



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***More cereal grown***

The area on which cereal is grown increased by one fifth this year compared to 1999 and is now 200 thousand hectares. It is the largest cereal producing area in ten years. Farmers are also growing more potatoes and onions than in 1999, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands. The total area with arable crops is more than 810 thousand hectares, more than the provinces North Brabant and Limburg put together.

### ***More wheat***

Winter wheat is the largest cereal crop in the Netherlands with a planted surface of 120 thousand hectares. This area is twice that of 1999, when flooding caused major problems in the sowing period. Because of the current increase, the area for growing wheat is almost back to its 1998 level. Areas for growing barley and rye also increased.

### ***Stable growth of potatoes and onions***

The crop of potatoes for consumption and seed potatoes grown on sandy and peaty soil increased. Slightly less land was used to grow starchy potatoes. According to Statistics Netherlands the total area used for growing potatoes in 2000 was more than 180 thousand hectares, which is up 1% on 1999.

The area used for growing onions increased by 2% on 1999. It is used for sown and planting onions. Sown onions are the biggest onion crop, using 14 thousand hectares of area, the same area as in 1999.

### ***Less fodder maize***

There has been a considerable drop in the area used for growing fodder maize. This year the area is 210 thousand hectares, down more than 10% on 1999.

The area used for growing fodder maize fell in all provinces, also in the northern provinces, where the areas had increased in recent years as the crop shifted from the southern to the northern provinces.

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