

NEWS RELEASE

4 July 2023

Production of basic cereals expected to be slightly below average**Supplementary information to the News Release on Harvest estimates – June 2023**

Based on the first estimates of this year's harvest as at 10 June, it is expected that the production of basic cereals will be 6 955 thous. tonnes. The estimated harvest is by 615 thous. tonnes lower, year-on-year (-8.1%), and it is also lower when compared to the five-year average of harvests (-2.2%). All types of basic cereals are expected to decrease in their production. Expected production of rape in the amount of 1 223 thous. tonnes is by 57 thous. tonnes higher, year-on-year (+4.9%), thanks to the expansion of its sowing area and it is comparable to the five-year average (+1.9%).

The production of **basic cereals** (excluding grain maize) estimated to be in the amount of 6 955 thous. tonnes is by 615 thous. tonnes lower (-8.1%) than the last year's above-average production. The size of the sowing areas decreased by 50 thous. hectares to 1 249 thous. hectares (-3.9%). The estimated per hectare yield of 5.57 t/ha is by 4.4% lower, year-on-year. The estimated production of basic cereals is by 2.2% lower than the five-year average of harvests (the area -1.0%; the per hectare yield -1.2%).

The most frequently grown crop on fields in the Czech Republic is still **winter common wheat**, which covers almost a third of the total area under crops this year (32.2%). Its estimated harvest of 4 639 thous. tonnes is by 300 thous. tonnes lower, y-o-y (-6.1%), due to its smaller sowing area of 779 thous. hectares (-2.8%) as well as to a lower per hectare yield of 5.96 t/ha (-3.3%). The **spring common wheat** is estimated to be harvested in the amount of 154 thousand tonnes, considerably less compared to the previous year (-38.3%). The slump is mainly owing to the sowing area of 35 thous. hectares, which is by a third smaller (-33.2%) and also to a lower per hectare yield of 4.37 t/ha (-7.6%).

This year, the production estimate also includes, for the first time, **durum wheat**. From the sowing area of 3 thous. hectares, 19 thous. tonnes will be harvested with a per hectare yield of 5.34 t/ha.

The **spring barley**, the second most frequently sown cereal (the first one is winter common wheat), will be harvested in the amount of 957 thous. tonnes, by 15.0% less compared to the previous year. The reasons are a decrease in its sowing area to 192 thous. hectares (-9.2%) as well as a lower expected per hectare yield of 4.98 t/ha (-6.4%).

The estimated harvest of **winter barley** of 718 thous. tonnes is by 4.4% lower, year-on-year, despite an increase in its sowing area to 129 thous. hectares (+5.0%) due to a lower per hectare yield of 5.58 t/ha (-8.9%).

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The expected production of **rye** in the amount of 119 thous. tonnes is by 7.5% lower, year-on-year. The sowing area expanded to 25 thous. hectares (+2.2%), however, its per hectare yield of 4.81 t/ha is by 9.5% lower.

Due to a decrease in its sowing area to 43 thous. hectares (-4.8%) as well as a decrease in its per hectare yield to 3.42 t/ha (-8.1%), the estimated production of **oats** in the amount of 147 thous. tonnes is by 12.5% lower, year-on-year.

Despite an expansion of its sowing area to 42 thous. hectares (+3.6%), the estimated production of **triticale** in the amount of 203 thous. tonnes is by 2.5% lower due to a decrease of its per hectare yield to 4.82 t/ha (-5.8%).

Rape remains to be the second most frequently sown crop (the first one is winter common wheat); it is sown on 15.7% of the total area under crops. This year's sowing area of rape expanded by 36 thous. hectares to 380 thous. hectares (+10.5%). Despite a decrease in its per hectare yield to 3.22 tonnes per hectare (-5.1%), 1 223 thous. tonnes of rape are to be harvested; in the year-on-year comparison, it is going to be by 57 thous. tonnes more (+4.9%). The expected production of rape is comparable to the five-year average (production +1.9%; the area +2.9%; the per hectare yield -1.0%).

Winter rape seed is considerably prevailing, it is grown on 380 thous. hectares and its estimated production is 1 223 thous. tonnes with a per hectare yield of 3.22 t/ha. The area under **spring rape seed** is much smaller, it covers 312 hectares and 729 tonnes are to be harvested.

This year, farmers are farming 3 534 thous. hectares of **agricultural land**, by 4 thous. hectares more compared to the previous year. The **area under crops** (sowing area) of 2 416 thous. hectares is by 40 thousand hectares smaller, year-on-year (-1.6%). Due to inclusion of non-productive areas, the area of **fallow land** has significantly increased to 108 thousand hectares (+83 thous. hectares). **Permanent grassland** is registered this year on 968 thous. hectares (-34 thous. hectares; -3.4%). The areas of **vineyards** of 17 thous. hectares and of **hop gardens** of 6 thous. hectares are approximately on the same level as in the previous year. The area of **orchards** decreased by a fifth to 12 thous. hectares (-19.2%).

Four most frequently grown crops, i.e. **wheat, rape, barley, and maize** cover almost three quarters of the total sowing area (74.8%).

The area sown with **pulses and protein crops for grain** of 52 thous. hectares increased by 13.8%, year-on-year. The sowing area of **field peas** expanded to 47 thous. hectares (+15.6%) and of **broad and field beans** to 2 thous. hectares (+32.5%), whereas the area under **sweet lupins** of 2 thous. hectares is by 18.2% smaller.

The area sown with **potatoes** in the amount of 21 thousand hectares is by 734 hectares smaller compared to the previous year (-3.4%) and it is the smallest in the survey history. On the other hand, the area under **sugar beet** slightly expanded, year-on-year, to 59 thous. hectares (+1.0%).

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From the total area under **oil seed crops** of 470 thous. hectares, the biggest proportion is covered by **rape** (80.8%). It is followed by other most frequent oil seed crops, **soya** and **poppy** (both on 26 thous. hectares). This year, the sowing area of soya decreased by 7.1% and the area under poppy remains the same as last year (+0.5%). The sowing area of **mustard seed** of 16 thous. hectares is by 20.0% higher, year-on-year.

Arable fodder crops are grown on 455 thousand hectares (-2.6%). The total area sown with **maize** (both grain maize and green maize) of 287 thousand hectares is almost on the same level as last year (-1.7%).

The area designated for growing of **vegetables** decreased by 282 hectares, year-on-year (-2.4%) to 11 thousand hectares.

More detailed information on estimated per hectare yields and production of selected crops in the Czech Republic as a whole and broken down by Region are given in the related publication: Harvest Estimates – Operative Report as at 10 June 2023. Information on the area and structure of sowing areas is released in the publication: Areas under Crops Survey as at 31 May 2023. Refined (updated) estimates of production of cereals and rape supplemented by an estimate of production of other crops (early potatoes, field peas for grain, and poppy) will be published by the Czech Statistical Office on 11 August 2023.

For information on the methodology of crop production statistics see:
<https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/crop-production-statistics-methodology>

Notes:

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