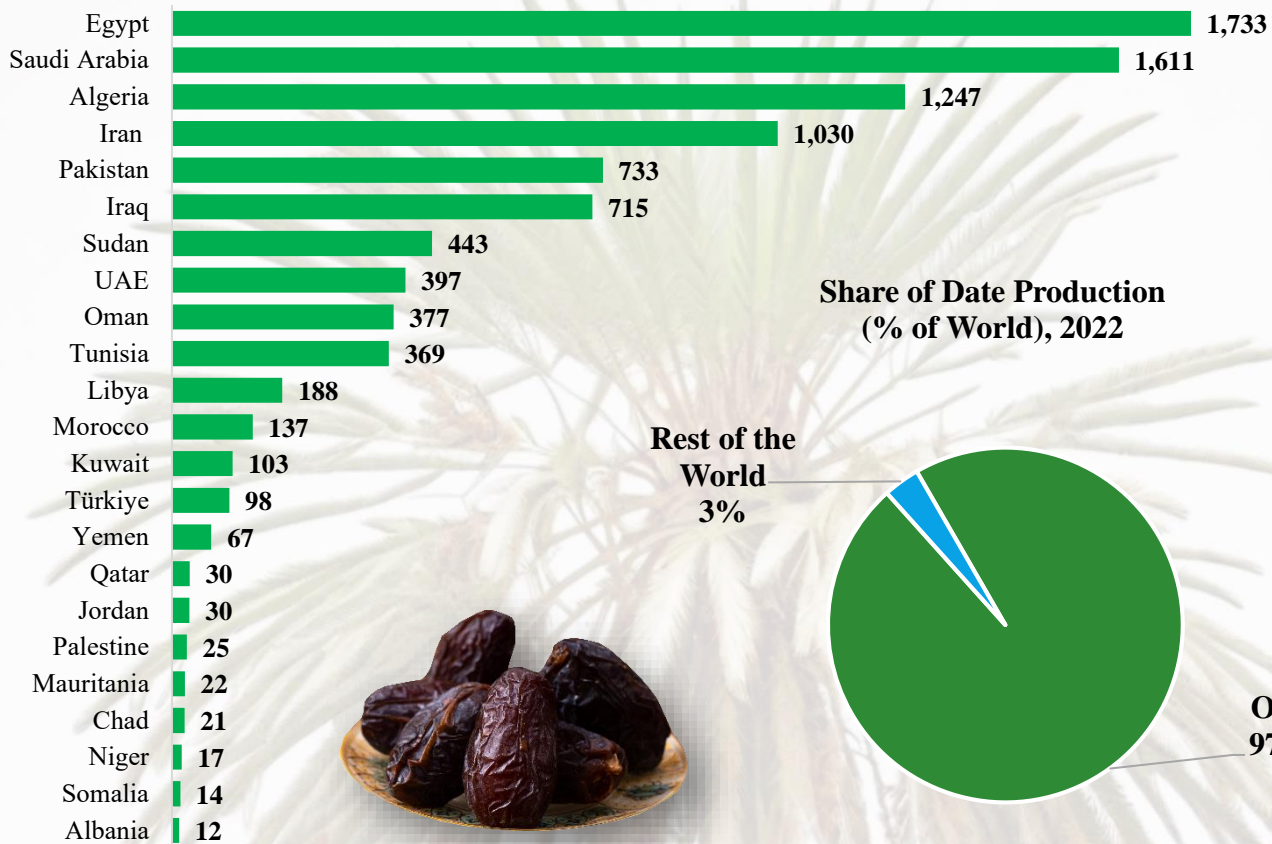


Date Production by OIC Countries, Total in Metric Tons (Thousand), 2022



Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 20/03/2024 from the Food and Agriculture Organization Database.

- Dates, with origins tracing back to **3000 BC**, not only have a rich historical significance but also continue to be a crucial agricultural commodity, supporting the livelihoods of millions globally.
- Date cultivation is deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of many societies, symbolizing hospitality and prosperity.
- With over **200** varieties, dates come in diverse shapes and flavours. Among the most well-known and savoured are Ajwa, Sukkary, Medjool, and Mabroom.
- Dates are utilized in various forms beyond the fruit itself, including the production of date syrup (pekmez), date sugar, and date paste.
- In **2022**, the OIC countries produced **97%** of the world's dates, underscoring the importance of this sector to the member states.
- **Egypt** stood out as the leading date producer worldwide, with a production of **1.7** million metric tons, accounting for **18%** of the global date production, which was **9.75** million metric tons in **2022**.
- Producing **1.6** million metric tons of dates in **2022**, **Saudi Arabia** ranks as the second-highest date producer globally.
- **Algeria** and **Iran** are among the **top four OIC member countries**, with production exceeding more than **1** million metric tons of dates.
- The aggregate production in these **four OIC countries** represents **58%** of the total global date production, highlighting the crucial role these countries hold in the worldwide date market.
- **Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, UAE, Oman, and Tunisia**, among the **top ten OIC date producers**, collectively contribute **3** million metric tons to the global date industry.
- The export of dates represents a significant economic opportunity, with countries exporting billions of dollars worth of dates annually. This not only boosts local economies but also promotes international trade, reflecting the global demand for this versatile fruit.
- The cultivation of dates in arid and semi-arid regions by OIC countries demonstrates the strategic importance of date production in achieving food security, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and adapting to climate challenges. This reinforces the need for continued investment and research in date cultivation to enhance yield, quality, and environmental sustainability.