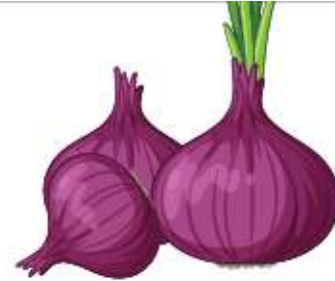


Onion Production in Pakistan



Total area
0.14 million Hectares

A total area of 0.14 million hectares in Pakistan was recorded to be utilized to farm onions in the year 2022-23.

Province wise:



Sindh
47,855 Hectares



Punjab
33,730 Hectares



Balochistan
41,727 Hectares



KP
12,188 Hectares

Expenditure on Onions:

According to the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) of 2018-19, an average household spends Rs. 202.68 on onions in a month

0.55%



Household Expenditure

1.51%



Food Expenditure

15.95%

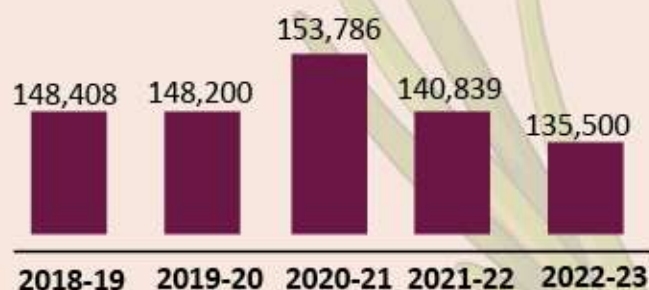


Vegetables Expenditure

Area Under Production:

While the total area cultivated for onions has decreased overall by 12,908 hectares as compared to the reported figure of 0.15 million hectares in 2018-19, the land allocation towards onion farming has fluctuated in the past five years.

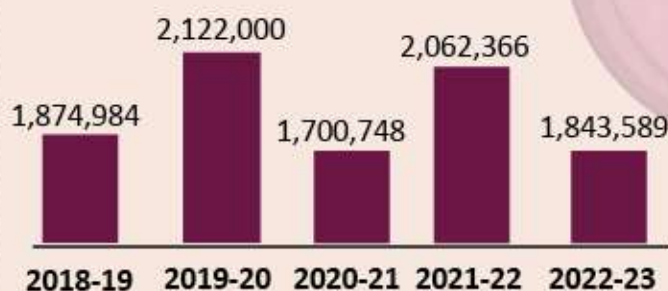
(Area Under Production in Hectares)



Onion Production:

While onion production in Pakistan has slightly fluctuated in the past five years, the overall production has slightly decreased by 31,445 tonnes, from the 1.87 million tonnes reportedly produced at the national level in 2018-19.

(Total Production in tonnes)



Sindh followed very closely by Balochistan lead in onion production in 2022-23, with 1 in 2 onions consumed in Pakistan coming from these two provinces- Gallup Pakistan Analysis of MNFS&R and PBS data

(Islamabad), 4th June, 2024

A recent comprehensive analysis conducted by Gallup Pakistan on the “*Fruits, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan, 2022-23*” by the Economic Wing at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), and the Household Integrated Economic Survey 2018-19 data by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has unveiled noteworthy trends in the production and expenditure towards various fruits & vegetables. The analysis, covering data from the past five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 goes in depth into the national and provincial land allocation, towards the cultivation of food crops, their production, and average household expenditures across wealth quintiles towards their consumption.

This press release focuses on Onions, and is part of a series by Gallup Pakistan which will be looking into the above-mentioned details for various fruits and vegetables, which are staples in the country to identify current trends to inform future resource allocation and policy decisions on the matter.

The previous press release in this series focusing on Tomatoes can be accessed [here](#).

Rojah Sheikh, a Research Executive at Gallup Pakistan says, “It is very important for an agrarian country such as ourselves to be making *informed* policy decisions when it comes to agriculture and food security. Through the data driven insights explored in this series we will be able to achieve some transparency in the production and consumption patterns for various fruits and vegetables common in Pakistan, and we hope that this in turn encourages dialogue on how to utilize our resources best so that our economy may reap the most benefits.”

Key Findings:

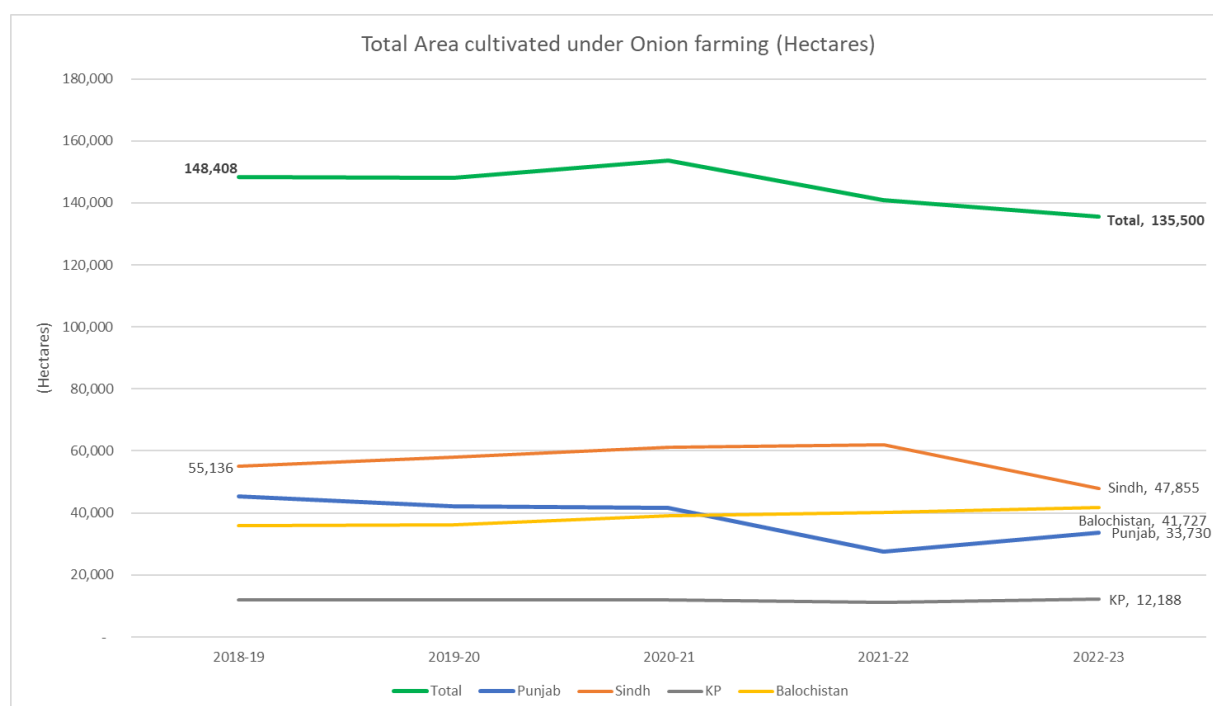
1. A total area of 0.14 million hectares in Pakistan was recorded to be utilized to farm onions in the year 2022-23.
2. While the total area cultivated for onions has decreased overall by 12,908 hectares as compared to the reported figure of 0.15 million hectares in 2018-19, the land allocation towards onion farming has fluctuated in the past five years.
3. Sindh makes up the largest chunk across provinces with 47,855 hectares, closely followed by Balochistan utilizing 41,727 hectares in 2022-23, and Punjab allocating 33,730 hectares for the purpose. In comparison, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa allocated 12,188 hectares towards onion farming during 2022-23, in continuation of its trend.
4. In terms of proportion, Sindh continually makes up the largest segment, accounting for 37.2% of the total land allocated towards onion farming in Pakistan in 2018-19, having now marginally decreased to 35.3% in 2022-23.
5. A total of 1.84 million tonnes of onions were produced in Pakistan in the year 2022-23.
6. While onion production in Pakistan has slightly fluctuated in the past five years, the overall production has slightly decreased by 31,445 tonnes, from the 1.87 million tonnes reportedly produced at the national level in 2018-19.
7. Across provinces, Sindh reports the highest production of onions, with 0.65 million tonnes produced in 2022-23, followed by 0.51 million tonnes produced in Balochistan, 0.46 million tonnes produced in Punjab, and 0.22 million tonnes produced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2022-23.
8. Sindh continues to produce the highest proportion of onions accounting for 35.1% of the national total in 2022-23, followed by 27.6% by Balochistan, and 25.1% by Punjab.
9. In 2018-19, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only made up 1.2% of the national onion production, however, we see that this has changed in 2022-23, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now making up 12.2%.
10. According to the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) of 2018-19, an average household spends Rs. 202.68 on onions in a month. This makes up 0.55% of their overall household expenditure, 1.51% of their total expenditure on food, and 15.95% of their total expenditure on vegetables.
11. Onions are a staple ingredient across numerous dishes of local cuisines, and as such make up such a significant portion of the expenditure on vegetables. The data suggests that the average household spends more in a month on onions than it does on tomatoes, which is another staple.
12. Across wealth quintiles, we can observe that the proportional expense on onions decreases as wealth increases. This is true across proportional household expenditure, food expenditure, as well as fruit expenditure.

1. Area Under Production:

A total area of 0.14 million hectares in Pakistan was recorded to be utilized to farm onions in the year 2022-23. While the total area cultivated for onions has decreased overall by 12,908 hectares as compared to the reported figure of 0.15 million hectares in 2018-19, the land allocation towards onion farming has fluctuated in the past five years. The shift in total land allocation at the national level is most evidently mimicked by the land allocation towards onion farming in Punjab during the past five years.

Land allocation towards onion farming is somewhat evenly spread across the four provinces, with only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa making up a smaller portion than others. compared to other fruits we've covered in the previous releases in this series. Sindh makes up the largest chunk across provinces with 47,855 hectares, closely followed by Balochistan utilizing 41,727 hectares in 2022-23, and Punjab allocating 33,730 hectares for the purpose. In comparison, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa allocated 12,188 hectares towards onion farming during 2022-23, in continuation of its trend.

Figure 1: Total area cultivated under Onion farms, 2018-2023



Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, "Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23", Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

While land allocated to onion farming has decreased nationally, this is not true across all provinces. Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, land allocated towards onion farming has decreased in Punjab and Sindh by 11,736 hectares and 7,281 hectares respectively, while it has increased in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 5,895 hectares and 214 hectares, respectively.

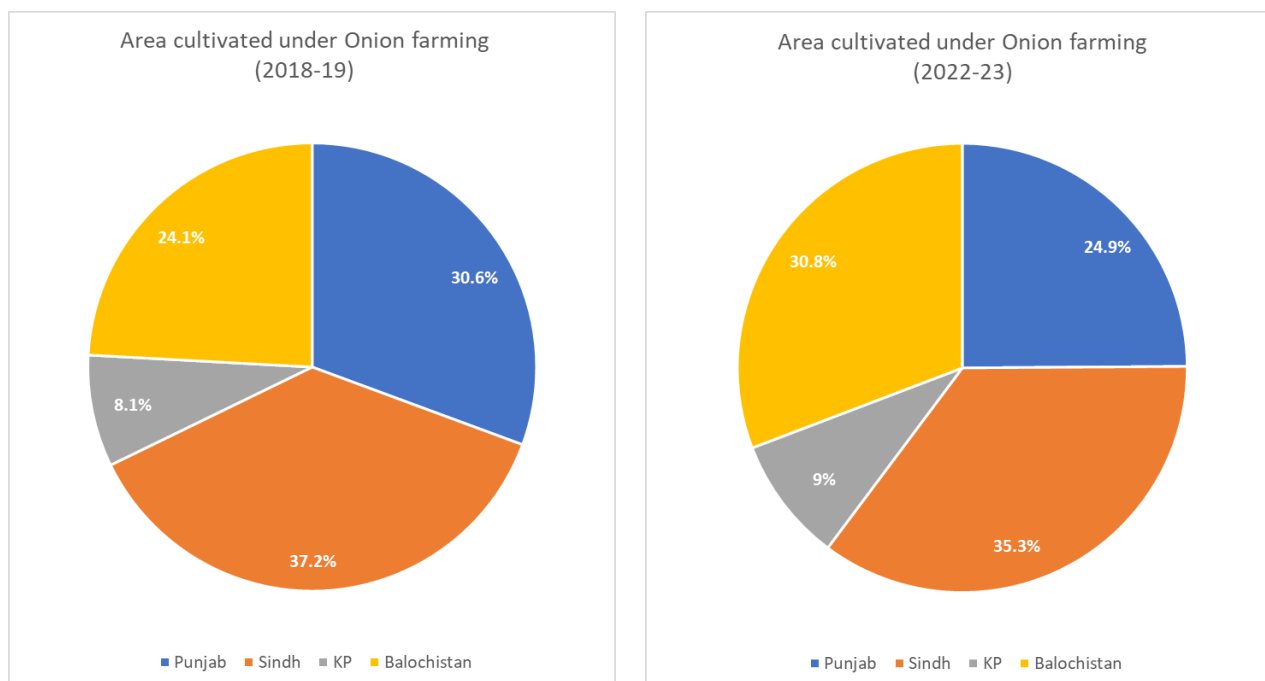
Figure 2: Area Under Condiment – Onion (Hectares)

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Pakistan	Total	148,408	148,200	153,786	140,839	135,500
Punjab	Total	45,466	42,271	41,682	27,397	33,730
Sindh	Total	55,136	57,901	61,199	61,964	47,855
KP	Total	11,974	11,898	11,842	11,296	12,188
Balochistan	Total	35,832	36,130	39,063	40,182	41,727

Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, “Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23”, Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

In terms of proportion, Sindh continually makes up the largest segment, accounting for 37.2% of the total land allocated towards onion farming in Pakistan in 2018-19, having now marginally decreased to 35.3% in 2022-23. Since 2021-22 Balochistan has surpassed Punjab in terms of the land allocated towards onion farming making up 30.8% of the total in 2022-23. Previously Punjab made up the second largest segment with 30.6% in 2018-19, but that has now decreased to 24.9% in 2022-23. Meanwhile land allocation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has grown in both absolute as well as relative terms, making up 9% of land allocated towards onion farming in Pakistan in 2022-23.

Figure 3: Area cultivated under Onion farms across provinces in 2018-19 vs 2022-23



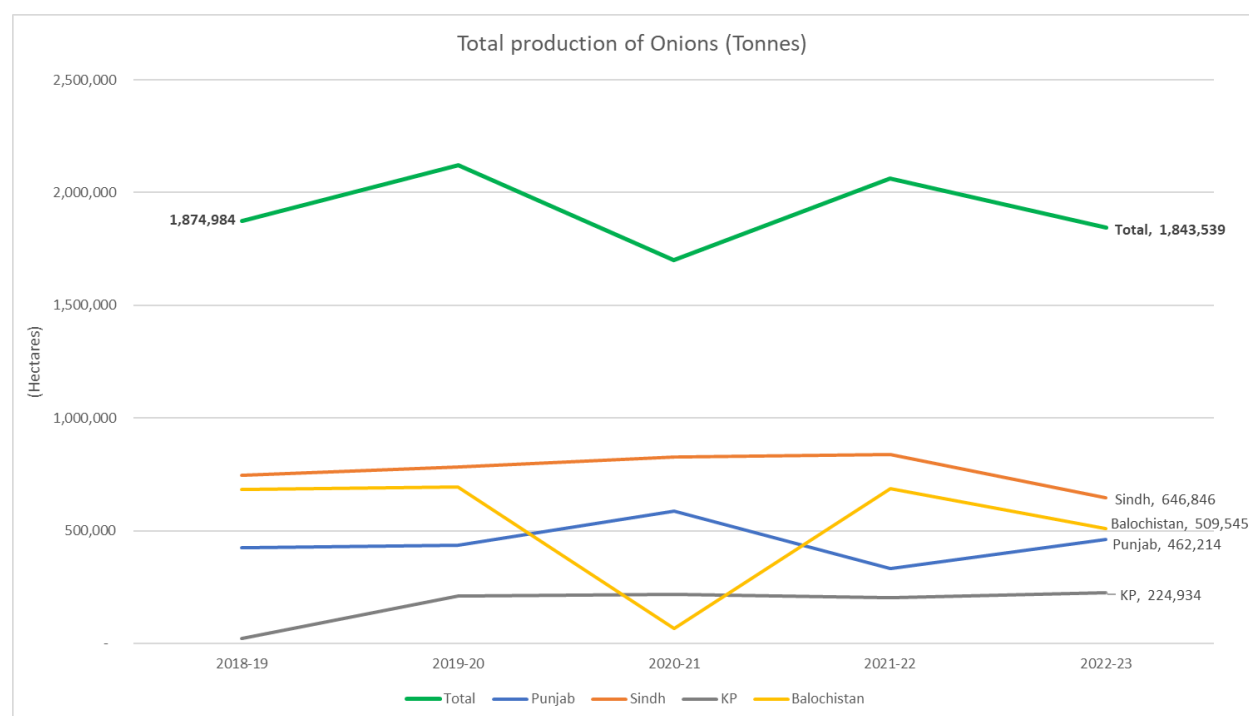
Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, “Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23”, Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

2. Total Production:

A total of 1.84 million tonnes of onions were produced in Pakistan in the year 2022-23. While onion production in Pakistan has slightly fluctuated in the past five years, the overall production has slightly decreased by 31,445 tonnes, from the 1.87 million tonnes reportedly produced at the national level in 2018-19.

Across provinces, Sindh reports the highest production of onions, with 0.65 million tonnes produced in 2022-23, followed by 0.51 million tonnes produced in Balochistan, 0.46 million tonnes produced in Punjab, and 0.22 million tonnes produced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2022-23. Production of onions, much like land allocation towards their farming is relatively evenly spread across provinces, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being the exception and making up a sizeably smaller portion in comparison to the other three.

Figure 4: Total production of Onions, 2018-2023



Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, "Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23", Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

The overall decrease in national production since 2018-19 is largely in part to the significant decreases in onion production Balochistan and Sindh, where total production fell by 0.17 million tonnes and 0.1 million tonnes respectively. However, these decreases, have to a great extent been balanced off by increases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, by 0.2 million tonnes and 0.04 million tonnes respectively. For the recent five years, we can observe that the trend of national production is closely replicated by the trend of production in Balochistan.

In the report by MNFS&R, onions have been mentioned as condiments, and not vegetables.

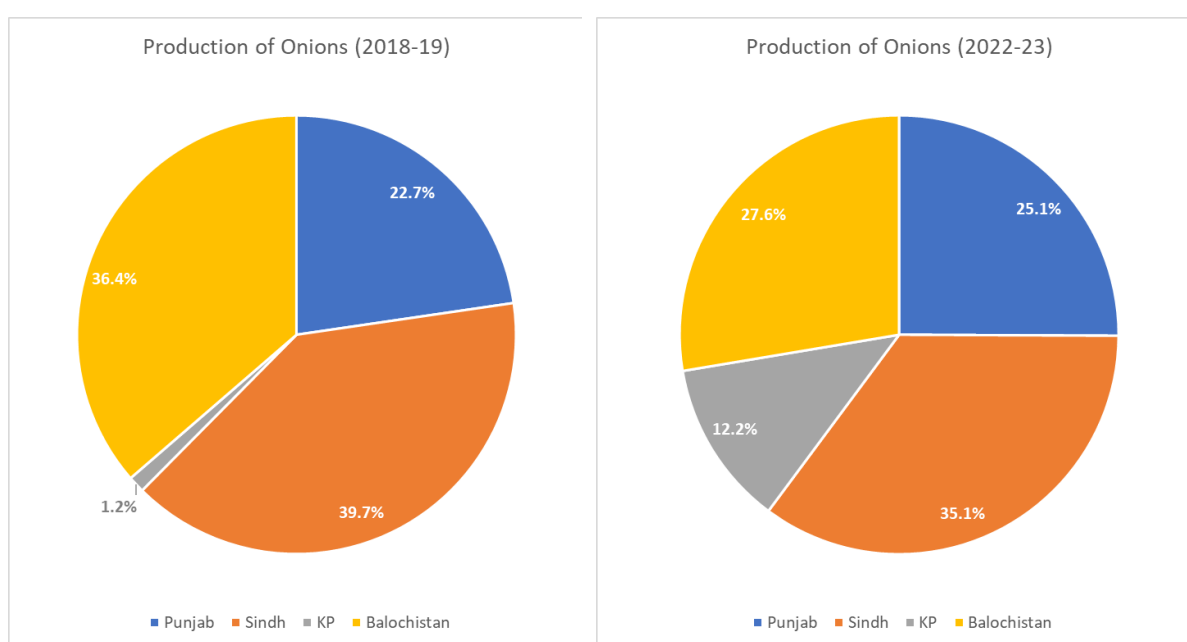
Figure 5: Production of Condiment – Onion (Tonnes)

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Pakistan	Total	1,874,984	2,122,000	1,700,748	2,062,336	1,843,539
Punjab	Total	425,388	436,402	587,563	332,657	462,214
Sindh	Total	745,057	782,142	826,689	837,473	646,846
KP	Total	22,957	209,112	219,279	204,248	224,934
Balochistan	Total	681,582	694,344	67,217	687,958	509,545

Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, “Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23”, Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

In terms of proportion, in 2018-19, production in Sindh and Balochistan was almost evenly split, with Punjab making up nearly a quarter, however, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only making up 1.2% of the national onion production. In 2022-23, however, we see that this has changed, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now making up 12.2%. Sindh continues to produce the highest proportion of onions accounting for 35.1% of the national total in 2022-23, followed by 27.6% by Balochistan, and 25.1% by Punjab.

Figure 6: Production of Onions across provinces in 2018-19 vs 2022-23



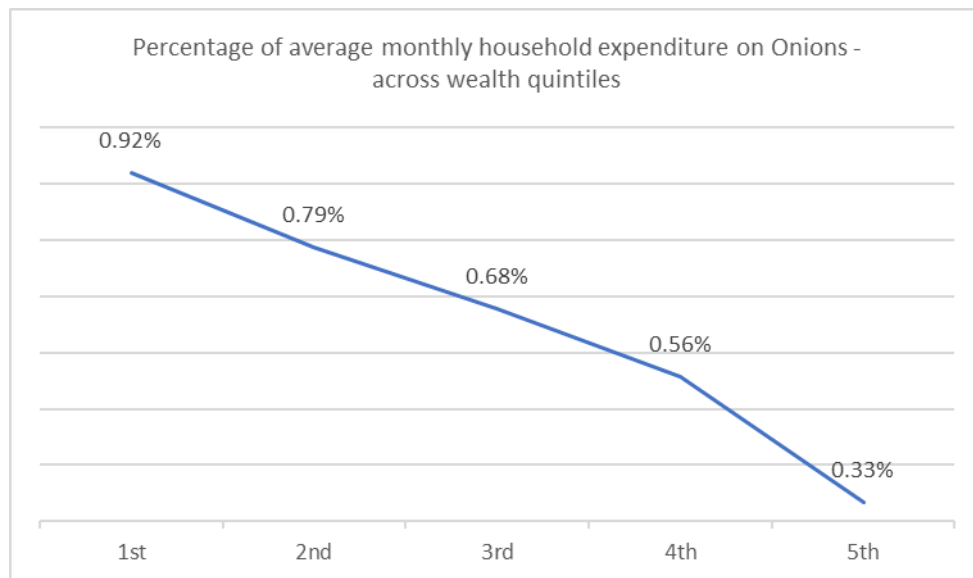
Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, “Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23”, Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

The proportion of land allocation towards onion farming, and onion production by provinces is most closely mirrored in onions, in comparison to other fruits and vegetables covered in our previous issues in this series. It appears that the yield per hectare of onions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has greatly increased in the past five years as a 11% proportional increase in production, was achieved only through 0.9% proportional increase in land allocated for onion farming during that time period.

3. Expenditure as a proportion:

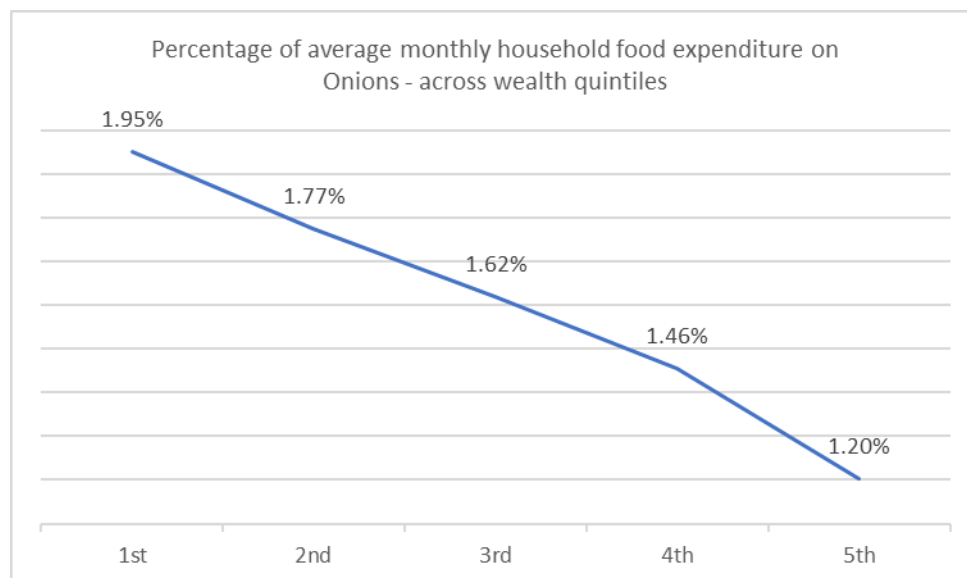
According to the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) of 2018-19, an average household spends Rs. 202.68 on onions in a month. This makes up 0.55% of their overall household expenditure, 1.51% of their total expenditure on food, and 15.95% of their total expenditure on vegetables.

Figure 7: Percentage of average household expenditure on Onions, 2018 HIES



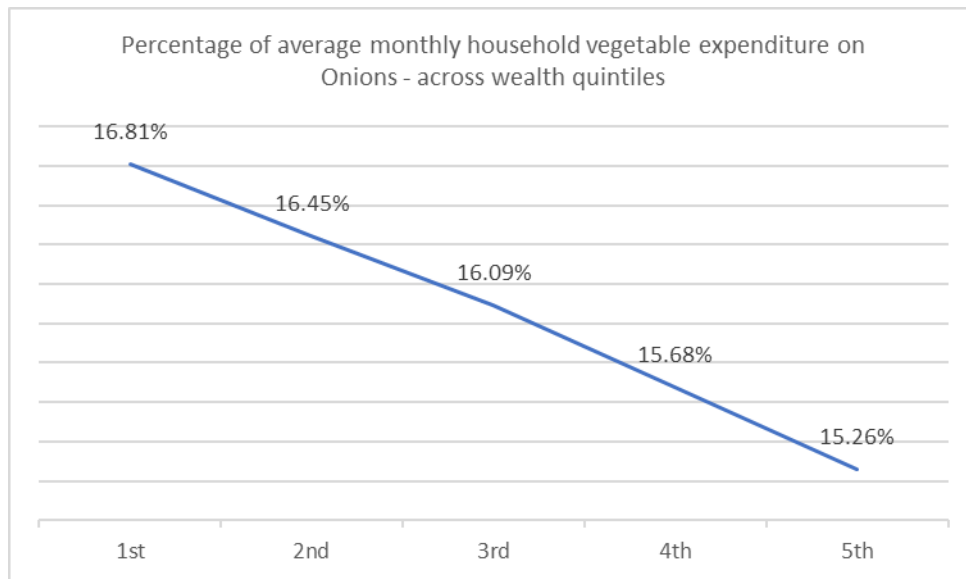
Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, "Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23", Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

Figure 8: Percentage of average household food expenditure on Onions, 2018 HIES



Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, "Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23", Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

Figure 9: Percentage of average household vegetable expenditure on Onions, 2018 HIES



Source: Provincial Crop Reporting Service Centre, "Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23", Ministry of National Food Security & Research <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

Onions are a staple ingredient across numerous dishes of local cuisines, and as such make up such a significant portion of the expenditure on vegetables. However, the data suggests that the average household spends more in a month on onions than it does on tomatoes, which is another staple.

Across wealth quintiles, we can observe that the proportional expense on onions decreases as wealth increases. This is true across proportional household expenditure, food expenditure, as well as vegetable expenditure.

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand both the Big Data Analysis project as well as this study of national level data. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director of the Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Methodology:

The data for this analysis is based on the records within the “*Fruit, Vegetables, and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan, 2022-23*” by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, and the Household Integrated Economic Surveys (HIES) data from 2018-19, by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The “*Fruit, Vegetables, and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan 2022-23*” by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, can be accessed at: <https://mnfsr.gov.pk/>

The Household Integrated Economic Surveys (HIES) data, can be accessed on the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics website at: <https://www.pbs.gov.pk/publication/household-integrated-economic-survey-hies-2018-19>

For more survey data, see our website <http://www.gallup.com.pk/> or contact Gallup Pakistan at caf@gallup.com.pk

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