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## Farming Statistics – 2015 wheat and barley production, UK

This release contains the first estimate of wheat and barley production from the 2015 UK harvest. Full 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 complete release that is published on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The full release will be available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry>

This initial release has been produced in response to industry requirements.

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	thousand tonnes % change 2015 - 14
Wheat	15 257	13 261	11 921	16 606	16 129	-3
Barley	5 494	5 522	7 092	6 911	7 281	5

- The provisional 2015 wheat harvest for the UK is 16.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 3% on 2014.
- The provisional barley production figure for the UK has increased by 5% to 7.3 million tonnes.

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## ***Methodology: Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey***

### **England**

#### **Wheat and barley yield and production estimates**

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 responses from 2,027 farms (58% response rate) across the country. Results for oilseed rape and other cereals will be published on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

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 and oilseed rape to 9% 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 for each of the cereal and oilseed rape crops.

### **Wales**

No yield data were collected for Wales. The Welsh production figures have been estimated on a regional basis within Wales using the final results of their June 2014 Survey along with the yields for the English regions bordering Wales.

### **Scotland**

The 2015 estimates of production are based on provisional crop areas from the 2015 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture, along with crop yield estimates from Scottish Government Agricultural Staff, supplemented by discussions with industry experts and trade organisations.

### **Northern Ireland**

Areas are based on provisional estimates from the 2015 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. Production figures are based on yield estimates from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland.

### **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, carry over stocks from the 2014 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.