Walnut Market to Hit USD 12.42 Billion by 2032 at 5.15% CAGR — Rapid Growth in Healthy Snacking and Plant-Based Demand

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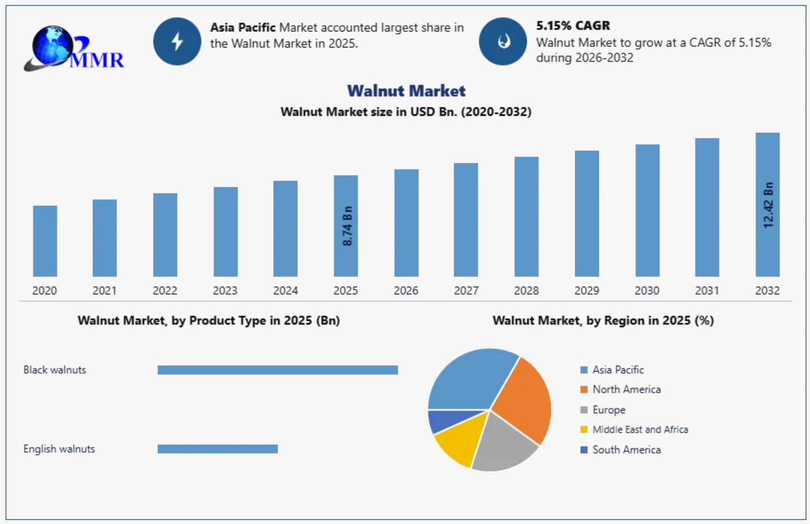

Walnut Market

AUSTIN, TX, UNITED STATES, June 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Market Overview

The Walnut Market size was valued at USD 8.74 Billion in 2025 and is expected to grow at a 5.15% CAGR from 2026 to 2032, reaching nearly USD 12.42 Billion by 2032, according to Maximize Market Research. The market covers raw and processed walnuts, black walnuts and English walnuts, organic and conventional walnuts, in-shell and shelled walnuts, and applications across food and beverages, snacks and packaged foods, dairy alternatives, pharmaceuticals, personal care, and cosmetics.

> Demand is being shaped by consumer preference for nutritious food products, convenience foods, packaging innovation, and willingness to pay for healthy fruits and plant-based ingredients”
>
> *Maximize*

Demand is being shaped by consumer preference for nutritious food products, convenience foods, packaging innovation, and willingness to pay for healthy fruits and plant-based ingredients. MMR highlights the importance of production analysis, consumption patterns, product preferences across raw, roasted, organic, and conventional categories, and the role of cold chain infrastructure in the walnut supply chain.

The Walnut Market is also moving into a more technology-led phase. MMR notes that market leaders are pivoting toward AI-driven precision harvesting and sustainability-driven traceability practices, while shelled premium kernels and bio-based packaging are becoming important strategic themes. This makes walnuts more than a traditional nut category; they are becoming a high-value plant-based protein, snack, bakery, dairy-alternative, pharmaceutical, and personal-care ingredient.

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Key Growth Drivers Fueling the Walnut Market

Rising health-focused consumption: MMR identifies the increasing consumption of nutritious food products and food ingredients as a core growth driver. Walnuts are associated with omega-3 fats, antioxidant activity, LDL cholesterol reduction, reduced inflammation, and heart-health benefits, making them attractive to health-conscious consumers.

Snackification and convenience foods: The market is benefiting from rising demand for convenience foods and healthy snack formats. MMR's recent development notes show how "No Shells" and flavored product lines are pressuring traditional bulk walnut suppliers to innovate in value-added snacking.

Expanding food and beverage applications: Walnuts are widely used in baked goods, snacks, packaged foods, beverages, and dairy alternatives. MMR specifically lists food and beverages, snacks and packaged foods, dairy alternatives, and beverages among the covered application segments.

Growth in pharmaceuticals and personal care: The report highlights walnut use in pharmaceutical applications and in skin, hair, and personal-care products. This broadens the addressable demand beyond food, creating opportunities in wellness, beauty, and functional ingredient markets.

Technology, supply chain, and traceability: MMR emphasizes cold chain infrastructure, logistics technologies, climate and pest disruptions, and sustainability-driven traceability practices. These forces are pushing market participants to improve storage, processing, packaging, quality control, and digital monitoring across the walnut value chain.

Market Segmentation — By Type, Application & End-Use

MMR segments the Walnut Market as follows:

By Form:

Raw
Processed
By Product Type:

Black walnuts
English walnuts
By Nature:

Organic
Conventional
By Category:

In Shell Walnuts
Shelled Walnuts
By Application:

Food & beverages
Snacks & Packaged Foods
Dairy Alternatives
Beverages
Others
Pharmaceuticals
Personal Care & Cosmetics
Others
By Distribution Channel:

Supermarkets/Hypermarkets
Specialty Stores
Online Retail
Others
Conventional walnuts dominate by nature because of their wide availability, cost-effectiveness, and strong demand across mainstream food processing and retail channels. Organic walnuts are gaining traction due to consumer interest in sustainability, chemical-free farming, premium healthy snacking, functional foods, and organic retail formats.

By distribution channel, Supermarkets/Hypermarkets dominate the Walnut Market because of extensive product availability, strong supply chains, and consumer preference for one-stop shopping. Specialty stores follow due to premium and organic demand, while online retail is growing as doorstep delivery, e-commerce penetration, and digital promotions attract younger consumers.

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Regional Analysis — Where Is the Walnut Market Growing Fastest?

United States

MMR includes the United States within the North America Walnut Market scope. The public summary does not disclose a separate U.S. market size, share, or CAGR, so no country-level numerical estimate is used here. The U.S. remains strategically relevant through supply chain, retail, snack, packaged food, and processed walnut demand covered under MMR's broader regional framework.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is included in MMR's Europe Walnut Market country coverage. MMR's public summary does not publish a separate U.K. walnut market value or growth rate. Within the available MMR data, the U.K. should be read as part of Europe, which MMR states is projected to generate the highest CAGR during the forecast period.

Germany

Germany is also included under MMR's Europe country-level scope. The public summary does not provide separate Germany-specific market size or share figures. Based strictly on the public MMR text, Germany contributes to the broader European opportunity, with Europe identified as the fastest-growing regional market during the forecast period.

Japan

Japan is listed under MMR's Asia Pacific Walnut Market country coverage. MMR does not disclose Japan-specific market values in the public summary. Japan's relevance sits within the broader Asia Pacific market, where rising health awareness, middle-class demand, and food preference shifts support walnut consumption.

South Korea

South Korea is included in the Asia Pacific country scope of the MMR report. The public summary does not provide a separate South Korea market size or segment share. Within the MMR regional structure, South Korea is part of the Asia Pacific demand base shaped by healthy food awareness and evolving retail consumption.

China

China is central to MMR's Asia Pacific analysis. MMR states that Asia Pacific accounts for over 36.0% of global walnut consumption, with USD 2.73 Billion in walnut consumption value in 2025, and that regional consumption is dominated by China. MMR also states that China has the largest walnut production and that domestic production meets the majority of demand, with baking and processed food industries accounting for roughly half of walnuts consumed in the country.

India

India is included in MMR's Asia Pacific regional scope and is directly referenced as part of Asia Pacific's growth base. The public MMR summary does not provide India-specific walnut market size or CAGR. However, MMR links Asia Pacific growth to developing countries such as India and China, rising internet usage, a growing middle-class population, and increased healthy food awareness.

Asia Pacific is the dominant region, with over 36.0% of global walnut consumption and China as the leading consumption and production center. Europe is the fastest-growing region according to MMR's public summary, while China and India remain major investment hotspots within Asia Pacific because of demand scale, middle-class expansion, and processed food applications.

Competitive Landscape — Leading Companies in the Walnut Market

MMR lists the following companies among the key players covered in the Global Walnut Market report:

Crain Walnut Shelling Inc.: Crain Walnut Shelling Inc. is listed first in MMR's competitor profile coverage. Its role is tied to the broader processing and supply structure of the walnut industry.

Empire Nut Company: Empire Nut Company is included among the MMR-listed competitor profiles. Its presence reflects the importance of established nut processors and suppliers in serving retail, foodservice, and industrial demand.

Guerra Nut Shelling Company: Guerra Nut Shelling Company is part of the MMR competitive set. Shelling and processing capabilities are strategically important as demand shifts toward shelled premium kernels.

Grower Direct Nut Co. Inc.: Grower Direct Nut Co. Inc. is listed by MMR as a key market participant. Grower-linked supply models are important as the industry deals with quality, traceability, and procurement volatility.

Morada Produce Company L.P.: Morada Produce Company L.P. is included among the key profiles in the MMR report. Its market relevance is connected to walnut production, processing, and distribution across the value chain.

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Recent Developments & Strategic Moves

The Wonderful Company — 28 January 2026: MMR reports that the company's nut portfolio reached a billion-dollar milestone, driven by expansion of "No Shells" and flavored product lines, highlighting the shift toward value-added snackification.
ADM and Alltech — 15 January 2026: MMR reports that ADM and Alltech launched a joint venture to optimize the nut-byproduct value chain for human and animal nutrition, strengthening sustainability by converting walnut shells and meal into higher-value functional ingredients.
USDA NASS — 04 September 2025: MMR notes that the official 2025 California Walnut Objective Measurement Report forecasted a production increase despite a 1% decline in bearing acreage, helping stabilize global supply chains.
Califia Farms — 14 May 2025: MMR reports that the brand launched a specialized walnut-oat milk blend for the professional barista and coffee channel, accelerating industrial kernel demand in dairy alternatives.
AI and sustainability shift: MMR states that market leaders are moving toward AI-driven precision harvesting, carbon-sequestration income stacking, shelled premium kernels, and bio-based packaging to navigate labor scarcity, high inflation, and logistics pressure.
AI & Digital Transformation Impact on Walnut Market

AI is changing the Walnut Market by improving orchard productivity, labor efficiency, harvest timing, supply chain control, and sustainability reporting. MMR specifically notes that market leaders are pivoting toward AI-driven precision harvesting to address orchard labor scarcity. In practice, this means growers and processors can use digital tools to monitor crop conditions, reduce waste, improve grading, and support more consistent quality.

Digital transformation also affects logistics and traceability. MMR emphasizes cold chain infrastructure, logistics technologies, regulatory tracking, food safety standards, organic certifications, pesticide residue norms, and sustainability-driven traceability practices. As walnut buyers demand verified sourcing and better shelf stability, digital traceability becomes a competitive advantage for exporters, processors, retailers, and packaged food brands.

Future Outlook — Investment Opportunities & Emerging Trends

The future of the Walnut Market is shaped by healthy snacking, plant-based nutrition, dairy alternatives, premium shelled kernels, organic walnuts, online retail, functional food applications, pharmaceutical use, personal care, and traceable supply chains. MMR's forecast shows the market moving from USD 8.74 Billion in 2025 to nearly USD 12.42 Billion by 2032 at 5.15% CAGR, indicating sustained expansion across food, wellness, and industrial applications. Investment opportunities are strongest where processors can combine cost-efficient conventional supply, premium organic positioning, AI-enabled harvesting, bio-based packaging, and value-added snack innovation.

About Maximize Market Research:

Maximize Market Research is a multifaceted market research and consulting company with professionals from several industries. Some of the industries we cover include medical devices, pharmaceutical manufacturers, science and engineering, electronic components, industrial equipment, technology and communication, cars and automobiles, chemical products and substances, general merchandise, beverages, personal care, and automated systems. To mention a few, we provide market-verified industry estimations, technical trend analysis, crucial market research, strategic advice, competition analysis, production and demand analysis, and client impact studies.

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