26 October 2023

Potato harvest will be by a fifth lower this year compared to the last year

Harvest estimates – September 2023

According to the latest estimate of this year’s harvest as at 30 September, the harvest of cereals after inclusion of grain maize is lower, year-on-year (−3.4%). Rape was harvested in a higher amount, year-on-year (+10.9%), whereas the estimated harvest of other oil seed crops is lower, soya by 6.3%, sunflower by 15.2%, and poppy by 18.8%. The expected harvest of potatoes and sugar beet is also lower, year-on-year (−18.6% and −7.2%, respectively) as well as the expected harvest of green maize (−14.3%).

The total harvest of **cereals including grain maize** in the amount of 7 930 thousand tonnes is by 3.4% lower, year-on-year (y-o-y); however, it exceeds the five-year average by 1.3%. The estimate confirms production of **basic cereals** in the amount of 7 403 thousand tonnes (−2.2% compared to the last year, which was above average); harvest of **grain maize** in the amount of 526 thousand tonnes is considerably lower (−17.7%).

*“The last estimate confirmed the second highest harvest of basic cereals for the last five years. However, this year’s crop production with a later harvest date was adversely affected by dry weather during the last phase of the vegetation period. Potato harvest will be about a fifth lower compared to the previous year; maize, soya, poppy, sunflower, and fodder crops will also be harvested in lower amounts,”* Dagmar Lhotská from the Agricultural and Forestry Statistics Unit of the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) stated.

Expected production of root crops will be lower, year-on-year. The **potato** harvest is estimated in the amount of 533 thousand tonnes (−18.6%) and **sugar beet** in the amount of 3 763 thousand tonnes (−7.2%).

*“A negative effect of drought and high temperatures on the harvest of sugar beet was partially eliminated by August rains; sunny and warm September had a positive effect on the sugar content. The per hectare yields of sugar beet will be further specified during the harvest by farmers,”* Renata Vodičková, Head of the Agricultural and Forestry Statistics Unit of the CZSO, added.

This year, 1 293 thousand tonnes of **rape** were harvested (+10.9%) thanks to an increase in the sown areas. On the other hand, production of other oil seed crops will be lower; **soya** production is estimated to be in the amount of 61 thousand tonnes (−6.3%), **sunflower** production 51 thousand tonnes (−15.2%), and **poppy** production in the amount of 18 thousand tonnes (−18.8%).

Expected production of fodder crops is lower than the last year’s one; **green maize** will be harvested in the amount of 6 527 thousand tonnes (−14.3%), **lucerne** in the amount of 407 thousand tonnes (−22.3%), and **clover** in the amount of 303 thousand tonnes (−21.8%).

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/11350/190968954/askl102623komentar.pdf).

*Notes:*

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

End of data collection: 2 October 2023

End of data processing: 25 October 2023

Related publications: Harvest Estimates – Operative Report as at 30 September 2023

 <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/harvest-estimates-operative-report-as-at-30-september-2023>

 Areas under Crops Survey as at 31 May 2023

 [*Areas under Crops Survey - as at 31 May 2023*](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/areas-under-crops-survey-as-at-31-may-2023)

*Update procedure: Final data on the production of agricultural crops for 2023 will be published by the Czech Statistical Office on 23 February 2024*

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