Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2024

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)

Welsh Government, Knowledge and Analytical Services

The Scottish Government, Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services

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Produced by:
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Preface

Legal Basis

Agriculture in the United Kingdom (AUK) 2024 fulfils the requirement under the Agriculture Act 1993 that Ministers publish an annual report on such matters relating to price support for agricultural produce as they consider relevant. The Government will draw on this information when considering policy development, including new policies on the provision of agricultural support.

Changes

Some of the figures now given for past years may differ from those published in preceding issues. This is because of the use of later information, changes in scope and nature of available data, and improvements in statistical methods. Where modifications to the data are made a 'Revisions' section will be added to the chapter to explain the changes.

Accredited official statistics status

Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. An explanation can be found on the Office for Statistics Regulation website.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. It is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These accredited official statistics last underwent a full assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation in 2014 Assessment Report 271 Statistics on Agriculture . They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should be labelled 'accredited official statistics'.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. We have also made improvements to enhance the quality of this publication by improving quality assurance procedures.

Content of document

The latest available data are used throughout this document. Most of the data are on calendar year basis and for 2024. Some data for 2024 are provisional and may be revised as more data becomes available. Where 2024 data are not yet available the most recent data is presented.

The following points apply throughout:

1. All figures relate to the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.

2. Unless stated otherwise, Defra is the source for all data presented in tables and charts.
3. The figures for imports and exports include those from intervention stocks and the figures for exports include re-exports. Imports are based on country of consignment. Exports are based on country of reported final destination. The source of overseas trade statistics is HM Revenue and Customs.
4. Where statistics are shown for the European Union (EU) as a whole they represent the present Member States in all the years regardless of when they became members.
5. Values are expressed as either current or as a real term value:
    - Current (or nominal) value is the value expressed in historical monetary terms
    - Real term value is the current value adjusted to take account of inflation

Summary

All figures relate to 2024 and the change between 2023 and 2024 unless otherwise stated.

Structure of industry

- The **utilised agricultural area** (UAA) decreased by 1.5% and was 17 million hectares, covering 69% of land in the UK.
- The **total croppable area** increased by 1.3% in 2024 and was 6.2 million hectares.
- The **cereal crops area** decreased by 3.9% and was 3.0 million hectares.
- The **area of oilseed crops** planted decreased by 24% and was 317 thousand hectares.
- The **total number of cattle and calves** decreased by 1.5% and was 9.4 million animals. The beef herd decreased by 4.5% and was 1.3 million animals. The dairy herd did not change substantially and was 1.8 million animals.
- The **total number of pigs** increased by 0.7% and was 4.7 million animals. The total number of female pigs in the breeding herd decreased by 3.1% and was 327 thousand animals.
- The **total number of sheep and lambs** decreased by 2.5% and was 31 million animals.
- The **total number of poultry** decreased by 1.2% and was 176 million birds.
- The **total agricultural workforce** on commercial holdings decreased by 2.0% and was 453 thousand people.

Farming income

- In 2023/24, the average **Farm Business Income (FBI)** across all farm types in Great Britain (data for Northern Ireland were not available when Agriculture in the UK was compiled) was £41,500 compared to the UK average of £82,500 in 2022/23. The fall in FBI in 2023/24 followed exceptional highs for some farm types in 2022/23.
- FBI varies greatly with 29% farms in Great Britain failing to make a positive FBI in 2023/24, while 28% of farms had an FBI of over £50,000.
- In 2024/25, average FBI for farms in England is forecast to rise for most farm types (except cereals) reflecting reductions in the cost of inputs such

as fertilisers and animal feed. Firm output prices are also predicted to have a positive impact on overall FBI for livestock farms.

Farm accounts

- **UK Total Income from Farming (TIFF)** in 2024 was £7.7 billion, an increase of £1.6 billion (+26%) from 2023. Following price volatility in 2022 and 2023, this large increase in TIFF was driven by a decrease of £1.2 billion in the value of inputs coupled with a £0.4 billion increase in the value of outputs.
- **Total livestock output** in 2024 increased by £1.1 billion (+5.6%) from 2023, to £20.1 billion, driven by increases in the values of eggs (+35%), beef (+9.3%) and milk (+5.5%). In these sectors, high prices strengthened producer confidence, resulting in increased annual production volumes across all three commodities. However, it should be noted that an improved methodology for Defra egg statistics in 2024 is estimated to have contributed around a third of the year-on-year increase for eggs.
- In 2024, **total crop output** decreased by £0.6 billion (-5.3%) from 2023, to £11.7 billion. This decrease was driven by substantial falls in the values of wheat and barley (-27% and -14% respectively) as well as oilseed rape (-31%). The decrease in value of these key crop commodities was driven by poor yields caused by wet weather conditions in key planting periods, and a continued decrease in cereal and oilseed prices after the exceptionally high prices seen in 2022.
- **Intermediate consumption** decreased by £1.2 billion (-5.5%) from 2023, to £20.9 billion in 2024. This decrease was primarily driven by a 26% decrease in the value of fertilisers following a substantial fall (-20% from 2023) in the price of fertilisers after historically high prices in 2022 and 2023.
- In 2024, **agriculture's contribution to the UK economy (Gross Value Added at basic prices)** was £14.5 billion (0.6% of GVA). This constitutes an increase of £1.6 billion (+13%) in GVA compared to 2023.
- Despite recent volatility in TIFF, the longer-term trend is of overall improvement, with TIFF more than tripling in real terms between 2000 and 2024. However, TIFF in 2024 remains 40% lower in real terms than the series high of £12.8 billion seen in 1973.

Productivity

- **Total Factor Productivity** is estimated to have decreased by 1.4% between 2023 and 2024. This was driven by an increase in the volume of inputs, which was only partially offset by a small increase in the volume of outputs.
- The volume of **all outputs** increased by 0.2%. There was a mixed picture for crop outputs with substantial decreases in the volumes of most cereals and industrial crops, driven predominantly by reductions in wheat

and oilseed rape volumes due to wet weather conditions during planting and pest pressures respectively. This was only partially offset by increases in the volumes of potatoes, fresh vegetables and horticultural products, fruit and 'other crops', to give an overall reduction in total crop output volume of 5.1%. There were increases in all major livestock output volumes except for sheep, where disease pressures and wet weather during the spring lambing period led to a fall in sheep meat production. In other livestock sectors high prices drove higher production volumes, resulting in a 3.5% increase in the volume of total livestock output.

- The volume of **all inputs** increased by 1.6%. There was a mixture of increases and decreases in volume across inputs used. For intermediate consumption, seeds showed the largest increase (+8.0%) due to an increased 2024 spring crop area in compensation for failed plantings in 2023. Animal feed also saw an increase in volume of 5.1% due to an increased demand for feed following increases in production in the beef and dairy sectors.

Prices

- The annual average price index for all agricultural **outputs** increased by 2.5% from 2023 to 2024.
- The largest upward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **outputs** was from potatoes (1.6 percentage points), followed by sheep and lambs (1.2 percentage points) and milk (0.9 percentage points). The main downward contribution came from poultry (-1.3 percentage points).
- The annual average price index for all agricultural **inputs** decreased by 6.0% from 2023 to 2024.
- The largest downward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **inputs** was from compound feedingstuffs (-2.7 percentage points), followed by fertilisers and soil improvers (-1.9 percentage points) and energy and fuel (-1.1 percentage points). The main upward contribution came from materials (0.4 percentage points).

Crops

- Harvested production of **wheat** decreased by 20% to just over 11.1 million tonnes, due to decreased area and yields. The value of production was 27% lower at £2.2 billion.
- Harvested production of **barley** increased by 1.8% to 7.1 million tonnes. The value of production was 14% lower at £1.2 billion.
- **Oilseed rape** production decreased by 32% to around 824 thousand tonnes. This reduction was driven by lower areas and yields. The value of production declined sharply to £335 million, down 31%.
- **Sugar beet** production increased by 0.9% to 7.8 million tonnes. The value of production fell by 0.7% to £365 million.

- The value of **vegetable** production rose by 2.1% to just over £2 billion.
- The value of **fruit** production increased by 4.5% to just under £1.1 billion.

Livestock

- The value of **beef and veal** increased by 9.3% to £4.1 billion. Home-fed production increased by 3.8% to 937 thousand tonnes. These changes are primarily due to high unit prices at the end of 2024 and high producer confidence.
- The value of **pig meat** increased by 3.4% to £1.8 billion. Home-fed production increased by 3.9% to 920 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **mutton and lamb** increased by 13% to £1.8 billion. Home-fed production decreased by 6.5% to 277 thousand tonnes. Constrained supply and robust consumer demand led to sharp price increases.
- The value of **poultry meat** remains stable at £3.5 billion. Home-fed production increased by 2.9% to 2,031 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **milk and milk products** increased by 5.5% to £6.3 billion. The volume of milk production increased by 1.1% to 15,269 thousand tonnes. Constrained supplies throughout mid 2024 led to high price increases.
- The value of **eggs** for human consumption increased by 35% to £1.4 billion. Production increased by 4.9% to 1,148 million dozen. The unit price increased due to a higher proportion of eggs being produced using free-range production methods, which has been one of the primary drivers of increased prices.

Intermediate consumption

- The total cost of **intermediate consumption** was £20.9 billion, a decrease of £1,214 million (-5.5%) from 2023.
- The value of **animal feed** decreased by £502 million (-6.6%) from 2023 to £7,133 million.
- The value of **energy** decreased by £212 million (-11%) from 2023 to £1,746 million.
- The total value of **fertilisers** was £1,725 million, a decrease of £617 million (-26%) from 2023.

Agricultural support payments

- **Total Payments and support to the Agricultural Industry** increased by 3.4% to £4,426 million.
- Payments associated with the **Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)** and the replacement **De-linked Payment Scheme (DPS)** decreased by 17% to £1,585 million.

- Payments associated with **Agri-Environment Schemes** increased by 51% to £1,121 million.

Agri-environment

- Estimated **greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions** from agriculture have fallen between 1990 and 2023.
- Since the late 1990s, **nitrogen and phosphate fertiliser application rates** have fallen. Phosphate application was at its lowest rate in 2023, with nitrogen application showing a slight increase from 2022.
- **Soil nutrient balances for nitrogen and phosphorus** have fluctuated over time, but have shown an overall downward trend and were at their lowest levels in 2022 with marginal increases in 2023.

Organics

- 503 thousand hectares were **farmed organically** in the UK.
- 59% of UK **organic land** was in England, 26% in Scotland, 14% in Wales and 1.4% in Northern Ireland.
- **Permanent pasture (including rough grazing)** accounted for 62% of organic land in the UK, covering 311 thousand hectares.
- 10% of organic land in the UK was used to grow **cereals** (50 thousand hectares).
- 2.9% of **cattle** in the UK were reared organically.
- There were a total of 5,133 **organic operators** in the UK.

Overseas trade

- The value of **food, feed and drink exports** decreased by £0.6 billion (2.3%) to £24.6 billion.
- The value of **food, feed and drink imports** increased by £4.0 billion (6.6%) to £64.1 billion.
- The trade gap in **food, feed and drink** increased by £4.6 billion (13%) to £39.5 billion.
- Principal destinations for **exports** were Ireland (£4.3 billion), France (£2.9 billion), the United States (£2.7 billion) and the Netherlands (£1.8 billion).
- The main countries of dispatch for **imports** into the UK were the Netherlands (£7.7 billion), France (£6.1 billion), Ireland (£5.4 billion) and Belgium (£5.0 billion).
- Whisky continued to have the **highest export value**, totalling £5.5 billion. This was a decrease of 9.0% compared to the previous year.

- Fresh fruit and vegetables together remained the **highest value category for imports**, totalling £7.8 billion, an increase of 12%.
- **Exports of fresh vegetables** rose by 13% to £95 million, and **exports of fresh fruit** also rose by 2.7% to £73 million.

The food chain

- In 2023, the agri-food sector (excluding fishing) in the United Kingdom accounted for a total estimated **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of £153.2bn or 6.2% of national GVA, an increase of 4.8% since 2022. The GVA from agriculture decreased by 4.5% between 2022 and 2023 but all other sectors saw an increase.
- **Employment** in the agri-food sector in Great Britain fell by 0.9% to 4.2 million over the 12-month period to the fourth quarter of 2024. The largest percent change was seen in retailing which fell by 2.4% (27,000 employees).
- **Total factor productivity** of the food chain showed no significant change compared to 2022, while the productivity of the wider economy also showed no significant change. In the 10 years prior to 2023, the average annual growth rate of the food chain was 0.6%, while the wider economy's average annual growth rate was 0.4%. In 2023, total factor productivity of food wholesaling increased by 0.4%, but manufacturing, retail and non-residential catering (NRC) decreased by 0.2%, 0.2% and 1.1% respectively.
- **Consumer expenditure** on food and alcoholic drinks (at constant prices) decreased by 1.2% from £276.5bn in 2023 to £273.1bn in 2024 but was 13% higher than in 2014. Expenditure on food and drink eaten out decreased by 2.1% from £126.7bn in 2023 to £124.0bn in 2024 and expenditure on household food decreased by 0.7% from £125.4bn to £124.5bn, whilst expenditure on alcoholic drinks (off-licence only) increased by 1.0% from £24.4bn to £24.7bn.

Chapter 1: Key Events

Government and policy

On the 4 January 2024, Defra announced a 10% average increase to payment rates and around 50 new actions for Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), as well as shorter three-year agreements to better support tenant farmers.

On the 15 January, the £7.8 million Farming Innovation Programme (FIP) competition launched to fund industry-led industrial research and experimental development projects that will address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities. Defra awarded £7.4 million towards the costs of four successful projects which began their work in September 2024. Defra's funding will be complimented by £2.1 million invested by the organisations participating in the research.

On the 25 January, applications opened for the second round of the Improving Farm Productivity grant, which funded technology and renewable energy generation. As of 16 May 2025, 162 applications have been approved totalling £16.3 million, with over £3.5 million now paid to farmers. The window for full applications closes at the end of July 2025.

On the 5 February, Defra updated that it had funded the 3000th Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) project after 2.5 years. The FiPL programme provides funding for farmers and land managers to work with National Parks and National Landscape bodies to deliver projects that achieve climate, nature, people and place outcomes.

On the 4 March, the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) opened, offering grants to boost productivity of farms, as well as improve slurry management and animal health and welfare. This offered between £1,000 to £50,000 for productivity and slurry items, and £1,000 to £25,000 for animal health and welfare items. For the FETF 2024 scheme, as of 1 May 2025, the RPA has paid 4,950 grants worth £51.2 million across the three themes with some claims still to process.

On the 9 April, Defra announced that the RPA would offer eligible farmers in England who suffered uninsurable damage to their land during Storm Henk the Farming Recovery Fund. This provided grants to help restore agricultural land flooded between 2 and 12 January 2024.

Also announced on the 9 April was the opening of the Water Restoration Fund, to provide £11 million of grant funding to projects that restore and enhance the water environment using funds raised from water company environmental fines and penalties generated from April 2022 to October 2023. Following a rigorous assessment process, successful applicants have been notified, and a full list of participating projects will be published in due course.

On the 10 April, Defra published their response to the Dartmoor Review which gave a better understanding of how to support farmers to deliver on agricultural production, environmental improvements, and natural heritage in Dartmoor. Defra

addressed each of the review's 42 recommendations including improving relationships with Dartmoor commoners and creating a Land Use Management Group.

On the 23 April, Defra published their response to the Rock Review, reporting significant progress in implementing recommendations from the 2022 Rock Review on tenant farming, with 64 out of 75 commitments completed or underway at the time.

On the 14 May, following England's second wettest 6-month period on record, the government introduced temporary adjustments to environmental farming schemes to help affected farmers. Farmers disrupted by bad weather could get extensions on deadlines or postpone required activities until later in the year.

On the 20 May, Defra announced changes to the Smaller Abattoir Fund (SAF) including raising the intervention rate from 40% to 50% and increasing the maximum grant amount from £60,000 to £75,000 to provide greater support to abattoir businesses. These changes also applied retrospectively. In total, the SAF made £4 million available to help support smaller abattoirs across England improve productivity, enhance animal health and welfare, add value to primary products, and encourage innovation and investment in new technologies.

On the 21 May, the Government announced new changes to planning regulations to make it easier for farmers to strengthen their businesses without needing full planning applications, following a consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

On the 23 May, the Government introduced the Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024. These rules set legal standards for hedgerow management. They provided a foundation of good management practices that everyone must follow, supporting those who participate in government schemes or receive grants.

On the 29 May, a £15 million Nutrient Management competition was launched as part of the Farming Innovation Programme to fund innovative solutions for better nutrient management in farming. The competition aimed to help farmers increase productivity while protecting the environment through efficient nutrient use. Defra awarded £14.5 million towards the costs of 26 successful projects which began their work in January 2025. Defra funding will be complimented by almost £4 million invested by the organisations participating in the research.

On the 19 June, new support was launched to tackle endemic diseases for keepers of beef cattle, pigs and sheep, as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. The grant funding for vet services has widened support provided for disease testing and advice to improve welfare and productivity.

On the 25 July, the Government released a founding statement for GB Energy - an £8.3 billion publicly-owned energy company that will invest in clean power projects across the UK. For farmers, it offers income opportunities through the Local Power Plan, supporting renewable energy projects on agricultural land and community ownership schemes.

On 31 July, Defra opened applications for an independent chair for the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group (DLUMG).

On 5 August, Defra provided an update on our agri-environment schemes and grants, including the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI). The update explained how Defra would optimise the schemes so they would produce the right outcomes for farmers, food security and nature recovery in a fair and orderly way.

On 19 August, Defra announced that the first endorsed action offered through the Sustainable Farming Incentive was available. This action aimed to maintain and improve the biodiversity of priority habitat grassland.

On 21 August, the Government announced they had achieved protected status under the Geographical Indication (GI) system for Scottish Whisky in Brazil, giving UK distillers better access to South America's largest economy.

On 28 August, Defra published a summary of the recent changes to the actions and scheme information for the expanded Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI). Most of the updates were made following feedback from farmers, stakeholder organisations, and other experts.

On 25 September, Defra announced that funding for the Tree Health Pilot (THP) scheme was being extended until the launch of the full nationwide Tree Health grant scheme to ensure there would be no gap in the provision of grants.

On 28 September, Defra secured a deal which meant that UK beetroot farmers could sell to US markets for the first time. This new trade deal, worth around £150,000 per year, will help American consumers access beetroot year-round.

On 7 October, the Government secured access markets for UK poultry to South Africa after an eight-year ban. This could bring £160 million to UK farmers over five years.

On 21 October, Defra confirmed the Seasonal Worker visa route for 2025. A total of 43,000 visas for horticulture and 2,000 visas for poultry would be available for the following year, providing certainty and stability to farmers and growers in the UK's horticulture and poultry sectors.

On 21 October, Defra announced measures on egg and poultry labelling to help farmers deal with the impact of future avian influenza outbreaks. The changes meant that free-range eggs could continue to be labelled as such throughout mandatory housing measures.

On 29 October, the RPA launched a public consultation seeking views on their proposed approach to implementing hedgerow regulations. These regulations were introduced to protect hedgerows on agricultural land and the essential habitats and wildlife corridors they provide.

On 29 October, the Government announced that Phil Stocker had been appointed as Independent Chair of the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group, as it moves forward with recommendations to create a long-term plan for land use which preserves the cultural heritage of the area, recovers nature and boosts food production.

Following the Spending Review, on 30 October, Defra confirmed they had secured a budget of £2.4 billion. This budget would help deliver the highest funding levels ever for Environmental Land Management Schemes by 2025/26.

Additionally, Defra announced that they had secured £208 million to upgrade Weybridge biosecurity facilities (2024-26) to protect farmers from potential disease outbreaks that threaten the farming industry, food security and human health.

On 6 November, Defra announced that it would recruit for the role of a commissioner for the tenant farming sector in England. The role would address one of the recommendations from the Rock Review, to improve relationships and collaboration between tenant farmers, landowners and advisers.

On 21 November, Secretary of State (SoS) Steve Reed attended the Country, Land and Business Association's (CLA) Conference where he confirmed that the Budget committed £5 billion to farming over the next two years, the biggest budget for sustainable food production in the country's history.

On 21 November, the Secretary of State confirmed that Defra was providing £60 million to help farmers affected by the unprecedented flooding seen earlier in the year and the end of last year. It was also announced that £2.4 billion was being provided to rebuild crumbling flood defences, currently in their worst condition on record.

On 21 November, SoS announced the government's intention to produce a long-term roadmap, Farming 2050: Growing England's Future. This will outline how the farming system will boost food security, deliver on our environmental objectives, and drive innovation, unlocking delivery across government missions and priorities.

On 21 November, SoS also announced that the Government would advance work on supply chain fairness by using the fair dealing powers in the Agriculture Act 2020. This aimed to boost food security in the long term and protect producers who are vulnerable to unfair trading practices.

On 22 November, Defra published new guidance for Integrated Pest Management, a whole-farm approach to prevent, monitor, and control pests, weeds and diseases. The guidance could help manage pesticide resistance and minimise the risks of environmental harm.

On 25 November, Defra announced details of how they would be supporting farmers with expiring Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier and High Level Stewardship agreements with extensions and mirror agreements, allowing continued environmental support while providing flexibility to transition into new schemes.

On 26 November, Crown Commercial Service launched "Buying Better Food and Drink," helping British farmers sell to schools, hospitals and councils. The agreement made it easier for local and environmentally friendly farmers to win government contracts, creating a simpler path to sell directly to public buyers.

On 27 November, the government confirmed that farmers affected by 2023/24 flooding had received payments totalling £57.5 million from the Farming Recovery Fund to support recovery from last winter's storms and exceptional wet weather.

On 27 November, Defra announced that because of unprecedented demand, some of their capital grant offers for farmers would temporarily close to new applications. Defra confirmed that they would be simplifying and rationalising grant funding and would provide an update in early 2025.

On 11 December, Defra published the new scheme guidance ahead of the improved Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme opening for applications, giving farmers information on how to prepare for the scheme and detailing the improvements made.

On 19 December, Defra published the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group's terms of reference, giving information on the purpose, objectives and governance of the group following the appointment of the Independent Chair, Phil Stocker, in October.

Key contextual factors

Global events

Ukraine war

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had a significant impact on input prices including energy and fertilisers. These costs have reduced steadily since they peaked in 2022 but are still higher than they were before the war.

Labour shortages

Labour availability is a challenge shared by most farmers. The lack of skilled labour combined with increased minimum wages are ensuring labour comes at an increased cost.

Inflation

Inflation continued to decline throughout 2024, leading to a reduction in the Bank of England's base rates. However, it remained high compared to pre-2021 levels, reducing profits and eroding the real-term value of direct support (BPS and agri-environmental payments). High inflation also created upward pressure on wages to mitigate its impact on workers.

Food price inflation, which began rising in mid-2021, continued to decline throughout 2024 and ended the year at 2%.

Exchange rates

The relationship between the pound and euro has a key bearing on the fortunes of UK farming, as most UK exports of agricultural commodities are made to the Eurozone. A weaker pound increases the competitiveness of UK exports but increases the price of imports, including inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. The pound substantially weakened against the euro in 2016 and has remained relatively stable since. In 2024, the pound was stable through the spring and then strengthened through the summer months. The pound briefly weakened in August but then recovered and continued to strengthen through the autumn and winter.

Weather

Overall, 2024 was a warm and unsettled year for the UK. Despite several periods of exceptional rainfall, overall rainfall was around average.

Winter

Winter 2024 was milder and wetter than average, with significant variability. The season was dominated by mild, unsettled weather, including several named storms. It was the UK's fifth-warmest winter on record, and England and Wales's second warmest winter. Rainfall was above average across all regions, with particularly wet weather in Southern England and record-breaking rain in East Anglia. There were multiple named storms in January, followed by a milder, wetter, but less stormy February.

Spring

Spring 2024 was warm, unsettled, very wet, and dull. It was UK's warmest spring on record, with fluctuating temperatures and an exceptionally warm May. Spring was very wet, with more than double or triple the average rainfall in parts of the UK across the season. Stormy weather brought heavy rain and strong winds, particularly in Scotland, Wales, and western England. Extreme downpours in May caused flooding in northern England. Parts of Scotland experienced their wettest spring on record, with areas like Midlothian, Fife, and Edinburgh among the hardest hit.

Summer

Summer 2024 was the coolest since 2015, with below-average temperatures in June and July and only slightly above average in August. Warm periods were brief, and rainfall was near average overall, but there were significant regional disparities: Western Scotland received almost double the August average, while Southern England was drier. At the end of August, Storm Lilian brought strong winds and heavy rain to northern England, Wales, and parts of Scotland. Sunshine levels were largely typical throughout the season.

Autumn

Autumn 2024 saw largely average temperatures, but with some cooler spells and heavy snow in November. The weather was generally unsettled, with several storms bringing heavy rain and wind. Overall, England experienced above, and Scotland experienced below-average rainfall. Sunshine was varied across the country, with Scotland and Northern Ireland enjoying the most sunshine and Wales and southern England experiencing the least.

December 2024 was mild, wet, and unsettled, with heavy rain and gales in Wales and southwest England. Scotland was notably wet, Northern Ireland was drier than usual, and sunshine hours were about half the UK average.

Animal Health

In 2024, Defra made further developments to the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway which mean farmers can access more support to improve the health, welfare and profitability of their animals.

The Animal Health and Welfare Review, introduced in 2023, offers farmers who keep cattle, sheep, and pigs funding for an annual visit from a vet of their choice. Vets carry out diagnostic testing and provide bespoke advice on management to improve the health, welfare, and biosecurity of animals, including the responsible use of medicines such as antibiotics, vaccines etc.

In June 2024, further funding was made available to tackle endemic diseases with the introduction of the 'Get funding to improve animal health and welfare' service. In addition to the Animal Health and Welfare Review, it also introduced a second type of funded vet visit; the endemic disease follow-up.

This added support will go towards more in-depth diagnostic testing for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) in pigs and identifying cattle on farms persistently infected with Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD). In the case of sheep the farmer will, in consultation with their vet, choose from a range of health improvement packages. These will target the syndrome that is most prevalent and provides the most benefit to treat in each flock.

Before farmers can access advice and testing for priority disease through the service, they must apply for and accept an agreement. Animal Health and Welfare Review uptake estimates can be found here: uptake estimates.

Alongside the funded vet visit offer, in 2024 eligible farmers were able to access grants designed to improve animal health and welfare through the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund, and large infrastructure grants for laying hen and pullet keepers through the Farming Transformation Fund.

Avian influenza

In the 2024 calendar year, there were 146 incidents of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Great Britain and no confirmed cases of HPAI in Northern Ireland. There were 17 poultry outbreaks; 16 were H5N1 and one was H5N5; all were in England.

There were 129 Great British wild bird cases – 100 were H5N5, of which 28 were in Scotland and one in Wales. A further 27 cases were H5N1, all in England, and the remaining two were H5Nx, also in England. Further details are available at: Bird flu (avian influenza): cases in wild birds - GOV.UK.

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)

England

The percentage of herds Officially TB Free in England was 95.8% at the end of 2024, a slight increase on 2023. There has been an upward trend since Q1 2018, when 93.6% of herds were TB free. Government strategy is driving for TB eradication by 2038. See the full set of the 2024 Accredited Official Statistics for TB in cattle in GB.

The Bovine TB Partnership in England met 6 times in 2024. On 30 August 2024, the government announced the start of work on a comprehensive new bovine TB strategy for England. In late 2024, a steering group was formed out of the existing Bovine TB Partnership for England to oversee the work. In December 2024,

Professor Sir Charles Godfray was commissioned to reconvene a panel of experts to consider whether there was any substantive new evidence following the publication of their previous review.

A third phase of field trials for a new cattle TB vaccine and companion skin test (DIVA - Detect Infected among Vaccinated Animals) commences in 2025. If trials are successful, we will move closer to being able to vaccinate cattle against bTB.

In England, more than 4,000 badgers were vaccinated against TB in 2024, the highest ever vaccinated in a single year and a more than 30% increase compared to 2023. To increase the rollout of badger vaccination, work began with a range of organisations on large-scale vaccination delivery by APHA field teams, and an industry delivered vaccination approach in East Sussex.

In 2024, Natural England (NE) re-authorised culling operations to resume in 19 intensive control areas and one new licence was authorised in the Low Risk Area. NE also licensed nine new supplementary badger control areas, bringing the total number of authorised areas of this type to 26. All remaining intensive and supplementary badger culling licences will end by January 2026.

Wales

In the 12 months to December 2024, the number of new TB incidents across Wales decreased to 596, down from 620 in the previous year, representing a 3.9% decrease. In the High TB Area West, new incidents dropped from 296 to 272, an 8.1% decrease. The decrease in the High TB Area West is a reversal of the increase seen last year.

There has also been a reduction in the number of new incidents in the High TB Area East, with the number decreasing from 169 to 162, representing a 4.1% decrease. However, there have been increases in new incidents in both the Intermediate TB Area North and the Intermediate TB Area Mid. New incidents in the Intermediate TB Area North increased from 70 to 78, representing an 11.4% increase, and new incidents in the Intermediate TB Area Mid increased from 51 to 58, a 13.7% increase.

In the Low TB Area, epidemiological investigations in Anglesey indicated that infection from the Denbigh/Conwy area had spread into the Low TB Area and contributed to the rising disease levels, with incidents increasing from four in 2020, 12 in 2021, and rising to 19 for 2023. In the fourth quarter of 2023, no new incidents were recorded on Anglesey, however 13 new incidents were recorded in 2024.

A new five-year Delivery Plan was introduced in March 2023 under the guidance of the Chief Veterinary Officer. This plan incorporates the 2021-2022 consultation on a refreshed TB Eradication Programme, recommendations from the Task and Finish Group on Farmer Engagement, and the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee’s report on bovine TB. The Delivery Plan prioritises a partnership approach between government, farmers, and vets, and emphasises the importance of working together to meet our shared goal of TB eradication in Wales by 2041.

The Delivery Plan set out a number of legislative changes which were brought in on 1 February 2024. Key changes included:

- Re-introduction of Pre-Movement Testing of cattle or other bovine animals located in the Low TB Area (LTBA) of Wales.
- Introduction of Post-Movement Testing for all cattle and other bovine animals which move into herds in the Intermediate TB Areas (ITBAs) of Wales from the High TB Area of Wales, the High Risk Area of England, and from Northern Ireland.
- Publication of information on TB free herds on ibTB.

Another commitment in the Delivery Plan was to introduce new governance arrangements for the Programme with the creation of two publicly appointed groups: a TB Eradication Programme Board and Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The TAG was established in April 2024, and Professor Glyn Hewinson, Sêr Cymru Chair of the TB Centre of Excellence, was appointed to lead this work. The TAG met for the first time on 17 April and considered, as its first priority, the policy for on-farm slaughter of TB reactors. Advice received from the TAG was accepted in full by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs. Changes were swiftly brought in, allowing the delayed removal of heavily pregnant cattle in the last 60 days of pregnancy and animals that have given birth in the previous 7 days, subject to biosecurity conditions to protect other cattle in the herd. Further flexibility was also permitted, in certain circumstances, to delay removal if within a few days of the end of a medicine withdrawal period, on a case-by-case basis.

The membership of the TB Eradication Programme Board was announced in September 2024, with their first meeting held in December 2024. The Programme Board is chaired by Sharon Hammond, a beef, sheep and poultry farmer, and the membership includes mainly farmers, farming union representatives and vets. Both the Programme Board and TAG will work closely together to provide strategic advice on TB eradication to the Welsh Government.

The Pembrokeshire Project, which began in 2023, continued in 2024 in Pembrokeshire to further explore partnership working. The project aims to establish a voluntary collaborative approach between a farmer and their vet to reduce residual disease, and encourage farmers to bring in voluntary measures to disease management beyond statutory controls.

Scotland

Scotland continues to have a low and stable incidence of bovine tuberculosis, in line with the requirements for Officially TB Free status. In 2024, there were 10 confirmed cases of TB in Scotland.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, herd incidence for 2024 was 10.70%, with animal incidence standing at 1.149%. Both herd and animal incidence rose over the past year (from 10.05% and 0.988% respectively in 2023). Disease rates remain at their highest in Northern Ireland since the aftermath of the Foot and Mouth Disease, which disrupted the bTB programme in the early 2000s.

This poor disease picture, along with an increase in cattle compensation prices, has seen the annual cost of delivering the Northern Ireland bTB programme rise to around £60million.

In March 2024, the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs asked the Northern Ireland Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to undertake a review of the TB programme and policy. This review, which took account of actions within the March 2022 Bovine TB Eradication Strategy for Northern Ireland, saw extensive engagement with stakeholders, epidemiologists and colleagues in other UK and Ireland jurisdictions.

The CVO Review was published in November 2024, with the Minister immediately agreeing with the recommendation to establish a new stakeholder body - the TB Partnership Steering Group (TBPSG). Its first task was to assist with the development of a new delivery plan for bTB in Northern Ireland. At the time of writing (April 2025) the Department has just published the TBPSG's Bovine TB in Northern Ireland: Blueprint for Eradication.

Note: More information on Bovine Tuberculosis can be found at the TB hub.

Chapter 2: Structure of Industry

Summary

Key results for 2024 compared to 2023:

- The **utilised agricultural area** (UAA) decreased by 1.5% and was 17 million hectares, covering 69% of land in the UK.
- The **total croppable area** increased by 1.3% in 2024 and was 6.2 million hectares.
- The **cereal crops area** decreased by 3.9% and was 3.0 million hectares.
- The **area of oilseed crops** planted decreased by 24% and was 317 thousand hectares.
- The **total number of cattle and calves** decreased by 1.5% and was 9.4 million animals. The beef herd decreased by 4.5% and was 1.3 million animals. The dairy herd did not change substantially and was 1.8 million animals.
- The **total number of pigs** increased by 0.7% and was 4.7 million animals. The total number of female pigs in the breeding herd decreased by 3.1% and was 327 thousand animals.
- The **total number of sheep and lambs** decreased by 2.5% and was 31 million animals.
- The **total number of poultry** decreased by 1.2% and was 176 million birds.
- The **total agricultural workforce** on commercial holdings decreased by 2.0% and was 453 thousand people.

Introduction

The tables and charts in this chapter show the size and structure of the agricultural industry in the United Kingdom at 1 June each year. They provide information on land use and livestock numbers, on the distribution of these between holdings and on the agricultural workforce.

Data in this chapter are sourced primarily from the June Surveys of Agriculture carried out in the four UK countries each year. There are some exceptions. In Scotland, most of the land use data are sourced from Single Application Form (SAF) subsidy data. In Northern Ireland, data for pig and poultry are extracted from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs and Update of NI Bird Register respectively. Also, cattle data are sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) in England, Wales and Scotland and from the equivalent Northern Ireland Food Animal Information System (NIFAIS) in Northern Ireland.

England data relate to commercial holdings only. Commercial holdings are defined as those with significant levels of farming activity, i.e. holdings with more than five hectares of agricultural land, one hectare of orchards, 0.5 hectares of vegetables or 0.1 hectares of protected crops, or more than 10 cows, 50 pigs, 20 sheep, 20 goats or 1,000 poultry.

For more information on the June Survey and for more detailed results, please see the pages for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Land use and crop areas

At June 2024 the utilised agricultural area (UAA) was 17 million hectares, covering 69% of the total UK land area. UAA is made up of arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs. It does not include woodland and other non-agricultural land.

The total croppable area increased by 1.3% in 2024 and was 6.2 million hectares. However some categories within this total had greater changes than others (see Table 2.1).

In 2024, cereals and oilseed crops saw decreases in area as a result of bad weather causing difficult planting conditions. Consequently, the area of uncropped arable land increased by 98% to 616 thousand hectares, with increases seen across all the UK nations.

Cereal crops accounted for the majority (69%) of the cropped area. Wheat and barley are the predominant cereal crops. In 2024, the area of wheat decreased by 11% and was 1.5 million hectares. This is the lowest wheat area since 2020 when crop plantings were last affected by very wet weather in the autumn. The area of barley increased by 5.1% and was 1.2 million hectares.

The area of oilseed rape decreased by 25% in 2024 and was 293 thousand hectares.

Potatoes increased by 3.1% to 118 thousand hectares in 2024.

The remaining arable crops decreased by 2.4% to 732 thousand hectares. Peas for harvesting dry, field beans and maize together account for 67% of this area. The area of peas and field beans decreased by 18% whilst the area of maize increased by 11%.

Table 2.1 shows agricultural land use areas and figures 2.1a to 2.1c provide further detailed breakdowns of the crop areas.

The majority (85%) of the utilised agricultural area is used to feed livestock rather than for direct human consumption or other uses such as for bioenergy. In this estimate all grassland has been assumed to be for animal feed. When looking solely at the croppable area, the proportion used for animal feed is lower at around 58%.

These proportions have remained broadly stable over the past decade. More detailed breakdowns and a timeseries are available in the Agricultural land used to feed livestock dataset.

Table 2.1 Agricultural land use at June of each year, 2022 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

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Category	2022	2023	2024
UAA (utilised agricultural area)	**17,426**	**17,022**	**16,760**
UAA as a proportion of total UK area	71%	70%	69%
Total agricultural land	**18,757**	**18,334**	**18,046**
Common rough grazing	**1,194**	**1,194**	**1,197**
Total area on agricultural holdings	**17,562**	**17,140**	**16,848**
Total croppable area	**6,084**	**6,086**	**6,167**
Total crops	**4,571**	**4,515**	**4,276**
Arable crops	4,418	4,370	4,134
Cereals	3,173	3,088	2,966
Oilseeds	399	418	317
Potatoes	127	115	118
Other arable crops	718	750	732
Horticultural crops	153	145	142
Uncropped arable land	**274**	**311**	**616**
Temporary grass under 5 years old	**1,240**	**1,260**	**1,275**
Total permanent grassland	**10,136**	**9,730**	**9,380**
Grass over 5 years old	6,158	6,074	5,865
Sole right rough grazing	3,978	3,655	3,511
Land for solar panels also used for grazing or agricultural production	[x]	[x]	4
Other land on agricultural holdings	**1,342**	**1,324**	**1,301**
Woodland	996	948	939
Land used for outdoor pigs	12	12	12
Land for solar panels not used for agricultural production	[x]	[x]	4
All other non-agricultural land	334	364	347

Notes for table 2.1:

1. UAA includes all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs (it excludes woodland and other non-agricultural land).
2. Uncropped arable land includes all arable land not in production, including bare fallow and arable land used for environmental benefit but not in production (e.g. pollen and nectar flower mixes).
3. Sole right rough grazing includes mountains, hills, heathland or moorland.
4. Land for solar panels data collected by England only.

Source: UK Agriculture departments June Survey/Census of Agriculture/SAF land data Scotland.

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Figures 2.1a to 2.1c - Crop areas at June of each year

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Figure 2.1a Cereal crop areas, 2022 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Year	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Minor cereals	Total
2022	1,813	1,116	176	69	3,173
2023	1,720	1,137	167	65	3,088
2024	1,531	1,194	182	59	2,966

Figure 2.1b Other arable crop areas, 2022 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Year	Oilseeds	Potatoes	Sugar beet (not for stockfeeding)	Maize	Peas for harvesting dry and field beans	Remaining arable crops	Total
2022	399	127	91	222	269	136	1,245
2023	418	115	99	240	275	135	1,282
2024	317	118	103	266	224	139	1,168

Figure 2.1c Horticultural crop areas, 2022 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Year	Vegetables grown outdoors	Orchard fruit	Small fruit	Hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers	Glasshouse crops	Total
2022	107	22	10	11	3	153
2023	100	21	11	10	3	145
2024	97	20	11	12	3	142

Notes for figures 2.1a to 2.1c:

1. Vegetables grown outdoors excludes potatoes, peas for harvesting dry and mushrooms.
2. Orchard fruit includes non-commercial orchards.
3. Small fruit is strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, wine grapes and all other soft fruit.

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture/SAF land data Scotland.

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Livestock numbers

In 2024, the total number of cattle and calves decreased by 1.5% from 2023 to 9.4 million. The dairy herd remained stable at 1.8 million animals. The beef herd

decreased by 4.5% to 1.3 million animals, continuing to drive the gradual downward trend seen in the breeding herd in recent years.

The number of lambs under one year old was 15 million in 2024, which decreased by 1.5% from 2023. The female breeding flock decreased by 3.6% to just under 15 million animals. As a result, the total UK sheep and lamb population was 31 million which decreased by 2.5% compared to 2023.

The total number of pigs remained relatively stable at 4.7 million, helped by a 0.9% rise in the number of fattening pigs. The number of pigs in the female breeding herd decreased by 3.1% and was 327 thousand in 2024.

The total number of poultry in the UK decreased by 1.2% and was 176 million birds in 2024. The overall reduction in numbers was largely due to to a 3.5% fall to 112 million in the number of table chickens (broilers), which account for 64% of all poultry. The number of breeding and laying fowl increased by 1.5% to 55 million.

Figures 2.2a to 2.2d provide breakdowns of livestock populations.

Figures 2.2a to 2.2d - Livestock numbers at June of each year

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Figure 2.2a Female cattle breeding herd, 2022 to 2024 (thousand head)

Year	Cows in the beef herd	Cows in the dairy herd	Total breeding herd
2022	1,463	1,842	3,305
2023	1,407	1,836	3,243
2024	1,344	1,836	3,181

Figure 2.2b Sheep numbers, 2022 to 2024 (thousand head)

Year	Female breeding flock	Other sheep and lambs	Total
2022	15,826	17,348	33,174
2023	15,438	16,365	31,803
2024	14,882	16,135	31,017

Figure 2.2c Female pig breeding herd, 2022 to 2024 (thousand head)

Year	Sows in pig	Gilts in pig	Other sows for breeding	Total breeding herd
2022	247	42	54	343
2023	238	48	52	338
2024	236	43	49	327

Figure 2.2d Poultry numbers, 2022 to 2024 (thousand birds)

Year	Laying flock (including pullets)	Breeding flock	Table fowl	Turkeys, ducks, geese, all other poultry	Total
2022	40,442	12,021	121,730	9,295	183,488
2023	41,073	12,720	116,440	7,909	178,142
2024	41,863	12,749	112,374	9,099	176,085

Notes for figures 2.2a to 2.2d:

1. Dairy cows are defined as female dairy cows over 2 years old with offspring.
2. Beef cows are defined as female beef cows over 2 years old with offspring.

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture; Cattle Tracing System/NIFAIS.

Download the full Structure of industry dataset.

Numbers and sizes of holdings and enterprises

Tables 2.2a through to 2.2d compare the number of holdings and area by farm size in 2019 and 2024. In 2024, the total number of holdings was 209 thousand which decreased by 4.2% compared to 2019. Within the five-year period the total area on holdings has decreased by 4.6%.

Between 2019 and 2024 the average area of all holdings decreased by 0.3% and the average croppable area of holdings increased by 3.0%.

Figure 2.3a shows the proportion of holdings and total area by size bands. This shows that around a fifth of holdings have 100 hectares or more, but these holdings account for three quarters of the total area. Most holdings in both 2019 and 2024 were under 20 hectares, accounting for approximately 4.0% of the total area. A similar picture can be drawn for the croppable area which is shown in figure 2.3c.

Tables 2.2a to 2.2d and 2.3a to 2.3b show number of holdings and total areas for the UK and by country, respectively.

Tables 2.2a to 2.2d, and figures 2.3b and 2.3c: Numbers and sizes of holdings and enterprises at June of each year

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Table 2.2a Numbers of holdings by total area size group, 2019 and 2024 (thousand)

Year	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
2019	103	42	32	41	219
2024	101	40	29	39	209

Table 2.2b Total area on holdings by size group, 2019 and 2024 (thousand hectares)

Year	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total area
2019	705	1,390	2,280	13,277	17,652
2024	710	1,318	2,092	12,728	16,848

Figure 2.3a Proportion of holdings and total area by size group, 2019 and 2024

Category	under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
2019 - Proportion of holdings	47%	19%	15%	19%	100%
2024 - Proportion of holdings	48%	19%	14%	19%	100%
2019 - Proportion of total area	4%	8%	13%	75%	100%
2024 - Proportion of total area	4%	8%	12%	76%	100%

Figure 2.3b Average total and croppable areas on holdings, 2019 and 2024 (hectares)

Year	Average total area	Average total area on holdings with >=20 hectares	Average croppable area
2019	81	147	64
2024	80	148	66

Table 2.2c Numbers of holdings with croppable areas by size group, 2019 and 2024 (thousand)

Year	Croppable area 0.1 to under 20 hectares	Croppable area 20 to under 50 hectares	Croppable area 50 to under 100 hectares	Croppable area 100 hectares and over	Total
2019	46	18	14	17	95
2024	46	17	13	17	93

Table 2.2d Croppable area on holdings by size group, 2019 and 2024 (thousand hectares)

Year	Croppable area 0.1 to under 20 hectares	Croppable area 20 to under 50 hectares	Croppable area 50 to under 100 hectares	Croppable area 100 hectares and over	Total croppable area
2019	294	590	981	4,267	6,132
2024	273	567	896	4,431	6,167

Figure 2.3c Proportion of holdings and croppable area by size group, 2019 and 2024

Category	0.1 to under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
2019 - Proportion of holdings with croppable area	48%	19%	15%	18%	100%
2024 - Proportion of holdings with croppable area	49%	19%	14%	18%	100%
2019 - Proportion of croppable area	5%	10%	16%	69%	100%
2024 - Proportion of croppable area	4%	9%	15%	72%	100%

Notes for tables 2.2a to 2.2d, and figures 2.3b and 2.3c:

1. Croppable area is defined as land under crops, temporary grass under five years old and uncropped arable land.

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture/SAF land data Scotland.

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Tables 2.3a to 2.3b - Numbers of holdings and areas by size group and country at June of each year

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Table 2.3a Numbers of holdings by total area size group and country, 2024 (thousand)

Country	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
England	42	21	16	24	102
Wales	21	6	5	5	37
Scotland	27	5	4	8	44
Northern Ireland	11	8	4	2	26

Table 2.3b Total area on holdings by size group and country, 2024 (thousand hectares)

Country	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total area
England	329	678	1,152	6,718	8,877
Wales	123	215	359	1,078	1,775
Scotland	145	161	298	4,551	5,155
Northern Ireland	113	264	283	380	1,040

Figure 2.4 Average total area on holdings by country, 2024 (hectares)

Country	Average total area	Average total area on holdings with >=20 hectares
England	87	141
Wales	47	100
Scotland	118	294
Northern Ireland	40	64
United Kingdom	80	148

Notes for tables 2.3a and 2.3b:

1. Totals may not equal the sum of the component parts due to rounding.

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture/SAF land data Scotland.

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Agriculture Workforce

The agricultural workforce in 2024 decreased by 2.0%, reducing the total number of workers to 453 thousand. Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses accounted for 65% of the total workforce.

Figure 2.5 Agricultural workforce on commercial holdings at June of each year, 2022 to 2024 (thousand)

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Year	Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses (full time)	Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses (part time)	Regular employees, salaried managers and casual workers	Total workforce
2022	147	155	168	470
2023	148	151	163	462
2024	145	148	160	453

Notes:

1. Part-time is defined as working less than 39 hours per week (England & Wales), 38 hours per week (Scotland) and 30 hours per week (N. Ireland).
2. For workforce numbers in earlier years see Structure of the agricultural industry.

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture

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Historical data on the proportion of holders by age group, up to and including 2016, are available and can be found in table 2.6 of the dataset for this chapter.

Chapter 3: Farming Income

Summary

- In 2023/24, the average **Farm Business Income (FBI)** across all farm types in Great Britain (data for Northern Ireland were not available when Agriculture in the UK was compiled) was £41,500 compared to the UK average of £82,500 in 2022/23. The fall in FBI in 2023/24 followed exceptional highs for some farm types in 2022/23.
- FBI varies greatly with 29% farms in Great Britain failing to make a positive FBI in 2023/24, while 28% of farms had an FBI of over £50,000.
- In 2024/25, average FBI for farms in England is forecast to rise for most farm types (except cereals) reflecting reductions in the cost of inputs such as fertilisers and animal feed. Firm output prices are also predicted to have a positive impact on overall FBI for livestock farms.

Introduction

This chapter presents **Farm Business Income**. **Total Income from Farming (TIFF)** data can be found in Chapter 4.

Farm Business Income (FBI) is the preferred measure for comparisons of farm type and represents the return to all unpaid labour (farmers, spouses and others with an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business) and to all their capital invested in the farm business including land and farm buildings.

Total Income from Farming (TIFF) represents business profits and remuneration for work done by owners and other unpaid workers. It is used to assess UK agriculture as a whole.

Table 3.3, found at the end of this chapter, provides more detailed information on definition, method used and similarities and differences for the two income measures.

Farm Business Incomes by farm type

The estimates of Farm Business Income (FBI) are averages. It should be noted that across different regions and farm types, some farmers receive considerably more or less than these averages. The 2023/24 data for Northern Ireland were not available when this publication was compiled. The latest Northern Ireland data can be found here.

Forecasts of FBI for 2024/25 (i.e. the year ending February 2025 and harvest 2024) at current prices are shown in Table 3.1a for England. These forecasts include the 2024 delinked Basic Payment which is recorded in the 2024/25 accounting year.

Note that forecasts of FBI in Wales and Scotland have not been produced. Forecasts for Northern Ireland are not yet available. In England, no income forecasts for 2024/25 have been produced for specialist poultry or horticulture farms. These forecasts are subject to a considerable degree of uncertainty, reflecting both the structure of these sectors and the relatively small sample of these farms in the Farm Business Survey. These factors have meant it has not been possible to produce robust forecast estimates.

For farms in England, reductions in the cost of inputs, such as fertiliser and animal feed, are expected to be a major contributing factor to the forecast rise in the average 2024/25 FBI. For livestock farms, firm output prices are also predicted to have a positive impact on overall income. The average delinked Basic Payment is expected to fall by around a quarter across all farm types, reflecting the fourth year of progressive reductions to the payment. Although variation between farm types is forecast, at the all farm level income from agri-environment activities is expected to rise by more than three quarters to around £23,000.

On cereal farms, average FBI is expected to fall by nearly a third to £27,000 in 2024/25. A combination of challenging weather (including wet autumn drilling conditions and a cool, wet harvest) and lower output prices are forecast to result in a substantial drop in output from crops (most notably for wheat where output is expected to drop by just over a quarter). Overall, crop output is forecast to be around 18% lower than 2023/24. A fall in input costs, largely driven by substantially lower

fertiliser costs due to lower prices and, for some crops, a smaller planted area, will not be enough to offset the larger reduction in output.

At £108,000, average FBI for general cropping farms is forecast to be 13% higher than 2023/24. Lower input costs are expected to be a major influencing factor, with a notable fall in fertiliser costs (following the rise due to the war in Ukraine). Crop output is forecast to fall, but to a lesser extent than input costs. As with cereal farms, a sizeable drop in output from cereals and oilseed rape is expected, however for general cropping farms it is predicted that this will be partially offset by increases for other crop enterprises, such as potatoes and sugar beet.

On dairy farms in England, average FBI is forecast to be around £176,000 compared to £71,000 in 2023/24. An increase in output from milk of around 12% is expected to be a key factor and will be driven by a recovery of farmgate prices (supported by tight supplies at the start of the year). At the same time, input costs are forecast to fall by around 2%, primarily driven by reduced feed costs (reflecting lower cereal prices) and also lower fertiliser costs.

In England, FBI for grazing livestock farms, both lowland and in Less Favoured Areas (LFAs), is forecast to increase to £28,000. This translates to a rise of 65% for lowland farms compared to 2023/24 and 18% for LFA farms. Higher output from sheep enterprises reflecting lamb prices consistently up on the year, including some record highs, is expected to be a key driver. Firm prices for finished and store cattle will be another positive factor, although for LFA farms these are predicted to be tempered by lower throughput for stores. Reduced feed costs are also expected to be driver and, for lowland farms, higher revenue from agri-environment activities.

Forecasts for specialist pig farms are subject to a considerable degree of uncertainty, reflecting both the structure of the sector and the relatively small sample of these farms in the Farm Business Survey in England. The average FBI for specialist pig farms in 2023/24 is expected to increase by 14% to around £155,000. Lower costs, particularly for feed (linked to price decreases for feed ingredients such as feed wheat and feed barley) are forecast to be one of the main drivers. Another factor is expected to be increased output from pig enterprises reflecting reasonably steady prices for finished pigs, stores and weaners.

Incomes on mixed farms in England are forecast to just over a third higher than 2023/24 at £30,000. The changes reported previously for specialist farm types will all influence incomes for this farm type.

Tables 3.1a and 3.1b Farm Business Income by country and type of farm (average Farm Business Income per farm, £/farm)

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Table 3.1a Farm Business Income by country and type of farm (average Farm Business Income per farm at current prices, £/farm)

Standard Output Typology	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (Provisional)
England				
Cereals	120,000	146,500	39,500	27,000
General cropping	145,500	126,000	95,500	108,000
Dairy	140,000	224,500	71,000	176,000
Grazing livestock (lowland)	34,000	23,000	17,500	28,000
Grazing livestock (LFA)	43,000	27,000	23,500	28,000
Specialist pigs	12,000	72,500	136,000	155,000
Specialist poultry	138,000	117,000	143,500	[x]
Mixed	74,000	69,000	22,500	30,000
Wales				
Dairy	88,000	165,000	67,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	26,500	18,500	23,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	38,500	24,500	28,500	[x]
Scotland				
Cereals	88,000	98,500	39,000	[x]
General cropping	85,500	167,000	83,500	[x]
Dairy	164,000	249,500	116,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	32,000	19,500	2,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	24,000	24,000	17,500	[x]
Mixed	61,500	85,000	43,500	[x]
Northern Ireland				
Dairy	83,000	123,000	[x]	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	23,000	18,000	[x]	[x]

Table 3.1b Farm Business Income by type of farm in the UK (average Farm Business Income per farm, £/farm)

Standard Output Typology	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (Provisional)
At current prices				
Cereals	115,500	140,500	39,000	[x]
General cropping	132,500	134,500	93,500	[x]
Dairy	119,500	191,000	74,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	32,500	22,000	17,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	33,000	23,500	21,000	[x]
Specialist pigs	14,000	72,500	136,000	[x]
Specialist poultry	138,000	117,000	143,500	[x]
Mixed	71,500	71,000	26,500	[x]
All types (including Horticulture)	72,000	82,500	41,500	[x]
In real terms (at 2023/24 prices)				
Cereals	131,000	148,500	39,000	[x]
General cropping	150,000	142,500	93,500	[x]
Dairy	135,500	202,000	74,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	36,500	23,500	17,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	37,500	25,000	21,000	[x]
Specialist pigs	16,000	77,000	136,000	[x]
Specialist poultry	156,500	123,500	143,500	[x]
Mixed	81,000	75,000	26,500	[x]
All types (including Horticulture)	82,000	87,500	41,500	[x]

Notes for table 3.1a and 3.1b:

1. [x] data unavailable.
2. Years are accounting years ending on average in February.
3. England data for 2022/23 onwards are based on 2017 Standard Output coefficients. All other data are based on 2013 Standard Output coefficients.
4. Figures for 2021/22 to 2023/24 rounded to nearest £500.
5. Forecast figures for 2024/25 rounded to the nearest £1,000. These figures are provisional and subject to revision.
6. Table 3.1a figures are at current prices.
7. Table 3.1b figures are shown at current prices and in real terms. Real term figures are adjusted for inflation using GDP deflator.
8. Table 3.1b UK farm type averages include data for some member countries that are not presented separately in the country level breakdown at Table 3.1a. Data for 2023/24 are for Great Britain only.

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Distribution of farm incomes and performance

Table 3.2a to 3.2c shows the variation in the level of Farm Business Income (FBI), Net Farm Income and Cash Income across farms in England, Wales and Scotland for 2023/24.

In 2023/24, 29% of farms in Great Britain failed to make a positive FBI compared to 17% in 2022/23, although there was some variation between countries with Wales seeing the lowest proportion at 24% of farms. Just over half of farms fell into the lower income brackets (less than £20,000). At the top end of the scale, 28% of farms in Great Britain had an FBI of more than £50,000 (compared to 41% in 2022/23). There was again some variation between countries in this highest income category. For England the proportion of farms was 30% and for Scotland 26%, while for Wales the proportion of farms was 22%.

A greater proportion of farms fall into lower band income ranges for Net Farm Income. This is because Net Farm Income is a narrower measure of income; it is net of an imputed rent on owned land and an imputed cost for unpaid labour (apart from farmer and spouse). On this basis a quarter of farms in Great Britain failed to make a profit.

For comparison, the full distribution of farm incomes for 2022/23 can be found in Chapter 3 of the 2023 Agriculture in the UK.

Tables 3.2a to 3.2c All farm types: distribution of farm incomes by country 2023/24 (percentage of farms)

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Table 3.2a Farm Business Income (percentage of farms)

Farm Business Income	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Less than zero	30%	24%	27%	29%
0 to less than £5,000	5%	7%	6%	5%
£5,000 to less than £10,000	6%	7%	10%	7%
£10,000 to less than £20,000	10%	14%	11%	10%
£20,000 to less than £30,000	8%	12%	10%	9%
£30,000 to less than £50,000	12%	14%	11%	12%
£50,000 and over	30%	22%	26%	28%
Average (£ thousand per farm)	45	29	36	42

Table 3.2b Net Farm Income (percentage of farms)

Net Farm Income	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Less than zero	42%	36%	40%	41%
0 to less than £5,000	5%	8%	6%	6%
£5,000 to less than £10,000	7%	8%	8%	7%
£10,000 to less than £20,000	8%	13%	11%	9%
£20,000 to less than £30,000	6%	9%	9%	7%
£30,000 to less than £50,000	7%	11%	10%	8%
£50,000 and over	25%	15%	16%	22%
Average (£ thousand per farm)	35	19	19	31

Table 3.2c Cash Income (percentage of farms)

Cash Income	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Less than zero	14%	10%	11%	13%
0 to less than £5,000	4%	4%	2%	3%
£5,000 to less than £10,000	5%	5%	6%	5%
£10,000 to less than £20,000	9%	14%	8%	10%
£20,000 to less than £30,000	8%	12%	9%	8%
£30,000 to less than £50,000	14%	19%	16%	15%
£50,000 and over	47%	37%	49%	46%
Average (£ thousand per farm)	96	58	88	90

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Figure 3.1 shows the differences in performance of farms in England for 2023/24. Performance is measured as “£ of output per £100 of input”. An imputed value for unpaid labour is added to the input costs. The chart illustrates the significant variation in performance with 61% of farms failing to recover their costs in that year.

Figure 3.1 Distribution of performance across farms 2023/24: England only (£ output per £100 input)

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£ output per £100 input	%
0 < 60	10.5%
60 < 70	8.7%
70 < 80	12.0%
80 < 90	15.0%
90 < 100	14.9%
100 < 110	15.4%
110 < 120	9.2%
120 < 130	6.8%
130 < 140	3.3%
140 < 150	1.2%
150 < 160	1.2%
160 < 170	0.7%
170 and over	1.2%

Source: Farm Business Survey

Notes:

1. Performance is based on the ratio of farm business output to farm business costs which includes an adjustment for unpaid labour.

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Definitions and explanatory note

There are two main measures of agricultural income which are closely related and complement each other. Total Income from Farming provides an estimate of total income for agriculture as a whole whereas Farm Business Income provides a breakdown of average incomes by farm type. Table 3.3 compares the two measures in terms of definition, methodology and main similarities and differences.

Table 3.3 Comparison table showing main similarities and differences between Total Income from Farming (TIFF) and Farm Business Income (FBI) statistics

	Total Income from Farming	Farm Business Income
Geographic scope	United Kingdom	England
Reference period	Calendar year	12-month period March to February
Definition	Represents business profits and remuneration for work done by owners and other unpaid workers.	Represents the return to all unpaid labour (farmers, spouses and others with an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business) and to all their capital invested in the farm business including land and farm buildings.
Data source	A wide range of data sources including industry data and Defra survey data (i.e. the Farm Business Survey).	Farm Business Survey: annual sample surveys run by each of the four UK countries.
Method	Gross output at basic prices	Total output from agriculture (includes crop and livestock valuation change)
	plus Other subsidies less taxes	plus Total output from agri-environment schemes
	less Total intermediate consumption, rent, paid labour	plus Total output from diversification
	less Total consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)	plus Single/Basic payment scheme
	less Interest	less Expenditure (costs, overheads, fuel, repairs, rent, depreciation, paid labour)
		plus Profit / (loss) on sale of fixed assets.
Differences	The main aggregate measure of farm income used to assess agriculture as a whole.	The preferred measure for comparisons of farm type.

	Total Income from Farming	Farm Business Income
	Treatment of stocks: the physical changes in stocks valued at average calendar year prices.	Treatment of stocks: the change in the book value of stocks between the start and end of the accounting year.
Similarities	Complete range of on-farm activities including income from diversified activities where they are included in the farm accounts.	Complete range of on-farm activities including income from diversified activities where they are included in the farm accounts.
	Does not subtract imputed rent for owner occupiers.	Does not subtract imputed rent for owner occupiers.

Revisions

Compared with the provisional 2023/24 results published in the 2023 edition of AUK, the outturn (based on actual survey results from the Farm Business Survey) for specialist pig farms was higher than forecast due to an underestimation of output from both crops and livestock and also of output related to diversification activities. For all other farm types, the forecasts were within the confidence intervals of the survey outturns.

No England forecasts were produced for specialist poultry or horticulture farms in 2024/25 as these are subject to a considerable degree of uncertainty, reflecting both the structure of these sectors and the relatively small sample of these farms in the Farm Business Survey. These factors meant it was not possible to produce robust forecast estimates.

Chapter 4: Accounts

Summary

In this section, unless otherwise stated, all values are provided in current prices which is considered the most intuitive approach for comparisons over a short time period. It should be noted that these values have not been adjusted for inflation. The alternative to current prices is real terms, where prices are adjusted for inflation to allow for more meaningful comparisons over a longer time period.

Key results for 2024:

- **UK Total Income from Farming (TIFF)** in 2024 was £7.7 billion, an increase of £1.6 billion (+26%) from 2023. Following price volatility in 2022 and 2023, this large increase in TIFF was driven by a decrease of £1.2 billion in the value of inputs coupled with a £0.4 billion increase in the value of outputs.
- **Total livestock output** in 2024 increased by £1.1 billion (+5.6%) from 2023, to £20.1 billion, driven by increases in the values of eggs (+35%), beef (+9.3%) and milk (+5.5%). In these sectors, high prices strengthened producer confidence, resulting in increased annual production volumes across all three commodities. However, it should be noted that an improved methodology for Defra egg statistics in 2024 is estimated to have contributed around a third of the year-on-year increase for eggs.
- In 2024, **total crop output** decreased by £0.6 billion (-5.3%) from 2023, to £11.7 billion. This decrease was driven by substantial falls in the values of wheat and barley (-27% and -14% respectively) as well as oilseed rape (-31%). The decrease in value of these key crop commodities was driven by poor yields caused by wet weather conditions in key planting periods, and a continued decrease in cereal and oilseed prices after the exceptionally high prices seen in 2022.
- **Intermediate consumption** decreased by £1.2 billion (-5.5%) from 2023, to £20.9 billion in 2024. This decrease was primarily driven by a 26% decrease in the value of fertilisers following a substantial fall (-20% from 2023) in the price of fertilisers after historically high prices in 2022 and 2023.
- In 2024, **agriculture's contribution to the UK economy (Gross Value Added at basic prices)** was £14.5 billion (0.6% of GVA). This constitutes an increase of £1.6 billion (+13%) in GVA compared to 2023.
- Despite recent volatility in TIFF, the longer-term trend is of overall improvement, with TIFF more than tripling in real terms between 2000 and 2024. However, TIFF in 2024 remains 40% lower in real terms than the series high of £12.8 billion seen in 1973.

Introduction

This chapter presents the production and income accounts for agriculture in the United Kingdom, also published separately at Total income from farming in the UK. These accounts conform to internationally agreed accounting principles required by the United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics.

Total Income from Farming (TIFF) is the total profit from all UK farming businesses on a calendar year basis. It measures the return to all agricultural entrepreneurs for their management, inputs, labour and capital invested. The term 'income' used throughout this chapter refers to TIFF. For differences between TIFF and Farm Business Income statistics presented in Chapter 3, see Table 3.3.

When comparing more recent years, values are presented at current prices (not adjusted for inflation). For long term trends in TIFF, values are presented in real terms. This means the figures have been adjusted to account for inflation, which allows more meaningful comparisons between years over the longer term.

The value of TIFF is subject to a degree of revision in future years when additional data becomes available. In this release, the estimate of TIFF for 2023, published in June 2024, has been revised downwards by £1.1 billion (-16%). This is primarily due to a substantial upwards revision in the value of expenditure on fertilisers (+£1.0 billion, +72%). See Revisions section for full details.

TIFF data for 2024 for Northern Ireland was unavailable at the time the 2024 UK Accounts estimates were compiled and so 2024 Northern Ireland figures have been estimated for this release.

TIFF in recent years

In this section, all values are provided in current prices which is considered the most intuitive approach for comparisons over a short time period. It should be noted that these values have not been adjusted for inflation.

Figure 4.1: TIFF for the United Kingdom: 2019 to 2024 at current prices (£ billion)

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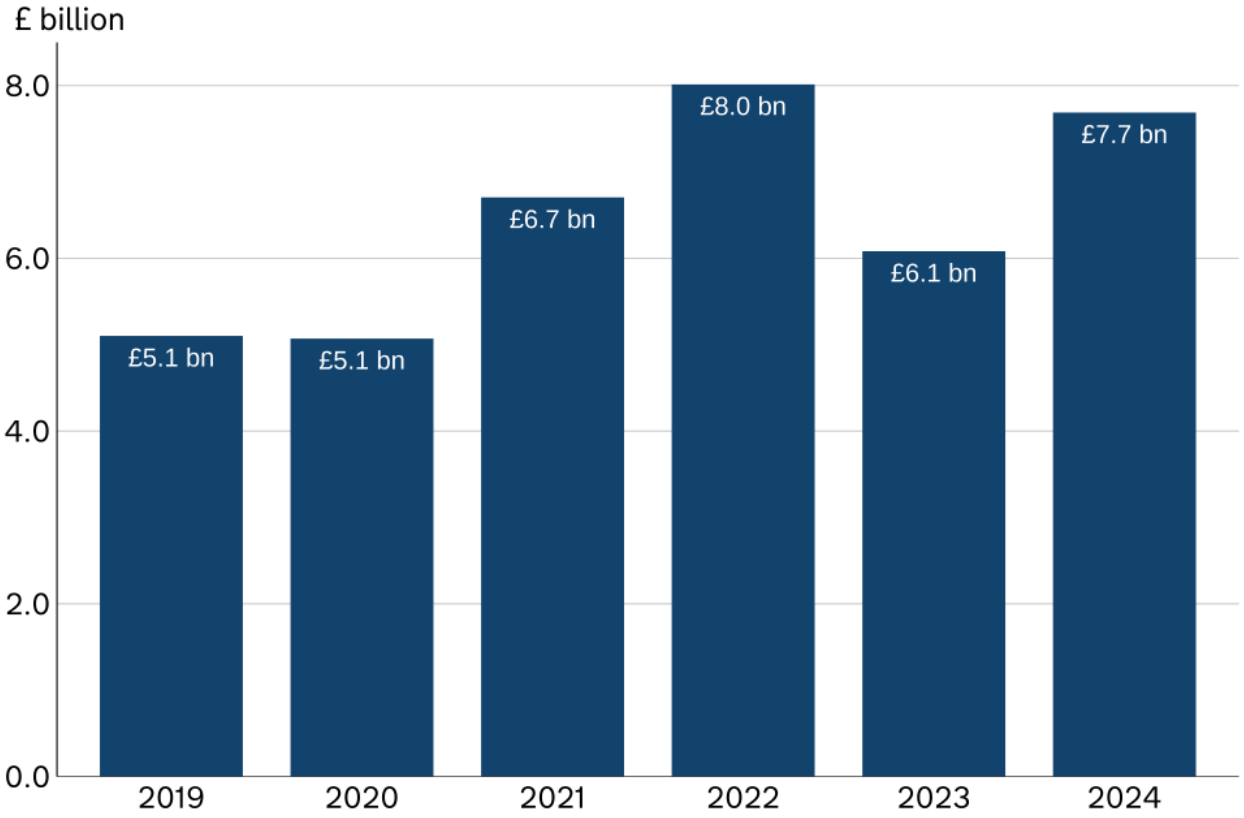

Text description of Figure 4.1: Figure 4.1 shows the value of TIFF from 2019 to 2024 at current prices. TIFF is presented in billions.

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Since 2019, the average value of TIFF has been £6.4 billion, with the lowest value of £5.1 billion occurring in 2020, and the highest value of £8.0 billion occurring in 2022. TIFF in 2024 was the second highest in this period, in current prices, at £7.7 billion, an increase of 26% from 2023.

Outputs and subsidies

In this section, all values are provided in current prices which is considered the most intuitive approach for comparisons over a short time period. It should be noted that these values have not been adjusted for inflation.

There may be small discrepancies between numbers presented in this section and those in Chapter 7: Crops and Chapter 8: Livestock. This is due to data revisions since the production of the UK Aggregate Agricultural Accounts.

Overview

Figure 4.2: Summary of outputs and subsidies, 2019 to 2024 (£ million)

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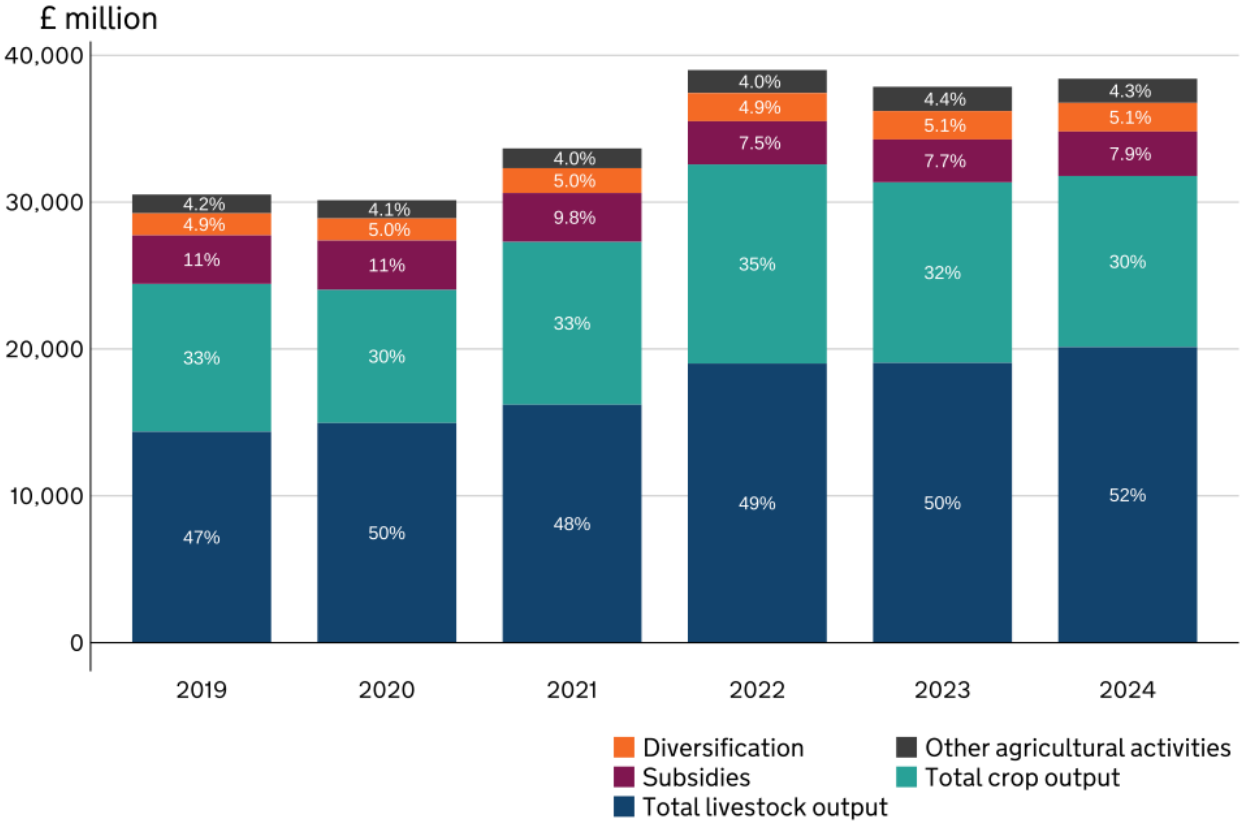

Text description of Figure 4.2: Figure 4.2 shows the value of all outputs and subsidies from 2019 to 2024. Values are presented in millions. Outputs and subsidies represent all financial incomes to farmers. Total livestock output is consistently the largest contributor to the value of all outputs and subsidies.

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In 2024, total livestock output was £20,127 million, an increase of £1,074 million (+5.6%) on 2023. The second largest contribution to the value of outputs and subsidies in 2024 was total crop output at £11,657 million, a decrease of £646 million (-5.3%) on 2023. The remaining incomes to farmers in 2024 were subsidies (£3,025 million), diversification (£1,952 million) and other agricultural activities (£1,646 million).

Total livestock output

Figure 4.3: Main contributions to total livestock output, 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

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Item	2023	2024
Milk	5,985	6,316
Beef	3,796	4,148
Poultry	3,533	3,351
Pigmeat	1,784	1,844
Mutton and lamb	1,559	1,764
Eggs	1,003	1,355
Livestock gross fixed capital formation	1,238	1,210

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The largest contribution to total livestock output in 2024 was milk with a value of £6,316 million, an increase of 332 million (+5.5%) from 2023. At the start of 2024, farm-gate milk prices were 17% lower than the historically high first-quarter price in 2023. Prices began to increase in spring and into the summer due to reduced global dairy product supply. The overall farm-gate price of milk was 41 pence per litre (ppl), a 4.4% increase from 2023. Increased prices drove production volume increases in the latter half of the year. In 2024, overall production of milk for human consumption reached 15,269 thousand tonnes, a 1.1% increase from 2023.

In 2024, the largest value increase in total livestock output was for eggs with an increase of £353 million (+35%) from 2023. However, it should be noted that an improved methodology for Defra egg statistics in 2024 is estimated to have contributed around a third of the year-on-year increase for eggs. For more information, please see section 6.1 of Latest UK egg statistics publication. In 2024, production of UK eggs for human consumption reached a historical high at 1,006 million dozen eggs, a 4.1% increase from 2023. High prices provided producer confidence, with an 8.7% increase in farm-gate egg prices to 144 pence per dozen compared to 2023. This rise in price was primarily caused by an increase in production of higher-cost free-range eggs in response to consumer demand for higher welfare eggs.

The second largest increase in livestock output was for beef which increased by £352 million (+9.3%) compared to 2023, to £4.1 billion. This increase was primarily due to an increase in the deadweight price of prime cattle which increased 4.4% from 2023 to 497 pence per kilo, as a result of strong consumer demand and an expectation of tighter global and domestic cattle supplies in 2025. Home-fed production increased by 3.8% in response to high prices, particularly in the second half of the year.

Total crop output

Figure 4.4: Main contributions to total crop output, 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

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Item	2023	2024
Wheat	2,957	2,161
Fresh vegetables	1,986	2,028
Plants and flowers	1,706	1,701
Potatoes	1,138	1,461
Barley	1,348	1,158
Fruit	1,037	1,084
Other crop products	581	694
Other industrial crops	578	554
Oilseed rape	483	335
Forage plants	263	242

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The largest contribution to total crop output in 2024 was wheat with a value of £2,161 million. Wheat also saw the largest value decrease of all crop commodities, falling by £796 million (-27%). Harvest wheat production decreased by 20% to 11.1 million tonnes from 2023, the lowest production since 2020, as a result of declines in planted area (-11%) and yield (-10%). The 2024 wheat crop suffered due to wet planting conditions in both winter and spring, with limited yields and variable quality. Prices continued to decrease from the high prices seen in 2022 and 2023 as a result of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The average price of UK breadmaking wheat was £238.64 per tonne, a 9.6% decrease from 2023.

In 2024, the second largest value decrease in a crop item was for barley, with a decrease of £190 million (-14%) from 2023, to £1,158 million in 2024. Despite a drop in yields from 6.1 tonnes per hectare to 5.9 tonnes per hectare, barley production increased by 1.8% to 7.1 million tonnes compared to 2023. The reduction in the value of barley was therefore driven by a reduction in price, with premium malting barley falling by 18% to £193.37 per tonne and feed barley falling by 9.6% to £158.86 per tonne. Similarly to wheat, these price decreases were driven by a period of market stability after global price volatility in 2022 and 2023.

The largest percentage value decrease in a crop item in 2024 was for oilseed rape which fell by 31% from 2023. This decrease in value was due to a 32% decrease in production driven by a 25% decrease in planted area and 9.7% decrease in yields. Production was affected by pest pressures along with competitive global supplies of soybeans, an alternative protein crop.

Other Outputs and Subsidies

Table 4.1: Breakdown of other incomes and subsidies, 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

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Item	2023	2024
Subsidies not linked to production	2,864	2,978
Diversification	1,934	1,952
Other agricultural activities	1,655	1,646
Subsidies linked to production	48	48

Notes:

1. 'Subsidies not linked to production' includes all subsidies not directly linked to production, including the basic payment scheme and agri-environment schemes, including the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Sustainable Farming Incentive.
2. Subsidies captured in the accounts do not include capital grants to farmers. This, alongside more minor differences in reporting scope, means that payments totals reported in this chapter will not align with those in Chapter 10: Public Payments, which includes all payments reported as part of the Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Report that is submitted to OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).
3. To improve clarity, the item 'Inseparable non-agricultural activities' has been renamed 'Diversification'. This covers all non-farming income which is generated on farms, i.e. tourism from renting out cottages, energy generation, and farm shops and cafes.

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In 2024, the value of subsidies not linked to production increased by £114 million (3.9%) from 2023.

Inputs and costs

In this section, all values are provided in current prices which is considered the most intuitive approach for comparisons over a short time period. It should be noted that these values have not been adjusted for inflation.

Overview

Figure 4.5: Summary of inputs and costs, 2019 to 2024 (£ million)

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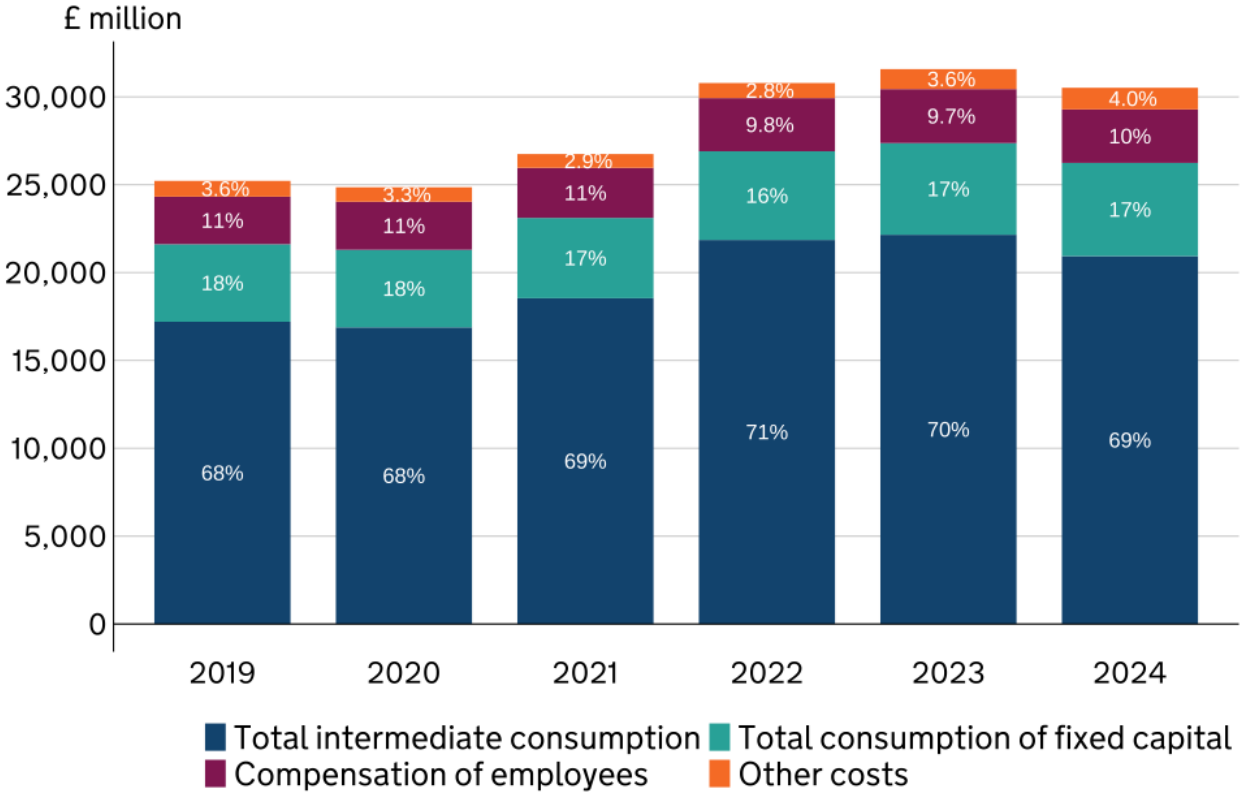

Text description of Figure 4.5: Figure 4.5 shows the make-up of all inputs and costs from 2019 to 2024. Values are presented in millions.

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Inputs and costs represent all money paid out by farmers during a calendar year. The proportions of items that make up inputs and costs have been relatively consistent for the last 6 years. The largest cost facing farmers is intermediate consumption. In 2024 the value of intermediate consumption was £20,939 million, a decrease of £1,214 million (-5.5%) on 2023. The remaining costs in 2024 were total consumption of fixed capital (£5,303 million), compensation of employees (£3,044 million) and other costs (£1,232 million).

Inputs: Intermediate consumption

Intermediate consumption represents items that are used up during the production of farm outputs. The accounts are set up in a way to provide a picture of the agriculture industry in an annual year in terms of money spent and money received by farming businesses. For intermediate consumption, we rely on data from the Farm Business Survey on expenditure. However, this data is only available two years in arrears and so our initial estimate each year is based on information from industry experts, which is then replaced with Farm Business Survey data the following year, resulting in revisions to the intermediate consumption estimates. As a result of this, there has

been a substantial revision to the value of fertiliser for 2023. See Revisions section for details.

Figure 4.6: Main contributions to intermediate consumption, 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

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Item	2023	2024
Animal feed: compounds	4,774	4,415
Other goods and services	3,700	3,863
Total maintenance	2,096	2,136
Animal feed: straights	1,854	1,818
Fertilisers	2,342	1,725
Agricultural services	1,655	1,646
Motor and machinery fuels	1,173	981
Seeds	951	975
Plant protection products	1,074	969
Animal feed: other	1,007	900
Electricity and fuels for heating	785	765
Veterinary expenses	543	561

Notes:

1. Animal feed: other represents feed produced and used on farm or purchased from other farms.
2. There has been a substantial revision to the value of fertiliser in 2023. See Revisions section for details.

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The largest contribution to intermediate consumption was compound animal feed with a value of £4,415 million, a decrease of £359 million (-7.5%) from 2023. Total compound feed production increased by 567 kilotonnes (+4.4%) from 2023, however this was offset by decreases in compound feed prices. Cattle and calf feed, sheep feed and poultry feed prices all decreased by 11% and pig feed price by 12%. Similar decreases were also seen in the prices of animal feed straights, in line with reductions in crop commodity prices.

In 2024, the largest value decrease in intermediate consumption was from fertilisers which fell by £617 million (-26%) to £1.7 billion. This was driven by a decrease in the cost of gas, a key input for fertiliser production, in comparison to the high prices seen in 2022 and 2023. The decrease in price led to an increase in fertiliser applications per unit area, however this was offset by reductions in key crop areas, including an 11% decrease in wheat area and a 15% decrease in winter barley area. It should be noted that there was a large revision in the estimated value of fertilisers in 2023. This was a result of earlier estimates, made on the basis of fertiliser application rates and crop areas, being updated with the latest fertiliser expenditure data from the Farm Business Survey. See Revisions section for details.

Overall there was a general decreasing trend across the majority of intermediate consumption items, largely driven by a reduction in the high energy and fuel prices seen in 2022 and 2023.

Other Inputs and Costs

Table 4.2: Breakdown of other inputs and costs, 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

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Item	2023	2024
Total consumption of fixed capital	**5,215**	**5,303**
Equipment consumption of fixed capital	2,575	2,660
Livestock consumption of fixed capital	1,372	1,348
Buildings consumption of fixed capital	1,267	1,295
Other taxes on production	**98**	**100**
Compensation of employees	**3,075**	**3,044**
Rent	**533**	**528**
Interest	**701**	**804**

Notes:

1. There has been a revision to the value of interest for 2023. See Revisions section for details.

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Long Term Trends in TIFF

Values in this section are expressed in real terms at 2024 prices. The figures have been adjusted to account for inflation, which allows more meaningful comparisons between years over the longer term.

Figure 4.7: Long term trends in TIFF, 2000 to 2024 (£ billion)

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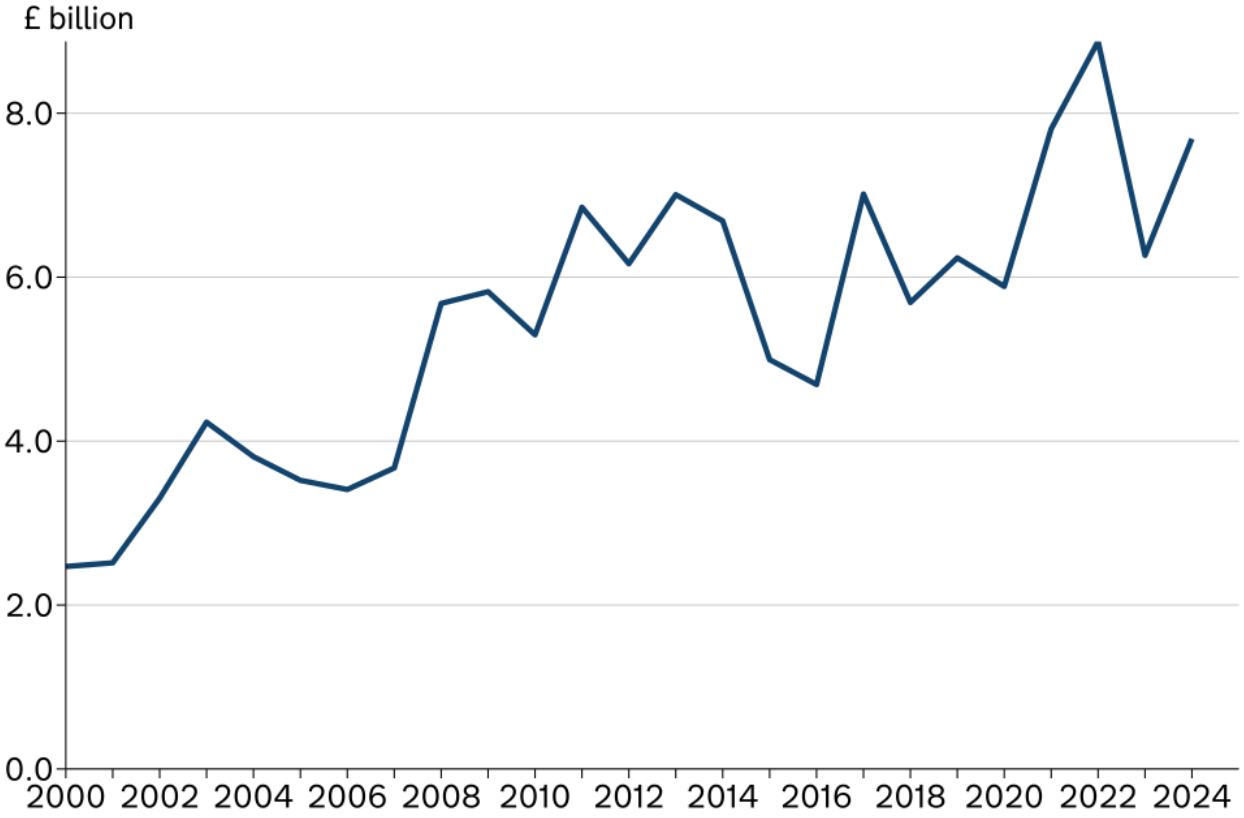

Text description of Figure 4.7: Figure 4.7 shows the long term trend in TIFF from 2000 to 2024. TIFF is presented in billions.

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Table 4.3: Headline figures in real terms, 2019 to 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total crop output	12,307	10,543	12,930	15,021	12,675	11,657
Total livestock output	17,562	17,370	18,872	21,055	19,629	20,127
Total intermediate consumption	21,022	19,600	21,592	24,208	22,823	20,939
Total income from farming	**6,235**	**5,887**	**7,808**	**8,876**	**6,266**	**7,688**

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Overall, TIFF has increased in real terms in recent decades, despite some large year-on-year fluctuations, and has more than tripled since 2000.

A notable dip occurred in 2015 and 2016, driven by a strong pound in 2015, a poor 2016 harvest and low commodity prices throughout. However, in 2017, TIFF reached

the highest point for 20 years as a result of a favourable combination of a weaker pound, strong commodity prices and high levels of production.

Following lower values in 2018 to 2020, 2021 saw a sharp increase (+33%) in TIFF, as a result of an inflation rate of less than 0.1% and favourable weather conditions that led to an increase in production, particularly for crops. 2022 saw the largest value for TIFF, in real terms, since 1995 and the second highest in the last 40 years. This was driven by good yields across most crops and substantial price increases in wheat, barley, oilseed rape and milk, which more than offset price rises for inputs as a result of a sharp increase in crude oil prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In 2023, TIFF fell by 29% in real terms due to the increased value of inputs, particularly fertilisers, due to continued elevation in oil and gas prices, as gas is a key input for fertiliser production. Additionally, a decreased cereal harvest due to poor weather led to a decrease in crop output value, resulting in a substantial reduction in TIFF.

In 2024, a relatively poor year for crops was offset by a strong year for livestock due to increased demand and high commodity prices across all livestock categories except poultry and pigs. The resulting increase in output value, coupled with a decrease in intermediate consumption due to reductions in energy and fuel costs, led to an increase in TIFF of £1.4 billion (+23%) in real terms from 2023, to £7.7 billion in 2024.

Balance Sheet for the United Kingdom Agricultural Industry

Table 4.4: Balance sheet, 2021 to 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total fixed assets	331,267	332,943	373,337	400,528
Total current assets	18,647	19,881	18,147	18,672
Total assets	**349,915**	**352,824**	**391,484**	**419,201**
Total long and medium term liabilities	16,448	16,573	17,080	16,833
Total short term liabilities	5,965	6,274	6,410	6,283
Total liabilities	**22,413**	**22,847**	**23,490**	**23,116**
Net worth	**327,501**	**329,977**	**367,994**	**396,084**

Notes:

1. Balance sheet as at December each year.

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Table 4.4 presents the agricultural balance sheet which values the assets and liabilities for agriculture at the end of each calendar year and estimates the net worth of the industry. Overall net worth is estimated to have been £396,084 million in 2024, an increase of £28,090 million (+7.6%) on 2023. This was the result of an increase in

total assets of 7.1% and a decrease in total liabilities of -1.6%. Land is the largest fixed asset in the agricultural industry with a value of £345,461 million in 2024, an increase of 7.2% on 2023.

Table 4.5: Balance sheet in real terms, 2021 to 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total assets	407,502	390,783	403,330	419,201
Total liabilities	26,102	25,305	24,201	23,116
Net worth	**381,400**	**365,478**	**379,130**	**396,084**

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In real terms at 2024 prices, net worth increased by 4.5% from 2023. Total assets increased by 3.9% and total liabilities decreased by 4.5%.

About these statistics

Revisions

Table 4.6: Revisions in total outputs, inputs and TIFF (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	Previous estimate for 2023 (Published June 2024)	Current estimate for 2023 (Published June 2025)	% change (from Jun 24 to Jun 25 estimate)
All outputs and subsidies	37,576	37,955	1.0%
All inputs and costs	30,344	31,676	4.4%
Total income from farming	7,232	6,082	-16%

TIFF is calculated as the (relatively small) difference between two large numbers, ‘outputs and subsidies’ and ‘inputs and costs’, and so minor changes in these numbers can feed through to cause a large change in the value of TIFF. There was a substantial revision to TIFF in the UK in 2023 of £1.1 billion as a result of an increase in ‘all inputs and costs’ of 4.4%.

Table 4.7: Revisions larger than £100 million in outputs (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	Previous estimate for 2023 (Published June 2024)	Current estimate for 2023 (Published June 2025)	% change (from Jun 24 to Jun 25 estimate)
Fresh vegetables	1,860	1,986	6.8%
Output of potatoes	1,005	1,138	13%
Beef	3,908	3,796	-2.9%

The revision to the value of cattle for meat for 2023 is due to changes in methodology, introducing new weighting to better align fluctuations in price and volume, and revisions to the slaughter back series due to new data becoming available.

The revision to the values of vegetables and potatoes for 2023 is due to the replacement of estimates used for the 2024 TIFF publication as new data became available.

Table 4.8: Revisions larger than £100 million in inputs and costs (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	Previous estimate for 2023 (Published June 2024)	Current estimate for 2023 (Published June 2025)	% change (from Jun 24 to Jun 25 estimate)
Fertilisers	1,362	2,342	72%
Feed produced and used on farm or purchased	1,195	1,007	-16%
Interest	510	701	37%

For 2023, there has been a substantial upwards revision in the value of expenditure on fertilisers (+£979 million, +72%), which has been the main driver of a substantial reduction in the estimate of TIFF for 2023 (-£1.1 billion). The initial estimates are based on trends in fertiliser application rates, and these are then updated the following year based on Farm Business Survey data on fertiliser expenditure. This can cause differences between initial and final estimates when patterns in fertiliser purchasing and application rates do not align, which has been particularly noticeable in the past few years due to price volatility. We are looking into the potential for other sources of fertiliser data and industry intelligence to strengthen our estimation methodology for future years.

The revision to the value of feed produced on farm from 2023 is due to the replacement of estimates used for the 2024 TIFF publication as new data became available. The revision to the value of interest from 2023 is due to revisions in the underlying indices on which the value of interest is based.

As a result of more data becoming available over time there have also been minor revisions to earlier years in this release. These revisions are intended to enhance the precision of these estimates. Sometimes additional revisions are necessary to refine the methodology or correct historical errors.

Glossary of other Key Terms

- **Basic price** is the market price plus directly paid subsidies that are linked to the production of specific products.
- **Current price** is the value based on prices observed during the reference year (i.e. values not adjusted for inflation). The alternative to current price is ‘real terms’.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA)** is computed as Gross output minus intermediate consumption and represents that contribution of a business, sector or industry to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Intermediate consumption** is the goods and services used as inputs in the productive process, e.g. feed, energy and fertilisers.
- **Other costs** includes other taxes on production, rent and interest paid.
- **Real terms** is where values from previous years have been adjusted for inflation. The alternative to real terms is ‘current price’.

Chapter 5: Productivity

Summary

Key results for 2024 compared to 2023:

- **Total Factor Productivity** is estimated to have decreased by 1.4% between 2023 and 2024. This was driven by an increase in the volume of inputs, which was only partially offset by a small increase in the volume of outputs.
- The volume of **all outputs** increased by 0.2%. There was a mixed picture for crop outputs with substantial decreases in the volumes of most cereals and industrial crops, driven predominantly by reductions in wheat and oilseed rape volumes due to wet weather conditions during planting and pest pressures respectively. This was only partially offset by increases in the volumes of potatoes, fresh vegetables and horticultural products, fruit and 'other crops', to give an overall reduction in total crop output volume of 5.1%. There were increases in all major livestock output volumes except for sheep, where disease pressures and wet weather during the spring lambing period led to a fall in sheep meat production. In other livestock sectors high prices drove higher production volumes, resulting in a 3.5% increase in the volume of total livestock output.
- The volume of **all inputs** increased by 1.6%. There was a mixture of increases and decreases in volume across inputs used. For intermediate consumption, seeds showed the largest increase (+8.0%) due to an increased 2024 spring crop area in compensation for failed plantings in 2023. Animal feed also saw an increase in volume of 5.1% due to an increased demand for feed following increases in production in the beef and dairy sectors.

Figure 5.1: Summary of key indices 2023 to 2024 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2023	2024
All outputs	131.9	132.1
All inputs	86.1	87.5
Total factor productivity	**153.2**	**151.0**

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Introduction

This chapter presents the estimate of Total Factor Productivity (TFP) of the UK agricultural industry for 2024, also published separately at Total factor productivity of the agricultural industry - GOV.UK. It also presents volume indices for inputs and outputs. These figures include updates to the figures published in Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2023 following data updates.

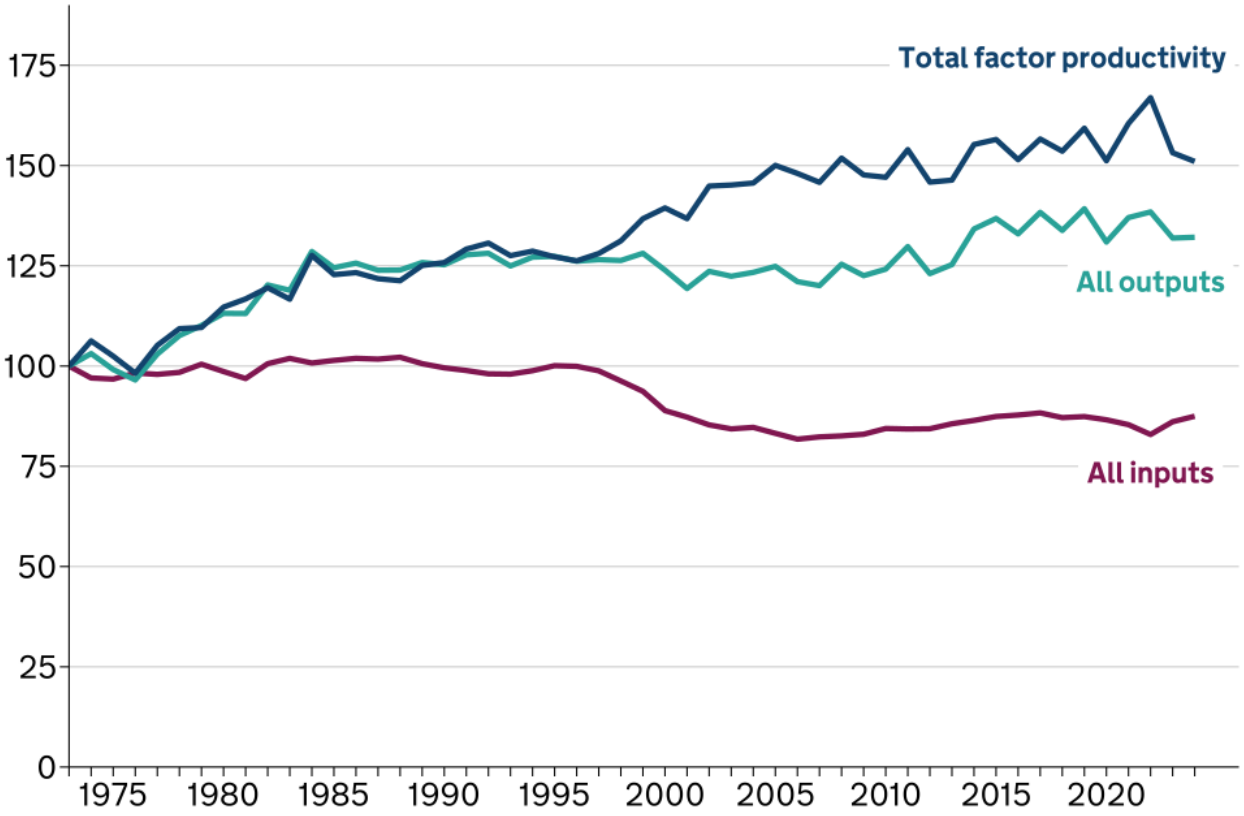
TFP is a measure of how well inputs are converted into outputs, giving an indication of the efficiency and competitiveness of the agricultural industry. Although external factors such as weather conditions or disease outbreaks may have a short-term impact on productivity, it is developments that improve productivity over a longer period that constitute one of the main drivers of agricultural income.

TFP estimates are derived from the aggregate farm accounts data used to calculate UK Total Income from Farming (TIFF) presented in Chapter 4: Accounts.

Long term trends

Figure 5.2: Long term trends in TFP of the UK agricultural industry 1973 to 2024 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description of Figure 5.2: Figure 5.2 is a line chart showing the trend in Total Factor Productivity from 1973 to 2024. The chart is presented as an index (1973 = 100). Data is shown for all inputs, all outputs and total factor productivity.

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TFP of the agricultural industry in the United Kingdom decreased by 1.4% between 2023 and 2024. This was driven by an increase in the volume of inputs, only partially offset by an increase in the volume of outputs. As shown in Figure 5.2, this continues the pattern of annual fluctuations seen from around the year 2000 onwards. Despite this annual variability, the long-term trend is still one of slow but overall improvement in TFP.

Since the series began in 1973, TFP has increased by 51%, driven by an increase in the volume of all outputs of 32% and a decrease in the volume of all inputs of 13%.

Annual changes, 2023 to 2024

All outputs

‘All outputs’ represents the change in volume (expressed as an index based to 1973) of all outputs sold off the farm, excluding transactions within the agricultural industry.

Therefore, gross fixed capital formation of livestock, transactions within the industry e.g. inter/intra farm transfer of wheat, barley etc. and contract work (agricultural services) are excluded from the calculation.

Table 5.1: Volume indices for outputs, 2023 to 2024 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2023	2024	Annual Change
Output of cereals	171.3	144.8	-15%
Output of industrial crops	241.5	201.8	-16%
Output of forage plants	99.3	99.3	0.0%
Output of vegetables and horticultural products	79.0	80.1	1.3%
Output of potatoes	84.4	92.9	10%
Output of fruit	85.9	86.0	0.2%
Output of other crop products	119.2	120.4	1.0%
Total crop output	**135.1**	**128.1**	**-5.1%**
Output of livestock (meat)	124.9	129.7	3.8%
Output of livestock products	107.6	110.9	3.0%
Total livestock output	**118.1**	**122.3**	**3.5%**
Diversification	589.1	579.6	-1.6%
All outputs	**131.9**	**132.1**	**0.2%**

Notes

1. Potato prices and yield information were previously obtained from the AHDB who stopped producing data midway through 2021. From 2022 we have estimated yields based on input from sector representatives, devolved administrations and coverage of the sector in the farming press.

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The volume of all outputs increased by 0.2% between 2023 and 2024. This was the result of an increase in the volume of livestock output (+3.5%) only partially offset by a decrease in the volume of crop output (-5.1%).

The biggest change within total livestock output was in the output of livestock for meat, which increased by 3.8%. This was driven by increases in the volume of production of all livestock animals for meat except for sheep. Total home-fed production of beef and veal increased by 3.8% to 937 thousand tonnes due to increased demand and higher prices for deadweight prime cattle, particularly in the latter half of the year. Total home-fed pigmeat production increased by 3.9% to 920 thousand, driven by higher dressed carcase weights in 2024, with clean pigs increasing by 0.9% to 90.0 kilograms per head and sows and boars increasing by 5.3% to 150.7 kilograms per head. Total home-fed poultry production increased by 2.9% to 2,031 thousand tonnes in response to easing input costs and increased demand. In contrast, total home-fed sheep meat production fell by 6.5% to 277 thousand tonnes due to wet weather in spring disrupting lambing, as well as disease pressures.

The largest percentage decrease within total crop output between 2023 and 2024 was in industrial crops, which decreased by 16%. The main industrial crop, oilseed rape, fell by 32%. This was driven by a 25% decrease in oilseed rape area to 293 thousand hectares and a 9.7% decrease in yield from 3.1 tonnes per hectare in 2023 to 2.8 tonnes per hectare in 2024. Consequently, production fell by 32% from 2023 to 824 thousand tonnes. As in previous years, this decrease in UK volumes was driven by pest pressure from the Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle along with challenging weather conditions and plentiful supplies of soybean from South America.

All inputs

'All inputs and entrepreneurial labour' represents the change in volume (expressed as an index based to 1973) of all goods and services purchased and consumed, excluding transactions within the agricultural industry.

Table 5.2: Volume indices for inputs, 2023 to 2024 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2023	2024	Annual Change
Seeds	133.8	144.5	8.0%
Energy	45.3	46.7	2.9%
Fertilisers	79.4	73.6	-7.3%
Plant protection products	293.6	289.8	-1.3%
Veterinary expenses	130.3	125.4	-3.8%
Animal feed	127.7	134.2	5.1%
Total maintenance	53.6	53.1	-1.1%
Bank charges	100.0	100.0	0.0%
Other goods and services	132.0	132.9	0.7%
Intermediate consumption	**103.2**	**104.7**	**1.4%**
Consumption of fixed capital	126.1	126.6	0.4%
All labour	51.2	52.9	3.3%
Land	96.1	94.7	-1.5%
All inputs and entrepreneurial labour	**86.1**	**87.5**	**1.6%**

Notes

1. Bank charges has replaced the name of the item FISIM (Financial Intermediary Services Indirectly Measured) for clarity following feedback on our statistical release.

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The volume of all inputs and entrepreneurial labour increased by 1.6% between 2023 and 2024. This increase was driven mainly by increases for seeds (+8.0%) and animal feed (+5.1%) that, together with other smaller increases, more than offset the 7.3% decrease in fertilisers.

The volume of seeds used in a year is influenced by planting timing and conditions, and crop areas. Wet weather conditions in 2023 caused a reduction in the winter crop areas for the 2024 harvest, as a result of failed plantings and waterlogged seed beds. To compensate for this, in 2024 there was an increase in spring crop areas and winter cereal areas planted in autumn.

Animal feed includes compound animal feed and straight animal feed. In 2024, the total volume of animal feed increased by 5.1% from 2024. This increase was driven by a 4.3% rise in compound feed and a 7.0% increase in straight feed. Strong demand from the cattle and sheep sectors drove increased volumes of feed despite decreased demand from the pig and poultry sector. In 2024, lower input costs along with higher beef and lamb prices and a stronger dairy sector, stimulated production and increased demand for feed.

Partial productivity

Partial productivity shows the impact key inputs have on productivity. It measures total outputs against a part of the inputs.

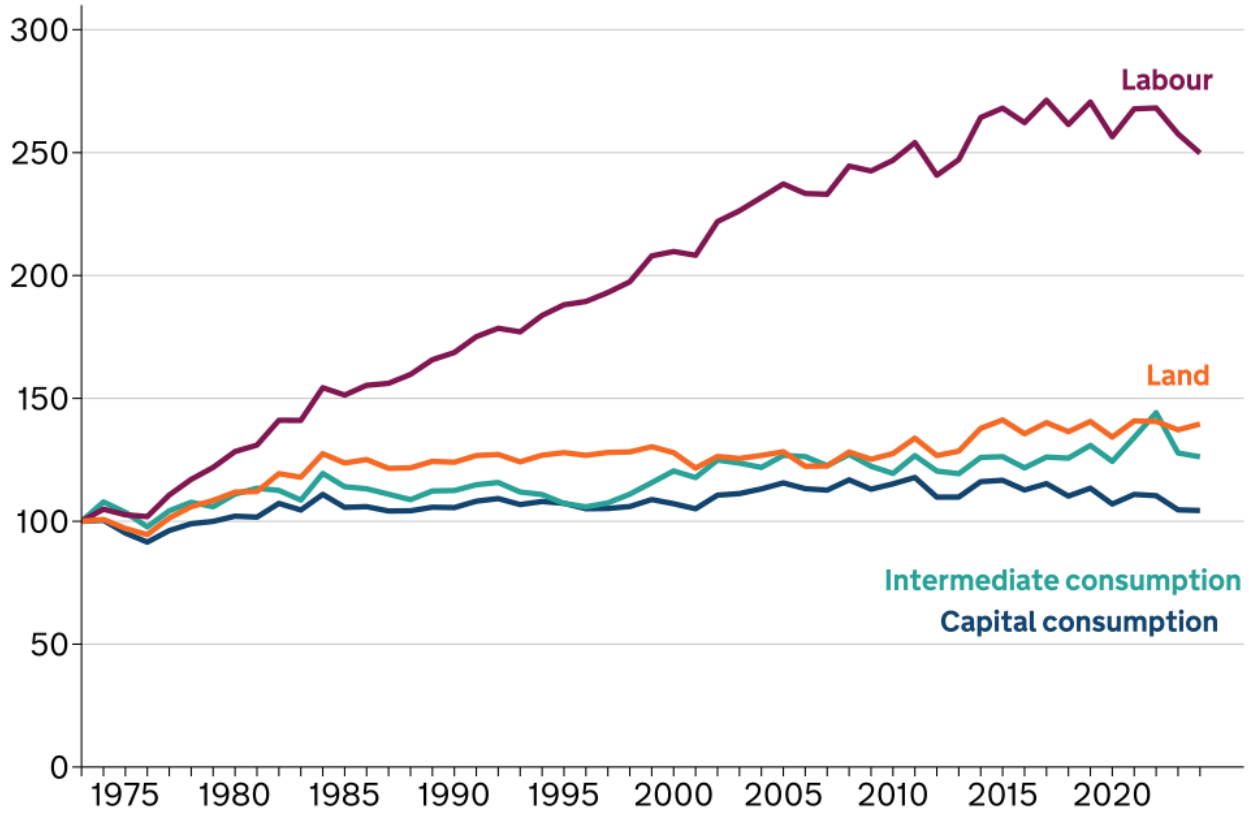
Table 5.3: Partial factor productivity, 2023 to 2024 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2023	2024	Annual Change
Productivity by intermediate consumption	127.8	126.2	-1.2%
Productivity by capital consumption	104.6	104.4	-0.3%
Productivity by labour	257.6	249.8	-3.0%
Productivity by land	137.2	139.6	1.7%

Figure 5.3: Long term trends in partial productivity indicators 1973 to 2024 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description of Figure 5.3: Figure 5.3 is a line chart showing the long term trend in partial productivity indicators from 1973 to 2024. The chart is presented as an index (1973 = 100). Data is shown for labour, land, intermediate consumption and capital consumption.

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Table 5.3 and Figure 5.3 show that labour is the key input driving productivity gains. Productivity by labour shows a steady increase over the whole period since 1973. Labour volumes are now approximately half of what they were in 1973. However, more recent growth in labour productivity is due to increased output rather than a reduction in labour volume.

Revisions

Figures for 2024 are provisional and subject to revision.

As a result of more data becoming available over time there have been minor revisions to earlier years in this release. These revisions are intended to enhance the precision of these estimates. Sometimes additional revisions are necessary to refine the methodology or correct historical errors.

There have been small changes to data from 2010 - 2023 as published in AUK 2023. This is as result of minor methodological changes which have been made to

streamline our data processing. TFP, as outlined elsewhere in this release, is primarily focused on trends and these methodological changes have not impacted the trend in TFP from 2010, which has been one of increased productivity.

Chapter 6: Prices

Summary

- The annual average price index for all agricultural **outputs** increased by 2.5% from 2023 to 2024.
- The largest upward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **outputs** was from potatoes (1.6 percentage points), followed by sheep and lambs (1.2 percentage points) and milk (0.9 percentage points). The main downward contribution came from poultry (-1.3 percentage points).
- The annual average price index for all agricultural **inputs** decreased by 6.0% from 2023 to 2024.
- The largest downward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **inputs** was from compound feedingstuffs (-2.7 percentage points), followed by fertilisers and soil improvers (-1.9 percentage points) and energy and fuel (-1.1 percentage points). The main upward contribution came from materials (0.4 percentage points).

Data sources

The Agricultural Price Index (API) measures the monthly and annual price changes in agricultural outputs and inputs for the UK. The API datasets can be found on the API web page.

Outputs:

- The output series reflects farm-gate prices, which are the prices farmers receive for their products.
- Information is collected for all major crop categories (e.g., cereals, fruits, vegetables) and livestock/animal products (e.g., sheep, milk, eggs).

Note: The price index for poultry is based on deadweight prices reported by processors. These prices are not directly comparable with poultry prices referenced in Chapter 8 which estimate the cost to producers.

Inputs:

- The input series reflects the prices farmers pay for various goods and services.

It is further divided into two categories:

- Goods and services currently consumed: These are items used up during production, such as fertiliser or seeds.
- Goods and services contributing to investment: These are items necessary for production but not consumed directly, such as tractors or farm buildings.

Trends in annual price indices

Figure 6.1: Annual average price indices for agricultural outputs and inputs from 2014 to 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Year	All agricultural outputs	All agricultural inputs
2014	95.2	94.4
2015	86.4	89.7
2016	85.5	87.3
2017	93.6	92.8
2018	99.6	100.2
2019	96.2	101.6
2020	100.0	100.0
2021	110.0	111.4
2022	130.7	143.3
2023	132.3	135.8
2024	135.6	127.7

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Figure 6.1 shows the annual average price indices for agricultural outputs and inputs since 2014. Compared with 2023, the annual average price index for agricultural outputs in 2024 increased by 2.5% while agricultural inputs decreased by 6.0%.

Contributions to change in the annual agricultural outputs and inputs inflation rate

Figure 6.2: Contributions to change in the agricultural outputs annual inflation rate between 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Category	Contribution (percentage points)
Potatoes	1.64
Sheep and lambs	1.15
Milk	0.93
Cattle and calves	0.77
Fresh fruit	0.27
Eggs	0.27
Forage plants	0.11
Oats	0.03
Oilseed rape	0.01
Sugar beet	-0.02
Pigs	-0.23
Barley	-0.28
Fresh vegetables	-0.29
Wheat	-0.61
Cereals	-0.87
Poultry	-1.29

Notes:

1. Not all agricultural output categories are shown in Figure 6.2. Therefore, the sum of the contributions in Figure 6.2 may be slightly less than the annual inflation rate.

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Figure 6.2 shows the contributions to the 2.5% change in the agricultural outputs inflation rate between 2023 and 2024.

Nine of the fifteen output categories made positive contributions to the annual inflation rate. Potatoes made the largest contribution due to price increases as a result of poor weather conditions affecting planting early in the year. The next largest contribution was from sheep and lambs, which saw price increases due to a 6.9% decline in home-killed production. This fall in production was a result of delayed lambing caused by wet weather, disease pressures, and longer-term concerns over profitability. Poultry meat production saw a 2.9% increase compared with 2023, reaching over 2 million tonnes (carcase weight) for the first time. This increase in supply resulted in a negative contribution of -1.3 percentage points to the annual inflation rate compared to 2023, which saw a historically high price for poultry.

Figure 6.3: Contributions to change in the agricultural inputs annual inflation rate between 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Category	Contribution (percentage points)
Materials	0.38
Maintenance of materials	0.36
Veterinary services	0.15
Other goods and services	0.09
Buildings	0.07
Seeds	0.01
Maintenance of buildings	-0.06
Plant protection products	-0.44
Straight feedingstuffs	-0.87
Energy and fuel	-1.10
Fertilisers and soil improvers	-1.88
Compound feedingstuffs	-2.67

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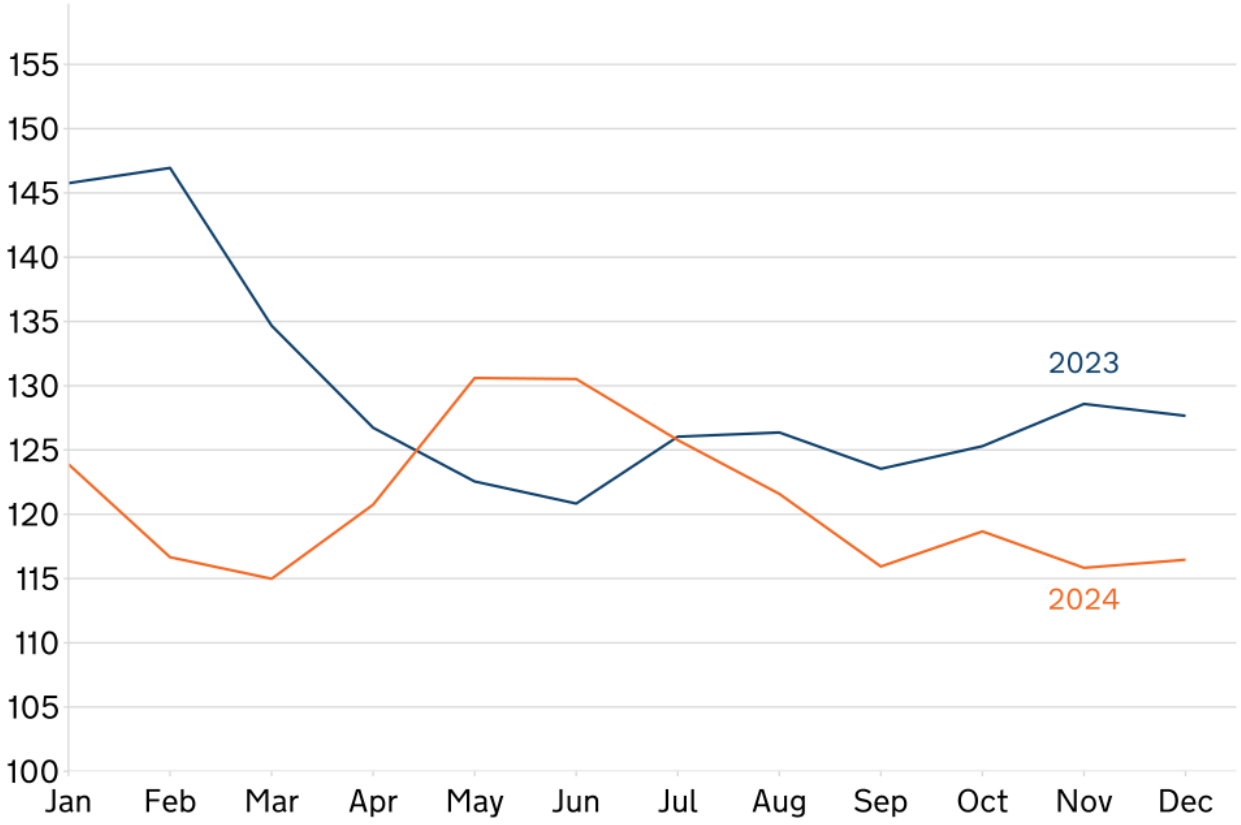
Figure 6.3 shows the positive and negative contributions to the 6.0% change in the agricultural inputs inflation rate between 2023 and 2024.

Materials and maintenance of materials made the largest positive contribution to the annual inflation rate in 2024, with high prices from 2023 continuing into early 2024. Compound feedingstuffs made the largest negative contribution, driven by price reductions in key ingredients such as wheat, barley, and maize.

Trends in agricultural outputs price indices through the year

Figure 6.4: Monthly cereals price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Text description for Figure 6.4: Line chart showing the Cereals Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index starts high, declines steadily until mid-year, then rises slightly and fluctuates through the rest of the year, ending lower than it began. The 2024 line begins at a lower point and follows a more volatile path, with an early-year dip, a mid-year peak, and a gradual decline toward the end of the year. Overall, 2024 shows greater fluctuations compared to 2023's more gradual movements.

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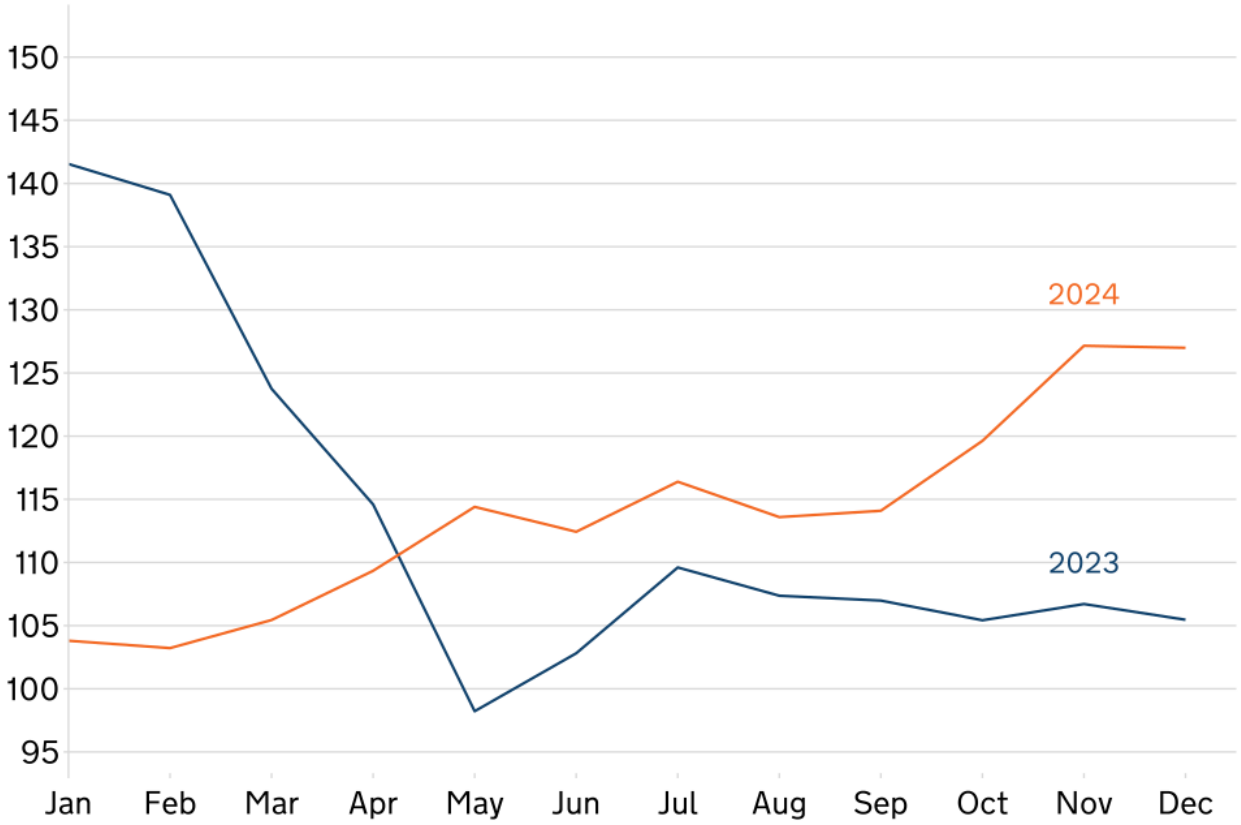
The annual price index for cereals decreased by 7.0% in 2024 compared with 2023.

UK cereal prices are primarily driven by global commodity market trends shaped by exchange rates and world prices. In 2024, the decrease in cereal prices was driven by trends in international supply and demand and currency strength, as well as domestic factors. Domestically, waterlogged fields early in the crop year impacted winter wheat conditions, resulting in a 2024 harvest of 11.1 million tonnes, down 20% from 2023. This marked the smallest wheat harvest since 2020, with both area and yield falling below the five-year average. Area decreased by 11% and yield dropped by 10% to 7.3 tonnes per hectare. Production was down across all UK nations in comparison to 2023.

Figure 6.5: Monthly oilseed rape price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Text description for Figure 6.5: Line chart showing the Oilseed Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index starts high and declines sharply until May, followed by a modest recovery and general decline for the rest of the year. In contrast, 2024 begins at a lower level but shows a gradual upward trend, with notable increases from mid-year onward and a sharp rise in the final quarter, ending well above the December 2023 index.

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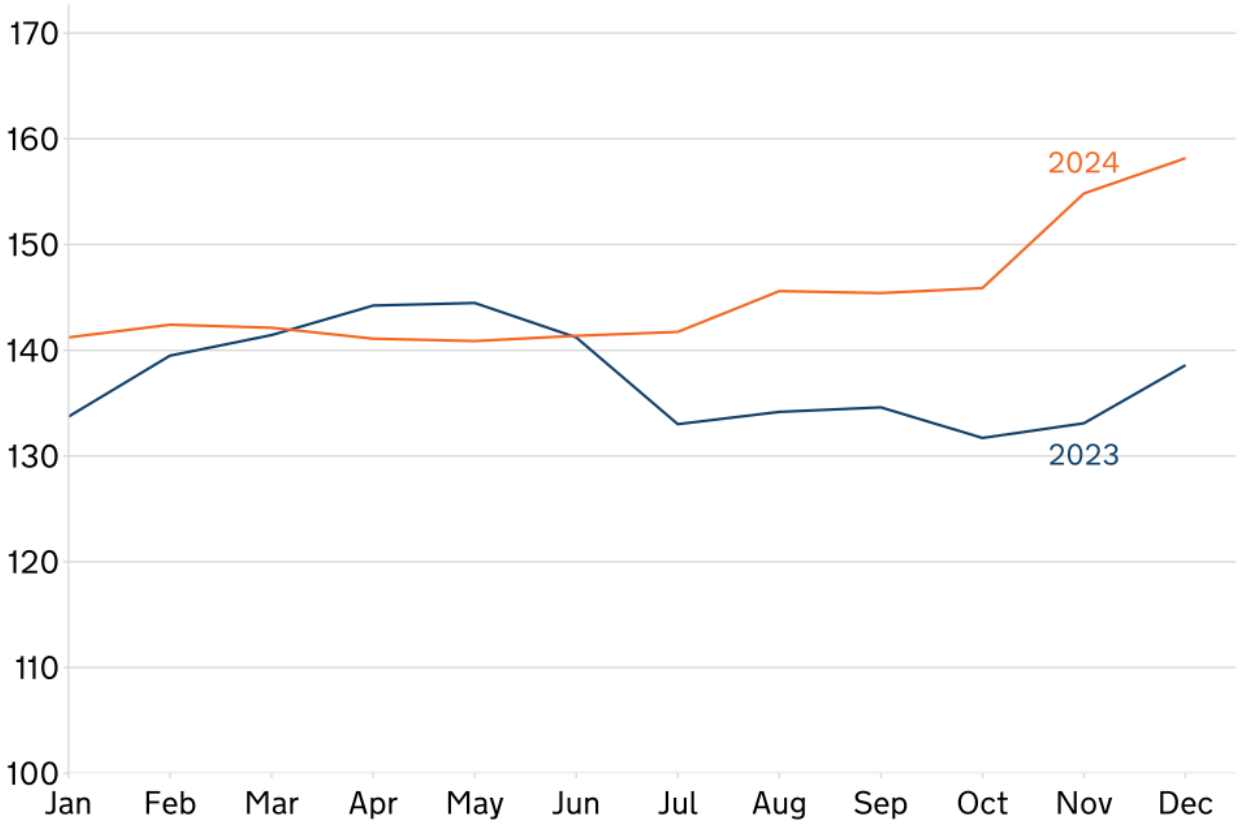
The annual price index for oilseed rape increased by 0.4% in 2024 compared with 2023.

This increase was primarily driven by a 32% drop in UK production to 824 Kt, resulting from a 25% reduction in planted area and a 10% decline in yield. These decreases were caused by extreme weather conditions, including a historically wet period from September to May in the previous season, and ongoing pest pressure. Additionally, constrained global supply supported UK prices throughout 2024.

Figure 6.6: Monthly cattle price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Text description for Figure 6.6: Line chart showing the Cattle Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index rises steadily in the first half of the year, dips slightly in July, and recovers toward the end, finishing higher than it started. The 2024 line begins slightly higher than in 2023 and maintains a relatively steady upward trend, with sharper increases in the final quarter. Overall, both years show rising trends, but 2024 exhibits stronger and more sustained growth in cattle prices, especially in the second half.

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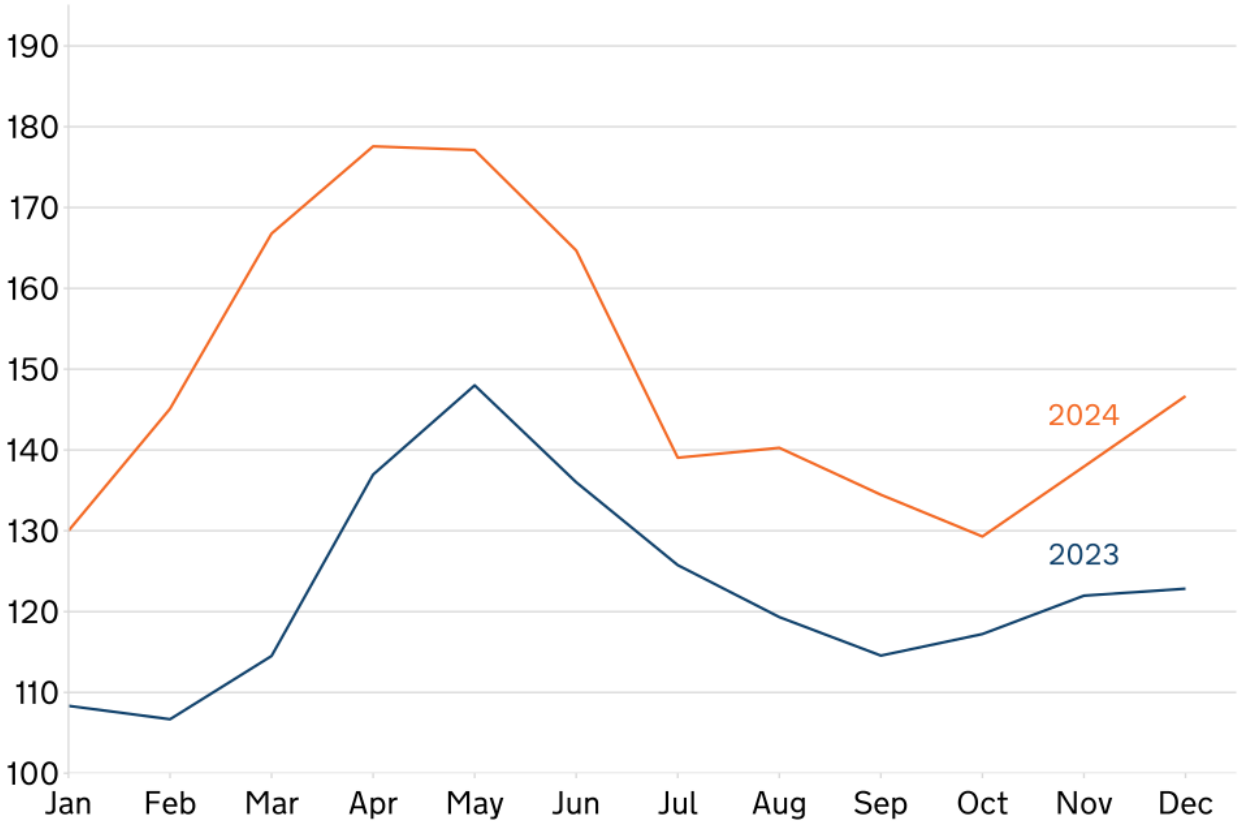
The annual price index for cattle increased by 5.6% in 2024 compared with 2023.

In 2024, UK beef prices reached historic highs despite a 3.8% increase in home-fed production, driven by strong consumer demand. Prices were further supported by expectations of tighter global and domestic cattle supplies in 2025.

Figure 6.7: Monthly sheep price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Text description for Figure 6.7: Line chart showing the Sheep Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index starts relatively low, climbs sharply in spring to peak in May, then declines steadily through to September, ending the year higher than it started. In 2024, the index starts higher than the previous year and rises rapidly to a pronounced peak in April and May, before declining through to October rising again to the end of the year. Compared to 2023, 2024 shows a steeper and earlier rise, with overall higher price levels and more seasonal variation.

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The annual price index for sheep increased by 21% in 2024 compared with 2023.

In 2024, the UK sheep market experienced strong prices, following typical seasonal trends, with increased demand driving higher prices around major religious festivals. Deadweight lamb prices reached historic highs, driven by a 6.9% decline in home-killed production, as a result of disease pressures early in the year, and wet weather conditions that disrupted spring lambing. Strong consumer demand further supported prices throughout the year.

Figure 6.8: Monthly pigs price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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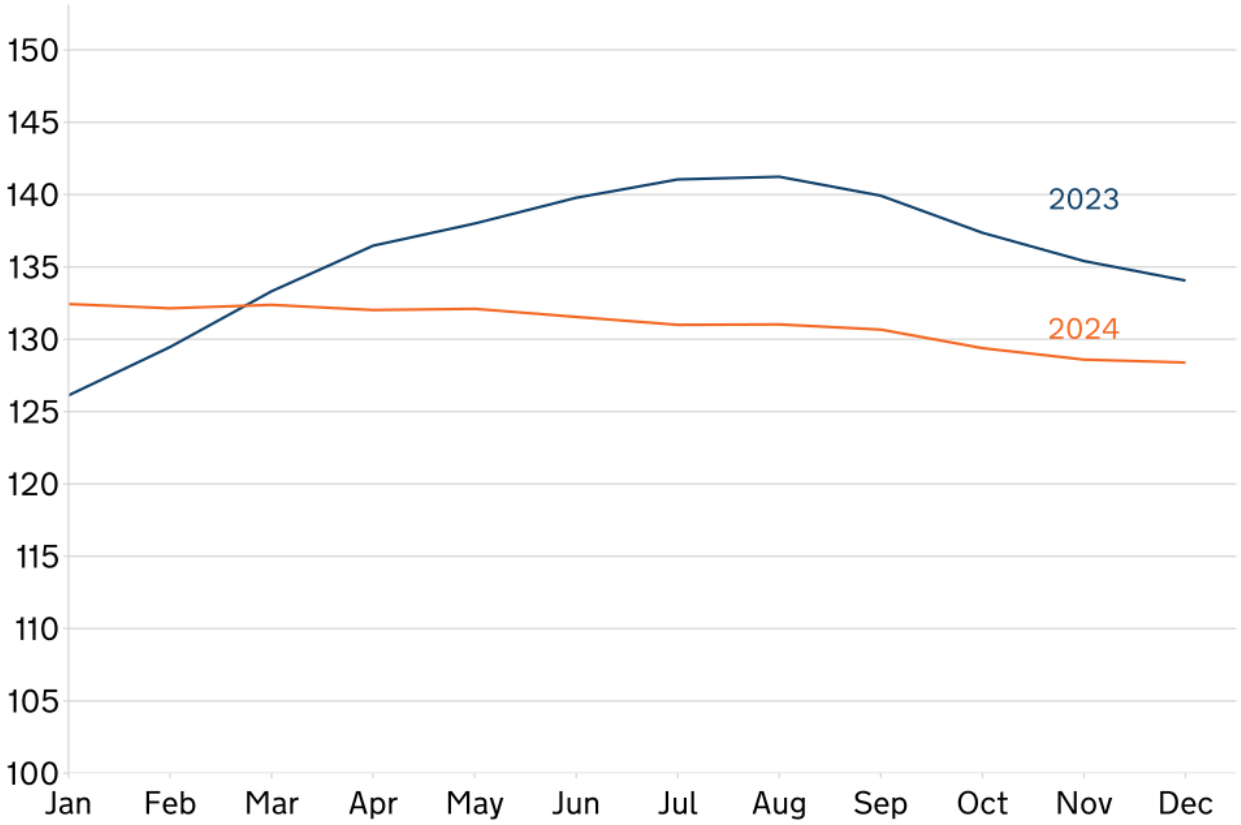

Text description for Figure 6.8: Line chart showing the Pigs Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index rises steadily through the first half of the year, peaking in late July, then gradually declines toward the end of the year. In 2024, the index starts slightly lower and remains relatively flat throughout the year, with a slow and consistent decline over time. Overall, 2023 shows a clear upward then downward trend, while 2024 reflects a period of price stability with a gentle downward trend.

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The annual price index for pigs decreased by 3.7% in 2024 compared with 2023.

The decrease in deadweight pig prices was primarily driven by a 3.7% increase in domestic home-killed production. Despite this decline, the 2024 GB standard pig price remained 23% above the five-year average. Increased production was driven by higher average carcase weights and increased productivity from sows within the breeding herd.

Figure 6.9: Monthly milk price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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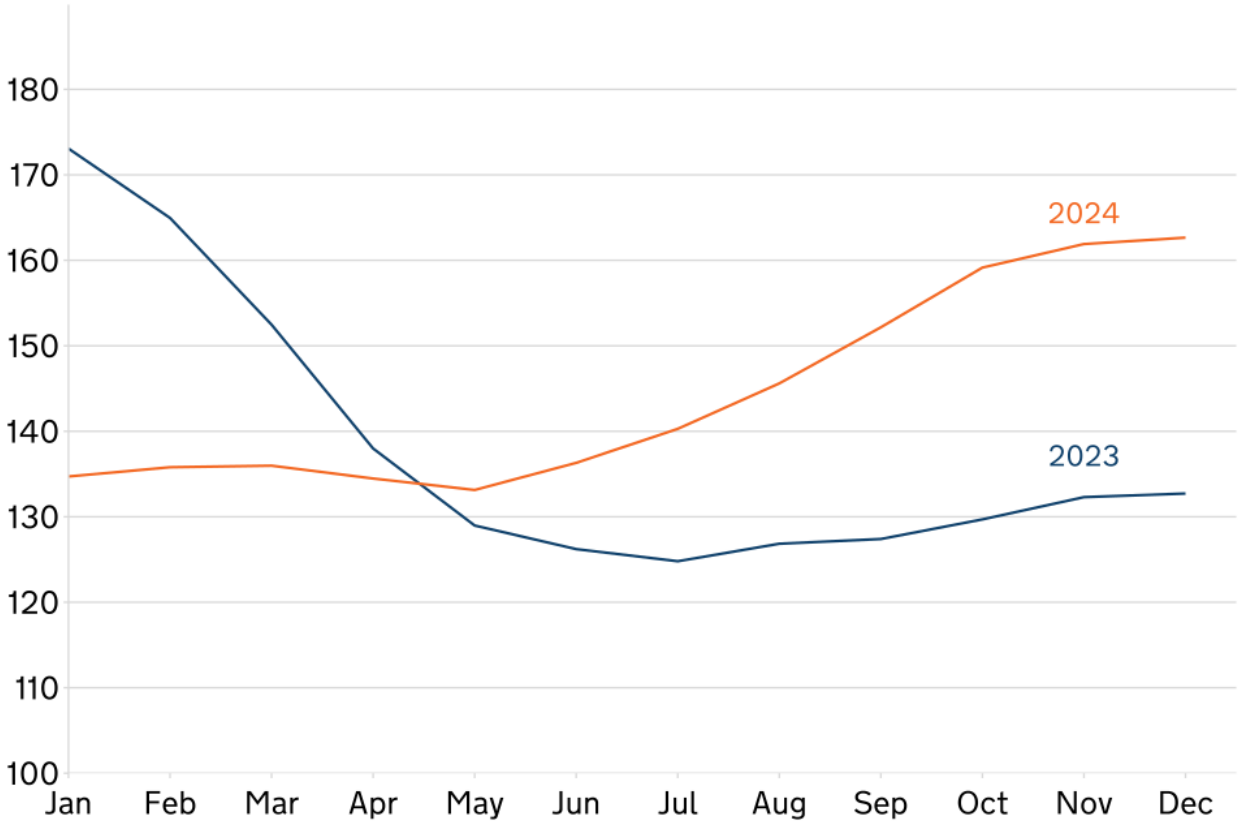

Text description for Figure 6.9: Line chart showing the Milk Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index begins at a high point and declines steadily through to mid-year, followed by a slow recovery from July to December. In contrast, 2024 shows a steady upward trend throughout the year, with noticeable gains in the final quarter, ending substantially higher than the December 2023 index.

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The annual price index for milk increased by 4.5% in 2024 compared with 2023.

Farm-gate milk prices remained stable in the first quarter of 2024, averaging 38.8 pence per litre (ppl), which was 17% lower than the historically high first-quarter price in 2023. Prices began to rise in late spring, supported by strengthened dairy commodity values due to reduced global dairy product supply. By the second half of the year, UK milk production increased, with a 4.4% rise in domestic production in the fourth quarter compared to 2023.

Figure 6.10: Monthly egg price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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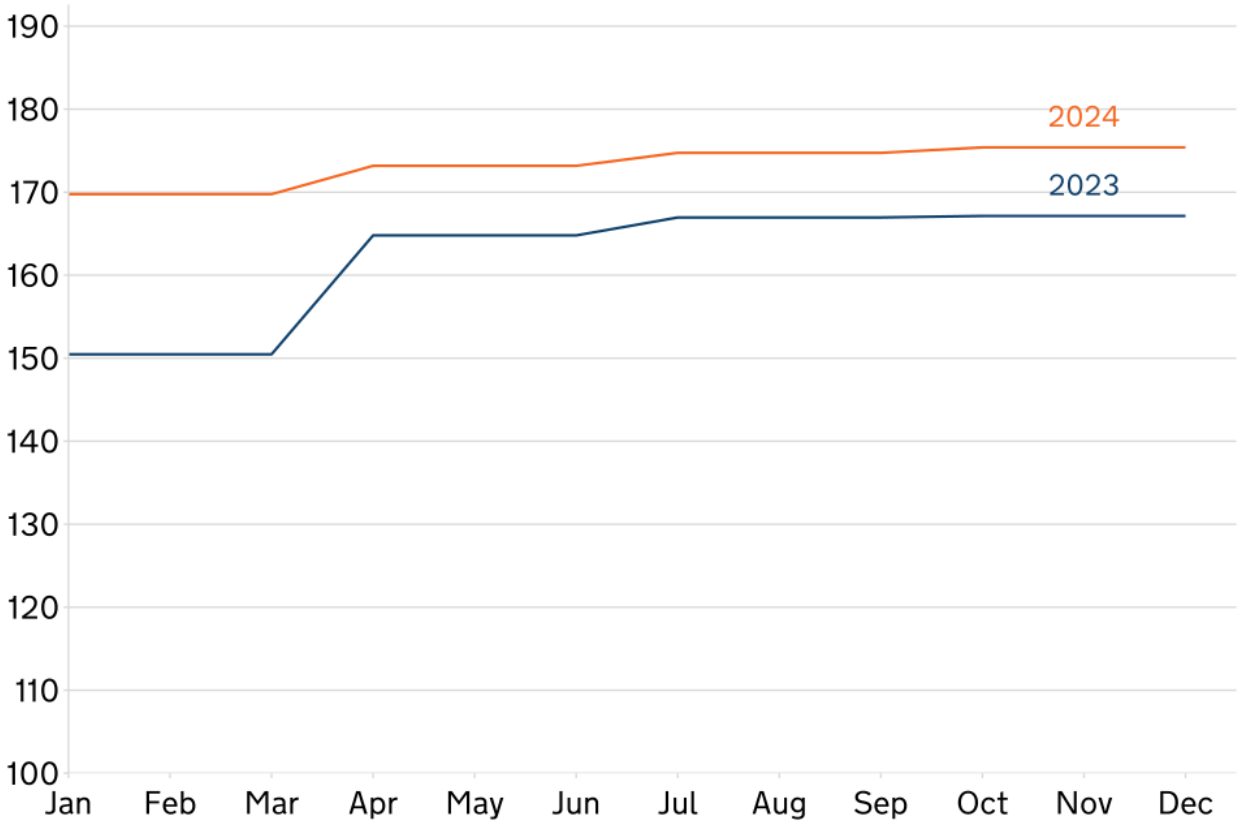

Text description for Figure 6.10: Line chart showing the Egg Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, the index saw a large increase in Q2. It rose again in Q3 and made a smaller increase in Q4. In 2024, the pattern continued, starting higher than in 2023, with a moderate rise in Q2, followed by smaller increases in Q3 and Q4.

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The annual price index for eggs increased by 6.7% in 2024 compared with 2023.

Farm-gate egg prices remained elevated in 2024 despite historically high UK production of 1.006 billion dozen eggs for human consumption, a 4.4% increase from 2023. The rise in prices was driven by a continuing shift in demand, with consumers increasingly favouring higher welfare products. Egg packer intake of lower-cost enriched eggs decreased from 23% in 2023 to 20% in 2024, while intake of higher-cost free-range eggs increased from 60% to 68% over the same period.

Figure 6.11: Monthly potatoes price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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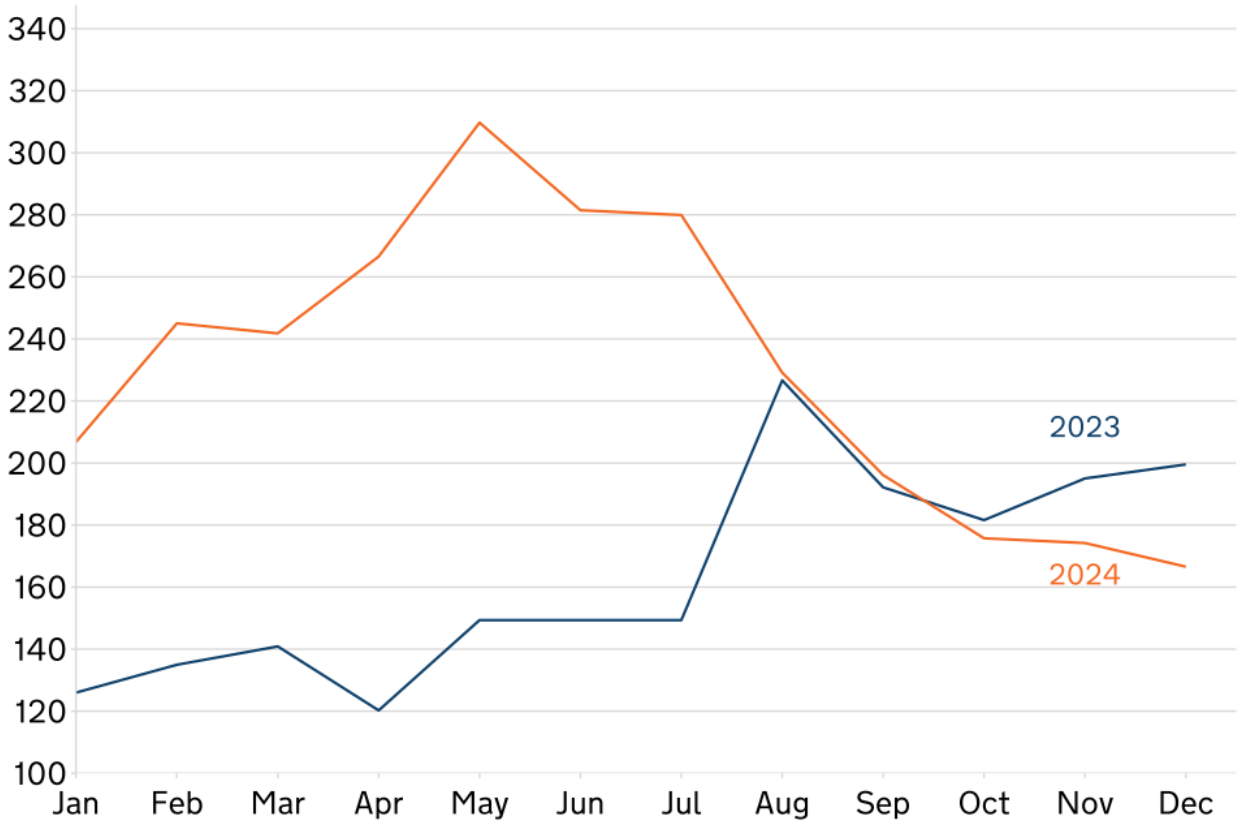

Text description for Figure 6.11: Line chart showing the Potatoes Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, prices rise gradually from January to March, dip sharply in April, then jump back up in May and remain stable through June and July. A strong peak occurs in August, followed by a steady decline to October where prices begin to rise again for the rest of the year. In 2024, prices increase sharply from January to May, peaking in May, then largely decline sharply from June through December, ending the year much lower than they began. Overall, the chart shows significant price volatility with sharp peaks in late summer 2023 and mid-spring 2024.

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The annual price index for potatoes increased by 41% in 2024 compared with 2023.

In 2024, potato prices in the UK peaked in May due to tight supplies from the previous season and delays in planting. However, prices declined later in the year as a successful 2024 harvest increased availability.

Trends in agricultural inputs price indices through the year

Figure 6.12: Monthly fertilisers and soil improvers price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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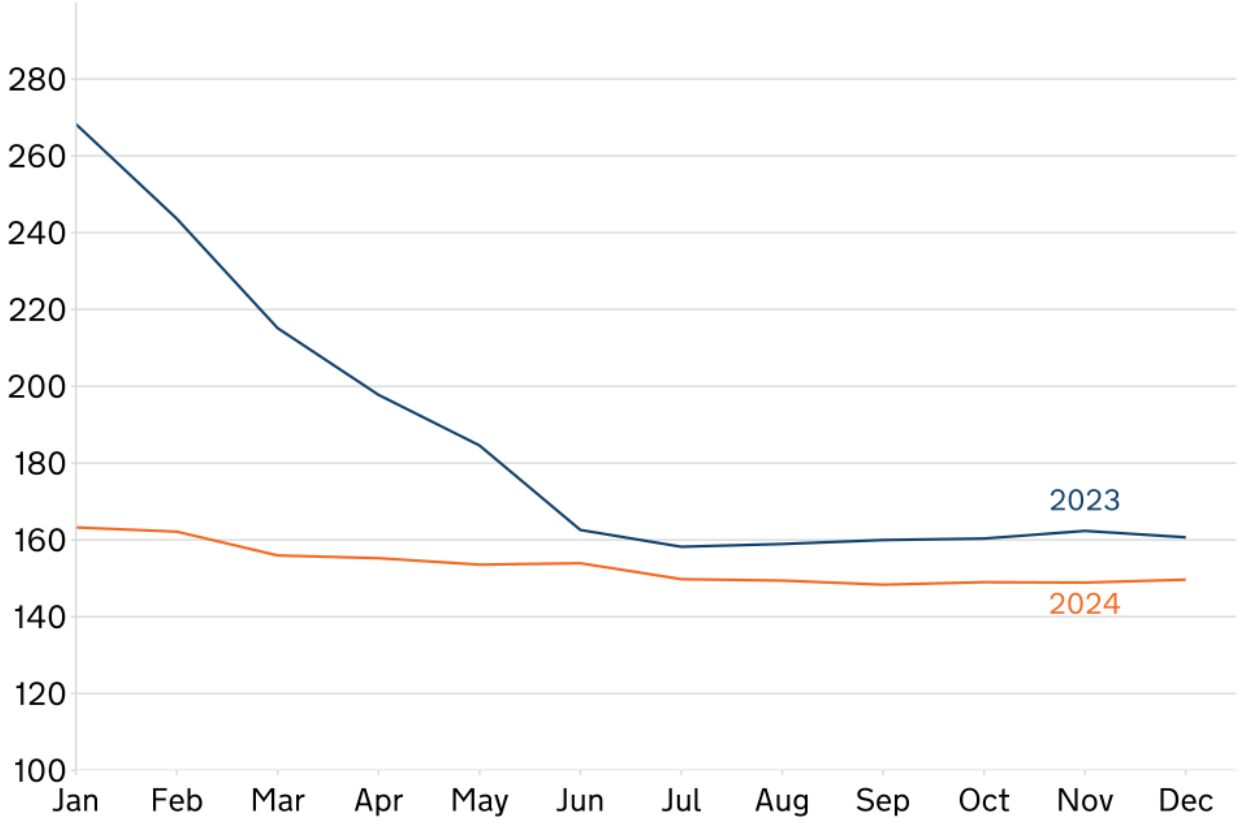

Text description for Figure 6.12: Line chart showing the Fertilisers and Soil Improvers Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, prices start high in January and steadily decline through to July, then level off with minor fluctuations for the rest of the year. In 2024, prices remain relatively stable, with a slight gradual decline from January to October before leveling off toward the end of the year. Overall, the chart depicts a clear downward trend in fertiliser prices from early 2023, followed by stabilisation in the second half of 2023 through to 2024.

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The annual price index for fertilisers and soil improvers decreased by 19% in 2024 compared with 2023.

After historically high prices in the previous two years, fertiliser prices decreased in 2024 compared to 2023 and remained relatively stable throughout the year. This decline was primarily driven by decreases in the cost of gas, a key input for fertiliser production, compared to 2022 and 2023. While lower prices led to increased fertiliser applications per unit area, this was offset by reductions in key crop areas, including an 11% decrease in wheat area and a 15% decrease in winter barley area.

Figure 6.13: Monthly energy and fuel price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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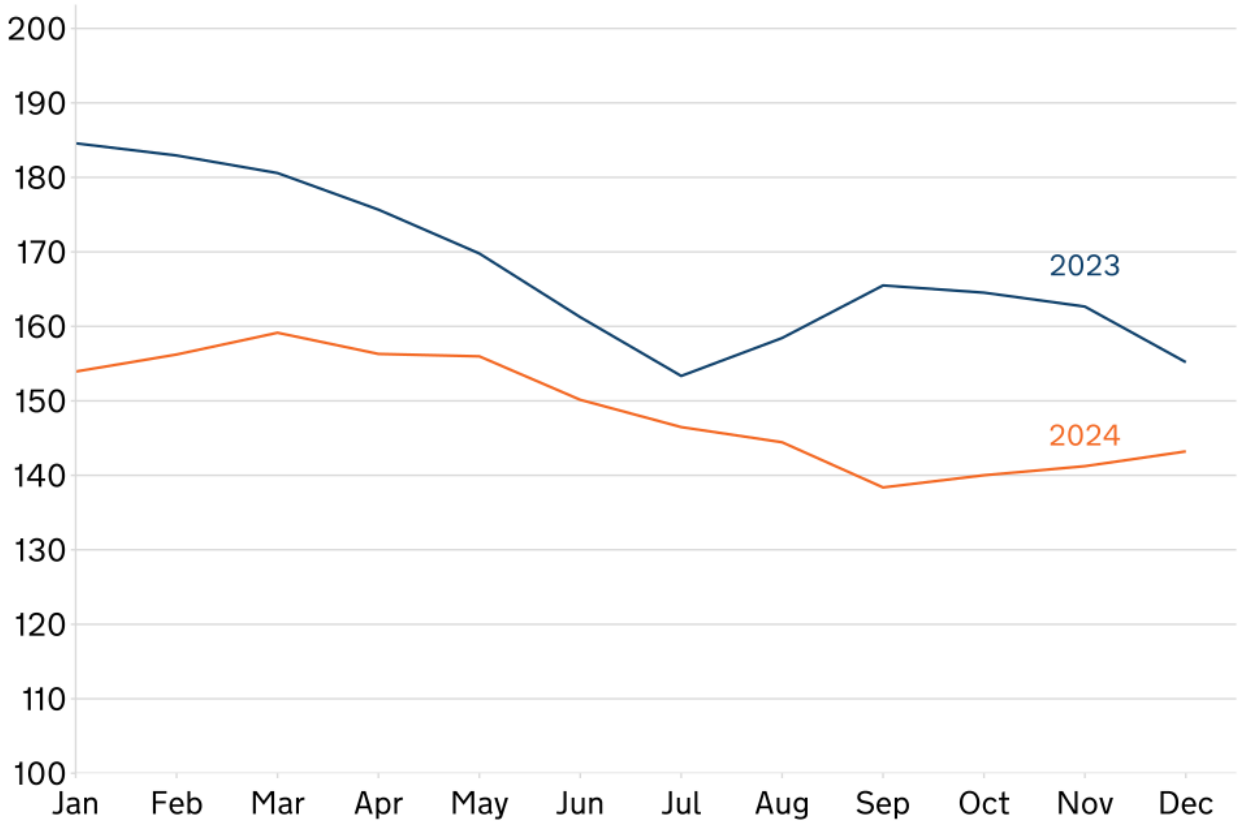

Text description for Figure 6.13: Line chart showing the Energy and Fuel Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, prices start high and decline steadily through to July, then rise in August and September before gradually falling again towards the end of the year. In 2024, prices fluctuate mildly with a small rise in March followed by a steady decline through to September, ending the year slightly higher than the lowest point.

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The annual price index for energy and fuel decreased by 11% in 2024 compared with 2023.

This decrease was primarily due to a continued fall in wholesale energy prices from highs in 2022, following increased supplies and balancing global demand. Crude oil prices dropped from $82.95 per barrel in 2023 to $79.89 per barrel in 2024, a 3.7% reduction, while red diesel prices fell from 89.05 ppl to 80.84 ppl, a 9.2% decrease. However, prices remained elevated compared to pre-2022 levels.

Figure 6.14: Monthly animal feedingstuffs price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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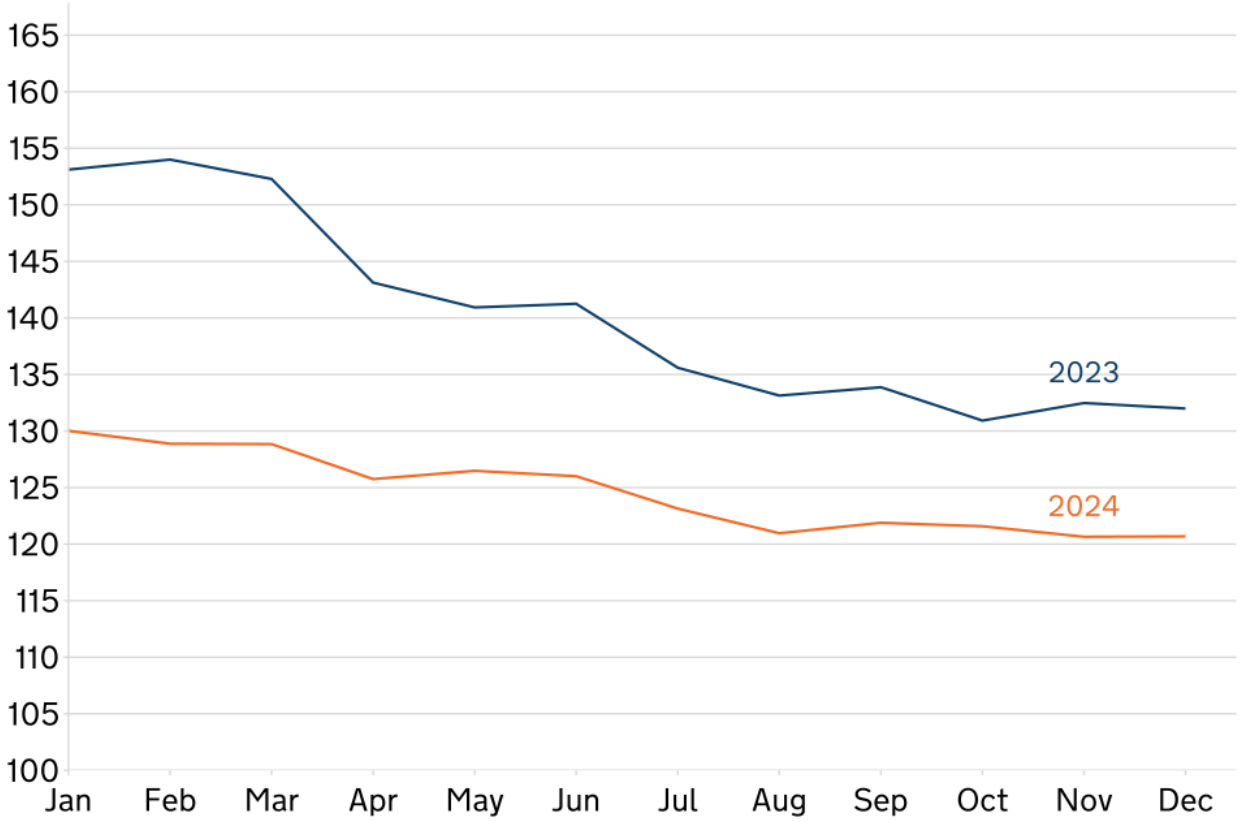

Text description for Figure 6.14: Line chart showing the Animal Feedingstuffs Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, prices start moderately high and gradually decline throughout the year with minor fluctuations, ending lower in December. In 2024, prices continue a gentle downward trend with small month-to-month variations, stabilising towards the end of the year. Overall, the chart shows a steady decrease in animal feedingstuffs prices over the two-year period.

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The annual price index for animal feedingstuffs decreased by 11% in 2024 compared with 2023.

Compound feedingstuffs prices fell across the board in 2024 compared to 2023, with cattle and calf feed and poultry feed both decreasing by 11%, pig feed by 12%, and sheep feed by 13%. The decline was primarily driven by a decrease in prices for key feed ingredients, such as cereals and oilseed meals. Similarly, straight feedingstuffs prices decreased by 11% overall, in line with the reductions in crop commodity prices.

Figure 6.15: Monthly plant protection products price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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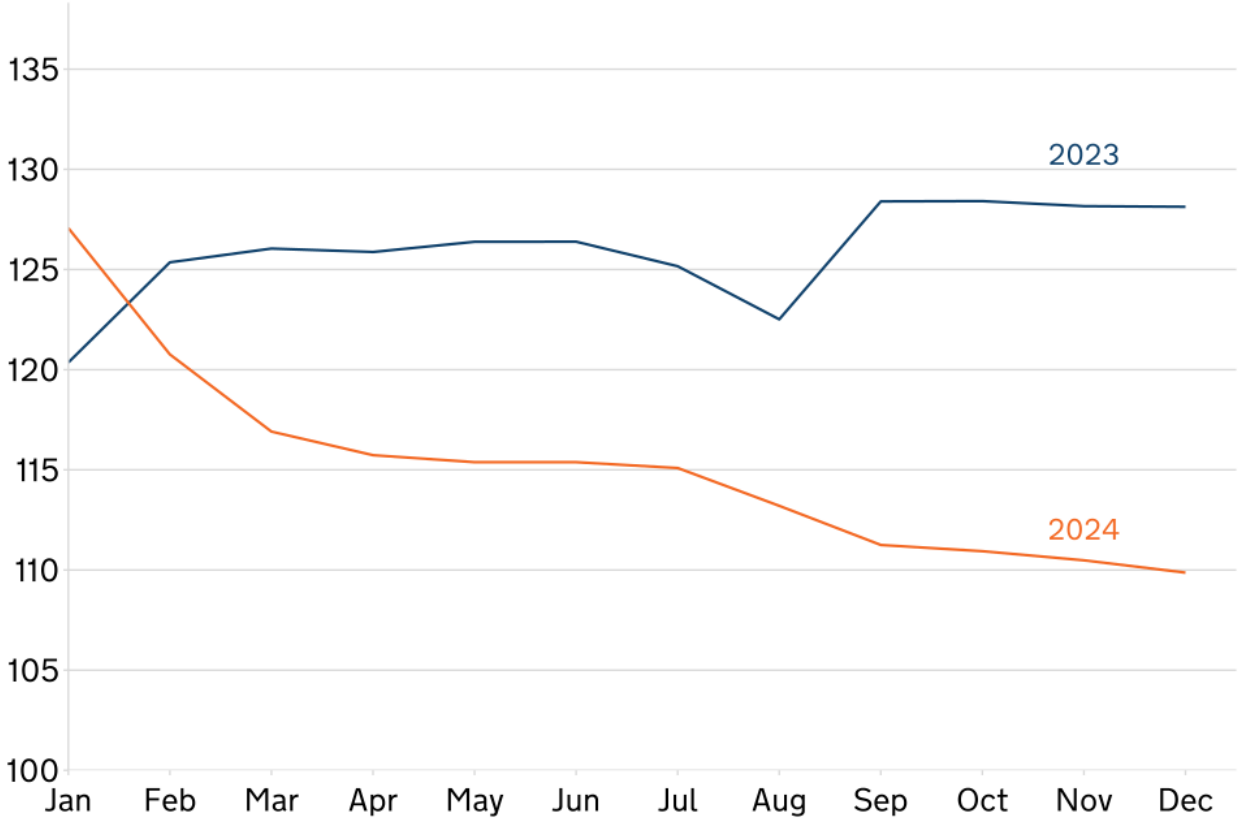

Text description for Figure 6.15: Line chart showing the Plant Protection Products Price Index from January 2023 through December 2024. In 2023, prices start at a moderate level, then increase steadily during the first half of the year with a drop in August. Prices then increase sharply in September before gently declining to December. In 2024, prices begin lower than the previous year's end, then decline throughout the year, finishing at their lowest point in December.

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The annual price index for plant protection products decreased by 8.5% in 2024 compared with 2023.

This was driven by lower production costs due to decreasing energy prices and the recovery of production and supply chains following disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 6.16: Monthly maintenance of materials price index 2023 and 2024 (2020 = 100)

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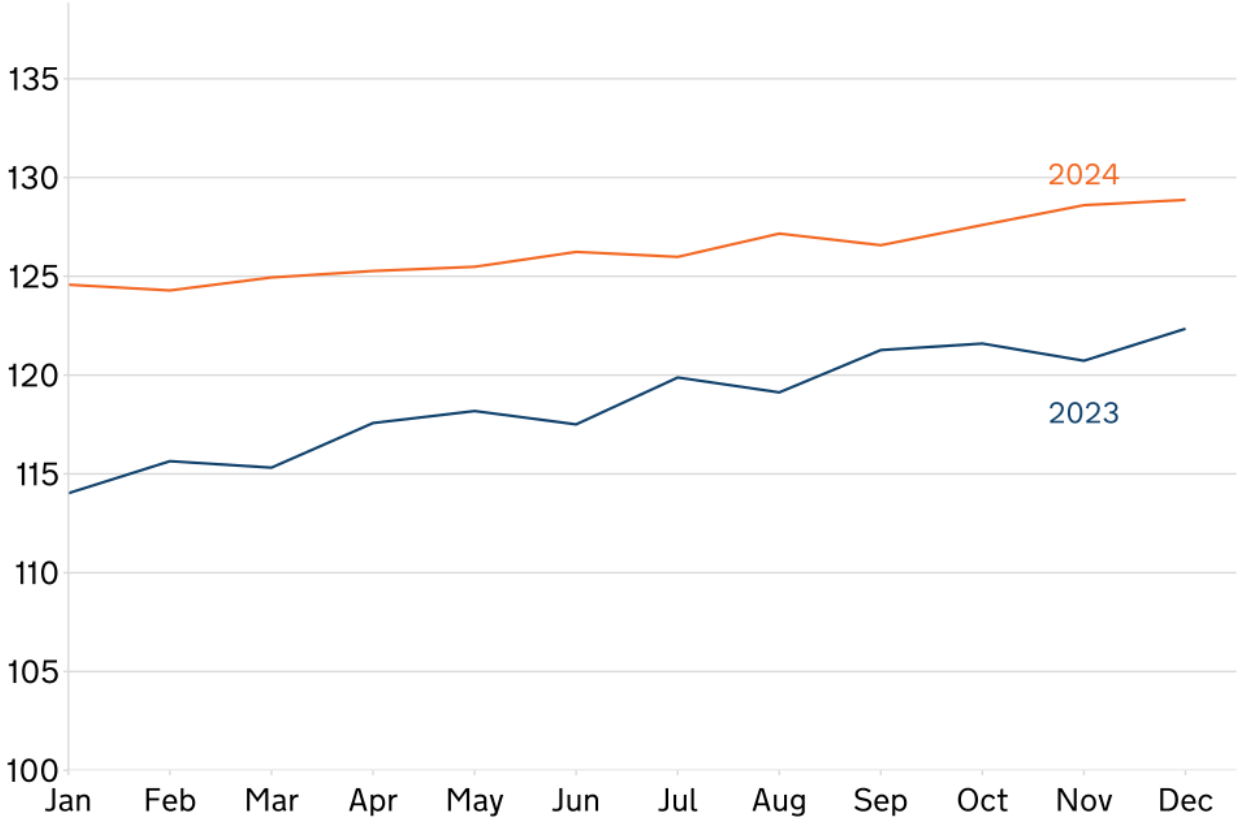

Text description for Figure 6.16: Line chart showing the Maintenance of Materials Price Index from January 2023 to December 2024. In 2023, prices fluctuated but increased steadily to December. In 2024, prices continue to rise gradually showing a consistent upward trend throughout the year.

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The annual price index for maintenance of materials increased by 6.5% in 2024 compared with 2023.

Farm maintenance costs for machinery and buildings rose in 2024 due to the ongoing impact of inflation on material and labour costs and continued elevation in energy prices.

Summary table of price indices

Table 6.1: Annual average price indices for agricultural outputs 2023 to 2024 (2020 = 100)

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Category	2023	2024	Annual inflation rate (%)
Cereals	129.8	120.6	-7.0
Wheat	124.3	115.0	-7.5
Barley	140.5	129.6	-7.7
Oats	152.0	160.3	5.5
Oilseed rape	113.5	113.9	0.4
Sugar beet	168.2	165.5	-1.6
Forage plants	78.4	124.4	58.7
Fresh vegetables	143.2	137.0	-4.3
Plants and flowers	116.4	116.4	0.0
Potatoes	163.8	231.1	41.1
Fresh fruit	108.9	117.4	7.8
Cattle and calves	137.3	145.0	5.6
Pigs	136.0	131.0	-3.7
Sheep and lambs	122.1	147.2	20.6
Poultry	121.7	108.1	-11.2
Milk	138.1	144.3	4.5
Eggs	162.4	173.3	6.7
All agricultural outputs	132.3	135.6	2.5

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Table 6.2: Annual average price indices for agricultural inputs 2023 to 2024 (2020 = 100)

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Category	2023	2024	Annual inflation rate (%)
Seeds	106.6	107.0	0.3
Energy and fuel	167.9	148.8	-11.4
Fertilisers and soil improvers	190.2	153.9	-19.1
Plant protection products	125.9	115.2	-8.5
Veterinary services	105.7	113.5	7.3
Straight feedingstuffs	128.1	114.5	-10.6
Compound feedingstuffs	145.3	128.6	-11.5
Maintenance of materials	118.6	126.3	6.5
Maintenance of buildings	138.5	136.6	-1.4
Other goods and services	117.5	118.4	0.8
Materials	121.5	125.8	3.5
Buildings	138.2	140.0	1.3
All agricultural inputs	135.8	127.7	-6.0

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Revisions

Figures in these tables for 2024 are provisional and may be subject to revision.

The decrease in egg prices this period is partly due to methodological changes; see Section 6.1 of the Latest Egg Statistics for further details.

Chapter 7: Crops

Summary

Key results for 2024 compared to 2023:

- Harvested production of **wheat** decreased by 20% to just over 11.1 million tonnes, due to decreased area and yields. The value of production was 27% lower at £2.2 billion.
- Harvested production of **barley** increased by 1.8% to 7.1 million tonnes. The value of production was 14% lower at £1.2 billion.
- **Oilseed rape** production decreased by 32% to around 824 thousand tonnes. This reduction was driven by lower areas and yields. The value of production declined sharply to £335 million, down 31%.
- **Sugar beet** production increased by 0.9% to 7.8 million tonnes. The value of production fell by 0.7% to £365 million.
- The value of **vegetable** production rose by 2.1% to just over £2 billion.
- The value of **fruit** production increased by 4.5% to just under £1.1 billion.

Cereals

Table 7.1a to 7.1b Total cereals production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Allan Howsam on +44(0)20 802 66123
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.1a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	3,173	3,088	2,966
Volume of harvested production	24,262	22,047	19,441
Value of production (£ million)	**6,103**	**4,480**	**3,510**

Table 7.1b

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production	24,262	22,047	19,441
EU imports	2,495	2,546	4,415
Non-EU imports	1,732	1,482	1,749
EU exports	2,044	2,326	982
Non-EU exports	57	90	23
Total new supply	26,388	23,659	24,600
Change in farm and other stocks	1,897	-540	105
Total domestic uses	24,492	24,200	24,495
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	**92%**	**93%**	**79%**

Notes for table 7.1a and 7.1b:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content, with the exception of 2022 when the hot dry conditions led to lower average moisture contents in the harvested crops. 2022 production data was only adjusted for farms which had reported moisture content above 14.5%. Any production data that was reported with lower moisture contents was not adjusted.
2. Excludes farm saved seed.

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In 2024, total cereal production of wheat, barley, oats and minor cereals (rye, triticale and mixed grain) in the UK was just over 19.4 million tonnes, a 12% decrease compared to 2023. This was due to a combination of lower wheat areas and yields, along with lower barley yields. This offset the increase in barley area, as well as the increased area and yield for oats. The value of production decreased by 22% to around £3.5 billion due to a combination of lower production and prices.

Average yields for wheat and barley were lower in 2024 compared to 2023, and generally below the 5-year average. Winter planting was severely hampered by wet weather and flooding, with the East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber

particularly hard hit. Winter wheat planting was severely affected and the wet spring hampered plantings of spring wheat. The area of winter barley decreased by more than 15% to 384 thousand hectares and yield decreased from 7.0 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) to 6.4 t/ha. Winter barley was generally sown before the wet weather arrived, but it suffered from a lack of nutrition which left it in poor condition in the spring (albeit with wide regional variations). Production of winter barley in 2024 was 24% lower than 2023 at 2.4 million tonnes. Crops on well drained land typically achieved slightly higher yields than those on heavier clay-based soil, which suffered from waterlogging. In contrast the spring barley area increased by 19% to 810 thousand hectares, and yields increased to 5.7 t/ha from 5.5 t/ha. The total production of spring barley increased by 24% to 4.6 million tonnes. After the wet spring it wasn't until late April before the bulk of spring barley was sown resulting in a protracted harvest.

A full breakdown of cereal and oilseed rape production including at the regional level can be found in the cereal and oilseed rape production publication.

Harvest 2024 started out in dry settled conditions during late July and August which benefited the winter barley harvest especially. Rain and humid weather in September hampered the latter stages of the wheat harvest. The oats harvest was protracted due to the weather and the extended sowing of the spring crop.

Cereal prices for 2024 were below the 2022 and 2023 values. Global markets have re-adjusted to the on-going Russia / Ukraine conflict. Prices did not show much variation during 2024.

For data and information for cereals on a crop year basis (July to June) please see the official UK cereal balance sheets published by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB).

Wheat

Table 7.2a to 7.2c Wheat production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.2a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	1,813	1,720	1,531
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	8.6	8.1	7.3
Volume of harvested production	15,540	13,980	11,146
Value of production (£ million)	**4,062**	**2,957**	**2,161**
Sales	3,321	2,713	2,133
On farm use	508	386	293
Change in stocks	233	-143	-266

Table 7.2b

Prices (£ per tonne)	2022	2023	2024
Milling wheat	280	244	221
Feed wheat	261	205	187

Table 7.2c

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production	15,540	13,980	11,146
EU imports	1,066	1,080	2,457
Non-EU imports	568	628	627
EU exports	821	1,083	155
Non-EU exports	44	72	10
Total new supply	16,309	14,533	14,065
Change in farm and other stocks	1,583	-303	-387
Total domestic uses	**14,726**	**14,836**	**14,452**
Flour milling (including bioethanol and starch)	5,985	6,288	6,042
Animal feed	7,156	7,005	6,835
Seed	280	267	237
Other uses and waste	1,305	1,276	1,339
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	**95%**	**96%**	**79%**
% of home grown wheat in milling grist	84%	83%	77%

Notes for tables 7.2a to 7.2c:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content, with the exception of 2022 when the hot dry conditions led to lower average moisture contents in the harvested crops. 2022 production data was only adjusted for farms which had reported moisture content above 14.5%. Any production data that was reported with lower moisture contents was not adjusted.
2. Excludes farm saved seed.

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Harvested production of wheat was 20% lower in 2024 at 11.1 million tonnes, the lowest production since 2020 and the second lowest this century. Area decreased by 11% to 1,531 thousand hectares and yield fell from 8.1 t/ha in 2023 to 7.3 t/ha in 2024. This is below the 5-year average of 8.1 t/ha. The value of production of wheat was 27% lower in 2024 at £2.2 billion.

Domestic human and industrial wheat demand for flour milling (including starch and bioethanol) was 3.9% lower in 2024 compared to 2023 at just over 6 million tonnes, with imports increasing by 35% to 1.4 million tonnes. Demand from flour millers was similar to last year, but with a smaller domestic crop and the requirement for high protein milling wheat, more imports were required. From May 2022 both UK biofuels plants have been operational, requiring feed wheat (and imported maize) but usage declined in 2024. Usage of wheat for animal feed was 2.4% lower at just over 6.8

million tonnes. The percentage of wheat in the cereal ration has recovered to more typical levels after the drop caused by the poor 2020 harvest, which reduced availability. The AHDB publish cereal usage statistics which can be found on the AHDB human and industrial cereal usage webpage.

Total wheat imports in 2024 were 81% higher at 3 million tonnes mainly due to reduced domestic availability and increased requirements from the flour milling sector. Exports in 2024 were 165 thousand tonnes (kt) compared to 1.2 million tonnes in 2023, with a combination of reduced domestic supplies and a stronger sterling against the euro from August adding further pressure to UK exports. Historically the UK was a net exporter of wheat until 2016, but from 2017 to 2024 it has been a net importer.

Barley

Table 7.3a to 7.3c Barley production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless otherwise specified)

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Table 7.3a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	1,116	1,137	1,194
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.6	6.1	5.9
Volume of harvested production	7,385	6,963	7,091
Value of production (£ million)	**1,818**	**1,348**	**1,158**
Sales	1,322	1,012	764
On farm use	440	350	339
Change in stocks	57	-13	55

Table 7.3b

Prices (£ per tonne)	2022	2023	2024
Malting barley	275	233	195
Feed barley	239	176	158

Table 7.3c

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production	7,385	6,963	7,091
EU imports	78	134	226
Non-EU imports	4	0	0
EU exports	892	925	623
Non-EU exports	6	12	6
Total new supply	6,569	6,160	6,688
Change in farm and other stocks	431	-108	364
Total domestic uses	**6,138**	**6,268**	**6,324**
Brewing/distilling	1,918	1,974	1,816
Animal feed	3,992	4,063	4,269
Seed	178	183	192
Other uses and waste	50	48	48
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	**112%**	**113%**	**106%**

Notes for tables 7.3a to 7.3c:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content, with the exception of 2022 when the hot dry conditions led to lower average moisture contents in the harvested crops. 2022 production data was only adjusted for farms which had reported moisture content above 14.5%. Any production data that was reported with lower moisture contents was not adjusted.
2. Value of production excludes farm-saved seed.

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The value of barley decreased by 14% between 2023 and 2024 to £1.2 billion. The production of barley increased by 1.8% to 7.1 million tonnes due to an increased area, offsetting a 3.0% decrease in yield. The area increase of 5.0% was driven by spring barley increasing by 19% to 810 thousand hectares offsetting a decrease of 15% to 384 thousand hectares in the winter barley area. Growers switched back to spring barley due to unfavourable winter planting / crop conditions leading to replacement planting of spring crops. Full details of barley production can be found in the cereal and oilseed rape production publication.

Barley exports in 2024 were 629 kt compared to 937 kt in 2023. Barley imports were 226 kt in 2024 compared to 134 kt in 2023. The fall in exports was due to several factors; the price of UK barley was uncompetitive, Spain had a good barley crop which reduced the need for UK barley (Spain is traditionally a strong export destination for UK barley), EU Malting Barley markets have higher nitrogen requirements than the UK and this year's crop offered less export opportunities, given the lower nitrogen levels recorded.

Demand for barley from the brewing, malting and distilling sector (BMD) was severely hit by COVID-19 induced restrictions, but recovered once the hospitality sector re-opened. However, after peaking at 1,974 kt in 2023, 2024 saw reduced

demand, partly driven by the increase in the cost of living, as well as the longer-term trend of fewer younger people choosing to consume alcohol. Malting barley usage by the BMD sector declined by 8.0% to 1.8 million tonnes in 2024.

Demand for barley from the animal feed sector increased by 5.1% to around 4.3 million tonnes in 2023. There was increased use of barley by the compound feed sector, with the larger crop and less export activity leading to increased fed-on-farm utilisation.

Oats

Table 7.4a to 7.4c Oats production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.4a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	176	167	182
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.7	5.0	5.4
Volume of harvested production	1,007	830	986
Value of production (£ million)	**213**	**166**	**183**
Sales	183	155	121
On farm use	52	38	57
Change in stocks	-22	-27	5

Table 7.4b

Prices (£ per tonne)	2022	2023	2024
Milling oats	222	207	204
Feed oats	201	186	165

Table 7.4c

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production	1,007	830	986
EU imports	22	18	17
Non-EU imports	0	0	0
EU exports	187	151	48
Non-EU exports	7	6	7
Total new supply	835	691	948
Change in farm and other stocks	-117	-128	129
Total domestic uses	**952**	**819**	**819**
Milling	510	488	490
Animal feed	413	304	299
Seed	24	23	25
Other uses and waste	5	4	5
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	**121%**	**120%**	**104%**

Notes for tables 7.4a to 7.4c:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content, with the exception of 2022 when the hot dry conditions led to lower average moisture contents in the harvested crops. 2022 production data was only adjusted for farms which had reported moisture content above 14.5%. Any production data that was reported with lower moisture contents was not adjusted.
2. Value of production excludes farm saved seed.

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In 2024, the harvested production of oats increased by 19% to 986 kt driven by a 9.0% increase in area and a 9.0% increase in yield. Oats were a popular spring sown crop. The value of production increased 9.9% to £183 million due to increased production.

UK oats usage is dominated by the oat milling sector. Total oats milled was 490 kt in 2024 compared to 488 kt in 2023 and 13% down on the 2020 peak of 561 kt. Global demand for oat products is reported as “sluggish”. Use of oats in animal feed decreased by 1.6% to 299 kt due to reduced demand for animal feed and preference for wheat, barley, and maize in feed rations. Oats have a high fibre content which is useful for ruminant diets and horses but not suitable for poultry. Oat exports decreased from 157 kt in 2023 to 55 kt in 2024. Most UK exports continue to be to EU countries particularly Belgium, Spain, and the Netherlands. Imports were 1 kt lower in 2024 at 17 kt.

Straw

In 2024, cereal straw production was estimated at 10 million tonnes, marking a 1.6% increase from the 2023 crop of 9.8 million tonnes. The area baled expanded by 6.3%

to 2.6 million hectares, with straw sales for bedding also rising by 1.6% to 8.3 million tonnes.

Straw yields were mixed across cereal types. Wheat averaged 3.6 t/ha and winter barley 3.3 t/ha, both lower than in 2023. In contrast, spring barley and oats performed better, with yields at 2.6 t/ha, an improvement on the previous year.

Baling rates remained high, with an estimated 89% of wheat and spring barley, 95% of winter barley, and 87% of oats baled. Market prices and strong early-season demand from the livestock sector were key drivers of baling decisions.

Straw quality varied, largely influenced by harvest timing and whether straw was baled promptly. The slow ripening of late-planted spring cereals and a wet autumn meant some spring wheat crops were harvested as late as September and October.

The winter of 2023/2024 was notably wet, with persistent rainfall from October onward impacting large areas of arable land. Initial storms turned dry soils waterlogged, and continued wet conditions hindered fieldwork through winter and into spring. As a result, the winter cereal area was reduced, and spring drilling was delayed, especially on heavy, poorly drained soils.

Harvest began under favourable weather, allowing efficient progress with winter barley and the start of the wheat crop. However, conditions worsened in August, creating significant challenges in drying and baling straw. Later-harvested crops, especially those taken in September and October, often had straw chopped due to concerns about ongoing wet weather disrupting further field operations.

Oilseed rape

Table 7.5a to 7.5b Oilseed rape production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.5a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	365	391	293
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.7	3.1	2.8
Volume of harvested production	1,361	1,216	824
Value of production (£ million)	**876**	**484**	**335**
Sales	778	507	399
Change in stocks	98	-23	-64
Prices (£ per tonne)	**644**	**398**	**407**

Table 7.5b

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production	1,361	1,216	824
EU imports	424	505	456
Non-EU imports	387	251	315
EU exports	49	38	30
Non-EU exports	0.0	3.2	0.0
Total new supply	2,124	1,931	1,565
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	**64%**	**63%**	**53%**

Notes for tables 7.5a to 7.5c:

1. All production estimates have been standardised to 9.0% moisture content with the exception of 2022 when the hot dry conditions led to lower average moisture content in the harvested crops. 2022 production data was only adjusted for farms which had reported moisture content above 9.0%. Any production data which was reported with lower moisture contents was not adjusted.
2. Value of production is calculated considering the price for oilseed rape produced not on set-aside with an average oil content of 43%.

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In 2024, the UK oilseed rape crop saw a significant contraction in both area and output. The total planted area declined by 25% compared to 2023, falling to 293 thousand hectares, the lowest level since 1984 when the area stood at 269 thousand hectares. Production dropped accordingly, with total output reaching just 824 kt, a 32% decrease from the previous year. This reduction was driven by lower yields, which fell from 3.1 t/ha in 2023 to 2.8 t/ha in 2024.

The overall value of the crop declined sharply to £335 million, down 31% from 2023. This represents the lowest crop value since 2006 (£310 million). Despite reduced production, market prices saw a modest increase. The average price per tonne rose from £398 in 2023 to £407 in 2024.

The declines in area, output and value occurred against a backdrop of challenging conditions. The UK experienced record-breaking rainfall between September 2023 and May 2024, which led to waterlogged fields, delayed sowing, and poor establishment. In addition to adverse weather, pest infestations such as the cabbage stem flea and pollen beetles can compromise crop health and reduced potential yields. Economic factors also played a role: lower prices at the time of planting, combined with the disappointing returns in recent years, made oilseed rape a less attractive crop choice for many growers.

Sugar beet

Table 7.6a to 7.6b Sugar beet production and value; Refined Sugar production and supply, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.6a

Sugar beet	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	87	99	102
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	64	78	76
Volume of harvested production	5,574	7,746	7,817
Value of production (£ million)	**202**	**368**	**365**
Sugar content %	16	16	17
Prices (average market price, £ per adjusted tonne)	**36**	**48**	**47**

Table 7.6b

All sugar (refined basis)	2022	2023	2024
Production	749	1,078	1,086
EU imports	261	341	239
Non-EU imports	410	632	483
EU exports	33	39	119
Non-EU exports	21	21	28
Total new supply	1,366	1,991	1,662
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	**55%**	**54%**	**65%**

Notes for tables 7.6a to 7.6b:

1. The area for sugar beet is provided by British Sugar and may differ from the area shown in Figure 2.1b and Table 12.3.
2. Average price for all sugar, including transport allowance and bonus.
3. Sugar coming out of the factory in the early part of the year is regarded as being part of production in the previous calendar year.

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Harvested sugar beet production in 2024 increased by 0.9% to 7.8 million tonnes, despite a 2.4% decline in beet yields to 76 t/ha. The planted area rose by 3.4% to 102 thousand hectares, but the value of production fell by 0.7% to £365 million, driven by a 1.6% drop in price to £46.75 per tonne.

Growing conditions for this campaign have been favourable, with significantly less crop relevant rainfall and frost compared to the previous two years. This has allowed for a return to a typical campaign length, with all factories concluding operations by March 2025. Approximately 2,300 growers from the East of England, East Midlands, and Yorkshire supplied crops to British Sugar.

Although sugar content was slightly below expectations at just under 17%, a strong sugar yield of over 12 t/ha (Sugar tonnes per hectare of productive land) was achieved for the second consecutive year.

The UK sugar beet sector is facing significant pressure from virus yellows, a disease complex spread by aphids that can cause severe yield losses. In 2024, an 83% predicted incidence led to the emergency approval of the neonicotinoid seed treatment, despite ongoing environmental concerns. While this provided short-term protection, the industry is urgently pursuing longer-term, sustainable solutions. Central to this is the development of virus yellows-resistant beet varieties, with major research efforts underway to bring these to market in the next few years.

Protein crops (field peas and field beans)

Table 7.7a and 7.7b Protein crops - field peas and field beans, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Table 7.7a

Enquiries: Allan Howsam on +44 (0)20 802 66123
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Peas for harvesting dry	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	57	61	89
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	2.8	3.0	3.3
For animal feed			
Volume of harvested production	144	167	175
Value of production (£ million)	**39**	**38**	**43**
For human consumption			
Volume of harvested production	16	16	119
Value of production (£ million)	**3**	**4**	**28**

Table 7.7b

Field beans	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	212	214	135
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.0	3.2	3.4
Volume of harvested production	635	685	460
Value of production (£ million)	**178**	**155**	**104**

Notes for tables 7.7a to 7.b:

1. Peas exclude vining peas.
2. Animal feed figures cover only that part of the crop which is assumed to be used for stock-feed including for pets and specialist bird food. It also includes an estimate for those varieties originally grown for human consumption but did not meet the required grade. The percentage utilised for animal feed is variable with typical estimates ranging from 30-60%.

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The overall area of pulses in 2024 was 224 thousand hectares, a decrease of 18% from 2023 with a decrease in field bean area offsetting an increase in field pea area. Pulses remained a popular crop option, due to greening requirements of the Common Agricultural Policy although restrictions on the use of plant protection products on crops grown on Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) and UK exit from the EU may affect the area planted going forward. Pulses are a good source of energy and protein and can be used in the diets of poultry, cattle and pigs as well as aquaculture and pet food. Pulses are also able to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere into the soil. This data excludes vining peas.

The total area of field peas increased by 46% in 2024 to 89 thousand hectares. The proportion of this area utilised for animal feed was estimated at 60%, lower than the estimated 92% in 2023. Total production for animal feed increased by 4.3% to an estimated 175 kt. The production utilised for human consumption increased to an estimated 119 kt from an estimated 16 kt in 2023. Field peas yield averaged 3.3 t/ha compared to 3.0 t/ha in 2023. There was a variation in yields dependant on how crops faired in the wet spring, which affected planting. The highest yields were from early sown crops, especially those grown on lighter soils which were less impacted by wet conditions. Peas grown in Scotland and the South-West fared best. Most crops were standing at harvest and thus in good condition and needed minimal drying.

The annual value of peas for animal feed in 2024 was £43 million, an increase of 12%, due to higher production levels offsetting a lower proportion of peas going to animal feed. The annual value of peas for human consumption in 2024 was £28 million compared to £4 million in 2023, primarily due to the higher proportion of the crop going for human consumption. The average price per tonne was 6.9% higher than 2023 at £244.78.

The area of field beans was 37% lower than last year at 135 thousand hectares. The decreased area offset slightly higher average yields and led to production falling by 33% to an estimated 460 kt. Average yields increased to 3.4 t/ha from 3.2 t/ha in 2023. The winter bean crop was variable with later drilled crops suffering from wet seed beds which reduced establishment. However unsettled conditions in the summer minimised water and heat stress closer to maturity which supported higher yields. Disease pressures were lower for the 2024 crop, with less “chocolate spot” and damage from bruchid beetle. For spring beans, the wet weather meant a wider than usual range of sowing dates which led to a more protracted harvest, not completed until late September.

The annual value of field beans in 2024 was £104 million, a 33% decrease compared to 2023 reflecting the lower production. The average price per tonne was very similar to 2023 at £226.32.

Fresh vegetables

Table 7.8a to 7.8c Fresh vegetables production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.8a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	**108**	**101**	**97**
Grown in the open	107	100	97
Protected	0.7	0.8	0.8
Value of production (£ million)	**1,752**	**1,986**	**2,028**
Grown in the open	1,379	1,591	1,607
Protected	373	395	421
Selected crops (£ million):			
Cabbages	78	84	93
Carrots	176	216	219
Cauliflowers	58	80	85
Calabrese	109	112	118
Lettuces	240	245	263
Mushrooms	136	135	133
Onions	139	215	157
Tomatoes	102	119	134

Table 7.8b

Prices (farmgate price, £ per tonne)	2022	2023	2024
Cauliflowers	712	1,058	925
Tomatoes	1,414	1,701	1,767

Table 7.8c

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Total production	**2,382**	**2,308**	**2,362**
EU imports	1,679	1,646	1,741
Non-EU imports	365	417	437
EU exports	83	74	72
Non-EU exports	14	1.6	2.8
Total new supply	4,330	4,296	4,466
Production as % of total new supply for use in the UK	**55%**	**54%**	**53%**

Notes for tables 7.8a to 7.8c:

1. Data for vegetables and salad crops grown in the open is from the June Survey.
2. Protected area excludes area of mushrooms.

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In 2024, the value of vegetable production rose by 2.1% to just over £2 billion, with total output increasing by 2.3% to 2.4 million tonnes. Despite this growth, the area planted with vegetables declined by 3.5% to 97 thousand hectares. Domestic production accounted for 53% of the UK's total fresh vegetable supply, down one percentage point from 2023.

The year began with an exceptionally wet spring, with most areas receiving between 110% and 190% of average spring rainfall (based on the 1991–2020 average). These conditions caused significant delays to crop planting and led to yield penalties or disruptions to planned harvesting schedules.

However, the weather turned more favourable from mid-July to mid-September, with relatively dry conditions supporting strong crop growth. A warmer-than-average autumn further aided crop ripening and helped many growers recover lost ground in production timelines, though intermittent wet spells continued to present some challenges.

Plants and flowers

Table 7.9a to 7.9b Plants and flowers area, value of production and trade, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless otherwise specified)

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.9a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area (thousand hectares)	11	10	12
Value of production (£ million)	**1,577**	**1,706**	**1,701**
Flowers and bulbs	165	181	175
Pot plants	285	330	343
Hardy ornamental nursery stock	1,127	1,195	1,183

Table 7.9b

Trade (£ million)	2022	2023	2024
Total imports (exc. Channel Islands)	**1,534**	**1,457**	**1,458**
Bulbs	95	88	85
Cut flowers	705	616	636
Foliage	69	58	61
Indoor plants	171	174	177
Outdoor plants	148	154	149
Trees	242	263	247
Other	104	103	102
Total exports	**49**	**54**	**49**
Bulbs	8.5	7.5	7.2
Cut flowers	23	21	23
Foliage	0.9	1.5	1.1
Indoor plants	1.2	6.2	2.1
Outdoor plants	1.9	4.1	2.5
Trees	4.1	2.1	2.4
Other	9.3	11	10

Notes for tables 7.9a to 7.9b:

1. Areas relate to field areas multiplied by the number of crops in the year and hence differ from the area shown in Figure 2.1c.
2. Value of production for flowers and bulbs includes forced flower bulbs.
3. Trade totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

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The value of production in the ornamental sector decreased by 0.3% to £1.7 billion between 2023 and 2024. In 2024, hardy nursery stock showed a 1.0% decrease in value at an estimated £1.2 billion. Flowers and bulbs showed a 3.1% decrease in value at an estimated £175m. The pot plant sector saw a 3.8% increase in value at £343m.

Adverse weather conditions significantly delayed crop planting, with some field grown crops sown up to a month later than usual. Growth remained slow until improved weather conditions arrived in June. The prolonged period of dull, cool, and intermittently wet weather led to lower-than-average summer temperatures, further hindering crop development.

In response, growers applied higher-than-normal levels of fertiliser to maximise growth during what proved to be a short and challenging growing season. While most field-grown crops had caught up by the end of the season, the performance of some first-year tree seedlings was disappointing. Certain crops were too small to be marketed and have been left in the ground to mature further over the coming year.

Potatoes

Table 7.10a to 7.10c Potatoes production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.10a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Area sown (thousand hectares)	127	115	118
Area harvested (thousand hectares)	120	98	111
Yield (tonnes per hectare harvested)	46	48	46
Volume of harvested production	**5,522**	**4,678**	**5,137**
For human consumption	3,980	3,567	4,095
Seed	539	524	539
Stockfeed and waste	1,003	587	503
Sales	**5,296**	**4,924**	**4,760**
For human consumption	3,804	3,842	3,743
Seed	539	524	539
Sold for stockfeed	953	558	478
End year stocks	2,653	2,378	2,730
Change in stocks	176	-275	352
Value of production (£ million)	**991**	**1,138**	**1,461**
Sold for human consumption	777	1,036	1,115
Sold for seed (including farm saved seed)	168	171	237
Sold for stockfeed	10	5.6	4.8
Change in stocks	36	-74	105

Table 7.10b

Prices (paid to registered producers, £ per tonne)	2022	2023	2024
Early/maincrop (for human consumption)	204	270	298
Seed	311	326	440
Stockfeed	10	10	10

Table 7.10c

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Total production	4,519	4,092	4,634
Imports	2,482	2,439	2,633
Exports	466	426	412
Net trade (negative means net export)	**2,015**	**2,013**	**2,220**
Early/maincrop	-116	-79	18
Seed	-92	-80	-93
Processed (raw equivalent)	2,223	2,173	2,295
Total new supply (raw equivalent)	6,534	6,105	6,854
Production as % of total new supply for use in the UK	**69%**	**67%**	**68%**

Notes for tables 7.10a to 7.10c:

1. The method of data collection changed after 2022.
2. 2024 data for Northern Ireland was unavailable when UK estimates were compiled. Therefore, 2024 figures for Northern Ireland were estimated using published price information and historical data.

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The value of potatoes in 2024 reached almost £1.5 billion, marking a 28% increase from £1.1 billion in 2023. The planted area expanded by 3.1% to 118 thousand hectares, while total production volume rose by 9.8% to 5.1 million tonnes.

Spring potato planting in 2024 was delayed by approximately one month due to persistently wet conditions. However, crops grown on lighter soils were less affected and developed slightly ahead of those on silty or heavy soils. Nitrogen leaching was again widespread in waterlogged ground during the first quarter, mirroring the situation in 2023.

Crops across the UK were significantly behind schedule, with full canopy development only achieved after the summer solstice. Many growers opted for early desiccation to bring forward harvesting, accepting a yield penalty as a trade-off. This strategy was seen as preferable to the risk of being unable to harvest at all, following crop losses in the previous year due to unharvestable fields caused by autumn rainfall.

Historically, price and yield data were sourced from the AHDB, which ceased publishing such information midway through 2021. In 2022, data were derived from inputs provided by sector representatives, devolved administrations, and reports in the farming press.

Since 2023, an external contractor has supplied industry data and insights for England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland provide their own information on production, price, and value. In 2024, Scotland supplied data including minor revisions to records dating back to 2018. Northern Ireland data was unavailable when the UK estimates were compiled. As a result, the 2024 figures for Northern Ireland were estimated using published price information and historical data.

Fresh Fruit

Table 7.11a to 7.11c Fresh fruit production, value, supply and use, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.11a

Production	2022	2023	2024
Outdoor fruit area (thousand hectares)	**33**	**32**	**31**
Orchard fruit	22	21	20
Soft fruit	10	11	11
End year stocks	128	58	96
Value of production (£ million)	**1,046**	**1,037**	**1,084**
Orchard fruit	387	288	350
Soft fruit	659	749	734
Sales	1,019	1,110	1,038
Change in stocks	27	-73	46
Selected crops (£ million):			
Dessert apples	193	152	192
Culinary apples	94	32	46
Pears	15	14	18
Raspberries	146	181	191
Strawberries	440	471	431

Table 7.11b

Prices (farm gate price, £/tonne)	2022	2023	2024
Dessert apples	882	895	991
Culinary apples	429	186	237
Pears	180	240	284
Raspberries	8,146	11,640	9,773
Strawberries	2,519	2,949	2,747

Table 7.11c

Supply and use (thousand tonnes)	2022	2023	2024
Total production	668	583	579
EU imports	1,109	998	1,069
Non-EU imports	2,168	2,150	2,229
EU exports	35	34	32
Non-EU exports	2.3	2.1	2.0
Total new supply	3,908	3,695	3,843
Change in stocks	27	-73	46
Total domestic uses	3,881	3,768	3,797
Production as % of total new supply for use in the UK	**17%**	**16%**	**15%**

Notes for tables 7.11a to 7.11c:

1. Orchard fruit includes field area of commercial and non-commercial orchards only.
2. Stock data relates to apples and pears.
3. Value of production excludes change in stocks for apples and pears.
4. Value of production includes glasshouse fruit.
5. EU trade data no longer includes dried fruit.

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The fruit sector faced challenging weather conditions in early 2024, with storms and heavy rainfall in January leading to widespread flooding and waterlogging. February was both the wettest and warmest on record, delaying orchard planting and tunnel construction. However, the absence of frost allowed pruning to proceed well. Difficult soil conditions persisted into late winter and spring, complicating the planting of strawberries, raspberries, and new orchards.

During flowering in May, cold and changeable weather significantly impacted Cox apple yields, which reached only about 75% of a full crop. Nevertheless, output was better than in 2023. Declining demand, coupled with lower yields and higher production costs, continues to drive the trend of replacing Cox orchards with higher-yielding, popular varieties such as Gala, Braeburn, and Jazz.

Jazz orchards produced high-quality fruit with good flavour, though yields declined from 35 t/ha in 2023 to 28 t/ha. Braeburn performed particularly well, with a strong and consistent fruit set and yields more than doubling year-on-year, from 21 t/ha in 2023 to 47 t/ha in 2024. Fruit quality, colour, and size were especially good in younger orchards.

The overall value of fruit production rose by 4.5% to just under £1.1 billion. Orchard fruit saw a significant increase in value, up 22% to £350 million, while soft fruit value declined by 2.0% to £734 million. Total production volume fell slightly by 0.5% to 579 kt, despite a 4.5% decrease in planted area to 31 thousand hectares. Domestic production accounted for 15% of total fresh fruit supply, down from 16% the previous year.

Linseed

Table 7.12 - Linseed production, value, supply and use

Enquiries: Lisa Brown on +44 (0)20 802 66340
Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.12 Linseed figures are no longer presented here as the area grown in the UK is so small. Historical data can be found in the datasets Crops dataset Table 7.12. Area data can be found in the publication Agricultural land use in the United Kingdom - GOV.UK.

Data Sources and Revisions

Further detailed information on vegetables, plant and flowers and fruit statistics can be found in the annual publication Horticulture Statistics. Some of the more detailed commentary in this chapter is based on data from the Horticultural Statistics report and is not presented here.

Figures for 2024 are provisional and may be subject to revision.

There have been revisions to the 2018 to 2023 data for potatoes, vegetables, ornamentals and fruit, due to revised devolved authority data.

There have been revisions to the estimates of wheat for 2023, as well as barley and oats for 2021 to 2023, due to changes in stocks data and methodology.

Chapter 8: Livestock

Summary

- The value of **beef and veal** increased by 9.3% to £4.1 billion. Home-fed production increased by 3.8% to 937 thousand tonnes. These changes are primarily due to high unit prices at the end of 2024 and high producer confidence.
- The value of **pig meat** increased by 3.4% to £1.8 billion. Home-fed production increased by 3.9% to 920 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **mutton and lamb** increased by 13% to £1.8 billion. Home-fed production decreased by 6.5% to 277 thousand tonnes. Constrained supply and robust consumer demand led to sharp price increases.
- The value of **poultry meat** remains stable at £3.5 billion. Home-fed production increased by 2.9% to 2,031 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **milk and milk products** increased by 5.5% to £6.3 billion. The volume of milk production increased by 1.1% to 15,269 thousand tonnes. Constrained supplies throughout mid 2024 led to high price increases.
- The value of **eggs** for human consumption increased by 35% to £1.4 billion. Production increased by 4.9% to 1,148 million dozen. The unit price increased due to a higher proportion of eggs being produced using free-range production methods, which has been one of the primary drivers of increased prices.

Meat production

Total meat production in 2024 increased by 2.6% to 4,166 thousand tonnes. The respective value of this production has increased by 5.8% to £11,300 million.

This increase in production volumes has been driven by increased meat production volumes across all livestock types with the exception of sheep. Changes to the value of production have been primarily driven by increased beef prices.

Tables 8.1a to 8.1b - Meat production, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.1a Home fed production (thousand tonnes)

Production	2022	2023	2024
Cattle	926	903	937
Pigs	1,001	886	920
Sheep	302	296	277
Poultry	1,983	1,974	2,031
Total production	**4,212**	**4,059**	**4,166**

Table 8.1b Value of production (£ million)

Production	2022	2023	2024
Cattle	3,583	3,797	4,148
Pigs	1,677	1,784	1,844
Sheep	1,588	1,559	1,764
Poultry	3,168	3,542	3,543
Total value	**10,016**	**10,682**	**11,300**

Notes:

1. Total value for meat production includes other animals that are not shown in the table.

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Cattle and calves: beef and veal

The UK beef sector experienced a strong performance in 2024, with finished cattle prices reaching historic highs. In 2024, GB prime cattle deadweight prices increased by 4.5% from 2023 and were 25% above the 5-year average. GB deadweight cull cow prices increased 3.0% from 2023 and were 26% higher than the 5-year average. This growth was driven by robust consumer demand, retail expansion, and stable foodservice volumes. However, the sector faced challenges early in the year, as adverse weather in Quarter 1 and early Quarter 2 extended the winter housing period, delaying cattle turnout. Limited forage availability increased the reliance on animal feed, meaning that beef production costs remained high due to elevated input costs. Despite these hurdles, firm output prices, supply chain sustainability goals

(reducing age at slaughter), and producer confidence led to greater-than-forecast supplies in 2024.

By the second half of 2024 conditions had improved and total home-fed beef and veal production rose by 3.8% (to 937 thousand tonnes) year-on-year. This was accompanied by a 4.1% increase in prime cattle slaughter from 2023, reaching 2,116 thousand head in 2024. This rise was primarily driven by higher heifer slaughter and a 2.0% growth in dairy-beef cattle, reflecting an ongoing shift in production. UK cow slaughter grew by 2.1% between 2023 and 2024, primarily due to increased beef cow disposals, while dairy cow culling remained steady. Supply was further bolstered by a 7.9% rise in imports from 2023, driven largely by favourable production conditions and trade flows from Ireland. Meanwhile, annual exports increased by 9.1% in 2024, particularly to the EU, despite UK beef's higher price position in global markets. In 2024, the declining trend in UK total cattle numbers continued, with the population decreasing by 3.4% from 9.7 million in 2019 to 9.4 million in 2024. Despite the fall in herd size, production volumes have remained stable. The size of the UK breeding herd for beef decreased to 1,344 thousand head. The size of the beef herd can be a good indicator of trends in future beef and veal production.

Tables 8.2a to 8.2d - Cattle and calves; beef and veal, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.2a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2022	2023	2024
Total cattle and calves	**9,632**	**9,555**	**9,412**
Dairy cows	1,842	1,836	1,836
Beef cows	1,463	1,407	1,344

Table 8.2b Production

Production	2022	2023	2024
Total home-fed marketings (thousand head)	**2,840**	**2,793**	**2,879**
Steers, heifers and young bulls	2,060	2,033	2,116
Calves	126	121	111
Cows and adult bulls	655	639	652
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Steers, heifers and young bulls	346	342	343
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Calves	79	81	79
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Cows and adult bulls	313	309	310
Home fed production (dressed carcase weight, thousand tonnes)	**926**	**903**	**937**
Value of production (£ million)	**3,583**	**3,797**	**4,148**
Value of home-fed production	3,575	3,841	4,178
Change in work-in-progress	28	-25	-16
Less imported livestock	21	19	15
Plus breeding animals exported	0	0	0
Subsidies	40	40	41
Value of production at basic price	3,624	3,837	4,189

Table 8.2c Prices (pence per kg deadweight)

Prices	2022	2023	2024
Finished cattle: All prime cattle	431	476	497

Table 8.2d Supply and use (dressed carcase weight equivalent, thousand tonnes)

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Home-fed production	926	903	937
Imports from EU	284	268	281
Imports from the rest of the world	13	16	26
Exports to EU	131	115	122
Exports to the rest of the world	22	16	20
Total new supply	1,070	1,057	1,102
Home-fed production as % of new supply for use in the UK	**87**	**85**	**85**

Notes:

1. Measures of home-fed marketings, dressed carcase weights, production and value include animals raised and slaughtered in the UK, excluding any animals removed from the food chain.
2. Change in work-in-progress is the difference in the valuation of work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.

3. Subsidies comprising Scottish Beef Calf Scheme until 2014. From 2015 Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme.
4. Value of production includes subsidies and taxes.
5. Imports include meat from imports of live finished animals.

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Pigs and pig meat

UK home-fed pig meat production has increased by 3.9% since 2023 to 920 thousand tonnes in 2024, despite a further decline in the breeding herd, driven by higher average carcase weights and increased productivity from sows within the breeding herd. The increase in production offset a 4.2% decrease in the price of pig meat, to 208 pence per kilogram deadweight which resulted in an overall increase of 3.4% in the value of pig meat production to £1,844 million in 2024.

In 2024, UK pig prices continued to be largely stable, with little fluctuation throughout the year. There was a slight decline in prices year-on-year, but prices remained historically high. In Quarter 4 of 2024, UK pig producers experienced a significant reduction in margins, averaging £9 per head, a decrease from £16, £14, and £17 per head in the first three quarters of 2024 respectively. This can be attributed to rising feed costs which increased by 8 pence per kilogram from 2023 to 124 pence per kilogram in 2024. Trade volumes remained largely steady through 2024, with the EU and China remaining key export markets. There was a decline of 7.8% in UK exports in comparison to 2023 year-on-year. Despite a considerable fall in EU pig prices during 2024, UK pig meat imports only rose very slightly, increasing by 0.3% from 2023.

Tables 8.3a to 8.3d - Pigs and pig meat, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.3a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2022	2023	2024
Total pigs	**5,220**	**4,683**	**4,716**
Sows in pig and other sows for breeding	301	290	285
Gilts in pig	42	48	43

Table 8.3b Production

Production	2022	2023	2024
Total home-fed marketings (thousand head)	**10,961**	**9,800**	**10,079**
Clean pigs	10,698	9,573	9,854
Sows and boars	264	227	225
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Clean pigs	90	89	90
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Sows and boars	144	143	150
Home-fed production dressed carcase weight (thousand tonnes)	1,001	886	920
Value of production (£ million)	**1,677**	**1,784**	**1,844**
Value of home-fed production	1,693	1,805	1,830
Change in work in progress	-16	-21	14
Less imported livestock	[x]	[x]	[x]
Plus breeding animals exported	0	0	0

Table 8.3c Prices (pence per kg deadweight)

Prices	2022	2023	2024
Clean pigs	178	217	208

Table 8.3d Supply and use (dressed carcase weight equivalent, thousand tonnes)

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Home-fed production	1,001	886	920
Imports from EU	644	629	630
Imports from rest of the world	1	1	2
Exports to EU	117	82	77
Exports to rest of the world	100	71	63
Total new supply	1,429	1,364	1,411
Home-fed production as % of new supply for use in the UK	**70**	**65**	**65**

Notes:

1. Measures of home-fed marketings, dressed carcase weights, production and value include animals raised and slaughtered in the UK, excluding any animals removed from the food chain.
2. Change in work-in-progress is the difference in the valuation of work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
3. Imports include meat from imports of live finished animals.
4. Trade figures relate to trade in fresh chilled and frozen meat. Trade figures also include salted and brine meat (e.g. ham and bacon). There is significant trade in processed meats, (recorded in Chapter 16 of HMRC trade data) which are not recorded in the trade figures.
5. [x] means data is unavailable.

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Sheep and lambs: mutton and lamb

The value of mutton and lamb production has increased by 13% from 2023, to £1,764 million in 2024, with domestic production making up 99% of consumption. This is the first year since 2016 where domestic consumption was higher than domestic production.

In 2024, the UK sheep sector faced various supply pressures, with clean sheep slaughter down 6.7% from 2023 to 11.9 million head. Home-fed mutton and lamb production has also decreased by 6.5% since 2023 and now stands at 277 thousand tonnes. Disease pressures in Quarter 1 followed by a wet spring, affected lambing conditions and contributed to lower slaughter numbers. While a sufficient level of sheepmeat was available to meet most domestic demand, 2024 saw an increase in imports to support heightened consumer demand and increased consumption rates. Compared to 2023, prices for finished sheep have increased by 20% to 693 pence per kilogram deadweight in 2024. Historically high lamb prices provided valuable financial support to sheep farmers in 2024. However, rising input costs and market volatility continued to exert pressure on on-farm margins for some producers.

Structural shifts within the sector continued, with the national breeding flock contracting further in 2024. The June 2024 census reported a 3.6% decline in ewes intended for first-time breeding from 2023, bringing the total to 15 million head. This fall is likely attributed to high spring lamb prices, which incentivised ewe lamb sales. However, strong winter breeding sales suggested some producer interest in flock retention. Market dynamics were also shaped by a higher carryover of lambs into 2025, reflecting slower growth and finishing rates in Quarter 4, due to adverse weather conditions. In 2024, the declining trend in overall sheep numbers continued, with the total herd decreasing by 2.5% from 2023 to 31 million head.

From 2023 to 2024, imports of sheepmeat surged by 44% to fill the supply gap, with New Zealand remaining the primary supplier and Australia increasing its shipments. Meanwhile, high UK prices and reduced domestic availability contributed to an 11% decline in export volumes.

Tables 8.4a to 8.4d - Sheep and lambs: mutton and lamb, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.4a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2022	2023	2024
Total sheep and lambs	**33,174**	**31,803**	**31,017**
Female breeding flock	15,826	15,438	14,882
Other sheep and lambs	17,348	16,365	16,135

Table 8.4b Production

Production	2022	2023	2024
Total home-fed marketings (thousand head)	**14,436**	**14,419**	**13,361**
Clean sheep and lambs	12,677	12,701	11,855
Ewes and rams	1,759	1,718	1,506
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Clean sheep	20	20	20
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Ewes and rams	26	26	27
Home-fed production dressed carcase weight (thousand tonnes)	**302**	**296**	**277**
Value of production (£ million)	**1,588**	**1,559**	**1,764**
Value of home-fed production	1,587	1,580	1,770
Change in work in progress	1	-21	-6
Less imported livestock	0	0	0
Plus breeding animals exported	0	0	0
Subsidies	7	7	7
Value of production at basic prices	1,595	1,566	1,771

Table 8.4c Prices (pence per kg dressed carcase weight)

Prices	2022	2023	2024
Finished sheep, Great Britain	568	578	693

Table 8.4d Supply and use (dressed carcase weight equivalent, thousand tonnes)

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Home-fed production	302	296	277
Imports from the EU	16	13	11
Imports from the rest of the world	52	48	77
Exports to the EU	82	91	81
Exports to the rest of the world	5	5	5
Total new supply	283	261	280
Home-fed production as % of new supply for use in the UK	**107**	**113**	**99**

Notes:

1. Measures of home-fed marketings, dressed carcase weights, production and value include animals raised and slaughtered in the UK, excluding any animals removed from the food chain.
2. Change in work-in-progress is the difference in the valuation of work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
3. Value of production includes subsidies and taxes.
4. Imports include meat from imports of live finished animals.
5. Subsidies comprising Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme.
6. Unweighted average of weekly prices at representative markets.

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Poultry and poultry meat

Home-fed poultry meat production has increased by 2.9% since 2023 to 2,031 thousand tonnes in 2024, driven by production increases for table chicken meat (+3.0%) and turkey and ducks (+5.7%). The year 2024 saw a historic high for annual table chicken production, at 1.9 billion tonnes. The increase in production was offset by a 12% decrease in poultrymeat price to 151 p/kg (deadweight), resulting in the overall value of poultry meat production remaining at a similar level to 2023, at £3,543 million. The decrease in price was largely driven by a stabilisation of key production costs following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but prices remained 3.6% above the five-year average.

The total poultry population decreased by 2.1 million from 2023 to 176 million birds in 2024, with UK production of poultry meat making up 83% of total supply. Whilst imports from the EU in 2024 remained relatively consistent with 2023 levels, imports from the rest of the world increased by 44% in volume in 2024 and are now at the highest levels seen since 2005. The number of confirmed cases of avian influenza (AI) was fewer in 2024 than in previous years. Although cases were particularly high during Quarter 4, this had little impact on the Christmas supply-chain.

Tables 8.5a to 8.5d - Poultry and poultry meat, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.5a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2022	2023	2024
Total poultry	**183,488**	**178,142**	**176,085**
Table chickens	121,730	116,440	112,374
Laying and breeding fowl	52,463	53,792	54,612
Turkeys, ducks, geese and all other poultry	9,295	7,909	9,099

Table 8.5b Production

Production	2022	2023	2024
Slaughterings (millions):	**1,162**	**1,171**	**1,172**
Table chickens	1,143	1,158	1,183
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	43	39	38
Turkeys	10	9	9
Ducks & geese	9	9	11
Production (carcase weight thousand tonnes)	**1,983**	**1,974**	**2,031**
Chickens and other table fowls	1,783	1,799	1,852
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	64	59	56
Turkeys	117	96	98
Ducks & geese	20	20	25
Value of production (£ million)	**3,168**	**3,542**	**3,543**
Table chickens	2,642	3,060	2,765
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	6	6	5
Turkeys, ducks, geese	310	310	305
Change in work in progress in fowls	-10	-53	7
Exports of live poultry	179	186	212
Hatching eggs for export	84	80	112
Less live poultry imported	7	6	8
Less hatching eggs imported	30	43	43

Table 8.5c Prices (average producer prices, pence per kg dressed carcase weight)

Prices	2022	2023	2024
Chickens and other table fowls	148	170	149
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	10	10	10
Turkeys	192	228	200
Ducks	409	409	409
Geese	720	770	801

Table 8.5d Supply and use (dressed carcase weight equivalent, thousand tonnes)

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production	1,983	1,974	2,031
Imports from the EU	588	585	584
Imports from the rest of the world	28	42	60
Exports to the EU	172	135	155
Exports to the rest of the world	74	63	60
Total new supply	2,352	2,404	2,461
Production as % of new supply for use in the UK	**84**	**82**	**83**

Notes:

1. Laying and breeding fowl includes hens and pullets kept mainly for producing eggs for eating.
2. Boiling fowls included with table chickens until 1994.
3. Production excludes offal.
4. Change in work-in-progress is the difference in the valuation of work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
5. Poultry prices not available for 2021 & 2022. Estimated prices used to calculate a value.
6. Trade figures relate to trade in fresh chilled and frozen meat. There is significant trade in processed meats, (recorded in Chapter 16 of HMRC trade data) which are not recorded in the trade figures.

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Milk

Milk produced for human consumption increased by 1.1% from 2023 to 15,128 thousand tonnes in 2024 and the price of milk also increased to 41 pence per litre (+4.4%). This led to a 5.5% increase in the value of milk production to £6,316 million.

The size of the dairy herd remained stable at 1,844 thousand head in 2024, with domestic production making up 105% of consumption.

UK dairy farm margins started 2024 under pressure with a 23% fall in average farmgate milk prices (FGMP) from 49.5 pence per litre in January 2023 to 38.5 pence per litre in January 2024, which outweighed reductions in input costs over that period. With constrained FGMPs and ongoing wet weather during the first half of the year, UK milk production was down year-on-year through the first three quarters of 2024. However, FGMPs did build progressively through that period, supported by strengthening dairy commodity values due to continued constrained supply of dairy products on both UK and wider global markets.

Milk production eventually began to build at the start of Quarter 4 of 2024, moving above 2023 levels of production as FGMPs continued to increase, weather conditions improved and farm input costs broadly, if marginally, declined. Firm milk production continued into winter 2024-25 with low purchased feed costs enabling farms to compensate for poorer quality silage crops made during the wet 2024

summer. Increased UK production during this period was boosted by particularly strong production in Northern Ireland.

Trade in dairy commodities remained broadly stable with the UK largely self-sufficient by volume, but with imports of £3.9 billion against exports of £2 billion in the year ending January 2025 leading to an annual trade deficit. This is an established trading pattern, with driving factors including large amounts of raw milk exported from Northern Ireland into the Republic of Ireland, and value-added products such as yoghurt and premium cheeses imported from the EU.

Tables 8.6a to 8.6d - Milk, 2022 to 2024

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Email: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.6a Population and yield

Type	2022	2023	2024
Dairy herd (annual average, thousand head)	1,847	1,840	1,844
Average yield per dairy cow (litres per annum)	8,169	8,206	8,278

Table 8.6b Production

Production	2022	2023	2024
Milk from the dairy herd (million litres)	**15,095**	**15,097**	**15,269**
Milk from the beef herd (million litres)	[x]	[x]	[x]
Raw milk leaving farm	14,864	14,865	15,036
Milk processed on farm	91	92	92
On farm use	139	139	141
Volume for human consumption	14,956	14,957	15,128
Value of production (£ million)	**6,665**	**5,985**	**6,316**
Raw milk leaving farm	6,538	5,872	6,198
Processed milk products from farm	66	58	61
On farm use	61	55	58
Subsidies	[x]	[x]	[x]
Less levies	[x]	[x]	[x]
Value of production at market prices (£ million)	**6,665**	**5,985**	**6,316**

Table 8.6c Prices (average milk producer prices, net of delivery charges (pence per litre))

Prices	2022	2023	2024
Farmgate price excluding bonus payments	44	39	41
Farmgate price including bonus payments	44	39	41

Table 8.6d Supply and use (million litres)

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
Production (excludes on farm use from 2015)	14,956	14,957	15,128
Imports	86	86	86
Exports	851	851	851
Total new supply	**14,190**	**14,192**	**14,363**
For liquid consumption	6,003	6,021	6,101
For manufacture	**7,897**	**7,847**	**7,911**
Butter	427	413	399
Cheese	4,828	4,817	4,709
Cream	306	319	324
Yoghurt	424	384	430
Condensed milk	337	349	334
Milk powders	922	960	1,061
Other products	653	605	653
Dairy wastage and stock change	290	324	351
Other uses	132	132	133
Production as a % of new supply	**105**	**105**	**105**

Notes:

1. The dairy herd figure given is the average size of the dairy herd across the whole year, rather than the size at a particular time of year. As a result, figures may differ from those provided in Chapter 2. From 2005 the dairy herd is defined as dairy cows over two years of age with offspring. Until 2004 the dairy herd was defined as cows and heifers in milk plus cows in calf but not in milk, kept mainly for producing milk or rearing calves for the dairy herd.
2. Milk from the beef herd excludes suckled milk. Milk from beef cows is no longer recorded after 2016 as it is no longer considered significant.
3. On farm use is defined as farmhouse consumption and milk fed to livestock.
4. Value of raw milk leaving farm includes milk sold to other businesses (dairies) for processing.
5. Value of milk and milk products includes those processed on farm and sold direct to the consumer.
6. Condensed milk includes condensed milk used in the production of chocolate crumb and in the production of machine skimmed milk.
7. Other uses includes farmhouse consumption, milk fed to stock and on farm waste. Excludes suckled milk.
8. [x] means data is unavailable.

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Hen eggs

Production of eggs for human consumption increased by 4.9% from 2023 to 1,006 thousand tonnes in 2024, while the average price across all production methods

increased by 8.7% to 144 pence per dozen. This resulted in a 35% increase in the value of egg production to £,1355 million in 2024.

The size of laying flock increased by 0.79 million from 2023 to 42 million head in 2024, with domestic production making up 89% of consumption.

In 2024, the laying hen sector experienced a strong year, with continued growth in production output because of increased prices for producers giving confidence to the sector. This led to a stable and gradual increase in the supply of eggs for consumers. However, the sector has faced the ongoing challenge of Avian Influenza.

The overall increase in UK production of eggs for human consumption in 2024 is attributable to a 7.7% increase in production of shell eggs for consumers, which more than offset a 14% decrease in UK produced eggs entering the processing market. The increase in egg production was mainly driven by producer confidence, following an increase in prices for shell eggs of 47% on average across production methods since 2022, and a year-on-year increase of 8.7%. These factors have led to historic highs in total number of eggs produced for human consumption by UK producers (noting that data from 2023 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years due to methodological changes; for details see section 6.1 of Latest UK egg statistics - GOV.UK).

Throughout 2024, there was a marked reduction in eggs being produced from enriched colony cage units and an increase in those being produced in free-range units, as producers transitioned to meet major retailers' voluntary pledges to stop selling eggs from caged hens to improve hen welfare. This has been accompanied by a continued increase since 2022 in laying chicks being placed on farm, with a 5.4% year-on-year increase in 2024, as hatcheries and producers capitalise on the improved sector conditions and the retailer drive towards cage-free commitments.

In 2024, imports reduced by 5.9% from 2023, to levels last seen in 2018. This reduction was mainly in the number of shell eggs imported from the EU, with EU countries also facing challenges from Avian Influenza, alongside a marked increase in UK production in 2024 reducing the need for imported shell eggs. However, there was a small increase in egg products imported from the EU in 2024. Exports remained steady in 2024, with no differences seen in the export market, potentially due to tight supply chains as a result of Avian Influenza. Overall, the UK remained relatively stable in its self-sufficiency of eggs, with UK production meeting 89% of consumption.

Tables 8.7a to 8.7d – Hen eggs, 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.7a Population (thousands at June)

Population	2022	2023	2024
Number of laying fowl	40,442	41,073	41,863

Table 8.7b Production

Production	2022	2023	2024
Volume of production (million dozen)	**1,072**	**1,094**	**1,148**
Eggs for human consumption	929	956	1,006
Eggs for hatching	124	124	126
Other	18	14	16
Value of production of eggs for human consumption (£ million)	**774**	**1,003**	**1,355**

Table 8.7c Prices (pence per dozen)

Prices	2022	2023	2024
Average packer to producer price	98	133	144

Table 8.7d Supply and use (million dozen)

Supply and use	2022	2023	2024
UK production of eggs for human consumption	**929**	**956**	**1,006**
Eggs sold in shell	828	846	911
Eggs processed	101	111	95
Imports from the EU	127	165	155
Imports from the rest of the world	1	1	1
Exports to the EU	27	30	30
Exports to the rest of the world	1	1	0
Total new supply	1,030	1,092	1,132
Production as % of new supply for use in the UK	**90**	**88**	**89**

Notes:

1. Egg production figures have been revised following the publication of Total Income from Farming 2023. As such, the 2023 egg production and value of production figures quoted in table 8.7 in this dataset and in tables 8.7a-c in Chapter 8 will differ from those in Chapter 4 - Accounts.
2. Other eggs include hatching eggs for export and waste.
3. Eggs for hatching and hatching egg exports are not valued as they are included in the final value for poultry in table 8.4.
4. Average price from 1977-1998 is the weighted average of all graded eggs in the UK. From 1998 onwards, this is the average price paid by packers to producers.
5. Import and export figures include shell egg equivalent of whole (dried, frozen and liquid) egg, egg yolk and albumen.

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Revisions

Figures in these tables for 2024 are provisional and may be subject to revision. Revisions to the values of meat production back to 2017 are due to changes in

methodology, introducing new weighting to better align fluctuations in price and volume, and revisions to the slaughter back series due to new data becoming available. Revisions have been made to previous data due to on-going revisions caused by estimated survey data being replaced with actual data when it is received; survey respondents supplying amended figures for previous survey periods; changes to data supplied by Scotland and Northern Ireland and amended administrative data; updates to trade data supplied by HMRC; and methodological changes.

Additionally, from 2023 onwards there have been changes to the methodology used to produce estimates for hen eggs. As a result, data from 2023 onwards is not directly comparable with previous years due to methodological changes; for details see section 6.1 of Latest UK egg statistics - GOV.UK).

Chapter 9: Intermediate Consumption

In this summary, all values are provided in current prices which is considered the most intuitive approach for comparisons over a short time period. It should be noted that these values have not been adjusted for inflation. For the current prices dataset please see Chapter 4: Accounts.

Summary

In 2024:

- The total cost of **intermediate consumption** was £20.9 billion, a decrease of £1,214 million (-5.5%) from 2023.
- The value of **animal feed** decreased by £502 million (-6.6%) from 2023 to £7,133 million.
- The value of **energy** decreased by £212 million (-11%) from 2023 to £1,746 million.
- The total value of **fertilisers** was £1,725 million, a decrease of £617 million (-26%) from 2023.

Introduction

Chapter 4 provides more detailed information on input costs and gives a full breakdown of intermediate consumption.

Figure 9.2 presents the annual price of European brent crude oil in current prices. Figures 9.3 and 9.4 present the value of energy and fertilisers respectively. These are presented in real terms, adjusted for inflation, which provides more meaningful comparisons over longer time periods. Comparisons over more recent years, as presented in Chapter 4, are presented at current prices, not adjusted for inflation, which is considered the most intuitive for comparisons over shorter time periods.

Inputs

Figure 9.1 Intermediate consumption (at current prices), 2019 to 2024 (£ billion)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Year	Intermediate Consumption (£ billion)
2019	17.2
2020	16.9
2021	18.5
2022	21.9
2023	22.2
2024	20.9

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Figure 9.1 shows the value of intermediate consumption from 2019 to 2024. Since 2019, the average value of intermediate consumption is £19.6 billion, with the lowest value of £16.9 billion occurring in 2020 and the highest value of £22.2 billion occurring in 2023. The value for intermediate consumption fell by £1.2 billion (-5.5%) from 2023.

Animal Feed

Table 9.1 Animal feed purchases, 2022 to 2024 (thousand tonnes unless stated otherwise)

Enquiries: allan.howsam@defra.gov.uk

Type	2022	2023	2024
Compounds:			
Cattle	4,991	4,977	5,260
Calves	260	263	278
Pigs	2,263	2,061	2,064
Poultry	4,826	4,667	4,743
Sheep	861	783	871
Total compounds plus imports less exports	**13,262**	**12,780**	**13,347**
Straight concentrates	6,383	6,367	6,800
Non-concentrates	525	525	525
Inter/intra farm transfer	9,227	10,457	9,935
Total animal feed	**29,397**	**30,129**	**30,606**
Total value of animal feed (£ million)	**8,219**	**7,635**	**7,133**

Notes:

1. Compounds poultry includes poultry feed produced by ‘retail’ compounders but excludes production from integrated poultry units which are included within the straight concentrates data.
2. ‘Maize for stockfeed’ is included within the ‘inter/intra farm transfer’ category.
3. See Chapter 4: Accounts for a breakdown of the value of animal feed into compounds and straights.

Download the full Intermediate consumption dataset

The cost of animal feed is the largest item of expenditure recorded in the production and income account. The amount of feed purchased remained broadly level from 1993 to 2012 (around 25 million tonnes) before rising steadily since then to reach a peak of 30.9 million tonnes in 2019 before falling to 29.4 million tonnes in 2022. 2024 saw an increase of 1.6% compared to 2023, to 30.6 million tonnes, due to an increase in purchased compound and straight feed offsetting a decrease in inter-intra farm sales. Despite the overall increase in the amount purchased, the value of animal feed used within the agricultural industry has closely followed trends in commodity prices, shaped by exchange rates and world prices. The total value of all animal feed decreased by 6.6% between 2023 and 2024 to £7.1 million.

Total compound feed production increased by 4.4% between 2023 and 2024, with increases in sheep (+11%), calves (+5.8%), cattle (+5.7%) and poultry feed (+1.6%). Compound feed for pigs showed little variation from 2023 (+0.2%). The pig and poultry sectors have encountered problems over the last few years due to a combination of high feed and energy costs, butchery capacity and disease risks but cheaper feed costs in 2024 have provided a measure of support. The cattle and

sheep sectors have benefited from higher beef and lamb prices plus a stronger dairy sector – higher milk prices have encouraged more milk production and hence increased feed.

The year 2024 saw the price of commodities fall for the second successive year after the summer 2022 peak. Markets have adjusted to the ongoing Russia / Ukraine conflict following initial disruption to supply chains.

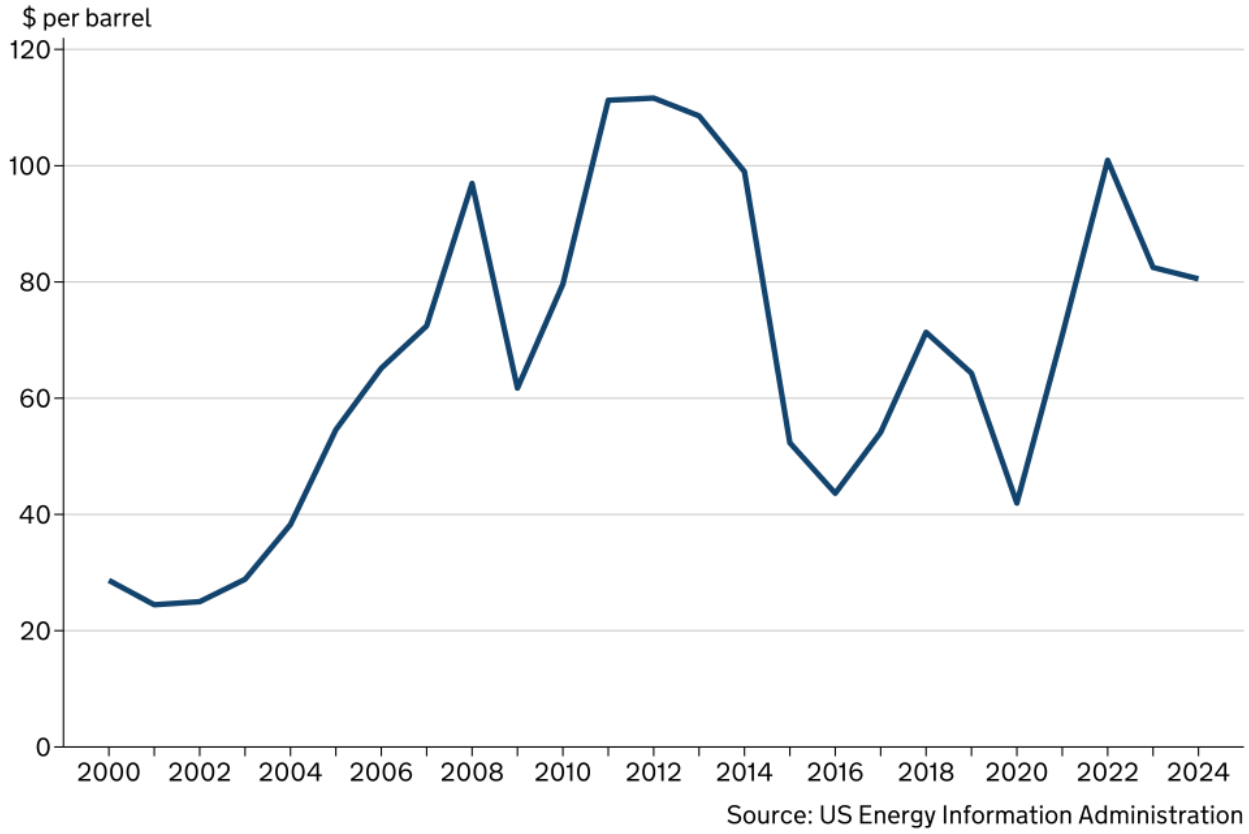
Defra June 2024 Survey results show the total number of poultry decreased by 1.2% to 176.1 million in 2024. Broiler numbers decreased by 3.5% to 112.4 million whilst the breeding and laying flock saw an increase of 1.5% to 54.6 million. The total number of cattle and calves in the UK decreased by 1.5% to 9.4 million in June 2024. The breeding herd saw a decrease of 1.9% and now stands at 3.2 million. The total number of sheep and lambs decreased by 2.5% to 31.0 million. The female breeding flock fell by 3.6% to 14.9 million and lambs decreased by 1.5% to 15.2 million. The total number of pigs in the UK remained relatively stable at 4.7 million animals. Breeding pig numbers fell by 1.7% to 421 thousand animals, while fattening pigs rose by 0.9%.

Besides compound feed usage there was an increase of 6.8% in purchased straight concentrates and a 5.0% decrease in inter/intra farm sales.

Oil Prices

Figure 9.2 Annual Europe Brent Spot Price, 2000 to 2024 ($ per barrel)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description for Figure 9.2: Figure 9.2 is a line chart showing the European Brent Spot Price from 2000 to 2024. Values are presented as $ per barrel at current prices.

Download the full Intermediate consumption dataset

Some inputs, such as fuel, electricity and fertilisers, are closely linked to oil price. Consequently, oil price plays a role in the increase or decrease of the costs for running machinery and for heating, lighting, drying crops and the cost of fertiliser purchases.

Figure 9.2 shows the current terms trends in annual Europe Brent crude oil prices since 2000. Oil prices rose strongly between 2002 and 2008 but fell sharply in 2009 as a global financial crisis hit. Between 2011 and 2014, oil prices were high but relatively stable due to a weak global economy and tension in the Middle East, reaching a peak of $112 per barrel in 2012.

In 2015, strong global production exceeded demand, causing prices to fall rapidly, dropping below $45 per barrel by 2016. Prices rose steadily through 2017 and 2018, reaching $71 a barrel, amid fears of US sanctions and global shortages.

In 2020, Covid-19 related restrictions resulted in a rapid contraction in global demand for oil, particularly for travel. This caused the price to fall below $42 per barrel for the first time since 2004. The price rebounded to $71 per barrel in 2021, as the easing of Covid-19 restrictions globally saw the demand for oil outpace supply.

In 2022, oil prices rose to $101 per barrel as a result of disruptions of imports to Europe following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. In 2023 prices fell to $83 per barrel, driven by global markets reacting to new trade dynamics and lower than expected demand, which together offset impacts from OPEC+ crude oil supply curbs.

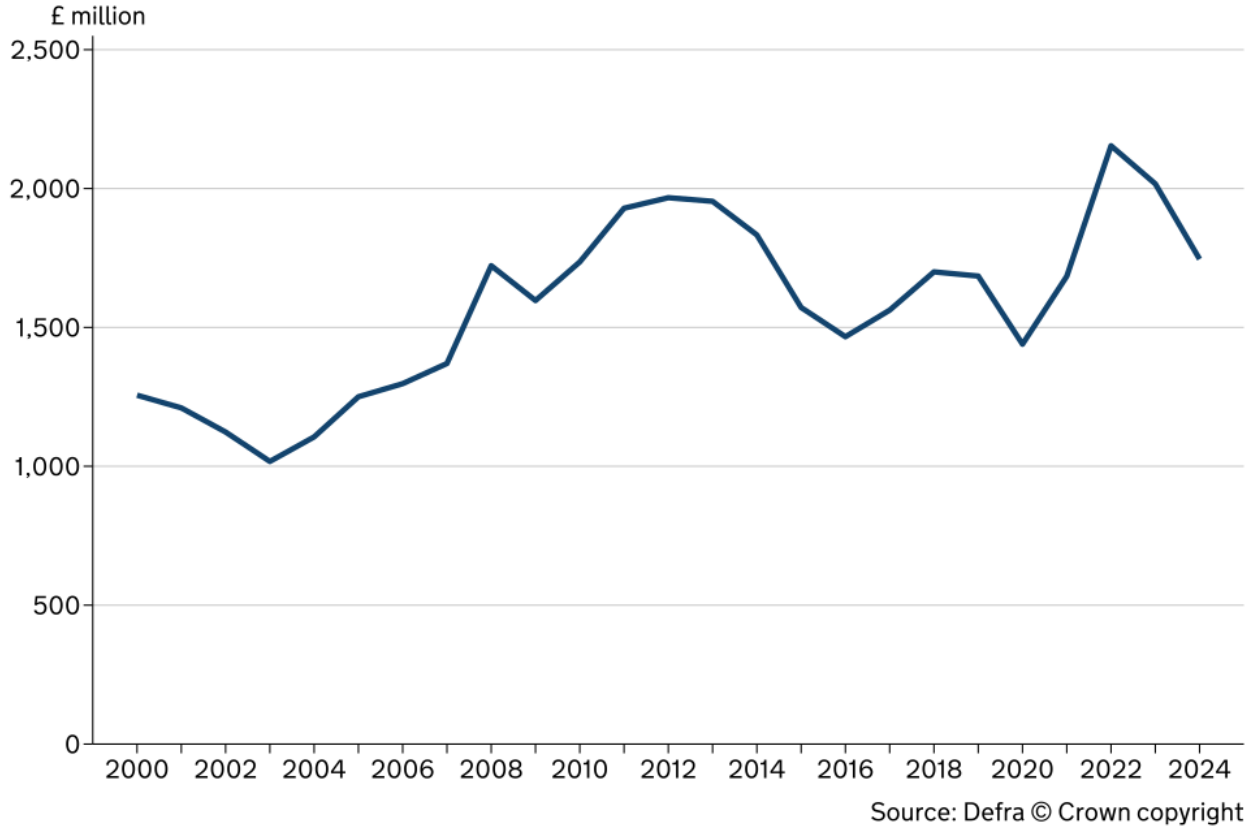
In 2024, the OPEC+ supply curbs were extended providing some support to prices, which remained relatively stable throughout the year. There was a 2.4% decrease from 2023 to $81 per barrel, with limited trading of crude oil due to high supply outside of OPEC+ countries and subdued demand.

For more information on crude oil prices see this article: EIA. Further details on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries plus (OPEC+) can be found in this article: EIA.

Energy

Figure 9.3 Energy (in real terms), 2000 to 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description for Figure 9.3: Figure 9.3 is a line chart showing the value of energy in real terms from 2000 to 2024. Values are presented in millions.

Download the full Intermediate consumption dataset

Figure 9.3 shows the value of energy usage for agriculture in real terms. The value of energy includes costs for electricity and fuels for heating, and motor and machinery fuels. Over the long term the cost of energy has followed a similar pattern to that of the crude oil price (see Figure 9.2). Energy costs generally increased during the 2000s, reaching a peak in 2012 before falling again. From 2015-2021 energy costs fluctuated between £1,500 million and £1,700 million, before rising sharply to £2,154 million in 2022. In 2023 the total cost of energy decreased to £2,017 million, driven by a fall in the value of motor and machinery fuels.

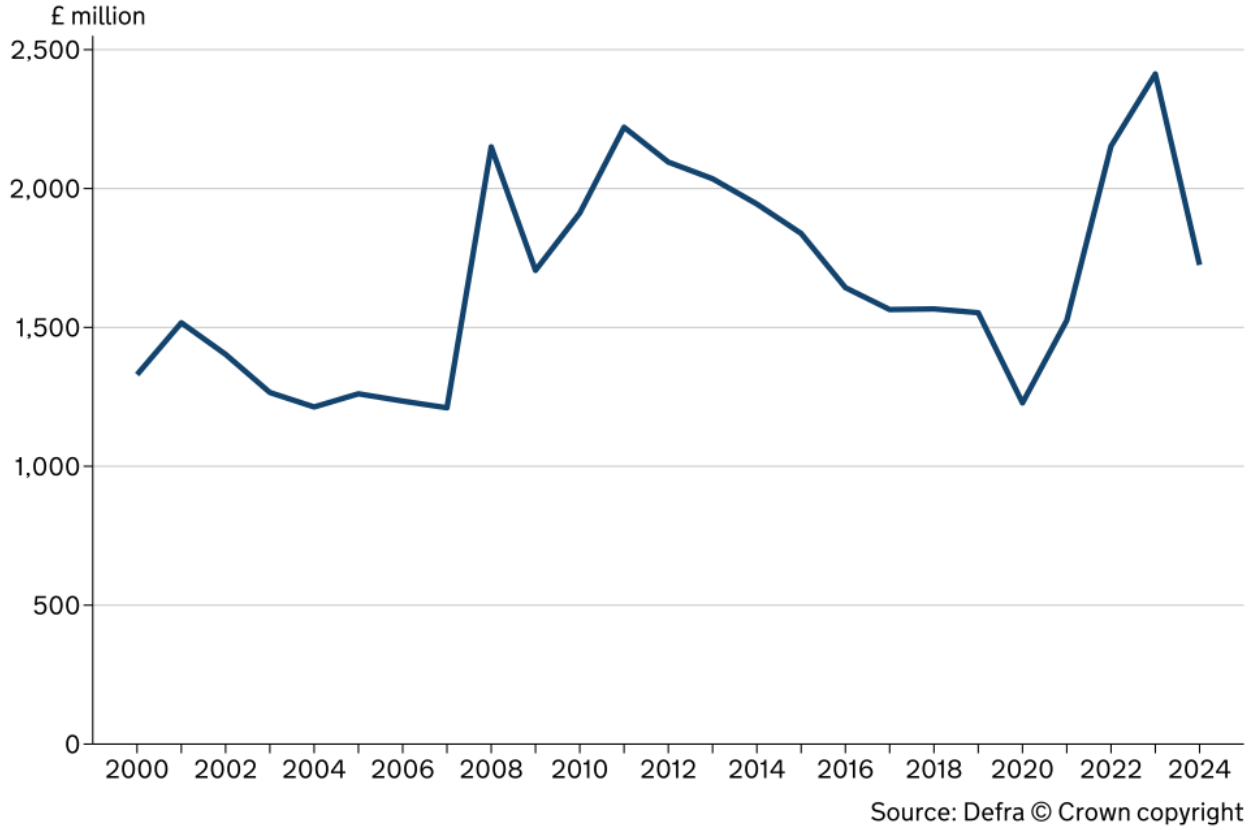
In 2024 energy costs fell by a further 11% at current prices to £1,746 million, driven by falls in the values of both motor and machinery fuels (-16%) and electricity and fuels for heating (-2.5%). The cost of motor and machinery fuels in 2024 fell largely as a result of the reduction in oil price from 2023, which was only partially offset by a 6.2% increase in volumes of fuels used due to larger planting areas to compensate for a poor harvest. The value of electricity and fuels for heating decreased due to a fall in price, as well as lower volumes needed for drying following smaller crop yields.

For the full current prices and real terms dataset see Chapter 4: Accounts

Fertilisers

Figure 9.4 Fertilisers (in real terms), 2000 to 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. There has been a substantial revision to the value of fertiliser in 2023. See the revisions section in Chapter 4 for details.

Text description for Figure 9.4: Figure 9.4 is a line chart showing the value of fertilisers in real terms from 2000 to 2024. Values are presented in millions.

Download the full Intermediate consumption dataset

Natural gas is used in the process of manufacturing nitrogen fertilisers and its price is closely linked to the price of oil. Consequently, if the price of oil rises so does the cost of producing fertiliser.

Figure 9.4 shows fertiliser costs since 2000 in real terms. Between 2000 and 2007 fertiliser costs were largely stable, before increasing sharply in 2008 and remaining high until peaking at £2,221 million in 2011. Between 2012 and 2019 fertiliser costs steadily declined, with a sharp drop in 2020, resulting from reductions in both prices and the volume of fertilisers used. Fertiliser costs began to increase in 2021 before a sharp rise in 2022 as a result of steep rises in oil prices which drove up the cost of fertiliser production. Prices remained high into the following year with 2023 seeing the highest expenditure on fertilisers, in real terms, since 1987.

In 2024, the value of fertilisers decreased by £617 million (-26%) from 2023, in current prices to £1,725 million. This was driven by a decrease in the cost of gas, a key input for fertiliser production, in comparison to the high prices seen in 2022 and 2023. The decrease in price led to an increase in fertiliser applications per unit area; however this was offset by reductions in key crop areas, including an 11% decrease in wheat area and a 15% decrease in winter barley area. It should be noted that there was a large revision to the estimated value of fertilisers in 2023. This was a result of earlier estimates, made on the basis of fertiliser application rates and crop areas, being updated with the latest fertiliser expenditure data from the Farm Business Survey. See the revision section in Chapter 4: Accounts for details.

Other Input Costs

The cost of seeds in 2024 was £975 million, an increase of £24 million (2.6%) from 2023, in current prices. Seed usage is driven by a combination of crop area, time of drilling, and drilling conditions. Wet weather conditions in 2023 caused a reduction in the winter crop areas for the 2024 harvest, as a result of failed plantings and waterlogged seed beds. To compensate for this, in 2024 there was an increase in spring crop areas and winter cereal areas planted in autumn.

The cost of plant protection products in 2024 was £969 million, a decrease of £106 million (-9.8%) from 2023, in current prices. This decrease was largely driven by a reduction in the volume applied on cereal farms due to reduced cropping areas for winter wheat, winter barley, and oilseed rape.

Revisions

Details of the 2023 fertiliser revision can be found in Chapter 4: Accounts

Chapter 10: Agricultural Support Payments

Summary

Key results for 2024 compared to 2023:

- **Total Payments and support to the Agricultural Industry** increased by 3.4% to £4,426 million.
- Payments associated with the **Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)** and the replacement **De-linked Payment Scheme (DPS)** decreased by 17% to £1,585 million.
- Payments associated with **Agri-Environment Schemes** increased by 51% to £1,121 million.

The figures published as part of this chapter have been calculated using the payments made to agricultural producers that are reported to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as part of the annual Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report.

Introduction

This chapter shows the estimated value of agricultural support payments in the United Kingdom, which include direct payments and capital grants awarded to producers as well as general services support to the agricultural industry, for the calendar periods January to December.

Agricultural support will vary as older schemes close and new schemes are introduced; therefore, care should be taken when comparing between UK countries and years.

In 2021, agricultural support payments began to change following the UK's departure from the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). From 2021 onwards all BPS payments were funded by the UK exchequer.

Legacy schemes that were co-funded from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) until the end of 2023 have now ceased. Some of these schemes remain in place and are now wholly funded by the UK exchequer.

As the UK moves away from the BPS, England along with the devolved governments are implementing new schemes which are designed to support and incentivise sustainable farming practices and environmental outcomes.

Agricultural Support Payments

Figures 10.1 and 10.2 below show the payments made to agricultural producers that are reported to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as part of the annual Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report.

Note that these figures will not align with total payments recorded in the UK agricultural accounts (see Chapter 4: Accounts) because the accounts item does not include payments for capital grants, as well as other more minor differences in scope.

Figure 10.1: Agricultural support payments by nation in 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Nation	2023 (£m)	2024 (£m)
Total for United Kingdom	4,282	4,426
England	2,240	2,556
Northern Ireland	405	381
Scotland	604	630
Wales	407	245
Breakdown Unavailable by Nation	626	613

Notes:

1. "Breakdown Unavailable by Nation" refers to spend that is only available at a more aggregated level, i.e. England & Wales, GB or UK.

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In 2024, the overall UK agricultural support payments increased by £144.1 million (+3.4%).

From 2023 to 2024 the nation breakdown, where available, reflects an increase in payments of £316 million (+14%) for England. Payments for Scotland increased by 4.4%, Northern Ireland decreased by 5.9% and Wales decreased by 40%. The decrease for Wales in 2024 reflects a reduction in payments due to spend in 2023 including payments under the EU Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 for two scheme years, paid January to June 2023, and in December 2023. Note that there is an additional £613 million of payments for which the data is only available at an aggregate level and can not be broken down into individual nations.

Figure 10.2: UK Agricultural support payments by payment category in 2023 and 2024 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Payment by Category	2023 (£m)	2024 (£m)
Agri-environment Schemes	743	1,121
Basic and Delinked Payment Schemes	1,902	1,585
General Services Support	671	724
Other Schemes	576	658
Red Diesel	390	338
Total for United Kingdom	4,282	4,426

Notes:

1. “Agri-environment schemes” in 2023 and 2024 include but are not limited to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CS), Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ES) the Sustainable Farming Incentive schemes (SFI) and Landscape Recovery schemes (LR).
2. “Other Schemes” include but are not limited to Animal Disease Compensation payments, Peatland and Forestry restoration schemes as well as the Farming Investment Fund.
3. For England the Delinked Payment Scheme (DPS) replaced the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in 2024. Delinked payments are not linked to land area and will decrease each year as progressive reductions are applied.

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From 2023 to 2024 the UK has seen an overall decrease in BPS and Delinked payments of £316.3 million (-17%) and an increase in Agri-environment scheme payments of £378 million (+51%). Other scheme payments have increased by £81.7 million (+14%) and payments associated with General Services Support have also increased by £52.6 million (+7.8%).

Take-up of agri-environment schemes

Agri-environment schemes provide an incentive to farmers to adopt land management and farm practices that are beneficial to the environment. The uptake of Agri-environment schemes is shown by the total number of Agri-environment agreements in place and the total area of land under these agreements. Due to the differing requirements of schemes, care should be taken when making comparisons. Fluctuations in areas and numbers occur as old schemes expire, and new schemes begin.

Figure 10.3 Area under agri-environment schemes by country for 2022 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries:FCPstatsandreporting@defra.gov.uk

Nation	2022	2023	2024
England	3,565	4,487	5,571
Wales	554	481	0
Scotland	870	842	884
Northern Ireland	63	62	59

Notes:

1. These numbers are based on the total area per land parcel for each option. Options may not cover the total area of the land parcel.
2. For England (pre-2023), Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the total area covered by agri-environment schemes are presented as a sum of the individual scheme areas. This may include a small amount of double-counting as different schemes can cover the same land areas. The England area pre-2024 was also based on the sum of all whole land parcels under agreement. From 2024 onwards the English total is based on a new methodology. This removes any overlap, so the total area for England will be smaller than the sum of the individual scheme areas. It also uses the action area rather than whole parcel area, which gives a better estimate of the area under active management. For details of this methodology, see the Area under agri-environment schemes in England at 31st December 2024 publication.
3. For Scotland, the area under agri-environment schemes is the sum of all action areas within each scheme. This may include some double-counting of land areas, as different actions can be done on the same land.
4. Agri-environment schemes included in the data shown are Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Stewardship, SFI23 and SFI Expanded offer.
5. In 2024 there were no active agri-environment schemes operating in Wales.

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Figure 10.4 Number of agri-environment agreements by country for 2022 to 2024

Enquiries: FCPstatsandreporting@defra.gov.uk

Nation	2022	2023	2024
England	34,500	50,900	69,700
Northern Ireland	5,000	4,800	3,500
Scotland	3,400	3,400	3,300
Wales	2,800	2,800	0

Notes:

1. Agri-environment schemes included in the data shown are Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Stewardship, SFI23 and SFI Expanded offer.
2. All remaining Glastir schemes ended in 2023, with new agri-environment schemes not planned until 2026.
3. In 2024 there were no active agri-environment schemes operating in Wales.

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Revisions

Figures are provisional and subject to revision as a result of more data becoming available over time. Revisions are intended to enhance the precision of these estimates. Occasionally revisions are necessary to refine the methodology or correct historical errors. Such revisions will always be noted.

Some key presentational changes have been made since the last publication to align with international reporting for the OECD Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report:

- Data used to produce Figures 10.1 and 10.2 has been compiled using updated and revised figures declared as part of the OECD declarations for 2023 and 2024.
- The breakdown of payments has also been changed to ensure it remains relevant for the users of this data given the change in agricultural payment structures and mechanisms.
- Access to the historical datasets for AUK Chapter 10 can be found on the National Archive.

Chapter 11: Agri-environment

Key messages

- Estimated **greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions** from agriculture have fallen between 1990 and 2023.
- Since the late 1990s, **nitrogen and phosphate fertiliser application rates** have fallen. Phosphate application was at its lowest rate in 2023, with nitrogen application showing a slight increase from 2022.
- **Soil nutrient balances for nitrogen and phosphorus** have fluctuated over time, but have shown an overall downward trend and were at their lowest levels in 2022 with marginal increases in 2023.

Introduction

Whilst agriculture contributes less than 1% to the United Kingdom's (UK) economy, it provides around three-quarters of the indigenous food we eat and is responsible for around 70% of land use.

Agricultural production and the associated land use and management are key drivers of the environmental impacts from the sector. A key challenge is to decouple production from its environmental impact so that production can be increased whilst reducing the overall environmental footprint.

Farm practices and the use of inputs (particularly fertilisers and pesticides) directly influence the environmental pressures from farming including the quality, composition and availability of habitats and impact on air, water and soils.

In recent years, the key drivers of change in terms of environmental pressures from agriculture are declines in the number of livestock, specifically ruminants, and reductions in fertiliser applications, particularly on grassland.

All the data presented in this chapter is the most recent at the time of publication. Links to further information on source data has been provided for each section of this chapter.

Emissions

Agriculture accounts for around 12% of greenhouse gases in the UK. Three greenhouse gases emitted by agriculture are nitrous oxide, methane and carbon dioxide. Agriculture is also responsible for a large proportion of the UK's ammonia emissions, which impact on air quality and subsequently human and animal health.

Figure 11.1 Emissions from agriculture in 2023 (percentage)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Emission	Agriculture	Other sectors or sources	Total
Nitrous oxide	69	31	100
Methane	48	52	100
Carbon dioxide	3	97	100
Ammonia	87	13	100

Notes:

1. Data for greenhouse gas emissions are revised each year to take account of methodological improvements in the UK emissions inventory.

Source: UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, DESNZ, Emissions of air pollutants, Defra

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Agriculture is a major source of nitrous oxide, methane and ammonia in the UK, accounting for 69% of nitrous oxide emissions, 48% of methane emissions and 87%

of ammonia emissions in 2023. In contrast, agriculture only accounted for 2.6% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2023.

As shown in Figures 11.2 to 11.4, total amounts of nitrous oxide, methane and carbon dioxide have reduced since 1990, however this is mainly due to reductions in non-agricultural sources. Therefore, whilst agriculture has seen reductions in emissions of nitrous oxide and methane, they now account for a larger proportion of total emissions.

Figure 11.2 Nitrous oxide emissions, 1990 and 2023 (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	16.4	27.7	44.1
2023	12.5	5.6	18.1

Notes:

1. Data for greenhouse gas emissions are revised each year to take account of methodological improvements in the UK emissions inventory.

Source: UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, DESNZ

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The majority of agricultural nitrous oxide emissions are sourced from soils, particularly as a result of nitrogen fertiliser application, manure (both applied and excreted on pasture) and leaching/run-off. In 2023, nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture are estimated to have fallen by approximately 24% since 1990. This is consistent with trends in fertiliser usage.

Figure 11.3 Methane emissions, 1990 and 2023 (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	32.9	115.6	148.5
2023	27.2	29.8	57

Notes:

1. Data for greenhouse gas emissions are revised each year to take account of methodological improvements in the UK emissions inventory.

Source: UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, DESNZ

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The majority of methane emissions from agriculture are from enteric fermentation (digestive processes) in ruminating animals, with manure management practices accounting for the remainder. In 2023, methane emissions from agriculture are

estimated to have fallen by 17% since 1990, mainly as a result of decreasing livestock numbers, particularly in cattle.

Figure 11.4 Carbon dioxide, 1990 and 2023 (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	8.9	594.4	603.3
2023	8	294.8	302.8

Notes:

1. Data for greenhouse gas emissions are revised each year to take account of methodological improvements in the UK emissions inventory.

Source: UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, DESNZ

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Agriculture's emissions of carbon dioxide have remained low since 1990 and accounted for only 2.6% of total emissions in 2023. Whilst the proportion of carbon dioxide emissions related to agriculture are low, levels increased in 2004 and have since fluctuated but remained at similar levels.

Figure 11.5 Ammonia emissions, 1990 and 2023 (thousand tonnes)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	279.9	27.4	307.3
2023	230.7	34.2	265

Source: Emissions of air pollutants, Defra

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In 2023, agriculture accounted for 87% of the UK's ammonia emissions. The main sources of ammonia emissions in the UK are agricultural soils and livestock, in particular cattle.

In 2023, ammonia emissions from agriculture are estimated to have fallen by 18% since 1990 due to long-term reductions in cattle numbers and more efficient fertiliser use. Emissions have generally fluctuated since 2010, in part driven by annual variations in weather conditions affecting crop planting and fertiliser use, as well as energy prices affecting the use of fertilisers.

Pesticide use

Figure 11.6 Weight of pesticides applied to arable crops, 2010 to 2022 (tonnes)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Fungicides	Growth regulators	Herbicides	Insecticides	Molluscicides	Other	Total
2010	4,811	2,631	6,253	336	174	0	14,205
2012	5,292	2,803	6,619	344	126	0	15,183
2014	5,592	2,730	7,051	245	132	92	15,843
2016	5,883	2,639	7,770	187	158	88	16,724
2018	5,745	2,547	8,414	164	174	90	17,134
2020	4,449	1,799	6,074	133	96	2	12,552
2022	4,045	2,672	7,848	135	85	15	14,799

Notes:

1. 'Other'refers to chemicals grouped together because they were applied to less than 0.1% of the total area treated with pesticides

Source: Pesticide usage surveys, fera

Download the full Agri-environment dataset

Plant protection products (pesticides) are used to regulate growth and to manage pests, weeds, and diseases in crops. They play a major role in maintaining high crop yields and therefore greater production from agricultural land. However, they can have detrimental impacts on the environment, particularly on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

The need for pesticide usage varies from year to year depending on growing conditions, particularly the weather which influences disease, weed and pest pressures. In addition, longer term variations are due to changes in the range and activity of active substances, the economics of pest control, and resistance issues.

In the United Kingdom, pesticides applied to arable crops (which include cereals, oilseeds, potatoes, pulses, and sugar beet) make up around 85-90% of all pesticides applied to agricultural land. Whilst the estimated total area used for growing arable crops has remained relatively stable since 2010 (~4 million hectares), the weight of pesticides applied to these crops have varied over the same time period.

In absolute terms, there has been little change in total pesticide usage since 2010 (14,205 tonnes in 2010 vs 14,799 tonnes in 2022). However, between 2010 to 2018 there was a gradual increase in the weight of pesticides applied, followed by a substantial drop in usage in 2020, which was partly due to a switch from winter cropping to spring cropping arising from challenging weather conditions in the autumn of 2019.

In 2022, pesticide use increased but still fell below the levels seen in 2018. Figure 11.6 shows the weight of pesticides applied to arable crops in the UK since 2010, split by the different chemical groups used.

Fertiliser use

Nitrogen and phosphorus are key nutrients needed for crop growth. A deficit in either or both of these nutrients can have a negative impact on crop yields and levels of production. The main source of these nutrients are mineral fertilisers and organic fertilisers such as manures and slurries from livestock.

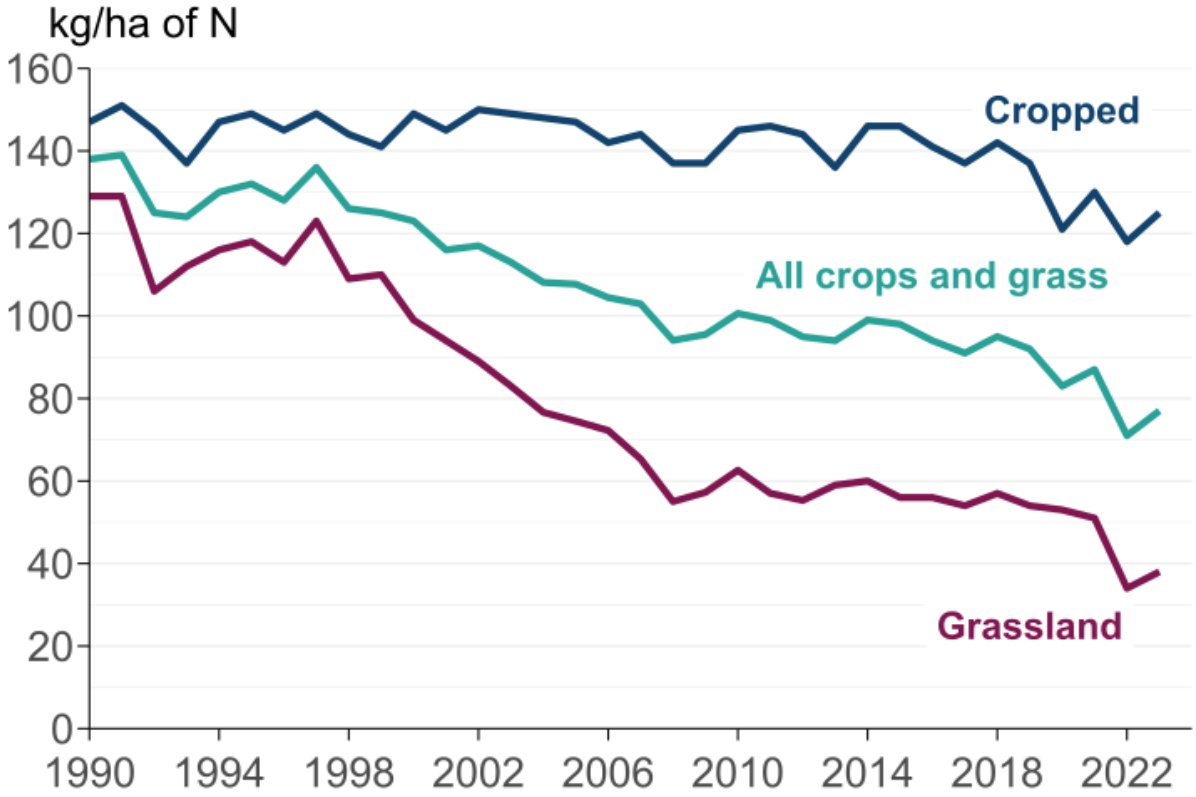
Fertilisers can have an adverse impact on the environment depending on the application method, through over-application and natural losses from soils and manures. These impacts include water quality (nitrogen and phosphorus levels in waterbodies), air quality (ammonia emissions) and climate change (nitrous oxide emissions).

Most agricultural soils do not contain enough naturally occurring plant-available nitrogen to meet the needs of a crop throughout the growing season so supplementary nitrogen applications are needed each year. Nitrogen usually has a large immediate effect on crop growth, yield and quality. Correct rate and timing of applications is important to ensure crop growth requirements are met.

Annual levels of nitrogen and phosphate application are influenced by fertiliser prices, crop prices, crop type and weather-related issues during the growing season.

Figure 11.7 Overall application rate of nitrogen (N) on all crops and grass (kg/ha), Great Britain, 1990 to 2023

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. Cropped land is tillage crops.

Source: British survey of fertiliser practice, Defra

Text description of Figure 11.7: Figure 11.7 is a line chart showing the overall application rate of nitrogen on all crops and grass, cropped land and grassland from 1990 to 2023. Overall application rates of nitrogen have shown an overall decline on grassland, steadily decreasing from around 1998. Rates have been similar since 2008, with the largest decline occurring in 2022. Application rates on cropped land have fluctuated over time but saw large dips in 2020 and 2022, with an overall decline from 2010 to the present year.

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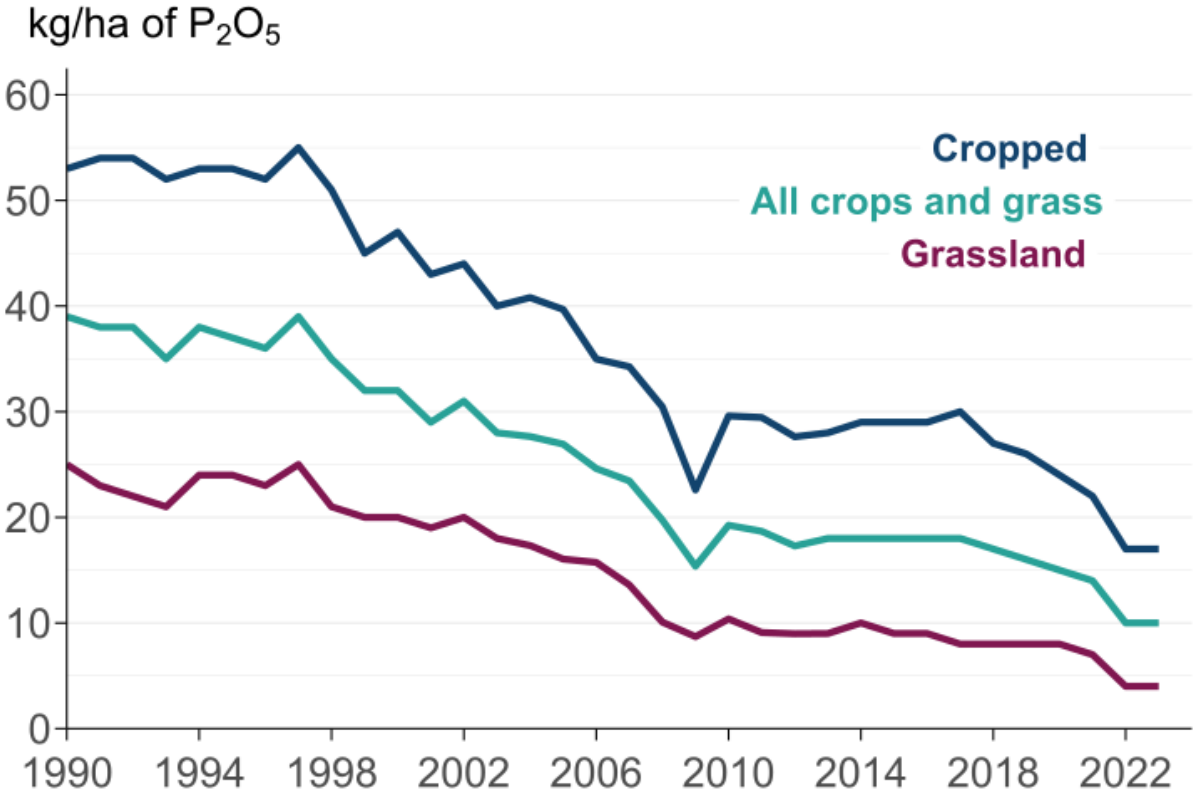
In Great Britain between 1990 and 2018 the overall application rate of mineral nitrogen on cropped land was largely in the range of 140-150 kg/ha, but it has declined in recent years. In 2023, the rate of nitrogen application on cropped land was 125 kg/ha. This was an increase of 7 kg/ha compared to 2022.

For grassland, nutrient application rates have always been lower than for cropped land. Between 1990 and 2023, there has been a downward trend in the overall mineral nitrogen application rate on grassland. The fall in application rates until 2008 is likely to be related in part to decreases in ruminant livestock numbers. Since then,

the rate of nitrogen application to grassland had remained relatively constant until 2022, when the rate dropped by 17 kg/ha (-33%) to 34 kg/ha, and has remained relatively low in 2023 at 38 kg/ha. This recent reduction in application rates coincides with high prices for fertilisers in 2022 and 2023, driven by increases in the cost of gas, a key ingredient in fertiliser production.

Figure 11.8 Overall application rate of phosphate (P2O5) on all crops and grass (kg/ha), Great Britain, 1990 to 2023

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. Cropped land is tillage crops.

Source: British survey of fertiliser practice, Defra

Text description of Figure 11.8: Figure 11.8 is a line chart showing the overall application rate of phosphate on all crops and grass, cropped land and grassland from 1990 to 2023. Whilst overall rates have been higher on cropped land, the trends of phosphate application rates on cropped land and grassland have been similar, showing a steady overall decline.

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Phosphate is applied in fertilisers and manures, particularly to replace the quantities removed in harvested crops. Most British soils can hold large quantities of phosphate in forms that are available for crop uptake over several years. Therefore, managing the supply of phosphate is based on maintaining appropriate levels in the soil with the timing of applications less critical.

In 2023, the overall application rates of mineral phosphate on all crops and grass were around a quarter of the level seen in 1990, with no change compared to 2022. Application rates in 2022 and 2023 were the lowest since the series began.

As with nitrogen, application rates on grassland have always been less than on cropped land and both have shown an overall downward trend between 1990 and 2023. The decline levelled off from around 2012, with a further reduction observed in 2022.

Soil nutrient balances

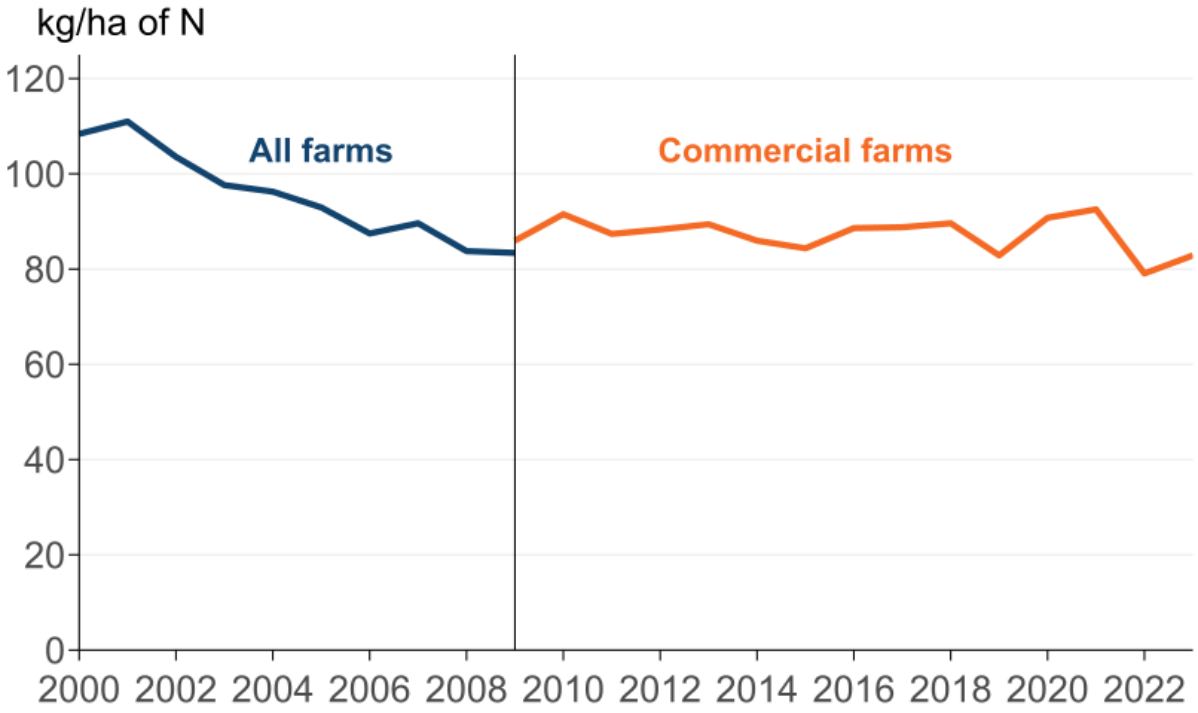
Soil nutrient balances provide an indication of the overall environmental pressure from nitrogen and phosphorus in agricultural soils. They measure the difference between nutrients applied to soils (largely as fertilisers and manures) and those removed from soils by the growth of crops, including grass for fodder and grazing. They give an indication of the potential risk associated with losses of nutrients to the environment, which can impact on air and water quality and on climate change.

The nutrient balances are used as a high-level indicator of farming's pressure on the environment and how that pressure is changing over time. The balances do not estimate the actual losses of nutrients to the environment, but significant nutrient surpluses are directly linked with losses to the environment.

An increase in the balance per hectare indicates a greater environmental risk from nutrient losses and their associated emissions, whereas a decrease in the balance per hectare broadly indicates a reduced environmental risk. However, there is a risk that nutrient deficits lead to poor soil fertility and subsequent loss of yields.

Figure 11.9 Nitrogen (N) soil nutrient balance (kg/ha), 2000 to 2023

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. From 2010 in England, June survey data for land and animals is collected only for commercial farms.
2. From 2000 to 2008 data is for all farms and hence based on a larger population.
3. For comparability, data for 2009 have been presented on both the definition used for 2000 to 2008 and that used from 2010 onwards.
4. The series break in 2009 is due to changes in farm survey data collection.

Source: Soil nutrient balances, Defra

Text description of Figure 11.9: Figure 11.9 is a line chart showing the nitrogen soil nutrient balance on farms from 2000 to 2023. Balances have fluctuated over time and remained between 80 kg/ha and 100 kg/ha from 2002 up to 2021. In 2022, the balance dropped below 80 kg/ha (79 kg/ha) for the first time since the series began, but has increased to 83 kg/ha in 2023.

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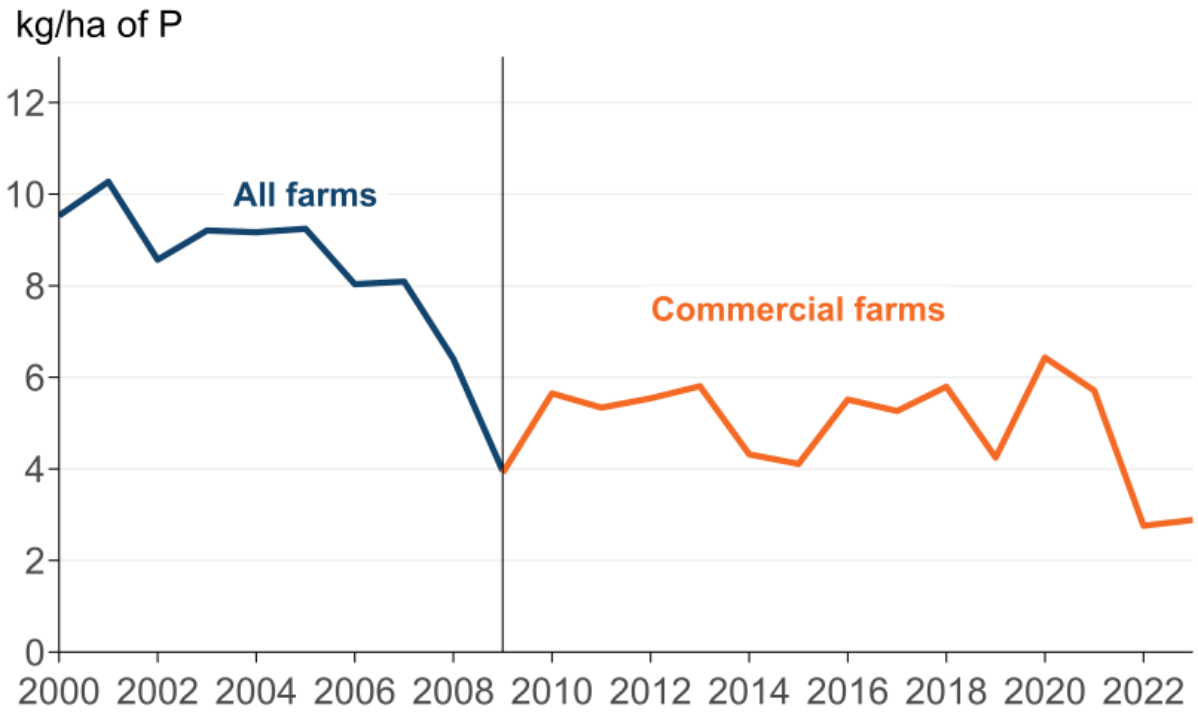
Estimates for 2023 show that the nitrogen balance for the UK was a surplus of 83 kg/ha on managed agricultural land. This was an increase of 3.8kg/ha (+4.8%) compared to 2022. This was driven by a decrease in total offtake of 4.5kg/ha (-4.4%) (primarily due to a reduction in offtake from cereal crops) coupled with a decrease in total inputs of 0.7 kg/ha (-0.4%) (mainly from a reduction in livestock manure production, as a result of reduced livestock numbers) over the same period.

Between 2000 and 2023, total inputs of nitrogen decreased by 56 kg/ha (-24%), which more than offset a decrease in total offtake of 30 kg/ha (-23%). The main drivers behind the decrease in total inputs of nitrogen were reductions in the application of inorganic manufactured fertiliser and livestock manure production. The main drivers behind the decrease in total offtake of nitrogen were a decrease in pasture consumption due to a reduction in the number of grazing livestock and reduced cereal offtake.

Figure 11.10 Phosphorus (P) soil nutrient balance (kg/ha), 2000 to 2023

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. From 2010 in England, June survey data for land and animals is collected only for commercial farms.
2. From 2000 to 2008 data is for all farms and hence based on a larger population.
3. For comparability, data for 2009 have been presented on both the definition used for 2000 to 2008 and that used from 2010 onwards.
4. The series break in 2009 is due to changes in farm survey data collection.

Source: Soil nutrient balances, Defra

Text description for Figure 11.10: Figure 11.10 is a line chart showing the phosphorus soil nutrient balance on farms from 2000 to 2023. The soil nutrient balance fluctuated but showed an overall decline from approximately 9.5 kg/ha in 2000 to approximately 3.9 kg/ha in 2009. Since then, the balance has continued to fluctuate but remained between 4 and 8 kg/ha up to 2021. In 2022, the balance fell below 4 kg/ha, to 2.8 kg/ha and has marginally increased to 2.9 kg/ha in 2023.

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Estimates for 2023 show that the phosphorus balance for the UK was a surplus of 2.9 kg/ha on managed agricultural land. This is an increase of 0.1kg/ha (+4.5%) compared to 2022. This was driven by a slightly higher decrease in total offtake of 0.9kg/ha (-5.1%) (primarily due to a reduction in harvested crops), balanced against a lower decrease in total inputs of 0.8 kg/ha (-3.8%) (primarily from small reductions in the use of inorganic manufactured fertiliser and livestock manure production) over the same period.

Since 2000, there's been an overall reduction of 6.6 kg/ha (-70%) and the 2023 estimate for the UK phosphorus balance was the second lowest in the time series. Over this time, total inputs of phosphorus decreased by 11 kg/ha (-35%), which more than offset a decrease in total offtake of 4.3 kg/ha (-20%).

As with nitrogen, the main driver behind this longer term decrease in total offtake of phosphorus was a decrease in pasture consumption due to a reduction in the number of grazing livestock.

Chapter 12: Organic Farming

Summary

In 2024:

- 503 thousand hectares were **farmed organically** in the UK.
- 59% of UK **organic land** was in England, 26% in Scotland, 14% in Wales and 1.4% in Northern Ireland.
- **Permanent pasture (including rough grazing)** accounted for 62% of organic land in the UK, covering 311 thousand hectares.
- 10% of organic land in the UK was used to grow **cereals** (50 thousand hectares).
- 2.9% of **cattle** in the UK were reared organically.
- There were a total of 5,133 **organic operators** in the UK.

Introduction

Organic farming is a method of farming that requires farmers to operate to a system based on ecological principles which impose strict limitations on the inputs that can be used, with the aim of minimising damage to the environment and wildlife. Emphasis is placed on natural methods of production and pest control.

All foods sold as organic must originate from growers, processors and importers who are registered with an approved certification body and subject to regular inspection. During these inspections, the crop areas and numbers of livestock present on the organic holding are recorded. Due to the nature of the inspections, the data are collected at varying times through the year. The data presented in this chapter therefore do not give an exact snapshot of organic farming at any specific time of year and this should be considered when interpreting the results.

Organic land area

Land area farmed organically

In 2024, the UK had a total area of 503 thousand hectares of land farmed organically, an increase of 1.0% compared to 2023. The total area includes both the fully converted area and area under conversion.

Organic production comes from fully converted land, which is land that has undergone conversion to meet organic standards. In 2024, the UK had 454 thousand hectares of fully organic land. This represents a decrease of 1.7% from 2023.

Land in-conversion is discussed in detail below.

Figure 12.1: Land area farmed organically, 2015 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Year	In-conversion	Fully organic	Total
2015	21	501	521
2016	25	483	508
2017	33	485	517
2018	33	441	474
2019	28	457	485
2020	31	458	489
2021	42	465	507
2022	40	468	509
2023	36	462	498
2024	49	454	503

Notes:

1. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Table 12.1: Area farmed organically by country, 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Country	Area in-conversion	Fully organic area	Total organic area	Total area on agricultural holdings at June	Total organic area as % of June area
United Kingdom	**49**	**454**	**503**	**16,848**	**3.0%**
England	20	276	296	8,877	3.3%
Wales	2.3	66	68	1,775	3.8%
Scotland	27	105	132	5,155	2.6%
Northern Ireland	0.1	6.8	7.0	1,040	0.7%

Notes:

1. Total land area on agricultural holdings at June, excludes common land.
2. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics and June Survey of Agriculture as at 1 June 2024: Crops

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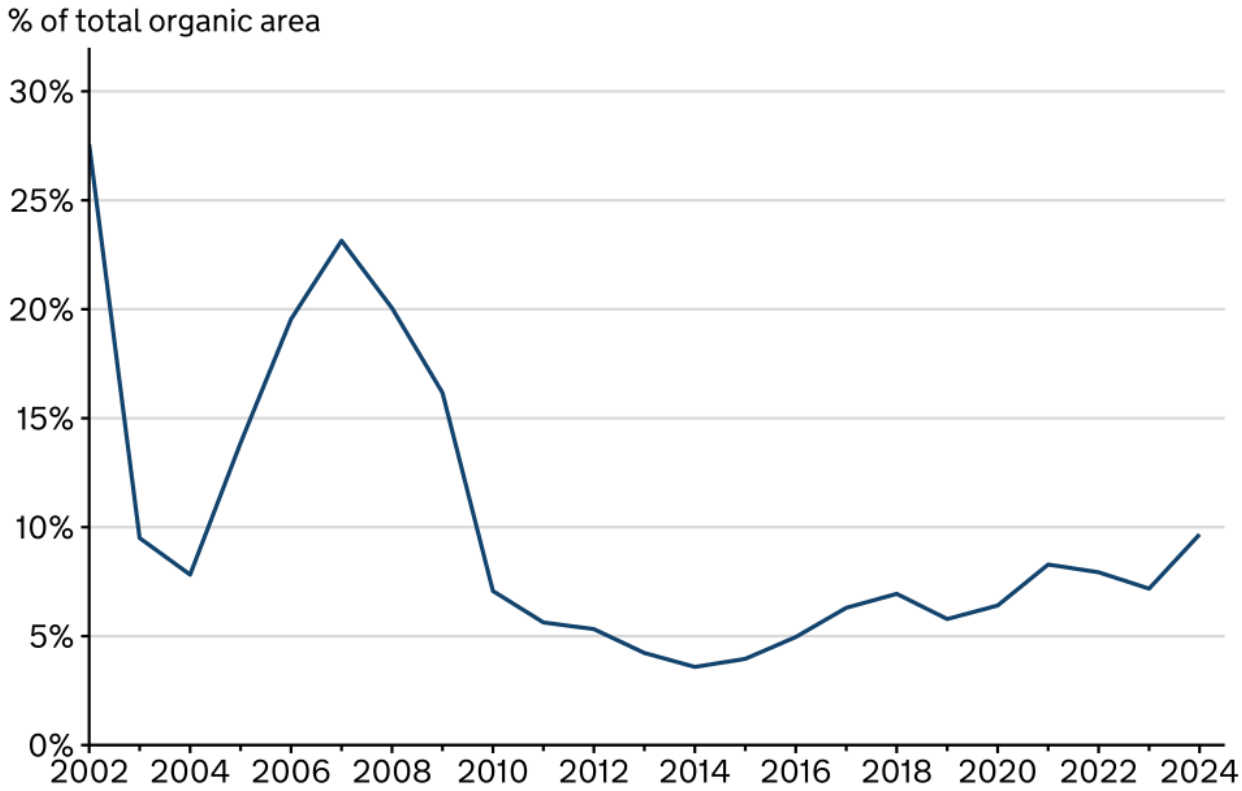
Land in-conversion

Before an area can be considered fully organic, it must undergo a conversion process. In 2024, the UK had 49 thousand hectares of land in-conversion. This constitutes an increase of 36% from 2023.

The area in-conversion expressed as a percentage of the total organic area can give an indication of the potential growth in the organic sector. In 2024, land in-conversion made up 9.7% of the total organic land in the UK. This was an increase of 2.5 percentage points from 2023.

Figure 12.2: Land in-conversion as a proportion of the total area farmed organically, 2002 to 2024

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk



Source: Defra organic farming statistics

Text description of Figure 12.2: Figure 12.2 shows the area of land in-conversion as a proportion of total land area farmed organically in the UK from 2002 to 2024. The percentage of land in-conversion in the UK peaked in 2002, with the lowest percentage occurring in 2014. Since 2014, the area of in-conversion land has fluctuated but generally shows an upward trend.

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Organic land use

Organic land use

Permanent pasture (including rough grazing) accounts for the biggest share of the organic area in the UK (62%), followed by temporary pasture (18%) and cereals (10%). The full breakdown of organic land use in the UK is shown in figure 12.3 and tables 12.2 and 12.3.

Figure 12.3: Organic land use, 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Use	Area
Permanent pasture (incl. rough grazing)	311
Temporary pasture	90
Cereals	50
Woodland	18
Other arable crops	12
Vegetables (incl. potatoes)	9.8
Unutilised & unknown	9.6
Fruit & nuts	2.2
Herbaceous & ornamentals	0.6

Notes:

1. Some land areas are provided without a crop category or land use description, therefore these are classified as unknown.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Table 12.2: Organic land use, 2021 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Use	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage change 2024/2023
Cereals	47	49	50	50	-0.1%
Other arable crops	11	11	11	12	7.3%
Fruit & nuts	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	-0.5%
Vegetables (incl. potatoes)	9.8	10	10	9.8	-4.0%
Herbaceous & ornamentals	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	25%
Temporary pasture	100	96	91	90	-1.8%
Permanent pasture (incl. rough grazing)	311	314	307	311	1.1%
Woodland	17	17	18	18	3.0%
Unutilised land	3.3	3.2	3.2	4.4	39%
Unknown	5.2	4.4	4.2	5.2	24%
Total	**507**	**509**	**498**	**503**	**1.0%**

Notes:

1. Includes fully organic land and land in-conversion.
2. Some land areas are provided without a crop category or land use description, therefore these are classified as unknown.
3. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Table 12.3: Detailed fully organic and in-conversion land use, 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Use	Area in-conversion	Fully organic area	Total organic area	Total area on agricultural holdings at June	Total organic area as % of June area
Cereals	**3.2**	**47**	**50**	**2,966**	**1.7%**
Wheat	1.6	19	20	1,531	1.3%
Barley	0.6	5.1	5.7	1,194	0.5%
Oats	0.6	17	18	182	9.8%
Other cereals	0.5	6.2	6.7	59	11%
Other arable crops	**1.3**	**11**	**12**	**1,049**	**1.1%**
Sugar beet	0.0	0.3	0.3	103	0.3%
Fodder, forage & silage	1.0	9.3	10	94	11%
Maize, oilseeds & protein crops	0.2	1.0	1.2	852	0.1%
Fruit & nuts	**0.1**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**31**	**7.3%**
Vegetables	**0.4**	**7.7**	**8.0**	**97**	**8.3%**
Potatoes	**0.1**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**118**	**1.5%**
Herbaceous & ornamentals	**0.1**	**0.5**	**0.6**	**10**	**5.8%**
Temporary pasture	**5.1**	**85**	**90**	**1,275**	**7.0%**
Permanent pasture (excl. rough grazing)	**23**	**216**	**239**	**5,865**	**4.1%**
Rough grazing	**13**	**59**	**72**	**3,511**	**2.0%**
Woodland	**1.7**	**17**	**18**	**939**	**1.9%**
Unutilised land	**0.8**	**3.6**	**4.4**	**[x]**	**[x]**
Unknown	**0.4**	**4.8**	**5.2**	**[x]**	**[x]**
Total	**49**	**454**	**503**	**[x]**	**[x]**

Notes:

1. Total land area on agricultural holdings at June, excludes common land.
2. Some land areas are provided without a crop category or land use description, therefore these are classified as unknown.
3. “[x]” indicates no comparable June survey data is available.
4. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics and June Survey of Agriculture as at 1 June 2024: Crops

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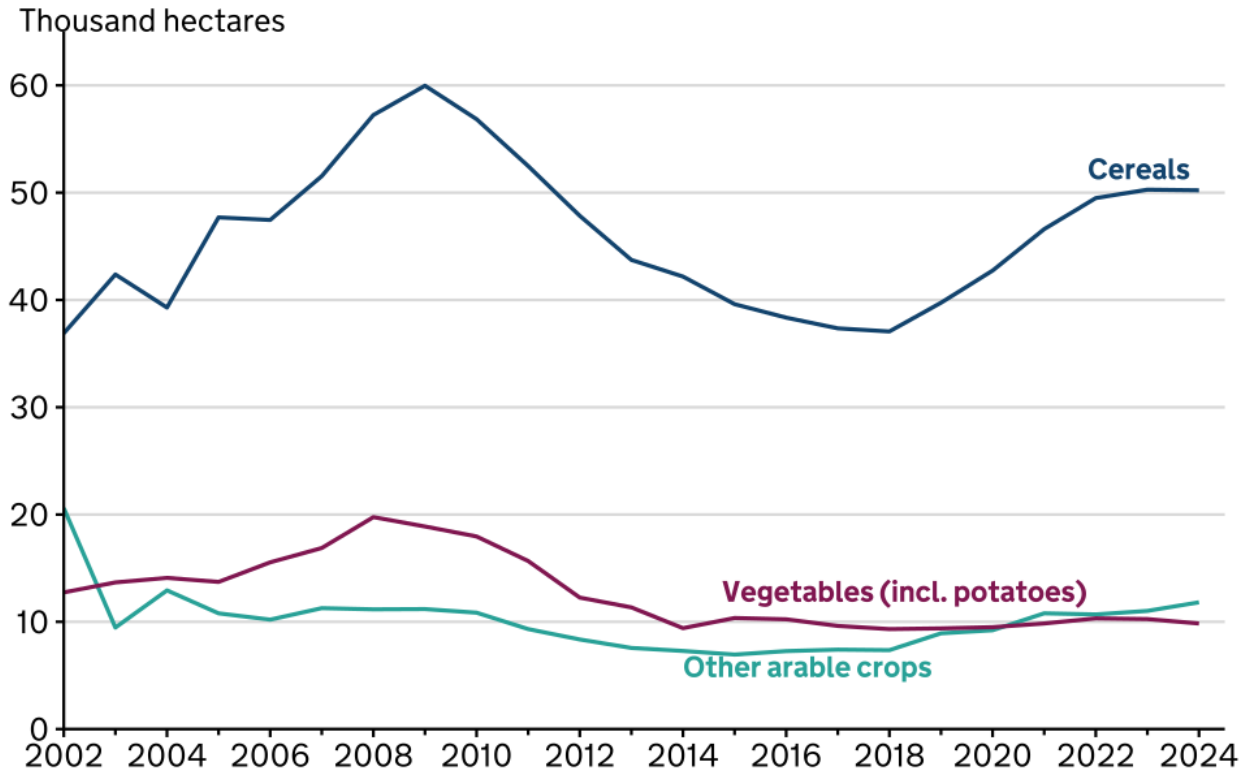
Organic crops

The three main crop types grown organically are cereals, other arable crops and vegetables (including potatoes). In the UK the area of organically grown cereal crops decreased by 0.1% to 50 thousand hectares in 2024. Other arable crops increased by 7.3% to 12 thousand hectares. The area of organically grown vegetables (including potatoes) decreased by 4.0% to 9.8 thousand hectares in 2024.

Figure 12.4: Organic crops, 2002 to 2024 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. Includes fully organic land and land in-conversion.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

Text description of Figure 12.4: Figure 12.4 shows the area of land, in thousand hectares, used to organically farm cereals, other arable crops and vegetables (including potatoes) from 2002 to 2024. Cereals have the highest area of organic farming, which peaked in 2009. From this peak, the organic area used to farm cereals declined until 2018. Since 2018, the area of cereals increased steadily until 2023, following which there was small decrease in 2024. Other arable crops and

vegetables (including potatoes) have had similar areas of organic farming throughout the time series. Other arable crops peaked in 2002 and vegetables peaked in 2008.

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Organic livestock

Table 12.4: Detailed organic livestock numbers, 2024 (thousand head)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Livestock	Total organic livestock	Total livestock at June	Organic livestock as % of June livestock
Cattle	**270**	**9,412**	**2.9%**
For slaughter	120	3,682	3.3%
Dairy cows	48	3,209	1.5%
Other cattle	101	2,521	4.0%
Sheep	**647**	**31,017**	**2.1%**
Breeding females	353	14,882	2.4%
Other sheep	294	16,135	1.8%
Pigs	**16**	**4,716**	**0.3%**
Fattening pigs	10	4,295	0.2%
Breeding sows	1.7	327	0.5%
Other pigs	4.6	93	4.9%
Poultry	**4,851**	**176,085**	**2.8%**
Broilers	2,511	112,374	2.2%
Laying hens	2,174	41,863	5.2%
Other poultry	167	21,848	0.8%
Other livestock	**7.3**	**[x]**	**[x]**
Farmed deer	6.0	39	15%
Goats	1.2	109	1.1%
Horses	0.1	204	[low]
Others	[low]	[x]	[x]

Notes:

1. Data relates to fully organic livestock only.
2. “Others” include camelids and any livestock not recorded elsewhere.
3. “[x]” indicates no comparable June survey data is available.
4. “[low]” indicates a value that is greater than zero, but shows as zero due to rounding. See the accompanying dataset for the unrounded value.
5. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics, June Survey of Agriculture as at 1 June 2024: Livestock and the Cattle Tracing System for cattle populations

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Organic cattle

In 2024, organically reared cattle numbers decreased by 7.1% to 270 thousand head. This represents 2.9% of the total herd in the UK.

Figure 12.5: Number of organic cattle, 2016 to 2024 (thousand head)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Years	For slaughter	Dairy cows	Other cattle	Total
2016	99	81	116	296
2017	111	76	107	294
2018	116	88	120	324
2019	88	90	123	301
2020	122	60	122	304
2021	120	59	117	296
2022	122	57	119	299
2023	129	51	110	290
2024	120	48	101	270

Notes:

1. Data relates to fully organic livestock only.
2. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Organic sheep

The number of sheep reared organically decreased by 6.5% to 647 thousand head and accounted for 2.1% of the total flock in the UK.

Figure 12.6: Number of organic sheep, 2016 to 2024 (thousand head)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Years	Breeding females	Other sheep	Total
2016	431	410	841
2017	462	425	887
2018	447	380	827
2019	390	393	782
2020	400	332	731
2021	393	330	724
2022	385	349	734
2023	370	322	692
2024	353	294	647

Notes:

1. Data relates to fully organic livestock only.
2. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Organic pigs

The number of pigs reared organically decreased by 29% to 16 thousand head and accounted for 0.3% of the total pig herd in the UK.

Figure 12.7: Number of organic pigs, 2016 to 2024 (thousand head)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Years	Fattening pigs	Breeding sows	Other pigs	Total
2016	21	4.3	5.7	31
2017	25	5.2	8.7	39
2018	21	3.8	12	37
2019	21	3.4	9.9	34
2020	16	1.6	9.3	27
2021	21	2.9	7.8	32
2022	23	3.4	9.1	35
2023	15	2.0	5.7	23
2024	10	1.7	4.6	16

Notes:

1. Data relates to fully organic livestock only.
2. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Organic poultry

Organically reared poultry numbers increased by 11% to 4.9 million birds and accounted for 2.8% of the total population in the UK.

Figure 12.8: Number of organic poultry, 2016 to 2024 (thousand birds)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Years	Broilers	Laying hens	Other poultry	Total
2016	1,574	1,135	112	2,821
2017	1,725	1,239	95	3,060
2018	1,879	1,413	89	3,381
2019	1,768	1,584	112	3,464
2020	1,708	1,981	97	3,786
2021	1,910	2,015	96	4,021
2022	1,577	2,005	83	3,665
2023	2,200	2,021	144	4,365
2024	2,511	2,174	167	4,851

Notes:

1. Data relates to fully organic livestock only.
2. Totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Organic operators

In 2024, there were 5,133 producers and processors registered with the organic certification bodies in the UK, a decrease of 1.9% from 2023. A detailed breakdown of organic crop and livestock operators is available in the dataset accompanying this release.

Figure 12.9: Organic operators by type, 2015 to 2024

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Years	Producers	Producers & Processors	Processors	Total
2015	3,429	173	2,454	6,056
2016	3,398	161	2,804	6,363
2017	3,465	144	2,977	6,586
2018	3,483	136	2,569	6,188
2019	3,494	123	2,512	6,129
2020	3,407	197	2,150	5,754
2021	3,401	205	2,126	5,732
2022	3,285	223	1,988	5,496
2023	3,193	223	1,814	5,230
2024	3,118	227	1,788	5,133

Notes:

1. Processors can include abattoirs, bakers, storers and wholesalers. The recorded location depends on the address registered with the Certifier Bodies and so larger businesses may be recorded at their headquarters.
2. In 2018 work was carried out to clarify how operators were recorded. This resulted in a number of operators that were previously recorded as processors being recorded in the correct categories of wholesalers/traders/retailers etc. We were unable to backdate these changes so earlier data are not directly comparable.
3. In 2020 work was carried out by some control bodies to group existing operators together, so they effectively became ‘one operator’ whilst previously they may have been separate operators with separate licences.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Table 12.5: Number of organic operators by type and country, 2024

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Country	Number of producers only	Number of producers and processors	Number of processors only	Total organic producers and processors
United Kingdom	**3,118**	**227**	**1,788**	**5,133**
England	2,112	180	1,549	3,841
Wales	467	25	78	570
Scotland	389	15	126	530
Northern Ireland	150	7	35	192

Notes:

1. Processors can include abattoirs, bakers, storers and wholesalers. The recorded location depends on the address registered with the Certifier Bodies and so larger businesses may be recorded at their headquarters.

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

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Table 12.6: Number of organic operators by country, 2021 to 2024

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Country	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage change 2024/2023
United Kingdom	**5,732**	**5,496**	**5,230**	**5,133**	**-1.9%**
England	4,296	4,103	3,882	3,841	-1.1%
Wales	693	663	639	570	-11%
Scotland	529	528	521	530	1.7%
Northern Ireland	214	202	188	192	2.1%

Source: Defra organic farming statistics

Download the full organics dataset

Chapter 13: Overseas Trade

Summary

Key results for 2024 and compared to 2023 in real terms (adjusted for trade price inflation).

- The value of **food, feed and drink exports** decreased by £0.6 billion (2.3%) to £24.6 billion.
- The value of **food, feed and drink imports** increased by £4.0 billion (6.6%) to £64.1 billion.
- The trade gap in **food, feed and drink** increased by £4.6 billion (13%) to £39.5 billion.
- Principal destinations for **exports** were Ireland (£4.3 billion), France (£2.9 billion), the United States (£2.7 billion) and the Netherlands (£1.8 billion).
- The main countries of dispatch for **imports** into the UK were the Netherlands (£7.7 billion), France (£6.1 billion), Ireland (£5.4 billion) and Belgium (£5.0 billion).
- Whisky continued to have the **highest export value**, totalling £5.5 billion. This was a decrease of 9.0% compared to the previous year.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables together remained the **highest value category for imports**, totalling £7.8 billion, an increase of 12%.
- **Exports of fresh vegetables** rose by 13% to £95 million, and **exports of fresh fruit** also rose by 2.7% to £73 million.

Introduction

The Overseas Trade Statistics presented in this chapter are based on data collected by HM Revenue and Customs and are compiled from returns made by importers and exporters. Before the completion of the Single Market in the European Union at the end of 1992, all overseas trade data for the United Kingdom was compiled from Customs declarations made by traders. From the beginning of 1993 until the end of 2020, the collection of trade statistics was divided into two categories: that transacted between the United Kingdom and countries outside the European Union (extra-EU trade) and that between the United Kingdom and its European Union partners (intra-EU trade). In this period, extra-EU trade statistics were compiled, as before, from Customs declarations by importers, exporters and their agents, while intra-EU trade statistics were compiled using a system linked to traders' VAT returns, known as Intrastat. In 2021, following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, there was a transitional approach to data collection due to the introduction of staged customs controls for imports from the European Union. All exports from the United Kingdom (except those from Northern Ireland to the EU) were compiled from customs declarations whilst imports to the United Kingdom from the European Union continued to be collected using the Intrastat system. From 2022 onwards, all trade statistics (except imports and exports between Northern Ireland and the European Union, for which Intrastat remains in place) are compiled from Customs declarations. These changes to data collection methods are known to have some impact on the trade statistics and some care should be taken when interpreting changes for recent years.

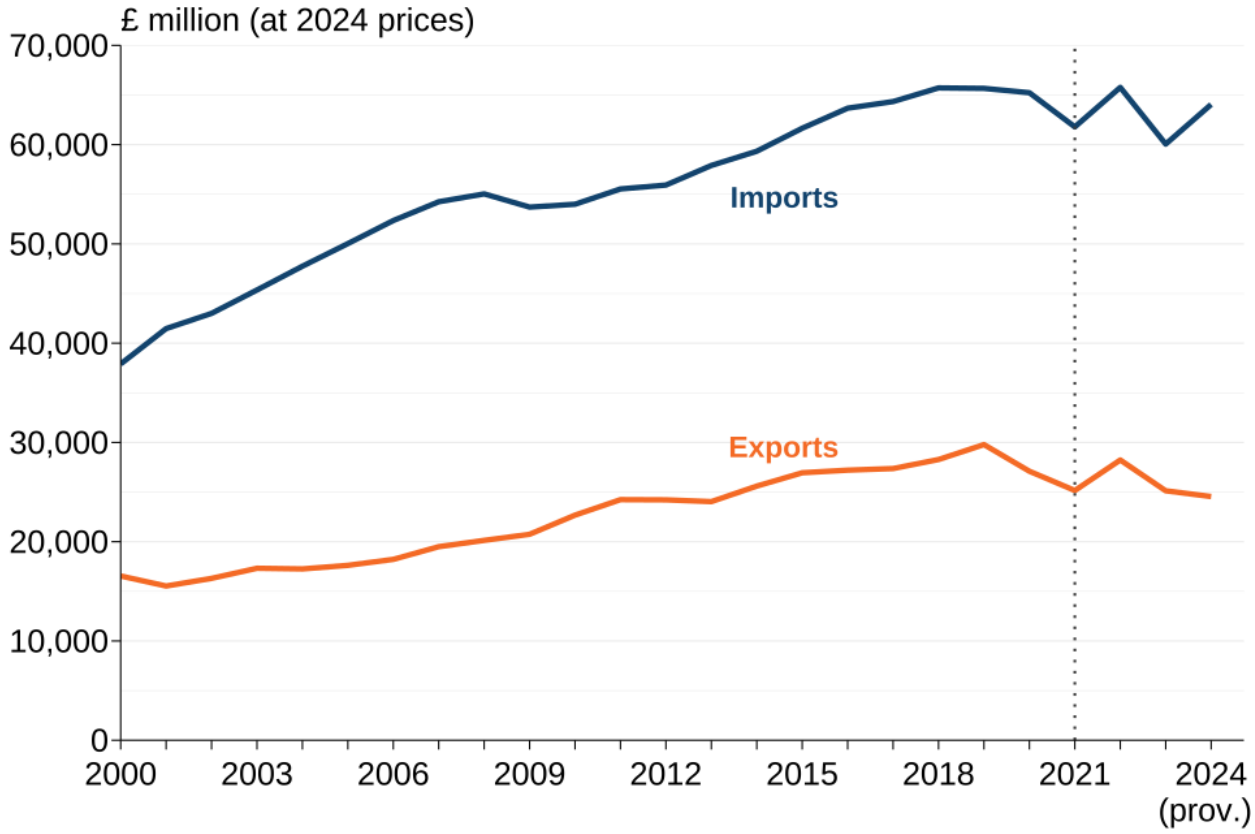
The trade statistics shown here may not match those shown in the commodities tables in Chapter 8 where, for example, trade in meat includes the carcase weight equivalent of trade in live animals and trade in milk is of raw milk before processing, and not of processed and packaged milk and cream as shown here.

Data for 2024 remain provisional until September 2025 and will be updated in next year's Agriculture in the UK publication.

Value of trade in food, feed and drink

Figure 13.1 Value of trade in food, feed and drink at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. The grey dotted line at 2021 represents the end of the Transition Period. This marks a change in the data source for GB to EU exports, from Intrastat to customs declaration. At the same time, the level of imports from the EU may be lower in 2021 due to the retention of Intrastat for GB to EU imports as a result of staged customs controls. Some imports from the EU to GB were double counted in 2022 following the end of staged customs controls and the change from Intrastat to Customs declarations. This means that trade before and after this point is not directly comparable.

Text description of Figure 13.1: Figure 13.1 is a line chart showing the value of trade in millions of pounds at 2024 prices, split by imports and exports. From 2000 until 2019, both imports and exports steadily increased. Since this point, the trend for both imports and exports has been slightly downward, albeit with annual fluctuations, especially for imports.

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The value of exports of food, feed and drink was £24.6 billion in 2024. To compare 2024 exports with previous years, it is necessary to adjust for the effects of trade inflation. After adjusting for trade price inflation, the value of exports was £0.6 billion

or 2.3% lower in 2024 than in 2023 and £3.7 billion or 13% lower than in 2018 (pre-pandemic and pre-EU Exit).

The value of imports of food, feed and drink was £64.1 billion in 2024. Adjusting for trade price inflation, the value of imports was £4.0 billion or 6.6% higher in 2024 than in 2023 but £1.7 billion or 2.5% lower than in 2018 (pre-pandemic and pre-EU Exit).

The trade gap for food, feed and drink increased by 13% between 2023 and 2024. Over the longer term, after adjusting for trade price inflation, the trade gap has widened by 22% since 2005 from £32.4 billion to £39.5 billion in 2024.

For exports of specific food, feed and drink types, the largest percentage increase, after adjusting for trade price inflation, between 2023 and 2024 was for fish & fish preparations for which there was a rise of 12% to £2.0 billion. The largest percentage reductions, after adjusting for trade price inflation, from 2023 to 2024 were for exports of cereals & cereal preparations which decreased by 13% to £2.4 billion, followed by beverages which fell by 8.2% to £8.2 billion.

In real terms, imports of cereals & cereal preparations increased by 14% to £7.0 billion between 2023 and 2024. This was followed by imports of coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. which increased by 13% to £6.0 billion and vegetables & fruit which rose by 12% to £14.4 billion. The largest percentage reduction in imports was seen in sugars, sugar preparations & honey which fell by 8.4% from 2023 to £1.8 billion in 2024.

Value of trade in food, feed and drink by types of commodity

Table 13.1a and 13.1b - Value of trade in food, feed and drink at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Table 13.1a Exports

SITC Division Code	Type	2022	2023	2024
Exports				
01	Meat & Meat Preps	2,347	2,095	2,127
02	Dairy & Eggs	2,330	2,062	2,124
03	Fish & Fish Preps	1,793	1,741	1,957
04	Cereals & Cereal Preps	2,893	2,751	2,407
05	Fruit and Veg & Preps	1,091	1,006	1,017
06	Sugar & Sugar Preps	398	444	425
07	Coffee, Tea, Etc.	1,854	1,701	1,805
08	Animal Feed	1,284	1,192	1,201
09	Misc. Edible Preps	2,645	2,559	2,570
11	Beverages	10,693	8,929	8,196
22 + S4	Oils/Fats & Oilseeds	905	649	724
	Total	**28,234**	**25,130**	**24,552**

Table 13.1b Imports

SITC Division Code	Type	2022	2023	2024
Imports				
01	Meat & Meat Preps	9,117	7,838	8,462
02	Dairy & Eggs	4,096	3,913	4,226
03	Fish & Fish Preps	3,806	3,271	3,450
04	Cereals & Cereal Preps	6,863	6,105	6,974
05	Fruit and Veg & Preps	13,225	12,853	14,449
06	Sugar & Sugar Preps	1,913	2,003	1,835
07	Coffee, Tea, Etc.	5,805	5,298	6,005
08	Animal Feed	3,417	3,342	3,396
09	Misc. Edible Preps	5,177	4,457	4,572
11	Beverages	8,248	7,786	7,505
22 + S4	Oils/Fats & Oilseeds	4,101	3,192	3,178
	Total	**65,769**	**60,059**	**64,053**

Source: HMRC

Table 13.1c and 13.1d - Value of trade in food, feed and drink with EU countries at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

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Table 13.1c Exports

SITC Division Code	Type	2022	2023	2024
Exports				
01	Meat & Meat Preps	1,793	1,642	1,669
02	Dairy & Eggs	1,767	1,479	1,589
03	Fish & Fish Preps	1,230	1,192	1,311
04	Cereals & Cereal Preps	2,086	2,021	1,665
05	Fruit and Veg & Preps	731	716	719
06	Sugar & Sugar Preps	265	272	315
07	Coffee, Tea, Etc.	1,176	1,180	1,319
08	Animal Feed	726	681	687
09	Misc. Edible Preps	1,492	1,465	1,437
11	Beverages	3,602	3,077	2,891
22 + S4	Oils/Fats & Oilseeds	811	534	501
	Total	**15,679**	**14,260**	**14,102**

Table 13.1d Imports

SITC Division Code	Type	2022	2023	2024
Imports				
01	Meat & Meat Preps	7,888	6,599	6,831
02	Dairy & Eggs	4,043	3,865	4,129
03	Fish & Fish Preps	881	822	761
04	Cereals & Cereal Preps	5,619	4,917	5,709
05	Fruit and Veg & Preps	8,722	8,307	9,110
06	Sugar & Sugar Preps	1,146	1,286	1,175
07	Coffee, Tea, Etc.	3,847	3,722	4,197
08	Animal Feed	2,222	2,014	2,027
09	Misc. Edible Preps	3,965	3,666	3,675
11	Beverages	6,681	6,328	6,005
22 + S4	Oils/Fats & Oilseeds	2,647	1,974	1,887
	Total	**47,660**	**43,499**	**45,505**

Source: HMRC

Table 13.1e and 13.1f - Value of trade in food, feed and drink with non-EU countries at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Table 13.1e Exports

SITC Division Code	Type	2022	2023	2024
Exports				
01	Meat & Meat Preps	554	454	458
02	Dairy & Eggs	562	583	536
03	Fish & Fish Preps	563	549	646
04	Cereals & Cereal Preps	807	731	742
05	Fruit and Veg & Preps	360	290	298
06	Sugar & Sugar Preps	133	172	110
07	Coffee, Tea, Etc.	679	521	485
08	Animal Feed	558	510	514
09	Misc. Edible Preps	1,152	1,094	1,133
11	Beverages	7,091	5,852	5,305
22 + S4	Oils/Fats & Oilseeds	95	115	223
	Total	**12,555**	**10,871**	**10,450**

Table 13.1f Imports

SITC Division Code	Type	2022	2023	2024
Exports				
01	Meat & Meat Preps	1,229	1,239	1,630
02	Dairy & Eggs	53	48	97
03	Fish & Fish Preps	2,925	2,448	2,689
04	Cereals & Cereal Preps	1,244	1,188	1,265
05	Fruit and Veg & Preps	4,504	4,547	5,339
06	Sugar & Sugar Preps	767	717	660
07	Coffee, Tea, Etc.	1,958	1,576	1,808
08	Animal Feed	1,196	1,328	1,370
09	Misc. Edible Preps	1,212	792	897
11	Beverages	1,567	1,458	1,501
22 + S4	Oils/Fats & Oilseeds	1,453	1,219	1,291
	Total	**18,108**	**16,561**	**18,548**

Source: HMRC

Notes: (tables 13.1a to 13.1f)

Defra's aggregate 'Food, Feed and Drink' is composed of the following divisions from the Standard International Trade Classification:

1. Meat [01]: meat from cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry, horses etc.; preparations including blood, juices, sausages, livers, offal.
2. Dairy [02]: includes milk (skimmed or otherwise), butter, buttermilk, cream, yoghurt, ice cream, whey, cheese and curd, all types of eggs both in and out of shell.
3. Fish [03]: All types of edible marine life excluding mammals, fresh, frozen, processed, prepared or preserved.
4. Cereals [04]: includes rice, wheat, barley, oats, maize, grain sorghum and preparations including sweet biscuits, waffles, gingerbread, and uncooked/unstuffed pasta.
5. Fruit and vegetables [05]: includes fresh, frozen or prepared fruit (except crystallised) and vegetables, nuts (except groundnuts), vegetable and fruit juices of all kinds except wine (see division 11), jams, marmalades, fruit or nut puree/paste etc.
6. Sugar [06]: includes both natural sugar and sugar confectionery (but not chocolate or cocoa), both natural and artificial honey, and liquorice.
7. Coffee, tea, etc. [07]: includes all types of tea, coffee (e.g. green, decaffeinated), extracts and substitutes thereof; cocoa and chocolate (of all kinds): all kinds of spices.
8. Animal feed [08]: includes hay, fodder, bran, sharps and other residues derived from cereals or leguminous plants, oil-cake and other solid residues, other residues, brewing dregs, all types of pet or animal food.
9. Miscellaneous [09]: includes margarine, shortening, homogenised products or preparations not elsewhere specified, sauces, vinegar, soups, yeasts, cooked/stuffed pasta, food preparations for infant use.
10. Beverages [11]: includes alcoholic drinks of all kinds; also natural or artificial mineral and aerated waters sweetened or otherwise.
11. Oils [22+S4]: includes groundnuts (peanuts), soya beans, sunflower seeds, rape seeds, palm nuts, linseed, poppy seeds etc., lard, pig fat, olive oil, rape oil, corn oil, linseed oil, beeswax etc.
12. Division 00, which covers all live animals, is excluded from the aggregate ‘Food, Feed and Drink’ because it includes non-food animals, particularly race horses. S4 stands for Section 4 in the SITC and covers animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes.
13. Figures for 2024 are provisional and subject to revision.

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Total value of trade in food, feed and drink by trading partner

Figure 13.2 Exports of food, feed and drink by country of destination 2024 (£ million); United Kingdom

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Country	£ million
Ireland	4269
France	2854
United States	2674
Netherlands	1764
Germany	1101
Belgium	768
Spain	717
China	711
Poland	522
Italy	517

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Figure 13.3 Imports of food, feed and drink by country of dispatch 2024 (£ million); United Kingdom

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Country	£ million
Netherlands	7735
France	6051
Ireland	5435
Belgium	5014
Germany	4826
Spain	4262
Italy	4037
Poland	3461
Denmark	1367
United States	1287

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Value of exports and imports by degree of processing

Trade in food, feed and drink covers a wide range of products from raw agricultural commodities through to lightly processed foods such as meat, cheese and butter, powdered milk, flour and sugar to highly processed products such as confectionery,

canned meats, jams, alcoholic drinks and ice cream. By grouping foods into unprocessed, lightly processed and highly processed, additional insights in trading patterns can be found.

Figure 13.4 Exports in food, feed and drink by degree of processing at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

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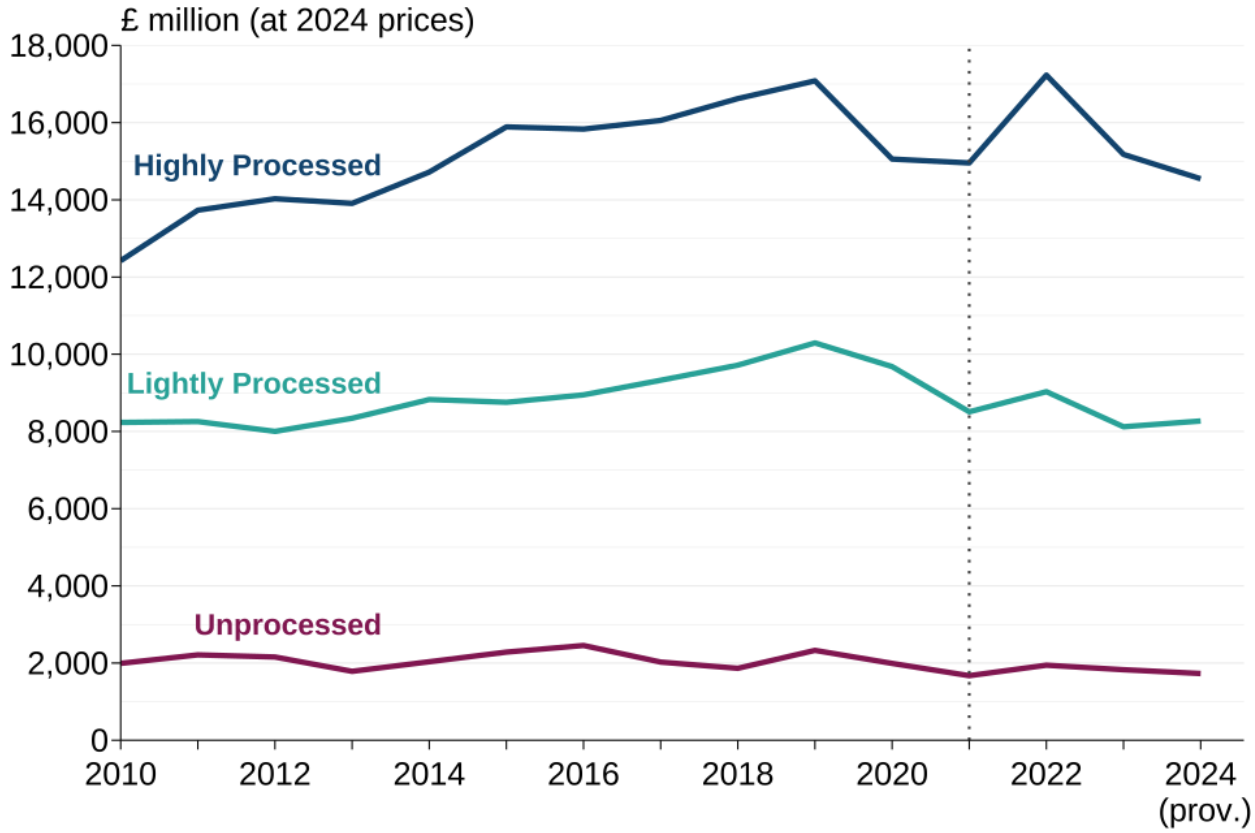

Notes:

1. The grey dotted line at 2021 represents the end of the Transition Period. This marks a change in the data source for GB to EU exports, from Intrastat to customs declaration. This means that trade before and after this point is not directly comparable.

Text description of Figure 13.4: Figure 13.4 is a line chart showing the value of food, feed, and drink exports in millions of pounds at 2024 prices, broken down by degree of processing. Between 2010 and 2019, exports of highly and lightly processed goods increased steadily. Since 2019, exports for both categories have tended to decline, but with greater fluctuation for highly processed goods. Between 2010 and 2024, exports of unprocessed goods remained relatively stable.

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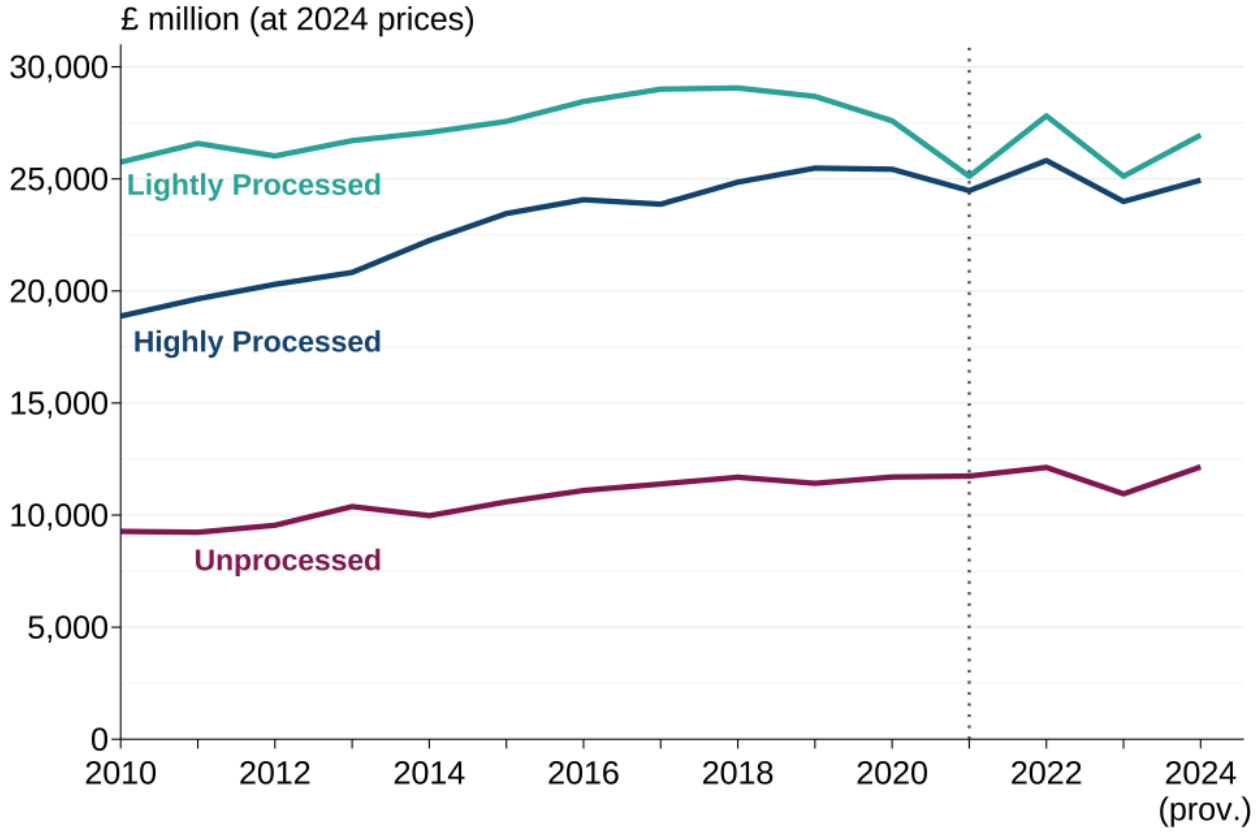
Exports of highly processed foods such as confectionery, canned meats, jams, alcoholic drinks and ice cream were 1.2% lower in 2024 than in 2014 after adjusting for trade price inflation. Exports of lightly processed food and drink, i.e. goods that retain their raw recognisable form, such as meat, cheese, butter, and oils & fats were

6.3% lower in 2024 than in 2014 after adjusting for trade price inflation. Exports of unprocessed commodities, such as fresh fruit & vegetables, nuts, un-milled cereal and eggs, were 15% lower in 2024 than in 2014 after adjusting for trade price inflation.

Figure 13.5 Imports in food, feed and drink by degree of processing at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk



Notes:

1. The grey dotted line at 2021 represents the end of the Transition Period. The level of imports from the EU may be lower in 2021 due to the retention of Intrastat for GB to EU imports as a result of staged customs controls. Some imports from the EU to GB were double counted in 2022 following the end of staged customs controls and the change from Intrastat to Customs declarations. This means that trade before and after this point is not directly comparable.

Text description of Figure 13.5: Figure 13.5 is a line chart showing the value of food, feed, and drink imports in millions of pounds at 2024 prices, broken down by degree of processing. Between 2010 and 2019, imports of lightly and highly processed goods increased steadily. Imports of highly processed goods have broadly stabilised since 2020, albeit with some small annual fluctuations. Imports of lightly processed goods reduced in 2020 and 2021 and although the annual totals have tended to fluctuate more than for highly processed goods, the average remains

below pre-pandemic levels. Between 2010 and 2022, imports of unprocessed goods increased steadily, but fell in 2023 before recovering in 2024.

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After adjusting for trade price inflation, imports of highly processed food and drink increased by 12% between 2014 and 2024. Imports of lightly processed food and drink decreased by 0.4% and imports of unprocessed commodities increased by 22%.

Value and volume of trade in key commodities

Historically, the value of exports across a range of commodities broadly tended to increase year on year. However, in 2014 and 2015, commodity prices for many sectors fell due to a slowdown in global economic markets and the effect of exchange rates. Subsequent years saw a return to export growth in most of the main product groups. Since 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic and EU Exit (including changes to data collection methods) have affected trade statistics.

After adjusting for trade price inflation, the value of exports of whisky, the highest valued individual food, feed and drink export item, decreased by 9.0% in real terms from 2023 to £5.5 billion in 2024, but was 5.2% higher than 2014. Exports of salmon increased by 41% from 2023 to £948 million in 2024 and were 16% higher than in 2014 in real terms, after adjusting for trade price inflation. The value of exports of unmilled wheat decreased compared to previous years, falling to £35 million (a reduction of 88% in real terms from 2023), driven by the lower UK harvest. Note that trade for this commodity can fluctuate considerably between years, influenced by various conditions such as the quality and size of the UK harvest and global commodity prices.

In 2024, exports of cheese were £888 million, a 9.6% increase compared with 2023 after adjusting for trade price inflation. Exports of breakfast cereals and pork fell for the fourth consecutive year. Breakfast cereal exports decreased by 7.3% between 2023 and 2024 to £522 million, while exports of pork reduced by 12% to £251 million.

Imports of fresh fruit rose by 16% in real terms from 2023 to £4.6 billion in 2024, after adjusting for trade price inflation. Over the same period, fresh vegetable imports increased by 5.9% to £3.2 billion. Both figures reflect a return to levels observed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU. Imports of unmilled wheat increased by 50% between 2023 and 2024, after adjusting for trade price inflation, to £699 million.

The value of wine imports decreased by 5.0% in real terms, after adjusting for trade price inflation, from 2023 to £3.9 billion in 2024, while the value of wine exported from the UK decreased by 28% from 2023 to £385 million in 2024.

The overall volume of exports of food, feed and drink decreased by 9.5% from 2024 to 10.8 million tonnes in 2024. The trend over the last decade has been slightly downwards year-on-year. Import volumes have fluctuated over the past decade, reaching a peak in 2024 at 43.2 million tonnes. This is an increase of 9.3% compared with 2023 and 13% compared with 2014. Source: UK trade info.

The food, feed and drink index provides a comparison of trade which accounts for the value density of different food groups. For example, high value per tonne exports (e.g. whisky) are given more weight in this indicator than low value per tonne exports (e.g. wheat and barley). According to the index, food, feed and drink exports in 2024 increased by 3.0% from 2023, while imports increased by 4.5%.

Table 13.2a and 13.2b Trade in key commodities in real terms at 2024 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Table 13.2a Exports

Commodity	2022	2023	2024
Whisky	7,378	6,086	5,537
Wine	642	532	385
Cheese	857	810	888
Poultry meat	243	201	212
Poultry meat products	112	119	111
Beef and veal	613	502	568
Wheat, unmilled	281	283	35
Lamb and mutton	563	561	583
Pork	357	285	251
Breakfast cereals	576	563	522
Milk and cream	444	366	371
Bacon and ham	55	48	32
Butter	289	219	227
Eggs and egg products	117	110	146
Fresh vegetables	92	83	95
Fresh fruit	69	71	73
Salmon (inc. smoked)	729	674	948

Table 13.2b Imports

Commodity	2022	2023	2024
Whisky	202	217	191
Wine	4,474	4,145	3,938
Cheese	2,043	1,962	2,078
Poultry meat	1,979	1,525	1,644
Poultry meat products	1,612	1,526	1,678
Beef and veal	1,508	1,203	1,388
Wheat, unmilled	626	467	699
Lamb and mutton	321	219	326
Pork	876	939	954
Breakfast cereals	377	355	385
Milk and cream	250	157	229
Bacon and ham	742	652	656
Butter	317	249	309
Eggs and egg products	250	350	302
Fresh vegetables	2,999	3,019	3,197
Fresh fruit	4,076	3,929	4,570
Salmon (inc. smoked)	716	645	671

Source: HMRC

Notes: See notes for table 13.3

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Table 13.3a and 13.3b Trade in key commodities by volume (thousand tonnes unless otherwise specified); United Kingdom

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Table 13.3a Exports

Commodity	2022	2023	2024
Whisky (million litres pure alcohol)	478	387	400
Wine (million litres)	33	26	20
Cheese	176	180	197
Poultry meat	254	205	225
Poultry meat products	26	28	25
Beef and veal	124	104	113
Wheat, unmilled	865	1,155	166
Lamb and mutton	75	85	80
Pork	190	130	122
Breakfast cereals	179	160	151
Milk and cream	787	769	775
Bacon and ham	17	14	10
Butter	49	54	43
Eggs and egg products	32	30	34
Fresh vegetables	96	75	75
Fresh fruit	38	36	34
Salmon (inc. smoked)	91	77	116
Food, feed and drink index, 2009=100	117	106	109

Table 13.3b Imports

Commodity	2022	2023	2024
Whisky (million litres pure alcohol)	19	20	16
Wine (million litres)	1,314	1,249	1,277
Cheese	412	434	451
Poultry meat	503	515	534
Poultry meat products	420	439	474
Beef and veal	234	224	241
Wheat, unmilled	1,634	1,708	3,083
Lamb and mutton	54	48	68
Pork	322	332	340
Breakfast cereals	129	131	134
Milk and cream	306	237	266
Bacon and ham	202	181	177
Butter	54	58	64
Eggs and egg products	77	106	106
Fresh vegetables	2,044	2,063	2,178
Fresh fruit	3,277	3,148	3,298
Salmon (inc. smoked)	93	84	87
Food, feed and drink index, 2009=100	118	115	120

Source: HMRC

Notes: (Tables 13.2 and 13.3)

1. Figures for 2024 are provisional and subject to revision
2. Whisky includes bourbon, scotch (malted and blended) and other whiskies.
3. Wine includes grape must, vermouth and wine of fresh grapes (sparkling and still).
4. Cheese includes grated or powdered, processed, blue-veined and fresh (e.g. curd).
5. Poultry meat (inc. poultry offal) includes carcase meat, cuts and offal (inc. liver).
6. Poultry meat products includes prepared, preserved, salted or cooked poultry meat and offal (inc. liver).
7. Beef and veal includes carcase meat and cuts, both bone-in and boneless.
8. Wheat, unmilled includes durum, other wheat (inc. spelt) and meslin.
9. Lamb and mutton includes carcase meat and cuts, both bone-in and boneless.
10. Pork includes carcase meat and cuts, both bone-in and boneless.
11. Breakfast cereals includes cereal grains worked or prepared for breakfast cereals
12. Milk and cream includes milk (inc. skimmed milk) and cream, not concentrated or sweetened.

13. Fresh vegetables excludes potatoes, dried legumes and processed vegetables.
14. Fresh fruit excludes jams, juices, dried and processed fruit.
15. Salmon (inc. smoked) includes fresh, chilled, frozen or smoked, but not canned.
16. Note: Definitions of ‘fresh vegetables’ and ‘fresh fruit’ used have been revised in 2009 to be consistent with those used for AUK Chapter 5.

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Chapter 14: The Food Chain

Summary

- In 2023, the agri-food sector (excluding fishing) in the United Kingdom accounted for a total estimated **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of £153.2bn or 6.2% of national GVA, an increase of 4.8% since 2022. The GVA from agriculture decreased by 4.5% between 2022 and 2023 but all other sectors saw an increase.
- **Employment** in the agri-food sector in Great Britain fell by 0.9% to 4.2 million over the 12-month period to the fourth quarter of 2024. The largest percent change was seen in retailing which fell by 2.4% (27,000 employees).
- **Total factor productivity** of the food chain showed no significant change compared to 2022, while the productivity of the wider economy also showed no significant change. In the 10 years prior to 2023, the average annual growth rate of the food chain was 0.6%, while the wider economy's average annual growth rate was 0.4%. In 2023, total factor productivity of food wholesaling increased by 0.4%, but manufacturing, retail and non-residential catering (NRC) decreased by 0.2%, 0.2% and 1.1% respectively.
- **Consumer expenditure** on food and alcoholic drinks (at constant prices) decreased by 1.2% from £276.5bn in 2023 to £273.1bn in 2024 but was 13% higher than in 2014. Expenditure on food and drink eaten out decreased by 2.1% from £126.7bn in 2023 to £124.0bn in 2024 and expenditure on household food decreased by 0.7% from £125.4bn to £124.5bn, whilst expenditure on alcoholic drinks (off-licence only) increased by 1.0% from £24.4bn to £24.7bn.

Contribution of the agri-food sector to the national economy

Figure 14.1 Gross Value Added of the agri-food sector, 2023 (£ billion)

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Sector	Gross Value Added	Share of total
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	£13.7bn	8.9%
Food and Drink Manufacturing	£37.1bn	24%
Food and Drink Wholesaling	£16.9bn	11%
Food and Drink Retailing	£40.2bn	26%
Food and Drink Non-Residential Catering	£45.2bn	30%

Source: Annual Business Survey (ONS), Aggregate Agricultural Accounts (Defra).

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In 2023 the agri-food sector (excluding fishing) contributed £153.2bn to the UK's economy, 6.2% of the national GVA. Within this, catering accounted for the largest proportion at 30% followed by retailing at 26% and manufacturing at 24%. The agriculture sector made the smallest contribution at 8.9%.

Table 14.1a to 14.1e - Agri-food sector contribution to the national economy, 2022 to 2024 (£ million unless otherwise specified)

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Table 14.1a

Sector	2022	2023	2024
Agri-food sector's contribution to the UK's total economy gross value added	146,169	153,157	[x]
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	14,331	13,681	[x]
Food and drink manufacturing	34,962	37,132	[x]
Food and drink wholesaling	15,852	16,911	[x]
Food and drink retailing	37,753	40,249	[x]
Food and drink non-residential catering	43,272	45,183	[x]
% of national gross value added	6.5%	6.2%	[x]

Table 14.1b

Sector	2022	2023	2024
Workforce in the agri-food sector in Great Britain (thousand persons)	4,216	4,191	4,153
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	418	409	402
Food and drink manufacturing	437	442	447
Food and drink wholesaling	222	209	207
Food and drink retailing	1,144	1,105	1,078
Food and drink non-residential catering	1,995	2,025	2,019
% of total workforce in employment	14%	13%	13%

Table 14.1c

Trade in food, feed and drink in real terms at 2024 prices	2022	2023	2024
Imports of food, feed and drink	65,769	60,059	64,053
% of total UK imports	10%	9.7%	10%
Exports of food, feed and drink	28,234	25,130	24,552
% of total UK exports	6.3%	5.9%	6.1%

Table 14.1d

UK Food Production to Supply Ratio ('Self-Sufficiency')	2022	2023	2024
% of all food	60%	62%	65%
% of indigenous type food	73%	75%	77%

Table 14.1e

UK Household final consumption expenditure on food and alcoholic drinks	2022	2023	2024
At current prices	278,772	304,524	314,090
Household food and non-alcoholic beverages	127,216	143,241	146,028
Food and drink eaten out	127,176	136,539	142,173
Alcoholic drinks (off-licence only)	24,380	24,744	25,889
At constant 2022 prices	278,772	276,483	273,145
Household food and non-alcoholic beverages	127,216	125,386	124,487
Food and drink eaten out	127,176	126,671	123,985
Alcoholic drinks (off-licence only)	24,380	24,426	24,673
% of total household final consumption expenditure (current prices)	18%	19%	18%
Household food and non-alcoholic beverages	8.3%	8.7%	8.6%
Food and drink eaten out	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%
Alcoholic drinks (off-licence only)	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%

Notes for tables 14.1a to 14.1e:

1. 2024 trade figures are provisional and subject to revision

2. [x] means 'not available'

Sources: Annual Business Survey (ONS), Aggregate Agricultural Accounts (Defra), Labour Force Survey GB (ONS), Overseas Trade Statistics (HMRC), Consumer Price Indices (ONS).

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Agri-food sector employees and self-employed farmers in Great Britain

Figure 14.2 Agri-food sector employees and self-employed farmers, Great Britain, 2024 (millions)

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Sector	Number of employees (millions)	Share of agri-food total
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	0.402	10%
Food and Drink Manufacturing	0.447	11%
Food and Drink Wholesaling	0.207	5.0%
Food and Drink Retailing	1.078	26%
Food and Drink Non-Residential Catering	2.019	49%

Sources: Labour Force Survey GB (ONS), June Survey of Agriculture (Defra), June Scottish Agricultural Census (Scottish Government), June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture (Welsh Government).

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In 2024, the agri-food sector employed 4.2 million people, or 13% of all employees in Great Britain. This proportion has been broadly the same since 2001. Agriculture accounts for less than half a million employees or 10% of the agri-food sector.

In the twelve months to December 2024, employment in the agri-food sector decreased by 0.9% or 37,000 jobs. Employment increased in 2024 in manufacturing (1.0%), but fell in agriculture (-1.9%), wholesaling (-0.7%), retailing (-2.4%) and non-residential catering (-0.3%).

Employment across the whole GB economy rose by 0.7% over the same period.

Employment in the agri-food sector has risen 24% since 2014. Changes in each of the sectors since 2014 show that employment in agriculture, wholesale and retail fell by 6.1%, 1.3% and 8.4% respectively, while manufacturing and non-residential catering increased by 17% and 28% respectively.

Total Factor Productivity

In 2023 the productivity of the food chain showed no significant change compared to 2022, while the productivity of the wider economy also showed no significant

change. In the 10 years prior to 2023, the average annual growth rate of the food chain was 0.6%, while the wider economy's average annual growth rate was 0.4%.

In 2023 productivity increased in only one of the four sectors (wholesale).

In 2023, total factor productivity in **food and drink manufacturing** decreased by 0.2%, while in the last 10 years average annual productivity increased by 0.4%.

Total factor productivity of **food wholesaling** increased by 0.4% in 2023, while in the last 10 years has shown an average annual increase of 0.9%.

Productivity of the **food retail** sector decreased by 0.2% in 2023. In the last 10 years, productivity has shown an average annual increase of 0.6%.

In 2023, **non-residential catering (NRC)** showed a decrease in productivity of 1.1% but in the last 10 years average annual productivity increased by 0.5%.

For more information on productivity please see the Total Factor Productivity of the United Kingdom Food Chain publication.

Food production to supply ratio

Figure 14.3 Food production to supply ratio, United Kingdom, 1956-2024

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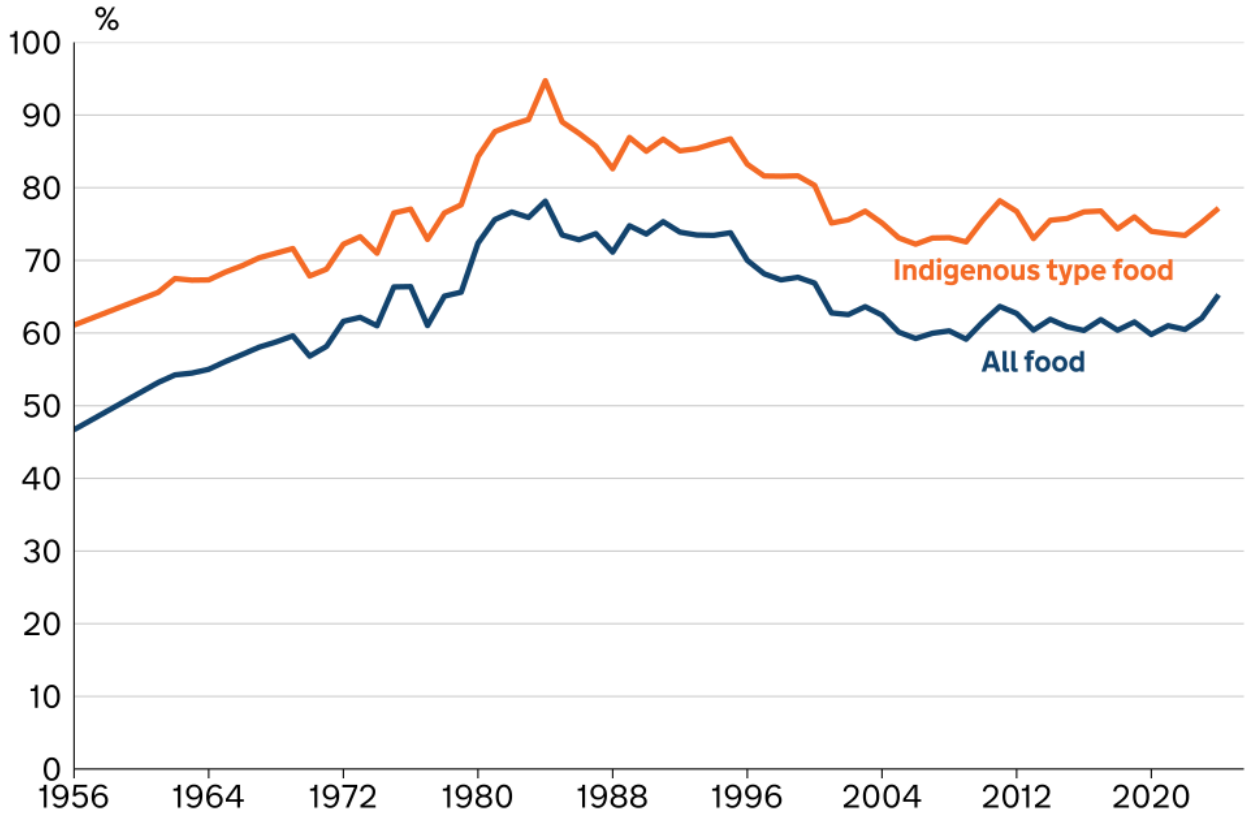

Source: Defra analysis of HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Text description of Figure 14.3: Figure 14.3 is a line chart that shows how the food production to supply ratio for all food and indigenous type food for the UK has changed from 1956 to 2024.

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In 2024, the value of food, feed and drink exports was £24.6bn, a decrease of 2.3% from 2023 after adjusting for trade price inflation. In 2024 the value of food, feed and drink imports increased by 6.6% from 2023 to £64.1bn, resulting in a trade gap of £39.5bn, an increase of 13.1% from £34.9bn in 2023 after adjusting for trade price inflation. See Chapter 13 for more detail on overseas trade.

Net trade on its own does not take domestic production into account. The food production to supply ratio (commonly referred to as the “self-sufficiency ratio”), is calculated as the farmgate value of raw food production divided by the value of raw food for human consumption. The ratio has stabilised in the most recent decade at around 60% after falling from over 80% in the 1980s, but is higher than it has been historically. The ratio for indigenous only food types follows the same trend but is consistently several percentage points higher than the ratio for all food types.

The food production to supply ratio is estimated to be 65% for all food in 2024 and 77% of indigenous type food. In 2023, this was 62% and 75% respectively. Table 14.2 contains production to supply ratios for selected crops and other primary agricultural products. For these individual products, the production to supply ratio is calculated using volumes rather than value.

Table 14.2 Food Production to Supply Ratio, 2022 to 2024

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	2022	2023	2024
Cereals	**92%**	**93%**	**79%**
Wheat	95%	96%	79%
Barley	112%	113%	106%
Oats	121%	120%	104%
Other crops			
Oilseed rape	64%	63%	53%
Sugar beet	55%	54%	65%
Fresh vegetables	**55%**	**54%**	**53%**
Potatoes	69%	67%	68%
Cabbages	86%	81%	85%
Cauliflowers and broccoli	54%	50%	55%
Carrots, turnips and swede	98%	96%	95%
Mushrooms	49%	47%	45%
Lettuce	45%	47%	47%
Tomatoes	16%	16%	16%
Fresh fruit	**17%**	**16%**	**15%**
Apples	41%	38%	38%
Pears	14%	13%	17%
Plums	14%	13%	12%
Strawberries	68%	66%	61%
Raspberries	39%	38%	33%
Meat and dairy			
Beef and veal	87%	85%	85%
Pig meat	70%	65%	65%
Mutton and lamb	107%	113%	99%
Poultry meat	84%	82%	83%
Milk	105%	105%	105%
Eggs	90%	88%	89%

Notes:

1. 2024 figures are provisional.
2. Average ratios for categories of cereals, other crops, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit may include more items than the selected items listed in the table.

Source: Chapter 7: Crops and Chapter 8: Livestock, of this publication are used for category averages (e.g. fresh vegetables) and potatoes and all meat and dairy products. Defra's Horticulture Statistics for all other individual products.

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Distinction between competitiveness and food security

The food production to supply ratio provides a very broad indicator of the ability of United Kingdom agriculture to meet consumer demand - also described as competitiveness. The ratio is not an appropriate measure of “food security” since it fails to account for many dimensions of this complex issue.

Diversity of supply enhances security because a high food production to supply ratio fails to insulate a country against many possible disruptions to its supply chain. The United Kingdom sources foods from diverse stable countries, mainly European countries, and imports can make up for domestic supply shortages (see Figure 14.4).

Defra’s triennial ‘UK Food Security Report’ which was last updated in 2024, provides a comprehensive analysis that encompasses the many dimensions of food security; availability, access, utilisation of food, stability, sustainability and agency.

There is a continuously evolving set of challenges facing the food supply chain, for example geopolitical tensions disrupting global markets, the increasing cybersecurity risks as reliance on digital infrastructure grows and climate change.

In recent years, the food security landscape has changed significantly. The UK’s departure from the European Union brought changes in the areas of trade, farming, and access to fisheries, resulting in both challenges and opportunities in food security. The COVID-19 pandemic also stress-tested the supply chain, highlighting both the vulnerabilities in this complex system and the resilience and flexibility of the UK’s food supply.

Origins of food consumed in the United Kingdom

Figure 14.4 includes the proportion of United Kingdom food consumption that is produced in the United Kingdom. This should not be confused with the food production to supply ratio given in Figure 14.3. Figure 14.4 looks purely at the breakdown of food that the United Kingdom actually consumes.

The food production to supply ratio (see Figure 14.3) considers all United Kingdom food production, including food that the United Kingdom exports instead of consuming. A further, much smaller difference is that the United Kingdom food production used in the food production to supply ratio calculations has been adjusted to take account of the balance of trade in important inputs into agriculture.

Figure 14.4 Origins of food consumed in the United Kingdom, 2024 (percentage)

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Origin of destination	2024
UK exports	-9%
UK	57%
EU	25%
Rest of Europe	3%
Africa	5%
Asia	4%
Australasia	1%
North America	2%
South America	3%

Notes:

1. Based on the farm-gate value of raw food.
2. Consumption of UK origin consists of UK domestic production minus UK exports.
3. UK exports are given as a percentage of total UK consumption.

Source: Defra analysis of HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

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Supply includes domestic production plus imports and excludes exports of home production. In 2024, 57% of domestic consumption came from UK production (based on unprocessed value at farmgate), 25% from the EU and the remaining 18% from the rest of the world. There were 33 countries that accounted for 90% of imported supply, and 19 for 80%. Some countries or regions are uniquely important to supply of particular products such as bananas from the Caribbean and Central America, reducing the security of this supply.

Consumers' expenditure

Figure 14.5 UK Consumers' expenditure on food, drink and eating out, 2004-2024 (£ billion at constant prices)

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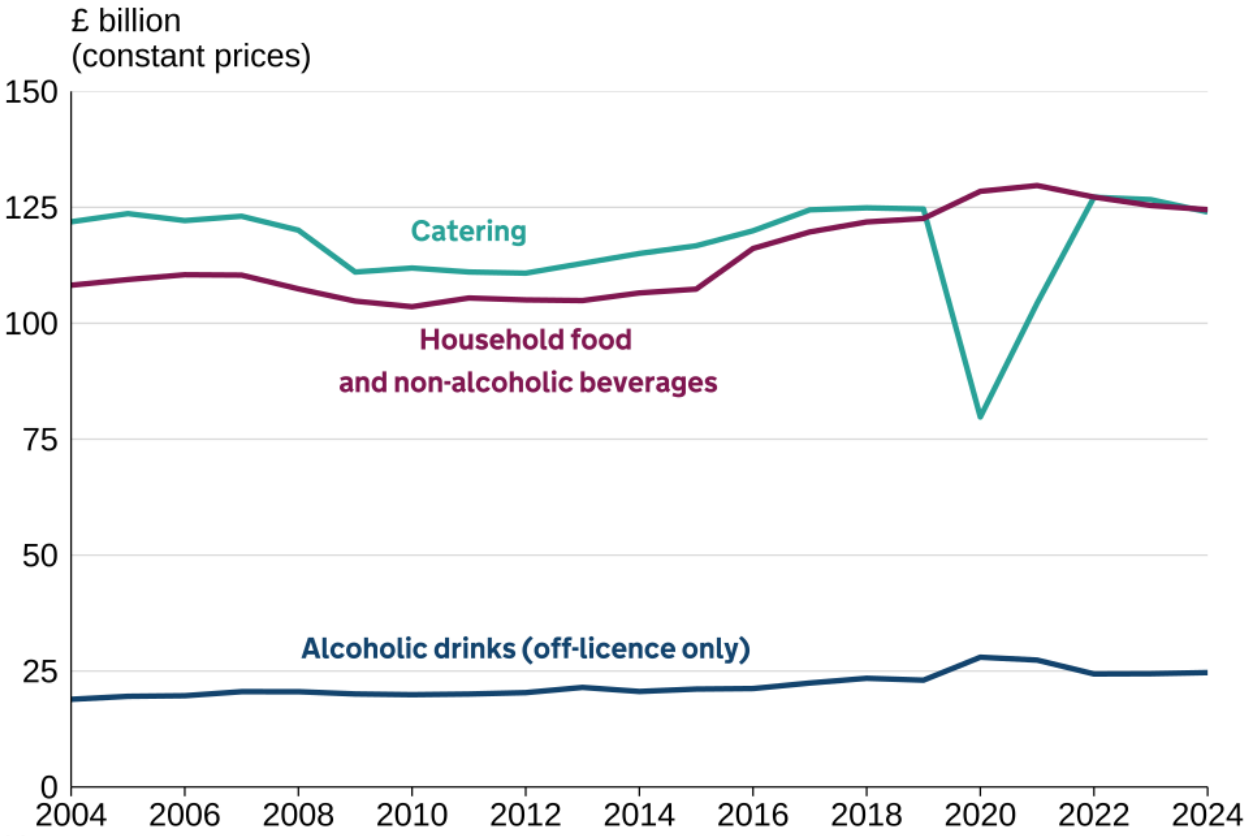

Notes:

1. Catering includes food and non-alcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverages from canteens, restaurants, cafés, pubs etc.

Source: Consumer trends, ONS

Text description of Figure 14.5: Figure 14.5 is a line chart that shows the amount of consumer spending in the UK on household food and non-alcoholic drink, alcoholic drink (off-licence only) and for catering from 2004 to 2024.

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After taking into account the effects of price rises (constant prices), consumers' expenditure on food and alcoholic drinks decreased by 1.2% from £276.5bn in 2023 to £273.1bn in 2024 but was 13% higher than in 2014.

Expenditure on food and drink eaten out decreased by 2.1% from £126.7bn in 2023 to £124.0bn in 2024 and expenditure on household food decreased by 0.7% from £125.4bn to £124.5bn, whilst expenditure on alcoholic drinks (off-licence only) increased by 1.0% from £24.4bn to £24.7bn.

Changes in consumers' price indices

Figure 14.6 UK food and non-alcoholic beverage prices measured by Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), Jan 2020 - Dec 2024

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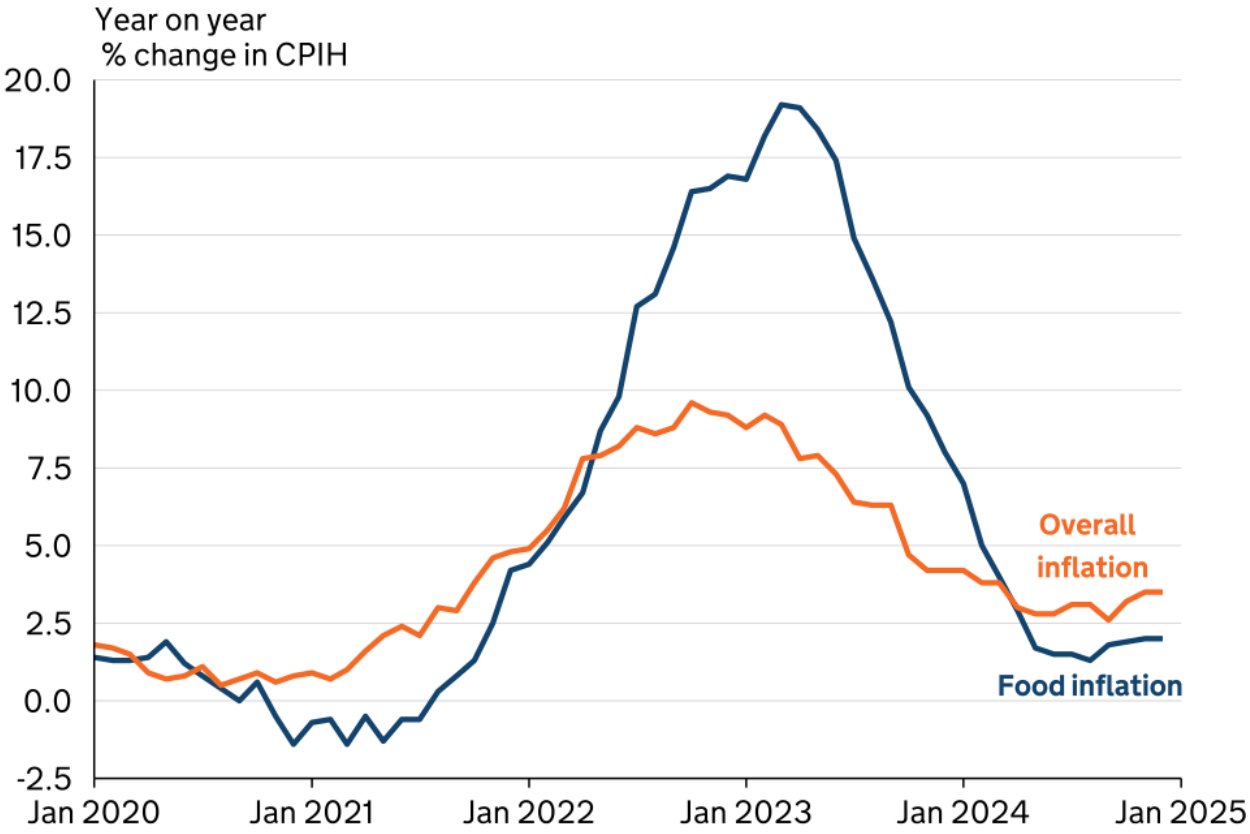

Source: Consumer Price Index (ONS)

Text description of Figure 14.6: Figure 14.6 is a line chart that shows the changes in the UK food and non-alcoholic beverage prices measured by CPIH and overall CPIH inflation from January 2020 to December 2024.

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Figure 14.6 shows that food price CPIH inflation is now less than overall inflation, having previously overtaken overall inflation in April 2022, becoming less in April 2024. Food and non-alcoholic beverages CPIH inflation peaked in March 2023 at 19.2% while overall CPIH inflation peaked in October 2022 at 9.6%.

Modelling commissioned by Defra shows that the five main drivers of food prices are farmgate prices, import prices, exchange rates, labour costs in food manufacturing and non-labour costs in food manufacturing.

Food price inflation rose sharply during the aforementioned time period due to a combination of those factors - some of which were also exacerbated further by the conflict in Ukraine.

The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) is the most comprehensive measure of inflation. It extends the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to include a measure of the costs associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home, known as owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH), along with Council Tax. Both are significant expenses for many households that are excluded from the CPI.

Glossary

Standard Industry Classification codes (SIC codes)

These are numerical codes that categorise the industries that companies belong to based on their business activities.

Economic definition of food and agri-food sector

The UK agri-food sector is defined as the food sector plus agriculture.

The UK food sector is defined as food manufacturing, food wholesaling, food retailing and non-residential catering. In terms of the standard industrial classification (SIC 2007) it is defined as:

Category	SIC codes
Food Manufacturing:	10 + 11
Food Wholesaling:	46.3 (excluding 46.35) + 46.17
Food Retailing:	47.2 (excluding 47.26) + 47.11 + 47.81
Non-residential Catering:	56

- In SIC2007 the **food manufacturing** sector comprises of nine main categories including processing and preserving meat, dairy, fruit and vegetables, oils, bread, biscuits and cakes, and confectionery. Animal feed manufacturing is included, covering both farm animal feed and pet food. The drink manufacturing sector includes alcoholic beverages and soft drinks and mineral waters.
- **Food and drink wholesaling** consists of the buying, storage and reselling of food either manufactured or freshly produced. Wholesale of tobacco products (46.35) is not included, but SIC code 46.17 "Agents involved in the sale of food, beverages and tobacco" is included. This group includes wholesalers that trade on behalf of others on a fee or contract basis and also 46.3 which is "Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco".
- **Food and drink retailing** is defined as the sale of food within both non-specialised stores (e.g. supermarkets), 47.11, and specialised stores such as butchers and bakers, 47.11 and 47.81. The sale of tobacco products is subtracted from the specialised stores using 47.26 and then subtracted from the non-specialised stores later on using a ratio for food and drink.

- **Non-residential catering** (NRC) consists of restaurants and bars involved in preparation and serving of food, alongside canteens and catering services. Hotels are not included.

Gross Value Added (GVA)

GVA is the difference between output and intermediate consumption for any given sector / industry. This is the difference between the value of goods and services produced and the cost of raw materials and other inputs which are used up in production.

Total Factor Productivity (TFP)

Productivity measures the efficiency at which inputs are converted into outputs. Total Factor Productivity provides a comprehensive picture of growth.