

Early UK planting intentions for the 2019 harvest (Early Bird Survey)

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The Early-Bird Survey (EBS) is undertaken each autumn to assess national cropping intentions. It is undertaken by The Andersons Centre with the help of the Association of Independent Crop Consultants (AICC) and other agronomists. Over 80 agronomists took part in this year's survey to gather data from almost 570,000 hectares of arable land across all regions of the UK. This established cropping changes on individual farms, which were used as a representation for national cropping changes. In previous years, the survey has been an accurate forecast of actual harvested areas.

The survey has once again expanded this year, allowing for greater coverage of UK regions and the results for total Wheat, Winter barley, Spring barley and Oilseed rape are presented. The final forecast results include some slight changes from the provisional forecast 2019 areas, released in November. The release of Defra's final June survey 2018 areas and a revision of methodology to account for the, now available, regional data to calculate UK area underpins this adjustment. Please be aware that the survey includes plantings up to mid November 2018, plus planting intentions at that point in time. For smaller regions, and where part or all of the crop will not be planted until Spring 2019, results should be treated with additional caution.

It is also worth being aware DAERA and the Scottish government are currently conducting winter planting surveys, the results of which will be released in February and March 2019 respectively.

National (UK) area forecasts

<i>Thousand hectares</i>	Defra June Survey 2018	Provisional EBS forecast 2019	Final EBS forecast 2019	% year on year Change
All wheat	1,797	1,864	1,871	4%
Winter barley	394	444	449	14%
Spring barley	763	735	737	-3%
Oats	173	190	190	10%
Other cereals*	51	38	38	-25%
OSR	601	582	585	-3%
Other oilseeds**	25	19	18	-28%
Pulses	198	183	183	-8%
Arable fallow	270	228	228	-15%
Other crops on arable land***	682	702	669	-2%
TOTAL	4,954	4,986	4,967	

*crops included rye, corn and triticale

**crops included linseed and borage

***crops included S.Beet, potatoes, vegetables, maize (33%) and temporary grass (20%)

Source: Defra / The Andersons Centre for AHDB

Regional results

Thousand hectares	Wheat			Winter barley			Spring barley			Oilseed Rape*		
	Defra June Survey 2018	EBS forecast 2019	% change from 2018	Defra June Survey 2018	EBS forecast 2019	% change from 2018	Defra June Survey 2018	EBS forecast 2019	% change from 2018	Defra June Survey 2018	EBS forecast 2019	% change from 2018
East	460	474	3%	84	90	6%	107	110	3%	115	116	1%
South East and London	215	216	1%	32	41	26%	79	80	1%	77	75	-2%
South West	161	168	4%	43	46	6%	91	85	-6%	56	54	-4%
East Midlands	322	332	3%	44	49	11%	80	80	0%	147	138	-6%
West Midlands	166	162	-2%	31	36	15%	29	36	24%	57	62	9%
North West and Merseyside	37	46	23%	14	25	72%	25	16	-36%	6	5	-16%
North East	71	73	2%	28	27	-2%	13	10	-25%	26	26	-2%
Yorkshire & The Humber	237	256	8%	66	77	16%	58	51	-11%	79	71	-10%
Scotland	100	116	16%	38	46	21%	250	238	-5%	33	32	-2%
Wales & NI ¹	29	28	-4%	13	15	8%	30	30	0%	5	6	11%
UK	1797	1871	4%	394	449	14%	763	737	-3%	601	585	-3%

Source: Defra / The Andersons Centre for AHDB

* For oilseed rape, Defra only provide winter crop areas for the English regions. Therefore, to enable a consistent comparison, the English spring oilseed rape area from harvest 2018 has been apportioned in the same ratio as the winter crops and included in the regional totals for harvest 2018.

¹ Northern Ireland was not surveyed, so the forecast UK % change has been applied to 2018 Defra June survey data for NI to generate the 2019 forecast.

North East Spring barley is italicised as surveyed area coverage was <5% of Defra area

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