

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

ESTIMATES OF CROP YIELDS AND PRODUCTION IN 2015

Yield and production estimates for the main cereal crops and potatoes for the year 2015 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 approximately 100 farms.

Estimates for the areas of each crop were published as part of the results of the June Agricultural Census on 26th November 2015. The following estimates refer to crop yields and production:

- **Barley:** Total production of barley has increased to approximately 140,000 tonnes. Production has risen for winter barley and fallen marginally for spring barley primarily due to changes in the area grown in 2015. Planting conditions for winter barley were good in autumn 2014 and as a result areas planted of winter varieties increased, however spring barley decreased to the lowest level recorded. Yields for winter and spring barley have increased by 8 and 5 per cent respectively.
- **Wheat:** Production of wheat remains relatively unchanged at 64,000 tonnes. The area sown decreased by 6 per cent from 2014 to 8,000 hectares but this was compensated by a 6 per cent increase in yield to 8.0 tonnes per hectare.
- **Oats:** Production of oats increased by 5 per cent to approximately 12,300 tonnes. The area planted was unchanged from 2014 at 2,100 hectares while yield increased by 6 per cent to 5.9 tonnes per hectare.
- **Potatoes:** The pre-harvest production estimate of maincrop ware and seed potatoes is 132,200 tonnes, a 14 per cent decrease from 2014. In 2015 the area planted decreased by 14 per cent to 3,600ha. The total pre-harvest estimate, including early varieties also decreased by 14 per cent to 134,100 tonnes.

Provisional results from DEFRA show that UK yields of barley and wheat have increased compared with 2014, however oats show a small decrease.

The link below provides the latest UK results:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry

Tables showing Northern Ireland results can be accessed on the DARD website at the following link: www.dardni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/statistical-bulletins

Notes to Editors: All media queries to DARD Press Office on 028 90524619

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

	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014/2015	2015 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	5.04	5.23 (5.34) ¹	5.49 (5.68) ¹	+5	+/- 0.21
- Winter	<u>6.96</u>	<u>7.14</u> (<u>7.19</u>)	<u>7.69</u> (<u>7.82</u>)	<u>+8</u>	+/- 0.31
Total	5.43	5.78 (5.86)	6.17 (6.34)	+7	
Wheat	7.32	7.54 (7.86)	8.02 (8.52)	+6	+/- 0.36
Oats	5.02	5.61 (5.70)	5.93 (6.09)	+6	+/- 1.41
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	33.01	37.59	37.65	+0	+/- 2.48 ³

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

	2013	2014	2015	% Change 2014/2015	2015 confidence limits (95%)
<u>Cereals</u>¹					
Barley - Spring	103.2	88.2	86.1	-2	+/- 3.37
- Winter	<u>36.6</u>	<u>47.9</u>	<u>54.0</u>	<u>+13</u>	+/- 2.25
Total	139.8	136.1	140.0	+3	
Wheat	58.3	64.1	64.0	-0	+/- 2.94
Oats	9.9	11.7	12.3	+5	+/- 3.02
<u>Potatoes</u>					
Maincrop ware & seed (marketable yield) ²	139.0	154.0	132.2	-14	N/A
Total, including earlies	141.3	156.3	134.1	-14	+/- 8.93

1. Cereal yields and production at 15% moisture content. For 2014-15, 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.

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