



## Fruit production in Bulgaria – harvest 2024

*The area under fruit, berries and nuts in agricultural holdings in 2024 occupies 59.6 thousand hectares. 44.7 thousand hectares are harvested. The fruit production is 204.9 thousand tons.*

The area under fruit, berries and nuts in 2024 is 59 584 ha – 1% less than the previous year. The harvested area increases by 10% compared to 2023. About 11% of the area under fruit-bearing orchards are not harvested due to climatic and other reasons. Cherries occupy the largest share of harvested area – 23%, followed by plums – 21%. 24% of the total area\* under fruit, berries and nuts are irrigated.

The area under young orchards, not yet in production amounts to 6.9 thousand ha. The largest relative share of young plantations is occupied by walnuts – 32%, followed by plums with 20%.

Of the new plantations in 2024, 73% are stone fruits, 15% are nuts, and pome fruits and berries occupy 12%. Plums account for the largest share of stone fruits with 38%, followed by apricots with 28% and cherries with 22%. Of the nuts, the largest share take the walnuts with 91% and almonds with 6%.

In 2024, 204 913 tons of fruit are harvested, which is 14% more than in 2023. The Yugoiztochen and the Yuzhen tsentralen region have the leading place in fruit production with 26% and 24%, respectively.

**Table 1. Area, production and average yield of fruit, berries and nuts – harvest 2024**

Fruit	Total area* (hectares)	Young, not yet in production (hectares)	Harvested area (hectares)	Production (tons)	Average yield (kg/hectare)
Apples	4 246	320	3 527	36 830	10 442
Pears	714	102	551	2 915	5 290
Peaches and nectarines	3 174	230	2 322	17 540	7 554
Apricots	3 781	381	3 224	18 649	5 784
Plums	12 271	1 396	9 579	60 796	6 347
Cherries	11 737	923	10 213	50 435	4 938
Sour cherries	1 533	351	1 003	3 356	3 346
Walnuts	12 789	2 240	7 559	4 235	560
Almonds	2 562	183	1 840	1 143	621
Hazelnuts	2 573	319	1 724	865	502
Raspberries	1 624	55	1 524	5 121	3 360
Cultivated rose hips	1 547	285	1 007	1 263	1 254
Other	1 033	135	645	1 765	///
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59 584</b>	<b>6 920</b>	<b>44 718</b>	<b>204 913</b>	<b>///</b>

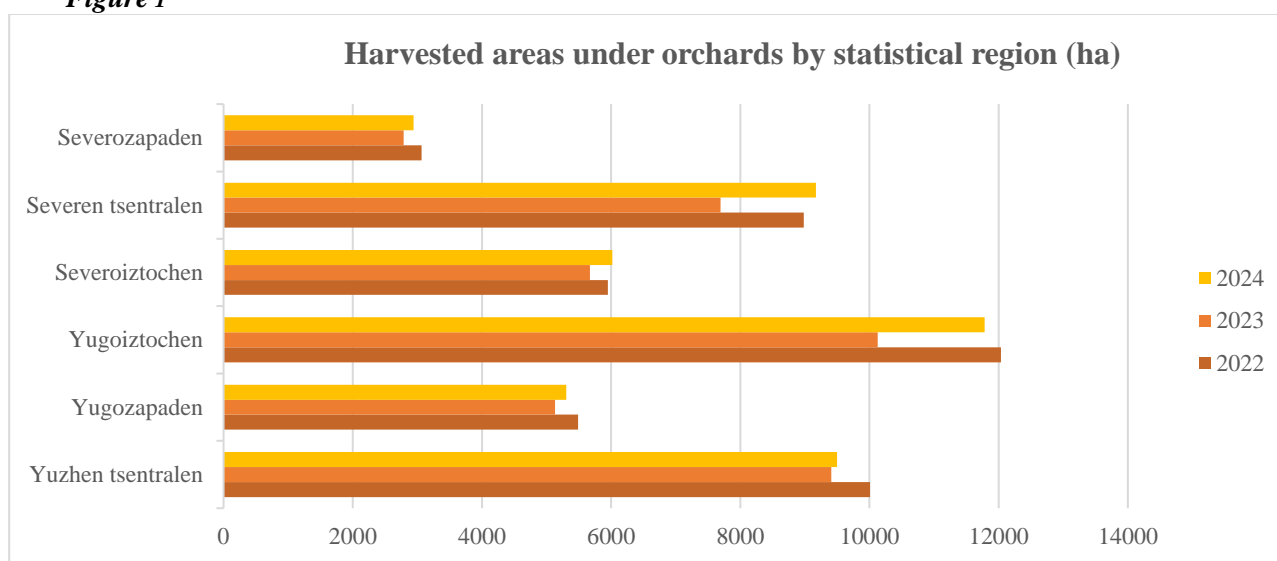
\* Total area – orchards, young, not yet in production and abandoned area with the possibility of restoration  
Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

## Results and analyses

**Table 2. Harvested area – harvest 2024, by statistical zones and statistical regions (hectares)**

Statistical zone, statistical region	Apples	Pears	Peaches and nectarines	Apricots	Plums	Cherries	Sour cherries	Walnuts	Raspberries	Cultivated rose hips	Other fruit types	TOTAL
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>3 527</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>2 322</b>	<b>3 224</b>	<b>9 579</b>	<b>10 213</b>	<b>1 003</b>	<b>7 559</b>	<b>1 524</b>	<b>1 007</b>	<b>4 209</b>	<b>44 718</b>
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	<i>1 535</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>1 900</i>	<i>3 105</i>	<i>6 464</i>	<i>5 718</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>5 950</i>	<i>1 082</i>	<i>619</i>	<i>2 744</i>	<i>29 915</i>
Severozapaden	356	20	43	22	1 627	168	95	240	94	96	182	2 943
Severen tsentralen	276	114	261	2 750	2 037	865	228	1 850	284	41	464	9 170
Severoiztochen	356	77	114	191	1 268	526	105	1 960	527	110	787	6 021
Yugoiztochen	547	90	1 482	142	1 532	4 159	69	1 900	177	372	1 311	11 781
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	<i>1 992</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>422</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>3 115</i>	<i>4 495</i>	<i>506</i>	<i>1 609</i>	<i>442</i>	<i>388</i>	<i>1 465</i>	<i>14 803</i>
Yugozapaden	747	121	199	22	952	2 257	183	221	224	71	310	5 307
Yuzhen tsentralen	1 245	129	223	97	2 163	2 238	323	1 388	218	317	1 155	9 496

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

**Figure 1**

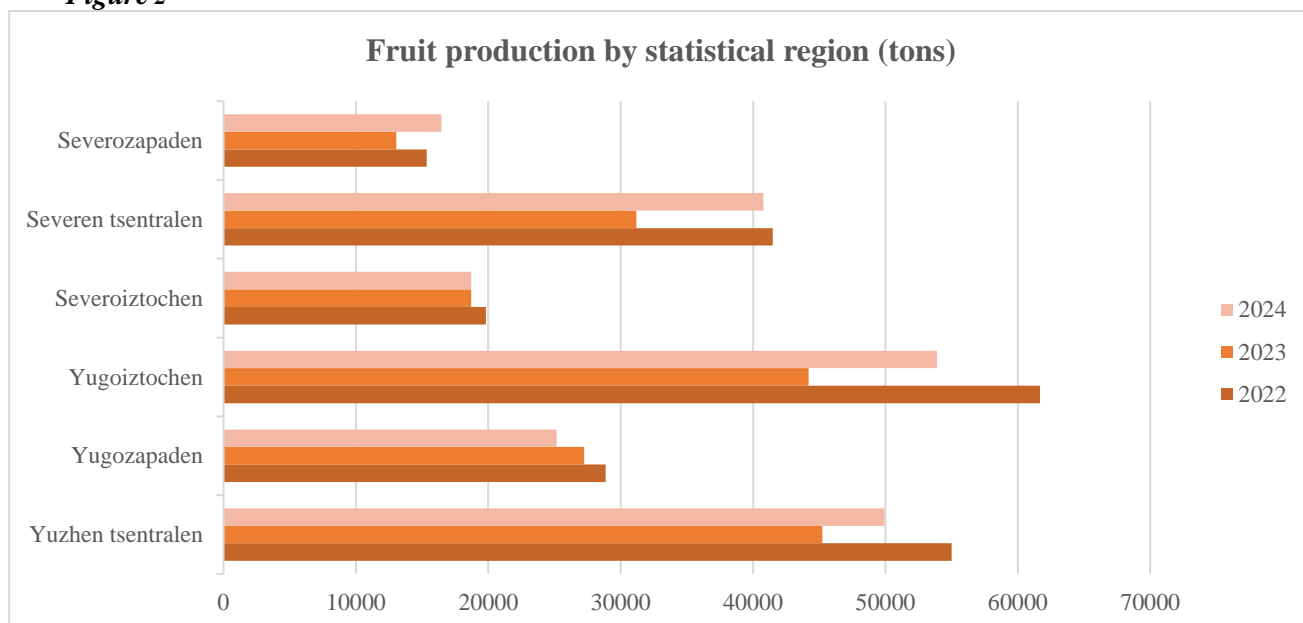
Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

In 2024, among the fruit produced with the largest relative share are plums, followed by cherries and apples, respectively with 30%, 25% and 18%. An increase in production compared to the previous year is observed for most major fruit species. There is an increase in the apricot production by 72% compared to 2023, 62% for peaches, 23% for walnuts, and 16% for pears. A production decrease is reported for raspberries by 9% and rose hips by 1%.

**Table 3. Fruit production – harvest 2024, by statistical zones and statistical regions (tons)**

Statistical zone, statistical region	Apples	Pears	Peaches and nectarines	Apricots	Plums	Cherries	Sour cherries	Walnuts	Raspberries	Cultivated rose hips	Other fruit types	TOTAL
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>36 830</b>	<b>2 915</b>	<b>17 540</b>	<b>18 649</b>	<b>60 796</b>	<b>50 435</b>	<b>3 356</b>	<b>4 235</b>	<b>5 121</b>	<b>1 263</b>	<b>3 773</b>	<b>204 913</b>
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	<i>17 358</i>	<i>1 604</i>	<i>14 753</i>	<i>18 084</i>	<i>37 345</i>	<i>29 133</i>	<i>1 916</i>	<i>3 010</i>	<i>3 845</i>	<i>663</i>	<i>2 112</i>	<i>129 823</i>
Severozapaden	3 682	99	300	123	10 611	642	357	136	242	141	121	16 454
Severen tsentralen	2 426	592	2 161	16 621	11 403	4 399	1 058	883	1 000	54	192	40 789
Severoiztochen	5 000	382	777	600	6 062	2 246	233	600	2 038	85	673	18 696
Yugoiztochen	6 250	531	11 515	740	9 269	21 846	268	1 391	565	383	1 126	53 884
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	<i>19 472</i>	<i>1 311</i>	<i>2 787</i>	<i>565</i>	<i>23 451</i>	<i>21 302</i>	<i>1 440</i>	<i>1 225</i>	<i>1 276</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>1 661</i>	<i>75 090</i>
Yugozapaden	6 260	598	1 078	171	5 432	9 720	521	245	581	131	416	25 153
Yuzhen tsentralen	13 212	713	1 709	394	18 019	11 582	919	980	695	469	1 245	49 937

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

**Figure 2**

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

In 2024, higher average yields are observed for walnuts, apricots and apples, by 22%, 17% and 6% respectively, compared to the previous year. Compared to 2023, lower average yields are recorded for rose hips by 16%, raspberries by 7% and sour cherries by 5%. For pears and plums, the average yields do not change significantly.

**Table 4. Average yield – harvest 2024, by statistical zones and statistical regions (kg/ha)**

Statistical zone, statistical region	Apples	Pears	Peaches and nectarines	Apricots	Plums	Cherries	Sour cherries	Walnuts	Raspberries	Rose hips
Bulgaria	10 442	5 290	7 554	5 784	6 347	4 938	3 346	560	3 360	1 254
Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria	11 308	5 329	7 765	5 824	5 777	5 095	3 855	506	3 554	1 071
Severozapaden	10 343	4 950	6 977	5 591	6 522	3 821	3 758	567	2 574	1 469
Severen tsentralen	8 790	5 193	8 280	6 044	5 598	5 086	4 640	477	3 521	1 317
Severoiztochen	14 045	4 961	6 816	3 141	4 781	4 270	2 219	306	3 867	773
Yugoiztochen	11 426	5 900	7 770	5 211	6 050	5 253	3 884	732	3 192	1 030
Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria	9 775	5 244	6 604	4 748	7 528	4 739	2 846	761	2 887	1 546
Yugozapaden	8 380	4 942	5 417	7 773	5 706	4 307	2 847	1 109	2 594	1 845
Yuzhen tsentralen	10 612	5 527	7 664	4 062	8 331	5 175	2 845	706	3 188	1 479

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

**Table 5. Fruit distribution – harvest 2024**

Crop	For own consumption	Sales	For processing	Other
Apples	1.6%	65.2%	30.2%	3.0%
Peaches and nectarines	1.1%	53.4%	44.0%	1.5%
Apricots	1.2%	40.2%	27.6%	31.0%
Plums	2.0%	48.9%	45.0%	4.1%
Cherries	0.7%	53.5%	43.3%	2.5%
Sour cherries	0.5%	35.6%	63.3%	0.6%
Walnuts	3.5%	49.5%	41.9%	5.1%
Raspberries	0.6%	37.4%	57.6%	4.4%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Fruit production – harvest 2024

97% of the produced fruit are sold. The largest share of production – 52%, is intended for direct sales and retail, and 41% are processed.

In total, mineral fertilizers are applied on 32% of the planted area, and organic fertilizers on 10%. Mineral fertilizers are applied to 58% of the area under peaches and nectarines, 56% of the area under apricots, 50% of the area under cherries and 48% of the area under apples. About 47% of the planted area under fruit, nuts and berry species are treated against diseases and against insects – 38% of the total area.

## *Methodological notes*

### **Purpose:**

The survey purpose is to establish the harvested area under fruit, nuts and berries, fruit production and average yield for 2024, the production distribution, the fertilized area and the applied agro–technical measures for the cultivation of the fruit species. The survey data is used to develop analyzes and programs in the sector. It is provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF), the National Statistical Institute (NSI), scientific and industry organizations, Eurostat, FAO, etc. and serves to make management decisions in the agrarian policy implementation at national and community level.

### **Regulations:**

- Regulation (EC) No. 543/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1557;
- Statistics Act;
- National Statistical Programme.

**Object of research:** agricultural holdings that grow fruit, nuts and berries.

**Research method:** the survey is sampled and conducted online (farms can provide the necessary information by filling in the questionnaire electronically) or by interviewing the farmers. The sample is random and stratified and is based on data from the 2020 farm census. New holdings established after 2020 are added. A threshold is applied above which all units are exhaustively surveyed.

**Method of conduct:** the survey is carried out by experts and employees in the regional directorates Agriculture.

**Geographic scope:** the survey covers the territory of the entire country. Data at the statistical region level is presented by the agricultural holdings location, not by the orchards location.

**Reference period:** crop year 2023/2024.

**Questionnaire:** includes administrative data for farm identification and questions about fruit-bearing and harvested area under fruit species, for the production of fruit from the 2024 harvest, for area under young orchards, not yet in production, the distribution of produced fruit, irrigated area and fertilization. Cultivated rose hips, intended for human consumption – marmalade, etc. are also included in the survey among the observed crops during the reference period.

### **Statistical indicators studied:**

*Harvested area* – the area from which the produce is harvested. It may be equal to or less than the planted area after excluding all non-productive area (e.g. young orchards, not yet in production).

*Production* – volume of harvested produce, incl. post-harvest losses and waste. The quantities used directly on the farm and distributed on the market, expressed in weight units of the main product, are included.

*Average yield* – a result value calculated on the basis of production and harvested area, i.e. the harvested production per unit harvested area.

**Confidentiality:** in order to ensure the confidentiality of individual data, some of the indicators are published in aggregated positions or replaced by the sign "c" (confidential data). These are the cases when: there are less than 3 holdings in the considered category or when one of the holdings in the considered category covers more than 85% of the activity in this category.

**Availability of statistical information:** the results of the statistical surveys conducted by the Agrostatistics department are published on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food at the address:

<http://www.mzh.government.bg/bg/statistika-i-analizi/izsledvane-rastenievadstvo/danni/>

The information is provided to Eurostat and published in the NSI statistical yearbook and statistical directory.

**The statistical regions** cited in the publication are in accordance with the requirements of the general classification of territorial units for statistical purposes applied in the European Union (NUTS), according to Regulation (EU) No. 31/2011.

**Statistical regions, on second (NUTS 2) level,** are as follows:

Severozapaden: Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Lovech, Pleven;

Severen tsentralen: Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Ruse, Silistra, Razgrad;

Severoiztochen: Varna, Dobrich, Targovishte, Shoumen;

Yugoiztochen: Burgas, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Yambol;

Yugozapaden: Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pernik, Sofia–cap., Sofia region;

Yuzhen tsentralen: Kardzhali, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Smolyan, Haskovo.

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