



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Potato harvest down substantially***

The potato harvest in 2001 is expected to be 12% less than in 2000. The yield of consumption and seed potatoes is estimated at 5.2 billion kilograms in 2001. It was already announced that the area used for growing potatoes is smaller this year than last year. The yield per hectare is 7% lower than in 2000. The harvest and yield of sown onions per hectare is much lower than in 2000. The harvest is down by 14%, and the yield per hectare down by 20%, according to the latest preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***Yield of potatoes falling***

The Dutch potato harvest in 2001 returned to the volume seen in the nineties. In recent decades potato crops kept increasing. The yield in the seventies was about 36 thousand kilograms per hectare, while the area used to grow them was a quarter less than it is now. According to Statistics Netherlands the farmer produced an average of 45 thousand kilograms per hectare over the last five years, when it comes to consumption and seed potatoes.

In 2000 the gross yield was at a record high, moreover there was also a record area used for growing potatoes. About 3% of the total area used was not harvested.

### ***Clay soil less productive***

Since 1998 growing potatoes on sandy soil has had higher yields than growing them on clay soil. In 2001 a hectare of sandy soil and peat yields 46 thousand kilograms of consumption and seed potatoes, whereas clay yields 43 thousand. Production this year was lower than it was in 2000 both on sandy and on clay soil.

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## Consumption and seed potatoes

Average over period:	Area	Yield per jaar	
	1 000 ha	1 000 kg / ha	billion kg
1950 / 1959	118	25	2.9
1960 / 1969	89	30	2.7
1970 / 1979	88	36	3.1
1980 / 1989	104	42	4.3
1990 / 1999	119	41	4.9
2000	129	47	6.0
2001 *	119	44	5.2

\* preliminary figures.

**Source: Statistics Netherlands**