

Algeria

Bilateral relations in agriculture



Main Country Indicators 2013

	Algeria	EU28
Total area (km ²)	2 381 740	4 385 992
Population (million)	39.2	506.7
Population density (per km ²)	16.5	120
GDP (current USD)	210.2 billion	17.3 trillion
GDP per capita (current USD)	5360.7	34 240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	2.7	0.1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

Economic importance of agriculture (2011)

	Algeria	EU28
Agricultural land (km ²)	413 830	1 878 817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	17.4	44.3
Arable land as % of land area	3.2	25.6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	0.4	2.8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	10.8	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	9.3 *	1.6 *

Sources: World Bank

* year 2012

Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Algeria (2013): EUR 3.2 billion

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Algeria (2013): EUR 99 million

More statistical information

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/algeria_en.pdf

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Agriculture in Algeria

Cultivated land is largely restricted to the coastal plains and valleys. These areas were colonized by French settlers, who established vineyards, orchards, citrus groves, and market gardens. The best farms were located in the well-watered fertile plains around Bejaïa and Annaba in the east, in the Mitidja Plain south of Algiers, and beyond Oran from Sidi Bel Abbès to Tlemcen. Rich vineyard areas were also maintained on the Médéa and Mascara plateaus. The country's aridity, however, renders more than four-fifths of the land uncultivable, and most of the remaining agricultural land is suitable only for pasture. The rest is tilled or devoted to vineyards and orchards. Winter grains—wheat, barley, and oats—are grown on the largest area of arable land in the drier High Plateau, notably around Constantine, and in the Sersou Plateau to the west. Also in the west, esparto grass grows naturally on the region's steppe plains. Tobacco, olives, and dates are important crops, as are sorghum, millet, corn (maize), rye, and rice. The climate is not well suited to extensive stock raising, but there are many scattered herds of cattle, goats, and sheep, and stock raising contributes significantly to the traditional sector of agriculture. Irregular precipitation has long been a threat to agriculture, but dam construction and irrigation projects have added some stability to crop production. Despite such efforts, the nation's meagre water resources are under increasing pressure to meet its urban-industrial demands as well.

Algeria changed from a food-exporting nation in the 1950s to one that by the late 20th century had to import about three-fourths of its food needs.

Algeria continues to witness an increase in local agricultural production owing to efforts to modernize the sector and boost investment. Growth in the sector rose from 8.5% in 2010 to 10.6% in 2011 and there are encouraging signs that increased support from the government will aid development (Plan quinquénal de renouveau agricole). While the country is still dependent on imports to ensure food-sufficiency, the government is committed to plans to intensify production and reduce the food import bill.

EU-Algeria Relations

The EU seeks to develop particular close relationship to Algeria, its geographical neighbor, and to support Algeria's economic and political reforms. The relationship emphasizes close cooperation on democratic reform, economic modernization, and migration issues. Algeria is a participant to the European Neighborhood Policy.

Algeria and the EU are bound by the legally binding treaty in the form of an Association agreement in force since September 2005 (the EU-Algeria Association Agreement was signed in April 2002 and entered into force in September 2005). Trade remains another important subject of relations, as well as the development cooperation, details of which can be found in the country strategy paper. This agreement sets out a framework for the EU-Algeria relationship in all areas including trade.

In 2012 Algeria and the EU launched consultations on an Action Plan that will set out anticipated actions and priorities over a five-year timeframe (discussions on-going). It will serve to support co-operation and further exploit the potential of the Association Agreement. Algeria is in the process of accession to the WTO , with support from the European Union. This item is one of the priority of the Algerian government.



The European Union is Algeria's largest trading partner and absorbs half of Algerian international trade (50.1%).

General information about EU-trade with Algeria can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/algeria/>