Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

1 August 2019

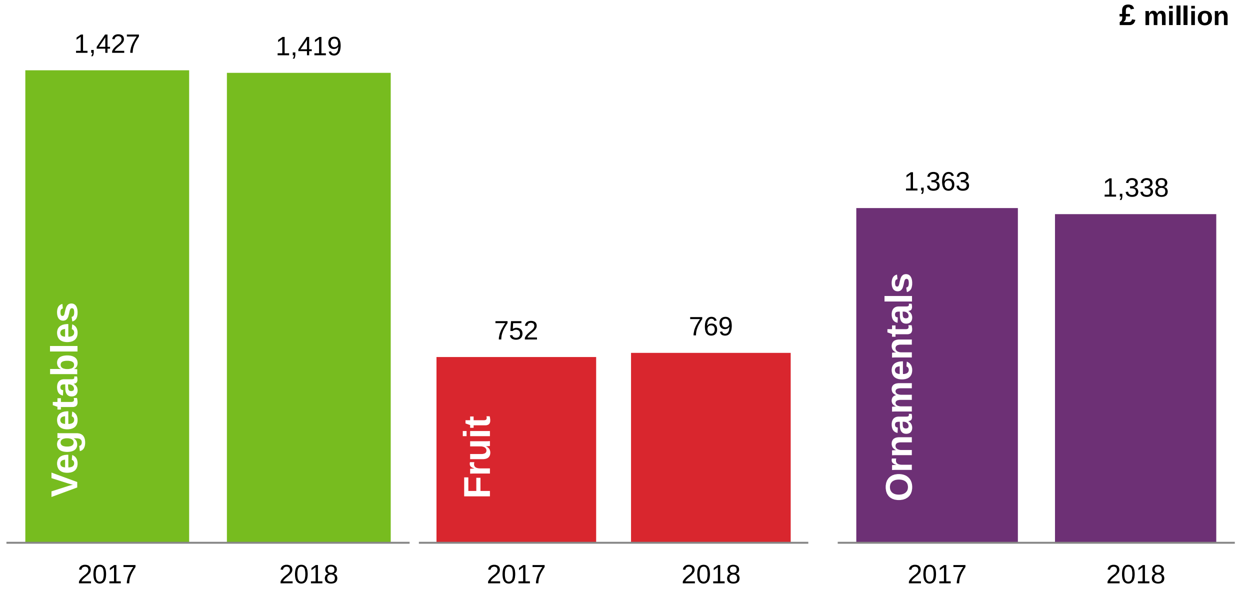
Horticulture Statistics 2018

These statistics cover area, production, value, imports and exports of horticulture crops from 1985 to 2018. 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 decreased by 0.5% to £1.4 billion in 2018, and the volume of home production decreased by 12% to 2.4 million tonnes. There was a decrease in the value of field vegetables, which fell by 0.5% to £1.1 billion (£6 million decrease) whilst the value of protected vegetables fell by 0.6% to £331 million (£1.9 million decrease).
- Home produced fruit has grown in value to £769 million, an increase of 2.2% compared to 2017, with production volumes falling 4.1% at 719 thousand tonnes.
- UK ornamentals were worth £1.3 billion in 2018, a decrease of 1.8% compared to 2017.

Figure 1 Value of fresh fruit, vegetables and ornamentals 2017-2018



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Vegetables

Figure 2 Home produced vegetables as percentage of total supply

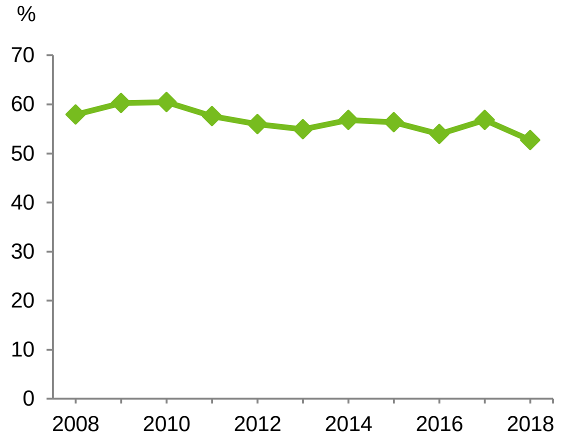
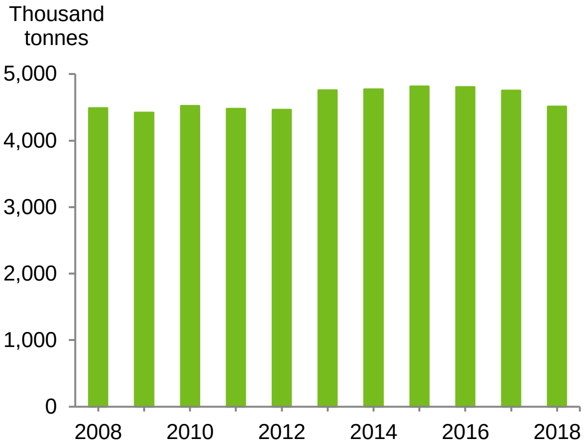


Figure 3 Total supply of vegetables



- A cold, wet start to the year, with higher than average rainfall in March and April provided wet conditions delaying drilling until late April or May. With the following heatwave and subsequent drought across most of the country, development of spring and summer sown crops were negatively affected, unless irrigation facilities were available. Even with irrigation, the sustained heatwave meant that crops had to be prioritised with alliums and brassicas particularly affected.
- Home production decreased by 12% to 2.4 million tonnes, this is the lowest level of production for over 20 years, with the value falling by 0.5% to £1.4 billion.
- Total supply was down 5.1% to 4.5 million tonnes. Imports of vegetables increased by 4.4% to 2.3 million tonnes and exports also showed an increase of 12% to 145 thousand tonnes.
- Home production of vegetables contributed to around 53% of the total UK supply in 2018, compared to 57% in 2017.

Field vegetables

Figure 4 Value of field vegetables

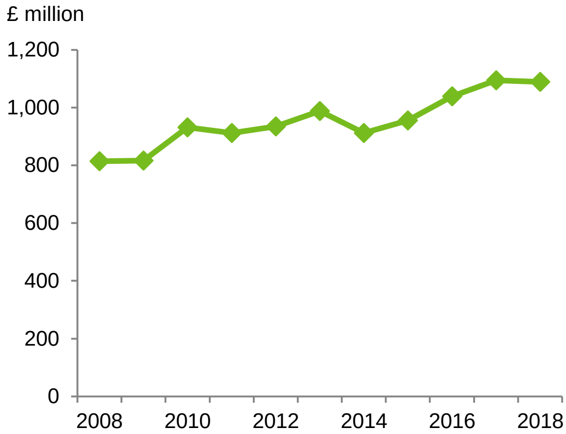


Figure 5 Production of field vegetables

- Field vegetables decreased in value by 0.5% to £1.1 billion in 2018.
- Production at 2.1 million tonnes was a fall of 13% on 2017. The area used for field vegetables decreased by 1.0% to 116 thousand hectares.
- Onion production fell by 12% to 333 thousand tonnes whilst broccoli production also fell by 19% to 58 thousand tonnes. Cabbages showed a combined fall of 22% year on year at 175 thousand tonnes.
- See tables 11 to 13 in the dataset

Table 1: Field vegetable total value and production

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (prov)	% Diff
Value (£ million)	912	935	988	912	955	1039	1094	1089	-0.5%
Production (million tonnes)	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.1	-13%

`Protected vegetable

Figure 6 Value of protected vegetables

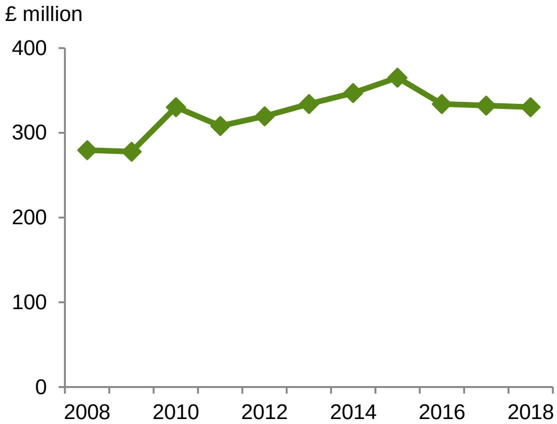


Figure 7 Production of protected vegetables

- The value of protected vegetables fell by 0.6% in 2018 to £331 million.
- Production of protected vegetables fell by 5.5% in 2018 to 274 thousand tonnes, with the area used falling by 2.8%, at 803 hectares. This is the third year in a row where protected vegetable production has fallen since peak production in 2015.
- [see tables 14 and 15 in the dataset]

Table 2: Protected vegetable total value and production

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (prov)	% Diff
Value (£ million)	308	320	334	347	365	334	332	331	-0.6%
Production (Thousand Tonne	275	278	287	305	310	305	290	274	-5.5%

Fruit

Figure 8 Home produced fruit as percentage of total supply

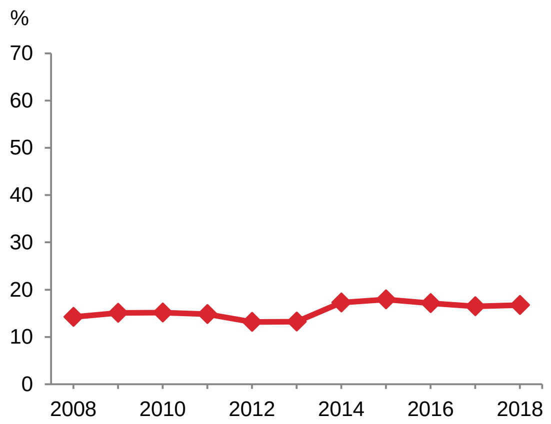
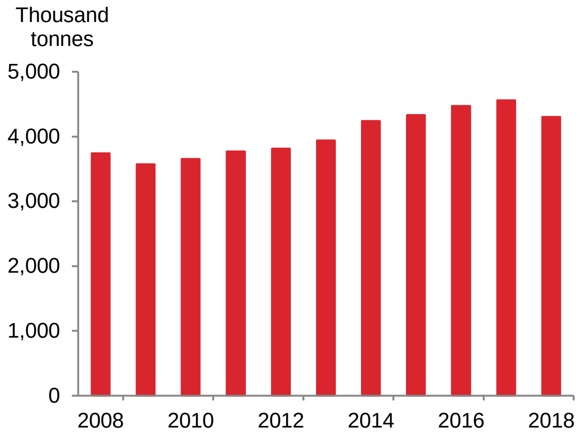


Figure 9 Total supply of fruit



- After another relatively mild autumn the first four months of 2018 were often very cold with temperatures below average, which resulted in growth starting at least two weeks later than usual. From June onwards the summer weather was hot and dry which brought forward the normal harvest date of crops. It is very unusual for top fruit crops to start the season with late bud development and then go on to have an early harvest. Unlike the previous year there were no damaging late spring frosts. Pick–your-own businesses and farm shops had another good year, helped by the favourable weather.
- Home production contributed 16.7% of the total UK supply of fruit in 2018, a slight rise on the 2017 figure of 16.4% (see table 2 and 10 in the dataset).
- Fruit production fell by 4.1% to 719 thousand tonnes. The area total for fresh fruit in 2018 fell by 2% at just over 34 thousand hectares when compared to 2017 (see table 4 in the dataset).

Table 3: Fruit total value and production

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (prov)	% Diff
Value (£ million)	600	574	575	634	695	697	752	769	2.2%
Production (Thousand tonnes)	559	501	522	731	777	765	750	719	-4.1%

Figure 10 Value of fruit

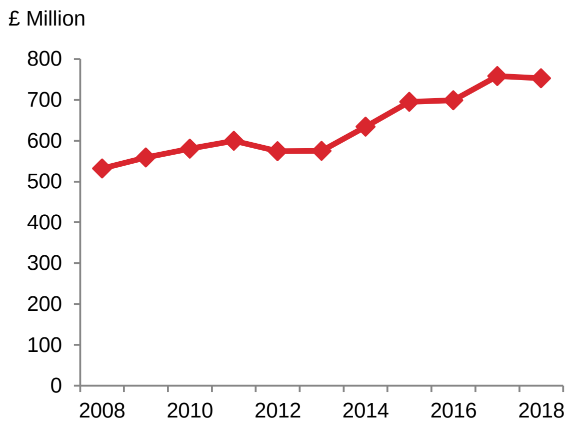
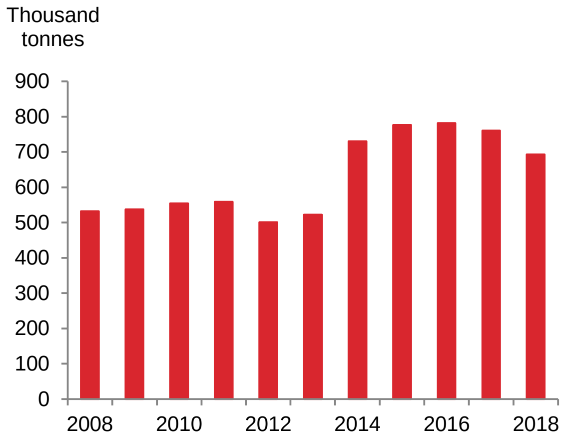


Figure 11 Production of fruit



- The value of fruit in 2018 was £769 million, up 2.2%. The value of fruit grown in the open accounted for the bulk of this at £708 million an increase of 1.4%. Glasshouse fruit increased by 13% to £61 million.
- The value of cherries showed the largest year on year fall of 50% at just under £12 million. The carry effect of the 2017 bumper crop alongside the cold weather at blossoming time and smaller fruit development due to the long dry summer resulted in yields of 4.7t/ha, 47% lower than the 2017 crop.
- Home produced apples increased their share of the market to 45%, compared to 33% in 2017 (see table 10 in the dataset). Yield of top fruit is generally higher than last year, even though fruit size was adversely affected by the hot weather in 2018 this was offset by an improved initial fruit set.
- Total supply of fruit fell by 5.6% to 4.3 million tonnes in 2018, with imports falling by 6.1%, exports falling by 10% and home production falling by 4.1%
- [see tables 4 to 6 in the dataset]

Trade in fruit and vegetables

Figure 12 Imports of fruit and vegetables

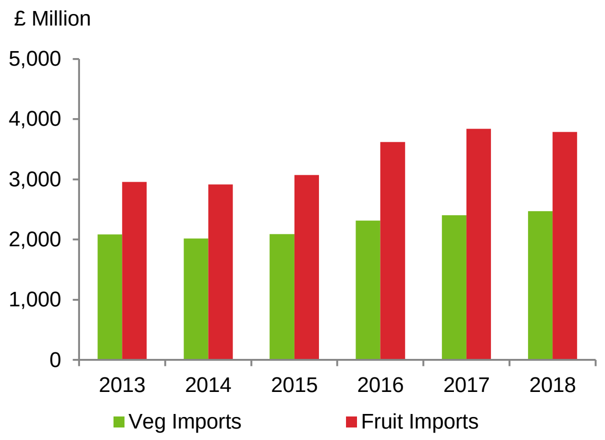


Figure 13 Exports of fruit and vegetables

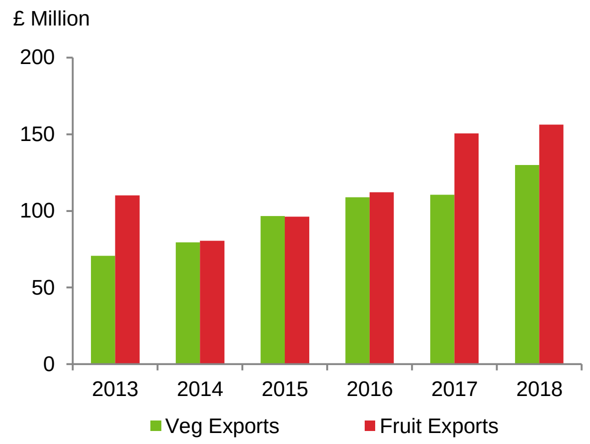


Table 4 Fruit and vegetable trade values and volumes

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (prov)	% Diff
Imports value (£ million)									
Veg Imports	1,880	1,866	2,085	2,018	2,092	2,313	2,404	2,472	2.8%
Fruit Imports	2,673	2,724	2,955	2,916	3,073	3,617	3,840	3,788	-1.4%
Exports value (£ million)									
Veg Exports	73	72	71	80	97	109	110	130	18%
Fruit Exports	102	83	110	80	96	112	151	156	3.7%

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (prov)	% Diff
Imports ('000 tonnes)									
Veg Imports	1,988	2,050	2,225	2,179	2,256	2,369	2,184	2,279	4.4%
Fruit Imports	3,361	3,421	3,561	3,610	3,685	3,847	3,984	3,741	-6.1%
Exports ('000 tonnes)									
Veg Exports	90	85	80	119	153	155	129	145	12%
Fruit Exports	150	110	143	103	128	140	174	157	-10%

Source: HMRC

- Vegetable exports (including re-exports) were worth £130 million in 2018, 18% higher than 2017 whilst volume increased by 12%. This is the highest export value on record.
- Vegetables imports cost just under £2.5 billion in 2018, a 2.8% increase on 2017 with volumes increasing by 4.4% at 2.3 million tonnes.

- Fruit exports (including re-exports) were worth £156 million in 2018, a 3.7% increase on 2017 again the highest export value on record. Volumes of exports decreased by 10% to 157 thousand tonnes

- Fruit imports cost £3.8 billion in 2018, a 1.4% decrease on 2017 with volumes decreasing by 6.1% at 3.7 million tonnes.

Imports to the UK by country of fruit and vegetables

Figure 15 Vegetable imports by country as percentage of total value

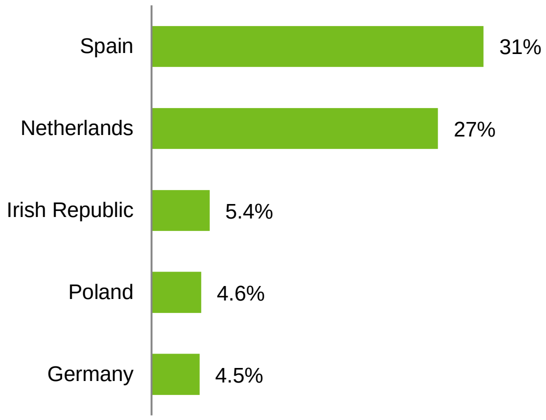
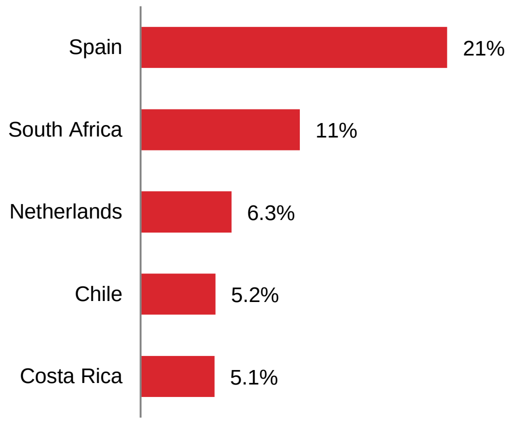


Figure 16 Fruit imports by country as percentage of total value



- 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 Costa Rica), 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 £1.3 billion in 2018, a fall of 1.8%.
- Hardy ornamental stock decreased in value by 2.5% to £910 million. The extreme cold at the start of the year and the summer drought slowed demand and delayed planting for some projects. However, record sales were recorded in June and demand was buoyant from September through to the start of the festive season. The impact of the extreme cold on the majority of stock was limited as plants were still dormant, but the summer drought reduced the size and availability of some tree species.
- Flowers in bloom showed a 6.7% decrease in value at an estimated £121 million.
- The pot plant sector increased by 2.5% to a value of £307 million.

Figure 17 Value of ornamentals

Calendar Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (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 Bulbs	-	-	-	-	-	93	130	121	-6.7%
Pot Plants	-	-	-	-	-	305	299	307	2.5%
Hardy Ornamental NurseryStock	-	-	-	-	-	892	934	910	-2.5%
UK Total:	**1,114**	**1,142**	**1,191**	**1,166**	**1,149**	**1,290**	**1,363**	**1,338**	-1.8%

Figure 18 Value of ornamentals

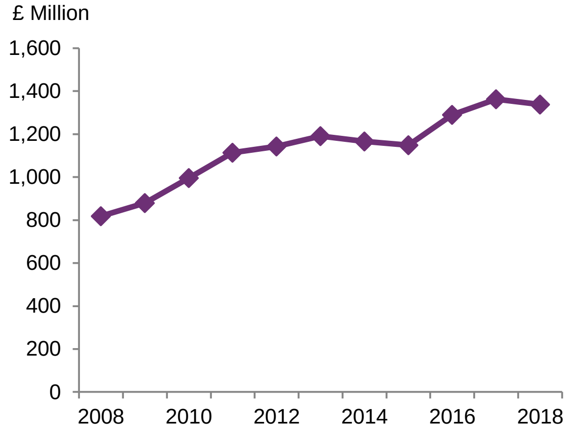
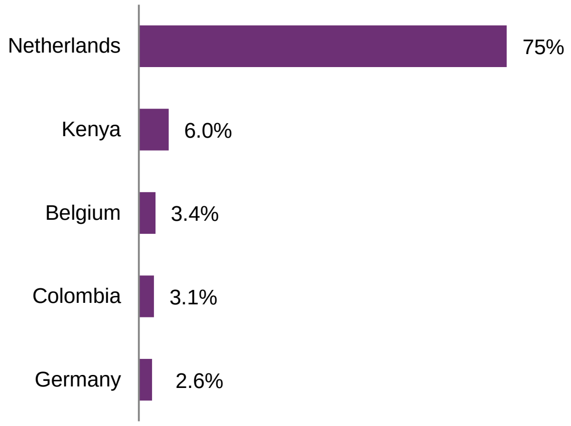


Figure 19 Ornamental imports by country as percentage of total value



- The value of ornamental imports cost £1.3 billion a 7.7% rise on 2017. The three key imports were roses, indoor plants and chrysanthemums, which were the main imports from The Netherlands, who accounted for 75% of all imports. Kenya accounted for 6.0% of imports, mainly roses and carnations.
- Exports of ornamentals were worth £80 million in 2018 a 3.1% decrease on 2017 (see tables 23 and 24 in the dataset).

Revisions

The 2017 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).

This notice and accompanying dataset has been revised from the 27 June 2018 release to reflect the value and volume of production form 2016 onwards, including changes in stocks (previously this data just reflected sales values).

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 2020.