

# UK milling industry statistics 2024

Volumes of flour milled were stable at 3.8 million tonnes. Wheat usage has remained stable at 4.9 million tonnes, although volumes of British wheat milled (3.8 million tonnes) have reduced as we start to see the impact of poor weather and land use changes. Our economic impact study verified industry employment and turnover statistics; it also found wheat flour milling to be one of the most productive industrial sectors in the UK.

3.8 million

TONNES OF FLOUR PRODUCED



4.9 million

TONNES OF TOTAL OF WHEAT USED



£270 million

INVESTED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS\*\*



3.8 million

TONNES OF UK GROWN WHEAT USED\*



£2bn

ANNUAL TURNOVER\*\*



£149,000

GROSS VALUE ADDED PER EMPLOYEE\*\*



2,600

EMPLOYMENT (DIRECT)\*\*



\* data for Sept 2023 to Sept 2024  
\*\* UK Flour Millers economic impact report, January 2025

## The flour milling supply chain – a UK production process



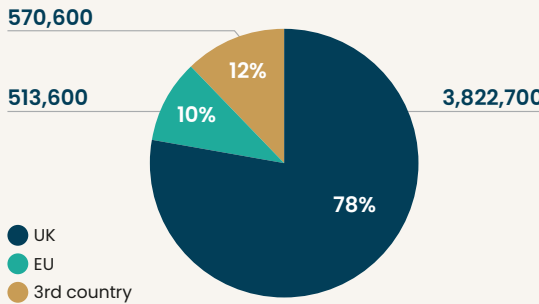
Farmers use land, raw materials and machinery to grow milling wheat; UK millers buy £800 million worth of home grown wheat

Flour millers use capital intensive equipment to make flour; more than £250 million invested in last decade

Bakeries use flour to produce bread, cakes, biscuits and export; a £5.6 billion industry

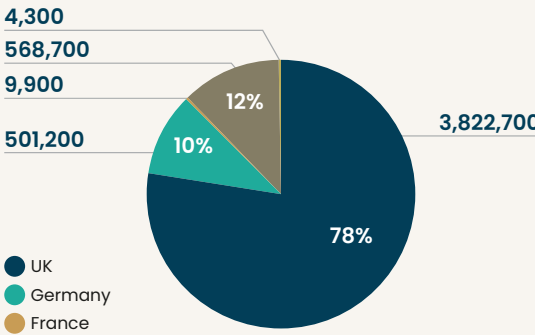
Flour is a versatile and nutritious staple food. Packed with vitamins and minerals it is an essential part of a healthy daily diet

### Wheat usage and imports 2023-24, Tonnes



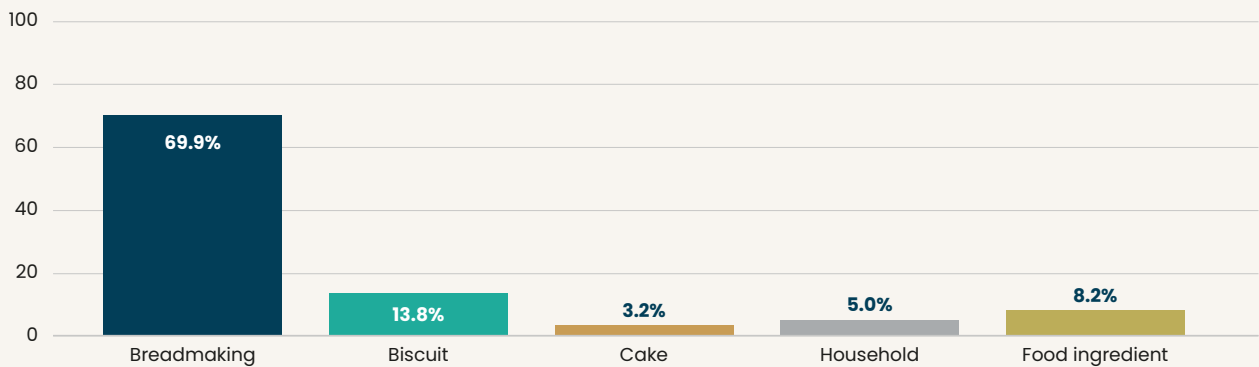
Source: UKFM wheat usage and import survey

### Detailed origin, Tonnes



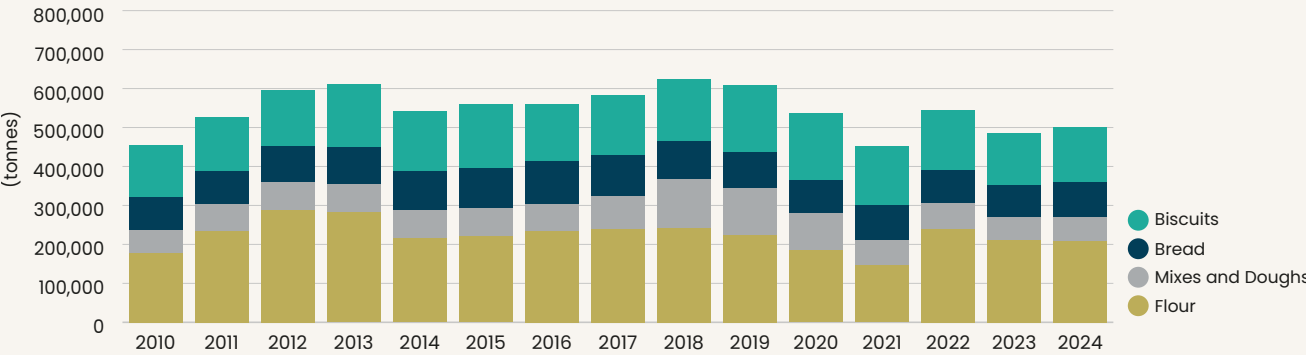
UK  
Germany  
France  
Canada  
Other\*

### Flour production by type



Source: AHDB wheat usage survey and UKFM pre-packed flour sales survey

### Exports



Source: [TBC]

### Further reading:

- Economic Impact Report
- 2023 Annual Review



UK FLOUR MILLERS

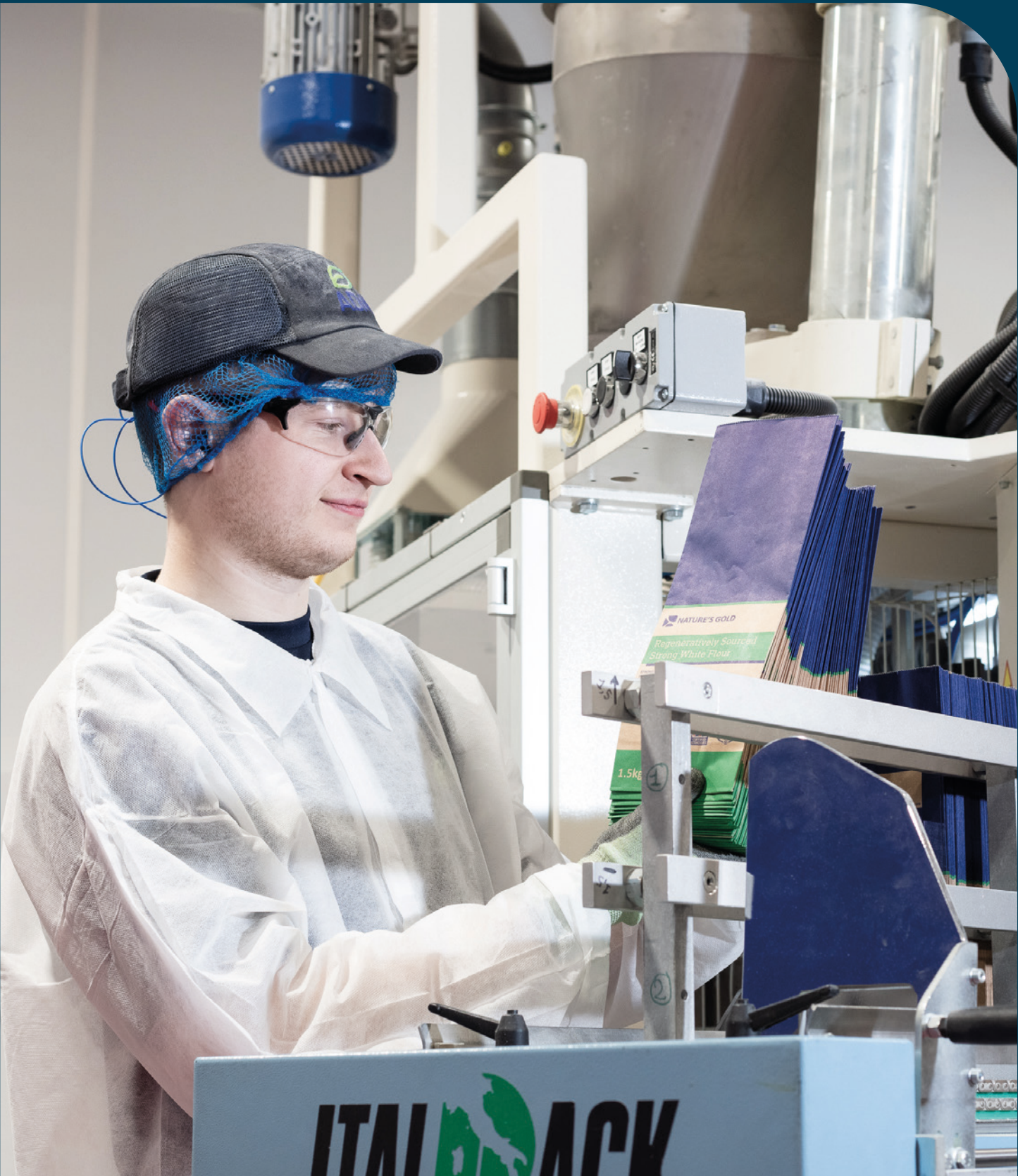
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# Interim annual review 2024



UK FLOUR MILLERS





President’s introduction

This is our first Interim Annual Review, produced to share our progress and priorities, ahead of next year’s full annual review.

In it we draw together the highlights of 2024 and set out priorities for the coming year across key areas, including stakeholder engagement, communications, technical and regulatory affairs, sustainability, member events, trade policy and training.

2024 was a successful year for UK Flour Millers. We saw our refreshed team coming together to deliver strongly for members across a busy agenda and sustaining key partnerships with stakeholders.

We concluded last year drawing together the findings of our first economic impact report, released in February this year. It sets wheat flour milling in the context of the integrated supply chain – farming, milling and baking – which sustains UK food security. Our commitment is to work with Government and partners across the supply chain on myriad policy areas to ensure this level of food security continues.

Critical to underpinning self-sufficiency in wheat flour milling will be a prudent new Free Trade Agreement with Turkey. It is key that our free market is not exposed to imported wheat flour benefiting from subsidy at many stages of production.

To ensure the start of the supply chain is supported, we will be engaging on land use planning, the farming roadmap and innovation in variety development. For processing at the mills, we will focus on the ongoing support schemes for energy supplies.

This feeds into the sector’s evolving sustainability approach, where our Environment Working Group comes together to share best practice and track scope for progressive performance improvement. And we will continue to provide the bespoke training and development opportunities for the millers and mill managers of the future.

We hope you find this interim report informative. Inevitably, it is brief in nature. Do please get in touch with the team if you would like to find out more about any aspect of our work.

Gary Sharkey  
President

“...the integrated supply chain of farming, milling and baking sustains UK food security.”

Gary Sharkey  
President, UK Flour Millers,  
Procurement Director, Hovis



2024 highlights and 2025 priorities

This section draws out some of the key 2024 achievements across our major areas of activity. We also set out the principal priorities for 2025. As a trade association, we have a broad remit, so the examples here give a flavour of our work, rather than being a comprehensive log.

	<div></div> <div>Stakeholder engagement</div>	<div></div> <div>Communications</div>	<div></div> <div>Technical and regulatory affairs</div>	<div></div> <div>Sustainability</div>	<div></div> <div>Member events</div>	<div></div> <div>Trade development</div>	<div></div> <div>Training</div>
2024 highlights	<div>Hosted our first stakeholder event for senior representatives across the direct and wider supply chain; active engagement with candidates and MPs through the election campaign</div> <div></div> <div>We hosted a range of stakeholder visits, welcoming seven MPs and partner organisations</div>	<div>Published first annual review, launched new consumer facing website (FAB Flour) and established active social media presence, especially on LinkedIn</div> <div></div> <div>Our consumer facing website, FAB Flour, was redesigned and updated with new tools and recipes; active social media presence established, especially on LinkedIn</div>	<div>Led cross-sector engagement with Defra on implementation of folic acid fortification, convened work to establish AHDB-funded review and update of ergot guidance for farmers</div> <div></div> <div>Two new Group One wheat varieties were added to the Recommended List, after comprehensive trials and testing</div>	<div>Launched a carbon footprint calculator for millers after careful development and testing with agricultural consultants, ADAS</div> <div></div> <div>A miller-specific carbon footprint calculator was launched to support millers in their sustainability journey, enabling them to calculate their carbon footprint in a harmonised way.</div>	<div>Visited the Port of Tilbury Grain Terminal with the revamped Development Group and hosted the first Scottish &amp; Irish Millers seminar and dinner in six years, at member Company Bakery’s Musselburgh base</div> <div></div> <div>Development Group visit to the Port of Tilbury Grain Terminal</div>	<div>Active liaison with politicians and officials around a proposed new Free Trade Agreement with Turkey</div> <div></div> <div>Continued work with partners on development of and consultation around the Digital Grain Passport.</div>	<div>Introduced the new Distance Learning Programme’s online exams for the first time, with student numbers remaining over 600</div> <div></div> <div>The leading students on our Distance Learning Programme were recognised as the first year on online assessment concluded</div>
Priorities for 2025	<div>Hosting UK Flour Millers’ first Parliamentary reception</div> <div></div>	<div>Releasing our first Economic Impact Report, developing and launching a new UK Flour Millers website, and hosting a Fibre February journalist and influencer event</div> <div></div>	<div>Working with partners to deliver the ergot guidance; developing an active programme of research covering quality and contaminants</div> <div></div>	<div>Agreeing and releasing the UK Flour Millers’ Sustainability Statement</div> <div></div>	<div>Delivering UK Flour Millers’ convention in Belfast; hosting a regenerative agriculture-focused Development Group session</div> <div></div>	<div>Continuing to advocate for flour imports from Turkey to remain subject to tariffs under any new trade agreement; working with partners to secure funding for the development of the Digital Grain Passport</div> <div></div>	<div>Kicking off the next Advanced Milling Diploma programme; developing a refreshed craft skills training and examination programme</div> <div></div>