



December 2003

The total agricultural exports through Export Plus program have marked an increase of 38% in December 2003 when compared to the corresponding period of 2002, with the total volume of exports of fresh fruits and vegetables reaching 34,123 tons. Exports of table eggs amounted to 12,951 boxes (360 eggs/box).

It is worth noting that 1,699 tons of agriculture products (5% of total exports) were rejected by the inspection bureaus in view of their non-conformity with the international standards.

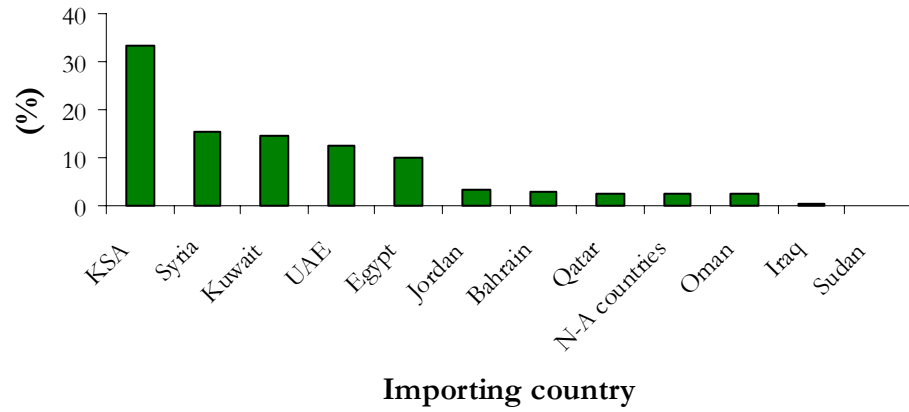
KSA ranked first in terms of import quantities, accounting for 33% of total exports, followed by Kuwait and Syria, each sharing 15% of total exports (figure 1 and table 1).

Table 1. Total agricultural exports per importing country

	Quantity (tons)	%
KSA	11,399	33
Syria	5,247	15
Kuwait	4,966	15
UAE	4,201	12
Egypt	3,410	10
Jordan	1,195	4
Bahrain	1,052	3
Qatar	874	3
N-A countries	858	3
Oman	826	2
Iraq	75	0
Sudan	20	0
Total	34,123	100



Figure 1



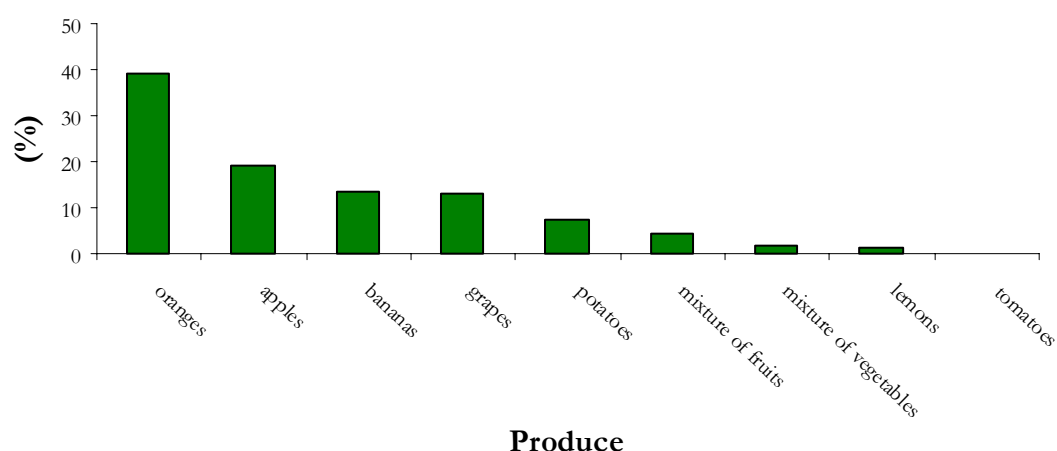
The top export was the oranges, with 39 % of the total exports (table 2 and figure 2).

Table 2. Total agricultural exports per produce

	Quantity (tons)	%
Oranges	13,350	39
Apples	6,525	19
Bananas	4,636	14
Grapes	4,416	13
Potatoes	2,590	8
Mixture of fruits	1,496	4
Mixture of vegetables	597	2
Lemons	511	1
Tomatoes	3	0
Total	34,123	100



Figure 2



The Export Plus program has a direct impact on the activity of the transportation sector, especially land transport. In December 2003, 1,707 transportation trucks were used to transport agriculture exports. The trucks were from various nationalities, with those having Lebanese license plates accounting for the biggest share with 64% of the total.

Table 3. Trucks distribution according to their nationalities

	Bekaa	North	South	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	Total	%
Lebanon	420	546	70	5	47	1,088	64
Syria	59	201	205	1	5	471	28
Kuwait	38	63	0	1	16	118	7
Jordan	5	0	0	0	0	5	0
Emirates	13	5	3	1	0	22	1
KSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Qatar	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Oman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	535	818	278	8	68	1,707	100



January 2003- December 2003

1. Overview

Despite the increase in export quantity marked by January, September, October, November, and December of the year 2003, the overall activity for the second year of Export Plus was marked by a 0.3% decrease in the level of exports when compared to 2002, with the total volume of exports of fresh fruits and vegetables reaching 356,255 tons (table 4, figure 3). The exports of table eggs amounted to 174,627 boxes.

Table 4 Total agricultural exports per produce

	Quantity (tons)	%
Potatoes	108,233	30
Oranges	88,422	25
Apples	35,218	10
Grapes	34,086	10
Mixture of vegetables	28,343	8
Mixture of fruits	20,031	6
Bananas	17,865	5
Lemons	17,446	5
Tomatoes	6,610	2
Total	356,254	100

Figure 3

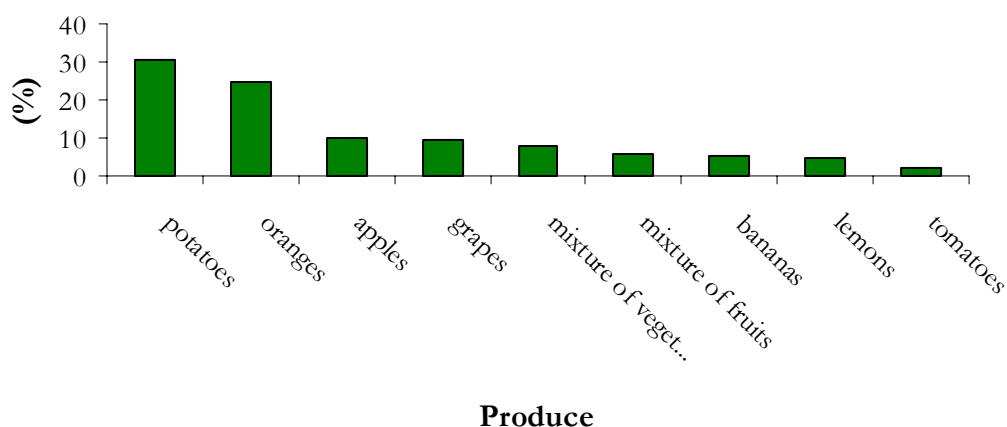
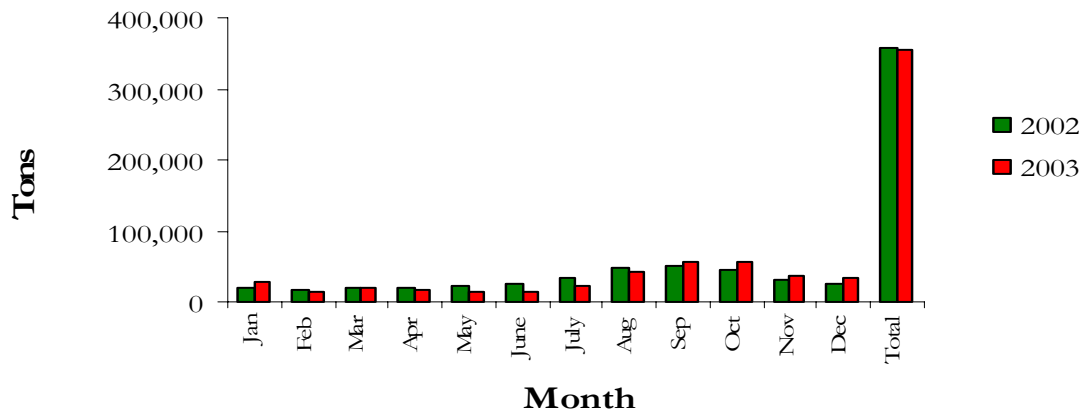




Table 5. Monthly exports (2002 vs. 2003)

(in tons)	2002	2003	%
Jan	20,700	26,882	29.9
Feb	17,594	14,901	-15.3
Mar	20,521	19,886	-3.1
April	19,229	15,708	-18.3
May	22,652	15,040	-33.6
June	25,886	15,391	-40.5
July	32,781	22,618	-31.0
August	47,027	41,961	-10.8
September	50,037	57,448	14.8
October	44,083	55,650	26.2
November	32,129	36,645	14.1
December	24,619	34,123	38.7
Total	357,258	356,253	-0.3

Figure 4



The drop in the level of agricultural exports in 2003 was mainly induced by bad weather conditions which resulted in lower yields and lower quality of products. As a result, the inspection bureaus rejected 4% of the products which were destined for exports. With 71% of Lebanese agriculture exports intended for the Gulf region, the volume of agriculture exports was further dampened by the war on Iraq.

Saudi Arabia has maintained the lead (in terms of quantity, ranking first among other importing countries) (table 6, figure 5), with 27% of export. Potatoes accounted for the highest share, with 30% of total exports of fruits and vegetables (table 4, figure 4).



Table 6. Total agricultural exports per importing country

	Quantity (tons)	%
KSA	97,907	27
Kuwait	66,263	19
Syria	64,517	18
Jordan	42,980	12
UAE	39,769	11
Egypt	14,866	4
Qatar	9,310	3
Oman	9,110	3
Bahrain	8,099	2
N-A countries	3,123	1
Sudan	189	0
Iraq	107	0
Total	356,255	100

Figure 5

