## Methodological notes

The Orchard Survey is conducted every five years in all European Union member countries that reach given threshold levels. The aim of the survey is to obtain at long-term scale comparable data concerning spectrum of varieties, age structure and planting intensity of main species of fruit trees. The data obtained serve as a source for defining the production potential of orchards in particular member countries and in the whole EU.

The first orchard survey in the Czech Republic was conducted in 2007. Since 2012, it is based on Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 concerning European statistics on permanent crops and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 357/79 and Directive 2001/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (hereafter Regulation on permanent crops). The Orchard Survey is published in the Programme of Statistical Surveys for the year 2017. All statistical surveys are defined by Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended.

The Orchard Survey 2017 covered all fruit producers registered in the Farm Register with at least 0.20 ha of fruit orchards as at 1 May 2017 whose production was entirely or mainly intended for the market.

In the same way as in the previous survey, two data sources were used: (i) the Orchard Register maintained by the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture and (ii) a standard statistical survey organized by the Czech Statistical Office.

Survey parameters for apple trees, pear trees, peach trees and apricot trees were set down in accordance with Regulation on permanent crops. Apple and pear trees were broken down by varieties, peach and apricot trees were divided into groups by their harvest date – earliness (see below). Numberof trees and planted area broken down by tree age and by density of plantation was surveyed in particular groups. Moreover,number of trees or bushes and plantation area of other species frequently planted in the Czech Republic (cherry trees, sour cherry trees, plum trees, walnuts, hazelnuts, chestnuts, almonds, currants, gooseberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries) were surveyed. Plum trees include trees of Prunus domestica and Prunus insititia (common plums, bullaces, damsons, mirabelle plums etc.).

The classification of the responding units according to their regions was based on regions where prevailing part of their area was located.

# Government Regulation No. 307/2014 Coll., on the details of registration of land use based on user relations, introduced a significant change of the definition of the orchard. This change led to reclassification of some of the orchards as other types of crops. This fact significantly affected the comparability with the results of the previous investigations.

Definition of a permanent crop - orchard: an orchard means a utilised agricultural area planted with a permanent crop, evenly and continuously planted with fruit trees with a minimum density of 100 viable individuals per hectare of a parcel or with fruit bushes with a minimum density of 800 viable individuals per hectare of a parcel. Rootstocks or propagation stands cannot be considered fruit trees. This utilised agricultural area shall include associated handling space, which shall not exceed 12 meters at the beginning and at the end of the rows and a width of one interrow, at a maximum width of 8 meters, along the rows on both sides of the orchard and which does not form a part of the path. The maximum allowed width of the interrow is 12 meters for fruit trees and 5 meters for bushes.

The publication consists of two parts. The first one includes data for the Czech Republic; the second part presents data broken down by region.





**SYMBOLS USED IN THE TABLES**

- no cases registered

. data unavailable or unreliable

i. d. individual data