

Foreign Agricultural Service *GAIN* Report

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Lithuania

Agricultural Situation

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Approved by:

Jim Higgiston U.S. Embassy, Warsaw

Prepared by:

S. Phillips/H. Bruner

Report Highlights:

Lithuania has made great strides since independence. Its transition to a market economy has been successful. Lithuania has applied for membership in both the World Trade Organization and the European Union. It has the largest agricultural sector of the three Baltic countries. Lithuania's agricultural trade has been focused primarily on Russia and, as such, has not yet recovered from the 1998 economic crisis. Still, Lithuania is well positioned as a transhipment point for agricultural products in this region.

Table of Contents

Economy	Page 2 of 13
European Union Integration	Page 3 of 13
World Trade Organization Integration	Page 3 of 13
Agricultural Reform	Page 3 of 13
Consumption	Page 4 of 13
Farm Structure	Page 4 of 13
Agricultural Foreign Trade	Page 5 of 13
Problems Facing Lithuanian Agriculture	Page 6 of 13
Tables	Page 8 of 1

Overview

Lithuania has made great strides since achieving independence. Democratic institutions have become firmly rooted and the country is continuing its integration into the international community as witnessed by its applications for membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the European Union. Despite the social and economic difficulties, Lithuania has continued to move towards market economy. Of the three Baltic countries, Lithuania has the largest agriculture sector. With its proximity to Russia and other countries in the region it is a natural transhipment point for many agricultural products.

Economy

Lithuania's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell during 1999, after rising consecutively for three years. Real GDP, which had seen steady growth from 1995 to 1997, experienced a small decrease in 1998, followed by a negative rate in 1999. The country's GDP fell from US\$ 10.6 billion to US\$ 10.0 billion. Decreases in industrial output, domestic trade, and construction have been noted for causing the reductions. Agriculture and transport have also seen decreases in performance. Lithuania is still experiencing the effects of the 1998 Russian crisis. Demand for Lithuanian products in Russia has decreased. The exchange rate of the Lithuanian currency has been officially tied to the US dollar since 1993 at 4 Litas to 1 US\$.

The decreases in industrial output, domestic trade, construction, agriculture output, and transport have also affected other areas of Lithuania's economy. These reductions in demand and cuts in output have been felt throughout the country.

Foreign trade has also been affected by Russian economic problems. In 1997 and 1998, Russia was Lithuania's major trading partner. In 1999, however, Lithuanian exports to Russia fell dramatically due to the Russian crisis. Russian exports to Lithuania remained fairly steady, due primarily to the Lithuanian imports of Russian energy products. Germany is now the largest importer of Lithuanian goods, accounting for 15.9% of its total exports, followed by Latvia, Russia, Denmark, and Byelorussia. Russia remains to be the largest exporter of goods into Lithuania, accounting for 20.2% of total imports in 1999 followed by Germany, Poland, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Lithuania had a negative trade balance of \$1.9 billion from November 1998 to October 1999, with a total of \$3.1 billion in exports and \$5.0 billion in imports.

Foreign investment in Lithuania was also hurt by the economy's downturn. During the first half of 1999, there was a decrease in total foreign investment by 23%, or \$565 million. As of October 1999, Sweden was the largest foreign investor in Lithuania with \$365 million (18.7%), followed by the United States with \$280 million (14.3%).

For the last three years, unemployment has been steadily decreasing in Lithuania. The country had an unemployment rate of 5.9% in 1997, but this rate increased to 8.5% in 1999. Some sectors of the economy have become more efficient due to the reorganization and restructuring of firms. Many of those unemployed have been able to find positions in the services sector. Unfortunately, the large number of unemployed, due to changes in the industrial sector, have not completely been absorbed into other areas of the economy and have caused the unemployment rate to increase.

European Union Integration

Lithuania, like many other Central and Eastern European countries, has applied for membership in the European Union (EU). The country submitted its application for membership in 1995. It is working to meet the necessary standards set by the EU to obtain membership.

Changes are needed in order for Lithuania to receive membership into the European Union. One of the main areas is establishing new laws to regulate the agriculture and food processing industry. Strict regulations to join the EU require that Lithuania have equal or very similar laws and regulations regarding agricultural production and manufacturing. They are currently involved in restructuring the agricultural policy to be in accordance with the EU's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), working to enhance the administrative sections of agriculture in the government so that it is able to execute the policies of the CAP, and applying the veterinary and phytosanitary requirements and upgrading buildings to EU specifications. It is also necessary that Lithuania adopts legislation that covers the issues of plant protectorants, pesticide residues, organic farming, and plant health to the standards set by the European Union. Action is also being taken to set up their agricultural education, extension, and research systems to adjust to current conditions and future needs.

In 1999, the EU granted international certificates allowing 26 food processing companies (17 milk, 1 game, 1 intestines, and 7 fish) the right to export to EU countries. Lithuanian membership affect U.S. trade, possibly decreasing American exports into the country. The United States would, however, be eligible for compensation for these market losses, according to World Trade Organization rules.

World Trade Organization Integration

Lithuania is also applying for membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Entry into the WTO would open the country to many more trade possibilities by lowering tariffs placed on goods moving in and out of the country. Lithuania is hoping to complete negotiations by the end of 2000, but some hurdles still exist. Although the country is proceeding rapidly in negotiations on services and non-agricultural goods, talks on agriculture have not been as successful. Legislative problems have held up the process. High tariffs set over WTO rates, domestic supports, and export subsidies still remain to be decided.

Agricultural Reform

Lithuania has been under going a privatization process to restore property rights to owners of land, forest, and bodies of water that were combined by the State after WWII. Since independence in 1991, this has resulted in the transfer of over 2.73 million hectares of land. On January 1, 1995, there were 378,000 hectares of private land used for agricultural. In contrast, by 1999 that number increased by almost four times, to 144,800 hectares.

According to Lithuania's Register of Private Farms, there were 67,000 private farms occupying an area of 812,900 hectares at the beginning of 2000, with an average size of 12.1 hectares. In 1999, 78% of grain, 99.4% of potatoes, 58% of sugar beets, 62% of livestock, and 88% of milk products were produced privately. Agriculture accounts for around ten percent of the country's GDP. Agricultural products accounted for 12.6% of 1999's total exports. Because the land reform project is a major priority for the government, there have been large state investments to

use orthophoto (a type of digital map) to computerize the process of ownership restoration.

In order to help farmers become competitive in the EU market, the Rural Support Fund (RSF) provides aid to support farmers who do not have the economic resources available to make the necessary improvements in their operations. The fund is meant to provide support for farmer income, encourage investment, establish a proper information system, and create a Rural Credit Guarantee Fund (RCGF). The RCGF gives guarantees to farmers who take bank loans but have no collateral. There are many areas that have been targeted for use of these funds. Some of these include modernizing primary agriculture (purchasing new machinery, etc.), supplying construction materials for farm buildings, using new technology (greenhouse heating systems, etc.), creating animal registration systems, providing education on alternative occupations, granting support in the case of accidents causing loss of buildings or animals, improving farmers' educations, etc. In 1999, an estimated \$112.6 million was spent on the program.

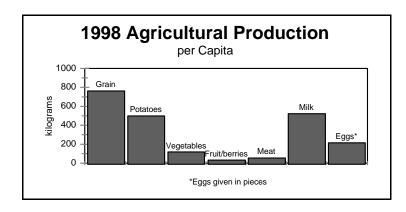
Consumption

In 1998, Lithuanians spent almost half their total household expenditures on food and non-alcoholic beverages. Of the \$106.70 spent per capita per month, \$51.38 (48.1%) was spent on food and non-alcoholic beverages. While the total spent on food changed by only a small margin from 1997 (up from \$49.90), total consumption had increased by over \$11.05 from \$95.65.

Farm Structure

Before 1989, agricultural production occurred on 834 collective farms and 275 state farms. As a result of privatization and reorganization, the farm structure has started to move toward smaller, privately-owned, family farms. Only 18% of farm land is still under the control of the old collective and state farms system which was formed by the Communist government after World War II. Lithuanian agriculture is currently made up of four different sectors: agricultural companies, family farms, household plots, and small plots for other uses.

Agricultural companies were formed by the conversion of the large collective and state farms.



These companies, by law, are not allowed to own agricultural land and must lease or rent it from the owners, shareholders, or the State. There were 4,279 agricultural companies started in 1992 during the transition period, but only 1,660 were still in existence by 1997. This type of land made up about 18% of the total agricultural land and 25% of production, with farm size averaging about 370 hectares. There is movement to totally privatize these

companies.

The Law on Peasant Farms (1989) gave rural people the user rights to use land up to 50 hectares. Approximately 5,200 families took advantage of this pre-independence legislation, acquiring

about 3% of the country's total agricultural land. The average farm size was 14 hectares. When the larger collective and state farms began to disintegrate, 200,000 family farms were created. By the beginning of 1997, 196,000 farms attributed to over 40% of the total agricultural land, with an average size of 7.6 hectares.

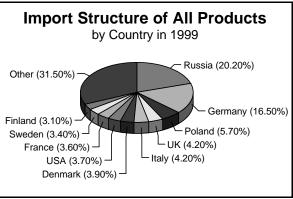
Household plots accounted for almost 25% of agricultural land in 1997. Over 340,000 plots were mainly operated by shareholders in larger companies or rural people who wanted to supplement their income. Household plots and family farms combined for 75% of the total agricultural output in 1997.

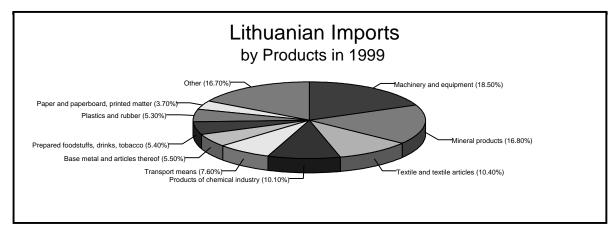
The remaining 14% of the agricultural land in use during 1997 was state-owned. Thousands of garden plots are operated by people living in the city or by research and education organizations.

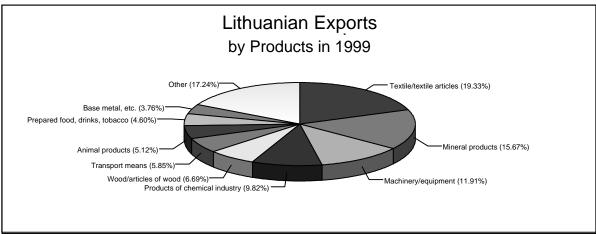
Agricultural Foreign Trade

The country has seen a great increase in agricultural and food exports and imports recently. Major agricultural products exported from the country include dairy products such as cheese, butter, and milk powder, meat and meat products like beef, canned meat, and sausages, confectionary, cacao products, canned fruits and vegetables, and fish and fish products. Russia is the leading destination for Lithuanian agricultural and food products, importing \$222.85 million each year (36.1% of total food exports). Russia is followed by Belarus, The Netherlands, Latvia, and Germany. The United States is eighth, taking \$13.3 million (2.15%).









During 1999, Lithuanian agricultural imports from the U.S. totaled \$2.2 million, mostly made up of poultry and seafood products. Imports from the U.S. have decreased dramatically from 1997, when they totaled almost \$14.5 million. This change has been mainly due to no course grains or soybean meal being imported, which were the largest imports that year. Lithuania exported \$22.3 million in 1999 to the United States. Exports to the United States have been increasing over the past five years, due to larger exports of cheese and other dairy products, which are the main items sent to the United States.

Problems Facing Lithuanian Agriculture

One of the major obstacles facing the country's agriculture sector is the lack of business acumen by its farmers. To combat this problem, 40 regional advisors have been set up throughout the country to assist farmers with business plans, marketing plans, and accounting systems, as well as education on proper production methods. The country is also taking legal action to require farmers to keep detailed records in order to receive any type of financial assistance. Unfortunately, it is difficult for records to be kept by the country's small producers, who own only a few head of livestock or work a small number of acres.

Lithuania is also facing a problem of setting prices for agricultural products. Processors have been given the upper hand and are controlling the prices the farmers receive for raw materials.

Contracts are made between farmers and processors for a set quantity, but not a set price. Because there is no futures market price estimates, the farmers have no way of controlling what price they will receive and end up under-bidding each other to the processor. Another issue holding back the improvements of agriculture in Lithuania is the lack of farm credit. Land is inexpensive, but underdeveloped.

Tables Macroeconomic Situation

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (US\$, million)	6,026	7,892	9,585	10,747	10,649	
Real GDP Growth Rate (%)	3.3	4.7	7.3	5.1	(3.3)	2.0-3.0
Annual Inflation Rate (%)	35.7	13.1	8.4	2.4	0.3	2.0
Exchange Rate (LTL/US\$)	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Unemployment (%)	6.1	7.1	5.9	6.4	8.4	7.0
Total Exports (US\$, billion)		3.2	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.7
Total Imports (US\$, billion)		4.4	5.6	5.8	4.8	5.4

^{*} Forecasted figures

Employees

(in thousands)	1995	1996	1997
Total	1291.5	1255.7	1252.2
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	124	105.5	90.4
- Agriculture, hunting and related service activities	108.3	90	75.9
- Forestry, logging and related service activities	15.7	15.5	14.5
Fishing	1.8	1.6	1.4

Ave. Monthly Gross Earnings

(in litas)	1995	1996	1997
Total	479	621	785
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	288	381	517
- Agriculture, hunting and related service activities	240	319	449
- Forestry, logging and related service activities	582	717	825
Fishing	374	405	489

Consumption of Foodstuffs per Capita

(in kilograms)	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998
Meat and meat products	89	52	51	49	53
Milk and dairy products	476	238	213	208	187
Eggs	304	172	167	174	172
Fish and fish products	18.6	9.9	11.4	11.4	12.5
Sugar	43.2	22.2	23.5	22.6	21
Oil	7.3	11.5	12.8	12.8	12.8
Potatoes	146	127	133	124	131
Vegetables	79	65	71	70	78
Fruits and berries	33	48	52	60	60
Cereal products	108	136	142	148	146

Gross Agricultural Production

e				
(At current prices, in million litas)	1995	1996	1997	1998
All farms, total	5572.1	6338.8	6378.6	6153.0
- Crop Production	2977.5	3478.5	3717.6	3624.4
- Livestock Production	2594.6	2860.3	2661.0	2528.6
Farmers' and household farms	3835.9	4763.8	4826.7	4871.5
- Crop Production	2387.5	2858.8	3009.0	3115.3
- Livestock Production	1448.4	1905.0	1817.7	1756.2
Agricultural partnerships and enterprises	1736.2	1575.0	1551.9	1281.5
- Crop Production	590.0	619.7	708.6	509.1
- Livestock Production	1146.2	955.3	843.3	772.4
Production of enterprises providing services for agriculture	190.5	230.1	216.4	75.9*
Forestry	396.1	500.3	402.6	385.1*
Fishery	29.0	38.1	27.8	44.6*
Production of other activities produced in agricultural partnerships				
and enterprises	323.7	432.4	430.4**	421.8**

^{*}Preliminary data **Income from sales

Production of Agriculture Products per Capita

	- ·· <u>I</u> · ···					
(in kg unless stated otherwise)	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998
Grain	686.0	876.0	526.0	729.0	824	762
Potatoes	516.0	422.0	429.0	551.0	494	499
Vegetables	92.0	79.0	99.0	117.0	112	118
Fruit and berries	51.0	23.0	35.0	26.0	74	32
Meat (carcass weight)	141.0	142.0	56.0	54.0	54	55
- of which pork	65.0	65.0	25.0	24.0	24	26
Milk	829.0	847.0	490.0	494.0	526	521
Eggs (pieces)	311.0	342.0	213.0	202.0	215	214

Total Harvest of Agricultural Crops

Total Hai vest of Agricultural Crops						
(thousand metric tons)	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Grains, total	3265.1	1,954.0	2,702.5	3,051.7	2,820.9	2,112.4
- Wheat	1176.3	637.3	936.2	1,127.4	1,031.0	870.9
- Barley	1191.4	891.5	1,176.6	1,193.5	1,104.3	741.6
- Rye	470.2	239.3	286.8	348.2	348.7	260.9
- Oats	195.7	66.7	101.6	111.7	97.2	67.1
- Buckwheat		0.6	1.5	3.5	8.0	8.6
- Triticale		46.6	77.6	114.1	94.9	85.1
- Mixed grain		24.5	34.8	46.9	32.7	14.2
- Leguminous grain		47.5	87.4	106.4	104.1	63.8
Flax Fibre	10.1	9.4	6.2	5.0	5.6	4.3
Flax Seeds		6.5	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.7
Winter rape seed		4.9	1.7	0.8	2.3	4.8
Spring rape seed	24.0	14.0	20.9	36.4	69.6	110.3
Sugarbeets	912.4	692.4	795.5	1,001.9	949.2	869.9
Potatoes	1573.1	1,593.5	2,044.3	1,829.8	1,849.2	1,708.1
Vegetables, total	295.0	368.7	432.6	415.0	436.9	325.1
-Cabbages		152.1	201.5	172.5	171.9	119.6
-Cucumbers		2.5	12.1	17.5	17.9	14.2
-Tomatoes		1.5	8.0	9.6	9.4	6.8
-Beets		98.8	99.9	95.0	90.2	71.0
-Carrots		83.8	67.4	61.3	64.9	47.4
-Onions		4.0	18.9	19.4	28.4	23.1
-Other vegetables		18.7	17.2	23.6		16.2
Fodder root-crops	2678.8			1,829.7	2,026.0	1,573.3
Hay from perennial grasses	1963.7	1,632.7		1,701.5		1,499.0
Hay from annual grasses	367.4	4.9	4.4	6.6		
Maize for silage and green fodder	2171.2	107.7	88.8	91.7	162.0	163.5
Silage crops	1347.0	178.5	161.6	147.9	126.6	59.9

Number of Livestock

(thousand head, as of January 1)	1990	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cattle	2422.3	1,152.4	1,054.1	1,016.3	922.8	897.8
- of which cows	847.7	614.9	589.9	582.8	537.7	494.3
Pigs	2730.2	1,259.8	1,127.6	1,200.1	1,159.0	936.1
- of which sows	121.0				52.1	45.8
Sheep and goats	68.7	52.4	45.1	42.5	39.5	38.5
- of which sheep	64.8	40.0	28.2	24.0	15.8	13.8
Horses	77.8	78.2	81.4	78.5	74.3	74.9
Poultry	17486.2	8,848.8	7,775.4	7,423.2	6,749.3	6,372.6

Manufacturing of Food and Beverages

(in thousand tons unless stated otherwise)

1905 1990 1995 1990 1997	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997*
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Meat and I category subproducts	396.9	431.5	93.2	97.7	91.3
- bovine	167.4	177.1	46.8	46.7	46.5
- pork	155.7	162.0	25.7	29.1	25.9
- poultry	36.4	45.1	16.1	16.2	12.8
Sausages and smoked meat products	68.2	76.2	42.5	50.5	50.9
Prepared meat products					
(pasta with stuffed meat, etc.)	46.9	54.6	9.3	9.0	6.0
Canned Meat	9.6	15.6	5.7	5.4	3.8
Edible rendered lard and fats	20.6	19.9	3.7	2.7	2.3
Fish and other marine products	458.5	352.5	8.2	9.2	8.4
Food fish and marine products	276.3	201.6	7.9	13.1	11.7
- live, fresh chilled or frozen		179.6	4.7	8.5	6.7
- dried, salted or in brine, smoked		22.0	3.2	4.6	5.0
Canned fish products	34.2	28.4	4.5	6.6	7.0
Not food fish products		57.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
Prepared preserved vegetables; fruits, juice, tomato					
sauces, etc.	37.8	34.8	3.5	4.1	4.1
- vegetables, mushrooms, fruit prepared or					
preserved by vinegar or acetic acid	4.9	5.8	1.4	1.8	2.3
- other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise					
than by vinegar or acetic acid	14.0	12.0	0.4	0.3	0.5
- jams, fruit jellies, marmelades, compote	15.5	13.2	1.7	2.0	1.3
Fruit and vegetable juices (million litres)	12.4	23.7	13.4	2.5	6.8
Tomato ketchup and other tomato sauces	3.8	2.2	2.9	2.2	2.3
Dried vegetables and potatoes (tons)	690.0	914.0	241.0	209.0	61.0
Edible concentrates (tons)	4,102.0	4,977.0	78.0	64.0	65.0
Mayonnaise (tons)	3,904.0	6,318.0	5,137.0	4,755.0	4,671.0
Oil	2.1	1.2	0.5	2.6	4.4
Unskimmed dairy products in terms of milk	730.0	831.0	310.0	314.0	319.0
Dairy products					
- milk	178.3	171.4	89.8	88.2	78.0
- cream	3.9	6.7	2.3	0.9	0.8
- kefir, sour milk	50.1	62.7	29.2	30.0	28.2
- yogurt	-	-	0.8	0.9	1.7
- sourcream	29.0	39.3	15.8	17.7	18.7
- curd	26.4	29.4	12.3	11.9	11.8
- cottage curd cheese	2.8	3.1	5.7	6.0	5.9
Butter	71.8	73.9	32.4	34.8	34.7
Fat cheese	22.6	26.3	17.2	22.3	29.9
Dried milk and whey products	22.7	31.3	21.7	28.7	35.8

^{*} Not final data

Manufacturing of Food and Beverages - Continued

(in thousand tons unless stated otherwise)	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997*
Dairy products for children	3.4	5.4	0.7	0.4	0.2

Ice-cream	14.5	20.1	8.3	10.7	11.0
Lactose	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.6
Canned dairy products	26.9	35.7	12.8	11.4	15.2
Flour	454.3	466.9	237.6	239.0	225.0
- wheat	226.8	214.5	142.3	140.9	144.3
- rye	192.9	168.8	95.3	98.1	80.7
Cereals	51.4	60.0	18.3	17.4	10.3
- barley	35.5	34.8	8.6	6.9	2.7
- pearl - barley	13.7	23.0	4.7	3.7	1.2
- semolina	2.2	2.2	3.8	3.8	2.9
- buckwheat	-	-	-	1.3	2.1
Dried starch	4.1	5.4	0.4	1.7	1.3
Starch syrup	13.6	14.0	5.3	3.1	7.6
Prepared mixed animal feeds	2,271.0	2,302.0	506.0	441.0	413.0
Bread and pastry products	343.9	332.1	214.9	203.4	183.2
Sugar	221.8	158.6	105.2	125.6	112.5
Confectionary products	79.2	75.1	37.0	40.7	42.1
- farinaceous	25.1	26.3	7.5	7.4	9.4
- of sugar included cocoa, chocolate, chocolate					
products	54.1	48.8	29.5	33.3	32.7
Pasta	13.3	13.3	5.1	3.1	2.0
Vinegar (thousand dal)	377.0	307.0	203.0	214.0	208.0
Active pastry yeasts	4.7	4.1	2.6	2.5	3.3
Natural mineral and aerated waters without sugar					
and non-flavored (thous. dal)	1,735.0	2,723.0	1,358.0	1,330.0	1,381.0
Non-alcoholic beverages (thous. dal)	6,275.0	10,461.0	2,518.0	1,969.0	4,737.0
Beer (thous. dal)	15,457.0		10,927.0	11,399.0	14,112.0
Champagne grape wine (thous. dal)	5,569.0	10,070.0		9,800.0	7,684.0
Grape wine (thous. dal)	1,783.0	748.0	352.0	199.0	363.0
Fruit and berry wine (thous. dal)	3,648.0	-	966.0	1,089.0	1,622.0
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcohol strength					
by volume of less than 80% vol (thous. dal)	2,048.0	1,793.0	1,652.0	2,642.0	2,135.0
Spirits and liqueurs (thous. dal)	4,225.0	2,943.0	2,623.0	2,826.0	2,720.0
Cigarettes (billion pieces)	8.7	6.7	4.9	4.5	

^{*} Not final data dal = 1 decaliter = 10 liters

Agricultural Imports

1996	1997	1998
135.0	122.0	117.7
1.2	2.6	2.6
15.9	20.1	23.7
60.9	59.7	60.5
53.0	32.4	22.0
4.0	7.3	9.0
152.3	158.4	185.6
2.7	3.1	4.8
8.0	12.3	18.2
38.4	46.5	57.0
27.1	36.4	46.8
41.6	27.9	11.5
8.2	8.5	9.6
24.0	22.0	37.0
2.4	1.8	0.9
	135.0 1.2 15.9 60.9 53.0 4.0 152.3 2.7 8.0 38.4 27.1 41.6 8.2	135.0 122.0 1.2 2.6 15.9 20.1 60.9 59.7 53.0 32.4 4.0 7.3 152.3 158.4 2.7 3.1 8.0 12.3 38.4 46.5 27.1 36.4 41.6 27.9 8.2 8.5 24.0 22.0

Agricultural Exports

(in million US dollars)	1996	1997	1998
Live animals; animal products	261.1	285.8	243.4
- Live animals	3.9	5.0	4.3
- Meat and edible meat offal	15.3	27.6	6.9
- Fish, crustaceans, molluscs, other aquatic invertebrates	46.5	50.5	34.3
- Dairy products, birds' eggs, natural honey	193.8	201.0	195.2
- Products of animal origin	1.7	1.7	2.7
Vegetable products	74.9	106.8	107.1
- Live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots; cut flowers, ornamental foliage	1.0	1.5	0.8
- Edible vegetables, roots, tubers	13.4	16.5	21.0
- Edible fruits and nuts; peel of citrus fruits or melons	17.2	19.3	15.2
- Coffee, tea, mate, spices	13.9	12.6	9.0
- Cereals	4.8	26.5	23.5
- Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat glutin	2.1	7.5	7.0
- Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; misc. grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or			
medicinal plants; straw and fodder	22.3	22.7	30.4
- Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	0.3	0.1	0.2