

1) Title

Title	Food Balances / Food Balances (2010-) - Metadata
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2) Data source information

Compiling Organization	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Data source	https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS/metadata

3) Contacts

Contact organization	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Contact organization unit	Statistics Division (ESS)
Contact mail address	Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
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4) Metadata update

Metadata last posted	19/07/2024
Metadata last update	19/07/2024

5) Statistical presentation

Data description	Food Balance Sheet presents a comprehensive picture of the pattern of a country's food supply during a specified reference period. The food balance sheet shows for each food item - i.e. each primary commodity and a number of processed commodities potentially available for human consumption - the sources of supply and its utilization. The total quantity of foodstuffs produced in a country added to the total quantity imported and adjusted to any change in stocks that may have occurred since the beginning of the reference period gives the supply available during that period. On the utilization side a distinction is made between the quantities exported, fed to livestock, used for seed, put to manufacture for food use and non-food uses, losses during storage and transportation, and food supplies available for human consumption. The per caput supply of each such food item available for human consumption is then obtained by dividing the respective quantity by the related data on the population actually partaking of it. Data on per caput food supplies are expressed in terms of quantity and - by applying appropriate food composition factors for all primary and processed products - also in terms of caloric value and protein and fat content.
Coverage	Most crop and livestock products, including processed products, under agricultural activity.
Sector coverage	
Statistical concepts and definitions	Food Balance Sheets (FBS) are compiled every year by FAO, mainly with country-level data on the production and trade of food commodities. Using these data and the available information on seed rates, loss coefficients, stock changes and types of utilization (feed, food, processing and other utilization), a supply/utilization account is prepared for each commodity in weight terms. The food component of the commodity account, which is usually derived as a balancing item, refers to the total amount of the commodity available for human consumption during the year. Besides commodity-by-commodity information, the FAO FBS also provide total food availability estimates by aggregating the food component of all commodities including fishery products. From these values and the available population estimates, the per person dietary energy and protein and fat supplies are derived and expressed on a daily basis. In the FBS production data refer only to primary products while data for all other elements also include processed products derived there from, expressed in primary commodity equivalent.
Reference area	All countries of the world – with some minor exceptions – and geographical aggregates according to the United Nations M-49 list. Notes on geographical coverage: (1) Data of Iraq do not include Kurdistan region. (2) Since 2007 France data include French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion territories but they exclude French Polynesia and New Caledonia territories. (3) Information provided by the Russian Federation includes statistical data for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,

Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation and is presented without prejudice to relevant UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, including UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 and UN Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) of 17 February 2015, which reaffirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Information provided by Ukraine excludes statistical data concerning the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The information is presented without prejudice to relevant UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, including UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 and UN Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) of 17 February 2015, which reaffirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Time coverage	2010 - 2022
Base period	N.a.

6) Unit of measure

Unit of measure	Total Population - Both sexes [1000] Production Quantity [1000 t] Import Quantity [1000 t] Stock Variation [1000 t] Export Quantity [1000 t] Domestic supply quantity [1000 t] Feed [1000 t] Seed [1000 t] Losses [1000 t] Processed [1000 t] Other Uses non-food [1000 t] Tourist consumption [1000 t] Residuals [1000 t] Food [1000 t] Food supply quantity [kg/capita/year] Food supply [kcal/capita/day] Protein supply quantity [g/capita/day] Fat supply quantity [g/capita/day]
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7) Reference period

Reference period	Calendar year.
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8) Institutional mandate

Legal acts and other agreements	For legal acts concerning statistics at national levels see links to country websites.
Data acquisition and data transmission	See metadata for Production and Trade datasets. The latter dataset originates largely from the UN COMTRADE database. Several official FBS compiled by countries are also used.

9) Confidentiality

Confidentiality - policy	FAO Statistical Quality Assurance Framework, Principle 10: "All data subject to national confidentiality policies (e.g. concerning people and legal entities, or small aggregates) are kept strictly confidential, and are used exclusively for statistical purposes, or for purposes mandated by legislation."
Confidentiality - data treatment	Only non-confidential data are collected and recorded.
Privacy	

10) Release Policy

Release calendar	Release calendar: Dates for new data releases are pre-announced on the FAOSTAT website. Release policy : Data are disseminated once per year.
Release calendar access	https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#release_calendar
User access	User access: In line with FAO's Statistics Code of Practice data are disseminated on FAO's website respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. Terms of use: https://www.fao.org/contact-us/terms/db-terms-of-use/en/ \> https://www.fao.org/contact-us/terms/db-terms-of-use/en/ This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO license (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo). In addition to this license, some database specific terms of use are listed: Terms of Use of Datasets.
Open data license	

11) Frequency of dissemination

Frequency of dissemination	Yearly.
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12) Accessibility and clarity

News release	Ad-hoc news releases
Publications	FAO Global Statistical Yearbook, FAO Regional Statistical Yearbooks
Online database	https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data
Micro-data access	No micro data
Other formats	
Documentation on methodology	National reference metadata are submitted by some countries in conjunction with the production questionnaire but these are not yet disseminated by FAO. No methodological papers, except the classification scheme, has been produced.

13) Relevance

User needs	The main users are FAO analysts, other international organizations, ministries and government agencies, agro-industry, trade and professional associations, research institutes and universities, journalists and general public. The objectives of these users vary but agriculture production statistics are especially useful for market
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very, but aggregate production statistics are especially useful for market management/monitoring, production forecasts and policy-making in agriculture and food. FAO is not aware of unmet needs.

User satisfaction	The FAOSTAT User Consultation took place during April-December 2018. https://www.fao.org/3/ca7239en/ca7239en.pdf
Completeness	FAOSTAT includes the FBS of 188 countries: However, a substantial amount of data points have been imputed and estimated as several countries have not reported data on production and/or trade.

14) Accuracy and reliability

Overall accuracy	It is not possible to assess the accuracy but as there is a substantial amount of estimated or imputed data points, the accuracy for certain products, countries and regions is not that good.
Model assumption error	
Imputation indicators	
Data revision - policy	See metadata for Production and Trade.
Data revision - practice	The revised data for n-1 to n-3 are disseminated at the same time as the data for year n are released.

15) Timeliness and punctuality

Timeliness	Data are uploaded for dissemination once a year.
Punctuality	Depends on availability of the Agricultural Production and Trade data.

16) Coherence and Comparability

Comparability – geographical	There is limited geographical comparability due to differences in methods and coverage, except for regions with homogenous countries.
Comparability - over time	For shorter time periods reasonably good comparability over time can be expected as there is stability in the product definition and classification. However, as the time series are very long (from 1961) full comparability over time can not be expected.
Coherence	Coherence - cross domain: Cross domain coherence is fairly good with respect to production, trade, producer prices and land use. However, the domain coherence varies depending on which products and countries are for consideration. Coherence - internal: It is expected that the internal coherence is checked by countries before sending production and trade data to FAO.
Classification system	FAO Commodity List (an internal FAO classification system). Recently production data is expressed in CPC 2.1 expanded and trade data in the HS.

17) Statistical process

Source data	The main source is official statistics from FAO member countries. Exceptionally,
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unofficial data are also used as well as estimated/imputed data. In both cases this is "flagged". Data are recorded as countries report them, except for eliminating obvious errors. The source data can originate from surveys, administrative data and estimates based on expert observations. Which type of source is used by countries affect significantly reliability and comparability of data.

Frequency of data collection and acquisition

Data are collected annually.

Data collection method

Sample surveys are generally used but there are also cases where administrative records are used, see further country specific metadata.

Data validation

Countries are responsible for transmitting data which have already been checked. Validation at FAO concerns any transmission errors and data consistency as well as detecting outliers. Other validations concerns assessing how far the current value is from the earlier data, consistency of totals and partial components and correspondence between variables from different data sets, e.g. between milk production and live animals producing milk.

Data compilation

Imputations are made according to FAO Statistical Standard which is based on the ECOSOC resolution 2006/6.

Regional aggregation

Adjustment

No adjustments are made.

Imputation

18) Quality management

Quality assurance

Quality documentation: No quality reports or studies made by FAO. No national quality reports are collected. | Quality assurance: Statistics are subject to the general quality assurance framework of FAO, where domain-specific quality assurance activities (the use of best practices, quality reviews, self-assessments, compliance monitoring) are carried out systematically. See also the FAO Statistics Quality Assurance Framework is