Chapter 5 - Trade and Domestic Policies in the Developed Countries

World trade policies changed dramatically in the last few years. Within the global liberalization process stimulated by the WTO negotiation, most countries took farther steps in the adjustment of their trade and economic policies. This chapter is devoted to an overview of the recent developments in trade and domestic policies in the OECD area, and in particular, in its two main trading economies: the European Union and the Unites States. Indeed, the process of agricultural policies reform taking place in these countries is a key determinant of the equilibrium and trends in international market and exercise a crucial influence also for developing countries participating in international trade, such as Syria.

5.1. Policy Developments in OECD Countries

In recent years, the overall level of support to producers in developed countries tended to decline by shifting towards less production and trade distorting policy measures. This progress was underpinned by the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. The launch of the WTO Doha Development Agenda in 2001 and the domestic policy initiatives underway in many OECD countries indicate the need to achieve further domestic and trade policy reform. More market oriented and better targeted policies are a necessary step to further integrate domestic and world agricultural markets, while reducing environmental pressure and achieving other policy goals including the preservation and promotion of farmers' income.

The OECD[29] monitors size and forms of transfers from industrial economies' societies to their farming sectors. Most of the OECD estimates are based on the concept of Producer Support Estimates, a concept that remains controversial but provides an instrument to monitor evolution of agricultural support (**see box 5.1**).

[29] The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organization based in Paris that gathers the industrialized economies. This organization regularly monitors agricultural policies in member countries that, in many cases, grant high levels of support to their agricultural sectors. The OECD aims at contributing to policy reforms in these countries with a view to achieve higher levels of efficiency. The present section is largely based on OECD documents "Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries, Monitoring and Evaluation for 2003".

Box 5.1 - Summary of the definitions of the different indicators of support

Producer Support Estimate (PSE): the annual monetary value of gross transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers, measured at the farm-gate level, arising from policy measures that support agriculture, regardless of their nature, objectives or impacts on farm production or income. It includes market price support and budgetary payments, *i.e.* gross transfers from taxpayers to agricultural producers arising from policy measures based on: current output, area planted/animal numbers, historical entitlements, input use, input constraints, and overall farming income. The %PSE measures the transfers as a share of gross farm receipts.

Market Price Support (MPS): the annual monetary value of gross transfers from consumers and taxpayers to agricultural producers arising from policy measures that create a gap between domestic market prices and border prices of a specific agricultural commodity, measured at the farm-gate level.

General Services Support Estimate (GSSE): the annual monetary value of gross transfers to general services provided to agriculture collectively, arising from policy measures that support agriculture regardless of their nature, objectives and impacts on farm production, income, or consumption of farm products.

Total Support Estimate (TSE) the annual monetary value of all gross transfers from taxpayers and consumers arising from policy measures that support agriculture, net of the associated budgetary receipts, regardless of their objectives and impacts on farm production and income, or consumption of farm products. The %TSE measures the overall transfers from agricultural policy as a percentage of GDP.

Source: OECD (2002)

The OECD review of agricultural policies in 2002 can be summarized as follows:

a) **Support to producers (%PSE)**: In 2002 support to producers didn't change compared to 2001 (31%). Payments based on output together with the Market Price Support, i.e., output-linked support, continued to account for over two-thirds of overall support to OECD producers.

b) **The current level of market protection** is an important factor in encouraging domestic production, distorting trade and depressing world prices of agricultural commodities. Over the longer-term, market protection has decreased as prices in domestic markets were, on average, 57% higher in 1986-88. Nevertheless, the level of market protection was still important in 2002.

c) **Total farm receipts in 2000-02** were, on average, 46% higher than what they would have been assuming that markets were without any support. Nevertheless, in recent years, there has been some move away from the most distorting forms of support: market price support, output payments and input-based payments.

d) **Different levels of support and protection among countries.** In 2002, the %PSE remained above the OECD average in the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway and Switzerland. For the 2000-02 period, the average %PSE was below 5% in Australia and New Zealand and below 25% in Canada, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Turkey and the United States. It was 35% in the European Union and around 60% or more in Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway and Switzerland. The countries with the highest level of support have also persistently shown the highest degree of market protection, the lowest degree of market orientation, and the greatest implicit tax on consumers. In these countries, both the prices received by producers and those paid by consumers were, on average, over twice the world prices, and farm receipts were around three times higher than they would have been in absence of support.

e) **Different levels of support and protection across commodities.** For 2000-02, the average producer support was less than 20% for wool, eggs and poultry; between 20% and 35% for maize, oilseeds, beef and veal, sheep meat, and pig meat; between 36% and 50% for wheat, sugar and milk; over 80% for rice. In this regard, it should be noted that, while sugar and milk, which is produced in OECD countries, benefited from high levels of support, rice, which is produced in relatively few OECD countries, generally also benefited from high support, particularly in Japan and Korea. Prices received by producers and those paid by consumers were, on average in 2000-02, around twice the level of world market prices for sugar and milk and about five times higher than the world prices for rice.

f) **In the last years, the most distorting forms of support have decreased but still dominate.** The share of market price support and output payments together was 67% in 2000-02, while the share of input payments was 9%. The combined share of these three forms of support was 76%. These forms of support potentially have the greatest effects in stimulating production and input use, distorting trade and increasing environmental pressure.

g) **Other forms of support have increased.** The reduction of the most distorting support observed in some countries has been accompanied by the introduction of potentially less distorting interventions. In 2000-02, the share of payments based on area planted or animal numbers was 13% of support to producers compared with 7% in 1986-1988. These payments were particularly important in the Slovak Republic (39% of PSE), the European Union (27% of PSE), and the Czech Republic (17% of PSE). Payments based on historical entitlements (area, animal numbers, yields, support or receipts) were first introduced in 1993 and represented about 5% of support to producers in 2000-02. These payments were mainly used in the United States (18% of PSE), Switzerland (17% of PSE) and Mexico (16% of PSE). Some countries also use payments based on overall farming income**,** which tend to be the least production and trade distorting, to create less pressure on the environment, and to be the most effective measures in transferring income to producers. In 2000-02 these payments represented around 14% of the PSE in Australia and Canada, and 6% in the United States.

h) **Support for general services to agriculture.** In 2000-02, support for general services to the agricultural sector, measured by the %GSSE (General Services Support Estimate as percentage of agricultural value added), increased to 17%, but remained low relatively to support to producers. General services such as extension, training, research and development, and quality controls, can improve long-term productivity and ensure plant, animal and human health, benefiting both consumers and producers. Moreover, environmentally intervention through general services, particularly on research, information and education, may be more effective and less costly in achieving environmental goals than PSE measures.

i) **Total support to agriculture decreased, but remained significant.** TSE, measured as the sum of PSE, GSSE and consumer subsidies, amounted to US$ 318 billion or 1.2% of GDP in 2002. Despite the changes in the composition of support, about three-quarters of the total support to agriculture continued to accrue to individual producers (PSE), while consumers continued to pay for more than half (over 90% in Korea and Japan) of this support through higher food prices.

The Agricultural Reform in Developed Countries

As mentioned, developed countries reduced the level of support and modestly improved its composition, although little change was observed in the distribution by commodity. Support still accounts for about one third of farm receipts, of which over three-quarters is still generated by the most distorting forms of support. The level of support was widely differentiated by commodity and remained highly uneven across countries. For example, in Canada, while progress has been made in reducing the overall level as well as the usage of most distorting forms of support, there has been less progress in reducing the support variability by commodity, reflecting the continued relatively high support to milk production. In New Zealand, the overall level of support has been significantly reduced, from a relatively low base, and there has also been a marked reduction in the variation of support across commodities.

In the United States**,** the reduction in the level of support was marginal. Some progress was made in reducing the support variability across commodities, particularly across cereal products in the second half of the 1990s. In the European Union, the level of support has fallen marginally, with greater progress made in reducing the most distorting interventions (see below). However, the variation in the level of support across commodities has increased as result of the greater reduction in support for cereals compared to livestock products. In Japan, there was significant reduction neither of the overall support nor the most distorting forms of support, while disparity in commodity support has increased.

At the core of the recent developments in farm policies in the EU and the US has been the concept of decoupling support interventions. Decoupled payments have been defined in many ways, but perhaps the most frequently used definition is that by OECD (see **box 5.2**).

Box 5.2 -The definition of decoupling

Decoupling is a general concept in the policy debate. It is based on the general criterion established in Annex II of the URAA (the green box) and applies to policies having no impact on trade and production.

Full Decoupling as formal concept is defined by Cahill (1997)[a]. A policy is fully decoupled if it “does not influence production decisions of farmers receiving payments, and if it permits free market determination of prices”. That is, full decoupling requires no change in the way farmers and consumers take decisions. It is a concept centred on the adjustment process and not only on equilibrium values. After the introduction of a fully decoupled policy, both the shape and the position of supply and demand curves should not change.

Cahill, S.A. (1997) “Calculating the rate of decoupling for crops under CAP oilseeds reform” *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 48(3): 349-378

Source: OECD Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries (2002).

5.2. Recent Developments in the EU Common Agricultural Policies

The European Union has been traditionally reluctant to change its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), since it was created about forty years ago. Yet the CAP has moved slowly along three directions. Firstly, income support has increasingly relied on direct payments with less emphasis on market interventions. Secondly, the EU agriculture has significantly opened up to foreign competition, although border protection remains relatively high for certain products. Thirdly, farm support has been more and more depending on compliance with quality, food safety and environmental standards. The MacSharry reform and the Agenda 2000 represented major milestones in this path. The package passed by the Council of Ministers in June 2003 kept the same direction. This reform has been widely known as the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Agenda 2000, covering the up to 2006, and proved to be something more than a simple adjustment of the CAP.

The bases for the "Fischler reform", as it is also called, were presented in July 2002. Its legislative proposals were submitted in January 2003 and the final package approved in June 2003. The reform includes a wide set of policy measures although, as usual in the CAP history, not all the products have been affected in the same way and many of the initial proposals were significantly constrained during the negotiating process. The Fischler package can be seen as a step in a long reform process that might end up in a CAP definitively focused on rural development objectives.

The first key word of the Fischler reform is 'decoupling'. Decoupling in the context of the CAP reform means the conversion of direct payments under the different schemes in a unique farm payment that is kept constant in time and is not depending on the land allocation to different crops. Decoupling means that income support will tend to depend less on price distortions, therefore favouring further opening of the EU markets to foreign competition. In practice, several remarks can be put on the EU decoupling concept. First of all, decoupling has been only partial and some products (eg. hard wheat and rice) will keep receiving crop specific payments. Secondly, EU Member States will be allowed to maintain a certain percentage of the current direct payments (that is to say the Agenda 2000 payments) as specific payments linked to production. This position was defended by some Member States that were afraid of possible land abandonment as a result of full decoupling. Thirdly, it is not clear the extent to which the new single payments will be recognized by the WTO Members as a convincing shift from the EU 'blue box' (direct payments allowed under the current Uruguay Round rules) to the 'green box'.

Box 5.3 – Scope of decoupled payments system in EU countries

A single farm payment will replace most of the premium paid under the various Common Market Organizations. Consequently, the vast majority of the EU direct payments will no longer be linked to production.

The Member States that intend to minimize the risks of land abandonment can maintain up to 25% of the current **output-related** per hectare payments in the **arable sector**. Alternatively, 40% of the supplementary durum wheat premiums may continue to be production-related.

For the **beef sector** Member States may decide to retain:

- up to 100% of the present suckler cow premium and 40% of the slaughter premium, or
- either up to 100% of the slaughter premium or, alternatively, up to 75% of the special premium for male animals.

A maximum of 50% of the **sheep and goat** premiums including the supplementary premium in less favored areas can remain production-related.

Dairy payments will be included in the single farm payment from 2008, once the dairy reform has been fully implemented. Member States may introduce the system earlier.

Source: Directorate-General for Agriculture, European Commission (2003).

A second keyword of the CAP reform is "modulation". Modulation is intended to partly correct the uneven distribution of direct payments and, at the same time, to favour the transfer of income support, the so called "first pillar", to rural development measures, the "second pillar". While Agenda 2000 allowed for Member States to retain one part of the direct payments according to certain criteria based on farm size and labour intensity, the implementation of this measure has been timid and heterogeneous across Member States. With the Fischler package, the EU Commission will apply a retention rate of 5% of the direct payments, with a 5,000 € franchise, which will leave a considerable number of farms aside of the modulation. It is evident that the system will have less impact on those countries with a higher share of farmers under this threshold, and this specially applies to Southern European states. While the initial proposals aimed at modulation rates of up to 20%, it is less obvious that the approved modulation will have a real distributive impact. On the other hand, modulation savings (up to € 1.2 billion a year) are going to increase rural development funds, but they will stay to a large extent in their source country. The MTR package also foresees tighter obligations for farmers to adopt good agricultural practices, including compulsory cross-compliance for all farms and farm audits for farmers receiving over 15,000 € in direct payments. If these obligations are a way of transforming the spirit of CAP's direct payments remains to be seen in the coming years.

The third keyword is 'rural development'. Since the mid-nineties, rural development has been at the core of the political justifications of the recent wave of CAP reforms. Agenda 2000 made some steps in such directions, but the CAP's second pillar still accounts for a low percentage of the CAP budget (10% of CAP expenditure during the period 2000-2006). Modulation will partly contribute to make the second pillar stronger. In addition, new measures will provide incentives for farmers willing to participate in schemes devoted to improve the quality of agricultural products, to facilitate the compliance with environmental and animal welfare standards, and to co-finance investments carried out by young farmers.

5.2.1. The CAP under Continuous Reform

The CAP will probably be subject to changes in the coming years. The MTR package did not include major changes for Mediterranean products (fruits, vegetables, olive oil, cotton and tobacco), so that, the existing support regime was prolonged. For olive oil, the prolongation of the applicable regime was necessary, because until 2003 no producing country had made enough progress in the olive oil registers, thus risking automatic reductions in support. As for tobacco, the pressure for immediate abolition of support coming from the European Parliament and various Members States was very intense, and the prolongation of the regime was received very positively at that time by all producing countries. Finally, for cotton, the EU was under international pressures to adjust its policy to the new international setting (see **Chapter 4**). Overall for olive oil, cotton and tobacco, the reform was next on the agenda.

During 2003, the reform of cotton, olive oil and tobacco was negotiated, and the final package was agreed by the Council of Ministers of Agriculture in April 2004. According to the outcome of this negotiation, a significant part of the current production-linked payments will be transferred to the decoupled single payment introduced by the MTR. Nevertheless, for tobacco, before full decoupling, member states may decide to maintain coupled elements over a transition period of four years, apart from the current tobacco premium that will be used to finance restructuring programs in affected regions from 2010. As for olive oil, the Council decided that member states may maintain a coupled payment of up to 40% (see **box 5.4**). As regards to cotton, ministers agreed to decouple 65% of the subsidies, while 35% will be maintained as a per hectare payment. Implementation of these reforms will start in 2006.

Box 5.4 – The Olive Oil reform in EU countries as agreed in April 2004

A minimum of 60 % of the average current production-linked payments during the reference period 2000-2002 will be converted into entitlements under the single payment scheme for holdings. The amount received by each farmer will be calculated with reference to the period 1999-2003. Olive farms smaller than 0.3 ha will see their payments completely decoupled from 2006. The remaining aid paid (40%) can be retained by the member states to grant an additional payment to olive producers. Member States may use up to 10% of the national ceiling for olive oil support to finance quality measures. To avoid market imbalances, access to the single payment scheme will be limited to olive-growing areas existing prior to 1 May 1998 and to new plantings under programmes approved by the Commission. The current regime will continue to apply for the marketing year 2004/05.

Source: EU Commission website: www.europa.eu.int.

Overall, the CAP reform will not involve significant budgetary adjustments for Mediterranean products, but the existing budget will be more targeted to non-trade distorting measures and quality promotion. As for olive oil, the share of the total budget which remains linked to production will be granted as a payment per hectare according to specific criterion set by the Governments of the producing Member States. Decoupling of subsidies for olive oil and cotton will give EU producer lower incentives to increase yields. Therefore, the CAP reform of such products is good news for exporting countries that aim at competing in the international markets and are currently facing the drawbacks of the trade-distorting policies of some of the major actors in the world market. With the new policies for olive oil and cotton, the EU faces the need to balance the level of direct producer support and the capacity to provide funds for the adjustment of these sectors. The fact that the overall amount at stake is fixed implies that more support for producer means less support for rural development measures.

As regards tobacco, the main issue is not just the well known pressure to abolish all support linked to the product. Even without this pressure, the sector has been in a long-term decline. In such context, decoupling support will reduce tobacco farmers' income dependence on factors beyond their control or influence (e.g. the linkage of support to the anti-smoking campaign). On the other hand, the processing industry will lose the certainty generated by the link of support to the product, and the impact could be felt not only on the processed quantities, but also on its ability to negotiate producer prices.

Finally, a mention should be given to sugar. Cheaper sugar ingredients could be on the way for European food makers as a draft Commission's proposal is planning deep changes to the much criticized sugar regime. Abolition of sugar subsidies by bringing down sugar prices would also benefit consumers, taxpayer and, significantly, developing countries' producers. Indeed, The EU currently spends €1.3 billion in subsidies to its sugar producers. As the world's biggest importer of sugar in 2000, the EU imported €674 million of sugar from developing countries, more than the combined total for US, Japan, Australia and Canada. The main loser will be the sugar processing industry. Indeed, it was estimated that six of the largest processors received export subsidies totaling €819m in 2003. According to a draft proposal submitted by the European Commission, Brussels is considering cutting EU sugar prices (that trade at three times the world prices) by over 40% and quotas by around 16%. Some analysts claim that the draft proposal has not only bigger cuts than expected but will also move in a shorter timeframe. Expectations were for the cuts to take place over a 5 - 6 year period, whereas, the draft indicates that the cuts should start as early as July 2005 to be completed in three years.

5.3. Recent Developments in US Agricultural Policies

In the United States, production of all major traded commodities is supported by substantial Government intervention. Over the past 50 years, the U.S. has experimented dozens of ways to administer prices; from target prices, non-recourse loan rates, quotas and price floors, to deficiency payments, payments in kind, and land set-asides. Efforts to break with the past, most evident in the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR), still reflect the legacies of these various programs. Not all commodities enjoy the same support: while some are grown under quota, others receive no support at all. Over half of U.S. farmers are not eligible for any government program.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment (FSRI) Act of 2001 established a new framework for supporting to US farmers over the period 2002-2007. With this farm bill, three sources of support were envisaged. The first is the one based on the “loan rate” or support price. The second is the Production Flexibility Contract, which is a direct payment not linked to current yields, i.e., it is decoupled). The third source is the counter-cyclical payment, which is activated when market prices fall below a target level.

Box 5.5 – Brief history of US farm policies

Agricultural policies have a long tradition in the USA. Farm income support policies have been implemented since 1924.

In the period 1933-1996, USA Federal farm policy was mainly formed by a combination of price support and supply management. This combination is still the corner stone of the ongoing debate about farm policy instruments, even though the relative importance of the two instruments and the mechanisms to apply them were modified over time. In general, though, farmers were mainly supported through the so-called "deficiency payments".30

In 1985 and 1990, Farm Acts kept the traditional combination of price supports, production controls, and income deficiency payments, yet modifications were introduced. That modification brought farmers closer to market orientation through lower price support, greater planting flexibility, and more attention to developing export opportunities for farm products. In 1996, the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act removed the link between income support payments and farm prices by providing annual "Production Flexibility Contract Payments", whereby participating producers received government payments independently from the price levels, and from the allocation of the land to different products. Accordingly, farmers relied more on market signals as a guide for production decision. On the other hand, farm income was exposed to higher risks since payments were fixed and detached from market prices.

The "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA) of 2002" established the USA federal farm programs for the period 2002-2007. The Act modified the farm payment program and introduced counter-cyclical farm income support; expanded conservation land retirement programs and emphasizes farm environmental practices; enhanced borrowers' eligibility to farm credit assistance; maintained food stamp31 for legal immigrants; expanded the list of commodities requiring country-of-origin labeling; introduced provisions on animal welfare. The provisions are organized in ten titles (programs): commodity, conservation, trade, nutrition, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy, and miscellaneous program.

The most important title in this farm bill is the "Commodity Programs"32. It consists of several programs related to different commodities, including direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, remaining planting restrictions, commodity loan rates and dairy programs

This farm bill provides for the updating of areas eligible for direct payments (to 1998-2001 actually planted) and allows an updating of eligible yields (to 93.5% of 1998/2001 yields) for the counter-cyclical payments. This updating implies a sustainable increase in the budget cost of fixed and counter-cyclical payments.

Under the assumption that prices remain at recent levels, analysts have estimated that the cost of the USA Farm Bill will sum up to US$ 17-19.5 billion annually (US$ 11-11.5 billion for fixed payments and counter-cyclical payments and US$ 6-8 billion

[30] The "Deficiency Payments" are direct government payments made to farmers who participate in an annual commodity program for commodities such as wheat, feed grains, rice, or cotton. The crop specific payment rate for a particular crop year is based on the difference between an established target price and the highest between the commodity loan rate and the national average market price for the commodity during a specific time period. The total payment to the farmer for the crop year is given by the product of the payment rate, the farm's eligible payment acreage, and the farm's established program payment yield.

[31] The Food Stamp System aims to provide poor people with subsidies to buy food.

[32] Additional details on commodity programs are available at the USDA website (www.usda.org).

> for loan programs). The bulk of these payments will go to larger producers (8% of the farms will receive more than 47% of the subsidies).
>
> The total estimated budget of the farm bill is about US$ 180 billion on a 10-year basis, which means an increase of 70-80% with respect to the FAIR Act budget. However, the increase is definitely smaller if we consider the actual, rather than the forecasted, expenditure which took place under the FAIR Act.
>
> The actual Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS) limit for the USA is US$ 19.1 billion per year. Some analyses suggest that the fixed payments, loan program, and counter-cyclical payments fall in the AMS category, as crop-specific payments. If prices continue to be at or below the levels seen in recent years, USA could exceed the US$ 19.1 billion ceiling.
>
> International reactions to the farm bill tend to stress its inconsistency with the USA claims for farm policy reform under the WTO negotiations on agriculture. This applies to the USA claims in favor of farm policy reforms as well as

Source: SAT 2003 from USDA website: www.usda.gov

The U.S. legislation passed to implement the Uruguay Round Agreement reauthorized the U.S. Export Enhancement Program (EEP), specifying its use to help develop export markets. Under EEP, the U.S. government grants agricultural exporters the authority to sell commodities held by the government's Commodity Credit Corporation to certain specified countries at prices below those prevailing in the U.S. domestic market - in effect, encouraging dumping. The 2002 Farm Bill set the allocation for EEP at a maximum of US$ 478 million per year.

A recent report produced at the University of Tennessee[33] has underlined that the US domestic prices for all grains (cereals, rice, oilseeds, pulses and even cotton) are followed by all the other exporters on the world market: in other words, the US is price maker (or price leader) for grains' world prices. A cause of the slump in US farm prices for grains, hence in their world prices, comes from the dismantlement of the three main supply-management measures introduced by the 1996 FAIR Act: suppression of set-aside, of public storage linked to the loan rate mechanism ("*non recourse loan rate*"), and of the subsidies to private storage ("*farm owned reserve*"). The USDA no longer receives and stores the harvest in lieu of repayment of the loan when the market price remains under the loan rate: instead the farmers can reimburse the loan at the prevailing market price, as low as it might have dropped ("loan deficiency payment", LDP), and even farmers who did not contract a loan are entitled to receive the difference between the loan rate and the lower market price ("marketing loan gains"). This explains why the loan rate payments exceeded US$ 8 billions a year in 1999 and US$ 7 billions in 2000 and 2001. Ray (2003) shows that the reintroduction of supply management measures in the US farm policy would raise grain prices quite significantly: between 20 and 40% in the medium term (37% for corn).

Central to the debate at the multilateral trade negotiations are direct payments to U.S. farms under the 1996 and 2002 Farm bills as well as payments made under emergency supplemental appropriations bills. The U.S. Government argued that direct payments are decoupled, meaning that under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, they are not linked to current production, and thus they are not trade distorting. In the 2002 Farm Bill, farmers are paid based on past year acreage and yields, not based on what they produce in the year they are paid. However, countercyclical payments fluctuate from year to year based on the price received by farmers. The consideration of those subsidies into the product- specific Aggregate Measure of Support may imply that USA may exceed its total AMS commitment.

[33] Daryll E. Ray, Daniel G. de la Torre Ugarte and Kelly F. Tiller (2003).

The USA has claimed to charge also the new counter-cyclical payments available since the 2002 Farm Bill to the non-product-specific Aggregate Measure of Support, in order to take advantage of the *de minimis* provision. Texts discussed in the WTO agricultural negotiations during 2003 and 2004 would be in line with another USA proposal: to include countercyclical payments, granted only on 85% of the base period acreage, in the Blue Box. USA did not use Blue Box support measures between 1996 and 2001. However, under the reform framework agreed by WTO members in July 2004, USA will have an initial entitlement to provide approximately US$ 10 billion in blue box support to American farmers.

Voices from policy institutes based in USA, such as the Institute of Agricultural and Trade Policies (IATP), claim for a comprehensive reform of the US agricultural policies, pointing out that the current subsidy programs involve dumping in international markets. Recent WTO panels, such as the cotton panel proposed by Brazil (see **chapter 4 in the present SAT report**) might require adjustments to the 2002 Farm Bill to make it compatible with international agreements.

Key Findings

- Agricultural transfers in OECD countries related to agricultural support policies continue to be around 1 billion dollars per day.
- The agricultural reform in OECD countries progresses by changing the support methods rather than the total levels of support.
- Direct payments to farmers in the USA and the EU reflect the gap between the extensive support granted to the agricultural sectors in the larger trading countries and the lack of resources for rural economies in most developing countries.
- US subsidy programs have been challenged in the WTO for involving dumping on international markets.
- In the EU, the recent enlargement and the budgetary limitations are acting as major driving forces for further reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- The CAP keeps absorbing a significant share of the EU expenditure, even after its Mid-Term Review in July 2003.
- Some products of interest for Syrian exporters, such as olive oil and cotton, have been subject to substantial reforms in the EU. Reforms have decoupled a significant part of farm subsidies. However, total subsidies remain high.
- In the USA, the 2002 Farm Bill did not imply significant reductions of the level of agricultural support.

Chapter 6- Syrian Trade Policy

6.1. General Economic Policies with Impact on Trade

This section provides an overview of recent changes in macro policies that are not exclusively related to trade but have a direct influence on trade performance and, more specifically, on agricultural trade.

The last few years were challenging for the Syrian Government. On the domestic scene, many of economic reforms initiated in 2000 led to a period of unprecedented legislative activity aimed at reforming a number of aspects of Syrian economic and social life. The Syrian approach has been based on reforms of selected aspects of the economy, and it may well be accelerated in the coming period. The reform process involves two areas: (i) administrative changes designed to modernize and enhance effectiveness of the public sector and (ii) market reforms designed to encourage participation of the private sector in the economy. Government trade policy is progressively moving away from an import substitution approach, involving substantial trade protection, toward an export oriented approach.

In the next pages an overview of institutional changes of particular relevance for Syrian trade regulations is presented. Particularly, significant since 2001 are the changes in the monetary policy, the reform of the banking sector, the evolution of the exchange rate and currency use regulations as well as the simplification of rules and institutions dealing with foreign trade.

6.1.1. Monetary Policy

Monetary policy has been relatively stable in the last two decades. In March 2002, the Credit and Monetary Council (CMC) was activated and consolidated to oversee monetary policy (Law n° 23). The CMC is intended to assist the reform of the financial sector and consists of representatives from different ministries (see SAT 2003). The regulation governing interest rates and dealing with foreign exchange within the new framework is subject to the CMC and, ultimately, to the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade. In May 2003, Syrian nominal interest rates were reduced as an attempt to encourage domestic investment. The establishment of private banks (see below) is contributing to relax the constraints on credit, although further efforts and time are needed before small and medium enterprises will be able to benefit from a substantial improved access to credit.

6.1.2. Private Banking

The quoted Law No 23 also deals with the banking sector, both the existing public-sector banks and new private banks. The regulations cover matters including licensing, capitalisation, reserves, operations, ratios, auditing, and the provision of financial statements that also apply to public-sector banks.

Legislative Decree no. 28 of 2002 set the legal framework for the establishment of private banks (see **box 6.1**). Licenses awarded to joint-venture banks lead to the reinstallation of private banking. As of early 2004, 3 banks started operations. A fourth bank was authorized in June 2004. Foreign investors can operate in the banking sector by participating in joint ventures with a minimum of 51% of Syrian participation to the capital. Initially, the banks will be allowed to operate only in the retail sector. The legal framework and administrative procedures need to be further specified and reinforced as in the case of legal instruments for credit recovery.

Box 6.1 – The Legal Framework of Private Banks in Syria

- a bank can either be exclusively privately owned, or be a joint venture with the Government or a government body or organization;
- a bank must be at least 51% Syrian owned;
- individual investors cannot own shares exceeding 5% of the bank's capital;
- a bank must have a minimum capital of SP 1.5 billions and its establishment should be approved by the Central Bank of Syria, the Ministry of Economy and Trade, and the Prime Minister;
- the Central Bank of Syria is responsible for the supervision of banking activities and approves the appointment of the bank's' board members;
- banks cannot "engage in commercial, industrial, or other services unrelated to banking, or from issuing loans to board members, bank officials, auditors, and state employees who have regulatory responsibilities".

Source: Legislative Decree n°28 of 2002

6.1.3. Exchange Rate and Foreign Currency Use

Syrian exchange rate regulations have been characterized by a multiple exchange rates system applied to different types of transactions and domestic valuation of imports. These regulations often resulted in divergences between official and market exchange rates.

Over the past decade, the Government has taken a number of steps to simplify currency use regulations and to unify the exchange rates at a level close to the one prevailing on the market. These changes are in line with the country's comfortable foreign assets position. In early 2001, the government allowed the Commercial Bank of Syria (the country's only authorised foreign-exchange dealer other than the Central Bank of Syria) to undertake small-scale transactions at around 50 SP/US$. In June 2002, the authorities effectively unified a number of exchange rates at the "neighbouring countries rate" for most current-account and customs transactions. A further step forward was the elimination of the obligation to finance imports through export earnings (see SAT 2003). This decision cancelled the exporters' obligation to surrender to the Commercial Bank of Syria (CoBS) a share of their revenues in hard currency. Although there are no close prospects for allowing the Syrian pound to float, the Government has continued the exchange rate reform (see **Box 6.2**). The official neighbouring countries rate used by the public sector was devalued at the beginning of 2004 to 48.5 SP/US$ (public and state transactions' exchange rate), bringing it closer to the market rate and to the rate used by private-sector importers for most authorised transactions (Free foreign currency exchange rate). This latter exchange rate oscillated between 51 to 53 SP/US$ during 2003-2004 and is determined by the CoBS in collaboration with the Central Bank in line with the exchange rate registered in Beirut and Amman. The only other official rate in place is 11.25 SP/US$, used for accounting purposes related to the repayment Syria's external debts.

Box 6.2 - Exchange rates currently in place

Official exchange rate fixed since early 1990s at 11.20 SP/US$ for purchase and 11.25 SP/US$ for sale. Nowadays it only applies to the repayment of the external debt.

Public and state transactions' exchange rate set at 48.5 SP/US$ for purchase and 48.65 for sale since January 3, 2004. It replaced the *neighboring countries exchange rate* previously fixed at 46 SP/US$ for purchase and 46.5 for sale. This rate applies to the following public transactions:

- calculating tariffs on import (replacing the set of rates previously applied and known as "custom exchange rate");
- valuing foreign currency earnings of public exporters sold to the CoBS;
- opening letters of credits for public imports;
- valuing transfers among public companies;
- valuing items in foreign currency included in the state budget.

Free foreign currency exchange rate replacing the *neighboring countries exchange rate for non trade transactions*. This rate oscillated around 52 SP/US$ during 2003 and is determined by the CoBS in collaboration with the Central Bank, on the base of the exchange rate registered in Beirut and Amman. It is applied to the following transaction:

- foreign currency purchase from Syrians living abroad;
- foreign currency purchase from exporters;
- earnings of tourist establishments transferred to the Commercial Bank;
- foreign currency sold to industrialists to pay for their imported raw materials;
- foreign currency sold to travelers abroad for medical or religious reasons as well as for tourism up to a maximum of US$ 2000 per person per year.

Source: Summarized from SAT-2003

6.1.4. Institutional Simplification

A number of administrative reforms took place in 2003 with the intention of achieve a better co-ordination among agencies dealing with trade. In March 2003, the Legislative Decree n° 20 created the General Establishment for Foreign Trade, which consolidated six establishments in a single institution (see SAT 2003). In October 2003, the Ministry of Economy and Trade (MET) was established to replace the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Supply and Domestic Trade (Legislative Decree n° 69). The MET assumed the functions of the two former ministries with the exception of the supervision of banking and insurance, which was transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

6.1.5. Investment Policies

Law n° 10, passed in May 1991, provides the framework for promoting foreign investment by reducing restrictions on capital flows and offering customs duty concessions and tax breaks. The law initially succeeded in attracting investment into many fields including agricultural and agro-food; transportation, tourism, and light industry sectors. The law was enhanced through amendments, such as Decree n° 7 of 2000, extending further tax incentives for investors and simplifying administrative procedures for investors. The new income tax law passed in November 2003 clarified the fiscal liability of foreign investors for different components of their projects in Syria. Other measures to facilitate foreign and domestic investment are currently being elaborated, including the regulations applicable to stock companies.

6.1.6. Income Taxation

Income tax rates on enterprises were very high in Syria compared to neighboring countries, reaching 63% for profits above SP 1 million. Beside high income taxes, producers should also pay local administrative taxes and a war effort tax surcharge to the income tax. Law n° 24/2003 significantly reduced the top rates of income tax establishing a progressive scale, ranging from 10% (for net profits below 200,000 SP) to 35% (for net profits above 3,000,000 SP). Some activities are exempted from income tax, such as agricultural projects, air or sea transportation, industrial establishments with less than 3 years of age, national education institutions, international class hotels and investment funds intended for expanding industrial businesses (not exceeding 10% of annual profits). The implementation of Law n° 24 during 2004 has contributed to further clarify legal uncertainties deriving from previous fiscal regulations. Tax reduction has been accompanied by reinforced rules on tax evasion (under Law n° 25) that represent a major step to improve the efficacy and credibility of the fiscal system.

6.2. General Trade Policies

6.2.1. Import Policies

Syrian import regulations have traditionally been characterized by the following broad criteria:

- Imports are permitted for capital goods and inputs required for agricultural and industrial productions as well as for scientific and medical equipments;
- Imports are limited for various goods, including products for which a close substitute is produced domestically. Imports restrictions are also informed by social and economic considerations, involving higher tariffs on imports of luxury goods;
- Permitted imports are subject to a wide range of import-duties ranging between 1% for raw materials and 250% for certain luxury goods;
- import operations are subject to various administrative procedures, such as certifications to be obtained from the Syrian Chamber of Commerce and the Syrian Embassy in the country of origin.

Within these broad guidelines, Syria has undertaken a gradual path of reforms introducing a number of policy changes in areas such as the simplification of tariff schedule and custom procedures.

Tariff simplification

In 2001, Syria adopted the Harmonized System (HS) for classifying its tariff schedule consistently with international standards (see SAT2003 for further details), thereby, facilitating participation in and implementation of international trade agreements.

Transparency of import regulations was further backed by the tariff simplification undertaken in 2002 (Decree n° 336, September 28). The reform merged the various tariffs existing under the previous system in a single tariff schedule (the *Systematic Tariff*). As indicated above, a unified value of the Syrian Pound was adopted for all imported goods by using the *state transactions' exchange rate*[34]. This involved a move away of the use of the different exchange rates (11.25, 23, and 46.5 SP/US$) that were formerly applied to different types of goods based on economic and social considerations.

In **Table 6.4**, the *ad valorem* tariffs in the old and new system are showed for selected agricultural and agro-food products as well as the exchange rate which was formerly applied for

[34] For more information about the new way used to calculate the Systematic Tariff, the reader can refer to SAT 2003.

custom valuation. In the old system, total customs duties were the result of the sum of the *import tariff* (dependent on economic and social considerations) and the *unified tax* (aimed at financing certain public activities: schools, municipalities, ports, etc.).

Table 6.1 New and Old Tariff Systems

Products	Previous tariffs		Previous custom exchange rate	Systematic Tariff
	Import tariff	Unified tax		
Banana	75	27	46.5	102
barley flour	30	17	11.25	11.5
barley malt	1	6	11.25	1.7
Biscuit	50	21	23	35
Cattle	1	6	11.25	1.7
Cigarette	30	17	23	23.5
Coffee & coffee shellers	30	17	11.25	11.5
Grain tubers starches	7	13	11.25	5
Maize flour	30	17	11.25	11.5
Milk product	7	13	11.25	5
Pepper	30	17	23	23.5
proceeded chocolate	75	27	23	50.5
Raw sugar	7	13	11.25	5
Refined sugar	15	14	11.25	7
Sesame oil	7	13	11.25	5
Shelled rice and shellers	7	13	11.25	5
Soybean	1	0	11.25	1
Soybean oil	7	13	11.25	5
Sunflower seeds	7	13	11.25	5
Various fats(pigs & sheep)	15	14	46.5	29
Wheat flour	1	6	11.25	1.7

Source: SAT 2003

Notwithstanding the significant reform of the tariff system, it should be noted that there is still space for further simplification of import charges, given the remaining fees or taxes linked to import operations (**see Box 6.3**).

Box 6.3 Charges on import operations

- All imports pay a fee for certification of import documents accounting for 1% of the import value;
- Exporters pay 1% of the export value as insurance to the Syrian Institution of Insurance, when ships are over 15 years;
- Income tax on imports: 8% of the import value (Ministry of Finance);
- Goods whose import was previously restricted to public establishments and should now be authorized by the Foreign Trade Establishment and pay the following commissions:
  - 1.5% of the import value for some food commodities, such as rice and sugar;
  - 2% of the import value for vehicles;
  - 2.5% of the import value for minerals and textile fibers;
  - 3% of the import value for medicines and milk.

It should also be noticed that following the Decree n° 61, September 2004, many agricultural commodities are subjected to a consumption tax as follow:

- 33% for some vegetable oils (soybean, maize, sunflower, coco nut, palm fruits, palm seeds);

- 10% on hydrogenated vegetable oils, margarine, butter, animal ghee;
- 5% on coffee;
- 2% on all kinds of mate;
- 10% on spices;
- 10% on mushroom;
- 2% on tea;
- 35% on alcohol beverages and 10% on soft drinks;
- 5% on chocolate and food preparations containing cacao;
- 4% on all kinds of sugar;
- 5% on all kinds of salt;
- 5% on banana;
- 5% on vegetables and fruit Juice except concentrates used for industry.

Source: Ministry of Economy

Other import regulations

For permitted goods, traders must obtain an import license issued by the Ministry of Economy. A number of documents are required for imports, including a valid import license, a statement regarding the boycott to Israel, and a statement to attest whether the exporter has an agent in Syria. All these documents have to be certified by the Chamber of Commerce and a copy is retained by the Syrian Embassy in the country of origin (legalization fees depend on the kind of document and the total import value). Companies that receive licenses under the investment laws are granted duty-free privileges for machineries and equipment, including vehicles. A pro forma invoice must accompany applications for import licenses.

The Ministry of Economy has increased efforts to facilitate business activities. In September 2002, the Ministry abolished the exclusive import rights of sole agents, a move that allows private traders to bring branded foreign goods into the country. In addition, the administrative procedures for importing operations have been considerably eased for goods imported from the Arab Free Trade Area, under the Syrian commitments to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers (**see Chapter 7**).

6.2.2. Export Policies

The Syrian regulatory environment is changing following the introducing new legislation and the adhesion to international treaties. An export strategy has been prepared and a tariff rebate regime has been introduced. Export of Syrian goods does not require special licenses. However, the exporter must be registered with a Syrian Chamber of Commerce and must provide an invoice certified by a local chamber, a certificate of origin, a customs description document and a bank guarantee. Fully manufactured Syrian exports must be labeled giving the name and address of the manufacturer as well as listing of components and their proportions. This label also, should contain the wording “industrialized to export”[35].

In consideration of the importance of the simplification of export regulations in enhancing Syrian capacity to compete on international markets, a variety of actions have been taken over the last years. The Legislative Decree no. 15 of July 3, 2001 exempted all exports (agricultural or non agricultural goods from production taxes. The obligations to surrender export proceeds have been abolished (see section 6.1 above) and exporters are now allowed to retain their earnings in hard currency to sell them to the CoBS at the free foreign currency exchange rate. A number of exemptions to the export documentation have been introduced. Commissions for public institutions have been eliminated for some exported goods such as biscuit, chocolate, wool, pasta, and noodles.

[35] Exported textiles are exempted from the requirement to indicate name and address of the manufacturer and the wording "industrialized to export".

Moreover, the Syrian Government has also taken a number of actions to reduce transportation costs. Syria joined the Transit International Agreement (TIR) in 1998. Since September 2001, empty trucks from Turkey and other countries can enter Syria is such a way to facilitate road shipments to Europe. Since 2002, private importers are allowed (under Decree n° 672) to import used freezing trailers to be used in export.

Export reforms are an indication of the Syrian Government's willingness to have the country integrated into the world economy. Nevertheless, exports to high-paying markets are still hampered by the small size of most Syrian companies and the lack of awareness on quality requirements. There is also an increasing awareness that export promotion does not only require product-specific policies, but economy-wide reform, such as those required to enhanced availability of credit for small and medium enterprises, ensure the availability of enhanced services and of a conducive legal framework.

6.3. Agricultural Trade and Market Policies

6.3.1. Import Policies

Syria has been progressively removing non-tariff import constraints on agricultural commodities. The import licenses required from the former Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade were cancelled for all goods except wheat, flour, barley, lentils, and chickpeas (Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, Decision n. 1515 of 12 December 2002). The removal of import constraints include a higher involvement of private agents also in sectors traditionally characterized by the prevalence of public enterprises. For example, in the last quarter of 2002, the Government authorized private companies to import cereals, effectively breaking a decades-old state monopoly. In 2002, the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade issued the regulations for private companies to import cereals and lentils (see **Box 6.4**). In 2004, the possibility for private agents to import was extended, under certain conditions, to wheat flour (**Box 6.4**).

In 2004, there were many efforts to foster trade liberalization, especially among GAFTA countries, easing trade restrictions through tariff elimination and reduction of the list of agricultural goods subject to import bans. Recent examples in this direction are imports of honey (Decree n° 353/2004), fish (Decree n° 1342/2003), and mollusk (Decree n° 309/2004).

Box 6.4 Decrees on grain trade

Decrees no. 9 of 9 October 2002 and no. 74 of 11 November 2002 establish the conditions for private companies to import grains in Syria. The rules include the following:

- wheat, barley, and lentil imports are suspended during the peak harvest period (May 1 – September 1).
- wheat importers have to pay a deposit in SP equivalent to the value of imports that is reimbursed upon certification that the imported wheat has been either re-exported or milled locally and sold for domestic consumption;
- Imported barley should be colored in order to distinguish it from the domestic one[36].

Trade of wheat and wheat flour was also restricted in the past to the public sector. In 1999, private companies were allowed to import flour for the processing of pasta and its further exportation. Since March 2004 (Decree no. 319 by MET), this possibility was extended to companies specialized in biscuit production.

[36] The color condition was modified by circular No 74 of 14/11/2002, and non-colored barley imports were allowed. Moreover, the Ministerial Decision of 1/7/2004, specifying the requirements for feed imports, including barley, did not include the color condition.

Other areas of trade reform are imports of agricultural processed products and inputs for agriculture and the processing industry that the Government is gradually liberalizing. Examples are the possibility of importing certain tropical fruit concentrates that were formerly prohibited (Decree n° 7207/2003 of the MET). Significant is the liberalization of fertilizers' trade. Having been for long monopolized by the MET, which imported the volumes required for the distribution to farmers through the Agricultural Cooperation Bank, since March 2004, it is open to private importers (except super-phosphates, for which Syria is self-sufficient). As for capital goods, a recent move has been the Decree n° 8/2004 that allows imports of used industrial machines for small and medium enterprises under certain conditions[37].

SPS measures

Agricultural Imports are subject to a certification of compliance with the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations to be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (see SAT 2003 for more details). **Box 6.5** summarizes the main phytosanitary requirements, while **Box 6.6** points out the main veterinary requirements for live animals and manure. Syrian accession to the WTO will require compliance of Syrian sanitary and phytosanitary policies with international regulations under the SPS Agreement (see Chapter 4).

Syria implements special SPS regulations, including quarantine measures on imported plants, animals, and other organic materials. Any agricultural or food imported product has to be accompanied with two certificates: a sanitary or phytosanitary certificate, ratified by the Syrian embassy of the country of origin; and a certificate confirming that the product is clean from atomic pollution, ratified public authorities in the country of origin.

There are import bans related to SPS considerations. For example, there is a complete ban on imports of agricultural soils, organic fertilizers, and vegetal residues. Any vegetal material carrying agricultural soil is banned. The granting of import licenses for fruit seedlings is also forbidden. Some import bans relate to specific products from specific countries, such as a ban on palm trees and their parts from Maghreb countries; and the ban on sheep and mutton except for those originated in eight specified countries. The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade maintains the lists epidemic countries for agricultural and animal products in close exchange with the MAAR consistently with OIE reports.

Concerning genetically modified (GM) products, the Syrian general policy is banning imports of any kind of GM seeds.

Box 6.5 - The Phytosanitary requirements in Syria

The main sanitary requirements for agricultural imports as stated by Law n. 21/T of 1991, modifying Law n. 237 of 1960, can be summarized as follows:

1. The agricultural consignment is allowed to entry the country if the infestation ratio does not exceed the identified ratio. For example:
- for grains: the infestation does not exceed one living insect or one of its living stages per kilogram and the ratio of the infestation should not exceed 1% of the consignment prepared for manufacturing or consumption (excluding flour);
- for vegetables and fresh fruit: the infestation should not exceed 2% of the consignment;
- for flour imported for consumption: the ratios of the living infestation or mites or various stages (egg, larva, pupa, and adult) does not exceed in its entirety 15 living insects per 50 kilogram.

2. The documents accompanying the imported agricultural consignments should be as follows:
- Certificate of origin issued by the official institution of the country of origin;

[37] A previous Decree (no. 323 of February 28, 1999 issued by the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade) allowed import of used packing and waxing lines (age not exceeding 4 years) being paid with hard currency earnings from exports of vegetable and fruits.

- Agricultural health certificate issued by the official institution of the country of origin and compatible with the international agreement adopted in Rome Treaty for plant protection of 1952;
- The certificate should mention that the consignment is free of viral diseases if intended for cultivation and free of the pests identified in the import license;
- The certificate will be rejected if it is written more than 15 days before shipment.

3. The documents accompanying the exported agricultural consignments should be as follows:
- The exporter should submit an application on a specified form to the Agricultural Quarantine Bureau;
- Each consignment licensed for export will be issued an agricultural health certificate according to the model adopted by the Rome Treaty for plant protection of 1952.

4. It is prohibited to introduce the following products[38]:
- Agricultural soil;
- Live agricultural pests in any stage;
- Residues of plant material consumed on airplanes, ships, trains and other;
- Bacterial, fungal or micro-organic cultures harmful to plants;
- Natural organic fertilizer;
- Cultivated agricultural consignment when mixed with prohibited soil difficult to separate.

Source: SAT 2003

Box 6.6 – The sanitary requirements for livestock imports

The veterinary requirements for imports are drawn from Law n. 60/T of 1988, modified by decisions n. 1123 and n. 1618 of 2001 and decision n. 357 of 2002. Accordingly, imports of living animals and manure are subject to the following:

- Imports should obtain a sanitary certification from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform;
- Imports have to be accompanied by the certification of origin from the country of origin;
- The Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade should be informed of the approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform;
- The above-mentioned certificates have a maximum validity of three months;
- Imports have to be accompanied by an international veterinary certification approved by the Syrian embassy in the country of origin not more then fifteen days before arrival in Syria;
- The transit imports of live animals should be in closed carriages and accompanied by official certificates that assure they are free from diseases.
- In order to protect local birds and animal health, some restrictions were introduced in 2004 on birds imports (Decree no. 881 of May 19, 2004).

Source: Updated from SAT 2003

6.3.2. Export Policies

Remarks on general export policies made in Section 6.2.2 also apply to agricultural products. Since the beginning of the decade, the Syrian Government has undertaken some reforms aiming at facilitating export. Thus, with Legislative Decree n° 15/2001 the Government eliminated the fees applied on the conversion in SP of hard currency earnings from exports of fruit and vegetables[39]. In the olive oil sector, local income taxes and fees levied on olive oil firms with a productivity of less than two tons of olive oil per day were also eliminated. Substantial public regulations remain on agricultural export, including restrictions on animals' export, aiming to protect this product and providing enough quantity for domestic consumption (see **Box 6.7**).

[38] Licenses for the import of these products by scientific institutions are provided by the MARR.
[39] The tax for selling proceedings deriving from exports of vegetable and fruit originally established at 0.50 SP per 1 $US was reduced to 0.1SP per $US and recently eliminated.

Box 6.7 Recent export regulations in the livestock sector

Livestock is characterized by an active trade with substantial exports of live animals accompanied by lower imports, especially following the elimination of export-import link. During 2004 domestic prices for local meat and related products experienced significant increases as a result of the increased exports accompanied by lower imports. Accordingly, an export tax was imposed to reduce export and limit the domestic price increase. Legislative Decree no. 18 of February 14, 2004 established a fee of 100 SP/head on exported livestock.

The Cabinet issued the Decision no 20 of 2 June 2004 establishing a starting date for exporting male sheep (from 1/6/2004) and the condition that their weight should not be less than 38 Kg. A report on sheep's flows is prepared monthly to identify future procedures.

Source: MAAR.

6.3.3. Agricultural Market Policies

The Government concentrates its intervention on some "strategic" crops (wheat, cotton, barley, sugar, lentils, tobacco, and chickpeas), while the equilibrium of other agricultural markets is essentially determined by the interaction of supply and demand. In addition to the intervention of market and prices, the Government intervenes in the agricultural sector through physical planning of areas to be planted under strategic crops. The basic aim of the Government's agricultural planning is to meet strategic objectives such as food security, self sufficiency for wheat and export promotion. The Government also determines the prices at which public establishments buy strategic crops from farmers on the base of the cost of production on the basis of the recommendations of the Cost Calculation Committee composed by representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Economy, the Regional Peasant Office and the General Peasant Federation. Prices are determined on the basis of an average national unit cost of production for each crop plus a margin. **Table 7.2** shows the official buying price of strategic crops for the year 2003/2004. Prices have remained almost unchanged since 1996 with the exception of the sugar-content premium for sugar beet.

State establishments are monopolist buyers at official prices of cotton, sugar beet and tobacco. Instead, farmers can sell to private traders wheat, barley, lentils and chickpeas. The government does not intervene in the pricing of other crops like fruits and vegetables, which are sold at market prices.

Table 6.2 - Buying price of strategic crops, 2003/04

Crops	**buying price SP/kg**
Soft wheat	10,30
Durum wheat	11,30
Barley	7
Red lentil	16
White lentil	17
Chickpeas	17,80

Source: Ministry of Economy and Trade (MET)

Remarks on Specific Crop Policies

Wheat

The General Establishment for Cereal Processing and Trade (GECPT) of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade is a main public institution for wheat marketing. Wheat official prices have been fixed since 1996 at 11.30 SP/kg for hard wheat and 10.30 SP/kg for soft wheat. The price is adjusted on the basis of quality, defects and impurities. However, farmers can decide to sell wheat to private traders at market prices. The GECTP sells wheat to the General Company for Mills (GCM) for distribution to bakeries that in turn produce subsidized standard flour and bread. Prices of high-quality flour and bread are not explicitly subsidized, with the result that they are over twice the price of standard flour and bread. Both private and public bakeries sell standard bread at the fixed official price of 8 SP/kg. The price was last changed in 1994, when it was increased form 5 SP/kg. The GECPT also exports the surplus wheat at international prices. On the other hand the General Establishment for Seed Multiplication procures the required seeds from farmers according to a pre defined quality. As for foreign trade, wheat export is restricted to the GECPT, whereas private traders can import for milling and pasta production.

Barley

The Government sets the buying price of barley by GECPT, which in turn adds the transportation and storage cost and a profit margin and sells it to the General Establishment for Feed (GEF) for distribution to livestock producers. Private trading is opened and the GECPT acts as a "buyer of last resort", able to buy any quantity at the stated price, which is usually below the one prevailing on the market. During 2004, the GECPT has not procured any barley, leaving the activity to private sector traders that have sold to the GEF at market prices.

Lentils and Chickpeas

Similar to Barly**,** marketing of these two products is left to market forces.. The farmers can sell the product either to the private sector or to the GECPT. But normally farmers prefer to sell to the private sector since they receive a higher price. Official public procurement prices have not been increased during the last years with the aim of encouraging private sector participation in the domestic and foreign trade.

Cotton

Cotton marketing is restricted to the General Establishment for Cotton Ginning and Marketing (CMO) of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade that procures cotton according to the prices defined by the Prime Minister's Office. Starting from 2000, the agricultural production tax imposed on cotton exports has been eliminated. The CMO is the only domestic seller and exporter of cotton fiber. Prices paid for cotton produced in licensed areas have not been changed since 1996. they are differentiated as follows: (i) grade one delivered by 15/11 receives the best price (30.75 SP/kg); (ii) grade two delivered by 16-31/11 receives 26.25 SP/kg; (iii) grade three delivered after 31/11 receives 19.75 SP/kg.

In 2002, Decision no. 60 of the Supreme Agricultural Council (SAC) adopted the world price for cotton as the (lower) price to be paid by the CMO for cotton cultivated out of the area indicated in the agricultural plan. This decision was accompanied by the reduction of the area planned for cotton cultivation and the promotion of the establishment of additional processing plants with the aim at reducing export of raw cotton in favor of processed cotton products so as to capture a larger value added share. It is worth mentioning that no cotton was sold at world price.

Before the Investment Law no. 10 of 1991, all spinning mills in Syria were state-owned. There are now three private spinning mills, and both public and private sector are allowed to export textile productions. The domestic market is protected by import duties on cotton fiber (30%), yarn (15%), cloth (15-59%) and garments (75%) and other goods, such as blankets and table-cloths (30-50%). There is no production of synthetic fiber in Syria and imports are subject to a 1.0% tariff.

Sugar

The Ministry of Industry's General Organization for Sugar (GOS) is the sole buyer and processor of sugar beet. All sugar produced by the GOS is sold to the General Establishment for Consumption (GEC) according to a plan. The price paid to farmers depends on the sugar content of the beets. It has been SP 2,250 per ton for beet with 16% sugar content. A price premium of 110 SP is added for each additional degree, whereas a price deduction of 25 SP is effected for each degree below 16%. However, base sugar content was reduced to 14% in 2002/2003, whereas the reduction and premium were maintained. As for the 2003/2004 season, the same price was paid to beet with sugar content of 14%, whereas the premium was increased to SP 150 for each additional degree and the same amount was deducted for each degree less than 14%. Moreover, beet with sugar content less than 10% was rejected and received the price paid for bulb. Another change to sugar beet price was made in 2004/2005 when base sugar content was raised to 15%, whereas price premium or deduction was increased to SP 225 for each degree. Moreover beet with sugar content less than 11% was rejected.

Domestic beet production covers about 20% of domestic demand for sugar. The rest is met by imports of refined and raw sugar. The latter is refined at Homs and Al Ghab factories. Raw sugar is imported by the GOS. All domestically produced sugar and sugar produced from imported raw sugar is sold by the GOS to the GEC at a price determined on the base of the costs plus a mark-up. GEC distributes sugar under a rationing program that provides each Syrian with 1.5 kg per month at 9 SP/kg. All sugar traded outside the rationing program is imported privately and sold to industrial users or for retail sale at a price that varies between 15 and 20 SP/kg.

Tobacco

Farmers must sell all their output, at the price fixed by the Government, to the General Organization for Tobacco, which has cigarette manufacturing plants in Latakia, Hama, Aleppo and Damascus. Most of the production is consumed in the domestic market. The rest is exported in the form of leaves and cigarettes.

Key Findings

- Syria has carried out important reforms in many aspects of its economy and trade through a gradual process aiming at enhancing efficiency and international integration of the national economy.

- Actions taken contribute to move Syrian markets towards a more open environment, include the simplification of the tariff system, a framework for establishing private banks, substantial unification of exchange rates; simplification of the currency regulation and elimination of the obligation to finance imports through export earnings.

- Administrative procedures for importing operations have been considerably eased for goods imported from the Great Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA).

- A significant push towards trade reform has been given by the GAFTA agreement, the Syrian-European Association Agreement and the application for WTO membership. Participation in international agreements is expected to enhance Syrian capacity to competitively integrate in the global economy.

Chapter 7- Special Chapter: The Great Arab Free Trade Area

In this Chapter an overview of the GAFTA is provided, with special focus on the agricultural issues of the intra-Arab agricultural integration process and drawing on the work carried out by the NAPC in 2004[40]. As an integration area, GAFTA is of special interest for Syria for two main reasons. Firstly, GAFTA will bring about the economic advantages of a regional agreement, that is to say, increased efficiency for the Syrian agriculture and an enlarged market for consumers. Secondly, GAFTA offers an opportunity for diversifying and balance Syrian trade relations, avoiding strong dependence on one particular partner. In this sense GAFTA represents a good complement to the liberalization of trade with EU as well as to the multilateral liberalization involved in Syrian accession to the WTO. The analysis of trade flows presented in this Chapter uses quantitative and qualitative evidences to assess the experiences from the first four years of GAFTA implementation (1998-2001).

7.1. The Former Attempts of Arab Integration

Intra-Arab integration represents a key element for the success of the region as a whole, notably because it can create economies of scale that can compensate for the small size of individual domestic markets and can promote foreign investment in the region. In the past, Arab countries encountered difficulties in exploiting the regional potential for developing intra-regional trade, as shown by a number of attempts in promoting regional liberalisation.

Indeed, before the GAFTA, a number of trade and cooperation agreements had been concluded among Arab countries. They include the Agreement on the Arab Common Market (1964) and the Agreement to Facilitate and Develop Intra-Arab trade (1981). It is worth noting that these trade agreements did not achieve comprehensive trade liberalization, due to their focus on limited commodity lists and a low level of commitment by the partners.

The lack of success of the first pan Arab attempts in regional integration encouraged some countries to experiment smaller regional grouping such as:

- The Gulf Cooperation Council, which was established in 1981 by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.
- The Arab Cooperation Council among Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen in 1989.
- The Arab Moroccan Union of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in 1998.

These groupings did not achieve substantially better result. Intra-trade growth has been limited in the Arab region, which is also explained by a number of factors such as (i) similarity, resulting in limited complementarities of the national production structures; (ii) pervasiveness of

[40] See NAPC's Working Paper N° 8 "*Implementation of the Great Arab Free Trade Area Agreement. The Case of Syria*".

government regulation that is still present in many of these countries as a residual of the former orientation toward central planning; (iii) prevalence of inward industrialization strategies; and (iv) complexity of the national trade policies and procedures resulting in effective non-tariff barriers.

Overall, the level of political determination in defining and pursuing common targets and systematically addressing emerging difficulties proved inadequate to face the challenges involved in a process of trade liberalization and economic integration.

7.2. The Establishment of GAFTA

A turning point in regional trade integration was marked in 1997 by the Social and Economic Council of the Arab League that adopted a resolution to establish GAFTA within 10 years, starting from 1 January 1998. The resolution stipulated a gradual phasing out of custom duties and measures of equivalent effect on intra-Arab trade. Moreover, in 2002, the Social and Economic Council decided to accelerate implementation by completing the transition period by the beginning of 2005 instead of the end of 2007.

The decision establishing GAFTA was a response to the resolution of the Arab Summit held in Cairo in June 1996, which called the Social and Economic Council of the Arab League to accelerate the 1981 Agreement to Facilitate and Develop intra-Arab Trade. Such agreement was considered the framework for establishing a Free Trade Area including all Arab States, consistently with WTO provisions. The initial members of GAFTA were Syria, U.A. Emirates, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, and Libya. Mauritania and Sudan, which were members in the 1981 Agreement, did not join the GAFTA. However, Sudan is now completing its adhesion. Two more countries joined the GAFTA: Yemen and the Palestinian Authority. Sudan and Yemen, who enjoy the least developed country status, have been allowed to extend the transition period till 2010. As for the Palestinian Authority, it has been exempted from tariff reductions due to its particularly difficult situation.

With the signature of GAFTA, Member States are committed to the following objectives:

- Increasing intra-Arab trade;
- Relying on comparative advantages in allocating production among Member countries;
- Promoting domestic investment in exporting activities and in developing infrastructures;
- Improving quality standards;
- Promoting monetary and banking policies in support of trading activities.

7.3. The GAFTA Executive Program

In 1997, the Economic and Social Council adopted the Executive Program (EP), and its timetable to establish a Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, i.e. GAFTA. Under the EP, products exchanged among Arab countries should receive the same treatment of national commodities in terms of rules of origin, standards, sanitary specifications and local taxes and fees. Agricultural tariffs are gradually removed and, during the transition period, agricultural calendars allow for exceptions to the tariff reductions for a given number of sensitive products over a defined number of weeks.

The EP encouraged accelerated implementation of the GAFTA, allowing groups of two or more Members to exchange reciprocal trade concessions involving earlier implementation compared to the EP timetable. This has allowed Syria to establish bilateral free trade agreements with Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Jordan (se **Box 7.1**). On the other hand, the

EP also allows countries to modulate tariff liberalization to better cope with the adjustments needed in the agricultural production patterns.

Box 7.1-The Bilateral Agreements signed within the Framework of GAFTA

1. *Bilateral Agreement with Lebanon*

In 1998, Syria and Lebanon decided to accelerate trade liberalization between the two countries within the framework of the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Agreement, signed in 1991. In 1999, both countries agreed to remove with immediate effect all tariff and equivalent fees on plant and animal products with the exception of 21 products for which an immediate 50% reduction of custom duties was agreed, followed by annual reductions of 10% per year so as to reach full liberalization in 2004.

2. *Bilateral Agreement with Jordan*

In 1999, Syria and Jordan signed a trade protocol to further develop agricultural trade and simplify the customs and boundary procedures. In the same year, the Syrian-Jordanian Supreme Committee prepared an agricultural calendar pertaining preferential treatment consistent with the GAFTA disposals on agricultural calendars. In 2000, the agricultural calendar started to be operational, allowing open trade (import or export without the need of trade licenses) of listed goods in the periods specified in the calendar, while limiting the quantities traded in the remaining periods.

In August 2003, the Agricultural Ministers of Syria and Jordan met to discuss various cooperation issues in agriculture and the agriculture calendars for 2003 and 2004. In this occasion, the Ministers stressed the need to facilitate the trade of high quality commodities, to better continue and further develop the commercial integration of the two countries. Indeed, it was agreed that Syria and Jordan allow each other the import of given fruits and vegetables locally produced without customs fees and other taxes of similar effect, according to agreed periods and quantities.

3. *Bilateral Agreement with United Arab Emirates*

In 2000, Syria and UAE signed an agreement to establish a Free Trade Area. It aimed at freeing trade of all Syrian and UAE agriculture commodities and livestock of local origin from custom fees and other similar taxes, taking into consideration the agreed agricultural calendar. The reductions on customs duties reached up to 50% on January 1, 2001, 70% on January 1, 2002, and on January 1, 2003 custom duties were fully abolished.

4. *The Bilateral Agreement with Saudi Arabia*

On 1 January 2003, a Free Trade Area was established on the basis of an agreement signed in February 2001. This agreement supports the economic and commercial relationships between the two countries through the elimination of all barriers on national products and the removal of all tariffs and other taxes on agricultural products. Concerning rules of origin, the agreement treats the exchanged products as the national ones.

5. *Bilateral Agreement with Egypt*

In November 2000, Syria and Egypt signed an agreement to establish a Free Trade Area by gradual liberalizing agricultural trade as follows:

a. Continuation of exemptions, facilitation and advantages stipulated in the trade agreement of 1991 and specified in lists A and B of that agreement. The Joint Committee was authorized to revise the two lists in view of achieving free trade;

b. Gradual reduction of custom duties and similar taxes for the products of local origin not listed in the above mentioned lists with the objective of achieving full liberalization by January 1, 2004;

Moreover, the two countries should provide the necessary facilities to ease transit of goods (including transit through trucks).

An important feature of the Executive Program is the involvement of the private sector in monitoring GAFTA, through the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce and Chambers of Agriculture. At the preparatory stage, the Chambers took part in working teams with government experts to study the EP. In Syria, a number of public institutions have been involved in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of GAFTA, including public Departments, such as the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, the Ministry of Economy and Trade, the Ministry of Finance, and the Custom Department.

7.4. Syrian Agricultural Trade with GAFTA Members

7.4.1. General Trends

This section compares trends of Syrian intra-GAFTA trade to Syrian trade with the rest of the world. The comparison between trade patterns before and after the beginning of GAFTA implementation provides some indication on how Syrian trade has evolved as a result of the regional integration process, even though it does not allow assessing the impact of individual policy changes, such as the removal of import bans.

Syrian trade figures for 1996/97 and 2001, summarized in **Table 7.1**, allow to point out the following:

- Growth of Syrian total trade with Arab countries is small (0.6%) compared to the much larger increase register for Syrian total trade with the world (3.7%).
- Syrian imports from GAFTA member countries increased substantially (3.7%), in particular for agricultural products (6.2%).
- Total imports from the world kept relatively stable (a slightly increase of 0.3%) while agricultural imports decreased by 1.3%.
- Total exports to GAFTA decreased by 1%, beside a sound 7.4% increase of Syrian exports to the world market.
- Agricultural exports to GAFTA have decreased at 3.7% average annual rate, in line with the trend of agricultural exports to the world (4%).

Such trends can be connected to the implementation of the GAFTA Executive Program and may reflect the significant opening of Syrian markets to their Arab partners. The increase in Syrian imports from GAFTA members reflects the recent evolution of Syrian trade policies towards a more open setting. Certainly, Syria opened to imports from GAFTA some sectors whose domestic markets were previously closed (import bans) or not profitably accessible (high import tariffs). This is also reflected by the large number of “new products” which are being recently imported from GAFTA partners (see **Section 7.4.2**). However, the fact that Syrian imports from the World decreased by 0.3% and agricultural imports by 1.3%, while imports from GAFTA members increased by 3.7% and 6.2%, provides some evidence that a trade creating effect with GAFTA partners has been accompanied by a trade diversion effect with respect to the rest of the world, particularly for agricultural imports.

Table 7. 1- Syrian total and agricultural trade with GAFTA and the world (Million Sp and %)

Items	With GAFTA			With the world		
	Before GAFTA, 96/97	After GAFTA 2001*	AAVR, 96/97-2001	Before GAFTA, 96/97	After GAFTA 2001*	AAVR, 96/97-2001
Total Trade	12,911	13,209	0.6	97,218	112,615	3.7
GAFTA / world	13.3	11.7				
Agricultural Trade	6,545	5,936	-2.4	19,953	17,870	-2.7
GAFTA / world	32.8	33.2				
Exports	8,821	8,487	-1.0	44,420	59,209	7.4
GAFTA / world	19.9	14.3				
Agricultural Exports	5,789	4,975	-3.7	10,617	9,024	-4.0
GAFTA / world	54.5	55.1				
Imports	4,089	4,722	3.7	52,798	53,406	0.3
GAFTA / world	7.7	8.8				
Agricultural Imports	756	961	6.2	9,336	8,846	-1.3
GAFTA / world	8.1	10.9				

Source: NAPC database

Note: trade value is expressed in SP at the old exchange rate prevailing before 2000.

The situation is different on the export side. After four years of GAFTA EP implementation, exports to GAFTA members decreased by 1%, against a sound 7.4% increase of exports to the world market. In this regard, it could reasonably be argued that this trend follows the pattern of oil exports, notably addressed to non GAFTA members. Of more concern is the decreasing trend of agricultural exports to GAFTA. In fact, the share of agricultural exports to GAFTA in total Syrian agricultural exports, through a slightly erratic path, was in 2001 almost the same as that share in 1996/97. Syrian agricultural exports have failed to keep growing with imports, although the last available figures show some signs of diversification of the export structure (see Section 7.4.2).

The reasons for the slower development of Syrian agricultural exports compared to import need to be examined. They might include the persistence of Non-Tariff Barriers in partner countries, the lack of the competitiveness needed to gain further shares in foreign markets, or the a relatively larger openness of Syrian main export partners before the beginning of GAFTA implementation. In this regard, it is worth noting that Syrian agricultural exports were already specialized toward GAFTA markets before the signature of the agreement, so that the share of intra-Arab exports on total Syrian exports was already relatively high (54% in 1996/97). Lower gains have occurred in the intra-export share (up to 55% in 2001) than in the intra-import share (from 8% in 1996/97 up to 11% in 2001).

It must also be kept in mind that the time span of our analysis only covers the first four years of the GAFTA implementation program. During this period import ban had already been eliminated while only 40% of the reduction in custom duties had taken place. Considering the relevance of import bans in the Syrian border measures, this might have favored imports relative to exports in the first years of implementation, while the advantages for Syria might increase with the further reduction of import tariff that Arab partners implemented after 2001.

7.4.2 Trade Structure

Import Structure

It is still early to assess the impact of GAFTA on the structure of Syrian agricultural trade with the Arab region. Recent trends indicate that there is not a uniform pattern of development for imported products in Syria. Some imports have gradually increased since the signature of GAFTA (cereals, mixed edible preparations, oilseeds, preparations of fruits and vegetables and preparations of meat and fish), while others have shown an erratic path (residues of the food industry, sugar and vegetable and animal fats and oils) or a dramatic increase in 2001 (fruits and vegetables, meats and grain flours).

After four years of implementing the GAFTA, the import structure remains concentrated on a limited number of items. Indeed, in 2001 four groups of imported products accounted for a share in total agricultural imports from GAFTA Member countries of around 65% in value (see **Table 7.2**). These items are cereals (31% of the import value from GAFTA countries); vegetable and animal fats and oils (22%); edible vegetables (7%) and preparations from grains and flours (5%).

Table 7.2- Syrian Agricultural Import from GAFTA member by groups of products (%)

Commodities' Groups	Years				
	Aver 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Cereals	29	32	22	32	31
Coffee, Tea, Yerba Mate & Spices	0	1	0	1	2
Edible Vegetables & Roots	0	0	0	2	7
Fruits	6	1	1	4	4
Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	3	2	3	3	3
Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch	0	0	1	2	5
Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.4
Residues and Waste from Food Industry	1	1	2	0	3
Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	4	0.0	0.4	1	3
Tobacco	1	0	0	1	2
Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	20	28	29	27	22
Group total	64	65	58	73	83.4
Others products not included in these groups	36	35	42	27	16.6
Total agricultural trade	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NAPC database.

The concentrated structure of Syrian imports from GAFTA Members did not show signs of substantial diversification after three years of agreement implementation (1998-2000). In 2001 the top 10 import chapters accounted for 82% of total import value, which was higher than the 1996/97 level (64%). However, in 2001, about 103 new individual products came into the list of imported products and 45 went out. The new products (e.g. milled rice, pulp from olive oil extraction, eggplants and sweet biscuits) shaped 24% of Syrian intra GAFTA agricultural imports. In the coming years, as the implementation of the GAFTA progresses, there is scope for further changes in the Syrian import structure.

Export Structure

As for the import case, it is still soon to assess the real impact of GAFTA on the export structure. Again no uniform pattern of export development can be identified for the period 1998-2001. Some Syrian products have registered an increase in their exports to the Arab region: in some cases it is a gradual increase (fresh vegetables and its preparations), and in some cases the increase is significant (cotton, meat, mixed edible preparations, grain flours, residues from the food industry, products of the milling industry, and vegetable and animal fats and oils). Other products show a rather erratic path of change (live animals, hides, tobacco and wool) or a decreasing development (drinks, flax, live plants and flowers, oilseeds and other animal products).

Nevertheless, there are signs that high-value products (fruit and vegetables) and products of the food industry may take advantage of the opportunities offered by the enlarged Arab market. Actually, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables already represent 59% of the total export value. The export structure has remained concentrated during the last years, even more than the import structure. However, there are some recent signs of increasing export diversification. Indeed, the share of the top 8 Syrian export chapters in 1998-2001 has been lower than in 1996/97 (**Table 7.3**). Moreover, in 2001, 256 new products entered the list of imported goods (e.g. fruits of the genus capsicum or genus pimento, oilcakes, cotton- seed oil, etc.) and 102 went out.

Table 7.3- Syrian Agricultural Exports to GAFTA member countries by groups of products (%)

Commodities' Groups	Years				
	AV 96-97	1998	1999	2000*	2001*
Cereals	17	2	0	0	0
Coffee, Tea, Yerba Mate & Spices	1	2	5	3	9
Cotton	5	4	2	9	13
Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	26	45	33	26	27
Fruits	24	21	33	23	26
Live Animals	14	12	12	24	7
Live Plants & Flowers	2	2	2	1	1
Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Fruits	5	6	5	5	6
Group Total	94	88	92	91	83
Other products not included in other groups	6	12	8	9	17
Total agricultural exports	100	100	100	100	100

Source: NAPC database

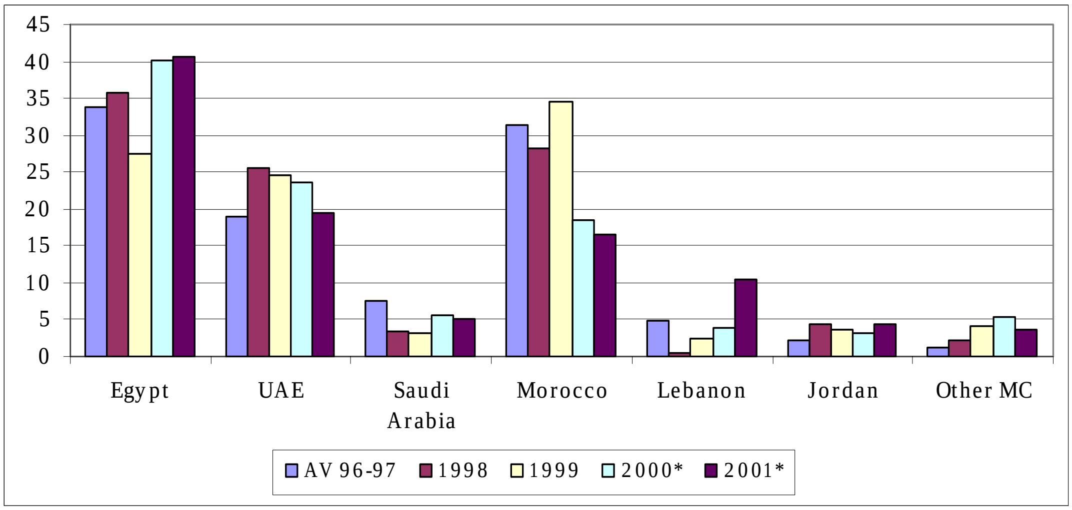
7.5. Main Partner Countries in Agricultural Trade

The geographical specialization of Syrian intra-Arab agricultural imports reflects some changes within the Arab region towards increasing trade with neighboring countries. In 2001, five Member Countries accounted for almost 95% of Syrian agricultural imports from GAFTA countries. These were Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Lebanon (**Figure 7.1**). Egypt was the most important one and its contribution increased from 34% in 1996-1997 to 41% in

2001. The second partner was United Arab Emirates, although its share in 2001 was almost the same of 1996/97. Morocco decreased from 31% in 1996-1997 to 17% in 2001, despite the record share of 35% in 1999. Saudi Arabia's contribution also decreased from 8% to 5% in the same period. Finally, Lebanon recorded an increasing share from 5% to 10%, despite its records in 1998, 1999 and 2000 (see **Figure 7.1**). Another interesting development is the growing importance of Jordan as a partner, illustrated by its increasing share from 2% in 1996-1997 to 4% in 2001.

Overall, Syrian trade with GAFTA neighboring countries, Lebanon and Jordan, seems reflect the effects of the free trade agreements. In fact, the ranking of major agricultural partners exporting to Syria shows changes before and after the agreement. In 2001, compared to 1996/97, UAE and Morocco inverted their positions while Lebanon took the place of Saudi Arabia as fourth most important exporter to Syria.

Figure 7.1 - Origins of Syrian agricultural imports from GAFTA, 96/97-2001 (%)

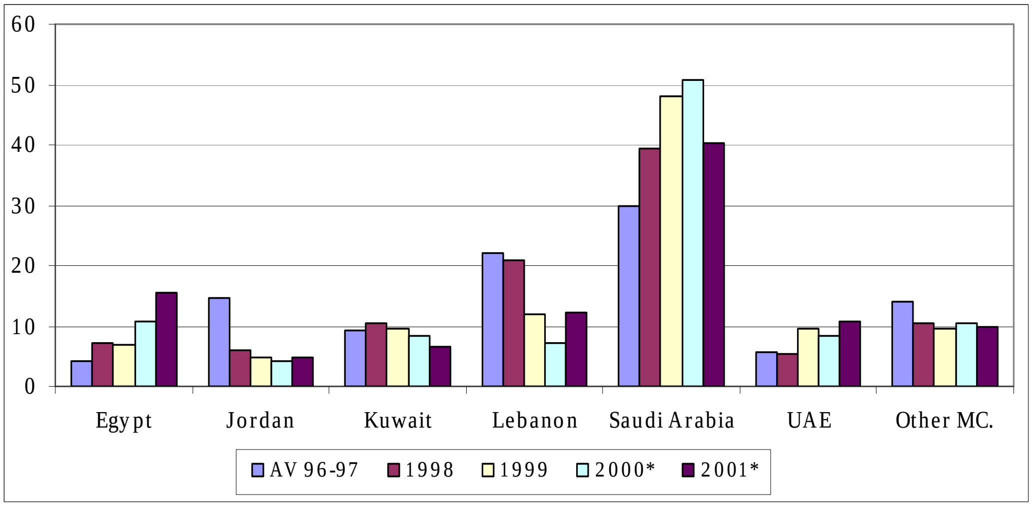


Source: GCD data

The pattern of geographical specialization of Syrian agricultural exports to the GAFTA area is different from what indicated for imports. It is observed that Syrian exports to neighboring GAFTA partners has decreased (Lebanon and Jordan), while exports to more distant partners increased (Saudi Arabia).

In 2001, six Member Countries accounted for around 90% of Syrian exports (see **Figure 7.2**). The top 4 partners in 1996/97 were Saudi-Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, and Kuwait, while in 2001 they were Saudi-Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, and UAE. As indicated above, also the ranking of GAFTA importers from Syria changed before and after the agreement. In 2001, S. Arabia was still the major importing partner (40% of total agricultural exports), while Egypt and UAE, that in 1996/97 were not listed among the top four (15%, 10% of total agricultural exports) entered the top list. Jordan and Kuwait were no longer among the top four. Lebanon also lowered its relevance (12% of total agricultural exports).
The export pattern of the most important Syrian products appears to be influenced by the harvesting seasons more than by the GAFTA calendars. This is particularly important in the Lebanese and Jordanian cases, where harvesting seasons tend to be similar to those in Syria. Thus, it is not surprising that Syrian exports are oriented to those markets that show more complementarities. This may explain the increasing contribution of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE.

Figure 7.2 - Destinations of Syrian agricultural exports to GAFTA, 96/97-2001 (%)



Source: GCD data

7.6. Impact of the Removal of Non-Tariff Barriers

The EP of the GAFTA agreement stresses the commitment of Member states to remove of all kinds of NTBs. The NAPC found that there is still significant scope for the removal of NTBs in GAFTA Member countries. Some NTBs correspond to regulated forms, in particular, to import bans. Some others seem to reflect informal or unregulated barriers, including a wide range of practices from truck inspections to cumbersome procedures increasing transaction costs. The study found that Syrian imports have responded positively to the removal of import bans (e.g. sweet biscuits). Moreover, significant import increase has also been detected in commodities that were not imported nor banned before the agreement (e.g. Groundnuts). It appears that the reduction of NTB applied before the agreement played an important role in boosting Syrian imports.

With reference to the exported Syrian commodities it is remarkable that, after the EP started, some products not exported before recorded a substantial export. This might well be an effect of the removal of NTBs, such as bans, by some GAFTA partners. Nevertheless, no clear-cut evidence allows to relate a given jump in exports just to the removal of a given NTBs, since it can also be the effects of the reduction of tariffs to non prohibitive levels.

7.7. Impacts of Agricultural Calendars

Many countries in the Arab region feared the negative impact of trade liberalization on domestic agricultural sectors. In order to minimize the possible adverse effects of the increased competition on national production systems, the EP has been allowing MCs to keep the custom fees applied before the GAFTA agreement on some agricultural traded products according to periods defined in a calendar (while applying tariff reductions during the rest of the year). The agricultural calendars are to be abolished at the end of the transition period of GAFTA implementation.

The GAFTA program allowed Member countries to announce every year a list of protected products, including a maximum of 10 sensitive products, exempted from tariff reduction during select periods of the year. These periods should not exceed 7 months for a single product and 45 months as total for all products. In 2001, the Arab League agreed to further reduce the list to 7 products by country, and a limit of 35 months for the total exempted periods, and reduce the transitional period to 8 years instead of 10, i.e to achieve the full liberalization by January 1, 2005. In this context, the import tariff reduction was 20% per year during the last two years.

There is not a clear pattern of removal of agricultural calendars across member countries. Between 2000 and 2001, the Protection Period (PP) decreased in most GAFTA countries (e.g. Morocco, from 180 weeks to 116 weeks, and Syria, from 180 to 140 weeks). On the contrary, some Member countries increased the number of protected weeks. This was the case of Lebanon (from 104 to 140 weeks) and Kuwait (from 80 to 92 weeks). Some countries also adjusted the protection period: for example in Kuwait, potatoes were protected from October 1 to November 30, in 2000, but from February 1 to April 30 in 2001. This type of change is quite significant because even if the number of weeks remains the same, the impact on trade could be different.

As indicated above, the agricultural calendars involve an exemption to tariff reductions, and not a ban on imports. However, calendars play, to a large extent, the role of NTBs. To evaluate the calendar's impacts on the Syrian trade flows in thew two directions (exports & imports), the research carried out by the NAPC included the monitoring of the monthly imported quantities of selected products in 2002, comparing trade inside the PP (one month in the middle of the protection period) with the imported quantities of one month before and one month after it.

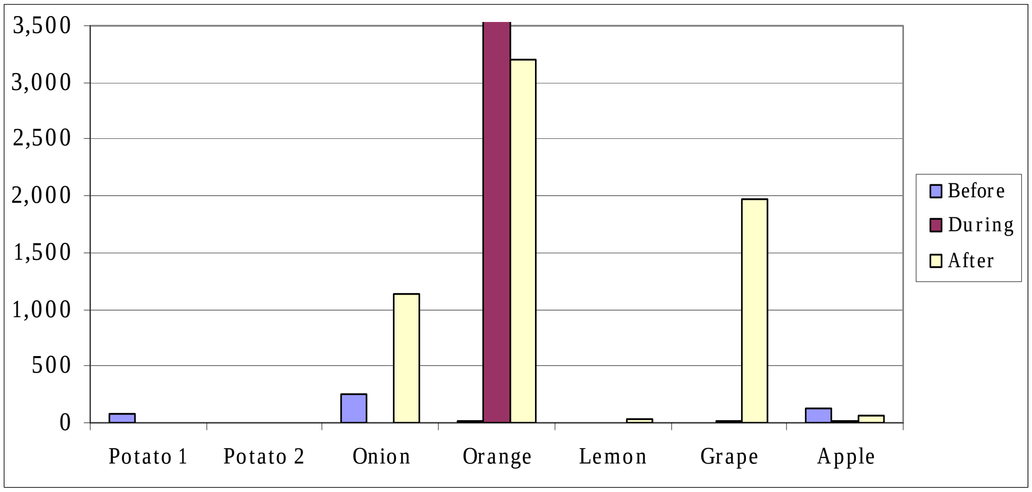
7.7.1. Syrian Calendar

Most of the considered products registered a decline in the imported quantities during the PP compared to the imported quantities before and after. However, calendars did not constrain substantial imports of some products, such as watermelon and tomato. As for watermelon, the PP covers the months between May and August, but for May and June there is no significant harvest in Syria, which leaves room for watermelon imports. Tomato imports indeed reduced during the PP, but the PP covers a period between March and June where domestic demand cannot be fully satisfied by the local greenhouse production. After the protection period, local summer harvest enters the market and imports decrease, even under a non protected regime. These examples illustrate that the import behavior during and outside the PP is not only influenced by tariffs but also by the seasonality of the local production. Not always there is a clear adaptation of the PP to the domestic harvesting seasons. Even inside the PP, the import pattern can fluctuate, as it is the case for potatoes that had three different harvest seasons spring, summer, autumn within the PP.

7.7.2. Member Countries' Calendars

Syrian exports to the main partners of the most important products were monitored over three periods: one month before, one month inside, and one month after the protection period. This exercise showed that Syrian exports normally decline inside the PP in other Member countries. **Figure 7.3** summarizes the case of Syrian exports to Jordan. It shows that the calendar had relevant effect for some products (onion and grape) but was not equally effective for in the orange. Indeed, not always a PP means a cut in export. In the case of orange exports to Jordan the PP overlaps with the Syrian harvest peak, when Syrian oranges are sold at prices able to competitive despite the full tariffs. Similar is the situation for tomato exports to Saudi Arabia and Syrian apple exports to Egypt.

Figure 7.3 Syrian agricultural exports to Jordan before, during, and after periods included in the Jordanian agricultural calendar in 2002 (Tons)



Source: GDC

7.7.3. Impact of Calendars on Wholesale Prices

With regard to Syrian wholesale prices during and outside the Syrian PP, a primary expectation would be that, other thinks being equal, market prices during the protection periods should increase. However, not all agricultural commodities responded to this assumption. Market prices seem to respond more to factors other then the tariffs, such as the seasonality of the domestic harvesting and the marketing system. Only for apples, tomatoes, onions, and watermelons, prices are normally higher during the Syrian PP, while lemon, potatoes and orange prices appear not to react to the calendar as it could be expected. The fact that prices are higher inside the Syrian PP for some products can be due to the fact that these calendars include off-season period, which is the case for Syrian tomatoes

With regard to other Members' calendars, it could be expected that the prices of the Syrian exported agricultural products protected by other GAFTA members should decrease during their protection periods as result of reduced exports from Syria. However, again, this event can be the result of the overlapping of the Syrian harvesting season with that of other Member countries' calendars. In some cases, as for Syrian tomato prices, there is a rather declining trend and the GAFTA has not shown a positive impact on Syrian prices. Overall, there is no evidence of a clear cut influence of the calendar exception to GAFTA liberalization on Syrian wholesale prices.

Key Findings

- The GAFTA agreement, in 1997, represents a turning point in regional trade integration. With the signature of GAFTA, Member States are committed to: increase intra-Arab trade; rely on comparative advantages in allocating production among Member countries; promote domestic investment to develop trade infrastructures; improve quality standards; and promote monetary and financial policies in support of trading activities.
- The GAFTA implementation Executive Programme (EP) calls for the gradual phasing out, by 2005, of custom duties and measures of equivalent effect on intra-Arab trade. Under the EP, products exchanged among Arab countries should receive the same treatment of national commodities in terms of rules of origin, standards, sanitary specifications and local taxes and fees.
- The EP of the GAFTA agreement stresses on the commitment of Member states to remove of all kinds of NTBs.
- Agricultural tariff liberalization is gradually implemented through agricultural calendars, which allow for exceptions for tariff reductions for a number of sensitive agricultural products over defined periods.
- In the first four years of GAFTA implementation, Syrian imports from GAFTA member countries presented a substantial increase, especially considered to imports from other regions. In fact, especially in the agricultural sector, Syria opened to imports from GAFTA new domestic markets, mainly as a result of the removal of import bans and other non trade barriers.
- On the contrary, during the same four years, Syrian agricultural exports to GAFTA countries growth did perform significantly better then export to other regions. This might be due to the persistence of NTB in export markets, but most probably it is due to the fact that Syrian agricultural exports to GAFTA markets were already quite high before the GAFTA implementation started. Equally important can be the fact that in some of these markets NTB were less significant, while the effect of the removal of tariff barriers will be fully observed only with the completion of GATFA implementation.
- After four years of implementing the GAFTA there is not a stable pattern of development for imported or exported products in Syria. Furthermore, the import and exports structure remains concentrated on a limited number of items, leaving scope for further diversification.
- The geographical specialization of Syrian intra-Arab agricultural imports is characterized by increasing trade with neighboring countries, while the opposite is observed for agricultural exports.

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World Trade Organization (2003): *Annual Report*, World Trade Organization, Geneva.

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Websites consulted

The website	Brief Description
American websites	
http://www.state.gov	USA Department of State.
http://www.fb.com	American Farm Bureau.
http://www.cfbf.com	County Farm Bureaus Federation-USA
http://www.ofbf.org	Ohio Farm Bureau Federation-USA
http://www.bna.com	BNA is an American independent publisher of news, analysis, and reference products, providing intensive coverage of legal and regulatory developments, Daily Report for Executives, and Daily Tax Report.
http://www.ictsd.org	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development -USA.
http://www.terina.org	Tata Energy and Resources Institute in North America.
http://www.usdec.org	The information contained in this website is provided in support of the U.S. Dairy Export Council mission to increase the volume and value of U.S. dairy exports.
http://www.commondreams.org	Common Dreams is a national non-profit citizens' organization working to bring progressive Americans together to promote progressive visions for America's future.
www.ers.usda.gov	US Department of Agriculture.
www.ITC.org	This American website provides very good information about trade in general including statistics.
European websites	
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index_en.htm	European Commission, DG Agriculture. This website provides details about the agricultural affairs.
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index_en.htm	European Commission, DG Trade. It provides details about the external trade affairs.
http://www.euractive.com	European Commission, Economic News.
http://www.rec.org	The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com	A UK-based firm specialized in economic and business publishing and consultancy in the emerging markets of

	the Middle East.
East Asian sources	
http://www.tdctrade.com	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
http://www.manilatimes.net	A Philippines newspaper website
International Organizations	
http://www.fao.org	Food and Agriculture Organization website
http://www.oecd.org	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
http://www.wto.org	World Trade Organization Website.
www.biodiv.org	Convention of Biological Diversity.
http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm	Office Internationale de Epizootees, Paris.
http://www.iatp.org	Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policies.
http://www.intracen.org	International Trade Center in Geneva.
http://www.isdb.org	Islamic Development bank.
http://www.ippc.int/eng/en_index.htm	IPCC organization, which is one of the three sisters.
http://www.aoad.org	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.
International websites	
http://www.thefactz.org	This website comprises several areas, including trade, general economics, etc. The thefactZ's philosophy is to provide reliable information simply and clearly, in a form that is well-documented and open.
http://www.arableagueonline.org	The League of Arab States website.
http://www.econstrat.org	The Economic Strategy Institute (ESI) is based in Washington, D.C.. It is a private, non-profit, non-partisan public policy research organization dedicated to assuring that globalization works with market forces to achieve maximum benefits rather than distorting markets, and imposing costs.
http://www.gdrc.org	The Global Development Research Centre. It deals with Environment, Urban Community, Economy, and Information.
http://www.eldis.org	ELDIS Gateway to Development Information., It provides free and easy access to wide range of high quality online resources.
http://habitat.igc.org	The information habitat's mission is to co-facilitation of peaceful, creative,

	participatory global transition to knowledge-based societies, economies, and environments - and to the as-yet-unfulfilled promise of a new millennium.
http://www.x-rates.com	This website deals with the exchange rates of all international currencies gathered from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
Syrian websites	
http://www.cbssyr.org	The website of Central Bureau of Statistics in Syria.
http://www.cbs-bank.com	The website of Commercial Bank of Syria.
http://www.syria-report.com	Published by The Middle East Information and Communication Agency (MEICA)
http://www.iqtissadiya.com	The website of Syrian magazine "Al-Iqtissadya".
http://www.sana.org	The website of Syrian Arab News Agency "SANA".
http://www.doc-sy.com	Damascus Chamber of Commerce.

Methodological Annex

Annual rate of growth (AGR)

The AGR is defined as the annual percentage change through definite period.

$$AGR = \left[\left(\frac{Y_T}{Y_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{T-1}} - 1 \right] * 100$$

$\mathbf{Y_T}$ = last year value
$\mathbf{Y_0}$ = first year value
T = number of years

Export (Import) Quantity Index (QI)

The QI represents the changes in the price-weighted quantities of products traded between countries. The weights are the unit values in the base year (i.e., it is a Laspeyres price index).

$$QI = \frac{\sum_i p_0 q_t}{\sum_i p_0 q_0} * 100$$

$\boldsymbol{p_o}$ = base period (1989-1991) average unit value
$\boldsymbol{q_t}$ = current quantity
$\boldsymbol{q_o}$ = base period (1989-1991) average quantity

Export Value Index (EV)

The EV represents the change in the value of exports f.o.b. (i.e., calculated *free on board*) with respect to the base period (the 3-year mean of the period 1989-1991).

$$EV = \frac{\sum_i p_t q_t}{\sum_i p_0 q_0} * 100$$

$\boldsymbol{i}$ = commodity index
$\boldsymbol{p_t}$ = current price
$\boldsymbol{p_o}$ = base period price
$\boldsymbol{p_o}$ = current quantity
$\boldsymbol{q_o}$ = base-period quantity

Import Value Index

The IV represents the change in the value of imports c.i.f. (i.e., including *cost, insurance and freight*) with respect to the base period.

$$IV = \frac{\sum_i p_t q_t}{\sum_i p_0 q_0} * 100$$

i = commodity index
$\boldsymbol{p_t}$ = current price
$\boldsymbol{p_o}$ = base period price
$\boldsymbol{q_t}$ = current quantity
$\boldsymbol{q_o}$ = base-period quantity

Import (Export) Unit Value Index (UV)

The UV is the change in the quantity-weighted unit values of products traded between countries. The weights are import (export) quantities in the base year (i.e., it is a Laspeyres price index).

$$UV = \frac{\sum_i p_t q_0}{\sum_i p_0 q_0} * 100$$

i = commodity index
$\boldsymbol{p_t}$ = current unit value
$\boldsymbol{p_o}$ = base period (1989-1991) average unit value
$\boldsymbol{q_o}$ = base period (1989-1991) average quantity

Relative unit value (RUV)

The RUV of each product is calculated as the ratio of the average unit value of Syrian exports to the world average unit value. The reference point or average RUV is 1 (the unit value for Syria equals the unit value in the world market). If the RUV is below (above) 1, then Syria exports its product at a lower (higher) “price” than the world average “price”. Higher unit values are considered as reflecting a higher quality, other things being equal, and not as an indication of poor price competitiveness.

$$RUV = \frac{E_{is} / Q_{is}}{E_{iw} / Q_{iw}}$$

i = commodity index
$\boldsymbol{E_{is}}$ = value of exports of good i for Syria
$\boldsymbol{Q_{is}}$ = quantity of exports of good i for Syria
$\boldsymbol{E_{iw}}$ = value of exports of good i for the world
$\boldsymbol{Q_{iw}}$ = quantity of exports of good i for the world

Revealed comparative advantage (RCA)

The RCA shows if an exported commodity performs above the average Syrian export product in terms of world market shares. If the product has a large world market share, adjusted for the total participation of Syrian exports in world trade, it is said to reveal a *comparative advantage*.

$$RCA = \frac{E_{is}/E_{iw}}{E_s/E_w}$$

i = commodity index
$\boldsymbol{E_{is}}$ = value of exports of good i for Syria
$\boldsymbol{E_s}$ = value of total Syrian exports
$\boldsymbol{E_{iw}}$ = value of exports of good i for the world
$\boldsymbol{E_w}$ = value of total world exports

Standardized Trade Balance (STB)

The STB is defined as ratio of trade balance (exports minus imports) to trade volume (imports plus exports).

$$STB = \frac{E - I}{E + I}$$

Terms of Trade (ToT)

The ToT is defined as the ratio between the unit price indexes of export and import.

$$ToT = \frac{UV_E}{UV_I}$$

List of Tables

Table 1.1 - World trade volume* by region, 2001-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Region	2001	2002	% Variation	World share
World	12,302.2	12,782.5	3.9	100.0
Western Europe	5,067.7	5,316.1	4.9	41.6
Asia	2,875.0	3,078.2	7.1	24.1
North America	2,398.0	2,377.0	-0.9	18.6
Latin America	725.4	700.7	-3.4	5.5
C./E. Europe/Baltic States/CIS	555.0	613.1	10.5	4.8
Middle East	411.4	422.1	2.6	3.3
Africa	269.9	275.3	2.0	2.2

Source: WTO website

* Volume = Imports + Exports

Table 1.2 - World exports by region, 1994-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Region	Billion US$									Annual growth rate 1994-2002	% Variation 2001-02
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002		
World	4,202.9	5,017.5	5,237.7	5,416.3	5,345.6	5,555.6	6,265.6	6,020.6	6,272.3	5.1	4.2
Western Europe	1,843.4	2,249.3	2,330.8	2,314.4	2,403.9	2,412.0	2,508.6	2,511.9	2,657.3	4.7	5.8
Asia	1,105.5	1,302.9	1,311.1	1,382.8	1,298.2	1,393.9	1,652.7	1,501.0	1,620.2	4.9	7.9
North America	678.0	777.0	826.8	903.2	896.5	931.3	1,057.8	990.7	946.3	4.3	-4.5
Latin America	187.5	228.5	255.7	284.2	281.3	300.0	360.7	348.6	350.3	8.1	0.5
CEE/Baltic States/CIS*	155.9	197.5	214.9	223.7	216.1	215.5	272.1	286.0	313.9	9.1	9.8
Middle East	135.9	150.4	173.4	180.9	144.5	186.2	267.2	244.7	244.3	7.6	-0.2
Africa	96.7	111.8	125.0	127.1	105.2	116.6	146.7	137.7	140.1	4.7	1.7
Region	**Share**									**% AGR 1994-2002**	**% Variation 2001-02**
	1994	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**		
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-
North America	43.9	44.8	44.5	42.7	45.0	43.4	40.0	41.7	42.4	-0.4	1.5
Asia	26.3	26.0	25.0	25.5	24.3	25.1	26.4	24.9	25.8	-0.2	3.6
North America	16.1	15.5	15.8	16.7	16.8	16.8	16.9	16.5	15.1	-0.8	-8.3
Latin America	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.6	2.8	-3.5
CEE/Baltic States/CIS*	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.7	5.0	3.8	5.4
Middle East	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.3	2.7	3.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	2.4	-4.2
Africa	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2	-0.4	-2.3

Source: WTO website

* Central and Eastern Europe/Community of Independent States.

Table 1.3 - World imports by region, 1994-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Region	Billion US$									Annual growth rate 1994-2002	% Variation 2001-02
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002		
World	4,303.7	5,134.5	5,381.8	5,563.8	5,513.6	5,749.2	6,517.6	6,281.6	6,510.2	5.3	3.6
Western Europe	1,832.7	2,229.8	2,294.5	2,286.5	2,413.3	2,453.6	2,615.2	2,555.8	2,658.9	4.8	4.0
Asia	1,025.1	1,259.0	1,319.4	1,323.4	1,088.0	1,202.3	1,483.8	1,374.0	1,458.0	4.5	6.1
North America	844.9	939.9	997.8	1,100.6	1,151.1	1,280.4	1,504.9	1,407.3	1,430.7	6.8	1.7
Latin America	223.7	252.5	275.5	327.9	346.1	332.4	384.8	376.8	350.4	5.8	-7.0
CEE/Baltic States/CIS*	153.9	197.1	230.7	247.0	241.2	212.6	242.3	269.0	299.2	8.7	11.2
Middle East	117.1	129.6	138.6	145.9	141.0	140.0	157.1	166.6	177.8	5.4	6.7
Africa	106.2	126.6	125.2	132.5	133.0	127.7	129.6	132.1	135.1	3.1	2.3
Region	**Share**									**% AGR 1994-2002**	**% Variation 2001-02**
	1994	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**		
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-
Western Europe	42.6	43.4	42.6	41.1	43.8	42.7	40.1	40.7	40.8	-0.5	0.4
Asia	23.8	24.5	24.5	23.8	19.7	20.9	22.8	21.9	22.4	-0.8	2.4
North America	19.6	18.3	18.5	19.8	20.9	22.3	23.1	22.4	22.0	1.4	-1.9
Latin America	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.9	6.3	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.4	0.4	-10.3
CEE/Baltic States/CIS*	3.6	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.6	3.2	7.3
Middle East	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7	0.0	3.0
Africa	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	-2.1	-1.3

Source: WTO website

* Central and Eastern Europe/Community of Independent States.

Table 1.4 - World trade volume* by main traders, 2001-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Country	Billion US$		Share		% Variation 2001-02
	2001	2002	2001	2002	
World**	9,758.0	10125.0	100.0	100.0	3.8
United States	1,911.0	1896.3	19.6	18.7	-0.8
EU15***	1,786.9	1872.9	18.3	18.5	4.8
Japan	752.6	753.9	7.7	7.4	0.2
China	509.8	620.8	5.2	6.1	21.8
Canada	487.0	479.9	5.0	4.7	-1.5
Hong Kong, China	393.1	408.3	4.0	4.0	3.9
Mexico	360.6	333.8	3.7	3.3	-7.4
Korea, Republic of	291.5	314.6	3.0	3.1	7.9
Taipei, Chinese	229.8	247.7	2.4	2.4	7.8
Singapore	237.8	241.6	2.4	2.4	1.6
Malaysia	162.0	173.1	1.7	1.7	6.9
Switzerland	166.1	171.5	1.7	1.7	3.3
Russian Federation	157.0	167.4	1.6	1.7	6.6
Australia	127.3	137.7	1.3	1.4	8.2
Thailand	127.2	133.6	1.3	1.3	5.0
Brazil	116.5	110.1	1.2	1.1	-5.5
Saudi Arabia****	99.4	106.3	1.0	1.0	6.9
India	93.2	105.8	1.0	1.0	13.5

Source: WTO website
* Volume = Imports + Exports
** Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export
*** Without EU15 intra-trade
**** Secretariat estimates

Table 1.5 - Leading exporting countries, 2001-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Country	Billion US$		Share		Rank		% Variation	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2000-01	2001-02
EU15*	874.1	939.8	18.4	19.0	1	1	0.5	7.5
United States	730.8	693.9	15.4	14.0	2	2	-6.4	-5.1
Japan	403.5	416.7	8.5	8.4	3	3	-15.8	3.3
China	266.2	325.6	5.6	6.6	4	4	6.8	22.3
Canada	259.9	252.4	5.5	5.1	5	5	-6.1	-2.9
Hong Kong, China	191.1	201.2	4.0	4.1	6	6	-5.7	5.3
Korea, Republic of	150.4	162.5	3.2	3.3	8	7	-12.7	8.0
Mexico	158.5	160.7	3.3	3.2	7	8	-4.7	1.3
Taipei, Chinese	122.5	135.1	2.6	2.7	9	9	-17.1	10.3
Singapore	121.8	125.2	2.6	2.5	10	10	-11.6	2.8
Russian Federation	103.1	106.9	2.2	2.2	11	11	-2.3	3.6
Malaysia	87.9	93.3	1.9	1.9	12	12	-10.4	6.1
Switzerland	82.1	87.9	1.7	1.8	13	13	0.7	7.1
Saudi Arabia**	68.2	73.9	1.4	1.5	14	14	-12.1	8.4
Thailand	65.1	68.9	1.4	1.4	15	15	-5.7	5.7
Australia	63.4	65.0	1.3	1.3	16	16	-0.8	2.6
Brazil	58.2	60.4	1.2	1.2	17	17	5.7	3.7
India	43.6	49.3	0.9	1.0	18	18	2.9	12.9
World***	4738.0	4946.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	-5.0	4.4

Source: WTO website

* Without EU15 intra-trade

Table 1.6 - Leading importing countries, 2001-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Country	Billion US$		Share		Rank		% Variation	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2000-01	2001-02
United States	1,180.2	1,202.4	23.5	23.2	1	1	-6.3	1.9
EU15*	912.8	933.1	18.2	18.0	2	2	-4.4	2.2
Japan	349.1	337.2	7.0	6.5	3	3	-8.0	-3.4
China	243.6	295.2	4.9	5.7	4	4	8.2	21.2
Canada	227.2	227.5	4.5	4.4	5	5	-7.2	0.1
Hong Kong, China	202.0	207.2	4.0	4.0	6	6	-5.6	2.6
Mexico	176.2	173.1	3.5	3.3	7	7	-3.6	-1.7
Korea, Republic of	141.1	152.1	2.8	2.9	8	8	-12.1	7.8
Singapore	116.0	116.4	2.3	2.2	9	9	-13.8	0.4
Taipei, Chinese	107.3	112.6	2.1	2.2	10	10	-23.3	5.0
Switzerland	84.1	83.7	1.7	1.6	11	11	0.6	-0.5
Malaysia	74.1	79.9	1.5	1.5	12	12	-9.9	7.8
Australia	63.9	72.7	1.3	1.4	13	13	-10.7	13.8
Thailand	62.1	64.7	1.2	1.2	14	14	0.2	4.3
Russian Federation	53.9	60.5	1.1	1.2	15	15	19.8	12.4
India	49.6	56.6	1.0	1.1	16	16	-3.3	14.1
Brazil**	58.3	49.7	1.2	1.0	17	17	-0.5	-14.7
Saudi Arabia**	31.2	32.3	0.6	0.6	18	18	3.3	3.5
World***	5,020.0	5,179.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	-4.6	3.2

Source: WTO website
* Without EU15 intra-trade
** Secretariat estimates.
*** Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export.

Table 1.7 - Network of world merchandise trade by product and region, 1999 and 2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Destination	World		North America		Latin America		Western Europe		CEEC/BS/CIS*		Africa		Middle East		Asia	
Years	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**	**1999**	**2002**
Origin																
World																
Agricultural products (1)	548.0	582.5	75.9	82.6	28.6	30.8	256.3	260.1	23.0	28.8	18.9	21.1	20.6	22.6	121.3	132.1
Food	438.7	468.4	56.5	64.0	24.2	26.3	209.0	212.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	91.0	97.6
Raw materials	109.3	114.1	19.4	18.7	4.4	4.5	47.3	47.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	30.4	34.6
Total merchandise exports	5,548.0	6,272.0	1,203.6	1,336.3	295.6	314.5	2,363.6	2,548.6	200.9	282.3	118.7	132.7	140.9	168.8	1,159.1	1,390.9
North America																
Agricultural products (2)	98.8	101.4	31.8	34.0	13.0	14.8	14.0	13.2	1.3	1.2	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.2	32.5	32.8
Total merchandise exports	931.6	946.3	369.2	381.7	145.4	152.3	180.5	169.8	6.1	7.1	11.0	11.7	22.2	19.9	196.9	203.6
Share of (2) on (1)	18.0	17.4	41.8	41.1	45.4	48.2	5.5	5.1	5.6	4.1	16.2	14.6	13.8	9.9	26.8	24.8
Latin America																
Agricultural products (3)	60.6	67.5	17.7	18.4	10.4	10.5	18.5	19.2	1.9	2.7	1.7	2.6	2.1	3.3	8.1	10.6
Total merchandise exports	298.8	350.3	179.3	214.7	50.3	54.1	41.1	44.2	2.6	3.4	2.8	4.4	2.8	4.5	18.6	23.4
Share of (3) on (1)	11.1	11.6	23.3	22.3	36.4	34.0	7.2	7.4	8.1	9.5	9.0	12.3	10.0	14.8	6.7	8.0
Western Europe																
Agricultural products (4)	241.6	248.7	12.2	14.1	3.4	3.4	186.2	189.3	10.0	12.5	7.5	8.1	6.3	5.4	14.4	14.4
Total merchandise exports	2,409.5	2,657.3	232.0	270.2	55.2	54.7	1,675.4	1,787.4	120.6	167.9	62.1	66.2	59.0	68.1	178.1	208.0
Share of (4) on (1)	44.1	42.7	16.0	17.0	12.0	11.1	72.7	72.8	43.6	43.4	39.9	38.3	30.8	24.0	11.9	10.9
CEEC/BS/CIS*																
Agricultural products (5)	22.1	28.0	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1	9.1	11.1	7.3	9.2	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.2	3.3	4.4
Total merchandise exports	215.0	313.9	10.5	14.2	4.5	5.9	117.9	176.4	56.4	79.9	3.2	3.8	4.3	7.4	15.7	24.3
Share of (5) on (1)	4.0	4.8	0.9	1.1	0.3	0.4	3.5	4.3	31.9	31.9	2.6	3.7	3.5	5.1	2.7	3.3
Africa																
Agricultural products (6)	21.5	22.1	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.2	11.5	11.3	0.6	0.6	2.8	2.9	1.2	1.3	3.8	4.5
Total merchandise exports	116.6	140.1	17.6	23.8	3.6	4.6	59.9	71.3	0.9	0.9	11.0	11.4	2.3	3.2	19.3	23.5
Share of (6) on (1)	3.9	3.8	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.7	4.5	4.3	2.5	2.2	15.1	13.8	5.7	5.7	3.1	3.4
Middle East																
Agricultural products (7)	7.4	8.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.1	1.8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	3.2	4.3	0.7	0.9
Total merchandise exports	184.6	244.3	27.4	37.8	2.3	3.4	36.4	40.0	1.6	2.0	7.3	9.4	13.1	17.3	83.8	115.8
Share of (7) on (1)	1.4	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.2	15.5	19.1	0.6	0.7
Asia																
Agricultural products (8)	96.0	106.2	12.4	13.9	1.3	1.7	14.8	14.2	1.6	2.3	3.0	3.4	4.3	4.8	58.5	64.6
Total merchandise exports	1,391.8	1,620.2	367.7	394.0	34.2	39.4	252.5	259.6	12.8	21.1	21.3	25.9	37.3	48.5	646.7	792.3
Share of (8) on (1)	17.5	18.2	16.3	16.8	4.5	5.4	5.8	5.5	6.8	8.0	16.1	15.9	20.7	21.4	48.2	48.9

Source: WTO website

* Central and Eastern Europe/Community of Independent States.

Table 1.8 - Share of agricultural products in total and primary merchandise by region, 2002 (%)

Share of agricultural products in total merchandise	Exports	Imports
World	**9.3**	**9.3**
North America	10.7	6.2
Latin America	19.3	9.8
Western Europe	9.4	10.2
C./E. Europe/Baltic States/CIS*	8.9	10.2
Africa	15.8	15.9
Middle East	3.5	13.4
Asia	6.6	9.5
Share of agricultural products in primary products	**Exports**	**Imports**
World	**42.5**	**42.5**
North America	59.9	35.1
Latin America	48.7	47.4
Western Europe	57.6	48.5
C./E. Europe/Baltic States/CIS*	22.1	43.0
Africa	22.3	59.5
Middle East	4.7	69.0
Asia	48.1	36.0

Source: WTO website

* Central and Eastern Europe Countries/Community of Independent States

Table 1.9 - Leading exporters of agricultural products, 1990 and 2001-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Exporters	Billion US$			World share			Rank	% Variation	
	1990	2001	2002	1990	2001	2002	2002	1990-2002	2001-02
United States	77.7	70.0	68.8	14.3	12.8	11.8	1	-0.9	-1.8
EU15	59.2	57.8	63.5	10.9	10.6	10.9	2	0.5	9.8
Canada	29.2	33.6	32.6	5.4	6.1	5.6	3	0.8	-3.0
Brazil	12.8	18.4	19.4	2.4	3.4	3.3	4	3.3	5.5
China	13.2	16.6	18.8	2.4	3.0	3.2	5	2.8	13.0
Australia	15.2	16.6	17.1	2.8	3.0	2.9	6	0.9	3.0
Argentina*	9.8	12.2	12.2	1.8	2.2	2.2	7	1.7	0.0
Thailand	10.2	12.1	11.6	1.9	2.2	2.0	8	1.0	-4.0
Indonesia	5.4	7.0	9.0	1.0	1.3	1.5	9	4.0	28.5
Malaysia	9.8	7.2	9.0	1.8	1.3	1.5	10	-0.7	24.6
Mexico	4.5	9.1	8.9	0.8	1.7	1.5	11	5.4	-1.5
New Zealand	7.8	8.0	8.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	12	0.6	5.9
Russian Federation**	-	8.2	7.7	-	1.5	1.3	13	-	-5.4

Source: WTO website
* 2001 instead of 2002.
** Includes Secretariat estimates.

Table 1.10 - Leading importers of agricultural products, 1990 and 2001-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Importers	Billion US$			World share			Rank	% Variation	
	1990	2001	2002	1990	2001	2002	2002	1990-2002	2001-02
European Union (15)	73.4	68.4	83.4	13.5	11.5	13.3	1	1.0	4.2
United States	63.2	79.8	71.5	11.7	13.5	11.4	2	1.0	4.6
Japan	56.8	56.9	55.1	10.5	9.6	8.8	3	-0.2	-3.4
China	17.9	20.1	21.8	3.3	3.4	3.5	4	1.6	8.6
Canada*	14.0	15.6	16.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	5	1.2	4.8
Korea, Republic of	11.7	12.5	13.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	6	1.0	6.9
Russian Federation**	8.1	11.4	11.9	1.5	1.9	1.9	7	3.0	10.6
Mexico	10.6	12.8	11.2	2.0	2.2	1.8	8	0.4	-12.6
Hong Kong, China	-	11.1	10.8	-	-	-	9	-	-2.3
Taipei, Chinese	7.2	7.0	7.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	10	0.0	3.0
Switzerland	5.3	5.7	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	11	1.0	6.7
Saudi Arabia	5.2	5.0	5.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	12	0.5	9.1
Indonesia	2.6	5.4	5.3	0.5	0.9	0.8	13	5.6	-1.5

Source: WTO website

*Imports are valued f.o.b.
** Includes Secretariat estimates.

Table 1.11- Middle East agricultural trade, 2000-2002 (Billion US$ and %)

Middle East						
	Imports			Exports		
World	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**
Total merchandise exports	147.3	157.0	168.8	267.2	244.7	244.3
Agricultural products	21.03	21.57	22.56	7.23	7.86	8.60
Agricultural/Total	14.3	13.7	13.4	2.7	3.2	3.5
North America						
Total merchandise exports	20.2	20.3	19.9	42.8	40.6	37.8
Agricultural products	3.07	2.71	2.24	0.25	0.29	0.29
Agricultural/Total	15.2	13.3	11.3	0.6	0.7	0.8
Latin America						
Total merchandise exports	3.0	3.9	4.5	3.2	3.1	3.4
Agricultural products	2.07	2.80	3.33	0.07	0.07	0.08
Agricultural/Total	69.2	72.7	73.7	2.2	2.3	2.4
Western Europe						
Total merchandise exports	58.7	63.2	68.1	49.6	41.9	40.0
Agricultural products	5.94	5.44	5.41	1.90	1.81	1.84
Agricultural/Total	10.1	8.6	7.9	3.8	4.3	4.6
C./E. Europe/Baltic States/CIS*						
Total merchandise exports	5.2	6.4	7.4	1.7	1.9	2.0
Agricultural products	0.76	0.93	1.15	0.22	0.27	0.30
Agricultural/Total	14.5	14.6	15.5	13.3	14.4	14.7
Africa						
Total merchandise exports	3.5	3.1	3.2	10.5	9.5	9.4
Agricultural products	1.46	1.35	1.29	0.24	0.23	0.25
Agricultural/Total	41.5	43.8	40.8	2.3	2.4	2.7
Middle East						
Total merchandise exports	14.5	15.6	17.3	14.5	15.6	17.3
Agricultural products	3.26	3.91	4.31	3.26	3.91	4.31
Agricultural/Total	22.5	25.0	25.0	22.5	25.0	25.0
Asia						
Total merchandise exports	42.2	44.5	48.5	127.1	115.2	115.8
Agricultural products	4.48	4.43	4.83	0.82	0.74	0.86
Agricultural/Total	10.6	10.0	10.0	0.6	0.6	0.7

Source: WTO website.

* Central and Eastern Europe/Community of Independent States.

Table 1.12 - Imports of agricultural products of some selected Arab economies, 1995 and 2000-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	Million US$				Share of agriculture on total imports
	1995	2000	2001	2002	2002
World	583,000	552,240	547,460	582,527	9.3
Algeria	3,212	2,564	2,612	3,036	30.8
Egypt	3,364	3,899	3,560	3,688	30.6
Syrian Arab Republic	780	858	634	698	22.3
Oman	842	1,057	1,287	1,257	21.4
Jordan	807	840	842	832	19.7
Lebanon	1,175	1,088	1,214	1,059	18.7
Morocco	1,825	1,668	1,669	1,740	17.7
Saudi Arabia	4,482	5,290	4,639	5,111	17.0
Kuwait	1,209	1,106	1,082	779	16.0
Tunisia	1,075	756	846	1,022	13.6
United Arab Emirates	2,420	2,671	2,809	3,146	10.5

Source: WTO website.

Table 1.13 - Wheat world imports and exports, 1993-1994 and 2000-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Year	1993	1994	Av 1993/94	2000	2001	2002	Av 2001/02	% Variation		
								1993/94 2001/02	2000-01	2001-02
Imports	17,037	15,627	16,332	16,790	16,323	16,879	16,601	0.2	-2.8	3.4
Exports	15,084	13,819	14,451	14,156	14,607	15,464	15,035	0.6	3.2	5.9

Source: FAOSTAT Database

Table 1.14 - Main wheat exporters, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	15,464	100
United States of America	3,632	23.5
Australia	2,250	14.5
Canada	1,964	12.7
EU15*	1,223	7.9
Argentina	1,097	7.1
Russian Federation	773	5.0
Ukraine	683	4.4
Kazakhstan	484	3.1
India	362	2.3
Bulgaria	125	0.8
Hungary	119	0.8
Syrian Arab Republic	116	0.7

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.15 - Main wheat importers, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	16,879	100
EU15*	1,721	10.2
Japan	1,121	6.6
Algeria	946	5.6
Brazil	878	5.2
Egypt	816	4.8
Indonesia	625	3.7
Korea, Republic of	543	3.2
Morocco	529	3.1
Iran, Islamic Rep of	499	3.0
Philippines	487	2.9
Mexico	485	2.9
Nigeria	352	2.1

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.16 - Rice world imports and exports, 1993-1994 and 2000-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Year	1993	1994	Av 1993/94	2000	2001	2002	Av 2001/02	% Variation		
								1993/94 2001/02	2000-01	2001-02
Imports	5,811	7,237	6,524	7,306	6,471	6,576	6,523	0.0	-11.4	1.6
Exports	5,184	6,258	5,721	6,526	7,014	6,554	6,784	2.5	7.5	-6.6

Source: FAOSTAT Database

Table 1.17 - Main rice exporters, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	6,554	100
Thailand	1,632	24.9
India	1,212	18.5
United States of America	775	11.8
Viet Nam	610	9.3
Pakistan	460	7.0
China	392	6.0
EU15*	142	2.2
Uruguay	141	2.2
Belgium	112	1.7
Myanmar	107	1.6
Egypt	106	1.6
Australia	86	1.3

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.18 - Main rice importers, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	6,576	100.0
Indonesia	377	5.7
EU15*	372	5.7
Saudi Arabia	324	4.9
Nigeria	257	3.9
Iran, Islamic Rep of	237	3.6
United Arab Emirates	222	3.4
Japan	214	3.2
Philippines	212	3.2
Senegal	164	2.5
United States of Americ	162	2.5
Bangladesh	146	2.2
Malaysia	142	2.2

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.19 - Maize world imports and exports, 1993-1994 and 2000-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Year	1993	1994	Av 1993/94	2000	2001	2002	Av 2001/02	% Variation		
								1993/94 2001/02	2000-01	2001-02
Imports	10,099	9,851	9,975	10,252	10,171	11,143	10,657	0.9	-0.8	9.6
Exports	8,713	8,646	8,680	8,769	8,870	9,851	9,361	1.1	1.2	11.1

Source: FAOSTAT Database

Table 1.20 - Main maize exporters, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	9,851	100
United States of America	5,128	52.1
China	1,167	11.8
Argentina	925	9.4
Brazil	268	2.7
Hungary	210	2.1
South Africa	135	1.4
EU15*	66	0.7
Chile	66	0.7
Ukraine	46	0.5
Canada	41	0.4
Thailand	28	0.3
Mexico	27	0.3

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.21 - Main maize importers, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	11,143	100
Japan	1,993	17.9
Korea, Republic of	982	8.8
Mexico	669	6.0
China	592	5.3
Egypt	592	5.3
EU15*	480	4.3
Canada	428	3.8
Malaysia	263	2.4
Colombia	250	2.2
Algeria	237	2.1
Saudi Arabia	145	1.3
Iran, Islamic Rep of	139	1.2

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.22 - Cotton world imports and exports, 1993-1994 and 2000-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Year	1993	1994	Av 1993/94	2000	2001	2002	Av 2001/02	% Variation		
								1993/94 2001/02	2000-01	2001-02
Imports	7,077	8,969	8,023	7,490	7,419	5,960	6,689	-2.6	-1.0	-19.7
Exports	5,882	8,355	7,119	6,583	6,562	5,932	6,247	-1.8	-0.3	-9.6

Source: FAOSTAT Database

Table 1.23 - Main cotton exporters, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	5,932	100
United States of America	2,049	34.5
Uzbekistan	732	12.3
Australia	680	11.5
Egypt	330	5.6
EU15*	203	3.4
Syrian Arab Republic	187	3.1
China	172	2.9
Côte d'Ivoire	135	2.3
Turkmenistan	130	2.2
Benin	127	2.1
Mali	115	1.9
Brazil	94	1.6

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.24 - Main cotton importers, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	5,960	100
EU15*	790	13.3
Indonesia	705	11.8
China	510	8.6
Turkey	493	8.3
Thailand	462	7.8
Mexico	457	7.7
Korea, Republic of	371	6.2
India	253	4.2
Japan	250	4.2
Pakistan	227	3.8
Bangladesh	130	2.2
Viet Nam	124	2.1

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.25 - Olive oil world imports and exports, 1993-1994 and 2000-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Year	1993	1994	Av 1993/94	2000	2001	2002	Av 2001/02	% Variation		
								1993/94 2001/02	2000-01	2001-02
Imports	1,540	1,948	1,744	2,327	2,261	2,613	2,437	4.9	-2.8	15.6
Exports	1,497	1,850	1,674	2,191	2,051	2,318	2,184	3.9	-6.4	13.0

Source: FAOSTAT Database

Table 1.26 - Main olive oil exporters, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	2,318	100
EU15*	867	37.4
Turkey	43	1.9
Tunisia	39	1.7
Argentina	17	0.7
Syrian Arab Republic	10	0.4
United States of America	6	0.3
Saudi Arabia	1.5	0.07
Cyprus	1.4	0.06
Palestine, Occupied Tr.	1.3	0.06
Jordan	1.2	0.053
Lebanon	1.2	0.052
Morocco	1.1	0.048

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 1.27 - Main olive oil importers, 2002 (Million US$ and %)

Country	2002	%
World	2,613	100
United States of America	437	16.7
Japan	102	3.9
Australia	69	2.6
EU15*	64	2.4
Brazil	58	2.2
Canada	58	2.2
Switzerland	34	1.3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	24	0.9
Mexico	22	0.84
China	16.4	0.63
Saudi Arabia	12.9	0.49
Seychelles	12.6	0.48

Source: FAOSTAT Database
* Excluding EU intra trade

Table 2.1 - Syrian trade balance, 1993/95 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Value	Million US$		Million SP			% Variation			
	Av 93/95	Av 00/02	2000	2001	2002	93/95-00/02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-02
Total Export (*E*)	3,562	5,618	216,188	243,150	315,919	57.7	12.5	29.9	20.9
Total Import (*I*)	4,761	4,617	187,535	220,744	235,754	-3.0	17.7	6.8	12.1
Trade balance (*E-I*)	-1,199	1,001	28,653	22,406	80,165	-183.5	-21.8	257.8	67.3
Total Trade Volume (*E+I*)	8,324	10,235	403,723	463,894	551,673	23.0	14.9	18.9	16.9
Standardized trade balance (%) *(E-I/E+I *100)*	-14.4	9.8	7.1	4.8	14.53				

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, several years

Table 2.2 - Syrian total trade indicators by main partner countries, 2002 (Million SP and %)

Country	Imports	Exports	Trade Volume	Trade Balance	Standardized balance
European Union	58,585	182,485	241,070	123,900	0.5
Saudi Arabia	8,275	25,187	33,462	16,912	0.5
Turkey	9,351	23,364	32,716	14,013	0.4
USA	14,342	5,769	20,112	-8,573	-0.4
South Korea	12,813	1,302	14,115	-11,511	-0.8
Ukraine	11,840	1,150	12,990	-10,690	-0.8
China	12,288	67.986	12,356	-12,220	-1.0
Lebanon	3,860	7,861	11,721	4,001	0.3
Union of Malaysia	3,233	5,502	8,735	2,269	0.3
Japan	7,647	458	8,104	-7,189	-0.9
Egypt	4,542	2,310	6,852	-2,232	-0.3
Jordan	2,352	4,227	6,578	1,875	0.3
Federal Russia	5,664	626	6,290	-5,037	-0.8
Rumania	3,930	1,358	5,288	-2,573	-0.5
Switzerland	2,167	1,469	3,636	-698	-0.2

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 2.3 - Syrian exports by sector, 1993/95 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Sector	Million US$		Million SP		
	Av 1993/95	Av 2000/02	2000	2001	2002
Mining & Quarrying	1,966	3,744	147,693	170,391	198,614
Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	617	750	26,555	27,612	49,284
Coke, refined petroleum products	232	437	15,393	17,188	27,757
Textiles	332	243	13,161	8,330	12,106
Food products and beverages	138	112	3,779	5,541	6,080
Others	277	332	9,607	14,088	22,079
Total	3,562	5,618	216,188	243,150	315,919
Share					
Mining & Quarrying products	55.2	66.6	68.3	70.1	62.9
Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	17.3	13.3	12.3	11.4	15.6
Coke, refined petroleum products	6.5	7.8	7.1	7.1	8.8
Textiles	9.3	4.3	6.1	3.4	3.8
Food products and beverages	3.9	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.9
Other	7.8	5.9	4.4	5.8	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, several years.

Table 2.4 - Syrian exports by region, 1993/95 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Region	Million US$		Million SP		
	Av 1993/95	Av 2000/02	2000	2001	2002
EU	2,056	3,474	140,452	156,497	182,485
Arab Countries	869	1,008	34,977	37,371	66,738
Asian Countries	160	585	23,268	27,286	30,204
Rest of the World	98	296	5,206	12,391	23,216
American Countries	71	95	2,806	3,594	6,728
Other European Countries	308	160	9,479	6,011	6,548
World	3,562	5,618	216,188	243,150	315,919
			Share		
EU	57.7	61.8	65.0	64.4	57.8
Arab Countries	24.4	17.9	16.2	15.4	21.1
Asian Countries	4.5	10.4	10.8	11.2	9.6
Rest of the World	2.7	5.3	2.4	5.1	7.3
American Countries	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.5	2.1
Other European Countries	8.7	2.8	4.4	2.5	2.1
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, several years.

Table 2.5 - Syrian exports by main destination countries, 2002 (Million SP and %)

Country	Million SP	Share
European Union	182,485	57.8
Saudi Arabia	25,187	8.0
Turkey	23,364	7.4
Lebanon	7,861	2.5
Algeria	6,786	2.1
U.S.A	5,769	1.8
Union of Malaysia	5,502	1.7
Cyprus	5,215	1.7
Jordan	4,227	1.3
Kuwait	4,165	1.3
Iraq	3,626	1.1
Egypt	2,310	0.7
Libya	2,160	0.7
Bulgaria	1,673	0.5
Qatar	1,592	0.5
Switzerland	1,469	0.5
Rumania	1,358	0.4
South Korea	1,302	0.4
Yemen	1,285	0.4
Pakistan	1,269	0.4
Others	27,316	8.6
World	315,919	100.0

rce: General Department of Customs

Table 2.6 - Syrian imports by sector, 1993/95 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Sector	Million US$		Million SP		
	Av 1993/95	Av 2000/02	2000	2001	2002
Tobacco & manufactured products	738	897	32,699	45,070	47,390
Chemicals and chemical products	572	818	35,509	36,819	41,812
Machinery	983	758	27,697	37,962	40,066
Basic metals	592	625	23,400	31,750	31,989
Food products and beverages	604	485	21,651	20,976	24,974
Motor vehicles and trailers	604	322	10,850	14,945	19,071
Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	311	357	16,768	16,035	16,937
Textiles	252	265	13,418	15,012	8,515
Other Products (including fishing and mining)	105	90	5,443	2,175	4,999
Total	4,761	4,617	187,535	220,744	235,754
			Share		
Tobacco& manufactured products	15.5	19.4	17.4	20.4	20.1
Chemicals and chemical products	12.0	17.7	18.9	16.7	17.7
Machinery	20.6	16.4	14.8	17.2	17.0
Basic metals	12.4	13.5	12.5	14.4	13.6
Food products and beverages	12.7	10.5	11.5	9.5	10.6
Motor vehicles and trailers	12.7	7.0	5.8	6.8	8.1
Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	6.5	7.7	8.9	7.3	7.2
Textiles	5.3	5.7	7.2	6.8	3.6
Other Products (including fishing and mining)	2.2	2.0	2.9	1.0	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, several years.

Table 2.7 - Syrian imports by region, 1993/95 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million SP and %)

Region	Million US$		Million SP		
	Av 1993/95	Av 2000/02	2000	2001	2002
EU	1,728	1,343	55,719	72,975	58,585
Asian Countries	866	742	31,884	33,245	38,334
Other European Countries	702	633	25,759	34,255	28,251
Arab Countries	322	496	20,187	20,755	28,229
American Countries	441	432	17,190	19,316	23,809
Rest of the World	703	972	36,796	40,198	58,546
World	4,761	4,617	187,535	220,744	235,754
Share					
EU	36.3	29.1	29.7	33.1	24.9
Asian Countries	18.2	16.1	17.0	15.1	16.3
Other European Countries	14.7	13.7	13.7	15.5	12.0
Arab Countries	6.8	10.7	10.8	9.4	12.0
American Countries	9.3	9.4	9.2	8.8	10.1
Rest of the World	14.8	21.0	19.6	18.2	24.8
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, several years.

Table 2.8 - Syrian imports by main originating countries, 2002 (Million SP and %)

Country	Million SP	Share
European Union	58,585.0	24.9
U.S.A	14,342.2	6.1
South Korea	12,812.8	5.4
China	12,287.7	5.2
Ukraine	11,840.3	5.0
Turkey	9,351.3	4.0
Saudi Arabia	8,275.3	3.5
Japan	7,646.6	3.2
Federal Russia	5,663.7	2.4
Argentine	4,923.9	2.1
Egypt	4,542.1	1.9
India	4,498.3	1.9
Rumania	3,930.4	1.7
Formosa	3,918.1	1.7
Lebanon	3,860.3	1.6
Brazil	3,748.0	1.6
Union of Malaysia	3,233.4	1.4
Indonesia	2,839.0	1.2
Jordan	2,351.9	1.0
Switzerland	2,166.9	0.9
Others	54,937.3	23.3
World	235,754.3	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 2.9 - Market concentration for Syrian total trade, 2002 (Million SP and %).

2002	Total	Top 5 Countries	Top 10 countries	% Top 5	% Top 10
Total Export	315,919	245,683	270,560	77.8	85.6
Total Import	235,754	109,868	145,729	46.6	61.8

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 2.10 - Trade and GDP at current prices, 1993/95 and 1998-2002 (Million SP and %)

Syria	Av 1993/95	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	AGR
Total GDP	496,944	790,444	819,092	903,944	954,051	999,451	10.5
Agricultural GDP	140,651	232,283	199,415	223,702	247,698	254,217	8.8
Agriculture GDP/Total GDP	28.4	29.4	24.3	24.7	26.0	25.4	-1.5
Total Trade (ex+im)	93,466	76,168	81,890	403,723	463,893	551,673	28.9
Total trade/Total GDP	18.8	9.6	10.0	44.7	48.6	55.2	16.6
Agr. Trade (ex+im)	19,350	20,309	19,834	74,990	75,519	100,763	26.6
Agr. Trade/Total Trade	20.7	26.7	24.2	18.6	16.3	18.3	-1.8
Agr. Trade/Agr. GDP	13.8	8.7	9.9	33.5	30.5	39.6	16.3

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, 2003

Table 2.11 - Syrian total and agricultural trade, 1993/95 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Syria	Million US$		Million SP			% Variation		
	Av 93/95 (1)	Av 00/02 (2)	2000	2001	2002	(1)-(2)	2000-01	2001-02
Import								
Total trade	4,761.5	4,616.7	187,535	220,744	235,754	-3.0	17.7	6.8
Agricultural trade*	958.6	860.6	38,993	37,656	43,403	-10.2	-3.4	15.3
Agricultural/Total	20.1	18.6	20.8	17.1	18.4	-7.4	-18.0	7.9
Export								
Total trade	3,562.4	5,617.8	216,188	243,149	315,919	57.7	12.5	29.9
Agricultural trade*	764.8	950.9	35,997	37,863	57,361	24.3	5.2	51.5
Agricultural/Total	21.5	16.9	16.7	15.6	18.2	-21.2	-6.5	16.6
Balance								
Total trade	-1,199.0	1,001.1	28,653	22,405	80,165	-183.5	-21.8	257.8
Agricultural trade*	-193.8	90.3	-2,996	207	13,958	-146.6	-106.9	6,643.0
Volume								
Total trade	8,324	10,235	403,723	463,893	551,673	23.0	14.9	18.9
Agricultural trade*	1,723	1,811	74,990	75,519	100,763	5.1	0.7	33.4
Agricultural/Total	20.7	17.7	18.6	16.3	18.3	-14.5	-12.4	12.2
Standardized Balance								
Total trade	-14.4	9.8	7.1	4.8	14.5	-167.9	-31.9	200.9
Agricultural trade*	-11.2	5.0	-4.0	0.3	13.9	-144.3	-106.9	4,953.7

Source: CBS, Statistical Abstract, several years, and GDC.
*Agricultural trade is defined as the sum of the following categories: a) Food and Live Animals, b) Beverages and Tobacco, c) Crude Materials (except pulp and waste paper, and metalliferous and metal scrap), and d) Animal and Vegetable Oils, Fats and Waxe

Note: The exchange rate used for calculating values in Syrian Pounds was increased in 2000 from SP/US$ 11.25 to SP/US$ 46.5 for imports and from SP/US$ 11.20 to SP/US$ 46 for exports.

Table 2.12 - Evolution of unit values indices for Syrian agricultural exports and imports, 1994-2002

Syria	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Export Unit Value Index	92	90	105	113	122	126	91	133	56
Import Unit Value Index	114	141	140	130	156	121	102	146	113
Terms of trade	**0.81**	**0.64**	**0.75**	**0.87**	**0.78**	**1.04**	**0.90**	**0.91**	**0.50**
Import Value Index	146	113	125	117	113	126	106	90	102
Export Value Index	120	117	135	163	145	112	96	94	158
Import Quantity Index	127	80	90	89	73	104	104	62	90
Export Quantity Index	128	127	126	142	115	89	102	69	275

Source: FAOSTAT

Table 2.13 - Syrian agricultural exports by chapter, 1996/98 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Code Number	Chapter	Million US$		Million SP			% Variation			Share				
		AV 96/98 (1)	AV 00/02 (2)	2000	2001	2002	(1)-(2)	2000-01	2001-02	Av 96-98	Av 00-02	2000	2001	2002
1	Live Animals	65.5	163.3	4,675	1,684	16,170	149.2	-64.0	860.1	7.0	17.2	13.0	4.4	28.2
52	Cotton	255.3	265.9	14,096	13,125	9,467	4.2	-6.9	-27.9	27.2	28.0	39.2	34.7	16.5
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices (Coffee and Spices)	19.4	86.1	1,692	3,714	6,474	343.7	119.4	74.3	2.1	9.1	4.7	9.8	11.3
7	Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers (Fresh Vegetables)	209.2	138.2	6,341	6,659	6,073	-33.9	5.0	-8.8	22.3	14.5	17.6	17.6	10.6
10	Cereals	158.6	44.7	2	390	5,778	-71.8	23379.5	1381.8	16.9	4.7	0.0	1.0	10.1
8	Fruits & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat (Fruits)	116.0	109.7	4,574	5,445	5,124	-5.4	19.0	-5.9	12.3	11.5	12.7	14.4	8.9
20	Prep. of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits (Prep. of Vegetables and Fruits)	31.7	30.9	1,090	1,484	1,690	-2.5	36.1	13.9	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.9	2.9
41	Hides (except Fur)	11.6	13.1	865	931	1,032	13.3	7.7	10.9	1.2	1.4	2.4	2.5	1.8
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats (Oils and Fats)	15.1	18.4	625	1,020	892	22.0	63.2	-12.5	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.7	1.6
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Indus (Oill Seeds)	11.3	10.1	279	431	683	-10.3	54.3	58.5	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.2
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey (Dairy Products)	7.5	9.4	358	320	614	24.4	-10.7	91.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1
14	Other Plants	0.0	8.4	3	656	494	20251.5	20240.7	-24.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.9
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery (Sugar)	8.5	8.0	330	298	472	-6.7	-9.7	58.5	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
6	Live Plants & Products of Floriculture (Plants)	8.4	6.5	179	263	456	-22.4	46.3	73.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.8
19	Prep. from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains (Prep. from Grains)	1.9	4.0	86	55	417	111.8	-36.4	663.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.7
22	Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar (Drinks)	1.4	2.7	20	19	331	95.3	-7.2	1659.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.6
23	Residues and Waste from Food Industry	3.3	7.0	194	504	270	112.1	160.0	-46.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.3	0.5
5	Other Animal Products	3.2	4.9	236	166	269	54.4	-29.7	61.7	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations (Cocoa)	5.1	3.3	115	144	194	-35.5	25.2	34.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	0.2	2.3	28	109	179	1174.8	289.1	64.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3
51	Wool & Hair	2.1	2.1	94	92	102	-0.3	-1.9	10.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
24	Tobacco	4.4	2.3	85	135	102	-47.6	59.0	-24.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
11	Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches (Products of Milling Industry)	0.1	2.0	16	206	57	2938.1	1191.0	-72.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.1
2	Meat & Edible Meat Offal's (Meat)	0.0	0.2	8	8	18	1183.0	5.6	125.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3	Fish & Crustaceans & Moll scan (Fish)	0.1	0.1	4	8	1	50.7	120.7	-83.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Other Chapters	0.1	0.0	2	1	2	-48.3	-47.8	126.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	TOTAL	939.8	950.9	35,998	37,864	57,361	1.2	5.2	51.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs
Note: The exchange rate used for calculating values in Syrian Pounds was increased in 2000 from SP/US$ 11.25 to SP/US$ 46.5 for imports and from SP/US$ 11.20 to SP/US$ 46 for exports.

Table 2.14 - Main Syrian agricultural exports, 1996/98 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Commodity	Million US$		Million SP			% Variation			
	Av 96/98 (1)	Av 00/02 (2)	2000	2001	2002	(1)-(2)	2000-01	2001-02	2000-02
Sheep	61.1	152.1	4,583	1,388	15,016	148.9	-69.7	981.8	81.0
Cotton Not Carded or Combed	230.7	201.1	9,114	9,391	9,253	-12.8	3.0	-1.5	0.8
Cumin	14.7	79.6	1,594	3,430	5,964	441.5	115.2	73.9	93.4
Wheat	114.8	42.1	0	390	5,420	-63.3	-	1289.8	-
Tomatoes	61.5	69.3	3,593	3,184	2,783	12.6	-11.4	-12.6	-12.0
Selected Fruits*	41.1	42.9	1,765	1,863	2,287	4.2	5.5	22.8	13.8
Grapes	17.9	20.2	673	1,155	954	12.9	71.6	-17.4	19.1
Lentils	51.0	12.9	471	555	752	-74.7	17.8	35.5	26.4
Citrus	9.2	20.3	1,041	1,011	745	120.8	-2.9	-26.3	-15.4
Fresh Vegetables**	42.1	18.3	1,042	841	645	-56.5	-19.3	-23.4	-21.3
Apricot and grape paste (Kemeradin)	28.9	9.8	348	478	533	-65.9	37.3	11.5	23.7
Cotton linters	11.4	10.4	325	628	488	-8.3	92.9	-22.2	22.5
Olive oil	7.9	6.2	211	227	418	-22.1	7.6	84.1	40.7
Lactic cheese	4.0	4.6	143	168	327	15.0	17.5	94.4	51.1
Potatoes	8.1	6.7	469	207	249	-17.4	-55.9	20.1	-27.2
Chick Peas	5.9	2.4	276	34	19	-59.9	-87.7	-43.5	-73.6
Others	232.1	252.0	10,348	12,913	11,507	8.5	24.8	-10.9	5.5
Agricultural Total	942.6	950.9	35,997	37,863	57,361	0.9	5.2	51.5	26.2

Source: General Department of Customs

* apples, cherries, apricots, pears, plums, and peaches.

** mushrooms, truffles, cabbage, Carrots and turnips, cauliflower, onion, garlic, artichokes, roots, radish, salad beat, beans, pea beans, cucumber, squash, eggplant, and okra

Table 2.15 - Main Syrian agricultural exports, 1993/95 and 1997-2002 (%)

Commodity	Share							
	Av 93/95	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Av 00/02
Sheep	9.5	4.4	5.2	6.9	12.7	3.7	26.2	16.0
Cotton Not Carded or Combed	29.5	23.9	29.1	19.7	25.3	24.8	16.1	21.2
Cumin	2.4	1.6	1.2	2.7	4.4	9.1	10.4	8.4
Wheat	1.3	18.4	10.1	3.1	0.0	1.0	9.4	4.4
Tomatoes	6.1	5.9	8.3	12.0	10.0	8.4	4.9	7.3
Selected Fruits*	3.9	3.6	3.3	7.1	4.9	4.9	4.0	4.5
Grapes	2.3	2.1	1.9	4.2	1.9	3.1	1.7	2.1
Lentils	2.0	6.6	3.4	3.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4
Citrus	0.8	0.6	1.1	3.5	2.9	2.7	1.3	2.1
Fresh Vegetables**	10.0	4.0	7.0	3.6	2.9	2.2	1.1	1.9
Apricot and grape paste (Kemeradin)	3.1	2.1	3.2	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.9	1.0
Cotton linters	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.7	0.9	1.1
Olive oil	0.6	0.6	0.1	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Lactic cheese	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5
Potatoes	2.9	0.5	0.6	3.4	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.7
Chick peas	2.1	0.0	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.3
Others	22.0	24.0	22.1	26.2	28.7	34.1	20.1	26.5
Agricultural Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : General Department of Customs

* Apples, cherries, apricots, pears, plums, and peaches.

** Mushrooms, truffles, cabbage, Carrots and turnips, cauliflower, onion, garlic, artichokes, roots, radish, salad beat, beans, pea beans, cucumber, squash, eggplant, and okra

Table 2.16 - Syrian agricultural imports by chapter, 1996/1998 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Chapter Number	Chapter	Million US$		Million SP			% Variation			Share				
		AV 96/98 (1)	AV 00/02 (2)	2000	2001	2002	(1)-(2)	2000-01	2001-02	Av 96-98	Av 00-02	2000	2001	2002
10	Cereals	104.6	204.9	10,754	9,120	8,716	95.9	-15.2	-4.4	13.3	23.8	27.6	24.2	20.1
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery (Sugar)	166.1	138.5	4,318	6,791	8,206	-16.6	57.3	20.8	21.1	16.1	11.1	18.0	18.9
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices (Coffee and Spices)	88.6	88.4	3,400	4,518	4,411	-0.2	32.9	-2.4	11.2	10.3	8.7	12.0	10.2
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Indus (Oill Seeds)	38.2	69.4	3,027	3,154	3,504	81.7	4.2	11.1	4.8	8.1	7.8	8.4	8.1
23	Residues and Waste from Food Industry	61.3	67.3	3,333	2,633	3,419	9.7	-21.0	29.8	7.8	7.8	8.5	7.0	7.9
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats (Oils and Fats)	103.8	79.9	4,767	3,373	3,008	-23.0	-29.2	-10.8	13.2	9.3	12.2	9.0	6.9
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey (Dairy Products)	42.4	47.0	2,375	1,672	2,511	10.7	-29.6	50.2	5.4	5.5	6.1	4.4	5.8
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	11.7	28.6	896	945	2,154	143.8	5.5	128.0	1.5	3.3	2.3	2.5	5.0
8	Fruits & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat (Fruits)*	25.8	37.3	1,944	1,564	1,693	44.6	-19.6	8.3	3.3	4.3	5.0	4.2	3.9
24	Tobacco	18.4	17.0	445	267	1,667	-7.5	-40.0	524.9	2.3	2.0	1.1	0.7	3.8
16	Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	34.9	23.7	1,541	846	919	-32.0	-45.1	8.6	4.4	2.8	4.0	2.2	2.1
7	Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers (Fresh Vegetables)	7.0	12.6	342	730	687	81.2	113.2	-5.9	0.9	1.5	0.9	1.9	1.6
19	Prep. from Grains or Flour or Starch from Grains (Prep. from Grains)	4.2	7.9	298	183	617	86.2	-38.7	237.6	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.4
1	Live Animals	40.5	8.7	549	272	388	-78.6	-50.4	42.5	5.1	1.0	1.4	0.7	0.9
53	Flax and Ramie	0.1	2.6	2	5	356	2,664.4	146.0	7,465.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8
20	Prep. of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits (Prep. of Vegetables and Fruits)	1.9	3.9	80	138	320	97.8	73.1	132.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.7
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	4.5	4.6	260	170	216	3.8	-34.7	26.8	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
41	Hides (except Fur)	4.2	2.4	90	69	171	-44.2	-23.5	147.9	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
51	Wool & Hair	1.9	3.1	82	229	117	63.5	179.9	-48.8	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3
11	Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches (Products of Milling Industry)	2.1	4.9	130	453	104	137.2	248.7	-77.0	0.3	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.2
22	Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar (Drinks)	2.4	1.8	74	71	101	-26.1	-4.0	41.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
13	Raw Plants for Gums & Dyeing and Tanning (Raw plants)	1.3	1.0	54	39	44	-24.0	-26.9	12.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
5	Other Plants	0.1	0.6	8	28	42	292.0	263.1	49.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
2	Meat & Edible Meat Offal's (Meat)	0.2	0.3	8	21	12	80.1	154.8	-41.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
6	Live Plants & Products of Floriculture (Plants)	0.5	0.4	20	22	12	-16.0	9.8	-45.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
5	Other Animal Products	0.1	0.3	37	4	5	131.0	-90.4	54.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
52	Cotton	5.6	3.5	157	335	3	-36.6	113.5	-99.2	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.0
3	Fish & Crustaceans & Moll scan (Fish)	0.3	0.1	3	6	2	-73.9	109.9	-69.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	TOTAL	788.3	860.6	38,993	37,656	43,403	9.2	-3.4	15.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : General Department of Customs
* A different exchange rate (46.5) was legally applied for banana before 2000
Note: The exchange rate used for calculating values in Syrian Pounds was increased in 2000 from SP/US$ 11.25 to SP/US$ 46.5 for imports and from SP/US$ 11.20 to SP/US$ 46 for exports.

Table 2.17 - Main Syrian agricultural imports, 1996/98 and 2000-2002 (Million SP, Million US$ and %)

Commodity	Million US$		Million SP			% Variation			
	Av 96/98 (1)	Av 00/02 (2)	2000	2001	2002	(1)-(2)	2000-01	2001-02	2000-02
Sugar (Refined & Raw)	138.8	122.0	4,108	6,323	6,591	-12.1	53.9	4.2	26.7
Maize	67.3	79.2	5,029	1,661	4,352	17.6	-67.0	162.0	-7.0
Cake of olive& others	47.6	52.2	2,765	1,959	2,557	9.5	-29.2	30.5	-3.8
Milled Paddy and Husked Rice	64.4	55.8	2,665	2,822	2,303	-13.3	5.9	-18.4	-7.0
Dry Skim Cow Milk	7.9	32.2	1,754	1,053	1,681	307.4	-40.0	59.6	-2.1
Tea	36.3	37.6	1,707	1,867	1,669	3.5	9.4	-10.6	-1.1
Barley	0.0	38.3	2,891	1,000	1,451	-	-65.4	45.1	-29.2
Sesame and sunflowers seeds	11.5	24.8	1,013	1,308	1,138	116.4	29.1	-13.0	6.0
Bananas*	5.0	20.8	1,022	921	952	317.9	-9.9	3.4	-3.5
Canned Fish	34.5	22.7	1,540	725	901	-34.1	-52.9	24.3	-23.5
Soybean	9.8	16.1	680	702	868	64.5	3.2	23.7	13.0
Coffee, Green and Dry	30.2	20.4	590	1,410	850	-32.3	139.0	-39.7	20.0
Butter and Margarine	41.7	39.8	3,049	1,684	822	-4.6	-44.8	-51.2	-48.1
Animal Ghee	17.2	10.1	424	405	583	-41.1	-4.5	43.8	17.2
Mate, Raw, in stalk form, whether or not ground	1.2	10.5	479	491	497	804.2	2.4	1.3	1.8
Bran, Sharps and Other Residues	0.0	5.7	0	341	452	-	-	32.5	-
Oil of various seeds	25.5	12.3	930	540	252	-51.6	-41.9	-53.3	-47.9
Others	763.1	260.0	8,346	12,444	15,484	-65.9	49.1	24.4	36.2
Agriculture Total	811.0	860.6	38,993	37,656	43,403	6.1	-3.4	15.3	5.5

Source: General Department of Customs

* A different exchange rate (46.5) was legally applied for banana before 2000

Note: The exchange rate used for calculating values in Syrian Pounds was increased in 2000 from SP/US$ 11.25 to SP/US$ 46.5 for imports and from SP/US$ 11.20 to SP/US$ 46 for exports.

Table 2.18 - Main Syrian agricultural imports, 1993/95 and 1997-2002 (%)

Commodity	Share							
	Av 93/95	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Av 00/02
Sugar (Refined & Raw)	15.5	17.5	16.6	16.4	10.5	16.8	15.2	14.2
Maize	6.6	11.0	8.5	7.7	12.9	4.4	10.0	9.2
Cake of olive& others	4.0	7.4	5.8	4.2	7.1	5.2	5.9	6.1
Milled Paddy and Husked Rice	5.1	11.2	5.5	5.1	6.8	7.5	5.3	6.5
Dry Skim Cow Milk	2.2	1.4	2.6	3.5	4.5	2.8	3.9	3.7
Tea	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.6	4.4	5.0	3.8	4.4
Barley	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	7.4	2.7	3.3	4.4
Sesame and sunflowers seeds	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.6	2.6	3.5	2.6	2.9
Bananas	0.6	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4
Canned Fish	3.2	4.7	5.3	5.1	3.9	1.9	2.1	2.6
Soybean	0.0	0.9	2.6	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9
Coffee, Green and Dry	3.5	3.5	3.9	2.9	1.5	3.7	2.0	2.4
Butter and Margarine	1.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	7.8	4.5	1.9	4.6
Animal Ghee	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2
Mate, Raw, in stalk form, whether or not ground	0.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Bran, Sharps and Other Residues	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.7
Oil of various seeds	3.3	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	1.4	0.6	1.4
Others	46.6	27.6	37.7	33.7	21.4	33.0	35.7	30.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source : General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.1 - Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) for main Syrian agricultural exports, 1993, 2001 and 2002 (Million US$)

Commodity	1993			2001			2002		
	Value		RCA	Value		RCA	Value		RCA
	Syria	World		Syria	World		Syria	World	
Cotton Lint	174.2	5,881.6	14.7	157.0	6,253.5	7.6	186.5	5,931.7	13.0
Sheep	82.6	1,121.7	36.6	50.0	662.5	22.7	319.8	1,073.4	123.6
Tomatoes	24.7	2,169.5	5.7	320.0	3,114.9	30.9	54.2	3,362.4	6.7
Vegetables Fresh Nes	27.2	753.5	17.9	13.7	971.9	4.2	2.0	1,213.7	0.7
Selected Fruits*	23.3	4,154.1	2.8	157.4	5,274.8	9.0	46.2	5,748.0	3.3
Citrus	0.04	13.9	1.3	1.5	91.0	4.9	10.6	3,793.3	1.2
Wheat	1.7	15,083.5	0.1	40.0	14,596.7	0.8	115.7	15,463.6	3.1
Grapes	7.4	1,662.6	2.2	59.8	2,531.6	7.1	18.4	2,696.0	2.8
Lentils	3.0	268.2	5.6	42.5	462.3	27.7	6.2	359.2	7.2
Potatoes	19.5	1,286.6	7.5	41.8	1,458.7	8.6	4.8	1,613.0	1.2
Cheese (Whole Cow Milk)	1.2	8,655.9	0.1	5.0	9,933.9	0.2	6.9	10,236.3	0.3
Cotton linters	4.6	56.2	40.7	29.0	118.6	73.6	10.2	72.1	58.9
Chickpeas	14.2	185.9	38.1	24.6	462.3	16.0	0.3	328.3	0.4
Olive oil	0.1	1,497.1	0.0	48.0	2,098.9	6.9	10.1	2,318.2	1.8
Value of Total Syrian Exports	682.2			1,368.5			1,063.1		
Value of Total World Exports	339,317.4			412,176.2			441,142.7		

Source: Elaboration on FAOSTAT

*Apples, cherries, apricots, pears, plums, and peaches.

RCA=(Eis/Eiw)/(Es/Ew), Eis=Value of exports of good i for Syria, Eiw=Value of exports of good i for World, Es=Value of total Syrian exports, Ew=Value of total World exports

Table 3.2 - Relative Unit Value (RUV) for main Syrian agricultural exports, 1993 and 2002 (Million US$ and MT)

Commodity	1993				2002				RUV	
	Value		Quantity		Value		Quantity			
	Syria	World	Syria	World	Syria	World	Syria	World	1993	2002
Cotton Lint	174.2	5,881.6	158,923	5,155,985	186.5	5,931.7	240,944	5,923,767	1.0	0.8
Sheep (head)	82.6	1,121.7	1,045,044	21,643,152	319.8	1,073.4	2,720,175	18,442,596	1.5	2.0
Tomatoes	24.7	2,169.5	64,255	2,951,351	54.2	3,362.4	198,434	4,239,198	0.5	0.3
Vegetables Fresh Nes	27.2	753.5	38,062	1,342,236	2.0	1,213.7	6,045	2,292,205	1.3	0.6
Selected Fruits*	23.3	4,154.1	33,118	7,178,936	46.2	5,748.0	61,246	9,392,648	1.2	1.2
Citrus	0.0	13.9	88	23,845	10.6	3,793.3	26,712	6,414,509	0.7	0.7
Wheat	1.7	15,083.5	6,639	107,523,353	115.7	15,463.6	625,717	121,370,409	1.8	1.5
Grapes	7.4	1,662.6	11,716	1,952,486	18.4	2,696.0	25,317	2,710,375	0.7	0.7
Lentils	3.0	268.2	7,604	693,408	6.2	359.2	10,647	1,016,900	1.0	1.6
Potatoes	19.5	1,286.6	67,365	7,595,671	4.8	1,613.0	14,697	7,994,960	1.7	1.6
Cheese (Whole Cow Milk)	1.2	8,655.9	684	2,272,009	6.9	10,236.3	2,516	3,229,395	0.5	0.9
Cotton linters	4.6	56.2	21,916	166,364	10.2	72.1	42,728	185,903	0.6	0.6
Chickpeas	14.2	185.9	52,509	541,589	0.3	328.3	361	735,811	0.8	2.0
Olive oil	0.1	1,497.1	85	619,043	10.1	2,318.2	4,379	1,035,045	0.7	1.0

Source: Elaboration on FAOSTAT

*Apples, cherries, apricots, pears, plums, and peaches.

RUV=(Eis/Qis)/(Eiw/Qiw), Eis=Value of exports of good i for Syria, Eiw=Value of exports of good i for World, Qis=Quantity of exports of good i for Syria, Qiw=Quantity of exports of good i for World

Table 3.3 - Market diversification for main Syrian agricultural exports, 2002 (Million SP and %)

Commodity	Total (1)	Total 5 (2)	Total 10 (3)	% (2)/(1)	% (3)/(1)	Partners Number
Cotton not Carded or Combed	9,253.3	5,542.2	7,326.1	59.9	79.2	48
Sheep	15,015.8	14,896.3	15,007.9	99.2	99.9	13
Tomatoes	2,870.1	2,693.7	2,845.7	93.9	99.1	29
Fresh Vegetables	644.6	598.5	639.4	92.8	99.2	24
Selected Fruits	2,287.4	2,052.0	2,279.0	89.7	99.6	19
Citrus	745.3	703.9	741.4	94.4	99.5	17
Wheat	5,420.3	5,420.3	5,420.3	100.0	100.0	4
Grapes	954.0	873.5	953.5	91.6	99.9	18
Lentils	752.3	735.9	750.8	97.8	99.8	23
Potatoes	248.6	207.0	246.5	83.3	99.2	21
Lactic cheese	327.5	321.9	326.9	98.3	99.8	14
Apricot paste and grape paste (Kemeradin)	532.7	466.4	517.7	87.6	97.2	32
Cotton linters	488.1	475.8	488.1	97.5	100.0	9
Cumin	6,027.6	3,300.8	4,463.1	54.8	74.0	64
Olive oil	428.5	353.0	401.5	82.4	93.7	38

Source: General Department of Customs & Personal Calculations

*Mushrooms, truffles, cabbage, Carrots and turnips, cauliflower, onion, garlic, artichokes, roots, radish, salad beat, beans, pea beans, cucumber, squash, eggplant, and okra

**Apples, cherries, apricots, pears, plums, and peaches.

Table 3.4 - Market diversification for main Syrian agricultural imports, 2002 (Million SP and %)

Commodity	Total (1)	Total 5 (2)	Total 10 (3)	% (2)/(1)	% (3)/(1)	Partners Number
Bananas	952.4	916.6	951.2	96.2	99.9	12.0
Barley	1,450.6	1,442.5	1,450.6	99.4	100.0	6.0
Butter and Margarine	821.7	752.2	795.9	91.5	96.9	18.0
Cake of olive& others	2,556.9	2,556.9	2,556.9	100.0	100.0	5.0
Canned Fish	900.8	897.6	900.8	99.6	100.0	10.0
Coffee, Green and Dry	863.6	827.8	862.4	95.9	99.9	12.0
Dry Skim Cow Milk	1,681.0	1,420.0	1,597.0	84.5	95.0	22.0
Maize	4,352.2	4,352.2	4,352.2	100.0	100.0	5.0
Milled Paddy and Husked Rice	2,302.6	2,231.5	2,302.0	96.9	100.0	13.0
Oil of various seeds	632.2	553.9	630.5	87.6	99.7	14.0
Sugar (Refined & Raw)	6,590.7	6,257.1	6,590.7	94.9	100.0	15.0
Tea	1,669.4	1,662.7	1,669.4	99.6	100.0	9.0
Animal Ghee	582.8	556.1	582.8	95.4	100.0	10.0
Mate, Raw, in stalk form, whether or not ground	496.9	496.9	496.9	100.0	100.0	1.0
Sesame and sunflowers seeds	1,137.6	984.4	1,131.3	86.5	99.4	13.0
Soybean	868.1	868.1	868.1	100.0	100.0	2.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.5 - The Commodity Balance for main Syrian agricultural exports, 2002 (Tons)

Commodity	Production	Exports	Imports	Apparent Consumption	Self Sufficiency
Cotton	802,178.0	254,784.0	0.0	547,394.0	146.5
Sheep	674,874.1	109,337.4	4,666.3	570,203.0	118.4
Tomatoes	900,148.0	218,376.0	13,564.0	695,336.0	129.5
Vegetables Fresh*	686,678.0	47,499.2	50,108.1	689,286.8	99.6
Selected Fruits**	434,575.0	65,093.3	545.2	370,026.9	117.4
Citrus	746,104.0	38,018.8	1,285.8	709,371.0	105.2
Wheat	4,775,442.0	626,217.0	7,369.6	4,156,594.6	114.9
Grapes	341,886.0	28,003.0	93.6	313,976.6	108.9
Lentils	132,805.0	27,665.0	2,443.2	107,583.2	123.4
Potatoes	513,153.0	16,161.8	18,933.5	515,924.7	99.5
Lactic cheese	96,943.0	2,619.2	10.5	94,334.3	102.8
Apricot paste and grape paste(Kemeradin)	1,991.0	11,303.9	90.0	-9,222.9	-21.6
Cotton linters	23,314.0	44,076.8	0.0	-20,762.8	-112.3
Chick Peas	88,781.0	456.0	8,024.0	96,349.0	92.1
Cumin	96,650.0	45,839.0	6.8	50,817.8	190.2
Olive oil	194,559.0	3,628.0	0.0	190,931.0	101.9

Source: General Department of Customs and MAAR annual abstract.

*mushrooms, truffles, cabbage, Carrots and turnips, cauliflower, onion, garlic, artichokes, roots, radish, salad beat, beans, pea beans, cucumber, squash, eggplant, and okra

**apples, cherries, apricots, pears, plums, and peaches.

Table 3.6 - Cotton, not Carded or Combed

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	148,444	193.4	1,302.7	-	
Av 00-02	214,402	201.1	938.2	-	
2000	201,352	198.1	984.0	9,114	Turkey 29, Italy 13.8, Indonesia 6.1, Thailand 5.6, Algeria 5.6, Japan 5.3
2001	187,069	204.2	1,091.3	9,391	Turkey 18, Italy 10, Indonesia 8, Thailand 5, Belgium 5, Pakistan 3
2002	254,784	201.2	789.5	9,253	Italy 15.6, Pakistan 13.6, Thailand12.2, Turkey 11.1, Indonesia 7.3, Belgium 6.3, India 5

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.7 - Sheep

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	32,282	62.2	1,925.8	-	
Av 00-02	54,178	152.1	2,807.0	-	
2000	42,308	99.6	2,354.9	4,583	S. Arabia 75.7, Qatar 14.9, Kuwait 9.3
2001	10,889	30.2	2,771.0	1,388	S. Arabia 85.4, Qatar 12.7, Kuwait 1.77
2002	109,337	326.4	2,985.5	15,016	S. Arabia 77.6, Kuwait 12.1, Qatar 7, Lebanon 1.7

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.8 - Tomatoes

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	76,779	39.7	517.1	-	
Av 00-02	189,340	69.3	366	-	
2000	189,648	78.1	411.9	3,593	S. Arabia 69.4, Russian Fed. 10.2, UAE 7.3, Kuwait 4.9
2001	168,136	69.2	411.7	3,184	S. Arabia 82.8, Russian Fed. 3.5, UAE 5, Kuwait 4.5
2002	218,376	60.5	277.0	2,783	S. Arabia 71.5, EU Market 8.2, UAE 6.6, Kuwait 5.3, Russian Fed 2.6

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues.

Table 3.9 - Fresh Vegetables*

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	81,776	68.5	837.4	-	
Av 00-02	44,917	18.3	407.8	-	
2000	61,705	22.7	367.1	1042	S. Arabia 36.2, Lebanon 20.7, Kuwait 16.9, UAE 16.4
2001	25,752	18.3	709.9	841	Lebanon 56, Kuwait 14.4, S. Arabia 13.8-UAE 7.4, Jordan 1.7
2002	47,294	14.0	296.3	645	Lebanon 51.2, Kuwait 14, UAE 11.1, S. Arabia 11.1, Jordan 5.5, Qatar 2.9

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues.

*Mushrooms, truffles, cabbage, Carrots and turnips, cauliflower, onion, garlic, artichokes, roots, radish, salad beat, beans, pea beans, cucumber, squash, eggplant, and okra

Table 3.10 - Selected Fruits (Apples, cherries, apricots, Pears, Plums, Peaches)

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	40,648	29.9	736.3	-	
Av 00-02	56,160	42.9	763.4	-	
2000	53,126	38.4	722.4	1,765	S. Arabia 54, Egypt 15.1 , UAE 9.1, Kuwait 8.3, Lebanon 4.2, Qatar 2.3
2001	50,260	40.5	805.9	1,863	S. Arabia 58.6, UAE 9.3, Egypt 8.5, Kuwait 7.8, Jordan 5.9, Qatar 3
2002	65,093	49.7	763.9	2,287	S. Arabia 56.5, UAE 8.6, Kuwait 8, Jordan 6.2, Egypt 5.7, Lebanon 4.8, Qatar 3.7, Oman 3.

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues.

Table 3.11 - Citrus (Orange, Lemon, and Mandarin)

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	4,996	5.1	1,015.2	-	
Av 00-02	40,234	20.3	504.6	-	
2000	39,021	22.6	580.0	1,041	S. Arabia 69.5, Kuwait 9.3, UAE 9.1, Qatar 3.1
2001	43,662	22.0	503.4	1,011	S. Arabia 54.9, Jordan 15.8, Kuwait 11.7, UAE 6.9, Qatar 5.2
2002	38,019	16.2	426.2	745	S. Arabia 44.6, Jordan 25.9, Kuwait 11.3, UAE 7.3, Qatar 5.5, Oman 2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.12 - Wheat

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	25,560	8.4	327.2	-	
Av 00-02	220,611	42.1	190.9	-	
2000	0	0.0	0.0	0	
2001	35,616	8.5	238.0	390	Algeria 60.5, Armenia 39.4
2002	626,217	117.8	188.2	5,420	Algeria 82.4, S. Korea 13.4, Egypt 4, Jordan 0.08

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues.

Table 3.13 - Grapes

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	16,786	15.0	893.0	-	
Av 00-02	26,561	20.2	759.0	-	
2000	21,205	14.6	690.0	673	S. Arabia 43.1, UAE 22.4, Kuwait 13, Jordan 6.9
2001	30,475	25.1	823.9	1,155	S. Arabia 43.9, UAE 25.4, Kuwait 13.2, Jordan 6.5
2002	28,003	20.7	740.6	954	S. Arabia 36.2, UAE 20.3, Jordan 14.8, Kuwait 13

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.14 - Lentils*

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	34,369	13.0	377.4	-	
Av 00-02	21,649	12.9	595.2	-	
2000	16,457	10.2	622.2	471	Turkey 53.9, S. Arabia 26.5, Jordan 9.2, Lebanon 7.2
2001	20,824	12.1	579.4	555	Lebanon 4.2, S. Arabia 4, Turkey 2.9, Jordan 1.35
2002	27,665	16.4	591.2	752	Iraq 82.4, Other Countries 7.1, Lebanon 3.2, Turkey 3.1

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

*Lentils used as seed are not included

Table 3.15 - Potatoes

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	53,770	19.0	352.7	-	
Av 00-02	16,796	6.7	398.9	-	
2000	23,258	10.2	438.4	469	Greece 54.4, UAE 14.2, Kuwait 7.5, S. Arabia 7.2, Germany 6.9
2001	10,968	4.5	410.3	207	UAE 24.9, Greece 21, Kuwait 15.4, S. Arabia 13.8, Germany 7.2, Qatar 7
2002	16,162	5.4	334.4	249	UAE 24.1, S. Arabia 18.5, Kuwait 17.3, Greece 14.2, Oman 9.2 Bahrain 6.6, Qatar 6.4

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.16 - Cumin

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	17,055	18.2	1,066.2	-	
Av 00-02	30,385	79.6	2,620.4	-	
2000	20,782	34.7	1,667.4	1,594	UAE 17.4, USA 16.3, Brazil 10.9, S. Arabia 6.2, Marco 2.8, Mexico 2.9
2001	24,535	74.6	3,039.1	3,430	UAE 22.4, USA 11, S. Arabia 8.8, Brazil 5.4, Morocco 5.2, Mexico 5.2
2002	45,839	129.7	2,828.4	5,964	UAE 19.2, S. Arabia 10, Malaysia 9.8, USA 8.3, Mexico 7.4, Egypt 5.1, Brazil 4.4, Morocco 3.6

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues.

Table 3.17 - Olive Oil

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	1,918	4.9	2,556.6	-	
Av 00-02	2,317	6.3	2,709.6	-	
2000	1,597	4.6	2,872.2	211	Turkey 38, S. Arabia 23.7, USA 9, Kuwait 6.2, Lebanon 2.4
2001	1,727	4.9	2,857.4	227	S. Arabia 52.14, Kuwait 13.6, Turkey 11, UAE 5.5
2002	3,628	9.3	2,567.6	429	S. Arabia 41,Turkey 20.3, Kuwait 11.8, UAE 5.4

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.18 - Cotton linters

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	13,251	6.1	458.7	-	
Av 00-02	35,623	10.4	293.1	-	
2000	27,302	7.1	259.1	325	Germany 39.8, Japan 14.6, Sweden 16.2, USA 13.5, Turkey 6.9, S. Arabia 3.4
2001	35,490	13.6	384.4	628	Germany 43.5, Japan 28.9, Belgium 11, Tunisia 4.3, USA 3.9, Egypt 2.5
2002	44,077	10.6	240.8	488	Germany 62.9, Japan 25.5, Egypt 4.5, S. Arabia 3.8, Belgium 1

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.19 - Apricot paste and grape paste(Kemeradin)

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	7,368	7.3	987.6	-	
Av 00-02	8,995	9.8	1,094.5	-	
2000	6,446	7.6	1,173.7	348	Egypt 46.8, S. Arabia 29.7, Kuwait 6, Jordan 4, UAE 3.6, Turkey 3.2
2001	9,236	10.4	1,125.0	478	Egypt 57.7, S. Arabia 14.9, Lebanon 6.5, Jordan 4.5, Madagascar 4, Kuwait 3.8, UAE 3.5
2002	11,304	11.6	1,024.5	533	Egypt 41.6, S. Arabia 28.1, Jordan 8.6, Kuwait 5.5, Iraq 3.8, UAE 3.6, Sudan 2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.20 - Lactic (White) cheese

Years	Exports		Unit value US$/Ton	Exports	Main destination Countries (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	1,727	1.3	755.5	-	
Av 00-02	1,625	4.6	2,851.4	-	
2000	1,005	3.1	3,101.8	143	Lebanon 72.7, S. Arabia 13.6, UAE 5.4, Kuwait 3.7
2001	1,250	3.7	2,929.9	168	Lebanon 79, S. Arabia 12, UAE 5, Kuwait 2
2002	2,619	7.1	2,717.8	327	Lebanon 67.6, Kuwait 12.5, UAE 9.4, S. Arabia 7.5, Qatar 1.3

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.21 - The Commodity Balance for Syrian main agricultural imports, 2002 (Tons)

Commodity	Production	Exports	Imports	Apparent Consumption	Self Sufficiency
Bananas	1,028.0	0.0	75,835.0	76,863.0	1.3
Barley	919,514.0	67,846.0	368,018.0	1,219,686.0	75.4
Butter and Margarine	6,012.0	874.0	20,296.8	25,434.8	23.6
Cake of olive& others	328,000.0	2,789.5	295,292.0	620,502.6	52.9
Canned Fish	0.0	0.0	12,215.5	12,209.7	0.0
Coffee, Green and Dry	0.0	0.5	25,076.0	25,075.5	0.0
Dry Skim Cow Milk	0.0	0.0	14,846.9	14,846.9	0.0
Maize	231,888.0	0.5	833,879.0	1,065,766.5	21.8
Milled Paddy and Husked Rice	0.0	0.0	180,416.0	180,416.0	0.0
Oil of various seeds	106,506.0	0.0	22,278.9	128,784.9	82.7
Sugar (Refined & Raw)	121,000.0	0.0	591,287.0	712,287.0	17.0
Tea	0.0	0.0	22,228.0	22,228.0	0.0
Sesame and sunflowers seeds	19,300.0	39.0	54,205.0	73,466.0	26.3
Soybean	4,712.0	0.0	101,080.0	105,792.0	4.5
Mate, Raw, in stalk form, whether or not ground	0.0	0.0	13,815.4	13,815.4	0.0
Animal Ghee	13,607.0	5.8	7,783.6	21,384.8	63.6

Source: CBS and MAAR

Table 3.22 - Sugar

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	360,596	114.5	317.5	-	
Av 00-02	521,226	123.3	236.6	-	
2000	446,740	88.3	197.8	4,108	France 32.8, Belgium 26.5, Spain 8.7, Mexico 6.8
2001	525,650	136.0	258.7	6,323	Belgium 35.3, Turkey 24, France 21.9, Brazil 5.3, Spain 3.4, Italy 4
2002	591,287	143.3	242.3	6,591	EU 52.1, Brazil 22.5, Mexico 8.3, Thailand 3.6, USA 2.3

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.23 - Bananas

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	46,655	14.4	308.2	-	
Av 00-02	69,316	21.0	302.7	-	
2000	68,734	22.0	319.8	1,022	Ecuador 78.2, Colombia 16.1, Panama 2.4
2001	63,378	19.8	312.5	921	Ecuador 77.7, Colombia 8, Lebanon 3.1, Argentina 2.7, Panama 2.8
2002	75,835	20.7	273.0	952	Ecuador 72.6, Colombia 13.9, Lebanon 6.7, Yemen 1.5

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.24 - Milled Paddy and husked Rice

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	133,929	48.5	362.3	-	
Av 00-02	207,915	60.3	289.9	-	
2000	161,557	57.3	354.7	2,665	Egypt 53.2, Thailand 16.3, Australia 16, Italy 5.8
2001	281,773	72.1	255.8	3,352	Thailand 41, Egypt 29.4- Australia 12.6, USA 9.4, Italy 1.8
2002	180,416	50.1	277.5	2,303	Thailand 50.8, Egypt 35.8, Australia 7

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.25 - Maize

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	354,734	48.2	136.0	-	
Av 00-02	693,484	80.0	115.4	-	
2000	951,026	108.2	113.7	5,029	USA 77.9, Argentina 14.1
2001	295,546	35.7	120.9	1,661	USA 58.3, Argentina 41.7
2002	833,879	94.6	113.5	4,352	USA 84.8, Argentina 11.2, EU 3, Bulgaria 1

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.26 - Barley

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	0	0.0	0.0	-	
Av 00-02	433,720	38.7	89.2	-	
2000	588,364	62.2	105.7	2,891	France 27.6, Germany 19.9, Ukraine 19.5, Turkey 12.8
2001	344,779	21.5	62.4	1,000	Russia Fed 8.4, Turkey 5.1, Ukraine 4.4
2002	368,018	31.5	85.7	1,451	Other Countries 44.9, Russia Fed 34.9, Ukraine 7.8, Turkey 7.2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.27 - Tea

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	20,290	33.0	1,624.6	-	
Av 00-02	21,524	38.0	1,765.3	-	
2000	19,745	36.7	1,859.2	1,707	Sri Lanka 94, Egypt 2.6
2001	22,599	40.2	1,776.7	1,867	Sri Lanka 94.7, Egypt 2.10
2002	22,228	36.3	1,632.7	1,669	Sri Lanka 97.9, Chaina 0.7

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.28 - Mate, Raw, in stalk form, whether or not ground

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	5,793	7.6	1,307.9	-	
Av 00-02	13,126	10.5	801.2	-	
2000	12,022	10.3	857.6	479	Argentina 95, Bulgaria 4.4, Ecuador 0.5
2001	13,542	10.6	779.3	491	Argentina 97.4, Paraguay 2.6
2002	13,815	10.7	773.5	497	Argentina 100

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues.

Table 3.29 - Bran, Sharps and Other Residues*

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	0	0.0	0.0	-	
Av 00-02	98,657	5.7	57.6	-	
2000	0	0.0	0.0	0	
2001	132,660	7.3	55.3	341	Other Countries 98, Germany 1.2, Bulgaria 0.8
2002	163,312	9.7	59.5	452	Other Countries 99.7, S. Korea 0.3

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues
*The formal HS classification is "Bran Sharps and Other Residues, whether or not in the form of pellets , derived from the sifting milling or other working of cereals or of leguminous plants of wheat"

Table 3.30 - Butter and Margarine

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	51,749	41.7	806.2	-	
Av 00-02	56,722	39.8	702.0	-	
2000	98,849	65.6	663.3	3,049	Malaysia 32.7, UAE 28.2, Turkey 23.4, Oman 5.9, Netherlands 3.7, Denmark 2.5
2001	51,020	36.2	709.6	1,684	UAE 36.5, Malaysia 22.5, Turkey 19.8, Netherlands 5.8, Oman 5.1, Denmark 3.3, Indonesia 2.7
2002	20,297	17.7	870.7	822	UAE 61.4, Turkey 13.9, Netherlands 8.4, Denmark 5.9, Uruguay 1.8, New Zeeland 1.3

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.31 - Animal Ghee

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	5,533	10.6	1,915.7	-	
Av 00-02	5,752	10.1	1,760.2	-	
2000	5,033	9.1	1,813.4	424	Netherlands 55.2, Belgium 23.7, France 11.1, New Zeland 9.4
2001	4,440	8.7	1,962.6	405	Netherlands 54.5, Belgium 18.3, New Zeland 11.9, Poland 10.8, Malezia 2.8
2002	7,784	12.5	1,610.2	583	Netherlands 58.2, Belgium 16.1, New Zeland 12.5, France 4.6, Uruguay 4, Australia 2.7

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.32 - Milk powder

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	6,939	16.0	2,306.9	-	
Av 00-02	11,792	32.5	2,757.8	-	
2000	11,670	37.7	3,232.2	1,754	Netherlands 45.2, Poland 18.1, Belgium 16.8, France 7.5
2001	8,857	22.6	2,555.7	1,053	Netherlands 32, Australia 21.4, Poland 15.6, Belgium 11.6, France 3.8, Ukraine 3.2, USA 3.1
2002	14,847	36.5	2,461.4	1,681	Netherlands 43.5, Poland 22.5, Australia 11.7, France 7.1, Iran 6.9, Belgium 4.5, Ukraine 3.2, USA 2.8, New Zeland 2.6

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.33 - Coffee, green and dry

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	11,888	25.8	2,168.2	-	
Av 00-02	24,822	20.8	836.0	-	
2000	11,938	12.7	1,062.9	590	Brazil 81, India 6.7, Colombia 3.4
2001	37,453	30.3	809.6	1,410	Brazil 91.6, India 1.9, Colombia 1.3 Nicaragua 2
2002	25,076	18.8	748.7	864	Brazil 83.9, India 3.1, Colombia 5.3 , D .Vietnam 1.9, Lebanon 1.6, Nicaragua 1.2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.34 - Vegetable Oils (soybean, corn, and sunflower seed)

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	32,390	24.6	758.4	-	
Av 00-02	21,648	15.2	704.0	-	
2000	27,382	20.0	730.4	930	Turkey 75.5, Cyprus 8.6, U.A.E 3
2001	15,284	11.6	761.2	541	Turkey 68, USA 4.6, Cyprus 4.4, U.A.E 4.3
2002	22,279	13.7	616.9	632	Turkey 41.7, USA 15.5, Ukraine 15.1, Lebanon 7.8, EU 7.5, UAE 6.7

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.35 - Pulps, cakes and extraction residues of olive and other vegetable oils

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	127,398	29.5	231.4	-	
Av 00-02	248,594	52.8	212.2	-	
2000	238,456	59.5	249.4	2,765	USA 71.5, Argentina 27.7
2001	212,033	42.1	198.7	1,959	Argentina 90.8, USA 7.6
2002	295,292	55.6	188.2	2,557	Argentina 90.8, USA 7.6

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.36 - Canned fish

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	2,753	23.3	8,447.9	-	
Av 00-02	10,349	23.8	2,301.2	-	
2000	7,439	33.1	4,452.0	1,540	Morocco 52.5, Thailand 46.6
2001	11,393	18.2	1,596.5	846	Morocco 63.1, Thailand 35.5
2002	12,216	19.4	1,585.9	901	Morocco 58.5, Thailand 40.2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.37 - Sesame and sunflower seed*

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95*	15,206	11.0	723.9	-	
Av 00-02	48,979	25.1	511.7	-	
2000	44,756	21.8	486.8	1,013	Sudan 56, Nigeria 22, Russia 5.1 -Pakistan 5
2001	47,976	28.1	586.3	1,308	Nigeria 34, Sudan 28, Pakistan 17.7, Russia 6.7, Bulgaria 5.5
2002	54,205	24.7	456.2	1,138	Sudan 47.2, Nigeria 20, Pakistan 8, France 6.2, Russia 5.2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues
*No sunflower imports are reported for 1995 and 1998

Table 3.38 - Soybean

Years	Imports		Unit value US$/Ton	Imports	Main countries of Origin (%)
	Ton	Million US$		Million SP	
Av 93-95	16	0.01	366.7	-	
Av 00-02	74,677	16.3	218.3	-	
2000	68,677	14.6	212.9	680	USA 76, Argentina 23
2001	54,273	15.1	278.2	702	Argentina 94, USA 7
2002	101,080	18.9	186.7	868	Argentina 63.8, USA 36.2

Source: General Department of Customs, various issues

Table 3.39 - Syrian agricultural imports and exports by group of countries, 1996-2002 (Million US$ and %)

Group	Imports values (Million US$)							Exports values (Million US$)							Trade balance (Million US$)						
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
EU 15	212.4	213.4	227.0	254.0	207.5	169.3	207.8	151.7	181.1	143.2	119.1	173.5	151.2	127.2	-61	-32	-84	-135	-34	-18	-80.6
Other European Countries	43.5	141.3	97.4	135.7	103.9	148.3	62.3	144.7	118.8	179.0	76.9	104.0	91.1	60.8	101	-22	82	-59	0	-57	-1.5
Arab Countries	80.6	73.3	87.9	91.7	111.2	122.0	117.3	552.2	642.6	494.5	474.9	429.8	457.7	879.1	472	569	407	383	319	336	761.8
Asian Countries	272.7	122.5	160.3	167.7	129.1	134.5	147.8	142.2	66.1	101.3	94.6	55.5	74.6	130.5	-131	-56	-59	-73	-74	-60	-17.3
American Countries (N & S)	218.8	194.8	205.3	215.8	269.3	143.0	340.5	13.7	12.2	11.3	27.5	19.1	30.2	42.9	-205	-183	-194	-188	-250	-113	-297.6
Rest of the World	1.0	0.9	11.6	16.2	18.5	88.8	57.7	19.7	16.6	1.9	0.5	0.6	1.0	6.4	19	16	-10	-16	-18	-88	-51.3
World	829.1	746.2	789.5	881.1	838.6	805.9	933.4	1024.1	1037.3	931.2	793.5	782.6	805.7	1247.0	195	291	142	-88	-56	0	313.6
	Imports %							**Exports %**							**Standardized Balance**						
EU 15	25.6	28.6	28.8	28.8	24.7	21.0	22.3	14.8	17.5	15.4	15.0	22.2	18.8	10.2	-0.17	-0.08	-0.23	-0.36	-0.09	-0.06	-0.24
Other European Countries	5.2	18.9	12.3	15.4	12.4	18.4	6.7	14.1	11.5	19.2	9.7	13.3	11.3	4.9	0.54	-0.09	0.30	-0.28	0.00	-0.24	-0.01
Arab Countries	9.7	9.8	11.1	10.4	13.3	15.1	12.6	53.9	61.9	53.1	59.8	54.9	56.8	70.5	0.75	0.80	0.70	0.68	0.59	0.58	0.76
Asian Countries	32.9	16.4	20.3	19.0	15.4	16.7	15.8	13.9	6.4	10.9	11.9	7.1	9.3	10.5	-0.31	-0.30	-0.23	-0.28	-0.40	-0.29	-0.06
American Countries (N & S)	26.4	26.1	26.0	24.5	32.0	17.7	36.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	3.5	2.4	3.7	3.4	-0.88	-0.88	-0.90	-0.77	-0.87	-0.65	-0.78
Rest of the World	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.8	2.2	11.0	6.2	1.9	1.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.90	0.90	-0.72	-0.94	-0.93	-0.98	-0.80
World	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	0.11	0.16	0.08	-0.05	-0.03	0.00	0.14

Source : NAPC database

Table 3.40 - Syrian main agricultural trade partners, 2002 (Million SP and %)

Country	Imports	Exports	Volume	Balance	Standardized Balance	% in V0lume
Saudi Arabia	264.2	19,122.8	19,387.0	18,858.6	0.97	19.2
EU 15	9,647.4	5,849.1	15,496.5	-3,798.3	-0.25	15.4
USA	6,110.9	602.0	6,712.9	-5,508.9	-0.82	6.7
Algeria	0.1	5,021.7	5,021.8	5,021.6	1.00	5.0
Argentina	4,117.9	21.8	4,139.7	-4,096.1	-0.99	4.1
UAE	836.7	2,904.8	3,741.5	2,068.1	0.55	3.7
Brazil	3,043.8	297.3	3,341.1	-2,746.5	-0.82	3.3
Lebanon	744.3	2,576.7	3,321.0	1,832.4	0.55	3.3
Kuwait	29.0	3,207.1	3,236.1	3,178.1	0.98	3.2
Thailand	1,822.0	1,134.9	2,956.9	-687.1	-0.23	2.9
Egypt	1,377.8	1,505.8	2,883.6	128.0	0.04	2.9
Sri Lanka	2,506.1	0.0	2,506.1	-2,506.1	-1.00	2.5
Turkey	801.9	1,716.1	2,518.0	914.2	0.36	2.5
Jordan	264.6	2,154.5	2,419.1	1,889.9	0.78	2.4
Malaysia	875.4	613.3	1,488.7	-262.1	-0.18	1.5
Others	10,960.6	10,632.8	21,593.4	-327.9	-0.02	21.4
Total	43,403	57,360.7	100,763.4	13,958.0	0.14	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.41 - Syrian agricultural trade by country, 2000 and 2002 (Million SP and %)

Imports 2000			Imports 2002			Exports 2000			Exports 2002		
Country	**Value**	**%**	**Country**	**Value**	**%**	**Country**	**Value**	**%**	**Country**	**Value**	**%**
EU	10,135.4	26.9	EU 15	9,647.4	22.2	Saudi Arabia	10,201.5	26.9	Saudi Arabia	19,122.8	33.3
Argentina	3,622.9	9.6	USA	6,110.9	14.1	EU 15	8,405.6	22.2	EU 15	5,849.1	10.2
United States	2,916.0	7.7	Argentina	4,117.9	9.5	Turkey	3,748.8	9.9	Algeria	5,021.7	8.8
Turkey	2,763.0	7.3	Brazil	3,043.8	7.0	Egypt	2,081.5	5.5	Kuwait	3,201.5	5.6
Sri Lanka	2,385.7	6.3	Sri Lanka	2,506.1	5.8	UAE	1,697.4	4.5	UAE	2,876.2	5.0
Malaysia	2,233.3	5.9	Thailand	1,822.0	4.2	Kuwait	1,714.6	4.5	Lebanon	2,576.7	4.5
UAE	1,430.7	3.8	Egypt	1,377.8	3.2	Lebanon	1,431.9	3.8	Jordan	2,154.5	3.8
Ecuador	1,129.3	3.0	Malaysia	875.4	2.0	Qatar	1,029.7	2.7	Turkey	1,696.9	3.0
Morocco	1,118.9	3.0	UAE	836.7	1.9	Jordan	845.6	2.2	Egypt	1,505.8	2.6
Thailand	1,043.2	2.8	Turkey	801.9	1.8	Indonesia	590.8	1.6	Qatar	1,466.4	2.6
Sudan	979.5	2.6	Morocco	792.1	1.8	Algeria	565.4	1.5	Pakistan	1,265.9	2.2
Brazil	830.3	2.2	Lebanon	744.3	1.7	Japan	564.7	1.5	Thailand	1,134.9	2.0
Romania	712.8	1.9	Ecuador	704.0	1.6	Thailand	544.6	1.4	Iraq	890.8	1.6
Poland	467.0	1.2	Sudan	690.8	1.6	Russian Fed	458.4	1.2	S.Korea	758.1	1.3
Chile	451.9	1.2	Colombia	587.4	1.4	United States	443.3	1.2	Indonesia	684.9	1.2
Egypt	414.2	1.1	Russia	580.5	1.3	Morocco	303.1	0.8	Malaysia	613.3	1.1
Mexico	391.3	1.0	Mexico	566.3	1.3	Oman	317.8	0.8	India	604.7	1.1
Isl Rep of Iran	376.6	1.0	Australia	541.0	1.2	Romania	264.0	0.7	USA	601.7	1.0
Others	4,255.1	11.3	Others	7,056.8	16.3	Others	2,650.4	7.0	Others	5,334.8	9.3
Total	37,656.0	100.0	Total	43,403.0	100.0	Total	37,863.0	100.0	Total	57,360.7	100.0

Source: NAPC database

Table 3.42 - Syrian agricultural trade balance with S. Arabia by chapter, 2002 (Million SP)

Code	Chapter	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1	Live Animals	12,353.2	2.8	12,350.4
2	Meat & Edible Meat Offals	1.3	0.0	1.3
3	Fish & Crustaceans & Molluscan	0.0	0.9	-0.9
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	64.8	2.1	62.8
6	Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	11.4	0.0	11.3
7	Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	2,627.0	31.4	2,595.6
8	Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	2,221.3	26.3	2,195.0
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	700.6	0.0	700.6
10	Cereals	4.1	0.0	4.1
11	Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	2.0	0.0	2.0
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	127.1	0.0	127.1
13	Raw Plants for Gums & Dyeing and Tanning	0.1	0.0	0.1
14	Other Plants	18.4	0.0	18.4
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	181.8	55.0	126.8
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	82.7	6.9	75.8
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	53.8	0.0	53.8
19	Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch	85.6	124.5	-38.9
20	Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	482.1	0.5	481.5
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	29.9	13.3	16.6
22	Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	1.3	0.4	0.9
23	Residues and Waste from Food Industry	59.0	0.0	59.0
41	Hides (except Fur)	0.1	0.0	0.1
51	Wool & Hair	2.2	0.0	2.2
52	Cotton	12.3	0.0	12.3
53	Flax and Ramie	0.5	0.0	0.5
	Total	19,122.8	264.2	18,858.5

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.43 - Syrian agricultural trade balance with EU 15 by chapter, 2002 (Million SP)

Code	Chapter	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1	Live Animals	8.6	123.0	-114.4
2	Meat & Edible Meat Offals	0.0	0.5	-0.5
3	Fish & Crustaceans & Molluscan	1.1	3.4	-2.4
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	14.8	1,437.6	-1,422.8
5	Other Animal Products	237.0	0.4	236.6
6	Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	19.4	8.7	10.6
7	Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	488.2	11.2	477.0
8	Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	21.3	1.0	20.3
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	619.2	1.5	617.7
10	Cereals	0.0	215.9	-215.9
11	Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	0.0	74.0	-74.0
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	133.3	717.2	-584.0
13	Raw Plants for Gums & Dyeing and Tanning	0.0	16.8	-16.8
14	Other Plants	314.5	3.9	310.7
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	43.8	201.0	-157.2
16	Preparations of Meat & Fish & Others	0.0	0.8	-0.8
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	23.6	4,077.6	-4,054.0
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	0.5	79.2	-78.6
19	Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch	35.7	78.6	-42.9
20	Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	57.4	110.9	-53.5
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	14.5	1,791.3	-1,776.8
22	Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	0.4	56.7	-56.3
23	Residues and Waste from Food Industry	0.1	21.2	-21.1
24	Tobacco	98.9	605.5	-506.6
41	Hides (except Fur)	951.0	6.8	944.2
51	Wool & Hair	58.0	0.0	58.0
52	Cotton	2,707.8	2.6	2,705.2
53	Flax and Ramie	0.0	0.1	-0.1
	Total	5,849.1	9,647.4	-3,798.2

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.44 - Syrian agricultural trade balance with USA by chapter, 2002 (Million SP)

Code	Chapter	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1	Live Animals	3.4	0.0	3.4
2	Meat & Edible Meat Offals	0.0	1.3	-1.3
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	9.1	52.3	-43.3
7	Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	9.7	24.3	-14.6
8	Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	0.8	0.0	0.8
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	535.6	0.0	535.6
10	Cereals	0.0	3,979.5	-3,979.5
11	Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	0.0	0.2	-0.2
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	1.3	501.3	-500.0
13	Raw Plants for Gums & Dyeing and Tanning	0.0	1.0	-1.0
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	7.2	102.1	-94.9
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	2.4	157.5	-155.0
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	0.9	0.1	0.8
19	Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch	5.0	1.6	3.4
20	Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	21.6	43.1	-21.4
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	3.5	96.1	-92.6
22	Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	1.2	2.3	-1.2
23	Residues and Waste from Food Industry	0.0	194.4	-194.4
24	Tobacco	0.0	953.5	-953.5
	Total	601.7	6,110.6	-5,508.9

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.45 - Syrian agricultural trade balance with Algeria by chapter, 2002 (Million SP)

Code	Chapter	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1	Live Animals	2.7	0.0	2.7
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	3.4	0.0	3.4
5	Other Animal Products	0.5	0.0	0.5
6	Live Plants & Products of Floriculture	6.3	0.0	6.3
7	Edible Vegetables & Roots & Tubers	4.6	0.0	4.6
8	Fruits & Other Edible Items & Citrus & Musk Melon Coat	13.3	0.0	13.3
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	196.6	0.0	196.6
10	Cereals	4,730.9	0.0	4,730.9
11	Products of Milling Industry & Malt & Starches	1.4	0.0	1.4
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	20.6	0.0	20.6
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	0.1	0.0	0.1
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	8.7	0.0	8.7
18	Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	0.3	0.0	0.3
19	Preparations from Grains or Flour or Starch	1.2	0.0	1.2
20	Preparations of Edible Vegetables & Plants & Fruits	1.1	0.0	1.1
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	0.1	0.0	0.1
22	Drinks & Liquid Alcohols & Vinegar	0.0	0.1	-0.1
52	Cotton	30.1	0.0	30.1
	Total	5,021.7	0.1	5,021.6

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.46 - Syrian agricultural trade balance with Argentina by chapter, 2002 (Million SP)

Code	Chapter	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
4	Milk & Milk Products & Birds Eggs & Honey	0.0	17.1	-17.1
9	Coffee & Tea & Mate & Spices	21.8	645.1	-623.3
10	Cereals	0.0	549.1	-549.1
12	Oil Seeds & Fruits & Plants for Inds. & Med. & Fodder	0.0	553.8	-553.8
13	Raw Plants for Gums & Dyeing and Tanning	0.0	1.8	-1.8
15	Vegetable & Animal Oils & Fats	0.0	10.3	-10.3
17	Sugar & Sugar Confectionery	0.0	6.4	-6.4
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations	0.0	11.6	-11.6
23	Residues and Waste from Food Industry	0.0	2,322.6	-2,322.6
	Total	21.8	4,117.9	-4,096.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.47 - Syrian most important agricultural exports to S. Arabia, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
1041090	Sheep	84,720.3	11,657.2	61.0
7020000	Tomatoes fresh or chilled	163,491.7	2,052.4	10.7
1042090	Live sheep and goats (other)	4,892.8	677.3	3.5
9093000	Seeds of cumin	4,596.3	606.8	3.2
8061000	Grapes, Fresh	10,075.1	345.6	1.8
8092000	Cherries	7,806.8	342.7	1.8
8082010	Pears	7,054.7	316.4	1.7
8094000	Plums and sloes	6,107.5	218.7	1.1
8091000	Apricots	6,214.1	208.0	1.1
7096000	Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, fresh or chilled	9,569.2	177.8	0.9
15091010	Olive oil virgin suitable for human consumption in its present form	1,474.5	175.7	0.9
8051000	Oranges	9,365.7	174.2	0.9
20079910	Apricot paste and grape paste (Kemeradin)	3,095.3	149.5	0.8
8052000	Mandarins (including tangerines and satsumas); Clementine, wilkings and similar citrus hybrids	6,108.1	139.5	0.7
7134010	Lentils, For sowing	4,791.8	127.4	0.7
8071910	Yellow watermelon (musk-melon and cantaloupe)	9,749.5	122.6	0.6
8093000	Peaches, including nectarines	2,606.5	114.5	0.6
	Total	398,265.6	19,122.8	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.48 - Syrian most important agricultural exports to EU 15, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
52010090	Cotton, not carded or combed (Other)	72,532.1	2,629.5	45.0
41120099	Other Leather further prepared after tanning or crusting of sheep or lamb, tanned, grained, stamped or printed etc	6,847.0	902.0	15.4
9093000	Seeds of cumin	4,523.9	586.2	10.0
14042000	Cotton linters	30,830.3	314.5	5.4
7020000	Tomatoes, fresh or chilled	11,887.4	250.7	4.3
5040010	Guts	623.0	235.7	4.0
7113010	Capers, in brine, sulfur water or water with other added materials	1,206.0	158.3	2.7
24012010	Tobacco, partly or wholly stemmed/stripped (Leaf tobacco)	906.0	98.9	1.7
7122000	Onions, dried	901.2	59.3	1.0
12123010	Apricot kernels	662.6	46.5	0.8
51012990	Wool, degreased, not carbonized (Other)	1,260.0	45.7	0.8
12119099	Other plants and parts of plants (including seeds and fruits)	394.4	38.8	0.7
7019000	Other potatoes, fresh or chilled	2,160.3	35.7	0.6
19059090	Other bread pastry cakes biscuits and other bakers/ wares, whether or not containing cocoa	291.0	27.0	0.5
12111000	Licorice roots	360.3	24.5	0.4
	Total	149,100.0	5,849.1	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.49 - Syrian most important agricultural exports to Algeria, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
10011090	Other durum wheat	520,867.2	4,465.9	88.9
10030000	Barley	67,846.0	265.0	5.3
9093000	Seeds of cumin	1,446.5	193.9	3.9
52010090	Cotton, not carded or combed (Other)	945.4	30.1	0.6
12119099	Other plants and parts of plants (including seeds and fruits)	218.2	20.6	0.4
8042010	Figs, in packings of 1 kg or less	264.6	10.3	0.2
17049090	Other sugar confectioners (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa	95.6	8.7	0.2
6021090	Other enrooted cuttings and slips	2.3	4.1	0.1
7135090	Other broad beans and horse beans	142.5	4.1	0.1
4090000	Natural honey	7.5	3.4	0.1
1041090	Sheep	192.0	2.7	0.1
9094000	Seeds of caraway	49.5	2.7	0.1
8042090	Other figs	57.1	2.3	0.0
6031000	Cut flowers and flowers buds of a kind suitable for bouquets or for ornamental purposes, fresh	0.7	1.4	0.0
	Total	592,381.6	5,021.7	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.50 - Syrian most important agricultural exports to Kuwait, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
1041090	Sheep	13,263.7	1,824.2	57.0
7020000	Tomatoes, fresh or chilled	12,296.1	152.6	4.8
8061000	Grapes, fresh	3,638.2	124.4	3.9
20011000	Cucumbers and gherkins	4,393.0	116.3	3.6
15091010	Olive oil virgin suitable for human consumption in its present form	428.5	50.4	1.6
8092000	Cherries	1,116.2	48.7	1.5
8051000	Oranges	2,446.0	45.1	1.4
7019000	Other potatoes, fresh or chilled	2,870.9	43.0	1.3
7096000	Fruits of the genus Capsicum or of the genus Pimenta, Fresh or Chilled	2,257.7	42.8	1.3
8082010	Pears	920.0	40.8	1.3
4061010	Lactic cheese	310.2	40.8	1.3
7051900	Other lettuce	4,108.8	38.7	1.2
8071100	Watermelons	3,923.1	35.5	1.1
8094000	Plums and sloes	985.0	33.9	1.1
8052000	Mandarins (including tangerines and satsumas), Clementine, wilkings and similar citrus hybrids	1,511.1	33.0	1.0
	Total	74,138.9	3,201.5	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.51 - Syrian most important agricultural exports to UAE, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
9093000	Seeds of cumin	9,379.5	1,159.2	40.3
8061000	Grapes, fresh	5,644.2	193.8	6.7
7020000	Tomatoes fresh or chilled	15,388.1	189.1	6.6
1042090	Live sheep and goats (Other)	1,263.0	176.1	6.1
1041090	Sheep	824.1	103.7	3.6
20011000	Cucumbers and gherkins	2,500.5	66.1	2.3
7019000	Other potatoes, fresh or chilled	3,940.6	59.9	2.1
52010090	Cotton, not carded or combed (Other)	1,772.7	59.0	2.1
8092000	Cherries	1,270.5	55.4	1.9
8082010	Pears	880.0	39.7	1.4
8094000	Plums and sloes	1,030.8	36.8	1.3
7051900	Other lettuce	3,496.2	33.5	1.2
8051000	Oranges	1,781.9	33.4	1.2
8071910	Yellow watermelon (musk-melon and cantaloupe)	2,538.6	31.3	1.1
4061010	Lactic cheese	243.1	30.8	1.1
	Total	69,387.0	2,876.2	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.52 - Syrian most important agricultural imports from EU 15, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
17019919	Other chemically pure sucrose in solid from refined	329,251.9	3,830.5	39.7
21069090	Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included (Other)	1,463.4	1,641.9	17.0
4022110	Milk , In powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 1.5%,Not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, For children, in airtight tins containing not more than 2,500 g	3,531.9	635.8	6.6
24022000	Cigarettes containing tobacco	958.9	598.6	6.2
4059010	Ghee	5,944.1	459.8	4.8
12099110	Vegetable seeds suitable only for sowing	59.1	380.1	3.9
17023090	Glucose and glucose syrup, not containing fructose or containing in the dry state less than 20% by weight of fructose (Other)	14,339.4	176.2	1.8
10059010	Maize (Corn)	25,315.0	129.5	1.3
1051900	Fowls of the species gallus domesticus, weighing not more than 185g,(Other)	66.2	116.5	1.2
20052010	Rectangular chips made of potato flour, salted, with added preservatives, dried for consumption upon frying	1,500.0	93.6	1.0
12091110	Seeds of forage plants, for sowing	255.3	84.9	0.9
4051000	Butter	1,814.9	80.5	0.8
12060000	Sunflower seeds whether or not broken	4,870.7	70.9	0.7
19019090	Other malt extract food preparations of flour, groats, meal, starch or malt extract	6,457.8	61.6	0.6
	Total	429,429.1	9,647.4	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.53 - Syrian most important agricultural imports from USA, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
10059010	Maize (Corn)	698,454.9	3,689.4	60.4
24022000	Cigarettes containing tobacco	1,586.8	953.5	15.6
12010000	Soy beans, whether or not broken	35,794.6	314.3	5.1
10059090	Maize (Corn) (Other)	50,232.0	254.1	4.2
23040000	Oil-Cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soy bean oil	22,500.0	194.1	3.2
12099110	Vegetable seeds suitable only for sowing	103.6	180.0	2.9
17019919	Other chemically pure sucrose in solid from refined	14,000.0	154.8	2.5
21069090	Food Preparations not elsewhere specified or included (Other)	196.6	93.0	1.5
15121111	Crude oil for use by industry from sunflower seed	4,007.1	89.7	1.5
4022110	Milk , in powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 1.5%,Not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, for children, in airtight tins containing not more than 2,500 g	152.4	52.3	0.9
20059010	Capers prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or Acetic Acid, not frozen	800.0	40.5	0.7
10063000	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	1,500.0	29.3	0.5
7131010	Peas (Pisum sativum), dried leguminous, for sowing	82.5	11.4	0.2
7133310	Kidney beans, including white pea beans (Phaseolus vulgaris), for sowing	49.0	9.1	0.1
15121910	Crude oil (Other) from sunflower seeds	244.7	8.4	0.1
10051000	Maize (Corn) for seed	13.5	6.8	0.1
12099910	Seeds, fruits and spores, of a kind used for sowing (Other) suitable only for sowing	4.1	6.4	0.1
	Total	830,174.4	6,110.6	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.54 - Syrian most important agricultural imports from Argentina, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
23040000	Oil-Cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soy bean oil	268,780.9	2,322.6	56.4
12010000	Soy beans, whether or not broken	65,285.4	553.8	13.4
9030020	Mate, raw, in stalk form, whether or not ground	13,815.4	496.9	12.1
10059010	Maize (Corn)	107,067.6	486.3	11.8
9030010	Mate, prepared and ready for consumption	2,841.2	147.6	3.6
10059090	Maize (Corn) (Other)	10,816.0	62.9	1.5
21069090	Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included (Other)	361.6	11.6	0.3
4021090	Other milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, In powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 1.5%	175.0	10.2	0.2
15121910	Crude oil (Other) from sunflower seeds	265.8	8.9	0.2
4051000	Butter	120.0	6.9	0.2
17021900	Other Lactose and lactose Syrup	165.0	5.0	0.1
13021100	Vegetable saps and extracts of hops	60.0	1.8	0.0
17021100	Lactose and lactose Syrup , containing by weight 99% or more lactose, expressed as anhydrous lactose, calculated on the dry matter	50.0	1.4	0.0
15162019	Other vegetable fats and oils and their fractions, partially or wholly hydrogenated, whether or not refined	59.2	1.4	0.0
	Total	469,874.0	4,117.9	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.55 - Syrian most important agricultural imports from Brazil, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
17019919	Other chemical pure sucrose, in solid form, refined	146,724.8	1,485.4	48.8
17011210	Raw sugar for refining	69,041.4	814.7	26.8
9011100	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated	22,327.2	724.6	23.8
21011100	Extracts, essences and concentrates, of coffee	103.0	13.9	0.5
15211000	Vegetable waxes	28.0	2.2	0.1
	Total	5,391,087.1	3,043.8	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs

Table 3.56 - Syrian most important agricultural imports from Sri Lanka, 2002 (Million SP, Ton and %)

Code	Product	Ton	Million SP	%
9024000	Other black tea (fermented) and other partly fermented in packings tea	21,756.6	1,633.7	65.2
9023000	Black tea (fermented) and partly fermented tea, in immediate packings of a content not exceeding 3 kg	8,080.8	800.1	31.9
8011100	Coconuts, desiccated	723.0	24.8	1.0
9021000	Black tea	95.0	11.8	0.5
8011900	Other Coconuts	668.8	10.8	0.4
8024000	Chestnuts (Castanea spp)	81.3	6.3	0.3
9083000	Cardamoms	58.2	5.1	0.2
9070000	Cloves (wholy fruit, cloves and stems)	192.4	4.3	0.2
19024000	Couscous	43.0	3.2	0.1
9041100	Pepper, neither crushed nor ground	39.5	2.1	0.1
9081000	Nutmeg	37.0	1.6	0.1
	Total	5,552,410.9	2,506.1	100.0

Source: General Department of Customs