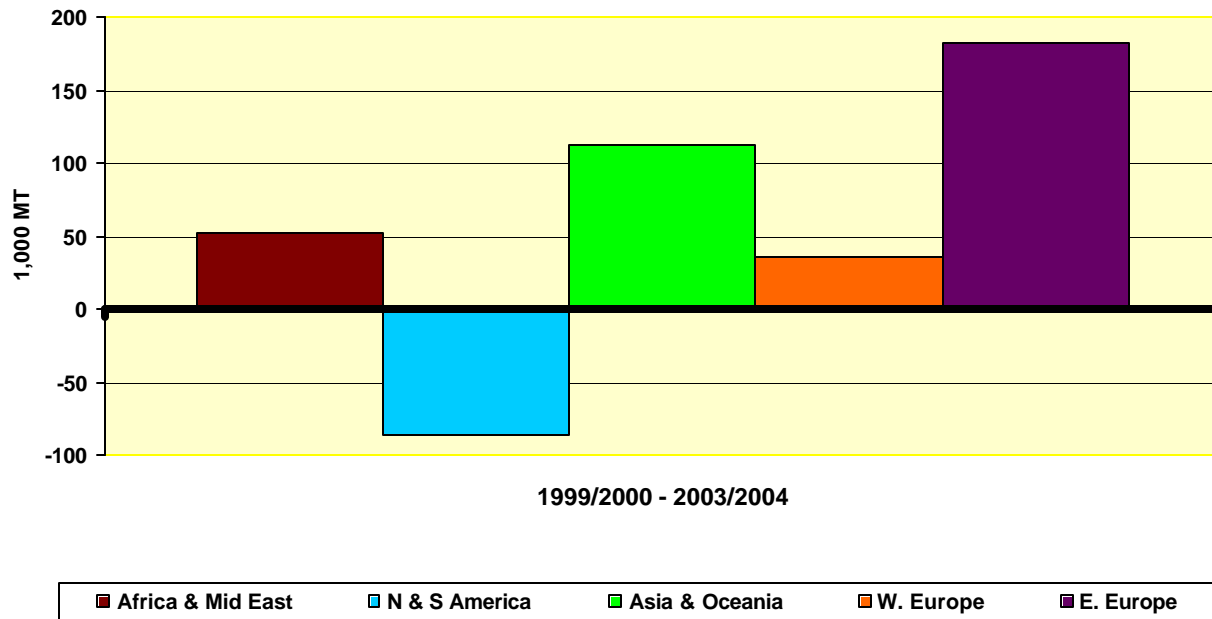




Oilseeds: World Markets and Trade

Demand for Peanuts in Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East Increase World Peanut Trade

5-Year Import Change



World peanut imports have grown nearly 20 percent since 1999/2000 (29 percent since 1998/99). Much of this growth has taken place in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union where improving economic conditions have increased consumer discretionary incomes. This has helped spur purchases of snack nuts and confectionary products containing peanuts. Recent investment in the manufacture of confectionary and snack products has also increased demand for peanuts. This is also true for the Middle East and North Africa region where imports to Algeria rose substantially beginning in 2001. Increased imports in Asia and Oceania were concentrated in the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. A combination of improved economies and/or expansion in manufacturing capacity has helped boost imports. Contrasting these growth markets, imports to Western Europe and North America have remained stagnant to declining. EU imports are mostly unchanged since 2000/01 while in the U.S., imports declined beginning in 2002/03. The decline in the U.S. is in response to an overhaul of the domestic peanut program that has reduced peanut prices in the U.S. and removed marketing restriction on domestic production.