

KEY POINTS

- While reduced wheat supplies in 2024/25 outweigh a fall in domestic consumption, steady exports leave end-season stocks well above the five-year average.
- A tighter than average supply and demand balance of barley is outweighed by a fall in exports, leading to heavy carry out stocks.
- Due to its competitive price earlier this season, maize usage has climbed, leading to above average full season imports.
- Larger oat supplies outweigh increased consumption, leaving a heavier oat balance this season.

INTRODUCTION

1. This release covers the third official estimates made of UK cereal supply and demand for 2024/25 (Appendix 1).

2. The UK Cereals Supply and Demand Estimates include the official production figures for wheat, barley and oats published by Defra in the results of the [Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey](#).

3. **In 2024/25, total cereals demand for animal feed is estimated at 12.656 Mt, slightly up (45 Kt) from January's estimate but down 266 Kt on the year.** Following a significant decline in 2022/23, compound animal feed production is expected to continue to rise again this season, driven largely by a climb in cattle feed production and to a smaller extent sheep feed, outweighing falls in pig and total poultry feed demand. However, cereal inclusions have fallen back slightly from January's estimate, limiting the increase in demand. Due to the smaller domestic wheat crop, the amount of cereals fed on farm is also expected to decline this season, leading to the overall annual decline in cereals demand for animal feed.

4. **Human and industrial (H&I) total cereals usage in 2024/25 is estimated at 10.401 Mt, back 322 Kt from the previous estimate, and 452 Kt lower than 2023/24 levels.** The yearly decline is driven largely by a reduction in the use of wheat by the bioethanol sector, as well as a drop in demand for barley for brewing, malting and distilling (BMD). A slight fall in oat usage by oat millers is also forecast.

WHEAT

5. **In 2024/25, the total availability of wheat is estimated at 16.833 Mt, down 50 Kt from January's estimate and 1.536 Mt lower on the year, due to a smaller crop outweighing a rise in opening stocks and imports.** Full season wheat imports are estimated at 2.700 Mt, down 50 Kt from the previous estimate, but still 263 Kt higher than 2023/24 levels. This season to date (Jul-Jan), the UK has imported 1.963 Mt of wheat, a record level for this period, with a large proportion being of milling quality. The pace of imports is anticipated to slow for the rest of the season, with reports suggesting importers of high-quality milling wheat 'front loaded' stocks and are now well supplied. Feed wheat imported into the UK is

expected to mostly be delivered into Northern Ireland, especially given the increase in the price of maize.

6. **H&I wheat consumption is estimated at 7.135 Mt, 108 Kt lower than January's estimate and down 386 Kt from 2023/24 levels.** The reduction in wheat usage from previous estimates and from 2023/24 levels is largely down to declines in demand from the bioethanol sector. Neither UK bioethanol plant is expected to be running at full capacity, largely due to competitively priced ethanol imports and squeezed margins. Furthermore, the resolution of the status of domestic feed wheat under the renewable energy directive (RED II) remains ongoing. With a competitive price at the start of the season, combined with concerns over RED II, maize usage in bioethanol production is estimated to be higher, compared with last season too. Flour production by UK millers is expected to fall slightly this season. However, lower extraction rates are expected to lead to a slight rise in wheat usage by the sector. With a smaller domestic crop, the proportion of imported wheat in the grist remains higher, although it is expected to fall towards the end of the season. It is worth noting that reports suggest domestic supplies are functional, despite the lower protein levels.

7. **At 6.435 Mt, wheat used in animal feed in 2024/25 is down marginally (-29 Kt) from the previous estimate, but 699 Kt lower than 2023/24 levels.** Compared with the previous estimates, wheat used by GB compounders has fallen back, due to a greater use of maize which was imported earlier in the season. Again, a slightly lower cereal inclusion rate than originally expected also contributes to this decline. A smaller domestic wheat crop leads to a fall in the amount of wheat fed on farm in 2024/25, although it remains unchanged from January's estimate.

8. **At 2.970 Mt, the balance of total availability and domestic consumption in 2024/25 is 87 Kt higher than January due to the decline in demand outweighing a fall in imports. However, compared with 2023/24, the balance is 437 Kt lower, with the drop in availability larger than the drop in demand.** Full season exports are estimated at 250 Kt, up 75 Kt from the previous estimate. From July to January, exports totalled 89 Kt. While the export pace is expected to remain historically slow, it is expected to

pick up during the latter part of the season. Commercial end-season stocks are estimated at 2.720 Mt, 267 Kt lower than 2023/24 levels but 604 Kt higher than the five-year average. Considering an operating stock requirement of 1.550 Mt, and exports to date (Jul-Jan), the UK has 1.331 Mt of wheat to either export before the end of the season or carry-over into the next season as free stock.

BARLEY

9. **At 8.484 Mt, total availability of barley in 2024/25 is unchanged from the previous estimate, but up 50 Kt on the year.** The estimate of full season barley imports remains at 175 Kt, back 26 Kt on the year but well above the five-year average. From July to January, the UK imported 124 Kt of barley, with the pace expected to slow throughout the remainder of the season.

10. **H&I barley usage is estimated at 1.782 Mt, down 56 Kt from January's estimate and 128 kt lower on the year.** The decline on the year and from January is driven by sluggish BMD demand, which can be partly attributed to the increase in cost of living as well as the longer-term trend of fewer younger people now consuming alcohol.

11. **At 4.374 Mt, usage of barley in animal feed is relatively unchanged (4 Kt) from the previous estimate, but 189 Kt higher than in 2023/24.** Due to its relative availability and competitive price to wheat this season, barley is featuring in compound feed rations at a higher rate in 2024/25. However, the increase is largely due to a rise in fed on farm usage, again, due to its relative availability to wheat and pressure on malting barley premiums.

12. **The supply and demand balance in 2024/25 is at 2.100 Mt, up 53 Kt from January, but 10 Kt lower year on year.** Full season exports are estimated at 600 Kt, up 100 Kt from January, but 180 Kt lower than in 2023/24. From July to January, the UK exported 317 Kt of barley. As with wheat, the pace of barley exports is expected to pick up somewhat for the rest of the season. End-season stocks are pegged at 1.500 Mt, 283 Kt higher on the year and up 327 Kt on the five-year average. Taking into account exports to date (end-Jan) and an operating stock requirement of 800 Kt, the UK has 983 Kt of barley to either export or carry into next season as free stock.

MAIZE

13. **At 2.853 Mt, total availability of maize in 2024/25 is down 23 Kt from the previous estimate, but up 65 Kt on the year.** The decrease from January is driven by slowing demand and therefore import pace, though imports remain historically high season to date. The relative price of imported maize to domestic wheat earlier in the season led to a stronger import pace and forward buying. However, the price of imported maize is now less competitive, as such the pace is expected to slow throughout the rest of the 2024/25 season.

14. **Maize usage by H&I sectors is estimated at 1.007 Mt, back 102 Kt on the previous estimate,**

but 86 Kt higher on 2023/24 levels. The decline in usage since January is largely driven by a fall in usage by the bioethanol sector. Total cereals demand for the bioethanol sector has declined since the previous estimate with neither UK bioethanol plant running at full capacity. **At 1.476 Mt, maize usage in animal feed in 2024/25 is forecast up 55 Kt from January and up 128 Kt on 2023/24.** Again, with a smaller domestic wheat crop and relatively cheap prices earlier in the season, more maize was imported and bought forward at the front end of 2024/25. Therefore, maize is expected to be included in rations at a higher rate throughout 2024/25. Likewise, a higher volume of maize is expected to have been shipped to Northern Ireland during the first half of the marketing year, again due to its relative price compared with imported wheat.

15. **At 365 Kt, the balance of maize supply and demand is up 25 Kt from January, but 148 Kt down on 2023/24 levels.** Exports are estimated at 160 Kt, up 25 Kt from the previous estimate due to an uptick in pace in January, but 7 Kt down on the year. Ending stocks are estimated at 205 Kt unchanged from January but 5 Kt up on year earlier levels.

OATS

16. **Total availability of oats in 2024/25 is forecast at 1.123 Mt, unchanged from January, but up 138 Kt on the year.** Full season imports are expected to reach just 13 Kt, unchanged from the previous estimate, and down 2 Kt on a year earlier. From July to January, imports totalled 6.6 Kt.

17. **At 477 Kt, H&I oat usage is down 16 Kt from the previous estimate and 24 Kt lower than 2023/24 levels.** H&I oat usage is back over 4% so far this season (Jul-Jan) and is expected to remain sluggish for the rest of 2024/25 with slow demand for oat products. **The volume of oats used in animal feed is up slightly (16 Kt) from January's estimate at 370 Kt, with slightly higher inclusions in compound feed production and fed on farm usage.** This is 117 Kt up year on year and now above the five-year average. With a larger 2024 crop, a greater proportion of oats are expected to be fed on farm.

18. **Due to the decline in H&I usage but rise in feed usage, the balance of oat availability and consumption is unchanged from January, but 44 Kt higher on the year at 246 Kt.** As with other commodities, exports of oats this season have been slow. Full season exports are estimated at 40 Kt, back 10 Kt from January and 76 Kt lower on the year. This leaves commercial end-season stocks at 206 Kt, up 82 Kt year on year and 10 Kt higher than the previous estimate. This is also 71 Kt greater than the five-year average.

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

UK CEREAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND ESTIMATES ^(a)

Estimates made in March 2025

July to June crop years

Thousand tonnes

		WHEAT								BARLEY							
		2019/20 2023/24 average	2021/22 estimate	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 Jan-25	2024/25 Mar-25	Absolute change Jan-25	% change on 23/24	2019/20 2023/24 average	2021/22 estimate	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 Jan-25	2024/25 Mar-25	Absolute change Jan-25	% change on 23/24
(1)	Opening stocks	1,901	1,413	1,788	1,953	2,987	2,987	-	53%	1,148	1,058	964	1,268	1,218	1,218	-	-4%
(2)	Production	13,878	13,988	15,540	13,980	11,146	11,146	-	-20%	7,495	6,961	7,385	6,963	7,091	7,091	-	2%
(3)	Imports	1,856	1,994	1,360	2,437	2,750	2,700	-50	11%	108	89	88	201	175	175	-	-13%
(4)	Total availability	17,634	17,394	18,688	18,369	16,883	16,833	-50	-8%	8,750	8,108	8,437	8,433	8,484	8,484	-	1%
(5)	Human and industrial consumption	7,110	7,156	7,326	7,520	7,242	7,135	-108	-5%	1,856	1,885	1,983	1,910	1,838	1,782	-56	-7%
(5a)	(of which home grown)	6,020	6,056	6,407	6,339	5,663	5,526	-137	-13%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(6)	Usage as animal feed (b)	6,992	7,242	6,906	7,135	6,464	6,435	-29	-10%	4,364	4,237	3,941	4,186	4,371	4,374	4	5%
(6a)	(of which home grown)	6,368	6,542	6,486	6,385	5,614	5,585	-29	-13%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(6b)	(of which compounders)	3,918	4,043	3,771	3,804	3,791	3,765	-27	-1%	1,516	1,553	1,342	1,394	1,426	1,441	15	3%
(6c)	(of which integrated poultry units)	1,147	1,143	1,104	1,225	1,217	1,215	-2	-1%	88	83	74	92	95	84	-11	-9%
(7)	Seed (c)	255	280	267	237	237	237	-	-	192	178	183	192	192	192	-	-
(8)	Other	68	70	70	70	56	56	-	-20%	38	35	37	35	35	35	-	-
(9)	Total domestic consumption	14,425	14,748	14,569	14,962	14,000	13,863	-137	-7%	6,449	6,335	6,144	6,323	6,436	6,383	-53	1%
(10)	Balance (4) - (9)	3,209	2,646	4,119	3,407	2,883	2,970	87	-13%	2,301	1,773	2,293	2,111	2,048	2,100	53	0%
(11)	Exports (d)	754	511	1,586	258	175	250	75	-3%	1,150	764	1,123	780	500	600	100	-23%
(12)	Intervention stocks (d)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(13)	Commercial end-season stocks (d)	2,116	1,788	1,953	2,987	2,708	2,720	12	-9%	1,173	964	1,268	1,218	1,548	1,500	-47	23%
(14)	(of which estimated operating stock requirement) (e)	1,510	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,550	1,550	-	0	794	800	800	800	800	800	-	-
(15)	(of which free stock) (g)	606	288	453	1,487	1,158	1,170	12	-21%	379	164	468	418	748	700	-47	68%
(16)	Surplus available for either export or free stock (10)-(12)-(14)-(18)	1,360	799	2,038	1,745	1,333	1,420	87	-19%	1,528	928	1,592	1,197	1,248	1,300	53	9%
(18)	Residual (10)-(11)-(13)		347	581	162					45	-98						

		MAIZE								OATS							
		2019/20 2023/24 average	2021/22 estimate	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 Jan-25	2024/25 Mar-25	Absolute change Jan-25	% change on 23/24	2019/20 2023/24 average	2021/22 estimate	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 Jan-25	2024/25 Mar-25	Absolute change Jan-25	% change on 23/24
(1)	Opening stocks	228	211	248	145	200	200	-	38%	133	147	157	140	125	125	-	-11%
(2)	Production	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,013	1,123	1,007	830	986	986	-	19%
(3)	Imports	2,441	2,207	2,123	2,642	2,675	2,652	-23	0%	18	17	18	15	13	13	-	-16%
(4)	Total availability	2,669	2,417	2,371	2,787	2,875	2,853	-23	2%	1,164	1,287	1,182	985	1,123	1,123	-	14%
(5)	Human and industrial consumption	878	859	801	922	1,109	1,007	-102	9%	516	501	492	501	493	477	-16	-5%
(5a)	(of which home grown)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	499	483	474	486	480	464	-16	-4%
(6)	Usage as animal feed	1,330	1,172	1,234	1,348	1,422	1,476	55	9%	364	476	350	253	354	370	16	46%
(6a)	(of which home grown)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	364	476	350	253	354	370	16	46%
(7)	Seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	24	23	25	25	25	-	-
(8)	Other (h)	4	4	4	4	4	4	-	-	5	6	5	4	5	5	-	25%
(9)	Total domestic consumption	2,213	2,035	2,039	2,274	2,535	2,488	-48	9%	910	1,007	870	783	877	877	-	12%
(10)	Balance (4) - (9)	456	383	332	513	340	365	25	-29%	254	280	312	203	246	246	-	22%
(11)	Exportable surplus	141	134	131	167	135	160	25	-4%	114	123	172	116	50	40	-10	-66%
(12)	Commercial end-season stocks	205	248	145	200	205	205	-	2%	135	157	140	125	196	206	10	65%
(13)	Residual (10)-(11)-(12)			56	146								-38				

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 requirements have been fulfilled.

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		OTHER CEREALS (i)							
		2019/20 2023/24 average	2021/22 estimate	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 Jan-25	2024/25 Mar-25	Absolute change Jan-25	% change on 23/24
(1)	Opening stocks	6	5	10	6	12	12	-	108%
(2)	Production	247	297	330	271	226	226	-	-17%
(3)	Imports	4	11	4	5	10	14	4	205%
(4)	Total availability	258	313	345	282	248	252	4	-10%
(5+6)	H&I and animal feed	237	289	300	262	230	235	5	-10%
(5a+6a)	(of which home grown)	231	279	290	256	227	230	3	-10%
(7)	Seed	7	10	10	7	7	7	-	-
(8)	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(9)	Total domestic consumption	244	299	310	269	237	242	5	-10%
(10)	Balance (4) - (9)	14	14	35	13	11	10	-1	-20%
(11)	Exportable surplus	8	4	29	0	1	1	-	405%
(12)	Intervention stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(13)	Commercial end-season stocks	7	10	6	12	10	9	-1	-27%

		TOTAL CEREALS							
		2019/20 2023/24 average	2021/22 estimate	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 Jan-25	2023/24 Mar-25	Absolute change Jan-25	% change on 23/24
(1)	Opening stocks	3,416	2,834	3,167	3,512	4,542	4,542	-	29%
(2)	Production	22,633	22,369	24,262	22,044	19,448	19,448	-	-12%
(3)	Imports	4,426	4,318	3,594	5,300	5,623	5,554	-69	5%
(4)	Total availability	30,475	29,521	31,023	30,856	29,613	29,544	-69	-4%
(5)	H&I (wheat, barley, maize, oats) (h)	10,360	10,402	10,602	10,853	10,724	10,401	-322	-4%
(6)	Animal feed (wheat, barley, maize oats) (h)	13,050	13,126	12,431	12,922	12,610	12,656	45	-2%
(5a +6a)	Other cereals (H&I and animal feed)	237	289	300	262	230	235	5	-10%
(7)	Seed	481	492	483	461	461	461	-	-
(8)	Other	114	115	116	113	100	100	-	-12%
(9)	Total domestic consumption	24,242	24,424	23,932	24,610	24,125	23,853	-272	-3%
(10)	Balance (4) - (9)	6,233	5,096	7,091	6,246	5,488	5,691	204	-9%
(11)	Exports	2,167	1,537	3,041	1,321	861	1,051	190	-
(12)	Intervention stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(13)	Commercial end-season stocks	3,636	3,167	3,512	4,542	4,627	4,640	14	2%
(14)	Estimated operating stock requirement (wheat & barley only)	2,304	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,350	2,350	-	0
(15)	Free stock for wheat and barley	985	452	921	1,905	1,866	1,870	4	-2%
(16)	Surplus available for either export or free stock (10)-(12)-(14)-(18)	3,929	2,404	4,253	3,563	3,138	3,341	204	-6%
(17)	Residual (10)-(11)-(13)		392	539	383				

Source: AHDB, Defra

Links connect to relevant Defra/AHDB data pages

Due to rounding, totals may not agree with the sum of individual items

(i) 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 January 2025

Thousand tonnes

		2019/20 to 2023/24 average	2019/20 30 weeks	2020/21 30 weeks	2021/22 30 weeks	2022/23 30 weeks	2023/24 30 weeks	2024/25 30 weeks	% Change 2024/25 on 2023/24	Actual Change 2024/25 on 2023/24
WHEAT										
Usage	Flour millers ⁽¹⁾	3,487	3,514	3,279	3,500	3,466	3,678	3,452	-6%	-227
	of which home-grown	2,852	3,061	2,402	2,811	2,959	3,026	2,485	-18%	-541
	of which imported	636	452	877	689	508	652	966	48%	314
	Brewers, maltsters and distillers	522	358	467	545	620	619	676	9%	57
	Animal Feed Processors ⁽²⁾	2,649	2,939	2,492	2,677	2,534	2,605	2,517	-3%	-88
	of which feed compounders	1,987	2,260	1,860	2,023	1,900	1,892	1,827	-3%	-65
Imports	of which intergrated poultry units	662	679	632	654	634	713	690	-3%	-22
	From July ⁽³⁾	1,096	617	1,597	1,195	808	1,264	1,963	55%	698
Exports	From July ⁽³⁾	450	892	162	265	761	172	89	-48%	-83
BARLEY										
Usage	Brewers, maltsters and distillers	1,081	1,108	960	1,075	1,130	1,129	1,026	-9%	-103
	Animal Feed Processors ⁽²⁾	825	723	998	924	719	762	766	0%	4
	of which feed compounders	776	700	922	864	687	706	714	1%	9
	of which intergrated poultry units	50	24	76	60	32	56	52	-9%	-5
Imports	From July ⁽³⁾	56	28	43	55	45	106	124	17%	18
Exports	From July ⁽³⁾	805	1,308	1,019	521	680	500	317	-37%	-183
MAIZE										
Usage	Human and Industrial ⁽⁴⁾	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	*	*
	Animal Feed Processors ⁽²⁾	**	268	352	**	**	**	**	*	*
	of which feed compounders	237	227	318	202	232	204	273	34%	69
	of which intergrated poultry units	**	41	34	**	**	**	**	*	*
Imports	From July ⁽³⁾	1,474	1,451	1,762	1,209	1,395	1,552	1,730	11%	178
Exports	From July ⁽³⁾	87	86	91	73	74	109	103	-6%	-6
OATS										
Usage	Human and Industrial ⁽⁵⁾	261	267	275	250	258	255	244	-4%	-11
	Animal Feed Processors ⁽²⁾	46	37	42	74	45	32	22	-31%	-10
Imports	From July ⁽³⁾	11	11	11	13	12	7	7	-7%	0
Exports	From July ⁽³⁾	69	89	24	28	118	84	20	-76%	-64

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-December (26 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 March 2025. The data above may differ from the most recent published data.

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