



Bulgaria: Fruit and veg exports almost doubled in first half of 2018

In the first six months of this year, Bulgaria's fresh fruit and vegetable exports almost doubled compared to a year earlier, as revealed by the weekly bulletin of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Exports of Bulgarian vegetables grew by 81.5% during this period, reaching 27,800 tonnes, while fresh fruit exports increased by 97,7%, reaching 30,200 tonnes. The increase in the export of legumes is the most noteworthy, as the volume shipped grew by 11 times (+7400 tons).

Significant increases were also recorded in the export of cucumbers, pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and potatoes, with shipments growing by between 11.6% in the case of cucumbers to nearly eight-fold in the case of potatoes. However, the export of mushrooms fell by 7.4% and that of cabbages recorded a 49.4% drop.

The almost doubling of fruit exports is mainly due to the re-export of citrus fruits. Growth here amounts to 11,500 tonnes, so this year's figures have more than doubled.

Significant increases were observed also in the export of watermelons (more than doubled) and apples (+88%). Peaches (+14.3%), sour cherries (+29.9%), nuts (+9%), sweet cherries (+35.5%) and strawberries (+ 65.7%) also recorded growth.

According to preliminary NSI data, 158 700 tonnes of fresh vegetables and 155 400 tonnes of fresh fruit have been imported in the country during the first six months of this year, which is 1.6% and 15.5% more than a year earlier.

Tomato imports grew by 4,700 tonnes (or by 9.4%), while those of peppers increased by 3,700 tonnes (or by 33.4%), and those of cucumbers grew by 3,600 tonnes (or by 28.5%).

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