

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Ministry of Agriculture to Suspend Apple Imports

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Incident Report

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Report Highlights:

Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture will suspend apple imports beginning on July 31.

General Information:

In the past two years, by virtue of the adoption of few ad-hoc, trade-restrictive measures, Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) appears to have disregarded certain of its international trade commitments. The MOA's latest contravention is the imposition of trade barriers on apples, by issuing import licenses with the stipulation that no imported apples will be allowed into the country after July 31. This is the second year in a row that Jordan is implementing this illegal measure.

Earlier this year, it banned imported carrots. Last year, [it implemented](#) a policy that restricted the size of poultry packaging, stating, without any evidence or notifying the WTO, that larger package sizes posed a risk to consumers. The action had the intended effect of temporarily shutting down imports of U.S. poultry, resulting in a bonanza to the local industry as poultry prices increased over 30 percent. The MOA eventually relaxed the measure, but it is now selectively issuing import licenses by imposing a quota system on importers, limiting the amount of imported poultry meat.

MOA's actions have no validity under its WTO agreements and the Jordan-US Free Trade Agreement. In the case of apples, under the WTO's AOA Jordan is allowed to apply an ad-valorem tariff of 30 percent, while under the FTA the apples should be tariff-free. However, under both the WTO and FTA, Jordan is entitled to apply an additional JD250 (USD 350) per ton on imported apples from June 1 to October 31.

The MOA's actions are creating a very uncertain business and food security environment. Its disregard for trading rules is hurting businesses that are playing by the rules and have forward contracts in place. Meanwhile, these restrictive measures mean that Jordanian consumers pay more for imports which account for over 90 percent of all food consumed.

Comparing 2013 to 2014, U.S. trade in both poultry and apples has been hurt by MOA's actions (Figure1). U.S. poultry exports decreased by 46 percent while apple exports decreased by 35 percent.



