

SURVEY OF AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE: 1 JUNE 2007 ENGLAND - PROVISIONAL RESULTS

This notice contains provisional results for the June Survey of Agriculture. Whilst the figures give a good indication of trends, they may be subject to amendment as further survey responses come in. Final England estimates will be published on 26 November 2007. The key results are given below.

Crops

- The total area of crops has fallen by 0.5% to 3.7 million hectares in June 2007. The overall cereals area is very similar to that recorded last year.
- The wheat area is down by 0.9% on June 2006. Regional estimates of wheat areas show small decreases across the main wheat-growing areas (the Eastern and East Midlands regions). The total wheat area recorded in June 2007 is also lower (by 1.8%) than our area estimate for December 2006, though is within the confidence range. This reduction is largely due to our estimate of the wheat area from new holdings – the level recorded in the December survey has not been reproduced in the larger June survey.
- The area of barley has risen by 0.2% while the area under oats has again risen considerably (up 9.7% on June 2006).
- There has been a large increase in the area of oilseed rape. Our estimate for June 2007 is over 100 thousand hectares higher (21.9%) than for June last year. This corresponds with the large increase in planted area recorded in our December survey.
- The area of sugar beet continues to fall and is 6.1% lower than 2006. There are also substantial falls in the area of field beans (35.4%) and peas for harvesting dry (21.8%).

Livestock

- There were 5.6 million cattle in England at June 2007, a fall of 2.5% on last year. Note that we are now sourcing our cattle data from the Cattle Tracing System and the figures for 2005 and 2006 have been revised to ensure consistency.
- The number of cows (aged 2 or more) in the beef herd has fallen by 1.3% and the number in the dairy herd has fallen by 1.8%.
- There were 4.0 million pigs in June 2007, down 0.9% on June 2006. The pig breeding herd has fallen 3.3% to 373 thousand.
- Total sheep and lamb numbers are down 3.1% on last year to 15.2 million. The fall is greater for the breeding flock (5.3%) than the lambs (1.7%).

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Notes

1. Defra conducts the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture annually and is extremely grateful to the many farmers who complete their forms each year. The support of farmers enables the Department to produce timely figures on the latest trends which are important for the Department's business and the industry's market operations.
2. Survey forms were sent to a representative sample of approximately 59,000 holdings across England. The figures in this notice are based on returns from approximately 59% of the sample. Additional statistics on land areas, poultry, other livestock and labour numbers will be published as part of the final Statistics Notice on 26 November 2007.
3. The results cover registered holdings only. There is a degree of production on unregistered holdings which is not included in these figures. Much work is being done on improving the coverage of the statistical register for future surveys, including developing links with other data sources and in the case of pigs and poultry, approaching large companies directly.
4. All percentages are based on unrounded figures. Totals may not necessarily agree with the sum of their components due to rounding.
5. From 2007 onwards, cattle data is being sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). This is part of our continuing efforts to minimise the form filling burden on the farming industry. The data presented shows movements reported up to six weeks after the reference point (1 June) - our analysis of historical data shows that this covers over 99% of movements. The year-on-year trends in cattle numbers from the CTS data are very similar to those seen from surveys. However, from 2004-06 there were around 5-6% more cattle (360 thousand in June 2006) recorded on CTS than were estimated through survey returns. To allow comparisons over time, only CTS data is presented in this Statistical Notice. More details on the use of CTS data can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/esg/work_htm/publications/cs/farmstats_web/1_about_the_survey/Cattle_tracing.htm.
6. Defra statistical notices can be viewed on the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk. This also contains details of future publications with pre-announced dates. Copies of the June Survey forms can be viewed at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/forms/census/census.htm and detailed data from previous surveys is available at www.defra.gov.uk/esg/work_htm/publications/cs/farmstats_web/default.htm.

Data Quality Indicators

Tick marks are also shown next to the estimates to indicate statistical confidence. The more ticks there are, the more reliable the estimate. The number of ticks shown is based on the relative standard error (RSE) and are shown here:

✓✓✓	RSE < 2.5%
✓✓	RSE 2.5 - 5%
✓	RSE 5 - 10%
No ticks	RSE 10 - 20%
☒	RSE > 20%
--	Not applicable

There are 95% confidence intervals shown for each of the estimates from the survey. We are 95% confident that the true value (if we were to survey everyone in the population) lies within this range.

United Kingdom Results

Provisional results for Northern Ireland were published on 28 August 2007 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Press Office, Dundonald House, Belfast, BT4 3SB (telephone: Belfast (02890) 524850).

Provisional results for Wales will be published by the National Assembly for Wales on 2 October. Contact the Statistical Directorate, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ (telephone: Cardiff (02920) 825052).

Provisional results for Scotland were published on 19 September 2007 by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department, Economics and Statistics Group, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1YT (telephone: Edinburgh (0131) 556 8400 ext. 6149).

Provisional results for UK will be published on 4 October 2007 by Defra.

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Table 1: Land use

	Thousand hectares					
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval
Total area on agricultural holdings	9 278	9 329	9 230	-1.1	✓✓✓	+/- 73.0
Utilised agricultural area (croppable area plus grassland)	8 801	8 871	8 746	-1.4	✓✓✓	+/- 70.5
Total croppable area	4 398	4 281	4 206	-1.7	✓✓✓	+/- 38.3
Total crops	3 795	3 711	3 692	-0.5	✓✓✓	+/- 36.3
Bare fallow / land withdrawn from agricultural production and set-aside - see note (a)	602	570	514	-9.8	--	--
Bare fallow / land withdrawn from agricultural	163	207	--	--	--	--
Set-aside	439	363	--	--	--	--
Total grass and grazing land	4 403	4 590	4 540	-1.1	✓✓✓	+/- 59.2
All grass under 5 years old	618	589	651	10.5	✓✓✓	+/- 17.9
All grass over 5 years old	3 143	3 330	3 375	1.3	✓✓✓	+/- 46.3
Sole right rough grazing - see note (b)	642	670	514	-23.3	✓✓	+/- 32.2
Other land on agricultural holdings	478	458	483	5.6	✓✓✓	+/- 19.0
Woodland	292	296	296	0.1	✓✓	+/- 16.8
All other land	186	162	187	15.6	✓✓✓	+/- 8.8

Notes:

(a) The split between bare fallow / land withdrawn from agricultural production and set-aside will be published with final results in November when data from the Rural Payments Agency becomes available.

(b) Note that minor revisions to the questionnaire were made in 2007 which may have had some impact on these results. This will be investigated further before the final results are published.

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Table 2: Crops (non set-aside land only)

	Thousand hectares					
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval
Total crops	3 795.3	3 711.2	3 692.3	-0.5	✓✓✓	+/- 36.3
Cereals	2 429.4	2 387.7	2 384.3	-0.1	✓✓✓	+/- 26.3
Wheat	1 748.4	1 709.0	1 693.3	-0.9	✓✓✓	+/- 19.9
Barley	595.5	565.0	566.4	0.2	✓✓✓	+/- 14.4
- winter	321.3	322.3	313.7	-2.7	✓✓✓	+/- 10.5
- spring	274.2	242.8	252.8	4.1	✓✓✓	+/- 9.9
Oats	65.5	93.0	102.1	9.7	✓✓	+/- 8.8
Rye, Mixed Corn and Triticale	19.9	20.6	22.5	9.2	✓	+/- 3.3
Oilseed crops	524.8	495.0	575.8	16.3	✓✓✓	+/- 20.9
Oilseed rape	480.0	462.8	564.2	21.9	✓✓✓	+/- 20.7
- winter	455.2	446.8	551.6	23.4	✓✓✓	+/- 20.5
- spring	24.8	15.9	12.6	-21.1		+/- 2.8
Linseed	44.8	32.3	11.7	-63.8		+/- 2.7
Potatoes	102.4	105.3	102.0	-3.1	✓✓✓	+/- 4.4
Early crop (harvested before 31 July)	10.5	9.6	13.8	43.5	✓	+/- 1.9
Main crop (harvested after 31 July)	91.9	95.7	88.2	-7.8	✓✓✓	+/- 4.0
Other (non-horticultural) crops	586.6	575.5	484.1	-15.9	✓✓✓	+/- 13.1
Sugar beet (not for stockfeeding)	148.3	130.1	122.2	-6.1	✓✓	+/- 6.0
Field beans	180.7	179.7	116.0	-35.4	✓✓	+/- 7.0
Peas for harvesting dry	52.2	44.5	34.8	-21.8	✓	+/- 4.2
Maize (fodder and grain maize)	118.7	124.4	130.8	5.1	✓✓✓	+/- 4.9
Root crops, brassicas and fodder beet for stock feeding	15.0	14.8	21.6	46.0	✓	+/- 2.5
Other crops for stockfeeding	19.6	16.3	17.8	9.3	✓	+/- 3.0
All other crops (inc. flax, hops and miscanthus)	52.2	65.6	40.7	-37.9	✓	+/- 5.4
Horticultural crops - see Tables 4-6 for further breakdowns	152.1	147.6	146.1	-1.0	✓✓✓	+/- 6.6
Orchards	21.8	21.1	21.1	0.2	✓✓	+/- 1.1
Small fruit	7.4	8.4	7.5	-10.8	✓✓✓	+/- 0.3
Vegetables and salad (grown outdoors for human consumption)	108.7	105.6	103.5	-1.9	✓✓	+/- 6.4
Hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers	12.4	10.6	12.1	13.8	✓✓	+/- 0.9
Glasshouses and protected crops	1.8	2.0	1.9	-4.4	✓✓✓	+/- 0.1

Table 3: Regional estimates for Wheat and Oilseed Rape

	Thousand hectares					
	Wheat		% change	Oilseed Rape		% change
	June 2006	June 2007	2007/2006	June 2006	June 2007	2007/2006
ENGLAND	1 709	1 693	-0.9	447	552	23.4
North East	66	66	-0.1	22	27	19.6
North West including Merseyside	31	30	-2.8	3	4	19.6
Yorkshire & The Humber	229	227	-0.8	60	74	24.5
East Midlands	346	344	-0.7	111	136	22.6
West Midlands	154	153	-0.4	32	41	26.3
Eastern	475	470	-0.9	102	128	25.7
South East	235	230	-2.0	75	91	20.9
South West	174	173	-0.5	41	51	23.6

Table 4: Fruit and vegetables for human consumption (grown in the open)

	Thousand hectares					
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval
Total fruit and vegetables for human consumption	137.9	135.0	132.1	-2.2	✓✓	+/- 6.5
Orchards - see note (a)	21.8	21.1	21.1	0.2	✓✓	+/- 1.1
Commercial orchards	18.1	17.9	18.2	1.9	✓✓	+/- 1.0
Non-commercial orchards	3.7	3.2	2.9	-9.3	✓	+/- 0.4
Small fruit	7.4	8.4	7.5	-10.8	✓✓✓	+/- 0.3
Strawberries	3.1	3.7	2.9	-20.4	✓✓	+/- 0.2
Raspberries	1.0	1.0	1.0	-0.6	✓	+/- 0.1
Blackcurrants	2.0	2.0	1.9	-2.2	✓✓	+/- 0.2
Wine grapes	0.7	0.8	0.8	-0.7	✓	+/- 0.1
Other small fruit (inc. gooseberries and blackberries)	0.7	0.8	0.7	-12.1	✓	+/- 0.1
Vegetables and salad grown in the open -see notes (a), (b)	108.7	105.6	103.5	-1.9	✓✓	+/- 6.4
Peas and beans	35.0	37.8	36.2	-4.2	✓✓	+/- 3.4
All other vegetables and salad	73.7	67.8	67.3	-0.7	✓✓	+/- 5.4

Table 5: Hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers

	Thousand hectares					
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval
Total hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers	12.4	10.6	12.1	13.8	✓✓	+/- 0.9
Christmas trees	2.5	1.7	1.9	12.6	✓	+/- 0.3
Perennial herbaceous plants	0.5	0.5	0.5	3.4		+/- 0.1
Other hardy nursery stock	4.3	3.5	3.8	8.4	✓✓✓	+/- 0.2
Bulbs and flowers grown in the open	5.2	4.9	5.8	19.2	✓	+/- 0.8

Table 6: Glasshouses and protected crops - see notes (c), (d)

	Hectares					
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval
Total glasshouse area	1790	1967	1880	-4.4	✓✓✓	+/- 81.7
Vegetables, salad and fruit	777	901	837	-7.1	✓✓	+/- 62.3
Flowers, foliage and other plants	765	818	767	-6.2	✓✓	+/- 46.6
Not in use on survey day	248	247	275	11.4	✓✓	+/- 24.8

Notes:

(a) More detailed statistics are available from the Orchard Fruit Survey and the Survey of Vegetables and Flowers.

(b) These figures relate to land usage at survey day 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 survey day.

(c) More detailed statistics are available from the January Glasshouse Survey.

(d) "Glasshouse" includes any fixed or mobile structure of a height sufficient to allow persons to enter and which is glazed or clad with film, rigid plastics or other glass substitutes; it excludes Dutch lights used as frames on the flat or cloches.

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Table 7: Cattle and calves - see notes (a) and (b)

Thousands

		June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006
Total cattle and calves		5 848	5 739	5 598	-2.5
All female cattle		4 244	4 196	4 095	-2.4
Aged 2 years or more	All	2 550	2 541	2 475	-2.6
	Total breeding herd - see note (c)	2 043	2 027	1 994	-1.6
	Beef herd	767	768	758	-1.3
	Dairy herd	1 276	1 259	1 236	-1.8
	Other female cattle	507	514	481	-6.4
	Beef	214	220	216	-1.8
	Dairy	293	294	265	-9.9
Aged between 1 and 2 years	All	825	799	778	-2.6
	Beef	512	502	497	-1.1
	Dairy	313	297	282	-5.2
Less than 1 year	All	869	856	842	-1.6
	Beef	566	566	541	-4.5
	Dairy	304	289	301	3.9
All male cattle		1 603	1 543	1 503	-2.6
Aged 2 years or more		217	217	215	-0.9
Aged between 1 and 2 years		619	583	578	-0.7
Less than 1 year		767	744	709	-4.6

Notes:

(a) These figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System. The data includes returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error. See the Notes page for further information.

(b) In CTS, the breed of the cattle is used to identify a breed purpose. Around 2% of all female cattle do not have an assigned breed purpose or are of dual breed. In the above results, these cattle have been allocated to either dairy or beef at CPH level based on the other cattle on the holding. Where there are no other cattle on the holding, they are allocated on the basis of the national split between dairy and beef in that age band.

(c) Previously published figures on the breeding herd had included all female cattle who had calved. The results above are limited to those aged 2 or more. Around 0.2% of female cattle that have calved are under 2.

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Table 8: Pigs - see note (a)

	Thousands							
	June 2005	Dec 2005	June 2006	Dec 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval
Total pigs	3 959	3 793	4 057	3 838	4 022	-0.9	✓	+/- 471
Breeding pigs	459	426	462	446	444	-3.8	✓✓	+/- 23
of which kept outdoors	122	n/a	157	n/a	175	11.3	✓	+/- 27
Boars being used for service	17	15	17	15	17	-2.4		+/- 4
Gilts 50kg and over not yet in pig but expected to be used for breeding	56	53	58	67	54	-7.5	✓✓	+/- 5
Breeding herd total	386	358	386	364	373	-3.3	✓✓	+/- 22
Sows in pig	261	240	264	251	266	0.8	✓✓	+/- 21
Gilts in pig	58	56	58	52	44	-23.4	✓	+/- 4
Other sows (either being suckled, or dr sows being kept for further breeding)	67	61	65	61	63	-2.3	✓✓	+/- 5
Barren sows for fattening	6	6	5	4	3	-45.3		+/- 1
Other pigs - see note (b)	3 494	3 361	3 590	3 387	3 575	-0.4	✓	+/- 470
weighing: 110kg & over	40	47	42	32	32	-24.5	☒	+/- 14
80kg and under 110kg	545	537	567	551	510	-9.9		+/- 126
50kg and under 80kg	851	822	910	887	923	1.4		+/- 244
20kg and under 50kg	1 004	963	1 017	986	1 086	6.8	✓	+/- 202
under 20kg	1 055	992	1 055	932	1 024	-3.0		+/- 323

Table 9: Sheep and lambs

	Thousands						
	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% change 2007/2006	June 2007 RSE Indicator	June 2007 Confidence Interval	
Total sheep and lambs		15 877	15 673	15 189	-3.1	✓✓✓	+/- 184
Total breeding flock (1 year old and over)		7 289	7 191	6 806	-5.3	✓✓✓	+/- 114
Ewes intended for further breeding and for slaughter		6 408	6 357	5 977	-6.0	✓✓✓	+/- 104
Other ewes intended for breeding (first time)		880	834	830	-0.5	✓✓	+/- 46
Other sheep and lambs		8 589	8 482	8 382	-1.2	✓✓✓	+/- 145
Lambs under 1 yr old		8 040	7 932	7 793	-1.7	✓✓✓	+/- 137
Rams		192	195	178	-8.9	✓✓✓	+/- 6
Other sheep 1 year and over		357	356	412	15.8	✓	+/- 46

Notes:

(a) To give a better indication of trends, December Survey of Agriculture results have been included in this table.

(b) Weights are liveweight.