

Dear client,

Up and till so far you received market report from us about peanuts, cashews, sunflowers and pumpkin seeds. We are pleased to announce that Aldebaran has made a step towards her old roots again, which are dried fruits. We decided that we want to explore this sector again and choose the commodity **dried apricots** for this.

### ***Turkish dried apricots***

As Turkey is the largest producer and exporter of dried apricots, we decided that our focus will lie on this origin for the time being. The majority of this product comes from the Malatya region and has a certain quality and characteristics that is quite unique in the world.

### Types

Kindly see below the types of dried apricots that we currently can offer:

- With SO2 (size #0 to size #8)
- Without SO2 – natural (size #0 to size #8)
- Industrial
- Diced (sizes 3-5mm, 6-8mm, 8-10mm and 10-12mm)

### Current crop

Due to excessive rains and frost (warm temperatures during the day followed by cold periods at night) last year the harvesting did not go efficient and there was not enough good quality availability. These damages led to high prices. Because of the carryover from last season combined with reaction to high prices from importers, demand had stopped and caused a shift in the purchase of the different sizes. People that used to buy #1 and #2 are now mostly buying #3 and #4. It is expected that the remaining apricots will cover the needs until new crop, and that the new season will start at tradable levels.

### New crop

This year the new crop is suffering again from frost, luckily far less than last year. The weather conditions turned quite unusual and the temperatures were lower than the seasonal averages for Malatya this year. Farmers are determined to protect their trees with extra measures since they absolutely cannot afford a consecutive year of loss.

The critical period is expected to continue till the end of the month, but although packers are anxious following serious crop damage last season, most industry experts believe there will still be a relatively good crop of Turkish apricots this year. Exports of Turkish apricots have reached around 37,000 ton which is almost half the quantity for the same period last year at over 89,000 ton. The sales however for this year is predicted at a total export quantity of 50,000 ton.

Prices of Turkish apricots had started to reduce but this trend has now stopped as packers wait to see further developments. The prices are now acceptable, but we expect that these will rise in June before the new crop come out. The view on the new crop will be much clearer in June. For now, we expect that harvesting will occur per mid July.

**Special offer (FCA Rotterdam)\***

At the moment we have a mix container of Turkish dried apricots which we can offer at very interesting prices.

Packaging quantity	Total kg	Origin	Grade	Crop	Price US\$ /mt
128 cartons	1600	Turkish	# 0 (Jumbo)	2014	6,990
240 cartons	3000	Turkish	# 1	2014	6,660
500 cartons	6250	Turkish	# 2	2014	6,270
344 cartons	4300	Turkish	# 4	2014	5,930
568 cartons	7100	Turkish	# 6	2014	5,150
40 cartons	500	Turkish	mix (coloured)	2014	5,600

\* Prices are subject to final confirmation.

Packed in 12,5kg cartons. Goods will be on pallets, wrapped in shrink foil. Each pallet contains 90 cartons.

**Full container load shipment**

Next to these spot goods, we can also offer you full containers, shipment from Turkey to your destination of choice. Please contact us if you are interested in this option so that we can have a look at the possibilities.

In case you have questions or enquiries for these goods, do not hesitate and contact us please. Your feedback is highly appreciated.

Kindest regards,  
Paul, Nurcan and Mark  
Trade Department

**Direct** +31-107620510 (Paul)  
**Direct** +31-107620514 (Nurcan)  
**Direct** +31-107620515 (Mark)