

## Early UK planting intentions for the 2018 harvest (Early Bird Survey)

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The Early-Bird Survey (EBS) is undertaken each autumn, in late October and early November 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. A total of 60 agronomists took part in this year's survey to gather data from over 490,000 hectares of arable land across all regions of Great Britain. This established cropping changes on individual farms which were used as a representation for the national change in cropping. In previous years, the survey has been an accurate forecast of actual harvested areas.

This year, the total area surveyed has increased substantially (nearly doubled), enabling some regional area forecasts to be released for the first time. Compared with provisional results, released in November, the final results include information on an additional 16,000ha. These factors, along with the inclusion of Defra's final estimates of the 2017 crop areas, have contributed to changes between the provisional and final forecasts of the 2018 harvest areas.

Please be aware that the survey includes plantings up to the 10 November 2017, 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 2018, additional caution is advised with these results.

### National (UK) area forecasts

<i>Thousand hectares</i>	Defra June Survey 2017	Provisional EBS forecast 2018	Final EBS forecast 2018	% year on year Change
All wheat	1,792	1,752	1,748	-2%
Winter barley	423	388	382	-10%
Spring barley	754	773	804	7%
Oats	161	160	167	4%
Other cereals*	52	52	53	2%
OSR	562	616	622	11%
Other oilseeds	27	27	27	1%
Pulses	233	219	219	-6%
Arable fallow	241	247	248	3%
Other crops on arable land**	432	436	440	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>4,711</b>	

\*crops included rye, corn and triticale

Source: Defra / The Andersons Centre for AHDB

\*\*crops included S.Beet, potatoes, vegetables, maize, roots and other feed stock

## Regional results

Thousand hectares	Wheat			Winter barley			Spring barley			Oilseed Rape*		
	Defra June Survey 2017	EBS forecast 2018	% change from 2017	Defra June Survey 2017	EBS forecast 2018	% change from 2017	Defra June Survey 2017	EBS forecast 2018	% change from 2017	Defra June Survey 2017	EBS forecast 2018	% change from 2017
East	457	435	-5%	87	76	-13%	104	98	-5%	116	162	40%
South East and London	214	209	-2%	35	34	-5%	79	86	9%	70	77	10%
South West	158	155	-2%	46	46	-1%	96	100	4%	51	53	5%
East Midlands	325	334	3%	46	44	-5%	106	101	-5%	136	134	-2%
West Midlands	160	164	2%	33	30	-10%	40	55	38%	49	53	9%
North West and Merseyside	37	33	-10%	16	13	-19%	57	62	9%	28	28	1%
North East	68	63	-7%	28	26	-6%	244	274	12%	73	76	3%
Yorkshire & The Humber	233	225	-4%	69	63	-8%	28	28	-1%	34	34	0%
Scotland <sup>1</sup>	109	99	-10%	48	36	-25%	754	803	7%	5	4	-18%
Wales & NI <sup>2</sup>	30	32	4%	14	15	4%	562	622	11%			
<b>UK</b>	<b>1792</b>	<b>1748</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>-9%</b>						

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 2017 has been apportioned in the same ratio as the winter crops and included in the regional totals for harvest 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Scotland figures shown in italics are based on a small sample - area surveyed equates to <5% of Defra 2017 harvest area.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland was not surveyed, so the forecast UK % change has been applied to 2017 Defra June survey data for NI to generate the 2018 forecast.

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