

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS AND PRODUCTION IN 2019

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2019 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 73 farms.

Estimates for the areas of each crop were published as part of the results of the June Agricultural Census on 19th December 2019. The following estimates refer to crop yields and production:

- There was an increase in yield (tonnes per hectare) and overall production (tonnes) for winter barley, wheat, oats and potatoes in 2019.
- **Barley:** Total production of barley increased to approximately 126,900 tonnes, an increase of 8 per cent compared to 2018. Spring barley production dropped by 16 per cent to 64,600 tonnes while winter barley production increased significantly to 62,400 tonnes, an increase of 55 per cent. Yields of spring barley and winter barley both increased in 2019, with winter barley being the highest yield recorded at 8 tonnes per hectare. The high production recorded for winter barley is due to both an increase in the yield and area planted of the crop (33 per cent increase) which was aided by favourable planting conditions in Autumn 2018.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat increased from 2018 levels to 61,000 tonnes, an increase of 28 per cent. The area grown rose by 18 per cent to 8,100 hectares with yields rising by 8 per cent, reaching a similar level as 2017.
- **Oats:** Oat yields increased in 2019 but the area planted decreased compared to 2018. Oat yields increased 18 per cent to almost 6 tonnes per hectare in 2019. The total area of oats planted decreased by 7 per cent resulting in an overall increase in production of 9 per cent (11,100 tonnes) in 2019.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of main crop ware and seed potatoes is 129,400 tonnes, a 13 per cent increase from 2018. In 2019 the area planted increased by 5 per cent to 3,800 hectares while yields increased by 7 per cent to 35 tonnes per hectare. The total pre-harvest estimate, including early varieties also increased by 13 per cent to 131,200 tonnes.

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

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 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

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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 <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/statistics-on-agriculture-in-northern-ireland/> 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> .

TABLE 1. ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION
(’000 Tonnes)

	2018	2019	% Change 2018/19	2019 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>				
Barley – Spring	77.0	64.6	-16	+/- 3.5
– Winter	40.3	62.4	55	+/- 2.3
All Barley	117.2	126.9	8	
Wheat	47.7	61.0	28	+/- 4.6
Oats	10.2	11.1	9	+/- 0.8
<u>Potatoes</u>				
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ¹	114.7	129.4	13	N/A

TABLE 2. ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS
(Tonnes per Hectare)

	2018	2019	% Change 2018/19	2019 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals²</u>				
Barley - Spring	5.17	5.40 (5.56) ²	5	+/- 0.28
- Winter	6.93	8.06 (8.18)	16	+/- 0.28
All Barley	5.66	6.45	14	
Wheat	6.97	7.53 (8.10)	8	+/- 0.55
Oats	5.05	5.94 (6.02)	18	+/- 0.46
<u>Potatoes</u>				
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ¹	32.61	35.02	7	+/- 2.65

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

2. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. For 2019, yields unadjusted for moisture are shown in brackets.

TABLE 3. AREA GROWN 2019
(hectares)

	2018	2019	% Change 2018/19
<u>Cereals</u>			
Barley - Spring	14,900	11,900	-20
- Winter	5,800	7,700	33
All Barley	20,700	19,700	-5
Wheat	6,800	8,100	18
Oats	2,000	1,900	-7
<u>Potatoes</u>			
Maincrop ware & seed	3,600	3,800	5