

COMMENTARY

As at 15 August 2024, the Czech Statistical Office processed yield and harvest estimates for grain maize, potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower seed, soya, green maize, and lucerne; and improved production estimates for basic cereals (wheat, rye, barley, oats, and triticale), field peas for grain, and rape seed. Production estimations for particular crops are based on areas under particular crops and the course of weather during the vegetation period as well as during the harvest period.

According to these improved estimates, the harvest of basic cereals is awaited to reach 6 835 thous. tonnes with an average yield of 5.63 t/ha. It increased by 63 thous. tonnes (by 0.9%) compared to the July estimation and it decreased by 644 thous. tonnes (by 8.6%) in comparison with the final harvest figures for 2023.

The first harvest estimations in 2024 were carried out for grain maize, other potatoes, seed potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower seed, soya, green maize, and lucerne. The harvest of grain maize is expected to be 585 thous. tonnes with its supposed yield accounting for 7.76 t/ha; it means an increase by 78 thous. tonnes (by 15.3%) compared to 2023. The harvest of potatoes (including the July estimation of early potatoes) should reach 637 thous. tonnes at an assumed average yield of 28.02 t/ha (27.39 t/ha in 2023); i.e. by 64 thous. tonnes (by 11.1%) more compared to the 2023 final harvest. The harvest of sugar beet is expected to reach 4 350 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 516 thous. tonnes (+13.5%) more than in 2023. Its supposed yield of 65.99 t/ha increased by 0.79 t/ha (by 1.2%) in comparison with 2023. The harvest of sunflower seed should be 44 thous. tonnes, which is by 5 thous. tonnes (by 10.7%) less than in 2023. Its yield is expected to be 2.68 t/ha (2.49 ha in 2023). The harvest estimate for soya is 70 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 7 thous. tonnes (by 10.9%) more than in 2023; its expected yield is 2.48 t/ha. The harvest of green maize should decrease to 8 371 thous. tonnes; i.e. by 1 181 thous. tonnes (by 16.4%) more than in the previous year. Its supposed yield accounting for 35.50 t/ha is also higher by 3.25 t/ha (by 10.1%).

Rape seed production is estimated to be 940 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 28.3% less compared to 2023 results. Its yield is supposed to reach 2.74 t/ha.