

CEREAL STOCKS HELD BY MERCHANTS, PORTS AND CO-OPERATIVES IN THE UK

This statistical notice covers estimates of wheat, barley, oats and maize stocks held by merchants, ports and co-operatives (co-ops) in the UK as at 21 February 2020. On farm cereal stock levels are produced by Defra and not covered in this release. Click [here](#) to find out more about on farm stocks.

KEY POINTS

- As at 21 February 2020 an estimated 1.475 million tonnes of wheat stocks were held by merchants, ports and co-ops in the UK, 18.6% higher year on year. Home-grown wheat stocks were 25.9% higher at 1.282 million tonnes, while imported wheat was 14.4% lower over the same period at 192.7 thousand tonnes.
- Stocks of home-grown barley held by merchants, ports and co-ops on 21 February 2020 were relatively unchanged (-0.3%) on year earlier levels at 931.3 thousand tonnes. At 121.3 thousand tonnes, stocks of home-grown oats are 2.4% lower than levels recorded at the end-February 2019. Imported barley and oat stocks are estimated at 19.9 thousand tonnes.
- At 156.0 thousand tonnes, total stocks of maize held by merchants, ports and co-ops in the UK were 52.1% lower year on year.

Cereal stocks held by merchants, ports and co-ops in the UK as at end-February

Thousand tonnes	Home grown wheat	Imported wheat	Home grown barley	Home grown oats	Imported barley and oats ⁽¹⁾	Maize ⁽²⁾
Feb-10	1,085.7	115.9	849.3	79.3	2.0	56.4
Feb-11	1,052.4	137.6	735.2	70.0	6.0	119.7
Feb-12	1,076.1	116.6	743.5	65.2	3.1	81.1
Feb-13	915.0	274.1	776.8	71.8	20.6	99.8
Feb-14	945.1	176.0	896.6	108.3	9.6	203.2
Feb-15	1,312.1	207.8	1,152.6	105.2	8.2	179.4
Feb-16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb-17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb-18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb-19	1,018.9	225.2	934.3	124.2	4.4	325.6
Feb-20	1,282.4	192.7	931.3	121.3	19.9	156.0

Please note the Merchants, Ports and Co-ops Cereal Stocks Survey was not carried out in February 2016, 2017 and 2018.

*Insufficient sample to produce robust figure. ⁽¹⁾ Imported barley and oats are summed due to confidentiality constraints, ⁽²⁾ Maize is reported as a total of home-grown and imported.

DATASET

The dataset for UK merchants, ports and co-ops cereal stocks has been published to accompany this notice – [click here](#). Figures in this publication are provisional and subject to revision.

CEREAL STOCK INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Includes:

- Stocks carried over from the previous harvest and grain sold on forward contract but not yet delivered.
- Grain stocks cleared by customs for import and grain intended for export, but not yet shipped.

Excludes:

- Wheat tendered on ICE feed wheat futures. As at the week ending 21 February 2020, there was 77.0 thousand tonnes of wheat held in futures stores.
- Grain stored on farm if it has been grown on that farm (even if bought or committed to purchase) as this is captured in the [Defra on-farm stocks survey](#).

ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF RESULTS

Around 110 merchants, ports, co-ops and other storage facilities across the UK were surveyed for February cereal stock levels, with approximately 80% of those submitting a return. Where appropriate, to account for any non-responding companies, a stocks estimate is calculated using ratio-raising, in which the trend between the sample data and historic data is calculated. The response data is validated in multiple ways for accuracy and to identify any duplication. Validation methods include cross referencing assurance scheme numbers and store locations as well as comparing against previous returns.

USAGE OF STATISTICS

The information in the publication is used by the UK government and the EU Commission as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. A key use of the statistics is to produce the UK cereals supply and demand balance sheets which are published on the AHDB website – [click here](#).

ENQUIRIES

If you have any enquiries regarding the UK merchants, ports and co-ops stocks data please get in contact with the AHDB Balance Sheet Team (balance.sheet.team@ahdb.org.uk)