

Food Balance Sheets

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3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	
<p>The food balance sheets are an aggregated statistical account at the national level that presents the supply and utilization of a specific food product over a given reference period. Currently, in Georgia, food balance sheets are compiled for the following primary food products: wheat, maize, potatoes, vegetables (aggregated), grapes, meat (all types, aggregated), beef, pork, sheep and goat meat, poultry meat, milk and milk products, and eggs. Additionally, processed products are converted into relevant primary products using appropriate conversion coefficients (for example, wheat flour and bread into wheat, wine into grapes, dairy products into milk, etc.).</p> <p>Food balance sheets are based on the methodology of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, as described in the FAO publication Guidelines for the Compilation of Food Balance Sheets, FAO, 2017.</p> <p>A food balance sheet consists of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic production; • Imports; • Seed use; • Feed use; • Industry; • Processing; • Food; • Losses; • Exports; • Stock variations. <p>In addition, the food balance sheet for a given product includes per capita consumption indicators, such as: quantity of the product (in kilograms per year and grams per day), daily kilocalorie intake from the product, daily protein intake (in grams), and daily fat intake (in grams). The food balance sheets also include the country's self-sufficiency ratio for the given product.</p>	
3.2. Classification system	
<p>Classification of Crops // World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020. Volume 1: Programme, Concepts and Definitions / Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. – Rome, 2017, p. 163-169. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4913e.pdf</p> <p>Classification of livestock // World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020. Volume 1: Programme, Concepts and Definitions / Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. – Rome, 2017, p. 178. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4913e.pdf</p>	
3.3. Sector coverage	
All economic activities and institutional sectors where food consumption takes place.	
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	
<p>The definitions, concepts, and methodology of food balance statistics are harmonized at the international level. The methodology is described in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) publication Guidelines for the Compilation</p>	

of Food Balance Sheets, FAO, 2017.

Food balance sheets are compiled for the following primary products: wheat, maize, potatoes, vegetables (aggregated), grapes, meat (all types, aggregated), beef, pork, sheep and goat meat, poultry meat, milk and milk products, and eggs. In the definitions provided below, “food product” refers to both the primary product and any processed products derived from it, converted into the equivalent primary product using appropriate conversion coefficients.

- **Domestic production** – The production of a given primary product within the country's territory, including both household and legal entity production. Crop production figures exclude harvest losses. However, production includes post-harvest (or post-slaughter) losses occurring within the agricultural holding during operations such as threshing, cleaning/sorting, or storage. Meat production includes meat from locally raised animals as well as from imported live animals and poultry, expressed in terms of slaughtered weight.
- **Imports** – The quantity of food products entering the country during the reference period.
- **Exports** – The quantity of food products leaving the country during the reference period. This includes both the export of domestically produced products and the re-export of imported products. Domestic exports comprise products either produced in the country or significantly transformed or value-added through processing within the national territory.
- **Seed use** – The quantity of crop products used for sowing during the reference period.
- **For incubation** – The number of eggs used for poultry reproduction during the reference period.
- **Feed use** – The quantity of food products used as animal feed during the reference period, either directly or as ingredients in compound feed.
- **Industrial use** – The quantity of food products used for non-food industrial purposes during the reference period.
- **Food consumption** – The quantity of food products available for human consumption during the reference period. This includes losses at the retail level and waste at the level of final consumption. Therefore, this amount differs from the actual quantity consumed by individuals.
- **Stock variation** – The difference between food product stocks at the end and at the beginning of the reference period.
- **Losses** – The quantity of food products that unintentionally exit the supply chain after harvest (or slaughter) and before reaching the retail/consumption stage, without being used for other purposes. This excludes losses at the retail and final consumption levels.
- **Self-sufficiency ratio** – Local production expressed as a percentage of the sum of local production and net imports (imports minus exports). The resulting figure is multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Self – sufficient Ratio} = \frac{\text{Production}}{\text{Production} + \text{Import} - \text{Export}} \times 100$$

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical units on which food balance sheets are based vary depending on the data sources and include agricultural holdings, households, foreign trade declarations, and etc.

3.6. Statistical population

Whole economic area of the country.

3.7. Reference area

Entire country (Georgia), excluding occupied regions.

3.8. Time coverage

Since 2014.

3.9. Base period

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4. Unit of measure

Physical units (thousand tonnes, kilograms per day, grams per day), energy unit (kilocalories per day), percentage.

5. Reference period

Year.

6. Institutional mandate

6.1. Legal acts and other agreements

The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics;

<https://www.geostat.ge/media/56202/The-Law-of-Georgia-on-Official-Statistics.pdf>

Statistical Work Programme (annual);

https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme Charter of the National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/media/67749/New-Chapter-eng-upd.pdf
6.2. Data sharing
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7. Confidentiality
7.1. Confidentiality – policy
<p>1. The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the article 5 of the law Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes – individual data collected or received by the producer of official statistics, relating to natural or legal persons, must be strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes. • According to the article 34 (Observing Confidentiality of Statistical Data) of the law 1. Data collected, processed, and stored to produce official statistics are confidential if they enable the direct or indirect identification of a statistical unit. In addition, aggregated data are subject to statistical confidentiality: a) Aggregates composed of 1 to 3 units, when the unit is a natural or legal person if one of these units could be identified indirectly, thereby disclosing individual data about this unit. Aggregates composed of more than 3 units may be declared confidential by the Executive Director if required to ensure statistical confidentiality; b) Information declares as a state secret on the basis of the „Law of Georgia on State Secrets“. 2. Confidential data shall be used exclusively for the purposes of producing statistics in accordance with this law. 3. Statistical data about the administrative body cannot be considered confidential information, except for the information determined by the Law of Georgia „On State Secrets“. 4. Individual data obtained from publicly available sources, which are defined as public information in accordance with the legislation of Georgia, shall not be considered confidential information. 5. Confidential (individual) data may be published if there is written consent from the statistical unit regarding the publication of such data. 6. It is not allowed to disseminate and distribute confidential data or use it for non-statistical purposes. • According to the article 38 (Confidentiality commitments) of the law the confidential statistical data collected and processed for statistical purposes shall not be used or disseminated either for personal, academic, research or any other activities, by the employees of the producers of Official Statistics. <p>https://www.geostat.ge/media/56202/The-Law-of-Georgia-on-Official-Statistics.pdf</p> <p>2. Data Confidentiality Policy at Geostat https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf</p> <p>3. Procedure for providing access to confidential data for research purposes https://www.geostat.ge/media/61533/Rule-on-Access-to-Confidential-Data-for-Scientific-and-Research-Purposes....pdf</p> <p>4. The Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9</p>
7.2. Confidentiality – data treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidentiality guidelines. • Written undertakings by an employee of Geostat on ensuring confidentiality of gained/collected data as a result of official duties.

8. Release policy
8.1. Release calendar
Data dissemination dates are defined by the calendar developed on the basis of the Statistical Work Programme, which is published on the website of Geostat and is publicly available.
8.2. Release calendar access
https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar
8.3. User access
All users have the equal access to the statistical data simultaneously.

9. Frequency of dissemination
Annual.

10. Accessibility and clarity
10.1. News release
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10.2. Publications
The food balance sheets are available in annual Publication „Agriculture of Georgia“: Agriculture of Georgia - National Statistics Office of Georgia
10.3. On-line database
The food balance sheets are available in MS Excel format: https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/297/food-security
10.4. Micro-data access
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10.5. Other
Referring to the Law of Georgia on „Official Statistics“ within the framework of the statistical work program, Geostat ensures the provision of statistical publications and data to all users free of charge and in electronic format.
10.6. Documentation on methodology
Guidelines for the compilation of Food Balance Sheets, FAO 2017: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f80bc794-2b23-40d0-8a0d-886229f3fcc7/content
10.7. Quality documentation
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11. Quality management
11.1. Quality assurance
To ensure the quality of the statistical processes and products Geostat follows Chapter 10 – Quality of official statistics – of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (ESS QAF).
11.2. Quality assessment
Methodology and Quality Management Division of Geostat, along with the sectoral departments, is responsible for the quality of the produced statistical products and processes. The Division carries out quality audit, self-assessment of statistical processes and assesses the risks for the quality of statistical processes and products. Geostat has developed policy documents, guidelines and standard routine descriptions. These documents ensure the standardization of statistical processes and products and the establishment of a unified quality assurance system. Quality policy is available on the following link: https://www.geostat.ge/media/44380/QP_Geostat_EN.pdf

12. Relevance
12.1. User needs
The main users of the data are: representatives of the business sector, researchers and students, international organizations, government organizations, media, etc. They need this data to conduct various statistical analyses, plan marketing strategies or study and evaluate the economic situation.
12.2. User satisfaction
In 2023 user satisfaction survey was conducted, the target of the survey was to analyze the assessment of quality of statistical data by users and explore ways to improve user services. The survey report is available on the website of Geostat: https://www.geostat.ge/en/page/customer-service
12.3. Completeness
The data are comparable to international standards.

13. Accuracy and reliability
13.1. Overall accuracy
Data accuracy is ensured by comparability of survey and calculation methods to international methodology.
13.2. Sampling error
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13.3. Non-sampling error

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14. Timeliness and punctuality

14.1. Timeliness

The data are published in the middle of June of the year following the reporting period.

14.2. Punctuality

The data is published according to the date specified in the statistical work program. There has not been any violation of publication dates.

15. Coherence and comparability

15.1. Comparability – geographical

International methodological approaches are used ensuring international comparability.

15.2. Comparability – over time

The data are comparable.

15.3. Coherence – cross domain

Coherent.

15.4. Coherence – internal

Coherent.

16. Cost and burden

The data are processed based on internal resources, so no additional expenses are incurred.

17. Data revision

17.1. Data revision – policy

Statistical data revision policy is available on the website of Geostat:

https://www.geostat.ge/media/59824/Data-Revision-Policy-and-Error-Correction-at-Geostat_Eng.pdf

17.2. Data revision – practice

Statistical data are regularly revised and adjusted based on updates received from relevant sources. In addition, a large-scale revision is carried out once a year to obtain more accurate data. As part of the scheduled revision process, preliminary data are refined and final data are produced. Unscheduled revisions (for data clarification) have not been carried out in practice.

18. Statistical processing

18.1. Source data

The main data sources for food balance sheets are the Agricultural Holdings Survey, the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, the customs declarations database, and other administrative sources.

18.2. Frequency of data collection

Annually.

18.3. Data collection

Based on the results of the internal sources.

18.4. Data validation

The data provided for the compilation of food balance sheets are additionally verified by the staff of the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Statistics.

18.5. Data compilation

The components of food balance sheets are calculated by the relevant structural units of GeoStat responsible for producing the respective statistics. Data balancing is carried out using the following formula:

Domestic production + Imports = Seed use/For incubation + Feed use + Industrial use + Food consumption + Losses + Exports + Change in stocks.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment

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