

Demand for Peanuts

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U.S. peanut consumption and exports have increased significantly since 2002 when the peanut program was changed from a supply management type program to a market oriented program. Based on USDA data and U.S. Census data, U.S. per capita peanut consumption has grown from 6.4 lbs per capita in 2012 to 7.4 lbs per capita in 2016 – a 16% increase.

Domestic and export demand has grown significantly. Based on USDA's National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) Peanut Stocks and Processing reports and comparing the first 6 months of the 2016-17 marketing year to a comparable time period for previous marketing years. Peanuts used in peanut butter have grown 64.4% since 2002 and 10.6% since 2013-14. Total shelled peanuts use has increased approximately 47% since 2002 and 11.3% since 2013-14. Based on USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) database comparing the average exports of peanuts and peanut butter during the 2008 Farm Bill relative to the 2014 Farm Bill, peanut exports increased by approximately 72% while peanut butter exports have grown by 52%.