United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

2018 California Almond Objective Measurement Report

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Pacific Regional Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 738-6600 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

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2018 CALIFORNIA ALMOND FORECAST UP 7.9 PERCENT

California's 2018 almond production is forecast at 2.45 billion meat pounds, up 6.5 percent from May's subjective forecast and up 7.9 percent from last year's crop. The forecast is based on 1.07 million bearing acres. Production for the Nonpareil variety is forecast at 910 million meat pounds, down .8 percent from last year's deliveries. The Nonpareil variety represents 37 percent of California's total almond production.

The 2018 California almond bloom began a few days earlier than normal. The bloom period was extended, due to cold temperatures, and lasted a few weeks. Frosts during bloom hit orchards hard, especially on the east side of the valley. Younger trees were impacted more severely than older trees. Weather during the spring was variable, leading many growers to be unsure about their 2018 crop. As temperatures warmed up in May, nuts were sizing well. Hull split sprays have just began, and are expected to pick up soon. Mites have not been reported as an issue so far this year. Report of disease pressure in almonds also remains light.

The average nut set per tree is 5,677, down .6 percent from 2017. The Nonpareil average nut set of 4,924 is down 13.9 percent from last year's set of 5,717. The average kernel weight for all varieties sampled was 1.54 grams, down 1.9 percent from the 2017 average weight of 1.57 grams. The Nonpareil average kernel weight was 1.70, unchanged from last year. A total of 98.8 percent of all nuts sized were sound.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

To determine tree set, nuts are counted along a path within a randomly selected tree. Work begins at the trunk and progresses to the end of the terminal branch. Using a random number table, one branch is selected at each forking to continue the path. A branch's probability of selection is directly proportional to its cross-sectional area. This methodology is used because of its statistical efficiency. The method also makes it possible to end up at any one of the tree's numerous terminal branches.

Since the selected path has a probability of selection associated with it, this probability is used to expand nut counts arriving at an estimated set for the entire tree.

Along intermediate stages (i.e., the bearing surface between forkings), every fifth nut is picked. All nuts on the terminal branch are picked. These nuts are used to determine size and weight measurements.

FIELD SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

The survey began May 29 and sampling was completed by June 26. There were 1,706 trees sampled for the 2018 survey in 853 orchards. Additional orchards were not sampled for one of the following reasons:

1) Orchard had been sprayed.
2) Orchard had been recently irrigated and was wet.
3) Orchard had been pulled.
4) Grower would not grant permission or could not be contacted.

The Objective Measurement Survey is funded by the Almond Board of California.

DATA RELIABILITY

The 80 percent confidence interval is from 2,290 million meat pounds to 2,610 million meat pounds. This means that the results of our sampling procedures will encompass the true mean 80 percent of the time.

TABLE 1: JUNE OBJECTIVE MEASUREMENT SURVEY COUNTS; COMPARISON OF NUT ESTIMATES AND ORCHARDS SAMPLED BY DISTRICT AND VARIETY, 2013-2018

District and Variety	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Nuts per tree	Orchards sampled	Nuts per tree	Orchards sampled	Nuts per tree	Orchards sampled	Nuts per tree	Orchards sampled	Nuts per tree	Orchards sampled	Nuts per tree	Orchards sampled
ALL DISTRICTS												
(All Varieties)	6,686	883	6,646	890	5,874	862	6,159	873	5,714	852	5,677	853
BY DISTRICTS												
District I												
Sacramento Valley	7,651	117	5,536	113	6,127	119	6,114	121	5,583	118	5,015	117
District II												
San Joaquin Valley	6,538	766	6,802	777	5,829	742	6,163	752	5,735	734	5,783	736
BY VARIETIES												
Butte	7,535	124	7,443	114	7,034	106	7,051	112	6,574	97	5,989	91
California Types [1/]	6,744	291	6,718	291	5,737	283	6,114	311	5,216	306	6,354	297
Carmel [2/]	6,571	121	6,962	114	5,714	103	5,849	105	5,456	95	6,353	91
Monterey [2/]	6,311	112	5,910	114	5,333	119	5,739	136	4,655	137	5,362	138
Nonpareil	6,141	368	6,121	382	5,239	382	5,583	343	5,717	343	4,924	333
Padre	8,119	74	7,989	72	9,037	66	7,788	70	7,168	65	6,732	63

[1/] For survey purposes, the California classification includes the following varieties: Aldrich, Ballico, Carmel, Davey, Fritz, Harvey, Le Grand, Mono, Monterey, Norman, Price Cluster, Ruby, Sonora, Tokyo and Yosemite.

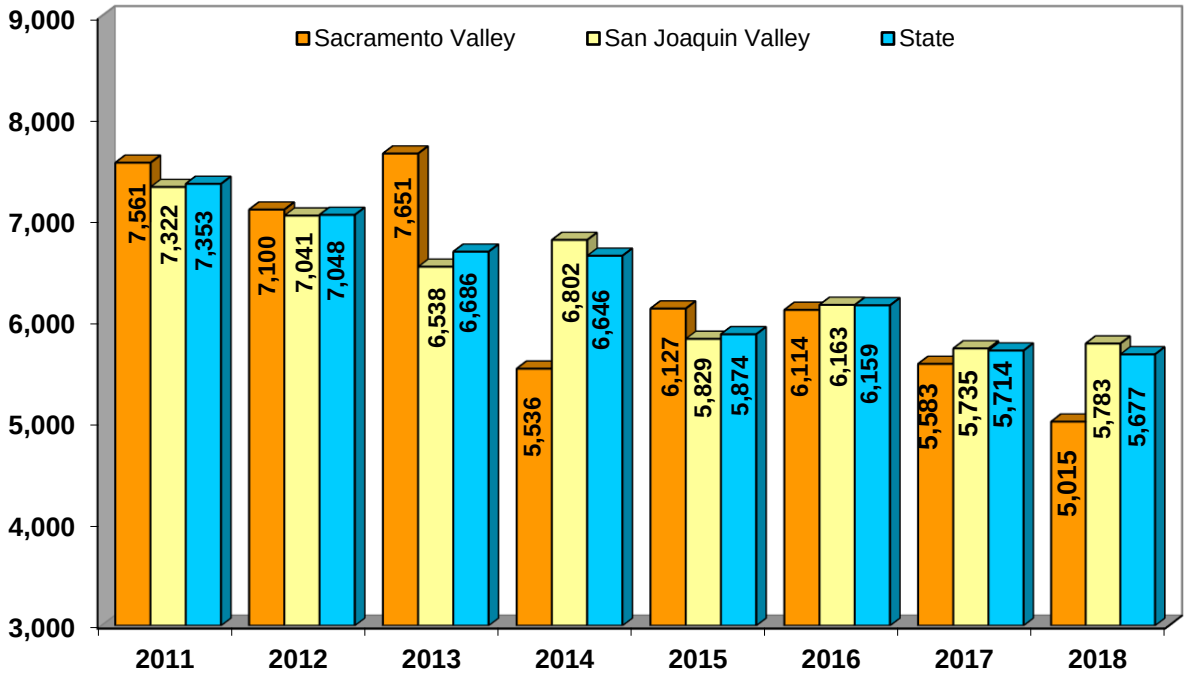
[2/] Carmel and Monterey varieties are also included in California Types.

TABLE 2: WEIGHT, SIZE AND GRADE OF AVERAGE ALMOND SAMPLE, 2013-2018

District and variety	Kernel weight (grams)	Kernel size (millimeters)			Grade (percent of nuts) [1/]						
					Edible nuts		Insect damage	Shrivel	Natural gum	Blank	Other
		Length	Width	Thickness	Singles	Doubles					
ALL DISTRICTS											
2013	1.36	21.35	12.11	9.76	95.2	3.7	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2014	1.45	21.42	12.69	10.06	96.3	2.4	[2/]	1.3	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2015	1.43	21.43	12.58	9.89	96.0	2.8	[2/]	0.9	0.1	0.1	[2/]
2016	1.48	22.09	12.44	9.93	95.9	2.9	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.57	22.50	12.83	10.40	92.2	6.2	[2/]	1.5	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.54	21.32	12.79	10.37	90.9	7.9	[2/]	1.0	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
BY DISTRICT											
Sacramento Valley [3/]											
2013	1.44	21.95	12.62	9.90	93.0	5.3	[2/]	1.1	0.2	[2/]	0.5
2014	1.60	22.35	13.38	10.43	95.1	2.4	[2/]	2.0	[2/]	[2/]	0.4
2015	1.51	21.84	13.14	9.99	95.5	2.7	[2/]	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.2
2016	1.51	22.67	13.19	10.02	97.2	1.2	[2/]	1.4	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
2017	1.69	23.85	13.59	10.46	88.3	9.1	[2/]	2.3	0.3	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.61	20.91	13.26	10.45	91.6	7.4	[2/]	0.8	[2/]	[2/]	0.2
San Joaquin Valley [4/]											
2013	1.34	21.25	12.02	9.74	95.5	3.4	[2/]	1.0	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2014	1.43	21.31	12.61	10.01	96.4	2.4	[2/]	1.2	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2015	1.41	21.37	12.48	9.87	96.1	2.9	[2/]	1.0	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2016	1.48	22.00	12.32	9.91	95.7	3.1	[2/]	1.1	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.55	22.29	12.71	10.39	92.8	5.7	[2/]	1.4	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.53	21.38	12.73	10.36	90.8	8.0	[2/]	1.0	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
BY VARIETY											
Butte											
2013	1.11	18.51	11.48	9.58	94.8	3.9	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
2014	1.20	18.46	12.04	10.01	96.7	1.8	[2/]	1.3	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
2015	1.14	18.19	11.75	9.76	95.2	3.4	[2/]	0.9	0.3	0.3	[2/]
2016	1.20	18.93	11.76	9.84	96.1	2.6	[2/]	1.2	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.25	19.14	11.89	10.43	89.3	9.6	[2/]	0.9	0.2	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.19	17.97	11.97	10.09	92.9	6.0	[2/]	0.9	[2/]	[2/]	0.2
California Types [5/]											
2013	1.41	22.49	11.79	9.79	93.2	5.6	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2014	1.45	22.14	12.20	10.00	95.5	3.2	[2/]	1.2	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2015	1.46	22.60	12.28	9.84	94.9	3.7	[2/]	1.1	0.1	[2/]	0.1
2016	1.51	23.09	12.08	9.86	94.6	4.3	[2/]	1.0	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.62	23.51	12.52	10.43	89.3	9.3	[2/]	1.2	0.3	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.56	21.97	12.40	10.47	86.9	12.2	[2/]	0.7	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
Carmel [6/]											
2013	1.38	22.19	11.47	9.69	92.8	6.0	[2/]	1.1	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2014	1.48	22.21	12.15	10.04	95.5	3.2	[2/]	1.3	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2015	1.45	22.70	12.10	9.82	95.0	3.7	[2/]	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
2016	1.51	23.08	12.07	9.86	96.0	3.0	[2/]	1.0	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.60	23.72	12.31	10.38	89.7	9.2	[2/]	1.0	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.61	22.43	12.52	10.57	87.0	12.6	[2/]	0.4	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
Monterey [6/]											
2013	1.56	24.29	12.27	9.84	92.1	6.9	[2/]	0.8	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
2014	1.54	23.26	12.51	10.01	94.8	3.9	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
2015	1.59	23.75	12.67	9.91	94.3	4.5	[2/]	1.0	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2016	1.69	24.68	12.49	10.03	92.1	6.9	[2/]	0.8	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.83	25.20	13.06	10.64	85.4	12.8	[2/]	1.3	0.5	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.76	23.42	12.93	10.74	83.0	16.2	[2/]	0.8	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
Nonpareil											
2013	1.48	22.36	12.84	9.79	96.2	2.6	[2/]	1.0	[2/]	[2/]	0.1
2014	1.60	22.57	13.51	10.07	96.8	2.0	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2015	1.61	22.76	13.46	9.96	96.8	2.2	[2/]	0.7	0.2	0.1	[2/]
2016	1.65	23.36	13.34	10.01	97.1	1.7	[2/]	1.1	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2017	1.70	23.50	13.60	10.32	95.1	3.0	[2/]	1.8	0.1	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.70	22.36	13.66	10.37	94.0	4.8	[2/]	1.2	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
Padre											
2013	1.10	18.23	11.35	9.79	98.1	1.0	[2/]	0.8	[2/]	0.1	[2/]
2014	1.22	18.48	11.96	10.17	97.0	1.2	[2/]	1.8	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2015	1.07	17.71	11.41	9.85	97.6	1.5	[2/]	0.8	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2016	1.14	18.47	11.42	9.86	96.7	1.7	[2/]	1.4	0.1	0.1	[2/]
2017	1.26	19.13	11.85	10.51	94.0	4.2	[2/]	1.7	[2/]	[2/]	[2/]
2018	1.15	17.54	11.72	10.16	94.0	4.4	[2/]	1.3	[2/]	[2/]	0.4

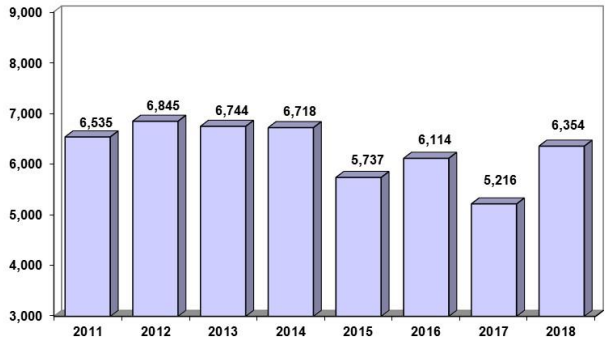
[1/] Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
[2/] Not shown if less than 0.07 percent.
[3/] Sacramento Valley includes these counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo and Yuba.
[4/] San Joaquin Valley includes these counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare.
[5/] For survey purposes, the California classification includes the following varieties: Aldrich, Ballico, Carmel, Davey, Fritz, Harvey, Le Grand, Mono, Monterey, Norman, Price Cluster, Ruby, Sonora, Tokyo and Yosemite.
[6/] Carmel and Monterey varieties are also included in California Types.

ALMONDS
Nuts per Tree, by District

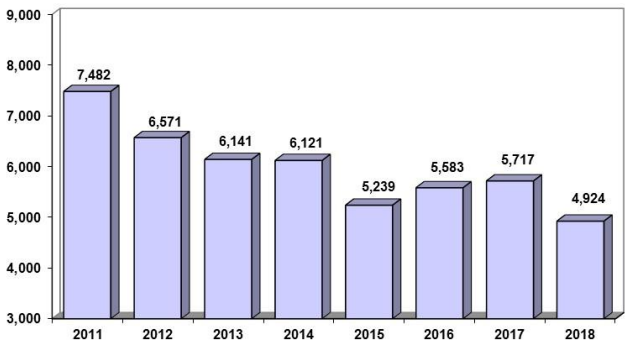


ALMONDS BY VARIETY

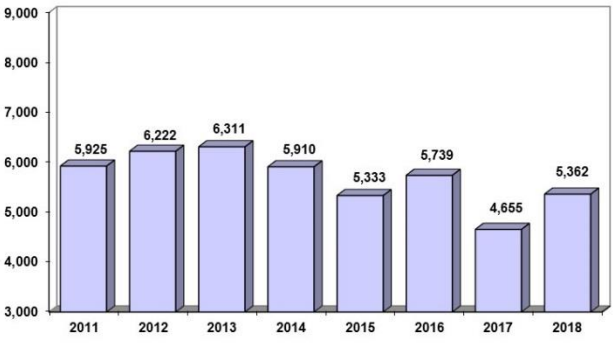
CALIFORNIA TYPE
Nuts per Tree



NONPAREIL TYPE
Nuts per Tree



MONTEREY TYPE
Nuts per Tree



BUTTE TYPE
Nuts per Tree

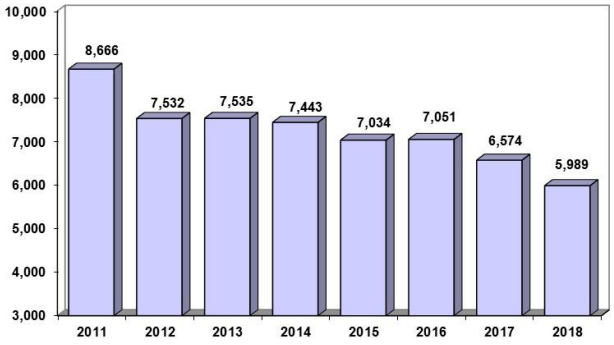


TABLE 3: CALIFORNIA ALMOND ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND TREES PER ACRE, 1986-2018

Year	Bearing acres [1/]	Trees per acre	Total Meat Production			Price per lb.	Value of production
			Metric Tons [2/]	Million lbs.	Lbs. per acre	dollars	1,000 dollars
1986	416,000	84.5	113,000	250	601	1.92	461,568
1987	417,000	84.0	299,000	660	1,580	1.00	648,000
1988	419,000	86.3	268,000	590	1,410	1.05	600,075
1989	411,000	87.3	222,000	490	1,190	1.02	480,930
1990	411,000	88.4	299,000	660	1,610	0.93	597,990
1991	405,000	89.6	222,000	490	1,210	1.19	564,179
1992	401,000	90.5	249,000	548	1,370	1.30	691,340
1993	413,000	92.0	222,000	490	1,190	1.94	930,618
1994	433,000	92.6	333,000	735	1,700	1.34	965,202
1995	418,000	93.7	168,000	370	885	2.48	880,896
1996	428,000	94.4	231,000	510	1,190	2.08	1,018,368
1997	442,000	95.5	344,000	759	1,720	1.56	1,160,640
1998	460,000	96.3	236,000	520	1,130	1.41	703,590
1999	485,000	97.3	378,000	833	1,720	0.86	687,742
2000	510,000	99.0	319,000	703	1,380	0.97	666,487
2001	530,000	101.0	376,000	830	1,570	0.91	740,012
2002	545,000	101.0	494,000	1,090	2,000	1.11	1,200,687
2003	550,000	103.0	472,000	1,040	1,890	1.57	1,600,144
2004	570,000	103.0	456,000	1,005	1,760	2.21	2,189,005
2005	590,000	104.0	415,000	915	1,550	2.81	2,525,909
2006	610,000	105.0	508,000	1,120	1,840	2.06	2,258,790
2007	640,000	105.0	630,000	1,390	2,170	1.75	2,401,875
2008	710,000	107.0	739,000	1,630	2,300	1.45	2,343,200
2009	750,000	108.0	640,000	1,410	1,880	1.65	2,293,500
2010	770,000	108.0	744,000	1,640	2,130	1.79	2,903,380
2011	800,000	111.0	921,000	2,030	2,540	1.99	4,007,860
2012	820,000	112.0	857,000	1,890	2,300	2.58	4,816,860
2013	850,000	112.0	912,000	2,010	2,360	3.21	6,384,690
2014	870,000	114.0	848,000	1,870	2,150	4.00	7,388,000
2015	920,000	114.0	862,000	1,900	2,070	3.13	5,868,750
2016	940,000	116.0	971,000	2,140	2,280	2.39	5,052,460
2017	1,000,000	117.0	1,030,000	2,270	2,270	2.53	5,603,950
2018 [3/ 4/]	1,070,000	119.0	1,111,000	2,450	2,290	–	–

[1/] Bearing acreage is defined as plantings four years and older

[2/] Rounded to nearest thousand, metric ton = 2,204.62 pounds.

[3/] Price and value will be available in the annual Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts publication, released in June 2019.

[4/] Preliminary estimate of bearing acres.

– Not available.

SOURCE: USDA/NASS, Pacific Regional Office