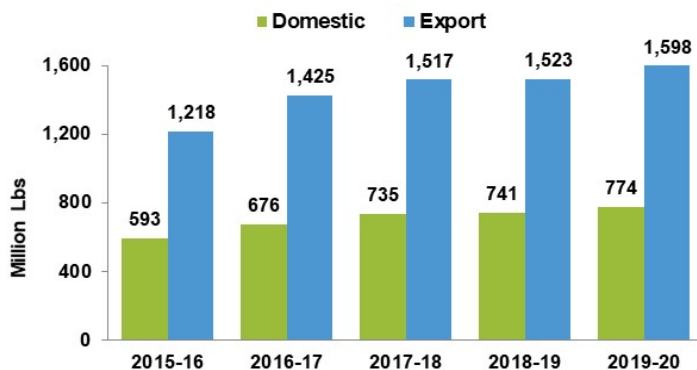


**Export Shipments: Top 10, Region, Product**

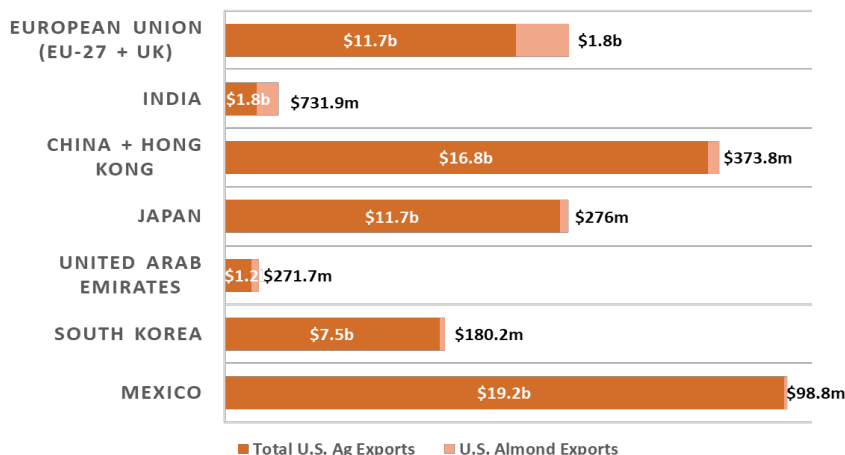


**Total Shipments: 237 billion pounds**

Domestic 33%; Export 67%



### U.S. Agricultural Exports by Value, CY2019



- **EU:** Almonds #2 ag export (\$1.8b) behind soybeans (\$1.95b)
- **India:** Almonds #1 ag export (\$732m), accounting for 40% of all U.S. ag exports to India
- **China + HK:** Almonds are 2<sup>nd</sup> largest tree nut export (\$374m) and the #7 ag product overall
- **Japan:** Almonds #9 ag product overall
- **UAE:** Almonds #1 ag export and account for about 23% of total U.S. agricultural exports
- **South Korea:** Almonds #9 ag product overall
- **Mexico:** Tree nuts are a small sector category for exports to Mexico (\$342m); almonds (\$99m)