14 October 2022

Potato harvest will be lower this year compared to the last year

Harvest estimates - September 2022

According to the latest estimate of this year’s harvest as at 15 September, the harvest of cereals after inclusion of maize is almost on the same level as in the previous year (−0.6%). In the year-on-year comparison, the following were harvested in a higher amount: rape (+12.7%), soya (+27.9%), and sunflower (+8.9%), whereas estimated poppy harvest is almost by a third lower, year-on-year (−30.8%). The expected harvest of potatoes and sugar beet is also lower (−8.6% and −11.2%, respectively) as well as the expected harvest of green and silage maize (−9.3%).

*“This year, the total harvest of cereals including grain maize exceeds the five-year average by six percent. It exceeds 8 million tonnes and is similar to that of the previous year. Thanks to an increase in the sowing areas, higher amounts of basic cereals were harvested, whereas the production of maize will be lower. Similarly as in the previous years, production of cereals is approximately by a third higher than its long-term domestic consumption,”* Radek Matějka, Director of the Agricultural and Forestry, Industrial, Construction, and Energy Statistics Department of the CZSO, says.

Based on the latest estimate of this year’s harvest as at 15 September, the production of **cereals including grain maize** is estimated to be 8 167 thousand tonnes, almost the same as in the previous year (−0.6%). The estimate confirms year-on-year higher production of **basic cereals** in the amount of 7 563 thousand tonnes (+4.7%), whereas harvest of **grain maize** in the amount of 604 thousand tonnes is considerably lower (−38.9%).

*“This year’s potato harvest is complicated by rainy weather. The production will be by about nine percent lower compared to the previous year. It is due to a decrease in the sowing areas as well as lower per hectare yield caused by dry weather during the vegetation period,”* Dagmar Lhotská from the Agricultural and Forestry Statistics Unit of the CZSO stated.

Expected production of root crops will be lower, year-on-year. The **potato** harvest is estimated in the amount of 614 thousand tonnes (−8.6%) and **sugar beet** in the amount of 3 682 thousand tonnes (−11.2%).

The **rape** production was successful this year; thanks to its year-on-year higher yields, 1 156 thousand tonnes were harvested (+12.7%). As a result of a considerable increase in their sowing areas, **soya** production (66 thousand tonnes, +27.9%) and **sunflower** production (57 thousand tonnes, +8.9%) will increase. On the other hand, **poppy** production in the amount of 21 thousand tonnes is by a third lower due to the slump in its sowing areas (−30.8%).

Expected production of fodder crops is lower than the last year’s one; **green and silage maize** will be harvested in the amount of 7 646 thousand tonnes (−9.3%), **lucerne** in the amount of 479 thousand tonnes (−17.9%), and **red clover** in the amount of 345 thousand tonnes (−15.3%).

For more detailed information on estimates of crop harvests see [the Supplementary information to the News Release on Harvest estimates – September](https://www.czso.cz/documents/11350/165278727/askl101422_komentar.pdf).

*Notes:*

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Data source: statistical survey of Harvest Estimates of Crops (Zem V9) and questionnaire on Areas under Crops (Osev 3-01)

End of data collection: 16 September 2022

End of data processing: 13 October 2022

Related publications: Harvest Estimates – Operative Report as at 15 September 2022

 <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/harvest-estimates-operative-report-as-at-15-september-2022>

 Areas under Crops Survey as at 31 May 2022

 [*Areas under Crops Survey - as at 31 May 2022*](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/areas-under-crops-survey-as-at-31-may-2022)

*Update procedure: Final data on the production of agricultural crops for 2022 will be published by the Czech Statistical Office on 23 February 2023*

Annexes:

Table 1 Yield and production estimates (selected crops, in tonnes per hectare and tonnes, indices)

Table 2 Production estimates of selected crops, comparison with a five-year and a ten-year average