



BRIEFING

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Chickpeas: Production, Uses, and Exports Kevin McNew

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Production:
Chickpeas, also known as garbanzo beans are classified into two categories: kabuli and desi. Kabuli is a high-grade bean usually found in salad bars or in soups. The lower-grade desi variety is primarily milled into flour, ground into feed for livestock, or used in ethnic foods.

In the U.S., chickpea production has increased dramatically in the past two years. Chickpeas are grown in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are also major production regions.

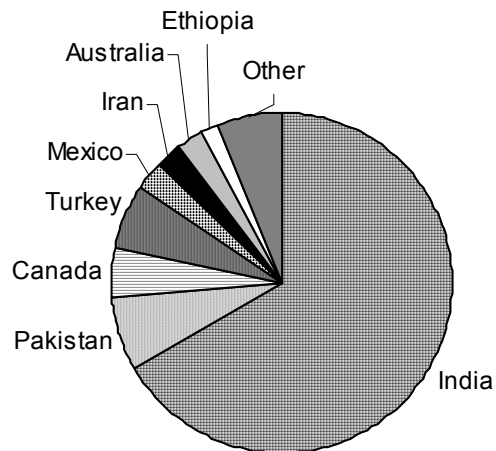
India is the world's leading producer of chickpeas accounting for nearly 68 percent of all chickpea production in 2000, primarily the desi type. Other major producers include Turkey, Pakistan, and Canada with Mexico also becoming a leading producer in recent years. Figure 2 shows that world chickpea production has varied from 6.5 mmt to 9.25 mmt during the 1990's.

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Figure 1: Chickpea Production by Country: 2000



World Total: 8 Million Metric Tons

Objective
for Informed
Decision Making

Analysis

Figure 2: World Chickpea Production: 1991-2000

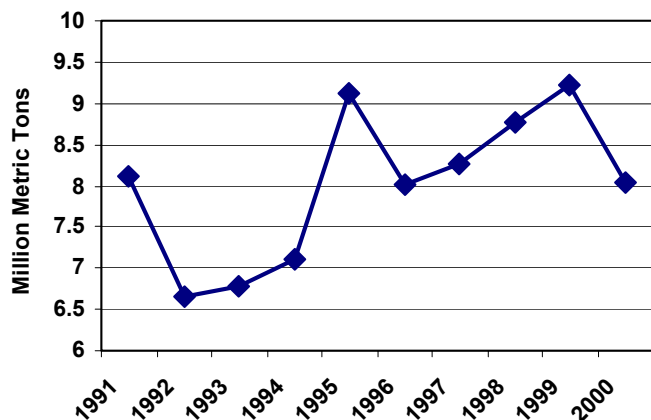
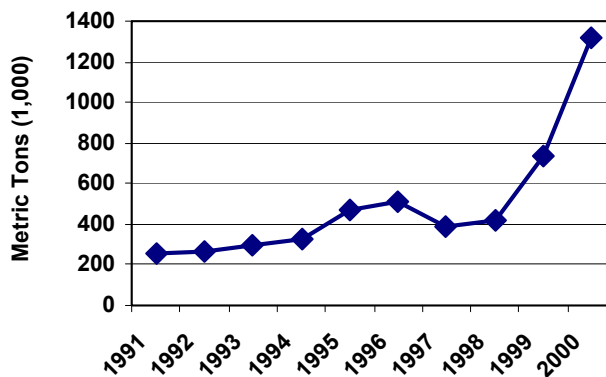


Figure 3: U.S. Chickpea Production: 1991-2000



Production Practices:

About 85 percent of the world chickpea production is of the desi variety; it can withstand cooler temperatures and matures quicker than the kabuli class. Desis typically need 95 to 105 days to mature on the prairies. Kabuli's usually take 10 days longer to mature and are more sensitive to cooler weather. Chickpeas are well suited for the western climate. They thrive in brown, and drier dark brown soil regions and have excellent drought tolerance due to their six-foot long taproot. However, chickpeas are highly susceptible to Ascochyta blight which can lead to substantial crop losses and significant quality deterioration. The Kabuli variety is especially sensitive to this blight and may require significant management efforts for control.

Imports and Exports

Spain was the largest importer of chickpeas in 2000, accounting for nearly 18 percent of all imports (Table 1). As well as being the largest producer of chickpeas, India is also the third largest importer, accounting for 10 percent of all chickpea imports in 2000, again primarily desis. Most imports are spread over many countries, although the Middle East and developing nations are the primary consumers.

Table 1: World Chickpeas Imports, 2000

Chickpeas Imports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Spain	38,566	17.70%
Bangladesh	31,000	14.23%
India	21,000	9.64%
US	8,296	3.81%
World	217,879	100.00%

Currently there are only three major exporters of chickpeas, Mexico accounting for 30 percent of total exports, Australia with 25 percent of all exports, and Turkey at 20 percent; the U.S. is a distant fifth on the list capturing only 5 percent of the world's chickpea exports (Table 2).

Table : World Chickpea Exports, 2000

Chickpea Exports	Metric Tons	Share of World
Mexico	155,042	30.83%
Australia	126,687	25.19%
Turkey	101,668	20.21%
US	22,677	4.51%
World	502,937	100.00%

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