



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء
General Authority for Statistics

Metadata Report of (Agriculture Statistics)

V-2.0

Quality Management

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1. Contact

1.1. Contact organization	General Authority of Statistics
1.2. Contact organization unit	Environment, Agriculture, and Energy Statistics Department
1.3. Contact person function	Director of (Environment, Agriculture, and Energy Statistics Department)
1.4. Contact mail address	P.O. Box: 3735 Riyadh, 11481 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1.5. Contact email address	info@stats.gov.sa
1.6. Contact phone number	920020081

2. Metadata Update

2.1. Metadata last update	
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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. Data description
<p>The Agricultural Statistics Publication shows recent data on the self-sufficiency rate of plant and animal products, area and production of organic agriculture of agricultural crops and livestock, value of loans to which the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) contributes to financing, total quantity and value of imports and exports of agricultural crops and livestock, and bank credit granted by banks and financing companies in Saudi Arabia, in addition to a number of important data.</p>



Agricultural statistics are statistics based on register-based data collected on the main characteristics as follows:

- Area and production of organic agriculture.
- Self-sufficiency of plant and animal products.
- Value of agricultural loans.
- Quantity and value of exports and imports of agricultural and livestock products.
- Bank credit granted by banks and financing companies.

3.2. Classification system

Following classifications are applied in Agriculture statistics:

- **National Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC4):**

It is a statistical classification based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC4) used to describe the productive activities of an establishment.

- **Harmonized System (HS) Nomenclature (H.S.2017)**

The merchandise exports and imports statistics are based on classification issued by the World Customs Organization (WCO), which is a table for describing and classifying merchandise that includes sub-items and their numeric codes, sections and chapters, in accordance with the International Convention on Nomenclature for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs, done at Brussels.

The classifications are available on GASTAT's website: www.stats.gov.sa

3.3. Sector coverage

Agricultural statistics covers the agricultural economic sectors.

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Terminologies and concepts of Agriculture Statistics are:

- **Agricultural products:**

It is a category of products that includes crops grown in a field area for harvesting for use as food, fodder, olives, fibers, sugar, or any other medical or industrial material, as well as livestock such as animals and birds raised on farms.

- **Organic agriculture:**



It is a comprehensive agricultural production management system that promotes and improves the integrity of the agroecosystem, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil bioactivity. It emphasizes the use of management methods rather than non-agricultural inputs, while taking regional conditions into account, which necessitate systems that are tailored to local conditions. This is accomplished by employing agricultural and mechanical methods rather than synthetic materials such as fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary drugs, genetically modified seeds and strains, preservatives, and additives.

- **Agricultural loans:**

These are loans that are provided to finance agricultural areas for the purpose of growing crops of all kinds, fruit farms, apiaries, fishing boats, agricultural tourism loans, veterinary clinics and pharmacies and vegetable carts.

- **Self-Sufficiency:**

It is the dependence of the State on its capabilities to obtain investment and consumer goods.

- **Agricultural Exports:**

According to the criteria of Foreign Trade Statistics, these are all agricultural goods (agricultural crops and livestock) that have been fully produced or manufactured locally or on which an industrial process has changed their form and value for export outside Saudi Arabia.

- **Value of agricultural exports:**

The value of exported goods is determined by the value of agricultural goods in addition to other costs until they are delivered using a shipment method or include the value of the goods including all the expenses as well as the export office.

- **Agricultural imports:**

According to the Foreign Trade Statistics standards, it is all agricultural goods and commodities (agricultural crops and livestock) entering the country to cover local needs and under all customs procedures in place to complete the import of a commodity.

- **Value of agricultural imports:**

The value of agricultural imports is defined as the cost of the imported product plus the costs of shipping, insurance, transportation, and other expenses incurred until the goods arrive at the port of entry.

- **Re-exported goods:**

Agricultural goods from agricultural crops and livestock that have already been imported and all customs procedures for exporting them have been carried out without any obvious amendments being made to them.



3.5. Statistical unit

The target statistical unit in agricultural statistics is plant and animal products. In this report, the statistical unit is an administrative unit because it relies on data from register-based sources.

3.6. Statistical population

The statistical population of Agricultural Statistics consists of all plant and animal products in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

3.7. Reference area

The Agricultural Statistics Publication covers all 13 administrative regions of Saudi Arabia

3.8. Time coverage

Data are available from 2016 to 2022.

3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure

Some indicators are measured in tons (e.g., organic agriculture production and the quantity of exports and imports).

Some are measured in hectares (e.g., area of organic agriculture).

Some results are calculated as a percentage (e.g., self-sufficiency).

Some indicators are calculated in SAR (e.g., the value of exports and imports).



5. Reference period

Agricultural statistics data are annual register-based data from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Agricultural Development Fund, Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority and Saudi Central Bank.

6. Confidentiality

6.1. Confidentiality - policy

According to the Royal Decree No. 23 dated 07-12-1397, data must always be kept confidential, and must be used by GASTAT only for statistical purposes. Therefore, the data are protected in the data servers of the Authority.

6.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Data were displayed in appropriate tables to facilitate its summarization, comprehension, and results extraction. Also, to compare data with other data and extract statistical meanings for the study community. It is also easier to check tables without the need to see the original questionnaire, which usually include data like names and addresses of individuals, names of data providers, which violates data confidentiality of statistical data.

"Anonymity of data" is one of the most important procedures. To keep data confidential, GASTAT removed information on individual persons, households, or business entities such a way that the respondent cannot be identified either directly (by name, address, contact number, identity number etc.) or indirectly (by combining different - especially rare - characteristics of respondents: age, occupation, education etc.).

7. Release policy

7.1. Release calendar

Agriculture statistics have been included in the statistical calendar.



7.2. Release calendar access

Available on the: <https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/future-releases>

7.3. User access

One of GASTAT's objectives is to meet its clients' needs better, so it immediately provides them with the publication's results once the Agriculture Statistics publication is published. It also receives questions and inquiries of the clients about the Publication and its results through various communication channels, such as:

- GASTAT's official website www.stats.gov.sa
- GASTAT's official e-mail address info@stats.gov.sa
- Client Support's e-mail address cs@stats.gov.sa
- Official visits to GASTAT's official head office in Riyadh or one of its branches in Saudi Arabia.
- Official letters.
- Statistical telephone (92002008).

8. Frequency of dissemination

Annual.

9. Accessibility and clarity

9.1. News release

The announcements for each publication are available on release calendar as mentioned in 7.2. Release calendar access. The news release can be viewed on the website of GASTAT in the link <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/news>.



9.2. Publications

GASTAT issues Agriculture Statistics publications and reports on a regular basis within a pre-prepared publishing plan and installed on GASTAT's website. GASTAT is keen to publish its publications in a manner that serves all users of different types, including publications in different formats that contain (publication tables, data and indicators graphs, metadata, methodology, and used questionnaires) in both English and Arabic.

The Agriculture Statistics results are available on [Agriculture Statistics | General Authority for Statistics \(stats.gov.sa\)](https://stats.gov.sa)

9.3. On-line database

Not applicable.

9.4. Micro-data access

Microdata are unit-level data obtained from sample surveys, censuses, and administrative systems. They provide information about characteristics of individual people or entities such as households, business enterprises, facilities, farms, or even geographical areas such as villages or towns.

The different types of microdata files to meet different information needs:

- Public use: It consists sets of records containing information on individual persons, households, or business entities anonymized in such a way that the respondent cannot be identified either directly (by name, address, contact number, identity number etc.) or indirectly (by combining different - especially rare - characteristics of respondents: age, occupation, education etc.).
- Scientific use: These files established based on specific methodology asked by data requester to extract the datasets with specific characteristics used for strategic studies and decision making as well scientific research purposes on individuals, households and enterprises with no direct identifiers, which have been subject to control methods to protect confidentiality.

Eligible users can access microdata sets through secure interface built-in by GASTAT called "Etaha" with specific documentary requirements.



9.5. Other

Not available.

9.6. Documentation on methodology

The Agricultural Statistics Publication is based on the concepts, definitions and classifications from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture based on the Food and Agriculture Organization

9.7. Quality documentation

Quality documentation covers documentation on methods and standards for assessing, measuring, and monitoring the quality of statistical process and output. It is based on standard quality criteria such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, and coherence.

10. Quality management

10.1. Quality assurance

GASTAT declares that it considers the following principles: impartiality, user orientated, quality of processes and output, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.

Quality controls and validation of data are actions carried out throughout the process in different stages such as the data input and data collection and other final controls.

10.2. Quality assessment

GASTAT performs all statistical activities according to a national model (Generic Statistical Business Process Model - GSBPM). According to the GSBPM, the final phase of statistical activities is overall evaluation using information gathered in each phase or sub-process. This information is used to prepare the evaluation report which outlines all the quality issues related to the specific statistical activity and serves as input for improvement actions.



11. Relevance

11.1. User needs

Internal GASTAT's users, who make use of (Agriculture statistics) data, include:

- National Accounts

External users who make significant use of (Agriculture statistics) data include:

1. Governmental entities.
2. Regional and International Organizations.
3. Research institutions.
4. Media.
5. Individuals.

Main variables that external users benefit from:

Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture	Organic agriculture data
Agricultural Development Fund	Loans data
Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority	Exports and imports data
Saudi Central Bank	Bank credit granted by banks and finance companies

11.2. User satisfaction

Not available.

11.3. Completeness

Agricultural statistics data are based on administrative records data from the entities related to agriculture in order to provide a comprehensive and integrated picture of the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



12. Accuracy and reliability

12.1. Overall accuracy

The quality of the data is increased by studying the data and comparing it with the available historical data to identify differences, if any, and achieve consistency and interdependence between the different variables and data sets.

13. Timeliness and punctuality

13.1. Timeliness

GASTAT uses the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) issued by the International Monetary Fund. According to this Standard, all statistical entities are required to publish data on an annual basis, and with a delay of not more than one quarter (180 days) after the end of the reference period. If the data are from different sources, they may be published in a different frequency.

13.2. Punctuality

Publication takes place in accordance with published release dates for Agriculture statistics on GASTAT's webpage. The data are available at the expected time, as scheduled in the release calendar, If the publication delayed the reasons would be provided.

14. Coherence and comparability

14.1. Comparability - geographical

Data are fully comparable.



14.2. Comparability - over time
Data are fully comparable over time.
14.3. Coherence- cross domain
Not applicable.
14.3.1. Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics
Not applicable.
14.3.2. Coherence- National Accounts
Not applicable.
14.4. Coherence - internal
Agricultural statistics for the reference period have full internal coherence, as they are all based on the same corpus of microdata, and they are calculated using the same estimation methods.

15. Resources used

Description	Total
Total staff (GASTAT's staff, researchers)	
Number of surveyed	
Total days of data collection period (end date - start date)	
Average conducted interviewer per day (during data collection)	



16. Data revision

16.1. Data revision - policy

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

16.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

17. Statistical processing

17.1. Source data

The main and only source of Agricultural Statistics data is register-based data:

Data is collected from the following government entities:

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.
- Agricultural Development Fund.
- Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority
- Saudi Central Bank.

The main variables for administrative data are:

- Area and production of organic agriculture of agricultural crops and livestock.
- Percentage of self-sufficiency of plant and animal products.
- Movement of loans approved by the Agricultural Development Fund distributed among the sectors of beneficiaries.
- Total amount of exports, imports and re-exports of agricultural crops and livestock.

Bank credit granted by economic activity (agriculture and fishing)

17.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.



17.3. Data collection

Agricultural statistics data are collected from administrative records.

17.4. Data validation

Data are reviewed and matched to ensure their accuracy and precision in a way that suits their nature with the aim of giving the presented statistics quality and accuracy.

The data of the publication's current year are compared with the data of the previous year to ensure their integrity and consistency in preparation for processing data and extracting and reviewing results.

In addition to the data processing and tabulation to check their accuracy, all the outputs are stored and uploaded to the database after being calculated by GASTAT to be reviewed and processed by specialists in the Environment, Agriculture, and Energy Statistics Department through modern technologies and software designed for this purpose.

17.5. Data compilation

Data Editing

Specialists have processed and analyzed data in this stage, and this step was based on the following measures:

- Sort and arrange data in groups or different categories in a serial order.
- Summarize detailed data into main points or main data.
- Linking between many parts of data and make them connected.
- Process incomplete or missing data.
- Process illogical data.
- Converting data into statistically significant data.
- Organize, display, and interpret data.

17.6. Adjustment

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

18. Comment

