



MERIDIAN MONITOR

In a nutshell...

- Pistachio price increase ceases
- Almond prices remain steady

MARKET NEWS AND INDUSTRY INFORMATION FOR MERIDIAN'S VALUED CUSTOMERS

EU Pistachio Update

The pistachio market has stopped its price increases, along with the sale of current crop. New offers to distributors for private labels are facing major resistance in a dark socio political environment. As many major commodities have increased there are also many social movements occurring in most EU countries. For this reason some distributors risk to withdraw from the shelf non-staple items which have increased strongly .

Brands are trying to cover their needs and escape from the pistachio market as quickly as possible. In response to this volume offers are trying to be made before the market becomes quiet.

The export market is slowing as well. China is not paying these new prices, while Russia's consumption is mostly in the summer so July shipments will be the last of the season. The situation in Iran remains unclear as forecasts for the 08 crop are from 80 to 120,000 tons. From the farm new crop is being offered at \$3.05 to the grower hulled and dried without Alfa commitments.

Almond Update

Upon the release of the objective estimate the US and EU second hands have come back on the market with lower levels. Nothing has been reported traded and California's prices have remained at the same level. The majority of the industry still hopes for a price decrease purely based on the fact that next year will bear a record crop and a record carry-out. Doubt still remains that the demand will do well enough to absorb the almond surplus.

Standard 5% current crop is currently at \$1.70/lb FAS. As for new crop an EU reseller offered \$1.65/lb for D/J/F shipment, but buyers interests were at \$1.57 to \$1.58/lb FAS.

Cal SSR 27/30's current crop is at \$1.75/lb FAS CA, while new crop was offered at \$1.76/lb FAS CA for Sept 08 to April 09.

NPS 23/25's current crop is not currently being offered. New crop, however, is at \$2.40/lb FAS.

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