

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Jordan

Post: Amman

Morsels of Jordan

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the Economy

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Report Highlights:

This report covers the monthly agricultural activities in Jordan

General Information:

- Jordan's Fruit and Vegetable Industry Recovering

During the first 10 months of the year, Jordan has successfully increased its fruit and vegetables exports to \$621 million a 12 percent increase compared to last year. Vegetables constitute 85 percent of the exports while fruits the remaining 15 percent. Green house products of the Jordan Valley include tomatoes- with the highest production-, followed by cucumbers, potatoes, egg plants, okra, and sweet peppers. Some fancy fruits and vegetables are also produced during the off-season according to the request of customers in Europe. Jordan usually exports 750 thousand metric tons/year.

TABLE 1: Jordan Vegetables Production Calendar												
	V - Jordan Valley Production- H - Highland Production											
Item	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Tender Stem Broccoli					H	H	H&V	H&V	H&V	H	H	H
MangeTout Peas				H	H	H				H	H	H
Sugar Snap Peas				H	H	H				H	H	H
Cherry Tomatoes					V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Tomatoes / Table				H	H&V	V	V	V	H&V	H&V	V	V
Capsicums					V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Figs											V	V
Fresno Pepper									V	V	V	H
Lettuce				H	H	H&V	H&V	V	H	H	H	H
Barhi Dates		V	V									
Medjool Dates	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Cauliflower				H	V	V	V	V	H	H	H	H
Broccoli				H	H					H	H	
Aubergine							V	V	V	V	V	
Round Beans					V	V						
Cucumbers					V	V	V	V	V	H	H	H
Squash					V	V	V	V	V	H	H	H
Cabbage					V	V	V	V	V	H	H	H

Jordan, who has been hit hard by the Syrian crisis and by the ISIS' control of the transportation route to Eastern Europe and Russia, sees this development as a positive step in the recovery of its fruit and vegetable (F&V) industry. Due to the crisis, F&V farmers and traders experienced huge capital losses, as they couldn't deliver their contractual produce to their customers on time, as well as meeting quality specifications.

It is expected that the coming winter months produce will fetch the highest price, as the Jordan valley ecosystem possesses a comparative advantage to meet the European and GCC markets' needs, at a time when no one else in the region is able, as Israelis in a Jewish sabbatical year that calls for a hiatus in agricultural production.

- U.S. Chicken Leg Quarters

The Ministry of Agriculture "MoA", has recently implemented an internal regulation to limit the imports of Chicken Leg Quarters "CLQ" in packages not exceeding 2.5 kg. The packaging requirement's regulation was done in a transparent way, as it was not notified to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, who is responsible to notify changes in regulations to the World Trade Organization. The regulation has created a trade barrier to U.S. CLQs that are competitively priced and come in 8-16 kg packages.

No major pending shipment is due from the United States that would be affected by the new regulation, nonetheless FAS/Amman is working with many local stakeholders to nullify this trade barrier.

- Rainy Season.

The rainy season has started with promising rainfall Local and regional weather forecast media believe the current rain season will break the drought cycle that has been affecting the country for the past few years. Jordan is considered one of the top water scarce countries in the world.