



08 October 2019

Farming Statistics – First estimates of 2019 UK wheat and barley production

This release contains the first estimate of wheat and barley production from the 2019 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 2014-2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% change 2019/18
Wheat	16 606	16 444	14 383	14 837	13 555	16 283	20.1
Barley	6 911	7 370	6 655	7 169	6 510	8 180	25.6

- The provisional 2019 wheat harvest for the UK is 16.3 million tonnes, an increase of 20.1% on 2018. It is above the five year average 2014-2018 of 15.2 million tonnes.
- The provisional barley production figure for the UK has increased by 25.6% to 8.2 million tonnes in 2019. It is above the five year average 2014-2018 of 6.9 million tonnes.

Varying yields were seen in 2018 resulting in below average production. Provisional results for 2019 show higher production than 2018 and this change is consistent across regions of the UK. Note that these results may be subject to change as more data is collected.

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

Further 2019 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 10 October 2019. The full release will be available at:

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 19 December 2019 in “Farming statistics - final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2019 – UK”.

Enquiries to Caitlin Clark, Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 202, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX
Tel: 03000 600170, email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

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Methodology: First estimates of 2019 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 1,760 farms that grew wheat and barley. Results for oilseed rape and other cereals will be published on Thursday 10 October 2019.

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 2018 Welsh production figures have been carried forward, in order to compile the UK provisional results for 2019.

Scotland

The 2019 estimates of production are based on provisional crop areas from the 2019 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 2019 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 2018 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in 2014 following a [full assessment](#) by the UK Statistics Authority against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

Since the last review of these statistics in 2014, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made improvements including:

- Reviewed and amended the validation checks carried out on response data to better assure ourselves of the quality of the statistics.

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