



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

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CAP POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

# The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

*Results for June 2017*



**Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**  
**CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division**

**THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS**  
**IN**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**RESULTS FOR JUNE 2017**

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## **PREFACE**

This publication presents detailed analyses of the results of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census for June 2017 as well as time series data from 2003 to 2017. As such, the analyses provide a considerable amount of information on the changes that have occurred in the farming sector over the past 15 years.

The census data set includes geographical indicators that enable data to be produced for any area that can be defined in terms of electoral ward or by grid reference co-ordinates. This facilitates small area analyses that may be carried out on request, so long as this will not lead to data for individual farms being identified.

Individual publications relating to this annual survey are now available on the DAERA website, at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk), as are all other DAERA statistical publications.

Commentary in Sections 3 to 5 of this report on aggregate results, farm structure results and farm enterprise results highlight key features and trends in the data. A more detailed analysis of the agriculture sector in Northern Ireland in 2017 can be found in the compendium publication, Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture, published annually at the end of March 2018.

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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>	
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3-8</b>
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Terms and definitions</b>	<b>9-15</b>
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Northern Ireland totals 2003 - 2017</b>	<b>16-36</b>
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Farm structure, 2017</b>	<b>37-42</b>
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>Farm enterprises, 2017</b>	<b>43-54</b>
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>District Council Area statistics, 2017</b>	<b>55-60</b>
<b>Section 7</b>	<b>Rural District and County statistics, 2017</b>	<b>61-70</b>
<b>Section 8</b>	<b>Less Favoured Area statistics, 2017</b>	<b>71-78</b>
<b>Annex 1</b>	<b>Standard labour requirement sizing statistics</b>	<b>79-81</b>
<b>Annex 2</b>	<b>Notes for data users</b>	<b>82-84</b>



## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Census coverage

1.2 History of the Agricultural Census

1.3 Changes to the Census System

1.4 Data uses





## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 CENSUS COVERAGE

The Agricultural Census is conducted annually in June. The 2017 survey data was collected by means of a sample survey in which forms were issued to half those classified as 'Very Small' (i.e. with a Standard Labour Requirement of less than 1 standard labour unit (1900 hours)) and to all other farm businesses. (Although no longer strictly a 'census', it will continue to be referred to as such because farmers are familiar with the term.) Estimates were made for the crop areas, livestock and labour numbers for farms that failed to return their 2017 census form. For the most part these estimates were based on data collated from other administrative systems within the Department, or from the latest return from each farm. However, all farms which had substantive numbers or areas of pigs, poultry, mushrooms or vegetables in 2016, and which failed to make a return in 2017, were telephoned for the information.

As such the database used to compile the statistics is considered robust and can be used to provide accurate information to a low level of geography. An example is the Ward and Parliamentary constituency level data available from the NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service) website.

The population of farms to which these census statistics refer includes; **all active farm businesses having one or more hectare of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.**

The main results of the census, showing the total areas of each crop and total numbers of each type of livestock, were published in a Press Release on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Further analyses are shown in this booklet, including details of the numbers, types and sizes of farms, the numbers of farms participating in each of the main enterprises and the size distribution of these enterprises. Data are also shown for the main geographical units below Northern Ireland level, namely District Council Areas, Rural Districts and Counties and for the three land classification categories.

Section 3 of this report presents data on the areas of crops and numbers of livestock over the past 15 years, from 2003 to 2017.

### 1.2 HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The first Agricultural Census in Ireland was conducted in 1847, in response to the need for information on the famine conditions at that time. The main use of the census continues to be to provide information for those involved in the industry or responsible for agricultural policy. With data stretching back over 150 years, the records provide an interesting insight into the changes which have taken place in farming. The statistics on the following page, relating to 50 year intervals, show how Northern Ireland has changed from a mixed farming economy to one dependent on grazing livestock.

## Crop Areas and Livestock Numbers in Northern Ireland, 1867-2017

	1867	1917	1967	2017
<b>Crop areas ('000 ha)</b>				
Cereals	216	181	98	32
Potatoes	98	77	23	4
Flax	68	35	0	0
Hay and pasture	676	699	707	805
<b>Livestock numbers ('000 head)</b>				
Cattle	712	776	1,235	1,666
of which Cows	n.a.	n.a.	380	583
Sheep	289	418	1,012	2,053
Horses	116	113	n.a.	10
Pigs	185	103	975	649
Poultry	2,032	5,198	11,944	24,911

### 1.3 CHANGES TO THE CENSUS SYSTEM

Since 1950, there have been a number of changes in the coverage of the census and the way the census data were collected. These are summarised below:

Years	Census methods and coverage
Until 1954	Census information was collected by police enumerators who identified and visited all farms, including those under one acre. This information was given to them orally by the farmer and recorded in special books.
1954-1972	A postal census was introduced in 1954. This used the list of farmers which had been identified in the 1953 census, but included only those of <b>one acre or more</b> . From this time onwards, a distinction was made between " <b>main</b> " holdings which were included in the census and " <b>minor</b> " holdings (i.e. those under 1 acre) which were surveyed on a sample basis using fewer questions. Estimates for the minor holdings were made of their total crop areas and livestock numbers, but these holdings were not included in the count of farms.
1973-1980	In 1973, in conformity with a similar change in the rest of the United Kingdom, an alteration was made in the scope of the census in Northern Ireland. From then until 1980, the main census covered holdings which had <b>at least 10 acres of land</b> , plus any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose livestock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, included a number of "minor" holdings of less than one acre. Arising from these adjustments the net reduction in the number of holdings covered in the main census was some 5,500.

- 1981-1996 A new system of farm classification and changes to the minimum threshold were introduced in 1981. This new threshold restricted the census to holdings which had (a) a total land area (owned or taken on long-term lease) of **6 hectares or more** or (b) any full-time workers other than the farmer or (c) a farm business size of 1,000 ecus of Standard Gross Margin. This change resulted in the exclusion of a further 6,690 “minor” holdings from the main census between 1980 and 1981.
- 1997 In 1997 the basis of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census was changed from a “census register” to a central register of all of the Department’s “clients”. The change was made possible as a result of the introduction of IACS<sup>1</sup> and of work undertaken in DAERA to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification of clients across all schemes, with each farmer who is in contact with the Department being allocated a unique Client Reference Number and each “Client” being linked to a Business Identifier. The population surveyed in the 1997 census consisted of one “Client” in each business for which a census return with crops and/or livestock was obtained in the preceding year or which had received a subsidy in respect of crops or livestock during the preceding 15 months. Also included were those with a milk quota and those known by DAERA to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between “main” and “minor” holdings was discontinued.
- 1998 Sampling was introduced and forms were issued to only half the farms categorised as “Very Small”. The records which were aggregated to provide the published results include 1998 returns from the sampled farms and 1997 returns from those not in the sample for 1998. The latter were trended to reflect the changes between 1997 and 1998 as recorded by the sampled farms. New information led to the addition of a further 166 pig farms involving no owned land; estimates of pig numbers in previous years were revised.
- 1999 The same level of sampling applied as in 1998 but the survey included all pig farms.
- 2000 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was carried out
- 2001 A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999. Farms on which animals had been slaughtered due to Foot and Mouth outbreaks were not surveyed. Estimates were made for the crop areas, livestock and labour numbers for these farms.

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<sup>1</sup> The EU Integrated Administration and Control System

- 2002 - A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in  
2006 1999. Where available, administrative data were used in conjunction with  
previous census data, to provide estimates for those that were not  
sampled, or failed to make a return in the current year.
  
- 2007 - A sample survey was carried out. The number of cattle questions on the  
2009 survey form were reduced as additional data was sourced from APHIS  
(Animal and Public Health Information System) to determine cattle  
numbers. No poultry questions were asked, with data on poultry being  
sourced from the NI Bird Register.
  
- 2010 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was completed.
  
- 2011 - Sample survey completed similar to years 2007 -2009.  
2012
  
- 2013 - Sample survey completed similar to 2011-2012. Pig questions removed  
from paper form. Data on pigs sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.

## **1.5 DATA USES**

Agricultural census statistics are used for a wide range of purposes. Most of the data collected is required by the statistical office of the European Community - Eurostat - or by DG Agriculture and Rural Development. Along with similar data from other regions and Member States, the Commission uses it to formulate, monitor and evaluate EU agricultural, rural development, environmental and trade policies.

Data is also used by DAERA to provide an evidence base for policy development and, as such, it is used to assess the outcomes of policies under evaluation and to predict the impacts of policy options that are under consideration to support agriculture in Northern Ireland.

Researchers make extensive use of data to construct models of the agri-food sector that are needed to undertake detailed investigations of agriculture, trade and environmental policies.

Livestock numbers and land use data are used to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural sources for the UK greenhouse gas inventory and to monitor changes in emission levels over time.

Farmers make use of data to inform themselves about changes in the structure of the industry at regional level and at lower levels of geography down to Ward level.

Producer representative organisations use agricultural census statistics to assist with lobbying government departments and political representatives, while food processors and suppliers of goods and services to the farm sector uses data in business planning and decision-making on capital investment.

## **SECTION 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

2.1 Farms and farm structure

2.2 Agricultural labour force

2.3 Other terms

2.4 Symbols used

2.5 Standard Outputs

2.6 Standard Labour Requirements

## SECTION 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 FARMS AND FARM STRUCTURE

#### Farms

In the 2017 census, a farm<sup>2</sup> was defined in accordance with the definition adopted for European Union surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, namely:

*a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products*

Only those with at least one hectare of agricultural land or with any cattle, sheep, pigs or significant poultry or horticultural crops were defined as a farm.

#### Farm Business Size

Farm business size is determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). Standards or norms have been calculated for all major enterprises. The total SLR for each farm is calculated by multiplying its crop areas and livestock numbers by the appropriate SLR coefficients and then summing the result for all enterprises on the farm.

Prior to 2004, the farm business size had been determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Gross Margin (SGM). However, it was felt that using SLRs was a more appropriate and accurate method to size farm businesses in the UK.

To show year-to-year changes in business size, the enterprise SLR coefficients are held constant for a number of years. In UK agricultural statistics, business size is described in terms of five SLR size bands.

#### UK agricultural statistics business size bands

Size	Standard labour unit* (2000)
Very Small	Less than 1
Small	1 < 2
Medium	2 < 3
Large	3 < 5
Very Large	5 or more

\*1 Standard labour unit = 1900 hours

Since there are very few farms in the 'Very Large' size range in Northern Ireland, these are included in the 'Large' category in Census analyses.

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<sup>2</sup> In UK agricultural statistical publications the terms "holdings" and "farms" are used synonymously but in Northern Ireland, where many landowners let out all their land and take no part in agriculture, the former term refers to the areas under single ownership and the latter to the areas farmed in separate units, i.e. after adjustment for land let out or taken in conacre. Farms exclude holdings that take no part in farming.

## Farm Business Type<sup>3</sup>

The system of classifying farms according to the type of farming found on a holding is set out in Commission Regulation (EC) 1242/2008 and explained in greater detail in the EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) Typology Handbook RI/CC 1500 rev.3.

Depending on the amount of detail required, farms can be classified into 1 of 62 types. Individual farms are allocated to a type category on the basis of the aggregate value of farm outputs. As it is not feasible to estimate the value of outputs on a farm-by-farm basis, Standard Outputs (SOs) are calculated as reference values for a variety of farm products. The SO of a specific product (crop or livestock) is the average monetary value (per ha or head) of agricultural output based on regional farm-gate prices over a 5 year period. The SO excludes direct payments and no costs are deducted. Once the numbers of livestock and hectares of crop for an individual farm have been multiplied by the relevant SOs, it is allocated to a type category depending on where most of the total SO comes from. To ensure a stable framework for comparison and analysis SO values, once calculated, are held constant for a number of years. The SO values in use at the moment cover the five year period centred on 2010 and can be found at section 2.5.

For UK statistical purposes, the 62 farm types (not all of which are found in Northern Ireland) are grouped into 10 'robust' categories which have particular relevance to UK conditions. These are:

<b>Cereals</b>	Farms on which cereals and combinable crops account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.
<b>General cropping</b>	Farms which do not qualify as cereals farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in arable, including field scale vegetable, crops or in a mixture of arable and horticultural crops where arable crops account for more than one-third of the total SO and no other grouping accounts for more than one-third. In addition, farms with a substantial area of grassland but few livestock are also included within this farm type.
<b>Horticulture</b>	Farms with more than two-thirds of the total SO in horticultural crops (including specialist mushroom growers).
<b>Specialist pigs</b>	Farms of which pigs account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
<b>Specialist poultry</b>	Farms on which poultry account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
<b>Dairy</b>	Farms on which dairy cows account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.

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<sup>3</sup> The EU typology has changed from using 2007 coefficients to using 2010 coefficients. The impact of the change from SO2007 to SO2010 can be seen at Annex 1.



<b>Grazing livestock (LFA)</b>	Farms wholly or mainly in the Less Favoured Area which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
<b>Grazing livestock (Lowland)</b>	Farms wholly or mainly outside the Less Favoured Area which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
<b>Mixed</b>	Farms that have no dominant enterprise and do not fit into the above categories.
<b>Other types</b>	Farms that specialise in enterprises which do not fit the definitions of mainstream agricultural activities. For the most part this category is made up of specialist horse farms plus other farms that are unclassified.

## 2.2 AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE

In conjunction with the other UK Agricultural Departments, an in-depth investigation was carried out in 1995 into the quality of statistics on the agricultural labour force. This indicated that while the number of workers recorded on each census form was generally realistic, there was confusion about the categories of workers into which farmers were asked to record themselves and other persons working on their farm. Consequently, the questions were revised to provide clearer definitions of the various categories and to bring these more into line with the requirements of data users. The definitions now used are:

**Regular workers** Those who work on the farm during at least 20 weeks per year.

**Full-time** Working 30 hours per week or more.

**Part-time** Working less than 30 hours per week.

**Casual workers** Those who work less than 20 weeks per year.

## 2.3 OTHER TERMS

<b>Conacre</b>	A system of short-term lettings, nominally for 11 months or 364 days
<b>Less favoured areas (LFA)</b>	Areas of poorer agricultural land which qualify for special aid under EU schemes
<b>SDA</b>	Severely Disadvantaged Areas, i.e. land classed as LFA under Directive 75/268/EEC
<b>DA</b>	Disadvantaged Areas, i.e. land classed as LFA under Directive 84/169/EEC.
<b>Area farmed</b>	Area farmed by each business on the census date. Agricultural land which is taken in conacre by persons operating a business is included but owned land which they let out in conacre is not. Common rough grazing is excluded
<b>Crops &amp; grass areas</b>	Total area excluding rough grazing, set-aside, farm woodlands and non-agricultural land.
<b>Livestock numbers</b>	Numbers on farms on the census date.
<b>Cereals</b>	Barley, wheat, oats and mixed corn
<b>Dairy cows</b>	Cows in milk or in calf, mainly for producing milk for sale; includes heifers in milk but excludes in-calf heifers.
<b>Beef cows</b>	Cows in milk or in calf, mainly for producing calves for beef; includes heifers in milk but excludes in-calf heifers.
<b>Breeding ewes</b>	Female sheep over one year which lambed in the current season or are for future breeding. (In 1995 and earlier years, only those to be put to the ram in the current year were included)
<b>Sows &amp; gilts</b>	Includes in-pig gilts but excludes gilts not yet in pig.
<b>Total poultry</b>	Hens, pullets, breeding fowl, broilers, turkeys, geese, ducks and other fowl

## 2.4 SYMBOLS USED

- Not available
- ..... Figures combined

## 2.5 STANDARD OUTPUTS (SO)

		€	
<b>Crops &amp; Grass</b>	Wheat	1,642	per ha
	Barley	1,166	per ha
	Oats	949	per ha
	Mixed corn	1037	per ha
	Potatoes	5,941	per ha
	Oilseed rape	1354	per ha
	Linseed	638	per ha
	Open-air horticulture		
	Vegetables	4,140	per ha
	Fruit	9,021	per ha
	Flowers/nursery	51,404	per ha
	Glasshouses:		
	Vegetables	155,309	per ha
	Flowers	348,608	per ha
	Mushrooms	35,276	per 100 m <sup>2</sup>
	Forage Maize	571	per ha
Other fodder crops	557	per ha	
Other crops	650	per ha	
Grassland	238	per ha	
<b>Cattle</b>	Dairy cows	2,050	per head
	Beef cows	404	per head
	Heifers 2 yrs +	419	per head
	Heifers 1-2 yrs	419	per head
	Bulls/steers 2 yrs +	482	per head
	Bulls/steers 1-2 yrs	474	per head
	Calves under 1 year	430	per head
<b>Sheep</b>	Ewes	97	per head
	Other sheep	1	per head
	Lambs	0	per head (included with ewe)
<b>Pigs</b>	Sows	819	per head
	Piglets (under 20kg)	2	per head
	Other pigs	207	per head
<b>Poultry</b>	Hens	1,778	per 100
	Broilers	857	per 100
	Others	5,813	per 100
<b>Horses</b>	Mares, stallions	513	per head
	Others	0	per head

**Notes:** 1 These SOs apply to crop areas and livestock numbers at June (not to the annual throughput).

2 At the time of calculation, 1 euro = £0.85 (2008-2012)

## 2.6 STANDARD LABOUR REQUIREMENTS (SLR)

The following factors have been used to classify farms in N.I.

	Item	Unit	Standard Labour Requirement (hours)	Units per 1900 hours
<b>Crops &amp; Grass</b>	Cereals	ha	30	63
	Oilseeds	ha	22.5	84
	Potatoes	ha	135	14
	Outdoor vegetables	ha	150	12.7
	Fruit	ha	450	4.2
	Ornamentals	ha	1,500	1.3
	Glasshouse vegetables	ha	5,000	0.4
	Other glasshouse	ha	25,000	0.1
	Mushrooms	house	1,050	1.8
	Setaside	ha	1.5	1,267
	Forage crops	ha	9	211
	Grass	ha	6	317
	Rough grazing	ha	2.25	844
	<b>Cattle</b>	Dairy cows	head	39
Beef cows		head	12	158
Other cattle		head	9	211
<b>Sheep</b>	Ewes and rams: Lowland	head	5.2	365
	Ewes and rams: LFA	head	4.2	452
	Other sheep: Lowland	head	3.3	576
	Other sheep: LFA	head	2.6	730
<b>Pigs</b>	Sows and gilts	head	16	119
	Piglets	head	1	1,900
	Other pigs	head	1.3	1,462
<b>Poultry</b>	Laying hens	head	0.17	11,176
	Pullets	head	0.12	15,833
	Broilers	head	0.04	47,500
	Turkeys, Ducks etc.	head	0.045	42,222
<b>Other</b>	Horses	head	150	12
	Goats	head	20	95
	Deer	head	15	127

## **SECTION 3: NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS**

- 3.1 Overview and comparison with previous year
- 3.2 Latest results and 15 years time series data
- 3.3 Charts of 15 year time series data for principal statistics

## **SECTION 3: NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS**

### **3.1 OVERVIEW AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR**

The June 2017 Agricultural Census showed the following headline results and changes from the previous years:

**Cereals:** The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2016 for harvest in 2017 was 18,100 ha – a 2 per cent decrease on the previous year. Within this group the area of winter barley has decreased to 7,100 ha. Spring barley decreased by 5 per cent, with an area of 14,000ha. Overall the cereal area decreased 1,100ha to 32,300 ha – a 3 per cent decrease compared with 2016.

**Other crops:** The total area of potatoes grown increased by 8 per cent to 4,100 hectares. Over the 10 year period 2007 to 2017, the area in potatoes decreased by 15 per cent. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce while market returns are variable. Most production is undertaken by a small number of specialist growers who service the local retail and catering trades.

The area of forage maize increased by 3 per cent from 2016 to 1,300 ha, but has decreased by 62 per cent since reaching a peak of 3,500 hectares in 2008. Mixed success with the crop (Northern Ireland latitudes and climate make it a marginal area for forage maize) has discouraged many growers from continuing to grow it. Its main use continues to be as a supplement to grass silage for winter feeding of dairy cows.

**Cattle:** Total cattle numbers remained at 2016 levels at 1.666 million head. Within this total dairy cows were relatively unchanged at 315,800 while beef cows decreased by 1 per cent to 267,100.

**Sheep:** The number of breeding ewes was 2 per cent higher at June 2017 compared with the previous year. The number of spring lambs on farms in June 2017 was 1 per cent higher than 2016.

**Pigs:** The pig breeding herd has increased by 3 per cent in June 2017, with total pigs increasing by 8 per cent to 649,100 – the highest it has been since 1998. A small number of large, highly productive businesses, drive most of the change in the sector.

**Poultry:** Poultry numbers were up by 14 per cent compared with June 2016. There was a 12 per cent increase in the commercial laying flock, whilst the breeding flock for hatching eggs increased 11 per cent to 2,526,900 head. Broiler chicken numbers increased by 16 per cent to 16,766,600 head from 2016. The sector is highly vertically integrated and the number of birds coming forward is tailored to meet market demands.

**Farmers and workers:** The overall farm labour headcount (full-time, part-time and casual) increased by 2 per cent to 48,700 in June 2017.

### **3.2 NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS (2003-2017)**

Tables and charts show the crop areas, livestock numbers and numbers of farmers and other workers for the 15 year period 2003 to 2017 at 1<sup>st</sup> June each year.

#### **Table 3.1 Land Use**

The total area in agricultural production is provided and details of land use disaggregated by grassland, rough grazing, arable, horticultural and other uses. The total area farmed has declined by 54,000 ha over the period, mainly as a result of the transfer of land to non-agricultural uses and the withdrawal of the most marginal (hill) land from production. The data illustrates the predominance of grassland as the major land use. Cropping accounts for less than 5 per cent of the total area farmed and is naturally constrained by relatively wet, maritime climate conditions and the predominance of heavy soil types.

#### **Table 3.2 Cattle and calves**

Cattle farming is the main agricultural activity in Northern Ireland. Total cattle numbers are provided with breakdowns for beef and dairy cattle and for a number of age groups. Dairy cow numbers have increased by 9 per cent since 2003, but considerable structural adjustment has occurred as small scale milk producers have exited the industry and remaining dairy farms have tended to get bigger (see Table 5.5 for distribution of dairy farms by herd size and county). Beef cow numbers have declined by 10 per cent since 2003. This is the result of persistently challenging

trading conditions and changes in subsidy mechanisms after 2005 which meant that payments were no longer linked to the number of cows held.

From 2007, cattle statistics have been derived from the Animal and Public Health Information System, (APHIS). Data for the years 2005 and 2006 were revised using APHIS as the data source.

### **Table 3.3 Sheep**

Total sheep numbers are provided and are further divided into male and female breeding flocks and lambs under 1 year.

Sheep flocks are typically, but not always, maintained on farms with cattle enterprises. Breeding ewe numbers rose rapidly in the 1990's peaking in 1998 at 1.450 million. After this they fell back by 40 per cent to a low of 876,000 in 2010. Since then numbers have increased by 11 per cent but have seen considerable fluctuation in response to volatile lamb prices.

### **Table 3.3 Horses and ponies**

Information on horses and ponies found on farms is provided for two ownership categories: holdings where animals are owned by the farmer and holdings where horses and ponies are owned by a third party.

The data relates to horse and ponies found on commercial farms, an unknown number of horses and ponies are located on holdings not covered by the survey where all land is rented out to third parties.

### **Table 3.3 Goats**

Total goat numbers are provided and are further sub-divided into females that have kidded and other goats. The majority of goats are found in very small numbers on farms and have no commercial significance. A very small number of farm businesses maintain specialist milk producing herds. The total number of goats in June 2017 increased by 9 per cent from the previous year to 4,200 head.



### **Table 3.4 Pigs**

Pig data is presented for the total herd, a number of female breeding categories, male boars, by weight band for fattening pigs until 2012 and by three categories after 2012.

The short production cycle associated with pigs, farm-gate price variability and sensitivity of producer margins to changes in feed costs, mean that population numbers are responsive to prevailing market conditions. The herd experienced a marked decline between 1998 and 2000 when trading conditions were very difficult and grant aid was available to assist the industry restructure. Since then total pig numbers have dipped and then recovered as the industry underwent considerable restructuring. Currently almost 88 per cent of sows are found on fewer than 100 farms (see Table 5.11 for more detail).

From 2013 onwards, pig data have been sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

### **Table 3.4 Poultry**

For poultry a point estimate of total numbers is disaggregated into commercial egg laying birds, breeding birds, broilers and other birds – the latter comprising a number of minor activities. Broiler birds are reared on farms in a highly vertically integrated production system and population numbers are managed in response to market conditions.

From 2007 onwards, poultry data have been sourced from the annual Northern Ireland Bird Register Update. From 2008 onwards the other category included game birds.

### **Table 3.5 Farmers and other workers**

Almost all farm businesses in Northern Ireland are owned and operated either by an owner occupier or by a family partnership. Most labour is therefore provided by the farm family. Farm labour data is presented for owners, spouse and other workers on a full-time and part-time basis. The long-term trend shows declining numbers in most labour categories, with both total farmers and total other-workers showing similar declines. The numbers of farmers in the full-time categories has also fallen proportionally more than that of the part-time categories. These trends reflect an overall decline in the number of farms and a greater reliance on part-time labour.

Labour input on an Annual Work Unit basis and for self-employed and employed persons in the agricultural sector can be found in Tables 2.14 and 2.15 of the Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture publication.

**Table 3.6      Number of Farms**

The population of farms to which these statistics refer includes all active farm businesses having one or more hectare of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.

Farm numbers increased by 2 per cent in 2017 to return to a similar level as 2015. However, the overall trend is downward with farm numbers having decreased by 12 per cent over the 15 year period from 2003. This is a result of economic drivers that make off-farm work more financially attractive while simultaneously encouraging the formation of larger scale production units to minimise costs and maintain farm income.

**Table 3.1 Crop areas in Northern Ireland 2003-2017**

('000 hectares)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Grass</b>								
Under 5 yrs old	138.0	141.8	135.6	126.5	122.1	117.2	120.8	118.4
Over 5 yrs old	710.3	696.7	675.8	677.2	671.9	672.4	669.9	661.6
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>848.2</b>	<b>838.5</b>	<b>811.4</b>	<b>803.7</b>	<b>794.0</b>	<b>789.6</b>	<b>790.7</b>	<b>780.0</b>
<b>Hill or rough land</b>								
	<b>152.9</b>	<b>151.2</b>	<b>148.6</b>	<b>151.3</b>	<b>146.5</b>	<b>147.1</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>140.5</b>
<b>Cereals</b>								
Oats	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.3
Wheat	7.3	8.6	8.4	8.7	9.2	12.1	10.1	10.9
Barley (winter)	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.6	4.7	6.1	5.1	6.8
Barley (spring)	23.6	22.5	21.7	18.2	18.1	19.5	21.6	17.6
Mixed corn	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
<b>Total cereals</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>37.8</b>
<b>Other field crops</b>								
Potatoes	6.0	5.7	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.1	4.9
Arable crop silage	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.9
Forage maize	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.3	2.9
SRC Willow	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
Other crops <sup>1</sup>	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.1	2.7
<b>Total other field crops</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>
<b>Horticultural crops</b>								
Fruit	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3
Ornamentals	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Total horticultural crops</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>55.6</b>
<b>Total crops &amp; grass</b>	<b>901.2</b>	<b>892.3</b>	<b>862.9</b>	<b>853.5</b>	<b>845.2</b>	<b>848.0</b>	<b>848.4</b>	<b>835.5</b>
<b>Other land</b>								
Set-aside	3.5	3.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.2	0.4	0.0
Woods and plantations	8.4	8.2	8.6	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.2
Other land <sup>2</sup>	7.8	7.6	7.1	11.8	10.9	11.3	6.9	7.8
<b>Total other land</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>
<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED</b>	<b>1,073.7</b>	<b>1,062.8</b>	<b>1,029.5</b>	<b>1,028.5</b>	<b>1,014.5</b>	<b>1,017.4</b>	<b>1,008.0</b>	<b>994.0</b>

1. Other Crops - Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stockfeed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax.

2. Other land - fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

(’000 hectares)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
							<b>Grass</b>
129.7	133.9	139.2	146.2	149.9	148.2	144.4	Under 5 yrs old
647.4	646.0	648.8	641.8	650.4	652.6	660.6	Over 5 yrs old
<b>777.1</b>	<b>779.8</b>	<b>788.0</b>	<b>788.0</b>	<b>800.3</b>	<b>800.8</b>	<b>805.0</b>	<b>Total grass</b>
<b>140.9</b>	<b>138.8</b>	<b>140.1</b>	<b>140.1</b>	<b>131.1</b>	<b>137.2</b>	<b>140.4</b>	<b>Hill or rough land</b>
							<b>Cereals</b>
2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	Oats
11.6	9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7	Wheat
6.8	5.3	5.3	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.1	Barley (winter)
17.2	20.2	20.5	16.8	15.7	14.7	14.0	Barley (spring)
0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	Mixed corn
<b>37.9</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>Total cereals</b>
							<b>Other field crops</b>
4.8	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	Potatoes
3.3	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.6	Arable crop silage
2.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	Forage maize
0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	SRC Willow
2.4	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.3	Other crops
<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>Total other field crops</b>
							<b>Horticultural crops</b>
1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	Fruit
1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	Vegetables
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	Ornamentals
<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Total horticultural crops</b>
<b>54.4</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>Total crops</b>
<b>831.5</b>	<b>832.8</b>	<b>839.6</b>	<b>837.8</b>	<b>847.7</b>	<b>848.2</b>	<b>852.2</b>	<b>Total crops &amp; grass</b>
							<b>Other land</b>
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Set-aside
10.8	11.0	10.3	11.1	11.1	16.1	15.8	Woods and plantations
8.2	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9	11.8	11.4	Other land
<b>19.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>Total other land</b>
<b>991.4</b>	<b>991.0</b>	<b>998.0</b>	<b>996.8</b>	<b>997.7</b>	<b>1013.2</b>	<b>1019.7</b>	<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED</b>

**Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2003-2017**

(‘000 head)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Dairy cows</b>								
In milk	268.7	265.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	21.5	22.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>290.1</b>	<b>288.3</b>	<b>287.1</b>	<b>284.7</b>	<b>286.1</b>	<b>289.2</b>	<b>284.7</b>	<b>281.0</b>
<b>Dairy heifers-in-calf</b>								
2 years old	25.7	28.1	27.7	27.5	28.1	26.9	26.3	26.1
1-2 years	34.3	34.4	36.6	39.0	39.8	37.4	36.2	35.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>61.9</b>
<b>Beef cows</b>								
In milk	239.9	240.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	55.5	55.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>295.4</b>	<b>296.2</b>	<b>280.6</b>	<b>276.7</b>	<b>272.6</b>	<b>265.7</b>	<b>256.8</b>	<b>257.6</b>
<b>Beef heifers-in-calf</b>								
2 years old	19.8	21.0	26.1	25.7	22.3	24.3	23.6	24.0
1-2 years	13.4	13.3	16.4	16.1	14.4	15.4	14.0	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>38.4</b>
<b>Breeding bulls</b>								
2 years old and over	12.6	12.9	15.5	15.6	14.1	15.6	14.9	14.7
1-2 years	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.4</b>
<b>Other cattle</b>								
<b>2 years old</b>								
Male	66.9	66.8	77.4	75.5	73.2	65.5	58.5	57.3
Females for slaughter	32.8	33.2	87.0	83.6	77.9	75.4	63.5	66.2
Females for breeding	15.0	15.5	11.5	11.4	9.7	10.6	10.0	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>175.9</b>	<b>170.5</b>	<b>160.8</b>	<b>151.5</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>133.6</b>
<b>1-2 years</b>								
Male	210.4	208.6	193.2	190.0	188.0	170.2	172.7	176.4
Females for slaughter	123.4	119.2	111.6	109.9	108.0	98.2	109.1	110.5
Females for breeding	69.7	69.6	69.2	68.5	66.6	65.1	66.8	67.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>403.5</b>	<b>397.3</b>	<b>374.1</b>	<b>368.3</b>	<b>362.7</b>	<b>333.5</b>	<b>348.6</b>	<b>354.2</b>
<b>6-12 months</b>								
Male	96.7	95.4	95.6	93.9	87.7	84.0	91.5	89.2
Female	95.0	93.2	102.7	101.4	101.7	103.0	100.4	99.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>191.7</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>198.2</b>	<b>195.2</b>	<b>189.4</b>	<b>186.9</b>	<b>191.9</b>	<b>188.3</b>
<b>Under 6 months</b>								
Male	138.2	136.6	132.2	128.8	117.9	128.6	129.5	131.4
Female	141.6	141.5	138.2	136.9	131.9	143.5	137.0	139.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>279.8</b>	<b>278.1</b>	<b>270.5</b>	<b>265.7</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>272.1</b>	<b>266.5</b>	<b>270.8</b>
<b>TOTAL CATTLE</b>	<b>1,685.3</b>	<b>1,677.6</b>	<b>1,712.7</b>	<b>1,689.3</b>	<b>1,643.5</b>	<b>1,622.5</b>	<b>1,599.0</b>	<b>1,604.4</b>

Note: From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS

(’000 head)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
							<b>Dairy cows</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In milk
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In calf
<b>282.5</b>	<b>285.4</b>	<b>279.5</b>	<b>294.2</b>	<b>311.5</b>	<b>317.1</b>	<b>315.8</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Dairy heifers-in-calf</b>
26.0	27.3	27.8	27.2	26.6	25.3	25.1	2 years old
36.2	38.2	39.3	34.8	34.1	33.6	34.9	1-2 years
<b>62.3</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>67.14</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Beef cows</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In milk
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In calf
<b>269.5</b>	<b>279.2</b>	<b>270.1</b>	<b>254.9</b>	<b>260.3</b>	<b>269.7</b>	<b>267.1</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Beef heifers-in-calf</b>
27.2	24.5	21.1	19.1	19.1	18.8	18.3	2 years old
14.9	16.4	16.2	12.7	12.6	12.4	12.1	1-2 years
<b>42.1</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Breeding bulls</b>
14.9	15.2	15.1	14.5	14.2	13.7	13.6	2 years old and over
3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	1-2 years
<b>18.7</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Other cattle</b>
							<b>2 years old</b>
49.4	47.0	43.0	49.0	46.9	43.7	44.4	Male
63.3	59.2	59.5	72.7	64.2	49.5	53.0	Females for slaughter
11.0	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.0	8.5	8.8	Females for breeding
<b>123.7</b>	<b>117.2</b>	<b>113.3</b>	<b>132.6</b>	<b>121.1</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>1-2 years</b>
166.4	164.0	168.0	154.3	153.4	166.6	177.5	Male
104.0	98.3	105.2	106.0	104.4	116.0	122.2	Females for slaughter
68.3	72.3	72.1	71.5	70.4	75.5	78.9	Females for breeding
<b>338.7</b>	<b>334.5</b>	<b>345.2</b>	<b>331.8</b>	<b>328.3</b>	<b>358.1</b>	<b>378.7</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>6-12 months</b>
85.2	92.9	89.4	84.3	90.4	97.7	90.3	Male
100.1	106.7	106.9	103.4	111.4	115.6	109.2	Female
<b>185.4</b>	<b>199.6</b>	<b>196.3</b>	<b>187.8</b>	<b>201.8</b>	<b>213.3</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Under 6 months</b>
129.1	136.3	123.0	119.6	131.3	142.0	140.6	Male
138.4	148.0	137.0	134.4	144.3	155.2	150.8	Female
<b>267.6</b>	<b>284.3</b>	<b>260.0</b>	<b>254.0</b>	<b>275.6</b>	<b>297.2</b>	<b>291.4</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1,590.5</b>	<b>1,625.4</b>	<b>1,587.8</b>	<b>1,567.3</b>	<b>1,608.9</b>	<b>1,664.6</b>	<b>1,666.4</b>	<b>TOTAL CATTLE</b>

**Table 3.3 Sheep, horses, ponies and goats in Northern Ireland 2003-2017**

	('000 head)							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>SHEEP</b>								
<b>Ewes</b>								
Ewes which lambed	953.6	943.1	900.8	864.6	839.3	823.1	788.2	775.2
Others for breeding	152.0	157.4	126.5	126.5	118.0	112.3	104.2	100.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,105.6</b>	<b>1,100.5</b>	<b>1,027.3</b>	<b>991.1</b>	<b>957.3</b>	<b>935.4</b>	<b>892.4</b>	<b>875.9</b>
<b>Other sheep</b>								
Rams for service	29.6	29.2	28.6	27.5	27.3	26.9	26.0	25.2
Not for breeding	9.5	10.1	10.6	11.1	12.2	12.5	13.6	18.4
<b>Lambs</b>								
Under 1 year old	1,096.4	1,085.6	1,078.6	1,040.9	1,027.2	998.8	964.8	928.1
<b>TOTAL SHEEP</b>	<b>2,241.1</b>	<b>2,225.4</b>	<b>2,145.1</b>	<b>2,070.5</b>	<b>2,024.0</b>	<b>1,973.6</b>	<b>1,896.7</b>	<b>1,847.7</b>
<b>HORSES AND PONIES</b>								
<b>Mares</b>								
Horses	2.4	2.3	2.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ponies	0.8	0.9	0.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total mares	3.2	3.1	3.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Stallions	0.2	0.2	0.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other horses	4.5	3.9	4.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other ponies	2.0	2.0	1.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.5	9.0	9.8	10.2	10.2
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3
<b>TOTAL HORSES &amp; PONIES</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<b>GOATS</b>								
Female goats which have kidded	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5
All other goats and kids	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.4
<b>TOTAL GOATS</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>

(*'000 head*)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
							<b>SHEEP</b>
							<b>Ewes</b>
774.4	806.1	792.3	794.1	814.3	833.6	846.3	Ewes which lambed
120.8	131.4	129.2	116.5	124.3	121.6	127.1	Others for breeding
<b>895.2</b>	<b>937.5</b>	<b>921.4</b>	<b>910.6</b>	<b>938.6</b>	<b>955.2</b>	<b>973.3</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Other sheep</b>
25.5	26.5	26.4	26.5	27.4	28.3	28.6	Rams for service
13.9	15.0	16.1	15.9	17.8	18.1	15.2	Not for breeding
							<b>Lambs</b>
953.0	990.0	939.6	969.9	1,005.8	1,021.4	1,035.4	Under 1 year old
<b>1,887.6</b>	<b>1,968.9</b>	<b>1,903.5</b>	<b>1,922.9</b>	<b>1,989.7</b>	<b>2,023.0</b>	<b>2,052.6</b>	<b>TOTAL SHEEP</b>

							<b>HORSES AND PONIES</b>
							<b>Mares</b>
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Horses
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Ponies
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Total mares
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Stallions
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Other horses
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Other ponies
9.9	10.0	9.7	9.1	9.1	8.4	7.9	Horses/Ponies owned by occupier
2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier
<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>TOTAL HORSES &amp; PONIES</b>

							<b>GOATS</b>
1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	Female goats which have kidded
1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.3	All other goats and kids
<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>TOTAL GOATS</b>



**Table 3.4 Pigs and poultry in Northern Ireland 2003-2017**

('000 head)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>PIGS</b>								
<b>Female breeding herd</b>								
Sows in pig	28.1	25.4	25.7	25.9	26.0	25.3	27.9	25.7
Gilts in pig	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.3	6.5	3.4	6.4
Others sows for breeding	9.7	7.8	6.6	6.7	6.7	3.6	7.0	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>38.5</b>
<b>Other breeding pigs</b>								
Boars being used for service	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
Maiden gilts	3.3	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.8	4.3
<b>Other pigs</b>								
Cull sows being fattened	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.1
110kg and over	1.6	1.7	3.3	3.3	3.9	6.4	5.2	5.6
80 kg and under 110kg	61.0	54.3	55.2	51.9	61.0	63.7	68.4	56.7
50kg and under 80kg	106.5	108.4	87.1	79.9	86.2	82.4	89.9	82.0
20kg and under 50kg	112.6	111.4	91.8	83.6	88.7	85.8	92.5	102.3
Under 20kg	104.1	105.4	126.6	125.6	128.6	124.1	134.3	133.2
Finishers	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Weaners/Growers	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Suckling piglets	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	<b>386.3</b>	<b>381.9</b>	<b>364.5</b>	<b>344.9</b>	<b>369.3</b>	<b>363.0</b>	<b>390.8</b>	<b>381.0</b>
<b>TOTAL PIGS</b>	<b>433.7</b>	<b>424.1</b>	<b>405.1</b>	<b>386.6</b>	<b>410.5</b>	<b>402.4</b>	<b>433.5</b>	<b>424.6</b>

Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

## POULTRY

### Commercial laying flock

Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	1,945.9	2,093.4	2,111.7	2,084.6	2,348.3	2,370.8	2,254.3	2,077.2
Second cycle	257.4	172.7	207.5	103.1	45.6	27.7	61.4	22.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,203.2</b>	<b>2,266.1</b>	<b>2,319.2</b>	<b>2,187.7</b>	<b>2,394.0</b>	<b>2,398.5</b>	<b>2,315.7</b>	<b>2,099.4</b>
Growing pullets	552.9	509.8	669.5	743.1	1,039.8	1,174.3	999.1	1,017.3
Breeding flock	2,518.2	2,284.8	1,634.5	1,594.8	1,538.0	1,205.2	1,573.2	1,078.2
<b>Table birds</b>								
Broilers	12,811.4	15,006.9	12,525.7	13,367.1	11,861.3	11,543.5	11,418.3	11,915.1
Other poultry	439.6	441.7	465.4	518.3	451.9	809.4	556.4	421.2
<b>TOTAL POULTRY</b>	<b>18,525.4</b>	<b>20,509.2</b>	<b>17,614.3</b>	<b>18,411.0</b>	<b>17,284.9</b>	<b>17,130.9</b>	<b>16,862.7</b>	<b>16,531.1</b>

Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.  
From 2008 onwards, game farms are included in poultry figures.

(’000 head)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
							<b>PIGS</b>
							<b>Female breeding herd</b>
25.9	26.0	29.5	29.3	30.2	31.7	33.1	Sows in pig
5.7	5.9	6.4	6.8	7.2	6.3	7.0	Gilts in pig
6.4	6.5	6.6	6.8	8.2	8.5	7.8	Others sows for breeding
<b>38.0</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Other breeding pigs</b>
0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	Boars being used for service
4.5	4.3	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.8	Maiden gilts
							<b>Other pigs</b>
0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	Cull sows being fattened
6.5	11.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	110kg and over
58.8	63.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	80 kg and under 110kg
88.0	85.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	50kg and under 80kg
93.0	88.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20kg and under 50kg
135.0	133.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Under 20kg
n.a.	n.a.	179.0	214.9	239.3	252.9	272.8	Finishers
n.a.	n.a.	166.8	164.4	180.4	193.8	211.7	Weaners/Growers
n.a.	n.a.	85.6	88.5	97.4	101.2	109.5	Suckling piglets
<b>382.0</b>	<b>383.7</b>	<b>432.1</b>	<b>468.4</b>	<b>517.7</b>	<b>548.3</b>	<b>594.5</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>425.3</b>	<b>426.9</b>	<b>480.3</b>	<b>517.1</b>	<b>569.7</b>	<b>601.1</b>	<b>649.1</b>	<b>TOTAL PIGS</b>
							<b>POULTRY</b>
							<b>Commercial laying flock</b>
2,411.7	2,556.1	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8	Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle
18.0	0.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Second cycle
<b>2,429.7</b>	<b>2,556.7</b>	<b>2,438.4</b>	<b>3,044.6</b>	<b>3,174.1</b>	<b>3,550.0</b>	<b>3,962.8</b>	<b>Total</b>
1,109.2	1,089.2	909.3	916.3	908.0	961.9	1,202.0	Growing pullets
1,528.0	1,641.1	2,150.6	2,413.7	2,404.9	2,282.7	2,526.9	Breeding flock
							<b>Table birds</b>
14,069.4	13,459.4	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6	Broilers
486.2	441.7	463.5	412.4	485.6	530.0	452.3	Other poultry
<b>19,622.5</b>	<b>19,188.2</b>	<b>19,373.8</b>	<b>20,401.1</b>	<b>21,245.7</b>	<b>21,783.8</b>	<b>24,910.6</b>	<b>TOTAL POULTRY</b>

**Table 3.5 Farmers and other workers in Northern Ireland 2003-2017**

		('000 workers)							
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Farmers</b>									
<b>Full time</b>	Male	18.1	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.3	16.0	15.6	15.2
	Female	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
	<b>Total full-time farmers</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.0</b>
<b>Part time</b>	Male	12.8	13.0	12.5	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.2	12.1
	Female	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5
	<b>Total part-time farmers</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMERS</b>		<b>34.0</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<b>Farmers' spouses</b>									
<b>Full time</b>	Total	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9
	<b>Part time</b>	Total	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.3
<b>TOTAL SPOUSES</b>		<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Other workers</b>									
<b>Full time</b>	Male	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6
	Female	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
	<b>Total full-time</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Part time</b>	Male	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6
	Female	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
	<b>Total part-time</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Casual</b>	Male	7.6	7.4	6.7	6.2	5.3	5.2	4.8	4.5
	Female	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
	<b>Total casual/seasonal</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER WORKERS</b>		<b>14.1</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMERS, SPOUSES AND OTHER WORKERS</b>		<b>54.5</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>46.9</b>

**Table 3.6 Number of Farms in Northern Ireland, 2003 - 2017**

		('000 farms)							
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>		28.3	27.6	27.1	26.7	26.1	26.0	25.3	24.5

(’000 workers)

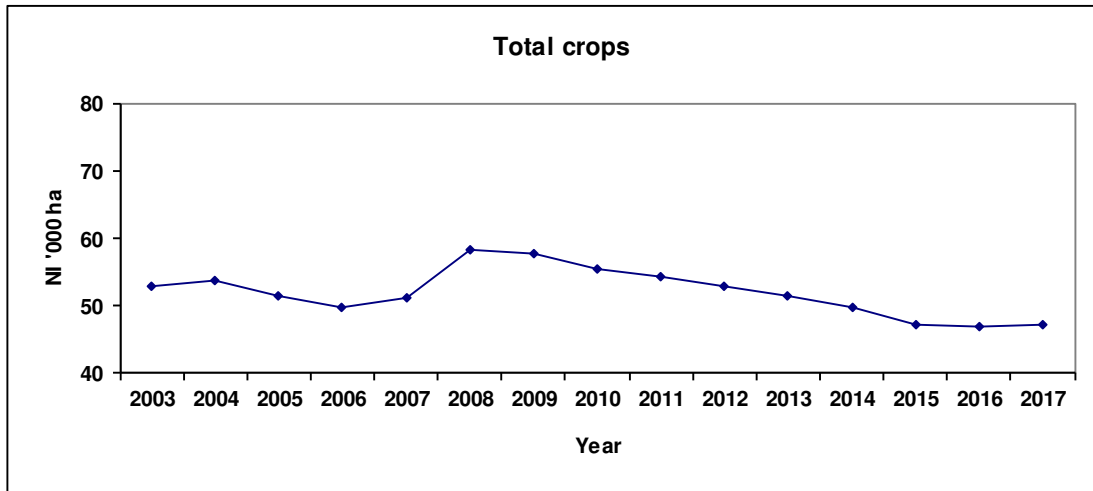
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
15.2	15.3	15.6	15.6	15.9	15.5	16.0	Male	<b>Farmers</b>
0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	Female	<b>Full time</b>
<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>		<b>Total full-time farmers</b>
11.9	11.7	11.4	11.4	11.9	12.1	12.0	Male	<b>Part time</b>
1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	Female	
<b>13.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.6</b>		<b>Total part-time farmers</b>
<b>29.1</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>30.3</b>		<b>TOTAL FARMERS</b>
1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	<b>Total</b>	<b>Farmers' spouses</b>
4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6	<b>Total</b>	<b>Full time</b>
								<b>Part time</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>		<b>TOTAL SPOUSES</b>
2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.9	Male	<b>Other workers</b>
0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	Female	<b>Full time</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>		<b>Total full-time</b>
2.8	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.5	Male	<b>Part time</b>
0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	Female	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>		<b>Total part-time</b>
4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.8	3.8	Male	<b>Casual</b>
0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	Female	
<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>		<b>Total casual/seasonal</b>
<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.9</b>		<b>TOTAL OTHER WORKERS</b>
<b>46.8</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>48.7</b>		<b>TOTAL FARMERS, SPOUSES AND OTHER WORKERS</b>

(’000 farms)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
24.4	24.3	24.5	24.2	24.9	24.5	25.0	<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>

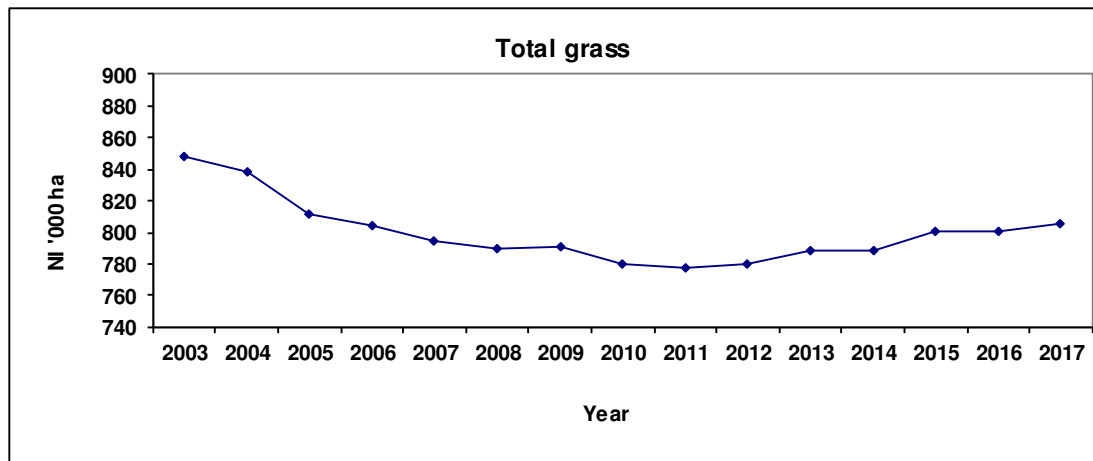
### 3.3 CHARTS OF TIME SERIES DATA FOR PRINCIPAL STATISTICS

**Chart 3 - 1**



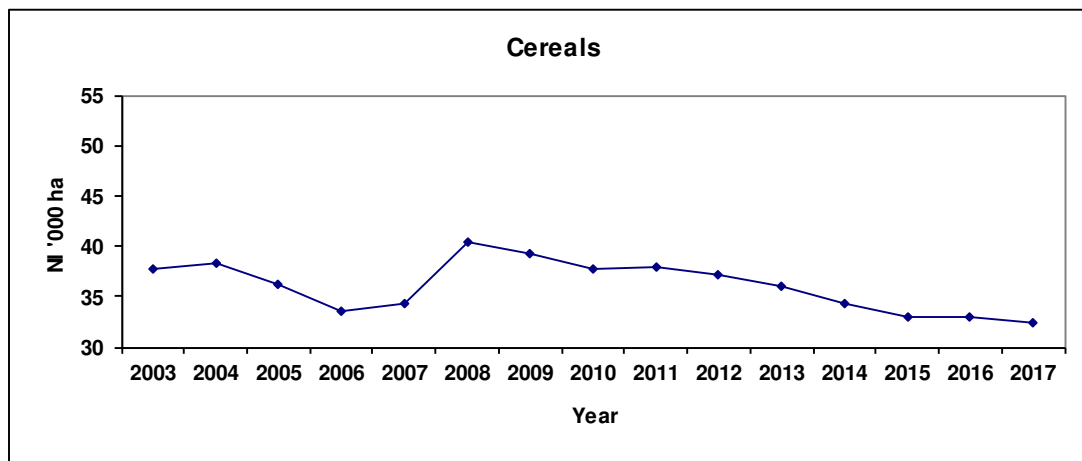
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 2**



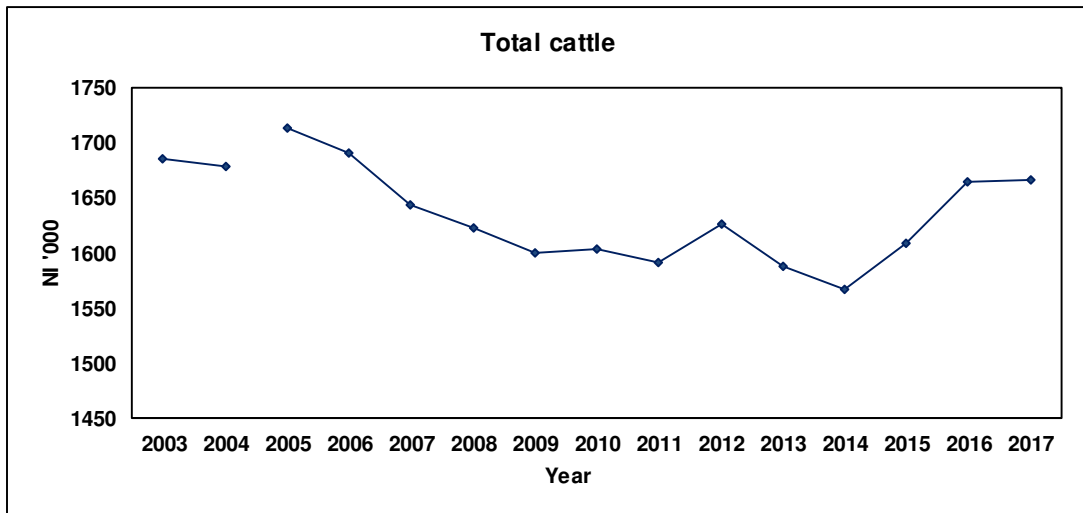
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 3**



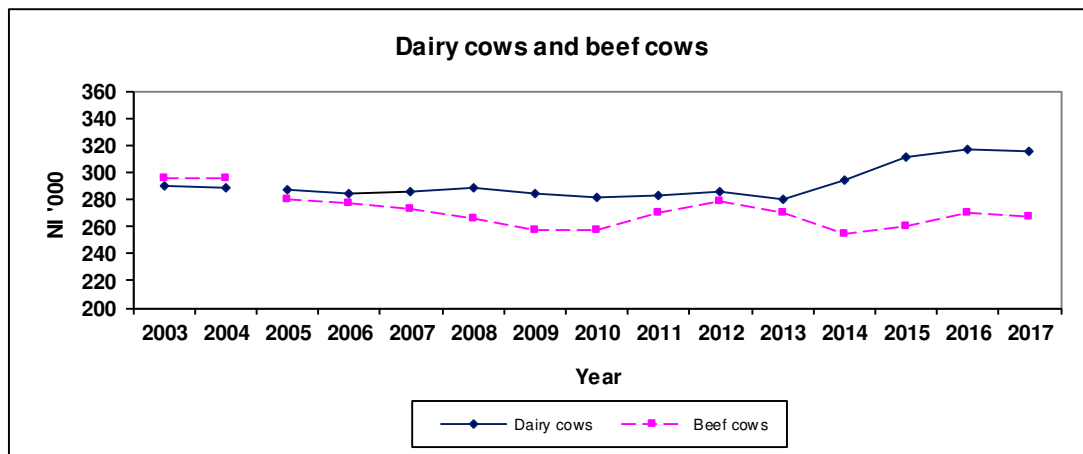
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 4**



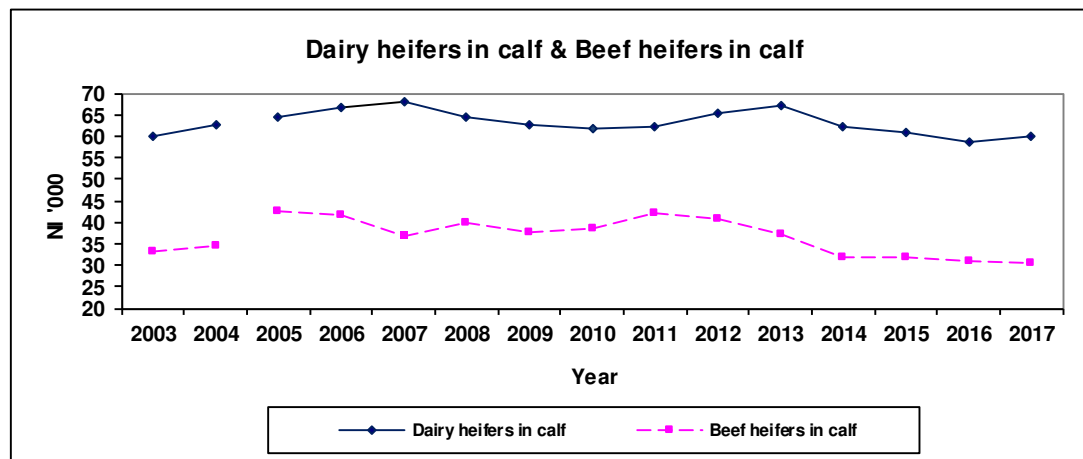
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 5**



Non-zero intercept

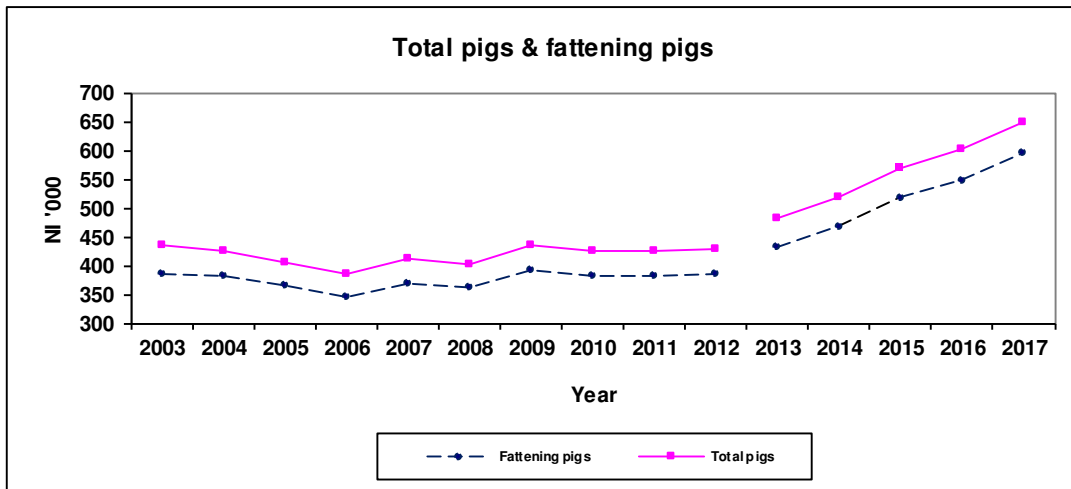
**Chart 3 - 6**



Non-zero intercept

Note: From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS

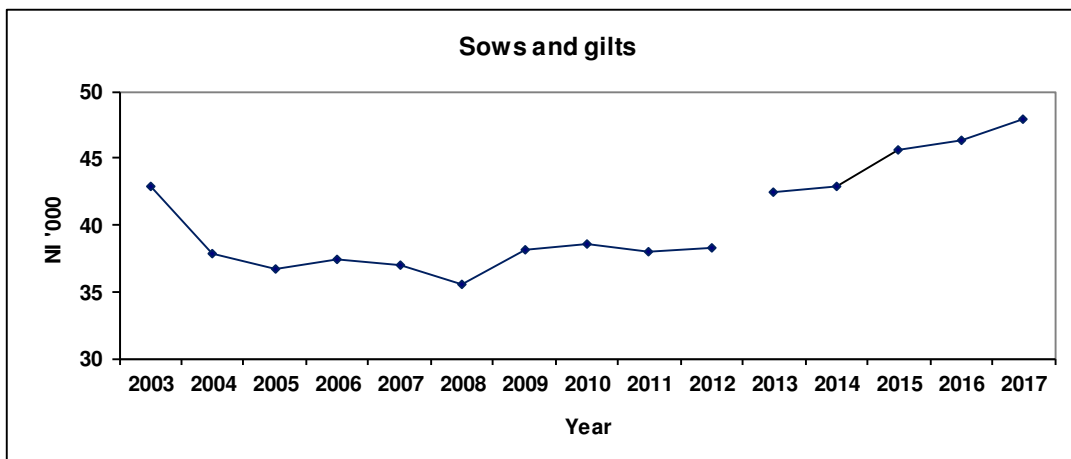
**Chart 3 - 7**



Non-zero intercept

Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs

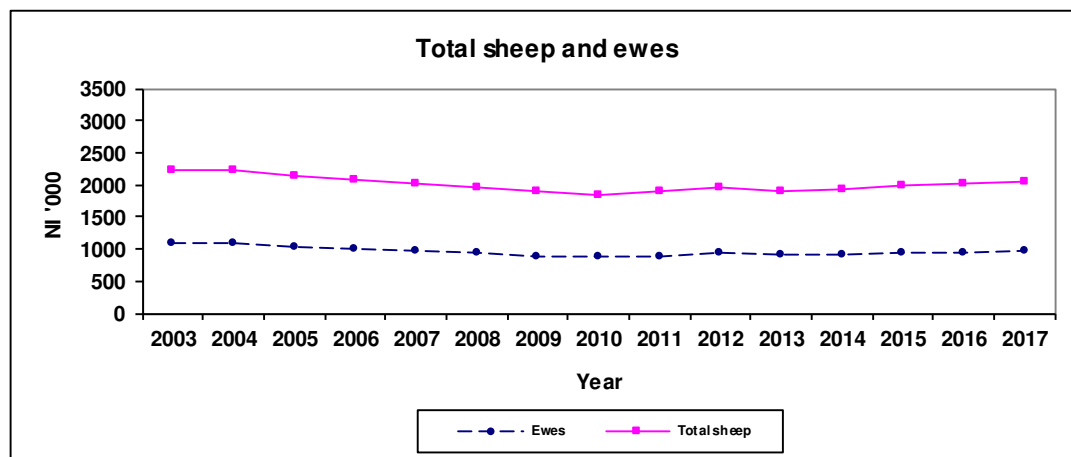
**Chart 3 - 8**



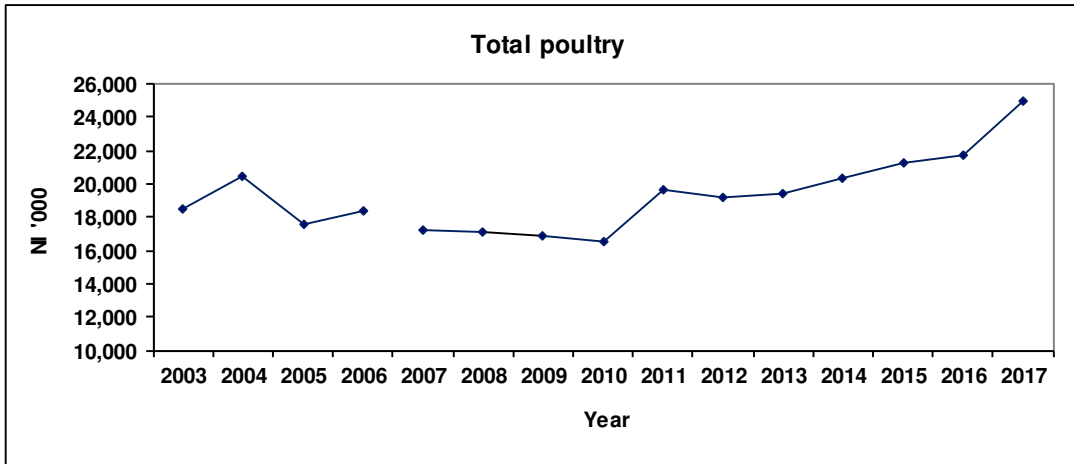
Non-zero intercept

Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs

**Chart 3 - 9**

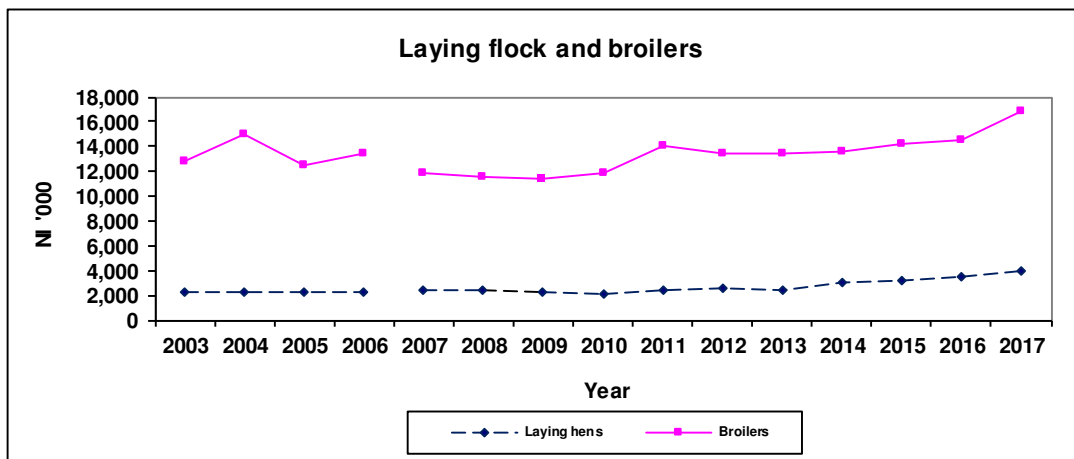


**Chart 3 - 10**



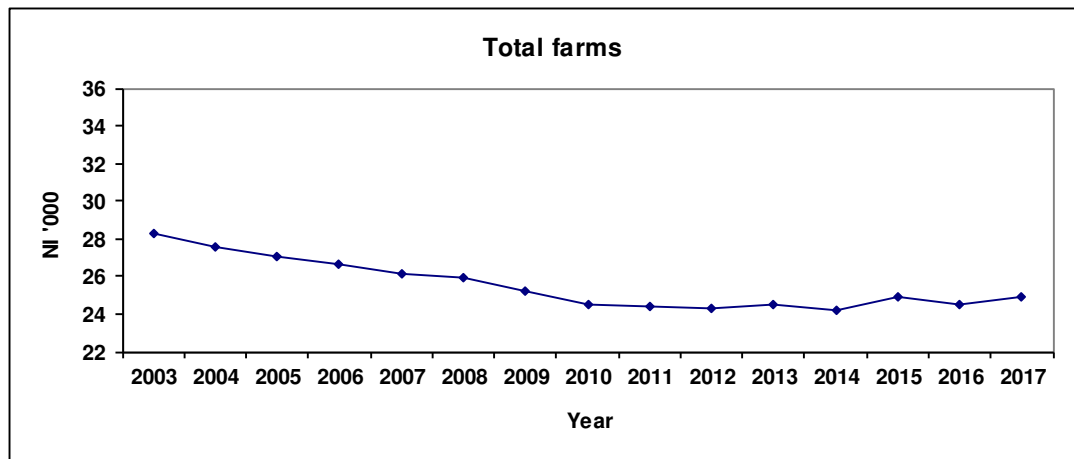
Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update  
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 11**



Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update

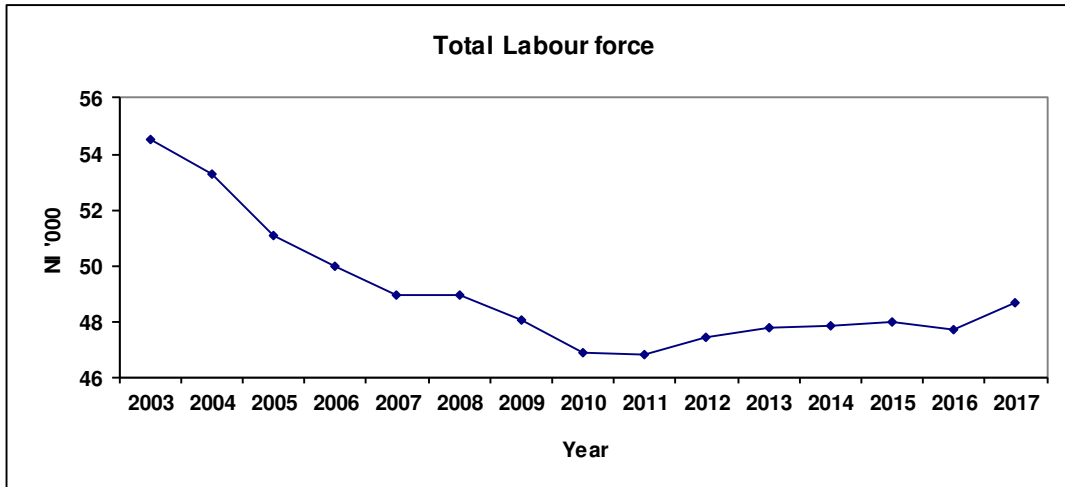
**Chart 3 - 12**



Non-zero intercept

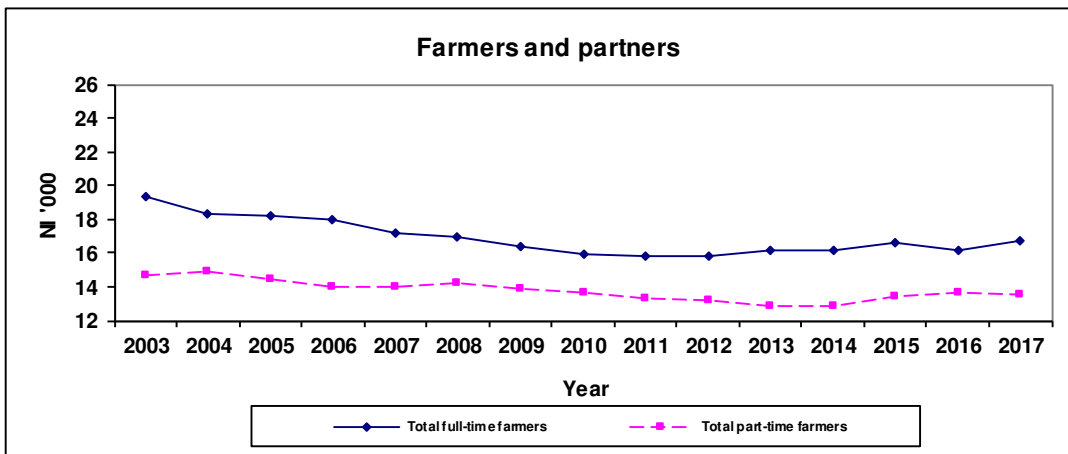


**Chart 3 - 13**



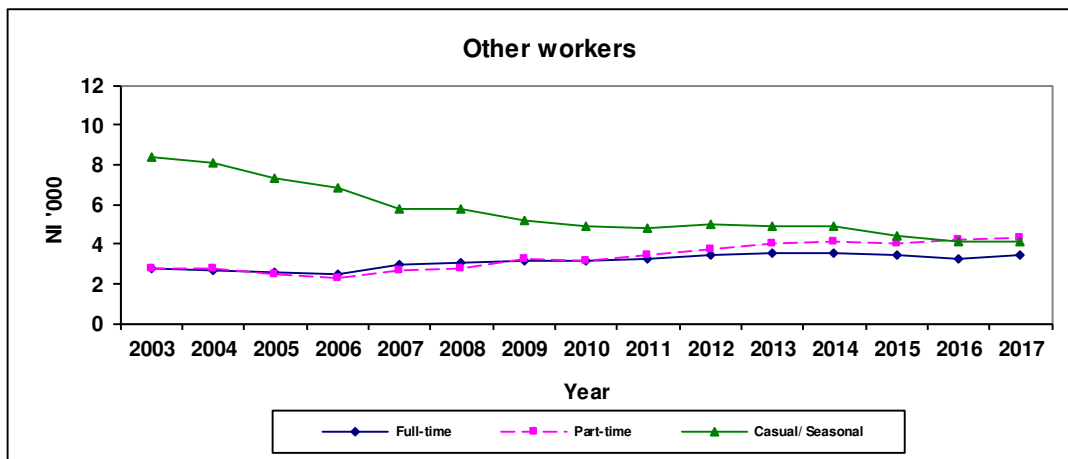
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 14**



Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 15**



## **SECTION 4: FARM STRUCTURES**

### **Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by crops and grass area**

The area of crops and grass (excluding rough grazing) found on individual farms for each county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified into 11 size bands.

The total area of crops and grass changed little from the previous year. The modal size for farms in all counties is between 20-29.9 hectares, illustrating the relatively small scale of most holdings. Unless intensively managed, farms of less than 40ha are likely to be operated on a part-time basis.

### **Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total land area**

The total area of land (including fallow areas, woodland and farm yards) found on individual farms for each county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified into 11 size bands.

The difference between the total area and the area of crops and grass (table 4.1) is due to rough grazing, farm woodland and small areas of other land not in production. Rough grazing is the most important component (total area 140,400 ha) and is low yielding permanent grassland, unimproved by fertiliser, cultivation, reseeding or drainage. These areas can normally only be used for extensive grazing of cattle and sheep.

### **Table 4.3 Number of farms in each county by type of farm and farm business size**

The data on farm enterprise types illustrates the importance of cattle and sheep farms in Northern Ireland and the relative concentration of cereal and cropping farms in Co. Down. The farm type profile is very stable from year to year as most farm businesses have invested in specialist buildings and equipment, have engaged in improving the quality of breeding livestock and have developed management skills that are specific to particular activities. As a result, substantive change to the type of farm enterprise operated cannot be made without careful planning and investment. Likewise, natural constraints such as land type, altitude and rainfall amounts tend to limit the choice of farm enterprises that are viable at a particular location.

The size data demonstrates the predominance of 'very small' farm businesses in Northern Ireland. Many farms are managed on a part-time basis, either in combination with off-farm employment or after the normal retirement age. See Section 2.1 for more information on the methodology used to categorise farms by size and type.

**Table 4.4 Number of farms in Northern Ireland by farm business size and farm type; crops and grass area; and total area.**

The data presented shows that farm business size and type are linked: the majority of 'very small' farm businesses are involved in beef and sheep production, while the majority of 'large' farms are dairy businesses. As land purchase is very expensive and opportunities to buy land in particular locations are limited, most farm expansion is achieved by: diversification into sectors, such as poultry, that do not require additional land; or by capital investment that facilitates growth; or by renting land on a short-term basis to support additional livestock or cropping.

**Table 4.5 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied**

The data presented shows that as farm business size increases, the proportion of owner-occupied land farmed decreases. The limited supply and high purchase cost of land, means that renting is the main method by which businesses expand the area farmed, at least in the short to medium term.

**Table 4.6 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size**

The relatively small size of most farm businesses is reflected in the importance of part-time labour in the overall labour mix. Unusually, the long-term downward trend in the size of the agricultural labour force was halted in 2012 when the total agricultural workforce increased slightly on a headcount basis. The stabilisation in numbers is not attributed to an increase in demand for labour on farms, but rather to difficulties in farm family members securing off-farm employment and to changes in Common Agricultural Policy support arrangements in 2015 that link subsidises to some level of active farming.

**Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by crop & grass area farmed by county in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>Crops and grass area farmed (hectares)</i>	<b>Crops &amp; grass</b>													
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>
< 2	164	59	109	54	144	102	57	18	72	29	151	56	<b>697</b>	<b>318</b>
2 - 4.9	259	955	264	975	385	1,397	129	472	191	685	301	1,083	<b>1,529</b>	<b>5,567</b>
5 - 9.9	570	4,233	604	4,467	724	5,301	314	2,336	407	3,001	791	5,851	<b>3,410</b>	<b>25,188</b>
10 - 14.9	492	6,006	534	6,581	642	7,910	363	4,440	402	4,965	775	9,493	<b>3,208</b>	<b>39,394</b>
15 - 19.9	395	6,836	401	6,939	485	8,377	322	5,576	352	6,095	700	12,062	<b>2,655</b>	<b>45,884</b>
20 - 29.9	631	15,580	552	13,339	732	17,755	545	13,272	540	13,216	1,039	25,320	<b>4,039</b>	<b>98,481</b>
30 - 39.9	455	15,789	321	11,016	447	15,435	354	12,171	348	12,026	636	21,877	<b>2,561</b>	<b>88,314</b>
40 - 49.9	294	13,053	184	8,183	326	14,490	246	10,874	263	11,663	450	19,958	<b>1,763</b>	<b>78,221</b>
50 - 74.9	485	29,739	251	15,145	439	26,724	324	19,497	394	24,045	634	37,933	<b>2,527</b>	<b>153,083</b>
75 - 99.9	274	23,528	85	7,285	211	17,989	136	11,699	160	13,731	245	21,017	<b>1,111</b>	<b>95,249</b>
100 & over	357	56,472	117	17,334	298	45,265	179	27,029	218	34,455	287	41,925	<b>1,456</b>	<b>222,481</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>172,250</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>91,316</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>160,746</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>107,383</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>123,910</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>196,575</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>852,179</b>

**Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total area by county in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>Total area (hectares)</i>	<b>Total area</b>													
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Area</b>
< 2	99	68	73	59	98	95	23	18	41	25	100	56	<b>434</b>	<b>322</b>
2 - 4.9	210	785	233	865	336	1,220	94	364	167	599	250	907	<b>1,290</b>	<b>4,740</b>
5 - 9.9	476	3,531	602	4,483	687	5,056	263	2,024	341	2,525	667	4,945	<b>3,036</b>	<b>22,565</b>
10 - 14.9	428	5,260	511	6,339	605	7,484	338	4,161	351	4,356	683	8,367	<b>2,916</b>	<b>35,965</b>
15 - 19.9	356	6,153	415	7,166	501	8,653	327	5,658	309	5,370	628	10,869	<b>2,536</b>	<b>43,869</b>
20 - 29.9	631	15,605	580	14,002	736	17,920	550	13,422	471	11,600	1,030	25,269	<b>3,998</b>	<b>97,819</b>
30 - 39.9	468	16,292	328	11,273	474	16,414	373	12,837	359	12,396	650	22,448	<b>2,652</b>	<b>91,659</b>
40 - 49.9	315	13,889	203	9,000	340	15,186	257	11,394	270	12,023	494	22,016	<b>1,879</b>	<b>83,509</b>
50 - 74.9	549	33,544	264	15,883	489	29,858	362	21,812	452	27,552	734	44,310	<b>2,850</b>	<b>172,959</b>
75 - 99.9	325	28,132	89	7,677	240	20,540	168	14,561	204	17,565	320	27,439	<b>1,346</b>	<b>115,914</b>
100 & over	519	92,826	124	18,792	327	55,484	214	43,521	382	64,397	453	75,396	<b>2,019</b>	<b>350,416</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>216,084</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>95,539</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>177,911</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>129,772</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>158,407</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>242,023</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>1,019,736</b>

**Table 4.3 Number of farms by (a) type of farm and (b) farm business size by county in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

	County						
	Antrim	Armagh	Down	Fermanagh	Londonderry	Tyrone	N.Ireland
<b>FARM TYPE:</b>							
Cereals	33	18	145	1	55	20	<b>272</b>
General cropping	88	59	157	32	101	86	<b>523</b>
Horticulture	31	147	48	5	14	28	<b>273</b>
Pigs	29	18	44	3	33	54	<b>181</b>
Poultry	172	79	56	36	34	245	<b>622</b>
Dairy	546	296	531	274	322	666	<b>2,635</b>
Cattle & sheep: LFA	2,403	1,959	1,813	2,581	1,891	4,040	<b>14,687</b>
Cattle & sheep: lowland	931	756	1,824	25	781	780	<b>5,097</b>
Mixed	109	79	166	7	103	75	<b>539</b>
Other type	34	11	49	5	13	15	<b>127</b>
<b>All types</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>24,956</b>
<b>FARM BUSINESS SIZE:</b>							
Very small	3,076	2,700	3,624	2,487	2,535	4,638	<b>19,060</b>
Small	603	353	572	293	419	705	<b>2,945</b>
Medium	283	135	229	108	178	296	<b>1,229</b>
Large	414	234	408	81	215	370	<b>1,722</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>24,956</b>

Note: Farm business size is determined using Standard Labour Requirements.

**Table 4.4 Number of farms by (a) type of farm; (b) crops and grass area and (c) total area by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

	Farm business size				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	
<b>FARM TYPE:</b>					
Cereals	223	30	11	8	272
General cropping	426	36	16	45	523
Horticulture	93	50	27	103	273
Pigs	54	24	31	72	181
Poultry	158	239	118	107	622
Dairy	269	723	607	1,036	2,635
Cattle & sheep: LFA	13,115	1,181	240	151	14,687
Cattle & sheep: lowland	4,354	542	119	82	5,097
Mixed	285	99	49	106	539
Other type	83	21	11	12	127
<b>All types</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>24,956</b>
<b>AREA OF CROPS &amp; GRASS FARMED (hectares)</b>					
Under 10	5,324	155	59	98	5,636
10 - 19.9	5,609	173	39	42	5,863
20.0 - 29.9	3,667	267	59	46	4,039
30.0 - 49.9	3,145	864	218	97	4,324
50.0 - 99.9	1,226	1,211	598	603	3,638
100 & over	89	275	256	836	1,456
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>24,956</b>
<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED (hectares)</b>					
Under 10	4,496	128	49	87	4,760
10 - 19.9	5,227	143	34	48	5,452
20.0 - 29.9	3,684	224	49	41	3,998
30.0 - 49.9	3,507	740	192	92	4,531
50.0 - 99.9	1,844	1,189	583	580	4,196
100 & over	302	521	322	874	2,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>24,956</b>

**Table 4.5 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied, June 2017**

Owner-occupied land as percentage of area farmed	Farm business size				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
All	11,373	905	277	301	<b>12,856</b>
50-<100%	4,473	1,321	616	861	<b>7,271</b>
>0-<50%	2,211	636	316	536	<b>3,699</b>
None	1,003	83	20	24	<b>1,130</b>
<b>All farms</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>24,956</b>
<b>Average percentage owner-occupied</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>72</b>

**Table 4.6 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

	Farm business size				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
<b>Farmers, partners &amp; directors:</b>					
Full-time	9,488	3,163	1,560	2,549	16,760
Part-time	11,991	895	281	419	13,586
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,479</b>	<b>4,058</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>30,346</b>
<b>Spouses</b>	<b>4,122</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>6,449</b>
<b>Other workers</b>					
Full-time	641	301	315	2,184	3,441
Part-time	2,343	816	393	767	4,319
Casual/seasonal	1,967	826	424	932	4,149
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>4,951</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>11,909</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>30,552</b>	<b>7,015</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>7,650</b>	<b>48,704</b>

## **SECTION 5: FARM ENTERPRISES**

### **Table 5.1 Total cereals**

The distribution of farms with cereals and area of cereals (all types) grown by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 9 size bands.

While relatively small areas of cereals are grown on farms across all counties, larger scale operations are found predominately in Co. Down and Co. Londonderry. This is a result of more favourable climatic and/or soil conditions found in parts of these counties.

In 2017, the total area of cereals decreased by 3 per cent compared with the previous year.

### **Table 5.2 Barley**

The number of farms and area of barley (spring and winter) by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 8 size bands.

While relatively small areas of barley are grown on farms across all counties, the majority of production and larger scale operations are found predominately in Co. Down and Co. Londonderry. This is a result of more favourable climatic and/or soil conditions found in parts of these counties.

The area of spring barley decreased by 5 per cent compared with 2016 to the lowest area recorded in recent time while winter barley decreased by 7 per cent from 2016 levels. Overall, the total area of barley decreased by 5 per cent compared to 2016

### **Table 5.3 Winter barley, Spring barley, Oats, Wheat.**

The number of farms and area of barley (spring and winter), oats and wheat for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 9 size bands.

The data shows that majority of farmers grow less than 10 ha of cereal crops. The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2016 for harvest in 2017 decreased by 2 per cent from the previous year.



**Table 5.4 Potatoes**

The number of farms and area of potatoes by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 8 size bands.

The data show a large proportion of the potato crop is grown by a relatively small number of growers producing more than 15 ha each. The total area grown was 8 per cent higher in 2017 than in 2016.

**Table 5.5 Dairy cows**

The number of farms and dairy cows by county and for Northern Ireland is stratified by 10 size bands.

The number of dairy cows was remained stable compared with the previous year. The data shows that dairy cows are widely distributed across the region and that 66 per cent of cows are found in herds of 100 or more animals.

**Table 5.6 Beef cows**

The number of farms and beef cows by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 11 size bands.

The number of beef cows decreased by 1 per cent compared with June 2016 to 267,100 head.

The data shows that beef cows are widely distributed across the region and that almost half of the cows are found in herds of less than 30 animals.

**Table 5.7 Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter**

The number of farms and cattle over one year, intended for slaughter, by county and for Northern Ireland is stratified by 12 size bands.

**Table 5.8 Total cattle**

The number of farms and total cattle numbers, by county and for Northern Ireland is stratified by 13 size bands.

Farms with more than 250 cattle on 1<sup>st</sup> June (mainly specialist finishing units) accounted for approximately 7 per cent of herds but 34 per cent of total cattle numbers.

**Table 5.9 Breeding ewes**

The number of farms and breeding ewes by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 9 size bands

The number of breeding ewes is 2 per cent higher than last year. Breeding ewe numbers rose rapidly in the 1990's peaking in 1998 at 1.450 million. After this they fell back by 40 per cent to a low of 876,000 in 2010. Since then numbers have increased by 11 per cent but have seen considerable fluctuation in response to volatile lamb prices.

**Table 5.10 Total sheep**

The number of farms and total sheep by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 10 size bands

Farms with more than 500 sheep on 1<sup>st</sup> June account for approximately 9 per cent of flocks and approximately 39 per cent of the total sheep population.

**Table 5.11 Sows**

The number of farms and sows by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 5 size bands

Most pigs are concentrated in relatively few farms, with units of more than 200 sows on 1<sup>st</sup> June accounting for approximately 19 per cent of herds but over three-quarters of total breeding sows.

**Table 5.12 Finisher/Weaner pigs**

The number of farms with Finishing and Weaner pigs by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 7 size bands

Farms with more than 1,000 Finisher/Weaner pigs on 1<sup>st</sup> June account for approximately 33 per cent of herds and 91 per cent of total Finisher/Weaner pigs.

**Table 5.13 Total pigs**

The number of farms and total pigs by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 7 size bands

Farms with more than 1,000 pigs on 1<sup>st</sup> June account for approximately 36 per cent of herds and 93 per cent of total pigs

**Table 5.14 Broilers, growing pullets, breeding fowl, laying hens, total ordinary fowl, total poultry.**

The number of farms and total fowl by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified into 7 size bands.

Broilers account for approximately two-thirds of all fowl at 1<sup>st</sup> June. Approximately 87 per cent of broilers were found on units with flocks of over 30,000 birds. The sector is highly vertically integrated and the number of birds coming forward is tailored to meet market demands.

**Table 5.1 Distribution of farms and cereals by area of cereals by county, June 2017**

Area of cereals on farms (hectares)	All Cereals											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone <sup>1</sup>		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 1	7	5	10	14	19	13	8	6	23	29	39	26
1 - 1.9	43	62			59	88	33	49			163	240
2 - 4.9	124	414	37	119	241	790	142	468	63	208	607	1,999
5 - 9.9	107	783	52	365	204	1,444	106	746	53	372	522	3,710
10 - 19.9	64	874	39	506	153	2,144	96	1,322	49	684	401	5,530
20 - 29.9	39	917	13	318	66	1,562	40	974	11	264	169	4,034
30 - 39.9	10	327	5	176	48	1,648	16	551	6	210	85	2,913
40 - 49.9	9	398	14	1,230	25	1,118	5	208	9	707	44	1,941
50 and over	17	1,335			68	5,684	31	3,167			134	11,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>14,491</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>32,298</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

**Table 5.2 Distribution of farms and crops by area of barley by county, June 2017**

Area of barley on farms (hectares)	Barley (spring and winter)											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone <sup>1</sup>		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 1	40	55	8	11	16	10	7	6	13	16	30	21
1 - 1.9					52	78	34	50			140	205
2 - 4.9	103	341	40	130	225	730	133	433	56	186	557	1,820
5 - 9.9	88	628	40	269	171	1,210	104	724	47	336	450	3,167
10 - 19.9	55	744	28	393	147	1,996	90	1,243	39	525	359	4,900
20 - 29.9	26	619	7	181	66	1,584	26	629	10	243	135	3,256
30 - 39.9	5	170	10	462	31	1,070	9	302	8	483	51	1,748
40 & over	11	598			48	2,971	24	1,721			95	6,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>9,649</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>5,107</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>21,145</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

**Table 5.3 Distribution of farms and crops by area of crop, Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>Area of crop on farms (hectares)</i>	Winter Barley		Spring Barley		Oats		Wheat	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 1	31	42	30	21	21	13	10	6
1 - 1.9			135	197	61	85	26	39
2 - 4.9	192	647	502	1,647	123	378	185	632
5 - 9.9	183	1,293	392	2,752	60	419	179	1,284
10 - 19.9	130	1,822	306	4,197	45	586	140	1,928
20 - 29.9	49	1,179	78	1,846	10	224	58	1,396
30 - 39.9	23	771	25	863	9	547	25	843
40 - 49.9	12	528	21	933			15	644
50 and over	12	833	24	1,576			22	1,958
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>7,114</b>	<b>1,513</b>	<b>14,031</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>8,730</b>

**Table 5.4 Distribution of farms and potatoes by area of potatoes by county, June 2017**

<i>Area of potatoes on farms (hectares)</i>	Potatoes											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone <sup>1</sup>		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 0.5	8	2	15	6	22	6	5	1	20	7	61	15
0.5 - 0.9	10	8			25	17	6	4			50	35
1 - 1.9	24	33	13	21	28	37	14	18	13	20	82	107
2 - 2.9	12	27			18	44	14	32			54	124
3 - 4.9	14	52	10	90	16	59	17	65	24	211	57	213
5 - 9.9	13	114			22	171	22	146			73	520
10 - 14.9					14	169	11	131			30	363
15 & over	15	526			37	1,398	18	639			73	2,674
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>4,053</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

**Table 5.5 Distribution of farms and dairy cows by number of dairy cows and county, June 2017**

<i>Number of dairy cows on farms</i>	<b>Dairy cows</b>													
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 10	40	272	39	239	53	352	25	169	28	175	78	491	263	1,698
10 - 14	20	238	10	125	21	242	29	425	14	176	32	389	106	1,260
15 - 19	11	187	23	386	12	205					28	467	94	1,580
20 - 29	26	646	21	516	32	768	30	714	25	598	47	1,121	181	4,363
30 - 39	39	1,351	32	1,111	33	1,143	56	1,918	27	937	72	2,469	259	8,929
40 - 49	48	2,118	27	1,194	29	1,307	36	1,604	34	1,512	69	3,061	243	10,796
50 - 59	48	2,596	34	1,857	49	2,692	30	1,603	37	2,011	69	3,770	267	14,529
60 - 69	56	3,629	32	2,044	39	2,523	23	1,463	25	1,612	57	3,695	232	14,966
70 - 99	137	11,767	70	5,823	90	7,615	54	4,457	74	6,264	180	14,855	605	50,781
100 & over	289	47,329	124	23,382	304	54,524	58	9,794	152	26,751	251	45,100	1,178	206,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>70,133</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>36,677</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>71,371</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>22,147</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>40,036</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>75,418</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>315,782</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2017.

**Table 5.6 Distribution of farms and beef cows by number of beef cows and county, June 2017**

<i>Number of beef cows on farms</i>	<b>Beef cows</b>													
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 5	436	928	515	1,163	611	1,369	404	1,061	396	896	863	2,026	3,225	7,443
5 - 9	364	2,543	441	3,049	527	3,675	521	3,612	334	2,321	773	5,363	2,960	20,563
10 - 14	314	3,727	341	4,045	324	3,871	412	4,869	300	3,576	636	7,492	2,327	27,580
15 - 19	215	3,631	224	3,771	292	4,948	317	5,352	222	3,749	448	7,613	1,718	29,064
20 - 29	312	7,518	240	5,727	290	7,016	353	8,495	274	6,476	499	11,824	1,968	47,056
30 - 39	199	6,832	128	4,301	162	5,541	152	5,190	132	4,389	258	8,691	1,031	34,944
40 - 49	98	4,418	59	2,636	76	3,354	91	4,034	79	3,482	110	4,871	513	22,795
50 - 59	59	3,187	39	2,066	60	3,260	51	2,760	34	1,837	72	3,920	315	17,030
60 - 69	53	3,422	23	1,473	37	2,375	35	2,245	32	2,089	44	2,785	224	14,389
70 - 99	63	5,265	24	1,950	45	3,688	56	4,502	34	2,763	50	4,179	272	22,347
100 & over	53	7,643	16	2,116	27	3,797	25	3,559	18	2,217	32	4,559	171	23,891
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>49,114</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>32,297</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>42,894</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>45,679</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>33,795</b>	<b>3,785</b>	<b>63,323</b>	<b>14,724</b>	<b>267,102</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2017.

**Table 5.7 Distribution of farms and cattle over one year old, intended for slaughter, by number of cattle and county, June 2017**

<b>Male and female cattle one year old &amp; over, intended for slaughter</b>														
<i>Number of cattle on farms</i>	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle
<b>1 - 2</b>	391	566	343	504	472	699	624	877	364	500	823	1,152	<b>3,017</b>	<b>4,298</b>
<b>3 - 4</b>	309	1,067	265	929	302	1,049	297	1,022	255	890	477	1,642	<b>1,905</b>	<b>6,599</b>
<b>5 - 9</b>	523	3,636	500	3,375	585	3,981	479	3,166	404	2,813	878	5,984	<b>3,369</b>	<b>22,955</b>
<b>10 - 14</b>	367	4,373	366	4,287	394	4,692	227	2,632	262	3,134	553	6,506	<b>2,169</b>	<b>25,624</b>
<b>15 - 19</b>	249	4,198	231	3,890	309	5,232	129	2,172	181	3,054	352	5,945	<b>1,451</b>	<b>24,491</b>
<b>20 - 29</b>	318	7,655	340	8,177	447	10,775	155	3,609	258	6,208	408	9,809	<b>1,926</b>	<b>46,233</b>
<b>30 - 39</b>	216	7,408	211	7,193	254	8,615	77	2,607	127	4,385	258	8,784	<b>1,143</b>	<b>38,992</b>
<b>40 - 49</b>	152	6,731	120	5,258	162	7,183	38	1,710	99	4,348	146	6,439	<b>717</b>	<b>31,669</b>
<b>50 - 59</b>	118	6,384	85	4,621	100	5,446	17	939	56	3,050	110	5,927	<b>486</b>	<b>26,367</b>
<b>60 - 69</b>	60	3,842	58	3,748	62	4,042	25	1,619	42	2,684	86	5,483	<b>333</b>	<b>21,418</b>
<b>70 - 99</b>	109	9,049	102	8,435	136	11,107	22	1,753	74	6,167	117	9,581	<b>560</b>	<b>46,092</b>
<b>100 &amp; over</b>	103	17,988	114	19,707	131	23,312	16	3,197	76	11,932	145	26,284	<b>585</b>	<b>102,420</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>72,897</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>70,124</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>86,133</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>25,303</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>49,165</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>93,536</b>	<b>17,661</b>	<b>397,158</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2017.

**Table 5.8 Distribution of farms and total cattle by number of cattle and county, June 2017**

<b>Total cattle</b>														
<i>Number of cattle on farms</i>	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle
<b>1 - 4</b>	83	234	74	207	107	289	83	239	87	242	175	491	<b>609</b>	<b>1,702</b>
<b>5 - 9</b>	172	1,244	179	1,264	250	1,775	246	1,720	168	1,190	348	2,474	<b>1,363</b>	<b>9,667</b>
<b>10 - 19</b>	386	5,515	451	6,506	550	7,882	458	6,615	346	4,959	776	11,210	<b>2,967</b>	<b>42,687</b>
<b>20 - 29</b>	368	8,932	402	9,809	443	10,680	392	9,546	308	7,402	693	16,759	<b>2,606</b>	<b>63,128</b>
<b>30 - 39</b>	288	9,762	316	10,853	342	11,744	320	11,004	262	8,922	490	16,809	<b>2,018</b>	<b>69,094</b>
<b>40 - 49</b>	238	10,507	249	10,985	278	12,273	233	10,283	194	8,495	412	18,186	<b>1,604</b>	<b>70,729</b>
<b>50 - 69</b>	347	20,379	351	20,296	376	22,291	299	17,539	293	17,224	537	31,705	<b>2,203</b>	<b>129,434</b>
<b>70 - 99</b>	340	28,281	312	26,195	392	32,621	247	20,356	236	19,685	482	40,049	<b>2,009</b>	<b>167,187</b>
<b>100 - 149</b>	346	42,044	273	33,305	331	39,970	190	22,889	239	29,071	453	54,878	<b>1,832</b>	<b>222,157</b>
<b>150 - 199</b>	213	37,196	117	20,069	185	31,858	110	19,134	135	23,421	246	43,059	<b>1,006</b>	<b>174,737</b>
<b>200 - 249</b>	142	31,485	80	17,755	130	28,862	48	10,711	89	19,872	152	33,670	<b>641</b>	<b>142,355</b>
<b>250 - 299</b>	117	31,789	52	14,096	95	26,079	30	8,099	49	13,171	77	21,009	<b>420</b>	<b>114,243</b>
<b>300 &amp; over</b>	224	101,916	121	60,756	235	112,945	53	23,947	122	58,305	204	101,457	<b>959</b>	<b>459,326</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,264</b>	<b>329,284</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>232,096</b>	<b>3,714</b>	<b>339,269</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>162,082</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>211,959</b>	<b>5,045</b>	<b>391,756</b>	<b>20,237</b>	<b>1,666,446</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2017.

**Table 5.9 Distribution of farms and breeding ewes by number of ewes and county, June 2017**

<i>Number of ewes on farms</i>	<b>Breeding ewes</b>													
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Ewes</b>
<b>1 - 24</b>	312	4,342	235	3,010	416	5,693	256	3,471	268	3,696	501	6,551	<b>1,988</b>	<b>26,763</b>
<b>25 - 49</b>	436	15,660	223	7,989	469	16,749	198	6,981	331	12,244	480	17,011	<b>2,137</b>	<b>76,634</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	532	37,682	188	12,700	519	36,100	188	13,038	458	31,934	598	41,969	<b>2,483</b>	<b>173,423</b>
<b>100 - 199</b>	504	69,000	94	12,452	410	56,391	100	13,737	402	55,480	414	56,028	<b>1,924</b>	<b>263,088</b>
<b>200 - 299</b>	202	48,269	30	7,166	127	29,933	29	6,857	147	35,191	133	32,193	<b>668</b>	<b>159,609</b>
<b>300 - 399</b>	79	26,564	10	3,419	41	13,714	30	13,660	65	22,176	70	23,450	<b>279</b>	<b>93,909</b>
<b>400 - 499</b>	42	18,529			24	10,605			32	13,722	25	10,815	<b>131</b>	<b>57,086</b>
<b>500 - 999</b>	56	36,146			16	12,858			36	25,834	34	25,990	<b>140</b>	<b>93,724</b>
<b>1,000 &amp; over</b>	10	16,342											<b>20</b>	<b>29,105</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>272,534</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>46,736</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>182,043</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>57,744</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>200,277</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>214,007</b>	<b>9,770</b>	<b>973,341</b>

**Table 5.10 Distribution of farms and total sheep by number of sheep and county, June 2017**

<i>Number of sheep on farms</i>	<b>Total sheep</b>													
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Fermanagh</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Tyrone</b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sheep</b>
<b>1 - 24</b>	143	1,823	130	1,571	216	2,900	113	1,527	140	1,861	273	3,424	<b>1,015</b>	<b>13,106</b>
<b>25 - 49</b>	227	8,274	140	5,103	266	9,850	158	5,830	169	6,175	331	12,259	<b>1,291</b>	<b>47,491</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	412	30,109	214	15,546	471	34,422	187	13,366	325	23,608	429	31,114	<b>2,038</b>	<b>148,165</b>
<b>100 - 199</b>	515	73,680	187	26,456	470	66,833	190	27,048	452	65,258	580	83,161	<b>2,394</b>	<b>342,436</b>
<b>200 - 299</b>	324	80,126	69	16,388	256	62,591	62	15,134	241	59,652	281	67,959	<b>1,233</b>	<b>301,850</b>
<b>300 - 399</b>	164	56,656	26	8,770	150	51,400	33	11,662	146	50,113	137	46,774	<b>656</b>	<b>225,375</b>
<b>400 - 499</b>	117	52,001	21	9,565	85	37,788	20	9,050	81	36,257	76	33,738	<b>400</b>	<b>178,399</b>
<b>500 - 699</b>	156	90,388	15	8,879	80	46,902	27	15,452	106	61,946	111	66,765	<b>495</b>	<b>290,332</b>
<b>700 - 999</b>	78	64,282	8	6,591	36	29,344	23	25,618	63	51,089	62	51,233	<b>260</b>	<b>212,982</b>
<b>1,000 &amp; over</b>	76	122,576			25	34,492			42	60,363	38	59,813	<b>191</b>	<b>292,419</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>579,915</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>98,869</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>376,522</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>124,687</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>416,322</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>456,240</b>	<b>9,973</b>	<b>2,052,555</b>



**Table 5.11 Distribution of farms and sows by number of sows and county, June 2017**

<i>Number of sows on farms</i>	<b>Sows</b>											
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Fermanagh &amp; Tyrone<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sows</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sows</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sows</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sows</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sows</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Sows</b>
<b>1 - 9</b>	18	70	6	17	17	44	19	98	13	45	<b>73</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>10 - 49</b>	12	275	6	172	17	431	12	284	26	746	<b>73</b>	<b>1,908</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	9	742	6	431	11	729	9	624	11	826	<b>46</b>	<b>3,352</b>
<b>100 - 199</b>	9	3,861	13	9,379	18	2,482	7	1,152	9	1,251	<b>43</b>	<b>6,120</b>
<b>200 &amp; over</b>					10	5,721	11	4,915	22	13,610	<b>56</b>	<b>36,251</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9,999</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>9,407</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>7,073</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>16,478</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>47,905</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Note: Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

**Table 5.12 Distribution of farms and finisher/weaner pigs by number of pigs and county, June 2017**

<i>Number of pigs on farms</i>	<b>Finisher/Weaner pigs</b>											
	<b>Antrim</b>		<b>Armagh</b>		<b>Down</b>		<b>Londonderry</b>		<b>Fermanagh &amp; Tyrone<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>N.Ireland</b>	
	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Pigs</b>
<b>1 - 9</b>	7	33	8	106	9	56	5	16	15	391	<b>28</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>10 - 49</b>	10	222			11	277	16	517			<b>50</b>	<b>1,230</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	10	1,781	12	2,941	6	442			6	357	<b>18</b>	<b>1,254</b>
<b>100 - 399</b>					12	2,818	8	1,726	15	3,349	<b>54</b>	<b>12,405</b>
<b>400 - 999</b>	9	6,111	5	4,069	11	7,512	7	4,496	10	6,438	<b>42</b>	<b>28,626</b>
<b>1,000 - 1,999</b>	9	39,385	10	118,377	18	24,202	7	10,917	15	20,165	<b>46</b>	<b>63,724</b>
<b>2,000 &amp; over</b>					8	42,905	8	36,205	20	149,173	<b>49</b>	<b>377,605</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47,532</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>125,493</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>78,212</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53,877</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>179,873</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>484,987</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Note: Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

**Table 5.13 Distribution of farms and total pigs by number of pigs and county, June 2017**

Number of pigs on farms	Total pigs											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone <sup>1</sup>		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	11	71	8	113	7	43	6	43	14	232	28	180
10 - 49	10	278			17	421	18	652			60	1,442
50 - 99	5	331	14	4,297	13	2,409			6	467	18	1,324
100 - 399	8	1,751					11	2,603	18	3,736	56	12,382
400 - 999	10	7,548			12	6,927	14	15,303	11	6,291	44	27,656
1,000 - 1,999	10	51,850	15	161,595	18	27,606			16	22,339	50	72,873
2,000 and over					13	70,722	12	58,559	25	202,933	66	533,263
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>61,829</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>166,005</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>108,128</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>77,160</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>235,998</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>649,120</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Note: Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

**Table 5.14 Distribution of farms and fowl by size of flock in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Size of flock on farms	Poultry											
	Broilers		Growing pullets		Breeding fowl		Laying hens		Ordinary fowl		Total poultry	
	Farms	Broilers ('000)	Farms	Pullets ('000)	Farms	Fowl ('000)	Farms	Hens ('000)	Farms	Birds ('000)	Farms	Birds ('000)
under 1,000	6	8,356	6	28,391	9	20,346	6	3,352	10	4,589	20	9,180
1,000 - 4,999							15	41,400	23	69,014	36	101,737
5,000 - 9,999	7	58,000			28	193,576	57	417,463	95	694,280	102	739,431
10,000 - 19,999	62	1,027,119	17	259,964	57	865,365	86	1,272,919	221	3,409,367	230	3,551,670
20,000 - 29,999	42	1,077,130	15	359,196	29	686,468	17	405,765	100	2,450,859	102	2,506,714
30,000 - 49,999	79	3,033,646	13	554,421	13	437,196	25	896,242	123	4,579,155	124	4,627,159
50,000 and over	129	11,562,379			5	323,920	6	925,658	146	13,251,008	147	13,374,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>16,766,630</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,201,972</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>2,526,871</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>3,962,799</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>24,458,272</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>24,910,576</b>

Note: Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.



## **SECTION 6: DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA STATISTICS, 2017**

Tables showing the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms in each District Council Area in 2017.

Table 6.1      Number of farms by crops and grass area

Table 6.2      Number of farms by farm business size

Table 6.3      Number of farms by farm type

Table 6.4      Number of farms by Less Favoured Area designation

Table 6.5      Crop and grass areas

Table 6.6      Livestock numbers

Table 6.7      Farm labour force

Map of District Council areas

**Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops & grass area by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	Average crops & grass ha/farm	Crops & grass area									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total	0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	42.8	182	177	129	400	888	20	20	15	45	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	30.8	868	790	492	1,096	3,246	27	24	15	34	100
Belfast	54.9	5	7	6	13	31	16	23	19	42	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	43.4	477	488	344	1,220	2,529	19	19	14	48	100
Derry City and Strabane	39.1	309	378	289	797	1,773	17	21	16	45	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	34.7	865	1,225	954	2,073	5,117	17	24	19	41	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	39.5	195	173	123	357	848	23	20	15	42	100
Mid and East Antrim	35.4	450	375	279	693	1,797	25	21	16	39	100
Mid Ulster	30.1	1,020	1,057	697	1,392	4,166	24	25	17	33	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	26.4	1,120	1,059	641	1,054	3,874	29	27	17	27	100
Ards and North Down	44.9	145	134	85	323	687	21	20	12	47	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>5,636</b>	<b>5,863</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>9,418</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Farms are allocated based on the postcode of the farmers main dwelling (i.e. where he/she resides). Where the farmer has deceased the farm may be allocated a temporary location based on a relatives address or a solicitor's office if the estate is subject to probate at the time of the survey.

**Table 6.2 Number of farms by farm business size and by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	Average SO/farm (€ '000)	Farm business size									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		V. Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total	V.Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	98.5	622	125	44	97	888	70	14	5	11	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	99.1	2,378	398	172	298	3,246	73	12	5	9	100
Belfast	89.0	26	1	2	2	31	84	3	6	6	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	91.1	1,731	364	171	263	2,529	68	14	7	10	100
Derry City and Strabane	75.8	1,310	248	87	128	1,773	74	14	5	7	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	55.1	4,209	520	205	183	5,117	82	10	4	4	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	92.8	613	97	51	87	848	72	11	6	10	100
Mid and East Antrim	86.2	1,307	242	106	142	1,797	73	13	6	8	100
Mid Ulster	87.3	3,235	477	217	237	4,166	78	11	5	6	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	54.1	3,195	381	126	172	3,874	82	10	3	4	100
Ards and North Down	120.4	434	92	48	113	687	63	13	7	16	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Farm business size classification is calculated from Standard Labour Requirements.

**Table 6.3 Number of farms by farm type by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	<b>Farm type</b>										
	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep LFA	Cattle & Sheep lowland	Mixed	Others	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	9	26	8	8	30	107	381	293	15	11	888
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	55	69	153	25	83	353	1,090	1,270	129	19	3,246
Belfast	1	2	0	0	0	0	19	7	1	1	31
Causeway Coast and Glens	33	69	9	10	70	332	1,342	562	88	14	2,529
Derry City and Strabane	21	47	5	16	15	183	1,269	180	31	6	1,773
Fermanagh and Omagh	6	61	10	16	92	522	4,285	101	15	9	5,117
Lisburn and Castlereagh	39	36	23	7	20	102	218	350	38	15	848
Mid and East Antrim	2	26	10	12	70	209	1,143	285	31	9	1,797
Mid Ulster	25	62	19	52	191	427	2,313	975	89	13	4,166
Newry, Mourne and Down	37	76	17	30	46	267	2,573	739	72	17	3,874
Ards and North Down	44	49	19	5	5	133	54	335	30	13	687
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>14,687</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>24,956</b>

**Table 6.4 Number of farms by LFA designation by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	<b>LFA designation</b>									
	<b>Number of farms</b>					<b>Percentage distribution</b>				
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	151	327	478	410	888	17	37	54	46	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	310	1,070	1,380	1,866	3,246	10	33	43	57	100
Belfast	17	4	21	10	31	55	13	68	32	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	974	594	1,568	961	2,529	39	23	62	38	100
Derry City and Strabane	1,056	397	1,453	320	1,773	60	22	82	18	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,110	858	4,968	149	5,117	80	17	97	3	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	76	207	283	565	848	9	24	33	67	100
Mid and East Antrim	703	688	1,391	406	1,797	39	38	77	23	100
Mid Ulster	1,147	1,650	2,797	1,369	4,166	28	40	67	33	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,201	1,682	2,883	991	3,874	31	43	74	26	100
Ards and North Down	10	61	71	616	687	1	9	10	90	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>7,663</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 6.5 Crop and grass areas by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	<b>Crop areas (hectares)</b>								<b>Total area farmed</b>
	<b>Cereals</b>	<b>Potatoes</b>	<b>Other farm crops</b>	<b>Horti-culture crops</b>	<b>Total crops</b>	<b>Grass</b>	<b>Rough grazing</b>	<b>Other land</b>	
<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey</b>	1,146	46	350	19	<b>1,561</b>	36,483	2,743	823	<b>41,610</b>
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	5,820	337	1,634	1,776	<b>9,566</b>	90,470	4,949	1,578	<b>106,562</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	71	0	16	12	<b>99</b>	1,605	601	87	<b>2,392</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	6,399	1,066	1,289	23	<b>8,776</b>	100,956	32,287	2,448	<b>144,467</b>
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	2,882	454	884	36	<b>4,256</b>	64,995	24,106	3,149	<b>96,506</b>
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	288	11	288	38	<b>625</b>	177,117	26,452	4,520	<b>208,713</b>
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	3,719	287	673	189	<b>4,868</b>	28,642	1,315	1,117	<b>35,943</b>
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	619	158	338	20	<b>1,134</b>	62,473	18,681	1,049	<b>83,337</b>
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	2,404	289	745	82	<b>3,519</b>	122,053	17,901	2,590	<b>146,063</b>
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	4,652	835	867	76	<b>6,431</b>	95,676	11,111	8,931	<b>122,148</b>
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	4,299	571	821	702	<b>6,393</b>	24,483	254	864	<b>31,994</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,298</b>	<b>4,053</b>	<b>7,905</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>47,227</b>	<b>804,952</b>	<b>140,400</b>	<b>27,156</b>	<b>1,019,736</b>

Note: Individual figures may not add to the totals shown.

**Table 6.6 Livestock numbers by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	<b>Livestock numbers</b>							
	<b>Dairy cows</b>	<b>Beef cows</b>	<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>Breeding ewes</b>	<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>Sows &amp; gilts</b>	<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>Total poultry</b>
<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey</b>	15,203	13,095	80,106	34,712	78,167	1,929	23,169	1,256
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	47,590	26,464	250,951	58,869	126,056	11,411	181,153	3,654
<b>Belfast</b>	330	827	3,146	605	1,426	126	1,376	0
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	43,873	24,401	188,115	198,840	416,813	2,177	24,085	2,958
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	25,908	16,523	112,137	138,899	294,178	2,479	29,141	477
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	47,278	69,901	288,252	133,566	287,069	3,610	43,850	2,899
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	14,460	7,094	64,129	16,917	36,407	2,143	24,362	763
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	25,449	19,868	122,984	122,965	260,903	1,233	15,613	3,233
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	46,263	42,866	273,520	110,051	227,921	16,070	226,961	7,945
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	29,440	39,938	217,726	139,005	281,579	5,823	67,105	1,576
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	19,988	6,125	65,380	18,912	42,036	904	12,305	149
<b>Total</b>	<b>315,782</b>	<b>267,102</b>	<b>1,666,446</b>	<b>973,341</b>	<b>2,052,555</b>	<b>47,905</b>	<b>649,120</b>	<b>24,911</b>

Notes: Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

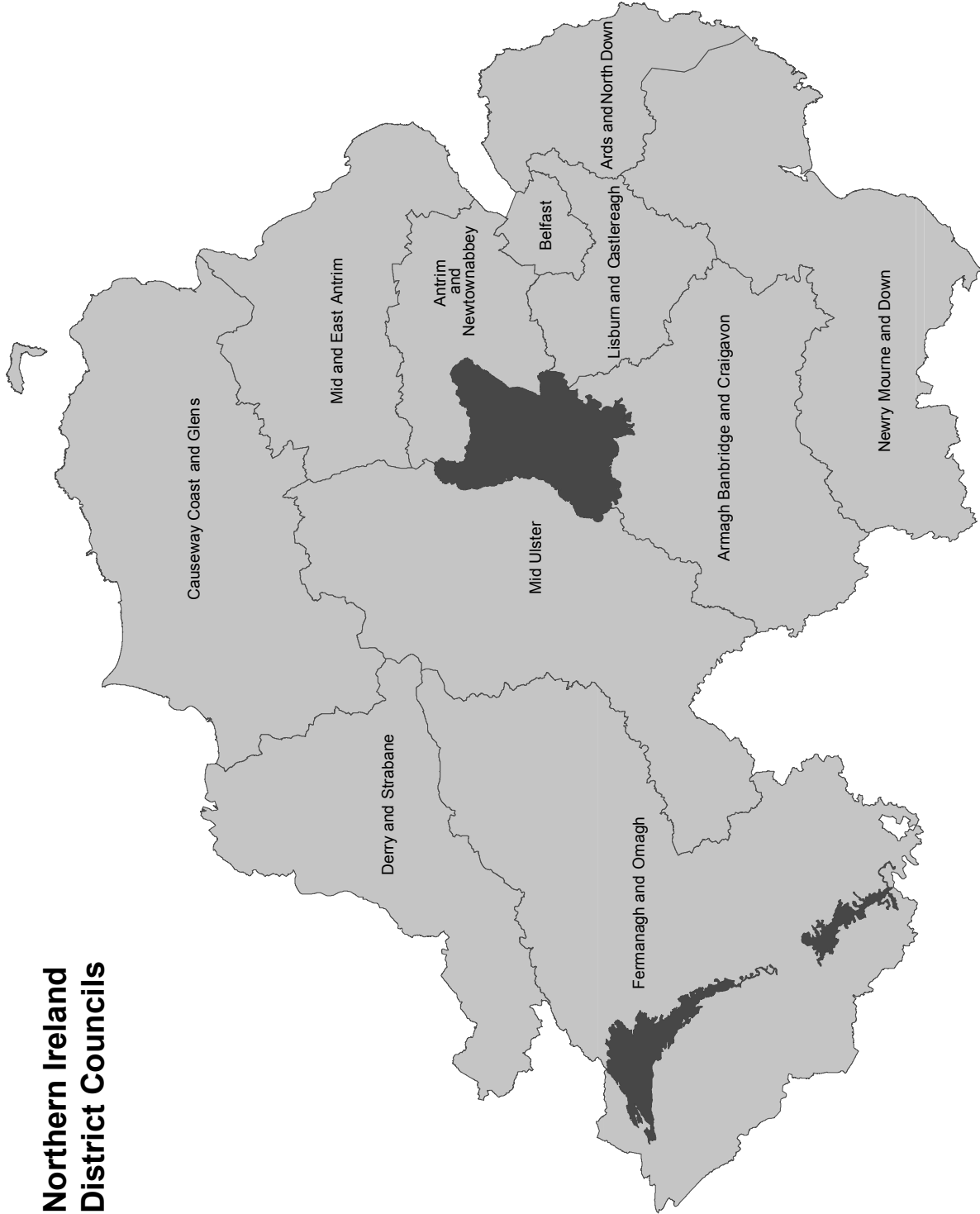
Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

**Table 6.7 Labour force by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

<i>District Council</i>	<b>Farm labour force</b>						<b>Agricultural labour force</b>
	<b>Farmers &amp; partners</b>			<b>Other workers</b>			
	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Spouses</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Casual/seasonal</b>	
<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey</b>	649	438	281	162	186	138	<b>1,854</b>
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	2,171	1,805	869	868	616	895	<b>7,224</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	18	19	3	45	6	0	<b>91</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	1,993	1,223	761	283	427	531	<b>5,218</b>
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	1,266	903	438	219	341	313	<b>3,480</b>
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	3,331	2,753	1,205	438	696	642	<b>9,065</b>
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	596	455	261	133	182	169	<b>1,796</b>
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	1,305	878	533	206	356	271	<b>3,549</b>
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	2,635	2,400	971	436	759	533	<b>7,734</b>
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	2,255	2,364	906	414	583	501	<b>7,023</b>
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	541	348	221	237	167	156	<b>1,670</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,760</b>	<b>13,586</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>3,441</b>	<b>4,319</b>	<b>4,149</b>	<b>48,704</b>



# Northern Ireland District Councils



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## **SECTION 7: RURAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY STATISTICS, 2017**

Tables showing the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms in each Rural District and County in 2017.

Table 7.1      Number of farms by crops and grass area

Table 7.2      Number of farms by farm business size

Table 7.3      Number of farms by farm type

Table 7.4      Number of farms by Less Favoured Area designation

Table 7.5      Crop and grass areas

Table 7.6      Livestock numbers

Table 7.7      Farm labour force

Map of Rural Districts and Counties

**Table 7.1 Number of farms by crop & grass area by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	Average crops & grass ha/farm	Crops & grass area									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total	0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total
Antrim	41.1	159	138	114	347	758	21	18	15	46	100
Ballycastle	42.0	99	93	64	229	485	20	19	13	47	100
Ballymena	34.5	294	274	183	449	1,200	25	23	15	37	100
Ballymoney	42.3	158	144	101	356	759	21	19	13	47	100
Newtownabbey	51.4	6	3	1	7	17	35	18	6	41	100
Larne	40.2	182	145	103	298	728	25	20	14	41	100
Lisburn	39.7	85	85	63	167	400	21	21	16	42	100
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	39.3	10	5	2	12	29	34	17	7	41	100
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100</b>
Armagh	27.6	460	407	259	495	1,621	28	25	16	31	100
Lurgan	30.9	84	77	54	103	318	26	24	17	32	100
Newry No 2	23.0	405	410	218	299	1,332	30	31	16	22	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	40.4	28	41	21	61	151	19	27	14	40	100
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>
Banbridge	31.1	264	249	148	376	1,037	25	24	14	36	100
Castlereagh	50.1	8	9	3	13	33	24	27	9	39	100
East Down	35.3	211	214	161	377	963	22	22	17	39	100
Hillsborough	39.3	122	100	72	201	495	25	20	15	41	100
South Down	23.4	239	178	104	154	675	35	26	15	23	100
Moira	44.2	44	41	20	95	200	22	21	10	48	100
Newry No 1	24.4	214	200	129	182	725	30	28	18	25	100
North Down	44.6	143	130	91	317	681	21	19	13	47	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	28.5	8	6	4	6	24	33	25	17	25	100
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
Enniskillen	37.3	179	245	180	472	1,076	17	23	17	44	100
Inverinstown	38.5	139	152	136	308	735	19	21	19	42	100
Lisnaskea	33.6	182	288	229	459	1,158	16	25	20	40	100
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>
Coleraine	40.2	137	151	105	358	751	18	20	14	48	100
Limavady	45.1	110	131	101	329	671	16	20	15	49	100
Londonderry	43.5	71	105	72	231	479	15	22	15	48	100
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	29.5	352	367	262	465	1,446	24	25	18	32	100
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>
Castlederg	30.6	135	154	93	207	589	23	26	16	35	100
Clogher	34.7	128	136	118	275	657	19	21	18	42	100
Cookstown	28.5	225	255	132	293	905	25	28	15	32	100
Dungannon	29.5	306	296	196	360	1,158	26	26	17	31	100
Omagh	32.9	343	491	377	769	1,980	17	25	19	39	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	42.5	106	143	123	348	720	15	20	17	48	100
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>5,636</b>	<b>5,863</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>9,418</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas. Farms are allocated based on the postcode of the farmers main dwelling (i.e. where he/she resides). Where the farmer has deceased the farm may be allocated a temporary location based on a relatives address or a solicitor's office if the estate is subject to probate at the time of the survey.

**Table 7.2 Number of farms by farm business size by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	Average SO/farm (€ '000)	Farm business size									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		V. Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total	V.Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Antrim	95.3	535	105	41	77	758	71	14	5	10	100
Ballycastle	68.6	336	79	34	36	485	69	16	7	7	100
Ballymena	99.3	849	166	74	111	1,200	71	14	6	9	100
Ballymoney	119.0	487	106	63	103	759	64	14	8	14	100
Newtownabbey	240.5	11	3	0	3	17	65	18	0	18	100
Larne	73.4	541	95	39	53	728	74	13	5	7	100
Lisburn	76.4	297	45	30	28	400	74	11	8	7	100
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	52.8	20	4	2	3	29	69	14	7	10	100
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>3,076</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>
Armagh	102.9	1,219	200	71	131	1,621	75	12	4	8	100
Lurgan	84.8	231	36	18	33	318	73	11	6	10	100
Newry No 2	50.6	1,144	103	33	52	1,332	86	8	2	4	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	114.6	106	14	13	18	151	70	9	9	12	100
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>
Banbridge	78.5	779	128	51	79	1,037	75	12	5	8	100
Castlereagh	139.5	22	3	3	5	33	67	9	9	15	100
East Down	65.6	740	123	45	55	963	77	13	5	6	100
Hillsborough	93.6	362	52	26	55	495	73	11	5	11	100
South Down	48.0	554	67	22	32	675	82	10	3	5	100
Moira	149.9	121	36	12	31	200	61	18	6	16	100
Newry No 1	59.7	599	68	23	35	725	83	9	3	5	100
North Down	117.2	428	93	45	115	681	63	14	7	17	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	63.3	19	2	2	1	24	79	8	8	4	100
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>
Enniskillen	46.1	887	122	39	28	1,076	82	11	4	3	100
Investown	33.8	644	57	17	17	735	88	8	2	2	100
Lisnaskea	56.1	956	114	52	36	1,158	83	10	4	3	100
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>
Coleraine	83.2	538	92	48	73	751	72	12	6	10	100
Limavady	68.5	494	94	33	50	671	74	14	5	7	100
Londonderry	66.3	360	69	22	28	479	75	14	5	6	100
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	64.2	1,143	164	75	64	1,446	79	11	5	4	100
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>
Castlederg	62.3	472	66	17	34	589	80	11	3	6	100
Clogher	122.3	493	91	36	37	657	75	14	5	6	100
Cookstown	87.1	711	85	50	59	905	79	9	6	7	100
Dungannon	96.7	893	135	57	73	1,158	77	12	5	6	100
Omagh	68.1	1,573	216	90	101	1,980	79	11	5	5	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	93.2	496	112	46	66	720	69	16	6	9	100
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Farm business size classification is calculated from Standard Labour Requirements.

**Table 7.3 Number of farms by farm type by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	Farm type										
	Cereals	General cropping	Horti-culture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep		Mixed	Others	Total
							LFA	lowland			
Antrim	8	20	4	7	31	99	303	265	11	10	758
Ballycastle	4	8	0	0	11	37	399	12	11	3	485
Ballymena	3	25	5	8	62	157	637	266	33	4	1,200
Ballymoney	5	16	1	6	41	159	266	233	26	6	759
Newtownabbey	0	0	2	1	0	0	9	4	1	0	17
Larne	0	3	7	5	11	62	599	34	2	5	728
Lisburn	12	15	12	2	16	31	173	109	25	5	400
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	1	1	0	0	0	1	17	8	0	1	29
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4,376</b>
Armagh	8	32	101	9	55	137	778	449	47	5	1,621
Lurgan	2	10	38	3	4	25	118	104	13	1	318
Newry No 2	0	15	5	5	17	113	1,057	104	12	4	1,332
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	8	2	3	1	3	21	6	99	7	1	151
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,422</b>
Banbridge	29	22	5	10	10	127	339	439	45	11	1,037
Castlereagh	3	0	3	0	0	7	1	18	1	0	33
East Down	25	31	5	10	8	66	430	354	25	9	963
Hillsborough	14	19	7	4	5	68	121	230	17	10	495
South Down	5	16	1	10	2	37	449	136	19	0	675
Moira	14	8	2	3	11	36	9	105	9	3	200
Newry No 1	12	7	5	3	15	57	400	203	21	2	725
North Down	42	53	20	4	4	132	61	323	29	13	681
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	16	0	1	24
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4,833</b>
Enniskillen	1	12	2	1	7	113	926	7	5	2	1,076
Inverinstown	0	8	1	0	4	30	683	9	0	0	735
Lisnaskea	0	12	2	2	25	131	972	9	2	3	1,158
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,969</b>
Coleraine	6	23	3	6	14	111	319	240	26	3	751
Limavady	18	25	6	1	3	41	438	112	24	3	671
Londonderry	13	18	2	2	2	27	334	66	12	3	479
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	18	35	3	24	15	143	800	363	41	4	1,446
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3,347</b>
Castlederg	0	11	1	9	4	58	462	36	7	1	589
Clogher	0	6	1	4	39	76	471	55	4	1	657
Cookstown	2	9	3	14	53	94	502	208	14	6	905
Dungannon	4	15	15	7	89	108	581	308	28	3	1,158
Omagh	5	31	6	13	51	239	1,532	93	9	1	1,980
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	9	14	2	7	9	91	492	80	13	3	720
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>4,040</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6,009</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>14,687</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>24,956</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

**Table 7.4 Number of farms by LFA designation by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	LFA designation									
	Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total
Antrim	133	252	385	373	<b>758</b>	18	33	51	49	<b>100</b>
Ballycastle	323	133	456	29	<b>485</b>	67	27	94	6	<b>100</b>
Ballymena	378	432	810	390	<b>1,200</b>	32	36	68	33	<b>100</b>
Ballymoney	102	256	358	401	<b>759</b>	13	34	47	53	<b>100</b>
Newtownabbey	5	7	12	5	<b>17</b>	29	41	71	29	<b>100</b>
Larne	360	331	691	37	<b>728</b>	49	45	95	5	<b>100</b>
Lisburn	84	141	225	175	<b>400</b>	21	35	56	44	<b>100</b>
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	15	3	18	11	<b>29</b>	52	10	62	38	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>2,955</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>
Armagh	281	670	951	670	<b>1,621</b>	17	41	59	41	<b>100</b>
Lurgan	9	156	165	153	<b>318</b>	3	49	52	48	<b>100</b>
Newry No 2	375	819	1,194	138	<b>1,332</b>	28	61	90	10	<b>100</b>
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	3	5	8	143	<b>151</b>	2	3	5	95	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>
Banbridge	182	223	405	632	<b>1,037</b>	18	22	39	61	<b>100</b>
Castlereagh	2	0	2	31	<b>33</b>	6	0	6	94	<b>100</b>
East Down	106	388	494	469	<b>963</b>	11	40	51	49	<b>100</b>
Hillsborough	15	133	148	347	<b>495</b>	3	27	30	70	<b>100</b>
South Down	324	164	488	187	<b>675</b>	48	24	72	28	<b>100</b>
Moira	0	11	11	189	<b>200</b>	0	6	6	95	<b>100</b>
Newry No 1	225	220	445	280	<b>725</b>	31	30	61	39	<b>100</b>
North Down	14	66	80	601	<b>681</b>	2	10	12	88	<b>100</b>
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	1	4	5	19	<b>24</b>	4	17	21	79	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>
Enniskillen	1,033	32	1,065	11	<b>1,076</b>	96	3	99	1	<b>100</b>
Irvinestown	711	15	726	9	<b>735</b>	97	2	99	1	<b>100</b>
Lisnaskea	1,033	113	1,146	12	<b>1,158</b>	89	10	99	1	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
Coleraine	194	169	363	388	<b>751</b>	26	23	48	52	<b>100</b>
Limavady	386	96	482	189	<b>671</b>	58	14	72	28	<b>100</b>
Londonderry	301	63	364	115	<b>479</b>	63	13	76	24	<b>100</b>
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	445	480	925	521	<b>1,446</b>	31	33	64	36	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
Castlederg	358	173	531	58	<b>589</b>	61	29	90	10	<b>100</b>
Clogher	281	306	587	70	<b>657</b>	43	47	89	11	<b>100</b>
Cookstown	342	259	601	304	<b>905</b>	38	29	66	34	<b>100</b>
Dungannon	132	606	738	420	<b>1,158</b>	11	52	64	36	<b>100</b>
Omagh	1,210	630	1,840	140	<b>1,980</b>	61	32	93	7	<b>100</b>
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	392	182	574	146	<b>720</b>	54	25	80	20	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>4,871</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>7,663</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

**Table 7.5 Crop and grass areas by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	Crop areas (hectares)								Total area farmed
	Cereals	Potatoes	Other farm crops	Horti-culture crops	Total crops	Grass	Rough grazing	Other land	
Antrim	966	23	282	10	<b>1,281</b>	29,856	2,511	695	<b>34,342</b>
Ballycastle	584	313	118	3	<b>1,017</b>	19,337	11,356	342	<b>32,053</b>
Ballymena	708	173	297	8	<b>1,185</b>	40,264	10,465	688	<b>52,601</b>
Ballymoney	1,367	235	477	3	<b>2,081</b>	30,046	3,226	924	<b>36,276</b>
Newtownabbey	70	0	0	5	<b>74</b>	799	2	5	<b>881</b>
Larne	71	6	112	10	<b>199</b>	29,076	10,708	427	<b>40,410</b>
Lisburn	1,339	12	298	53	<b>1,702</b>	14,195	1,338	236	<b>17,471</b>
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	8	2	5	0	<b>15</b>	1,125	899	12	<b>2,051</b>
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>7,554</b>	<b>164,697</b>	<b>40,506</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>216,084</b>
Armagh	932	52	386	1,226	<b>2,595</b>	42,212	943	939	<b>46,690</b>
Lurgan	439	57	93	472	<b>1,061</b>	8,751	94	229	<b>10,136</b>
Newry No 2	299	0	150	12	<b>461</b>	30,142	1,559	280	<b>32,442</b>
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	1,059	8	157	24	<b>1,247</b>	4,847	34	145	<b>6,272</b>
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>85,952</b>	<b>2,630</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>95,539</b>
Banbridge	2,573	276	702	35	<b>3,585</b>	28,694	4,907	384	<b>37,570</b>
Castlereagh	138	1	101	5	<b>244</b>	1,408	505	719	<b>2,876</b>
East Down	2,856	209	451	30	<b>3,545</b>	30,468	1,648	821	<b>36,483</b>
Hillsborough	1,648	103	335	83	<b>2,169</b>	17,305	191	410	<b>20,074</b>
South Down	653	432	98	31	<b>1,215</b>	14,580	4,085	123	<b>20,004</b>
Moira	1,264	145	282	26	<b>1,717</b>	7,127	53	104	<b>9,001</b>
Newry No 1	1,183	99	212	3	<b>1,497</b>	16,164	1,909	178	<b>19,747</b>
North Down	4,130	636	834	719	<b>6,318</b>	24,025	291	628	<b>31,262</b>
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	45	1	10	0	<b>56</b>	629	88	121	<b>894</b>
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>14,491</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>20,346</b>	<b>140,399</b>	<b>13,677</b>	<b>3,488</b>	<b>177,911</b>
Enniskillen	37	7	74	5	<b>123</b>	40,014	6,984	1,036	<b>48,156</b>
Inverstown	0	0	2	7	<b>9</b>	28,318	2,871	728	<b>31,926</b>
Lisnaskea	9	0	13	11	<b>33</b>	38,887	2,658	8,113	<b>49,690</b>
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>107,218</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>9,876</b>	<b>129,772</b>
Coleraine	1,508	89	259	1	<b>1,857</b>	28,349	5,170	673	<b>36,048</b>
Limavady	2,966	431	445	17	<b>3,858</b>	26,413	11,218	586	<b>42,075</b>
Londonderry	1,491	327	505	20	<b>2,343</b>	18,504	4,815	579	<b>26,241</b>
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	1,526	189	260	3	<b>1,978</b>	40,609	10,564	893	<b>54,043</b>
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10,035</b>	<b>113,875</b>	<b>31,766</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>158,407</b>
Castleerg	66	18	60	0	<b>144</b>	17,879	6,860	373	<b>25,256</b>
Clogher	6	0	31	0	<b>37</b>	22,786	2,440	885	<b>26,148</b>
Cookstown	319	59	205	3	<b>586</b>	25,219	3,075	289	<b>29,169</b>
Dungannon	411	30	160	102	<b>703</b>	33,432	796	448	<b>35,379</b>
Omagh	321	8	192	31	<b>552</b>	64,665	13,655	1,908	<b>80,779</b>
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	1,306	115	305	16	<b>1,741</b>	28,831	12,483	2,236	<b>45,291</b>
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>192,811</b>	<b>39,308</b>	<b>6,140</b>	<b>242,023</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>32,298</b>	<b>4,053</b>	<b>7,905</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>47,227</b>	<b>804,952</b>	<b>140,400</b>	<b>27,156</b>	<b>1,019,736</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

**Table 7.6 Livestock numbers by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	Livestock numbers							('000)	
	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Total cattle	Breeding ewes	Total sheep	Sows & gilts	Total pigs	Total poultry	
Antrim	13,061	10,048	64,366	33,936	76,372	1,124	13,056	1,203	
Ballycastle	3,987	5,209	25,255	65,807	136,169	173	1,947	448	
Ballymena	19,736	12,087	89,942	60,936	127,846	1,471	18,049	2,956	
Ballymoney	20,931	5,470	69,594	33,808	73,726	225	2,302	1,590	
Newtownabbey	0	439	1,501	40	132	880	10,624	0	
Larne	8,330	9,946	47,642	69,838	147,342	815	12,097	486	
Lisburn	3,944	5,295	28,680	5,195	11,678	260	3,754	543	
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	144	620	2,304	2,974	6,650	0	0	0	
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>70,133</b>	<b>49,114</b>	<b>329,284</b>	<b>272,534</b>	<b>579,915</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>61,829</b>	<b>7,225</b>	
Armagh	17,902	14,154	114,450	24,003	51,554	8,803	150,023	2,380	
Lurgan	3,035	3,230	21,436	2,640	5,926	233	2,776	145	
Newry No 2	12,468	13,945	81,458	15,059	31,177	579	8,695	590	
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	3,272	968	14,752	5,034	10,212	384	4,511	78	
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>36,677</b>	<b>32,297</b>	<b>232,096</b>	<b>46,736</b>	<b>98,869</b>	<b>9,999</b>	<b>166,005</b>	<b>3,194</b>	
Banbridge	16,235	6,796	74,401	34,125	72,324	1,874	23,520	411	
Castlereagh	1,267	188	3,892	1,040	2,002	2	23	0	
East Down	7,470	12,477	64,773	38,182	80,821	3,343	41,740	245	
Hillsborough	9,987	4,058	41,201	12,734	26,692	1,333	14,435	199	
South Down	4,440	5,668	30,104	43,432	84,496	1,528	14,045	33	
Moira	5,905	1,534	21,449	1,716	3,958	399	4,014	673	
Newry No 1	5,835	6,102	38,245	32,515	66,134	742	8,184	591	
North Down	20,000	5,916	64,101	17,657	38,818	186	2,167	193	
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	232	155	1,103	642	1,277	0	0	8	
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>71,371</b>	<b>42,894</b>	<b>339,269</b>	<b>182,043</b>	<b>376,522</b>	<b>9,407</b>	<b>108,128</b>	<b>2,353</b>	
Enniskillen	9,313	16,513	60,051	23,228	48,562	44	248	150	
Irvinestown	2,846	11,589	33,375	18,272	39,119	0	0	89	
Lisnaskea	9,988	17,577	68,656	16,244	37,006	213	2,623	917	
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>22,147</b>	<b>45,679</b>	<b>162,082</b>	<b>57,744</b>	<b>124,687</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>1,156</b>	
Coleraine	13,442	7,748	61,517	34,437	74,127	724	7,089	565	
Limavady	6,796	6,611	38,531	65,523	134,895	95	479	220	
Londonderry	5,171	4,668	27,434	39,980	83,836	110	959	32	
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	14,627	14,768	84,477	60,337	123,464	6,144	68,633	551	
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>40,036</b>	<b>33,795</b>	<b>211,959</b>	<b>200,277</b>	<b>416,322</b>	<b>7,073</b>	<b>77,160</b>	<b>1,368</b>	
Castleberg	7,150	4,824	29,222	38,411	82,359	1,579	21,317	140	
Clogher	7,830	9,076	48,684	12,248	26,110	4,577	88,259	1,907	
Cookstown	10,874	9,620	60,508	19,104	40,765	3,494	47,631	1,708	
Dungannon	12,844	10,008	80,299	14,338	29,779	1,682	19,453	4,087	
Omagh	24,237	22,024	118,345	69,382	148,640	2,711	32,662	1,482	
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	12,483	7,771	54,698	60,524	128,587	2,178	23,805	290	
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>75,418</b>	<b>63,323</b>	<b>391,756</b>	<b>214,007</b>	<b>456,240</b>	<b>16,221</b>	<b>233,127</b>	<b>9,614</b>	
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>315,782</b>	<b>267,102</b>	<b>1,666,446</b>	<b>973,341</b>	<b>2,052,555</b>	<b>47,905</b>	<b>649,120</b>	<b>24,911</b>	

Notes: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.



**Table 7.7 Labour force by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2017**

Rural District	Farm labour force						Agricultural labour force
	Farmers & partners			Other workers			
	Full-time	Part-time	Spouses	Full-time	Part-time	Casual/seasonal	
Antrim	530	383	253	99	160	118	1,543
Ballycastle	365	229	127	56	81	102	960
Ballymena	912	583	353	149	221	164	2,382
Ballymoney	636	362	247	78	139	178	1,640
Newtownabbey	17	7	5	37	11	1	78
Larne	511	354	211	85	162	117	1,440
Lisburn	265	195	105	47	82	80	774
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	18	17	7	3	2	6	53
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>8,870</b>
Armagh	1,044	905	392	575	304	506	3,726
Lurgan	210	183	75	113	58	155	794
Newry No 2	687	836	258	71	165	109	2,126
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	104	81	51	44	31	41	352
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>6,998</b>
Banbridge	700	582	299	143	199	173	2,096
Castlereagh	26	20	8	14	27	4	99
East Down	643	529	258	106	177	167	1,880
Hillsborough	346	282	153	110	93	93	1,077
South Down	405	423	166	52	109	112	1,267
Moirá	149	114	73	28	43	33	440
Newry No 1	442	449	184	142	99	87	1,403
North Down	542	343	222	232	160	163	1,662
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	14	16	5	6	3	7	51
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>3,267</b>	<b>2,758</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>9,975</b>
Enniskillen	698	570	288	62	168	147	1,933
Inverinstown	443	424	171	42	68	74	1,222
Lisnaskea	766	619	296	166	151	119	2,117
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>5,272</b>
Coleraine	579	375	219	79	134	143	1,529
Limavady	470	348	186	74	111	117	1,306
Londonderry	344	238	131	57	95	103	968
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	889	863	320	117	275	193	2,657
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>6,460</b>
Castlederg	360	333	123	49	80	74	1,019
Clogher	465	311	172	72	101	86	1,207
Cookstown	567	531	220	90	160	99	1,667
Dungannon	720	678	275	153	211	154	2,191
Omagh	1,330	1,052	413	171	288	285	3,539
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	563	351	183	119	151	139	1,506
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>3,256</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>11,129</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>16,760</b>	<b>13,586</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>3,441</b>	<b>4,319</b>	<b>4,149</b>	<b>48,704</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

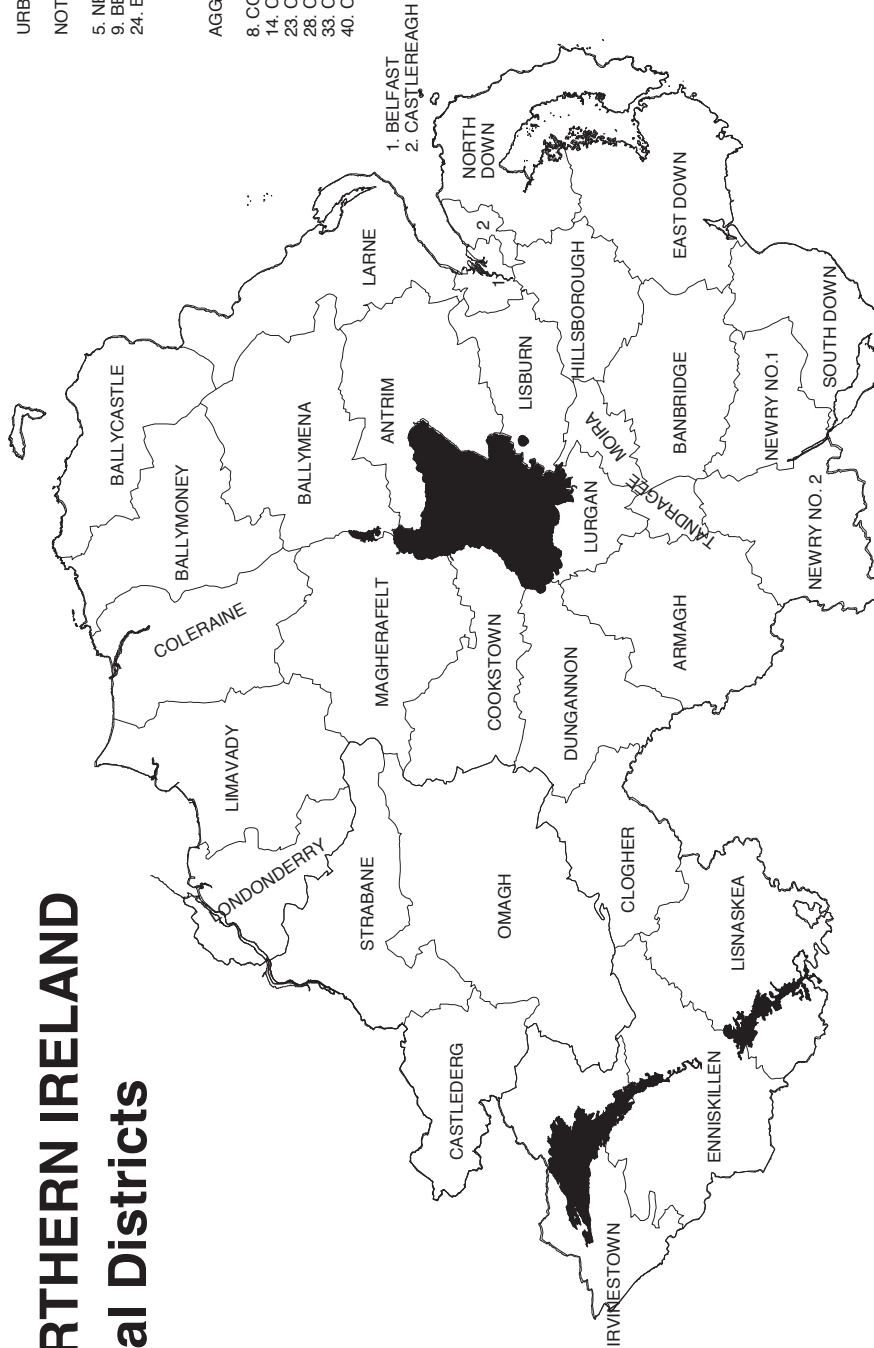
# NORTHERN IRELAND Rural Districts

URBAN DISTRICTS (UD)  
NOT SHOWN ON MAP

5. NEWTOWNABBEY UD  
9. BELFAST (CO. ANTRIM)  
24. BELFAST (CO. DOWN) UD

AGGREGATES OF UDS IN:

- 8. CO. ANTRIM
- 14. CO. ARMAGH
- 23. CO. DOWN
- 28. CO. FERMANAGH
- 33. CO. LONDONDERRY
- 40. CO. TYRONE



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## SECTION 8: LESS FAVOURED AREA (LFA) STATISTICS

The term Less Favoured Areas (LFA) is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of their relatively poor agricultural conditions, have been so designated under EU legislation. These areas, which include developed land as well as that used for agriculture and forestry, extend to 826,000 hectares. The LFA consists of Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) which is the original LFA as designated in 1975 (487,000 ha) and the Disadvantaged Area (DA) which was designated following reviews in 1984 (335,000 ha) and 1990 (3,700 ha).

Farms classed as LFA farms occupy 70 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 8.2) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 12 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows predominate on LFA farms (203,900), where they are more important than dairy cows (154,900), whereas, on lowland farms, there were 63,200 beef cows and 160,900 dairy cows in 2017 (Table 8.3). LFA farms account for 35 and 62 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

The following tables show the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms which are wholly or mainly in areas classed as Severely Disadvantaged (SDA), Disadvantaged (DA) or Lowland.

Table 8.1    Number of farms by  
              (a) farm type;  
              (b) farm business size.

Table 8.2    Crop areas

Table 8.3    Numbers of cattle

Table 8.4    Numbers of sheep, horses, goats

Table 8.5    Numbers of pigs, poultry

Table 8.6    Farm labour force

Map of Less Favoured Area

**Table 8.1 Numbers of farms by (a) type of farm and (b) farm business size by LFA category, June 2017**

(a)	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Farm type:</b>						
Cereals	12	33	45	227	<b>272</b>	16.5
General cropping	94	138	232	291	<b>523</b>	44.4
Horticulture	23	66	89	184	<b>273</b>	32.6
Pigs	37	68	105	76	<b>181</b>	58.0
Poultry	182	223	405	217	<b>622</b>	65.1
Dairy	552	911	1,463	1,172	<b>2,635</b>	55.5
Cattle & sheep: LFA	8,782	5,905	14,687	0	<b>14,687</b>	100.0
Cattle & Sheep: lowland	0	0	0	5,097	<b>5,097</b>	0.0
Mixed	49	160	209	330	<b>539</b>	38.8
Other type	24	34	58	69	<b>127</b>	45.7
<b>All types</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>7,663</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>69.3</b>
<b>(b)</b>						
<b>Farm business size:</b>						
Very small	8,128	5,761	13,889	5,171	<b>19,060</b>	72.9
Small	1,019	882	1,901	1,044	<b>2,945</b>	64.6
Medium	325	394	719	510	<b>1,229</b>	58.5
Large	283	501	784	938	<b>1,722</b>	45.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>7,663</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>69.3</b>

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

**Table 8.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing & other land by LFA category, June 2017**

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Crops &amp; grass:</b>						
<b>Cereal crops:</b>						
Oats	89	471	560	1,692	<b>2,252</b>	24.9
Wheat	275	1,051	1,326	7,404	<b>8,730</b>	15.2
Winter barley	192	939	1,131	5,984	<b>7,114</b>	15.9
Spring barley	622	2,198	2,819	11,212	<b>14,031</b>	20.1
Mixed corn	27	54	81	89	<b>170</b>	47.6
<b>Total cereals</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>4,714</b>	<b>5,917</b>	<b>26,381</b>	<b>32,298</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>Other crops:</b>						
Potatoes	243	650	893	3,160	<b>4,053</b>	22.0
Other field crops	835	1,271	2,107	5,798	<b>7,905</b>	26.6
<b>Fruit, vegetables &amp; flowers:</b>						
Fruit	19	234	252	1,270	<b>1,522</b>	16.6
Vegetables	9	72	81	1,181	<b>1,262</b>	6.4
Ornamentals	39	30	69	120	<b>188</b>	36.4
<b>Total fruit, vegetables &amp; flowers</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>9,318</b>	<b>37,909</b>	<b>47,227</b>	<b>19.7</b>
<b>Grass</b>						
Grass under 5 years old	45,957	41,696	87,653	56,700	<b>144,354</b>	60.7
Grass 5 years old & over	265,243	192,945	458,188	202,410	<b>660,598</b>	69.4
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>311,200</b>	<b>234,642</b>	<b>545,841</b>	<b>259,110</b>	<b>804,952</b>	<b>67.8</b>
<b>Total crops and grass</b>	<b>313,548</b>	<b>241,611</b>	<b>555,160</b>	<b>297,019</b>	<b>852,179</b>	<b>65.1</b>
Rough grazing	125,617	9,750	135,366	5,034	<b>140,400</b>	96.4
Woods & plantations	4,245	7,893	12,138	3,648	<b>15,786</b>	76.9
Other land	3,213	5,467	8,680	2,691	<b>11,371</b>	76.3
<b>Total agricultural area</b>	<b>446,623</b>	<b>264,721</b>	<b>711,344</b>	<b>308,392</b>	<b>1,019,736</b>	<b>69.8</b>

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

**Table 8.3 Numbers of cattle by LFA category, June 2017**

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Cattle:</b>						
<b>Dairy cows</b>						
Total dairy cows	50,741	104,144	154,885	160,897	<b>315,782</b>	49.0
<b>Beef cows</b>						
Total beef cows	123,955	79,965	203,920	63,182	<b>267,102</b>	76.3
<b>Total cows</b>	<b>174,696</b>	<b>184,109</b>	<b>358,805</b>	<b>224,079</b>	<b>582,884</b>	<b>61.6</b>
<b>Dairy heifers in calf</b>						
2 years old & over	4,030	8,339	12,369	12,757	<b>25,126</b>	49.2
Under 2 years	4,825	10,939	15,764	19,172	<b>34,936</b>	45.1
<b>Beef heifers in calf</b>						
2 years old & over	7,841	5,583	13,424	4,893	<b>18,317</b>	73.3
Under 2 years	5,428	3,644	9,072	3,031	<b>12,103</b>	75.0
<b>Bulls being used for service</b>						
2 years old & over	4,962	4,266	9,228	4,359	<b>13,587</b>	67.9
1 year old & under 2 years	988	1,201	2,189	1,463	<b>3,652</b>	59.9
<b>All other cattle &amp; calves :</b>						
<b>2 years old &amp; over</b>						
Male	6,819	14,184	21,003	23,436	<b>44,439</b>	47.3
Females intended for slaughter	13,068	17,349	30,417	22,564	<b>52,981</b>	57.4
Other females	2,118	2,856	4,974	3,805	<b>8,779</b>	56.7
<b>1 year old &amp; under 2 years</b>						
Male	35,684	60,428	96,112	81,382	<b>177,494</b>	54.1
Females intended for slaughter	31,190	39,525	70,715	51,529	<b>122,244</b>	57.8
Other females	19,495	26,048	45,543	33,400	<b>78,943</b>	57.7
<b>6 months old and under 1 year</b>						
Male	24,068	30,384	54,452	35,889	<b>90,341</b>	60.3
Female	29,134	35,345	64,479	44,727	<b>109,206</b>	59.0
<b>Under 6 months old</b>						
Male	46,769	44,157	90,926	49,685	<b>140,611</b>	64.7
Female	47,611	47,518	95,129	55,674	<b>150,803</b>	63.1
<b>Total cattle &amp; calves</b>	<b>458,726</b>	<b>535,875</b>	<b>994,601</b>	<b>671,845</b>	<b>1,666,446</b>	<b>59.7</b>

Notes: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.  
Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

**Table 8.4 Numbers of sheep, horses & goats by LFA category, June 2017**

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Sheep:</b>						
<b>Sheep for breeding</b>						
Put to the ram in 2015	473,674	194,242	667,916	178,352	<b>846,268</b>	78.9
Others 1 year old & over	79,445	26,075	105,520	21,553	<b>127,073</b>	83.0
<b>Total breeding ewes</b>	<b>553,119</b>	<b>220,317</b>	<b>773,436</b>	<b>199,905</b>	<b>973,341</b>	<b>79.5</b>
<b>Rams for service</b>	15,470	6,834	22,304	6,263	<b>28,567</b>	78.1
<b>Other sheep &amp; lambs:</b>						
1 year old & over	7,325	3,799	11,124	4,124	<b>15,248</b>	73.0
Under 1 year	564,902	248,657	813,559	221,840	<b>1,035,399</b>	78.6
<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>1,140,816</b>	<b>479,607</b>	<b>1,620,423</b>	<b>432,132</b>	<b>2,052,555</b>	<b>78.9</b>
<b>Horses and ponies:</b>						
Horses/ponies owned by occupier	1,783	2,220	4,003	3,850	<b>7,853</b>	51.0
Horses/ponies NOT owned by occupier	266	468	734	1,048	<b>1,782</b>	41.2
<b>Total horses &amp; ponies</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>4,737</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>9,635</b>	<b>49.2</b>
<b>Goats:</b>						
<b>Total goats</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>3,047</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>4,166</b>	<b>73.1</b>

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.



**Table 8.5 Numbers of pigs and poultry by LFA category, June 2017**

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Pigs:</b>						
<b>Breeding herd</b>						
Sows in pig	3,675	9,787	13,462	19,644	<b>33,106</b>	40.7
Gilts in pig	727	2,130	2,857	4,175	<b>7,032</b>	40.6
Other breeding sows	842	2,202	3,044	4,723	<b>7,767</b>	39.2
<b>Total female breeding herd</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>14,119</b>	<b>19,363</b>	<b>28,542</b>	<b>47,905</b>	<b>40.4</b>
Maiden gilts	550	1,291	1,841	3,971	<b>5,812</b>	31.7
Boars being used for service	117	218	335	577	<b>912</b>	36.7
<b>Other pigs:</b>						
Finishers/Culls	22,260	62,962	85,222	188,026	<b>273,248</b>	31.2
Weaners/Growers	22,066	59,536	81,602	130,137	<b>211,739</b>	38.5
Piglets	12,130	28,381	40,511	68,993	<b>109,504</b>	37.0
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>62,367</b>	<b>166,507</b>	<b>228,874</b>	<b>420,246</b>	<b>649,120</b>	<b>35.3</b>
<b>Poultry: ('000)</b> (thousand birds)						
Laying birds	1,602	1,071	2,673	1,290	<b>3,963</b>	67.4
Growing pullets	225	482	707	495	<b>1,202</b>	58.8
Breeding flock	899	763	1,662	865	<b>2,527</b>	65.8
Broilers & other table birds	2,969	6,979	9,948	6,818	<b>16,767</b>	59.3
<b>Total ordinary fowl</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>9,296</b>	<b>14,990</b>	<b>9,468</b>	<b>24,458</b>	<b>61.3</b>
Other poultry	294	89	383	69	<b>452</b>	84.7
<b>Total poultry</b>	<b>5,988</b>	<b>9,385</b>	<b>15,373</b>	<b>9,537</b>	<b>24,911</b>	<b>61.7</b>

Notes: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

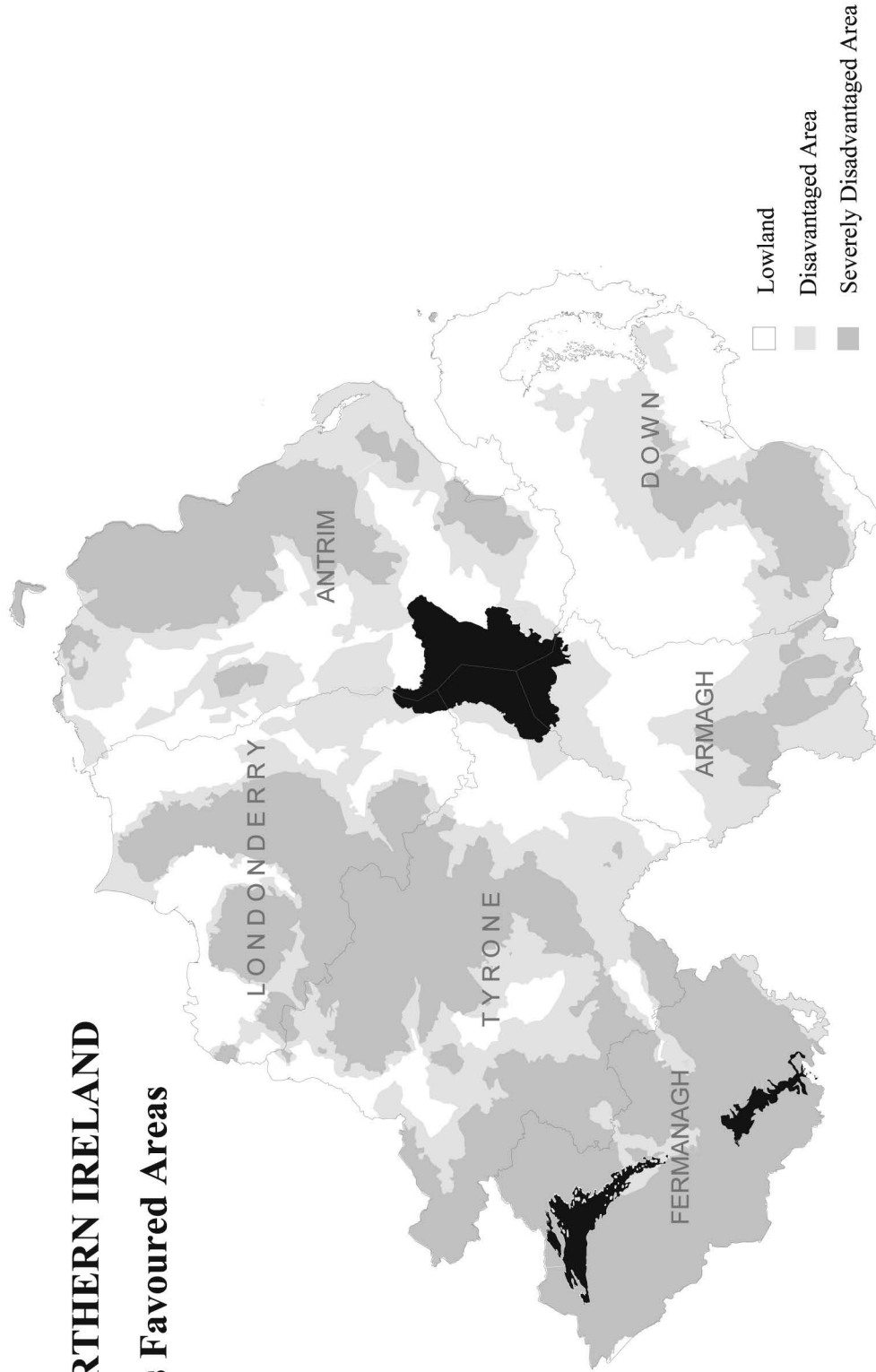
**Table 8.6 Farm labour force on farms by LFA category, June 2017**

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Farm Labour:</b>						
<b>Farmers, partners &amp; directors</b>						
Full-time	6,066	5,054	11,120	5,640	<b>16,760</b>	66.3
Part-time	5,468	4,131	9,599	3,987	<b>13,586</b>	70.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,534</b>	<b>9,185</b>	<b>20,719</b>	<b>9,627</b>	<b>30,346</b>	<b>68.3</b>
<b>Spouses</b>	2,278	1,915	4,193	2,256	<b>6,449</b>	65.0
<b>Other / paid workers</b>						
Full-time	740	892	1,632	1,809	<b>3,441</b>	47.4
Part-time	1,449	1,316	2,765	1,554	<b>4,319</b>	64.0
Casual/seasonal	1,200	1,108	2,308	1,841	<b>4,149</b>	55.6
<b>Total other / paid workers</b>	<b>3,389</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>6,705</b>	<b>5,204</b>	<b>11,909</b>	<b>56.3</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>17,201</b>	<b>14,416</b>	<b>31,617</b>	<b>17,087</b>	<b>48,704</b>	<b>64.9</b>

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

# NORTHERN IRELAND

## Less Favoured Areas



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## **ANNEX 1**

### **TABLE 1: – Trend in farm numbers by type (2007 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2013 - 2017.**

Table 1 shows the number of farms by type (based on the 2007 Standard Outputs (SO)) and size (based on the Standard Labour Requirements (SLR)) for the years 2013 – 2017.

### **TABLE 2: – Trend in farm numbers by type (2010 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2013 - 2017.**

Table 2 shows the number of farms by type (based on the 2010 Standard Outputs (SO)) and size (based on the Standard Labour Requirements (SLR)) for the years 2013 – 2017.

Details of the SO and SLR methodology can be found in section 2 – terms and definitions.

**Table 1 : Trend in farm numbers by type (2007 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2013-2017.**

<b>FARM TYPE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Cereals</b>					
Very Small	235	223	217	218	222
Small	47	39	36	32	30
Medium	10	12	10	12	10
Large	8	9	6	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>General Cropping</b>					
Very Small	390	262	426	414	435
Small	41	44	42	42	38
Medium	29	30	18	17	18
Large	48	43	47	48	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>538</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>					
Very Small	133	120	99	102	93
Small	54	52	54	50	52
Medium	33	30	30	32	26
Large	91	90	110	99	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>Pigs</b>					
Very Small	49	49	56	52	54
Small	34	36	29	26	24
Medium	30	32	38	32	31
Large	64	63	66	66	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Poultry</b>					
Very Small	244	238	218	193	158
Small	204	197	213	218	242
Medium	74	90	105	109	119
Large	80	78	80	85	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>629</b>
<b>Dairy</b>					
Very Small	361	349	343	302	278
Small	808	760	782	759	746
Medium	576	625	642	634	623
Large	939	992	1038	1056	1047
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>2,694</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: LFA</b>					
Very Small	12,680	12,652	12,845	12,674	13,016
Small	1,185	1,147	1,124	1,132	1,145
Medium	230	221	213	212	224
Large	138	110	117	144	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,233</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>14,299</b>	<b>14,162</b>	<b>14,528</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: Lowland</b>					
Very Small	3,880	3,955	4,176	4,129	4,282
Small	526	506	510	517	517
Medium	127	102	105	109	107
Large	62	60	63	78	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,595</b>	<b>4,623</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>4,976</b>
<b>Mixed</b>					
Very Small	345	338	377	317	285
Small	96	89	102	103	99
Medium	49	58	57	57	47
Large	84	83	84	99	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>536</b>
<b>Other type</b>					
Very Small	402	335	321	250	237
Small	68	65	59	59	52
Medium	29	26	31	24	24
Large	20	18	18	21	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>24,503</b>	<b>24,228</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>24,528</b>	<b>24,956</b>

**Table 2 : Trend in farm numbers by type (2010 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2013-2017.**

<b>FARM TYPE</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Cereals</b>					
Very Small	244	236	226	225	223
Small	48	39	37	31	30
Medium	11	14	12	13	11
Large	8	8	6	6	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>General Cropping</b>					
Very Small	384	258	420	406	426
Small	38	41	38	40	36
Medium	29	28	15	16	16
Large	46	41	43	44	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>523</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>					
Very Small	131	117	99	98	93
Small	52	52	54	50	50
Medium	31	30	28	33	27
Large	90	90	112	99	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>273</b>
<b>Pigs</b>					
Very Small	50	49	55	51	54
Small	34	36	28	26	24
Medium	29	31	37	32	31
Large	64	63	65	65	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Poultry</b>					
Very Small	243	234	215	191	158
Small	200	195	208	216	239
Medium	71	85	101	104	118
Large	77	77	77	81	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Dairy</b>					
Very Small	339	333	323	290	269
Small	781	740	763	741	723
Medium	561	609	629	620	607
Large	917	973	1027	1043	1036
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>2,635</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: LFA</b>					
Very Small	12,837	12,777	12,985	12,775	13,115
Small	1,227	1,184	1,157	1,163	1,181
Medium	244	236	231	232	240
Large	149	119	124	155	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,457</b>	<b>14,316</b>	<b>14,497</b>	<b>14,325</b>	<b>14,687</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: Lowland</b>					
Very Small	4,009	4,052	4,283	4,216	4,354
Small	555	534	539	544	542
Medium	137	111	114	116	119
Large	85	78	78	93	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,786</b>	<b>4,775</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,969</b>	<b>5,097</b>
<b>Mixed</b>					
Very Small	322	322	337	305	285
Small	98	88	103	103	99
Medium	54	63	62	60	49
Large	87	86	86	102	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>539</b>
<b>Other type</b>					
Very Small	160	143	135	94	83
Small	30	26	24	24	21
Medium	20	19	20	12	11
Large	11	11	11	13	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>24,503</b>	<b>24,228</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>24,528</b>	<b>24,956</b>

## **ANNEX 2 NOTES FOR DATA USERS**

### **Data Quality**

The following points should be borne in mind when considering the data used in compiling the figures of this report.

1. In 2017, approximately 14,000 valid responses were received with the remaining figures for the missing farms being estimated.
2. The list of active farms (the farm register) used both to draw the sample and estimate the totals is reviewed and updated annually based on information received from surveys and through reference to administrative databases maintained either under livestock identification, registration and movement legislation or for the purposes of paying grants and subsidies. For horticulture and pigs the register is updated annually with information received from surveys supplemented by input from DAERA Advisory and Veterinary Services on new business start-ups.
3. The estimates connected with farm enterprises with relatively small population numbers (e.g. pigs and horticulture) may be subject to greater error.
4. Farms do not consist of contiguous fields and the location of the farm is centred on the address of the farmer, or the business owner.
5. Data on cattle is derived from APHIS (a cattle tracing system). This is a high quality database which has been audited and approved by the Eurostat for statistical work.

### **How the figures are compiled**

The data used in compiling figures for this report comes from different sources with different quality issues.

The main postal survey utilises the most up to date farm register available.

This register is an amalgam of:

- a. active farmers (as recorded on the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), subsidy payment system. Note that from 2015 when the EU subsidy system was amended, receipt of the Basis Payment Scheme (BPS) indicates an active farm)
- b. pig farmers known to the Department, that are not part of the IACS system
- c. poultry farmers known to the Department that are not part of the IACS system
- d. mushroom farmers noted separately as specialist producers,
- e. top fruit, soft fruit and horticultural producers known to the Department
- f. active farmers registered on the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) not already encountered above.

For Northern Ireland the predominance of the cattle and sheep industries mean that a very high percentage of farms will be 'registered' through the IACS or APHIS systems.

However, it is possible for some of these enterprises (particularly minority ones where no compulsory register of animals is required) to exist and not be included on the register, e.g. horses.

Farmers are deactivated from the register because they have let the Department know (by some means from the list above) that they are no longer farming. However, it is possible that this deactivation will not take place in time for the yearly sample selection process, so each year a small number of non active farms continue to be recognised as active. Likewise, a small number of new farms (more properly farms that have been transferred to new owners) will not be recognised in time for the sample selection procedure.

Very small holdings, e.g. under a hectare, consisting of a few (non compulsory registration) animals may well fall outside the scope of the register, however, their contribution to the production of the overall agricultural sector is minimal.

The survey returns are processed and the data cleansed of logical inaccuracies. Farmers indicating that they are no longer farming are noted as inactive at this stage. For farms which do not have a survey return (through non-response or not sampled) data are imputed by analysing the size and type of farms missing and those where returns have been received.

Information on cattle is taken directly from APHIS. This is a census of all cattle alive (and on farms) at June 1<sup>st</sup>. Information on poultry is taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register – no action is taken on returns indicating that the birds are non commercial. From 2013 information on pigs is sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

These cattle, poultry and pig data are added to the framework established from the postal survey returns, creating a database of both actual and imputed values, which are used in calculating the years totals.

### **Bias and non response**

While the response rate for the questionnaire part of the survey is normally approximately 70%, other aspects such as the data extracted from the APHIS cattle system, poultry extracted from the NI Update of the Bird Register and pigs from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs are complete censuses. Information on the size of farm is also obtainable from the Basic Payment Scheme and older information from previous surveys is often available. It is therefore possible to determine the size and type of farm which has not returned a form in a particular year. Analysis has demonstrated that there is no particular bias introduced as a result of non-response.



When analysing bias in a geographical context, the table below shows that the proportion of non-response by County are quite similar.

	County						
	ANTRIM	ARMAGH	DOWN	FERMANAGH	LDERRY	TYRONE	TOTAL
<b>% Non response</b>	26%	32%	27%	25%	26%	28%	28%

## Geography

Although the June Agricultural Survey is collected at individual level; estimates are only compiled at, usually, district council level or higher. Normally the accuracy of the figures depends on the number of responses, so for some enterprises even estimates at district council level are impractical.

Additionally, the data are subject to the Data Protection Act and results may not be released at a level where an individual can be identified. This may be due to either a low number of instances or due to the dominance of one or two holdings.

## Disclosure control methods

Estimates are not disclosed where the value is based on less than five holdings. Where estimates have been suppressed, the second smallest estimate in the grouping is also treated similarly so that neither estimate can be derived from the total. Where estimates are suppressed, the value is represented by the symbol "...". If a value is not present, it is recorded as zero. Data suppression in this report is minimal, affecting a small number of tables of Pig and Poultry farm distributions, and some minor cropping areas.

## Arrangements for providing controlled access to micro-data

Subject to protecting confidentiality, controlled access to micro data is allowed in a limited number of circumstances and after careful consideration on a case by case basis. For the most part this relates to the use by researchers of the agricultural data for economic modelling and analysis.

Data may be released under arrangements described in a Service Level Agreement, a Concordat, contracts, and confidentiality declarations.

Occasionally, we provide contact details, under strict conditions, for researchers if it is necessary for *ad hoc* surveys to be conducted or other contact made as part of research activities supported by DAERA.

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