

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

Estimates of Crop Yields and Production in 2021

Date published: 16th December 2021

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2021 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 70 farms.

Estimates for the areas of each crop are also published as part of the results of the June Agricultural Census on 16th December 2021.

- **Barley:** Total production of barley has increased in 2021 to approximately 137,000 tonnes. The overall area grown increased by 2 per cent from 2020 levels but most of the increase in production was due to higher yields for both winter (7.5 t/ha) and spring (6.0 t/ha) crops which increased by 15 and 6 per cent respectively from 2020.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat increased from 2020 levels to 64,000 tonnes, which was similar to the wheat production figures recorded in 2019. The area grown increased by 8 per cent but the majority of the increase can be attributed to a large increase in yields compared to 2020.
- **Oats:** Total production of oats also increased from 2020 levels to approximately 11,000 tonnes. Yields increased by 7 per cent to 5.8 tonnes per hectare while the area planted was unchanged.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of maincrop ware and seed potatoes is 117,600 tonnes, a 9 per cent decrease from 2020. In 2021 the area planted decreased by 7 per cent to 3,468 hectares while yields fell by 3 per cent. The total pre-harvest estimate, including early varieties also decreased by 9 per cent to 118,400 tonnes.

Tables showing Northern Ireland results can be accessed on the DAERA website at the following link: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/crop-yield-and-production-estimates

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

	2019	2020	2021		% Change 2020/21	2021 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹						
Barley - Spring	5.40	5.64	5.99	(6.09)	6	+/- 0.20
- Winter	8.06	6.58	7.54	(7.67)	15	+/- 0.31
All Barley	6.45	6.00	6.58		10	
Wheat	7.53	6.49	8.22	(8.63)	27	+/- 0.46
Oats	5.94	5.44	5.83	(5.98)	7	+/- 0.46
<u>Potatoes</u>						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	35.02	35.50	34.33		-3	+/- 2.56 ³

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

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

3. Maincrop yield only.

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

	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2020/21	2021 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	64.6	70.8	77.3	9	+/- 2.5
- Winter	62.4	51.2	59.9	17	+/- 2.5
All Barley	126.9	122.0	137.2	12	
Wheat	61.0	46.3	63.6	37	+/- 3.5
Oats	11.1	10.2	10.9	7	+/- 0.9
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	129.4	129.7	117.6	-9	N/A
Total, including earlies	131.2	130.3	118.4	-9	+/- 8.9

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 3. AREA GROWN
(hectares)

	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2020/21
<u>Cereals</u>				
Barley - Spring	11,948	12,564	12,898	3
- Winter	7,739	7,772	7,944	2
All Barley	19,687	20,336	20,843	2
Wheat	8,104	7,132	7,734	8
Oats	1,868	1,879	1,874	0
<u>Potatoes</u>				
Total Ware & Seed	3,777	3,715	3,468	-7

Notes for Editors

1. The survey results were prepared by Statistics and Analytical Services Branch, 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 releases can be found on the DAERA website:
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/statistics
4. All media queries to DAERA Press Office on 028 90524619

A National Statistics publication

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The statistics last underwent a full assessment against the Code of Practice in June 2013.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have improved access to the Agricultural Statistics by adding clearer signposting on the DAERA website: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/statistics>

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