SUPPLY AND DEMAND

27 November 2025

KEY POINTS

- Despite a drop in total domestic consumption, a fall in imports and carry-in stocks, leads to a tighter than average wheat balance in 2025/26.
- In 2025/26, while barley H&I usage drops to a 16-year low, the smallest crop in 13 years leads to a tighter barley balance sheet.
- Maize imports are expected to drop on the back of a decade low level of usage from the H&I sectors.
- With a very mixed crop for 2025, more oats are expected to be fed on farm in 2025/26.

INTRODUCTION

1. This release covers the first official estimates made of UK cereal supply and demand for 2025/26 (Appendix 1).

2. Defra were unable to publish provisional UK cereal and oilseed production estimates for 2025, due to reduced data availability from UK regions. Official provisional estimates are for England and Scotland only. Following Defra's methodology from when a UK provisional figure was last released in 2021, the AHDB have assumed no change for Wales and Northern Ireland area and production figures from 2024. These have been combined with the provisional England and Scotland production figures to produce UK wheat and barley production estimates for these Balance Sheets. Production for previous seasons is based on the results from the Defra Cereals and Oilseed Rape Production survey.

3. **In 2025/26 total cereals demand for animal feed is estimated at 13.322 Mt, relatively unchanged (-10 Kt) from 2024/25 levels.** Following on from the strong demand recorded last season, cattle and sheep feed production is expected to remain strong until at least spring 2026. Despite milk and cattle prices coming under pressure of late, farmers are still expected to maintain the current level of feeding. This is partly due to the tighter supply of forage this season, caused by the adverse weather in the spring and summer. Furthermore, with feed prices remaining relatively low, livestock producers are expected to continue to feed to bolster milk and meat yields. Broiler feed production, particularly for integrated poultry units (IPUs), is expected to increase this season, with improving prospects for the sector. Although the impact on feed demand of the latest outbreak of avian influenza will be closely monitored. Pig feed production is projected to be slightly down again this season as a whole but is expected to rebound slightly in the spring.

4. **Total cereals demand by human and industrial (H&I) sectors is estimated at 9.308 Mt, down 1.176 Mt, from 2024/25.** If realised, this would be the lowest level of total cereal H&I consumption **since** 2009/10**.** Further reductions in brewing, malting and distilling (BMD) usage and bioethanol demand are the main drivers behind the decline. Flour production is also expected to be slightly lower this season, partly on the back of changing consumer habits.

WHEAT

5. **At 16.017 Mt, the total availability of wheat in 2025/26 is estimated to be 957 Kt lower than last season, with a rise in production being outweighed by a drop in carry-in stocks and imports.** Wheat opening stocks are forecast at 1.980 Mt, down 780 Kt on the year and below the five-year average of 2.070 Mt. Production is provisionally estimated at 11.836 Mt, up 691 Kt from 2024 levels, driven by a rise in planted area outweighing a very mixed year for yields. Imports of wheat are estimated at 2.200 Mt for the season, down 868 Kt from the record levels recorded in 2024/25. While imports of wheat into Northern Ireland, largely for animal feed, can still be expected, the volume of high protein hard wheat coming into GB, is expected to come back down to more typical levels, given the improved quality of the domestic crop this season.

6. **H&I demand for wheat in 2025/26 is estimated to fall for another season. At 6.570 Mt, H&I wheat usage is 558 Kt less than 2024/25 and the lowest level in 19 years.** The UK's two major bioethanol plants, Vivergo and Ensus have faced extremely difficult operating conditions. Vivergo shut down operations in August 2025, with Ensus yet to get back up and running following its usual maintenance break in September. In the absence of government incentives for domestic bioethanol production, as yet, it is assumed for these balance sheets that Ensus will remain out of operation too for the remainder of the 2025/26 season. Bioethanol demand will be monitored closely throughout the season. Demand by flour millers is also expected to be slightly lower this year, on the back of changing consumer habits, as well as a slight improvement to extraction rates. Despite a very mixed picture for yields, the quality of the 2025 crop is good, with high protein levels for milling varieties. Therefore, it is expected that the proportion of home-grown wheat being used in the grist will return to nearer more typical levels. Distilling demand is also expected to be down, while starch production is forecast to be relatively buoyant.

7. **In 2025/26, the amount of wheat used in animal feed is estimated at 7.042 Mt, up 234 Kt on the year.** With relatively strong animal feed demand

from compounders (driven by cattle and IPUs) and wheat pricing competitively, wheat inclusions are expected to be higher, displacing some maize usage. Furthermore, a higher cereal inclusion rate has led to an increase in wheat in rations too. The amount of wheat fed on farm is expected to remain unchanged on the year.

8. **The balance of total availability and domestic consumption in 2025/26 is estimated to be 636 Kt lower on the year at 2.087 Mt.** Taking into account an operating stock requirement of 1.500 Mt (-50 Kt y-o-y), this leaves a surplus available for export or free stock of 587 Kt, down 43 Kt on the year and the lowest level since 2020/21.

BARLEY

9. **A smaller crop in 2025, outweighs a rise in carry-in stock, leading to total barley availability in 2025/26 falling 559 Kt from 2024/25 levels to 7.928 Mt. Opening stocks of barley this season are estimated to be 116 Kt higher at 1.279 Mt.** A combination of a lower planted area and poorer yields has led to barley production in 2025 falling to the lowest level in 13 years at 6.439 Mt (down 652 Kt y-o-y). Barley imports are estimated at 210 Kt, down 23 Kt year on year.

10. **In 2025/26 barley H&I usage is forecast to fall 130 Kt from 2024/25 levels to 1.667 Mt**. If realised, this would be the lowest usage by the sector since 2009/10. BMD demand for barley remains subdued and is expected to continue to decline this season. A combination of the cost-of-living crisis, premiumisation and the growing trend of fewer younger people drinking are all impacting demand, especially from the distilling sector.

11. **Usage of barley in animal feed is estimated at 4.297 Mt, down 198 Kt on the year.** While demand for barley in compound feed is expected to rise (due to its relative price compared to other cereals), the amount of barley fed on farm is expected to be lower this season. This is due to the smaller crop.

12. **The balance of barley supply and demand in 2025/26 is estimated to be 227 Kt lower on the year at 1.758 Mt.** If realised, this would be the tightest barley balance since 2012/13. Taking into account an operating stock requirement of 800 Kt, the surplus available for export or free stock in 2025/26 is 227 Kt lower on the year at 958 Kt.

MAIZE

13. **At 2.484 Mt, total availability of maize in 2025/26 is estimated to be 820 Kt lower than 2024/25 levels.** The drop in availability is driven by a fall in imports, which are estimated at 2.287 Mt, down 816 Kt on the year. With a reduction in bioethanol demand and domestic cereals currently pricing competitively for feed, maize imports are expected to return to more typical levels.

14. **In 2025/26, H&I maize usage is forecast at 566 Kt, 500 Kt lower than year earlier levels, and the lowest level in 10 years.** The drop in usage is driven by the suspension of bioethanol production in the UK. This situation will be monitored closely. **Usage of maize in animal feed this season is forecast at 1.574 Mt, down 89 Kt from 2024/25 levels.** With domestic cereals pricing more competitively into rations, it is expected that maize inclusions will come down this season. However, maize will remain in rations at a certain level as it is favoured by some production systems.

15. **The balance of maize supply and demand in 2025/26 is estimated at 340 Kt, down 231 Kt year on year.** Exports are estimated at 140 Kt, down 41 Kt and end season stocks are forecast at 200 Kt, relatively unchanged (4 Kt) from 2024/25 levels.

OATS

16. **In 2025/26, the total availability of oats is estimated at 1.142 Mt, up 47 Kt on the year**, driven by an increase in opening stocks. 2025/26 oat opening stocks are estimated at 141 Kt, 45 Kt higher than 2024/25 levels. Despite a larger planted area, a very mixed year for yields has led to production remaining relatively unchanged on the year at 986 Kt. Imports too are expected to be similar to 2024/25 at 15 Kt.

17. At 505 Kt, H&I usage of oats is estimated to be 13 Kt higher than 2024/25 levels. While slightly up on the year, H&I oat usage isn't expected to increase considerably this season, with demand relatively stable. **The amount of oats used in animal feed is estimated at 409 Kt, up 43 Kt on the year.** While oat usage by compounders is expected to be slightly higher this season, the main driver behind the increase comes from a rise in fed on farm. With a very mixed picture for oat quality this season, it is expected that more will be fed on farm.

18. **The supply and demand balance of oats in 2025/26 is estimated at 195 Kt, 9 Kt lower than 2024/25 levels**. Exports of oats for the full season are currently estimated at 60 Kt, relatively unchanged (-3 Kt) on the year, leading to closing stocks of 135 Kt, slightly lower than in 2024/25.

19. Appendix II shows cumulative usage and trade data to end-September. This release and related information can be found at ahdb.org.uk/cereals-oilseeds-markets

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Appendix I

UK CEREAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND ESTIMATES (a)

Estimates made in November 2025

July to June crop years — Thousand tonnes

		WHEAT						BARLEY					
		2020/21 2024/25 average	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate	2025/26 Nov-25	% change on 24/25	2020/21 2024/25 average	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate	2025/26 Nov-25	% change on 24/25
(1)	Opening stocks	2,070	1,788	1,953	2,760	1,980	-28%	1,162	964	1,268	1,163	1,279	10%
(2)	Production	12,862	15,540	13,980	11,146	11,836	6%	7,304	7,385	6,963	7,091	6,439	-9%
(3)	Imports	2,258	1,360	2,437	3,068	2,200	-28%	140	88	201	233	210	-10%
(4)	**Total availability**	**17,191**	**18,688**	**18,369**	**16,974**	**16,017**	**-6%**	**8,605**	**8,437**	**8,433**	**8,487**	**7,928**	**-7%**
(5)	Human and industrial consumption	7,150	7,326	7,520	7,128	6,570	-8%	1,860	1,983	1,910	1,798	1,667	-7%
(5a)	(of which home grown)	5,889	6,407	6,339	5,514	5,440	-1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(6)	Usage as animal feed (b)	6,841	6,906	7,135	6,808	7,042	3%	4,434	3,941	4,186	4,495	4,297	-4%
(6a)	(of which home grown)	6,067	6,486	6,235	5,708	6,142	8%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(6b)	(of which compounders)	3,792	3,771	3,804	3,688	3,908	6%	1,522	1,342	1,394	1,430	1,509	6%
(6c)	(of which integrated poultry units)	1,153	1,104	1,225	1,214	1,328	9%	97	74	92	88	87	-1%
(7)	Seed (c)	264	267	237	258	258	-	182	183	192	174	174	-
(8)	Other	63	70	70	56	59	5%	37	37	35	35	32	-
(9)	**Total domestic consumption**	**14,318**	**14,569**	**14,962**	**14,251**	**13,930**	**-2%**	**6,513**	**6,144**	**6,323**	**6,502**	**6,170**	**-5%**
(10)	**Balance (4) - (9)**	**2,873**	**4,119**	**3,407**	**2,723**	**2,087**	**-23%**	**2,093**	**2,293**	**2,111**	**1,985**	**1,758**	**-11%**
(11)	Exports (d)	553	1,586	258	199	-	*	933	1,123	780	707	-	*
(12)	Intervention stocks (d)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(13)	**Commercial end-season stocks (d)**	**1,979**	**1,953**	**2,760**	**1,980**	**-**	*	**1,146**	**1,268**	**1,163**	**1,279**	**-**	*
(14)	(of which estimated operating stock requirement) (e)	1,510	1,500	1,500	1,550	1,500	-	796	800	800	800	800	-
(15)	(of which free stock) (f)	469	453	1,260	430	-	*	350	468	363	479	-	*
(16)	**Surplus available for either export or free stock (10)-(12)-(14)-(18)**	**1,022**	**2,038**	**1,518**	**630**	**587**	**-7%**	**1,283**	**1,592**	**1,142**	**1,185**	**958**	**-19%**
(18)	**Residual (10)-(11)-(13)**		**581**	**389**	**543**				**-98**	**168**			

		MAIZE						OATS					
		2020/21 2024/25 average	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate	2025/26 Nov-25	% change on 24/25	2020/21 2024/25 average	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate	2025/26 Nov-25	% change on 24/25
(1)	Opening stocks	205	248	145	200	196	-2%	129	157	140	95	141	48%
(2)	Production	-	-	-	-	-	-	995	1,007	830	986	986	0%
(3)	Imports	2,586	2,123	2,642	3,103	2,287	-26%	17	18	15	14	15	9%
(4)	**Total availability**	**2,792**	**2,371**	**2,787**	**3,304**	**2,484**	**-25%**	**1,141**	**1,182**	**985**	**1,094**	**1,142**	**4%**
(5)	Human and industrial consumption	932	801	922	1,066	566	-47%	503	492	501	491	505	3%
(5a)	(of which home grown)	-	-	-	-	-	-	487	474	486	478	490	2%
(6)	Usage as animal feed	1,373	1,234	1,348	1,663	1,574	-5%	366	350	244	366	409	12%
(6a)	(of which home grown)	-	-	-	-	-	-	366	350	244	366	409	12%
(7)	Seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	23	25	28	28	-
(8)	Other (h)	4	4	4	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	5	-
(9)	**Total domestic consumption**	**2,308**	**2,039**	**2,274**	**2,733**	**2,144**	**-22%**	**900**	**870**	**774**	**890**	**947**	**6%**
(10)	**Balance (4) - (9)**	**483**	**332**	**513**	**571**	**340**	**-40%**	**241**	**312**	**212**	**204**	**195**	**-4%**
(11)	Exportable surplus	150	131	167	181	140	-23%	103	172	116	63	60	-5%
(12)	**Commercial end-season stocks**	**200**	**145**	**200**	**196**	**200**	**2%**	**136**	**140**	**95**	**141**	**135**	**-4%**
(13)	**Residual (10)-(11)-(12)**		**56**	**146**	**193**								

Links connect to relevant Defra/AHDB data pages
Due to rounding, totals may not agree with the sum of individual items
* Change not meaningful
(a) These are revised during the year. Figures rounded to the nearest 1000 tonnes.
(b) Animal feed usage has been split by sector. Note, other users are only included in the total.
(c) Seed numbers have been updated based on a number of assumptions, calculated for the purposes of the balance sheets only.
(d) Split of exports, intervention and total commercial end-season stocks only published for historical seasons.
(e) Estimated operating stocks requirement is a calculated estimate of the minimum tonnage that users of grain require to get through to a point at which new crop can be utilised.
(f) Free stock is the stock available after both exports and estimated operating stock requireqents have been fulfilled.

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		OTHER CEREALS (g)					
		2020/21 2024/25 average	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate	2025/26 Nov-25	% change on 24/25
(1)	Opening stocks	8	10	6	12	8	-32%
(2)	Production	258	330	271	226	226	0%
(3)	Imports	6	4	5	11	7	-34%
(4)	**Total availability**	**272**	**345**	**282**	**249**	**241**	-3%
(5+6)	H&I and animal feed	250	300	262	233	226	-3%
(5a+6a)	(of which home grown)	244	290	256	229	219	-4%
(7)	Seed	7	10	7	7	7	-
(8)	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
(9)	**Total domestic consumption**	**257**	**310**	**269**	**240**	**233**	-3%
(10)	**Balance (4) - (9)**	**15**	**35**	**13**	**9**	**8**	-5%
(11)	Exportable surplus	7	29	-	-	-	-
(12)	Intervention stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-
(13)	**Commercial end-season stocks**	**8**	**6**	**12**	**8**	**8**	-3%

		TOTAL CEREALS					
		2020/21 2024/25 average	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate	2025/26 Nov-25	% change on 24/25
(1)	Opening stocks	3,574	3,167	3,512	4,231	3,605	-15%
(2)	Production	21,419	24,262	22,044	19,448	19,487	0%
(3)	Imports	5,007	3,594	5,300	6,428	4,719	-27%
(4)	**Total availability**	**30,001**	**31,023**	**30,856**	**30,107**	**27,811**	**-8%**
(5)	H&I (wheat, barley, maize, oats) (h)	10,444	10,602	10,853	10,484	9,308	-11%
(6)	Animal feed (wheat, barley, maize oats) (h)	13,014	12,431	12,913	13,332	13,322	0%
(5a +6a)	Other cereals (H&I and animal feed)	250	300	262	233	226	-3%
(7)	Seed	479	483	461	467	467	-
(8)	Other	108	116	113	100	100	0%
(9)	**Total domestic consumption**	**24,296**	**23,932**	**24,601**	**24,615**	**23,423**	**-5%**
(10)	**Balance (4) - (9)**	**5,705**	**7,091**	**6,255**	**5,492**	**4,389**	**-20%**
(11)	Exports	1,746	3,041	1,321	1,150	200	-83%
(12)	Intervention stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-
(13)	**Commercial end-season stocks**	**3,470**	**3,512**	**4,231**	**3,605**	**343**	**-90%**
(14)	Estimated operating stock requirement (wheat & barley only)	2,306	2,300	2,300	2,350	2,300	-2%
(15)	Free stock for wheat and barley	819	921	1,623	909	-	-
(16)	**Surplus available for either export or free stock (10)-(12)-(14)-(18)**	**3,399**	**4,253**	**3,252**	**2,405**	**2,089**	**-13%**
(17)	**Residual (10)-(11)-(13)**		**539**	**703**	**737**		

Source: AHDB, Defra

Links connect to relevant Defra/AHDB data pages
Due to rounding, totals may not agree with the sum of individual items
(g) Includes mainly rye, triticale and mixed grain.
* Change not meaningful

Appendix II

CUMULATIVE MONTHLY STATISTICS

Usage of cereals by processors, external trade and stocks

Situation as at end of September 2025

Thousand tonnes

		2020/21 to 2024/25 average	2020/21 13 weeks	2021/22 13 weeks	2022/23 13 weeks	2023/24 13 weeks	2024/25 13 weeks	2025/26 13 weeks	% Change 2025/26 on 2024/25	Actual Change 2025/26 on 2024/25
WHEAT										
Usage	**Flour millers** [1]	**1,522**	**1,477**	**1,488**	**1,506**	**1,619**	**1,518**	**1,415**	**-6%**	**-101**
	of which home-grown	1,209	1,165	1,131	1,283	1,346	1,121	1,081	**-17%**	**-226**
	of which imported	312	312	357	223	273	397	334	**46%**	**124**
	Brewers, maltsters and distillers	**	**	**209**	**246**	**262**	**294**	**272**	**12%**	**32**
	Animal Feed Processors [2]	**1,109**	**1,130**	**1,111**	**1,101**	**1,104**	**1,097**	**1,113**	**-1%**	**-6**
	of which feed compounders	818	840	836	814	803	796	775	**-1%**	**-7**
	of which integrated poultry units	291	290	275	287	301	302	338	**0%**	**1**
Imports	**From July** [3]	**607**	**744**	**632**	**356**	**416**	**888**	**649**	**113%**	**471**
Exports	**From July** [3]	**107**	**73**	**94**	**247**	**91**	**29**	**49**	**-69%**	**-63**
BARLEY										
Usage	**Brewers, maltsters and distillers**	**443**	**400**	**443**	**461**	**479**	**433**	**377**	**-10%**	**-46**
	Animal Feed Processors [2]	**	**371**	**429**	**	**313**	**310**	**327**	**-1%**	**-3**
	of which feed compounders	317	344	391	279	283	286	305	**1%**	**3**
	of which integrated poultry units	**	27	38	**	30	24	22	**-18%**	**-5**
Imports	**From July** [3]	**34**	**25**	**40**	**21**	**27**	**58**	**72**	**114%**	**31**
Exports	**From July** [3]	**232**	**279**	**268**	**288**	**225**	**100**	**109**	**-56%**	**-125**
MAIZE										
Usage	**Human and Industrial** [4]	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	*	*
	Animal Feed Processors [2]	**	**119**	**	**	**	**	**	*	*
	of which feed compounders	98	105	91	109	81	102	112	**26%**	**21**
	of which integrated poultry units	**	14	**	**	**	**	**	*	*
Imports	**From July** [3]	**556**	**640**	**324**	**631**	**537**	**647**	**456**	**21%**	**110**
Exports	**From July** [3]	**36**	**35**	**20**	**31**	**53**	**41**	**53**	**-22%**	**-12**
OATS										
Usage	**Human and Industrial** [5]	**128**	**139**	**128**	**129**	**124**	**120**	**133**	**-3%**	**-4**
	Animal Feed Processors [2]	**15**	**14**	**25**	**19**	**13**	**6**	**13**	**-52%**	**-7**
Imports	**From July** [3]	**4**	**6**	**4**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**-9%**	**0**
Exports	**From July** [3]	**20**	**16**	**6**	**49**	**24**	**3**	**20**	**-89%**	**-21**

Source: AHDB, Defra, HMRC

[1] Includes bioethanol and starch usage; [2] Great Britain only; [3] HMRC; [4] Data no longer available. For quarterly data to end of 2017/18, please access using historic balance sheets; [5] Oat milled data published quarterly. Data displayed as at end-September (13 weeks).

* Changes not meaningful; **Insufficient sample to produce robust figure;

Notes

Due to rounding, totals may not agree with the sum of the individual items.
There are 53 weeks in the statistical year 2024. In order to incorporate the change January 2024 was increased to a 5 week period compared to 4 weeks in 2023.
There are 53 weeks in the statistical year 2020. In order to incorporate the change January 2020 was increased to a 5 week period compared to 4 weeks in 2019.
Figures in Appendix II were updated on 27 November 2025. The data above may differ from the most recent published data.