

AIC *On Line* **ACE AIC Market Briefs: Acidified Vegetables**

"Acidified" vegetables are vegetables preserved in vinegar or acetic acid, usually packaged in glass. The biggest market here, by far, is for cucumbers and gherkins in Europe (US\$133 million). Turkey currently dominates this market, but it seems India could compete. India has just begun sending this product to the U.S. to the tune of about US\$1 million.

1. Cucumbers and Gherkins

United States

The U.S. import market for cucumbers and gherkins in glass was 9,520 metric tons worth US\$9.5 million in 1995. In 1994, the volume and value of imports more than doubled, probably due to the NAFTA agreement as almost all the new imports were from Canada. India's exports to the U.S. have grown dramatically from only 105 metric tons in 1993 to 1,461 metric tons in 1995. Indian product accounts for more than 10 percent of the market in value terms and has a unit value of US\$0.71/kg, compared to \$0.73 for Canada.

EU

Much larger market than the U.S., dominated by Turkey. In 1994, the EU imported 140,170 metric tons of cucumbers and gherkins worth US\$133.1 million. Turkey was the leading supplier, with 105,642 metric tons worth US\$101.8 million. India supplied 1,425 metric tons worth US\$1.3 million. Unit value for Indian product was US\$0.92/kg, compared to US\$0.96 for Turkish product.

2. Sweet Peppers

EU

Imported 15,363 metric tons worth US\$11.6 million in 1994. Turkey was the leading supplier, followed by Hungary. Unit value of Turkish product was US\$0.70/kg.

3. Pimientos (Capsicum Annum)

United States

Imported 2,469 metric tons worth US\$3.9 million in 1995, a large increase on the previous year. Market dominated by Spain, whose product had a unit value of US\$1.52 per kg.

4. Other Peppers (excluding sweet peppers and pimientos)

EU

Imported 8,805 metric tons worth US\$8.7 million in 1994. Biggest supplier was Turkey (again), followed by Hungary. Unit value for Turkish product was \$0.99.

5. Artichokes

United States

Imported 6,203 metric tons worth US\$12.3 million in 1995. A slight decrease from 1994, which was double the amount of 1991. Spain is the dominant supplier, and Spanish product possessed unit value of US\$1.96/kg.

6. Mushrooms

EU

2,582 metric tons of product were imported in 1994, worth US\$3.4 million. China is by far the dominant supplier, and unit value for Chinese mushrooms was US\$1.26/kg.

7. Other Vegetables

United States

Market for capers worth about US\$6.5 million. Supplied by Turkey, Morocco and Spain. Very small market for beans, worth about US\$100,000 per year. US\$2 million market for nopalitos (cactus), all sourced from Mexico. Onion market worth less than US\$800,000. Supplied mostly by Canada and Spain. 74,370 metric tons of other acidified vegetables were imported in 1995, worth US\$62.4 million. Mexico accounted for most of this supply (61,253 metric tons worth US\$45.9 million), followed by Greece (probably olives), Spain (palm hearts, asparagus), and Thailand (baby corn).

EU

Market for sweet corn worth US\$1 million in 1994, supplied by Hungary and Israel. Onion market, worth less than US\$600,000. Supplied mostly by Israel. Market for palm hearts worth US\$302,000. US\$914,000 worth of olives imported, as well as US\$798,000 worth of salad beetroot and US\$310,000 worth of red cabbage. Unfortunately, there are no statistics available on other acidified vegetables; they are lumped in with fruits and nuts.

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