

Serbia

Bilateral relations in agriculture



Main Country Indicators 2013

	Serbia	All Western Balkan countries ¹	EU28
Total area (km²)	88 407	218 727	4 385 992
Population (million)	7.2	18.2	506.7
Population density (per km²)	81.9	92.6	120
GDP (current USD)	42.5 billion	94.7 billion	17.3 trillion
GDP per capita (current USD)	5 935	31 036	34 240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	2.5	2.3	0.1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Serbia (2013): EUR 768 million EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Serbia (2013): EUR 961 million

More statistical information

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/serbia_en.pdf



¹ The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo* (*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence))



Agriculture in Serbia

Serbia's utilised agricultural area is 3.44 million hectares which accounts for 44% of the total territory. Arable land is the predominant land use (73%) followed by permanent grassland and crops. Characterised by rich land resources and a favourable climate, agriculture represents a vital sector of the Serbian economy. Of the 631 552 agricultural holding nearly half of these are less than 2ha with a further 36% between 2-10ha. Serbian terrain ranges from the flat and rich lowlands of Vojvodina in the north for crop farming and vegetable production, to hilly terrain in central Serbia and high mountains on the eastern, western and southern borders of the country, suitable for sheep and cattle breeding, and fruit and wine production. Agriculture is one of the most important industries of the Serbian economy recording a 9.7% share of GDP in 2012. The importance of agriculture in the Serbian economy is derived from natural conditions and the traditionally important role of the primary agricultural and food processing industry.

EU agricultural trade relations with Serbia

The <u>Stabilisation and Association Agreement</u> (SAA) gives Serbia unlimited duty-free access to the EU market for all basic agricultural products with the exceptions of baby-beef, sugar and wine, for which certain duty-free quotas apply. An annual duty-free quota for 181 000 tonnes of sugar and sugar products is provided by the EU and a baby-beef quota is fixed at 8 700 tonnes. Serbia benefits from a duty-free TRQ of 67 300 hl for wine, of which 55 000 hl must be quality wine and 12 300 hl bulk wine. The SAA provides gradual improved market access for EU exports to Serbia, albeit asymmetric, unilateral protection of Community geographical indications for agricultural and fishery products and a wine and spirit protocol granting reciprocal concessions for certain wines and also reciprocal protection and control of wine, spirit drinks and aromatised wine names.

EU-Serbia relations

Serbia participates in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and is committed to engaging in necessary political, economic and social reforms leading to a closer relationship with EU. In December 2009 Serbia applied for membership of the EU and was granted EU candidate status in March 2012. In September 2013, a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Serbia entered into force. Accession negotiations were formally opened in January 2014.

Serbia is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) since September 2007 and is currently negotiating membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

General information about EU-trade with Western Balkans can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/western-balkans/

