

## 8 Crop Yields and Production

---

The tables in this section show yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2020. The estimates for cereal yields were obtained from a post-harvest survey of 217 growers, whilst potato estimates were derived from a survey involving pre-harvest digs covering potato crops on approximately 66 farms.

- There was a decrease in yield (tonnes per hectare) and overall production (tonnes) for winter barley, wheat, oats and potatoes in 2020.
- **Barley:** Total production of barley decreased to approximately 122,000 tonnes, a decrease of 8 percent compared to 2019. Spring barley production rose by 10 percent to 71,000 tonnes while winter barley production fell 18 percent to 51,000 tonnes.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat decreased from 2019 levels to 46,000 tonnes, a decrease of 24 percent.
- **Oats:** Oat yields decreased 8 percent to 5 tonnes per hectare in 2020. The total area of oats planted increased by only 1 per cent resulting in an overall decrease in production of 8 percent (10,000 tonnes).
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of main crop ware and seed potatoes is 130,000 tonnes, a similar level to 2019. In 2020 the area planted decreased by 2 per cent to 3,700 hectares.

**Table 8.1 Estimates of Crop Yields (Tonnes per Hectare)**

	2019	2020		% Change 2019/20	2020 confidence limits (95%)
<b>Cereals<sup>1</sup>:</b>					
Barley - Spring	5	6	(5.81)	4	+/- 0.29
- Winter	8	7	(6.73)	-18	+/- 0.29
<b>All Barley</b>	6	6		-7	
Wheat	8	6	(6.94)	-14	+/- 0.57
Oats	6	5	(5.55)	-8	+/- 0.41
<b>Potatoes:</b>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>2</sup>	35	36		1	+/- 2.52

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. Yields unadjusted for moisture are shown in brackets.

2. Marketable yield includes crop over 45 mm for ware crops and over 28mm for seed.

**Table 8.2 Estimates of Crop Production ('000 Tonnes)**

	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2018/19	% Change 2019/20	2020 confidence limits (95%)
<b>Cereals:</b>						
Barley - Spring	77	65	71	-16	10	+/- 3.9
- Winter	40	62	51	55	-18	+/-2.7
<b>All Barley</b>	117	127	122	8	-4	
Wheat	48	61	46	28	-24	+/- 5.1
Oats	10	11	10	9	-8	+/- 1.2
<b>Potatoes:</b>						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>1</sup>	115	129	130	13	0	N/A

1. Maincrop yield only

**Table 8.3 Area Grown (hectares)**

	2018	2019	2020	% Change 2018/19	% Change 2019/20
<b>Cereals:</b>					
Barley - Spring	14894	11948	12564	-20	5
- Winter	5809	7739	7772	33	0
<b>All Barley</b>	20703	19687	20336	-5	3
Wheat	6845	8104	7132	18	-12
Oats	2013	1868	1879	-7	1
<b>Potatoes:</b>					
Maincrop ware & seed	3601	3777	3715	5	-2