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Dry Weather Resulted in Increased Vegetable Prices

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the Economy

Agriculture in the News

Vegetables

Grain and Feed

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Average consumer price of potatoes doubled year-on-year due to drop in production.

General Information:

The regular monthly report published by the Czech Statistical Office on average consumer prices of selected food products shows a significant increase in prices of certain vegetables: The largest surge encountered potato prices that almost doubled when compared year-on year. While in October 2014 average consumer price of potatoes was 8.38 CZK, in October 2015 it reached 15.59 CZK for one kilogram of potatoes.

The main reason for such a dramatic hike in potato prices has been shortage in their production. Hot and dry summer resulted in 30 percent lower crop, when compared to previous year. In a long term comparison, it has been the lowest potato crop since 1920, when the Czech Statistical Office started those records.

Potatoes are not the only vegetable becoming more expensive. Also carrots, green peppers, tomatoes and cabbage show increase in prices. An average price consumers paid for 1 kilogram of carrots in October 2014 was 15.52 CZK, while this year it grew by more than one quarter to 20.86 CZK. Tomatoes are up 17 percent, green peppers 12 percent.

Czechs already rely on imports of fruits and vegetables anyway, and so the lower domestic supply will be compensated by products probably even cheaper. Most of the agrarian analysts foresee the prices (mainly of potatoes) to grow further by the end of the calendar year, however, not so dramatically.

Similar drop in production like for potatoes reported the Czech Statistical office also for grain corn (33 percent lower) and silage corn (31 percent lower). Deficiency of animal feed ingredients may therefore result in increased meat prices. Some of the large meat producers might be, however, able to absorb this increase, so that it did not impact their final consumers.