



## Spain: Cordoba harvests more citrus than expected

The citrus season has been good in the province of Córdoba, both in terms of production and quality, as reported by the producers and marketers themselves. The citrus growers of the region of the Vega del Guadalquivir have seen their initial forecasts exceeded by far. According to the data published by the Council of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Cordoba's production volume reached 275,451 tonnes this year, 1.3% more than last season.

This figure stands out for having exceeded the estimates made by the regional administration before the start of the harvest, when the volume had been predicted to reach 249,220 tonnes. This would have represented an 8 percent decline compared to the 2016-2017 season. The volume, however, has been 22,546 tonnes greater, which entails a variation of 10.5 percent. The sweet orange sector is the most relevant, reaching a total production of 266,067 tonnes, way ahead of mandarins (6,727 tonnes) and grapefruit (2,440 tonnes).

### Price crash due to competition

The Government of Andalusia and the producers agree that this increase in the volume of citrus fruits harvested is due, in large part, to the fact that the rains in spring have contributed to increasing the weight and size of the fruit in the tree.

The president of the Palmanaranja citrus association, Antonio Carmona, said that the campaign had not completely finished in the area, as last Friday there were still some farms harvesting fruit and there are warehouses storing a lot of oranges, so "we will continue working for a few weeks, which is quite unusual."

However, the business leader says that those rains also had a negative impact on the sector, since they brought the harvest to a halt, which caused the entry of oranges from other origins, thus saturating the market.

As a result of this, prices have plummeted by 25 percent compared to last year, although what "concerns us the most is the fact that the demand for our product has been almost non-existent for two months due to the arrival of fruit from competing countries."

Lien article : <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/198459/Spain-Cordoba-harvests-more-citrus-than-expected>