



08 October 2018

## Farming Statistics – First estimates of 2018 UK wheat and barley production

This release contains the first estimate of wheat and barley production from the 2018 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 2014-2018**

	Thousand tonnes					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change 2018/17
Wheat	16 606	16 444	14 383	14 837	14 086	-5.1
Barley	6 911	7 370	6 655	7 169	6 606	-7.9

- The provisional 2018 wheat harvest for the UK is 14.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 5.1% on 2017. It is below the five year average 2013-2017 of 14.8 million tonnes.
- The provisional barley production figure for the UK has decreased by 7.9% to 6.6 million tonnes in 2018. It is below the five year average 2013-2017 of 7.0 million tonnes.

Crop production has been affected by the weather this year (high rainfall in spring and a long dry spell with high temperatures in the summer) causing varying yields across regions of the UK.

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

### Further 2018 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 11 October 2018. 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 20 December 2018 in “Farming statistics - final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2018 – UK”.

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## **Methodology: First estimates of 2018 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 1,095 farms that grew wheat and barley. Results for oilseed rape and other cereals will be published on Thursday 11 October 2018.

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 2017 Welsh production figures have been carried forward, in order to compile the UK provisional results for 2018.

### **Scotland**

The 2018 estimates of production are based on provisional crop areas from the 2018 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 2018 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 2017 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.