

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 10/30/2014

GAIN Report Number: EZ1404

Czech Republic

Post: Prague

Fresh Deciduous Fruits 2014

Report Categories:

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

Agriculture in the News

Agricultural Situation

Approved By:

Russel J. Nicely, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Jana Mikulasova, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

The 2014 fresh deciduous fruits crop estimates in the Czech Republic describe the amount and quality of fruits as very satisfactory. Apple crop from the production orchards will reach 122,959 MT and for the pear crop 3,813 MT.

General Information:

Production

According to the latest estimates prepared by the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture in Brno and the Fruit Growers' Union, the apple crop from production orchards will reach 122,959 MT and for the pear crop 3,813 MT. This apple crop estimate exceeds the five year average by 9 percent. Some of the commercial fruit growers, mainly from southern Bohemia say it is the best apple crop in 20 years.

Quality of fruits is very good as well, as the occurrence of hailstorms was very low. Although the weather conditions in general were rather favorable, in some regions fruit trees suffered some damage during flowering due to the spring frosts.

The overall state of orchards in the Czech Republic is not ideal. Area will drop as older trees fall out of production. Total area and production data below refers to commercial orchards only, producing for both the fresh and the processing markets.

There are about fifteen main varieties of apples produced commercially in the Czech Republic. The dominant varieties are:

Main Apple Varieties in the Czech Republic in Production Orchards

Variety	Area 2013 (ha)	Production 2013 (MT)	Production 2014 (est.) (MT)
Golden Delicious	1,950	29,376	28,620
Idared	1,660	23,430	24,839
Jonagold	667	14,084	13,067
Rubin Bohemia	633	6,760	7,645
Spartan, McIntosh	559	3,829	4,410
Champion	491	7,446	8,725
Gala	384	7,652	8,686
Topaz	256	3,052	3,266
Gloster	230	3,350	3,259
Rubinola	205	1,444	1,264
James Grieve	155	1,637	1,381
Melrose	134	1,687	1,472
Red Delicious	130	871	879
Melodie	74	752	577
TOTAL	9,080	120,602	122,959

Source: Situation and Outlook Report, eagri.cz and the crop estimate published by the Fruit Growers' Union

Consumption

According to the Czech Ministry of Agriculture's Situation and Outlook Report, per capita fruit consumption in the Czech Republic averaged 82 kg in 2012. Out of this, 34.5 kg represent southern fruits. Apples account for 20 kg per capita and pears only 3 kg. Approximately 40 thousand MT of apples were used in the processing industry.

Prices

The biggest challenge for Czech fruit growers in the current 2014/15 marketing year is the prices. As a result of the Russian import ban and a very good apple crop in the European Union, apples prices are hitting their minimum. The initial fear of the industry was that the Czech market would become flooded with Polish apples. According to Czech industry representatives, Polish producers are reportedly able to sell to the retail chains at prices that are lower than the production costs of Czech growers. This influx of Polish apples did not materialize.

Trade

Czech Republic's Major Export Destinations

Czech Republic Export Statistics								
Commodity: 080810, Apples, Fresh								
Year Ending: June								
Partner Country	Unit	Thousands Quantity			% Share			% Change
		2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013
World	MT	35	113	57	100.00	100.00	100.00	- 49.56
Germany	MT	12	57	27	33.52	50.79	47.44	- 52.89
Austria	MT	11	40	16	31.06	35.64	27.82	- 60.63
Slovakia	MT	9	8	10	25.85	7.16	18.12	27.62
Italy	MT	1	2	3	3.40	2.15	5.69	33.17
Spain	MT	0	1	0	1.16	1.13	0.40	- 82.12
Netherlands	MT	0	1	0	0.02	1.03	0.23	- 88.81
Hungary	MT	0	1	0	0.00	0.92	0.22	- 87.75
Poland	MT	0	1	0	1.42	0.53	0.08	- 92.25

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Czech Republic's Major Import Sources

Czech Republic Import Statistics					
Commodity: 080810, Apples, Fresh					
Year Ending: June					
Partner Country	Unit	Thousands Quantity		% Share	
					% Change

		2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014/2013
World	MT	85	73	80	100.00	100.00	100.00	9.50
Poland	MT	20	26	33	23.04	35.54	40.88	25.96
Slovakia	MT	17	22	18	20.24	30.71	22.37	- 20.24
Italy	MT	21	10	11	24.35	13.88	13.21	4.25
Germany	MT	11	7	8	13.30	10.22	10.35	10.88
Serbia	MT	0	0	3	0.17	0.00	3.68	0.00
Belgium	MT	5	2	2	5.48	2.25	3.11	51.28
Netherlands	MT	6	3	2	7.28	3.67	2.46	- 26.59
Austria	MT	4	2	1	4.84	3.02	1.12	- 59.32

Source: Global Trade Atlas