



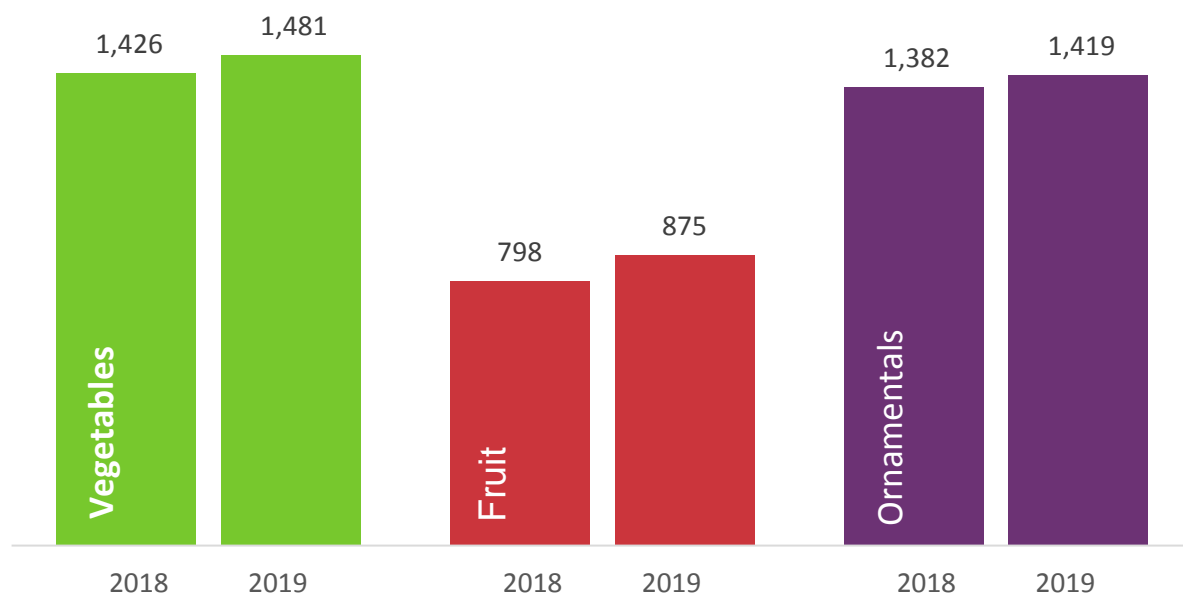
## Horticulture Statistics 2019

These statistics cover area, production, value, imports and exports of horticulture crops from 1985 to 2019. 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 3.9% to just under £1.5 billion in 2019, and the volume of home production decreased by 1.8% to 2.4 million tonnes. There was an increase in the value of field vegetables, which rose by 3.5% to £1.1 billion (£39 million increase) whilst the value of protected vegetables increased by 5.1% to £335 million (£16 million increase).
- Home produced fruit has grown in value to £875 million, an increase of 9.7% compared to 2018, with production volumes falling 6.5% at 683 thousand tonnes.
- UK ornamentals were worth £1.4 billion in 2019, an increase of 2.7% compared to 2018.

**Figure 1 Value of fresh fruit, vegetables and ornamentals 2018-2019**



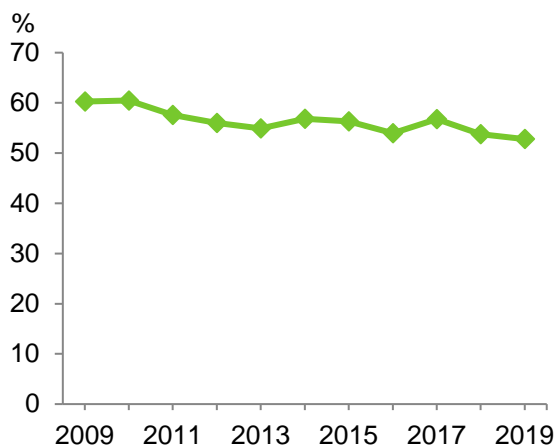
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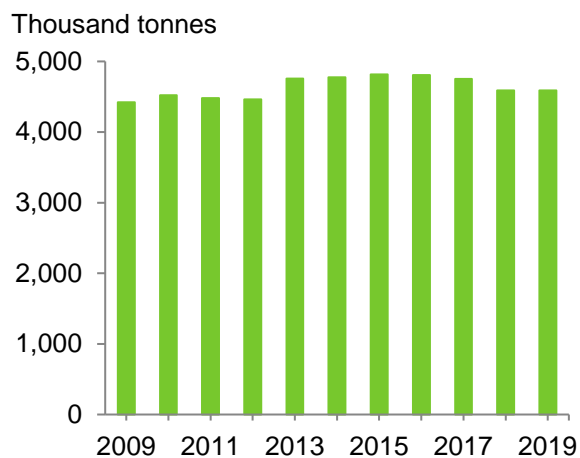
For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email [info@ons.gov.uk](mailto:info@ons.gov.uk). You can also find National Statistics on the internet at <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

## Vegetables

**Figure 2 Home produced vegetables as a percentage of total supply**



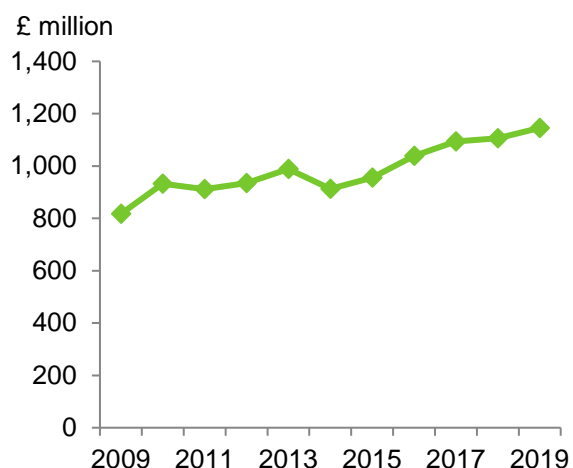
**Figure 3 Total supply of vegetables**



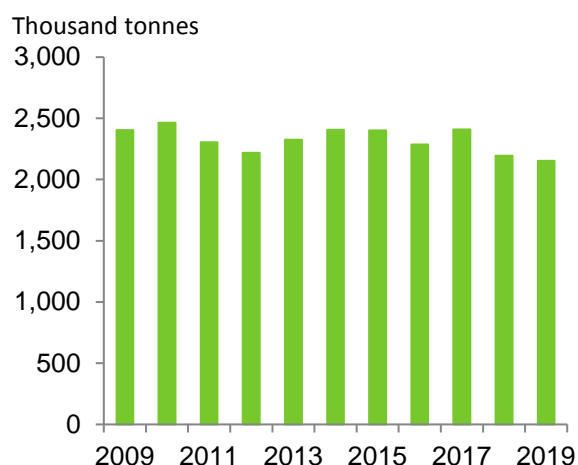
- The mild winter meant that the season got off to an early start, on light land drilling and sowing of seed sown vegetables such as onions, carrots, parsnips and baby leaf salad began in January. Soil temperature was sufficient to support germination and early growth of drilled crops. Following a period of dry conditions the weather became more unsettled from June onwards with periods of sustained rainfall which hampered planting and machine harvesting especially in eastern counties. A hot spell in July enabled some crops to recover but a return to wet weather in September through to the end of 2019 caused more problems for growers e.g. brassica production in Lincolnshire.
- Home production decreased by 1.8% to 2.4 million tonnes, this is the lowest level of production for over 20 years, however the value rose by 3.9% to over £1.4 billion.
- Total supply was similar to last year at 4.5 million tonnes. Imports of vegetables increased by 1.8% to 2.3 million tonnes and exports also showed a decrease of 2.6% to 142 thousand tonnes.
- Home production of vegetables contributed to around 54% of the total UK supply in 2019, compared to 53% in 2018.

## Field vegetables

**Figure 4 Value of field vegetables**



**Figure 5 Production of field vegetables**



- Field vegetables increased in value by 3.5% to £1.1 billion in 2019.
- Production at 2.2 million tonnes was a decrease of 1.8% on 2018. The area used for field vegetables decreased by 1.2% to just below 115 thousand hectares.
- Overall brassica production fell by 7.1% to 336 thousand tonnes
- See tables 11 to 13 in the dataset for individual crop details of area, production and value for field vegetables.

**Table 1: Field vegetable total value and production**

Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (prov)	% Diff
<b>Value</b> (£ million)	955	1,039	1,094	1,107	1,146	3.5%
<b>Production</b> (million tonnes)	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.2	-1.8%

## Protected vegetables

Figure 6 Value of protected vegetables

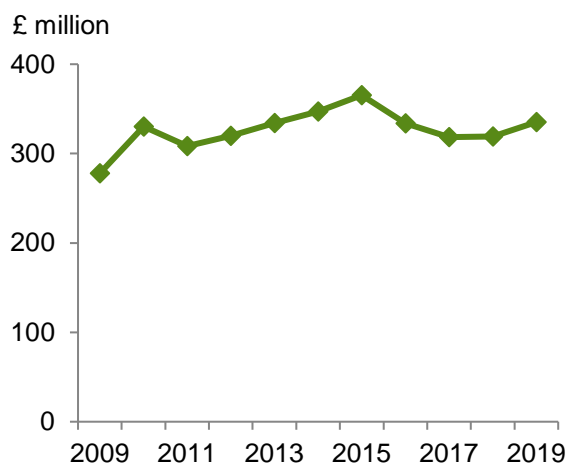


Figure 7 Production of protected vegetables



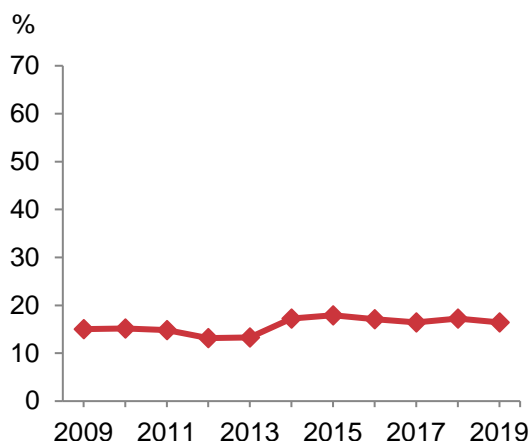
- The value of protected vegetables increased by 5.1% in 2019 to £335 million.
- Production of protected vegetables fell by 2% in 2019 to 269 thousand tonnes, with the area used falling by 0.5%, at 799 hectares. This is the fourth year in a row where protected vegetable production has fallen since peak production in 2015.
- See tables 14 and 15 in the dataset for individual crop details of area, production and value for protected vegetables.

Table 2: Protected vegetable total value and production

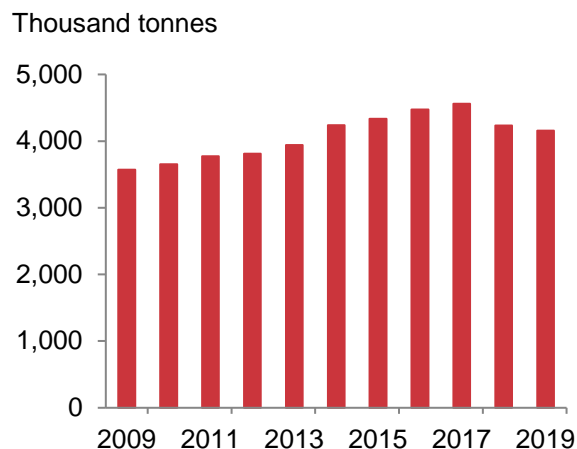
Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (prov)	% Diff
<b>Value</b> (£ million)	365	334	318	319	335	5.1%
<b>Production</b> (Thousand Tonnes)	310	305	290	274	269	-2.0%

## Fruit

**Figure 8 Home produced fruit as a percentage of total supply**



**Figure 9 Total supply of fruit**

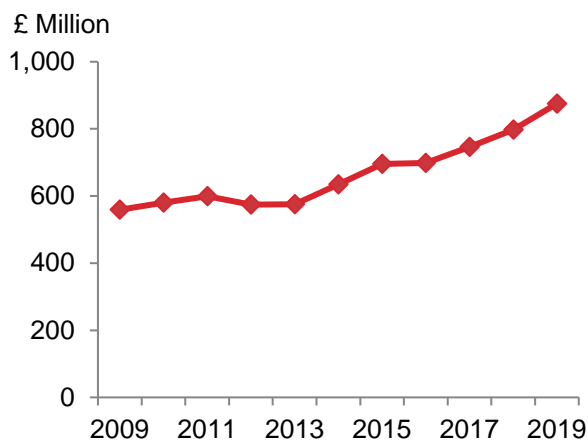


- After another relatively mild winter the weather at the end of February was unusually hot which encouraged rapid early bud development. Cold weather in March and late frosts in April and May adversely affected fruit crops in some regions. The summer weather was very changeable but did not seriously affect fruit crops.
- Home production contributed 16.4% of the total UK supply of fruit in 2019, a decline on the 2018 figure of 17.3% (see table 2 and 10 in the dataset).
- Fruit production fell by 6.5% to 683 thousand tonnes. The area total for fresh fruit in 2019 showed little change at just under 35 thousand hectares when compared to 2017 (see table 4 in the dataset).

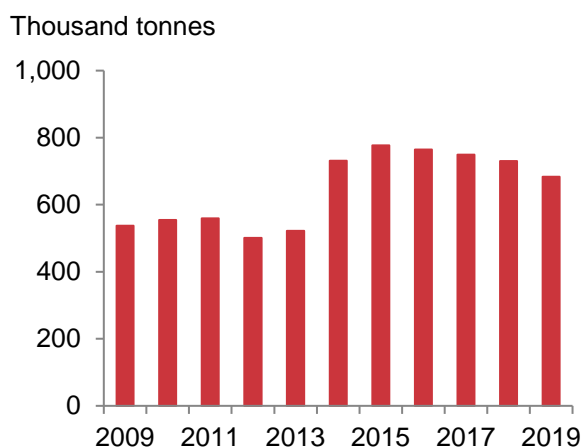
**Table 3: Fruit total value and production**

Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (prov)	% Diff
<b>Value</b> (£ million)	695	699	746	798	875	9.7%
<b>Production</b> (Thousand tonnes)	777	765	750	731	683	-6.5%

**Figure 10 Value of fruit**



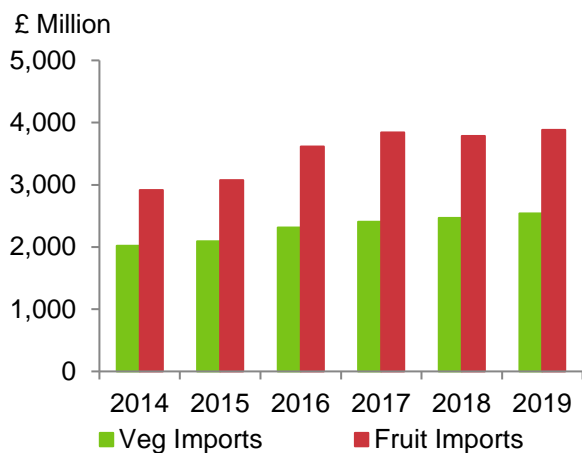
**Figure 11 Production of fruit**



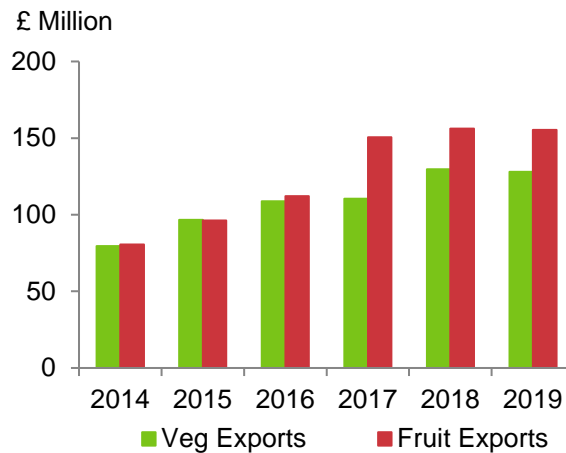
- The value of fruit in 2019 was £875 million, up 9.7%. The value of fruit grown in the open accounted for the bulk of this at £822 million an increase of 11% whereas Glasshouse fruit decreased by 12% to £53 million.
- The value of desert apples (+12%), pears (+46%) and cherries (+57%) all increased compared to 2018 mainly due to higher yields / production. In contrast the value of culinary apples (-13%), cider apples (-9%) and plums (-11%) all declined in value. In the case of culinary apples yields were below 2018 levels, cider apple orchards are being grubbed up as supply exceeds demand and plum area continues to decline as the fruit faces competition from imported apricots and nectarines.
- Home produced apples increased their share of the market to 39%, compared to 37% in 2018 and pears share of the market increased to 20% from 18% (see table 10 in the dataset). Yield of top fruit is generally higher than last year.
- Total supply of fruit fell by 1.8% to 4.2 million tonnes in 2019, home production falling by 6.5% and imports by 0.7% offsetting a 2.9% increase in exports.
- See tables 4 to 6 in the dataset for individual crop details of area, production and value for fruit.

## Trade in fruit and vegetables

**Figure 12 Imports of fruit and vegetables**



**Figure 13 Exports of fruit and vegetables**



**Table 4 Fruit and vegetable trade values and volumes**

Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (prov)	% Diff
<b>Imports value (£ million)</b>						
Veg Imports	2,092	2,313	2,404	2,468	2,537	2.8%
Fruit Imports	3,073	3,617	3,840	3,786	3,882	2.5%
<b>Exports value (£ million)</b>						
Veg Exports	97	109	110	130	128	-1.3%
Fruit Exports	96	112	151	156	155	-0.6%

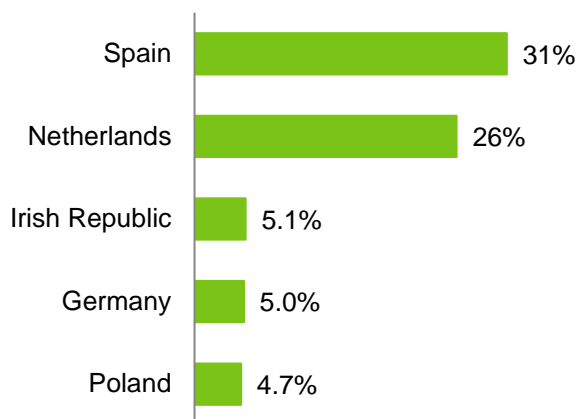
Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (prov)	% Diff
<b>Imports ('000 tonnes)</b>						
Veg Imports	2,256	2,369	2,184	2,268	2,309	1.8%
Fruit Imports	3,685	3,847	3,984	3,661	3,636	-0.7%
<b>Exports ('000 tonnes)</b>						
Veg Exports	153	155	129	145	142	-2.6%
Fruit Exports	128	140	174	156	161	2.9%

Source: HMRC

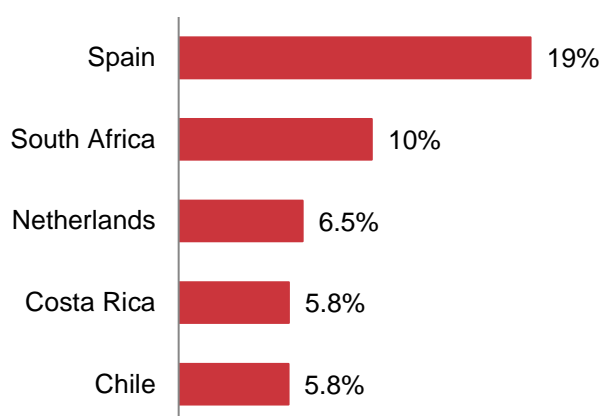
- Vegetable exports (including re-exports) were worth £128 million in 2019, 1.3% lower than 2018 but still the second highest value recorded whilst volume decreased by 2.6% to 142 million tonnes.
- Vegetables imports cost just over £2.5 billion in 2019, a 2.8% increase on 2018 with volumes increasing by 1.8% at 2.3 million tonnes.
- Fruit exports (including re-exports) were worth £155 million in 2019, a 0.6% decrease on 2018 but still the second highest export value on record. Volumes of exports rose by 2.9% to 161 thousand tonnes.
- Fruit imports cost £3.9 billion in 2019, a 2.5% increase on 2018 with volumes decreasing by 0.7% at 3.6 million tonnes.

### Imports to the UK by country of fruit and vegetables

**Figure 14 Vegetable imports by country as percentage of total value**



**Figure 15 Fruit imports by country as percentage of total value**



- The three key imported vegetables were onions, tomatoes and sweet peppers. The majority of onion, 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 Costa Rica), grapes (South Africa and Spain) and apples (France and South Africa). The key fruit imported from Spain were raspberries, strawberries and grapes and from South Africa grapes and apples.



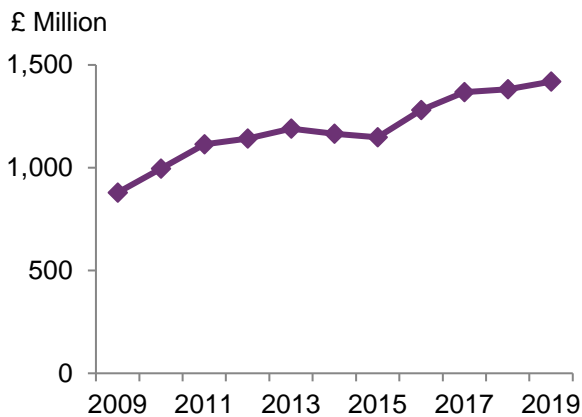
## Ornamentals

- Ornamental plants and flowers were worth £1.4 billion in 2019, an increase of 2.7%.
- Hardy ornamental stock increased in value by 3.0% to £982 million in 2019 as the sector benefited from a less winter cold and summer heat. Field grown stock experienced problems with planting, lifting and marketing due to wet conditions; however domestic demand was strong and this increased production and unit price offset difficulties.
- The pot plant sector increased by 3.2% to a value of £317 million. Within the sector some plants fared such as hydrangea, cyclamen and begonia (included in the “other category”) whereas poinsettia had problems with tobacco whitefly which caused wastage.
- Flowers and bulbs showed a 1.7% decrease in value at an estimated £119 million. Generally outdoor cut flowers suffered due to poor seed germination, lower yields and flooding in June 2019 whereas protected cut flowers were largely unaffected and the value stable.

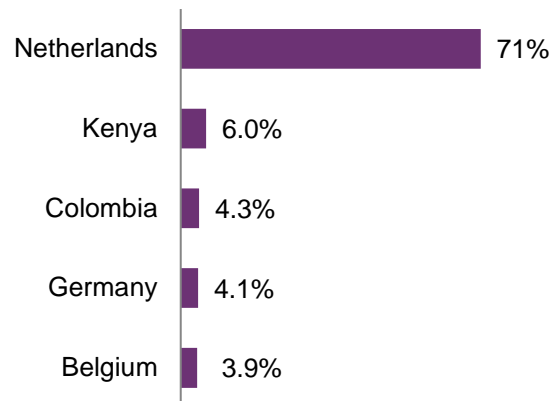
**Figure 17 Value of ornamentals**

Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (prov)	% Diff
Flowers & Bulbs in the Open	45	-	-	-	-	
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	783	-	-	-	-	
Protected Crops	321	-	-	-	-	
Flowers and Bulbs	-	93	130	122	119	-1.7%
Pot Plants	-	305	299	307	317	3.2%
Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock	-	883	939	954	982	3.0%
<b>UK Total:</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

**Figure 16 Value of ornamentals**



**Figure 17 Ornamental imports by country as percentage of total value**



- The value of ornamental imports cost £1.2 billion a 1.9% fall on 2018. The three key imports were roses, indoor plants and chrysanthemums, which were the main imports from The Netherlands, who accounted for 71% of all imports. Kenya accounted for 6.0% of imports, mainly roses and carnations and Columbia 4.3% mainly chrysanthemums.
- Exports of ornamentals were worth £76 million in 2019 a 5.4% decrease on 2018 (see tables 23 and 24 in the dataset for more details on imports and exports of ornamentals).

### Revisions

The 2018 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.

Following user feedback, we have now produced a new hops dataset which includes all available data from 2010 onwards (see table 26 in the dataset).

### National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in 2014 following a full assessment by the UK Statistics Authority against the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Since the last review of these statistics in 2014, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made improvements including:

- Revised 2017. Methodology for data collation and processing, reviewed and updated.
- Annually review the fruit, vegetables and ornamentals reported on so that the

**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 June 2021.