Azərbaycan Beynəlxalq Bankı

RESEARCH SERIES

General Look at the Agricultural Sector of Azerbaijan: A Statistical Summary

October 2025

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Introduction and Summary

This research covers the current situation, challenges, and development prospects of the agricultural sector in Azerbaijan.

Economic Role and Structure: **Agriculture constitutes approximately** 6% **of the GDP and is one of the leading sectors for employment. In the sector's structure, a large portion of production** (85-90%) **comes from individual and family farms. The Shamkir region leads in terms of gross product output,** Jalilabad **in terms of sown areas, and the** Sabirabad **and** Mil-Mughan **regions are leaders in animal husbandry.**

Land Resources and Production: **Only** 23.5% **of the country's territory is arable land, while** 44.9% **is unsuitable for agriculture. Grain crops are cultivated on more than** 60% **of the sown areas, which indicates a need for diversification. The production of livestock products shows a more stable growth compared to crop production.**

Trade Balance: **In terms of export value,** cotton fiber (178.2million) **and tomato** (175.4 million) **hold the main positions. In imports, wheat is the clear leader** (1.3 million tons)**, which indicates a strategic dependency for food security.**

Main Challenges and Proposals: The primary problems of the sector are water scarcity, land degradation, fragmentation of farms, limited access to financial resources, and the slow adoption of modern technologies. As strategic solutions, the modernization of irrigation systems, the implementation of "smart agriculture" technologies, the promotion of farmer cooperatives, and the stimulation of export-oriented, high-value product manufacturing are proposed.

The Role of Agriculture in the Global Economy

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Agriculture, as the backbone of the global economy, directly provides for the livelihoods and food security of billions of people. The sector's impact on the world economy is determined not only by direct economic indicators but also by its role in social stability and ecological balance.

Key Statistical Indicators:

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): **According to preliminary forecasts from the World Bank, the share of agriculture, forestry, and fishing in the global GDP was around** 4% **in 2024. This figure is vital for low-income countries, where it can constitute over 25% of the GDP.**
- Employment: **Based on recent reports from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), approximately** 892 million **people, or** 26% **of the global workforce, were employed in agriculture in 2022. The entire food system (including production, processing, transportation, retail, etc.) provides jobs for about** 1.3 billion **people worldwide. It is projected that this trend will not change substantially in the 2024-2025 period.**
- Market Value: **According to FAO data, the value of global agricultural production has nearly doubled in real terms over the last two decades, reaching** 3.8 trillion USD **in 2022. Despite the impacts of climate change and geopolitical tensions, the value of this market is expected to continue growing due to increasing global food demand.**

Strategic Importance:

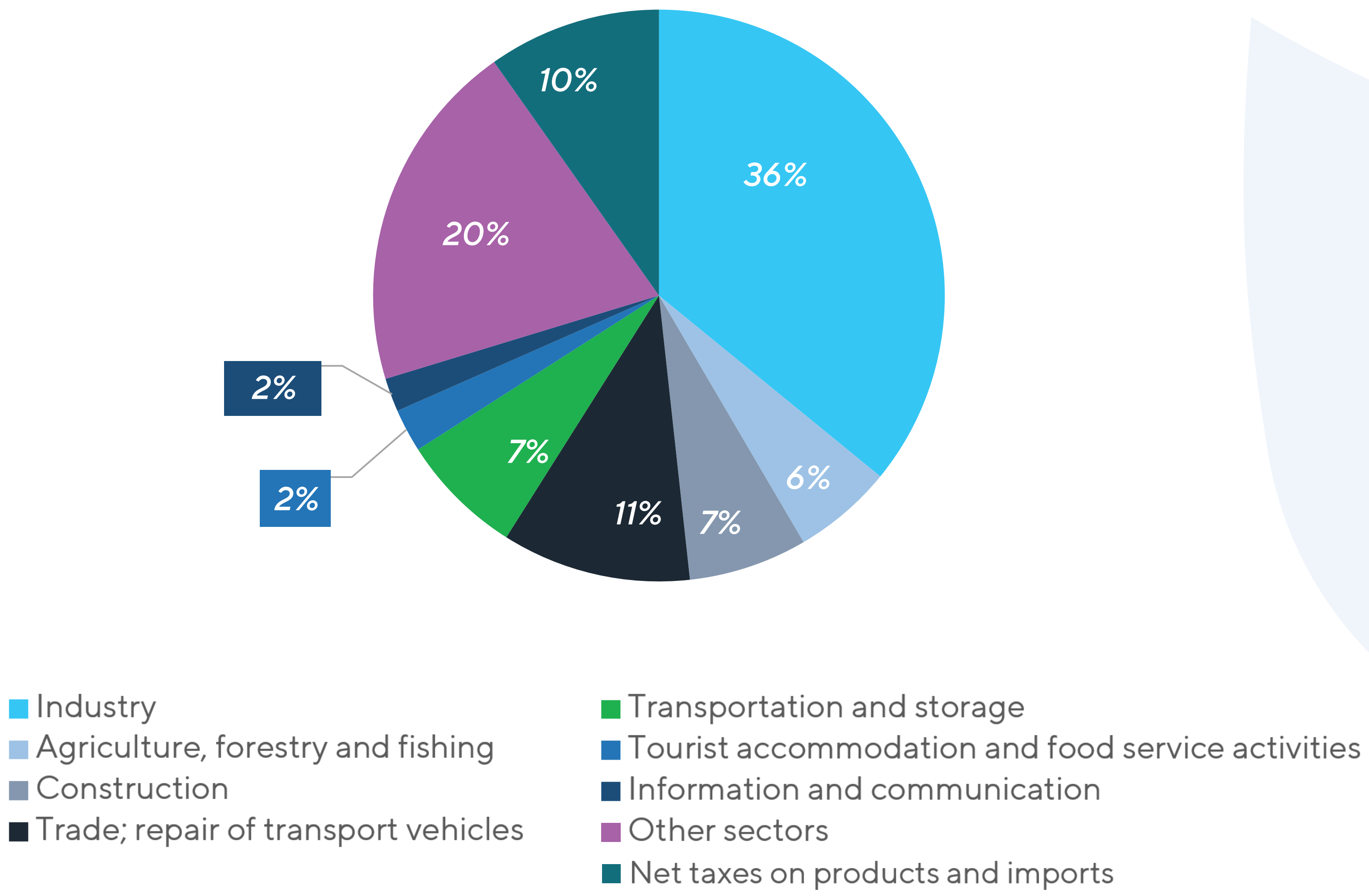
- Food Security and Growing Demand: **According to UN projections, the world population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050, which requires a global food production increase of approximately 50%. This makes agriculture the most strategic sector for the coming decades.**
- Poverty Reduction: **According to World Bank reports, growth in the agricultural sector is** 2-3 times more effective **at reducing poverty than growth in other sectors. The vast majority of the world's poor live in rural areas, and their main source of livelihood is agrarian activity.**
- Raw Material Supply for Industry: **The agricultural sector is an indispensable source of raw materials that ensures the continuous operation of critical industries such as food processing, textiles, biofuels, and pharmaceuticals.**
- Sustainable Development and Climate Impacts: **Modern agriculture is responsible for approximately one-quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of freshwater use. According to a recent FAO report, the hidden environmental and health costs of global agrifood systems are estimated to be** over $10 trillion **annually. Therefore, the transition to smart and sustainable agriculture is critical for the future of the global economy.**

Conclusion: **Projections for 2024-2025 and beyond indicate that while the direct share of agriculture in the global GDP may remain stable, its fundamental role in food security, employment, poverty reduction, and the development of other industrial sectors will grow even more. This confirms the strategic necessity for countries like Azerbaijan to prioritize the modernization and sustainable development of the agrarian sector.**

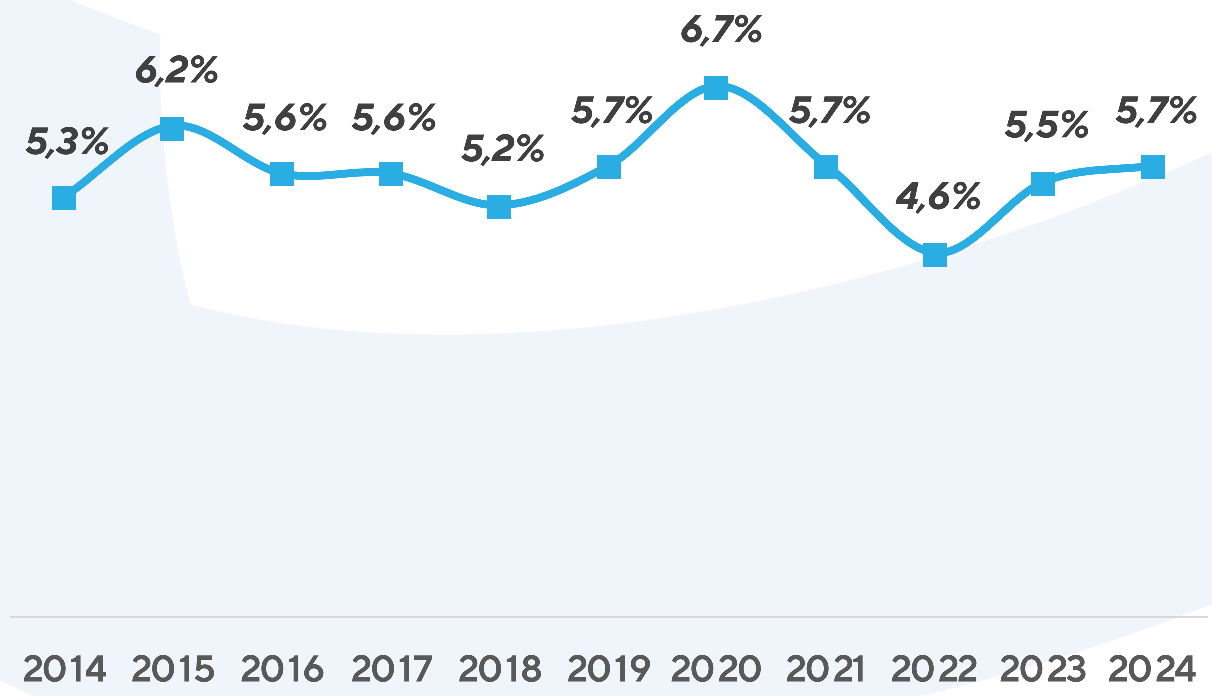
Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank

The Share of Agriculture in the Azerbaijani Economy

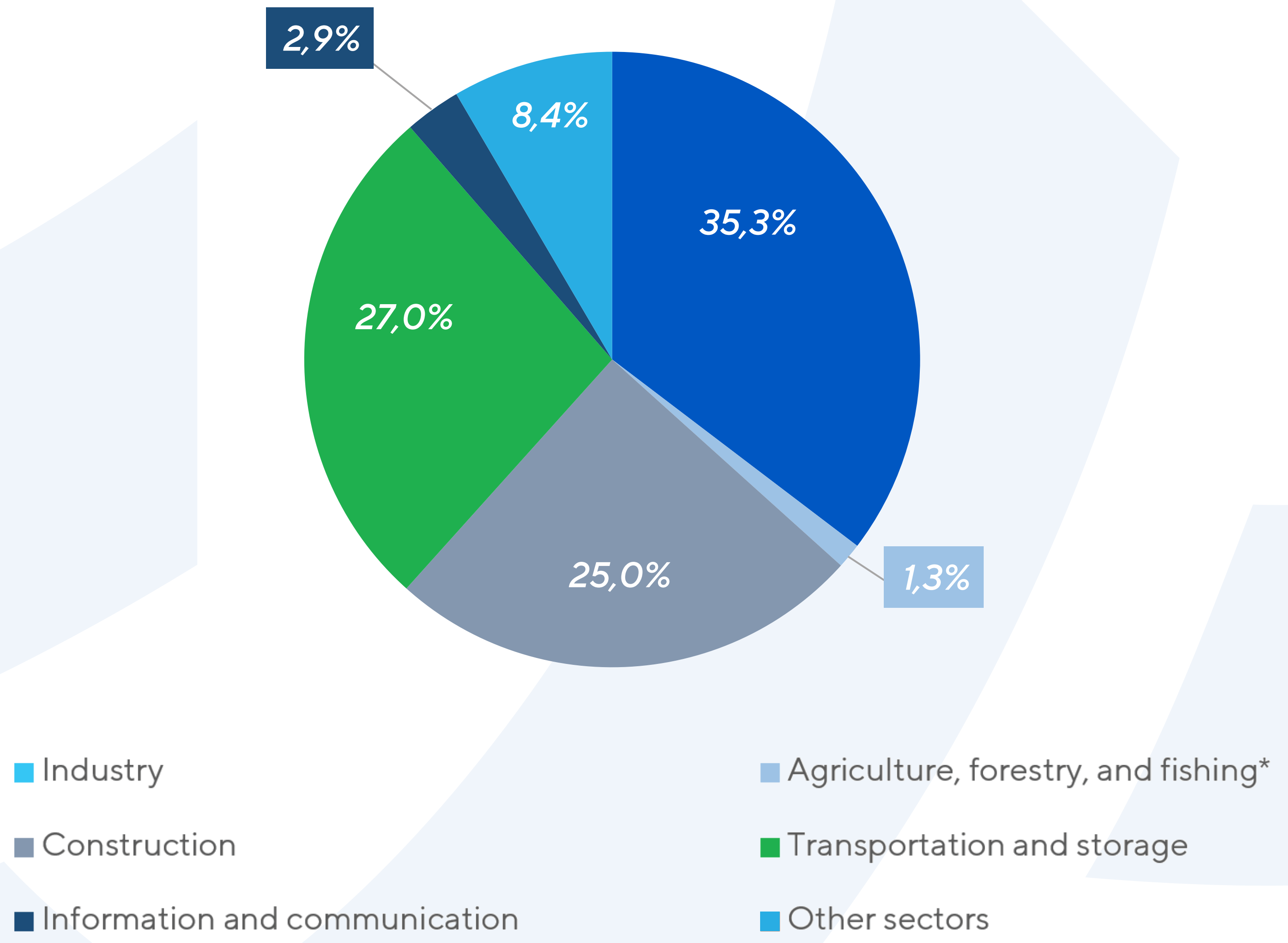
Gross domestic product by economic sectors, in actual prices, 2024, %



Share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP by years, %



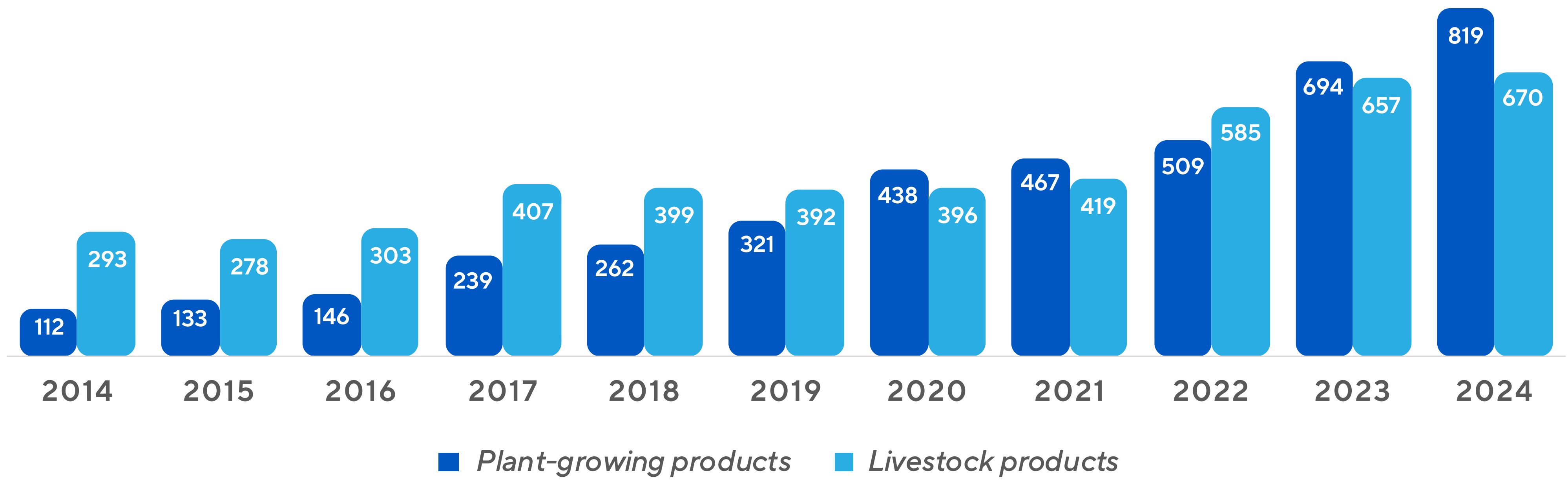
Investment** in fixed capital by economic sectors, 2024, %

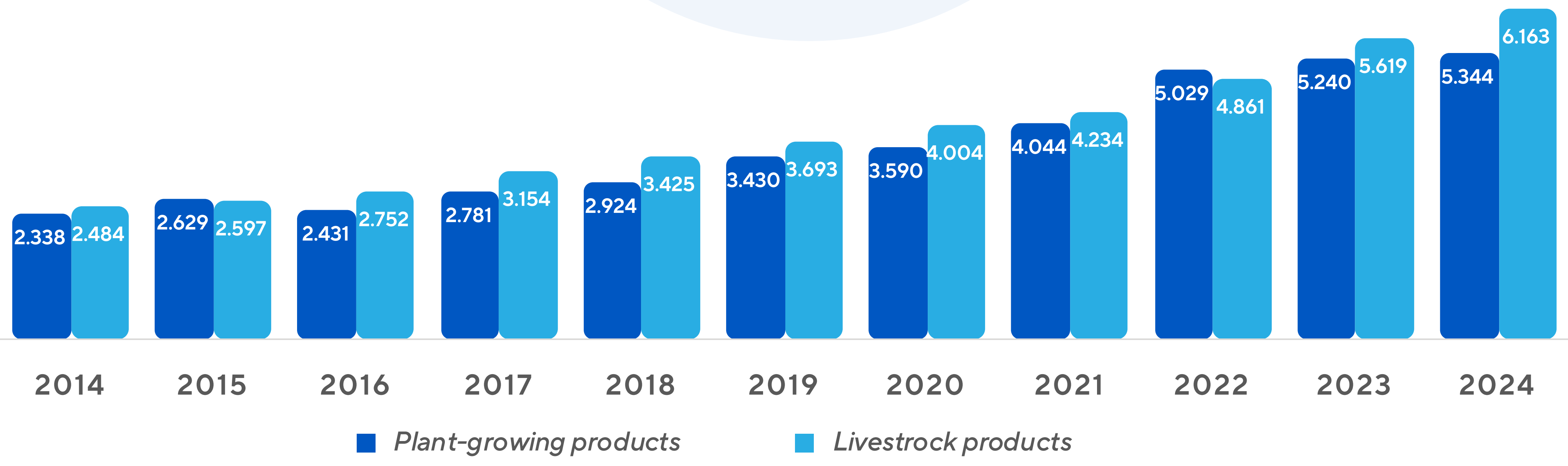


Gross agricultural product by agricultural enterprises, million AZN

Gross agricultural product by private owners, family peasant farms, and households, million AZN

Gross output is the total value, calculated at actual selling prices, of all goods and services produced by agricultural enterprises and private owners, family peasant farms, and households (including the value of intermediate consumption – semi-finished products – used during production).





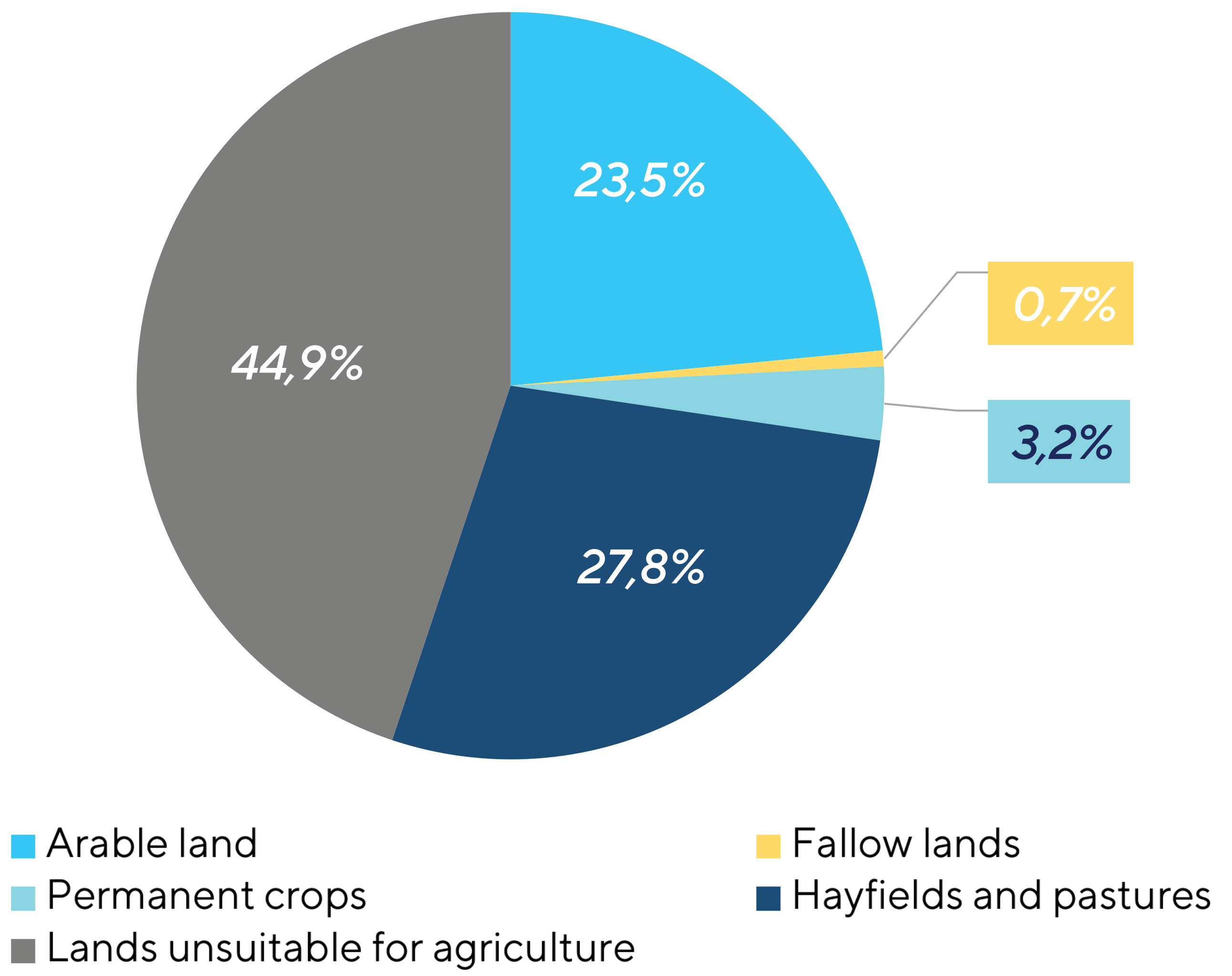
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*In 2024, out of the total investment of 21.4 billion AZN, 283 million AZN was allocated to agriculture, forestry and fishing.

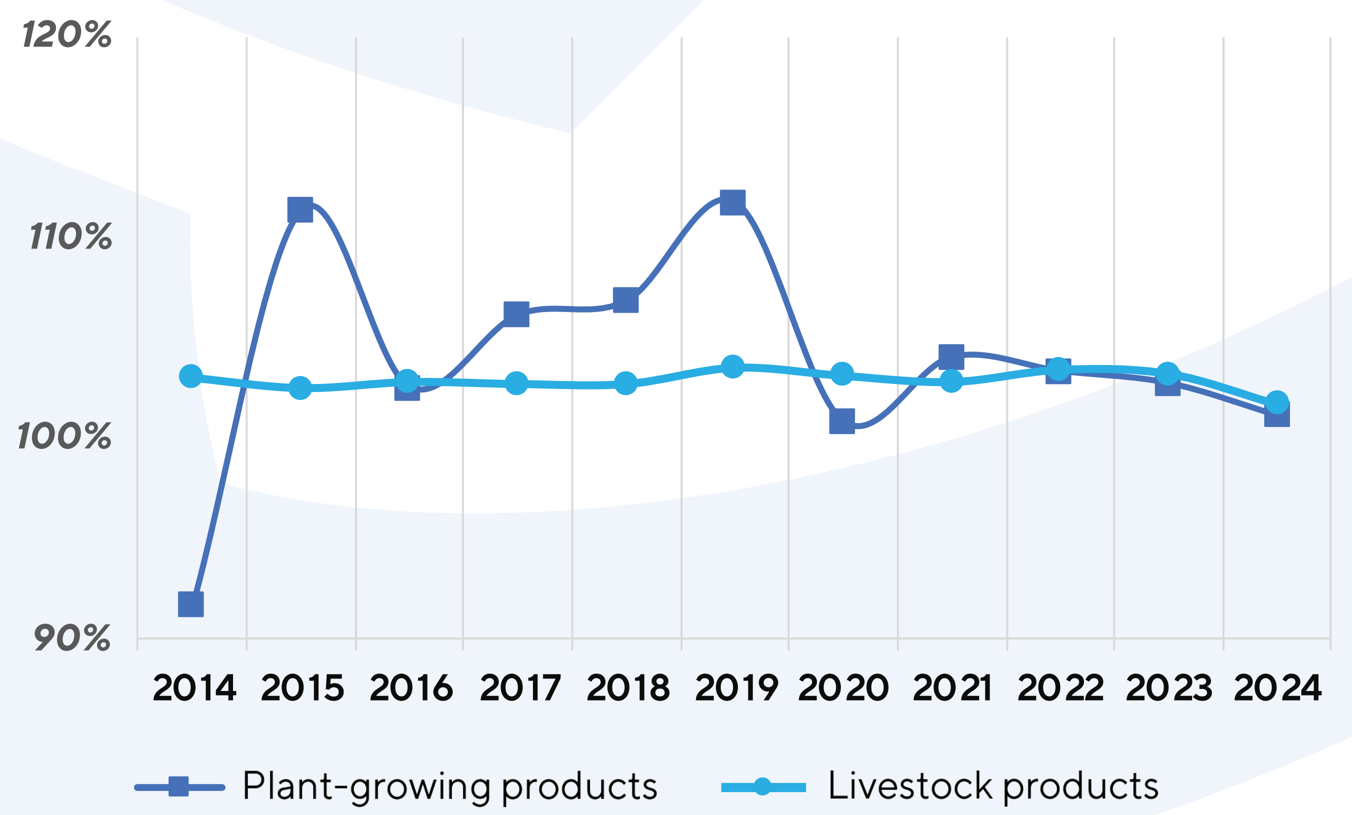
**These are expenditures aimed at the creation of material and technical infrastructure, the enhancement of production potential, production capacity, and the long-term development of the economy.

General Statistics of Azerbaijani Agricultural Sector

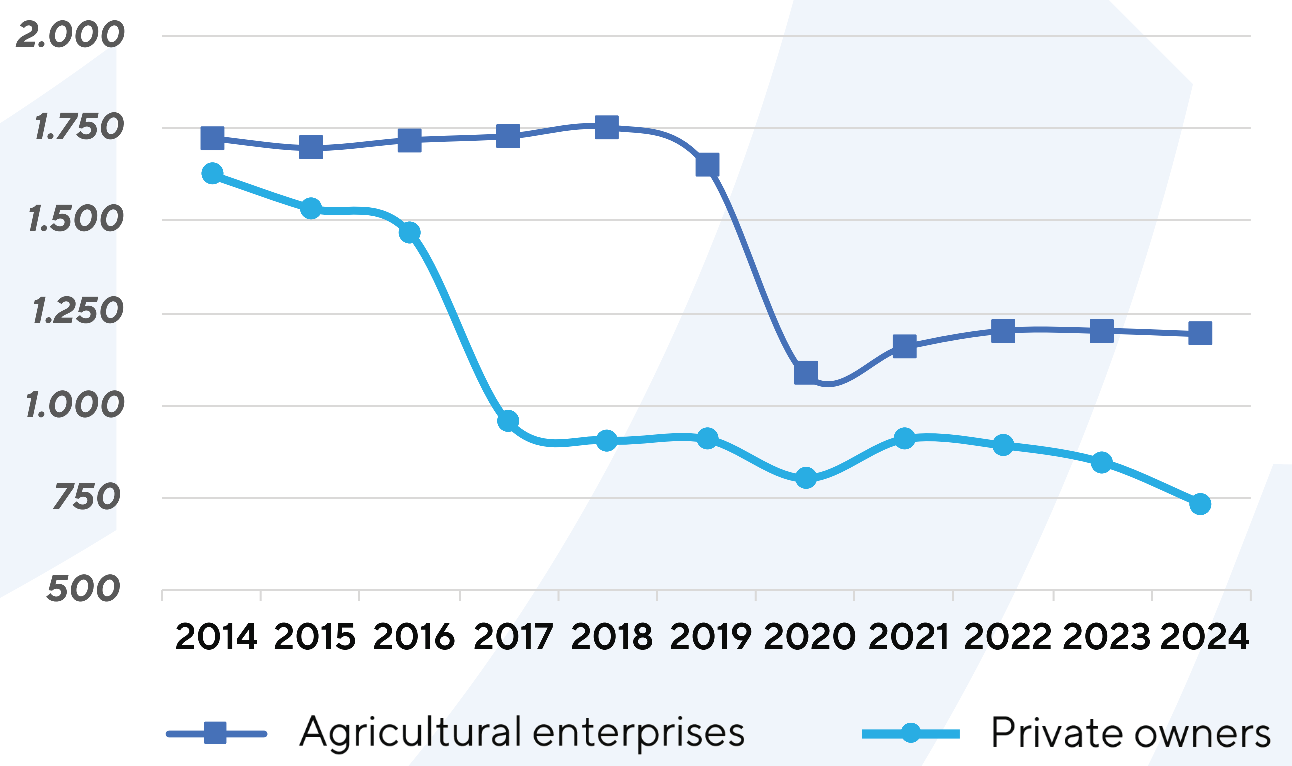
Classification of agricultural lands, 2024, %



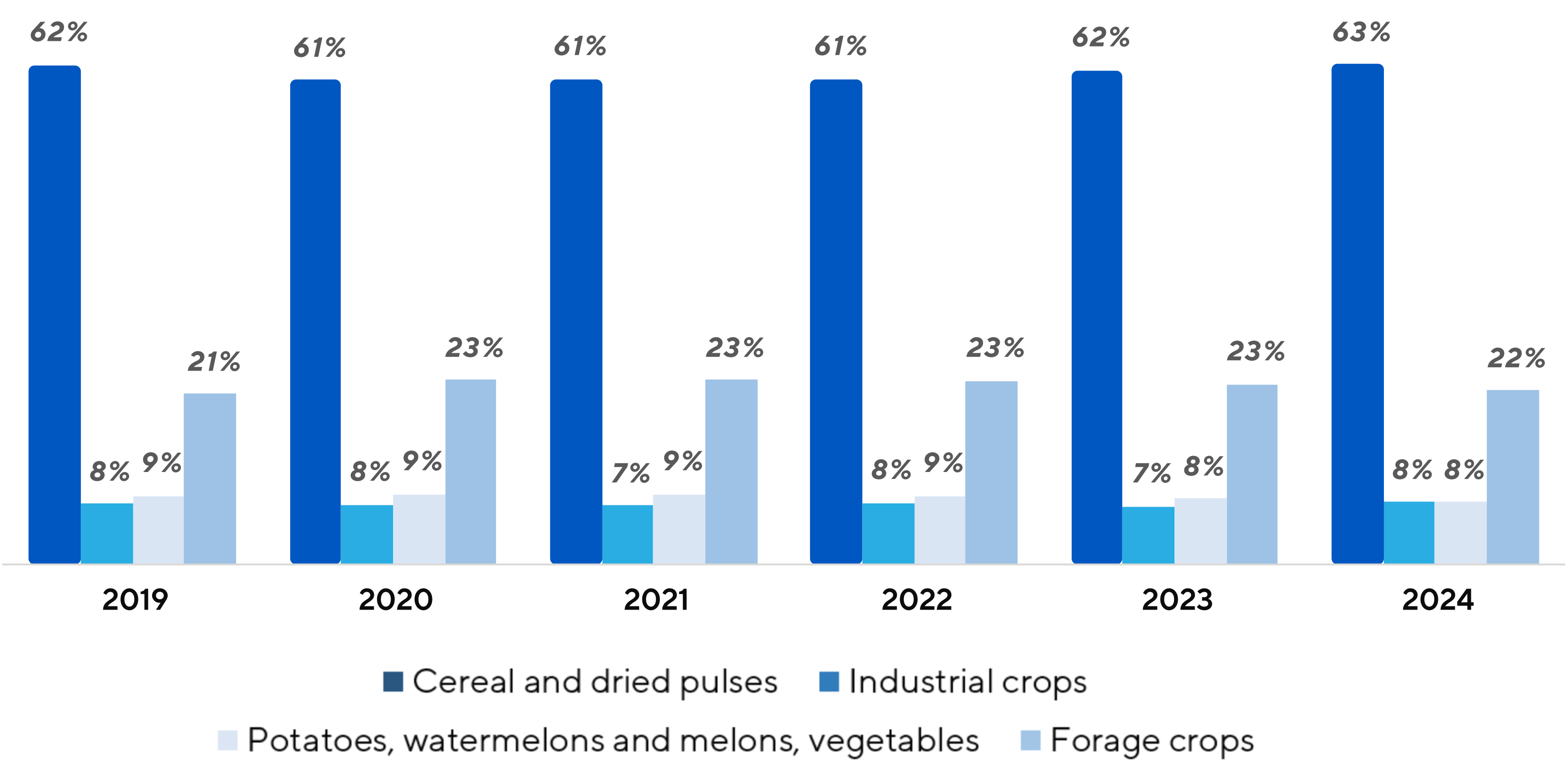
Physical volume index of agricultural production, in comparable prices as a percentage of the previous year, %



Number of agricultural enterprises and individual farms, units



Structure of sown areas by all farm categories, %



Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The fact that only 23.5% of the land is arable while 44.9% is unsuitable for cultivation indicates the potential for expanding the agrarian sector through more efficient management of existing resources and the reclamation of unusable lands.

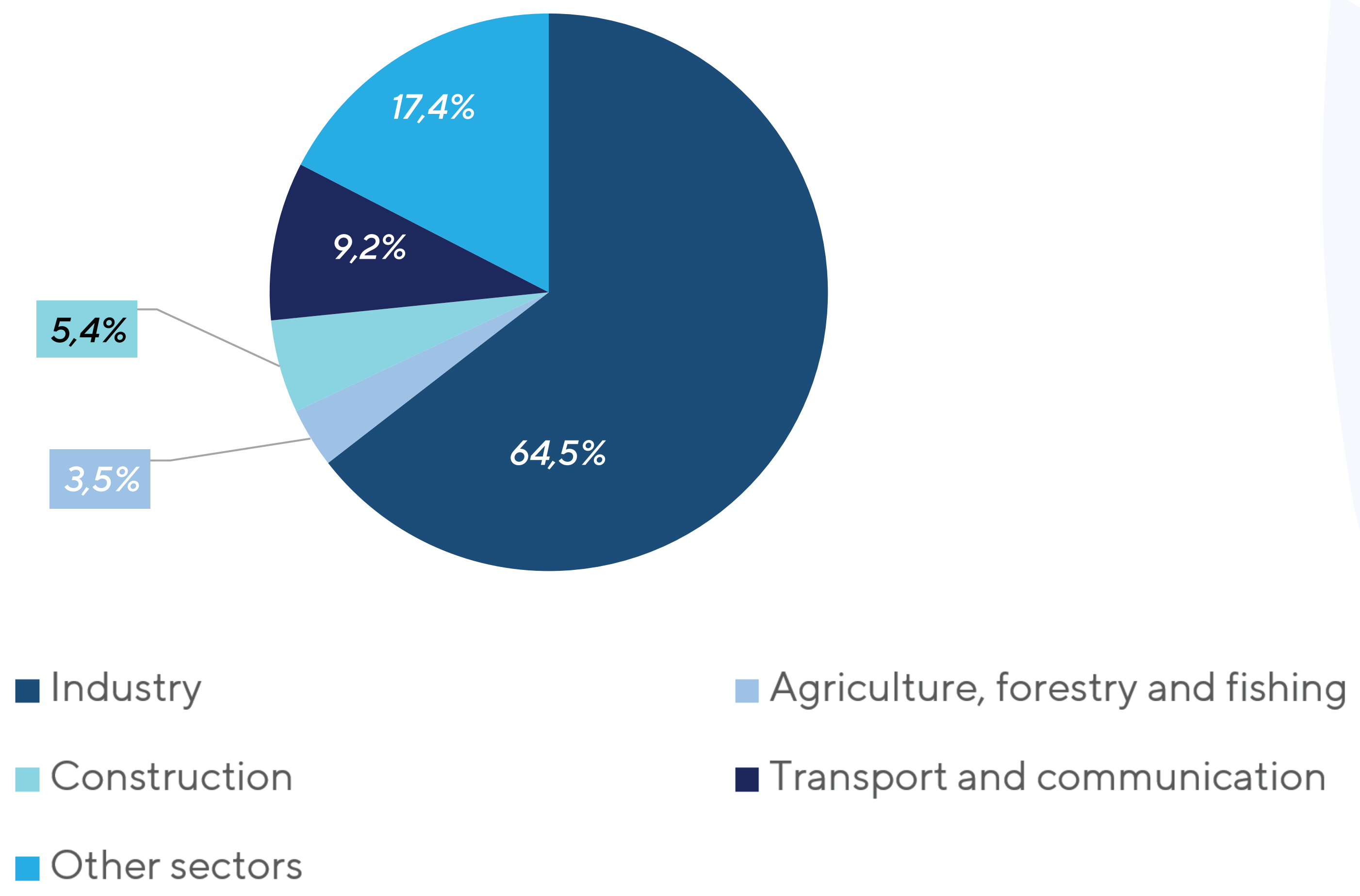
The graphs show that while there was a sharp decline in the number of individual farms between 2016 and 2020, the number of large agricultural enterprises remained relatively stable. This points to structural changes in the agrarian sector, such as the exit or consolidation of small farms. Although there has been a slight recovery in the number of individual farms since 2020, it is still well below the 2016 level.

In the last years analyzed, there has been almost no change in the structure of sown areas; grain crops maintain their leadership with a share of over 60%. While this stability demonstrates the resilience of traditional production for food security on the one hand, on the other, it indicates limited opportunities for diversification into alternative crops that could generate higher income.

When looking at production volume indices, it is clear that livestock production has shown consistent and stable growth over the last years, whereas crop production has experienced more pronounced fluctuations from year to year. This confirms that crop production is more dependent on external factors like climate conditions, while animal husbandry is a more predictable and stable area in the overall growth of agriculture.

Funds by Economic Sectors

Distribution of main funds by economic sectors for 2024

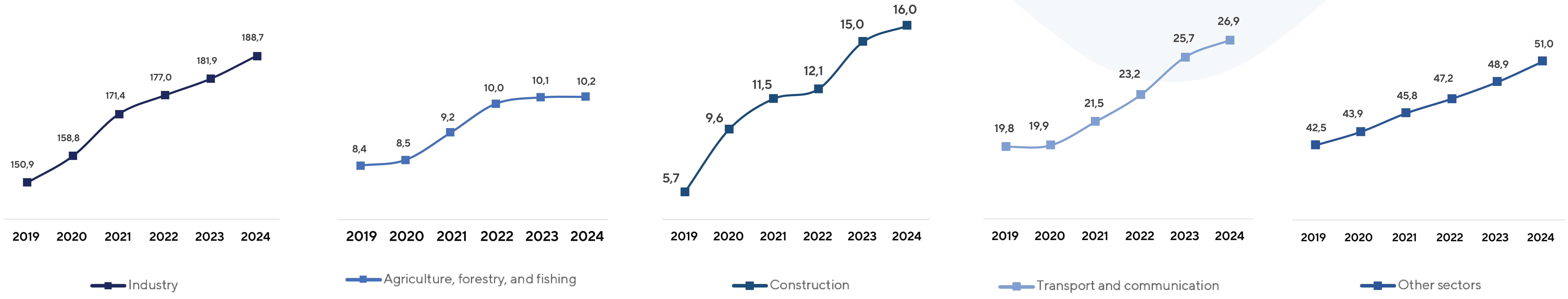


In the distribution of main funds (financial resources allocated for the funding of current and future expenditures, programs, or social obligations) by economic sectors, the largest share belongs to industry (64.5%).

In 2023, agriculture, forestry, and fishing accounted for 10.2 billion manats, holding a 3.5% share.

Like all other analyzed sectors, agriculture, forestry, and fishing has also followed an upward trend in terms of its fixed assets in recent years.

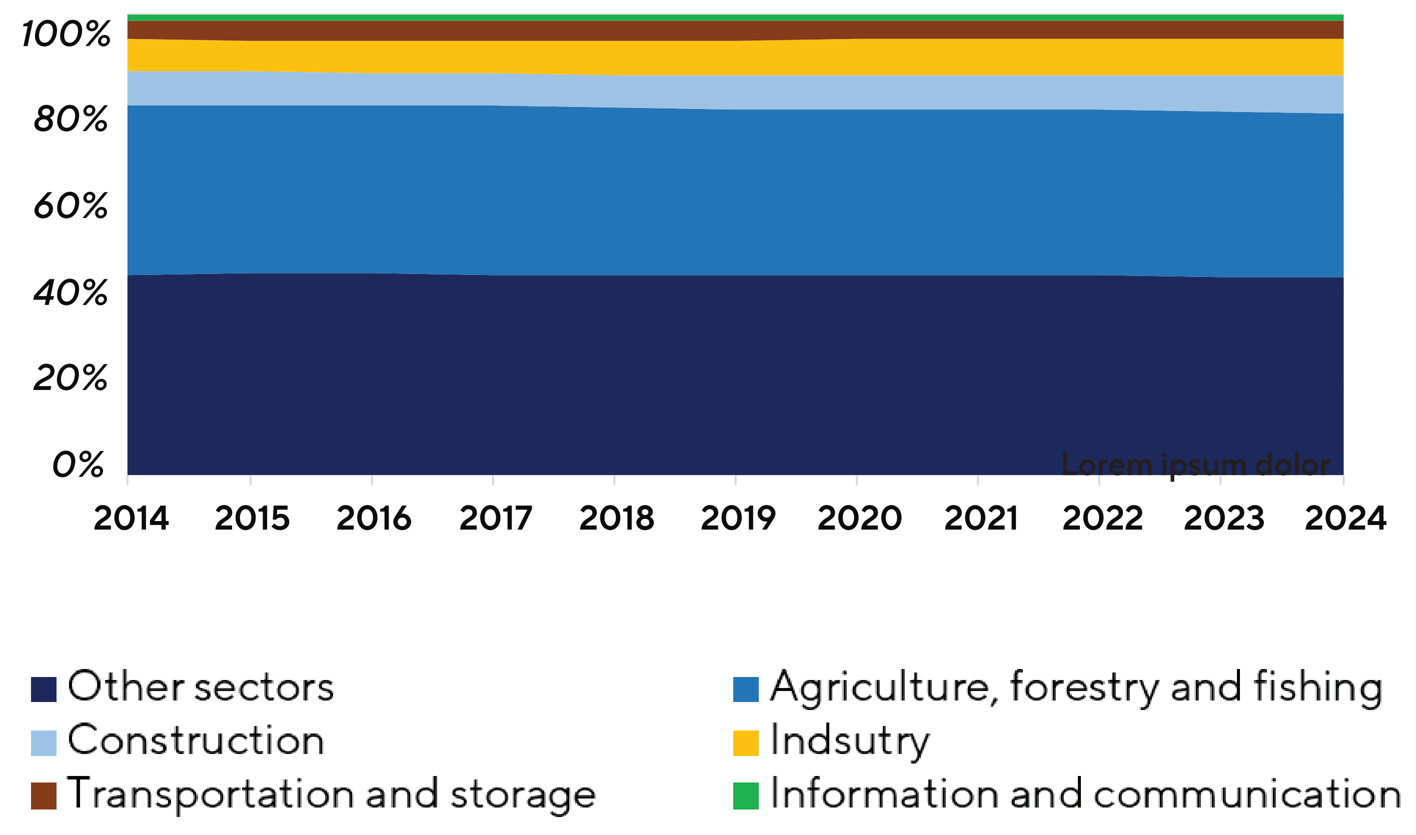
Distribution of main funds by economic sectors, billion AZN



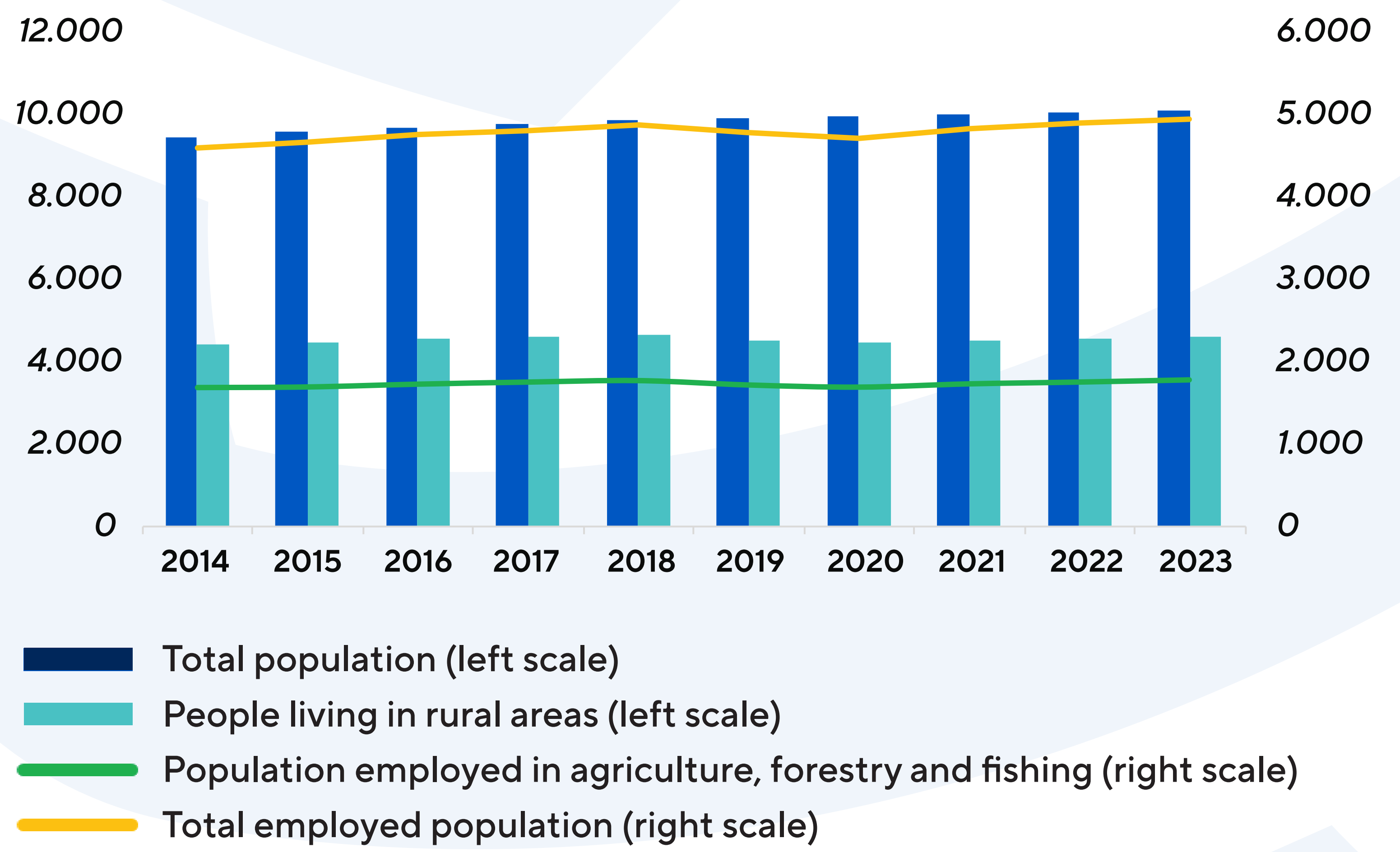
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Employment in Agriculture and the Financial Situation of the Sector

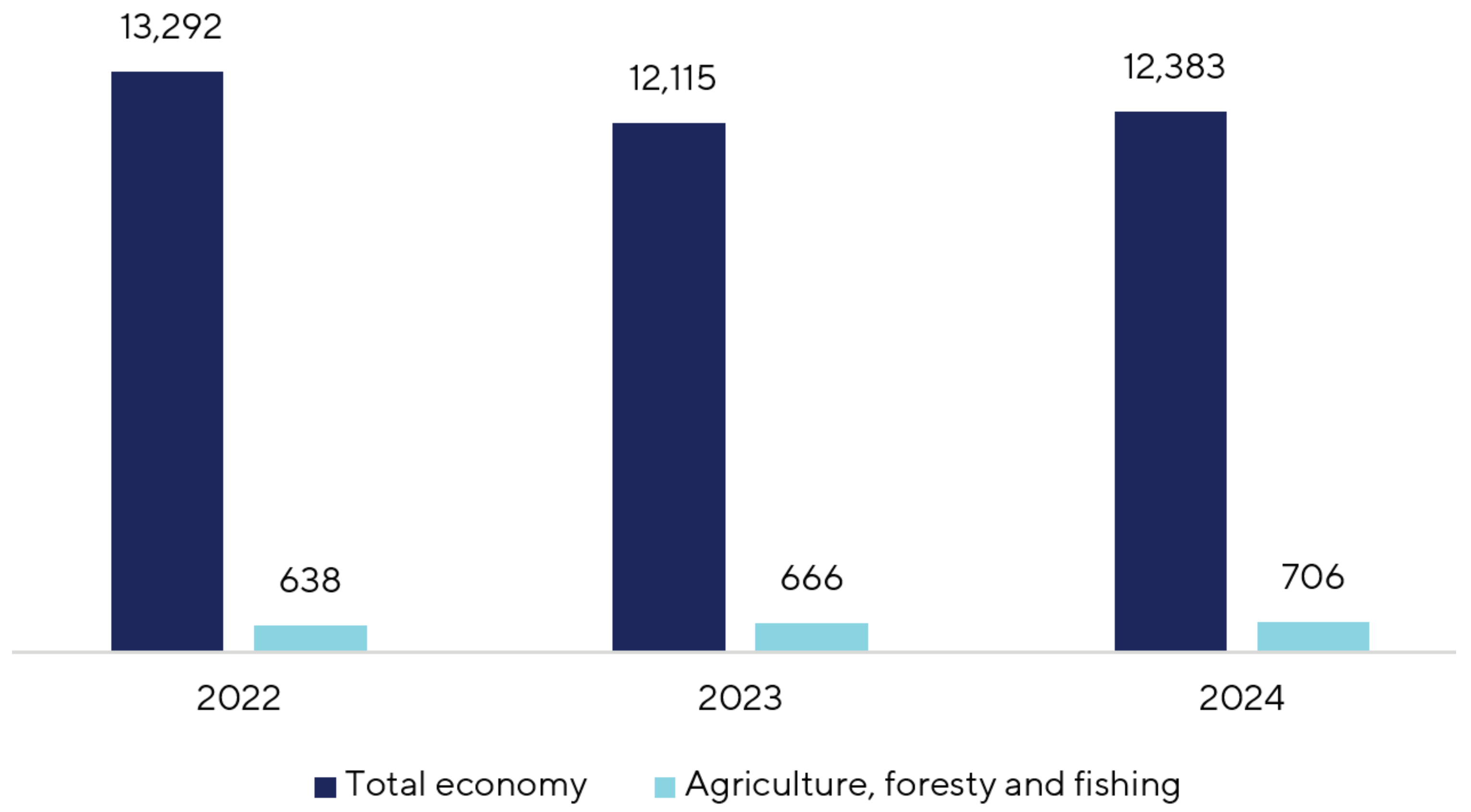
Distribution of employed population by economic activity, %



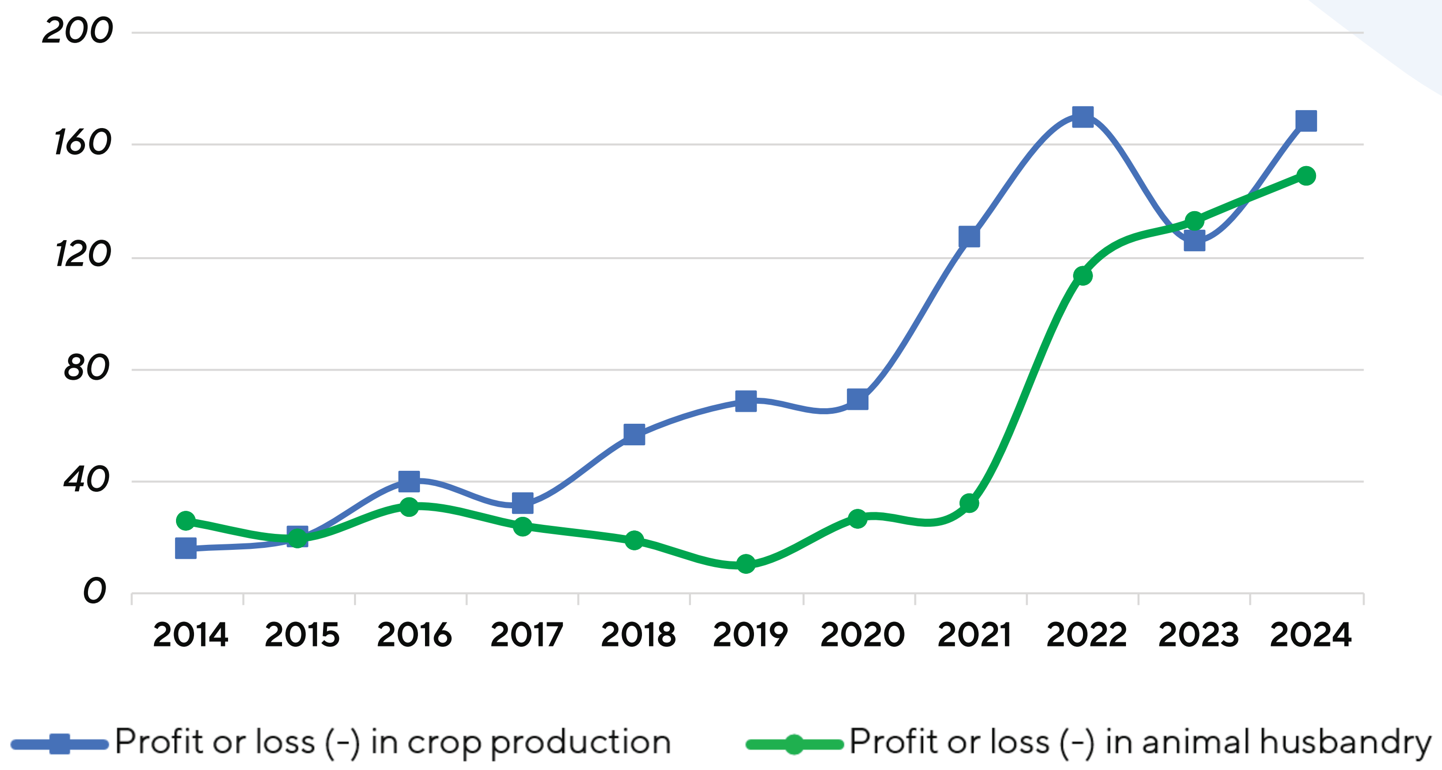
Share of population employed in agriculture, thousand persons



Comparison of per capita gross domestic product, in manats



Financial results of the activities of agricultural enterprises, million AZN



Agriculture, forestry, and fishing is one of the sectors with the highest concentration of the country's employed population.

Although the share of the urban population has consistently been predominant, this trend has accelerated even more since 2018.

Although in recent years there has been a growth trend in per capita gross domestic product in agriculture, forestry, and fishing, this sector still holds a very small share in the national economy.

While the financial situation in crop production and animal husbandry has followed a similar pace, in recent years, this has resulted in crop production losing its dominant position over animal husbandry due

Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Leading Agricultural Regions in Azerbaijan

District	Gross agricultural product, 2023, million AZN
Shamkir	746.8
Sabirabad	519.9
Jalilabad	466.4
Barda	419.8
Khachmaz	416.6
Tovuz	372.9
Aghjabadi	369.7
Absheron	313.3
Guba	274.2
Hajigabul	268.6

District	Total sown area of agricultural crops, 2023, km²
Jalilabad	816.5
Sabirabad	670.6
Aghjabadi	576.1
Kurdamir	573.3
Barda	550.4
Saatly	535.9
Sheki	504.5
Bilasuvar	495.1
Beylagan	486.2
Neftchala	462.0

District	Meat production, in slaughtered weight, 2023, tons
Siyazan	24,122
Shabran	14,612
Ujar	13,088
Barda	12,137
Khachmaz	10,866
Sabirabad	10,603
Jalilabad	8,632
Imishli	7,769
Salyan	7,734
Aghjabadi	7,381

District	Number of cattle, 2023, thousand heads
Sabirabad	124.6
Barda	104.2
Imishli	95.9
Jalilabad	91.0
Yevlakh	79.4
Aghjabadi	78.3
Masalli	74.1
Aghdash	68.8
Saatly	68.1
Salyan	61.4

With 746.8 million AZN in agricultural output, the Shamkir district surpasses other districts, demonstrating its leading position in the country's agrarian sector. It is followed by Sabirabad (519.9 million AZN) and Jalilabad (466.4 million AZN).

The Jalilabad district ranks first in the cultivation of agricultural crops with a sown area of 816.5 km². This indicator highlights the district's significant role in crop production.

In meat production, the Siyazan district is the leader with an indicator of 24,122 tons. This shows how specialized the region is in the livestock sector.

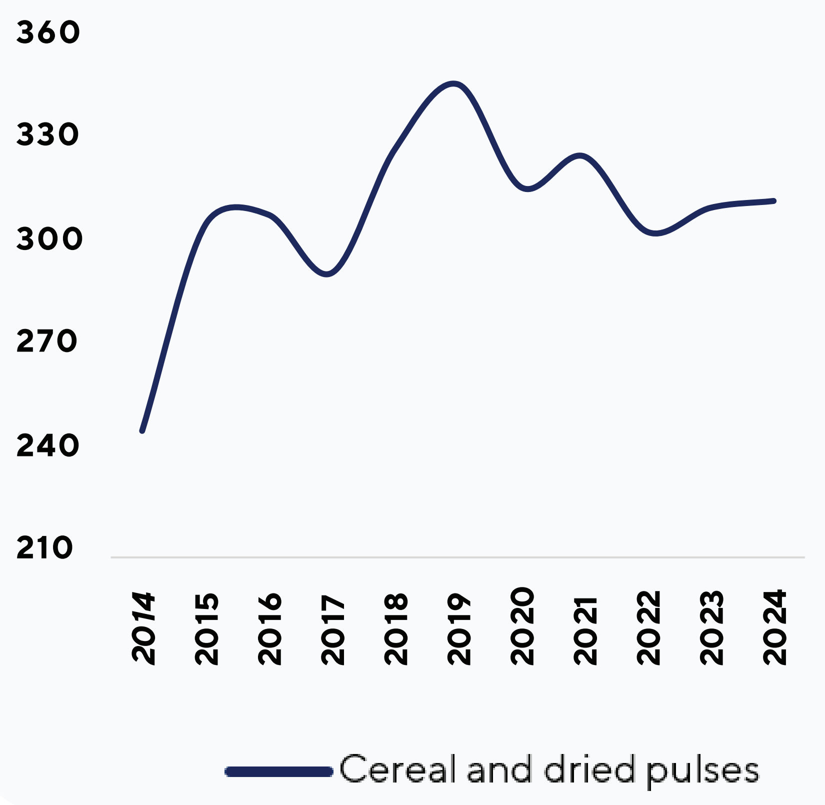
The Sabirabad district ranks first in the category of cattle with 124.6 thousand heads. The Barda (104.2 thousand heads) and Imishli (95.9 thousand heads) districts are also among the leaders in this field.

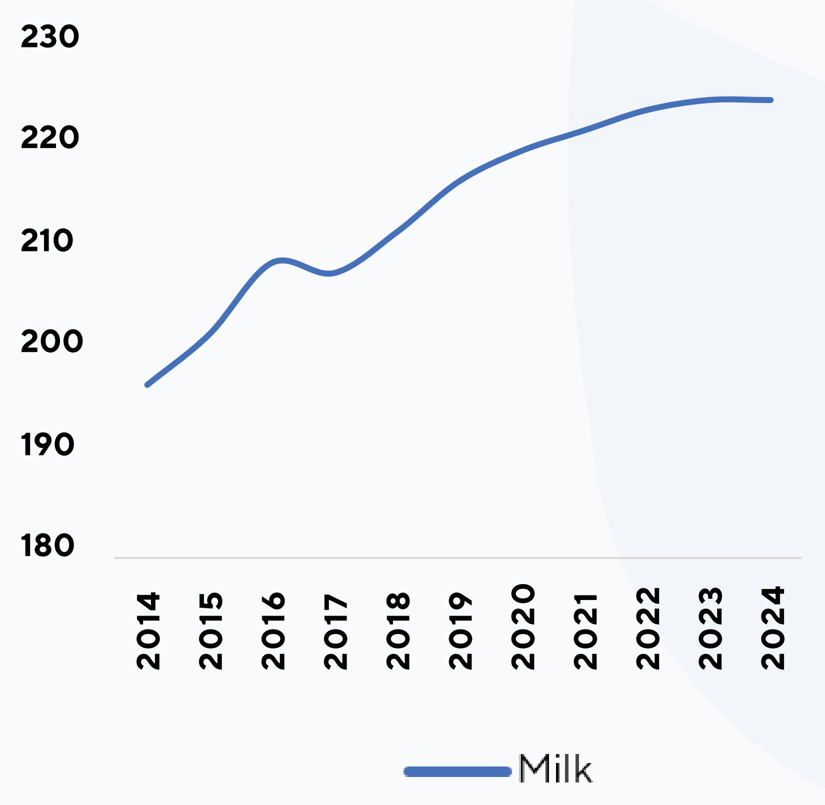
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

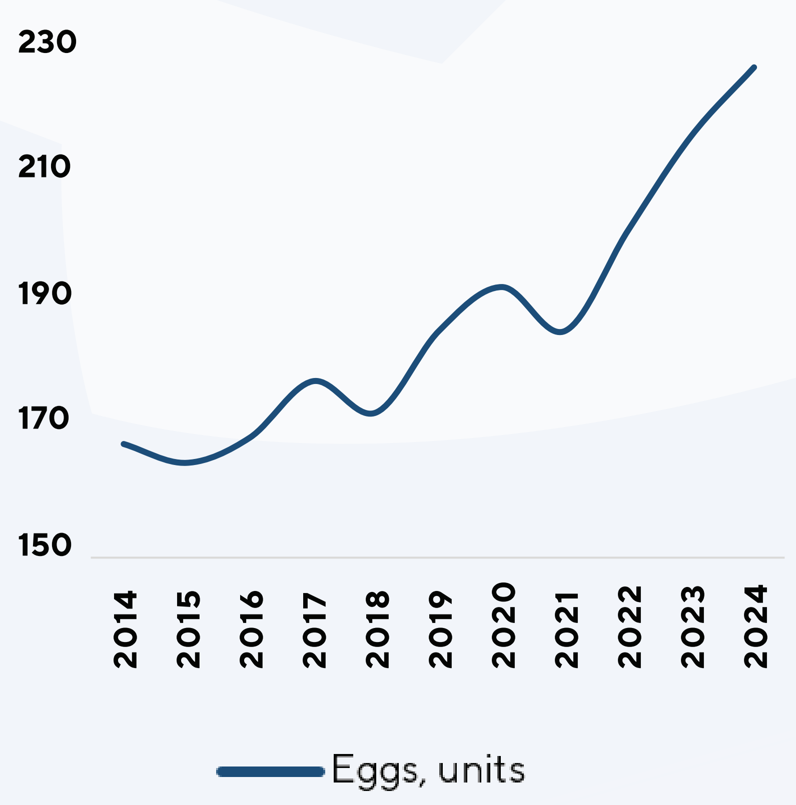
Consumption and Production of Agricultural Products

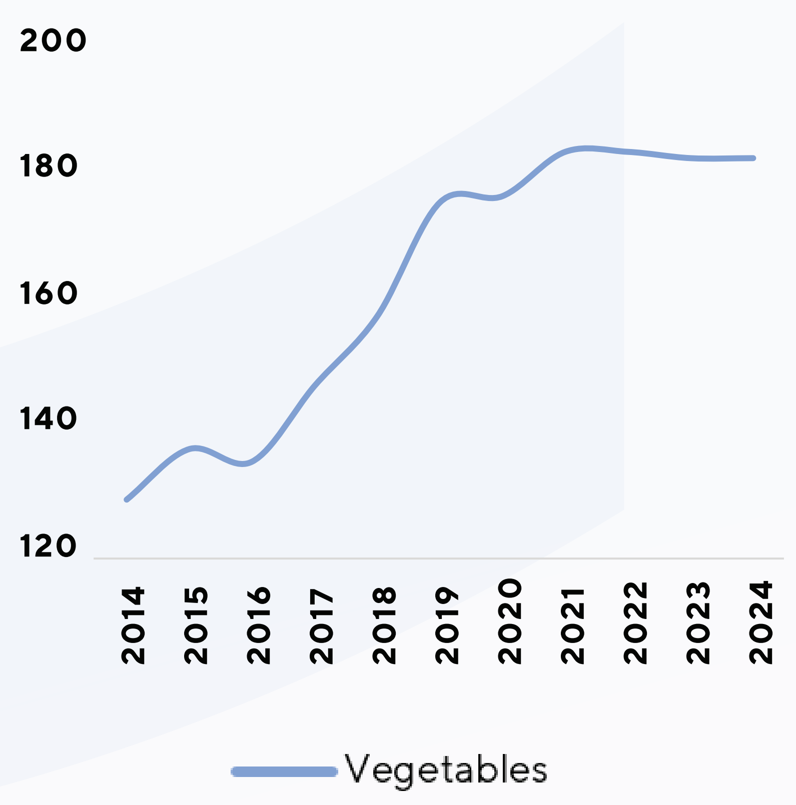
Çağırışlar

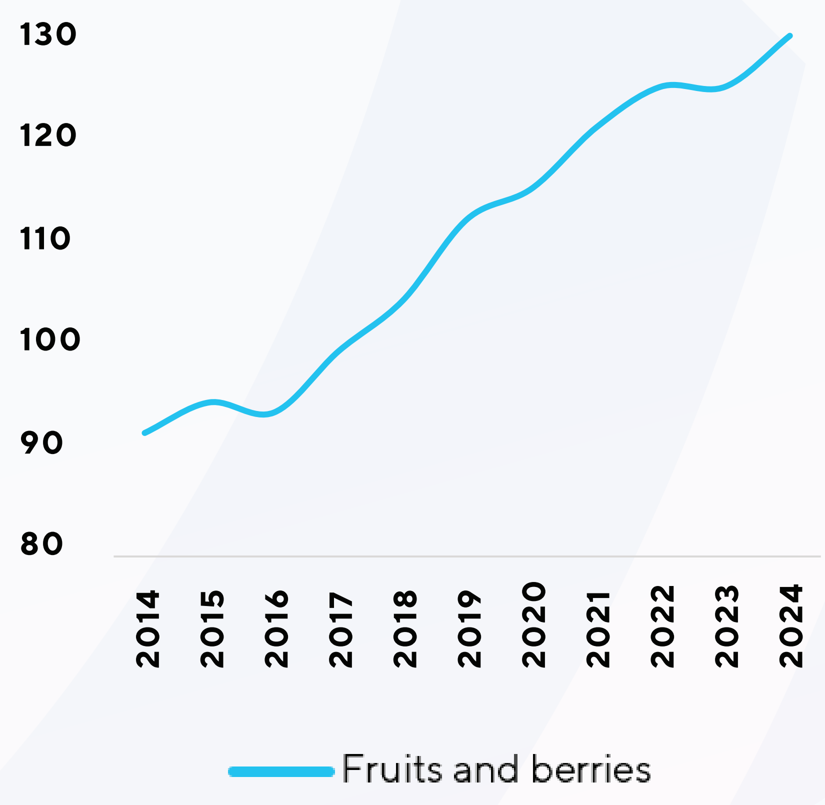
Per capita production of agricultural products, kg





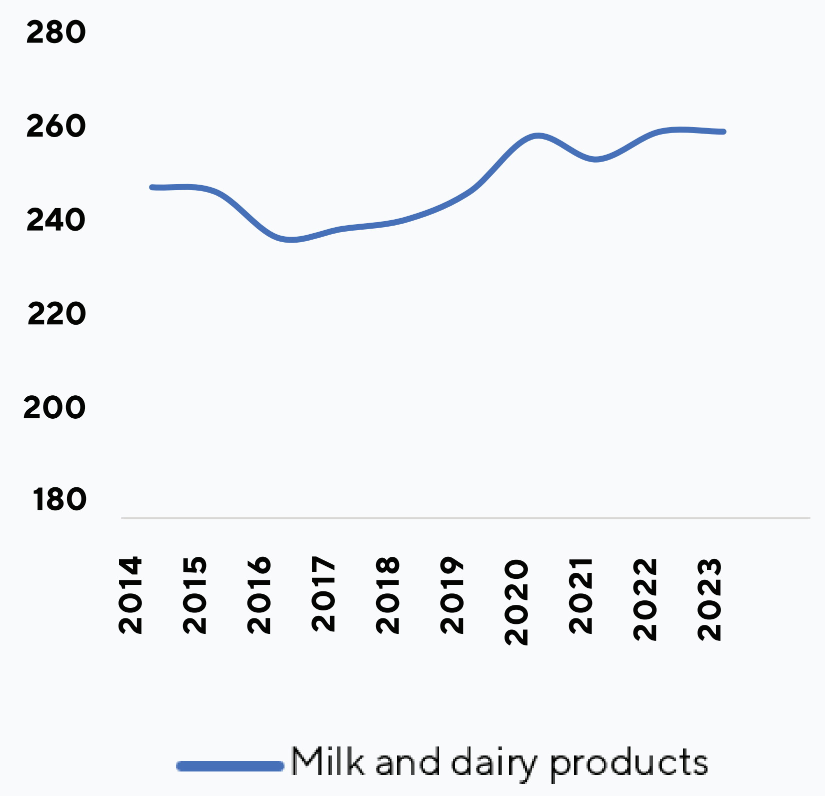


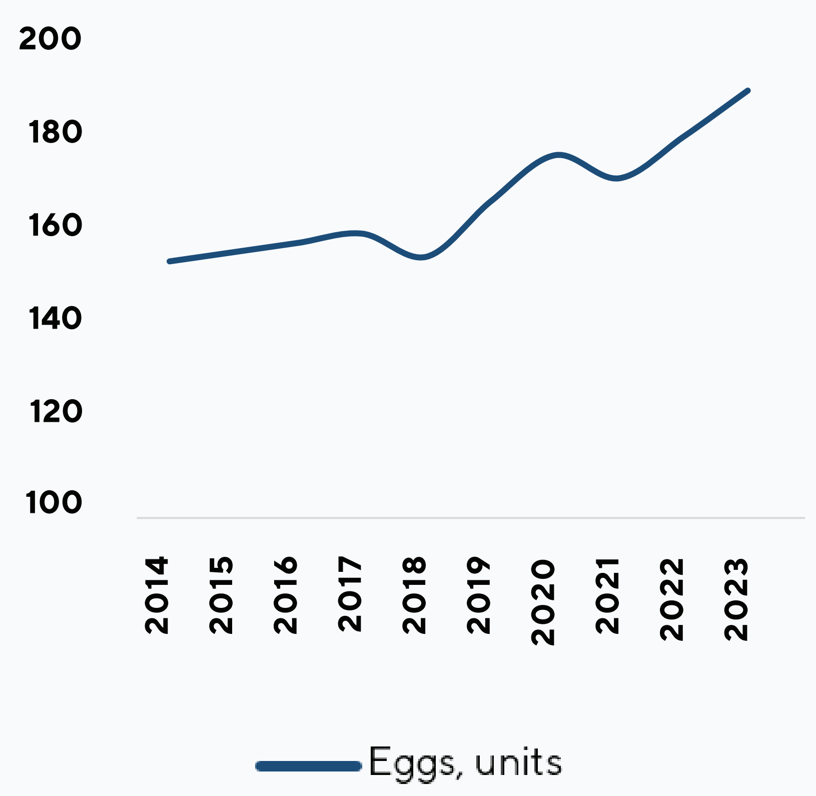


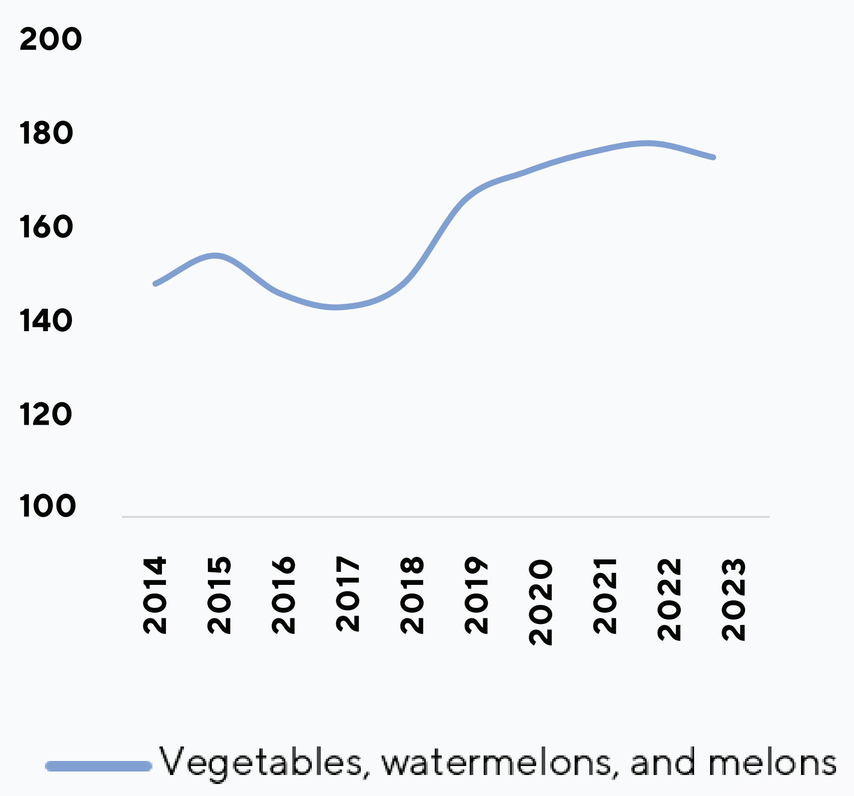


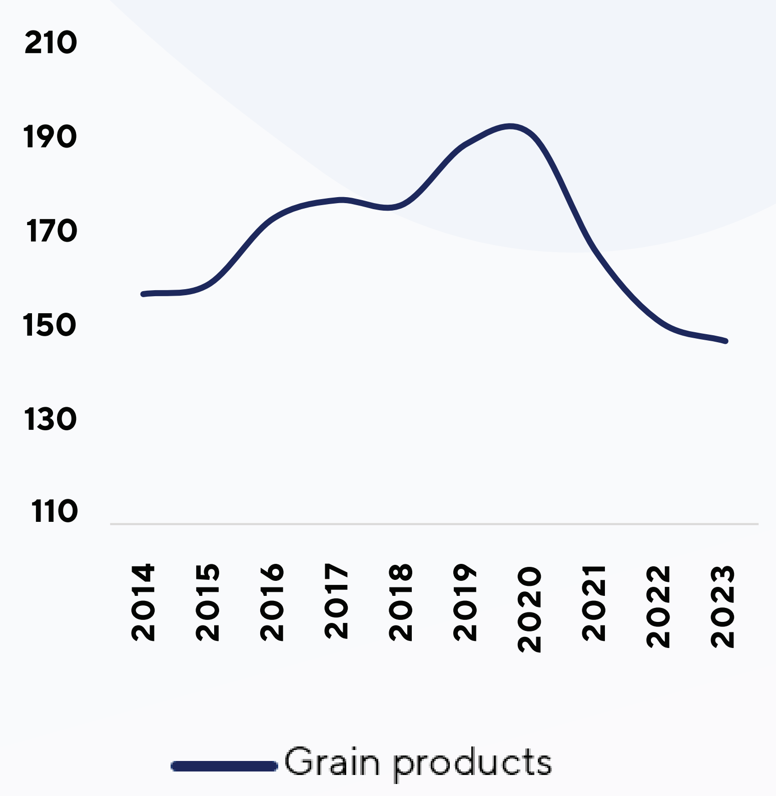
Təkliflər

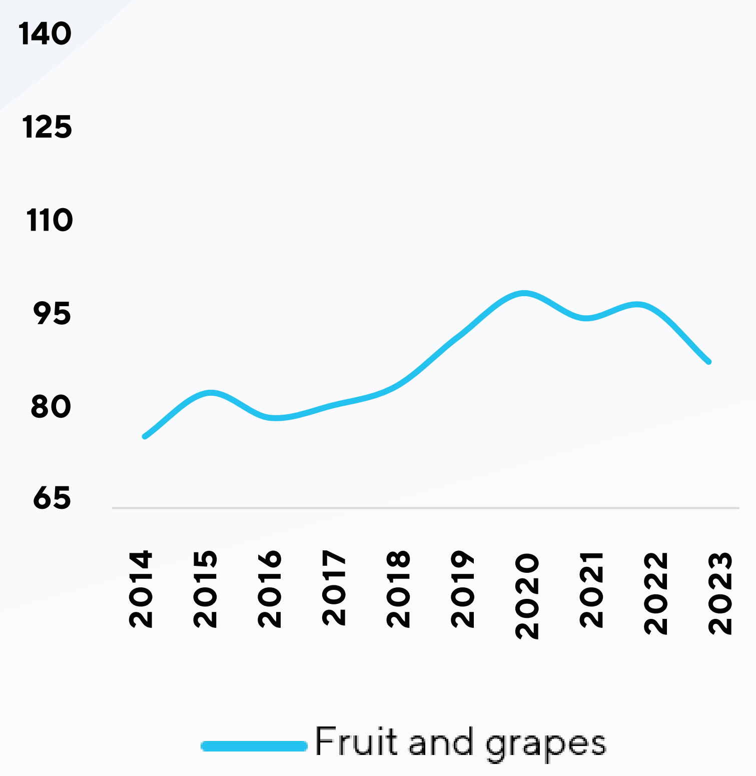
Per capita consumption of food products, kg









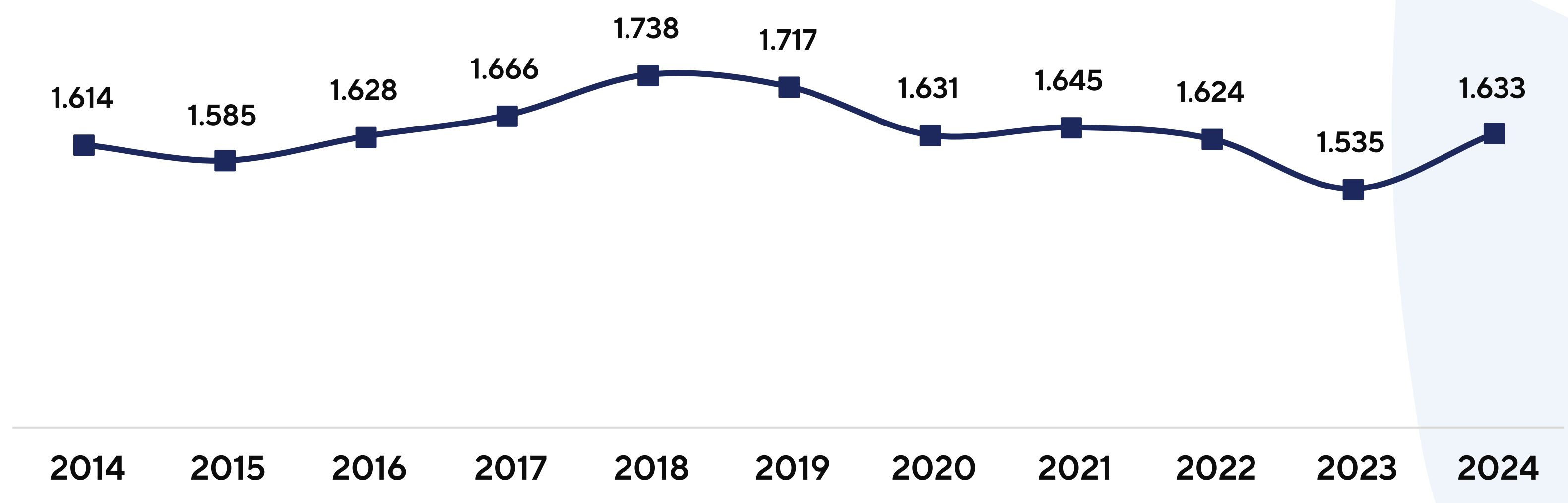


Note: Respectively, the trend of the top 5 (five) products in 2024 (by production) and 2023 (by consumption) has been presented.

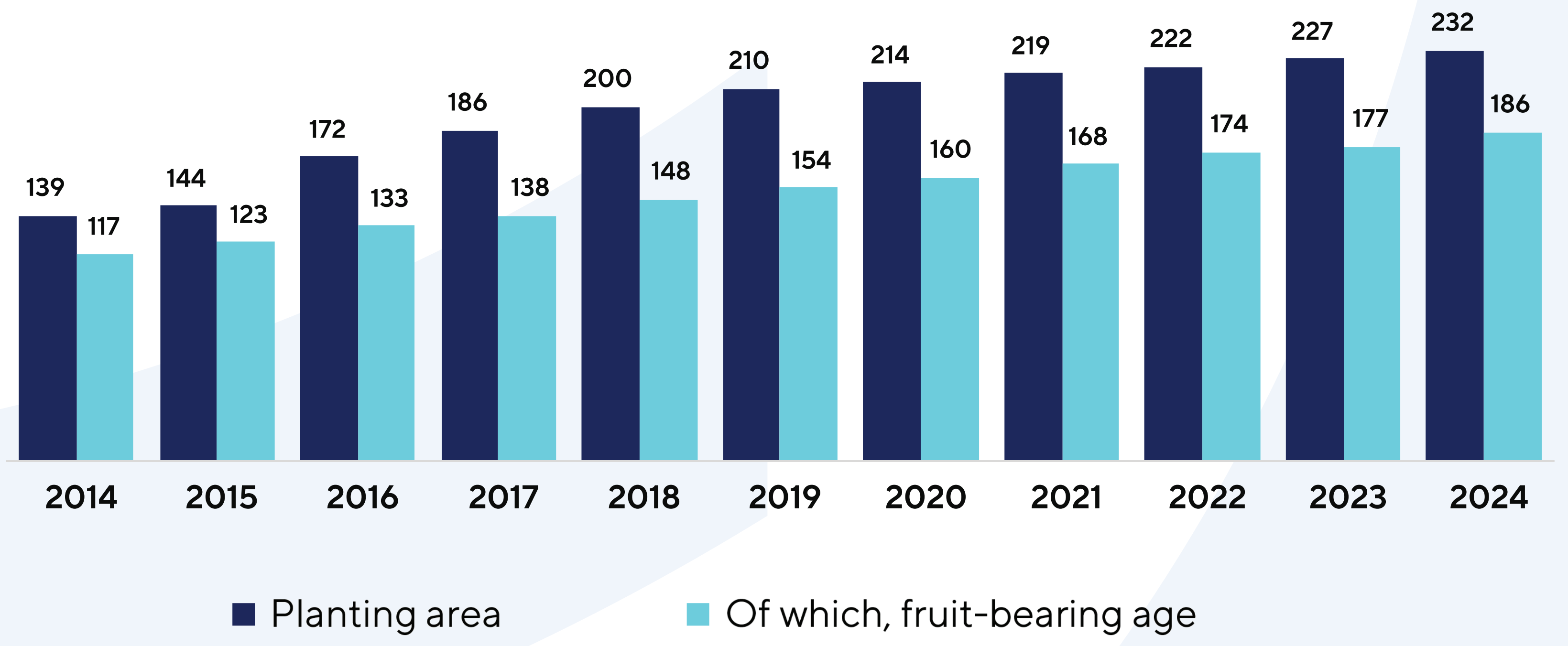
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Productivity in Crop Production in Agriculture

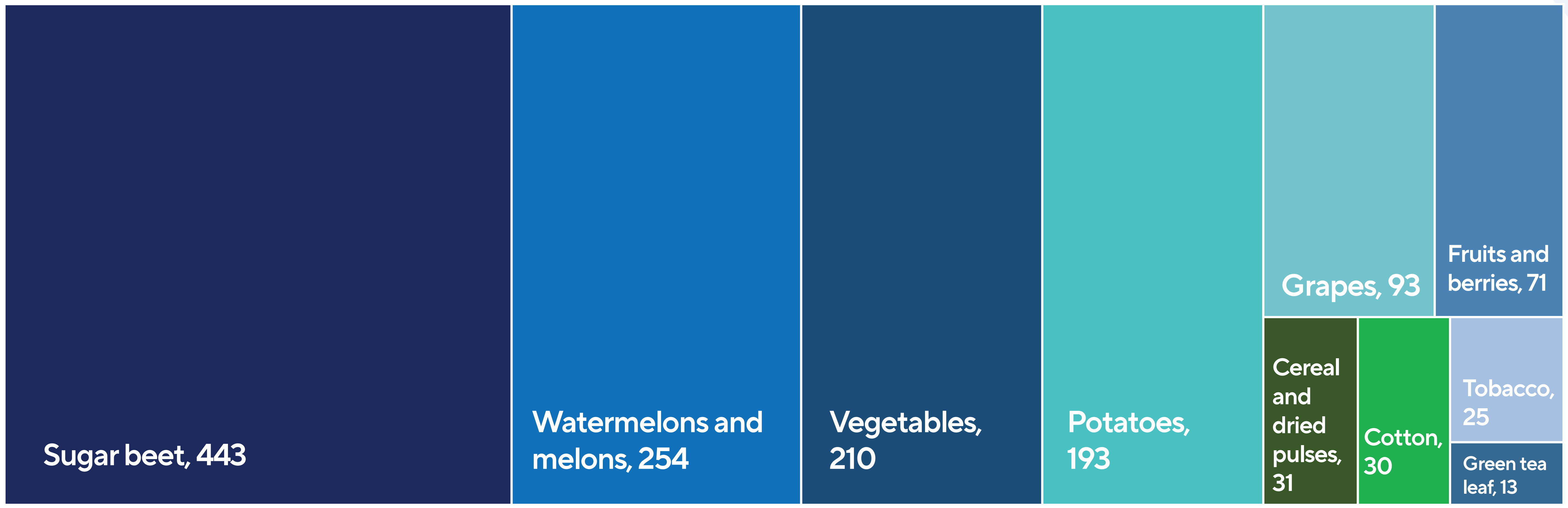
Sown areas of agricultural crops, by all farm categories, thousand hectares



Planting area of total and fruit-bearing age fruit and berry trees, thousand hectares



Productivity of agricultural crops by type for 2024, centners per hectare

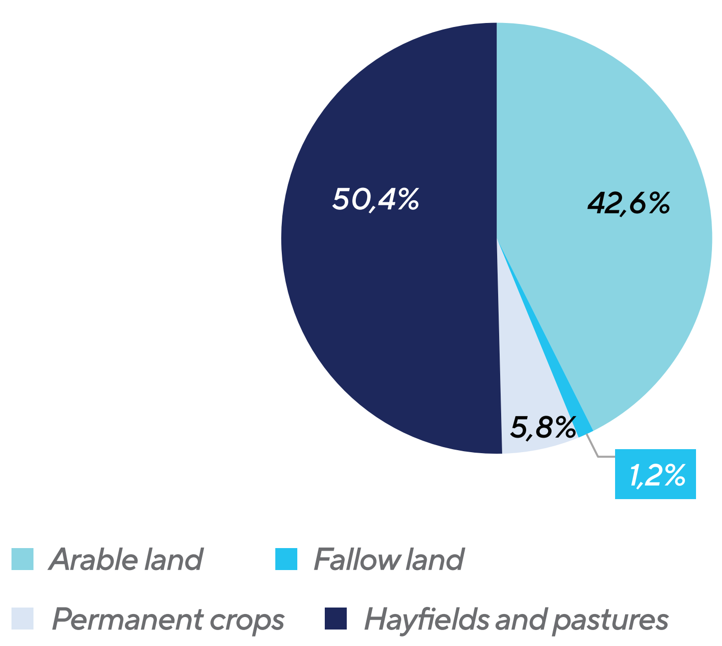


- Looking at the period analyzed, the total sown area of agricultural crops is around 1.5-2 million hectares, of which 140-240 thousand hectares are accounted for by fruit and berry plantations.
- For 2024, the largest share of the sown area of agricultural crops belonged to cereal and dried pulses (10.21 km2).
- The highest productivity in 2024 was observed in sugar beet.

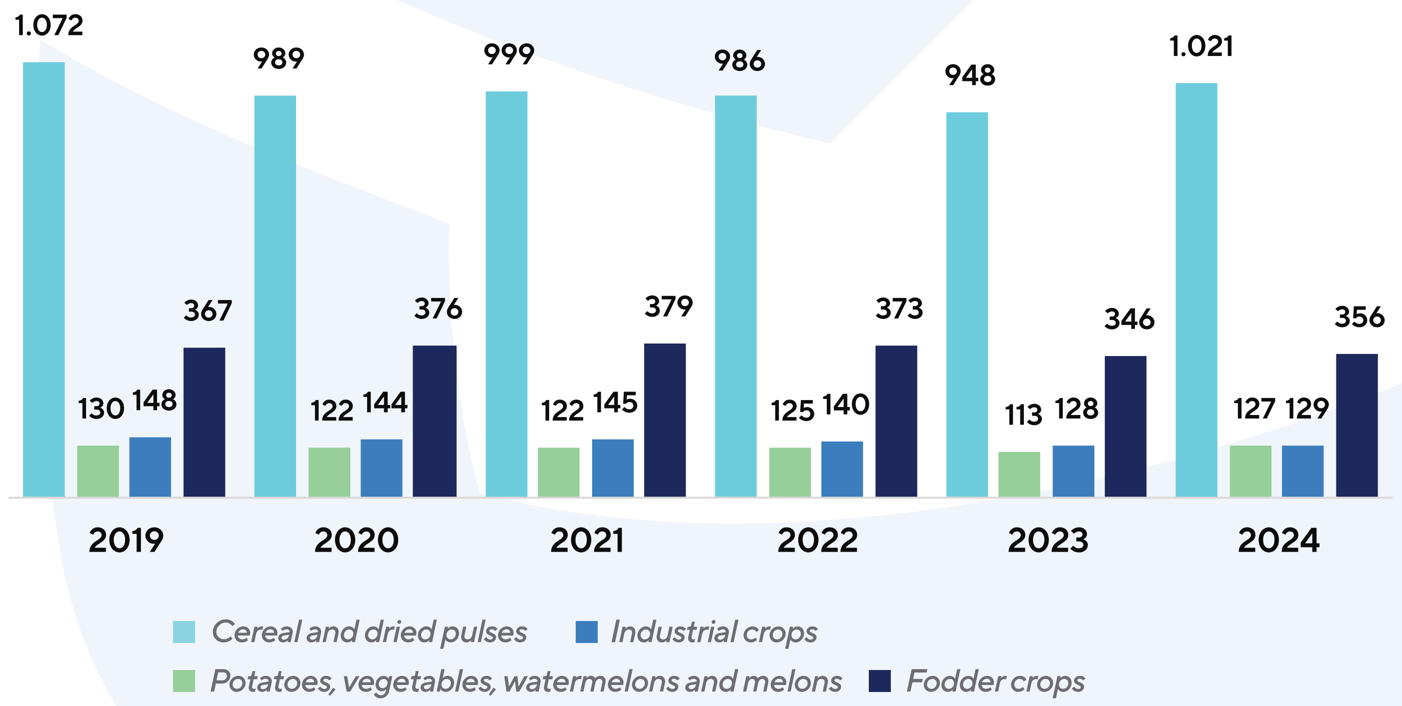
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Agricultural Lands and Sown Areas

Distribution of agricultural lands for 2024



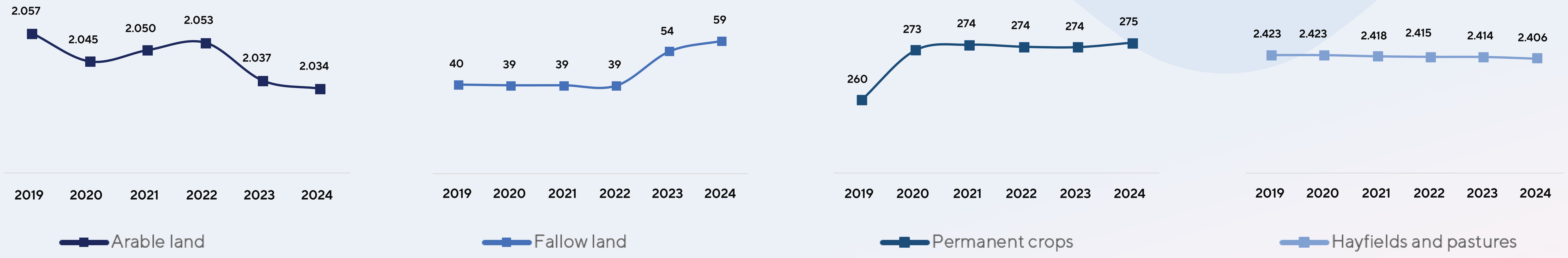
Sown areas of agricultural crops, thousand hectares



- A large part (93%) of the country's agricultural lands is comprised of hayfields and pastures, and arable land.
- Among cereal and dried pulses in 2024, the largest share belonged to wheat (546 thousand ha) and barley (421 thousand ha), and the volume of each of these two crops individually was greater than that of other categories for the respective year.

The total arable land in the country equals 23% of Azerbaijan's territory. In 2024, total agricultural lands constituted more than half (55%) of the country's territory, where the highest share belongs to hayfields and pastures, and the lowest share to fallow lands.

thousand hechtares



Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Animal Husbandry in Agriculture

Classification of livestock products produced in 2023 by economic regions, tons (ranked from highest to lowest by meat production)

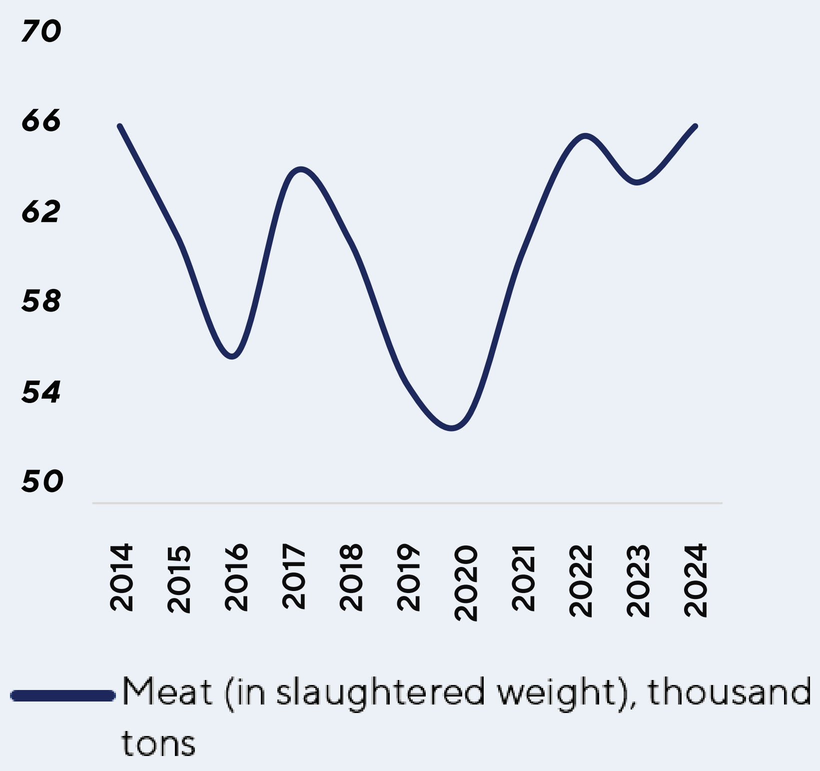
Regions	Meat production	Cattle (head)	Milk production	Eggs (thousand units)	Wool
Guba-Khachmaz	1 56,902	182,091	186,342	82,672	858
Central Aran	2 38,430	2 344,165	2 268,912	133,221	1,291
Karabakh	3 27,282	307,590	1 355,906	103,308	3 1,596
Mil-Mughan	26,961	1 348,462	3 256,650	3 299,154	2 1,887
Lankaran-Astara	23,791	3 321,473	240,514	150,103	807
Shirvan-Salyan	22,673	178,392	137,977	2 489,998	1,182
Gazakh-Tovuz	22,134	192,400	192,996	91,214	1 2,135
Shaki-Zagatala	19,826	214,444	191,191	98,892	1,116
Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic	12,542	60,283	62,234	75,163	902
Mountainous Shirvan	11,528	125,704	136,169	57,230	1,229
Absheron-Khizi	11,117	29,982	64,628	1 540,982	297
Ganja-Dashkasan	9,071	97,595	126,972	46,509	1,031
East Zangezur	6,591	97,024	57,374	16,356	785
Baku city	2,195	8,114	6,126	3,352	34

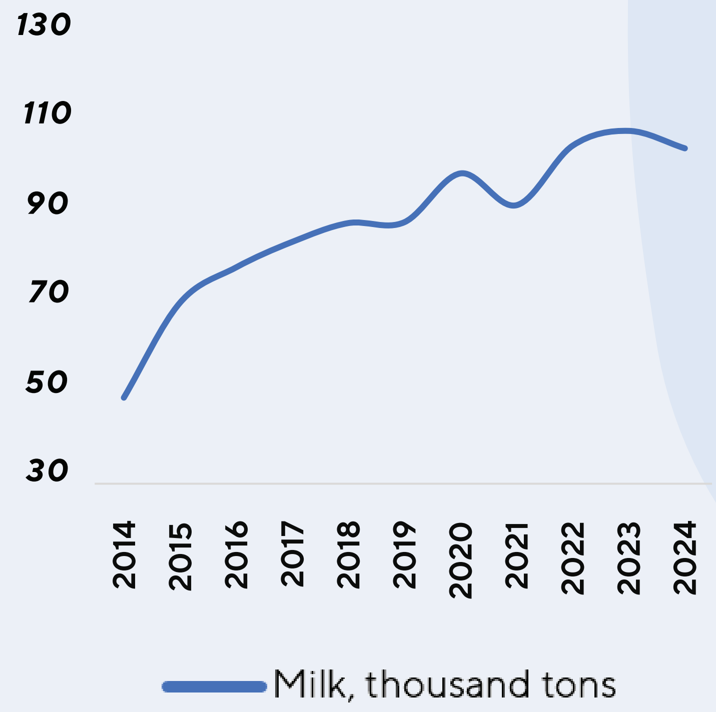
- In 2023, the Guba-Khachmaz economic region held the leading position in meat production, while the lowest production occurred in Baku city, where climatic and geographical factors play a significant role.
- The highest concentration of cattle is found in the Mil-Mughan, Central Aran, and Lankaran-Astara economic regions. The leading districts within these regions are Sabirabad (124.6 thousand heads), Yevlakh (79.4 thousand heads), and Jalilabad (91 thousand heads), respectively.
- In egg production, the Absheron-Khizi economic region has the largest share, with the Khizi district being the leader (75% of production).

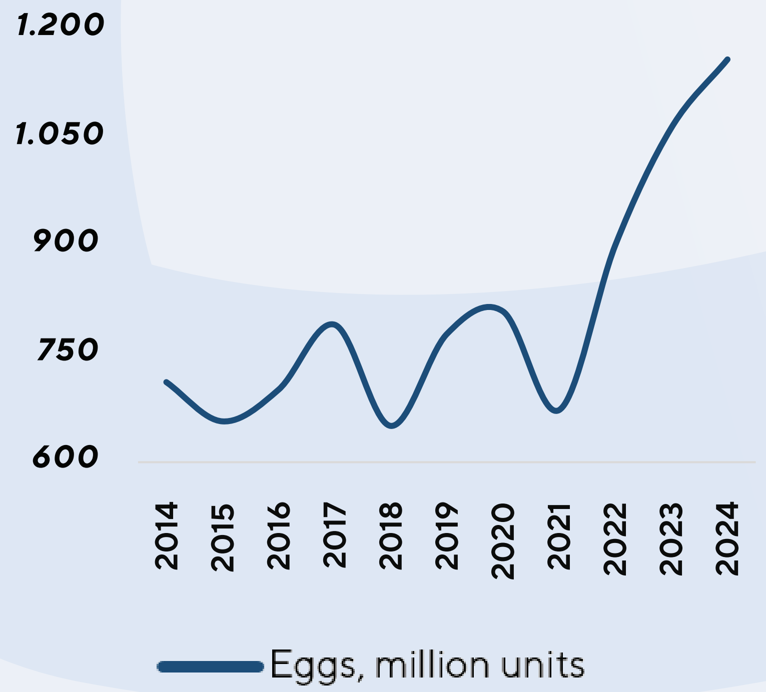
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

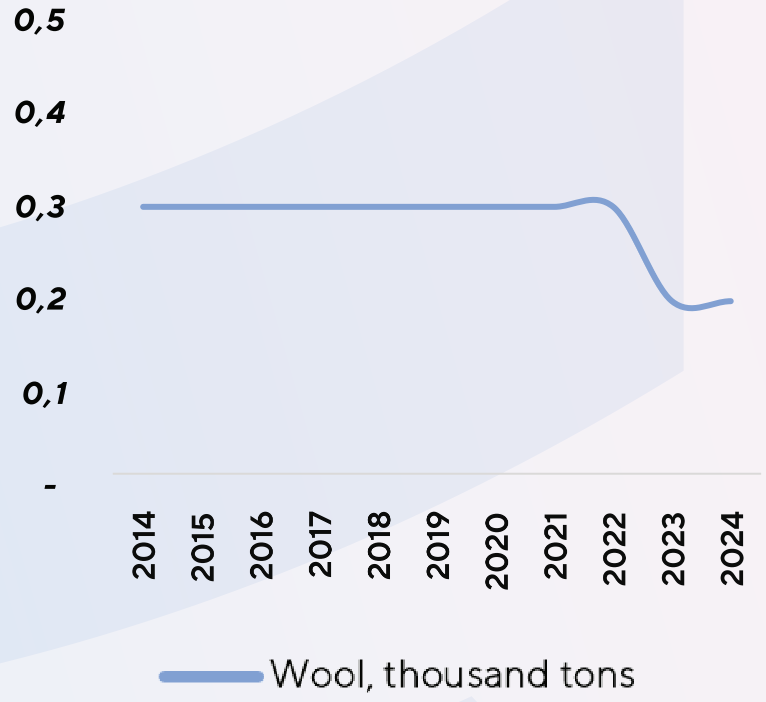
Animal Husbandry in Agriculture

Production of livestock products by agricultural enterprises





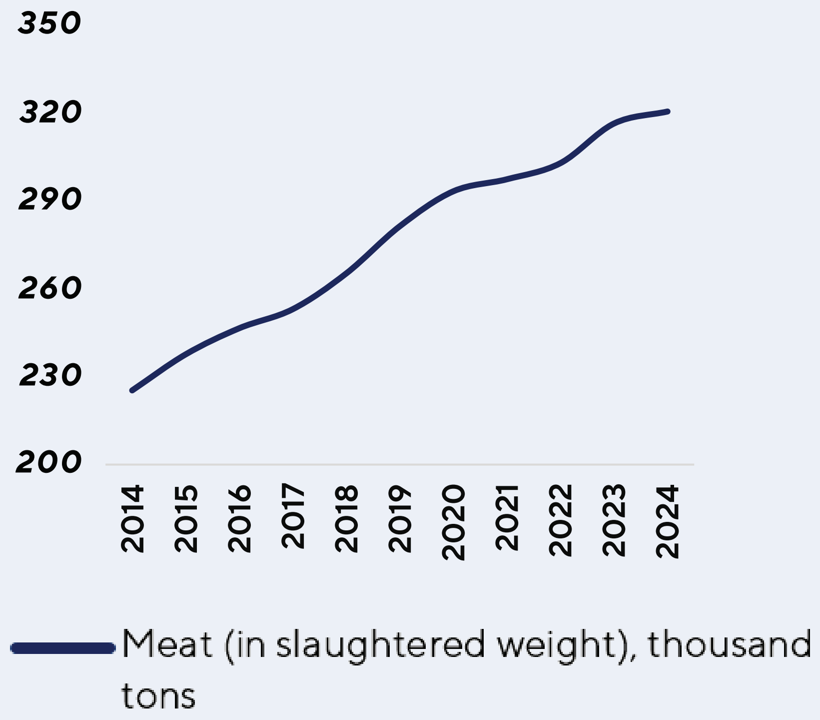


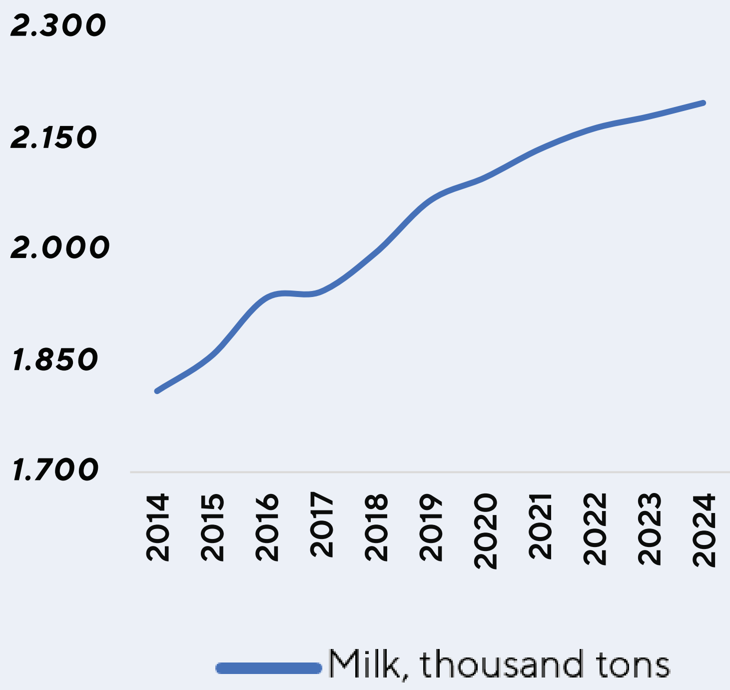


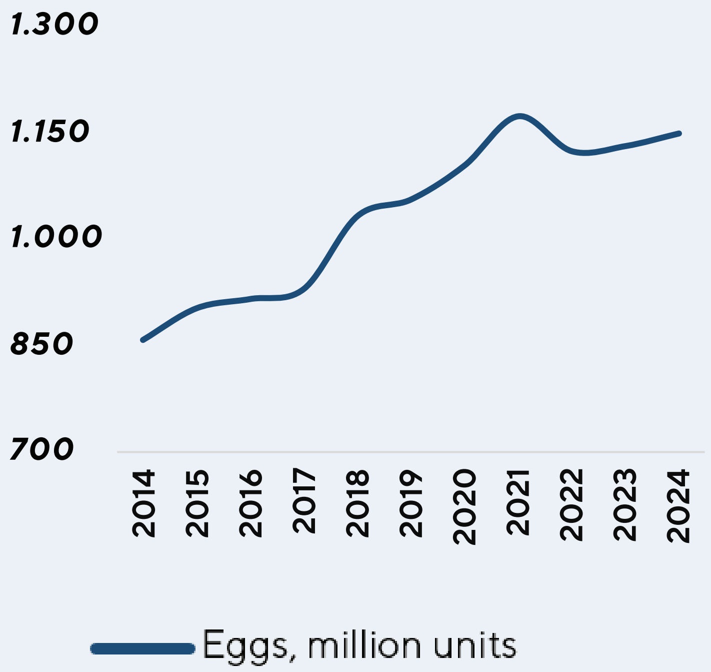
Except for eggs, in 2024 for all types of livestock products, the total output volume from private owners, family peasant farms, and households exceeds **that of agricultural enterprises.**

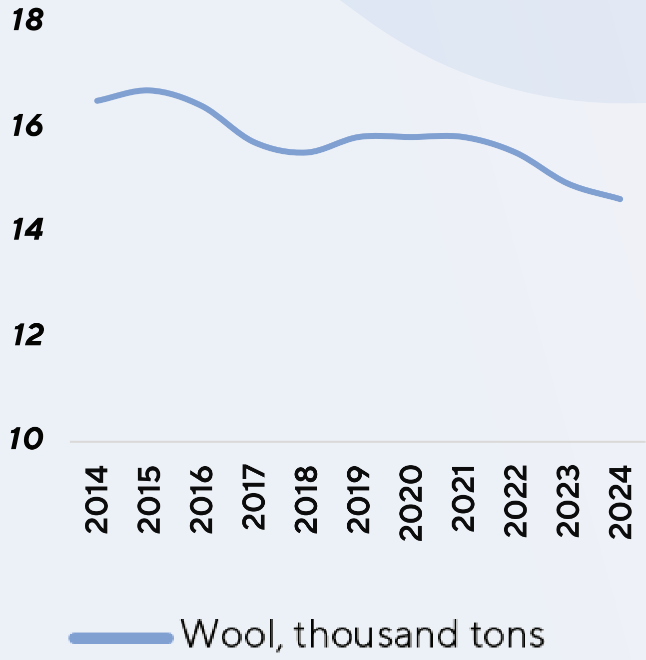
Since 1998, **there has been** no silk cocoon production **by agricultural enterprises in the country.**

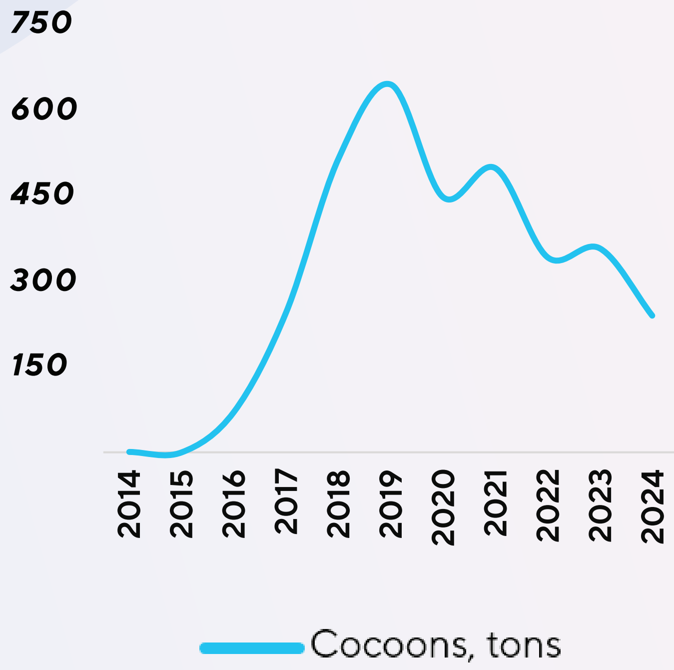
Production of livestock products by private owners, family peasant farms, and households







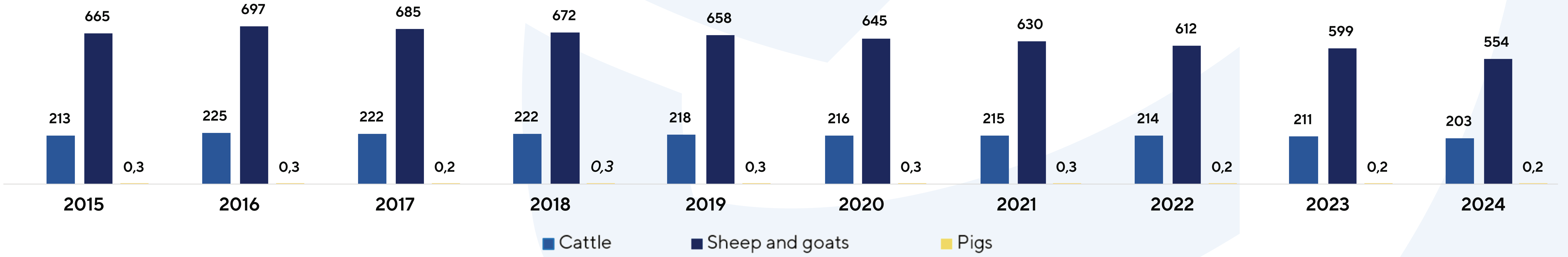




Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Animal Husbandry in Agriculture

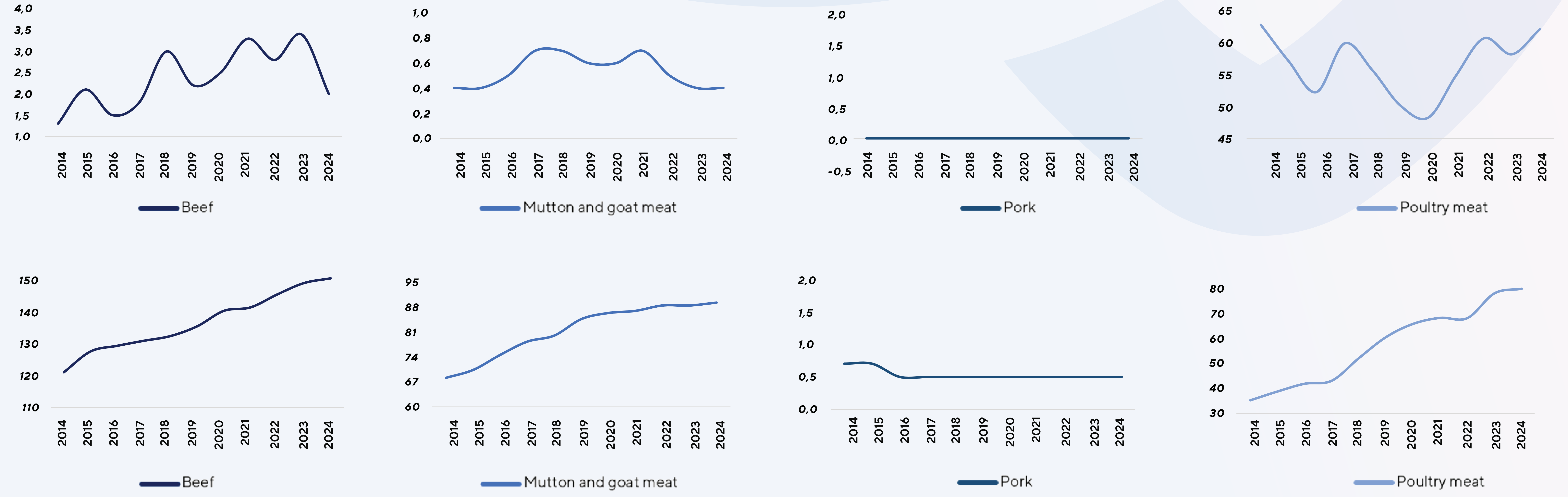
Livestock per 100 households in rural areas, head



Production of meat by type, in slaughtered weight, by farm categories, thousand tons

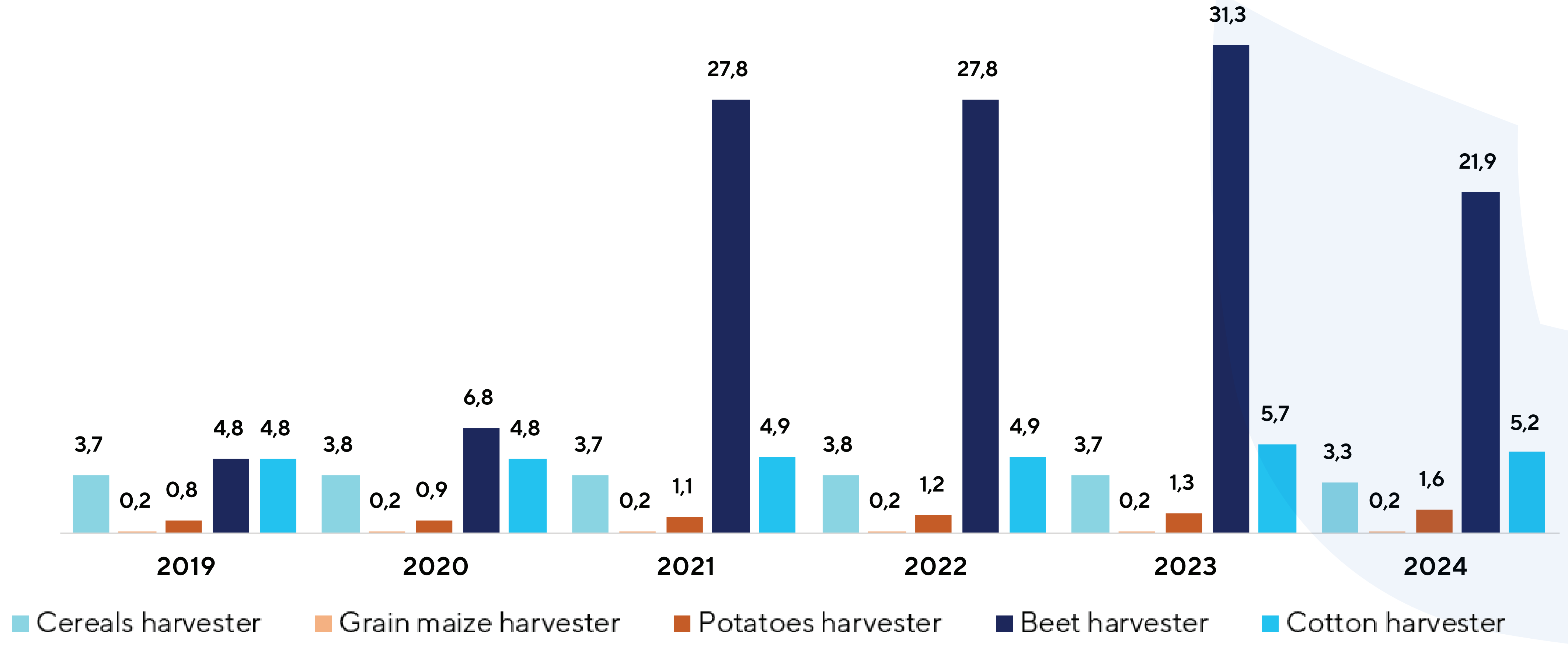
Agricultural enterprises

Private owners, family peasant farms, and households

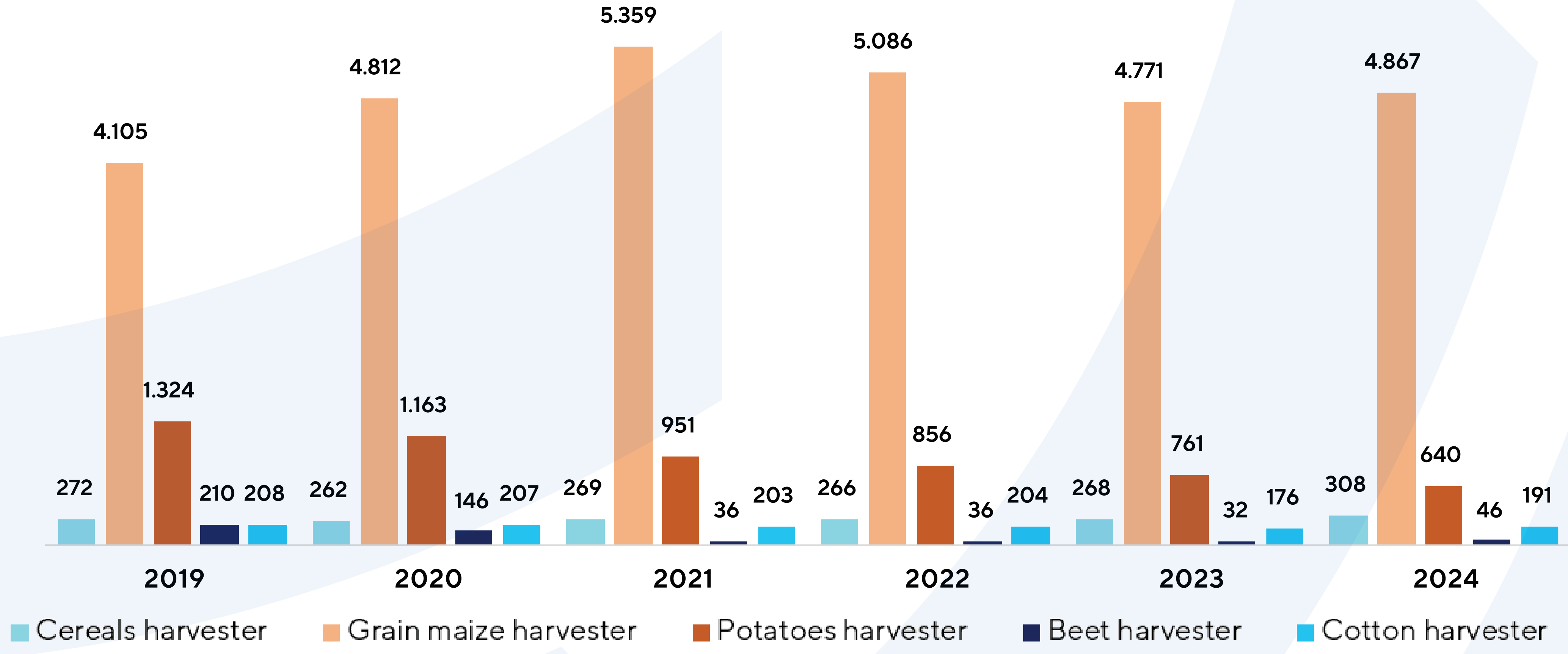


Provision of Agricultural Machinery

Number of combines (machines) per thousand hectares of respective crops, units



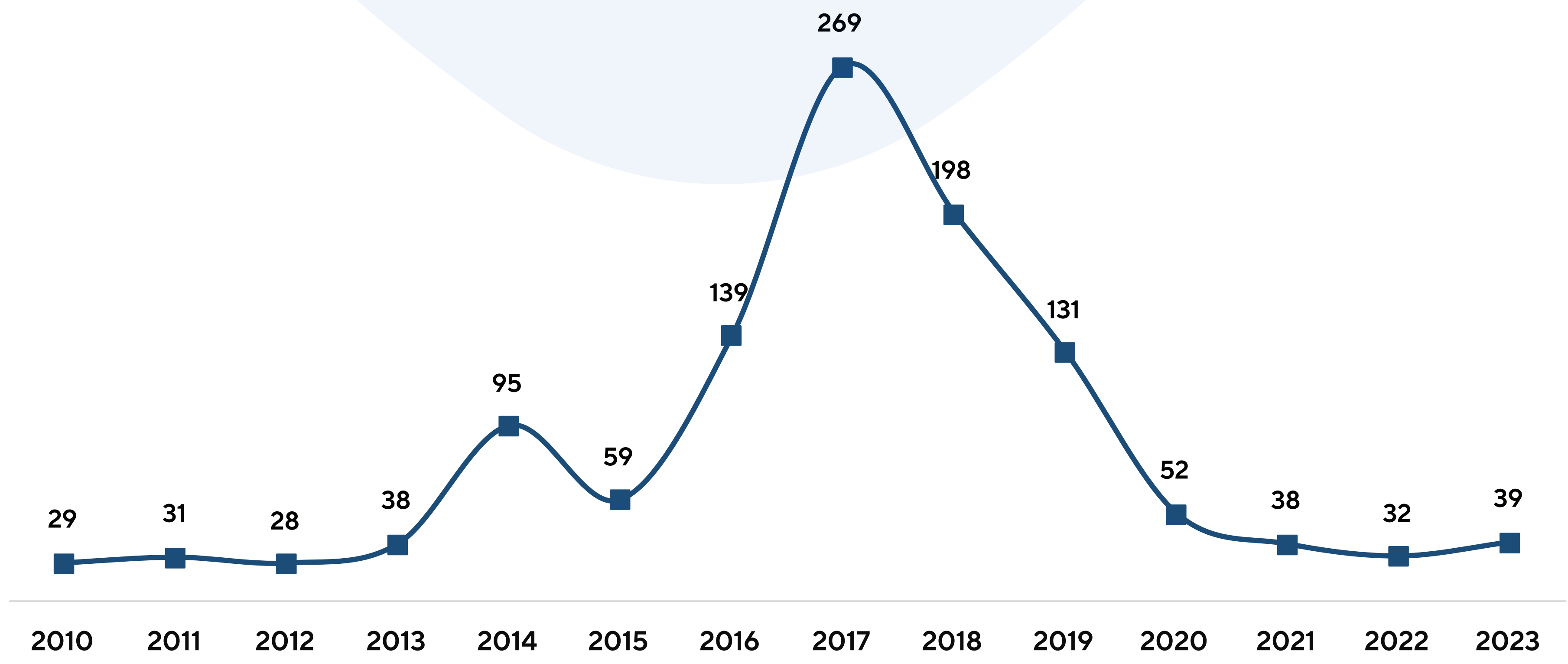
Sown area of respective crops per combine (machine), hectares



In 2023, the sale of agricultural machinery and equipment to agricultural producers by the state on preferential terms (Top 10)

Machinery and equipment	Quantity, units
Mowers	269
Ploughs	191
Other agricultural machinery and equipment	120
Tractors	114
Seeding machine	103
Spray and pollinate	84
Dutch harrow	78
Cereals harvesters combines	69
Mineral fertilizer spreaders	62
Grass pressing machines	37

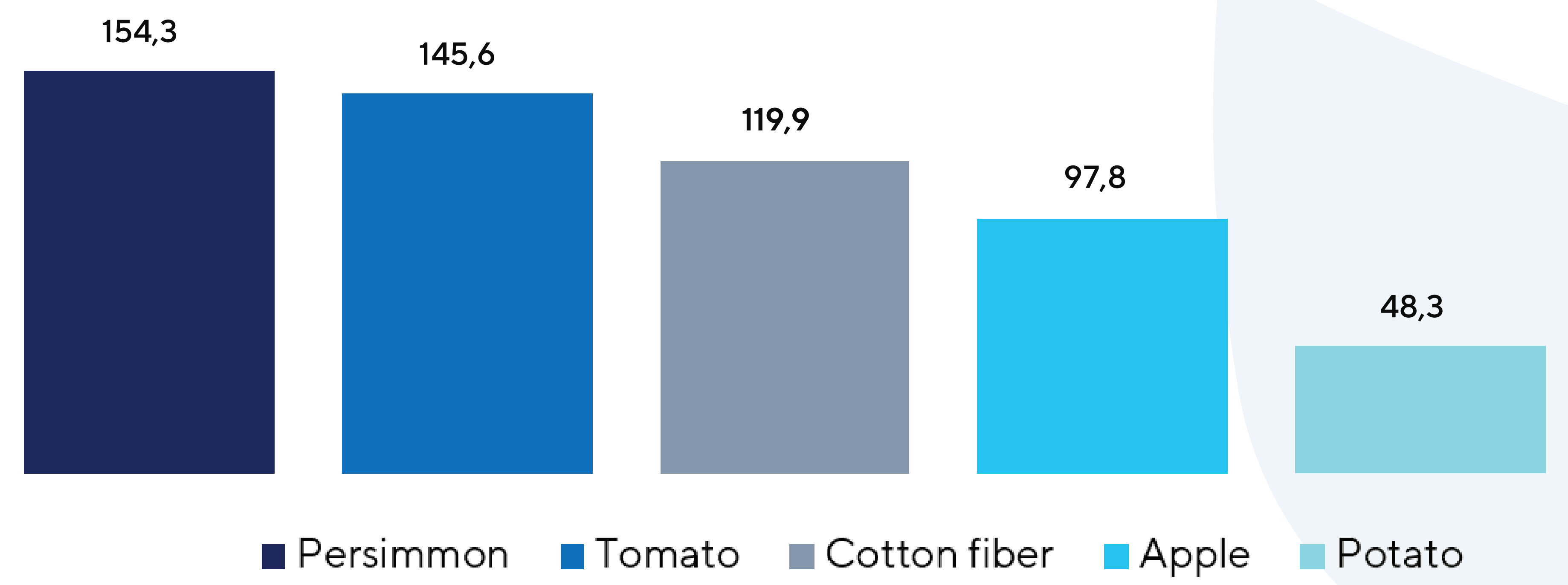
Total value of equipment sold and provided to agricultural producers by the state on preferential terms, million AZN



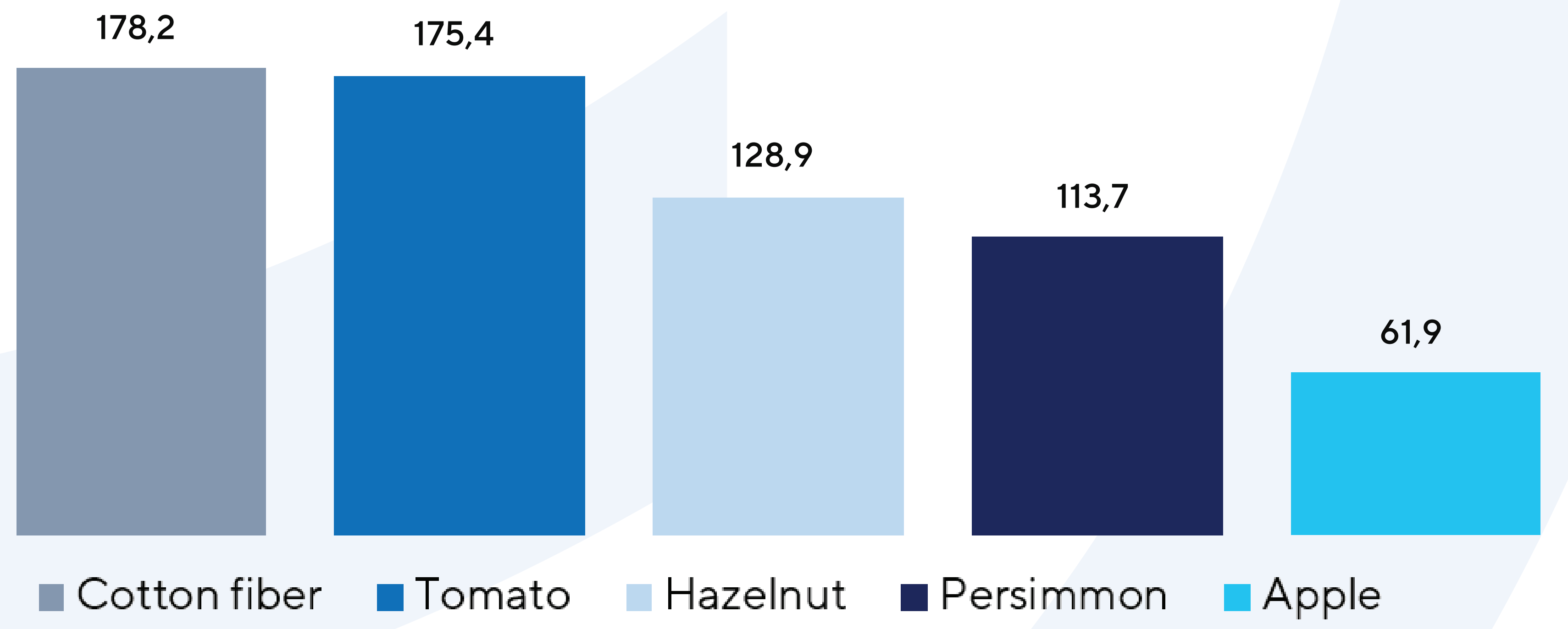
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

International Trade of Agricultural Products of Azerbaijan

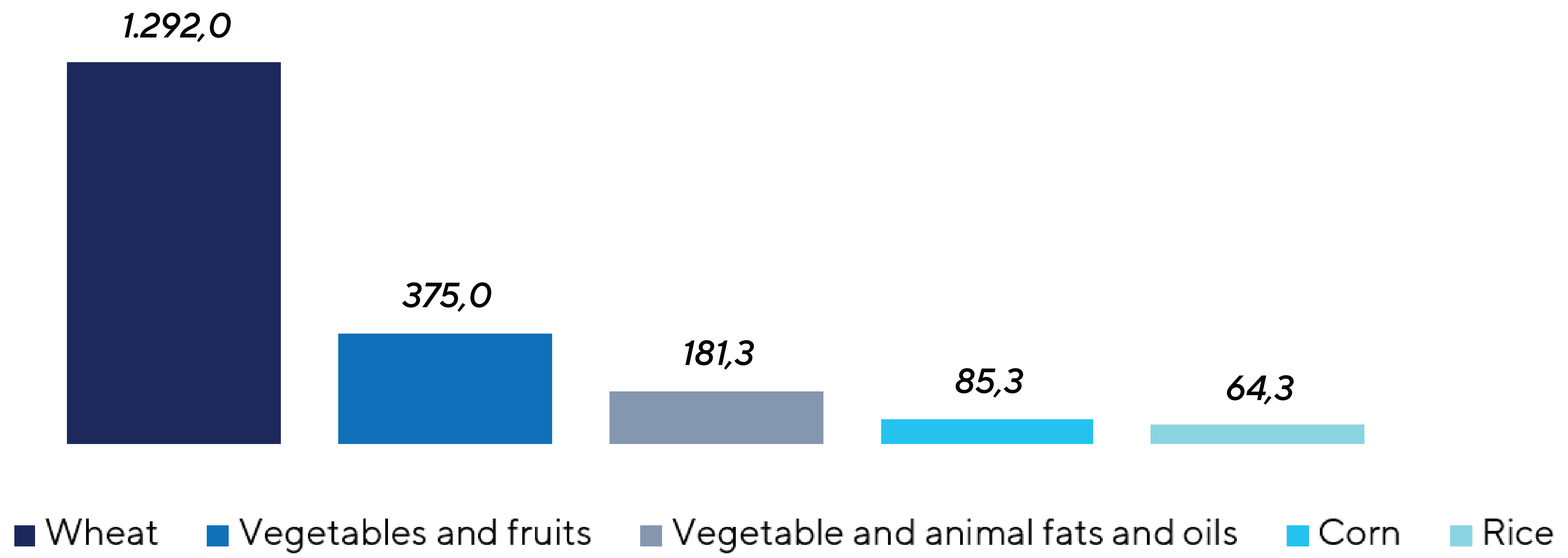
Top exported agricultural products by volume, for 2024, thousand tons



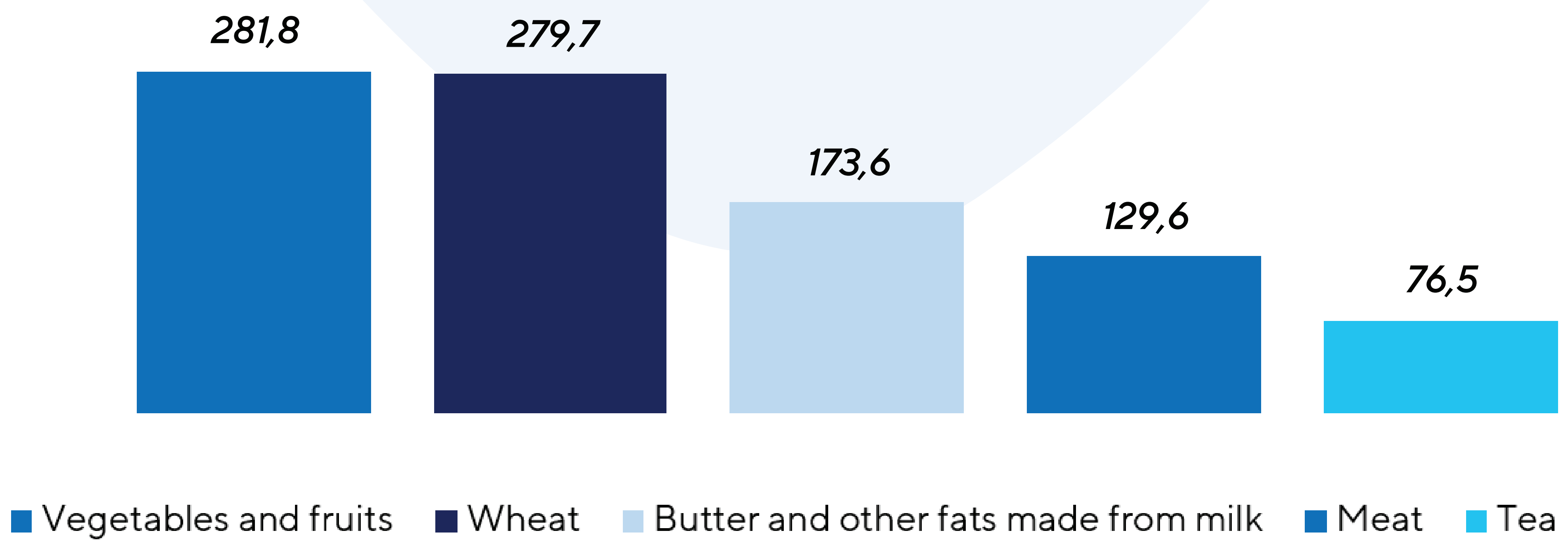
Top exported agricultural products by value, for 2024, million US dollars



Top imported agricultural products by volume, for 2024, thousand tons



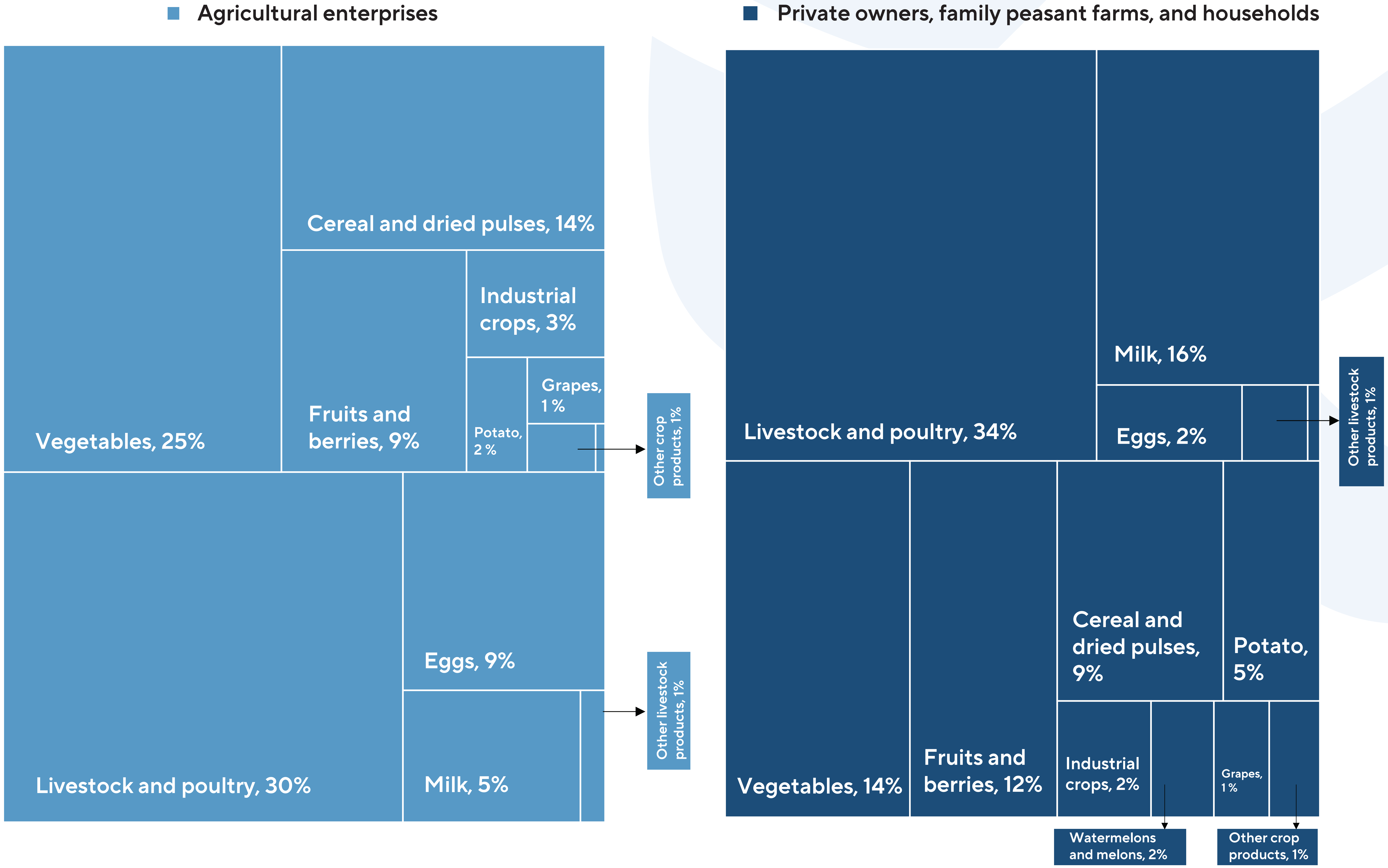
Top imported agricultural products by value, for 2024, million US dollars



- **Although** persimmon **leads in terms of volume among exported products,** cotton fiber **generated the most revenue with** 178.2 million USD.
- **Even though** meat **and** tea **are not in the top five of imported agricultural products by volume, more than** 200 million USD **was spent on the import of these products in 2024.**

Source: The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Structure of the Gross Agricultural Product

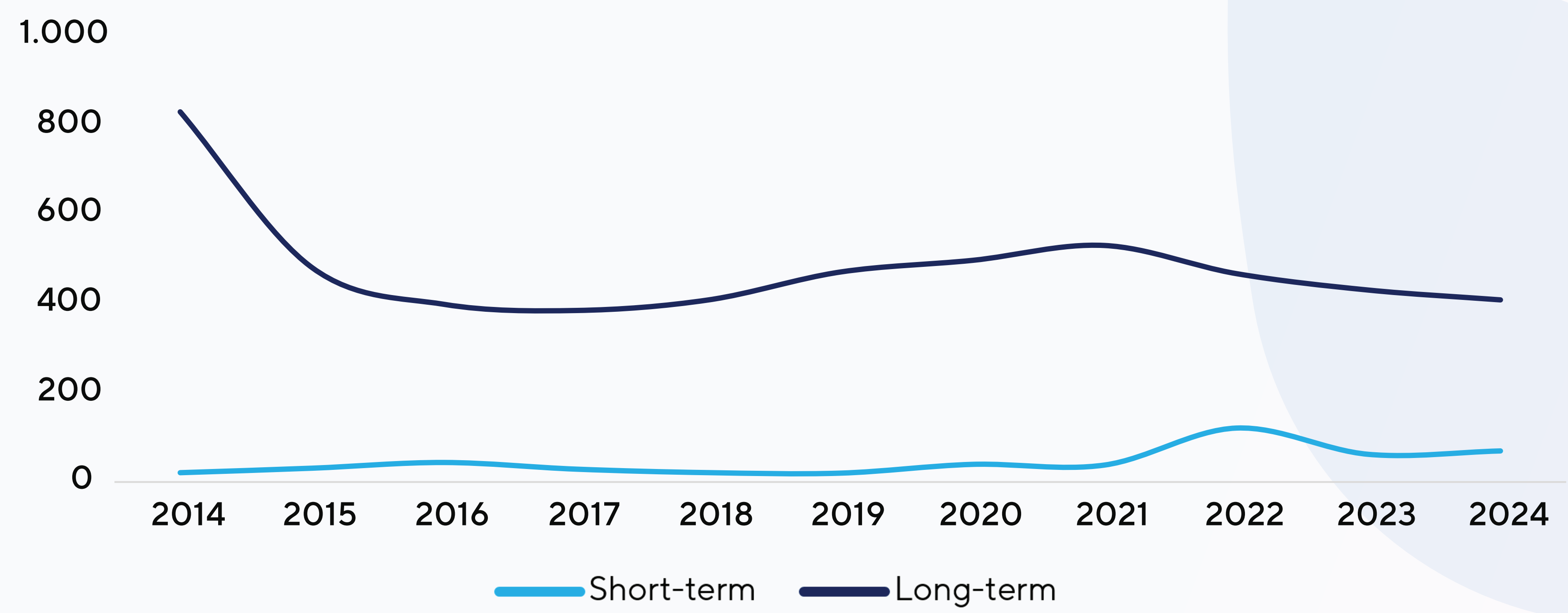


- In 2024, **vegetables** held the largest share at **25.4%** in the crop production structure of agricultural enterprises.
- For private owners, family peasant farms, and households **vegetables** also lead the **crop production structure (14%).** For both enterprises and individual farms, the smallest share belongs to **tea.**
- In livestock products, for both agricultural enterprises and for private owners, family peasant farms, and households, **livestock and poultry rank first with 29.9% and 33.5%,** respectively.

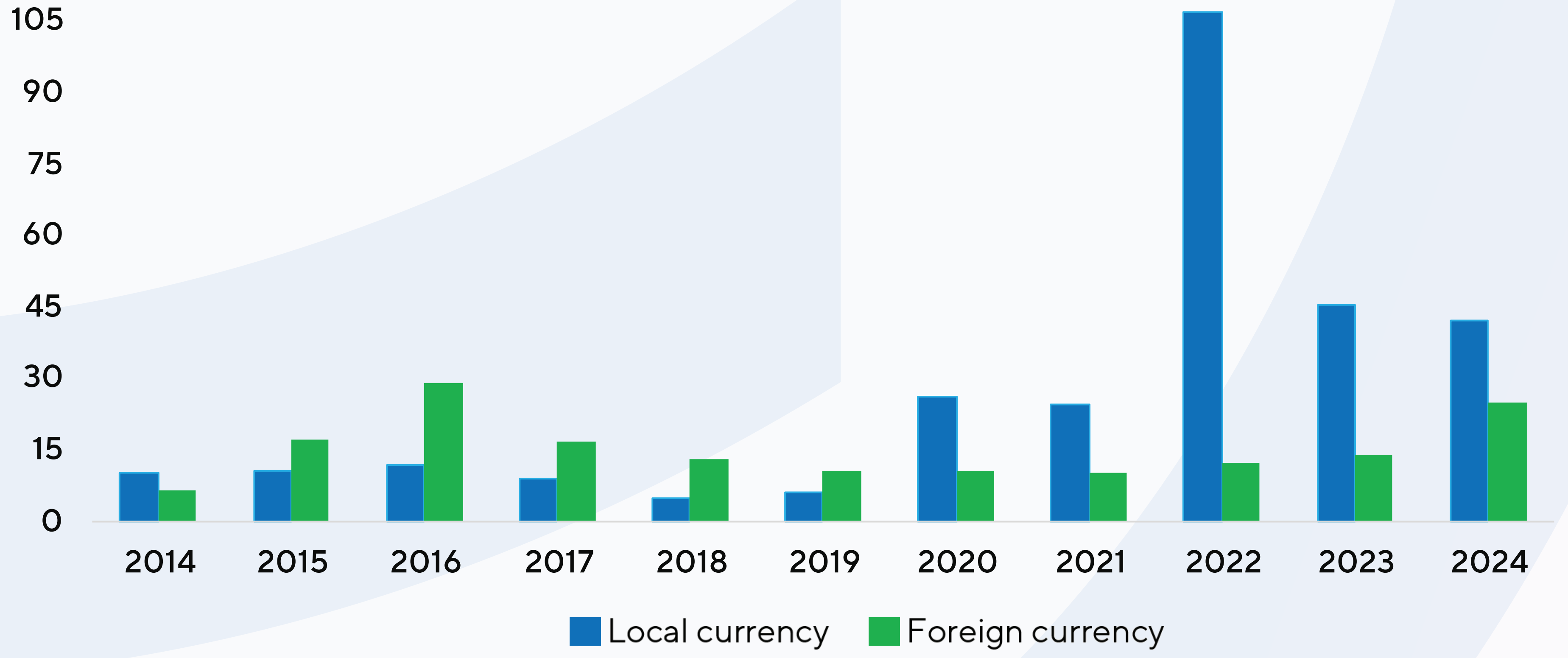
Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Lending to Agriculture Sector

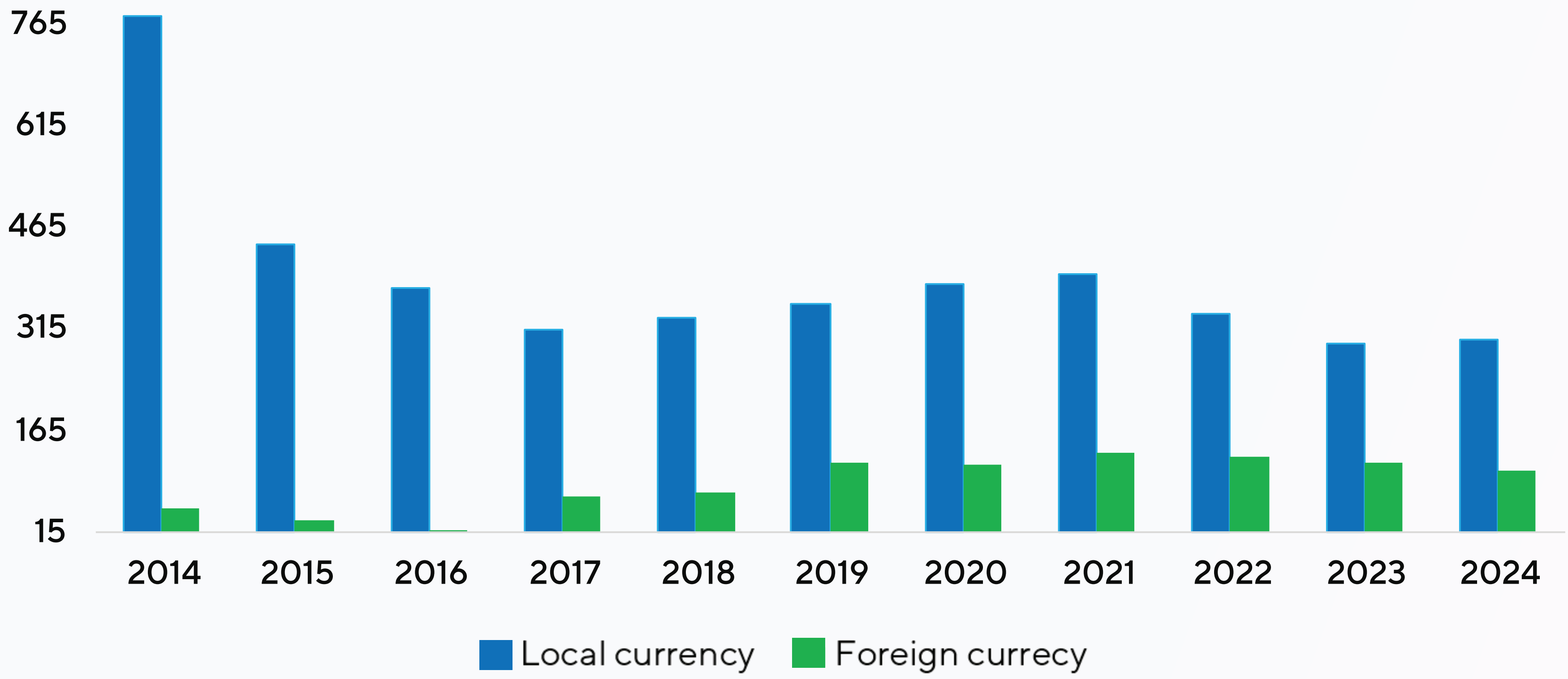
Loans to legal entities operating in agricultural, forestry or fisheries sector, million manat



Short-term loans to private enterprises, million manat



Long-term loans to private enterprises, million manat



During the analyzed period, loans to state-owned enterprises held a negligible share in the sector (long-term loans, averaging 2.8 million AZN equivalent). The highest volume was recorded in 2023 at 16.8 million AZN equivalent (15.1 million AZN equivalent in foreign currency, 1.7 million AZN in national currency).

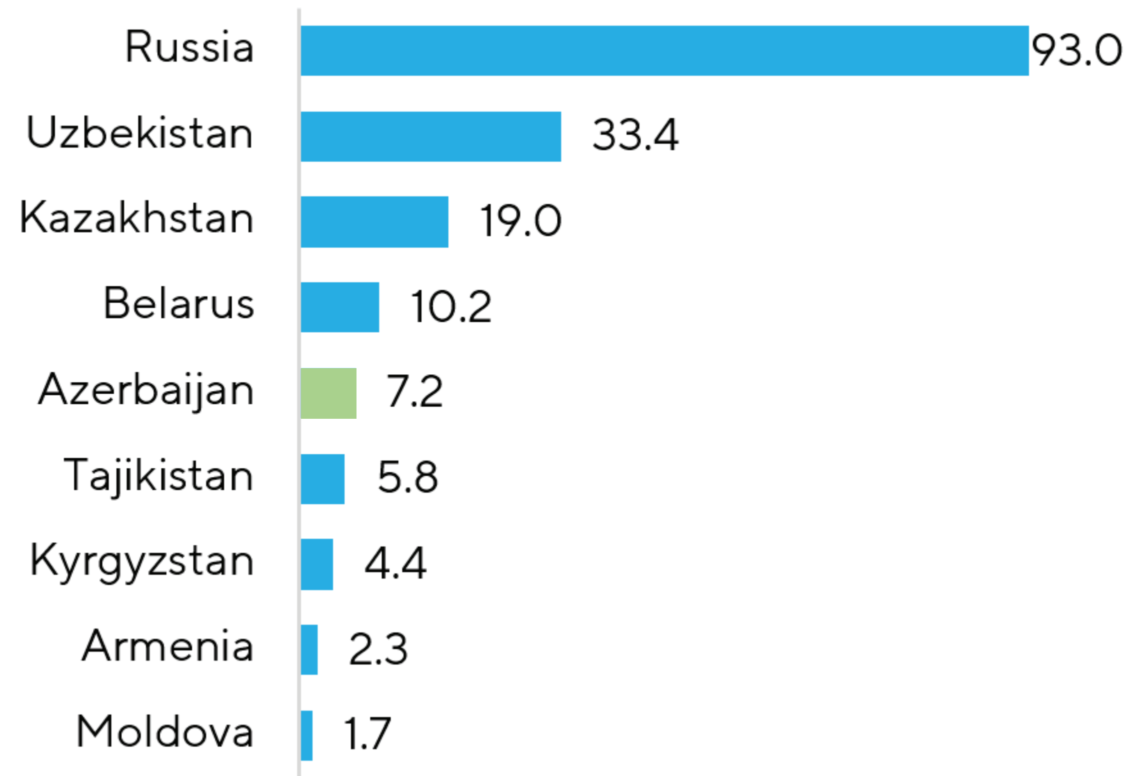
The share of long-term loans in the total loans issued to legal entities operating in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector is noticeably large (406 million AZN equivalent for the year 2024 – 86% of the total loans issued under this criterion).

The large-scale increase in the volume of short-term loans in 2022 is associated with the post-pandemic economic recovery period.

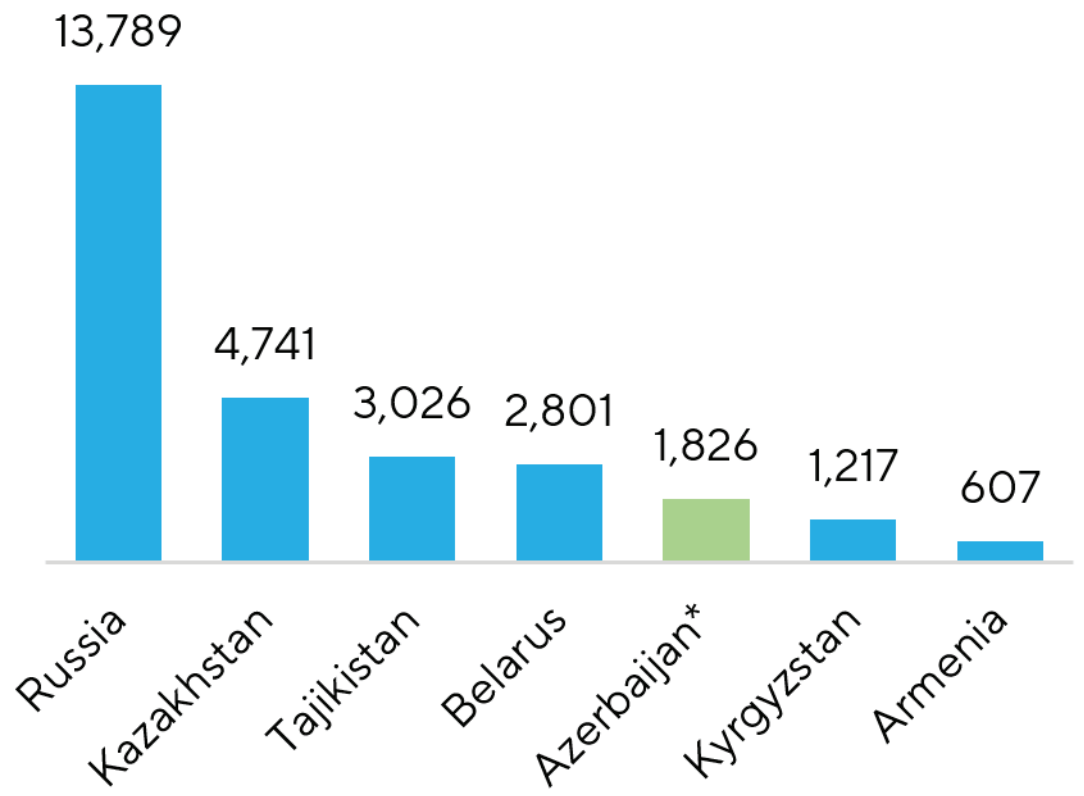
Source: Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan, statistical bulletin

Comparison between Azerbaijan and Other Countries

Gross agricultural product, 2023, billion US dollars

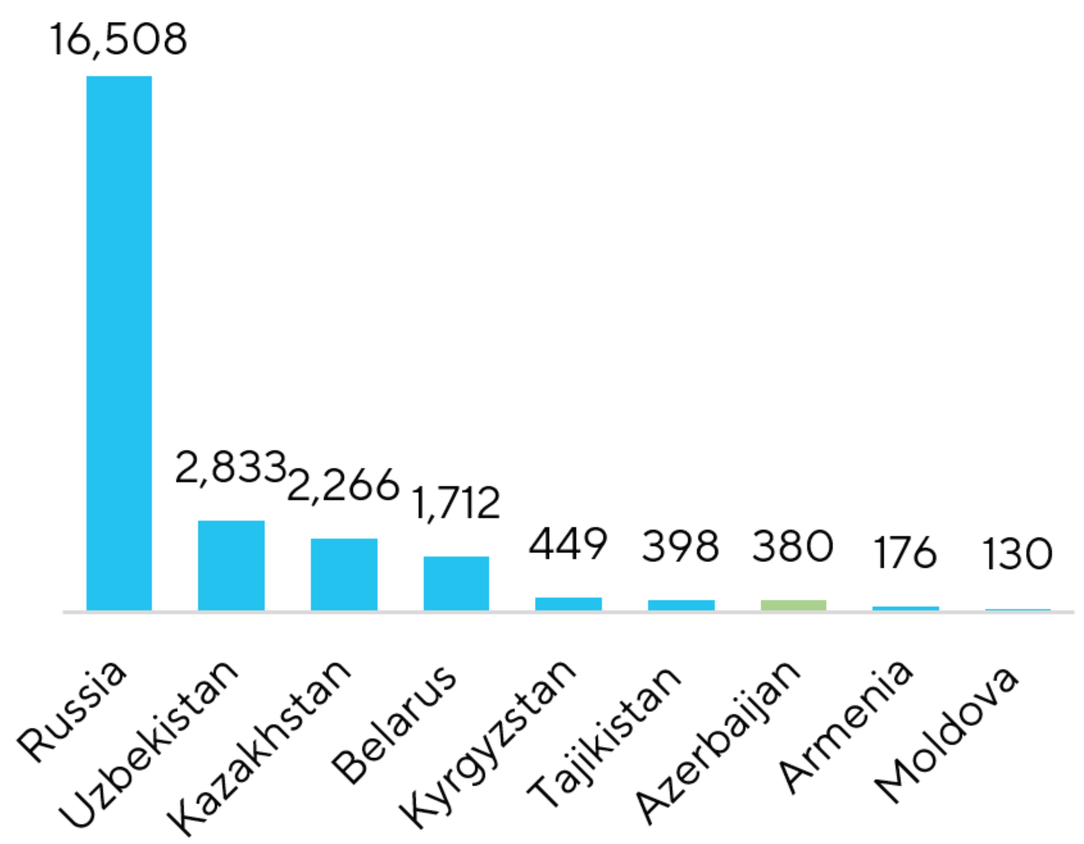


Vegetable production, 2023, thousand tons

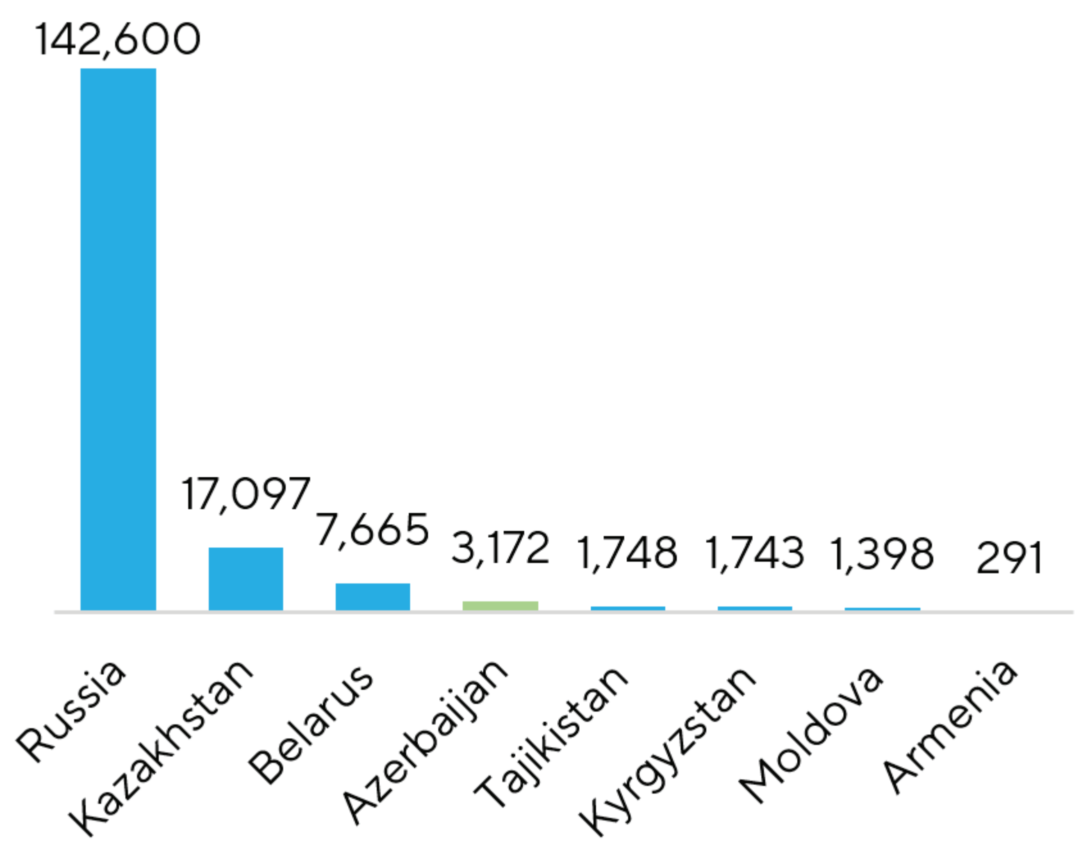


Country	Forest covered land, thousand ha	Share in the country's territory
Russia	808,790	47.9%
Belarus	7,894	38.0%
Azerbaijan	**1,040**	**12.6%**
Moldova	329	10.0%
Armenia	283	10.0%
Uzbekistan	3,295	8.0%
Kyrgyzstan	869	4.5%
Tajikistan	410	2.9%
Kazakhstan	3,337	1.2%

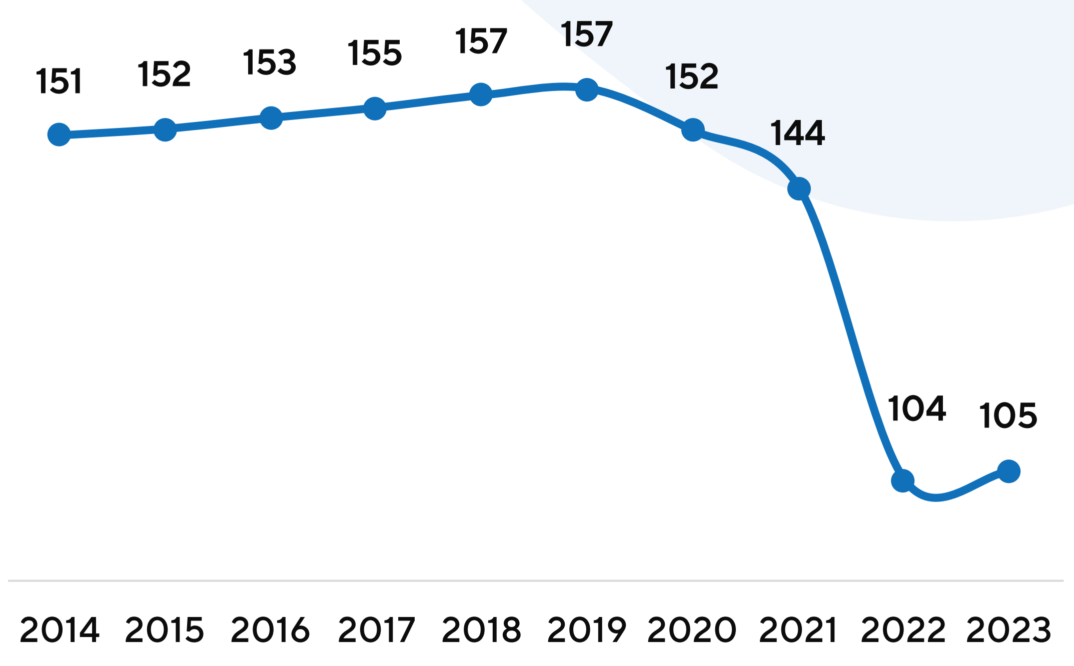
Cattle and poultry meat production**, 2023, thousand tons



Production of cereal and dried pulses, 2023, thousand tons



Total wood stock, million m^3



- **İstər sektordakı** ümumi məhsul, **istərsə də ayrılıqda** tərəvəz, mal-qara və quş əti və dənlilər və dənli-paxlalı bitkilərin **istehsal həcmi üzrə** Rusiya **müqayisə olunan ölkələr arasında ən öndədir** (93 milyard ABŞ dolları).
- **Azərbaycan 2023-cü ildə kənd təsərrüfatında MDB ölkələri arasında** 7.2 milyard ABŞ dolları **dəyərində məhsul istehsal etmişdir.**
- **Dənlilər və dənli-paxlalı bitkilərin istehsalı üzrə Rusiyadan sonra ən çox istehsal** 17.1 milyon ton **ilə** Qazaxıstana **məxsusdur.**
- **Meşə ilə örtülü torpaq sahəsinin ölkə ərazisindəki payı baxımından Azərbaycan müqayisə olunan ölkələrdən yalnız** Rusiya **və** Belarusdan **geri qalır.**
- **Ümumi ağac ehtiyatı üzrə ölkədə 2019-cu ildən etibarən (istisna: 2023)** azalan tendensiya **müşahidə olunur.**

*180 kg per person
**In slaughtered weight for Azerbaijan, in live weight for other countries

Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Agricultural Subsidies in Azerbaijan: Strategic Support and Digital Transformation

Objective: **To increase productivity, reduce costs, and modernize the agrarian sector.**
Management: **All applications and payments are carried out digitally via the "Farmer's Card".**

Key Support Mechanisms

- Sown Area Subsidy (per hectare):
  - **The base amount is** 200 AZN/ha **and varies depending on crop type;**
  - **Up to** 12,000 AZN **in support for intensive orchards.**
- Crop Subsidy (per ton):
  - **Stimulates the production and supply of strategic crops (wheat, cotton, corn, etc.);**
  - **Example:** 100 AZN/ton **for food-grade wheat,** 195-210 AZN/ton **for cotton.**
- Machinery Discount:
  - **A** 40% state discount **on the purchase of agricultural machinery.**

2024-2025 Strategic Priorities

- "Green" initiatives (COP29):
  - An additional **60 AZN/ha** subsidy for farmers using modern irrigation systems (from 2025).
- Food security:
  - Special focus on the production of food-grade wheat and other strategic crops (soybeans, sunflower);
  - Crops such as **wheat and barley** are covered **by agricultural insurance.**
- Strengthening export potential:
  - High-coefficient subsidies for the production of high-income and export-oriented products (hazelnuts, pomegranates, etc.).

Although the purpose of providing subsidies is to support small and medium-sized farmers, due to the scale of their farms and production volumes, large agricultural holdings and clusters remain the main beneficiaries, attracting the largest share of state support. Among economic regions, Central Aran and Karabakh are the leaders, owing to cotton and grain subsidies.

Trend of Subsidies Directed to Agriculture

Years	Direct subsidies and concessions, million AZN	Notes and main directions
2014	230	Mainly concessions on the sale of fuel, motor oils, and fertilizers for agricultural machinery.
2015	215	General reduction in budget expenditures and the impact on agricultural subsidies amidst falling oil prices.
2016	160	Post-devaluation period, a decrease in the volume of subsidies.
2017	270	Increase in subsidies for the development of cotton and tobacco production.
2018	380	Strengthening of support for strategic products (cotton, tobacco, silk cocoons).
2019	450	Transition year to a new subsidy mechanism. Implementation of the Electronic Agricultural Information System.
2020	470	Transition to a fully digital system. The sown area subsidy became the main type of support.
2021	480	Despite the pandemic, the volume of subsidies was maintained and increased.
2022	530	Food security became a priority, with increased focus on wheat production.
2023	560	Crop subsidy (100 AZN/ton for wheat) was introduced; the volume of support increased.

Crop Production (Agriculture) Sector: The main and absolute majority of subsidies are directed to this sector, as the primary support tools are specifically related to crop production:

- Sown Area Subsidy: Paid per hectare.
- Crop Subsidy: Paid per ton for crops such as cotton, tobacco, sugar beet, and wheat.
- Machinery Discount: The 40% discount on tractors, combines, and other machinery is mainly used in crop production.
- Seed and Seedling Subsidy: Directly related to crop production.

The Livestock Sector: Subsidies allocated to this sector are more specific and smaller in volume:

- Artificial Insemination Subsidy: 100 AZN is paid for the artificial insemination of each head of breeding animal. This is aimed at improving the breed composition of livestock.
- Beekeeping Subsidy: A subsidy of 10 AZN is provided for each bee family (hive).
- Silk Cocoon Subsidy: A subsidy per kilogram of raw silk cocoons produced (a type of crop subsidy).

Source: State budget drafts of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan, official press releases and press conferences of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agrarian Subsidy Council.

Prospects for Agricultural Development in Azerbaijan

Challenges

- Scarcity and inefficient use of water resources
- Land degradation and decline in fertility
- Small land ownership and fragmentation of farms
- Weakness of the supply chain and market infrastructure
- The two-sided effects of climate change
- The shortage of qualified personnel, modern and agrotechnological knowledge

Recommendations

- Modernization of irrigation systems and application of water-saving technologies
- Widespread adoption of "smart agriculture" elements
- Promotion of farmer cooperation
- Expansion of the agricultural insurance mechanism
- Strengthening of science, education, and advisory services
- Stimulation of high-value and export-oriented product manufacturing
- Support for agroecological and organic production

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