

UK wheat harvest briefing – 2025

30 October 2025

The 2025 UK wheat harvest continues a trend of decreasing production due to depressed yields and a declining wheat area. Low yields in 2025 were primarily due to the exceptionally sunny and dry spring conditions observed across much of the country. More positively, these conditions have delivered good grain quality, and the availability of wheat meeting milling specifications is greater than in seasons with higher levels of total production.

This note and supporting charts provide an overview of key factors:

- Despite a small wheat area and low levels of wheat production in 2024, a significant rebound in UK wheat cultivation in 2025 was not seen, with the estimated wheat area only 1.62Mha¹, 6% below the 10-year average of 1.73Mha. This was likely due to the poor crop establishment conditions, as well as the ongoing trend of arable land being taken out of production and entered into environmental schemes.
- The exceptionally dry spring significantly reduced wheat yields, with the average for English farms only 7.0 tonnes per hectare². This is 13% below the 10-year average of 8.1 tonnes per hectare, highlighting the ongoing challenge posed to UK wheat production by extreme weather.
- Total UK wheat production for 2025 is provisionally estimated at 11.8Mt, according to the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)³. Whilst this provisional figure is a 6% increase on 2024 production, it is 16% below the ten-year average and continues the ongoing decline in UK wheat production (**Figure 1**).
- The share of Group 1 breadmaking wheat varieties, which make up the majority of UK flour miller homegrown wheat usage, is also in decline. For harvest 2025, the AHDB Planting and Variety Survey indicates just 19% of wheat was Group 1 varieties, dropping from 24% in 2024¹. This gives a total Group 1 production estimate of 2.2Mt tonnes, the lowest level in over ten years (**Figure 2**).
- Although the prolonged dry and sunny weather has significantly reduced UK wheat yields, the impact on wheat quality has been positive. Publicly reported wheat quality data are not yet available, as the AHDB Cereal Quality Survey (CQS) now only publishes a single dataset, in mid-November. However, milling industry data show that wheat protein is on average much higher than in 2024 and similar to the 2016 crop, where AHDB CQS data⁴ indicated 63% of Group 1 wheat contained at least 13% protein. Grain specific weights and Hagberg Falling Numbers, other important features for functional quality, are also good this season.
- Together these data indicate that whilst overall production is lower, the availability of UK wheat that meets milling sector quality requirements is higher. This will likely lead to an increase in milling sector usage of homegrown wheat compared to imports, which has been subdued in recent years due to low availability of high protein UK milling wheat (**Figure 3**).
- Another positive development is that Group 3 biscuit wheats have rebounded in popularity¹ (**Figure 4**) due to the launch of new, high-performing varieties, leading to an increase in production.

References

1. [AHDB planting and variety survey](#)
2. [Defra provisional cereal and oilseed estimates for England 2025](#)
3. [AHDB provisional UK crop production estimate 2025](#)
4. [AHDB Cereal Quality Survey](#)

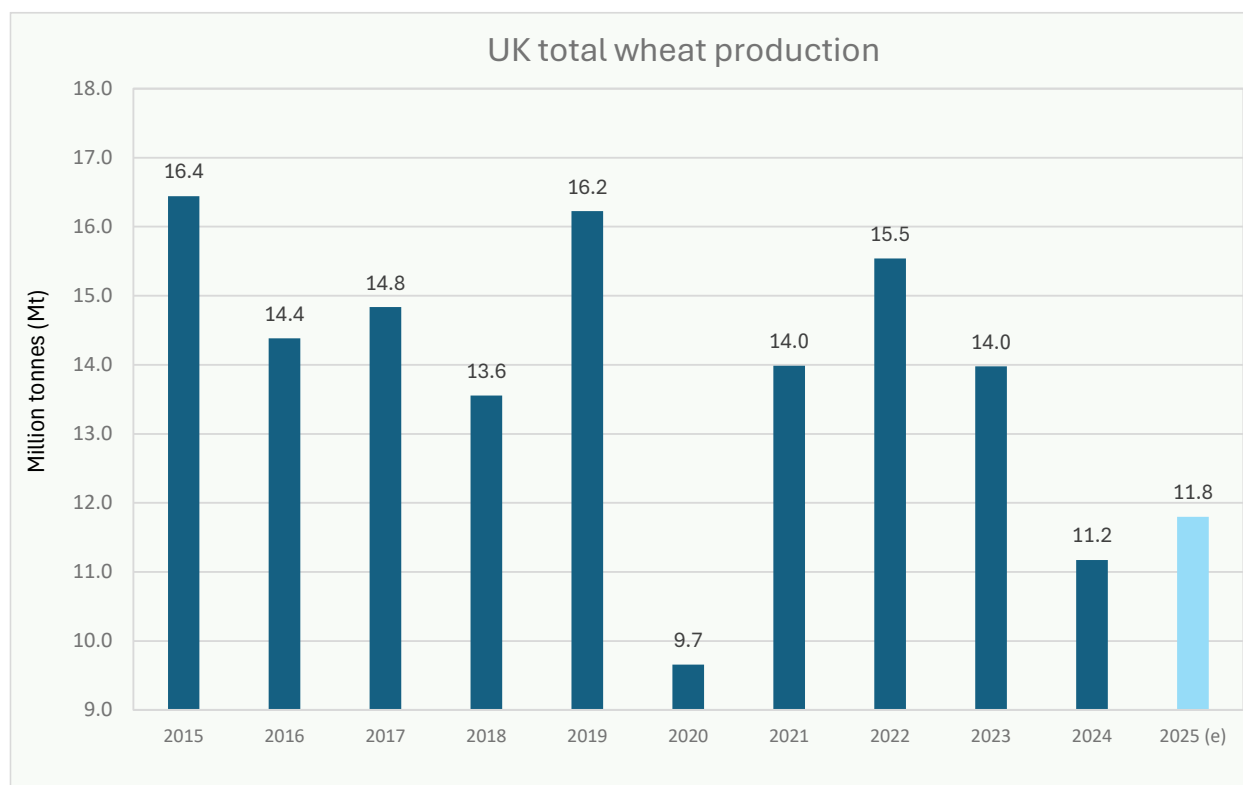


Figure 1. UK total wheat production in million tonnes. 2025 figure is an estimate.

Data sources: Defra wheat production statistics² and AHDB provisional 2025 wheat production estimate³.

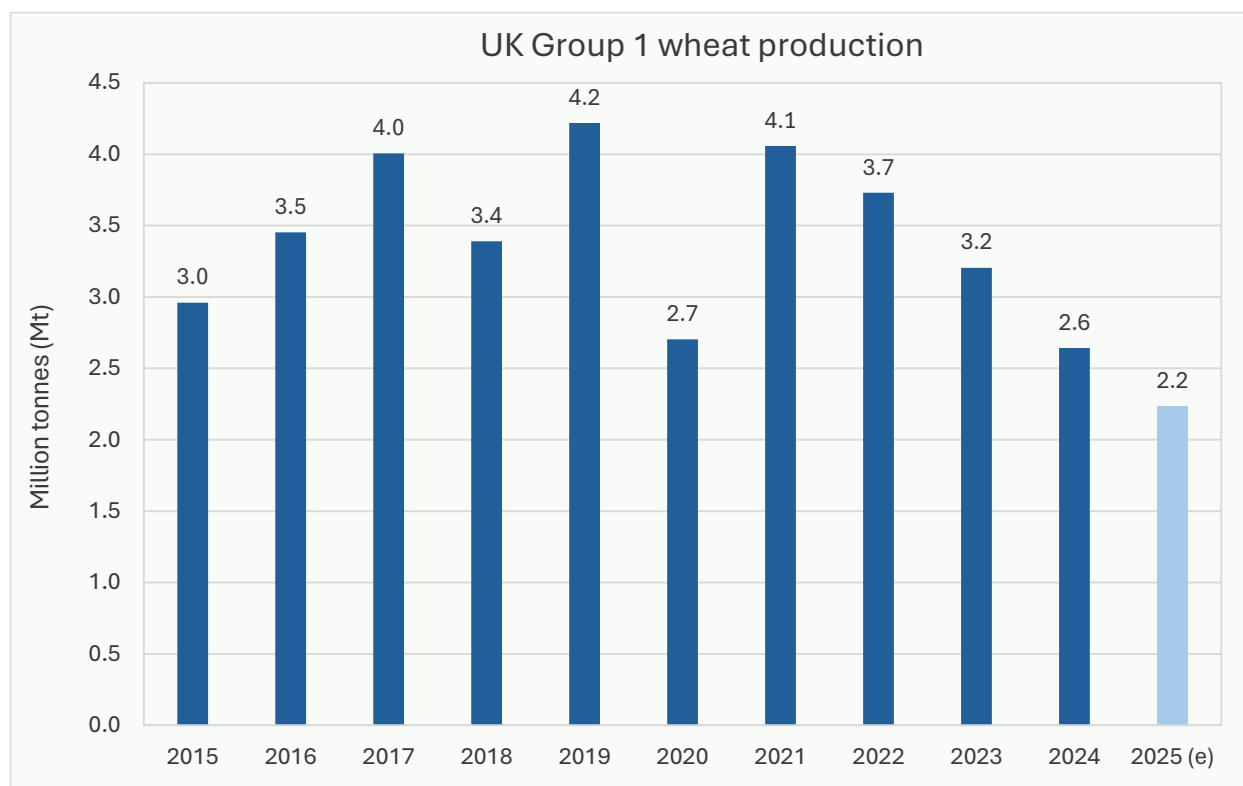


Figure 2. UK Group 1 wheat production. 2025 is an estimate calculated from total wheat production statistics and the proportion of UK wheat area cropped with Group 1 varieties.

Data sources: AHDB planting and variety survey¹, Defra wheat production statistics² and AHDB provisional 2025 crop estimate³.

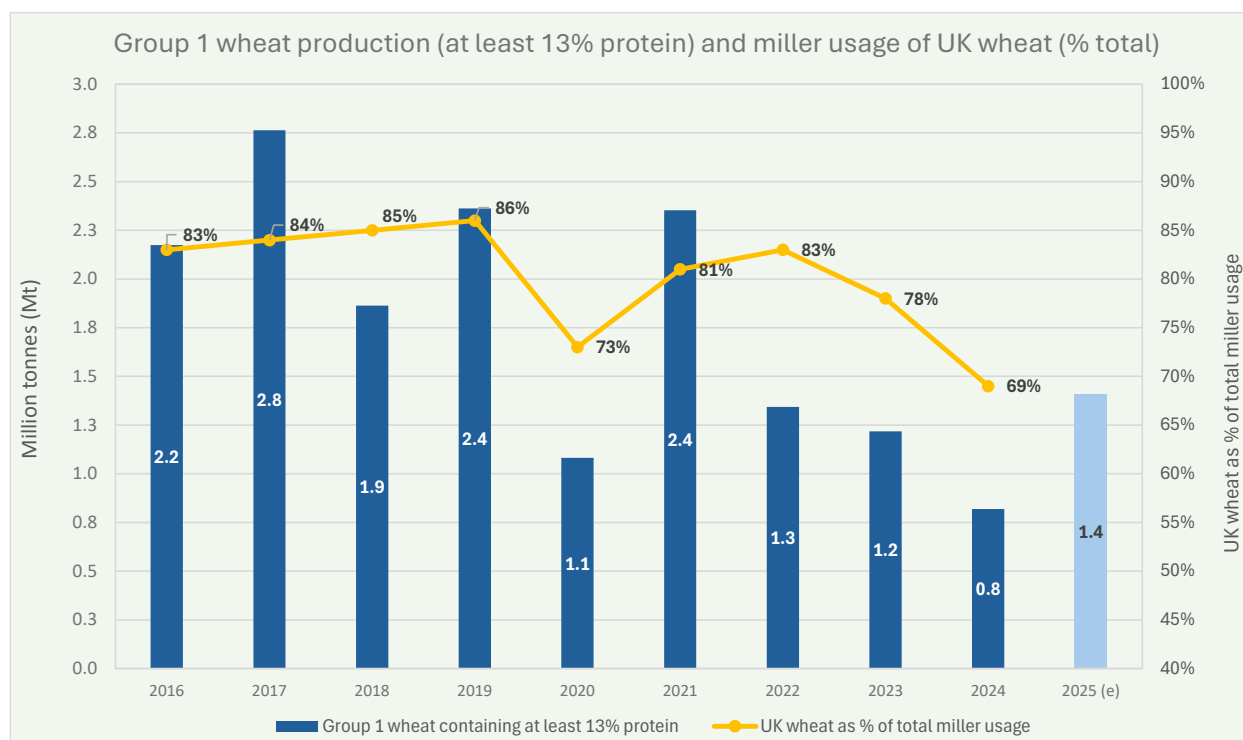


Figure 3. Production of Group 1 wheat containing at least 13% protein and milling sector usage of UK wheat as % of total. 2025 production is an estimate based on 2025 production figures and the proportion of crop achieving 13% protein from the 2016 Cereal Quality Survey, where the average Group 1 protein was similar to this year. *Data sources: AHDB Cereal Quality Survey⁴ and UK Flour Millers wheat usage survey.*



Figure 4. UK Group 3 wheat production estimate, calculated from total wheat production statistics and the proportion of UK wheat area cropped with Group 3 varieties.

Data sources: AHDB planting and variety survey¹ and Defra wheat production statistics².