

1989 □ 8

PRODUCTION OF FRUIT IN THE EC IN 1988

DESSERT FRUIT: EXCEPTIONAL HARVEST

In 1988, the harvested production of dessert fruit in EUR-12 totalled approximately 31.7 Mio t or 300 000 t more than the exceptional figure achieved in 1986. The increase in production was 5% (1.5 Mio t) above the average (1983-87) and 7% above that of 1987. The increase over the previous year was especially due to the results of three Member States: the FR of Germany (+ 1.6 Mio t), Greece (+ 0.6 Mio t) and Italy (+ 0.9 Mio t). Smaller increases were recorded in Belgium, Denmark and Luxembourg, whereas overall production fell in Spain (- 0.9 Mio t), France (- 0.2 Mio t), the Netherlands (- 35 000 t) and the United Kingdom (- 80 000 t). The production of the remaining Member State, Ireland was unchanged.

MORE APPLES:

Estimated at 8.2-8.5 Mio t at the end of the spring and 7.7 Mio t at the start of the season, apple production was finally recorded as 8.7 Mio t (M = 7.8 mio t, 1987 = 7.5 Mio t). This trend reflects fairly accurately the increase, in the course of the season, in the FR of Germany and Italy's figures. Contrary to initial official estimates, the production of these two countries was well above 2 Mio t: German production being finally estimated at 2.36 Mio t (1/3 of which being commercial crops) or slightly higher than Italian production (2.33 Mio t). The 1987 harvest figures were also exceeded by Benelux countries (+ 57 000 t), Denmark and Ireland. Spain and France were among the Member States with lower production figures than in the previous year - 143 000 t and - 94 000 t respectively).

PEARS STABLE:

Since 1985, Community production of **dessert pears** has stabilized at about 2.5-2.6 Mio t, whereas previously it regularly approached 3.0 Mio t. At 2.61 Mio t, the 1988 production figure was therefore below the 5-year average of 2.73 Mio t. It should be noted, however, that of the main producer countries, only the FR of Germany and Italy had substantial increases in production compared with 1987; for the former, this constituted a return to normal after a bad year, whereas Italys' increase was due to an extension of the area devoted to pear orchards (+ 5 %).

STONE FRUIT: FEWER PEACHES BUT MORE NECTARINES

In 1988, Community **peach** production (2.6 Mio t) was about 100 000 t lower than in 1987 and 135 000 t below the average. This decline, however, is due to the low harvests of Italy, and to a lesser extent, France, partly as result of a decrease in peach orchard area in these two countries. Greek and Spanish production, on the other hand, remained above that of the previous year and the average.

The relative decline in peach production, however, is offset by an increase in **nectarine** production, which is estimated at 625 000 t, or 90 000 t higher than in 1987 and 220 000 t above the average. The area devoted to nectarine production continued to grow in 1988 and France was the only country with a slight fall in production.

For the first time, **apricot** production exceeded 600 000 t, Greece's production total reaching an exceptional 154 000 t (M = 113 000 t).

It should also be noted that **cherry** production, which was about 550 000 t, was one of the lowest of the past twenty years, due especially to bad weather. The **plum** harvest (990 000 t), however, can be regarded as one of the best in recent years (M = 945 000 t).

FEWER NUTS

Following an exceptionally poor harvest in Spain, Community **nut** production (720 000 t) was 100 000 t lower than the average harvest which was achieved in 1987.

SOFT FRUIT: SOARING KIWI PRODUCTION

Spain's lower production figures for **strawberries** had their effect on the Community total (670 000 t) which, though 5% lower than the previous year, was no less than 12% above the average. **Soft fruit** production (810 000 t) was above the average (+ 230 000 t) and higher than the 1987 total (+ 145 000 t); **kiwi** production alone rose from an average of 65 000 t to 150 000 t in 1987 and 255 000 t in 1988 (including 206 000 t in Italy alone!).

CITRUS FRUIT: BAD WEATHER IN SPAIN

At 8.4 Mio t, the citrus fruit harvest was one of the best: the decline in Spanish production caused by bad weather (- 12% was largely offset by increases in Greece (+ 26%) and Italy (+ 38%). In this context, mention should be made of the very poor satsuma harvest in Spain (100 000 t less than average).

FEWER GRAPES FOR WINE PRODUCTION

Wine grape production totalled approximately 21.4 Mio t, or 24% less than in the previous year and 21% less than the average. This is the lowest total of the EUR-12 series which goes back to 1972! The decline is accounted for Spain (- 45%), France (- 20%), Italy (- 16%) and Portugal (- 64%). Table grape production (2.45 Mio t) was slightly below average (- 4%), which in some measure reflects the decline in areas devoted to this crop.

OLIVE PRODUCTION DOWN 6.0 MIO T

Olive production, currently estimated at 5.8 Mio t, was well below the average (- 1.6 Mio t) and therefore below the record harvest of 1987 (8.95 Mio t). This decline, however, especially affected Spain and Italy's production of olives for olive oil (32% and 24% below average respectively). Table olive production, on the other hand, which totalled 470 000 t, was above the average (+ 20 000 t) and above the previous year's total (+ 35 000 t).

Annex 1

Text finalized: April 1989

Last minute: The 1988 Spanish strawberry crop has now been estimated at 243 000 t. As a consequence the EUR-12 figure is increased to 713 000 t

EUR-12 : Harvested production of fruit in 1988

Products	M				1) 1988 compared with	
	1983-1987	1986	1987	1988	%	1987
	1 000 t				in %	
Total dessert fruit	30 225	31 385	29 690	31 680*	105	107
Apples	7 785	8 260	7 540	8 710	112	116
Pears	2 730	2 520	2 600	2 610	96	100
Stonefruit	5 330	5 260	5 295	5 395	101	102
of which:						
Peaches	2 745	2 680	2 705	2 610	95	96
Apricots	565	555	545	610	108	112
Cherries	655	615	635	550	84	87
Pflums	945	955	865	990	105	114
Nectarines	405	445	535	625	154	117
Nuts	810	800	820	720	89	88
of which:						
Almonds	420	415	430	350	83	81
Strawberries	595	615	705	670	112	95
Soft fruit	580	595	665	810	140	122
of which:						
Kiwis	65	75	150	255	392	170
Citrus fruit	7 940	8 795	7 775	8 400	106	108
of which:						
Oranges	4 690	5 220	4 465	5 040	107	113
Mandarins, Clementines	1 235	1 375	1 270	1 385	112	109
Satsumas	455	455	485	355	78	73
Lemons	1 470	1 650	1 465	1 535	104	105
Fresh grapes	3 190	3 230	3 025	3 070	96	101
of which:						
Table grapes	2 535	2 615	2 535	2 445	96	96
Wine grapes	26 970	27 645	28 165	21 425	79	76
Olives	7 385	6 300	8 950	5 780	78	65
of which:						
Table olives	450	465	435	470	104	108

1) Provisional.

* Estimation by EUROSTAT.