



Published 15 May 2015

Cereal Stocks in February 2015

These statistics estimate wheat, barley, oats and maize held in stock at the end of February 2015 at UK ports, co-operatives and merchants or on farms in England & Wales. On farm stocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland are not covered in these statistics.

Key points

- 49 per cent more wheat than last year was held in stock in the UK at the end of February 2015, excluding on farm stocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- 21 per cent more barley was held in stock in the UK at the end of February 2015 than a year previously, excluding on farm stocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- There were 6.4 million tonnes of wheat, 2.2 million tonnes of barley, 0.28 million tonnes of oats and 0.18 million tonnes of maize in stock in the UK at the end of February 2015, excluding on farm stocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- There was high UK production in 2014 for wheat, barley and oats. The 2014 wheat harvest for the UK was 16.6 million tonnes, an increase of 39% on 2013.

Revisions

Previous estimates have not been revised.

Use of these statistics

Grain supply is fundamental to global food security. It is a globally traded commodity where supply, demand and prices are influenced by international markets. Official estimates of stocks provide accessible information to all and help markets to function smoothly which can reduce the risk of price volatility and thereby enhance food security. These stocks estimates are used when forecasting supply and demand up to the end of the crop year.

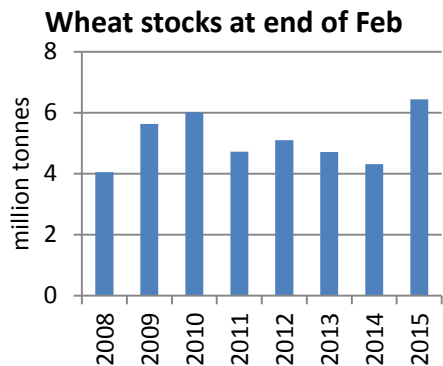
Exclusions and Inclusions

Excludes cereals held on farms in Scotland and Northern Ireland, intervention grain and wheat tendered on [LIFFE](#) (London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange) futures and warrants where there were 133,400 tonnes of wheat on 27 February 2015. Includes stocks carried over from the previous harvest and grain sold on forward contract but not yet delivered. Includes grain stocks cleared by customs for import and grain intended for export but not yet exported.

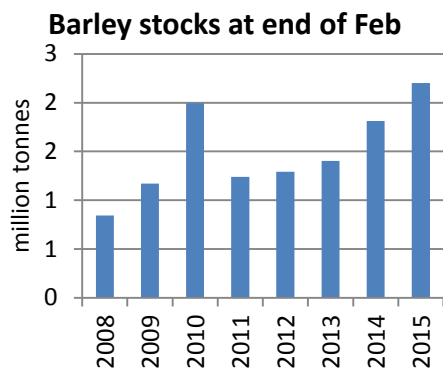
Enquiries to Jim Holding, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tel: 01904 455069, email: crops-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk or jim.holding@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

A National Statistics publication. 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. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email info@statistics.gov.uk. You can also find National Statistics on the internet at www.statistics.gov.uk.

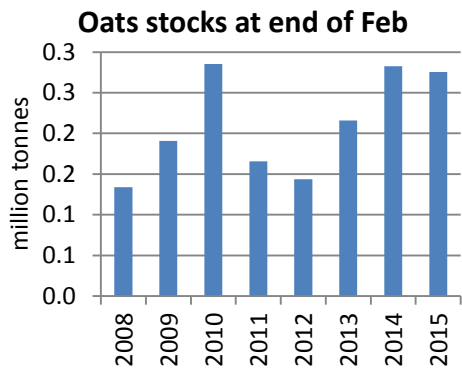
Figure 1: Trends in February grain stocks in the UK (see Exclusions)



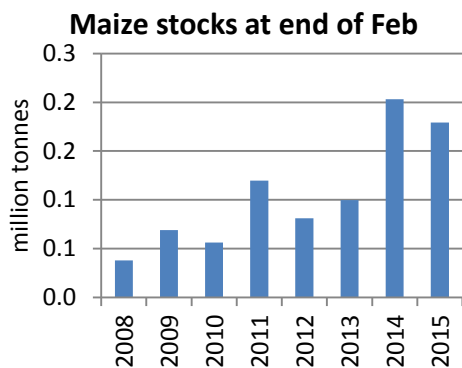
- Wheat stocks rose 49% to 6.4 million tonnes in 2015.
- Wheat stocks in 2015 exceeded the 2010 level of 6.0 million tonnes.



- Barley stocks rose 21% to 2.2 million tonnes in 2015.
- Barley stocks have been rising since 2008.
- Barley stocks were over 2.5 times larger in 2015 than in 2008.

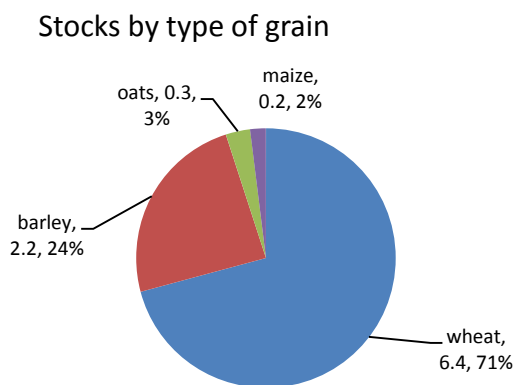


- Oats stocks were 0.28 million tonnes in 2015.
- Oats stocks were at similar levels in 2015 to 2010 and 2014.

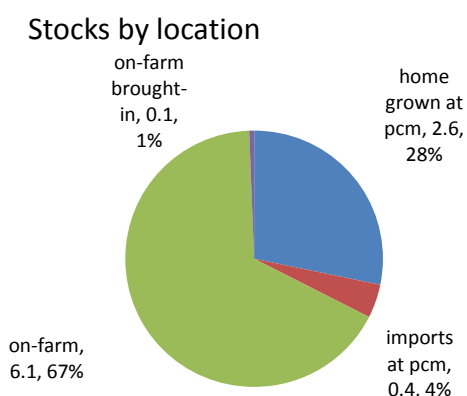


- Maize stocks at 0.18 million tonnes were 12% lower in 2015 than in 2014.
- Maize stocks have been higher in last two years than previously.

Figure 2: Types and locations of stocks in February 2015



- 71% of stocks were wheat, amounting to 6.4 million tonnes.
- 24% of stocks were barley, amounting to 2.2 million tonnes.



- 68% of stocks were held on-farm, amounting to 6.1 million tonnes.
- Ports, Coops and merchants (pcm) held 32% of stocks including imported grain.

Figure 3: Tonnes of grain in Stock at the end of February/March since 2008

Thousand tonnes	Ports, Coops and Merchants							On farm		
	Home grown wheat	Imported wheat	Home grown barley	Home grown oats	Imported barley and oats	Maize	On farm Wheat	On farm Barley	On farm Oats	
2008 Mar	780	203	448	52	16	38	3064	397	82	
2009 Mar	987	133	547	59	5	69	4511	623	132	
2010 Feb	1086	116	849	79	2	56	4809	1145	206	
2011 Feb	1052	138	735	70	6	120	3529	504	96	
2012 Feb	1076	117	743	65	3	81	3900	547	79	
2013 Feb	915	274	777	72	21	100	3524	628	144	
2014 Feb	945	176	897	108	10	203	3189	916	174	
2015 Feb	1312	208	1153	105	8	179	4920	1049	170	
%chg	39%	18%	29%	-3%	-15%	-12%	54%	14%	-2%	

Figure 4: Regional on-farm stocks of grain at the end February 2015 and associated livestock numbers at June 2014 (England and Wales)

	Wheat stocks	Wheat production	Barley stocks	Barley production	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Poultry
	thousands of tonnes				thousands of head			
North East	81	548	31	287	257	101	1913	3081
North West	29	194	51	203	940	149	2979	9194
Yorkshire and Humber	620	2113	161	826	545	1424	2177	14873
East Midlands	1133	3067	174	568	500	364	1230	23148
West Midlands	487	1408	99	366	731	210	2279	19166
East of England	1531	4583	174	1044	201	1085	326	27827
South East and London	615	2083	134	538	427	206	1286	9033
South West and Wales	406	1558	190	866	2858	443	12938	28217
England and Wales	4901	15553	1014	4699	6458	3982	25128	134541

Source: Farm Stocks Survey

Livestock numbers are sourced from the June Survey of Agriculture 2012.

Cattle figures here relate to commercial holdings only for England. Therefore these figures do not match those published in the June Survey statistical release, which relate to all holdings.

- Much on-farm wheat and barley is used for animal feed.
- About 44% of cattle and 51% of sheep are in the South West and Wales but only 8% of on-farm wheat stocks and 19% of on-farm barley stocks are in these regions.

Accuracy and reliability of the results

The accuracy of the survey results is high because a census is carried out of all major storage facilities in February each year. Approximately 145 storage facilities were contacted in February and 90 in June 2013. The typical response rate to this survey is 95%-100% and in February 2014 was 100%. Full meta data is at [this link](#)

Related Statistics

The Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board publish [cereals balance sheets](#) and a supply and demand analysis. Production estimates of cereals in the UK are published within the [June Survey UK results](#). Statistics from all [Defra farming surveys](#) are available.

Next Publication

The next Cereal Stocks publication is due in August 2015.