

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 05,2020

**Report Number:** JO2019-0010

## **Report Name:** Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report

**Country:** Jordan

**Post:** Amman

**Report Category:** FAIRS Annual Country Report

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### **Report Highlights:**

This report outlines Jordan's regulatory requirements for food and agricultural product imports. Jordan occasionally bans imports of specific products due to sanitary-phytosanitary (SPS) concerns. Agriculture Law No. 13 (2015) stipulates that the import of raw, unprocessed food items is subject to the Ministry of Agriculture granting import license approval. Prior import licensing approval is meant to ensure compliance with SPS requirements, and facilitate record keeping and statistical tracking. The Ministry of Agriculture's import licensing regime for poultry and poultry products (e.g., chicken leg quarters) is being used to protect domestic poultry producers.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Jordan occasionally bans imports of specific products due to sanitary or phytosanitary concerns. The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) is responsible for the development of standards and ensuring conformity with existing product standards. The JSMO delegates product testing responsibilities for food and agricultural products to the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA). However, the former continues to retain however responsibility for the development of standards (including for food) and ensuring conformity with standards. Any consignment not meeting the official standard is subject to rejection; if so, it will require re-export or destruction at the importer's expense. The Ministry of Agriculture regulates unprocessed agricultural products; including the import of veterinary drugs and animal vaccines, pesticides, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, animal feeds, and seedlings.

The United States and Jordan continue to benefit from an extensive economic partnership. A key element of this relationship is the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which entered into force on December 17, 2001, with implementation on January 1, 2010. However, the U.S.-Jordan FTA no longer provides a tariff advantage for U.S.-origin bulk agricultural commodities, including corn, as all origin corn imports are tariff exempt. Argentina and Brazil currently supply over 90 percent of all bulk corn imports.

Jordan's multitude of FTAs has created a vehicle for both domestic economic development and greater integration within the global economy. In 2002, Jordan signed an economic association agreement with the European Union (EU), paving the way for more liberal movements of capital between the region and the kingdom.

Exports of U.S. food and agricultural products to Jordan in calendar year (CY) 2018 (January-December) were \$208 million, down 29 percent compared to 2017. However, in CY 2019 (January-September) U.S.-origin exports to Jordan were \$169 million, up 14 percent compared to the same period in 2018; This can be attributed to an increase in exports of U.S. rice (\$54.5 million, up 18 percent) and tree nuts (\$54 million, up 38 percent).

Since 2018 the JFDA has targeted imported consumer-oriented food products labeled as "containing" or "may contain components derived from genetic engineering." In addition, elimination of the Ministry of Agriculture's protectionist import-license poultry quotas would further support trade, and benefit Jordanian consumers with an affordable, wholesome source of animal protein.

## SECTION I – FOOD LAWS

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Jordan) is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Its accession to the WTO (April 11, 2000) coincides with economic and legislative structural reforms, bringing it in line with international standards and requirements. Jordan's food control regime is governed by two laws:

- [Agriculture Law No. 13 \(2015\)](#)
- [Jordan Food Law No. 30 \(2015\); this law supersedes the Jordan Food Control Law 32 \(2003\)](#)

Jordan Food Law No. 30 was enacted in May 2015 by King Abdallah II and his Cabinet after passing through the upper and lower houses of Parliament of Jordan (parliament). It entered into force in June 2015 (i.e., thirty days following publication in the official gazette). This law gives the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) regulatory control over food safety and food quality issues. The statute is designed to ease processed food imports and eliminate multi-agency territorial disputes. The impact of the unification of the regulatory authority has been positive. Under the new food law, the JFDA is revising, updating, and drafting new regulations.

Agriculture Law No. 13 (2015) stipulates that the import of raw, unprocessed food items is subject to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) granting advance import license approval. Prior import licensing approval is meant to ensure compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, as well as facilitate record keeping and statistical tracking. The Ministry of Agriculture's import licensing for poultry and poultry products (e.g., chicken leg quarters) is meant only for statistical record keeping purposes, but the import licensing approval regime is being used as a nontariff barrier to protect domestic poultry producers.

Prior to the new food law, the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) delegated to the JFDA product testing responsibilities for food and agricultural products. However, the JSMO continues to retain responsibility for the development of standards (including those for food) and ensures conformity with standards. The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization's responsibilities include the national metrology system; granting (voluntary) quality marks and accrediting testing and calibration laboratories.

Exporters of U.S. food and agricultural products are strongly advised to review the standards of any item they intend to ship to Jordan. Importers can purchase printed standards from the JSMO for a nominal fee. The Jordan Food and Drug Administration and other government authorities have very low tolerance for food standard violations. Any consignment not meeting the official standard will be rejected, with product subject to either its re-export or destruction at the importer's expense.

Jordanian drug and pharmaceutical product importers, including vaccines for human use, must comply with Ministry of Health (MOH) regulations. The Ministry of Agriculture however regulates the import of veterinary drugs and animal vaccines, pesticides, meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, animal feeds, and seedlings.

## SECTION II – LABELING REQUIREMENTS

### General Requirements

**Labeling Requirements:** The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization sets labeling requirements. A list of ingredients in descending order of predominance is not required. All labels must be in Arabic; alternatively, an Arabic language adhesive label is acceptable. The label at minimum must contain:

- Product name
- The manufacturer’s name and address
- Net weight
- Fortifying matter (e.g., added vitamins and minerals to powdered milk)
- Lot number and a “use before” or “best by” date

Jordan’s labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs) levels. Nutritional labeling nevertheless is mandatory for certain food categories (e.g., infant formula and food for dietary use). Shelf-life labeling has been replaced by the “best before” standard.

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization interprets “best before” as being the product’s expiry date; no product is authorized for sale beyond this date. Jordan will scrutinize product labels at border crossing points. Current legislation holds the importer accountable for a product’s content as specified on the label. Jordanian officials are known for rejecting shipments due to labeling ambiguities and printing errors. Currently, U.S.-origin product labeled “containing” or “may contain genetically engineered (GE) ingredients” are being selectively rejected.

**Nutritional Labeling Requirements:** Nutritional labeling is mandatory for infant formula and food for dietary use. Importers are responsible for informing foreign suppliers of any applicable labeling and marking requirements. All labels must either be in Arabic or have a stick-on label in Arabic. Nutritional labeling is mandatory in certain categories of food, including infant formula and food for dietary use. In general, the label should contain the name of the product, the manufacturer’s name and address, net weight, fortifying matter, lot number and best before date. A food shipment may be rejected based on ambiguous labeling content.

## SECTION III – PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Imported products must comply with labeling and marking requirements issued by the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization. Importers are responsible for informing foreign suppliers of any applicable labeling and marking requirements. All labels must either be in Arabic or have a stick-on label in Arabic. In general, the label should contain the name of the product, the manufacturer’s name and address, net weight, fortifying matter, lot number and best before date. A food shipment may be rejected based on ambiguous labeling content. For information on food labeling and packaging, contact the JSMO and the Jordan Ministry of Health.

The maximum package size for poultry parts is 2.5 kilograms (kg) for direct consumers. Jordan also imposes a 2.0 kg maximum package weight limit on honey imports, to protect the domestic industry. The measure prevents bulk imports, and limits repackaging.

#### **SECTION IV – FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS**

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization and the JFDA [regulate food additives](#). The latter, however, is responsible for regulatory enforcement. Jordan maintains a list of approved additives; permissible concentration levels largely conform to the *Codex Alimentarius* (Codex). Jordan refers to Codex standard 192 for food additive issues. It will nonetheless reference European Union (EU) regulations in the absence of a Codex standard. The United States is working with the Government of Jordan to adopt U.S. regulations whenever U.S. and EU standards differ.

#### **SECTION V - PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS**

The Ministry of Agriculture’s Plant Protection Directorate (PPD)/Pesticides Division regulates pesticides. Imported agricultural pesticides must conform to the United Nations (UN) – Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) specifications. Standards pertaining to pesticide use and human health must conform to World Health Organization (WHO) standards. The Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council (CIPAC) handbook is used to analyze pesticides. Food samples are sent to food safety laboratories, where these are analyzed for pesticide residues and contaminants. Jordanian testing labs follow the Association of Official Analytical Chemists analysis methodology and utilize the European Commission’s EU Pesticide Database.

Jordan has only one laboratory capable of testing for pesticide residues in fresh fruits and vegetables. The testing laboratory’s normal turnaround time is two weeks, making it difficult to test perishables prior to consumption. Jordan tests non-perishables to a far greater extent. It requires that residue levels not exceed the Codex and/or the European standard maximum residue levels (MRL). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working with the Ministry of Agriculture and the JFDA to increase lab capabilities, as well as improve pesticide testing methodologies.

#### **SECTION VI – OTHER REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION MEASURES**

**Halal Requirements:** Jordan stipulates that all meat products be halal. Requirements include:

- The slaughter of animals must adhere to Islamic traditions, that is occurring in the presence of a Muslim male accredited by any nationally recognized Islamic association/institution.
- The product is free of pork products.
- The product is free from alcohol.
- A halal certificate must accompany all meat and products of animal-origin (excluding pork and pork products).
- The halal certificate must be issued/signed by an approved and licensed Islamic center only.
- Each consignment requires a halal certificate (including the slaughter date).

- The halal logo must be on the production plant’s original label for mass packaging (industrial use) and for each individual retail package. Any added label will not be acceptable.

**Radiation Release Inspection Requirements:** Jordan imposes mandatory radiation contamination inspection of food product imports originating in countries impacted the radiation release.

**Dairy Products Requirements:** Jordan bans the use of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) in processed dairy products. Processed cheeses, or other products that replace milk fat with any other fat, must not use partially hydrogenated oils. Exporters are encouraged to mark clearly the oil used on any products that could potentially contain partially hydrogenated oils. New to market dairy products should expect an increased level of scrutiny by Jordanian customs officials.

**Preserved Food Requirements:** The color tartrazine E102 is no longer permitted as a coloring in pickled preparations. This regulation aligns with the EU and Codex standards, Category 4.2.2 and 4.2.2.3.

**Slaughterhouse Registration:** The Ministry of Agriculture requires that any slaughterhouse exporting to Jordan for the first time must register. The following documentation is required:

- Slaughterhouse license certificate from the U.S. federal government (i.e., USDA)
- Registration code
- Quality assurance certificate – International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 22000 or Hazard Analysis and Critical Points (HACCP)
- Islamic slaughter certification issued by a nationally recognized Islamic association

**Dairy Products Facility Registration:** Dairy product exporters must register their facilities with the JFDA prior to shipment. This registration entails verification of the exporter’s HACCP certification with the importer providing the JFDA with a copy of the exporter’s HACCP certificate.

## **SECTION VII – OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

The Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization is the national standard setting body. It prepares, approves, revises, and amends mandatory and voluntary standards, and monitors application. It adopts and approves the standards of other countries, regions, and international organizations. It is the Codex inquiry point, as well as a corresponding member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Organization for Legal Metrology (IOLM). Imported food and agriculture products are required to conform to the JSMO’s Codex-based standards. Alcoholic beverage imports are permissible, but high duty tariffs (ranging from 50 to 200 percent) limit imports.

On October 2017, the JSMO announced obtaining international accreditation for its laboratories, including food and agricultural products testing laboratories. In 2019, the JSMO issued twelve new standards, seen below in table 1.

**Table 1: JORDAN, [Standards and Regulations](#) for Food and Agricultural Products, 2004-19**

<b>Standard/ Regulation</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>1355-3</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Butter - Determination of moisture, nonfat solids and fat contents Part 3: Calculation of fat content	Published Document (JS)
<b>1355-2</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Butter - Determination of moisture, nonfat solids and fat contents Part 2: Determination of non-fat solids content (Reference method)	Published Document (JS)
<b>1355-1</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Butter - Determination of moisture, nonfat solids and fat contents Part 1: Determination of non-fat solids content (Reference method)	Published Document (JS)
<b>1925</b>	2019	Hygiene affairs and food safety maximum pesticide residue limits and extraneous residue limits in food and feeds	Published Document (JS)
<b>1474</b>	2019	Label – Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims	Published Document (JS)
<b>2236</b>	2019	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Freekeh	Published Document (JS)
<b>2242</b>	2019	Spices and Condiments - Preparation of a ground sample for analysis	Published Document (JS)
<b>121</b>	2019	Milk and Milk Products - Milk powders and cream powders	Published Document (JS)
<b>19</b>	2019	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Bread	Published Document (JS)
<b>1861</b>	2019	Spices and Condiments - Cinnamon	Published Document (JS)
<b>2169</b>	2019	Rotational molded polyethylene storage tanks for drinking water	Published Document (JS)
<b>1353</b>	2019	Vegetables, Fruits and Derived products – Sweet chestnuts	
<b>1214</b>	2018	Water – Bottled drinking water	Final Draft Jordanian Document
<b>200</b>	2018	Water - Natural mineral water	Final Draft Jordanian Document
<b>2197</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Pulses - Determination of glycosidic hydrocyanic acid	Published Document (JS)
<b>2246</b>	2018	Feedstuffs - Alfalfa hay used in feed	Committee Draft (CD)
<b>472</b>	2018	Infant and Children Foods – Infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infants	Final Draft Jordanian Document
<b>2205-2</b>	2018	Milk and Milk Products - Determination of nitrate and nitrite contents Part 2: Method using segmented flow analysis (Routine method)	Published Document (JS)
<b>2229-3</b>	2018	Photovoltaic System Performance - Part 3: Energy evaluation method	Draft Jordanian Document (DJS)
<b>203</b>	2018	Canned Evaporated Milk - Determination of tin content - Method using graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry	Published Document (JS)
<b>600</b>	2018	Milk and Milk Products – Sterilized milk	Final Draft Jordanian Document
<b>2194</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Coffee and Coffee Products - Determination of acrylamide - Methods using HPLC-MS/MS and GC-MS after derivatization	Published Document (JS)



<b>2195-1</b>	2018	Spices and Condiments - Rapeseed - Determination of glucosinolates content Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography	Published Document (JS)
<b>2210-1</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 1: Determination of arsenic content by atomic absorption spectrometry	Published Document (JS)
<b>2210-2</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 2: Determination of mercury content by atomic absorption spectrometry	Published Document (JS)
<b>2210-3</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 3: Determination of lead content by atomic absorption spectrometry with electro thermal atomization	Published Document (JS)
<b>2210-4</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Starch and Derived Products - Heavy metals content Part 4: Determination of cadmium content by atomic absorption spectrometry with electro thermal atomization	Published Document (JS)
<b>2196-1</b>	2018	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Oilseed Residues - Determination of glucosinolates content Part 1: Method using high-performance liquid chromatography	Published Document (JS)
<b>1474</b>	2018	Label – Guidelines for use of nutrition and health claims	Draft Jordanian Document (DJS)
<b>2201</b>	2018	Milk and Milk Products - Determination of Lead Content - Graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometric method	Published Document (JS)
<b>1279</b>	2018	Meat and Meat Products - Determination of Nitrate Content (Reference method)	Final Draft Jordanian Document
<b>2178</b>	2017	Fruits, Vegetables and Derived Products – Pomegranate	Published Document (JS)
<b>2169</b>	2017	Rotational molded polyethylene storage tanks for drinking water	Published Document (JS)
<b>2167</b>	2017	Fire extinguishers - throw type and automatic-thrown type water-based fire extinguishers	Published Document (JS)
<b>1340</b>	2017	Milk and Milk Products - Cheese - determination of fat content - Van Gulik method	Published Document (JS)
<b>1339</b>	2017	Milk and Milk Products - Cheese and Processed Cheese Products - determination of citric acid content- Enzymatic method	Published Document (JS)
<b>1214</b>	2017	Water – Bottled drinking water	Published Document (JS)
<b>840</b>	2017	Spices and Condiments – Ground thyme mix	Published Document (JS)
<b>600</b>	2017	Milk and Milk Products – Sterilized milk	Published Document (JS)
<b>484</b>	2017	Pesticides - Labeling information on pesticides containers	Published Document (JS)
<b>465</b>	2017	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products – Packed chickpeas with tahini	Published Document (JS)
<b>200</b>	2017	Water - Natural mineral water	Published Document (JS)
<b>94</b>	2017	General standard for food additives	Published Document (JS)
<b>77</b>	2017	Drinks and Juices – Flavored drinks	Published Document (JS)
<b>67</b>	2017	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products – Dried dough (pasta)	Published Document (JS)
<b>94</b>	2010	General standard for food additives	Published Document (JS)
<b>67</b>	2008	Cereals, Pulses and Derived Products - Dried pasta	Published Document (JS)
<b>840</b>	2007	Ground thyme mix	Published Document (JS)
<b>77</b>	2004	Drinks and Juices – Flavored drink and its concentrates	Published Document (JS)

SOURCE: FAS Amman.

## **SECTION VIII – TRADEMARKS, BRAND NAMES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Jordan's legal system protects the acquisition and disposition of intellectual property rights. Prior to its WTO accession, Jordan passed a series of laws strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights for patents, copyrights, and trademarks. In the past, Jordan has enforced foreign copyrights and trademarks despite it not requiring prior registration.

Jordan's Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) consistent legislation requires the registration of patents, copyrights, and trademarks. The Ministry of Industry and Trade\Registrar of Patents and Trademarks registers patents and trademarks. The Ministry of Culture's National Library registers copyrights.

Jordan is seeking to become a contracting state to the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement (registration of marks). It is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

## **SECTION IX – IMPORT PROCEDURES**

Jordan maintains a three-tier inspection rate system for imported food products based on the product's health risk. A document review is mandatory regardless of the level of inspection.

- High risk products, 80 to 100 percent inspection rate
- Medium risk products, 25 to 50 percent inspection rate
- Low risk products, 5 to 10 percent inspection rate

Jordanian importers are required to ensure that imported food and agricultural products do not pose a potential threat to public health (i.e., must be free of microbial, parasite, and fungal contamination). At the same time, the Government of Jordan routinely tests inbound consignments for radiation levels and chemical contaminants, as well as for heavy metals, food additives, animal hormone growth promotants (HGP), and veterinary drug residues. Jordan tests less frequently for pesticides residues. For cheese, if the facility is exporting for the first time, a certificate-of-free sale is required.

**Tariffs:** As part of its WTO accession agreement, Jordan set a reduced tariff rate ceiling of 0 to 30 percent for most imported products. Nonetheless, it maintains tariff rates of 180 to 200 percent for certain alcoholic products, as well as a 150 to 200 percent tariff rate for tobacco and tobacco products. Under the terms of the [U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement \(FTA\)](#), import duties and other trade barriers were phased out in 2010; the exception being alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

Jordan launched its [Customs Integrated Tariff System \(CITS\)](#) in August 2005. The system allows importers to access import requirements, as well as evaluate tariff and trade agreement information. Data is provided in both Arabic and English.

**Customs Law No. 114 (2004):** Jordanian and foreign trading companies must obtain an importer card from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply (MOITS) for customs clearance purposes. Foreign companies not domiciled in Jordan are exempt from this requirement. Bonded goods, temporary imports, and imports entering under the provisions of [Jordan's Investment Promotion Law](#) do not require import licenses. Banks and other non-trading entities such as hospitals, hotels, and Jordanian ministries must obtain a more limited MOITS importer card that authorizes the import of goods specific to the entity's activities.

**Export-Import Documentation:** [Jordan's Customs Law](#) (1998), [article 31 and amendments](#) establishes that all customs declarations must include the following (note: Jordanian customs reserves the right to request additional documentation):

- A maritime or airway bill of lading
- A commercial invoice indicating the value, weight, and freight and insurance charges. All invoices require Jordanian diplomatic/consular approval. In the absence of Jordanian diplomatic/consular approval, Jordan's Customs Director is empowered to accept the country of export's chamber of commerce certification
- Commercial invoices are required to describe the product in Arabic
- A notarized certificate of origin issued by the competent authority in the export country
- A value declaration form for shipments exceeding Jordan dinar (JOD) 2,000 (currently JOD 1.00 = ~\$1.41)

**Customs Valuation:** [Jordan's Custom Law](#) (1998) includes WTO-compliant criteria for customs valuation, based on certified commercial invoices. Increased transparency restricts the recourse to arbitrary valuation, although undervaluation does still occur.

Imported products, as well as locally produced goods are subject to a 16 percent value-added tax (VAT). Imported products are subject to a VAT based on the cost-insurance-freight (CIF) value. Agricultural and pharmaceutical products are exempt from the 16 percent sales tax. Jordan's General Sales Tax Department levies a special sales tax on specific items such as tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. These are subject to a 13 percent general sales tax in addition to the special sales tax. Non-basic foodstuffs are subject to a four percent general sales tax.

**Special Import Provisions:** Pre-import clearance is required for certain commodities. The clearance, once obtained, acts as an import license. The Ministries of Agriculture, Industry, Trade, and Supply, and Health are Jordan's three import license issuing entities. Rejected shipments may be appealed.

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for issuing pre-import clearances for live animals, for fresh/chilled/frozen beef and beef products, poultry and poultry products, as well as for embalmed wild animals, frozen animal semen, and milk products. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply oversees the issuing of pre-import clearances for barley, rice, wheat, flour, sugar, and corn. The Ministry of Health issues pre-import clearances for medications and antibiotics, athletic food

supplements, as well as for potassium bromide, food dyes, ice cream, and baby food, including infant formula.

**Inspection and Clearance:** Jordan maintains the [Automated System for Customs Data \(ASYCUDA\)](#), computerized customs clearance system. This platform has been implemented at border crossings with the intent of simplifying importer customs clearance procedures. The [Ministry of Agriculture](#) along with the [Jordan Food and Drug Administration](#) and the [Jordan Customs Authority](#) form the border committee that inspects inbound food and agricultural product shipments.

### Major Trade Barriers

The U.S. trade balance with Jordan shifted from a goods trade surplus of \$234 million in 2017 to a goods trade deficit of \$207 million in 2018. U.S. goods exports to Jordan were \$1.6 billion, down 16.4 percent (\$314 million) from the previous year. Corresponding U.S. imports from Jordan were \$1.8 billion, up 7.5 percent. Jordan was the United States' 67th largest goods export market in 2018. Exports of U.S. food and agricultural products to Jordan in calendar year (CY) 2018 (January-December) were \$208 million, down 29 percent compared to 2017. However, in CY 2019 (January-September) U.S.-origin exports to Jordan at \$169 million are up 14 percent compared to the same period in 2018; attributable to increase exports of U.S. rice (at \$54.5 million, up 18 percent) and tree nuts (at \$54 million, up 38 percent). Cessation by the JFDA of targeting of U.S.-origin genetically engineered processed food products will booster trade. Elimination of trade protectionist Ministry of Agriculture import license poultry quotas restricting imports of U.S. product, will booster trade, and provide Jordanian consumers with an affordable, wholesome source of animal protein.

**Genetically Engineered Ingredient:** Jordan recognizes and accepts international standards and specifications utilized by U.S producers. However, Jordan's signing of a twinning program<sup>1</sup> with the European Union on standards in February 2018 is creating obstacles for U.S. exporters in product areas where standards developed by U.S.-domiciled standards organizations differ from those of the European Union. In addition, Jordan periodically imposes additional regulatory requirements, which serve as barriers to trade. Without prior notice, in late 2018, the JFDA commenced to enforce a trade disruptive draft implementing regulation, targeting imported consumer-oriented food products labeled as "containing" or may contain components derived from genetic engineering." The draft regulation requires the labeling of products derived from agricultural biotechnology; including provisions for testing, registration, and approval. The draft regulation's deficiencies make its ratification problematic for the trade in products that may contain GE ingredients.

Jordanian importers of U.S. consumer-oriented products (such as cereals, breakfast bars, and confectionary products) report that although the regulation is still in draft form, the Jordanian government is already enforcing it. Importers report U.S.-origin product is being denied entry and some products pulled off supermarket shelves despite the absence of any law or regulation barring GE products. One reason U.S. products appear to have been singled out is a new U.S. law requiring U.S.

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<sup>1</sup> Twinning is an EU technical assistance device that provides support for the implementation and enforcement of EU standards.

manufacturers to label products which “contain” or “may contain GE ingredients.” Equivalent food products from other countries are not subject to the same treatment because they are not labeled as such. The U.S. government during the Joint Committee Meeting in July 2019 raised concerns regarding the draft regulation, both countries agreed on a language to facilitate trade, but this is yet to be implemented by Jordan.

**Jordan’s Non-Tariff Barrier to U.S. Poultry and Poultry Products:** The Ministry of Agriculture is the national entity responsible for authorizing import permits for poultry and poultry products. Jordan has maintained an informal quota system for poultry products for many years, but U.S.-origin product was excluded from this arrangement due to the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement, which provides full market access. The Ministry of Agriculture has abandoned this policy, and now is subjecting U.S.-origin product to discretionary quotas to protect local producers. Ministry staff reportedly have been directed to limit issuance of import permits for poultry products; this is supposedly being done for food safety and in conjunction with domestic industry backing. The ministry has established a quota system in 2019 that caps poultry imports (broilers) to 30,000 metric tons (MT), up from 18,000 MT, and to restrict poultry cuts to 18,000 metric tons. Previously U.S.-origin chicken leg quarters were not subject to an import quota; U.S. product is now lumped into the new, restrictive 18,000 MT quota that includes all origins.

Imports of U.S. poultry products were down 31 percent in 2018 (\$5.8 million) compared to 2017 (\$8.4 million); in 2019 (January-September) U.S. poultry imports have again fallen nearly 37 percent to \$2.9 million compared to the same period in 2017 (\$4.5 million). The Jordanian government’s refusal to grant import licenses to importers of U.S. poultry products is deterring traders from applying for import permits. Importers report that the ministry, in denying their import permit requests, that they have reached the (United States) quota and or lack the facilities to handle the fractioning of bulk poultry and poultry products and repackaging into consumer ready packages.

**White Cheese Import Ban:** The Ministry of Agriculture is banning all white cheese imports regardless of country of origin if there is a similar locally produced cheese. Specifically, all imports of halloumi and feta cheese are banned.

## **APPENDIX I – GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS**

U.S. Embassy Amman, USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs  
Physical Address: American Embassy, Abdoun, Al-Umawyeen Street, Amman, Jordan  
Phone: (962-6) 590-6056 • Fax: (962-6) 592-0146 • [AgAmman@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgAmman@fas.usda.gov)

(\* NOTE: The GAIN Report System was redesigned in 2019 and includes reports from all previous legacy systems going back to 1995. Because these reports were created in different systems, it might be necessary to try a variety of search options to retrieve older reports.

SEARCH GAIN: <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/search>

### **Ministry of Agriculture**

Veterinary Services Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate  
Tel: (962-6) 568-6151 • Fax: (962-6) 568-6310 • [www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)

### **Ministry of Environment**

Tel: (962-6) 556-0113 • Fax: (962-6) 556-0288

### **Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply**

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/566-3774 • Fax: (962-6) 560-4691 • [www.mit.gov.jo](http://www.mit.gov.jo)

### **Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization**

Tel: (962-6) 568-0139 • Fax: (962-6) 568-1099 • [www.jsmo.gov.jo](http://www.jsmo.gov.jo)

### **Jordan Food and Drug Administration**

Tel: (962-6) 461-2663 • Fax: (962-6) 461-2663 • [www.jfda.jo](http://www.jfda.jo)

### **Jordan Customs Authority**

P.O. Box 90, Amman, Jordan  
Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6 • Fax: (962-6) 464-7791  
E-mail: [Customs@Customs.gov.jo](mailto:Customs@Customs.gov.jo) • [www.customs.gov.jo](http://www.customs.gov.jo)

### **Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority**

P.O. Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan  
Tel: (962-6) 3 203 5757/8 • Fax: (962-6) 3 203-0912 • [www.aqabazone.com](http://www.aqabazone.com)

## APPENDIX II – LAWS AND DECREES

### Law No. 20 of 1998 on Customs

**Year of Version:** 1998

**Date of Entry into Force:** January 1, 1999

**Date of Text (Enacted):** 1998

**Type of Text:** IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature

**Subject Matter:** Copyright and Related Rights (Neighboring Rights), Enforcement of IP and Related Laws, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs, Industrial Property, Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits, Patents (Inventions), Trademarks, Undisclosed Information (Trade Secrets)

**Notes:** Article 41 of this law, prohibiting the entry of imported goods that infringe rights of intellectual property, was repealed and replaced by Article 13 of the Law Amending the Customs Law No. 16

### Law No. 10 of 1999 Amending the Customs Law

**Year of Version:** 1999

**Date of Entry into Force:** January 1, 1999

**Date of Text (Enacted):** March 9, 1999

**Type of Text:** IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature

**Subject Matter:** Enforcement of IP and Related Laws

**Notes:** Article 1 provides that the Act should be read in conjunction with the original Act No. 20 of 1998 and shall enter into force on the date of entry into force of the original law 01/01/1999.

The law was published in the Official Gazette No. 4338 on 01/04/1999.

This law amends the Customs Law that contains provisions concerning intellectual property rights.

### Law No. 27 of 2000 Amending the Customs Law

**Year of Version:** 2000

**Date of Entry into Force:** July 2, 2000

**Date of Text (Enacted):** June 11, 2000

**Type of Text:** IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature

**Subject Matter:** Enforcement of IP and Related Laws

**Notes:** Article 1 provides that the Act should be read in conjunction with the original Act No. 20 of 1998 and be considered together as one Act. It also provides that the Act comes into force on the date of its publication in the Official Journal.

The law was published in the Official Gazette No. 4443 of 02/07/2000.

This law amends the Customs Law that contains provisions concerning intellectual property rights.

### Temporary Law No. 37 of 2010 Amending Customs Law

**Year of Version:** 2010

**Date of Entry into Force:** November 1, 2010

**Date of Text (Enacted):** September 28, 2010

**Type of Text:** IP-related Laws: enacted by the Legislature

**Subject Matter:** Enforcement of IP and Related Laws

**Notes:** Article 1 provides that this law shall be read in conjunction with original Law No. 20 of 1998 and considered together as one Law. It indicates also that this Law shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

The Law was published in the Official Gazette No. 5062 of 01/11/2010.

This law amends the Customs Law that contains provisions concerning intellectual property rights.



**Attachments:**

No Attachments