



05 October 2017

## Farming Statistics – First estimates of 2017 UK wheat and barley production

This release contains the first estimate of wheat and barley production from the 2017 UK harvest. It has been produced rapidly in response to the industry requirements to use the data as soon as possible. The figures are subject to revisions as further results from the harvest are received and analysed.

**Table 1: Production of wheat and barley on UK agricultural holdings 2013-2017**

	Thousand tonnes					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% change 2017/16
Wheat	11 921	16 606	16 444	14 383	15163	+5.4
Barley	7 092	6 911	7 370	6 655	7 360	+10.6

- The provisional 2017 wheat harvest for the UK is 15.2 million tonnes, an increase of 5.4% on 2016. It is above the five year average 2012-2016 of 14.5 million tonnes.
- The provisional barley production figure for the UK has increased by 10.6% to 7.4 million tonnes in 2017. It is above the five year average 2012-2016 of 6.7 million tonnes.

Sources of the data and confidence in the early estimates vary per UK devolved administration as outlined in the Methodology Notes.

### Further 2017 UK harvest statistics

Full UK provisional results including yield and area data for wheat and barley, along with results for the remaining cereal and oilseed rape crops will be included in the release that is published on Thursday 12 October 2017. The full release will be available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry)

Final UK results are planned to be published on 21 December 2017 in “Farming statistics - final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2017 – UK”.

**Enquiries to** Amanda Lyons. Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 201, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX  
Tel: (+44) (0) 20 8022 6126, email: [farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

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## **Methodology: First estimates of 2017 UK wheat and barley production**

### **England**

Results are based on provisional results from the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey, a representative sample of cereal and oilseed rape growers across English regions and farm sizes. These early results are based on the valid responses from 1,516 farms that grew wheat and barley. Results for oilseed rape and other cereals will be published on Thursday 12 October 2017.

The Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey gathers data on production tonnages and moisture content for the various cereal and oilseed rape crops and seeks confirmation of the planted areas for these crops gathered from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. All moisture contents are standardised to ensure production estimates are comparable. Cereal production estimates are standardised to 14.5% moisture content with production tonnages being adjusted accordingly. These data are then used to calculate regional yield estimates for each crop type. Yield estimates are applied to regional June crop areas to derive England production estimates.

### **Wales**

No provisional data is produced in Wales. Therefore the 2016 Welsh production figures have been carried forward, in order to compile the UK provisional results for 2017.

### **Scotland**

The 2017 estimates of production are based on provisional crop areas from the 2017 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture, along with crop yield estimates from discussions between Scottish Government analysts, industry experts and trade organisations.

### **Northern Ireland**

Areas are based on provisional estimates from the 2017 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. Production figures are based on yield estimates from the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

### **Data notes**

The cereal production (tonnage) figures include tail corn, cereals still to be harvested for grain, grain to be crimped and cereals intended for seed production. The figures exclude crops which have become unfit for harvesting, carryover stocks from the 2016 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.