



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Australian Almonds on the move

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Statistics released this week by the Almond Board of Australia show that the total area planted to almond orchards has increased more than five-fold over the past ten years and it is one of the fastest growing agricultural industries in Australia.

The Australian industry currently produces around 3.5% of the world's annual almond crop, behind both California (71%) and Spain (5.6%). However as Australia's orchards mature and tree yields increase in the next few years production will increase rapidly to 8% of world production.

The new report shows that Australian almond production in 2011 totalled 37,626 tonnes of kernel and the 2012 crop is expected to be 53,000 tonnes with the recently harvested nuts now being processed. There are now more than 8 million almond trees planted in Australia. The thousand hectares of almond orchards planted in the past year has pushed the total industry acreage past 30,000 hectares.

Ross Skinner, CEO of the Almond Board of Australia said the Australian Almond Statistics Report for 2011/12 highlighted the industry's significant growth with the current area of orchards able to produce nearly 90,000 tonnes when the trees reach full production in 2017.

"This is a large increase in production on top of the surge in almond production in recent years".

"Approximately 57% of existing almond plantings are yet to reach their full yield potential. We estimate that when today's plantings are fully mature the industry's farmgate value will be \$450 million at today's returns," Mr. Skinner said.

The almond industry in Australia is highly efficient and needs to be as it is selling in international markets with the Californian almond industry which is a true heavyweight of world horticultural production. Almonds are the largest agricultural crop produced in California and the USA's largest horticultural export crop in terms of value.

The longer term outlook for an internationally competitive almond industry in Australia is positive, as global demand has been increasing to match the increased supply from both Australia and the US. With a tapering off of orchard plantings in Australia and California over the past few years it is expected that the continuing strong growth in demand will bring improved returns in future.

The report shows that demand for almonds by Australian consumers continues to increase with per capita consumption having grown over the past four years from 0.492 kg per person in 2007/08 to 0.735 kg in 2011/12, an amount slightly greater than the 0.708 kg per person eaten in the USA"

The Almond Board believes the statistics report provides the industry with valuable information for planning purposes and for assessing the worth of current marketing programs the industry is funding.

At this point of time it appears the efforts to let Australian families know the nutritional value of almonds and have households try them as snacks and as a recipe ingredient is being well received.

"We are particularly pleased with the uptake of the nutritional research that shows almonds are an ideal recovery snack after exercise. It's terrific to see sports dieticians recommending almonds to our elite athletes who are in heavy training for the Olympics" Ross Skinner said.

The report is available to download from the ABA's website [www.australianalmonds.com.au](http://www.australianalmonds.com.au)

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### For further information contact:

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*The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) is a non profit, membership based organisation representing the interests of Australian almond growers, processors and marketers.*

*As the Australian almond industry's peak industry body, the ABA facilitates further growth of the industry, seeks to maximise its profitability and ensure its sustainability, by providing a platform for industry members to collectively respond to industry-wide issues, invest in research and marketing, share knowledge and interact with government and other stakeholders.*

*Key almond growing areas are located in Sunraysia (Victoria), the Riverland and Adelaide (South Australia), the Riverina region (New South Wales) and the Swan Region (Western Australia).*

*For more information visit [www.australianalmonds.com.au](http://www.australianalmonds.com.au) or email: [admin@australianalmonds.com.au](mailto:admin@australianalmonds.com.au)*

