



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Higher cereal yield per hectare

The cereal yield per hectare of land rose sharply in 1999. Compared with last year the yield per hectare was 12% up. Favourable growing conditions, among other things, will result in a total harvest of 1.3 billion kg of cereals this year. In spite of the higher yield per hectare the total cereal crop is slightly lower than last year because the area devoted to cereals was smaller, according to the crop estimates of Statistics Netherlands.

Less winter wheat

The total yield of winter wheat is over 40% lower than last year because a lot less winter wheat was sown. This reduction in the area of winter wheat has had a significant effect on the total cereal crop, although the yield per hectare was 18% higher than in 1998.

Good year for barley

Both the area and the yield per hectare of summer barley rose in 1999, according to Statistics Netherlands. The crop of summer barley was nearly twice that of last year and the yield per hectare was 22% higher. Summer barley is mostly used to brew beer. Half of the area of summer barley is in the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe.

Summer wheat up fourfold

The yield of summer wheat was four times that in 1998, largely because of the larger areas harvested. Because of the adverse weather in the autumn and winter of 1998, winter wheat could not be sown. This led to a shift in wheat crops in 1999. In 1998 summer cereals accounted for one fifth of the total cereal crop, compared with over half in 1999.

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