31 May 2018

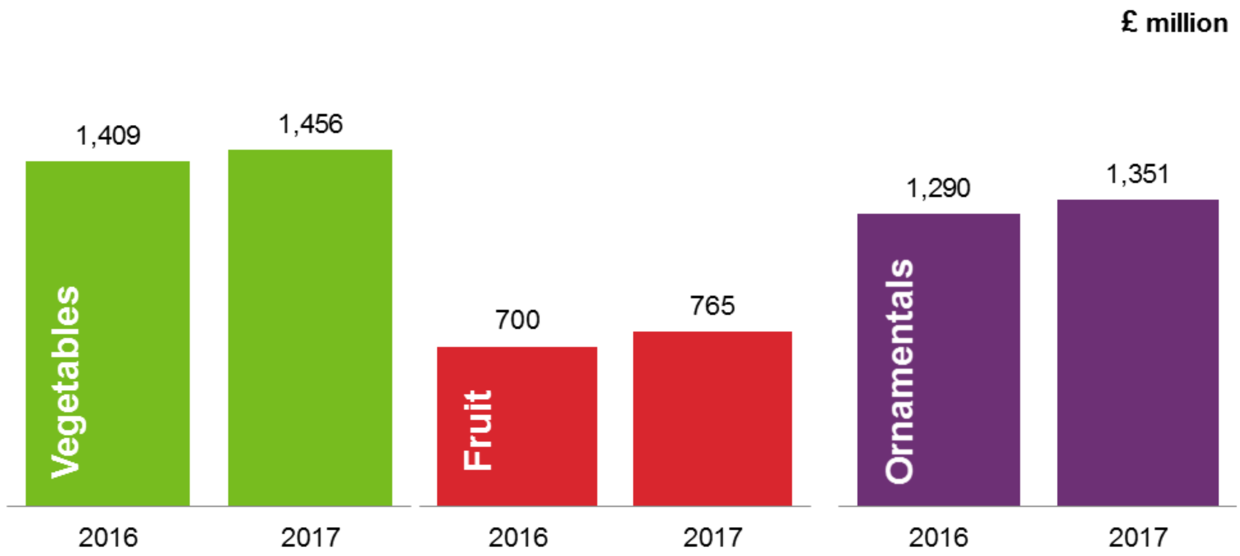
Horticulture Statistics 2017

These statistics cover area, production, value, imports and exports of horticulture crops from 1985 to 2017. There are estimates for around 50 fruit and vegetables as well as aggregated ornamental production. All of the statistics are available in the accompanying dataset.

Key points:

- The value of home produced vegetables increased by 3.3% to £1.5 billion in 2017, and volume of home production increased by 4.9% to 2.7 million tonnes. There was an increase in the value of field vegetables, which rose by 4.2% to £1.1 billion (£44 million increase) whilst the value of protected vegetables increased slightly by 0.8% to £356 million (£2.7 million increase).
- Home produced fruit rose in value to £765 million, a rise of 9.2% compared to 2016, with production volumes falling 5.1% at 743 thousand tonnes. The value of cherries was up by nearly £17 million to £24 million and raspberries increased by £15 million to £136 million
- UK ornamentals were worth £1.4 billion in 2017, an increase of 4.8% compared to 2016

Figure 1 The Value of fresh fruit, vegetables and ornamentals 2016-2017



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Vegetables

Figure 2 Home produced vegetables as percentage of total supply

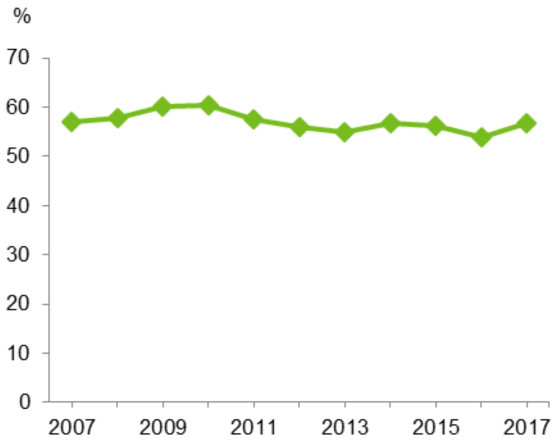
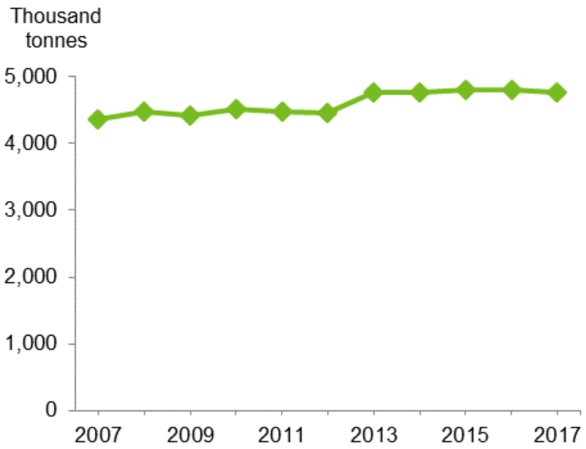


Figure 3 Total supply of vegetables



- Home production increased by 4.9% to 2.7 million tonnes. Over the last 20 years total production of vegetables remains between 2.5 and 3.0 million tonnes.
- The value of home production increased by 3.3% to £1.5 billion.
- Despite the increase in home production, total supply was down 0.6% to 4.8 million tonnes as imports of vegetables fell by 7.6%.
- Home production of vegetables contributed to around 57% of the total UK supply in 2017, compared to 54% in 2016.

Field vegetables

Figure 4 Value of field vegetables

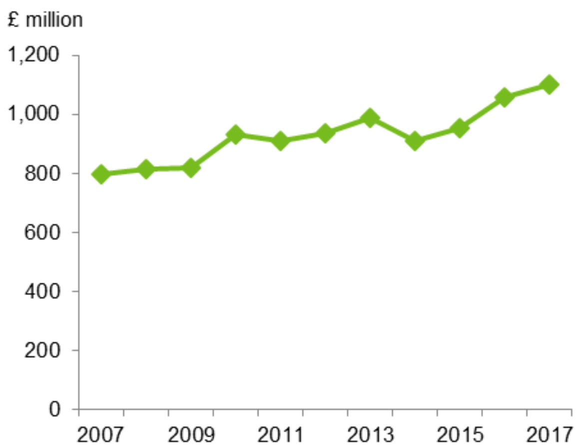


Figure 5 Production of field vegetables

- Good soil conditions at the start of 2017, especially in the East and South of the UK allowed growers to start drilling very early. By April the weather was warm, but also very dry. This weather trend continued through May hampering the progress of planting and crop development in spring established crops, especially in directly drilled crops.
- Field vegetables increased in value by 4.2% to £1.1 billion in 2017
- Production at 2.4 million tonnes was a rise of 5.9% on 2016. The area used for field vegetables increased by 4.0% to 118 thousand hectares.
- See tables 11 to 13 in the dataset

Protected vegetable

Figure 6 Value of protected vegetables

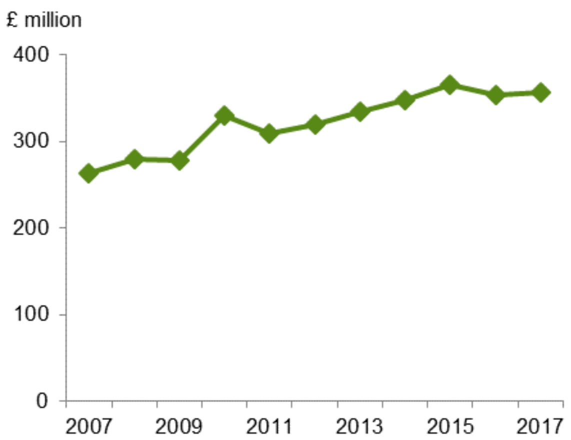
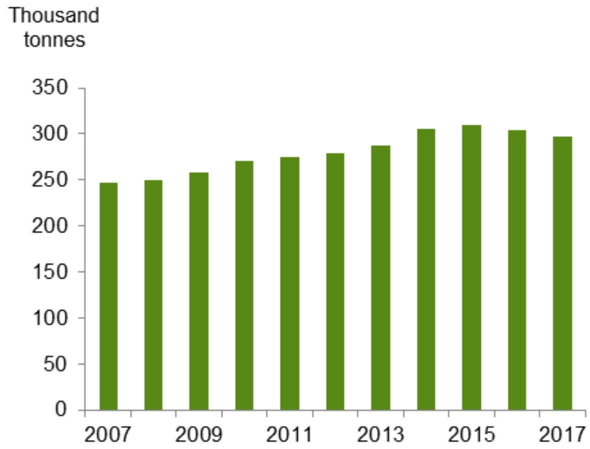


Figure 7 Production of protected vegetables



- The value of protected vegetables rose by 0.8% in 2017 to £356 million.
- Production of protected vegetables fell by 2.5% in 2017 to 297 thousand tonnes. This is the second year in a row where protected vegetable production has fallen since peak production in 2015.
- [see tables 14 and 15 in the dataset]

Fruit

Figure 8 Home produced fruit as percentage of total supply

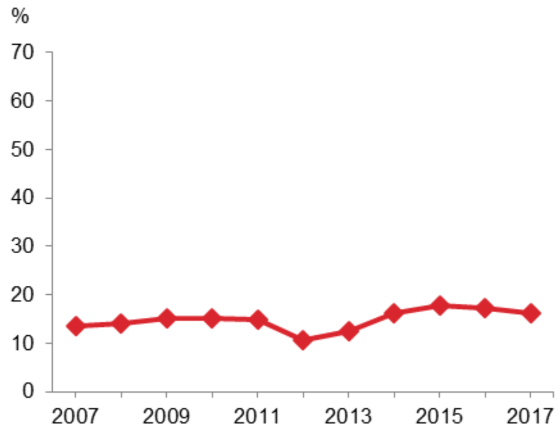
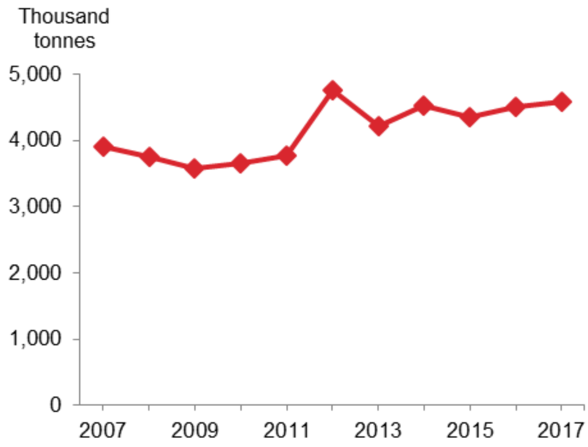


Figure 9 Total supply of fruit



- Home production contributed 16% of the total UK supply of fruit in 2017, compared to 17% in 2016 (see table 2 and 10 in the dataset).
- Home produced apples decreased their share of the market to 33% a 22% fall on the 2016 figure of 42% (see table 10 in the dataset). This was due to an increase in imports and fruit set in Bramley and Cox orchards which was below average due to the late frost particularly in East Anglia (one of the main growing areas).
- Total supply of fruit rose by 1.6% to 4.6 million tonnes in 2017 as imports increased by 3.8% partially offset by a fall in home production of 5.1%

Figure 10 Value of fruit

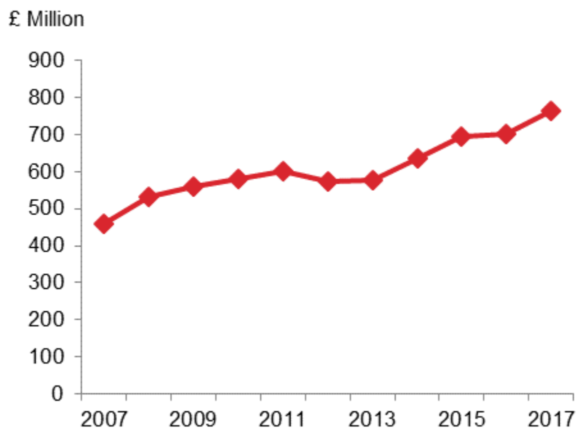
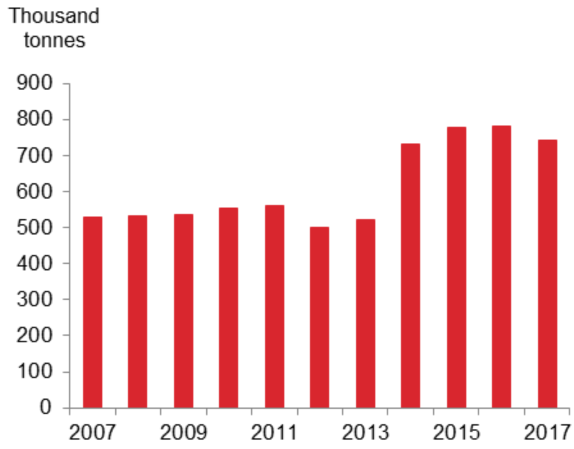


Figure 11 Production of fruit



- After a relatively mild autumn followed by a cold start to the year, the mild warm weather in March encouraged rapid bud development so that by early April the season was about ten days earlier than on average. The earliness remained throughout the season to give one of the earliest harvests on record. Late frosts in April adversely affected early blossoming fruit, with the degree of damage varying between regions. The summer and autumn temperatures in most areas were around average with below average rainfall. Pick Your Own businesses and farm shops had another good year, helped by favourable weather.
- Fruit production fell by 5.1% to 743 thousand tonnes. The area total for fresh fruit in 2017 remained similar to previous years at around 35 thousand hectares a 0.2% increase on 2016 (see table 4 in the dataset).
- The value of fruit increased to £765 million, up 9.2%. The value of fruit grown in the open accounted for nearly all of this increase up 9.9% to £711 million. Glasshouse fruit increased by £1 million to £54 million.
- [see tables 4 to 6 in the dataset]

Trade in fruit and vegetables

Figure 12 Imports of fruit and vegetables

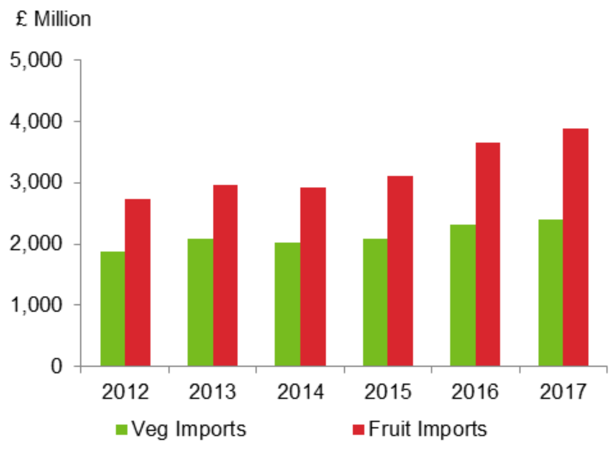


Figure 13 Exports of fruit and vegetables

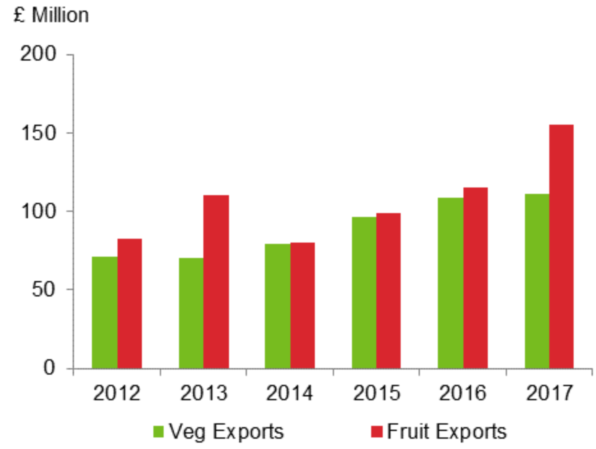


Figure 14 Fruit and vegetable trade values and volumes

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (prov)	% Diff
Imports value (£ million)								
Veg Imports	1,880	1,866	2,085	2,018	2,092	2,313	2,406	4.0%
Fruit Imports	2,673	2,724	2,955	2,916	3,107	3,659	3,890	6.3%
Exports value (£ million)								
Veg Exports	73	72	71	80	97	109	111	1.8%
Fruit Exports	102	83	110	80	99	115	155	34%

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (prov)	% Diff
Imports ('000 tonnes)								
Veg Imports	1,988	2,050	2,225	2,179	2,256	2,369	2,189	-7.6%
Fruit Imports	3,361	4,361	3,836	3,890	3,705	3,867	4,013	3.8%
Exports ('000 tonnes)								
Veg Exports	90	85	80	119	153	155	130	-16.3%
Fruit Exports	150	110	143	103	130	142	177	24.5%

Source: HMRC

Overall there was an increase in the value of trade in both imports and exports for fruit and vegetables. Although the volume of vegetable imports and exports fell in 2017.

- Vegetable exports (including re-exports) were worth over £111 million in 2017, 1.8% higher than 2016 whilst volume decreased by 16%. This is the highest export value on record.

- Vegetables imports cost £2.4 billion in 2017, a 4.0% increase on 2016 with volumes decreasing by 7.6% which resulted in a fall in total supply of vegetables

- Fruit exports (including re-exports) were worth £155 million in 2017, a 34% increase on 2016 and the third consecutive increase in value. Volumes of exports increased by 25% to 177 thousand tonnes

- Fruit imports cost £3.9 billion in 2017, an 6.3% increase on 2016 with volumes increasing by 3.8%

Imports to the UK by country of fruit and vegetables

Figure 15 Vegetable imports by country as percentage of total value

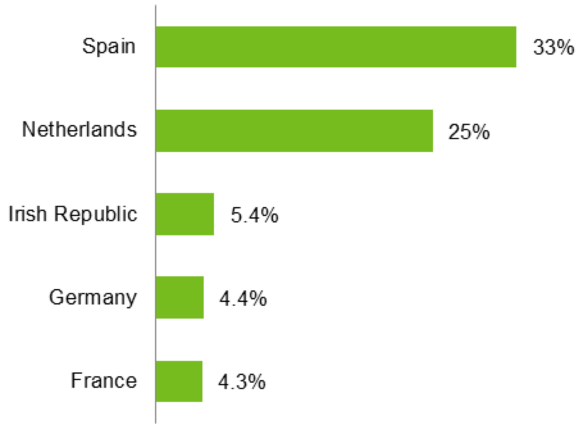
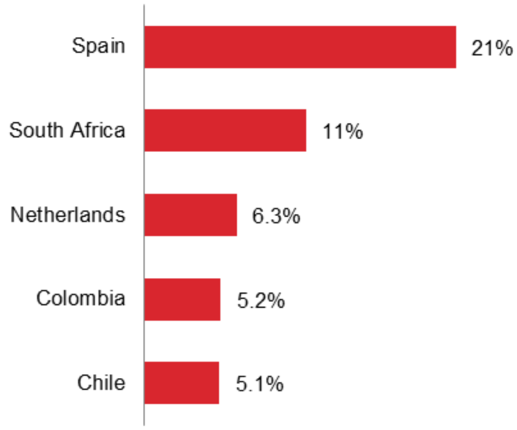


Figure 16 Fruit imports by country as percentage of total value



- The three key imported vegetables were tomatoes, sweet peppers and mushrooms. The majority of tomatoes and sweet pepper imports came from Spain and the Netherlands while the Irish Republic accounted for over half the mushroom imports.
- The three key imported fruit were bananas (Colombia and Dominican Republic), grapes (South Africa and Spain) and apples (France and South Africa). The key fruit imported from Spain and South Africa were grapes and citrus fruit.

Ornamentals

- Ornamental plants and flowers were worth £1.4 billion in 2017, a rise of 4.8%.
- Hardy ornamental stock increased in value by 4.7% to £933 million. Trade in 2017 was good across amenity, landscape and the garden retail sector for hardy nursery stock. The production area has remained largely static over the last year. A slight increase in demand across both the retail and amenity sectors saw a slight uplift in plant unit values, which eased the pressure of rising costs. There appears to be a small shift from field to containerised nursery stock for fruit trees, hardy ornamentals and herbaceous production.
- Flowers in bloom showed a 30% increase in value at an estimated £121 million. This follows an intensive review of the sector that resulted in better coverage for a wider range of flowers.
- The pot plant sector fell by 2.5% to a value of £297 million. Overall production increased in 2017, but prices fell leading to the overall fall in value. Notable exceptions were hydrangea (larger plants are being produced in tubs), and primula / polyanthus (more double varieties), where estimated unit values increased.

Figure 17 Value of ornamentals

£ million

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (prov)	% Diff
Flowers & Bulbs in the Open	39	38	45	42	45	-	-	
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stoc	756	791	809	796	783	-	-	
Protected Crops	319	313	336	328	321	-	-	
Flowers and Bloom	-	-	-	-	-	93	121	30%
Pot Plants	-	-	-	-	-	304	297	-2.5%
Hardy Ornamental NurseryStock	-	-	-	-	-	892	933	4.7%
UK Total:	**1,114**	**1,142**	**1,191**	**1,166**	**1,149**	**1,290**	**1,351**	4.8%

Figure 18 Value of ornamentals

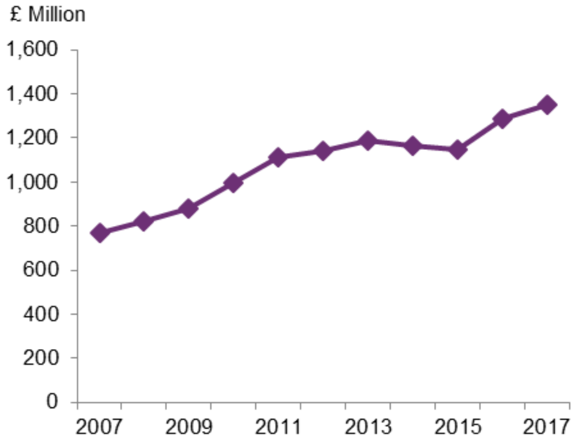
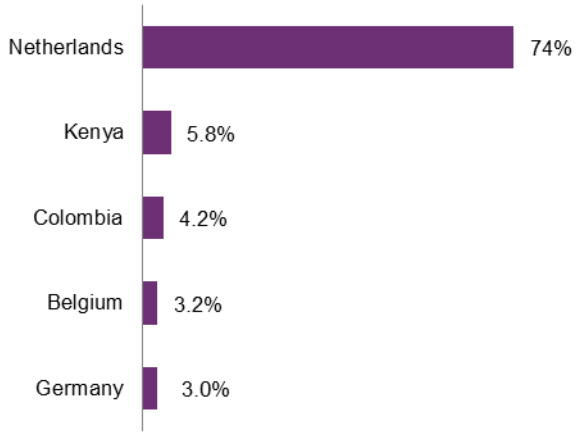


Figure 19 Ornamental imports by country as percentage of total value



- The value of ornamental imports cost just below £1.2 billion a 2.1% rise on 2016. The three key imports were roses, indoor plants and chrysanthemums, which were the main imports from The Netherlands, who accounted for 74% of all imports. Kenya accounted for 6.0% of imports, mainly roses and carnations.
- Exports of ornamentals were worth £82 million in 2017 a 36% increase on 2016 (see tables 23 and 24 in the dataset).

Revisions

The 2016 figures are now final estimates. From previously published figures changes made to the trade data, both imports and exports, for fruit, vegetables and ornamentals. This changed the percent of supplies provided by home-grown market.

Further Information

The UK government and the European Commission use these statistics to support policy makers and improve profitability of the horticulture sector, to monitor productivity and competitiveness including supply and self-sufficiency, to inform growers and the trade about markets, to assess the impact of disease outbreaks, e.g. E-coli.

Impartial intelligence gathered from a wide range of sources provides the evidence to make the estimates in this document. The associated meta-data provides more details.

This is an annual release. The next release will be in 2018.