

Spanish fruit and vegetable imports reached historic highs in 2018

Spanish imports of fresh fruits and vegetables in 2018 increased by 8% in volume and 9% in value over the previous year, according to data from the Customs Department, reaching historical highs of 3.3 million tons and 2,757 million euro.

Vegetable imports in 2018 increased by 7% in volume and 2.5% more in value, totaling 1.4 million tons and 806.4 million euro, while fruit imports increased by 8% in volume and 12% in value, totaling 1.8 million tons and 1,950 million euro.

The potato continued to be the main import product in 2018, with an increase in its imports of 4.7%, totaling 817,596 tons and a 5% decrease in value, which totaled 209 million euro. Potatoes accounted for 35% of all Spanish fruit and vegetable imports in 2018 and 56% of vegetable purchases. However, the range of imported vegetables has increased in recent years; green beans imports in 2018 amounted to 143,766 tons, 28% more than in 2017 and 14% more than five years ago; onion imports totaled 87,371 tons, 63% more than in 2017, and showed a growth of 92% in the last five years, and zucchini imports increased by 40.6% in 2018, totaling 18,716 tons, i.e. 92% more than in 2014. Tomato imports have also grown, as the country imported 157,202 tons in 2018, i.e. 8% more than in the last five years.

In fruits, the largest volumes imported in 2018 corresponded to banana, kiwi, and pineapple. Banana imports increased by 19% and stood at 365,322 tons, while pineapple imports increased by 6% (178,816 tons) and kiwi imports decrease by 16%, standing at 182,492 tons. Avocados imports also stood out with 129,287 tons (+32%), while apple purchases decreased by 13%, and amounted to 167,076 tons. Despite importing minor amounts of berries in 2018, these imports also stood out because they showed significant growth. The country imported 23,398 tons of raspberries (+47%) and 17,827 tons of blueberries (+27%).