

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Israel May Seek New Sources for Agricultural Imports Due to Turkish Trade Ban

**Country:** Israel

**Post:** Tel Aviv

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News, Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Türkiye, Israel's third largest foreign supplier of imported agricultural and related products, recently announced a ban on all trade with Israel due to the regional conflict. Accordingly, Israeli importers may look to source certain agricultural imports from elsewhere. Israel's leading agricultural and related imports from Turkey include fresh and processed agricultural produce—specifically tomatoes, olive oil, cucumbers, onions, and eggplant. For the United States, pistachios may be in greater demand as Türkiye is the only other foreign supplier to the Israeli market.

## **Türkiye Bans all Trade with Israel**

On May 2, 2024, Türkiye announced a ban on all trade with Israel due to the “worsening humanitarian tragedy” in Gaza.<sup>1</sup> According to the Turkish Minister of Trade, the ban will be lifted when a sufficient flow of humanitarian aid flows into Gaza. As a result of the ban, the Israeli government is looking to increase domestic production, Israeli importers are looking for new or expanded sourcing for certain agricultural imports, and regional media reports some Israeli importers are looking for alternative routes to circumvent the ban from Türkiye.<sup>2</sup>

Depending on its length, the trade ban could significantly impact the Israeli market as Türkiye is a strong trading partner due to its geographical proximity, a bilateral free trade agreement established in 1996, and competitive prices. Moreover, in the past six months, many Israeli importers looked to increase imports from Türkiye as trade via the Red Sea has been disrupted by Houthi attacks on vessels passing through the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

## **Turkish Exports to Israel**

In calendar year 2023, total Israeli imports from Türkiye were valued at roughly \$5.3 billion (5.7 percent of total Israeli imports). For agricultural and related products, Türkiye was the third largest foreign supplier to Israel, after Russia and the United States.<sup>3</sup> Israel imported \$543 million in agricultural and related products from Türkiye (5 percent of the total value of its agricultural and related imports) in 2023.

As seen in the chart below, Turkish tomato exports represent the largest agricultural export to Israel. However, sourcing for other agricultural products, such as olive oil, sunflower seeds, and certain types of fish, may also be impacted. Furthermore, a quick increase in Israeli production for some agricultural products would be difficult to realize as it could take many months or years to sufficiently supply gaps.

For the United States, pistachios may see increased opportunities as Israel only imports pistachios from Türkiye and the United States (Note: Total value of Israeli imports of pistachios totaled \$40.5 million in 2023).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68945380>

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., <https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-turkish-israel-firms-circumvent-boycott-1001478028>

<sup>3</sup> Trade Data Monitor, Inc. NOTE: That if the European Union is looked at as a single trading bloc, then Türkiye was the fourth largest foreign supplier of agricultural and related products to Israel in 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Trade Data Monitor, Inc.

### Top 15 Israeli Agricultural Imports from Türkiye<sup>5</sup>

HS Code	Description	Value of Imports from Turkey in 2023 (in US Dollars)	Percent of Value of Imports from Türkiye in 2023	Other Leading Suppliers (By Value)
070200	Tomatoes, Fresh or Chilled	37,507,980	91 percent	Jordan
150920	Extra Virgin Olive Oil 'eu cat. 1' (obtained from the fruit of the olive tree solely by mechanical or other physical means under conditions that do not lead to deterioration of the oil, untreated)	28,918,320	66 percent	Spain, Italy, Jordan, Tunisia, France, USA
151219	Sunflower-Seed or Safflower Oil, and their Fractions, Refined but not Chemically Modified	19,515,570	25 percent	Ukraine, Romania, Spain, Russia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary
030284	Seabass (Dicentrarchus spp.), Fresh or chilled	18,031,340	62 percent	Cyprus, Greece, Spain, UAE
210690	Food Preparations, NESOI	16,129,730	6 percent	Ireland, USA, Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Denmark
030449	Fish Fillets, Fresh or Chilled, NESOI	15,957,380	80 percent	Cyprus, Greece, Sri Lanka, Senegal, Japan, Gambia
170490	Sugar Confectionary (including Whie Chocolate), not containing cocoa, NESOI	13,934,920	12 percent	Spain, China, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium
030285	Seabream (sparidae), Fresh or Chilled	13,817,430	45 percent	Cyprus, Greece, Senegal, Gambia, UAE

<sup>5</sup> Trade Data Monitor, Inc.

100590	Corn (Maize), Other than Seed Corn	13,786,000	4 percent	Ukraine, Russia, Brazil, Romania, Argentina, Hungary
190590	Bread, Pastry, Cakes, Biscuits and Similar Baked Products, NESOI, and Puddings, Whether or not Containing Chocolate, Fruit, Nuts or Confectionary	13,626,510	10 percent	Italy, USA, Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands
190219	Pasta (Spaghetti, Macaroni, Etc.), Uncooked, Not Stuffed or Otherwise Prepared, Not Containing Eggs	12,903,380	20 percent	Italy, Thailand, China, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany
230910	Dog And Cat Food, Put Up for Retail Sale	12,613,680	7 percent	Italy, France, USA, Spain, Germany, Canada
210210	Yeasts, Active	10,710,760	63 percent	Italy, China, Belgium, Portugal, Denmark, Mexico
220110	Mineral Waters and Aerated Waters, Natural or Artificial, Not Sweetened or Flavored	10,459,380	29 percent	Italy, France, Georgia, Romania, Thailand, Greece
441011	Particle Board, Of Wood	8,714,660	25 percent	Thailand, Romania, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Russia

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.