

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS AND PRODUCTION IN 2018

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2018 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.

Estimates for the areas of each crop were published as part of the results of the June Agricultural Census on 29th November 2018. The following estimates refer to crop yields and production:

- **Barley:** Total production of barley increased marginally to approximately 117,200 tonnes, an increase of 2 per cent. Both spring barley and winter barley yields recovered from the low levels recorded in 2017. In 2017, the spring barley yield was at its lowest level recorded since 2012 but has now recovered to approximately the 5 year average of 5.2 tonnes per hectare. Winter Barley yields made a modest recovery of 2 per cent resulting in a yield of 6.9 tonnes per hectare. The overall area planted decreased by 2 per cent from 2017 levels with the area of winter crops decreasing by 18 per cent and the area of spring crops increasing by 6 per cent. The area planted of winter barley was hindered by the poor planting conditions in autumn 2017. Despite the reduction in the area of barley planted, the higher yields have resulted in a 2 per cent increase in production. Cropping conditions were a lot more favourable in 2018 than 2017 which will have increased the harvest.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat decreased from 2017 levels to 47,700 tonnes, a decrease of 29 per cent. The area grown fell by 22 per cent to 6,800 hectares with yields falling by 9 per cent to the same level as 2016. The area of winter planting fell due to the difficult conditions in autumn 2017 while yields suffered because of the dry summer experienced in Northern Ireland.
- **Oats:** As with wheat, both Oat yields and area planted decreased in 2018. Oat yields decreased by 10 per cent to 5 tonnes per hectare in 2018, the lowest they have been since 2013. The total area of oats planted decreased by 11 per cent resulting in a decrease in production of 20 per cent to 10,200 tonnes in 2018.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of maincrop ware and seed potatoes is 114,700 tonnes, a 25 per cent decrease from 2017. In 2018 the area planted decreased by 11 per cent to 3,600ha with yields decreasing by 16 per cent. The total pre-harvest estimate, including early varieties also decreased by 25 per cent to 116,100 tonnes.

Provisional results from DEFRA show that total UK yields of barley, wheat and oats have all decreased compared with 2017.

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 within 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

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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.

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

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

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

	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2017/2018	2018 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	4.97	4.70	5.17 (5.27) ¹	+10	+/- 0.20
- Winter	<u>6.79</u>	<u>6.81</u>	<u>6.93</u> (<u>6.99</u>)	<u>+2</u>	+/- 0.37
Total	5.59	5.41	5.66 (5.75)	+5	
Wheat	6.97	7.70	6.97 (7.25)	-9	+/- 0.39
Oats	5.37	5.64	5.05 (5.18)	-10	+/- 0.50
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	35.53	38.72	32.61	-16	+/- 2.41 ³

TABLE 2. ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION
(⁰⁰⁰ Tonnes)

	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2017/2018	2018 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	73.1	66.0	77.0	+17	+/- 2.91
- Winter	<u>51.8</u>	<u>48.5</u>	<u>40.3</u>	<u>-17</u>	+/- 2.14
Total	124.9	114.4	117.2	+2	
Wheat	60.0	67.2	47.7	-29	+/- 2.66
Oats	12.1	12.7	10.2	-20	+/- 1.00
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	129.7	153.4	114.7	-25	N/A
Total, including earlies	131.3	155.0	116.1	-25	+/- 8.69

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. For 2018, 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.