

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: September 18, 2025

Report Number: IN2025-0053

Report Name: Tree Nuts Annual

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Tree Nuts

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Report Highlights:

India is a significant importer of almonds, walnuts and pistachios due to strong domestic demand and limited local production. Several factors are driving consistent growth in consumption, including a growing economy, rising incomes, the expansion of the middle class and increasing awareness of health benefits. While India produces almonds and walnuts domestically, there is no commercial production for pistachios. The country is heavily reliant on imports to meet its growing demand for the three nuts. For marketing year (MY) 2025/2026 (August-July), FAS New Delhi (Post) forecasts almond production down reflecting poor soil moisture and adverse weather conditions that consistently impact yields. Almond, walnut and pistachio imports for the same period are projected higher at 190,000 MT, 75,000 MT and 55,000 MT, respectively. Exports of almonds and walnuts remain limited due to high domestic consumption and relatively low production levels.

COMMODITY

ALMONDS, SHELLED BASIS

Table 1. India: Commodity, Almond, Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD)

Almonds, Shelled Basis	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	Aug 2023		Aug 2024		Aug 2025	
India	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	0	48000	0	48000	0	48000
Area Harvested (HA)	0	45000	0	45000	0	45000
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	2900	0	2900	0	2875
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	290	0	290	0	300
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	0	3190	0	3190	0	3175
Beginning Stocks (MT)	34090	34090	30680	30680	0	32000
Production (MT)	4200	4200	4150	4150	0	4100
Imports (MT)	175000	177400	180000	184000	0	190000
Total Supply (MT)	213290	215690	214830	218830	0	226100
Exports (MT)	0	240	0	250	0	260
Domestic Consumption (MT)	182610	184770	185830	186580	0	195840
Ending Stocks (MT)	30680	30680	29000	32000	0	30000
Total Distribution (MT)	213290	215690	214830	218830	0	226100
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

PRODUCTION

For the marketing year (MY) 2025/2026 (August-July), Post forecasts India's almond production down at 4,100 metric tons (MT) (shelled basis) due to climate disruptions and insufficient soil moisture in the top almond-producing states of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Farmers face a complex set of interconnected soil and climate challenges each year, which negatively impact almond tree health and yields. Additionally, the absence of a centralized almond market, or "*Mandi*," in the region forces farmers to store their produce or sell it in external markets, potentially reducing profits. Aging orchards, low yields, and climate disruptions are prompting farmers to shift away from almond cultivation in favor of more profitable, government-supported apple farming.

India's Almond Production Locations: According to the National Horticulture Board's 2021-2022 First Advance Estimates, India's Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir accounts for most of the country's almond production (91.26 percent), followed by Himachal Pradesh (8.73 percent) and Maharashtra (0.09 percent). Popular almond varieties

grown in India include Shalimar, Makdoon, Waris, and Kagazi (thin shell). The Kashmir Horticulture Department actively promotes Kagazi almonds due to their higher yields and late blooming characteristics. Shelling rates range from 20 to 30 percent for hard-shell varieties and up to 40 percent for thin-shelled varieties.

To revitalize local almond cultivation and production, the Jammu and Kashmir government has launched several initiatives in recent years. These include the Modified High-Density Plantation Scheme (HDPS), the establishment of almond-exclusive nurseries, the promotion of cooperatives, and the development and enhancement of irrigation infrastructure. Despite these efforts, the almond industry faces challenges, including competition from more profitable crops such as apples.

CONSUMPTION

For MY 2025/2026, Post estimates almond consumption up at 195,840 MT, driven by the expanding middle class, rising incomes, and growing affordability. Interest in health and wellness is increasing among India's young population, half of which is under 30 years of age. Almonds continue to gain recognition for their nutrient-rich profile, including protein, fiber, vitamin E, and antioxidants. Post has revised MY 2024/2025 and MY 2023/2024 consumption estimates to 186,580 MT and 184,770 MT, respectively, reflecting an expanding consumer base. Globally, India ranks second in almond consumption behind the United States.¹ Considered to be a "superfood," almonds are increasingly featured in dietary patterns, transitioning from traditional snacks to more nutritious alternatives and on-the-go options, particularly among younger generations. E-commerce platforms are further boosting accessibility, reaching consumers in Tier II and III cities.

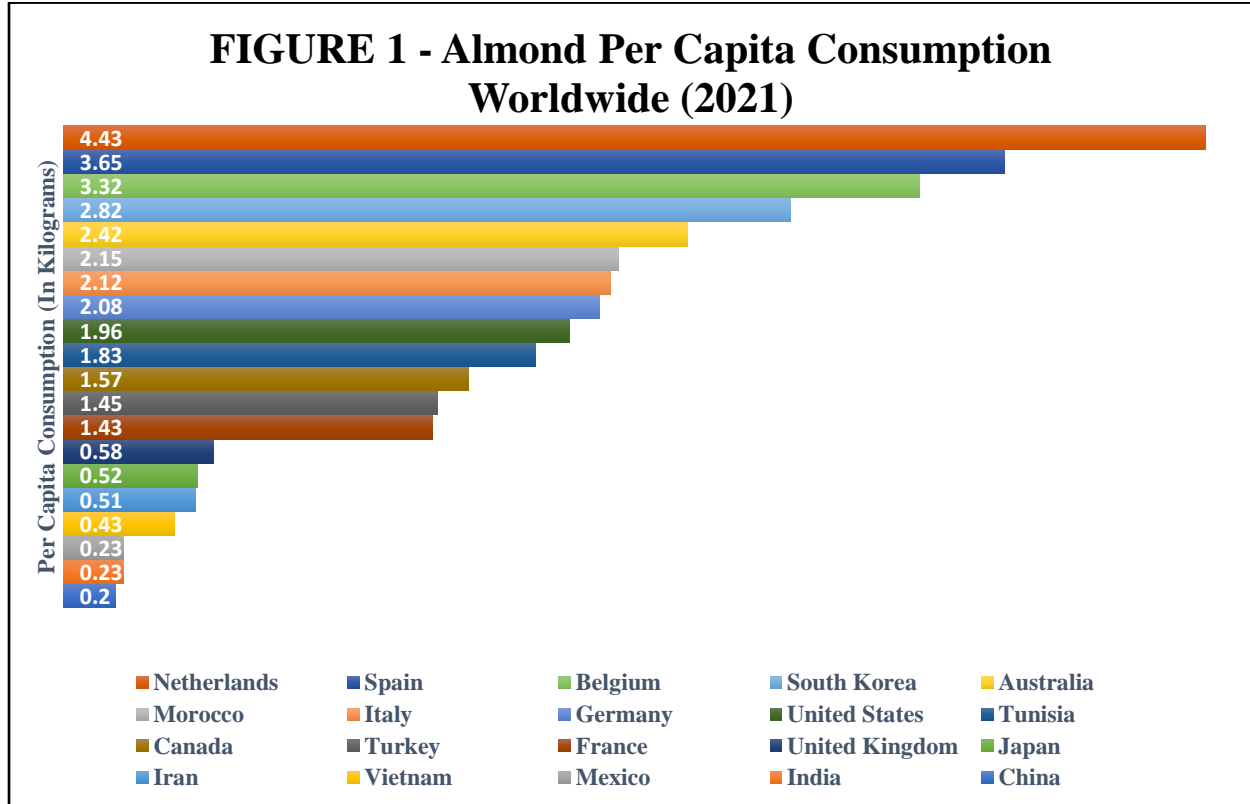
Traditionally, almonds have been associated with improving memory and heart health. Consumption patterns are evolving beyond cultural habits of eating soaked almonds each morning or during festive seasons. Almonds are now widely used in Indian sweets, health drinks, breakfast cereals, granola bars, snacking nuts (e.g., salted, roasted, spicy almonds, trail mix), chocolates, cookies, and ice cream. Imports of almond derivatives, such as almond milk, flour, and butter, are also expected to grow and contribute to the expansion of India's food processing and personal care industries. Bulk sales, particularly for business and corporate gifting, are further driving consumption growth.

With limited domestic production and expanding consumer demand, India relies heavily on imports to meet its almond demand. Over the last decade, India's in-shell almond imports have grown at an impressive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.5 percent, with future growth expected.² Despite being a major importer, India's per capita almond consumption remains low at 0.23 kilogram (Figure 1), compared to over a kilogram per person in most other countries. This highlights significant potential for market expansion as protein-rich snacks gain popularity. India's healthy snacks market, valued at USD 3.91 billion in 2024, is projected to

¹ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/top-almond-consuming-countries.html#:~:text=What%20is%20this?-.India,exporter%20of%20almond%20to%20India>

² <https://www.entrepreneurindia.co/blog-description/9014/almond+market+and+demand+in+india#:~:text=The%20main%20reason%20is%20oil,17.5%25%20in%20the%20last%20decade>

reach USD 6.12 billion by 2030.³



Source: Statista

STOCKS

For MY 2024/2025, almond ending stocks are raised to 32,000 MT, as lower prices in the previous marketing year (MY 2023/2024) encouraged importers to stockpile almonds, resulting in higher carryover at the start of the forecast year (2025/2026).

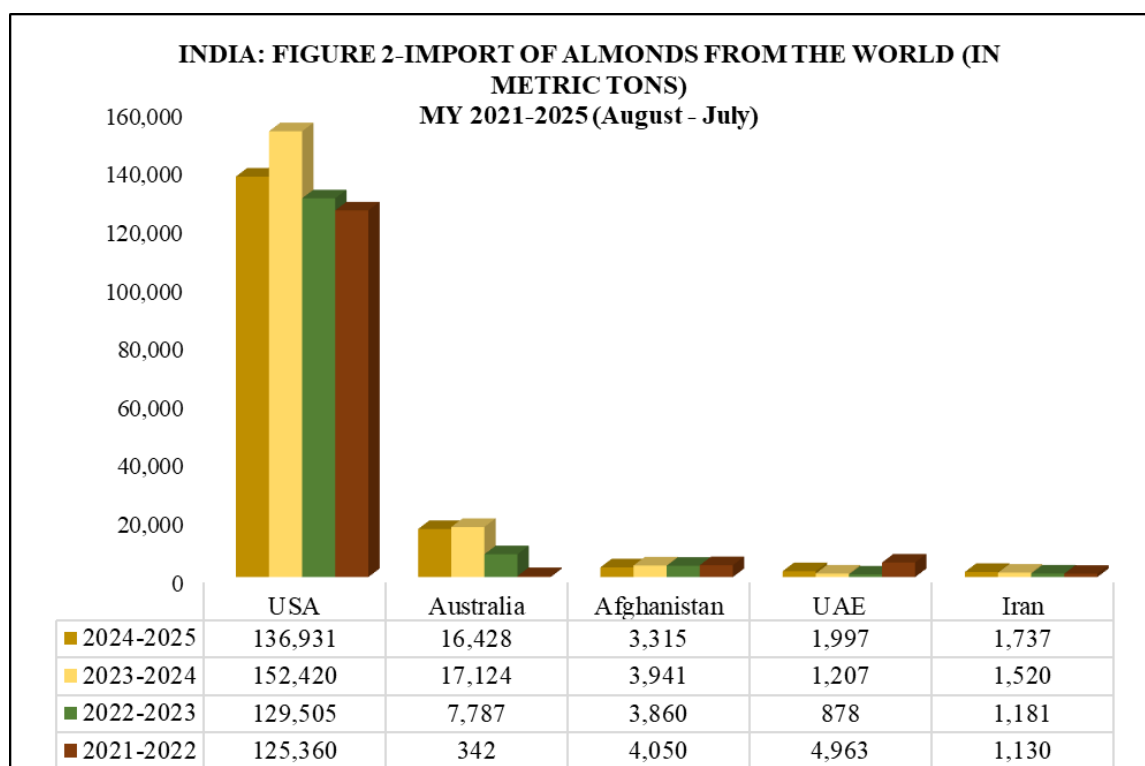
TRADE

Imports: For MY 2025/2026, Post projects almond imports at 190,000 MT, up by six percent from MY 2024/2025 USDA Official estimates of 180,000 MT.

Post has revised its earlier MY 2024/2025 and MY 2023/2024 import estimates to 184,000 MT and 177,400 MT, respectively, based on the latest official trade data. Following the removal of retaliatory tariffs in September 2023, U.S. almond exports to India experienced a significant surge. Between January and May 2025, the value of almond exports grew by 50 percent compared to the same period in 2024.

³ <https://www.techsciresearch.com/report/india-healthy-snacks-market/27972.html>

India remains the top destination for U.S. almonds (Figure 2). In MY 2024/2025, California-origin almonds accounted for approximately 85 percent of the market share, while Australian-origin almonds held a distant second with 10 percent (Table 2). Almond imports from the United States and Australia are typically in-shell varieties, such as Nonpareil or Carmel, and are shelled locally through machine-cracking and hand-sorting processes. This local shelling adds value within India, expands domestic employment opportunities, and aligns with the Indian government’s “Make in India” initiative, which promotes local manufacturing and production. In contrast, most other origins supply shelled almonds.



Note: Trade data for MY 2024/2025 is for the August-June period.

Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS New Delhi research.

Table 2: India: Commodity, Almond, Imports, MY 2024/2025 (August-July) (MT)

Country	In-Shell	Shelled	Total Kernel	% Share
World	151,036	9,812	160,848	100
United States	136,038	893	136,931	85
Australia	13,223	3,205	16,428	10
Afghanistan	804	2,511	3,315	2
United Arab Emirates	811	1,186	1,997	1
Iran	0	1,737	1,737	<1

Note: In-shell almonds are converted to a shelled basis by multiplying by a factor of 0.6. Trade data is for the August 2024-June 2025 period.

Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS New Delhi office research.

Exports: India's almond exports primarily consist of small quantities of branded almond snack products to neighboring countries in South Asia.

POLICY

Following the removal of retaliatory tariffs in [September 2023](#), India expanded market opportunities for U.S. agricultural producers and manufacturers. The applied duty rate for in-shell almonds was reduced from USD 460/MT to USD 400/MT.

Table 3. India: Almonds, Tariffs

Commodity HS Code	Description	Basic Customs Duty
0802.11.00	Almonds In-shell	USD 400/MT (Indian Rupees 35 per kilogram)
0802.12.00	Almonds Shelled	USD 1,142/MT (Indian Rupees 100 per kilogram)

*Social Welfare Surcharge is not applicable; Exchange rate: 1 Rupee equals USD 87.5

Source: FAS New Delhi.

On September 3, 2025, the Government of India (GOI) announced revised Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates which covered various food and agricultural products, including all dried fruit and nuts such as almonds. GST rates for almonds were lowered from 12 percent to five percent. The new rates will take effect on September 22, 2025. A comprehensive list of food products, including their Harmonized System (HTS) code and updated GST rates, is provided [here](#):

India's Non-Tariff Barriers: India's non-tariff barriers include stringent almond kernel quality standards prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).⁴ According to local trade sources, these standards are overly strict and difficult to apply across multiple commercial grades, creating challenges such as unnecessary customs clearance delays.

Traders seek greater flexibility in grading, arguing that it should reflect diverse commercial factors such as varietal differences, crop quality variability, and pricing differentials, rather than focusing primarily on physical parameters, including damage or the presence of foreign material.

COMMODITY

⁴ See, GAIN-INDIA | [IN2020-0103](#) | India Almond Kernel Standards and other Various Food Products Published in the Indian Gazette.

WALNUTS, IN-SHELL BASIS

Table 4. India: Commodity, Walnuts, Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD)

Walnuts, Inshell Basis	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	Sep 2023		Sep 2024		Sep 2025	
India	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area Harvested (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (MT)	18000	18000	18380	13005	0	6305
Production (MT)	33000	33000	34000	34000	0	33500
Imports (MT)	65000	60175	70000	65000	0	75000
Total Supply (MT)	116000	111175	122380	112005	0	114805
Exports (MT)	1400	1950	1000	3200	0	2500
Domestic Consumption (MT)	96220	96220	103500	102500	0	103000
Ending Stocks (MT)	18380	13005	17880	6305	0	9305
Total Distribution (MT)	116000	111175	122380	112005	0	114805
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

PRODUCTION

For MY 2025/2026 (September-August), Post forecasts India's walnut (in-shell basis), production lower at 33,500 MT, from the previous MY 2024/2025 estimate of 34,000 MT, due to soil and weather-related challenges that has hindered the productivity, quality and yield of trees. Indian walnut production is cyclical, with yields varying by up to 20 percent depending on weather conditions during the flowering (February to April) and harvesting (August to September) stages.

Walnut Landscape: India's walnuts are primarily grown in the northwestern Himalayan belt, concentrated in Jammu and Kashmir, which accounts for 98 percent of production. Popular varieties include Lake English, Drainovsky, and Opex Caulchry. Other contributing regions include Himachal Pradesh (Gobind, Eureka, Placentia, Wilson, Franquette, Kashmir Budded varieties), Uttarakhand (Chakrata varieties), and the northeastern states of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Indian walnuts vary in size and characteristics and are categorized as paper-shelled, thin-shelled, medium-shelled, and hard-shelled. The harvest typically occurs from late August through September. However, heat stress and sunburn caused by excessive temperatures can significantly reduce yields.

Walnut Cultivation Shortcomings: The walnut cultivation in India faces several challenges, including lack of suitable propagation methods, inadequate supply of quality planting material, poor soil quality and issues with establishing young trees. Additionally, specific climatic requirements, pollination, inefficient irrigation systems and harvesting challenges hinder productivity. Many farmers still rely on primitive, unscientific techniques for orchard management and soil care. Lack of production, protection and processing techniques, inadequate infrastructure, long gestations, poor orchard management, and uneven yields have constrained walnut production in the region.

There is a pressing need for improved tree varieties with faster fruiting periods, drip irrigation systems, and modern post-harvest infrastructure. Most walnut trees currently in production are over 40 years old, leading to declining productivity and reduced market value due to the absence of adequate dry fruit markets.⁵ Field experts highlight the need for innovative farming techniques, including planting high-density walnut trees, to revitalize the walnut industry.

CONSUMPTION

For MY 2025/2026, Post forecasts India's walnut consumption at 103,000 MT, driven by a growing economy, an expanding middle class and consumers' increasing health awareness. As these factors continue to evolve, walnut consumption is likely to remain sturdy, particularly among health-conscious and urban consumers. Post has revised MY 2024/2025 consumption estimates lower at 102,500 MT due to lower imports.

The walnut market size is projected to reach \$9.26 billion by 2025 and \$11.77 billion by 2030 with a CAGR of 4.9 percent between 2025 and 2030.⁶ India is experiencing growing demand for nuts, including walnuts, fueled by rising interest in plant-based diets. With convenience foods gaining popularity, consumers increasingly prefer packaged walnuts, flavored varieties, and walnut-based products such as walnut oil and walnut flour.

Consumer Preferences: Industry sources suggest that walnut consumption in India has the potential to grow by 50 percent annually.⁷ Currently, average daily consumption is low, with only two walnuts consumed per person per year. For most individuals, walnuts are not yet a daily habit. However, they are increasingly recognized as a 'nutritional powerhouse,' and health-conscious consumers are embracing them.

Walnuts are gaining popularity across industries, including bakeries, confectionery, nutritious snacking, packaged food, and cosmetics. For Indian consumers, kernel color is a key quality indicator, with lighter-colored walnut kernels associated with higher quality, freshness, and superior taste. In-shell walnuts remain in high demand, primarily sold in traditional markets and retail outlets. Shelled walnut kernels, however, are more popular for snacking and

⁵ See, [Money-Control](#): "Kashmir's Walnut Industry is Cracking Under Pressure. Here's Why." (September 13, 2022).

⁶ <https://nuffoodsspectrum.in/2025/01/30/growing-trend-of-walnut-exports-from-india-a-global-perspective.html>

⁷ <https://www.freshfruitportal.com/news/2023/11/22/big-opportunities-for-walnuts-in-india/#:~:text=The%20potential%20for%20consumption%20is,led%20to%20higher%20consumption%20nationwide>

household cooking. About 70–75 percent of India’s walnut consumption occurs at the household level, with over half happening during the festive season from October to November.

The convenience and reach of e-commerce and quick-commerce platforms have significantly boosted walnut sales across India’s geographical regions. Supermarkets are increasingly dedicating shelf space to meet the rising demand for tree nuts, including walnuts.

STOCKS

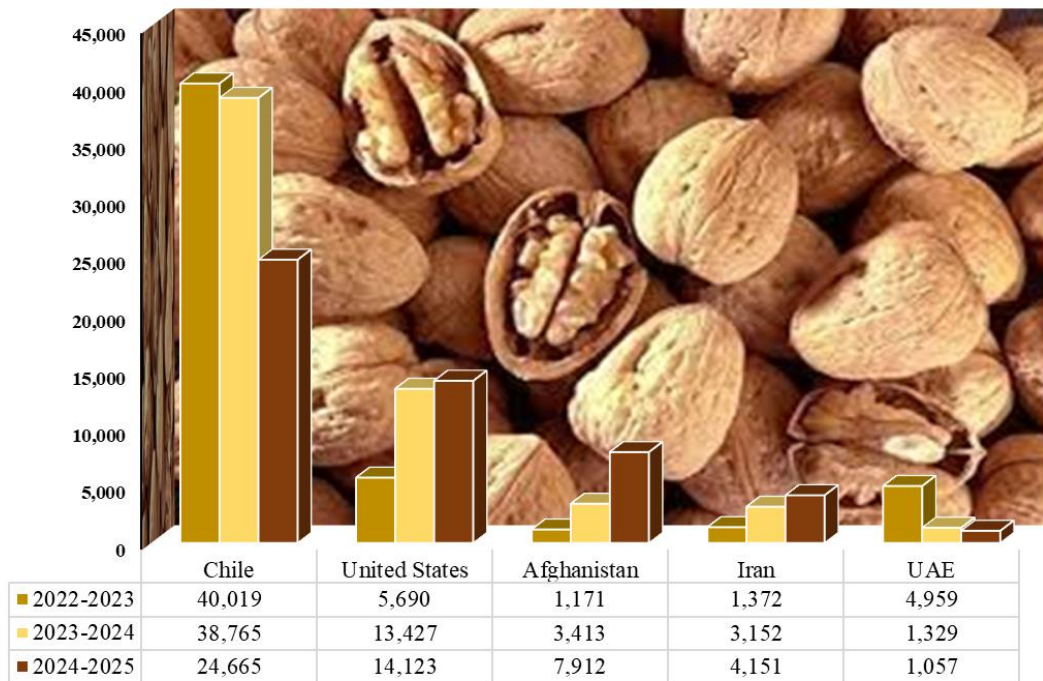
For MY 2024/2025, Post estimates India’s walnut ending stocks lower at 6,305 MT, due to lower imports and higher exports than was anticipated earlier.

TRADE

Imports: For MY 2025/2026, Post forecasts India’s walnut imports to increase to 75,000 MT, a seven percent rise from the previous year’s estimate of 70,000 MT, due to expectations of growing domestic demand. MY 2024/2025 and MY 2023/2024 import estimates are revised downward to 65,000 MT and 60,175 MT, respectively, based on latest official trade data. Trade sources informed Post that under-invoicing enforcement by Indian authorities contributed to reduced walnut import activity during MY 2024/2025. The United States and Chile, which together account for most of India’s imports, are projected to increase their exportable supply during the MY 2025/2026.

Chile remains India’s largest supplier of walnuts, commanding 46 percent of the market share (See Figure 4 and Table 5). The United States follows with 27 percent, while Afghanistan accounts for 15 percent. India is primarily an in-shell walnut market, with a significant demand met through imports than domestic production.

Figure 4: India. Imports of Walnuts from the World



Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS New Delhi research
Trade data is from September 2024-June 2025

Table 5. India: Commodity, Walnut, Imports, MY 2024/2025 (September-August) (MT)

	In-Shell	Shelled	Total Quantity	Percentage Share
World	41,850	11,865	53,715	100
Chile	24,525	140	24,665	46
United States	14,060	63	14,123	27
Afghanistan	488	7,424	7,912	15
Iran	443	3,708	4,151	8
UAE	732	325	1,057	2

Note: Shelled walnuts conversion rate to in-shell basis = 2.34.

Trade data is from September 2024-June 2025.

Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS New Delhi research.

Exports: India's walnut exports remain negligible compared to its imports, with primary export destinations including the UAE and Iran. For MY 2025/2026, India's walnut exports are forecast lower at 2500 MT. Post has revised MY 2024/2025 and MY 2022/2023 export estimates to 3,200 MT and 1,950 MT respectively, based on latest official trade figures. Trade sources indicate that Indian walnut exports rebounded significantly due to strong demand from export markets for their use in pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

Over 95 percent of India’s walnut exports consist of shelled kernels in vacuum packs, with 35–40 percent classified as “light halves,” 35–40 percent as “amber halves/light broken,” and the remainder as “amber halves.” Market sources indicate that Indian walnuts are competitively priced compared to other origins, including those from the United States, Chile, Türkiye, and China.

POLICY

India permits walnut imports without quantitative restrictions under its Open General License program. On September 6, 2023, the retaliatory tariff of 20 percent on U.S.-origin walnuts was rescinded, boosting U.S. walnut exports to India. Despite this, in-shell and shelled walnut imports continue to face a basic customs duty of 100 percent.

Table 6. India: Walnuts, Tariffs			
Commodity HS Code	Description	Basic Customs Duty	Social Welfare Surcharge
0802.31.00	Walnuts In-Shell	100 Percent	Not Applicable
0802.32.00	Walnuts Shelled	100 Percent	Not Applicable

Post understands from trade sources that the walnut import sector is currently facing significant issues with customs duty evasion, leading to intensified document verification for importers. This issue dates to February 2020, when the GOI levied a 100 percent tariff on both shelled and in-shell walnuts. The walnut industry continues to advocate for a shift from the current ad valorem duty structure (based on invoice value) to a fixed duty based on quantity, such as per kilogram, like the duty structure for almonds. A quantity-based duty system is expected to protect the domestic industry from an unfair price advantage enjoyed by other origins and prevent genuine import duty revenue losses for the Indian government.

COMMODITY

PISTACHIOS, IN-SHELL BASIS

Table 7. India: Commodity, Pistachios, Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD)

Pistachios, Inshell Basis	2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
Market Year Begins	Sep 2023		Sep 2024		Sep 2025	
India	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area Harvested (HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Bearing Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Trees (1000 TREES)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Imports (MT)	40900	40900	45000	48000	0	55000
Total Supply (MT)	40900	40900	45000	48000	0	55000
Exports (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Consumption (MT)	40900	40900	45000	48000	0	55000
Ending Stocks (MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (MT)	40900	40900	45000	48000	0	55000
(HA) ,(1000 TREES) ,(MT)						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

PRODUCTION

India does not have commercial pistachio production.

CONSUMPTION

With no organized domestic pistachio production, India relies entirely on imports to meet its demand. FAS New Delhi forecasts India's MY 2025/2026 (September–August) pistachio consumption at 55,000 MT, reflecting a steady upward trend in demand during the forecast year. Historically, Iranian pistachios were preferred for their established taste and traditional uses. However, in the last few years, American pistachios have gained popularity due to their larger size, consistent quality, distinct greenish tint, and emphasis on food safety. California's U.S. grade 21–25 No. 1 pistachio is the preferred American variety.

TRADE

Imports: FAS New Delhi forecasts India's MY 2025/2026 pistachio imports at 55,000 MT. Post revised its earlier MY 2024/2025 import estimates to 48,000 MT as the import market is experiencing strong growth, driven by rising demand for healthy snacks and the increasing use of pistachios in culinary applications. Pistachios imported from the United States are typically in-shell varieties.

A comparison over the last five years showed strong growth potential for U.S. pistachios with import volumes rising from 14,000 to 31,000 metric tons. As pistachio production typically follows alternating "on-years" and "off-years", MY 2023/2024 was the strongest on record for U.S. pistachios whereas MY 2024/2025 was an "off-year".

Exports: India's pistachios exports are negligible.

POLICY

India imposes a 10 percent basic customs duty (BCD) on raw pistachios (in-shell and shelled) and a 30 percent duty on roasted pistachios. Additionally, a Goods and Services Tax of 12 percent were applicable to the customs and freight value. However, on September 3, 2025, the GOI announced revised Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates which covered various food and agricultural products, including all dried fruit and nuts such as pistachios. GST rates for pistachios were lowered from 12 percent to five percent. The new rates will take effect on September 22, 2025. The Social Welfare Surcharge of 10 percent on customs duty will still be applicable.

Attachments:

No Attachments