

ANALYSIS

England cereals and oilseeds harvests ranked, harvest 2026

Background

A ranking of harvests since 1984 by overall volume for all wheat, spring and winter barley, oats and oilseed rape. Data from before 1999 is derived from multiplying UK yields with England crop areas, as Defra do not publish production totals prior to 1999 for England.

In 2026 England was hit by an unprecedented series of heatwaves in May, June and July, following a [very dry April](#) then record-breaking lack of rainfall in July, the [driest on record](#) in England and Wales. The summer as a whole was the [warmest on record](#), beating 2025 into second place.

This combination of extreme heat and incredibly dry weather hit yields, limiting grain fill and crop development, reducing overall harvest volumes. In volume terms across the five crops we look at in this analysis, 2026 is now the worst harvest on record, pushing 2020 into second place.

Extreme rainfall in the autumn and winters of 2019/20 and [2023/24](#) had a major impact on arable crop production for harvests in 2020 and 2024, making these the second worst and fourth worst harvests on record for England, with 2025 lying third after last years' drought. This means that four of the five worst harvests on record in England have occurred this decade following periods of extreme weather. Climate change is projected to bring warmer, wetter winters to England, as well as hotter, drier summers.

Year	Wheat (tonnes)	Winter barley (tonnes)	Spring barley (tonnes)	Oats (tonnes)	Oilseed rape (tonnes)	Total (tonnes)	Rank (1 = worst)
2026	10,762,394	2,022,925	1,680,423	527,226	1,037,436	16,030,404	1
2020	8,672,425	1,512,383	4,296,063	777,147	905,168	16,163,186	2
2025	10,610,185	1,972,264	2,183,111	754,686	721,584	16,241,830	3
2024	10,112,667	2,017,322	2,829,844	772,737	673,320	16,405,891	4

2001	10,870,276	2,275,449	2,171,380	478,931	928,649	16,724,685	5
1993	11,957,689	2,997,833	1,230,388	321,235	818,064	17,325,210	6
1994	12,400,184	3,008,002	1,176,528	409,561	841,053	17,835,329	7
2007	12,150,960	1,886,651	1,315,119	556,956	1,942,590	17,852,276	8
2013	11,111,153	1,634,274	3,209,376	743,524	2,001,040	18,699,367	9
1988	11,040,588	3,571,196	2,945,150	352,074	904,067	18,813,074	10
2012	12,382,993	2,102,954	1,462,349	488,244	2,428,301	18,864,840	11
2023	12,756,553	2,743,390	2,074,293	642,855	1,023,967	19,241,059	12
2006	13,723,666	2,123,686	1,227,214	559,367	1,718,010	19,351,941	13
1995	13,340,183	3,486,455	1,311,552	442,180	844,196	19,424,565	14
1987	11,225,997	4,361,193	2,429,245	289,930	1,163,539	19,469,904	15
2021	12,863,299	2,290,994	2,628,671	896,540	835,448	19,514,951	16
2003	13,399,584	2,383,394	1,739,849	582,343	1,418,445	19,523,615	17
2005	13,873,820	2,053,743	1,476,075	390,754	1,746,383	19,540,775	18
2010	13,698,400	2,009,169	1,328,568	513,961	2,088,063	19,638,159	19
1992	13,129,166	3,972,740	1,206,408	337,480	1,042,662	19,688,456	20
2018	12,673,896	2,267,096	2,353,436	639,523	1,867,236	19,801,187	21
1985	11,428,359	4,517,865	2,673,446	440,422	823,240	19,883,332	22
2009	13,115,791	2,186,887	2,302,267	579,967	1,795,467	19,980,379	23
2004	14,415,877	2,202,164	1,496,036	480,882	1,453,530	20,048,489	24

1999	14,106,021	2,832,045	1,581,095	390,572	1,183,663	20,093,395	25
2016	13,240,514	2,392,389	2,389,466	573,825	1,655,592	20,251,785	26
1989	13,202,029	3,868,386	2,010,340	342,042	835,207	20,258,004	27
1990	13,140,541	4,144,602	1,607,008	346,054	1,061,129	20,299,334	28
1991	13,435,062	4,128,969	1,287,846	346,928	1,131,144	20,329,950	29
2011	14,040,430	1,777,396	1,650,638	454,256	2,586,003	20,508,723	30
1998	14,445,346	3,530,380	982,627	417,846	1,283,142	20,659,340	31
2002	15,074,739	2,939,475	1,261,057	619,459	1,137,350	21,032,081	32
1997	14,057,940	4,242,309	1,196,761	416,218	1,235,568	21,148,795	33
2000	15,597,808	3,167,903	1,258,028	493,090	848,230	21,365,058	34
2022	14,267,077	2,726,394	2,422,423	799,095	1,188,655	21,403,644	35
2017	13,722,124	2,499,100	2,655,028	651,415	2,002,768	21,530,436	36
1986	13,193,981	4,572,871	2,734,920	323,186	891,503	21,716,461	37
1996	15,095,576	4,068,289	1,318,438	428,465	1,040,091	21,950,859	38
2008	16,050,694	2,294,328	1,734,343	631,061	1,846,002	22,556,428	39
2014	15,389,019	2,592,244	1,990,974	625,914	2,290,501	22,888,652	40
2015	15,184,643	2,872,039	2,298,842	601,690	2,372,903	23,330,116	41
2019	15,036,897	3,026,660	2,823,532	846,754	1,608,224	23,342,066	42
1984	14,304,147	5,044,382	3,034,627	352,774	883,861	23,619,792	43