

Main crop areas in the European Union in 2007:

Rapeseed +13.6%,

Cereals +1.5% and Sugar beet -2.9%

Statistics

in focus

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Contents

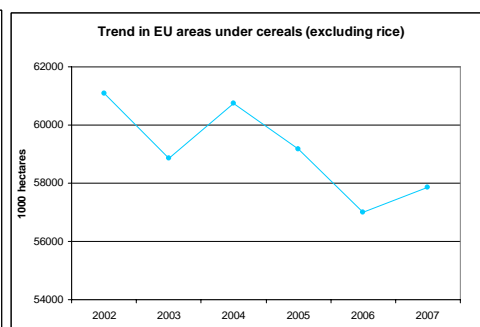
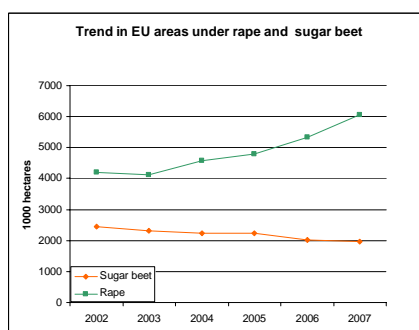
Rapeseed	1
Cereals	2
Sugar beet	2

According to Eurostat estimates and the estimates submitted by the Member States in early June, areas under rapeseed increased strongly (+13.6% compared with 2006, +31.5% compared with 2002-2006 average) in response to the substantial demand for bio-energy, in particular, bio-diester.

Areas under cereals are estimated to have increased by 1.5%.

In contrast, sugar beet areas continued to decrease (-2.9%) but at different rates across Member States.

The yield estimates from Eurostat and the Member States and those obtained by the agro-meteorological model MARS are presented in table 2.



Rapeseed

Area increase of 13.6% in comparison to 2006, i.e. 6.1 million hectares, Estimated harvest for 2007 of 17.6 million tonnes

The increase in crude oil prices and the policies to encourage the production and use of biofuels such as bio-diester, which is produced using rapeseed, have led to an increase in the areas under rapeseed: + 31.5% relative to the 2002-2006 average, + 13.6% compared with 2006, that is, an EU area exceeding 6 million hectares.

Rapeseed is the fourth most important crop by area in the EU, after wheat, maize and barley.

The largest producers of rapeseed, France, Germany and Poland, are estimated to have increased their areas under rapeseed by 11% (to 1.5 million hectares), 7% (to 1.5 million hectares) and 8% (to 674 000 hectares) respectively.

Romania is estimated to have tripled its area under rapeseed, to 349 000 hectares (up from 110 000 hectares in 2006) becoming the fifth largest rapeseed area in the EU.

Denmark, Hungary and Slovakia are expected to increase their areas by 65% (to 184 000 hectares), 56% (to 223 000 hectares) and 19% (to 147 000 hectares) respectively.



The EU production of rapeseed is estimated to reach 17.6 million tonnes in 2007, that is, an increase of 11.3% in comparison to 2006 and 27.3% relative to the

2002-2006 average. The average EU yield decreased by 2.1%, so that the production increase is due to the increase in the area under rapeseed.

Cereals

Slight increase in area, +1.5%, to 57.9 million hectares - Estimated harvest for 2007 of 281 million tonnes

Areas under cereals increased slightly, +1.5%, in comparison to 2006 (to 57.9 million hectares). This increase is probably related to high prices on the cereals market. The production of cereals in the EU is expected to reach 281 million tonnes, a rise of 5.2% relative to 2006. The average yield is estimated to reach 48.6 quintals per hectare, compared to 46.8 in 2006. These production and yield estimates are likely to be revised downwards given the difficult weather conditions in some Member States (in particular for grain maize production).

Areas under **common wheat** are estimated to have increased slightly (to 22.1 million hectares, + 0.7%) in comparison to 2006. France, the largest producer of common wheat increased its area by 1.5% to 4.9 million hectares, while Germany, the second largest producer would reduce its area by almost 2% (to 3 million hectares). Italy, Poland, Hungary and Spain are estimated to have increased their areas by 7% (to 625 000 hectares), 6% (to 2.3 million hectares), 4% (to 1.1 million hectares) and 3% (to 1.3 million hectares) respectively. Common wheat production is forecast to increase to 122.5 million tonnes (+ 4.3%); thus the average EU yield is expected to increase by 3.7% and reach 55.5 quintals per hectare.

Areas under **durum wheat** have remained stable in comparison to 2006 at 3 million hectares. However, relative to the average of the last five years, areas

under durum wheat decreased by nearly 19%. This fall is due to the reduction in the Italian and Spanish areas (-15% to 1.4 million hectares, and -30% to 600 000 hectares). Production EU is expected to be 8.9 million tonnes.

Areas under **barley** are estimated to have decreased slightly (-0.6% to 13.7 million hectares) while production is expected to increase by 6.3% to 59.7 million tonnes. Spain, the third largest barley producer after Germany and France, has the greatest area under barley, 3.2 million hectares (-1% in comparison to 2006). Germany reduced its area under barley by 2% (to less than 2 million hectares) while France increased its area slightly (+ 1% to 1.7 million hectares). Romania and Hungary increased their areas under barley by 12% (to 371 000 hectares) and 11% (to 324 000 hectares) respectively.

Areas in the EU under **rye and meslin** are estimated to have increased (+ 6.2% in comparison to 2006, to 2.6 million hectares). Production is also expected to increase, to 7.6 million tonnes. Poland, the largest rye producer, increased its area under rye by almost 9% (to 1.5 million hectares) in comparison to 2006.

Finally, areas under **grain maize** are estimated to have increased by 3.2% to reach 8.8 million hectares. Romania, the third largest grain maize producer in the EU after France and Italy, has the greatest area under grain maize, 2.5 million hectares (-0.6% in comparison to 2006). Production in the EU is expected to reach 60.3 million tonnes.

Sugar beet

Areas continue to decrease (to less than 2 million hectares) - Estimated harvest in 2007 at 117.8 million tonnes

Due to the reform of sugar regime, areas under sugar beet are estimated to be down by 2.9% within the EU in comparison to 2006 (-12.6% relative to the 2002-2006 average) and be less than 2 million hectares.

This decrease relative to the average of the last 5 years (2002-2006) is widespread; most of the Member States have seen their areas under sugar beet decrease. However compared with 2006, the trend in areas for

2007 varies across Member States. France, the largest sugar beet producer, increased its areas slightly (+ 3% to 392 000 ha). In contrast, Hungary, Spain and Denmark confirmed the reduction of their areas (-24% to 38 000 hectares for Hungary, -13% to 76 000 hectares for Spain and -8% to 38 000 hectares for Denmark).

EU production of sugar beet is expected to reach 117.8 million tonnes, that is, a fall of 7.3% relative to the 2002-2006 average, but an increase of 13.4% in comparison to 2006.

Table 1: EU Areas, 1000 hectares

	Average 2002-2006	2006	EECP ¹ 2007	% change 2007/2006	% change 2007 / 2002-2006
Cereals (excluding rice)	59368	57010	57870	1.5	-2.5
Common wheat	22302	21953	22102	0.7	-0.9
Durum wheat	3739	3021	3033	0.4	-18.9
Rye and maslin	2720	2422	2572	6.2	-5.4
Barley	13908	13780	13691	-0.6	-1.6
Oat and mixed grain	4616	4606	4524	-1.8	-2.0
Grain maize	9368	8542	8812	3.2	-5.9
Triticale	2424	2442	2352	-3.7	-3.0
Rice	420	412	408	-0.9	-2.8
Sugar beet	2254	2030	1970	-2.9	-12.6
Rape	4605	5333	6057	13.6	31.5

Table 2: EU Yield, 100 kg/hectare

	Average 2002-2006	2006	EECP ¹ 2007	% change 2007/2006	% change 2007 / 2002-2006	MARS ² 2007
Cereals (excluding rice)	49.3	46.8	48.6	3.7	-1.5	48.8
Common wheat	54.3	53.5	55.5	3.7	2.2	55.5
Durum wheat	26.5	29.9	29.6	-1.0	11.8	30.3
Rye and maslin	31.7	28.0	29.7	6.2	-6.3	
Barley	42.4	40.7	43.6	7.0	2.9	43.5
Oat and mixed grain	27.9	25.1	26.9	7.2	-3.5	
Grain maize	70.5	65.4	68.5	4.8	-2.8	67.5
Triticale	40.5	36.1	38.4	6.5	-5.2	
Rice	66.7	67.6	68.4	1.1	2.6	
Sugar beet	569.9	511.8	601.5	17.5	5.5	
Rape	31.9	29.7	29.1	-2.1	-8.8	29.3

Table 3: EU Production, 1000 tonnes

	Average 2002-2006	2006	EECP ¹ 2007	% change 2007/2006	% change 2007 / 2002-2006
Cereals (excluding rice)	281640	266843	280796	5.2	-0.3
Common wheat	121207	117440	122468	4.3	1.0
Durum wheat	9853	9025	8976	-0.5	-8.9
Rye and maslin	8350	6780	7642	12.7	-8.5
Barley	57939	56114	59652	6.3	3.0
Oat and mixed grain	12988	11575	12165	5.1	-6.3
Grain maize	60507	55854	60328	8.0	-0.3
Triticale	9551	8807	9034	2.6	-5.4
Rice	2756	2784	2790	0.2	1.2
Sugar beet	127170	103877	117848	13.4	-7.3
Rape	13861	15849	17640	11.3	27.3

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

1. EECP - Early Estimate for Crop Production:

Early estimate system for areas, yield and production, based on the exchange of information between the Agromet model (statistical trends) and the advance data provided by the Member States. Estimates using the Agromet model are progressively replaced by estimates sent by the Member States to Eurostat.

Production in a Member State is calculated on the basis of area and yield estimates obtained from the estimates of the Member States and/or Eurostat. EU-25 production and area are the sum of production and area figures from each Member State for a given product.

2. MARS - Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing action:

Yields forecast model based on agrometeorological conditions <http://agrifish.jrc.it/marsstat/default.htm>.

For the purpose of comparison, estimates for 2007 yields obtained using the agrometeorological model MARS and are presented on table 2.

Abbreviations:

Million ha = 1 000 000 hectares.

Million t = 1 000 000 tonnes.

Quintal/ha = 100 kg per hectare.

EU: the current European Union of 27 Member States.

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Agriculture and fisheries/Crops products \(excluding fruits and vegetables\)](#)

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