

OVERVIEW OF PEPPER TRADE



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Overview on Pepper Trade

Pepper (*Capsicum spp.*) is a genus of flowering plants which consists of over 30 species in the nightshade family (*Solanaceae*). The common names of *Capsicum* encompass cayenne pepper, tabasco pepper, red pepper, hot pepper, chili pepper, paprika, cayenne, Hungarian pepper, and pimento pepper (ScienceDirect, 2023).

Hot Pepper Varieties Predominantly Grown in Jamaica

1. Scotch Bonnet Pepper (*Capsicum Chinense*): Scotch bonnet pepper has a length of 5cm and a diameter of 2.5-3.8cm. The plant grows to a height of 69cm and a canopy width of 94cm. After 44 days of transplanting, the plant will begin to flower. The pepper will turn from green to yellow when it is matured. (Sinha and Peterson, 2011)
2. West Indian Red Pepper: West Indian Red is tolerant to most of the common pest and diseases affecting hot peppers. On average, it weighs about 14g per fruit and the plant grows to a height of 76cm and has a canopy width of 104cm. The pepper becomes bright red when matured. (Sinha and Peterson, 2011)

Pepper Sauce traded in Jamaica during the period 2013-2022

Table 1

Jamaica's imports of Pepper Sauce during the period 2013-2022

| Pepper Sauce | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 6,875.00 | \$1,673,205.00 | \$16,562.00 |
| 2014 | 4,493.00 | \$1,915,512.00 | \$17,236.00 |
| 2015 | 6,232.00 | \$5,512,602.00 | \$47,953.00 |
| 2016 | 25,845.00 | \$5,941,824.00 | \$46,832.00 |
| 2017 | 22,968.00 | \$3,817,538.00 | \$29,853.00 |
| 2018 | 41,775.00 | \$5,664,942.00 | \$44,251.00 |
| 2019 | 21,677.00 | \$2,870,193.00 | \$21,477.00 |
| 2020 | 20,309.00 | \$4,943,584.00 | \$34,162.00 |
| 2021 | 24,224.00 | \$10,160,897.00 | \$67,356.00 |
| 2022 | 44,174.00 | \$22,625,493.00 | \$147,182.00 |
| Average | 21,857.20 | \$6,512,579.00 | \$47,286.40 |

Source: STATIN

The average quantity of Pepper Sauce imported during the period 2013-2022 was 21,857 kgs valuing JA\$6,512,579.00. The highest level of imports was recorded in 2022 amounting to 44,174 kgs, which records a 542.5% over the 10-year period. It is to be noted that there was an 81.8% increase in the imports of Pepper Sauce in the year 2018 to that of the previous year 2017.

Table 1a*Jamaica's exports of Pepper Sauce during the period 2013-2022*

| Pepper sauce | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 668,540.94 | \$ 275,010,862.20 | \$ 2,753,446.69 |
| 2014 | 819,871.98 | \$ 268,089,213.50 | \$ 2,412,481.60 |
| 2015 | 837,146.31 | \$ 276,235,905.10 | \$ 2,370,439.37 |
| 2016 | 929,707.32 | \$ 328,584,605.20 | \$ 2,623,014.32 |
| 2017 | 698,136.74 | \$ 364,974,668.60 | \$ 2,849,496.42 |
| 2018 | 733,301.93 | \$ 414,808,049.10 | \$ 3,205,362.06 |
| 2019 | 790,904.56 | \$ 583,873,218.80 | \$ 4,435,619.32 |
| 2020 | 950,099.09 | \$ 608,747,633.90 | \$ 4,259,986.84 |
| 2021 | 981,098.20 | \$ 712,435,878.80 | \$ 4,733,890.08 |
| 2022 | 840,812.47 | \$ 619,121,214.30 | \$ 4,030,553.15 |
| Average | 824,961.95 | \$ 445,188,124.95 | \$ 3,367,428.99 |

Source: STATIN

The highest recorded export quantity was 981,098.20 kgs valuing JA\$712,435,878.80 in 2021, while the lowest was 668,540.94 kgs valuing JA\$275,010,862.20 in 2013. The average export quantity over the period was 824,961.95 kgs valuing JA\$445,188,124.95.

Hot Pepper traded in Jamaica during the period 2016-2022

Table 2*Jamaica's imports of Hot Pepper during the period 2016-2022*

| Hot Pepper | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2016 | 168 | \$56,957.00 | \$662.00 |
| 2017 | 1,555.00 | \$39,427.00 | \$3,594.00 |
| 2018 | 2,997.00 | \$507,339.00 | \$5,529.00 |
| 2019 | 2,298.00 | \$597,197.00 | \$8,586.00 |
| 2020 | 3,599.00 | \$1,040,064.00 | \$7,844.00 |
| 2021 | 5,193.00 | \$984,349.00 | \$6,512.00 |
| 2022 | 4,422.00 | \$1,385,373.00 | \$9,044.00 |
| Average | 2,890.29 | \$658,672.29 | \$5,967.29 |

Source: STATIN

The average quantity of Hot Pepper imported during the period 2016-2022 was 2,890.29 kgs. The highest level of imports was recorded in 2021 amounting to 5,139 kgs and valuing JA\$984,349.00; this was a 44.2% increase to that of the previous year 2020. However, a 14% reduction was observed in the year 2022. No imports of Hot Pepper were reported by STATIN during the period 2013 to 2015.

Table 2a*Jamaica's exports of Hot Pepper during the period 2016-2022*

| Hot Pepper | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2016 | 13,677.24 | \$ 7,978,444.21 | \$ 62,038.12 |
| 2017 | 113,301.61 | \$ 63,154,238.44 | \$ 492,901.51 |
| 2018 | 87,020.26 | \$ 59,000,824.08 | \$ 457,243.98 |
| 2019 | 222,178.31 | \$ 94,777,931.27 | \$ 711,674.04 |
| 2020 | 159,523.35 | \$ 99,561,158.62 | \$ 704,682.36 |
| 2021 | 189,973.18 | \$ 142,594,554.90 | \$ 941,334.35 |
| 2022 | 147,285.88 | \$ 127,194,544.10 | \$ 827,349.55 |
| Average | 133,279.98 | \$ 84,894,527.95 | \$ 599,603.42 |

Source: STATIN

During the period 2016 to 2022, the quantity of exported Hot Pepper in Jamaica fluctuated with the highest recorded export in 2019 at 222,178.31 kgs valuing JA\$94,777,931.27 and the lowest in 2018 at 87,020.26 kgs valuing JA\$59,000,824.08. In 2017, there was a significant increase of 727.72% in the quantity of exported Hot Pepper compared to the previous year 2016. No exports were reported by STATIN during the period 2013-2015.

Black Pepper traded in Jamaica during the period 2013-2022**Table 3***Jamaica's imports of Pepper (crushed or ground) during the period 2013-2022*

| Pepper (crushed or ground) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 93,792.00 | \$51,778,624.00 | \$514,762.00 |
| 2014 | 120,065.00 | \$77,105,456.00 | \$693,190.00 |
| 2015 | 185,416.00 | \$91,079,539.00 | \$775,543.00 |
| 2016 | 183,322.00 | \$108,797,942.00 | \$869,913.00 |
| 2017 | 262,107.00 | \$91,720,497.00 | \$718,201.00 |
| 2018 | 320,157.00 | \$91,506,177.00 | \$716,210.00 |
| 2019 | 211,921.00 | \$83,228,517.00 | \$621,892.00 |
| 2020 | 223,217.00 | \$78,082,369.00 | \$546,830.00 |
| 2021 | 391,160.00 | \$122,574,350.00 | \$821,130.00 |
| 2022 | 245,109.00 | \$139,392,912.00 | \$906,090.00 |
| Average | 223,626.60 | \$93,526,638.30 | \$718,376.10 |

Source: STATIN

As seen in table 3, imports fell by 33% in the year 2019 when compared to 2018. Jamaica recorded its highest quantity of pepper crushed or grounded imports in 2021 amounting to 391,160 kgs.

Table 3a*Jamaica's exports of Pepper (crushed or ground) during the period 2013-2022*

| Pepper (crushed or ground) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 22,770.93 | \$ 9,523,451.92 | \$ 94,302.15 |
| 2014 | 51,358.04 | \$ 17,402,649.45 | \$ 157,116.82 |
| 2015 | 34,509.97 | \$ 9,233,509.45 | \$ 78,940.57 |
| 2016 | 181,884.89 | \$ 32,438,258.74 | \$ 258,103.39 |
| 2017 | 332,462.01 | \$ 62,313,877.07 | \$ 486,937.65 |
| 2018 | 155,454.28 | \$ 37,282,950.22 | \$ 287,918.43 |
| 2019 | 104,620.07 | \$ 33,055,261.23 | \$ 248,388.25 |
| 2020 | 263,310.19 | \$ 71,601,632.48 | \$ 502,961.35 |
| 2021 | 109,195.04 | \$ 70,124,658.97 | \$ 466,300.16 |
| 2022 | 103,387.11 | \$ 44,987,945.37 | \$ 294,260.94 |
| Average | 135,895.25 | \$ 38,796,419.49 | \$ 287,522.97 |

Source: STATIN

During the period 2013-2022, Jamaica's exports of pepper crushed or grounded increased by 354.03%. The quantity of exported Pepper (crushed or ground) showed fluctuations over the years, with the highest exportation recorded in 2017 at 332,462.01 kgs valuing JA\$62,313,877.07 and the lowest in 2013 at 22,770.93 kgs valuing JA\$9,523,451.92. The average export quantity over the entire period was 135,895.25 kgs valuing at JA\$38,796,419.49.

Whole Pepper traded in Jamaica during the period 2013-2022**Table 4***Jamaica's imports of Pepper (neither crushed nor ground) during the period 2013-2022*

| Pepper (neither crushed nor ground) | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 195,155.00 | \$166,916,633.00 | \$1,658,752.00 |
| 2014 | 149,302.00 | \$151,654,172.00 | \$1,371,195.00 |
| 2015 | 186,466.00 | \$244,830,949.00 | \$2,100,971.00 |
| 2016 | 207,789.00 | \$234,570,840.00 | \$1,891,823.00 |
| 2017 | 252,505.00 | \$184,062,998.00 | \$1,433,762.00 |
| 2018 | 181,800.00 | \$119,384,653.00 | \$928,304.00 |
| 2019 | 176,810.00 | \$91,833,386.00 | \$690,209.00 |
| 2020 | 204,021.00 | \$109,538,436.00 | \$761,276.00 |
| 2021 | 195,505.00 | \$122,704,476.00 | \$814,747.00 |
| 2022 | 178,858.00 | \$133,474,640.00 | \$875,741.00 |
| Average | 192,821.10 | \$155,897,118.30 | \$1,252,678.00 |

Source: STATIN

The import quantities of Whole Pepper fluctuated over the period from 2013 to 2022. The highest import volume was observed in 2017 with 252,505 kgs being imported. The lowest import volume was recorded in the year 2014 which amounted to 149,302 kgs.

Table 4a

Jamaica's exports of Pepper (neither crushed nor ground) during the period 2013-2022

| Pepper (neither crushed nor ground) | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 35,624.17 | \$ 18,226,004.94 | \$ 182,391.97 |
| 2014 | 7,071.32 | \$ 3,905,099.76 | \$ 35,316.85 |
| 2015 | 30,338.31 | \$ 13,704,664.34 | \$ 117,648.93 |
| 2016 | 68,994.32 | \$ 30,222,808.69 | \$ 244,921.92 |
| 2017 | 29,209.32 | \$ 16,955,631.12 | \$ 132,284.59 |
| 2018 | 58,756.74 | \$ 37,113,870.56 | \$ 286,316.22 |
| 2019 | 31,770.28 | \$ 18,272,479.65 | \$ 138,252.15 |
| 2020 | 17,154.65 | \$ 8,508,338.61 | \$ 59,651.14 |
| 2021 | 43,684.02 | \$ 33,568,637.85 | \$ 221,201.68 |
| 2022 | 58,462.98 | \$ 51,654,679.27 | \$ 336,459.44 |
| Average | 38,106.61 | \$ 23,213,221.48 | \$ 175,444.49 |

Source: STATIN

Over the 10-year period, the average annual export quantity over this period was approximately 38,106.61 kgs valuing JA\$23,213,221.48. The highest quantity exported was recorded in 2016 at 68,994.32 kgs valuing JA\$30,222,808.69, while the lowest was in 2020 at 17,154.65 kgs valuing at JA\$8,508,338.61.

Sweet Pepper traded in Jamaica during the period 2013-2022

Table 5

Jamaica's imports of Sweet Pepper (fresh or chilled) during the period 2013-2022

| Sweet Pepper (fresh or chilled) | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 9,686.00 | \$1,051,012.00 | \$17,463.00 |
| 2014 | 18,824.00 | \$2,245,558.00 | \$19,974.00 |
| 2015 | 122.00 | \$51,734.00 | \$439.00 |
| 2016 | 561.00 | \$55,992.00 | \$458.00 |
| 2017 | - | - | - |

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2018 | - | - | - |
| 2019 | 1,247.00 | \$138,165.00 | \$1,031.00 |
| 2020 | 16,997.00 | \$1,427,471.00 | \$9,077.00 |
| 2021 | 18,788.00 | \$1,320,049.00 | \$8,782.00 |
| 2022 | 20,446.00 | \$1,378,377.00 | \$8,990.00 |
| Average | 10,833.88 | \$958,544.75 | \$8,276.75 |

Source: STATIN

Table 5a shows that the year 2022 recorded the highest level of Sweet Pepper imports over the 10-year period in the amount of 20,446 kgs. The average quantity of imports during the period amounted to 10,834 kgs valuing JA\$958,544.75. A significant fall of 99.3% was noted in 2015 when compared to the average quantity imported during the period of 2013-2022. No imports were recorded in the years 2017 and 2018.

Table 5a

Jamaica's exports of Sweet Pepper (fresh or chilled) during the period 2013-2022

| Sweet Pepper (fresh or chilled) | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Year | Kg | CIF (JMD) | CIF (USD) |
| 2013 | 1,858.53 | \$ 820,096.04 | \$ 8,296.48 |
| 2014 | 857.84 | \$ 599,672.00 | \$ 5,394.83 |
| 2015 | 3,626.95 | \$ 1,704,275.33 | \$ 14,686.51 |
| 2016 | 1,775.66 | \$ 843,249.27 | \$ 6,768.65 |
| 2017 | 263.70 | \$ 144,810.53 | \$ 1,130.99 |
| 2018 | 9.50 | \$ 298,265.73 | \$ 2,202.97 |
| 2019 | 816.52 | \$ 519,513.54 | \$ 3,865.25 |
| 2020 | - | - | - |
| 2021 | 520.05 | \$ 223,063.81 | \$ 1,459.27 |
| 2022 | - | - | - |
| Average | 1,216.09 | \$ 644,118.28 | \$ 5,475.62 |

Source: STATIN

During the period 2013 to 2022, the export quantities for Sweet Pepper were relatively low compared to other pepper varieties such as Pepper Sauce, Hot Pepper, Pepper (crushed or ground) and Pepper (neither crushed nor ground). The highest export quantity was recorded in the year 2015 at 3,626.95 kgs valuing JA\$1,704,275.33, while the lowest was in 2018 at only 9.50 kgs valuing JA\$298,265.73. No exports were reported by STATIN in the years 2020 and 2022.

Table 6*Import Taxes/Duties that applies to the variations of Jamaica's Pepper Imports*

| Commodity | Import Duty | Additional Stamp Duty | General Consumption Tax | Environmental Levy | Standard Compliance Fee |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Hot Pepper | 40% | 35.71% | 15% | 0.30% | 0.50% |
| Other Pepper, nesoi | 40% | - | 15% | 0.30% | 0.50% |
| Pepper Sauce | 20% | - | 15% | 0.30% | 0.50% |
| Sweet Pepper | 40% | 35.71% | 15% | 0.30% | 0.50% |
| Pepper (crushed or grounded) | 40% | - | 15% | 0.30% | 0.50% |
| Pepper (neither crushed nor grounded) | 40% | - | 15% | 0.30% | 0.50% |

Source: Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA)

The table above highlights the various import taxes/duties that Pepper imports attract. Pepper Sauce only attracts a 20% import duty as opposed to the other commodities listed. Additionally, only Hot Pepper and Sweet Pepper attract the Additional Stamp Duty (ASD) of 35.714%.

Tariff codes covered in this overview:

1. **2103901000** - Pepper Sauce
2. **0904120000** - Pepper (crushed or grounded) ***(Black Pepper)**
3. **0904110000** - Pepper (neither crushed nor ground)
4. **0709601000** - Sweet Pepper
5. **0709609010** - Hot Pepper

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