

3. Commentary

The acreage of vineyards in the Czech Republic according to the results of the census conducted in 2009, which describe the situation at the end of the economical year 2008/2009, is 16,290 ha. This area is cultivated by 10,919 subjects; both natural and legal persons. It implies an average acreage of a vineyard of 1.49 ha. Regarding regional distribution, Moravia dominates with 15,704 ha; while in Bohemia, only 586 ha are located.

Subjects with acreage above 30 ha (41.1 % of the total acreage in Bohemia and 59.7 % in Moravia) prevail others, comparing growers by size classes in both Bohemia and Moravia.

Vine is planted usually for grape must production, namely on the area of 16,143 ha in the Czech Republic. Grape must varieties are mostly intended for quality wine production. Only 7.2 % of the grape must vine area is used for a production of other than quality wine. Table grape varieties are grown only on a negligible area of 0.6 % of the total vineyard area. Only a minimal number of responding units uses the grape must varieties for production of wine spirits. Usual yields vary from 30 to 70 q/ha (q = 100 kg) on 56 % of the vineyard area.

White grape must varieties prevail black ones with approximately two thirds of total grape must varieties acreage. The most frequently planted white varieties are Müller-Thurgau (15 %), Grüner Veltliner (14 %), White Riesling (11 %), and Welschriesling (11 %). Among black varieties, St. Laurent (23 %) and Blaufränkisch (20 %) prevail.

Age classes of vineyards older than 20 years predominate with 45 % of the total acreage. The second most widespread group contains vineyards in age range from 3 to 9 years; it means vines in production, not overmature ones. Composition of varieties in this category confirms the trend of increasing share of black varieties at newly established plantations.

Economical value of the commodity grapes (used for wine production) in 2008 was only 1,022 bn CZK (in basic prices); it represents less than 1 percent (0.87 %) of the value of the total agricultural production. Although the share of wine production both out of the total agricultural production and the total acreage of agricultural area is negligible, especially Moravian wine production is an important phenomenon in our country.

Czech statistics has followed data on wine production since 1920, when total production area of vineyards and their total yield were surveyed. In 1920, the production area under vines was 5,689 ha and estimated production of grapes reached 24 thousand tonnes. In this period, the statistics showed a wine consumption of 5 litres per head. At the end of calendar year 2009, the acreage (with area under vines > 0,1 ha) was 16,089 ha and production of harvested grapes reached 68,737 tonnes. The consumption was 16.5 litres per head. Approximately two thirds of the wine consumed in the Czech Republic are imported, in 2009 especially from Italy (39 %), Hungary (13 %) and Spain (13 %).