

# STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

## ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS AND PRODUCTION IN 2016

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2016 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 24th November 2016. The following estimates refer to crop yields and production:

- **Barley:** Total production of barley has decreased to approximately 125,000 tonnes. The overall area grown decreased by 2 per cent from 2015 levels but within this the area of spring crops decreased by 6 per cent whereas the area of winter crops increased by 9 per cent. Total barley production has fallen due to the reduction in the area grown of spring barley and lower yields for both winter (6.8 t/ha) and spring (5.0 t/ha) crops. Winter and spring barley yields have decreased by 12 and 9 per cent respectively from 2015 yield figures. Weather conditions throughout the 2016 growing season adversely affected crop development.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat decreased from 2015 levels to 60,000 tonnes, a fall of 6 per cent. Although the area grown increased by 8 per cent to reach similar levels as 2014, a 13 per cent fall in yields to 7 tonnes per hectare outweighed the extra area resulting in a fall in production.
- **Oats:** Total production of oats remained relatively unchanged from 2015 at 12,100 tonnes. Yields decreased by 9 per cent to 5.4 tonnes per hectare but this was compensated by a 9 per cent increase in area planted to 2,300 hectares.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of maincrop ware and seed potatoes is 129,700 tonnes, a 2 per cent decrease from 2015. In 2016 the area planted increased by 4 per cent to 3,700ha while yields fell by 6 per cent. The total pre-harvest estimate, including early varieties also decreased by 2 per cent to 131,300 tonnes.

Provisional results from DEFRA show that total UK yields of barley, wheat and oats have all decreased compared with 2015.

The link below provides the latest UK results:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

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

	2014	2015	2016	% Change 2015/2016	2016 confidence limits (95%)
<b><u>Cereals</u><sup>1</sup></b>					
Barley - Spring	5.23	5.49	4.97 (5.12) <sup>1</sup>	-9	+/- 0.20
- Winter	<u>7.14</u>	<u>7.69</u>	<u>6.79</u> ( <u>6.93</u> )	<u>-12</u>	+/- 0.28
Total	5.78	6.17	5.59 (5.74)	-9	
Wheat	7.54	8.02	6.97 (7.40)	-13	+/- 0.37
Oats	5.61	5.93	5.37 (5.58)	-9	+/- 0.62
<b><u>Potatoes</u></b>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>2</sup>	37.59	37.65	35.53	-6	+/- 2.35 <sup>3</sup>

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

	2014	2015	2016	% Change 2015/2016	2016 confidence limits (95%)
<b><u>Cereals</u><sup>1</sup></b>					
Barley - Spring	88.2	86.1	73.1	-15	+/- 2.97
- Winter	<u>47.9</u>	<u>54.0</u>	<u>51.8</u>	<u>-4</u>	+/- 2.24
Total	136.1	140.0	124.9	-11	
Wheat	64.1	64.0	60.0	-6	+/- 3.25
Oats	11.7	12.3	12.1	-1	+/- 1.45
<b><u>Potatoes</u></b>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>2</sup>	154.0	132.2	129.7	-2	N/A
Total, including earlies	156.3	134.1	131.3	-2	+/- 8.77

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. For 2016, 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.