



### [Israel Blocks Palestinian Agricultural Exports Through Neighboring Jordan](#)

Israel has announced a new initiative to blockade Palestinian agricultural exports and prevent them from reaching Jordan in the aftermath of a proposed peace deal unveiled by the Trump administration. Trade between Palestine and Jordan is worth roughly \$100 million per year, and includes items such as vegetables, fruits, olives, olive oil, and dates. Jordan also provides exports of Palestinian products to countries around the world, which Israel is attempting to stifle. The Israeli authorities have defended the new measure, saying it is retaliation for a Palestinian boycott of Israeli goods such as fruit juices, mineral water, and agricultural products.

The move to ban Palestinian exports came as a months-long trade dispute between Israel and Palestine simmers on. The Palestinian Authority initially restricted the import of Israeli cattle for three months, which Israel used as justification for the new policy. Additionally, Palestinians boycott many Israeli goods as retaliation against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. Israel's Defense Minister, Naftali Bennett, sanctioned the blockade and said that as soon as the Palestinian Authority lifted the ban on Israeli cattle, Palestine would be permitted to export its products to Jordan once again. Bennett also said that economic sanctions on Palestine were tiered, and would continue to increase for as long as the cattle dispute went unresolved. Israel controls the borders of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which gives them extreme leverage over the Palestinian economy. Sanctions and blockades enacted by Israel can have a devastating effect on Palestine's economy, which is already fragile.

Palestine has recently begun trying to import cattle independently of Israel, which is why the decision was initially taken to ban Israeli cattle imports. Currently, Palestine imports around 140,000 Israeli calves annually, which amounts to about \$289 million. By seeking avenues outside of Israel to import cattle, the Palestinian Authority is attempting to become more economically independent, even as the Israeli government steps up its efforts to control every aspect of the Palestinian economy.

Israel views the decision to ban the import of its cattle as a breach of the economic agreements signed between itself and Palestine in the 1994 Oslo Accords. In addition to blockading Palestinian agricultural exports, Israel also revoked trade licenses of Palestinian business owners, and refused to allow independently imported cattle into Gaza.

In addition to disagreement over trade, Israeli and Palestinian officials have been at odds over the recently released peace plan proposed by the Trump administration. The Palestinian Authority considers the deal to be a non-starter, and protests by Palestinians have led to casualties inflicted by Israeli security forces.