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5.5% the Average Increase in Agricultural Producers' Prices during July 2018 Compared with July 2017

The data issued by the Department of Statistics indicates an increase in the Average Agricultural Producers' Price Index for July 2018 by 5.5% compared with July 2017. (The Price Index reached 91.6 in July 2018 compared with 86.8 in July 2017). The most significant crops that contributed to this increase were tomatoes (180.8%), onions (41.6%), cantaloupe (65.0%), peach (16.4%), potatoes (12.3%), cauliflower (45.3%), colored sweet pepper (84.3%), water melon (7.8%), eggplants (17.2%) and parsley (88.0%).

(the total of their relative importance constituted 58.2% of the total indicator value).

Meanwhile, there was a decrease in the price index of cucumber, grapes, wheat, okra, plum, Chinese lettuce ,squash ,green lettuce ,figs and dates by 26.2%, 17.0%, 19.1%, 19.6%, 10.0%, 50.0%, 12.3%, 30.7%, 42.7% and 51.1% respectively (the total of their relative importance constituted 41.8% of the total indicator value).

The report also shows that the Price Index has decreased by 19.4% in July 2018 as compared with June 2018 (the price index reached 91.6 in July 2018 compared with 113.7 in June 2018). The most significant crops that contributed to this decrease (the total of their relative importance constituted 42.1%) were water melon 23.7%, grapes 15.9%, apple 33.6%, eggplants 24.1%, cantaloupe 23.0%, prikly pear 45.4%, vine leaves 32.6%, okra 8.7%, green lettuce 29.2% and squash 8.3%, Meanwhile, there was an increase in the price index of tomatoes, peach, potato, cucumber, nectarine, carrot, pears, spinach, plum and lemon by (49.9%), (19.9%), (14.6%), (19.3%), (14.9%), (65.0%), (14.6%), (50.7%), (4.9%) and (10.4%) respectively with a relative importance reached 57.9%.

On the accumulative level, the Price Index of Agricultural Producers has decreased by 10.8% for the first seven months of 2018 as compared with the same period of 2017 (the accumulative price index reached 103.1% for 2018 compared with 115.6 for the same period of 2017). The most significant crops whose Price Index Average contributed to this decrease were tomato by (50.4%), potato (17.8%), eggplants (14.7%), sweet green pepper (11.5%), hot pepper (9.7%) and beans (3.0%), whose their relative importance constituted 66.3%. Meanwhile, there was an increase in the price index of cucumber, colored sweet pepper, squash, cauliflower and banana by 28.9%, 23.2%, 16.9%, 12.5% and 1.8% respectively with a relative importance of 33.7%.

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

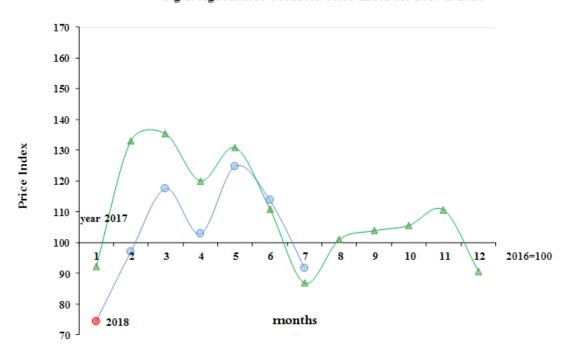


Fig 1: Agircultural Producer Price Index for 2017 & 2018

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.