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# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Czech Republic

**Post:** Prague

### Oilseeds and Products Annual 2015

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Oilseeds and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

Marketing years 2013/14 and 2014/15 were both record breaking: in MY2013/14 rapeseed area in the Czech Republic exceeded the threshold of 400,000 hectares, while in MY2014/15 the yield reaching almost 4 MT/HA resulted in record high rapeseed production of 1.54 million MT. Sunflower production has been declining because of its lowering profitability.

## General Information:

MT = Metric Ton

MY = Marketing Year. Post and USDA official data both follow the EU28 local marketing year of July to June for rapeseed and October to September for sunflower and soybean.

The major oilseed produced in the Czech Republic has been rapeseed. Together with wheat, rapeseed belongs to the most profitable crops for farmers, which translates into expanding planting areas. Even though the input costs have been gradually growing, the popularity of rapeseed among farmers remains high, as the demand for rapeseed has been boosted by the biofuels production.

In marketing year (MY) 2014/15 the Czech Republic experienced a record breaking rapeseed crop. Other oilseeds grown in the Czech Republic include sunflower, soybean, mustard, poppy seed, and flax. Compared to rapeseed, these can be considered rather minor crops. For details about production and area harvested, please refer to Table 1 below.

**Table 1 Final Harvest Data as published by the Czech Statistical Office:**

Crop/ Year	Area Harvested (000 HA)		Production (000 MT)	
	MY2013/14	MY2014/15	MY2013/14	MY2014/15
Rapeseed	419	389	1,443	1,537
Sunflower	21	19	47	42
Soybean	7	7	14	17
Poppy Seed	20	27	14	16

## Rapeseed

The Czech Republic witnessed a record breaking planting and harvested area of rapeseed in MY2013/14, reaching 419,000 hectares. Such high rapeseed area is a result of gradual growth going on for decades. As this expansion of rapeseed started pushing the country's agronomical limits, hindering proper crop rotation, the trend of increasing area has finally stopped. In MY2014/15 the planting and harvesting area halted at 389,000 HA. This current MY2015/16's area doesn't exceed the threshold of 400,000 HA either, it is estimated similar to MY2014/15 at around 390,000 HA.

Not having the largest planting and harvesting area, MY2014/15 became a record breaking year in regards to the historically highest production of rapeseed in the Czech Republic, reaching 1.54 million MT. An exceptional yield of 3.95 MT/HA is owed to very favorable weather conditions: mild winter, causing almost no winterkill, and May providing above average precipitation. Good and healthy condition of plants, combined with prolonged vegetation period secured the record breaking high yield and production.

Production in the current MY2015/16 is foreseen a rather average, the Czech Union of Oilseeds Growers and Processors estimate described the production 20 percent lower when compared to MY2014/15. It is mainly because of the poorer condition of plants that faced too much moisture during

winter and are prone to fungi infections.

Imports of rapeseed to the Czech Republic dropped significantly in MY2014/15, because of record breaking domestic production, while exports rose. As for grains, Germany has been the main Czech export market. For rapeseed export data please see Table 2 below.

**Table 2 Czech Republic's Rapeseed Exports**

Partner Country	000 MT			% Change
	July 2011-June 2012	July 2012-June 2013	July 2013-June 2014	2014/2013
<b>World (Total, out of which)</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>39.04</b>
Germany	189	214	394	83.49
Netherlands	0	39	81	108.95
Slovakia	61	104	43	- 58.39
Austria	4	14	16	16.23
Poland	26	17	11	- 36.57
Italy	0	1	11	1679.48
Hungary	24	14	6	- 58.72

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Approximately one third of the rapeseed production is exported, the rest is crushed. According to the Situation and Outlook Report for Oilseeds published by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, around 550,000 MT of rapeseed was used in MY2014/15 for biofuel production.

Food use of rapeseed oil stagnated in recent marketing years, mainly because of its increasing price. Consumers prefer soybean oil, sunflower oil and oil mixes of more favorable prices. A significant amount of rapeseed oil goes to export, with Poland being the major export destination. For rapeseed oil export figures, please refer to Table 3 below. Rapeseed meal has been an important component of feed mixes and its foreign trade is not so significant.

**Table 3 Czech Republic's Rapeseed Oil Exports**

Partner Country	000 MT			% Change
	July 2011-June 2012	July 2012-June 2013	July 2013-June 2014	2014/2013
<b>World (Total, out of which)</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>11.61</b>
Poland	100	135	204	51.48
Austria	23	71	62	- 12.12
Hungary	5	8	30	285.58
Slovakia	86	97	29	- 70.33
Germany	34	9	19	119.59

Italy	1	4	12	193.92
Slovenia	0	2	7	214.58
Croatia	0	1	3	391.53
Cyprus	0	0	2	0.00
Romania	0	1	1	33.50
Netherlands	0	5	0	- 91.55

Source: *Global Trade Atlas*

## Sunflower

Sunflower production in the Czech Republic has been on decline, dropping under 50,000 MT in the last two concluded marketing years. The main reason for this is raising prices of inputs. According to the Situation and Outlook Report for Oilseeds published by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural producer prices went up most significantly already during MY2007/08, jumping year-on-year from 5,927 CZK/MT to 9,196 CZK/MT.

Low profitability resulted in shrinking sowing areas of sunflower, which combined with lower to average yield, lead to a production of 46,779 MT in MY2013/14 and only 42,314 MT in MY2014/15. The outlook for MY2015/16 does not promise any changes. The decline in production has been offset by imports, mainly from neighboring countries, Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary, as seen below in Table 4.

**Table 4 Czech Republic's Sunflower Seed Imports**

Partner Country	000 MT			% Change
	Oct 2011-Sept 2012	Oct 2012-Sept 2013	Oct 2013-Sept 2014	2014/2013
<b>World (Total, out of which)</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>96.32</b>
Slovakia	37	27	45	65.26
Austria	2	3	14	311.66
Hungary	7	4	9	158.90
Moldova	0	0	2	567.52
Romania	0	0	1	0.00
Germany	2	2	1	- 60.64
Bulgaria	0	0	1	99.29
Poland	0	0	1	369.16

Source: *Global Trade Atlas*

## Soybeans

Soybean production in the Czech Republic has been marginal, with sowing areas not exceeding 10,000 HA. As soybean meal has been a crucial protein source in feed mixes, Czech Republic relies on soybean meal imports, as shows the Table 5 below.

**Table 5 Czech Republic's Imports of Soybean Meal**

Partner Country	000 MT			% Change
	Oct 2011-Sept 2012	Oct 2012-Sept 2013	Oct 2013-Sept 2014	2014/2013
<b>World (Total, out of which)</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>- 4.32</b>
Germany	342	305	298	- 2.22
Netherlands	40	44	59	34.64
Poland	21	22	9	- 60.91
Slovakia	0	1	3	127.83
Austria	1	3	2	- 34.63
United States	0	1	1	70.28
Serbia	1	1	1	- 19.98
Belgium	0	0	1	241.34
Brazil	24	12	0	- 100.00

Source: *Global Trade Atlas*

For more details on situation in the EU oilseeds and products sector please refer to the [EU-28 Oilseeds and Products Annual Report 2015](#) in our GAIN system available at <http://gain.fas.usda.gov>.

End of report.