

## Ukraine's tomato imports increase by 22%

In the first three quarters of 2019, Ukraine purchased 58.6 thousand tons of tomatoes from abroad, which is 22% more than in the same period last year. Interestingly, in the first 9 months of the current year, the import figures have already exceeded the total volume purchased throughout 2018. It is worth recalling that in 2018, Ukraine imported 55.4 thousand tons of tomatoes worth \$ 37.2 million. Traditionally, the main supplier of tomatoes to the Ukrainian market has been Turkey, which accounts for more than 80% of the total imported volume.

While tomato imports have been increasing, exports have significantly declined. As of October 1, Ukraine had exported only 6,000 tons of tomatoes abroad. For comparison, the figure for the same period last year stood at 10.7 thousand tons.

"The export situation became more complicated in 2014, when Ukraine lost the Russian market due to the aggravation of political and economic relations. By 2014, Ukraine was exporting more than 55,000 tons of tomatoes annually, and the main destination for them was Russia. The loss of the biggest market for greenhouse products led to the use of re-export schemes through Belarus; however, in recent years, more and more producers have been abandoning such schemes because of the additional costs of reissuing documents and the risks of non-payment," says KPD Director for Development Kateryna Zvereva.

"It is interesting that despite the loss of the biggest market for the sale of fresh tomatoes, the production has hardly changed in 5-6 years. Ukrainian open ground tomato producers have shifted their focus to processing. Thus, compared to 2013, the production of tomato paste and puree has almost doubled. Moreover, imports of these products have fallen tenfold in 5 years, and exports have almost doubled," said UPOA Executive Director Semyon Kramarenko.

Lien article :

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9156595/ukraine-s-tomato-imports-increase-by-22/>

