



8.3% the Average Decrease in Agricultural Producers' Prices during July 2020 Compared with July 2019

The monthly report issued by the Department of Statistics indicates a decrease in the Average Agricultural Producers' Price Index for July 2020 by 8.3% compared with July 2019. (The Price Index reached 79.6 in July 2020 compared with 86.8 in July 2019). The most significant crops that contributed to this decrease were green lettuce 72.4%, carrot 62.7%, cauliflower 52.2%, tomatoes 49.9%, cucumbers 44.6%, dry onion 41.0%, squash 40.9%, green beans 37.8%, okra 35.3% and spinach 34.6%, (the total of their relative importance constituted 56.8% of the total indicator value).

Meanwhile, there was an increase in the price index of watermelon 121.2%, cantaloupe 95.5%, green colored sweet pepper 38.6%, colored sweet pepper 12.1%, nectarine 19.6%, peach 18.6%, bananas 13.2% , grapes 10.0% , string beans 4.2%, and apple by 4.0%. (The total of their relative importance constituted 43.2% of the total indicator value.)

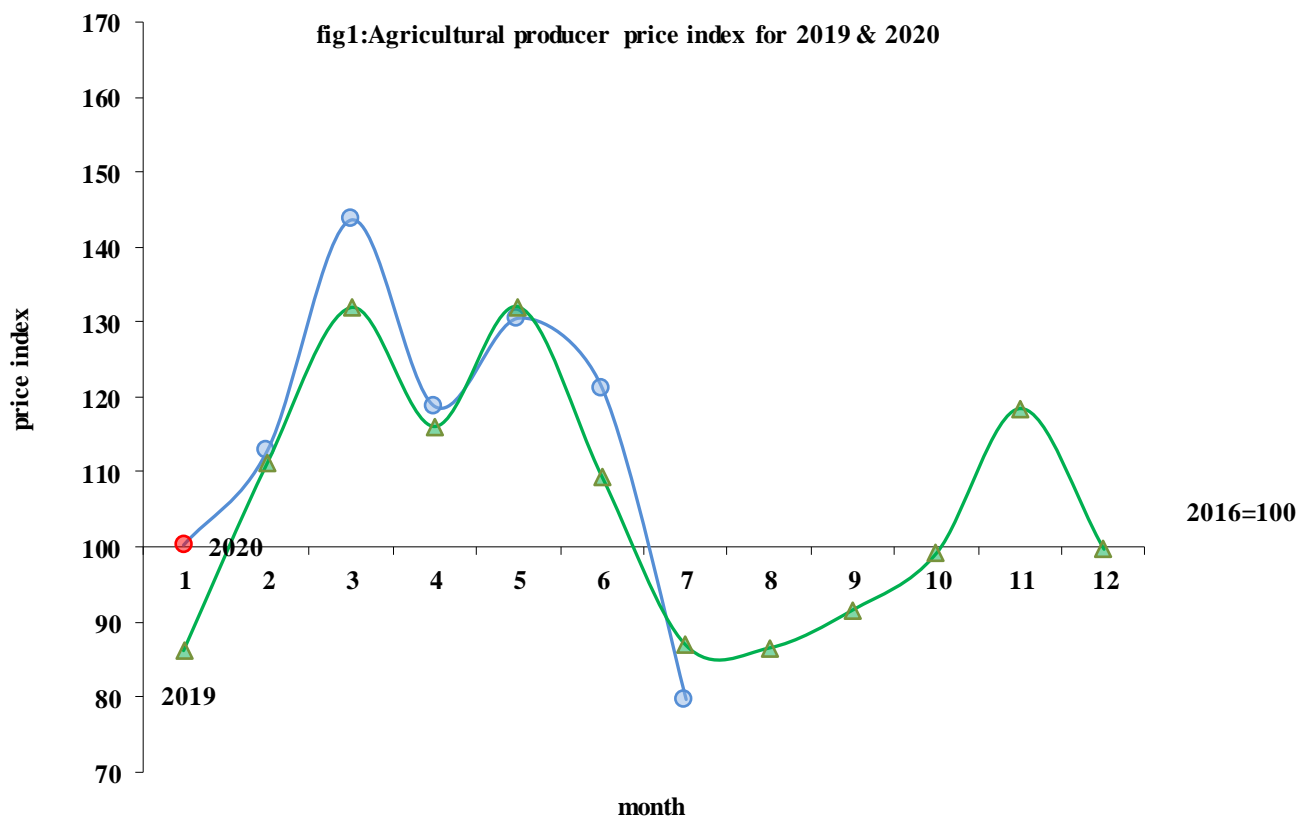
The report also shows that the Price Index has decreased by 34.3% in July 2020 as compared with June 2020 (the price index reached 79.6 in July 2020 compared with 121.1 in June 2020). The most significant crops that contributed to this decrease (the total of their relative importance constituted 71.6%) were green lettuce 42.5%, plum 40.8%, apple 36.7%, Jews mallow 32.3%, Jews mallow leaves 31.0%, tomatoes 30.2%, okra 23.5%, grapes 23.0%, squash 19.7% and apricot 18.2%. Meanwhile, there was an increase in the price index of green cabbage 81.9%, thyme 52.6%, green garlic 47.6%, potatoes 35.7%, pears 32.5%, colored sweet pepper 24.3%, dry garlic 21.0%, spinach

20.3%,cherry tomatoes 14.7% and green colored sweet pepper 6.5% with a relative importance reached 23.3% of total indicator value. Meanwhile the relative importance of crops didn't change 5.1%.

On the accumulative level the Average Agricultural Producers' Price Index indicates an increase for the first seven months of 2020 by 3.2% compared with the same period of 2019. The accumulative price number reached 115.2 in 2020 compared with 111.6 for the same period of 2019. The most significant crops that contributed to this average increase were string beans 20.0%, squash 18.7%, bananas 18.1%, cucumber 16.1%, tomatoes 9.6% and cauliflower by 7.5%. (the total of their relative importance constituted 55.8%).

Meanwhile there was decreased in the price index of potatoes by 27.4%, hot pepper 21.3%, green sweet pepper 15.6%, colored sweet pepper 12.6% and eggplants 0.3% with a relative importance of 44.2% .

The figure below shows the trend of the price index of the Agricultural Producers for 2019 and 2020



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*. In order to improve the data quality, we rely on the data on agricultural prices for all crops coming from the central markets each month, (2016 is the base year, 100 = 2016) using (Laspeure) formula to derive the price index.