



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



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## Farming Statistics

### Final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce At June 2015 - United Kingdom

This release contains the final estimates of land use, crop areas, livestock populations, the agricultural workforce on agricultural holdings in the UK and the size of the UK cereals and oilseed rape harvest for 2015. These results replace those provisional results published on 15 October 2015. The key results are given below.

#### **Agricultural land areas** ([Tables 1 - 2](#))

The total utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the UK has decreased by 0.5% to 17.1 million hectares. The area of total crops has decreased by 0.9%, helping to offset the 33% increase in uncropped arable land.

#### **Crop yields and production** ([Table 3](#))

**Wheat:** UK wheat yields increased by 4.6% rising from 8.6 tonnes per hectares in 2014 to 9.0 tonnes per hectare in 2015. This is the highest the UK wheat yield has reached in the past 25 years.

**Barley:** Strong yields and an increase in area planted led to an increase of 6.6% in UK barley production between 2014 and 2015. The production estimate for 2015 is almost 7.4 million tonnes. Winter and spring planted barley both saw increases in area; however it was winter barley that saw the larger increase (9.3%) in production due to a 6.2% increase in yield to 7.7 tonnes per hectare.

**Oilseed rape:** The oilseed rape harvest has increased 3.4% to just over 2.5 million tonnes for 2015. This increase in production has been a result of a 6.9% increase in yield, from 3.6 tonnes per hectare in 2014 to 3.9 in 2015.

#### **Horticultural crops** ([Tables 4 - 6](#))

In 2015 the total area of horticultural crops increased by 6.5% to 174 thousand hectares. Vegetables and salad for human consumption make up the majority (71%) of this area and increased by 5.8% to 123 thousand hectares in 2015.

#### **Livestock** ([Tables 7 - 11](#))

In 2015, the total number of cattle and calves increased by 0.8% to 9.9 million. The breeding herd increased by 1.8% to almost 3.5 million, largely due to the 3.0% increase seen in the dairy herd.

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Fattening pigs decreased by 1.9% in 2015 and despite a small increase (0.4%) in the breeding herd, the total number of pigs fell by 1.6% to 4.7 million.

The UK population of sheep and lambs has decreased by 1.2% in 2015, to 33.3 million animals. This was largely due to a 2.4% decrease in the number of lambs, which now stands at 16.5 million.

Total poultry decreased by 1.2% to 168 million birds in 2015. This decrease was largely due to the 3.0% fall in broiler numbers (table chickens) to 107 million birds, which account for almost two thirds of the total.

### **Agricultural workforce ([Table 12](#))**

The total number of people working on agricultural holdings in the UK in 2015 was virtually unchanged at 476 thousand.

### **Key country level changes**

Figure 1 shows how the UK percentage change for certain items compares to the country level changes. The decrease seen in the wheat area in England has driven the larger UK level change. This is due to the largest proportion of this crop being grown in England.

**Figure 1: Percentage changes between 2014 and 2015 by UK country**

	<b>UK % change</b>	<b>England % change</b>	<b>Scotland % change</b>	<b>N. Ireland % change</b>	<b>Wales % change</b>
Wheat area	-5.3	-5.8	0.5	-6.1	1.6
Potatoes area	-8.5	-8.3	-9.6	-14.2	2.6
Pigs	-1.6	-3.2	0.5	10.2	-10.8
Sheep	-1.2	-1.6	0.1	3.5	-2.4
Cattle	0.8	0.2	0.7	2.7	1.5

### **Data uses, next publications and survey methodology ([pages 18 - 22](#))**

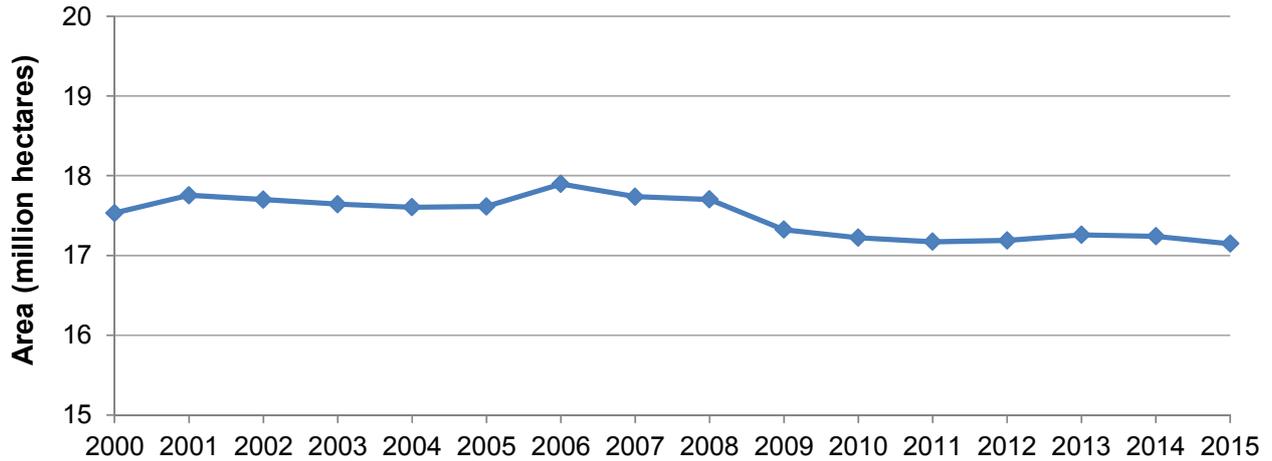
Information on how each of the UK countries runs their surveys can be found on pages 18 to 22 along with data uses and upcoming publication dates.

## Detailed results

### Utilised agricultural area

The utilised agricultural area is made up of all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, land used for outdoor pigs, temporary and permanent grassland and common rough grazing. In June 2015 the total utilised agricultural area in the UK was 17.1 million hectares, covering 70% of the UK land area. Figure 2 shows that the total utilised agricultural area has remained between 17 and 18 million hectares since 2000.

Figure 2: Total utilised agricultural area at 1 June 2000 to 2015

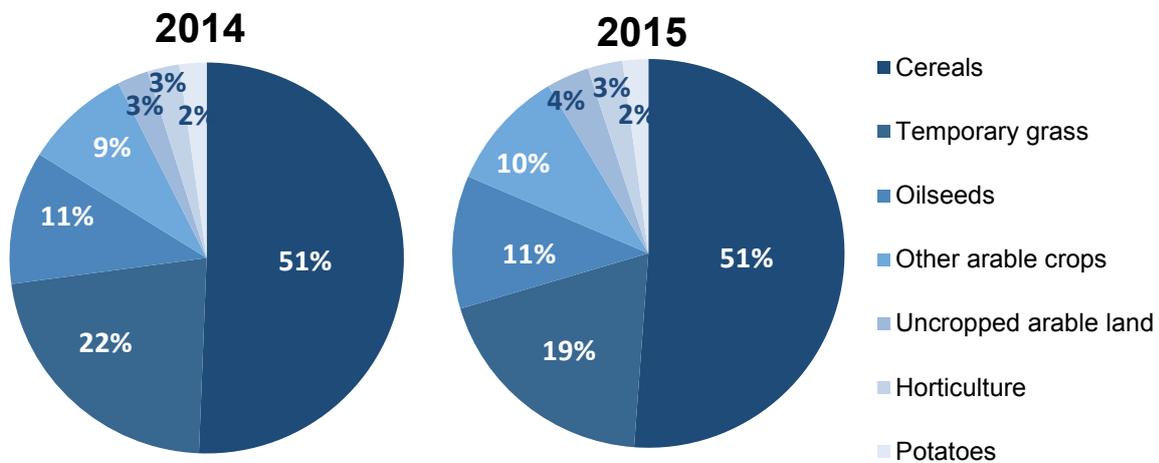


### Croppable area

Croppable area consists of cereals, oilseed, potatoes, other arable crops, horticultural crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grass. In 2015, the croppable area decreased by 3.5% to just over 6 million hectares. This represents over a third of the UK utilised agricultural area.

Figure 3 shows that on the whole the proportion of croppable land used for each purpose remained similar between 2014 and 2015, however some categories did see large value changes (Table 1). The largest proportional change in area was uncropped arable land which increased by 33%.

Figure 3: Breakdown of croppable area at 1 June 2015 compared to 2014



## Cereals and oilseeds

**Figure 4: Crop areas in the UK between 1984 and 2015**

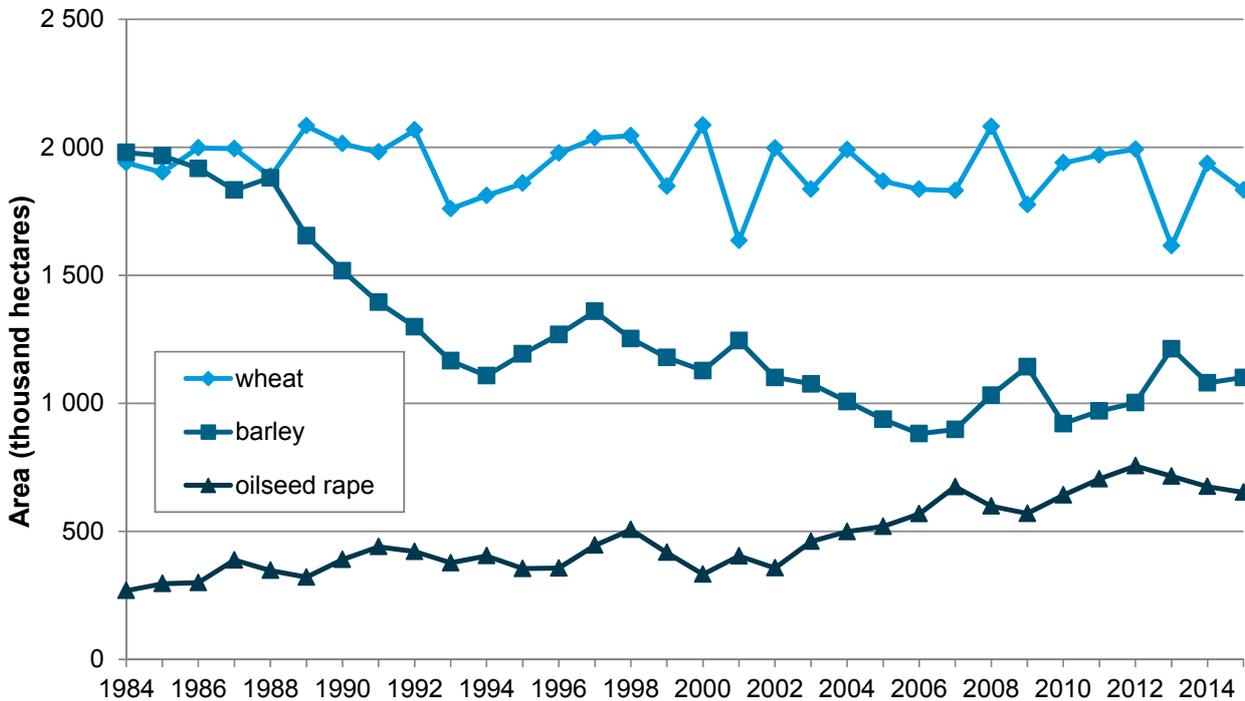


Figure 4 shows the area of the three most popular crops grown in the UK; wheat, barley and oilseed rape. Since 1984 the wheat area has fluctuated between approximately 1.6 and 2.1 million hectares. The area of barley has declined considerably over the years. However, in 2015 barley increased by 2.0% to 1.1 million hectares. The oilseed rape area has increased from 269 to 652 thousand hectares between 1984 and 2015. However, the oilseed rape area has decreased for the last three years after reaching a record high in 2012.

**Figure 5: Crop production in the UK between 2014 and 2015**

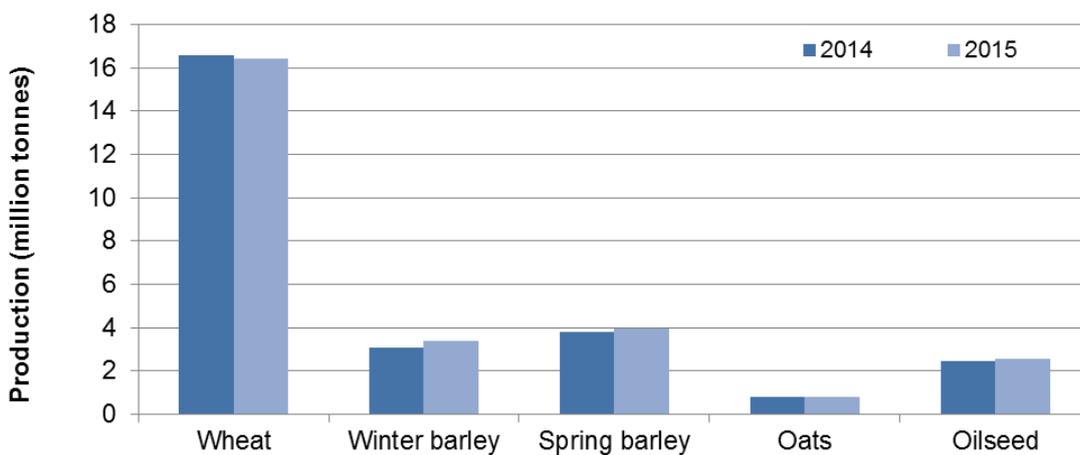


Figure 5 shows the combined effect of changes in areas planted and the achieved yields on production estimates. The increased wheat yield helped to partially offset the 5.3% fall in area. This resulted in a 1.0% decrease in production, which fell from 16.6 million tonnes in 2014 to 16.4 million

tonnes in 2015. Although slightly lower than in 2014, the wheat harvest in 2015 is still the second largest since 2008. Winter and spring barley both saw increased levels of production in 2015. The 4.5% increase in spring barley production was due to a 1.3% increase in area planted and a 3.1% increase in yield to 6.0 tonnes per hectare.

**Figure 6: UK crop yields between 2000 and 2015**

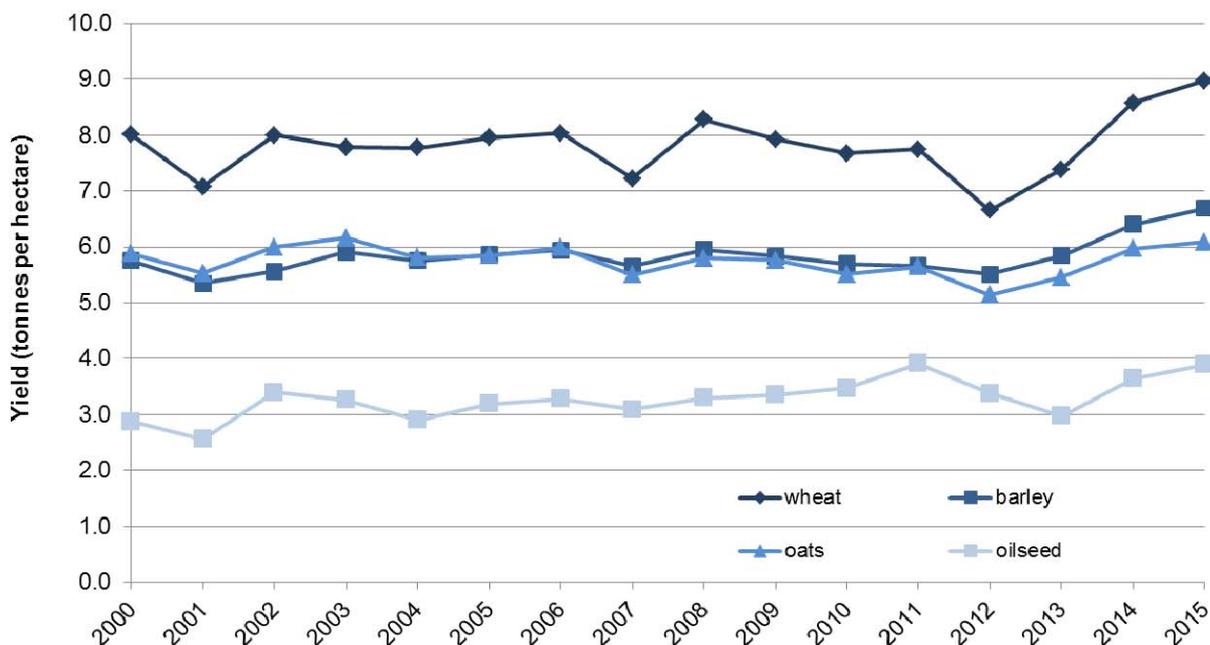


Figure 6 shows that all cereals and oilseed rape have continued to show increases to average yields in 2015. Mild weather conditions in autumn and winter 2014 meant that crops established well and survived winter well, with mild temperatures and plentiful sunshine hours during grain fill also aiding yields.

The overall yield for total cereals shows a 3.7% increase from 7.7 tonnes per hectare in 2014 to 8.0 tonnes per hectare in 2015. Although some regions have faced delays, there have been no major weather incidents to hamper the harvest as a whole. There have been no stand-out issues relating to pests and disease, which may also contribute to the strong yields. As a result of the increase in yield, total cereal production has increased by 1.1% to just under 25.0 million tonnes. This is despite the 2.5% decrease seen in the total cereals area.

Regional figures are available in the cereal and oilseed dataset on our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry>.

### Wheat

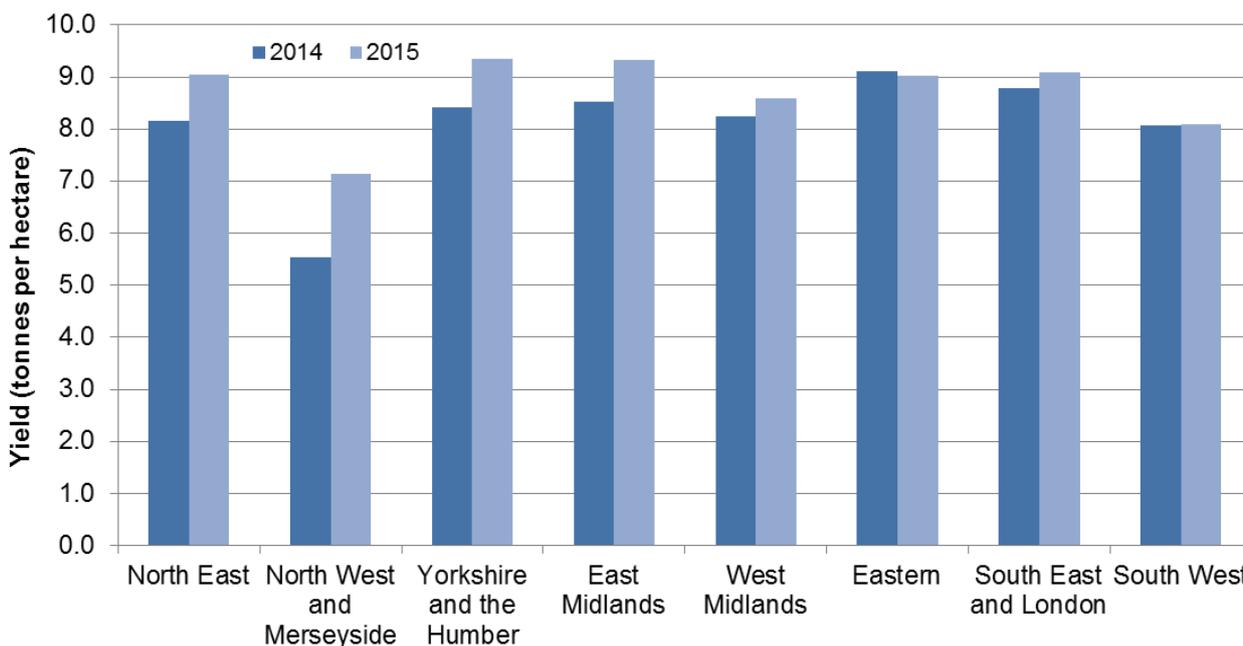
The 2015 wheat harvest for the UK is 16.4 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.0% on 2014. Although lower than in 2014, the wheat harvest in 2015 is still the second largest since 2008 with a record yield of 9.0 tonnes per hectare helping to partially offset the 5.3% reduction in planted area. Yields have been aided by good crop establishment and adequate moisture through spring and summer.

The area of planted wheat in England which has been harvested as wholecrop for silage in 2015 is estimated at 29 thousand hectares, representing 1.7% of the total planted area. Compared with 2014,

the estimated percentage of total planted area is relatively unchanged whilst the harvested as wholecrop area has decreased from 32 thousand hectares. These estimates are based on 117 positive responses to the 2015 Cereal & Oilseed Production survey where it was indicated that wheat was harvested as wholecrop for silage.

Figure 7 shows the variation of wheat yields across the regions. There were strong yields in all regions, with even the historically lower yielding North West and Merseyside showing 7.1 tonnes per hectare. The highest average yields were seen in Yorkshire and the Humber (9.4 tonnes per hectare) and the East Midlands (9.3 tonnes per hectare). Yields have been aided by the favourable conditions throughout the spring and summer.

**Figure 7: Wheat yield by English region 2014 to 2015**



**Barley**

The yield for barley has increased by 4.6% since 2014 to 6.7 tonnes per hectare. On a regional basis the highest yields for barley were found in the Yorkshire and the Humber region at 7.7 tonnes per hectare. The North West and Merseyside had the lowest regional yield at 5.4 tonnes per hectare.

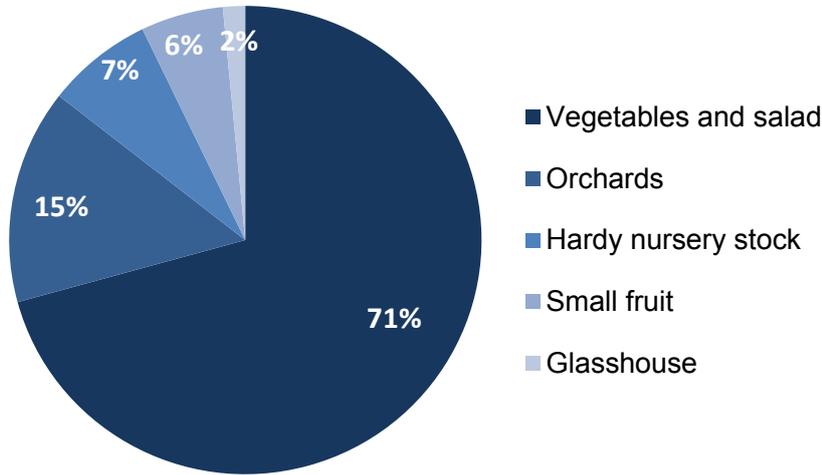
**Oilseed rape**

Despite a 3.3% reduction in planted area, the oilseed rape harvest has shown an increase of 3.4% to just over 2.5 million tonnes for 2015. This increase in production has been a result of a 6.9% increase in yield from 3.6 tonnes per hectare in 2014 to 3.9 tonnes per hectare in 2015.

### Horticultural crops

The total area of horticultural crops saw an increase of 6.5% between 2014 and 2015 and now stands at 174 thousand hectares, the highest since 2011.

**Figure 8: Breakdown of total horticultural area at 1 June 2015**

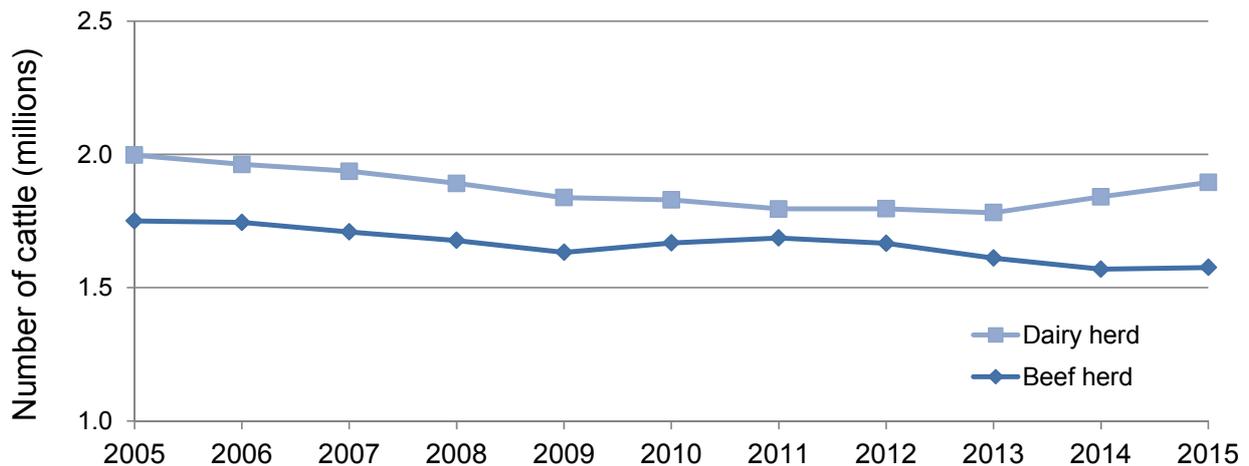


The area of vegetables and salad for human consumption in 2015 increased by 5.8% compared to 2014. This accounts for 71% of the total horticultural area (see Figure 8). Orchards and small fruit together account for a further 21% of the horticultural area with hardy nursery stock and glasshouse accounting for the remaining 7% and 2% respectively.

### Cattle

The total number of cattle and calves in the UK increased by 0.8% in 2015 to 9.9 million head. The breeding herd accounts for over a third of total cattle and increased by 1.8% to 3.5 million head in 2015. The beef herd increased by 0.4%, the first increase since 2011. The dairy herd increased for the second year running to 1.9 million (see Figure 9). The main dairy and beef herds are made up of female cattle aged 2 years or more that have calved.

**Figure 9: Dairy and beef herd numbers at June 2005 to 2015**



## **Pigs**

The total number of pigs in the UK decreased by 1.6%, from 4.8 million animals in 2014 to 4.7 million in 2015. The main reason for this was the 1.9% decrease in fattening pigs, largely due to the 3.6% fall in the England figures which account for 81% of the UK fatteners. The female breeding herd showed a small increase (0.4%) to 408 thousand animals.

## **Sheep**

Sheep figures decreased by 1.2% in 2015 to 33.3 million sheep and lambs in the UK, largely due to the 2.4% decrease in the number of lambs. The female breeding flock remained almost unchanged at 16.0 million.

## **Poultry**

The total number of poultry in the UK decreased by 1.2% to almost 168 million birds in 2015 compared to 170 million in 2014. Laying and breeding fowl saw an increase of 2.3%. However this was offset by a 3.0% decrease in table chickens to just over 107 million birds.

## **Other livestock**

The number of horses and farmed deer in the UK decreased between 2014 and 2015, falling by 6.8% and 4.0% respectively. The number of goats increased by 0.6% and now stands at 101 thousand animals.

## **Agricultural workforce**

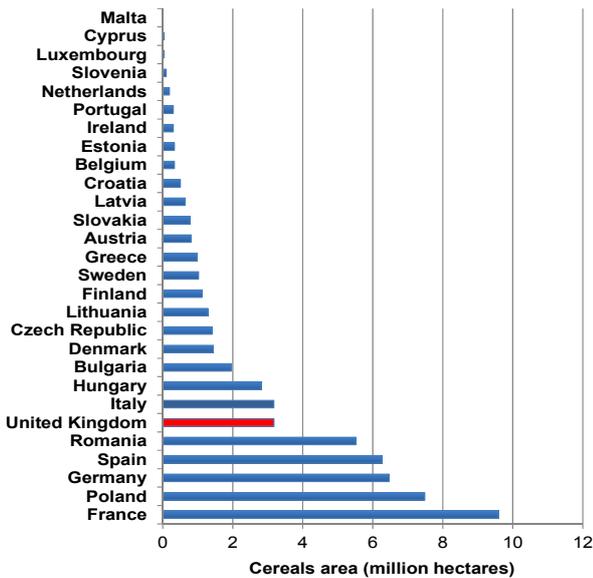
The total labour force on agricultural holdings was virtually unchanged at 476 thousand this year. Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses account for the majority (62%) of the total labour force. This figure also remained stable between 2014 and 2015, remaining at 294 thousand people.

## Comparisons to other EU countries

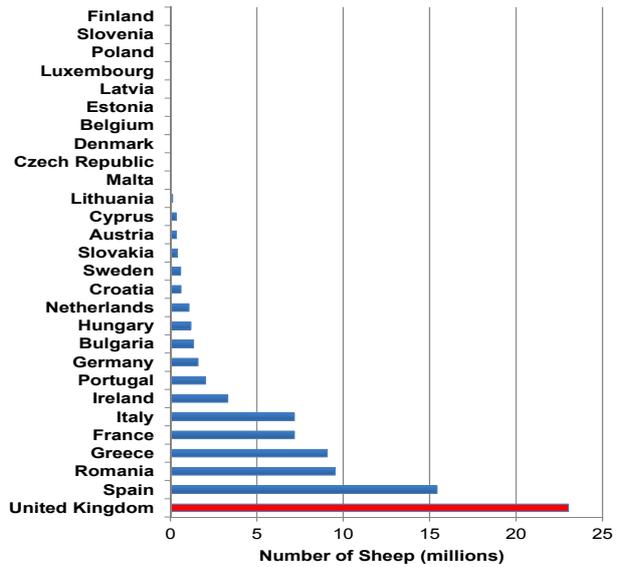
Data on livestock populations are collected each year under EU Regulation 1165/2008 (cattle, pigs and sheep) and 543/2009 (crops and land). Therefore, results can be compared across EU Member States. Data are available to search and download on the Eurostat website at [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/data/main\\_tables](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/data/main_tables).

According to the data from 2014, the UK is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest cereal producer, the largest producer of sheep and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of cattle of the EU 28 Member States. Figures 7 to 9 below show the comparison of these activities across all Member States.

**Figure 10: Cereal areas in 2014 by EU Member State**



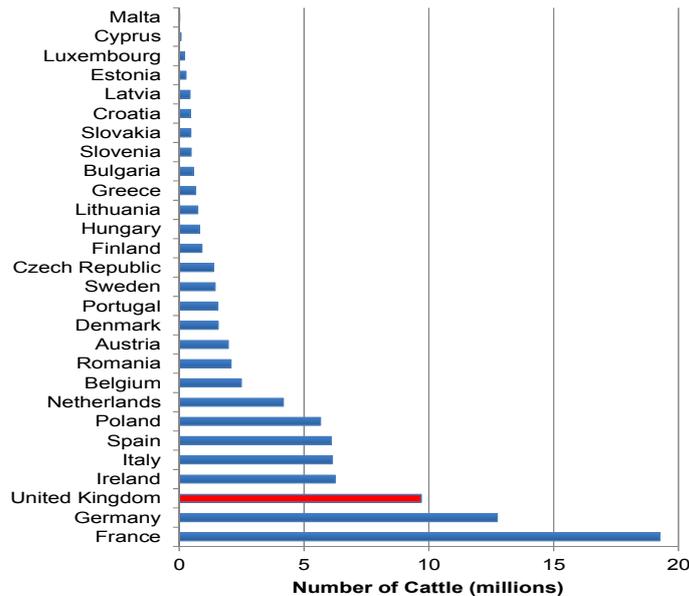
**Figure 11: Number of sheep in 2014 by EU Member State**



(data in figures 11 and 12 refer to December 2014, not June 2014)

Source: Eurostat

**Figure 12: Number of cattle in 2014 by EU Member State**



Source: Eurostat

## Results Tables

**Table 1: Summary of land use on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

Thousand hectares

	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Utilised agricultural area <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>17 259</b>	<b>17 240</b>	<b>17 147</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Total agricultural land</b> (including common rough grazing)	<b>18 449</b>	<b>18 456</b>	<b>18 428</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Common rough grazing</b>	<b>1 198</b>	<b>1 199</b>	<b>1 199</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total area on agricultural holdings</b>	<b>17 250</b>	<b>17 257</b>	<b>17 229</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Total croppable area</b>	<b>6 310</b>	<b>6 278</b>	<b>6 059</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>4 665</b>	<b>4 722</b>	<b>4 679</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
Arable crops	4 502	4 559	4 505	-1.2
Cereals	3 028	3 179	3 100	-2.5
Oilseeds	752	691	670	-3.0
Potatoes	139	141	129	-8.5
Other arable crops	582	548	606	10.7
Horticultural crops	163	164	174	6.5
<b>Uncropped arable land <sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>255</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>33.5</b>
<b>Temporary grass under 5 years old</b>	<b>1 390</b>	<b>1 396</b>	<b>1 167</b>	<b>-16.4</b>
<b>Permanent grassland (incl. rough grazing)</b>	<b>9 742</b>	<b>9 755</b>	<b>9 880</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Grass over 5 years old	5 802	5 824	6 078	4.4
Sole right rough grazing <sup>(c)</sup>	3 940	3 930	3 801	-3.3
<b>Other land on agricultural holdings</b>	<b>1 198</b>	<b>1 224</b>	<b>1 290</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Woodland	865	897	961	7.0
Land used for outdoor pigs	9	8	9	10.3
All other non-agricultural land	324	318	320	0.4

(a) Includes all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs (excludes woodland and other non-agricultural land).

(b) Includes all arable land not in production, including GAEC12 land, game strips, wild bird cover and game cover.

(c) Classified as mountains, hills, heathland or moorland.

**Table 2: Area of arable crops on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total arable crops</b>	<b>4 502</b>	<b>4 559</b>	<b>4 505</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Cereals</b>	<b>3 028</b>	<b>3 179</b>	<b>3 100</b>	<b>-2.5</b>
Wheat	1 615	1 936	1 832	-5.3
Barley	1 213	1 080	1 101	2.0
winter	310	429	442	2.9
spring	903	651	659	1.3
Oats	177	137	131	-4.4
Minor cereals <sup>(a)</sup>	24	26	35	34.3
<b>Oilseed crops</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
Oilseed rape	715	675	652	-3.3
winter	621	661	645	-2.3
spring	95	14	7	-51.0
Linseed	34	15	15	3.9
Borage	3	2	3	37.2
<b>Potatoes</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>-8.5</b>
<b>Other (non-horticultural) crops</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Sugar beet (not for stock feeding)	117	116	90	-22.3
Field beans	118	107	170	58.3
Peas for harvesting dry	29	32	44	38.4
Maize (incl. fodder and grain maize)	194	183	187	1.9
Root crops, brassicas and fodder beet for stock feeding	48	39	41	4.5
Other crops for stock feeding <sup>(b)</sup>	40	40	38	-5.0
All other arable crops <sup>(c)</sup>	35	30	37	21.9

(a) Minor cereals are a total of rye, mixed corn and triticale.

(b) Includes leguminous forage crops.

(c) Includes short rotation coppice, miscanthus and crops for aromatic or medicinal use.

**Table 3: Yield and production of cereals and oilseed rape on agricultural holdings <sup>(a)</sup>**

	Yield (tonnes per hectare)			Production (thousand tonnes)		
	2014	2015	% change 2015-14	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total cereals <sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>24 468</b>	<b>24 734</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Wheat	8.6	9.0	4.6	16 606	16 444	-1.0
Barley	6.4	6.7	4.6	6 911	7 370	6.6
winter	7.2	7.7	6.2	3 094	3 382	9.3
spring	5.9	6.0	3.1	3 817	3 988	4.5
Oats	6.0	6.1	1.9	820	799	-2.6
Minor cereals <sup>(c)</sup>	5.0	3.5	-30.9	131	122	-7.2
<b>Oilseed rape <sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>2 460</b>	<b>2 542</b>	<b>3.4</b>

(a) Regional results for cereal and oilseed rape production are available on our website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry>.

(b) All cereal production estimates have been standardised to 14.5% moisture content.

(c) Minor cereals are a total of rye, mixed corn and triticale.

(d) Oilseed rape production estimates have been standardised to 9% moisture content.

**Table 4: Area of fruit and vegetables grown in the open on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total fruit and vegetables</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Orchards <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>
<b>Small fruit <sup>(b) (c)</sup></b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Strawberries	3.5	3.1	3.3	6.0
Other small fruit (incl. gooseberries and blackberries)	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.2
<b>Vegetables and salad for human consumption <sup>(b)(d)</sup></b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Peas and beans	37	38	40	3.9
All other vegetables and salad	79	78	83	6.8

(a) Includes both commercial and non-commercial. Commercial orchards are those from which growers intend to sell fruit.

(b) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

(c) Small fruit includes crops grown in Spanish tunnels.

(d) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

**Table 5: Area of hardy nursery stock on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers</b> <sup>(a)</sup>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Hardy nursery stock	5.8	5.8	5.5	-4.3
Bulbs and flowers grown in the open	5.8	5.9	6.8	15.9

(a) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

**Table 6: Area of glasshouses and protected crops on agricultural holdings on 1 June** <sup>(a) (b)</sup>

	Hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total glasshouse area on 1 June</b> <sup>(c)</sup>	<b>2 555</b>	<b>2 594</b>	<b>2 667</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Vegetables, salad and fruit	1 799	1 869	1 930	3.3
Flowers, foliage and other plants	594	568	529	-6.9
Not in use on 1 June	132	127	179	40.9

(a) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

(b) 'Glasshouse' includes any fixed or mobile structure high enough to walk through, which is glazed or clad with film, rigid plastics or other glass substitutes. It excludes lights, low plastic tunnels, French and Spanish tunnels. These are reported as crops grown in the open (table 4).

(c) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

**Table 7: Cattle and calves on agricultural holdings on 1 June** <sup>(a) (b)</sup>

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total cattle and calves</b>	<b>9 844</b>	<b>9 837</b>	<b>9 919</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>All female cattle</b>	<b>7 083</b>	<b>7 100</b>	<b>7 188</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Aged 2 years or more</b>	<b>4 177</b>	<b>4 228</b>	<b>4 238</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Total breeding herd	3 393	3 411	3 472	1.8
- Beef herd	1 611	1 569	1 576	0.4
- Dairy herd	1 782	1 841	1 895	3.0
Other female cattle	784	817	767	-6.2
- Beef	398	409	381	-6.9
- Dairy	387	408	386	-5.5
<b>Aged between 1 and 2 years</b>	<b>1 414</b>	<b>1 373</b>	<b>1 379</b>	<b>0.5</b>
- Beef	876	834	834	0.0
- Dairy	538	539	545	1.2
<b>Less than 1 year</b>	<b>1 492</b>	<b>1 499</b>	<b>1 570</b>	<b>4.8</b>
- Beef	938	936	980	4.7
- Dairy	554	563	590	4.9
<b>All male cattle</b>	<b>2 761</b>	<b>2 737</b>	<b>2 730</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Aged 2 years or more	384	424	388	-8.6
Aged between 1 and 2 years	1 060	1 011	1 001	-1.0
Less than 1 year	1 316	1 302	1 342	3.1

(a) These figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) in England, Wales and Scotland and the equivalent APHIS system in Northern Ireland.

(b) In 2013 Scotland changed the source of cattle figures from survey data to the Cattle Tracing System and has since revised results back to 2006. More information about these changes can be found in the Scottish June release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubFinalResultsJuneCensus>

**Table 8: Pigs on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>4 885</b>	<b>4 815</b>	<b>4 739</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
<b>Breeding pigs</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Female breeding herd</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Sows in pig	284	282	285	1.3
Gilts in pig	66	57	56	-2.7
Other sows <sup>(a)</sup>	70	67	66	-0.6
<b>Other breeding pigs</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Boars being used for service	15	14	15	4.5
Gilts intended for first time breeding	86	80	85	5.6
<b>Fattening pigs (incl. barren sows)</b>	<b>4 363</b>	<b>4 315</b>	<b>4 232</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

(a) Either being suckled or dry sows being kept for further breeding.

**Table 9: Sheep and lambs on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total sheep and lambs</b>	<b>32 856</b>	<b>33 743</b>	<b>33 337</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Female breeding flock</b>	<b>15 561</b>	<b>16 026</b>	<b>16 024</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Ewes intended for further breeding or for slaughter	12 998	13 515	13 278	-1.8
Ewes intended for first time breeding	2 564	2 511	2 746	9.3
<b>Other sheep and lambs</b>	<b>17 295</b>	<b>17 717</b>	<b>17 313</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Lambs under 1 year old	16 381	16 936	16 528	-2.4
Rams	432	417	408	-2.3
Other sheep 1 year and over	482	364	377	3.6

**Table 10: Poultry on agricultural holdings on 1 June <sup>(a)</sup>**

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total poultry</b>	<b>162 609</b>	<b>169 684</b>	<b>167 579</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Total breeding and laying fowl</b>	<b>47 024</b>	<b>48 404</b>	<b>49 509</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Hens and pullets laying eggs for eating	35 841	37 146	36 998	-0.4
Breeding flock	11 184	11 258	12 511	11.1
<b>Table chickens (broilers)</b>	<b>104 576</b>	<b>110 374</b>	<b>107 056</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>Other poultry</b>	<b>11 008</b>	<b>10 907</b>	<b>11 014</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Ducks	2 354	1 998	2 237	12.0
Geese	86	103	143	38.0
Turkeys	4 113	3 772	4 322	14.6
All other poultry	4 455	5 033	4 312	-14.3

(a) Due to production cycles, subgroups within the poultry population are often volatile as the 'point in time' nature of the June Survey can lead to large variations in the numbers in each category.

**Table 11: All other livestock on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total other livestock</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
Goats	98	100	101	0.6
Farmed deer	32	32	31	-4.0
Horses	293	303	283	-6.8
Any livestock not recorded elsewhere <sup>(a)</sup>	24	18	22	24.4
- of which alpacas	11	9	12	34.7
- of which llamas	1	2	2	53.7

(a) Includes camelids, donkeys and mules.

**Table 12: Number of people working on agricultural holdings on 1 June**

	Number of people (thousands)			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
<b>Total number of people working on agricultural holdings</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Farmers, partners, directors and spouses</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Full time	138	140	142	1.6
Part time <sup>(a)</sup>	152	155	152	-1.9
<b>Regular employees, salaried managers and casual workers</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Regular employees <sup>(a)</sup>	112	115	115	0.5
- Full time	71	72	73	1.5
- Part time <sup>(b)</sup>	41	43	43	-1.2
Casual workers	61	66	67	1.6

(a) Not all UK countries collect separate estimates for salaried managers. These figures are included with regular employees.

(b) Part time is defined as working less than 39 hours per week.

## Data uses and users

### Land

- Data on crop areas (both arable and horticultural) help us monitor the long term trends in cropping. Amongst many other things, this helps us assess the impacts of the abolition of formal set-aside.
- The data will enable us to assess how land areas vary across the UK regions and in different geographic areas (such as the Uplands, National Parks, River Basin Districts).
- The cereals and oilseed rape harvest estimates are heavily used by the cereals industry to monitor the availability of grain throughout the year.
- Any changes in the agricultural sector also affect people. For many, it is their livelihood and a way of life.

### Livestock

- Data from the June Survey help us monitor changes in livestock populations over time and the effects of e.g. CAP reform on the industry.
- The numbers are also used to make forecasts of meat and milk production to inform industry of the availability of supply which affects prices.
- Livestock distributions across the UK help assess the risk of veterinary disease and to control outbreaks.
- The data are also used heavily in calculations of the greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions inventories.

Results from the England June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture also have a wide range of uses and users with requests for data being made on a daily basis. A document providing information of specific uses and users can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>.

## Other survey results and publications

Results from all the Defra farming surveys can be viewed on the Defra website via the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication\\_filter\\_option=statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=statistics). This also contains details of future publication dates.

The next Farming Statistics publications due from the June Survey of Agriculture and the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey are shown below. Please note that the publication dates are provisional and subject to change.

### England Publications

- August 2016: Farming Statistics provisional arable crop areas at 1 June 2016 – England.
- September 2016: Farming Statistics final crop areas and cattle, sheep and pig populations at 1 June 2016 – England.
- October 2016: Farming Statistics final land use, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2016 – England.

### UK Publications

- October 2016: Farming Statistics provisional crop areas, yields, livestock populations at 1 June 2016 – United Kingdom.
- December 2016: Farming Statistics final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2016 – United Kingdom.

More detailed results from the June Survey can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>. This includes various time series of crop areas and livestock numbers dating back as early as 1866 and detailed geographical breakdowns of the results.

## Methodology: June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

Data on crop areas and livestock populations are collected in the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture carried out by each of the UK agriculture departments. The methodology adopted by each country is below.

### England

England results are the final results from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture in 2015. The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture was historically a postal survey run annually. However from 2011 onwards, the survey has been run predominantly online with an option for farmers to complete a paper form if they preferred.

Approximately 25 thousand 'commercial' holdings were asked to complete the survey in 2015. Commercial holdings are defined as those with significant levels of farming activity, i.e. holdings with more than five hectares of agricultural land, one hectare of orchards, 0.5 hectares of vegetables or 0.1 hectares of protected crops, or more than 10 cows, 50 pigs, 20 sheep, 20 goats or 1,000 poultry.

Checks were carried out to ensure the sample was representative across farm size. The size of a farm is determined by its Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). In the SLR system, each livestock type and land-use has a theoretical amount of labour required each year. This value is multiplied by the land area or livestock numbers and then summed to give the SLR for the holding. The SLR represents the typical number of full time workers required on the holding.

The small farms (those with low SLRs) were sampled at a lower rate and the sampling rate increased with farm size as in table 13 below. This method minimises the burden on farmers whilst maximising the coverage. To improve the coverage of the pig and poultry sectors, a special data collection exercise was run to collect data from a central point for some of the largest companies.

**Table 13: June 2015 sample design**

Stratum	Description	Sampling rate (%)	Population size
1	SLR < 0.5	11	39 683
2	SLR >= 0.5 and < 1	16	15 885
3	SLR >= 1 and < 2	26	15 348
4	SLR >= 2 and < 3	38	8 408
5	SLR >= 3 and < 5	55	7 641
6	SLR >= 5	67	7 648
10	SLR unknown	13	9 862
<b>All</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>104 475</b>

The results in this statistical release are based on responses from just over 20 thousand commercial holdings, representing a response rate of 62%.

The data are subject to rigorous validation checks which identify inconsistencies within the data or large year-on-year changes. Any records that have not been cleaned by the results production stage are excluded from the analysis.

Population totals are estimated for each question on the survey to account for the non-sampled and non-responding holdings. This survey uses the technique known as ratio raising, in which the trend between the sample data and base data (previous year's data) is calculated for each stratum. The calculated ratio is then applied to the previous year's population data to give England level estimates. For holdings where we do not have base data (new holdings or long-term non-responders) the sample estimates are raised according to the inverse sampling fraction.

Cattle results are sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). The data include returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error. More information on the use of this administrative data can be found on the "survey notes and guidance" web page via the following link: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/182225/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-june-results-BovineRegisters.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182225/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-june-results-BovineRegisters.pdf)

Final crop areas and cattle, sheep and pig populations from the England 2015 June Survey were published on 17 September 2015 and can be viewed on our website via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry>.

More details on the June Survey methodology can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-survey-notes-and-guidance>.

## **Scotland**

### **Data collection**

The June Agricultural Census is conducted annually by the Scottish Government's Rural & Environment Science & Analytical Services (RESAS). Data for the June Census is collected from three sources:

- Land data extracted from the Single Application Form (SAF) database for around 24,900 holdings that are claiming Single Farm Payment (SFP). These data are accurate as farmers can face penalties for supplying incorrect data. A cut-down survey form is sent to all the 24,900 holdings that completed a SAF in 2014 (as this year's SAF data was unavailable at the time census forms were issued) so that additional data on livestock and labour can be collected.
- From the remaining 27,300 holdings who didn't complete a SAF in 2014, 7,700 holdings were sampled and sent a full census form covering land, livestock and labour. This includes 430 holdings that completed a SAF for the first time in 2015.
- Cattle data for the 2015 census were obtained through the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), an administrative data source held by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) which records cattle movements across Great Britain.

There are around 52,300 agricultural holdings in Scotland. In 2015 a total of 31,800 holdings were surveyed with either a full or cut-down form. Results in this release are based on the 21,700 census forms that were returned, the information collated via the SAF database, and data obtained from the CTS database.

The table on the next page gives a breakdown for forms returned for each category of holding. In terms of area, returns were received for 90 per cent of land-use data (shaded grey), 100 per cent of cattle data, and 69 per cent of other data (the final column in the table).

## Survey responses by category

	number	selected <sup>(a)</sup>	returns <sup>(b)</sup>	area	selected <sup>(a)</sup>	returns <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>SAF</b>	23 784	23 182	17 020	4 839 362	4 779 517	3 526 649
<b>full</b>		440	285		50 325	19 655
<b>part</b>		22 742	16 735		4 729 192	3 506 994
<b>Non-SAF</b>	28 519	8 624	4 676	737 058	534 773	342 572
<b>full</b>		7 081	3 798		389 756	251 267
<b>part</b>		1 543	878		145 017	91 305
<b>Total</b>	52 303	31 806	21 696	5 576 420	5 314 290	3 869 212

(a) The numbers selected are slightly lower than the total number eventually identified due to annual changes in the list of holdings.

(b) The return numbers quoted here relate to the number of survey forms received. For SAF holdings this masks the fact that we effectively receive 100 per cent response for all land items. Cattle data, from the CTS database, is also effectively 100 per cent complete. Response rates based on these figures therefore relate to other livestock and employment data.

Final results for Scotland were published on 27 October 2015 by the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) division and are available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-isheries/PubFinalResultsJuneCensus>.

Contact details - Saughton House (Q Spur), Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD (telephone: 0300 244 9709, email: [agric.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:agric.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

## Wales

The Welsh population currently stands at around 35,000 holdings. In 2015 a total of 12,200 survey forms were sent out. Final results were based on a response rate of 45%. Final results for Wales were published by the Welsh Government on 19 November 2015 at: [www.wales.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics)

For further details contact Agricultural & Rural Affairs Statistics, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ (telephone: Cardiff (02920) 825082). E-mail: [stats.agric@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.agric@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## Northern Ireland

In 2015 the Northern Ireland Agricultural and Horticultural Survey was conducted as a sample survey. A total of 20,300 forms were issued with results based on 14,200 returned forms. Data for the cattle section is a complete census as it is extracted from the APHIS cattle tracing database. Data for the pig and poultry sections are also complete censuses extracted from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs and Update of NI Bird Register respectively. Final results were published on 26 November 2015 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Belfast, BT4 3SB (telephone: Belfast (02890) 525450) and are available on the internet at: [www.dardni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/statistical-bulletins](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/statistical-bulletins).

## Methodology: Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey

### England

#### Cereals and Oilseed Rape yield and production estimates

Results are based on provisional results from the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey, a representative sample of cereal and oilseed rape growers across English regions and farm sizes. These final results are based on responses from 2,727 farms (78% response rate) across the country (see table 15).

**Table 15: Response rate for Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey 2015 by region**

English region	Number sampled	Number of responses	Response rate (%)
North East	163	121	74
North West and Merseyside	249	188	76
Yorkshire and the Humber	520	395	76
East Midlands	456	362	79
West Midlands	246	182	74
Eastern	879	702	80
South East and London	391	317	81
South West	598	460	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 502</b>	<b>2 727</b>	<b>78</b>

The Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey gathers data on production tonnages and moisture content for the various cereal and oilseed rape crops and seeks confirmation of the planted areas for these crops gathered from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. All moisture contents are standardised to ensure production estimates are comparable. Cereal production estimates are standardised to 14.5% moisture content and oilseed rape to 9% moisture content, with production tonnages being adjusted accordingly. These data are then used to calculate regional yield estimates for each crop type. Yield estimates are applied to regional June crop areas to derive England production estimates for each of the cereal and oilseed rape crops.

### **Wales**

No yield data were collected for Wales. The Welsh production figures have been estimated on a regional basis within Wales using the final results of the June 2015 Survey along with the yields for the English regions bordering Wales.

### **Scotland**

The 2015 estimates of production are derived from the Scottish Government's cereal production and disposal survey, which this year included responses from 455 Scottish cereal growers (a response rate of 83%). More information about Scottish cereal production figures can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubCerealHarvest>

### **Northern Ireland**

Areas are based on final estimates from the 2015 June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. Yield figures are derived from an annual survey of cereal farms in Northern Ireland. Farms are selected from the census population using a stratified random method. DARDNI Farm account officers complete a cereal survey questionnaire with each farm selected. The information is collated with mean yields calculated for each cereal type. Cereal yields are then combined with the respective cereal areas from the latest census to derive production figures.

### **Data notes**

The cereal production (tonnage) figures include tail corn, cereals still to be harvested for grain, grain to be crimped and cereals intended for seed production. The figures exclude crops which have become unfit for harvesting, carry over stocks from the 2014 harvest, bought in grain and crops harvested as wholecrop for silage.