



# MARKET SNAPSHOT: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
Americas Region

The Dominican Republic is the 86th most populous country globally and ranks 13th in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, its population exceeds 11 million, with 1% annual growth. Economically, the Dominican Republic holds the 10th position in Latin America and is the largest in the Caribbean.

U.S. Soy has collaborated in the Dominican Republic since 1990.

## MARKET STATS

Soy Usage by Sector FY2023 (est. growth by 2035/40)

<b>Animal Protein (total)</b>	548,605 MT (40%)	<b>Cattle &amp; Sheep</b>	375 MT (500%)
<b>Pork</b>	70,280 MT (100%)	<b>Aquaculture</b>	1,823 MT (10%)
<b>Poultry</b>	477,650 MT (45%)	<b>Other</b>	300 MT (60%)

MT=million metric tons

## COUNTRY STATS

**POPULATION (2023):**

11.2 million (Urbanization 84.4%)

**POPULATION (2050):**

14.75 million (Urbanization 85%)

**GDP (2023):**

USD \$113.64 billion

**AVG. ECONOMIC GROWTH (2017-2022):**

2.97%

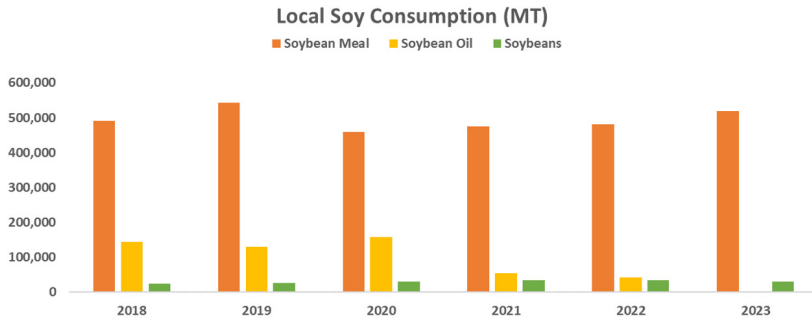
**PER CAPITA INCOME (2022):**

USD \$10,122

## SOY MARKET SIZE MY 2022/23

Product	Total Volume	U.S. Soy Volume	U.S. Soy % Share
Soy Complex (whole soybean, meal, oil)	718,605 MT	550,428 MT	77%
Whole Bean	29,626 MT	29,626 MT	100%
Soybean Meal	518,967 MT	518,967 MT	100%
Soybean Oil	170,000 MT	1,823 MT	1%

TMT=thousand metric tons, MT=metric tons



Note: U.S. market share for whole soybeans and soybean meal is 100% in the Dominican Republic. The soybean oil market is shared with Argentina and Bolivia. Cost, availability and logistics determine purchasing decisions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data and the General Directorate of Customs of the Dominican Republic.

## STRENGTHS

- Continuous investment in research and development by U.S. Soy producers ensures the introduction of improved soybean varieties, technologies and sustainable practices, further enhancing the appeal and competitiveness of U.S. Soy in the Dominican market.
- Adoption of advanced agricultural practices in the cultivation of U.S. soybeans ensures high yields and quality, contributing to customers' trust in the product.
- The soybean supply chain from the U.S. to the Dominican Republic is well-established and efficient, ensuring timely deliveries and consistent availability and contributing to the market's dependence on U.S. Soy.
- The credibility of U.S. Soy as a sustainable and environmentally responsible choice is significantly bolstered by the transparent and rigorous certification processes linked to the Sustainable U.S. Soy (SUSS) logo. Notably, clients in the region recognize the importance of sustainability, and seven licenses for the use of the SUSS logo have been approved.
- The country has seen a notable increase in poultry production, starting at about 16 million broilers in 2020 and currently averaging 21 million.
- Since its implementation in 2006/07, the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) with Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua has strengthened U.S. trade with Central America.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing awareness from health-conscious consumers creates an opportunity to introduce a range of soy-based health and wellness products, such as fortified beverages, snacks and supplements, aligning with the growing demand for nutritionally rich and sustainable options in the market.
- Leveraging the recovered tourism industry is an opportunity to showcase and integrate soy-based products into the culinary experiences offered to tourists. This could include collaboration with local chefs to incorporate soy into traditional Dominican dishes, enhancing the offerings for tourists seeking unique and diverse culinary experiences.
- The focus on improving phytosanitary regulations creates an opportunity for U.S. Soy producers to collaborate with local authorities and stakeholders in ensuring compliance.
- There is the opportunity for additional companies to obtain licenses for the SUSS logo.

## CHALLENGES

- Inefficient transportation and storage infrastructure may pose challenges to soybean distribution and utilization. Addressing these issues is crucial to ensure timely and reliable delivery of soy products to various regions within the Dominican Republic.
- While small steps have been taken toward sustainable practices, aligning national policies to strongly support and incentivize sustainable agriculture is critical. Developing and implementing comprehensive legislation that encourages and rewards sustainable practices across the agricultural sector is essential.
- Beyond the impact of African Swine Fever, which has reduced the sow inventory from 110,000 to 62,000, other biosecurity challenges may be affecting the soy and livestock industries. Robust biosecurity measures and disease management strategies are essential to safeguarding agricultural production and preventing the spread of disease.

### Sources:

- Estimations from industry contacts
- USDA FAS
- Dominican Republic Directorate General of Customs
- World Bank
- Dominican Republic Ministry of Agriculture

