

Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025



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:
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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This edition of Agriculture in the United Kingdom is dedicated to the memory of Maisie Duckham (1993–2026), a respected Defra analyst who made a significant contribution to the development of farming statistics.

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Preface

Legal Basis

Agriculture in the United Kingdom (AUK) 2025 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 is used throughout this document. Most of the data is on calendar year basis and for 2025. Some data for 2025 is provisional and may be revised as more data becomes available. Where 2025 data is 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.

Preface

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

Table and figure headings

Throughout this report, some figures are presented as tables. This is because this pdf report was created based on the main Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025 publication, that was published in an online format. In the online format, some figures are interactive, a feature that is not supported in the pdf format. Any tables that are referred to as figures in this report contain the underlying data that is available in figure format in the online version: [Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025](#).

Summary

All figures relate to 2025 and the change between 2024 and 2025 unless otherwise stated.

Structure of industry

- The **Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)** increased by 0.4% to 17 million hectares, covering 69% of land in the UK.
- The **total croppable area** decreased by 0.7% in 2025 to 6.1 million hectares.
- The **cereal crops area** increased by 1.6% to 3.0 million hectares.
- The **area of oilseed crops** planted decreased by 18% to 261 thousand hectares.
- The **total number of cattle and calves** decreased by 1.3% to 9.3 million animals. The beef herd decreased by 4.1% to 1.3 million animals. The dairy herd increased by 0.7% to 1.8 million animals.
- The **total number of pigs** increased by 0.5% to 4.7 million animals. The total number of female pigs in the breeding herd decreased by 3.3% to 316 thousand animals.
- The **total number of sheep and lambs** decreased by 1.7% to 30 million animals.
- The **total number of poultry** increased by 4.1% to 183 million birds.
- The **total agricultural workforce** on commercial holdings decreased by 1.5% to 446 thousand people.

Go to [Chapter 2: Structure of industry](#)

Farming income

- In 2024/25, the average **Farm Business Income (FBI)** across all farm types in Great Britain was £66,500 compared to the UK average of £43,500 in 2023/24 (data for Northern Ireland were not available when Agriculture in the UK was compiled). The 2024/25 increase in FBI follows a fall in 2023/24, after the exceptional highs seen for some farm types in 2022/23.

Summary

- FBI varies greatly with 21% of farms in Great Britain failing to make a positive FBI in 2024/25, while 38% of farms had an FBI of over £50,000.
- In 2025/26, with the exception of dairy and lowland grazing livestock farms, average FBI is forecast to fall for farms in England, continuing the pattern of considerable variability seen in recent years. The picture is mixed in terms of key drivers, but lower cereal prices compounded by extremely variable yields in 2025 are forecast to be major factors alongside the reduction to the delinked Basic Payment.

Go to [Chapter 3: Farming income](#)

Accounts

- **UK Total Income from Farming (TIFF)** in 2025 was £8.4 billion, an increase of £1.4 billion (+21%) from 2024. After a period of relative stabilisation in input costs in 2025, the large increase in TIFF was primarily driven by higher commodity prices in the beef and dairy sectors, which led to a substantial rise in the value of outputs.
- **Total livestock output** in 2025 increased by £2.1 billion (+10%) from 2024, to £22.2 billion, with large increases for beef (+23%) and milk (+12%) driven by high commodity prices.
- In 2025, **total crop output** decreased by £0.4 billion (-3.1%) from 2024, to £11.4 billion, driven by falls in the values of barley (-17%), sugar beet (-22%) and potatoes (-5.4%). All three crops saw substantial price drops, despite variable production and quality.
- **Intermediate consumption** increased by £0.3 billion (+1.6%) from 2024, to £21.6 billion in 2025. The small overall increase was driven by increases in the values of other goods and services, fertilisers and total maintenance.
- In 2025, **agriculture's contribution to the UK economy (Gross Value Added at basic prices)** was £15.9 billion (0.6% of GVA). This constitutes an increase of £1.4 billion (+10%) in GVA compared to 2024.
- Despite recent volatility in TIFF, the longer-term trend is of overall improvement, with TIFF more than tripling in real terms between 2000 and 2025. However, TIFF in 2024 remains 37% lower in real terms than the series high of £13.4 billion seen in 1973.

Go to [Chapter 4: Accounts](#)

Productivity

- **Total Factor Productivity** is estimated to have increased by 0.9% between 2024 and 2025. This was driven by an increase in the volume of outputs, offsetting a small increase in the volume of inputs.

Summary

- The volume of **all outputs** increased by 1.8%, with an increase of 2.7% in total crop output and an increase of 1.5% in total livestock output.
- The volume of **all inputs** increased by 0.9%. There was a mixture of increases and decreases in volume across intermediate consumption with an overall increase of 2.3%.

Go to [Chapter 5: Productivity](#)

Prices

- The annual average price index for all agricultural **outputs** increased by 3.0% from 2024 to 2025.
- The largest upward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **outputs** was from cattle and calves (4.8 percentage points), followed by milk (1.4 percentage points). The main downward contributions came from potatoes (-1.7 percentage points) and cereals (-1.2 percentage points).
- The annual average price index for all agricultural **inputs** increased by 0.2% from 2024 to 2025.
- The largest upward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **inputs** was from fertilisers and soil improvers (0.9 percentage points). The largest downward contribution was from compound feedingstuffs (-0.7 percentage points).

Go to [Chapter 6: Prices](#)

Crops

- Harvested production of **wheat** increased by 7.3% to just under 12 million tonnes, due to increased area offsetting a decrease in average yields. The value of production was 0.5% higher at £2.1 billion.
- Harvested production of **barley** decreased by 10% to 6.4 million tonnes. The value of production was 17% lower at just under £1.0 billion.
- **Oilseed rape** production increased by 7% to 893 thousand tonnes. The value of production was 20% higher at £408 million.
- **Sugar beet** production fell by 7.1% to 7.3 million tonnes. The value of production decreased by 22% to £286 million.
- The value of **vegetable** production rose by 0.4% to just over £2.1 billion.
- The value of **fruit** production increased by 5.0% to just over £1.1 billion.
- The value of **potato** production fell 5.4% to just under £1.5 billion.

Go to [Chapter 7: Crops](#)

Livestock

- The value of **beef and veal** increased by 23% to £5.1 billion. Home-fed production decreased by 3.4% to 898 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **pig meat** increased by 0.7% to £1.8 billion. Home-fed production increased by 2.6% to 937 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **mutton and lamb** increased by 5.9% to £1.9 billion. Home-fed production increased by 1.9% to 282 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **poultry meat** increased by 0.6% to £3.4 billion. Home-fed production increased by 0.2% to 2.0 million tonnes.
- The value of **milk and milk products** increased by 12% to £7.0 billion. The volume of milk production for human consumption increased by 5.0% to 15.8 billion litres.
- The value of **eggs** for human consumption increased by 7.0% to £1.5 billion. Production increased by 5.2% to 1.1 billion dozen.

Go to [Chapter 8: Livestock](#)

Intermediate consumption

- The total cost of **intermediate consumption** was £21.6 billion, an increase of £331 million (+1.6%) from 2024.
- The value of **animal feed** decreased by £32 million (-0.4%) from 2024 to £7.1 billion.
- The value of **energy** decreased by £41 million (-2.1%) from 2024 to £1.9 billion.
- The value of **fertilisers** increased by £92 million (+5.5%) from 2024 to £1.8 billion.

Go to [Chapter 9: Intermediate consumption](#)

Agricultural support payments

- **Total payments and support payments to the agricultural industry** increased by 9.7% to £4.9 billion.
- Payments associated with the **Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)** and the replacement **De-linked Payment Scheme (DPS)** decreased by 34% to £1.0 billion.
- Payments associated with **agri-environment schemes** increased by 65% to £1.8 billion.

Go to [Chapter 10: Agricultural support payments](#)

Agri-environment

- Estimated **greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions** from agriculture have fallen 15% between 1990 and 2024.
- After a continuous increase from 2010 to 2018, total **pesticide usage** declined 27% in 2020. This was followed by an 18% increase in 2022, followed by a 14% decline in 2024 to levels seen in 2020.
- Since the late 1990s, **nitrogen and phosphate fertiliser application rates** have fallen, and were at their lowest in 2022. Phosphate application rates have remained at their lowest through to 2024 at 10 kg/ha, while nitrogen application rates increased in 2023 before declining again in 2024 to 73 kg/ha.
- **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 at 78kg/ha and 4.5kg/ha for nitrogen and phosphorus respectively.

Go to [Chapter 11: Agri-environment](#)

Organics

- 540 thousand hectares were **farmed organically** in the UK.
- 56% of UK **organic land** was in England, 31% in Scotland, 12% in Wales and 1.2% in Northern Ireland.
- **Permanent pasture (including rough grazing)** accounted for 64% of organic land in the UK, covering 346 thousand hectares.
- 9.3% of organic land in the UK was used to grow **cereals** (50 thousand hectares).
- 2.8% of **cattle** in the UK were reared organically.
- There were a total of 5,004 **organic operators** in the UK.

Go to [Chapter 12: Organics](#)

Overseas trade

Key results for 2025 and comparisons to 2024 in real terms (adjusted for trade price inflation).

- The value of **food, feed and drink exports** decreased by £0.2 billion (0.9%) to £25.7 billion.
- The value of **food, feed and drink imports** increased by £3.1 billion (4.8%) to £67.8 billion.

Summary

- The trade gap in **food, feed and drink** increased by £3.3 billion (8.6%) to £42.1 billion.
- Principal destinations for **exports** were Ireland (£4.6 billion), France (£2.9 billion), the United States (£2.8 billion) and the Netherlands (£1.7 billion).
- The main countries of dispatch for **imports** into the UK were the Netherlands (£8.1 billion), France (£6.1 billion), Ireland (£5.8 billion) and Belgium (£5.2 billion).
- Whisky continued to have the **highest export value**, totalling £5.4 billion. This was a decrease of 6.6% compared to the previous year.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables together remained the **highest value category for imports**, totalling £8.2 billion, an increase of 4.4%.
- **Exports of fresh vegetables** fell by 15% to £83 million, but **exports of fresh fruit** rose by 6.0% to £80 million.

Go to [Chapter 13: Overseas trade](#)

The food chain

- In 2024, the agri-food sector (excluding fishing) in the United Kingdom accounted for a total estimated **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of £162.3bn or 6.2% of national GVA, an increase of 6.6% since 2023.
- **Employment** in the agri-food sector in Great Britain was 4.1 million over the 12-month period to the fourth quarter of 2025, a 1% fall on the previous year.
- **Total Factor Productivity** of the food chain in 2024 showed no significant change compared to 2023, while the productivity of the wider economy increased by 0.4%. In the 10 years prior to 2024, the average annual growth rate of the food chain was 0.8%, while the wider economy's average annual growth rate was 0.3%.
- **Consumer expenditure** on food and alcoholic drinks was £303.3bn in 2025, an increase of 1.1% from £300bn in 2024 in real terms.
- The **food production to supply ratio** is estimated to be 60% for all food and 72% of indigenous type food in 2025.

Go to [Chapter 14: The food chain](#)

Chapter 1: Key Events

Government and Policy

Key Announcements 2025

On 9 January, Secretary of State (SoS) Steve Reed provided the keynote speech at the Oxford Farming Conference outlining planning reforms to support food production, fairer supply chain rules and committing to protect farmers in trade deals.

On 31 January, SoS launched the Land Use Framework Consultation at Royal Geographical Society.

On 17 February, RPA made 75% partial payments in advance to Countryside Stewardship customers to help with cashflow.

On 25 February, SoS provided the keynote speech at the NFU conference, announcing a 5-year extension to the Seasonal workers scheme, a new Farming Equipment and Technology (FETF) Fund window, Capital Grants reopening, increases to Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) payment rates, and a new National Biosecurity Centre.

On 11 March, Defra stopped accepting new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI24) applications following record uptake from farmers.

On 7 April, it was announced that Baroness Minette Batters had been appointed to lead a review of farm profitability.

On 14 April, Defra opened the new Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) competition, committing up to £20.6 million of funding in 25/26.

On 25 April, two Farming Innovation Programme (FIP) competitions launched - Precision Breeding and Low Emissions Farming, with £25 million available.

On 7 May, a new round of the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) made £46.7 million available to boost profitability by helping farmers cut costs while increasing efficiency.

On 28 May, a £30 million investment increased Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) payment rates.

On 2 June, a new £5 million round of the Farming Innovation Programme (FIP) Investor Partnerships competition opened.

On 16 June, the Spending Review allocated more than £2.7 billion a year to sustainable farming and nature recovery from 2026 to 2029. As part of this, funding for the Environmental Land Management Schemes paid to farmers will increase by 150% over this period.

Chapter 1: Key Events

On 3 July, SoS spoke at Groundswell Show, announcing the reopening of the Capital Grant scheme with £150 million in funding to support nature-friendly farming.

On 18 September, Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier opened for applications.

On 26 September, Alan Laidlaw was announced as the Commissioner for the Tenant Farming Sector to promote fair standards and tackle poor practice.

On 15 October, Defra offered one-year extensions to over 5,000 Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier (CS MT) agreement holders.

On 20 November, new SoS Emma Reynolds attended the CLA Conference in Westminster and set her vision for English farming, providing early information about the reformed SFI.

On 1 December, the government published the revised Environment Improvement Plan. £500 million was announced in Landscape Recovery funding to help restore nature.

On 18 December, Baroness Batters's Profitability Review was published on the GOV.UK website.

On 22 December, the Defra Animal Welfare Strategy outlined major reforms and protections for livestock, pets, and wildlife.

On 23 December, Inheritance tax relief threshold increased for farmers and businesses from £1m to £2.5m from April 2026 – allowing spouses or civil partners to pass on up to £5m in qualifying agricultural or business assets between them.

Key contextual factors

Global events

Global instability

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. Rising tensions in the Middle East also created uncertainty in the supply of gas and shipping of fertiliser, further increasing price volatility.

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 was fairly stable throughout 2025, and the Bank of England's base rate continued to decline. However, it remained high compared to pre-2021 levels, reducing profits and eroding the real-term value of direct support. High inflation also created upward pressure on wages to mitigate its impact on workers.

Chapter 1: Key Events

Food price inflation, which peaked in March 2023 at 19.2%, declined until mid 2024, but then rose slightly throughout 2025 finishing the year at 4.5%.

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 2025, the pound was stable through the winter before trending downwards for the rest of the year. It then began to strengthen again from November.

Weather

2025 was a double record-breaker: the UK's warmest and sunniest year on record. A key feature was the prolonged warm, dry, and sunny weather across much of the UK during the spring and summer.

Winter

Winter 2025 was generally unsettled. Low-pressure systems brought rain, wind and wintry showers across the country, along with two named storms.

All four countries saw above average mean winter temperatures. Wales and Northern Ireland were slightly warmer than England and Scotland. Rainfall totals were below average for all regions, with the UK having only 89% of the 1991-2020 average rainfall. It was a duller than average winter, although Scotland and Northern Ireland did see slightly above average sunshine.

Spring

Spring 2025 was mainly dry and settled with high pressure dominating for most of the season. It was the UK's warmest and sunniest spring on record, and the sixth driest. However, regional variation in rainfall meant it was England's second driest spring on record.

Exceptions to this general picture included wintry showers over Scotland in mid-March and a series of fronts in mid-April which brought heavy rain, with Northern Ireland particularly wet.

Summer

Summer 2025 was the warmest UK summer on record, dominated by high pressure with a series of lengthy warm spells and several heatwaves, frontal rain and storms.

Overall rainfall was below average, with August seeing just 62% of average rainfall for the UK. This was despite wet spells in some areas caused by Storm Floris and the remnants of Hurricane Erin. Only western Scotland and northwest England recorded above average summer rainfall. Sunshine hours were above average across the whole of the summer.

Autumn

Autumn 2025 saw slightly above average temperatures and above average rainfall. The weather was unsettled, with three named storms and low-pressure systems bringing frontal rain across the country.

Overall, this was a rather wet autumn with the UK recording 120% of average autumn rainfall, exceeding 200% in parts of Wales, Northern Ireland and northern England in September. The UK recorded 95% of average sunshine hours for autumn overall, with the west of the country being the dullest. Northern Ireland recorded its dullest autumn since 1983.

Animal Health

In 2025, Defra continued to build on the initiatives that form the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, expanding access to funded advice and investment and enabling more farmers to take action to improve the health, welfare and productivity of their livestock.

The “Get funding to improve animal health and welfare” service, comprising the Animal Health and Welfare Review (AHWR) and Endemic disease follow-up, remained important to the Pathway. The AHWR offers funding for an annual vet visit tailored to individual farm needs, and the Endemic disease follow up supports targeted action on priority endemic diseases. During 2025, eligibility for the service was broadened further, with farmers able to access support for multiple species and for multiple herds or flocks of the same species under a single agreement. By the end of 2025, the total number of claims made since launch had passed 10,000, underlining the strong uptake of the offer across the sector. These visits support disease prevention, biosecurity and the responsible use of medicines.

Alongside advice and diagnostics, farmers were able to invest in practical improvements through capital funding. The 2025 Farming Equipment and Technology Fund included a £16 million animal health and welfare theme, which proved highly popular and was fully subscribed. This included improved livestock handling systems and weighing and monitoring equipment to support safer handling and earlier identification of animal health issues. In addition, applications continued to be accepted early in the year for large capital grants supporting health and welfare outcomes, enabling further on-farm investment to support improved animal health and welfare.

Avian influenza

In the 2025 calendar year, there were a total of 1,709 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in the United Kingdom. There were 1,659 incidents of H5N1, in 43 cases of H5Nx and seven cases of H5N5. Country split is as follows:

There were 146 poultry outbreaks; 122 were in England, nine in Wales, seven in Scotland, and eight in Northern Ireland (including one in captive birds); all were H5N1.

There were 1,512 United Kingdom wild bird cases (based on laboratory testing date); 1,445 were H5N1, of which 1,028 were in England, 322 in Scotland, 95 in Wales and 17 in Northern Ireland.

Chapter 1: Key Events

A further 43 wild bird cases were H5Nx, with 30 cases in England, 10 in Scotland and three in Wales. The remaining seven cases were H5N5, with five cases in England and two in Scotland. For further details see [Bird flu \(avian influenza\): cases in wild birds](#).

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)

England

The percentage of herds Officially TB Free in England was 96.5% at the end of 2025, an increase on 2024 (95.8%). Overall, 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 [2025 Accredited Official Statistics for TB in cattle in GB](#).

In late 2024, the Bovine TB Partnership for England was reformed as a co-design steering group to oversee the development of a comprehensive new bovine TB strategy for England throughout 2025. This followed the announcement of the new strategy by the then Minister, Daniel Zeichner, in August 2024.

The refreshed TB strategy, expected to be published in spring 2026, has been informed by extensive expert and public engagement. This includes input from several expert working groups involving over 100 contributors, a Citizen Dialogue structured engagement exercise, and the findings of a reconvened independent expert panel chaired by Professor Sir Charles Godfray. The panel was asked to consider whether any substantive new evidence had emerged since its 2018 review. The updated evidence review was [published in September 2025](#).

A third and planned final phase of field trials for a new cattle TB vaccine and companion skin test (DIVA - Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals) commenced 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 2025. Vaccination was delivered by the government through the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), alongside several NGO led initiatives, including a new project led by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) in Cornwall. In 2025, a new badger vaccination field force was also developed through a competitive tender process, building on a farming community led project in East Sussex.

In 2025, Natural England re-authorised culling operations to resume in 12 intensive control areas, which included one licence in the Low Risk Area. Natural England also re-authorised culling operations in nine existing supplementary badger control areas, bringing the total number of authorised areas in 2025 to 21. All remaining intensive and supplementary badger culling licences in England's High Risk and Edge Areas ended by January 2026.

Several projects were also undertaken in 2025 aimed at collecting data on TB in wild deer, as the role of deer species is still uncertain. This involved working with farmers and deer managers in Oxfordshire and Cornwall to collect blood samples from shot deer for TB testing. This has helped demonstrate the effectiveness of stakeholder led and delivered wildlife surveillance.

Wales

In the 12 months to December 2025, the number of new TB incidents across Wales decreased to 567. This was down from 596 in the previous year, representing a 5.0% decrease. In the High TB Area West, new incidents dropped from 272 to 246, a 10.2% decrease. There has also been a decrease in the number of new incidents recorded in the Intermediate TB Area North, with a reduction from 78 to 71 (a 9.0% decrease) and the Low TB Area, with a reduction from 26 to 21 (a 19% decrease).

There has been no change in the number of new incidents in the High TB Area East, with the number remaining at 161. However, there has been an increase in new incidents in the Intermediate TB Area Mid. New incidents in the Intermediate TB Area Mid increased from 58 to 68, a 17% increase, continuing the trend in the previous year.

A new five-year [Delivery Plan](#) was introduced by the previous government 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 then 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 governance arrangements set out in the Delivery Plan, the [TB Eradication Programme Board](#) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG), were fully operational in 2025. A key change that went through the full governance process concerned Inconclusive Reactor policy. In May 2025 the then Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs announced changes to the Inconclusive Reactor policy which would mean that standard Inconclusive Reactor cattle would be restricted to their herd for life. Preparatory work towards delivery of this change began in 2025 and the policy was operational in January 2026. The Programme Board also began work on a [position paper on TB eradication in Wales](#), that was published in March 2026.

The [Pembrokeshire Project](#), which began in 2023, continued in 2025 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. A comparable project ran on a small number of North Wales farms in 2025, aimed at keeping bovine TB out.

Scotland

Scotland continues to have a low and stable incidence of bovine tuberculosis, in line with the requirements for Officially TB Free status. In 2025, there were 11 confirmed cases of TB in Scotland.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, herd incidence for 2025 was 9.9%, with animal incidence standing at 1.068%. Both herd and animal incidence declined over the past year (from 10.7% and 1.149% respectively in 2024). Despite this improvement, disease

Chapter 1: Key Events

rates remain at historically high levels, while the annual cost of delivering the Northern Ireland bTB programme has also continued to rise. Driven largely by the high market value of cattle slaughtered for bTB disease control, the overall programme cost is now in the region of £70million.

In April 2025, the new stakeholder body, the TB Partnership Steering Group (TBPSG), which is chaired by the Northern Ireland Chief Veterinary Officer, published its [Bovine Tuberculosis in Northern Ireland - Blueprint for Eradication](#). Endorsed by the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, good progress has been made over the past year in implementing its key priorities.

The amount of supplementary interferon gamma (IFNg) testing being carried out in breakdown herds has increased; a major cross-border regionalisation research pilot has been launched in conjunction with the Republic of Ireland; and information has been shared with farmers about the risk to their herds from cattle that previously had inconclusive skin test results.

A new public consultation on potential wildlife intervention options is due to take place over the summer of 2026.

Work is also continuing with TBPSG to implement other priority recommendations set out in the Blueprint including the procurement of on-farm biosecurity advice; introduction of pre/post movement testing; further work to enable farmers to access more departmental data relating to their herds' bTB history; revising criteria for the establishment of alternative control herds; and establishing the basis on which IFNg testing would be mandatory.

Note: More information on Bovine Tuberculosis can be found at the [TB hub](#).

Chapter 2: Structure of Industry

Summary

Key results for 2025 compared to 2024:

- The **Utilised Agricultural Area** (UAA) increased by 0.4% to 17 million hectares, covering 69% of land in the UK.
- The **total croppable area** decreased by 0.7% in 2025 to 6.1 million hectares.
- The **cereal crops area** increased by 1.6% to 3.0 million hectares.
- The **area of oilseed crops** planted decreased by 18% to 261 thousand hectares.
- The **total number of cattle and calves** decreased by 1.3% to 9.3 million animals. The beef herd decreased by 4.1% to 1.3 million animals. The dairy herd increased by 0.7% to 1.8 million animals.
- The **total number of pigs** increased by 0.5% to 4.7 million animals. The total number of female pigs in the breeding herd decreased by 3.3% to 316 thousand animals.
- The **total number of sheep and lambs** decreased by 1.7% to 30 million animals.
- The **total number of poultry** increased by 4.1% to 183 million birds.
- The **total agricultural workforce** on commercial holdings decreased by 1.5% to 446 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 2025 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 decreased by 0.7% in 2025 and was 6.1 million hectares. However some categories within this total had greater changes than others (see Table 2.1).

Cereal crops accounted for the majority (71%) of the cropped area. As seen in Figure 2.1a, wheat and barley were the predominant cereal crops. In 2025, the area of wheat increased by 9.1% and was 1.7 million hectares. The area of barley decreased by 9.6% and was 1.1 million hectares.

The area of oilseed rape decreased by 18% in 2025 and was 241 thousand hectares. As seen in Figure 2.1b, the area of potatoes increased by 7.2% to 127 thousand hectares in 2025. The remaining arable crops decreased by 6.0% to 688 thousand hectares. Peas for harvesting dry, field beans and maize together accounted for 69% of this area. The area of peas and field beans decreased by 9.9% whilst the area of maize increased by 2.9%.

Figure 2.1c provides a detailed breakdown of horticultural crop areas, with vegetables grown outdoors accounting for 70% of all horticultural crops.

The majority (84%) 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 56%.

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 (thousand hectares)

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Category	2023	2024	2025
UAA (Utilised Agricultural Area)	17,022	16,760	16,821
UAA as a proportion of total UK area	70%	69%	69%
Total agricultural area	18,334	18,046	17,970
Common rough grazing	1,194	1,197	1,197
Total area on agricultural holdings	17,140	16,848	16,773
Total croppable area	6,086	6,167	6,125
Total crops	4,515	4,276	4,236
Total arable crops	4,370	4,134	4,089
Cereals	3,088	2,966	3,013
Oilseeds	418	317	261
Potatoes	115	118	127
Other arable crops	750	732	688
Horticultural crops	145	142	147
Uncropped arable land	311	616	576
Temporary grass under 5 years old	1,260	1,275	1,313
Total permanent grassland	9,730	9,380	9,484
Grass over 5 years old	6,074	5,865	5,985
Sole right rough grazing	3,655	3,511	3,494
Land for solar panels also used for grazing or agricultural production	[x]	4	5
Other land on agricultural holdings	1,324	1,301	1,165
Woodland	948	939	902
Land used for outdoor pigs	12	12	11
Land for solar panels not used for agricultural production	[x]	4	5
All other non-agricultural land	364	347	247

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.
5. [x] indicates where data is unavailable.

Source: [Defra's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture](#)

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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 (thousand hectares)

Year	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Minor cereals	Total
2023	1,720	1,137	167	65	3,088
2024	1,531	1,194	182	59	2,966
2025	1,670	1,080	198	65	3,013

Figure 2.1b Other arable crop areas (thousand hectares)

Year	Oilseeds	Potatoes	Sugar beet (not for stockfeeding)	Maize	Peas for harvesting dry and field beans	Remaining arable crops	Total
2023	418	115	99	240	275	135	1,282
2024	317	118	103	266	224	139	1,168
2025	261	127	93	274	202	120	1,076

Figure 2.1c Horticultural crop areas (thousand hectares)

Year	Vegetables grown outdoors	Orchard fruit	Small fruit	Hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers	Glasshouse crops	Total
2023	100	21	11	10	3	145
2024	97	20	11	12	3	142
2025	103	19	10	12	2	147

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: [Defra's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture](#)/SAF land data

[Download the full structure of industry dataset](#)

Livestock numbers

In 2025, the total number of cattle and calves decreased by 1.3% from 2024 to 9.3 million. The dairy herd remained stable at 1.8 million animals. The beef herd decreased by 4.1% to 1.3 million animals, continuing to drive the gradual downward trend seen in the breeding herd in recent years.

For sheep, the female breeding flock decreased by 0.7% to just under 15 million animals. The number of other sheep and lambs was just under 16 million in 2025, which decreased by 2.7% from 2024. As a result, the total UK sheep and lamb population was 30 million which decreased by 1.7% compared to 2024.

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 3.3% and was 316 thousand in 2025.

The total number of poultry in the UK increased by 4.1% and was 183 million birds in 2025. The overall increase in numbers was largely due to a 7.6% rise to 121 million in the number of table chickens (broilers), which account for 66% of all poultry.

The breakdowns of livestock populations are shown in Figures 2.2a to 2.2d.

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

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Figure 2.2a Female cattle breeding herd (thousand head)

Year	Cows in the beef herd	Cows in the dairy herd	Total breeding herd
2023	1,407	1,836	3,243
2024	1,344	1,836	3,181
2025	1,290	1,849	3,139

Figure 2.2b Sheep numbers (thousand head)

Year	Female breeding flock	Other sheep and lambs	Total
2023	15,438	16,365	31,803
2024	14,882	16,135	31,017
2025	14,780	15,704	30,484

Figure 2.2c Female pig breeding herd (thousand head)

Year	Sows in pig	Gilts in pig	Other sows for breeding	Total breeding herd
2023	238	48	52	338
2024	236	43	49	327
2025	233	39	44	316

Figure 2.2d Poultry numbers (thousand birds)

Year	Laying flock (including pullets)	Breeding flock	Table chickens	Turkeys, ducks, geese, all other poultry	Total
2023	41,073	12,720	116,440	7,909	178,142
2024	41,863	12,749	112,374	9,099	176,085
2025	42,703	11,232	120,959	8,438	183,332

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: Defra's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture; Cattle Tracing System/APHIS

[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 2021 and 2025. In 2025, the total number of holdings was 212 thousand which decreased by 2.2% compared to 2021. Within the four-year period the total area on holdings has decreased by 3.8%.

Between 2021 and 2025 the average area of all holdings decreased by 1.6% and the average croppable area of holdings increased by 2.3%.

Figure 2.3a shows the proportion of holdings and total area by size bands. This shows that around a fifth of holdings had 100 hectares or more, but these holdings accounted for around three quarters of the total area. Most holdings in 2021 and 2025 had fewer than 20 hectares and accounted for just 4.2% of the total area. A similar picture can be drawn for the croppable area which is shown in Figure 2.3c.

In previous editions of Agriculture in the United Kingdom, data from the current year would be compared to data from five years ago. However, it is not possible to use data from 2020 in this instance, as no farm size breakdowns are available due to the smaller than normal sample size used as a result of disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tables 2.2a to 2.2d and Figures 2.3a to 2.3c show number of holdings and total areas for the UK. Tables 2.3a and 2.3b, and Figure 2.4 show number of holdings and total areas by country.

Tables 2.2a to 2.2d, and Figures 2.3a to 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 (thousand)

Year	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
2021	105	41	30	41	216
2025	103	39	30	40	212

Table 2.2b Total area on holdings by size group (thousand hectares)

Year	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total area
2021	713	1,343	2,187	13,192	17,436
2025	699	1,289	2,114	12,671	16,773

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

Category	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
2021 - Proportion of holdings	48%	19%	14%	19%	100%
2025 - Proportion of holdings	49%	18%	14%	19%	100%
2021 - Proportion of total area	4%	8%	12%	76%	100%
2025 - Proportion of total area	4%	8%	13%	75%	100%

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

Year	Average total area	Average total area on holdings with >=20 hectares	Average croppable area
2021	81	150	64
2025	79	148	66

Table 2.2c Numbers of holdings with croppable areas by size group (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
2021	47	17	13	17	94
2025	46	17	13	17	93

Table 2.2d Croppable area on holdings by size group (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
2021	283	552	929	4,291	6,056
2025	265	549	915	4,395	6,125

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

Category	0.1 to under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
2021 - Proportion of holdings with croppable area	50%	18%	14%	18%	100%
2025 - Proportion of holdings with croppable area	50%	18%	14%	18%	100%
2021 - Proportion of croppable area	5%	9%	15%	71%	100%
2025 - 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: [Defra's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture/SAF land data Scotland](#).

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Tables 2.3a to 2.3b and Figure 2.4 - Numbers of holdings and areas by size group and country, June 2025

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Table 2.3a Numbers of holdings by total area size group and country, June 2025 (thousand)

Country	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total
England	39	20	16	25	100
Wales	21	6	5	5	37
Scotland	31	5	4	8	48
Northern Ireland	11	8	4	2	26

Table 2.3b Total area on holdings by size group and country, June 2025 (thousand hectares)

Country	Under 20 hectares	20 to under 50 hectares	50 to under 100 hectares	100 hectares and over	Total area
England	314	647	1,181	6,804	8,946
Wales	123	215	356	1,076	1,770
Scotland	152	165	294	4,413	5,024
Northern Ireland	110	262	282	378	1,032

Figure 2.4 Average total area on holdings by country, June 2025 (hectares)

Country	Average total area	Average total area on holdings with >=20 hectares
England	90	142
Wales	47	101
Scotland	104	286
Northern Ireland	40	64
United Kingdom	79	148

Notes for Tables 2.3a to 2.3b:

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

Source: [Defra's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture](#)/SAF land data Scotland.

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Agriculture workforce

The agricultural workforce in 2025 decreased by 1.5% and was 446 thousand people. Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses accounted for 65% of the total workforce.

Figure 2.5 Agricultural labour force on commercial holdings at June of each year (thousand)

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Year	Farmers, partners, directors and spouses (full time)	Farmers, partners, directors and spouses (part time)	Regular employees, salaried managers and casual workers	Total number of people working on commercial agricultural holdings
2023	148	151	163	462
2024	145	148	160	453
2025	145	144	157	446

Chapter 2: Structure of Industry

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. Regular employees include salaried managers as not all UK countries collect separate estimates.

Source: [Defra's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture](#)

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Chapter 3: Farming Income

Summary

- In 2024/25, the average **Farm Business Income (FBI)** across all farm types in Great Britain was £66,500 compared to the UK average of £43,500 in 2023/24 (data for Northern Ireland were not available when Agriculture in the UK was compiled). The 2024/25 increase in FBI follows a fall in 2023/24, after the exceptional highs seen for some farm types in 2022/23.
- FBI varies greatly with 21% of farms in Great Britain failing to make a positive FBI in 2024/25, while 38% of farms had an FBI of over £50,000.
- In 2025/26, with the exception of dairy and lowland grazing livestock farms, average FBI is forecast to fall for farms in England, continuing the pattern of considerable variability seen in recent years. The picture is mixed in terms of key drivers, but lower cereal prices compounded by extremely variable yields in 2025 are forecast to be major factors alongside the reduction to the delinked Basic Payment.

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 output generated by the farm business minus total farm costs, essentially net profit. It 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.

Data notes

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. [2024/25 data for Northern Ireland](#) were not available when this publication was compiled.

Forecasts of FBI for 2025/26 (i.e. the year ending February 2026 and harvest 2025) at current prices are shown in Table 3.1a for England. These forecasts include the 2025 delinked Basic Payment which is recorded in the 2025/26 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 2025/26 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.

Farm Business Survey data for individual UK countries can be found at the following links:

- [England](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

Farm Business Incomes by farm type

For farms in England, the main drivers for the 2025/26 forecast decrease in average FBI are expected to vary across farm types. For crop enterprises, a fall in output (particularly for cereals) is forecast, with the drought conditions and lower prices key

factors. The reduction to the delinked Basic Payment is also expected to impact FBI; the 2025 reduction saw a 76% decrease on payments up to £30,000 and a 100% decrease for payments above that level. Although variation between farm types is forecast, at the all farm level income from agri-environment activities is expected to be slightly lower. This follows considerable increases to agri-environment payments for some farm types in 2024/25.

On **cereal farms**, average FBI is expected to fall by two thirds in 2025/26 to £17,000 largely driven by lower output from cereals and the reduction to the delinked Basic Payment. Yields were extremely variable with crops (particularly on lighter soils) impacted by the heat and drought. This variability coincided with plentiful global supplies placing downward pressure on prices; as a result, total crop output is expected to be around 9% lower than 2024/25. Output from the delinked Basic Payment is forecast to fall by 72% with net income from agri-environment payments also expected to be lower than 2024/25. At the same time, input costs are forecast to increase slightly. Based on trends in recent years, output from diversified activities is expected to rise by around 7%.

Average FBI on **general cropping farms** in England is forecast to halve in 2025/26 to £54,000. Lower crop output (predicted to fall by 13%) is expected to be a key factor. While output for oilseed rape and field beans is forecast to rise, this will be more than offset by lower output from cereal crops, potatoes and sugar beet. Input costs are predicted to increase by around 2%, with rises in labour, crop and machinery costs the biggest contributors. An increase in diversified output of around 10% (based on recent trends) is expected to be insufficient to offset the combined reduction to output from the delinked Basic Payment and net income from agri-environment activities.

For **dairy farms**, FBI is forecast to rise by 45% to £224,000 in 2025/26, bringing average income towards the level seen in 2022/23. The primary driver is expected to be a rise in the volume of milk produced rather than farmgate price (which saw a downward trend towards the end of the survey period). Robust cull cow and dairy breeding cattle prices are also predicted to have a positive impact on livestock output. Input costs are expected to increase by 3% largely driven by higher feed costs following the summer drought. Output from diversification is forecast to be around 9% higher than 2024/25 (based on recent trends) and net income from agri-environment payments increase by a quarter.

The FBI for **lowland grazing livestock farms** in England is forecast to rise by 9% in 2025/26. Output from cattle enterprises is expected to increase by 17%, supported by exceptionally strong prices for store and finished animals. For sheep, output is predicted to maintain its 2024/25 level. A small fall in net income from agri-environment payments is forecast to be more than offset by higher output from diversified activities (estimated based on recent trends). Taking these factors together, along with the reduced delinked Basic Payment, total output at the business level is forecast to increase by 4% while input costs rise by 2%.

At £37,000, FBI for **Less Favoured Area (LFA) grazing livestock farms** is forecast to be 8% lower than 2024/25. Livestock output is expected to increase by 13%, with similar drivers to lowland farms, alongside continuing high values for sheep breeding stock. However, the fall in output from the delinked Basic Payment, combined with

Chapter 3: Farming Income

lower net income from agri-environment payments, is forecast to result in no change to total output at the business level, while input costs are expected to rise by 2%.

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. Average FBI on these farms is predicted to fall by 41% compared to 2024/25 to £75,000, reflecting a 7% drop in output from pig enterprises (the result of declining pig prices in the second half of the survey year). Crop output is also expected to fall along with the delinked Basic Payment. Based on recent trends, output from diversified activities is forecast to rise by around 9%. At the business level, these combined factors are expected to result in a 7% fall in total output. Input costs are expected to be 1% lower compared to 2024/25, driven mainly by a 5% reduction in feed costs (reflecting lower grain prices).

Incomes on **mixed farms** in England are forecast to fall by 32% to £40,000 in 2025/26. 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	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (Provisional)
England				
Cereals	143,500	41,500	49,500	17,000
General cropping	116,500	104,500	107,500	54,000
Dairy	228,500	73,000	154,000	224,000
Grazing livestock (lowland)	24,000	18,500	41,500	45,000
Grazing livestock (LFA)	25,000	25,000	40,500	37,000
Specialist pigs	72,500	134,500	126,500	75,000
Specialist poultry	114,500	174,500	236,000	[x]
Mixed	67,000	22,500	58,000	40,000
Wales				
Dairy	165,000	67,500	133,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	18,500	23,000	32,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	24,500	22,000	37,000	[x]
Scotland				
Cereals	98,500	38,000	28,500	[x]
General cropping	167,000	161,000	165,500	[x]
Dairy	249,500	113,500	218,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	19,500	500	1,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	24,000	15,000	28,500	[x]
Mixed	85,000	46,000	60,500	[x]
Northern Ireland				
Dairy	123,000	43,500	[x]	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	18,000	19,000	[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	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (Provisional)
At current prices				
Cereals	140,500	41,000	47,500	[x]
General cropping	134,500	117,000	119,500	[x]
Dairy	191,000	67,000	155,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	22,000	18,500	38,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	23,500	20,500	35,500	[x]
Specialist pigs	72,500	136,500	126,500	[x]
Specialist poultry	117,000	174,500	236,000	[x]
Mixed	71,000	27,500	57,000	[x]
All types (including Horticulture)	82,500	43,500	66,500	[x]
In real terms (at 2024/25 prices)				
Cereals	154,000	42,500	47,500	[x]
General cropping	147,500	121,500	119,500	[x]
Dairy	209,000	69,500	155,500	[x]
Grazing livestock (lowland)	24,000	19,500	38,000	[x]
Grazing livestock (LFA)	26,000	21,500	35,500	[x]
Specialist pigs	79,500	142,500	126,500	[x]
Specialist poultry	128,000	182,000	236,000	[x]
Mixed	77,500	28,500	57,000	[x]
All types (including Horticulture)	90,500	45,000	66,500	[x]

Notes for Table 3.1a and 3.1b:

1. [x] data unavailable.
2. Years are accounting years ending on average in February.
3. Figures for 2022/23 to 2024/25 rounded to nearest £500.
4. Forecast figures for 2025/26 rounded to the nearest £1,000. These figures are provisional and subject to revision. See Data Notes for more information on income forecasts.
5. England data for 2022/23 onwards are based on 2017 Standard Output coefficients and 2024 Standard Labour Requirements. For more information see [Changes to Standard Labour Requirement Coefficients - GOV.UK](#). All other data are based on 2013 Standard Output coefficients and 2008 Standard Labour Requirements.

6. England data for 2022/23 and 2023/24 revised to reflect an update to the weighting methodology. For more information see [note on the 2025 update to the calibration weighting methodology used in the England Farm Business Survey](#).
7. Scotland data for 2023/24 revised to correct an error due to changes in methodology related to Basis Period Reform. Estimates for general cropping and all types were affected.
8. Table 3.1a figures are at current prices.
9. Table 3.1b figures are shown at current prices and in real terms. Real term figures are adjusted for inflation using GDP deflator.
10. 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 2024/25 are for Great Britain only.
11. See Data Notes for links to the Farm Business Survey data for individual UK countries.

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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 2024/25.

Twenty-one percent of farms in Great Britain failed to make a positive FBI compared with [29% in 2023/24](#), although there was some variation between countries, with Wales having the lowest proportion at 15% of farms. The lower income brackets (less than £20,000) accounted for 41% of farms in Great Britain. At the other end of the scale, 38% of farms had an FBI of more than £50,000 (compared to [28% in 2023/24](#)). There was again some variation between countries in this highest income category. For England the proportion of farms was 40% and for Scotland 35%, while for Wales the proportion of farms was 30%.

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 29% of farms in Great Britain failed to make a profit.

For comparison, the full distribution of farm incomes for 2023/24 can be found in [Chapter 3 of the 2024 Agriculture in the UK](#).

Tables 3.2a to 3.2c All farm types: distribution of farm incomes by country 2024/25 (percentage of farms unless otherwise specified)

Enquires: Alison Wray +44 (0)20 802 66119

Email: fbs.queries@defra.gov.uk

Table 3.2a Farm Business Income (percentage of farms)

Farm Business Income	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Less than zero	21%	15%	29%	21%
0 to less than £5,000	6%	5%	3%	5%
£5,000 to less than £10,000	3%	4%	4%	4%
£10,000 to less than £20,000	10%	13%	11%	11%
£20,000 to less than £30,000	7%	15%	8%	8%
£30,000 to less than £50,000	13%	17%	11%	13%
£50,000 and over	40%	30%	35%	38%
Average (£ thousand per farm)	71	50	59	67

Table 3.2b Net Farm Income (percentage of farms)

Net Farm Income	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Less than zero	28%	26%	38%	29%
0 to less than £5,000	6%	6%	4%	6%
£5,000 to less than £10,000	4%	8%	6%	5%
£10,000 to less than £20,000	9%	16%	8%	10%
£20,000 to less than £30,000	7%	10%	9%	8%
£30,000 to less than £50,000	11%	11%	11%	11%
£50,000 and over	34%	23%	25%	31%
Average (£ thousand per farm)	60	38	42	55

Table 3.2c Cash Income (percentage of farms)

Cash Income	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Less than zero	11%	8%	11%	11%
0 to less than £5,000	3%	3%	4%	4%
£5,000 to less than £10,000	4%	7%	4%	5%
£10,000 to less than £20,000	11%	10%	9%	10%
£20,000 to less than £30,000	7%	12%	10%	8%
£30,000 to less than £50,000	12%	16%	14%	13%
£50,000 and over	51%	43%	49%	50%
Average (£ thousand per farm)	110	67	93	102

Notes for Table 3.2a to 3.2c

1. See Data Notes for links to the Farm Business Survey data for individual UK countries.

[Download the full farming income dataset](#)

Figure 3.1a shows the differences in performance of farms in Great Britain in 2024/25. 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 substantial variation in performance with just under half of farms in Great Britain failing to recover their costs in 2024/25.

Figure 3.1a Distribution of performance across farms 2024/25: Great Britain (£ output per £100 input)

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Email: fbq.queries@defra.gov.uk

£ output per £100 input	% of farms
£0 < £60	7%
£60 < £70	6%
£70 < £80	10%
£80 < £90	11%
£90 < £100	15%
£100 < £110	14%
£110 < £120	13%
£120 < £130	10%
£130 < £140	5%
£140 < £150	4%
£150 < £160	3%
£160 < £170	1%
£170 and over	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.
2. See Data Notes for links to the Farm Business Survey data for individual UK countries.

Figures 3.1b to 3.1d show farm performance by individual country. In Wales, 58% of farms failed to recover their costs in 2024/25, compared to 51% in England; however, the figure dropped to 28% of farms in Scotland. Scotland also had the highest proportion of farms (3%) producing over £170 of output to every £100 of input.

Figure 3.1b Distribution of performance across farms 2024/25: England (£ output per £100 input)

Enquires: Alison Wray +44 (0)20 802 66119

Email: fbs.queries@defra.gov.uk

£ output per £100 input	% of farms
£0 < £60	7%
£60 < £70	6%
£70 < £80	10%
£80 < £90	12%
£90 < £100	16%
£100 < £110	15%
£110 < £120	12%
£120 < £130	10%
£130 < £140	5%
£140 < £150	3%
£150 < £160	2%
£160 < £170	1%
£170 and over	2%

Source: Farm Business Survey

Figure 3.1c Distribution of performance across farms 2024/25: Wales (£ output per £100 input)

Enquires: Alison Wray +44 (0)20 802 66119

Email: fbs.queries@defra.gov.uk

£ output per £100 input	% of farms
£0 < £60	11%
£60 < £70	9%
£70 < £80	12%
£80 < £90	13%
£90 < £100	13%
£100 < £110	14%
£110 < £120	9%
£120 < £130	9%
£130 < £140	4%
£140 < £150	2%
£150 < £160	2%
£160 < £170	1%
£170 and over	1%

Source: Farm Business Survey

Figure 3.1d Distribution of performance across farms 2024/25: Scotland (£ output per £100 input)

Enquires: Alison Wray +44 (0)20 802 66119

Email: fbs.queries@defra.gov.uk

£ output per £100 input	% of farms
£0 < £60	2%
£60 < £70	3%
£70 < £80	6%
£80 < £90	7%
£90 < £100	10%
£100 < £110	13%
£110 < £120	19%
£120 < £130	13%
£130 < £140	6%
£140 < £150	9%
£150 < £160	6%
£160 < £170	2%
£170 and over	3%

Source: Farm Business Survey

Notes for Figures 3.1b to 3.1d:

1. Performance is based on the ratio of farm business output to farm business costs which includes an adjustment for unpaid labour.
2. See Data Notes for links to the Farm Business Survey data for individual UK countries.

[Download the full farming income dataset](#)

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 plus Other subsidies less taxes less Total intermediate consumption, rent, paid labour less Total consumption of fixed capital (depreciation) less Interest	Total output from agriculture (includes crop and livestock valuation change) plus Total output from agri-environment schemes plus Total output from diversification plus Single/Basic payment scheme 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. Treatment of stocks: the physical changes in stocks valued at average calendar year prices.	The preferred measure for comparisons of farm type. 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	Complete range of on-farm activities including income from diversified activities where they are included in the farm accounts.

Total Income from Farming	Farm Business Income
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 England provisional 2024/25 results published in the 2024 edition of AUK, the outturn (based on actual survey results from the Farm Business Survey) for cereal farms was higher than forecast due to an underestimation of output from diversified activities and, to a lesser extent, output from crops. For grazing livestock farms, both lowland and those in Less Favoured Areas, income was also higher than forecast. On lowland farms this was largely the result of an underestimation of output from cattle, sheep and diversified activities. For LFA grazing livestock farms the value of agri-environment activities was underestimated. Average income on mixed farms was higher than predicted with crop output higher than forecast.

For general cropping farms, dairy farms and specialist pig farms the forecasts were within the confidence intervals of the survey outturns.

To note: no England forecasts were produced for specialist poultry or horticulture farms in 2025/26 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.

- **UK Total Income from Farming (TIFF)** in 2025 was £8.4 billion, an increase of £1.4 billion (+21%) from 2024. After a period of relative stabilisation in input costs in 2025, the large increase in TIFF was primarily driven by higher commodity prices in the beef and dairy sectors, which led to a substantial rise in the value of outputs.
- **Total livestock output** in 2025 increased by £2.1 billion (+10%) from 2024, to £22.2 billion, with large increases for beef (+23%) and milk (+12%) driven by high commodity prices.
- In 2025, **total crop output** decreased by £0.4 billion (-3.1%) from 2024, to £11.4 billion, driven by falls in the values of barley (-17%), sugar beet (-22%) and potatoes (-5.4%). All three crops saw substantial price drops, despite variable production and quality.
- **Intermediate consumption** increased by £0.3 billion (+1.6%) from 2024, to £21.6 billion in 2025. The small overall increase was driven by increases in the values of other goods and services, fertilisers and total maintenance.
- In 2025, **agriculture's contribution to the UK economy (Gross Value Added at basic prices)** was £15.9 billion (0.6% of GVA). This constitutes an increase of £1.4 billion (+10%) in GVA compared to 2024.
- Despite recent volatility in TIFF, the longer-term trend is of overall improvement, with TIFF more than tripling in real terms between 2000 and 2025. However, TIFF in 2024 remains 37% lower in real terms than the series high of £13.4 billion seen in 1973.

Introduction

This chapter presents the UK aggregate agricultural accounts, 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 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.

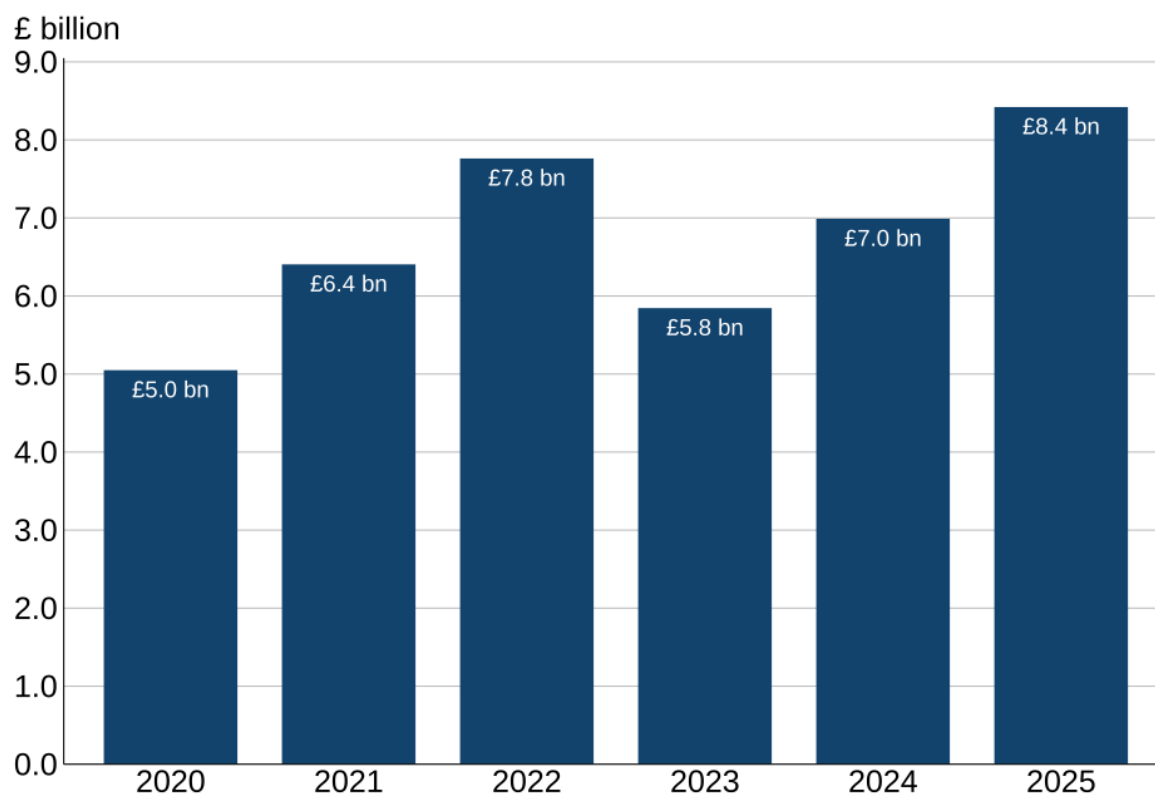
The value of TIFF is subject to a degree of revision in future years when additional data becomes available. In this release, the estimate of TIFF for 2024, published in June 2024, has been revised downwards by £699 million (-9.1%). This is primarily due to an increase in the value of inputs and costs as a result of the replacement of industry estimates with survey data.

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: Total Income from Farming for the United Kingdom: 2020 to 2025 at current prices (£ billion)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description of Figure 4.1: Figure 4.1 shows the value of TIFF from 2020 to 2025 at current prices. TIFF is presented in billions.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

Since 2020, the average value of TIFF has been £6.7 billion, with the lowest value of £5.0 billion occurring in 2020, and the highest value of £8.4 billion occurring in 2025. In 2025, the value of TIFF increased by £1.4 billion (+21%), from £7.0 billion in 2024.

Outputs and subsidies

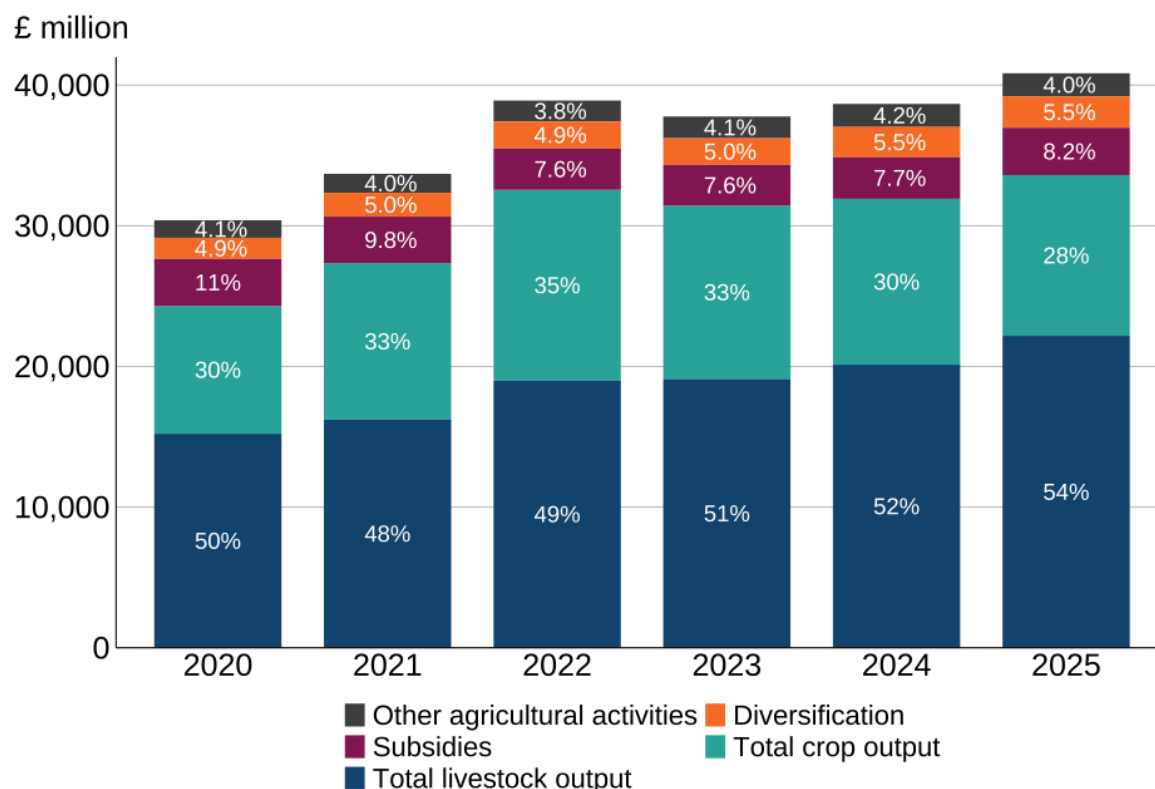
In this section, all values are provided in current prices which is considered the most intuitive approach for comparisons over a short time period. It should be noted that these values have not been adjusted for inflation.

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 2025 UK Aggregate Agricultural Accounts.

Overview

Figure 4.2: Summary of outputs and subsidies, 2020 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description of Figure 4.2: Figure 4.2 shows the value of all outputs and subsidies from 2020 to 2025. Values are presented in millions and %. 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.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

In 2025, total livestock output was £22.2 billion, an increase of £2.1 billion (+10%) on 2024. The second largest contribution to the value of outputs and subsidies in 2025 was total crop output at £11.4 billion, a decrease of £364 million (-3.1%) on 2024. The remaining incomes to farmers in 2025 were subsidies (£3.4 billion), diversification (£2.2 billion) and other agricultural activities (£1.6 billion).

Total livestock output

Figure 4.3: Main contributions to total livestock output, 2024 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025
Milk	6,295	7,049
Beef	4,139	5,084
Poultry	3,348	3,367
Mutton and lamb	1,763	1,867
Pig meat	1,815	1,828
Eggs	1,360	1,456

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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The largest contribution to total livestock output in 2025 was milk with a value of £7.0 billion, an increase of 775 million (+12%) from 2024. This was the second largest value increase in total livestock output and was driven by a combination of high prices and high production volumes. Elevated prices continued from the end of 2024 due to high commodity values for butter and cream. This, combined with low feed wheat prices, encouraged a 5.0% increase in domestic production from 2024, to 15.8 billion litres in 2025. Following a fall in global dairy commodity values, UK farmgate milk prices began to fall in the last 2 months of 2025 but remained historically high. The overall 2025 UK farmgate milk price increased by 6.8% compared to 2024, at 44 pence per litre.

In 2025, the largest value increase in total livestock output was beef with an increase of £945 million (+23%) from 2024. This increase was driven by reduced production and sustained demand, resulting in elevated prices throughout 2025. Home-killed beef production decreased by 3.4% in 2025 to 898 thousand tonnes, driven by a 4.3% decline in prime cattle slaughter numbers, which was partially moderated by a 1.0% increase in dressed carcase weight. The tightening in supply sharply increased finished deadweight prime cattle prices, which reached a historical high annual price of 647 pence per kilogram in 2025, an increase of 30% on 2024.

Total crop output

Figure 4.4: Main contributions to total crop output, 2024 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025
Wheat	2,132	2,143
Fresh vegetables	2,109	2,117
Plants and flowers	1,649	1,616
Potatoes	1,546	1,463
Fruit	1,083	1,137
Barley	1,197	997
Other crop products	693	665
Other industrial crops	554	445
Oilseed rape	339	408
Forage plants	242	247

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. For prices we made use of the Northern Ireland published potato prices.
2. 'Other industrial crops' includes the value of protein crops and sugar beet.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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The largest contribution to total crop output in 2025 was wheat with a value of £2.1 billion. This small increase was driven by an increase in production, which slightly offset decreases in prices. Following a substantial 20% decrease in UK production in 2024, 2025 saw a modest recovery, with a 7.3% increase in harvest wheat volumes to 12 million tonnes. The area of wheat increased by 9.1%, offsetting a 1.7% decrease in yields due to a hot and dry spring and summer. Plentiful global wheat supplies and reduced export demand led to reductions in domestic prices from 2024, with breadmaking wheat price falling by 17% and feed wheat price falling by 5.0% in 2025.

In 2025, the largest value decrease in a crop item was barley, with a decrease of £201 million (-17%) from 2024 to £997 million. This decrease was a result of falls in both production and prices, with overall barley value reaching its lowest level since 2017. Barley production decreased by 10%, to 6.4 million tonnes, with a 9.6% decrease in planted area to 1.1 million hectares and an overall 0.7% decrease in yields due to the impact of the hot and dry weather on spring barley yields. Similarly to wheat, barley prices decreased in 2025 due to increased supplies in the global

market, with premium malting barley price falling by 7.8% and feed barley price falling by 2.4%.

Smaller decreases were seen in the values of potatoes and sugar beet. The value of potatoes decreased by £83 million (-5.4%) to £1.5 billion in 2025. With exceptionally high prices in 2024 due to a difficult harvest, there was a 31% fall in the annual potato price index with ample supplies available on the market. The value of sugar beet fell by £80 million (-22%) to £286 million, with poor planting conditions and pest pressures driving a 10% decrease in area and subsequent fall in production.

Other outputs and subsidies

Table 4.1: Breakdown of other incomes and subsidies, 2024 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025
Subsidies not linked to production	2,915	3,319
Diversification	2,143	2,229
Other agricultural activities	1,640	1,641
Subsidies linked to production	47	47

Notes:

1. 'Subsidies not linked to production' includes all subsidies not directly linked to production, including delinked payments 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: Agricultural Support Payments](#), which includes all payments reported as part of the [Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Report](#) that is submitted to OECD.
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.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

In 2025, the value of subsidies not linked to production increased by £404 million (+14%) from 2024, with an increase in agri-environment scheme payments offsetting a reduction in Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and de-linked payments. However, it should be noted that this is not necessarily indicative of changes in total payments to farmers, because subsidies not linked to production are a subset of total agricultural payments and exclude capital payments and certain grants. Additionally, the shift away from BPS and de-linked payments towards agri-environment schemes will

mean farmers face increased associated costs, and so an increase in payments does not necessarily indicate an increase in overall income from subsidy schemes.

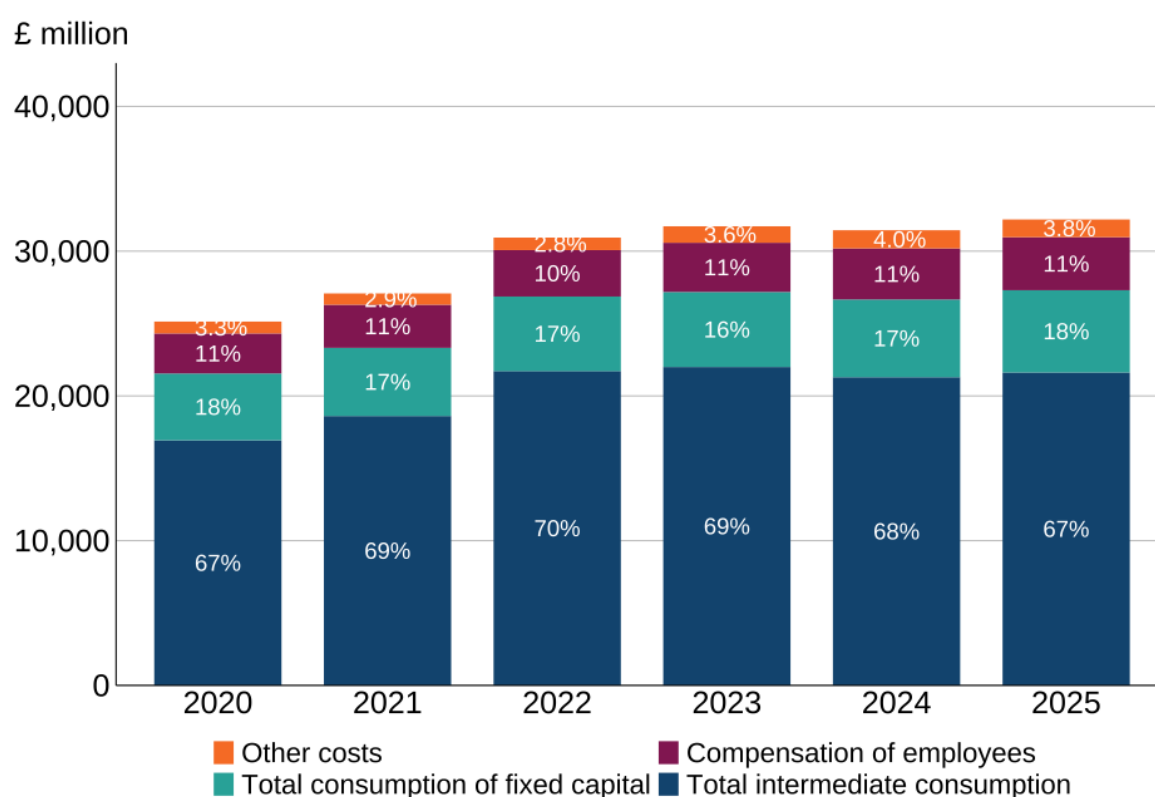
Inputs and costs

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, 2020 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description of Figure 4.5: Figure 4.5 shows the make-up of all inputs and costs from 2020 to 2025. Values are presented in millions and %.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

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 2025 the value of intermediate consumption was £21.6 billion, an increase of £331 million (+1.6%) on 2024. The remaining costs in 2025 were total consumption of fixed capital (£5.7 billion), compensation of employees (£3.7 billion) and other costs (£1.2 billion).

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. See [Revisions section](#) for details.

Figure 4.6: Main contributions to intermediate consumption, 2024 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025
Animal feed: compounds	4,415	4,362
Other goods and services	4,040	4,227
Total maintenance	2,229	2,315
Animal feed: straights	1,806	1,908
Fertilisers	1,687	1,779
Agricultural services	1,640	1,641
Motor and machinery fuels	1,088	1,047
Seeds	985	1,007
Plant protection products	964	925
Electricity and fuels for heating	811	812
Animal feed: other	871	791
Veterinary expenses	566	598

Notes:

1. Animal feed: other represents feed produced and used on farm or purchased from other farms.
2. Other goods and services includes costs such as specific livestock and crops costs, water rates, insurance, costs associated with specialist contractors, professional fees and banking fees.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

The largest contribution to intermediate consumption was compound animal feed with a value of £4.4 billion, a decrease of £53 million (-1.2%) from 2024. GB compound feed production increased by 221 kilotonnes (+2.0%) from 2024, however this was offset by decreases in compound feed prices. Prices for cattle and calf feed decreased by 3.8%, pig feed by 2.7%, sheep feed by 3.4% and poultry feed by 4.0%. Conversely, straights animal feed increased in value by £102 million (+5.6%) in 2025

to £1.9 billion, with a large increase in overall GB production (+15%) outweighing reductions in crop commodity prices.

In 2025, the largest value increase in intermediate consumption was from other goods and services which increased by £187 million (+4.6%) to £4.2 billion. Other goods and services includes costs such as specific livestock and crops costs, water rates, insurance, costs associated with specialist contractors, professional fees and banking fees. The annual price index for other goods and services increased by 3.3% in 2025 due to a large increase in water prices driven by a rise in water tariff prices and limited supplies. Water usage also increased with the hot and dry weather over the spring and summer causing drought conditions in many regions of the UK. There were increases seen in the value of other livestock and crops costs associated with cleaning, bedding and general costs associated with contracting. Professional and bank fees also increased due to higher wages, regulatory changes and increased borrowing costs.

Other inputs and costs

Table 4.2: Breakdown of other inputs and costs, 2024 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025
Total consumption of fixed capital	5,370	5,679
Equipment consumption of fixed capital	2,637	2,712
Livestock consumption of fixed capital	1,436	1,638
Buildings consumption of fixed capital	1,297	1,329
Other taxes on production	115	116
Compensation of employees	3,530	3,664
Rent	547	539
Interest	821	799

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

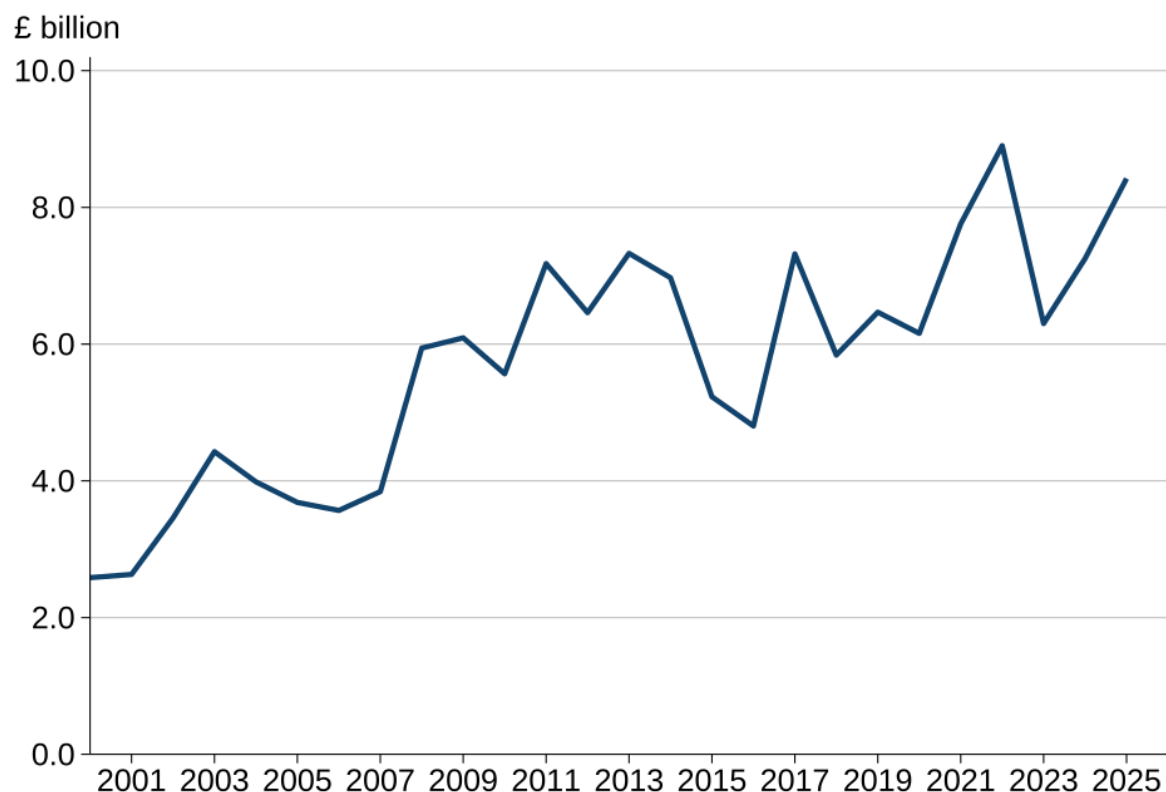
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Long term trends in TIFF

Values in this section are expressed in real terms at 2025 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 2025 in real terms (£ billion)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



Text description of Figure 4.7: Figure 4.7 shows the long term trend in TIFF from 2000 to 2025. TIFF is presented in billions.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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Table 4.3: Headline figures 2020 to 2025 in real terms (£ billion)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total crop output	11.1	13.5	15.6	13.3	12.2	11.4
Total livestock output	18.6	19.7	21.8	20.6	20.9	22.2
Total intermediate consumption	20.7	22.5	24.9	23.7	22.1	21.6
Total Income from Farming	6.2	7.8	8.9	6.3	7.3	8.4

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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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 (+26%) 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 a 15% increase in TIFF.

In 2025 the majority of livestock items increased in value, with large rises in the values of beef (+18%) and milk (+7.9%) due to historically high commodity prices. The 1.2% increase in output value at basic prices along with a 2.1% decrease in intermediate consumption, produced an increase in TIFF of £1.2 billion (+16%) in real terms from 2024, to £8.4 billion in 2025.

Balance sheet for the United Kingdom agricultural industry

Table 4.4: Balance sheet, 2022 to 2025 at current prices (£ million)

Item	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total fixed assets	332,958	374,402	400,676	393,389
Total current assets	19,555	18,104	18,553	19,834
Total assets	352,513	392,506	419,229	413,223
Total long and medium term liabilities	16,332	17,057	16,713	17,106
Total short term liabilities	6,175	6,570	6,458	6,670
Total liabilities	22,507	23,627	23,171	23,776
Net worth	330,007	368,880	396,058	389,447

Notes:

1. Balance sheet as at December each year.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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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 £389.4 billion in 2025, a decrease of £6.6 billion (-1.7%) on 2024. This was the result of a decrease in total assets of 1.4% and an increase in total liabilities of 2.6%. Land is the largest fixed asset in the agricultural industry with a value of £336.6 billion in 2025, a decrease of 2.6% on 2024.

Table 4.5: Balance sheet, 2022 to 2025 in real terms (£ million)

Item	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total assets	404,265	423,122	434,965	413,223
Total liabilities	25,811	25,469	24,041	23,776
Net worth	378,454	397,652	410,924	389,447

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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In real terms at 2025 prices, net worth decreased by 5.2% from 2024, total assets decreased by 5.0% and total liabilities decreased by 1.1%.

About these statistics

Revisions

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

Item	Previous estimate for 2024 (published June 2025)	Current estimate for 2024 (published June 2026)	% change (from Jun 25 to Jun 26 estimate)
All outputs and subsidies	38,507	38,779	0.7%
All inputs and costs	30,618	31,561	3.1%
Total Income from Farming	7,688	6,989	-9.1%

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

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 downwards revision to TIFF in the UK in 2024 of £699 million mainly as a result of a 3.1% increase to all inputs and costs.

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

Item	Previous estimate for 2024 (published June 2025)	Current estimate for 2024 (published June 2026)	% change (from Jun 25 to Jun 26 estimate)
Diversification	1,952	2,143	9.8%

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full accounts dataset](#)

The £191 million increase to the value of diversification is due to the replacement of industry estimates with survey data. Please see [Inputs: Intermediate consumption](#) section for details.

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

Item	Previous estimate for 2024 (published June 2025)	Current estimate for 2024 (published June 2026)	% change (from Jun 25 to Jun 26 estimate)
Energy	1,746	1,899	8.8%
Other goods and services	3,863	4,040	4.6%
Compensation of employees	3,044	3,530	16.0%

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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The £153 million increase to the value of energy, £177 million increase to the value of other goods and services and £486 million increase to the value of compensation of employees are due to the replacement of industry estimates with survey data. Please see [Inputs: Intermediate consumption](#) section for details.

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).

Chapter 4: Accounts

- **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 2025 compared to 2024:

- **Total Factor Productivity** is estimated to have increased by 0.9% between 2024 and 2025. This was driven by an increase in the volume of outputs, offsetting a small increase in the volume of inputs.
- The volume of **all outputs** increased by 1.8%, with an increase of 2.7% in total crop output and an increase of 1.5% in total livestock output.
- The volume of **all inputs** increased by 0.9%. There was a mixture of increases and decreases in volume across intermediate consumption with an overall increase of 2.3%.

Figure 5.1: Summary of key indices 2024 to 2025 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025
All outputs	133.1	135.5
All inputs	87.1	87.9
Total Factor Productivity	152.7	154.2

Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the agricultural industry](#)

[Download the full TFP dataset](#)

Introduction

This chapter presents the estimate of Total Factor Productivity (TFP) of the UK agricultural industry for 2025, 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 2024 following data updates.

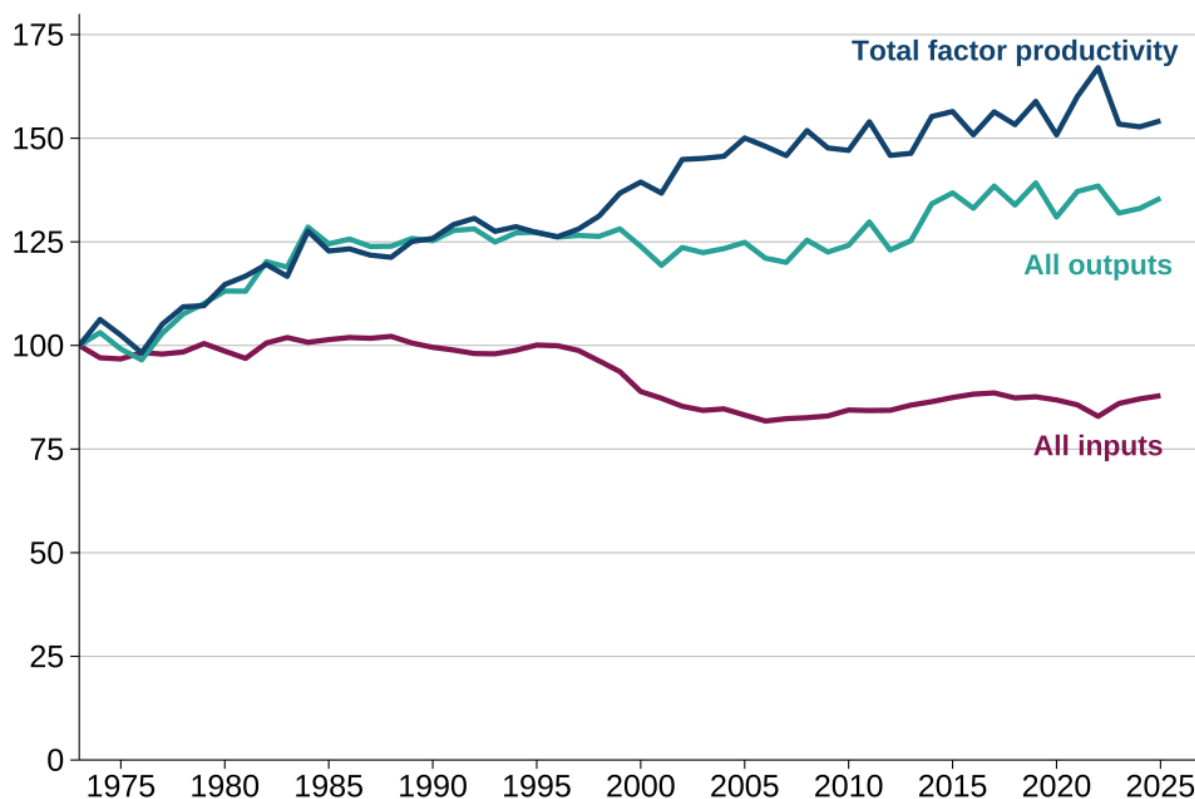
TFP is a measure of how well inputs are converted into outputs, giving an indication of the efficiency and competitiveness of the agricultural industry. Although external factors such as weather conditions or disease outbreaks may have a short-term impact on productivity, it is developments that improve 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 2025 (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 2025. The chart is presented as an index (1973 = 100). Data is shown for all inputs, all outputs and Total Factor Productivity.

Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the agricultural industry](#)

[Download the full TFP dataset](#)

TFP of the agricultural industry in the United Kingdom increased by 0.9% between 2024 and 2025. This was driven by an increase in the volume of outputs which offset a small increase in the volume of inputs. 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 54%, driven by an increase in the volume of all outputs of 36% and a decrease in the volume of all inputs of 12%.

Annual changes, 2024 to 2025

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 2024 to 2025 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025	Annual Change
Output of cereals	147.5	152.2	3.2%
Output of industrial crops	203.4	198.1	-2.6%
Output of forage plants	99.3	99.3	0.0%
Output of vegetables and horticultural products	80.8	82.5	2.1%
Output of potatoes	92.4	100.5	8.7%
Output of fruit	85.2	86.2	1.2%
Output of other crop products	120.4	117.6	-2.3%
Total crop output	129.2	132.8	2.7%
Output of livestock (meat)	129.0	127.9	-0.9%
Output of livestock products	110.8	116.5	5.1%
Total livestock output	121.9	123.7	1.5%
Diversification	636.5	640.4	0.6%
All outputs	133.1	135.5	1.8%

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.

Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the agricultural industry](#)

[Download the full TFP dataset](#)

The volume of all outputs increased by 1.8% between 2024 and 2025. This was the result of an increase in both total livestock output (+1.5%) and total crop output (+2.7%) volumes.

The biggest change within total livestock output was in the output of livestock products, which increased by 5.1%. This was driven by increases in the volumes of milk and eggs (+5.6% and +4.9% respectively). Both items saw increases in prices in 2025 with farmgate milk prices increasing by 6.8% to 44 pence per litre and UK egg

packer to producer prices increasing by 2.2% to 148 pence per dozen. Higher prices and low feed costs contributed to an increase in production in both commodities, as producers responded to improved margins. Milk production for human consumption increased by 5.0% to 15.8 billion litres and eggs for human consumption increased by 5.2% to 1.1 billion dozen.

The largest volume increase in total crop output was output of potatoes which increased by 8.7%. After a poor harvest and high prices in 2024, the UK area of potatoes in June increased by 7.2% to 127 thousand hectares, increasing production in 2025. The second largest volume increase was in output of cereals, driven by a 12% increase in the output volume of wheat. In 2025, the UK area of wheat in June increased by 9.1% to 1.7 million hectares, which increased production by 7.3% to 12.0 million tonnes despite a 1.7% decrease in yields.

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 2024 to 2025 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Item	2024	2025	Annual Change
Seeds	137.3	141.3	2.9%
Energy	50.1	50.4	0.5%
Fertilisers	72.0	68.7	-4.6%
Plant protection products	295.5	303.6	2.7%
Veterinary expenses	128.1	127.1	-0.8%
Animal feed	134.2	141.9	5.7%
Total maintenance	56.0	56.0	-0.1%
Bank charges	100.0	100.0	0.0%
Other goods and services	139.8	143.8	2.8%
Intermediate consumption	106.8	109.2	2.3%
Consumption of fixed capital	126.5	126.6	0.1%
All labour	50.3	49.8	-1.1%
Land	94.7	95.0	0.4%
All inputs and entrepreneurial labour	87.1	87.9	0.9%

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.

Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the agricultural industry](#)

[Download the full TFP dataset](#)

The volume of all inputs and entrepreneurial labour increased by 0.9% between 2024 and 2025. This increase was driven by increases in animal feed (+5.7%), seeds (+2.9%) and plant protection products (+2.7%) that, together with other smaller increases, offset the 4.6% decrease in fertilisers.

Animal feed includes compound animal feed and straight animal feed. In 2025, the total volume of animal feed increased by 5.7% from 2024, driven by rises in both compound feed (+2.4%) and straight feed (+14%) volumes. Strong demand from the cattle and sheep sectors drove increased volumes of feed due to high milk, beef and lamb commodity prices and increased milk production.

The volume of seeds used in a year is influenced by planting timing and conditions and crop areas. In 2025 the volume of seeds increased 2.9%, driven by increases in the UK areas of arable crops at June such as wheat (+9.1%), oats (+8.8%) and potatoes (+7.2%), as well as vegetables grown outdoors (+6.7%).

In 2025, the volume of plant protection products increased by 2.7% in response to increases in the UK June areas of wheat and potatoes, despite the dry weather in spring and summer reducing overall disease and pest pressure.

The volume of fertilisers purchased decreased by 4.6% in 2025, attributed to farmers adjusting buying patterns in response to price rises. In 2025 the annual price index for fertilisers increased by 11%, following falls in 2023 and 2024 from the highs seen in 2022. However, it should be noted that many farmers forward-buy fertiliser on contract, and purchasing patterns are not necessarily indicative of usage patterns in the same year.

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 2024 to 2025 (1973 = 100)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

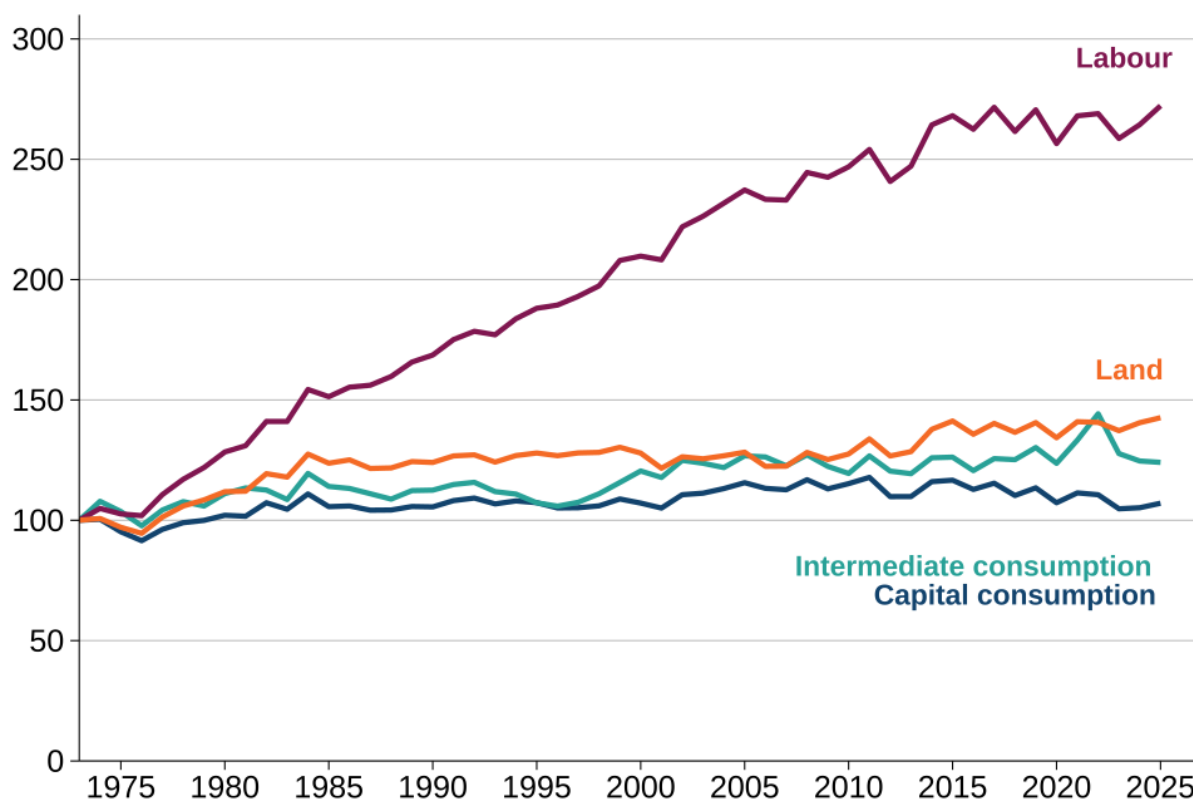
Item	2024	2025	Annual Change
Productivity by intermediate consumption	124.6	124.1	-0.5%
Productivity by capital consumption	105.2	107.1	1.8%
Productivity by labour	264.4	272.2	3.0%
Productivity by land	140.6	142.6	1.5%

Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the agricultural industry](#)

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Figure 5.3: Long term trends in partial productivity indicators 1973 to 2025 (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 2025. The chart is presented as an index (1973 = 100). Data is shown for labour, land, intermediate consumption and capital consumption.

Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the agricultural industry](#)

[Download the full TFP dataset](#)

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 2025 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.

Chapter 5: Productivity

There have been small changes to data from 2010 - 2024 as published in Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2024. 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 3.0% from 2024 to 2025.
- The largest upward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **outputs** was from cattle and calves (4.8 percentage points), followed by milk (1.4 percentage points). The main downward contributions came from potatoes (-1.7 percentage points) and cereals (-1.2 percentage points).
- The annual average price index for all agricultural **inputs** increased by 0.2% from 2024 to 2025.
- The largest upward contribution to the annual inflation rate for agricultural **inputs** was from fertilisers and soil improvers (0.9 percentage points). The largest downward contribution was from compound feedingstuffs (-0.7 percentage points).

Data sources

The [Agricultural Price Index \(API\)](#) measures the monthly and annual price changes in agricultural outputs and inputs for the UK.

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 and vegetables) and livestock/animal products (e.g., sheep, milk and eggs).

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 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Year	All agricultural outputs	All agricultural inputs
2014	95.2	93.0
2015	86.4	89.6
2016	85.5	87.1
2017	93.6	91.8
2018	99.6	98.9
2019	96.2	100.4
2020	100.0	100.0
2021	110.0	112.6
2022	130.7	143.3
2023	132.3	135.4
2024	135.6	127.2
2025	139.6	127.5

Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

[Download the full prices dataset](#)

Figure 6.1 shows the annual average price indices for agricultural outputs and inputs since 2014. Compared with 2024, the annual average price index for agricultural outputs in 2025 increased by 3.0% while agricultural inputs increased by 0.2%.

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 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Category	Contribution (percentage points)
Cattle and calves	4.81
Milk	1.42
Oilseed rape	0.20
Sheep and lambs	0.19
Fresh fruit	0.09
Eggs	0.08
Sugar beet	-0.17
Oats	-0.18
Pigs	-0.19
Barley	-0.38
Poultry	-0.40
Fresh vegetables	-0.54
Wheat	-0.60
Cereals	-1.15
Potatoes	-1.72

Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

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 3.0% increase in the agricultural outputs inflation rate between 2024 and 2025. This was driven by positive contributions from cattle and calves, and milk, which more than offset negative contributions from potatoes and cereals.

Cattle and calves made the largest positive contribution to the annual inflation rate, with deadweight GB prime cattle prices reaching historical highs, peaking at 697.2p/kg in April 2025. High prices were driven by reduced beef production due to

an ongoing contraction of the national cattle herd. The next largest contribution was from milk, where high prices continued from 2024 due to rising production costs and reduced global dairy product supply. A historically high milk-to-feed price ratio incentivised increased production in the summer, leading to a decrease in farm-gate price in the last months of 2025 into early 2026. Cereals and potatoes pulled inflation down, with cereal prices easing as supply improved and potato prices falling from the high levels seen in 2024.

Figure 6.3: Contributions to change in the agricultural inputs annual inflation rate between 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Category	Contribution (percentage points)
Fertilisers and soil improvers	0.92
Other goods and services	0.43
Maintenance of materials	0.38
Materials	0.24
Veterinary services	0.16
Maintenance of buildings	0.07
Buildings	0.03
Seeds	-0.04
Energy and fuel	-0.28
Plant protection products	-0.32
Straight feedingstuffs	-0.68
Compound feedingstuffs	-0.73

Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

[Download the full prices dataset](#)

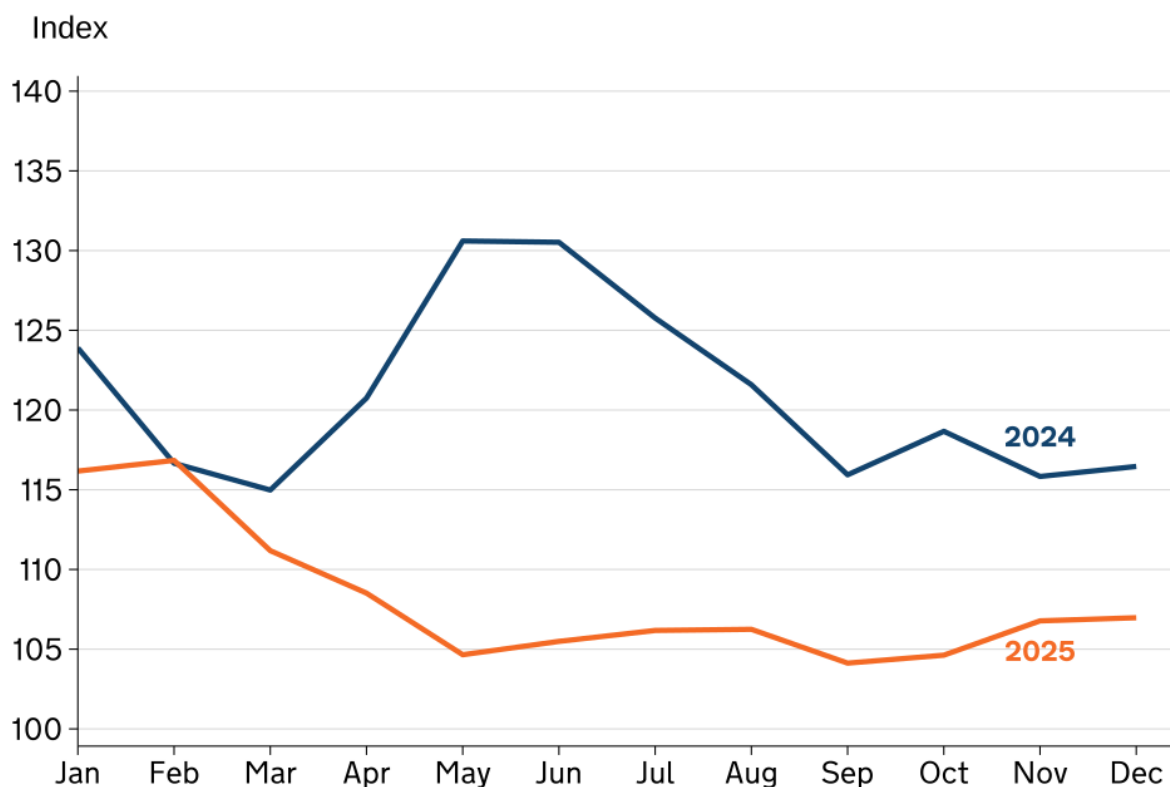
Figure 6.3 shows the positive and negative contributions to the 0.2% decrease in the agricultural inputs inflation rate between 2024 and 2025. This was driven by negative contribution from animal feedingstuffs, which outweighed a positive contribution from fertilisers and soil improvers.

Fertilisers and soil improvers made the largest positive contribution with high prices driven by elevated natural gas prices, reduced domestic production and constrained supply on the global markets. Animal feedingstuffs made the largest negative contribution, as lower cereal and protein input prices outweighed stronger feed demand across livestock sectors.

Trends in agricultural outputs price indices through the year

Figure 6.4: Monthly cereals price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.4: Line chart showing the cereals price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index falls early in the year, rises sharply to a peak in late spring, then declines through the summer before edging up slightly towards year end. The 2025 index starts lower than 2024, declines through the first half of the year, then remains relatively stable with a gradual increase towards the end of the year. Overall, prices are consistently lower and less volatile in 2025 than in 2024.

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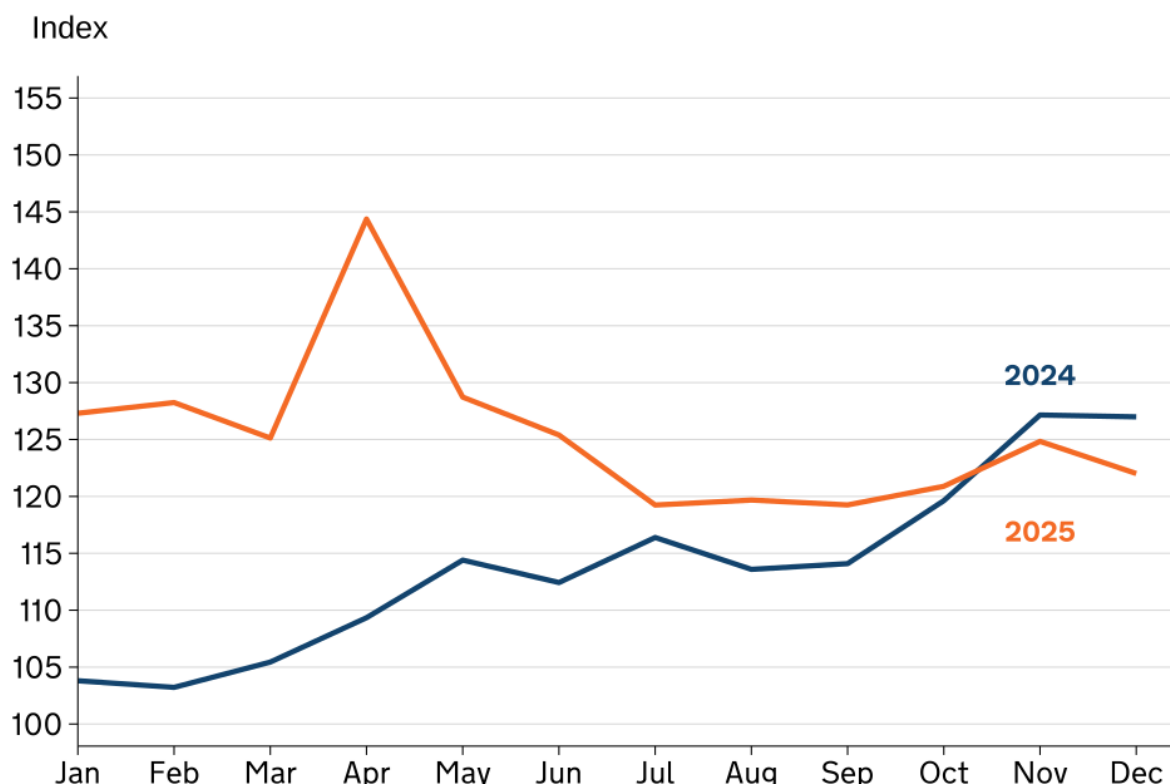
The annual price index for cereals decreased by 10% in 2025 compared with 2024.

This decrease reflects a continued easing from the exceptionally high price levels seen in 2022, as global cereal markets adjusted to improved supply conditions. Increased global wheat supplies reduced price pressures through the year, while subdued export demand and a greater reliance on domestic supplies limited upward movement in UK prices. UK cereal production increased, driven by a 7.3% increase in wheat production to around 12.0 million tonnes in 2025, with a 9.1% increase in planted area and a 1.7% decrease in wheat yields to 7.2 tonnes per hectare compared with 2024. For other cereals, production outcomes were weaker: UK

barley production fell by 10% to 6.4 million tonnes and oat production fell by 2.3% to 0.9 million tonnes. Although domestic production remained below longer-term averages, this was outweighed by weaker global prices and competitive international markets, resulting in a broadly downward trend across the year.

Figure 6.5: Monthly oilseed rape price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.5: Line chart showing the oilseed rape price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index rises steadily through the year, with a small dip in early summer, before increasing more sharply in the final quarter. In contrast, the 2025 index starts at a higher level, peaks in spring, then declines through the summer and stabilises towards the end of the year. Overall, 2025 shows greater volatility and higher prices early in the year, while 2024 displays a clearer upward trend over time.

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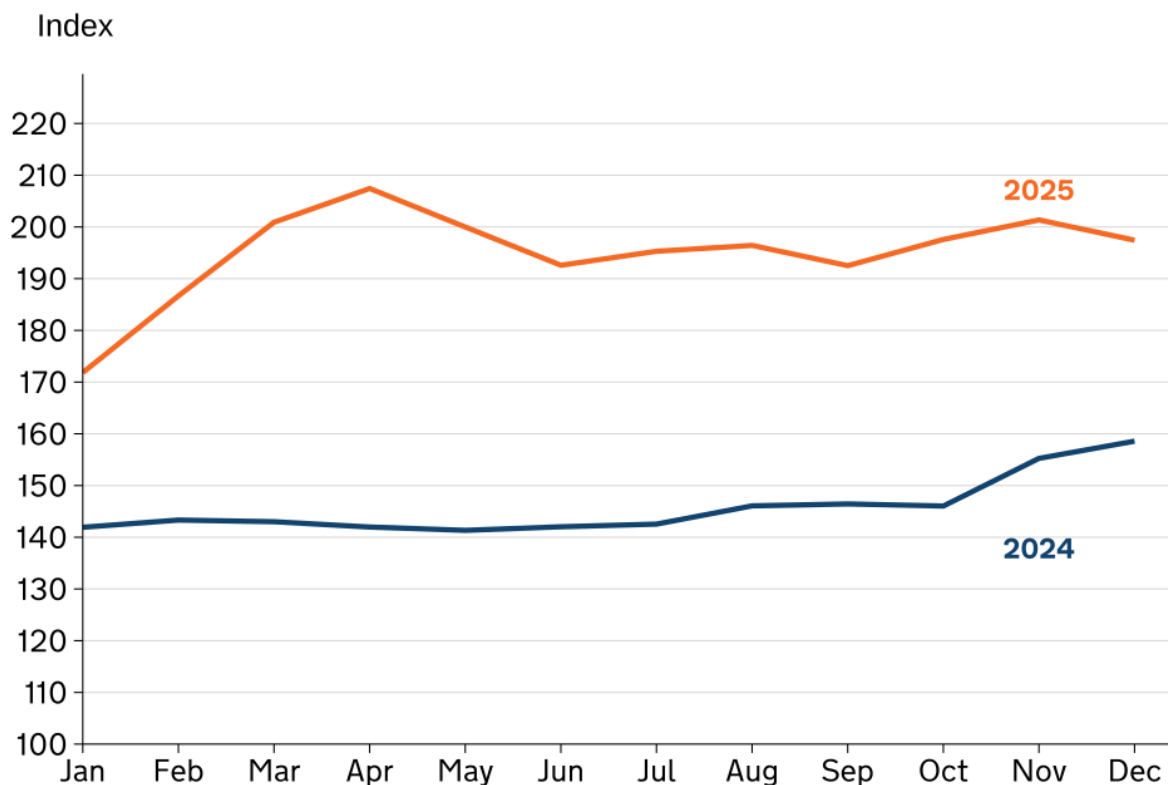
The annual price index for oilseed rape increased by 10% in 2025 compared with 2024.

In 2025, oilseed prices were generally higher through much of the year, reflecting continued tight supply conditions in the UK and internationally. While production recovered slightly, increasing by 7.0% from the very low level seen in 2024 to 893 thousand tonnes, planted area remained historically low at 241 thousand hectares, limiting overall availability. Global oilseed markets also remained sensitive to supply conditions, with competition from alternative protein crops such as soybeans

influencing price movements through the year. Overall, constrained supply supported firmer prices in 2025 compared with 2024.

Figure 6.6: Monthly cattle price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.6: Line chart showing the cattle price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index remains relatively stable through the year, with a slight dip in spring followed by a gradual rise towards the end of the year. In contrast, the 2025 index is substantially higher throughout, rising sharply in the first half of the year, dipping slightly over the summer, and increasing again in the autumn before easing marginally in December. Overall, prices in 2025 are consistently higher and more volatile than in 2024.

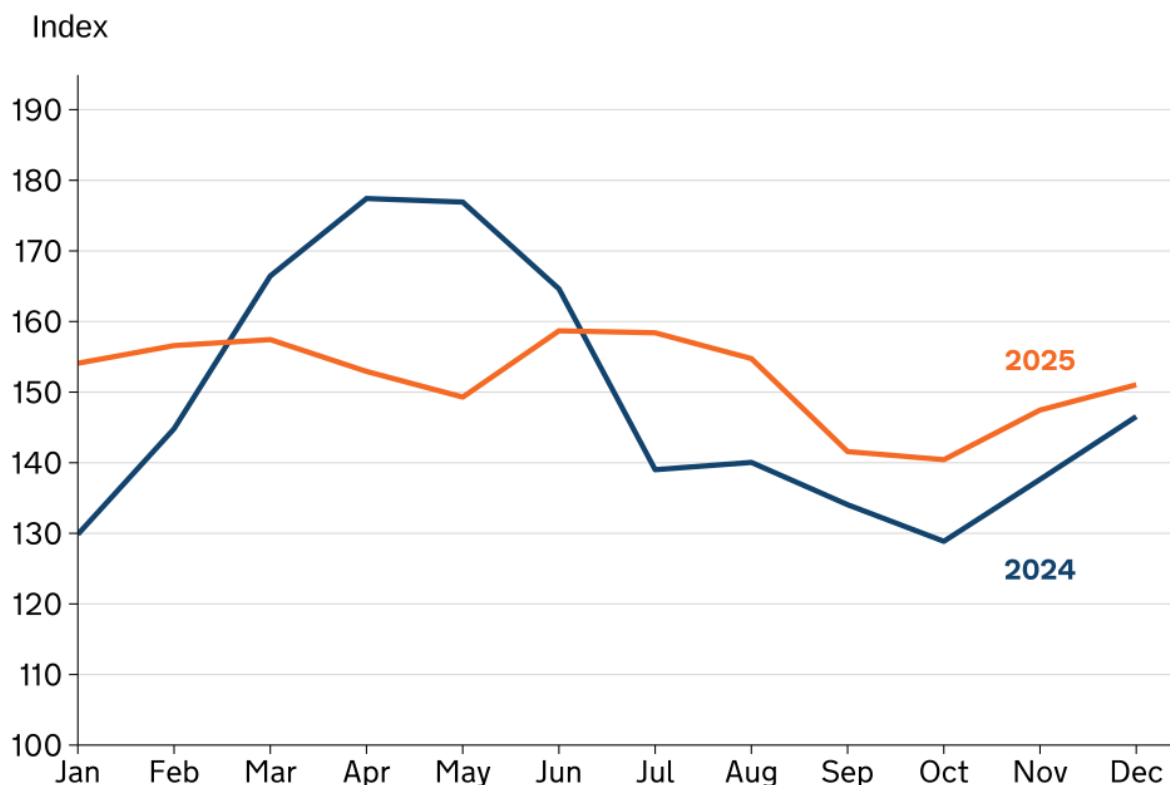
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The annual price index for cattle increased by 34% in 2025 compared with 2024.

The higher cattle price index in 2025 is consistent with tighter domestic supply. The UK cattle and calf population fell by 1.3% to 9.3 million at 1 June 2025, with the beef breeding herd down 4.1% to 1.3 million. As a result of several years of beef herd contraction, 2025 UK home fed beef production fell by 3.4% from 2024 to 898 thousand tonnes dressed carcase weight, the lowest level of production since 2015.

Figure 6.7: Monthly sheep price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.7: Line chart showing the sheep price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index rises sharply to a peak in spring, then falls through the summer to an autumn low before recovering towards the end of the year. In contrast, the 2025 index starts at a higher level, remains relatively stable in the first half of the year, declines into early autumn, and then increases gradually towards December. Overall, 2025 prices are generally higher and less volatile than those seen in 2024.

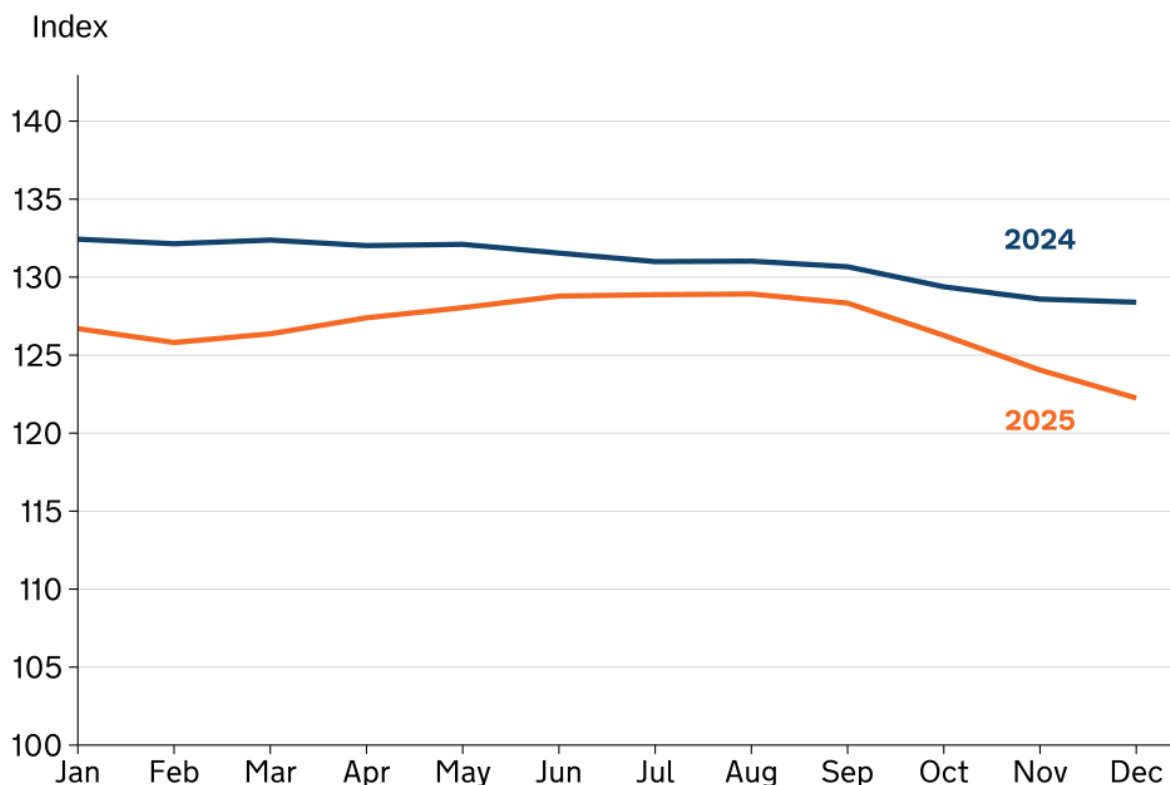
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The annual price index for sheep increased by 3.0% in 2025 compared with 2024.

The higher sheep price index in 2025 was driven by continued constrained production, with lower output from abattoirs early in the year, alongside ongoing flock contraction. The UK sheep and lamb population was down 1.7% to 30.5 million at 1 June 2025, with lamb numbers down 2.9%. UK home fed sheep meat production increased by 1.9% overall, to 282 thousand tonnes dressed carcase weight, however production remained 4.4% below the five year average. Prices and slaughter patterns in spring 2025 differed from the same period in 2024 when holiday timing and retailer promotions supported stronger demand and lower prices.

Figure 6.8: Monthly pigs price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.8: Line chart showing the pigs price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index remains relatively stable in the first half of the year before declining gradually towards the end of the year. The 2025 index starts slightly lower, rises modestly through the summer, then falls more sharply from early autumn to December. Overall, prices are consistently lower in 2025 than in 2024, with a more pronounced downward trend in the final months.

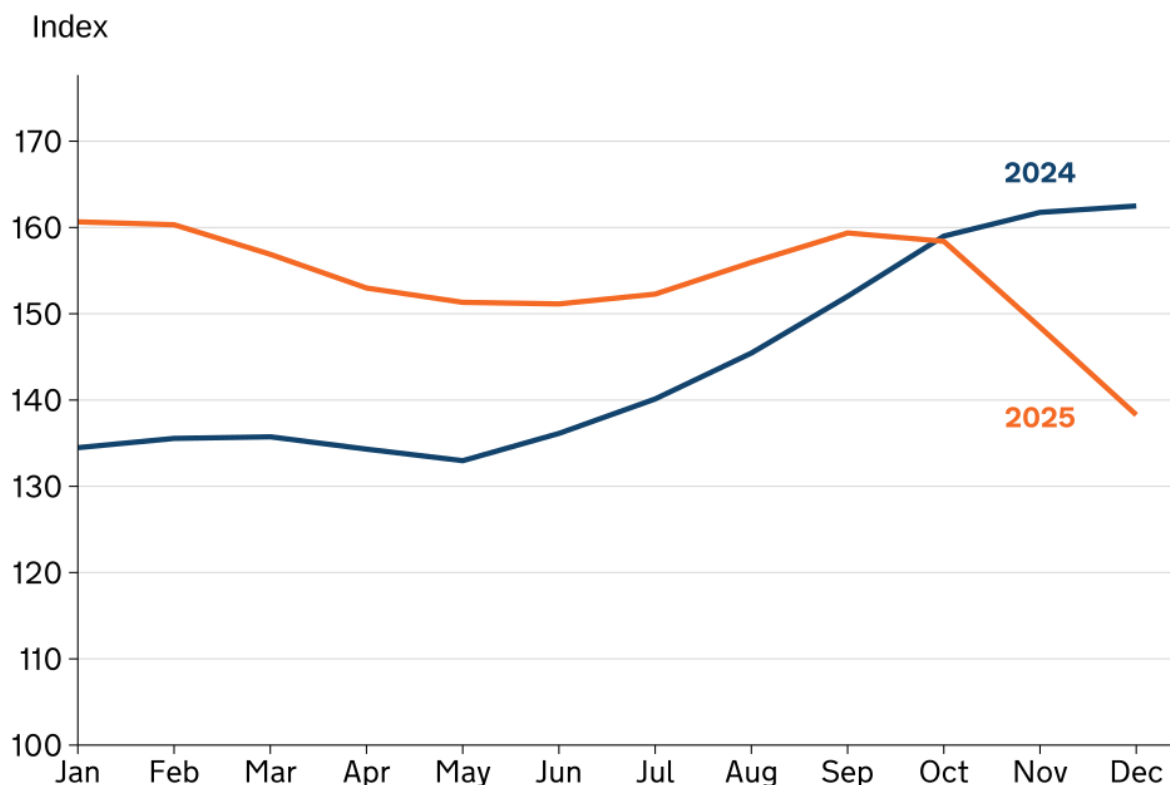
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The annual price index for pigs decreased by 3.2% in 2025 compared with 2024.

GB deadweight standard pig price (UK spec) fell by 4.8p in 2025 to 201.3 p/kg, driven primarily by an increase in pig meat production as the cost of production eased in 2025. The UK pig population saw a small increase of 0.5% to 4.7 million at 1 June 2025, with a 3.2% decline in breeding pigs to 407 thousand from 2024. UK home fed pig meat production increased by around 2.6% to 937 thousand tonnes, driven by a 1.8% rise in home fed clean pig slaughterings to 9.9 million head and a 1.1% increase in average carcase weight. Pig meat demand remained subdued in 2025, particularly from the foodservice and export sectors, while consumers continued to seek out cheaper protein options such as poultry.

Figure 6.9: Monthly milk price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.9: Line chart showing the milk price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index increases steadily through the year, particularly from summer onwards, reaching its highest level in the final months. In contrast, the 2025 index starts at a higher level, declines through spring, rises again in late summer, and then falls sharply towards the end of the year. Overall, 2024 shows a clear upward trend, while 2025 is more variable and ends at a lower level.

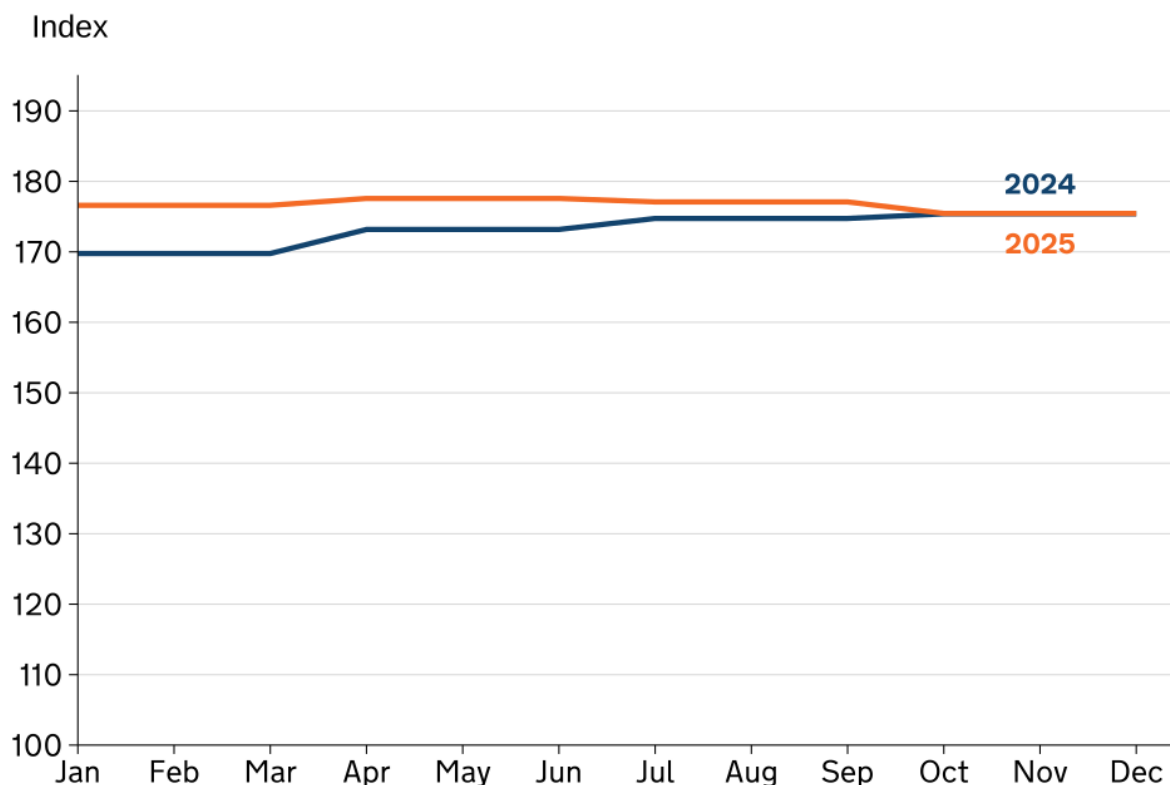
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The annual price index for milk increased by 6.7% in 2025 compared with 2024.

High farm-gate milk prices continued from 2024, reaching 46 pence per litre in January 2025, due to rising production costs and reduced global dairy product supply. A historically high milk-to-feed price ratio and favourable weather conditions incentivised increased production in the spring flush into the summer. UK milk production in the second quarter of 2025 was up 6.3% on the same period in 2024. This, combined with global production recovery, led to a sharp decline in dairy commodity values in September resulting in a decrease in farmgate price in the last months of 2025 to 40 pence per litre in December 2025.

Figure 6.10: Monthly egg price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.10: Line chart showing the egg price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index increases gradually from early in the year and then remains broadly stable through the second half of the year. The 2025 index starts slightly higher, stays relatively flat for most of the year, and then converges with 2024 levels towards the final months. Overall, both years show limited volatility, with prices remaining at broadly similar levels by year end.

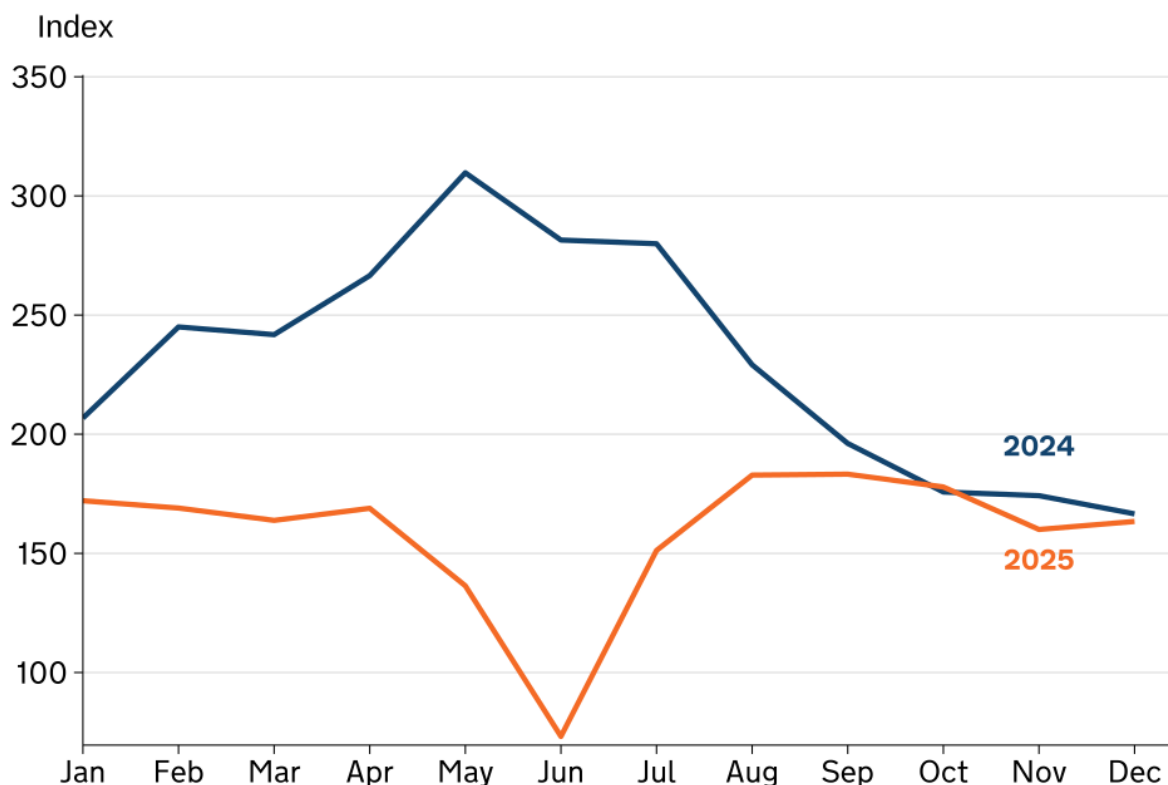
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The annual price index for eggs increased by 2.0% in 2025 compared with 2024.

The small decline in the egg price index in the autumn of 2025 reflects a more balanced market following a period of elevated prices, as production and supply continued to recover. UK egg production for human consumption increased through 2025, with overall volumes 5.2% higher than 2024, supported by a 2.0% increase in the laying flock and 1.6% increase in layer chick placings as the sector rebuilt capacity following earlier avian influenza impacts. Increased production eased pressure on prices, while retail demand remained relatively stable, resulting in only limited price movement through the year.

Figure 6.11: Monthly potatoes price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.11: Line chart showing the potatoes price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index rises sharply to a peak in late spring, then falls steadily through the second half of the year. In contrast, the 2025 index shows an almost mirror image pattern, starting slightly lower, and declining further to a mid-year low, before recovering in late summer through to year end. Overall, 2024 shows greater volatility and higher peak prices, while 2025 remains lower for most of the year.

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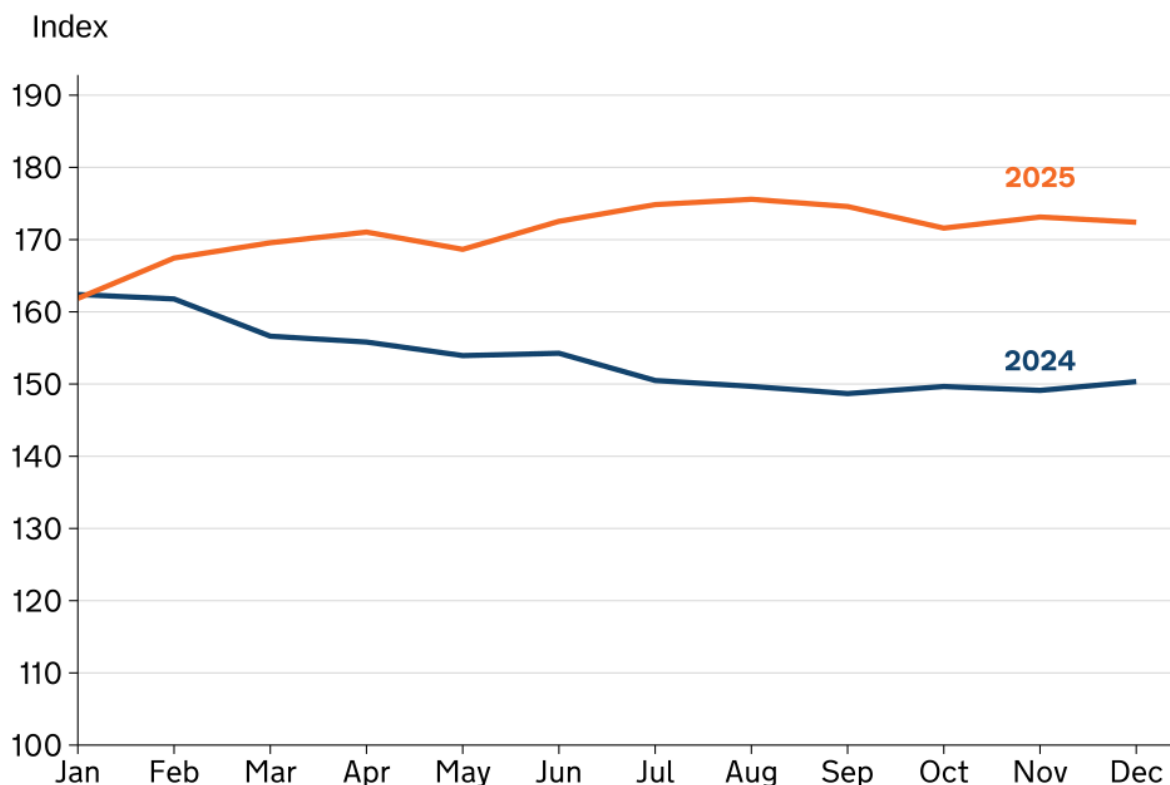
The annual price index for potatoes decreased by 31% in 2025 compared with 2024.

Potato prices decreased in 2025 due to an increase in production. Prices were exceptionally high in 2024 following a difficult harvest, which encouraged increased planting and resulted in ample supplies in 2025. As the 2025 season progressed, free-buy and open-market potato prices fell sharply due to high availability and subdued demand, particularly as buyers were already covered by contracts agreed earlier in the season. Substantial oversupply, combined with weaker seasonal consumption and the arrival of new-crop potatoes, produced the mid-year dip seen in the 2025 index. Prices recovered somewhat in late summer as stocks tightened, but remained well below the peaks recorded in 2024.

Trends in agricultural inputs price indices through the year

Figure 6.12: Monthly fertilisers and soil improvers price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.12: Line chart showing the fertilisers and soil improvers price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index declines slowly but steadily through most of the year before stabilising towards year end. In contrast, the 2025 index starts at a similar level but rises gradually through the first half of the year, remaining higher than 2024 throughout and easing slightly in the final months. Overall, prices are consistently higher in 2025, while 2024 shows a gradual downward trend.

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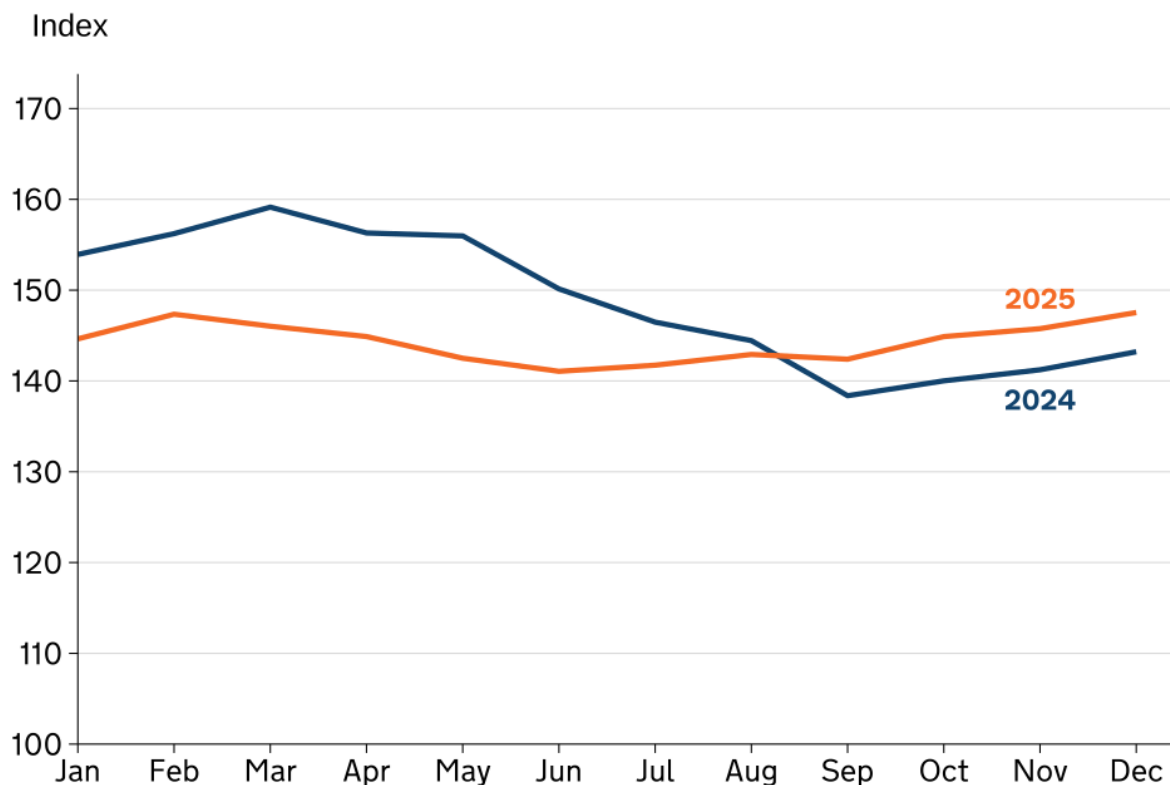
The annual price index for fertilisers and soil improvers increased by 11% in 2025 compared with 2024.

Fertiliser and soil improvers prices increased in 2025 due to upward pressure on nitrogen fertiliser costs, largely driven by energy markets. Natural gas typically accounts for 60 to 80% of nitrogen fertiliser production costs, and gas prices remained elevated through 2025 compared with 2024, despite easing from earlier crisis peaks. UK ammonium nitrate prices averaged £385 per tonne in 2025, up from £338 per tonne in 2024 (an increase of £47 per tonne, 14%), although still below the 2023 average of £453 per tonne. This reflected higher production costs and tighter

global supply, alongside ongoing geopolitical and trade pressures in fertiliser markets.

Figure 6.13: Monthly energy and fuel price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.13: Line chart showing the energy and fuel price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index rises slightly early in the year before declining steadily to a low point in early autumn and then increasing modestly towards year end. In contrast, the 2025 index falls gradually in the first half of the year, then rises from late summer to finish the year at a higher level than 2024. Overall, 2024 shows a mid-year decline followed by partial recovery, while 2025 follows a clearer upward trend in the latter part of the year.

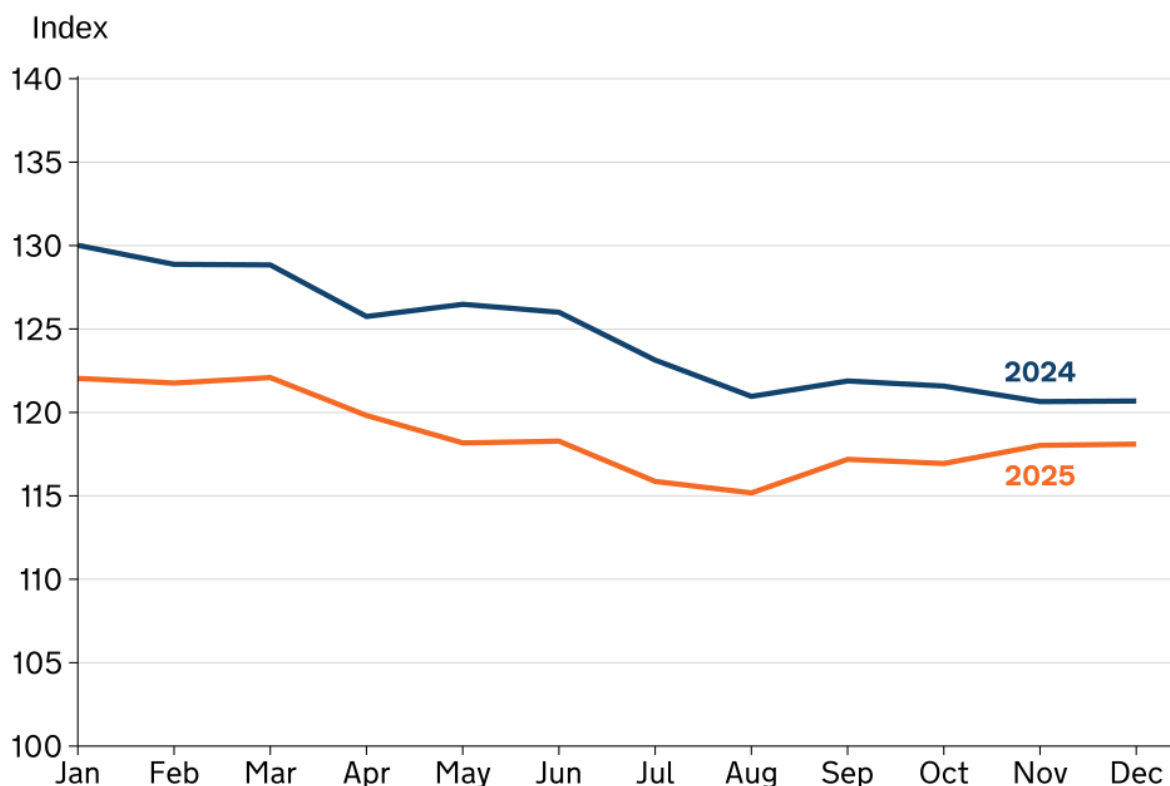
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The annual price index for energy and fuel decreased by 3.0% in 2025 compared with 2024.

The annual average price of red diesel fell from 80.8 pence per litre in 2024 to 76.0 pence per litre in 2025, while average crude oil prices declined from £62.50 per barrel in 2024 to £52.80 per barrel in 2025, contributing to lower prices earlier in the year. However, firmer fuel prices later in 2025 led to the late year increase seen in the index.

Figure 6.14: Monthly animal feedingstuffs price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.14: Line chart showing the animal feedingstuffs price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index declines gradually through the first half of the year and then remains broadly stable towards year end. The 2025 index starts at a lower level, falls further into mid-year, and then rises modestly in the second half of the year, but remains below 2024 throughout. Overall, both years show a similar trend, with limited volatility, and 2025 consistently lower than 2024.

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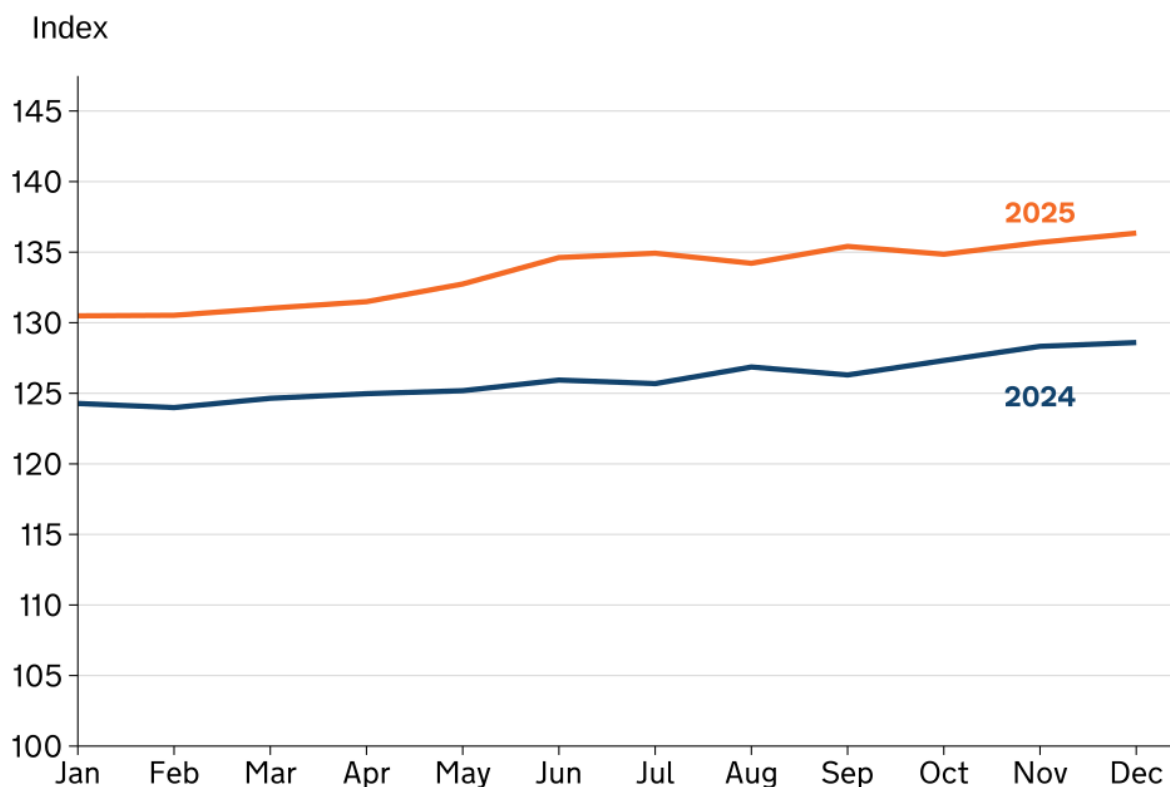
The annual price index for animal feedingstuffs decreased by 4.7% in 2025 compared with 2024.

Animal feedingstuffs price fell in 2025 due to decreases in underlying commodity prices, despite increased demand for feed across several livestock sectors. Defra feed accounts show that compound animal feed production increased by 2.6% to 13.6 million tonnes in 2025, but the total value of compound feed fell by 1.2% as cheaper cereals and protein inputs offset higher volumes. Demand for feed strengthened in the cattle, calf and sheep sectors, supported by higher beef, lamb and milk prices and a shortage of good-quality forage during the dry and hot spring and summer of 2025, which increased reliance on compound feeds. At the same time, lower global prices for key feed commodities such as wheat and soyabean

meal helped constrain feed costs, contributing to falling prices for both compound feed and straights.

Figure 6.15: Monthly maintenance of materials price index 2024 and 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk



Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

Text description for Figure 6.15: Line chart showing the Maintenance of materials price index from January 2024 to December 2025. In 2024, the index increases gradually over the year with small month-to-month fluctuations. In contrast, the 2025 index starts at a higher level and rises more steadily through the year, remaining consistently above 2024. Overall, both years show a similar upward trend, with higher prices throughout 2025.

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The annual price index for maintenance of materials increased by 6.0% in 2025 compared with 2024.

Maintenance of materials increased in 2025 due to continuing cost pressures on machinery repairs, spare parts and building materials, following sustained inflation in these areas in earlier years. Machinery-related and building-related maintenance costs have remained elevated, driven by high prices for steel, components and specialist labour, even as some other inputs have eased. Building material prices and construction input costs remained high through 2025, supported by energy costs, supply-chain disruption and higher labour expenses, feeding through to farm building repairs and maintenance.

Summary tables of price indices

Table 6.1: Annual average price indices for agricultural outputs 2024 to 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Category	2024	2025	Annual inflation rate (%)
Cereals	120.6	108.2	-10.3
Wheat	115.0	105.6	-8.1
Barley	129.6	114.7	-11.6
Oats	160.3	108.0	-32.6
Oilseed rape	113.9	125.4	10.1
Sugar beet	165.5	139.3	-15.8
Forage plants	124.4	124.6	0.1
Fresh vegetables	137.0	125.3	-8.6
Plants and flowers	115.7	115.7	0.0
Potatoes	231.1	158.5	-31.4
Fresh fruit	117.4	120.3	2.4
Cattle and calves	145.6	194.9	33.9
Pigs	131.0	126.8	-3.2
Sheep and lambs	147.0	151.4	3.0
Poultry	108.1	103.8	-4.0
Milk	144.2	153.8	6.7
Eggs	173.3	176.7	2.0
All agricultural outputs	135.6	139.6	3.0

Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

[Download the full prices dataset](#)

Table 6.2: Annual average price indices for agricultural inputs 2024 to 2025 (2020 = 100)

Enquiries: prices@defra.gov.uk

Category	2024	2025	Annual inflation rate (%)
Seeds	107.0	106.0	-0.9
Energy and fuel	148.8	144.3	-3.0
Fertilisers and soil improvers	154.1	170.8	10.8
Plant protection products	110.3	103.1	-6.5
Veterinary services	111.8	119.1	6.6
Straight feedingstuffs	114.5	104.5	-8.7
Compound feedingstuffs	128.6	124.4	-3.3
Maintenance of materials	126.0	133.5	6.0
Maintenance of buildings	136.5	138.7	1.7
Other goods and services	118.1	122.1	3.3
Materials	124.6	127.1	2.0
Buildings	140.7	141.5	0.6
All agricultural inputs	127.2	127.5	0.2

Source: [Agricultural Price Index](#)

[Download the full prices dataset](#)

Revisions

Figures in these tables for 2025 are provisional and may be subject to revision.

Fertilisers and soil improvers prices were revised from 2014 to 2025 to correct a historical error in the annual weights.

Eggs and milk prices were revised from 2024 to reflect revisions to the underlying data series.

Chapter 7: Crops

Summary

Key results for 2025 compared to 2024:

- Harvested production of **wheat** increased by 7.3% to just under 12 million tonnes, due to increased area offsetting a decrease in average yields. The value of production was 0.5% higher at £2.1 billion.
- Harvested production of **barley** decreased by 10% to 6.4 million tonnes. The value of production was 17% lower at just under £1.0 billion.
- **Oilseed rape** production increased by 7% to 893 thousand tonnes. The value of production was 20% higher at £408 million.
- **Sugar beet** production fell by 7.1% to 7.3 million tonnes. The value of production decreased by 22% to £286 million.
- The value of **vegetable** production rose by 0.4% to just over £2.1 billion.
- The value of **fruit** production increased by 5.0% to just over £1.1 billion.
- The value of **potato** production fell 5.4% to just under £1.5 billion.

Cereals

Table 7.1a to 7.1b Total cereals; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Allan Howsam on +44 (0)20 802 66123

Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.1a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	3,088	2,966	3,013
Volume of harvested production	22,047	19,441	19,524
Value of production (£ million)	4,494	3,527	3,287

Table 7.1b

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production	22,047	19,441	19,524
EU imports	2,546	4,416	3,359
Non-EU imports	1,482	1,749	2,460
EU exports	2,326	982	1,171
Non-EU exports	90	23	28
Total new supply	23,659	24,601	24,144
Change in farm and other stocks	-549	-225	-89
Total domestic uses	24,209	24,826	24,233
Production as % of total new supply for use in the UK	93%	79%	81%

Notes for Table 7.1a and 7.1b:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content. Any production data which has been reported with lower moisture contents has not been adjusted
2. Value of production excludes farm-saved seed

Source: [Defra Cereals and Oilseeds Production](#), [AHDB cereal usage surveys](#), [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

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In 2025, total cereal production of wheat, barley, oats and minor cereals (rye, triticale and mixed grain) in the UK was just over 19.5 million tonnes, a 0.4% increase compared to 2024. This was due to a combination of higher wheat area and production, offset by reduced area and production for barley and falling yields and production for oats. The value of production decreased by 6.8% to around £3.3 billion primarily due to lower cereal prices.

Average yields for wheat and barley were slightly lower in 2025 compared to 2024, and below the 5-year average. Winter planting conditions were much better than last year, but challenging marketing conditions affected cropping decisions. These

included lower commodity prices, reduced milling and malting premiums, and input costs. Spring sown crops encountered difficult conditions due to a spring drought and a hot and dry early summer.

Winter barley saw its area decrease by 5.6% to 363 thousand hectares, although yields increased from 6.4 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) to 6.8 t/ha. Winter barley was generally sown in good conditions. Production of winter barley in 2025 was 1.2% higher than 2024 at 2.5 million tonnes. Crops sown on moisture-retentive, heavier soils coped better with the spring/early summer drought and high temperatures, and were harvested successfully well before the autumn rains arrived. In contrast, the spring barley did not fare as well. Area decreased by 11% to 717 thousand hectares, with average yields decreasing to 5.4 t/ha from 5.7 t/ha. The total production of spring barley decreased by 16% to 3.9 million tonnes. While early quality of spring barley was good, reflecting crops in southern England, this picture changed as harvest progressed further north. In Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England many crops did not meet malting quality.

Harvest 2025 started out in dry settled conditions during late July and August, which benefited the winter barley harvest especially. Overall harvest progressed well and little drying was required. Rain arrived in September, which hampered the latter stages of the wheat, spring barley and oats harvest.

Cereal prices for 2025 were below the 2023 and 2024 values. Global markets have re-adjusted to the on-going Russia/Ukraine conflict. Prices drifted downwards as the year advanced.

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.

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, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

Enquiries: Allan Howsam on +44 (0)20 802 66123

Email: Crops-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Table 7.2a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	1,720	1,531	1,670
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	8.1	7.3	7.2
Volume of harvested production	13,980	11,146	11,958
Value of production (£ million)	2,963	2,132	2,143
Sales (£ million)	2,718	2,105	1,848
On farm use (£ million)	388	283	205
Change in stocks (£ million)	-143	-255	90

Table 7.2b

Prices (£ per tonne)	2023	2024	2025
Milling wheat	243	215	193
Feed wheat	206	186	176

Table 7.2c

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production	13,980	11,146	11,958
EU imports	1,080	2,457	1,930
Non-EU imports	628	627	744
EU exports	1,083	155	200
Non-EU exports	72	10	7
Total new supply	14,533	14,065	14,425
Change in farm and other stocks	-303	-671	402
Total domestic uses	14,836	14,736	14,023
Flour milling (including bioethanol and starch)	6,288	6,091	5,526
Animal feed	7,005	7,049	6,919
Seed	267	258	259
Other uses and waste	1,276	1,339	1,319
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	96%	79%	83%
% of home grown wheat in milling grist	83%	76%	75%

Notes for Tables 7.2a to 7.2c:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content. Any production data which has been reported with lower moisture contents has not been adjusted
2. Value of production excludes farm-saved seed

Source: [Defra Cereals and Oilseeds Production](#), [AHDB cereal usage surveys](#), [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

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Harvested production of wheat was 7.3% higher in 2025 at just under 12 million tonnes, the fifth lowest this century. Area increased by 9.1% to 1.7 million hectares, and yield fell from 7.3 t/ha in 2024 to 7.2 t/ha in 2025. This is below the 5-year average of 7.8 t/ha. The value of production of wheat was 0.5% lower in 2025 at £2.1 billion.

Domestic human and industrial wheat demand for flour milling (including starch and bioethanol) was 9.3% lower in 2025 compared to 2024 at just over 5.5 million tonnes, with imports decreasing by 4% to just under 1.4 million tonnes. Demand from flour millers was lower than last year, and with a better-quality domestic crop, fewer imports were required. In August 2025, bioethanol production at Vivergo's Humberside plant ceased, and Ensus on Teesside was mothballed in September.

This negated feed wheat (and maize) requirements. Usage of wheat for animal feed was 1.8% lower at just over 6.9 million tonnes. The percentage of wheat in the cereal ration has now recovered to more typical levels after the drop caused by the poor 2020 harvest, reducing availability. The AHDB publish cereal usage statistics which can be found on the [AHDB human and industrial cereal usage](#) webpage.

Total wheat imports in 2025 were 13% lower at 2.7 million tonnes; flour millers needed fewer imports from July onwards due to more domestic high grade milling wheat being available from the 2025 crop. Exports in 2025 were 207 thousand tonnes (kt), compared to 165 kt in 2024. There was ample global supply of wheat, and with UK wheat uncompetitively priced, exports were again low. Historically the UK was a net exporter of wheat until 2016, and from 2017 to 2025 it was a net importer.

Barley

Table 7.3a to 7.3c Barley; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless otherwise specified)

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Table 7.3a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	1,137	1,194	1,080
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.1	5.9	5.9
Volume of harvested production	6,963	7,091	6,367
Value of production (£ million)	1,356	1,197	997
Sales (£ million)	1,019	803	702
On farm use (£ million)	354	342	333
Change in stocks (£ million)	-17	52	-38

Table 7.3b

Prices (£ per tonne)	2023	2024	2025
Malting barley	232	196	172
Feed barley	176	159	152

Table 7.3c

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production	6,963	7,091	6,367
EU imports	134	226	258
Non-EU imports	0	0	0
EU exports	925	623	680
Non-EU exports	12	6	13
Total new supply	6,160	6,688	5,932
Change in farm and other stocks	-117	321	-441
Total domestic uses	6,277	6,367	6,373
Brewing/distilling	1,974	1,816	1,687
Animal feed	4,063	4,329	4,467
Seed	192	174	174
Other uses and waste	48	48	45
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	113%	106%	107%

Notes for Tables 7.3a to 7.3c:

1. All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content. Any production data which has been reported with lower moisture contents has not been adjusted
2. Value of production excludes farm-saved seed

Source: [Defra Cereals and Oilseeds Production](#), [AHDB cereal usage surveys](#), [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

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The value of barley decreased by 17% between 2024 and 2025 to just under £1.0 billion. The production of barley decreased by 10% to 6.4 million tonnes due to decreased area. The area decrease of 9.6% was driven by spring barley decreasing by 11% to 717 thousand hectares, and a decrease of 5.6% to 363 thousand hectares in the winter barley area. Production of winter barley increased by 1.2% to 2.5 million tonnes, with yields increasing from 6.4 t/ha to 6.8 t/ha, which offset the decrease in area. Winter barley was generally sown in good conditions. Crops sown on moisture-retentive, heavier soils coped better with the exceptionally dry spring/early summer, and harvest was completed before the rain arrived.

The total production of spring barley decreased by 16% to 3.9 million tonnes, and the quality was variable. Average yields fell to 5.4 t/ha from 5.7 t/ha. Whilst early quality of spring barley was good, reflecting crops in southern England, this picture changed as harvest progressed further north. In Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England many crops did not meet malting quality. Full details of barley production can be found in the [cereal and oilseed rape production](#) publication.

Barley imports were 258 kt in 2025 compared to 226 kt in 2024. Barley exports were 693 kt compared to 629 kt in 2024. The bulk of UK barley exports are to the EU. In 2025, 286 kt (41%) of total exports were destined for the Irish Republic, with Belgium

(133 kt, 19%) and the Netherlands (120 kt, 17%) the next most important destinations. Traditionally, Spain utilised UK feed barley, especially if they had a poor harvest. However, in 2025 only 28 kt was shipped to Spain, representing 4% of total exports. Weak demand for malting barley and the variable quality of the UK crop further tempered UK export activity. Historically, the UK regularly exported more than 1 million tonnes per year, but 2020 was the last year this figure was attained.

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 just under 2.0 million tonnes in 2023, demand declined in 2024 and 2025. This was 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 7.1% to 1.7 million tonnes in 2025, the lowest level since 2020.

Demand for barley from the animal feed sector increased by 3.2% to around 4.5 million tonnes in 2025, driven by increased use by the compound feed sector. Barley availability for fed-on farm utilisation was also high, despite a smaller crop, due to lower human and industrial demand, mixed crop quality, and sluggish export activity.

Oats

Table 7.4a to 7.4c Oats; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.4a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	167	182	198
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.0	5.4	4.9
Volume of harvested production	830	986	963
Value of production (£ million)	166	190	139
Sales (£ million)	155	122	106
On farm use (£ million)	38	35	36
Change in stocks (£ million)	- 27	33	-2

Table 7.4b

Prices (£ per tonne)	2023	2024	2025
Milling oats	207	205	150
Feed oats	185	173	134

Table 7.4c

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production	830	986	963
EU imports	18	17	16
Non-EU imports	0	0	0
EU exports	151	48	89
Non-EU exports	6	7	8
Total new supply	691	948	882
Change in farm and other stocks	- 128	125	-49
Total domestic uses	819	823	931
Milling	488	492	510
Animal feed	304	300	388
Seed	23	25	28
Other uses and waste	4	5	5
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	120%	104%	109%

Notes for Tables 7.4a to 7.4c:

1. All production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content. Any production data which has been reported with lower moisture contents has not been adjusted
2. Value of production excludes farm saved seed

Source: [Defra Cereals and Oilseeds Production](#), [AHDB cereal usage surveys](#), [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

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In 2025, the harvested production of oats decreased by 2.3% to 963 kt due to lower average yields of 4.9 t/ha compared to 5.4 t/ha in 2024, offsetting an 8.8% increase in area. As with other cereal crops, sowing date and soil type were key influences on yield achieved, and quality was described as “variable”. Despite this reduction, oat production levels remain higher than those seen prior to 2019. The value of production decreased 27% to £139 million due to lower production and reduced prices.

UK oats usage is dominated by the oat milling sector. Total oats milled was 510 kt in 2025 compared to 492 kt in 2024, an increase of 3.7% but still below the 2020 peak of 561 kt. Increased demand for plant-based drinks and industry investment have helped increase usage. Use of oats in animal feed increased by 29% to 388 kt due to increased demand and availability, as variable crop quality led to more oats being used for fed-on-farm. Oats have a high fibre content which is useful for ruminant diets and horses but not suitable for poultry. Additionally, oats were a popular option for SFI low input on the harvested cereal option, which limits use of certain active ingredients and restricts seed rate.

UK oat exports are largely determined by the availability of other European producers (Germany, Poland and the Scandinavian countries). 2025 saw 97 kt of

exports compared to 55 kt in 2024. The bulk of the exports went to Belgium and Spain. Imports in 2025 were 16 kt compared to 17 kt in 2024.

Straw

In 2025, cereal straw production was estimated at 10 million tonnes, a 3.5% decrease compared with the 2024 crop. Despite this decline, the area baled increased by 3% to 2.7 million hectares. Straw sales for bedding also fell, dropping by 3.5% to 8 million tonnes.

Straw yields declined across all cereal types. Average yields were 3.3 t/ha for wheat, 3.1 t/ha for winter barley, 2.5 t/ha for spring barley, and 2.4 t/ha for oats. Weather was the dominant factor affecting performance. A wet autumn and winter, followed by a dry spring and summer, led to thin, underdeveloped crops and reduced output across much of the country. In some regions, the impact was severe; in the West Midlands, for example, yields were reported to be 30–50% below normal, with some areas experiencing even greater losses.

Dry harvest conditions further affected straw availability. Straw became brittle and fragmented during combining, resulting in smaller swaths than expected and reducing the volume recoverable for baling.

Baling rates remained high across all crop types, with approximately 90% of wheat, 96% of winter barley, 92% of spring barley, and 87% of oats baled. This was largely driven by favourable harvesting conditions, strong demand from the livestock sector, and firm early-season prices.

Establishment conditions were generally favourable, supporting an expansion in winter wheat area. However, subsequent warm, dry weather in spring placed crops under significant stress. Fields on lighter soils were particularly affected due to limited moisture, restricting growth and yield potential. In contrast, more moisture-retentive soils helped some farms maintain closer-to-average straw yields.

Overall, although late spring and summer conditions allowed for an earlier harvest and excellent baling conditions, characterised by rapid drying and good field access, the benefits were outweighed by reduced cereal yields. As a result, total straw production declined despite the high proportion of crops being baled.

Oilseed rape

Table 7.5a to 7.5b Oilseed rape; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.5a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	391	293	241
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.1	2.8	3.7
Volume of harvested production	1,216	835	893
Value of production (£ million)	484	339	408
Sales (£ million)	507	401	397
Change in stocks (£ million)	-23	-62	11
Prices (£ per tonne)	398	407	457

Table 7.5b

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production	1,216	835	893
EU imports	505	456	667
Non-EU imports	251	315	301
EU exports	38	30	53
Non-EU exports	3	0	0
Total new supply	1,931	1,576	1,809
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	63%	53%	49%

Notes for Tables 7.5a to 7.5c:

1. All production estimates have been standardised to 9.0% moisture content. Any production data which has been reported with lower moisture contents has not been 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%

Source: [Defra Cereals and Oilseeds Production](#), [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

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The UK oilseed rape (OSR) area in 2025 fell by 18% compared with 2024 to 241 thousand hectares, the lowest level recorded this century. Despite this contraction in area, production increased by 7% to 893 kt, driven by a marked improvement in yields, which rose from 2.8 t/ha in 2024 to 3.7 t/ha in 2025. Even so, output remained historically low, representing the second smallest crop this century, surpassed only by the exceptionally poor harvest in 2024 at 835 kt. The value of OSR production increased by 20% to £408 million, though still well below the

previous 10-year average of £580 million, reflecting the combined effects of the reduction in planted area and easing prices later in the year.

Prices firmed during the first half of the year, rising from around £471 per tonne in January to a peak of approximately £487 per tonne in April and May, reflecting tight domestic and European supplies, as well as reduced availability from Ukraine. From June onwards, prices weakened, falling to around £429 per tonne in August as harvest progress improved supply prospects. The average OSR price in 2025 was £457 per tonne, higher than £407 per tonne average in 2024, but remained well below the record annual average of £644 per tonne recorded in 2022.

Yield performance improved across most regions, supported by favourable establishment conditions in autumn 2024 and reduced pressure from cabbage stem flea beetle during spring and summer 2025. Most winter OSR crops harvested prior to Storm Floris in August delivered good results; however, crops harvested afterwards experienced yield losses due to pod shatter and associated seed loss. Market conditions continued to be influenced by abundant global supplies of soyabeans, particularly from South America, which provided a competitive alternative protein source and limited upside for OSR prices.

Sugar beet

Table 7.6a to 7.6b Sugar beet production and value; Refined Sugar production and supply, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.6a

Sugar Beet	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	99	102	94
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	78	76	78
Volume of harvested production	7,746	7,817	7,265
Value of production (£ million)	368	365	286
Sugar content %	16	17	17
Price (average market price (£ per adjusted tonne))	48	47	39

Table 7.6b

All Sugar (refined basis)	2023	2024	2025
Production	1,078	1,086	997
EU imports	341	239	231
Non-EU imports	632	483	541
EU exports	39	119	106
Non-EU exports	21	28	26
Total new supply	1,991	1,662	1,637
Production as % of total new supply for UK use	54%	65%	61%

Notes for Tables 7.6a to 7.6b:

1. The area for sugar beet is provided by British Sugar and may differ to the area in Figure 2.1b
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

Source: British Sugar, Defra

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Harvested sugar beet production in 2025 fell by 7.1% to 7.3 million tonnes. This reflected an 8.6% reduction in the planted area to 94 thousand hectares, which more than offset a 1.7% increase in beet yields to 77.6 t/ha. As a result, refined sugar production declined by 8.2% to around 997 kt.

The value of sugar beet production decreased by 22% to £286 million, driven by both lower production volumes and a 16% fall in the average price to £39 per tonne. Sugar content increased to 17.4% (from 16.8% in 2024), helping to limit the impact of lower beet availability on overall sugar output.

Growing conditions during the 2025 campaign were generally favourable compared with the previous two years. Improved early lifting conditions allowed good progress in the autumn, but some frost and wet weather later in the season affected yields of the later pulled crops. Approximately 2,000 growers from the East of England, East Midlands, and Yorkshire supply crops to British Sugar.

Protein crops (field peas and field beans)

Table 7.7a and 7.7b Protein crops - field peas and field beans, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.7a

Peas for harvesting dry	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	61	89	60
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.0	3.3	3.3
For animal feed			
Volume of harvested production	167	175	102
Value of production (£ million)	38	43	22
For human consumption			
Volume of harvested production	16	119	96
Value of production (£ million)	4	28	22

Table 7.7b

Field beans	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	214	135	141
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.2	3.4	3.5
Volume of harvested production	685	460	482
Value of production (£ million)	155	104	102

Notes for Tables 7.7a to 7.7b:

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%

Source: Defra, ADAS

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The overall area of pulses in 2025 was 202 thousand hectares, a decrease of 9.9% from 2024 with a decrease in field pea area offsetting an increase in field bean area. Pulses were a popular crop option under the Common Agricultural Policy due to greening requirements, but their area may change following the UK's departure from the EU and the move to new environmental land management schemes. 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.

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The total area of field peas decreased by 32% in 2025 to 60 thousand hectares. The proportion of this area utilised for animal feed was estimated at 52%, lower than the estimated 60% in 2024. Total production for animal feed decreased by 42% to an estimated 102 kt. The production utilised for human consumption decreased to an estimated 96 kt from an estimated 119 kt in 2024. Field peas yield averaged 3.3 t/ha, the same as 2024. Crops established well but water stress during flowering and pod fill limited the yield potential. Early sown crops fared better than later plantings, resulting in a wide regional yield variation. Harvesting period was very dry which helped with clean cutting of the crop with minimal staining, although pod splitting was observed in some areas. 2025 saw the first confirmed UK detection of pea bruchid, with the warm dry spring enabling the pest to complete its life cycle. Overall yields were below the long-term average, but the overall quality was considered good.

The annual value of peas for animal feed in 2025 was £22 million, a decrease of 49% due to a combination of lower production levels, a lower proportion of peas going to animal feed, and lower average prices. The annual value of peas for human consumption in 2025 was £22 million, compared to £28 million in 2024, primarily due to lower production and prices offsetting a higher proportion of peas destined for human consumption. The average price per tonne for field peas was 13% lower than 2024 at £213.

The area of field beans was 4.5% higher than last year at 141 thousand hectares. The increased area and slightly higher average yields led to production increasing by 4.7% to an estimated 482 kt. Average yields increased to 3.5 t/ha from 3.4 t/ha in 2024. The **winter bean** crop generally coped well with the dry conditions. Crops sown on deeper well drained soils fared better than those planted on lighter or poorly constructed soil, which struggled. Disease pressures were lower than previous years with less chocolate spot and less bruchid beetle damage reported (except for the West Midlands), although black bean aphid was observed in mid-June. For **spring beans** the sudden closure of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) to new applicants in March 2025 led to land originally ear marked for the SFI entering pulse production instead. This resulted in a wide range of drilling dates across the UK. Some crops sown in late March through to early April experienced lower yields. Later sown crops suffered from water stress and generally spring bean yields were low, which pulled the overall average yield of field beans down.

The annual value of field beans in 2025 was £102 million, a 2% decrease compared to 2024, reflecting the lower average market price. The average price per tonne was 6.4% lower than 2024 at £212.

Fresh vegetables

Table 7.8a to 7.8c Fresh vegetables; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.8a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares):	101	97	104
Grown in the open (thousand hectares)	100	97	103
Protected (thousand hectares)	0.8	0.8	0.9
Value of production (£ million):	2,026	2,109	2,117
Grown in the open (£ million)	1,613	1,672	1,686
Protected (£ million)	412	436	431
Selected crops:			
Cabbages (£ million)	84	94	87
Carrots (£ million)	219	248	242
Cauliflowers (£ million)	81	87	72
Calabrese (£ million)	113	123	122
Lettuces (£ million)	245	264	276
Mushrooms (£ million)	149	147	148
Onions (£ million)	215	157	209
Tomatoes (£ million)	122	134	134

Table 7.8b

Prices (farm gate price (£ per tonne))	2023	2024	2025
Cauliflowers	1,059	924	796
Tomatoes	1,742	1,765	1,692

Table 7.8c

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Total production	2,344	2,428	2,622
EU imports	1,646	1,741	1,696
Non-EU imports	417	437	417
EU exports	74	72	64
Non-EU exports	2	3	2
Total new supply	4,332	4,531	4,670
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	54%	54%	56%

Notes for Tables 7.8a to 7.8c:

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

Source: [Defra Horticulture Statistics](#)

[Download the full crops dataset](#)

Total production value increased by 0.4% compared with the 2024 value, meaning a historical high of £2.1 billion. Total production rose to 2.6 million tonnes, an 8% increase on 2024.

The planted area increased by 6.7% to 104 thousand hectares, up from 97 thousand hectares in 2024. This increase was driven primarily by field vegetable crops, while protected cropping remained broadly stable.

Field-grown vegetables accounted for £1.7 billion of the total value in 2025, the highest level on record. This represents a modest growth of 0.8%. Total field vegetable production reached 2.4 million tonnes, up 9% on 2024. Protected production contributed £431 million to total vegetable value in 2025, down 1.1% from 2024. The protected area increased so by 4.7% to 866 hectares.

Growing conditions in 2025 were dominated by prolonged dry weather and water availability constraints. Many field vegetable crops experienced dry conditions from early spring through summer, with irrigation access becoming increasingly critical; in some areas abstraction restrictions were imposed, forcing growers to alter cropping plans or relocate production. Establishment was particularly challenging for spring and early summer plantings on unirrigated land, leading to patchy crops and yield penalties, especially in eastern regions such as Lincolnshire. While rainfall later in the season improved growth for some autumn and winter crops, the combination of early season drought, high summer temperatures and ongoing regulatory pressure on water use, highlighted water security as the key constraint on UK vegetable production in 2025.

Plants and flowers

Table 7.9a to 7.9b Plants and flowers; area, value of production and trade, 2023 to 2025 (£ million unless otherwise specified)

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Table 7.9a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area (thousand hectares)	10	12	12
Value of production	1,683	1,649	1,616
Flowers and bulbs	158	171	158
Pot plants	331	343	347
Hardy ornamental nursery stock	1,194	1,135	1,111

Table 7.9b

Trade (£ million)	2023	2024	2025
Total imports (exc. Channel Islands)	1,457	1,459	1,553
Bulbs	88	85	94
Cut flowers	616	636	680
Foliage	58	61	67
Indoor plants	174	177	178
Outdoor plants	154	149	208
Trees	263	247	218
Other	103	104	107
Total exports	54	49	59
Bulbs	8	7	6
Cut flowers	21	23	35
Foliage	2	1	1
Indoor plants	6	2	2
Outdoor plants	4	2	3
Trees	2	2	2
Other	11	10	11

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 those shown in Table 2.2
2. Includes forced flowers bulbs
3. Trade totals may differ to the sum of the components due to rounding

Source: [Defra Horticulture Statistics](#)

[Download the full crops dataset](#)

The value of production in the UK ornamental sector decreased by 2.0% to £1.62 billion in 2025. This reflects ongoing cost pressures and softer market conditions across much of the sector. Hardy ornamental nursery stock (HONS), which accounts for the largest share of production, saw a 2.2% fall in value to £1.11 billion. Flowers and bulbs recorded a larger decline, with production value falling by 7.5% to £158 million, while the pot plant sector continued to show resilience, increasing marginally by 1.1% to £347 million.

Overall trends in 2025 were shaped by higher labour, energy and input costs, alongside uneven demand during a hot, dry growing season. The prolonged dry conditions affected establishment and growth in parts of the field grown sector, while reduced consumer spending constrained retail demand, particularly during peak summer months. Some recovery in sales later in the year, combined with continued demand from the amenity sector, helped to stabilise returns for container-grown and pot plant producers. However, heightened competition from imports, delayed planting programmes and rising production costs continued to place pressure on margins across much of the ornamental horticulture industry.

Potatoes

Table 7.10a to 7.10c Potatoes; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.10a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Area sown (thousand hectares)	115	118	127
Area harvested (thousand hectares)	98	111	117
Yield (tonnes per hectare harvested)	48	46	48
Volume of harvested production	4,661	5,112	5,549
For human consumption	3,550	4,066	4,522
Seed	525	544	561
Stockfeed and waste	587	503	466
Sales	4,918	4,743	5,221
For human consumption	3,836	3,722	4,218
Seed	525	544	561
Sold for stockfeed	558	478	442
End year stocks	2,367	2,710	3,015
Change in stocks	-286	344	304
Value of production (£ million)	1,132	1,546	1,463
Sold for human consumption (£ million)	1,033	1,190	1,104
Sold for seed (including farm saved seed) (£ million)	171	241	274
Sold for stockfeed (£ million)	6	5	5
Change in stocks (£ million)	-77	110	80

Table 7.10b

Prices (paid to registered producers (£ per tonne))	2023	2024	2025
Early/maincrop (for human consumption) (£ per tonne)	269	320	262
Seed (£ per tonne)	326	444	490
Stockfeed (£ per tonne)	10	10	11

Table 7.10c

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Total production	4,074	4,609	5,083
Imports	2,439	2,633	2,496
Exports	426	412	430
Net trade (negative means net export)	2,013	2,220	2,067
Early/maincrop	-79	18	-49
Seed	-80	-93	-94
Processed (raw equivalent)	2,173	2,295	2,209
Total new supply (raw equivalent)	6,088	6,829	7,149
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	67%	67%	71%

Source: Defra, [Daera](#), [Scottish Government](#), ADAS, [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

[Download the full crops dataset](#)

Potato production increased by 8.5% to 5.5 million tonnes in 2025. This was driven by a 7.2% increase in the area sown, to 127 thousand hectares, combined with a 3.0% improvement in yields to 47.6 t/ha. As a result, production for human consumption rose by 11% to 4.5 million tonnes, while volumes sold for stockfeed and waste declined further.

Despite higher production, the value of potato production fell by 5.4% to £1.46 billion. This reflected a 18% fall in average prices for early and maincrop potatoes to £262 per tonne, following exceptionally high prices in 2024. In contrast, the average price for seed potatoes increased by over 10% to £490 per tonne, supporting growth in the value of seed sales.

The increase in planted area reflects improved grower confidence following strong returns in the previous year. However, despite higher output, overall producer revenues declined in 2025, as weaker prices and slower stock clearance outweighed volume gains. Irrigation was the principal operational challenge, with dry conditions requiring applications as frequently as every three days, typically at around 25mm per pass. This placed significant pressure on farm labour and equipment and increased the risk of bruising at harvest.

Low prices during the dry September period led some growers to delay lifting, resulting in higher volumes being placed into store than usual. This contributed to storage congestion later in the season. Yield outcomes varied markedly depending on water availability. Irrigated crops performed strongly, with some varieties achieving yields more than 80 t/ha, supported by high levels of solar radiation. By contrast, non-irrigated crops yielded as little as 30 t/ha, with many producers reporting whole-farm averages closer to 60 t/ha, underlining the central role of water availability in determining crop performance in 2025.

Fresh fruit

Table 7.11a to 7.11c Fresh fruit; production, value, supply and use, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless specified otherwise)

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Table 7.11a

Production	2023	2024	2025
Outdoor fruit area (thousand hectares)	32	31	29
Orchard fruit (thousand hectares)	21	20	19
Soft fruit (thousand hectares)	11	11	10
End year stocks	58	67	74
Value of production (£ million)	1,037	1,083	1,137
Orchard fruit (£ million)	288	351	361
Soft fruit (£ million)	749	732	776
Sales (£ million)	1,110	1,070	1,132
Change in stocks (£ million)	-73	14	5
Selected crops			
Dessert apples (£ million)	152	193	209
Culinary apples (£ million)	32	45	37
Pears (£ million)	14	18	21
Raspberries (£ million)	181	191	221
Strawberries (£ million)	471	431	454

Table 7.11b

Prices (farm gate price (£ per tonne))	2023	2024	2025
Selected crops			
Dessert apples (£ per tonne)	895	1,023	1,014
Culinary apples (£ per tonne)	538	834	727
Pears (£ per tonne)	906	923	929
Raspberries (£ per tonne)	11,283	12,033	12,676
Strawberries (£ per tonne)	4,424	4,370	4,888

Table 7.11c

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Total production	582	564	577
EU imports	998	1,069	1,036
Non-EU imports	2,150	2,229	2,533
EU exports	34	32	36
Non-EU exports	2	2	2
Total new supply	3,694	3,827	4,107
Change in stocks	-70	9	6
Total domestic uses	3,764	3,818	4,100
Production as % of total new supply for use in UK	16%	15%	14%

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. Includes glasshouse fruit
5. EU trade data no longer includes dried fruit

Source: [Defra Horticulture Statistics](#)

[Download the full crops dataset](#)

In 2025, total UK fruit production increased modestly to 577 kt, up 2.3% on 2024. This was despite a further contraction in planted area, which fell by 3.9% to just over 29 thousand hectares. Orchard fruit output increased by 3.9% at 443 kt, reflecting improved cropping in apples, pears and cherries following favourable blossom conditions. Soft fruit production declined by 2.7% to 134 kt, largely due to heat-related yield losses in strawberries and raspberries, along with planted area reductions across all soft fruit. These trends reflect the growing season, with high temperatures and drought stress later in the year limiting fruit initiation in soft fruit, while early flowering and good pollination benefitted top fruit.

The value of home fruit production rose to £1.1 billion, an increase of 5% on 2024. Growth in value was driven primarily by higher average prices, particularly for strawberries and raspberries, which more than offset lower production volumes in some crops. Soft fruit continued to account for the majority of production value at £776 million which increased by 6%, despite lower output. In contrast, the value of orchard fruit rose more modestly, increasing by 2.8% to £361 million. Imports increased in volume and value, especially for soft fruit, underlining the continued importance of overseas supply when domestic production is constrained.

Linseed

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 (Table 7.12 [AUK-Chapter7](#)). Area data can be found in the publication [Agricultural land use in the United Kingdom](#).

Data Sources and Revisions

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

For potatoes, price and yield data were historically sourced from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (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 potato industry data and insights for England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland provide their own information on potato production, price, and value. The average price paid to producers is supplied by Northern Ireland and is compiled from a monthly survey of potato processors and merchants.

Figures for 2025 are provisional and may be subject to revision.

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

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

Chapter 8: Livestock

Summary

- The value of **beef and veal** increased by 23% to £5.1 billion. Home-fed production decreased by 3.4% to 898 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **pig meat** increased by 0.7% to £1.8 billion. Home-fed production increased by 2.6% to 937 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **mutton and lamb** increased by 5.9% to £1.9 billion. Home-fed production increased by 1.9% to 282 thousand tonnes.
- The value of **poultry meat** increased by 0.1% to £3.6 billion. Production increased by 0.3% to 2.0 million tonnes.
- The value of **milk and milk products** increased by 12% to £7.0 billion. The volume of milk production for human consumption increased by 5.0% to 15.8 billion litres.
- The value of **eggs** for human consumption increased by 7.0% to £1.5 billion. Production increased by 5.2% to 1.1 billion dozen.

Meat production

Total value of meat production in 2025 increased by 9.4% from 2024, to £12.4 billion. With the total volume of meat production increasing by just 0.1% to 4.1 million tonnes, this increase in the value of production was primarily driven by increased beef prices.

Tables 8.1a to 8.1b - Meat production, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.1a Home fed production (thousand tonnes)

Production	2023	2024	2025
Cattle	900	929	898
Pigs	885	913	937
Sheep	296	276	282
Poultry	1,974	1,994	2,000
Total production	4,055	4,113	4,116

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#)

Table 8.1b Value of production (£ million)

Value	2023	2024	2025
Cattle	3,804	4,139	5,084
Pigs	1,785	1,815	1,828
Sheep	1,559	1,763	1,867
Poultry	3,942	3,594	3,599
Total value	11,090	11,311	12,379

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

Notes:

1. Measures of home-fed production and value include animals raised and slaughtered in the UK, excluding any animals removed from the food chain.
2. Poultry production excludes offal.
3. Poultry production and value have been revised subsequent to first publication. As a result they no longer match value figures in Total Income from Farming in the UK.

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Cattle and calves: beef and veal

The value of beef and veal production increased by 23% from 2024 to £5.1 billion in 2025. This was driven by historically high deadweight cattle prices, which outweighed a 3.4% reduction in home-fed production to 898 thousand tonnes. UK cattle prices remained historically high throughout 2025, with ongoing tight supplies reflecting the impact of several years of herd contraction and constrained breeding on UK cattle supplies. Prime cattle deadweight prices averaged 647 pence per

kilogram (p/kg) in 2025, an increase of 30% from 2024 and 50% above the five-year average.

The size of the beef herd decreased by 4.1% to 1.3 million head, continuing an ongoing trend of herd contraction over the last decade. An associated decrease of 4.3% in prime cattle slaughter was moderated by heavier carcass weights, particularly in the second half of the year as producers used more favourable feed conditions to maintain growth rates. There were no major weather-related disruptions affecting turnout or housing so the 3.4% decrease in production largely reflects underlying structural constraints.

Trade patterns reflected the lower domestic production and elevated prices. Beef imports increased by 0.9%, to 309 thousand tonnes, driven by higher shipments from Australia and New Zealand following improved market access under Free Trade Agreements. Conversely imports from Ireland, the UK's primary supplier, decreased as Irish supply tightened and the price differential narrowed. Beef export volumes increased slightly by 0.1%, to 142 thousand tonnes, with the EU remaining the primary destination and growth in some West African markets reflecting tighter global supplies. With home-fed production meeting 84% of new supply in 2025, the UK remains a net importer of beef and veal.

Tables 8.2a to 8.2d - Cattle and calves; beef and veal, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.2a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2023	2024	2025
Total cattle and calves	9,555	9,412	9,292
Dairy cows	1,836	1,836	1,849
Beef cows	1,407	1,344	1,290

Source: [Livestock populations in the United Kingdom](#)

Table 8.2b Production

Production	2023	2024	2025
Total home-fed marketings (thousand head)	2,784	2,857	2,728
Steers, heifers and young bulls	2,027	2,100	2,009
Calves	121	111	97
Cows and adult bulls	637	647	621
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Steers, heifers and young bulls	342	343	346
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Calves	81	78	91
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Cows and adult bulls	309	310	310
Home fed production (dressed carcase weight, thousand tonnes)	900	929	898
Value of production (£ million)	3,804	4,139	5,084
Value of home-fed production	3,844	4,173	5,152
Change in work-in-progress	-21	-19	-58
Less imported livestock	19	15	10
Plus breeding animals exported	0	0	0
Subsidies (£ million)	40	41	42
Value of production at basic price (£ million)	3,844	4,181	5,126

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#) and [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

Table 8.2c Prices (pence per kilogram deadweight)

Prices	2023	2024	2025
Finished cattle: All prime cattle	476	497	647

Source: [AHDB GB Deadweight Cattle Prices](#)

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

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Home-fed production	900	929	898
Imports from EU	268	281	244
Imports from the rest of the world	16	26	66
Exports to EU	115	122	124
Exports to the rest of the world	16	20	18
Total new supply	1,054	1,094	1,065
Home-fed production as % of new supply for use in the UK	85	85	84

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#)

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 a valuation of the change in work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
3. Subsidies comprises the Scottish Beef Calf Scheme until 2014 and the Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme from 2015 onwards.
4. Value of production includes subsidies and taxes.
5. Imports from EU includes meat from imports of live finished animals.

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Pigs and pig meat

The value of home-fed pig meat production increased by 0.7% to £1.8 billion in 2025. This was the result of a 2.6% increase in production, which outweighed a small decrease in average prices for pig meat.

UK home-fed pig meat production strengthened in 2025, increasing by 2.6% from 2024 to 937 thousand tonnes. This was driven by a combination of higher average carcase weights and higher throughput, with home-fed clean pig slaughter up 1.8% on 2024, to 9.9 million head in 2025. The total pig population increased by 0.5% to 4.7 million head in 2025, while the female breeding herd decreased by 3.3% to 316 thousand head.

UK pig prices declined slightly from 2024 in the early part of 2025 but picked up by the spring, reaching a peak in the summer months before easing into autumn and early winter. The average price of pig meat in 2025 was 204 p/kg (deadweight), a slight decrease of 0.2% from 2024. UK pig producers' margins recovered strongly after a near break-even start to the year, in line with falling feed costs throughout the year.

Trade in pig meat remained fairly stable throughout 2025, with the Republic of Ireland and China the leading export destinations. By volume, the UK exported 146

thousand tonnes of pig meat in 2025 (up 3.6% from 2024) and imported 603 thousand tonnes (down 4.7% from 2024). With home-fed production meeting 67% of supply in 2025, the UK remains a net importer of pig meat.

Tables 8.3a to 8.3d - Pigs and pig meat, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.3a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2023	2024	2025
Total pigs	4,683	4,716	4,739
Sows in pig and other sows for breeding	290	285	277
Gilts in pig	48	43	39

Source: [Livestock populations in the United Kingdom](#)

Table 8.3b Production

Production	2023	2024	2025
Total home-fed marketings (thousand head)	9,783	10,000	10,163
Clean pigs	9,556	9,775	9,949
Sows and boars	227	225	214
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Clean pigs	89	90	91
Average dressed carcase weight (kg): Sows and boars	143	150	152
Home-fed production dressed carcase weight (thousand tonnes)	885	913	937
Value of production (£ million)	1,785	1,815	1,828
Value of home-fed production	1,806	1,801	1,826
Change in work-in-progress	-21	14	2
Less imported livestock	[x]	[x]	[x]
Plus breeding animals exported	0	0	0

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#) and [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

Table 8.3c Prices (pence per kilogram deadweight)

Prices	2023	2024	2025
Clean pigs	217	204	204

Source: [AHDB GB Deadweight Pig Prices](#)

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

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Home-fed production	885	913	937
Imports from EU	629	631	601
Imports from rest of the world	1	2	1
Exports to EU	82	77	76
Exports to rest of the world	71	63	70
Total new supply	1,362	1,404	1,394
Home-fed production as % of new supply for use in the UK	65	65	67

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#)

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 a valuation of the change in work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
3. Imports from EU includes meat from imports of live finished animals.
4. Does not include meat offals or trade in preserved or manufactured meat products. Boneless meat has been converted to bone-in weights.
5. 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.
6. [x] means data is unavailable.

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Sheep and lambs: mutton and lamb

The value of mutton and lamb production increased by 5.9% from 2024, to £1.9 billion in 2025, driven by increases in both price and production.

In 2025, the UK sheep sector faced tight supplies, with a 0.7% decrease in the female breeding flock, and reduced forage from exceptionally dry conditions in parts of the UK. Prices were firm for much of the year but faced some pressure in spring, caused by a wider gap between Ramadan and Easter reducing the intensity of seasonal demand, and higher carry-over of old-season lambs adding to supply. Finished SQQ lamb prices (Standard Quality Quotation - lambs weighing 12 kg to 21.5 kg) averaged 710 p/kg in 2025, an increase of 2.4% from 2024 and 23% above the 5-year average.

Home-fed mutton and lamb production increased by 1.9% from 2024, to 282 thousand tonnes. Sheep and lamb slaughter numbers increased by 0.7% from 2024, despite a longer-term contraction in the national flock, with total sheep and lamb numbers falling by 1.7% to 30.5 million head in 2025.

Imports and exports of mutton and lamb both strengthened in 2025 and remained closely tied to EU market conditions. By volume, exports increased by 8.2% to 99 thousand tonnes, while imports increased by 3.4% to 91 thousand tonnes. Exports were strongly EU-focused, with 95% of exports being to EU destinations. In contrast, most import supplies came from non-EU sources such as New Zealand and, increasingly, Australia, due to implementation of the Free Trade Agreement. Domestic production currently accounts for 103% of consumption and so the UK is a net exporter of mutton and lamb.

Tables 8.4a to 8.4d - Sheep and lambs: mutton and lamb, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.4a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2023	2024	2025
Total sheep and lambs	31,803	31,017	30,484
Female breeding flock	15,438	14,882	14,780
Other sheep and lambs	16,365	16,135	15,704

Source: [Livestock populations in the United Kingdom](#)

Table 8.4b Production

Production	2023	2024	2025
Total home-fed marketings (thousand head)	14,412	13,343	13,348
Clean sheep and lambs	12,694	11,838	11,920
Ewes and rams	1,717	1,505	1,428
Clean sheep and lambs average dressed carcase weight (kg)	20	20	21
Ewes and rams average dressed carcase weight (kg)	26	27	26
Home-fed production dressed carcase weight (thousand tonnes)	296	276	282
Value of production (£ million)	1,559	1,763	1,867
Value of home-fed production	1,580	1,770	1,899
Change in work-in-progress	-21	-8	-32
Less imported livestock	0	0	0
Plus breeding animals exported	0	0	0
Subsidies	7	7	7
Value of production at basic prices	1,566	1,770	1,874

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#) and [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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

Prices	2023	2024	2025
Finished sheep, Great Britain	578	693	710

Source: [AHDB GB Deadweight Sheep Prices](#)

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

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Home-fed production	296	276	282
Imports from the EU	13	11	9
Imports from the rest of the world	48	77	82
Exports to the EU	91	87	94
Exports to the rest of the world	5	5	4
Total new supply	261	273	274
Home-fed production as % of new supply for use in the UK	113	101	103

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#)

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 a valuation of the change in work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
3. Value of production includes subsidies and taxes.
4. Imports from the EU includes meat from imports of live finished animals.
5. Subsidies comprises Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme.
6. Finished sheep price is an unweighted average of weekly prices at representative markets.

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Poultry and poultry meat

The value of home-fed poultry meat production increased to £3.6 billion in 2025, an increase of 0.1% from 2024. This was the result of a small increase in production, which outweighed decreases in poultry prices.

Home-fed poultry meat production increased by 0.3% to 2.0 million tonnes, driven by a historically high output of 1.9 million tonnes for table chickens. This increase was driven by a 1.7% increase in broiler carcase weights to 2.4kg offsetting a small 0.2% decrease in broiler slaughter numbers. Alongside this, the broiler sector continued its transition to lower stocking densities in response to retailer-led commitments to improve animal welfare outcomes.

Average producer prices for table chickens decreased by 3.5% to 150 p/kg (deadweight), which is largely attributed to key production costs stabilising following

Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The number of confirmed cases of avian influenza (AI) was lower in 2025 than in previous years, with the majority of cases occurring towards the end of the year. This had little impact on the Christmas poultry meat supply chain.

The UK remained a large net importer of poultry meat, with domestic production making up 80% of supply in 2025. The EU dominated trade flows, accounting for 83% of imports and 67% of exports. By volume imports increased by 8.6% to 700 thousand tonnes, while exports decreased by 1.4% to 212 thousand tonnes.

Tables 8.5a to 8.5d - Poultry and poultry meat, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.5a Population (thousand head at June)

Population	2023	2024	2025
Total poultry	178,142	176,085	183,332
Table chickens	116,440	112,374	120,959
Laying and breeding fowl	53,792	54,612	53,935
Turkeys, ducks, geese and all other poultry	7,909	9,099	8,438

Source: [Livestock populations in the United Kingdom](#)

Table 8.5b Production

Production	2023	2024	2025
Slaughterings (millions):	1,175	1,177	1,117
Table chickens	1,118	1,132	1,130
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	39	25	30
Turkeys	9	9	7
Ducks and geese	9	11	11
Production (carcase weight thousand tonnes)	1,974	1,994	2,000
Table chickens	1,799	1,833	1,860
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	59	34	37
Turkeys	[c]	[c]	[c]
Ducks and geese	[c]	[c]	[c]
Value of production (£ million):	3,942	3,594	3,599
Table chickens and boiling fowls	3,241	2,851	2,793
Turkeys, ducks, geese	538	464	448
Change in work-in-progress in fowls	-53	5	11
Exports of live poultry	186	212	280
Hatching eggs for export	80	112	121
Less live poultry imported	6	8	11
Less hatching eggs imported	43	43	43

Source: [Latest poultry and poultry meat statistics](#) and [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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

Prices	2023	2024	2025
Table chickens	180	155	150
Boiling fowls (culled hens)	10	10	10
Turkeys	[c]	[c]	[c]
Ducks	[c]	[c]	[c]
Geese	[c]	[c]	[c]

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

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production	1,974	1,994	2,000
Imports from the EU	585	584	584
Imports from the rest of the world	42	60	116
Exports to the EU	135	155	142
Exports to the rest of the world	63	60	69
Total new supply	2,404	2,424	2,488
Production as % of new supply for use in the UK	82	82	80

Source: [Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#)

Notes:

1. Laying and breeding fowl includes hens and pullets kept mainly for producing eggs for eating.
2. Boiling fowls were included with table chickens until 1994.
3. Production excludes offal.
4. Change in work-in-progress is a valuation of the change in work-in-progress of animals to be slaughtered.
5. 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.
6. Poultry data for 1985 to 2025 in Tables 8.1 and 8.5 were revised following publication of AUK 2025. This reflects post-publication corrections to the underlying turkeys, ducks and geese slaughter and production data, and a correction to all poultry value calculations. As a result, the total poultry values in AUK do not match the poultry values published in Total Income from Farming UK 2025. As part of this revision, turkeys, ducks and geese production and price data has been made confidential.
7. Table chickens includes broilers and other table fowls.

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Milk

The value of milk produced for human consumption increased by 12% from 2024, to £7.0 billion in 2025, driven by increases in both price and production.

The UK average farmgate milk price (FGMP) rose by 6.8% from 2024, to 44 pence per litre (ppl), with prices in January 2025 up 19% from the previous year. This combined with low feed wheat prices to deliver firm on-farm margins and profitability, driving a marked increase in milk production throughout the year. Overall production of milk for human consumption increased by 5.0% from 2024, to 15.8 billion litres in 2025. Despite dry conditions in a number of UK milk production regions, milk deliveries remained strong through the summer period as impacted farmers compensated for reduced forage growth by feeding increased amounts of low cost purchased feeds. In addition to the high volumes of milk produced, the average solids content of that milk rose and further increased effective total production.

In the latter part of the year production in the EU, USA and New Zealand recovered, causing a rapid change from a position of undersupply to one of marked oversupply. As a result, dairy commodity values declined sharply from September 2025 followed by similar declines in UK FGMPs from November 2025 onwards. While UK milk production eased somewhat in the last months of 2025 in response to the sharp falls in FGMPs, it remained seasonally high. This minimal decline in production was likely the result of continued plentiful and cheap supplies of purchased feed combined with challenges in reducing herd numbers and individual cow yield on farms.

With domestic production comprising 105% of consumption, the UK remained a net exporter of liquid milk in 2025.

Tables 8.6a to 8.6d - Milk, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.6a Population and yield

Population	2023	2024	2025
Dairy herd (annual average, thousand head)	1,840	1,845	1,850
Average yield per dairy cow (litres per annum)	8,206	8,261	8,643

Source: [Livestock populations in the United Kingdom](#)

Table 8.6b Production

Production	2023	2024	2025
Milk from the dairy herd (million litres)	15,097	15,237	15,991
Milk from the beef herd (million litres)	[x]	[x]	[x]
Raw milk leaving farm	14,865	15,004	15,751
Milk processed on farm	92	92	93
On farm use	139	140	147
Volume for human consumption	14,957	15,097	15,844
Value of production (£ million)	5,985	6,295	7,049
Raw milk leaving farm	5,872	6,176	6,923
Processed milk products from farm	58	61	62
On farm use	55	58	65
Subsidies	[x]	[x]	[x]
Less levies	[x]	[x]	[x]
Value of production at market prices (£ million)	5,985	6,295	7,049

Source: [Latest UK milk prices and composition of milk](#) and [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

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

Prices	2023	2024	2025
Farmgate price	39	41	44

Source: [Latest UK milk prices and composition of milk](#)

Table 8.6d Supply and use (million litres)

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
Production (excludes on farm use from 2015)	14,957	15,097	15,844
Imports	91	108	108
Exports	830	829	829
Total new supply	14,218	14,376	15,123
For liquid consumption	6,018	6,101	6,096
For manufacture	7,865	7,835	8,499
Butter	404	384	405
Cheese	4,857	4,629	4,816
Cream	375	410	439
Yoghurt	384	429	523
Condensed milk	349	333	329
Milk powders	[x]	[x]	[x]
Other products	1,494	1,650	1,986
Dairy wastage and stock change	336	440	528
Other uses	132	133	139
Production as a % of new supply	105	105	105

Source: [Latest UK milk prices and composition of milk](#)

Notes:

1. The dairy herd is average size of the dairy herd across the whole year, rather than the size at a particular time of year. From 2005 the dairy herd was 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 dairy and 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 includes farmhouse consumption and milk fed to livestock.
4. Raw milk leaving farm is the value of raw milk sold to other businesses (dairies) for processing.
5. Processed milk products from farm is the value of milk and milk products 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. Prices exclude any retrospective bonuses made by purchasers with the exception of Northern Ireland data for 2023, where the disaggregated data is unavailable.
9. Prices including retrospective bonuses are no longer included in Table 8.6c because this data is unavailable from 2021 onwards.
10. [x] means data is unavailable.

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Hen eggs

The value of production of eggs produced for human consumption increased by 7.0% from 2024 to £1.5 billion in 2025. This was the result of increases in both production volumes and price, with average prices increasing for both enriched and free range eggs.

Production of eggs for human consumption increased by 5.2% to 1.1 million tonnes, with an increase of 840 thousand in the laying flock, to 42.7 million birds in 2025. Producer prices for packed eggs were broadly stable across 2025, supporting producer confidence in the sector and a steady and gradual increase in supply. The average price of eggs for human consumption across all production methods rose to 148 pence per dozen in 2025, an increase of 2.2% from the previous year. Avian influenza pressures persisted and remained a key operational risk, but the overall narrative for 2025 was continued growth rather than supply disruption.

Throughout 2025, the production mix showed continued movement towards cage-free systems, with a marked reduction in eggs being produced from enriched colony cage units and an increase in those being produced in free-range units. This was driven by producers transitioning to meet major retailers' voluntary pledges to stop selling eggs from caged hens to improve hen welfare. The proportion of eggs from free range production systems increased from 69% in the last quarter of 2024 to 73% in the final quarter of 2025, while the proportion from enriched systems decreased from 20% to 16% over the same period. This has been accompanied by a continued increase since 2022 in laying chicks being placed on farm, as hatcheries and producers capitalise on the improved conditions for the sector and the retailer drive towards cage-free commitments.

The UK remained a net importer of eggs with domestic production making up 88% of consumption in 2025. Exports fell sharply in volume in 2025, with a decrease of 28% to 23 million dozen. Import volumes rose slightly in 2025, with an increase of 1.1% to 171 million dozen.

Tables 8.7a to 8.7d – Hen eggs, 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: defra.fisu@defra.gov.uk

Table 8.7a Population (thousands at June)

Population	2023	2024	2025
Number of laying fowl	41,073	41,863	42,703

Source: [Livestock populations in the United Kingdom](#)

Table 8.7b Production

Production	2023	2024	2025
Volume of production (million dozen)	1,098	1,153	1,207
Eggs for human consumption	960	1,009	1,062
Eggs for hatching	124	128	129
Other	14	16	16
Value of production of eggs for human consumption (£ million)	1,003	1,360	1,456

Source: [Latest UK egg statistics](#) and [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

Table 8.7c Prices (pence per dozen)

Prices	2023	2024	2025
Average packer to producer price	133	144	148

Source: [Latest UK egg statistics](#)

Table 8.7d Supply and use (million dozen)

Supply and use	2023	2024	2025
UK production of eggs for human consumption	960	1,009	1,062
Eggs sold in shell	850	914	959
Eggs processed	111	95	103
Imports from the EU	165	167	150
Imports from the rest of the world	1	2	21
Exports to the EU	30	32	23
Exports to the rest of the world	1	0	0
Total new supply	1,096	1,146	1,209
Production as % of new supply for use in the UK	88	88	88

Source: [Latest UK egg statistics](#)

Notes:

1. Other eggs include hatching eggs for export and waste.
2. Eggs for hatching and hatching egg exports are not valued as they are included in the final value for poultry in Table 8.4.
3. Average packer to produce price represents the price paid by egg packers to egg producers in the United Kingdom and takes account of all egg systems - intensive, free range, barn and organic. Bonus payments are included.
4. Import and export figures include shell egg equivalent of whole (dried, frozen and liquid) egg, egg yolk and albumen.

[Download the full livestock dataset](#)

Revisions

Figures in these tables for 2025 are provisional and may be subject to revision.

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.

July 2026 Revision - Poultry data for 2000 to 2025 in Tables 8.1 and 8.5 were revised following publication of AUK 2025. This reflects post-publication corrections to the underlying turkeys, ducks and geese slaughter and production data, and a correction to all poultry value calculations. As a result, the total poultry values in AUK do not match the poultry values published in Total Income from Farming UK 2025. As part of this revision, turkeys, ducks and geese production and price data has been made confidential.

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 2025:

- The total cost of **intermediate consumption** was £21.6 billion, an increase of £331 million (+1.6%) from 2024.
- The value of **animal feed** decreased by £32 million (-0.4%) from 2024 to £7.1 billion.
- The value of **energy** decreased by £41 million (-2.1%) from 2024 to £1.9 billion.
- The value of **fertilisers** increased by £92 million (+5.5%) from 2024 to £1.8 billion.

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), 2020 to 2025 (£ billion)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Year	Intermediate Consumption (£ billion)
2020	16.9
2021	18.6
2022	21.7
2023	22.0
2024	21.3
2025	21.6

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full intermediate consumption dataset](#)

Figure 9.1 shows the value of intermediate consumption from 2020 to 2025 in current prices. Since 2020, the average value of intermediate consumption is £20.4 billion, with the lowest value for £16.9 billion occurring in 2020 and the highest value of £22.0 billion occurring in 2023. The value for intermediate consumption increased by £331 million (+1.6%) from 2024.

Animal feed

Table 9.1: Animal feed purchases, 2023 to 2025 (thousand tonnes unless stated otherwise)

Enquiries: allan.howsam@defra.gov.uk

	2023	2024	2025
Compounds:			
Cattle	4,977	5,261	5,651
Calves	263	279	294
Pigs	2,061	2,063	2,013
Poultry	4,667	4,742	4,641
Sheep	783	871	968
Total compounds plus imports less exports	12,780	13,346	13,691
Straight concentrates	6,356	6,796	7,808
Non-concentrates	525	525	525
Inter/intra farm transfer	10,476	9,767	9,438
Total animal feed	30,138	30,434	31,461
Total value of animal feed (£ million)	7,638	7,092	7,061

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.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full intermediate consumption dataset](#)

The cost of animal feed is the largest item of expenditure recorded in the aggregate agricultural accounts. 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 31.1 million tonnes in 2018 before falling to 29.4 million tonnes in 2022. 2025 saw an increase of 3.4% compared to 2024, to 31.5 million tonnes, due to an increase in compound and purchased straight feed offsetting a decrease in inter-intra farm sales. Despite the broadly increased usage 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 0.4% between 2024 and 2025 to £7.1 billion. Total compound feed production increased by 2.6% to 13.7 million tonnes with increases in Sheep (+11%), Cattle (+7.4%) and Calves (+5.6%), whereas Pigs (-2.4%) and Poultry (-2.1%) decreased in 2025 compared to 2024. 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 2025 provided a measure of support. The cattle and sheep sectors saw benefits from higher beef, lamb and milk prices. Higher milk prices encouraged producers to increase output, which raised demand for feed. Tight forage supplies also led farmers to use more compound feed.

2025 saw the price of commodities fall for the third successive year after the summer 2022 peak, as markets have adjusted to the ongoing Russia / Ukraine conflict.

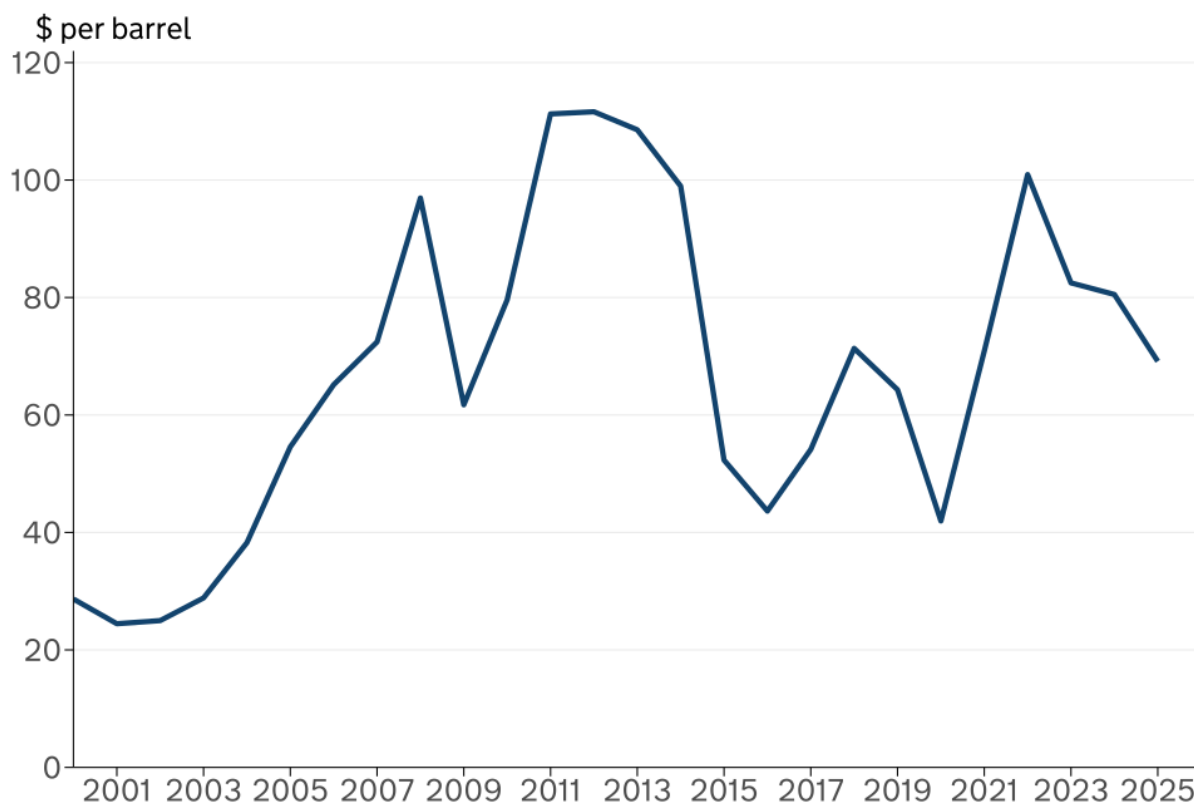
Defra June 2025 Survey results show the total number of poultry increased by 4.1% to 183 million birds in 2025. Broiler numbers increased by 7.6% to 121 million whilst the breeding and laying flock saw a decrease of 1.2% to 54 million. The total number of cattle and calves in the UK decreased by 1.3% to 9.3 million in June 2025. The breeding herd saw a decrease of 1.3% to 3.1 million. The total number of sheep and lambs decreased by 1.7% to 30.5 million. The female breeding flock fell by 0.7% to 14.8 million and lambs decreased by 2.9% to 14.8 million. The total number of pigs in the UK remained relatively stable at 4.7 million animals. Breeding pig numbers fell by 3.2% to 407 thousand animals, while fattening pigs rose by 0.9%.

Besides compound feed usage there was an increase of 15% in purchased straight concentrates and a 3.4% decrease in inter/intra farm sales.

Oil prices

Figure 9.2: Annual Europe Brent Spot Price, 2000 to 2025 (in \$ 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 2025. Values are presented as \$ per barrel at current prices.

Source: [US Energy Information Administration](#)

[Download the full intermediate consumption dataset](#)

Some inputs, such as fuel, electricity and fertiliser, link closely to oil prices. Changes in oil prices affect the cost of running machinery and the cost of heating, lighting and crop drying, as well as fertiliser prices.

Figure 9.2 shows trends in annual Europe Brent crude oil prices since 2000 in current prices. Oil prices rose strongly between 2002 and 2008, then fell sharply in 2009 during the global financial crisis. Prices remained high but stable between 2011 and 2014, reaching a peak of \$112 per barrel in 2012.

In 2015, global supply exceeded demand and prices fell quickly, dropping to \$44 per barrel in 2016. Prices increased in 2017 and 2018, reaching \$71 per barrel.

In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions reduced global demand for oil, particularly in transport. Prices fell to \$42 per barrel, the lowest level since 2004. Prices increased to \$71 per barrel in 2021 as demand recovered faster than supply.

In 2022, prices rose to \$101 per barrel following disruption to global supply after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In 2023, prices fell to around \$83 per barrel as weaker demand offset supply cuts.

In 2024, OPEC+ supply cuts supported prices, which remained relatively stable. The annual average price fell to around \$81 per barrel, reflecting high supply outside OPEC+ and subdued demand.

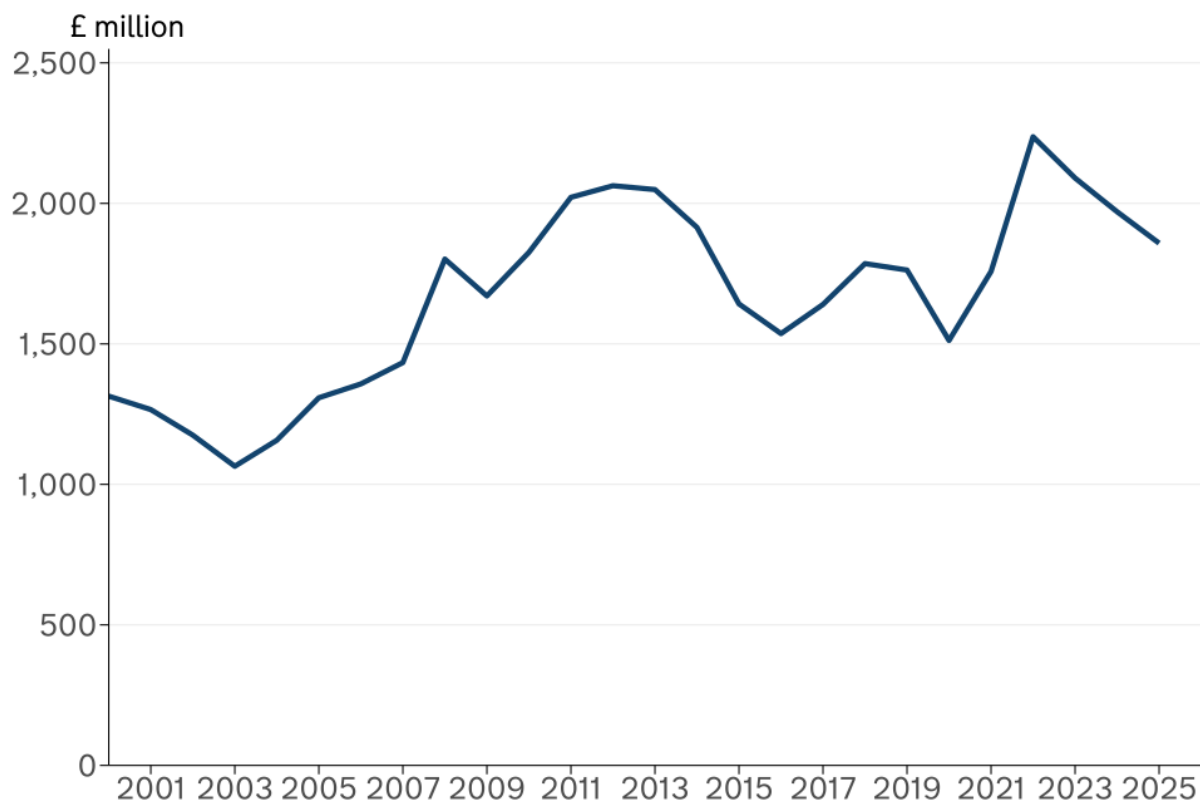
In 2025, prices fell by a further 14.1% to an average of around \$69 per barrel. Global oil supply exceeded demand during the year, which increased stocks and placed downward pressure on prices. Prices declined through the year, from around \$79 per barrel in January to around \$63 per barrel in December.

For more information on crude oil prices see this article: [EIA](#)

Energy

Figure 9.3: Value of energy in real terms, 2000 to 2025 (£ 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 2025. Values are presented in millions.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[Download the full intermediate consumption dataset](#)

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 £1.5 billion and £1.7 billion, before rising sharply to £2.2 billion in 2022. The cost of energy fell between 2023 and 2024 driven by a fall in the value of motor and machinery fuels.

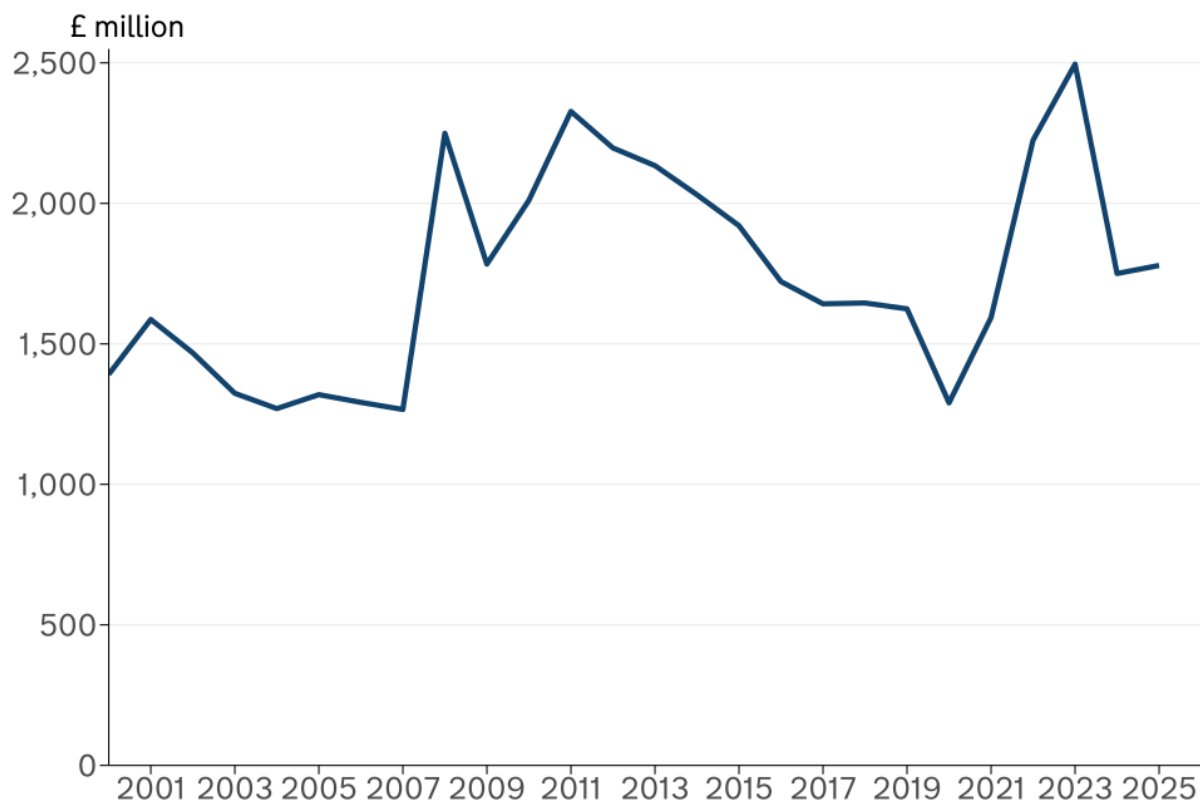
In 2025 energy costs fell by a further 2.1% in current prices to £1.9 billion, driven by a fall in the values of motor and machinery fuels (-3.8%) offsetting a very small increase in electricity and fuels for heating (+0.1%). The cost of motor and machinery fuels in 2025 fell largely as a result of the substantial reduction in oil price in 2025. This offset the 1.8% increase in volumes of fuels used driven by increases in UK areas of cereals (+1.6%), potatoes (+7.2%) and vegetables grown outdoors (+6.7%) at June 2025.

For the full current prices and real terms dataset see [Chapter 4: Accounts](#)

Fertilisers

Figure 9.4: Fertilisers, 2000 to 2025 (in real terms)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk



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.

Source: [Total Income from Farming in the UK](#)

[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.

Between 2000 and 2007 fertiliser costs were largely stable, before increasing sharply in 2008 and remaining high until peaking at £2.3 billion 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 at £2.5 billion. In 2024, the value of fertilisers decreased by £745 million (-30%) from 2023, in real terms to £1.8 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.

In 2025, the value of fertilisers saw an increase of £92 million (+5.5%) from 2024, to £1.8 billion in current prices. After two years of large fluctuations, this small increase in fertiliser value is attributed to farmers adjusting buying patterns in response to an 11% increase in the annual fertiliser price index. However, it should be noted that many farmers forward-buy fertiliser on contract, and purchasing patterns are not necessarily indicative of usage patterns in the same year.

Other input costs

The cost of seeds in 2025 was £1.0 billion, an increase of £22 million (+2.2%) from 2024, in current prices. Seed usage is driven by a combination of crop area, time of drilling, and drilling conditions. In 2025, a 0.6% decrease in the annual price index for seeds was offset by a 2.9% increase in the volume of seeds purchased. This volume increase was driven by increases in the UK areas of arable crops at June such as wheat (+9.1%), oats (+8.8%) and potatoes (+7.2%), as well as vegetables grown outdoors (+6.7%).

The cost of plant protection products in 2025 was £925 million, a decrease of £39 million (-4.0%) from 2024, in current prices. This decrease was largely driven by a 6.5% reduction in annual price index offsetting a 2.7% increase in volumes.

Revisions

Details of the revisions can be found in [Chapter 4: Accounts](#)

Chapter 10: Agricultural Support Payments

Summary

Key results for 2025 compared to 2024:

- **Total payments and support payments to the agricultural industry** increased by 9.7% to £4.9 billion.
- Payments associated with the **Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)** and the replacement **De-linked Payment Scheme (DPS)** decreased by 34% to £1.0 billion.
- Payments associated with **agri-environment schemes** increased by 65% to £1.8 billion.

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 payments and support payments to the agricultural industry 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 payments and support payments 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 payments and 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 payments and 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 payments and support payments by country, 2023-2025 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Nation	2023 (£m)	2024 (£m)	2025 (£m)
Total for United Kingdom	4,282	4,441	4,870
England	2,240	2,570	2,954
Wales	407	245	274
Scotland	604	631	718
Northern Ireland	405	382	403
Breakdown Unavailable by Nation	626	613	521

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.

Chapter 10: Agricultural Support Payments

Source: Defra

[Download the full agricultural support payments dataset](#)

In 2025, the overall UK agricultural payments and support payments increased by £429 million (+9.7%).

From 2024 to 2025 the nation breakdown, where available, reflects an increase in payments of £384 million (+15%) for England. Payments for Scotland increased by 14%, Northern Ireland increased by 5.6% and Wales increased by 12%. Note that there is an additional £521 million of payments for which the data is only available at an aggregate level and cannot be broken down into individual nations.

Figure 10.2: UK Agricultural payments and support payments by payment category, 2023-2025 (£ million)

Enquiries: farmaccounts@defra.gov.uk

Payment by Category	2023 (£m)	2024 (£m)	2025 (£m)
Agri-environment schemes	743	1,121	1,845
Basic and Delinked Payment Schemes	1,902	1,585	1,047
General Services Support	671	737	863
Other schemes	576	659	731
Red diesel	390	337	384
Total for United Kingdom	4,282	4,441	4,870

Notes:

1. “Agri-environment schemes” in 2024 and 2025 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.

Source: Defra

[Download the full agricultural support payments dataset](#)

From 2024 to 2025 the UK has seen an overall decrease in BPS and delinked payments of £538 million (-34%) and an increase in agri-environment scheme payments of £723 million (+65%). Other scheme payments have increased by £71 million (+11%) and payments associated with General Services Support have also increased by £126 million (+17%).

Uptake 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.

Table 10.1 Area under agri-environment schemes by country, 2023-2025 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: FCPstatsandreporting@defra.gov.uk

Nation	2023	2024	2025
England	4,487	5,571	6,113
Wales	481	[z]	326
Scotland	842	884	863
Northern Ireland	62	59	63

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 2025 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.
6. [z] indicates where data is not applicable.

Source: Defra

[Download the full agricultural support payments dataset](#)

Table 10.2 Number of agri-environment agreements by country, 2023-2025

Enquiries: FCPstatsandreporting@defra.gov.uk

Nation	2023	2024	2025
England	50,900	69,700	77,000
Wales	2,800	[z]	3,500
Scotland	3,400	3,300	3,100
Northern Ireland	4,800	3,500	2,000

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.
4. [z] indicates where data is not applicable.

Source: Defra

[Download the full agricultural support payments dataset](#)

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.

For the 2024 update onwards, some key presentational changes have been made 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 2024 and 2025.
- 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

Summary

- Estimated **greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions** from agriculture have fallen 15% between 1990 and 2024.
- After a continuous increase from 2010 to 2018, total **pesticide usage** declined 27% in 2020. This was followed by an 18% increase in 2022, followed by a 14% decline in 2024 to levels seen in 2020.
- Since the late 1990s, **nitrogen and phosphate fertiliser application rates** have fallen, and were at their lowest in 2022. Phosphate application rates have remained at their lowest through to 2024 at 10 kg/ha, while nitrogen application rates increased in 2023 before declining again in 2024 to 73 kg/ha.
- **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 at 78kg/ha and 4.5kg/ha for nitrogen and phosphorus respectively.

Introduction

Whilst agriculture contributes less than 1% to the United Kingdom's 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 13% 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 2024 (percentage)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Emissions	Agriculture	Other sectors or sources	Total
Nitrous oxide	59	41	100
Methane	49	51	100
Carbon dioxide	2.5	98	100
Ammonia	89	11	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](#) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero), [Emissions of air pollutants, Defra](#)

[Download the full agri-environment dataset](#)

Agriculture is a major source of nitrous oxide, methane and ammonia in the UK, accounting for 59% of nitrous oxide emissions, 49% of methane emissions and 89%

of ammonia emissions in 2024. In contrast, agriculture only accounted for 2.5% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2024.

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 for 1990 and 2024 (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	16	30	46
2024	12	8.7	21

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](#)

[Download the full agri-environment dataset](#)

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 or run-off. In 2024, nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture were estimated to have fallen by approximately 26% since 1990. This is consistent with trends in fertiliser usage.

Figure 11.3 Methane emissions for 1990 and 2024 (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	33	99	132
2024	27	28	55

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](#)

[Download the full agri-environment dataset](#)

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 2024, methane emissions from agriculture were

estimated to have fallen by 18% since 1990, mainly as a result of decreasing livestock numbers.

Figure 11.4 Carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 and 2024 (million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	5.6	592	598
2024	7.2	283	291

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](#)

[Download the full agri-environment dataset](#)

Agriculture's emissions of carbon dioxide have remained low since 1990 and accounted for only 2.5% of total emissions in 2024. Whilst the proportion of carbon dioxide emissions related to agriculture are low, levels increased in 2004, where they have since fluctuated but remained at similar levels.

Figure 11.5 Ammonia emissions for 1990 and 2024 (thousand tonnes)

Email: agri.environmentstatistics@defra.gov.uk

Year	Agriculture	Non-agriculture	Total
1990	283	25	308
2024	227	29	256

Source: [Emissions of air pollutants, Defra](#)

[Download the full agri-environment dataset](#)

In 2024, agriculture accounted for 89% of the UK's ammonia emissions. The main sources of ammonia emissions in the UK are agricultural soils and livestock, in particular cattle.

In 2024, ammonia emissions from agriculture are estimated to have fallen by 20% 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 2024 (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	1.1	12,552
2022	4,045	2,672	7,848	135	85	15	14,799
2024	3,898	2,197	6,445	93	113	21	12,767

Notes:

1. Data not available for values showing as “0”.
2. ‘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 has 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 12,767 tonnes in 2024). Within that time period, however, between 2010 to 2018 there was a gradual increase in the weight of pesticides applied. Substantial drops in pesticide usage were seen in both 2020 and 2024, due to weather disruptions to normal cropping patterns in the previous autumns, reducing winter sowing and forcing a shift toward spring sown crops, which require fewer pesticide applications.

Fertiliser use

Nitrogen and phosphorous 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.

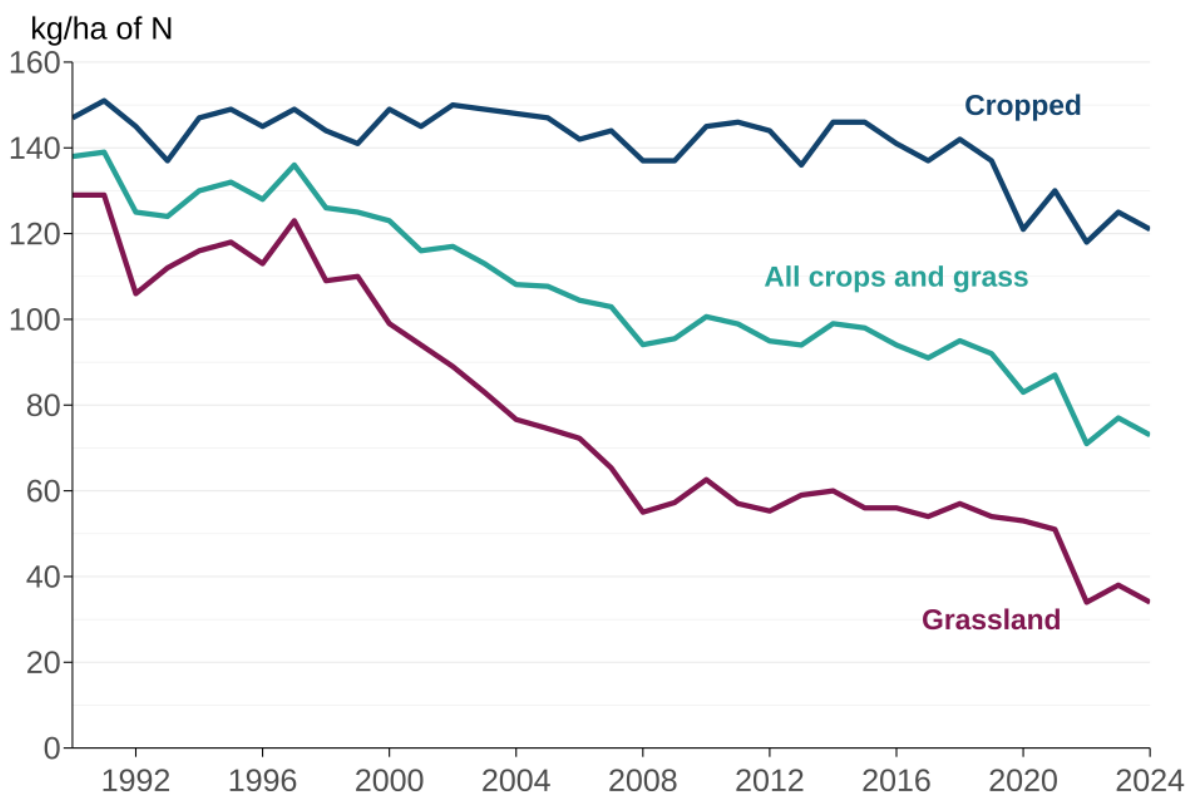
Fertilisers can have an adverse impact on the environment depending on the application method, through over-application and natural losses from soils and manures. These impacts include water quality (nitrogen and phosphorous levels in waterbodies), air quality (ammonia emissions) and climate change (nitrous 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 applications 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 (kilograms per hectare), Great Britain, 1990 to 2024

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 2024. Overall application rates of nitrogen have shown an overall decline on grassland, steadily decreasing from around 1998. Rates have been similar since 2008, although between 2021 and 2022 there was the largest decline for some years. Application rates on cropped land have fluctuated over time but saw a large decline in 2020 before increasing again in 2021. Rates declined again in 2024, following an increase in 2023.

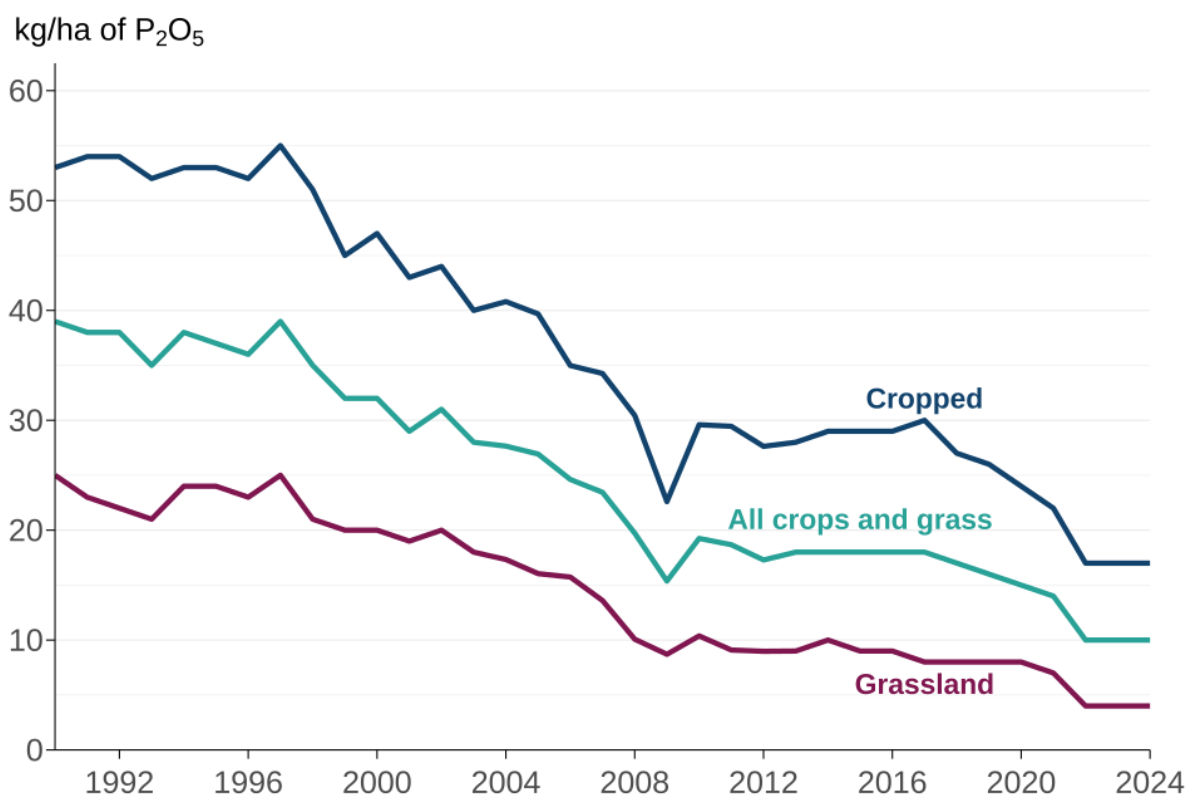
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In Great Britain between 1990 and 2018 the overall application rate of mineral nitrogen on cropped land was largely in the range of 140-150 kg/ha (kilograms per hectare), but it has declined in recent years. In 2024, the rate of nitrogen application on cropped land was 121 kg/ha. This was a decrease of 4 kg/ha compared to 2023.

For grassland, nutrient application rates have always been lower than for cropped land. Between 1990 and 2024, there was 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. The rate of nitrogen application to grassland remained relatively constant until 2022, when it dropped by 17kg/ha (-33%) to 34kg/ha, and has remained low since. 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 2024

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 2024. 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, which has levelled off since 2022.

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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.

Since 2022, phosphate application rates have remained at the lowest level in the timeseries for both cropped land and grassland. In 2024, the overall application rate on all crops and grass was 10 kg/ha, which is around a quarter of the level seen in 1990.

As with nitrogen, application rates of phosphate on grassland have always been less than on cropped land and both have shown an overall downward trend between 1990 and 2024. In recent years, the rates for grassland levelled off from around 2012, before decreasing to their lowest level of 4kg/ha from 2022 onwards.

Soil nutrient balances

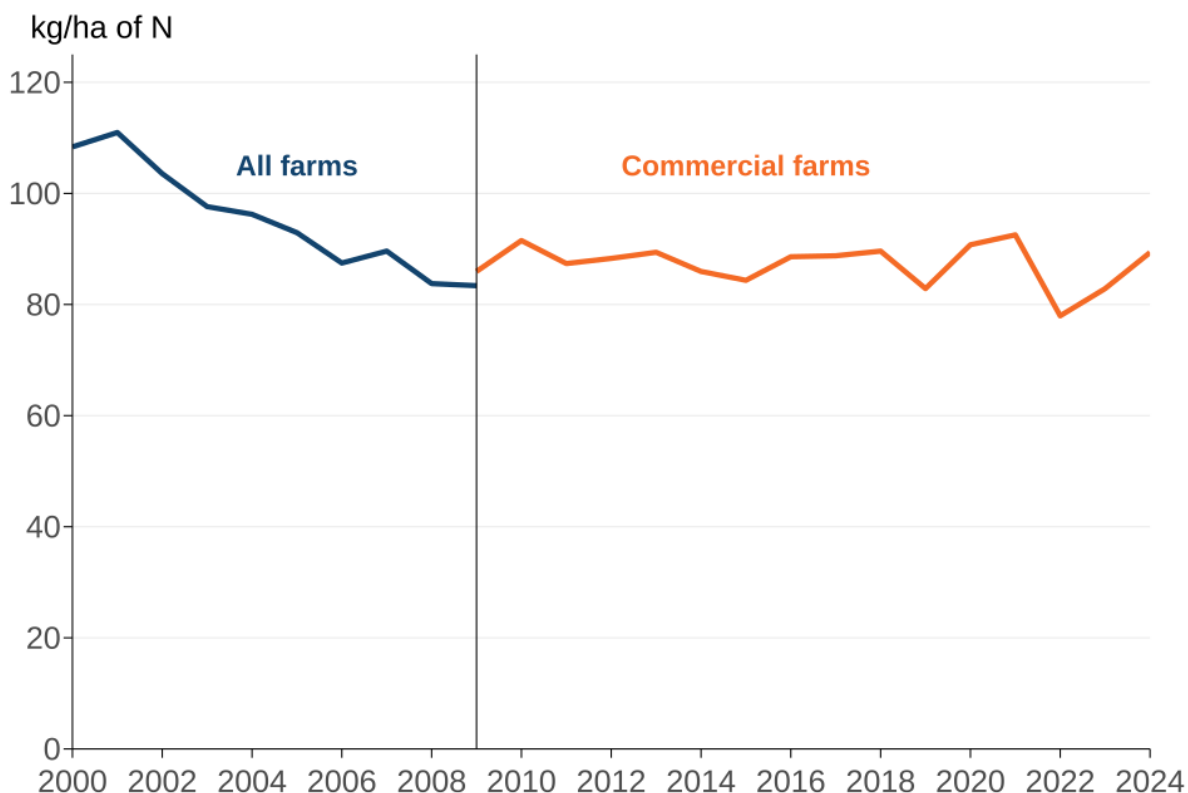
Soil nutrient balances provide an indication of the overall environmental pressure from nitrogen and phosphorus in agricultural soils. They measure the difference between nutrients applied to soils (largely as fertilisers and manures) and those removed from soils by the growth of crops, including grass 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 2024

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 2024. 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 for the first time since the series began, before increasing again in 2023 and 2024, with a balance of 89 kg/ha in 2024.

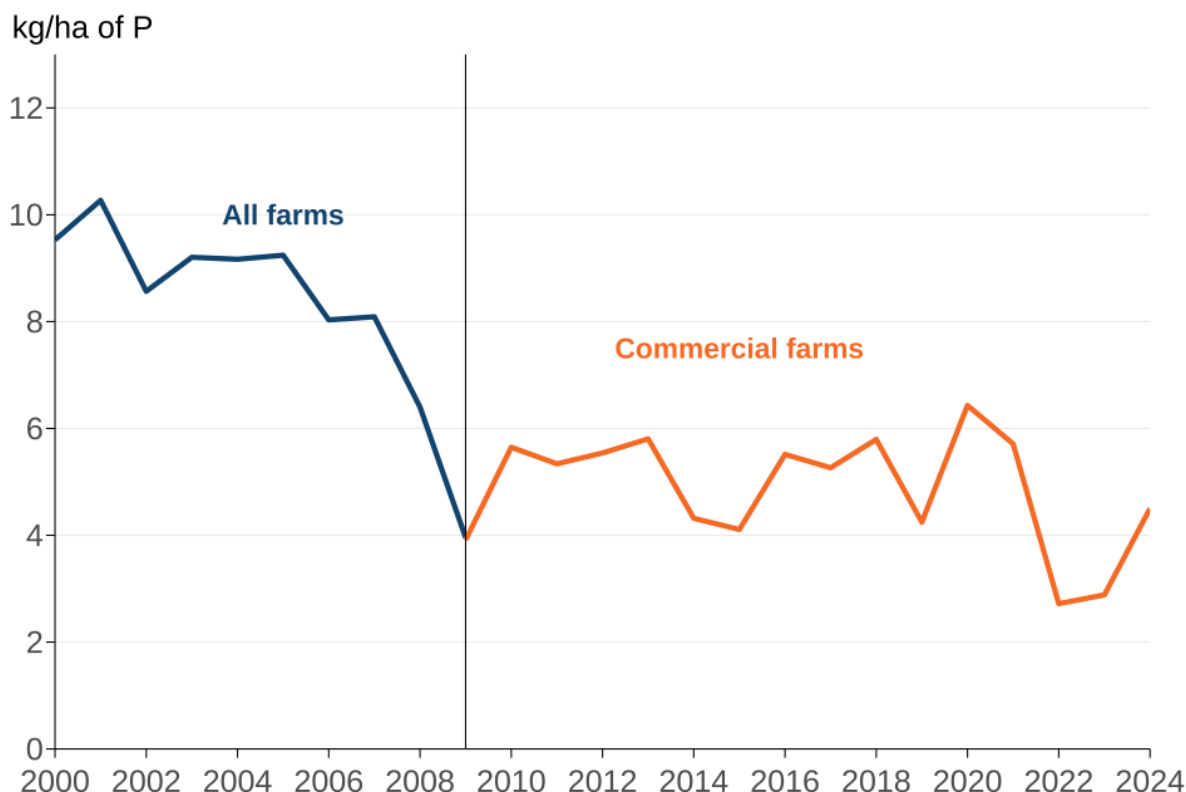
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Estimates for 2024 show that the nitrogen balance for the UK was a surplus of 89 kg/ha on managed agricultural land. This was an increase of 6.5kg/ha (7.8%) compared to 2023. This was driven by a decrease in total offtake of 7.6 kg/ha (-7.7%) mainly from a reduction in offtake from harvested cereal crops. Total offtake was more than offset by a decrease in total inputs of 1.1 kg/ha (-0.6%) over the same period, mainly from a reduction in livestock manure production and a reduction in estimated biological fixation.

The 2024 estimate shows a reduction of 19 kg/ha (18%) to the nitrogen balance surplus compared to 2000. Since 2000, total inputs of nitrogen decreased by 57 kg/ha (-24%), which more than offset a decrease in total offtake of 38 kg/ha (-29%). The main drivers behind the decrease in total inputs of nitrogen were reductions in the application of both inorganic manufactured fertiliser and cattle manure. 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 a decrease in harvested cereals.

Figure 11.10 Phosphorus (P) soil nutrient balance (kg/ha) 2000 to 2024

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 2024. The soil nutrient balance has fluctuated over this period, but showed an overall decline from approximately 10 kg/ha in 2000 to approximately 4 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 to 2.7 kg/ha, which was the lowest level since the time series began, and remained low in 2023 before increasing to 4.5 kg/ha in 2024.

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Estimates for 2024 show that the phosphorus balance for the UK was a surplus of 4.5 kg/ha on managed agricultural land. This is an increase of 1.6kg/ha (56%)

compared to 2023. This was driven by a decrease in total offtake of 1.2 kg/ha (-6.8%) (mainly from a reduction in harvested crops), which more than offset an increase in total inputs of phosphorus of 0.5kg/ha (2.3%) (mainly from an increase in the application of inorganic manufactured fertiliser) over the same period.

The longer-term trend (2024 compared to 2000) shows an overall reduction of 5.0 kg/ha (-53%). Over this time, total inputs of phosphorus decreased by 10 kg/ha (-34%), which more than offset a decrease in total offtake of 5.5 kg/ha (-26%).

As with nitrogen, the main drivers behind the decrease in total inputs of phosphorus were reductions in the application of both inorganic manufactured fertiliser and cattle manure. The main driver behind the decrease in total offtake of phosphorus was a decrease in pasture consumption due to a reduction in the number of grazing livestock.

Revisions

The methodologies for the underlying data sources of this chapter are often reviewed and updated. Wherever applicable, data in this chapter is revised to reflect any changes to the underlying data following any methodological changes or routine updates. Updates have been made to historic GHG emissions data to remove small amounts from international aviation. This is in line with the latest DESNZ advice and ensures the data aligns with data reported for UK territorial totals.

Chapter 12: Organic Farming

Summary

In 2025:

- 540 thousand hectares were **farmed organically** in the UK.
- 56% of UK **organic land** was in England, 31% in Scotland, 12% in Wales and 1.2% in Northern Ireland.
- **Permanent pasture (including rough grazing)** accounted for 64% of organic land in the UK, covering 346 thousand hectares.
- 9.3% of organic land in the UK was used to grow **cereals** (50 thousand hectares).
- 2.8% of **cattle** in the UK were reared organically.
- There were a total of 5,004 **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 control 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 2025, the UK had a total area of 540 thousand hectares of land farmed organically, an increase of 7.3% compared to 2024. 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 2025, the UK had 461 thousand hectares of fully organic land. This represents an increase of 1.4% from 2024.

Land in-conversion is discussed in detail [below](#).

Figure 12.1: Land area farmed organically, 2016 to 2025 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Year	In-conversion	Fully organic	Total
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
2025	79	461	540

Notes:

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

Source: [Defra organic farming statistics](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Table 12.1: Area farmed organically by country, 2025 (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	79	461	540	16,773	3.2%
England	24	276	301	8,946	3.4%
Wales	2.4	62	64	1,770	3.6%
Scotland	52	116	168	5,024	3.3%
Northern Ireland	0.1	6.6	6.7	1,032	0.6%

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 2025: Crops](#)

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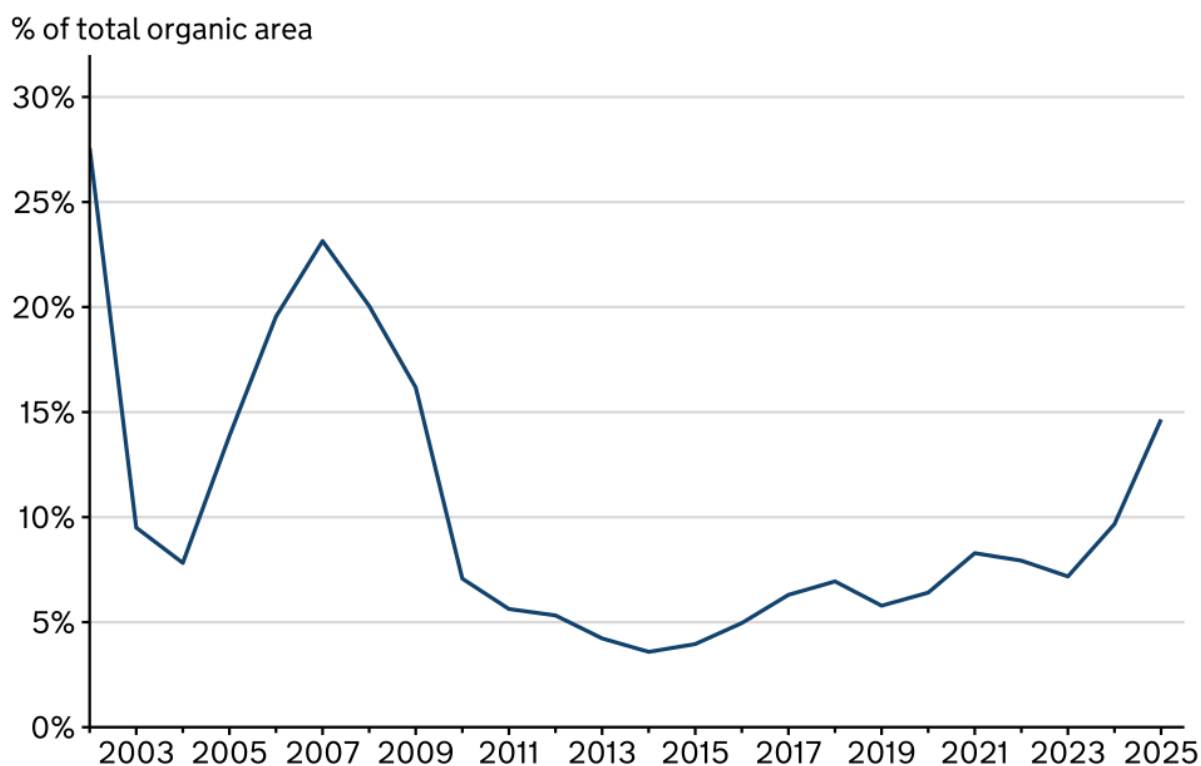
Land in-conversion

Before an area can be considered fully organic, it must undergo a conversion process. In 2025, the UK had 79 thousand hectares of land in-conversion. This constitutes an increase of 63% from 2024.

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 2025, land in-conversion made up 15% of the total organic land in the UK. This was an increase of 5.0 percentage points from 2024.

Figure 12.2: Land in-conversion as a proportion of the total area farmed organically, 2002 to 2025

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 2025. 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 (64%), followed by temporary pasture (17%) and cereals (9.3%). 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, 2025 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Use	Area
Permanent pasture (incl. rough grazing)	346
Temporary pasture	93
Cereals	50
Woodland	20
Vegetables (incl. potatoes)	10
Other arable crops	9.8
Unutilised & unknown	7.9
Fruit & nuts	2.4
Herbaceous & ornamentals	0.6

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.

Source: [Defra organic farming statistics](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Table 12.2: Organic land use, 2022 to 2025 (thousand hectares)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Use	2022	2023	2024	2025	Percentage change 2024/2025
Cereals	49	50	50	50	0.4%
Other arable crops	11	11	12	9.8	-17%
Fruit & nuts	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.4	6.1%
Vegetables (incl. potatoes)	10	10	9.8	10	3.3%
Herbaceous & ornamentals	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	6.2%
Temporary pasture	96	91	90	93	3.3%
Permanent pasture (incl. rough grazing)	314	307	311	346	11%
Woodland	17	18	18	20	6.8%
Unutilised land	3.2	3.2	4.4	4.0	-9.9%
Unknown	4.4	4.2	5.2	4.0	-24%
Total	509	498	503	540	7.3%

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](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Table 12.3: Detailed organic land use, 2025 (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	2.4	48	50	3,013	1.7%
Wheat	0.9	20	21	1,670	1.2%
Barley	0.7	4.4	5.2	1,080	0.5%
Oats	0.3	17	17	198	8.8%
Other cereals	0.5	6.6	7.1	65	11%
Other arable crops	0.9	9.0	9.8	949	1.0%
Sugar beet	0.0	0.3	0.3	93	0.3%
Fodder, forage & silage	0.8	7.7	8.5	75	11%
Maize, oilseeds & protein crops	0.1	1.0	1.1	781	0.1%
Fruit & nuts	0.2	2.1	2.4	29	8.0%
Vegetables	0.4	8.0	8.4	103	8.1%
Potatoes	0.0	1.8	1.8	127	1.4%
Herbaceous & ornamentals	0.1	0.5	0.6	12	5.2%
Temporary pasture	8.1	85	93	1,313	7.1%
Permanent pasture (excl. rough grazing)	25	218	243	5,985	4.1%
Rough grazing	38	65	103	3,494	2.9%
Woodland	2.4	17	20	902	2.2%
Unutilised land	0.9	3.1	4.0	[x]	[x]
Unknown	0.5	3.4	4.0	[x]	[x]
Total	79	461	540	[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 2025: Crops](#)

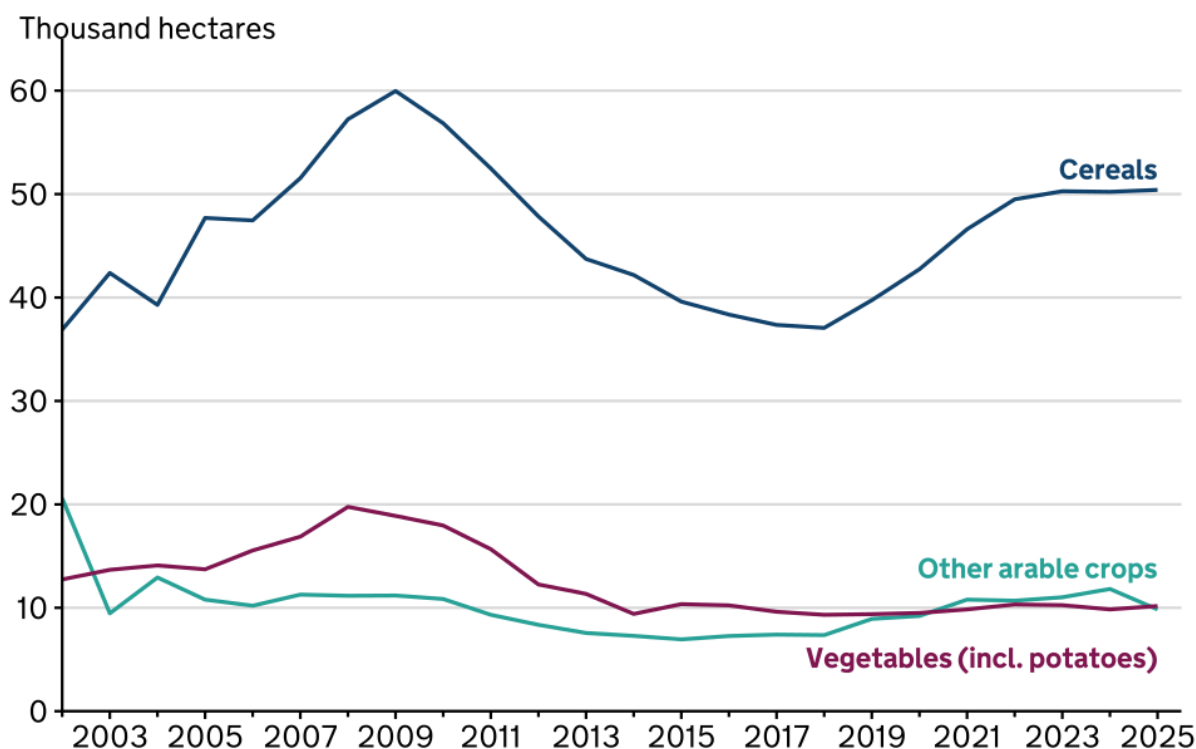
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Organic crops

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 increased by 0.4% to 50 thousand hectares in 2025. Other arable crops decreased by 17% to 9.8 thousand hectares. The area of organically grown vegetables (including potatoes) increased by 3.3% to 10 thousand hectares in 2025.

Figure 12.4: Organic crops, 2002 to 2025 (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 2025. 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 then remained stable. 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, 2025 (thousand head)

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Livestock	Total organic livestock	Total livestock at June	Organic livestock as % of June livestock
Cattle	259	9,292	2.8%
For slaughter	116	3,617	3.2%
Dairy cows	46	3,181	1.4%
Other cattle	98	2,494	3.9%
Sheep	617	30,484	2.0%
Breeding females	340	14,780	2.3%
Other sheep	278	15,704	1.8%
Pigs	13	4,739	0.3%
Fattening pigs	5.8	4,332	0.1%
Breeding sows	1.3	316	0.4%
Other pigs	5.8	91	6.4%
Poultry	4,755	183,332	2.6%
Broilers	2,383	120,959	2.0%
Laying hens	2,233	42,703	5.2%
Other poultry	139	19,670	0.7%
Other livestock	6.7	[x]	[x]
Farmed deer	4.9	37	13%
Goats	1.2	107	1.1%
Horses	0.4	195	0.2%
Others	0.2	[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. 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 2025: Livestock](#) and the Cattle Tracing System for cattle populations

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Organic cattle

In 2025, organically reared cattle numbers decreased by 3.8% to 259 thousand head. This represents 2.8% of the total herd in the UK.

Figure 12.5: Number of organic cattle, 2016 to 2025 (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
2025	116	46	98	259

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](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Organic sheep

The number of sheep reared organically decreased by 4.6% to 617 thousand head and accounted for 2.0% of the total flock in the UK.

Figure 12.6: Number of organic sheep, 2016 to 2025 (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
2025	340	278	617

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](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Organic pigs

The number of pigs reared organically decreased by 21% to 13 thousand head and accounted for 0.3% of the total pig herd in the UK.

Figure 12.7: Number of organic pigs, 2016 to 2025 (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
2025	5.8	1.3	5.8	13

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](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Organic poultry

Organically reared poultry numbers decreased by 2.0% to 4.8 million birds and accounted for 2.6% of the total population in the UK.

Figure 12.8: Number of organic poultry, 2016 to 2025 (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
2025	2,383	2,233	139	4,755

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](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Organic operators

In 2025, there were 5,004 producers and processors registered with the organic control bodies in the UK, a decrease of 2.5% from 2024.

Figure 12.9: Organic operators by type, 2016 to 2025

Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Years	Producers	Producers & Processors	Processors	Total
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
2025	3,048	241	1,715	5,004

Notes:

1. Processors can include abattoirs, bakers, storers and wholesalers. The recorded location depends on the address registered with the control 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](#)

[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Table 12.5: Number of organic operators by type and country, 2025Enquiries: 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	3,048	241	1,715	5,004
England	2,068	192	1,489	3,749
Wales	453	28	74	555
Scotland	396	15	119	530
Northern Ireland	131	6	33	170

Notes:

1. Processors can include abattoirs, bakers, storers and wholesalers. The recorded location depends on the address registered with the control bodies and so larger businesses may be recorded at their headquarters.

Source: [Defra organic farming statistics](#)[Download the full organics dataset](#)**Table 12.6: Number of organic operators by country, 2022 to 2025**Enquiries: organic-stats@defra.gov.uk

Country	2022	2023	2024	2025	Percentage change 2024/2025
United Kingdom	5,496	5,230	5,133	5,004	-2.5%
England	4,103	3,882	3,841	3,749	-2.4%
Wales	663	639	570	555	-2.6%
Scotland	528	521	530	530	0.0%
Northern Ireland	202	188	192	170	-11%

Notes:

1. Processors can include abattoirs, bakers, storers and wholesalers. The recorded location depends on the address registered with the control bodies and so larger businesses may be recorded at their headquarters.

Source: [Defra organic farming statistics](#)[Download the full organics dataset](#)

Chapter 13: Overseas Trade

Summary

Key results for 2025 and comparisons to 2024 in real terms (adjusted for trade price inflation).

- The value of **food, feed and drink exports** decreased by £0.2 billion (0.9%) to £25.7 billion.
- The value of **food, feed and drink imports** increased by £3.1 billion (4.8%) to £67.8 billion.
- The trade gap in **food, feed and drink** increased by £3.3 billion (8.6%) to £42.1 billion.
- Principal destinations for **exports** were Ireland (£4.6 billion), France (£2.9 billion), the United States (£2.8 billion) and the Netherlands (£1.7 billion).
- The main countries of dispatch for **imports** into the UK were the Netherlands (£8.1 billion), France (£6.1 billion), Ireland (£5.8 billion) and Belgium (£5.2 billion).
- Whisky continued to have the **highest export value**, totalling £5.4 billion. This was a decrease of 6.6% compared to the previous year.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables together remained the **highest value category for imports**, totalling £8.2 billion, an increase of 4.4%.
- **Exports of fresh vegetables** fell by 15% to £83 million, but **exports of fresh fruit** rose by 6.0% to £80 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.

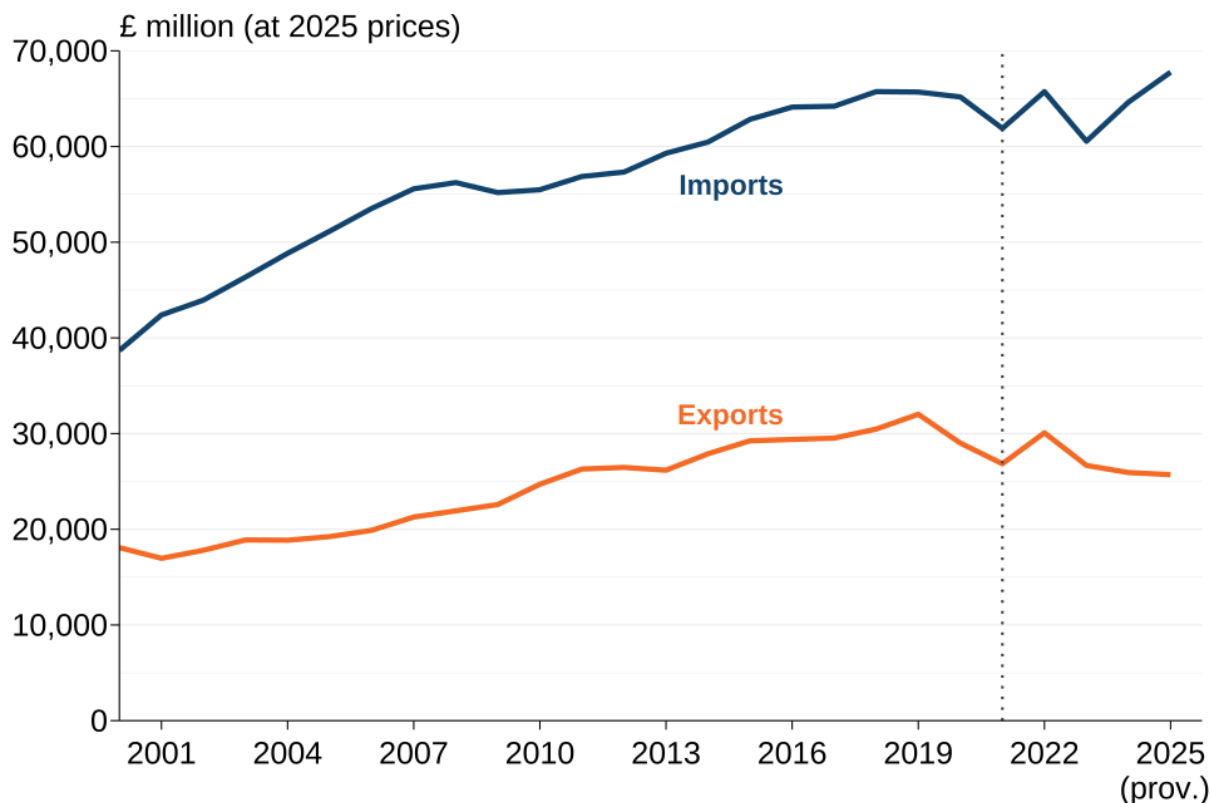
The trade statistics shown here may not match those shown in the commodities tables in Chapter 8 where, for example, trade in meat includes the carcase weight equivalent of trade in live animals. Additionally, trade in milk is of raw milk before processing, and not of processed and packaged milk and cream as shown here.

Data for 2025 remain provisional until September 2026 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 2025 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk



Source: [HMRC](#)

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 2025 prices, split by imports and exports. From 2000 until 2019, the value of both imports and exports steadily increased. Since this point, the trend for exports has been slightly downwards, while the trend for imports has been slightly upwards, albeit with annual fluctuations.

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The value of exports of food, feed and drink was £25.7 billion in 2025. To compare 2025 exports with previous years, it is necessary to adjust for the effects of trade

price inflation. After adjusting for trade price inflation, the value of exports decreased by £0.2 billion (0.9%) between 2024 and 2025, and £4.8 billion (16%) compared to 2018 (pre-pandemic and pre-EU Exit).

The value of imports of food, feed and drink was £67.8 billion in 2025. Adjusting for trade price inflation, the value of imports increased by £3.1 billion (4.8%) between 2024 and 2025, and £2.0 billion (3.1%) compared to 2018 (pre-pandemic and pre-EU Exit).

The trade gap for food, feed and drink increased by 8.6% between 2024 and 2025. Over the longer term, after adjusting for trade price inflation, the trade gap has widened by 32% since 2005 from £31.9 billion to £42.1 billion in 2025 (see Figure 13.1).

Value of trade in food, feed and drink by types of commodity

For exports of specific food, feed and drink types, the largest percentage increase, after adjusting for trade price inflation, between 2024 and 2025 was for oils/fats & oilseeds for which there was a rise of 12% to £821 million. The largest percentage reductions, after adjusting for trade price inflation, from 2024 to 2025 were for exports of vegetables & fruit which decreased by 7.5% to £967 million, and for fish & fish preparations which also fell by 7.5% to £2.0 billion (see Table 13.1a).

In real terms, imports of coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. increased by 18% to £7.6 billion between 2024 and 2025. This was followed by imports of fish & fish preparations which increased by 11% to £3.7 billion and meat & meat preparations which rose by 9.2% to £9.3 billion. The largest percentage reduction in imports was for sugars, sugar preparations & honey which fell by 6.9% from 2024 to £1.8 billion in 2025 (see Table 13.1b).

Table 13.1a and 13.1b - Value of trade in food, feed and drink at 2025 prices (£ million); United KingdomEnquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk**Table 13.1a Exports**

SITC Division Code	Type	2023	2024	2025
Exports				
01	Meat & meat preps	2,288	2,294	2,362
02	Dairy & eggs	2,238	2,335	2,505
03	Fish & fish preps	1,942	2,149	1,988
04	Cereals & cereal preps	2,701	2,397	2,516
05	Fruit and veg & preps	1,046	1,046	967
06	Sugar & sugar preps	479	457	424
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	1,840	1,943	2,068
08	Animal feed	1,180	1,187	1,278
09	Misc. edible preps	2,779	2,726	2,592
11	Beverages	9,504	8,662	8,183
22 + S4	Oils/fats & oilseeds	676	731	821
	Total	26,672	25,927	25,705

Table 13.1b Imports

SITC Division Code	Type	2023	2024	2025
Imports				
01	Meat & meat preps	7,890	8,533	9,314
02	Dairy & eggs	3,978	4,303	4,576
03	Fish & fish preps	3,239	3,361	3,739
04	Cereals & cereal preps	6,050	6,848	7,046
05	Fruit and veg & preps	13,050	14,593	15,049
06	Sugar & sugar preps	2,137	1,928	1,795
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	5,661	6,419	7,552
08	Animal feed	3,274	3,375	3,502
09	Misc. edible preps	4,736	4,871	4,675
11	Beverages	7,813	7,534	7,470
22 + S4	Oils/fats & oilseeds	2,724	2,879	3,049
	Total	60,552	64,645	67,769

Source: [HMRC](#)

Table 13.1c and 13.1d - Value of trade in food, feed and drink with EU countries at 2025 prices (£ million); United KingdomEnquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk**Table 13.1c Exports**

SITC Division Code	Type	2023	2024	2025
Exports				
01	Meat & meat preps	1,834	1,836	1,889
02	Dairy & eggs	1,658	1,764	1,801
03	Fish & fish preps	1,299	1,406	1,251
04	Cereals & cereal preps	2,010	1,699	1,772
05	Fruit and veg & preps	740	739	701
06	Sugar & sugar preps	299	341	293
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	1,292	1,435	1,562
08	Animal feed	687	689	696
09	Misc. edible preps	1,626	1,581	1,406
11	Beverages	3,463	3,250	2,890
22 + S4	Oils/fats & oilseeds	564	517	600
	Total	15,473	15,255	14,861

Table 13.1d Imports

SITC Division Code	Type	2023	2024	2025
Imports				
01	Meat & meat preps	6,575	6,795	7,120
02	Dairy & eggs	3,929	4,204	4,419
03	Fish & fish preps	828	762	771
04	Cereals & cereal preps	4,940	5,658	5,650
05	Fruit and veg & preps	8,478	9,258	9,169
06	Sugar & sugar preps	1,378	1,258	1,129
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	4,037	4,578	5,096
08	Animal feed	2,001	2,037	2,084
09	Misc. edible preps	3,901	3,953	3,734
11	Beverages	6,430	6,109	6,001
22 + S4	Oils/fats & oilseeds	1,604	1,678	1,852
	Total	44,101	46,289	47,025

Source: [HMRC](#)

Table 13.1e and 13.1f - Value of trade in food, feed and drink with non-EU countries at 2025 prices (£ million); United KingdomEnquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk**Table 13.1e Exports**

SITC Division Code	Type	2023	2024	2025
Exports				
01	Meat & meat preps	454	458	473
02	Dairy & eggs	580	572	704
03	Fish & fish preps	643	743	737
04	Cereals & cereal preps	691	698	744
05	Fruit and veg & preps	306	307	266
06	Sugar & sugar preps	181	116	131
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	548	508	505
08	Animal feed	493	498	582
09	Misc. edible preps	1,153	1,145	1,186
11	Beverages	6,040	5,413	5,293
22 + S4	Oils/fats & oilseeds	112	215	221
	Total	11,199	10,672	10,845

Table 13.1f Imports

SITC Division Code	Type	2023	2024	2025
Imports				
01	Meat & meat preps	1,315	1,738	2,193
02	Dairy & eggs	49	99	157
03	Fish & fish preps	2,411	2,599	2,968
04	Cereals & cereal preps	1,110	1,190	1,396
05	Fruit and veg & preps	4,572	5,335	5,880
06	Sugar & sugar preps	759	671	667
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	1,624	1,841	2,456
08	Animal feed	1,273	1,338	1,418
09	Misc. edible preps	835	918	941
11	Beverages	1,383	1,425	1,470
22 + S4	Oils/fats & oilseeds	1,120	1,201	1,198
	Total	16,451	18,355	20,744

Source: [HMRC](#)

Notes for 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 2025 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 2025 (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Country	£ million
Ireland	4606
France	2884
United States	2770
Netherlands	1732
Germany	1153
Belgium	930
Spain	803
China	741
Italy	532
Poland	512

Source: [HMRC](#)

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The UK's top food, feed and drink export country of destination in 2025 was Ireland, with a value of £4.6 billion accounting for 17.9% of total food, feed and drink exports. Exports to the top ten food, feed and drink countries of destination were worth a combined value of £16.7 billion in 2025, accounting for 64.8% of total UK food, feed and drink exports.

Figure 13.3 Imports of food, feed and drink by country of dispatch 2025 (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Country	£ million
Netherlands	8086
France	6091
Ireland	5814
Belgium	5247
Germany	4864
Spain	4357
Italy	4269
Poland	3432
United States	1461
Brazil	1432

Source: [HMRC](#)

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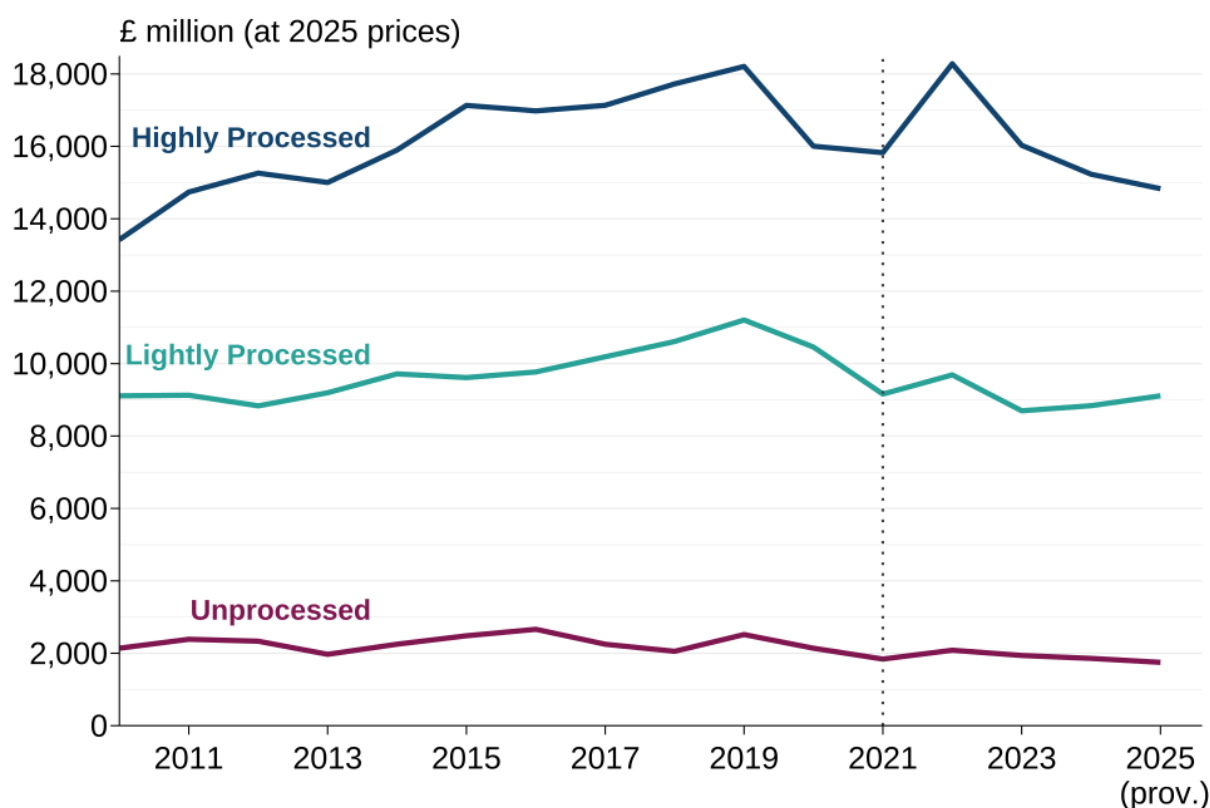
The UK's top food, feed and drink import country of dispatch in 2025 was the Netherlands, with a value of £8.1 billion accounting for 11.9% of total food, feed and drink imports. Imports from the top ten food, feed and drink countries of dispatch were worth a combined value of £45.1 billion of in 2025, accounting for 66.5% of total UK food, feed and drink imports.

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 2025 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk



Source: [HMRC](#)

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.

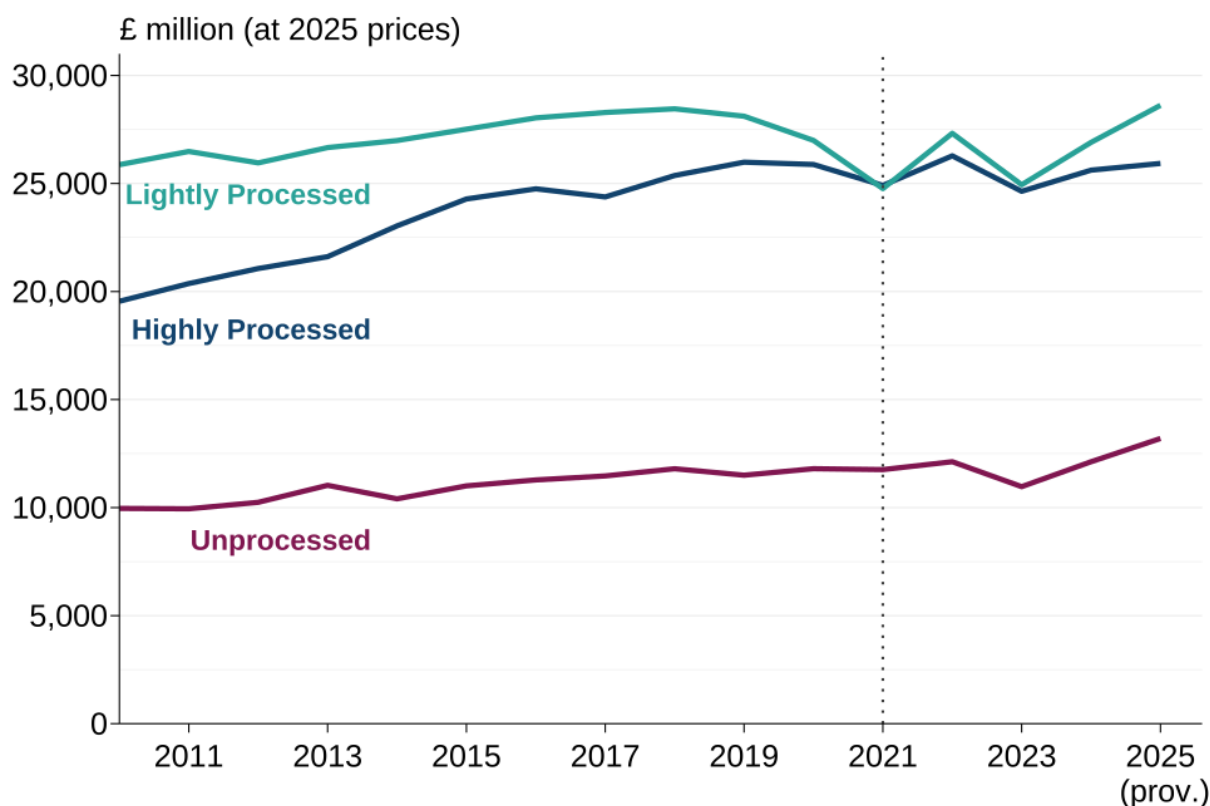
Text description of Figure 13.4: Figure 13.4 is a line chart showing the value of food, feed, and drink exports in millions of pounds at 2025 prices, broken down by degree of processing. Between 2010 and 2019, exports of highly and lightly processed goods increased steadily. Since 2019, exports for both categories have tended to decline, but with greater fluctuation for highly processed goods. Between 2010 and 2019, exports of unprocessed goods remained relatively stable. There has been a very gradual decline in exports of unprocessed goods since 2019.

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Exports of highly processed foods such as confectionery, canned meats, jams, alcoholic drinks and ice cream were 13% lower in 2025 than in 2015 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 5.2% lower in 2025 than in 2015 after adjusting for trade price inflation. Exports of unprocessed commodities, such as fresh fruit & vegetables, nuts, un-milled cereal and eggs, were 30% lower in 2025 than in 2015 after adjusting for trade price inflation (see Figure 13.4).

Figure 13.5 Imports in food, feed and drink by degree of processing at 2025 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk



Source: [HMRC](#)

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 2025 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 were below pre-pandemic levels between 2020 and 2024, but have increased in 2025. Between 2010 and 2022, imports of unprocessed goods increased steadily, but fell in 2023 before recovering in 2024 and 2025.

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After adjusting for trade price inflation, imports of highly processed food and drink were 6.8% higher in 2025 than in 2015. Imports of lightly processed food and drink were 4.0% higher and imports of unprocessed commodities were 20% higher in 2025 than in 2015 (see Figure 13.5).

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 6.6% in real terms from 2024 to £5.4 billion in 2025, but was 14% lower than 2015. Exports of salmon decreased by 13% from 2024 to £914 million in 2025 but were 6.4% higher than in 2015 in real terms, after adjusting for trade price inflation (see Table 13.2a). The value of exports of unmilled wheat rose to £43 million (an increase of 21% in real terms from 2024), but remains well below previous years, driven by a lower UK harvest for the second consecutive year. 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 2025, exports of cheese were £974 million, a 1.8% increase compared with 2024 after adjusting for trade price inflation. Exports of breakfast cereals and pork fell for the fifth consecutive year. Breakfast cereal exports decreased by 0.7% between 2024 and 2025 to £513 million, while exports of pork reduced by 10% to £238 million (see Table 13.2a).

Imports of fresh fruit rose by 8.4% in real terms from 2024 to £5.0 billion in 2025, after adjusting for trade price inflation. Over the same period, fresh vegetable imports

decreased by 1.3% to £3.2 billion. Both figures remain above levels observed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the UK's exit from the EU. Imports of unmilled wheat decreased by 12% between 2024 and 2025, after adjusting for trade price inflation, to £601 million (see Table 13.2b).

The value of wine imports decreased by 5.0% in real terms, after adjusting for trade price inflation, from 2024 to £3.7 billion in 2025 (see Table 13.2b), while the value of wine exported from the UK decreased by 7.5% from 2024 to £373 million in 2025 (see Table 13.2a).

The overall volume of exports of food, feed and drink increased by 4.4% from 2024 to 11.3 million tonnes in 2025. Despite this slight increase, the trend over the last decade has been slightly downwards. Import volumes have fluctuated over the past decade, reaching a peak in 2025 at 44.1 million tonnes. This is an increase of 2.1% compared with 2024 and 14% compared with 2015. Source: [HMRC](#).

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 2025 increased by 1.2% from 2024, while imports increased by 0.7% (see Tables 13.3a & 13.3b).

Table 13.2a and 13.2b Trade in key commodities in real terms at 2025 prices (£ million); United Kingdom

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Table 13.2a Exports

Commodity	2023	2024	2025
Whisky	6,438	5,810	5,427
Wine	562	403	373
Cheese	880	957	974
Poultry meat	216	226	224
Poultry meat products	132	122	102
Beef and veal	557	619	728
Wheat, unmilled	280	36	43
Lamb and mutton	624	639	655
Pork	303	265	238
Breakfast cereals	550	517	513
Milk and cream	407	453	484
Bacon and ham	54	35	30
Butter	241	249	289
Eggs and egg products	115	152	152
Fresh vegetables	86	98	83
Fresh fruit	74	76	80
Salmon (inc. smoked)	757	1,049	914

Table 13.2b Imports

Commodity	2023	2024	2025
Whisky	214	188	192
Wine	4,146	3,938	3,742
Cheese	1,995	2,116	2,273
Poultry meat	1,524	1,642	1,995
Poultry meat products	1,568	1,733	1,802
Beef and veal	1,203	1,390	1,785
Wheat, unmilled	454	685	601
Lamb and mutton	230	345	423
Pork	936	952	844
Breakfast cereals	354	379	407
Milk and cream	160	233	213
Bacon and ham	650	652	613
Butter	253	315	348
Eggs and egg products	355	308	326
Fresh vegetables	3,072	3,238	3,194
Fresh fruit	3,975	4,598	4,985
Salmon (inc. smoked)	637	652	662

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

Enquiries: trade-stats@defra.gov.uk

Table 13.3a Exports

Commodity	2023	2024	2025
Whisky (million litres pure alcohol)	387	400	383
Wine (million litres)	26	20	23
Cheese	180	197	207
Poultry meat	205	225	222
Poultry meat products	28	25	27
Beef and veal	104	113	112
Wheat, unmilled	1,155	166	208
Lamb and mutton	85	80	87
Pork	130	122	128
Breakfast cereals	160	151	145
Milk and cream	769	789	838
Bacon and ham	14	10	10
Butter	54	43	50
Eggs and egg products	30	34	25
Fresh vegetables	75	75	69
Fresh fruit	36	34	39
Salmon (inc. smoked)	77	116	122
Food, feed and drink index, 2009=100	106	108	110

Table 13.3b Imports

Commodity	2023	2024	2025
Whisky (million litres pure alcohol)	20	16	15
Wine (million litres)	1,249	1,277	1,200
Cheese	434	451	472
Poultry meat	515	534	578
Poultry meat products	439	474	491
Beef and veal	224	241	242
Wheat, unmilled	1,708	3,084	2,675
Lamb and mutton	48	68	70
Pork	332	340	322
Breakfast cereals	131	134	137
Milk and cream	237	266	251
Bacon and ham	181	177	171
Butter	58	64	60
Eggs and egg products	106	106	110
Fresh vegetables	2,063	2,179	2,113
Fresh fruit	3,148	3,298	3,569
Salmon (inc. smoked)	84	87	90
Food, feed and drink index, 2009=100	115	120	121

Source: [HMRC](#)

Notes for Tables 13.2 and 13.3:

1. Figures for 2025 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.

Chapter 13: Overseas Trade

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 2024, the agri-food sector (excluding fishing) in the United Kingdom accounted for a total estimated **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of £162.3bn or 6.2% of national GVA, an increase of 6.6% since 2023.
- **Employment** in the agri-food sector in Great Britain was 4.1 million over the 12-month period to the fourth quarter of 2025, a 1% fall on the previous year.
- **Total Factor Productivity** of the food chain in 2024 showed no significant change compared to 2023, while the productivity of the wider economy increased by 0.4%. In the 10 years prior to 2024, the average annual growth rate of the food chain was 0.8%, while the wider economy's average annual growth rate was 0.3%.
- **Consumer expenditure** on food and alcoholic drinks was £303.3bn in 2025, an increase of 1.1% from £300bn in 2024 in real terms.
- The **food production to supply ratio** is estimated to be 60% for all food and 72% of indigenous type food in 2025.

Contribution of the agri-food sector to the national economy

Figure 14.1 Gross Value Added of the agri-food sector, 2024 (£ billion)

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Sector	Gross Value Added	Share of total
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	£14.5bn	8.9%
Food and drink manufacturing	£39.3bn	24.2%
Food and drink wholesale	£18.3bn	11.3%
Food and drink retail	£44.1bn	27.1%
Non-residential catering	£46.1bn	28.4%

Source: [Annual Business Survey \(ONS\)](#), [Aggregate Agricultural Accounts \(Defra\)](#).

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In 2024 the agri-food sector (excluding fishing) contributed £162.3bn to the UK's economy, 6.2% of the national GVA. Within this, catering accounted for the largest proportion at 28.4% followed by retailing at 27.1% and manufacturing at 24.2%. The agriculture sector made the smallest contribution at 8.9%.

Tables 14.1a to 14.1d Agri-food sector selected statistics

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Table 14.1a Gross Value Added, UK 2022-2024 (£ million)

Sector	2022	2023	2024
Agri-food sector's contribution to total economy Gross Value Added	146,088	152,315	162,325
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	14,249	12,840	14,490
Food and drink manufacturing	34,962	37,132	39,333
Food and drink wholesale	15,852	16,911	18,303
Food and drink retail	37,753	40,249	44,061
Food and drink non-residential catering	43,272	45,183	46,138
% of national Gross Value Added	6.5%	6.2%	6.2%

Table 14.1b Employment, GB 2023-2025 (thousand persons)

Sector	2023	2024	2025
Workforce in the agri-food sector in Great Britain	4,192	4,159	4,102
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	409	402	394
Food and drink manufacturing	440	443	444
Food and drink wholesale	210	226	232
Food and drink retail	1,109	1,105	1,079
Food and drink non-residential catering	2,022	1,984	1,953
% of total workforce in employment	13.4%	13.2%	13.0%

Table 14.1c Production to supply ratio, UK 2023-2025

UK Food Production to supply ratio	2023	2024	2025
% of all food	62%	65%	60%
% of indigenous type food	75%	77%	72%

Table 14.1d Consumer expenditure, UK 2023-2025 (£ million unless otherwise specified)

UK Household final consumption expenditure on food and alcoholic drinks	2023	2024	2025
At current prices	303,534	311,891	328,521
Household food and non-alcoholic beverages	139,909	142,180	147,956
Food and drink eaten out	136,450	141,616	151,378
Alcoholic drinks (off-licence only)	27,175	28,095	29,187
At constant 2023 prices (all food and drink)	303,534	300,033	303,265
Household food and non-alcoholic beverages	139,909	138,368	138,197
Food and drink eaten out	136,450	134,689	137,724
Alcoholic drinks (off-licence only)	27,175	26,976	27,344
% of total household final consumption expenditure (current prices)	18.6%	18.5%	18.6%
Household food and non-alcoholic beverages	8.6%	8.4%	8.4%
Food and drink eaten out	8.4%	8.4%	8.6%
Alcoholic drinks (off-licence only)	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%

Notes:

1. The value of agricultural GVA published in Chapter 14 may differ to the value of agricultural GVA published in Chapter 4 due to differences in analytical calculations.

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, 2025 (millions)

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Sector	Employees (millions)
Agriculture (excluding fishing)	0.4
Food and drink manufacturing	0.4
Food and drink wholesale	0.2
Food and drink retail	1.1
Food and drink non-residential catering	2.0
Total Food	3.7
Total Agri-Food	4.1

Notes:

1. 'Food' includes non-alcoholic drinks. 'Drink' is alcoholic drinks.
2. Refer to the Glossary for the Economic definition of Food and Agri-Food sector for the relevant SIC codes.
3. GB figures have more specific, divisional level data (3-digit SIC codes) to be able to specify employment within the food chain. Not available for Northern Ireland as it is not recorded in their equivalent survey: [the Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey \(NISRA\)](#).

Sources: [Labour Market Statistics- Employee jobs by industry \(ONS\)](#) & [Agricultural Workforce in the United Kingdom at 1 June \(Defra\)](#).

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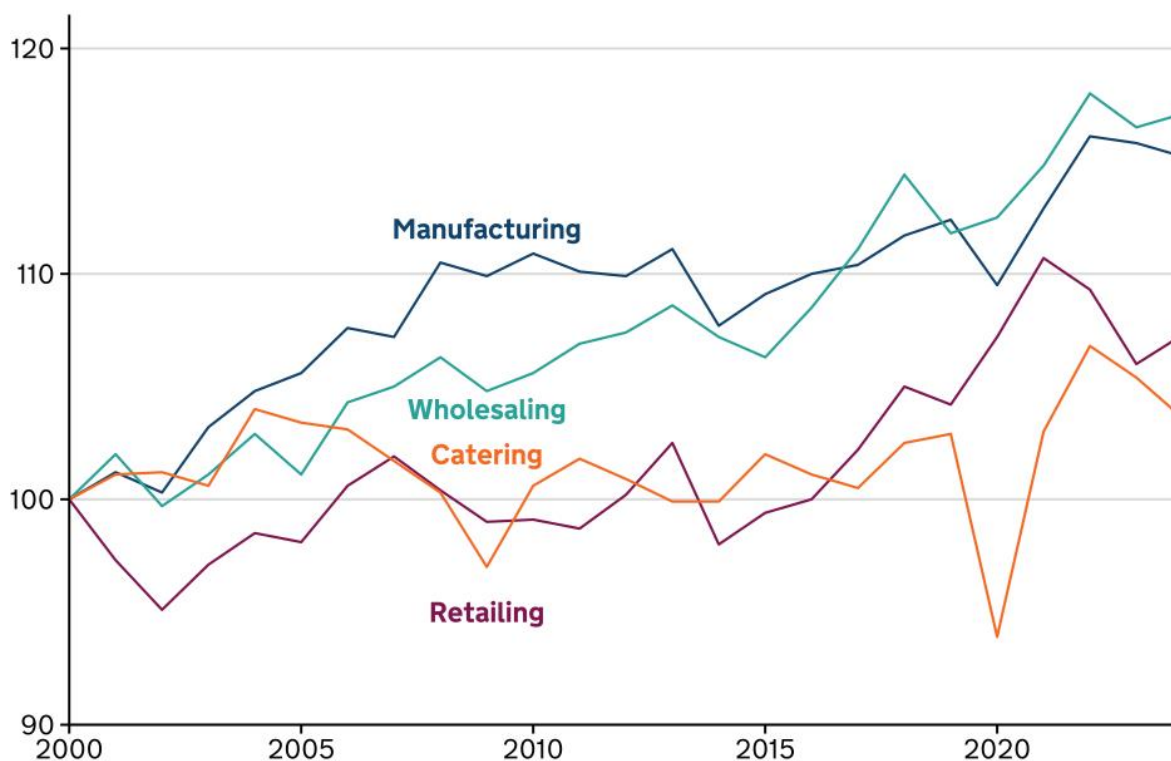
The food and drink sector in Great Britain (GB) employed 3.7 million people in 2025 (4.1 million if agriculture is included along with self-employed farmers), a 1% decrease on a year earlier. The sector accounted for 11.8% of GB employment in 2025 (13% if agriculture is included along with self-employed farmers). Employment across the whole GB economy increased by 0.2% between 2024 and 2025 (based on the 'total industries' estimate from the same [JOBS03](#) table that covers SIC section A-T).

Total Factor Productivity

Figure 14.3 Trends in the total factor productivity of the UK food chain, 2000 to 2024

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Index (2000 = 100)



Source: [Total Factor Productivity of the United Kingdom Food Chain, Defra](#)

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In 2024 the productivity of the food chain showed no significant change compared to 2023, while the productivity of the wider economy increased by 0.4%. In the 10 years prior to 2024, the average annual growth rate of the food chain was 0.8%, while the wider economy's average annual growth rate was 0.3%. In 2024 productivity increased in two of the four sectors: wholesale and retail.

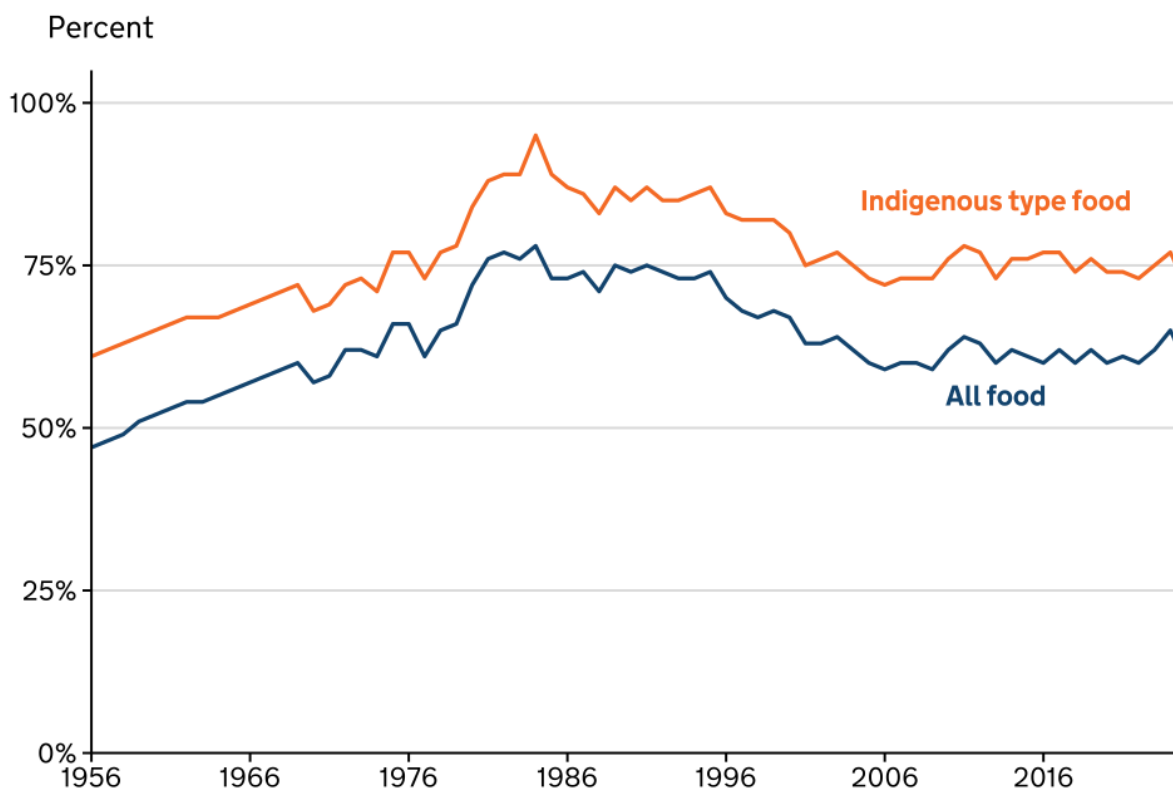
In 2024, Total Factor Productivity in **food and drink manufacturing** decreased by 0.5%, while in the last 10 years average annual productivity increased by 0.7%. Total Factor Productivity of **food wholesaling** increased by 0.4% in 2024, while in the last 10 years has shown an average annual increase of 0.9%. Productivity of the **food retail** sector increased by 1.2% in 2024. In the last 10 years, productivity has shown an average annual increase of 0.9%. In 2024, **non-residential catering (NRC)** showed a decrease in productivity of 1.7% 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 14.4 Food production to supply ratio (by value), United Kingdom, 1956-2025

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Source: Defra analysis of [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

Text description of Figure 14.4: Figure 14.4 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 2025.

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In 2025, the value of food, feed and drink exports was £25.7bn, a decrease of 0.9% from 2024 after adjusting for trade price inflation. In 2025 the value of food, feed and drink imports increased by 4.8% from 2024 to £67.8bn, resulting in a trade gap of £42.1bn, an increase of 8.6% from £38.8bn in 2024 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 (sometimes 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 value of trade in processed, added-value products is adjusted to reflect the value of the raw ingredients. 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 60% for all food and 72% of indigenous type food in 2025. In 2024, this was 65% and 77% respectively. The main driver of the annual change has been an increase in imports (by value) - [Figure 13.5](#). 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 ratios (by volume), 2023 to 2025

Enquiries: familyfood@defra.gov.uk

	2023	2024	2025
Cereals	93%	79%	81%
Wheat	96%	79%	83%
Barley	113%	106%	107%
Oats	120%	104%	109%
Other crops			
Oilseed rape	63%	53%	49%
Sugar beet	54%	65%	61%
Fresh vegetables	54%	54%	56%
Potatoes	67%	67%	71%
Cabbages	81%	85%	90%
Cauliflowers and broccoli	51%	56%	55%
Carrots, turnips and swede	96%	95%	97%
Mushrooms	49%	46%	46%
Lettuce	47%	48%	48%
Tomatoes	16%	16%	17%
Fresh fruit	16%	15%	14%
Apples	45%	43%	47%
Pears	13%	17%	19%
Plums	13%	12%	9%
Strawberries	66%	61%	56%
Raspberries	39%	34%	38%
Meat and dairy			
Beef and veal	85%	85%	84%
Pig meat	65%	65%	67%
Mutton and lamb	113%	101%	103%
Poultry meat	82%	82%	80%
Milk	105%	105%	105%
Eggs	88%	88%	88%

Notes:

1. 2025 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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Production to supply ratios, competitiveness and food security

Food production to supply ratios provide a very broad indicator of the ability of United Kingdom agriculture to meet consumer demand - also described as competitiveness. They are not a definitive measure of food security since they do not 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).

For example, the production to supply ratio for fresh fruit (Table 14.2) is low, but this reflects a number of factors. Around four-fifths of the fruit we import cannot be grown in the UK, such as bananas and citrus fruit. For fruits that cannot be stored self-sufficiency will vary seasonally - for example the UK is largely self-sufficient in strawberries between June and September, but imports them when not in season. Even where produce can be successfully stored out of season, such as with apples, consumer choice can have an impact. The second most consumed variety in the UK is Pink Lady which accounts for around one-fifth of the UK market. However, the UK does not have the climate to successfully grow this variety. Pink Lady is also a licensed variety, and the UK only holds a very limited number of commercial licenses.

Thus a low production to supply ratio does not equate to low food security. There are economic and environmental reasons why increasing domestic production to displace imported produce may be desirable. However, even if all imports of fruit that could be grown in the UK were displaced, seasonality and consumer choice aside, the production to supply ratio would still be below 50%.

Defra's triennial [UK Food Security Report](#) (UKFSR) 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. The next UKFSR will be published in 2027. In the intervening years, the [UK Food Security Digest](#) presents a selection of statistics on issues related to food security.

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.

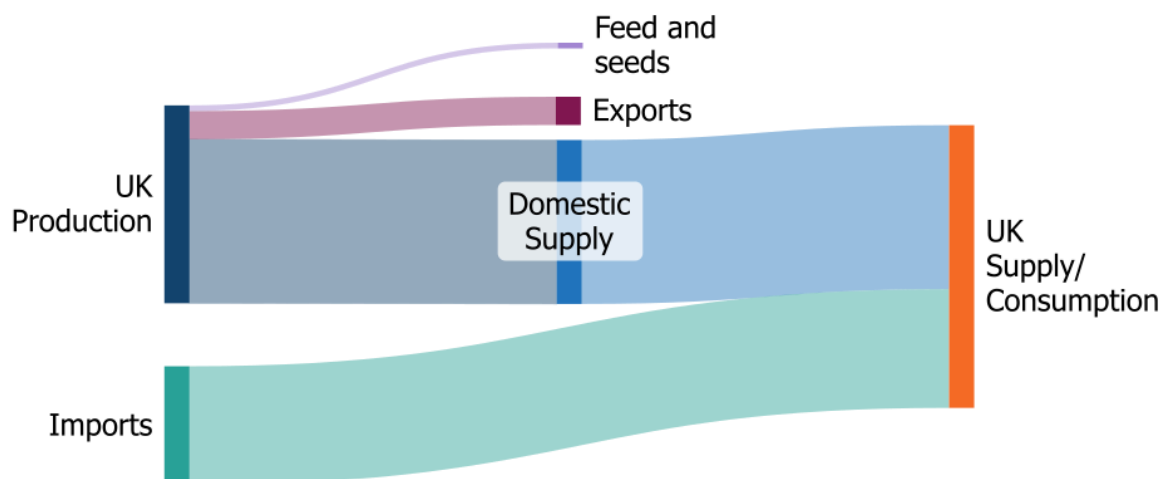
In recent years, the food security landscape has changed significantly. The UK's departure from the European Union brought changes in the areas of trade, farming, and access to fisheries, resulting in both challenges and opportunities in food security. The COVID-19 pandemic also stress-tested the supply chain, highlighting

both the vulnerabilities in this complex system and the resilience and flexibility of the UK's food supply.

Distinction between food production to supply ratio and origins of consumption

These two closely related measures are often quoted as indicators relevant to the state of domestic production or competitiveness. The diagram below illustrates the differences between them. Both are calculated using the farmgate value of raw food production.

- The **food production to supply ratio** compares total UK production including exports with total UK supply. A small adjustment is made to take account of important inputs into agriculture (feed and seeds).
- For **origins of domestic consumption**, UK consumption is considered to equate to supply. Only domestic supply, i.e. that amount of UK production which is not exported, is considered as UK consumption, alongside imported food.



The production to supply ratio is often referred to as 'self-sufficiency' in a food security context. It is important to note that 100% self-sufficiency does not equate to food security. A combination of strong domestic production and a diverse set of trading partners is more desirable. A high food production to supply ratio fails to insulate a country against many possible disruptions to its supply chain. Defra produces two outputs that cover food security in much more detail: the triennial [UK Food Security Report](#) and the annual [UK Food Security Digest](#).

Origins of food consumed in the United Kingdom

Figure 14.5 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 14.4. Figure 14.5 looks purely at the breakdown of food that the United Kingdom actually consumes.

Figure 14.5 Origins of food consumed in the United Kingdom, 2025 (percentage)

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Origin	2025
UK	58%
EU	23%
Rest of Europe	3%
Africa	5%
Asia	4%
Australasia	1%
North America	2%
South America	4%

Notes:

1. Based on the farm-gate value of raw food.
2. Consumption of UK origin consists of UK domestic production minus UK exports.

Source: Defra analysis of [HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics](#)

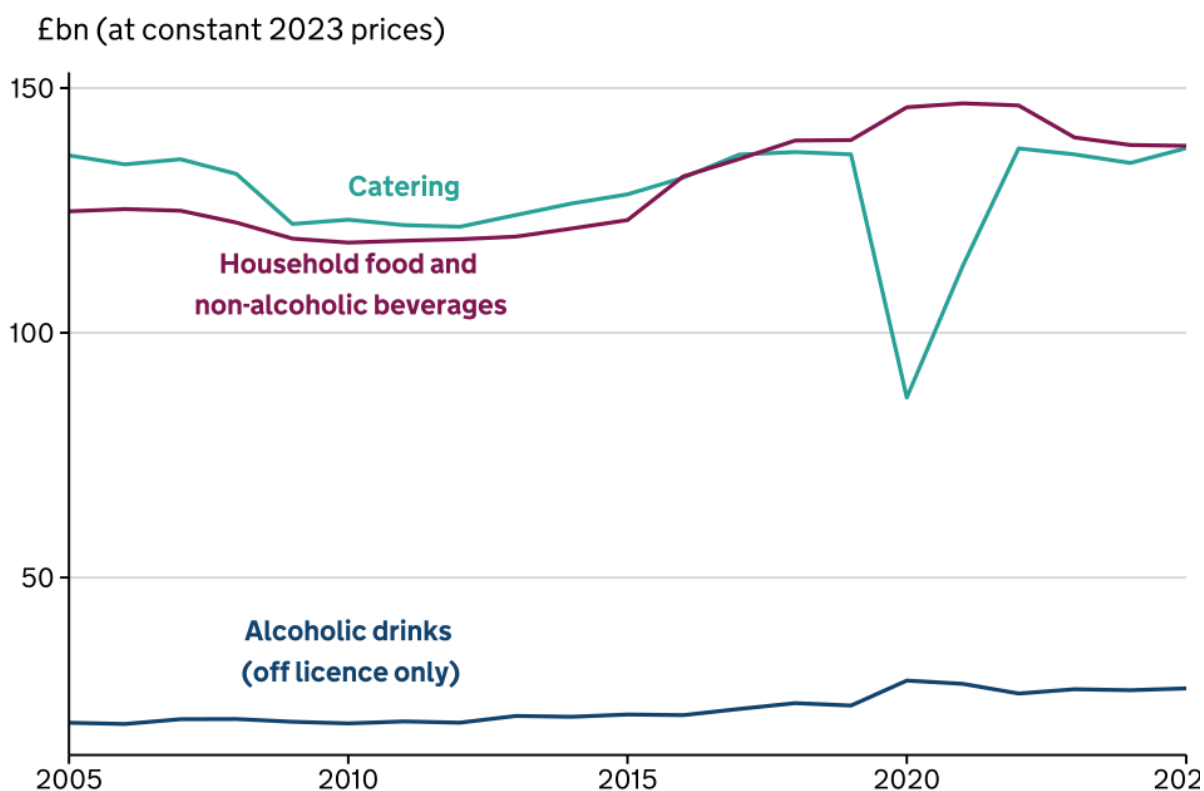
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Supply includes domestic production plus imports and excludes exports of home production. In 2025, 58% of domestic consumption came from UK production (based on unprocessed value at farmgate), 23% from the EU and the remaining 19% from the rest of the world. 35 countries accounted for 90% of imported supply, and 22 for 80%. Some countries or regions are uniquely important to the supply of particular products such as bananas from the Caribbean and Central America, reducing the security of this supply.

Consumer expenditure

Figure 14.6 UK Consumer expenditure on food, drink and eating out, 2005-2025 (£ billion at constant 2023 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 14.6: Figure 14.6 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 2005 to 2025.

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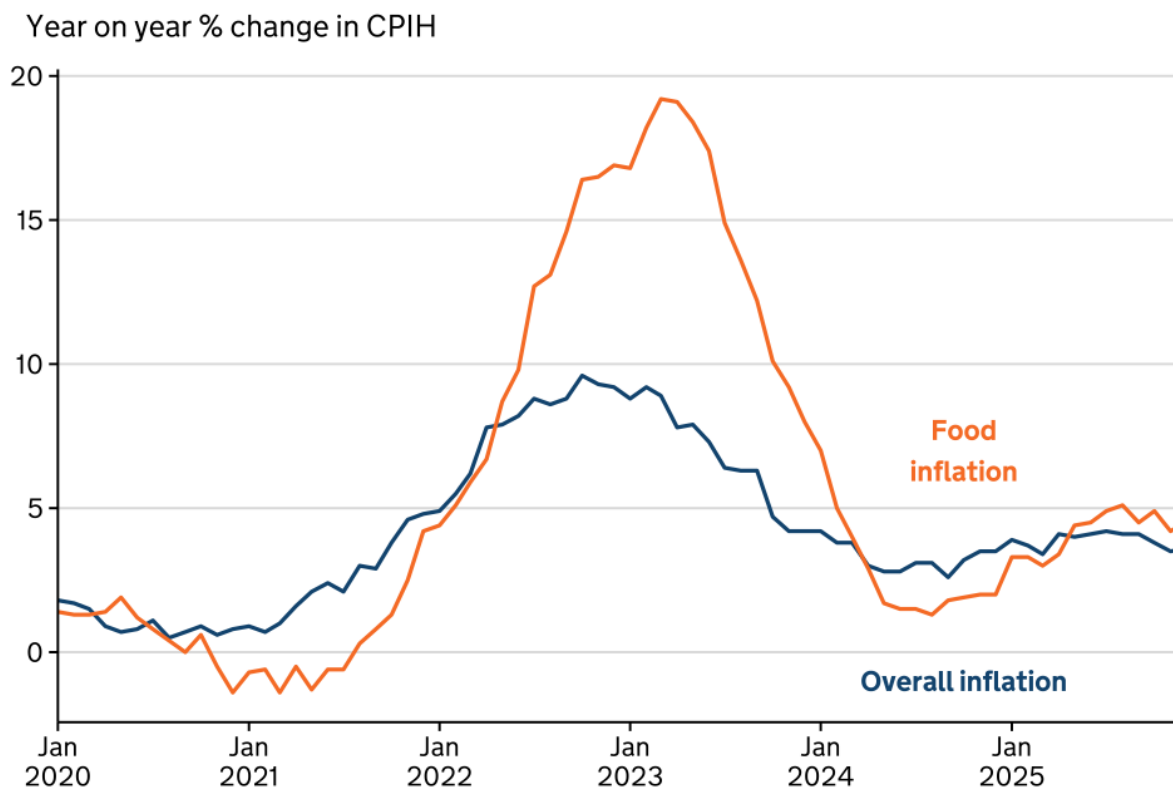
In real terms, (removing the effect of price changes), consumer expenditure on food and alcoholic drinks was £303.3bn in 2025, an increase of 1.1% from £300.0bn in 2024.

Expenditure on food and drink eaten out increased by 2.3% from £134.7bn in 2024 to £137.7bn in 2025 and expenditure on household food fell slightly, by 0.12% from £138.4bn to £138.2bn. Expenditure on alcoholic drinks (off-licence only) increased by 1.4% from £26.98bn to £27.34bn.

Changes in consumer price indices

Figure 14.7 UK food and non-alcoholic beverage prices measured by Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), Jan 2020 - Dec 2025

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Source: [Consumer Price Indices, \(ONS\)](#)

Text description of Figure 14.7: Figure 14.7 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 2025.

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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.

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 period 2021-2023 due to a combination of those factors - some of which were also exacerbated further by the conflict in Ukraine. 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%. Since then inflation has fallen, with food inflation becoming less than overall inflation in April 2024. In the eighteen months to the end of 2025, inflation generally showed a slow upward trend, with food inflation overtaking overall inflation in May 2025 and ending the year at 4.5% compared to 3.6% for all items.

Glossary

Standard Industrial 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 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.

The deductions are to remove non-food items as far as possible.

Chapter 14: The Food Chain

The agri-food sector is the food sector plus agriculture.

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.