

European banana market

Stable supplies in 2004

EU-15 banana consumption in 2004 was practically identical to that of 2003, i.e. 4.1 million tonnes. The ten new member-states accounted for between 460 000 and 567 000 tonnes for the full year. The quotas for third countries—ACP or not—were used to the full. Intracommunity trade changed the situation considerably and made it difficult to examine the supplies shipped to EU-25. It is nonetheless true that the enlarged EU is the world's leading banana consumption zone, way ahead of the United States. Enlargement set aside, the market shares of the main types of origin were respected. When enlargement is included, the presence of dollar origins increases considerably and per capita consumption decreases.

The 2004 banana year was marked by a major event—the enlargement of the European Union to include ten new member states (NMS) on 1 May. The latter were awarded an independent annual quota of 460 000 tonnes (300 000 tonnes for the last eight months of 2004). The EU-15 countries still operate using the system reformed following the EU-USA and the EU-Ecuador agreement of 2001. The supplier countries share two quotas: one of 2 653 000 tonnes for all third countries and one of 750 000 tonnes reserved for ACP countries.

Analysis of the supply of the European banana market is complicated this time by the enlargement during the year and also by the import rules specific to the ten countries concerned. Indeed, in order to ensure the continuity of import flows into the NMS, the 300 000 tonnes allocated in 2004 are released for free circulation in these states alone. Whereas an import certificate issued in EU-15 can be used anywhere in EU-25, this is not the case for those issued in the ten countries. They are only valid in these countries. These bananas can only circulate freely in the whole of the EU after customs clearance in one of the ten.

EU-15: great stability

No large changes were made to the supply structure of the European banana market in 2004. Not counting the effect of enlargement, gross supplies to EU-15 totalled 4 166 770 tonnes (Eurostat). This is nearly 50 000 tonnes more than in 2003, that is to say a minor increase of

hardly more than 1%. Exports and re-exports, which had been practically nonexistent in 2002 and 2003 (less than 8 000 tonnes), leaped to 52 000 tonnes in 2004. This results from trade with the NMS. The quantities must now be considered as intra-community movements. The net supplies finally total 4 114 739 tonnes. This is within a few tonnes of the figure recorded in 2003 and a new absolute record.

The market shares of the different types of origin remained the same as in 2003 overall. Community and ACP bananas each account for 18% of supplies to the EU. Bananas from

non-ACP third countries supply 64% of market requirements. These percentages have been stable since 1991 if weather problems are set aside.

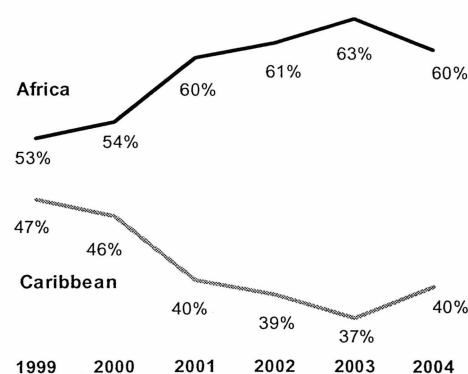
In 2004, three-quarters of imports from third countries were shipped by four Latin American countries: Ecuador (23%), Costa Rica (22%), Colombia (20%) and Panama (9%). Then come the two large African ACP exporters: Cameroon (8%) and Côte d'Ivoire (6%). Cameroon has conserved its position as fifth largest supplier in spite of an 11% fall in its exports to EU-15. With shipments to the EU down by 7% in comparison

ACP countries: the Caribbean halts the fall

The news is rare enough to be discussed. The Caribbean ACP countries in the broad sense (the Windwards, Jamaica, Suriname, Belize and the Dominican Republic) are increasing their presence in the ACP group. They now account for 40% of the ACP total against 37% in 2003.

This reversal in trend is of course related to the reduction in exports from Cameroon to the EU (- 33 000 tonnes), but also to the excellent performances of the Windward Islands (+ 15 000 tonnes), Suriname—back on the market after a practically total absence for two years—and Belize, which confirms the very good state of its banana sector. These results are all the more remarkable as the Caribbean group was penalised by shortfalls from two heavyweights in the zone, Jamaica (- 13 000 tonnes) and the Dominican Republic

Banana - EU-15 - Market share
African & Caribbean ACP



(- 8 000 tonnes), hit by very bad weather conditions. The trend initiated in 2004 should be confirmed in 2005. Jamaica is returning to the market at the end of May and Suriname is continuing to improve its performance. The Windward Islands announce the stabilisation of their exports in 2005. Meanwhile, Cameroon displays a very marked deficit.

Banana — EU-15 — Imports				
Tonnes	2003	2004		%
		provisional	Delta 2004/2003 Tonnes	
Total	3 943 617	3 862 544	- 81 074	- 2
Ecuador	1 081 624	992 502	- 89 122	- 8
Costa Rica	794 487	840 012	+ 45 525	+ 6
Colombia	795 248	762 913	- 32 335	- 4
Panama	379 163	367 763	- 11 400	- 3
Cameroon	298 492	262 053	- 36 439	- 12
Côte d'Ivoire	207 420	210 850	+ 3 430	+ 2
Dominican Rep.	111 948	101 337	- 10 611	- 9
Belize	73 806	80 292	+ 6 487	+ 9
Brazil	49 962	52 689	+ 2 727	+ 5
St. Lucia	32 520	42 872	+ 10 352	+ 32
Jamaica	41 775	28 660	- 13 115	- 31
St. Vincent	20 911	23 962	+ 3 051	+ 15
Venezuela	12 092	22 604	+ 10 512	+ 87
Surinam	0	19 262	+ 19 262	-
Honduras	18 653	18 407	- 246	- 1
Dominica	10 494	12 167	+ 1 673	+ 16
Peru	5 706	9 809	+ 4 103	+ 72
Mexico	1 037	6 890	+ 5 853	+ 565
Guatemala	2 087	2 153	+ 66	+ 3
Bahamas	730	1 629	+ 900	+ 123
Ghana	945	1 621	+ 675	+ 71

Source: Eurostat

with 2003, the Dominican Republic is nonetheless still the seventh largest supplier with a 3% market share. Belize performed very well, increasing exports by 9%. Brazil's rocketing increase of the past few years slowed and its exports to EU-15 stabilised at less than 50 000 tonnes. The Windward Islands (St Lucia, St Vincent, Dominique and Grenada) increased exports to the

EU by 23% to slightly less than 80 000 tonnes after a disastrous 2003. The hurricane that hit Jamaica last autumn led to a decrease of a third in banana exports to Europe, with a total of less than 30 000 tonnes. It was followed by two origins that showed excellent scores: Venezuela (22 600 tonnes, + 89 %) and Honduras (17 800 tonnes, + 65 %). After a poor period lasting for nearly

two years, Suriname (about 15 000 tonnes) returned to the European market thanks to a plan for the re-launching of banana growing. The minor origins include Peru, whose performance was very good (9 200 tonnes, + 71 %), specialised in the export of fair trade or organic bananas (see *Fruitrop* 123 pages 4 and 5).

NMS: not as simple as all that

Analysis of the supplies to the NMS is a very complicated business. Processing the data provided by Eurostat shows net supplies in 2004 varying from 460 000 to 567 000 tonnes, depending on the calculation method used. The differences result from the counting—doubtless approximate—of flows of bananas between EU countries before and after 1 May 2004, the date of enlargement. The data for the first four months of 2004 are integrated to make the calculations easier and to gain an annual view of the situation. It is thus seen that NMS imports from third countries totalled 459 150 tonnes and that only 4 757 tonnes were re-exported to other countries outside the EU, such as Switzerland,

European Union — Evaluation of banana supplies — Tonnes							
Year	Banana type or origin				Sub-total	Exports	Supplies
	Community	ACP		Others (\$)			
		12 ex-traditional ACP	Dom. Rep. & others ACP				
1988	719 270	513 043	344	1 644 100	2 877 431	17 265	2 860 166
1989	698 925	542 628	855	1 716 500	2 959 541	13 415	2 946 126
1990	710 635	617 578	3 829	2 024 248	3 356 758	36 219	3 320 539
1991	695 402	584 516	9 681	2 286 019	3 577 837	53 468	3 524 369
1992	711 191	641 005	38 492	2 365 883	3 757 265	39 689	3 717 576
1993	646 242	683 583	61 662	2 219 721	3 614 083	36 138	3 577 945
1994	584 622	639 742	86 007	2 102 303	3 413 852	58 044	3 355 808
1995	658 206	687 162	75 046	2 405 180	3 827 352	43 082	3 784 270
1996	684 605	733 467	61 184	2 471 263	3 955 942	30 598	3 925 344
1997	810 537	640 532	46 520	2 464 412	3 968 003	16 571	3 951 432
1998	786 232	554 025	55 730	2 426 419	3 828 247	26 448	3 801 799
1999	729 303	631 548	42 125	2 522 455	3 927 751	27 359	3 900 392
2000	782 176	693 952	59 734	2 528 170	4 067 154	35 327	4 031 827
2001	767 268	639 104	89 672	2 474 665	3 970 709	34 284	3 936 425
2002	790 622	625 606	100 846	2 554 508	4 071 582	8 011	4 063 571
2003	754 216	675 057	111 741	2 578 827	4 119 841	6 020	4 113 821
2004	747 707	665 672	104 620	2 648 771	4 166 770	52 031	4 114 739
	(1)	(2)		(3)		(4)	

(1) 1988 to 1993 inclusive: Eurostat + European Commission data for Madeira and Greece. From 1994 onwards: supplementary aid data.
(2) Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, Cape Verde, Madagascar, Belize, St Lucia, Jamaica, Dominica, St Vincent, Grenada, Surinam.
(3) Eurostat data: all imports from non-community and non-ACP countries.
(4) Duty-paid bananas (released for free circulation) in one of the EU member countries and then exported outside EU-15.
General note: before 1994: dessert bananas + plantains / From 1994 onwards: dessert bananas. Before 1995: EU-12 / From 1995 onwards: EU-15. The study concerns extra-community import data for ACP and dollar bananas and re-export. The rules of operation of the common market organisation of banana (1993 version) have been applied to the data from 1988 onwards in order to give comparable results. Publication of the results in the supplement to *Info Banane* 2005 published by CIRAD-FLHOR for ODEADOM.
Source: Eurostat (CD ROM sup 2-1997, sup 2-2002 and 4-2005), European Commission / Processing: CIRAD-FLHOR Market News Service

Serbia, etc. Things become complicated when intra-EU trade is examined. The data 'hesitate' with regard to the figures for the bananas entering the NMS via EU-15, ranging from 45 759 tonnes to 128 160 tonnes! The same is observed for exports from the NMS to EU-15 with the figures being from 15 668 tonnes to 39 914 tonnes.

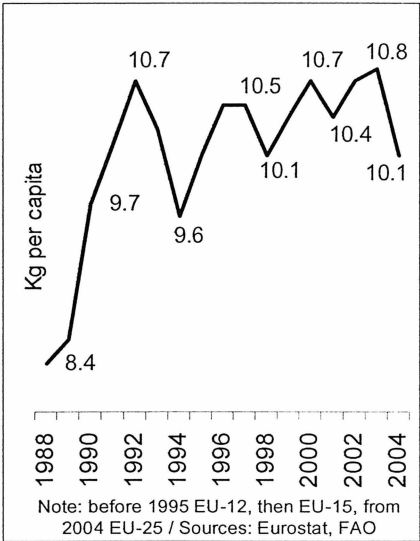
Belgium: the European point of entry

Only nine of the 25 member-states import more than 100 000 tonnes of banana per year from third countries. Two of these are NMS—Poland and the Czech Republic. Belgium remains the main EU point of entry for bananas. The Belgian ports handle nearly a million tonnes of bananas from third countries each year.

Belgium is the re-exporting country. Germany, France and Italy are also

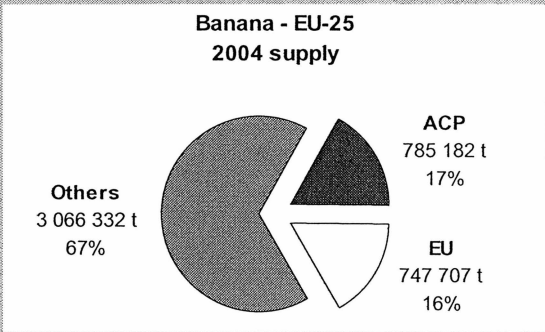
Banana imports by member states in 2004 — EU-25	
Countries	Tonnes
Total, including	3 862 543
Belgium	981 602
United Kingdom	736 270
Germany	643 389
Italy	500 251
Poland	213 307
France	190 005
Portugal	119 473
Sweden	102 297
Czech Rep.	97 507
Others	278 442

Note: third-country bananas including ACP
Source: Eurostat



EU-25 purchases 4.6 million tonnes of banana

In 2004, net supplies to EU-25 totalled 4 599 221 tonnes, of which 747 707 tonnes was from community production zones, 785 182 tonnes from ACP countries and 3 066 332 from other third countries. It is by far the leading banana consumption zone, well ahead of the United States (3.9 millions de tonnes). One of the effects of enlargement is a decrease in the market share of community bananas (16%) and a marked increase in that of bananas from non-ACP third countries (67%) especially Ecuador.

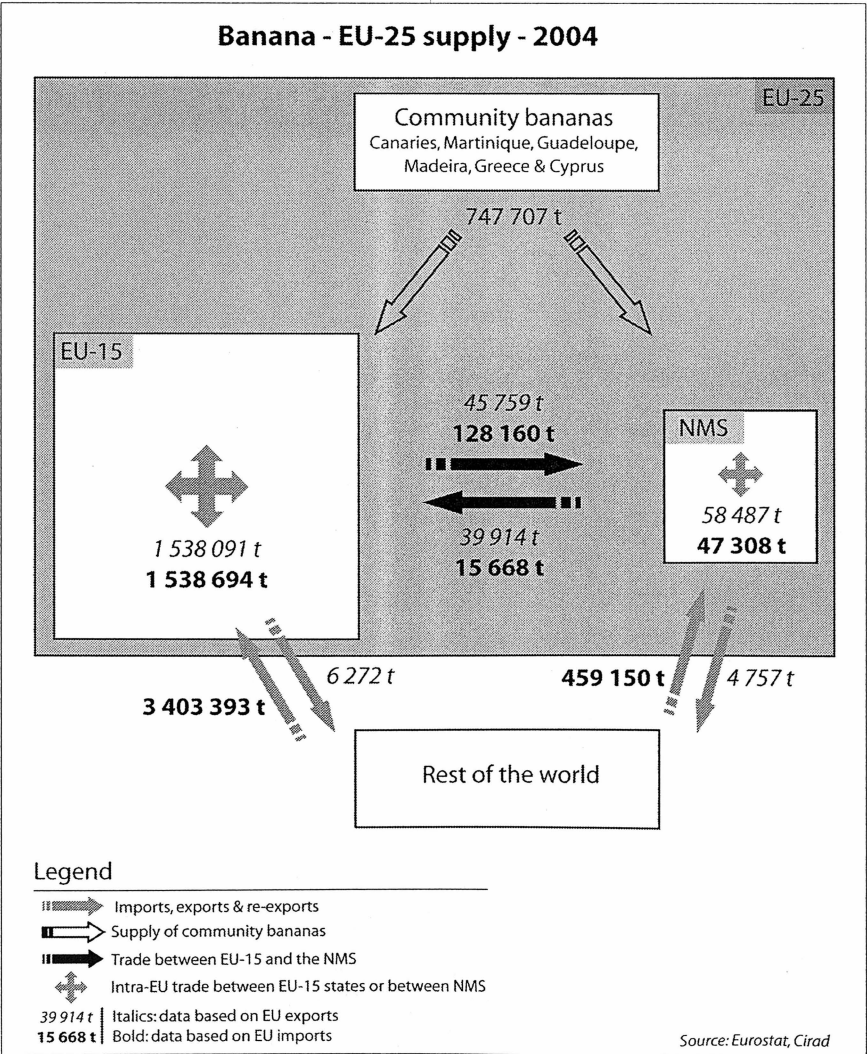


hubs for the European banana market. Germany and Belgium are the two main intra-community suppliers of the NMS.

European consumption (EU-25) totals 10.1 kg per capita per year, down by 0.7 kg in comparison with 2003 (EU-15). Not counting

enlargement, consumption remained the same as the preceding year. According to Eurostat and allowing for the disparities mentioned above, consumption in the NMS is from 6.2 to 7.6 kg per capita ■

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Banana — EU-25 — Trade in 2004 (tonnes)

Origin	EU states	Total EU-15	FR	NL	DE	IT	UK	IE	DK	GR	PT	ES	BE	LU	SE	FI	AT	Total NMS	MT	EE	LV	LT	PL	CZ	SK	HU	SI	CY	TOTAL EU-25	
Total EU-15		1 538 694	213 791	155 658	522 357	97 270	90 373	6 895	70 787	26 540	38 694	43 578	20 773	3 458	105 735	53 538	89 247	128 160	1 546	2 550	3 215	2 696	39 017	44 391	19 876	10 622	2 543	1 706	1 666 854	
France		207 447	0	4 003	102 454	30 408	25 973	2 799	453	107	11 772	18 444	10 439	507	10	2	79	9 132	0	0	0	0	6 965	40	1 493	634	0	0	216 579	
Netherlands		154 524	5 172	0	57 227	8 639	19 313	13 17	155	190	179	33	6 343	227	31 373	585	8 075	6 990	0	480	1 534	1 222	320	2 069	822	0	531	12	161 514	
Germany		312 326	74 949	62 753	0	11 871	1 414	0	48 737	26	1 284	0	3 418	18	38 445	9 697	59 714	55 575	0	132	1 681	1 327	13 625	22 553	10 297	4 907	1 054	0	367 901	
Italy		85 170	17 898	79	24 755	0	4	0	0	25 999	10 757	4 534	447	0	0	0	697	4 790	1 546	0	0	0	0	727	964	750	249	555	89 960	
UK		15 250	3 320	392	80	7 584	0	3 647	205	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	0	0	0	15 364	
Ireland		10 319	766	0	0	113	9 121	0	319	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10 319	
Denmark		15 726	0	0	2 083	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13 642	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15 726	
Greece		240	0	0	185	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 140	1 380	
Portugal		30 038	32	43	0	10 868	0	0	0	0	0	19 035	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30 038	
Spain		15 567	1 910	17	258	44	41	0	28	0	13 269	0	0	0	0	0	0	625	0	0	0	0	431	0	135	59	0	0	16 192	
Belgium		633 171	109 713	88 105	328 510	27 723	34 453	436	3 313	44	1 433	1 531	0	2 647	12 628	1 952	20 682	47 647	0	1 699	0	147	17 676	18 331	5 040	4 070	684	0	680 818	
Luxembourg		136	32	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136	
Finland		9 769	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9 636	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9 769	
Sweden		43 032	0	134	1 020	0	0	0	576	0	0	0	0	0	0	41 302	0	239	0	239	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43 271
Intra-EU not det.		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	32	
Austria		5 980	0	0	5 785	21	0	0	0	174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 877	0	0	0	0	1	639	1 124	89	25	0	7 857	
Total NMS		15 668	722	667	7 936	5 704	0	0	5	6	0	0	102	0	0	465	61	47 308	0	1 785	12 097	5 001	3 392	4 383	10 332	10 108	134	77	62 976	
Malta		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Estonia		470	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	465	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	470	
Latvia		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 958	0	0	0	2 916	42	0	0	0	0	0	2 958	
Lithuania		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15 198	0	1 785	11 430	0	1 838	0	0	145	0	0	15 198	
Poland		8 494	722	667	6 453	571	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	0	0	0	4	9 504	0	0	667	2 085	0	2 209	3 651	757	134	0	17 998	
Czech Republic		1 340	0	0	1 295	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	21	16 199	0	0	0	0	1 512	0	6 367	8 320	0	0	17 539	
Slovakia		37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	2 307	0	0	0	0	0	2 073	0	234	0	0	2 344	
Hungary		420	0	0	111	309	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0	0	0	0	0	24	294	0	0	0	738	
Slovenia		4 902	0	0	77	4 825	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	825	0	0	0	0	0	77	20	652	0	77	5 727	
Cyprus		6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Total Extra-EU, incl.		3 403 393	190 005	6 808	643 389	500 251	736 270	32 859	7 755	48 417	119 473	20 046	981 602	0	102 297	13 295	928	459 150	3 353	8 781	810	19 570	213 307	97 474	19 978	53 463	42 249	165	3 862 543	
Ecuador		797 045	35	2 111	266 398	242 219	2 011	0	1 006	33 178	51 280	17 753	175 571	0	0	5 467	19	195 457	1 487	1 096	777	15 725	127 029	14 734	1 531	11 403	21 594	81	992 502	
Costa Rica		745 756	0	506	137 699	79 808	179 650	30 932	3 622	6 932	20 952	0	197 453	0	82 591	5 377	234	94 257	24	1 745	33	2 152	47 740	22 263	7 725	10 724	1 852	0	840 012	
Colombia		667 678	483	657	92 522	78 261	83 442	1 564	3 081	40	29 569	0	375 106	0	186	2 094	673	95 235	1 843	94	0	403	24 223	32 655	6 245	14 262	15 443	68	762 913	
Panama		319 372	0	0	143 769	55 145	9 364	164	46	8 232	17 672	0	65 103	0	19 520	358	0	48 392	0	5 846	0	1 291	10 371	20 653	3 944	6 034	237	16	367 763	
Cameroon		259 946	68 191	0	0	21 606	145 397	0	0	0	0	0	24 753	0	0	0	0	2 107	0	0	0	0	40	964	77	363	663	0	262 053	
Côte d'Ivoire		202 478	102 699	0	0	423	21 512	0	0	0	0	0	77 844	0	0	0	0	8 372	0	0	0	0	21	3 668	20	4 663	0	0	210 850	
Dominican Rep.		101 337	0	22	623	5 712	73 082	0	0	0	0	0	21 898	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101 337	
Belize		80 292	0	0	0	0	80 111	181	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80 292	
Brazil		49 576	0	0	1 336	17 078	30 999	0	0	0	0	19	143	0	0	0	0	3 114	0	0	0	0	0	282	433	74	2 325	0	52 689	
St. Lucia		42 872	0	0	0	0	42 872	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42 872	
Jamaica		28 660	0	0	0	0	28 660	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28 660	
St. Vincent		23 962	0	0	0	0	23 962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23 962	
Venezuela		22 604	4 063	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18 478	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22 604	
Surinam		14 889	14 530	0	0	0	359	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 373	0	0	0	0	2 459	1 914	0	0	0	0	19 262	
Honduras		17 798	0	0	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17 670	0	0	0	0	609	0	0	0	0	20	323	0	266	0	0	18 407	
Dominica		12 167	0	0	0	0	12 167	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12 167	
Peru		9 243	0	3 503	0	0	124	0	0	0	0	0	5 617	0	0	0	0	566	0	0	0	0	566	0	0	0	0	0	9 809	
Mexico		973	4	9	627	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	332	0	0	0	0	5 917	0	0	0	0	474	0	0	5 443	0	0	6 890	
Guatemala		2 153	0	0	0	0	2																							

Source: Eurostat