

## COMMENTARY

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

The harvested **area of cereals** (including grain maize and other cereals) decreased by 68.8 thous. ha (i.e. by 5.0%), year-on-year, to 1 317.2 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 7 995.5 thous. tonnes and went down by 222.9 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 2.7%) in comparison with 2022. The harvest of winter wheat, winter barley, and triticale was above the 2022 level. The harvest of winter wheat was 5 106.9 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 168.4 thous. tonnes (by 3.4%) more than in the previous year. The harvest of rye was 125.0 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 3.2 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 2.5%) less than in the previous year. The harvest of spring barley accounted for 950.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 175.8 thous. tonnes (by 15.6%) less than in 2022, and that of winter barley reached 813.8 thous. tonnes (by 62.6 thous. tonnes or by 8.3% more than in 2022). The harvest of basic cereals was lower than in the previous year. The harvest of wheat amounted to 5 262.4 thous. tonnes (by 73.7 thous. tonnes or by 1.4% more than in 2022). The harvest of barley was 1 764.2 thous. tonnes (by 113.2 thous. tonnes or by 6.0% more than in 2022). The harvest of grain maize accounted for 507.5 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 131.9 thous. tonnes (by 20.6%) less than in 2022.

The **per hectare yield of cereals** was 6.07 tonnes; it was by 0.14 t/ha (i.e. by 2.4%) higher compared to the previous year. The yields were 6.56 t/ha for winter wheat (6.16 t/ha in 2022), 3.86 t/ha for spring wheat (4.73 t/ha), 5.07 t/ha for rye (5.31 t/ha), 6.32 t/ha for winter barley (6.13 t/ha), 4.94 t/ha for spring barley (5.31 t/ha), 2.76 t/ha for oats (3.72 t/ha), 7.88 t/ha for grain maize (7.95 t/ha), and 4.98 t/ha for triticale (5.12 t/ha).

The production of **pulses and protein crops** decreased compared to 2022; in total 111.7 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The harvest of field peas was 105.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 9.5 thous. tonnes (by 8.2%) less than in the previous year. The total production of **grain crops** (cereals and pulses) reached 8 107.2 thous. tonnes; it went down by 235.2 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 2.8%) in comparison with 2022.

The total harvest of **potatoes** including households' production was 703.1 thous. tonnes; it showed a decrease by 90.1 thous. tonnes (by 11.4%) compared to 2022. The yield of potatoes reached 26.02 t/ha and was by 2.65 t/ha lower than in 2022. The harvest of early potatoes reached 19.1 thous. tonnes. The average per hectare yield of other potatoes was 28.65 tonnes; it means by 2.85 t/ha less than in 2022. Their production reached 499.3 thous. tonnes and was by 83.4 tonnes lower than in the previous year. The harvest of **sugar beet** was 3 833.9 thous. tonnes (4 055.5 thous. tonnes in 2022) and its average yield reached 65.20 t/ha; its harvest decreased by 5.5% in comparison with the previous year.

In 2023, the total area under **oil seed crops** increased by 33.3 thous. ha (by 7.6%) to 470.4 thous. ha. Their production was 1 454.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 125.2 thous. tonnes more than in the previous year. The harvest of rape seed reached 1 309.5 thous. tonnes, while in 2022 it was 1 166.4 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was an increase by 143.1 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 3.45 t/ha; it went up by 0.06 t/ha. The production of poppy seed went down: in total 18.0 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 26.3 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.69 t/ha (in 2022, there were 22.0 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested and its yield was 0.84 t/ha).

The production of **fodder crops** on arable land was 4 320.9 thous. tonnes as hay; i.e. by 289.5 thous. tonnes less than in 2022. Out of this amount, 7 189.8 thous. tonnes of green maize were harvested; i.e. by 425.3 thous. tonnes less in comparison with the previous year. The harvest of clover hay reached 325.6 thous. tonnes and lucerne 442,2 thous. tonnes.

Production of **vegetables** including households' estimates was higher than in 2022; in total 344.0 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (303.0 thous. tonnes in 2022). The harvest of **fruits** (including households' production) reached 278.1 thous. tonnes and was lower than in the previous year (337.3 thousand tonnes in 2022).

In total 77.0 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 16.3 thous. ha of **vineyards in production**, i.e. by 14.8 thous. tonnes less than in 2022; their average yield was 4.73 t/ha (5.59 t/ha in 2022). The **hop** production reached 6 997 tonnes; it increased by 2 545 tonnes (i.e. by 57.2%) compared to 2022. The per hectare yield of hop, accounting for 1.44 t/ha, went up as well by 0.54 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.