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## Spanish consumption on upward curve



Fepex says national demand for fruit and vegetables has continued to grow as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic

**F**resh fruit and vegetable consumption in Spanish households grew 10 per cent in November when compared to the same month of 2019, according to the latest statistics from the Food Consumption Panel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

It continues the growth trend seen throughout the year, with consumption for the January-November period rising 11 per cent, with Fepex attributing the increase to the coronavirus pandemic.

In November 2020, Spanish households consumed 669m kg of fresh fruit and vegetables, of which 341m kg were fruits, 238m kg were vegetables and 90m kg were potatoes.

The increases compared with November 2019 were 7 per cent for fruits, 12 per cent for vegetables and 15 per cent for potatoes, Fepex outlined.

For the January to November period, consumption rose to 7.979bn kg of fresh fruits and vegetables, of which 4.265bn

kg were fruits, 7 per cent more; 2.732bn kg were vegetables, up 12 per cent; and 981m kg were potatoes, 15 per cent higher.

Household spending on fresh fruit and vegetables in the first eleven months of 2020 was €13.498bn, 19 per cent higher than in the same period of the previous year.

"The growth in the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in households in 2020 has been driven by periods of total or partial confinement due to Covid-19," Fepex said. "In the months of total confinement, the demand in homes grew very strongly, with 40 per cent in April and 22 per cent in May.

"Later in the summer months in which the restrictions ended, consumption grew, but much less, with 4.5 per cent in July or 1 per cent in August and in October with the return to movement restrictions and partial confinements, consumption grows again with 11 per cent in October and 10 per cent in November."

Freshfel Europe recently launched the latest version of its Consumption Monitor, with data taken from 2018 showing an overall growth in EU fruit and vegetable consumption of 4 per cent year-on-year.

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