

# Press release NEPG – October 2019

## NEPG new harvest estimation: just under 27 million tons



**The NEPG (North-Western European Potato Growers) have come to a new harvest estimation for consumption potatoes in the leading 5 North-Western potato countries. If all potatoes will be lifted totally about 26.9 million tons will be harvested. This is 10 % more than last season and 1.8 % more than the 5 years average. 2014 and 2017 brought much larger harvests.**

This season the larger harvest was caused by the increased area for consumption potatoes in the big 5 with 9 % compared with the 5 years average. This year overall average yields are estimated at 43.9 to/ha which is 6.8 % under the 5 years average, however around 3 tons more than last season.

For Great Britain where the harvest is always later, no estimations are available yet and the 5 years average was used however this will likely be close to reality. In Great Britain 70 % of consumption potatoes are harvested. The final figures for the 2019 NEPG crop will be published at the end of November.

### **Harvest late and not finished yet**

This year's harvest is later than usual. During September all available irrigation systems were running as it was too dry and in October it was too wet to harvest. Especially in Belgium and The Netherlands still almost 60 % had to be harvested last weekend. However, since several days the harvest could restart again and under normal circumstances the harvest will be brought into the stores safely by the growers.

The quality is fine however extra attention and monitoring is needed during storage season as many potatoes entered the stores in wet conditions. Some rots (bacteria and fungi) have been reported and good ventilation and drying is needed.

There has been a continuing export to Poland and other South-Eastern and Southern European countries during the last weeks and the movement is continuing. All tonnes gone are tonnes which won't be available for the EU-05 market. The processors started their demand early this season. The price level has an upward trend since about 2 or 3 weeks, and for the future all depending on final harvests and the quality during storage.

### **Potato area**

Overall the NEPG remarks that on the mainland production costs went up and will continue to increase in the coming years, due to more irrigation, more harvesting costs, for the potatoes harvested in wet conditions and especially higher storage costs. This due to the higher costs for alternatives to CIPC and for cleaning the storages. Reportedly, this is the same for Great Britain also. This context must be considered on the mainland for the contracts that will be signed for the next campaign. The NEPG advises not to increase, on the mainland, the next years area anymore. "If we have a normal harvest with this existing area, the market will not be in balance anymore", according to the Secretary of the NEPG.

*North Western European Potato Growers - 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2019*



## EU 5 Consumption Potatoes (Excl. Seed and Starch)

25th of October 2019

year

2018	2019	actual vs l.y.	5y-avge	2019 vs 5y-avge %
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### Countries NEPG

#### Production ( x 000t)

##### Annual Variation

	(17,4%)	10,2%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.469.218</b>	<b>26.964.814</b>	10,2%	<b>26.500.457</b>
Belgium	3.609.823	4.013.662	11,2%	4.271.196
Germany	7.318.500	7.998.000	9,3%	7.951.737
France	5.955.660	6.376.470	7,1%	5.766.695
Netherlands	3.294.305	3.708.300	12,6%	3.702.033
Great Britain	4.290.930	4.868.382	13,5%	4.808.795

### Hectareage

#### Annual Variation

	1,5%	2,6%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>598.556</b>	<b>613.946</b>	2,6%	<b>563.165</b>
Belgium	94.746	97.656	3,1%	88.267
Germany	178.500	186.000	4,2%	168.983
France	145.260	148.290	2,1%	129.706
Netherlands	77.150	78.900	2,3%	74.348
Great Britain	102.900	103.100	0,2%	101.861

### Yield (t/ha)

#### Annual Variation

	(18,6%)	7,4%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,9</b>	<b>43,9</b>	7,4%	<b>47,1</b>
Belgium	38,1	41,1	7,9%	48,7
Germany	41,0	43,0	4,9%	47,1
France	41,0	43,0	4,9%	44,6
Netherlands	42,7	47,0	10,1%	49,8
Great Britain	41,7	47,2	13,2%	47,2

Source: NEPG 2019

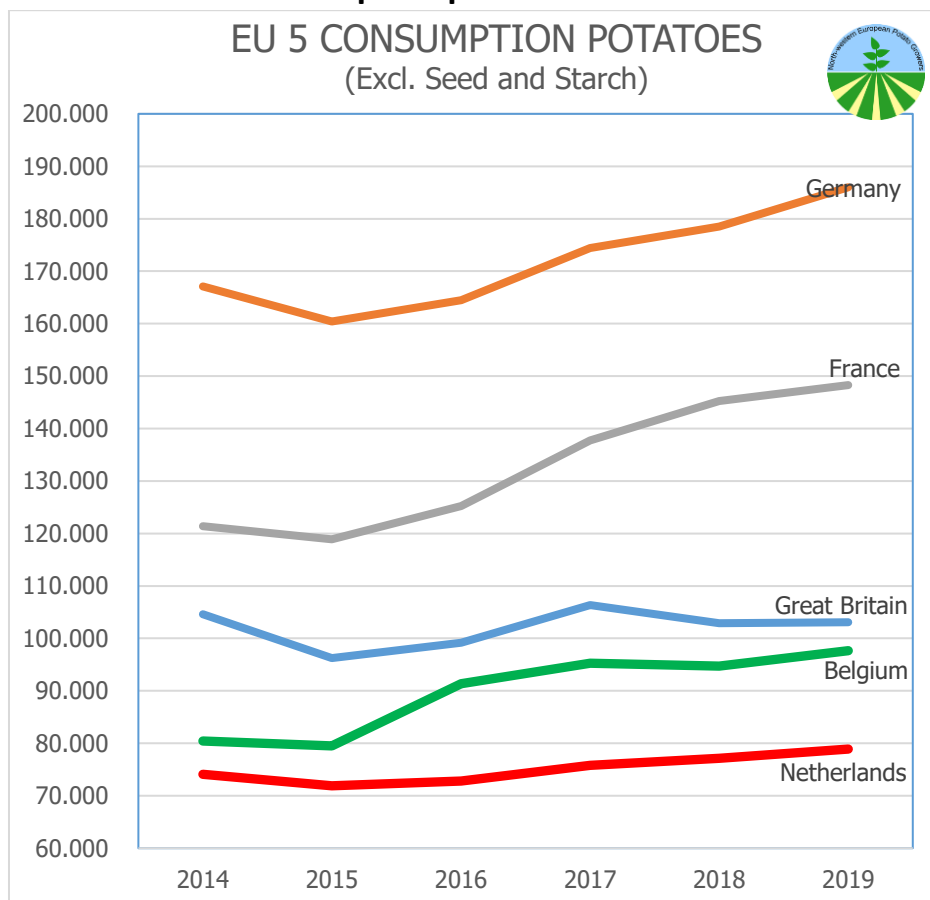
### Totals

	2018	2019	actual vs l.y.	5y-avge	2019 vs 5y-avge %
<b>Annual Variation</b>	<b>(17,4%)</b>	10,2%			
<b>Production ( x 000t)</b>	24.469	26.965	10,2%	26.500	1,8%
<b>Hectareage</b>	598.556	613.946	2,6%	563.165	9,0%
<b>Yield (t/ha)</b>	40,9	43,9	7,4%	47,1	-6,8%

Source: NEPG 2019



## Growth of the consumption potato area in ha



Source: NEPG 2019