

FAOSTAT Food Security and Nutrition

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Summary

FAOSTAT gives users access to food and agriculture data for over 245 countries and territories. Additionally, it covers all FAO regional groupings from 1961 to the most recent year available. The Suite of Food Security Indicators presents the core set of food security indicators. The choice of the indicators has been informed by expert judgment and the availability of data with sufficient coverage to enable comparisons across regions and over time. Many of these indicators are produced and published elsewhere by FAO and other international organizations. More indicators will be added to as more data will become available. Indicators are classified along the four dimensions of food security -- availability, access, utilization and stability.

The data team uses food security indicators for many series, including those related to hunger/malnutrition such as Series, Series, Series, Series. To pull data, follow the instructions below.

Tables In IFs

Variable	Definition	Years	UsedInPreprocessor	UsedInPreprocessorFileName
MalnDietEnSup	National average dietary energy supply (DES) (expressed in calories per caput per day) used in the estimation of prevalence of undernourishment.	2001-2023 1		AGRICULTURE
MalnCaloricDistribution	Coefficient of variation of habitual caloric consumption distribution.	2001-2023 1		AGRICULTURE
MalnMinNutrRequired	In a specified age/sex category, MDER is the minimum amount of dietary energy per person that is considered adequate to meet the energy needs at a minimum acceptable BMI of an individual engaged in low physical activity.	2001-2023 1		AGRICULTURE
MalnPop%	Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	2001-2023 1		AGRICULTURE

Data Pulling Instructions

Step 1. Navigate to FAOSTAT Food Security site. This site will display a suite of food security indicators.

The screenshot displays the FAOSTAT website interface. At the top, the FAO logo and name are visible. Below the header, there are navigation tabs: 'Data', 'Selected Indicators', 'Compare Data', 'Definitions and Standards', and 'FAQ'. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area is titled 'Suite of Food Security Indicators'. It includes a 'DOWNLOAD DATA' section with filters for 'COUNTRIES' (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria) and 'ELEMENTS' (Value, Confidence interval). A sidebar on the right contains a brief description of the indicators suite.

FAO Food Security Homepage

Step 2. The page displays four options that must be selected to download data: Countries/Regions/Special Groups, Elements, Years, and Items. For all these options, you can also type in a search box.

COUNTRIES REGIONS SPECIAL GROUPS M49

Filter results e.g. afghanistan

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ American Samoa
- ☐ Andorra
- ☐ Angola

Select All Clear All

ELEMENTS

Filter results e.g. value

- ☐ Value
- ☐ Confidence interval

Select All Clear All

ITEMS

Filter results e.g. featured indicators > (list)

- ☐ Featured Indicators > (List)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)
- ☐ -- Number of people undernourished (million)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the total pop
- ☐ -- Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in
- ☐ -- Number of severely food insecure people (million)

Select All Clear All

YEARS

Filter results e.g. 2022 / 2021-2023

- ☐ 2022 / 2021-2023
- ☐ 2021 / 2020-2022
- ☐ 2020 / 2019-2021
- ☐ 2019 / 2018-2020
- ☐ 2018 / 2017-2019
- ☐ 2017 / 2016-2018

Select All Clear All

Indicators

The Suite of Food Security Indicators presents the core set of food security indicators. Following the recommendation of experts gathered in the... [Show More](#)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Bulk Downloads

All Data	982 KB
All Data Normalized	1.84 MB
All Area Groups	308 KB
Africa	212 KB
Latin America and the Caribbean	120 KB
Northern America and Europe	142 KB
Asia	176 KB
Oceania	50 KB

Last Update
August 23, 2023

Related Documents

[Descriptions and metadata](#)

FAO Data Selections

Step 3. For **“Countries”** options, you will generally want to select **“Select All”** to capture all country data.

Filter results e.g. afghanistan

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ American Samoa
- ☐ Andorra

Select All Clear All

ITEMS

Filter results e.g. featured indicators > (list)

- ☐ Featured Indicators > (List)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)
- ☐ -- Number of people undernourished (million)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the total pc
- ☐ -- Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity i

Select All Clear All

YEARS

Filter results e.g. 2022 / 2021-2023

- ☐ 2022 / 2021-2023
- ☐ 2021 / 2020-2022
- ☐ 2020 / 2019-2021
- ☐ 2019 / 2018-2020
- ☐ 2018 / 2017-2019

Select All Clear All

Output Type

Table ☒ Pivot ☐

File Type

CSV ☒ XLS ☐

Thousand Separator in 'Show Data'

None ☒ Comma ☐ Period ☐

Output Formatting Options

Flags ☒ Notes ☒ Codes ☒
Units ☒ Null Values ☐

Indicators

The Suite of Food Security Indicators presents the core set of food security indicators. Following the recommendation of experts gathered in the... [Show More](#)

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Related Documents

[Descriptions and metadata](#)

[Update history](#)

Suggested Reading

[Default coding and flags](#)

[Definitions and standa...](#)

Country Selection

Step 4. For the **“Elements”** options you will most likely want to select **“Value”**, depending

on the desired dataset.

Filter results e.g. afghanistan

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ American Samoa
- ☐ Andorra

Select All Clear All

ITEMS

Filter results e.g. featured indicators > (list)

- ☐ Featured Indicators > (List)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)
- ☐ -- Number of people undernourished (million)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the total pc
- ☐ -- Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity i

Select All Clear All

Filter results e.g. value

- ☒ Value
- ☐ Confidence interval

Select All Clear All

YEARS

Filter results e.g. 2022 / 2021-2023

- ☐ 2022 / 2021-2023
- ☐ 2021 / 2020-2022
- ☐ 2020 / 2019-2021
- ☐ 2019 / 2018-2020
- ☐ 2018 / 2017-2019

Select All Clear All

Output Type: ☒ Table ☐ Pivot

File Type: ☒ CSV ☐ XLS

Thousand Separator in 'Show Data': ☒ None ☐ Comma ☐ Period

Output Formatting Options: ☒ Flags ☒ Notes ☒ Codes ☒ Units ☐ Null Values

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Related Documents

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- [Update history](#)

Suggested Reading

- [Default coding and flags](#)

Definitions and standa...

Elements Selection

Step 5. For “**Years**”, you will generally want to select “**Select All**” to capture all years of data available.

Filter results e.g. afghanistan

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ American Samoa
- ☐ Andorra

Select All Clear All

ITEMS

Filter results e.g. featured indicators > (list)

- ☐ Featured Indicators > (List)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)
- ☐ -- Number of people undernourished (million)
- ☐ -- Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the total pc
- ☐ -- Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity i

Select All Clear All

Filter results e.g. value

- ☐ Value
- ☐ Confidence interval

Select All Clear All

YEARS

Filter results e.g. 2022 / 2021-2023

- ☐ 2022 / 2021-2023
- ☐ 2021 / 2020-2022
- ☐ 2020 / 2019-2021
- ☐ 2019 / 2018-2020
- ☐ 2018 / 2017-2019

Select All Clear All

Output Type: ☒ Table ☐ Pivot

File Type: ☒ CSV ☐ XLS

Thousand Separator in 'Show Data': ☒ None ☐ Comma ☐ Period

Output Formatting Options: ☒ Flags ☒ Notes ☒ Codes ☒ Units ☐ Null Values

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- [Update history](#)

Suggested Reading

- [Default coding and flags](#)

Definitions and standa...

Years Selection

Step 6. For **“Items”**, select the desired indicator. You can also type in the search box for the indicator. This example will use **“Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)”**.

The screenshot shows the FAO Data Explorer interface with the following sections:

- Geography:** Filter results e.g. afghanistan. List includes Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, etc. Buttons: Select All, Clear All.
- ITEMS:** Filter results e.g. featured indicators > (list). A red arrow points to the selected indicator: **Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)**. Other options include Number of people undernourished (million), etc. Buttons: Select All, Clear All.
- YEARS:** Filter results e.g. 2022 / 2021-2023. List includes 2022 / 2021-2023, 2021 / 2020-2022, etc. Buttons: Select All, Clear All.
- Output Options:**
 - Output Type:** Table (selected), Pivot.
 - File Type:** CSV (selected), XLS.
 - Thousand Separator in 'Show Data':** None (selected), Comma, Period.
 - Output Formatting Options:** Flags, Notes, Codes, Units, Null Values.
- Right Panel:**
 - The Suite of Food Security Indicators:** Presents the core set of food security indicators. Following the recommendation of experts gathered in the... [Show More](#)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
 - Bulk Downloads:**

Download	Size
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Oceania	50 KB
 - Last Update:** August 23, 2023
 - Related Documents:**
 - [Descriptions and metadata](#)
 - [Update history](#)
 - Suggested Reading:**
 - [Default coding and flags](#)
 - [Definitions and standa...](#)

Items Selection

Step 7. After selecting for these for options, the page will display the completed selections.

The screenshot shows the FAO Data Explorer interface with the following sections:

- Geography:** Filter results e.g. afghanistan. List includes Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, etc. Buttons: Select All, Clear All. Below the list, a row of selected items is shown: Afghanistan x, Albania x, Algeria x, American Samoa x, Andorra x, Angola x, Antigua and Barbuda x, Argentina x, Armenia x, Australia x, Austria x, Azerbaijan x, Bahamas x.
- ITEMS:** Filter results e.g. featured indicators > (list). The selected indicator is **Prevalence of undernourishment (percent)**. Below the list, a row of selected items is shown: Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) x.
- YEARS:** Filter results e.g. 2022 / 2021-2023. The selected years are 2022 / 2021-2023, 2021 / 2020-2022, 2020 / 2019-2021, 2019 / 2018-2020, and 2018 / 2017-2019. Below the list, a row of selected items is shown: 2000 / 1999-2001 x, 2001 / 2000-2002 x, 2002 / 2001-2003 x, 2003 / 2002-2004 x.
- Right Panel:** Same as in Step 6, showing the Suite of Food Security Indicators, Bulk Downloads table, Last Update, Related Documents, and Suggested Reading.

Completed Selections

Step 8. Scroll down below the options. You also have options to select the “Output Type”, “File Type”, and “Thousand Separator in ‘Show Data’”. It’s recommended to select “**Pivot**” under “**Output Type**” to have easier data cleaning.

Output Type

Table

Pivot

File Type

CSV

XLS

Thousand Separator in 'Show Data'

None

Comma

Period

Output Formatting Options

Flags

Notes

Codes

Units

Null Values

Statistical Database Terms of Use

CC

BY

NC

SA

Show Data

Download Data

Show Data

2000-2002 [20002002]

Unit

Value

Flag Description

Note

%

46.4

Estimated value [E]

2001-2003 [20012003]

Unit

Value

Flag Description

Note

%

44.1

Estimated value [E]

2002-2004 [20022004]

Unit

Value

Flag Description

Note

%

39

Estimated value [E]

Afghanistan [004]

Value [6121]

Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) (3-year average) [210041]

%

46.4

Estimated value [E]

Albania [008]

Value [6121]

Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) (3-year average) [210041]

%

4.9

Estimated value [E]

Albania [008]

Value [6121]

Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) (3-year average) [210041]

%

6

Estimated value [E]

Albania [008]

Value [6121]

Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) (3-year average) [210041]

%

7.4

Estimated value [E]

Additional Data Options

Step 9. You may select “**Show Data**” to look at the data before downloading. This option will populate data at the bottom of the page.

Step 10. Click “**Download Data**”. Either an Excel or CSV sheet will download. Now you can format the data to upload it into IFs. To import data into IFs, please follow the instructions found in the Importing Data (general instructions) page.

Output Type

☐ Table
☒ Pivot

File Type

☒ CSV
☐ XLS

Thousand Separator in 'Show Data'

☐ None
☒ Comma
☐ Period

Output Formatting Options

☒ Flags
☒ Notes
☒ Codes
☒ Units
☐ Null Values

Statistical Database Terms of Use

Show Data

				2000-2002 [20002002]				2001-2003 [20012003]				2002-2004 [20022004]				
				Unit	Value	Flag Description	Note	Unit	Value	Flag Description	Note	Unit	Value	Flag Description		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Afghanistan [004]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Value [6121]		Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) (3-year average) [210041]	%	46.4	Estimated value [E]		%	44.1	Estimated value [E]		%	39	Estimated value [E]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Albania [008]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Value [6121]		Prevalence of undernourishment (percent) (3-year average) [210041]	%	4.9	Estimated value [E]		%	6	Estimated value [E]		%	7.4	Estimated value [E]

Show and Download Data

Data Notes

- Any data values that include a symbol (ie. <2.5 for Algeria 2018-2022) need to be changed to NULL.
- For the table MalnMinNutrRequired, we need to make sure Sahrawi has values (use Mali as a proxy). So, only Kosovo is allowed to have nulls.
- MalnPop% has year ranges; only include the mid-year in the range. (ie. If 2000-2002, change it to 2001).
- While exporting data, make sure to select "Null Values" under Output Formatting Options. This is to ensure that all countries are included even if there is no data available.

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This page was last edited on 16 October 2025, at 15:04.