

Food Import Study

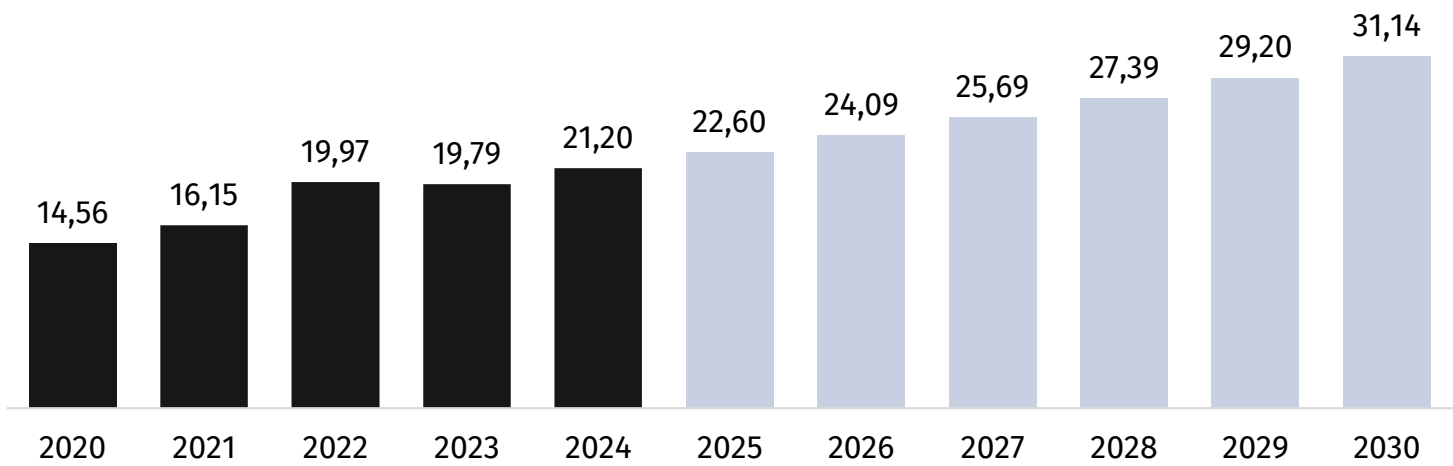
United Arab Emirates

June 2025



FOOD IMPORTS

Food Import Volume, billion USD



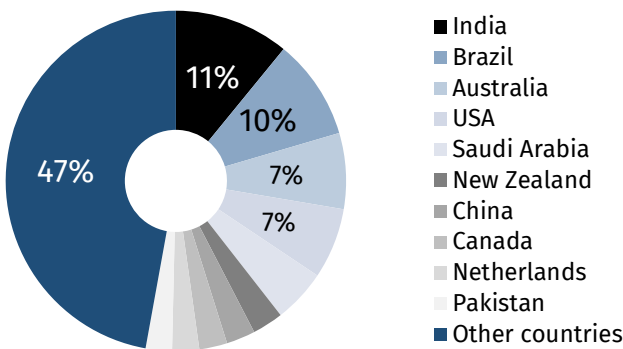
The UAE, characterized by a high standard of living and significant tourist flow, is heavily dependent on food imports.

According to ASER's estimates, **the volume of imports in 2024 reached USD 21.2 billion**, an increase of 7.1% compared to 2023. **Between 2020 and 2024, imports showed an average annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.7%.**

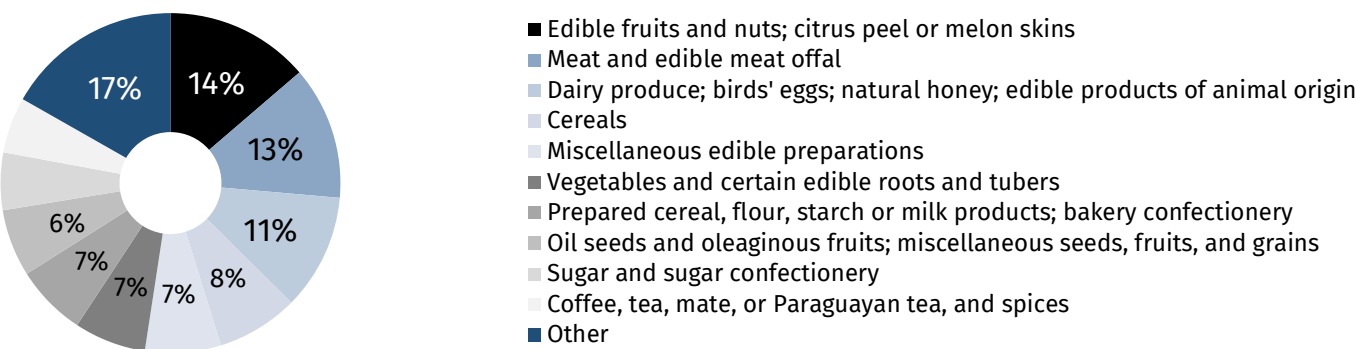
However, net imports, reflecting the country's domestic food demand, are estimated at USD 8.8 billion for 2024, which is 1.9% higher than in 2023. The CAGR for 2020-2024 was 3.2% per year.

Food Import Breakdown

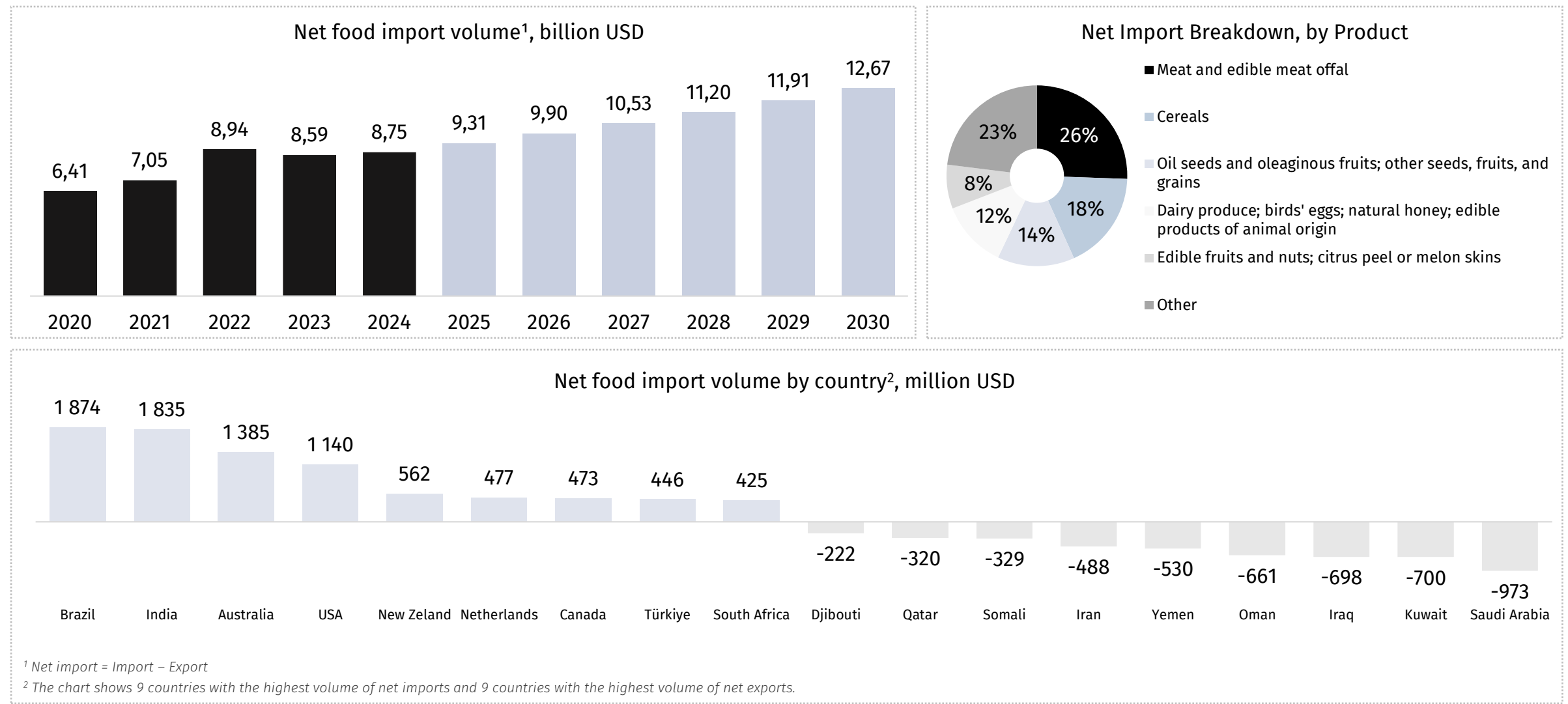
By Countries



By Products



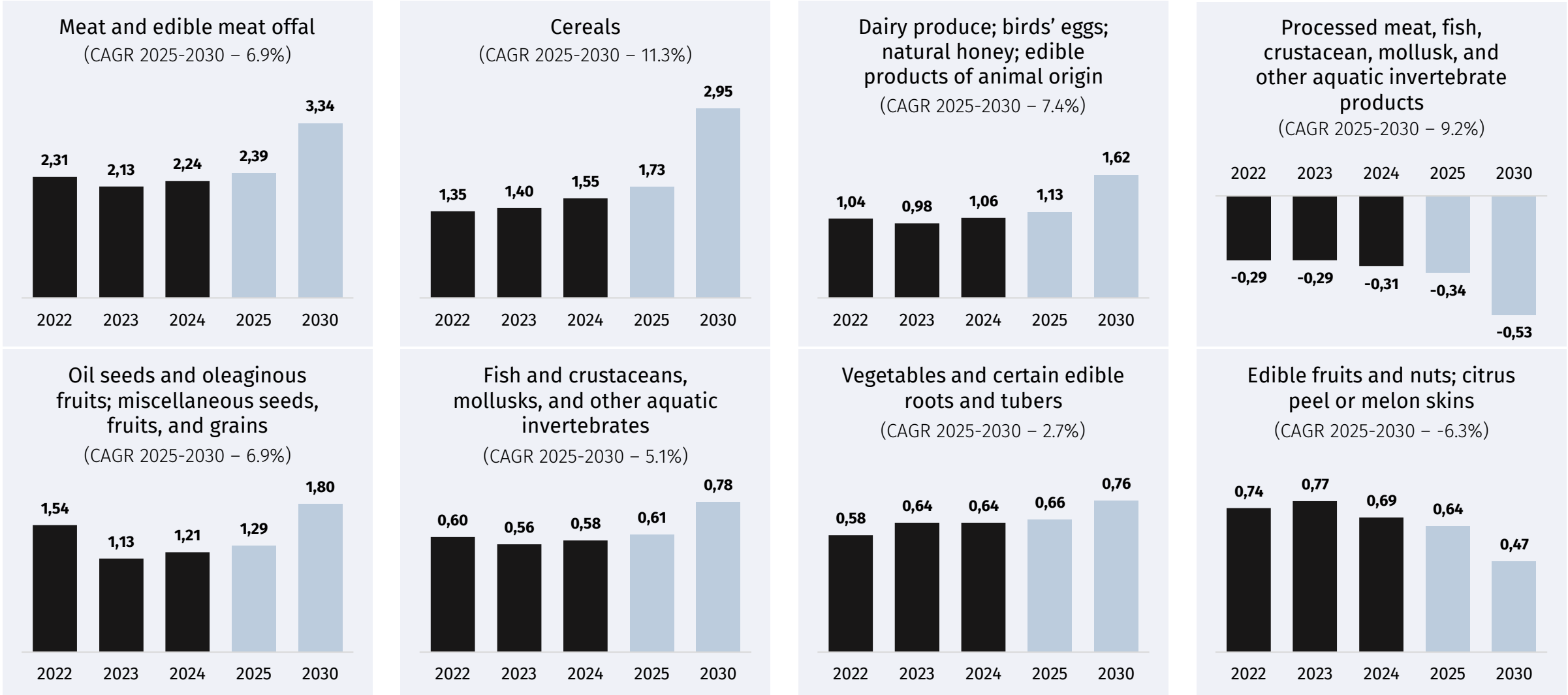
NET FOOD IMPORTS



Sources: International Trade Centre, ASER

NET FOOD IMPORTS

Net food import volume by product type, billion USD



Sources: International Trade Centre, ASER

FOOD IMPORTERS



FOOD IMPORTERS



Al Turab Foodstuff Trading

A dynamically developing company specializing in wholesale and retail trade of food products. The company focuses on supplying quality food items, including groceries, canned goods, spices, beverages, and other food products from various brands.



Siniora Food Industries Company

An international trading company specializing in wholesale supply of food and beverages. Operating in the markets of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Food categories include carbonated drinks, canned goods, sunflower oils, cereals, pasta, and other types of food products.



Modern General Trading (MGT)

A trading company distributing food products across various segments (bakery, confectionery, dairy produce, fruits and vegetables, coffee, oils). The company owns warehouse facilities in the UAE with different storage conditions. It also supplies products to restaurants, cafes, airports, and bakeries.

FOOD IMPORTERS



Al Maya Distribution

A distributor company founded in the UAE in 1982. Specializes in wholesale supply of food products, beverages, and everyday consumer goods for retail chains, restaurants, and HoReCa. The company's portfolio includes products from various brands from more than 25 countries.



Absolute Trading Company

An importer and distributor of well-known brands in Dubai (UAE). Specializes in wholesale supply of quality consumer goods at competitive prices for supermarkets, hypermarkets, and suppliers. Main imported products include rice, syrups, jams, and confectionery.



Casinetto

Distributor of premium food products for the HoReCa segment and retail clients in the UAE with 15 years of experience. Specializes in supplying high-quality European farm-produced goods (France, Italy, Spain, etc.), combining traditions of authentic production with modern logistics solutions.

FOOD IMPORTERS



Aal Mir Group

A distribution company specializing in the supply of food products, including meat, poultry, and seafood. Works with leading international manufacturers. Focuses on the B2B segment, cooperating with restaurants, hotels, and retail chains. Owns warehouse facilities over 500,000 m².



Tanmiah Food Company

A group of companies operating in poultry farming and exporting its own products for retail sale, as raw materials for fast-food restaurants and other uses. Has 9 branches across 7 countries.



Tyson Foods

One of the world's largest companies in meat processing, offering a wide range of its own products exported to the Netherlands, Mexico, China, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the UAE.

FOOD IMPORTERS

Name	Country of Incorporation	Year Founded	Countries of Production	Product Categories	Major Brands
AJD Trading Company	UAE	1992	USA, Italy, Germany, Belgium, France, India, China, Brazil, etc.	Meat and dairy produce, sugar, sauces, beverages, dried fruits, sunflower oils, etc.	Vanron, Campagna, Alpro, Hollandia, Tabsco, Pantai, Vital, Sprite, Schweppes
Siniora Food Industries Company	Jerusalem	1920	Jordan, Palestine, Turkey, etc.	Sausage products, frozen meat, semi-finished products	Siniora, Unium, Polonez, Badeel
Modern General Trading (MGT)	UAE	1974	Germany, Italy, Turkey, Australia, USA, etc.	Flour, coffee, sweets, dairy produce, frozen products, oils, fruits, vegetables	Oldenburger, Happy cow cheese, Bihophar, Langnese, Olitalia, Corman, Zeelandia, Vandemoortele
Al Maya Distribution	UAE	1985	USA, India, Japan, UK, Italy, etc.	Flour, sauces, beverages, snacks, dairy produce	Kraft Heinz, Cadbury Biscuits, Oronamin C, Pocari Sweat, Ice Cool, MTR, Koka, Society, Gowardhan, Kohinoor Foods, Pillsbury, Aeroplane, RRO, Bikano, Horlicks, American Kitchen
Absolute Trading Company	UAE	2001	India, China, Thailand, Vietnam, etc..	Confectionery, honey, snacks, canned goods	Riya Gold, Aakash, Marino
Casinetto	UAE	2009	Spain, France, Italy	Pasta, sauces, cheeses, coffee, juices, bakery, meat products	Zuma, Roberto's, Alici, Luigia, Scalini, Il Borro Tuscan Bistro, Kinder, Alpro
Aal Mir Group	UAE	1980	Turkey, Mexico, Vietnam, India, South Korea, Pakistan	Confectionery, snacks	Ulker, Oreon, Bazooka, Adel, ETI, Confiteca, Hectares
Tanmiah Food Company	Saudi Arabia	1962	Saudi Arabia	Poultry products (chicken)	Tanmiah
Tyson Foods	USA	1935	USA	Wide range of meat products	Tyson, JimmyDean, Hillshire, Bosco's, Landshire, Pierre, Reuben, Russer, Bryan

TRENDS IN THE FOOD MARKET

The market benefits from the UAE's strategic position as a re-export hub and its dependence on food imports, presenting significant opportunities for global suppliers within established food safety frameworks.

A diverse expatriate population combined with growing consumer awareness and increasing disposable income fuels sustained demand for high-quality organic products and international cuisine.

Market growth is supported by the UAE's robust retail infrastructure, featuring modern supermarket chains offering a wide variety of products to meet changing consumer preferences and dietary requirements.

The rise of online grocery shopping reflects the pursuit of convenience, as busy lifestyles drive preference for ready-to-eat meals and meal kits catering to diverse cultural tastes.

Investment in innovative food industry technologies, such as 3D food printing and cultivated meat, is gradually expanding market possibilities.



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