

Produce exports up 35% last month

The Kingdom's exports of vegetables and fruits amounted to 26.2 tons last month, surging by 35 per cent from the same month last year, according to agriculture minister Khalid Hneifat.

He said that soaring exports was a positive sign despite the political challenges facing external marketing of Jordanian produce as a main source of foreign currency, noting that the government's policy in support of the sector had paid off in the past months. Hneifat said that vegetables accounted for 98% of the total exports, and fruits 2%, with tomato, the main export crop, in first place at 13,000 tons, or 50% of the total exports, followed by cucumber, at 14.7% and lettuce at 13.6%.

He pointed to a 50% rise in January exports to the Gulf Arab states- the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait, adding that exports to Qatar had dropped significantly after the closure of the Qatari market in July.

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