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Cereal Stocks in June 2016

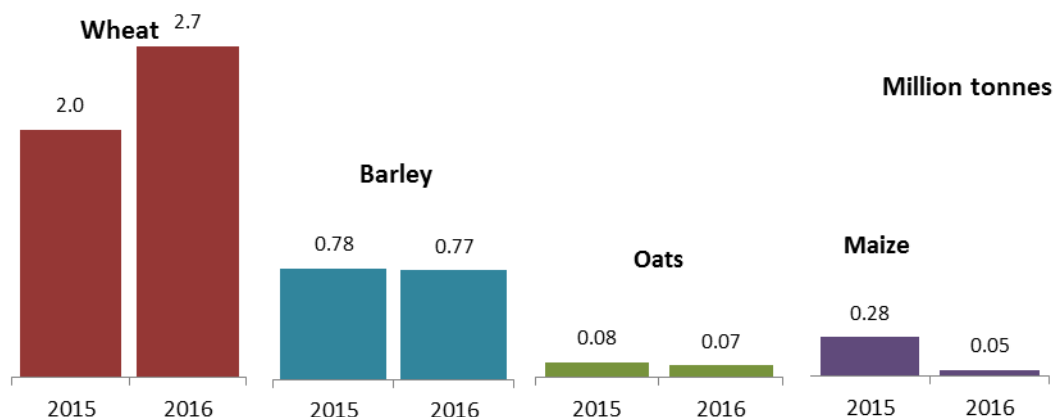
These statistics estimate wheat, barley, oats and maize held in stock at the end of June 2016 at UK ports, co-operatives and merchants in addition to stocks on farms in England & Wales. On farm stocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland are not covered in these statistics.

Datasets and methodology are available from the [web page](#).

Key points

- There was 34% more wheat in stock in the UK at the end of June 2016 than a year previously.
- Barley stocks were 2.2% lower in the UK at the end of June 2016 than a year previously.
- There were 2.7 million tonnes of wheat, 0.77 million tonnes of barley, 0.07 million tonnes of oats and 0.05 million tonnes of maize in stock in the UK at the end of June 2016.
- There was high UK production in 2015 for wheat, barley and oats. The 2015 wheat harvest for the UK was 16.4 million tonnes, similar to 2014.

Figure 1: End June stocks of wheat, barley, oats and maize



Revisions

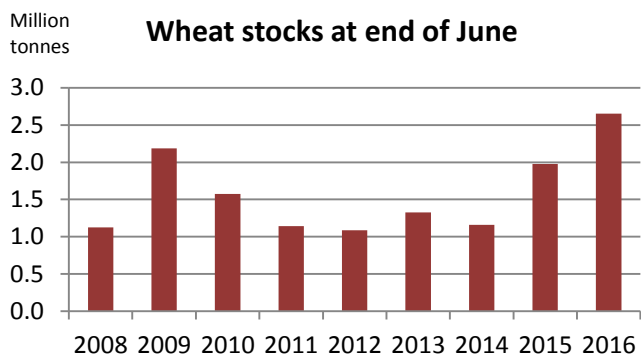
Previous estimates have not been revised.

Enquiries to Lisa Brown, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

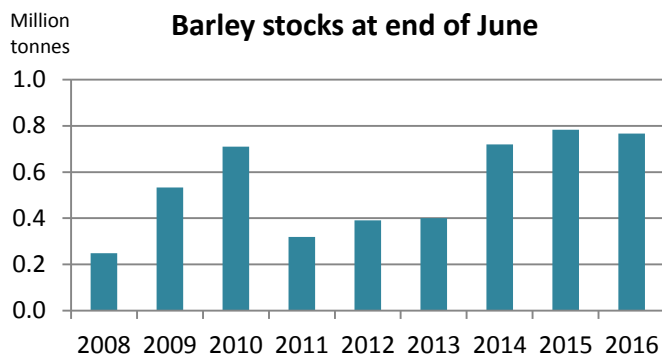
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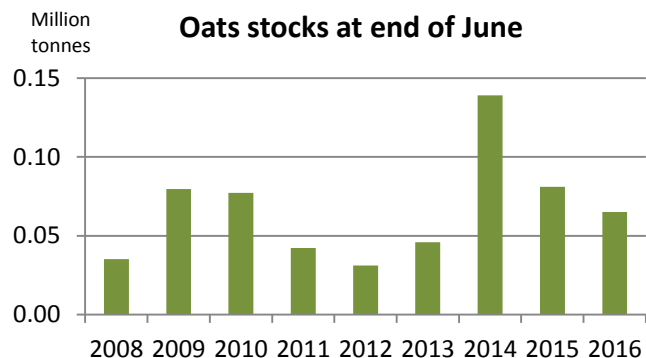
Figure 2: Trends in June grain stocks in the UK*



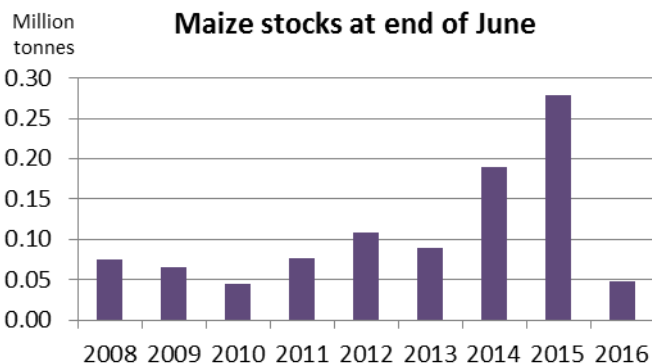
- June wheat stocks were 34% higher at 2.7 million tonnes in 2016 compared to 2015.
- In 2016 June wheat stocks were the highest on record.



- June barley stocks were 2.2% lower at 0.77 million tonnes in 2016 compared to 2015.



- June oats stocks were 20% lower at 0.07 million tonnes in 2016 compared to 2015.

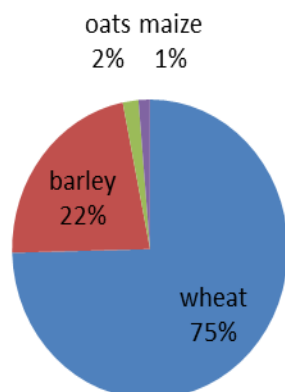


- Maize stocks returned to more normal levels with a 83% drop to 0.05 million tonnes in 2016.

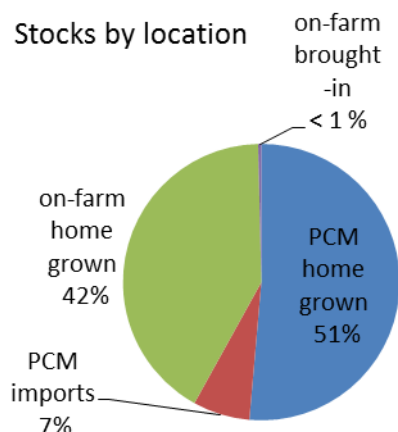
* On farm stocks in Scotland and Northern Ireland are not covered in these statistics.

Figure 3: Types and locations of UK grain stocks in June 2016

Stocks by type of grain



Stocks by location



- At end June 2016, 75% of grain stocks were wheat and 22% barley.

- At end June 2016, 42% of stocks were held on-farm and 58% at ports, coops and merchants.
- On farm stocks of wheat at 1.28 million tonnes were 29% higher at the end of June 2016 than a year previously.

Figure 4: Tonnages of stocks by grain and location at the end of June since 2008

Thousand tonnes	Month	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	Jun	469	192	168	20	10	75	464	80	15
2009	Jun	885	167	375	39	14	66	1136	158	40
2010	Jun	719	146	463	41	5	44	709	246	36
2011	Jun	598	119	250	25	10	76	427	69	18
2012	Jun	561	117	310	17	16	108	410	80	14
2013	Jun	562	258	298	26	13	89	506	102	20
2014	Jun	547	234	417	86	12	189	378	304	53
2015	Jun	757	229	612	49	6	279	994	172	32
2016	Jun	1204	166	586	37	23	48	1283	180	28
% change		59%	-28%	-4%	-25%	278%	-83%	29%	5%	-11%

Figure 5: Regional on-farm stocks of grain at the end June 2016 and associated livestock numbers at June 2015 (England and Wales)

	Wheat stocks	Wheat production	Barley stocks	Barley production	Cattle	Cattle*	Pigs	Sheep
	thousands of tonnes				thousands of head			
North East	98	580	33	319	254	106	1929	1955
North West	21	246	18	244	928	131	2973	8524
Yorkshire and Humber	260	2231	33	970	537	1419	2118	14930
East Midlands	408	3187	24	691	485	351	1212	24761
West Midlands	119	1355	11	439	700	191	2206	19409
East of England	227	4258	23	1087	192	1053	328	27129
South East and London	72	2026	13	621	410	211	1257	8858
South West and Wales	74	1478	18	932	2821	390	12623	27712
England and Wales	1278	15361	174	5303	6326	3852	24646	133278

Source: Farm Stocks Survey

Livestock numbers are sourced from the June Survey of Agriculture 2015.

*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 45% of cattle and 21% of sheep are in the South West and Wales but only 6% of on-farm wheat stocks and 10% of on-farm barley stocks are in these regions.
- 32% of wheat stocks are in East Midlands.
- Yorkshire and Humber and North East both accounted for 19% of barley stocks.

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 168,500 tonnes of feed wheat on 24 June 2016 and 169,900 on 1 July 2016.

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.

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.

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 excluding February 2016 and a sample survey in June each year. Due to not running a census in February 2016 a full census was run in June 2016. Approximately 130 storage facilities were contacted in June 2016. The typical response rate to this survey is 85%-100% and in June 2016 was 86%.

Compared to other cereal usage data which records usage typically over a month, stocks data are recorded for a particular day in February or June. If there have been any significant movements of grain in or out of a store, particularly a port, it could have a more significant influence on the level of stocks recorded and this should be kept in mind in interpreting and using the data. This is particularly relevant to the June 2016 results when it is possible that large volumes potentially could have been sold in the last week of June due to the fall in Sterling.

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 2017.