

COMMENTARY

As at 15 August 2020, the Czech Statistical Office processed yield and harvest estimates for grain maize, potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower seed, soya, green and silage maize; and improved production estimates for basic cereals (wheat, rye, barley, oats and triticale), field peas for grain, rape, and gherkins. Production estimations for particular crops are based on their sowing areas and the course of weather during the vegetation period as well as during the harvest period.

According to these improved estimates, the harvest of basic cereals is awaited to reach 7 354 thous. tonnes with an average yield of 5.88 t/ha. It increased by 310 thous. tonnes (by 4.4%) compared to the July estimation and by 337 thous. tonnes (by 4.8%) in comparison with the final harvest figures for 2019.

The first harvest estimations in 2020 were carried out for grain maize, other potatoes, seed potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower seed, soya, and green and silage maize. The harvest of grain maize is expected to be 636 thous. tonnes with its supposed yield accounting for 8.08 t/ha; it means an increase by 15 thous. tonnes (by 2.5%) compared to 2019. The harvest of potatoes (including the July estimation of early potatoes) should reach 671 thous. tonnes at an assumed average yield of 28.10 t/ha (27.19 t/ha in 2019); i.e. by 48 thous. tonnes (by 7.8%) more compared to the 2019 final harvest. The harvest of sugar beet is expected to reach 3 811 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 150 thous. tonnes (+4.1%) more than in 2019. Its supposed yield of 63.86 t/ha increased by 2.02 t/ha (by 3.3%) in comparison with 2019. The harvest of sunflower seed should be 30 thous. tonnes, which is by 741 tonnes (by 2.6%) more than in 2019. Its yield is expected to be 2.62 t/ha (2.44 ha in 2019). The harvest estimate for soya is 34 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 6 thous. tonnes (by 20.9%) more than in 2019; its expected yield is 2.38 t/ha. The harvest of green and silage maize should increase as well to 8 541 thous. tonnes; i.e. by 298 thous. tonnes (by 3.6%) more than in the previous year. Its supposed yield accounting for 36.39 t/ha is also higher by 0.91 t/ha (by 2.6%).

Rape production is estimated to be 1 241 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 7.3% more compared to 2019 results. Its yield is supposed to reach 3.37 t/ha.