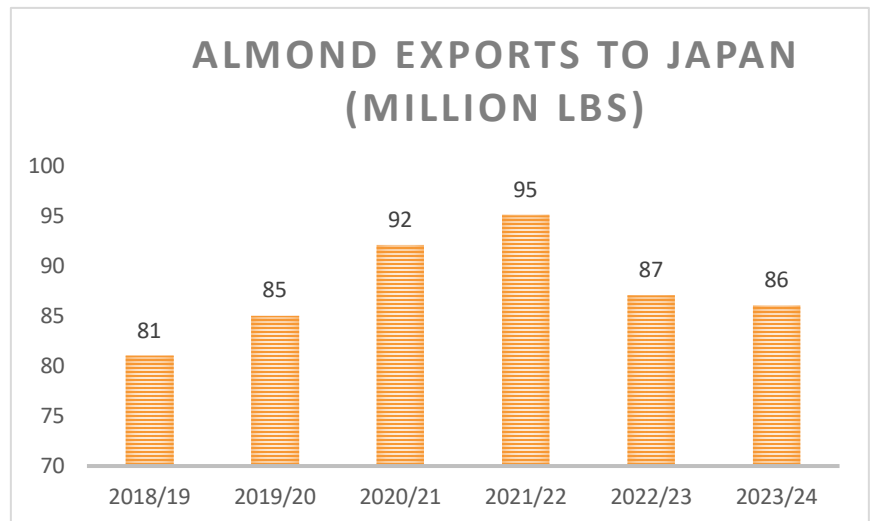




Trade

- FY 2021/22 marked an all-time high for U.S. almond exports to Japan with 95 million pounds.
- Japan shipments decreased by 8% in 2022/23 over the 2021/22 figures.
- Japan is the seventh largest export destination for U.S. almonds, surpassing Italy in FY 2022/23. It is also the 3rd largest export market in Asia behind India and China/Hong Kong.
- Following the implementation of the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA) on January 1, 2020, Japan eliminated the 2.4% tariff on almonds. Tariffs on processed almond products are being eliminated on an accelerated schedule.



Japan was the #1 country for new almond product introductions in the Asia-Pacific region in 2022.

Key Issues

- An Inspection Order has been in effect since the late 1990's, mandating 100% import inspection of almonds for aflatoxin – despite the fact that rejections are less than 1-2% of imports.
- ABC is working with USDA/FAS in DC and Tokyo, as well as Japan Nut Association to address inspection requirements with Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW).
- Japan does not allow reprocessing or appeals; the sampling protocol is not representative of the consignment. It is considering a pilot project to handle reprocessing using 'approved equipment' in a bonded warehouse. ABC has reiterated that reprocessing can be done with various technologies and is not equipment-dependent.