

Spanish frozen vegetable industry continues to grow

The Spanish frozen vegetable industry produced 785,707 tons in 2018, which is 10,741 tons more than in 2017 (+1.38%), thus maintaining the growth trend of recent years. This has been revealed by data from the Spanish Association of Manufacturers of Frozen Vegetables (Asevec), which brings together the largest producers, accounting for 95% of the national production.

In 2018, 498,899 tons were exported, which represented 63.5% of the total national production. In fact, the Spanish frozen vegetable industry is the second most important one in the European Union, only behind Belgium's. The main export markets are the countries of the European Union, mainly France, Germany and the United Kingdom, but growth and expansion is also being achieved in other destinations, such as the United States, Brazil, Canada, Saudi Arabia and some Asian countries.

By products, broccoli, peppers and peas top the ranking of the most popular vegetables. Broccoli has strengthened its leadership, with an increase of 26% in its production compared to the previous year.

Thus, in 2018, the broccoli production reached 163,133 tons, which is 20% of the total volume of frozen vegetables in 2018. This vegetable is also one of the most demanded abroad, since 71% of the national production was exported to international markets last year.

Peppers stood in second position. In 2018, the production volume of this vegetable reached 101,861 tons, with 80% of this intended for export. Peas ranked third, with a production of 97,582 tons in 2018. About 50% of the frozen peas (44,000 tons) were shipped to foreign destinations.