

## Germany's avocado imports increased fivefold in a decade

Compared to ten years ago, Germany's avocado imports are now five times greater. These are the results of market analyses published by the Federal Statistical Office. In 2018, about 94,000 tons of the fruit were brought to Germany.

The value of avocados imported into Germany has also increased significantly, from 32 million Euro in 2008 to 270 million Euro ten years later. Last year, most of these fruits came from Peru (28,000 tons), Chile (16,000 tons), and Spain (12,000 tons).

### Tough love

The fruit's global production last year was estimated to have reached 5 million tons worth USD 9.3 billion. The popularity of avocados, however, also has negative effects. Their cultivation requires large amounts of water. A thousand liters are needed to harvest about 3 kg. In addition, forests are burned to make room for avocado fields in many countries.

Furthermore, avocados are grown mainly in South America, and the long distance shipments to other continents are also the subject of criticism due to their significant carbon footprint.

What's more, crops in the Mexican region of Michoacán, which produces 80 percent of Mexican avocados (with this country being also the fruit's largest producer, having reached 1.8 million tons last year), are heavily controlled by gangs that are linked to the drug business.

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