

Press release: 13 204-232/23

Fruit harvest 2023: High losses due to frost

Harvest volume 10% below the ten-year average

Vienna, 2023-11-27 – After an above-average harvest in the previous year, fruit production was below average this year due to frost: At 190 500 tonnes, the harvest volume in commercial fruit production was 10% below the ten-year average and a fifth below the previous year's level, according to Statistics Austria. Stone and pome fruit in particular suffered high losses, while soft fruit production was above average.

Damage already at apple blossom stage

In Styria, the pome fruit blossom was largely destroyed by frost. Therefore, only 156 300 tonnes (-18% compared to 2022) of apples, which made up over 80% of the total fruit harvest, were harvested – almost three quarters of which were in Styria. For pears, the production losses were even more severe due to the earlier flowering: At 6 600 tonnes, a decrease of 45% was recorded compared to the previous year, which was also well below the ten-year average (-24%).

Poor stone fruit harvest, high soft fruit production

For apricots, despite high yields in some favourable locations, only a harvest of 3 800 tonnes could be achieved (-17% compared to 2022), which was well below the ten-year average (-37%). Furthermore 2 200 tonnes of cherries and sour cherries were produced, 16% less than in the previous year (+11% compared to the long-term average). This year's plum harvest of 1 200 tonnes was well below the previous year's level (-45%) and below the ten-year average (-43%).

Compared to the previous year's record harvest, strawberry production fell to 14 600 tonnes (-14% compared to 2022), but was still above average (+10% compared to the ten-year average). For currants, which were mainly produced in Styria, the harvest volume of 2 100 tonnes was significantly lower than in 2022 (-39%). The blueberry harvest reached 1 900 tonnes (-6% compared to 2022) and raspberry production fell to 610 tonnes this year (-12% compared to 2022).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: The fruit harvest survey of commercial fruit production is based on yield estimations of the agricultural chambers. The area for calculation of harvest amounts is based on the latest survey on fruit plantations (2017), which is regularly adapted by estimations of the agricultural chambers and results of the funding applications of Agrarmarkt Austria.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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