

COMMENTARY

As at 15 August 2023, the Czech Statistical Office processed yield and harvest estimates for grain maize, potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower seed, soya, green maize and lucerne; and improved production estimates for basic cereals (wheat, rye, barley, oats, and triticale), field peas for grain, and rape seed. Production estimations for particular crops are based on areas under particular crops 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 7 370 thous. tonnes with an average yield of 5.90 t/ha. It increased by 247 thous. tonnes (by 3.5%) compared to the July estimation and it decreased by 200 thous. tonnes (by 2.6%) in comparison with the final harvest figures for 2022.

The first harvest estimations in 2023 were carried out for grain maize, other potatoes, seed potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower seed, soya, green maize, and lucerne. The harvest of grain maize is expected to be 535 thous. tonnes with its supposed yield accounting for 7.26 t/ha; it means a decrease by 105 thous. tonnes (by 16.4%) compared to 2022. The harvest of potatoes (including the July estimation of early potatoes) should reach 522 thous. tonnes at an assumed average yield of 24.93 t/ha (30.22 t/ha in 2022); i.e. by 133 thous. tonnes (by 20.3%) less compared to the 2022 final harvest. The harvest of sugar beet is expected to reach 3 635 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 420 thous. tonnes (-10.4%) less than in 2022. Its supposed yield of 61.82 t/ha decreased by 7.81 t/ha (by 11.2%) in comparison with 2022. The harvest of sunflower seed should be 50 thous. tonnes, which is by 10 thous. tonnes (by 16.2%) less than in 2022. Its yield is expected to be 2.53 t/ha (2.65 t/ha in 2022). The harvest estimate for soya is 60 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 5 thous. tonnes (by 8.0%) less than in 2022; its expected yield is 2.28 t/ha. The harvest of green maize should decrease to 6 308 thous. tonnes; i.e. by 1 307 thous. tonnes (by 17.2%) less than in the previous year. Its supposed yield accounting for 29.53 t/ha is also lower by 6.42 t/ha (by 17.9%).

Rape seed production is estimated to be 1 274 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 9.2% more compared to 2022 results. Its yield is supposed to reach 3.35 t/ha.