

# European banana market supply balance

## More and more!

**In 1999, the European banana market handled at least 130 000 tonnes more than in the previous year. This strong increase in officially imported volumes (fraud not counted) partly explains the very marked fall in import prices.**

The results presented on the basis of import certificates (source: European Commission) show imports of 3 257 371 tonnes of bananas from third countries. On the same basis of calculation (ACP and non-ACP, excluding re-exports), the European statistical office (Eurostat), whose data we publish each year (see below), gives the figure of 3 169 374 tonnes. Whatever the difference between sources, the trend is an upward one. The market has taken at least a further 130 000 tonnes, to which should be added bananas imported illegally—whether this is proved or only suspected ('real/forged' import certificates and overweight boxes).

It is true that the reasons for poor market conditions should not be sought only in over-supply. Distributors' bargaining power has considerably increased in recent years. The spreading of import rights resulting from an

increase in the number of operators has disturbed the market. Finally, the market supply rate, with quarterly opening of part of the quota, is sometimes out of phase with real consumption.

Nevertheless, increased supplies have weighed on prices and highlighted the lack of market steering. The supply balance calculated on almost a real time basis would make it possible to adjust the volumes imported to the share of European consumption not covered by community production. This will no doubt remind many French operators of the pre-1993 period when the *Comité Interprofessionnel Bananier* (CIB) organised the French market for over sixty years for the well-being of all the sub-sector stakeholders •

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### EUROPEAN UNION – EVALUATION OF BANANA SUPPLIES (TONNES)

Year	Banana type or origin				Sub-total	Exports	Supplies
	Community	ACP quantity		Others (\$)			
		traditional	non trad.				
1988	719 270	513 043	1 018	1 644 100	2 877 431	17 265	2 860 166
1989	698 925	542 628	1 792	1 716 500	2 959 845	13 415	2 946 430
1990	710 635	617 353	4 523	2 024 243	3 356 754	36 219	3 320 535
1991	695 402	584 516	11 898	2 286 014	3 577 830	53 468	3 524 362
1992	711 191	641 005	39 161	2 366 800	3 758 157	39 689	3 718 468
1993	646 242	677 326	70 785	2 219 715	3 614 068	36 138	3 577 930
1994	584 622	629 595	97 338	2 102 375	3 308 068	58 044	3 250 024
1995	658 206	670 479	93 486	2 386 931	3 765 803	43 082	3 722 721
1996	684 605	682 526	116 866	2 466 380	3 916 508	30 598	3 855 910
1997	810 537	614 026	76 567	2 394 976	3 896 106	16 571	3 879 535
1998	786 232	537 349	77 812	2 393 350	3 794 743	26 448	3 768 295
1999	729 303	572 320	103 994	2 520 419	3 926 036	27 359	3 898 677
	(1)	(2 a)	(2 b)	(3)		(4)	

(1) 1988 to 1993 inclusive: Eurostat + European Commission data for Madeira and Greece. From 1994 onwards: supplementary aid data.

(2) Eurostat data divided into (a) traditional quantities from traditional ACP states, i.e. within the limits of individual quantities (e.g. 155 000 tonnes for Côte d'Ivoire) and (b) non-traditional quantities from traditional ACP countries (e.g., for Côte d'Ivoire, exported quantities over and above the 155 000 tonnes allowed) and from non-traditional ACP countries (Dominican Republic, Ghana, etc.).

(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. It is supposed that these are dollar bananas.

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.

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Source: Eurostat (CD-ROM 2-1997, 5-1998, 5-1999 and 3/2000), European Commission.

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