

Saudi's date market experiences economic boom

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The central date market in Madinah experiences a significant economic boom during the rhatb (semi-ripe dates) harvest season, which begins in the first quarter of June each year. The region is home to 29,000 palm farms that supply this thriving market.

What makes the date market in Madinah unique is the wide variety of rhatb types available. Madinah and its governorates are renowned for their diverse selection, including Rotana, Rabbi, Heiliah, and other unique varieties.

High temperatures influence the ripening speed of rhatb, triggering the harvesting process, which lasts until the end of July. Subsequently, date harvesting begins and continues until the end of August, after which farmers display their dates in the market. Some of the most famous types on display include Ajwa dates, Safawi dates, Amber dates, Medjool dates, Barni dates, and various other varieties, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

The Madinah branch of the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture actively monitors the central date market to maintain quality standards. They oversee technical and health requirements to ensure that the products meet the necessary standards. These efforts contribute to the growth of national date exports and emphasize the importance of the palm and date sector in agriculture. These actions align with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 to contribute to the development and advancement of local products.