



المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية

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## **Food Self-Sufficiency Improved by 4 Percentage Points Over Four Years**

**Twenty-Eight Agricultural Products Achieved Production Surplus**

**Notable Growth in Food Production by 11.4%**

**Self-Sufficiency Ratio from Vegetables Reached 137%**

The Department of Statistics issued the annual Food Balance Sheet (FBS), a key statistical product supporting national food security data. The results showed an improvement in food security indicators in Jordan during 2024, with the Self-Sufficiency Ratio (SSR) for food items rising to 61.4% from 57.3% in 2020, an increase of 4.1 percentage points over four years. This increase was driven by higher local production and a production surplus of several crops, particularly vegetables, while some basic commodities remain dependent on imports.

The FBS of 2024 revealed that 28 agricultural products recorded a production surplus (i.e., production exceeding local consumption), compared with 22 in 2020. The results showed high levels of self-sufficiency in several fresh vegetable products, most notably: Cantaloupes at 485%, Squash at 173%, and Tomatoes at 167%, indicating an abundance of production directed towards export. Several varieties of fresh tree crops also achieved a production surplus. Self-sufficiency from Apricots reached 271% in 2024, while Olives maintained 100% self-

sufficiency, and self-sufficiency from Olive Oil rose to 114%, indicating stability in this vital sector.

As for livestock products, the data showed complete self-sufficiency from fresh milk of all types, along with a surplus of table eggs at 108.1%. Also, self-sufficiency in Poultry meat reached 83.1%, while *Red Meat* remained at relatively low levels, not exceeding 35.9%, indicating a significant dependence on imports. Table 1 presents food products, production quantities, exports, imports, and SSR by commodity groups for 2020 and 2024.

**Table 1: Production quantities, exports and imports, and SSR by commodity groups for the years 2020 and 2024**

Year	2024				2020			
Commodity Group	Production (ton)	Imports (ton)	Exports (ton)	Self-sufficiency SSR (%)	Production (ton)	Imports (ton)	Exports (ton)	Self-sufficiency SSR (%)
<b>Grains</b>	40,391	1,480,097	14,833	3	28,349	1,584,882	11,871	2
<b>Crops with Starch roots</b>	177,406	115,800	8,419	62	153,001	90,167	8,005	65
<b>Sugar and sweeteners</b>	417	390,939	15,860	0	326	396,811	11,924	0
<b>Dry legumes</b>	476	55,796	355	1	2,096	51,376	221	4
<b>Oilseed crops</b>	31,632	66,034	8,063	35	30,969	64,690	5,180	34
<b>Vegetable Oils</b>	35,828	189,997	5,837	16	31,547	163,415	4,908	17
<b>Vegetables</b>	1,626,002	120,810	559,202	137	1,497,745	110,978	374,047	121
<b>Tree Crops</b>	490,514	205,781	146,166	89	378,475	218,438	91,810	75
<b>Red Meat</b>	49,699	102,780	13,915	36	29,595	94,017	17,746	28
<b>Chicken Meat</b>	302,275	80,150	18,860	83	217,572	52,628	9,548	84
<b>Fresh Milk</b>	531,509	-	-	100	410,174	-	-	100
<b>Milk Products</b>	365,819	82,011	18,977	85	263,374	96,923	8,946	75
<b>Table Eggs</b>	81,642	22	6,154	108	50,708	157	3,701	108
<b>Marine Products</b>	3,270	34,963	1,319	9	2,638	37,078	1,081	7
<b>Other groups</b>	269,356	491,409	82,039	40	505,222	323,180	55,447	65
<b>Total</b>	4,006,237	3,416,589	899,999	61	3,601,791	3,284,740	604,434	57

\*Source: Department of Statistics

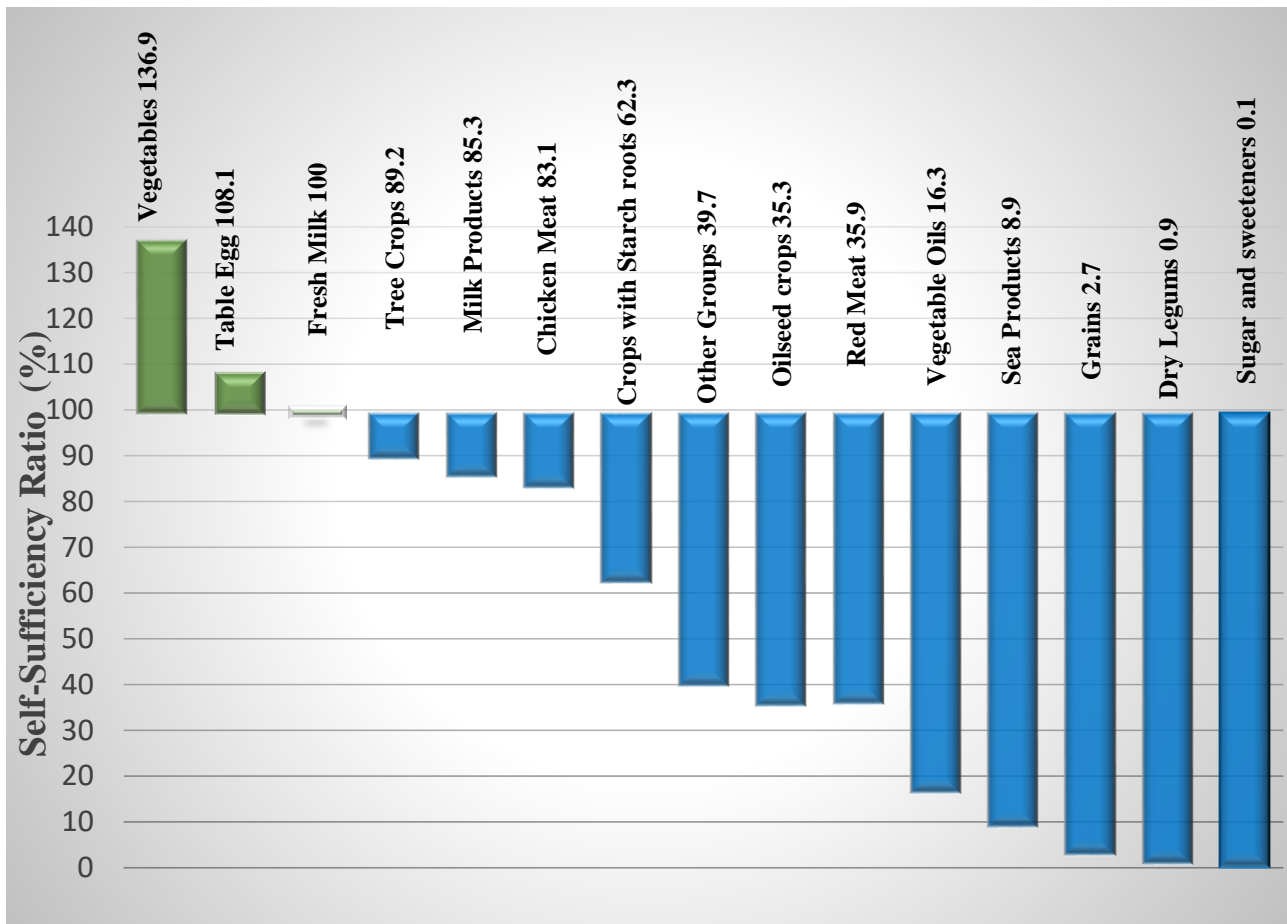
\*\*Does not include feed commodities and alcoholic beverages

Despite the overall improvement, many strategic commodities remain almost entirely dependent on imports, most notably: Grains, Sugar, Dried legumes, Seafood, and Vegetable oil - excluding olive oil. In 2024, self-sufficiency in wheat reached 2.9%, while in the fish and seafood group it reached 8.9%. Self-sufficiency in red meat (beef, lamb, and goat) reached 35.9%. Meanwhile, production of rice, sugar, and vegetable oil was zero, highlighting the structural challenges to achieving comprehensive food security.

As for trade, Fresh vegetables remained at the top of the export list, with *Tomatoes* exports exceeding 226,000 tons in 2024, along with significant exports of *Squash, Cucumbers, and Eggplants* (31, 11, and 3 thousand tons, respectively). Also, some tree crops recorded increases in exports, such as *Cantaloupes and Apricots* (51 and 14 thousand tons, respectively), in addition to the continued export of fresh *Dates* and *Grapes* at relatively stable rates.

In the animal products sector, Chicken meat exports increased compared to 2020, while *Dairy Products* exports remained limited, achieving complete self-sufficiency in some items. In contrast, exports of some commodities declined compared to 2020, particularly for several crops whose production decreased.

Figure 1: SSRs of Some Plant and Animal Products in Jordan 2024



\*Source: Department of Statistics

According to the FBS issued by the Department of Statistics, total food production increased from approximately 3.6 million tons in 2020 to about 4.0 million tons in 2024, indicating an increase of approximately 11.4%. Also, exports rose to about 900,000 tons, while imports increased from 3.3 million tons to about 3.4 million tons, reflecting the continued food gap despite the improvement in production.

Additionally, the data showed that several commodities exceeded 100% self-sufficiency in both periods, indicating a production surplus destined for export. Meanwhile, some products recorded significant increases in SSRs, exceeding 150%. In contrast, several commodities remain almost entirely dependent on imports, with some items still recording SSRs at 0%.

Table Number Two illustrates the food products, production quantities, exports, imports, and SSRs for both plant and animal products.

**Table 2: SSR for Main Plant and Animal Products in 2024**

Product	Production (ton)	Imports (ton)	Exports (ton)**	SSR %
Wheat	34,429	1,138,641	119	3
Rice	0	274,137	733	0
Sugar	0	352,416	2,590	0
Honey	417	827	5	34
Dry Chickpea	0	38,566	17	0
Lentils	476	12,090	290	4
Olives	220,747	0	25	100
Olive oil	35,828	0.06	4,399	114
Corn oil	0	9,337	0	0
Tomatoes	563,548	0	226,157	167
Cucumbers	149,402	0	11,498	108
Squash	73,013	0	30,883	173
Dry Onions	133,125	8	10,035	108
Carrots	16,945	19	13	100
Potatoes	161,367	17,835	5,695	93
Watermelons	67,026	42	18,690	139
Cantaloupes	64,553	131	51,379	485
Oranges	53,465	23,832	1,781	71
Bananas	58,438	33,575	443	64
Apples	16,315	45,184	1,392	27
Apricots	22,915	1	14,453	271
Grapes	27,950	2,196	2,010	99
Fresh Dates	32,618	2,760	12,974	146
Beef	9,604	80,308	13,837	13
Lamb Meat	31,597	22,284	78	59
Goat Meat	8,498	188	0	98
Chicken Meat	302,275	80,150	18,860	83
Fresh Cow Milk	387,142	0	0	100
Fresh Lamb Milk	111,384	0	0	100
Fresh Goat Milk	32,983	0	0	100
Table Eggs	81,642	22	6,154	108
Fish	3,270	33,014	1,319	9

\*Source: Department of Statistics

\*\*Exports include the re-exports

According to the data, a set of commodities maintained zero imports in both years, most notably Olives, Cucumbers, Squash, and Eggplants, as well as the primary dairy products, such as Cow Milk, Sheep Milk, Goat Milk, Labaneh, and Skimmed Milk (Shaninah). This reflects the stability of local production capacity for these commodities and the achievement of complete self-sufficiency, supported by high domestic production and existing exports, thus confirming a production surplus and eliminating the need for imports. Meanwhile, the limited changes in some seasonal crops may be correlated with supply and demand factors or seasonal production fluctuations.

Despite achieving a surplus in a set of agricultural products, the continued reliance on imports of basic commodities underscores structural challenges in the agricultural sector, underscoring the need for long-term policies to promote sustainability and local production.

It is worth noting that one of the factors for increasing self-sufficiency is reducing food loss and waste. Recent DoS data showed that the individual in Jordan wastes 81.3 kilograms annually in the household sector alone. This means that addressing this phenomenon will greatly increase national SSR in most food commodities.

Besides, DoS conducts an annual FBS Study based on data from the External Trade Division and surveys conducted by the Agricultural Statistics Directorate, as well as several administrative records, in accordance with FAO methodology. The FBS methodology estimates the quantities available for human consumption by summing domestic production and imports, then subtracting the export quantity from the total. After computing the quantity available for consumption, the SSR is calculated by dividing domestic production by the total quantity available for consumption. The self-sufficiency index is considered one of the

most prominent indicators of food security at the national level, as it measures the agricultural sector's ability to meet food needs through domestic production.