

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

Decreasing Consumer Price Index Driven by Food and Utilities

2016 Olive Harvest

Hydroponic Reception at the Ambassador's Residence

General Information:

Decreasing Consumer Price Index Driven by Food and Utilities

Jordan's monthly report on inflation issued by the [Department of Statistics](#) (DoS) indicates a decrease in Jordan's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first nine months of 2016 of 1.1 percent as compared to the same period in 2015.

The main commodity groups contributing to this decrease were meats and poultry -9.4 percent, transport -6.5 percent, fuel and electricity by -6.2 percent, fruit and vegetables -2.7 percent, and dairy products and eggs by -2.0 percent. Meanwhile, the main commodity groups witnessing an increase were rents 2.7 percent, tobacco and cigarettes 2.7 percent, culture and entertainment 4.1 percent, and education 1.3 percent.

Although these numbers are a welcome relief for Jordan's overburdened consumers, they are not welcoming news to Jordan's poultry and fruit and vegetable farmers, who have been struggling with low prices, accentuated by the closure of the Syrian and Iraqi borders in 2015.

2016 Olive Harvest

Jordan Producers and Exporters of Olive Products Association ([JOPEA](#)) expect that olive oil prices remain stable and equivalent to last year's prices, as carryover stocks will make up for this year's production shortfall. At the onset of the harvest season, farmers and millers currently have stocks of 5,000 MT of olive oil, which should help buffer any spike in demand.

The forecast for this year's olive oil production at 20,000 MT, from a supply of 160-170 thousand MT of olive fruits, a decrease from last year's production of 240 thousand MT, or about 33 percent. The production decrease is due to the biennial trait of olive tree production compounded by the effects of climate change.

Hydroponic Reception at the Ambassador's Residence

The U.S. Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Alice Wells, hosted a [Hydroponic Produce Reception](#) on October 5, 2016. The reception showcased produce from USAID's hydroponic program in Jordan, which has funded several projects implementing this water saving technology.

In addition to the outstanding produce, Ambassador Wells served her guests with high quality and mouthwatering U.S. beef, U.S. poultry, and U.S. cheese products. The guests, which included the ministers of investment, water and irrigation, as well as members of Parliament and leading private sector representatives, were duly impressed by the quality of the produce. Many expressed interest in the water-saving technology, stating that it will be a key technology to help address Jordan's water scarcity problems.

