

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore Food Statistics 2023

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has published the Singapore Food Statistics (SgFS) 2023, an annual publication of Singapore's food supply and food safety data over the past three years.

Key Highlights from 2021 to 2023

Diversifying Import Sources

2 As we import more than 90% of our food, Singapore is vulnerable to global food supply chain disruptions from disease outbreaks, policy decisions by foreign governments, and geopolitical tensions. To minimise the impact of such disruptions, SFA works closely with relevant agencies and the industry to diversify our import sources and reduce our reliance on any single source. Singapore has since increased our food import sources, from 183 countries/regions in 2022 to 187 in 2023.

3 Even as we diversify our food sources, food safety is key. Accreditation at source is required for the import of food items such as livestock, meat, and egg items, which are more susceptible to contamination and diseases and could lead to foodborne illness in consumers. In 2023, SFA approved Spain as a new source of mutton, Türkiye as a new source of eggs, and Indonesia as a new source of eggs and live chicken. SFA remains dedicated to accrediting new import sources and promoting further diversification within the industry through initiatives such as sourcing trips and business networking sessions.

Building Capability and Capacity for Local Production

4 The volatility of global food supply chains underscores the importance of building our local agri-food sector's capability and capacity to produce locally, as a form of insurance against food supply disruptions. In 2023, local hen shell eggs, vegetable and seafood farms contributed around 31.9%, 3.2%, and 7.3% of our food consumption respectively.

5 Our local farms have faced challenges, including delays in building up their farms during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as strong headwinds due to inflationary pressures, higher energy prices and manpower costs. To help local farms cope with the higher energy costs, SFA enhanced the Agri-Food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund and introduced the Energy Efficiency Programme (EEP), providing farms with co-funding to undergo energy efficiency audits and adopt more energy-efficient technologies.

6 In 2023, as part of the ForwardSG conversation, SFA launched the Alliance for Action (AfA) that brought together various industry stakeholders to encourage increased offtake of local produce. This led to the formation of an industry-level supply and demand aggregator, spearheaded by the Singapore Agri-Food Enterprise Federation (SAFEF). SAFEF will partner traders and food processing companies via longer-term commercial aggregator contracts to better match demand and supply. This gives certainty to both producers and buyers and allows better price negotiations. The AfA also supported the Farm-to-Table Recognition Programme (FTTRP) launched in 2023, which recognises food businesses that procure locally produced ingredients.

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7 Consumers can also play an important role in food security by being flexible and adaptable in our food choices. To inculcate such awareness from young, SFA collaborated with MOE and SATS and piloted the Food Resilience Preparedness Project (FRPP) to educate students on food security.

Ensuring Safe Food for All

8 There is no food security without food safety. SFA adopts a science-based risk management approach, whereby the inspection, sampling, and testing regime is tiered based on the risk profile of food item. In 2023, SFA licensed 53,471 food establishments and 16,473 importers, an increase of about 2% for both categories vis-à-vis previous year. The number of foodborne illness cases related to foodborne outbreak remained low at no more than 22.5 per 100,000 population in 2023.

9 SFA's National Centre for Food Science partners private testing laboratories under the Lab Recognition Programme (LRP) to expand and strengthen their testing capabilities, contributing to the food testing ecosystem in Singapore. SFA samples and tests imported and locally produced food. It was observed that imported fresh fruits and vegetables reported lower lab test pass rates (84%), mostly due to pesticides violations. Test pass rates (98%) were high across local farms.

10 To safeguard Singapore's food security, SFA will continue to work closely with other government agencies, businesses, and consumers to manage food security risks, and transform the agri-food sector.

11 SgFS is available for download from SFA's website at www.sfa.gov.sg/publications/sgfs.

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About the Singapore Food Agency (SFA)

The mission of the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is to ensure and secure a supply of safe food. To safeguard Singapore's food security, SFA adopts a multi-pronged approach which includes diversifying food import sources and increasing local food production. To ensure that food in Singapore is safe for consumption, SFA has in place an integrated farm-to-fork food safety system which adopts a risk-based approach guided by science and aligned with international standards. As food safety and security is a joint responsibility, SFA provides an enabling environment that supports all stakeholders to play their part. For more information on SFA, visit www.sfa.gov.sg.