

Global Food Security: Where Does Jordan Stand?

One interesting publication of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) is the “Global Food Security Index”. Based on the definition of food security, “the state in which people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for a healthy and active life”, the Index considers three categories: 1. Affordability. 2. Availability. 3. Quality. Based on these categories, the EIU constructs the Index using 34 indicators for 113 countries.

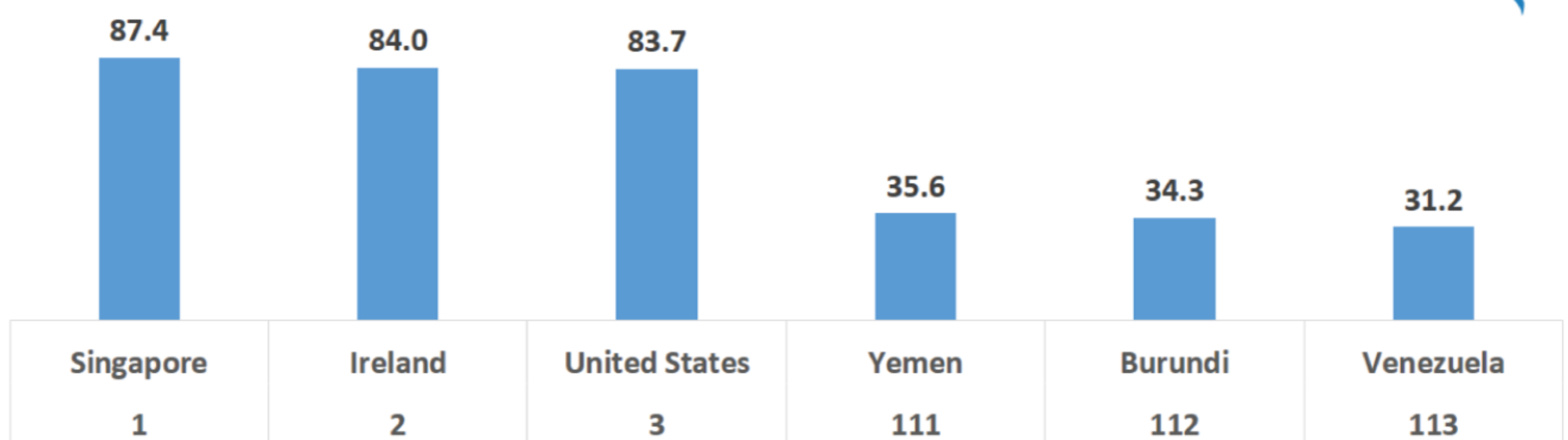
Affordability: The indicators measure the ability of consumers to buy food, vulnerability to price shocks, and the presence of programs and policies to support them when shocks occur.

Availability: The indicators measure the sufficiency of the national food supply, risk of supply disruption, national capacity to disseminate food, and research effort to increase agricultural output.

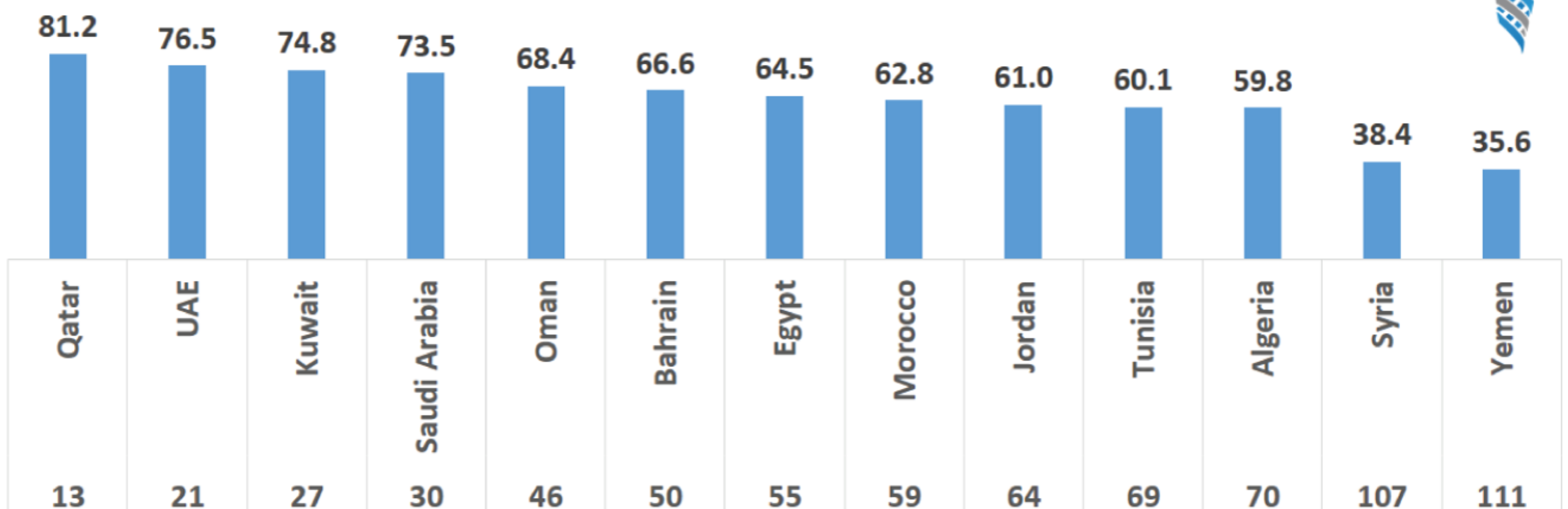
Quality & Safety: The indicators measure the variety and nutritional quality of average diets, and safety of food.

Based on the 2019 Food Security Index, the top three countries in the World are Singapore, Ireland, and the United States. The bottom country in terms of global food security is Venezuela. With a score of 81.2, Qatar tops the Arab countries. Jordan, with a score of 61 out of 100, ranks 64th.

Food Security Index 2019 Rankings (Top & Bottom 3 Countries)



Food Security Index 2019 Rankings (Arab Countries)



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To improve food security in Jordan, relevant stakeholders should look at the indicators in which the scores are low. These include access to financing for farmers (50/100), public expenditure on agricultural R&D (1.2/100), rail infrastructure (0/100), irrigation infrastructure (10.1/100), national dietary guidelines (0/100), national nutrition plan or strategy (0/100), dietary availability of zinc (39.6/100), and protein quality (37/100).