



06 October 2016

Farming Statistics – First estimates of 2016 UK wheat and barley production

This release contains the first estimate of wheat and barley production from the 2016 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 2012-2016

	thousand tonnes					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% change 2016 - 15
Wheat	13 261	11 921	16 606	16 444	14 467	-12
Barley	5 522	7 092	6 911	7 370	6 652	-10

- The provisional 2016 wheat harvest for the UK is 14.5 million tonnes, a decrease of 12% on 2015. It is in line with five year average 2011-2015 of 14.7 million tonnes.
- The provisional barley production figure for the UK has decreased by 10% to 6.7 million tonnes in 2016. It is in line with five year average 2011-2015 of 6.5 million tonnes.

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

Further 2016 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 13 October 2016. 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 15 December 2016 in "Farming statistics - final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2016 – UK".

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Methodology: First estimates of 2016 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 1,969 farms that grew wheat and barley. Results for oilseed rape and other cereals will be published on Thursday 13 October 2016.

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 yield data were collected for Wales. The Welsh production figures have been estimated on a regional basis within Wales using the area estimates for wheat and barley from their June 2015 Survey along with the yields for the English regions bordering Wales.

Scotland

The 2016 estimates of production are based on provisional crop areas from the 2016 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 2016 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, carry over stocks from the 2015 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.