

PRESS INFORMATION

7 December 2015

FIRST ESTIMATE OF GB POTATO PRODUCTION FOR 2015

AHDB Potatoes first provisional estimate of total production¹ in Great Britain for the 2015 crop year is **5.43 million tonnes**, down 5.5% from 2014. Average yields² for GB are estimated at 48.8 tonnes/ha, up 3% on last year.

This release also updates the planted area³ estimated to **111,400 ha**, down 8% on last year. This figure has been revised down from 111,600ha in the September potato planting by variety release, following the inclusion of additional data from growers.

The production estimate is based on information from 408 sample crops, with a sample area of 2,752 ha (2.4% by area). The statistical confidence interval is $\pm 2.5\%$, indicating that there is a 95% probability that, based on this sample, the true GB total production is within the range 5.3 to 5.6 million tonnes.

There was a slow start to the season, when May temperatures were cold with reports suggesting this delayed emergence. During early summer conditions were reported as less than ideal however from late summer conditions improved and were conducive to good crop growth. Heavy showers around harvest delayed lifting which may have also contributed to late bulking of the crop. Many growers reported that their achieved yields were ahead of expectations.

Table 1: Total Potato Production in Great Britain 2005-2015

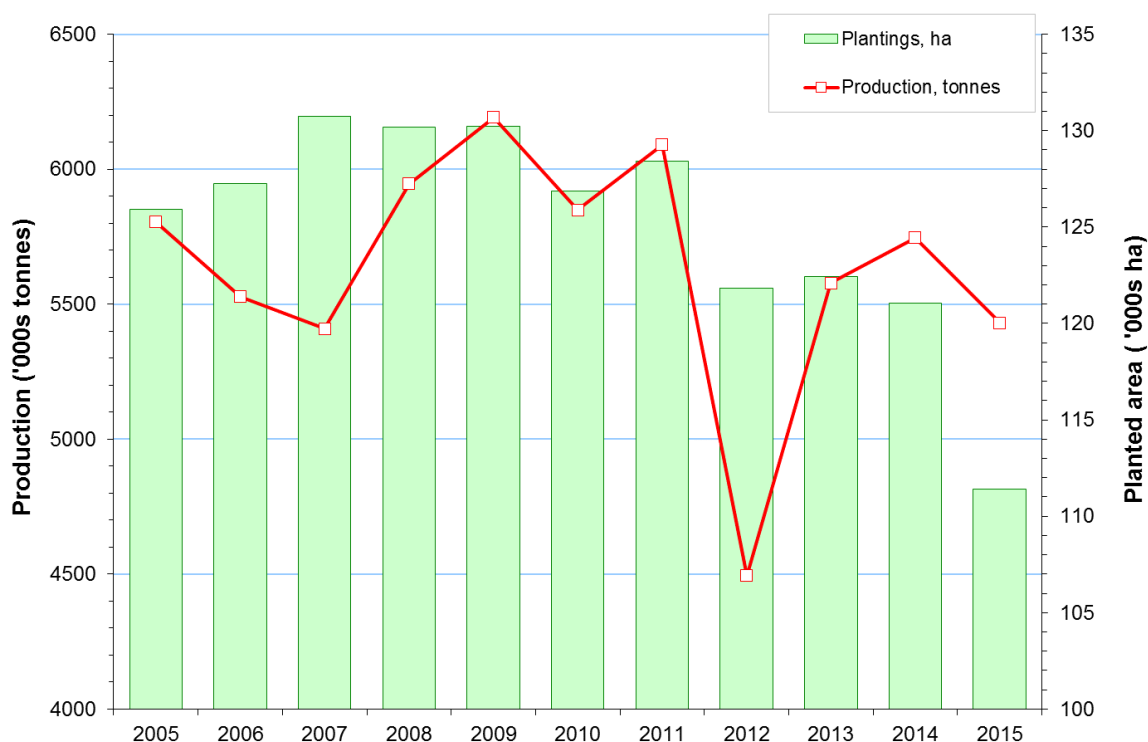
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<i>Total Potato Plantings</i>	<i>'000 ha</i>	125.9	127.2	130.8	130.2	130.2	126.9	128.4	121.8	122.4	121.1	111.4
<i>Average Net Yield</i>	<i>t/ha</i>	46.1	43.4	41.4	45.7	47.5	46.1	47.4	36.9	45.6	47.4	48.8
<i>Total Production</i>	<i>000 t</i>	5805	5528	5409	5946	6192	5849	6090	4494	5578	5746	5431
<i>Percentage change on previous year</i>	<i>Area</i>	-4%	+1%	+3%	-0%	+0%	-2.6%	+1.2%	-5.1%	+0.5%	-1.1%	-8.0%
	<i>Production</i>	-3%	-5%	-2%	+10%	+4%	-5.6%	+4.1%	-26.2%	+24.1%	+3.0%	-5.5%

¹ Total Production is the total harvested volume of the GB crop measured in metric tonnes. It excludes field leavings and material graded out prior to storage or sale.

² Potato yields are net of crop losses and on-farm grading waste. Yields are estimated from the Grower Panel, which is a stratified random sample of 512 crops from growers. For this report, data from a sub-sample of 408 crops was available. The estimate for net yield has confidence limits of +/- 2.5%. Confidence limits give the range around the sample mean within which there is a 95% probability that the true mean lies.

³ This area estimate includes all potato planting in GB and is made up of both AHDB registered and unregistered area. It is based on a sample of 99% of registered growers. The area estimate has confidence limits of +/- 0.2%.

Figure 1: Potato areas and production in Great Britain 2005-2015



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