

# ROMANIA

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



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## **Romania on the European Fruit and Vegetables Market**

According to the statistical data provided by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Romania had, in 2009, an important position among the other European countries, concerning the cultivated area with fruit and vegetables:

- the 6<sup>th</sup> position regarding potatoes (4.1% of the total cultivated area with potatoes in Europe), after: Russian Federation, Ukraine, Poland, Belarus and Germany;
- the 5<sup>th</sup> position regarding vegetables (6.2%), after: Russian Federation, Ukraine, Italy and Spain;
- the 8<sup>th</sup> position regarding fruit (4.1%), after: Spain, Italy, France, Russian Federation, Portugal, Serbia and Poland.

Concerning the level of production, Romania ranked:

- the 9<sup>th</sup> position regarding potatoes (3.2% of the total at European level), after: Russian Federation, Ukraine, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, France, Belarus and United Kingdom;
- the 8<sup>th</sup> position regarding vegetables and melons (4.0%), after: Russian Federation, Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Poland, France and the Netherlands;
- the 8<sup>th</sup> position regarding fruit (3.3%), after: Italy, Spain, France, Poland, Greece, Russian Federation and Germany.

## **Characteristics of Natural Resources**

As compared with other European countries, Romania has an advantageous structure of land fund, the agricultural area accounted for a share of 61.6% of it in 2009.

The area cultivated with vegetables was the biggest cultivated area in 2010, which after a fluctuating evolution reached 250 thousand hectares (representing a 10.7% decrease as compared to 2006). Concerning the share of the area cultivated with vegetables remain stable until 2009 at 1.8% of the total cultivated area.

After a similar evolution, the cultivated area with potatoes amounted to 247.0 thousand hectares in 2010 (-11.2% as against 2006), considering that the share of the total area cultivated decreased to 1.7% in 2009 from 1.9% in the reference year, 2006.

In 2010, the area cultivated with bearing orchards amounted to 145.0 thousand hectares, representing a 7.6% drop from 2006. Fruit orchards were mainly composed of: 75 thousand ha plum trees, 52 thousand ha apples, 7 thousand ha cherries (sweet and sour), 4 thousand ha pear trees and 3 thousand ha apricot and ungrafted apricots.

**Cultivated area by main crops  
2006 - 2010**

- thousand hectares -

|                                      | 2006     | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     | 2010  |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| <b>Agricultural area</b> , of which: | 14,731.0 | 14,709.3 | 14,702.3 | 14,684.9 | ...   |
| Dried pulses, of which:              | 40.4     | 43.7     | 36.7     | 38.5     | 38.0  |
| Peas                                 | 18.1     | 23.4     | 18.0     | 22.7     | ...   |
| Beans                                | 21.9     | 19.6     | 18.2     | 15.1     | ...   |
| Potatoes                             | 278.0    | 268.1    | 255.3    | 255.2    | 247.0 |
| Vegetables, of which:                | 280.1    | 253.4    | 268.6    | 267.1    | 250.0 |
| Tomatoes                             | 50.7     | 46.0     | 51.5     | 49.1     | 48.0  |
| Dry onions                           | 33.8     | 34.1     | 35.0     | 35.2     | 33.0  |
| White cabbage                        | 45.7     | 46.1     | 49.0     | 48.3     | 46.0  |
| Melons and water melons              | 34.7     | 31.0     | 29.7     | 33.5     | 31.0  |
| Bearing strawberry fields            | 2.4      | 3.0      | 2.6      | 2.5      | 2.5*  |
| Bearing orchards                     | 157.0    | 156.0    | 149.0    | 145.0    | 145.0 |

Source: National Institute of Statistics - Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010 and Press release "Crop production in 2010".

Notes: ... data not available; \* EUROSTAT database.

## Production

Although Romania has an important agricultural potential, over the review period the agricultural production had an uneven evolution due to climatic conditions (drought and floods) and the specific agricultural works.

In 2010, the production volume registered 3,304.0 thousand tones of potatoes (-17.7% compared to 2006) and 58.0 thousand tones of dried pulses (-19.0%).

The production of vegetables had a fluctuating evolution year by year following a downward trend reaching 3,601.0 thousand tones in 2010 (-13.0% as against 2006). In this subcategory the output was as follows: 738.0 thousand tones of tomatoes (-11.6% as compared to 2006), 352.0 thousand tones of dry onions (-9.9%), 956.0 thousand tones of white cabbages (-13.6%), 224.0 thousand tones of green peppers (-19.7%) and 660.0 thousand tones of melons and water melons (+2.8%).

After the record value reached in 2006 of 1,486.4 thousand tones, in 2010 the total output reached only 1,394.4 thousand tones of fruits (a decrease of 6.2% as compared to 2006). In 2010, the fruit production recorded: 550.3 thousand tones of plums (-8.6% as compared to 2006), 558.8 thousand tones of apples (-5.4%), 55.6 thousand tones of pears (-10.9%), 17.3 thousand tones of peaches (-0.6%), 64.1 thousand tones of cherries and sour cherries (-38.8%), 24.0 thousand tones of apricots and ungrafted apricots (-38.1%), and 21.7 thousand tones of strawberries (+0.5%).

**Production of fruits and vegetables  
2006 - 2010**

- thousand tones -

|                                    | 2006    | 2007    | 2008    | 2009    | 2010     |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Dried pulses                       | 71.6    | 36.2    | 62.5    | 52.9    | 58.0     |
| Potatoes                           | 4,015.9 | 3,712.4 | 3,649.0 | 4,004.0 | 3,304.0  |
| Vegetables, of which:              | 4,138.9 | 3,116.8 | 3,819.9 | 3,901.9 | 3,601.0  |
| Tomatoes                           | 835.0   | 640.8   | 814.4   | 755.6   | 738.0    |
| Dry onions                         | 390.7   | 325.0   | 395.6   | 378.1   | 352.0    |
| White Cabbages                     | 1,106.0 | 893.2   | 964.6   | 1,001.9 | 956.0    |
| Green peppers                      | 279.1   | 184.9   | 238.7   | 245.7   | 224.0    |
| Melons and water melons            | 641.8   | 408.0   | 562.3   | 652.8   | 660.0    |
| Total fruit, of which:             | 1,486.4 | 1,085.8 | 1,179.2 | 1,323.0 | 1,394.4* |
| Plums                              | 598.8   | 372.6   | 475.3   | 533.7   | 550.3*   |
| Apples                             | 590.4   | 475.4   | 459.0   | 517.5   | 558.8*   |
| Pears                              | 62.4    | 62.8    | 52.6    | 66.1    | 55.6*    |
| Peaches                            | 17.4    | 17.0    | 16.4    | 17.1    | 17.3*    |
| Cherries and sour cherries         | 104.8   | 65.2    | 67.7    | 67.9    | 64.1*    |
| Apricots and ungrafted<br>apricots | 38.8    | 27.6    | 32.1    | 32.5    | 24.0*    |
| Nuts                               | 38.5    | 25.5    | 32.3    | 38.3    | ...      |
| Other fruit                        | 13.7    | 23.2    | 22.6    | 27.9    | ...      |
| Strawberries                       | 21.6    | 16.5    | 21.2    | 22.0    | 21.7*    |

Source: National Institute of Statistics – Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2010 and Press release “Crop production in 2010”.

Notes: ... data not available; \* EUROSTAT database.

According to the National Institute of Statistics, the 2010 fruit production, obtained solely from bearing orchards, was greater as compared to previous year registering 910.0 thousand tones (+211 thousand tones as compared to previous year). In 2010, the fruit production recorded from the bearing orchards was as follows: 424.0 thousand tones of plums +175 thousand tones as compared to the previous year), 411.0 thousand tones of apples (+32 thousand tones), 20.0 thousand tones of pears (- 4 thousand tones), 31.0 thousand tones of cherries and sour cherries (+7 thousand tones) and 9.0 thousand tones of apricots and ungrafted apricots (+2 thousand tones).

In 2009, according to EUROSTAT database, the sector of processing and preserving fruit and vegetables registered the following quantities: 13,664,030 liters in the vegetables and fruit juices manufacturing sub-branch and 92,189,996 kg in the fruit and vegetables processing and preserving sub-branch.

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According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in 2009 there were about 153 units specialized in manufacturing the canned fruit and vegetables; with a processing capacity of 547 thousand tones per year.

### Foreign Trade

Between 2006 and 2010, the exports of **“Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers”** (Chapter 07, according to the Harmonized System - HS) accounted for a share of 0.1-0.2% of total exports of Romania in value terms. The imports accounted for a share of 0.2-0.3% of total imports of Romania, during the same period.

- The exports of *Edible vegetables...* (Chapter 07, HS) followed a mainly an upward trend (2008 being the exception), with the lowest value in 2006 (EUR 35.1 million) and the highest value in 2010 (EUR 66.6 million). In 2010, the main groups of products which had the highest share in the total exports of the chapter where: *“Other vegetables, fresh or chilled”* – with a share of 40.1% (the exports amounted to EUR 26.7 million), *“Leguminous vegetables cooked or uncooked by steaming or boiling in water or chilled”* – 21.6% (EUR 14.4 million) and *“Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled”* – 9.2% (EUR 6.1 million).
- The imports of *Edible vegetables...* (Chapter 07, HS) followed an upward tendency, with the lowest value in 2006 (EUR 75.1 million), and the highest value in 2008 (EUR 155.6 million). In 2010, the imports grew 22.2% as against previous year reaching EUR 148.8 million. The main imported groups of vegetables in 2010 were *“Tomatoes, fresh and chilled”* with EUR 44.5 million (29.9%), *“Leguminous vegetables cooked or uncooked by steaming or boiling in water or chilled, refrigerated”* with EUR 20.7 million (13.9%), and *“Other vegetables, fresh or chilled”* with EUR 17.9 million (12.0%).
- The only positive trade balances were registered, in 2010, for *“Other vegetables, fresh or chilled”* (EUR 8.8 million), and for *“Dried vegetables, whole, cut, sliced, broken or in powder, but not further prepared”* (EUR 1.0 million). These two groups also registered the highest degree of coverage of imports with exports, in 2010 (149.2% and 113.8% respectively).
- In 2010, the top five export partners for *“Other vegetables, fresh or chilled”* were Italy 68.6%, Germany 13.1%, Bulgaria 4.9%, Austria 4.3%, and France 3.1%. The top five import partners for the same products were: Italy 25.3%, Turkey 16.4%, the Netherlands 13.5%, Poland 8.2%, and Hungary 7.3%.
- For *“Dried vegetables, whole, cut, sliced, broken or in powder”* the top five export partners were: Italy 84.9%, Hungary 6.3%, Germany 2.5%, France 2.3% and Cyprus 1.1%. Imports came mainly from: Germany 20.7%, China 19.1%, Poland 12.2%, Italy 12.0% and India 5.7%.

The exports of **“Edible fruits and nuts, peel of citrus fruit or melons”** (Chapter 08, HS) accounted for a share of 0.1-0.2% of total Romanian exports in terms of value, between 2006 and 2010. Imports of fruit accounted for a share of 0.4-0.5% of total Romanian imports.

- The exports of *Edible fruits and nuts; Peel of citrus fruit and melons* (Chapter 08, HS) followed a fluctuating evolution between 2006 and 2010, with the lowest value registered in 2008 (EUR 33.5 million) and the highest in 2010 (EUR 61.4 million). The highest values among the groups of this chapter were registered for *“Fruit, cooked or uncooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter”* with EUR 12.1 million (19.7%), *“Apples, pears*

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and quinces, fresh” with EUR 5.1 million (8.3%) and “Citrus fruit, fresh or dried” with EUR 3.7 million (6.0%).

- The imports of *Edible fruits and nuts; Peel of citrus fruit and melons* (Chapter 08, HS) followed an upward trend between 2006 and 2008, with the lowest value registered in 2006 with EUR 164.8 million and the highest in 2008 with EUR 245.3 million. In 2010 the imports recorded EUR 177.6 million, the main imported groups of fruit being: “Citrus fruit, fresh or dried” with EUR 66.4 million (37.4%), “Bananas, fresh or dried” with EUR 36.6 million (20.6%), and “Apples, pears and quinces, fresh” with EUR 18.4 million (10.4%).
- The only positive trade balances were registered, in 2010, for “Fruit, cooked or uncooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter” (EUR 9.8 million), and for “Fruit provisionally preserved, not for immediate consumption” (EUR 1.8 million). These two groups also registered the highest degree of coverage of imports with exports, in 2010 (518.5% and 510.9% respectively).
- In 2010, the top five export partners for “Fruit, cooked or uncooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter” were Germany 40.8%, Italy 26.5%, France 5.6%, Poland 5.4% and The Netherlands 5.1%. The top five import partners for the same products were: Hungary 19.6%, Poland 17.0%, Bulgaria 15.6%, the Netherlands 10.2%, and Serbia 9.1%. The exports of “Fruit provisionally preserved, but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption” were shipped to USA 40.9%, Italy 32.8%, Egypt 7.4%, Canada 7.1%, and Greece 6.0%. Imports came mainly from Bulgaria 36.6%, Greece 19.1%, Turkey 18.5%, Italy 8.8% and the Netherlands 5.2%.

Between 2006 and 2010, the exports of “**Preparations of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants**” (Chapter 20, HS) accounted for a share of under 0.1% of total Romanian exports in value terms. Imports of these products accounted for a share of 0.3-0.4% of total Romanian imports.

- The exports of *Preparations of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants* (Chapter 20, HS) followed a fluctuating trend with the lowest value was registered in 2006 (EUR 14.9 million) and the highest in 2010 (EUR 33.0 million). The groups with the highest values were: “Fruit and vegetables juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter” with EUR 13.3 million (40.3%), for “Vegetables, fruit or other parts of plants prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid” with EUR 7.1 million (21.5%), and for “Fruits, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit, not elsewhere specified or included” with EUR 4.6 million (13.9%).
- The imports of *Preparations of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants* (Chapter 20, HS) followed an increasing trend and reached EUR 182.7 million in 2008. In 2010 the imports reached EUR 132.0 million representing a 8.6% decrease as compared to previous year and a 16.1% increase as compared to reference year 2006. The highest import values were recorded for the following groups: “Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen” with EUR 26.8 million (20.3%), “Fruit and vegetables juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter” with EUR 25.3 million (19.2%), and “Fruits, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit, not elsewhere specified or included” with EUR 22.9 million (17.3%).

- No positive trade balances were recorded in 2010, and the smallest deficit was recorded “Vegetables, fruit, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar” (- EUR 0.6 million).
- The top five export partners for “Vegetables, fruit, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar” were Bulgaria 43.7%, Spain 24.1%, Hungary 15.6%, Italy 9.7% and Cyprus 3.7%. The top five import partners were as follows: Greece 36.6%, Hungary 18.2%, Poland 12.6%, Italy 10.3% and Thailand 7.3%.

**Foreign trade in fruit and vegetables**  
**2006 – 2010**

- EUR thousand -

| HS Codes and description* |   |        | 2006      | 2007      | 2008      | 2009      | 2010      |
|---------------------------|---|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 07                        | Edible vegetables, certain roots and tubers                 | Export | 35,050.0  | 42,780.1  | 41,736.6  | 43,697.3  | 66,559.4  |
|                           |   | Import | 75,086.8  | 144,243.9 | 155,594.6 | 122,020.2 | 148,786.1 |
| 08                        | Edible fruits, peel of citrus fruit or melons               | Export | 39,500.9  | 38,538.4  | 33,484.3  | 38,841.8  | 61,377.2  |
|                           |   | Import | 164,765.4 | 245,124.1 | 245,318.2 | 175,661.0 | 177,579.0 |
| 20                        | Preparations of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants | Export | 14,914.1  | 27,101.4  | 19,865.0  | 21,907.2  | 33,001.4  |
|                           |   | Import | 113,726.9 | 158,712.9 | 182,689.7 | 144,407.4 | 131,983.8 |

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Customs Authority of Romania; Romania Trade and Invest (data processing)

Note: \* According to Combined Nomenclature – Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)

### Domestic Consumption

According to official statistics, in 2009, the average domestic consumption of potatoes was 93.1 kg per person (representing a 6.4% decrease as compared to the previous year and a 4.4 decrease as compared to the reference year 2006); for vegetables and products thereof the average consumption was 168.2 kg per person; for fruits and products thereof the average consumption was 62.3 kg per person (representing a 6.6% decrease as compared to the previous year and a 25.1 decrease as compared to the reference year 2006).

On medium-term, the general trend of the annual average consumption per capita for potatoes, vegetables and fruit is going to be positive.

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