

COMMENTARY

As at 15 August 2019, 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 7 093 thous. tonnes with an average yield of 5.57 t/ha. It increased by 106 thous. tonnes (by 1.5%) compared to July estimation and by 624 thous. tonnes (by 9.7%) in comparison with final harvest figures for 2018.

The first harvest estimations in 2019 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 533 thous. tonnes with its supposed yield accounting for 7.03 t/ha; it means an increase by 44 thous. tonnes (by 9.0%) compared to 2018. The harvest of potatoes (including July estimation of early potatoes) should reach 577 thous. tonnes at an assumed average yield of 25.21 t/ha (25.50 t/ha in 2018); i.e. by 6 thous. tonnes (by 1.1%) less compared to the 2018 final harvest. The harvest of sugar beet is expected to reach 3 493 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 232 thous. tonnes (-6.2%) less than in 2018. Its supposed yield of 58.99 t/ha increased by 1.48 t/ha (by 2.6%) in comparison with 2018. The harvest of sunflower for seed should be 30 thous. tonnes, which is by 18 thous. tonnes (by 37.9%) less than in 2018. Its yield is expected to be 2.50 t/ha (2.36 ha in 2018). The harvest estimate for soya is 27 thous. tonnes, i.e. by one thousand tonnes (by 5.0%) more than in 2018; its expected yield is 2.17 t/ha. The harvest of green and silage maize should increase as well to 7 583 thous. tonnes; i.e. by 896 thous. tonnes (by 13.4%) more than in the previous year. Its supposed yield accounting for 32.78 t/ha is also higher by 2.94 t/ha (by 9.8%).

Rape production is estimated to be 1 161 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 17.7% less compared to 2018 results. Its yield is supposed to reach 3.06 t/ha.