

Spain expects greater apple production but lower pear yield

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food expects the table apple production to increase by 3.2% in the 2018/2019 campaign compared to the previous one, while the pear one will be reduced by 7.1%.

According to the report, analyzed in a meeting with a number of organizations, including FEPEX, the table apple production this campaign (running from September to June) will amount to 511,425 tons, compared to 495,742 tons in the 2017/2018 season. However, compared to the average of the last five campaigns, the production will be 1.3% lower. Moreover, it was revealed that the final volumes this campaign may actually be lower than those announced by the Ministry.

By Autonomous Regions, Catalonia expects to produce 273,100 tons in the current campaign, 1.2% less than in the previous one. Meanwhile, Aragon should reach 94,446 tons (+5.4%); Galicia, 50,421 tons (-0.3%); Castile-Leon, 43,003 tons (+63%) and the remaining autonomous regions will reach a combined 50,445 tons (-4.2%).

As for this season's pear production, the Ministry of Agriculture estimates it at 335,281 tons; 7.1% less than in the previous one and 10.1% below the average of the last five years. Catalonia's pear production will amount to 135,700 tons, 10.6% less than in 2017/2018; that of Aragón will reach 53,584 tons (-18.3%) and that of La Rioja will stand at 56,000 tons (-1.6%). Murcia's production will amount to 26,235 tons (-4.8%), that of Navarra to 20,896 tons (-9.2%), that of Castile-León to 14,442 tons (-126%) and that of the remaining autonomous regions will total 28,624 tonnes (-4.3%).

In terms of demand, and with data corresponding to the 2017/2018 campaign, Spain's domestic consumption of fresh apples fell by 4% compared to the 2016/2017 season and by 8% compared to the average of the previous five seasons. The per capita consumption stands at 9.4 kilos. The penetration of apples in Spanish households is among the highest, only behind that of bananas (61.3%), although it is also decreasing.

The domestic consumption of pears in Spain during the 2017/2018 season grew by 5% compared to the previous one, although the downward trend continues, since compared with the average of the last five seasons, the consumption fell by 7%. The per capita



consumption is 5.2 kilos. The penetration of pears in Spanish households is lower than that of apples (46.9%), but is increasing slightly.

Spanish apple exports amounted to 67,856 tons up until August 2018, 2% more than in the same period of the previous year. These shipments were worth 55.2 million Euro (+30%). Imports amounted to 105,739 tons (-20%) worth 106 million Euro (-1%), according to data from the Department of Customs and Special Taxes. As for pears, Spanish exports up until August 2018 stood at 50,139 tons, 9% less than in the same period of 2017. The value of these shipments reached 37.7 million Euro (-14%). Imports stood at 32,012 tons (+2.3%) worth 30.7 million Euro (-3%).

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