

ABC Global Update

Export Shipments Increase 10% Year-to-Date

Export Shipments for August 2011-December 2011 are up 10% over last year at nearly 640 million pounds.

China/Hong Kong continues as the leading export market with 141.5 million pounds shipped so far this year. This is an increase of 18% over last year. Spain is the second largest market with 67.6 million pounds followed closely by India with 65.3 million pounds shipped.

	Million Lbs. Aug-Dec 2011	% Change from Last Year
W. Europe	198,980,429	1%
Spain	67,600,903	8%
Germany	45,744,924	-7%
Italy	19,311,284	8%
Netherlands	16,689,760	-7%
France	11,209,705	-5%
Belgium	10,417,313	37%
UK	8,152,619	-32%
Central/E. Europe	24,915,502	26%
Russia	15,019,910	26%
Asia-Pacific	277,955,517	20%
China/Hong Kong	141,472,206	18%
India	65,262,905	17%
Japan	23,326,083	6%
South Korea	16,339,275	17%
Vietnam	12,990,976	521%
Middle East	95,825,708	5%
UAE	51,152,983	3%
Turkey	26,956,652	16%
Total Exports	639,786,794	10%

Indonesia to Close Port of Jakarta to Horticulture Imports

In early January, the Indonesian Agriculture Ministry announced plans to close the port of Jakarta to the import of all horticultural products effective March 19, 2012. Roughly 90% of all U.S. horticulture exports to Indonesia go through Jakarta port.

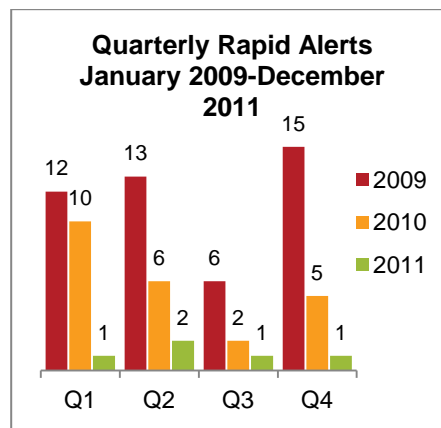
U.S. government officials have been working to ensure that U.S. horticultural exports continue to Indonesia without disruption. High-level discussions are expected to take place this week. ABC has provided historic trade volume to help USDA assess the impact on U.S. exporters.

ABC will continue to monitor the situation and will update industry as soon as new information becomes available.

To report an issue with pending shipments to the port of Jakarta, please contact Caroline Stringer at cstringer@almondboard.com or by phone at 209.343.3256.

Quarterly EU Rapid Alert Update

European rapid alerts for aflatoxin rejections of California almonds are down through the fourth quarter of 2011, totaling 5 as compared with 23 from the same period in 2010.



U.S.-Canada Joint Action Plan Will Streamline Border Trade

In December, the U.S. and Canada unveiled a bilateral initiative aimed at promoting regulatory coordination, increasing border security and streamlining trade between the two countries.

The Regulatory Cooperation Council Joint Action Plan is primarily geared toward streamlining cross-border trade and further harmonizing the two countries' food safety legislation. The plan will develop common approaches to food safety by establishing jointly accepted food safety laboratory criteria and testing methodologies to ensure the mutual reliability of food safety testing. It will also further align pesticide approval processes and residue limit setting in both countries.

Finally, the two countries plan to develop a harmonized approach to screening inbound shipments arriving from off-shore to expedite movement of secure cargo across the border. Under this principle of "cleared once, accepted twice," shipments that have been screened and approved at the first point of entry will not have to be re-screened once they cross the U.S.-Canada border.

U.S.-China Agri-business Trade Mission March 23-28, 2012

The USDA is accepting applications to participate in an agribusiness trade mission (ATM) scheduled for March 23-28, 2012. **The application deadline is Friday, January 13, 2012.** The ATM seeks to provide U.S. small-and-medium-sized enterprise participants with first-hand market information, access to government decision makers, and one-on-one meetings with business contacts, including potential agents, distributors, and partners. This ATM will promote joint ventures and support bilateral trade with

China for key products including tree nuts.

The ATM will be held in Chengdu and Shanghai, China. Chinese business representatives will meet with selected U.S. agribusiness participants in both locations. Meetings with government and industry officials from both China and the U.S., presentations by public/private sector experts, one-on-one business meetings, and site visits will be scheduled during the mission.

For more information, please contact USDA: Shane.Danielson@fas.usda.gov and Lindsay.Malecha@fas.usda.gov.

Korean Trade Minister Expects KORUS to Enter into Force by February 2012

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) held working-level meetings with South Korea trade officials from December 19-20 to continue discussions related to implementation of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). At the meeting, the two sides were expected to finalize a timeline for implementation of the agreement.

In advance of the meeting, South Korean Trade Minister Kim Jong-hoon stated that he expects the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to enter into force by February 1, 2012. Kim further stated that although both countries had initially sought to implement the agreement by January 1, this timeline had been delayed because the Korean legislature did not approve the trade deal until November 22.

Despite Kim's claims, the Obama administration has not given an indication of when any of three pending FTAs will enter into force. However, USTR recently published a brief statement indicating that U.S. trade officials continue to work with the governments of Korea, Colombia, and Panama to pursue the implementation of each of those bilateral agreements.

Russia Formally Invited to Join the WTO

High-level trade officials from around the world convened the 8th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) last month. As anticipated, the ministers formally invited Russia to join the global trade body

during the meetings on December 16. As the world's largest economy outside of the WTO, Russia's accession marks an important step in fostering global economic growth.

Following the announcement, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk issued a statement welcoming the decision. Kirk underlined the significance of Russia's pending accession, calling it "an important turning point in making the WTO truly a 'world' trade organization."

As part of its market access commitments, Russia will bind its tariff on almonds to 5% upon its accession. Additionally, by joining the WTO Russia agrees to comply with all WTO rules and standards, including specific measures related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, non-discrimination, and protection of intellectual property rights. U.S. companies will be able to ensure Russia's compliance with its WTO commitments on market access and other rules via the WTO's dispute settlement process.

25th Annual Asia-Pacific Business Outlook Conference

The U.S. Commercial Service will host the 25th annual Asia-Pacific Business Outlook Conference in Los Angeles March 26-27, 2012.

Presentations will include country commercial overviews and country workshops on topics such as financing, green business, responses to the financial crisis, and negotiating with the Chinese. These presentations will be made by experts from within the Commercial Service, the private sector, and academia.

For more information, please visit <http://www.apboconference.com/index.html>.

AgTC Ag Shippers Workshops

The Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC) will hold two workshops next February for Ag shippers. Workshops will be held in Fresno on February 2, 2012 and Sacramento on February 3, 2012. Topics include

- Ocean-forecasting, service equipment availability, and costs
- Automated Export Documentation requirements

- Rail service
- Infrastructure improvements
- West coast port updates

The cost of attendance for AgTC members is \$25 (\$75 for non-members). To register, visit www.agtrans.org.

Upcoming Travel

- **January 13-16, 2012**
Julie Adams and Richard Waycott in Orlando for the annual Peanut Tree Nut Processors Association meeting.
- **January 15-20, 2012**
Stacey Humble in India for television advertising production shoots.
- **January 24-25, 2012**
Julie Adams in San Diego for the United Fresh annual Winter Leadership meeting.