

SCOTTISH SEED POTATOES

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

There are **13.4k** ha of seed potato planted in Scotland, **+4.5k** ha from 2024 and **+6.9k** ha vs the 5-year average

The Scottish sector accounts for around **75%** of UK seed potato production, making it critically important to UK potato production



Seed potato accounts for **37%** of planted potato area and **1.95%** of total arable land in Scotland



282 of the **372** seed potato varieties are grown in Scotland



Commercial seed production is highly concentrated with relatively few firms accounting for a high share of output

The UK is **~70%** self-sufficient in potatoes

The UK is a net importer of processed potato products, but a net exporter of seed potatoes.

40% of Scottish seed potatoes were exported in 2025, worth **£58m**

Scotland exports seed potatoes to **~28** countries worldwide

7% of potato sales in the UK in 2025 were seed potatoes

The production value of seed potato was **17.4%** of the total potato production value in 2025



Seed potato production contributes around **£26.2m** GVA per year to the Scottish economy and the sector supports **478** jobs in Scotland

Seed potato prices are rising due to limited high-quality land availability. Meanwhile, storage capacity is becoming a pressing issue, especially given high energy costs



Scottish seed potatoes have traditionally been in high demand both domestically and internationally due to their relative disease-free status. However, growing concerns over Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) infections jeopardise the sector



Availability of “clean” land is an issue. **13%** of land in Scotland is affected by PCN and this is increasing by **5%** p.a. PCN Action Scotland is a Scottish Government funded initiative aimed at tackling this issue