

## COMMENTARY

As at 15 August 2018, the Czech Statistical Office processed yield and harvest estimates for grain maize, potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower for 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 6 622 thous. tonnes with an average yield of 5.30 t/ha. It increased by 277 thous. tonnes (by 4.4%) compared to July estimation and decreased by 238 thous. tonnes (by 3.5%) in comparison with final harvest figures for 2017.

The first harvest estimations in 2018 were carried out for grain maize, other potatoes, seed potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower for seed, soya and green and silage maize. The harvest of grain maize is expected to be 528 thous. tonnes with its supposed yield accounting for 6.43 t/ha; it means a decrease by 60 thous. tonnes (by 10.1%) compared to 2017. The harvest of potatoes (including July estimation of early potatoes) should reach 581 thous. tonnes at an assumed average yield of 25.36 t/ha (29.42 t/ha in 2017); i.e. by 108 thous. tonnes (-15.7%) less compared to the 2017 final harvest. The harvest of sugar beet is expected to reach 3 463 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 937 thous. tonnes (-21.3%) less than in 2017. Its supposed yield of 53.47 t/ha decreased by 13.09 t/ha (-19.7%) in comparison with 2017. The harvest of sunflower for seed should be 45 thous. tonnes, which is by 8 thous. tonnes (by 14.9%) less than in 2017. Its yield is expected to be 2.24 t/ha (2.46 ha in 2017). The harvest estimate for soya is also lower: 31 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 6 thous. tonnes (by 16.2%) less than in 2017; its expected yield is 2.04 ha. The harvest of green and silage maize should decrease as well to 7 004 thous. tonnes; i.e. by 773 thous. tonnes (by 9.9%) less than in the previous year. Its supposed yield accounting for 31.29 t/ha is also by 3.55 t/ha (by 10.2%) lower.

Rape production is estimated to be 1 407 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 22.8% more compared to 2017 results. Its yield is supposed to reach 3.42 t/ha.