



# MERIDIAN MONITOR

MARKET NEWS AND INDUSTRY INFORMATION FOR MERIDIAN'S VALUED CUSTOMERS

**In a nutshell...**

- Pistachio demand remains strong
- Increased demand for 08 Almonds
- Export shipments are up about 72%

## Pistachio Update

The pistachio market remains firm with no signs of any downward pricing until we get closer to the 2009 crop. The 2009 crop will be a light year for California and may get lighter due to the severe water issues we are now facing.

Conservative estimates of the damage to the Iranian crop due to their frost is in the 40 to 50% range. Damage may extend into the 2009 crop as well.

Demand remains strong and it appears that supplies may be 10 to 15% short of demand.

Prices for all commodities are trending up due to increased production cost, a weak dollar and lower crop estimates. Pistachios are no exception. We expect EU quality pistachios to remain at or slightly above \$3.25/lb for the foreseeable future.

## Almond Update

Strong shipment numbers have revitalized the market! The California Almond Board released shipment numbers for May 2008 at 88.4 Million pounds versus May 2007 at 76.7 Million pound; approximately 15% increase from last year.

Current crop trades on BV Std 2% reported from levels of USD \$1.72-1.75/lb; CAL SSR 27/30 at USD \$1.85-1.90/lb; NPS 23/25 at USD \$2.50-2.55/lb for unpasteurized product.

Increase demand for new crop almonds with few reports of participation from California packers due to concerns of water allocations to California growers and the effects of water stress on trees for upcoming crops. Prices are expected to remain firm through summer months and well into new crop.

## May Shipment Update

Year to Date Export Shipments through May of 08 were up by 72.37% and Domestic shipments were up by 28.91%. Monthly export shipment in May 2008, however, were lower by approximately a million pounds when compared to April.

**Sales Contacts:**

**Jim Zion, Managing Director**

**Cecilia Kjar, Sales Coordinator/Purchasing Director**

**Paul Reynolds, Sales**

**Jessica Layfield, Sales & Marketing Assistant**

**May Shipments from 2004-2008**

