

FAO Statistical Yearbook 2014



Near East and North Africa
food and agriculture



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Near East and North Africa
Food and Agriculture

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa**

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Foreword

The Near East and North Africa region includes 19 countries that share a common cultural heritage but are very distinct from one another in their levels of development, their resource endowments and their potential for food and agricultural production. There are extremes of wealth and poverty among these countries. However, they are all addressing a common set of problems and challenges that could threaten their development prospects.

One of the primary challenges facing the region is overcoming hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Currently, there are 43.7 million undernourished people in the Near East and North Africa. Most of these people live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. A wide range of interconnected issues challenge the region, including dwindling water and land resources, the gap between food needs and food production, increasing difficulties in balancing employment and income generation as populations expand, declining investment in the rural sector, increasing threats from environmental strain, natural and human-induced disasters, as well as the impacts of climate change.

Meeting these challenges with evidence-based policymaking will require timely statistical information from a wide range of fields. As a contribution to this effort, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has prepared this Regional Yearbook for the Near East and North Africa. The Yearbook presents a visual synthesis of the major trends and factors shaping the regional food and agricultural landscape and their interplay with broader environmental, social and economic dimensions. In doing so, it serves as a reference document on regional food and agriculture for policymakers, donor agencies, researchers and analysts, and the general public.

Reliable data and information are fundamental prerequisites for rigorous analysis and hence sound strategy for development and equitable distribution of income to the various sectors of the economy according to national priorities. For this reason it is crucial that statistics and information be collected, compiled, analyzed and disseminated using the best methodologies, concepts and classifications at national, subnational, regional and global levels.

FAO's preparation of regional and global Yearbooks is part of a much broader effort by the organization and its national and international partners to improve the quality of statistical data related to food insecurity, agriculture and the sustainable management of natural resources. At the 31st session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East in 2012, the organization unveiled its plans for the development of a regional strategy to improve agricultural statistics. The regional strategy – which is being developed by regional stakeholders and countries – is an integral part of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, a long-term project promoted by FAO and international partners. The Global Strategy is built on three major pillars: producing a minimum set of core data and determining national priorities, integrating agricultural statistics into national statistical systems, and fostering the sustainability of agricultural statistics through governance and statistical capacity development.

This 2014 edition of the Near East and North Africa Statistical Yearbook of food and agriculture contains a breadth of data and topics related to food security and agriculture. FAO remains committed to working with partners and Member States in the Near East and North Africa to improve agricultural and rural statistics and facilitate the process of transforming this information into policies that will strengthen food security in the region and ensure more sustainable food production.

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How to use this book

The structure

The FAO Statistical Yearbook products build on the process that began with the 2012 edition. The book has been created from beginning to end with the statistical software R and the typesetting language $\text{\LaTeX}$: from data retrieval, to data processing, indicator construction, and blueprint-ready pdf file for distribution. This technique has circumvented the traditional route of manual production, involving costly software licences, significant labour costs and inefficiencies associated with a lack of integration.

Using data from global statistical providers, including FAO, the publication presents a visual synthesis of major trends and factors shaping the global food and agricultural landscape, and their interplay with broader environmental, social and economic dimensions. In doing so, it serves as a unique reference point of world food and agriculture for policy-makers, donor agencies, researchers, analysts and the general public.

The book is divided into four thematic parts, in an attempt to present the full spectrum of issues relevant to the subject matter:

Part 1 The setting measures the state of the agricultural resource base by assessing the supply of land, labour, capital and inputs, and examining the pressure on the world food system stemming from demographic and macroeconomic change.

Part 2 Hunger dimensions gauges the state of food insecurity and malnutrition, measuring the multitude of dimensions that give rise to hunger and shape undernourishment.

Part 3 Feeding the world evaluates the past and present productive capacity of world agriculture, together with the role of trade in meeting changing food, feed and other demands.

Part 4 Sustainability dimensions examines the sustainability of agriculture in the context of the pressure it exerts on the environment, including the interaction of agriculture with climate change, and how it can provide ecosystem services through the bio-based economy.

Several page spreads are used to present each thematic issue. Each spread contains visualizations of the data in maps and charts, along with text providing background to the salient issues and an assessment of current trends. Tables are provided at the end of each part. A list of indicators used throughout the book and a section on concepts and methods can be found in Part 5.

Country definitions and classification

The publication follows the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa composition (see “Table: Country list” or <http://neareast.fao.org/>).

Aggregations

Two types of aggregations are used in the book: sum and weighted mean. Two restrictions are imposed when computing the aggregation: i) the sufficiency condition – the aggregation is computed only when sufficient countries have reported data, and the current threshold is set at 50 percent of the variable and the weighting variable, if present; and ii) the comparability condition – as aggregations are usually computed over time, this condition is designed to ensure that the number of countries is comparable over several years; under the current restriction the number of countries may not vary by more than 15 over time.

Data presentation conventions

The cutoff date for the data is 30 September 2013.

- When country data have not been reported for the reference year, an asterisk (*) on the year label indicates that the value for the most recent year available is shown. For example, 2008–2010* means that the most recent value for the period from 2008 to 2010 is shown. When a growth rate is computed, the specified interval always refers to available data.
- A billion is 1 000 million.
- A trillion is 1 000 billion.
- A blank means that data are not available or that aggregates cannot be calculated because of missing data for the years shown.
- In tables, 0 or 0.0 means zero or a number that is small enough to round to zero at the displayed number of decimal places.
- A ~ in the maps refers to the range specified in the class intervals.

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