



Spain: Value and volume of horticultural exports grew in April

In April, the Spanish export of fresh fruits and vegetables grew by 4% in terms of volume and by 5% in terms of value compared to the same month of the previous year, totalling 1 million tonnes and 1,243 million Euro. These good figures follow the drops recorded in the first three months of the year, according to the latest data from the Department of Customs and Special Taxes.

In April, vegetable shipments abroad grew by 8% compared to the same month of 2017, totalling 557,909 tonnes, and by 5% in terms of value, with 532 million Euro. Of the most exported vegetables, there was growth in the case of lettuce, with 116,960 tonnes (+10%), cabbage, with 65,636 tonnes (+16%) and peppers, with 70,785 tonnes (+11%). Tomatoes recorded a slight 1% rise, totalling 83,580 tonnes, but the value fell sharply, by 15%, totalling 88 million Euro.

Fruit exports in April stood practically at the same level in terms of volume as in the same month of 2017 (+0.6%), standing at 512.210 tonnes, and the value grew by 5.5%, reaching 711.8 million Euro. Stone fruit was severely affected by the delay in the start of the campaign. The volume fell by 24% and the value by 30% in the case of peaches, totalling 3,945 tonnes and 5.6 million Euro, and nectarines recorded drops of 26% in terms of volume and 31% in terms of value, totalling 2,840 tonnes and 5.8 million Euro.

Despite the recovery in April, the total volume so far in the year is still 3.6% lower than in 2017, standing at 4.6 million tonnes and 5,083 million Euro. The export of vegetables grew by 6.6% in terms of volume, amounting to 2.4 million tonnes, mostly due to the growth of lettuce (+12%), with 446,040 tonnes; peppers (+11%), with 371,346 tonnes; cabbage (+10%), with 282,420 tonnes, and courgette (+16%), with 176,502 tonnes. But these same vegetables recorded declines in terms of value, with 4% less in the case of lettuce (360 million Euro), 6% less in the case of peppers (481 million Euro), 7% less in the case of cabbage (264 million Euro) and 15% less in the case of courgettes (144 million Euro). Tomatoes recorded a 1% increase in terms of volume and a 13% drop in terms of value, totalling 432.297 tonnes and 476.2 million Euro.

The export of fruits in the first four months of the year stood at 2.1 million tonnes, 5% less than in the same period of 2017, with decreases in citrus and stone fruit, as well as in strawberries, with a 15% lower volume exported, totalling 191,741 tonnes. The value of fruits as a whole grew by 1.5%, totalling 2,595 million Euro.

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