Commentary

Estimated economic results of Czech agriculture for the year 2018 represents a profit in amount 16.5 billion CZK. Compared to the last year it decreased by 20.0%. The level of entrepreneurial income in 2018 has been the third lowest since 2011.

According to preliminary results for 2018 the output of the agricultural industry at basic current prices reached 135 130.2 million CZK, of which 75 129.7 million CZK for crop output, 51 696.3 million CZK for animal output, 3 654.0 million CZK for agricultural services output, and 4 650.1 million CZK for inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities.

The crop output increased year-on-year by 1.3%. Most cereals (with the exception of rye, oats and other cereals) have dropped the harvest; the lowest decrease was for grain maize (-16.8%). Long-lasting droughts led to a lower harvest of poppy (-31.8%), forage plants total (-15.9%), of which fodder maize (-14.0%), potatoes (-15.3%), vegetables (-17.7%), hops (-24.6%), sugar beet (-15.3%). On the other hand, there was a higher harvest of fruits including strawberries (+50.5%), grapes (+30.0%), rape (+23.1%) and mustard (+ 22.0%). The increase in cereal prices also led to an increase in the year-on-year output index; with the exception of grain maize, where the y-o-y fall in output was 9.2%. Excluding rape, sunflower, forage peas and different types of fruit, which have fallen in price, prices for other crop commodities have increased.

The value of livestock output recorded against 2017 a minimum change (+0.5%) The higher year-on-year index of output is shown by all commodities except for pigs and eggs. Both in pigs and in eggs increased production, but the price index had a reverse trend, the price of eggs dropped by 9.7% and in pigs by 15.8%. In cattle, sheep, goats, poultry and milk, higher production and a higher annual price index were recorded. The production includes subsidies for hops, potatoes, cattle, sheep, goats and milk. The volume of subsidies on products decreased year-on-year by 8.1%.

The intermediate consumption figure shows an increase (+5.3%), the price index has increased for all items. Intermediate consumption was constituted mainly by of feed (36.1%) and energy and lubricant consumption (15.5%). Its share of agricultural production (excluding subsidies on products) represented 70.7%.

In the output of the agricultural industry at basic current prices in 2018 the share of crop output prevailed (55.6%) over animal output (38.3%). The agricultural work supplied to the other unit, that is the agricultural services output was 2.7% and non-agricultural secondary activities inseparable in which renewable energy production was also included accounted for 3.4%.

The crop output included mainly cereals (39.1%), industrial crops (26.6%) and forage plants (15.6%); milk (51.8%), pigs (15.4%) and cattle (14.6%) dominated in the animal output.

The agricultural output at constant prices of 2000 reached 106 738.5 million CZK in 2018; it decreased by 1.1% in comparison with 2017. For the crop output an decrease by 4.9% to 53 948.4 million CZK was recorded. The value of animal output increased by 2.9% to 47 399,9 million CZK, y-o-y. The value of output at constant prices is directly influenced by the volume of production.

Estimated volume of the subsidies paid amounted to 32 919.7 million CZK, the annual increase was 1.8%. The single area payment (SAPS) was 11 776.9 million CZK, and the Greening Grant amounting to CZK 6 438.0 million CZK.

Compared to last year the compensation of employees increased (+4.4%), while the estimated number of employees converted to full-time employment remained unchanged y-o-y.