

## Ukraine: Big increase in apple, pear, citrus and banana imports

In the past year, Ukraine has increased its fruit imports, mostly those of bananas, citrus fruits, apples and pears. There has also been a dynamic development of Ukrainian fruit and vegetable exports, reports FAMMU / FAPA.

In 2016, Ukraine increased its banana imports by 31.6%, reaching a volume of 192 thousand tonnes. Approximately 82% of the fruit was Ecuadorian, another 10.5% came from Colombia and the rest was imported from Costa Rica.

Last year, there was also a 26% increase of citrus fruit imports, which stood at 292 thousand tonnes. Most of the fruit came from Turkey (about 60% of the supply) as well as from Egypt and Spain.

There was also a marked increase in the volume of apples and pears imported, up 51% compared to the previous year, with a total of 28.9 thousand tonnes. The supply was dominated by Poland, which accounted for approximately 87% of the imports, and the Netherlands.

Moreover, stonefruit imports amounted to about 30 thousand tonnes, with the main products being apricots, peaches and plums. Overall, stonefruit imports grew by about 54% compared to 2015 and the largest suppliers were Greece, Spain and Turkey.

But not only have fruit imports grown in Ukraine; Ukrainian fruit and vegetable exporters have also achieved better results. Most significant is the fourfold increase recorded by cabbage, the threefold increase achieved by sweet peppers, and the doubling of cucumber shipments. There has also been a 50% growth in the volume of tomatoes exported. Most of the growth was achieved by shipments intended for the EU, especially in the case of berries, melons and watermelons.

Moreover, there have been increases in the prices of Ukrainian products compared to the levels recorded last year, with garlic, aubergine and courgette being prominent cases.

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