



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/21/2000

GAIN Report #NL0044

The Netherlands

Tree Nuts

The Almond, Pecan and Pistachio market in the Netherlands 2000

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Report Highlights:

Tree Nut imports from the United States fell by fifty percent during the first six months of this year.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

Year / Commodity (Raw, shelled, preserved etc.)	U.S exports to the Netherlands				% change
	<i>Quantities MT</i>				
	1998	1999	Jan.-Jun. Comparison 1999 - 2000		
Almonds	11,348	13,161	6,747	4,855	-28.04
Pecans	1,605	1,267	879	747	-15.04
Pistachios	2,497	1,564	895	525	-41.38

Year / Commodity (Raw, shelled, preserved etc.)	U.S exports to the Netherlands				% change
	<i>Value x1,000 U.S.\$</i>				
	1998	1999	Jan.-Jun. Comparison 1999 - 2000		
Almonds	45,904	42,190	24,761	13,372	-46
Pistachios	10,527	6,927	3,656	2,411	-34.05
Pecans	7,571	7,412	5,283	4,678	-11.46

Dutch nut imports from the United States dropped considerably during the first six months of 2000. According to the trade, there are three main reasons that explain this decrease of nut imports from the U.S.:

1. ***Exchange Rate:***

one of the most important reasons is the unfavorable exchange rate of the U.S. dollar over the last several months. In one year prices paid by Dutch importers increased by 26 percent due to the exchange rate.

	<i>June 1999</i>	<i>Sept. 1999</i>	<i>Dec.1999</i>	<i>March 2000</i>	<i>June 2000</i>	<i>Sept. 2000</i>
1 U.S. \$ =.....Dfl.	2.1319	2.0551	2.1948	2.2932	2.3118	2.5979

2. ***Crop records:***

Tree nut production worldwide reached highs in 1999/00, which resulted in very low prices worldwide. California pistachio's have however the advantage of their Aflatoxin safety and security compared to Iranian pistachios.

2000/01 Crops are expected to be lower because of severe drought and alternating production .

3. **High Inventories**

High stocks from '98-'99 production prevented importers last year from buying large amounts

Market developments:

Because of the high U.S. prices, the bakery industry has turned to alternative, less expensive products.

Hazelnuts are used instead of almonds and walnuts instead of pecans.

Imports are expected to pick up at the end of the year however, because of the holiday season.