



05 October 2020

Farming Statistics – First estimates of 2020 UK wheat and barley production

This release contains the first estimate of wheat and barley production from the 2020 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 2015-2020
Thousand tonnes

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	%change 2020/2019
Wheat	16,444	14,383	14,837	13,555	16,225	10,133	-37.5%
Barley	7,370	6,655	7,169	6,510	8,048	8,363	3.9%

- The provisional 2020 wheat harvest for the UK is 10.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 37.5% on 2019. It is below the five year average 2015-2019 of 15.1 million tonnes.
- The provisional barley production figure for the UK has increased by 3.9% to 8.4 million tonnes in 2020. It is above the five year average 2015-2019 of 7.2 million tonnes.

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

Further 2020 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 8 October 2020. The full release will be available at the [structure of the agricultural industry](#) webpage.

Final UK results are planned to be published on 17 December 2020 in “Farming statistics - final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2020 – UK”.

What you need to know about this release

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National Statistics Status

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in 2014 following a compliance check by the UK Statistics Authority (now the Office for Statistics Regulation) 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:

- Providing a detailed breakdown of livestock categories following user feedback
- Improved the data quality by updating guidance for data providers and carrying out enhanced validation checks on data received

For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service:

Tel: 0845 601 3034

Email: info@statistics.gov.uk.

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Methodology: First estimates of 2020 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 1,091 farms that grew wheat and barley. Results for oilseed rape and other cereals will be published on Thursday 8 October 2020.

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 2019 Welsh production figures have been carried forward, in order to compile the UK provisional results for 2020.

Scotland

The 2020 estimates of production are based on provisional crop areas from the 2020 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture, along with crop yield estimates from discussions between Scottish Government analysts, industry experts and trade organisations.

Northern Ireland

No provisional data has been produced in Northern Ireland this year. Therefore the 2019 Northern Irish production figures have been carried forward, in order to compile the UK provisional results for 2020.

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 2019 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.

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