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## Germany

**Post:** Berlin

### **Drought and Hail Limit German Hops Production**

**Report Categories:**

Beverages

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**Report Highlights:**

Hail, high temperatures, and lack of rain are expected to have resulted in a substantially reduced hops production in Germany in 2015. At the end of August production was forecast at 28,142 MT, a 27 percent decrease compared to 2014.

## General Information:

On August 27, 2015, Dr. Johann Pichlmaier, president of the German Hop Growers' Association (Verband deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V.) presented the official German harvest forecast for 2015 at the occasion of the annual "hops tour".

Production prospects for the 2015 harvest are considerably below 2014 final results (see table). This is a consequence of high temperatures and a lack of rain, particularly in July and August. In addition, between 8 and 10 percent of the area in the main production region *Hallertau* was severely affected by a hailstorm on April 29, 2015.

The exterior quality is expected to be very good as there was little damage by pests or diseases. Alpha acid contents (inner quality) cannot be assessed, yet. However, they are expected to be well below last year's level.

**Table: German Hop Area and Production by Year and Region**

Region	Area (ha)			Production (MT)		
	2014	2015 (f)	Change	2014	2015 (f)	Change
Hallertau	14 467	<b>14 910</b>	3%	33 173	<b>23 500</b>	-29%
Elbe-Saale	1 265	<b>1 325</b>	5%	2 568	<b>2 450</b>	-5%
Tettnang	1 209	<b>1 237</b>	2%	2 022	<b>1 700</b>	-16%
Spalt	348	<b>355</b>	2%	689	<b>450</b>	-35%
Other	19	<b>20</b>	5%	48	<b>42</b>	-12%
<b>Total</b>	17 308	<b>17 847</b>	3%	38 500	<b>28 142</b>	-27%

f = forecast

\* Other includes: Rheinpfalz; Bitburg; Hochdorf; Rottenburg/Herrenberg/Weil der Stadt (RHW)

### Background:

The majority (86%) of the German hops area is located in Bavaria.

The traditional "hops tours" (Hopfenrundfahrt) is an annual event. In even year it is organized by the German Hop Growers Association, in uneven years the organization alternates between the three Bavarian counties with the most hops area (*Freising*, *Kehlheim*, and *Pfaffenhofen*). The event was attended by over 200 participants, many of which hold influential political positions in Bavaria.