

# SURVEY ON YIELDS OF EARLY CROPS AND EARLY FRUIT

## LEGAL BASIS

The survey is regulated by the Regulation on Carrying out Certain Statistical Surveys ("Official Gazette" No 110/2009) in line with the Law on Official Statistics ("Official Statistics of RS", No 104/2009), as well as according to the Strategy for Official Statistics of the Republic of Serbia over 2009-2012.

## METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

**The survey aims to** collect data on yields of early vegetable and fruit, showing for the former the harvested area, average yield and total yield, and for the latter the number of productive trees, average yield per tree and total yield. The survey is carried out at the end of the harvesting.

**Reporting units** are agricultural legal units, farm cooperatives, units of other agricultural legal units and estimation areas for family holdings (in principle one estimation area is one or more cadastral municipalities, which depends on the share of vegetable farming, size of the cadastral municipality, etc.).

The data cover harvested areas and the yield of early crops, as well as the number of productive trees and yield of early fruit of all agricultural legal units, farm cooperatives and units of other agricultural legal units. As far as family holdings are concerned, the data include overall harvested areas under early crops and the total number of productive early fruit trees (trees of continuous type, individual trees, alongside roads, near houses, etc.).

The data for legal units and farm cooperatives are collected by means of regular annual surveys based on accounting and other records.

As for family agricultural holdings the data on harvested areas and yields of early crops are estimates based on sown areas in spring (PO-22b). Estimators are requested to establish, the best they can, the average yield of crops per unit of area and average yield of fruit per productive tree. Yields are estimated by direct observation of crops and fruit trees, the estimator making her/his opinion based on plant form, age, size of ears, fruit, etc., as well as on plant density for which she/he takes into account the quality and fertility of the land, applied agricultural method, influence of plant diseases and pests, weather in vegetation period (frost, wind, flood, etc.). She/he adds to the remarks opinions of agricultural specialists and other assistants in order to have the estimates closest to reality. Doing so the estimator should take into account all yields from all plots in the estimation area, i.e. both high and low yields. She/he first establishes the average yield per unit of area and then she/he determines the total yield on the basis of the average yield and harvested areas. To estimate early fruit one has to estimate the quantities of mature fruit per productive trees. Fallen off mature fruit, if used for human or animal consumption, or even for processing, are counted in the yield. All productive fruit trees, whether having yielded or not, are taken into account to have the average yield estimated. For that purpose, a network of approximately 1250 statistical estimators, who provide data for about 4000 appraising areas, being in principle one or more cadastral municipalities. Agricultural specialists or advanced and trained farmers – well acquainted with local conditions, are selected to be statistical estimators. Statistical bodies keep deep constant contact with them. This survey is meant to present harvested areas and yields of early crops, the number of productive fruit trees and yield of early fruit as of 31 July.

Aggregate data are published on the level of municipalities, districts, Vojvodina, Central Serbia and the Republic of Serbia. Personal data are protected by law.

## Definitions of main concepts:

*Harvested area* – areas on which crops have been harvested.

*Yield per unit of area (average yield)* – it is calculated by dividing the total production of a crop with the harvested area.

*Total yield* – it is the quantity of crops available at the end of the harvest, i.e. it is the yield of crops shown as yield held in barn of normal humidity minus all losses that have occurred during harvest, and transport.

*Productive trees* – fruit trees that, depending on their maturity, can bear fruit in normal vegetation conditions, whether they have bore fruit or not in the reference year.

*Yield per productive tree (average yield)* – it is calculated by dividing the total yield with the number of productive trees.

*Total yield of fruit* – it is shown as the yield of mature fruit, taking into account fallen off trees is they are used for human and animal consumption or for processing.

The survey will be harmonized with EU standards after the Census of Agriculture, which is in the course of preparation.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY MANAGEMENT

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The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the producer of the mentioned data.

Data are collected and entered in regional offices, processed, edited and presented in tables in the Division of Agriculture and Forestry.

Data are collected by means of questionnaires, which are sent by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, via its regional offices, to agricultural legal units, farm cooperatives and units of other agricultural legal units (PO-32a) and to statistical estimators (PO-32b). Short explanatory notes as to how to fill in the questionnaire are given in the questionnaire (PO-32a), while statistical estimators use short methodological notes of the statistics of plant farming to fill in PO-32b.

Data are to be sent to the Office not later than 10 August for preliminary results, which are published on 15 August in the statistical release PO-15, and for final results 05 September, which processing should be finalized up to 15 September.

Data are collected in publications „Statistical Yearbook of Serbia“, „Municipalities in Serbia“, bulletin „Agriculture“, and on the Internet site of the Office ([www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)).

## SURVEY TOOLS

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**Questionnaire** – annexed

**Methodological notes**

The nomenclature complies with the “Classification of Activities” (CA) and the nomenclature „Products and Services in Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing“.