

Russia increases fruit and vegetable imports thanks to expansion from Iran

According to EastFruit, imports of fruit and vegetable products to Russia grew by 7% to \$5.3 billion in the first nine months of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. The three main fruit and vegetable suppliers to Russia were Ecuador, Turkey, and Iran. They also increased shipments.

The most significant increase was in imports of Iranian fruit and vegetable products. The main product categories were apples, kiwi, pistachios, peaches, and cherries as well as greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, and bell peppers.

China dropped out of the top three key exporters of fruit and vegetable products to Russia due to the ban on the import of Chinese fresh apples and pears. Accordingly, imports from China fell by a quarter in the first 9 months of 2020. It is also worth noting a sharp increase in imports of fruit and vegetable products from South Africa to Russia and direct imports from Uzbekistan.

Bananas remain the main import of the fruit and vegetable trade in Russian. This import increased by 1.5 percent over the year and reached \$829 million or 1.1 million tons in the first nine months of 2020. Imports of greenhouse tomatoes both in value and in physical terms decreased by 4%. Apple imports grew by 46% in value and by 13% in physical terms up to 612,000 tons.

In addition, among the types of fruit and vegetable products most imported to Russia in physical terms were oranges, potatoes, peaches, mandarins, onions, table grapes, and lemons. In terms of value, fresh cherries and pears were also in the top ten.

Growth of volumes took place in almost all major import items. Only imports to Russia of goods such as pears, carrots, grapefruits, and various types of cabbage, except for the aforementioned greenhouse tomatoes, decreased.

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