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The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

3.1% the Average decrease in Agricultural Producers' Prices during September 2018 Compared with September 2017

The data issued by the Department of Statistics indicates a decrease in the Average Agricultural Producers' Price Index for September 2018 by 3.1% compared with September 2017. (The Price Index reached 100.5 in September 2018 compared with 103.7 in September 2017). The most significant crops that contributed to this decrease were tomatoes (70.2%), lemon (29.0%), okra (31.2%), string beans (43.2%), guava (19.6%), cabbage (55.6%), green pepper (28.0%), eggplants (15.1%), maize (23.6%) and scallion (41.3%). (the total of their relative importance constituted 56.0% of the total indicator value).

Meanwhile, there was an increase in the price index of onions, apples, potato, squash, Chinese lettuce, colored sweet pepper, Jews mallow, plum, melon and lettuce by 58.5%, 96.2%, 43.1%, 38.9%, 136.7%, 45.7%, 40.5%, 41.0%, 51.8% and 43.1% respectively (the total of their relative importance constituted 44.0% of the total indicator value).

The report also shows that the Price Index has increased by 19.6% in September 2018 as compared with August 2018 (the price index reached 100.5 in September 2018 compared with 84.0 in August 2018). The most significant crops that contributed to this increase (the total of their relative importance constituted 48.0%) were potatoes 25.4%, onion 26.6%, squash 19.7%, dates 44.8%, lettuce 138.6%, apple 21.6%, colored sweet pepper 47.5%, cauliflower 13.6%, Chinese lettuce 56.5% and cantaloupe 51.7%.

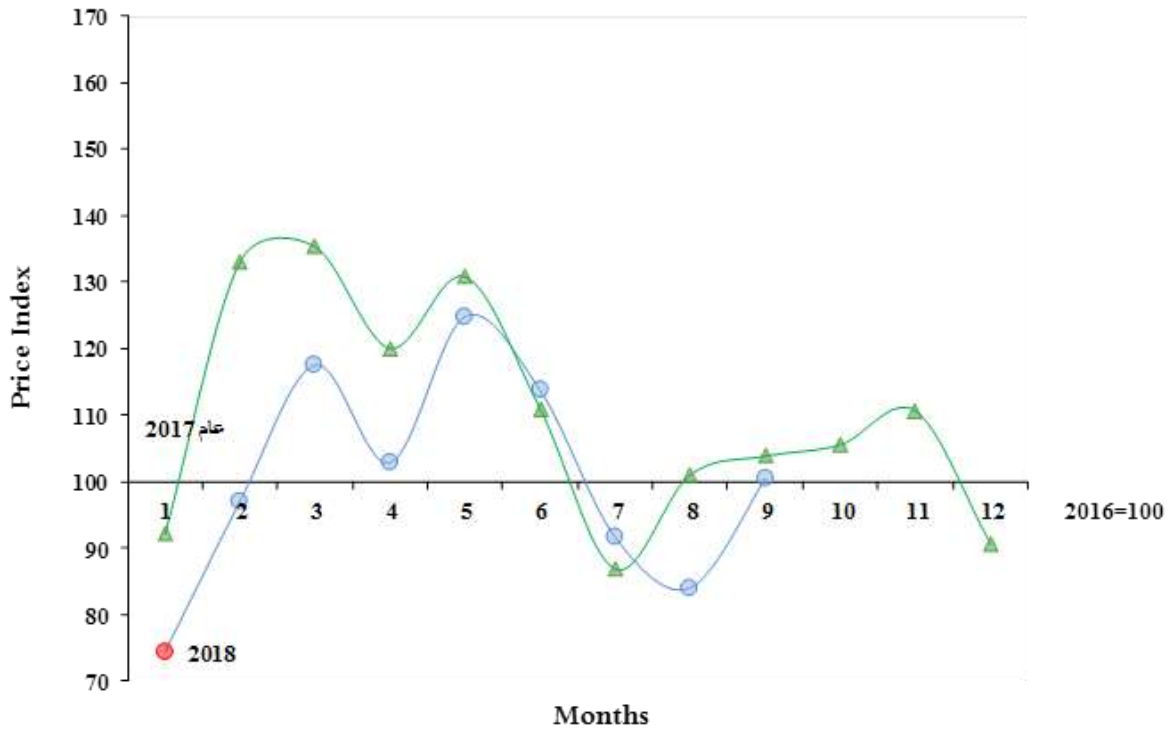
Meanwhile, there was a decrease in the price index of lemon, cucumber, guava, peach, tomatoes, grapes, figs, parsley, cabbage and green pepper (23.9%), (11.4%), (17.2%),

(5.0%), (5.9%), (2.1%), (21.5%), (28.3%), (10.9%) and (6.1%) respectively with a relative importance reached 52.0%.

On the accumulative level, the Price Index of Agricultural Producers has decreased by 10.6% for the first nine months of 2018 as compared with the same period of 2017 (the accumulative price index reached 100.7% for 2018 compared with 112.6 for the same period of 2017). The most significant crops whose Price Index Average contributed to this decrease were hot pepper by (6.6%), green pepper (19.6%), eggplants (15.5%), tomatoes (53.1%), string beans (11.4%) and potatoes (10.6%), whose their relative importance constituted 63.7%. Meanwhile, there was an increase in the price index of cauliflower, colored sweet pepper, cucumber, squash and banana by 10.3% ,27.9%, 19.3%, 15.9% and 1.1% respectively with a relative importance of 36.3%.

The figure below shows the trend of the price index of the Agricultural Producers for 2017 and 2018.

Fig 1: Agricultural Producer Price Index for 2017 & 2018



It is worthy to mention that the Department of Statistics (DOS) had reviewed the methodology of agricultural prices data collection through a specialized technical committee from DOS and the Ministry of Agriculture upon recommendations of the *Permanent Agricultural Statistics Expert Committee* emanating from the *National Agricultural Strategy (2002-2010)*. In order to improve the data quality, we rely on the data on agricultural prices for all corps coming from the central markets each month, (2016 is the base year, 100 = 2016) using (Laspeure) formula to derive the price index.