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National Statistics Agricultural Land Use in United Kingdom at 1 June 2023 (Updated 14 December 2023)

1.3 Arable crops

The total area of arable crops decreased by 1.1% between 2022 and 2023 and stands at just under 4.4 million hectares. Cereal crops account for the largest proportion (71%) of this area.

The total area of cereal crops in the UK decreased by 2.7% between 2022 and 2023 and stands at almost 3.1 million hectares.

Figure 3 shows the area of the three most popular crops grown in the UK; wheat, barley and oilseed rape. Plantings have continued to follow a more typical pattern following the disruption due to weather in recent years however, in 2023 wheat plantings have possibly reduced in favour of farmers planting barley and oilseed.

The total area of oilseed rape increased by 7.2%, from 365 thousand hectares in 2022 to 391 thousand hectares in 2023. The increase was mainly due to an 8.1% rise in the area of winter sown oilseed rape which accounts for 99% of the total oilseed rape area.

Emphasis in red added