

## COMMENTARY

The total production of individual crops is based on the size of their sowing areas surveyed in May and on changes of growing conditions during the vegetation period.

The production **area of cereals** (including grain maize and other cereals) decreased by 15.9 thous. ha (i.e. by -1.2%), year-on-year, to 1 338.8 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 6 970.9 thous. tonnes and went down by 485.7 thous. tonnes (i.e. by -6.5%) in comparison with 2017. The harvest of spring wheat rose above the 2017 level to 190.5 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 1.8 thous. tonnes (by 1.0%) more than in the previous year. The harvest of rye, which accounted for 120.2 thous. tonnes was also higher than in 2017 (by 10.9 thous. tonnes or by 10.0% more) as well as that of oats, which was 152.7 thous. tonnes (by 10.2 thous. tonnes or by 7.2% more). The harvest of basic cereals was lower than in the previous year. The harvest of wheat amounted to 4 417.8 thous. tonnes (by 300.4 thous. tonnes or by 6.4% less than in 2017). The harvest of barley was 1 606.0 thous. tonnes (by 106.2 thous. tonnes or by 6.2% less than in 2017). The harvest of grain maize accounted for 489.2 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 99.0 thous. tonnes (by 16.8%) less than in 2017.

The **per hectare yield of cereals** was 5.21 tonnes per hectare; it was by 0.30 t/ha (i.e. by 5.4%) lower compared to the previous year. The yields were 5.46 t/ha for winter wheat (5.77 t/ha in 2017), 4.14 t/ha for spring wheat (4.05 t/ha), 4.74 t/ha for rye (4.92 t/ha), 4.98 t/ha for winter barley (5.85 t/ha), 4.93 t/ha for spring barley (4.96 t/ha), 3.56 t/ha for oats (3.23 t/ha), 5.98 t/ha for grain maize (6.84 t/ha), and 4.55 t/ha for triticale (4.89 t/ha).

The production of **pulses** decreased compared to 2017; in total 79.5 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The harvest of field peas was 70.6 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 16.8 thous. tonnes (by 19.2%) less than in the previous year. The total production of **grain crops** (cereals and pulses) reached 7 050.4 thous. tonnes; it went down by 506.8 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 6.7%) in comparison with 2017.

The total harvest of **potatoes** including households' production was 713.3 thous. tonnes; it showed a decrease by 106.4 thous. tonnes (by 13.0%) compared to 2017. The yield of potatoes reached 24.69 t/ha and was by 3.16 t/ha lower than in 2017. The harvest of early potatoes reached 47.3 thous. tonnes. The average per hectare yield of other potatoes was 25.37 t/ha; it means by 3.91 t/ha less than in 2017. Their production reached 609.0 thous. tonnes and was by 110.7 thous. tonnes lower than in the previous year. The **sugar beet** harvest was 3 724.3 thous. tonnes (4 399.5 thous. tonnes in 2017) and its average yield reached 57.51 t/ha; its harvest decreased by 15.3% in comparison with the previous year.

In 2018 the total sowing area of **oil seed crops** increased by 9.8 thous. ha (by 2.0%) to 489.3 thous. ha. Their production was 1 511.3 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 241.9 thous. tonnes higher than in the previous year. The harvest of rape reached 1 410.8 thous. tonnes, while in 2017 it was 1 146.2 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was an increase by 264.5 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 3.43 t/ha; it went up by 0.52 t/ha. The production of poppy seed went down: in total 13.7 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 26.6 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.51 tonnes/ha (in 2017 there were 20.0 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested and its yield was 0.62 t/ha).

The production of annual **fodder crops** on arable land was 7 055.0 thous. tonnes of green forage; i.e. by 1 141.1 thous. tonnes less than in 2017. Out of this amount, 6 687.0 thous. tonnes of green and silage maize were harvested; i.e. by 1 090.0 thous. tonnes less in comparison with the previous year. Harvest of hay from perennial fodder crops was 1 062.4 thous. tonnes, of which red clover harvest reached 346.1 thous. tonnes.

Production of **vegetables** including households' estimates was lower than in 2017; in total 254.5 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (311.3 thous. tonnes in 2017). The harvest of **fruits** (excluding raspberries; including households' production) reached 377.3 thous. tonnes and was higher than in the previous year (252.9 thousand tonnes in 2017).

In total 103.7 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 15.9 thous. ha of **vineyards in production**, i.e. by 23.9 thous. tonnes more than in 2017; their average yield was 6.51 t/ha (5.05 t/ha in 2017). The **hop** production reached 5 126 tonnes; it decreased by 1 670 tonnes (i.e. by 24.6%) compared to 2017. The per hectare yield of hop, accounting for 1.02 t/ha, went down by 0.35 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.