

Press release: 13 475-241/24

# Second-lowest fruit harvest in ten years in 2024

## Almost a quarter less fruit harvested than in 2023; apple production slumped by a third

Vienna, 2024-11-28 – Due to the massive decline in apple yields, commercial fruit production recorded its second-lowest result in the past ten years this year. According to Statistics Austria, fruit production in 2024 was 24% lower than the previous year at 145 400 tonnes and 30% below the ten-year average. The main reason for the low apple harvest was late frosts in Styria's main production area.

Due to the high losses in the apple harvest, the production of pome fruit in 2024, 90% of which consisted of apples, reached only 114 900 tonnes. This is 29% less than in 2023 and 36% less than the ten-year average. The stone fruit and soft fruit harvest was less affected by unfavourable weather conditions and was even above average. The high summer temperatures led to unusually early harvests for almost all types of fruit.

### Fewer Styrian apples, more apricots, lots of cherries and strawberries

Compared to the previous year, apple production fell by 33% to 104 000 tonnes. That is 40% less than the ten-year average. Only 61% of this came from Styria this year, compared to 74% in 2023. For pears that were already massively affected by frost in the previous year, an average yield per hectare of 17 tonnes was achieved; production of 10 300 tonnes was markedly higher than in the previous year (+58%).

Stone fruit was less affected by frost failures thanks to earlier flowering. Production totalling 11 500 tonnes was 42% higher than a year earlier and 8% above the ten-year average. Apricots yielded 5 200 tonnes, which was 4% below the ten-year average, but 36% above the previous year's level. The main producing federal province of Lower Austria accounted for 60% of production. 2 500 tonnes of cherries and sour cherries were harvested this year, 15% more than in the previous year and 26% more than the ten-year average.

The soft fruit harvest amounted to 18 600 tonnes, which was slightly below the previous year's volume (-3%); compared to the ten-year average, an increase of 5% was achieved. This was mainly due to the high strawberry production of 14 300 tonnes, which was 8% above the ten-year average.

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 (2023), which is regularly adapted by estimations of the agricultural chambers and results of the funding applications of Agrarmarkt Austria.

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