

European tomato market slowly bouncing back

Although restaurants are starting to reopen and COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, the European tomato market is still under pressure. Prices are still on the low side (not unusual for this time of year), and there is a lot of supply. In some tomato segments demand is bouncing back a bit though, giving some growers hope.

'Major step'

For cherry and snack tomatoes, a 'major step' has been taken in price since the beginning of June. "Supply from North Africa and other areas is low, and with the weather in the Netherlands also not being great, the balance in the market is starting to return", comments Fokke Dullaart of Harvest House. "We're past the peak. We really had to take action to push the large volumes at first due to the good weather, but now trade is going much more smoothly. Prices are better too, and customers are willing to pay higher prices, although it's not yet at the regular level yet."

'Round tomatoes abysmal'

With his 67 years of age, Dirk van Nieuwkerk, purchaser with Anaco Greeve, has seen it all when it comes to the tomato trade. This year the market situation for Dutch tomatoes is nothing to write home about. "It's been bad for weeks, really," the purchaser says. An attempt to raise the prices this week was also unsuccessful. "The situation is particularly abysmal in round tomatoes. Fast food franchises and sandwich shops normally use those a lot for cutting, but now they lost a large share of their sales."

"Sales of TOV aren't doing that well either. When you see they're being auctioned for 28 cents per kilo, there's little left for the grower. We do expect lower supplies though. That's why initially I was optimistic about the market bouncing back, but I don't see that happening just yet. It's doable when you have a 30-35% lower volume available, but when demand drops by 70%, things grind to a halt. In recent weeks Belarus still bought quite a few tomatoes, we could use that business in the coming weeks as well."



Analyzing the figures

When looking at the tomato figures as published by the European Commission, it becomes clear that average prices in the cherry, TOV and round segments have gone down pretty much everywhere, compared to April.

There's really only one exception: Poland is showing an increase in the average price in the round tomato segment by 73% compared to April. Growers receive 2.10 euros on average for their product, although statistically speaking one could make a side note or two about that. In other countries, growers could only dream of prices like that.

CHERRY TOMATOES

Season: 2019-2020

		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Apr to May
		1-Jun-19	1-Jul-19	1-Aug-19	1-Sep-19	1-Oct-19	1-Nov-19	1-Dec-19	1-Jan-20	1-Feb-20	1-Mar-20	1-Apr-20	1-May-20	%
		30-Jun-19	31-Jul-19	31-Aug-19	30-Sep-19	31-Oct-19	30-Nov-19	31-Dec-19	31-Jan-20	29-Feb-20	31-Mar-20	30-Apr-20	31-May-20	
Croatia		168	204	220	196									
	Zagreb	168	204	220	196									
Spain		125	181	120	135	166	144	164	188	196	126	104	69	-34
	ES - National average	125	181	120	135	166	144	164	188	196	126	104	69	-34
France		415	542	448	323	274	353				440	446	281	-37
	Bretagne	415	542	448	323	274	353				440	446	281	-37
Greece		109	139	146	128	153	114	90	207	198	230	206	98	-52
	EL - National average			143	128	153	114	90	207	198	230	206	98	-52
	thessaloniki	109	139	158										
Hungary		253	231	221	212	248	261	271	327	348	376	334	275	-18
	Budapest	253	231	221	212	248	261	271	327	348	376	334	275	-18
Italy		212	154	154	165	220	263	272	288	281	272	262	207	-21
	latina (ita)	151	154	154	160	158	155						145	
	Vittoria	250			172	272	274	272	288	281	273	262	211	-19
The Netherlands		79	82	80	89	137	131	141	201	220	181	108	63	-42
	Westland	79	82	80	89	137	131	141	201	220	181	108	63	-42
European Union		171	192	161	156	188	193	185	225	227	219	198	133	-33

Cherry tomatoes

Across the board, the average price for cherry tomatoes has been stable for a number of weeks now in Europe. Compared to the previous update, the price hasn't gone down much further. 1.26 euros is the average price in week 22. That average price is significantly lower than in 2019 though, when the average price between week 19-22 was 1.44 at least and 1.60 at most.



The same stability is noticeable in the Netherlands, with a slight increase in week 22, to 71 eurocents, 1 cent below the average price in week 22 of 2019. In that year, a price hike followed, and 60-cent prices didn't appear again until week 34. For this year, things are also looking cautiously optimistic given the market situation early June.

Elsewhere in Europe, Italy has taken a hit in week 22, with the average price going down by more than thirty cents. At 1.67 euros, the price was a lot lower than the average price in previous weeks, when it was consistently above 2 euros.

The situation in Spain is comparable to the Netherlands, with a slight increase in week 22 (and week 21) as well.

In France, a major price hike is noticeable. Compared to week 21, the average price in week 22 increased from 2.32 to 3.23 euros there.

VINE TOMATOES

Season: 2019-2020

		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Apr to May
		1-Jun-19	1-Jul-19	1-Aug-19	1-Sep-19	1-Oct-19	1-Nov-19	1-Dec-19	1-Jan-20	1-Feb-20	1-Mar-20	1-Apr-20	1-May-20	%
		30-Jun-19	31-Jul-19	31-Aug-19	30-Sep-19	31-Oct-19	30-Nov-19	31-Dec-19	31-Jan-20	29-Feb-20	31-Mar-20	30-Apr-20	31-May-20	
Belgium		49	70	70	84	87	82	118	130	151	142	102	45	-55
	Flanders / Flandre	49	70	70	84	87	82	118	130	151	142	102	45	-55
Croatia		68	80	83	85	104	98	97				127	96	-24
	Zagreb	68	80	83	85	104	98	97				127	96	-24
Spain		84	123	159	98	91	76	95	90	87	82	68	42	-37
	ES - National average	84	123	159	98	91	76	95	90	87	82	68	42	-37
France		108	137	119	127	100	136				270	274	125	-54
	Bretagne	108	137	119	127	100	136				270	274	125	-54
Greece		82	103	96	86	89	87	101	122	109	104	110	87	-22
	thessaloniki	82	103	96	86	89	87	101	122	109	104	110	87	-22
Hungary		103	115	126	98	106	127	161	303	353	260	177	133	-25
	Budapest	103	115	126	98	106	127	161	303	353	260	177	133	-25
Italy		98	70	70	85	123	128	130	132	135	129	120	89	-26
	latina (ita)		70	70	68	68								
	Vittona	98			106	142	128	130	132	135	129	120	89	-26
The Netherlands		31	48	54	77	103	84	113	135	122	98	85	39	-54
	Westland	31	48	54	77	103	84	113	135	122	98	85	39	-54
European Union		84	98	109	93	102	99	109	114	113	120	111	70	-36

TOV

In TOVs, the situation is also pretty stable across the board in Europe, with prices varying between 62 and 74 eurocents. These price levels are comparable to the same period in 2019.

In the Netherlands, a serious dip is seen in week 21 and week 22, where prices hadn't been that high in the weeks before either. 28



eurocents in week 21, with only 24 eurocents in week 22. "Then there's not a lot left for the grower", as Dirk noted already.

The same is seen in Belgium, where prices hit 37 eurocents for the second week in a row.

In Spain, the price increases after a low in week 20, with an average of 29 eurocents, to 44 eurocents in week 21 and 65 cents in week 22.

The lower prices in cherry tomatoes in Italy weren't copied in the TOV market, which was pretty stable. In France, just like in cherry tomatoes, TOV prices went up, at 1.31 euros in week 22.

Round tomatoes

Across the board in Europe, the average price for round tomatoes is increasing somewhat, with 90 eurocents in week 22, while this was 65 cents in the week before, which was predated by prices between 73 and 76 cents.

Prices in Belgium are low here, just like in TOVs, with 32 and 33 eurocents respectively in week 21 and 22. In the week after, the price is more or less stable at 37 eurocents. The Netherlands isn't doing much better, as Dirk already told us.

In Spain, the price is increasing to an average of 68 cents, following averages of 50-57 eurocents in weeks 17-21.

In Italy, a decline is seen, with 1.05 euros in week 19, and only 75 eurocents in week 22. Apart from a low point in week 21, the average price in France is still around 1 euro.

A major exception to all reports on declining prices is Poland. There they saw prices increase by 73 percent from April to May, with the average price in May amounting to 2.10 euros (compared to 1.22 in April).



A side note : the European Commission didn't receive figures for all weeks. In weeks 21-22, the Commission reported an average of 50 and 49 eurocents, and in April 1.57 (week 15), 1.17 (week 17) and 90 eurocents (week 18). Still, the Polish 1.57 euro average in week 15 wasn't achieved anywhere else, with prices hardly getting above the 1 euro mark.

ROUND TOMATOES

Season: 2019-2020

		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Apr to May
		1-Jun-19	1-Jul-19	1-Aug-19	1-Sep-19	1-Oct-19	1-Nov-19	1-Dec-19	1-Jan-20	1-Feb-20	1-Mar-20	1-Apr-20	1-May-20	%
		03-Jun-19	21-Jul-19	21-Aug-19	05-Sep-19	31-Oct-19	20-Nov-19	01-Dec-19	21-Jan-20	29-Feb-20	21-Mar-20	20-Apr-20	21-May-20	
Belgium		48	76	79	87	67	80	132	159	158	165	87	38	-56
	Flanders / Flandre	48	76	79	87	67	80	132	159	158	165	87	38	-56
Bulgaria		86	91	91	88	120	112	106	108	104	175	148	129	-13
	Sofia	86	91	91	88	120	112	106	108	104	175	148	129	-13
Croatia		76	83	86	80	78	76							
	Zagreb	76	83	86	80	78	76							
Spain		72	86	84	72	71	71	78	73	74	76	74	55	-26
	ES - National average	72	86	84	72	71	71	78	73	74	76	74	55	-26
France		116	132	136	131	106	129					226	106	-53
	Bretagne	116	132	136	131	106	129					226	106	-53
Greece		50	85	75	55	64	59	68	95	80	61	68	56	-18
	EL - National average	50	85	75	55	64	59	68	95	80	61	68	56	-18
Hungary		80	92	90	56	53	93	129	226	233	200	139	101	-28
	Budapest	80	92	90	56	53	93	129	226	233	200	139	101	-28
Italy		110	70	70	68	66	79	110	140	137	158	143	95	-34
	latina (ita)		70	70	70	70								
	Vitoria	110			65	65	79	110	140	138	158	143	95	-34
The Netherlands		43	63	70	76	43	69							
	Westland	43	63	70	76	43	69							
Poland		58	85	53	56	57	89	100	100		99	122	210	73
	Kalisko-Pleszewski	58	85	53	56	57	89	100	100		99	122	210	73
	Warszawsko-Leczycki				56	56								
Portugal		65	66	70	100	100	100	100	90	80	77	70	70	0
	algarve	65	66	70	100	100	100	100	90	80	77	70	70	0
Czech Republic			102	105	116	117								
	CZ - National average		102	105	116	117								
Romania		46	59	60	34	35	32						52	
	Galati	46	59	60	34	35	32						52	
European Union		79	83	81	75	70	78	90	103	100	105	110	79	-29

Rapport complet : <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/report-market-situation-tomatoes.pdf>

Lien article : <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9225006/european-tomato-market-slowly-bouncing-back/>

