



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Food
&
Agriculture



DRIED FRUITS



TURKEY
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DRIED FRUITS

Turkey is one of the unique countries in the world for agricultural production and Turkey's unique superiority with respect to agricultural production allows her to produce many agricultural products. Except for some tropical products, almost every kind of agricultural product can be produced on a large scale in Turkey. Dried fruits is one of Turkey's major agricultural sectors and Turkey is the most important country in the world with respect to the production and export of dried fruits. Turkish dried fruits' production and exports are extremely high and dominate world markets. Among the dried fruits produced in Turkey, raisins (sultanas), dried apricots and dried figs have the lion's share. Because of their major significance in agricultural exports, they are regarded as traditional Turkish agricultural export items. Turkey also produces and exports other kinds of dried fruits such as prunes, currants, dried apples, dried pears, dried mulberries, dried peaches, etc.

DRIED FRUITS, NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Grapes, figs and apricots are miracles from the standpoint of their composition and have been accepted as sacred fruits throughout history. Dried fruits are called nature's candy and they are among most nutritious fruits in the world. They are cholesterol-free, rich in vitamins and minerals, and totally fat-free.

Dried fruits are a good source of fiber and also rich in antioxidants.

Dried fruits are invaluable for human health and provide consumers with many advantages in terms of nourishment. Dried fruits, with many of the major vitamins and minerals in their composition, are found to be useful in many functions of the human body, some of which are as follows:

- Regulation of the functioning of the brain, giving energy and helping to release stress, helping in the recovery of the liver, known to be the most important organ for storage and waste disposal in the body,
- Playing an important role in keeping the bones and teeth healthier and stronger,
- Prevention of anemia by increasing blood production. In addition to playing an important role in the therapy of ulcers, they also prevent the formation of stomach and intestinal ulcers,
- Decreasing the formation of kidney stones,
- Providing a regulatory role in the reproduction system,
- Acting as a cancer preventative,
- Making cardiac muscles stronger and the functioning of the heart more regular.
- Helping child growth, curing diseases with inflammation and fever, as well as kidney and liver diseases,
- Treating skin pigmentation diseases.

CONSUMPTION FORMS OF DRIED FRUITS

Dried fruits are widely used in the food sector as well as being consumed as a snack. Some consumption forms of dried fruits are as follows:

Raisins (Sultanas)

Raisins are an indispensable ingredient in breads, cakes, cookies, pies, tarts and different pastries in the bakery sector. They are an excellent addition to a wide range of candies, puddings and other wonderful confectioneries. They are mixed or added to many cereals and cereal-based products like muesli logs, fruit filled cereals, nuggets and extruded breakfast cereals. They are also delicious sweeteners and texturizers in different types of yogurt, ice creams and even in some types of cheese.

Dried Apricots

Dried apricots are mostly consumed directly as a snack after being graded and may be mixed with other fruits. It is also used in bakery products, in the production of chocolate and candies, and as an ingredient in the preparation of some special sweets, like paste. The juice made from dried fruits by boiling them in water can also be consumed as refreshment after cooling the juice.

Dried Figs

Dried figs are consumed in international cuisines in many different forms including pies, puddings, cakes, bread or other bakery products after stewing or being cooked; in jams, marmalades or in many sugar and confectionery products as a delicious ingredient. Dried figs have become increasingly important due to their advantages for both industrial users and individual consumers, such as longer shelf life, more concentrated taste, higher economic value and ease of use in almost all of the above mentioned areas of consumption compared to their use in fresh form.

PRODUCTION

Raisins (Sultanas)

Turkey has 1200 different types of grapes and has been among the five major producers of grapes throughout the world with an annual average production of about 3.5 million tons. Among these varieties, seedless "Yuvarlak" and "Sultani" are the main varieties used for raisins. Seedless raisins are grown especially in the Aegean Region of Turkey, which is blessed with some of the most fertile lands in the world, plenty of sunshine and abundant water supplies.

The original name of the famous seedless Turkish raisins, "Sultana, Sultanna, Sultanine", comes from the fact that they were served at the Ottoman Sultans' magnificent tables during the times of the Ottoman Empire.

About 60% of the total production in this region is seedless. Depending on foreign demand, the tendency in Turkey is towards producing more without reducing quality. This has been realized both by increasing viticulture areas throughout the country and utilizing

modern viticulture techniques to increase the yield. Raisin production in Turkey totaled 310 thousand tons in 2008, and this figure accounts for nearly 30% of total world raisin production.

Turkish Raisin Production
(Quantity: Ton)

Years	Quantity
2000	255.000
2001	255.000
2002	200.000
2003	215.000
2004	280.000
2005	250.000
2006	274.000
2007	240.000
2008	310.000
2009	274.000
2010	248.547
2011	268.949
2012*	290.000

Source: International Nut Council (INC)

* Provisional

Dried Apricots

Turkey is at the top of the fresh and dried apricot producing countries with approximately 560 thousand tons of fresh and more than 100 thousand tons of dried apricot production in 2008. Turkey alone meets more than 20% of the fresh apricot production and more than 80% of the dried apricot production in the world.

Turkish Dried Apricot Production
(Quantity: Ton)

Years	Quantity
2000	88.000
2001	98.000
2002	63.000
2003	94.000
2004	80.500
2005	139.000
2006	90.000
2007	98.000
2008	120.000
2009	100.000
2010	95.000
2011	136.917
2012*	130.000

Source: International Nut Council (INC)

* Provisional

Apricot cultivation, which is widespread in most of the agricultural regions of Turkey, finds its best environment in the Central Eastern Anatolian Region where nearly half of the crops are produced.

Due to the ecology of the province, apricots from Malatya have gained economic value in the form of dried apricots for years. Almost all of the fresh crop in this district is subject to the drying process and at least 90-95% of the dried apricots produced, is exported.

The most important varieties, according to the quantity produced, are HACIHALILOĞLU, SOĞANCI, KABAASI and ÇATALOĞLU.

Dried Figs

Although fig production may vary from 45 to 60 thousand tons according to annual climatic conditions, Turkey ranks as the world's largest supplier of fresh and dried figs. Turkey realizes 25% of the world's fresh fig production and over half of the world's dried fig production.

Turkish Dried Fig Production

(Quantity: Ton)

Years	Quantity
2000	49.001
2001	48.028
2002	52.462
2003	54.571
2004	55.631
2005	56.327
2006	60.393
2007	43.500
2008	42.500
2009	50.000
2010	58.662
2011	54.000
2012*	55.000

Source: International Nut Council (INC)

* Provisional

Although different types of figs are grown throughout Turkey, the "Sari lop" with its large size, sweet, fleshy, light colored character and soft skin is the main variety for dried figs. It is preferred by most countries for its quality and produced only in the river basins of the Big and Small Menderes Rivers in the Aegean Region.

Fig production is realized principally in Aydin and Izmir provinces over a large area. This is a family business, as it requires an intensive human labor in the field when collecting the figs from trees, selecting, sorting, screening and further processing the figs into different forms.

After processing, figs acquire export names such as layer, protoben, pulled, lerida, locum, garland, macaroni, baglama, cukulata and umbrella based on their shapes.

Drying improves both storage life and the food value of the fig. Fresh figs contain 80% water and 12% sugar, however, when dried, the sugar content rises to 50%.

Turkish dried fruits are grown under natural conditions, harvested and dried under controlled conditions. They are graded, stored and packed in hygienic conditions following the strict rules of internationally accepted quality control systems. Regarding the safety of production, before being processed in the factories dried fruits are subject to scientific and international treatments.

In Turkey, organic farming, which started in 1985, has shown a tremendous progress and the dried fruits sector was the pioneer. Dried fruits still hold an important share among organic agricultural products, and today 45% of the organic farmers are in the dried fruit business. Nearly 15% of dried apricots, more than 5% of raisins and around 20% of dried figs are produced by organic methods. The demand for organic fruits comes primarily from abroad (especially the EU and other western countries) and organic production is increasing in Turkey to meet the demand of both domestic and foreign markets.

EXPORTS

Dried apricots are among Turkey's traditional agricultural export products. Turkey is the most important dried fruit exporter in the world. Nearly 15% of world dried fruit exports come from Turkey. The export figures of dried fruits both in terms of quantity and value has generally shown an upward trend annually.

Turkish Dried Fruit Exports (Q: Ton, V: US\$ 1.000)

	2009		2010		2011	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Raisins	266.685	407.436	212.628	417.546	214.064	506.456
Dried Apricots	101.244	278.880	92.687	350.597	90.321	360.907
Dried Figs	38.806	150.881	44.617	157.882	44.801	151.488

Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Economy

Turkey exports dried fruits to five continents to more than 100 countries. Over 60% of the exports are directed at European Union Countries. 48% of exports were directed at 4 countries, namely the UK, Germany, France and the Netherlands in 2011. Apart from the EU countries, the USA, the Russian Federation, Australia and Canada are the other important destinations for Turkish dried fruits.

Major Export Destinations for Raisins (Quantity: Ton Value: US\$ 1.000)

Countries	2009		2010		2011	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
The UK	57.231	89.793	57.968	113.001	59.554	141.401
Germany	44.560	67.697	36.381	72.677	38.786	92.253
The Netherlands	33.703	51.913	27.898	54.868	24.442	57.568
Italy	16.537	28.124	16.944	33.866	16.701	39.107
France	15.974	24.666	15.119	29.911	14.250	33.961
Australia	15.963	23.203	8.733	17.079	13.233	30.391
Belgium	10.729	16.268	10.361	19.978	10.404	24.386
Canada	9.321	13.692	4.954	9.205	5.982	13.764
Spain	3.754	5.464	3.398	6.320	3.941	9.405
Ireland	4.607	6.589	4.620	8.668	4.122	9.146
New Zealand	4.700	7.349	4.601	8.822	3.605	8.292
Russian Fed.	6.517	9.442	3.034	6.686	2.537	6.569
Switzerland	2.027	3.588	2.104	4.463	1.856	4.632
Greece	1.929	3.013	500	998	1.579	3.734
Austria	2.728	4.000	1.269	2.349	1.453	3.312
Japan	1.475	2.748	1.308	2.792	1.214	3.000
Poland	3.914	5.029	1.223	2.320	911	2.068
Algeria	3.766	5.340	1.104	1.846	804	1.945
Sweden	529	1.366	447	1.294	473	1.566
China	625	1.153	549	1.255	603	1.538
Morocco	3.120	4.993	25	57	629	1.506
Denmark	744	1.337	497	1.165	499	1.450
Romania	1.195	1.589	386	753	612	1.400
Portugal	816	1.356	600	1.165	591	1.251
Finland	296	472	356	714	399	939
Jamaica	625	1.009	548	1.027	401	886
Lithuania	1.232	1.609	83	139	245	665
South African Rep.	1.477	2.105	352	743	245	610
Ethiopia	200	590	0	0	142	483
Serbia	419	621	231	436	195	480
Bulgaria	264	321	193	370	177	460
Others	15.708	20.997	6.844	12.578	3.479	8.288
Total	266.685	407.436	212.628	417.546	214.064	506.456

Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Economy

Turkish dried figs are the favorite items for Christmas in the Christian world. Also, they are keenly sought after by Moslems especially during Ramadan as well as during the periods of traditional American and Jewish holidays such as Succoth, Hanukkah and Passover.

Major Export Destinations for Dried Apricots (Quantity ton, Value: US\$ 1.000)

Countries	2009		2010		2011	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
The USA	14.772	42.057	13.718	57.466	13.032	55.502
Russian Fed.	14.079	31.958	13.908	43.192	11.471	38.797
Germany	8.588	28.143	8.028	35.180	8.035	36.497
France	6.890	23.069	6.996	29.558	6.370	29.456
The UK	8.211	23.568	7.803	28.311	6.496	27.348
Australia	5.137	14.823	5.107	19.876	4.857	20.608
Brazil	2.745	7.678	3.107	12.041	3.966	16.253
The Netherlands	2.997	8.477	2.493	10.376	2.910	12.025
Spain	1.633	4.910	1.742	7.649	1.828	7.756
Canada	2.659	7.669	1.687	6.885	1.860	7.673
Italy	1.531	4.780	1.599	7.100	1.641	7.133
Ukraine	3.859	6.217	2.909	5.656	3.278	6.726
Israel	1.671	4.882	1.489	6.096	1.481	6.636
Egypt	2.302	5.945	1.662	5.734	1.681	6.515
Poland	1.988	5.433	1.914	7.982	1.634	6.340
New Zealand	1.244	3.506	1.283	4.675	1.155	4.692
Algeria	1.619	4.159	236	928	1.032	4.691
Switzerland	906	3.089	998	4.422	819	4.075
Sweden	736	2.603	605	2.611	680	3.432
Lithuania	925	2.035	828	2.312	1.184	3.388
Greece	642	1.950	516	2.323	659	3.034
Azerbaijan	916	1.760	1.382	2.687	1.379	2.972
Iraq	1.543	2.303	1.424	2.485	1.524	2.641
Denmark	817	2.736	719	3.047	515	2.488
UAE	557	1.628	443	2.007	480	2.300
Morocco	719	1.922	265	1.137	553	2.266
Slovakia	420	1.554	432	2.077	448	2.127
Czech Rep.	602	1.454	497	1.481	607	2.039
Japan	412	1.440	386	1.727	339	1.766
Belgium	321	1.016	478	1.786	473	1.755
Saudi Arabia	468	1.312	416	1.806	413	1.589
Lebanon	205	630	165	745	222	1.119
Mexico	237	656	89	360	311	1.093
South Korean	249	661	216	826	247	1.069
India	261	779	201	930	246	1.067
Latvia	746	1.827	602	1.616	361	1.043
China	73	207	54	224	241	1.027
Others	7.565	20.044	6.289	25.285	5.895	23.965
Total	101.244	278.880	92.687	350.597	90.321	360.907

Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Economy

It is expected that, as their nutritional and medicinal value is understood, Turkish dried fruit exports will hopefully increase further in the future.

Before dried fruits are exported, they go through sophisticated laser sorters to avoid any foreign elements. Table picking is performed by skilled quality control technicians depending on buyers' specifications. Strict standards are applied to ensure that each box of dried fruits is free of mold, pests and other imperfections. Thus, Turkish dried fruits today are known for their supreme quality and sanitation in international markets.

Major Export Destinations for Dried Figs (Quantity: Ton, Value: US\$ 1.000)

Countries	2009		2010		2011	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Germany	6.628	28.174	7.119	27.911	6.889	25.848
France	6.687	29.586	7.554	28.926	6.673	24.672
Italy	3.506	14.080	3.775	14.342	3.745	13.382
Russian Fed.	2.950	7.632	3.190	7.690	3.292	8.314
Switzerland	1.611	7.969	1.839	8.139	1.649	7.124
The Netherlands	1.405	4.984	1.671	5.081	2.021	6.640
The USA	1.030	3.972	1.442	5.267	1.680	5.918
Israel	922	4.231	1.195	4.658	972	3.743
Spain	1.196	4.715	1.204	4.291	1.117	3.695
Japan	483	2.594	498	2.425	760	3.584
Austria	682	2.595	783	2.842	853	3.150
Canada	810	2.778	854	2.899	903	2.956
Australia	576	2.458	852	3.311	786	2.883
Sweden	764	3.406	635	2.702	658	2.600
Slovakia	332	1.194	487	1.615	775	2.545
Brazil	813	2.180	750	1.923	852	2.491
China	63	245	32	117	783	2.296
The UK	754	3.028	712	2.679	634	2.213
Ukraine	571	1.132	486	879	919	1.933
UAE	246	1.225	405	1.626	449	1.685
Belgium	600	2.481	632	2.034	554	1.648
Egypt	457	1.555	1.015	3.162	507	1.529
Saudi Arabia	34	141	300	1.060	460	1.433
Serbia	569	1.179	480	920	618	1.335
Vietnam	0	0	765	2.181	516	1.257
Poland	323	1.099	370	1.212	411	1.230
Denmark	392	2.041	290	1.219	308	1.222
Others	4.403	14.205	5.281	16.769	5.018	14.161
TOTAL	38.806	150.881	44.617	157.882	44.801	151.488

Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Economy

Today, most of the Turkish exporter companies of dried fruits are awarded with the ISO and HACCP system certificates.

In addition, the province of Izmir, located on the Aegean region, is the main export area for Turkish dried fruits, in which the largest dried fruit processing and exporting companies in Turkey have been established.

TRADE FAIRS

- World Food Istanbul- International Food Products and Processing Technologies
www.ite-gida.com

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- Istanbul Exporters' Association
www.iib.org.tr/tr/
- Aegean Exporters' Association
www.egebirlik.org.tr/
- Southeast Anatolian Exporters Unions
www.gaib.org.tr/
- Dried Fruit Promotion Group
www.egebirlik.org.tr/



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