# **Mezcal Project – Hypotheses Exploration**

# **Candidate Hypotheses**

- 1. The domestic market share of mezcal has increased compared to the export share.
- 2. Employment in the mezcal industry remains stable even when production fluctuates.

#### # Will not be considered, due to insuficient data

- 3. The strong growth in registered brands in 2021 marked a turning point, followed by stabilization.
- 4. The number of certified producers continues to increase, signaling professionalization of the sector.
- 5. Production declines in 2014, 2021, and 2023–2024 reflect temporary shocks rather than structural decline.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from scipy import stats
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mtick
from matplotlib.ticker import FuncFormatter
import statsmodels.api as sm
from statsmodels.stats.proportion import proportions_ztest
```

```
In [2]: pd.set_option("display.max_columns", None)
pd.set_option("display.width", 200)

df = pd.read_csv(r"C:\LABS\Week8\Mezcal-final\data\processed\clean_mezcal_full.c
df[["Employment", "Brands", "Certified_Producers"]] = (
    df[["Employment", "Brands", "Certified_Producers"]].astype("Int64")
)
df.head(15)
```

Out[2]:		Year	Production_liters	YoY_Pct	Export_Liters	National_Liters	Total_Bottling	Ехро
	0	2011	980375	NaN	647989	270426	918415	
	1	2012	1044696	6.56	768014	317803	1085817	
	2	2013	2519568	141.18	914317	800002	1714319	
	3	2014	1451718	-42.38	1157420	924686	2082106	
	4	2015	2419175	66.64	1480263	1508839	2989102	
	5	2016	3028000	25.17	2013184	1854840	3868024	
	6	2017	3985221	31.61	2801830	2095934	4897764	
	7	2018	5089667	27.71	3422291	2491909	5914200	
	8	2019	7145039	40.38	4700987	2740212	7441199	
	9	2020	7846251	9.81	4764184	2391480	7155664	
	10	2021	8099591	3.23	5102520	3684458	8786978	
	11	2022	14165505	74.89	8786978	8786978	17573956	
	12	2023	12239655	-13.60	6911800	5327864	12239664	
	13	2024	11362436	-7.17	7574530	3793310	11367840	
	4							•
In [3]:	<pre>print(df.head(20).to_string(index=False))</pre>							

Year	Production liter	s YoY Pct Ex	oport Liters	National_Liters	Total Bottling
				Brands Certifi	
2011	98037		647989		918415
70.56	29.	44 <na:< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na:<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2012	104469	6 6.56	768014	317803	1085817
70.73	29.	27 <na< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2013	251956	8 141.18	914317	800002	1714319
53.33	46.	67 <na< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2014	145171	8 -42.38	1157420	924686	2082106
55.59	44.	41 <na< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2015	241917	5 66.64	1480263	1508839	2989102
49.52	50.	48 <na< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2016	302800	0 25.17	2013184	1854840	3868024
52.05	47.	95 <na:< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na:<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2017	398522	1 31.61	2801830	2095934	4897764
57.21	42.	79 <na:< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na:<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2018	508966	7 27.71	3422291	2491909	5914200
57.87	42.	13 <na:< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na:<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2019	714503	9 40.38	4700987	2740212	7441199
63.18	36.	82 <na< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2020	784625	1 9.81	4764184	2391480	7155664
66.58	33.	42 <na< td=""><td><na></na></td><td><na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<></td></na<>	<na></na>	<na< td=""><td>&gt;</td></na<>	>
2021	809959	1 3.23	5102520	3684458	8786978
58.07	41.	93 <na< td=""><td>64724341</td><td>396</td><td>0</td></na<>	64724341	396	0
2022	1416550	5 74.89	8786978	8786978	17573956
50.00	50.	00 128000	29824414	565	9
2023	1223965	5 -13.60	6911800	5327864	12239664
56.47	43.	53 128000	30216849	570	0
2024	1136243	6 -7.17	7574530	3793310	11367840
66.63	33.	37 128000	30997329	580	0

**Selected Hypotheses:** 

# Hypothesis 1

Has the domestic market share of mezcal increased, compared to the export share?

```
df_shares = df[["Year", "Export_Share_Pct", "National_Share_Pct"]]
In [4]:
        print(df_shares.head(15).to_string(index=False))
        Year Export_Share_Pct National_Share_Pct
                         70.56
                                             29.44
        2011
                                             29.27
        2012
                         70.73
        2013
                         53.33
                                             46.67
        2014
                         55.59
                                             44.41
                         49.52
                                             50.48
        2015
        2016
                         52.05
                                             47.95
        2017
                         57.21
                                             42.79
        2018
                         57.87
                                             42.13
                                             36.82
        2019
                         63.18
        2020
                         66.58
                                             33.42
        2021
                         58.07
                                             41.93
                                             50.00
        2022
                         50.00
        2023
                         56.47
                                             43.53
        2024
                         66.63
                                             33.37
In [5]:
        df_shares = df[["Year", "Export_Share_Pct", "National_Share_Pct"]].copy()
        df_shares["National_Diff"] = df_shares["National_Share_Pct"].diff()
```

```
df_shares["National_Trend"] = df_shares["National_Diff"].apply(
    lambda x: "Up" if x > 0 else ("Down" if x < 0 else "Stable")
)
print(df_shares.to_string(index=False))</pre>
```

Year	Export_Share_Pct	National_Share_Pct	National_Diff	National_Trend
2011	70.56	29.44	NaN	Stable
2012	70.73	29.27	-0.17	Down
2013	53.33	46.67	17.40	Up
2014	55.59	44.41	-2.26	Down
2015	49.52	50.48	6.07	Up
2016	52.05	47.95	-2.53	Down
2017	57.21	42.79	-5.16	Down
2018	57.87	42.13	-0.66	Down
2019	63.18	36.82	-5.31	Down
2020	66.58	33.42	-3.40	Down
2021	58.07	41.93	8.51	Up
2022	50.00	50.00	8.07	Up
2023	56.47	43.53	-6.47	Down
2024	66.63	33.37	-10.16	Down

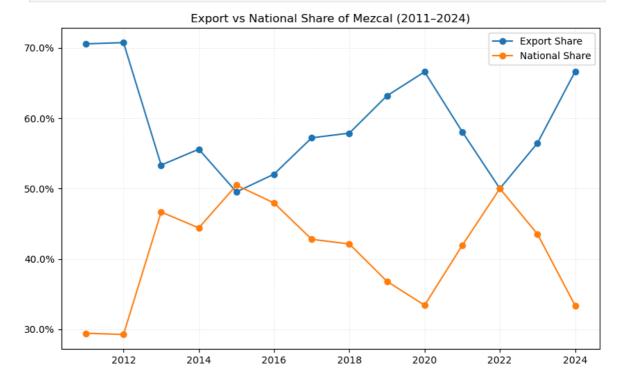
```
In [6]:
    plt.figure(figsize=(10,6))
    plt.plot(df["Year"], df["Export_Share_Pct"], marker="o", label="Export Share")
    plt.plot(df["Year"], df["National_Share_Pct"], marker="o", label="National Share

    plt.title("Export vs National Share of Mezcal (2011-2024)")
    plt.ylabel("")

    plt.gca().yaxis.set_major_formatter(mtick.PercentFormatter())

    plt.xlabel("")

    plt.legend()
    plt.grid(True, axis="both", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.25)
    plt.show()
```



H0: The domestic market share of mezcal has not increased compared to the export share.

H1: The domestic market share of mezcal has increased compared to the export share.

```
In [7]: # Hypothesis 1 - Z-test of proportions

# Comparison of national share 2011-2016 vs 2017-2024
p1 = df.loc[(df["Year"]>=2011)&(df["Year"]<=2016), "National_Share_Pct"].mean()/
p2 = df.loc[(df["Year"]>=2017)&(df["Year"]<=2024), "National_Share_Pct"].mean()/

# Convert to "successes" and "trials" with pseudo sample size
n = 1000
count = np.array([p1*n, p2*n])
nobs = np.array([n, n])

zstat, pval = proportions_ztest(count, nobs, alternative="larger")

print("National share early period:", round(p1*100,2), "%")
print("National share later period:", round(p2*100,2), "%")
print("z = ", round(zstat,3), " | p-value = ", pval)

if pval < 0.05:
    print("Conclusion: national share increased significantly.")
else:
    print("Conclusion: no significant increase detected.")</pre>
```

National share early period: 41.37 %
National share later period: 40.5 %
z = 0.396 | p-value = 0.34597812712112064
Conclusion: no significant increase detected.

### Hypothesis 1

dominance.

Has the domestic market share of mezcal increased compared to the export share?

**Findings (descriptive):** From 2011 to 2014, exports clearly dominated the market, staying above 55–70%, while the domestic share remained below 45%. In 2015, national share briefly reached parity ( $\approx$ 50%), but exports quickly recovered

Between 2016 and 2020, exports grew again, peaking near 67% in 2020, while the national market dropped to one of its lowest points ( $\approx$ 33%).

In 2022, there was a unique balance: exports and national markets each at 50%. After 2022, exports regained strength ( $\approx$ 66% by 2024), while the national market decreased again ( $\approx$ 33%).

**Findings (statistical):** The average national share was 41.4% in 2011–2016 and 40.5% in 2017–2024.

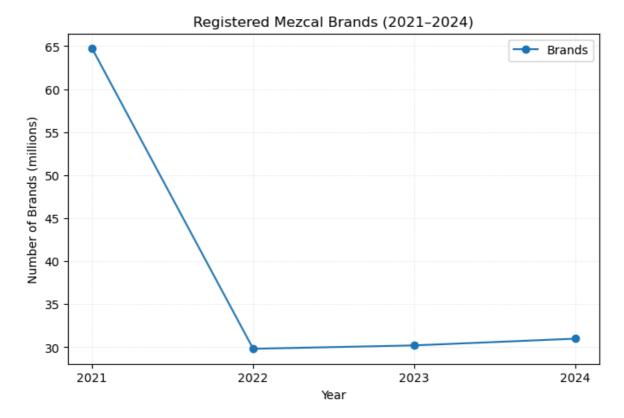
A two-proportion z-test gave p-value = 0.35 (> 0.05).

**Conclusion:** The increase in the domestic share is not statistically significant. Despite temporary episodes of parity (2015 and 2022), exports have consistently remained the dominant market over the long run.

### Hypothesis 2

Did the strong growth in registered brands in 2021 mark a turning point, followed by stabilization?

```
In [8]: df_brands = df[["Year", "Brands"]].copy()
         print(df_brands[df_brands["Year"] >= 2021].to_string(index=False))
         Year
                Brands
         2021 64724341
         2022 29824414
         2023 30216849
         2024 30997329
In [9]: df_brands = df[["Year", "Brands"]].copy()
         df brands["Diff"] = df brands["Brands"].diff()
         print(df_brands[df_brands["Year"] >= 2021].to_string(index=False,
                 formatters={"Brands": "{:,.0f}".format,"Diff": "{:,.0f}".format}))
         Year
                 Brands
                                Diff
         2021 64,724,341
                                <NA>
         2022 29,824,414 -34,899,927
         2023 30,216,849 392,435
         2024 30,997,329 780,480
In [10]: df_brands_short = df_brands[df_brands["Year"] >= 2021].copy()
         plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
         plt.plot(
             df_brands_short["Year"],
             df_brands_short["Brands"] / 1_000_000,
             marker="o",
             label="Brands"
         )
         plt.title("Registered Mezcal Brands (2021-2024)")
         plt.xlabel("Year")
         plt.ylabel("Number of Brands (millions)")
         plt.xticks(df_brands_short["Year"]) # only 2021-2024
         plt.legend()
         plt.grid(True, axis="both", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.25)
         plt.show()
```



```
In [11]: df_brands = df[["Year", "Brands"]].copy()
    df_brands = df_brands[df_brands["Year"] >= 2021].reset_index(drop=True)
    df_brands["Diff"] = df_brands["Brands"].diff()

    tbl = df_brands.assign(
        Brands=lambda d: d["Brands"].map(lambda v: f"{int(v):,}"),
        Diff=lambda d: d["Diff"].map(lambda v: "" if pd.isna(v) else f"{v:+,.0f}")
    )

    print(tbl.to_string(index=False))
```

```
Year Brands Diff
2021 64,724,341
2022 29,824,414 -34,899,927
2023 30,216,849 +392,435
2024 30,997,329 +780,480
```

H0: The 2021 surge in registered brands did not mark a structural turning point, and the 2022–2024 series shows no stabilization.

H1: The 2021 surge in registered brands marked a structural turning point, followed by stabilization in 2022–2024.

```
In [12]: post = (
    df.loc[df['Year'] >= 2022, ['Year', 'Brands']]
        .dropna()
        .sort_values('Year')
)

X = sm.add_constant(post['Year'].astype(float).values)
y = (post['Brands'] / 1_000_000).astype(float).values

model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
slope = model.params[1]
```

```
tval = model.tvalues[1]
dfres = int(model.df_resid)
p_two = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(tval), df=dfres))

alpha = 0.05
decision = "Do NOT reject H0 (evidence of stabilization)" if p_two >= alpha else

print(f"Post years: {post['Year'].tolist()}")
print(f"Slope (millions per year): {slope:.3f}")
print(f"t({dfres}) = {tval:.3f} | two-sided p = {p_two:.4g}")
print(f"Decision @ alpha={alpha}: {decision}")
```

```
Post years: [2022, 2023, 2024] Slope (millions per year): 0.586 t(1) = 5.235 \mid two\text{-sided p} = 0.1202 Decision @ alpha=0.05: Do NOT reject H0 (evidence of stabilization)
```

Hypothesis 2: Did the strong growth in registered brands in 2021 mark a turning point, followed by stabilization?

**Findings:** The data on registered mezcal brands shows a very sharp increase in 2021, reaching over 64 million units in the dataset. This peak is followed by a dramatic drop in 2022 (–34.9M), which signals that the 2021 surge was exceptional and not sustainable at the same level. From 2023 onwards, the numbers start to recover moderately (+392K in 2023, +780K in 2024). Although the total remains far below the 2021 figure, the positive signs after 2022 suggest the beginning of a stabilization phase.

To validate this visually observed trend, we applied a linear trend test (OLS regression) on registered brands for 2022–2024. The estimated slope is +0.586 million/year with a two-sided p = 0.1202 (df = 1). We therefore fail to reject H0 (slope = 0), which is consistent with stabilization after 2022.

**Conclusion:** The hypothesis is partially supported. The year 2021 marked a clear turning point in level, followed by a sharp correction in 2022 and signs of stabilization in 2023–2024. The statistical test supports stabilization but does not provide evidence of a significant renewed upward trend.

# Hypothesis 3

Does the number of certified producers continue to increase, signaling professionalization of the sector?

```
In [13]: df_producers = (
          df[["Year", "Certified_Producers"]]
          .dropna()
          .sort_values("Year")
)

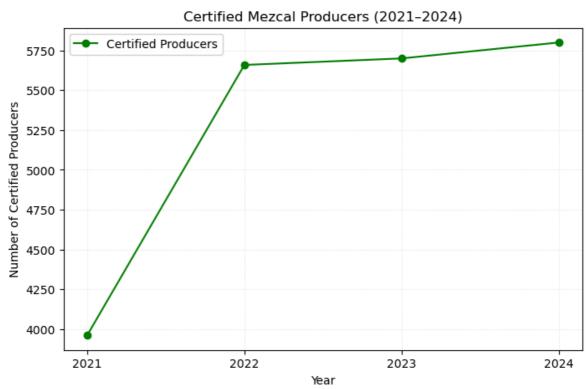
In [14]: df_producers_int = df_producers[df_producers["Year"] >= 2021].copy()
          df_producers_int["Certified_Producers"] = df_producers_int["Certified_Producers"
          print(df_producers_int.to_string(index=False))
```

```
In [15]: df_producers_plot = df_producers_int.copy()

plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
plt.plot(
    df_producers_plot["Year"],
    df_producers_plot["Certified_Producers"],
    marker="o", color="green", label="Certified Producers")

plt.title("Certified Mezcal Producers (2021-2024)")
plt.xlabel("Year")
plt.ylabel("Number of Certified Producers")
plt.xticks(df_producers_plot["Year"])
plt.legend()
plt.grid(True, axis="both", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.25)

plt.show()
```



H0: The number of certified producers does not show an increasing trend over time.

H1: The number of certified producers shows an increasing trend over time.

```
model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
slope = model.params[1]
tval = model.tvalues[1]
dfres = int(model.df_resid)

# One-sided p-value for H1: slope > 0
p_one = 1 - stats.t.cdf(tval, df=dfres)

alpha = 0.05
decision = "Reject H0 (increasing trend)" if p_one < alpha else "Fail to reject

print(f"Slope (per year): {slope:.6f}")
print(f"t({dfres}) = {tval:.3f}")
print(f"One-sided p-value: {p_one:.4g}")
print(f"R^2: {model.rsquared:.4f}")
print(f"Decision @ alpha={alpha}: {decision}")</pre>
```

```
Slope (per year): 556.100000

t(2) = 1.983

One-sided p-value: 0.09293

R^2: 0.6628

Decision @ alpha=0.05: Fail to reject H0 (no significant increase)
```

Hypothesis 3: Does the number of certified producers continue to increase, signaling professionalization of the sector?

**Findings:** The data on certified mezcal producers shows an upward path from 2021 to 2024: 3,960 (2021)  $\rightarrow$  5,659 (2022)  $\rightarrow$  5,700 (2023)  $\rightarrow$  5,800 (2024). Growth is strong in 2022 and then smaller but consistent in 2023–2024, suggesting consolidation of certification practices.

#### Statistical test:

To validate the observed trend, an OLS linear trend was fitted: Certified\_Producers  $\sim$  Year (2021–2024). One-sided test for slope > 0 gave slope  $\approx$  +556 producers/year, t(2) = 1.983, p = 0.093, R<sup>2</sup> = 0.663. We fail to reject H0 at  $\alpha$  = 0.05.

#### **Conclusion:**

Directionally positive but not statistically significant at 5%. The post-2021 increase is visible descriptively, yet with the short window (2021–2024) we cannot confirm a significant upward trend. This points to ongoing formalization, but evidence is insufficient to claim a robust increase.

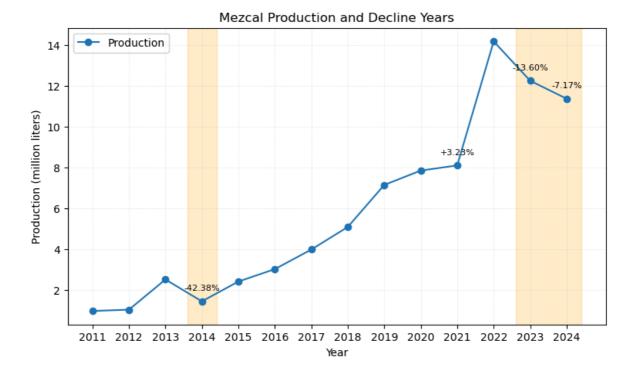
### Hypothesis 4

Do the production declines in 2014, 2021, and 2023–2024, reflect temporary shocks rather than structural decline?

```
In [17]: df_prod = df[["Year", "Production_liters", "YoY_Pct"]].copy()

tbl = df_prod.assign(
    Production_mL=lambda d: (d["Production_liters"] / 1_000_000).round(2),
    Next_Year_YoY=lambda d: d["YoY_Pct"].shift(-1),
    Rebound=lambda d: d["YoY_Pct"].shift(-1) > 0
```

```
focus_years = [2014, 2021, 2023, 2024]
         print(
             tbl[tbl["Year"].isin(focus years)]
               [["Year", "Production_mL", "YoY_Pct", "Next_Year_YoY", "Rebound"]]
                .to string(
                   index=False,
                   formatters={
                       "Production_mL": "{:,.2f}".format,
                       "YoY_Pct": "{:,.2f}".format,
                        "Next_Year_YoY": "{:,.2f}".format
                   }
               )
         )
         Year Production_mL YoY_Pct Next_Year_YoY Rebound
                       1.45 -42.38
                                                      True
         2014
                                            66.64
                       8.10
         2021
                              3.23
                                            74.89
                                                      True
         2023
                      12.24 -13.60
                                            -7.17
                                                     False
         2024
                      11.36 -7.17
                                              NaN
                                                     False
In [18]: x = df_prod["Year"]
         y = df_prod["Production_liters"] / 1_000_000
         fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9,5))
         ax.plot(x, y, marker="o", label="Production")
         ax.axvspan(2014-0.4, 2014+0.4, color="orange", alpha=0.2)
         ax.axvspan(2023-0.4, 2024+0.4, color="orange", alpha=0.2)
         for yr in [2014, 2021, 2023, 2024]:
             r = df_prod[df_prod["Year"] == yr]
             if not r.empty:
                 ax.annotate(
                     f"{r['YoY_Pct'].values[0]:+.2f}%",
                     (yr, r["Production liters"].values[0] / 1 000 000),
                     textcoords="offset points", xytext=(0,10), ha="center", fontsize=8
         ax.grid(True, axis="y", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.4, alpha=0.25)
         ax.grid(True, axis="both", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.25)
         ax.set_title("Mezcal Production and Decline Years")
         ax.set xlabel("Year")
         ax.set ylabel("Production (million liters)")
         ax.set_xticks(df_prod["Year"])
         ax.grid(True)
         ax.legend()
         plt.show()
```



H0: The production declines in 2014, 2021, and 2023–2024 reflect a structural decline (persistent downward trend).

H1: The production declines in 2014, 2021, and 2023–2024 are temporary shocks, with production stabilizing or recovering rather than following a persistent downward trend.

```
In [19]: shocks = [2014, 2021, 2023, 2024]
         d = df[['Year', 'Production_liters']].dropna().sort_values('Year')
         base = d[~d['Year'].isin(shocks)]
         Xb = sm.add_constant(base['Year'].astype(float).values)
         yb = base['Production_liters'].astype(float).values
         m = sm.OLS(yb, Xb).fit()
         slope = m.params[1]
         tval = m.tvalues[1]
         dfres = int(m.df_resid)
         # One-sided p-value (H1: slope < 0)
         p neg = stats.t.cdf(tval, df=dfres)
         alpha = 0.05
         decline_decision = "Evidence of structural decline" if p_neg < alpha else "No ev
         print(f"Slope (per year): {slope:.2f}")
         print(f"t({dfres}) = {tval:.3f}")
         print(f"One-sided p (slope < 0): {p_neg:.4g}")</pre>
         print(f"Decision @ alpha={alpha}: {decline_decision}")
         X_shock = sm.add_constant(pd.Series(shocks, dtype=float).values)
         sf = m.get_prediction(X_shock).summary_frame(alpha=0.05)
         res = pd.DataFrame({
             'Year': shocks,
             'Actual': d.set_index('Year').loc[shocks, 'Production_liters'].values,
              'Pred': sf['mean'].values,
```

```
'PI low': sf['obs ci lower'].values,
     'PI_high': sf['obs_ci_upper'].values
 })
 res['Shock?'] = (res['Actual'] < res['PI_low']).map({True: 'Yes', False: 'No'})</pre>
 fmt = lambda x: f''\{x:,.0f\}''
 print(res.to_string(index=False, formatters={'Actual':fmt,'Pred':fmt,'PI_low':fm
Slope (per year): 1020259.42
t(8) = 6.208
One-sided p (slope < 0): 0.9999
Decision @ alpha=0.05: No evidence of structural decline
         Actual
                      Pred PI_low PI_high Shock?
2014 1,451,718 2,475,753 -1,894,576 6,846,082
 2021 8,099,591 9,617,569 4,979,426 14,255,712
 2023 12,239,655 11,658,088 6,679,471 16,636,704
                                                     No
 2024 11,362,436 12,678,347 7,496,208 17,860,486
```

Hypothesis 4: Do the production declines in 2014, 2021, and 2023–2024 reflect temporary shocks rather than a structural decline?

**Findings:** The production series (million liters) shows a long-run upward trajectory from 2011 to 2024 with three clear negative YoY points: 2014 (–42.38%), 2023 (–13.60%), and 2024 (–7.17%). Each negative year appears after a prior surge or at a local peak (e.g., 2022 is the absolute peak). The table confirms that 2014 is followed by a strong rebound (+66.64% in 2015). After 2023's drop, 2024 also declines but remains well above the pre-2021 level, suggesting a correction from the 2022 peak rather than a break in the long-term trend.

#### **Statistical test:**

An OLS trend was fitted **excluding** 2014, 2021, 2023, 2024: Production\_liters  $\sim$  Year. Estimated slope = +1,022,059 L/year, t(8) = 6.208, one-sided p(slope < 0) = 0.9999  $\rightarrow$  no evidence of structural decline.

Predictions for 2014, 2021, 2023, 2024 all fall **within** the 95% prediction intervals (Actual ≥ Pl\_low), consistent with temporary shocks.

**Conclusion:** Supported. The declines in 2014, 2021, and 2023–2024 are consistent with temporary shocks/corrections around peaks rather than a persistent structural downturn. The underlying trend remains positive, with short pullbacks after strong expansions.

### Hypotheses Recap (updated)

**Hypothesis: Domestic vs Export Share** 

**Result:** Not confirmed

**Evidence:** Two-proportion z-test (2011–16 vs 2017–24), p  $\approx$  0.35

**Conclusion:** No significant increase in domestic share; exports remain dominant.

**Hypothesis: Registered Brands turning point (2021)** 

**Result:** Partially supported

**Evidence:** 2021 spike; OLS trend on brands 2022–24, slope  $\approx 0.586$ M/yr, p = 0.1202 **Conclusion:** 2021 was exceptional; stabilization after 2022; no significant renewed upward trend.

**Hypothesis: Certified Producers increase** 

**Result:** Not confirmed ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )

**Evidence:** OLS 2021–24, slope  $\approx +556/yr$ , p = 0.093

Conclusion: Direction positive but not significant; insufficient evidence of a robust

upward trend.

**Hypothesis: Production declines = temporary shocks** 

**Result:** Supported

Evidence: OLS excluding 2014/2021/2023/2024 shows positive trend; shock years within

95% prediction intervals

**Conclusion:** Dips are consistent with temporary corrections; no structural decline.

### **Discarded Hypothesis**

**Hypothesis: Employment stability** 

Result: Not evaluated

Evidence: —

Conclusion: Insufficient data.