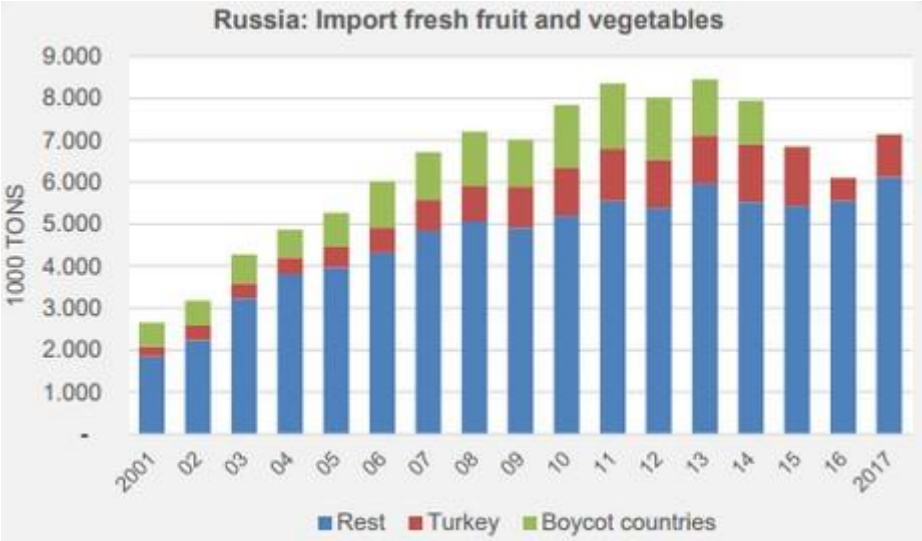


Russian fruit and vegetable imports partially recovered

When compared to the previous year, Russian imports of fresh fruit and vegetables have increased considerably over the last year. A total of 7,1 million tonnes was imported, 17% more than in 2016. It is, however, not nearly as much as in 2013. In the year before the boycott came into force, Russia imported almost 8,5 million tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables.

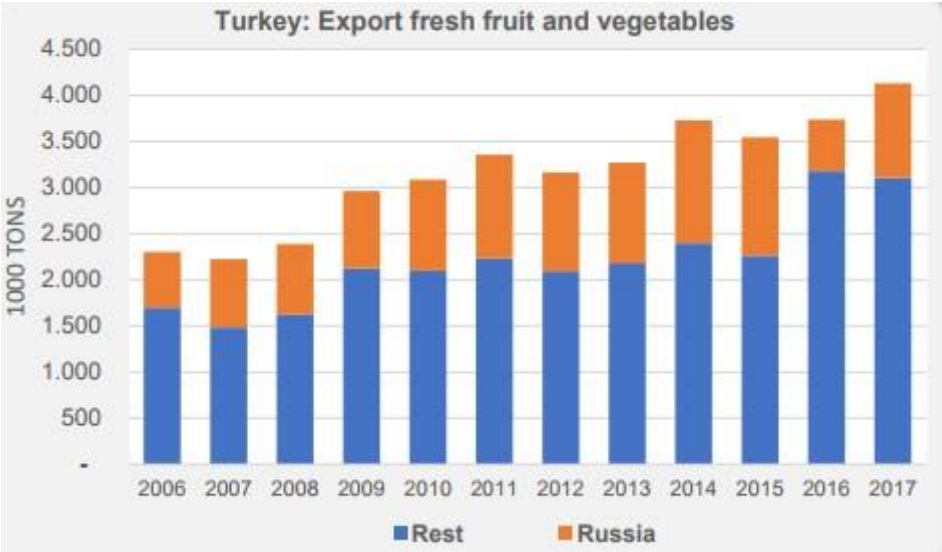
The (partial) recovery of the imports is, firstly, due to the boycott of various Turkish products being lifted in 2017. In addition, a record volume of (Ecuadorian) bananas and products from other countries were imported. The most important of these countries are China, Egypt, Azerbaijan, and Moldavia. The record volume of banana imports is particularly noticeable. Last year, Russia surpassed Germany and is now the second largest importer of bananas in the world, besides the United States. Russia also imported a record volume of mandarins, it's second most popular import product. Russia is by far this product's most important import country. Russia's import volumes of all other regularly consumed products also rose in 2017. This country's import volumes of lesser-known products, such as kaki, garlic, watermelon, celery, avocado, and mangoes, also reached record highs in the past year.



Tomatoes from Turkey again

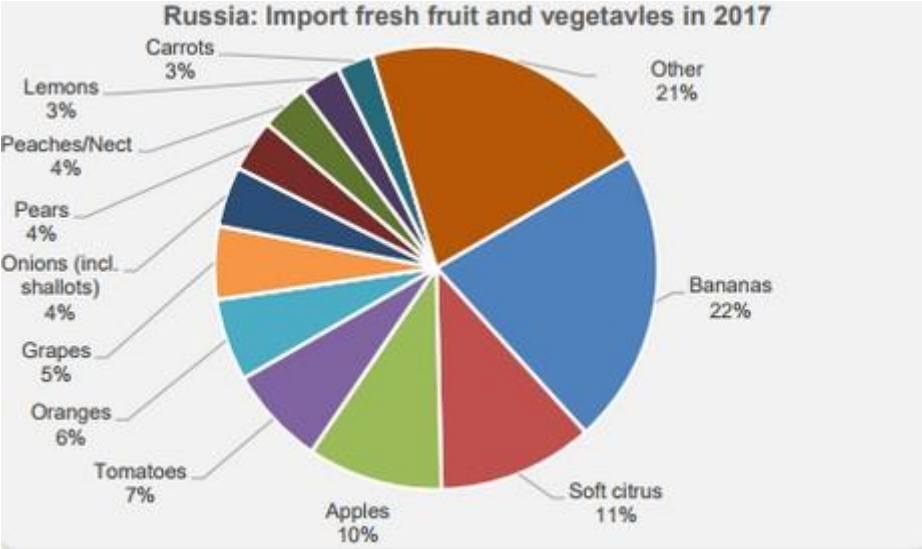
For the time being, the boycott on importing products from the EU and a number of other countries remains in full force. It was imposed in August 2014. However, in 2017, the boycott of many Turkish products, imposed at the beginning of 2016, was lifted. That of tomatoes, which was formerly the most important product, was only lifted in November 2017. This was after the Turkish export season was

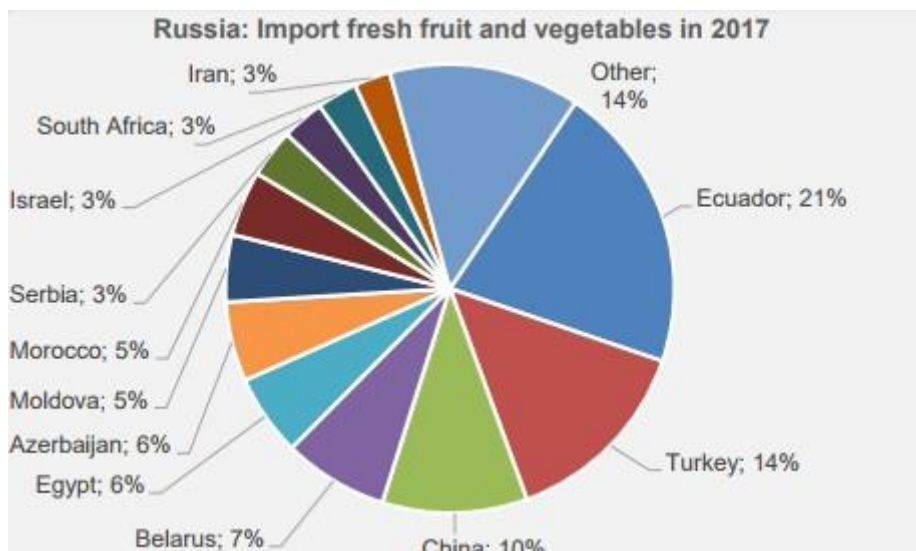
already over. The 2017 exports, therefore, are not that high when compared to the 365 000 tonnes of tomatoes imported from Turkey in 2014.



Mandarins from Turkey

In 2017, mandarins were the most important product exported from Turkey. With 342 000 tonnes, it was considerably more than the preceding years. Grapes, lemons, and oranges are other important products that Russia imported from Turkey. In addition, Turkey also exported a record volume of fresh fruit and vegetables last year. Besides the reinstatement of exports to Russia, this country is exporting more to many other countries than ever. This does not apply to their exports to the most important EU countries. After the 2016 slump (15%), Russia's interest rose again by 25%. This is the same level as ten years ago. At its peak in 2014 and 2015, more than a third of Turkey's exports were destined for Russia.





Trade from Belarus drops further

In 2017, even less use was made of the trade route through Belarus than in the record year of 2015. Then, 1,1 million tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables were transported to Russia via Belarus. In 2016, this had already dropped to 630 000 tonnes and last year to 540 000 tonnes. This is still a reasonable amount. Important products here are pears, tomatoes, peaches, and carrots, apples, cucumber, strawberries, and cabbage.

Tomatoes and apples from China

In 2017, China was the third largest supplier of fresh fruit and vegetables to Russia. Tomatoes and apples were the most important products. A reasonable volume of onions, mandarins, cabbage, grapefruit, bell peppers, carrots, and pears also made their way from China to Russia. When it comes to imports from Egypt, it is first and foremost about oranges. In 2017, more than 220 000 tonnes of this fruit was imported by Russia. Other products from Egypt included onions (more than 1 000 000 tonnes, mandarins (30 000 tonnes) and grapes (16 000 tonnes).

From Azerbaijan, came especially tomatoes (157 000 tonnes), kaki (102 000 tonnes) and apples (70 000 tonnes). Moldavia send mostly apples (230 000 tonnes), grapes (55 000 tonnes) and plums (35 000 tonnes). In 2017, Russia got mainly mandarins (210 000 tonnes) and tomatoes (100 000 tonnes) from Morocco.

Russia: Import apples (in tons)

Source: Russian customs	2014	2015	2016	2017	+/- in %
Total	1.052.865	896.135	678.608	705.554	4%
Moldava	33.116	42.215	112.943	229.317	103%
Serbia	123.790	156.799	193.361	168.122	-13%
China	86.085	83.298	113.228	100.160	-12%
Azerbaijan	43.388	36.523	61.713	66.846	8%
Belarus	178.460	426.487	97.946	38.031	-61%
Chile	18.368	26.513	20.766	27.322	32%
South Africa	4.613	12.962	14.017	16.556	18%
Bosnia	2.146	12.132	12.090	12.977	7%
Argentina	13.293	16.427	9.944	11.071	11%
Macedonia	4.372	22.767	29.667	9.300	-69%
Turkey	1.169	13.820		9.008	+++
New Zealand	10.627	7.834	5.803	8.341	44%
Brazil	738	24.271	2.335	2.353	1%
Armenia	26	669	1.100	1.867	70%
Other	532.677	13.418	3.692	4.283	16%

Russia: Import tomatoes (in tons)

Source: Russian customs	2014	2015	2016	2017	+/- in %
Total	848.718	671.275	464.556	515.863	11%
Azerbaijan	55.207	64.713	98.187	157.003	60%
China	90.831	86.438	86.444	108.793	26%
Morocco	78.156	66.538	126.479	96.872	-23%
Belarus	70.000	93.900	83.927	75.083	-11%
Armenia	123	758	31.448	23.177	-26%
Kazakstan	227	1.557	2.372	12.919	445%
Iran	328	1.903	6.944	9.204	33%
Macedonia	1.303	5.787	5.691	8.125	43%
Uzbekistan	979	1.560	5.170	7.820	51%
Georgia	45	268	2.209	3.010	36%
Senegal	3.105	2.283	3.051	2.591	-15%
Turkmenistan		19	238	2.436	922%
Turkey	365.557	339.027		1.682	+++
Abhazia	8	141	2.187	1.512	-31%
Serbia	227	1.229	1.526	1.365	-11%
Tunesia	358	372	916	1.266	38%
Egypt	544	1.238	3.211	1.168	-64%
Israel	5.236	3.254	1.323	1.000	-24%
Other	181.722	3.545	4.556	1.835	-60%

Full report :

<http://www.fruitandvegetablefacts.com/sites/default/files/Factsheet%20RUSSIA%20import%20fresh%20fruit%20and%20vegetables%202017.pdf>

Lien article : <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/190159/Russian-fruit-and-vegetable-imports-partially-recovered>