

# STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

## ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS AND PRODUCTION IN 2011

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2011 were issued today by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

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 over 180 farms.

Estimates for the areas of each crop were published as part of the results of the June Agricultural Census on 24th November 2011. The following estimates refer to crop yields and production:

- **Barley:** Total production of barley has decreased slightly to approximately 138,000 tonnes. Production has fallen due to a reduction in the area planted of Spring Barley and lower Winter Barley yields.
- **Wheat:** Production is approximately the same as 2010 because area planted increased by 6% while yields fell by 5%.
- **Oats:** Production of oats has decreased by 6% to 12,600 tonnes. Although yields of Oats have increased in 2011, production has fallen due to a reduction of approximately 10% in the area planted.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest estimate of production of maincrop ware and seed potatoes is 8% higher in 2011 than that for 2010. This is due primarily to an increase of 10% in the average yield. The total pre-harvest tonnage estimated for Northern Ireland is 195,000 tonnes. Adverse weather conditions may reduce the final tonnage harvested.
- Comparisons with figures already released by Defra show that yields of cereals in Northern Ireland, in 2011, are very similar to average UK yields. The link below provides UK results:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/food/cereals/cerealsoilseed/>

### Notes to Editors:

1. All media queries to DARD Press Office on 02890524619

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

	2009	2010	2011		% Change 2010/2011	2011 confidence limits (95%)
<b>Cereals<sup>1</sup></b>						
Barley - Spring	4.87	5.11	5.17	(5.37) <sup>1</sup>	+1	+/- 0.23
- Winter	<u>6.70</u>	<u>7.32</u>	<u>7.14</u>	<u>(7.27)</u>	<u>-2</u>	+/- 0.32
Total	5.22	5.72	5.73	(5.91)	+0	
Wheat	7.23	8.18	7.77	(8.08)	-5	+/- 0.35
Oats	5.39	5.78	6.02	(6.18)	+4	+/- 0.53
<b>Potatoes</b>						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>2</sup>	34.25	37.23	40.89		+10	+/- 1.94 <sup>3</sup>

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

	2009	2010	2011		% Change 2010/2011	2011 confidence limits (95%)
<b>Cereals<sup>1</sup></b>						
Barley - Spring	105.4	89.7	89.0		-1	+/- 4.05
- Winter	<u>34.3</u>	<u>49.5</u>	<u>48.9</u>		<u>-1</u>	+/- 2.42
Total	139.7	139.2	137.9		-1	
Wheat	73.2	89.1	89.9		+1	+/- 4.08
Oats	11.1	13.5	12.6		-6	+/- 1.19
<b>Potatoes</b>						
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) <sup>2</sup>	168.0	177.1	191.1		+8	N/A
Total, including earlies	173.8	181.2	194.7		+7	+/- 9.36

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. For 2011, 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. Marketable yield only.

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<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/dard-statistics-charter-2.pdf>

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