

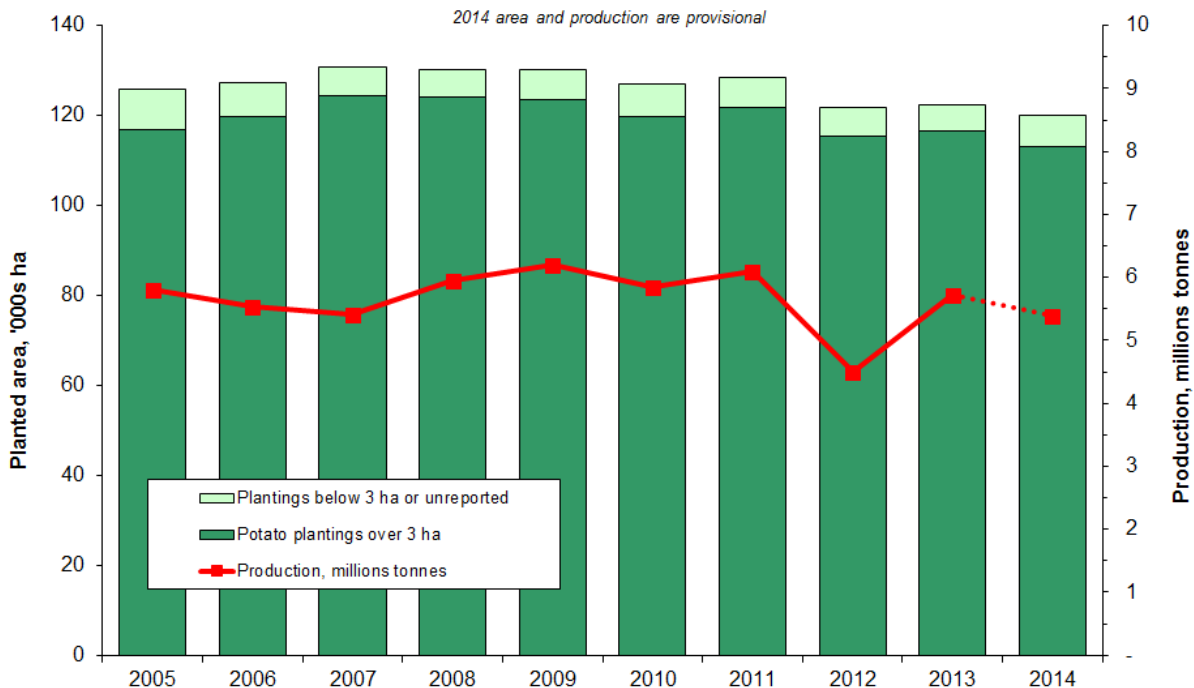
27 June 2014

FIRST ESTIMATE OF TOTAL POTATO PLANTINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 2014

The Potato Council's first estimate of total potato plantings¹ for the 2014 crop year in Great Britain is **119,900** hectares. This is down 2.1% on the final 2013 planting figure of 122,400 ha. This initial estimate is provisional, being based on a sample² covering 63% of producers by area. As with all estimates based on a sample, results should be treated with caution as, despite every effort to make the sample as representative as possible, there is a possibility that the planting decisions made by those not included in the sample may differ from those who are included.

Figure 1 shows a time series of GB plantings while Table 1 sets out the data underlying Figure 1. The primary source of the area information is Potato Council Planting Returns. This includes all growers with plantings in excess of 3 ha. To this are added an allowance for unregistered areas. This is based on the analysis of results from an aerial survey and Planting Return audits.

Figure 1 : Potato Plantings in GB 2005-2014



¹ Total potato plantings includes actual planted area, and excludes headlands and other parts of the field not planted with potatoes.

² The sample comprises Planting Returns processed prior to 16 June 2014 from 1,578 registered producers, including finalised online entries.

Table 1 : Registered and total plantings by crop year
in thousands ha (2014 figures are provisional)*

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Registered area, plantings 3 ha +	116.9	119.7	124.4	124.1	123.6	119.8	121.7	115.3	116.4	113.1
Adjustment for unregistered area	7.7%	6.3%	5.1%	4.9%	5.4%	5.9%	5.5%	5.6%	5.2%	6.0%
Total plantings	125.9	127.2	130.8	130.2	130.2	126.9	128.4	121.8	122.4	119.9
% change on year	-3.8%	+1.1%	+2.8%	-0.4%	-0.0%	-2.6%	+1.2%	-5.1%	+0.5%	-2.1%
Mean GB yield tonnes/ha	46.1	43.4	41.4	45.7	47.5	46.1	47.4	36.9	46.7	44.9
GB Production, millions tonnes	5.80	5.53	5.41	5.95	6.19	5.85	6.09	4.49	5.72	5.39

* Based on 1,578 out of 2,334 Planting Returns (68%) processed prior to 16-Jun-2014

A five-year average figure for possible 2014 yields is also presented. As the only information used to calculate this figure is yields between 2009 and 2013, this figure should be viewed as indicative. For instance, the five season average figure is 44.9 t/ha but yields over the five year period were as low as 36.9 t/ha (over 17% lower) in 2012 and as high as 47.5 t/ha (over 5% higher) in 2009. Actual yields for this year will depend on the weather and other factors for the rest of the growing season. Current field observations suggest a crop yield larger than the five year average if current growing conditions continue.

The five-season average yield figure and the initial estimate of GB planted area are then used to provide a preliminary indication of GB total production³. This estimate is likely to change significantly over the course of the year as more information on planted area and yields is received.

The Potato Council's estimate of planted areas for 2014 will be updated later in the Summer and provided as a breakdown by varieties at the end of August. A production estimate based on actual 2014 yields will be published in mid-November.

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³ Total production is net harvested yield, excluding field leavings not picked up during the harvesting process, and greens and other defects that may be discarded at preliminary grading on the field or into store.