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FRUIT AND TOMATOES IN 1989

- first estimates -

Climate: mild winter; spring wet at first, then dry.

The 1988/89 winter was exceptionally mild and dry throughout the greater part of the European Community. Spring began with a period of heavy rainfall, followed in May by dry, warm weather. This did not have any detrimental effects on fruit crops, and blossoming conditions were relatively favourable, except in the United Kingdom, which was affected by spring frosts. However, at the end of June and beginning of July there were violent storms in some Community regions, causing major damage to vines, particularly in France and Italy.

Good harvest of stone fruit

At the beginning of July 1989 harvested production of **stone fruit** in the European Community (Table 2) can be estimated at 5.54 Mio t, slightly more than the 1988 figure (5.38 Mio t) and than the average harvest. The growth in production is a result of the increases recorded for peaches, apricots and especially nectarines.

Almost 750 000 t of nectarines

The rise in the production of **nectarines** has not slowed down in 1989. Currently quantified at 745 000 t, it is 23% up on 1988 and 60% above the 1984/1988 average. Italy, with 480 000 t, is the Community's largest producer. France, in second place, is well behind with 137 000 t.

More peaches and apricots than in 1988

The rise in nectarine production does not seem to have affected the overall level of **peach** production, which at around 2.78 Mio t seems bound to be among the "big" harvests years, exceeding the five-year average by around 3%. Whereas Greek and Italian production (0.54 and 1.05 Mio t respectively) have changed little from last year, the harvests in France (400 000 t) and particularly Spain (730 000 t) looks like being considerably up.

For the first time **apricots** are likely to exceed the 0.6 Mio t figure, which would represent a slight increase over 1988. Extremely good harvests are expected in France (+ 39%) and Italy (+ 14%). In Spain production is likely to be some 4% higher above the already high level of 1988, but Greece is expecting a substantial drop (- 37%) compared with last year's record harvest.

Fewer cherries and plums

Although incomplete at the time of going to press, figures for **cherries** and **plums** are well below 1988 and below the average level harvest. The drop in cherry production is accounted for mainly by Italy, where harvested production is likely to be around 90 000 t (1988 = 128 000 t) and to a lesser extent Belgium, where production is not even expected to reach half that of a normal year. The main points to note in respect of plums are a steady increase in Spain, where production is now touching 150 000 t, and the probability of a major fall in the Federal Republic of Germany (some 20% down on 1988, which was a good year).

Barely average harvest of apples and pears

Table 1 below gives the provisional official figures as sent to EUROSTAT at the beginning of July 1989.

Table 1: Harvested production of apples and pears (1 000 t)

Country	A p p l e s				P e a r s			
	Moyenne 1984/85	1987	1988	1989	Moyenne 1984/88	1987	1988	1989
F	1916	1988	1924	1944	400	439	345	342
I	2161	2236	2326	2100	932	894	981	880
GR	281	303	267	260	121	120	91	93
SP	913	971	828	725	489	521	459	540
OTHERS	2797	2045	3386	:	694	628	714	:
EUR-12	8068	7543	8731	:	2636	2602	2590	:

As to the "other" countries, apple harvests should be normal in Benelux, Ireland and Denmark, and slightly up in the United Kingdom and Portugal. In the Federal Republic of Germany, owing to biennial cropping, the yield from kitchen gardens is likely to be down, reducing overall apple production to well below the exceptional level of 1988. Assuming a barely average harvest in the Federal Republic of Germany, EUR-12 production in 1989 could be around 7.6 to 7.7 Mio t, although production volume is expected to be virtually normal in France, Italy and Benelux taken as a whole.

Community pear production, on the other hand, looks like being 3 - 4% down on 1988 and 1987 (2.6 Mio t), with the proportion of summer varieties slightly up (+ 2%). A very high yield looks likely in Spain.

Tomatoes on the up

After falling to almost 11 Mio t in the course of the past two years, Community tomato production in 1989 should again exceed 13 Mio t (see Table 3). The rise in production seems to apply mainly to tomatoes for industrial processing in the southern countries of the Community. Canneries are thought to be set on building up their stocks, which were exhausted in the course of the previous marketing years.

P.S.: Detailed figures covering fruit and vegetable production and supply are published by EUROSTAT on a quarterly basis in "Crop Production".

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Table 2 : EUR-12: Harvested production of stone fruit (1 000 t)

	Average 1984-1988	1987	1988	1989*	1989 as compared with	
					Average	1988
					en %	
Stone fruit:	5 350	5 295	5 380	5 540	104	103
of which:						
Peaches	2 700	2 705	2 615	2 780	103	106
Nectarines	465	535	605	745	160	123
Apricots	575	545	600	615	107	103
Cherries	635	630	545	510	82	94
Plums	965	865	995	870	90	87

Table 3 : EUR-12: Harvested production of tomatoes (1 000 t)

	Average 1984-1988	1987	1988	1989*	1989 as compared with	
					Average	1988
					en %	
EUR-12	12 420	11 255	11 305	13 055	105	115
of which:						
Germany	21	19	19	18	86	97
France	785	710	745	790	101	106
Italy	5 600	4 860	4 635	5 165	92	111
Netherlands	535	545	565	580	108	102
Belgium	170	175	205	215	126	105
United Kingdom	130	130	135	145	109	104
Ireland	14	14	13	14	103	109
Denmark	16	15	16	17	107	107
Greece	1 935	1 665	1 655	2 150	111	130
Spain	2 475	2 445	2 596	2 095	125	119
Portugal	810	670	715	865	107	130

Table 4 : EUR-12: Harvested production of table fruit (1 000 t)

	Average 1983-1987	1986	1987	1) 1988	1989 as compared with	
					Average	1987
					en %	
EUR-12	30 225	31 385	29 685	31 625	105	107
of which:						
Germany	2 875	3 585	3 220	3 830	133	173
France	3 495	3 465	3 680	3 515	101	95
Italy	10 565	10 870	9 950	10 890	103	109
Netherlands	545	585	520	485	89	93
Belgium	370	410	385	405	109	106
Luxembourg	6	9	4	6	96	166
United Kingdom	510	495	500	430	84	86
Ireland	14	12	14	15	111	106
Denmark	72	82	50	72	100	144
Greece	3 325	3 490	2 915	3 470	104	119
Spain	7 865	7 855	8 875	8 000	102	90
Portugal	580	530	575	510	88	88

1) Partly provisional.

* Estimated by EUROSTAT.