



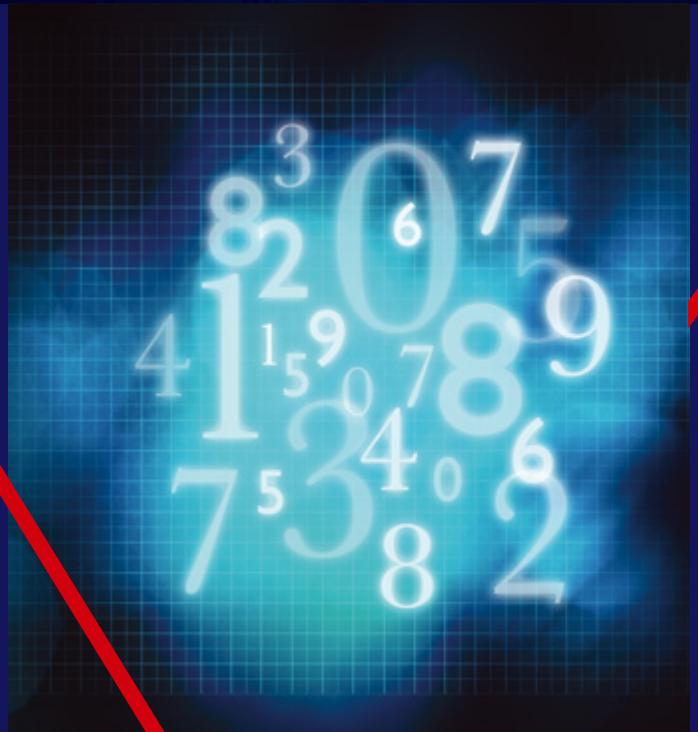
Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

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CAP POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

# The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

*Results for June 2018*



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

**THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS**  
**IN**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**RESULTS FOR JUNE 2018**

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## **PREFACE**

This publication presents detailed analyses of the results of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census for June 2018 as well as time series data from 2004 to 2018. 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 2018 can be found in the compendium publication, Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture, published annually at the end of March.

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## **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 2018 survey data were 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 2018 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 2017, and which failed to make a return in 2018, 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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018. 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 2004 to 2018.

### 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, 1868-2018

	1868	1918	1968	2018
<b>Crop areas ('000 ha)</b>				
Cereals	226	192	90	30
Potatoes	99	79	20	4
Flax	55	45	0	0
Hay and pasture	687	n.a.	720	808
<b>Livestock numbers ('000 head)</b>				
Cattle	694	770	1,207	1,630
of which Cows	n.a.	n.a.	382	567
Sheep	321	409	962	2,006
Horses	114	n.a.	n.a.	9
Pigs	119	115	1,012	634
Poultry	2,050	5,772	12,059	26,031

### 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 2018 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.

<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 year 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 2018 Agricultural Census showed the following headline results and changes from the previous years:

**Cereals:** The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2017 for harvest in 2018 was 14,700 ha – a 19 per cent decrease on the previous year. Within this group the area of winter barley decreased to 5,800 ha. By contrast, spring barley increased by 6 per cent, with an area of 14,900 ha. Overall the cereal area decreased 2,600 ha to 29,700 ha – an 8 per cent decrease compared with 2017.

**Other crops:** The total area of potatoes grown in 2018 decreased by 11 per cent compared to 2017 figures to 3,600 hectares. Over the 10 year period 2008 to 2018, the area in potatoes decreased by 29 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 17 per cent from 2017 to 1,600 ha, but has decreased by 55 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:** The total number of cattle in 2018 was 2 per cent lower than in 2017, at 1.629 million head. Within this the number of dairy cows decreased by 2 per cent to 310,700 head, while beef cows decreased by 4 per cent to 255,900 head.

**Sheep:** The number of breeding ewes was 2 per cent lower at June 2018 compared with the previous year. The number of spring lambs on farms in June 2018 was 3 per cent lower than in 2017.

**Pigs:** The pig breeding herd increased by 4 per cent in June 2018, while total pig numbers decreased by 2 per cent to 633,600. A small number of large, highly productive businesses, drive most of the change in the sector.

**Poultry:** Poultry numbers were up by 4 per cent compared with June 2017. There was a 9 per cent increase in the commercial laying flock, whilst the breeding flock for hatching eggs remained at 2017 levels with 2,515,900 birds. Broiler chicken numbers increased by 5 per cent to 17,663,000 head from 2017. 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 1 per cent to 49,200 in June 2018.

### **3.2 NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS (2004-2018)**

Tables and charts show the crop areas, livestock numbers and numbers of farmers and other workers for the 15 year period 2004 to 2018 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 40,000 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 8 per cent since 2004, 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 14 per cent since 2004. 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 relate 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 2018 decreased by 10 per cent from the previous year to 3,800 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 90 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 in 2018 remained stable at around the same number as in 2017. However, the overall trend is downward with farm numbers having decreased by 10 per cent over the 15 year period from 2004. 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 2004-2018**

	('000 hectares)							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Grass</b>								
Under 5 yrs old	141.8	135.6	126.5	122.1	117.2	120.8	118.4	129.7
Over 5 yrs old	696.7	675.8	677.2	671.9	672.4	669.9	661.6	647.4
<b>Total grass</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>777.1</b>
<b>Hill or rough land</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>140.9</b>
<b>Cereals</b>								
Oats	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.1
Wheat	8.6	8.4	8.7	9.2	12.1	10.1	10.9	11.6
Barley (winter)	4.5	4.0	4.6	4.7	6.1	5.1	6.8	6.8
Barley (spring)	22.5	21.7	18.2	18.1	19.5	21.6	17.6	17.2
Mixed corn	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
<b>Total cereals</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>37.9</b>
<b>Other field crops</b>								
Potatoes	5.7	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8
Arable crop silage	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.3
Forage maize	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.5
SRC Willow	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other crops <sup>1</sup>	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.1	2.7	2.4
<b>Total other field crops</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>13.5</b>
<b>Horticultural crops</b>								
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Ornamentals	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Total horticultural crops</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>3.0</b>
<b>Total crops</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>54.4</b>
<b>Total crops &amp; grass</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>831.5</b>
<b>Other land</b>								
Set-aside	3.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.2	0.4	0.0	0.0
Woods and plantations	8.2	8.6	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.2	10.8
Other land <sup>2</sup>	7.6	7.1	11.8	10.9	11.3	6.9	7.8	8.2
<b>Total other land</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>19.0</b>
<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED</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>	<b>991.4</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)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
							<b>Grass</b>
133.9	139.2	146.2	149.9	148.2	144.4	144.5	Under 5 yrs old
646.0	648.8	641.8	650.4	652.6	660.6	663.2	Over 5 yrs old
<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>807.6</b>	<b>Total grass</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>143.2</b>	<b>Hill or rough land</b>
							<b>Cereals</b>
1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	Oats
9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8	Wheat
5.3	5.3	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.1	5.8	Barley (winter)
20.2	20.5	16.8	15.7	14.7	14.0	14.9	Barley (spring)
0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	Mixed corn
<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>29.7</b>	<b>Total cereals</b>
							<b>Other field crops</b>
4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6	Potatoes
3.7	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.3	Arable crop silage
1.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.6	Forage maize
0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	SRC Willow
2.7	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.4	Other crops
<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>12.5</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	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	Vegetables
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	Ornamentals
<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>2.8</b>	<b>Total horticultural crops</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>44.9</b>	<b>Total crops</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>852.6</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
11.0	10.3	11.1	11.1	16.1	15.8	16.3	Woods and plantations
8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9	11.8	11.4	10.4	Other land
<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>26.7</b>	<b>Total other land</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>1022.4</b>	<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED</b>

**Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2004-2018**

(’000 head)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Dairy cows</b>								
In milk	265.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	22.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</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>282.5</b>
<b>Dairy heifers-in-calf</b>								
2 years old	28.1	27.7	27.5	28.1	26.9	26.3	26.1	26.0
1-2 years	34.4	36.6	39.0	39.8	37.4	36.2	35.9	36.2
<b>Total</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>62.3</b>
<b>Beef cows</b>								
In milk	240.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	55.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</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>269.5</b>
<b>Beef heifers-in-calf</b>								
2 years old	21.0	26.1	25.7	22.3	24.3	23.6	24.0	27.2
1-2 years	13.3	16.4	16.1	14.4	15.4	14.0	14.4	14.9
<b>Total</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>42.1</b>
<b>Breeding bulls</b>								
2 years old and over	12.9	15.5	15.6	14.1	15.6	14.9	14.7	14.9
1-2 years	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.8
<b>Total</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>18.7</b>
<b>Other cattle</b>								
<b>2 years old</b>								
Male	66.8	77.4	75.5	73.2	65.5	58.5	57.3	49.4
Females for slaughter	33.2	87.0	83.6	77.9	75.4	63.5	66.2	63.3
Females for breeding	15.5	11.5	11.4	9.7	10.6	10.0	10.1	11.0
<b>Total</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>123.7</b>
<b>1-2 years</b>								
Male	208.6	193.2	190.0	188.0	170.2	172.7	176.4	166.4
Females for slaughter	119.2	111.6	109.9	108.0	98.2	109.1	110.5	104.0
Females for breeding	69.6	69.2	68.5	66.6	65.1	66.8	67.3	68.3
<b>Total</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>338.7</b>
<b>6-12 months</b>								
Male	95.4	95.6	93.9	87.7	84.0	91.5	89.2	85.2
Female	93.2	102.7	101.4	101.7	103.0	100.4	99.1	100.1
<b>Total</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>185.4</b>
<b>Under 6 months</b>								
Male	136.6	132.2	128.8	117.9	128.6	129.5	131.4	129.1
Female	141.5	138.2	136.9	131.9	143.5	137.0	139.4	138.4
<b>Total</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>267.6</b>
<b>TOTAL CATTLE</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>	<b>1,590.5</b>

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

('000 head)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
							<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>285.4</b>	<b>279.5</b>	<b>294.2</b>	<b>311.5</b>	<b>317.1</b>	<b>315.8</b>	<b>310.7</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Dairy heifers-in-calf</b>
27.3	27.8	27.2	26.6	25.3	25.1	24.1	2 years old
38.2	39.3	34.8	34.1	33.6	34.9	34.9	1-2 years
<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>59.0</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>279.2</b>	<b>270.1</b>	<b>254.9</b>	<b>260.3</b>	<b>269.7</b>	<b>267.1</b>	<b>255.9</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Beef heifers-in-calf</b>
24.5	21.1	19.1	19.1	18.8	18.3	18.1	2 years old
16.4	16.2	12.7	12.6	12.4	12.1	11.6	1-2 years
<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>29.7</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Breeding bulls</b>
15.2	15.1	14.5	14.2	13.7	13.6	13.3	2 years old and over
3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	1-2 years
<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>16.9</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Other cattle</b>
							<b>2 years old</b>
47.0	43.0	49.0	46.9	43.7	44.4	48.4	Male
59.2	59.5	72.7	64.2	49.5	53.0	60.0	Females for slaughter
10.9	10.9	10.8	10.0	8.5	8.8	9.3	Females for breeding
<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>117.7</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>1-2 years</b>
164.0	168.0	154.3	153.4	166.6	177.5	172.1	Male
98.3	105.2	106.0	104.4	116.0	122.2	116.3	Females for slaughter
72.3	72.1	71.5	70.4	75.5	78.9	75.9	Females for breeding
<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>364.4</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>6-12 months</b>
92.9	89.4	84.3	90.4	97.7	90.3	89.0	Male
106.7	106.9	103.4	111.4	115.6	109.2	109.3	Female
<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>198.3</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Under 6 months</b>
136.3	123.0	119.6	131.3	142.0	140.6	131.2	Male
148.0	137.0	134.4	144.3	155.2	150.8	145.3	Female
<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>276.5</b>	<b>Total</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>1,629.1</b>	<b>TOTAL CATTLE</b>

**Table 3.3 Sheep, horses, ponies and goats in Northern Ireland 2004-2018**

	('000 head)							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>SHEEP</b>								
<b>Ewes</b>								
Ewes which lambed	943.1	900.8	864.6	839.3	823.1	788.2	775.2	774.4
Others for breeding	157.4	126.5	126.5	118.0	112.3	104.2	100.7	120.8
<b>Total</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>895.2</b>
<b>Other sheep</b>								
Rams for service	29.2	28.6	27.5	27.3	26.9	26.0	25.2	25.5
Not for breeding	10.1	10.6	11.1	12.2	12.5	13.6	18.4	13.9
<b>Lambs</b>								
Under 1 year old	1,085.6	1,078.6	1,040.9	1,027.2	998.8	964.8	928.1	953.0
<b>TOTAL SHEEP</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>1,887.6</b>
<b>HORSES AND PONIES</b>								
<b>Mares</b>								
Horses	2.3	2.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ponies	0.9	0.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total mares	3.1	3.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Stallions	0.2	0.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other horses	3.9	4.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other ponies	2.0	1.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	n.a.	n.a.	8.5	9.0	9.8	10.2	10.2	9.9
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	n.a.	n.a.	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.1
<b>TOTAL HORSES &amp; PONIES</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>12.0</b>
<b>GOATS</b>								
Female goats which have kidded	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.6
All other goats and kids	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5
<b>TOTAL GOATS</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>	<b>3.1</b>

(*'000 head*)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
							<b>SHEEP</b>
							<b>Ewes</b>
806.1	792.3	794.1	814.3	833.6	846.3	829.6	Ewes which lambed
131.4	129.2	116.5	124.3	121.6	127.1	126.9	Others for breeding
<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>956.5</b>	<b>Total</b>
							<b>Other sheep</b>
26.5	26.4	26.5	27.4	28.3	28.6	28.2	Rams for service
15.0	16.1	15.9	17.8	18.1	15.2	15.9	Not for breeding
							<b>Lambs</b>
990.0	939.6	969.9	1,005.8	1,021.4	1,035.4	1,005.3	Under 1 year old
<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>2,006.0</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
10.0	9.7	9.1	9.1	8.4	7.9	7.3	Horses/Ponies owned by occupier
2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier
<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>9.0</b>	<b>TOTAL HORSES &amp; PONIES</b>
							<b>GOATS</b>
1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	Female goats which have kidded
1.5	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.1	All other goats and kids
<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>3.8</b>	<b>TOTAL GOATS</b>



**Table 3.4 Pigs and poultry in Northern Ireland 2004-2018**

	('000 head)							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>PIGS</b>								
<b>Female breeding herd</b>								
Sows in pig	25.4	25.7	25.9	26.0	25.3	27.9	25.7	25.9
Gilts in pig	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.3	6.5	3.4	6.4	5.7
Others sows for breeding	7.8	6.6	6.7	6.7	3.6	7.0	6.4	6.4
<b>Total</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>38.0</b>
<b>Other breeding pigs</b>								
Boars being used for service	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
Maiden gilts	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.8	4.3	4.5
<b>Other pigs</b>								
Cull sows being fattened	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.7
110kg and over	1.7	3.3	3.3	3.9	6.4	5.2	5.6	6.5
80 kg and under 110kg	54.3	55.2	51.9	61.0	63.7	68.4	56.7	58.8
50kg and under 80kg	108.4	87.1	79.9	86.2	82.4	89.9	82.0	88.0
20kg and under 50kg	111.4	91.8	83.6	88.7	85.8	92.5	102.3	93.0
Under 20kg	105.4	126.6	125.6	128.6	124.1	134.3	133.2	135.0
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>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>382.0</b>
<b>TOTAL PIGS</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>	<b>425.3</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	2,093.4	2,111.7	2,084.6	2,348.3	2,370.8	2,254.3	2,077.2	2,411.7
Second cycle	172.7	207.5	103.1	45.6	27.7	61.4	22.1	18.0
<b>Total</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>	<b>2,429.7</b>
Growing pullets	509.8	669.5	743.1	1,039.8	1,174.3	999.1	1,017.3	1,109.2
Breeding flock	2,284.8	1,634.5	1,594.8	1,538.0	1,205.2	1,573.2	1,078.2	1,528.0
<b>Table birds</b>								
Broilers	15,006.9	12,525.7	13,367.1	11,861.3	11,543.5	11,418.3	11,915.1	14,069.4
Other poultry	441.7	465.4	518.3	451.9	809.4	556.4	421.2	486.2
<b>TOTAL POULTRY</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>	<b>19,622.5</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)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
<b>PIGS</b>							
<b>Female breeding herd</b>							
26.0	29.5	29.3	30.2	31.7	33.1	34.8	Sows in pig
5.9	6.4	6.8	7.2	6.3	7.0	8.5	Gilts in pig
6.5	6.6	6.8	8.2	8.5	7.8	6.4	Others sows for breeding
<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>49.6</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Other breeding pigs</b>							
0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	Boars being used for service
4.3	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.8	4.9	Maiden gilts
<b>Other pigs</b>							
0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	Cull sows being fattened
11.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	110kg and over
63.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	80 kg and under 110kg
85.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	50kg and under 80kg
88.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20kg and under 50kg
133.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Under 20kg
n.a.	179.0	214.9	239.3	252.9	272.8	261.3	Finishers
n.a.	166.8	164.4	180.4	193.8	211.7	213.8	Weaners/Growers
n.a.	85.6	88.5	97.4	101.2	109.5	102.6	Suckling piglets
<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>578.3</b>	<b>Total</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>633.6</b>	<b>TOTAL PIGS</b>
<b>POULTRY</b>							
<b>Commercial laying flock</b>							
2,556.1	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8	4,331.9	Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle
0.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Second cycle
<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>4,331.9</b>	<b>Total</b>
1,089.2	909.3	916.3	908.0	961.9	1,202.0	1,121.3	Growing pullets
1,641.1	2,150.6	2,413.7	2,404.9	2,282.7	2,526.9	2,515.9	Breeding flock
<b>Table birds</b>							
13,459.4	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6	17,663.0	Broilers
441.7	463.5	412.4	485.6	530.0	452.3	398.5	Other poultry
<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>26,030.6</b>	<b>TOTAL POULTRY</b>

**Table 3.5 Farmers and other workers in Northern Ireland 2004-2018**

('000 workers)

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Farmers</b>									
<b>Full time</b>	Male	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.3	16.0	15.6	15.2	15.2
	Female	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6
	<b>Total full-time farmers</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>15.8</b>
<b>Part time</b>	Male	13.0	12.5	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.2	12.1	11.9
	Female	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4
	<b>Total part-time farmers</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>13.3</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMERS</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>29.1</b>
<b>Farmers' spouses</b>									
<b>Full time</b>	Total	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
	<b>Part time</b>	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
<b>TOTAL SPOUSES</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>6.3</b>
<b>Other workers</b>									
<b>Full time</b>	Male	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8
	Female	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
	<b>Total full-time</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>3.2</b>
<b>Part time</b>	Male	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8
	Female	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
	<b>Total part-time</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>3.4</b>
<b>Casual</b>	Male	7.4	6.7	6.2	5.3	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.4
	Female	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
	<b>Total casual/seasonal</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>4.8</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER WORKERS</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>11.4</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMERS, SPOUSES AND OTHER WORKERS</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>	<b>46.8</b>

**Table 3.6 Number of Farms in Northern Ireland, 2004 - 2018**

('000 farms)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	27.6	27.1	26.7	26.1	26.0	25.3	24.5	24.4

('000 workers)

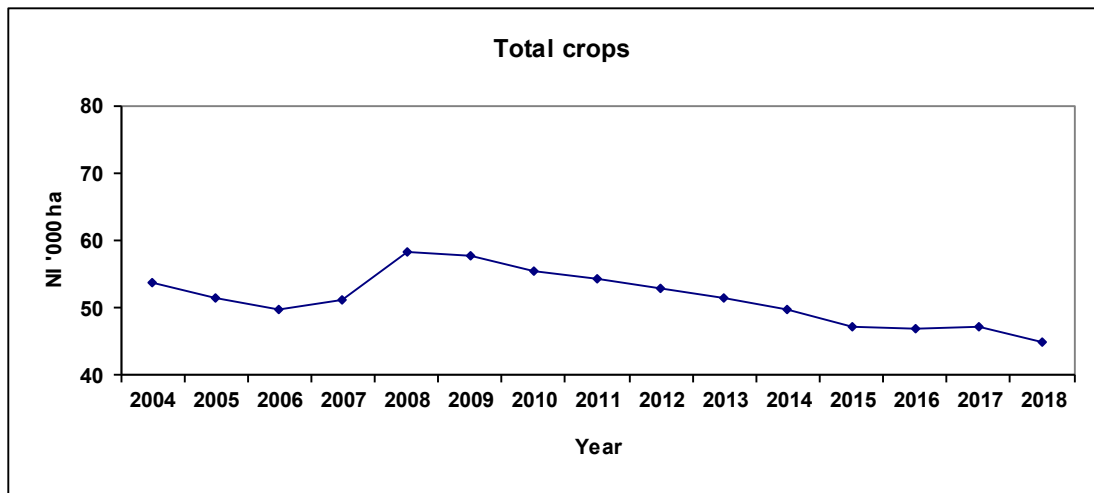
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
15.3	15.6	15.6	15.9	15.5	16.0	16.2	Male	<b>Farmers Full time</b>
0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	Female	
<b>15.8</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>Total full-time farmers</b>	
11.7	11.4	11.4	11.9	12.1	12.0	12.1	Male	<b>Part time</b>
1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	Female	
<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>13.7</b>	<b>Total part-time farmers</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>30.7</b>	<b>TOTAL FARMERS</b>	
1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	Total	<b>Farmers' spouses Full time</b>
4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.7	Total	<b>Part time</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>6.5</b>	<b>TOTAL SPOUSES</b>	
2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8	Male	<b>Other workers Full time</b>
0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	Female	
<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>3.4</b>	<b>Total full-time</b>	
3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	Male	<b>Part time</b>
0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	Female	
<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>4.3</b>	<b>Total part-time</b>	
4.5	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.9	Male	<b>Casual</b>
0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	Female	
<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>4.3</b>	<b>Total casual/seasonal</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>12.0</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER WORKERS</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>49.2</b>	<b>TOTAL FARMERS, SPOUSES AND OTHER WORKERS</b>	

('000 farms)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
24.3	24.5	24.2	24.9	24.5	25.0	24.9	<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>

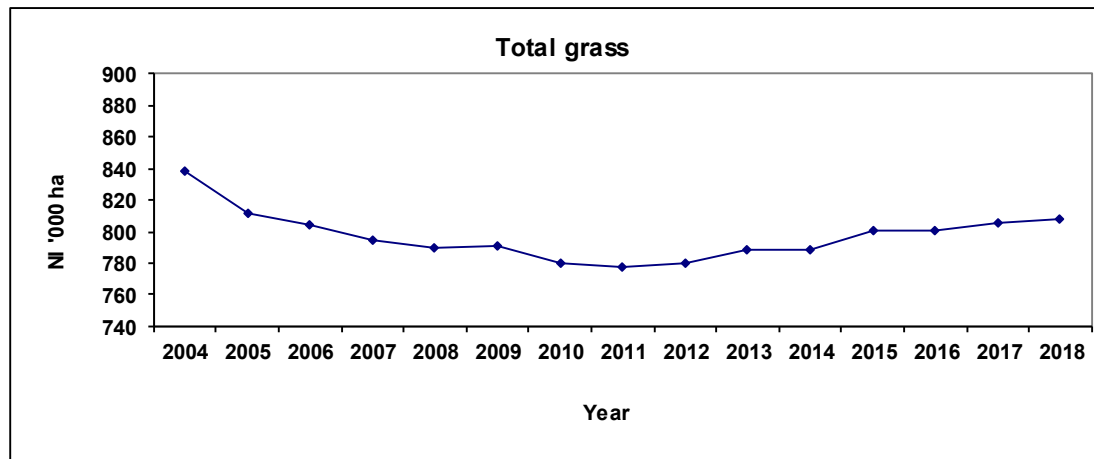
### 3.3 CHARTS OF TIME SERIES DATA FOR PRINCIPAL STATISTICS

**Chart 3 - 1**



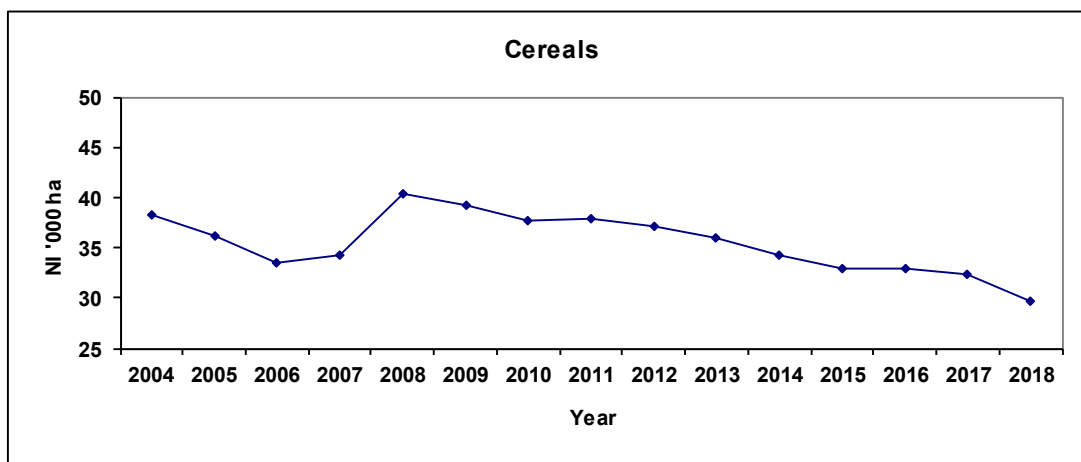
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 2**



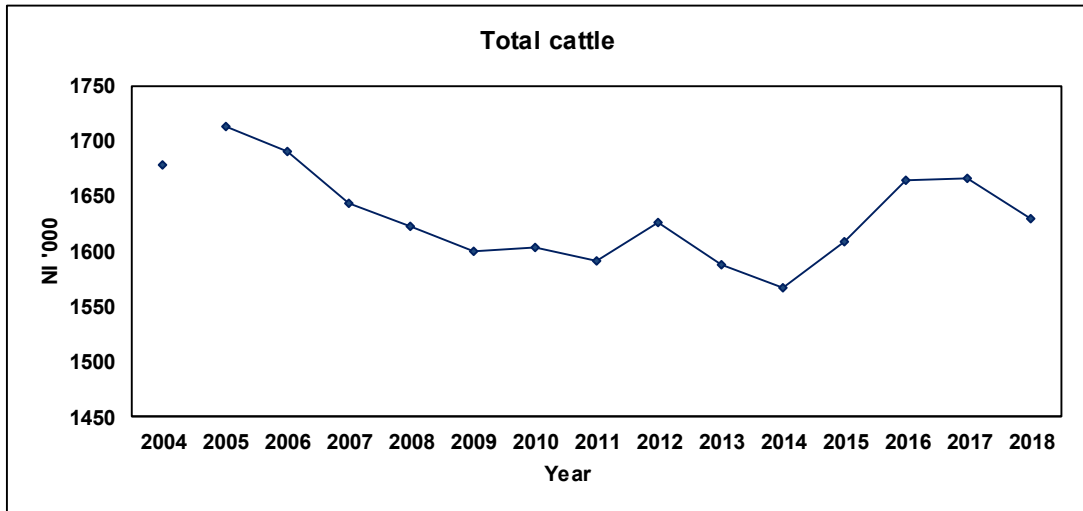
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 3**



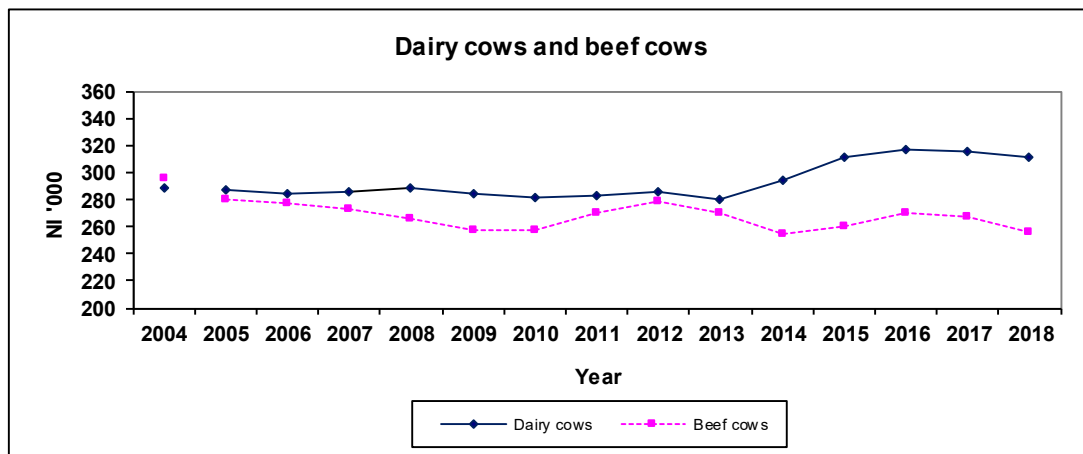
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 4**



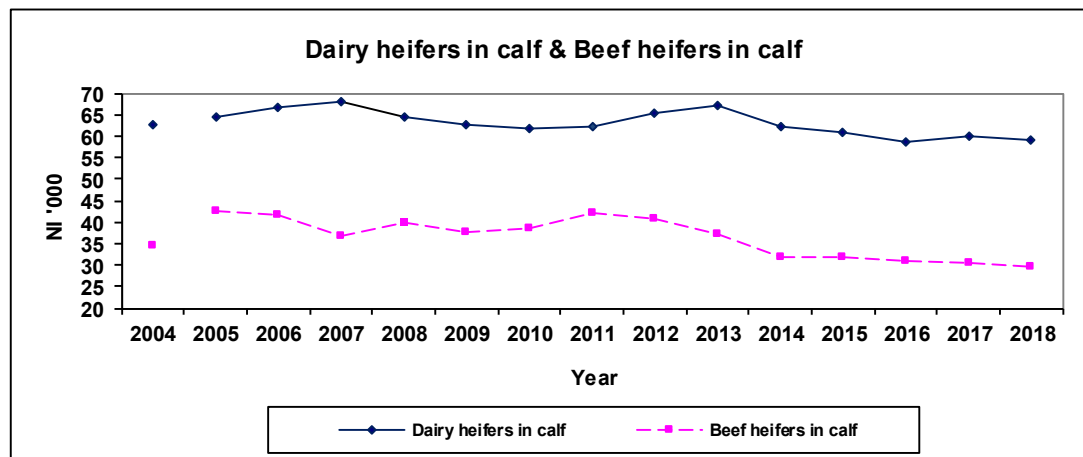
Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 5**



Non-zero intercept

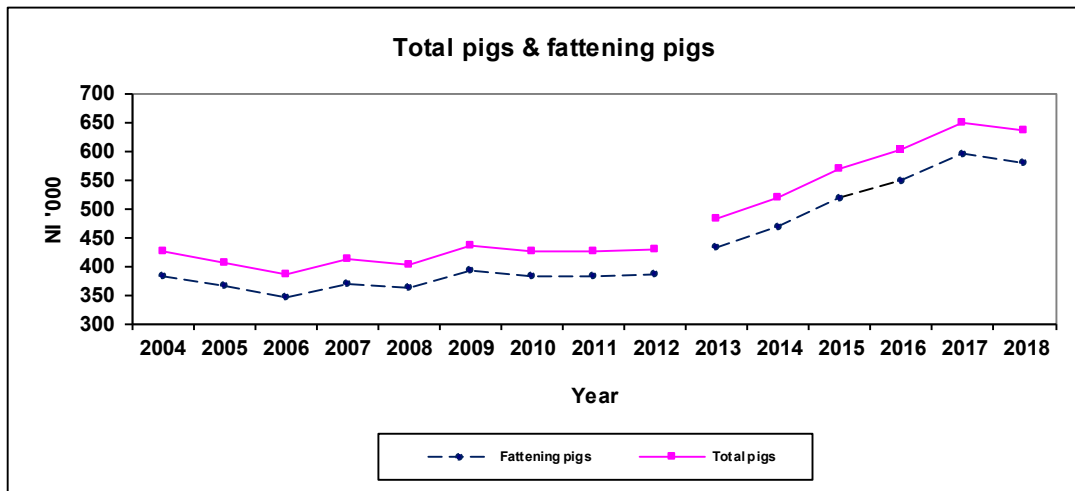
**Chart 3 - 6**



Non-zero intercept

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

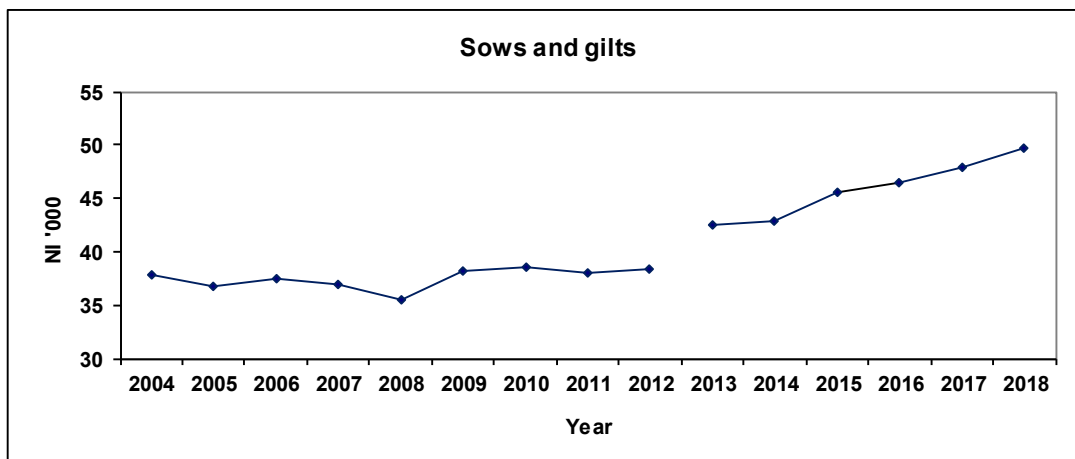
**Chart 3 - 7**



Non-zero intercept

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

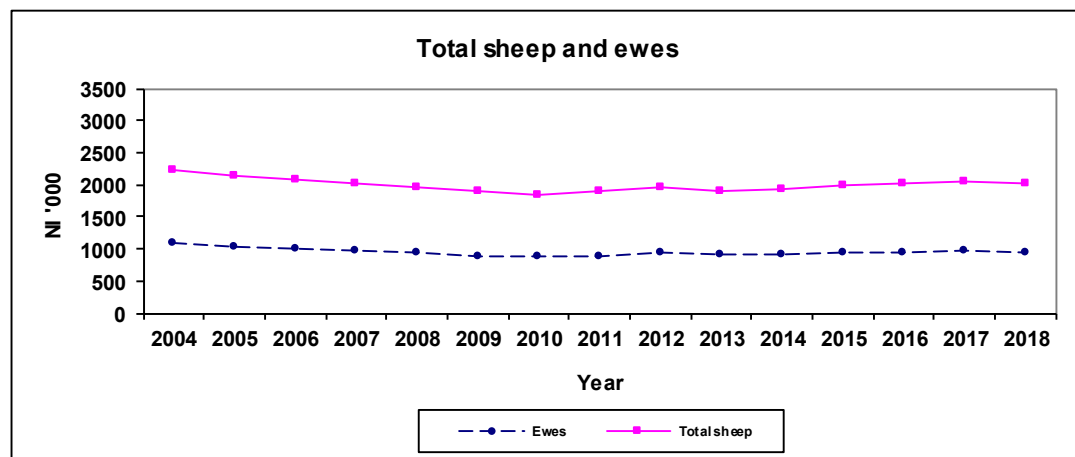
**Chart 3 - 8**



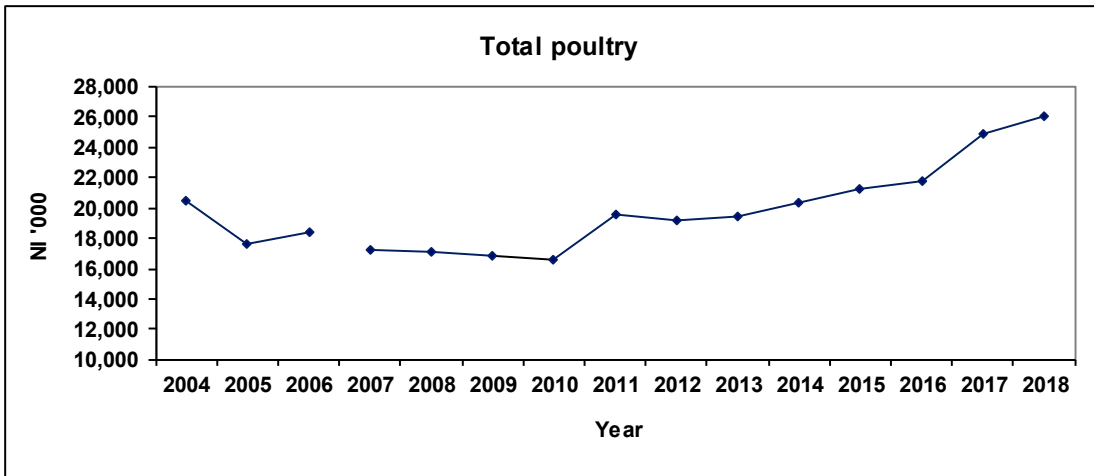
Non-zero intercept

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

**Chart 3 - 9**

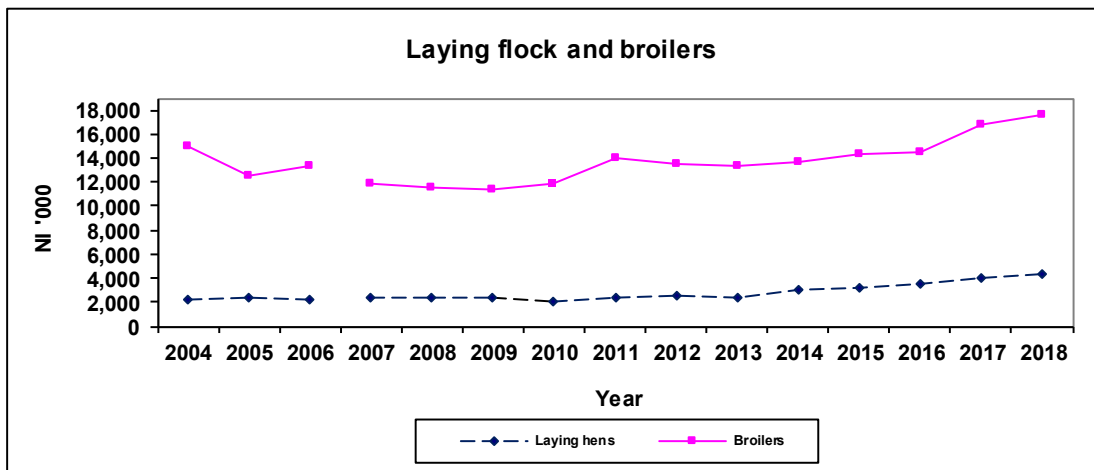


**Chart 3 - 10**



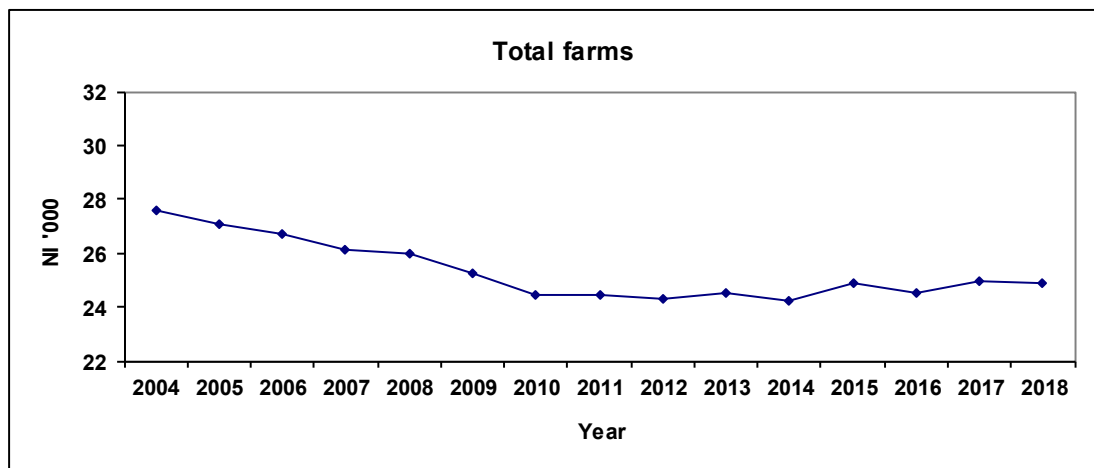
Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update Non-zero intercept

**Chart 3 - 11**



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

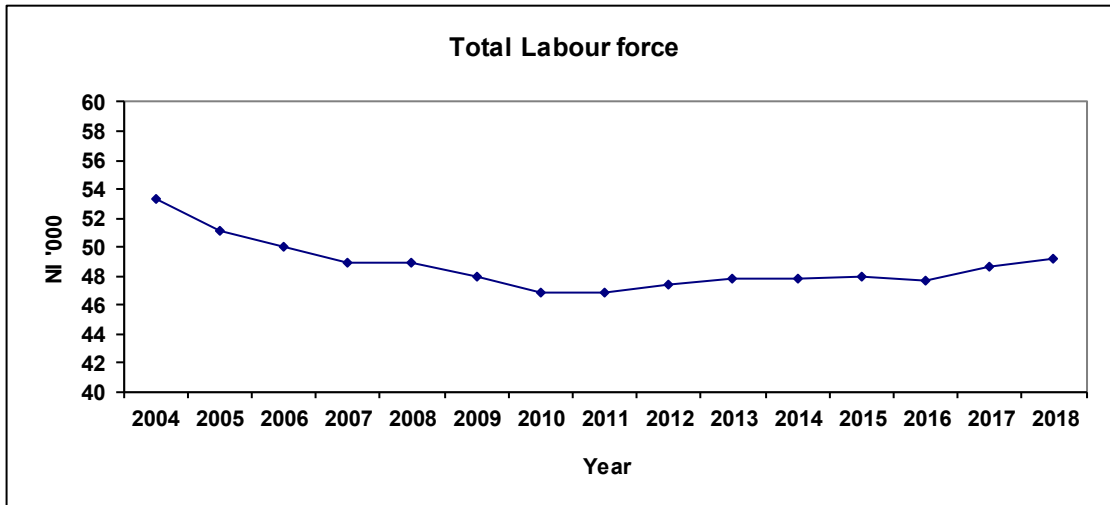
**Chart 3 - 12**



Non-zero intercept

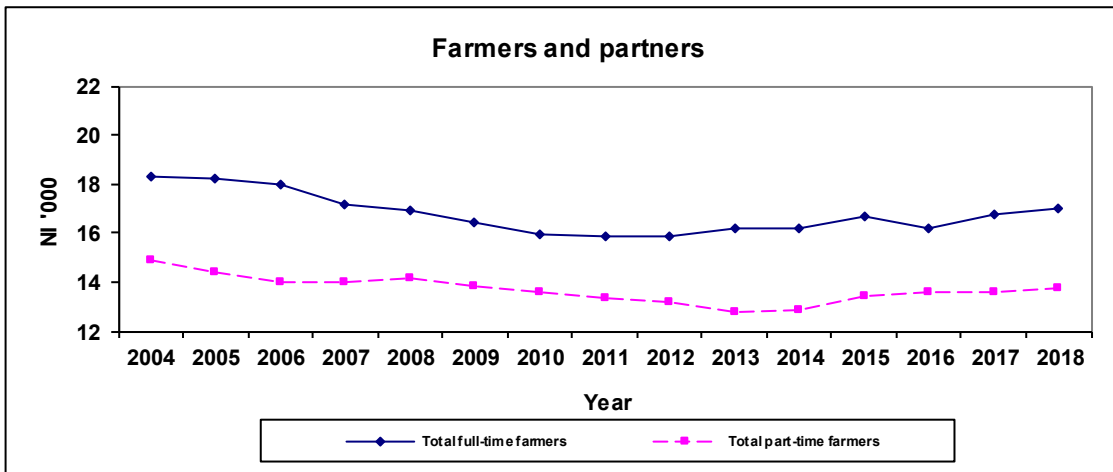


**Chart 3 - 13**



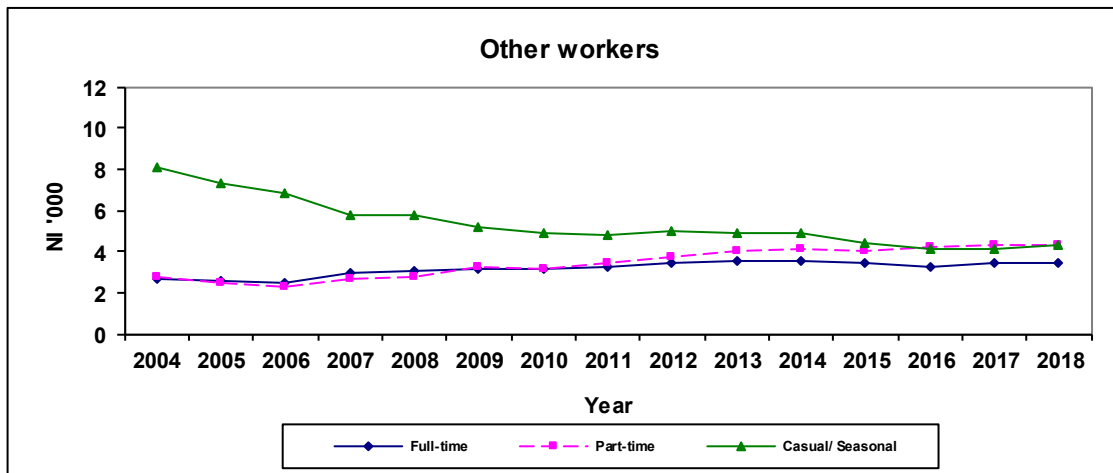
Non-zero intercept

**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 143,200 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 2018**

<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	170	62	109	55	166	122	51	13	69	23	152	53	717	328
2 - 4.9	253	928	286	1,048	389	1,419	130	480	196	709	304	1,095	1,558	5,679
5 - 9.9	550	4,090	616	4,538	745	5,453	327	2,440	391	2,874	793	5,901	3,422	25,297
10 - 14.9	483	5,907	521	6,399	626	7,719	382	4,637	391	4,825	739	9,066	3,142	38,552
15 - 19.9	405	7,011	390	6,737	478	8,292	319	5,520	362	6,272	696	12,006	2,650	45,837
20 - 29.9	648	16,053	552	13,313	736	17,915	547	13,357	527	12,856	1,042	25,508	4,052	99,001
30 - 39.9	438	15,205	323	11,129	451	15,533	341	11,690	352	12,159	647	22,254	2,552	87,969
40 - 49.9	294	13,011	183	8,130	311	13,844	239	10,506	266	11,804	423	18,697	1,716	75,991
50 - 74.9	488	29,940	235	14,189	442	26,804	323	19,541	365	22,286	631	37,992	2,484	150,752
75 - 99.9	261	22,466	99	8,497	215	18,385	131	11,249	158	13,583	265	22,612	1,129	96,792
100 & over	363	59,104	119	17,460	299	45,640	187	27,741	222	35,220	283	41,192	1,473	226,357
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>173,776</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>91,495</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>161,127</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>107,175</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>122,612</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>196,373</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>852,557</b>

**Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total area by county in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

<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	93	56	72	58	109	105	19	12	36	17	102	58	431	305
2 - 4.9	208	774	258	943	349	1,258	95	363	168	607	255	919	1,333	4,864
5 - 9.9	462	3,449	612	4,530	702	5,146	273	2,121	326	2,399	642	4,771	3,017	22,415
10 - 14.9	419	5,142	504	6,252	602	7,478	350	4,291	347	4,302	661	8,108	2,883	35,572
15 - 19.9	363	6,280	396	6,829	486	8,403	324	5,601	318	5,541	624	10,823	2,511	43,476
20 - 29.9	648	16,024	587	14,101	762	18,645	545	13,352	468	11,500	1,025	25,145	4,035	98,768
30 - 39.9	462	16,032	331	11,449	464	16,088	371	12,705	342	11,812	647	22,286	2,617	90,372
40 - 49.9	299	13,206	193	8,544	323	14,459	260	11,506	278	12,404	493	21,839	1,846	81,957
50 - 74.9	564	34,594	255	15,397	485	29,532	354	21,516	432	26,343	724	43,818	2,814	171,202
75 - 99.9	312	26,944	96	8,282	245	21,014	163	14,155	205	17,696	348	29,716	1,369	117,807
100 & over	523	93,579	129	19,316	331	65,069	223	36,414	379	66,558	454	74,722	2,039	355,658
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>216,078</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>95,700</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>187,197</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>122,036</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>159,180</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>242,205</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>1,022,395</b>

**Table 4.3 Number of farms by (a) type of farm and (b) farm business size by county in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

	County						
	Antrim	Armagh	Down	Fermanagh	Londonderry	Tyrone	N.Ireland
<b>FARM TYPE:</b>							
Cereals	26	17	141	2	57	21	<b>264</b>
General cropping	100	73	163	40	98	100	<b>574</b>
Horticulture	29	152	45	3	14	21	<b>264</b>
Pigs	26	22	45	1	33	50	<b>177</b>
Poultry	163	86	60	35	35	260	<b>639</b>
Dairy	536	287	519	261	312	630	<b>2,545</b>
Cattle & sheep: LFA	2,408	1,962	1,832	2,597	1,873	4,028	<b>14,700</b>
Cattle & sheep: lowland	937	755	1,847	26	771	773	<b>5,109</b>
Mixed	101	69	154	5	93	81	<b>503</b>
Other type	27	10	52	7	13	11	<b>120</b>
<b>All types</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>24,895</b>
<b>FARM BUSINESS SIZE:</b>							
Very small	3,087	2,735	3,682	2,516	2,520	4,648	<b>19,188</b>
Small	608	321	548	282	393	672	<b>2,824</b>
Medium	261	144	218	98	175	294	<b>1,190</b>
Large	397	233	410	81	211	361	<b>1,693</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,353</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>5,975</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018**

	Farm business size				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	
<b>FARM TYPE:</b>					
Cereals	207	41	9	7	<b>264</b>
General cropping	481	34	21	38	<b>574</b>
Horticulture	83	51	25	105	<b>264</b>
Pigs	55	22	30	70	<b>177</b>
Poultry	177	236	115	111	<b>639</b>
Dairy	262	703	584	996	<b>2,545</b>
Cattle & sheep: LFA	13,199	1,130	218	153	<b>14,700</b>
Cattle & sheep: lowland	4,381	505	128	95	<b>5,109</b>
Mixed	263	88	44	108	<b>503</b>
Other type	80	14	16	10	<b>120</b>
<b>All types</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>24,895</b>
<b>AREA OF CROPS &amp; GRASS FARMED (hectares)</b>					
Under 10	5,394	154	57	92	<b>5,697</b>
10 - 19.9	5,555	158	38	41	<b>5,792</b>
20.0 - 29.9	3,704	236	63	49	<b>4,052</b>
30.0 - 49.9	3,152	833	183	100	<b>4,268</b>
50.0 - 99.9	1,286	1,151	599	577	<b>3,613</b>
100 & over	97	292	250	834	<b>1,473</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>24,895</b>
<b>TOTAL AREA FARMED (hectares)</b>					
Under 10	4,526	121	50	84	<b>4,781</b>
10 - 19.9	5,189	129	35	41	<b>5,394</b>
20.0 - 29.9	3,737	196	55	47	<b>4,035</b>
30.0 - 49.9	3,500	711	156	96	<b>4,463</b>
50.0 - 99.9	1,913	1,138	583	549	<b>4,183</b>
100 & over	323	529	311	876	<b>2,039</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>24,895</b>

**Table 4.5 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied, June 2018**

Owner-occupied land as percentage of area farmed	Farm business size				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
All	11,385	844	281	307	<b>12,817</b>
50-<100%	4,563	1,279	596	852	<b>7,290</b>
>0-<50%	2,206	628	294	513	<b>3,641</b>
None	1,034	73	19	21	<b>1,147</b>
<b>All farms</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>24,895</b>
<b>Average percentage owner-occupied</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>72</b>

**Table 4.6 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

	Farm business size				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
<b><i>Farmers, partners &amp; directors:</i></b>					
Full-time	9,702	3,131	1,561	2,570	16,964
Part-time	12,156	870	278	417	13,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,858</b>	<b>4,001</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>30,685</b>
<b><i>Spouses</i></b>	<b>4,252</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>6,542</b>
<b><i>Other workers</i></b>					
Full-time	657	307	294	2,153	3,411
Part-time	2,416	787	354	783	4,340
Casual/seasonal	1,960	811	444	1,055	4,270
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>5,033</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>3,991</b>	<b>12,021</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>31,143</b>	<b>6,912</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>7,777</b>	<b>49,248</b>

## **SECTION 5: FARM ENTERPRISES**

### **Table 5.1 Total cereals**

The distribution of farms with cereals (all types) and area of cereals 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 2018, the total area of cereals decreased by 8 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 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 increased by 6 per cent compared with 2017, while winter barley decreased by 18 per cent from 2017 levels. Overall, the total area of barley decreased by 2 per cent compared to 2017.

### **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 2017 for harvest in 2018 decreased by 19 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 that around two thirds of the potato crop is grown by a relatively small number of growers producing more than 15 ha each. The total area grown was 11 per cent lower in 2018 than in 2017.

**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 in 2018 was 2 per cent lower compared with the previous year. The data show 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 which account for just over one third of all herds in Northern Ireland.

**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 4 per cent compared with June 2017 to 255,900 head. The data show that beef cows are widely distributed across the region and that just over 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.

Over a quarter of these cattle are kept in herds of 100 or more animals.

**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 35 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 lower 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 9 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 38 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 20 per cent of herds but over three-quarters of total breeding sows.

**Table 5.12 Finisher/Weaner pigs**

The number of farms with finisher 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 34 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 37 per cent of herds and 94 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 more than two-thirds of all fowl at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. Approximately 88 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 2018**

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	4	9	12	12	8	6	4	19	22	30	19
1 - 1.9	28	41			52	78	28	40			131	190
2 - 4.9	100	328	40	137	219	715	124	408	52	171	535	1,760
5 - 9.9	91	643	42	289	200	1,448	108	755	47	338	488	3,473
10 - 19.9	71	960	36	482	150	2,130	95	1,287	43	582	395	5,441
20 - 29.9	27	630	7	172	63	1,541	28	668	12	276	137	3,287
30 - 39.9	9	293	6	201	43	1,452	11	372	7	242	76	2,560
40 - 49.9	13	567	14	1,259	18	782	5	215	9	725	40	1,744
50 and over	13	984			66	5,182	33	3,219			129	11,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>13,335</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>6,968</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>29,662</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 2018**

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	6	4	8	10	9	6	6	5	10	12	24	17
1 - 1.9	17	25			46	68	26	37			104	150
2 - 4.9	90	296	36	124	198	649	120	393	47	159	491	1,621
5 - 9.9	72	509	30	203	166	1,212	99	665	37	273	404	2,861
10 - 19.9	58	762	27	374	148	2,022	78	1,028	35	468	346	4,654
20 - 29.9	24	556	13	526	56	1,356	27	626	19	822	121	2,881
30 - 39.9	11	379			33	1,117	7	236			56	1,909
40 & over	10	543			49	3,101	29	2,137			101	6,610
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>9,531</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>5,128</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>20,703</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 2018**

<b>Area of crop on farms (hectares)</b>	<b>Winter Barley</b>		<b>Spring Barley</b>		<b>Oats</b>		<b>Wheat</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>under 1</b>	22	29	24	17	14	9	11	7
<b>1 - 1.9</b>			109	157	40	55	20	28
<b>2 - 4.9</b>	152	518	462	1,523	116	359	138	454
<b>5 - 9.9</b>	140	988	352	2,483	61	432	175	1,233
<b>10 - 19.9</b>	112	1,521	304	4,127	32	436	115	1,569
<b>20 - 29.9</b>	44	1,036	91	2,112	8	192	33	763
<b>30 - 39.9</b>	27	904	30	1,019	6	200	22	732
<b>40 - 49.9</b>	14	813	18	791	5	330	10	422
<b>50 and over</b>			39	2,665			20	1,638
<b>Total</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>14,894</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>6,845</b>

**Table 5.4 Distribution of farms and potatoes by area of potatoes by county, June 2018**

<b>Area of potatoes on farms (hectares)</b>	<b>Potatoes</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>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>under 0.5</b>	8	2	11	4	19	5	6	2	15	5	53	14
<b>0.5 - 0.9</b>	6	4			23	16	9	6			44	31
<b>1 - 1.9</b>	23	32	11	17	28	39	9	11	10	12	78	105
<b>2 - 2.9</b>	13	31			17	41	9	20	11	39	44	104
<b>3 - 4.9</b>	13	54	7	26	21	80	13	52			63	246
<b>5 - 9.9</b>	10	85	5	58	18	137	18	126	6	38	52	366
<b>10 - 14.9</b>					19	219	8	99	6	136	33	389
<b>15 &amp; over</b>	14	429			32	1,207	14	567			65	2,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>3,601</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 2018**

<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	38	254	30	196	41	260	21	130	28	181	62	399	220	1,420
10 - 14	20	233	20	245	17	201	8	89	7	79	22	248	94	1,095
15 - 19	15	265	14	242	12	210	17	290	16	273	32	538	106	1,818
20 - 29	25	611	20	488	24	568	39	942	21	510	41	997	170	4,116
30 - 39	39	1,356	31	1,069	29	1,008	46	1,602	27	924	70	2,405	242	8,364
40 - 49	42	1,853	33	1,470	32	1,425	37	1,664	28	1,255	63	2,751	235	10,418
50 - 59	39	2,118	29	1,592	47	2,539	28	1,527	31	1,672	67	3,642	241	13,090
60 - 69	59	3,816	33	2,107	45	2,877	24	1,541	27	1,743	68	4,423	256	16,507
70 - 99	132	11,212	63	5,178	90	7,471	51	4,191	75	6,473	169	14,038	580	48,563
100 & over	294	47,595	126	23,728	299	54,338	55	9,442	146	26,080	247	44,144	1,167	205,327
<b>Total</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>69,313</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>36,315</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>70,897</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>21,418</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>39,190</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>73,585</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>310,718</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2018.

**Table 5.6 Distribution of farms and beef cows by number of beef cows and county, June 2018**

<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	408	874	532	1,185	627	1,447	412	1,063	381	855	879	2,064	3,239	7,488
5 - 9	364	2,551	428	2,910	488	3,372	575	4,041	325	2,209	785	5,343	2,965	20,426
10 - 14	317	3,730	314	3,719	331	3,921	406	4,764	298	3,549	614	7,211	2,280	26,894
15 - 19	246	4,131	231	3,885	273	4,631	296	5,005	210	3,499	433	7,329	1,689	28,480
20 - 29	291	6,951	231	5,528	316	7,527	319	7,614	272	6,498	471	11,270	1,900	45,388
30 - 39	183	6,291	129	4,340	163	5,531	162	5,465	120	4,034	224	7,577	981	33,238
40 - 49	97	4,291	55	2,453	65	2,923	78	3,465	62	2,742	94	4,152	451	20,026
50 - 59	79	4,335	31	1,680	62	3,371	54	2,899	23	1,231	70	3,780	319	17,296
60 - 69	36	2,286	20	1,293	36	2,322	32	2,068	29	1,865	47	3,046	200	12,880
70 - 99	61	5,019	22	1,810	43	3,507	44	3,594	30	2,423	53	4,386	253	20,739
100 & over	49	7,128	16	2,305	31	4,316	22	3,173	19	2,380	24	3,747	161	23,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>47,587</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>31,108</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>42,868</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>43,151</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>31,285</b>	<b>3,694</b>	<b>59,905</b>	<b>14,438</b>	<b>255,904</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2018.

**Table 5.7 Distribution of farms and cattle over one year old, intended for slaughter, by number of cattle and county, June 2018**

<b>Male and female cattle one year old &amp; over, intended for slaughter</b>														
<b>Number of cattle on farms</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>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>1 - 2</b>	411	580	327	480	429	639	617	852	375	527	778	1,113	<b>2,937</b>	<b>4,191</b>
<b>3 - 4</b>	315	1,095	259	909	311	1,088	323	1,125	238	820	516	1,794	<b>1,962</b>	<b>6,831</b>
<b>5 - 9</b>	519	3,583	482	3,312	556	3,878	455	3,081	407	2,815	870	5,909	<b>3,289</b>	<b>22,578</b>
<b>10 - 14</b>	380	4,472	356	4,207	413	4,904	226	2,640	264	3,164	547	6,423	<b>2,186</b>	<b>25,810</b>
<b>15 - 19</b>	242	4,053	245	4,164	328	5,551	148	2,484	181	3,047	355	5,970	<b>1,499</b>	<b>25,269</b>
<b>20 - 29</b>	349	8,419	352	8,379	447	10,632	149	3,605	245	5,904	415	9,918	<b>1,957</b>	<b>46,857</b>
<b>30 - 39</b>	210	7,166	210	7,196	286	9,754	69	2,364	133	4,534	255	8,639	<b>1,163</b>	<b>39,653</b>
<b>40 - 49</b>	116	5,081	117	5,148	147	6,455	39	1,721	70	3,048	151	6,734	<b>640</b>	<b>28,187</b>
<b>50 - 59</b>	102	5,497	89	4,809	113	6,130	28	1,547	64	3,517	93	5,048	<b>489</b>	<b>26,548</b>
<b>60 - 69</b>	70	4,485	54	3,466	89	5,704	12	784	32	2,059	74	4,747	<b>331</b>	<b>21,245</b>
<b>70 - 99</b>	110	8,868	107	8,676	131	10,792	21	1,675	73	5,970	122	10,146	<b>564</b>	<b>46,127</b>
<b>100 &amp; over</b>	102	17,757	120	19,972	128	23,625	25	4,579	69	11,578	133	26,006	<b>577</b>	<b>103,517</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>71,056</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>70,718</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>89,152</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>26,457</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>46,983</b>	<b>4,309</b>	<b>92,447</b>	<b>17,594</b>	<b>396,813</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2018.

**Table 5.8 Distribution of farms and total cattle by number of cattle and county, June 2018**

<b>Total cattle</b>														
<b>Number of cattle on farms</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>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Farms</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>1 - 4</b>	90	256	77	227	121	363	86	240	105	297	181	508	<b>660</b>	<b>1,891</b>
<b>5 - 9</b>	162	1,163	189	1,320	251	1,781	242	1,707	160	1,136	385	2,743	<b>1,389</b>	<b>9,850</b>
<b>10 - 19</b>	428	6,157	469	6,745	561	7,913	495	7,110	377	5,420	787	11,142	<b>3,117</b>	<b>44,487</b>
<b>20 - 29</b>	365	8,859	387	9,343	460	10,967	398	9,690	298	7,281	684	16,604	<b>2,592</b>	<b>62,744</b>
<b>30 - 39</b>	292	10,042	333	11,351	361	12,429	313	10,739	243	8,342	477	16,296	<b>2,019</b>	<b>69,199</b>
<b>40 - 49</b>	217	9,583	259	11,488	268	11,840	227	10,002	189	8,362	384	16,932	<b>1,544</b>	<b>68,207</b>
<b>50 - 69</b>	345	20,127	316	18,576	370	21,880	292	17,092	266	15,594	539	31,672	<b>2,128</b>	<b>124,941</b>
<b>70 - 99</b>	329	27,450	313	26,238	386	32,154	228	18,771	248	20,585	459	38,233	<b>1,963</b>	<b>163,431</b>
<b>100 - 149</b>	344	42,006	244	29,849	341	41,947	180	21,685	211	25,592	411	49,858	<b>1,731</b>	<b>210,937</b>
<b>150 - 199</b>	204	35,236	128	21,957	177	30,596	97	16,667	124	21,156	241	41,566	<b>971</b>	<b>167,178</b>
<b>200 - 249</b>	144	32,214	82	18,289	118	26,199	50	11,084	85	19,245	160	35,514	<b>639</b>	<b>142,545</b>
<b>250 - 299</b>	102	27,729	46	12,515	97	26,647	27	7,297	45	12,170	77	21,108	<b>394</b>	<b>107,466</b>
<b>300 &amp; over</b>	216	99,429	116	60,579	237	115,359	55	24,880	121	59,130	190	96,815	<b>935</b>	<b>456,192</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,238</b>	<b>320,251</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>228,477</b>	<b>3,748</b>	<b>340,075</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>156,964</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>204,310</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>378,991</b>	<b>20,082</b>	<b>1,629,068</b>

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2018.

**Table 5.9 Distribution of farms and breeding ewes by number of ewes and county, June 2018**

<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>	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes
<b>1 - 24</b>	345	4,761	241	3,143	456	6,130	263	3,400	295	4,039	524	6,852	<b>2,124</b>	<b>28,325</b>
<b>25 - 49</b>	427	15,602	216	7,772	449	15,974	210	7,304	317	11,606	517	18,232	<b>2,136</b>	<b>76,490</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	519	37,073	180	11,926	519	36,416	184	12,910	440	30,795	561	39,355	<b>2,403</b>	<b>168,475</b>
<b>100 - 199</b>	497	68,558	94	12,671	402	54,621	99	13,321	383	52,357	411	55,273	<b>1,886</b>	<b>256,801</b>
<b>200 - 299</b>	191	45,550	27	6,555	123	28,841	26	6,023	137	32,804	128	30,999	<b>632</b>	<b>150,772</b>
<b>300 - 399</b>	83	27,547	9	3,246	44	14,796	20	6,714	68	22,715	63	21,146	<b>285</b>	<b>95,224</b>
<b>400 - 499</b>	47	20,614			20	8,819	8	3,564	30	13,008	25	10,773	<b>132</b>	<b>57,718</b>
<b>500 - 999</b>	52	34,191			18	15,260	7	5,447	42	30,095	28	21,893	<b>135</b>	<b>90,700</b>
<b>1,000 &amp; over</b>	11	15,857											<b>23</b>	<b>32,043</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>269,753</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>45,313</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>180,857</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>58,683</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>197,419</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>204,523</b>	<b>9,756</b>	<b>956,548</b>

**Table 5.10 Distribution of farms and total sheep by number of sheep and county, June 2018**

<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>	
	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep
<b>1 - 24</b>	176	2,301	125	1,558	240	3,202	131	1,686	164	2,314	279	3,549	<b>1,115</b>	<b>14,610</b>
<b>25 - 49</b>	219	8,024	148	5,404	283	10,548	159	5,799	179	6,564	345	12,456	<b>1,333</b>	<b>48,795</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	404	28,901	197	14,220	444	32,494	199	14,143	322	23,142	466	33,377	<b>2,032</b>	<b>146,277</b>
<b>100 - 199</b>	519	74,009	189	25,925	501	71,868	173	24,842	409	58,892	551	79,314	<b>2,342</b>	<b>334,850</b>
<b>200 - 299</b>	319	78,519	67	15,842	244	59,670	73	17,685	242	59,676	275	67,099	<b>1,220</b>	<b>298,491</b>
<b>300 - 399</b>	163	55,816	25	8,427	135	45,943	32	11,036	143	49,027	138	47,076	<b>636</b>	<b>217,325</b>
<b>400 - 499</b>	123	55,327	21	9,406	81	35,928	18	7,929	78	35,083	76	33,834	<b>397</b>	<b>177,507</b>
<b>500 - 699</b>	145	84,688	16	9,095	75	42,622	24	14,061	108	63,570	102	61,520	<b>470</b>	<b>275,556</b>
<b>700 - 999</b>	79	64,686	8	7,054	43	34,997	24	27,404	54	43,942	57	47,488	<b>252</b>	<b>206,340</b>
<b>1,000 &amp; over</b>	74	116,443			23	35,183			46	66,581	31	48,809	<b>187</b>	<b>286,247</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>568,714</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>96,931</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>372,455</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>124,585</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>408,791</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>434,522</b>	<b>9,984</b>	<b>2,005,998</b>



**Table 5.11 Distribution of farms and sows by number of sows and county, June 2018**

<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>	
	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows
<b>1 - 9</b>	20	83	8	41	16	68	12	56	12	44	<b>68</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>10 - 49</b>	9	169	5	91	21	599	13	318	18	566	<b>66</b>	<b>1,743</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	6	453	5	358	11	831	9	630	12	855	<b>43</b>	<b>3,127</b>
<b>100 - 199</b>	5	741	6	829	12	1,661	7	1,149	13	1,871	<b>43</b>	<b>6,251</b>
<b>200 &amp; over</b>	7	4,340	8	10,116	10	5,287	11	4,824	19	13,655	<b>55</b>	<b>38,222</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11,435</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8,446</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>6,977</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>16,991</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>49,635</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 2018**

<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>	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
<b>1 - 9</b>	6	25	9	141	9	52	5	16	12	162	<b>27</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>10 - 49</b>	9	182			13	328	10	241			<b>46</b>	<b>1,023</b>
<b>50 - 99</b>	7	1,105	5	400	7	508	10	1,748	6	365	<b>23</b>	<b>1,655</b>
<b>100 - 399</b>			7	1,518	15	3,598			16	3,687	<b>50</b>	<b>11,274</b>
<b>400 - 999</b>	7	4,825	9	7,703	10	7,820	7	4,528	9	5,256	<b>40</b>	<b>27,335</b>
<b>1,000 - 1,999</b>	11	45,013			14	19,583	9	13,569	15	20,327	<b>44</b>	<b>60,996</b>
<b>2,000 &amp; over</b>			8	121,831	7	29,350	8	33,890	21	147,852	<b>51</b>	<b>373,216</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>51,150</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>131,593</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>61,239</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53,992</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>177,649</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>475,623</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 2018**

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	7	42	9	189	9	57	16	379	12	222	24	154
10 - 49	16	410			15	507					56	1,362
50 - 99	8	1,644	12	1,898			15	3,263	5	309	17	1,172
100 - 399					16	3,066			18	3,963	61	13,261
400 - 999	12	13,708	10	9,894	10	5,815	6	4,701	11	6,674	38	24,775
1,000 - 1,999					18	27,176	8	13,138	15	22,504	52	78,835
2,000 and over	7	52,690	9	155,264	10	50,319	12	55,339	25	200,473	63	514,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>68,494</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>167,245</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>86,940</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>76,820</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>234,145</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>633,644</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 2018**

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	5	11	18	268	8	23	8	4	10	5	24	13
1,000 - 4,999							12	35	19	63	30	90
5,000 - 9,999	7	66			29	209	64	476	102	761	110	812
10,000 - 19,999	62	1,021			51	774	95	1,394	225	3,434	234	3,556
20,000 - 29,999	42	1,006	12	288	28	713	25	617	103	2,574	106	2,651
30,000 - 49,999	79	3,059	12	566	18	797	20	717	121	4,490	122	4,521
50,000 and over	129	12,500					8	1,089	152	14,305	153	14,388
<b>Total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>17,663</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>4,332</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>25,632</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>26,031</b>

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



## **SECTION 6: DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA STATISTICS, 2018**

Tables showing the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms in each District Council Area in 2018.

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 2018**

District Council	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	43.6	171	171	136	394	872	20	20	16	45	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	30.8	888	768	502	1,095	3,253	27	24	15	34	100
Belfast	54.9	8	7	5	11	31	26	23	16	35	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	43.9	462	481	348	1,210	2,501	18	19	14	48	100
Derry City and Strabane	39.1	313	364	300	794	1,771	18	21	17	45	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	34.9	883	1,222	941	2,048	5,094	17	24	18	40	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	39.8	190	178	133	341	842	23	21	16	40	100
Mid and East Antrim	35.5	457	375	277	684	1,793	25	21	15	38	100
Mid Ulster	30.2	1,017	1,068	689	1,388	4,162	24	26	17	33	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	26.3	1,153	1,025	640	1,062	3,880	30	26	16	27	100
Ards and North Down	44.4	155	133	81	327	696	22	19	12	47	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>5,792</b>	<b>4,052</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018**

District Council	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	96.8	612	125	42	93	872	70	14	5	11	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	98.1	2,421	366	175	291	3,253	74	11	5	9	100
Belfast	94.8	25	1	3	2	31	81	3	10	6	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	89.8	1,740	352	155	254	2,501	70	14	6	10	100
Derry City and Strabane	74.3	1,324	230	89	128	1,771	75	13	5	7	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	54.2	4,220	503	189	182	5,094	83	10	4	4	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	93.4	615	90	51	86	842	73	11	6	10	100
Mid and East Antrim	85.1	1,310	246	105	132	1,793	73	14	6	7	100
Mid Ulster	89.1	3,254	457	215	236	4,162	78	11	5	6	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	53.9	3,224	362	121	173	3,880	83	9	3	4	100
Ards and North Down	117.4	443	92	45	116	696	64	13	6	17	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>11</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 2018**

District Council	Farm type										Total
	Cereals	General cropping	Horticulture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep		Mixed	Others	
							LFA	lowland			
Antrim and Newtownabbey	8	23	8	8	25	106	370	297	18	9	872
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	55	85	153	27	88	350	1,090	1,286	107	12	3,253
Belfast	0	3	0	0	0	1	19	7	1	0	31
Causeway Coast and Glens	33	65	8	10	65	314	1,329	582	83	12	2,501
Derry City and Strabane	24	45	4	12	11	182	1,279	181	26	7	1,771
Fermanagh and Omagh	5	75	8	15	98	491	4,275	103	15	9	5,094
Lisburn and Castlereagh	33	34	22	6	19	100	231	347	34	16	842
Mid and East Antrim	0	31	10	12	75	208	1,150	274	23	10	1,793
Mid Ulster	25	78	19	50	205	409	2,316	957	95	8	4,162
Newry, Mourne and Down	37	83	16	33	45	257	2,587	728	71	23	3,880
Ards and North Down	44	52	16	4	8	127	54	347	30	14	696
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>5,109</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>24,895</b>

**Table 6.4 Number of farms by LFA designation by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

District Council	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 and Newtownabbey	148	317	465	407	872	17	36	53	47	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	305	1,087	1,392	1,861	3,253	9	33	43	57	100
Belfast	18	3	21	10	31	58	10	68	32	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	957	586	1,543	958	2,501	38	23	62	38	100
Derry City and Strabane	1,047	406	1,453	318	1,771	59	23	82	18	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,111	836	4,947	147	5,094	81	16	97	3	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	77	215	292	550	842	9	26	35	65	100
Mid and East Antrim	705	687	1,392	401	1,793	39	38	78	22	100
Mid Ulster	1,149	1,677	2,826	1,336	4,162	28	40	68	32	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,204	1,694	2,898	982	3,880	31	44	75	25	100
Ards and North Down	10	59	69	627	696	1	8	10	90	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,731</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>17,298</b>	<b>7,597</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018**

<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>	1,037	38	428	18	<b>1,522</b>	36,743	3,105	806	<b>42,175</b>
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	5,275	309	1,976	1,671	<b>9,230</b>	91,677	5,294	1,512	<b>107,713</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	24	0	40	14	<b>78</b>	1,668	518	97	<b>2,360</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	6,007	851	1,448	35	<b>8,341</b>	100,652	32,594	2,310	<b>143,898</b>
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	2,804	411	944	42	<b>4,202</b>	65,726	24,232	2,921	<b>97,080</b>
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	232	8	343	32	<b>614</b>	176,270	28,082	4,063	<b>209,030</b>
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	3,050	285	590	179	<b>4,104</b>	28,477	1,938	1,200	<b>35,719</b>
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	449	128	386	19	<b>981</b>	63,797	17,300	970	<b>83,048</b>
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	2,138	271	848	82	<b>3,339</b>	121,719	18,850	2,501	<b>146,408</b>
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	4,335	787	1,119	36	<b>6,277</b>	96,128	11,096	8,906	<b>122,407</b>
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	4,311	514	754	672	<b>6,251</b>	24,762	147	1,397	<b>32,558</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,662</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>8,876</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>44,937</b>	<b>807,620</b>	<b>143,156</b>	<b>26,683</b>	<b>1,022,395</b>

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

**Table 6.6 Livestock numbers by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

<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 ('000)</b>
<b>Antrim and Newtownabbey</b>	14,979	12,899	78,259	34,910	79,060	1,766	22,903	1,138
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	46,891	26,059	247,598	57,329	121,828	12,239	173,944	3,765
<b>Belfast</b>	430	846	3,321	680	1,384	134	1,617	0
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	42,784	22,806	182,296	192,498	399,256	2,027	22,183	2,883
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	26,082	15,707	110,207	134,418	281,756	2,460	29,851	347
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	45,768	65,516	277,970	131,587	281,242	3,648	43,580	2,979
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	14,580	7,022	64,226	17,033	36,401	2,376	24,981	805
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	24,903	18,909	117,628	123,761	261,244	1,289	14,854	3,288
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	45,133	40,893	265,271	107,515	222,144	17,060	229,958	9,050
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	29,126	39,260	216,170	138,739	281,177	5,573	60,794	1,592
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	20,042	5,987	66,122	18,078	40,506	1,063	8,979	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,718</b>	<b>255,904</b>	<b>1,629,068</b>	<b>956,548</b>	<b>2,005,998</b>	<b>49,635</b>	<b>633,644</b>	<b>26,031</b>

Notes: Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

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

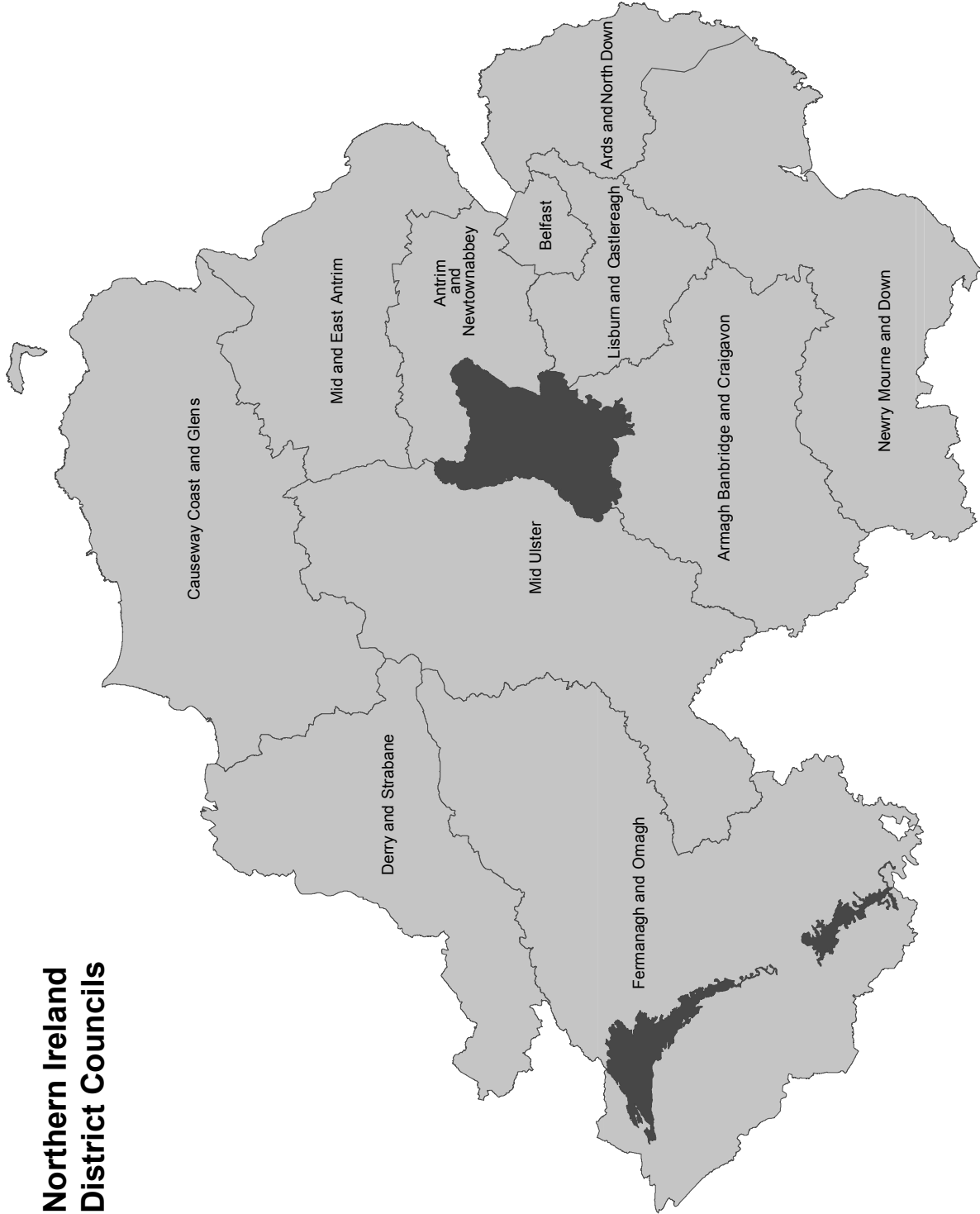
Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

**Table 6.7 Labour force by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

<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>	662	440	278	153	200	149	<b>1,882</b>
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	2,196	1,852	881	816	625	935	<b>7,305</b>
<b>Belfast</b>	19	19	8	54	5	5	<b>110</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>	1,974	1,246	769	282	463	513	<b>5,247</b>
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>	1,287	896	459	210	342	316	<b>3,510</b>
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>	3,364	2,726	1,219	425	645	685	<b>9,064</b>
<b>Lisburn and Castlereagh</b>	595	463	262	144	185	158	<b>1,807</b>
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	1,321	902	545	213	334	304	<b>3,619</b>
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	2,648	2,463	945	416	715	569	<b>7,756</b>
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>	2,341	2,347	934	471	646	448	<b>7,187</b>
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	557	367	242	227	180	188	<b>1,761</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,964</b>	<b>13,721</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>49,248</b>



## Northern Ireland District Councils



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## **SECTION 7: RURAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY STATISTICS, 2018**

Tables showing the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms in each Rural District and County in 2018.

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 2018**

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	42.1	149	137	118	342	746	20	18	16	46	100
Ballycastle	41.8	98	95	58	227	478	21	20	12	47	100
Ballymena	35.1	300	274	178	447	1,199	25	23	15	37	100
Ballymoney	42.5	151	144	101	353	749	20	19	13	47	100
Newtownabbey	49.0	7	2	2	6	17	41	12	12	35	100
Larne	40.9	186	139	108	292	725	26	19	15	40	100
Lisburn	39.3	77	86	75	157	395	19	22	19	40	100
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	49.9	8	6	2	11	27	30	22	7	41	100
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>
Armagh	28.0	462	386	265	502	1,615	29	24	16	31	100
Lurgan	30.6	96	78	49	101	324	30	24	15	31	100
Newry No 2	23.0	413	402	220	306	1,341	31	30	16	23	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	38.6	31	46	18	58	153	20	30	12	38	100
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>
Banbridge	31.1	275	250	150	372	1,047	26	24	14	36	100
Castlereagh	46.4	11	8	3	15	37	30	22	8	41	100
East Down	35.9	215	197	165	380	957	22	21	17	40	100
Hillsborough	37.9	124	101	76	194	495	25	20	15	39	100
South Down	23.3	246	179	98	154	677	36	26	14	23	100
Moira	44.0	52	29	28	92	201	26	14	14	46	100
Newry No 1	24.4	219	197	127	179	722	30	27	18	25	100
North Down	44.2	150	129	85	320	684	22	19	12	47	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	31.3	6	6	4	8	24	25	25	17	33	100
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>
Enniskillen	37.9	178	245	182	467	1,072	17	23	17	44	100
Inverinstown	38.0	138	154	137	305	734	19	21	19	42	100
Lisnaskea	33.7	180	295	228	453	1,156	16	26	20	39	100
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>2,962</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>
Coleraine	41.0	135	144	102	359	740	18	19	14	49	100
Limavady	45.8	104	124	110	333	671	15	18	16	50	100
Londonderry	43.5	69	108	71	231	479	14	23	15	48	100
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	29.1	357	374	256	458	1,445	25	26	18	32	100
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>
Castlederg	30.2	143	144	96	205	588	24	24	16	35	100
Clogher	34.7	132	134	113	277	656	20	20	17	42	100
Cookstown	28.7	228	255	132	292	907	25	28	15	32	100
Dungannon	29.8	294	300	195	359	1,148	26	26	17	31	100
Omagh	32.8	353	482	375	758	1,968	18	24	19	39	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	42.6	110	142	125	341	718	15	20	17	47	100
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>5,985</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>5,697</b>	<b>5,792</b>	<b>4,052</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018**

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	94.7	524	105	44	73	746	70	14	6	10	100
Ballycastle	63.7	335	85	25	33	478	70	18	5	7	100
Ballymena	98.9	860	163	72	104	1,199	72	14	6	9	100
Ballymoney	121.2	490	100	56	103	749	65	13	7	14	100
Newtownabbey	241.3	10	4	0	3	17	59	24	0	18	100
Larne	70.1	541	99	35	50	725	75	14	5	7	100
Lisburn	71.6	299	42	27	27	395	76	11	7	7	100
Co.Antrim Urban/Belfast	65.3	18	4	2	3	27	67	15	7	11	100
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>91.2</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>
Armagh	104.0	1,237	171	77	130	1,615	77	11	5	8	100
Lurgan	86.9	233	38	20	33	324	72	12	6	10	100
Newry No 2	50.9	1,162	95	31	53	1,341	87	7	2	4	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	108.5	109	15	15	14	153	71	10	10	9	100
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>
Banbridge	74.0	795	130	46	76	1,047	76	12	4	7	100
Castlereagh	131.5	24	3	4	6	37	65	8	11	16	100
East Down	64.4	743	116	41	57	957	78	12	4	6	100
Hillsborough	93.2	363	50	27	55	495	73	10	5	11	100
South Down	47.9	560	67	18	32	677	83	10	3	5	100
Moira	149.4	132	27	14	28	201	66	13	7	14	100
Newry No 1	61.0	596	67	23	36	722	83	9	3	5	100
North Down	116.1	432	91	43	118	684	63	13	6	17	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	65.9	19	2	1	2	24	79	8	4	8	100
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>3,664</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>
Enniskillen	45.3	895	111	35	31	1,072	83	10	3	3	100
Irvinestown	32.5	645	60	15	14	734	88	8	2	2	100
Lisnaskea	56.1	960	111	47	38	1,156	83	10	4	3	100
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,962</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>
Coleraine	82.4	527	99	40	74	740	71	13	5	10	100
Limavady	66.6	502	86	38	45	671	75	13	6	7	100
Londonderry	64.5	363	67	22	27	479	76	14	5	6	100
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	64.3	1,157	147	78	63	1,445	80	10	5	4	100
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>
Castlederg	60.7	475	63	17	33	588	81	11	3	6	100
Clogher	120.1	496	85	37	38	656	76	13	6	6	100
Cookstown	87.2	724	80	47	56	907	80	9	5	6	100
Dungannon	103.2	883	136	56	73	1,148	77	12	5	6	100
Omagh	67.5	1,572	210	89	97	1,968	80	11	5	5	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	93.3	507	95	48	68	718	71	13	7	9	100
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>4,657</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>5,985</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>11</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 2018**

Rural District	Farm type										
	Cereals	General cropping	Horti-culture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep		Mixed	Others	Total
							LFA	lowland			
Antrim	7	15	4	6	27	98	296	272	12	9	746
Ballycastle	2	8	0	0	9	35	402	14	7	1	478
Ballymena	1	29	5	10	68	156	644	256	26	4	1,199
Ballymoney	5	18	1	2	37	150	262	240	29	5	749
Newtownabbey	0	0	2	1	0	0	9	4	1	0	17
Larne	0	4	7	5	10	64	595	31	2	7	725
Lisburn	10	19	12	2	15	30	175	108	21	3	395
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	1	2	0	0	0	1	16	6	1	0	27
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4,336</b>
Armagh	5	37	98	10	58	133	781	450	39	4	1,615
Lurgan	1	15	39	3	5	25	116	106	13	1	324
Newry No 2	2	20	4	6	19	108	1,069	101	8	4	1,341
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	6	3	4	1	2	20	6	101	9	1	153
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>1,972</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3,433</b>
Banbridge	32	24	5	11	11	134	347	445	34	4	1,047
Castlereagh	4	0	3	0	0	8	1	20	1	0	37
East Down	23	32	7	10	6	62	424	363	19	11	957
Hillsborough	14	18	6	4	5	65	125	233	12	13	495
South Down	3	17	0	10	2	34	456	130	24	1	677
Moira	11	9	2	3	11	31	8	112	13	1	201
Newry No 1	14	9	4	4	14	56	400	193	23	5	722
North Down	42	54	17	3	7	127	61	328	29	16	684
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	17	0	0	24
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4,844</b>
Enniskillen	1	13	2	0	7	105	930	9	3	2	1,072
Irvinestown	0	10	0	0	4	30	681	7	1	1	734
Lisnaskea	0	17	1	2	25	125	970	10	3	3	1,156
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,962</b>
Coleraine	9	23	2	6	15	107	305	245	24	4	740
Limavady	17	21	6	2	3	38	443	115	23	3	671
Londonderry	14	18	2	2	1	31	335	66	6	4	479
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	18	37	3	24	15	140	810	354	41	3	1,445
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3,335</b>
Castlederg	0	13	0	6	5	53	468	37	6	0	588
Clogher	0	8	0	3	41	77	459	60	7	1	656
Cookstown	3	14	3	14	55	89	502	205	18	4	907
Dungannon	3	19	17	7	98	98	582	299	24	1	1,148
Omagh	4	36	6	13	56	225	1,524	92	11	1	1,968
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	11	11	2	7	7	89	495	80	13	3	718
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,985</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>5,109</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018**

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	130	245	375	371	<b>746</b>	17	33	50	50	<b>100</b>
Ballycastle	321	131	452	26	<b>478</b>	67	27	95	5	<b>100</b>
Ballymena	379	432	811	388	<b>1,199</b>	32	36	68	32	<b>100</b>
Ballymoney	99	251	350	399	<b>749</b>	13	34	47	53	<b>100</b>
Newtownabbey	5	7	12	5	<b>17</b>	29	41	71	29	<b>100</b>
Larne	362	329	691	34	<b>725</b>	50	45	95	5	<b>100</b>
Lisburn	81	143	224	171	<b>395</b>	21	36	57	43	<b>100</b>
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	14	3	17	10	<b>27</b>	52	11	63	37	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>
Armagh	280	674	954	661	<b>1,615</b>	17	42	59	41	<b>100</b>
Lurgan	8	160	168	156	<b>324</b>	2	49	52	48	<b>100</b>
Newry No 2	377	827	1,204	137	<b>1,341</b>	28	62	90	10	<b>100</b>
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	3	5	8	145	<b>153</b>	2	3	5	95	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>
Banbridge	183	233	416	631	<b>1,047</b>	17	22	40	60	<b>100</b>
Castlereagh	2	0	2	35	<b>37</b>	5	0	5	95	<b>100</b>
East Down	100	389	489	468	<b>957</b>	10	41	51	49	<b>100</b>
Hillsborough	13	141	154	341	<b>495</b>	3	28	31	69	<b>100</b>
South Down	330	162	492	185	<b>677</b>	49	24	73	27	<b>100</b>
Moira	0	8	8	193	<b>201</b>	0	4	4	96	<b>100</b>
Newry No 1	225	225	450	272	<b>722</b>	31	31	62	38	<b>100</b>
North Down	13	66	79	605	<b>684</b>	2	10	12	88	<b>100</b>
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	1	3	4	20	<b>24</b>	4	13	17	83	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>
Enniskillen	1,028	32	1,060	12	<b>1,072</b>	96	3	99	1	<b>100</b>
Irvinestown	713	14	727	7	<b>734</b>	97	2	99	1	<b>100</b>
Lisnaskea	1,033	111	1,144	12	<b>1,156</b>	89	10	99	1	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2,962</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>
Coleraine	193	166	359	381	<b>740</b>	26	22	49	51	<b>100</b>
Limavady	384	97	481	190	<b>671</b>	57	14	72	28	<b>100</b>
Londonderry	299	63	362	117	<b>479</b>	62	13	76	24	<b>100</b>
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	443	497	940	505	<b>1,445</b>	31	34	65	35	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
Castlederg	358	173	531	57	<b>588</b>	61	29	90	10	<b>100</b>
Clogher	283	299	582	74	<b>656</b>	43	46	89	11	<b>100</b>
Cookstown	341	266	607	300	<b>907</b>	38	29	67	33	<b>100</b>
Dungannon	137	608	745	403	<b>1,148</b>	12	53	65	35	<b>100</b>
Omagh	1,207	622	1,829	139	<b>1,968</b>	61	32	93	7	<b>100</b>
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	386	185	571	147	<b>718</b>	54	26	80	20	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,153</b>	<b>4,865</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>5,985</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>9,731</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>17,298</b>	<b>7,597</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018**

Rural District	Crop areas (hectares)								Total area farmed
	Cereals	Potatoes	Other farm crops	Horti-culture crops	Total crops	Grass	Rough grazing	Other land	
Antrim	828	18	356	9	1,211	30,181	2,616	701	34,709
Ballycastle	496	219	125	2	842	19,146	11,202	334	31,524
Ballymena	539	136	344	10	1,029	41,110	9,461	705	52,305
Ballymoney	1,311	214	416	17	1,959	29,909	3,262	810	35,939
Newtownabbey	68	0	6	5	78	755	45	6	883
Larne	84	9	109	9	209	29,430	10,411	334	40,385
Lisburn	1,057	14	221	56	1,348	14,192	1,734	329	17,603
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	11	2	4	0	17	1,332	739	2	2,090
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>6,692</b>	<b>166,054</b>	<b>39,471</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>215,437</b>
Armagh	763	44	557	1,161	2,526	42,743	1,053	1,108	47,431
Lurgan	437	67	154	469	1,128	8,780	181	217	10,306
Newry No 2	247	0	137	13	396	30,508	1,587	229	32,719
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	866	35	198	28	1,127	4,773	100	141	6,141
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>86,803</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>96,597</b>
Banbridge	2,421	249	761	17	3,447	29,064	5,083	380	37,974
Castlereagh	131	1	79	3	214	1,501	516	773	3,004
East Down	2,646	186	584	12	3,428	30,975	1,344	782	36,529
Hillsborough	1,449	86	318	60	1,913	16,835	733	433	19,913
South Down	601	398	177	6	1,182	14,585	4,059	84	19,909
Moira	1,056	118	350	18	1,542	7,292	60	108	9,003
Newry No 1	1,086	108	285	6	1,486	16,103	1,983	164	19,735
North Down	4,179	583	756	691	6,210	24,037	148	1,156	31,551
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	54	1	4	0	59	691	1	121	872
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>13,624</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>19,480</b>	<b>141,082</b>	<b>13,926</b>	<b>4,002</b>	<b>178,489</b>
Enniskillen	44	5	85	5	139	40,445	6,721	918	48,223
Irvinestown	0	0	2	2	4	27,863	3,272	594	31,732
Lisnaskea	9	0	14	10	33	38,906	3,010	8,087	50,036
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>107,213</b>	<b>13,003</b>	<b>9,599</b>	<b>129,991</b>
Coleraine	1,339	59	348	1	1,748	28,559	5,382	614	36,304
Limavady	2,879	361	604	15	3,859	26,884	11,227	597	42,567
Londonderry	1,451	299	514	26	2,290	18,548	4,821	462	26,120
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	1,311	161	303	3	1,777	40,228	10,965	801	53,772
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>6,981</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9,675</b>	<b>114,219</b>	<b>32,395</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>158,762</b>
Castlederg	55	16	37	0	108	17,649	7,188	314	25,259
Clogher	48	23	55	0	127	22,657	2,501	735	26,019
Cookstown	306	51	198	3	558	25,495	3,038	237	29,327
Dungannon	353	32	173	95	654	33,591	954	476	35,675
Omagh	239	22	250	29	541	64,045	14,568	1,757	80,911
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	1,296	86	353	17	1,751	28,812	13,191	2,175	45,929
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>192,249</b>	<b>41,440</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>243,120</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>29,662</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>8,876</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>44,937</b>	<b>807,620</b>	<b>143,156</b>	<b>26,683</b>	<b>1,022,395</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

**Table 7.6 Livestock numbers by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

Rural District	Livestock numbers							(’000)
	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Total cattle	Breeding ewes	Total sheep	Sows & gilts	Total pigs	Total poultry
Antrim	12,979	9,778	62,735	34,183	77,683	895	12,427	1,191
Ballycastle	3,826	4,868	24,289	63,524	129,271	181	1,947	305
Ballymena	19,218	11,405	85,696	61,389	127,623	1,408	16,525	3,104
Ballymoney	20,614	5,135	67,090	33,738	71,793	116	1,107	1,705
Newtownabbey	0	475	1,544	40	219	880	10,624	0
Larne	8,315	9,687	46,671	68,524	143,942	889	11,908	365
Lisburn	3,797	5,194	28,028	4,954	10,613	276	3,983	385
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	150	611	2,161	3,038	6,207	0	0	11
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>68,899</b>	<b>47,153</b>	<b>318,214</b>	<b>269,390</b>	<b>567,351</b>	<b>4,645</b>	<b>58,521</b>	<b>7,065</b>
Armagh	17,731	13,465	112,706	23,539	49,122	9,478	143,496	2,462
Lurgan	3,057	3,176	21,105	2,570	5,322	320	2,245	231
Newry No 2	12,095	13,433	80,384	15,184	33,597	522	7,934	711
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	3,224	1,113	14,537	4,924	10,676	409	3,974	73
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>36,107</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>228,732</b>	<b>46,217</b>	<b>98,717</b>	<b>10,729</b>	<b>157,649</b>	<b>3,477</b>
Banbridge	16,067	6,851	74,153	32,699	68,152	1,916	23,157	255
Castlereagh	1,364	216	3,923	1,021	1,943	3	13	0
East Down	7,548	12,710	65,933	37,058	79,775	3,229	32,827	225
Hillsborough	9,795	4,149	41,266	12,519	26,349	1,398	15,508	242
South Down	4,468	5,707	30,089	44,896	86,973	1,507	13,602	52
Moirá	5,879	1,494	20,707	1,878	4,106	391	4,839	781
Newry No 1	5,749	5,828	37,279	32,385	64,937	719	7,645	580
North Down	20,002	5,738	64,848	16,978	37,560	252	2,164	214
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	261	117	1,105	615	1,335	0	0	8
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>71,133</b>	<b>42,810</b>	<b>339,303</b>	<b>180,049</b>	<b>371,130</b>	<b>9,415</b>	<b>99,755</b>	<b>2,358</b>
Enniskillen	8,879	15,889	58,203	23,271	47,799	50	256	149
Irvinestown	2,637	10,872	31,740	18,167	38,743	0	0	85
Lisnaskea	9,927	16,511	67,197	15,978	36,248	168	2,281	934
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>21,443</b>	<b>43,272</b>	<b>157,140</b>	<b>57,416</b>	<b>122,790</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>1,169</b>
Coleraine	13,113	7,221	60,191	33,573	71,407	747	7,647	478
Limavady	6,550	6,221	37,911	64,023	132,645	105	536	244
Londonderry	5,201	4,214	26,429	38,554	80,409	92	1,117	11
Magherafelt/Co. L’derry Urban	14,500	14,061	82,484	58,766	120,216	5,974	65,619	682
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>39,364</b>	<b>31,717</b>	<b>207,015</b>	<b>194,916</b>	<b>404,677</b>	<b>6,918</b>	<b>74,919</b>	<b>1,415</b>
Castlederg	7,038	4,717	28,717	36,957	79,188	1,422	20,280	153
Clogher	7,791	8,288	47,406	11,693	24,409	5,395	83,412	1,979
Cookstown	10,449	9,280	57,729	18,263	38,453	3,734	53,504	1,745
Dungannon	12,297	9,791	77,472	13,867	29,296	1,811	24,414	4,795
Omagh	23,533	20,172	113,691	68,504	146,965	2,842	32,997	1,619
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	12,664	7,517	53,649	59,276	123,022	2,506	25,656	256
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>73,772</b>	<b>59,765</b>	<b>378,664</b>	<b>208,560</b>	<b>441,333</b>	<b>17,710</b>	<b>240,263</b>	<b>10,547</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>310,718</b>	<b>255,904</b>	<b>1,629,068</b>	<b>956,548</b>	<b>2,005,998</b>	<b>49,635</b>	<b>633,644</b>	<b>26,031</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.



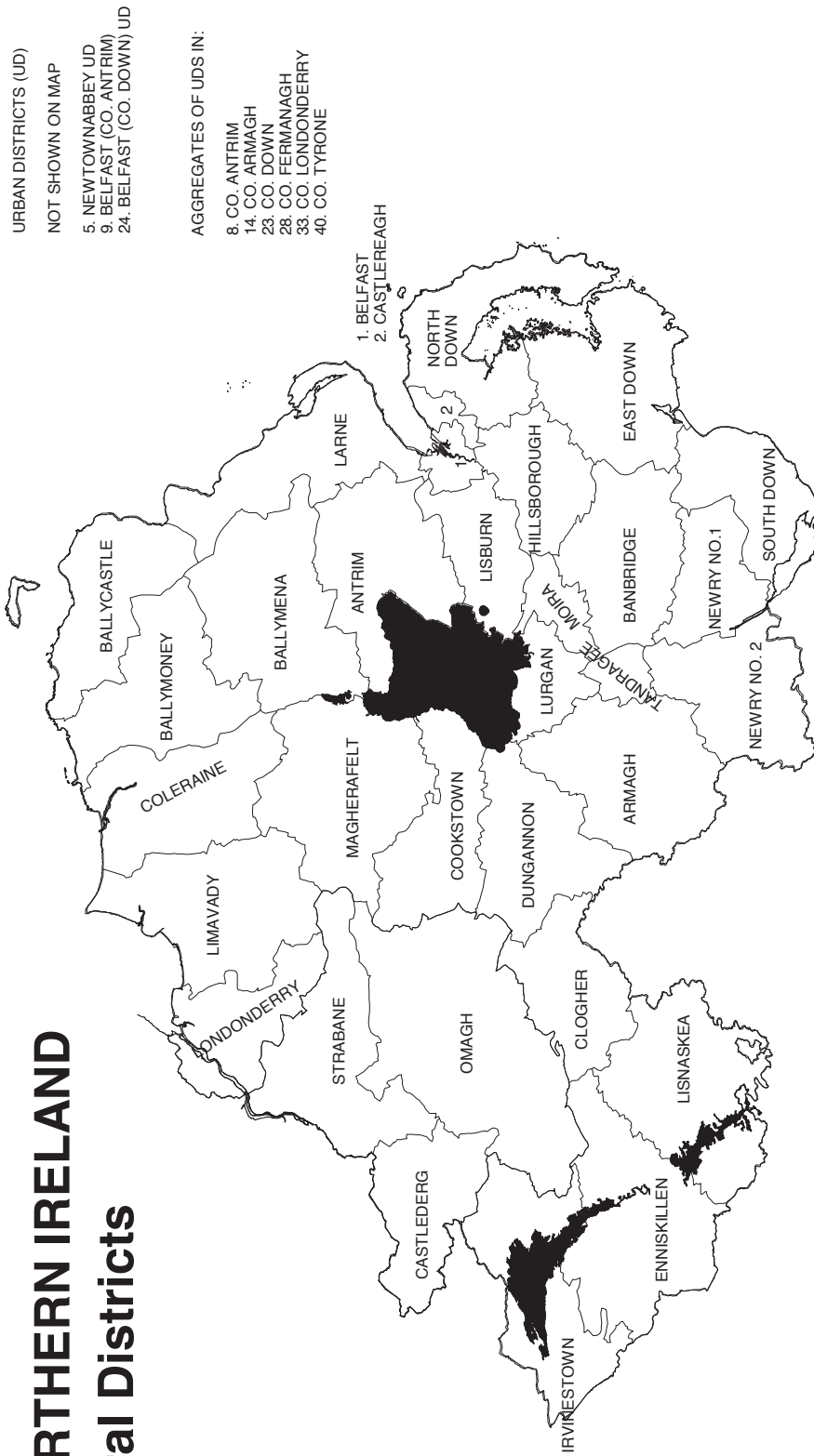
**Table 7.7 Labour force by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2018**

Rural District	Farm labour force						Agricultural labour force
	Farmers & partners			Other workers			
	Full-time	Part-time	Spouses	Full-time	Part-time	Casual/seasonal	
Antrim	547	379	251	103	165	126	1,571
Ballycastle	379	233	133	43	100	107	995
Ballymena	905	631	375	143	202	186	2,442
Ballymoney	609	370	237	80	143	152	1,591
Newtownabbey	18	7	5	35	13	7	85
Larne	528	335	207	92	158	122	1,442
Lisburn	268	195	108	46	78	71	766
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	18	15	7	2	3	13	58
<b>Total Co. Antrim</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>8,950</b>
Armagh	1,051	919	389	529	312	494	3,694
Lurgan	222	192	92	115	55	201	877
Newry No 2	715	841	261	86	163	101	2,167
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	96	95	50	36	38	53	368
<b>Total Co. Armagh</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>7,106</b>
Banbridge	709	603	307	128	195	166	2,108
Castlereagh	27	23	7	30	15	7	109
East Down	664	518	276	114	190	139	1,901
Hillsborough	328	296	155	115	105	102	1,101
South Down	425	431	162	68	129	109	1,324
Moira	163	104	68	29	54	31	449
Newry No 1	466	419	196	182	126	75	1,464
North Down	558	359	239	215	175	183	1,729
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	16	14	7	5	2	11	55
<b>Total Co. Down</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>2,767</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>10,240</b>
Enniskillen	694	569	291	74	139	165	1,932
Irvinestown	444	438	173	43	64	85	1,247
Lisnaskea	753	617	285	159	152	121	2,087
<b>Total Co. Fermanagh</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>5,266</b>
Coleraine	571	373	234	84	141	143	1,546
Limavady	487	356	180	72	120	125	1,340
Londonderry	343	251	143	61	109	100	1,007
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	918	874	322	120	258	224	2,716
<b>Total Co. Londonderry</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>6,609</b>
Castlederg	370	324	133	42	82	72	1,023
Clogher	476	307	171	84	99	82	1,219
Cookstown	555	560	210	83	166	100	1,674
Dungannon	693	723	248	127	178	158	2,127
Omagh	1,378	1,015	434	157	263	305	3,552
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	570	335	186	109	148	134	1,482
<b>Total Co. Tyrone</b>	<b>4,042</b>	<b>3,264</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>11,077</b>
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	<b>16,964</b>	<b>13,721</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>49,248</b>

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

# NORTHERN IRELAND

## Rural Districts



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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 just 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 (193,600) where they are more important than dairy cows (151,700), whereas on lowland farms there were 62,300 beef cows and 159,000 dairy cows in 2018 (Table 8.3). LFA farms account for 38 and 61 per cent of 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 2018**

(a)	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
<b>Farm type:</b>						
Cereals	7	32	39	225	<b>264</b>	14.8
General cropping	113	154	267	307	<b>574</b>	46.5
Horticulture	17	68	85	179	<b>264</b>	32.2
Pigs	38	66	104	73	<b>177</b>	58.8
Poultry	200	214	414	225	<b>639</b>	64.8
Dairy	534	892	1,426	1,119	<b>2,545</b>	56.0
Cattle & sheep: LFA	8,743	5,957	14,700	0	<b>14,700</b>	100.0
Cattle & Sheep: lowland	0	0	0	5,109	<b>5,109</b>	0.0
Mixed	52	152	204	299	<b>503</b>	40.6
Other type	27	32	59	61	<b>120</b>	49.2
<b>All types</b>	<b>9,731</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>17,298</b>	<b>7,597</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>69.5</b>
<b>(b)</b>						
<b>Farm business size:</b>						
Very small	8,161	5,850	14,011	5,177	<b>19,188</b>	73.0
Small	986	860	1,846	978	<b>2,824</b>	65.4
Medium	304	364	668	522	<b>1,190</b>	56.1
Large	280	493	773	920	<b>1,693</b>	45.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,731</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>17,298</b>	<b>7,597</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>69.5</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 2018**

	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	97	469	565	1,448	<b>2,013</b>	28.1
Wheat	211	865	1,075	5,770	<b>6,845</b>	15.7
Winter barley	104	586	690	5,119	<b>5,809</b>	11.9
Spring barley	534	2,243	2,777	12,118	<b>14,894</b>	18.6
Mixed corn	25	39	64	37	<b>101</b>	63.3
<b>Total cereals</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>4,202</b>	<b>5,171</b>	<b>24,491</b>	<b>29,662</b>	<b>17.4</b>
<b>Other crops:</b>						
Potatoes	194	505	699	2,902	<b>3,601</b>	19.4
Other field crops	910	1,398	2,308	6,568	<b>8,876</b>	26.0
<b>Fruit, vegetables &amp; flowers:</b>						
Fruit	13	217	229	1,245	<b>1,474</b>	15.6
Vegetables	4	74	78	1,048	<b>1,125</b>	6.9
Ornamentals	36	36	72	128	<b>199</b>	35.9
<b>Total fruit, vegetables &amp; flowers</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>6,431</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>36,381</b>	<b>44,937</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>Grass</b>						
Grass under 5 years old	45,864	41,636	87,500	56,953	<b>144,454</b>	60.6
Grass 5 years old & over	265,236	193,872	459,108	204,058	<b>663,166</b>	69.2
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>311,100</b>	<b>235,508</b>	<b>546,608</b>	<b>261,012</b>	<b>807,620</b>	<b>67.7</b>
<b>Total crops and grass</b>	<b>313,225</b>	<b>241,939</b>	<b>555,164</b>	<b>297,392</b>	<b>852,557</b>	<b>65.1</b>
Rough grazing	127,262	10,120	137,381	5,775	<b>143,156</b>	96.0
Woods & plantations	4,154	8,077	12,231	4,076	<b>16,307</b>	75.0
Other land	2,565	5,274	7,839	2,537	<b>10,376</b>	75.6
<b>Total agricultural area</b>	<b>447,206</b>	<b>265,409</b>	<b>712,616</b>	<b>309,780</b>	<b>1,022,395</b>	<b>69.7</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 2018**

	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	48,970	102,738	151,708	159,010	<b>310,718</b>	48.8
<b>Beef cows</b>						
Total beef cows	117,352	76,209	193,561	62,343	<b>255,904</b>	75.6
<b>Total cows</b>	<b>166,322</b>	<b>178,947</b>	<b>345,269</b>	<b>221,353</b>	<b>566,622</b>	<b>60.9</b>
<b>Dairy heifers in calf</b>						
2 years old & over	3,670	8,048	11,718	12,416	<b>24,134</b>	48.6
Under 2 years	4,769	11,064	15,833	19,075	<b>34,908</b>	45.4
<b>Beef heifers in calf</b>						
2 years old & over	7,443	5,675	13,118	4,961	<b>18,079</b>	72.6
Under 2 years	5,194	3,455	8,649	2,963	<b>11,612</b>	74.5
<b>Bulls being used for service</b>						
2 years old & over	4,809	4,111	8,920	4,368	<b>13,288</b>	67.1
1 year old & under 2 years	946	1,162	2,108	1,464	<b>3,572</b>	59.0
<b>All other cattle &amp; calves :</b>						
<b>2 years old &amp; over</b>						
Male	7,387	15,736	23,123	25,300	<b>48,423</b>	47.8
Females intended for slaughter	14,415	20,038	34,453	25,502	<b>59,955</b>	57.5
Other females	2,058	3,107	5,165	4,137	<b>9,302</b>	55.5
<b>1 year old &amp; under 2 years</b>						
Male	35,279	58,448	93,727	78,367	<b>172,094</b>	54.5
Females intended for slaughter	28,940	38,129	67,069	49,272	<b>116,341</b>	57.6
Other females	18,272	24,970	43,242	32,706	<b>75,948</b>	56.9
<b>6 months old and under 1 year</b>						
Male	22,998	30,146	53,144	35,856	<b>89,000</b>	59.7
Female	28,307	35,233	63,540	45,747	<b>109,287</b>	58.1
<b>Under 6 months old</b>						
Male	43,196	41,482	84,678	46,565	<b>131,243</b>	64.5
Female	44,915	46,072	90,987	54,273	<b>145,260</b>	62.6
<b>Total cattle &amp; calves</b>	<b>438,920</b>	<b>525,823</b>	<b>964,743</b>	<b>664,325</b>	<b>1,629,068</b>	<b>59.2</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 2018**

	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	467,278	189,916	657,194	172,442	<b>829,636</b>	79.2
Others 1 year old & over	79,749	25,262	105,011	21,901	<b>126,912</b>	82.7
<b>Total breeding ewes</b>	<b>547,027</b>	<b>215,178</b>	<b>762,205</b>	<b>194,343</b>	<b>956,548</b>	<b>79.7</b>
<b>Rams for service</b>	15,168	6,867	22,035	6,194	<b>28,229</b>	78.1
<b>Other sheep &amp; lambs:</b>						
1 year old & over	7,162	3,617	10,779	5,165	<b>15,944</b>	67.6
Under 1 year	549,253	240,258	789,511	215,766	<b>1,005,277</b>	78.5
<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>1,118,610</b>	<b>465,920</b>	<b>1,584,530</b>	<b>421,468</b>	<b>2,005,998</b>	<b>79.0</b>
<b>Horses and ponies:</b>						
Horses/ponies owned by occupier	1,719	2,082	3,801	3,515	<b>7,316</b>	52.0
Horses/ponies NOT owned by occupier	316	389	705	949	<b>1,654</b>	42.6
<b>Total horses &amp; ponies</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>8,970</b>	<b>50.2</b>
<b>Goats:</b>						
<b>Total goats</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>70.6</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 2018**

	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	4,277	10,328	14,605	20,170	<b>34,775</b>	42.0
Gilts in pig	989	1,726	2,715	5,784	<b>8,499</b>	31.9
Other breeding sows	1,100	2,164	3,264	3,097	<b>6,361</b>	51.3
<b>Total female breeding herd</b>	<b>6,366</b>	<b>14,218</b>	<b>20,584</b>	<b>29,051</b>	<b>49,635</b>	<b>41.5</b>
Maiden gilts	901	1,266	2,167	2,742	<b>4,909</b>	44.1
Boars being used for service	90	175	265	578	<b>843</b>	31.4
<b>Other pigs:</b>						
Finishers/Culls	25,072	65,284	90,356	171,497	<b>261,853</b>	34.5
Weaners/Growers	24,555	61,673	86,228	127,542	<b>213,770</b>	40.3
Piglets	13,307	27,730	41,037	61,597	<b>102,634</b>	40.0
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>70,291</b>	<b>170,346</b>	<b>240,637</b>	<b>393,007</b>	<b>633,644</b>	<b>38.0</b>
<b>Poultry: ('000)</b> (thousand birds)						
Laying birds	1,766	1,114	2,881	1,451	<b>4,332</b>	66.5
Growing pullets	168	487	655	467	<b>1,121</b>	58.4
Breeding flock	807	742	1,549	966	<b>2,516</b>	61.6
Broilers & other table birds	3,605	6,742	10,348	7,315	<b>17,663</b>	58.6
<b>Total ordinary fowl</b>	<b>6,347</b>	<b>9,085</b>	<b>15,432</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>25,632</b>	<b>60.2</b>
Other poultry	250	85	335	64	<b>398</b>	84.0
<b>Total poultry</b>	<b>6,596</b>	<b>9,171</b>	<b>15,767</b>	<b>10,264</b>	<b>26,031</b>	<b>60.6</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.

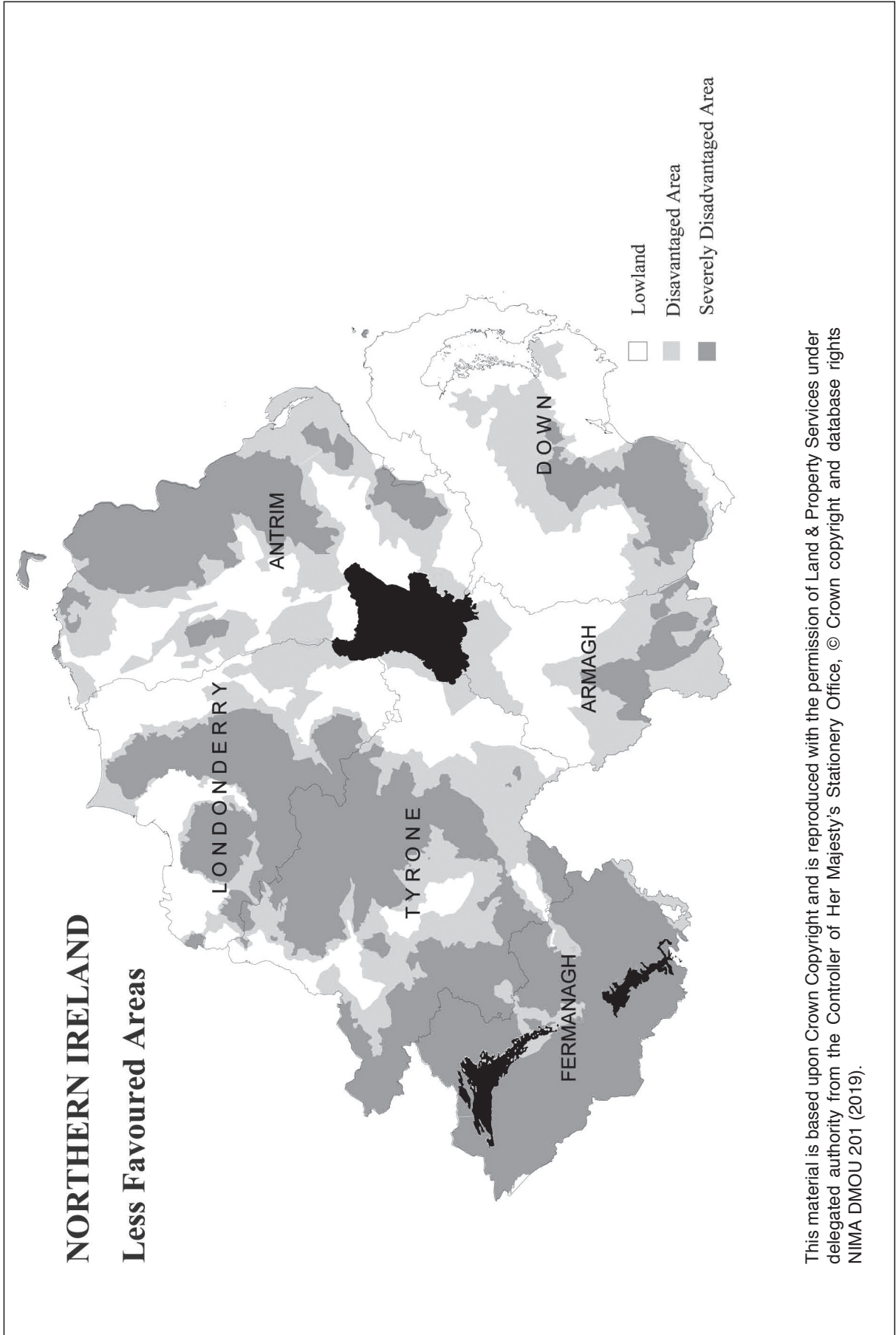
**Table 8.6 Farm labour force on farms by LFA category, June 2018**

	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	6,164	5,110	11,274	5,690	<b>16,964</b>	66.5
Part-time	5,469	4,206	9,675	4,046	<b>13,721</b>	70.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,633</b>	<b>9,316</b>	<b>20,949</b>	<b>9,736</b>	<b>30,685</b>	<b>68.3</b>
<b>Spouses</b>	2,336	1,923	4,259	2,283	<b>6,542</b>	65.1
<b>Other / paid workers</b>						
Full-time	755	994	1,749	1,662	<b>3,411</b>	51.3
Part-time	1,465	1,262	2,727	1,613	<b>4,340</b>	62.8
Casual/seasonal	1,222	1,209	2,431	1,839	<b>4,270</b>	56.9
<b>Total other / paid workers</b>	<b>3,442</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>6,907</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>57.5</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>17,411</b>	<b>14,704</b>	<b>32,115</b>	<b>17,133</b>	<b>49,248</b>	<b>65.2</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) 2014 - 2018.**

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 2014 – 2018.

### **TABLE 2: – Trend in farm numbers by type (2010 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2014 - 2018.**

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 2014 – 2018.

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) 2014-2018.**

<b>FARM TYPE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Cereals</b>					
Very Small	223	217	218	222	201
Small	39	36	32	30	40
Medium	12	10	12	10	8
Large	9	6	5	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>General Cropping</b>					
Very Small	262	426	414	435	483
Small	44	42	42	38	38
Medium	30	18	17	18	20
Large	43	47	48	47	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>581</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>					
Very Small	120	99	102	93	84
Small	52	54	50	52	52
Medium	30	30	32	26	27
Large	90	110	99	103	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>Pigs</b>					
Very Small	49	56	52	54	54
Small	36	29	26	24	22
Medium	32	38	32	31	30
Large	63	66	66	72	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Poultry</b>					
Very Small	238	218	193	158	176
Small	197	213	218	242	239
Medium	90	105	109	119	115
Large	78	80	85	110	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>643</b>
<b>Dairy</b>					
Very Small	349	343	302	278	276
Small	760	782	759	746	718
Medium	625	642	634	623	605
Large	992	1038	1056	1047	1019
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>2,618</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: LFA</b>					
Very Small	12,652	12,845	12,674	13,016	13,093
Small	1,147	1,124	1,132	1,145	1,102
Medium	221	213	212	224	203
Large	110	117	144	143	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>14,299</b>	<b>14,162</b>	<b>14,528</b>	<b>14,539</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: Lowland</b>					
Very Small	3,955	4,176	4,129	4,282	4,313
Small	506	510	517	517	484
Medium	102	105	109	107	113
Large	60	63	78	70	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,623</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>4,984</b>
<b>Mixed</b>					
Very Small	338	377	317	285	284
Small	89	102	103	99	91
Medium	58	57	57	47	43
Large	83	84	99	105	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>528</b>
<b>Other type</b>					
Very Small	335	321	250	237	224
Small	65	59	59	52	38
Medium	26	31	24	24	26
Large	18	18	21	18	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>24,228</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>24,528</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>24,895</b>

**Table 2 : Trend in farm numbers by type (2010 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2014-2018.**

<b>FARM TYPE</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Cereals</b>					
Very Small	236	226	225	223	207
Small	39	37	31	30	41
Medium	14	12	13	11	9
Large	8	6	6	8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>General Cropping</b>					
Very Small	258	420	406	426	481
Small	41	38	40	36	34
Medium	28	15	16	16	21
Large	41	43	44	45	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>					
Very Small	117	99	98	93	83
Small	52	54	50	50	51
Medium	30	28	33	27	25
Large	90	112	99	103	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Pigs</b>					
Very Small	49	55	51	54	55
Small	36	28	26	24	22
Medium	31	37	32	31	30
Large	63	65	65	72	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Poultry</b>					
Very Small	234	215	191	158	177
Small	195	208	216	239	236
Medium	85	101	104	118	115
Large	77	77	81	107	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>639</b>
<b>Dairy</b>					
Very Small	333	323	290	269	262
Small	740	763	741	723	703
Medium	609	629	620	607	584
Large	973	1027	1043	1036	996
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>2,545</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: LFA</b>					
Very Small	12,777	12,985	12,775	13,115	13,199
Small	1,184	1,157	1,163	1,181	1,130
Medium	236	231	232	240	218
Large	119	124	155	151	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,316</b>	<b>14,497</b>	<b>14,325</b>	<b>14,687</b>	<b>14,700</b>
<b>Cattle &amp; sheep: Lowland</b>					
Very Small	4,052	4,283	4,216	4,354	4,381
Small	534	539	544	542	505
Medium	111	114	116	119	128
Large	78	78	93	82	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,775</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,969</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>5,109</b>
<b>Mixed</b>					
Very Small	322	337	305	285	263
Small	88	103	103	99	88
Medium	63	62	60	49	44
Large	86	86	102	106	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>Other type</b>					
Very Small	143	135	94	83	80
Small	26	24	24	21	14
Medium	19	20	12	11	16
Large	11	11	13	12	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>24,228</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>24,528</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>24,895</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 2018, approximately 14,600 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>	<b>29%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>30%</b>

## 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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