REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF TRADE

HAZELNUT AND HAZELNUT PRODUCTS

Hazelnuts are among the world's most valued tree nuts, celebrated for their rich flavor, high nutritional content, and remarkable versatility across a wide range of food applications. From confectionery and chocolate manufacturing to bakery products and snack foods, hazelnuts occupy an indispensable place in the global food industry.

Hazelnut is the most widely cultivated tree nut in the world after almonds. Türkiye stands at the heart of global hazelnut production and trade, consistently accounting for the vast majority of world supply. With cultivation deeply rooted in the country's Black Sea region and embedded in the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of farming families, the hazelnut sector represents not only an agricultural cornerstone but also a significant driver of export revenues and rural development.

Apart from Türkiye, cultivated varieties of hazelnuts are mostly grown in Italy, Spain, the USA, Chile, China, Iran, France, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Georgia. In addition to these countries, hazelnuts are also produced in smaller quantities in countries not yet listed as producers in FAO statistics, such as Poland, Greece, Belarus, Croatia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Tunisia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Syria, Cyprus, Argentina, Austria, Estonia, New Zealand, Romania, and Cameroon. The more, there are ongoing efforts to increase production in these countries.

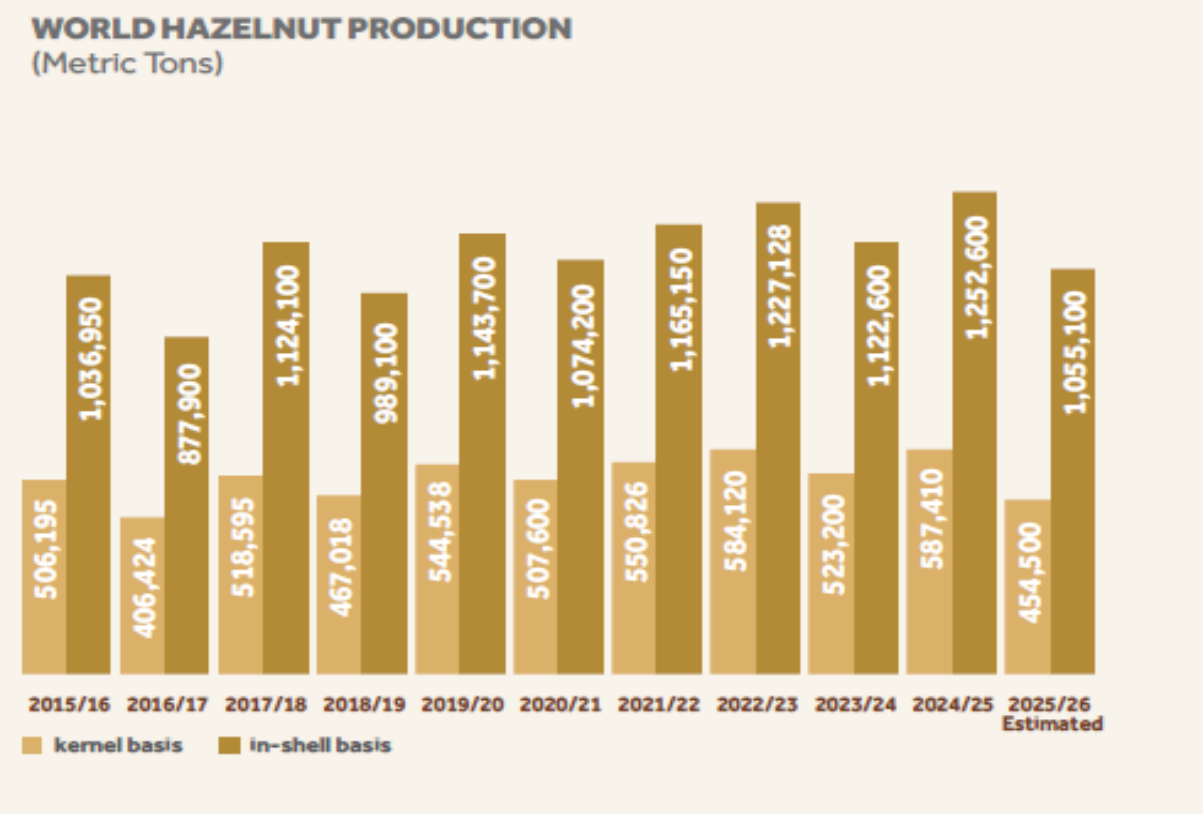
Türkiye's share of global production, which hovers around 800,000–1.2 million tons (in-shell), ranges between 65% and 75%. Italy, the USA, Spain, Georgia, and Azerbaijan are the other significant hazelnut-producing countries.

World Hazelnut Production

United States: Its share of global hazelnut production is approximately 6%. The United States stands out particularly for its in-shell hazelnut exports. Hazelnut production is concentrated in the states of Oregon and Washington, with almost all production taking place in Oregon.

Italy: Although production varies from year to year, Italy generally meets its domestic consumption needs through its own production. Nearly all hazelnut production in the country is concentrated in four regions: Piedmont, Lazio, Campania, and Sicily. Italy is known for producing large, visually appealing hazelnuts suitable for direct consumption, and the hazelnut harvest typically begins in the second half of August.

Spain: Approximately 85% of the production areas are located in the Tarragona region, and 80% of the plantations consist of the Negret variety. Spain meets a significant portion of its hazelnut demand through imports from Türkiye. In addition to the Tarragona region, hazelnuts are also cultivated near Reus. Similar to Italy, Spain is recognized for producing large and attractive hazelnuts.



Source: Inc Nuts & Dried Fruits Statistical Yearbook 2024/25

During the 2015/16–2025/26 period, global hazelnut production exhibited a fluctuating trend but generally remained at high levels. On a kernel basis, production declined to one of its lowest levels in the 2016/17 season, at approximately 406 thousand tons, while reaching a peak of 587 thousand tons in the 2024/25 season. On an in-shell basis, production ranged from approximately 878 thousand tons to 1.25 million tons. The 2022/23 and 2024/25 seasons stood out as strong production years, whereas production in the 2025/26 season is forecast to decline again to approximately 455 thousand tons on a kernel basis. Overall, global hazelnut production appears to be significantly influenced by annual variations in climatic conditions and yield performance.

World Hazelnut Trade

Global hazelnut imports generally increased during the 2015–2024 period. Total world imports stood at 329 thousand tons in 2015, reached a peak of approximately 479 thousand tons in 2021, and amounted to 465 thousand tons in 2024. Germany and Italy were the leading importers, with Germany importing approximately 115 thousand tons and Italy 89 thousand tons of hazelnuts in 2024. Poland recorded rapid growth in recent years, with imports approaching 27 thousand tons in 2024. France, Canada, Russia, and Spain also ranked among the major importers, while China's imports exhibited periodic fluctuations throughout the period. Overall, European countries accounted for the largest share of global hazelnut imports.

Production in Türkiye

Hazelnut orchards in Türkiye are predominantly concentrated along the Black Sea coast, extending no more than 30 kilometers inland. Starting from Zonguldak in the Western Black Sea region, these orchards form a green belt stretching eastward between the sea and the mountains almost to the Georgian border. According to Council of Ministers Decision No. 2014/7253 on the Determination of Hazelnut Cultivation Areas, hazelnut cultivation is legally permitted in 16 provinces and 108 districts.

As the world's leading producer and exporter of hazelnuts, Türkiye's production is generally carried out on small holdings under family-farming structures. Hazelnuts are cultivated on approximately 735,000 hectares of land, and more than 350,000 households are engaged in hazelnut production. By supplying the majority of global hazelnut production, Türkiye plays a strategic role in shaping worldwide supply.

Türkiye's in-shell hazelnut production, which stood at around 100,000 tons in the 1960s, increased steadily to 300,000–400,000 tons in the 1980s and reached approximately 600,000 tons in the 2000s. According to data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), hazelnut production in 2025 declined by 38.5% compared to the previous year, falling to approximately 420,000–440,000 tons. As Türkiye is the leading country in global hazelnut production and exports, any actual or potential developments related to hazelnut production, trade, or prices have a direct impact on international markets.

Türkiye's hazelnut processing industry possesses facilities capable of meeting international market demands in all respects. These facilities employ advanced technologies, and production is monitored at every stage through physical, chemical, and microbiological testing. In addition, products are packaged without direct human contact. Research and development activities have intensified in recent years, leading to a growing variety of hazelnut products. Combined with advances in packaging technologies, these developments have contributed to extended shelf life and enhanced product quality.

Türkiye’s Hazelnut Exports

Türkiye is currently the world's largest exporter of hazelnuts. While in-shell and shelled hazelnuts accounted for approximately 90% of exports until the 1980s, around 28 varieties of processed hazelnut products are now exported to countries around the world. Whereas processed hazelnut products represented approximately 27% of total hazelnut exports only a few years ago, this share has increased to around 40% in recent years. Most of the remaining exports continue to consist of shelled hazelnuts.

Table 1. Hazelnut and Hazelnut Products Exports by Country

Number	Country	2025	
		Quantity (kg)	Value ($)
1	Germany	62.771.317	602.066.958
2	Italy	47.969.187	432.298.476
3	France	14.244.447	126.926.982
4	Netherlands	9.799.599	96.846.391
5	Poland	9.717.319	91.209.061
6	Spain	9.352.028	89.993.677
7	Switzerland	8.273.760	80.771.323
8	Austria	9.286.507	79.715.232
9	China	5.640.277	58.919.964
10	Belgium	7.388.805	53.629.466
11	Algeria	4.745.640	45.934.986
12	United Kingdom	4.136.033	43.558.232
13	Brazil	4.427.697	39.799.012
14	Greece	2.793.848	29.203.433
15	Egypt	2.928.137	27.818.018
16	United States of America	2.626.834	27.474.614
17	Ukraine	2.651.633	26.320.707
18	Canada	2.713.183	24.361.025
19	Australia	2.486.049	23.601.630
20	Russian Federation	2.659.255	23.384.207
Total of the list		**216.611.555**	**2.023.833.394**
Total (including others)		**240.609.300**	**2.255.876.296**

Source: Ministry of Trade

Table 2. Hazelnut and Hazelnut Products Exports by Türkiye

Hazelnut and Hazelnut Products Exports by Türkiye			
Year	**Quantity (Tons)**	**Value ($)**	**Unit Values ($ / Tons)**
2017	271.588	1.876.167.493	6.908
2018	282.441	1.646.650.230	5.830
2019	321.721	2.036.135.616	6.329
2020	283.128	1.956.374.045	6.910
2021	345.688	2.261.726.439	6.543
2022	313.995	1.753.078.513	5.583
2023	286.511	1.877.374.576	6.553
2024	325.497	2.644.638.798	8.125
2025	240.609	2.255.876.296	9.376

Source: Ministry of Trade

An examination of Türkiye's hazelnut export data for 2025 indicates that the country has maintained its strong position in global hazelnut trade. During the period in question, a total of 240.6 thousand tons of hazelnuts were exported, generating approximately USD 2.26 billion in foreign exchange earnings. The top 20 destination countries accounted for nearly 216.6 thousand tons of total exports, while export revenues from these markets exceeded USD 2 billion.

From a country-specific perspective, Germany remained Türkiye's largest hazelnut export market, importing 62.8 thousand tons with a trade value exceeding USD 602 million. Italy ranked second with imports of 48 thousand tons valued at approximately USD 432 million. France followed in third place, importing around 14.2 thousand tons and generating a trade volume of USD 127 million.

These figures demonstrate the decisive role of European countries, particularly Germany, Italy, and France, in Türkiye's hazelnut exports. European Union member states, where the chocolate and confectionery industries are highly developed, continue to be among the most important importers of Turkish hazelnuts. When Germany, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Belgium, and Austria are considered collectively, it becomes evident that the majority of exports are concentrated in European markets. This highlights the strategic importance of Turkish hazelnuts for the European food industry.

On the other hand, China's presence among the top ten importing countries, with approximately 5.6 thousand tons of imports and a trade value of USD 58.9 million, indicates the growing significance of Far Eastern markets. Similarly, the inclusion of countries from different continents, such as Brazil, Canada, Australia, and the United States, demonstrates that Turkish hazelnuts cater to a broad global market. Furthermore, the notable import volumes recorded by North African countries, particularly Algeria and Egypt, point to substantial growth potential in alternative export markets.