

## Up to October 2017

### Spain exported 2% less fruit and veg to the UK

Compared to the same period of the previous year, the Spanish export of fresh fruits and vegetables to the United Kingdom fell by 2% in terms of volume and value, totalling 1.18 million tonnes and 1,384 million Euro, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Economy.

There is a strong interdependence between the United Kingdom and Spain in the field of horticultural trade. The British market is a key destination for Spanish fruits and vegetables and is the third biggest export market, after Germany and France.

Spain is also a key supplier for the United Kingdom, topping the ranking worldwide. The UK's imports from around the world in the period from January to September 2017 amounted to 4.8 million tonnes; 3% more than in the same period of 2016. Of these, 2.6 million tonnes came from the EU, with also 3% growth. In terms of value, British imports were worth 5,483 million Euro (-1%), with 3,007 million corresponding to the EU, according to data from the European Statistical Office, Eurostat.

The importance of the British market for the Spanish fruit and vegetable sector entails that the negotiations for Brexit are followed very closely by the sector, grouped in Fepex. This January, the second stage of the negotiations will start, likely marked by the beginning of the debate on the future commercial relationship between both parties, once the exit from the United Kingdom materialises in March 2019. For Fepex, the worst scenario would be for the fruit and vegetable exports from Spain to the United Kingdom to be subject to the rules of the World Trade Organization, which would lead, among other consequences, to competitors from third countries gaining commercial advantages.

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