



July 13, 2009

MERIDIAN NUT GROWERS
DRIED FRUITS ~ NUTS

MERIDIAN MONITOR

In a nutshell...

- Almond estimate down from May

MARKET NEWS AND INDUSTRY INFORMATION FOR MERIDIAN'S VALUED CUSTOMERS

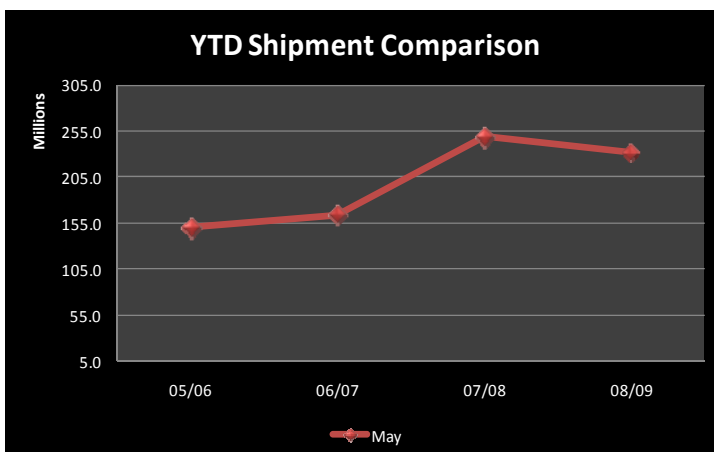
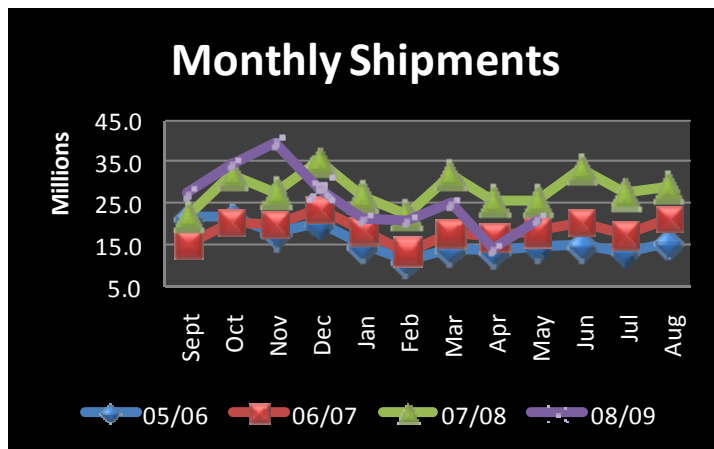
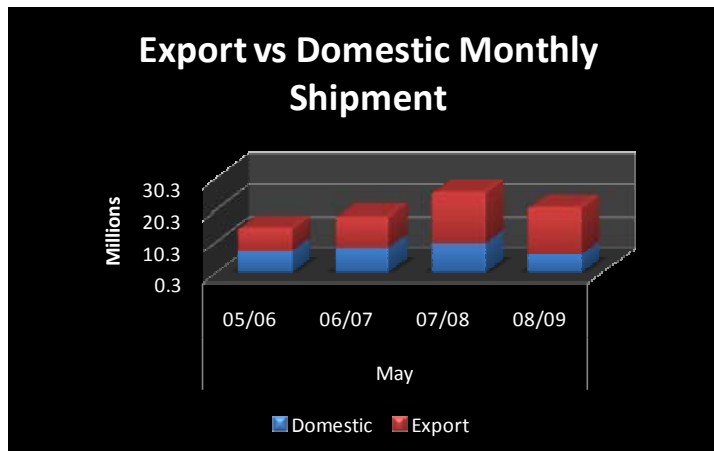
Pistachio Update

Shipments for the month of May are tracking close to what was expected prior to the recall in March. The recall has started to fade from the consuming public's mind as other issues take precedence.

Despite the weak worldwide economies, we have seen demand remains good for nut products like pistachios. This is in part to the strong health message that is starting to resonate with consumers. In addition, consumers still want to "treat" themselves on occasion and pistachios are a healthy and affordable snack that they can serve to friends and family.

New crop in California is progressing with a possibility harvest may be delayed 1-2 weeks beyond normal. The biggest concern will be over sizing as we have not see the nut sizing we saw last year. However, we will not know for sure until we start harvest mid-September.

Buyers around the world have started contracting part of their needs especially for early shipments.



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