

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS AND PRODUCTION IN 2017

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2017 were issued today by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

The estimates for cereal yields were obtained from a post-harvest survey of 235 growers, whilst potato estimates were derived from a survey involving pre-harvest digs covering potato crops on approximately 75 farms. It should be noted that the cereal yield estimates relate to crops harvested by November 2017.

In addition to providing cereal yields, the post-harvest survey confirmed that due to the adverse weather during 2017 some growers had crop areas that became unsuitable for harvesting and in comparison to the previous year an increased proportion of the crop area was ensiled as wholecrop. Across the harvested crops there was also an increased level of variability in their yields which shows the difficulties that some growers experienced due to localised weather and ground conditions.

Estimates for the areas of each crop were published as part of the results of the June Agricultural Census on 30th November 2017. The following estimates refer to crop yields and production:

- **Barley:** Total production of barley has decreased to approximately 114,400 tonnes, a fall of 8 per cent. The overall area grown decreased by 5 per cent from 2016 levels with the area of spring crops decreasing by 5 per cent and the area of winter crops decreasing by 7 per cent. This reduced area combined with the lower yield for spring barley of 4.7 tonnes per hectare has resulted in the lower production. Winter barley yields were relatively unchanged from 2016 at 6.8 tonnes per hectare. Later harvesting due to adverse weather conditions would have had a detrimental effect on barley crop yields in 2017.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat increased from 2016 levels to 67,200 tonnes, an increase of 12 per cent. The area grown increased by 1 per cent to 8,700 hectares, therefore most of the increased production was achieved by an increase in yields to 7.7 tonnes per hectare. Last year wheat yields dipped to a relatively low level with the 2017 yield still below the level recorded for 2015.
- **Oats:** Oat yields increased by 5 per cent to 5.6 tonnes per hectare in 2017 but has not returned to the level recorded in 2015. As the total area of oats planted has not changed since 2016, total estimated production has also increased by 5 per cent to 12,700 tonnes in 2017.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of maincrop ware and seed potatoes is 153,400 tonnes, an 18 per cent increase from 2016. In 2017 the

area planted increased by 8 per cent to 4,100ha while yields increased by 9 per cent. The total pre-harvest estimate, including early varieties also increased by 18 per cent to 155,000 tonnes.

Provisional results from DEFRA show that total UK yields of barley, wheat and oats have all increased compared with 2016.

The link below provides the latest UK results:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry

Tables showing Northern Ireland results can be accessed on the DAERA website at the following link: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/statistical-bulletins

Notes for Editors

1. The survey results were prepared by Statistics and Analytical Services Branch, CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB.
2. DAERA statistics are produced in accordance with the principles and protocols set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The following link provides information on the way DAERA complies with these principles: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/about-daera-statistics
3. All recent DAERA statistical bulletins can be found on the DAERA website: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/statistical-bulletins
4. All media queries to DAERA Press Office on 028 90524619

Crown Copyright 2017

A National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

You can find out more about National Statistics on the internet:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

TABLE 1. ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS
(Tonnes per Hectare)

	2015	2016	2017	% Change 2016/2017	2017 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	5.49	4.97	4.70 (4.97) ¹	-5	+/- 0.30
- Winter	<u>7.69</u>	<u>6.79</u>	<u>6.81</u> (6.94)	+0	+/- 0.70
Total	6.17	5.59	5.41 (5.63)	-3	
Wheat	8.02	6.97	7.70 (8.27)	+10	+/- 0.50
Oats	5.93	5.37	5.64 (5.88)	+5	+/- 0.74
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	37.65	35.53	38.72	+9	+/- 2.85 ³

TABLE 2. ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION
(‘000 Tonnes)

	2015	2016	2017	% Change 2016/2017	2017 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	86.1	73.1	66.0	-10	+/- 4.26
- Winter	<u>54.0</u>	<u>51.8</u>	<u>48.5</u>	-6	+/- 4.97
Total	140.0	124.9	114.4	-8	
Wheat	64.0	60.0	67.2	+12	+/- 4.32
Oats	12.3	12.1	12.7	+5	+/- 1.67
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	132.2	129.7	153.4	+18	N/A
Total, including earlies	134.1	131.3	155.0	+18	+/- 11.55

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. For 2017, yields unadjusted for moisture are shown in brackets.
2. Marketable yield includes crop over 45 mm for ware crops and over 28mm for seed.
3. Maincrop yield only.