



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

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

CAP POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2017



Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry



A National Statistics publication

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2017

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

A National Statistics publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is a producer's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

You can also find out more about National Statistics on the Internet – go to <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

Brief extracts from this publication may be reproduced provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Proposals for reproduction of larger extracts should be addressed to:

Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO)
(Crown Copyright Officer)
Crown Copyright Section
The National Archives
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8876 3444

Email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

© *Crown Copyright 2018*

ISBN 978-1-84807-841-3

Published in March 2018 by CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division,
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

CONTENTS

List of tables and figures	iv
Preface	ix
Key facts	1
Comparisons of NI and UK agriculture	2
Trends in NI and UK livestock numbers and crop areas	3
1 Executive summary	4
2 The Agricultural Economy	
A. Aggregate output, input and income	8
B. Commodities and inputs	20
3 Crop areas and livestock numbers	32
4 Farm structure	37
5 Incomes at farm level	50
6 Food & Drinks sector	55
7 Rural Population	60
8 Animal Health and Welfare	69
9 Environment	73
Appendix - statistical and methodological notes	82

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

	Table No.	Page	
Aggregate output, input and income	2.1	Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture	10
	2.2	Summary income indicators at current prices and in real terms	12
	2.3	Output and input volume and productivity indices	12
	2.4	Estimated cash flow for agriculture	12
	2.5	Aggregate gross margin estimates for the main agricultural sectors	13
	2.6	Quantities of the main products in output	14
	2.7	Average producer prices of agricultural products	15
	2.8	Indices of producer prices of agricultural output	15
	2.9	Average market prices of breeding and store livestock	16
	2.10	Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account	17
	2.11	Capital grants and other direct payments not included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account	18
	2.12	Estimated gross annual capital investment in fixed assets and equipment	18
	2.13	Milk Quota	19
	2.14	Number of persons working on farms	19
	2.15	Agricultural manpower	19
Commodities and inputs	2.16	Output of cattle and calves	26
	2.17	Sources of home-fed finished cattle marketed	27
	2.18	Output of milk	27
	2.19	Output of sheep	27
	2.20	Output of pigs	28
	2.21	Output of poultry	28
	2.22	Output of eggs	28
	2.23	Crop production	29
	2.24	Output of potatoes, barley and wheat	30
	2.25	Output of apples and mushrooms	30
	2.26	Quantity and cost of the main items of expenditure (including interest and labour)	31

Crop areas and livestock numbers	3.1	Land use, 2016	34
	3.2	Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land, June 2012-2017	34
	3.3	Livestock numbers, June 2012-2017	35
	3.4	Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category of farm, June 2017	36
	3.5	Livestock numbers by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category of farm, June 2017	36
Farm structure	4.1	Number and area of farms by area farmed, June 2017	40
	4.2	Number of farms, average area and distribution of area by area farmed, June 2012-2017	40
	4.3	Number of farms by business size and area farmed, June 2017	40
	4.4	Number of farms by business size, June 2012-2017	41
	4.5	Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category, June 2017	41
	4.6	Number of farms by business size and type, June 2017	41
	4.7	Number of farms by business type, June 2012-2017	42
	4.8	Number of farms by business type and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category, June 2017	42
	4.9	Number of farms by business size and proportion of area owner occupied, June 2017	42
	4.10	Area of land by type of tenure, 2012-2017	43
	4.11	Average conacre rents by type of use, 2011-2016	43
	4.12	Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2017	43
	4.13	Distribution of the farm labour force by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category, June 2017	44
	4.14	Distribution of numbers of livestock, hectares of crops, full-time labour and output by business size, June 2017	45
	4.15	Distribution of (a) dairy cows and (b) beef cows by herd size, June 2017	46
	4.16	Distribution of (a) slaughter cattle one year-old and over and (b) total cattle by herd size, June 2017	46
	4.17	Distribution of (a) ewes and (b) total sheep by flock size, June 2017	47
	4.18	Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2017	47
	4.19	Distribution of (a) finishers/weaners and (b) total pigs by herd size, June 2017	47
	4.20	Distribution of (a) laying hens and (b) broilers by flock size, June 2017	48

	4.21	Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2017	48
	4.22	Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2017	48
	4.23	Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2017	49
	4.24	Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2017	49
Incomes at farm level	5.1	Indices of average cash income in real terms by farm type, 2012/13 to 2017/18	52
	5.2	Distribution of farms by cash income (CI), net farm income (NFI) and farm business income (FBI) by farm type, 2016/17	52
	5.3	Cash income by business size and farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17	53
	5.4	Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17	53
	5.5	Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17	53
	5.6	Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2016/17	54
	5.7	Average closing valuations by farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17	54
Food & Drinks Sector	6.1	Gross Turnover of the NI food and drinks processing sector	56
	6.2	Performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector in Northern Ireland	56
	6.3	Estimated employment in the NI food and drinks processing sector and input supply sectors	57
	6.4	Employment in Northern Ireland Fishing Industry, 2013-2016	58
	6.5	Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2015	58
	6.6	Destination and value of Northern Ireland external farm level subsector sales, 2016	58
	6.7	Farm level external sales by destination	59
	6.8	Value of non-edible product exports	59
Rural Population	7.1	Median equivalised net disposable weekly household income, 2015/16	62
	7.2	Percentage of individuals with below 60% UK Median Income 2015/16	62
	7.3	Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered business operating in NI by broad industry group, 2016	63
	7.4	Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee sizeband, 2016	64
	7.5	Highest educational qualification 2016/17	64

	7.6	Performance of school leavers 2015/16	65
	7.7	Destinations of school leavers 2015/16	65
	7.8	Housing Tenure 2016/17	65
	7.9	House prices, 2017	66
	7.10	Average household size, 2016/17	66
	7.11	Household access to car or van, 2016/17	66
	7.12	Access to public transport	67
	7.13	Telecommunication services	67
	7.14	Life expectancy at birth	68
	7.15	Standardised Death Rate - All age, all cause Mortality	68
	7.16	Median Fire Response Times	68
	7.17	Median Ambulance Response Times	68
Animal Health and Welfare	8.1	Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) statistics	71
	8.2	Bovine Brucellosis (BR) statistics	71
	8.3	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Eradication Programme Statistics	71
	8.4	Outcomes (provisional) of on-farm animal welfare inspections completed on NI farms in 2016	72
Environment	9.1	Total greenhouse emissions in Northern Ireland, 1990 and 2015	77
	9.2	Percentage of river water bodies achieving Water Framework Directive classification overall (second cycle water body set and environmental standards) 1,2,3. 2010 - 2015	79
	9.3	Annual mean nitrate concentrations (in groundwater), 2001 - 2016	79
	9.4	Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes, 2010 - 2017	79
	9.5	Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area, 2010 - 2017	80
	9.6	Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 1995/96 - 2016/17	80
	Figure No.		
Population	7.1	Population Trends in Northern Ireland	62
	9.1	Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland, 1990 and 2014	78
	9.2	Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland by sector, base year and 2014	78
	9.3	Area of new forest and woodland planting by private landowners supported by grant aid.	81

PREFACE

The *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture* is published annually and contains a wide range of statistics on the agricultural industry. It is an important reference document for agri-food sector stakeholders and policy makers. This is the 54th edition.

The data contained in the *Statistical Review* are derived from farm surveys, including the Agricultural Census and the Farm Business Survey, as well as surveys of food processors and agricultural input supply firms. A number of these surveys are carried out in order to enable the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to meet the legislative requirements with which it is charged. The data on animal welfare, the environment and rural areas comes from a variety of other sources.

The *Statistical Review* is a Departmental publication and in line with the guidance for these publications, DAERA provides a number of hardcopies to designated public libraries and the NI Assembly Government. Normally, after these requirements have been satisfied a small number of hardcopies become available and these are distributed free of charge on a first come first served basis while stocks last - please contact the Editor at the address below. As with all DAERA statistical publications, the *Statistical Review* is available in electronic format, free of charge, on the DAERA website, at www.daera-ni.gov.uk. This website also contains long-term trend data for a selection of *Statistical Review* tables. New statistical releases appearing on the DAERA website are announced on the DAERA Twitter account: @DAERAstats. The *Statistical Review* is a National Statistics publication, indicating that its contents are produced to best professional standards. Queries or comments on its contents can be made to the Editor, Victoria Hill, whose contact details are given below.

Seamus McErlean
Director of CAP Policy, Economics
and Statistics Division.

March 2018

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw BELFAST
BT4 3SB

Tel: (028) 9052 4004
Email: Victoria.Hill@daera-ni.gov.uk
Twitter: @DAERAstats

KEY FACTS 2017

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.7 ^P	0.5 ²	2.5 ³	1.6 ⁵
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural employment ('000)	21	351	104	4,873
As % of total civil employment	2.5	1.1	5.0	2.7
LAND USE				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	1,020	17,360 ¹	4,447 ¹	151,317 ⁴
As % of total area	75	71 ¹	65 ¹	45 ⁴
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	68.8	50.0 ¹	75.0 ⁶	60.6 ⁶
FARMS				
Number ('000)	25	218.5 ¹	140 ⁴	4,418 ⁴
Average agricultural area (ha)	40.9	79.9 ¹	32.5 ⁴	34.3 ⁴
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	92	91 ¹	64 ⁴	47 ⁴
Beef cows	18	27 ¹	15 ⁴	22 ⁴
Sheep	206	443 ¹	135 ⁴	173 ⁴
Pigs	2,016	447 ¹	1,194 ⁴	461 ⁴
Laying hens	18,692	1,237 ⁴	266 ⁴	666 ⁴
Broilers	51,590	53,762 ³	14,261 ⁴	2,856 ⁴
Cereals (ha)	14.9	61.9 ¹	24.6 ⁴	21.5 ⁴
Potatoes (ha)	8.4	15.6 ¹	8.2 ⁴	3.5 ⁴

1. 2016, 2. 2015 3. 2014 4. 2013, 5. 2010, 6. 2007 P = Provisional

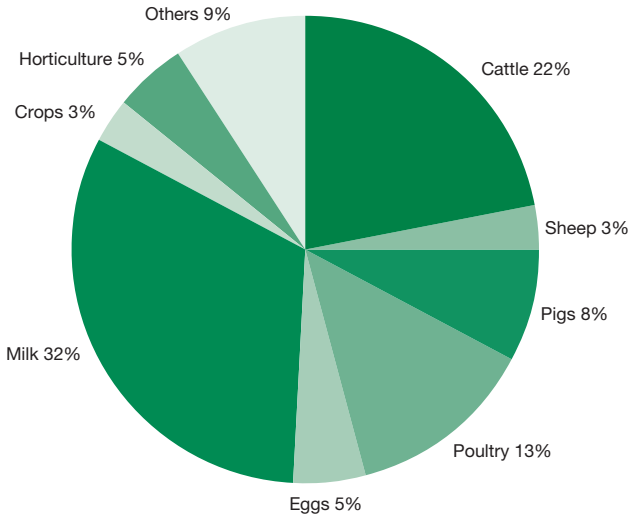
Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Note 2. Due to national accounting principles GVA figures do not include Single Farm Payment.

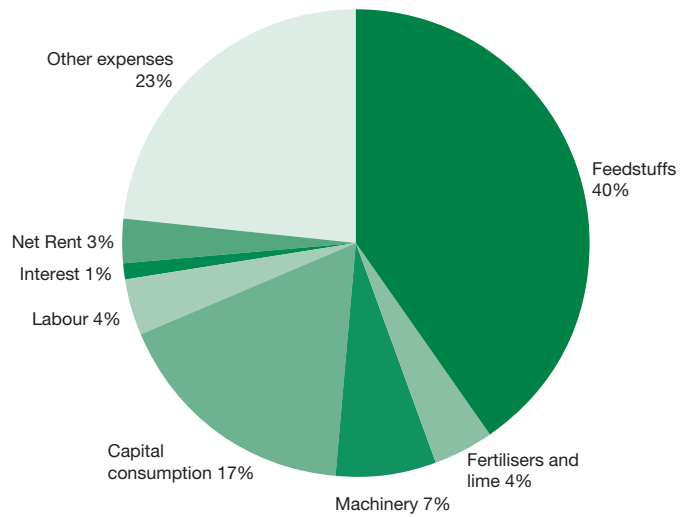
Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

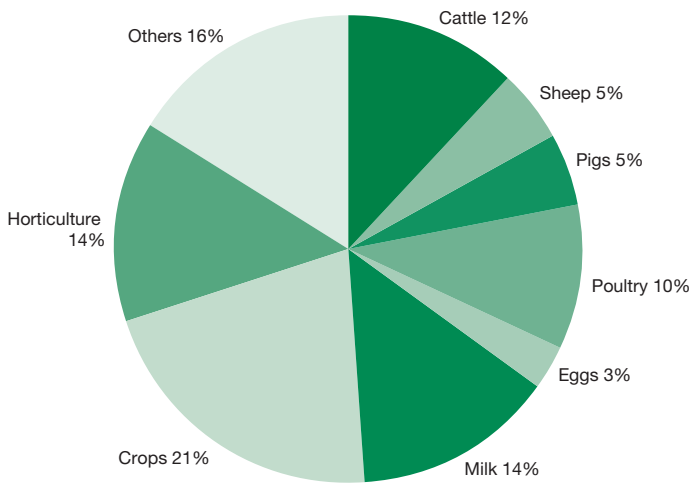
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2017



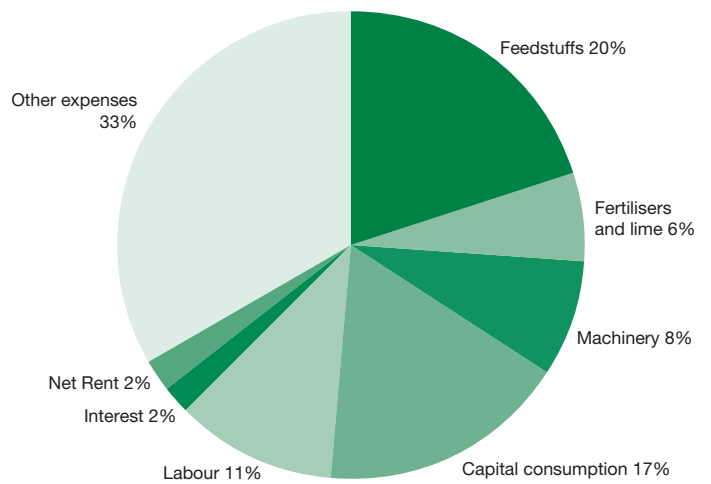
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2017



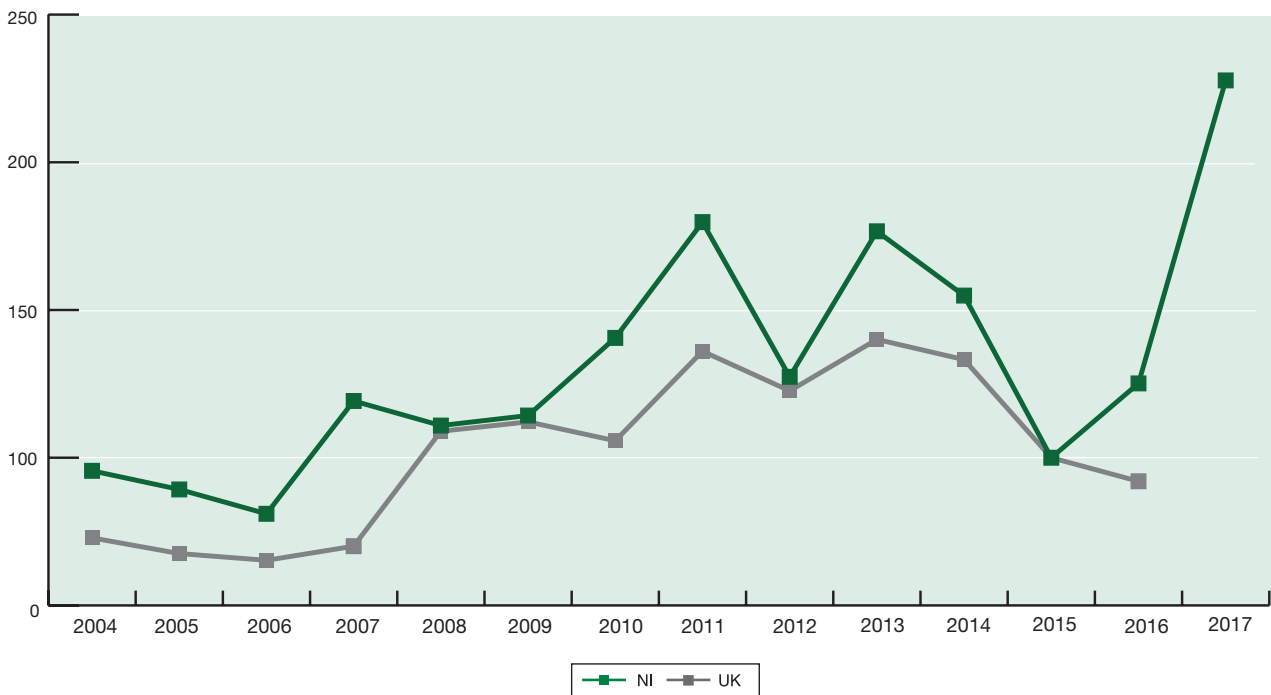
Gross output of UK agriculture, 2016



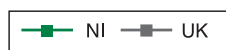
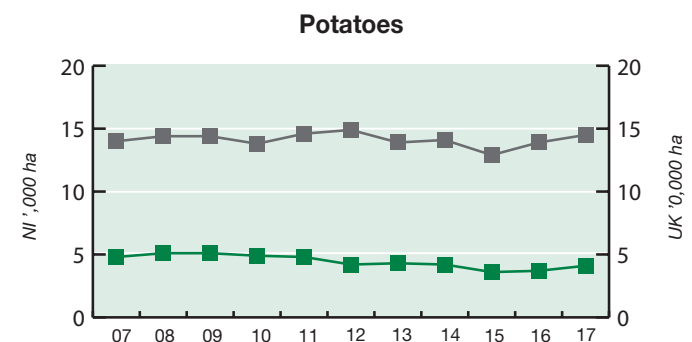
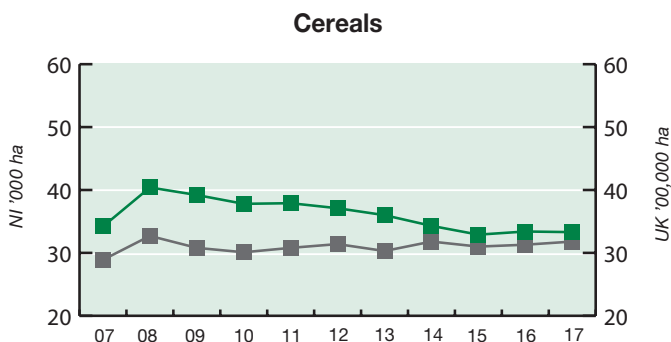
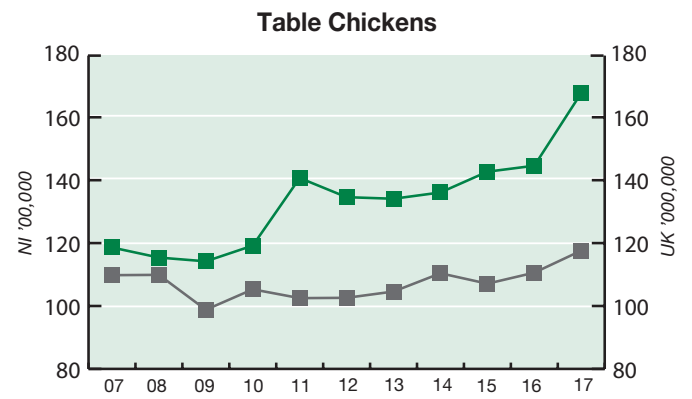
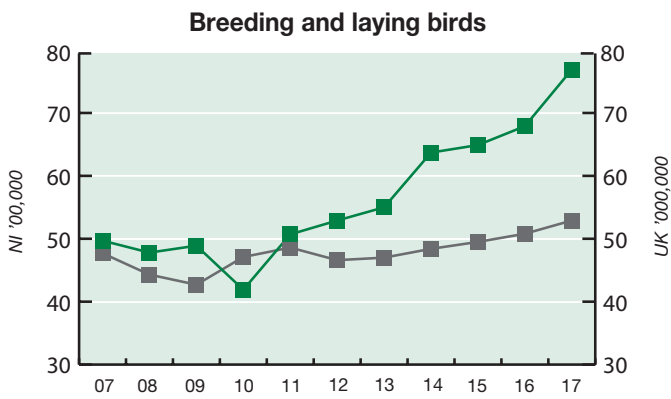
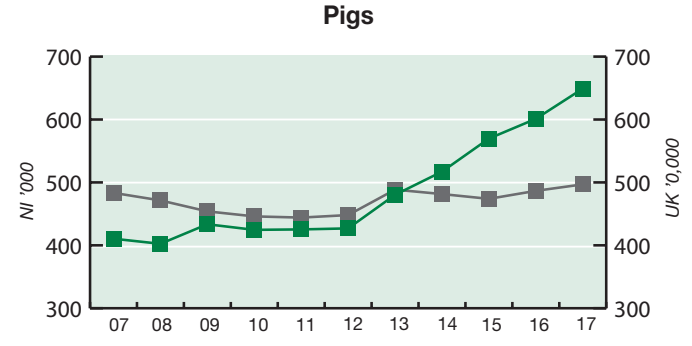
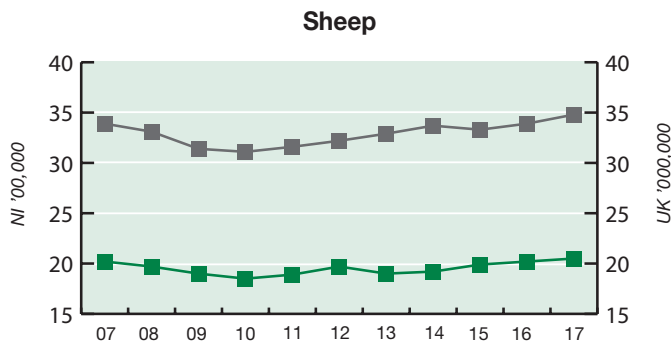
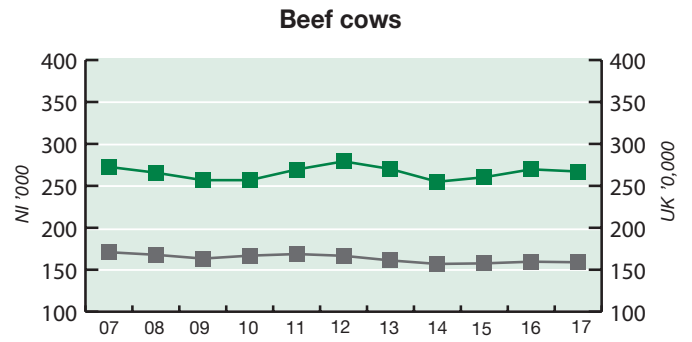
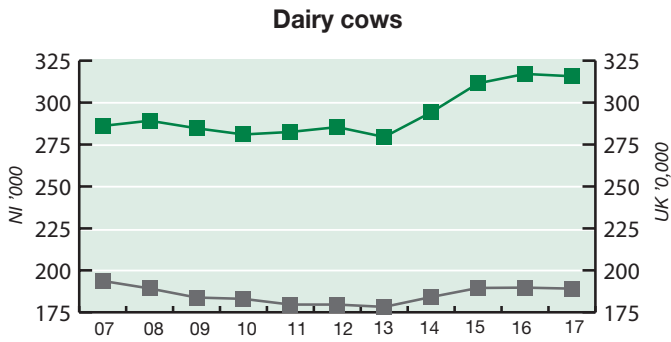
Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2016



NI and UK Total Income from Farming Indices in real terms (2015 = 100)



TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Note: comparisons are with 2016 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms increased considerably in 2017.
- **Total income from farming (TIFF)** - which measures the return to farmers, partners and directors, their spouses and other family workers for their labour, management input and own capital invested - increased by 87 per cent (82 per cent in real terms) to £473 million, from £253 million in 2016.
- Following the increase in 2017, TIFF is now 99 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- The increase in TIFF in 2017 is due mainly to a 46 per cent rise in the value of output from dairying which was the result of an increase in the milk price.

Output, input and value added (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £2.09 billion for 2017, a 17 per cent increase from 2016. There was a 46 per cent increase in the value of output from the dairying sector, a 21 per cent increase in the livestock sector and a 35 per cent increase in the pig sector.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') increased by 8 per cent, to £1.45 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 54 per cent of the gross input figure, rose by 11 per cent in 2017 to £783 million. There was a 9% increase in the volume of feedstuffs purchased and a 2% increase in the average price paid per tonne. The total cost of fertilisers rose by 20 per cent due to a 3 per cent increase in average price per tonne and a 16 per cent increase in the volume purchased. Expenditure on lime also increased. Total machinery expenses increased by 4 per cent to £143 million in 2017. This increase was largely due to an 8 per cent increase in the cost of fuel & oils.
- **Gross value added** increased in 2017 to £644 million; an increase of 47 per cent, while **net value added** - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies rose by 54 per cent, to £630 million.

Productivity (Tables 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 1.7 per cent increase in **total factor productivity (TFP)** - the productivity of all resources in the industry. **Single factorial terms of trade**, which is a measure of farmers' economic welfare, increased by 21 per cent.

- Cash flow (Table 2.4)**
- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have risen by 50 per cent, to £507 million. In this estimate, ‘non-cash’ items such as stock changes as well as capital formation and consumption are removed and account is taken of the level of investment and change in borrowings, thereby more realistically portraying cash available from farming.
- Farm level incomes (Tables 5.3-5.4)**
- **Farm Business Income (FBI)** is the headline measure of farm-level income used throughout the UK. Measured across all farm types, average **Farm Business Income** increased from £14,200 in 2015/16 to £21,928 in 2016/17, an increase of £7,728 per farm. It is expected to increase from £21,928 in 2016/17 to £37,880 in 2017/18 i.e. an increase of £15,952 or 73 per cent per farm.
- Subsidies (Table 2.10)**
- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers increased by £6.5 million or 2.1 per cent in 2017, to £313 million. This increase was due to an increase in direct CAP payments as a result of a more favourable exchange rate between Sterling and the Euro. The estimated value of 2017 direct subsidies (Basic, Greening and Young Farmers payments) was £292 million; an increase of 5 per cent compared to 2016.
- Labour (Table 2.14)**
- The **total agricultural labour force** in 2017 increased marginally by 2 per cent to just over 48,700 persons. Within this total there was a 1.8 per cent increase in the number of farmers (fulltime and part time), a 0.6 per cent rise in the number of spouses and a 3.6 per cent increase in other workers.
- Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)**
- The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2017 census was unchanged from last year at approximately 1.7 million. At June 2017, there were 315,800 dairy cows a decrease of 0.4 per cent from 2016 and 267,100 beef cows a decrease of 1.0 per cent compared to 2016. In June 2017, the **sheep** breeding flock was 1.9 per cent higher than in 2016 at 973,300 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 2.05 million in 2017.
 - At June 2017, the total number of **pigs** was 649,100, an increase of 8.0 per cent compared to 2016. There was a 3.2 per cent increase to 47,900 in sow numbers. **Broiler** numbers increased by 16 per cent to 16.8 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** increased by 12 per cent to 4.0 million birds.

Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)

- There was a 0.4 per cent decrease, to 44,300 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2016 and 2017. The total area of **cereals** was 32,300 hectares in June 2017, which was a decrease of 3.4 per cent compared to 2016. In 2017, the total area of potatoes grown increased by 8.4 per cent to 4,100 hectares compared to the previous year.

Farm Numbers (Table 2.2)

- There were 24,956 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2017, which was 428 greater than in 2016. This increase is in contrast to the general trend in total farm numbers which for many years has been downward at a rate of about 1.5 per cent per annum.

Food & Drinks Sector

- The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate a minor decrease in gross turnover in the period 2014 to 2016. Employment has grown over the period. Exports account for 27 percent of sales by the food and drinks processing sector.

Rural Population

- In 2016, 60 per cent of the population lived in urban areas, with 4 per cent in mixed urban/rural areas and 36 per cent in rural areas. Rural households on average enjoy higher incomes than urban counterparts, however, this is not the case for more remote rural areas.

Animal Health and Welfare

- There have been no cases of BSE since 2012. During 2017 2,208 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 1,739 in 2016. There were no new brucellosis serological reactor breakdowns in 2017. The last confirmed brucellosis breakdown occurred in February 2012 and Northern Ireland achieved Official Brucellosis Freedom on 6 October 2015.

The Veterinary Service (DARD) carried out 534 on-farm welfare inspections in 2017. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 89 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 100 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2017, a total of 3 farm animal keepers were disqualified by the courts as a result of serious welfare breaches.

Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle. In March 2016 compulsory testing was introduced. In 2017, the animal incidence rate remains at less than 1%.

Environment

- The landfill rates for Local Authority collected municipal waste and household waste has increased over the last four years. In 2017, some 46,000 hectares or 4 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2015, agriculture was estimated to contribute 29 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. However, total emissions from agriculture fell by 3.3 per cent between 1990 and 2015.

*Contact: Victoria Hill, Tel: 028 9052 4004,
Email: Victoria.Hill@daera-ni.gov.uk*

2. THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

A. AGGREGATE OUTPUT, INPUT AND INCOME

Methodological note

A series of the Aggregate Agricultural Account covering several decades is available on the DAERA website, at www.daera-ni.gov.uk. In the following commentary, comparisons are with 2016 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture in 2017 **grew** significantly and recorded a new high level. **Total income from farming (TIFF)** – which represents the return on own labour, management input and own capital invested for all those with an entrepreneurial involvement in farming (including all members of the family working on farm) – rose by 87 per cent (82 per cent in real terms) from £253 million in 2016 to £473 million in 2017 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** in 2017, estimated at £2.09 billion, was 17 per cent higher compared with 2016. However, this masks some significant variations across the different commodities. Full details of commodity trends in all the individual outputs are given in Section 2B.

Inputs (or ‘intermediate consumption’)

The value of **gross input** also increased during 2017, to £1.45 billion; 7.6 per cent higher. Most of this increase can be attributed to an 11 per cent rise in expenditure on animal feedstuffs but also fertiliser, fuel and oils. Full details of trends in individual inputs are also given in Section 2B.

Gross and net value added

Gross value added - gross output less gross input - increased by 47 per cent to £644 million in 2017 as a result of the higher level of growth in gross output when compared to gross input. **Net value added** (at factor cost), i.e. gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or ‘depreciation’) plus direct CAP subsidies – increased further, by 54 per cent, to £630 million.

Net value added is the sum of all ‘incomes’ arising in the industry, namely the earnings of paid labour, interest on borrowed capital, rent on conacre land (paid to non-farming persons) and the residual ‘total income from farming’. The cost of paid labour (also termed ‘compensation of employees’) increased by 6.6 per cent to £73 million in 2017 from £68 million in 2016. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.29) was £37 million in 2017, a 5.4 per cent decrease compared to 2016. Interest rates remained at historically low levels throughout 2017 (with the Bank of England base rate rising in November), therefore the fall in the cost of interest was due to a 4.1 per cent decrease in the level of borrowings. Conacre rent paid to non-farmers rose by 1.2 per cent to £55 million in 2017.

Total Income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF)** rose further in 2017, by 87 per cent to £473 million, a rise of 82 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following this increase in 2017, TIFF was 99 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation. Over the same 20-year period, the number of persons drawing an income from farming also declined. From 1998 to 2017, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 22 per cent with the result that, in real terms, **TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour** in 2017 was 105 per cent above the 20-year average.

Cash flow

TIFF measures the return (on own labour, management input and own capital invested) to farmers, their spouses and other family workers, i.e. all those with an entrepreneurial interest in farming. It is calculated according to internationally agreed practices, which require the inclusion of 'book' items such as stock changes, capital formation and consumption (depreciation). TIFF may not, therefore, realistically portray the cash available from farming. In the estimates shown in Table 2.4, TIFF is adjusted to remove these non-cash items and to take account of the level of investment and change in borrowings (the derivation is given in the footnotes to Table 2.4). **Cash available to farm families from farming** was estimated to have risen by 50 per cent, to £507 million in 2017.

Subsidies

Total direct payments to farmers increased by 2.1 per cent or £6.5 million, to £313 million. The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2017 was £288 million, a net increase of 5.2 per cent or £14 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2016. The increase for 2017 can be attributed to a more favourable exchange rate between Sterling and the Euro. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 92 per cent of all direct payments.

Investment

Gross annual capital investment decreased by 7.8 per cent or £13 million to £183 million in 2017. Within this total there was a 10 per cent increase in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works was up by 3.9 per cent.

*Contact: William Taylor, Tel: 028 9052 4112,
Email: William.Taylor@daera-ni.gov.uk*

Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture¹

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	(provisional)					
OUTPUT²						
Livestock and livestock products³						
Finished cattle and calves ⁴	415.7	442.3	391.9	402.3	432.9	459.9
Finished sheep and lambs ⁴	68.9	66.7	69.4	63.2	75.0	73.4
Finished pigs	114.5	132.5	133.4	114.8	121.0	163.4
Poultry ⁵	241.6	265.2	257.9	249.1	252.7	275.3
Eggs ⁶	65.6	67.4	79.6	88.6	94.9	99.9
Milk	525.5	640.5	654.2	480.1	453.3	661.5
Minor products ⁷	12.9	15.0	15.0	15.3	14.3	15.3
Total livestock and livestock products	1,444.8	1,629.7	1,601.5	1,413.5	1,444.1	1,748.8
Field crops						
Potatoes	19.0	26.5	18.8	17.1	20.2	23.8
Cereals	37.8	38.3	31.6	28.9	26.7	30.4
of which: barley	24.8	25.0	19.8	18.3	16.7	17.6
wheat	11.2	11.4	9.9	8.7	8.2	10.8
oats	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0
Other crops ⁸	13.3	14.9	12.4	12.4	10.5	11.4
Total field crops	70.1	79.7	62.7	58.3	57.5	65.5
Horticultural products						
Fruit	5.5	9.8	11.4	11.8	10.7	11.3
Vegetables	15.0	20.5	22.2	21.5	19.1	18.7
Mushrooms	38.4	40.6	54.6	67.5	53.5	53.1
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	9.5	12.0	14.3	18.9	20.9	25.3
Total horticultural products	68.4	82.8	102.5	119.6	104.1	108.4
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	89.8	72.4	59.2	74.5	90.0	79.6
Agricultural contract work ⁹	71.4	77.7	79.6	73.6	74.8	77.0
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities ¹⁰	15.1	17.5	17.6	17.4	13.4	13.4
A Gross output	1,759.6	1,959.9	1,923.2	1,756.8	1,783.9	2,092.8

1. A description of the methodology relating to this series and the derivation of the main aggregates, is given in the Appendix.
2. Output represents the estimated value of home-produced sales, including the value of inter-farm transfers and on-farm use (see Appendix). It includes the value of subsidies on products, the sale value of store animals imported from the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain and finished in Northern Ireland and the value of produce used in farm households. Stock change estimates are included within the individual output and input items.
3. Includes finished, breeding and store animals exported to the Republic of Ireland and shipped to Great Britain. The value of imported animals has been deducted.
4. The LFA Compensatory Allowance (or Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015) is included in 'other subsidies'.
5. Includes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds, and eggs for hatching.
6. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.
7. Includes horses, wool, deer and minor livestock products.
8. Hay, straw, flax, linseed, oilseed rape, mixed corn, protein crops, lawn turf, triticale, hemp and forage crops.
9. Receipts to both farmer contractors and specialist contractors.
10. Receipts from non-agricultural activities which use farm resources.

Table 2.1 (continued)

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	(provisional)					
A Gross output	1,759.6	1,959.9	1,923.2	1,756.8	1,783.9	2,092.8
INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
Expenditure						
Feedstuffs ¹¹	719.4	796.9	773.5	727.9	707.0	782.7
Seeds ¹²	9.3	12.2	11.1	10.6	10.1	9.8
Marketing expenses ¹³	38.1	36.0	35.5	36.5	38.4	38.7
Fertilisers and lime	83.0	101.8	82.5	74.1	70.7	84.2
Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	150.2	153.9	152.2	139.2	137.0	142.6
Farm maintenance	43.0	43.5	44.4	42.5	40.9	40.7
Veterinary expenses and medicines	55.6	57.5	60.1	61.1	62.2	64.1
Other variable costs ¹⁴	56.9	63.3	68.0	67.9	69.6	71.0
Miscellaneous expenses ¹⁵	117.4	122.3	132.8	138.2	129.5	131.0
Agricultural contract work	71.4	77.7	79.6	73.7	74.8	77.0
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FISIM ¹⁶	8.1	9.2	7.2	6.7	7.3	8.2
B Gross input	1,352.4	1,474.3	1,447.0	1,378.7	1,347.0	1,449.2
C Gross value added (A-B)	407.2	485.2	475.3	376.6	436.8	643.6
Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
- livestock	70.3	65.0	64.8	62.8	83.6	70.7
- plant, machinery and vehicles	118.1	122.3	124.2	124.5	127.0	134.0
- buildings and works	118.6	118.4	116.8	114.4	114.3	113.0
D Total consumption of fixed capital	307.0	305.7	305.8	301.7	324.9	317.7
Other subsidies (not paid on products) ¹⁷	294.6	314.3	292.5	284.7	304.6	313.2
Other taxes (not levied on products) ¹⁸	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.7	8.9
E Other subsidies (less taxes)	286.5	306.2	284.3	276.4	296.0	304.3
F Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)	386.8	485.8	453.8	351.3	407.9	630.2
G Paid labour	67.1	63.5	65.2	68.8	68.2	72.7
H Interest	29.0	30.7	31.3	32.3	32.0	29.0
I Net rent¹⁹	47.8	48.4	51.3	51.7	54.4	55.1
J Total income from farming²⁰ (F-G-H-I)	242.9	343.2	306.1	198.5	253.3	473.4

11. Includes home-fed cereals, proteins, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes. The figure for 2013 includes additional cost of fodder imported under the fodder transport scheme.

12. Includes home-saved seed.

13. Hired transport charges, auction fees, slaughter charges and inter farm expenses.

14. Livestock costs other than veterinary and medicines, crop protection, other crop costs, packaging and royalties and levies.

15. Electricity, heating fuel, water rates, fire insurance and other overheads.

16. FISIM - Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured. A description is provided on page 25.

17. Includes Single Farm Payment (for the years 2011-2014), Basic, Greening and Young Farmer's Payments (from 2015) LFA Compensatory Allowance (or Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015), payments for the non-capital element of the Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme, Countryside Management Scheme and other minor grants and subsidies. See table 2.10 for a breakdown of this item.

18. Farm rates and vehicle road tax.

19. Conacre payments to non-producing landowners.

20. This estimate should be regarded only as an indicator of trend. The income estimate, being a residual is subject to cumulative errors in the estimation of input and output items (see Appendix).

Table 2.2 Summary income indicators at current prices and in real terms

	<i>Indices: 2015 = 100</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	(provisional)					
Index at current prices						
Net value added ¹	110.1	138.3	129.2	100.0	116.1	179.4
Total income from farming ¹	122.3	172.9	154.2	100.0	127.6	238.5
Index in real terms²						
Net value added	114.6	141.3	129.8	100.0	113.9	171.3
Total income from farming	127.4	176.6	154.9	100.0	125.1	227.7

1. For definitions see Appendix.

2. Deflated by the GDP deflator.

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices

	<i>Indices: 2015 = 100</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	(provisional)					
Gross output volume ¹	89.3	92.0	96.4	100.0	101.2	100.9
Gross input volume ¹	96.7	100.1	99.8	100.0	98.9	97.0
Gross value added volume ¹	80.9	82.7	92.5	100.0	103.9	105.4
Net value added volume ¹	70.0	73.1	90.0	100.0	106.1	111.8
Total factor productivity ²	90.4	90.9	96.5	100.0	102.4	104.1
Labour productivity ³	70.5	73.7	90.8	100.0	108.2	110.7
Single factorial terms of trade ⁴	96.3	103.2	105.4	100.0	100.6	121.2

1. Calculated by applying 2015 output and input prices to the volume of each item of output and input in every year. The resulting series, therefore, represent volume changes at constant 2015 prices.

2. Calculated as the ratio of output at constant prices to all inputs (including labour and capital) at constant prices.

3. Calculated as the ratio of net value added at constant prices to total labour input (in Annual Work Units).

4. Single factorial terms of trade measures changes in farmers' economic welfare.

Table 2.4 Estimated cash flow for agriculture

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	(provisional)					
Total income from farming	242.9	343.2	306.1	198.5	253.3	473.4
Less:						
output stock change	1.2	-6.9	6.9	8.2	16.5	-0.6
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	89.8	72.4	59.2	74.5	90.0	79.6
capital investment ¹	200.0	193.9	188.4	149.9	162.2	176.7
Plus:						
input stock change	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.4	0.1
capital consumption	307.0	305.7	305.8	301.7	324.9	317.7
capital grants paid in year ²	1.2	4.4	2.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
change in borrowings	3.6	55.7	-28.7	14.4	27.0	-35.5
Cash available to farm families from farming	263.6	450.5	331.5	282.8	338.0	507.1

1. The capital investment figures used are those given in Table 2.12 but with a deduction made for the value of work done by principal farmers and spouses. The figures for buildings and works in Table 2.12 are estimated from the Farm Business Survey (with an addition for non grant-aided investment) and are shown in that table as investment in the year in which work was undertaken. Since there is known to be a delay between work being done and grant being paid, the investment estimates have been included in the 'cash flow' one year earlier.

2. These estimates are entered in the year in which they are paid. The grants are mostly in respect of capital investments made in previous years.

Table 2.5 Aggregate gross margin estimates for the main agricultural sectors

2016								
Sector	Adjusted outputs ¹	Estimated specific costs ²			Total	Sector gross margins ³		
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays			£m	£m	%
			£m	£m					£m
Dairy cows and followers	541.4	230.2	21.6	11.2	263.0	278.4	36.7%	
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	368.0	90.0	34.2	24.1	148.3	219.7	29.0%	
Sheep and wool	76.2	18.5	11.6	5.1	35.1	41.0	5.4%	
Total grazing livestock	985.6	338.7	67.4	40.3	446.4	539.2	71.1%	
Pigs	121.0	91.1	-	3.9	95.0	26.0	3.4%	
Poultry & Eggs	348.2	274.4	-	8.9	283.3	65.0	8.6%	
Total intensive livestock	469.2	365.4	-	12.8	378.3	90.9	12.0%	
Cereals	37.3	-	12.6	-	12.6	24.7	3.3%	
Potatoes	20.2	-	4.8	-	4.8	15.4	2.0%	
Horticulture ⁴	104.1	-	20.0	10.4	30.4	73.8	9.7%	
Total field crops	161.7	-	37.4	10.4	47.8	113.9	15.0%	
Other items	22.8	6.6	1.5	0.1	8.2	14.6	1.9%	
Total	1,639.3	710.7	106.3	63.7	880.7	758.6	100.0%	

2017 (Provisional)								
Sector	Adjusted outputs ¹	Estimated specific costs ²			Total	Sector gross margins ³		
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays			£m	£m	%
			£m	£m				
Dairy cows and followers	764.4	222.9	27.3	10.5	260.7	503.7	51.4%	
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	391.0	149.9	43.7	24.8	218.4	172.5	17.6%	
Sheep and wool	74.7	21.0	14.6	5.2	40.8	33.9	3.5%	
Total grazing livestock	1,230.1	393.8	85.5	40.6	519.9	710.1	72.4%	
Pigs	164.6	96.4	-	4.1	100.5	64.1	6.5%	
Poultry and eggs	375.1	295.6	-	10.1	305.8	69.3	7.1%	
Total intensive livestock	539.7	392.1	-	14.2	406.2	133.5	13.6%	
Cereals	41.9	-	11.1	-	11.1	30.8	3.1%	
Potatoes	23.8	-	4.9	-	4.9	18.9	1.9%	
Horticulture ⁴	108.4	-	20.3	11.1	31.3	77.0	7.9%	
Total field crops	174.0	-	36.2	11.1	47.3	126.8	12.9%	
Other items	16.6	4.4	1.8	0.1	6.4	10.3	1.0%	
Total	1,960.4	790.3	123.5	66.0	979.8	980.6	100.0%	

1. The items making up total gross output (as shown in Table 2.1) have been regrouped into the above enterprises and Outputs have been adjusted for changes in volume. In the case for breeding livestock stock appreciation has been excluded.
2. Estimates of the costs of the inputs of seed, fertiliser, spray, purchased feedstuffs and home grown cereals have been allocated amongst the various enterprises on the basis of results obtained from analysis of the Farm Business Survey. Other variable costs have been allocated as appropriate. No attempt has been made to allocate fuel, machinery or other overhead expenses.
3. 'Sector gross margins' represent the value of products remaining after deducting most of the variable costs and give a useful measure of the contribution of each enterprise to the earnings of the agricultural industry.
4. Horticulture comprises fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and hardy nursery stock.

Table 2.6 Quantities of the main products in output¹

	Units of quantity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	141,757	140,534	133,974	136,752	145,830	145,207
Sheep and lambs	„	20,801	20,953	20,982	20,996	21,153	21,337
Pigs ²	„	86,468	88,614	94,197	101,911	109,002	111,989
Cattle and calves	‘000 head	458	470	446	439	467	472
Sheep and lambs	„	928	951	929	933	971	979
Pigs ²	„	1,042	1,047	1,091	1,174	1,252	1,256
Poultry ³	‘000 tonnes lwt	259	270	279	278	299	320
Eggs ⁴	m. doz	81	92	110	118	126	137
Milk ⁵	m. litres	2,001	2,015	2,206	2,268	2,200	2,281
Field crops							
Wheat	‘000 tonnes	71.8	58.7	58.6	66.4	63.2	65.0
Barley	„	134.1	137.2	132.5	150.4	124.9	117.9
Oats	„	11.6	9.6	10.6	10.2	14.7	9.4
Potatoes	„	176.7	151.4	163.5	179.0	134.4	163.2
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	‘000 tonnes	40.6	32.3	39.0	43.8	38.0	37.7
Vegetables	„	34.4	51.1	71.2	64.8	58.0	57.7
Mushrooms	„	26.9	28.0	36.8	45.1	35.7	35.5

1. Estimated home-produced sales, on-farm use and household consumption. See Footnote 2 to Table 2.1. Animals imported direct to slaughter are not included.
2. Includes exports of store pigs.
3. Excludes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds and hatching eggs.
4. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.
5. Includes farmhouse consumption.

Table 2.7 Average producer prices¹ of agricultural products

		<i>£ per unit</i>					
	Units	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
							(provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	1,074	1,157	1,086	1,106	1,082	1,162
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	3.17	3.55	3.29	3.26	3.19	3.48
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	244	247	297	308	304	303
Culled cows and bulls	head	740	785	681	666	670	747
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	2.44	2.57	2.18	2.14	2.16	2.47
Store cattle exported	head	711	762	771	795	749	801
Finished sheep and lambs	head	78.46	82.39	83.08	73.89	83.00	86.08
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.64	3.87	3.82	3.40	3.88	3.97
Finished clean pigs	head	115.44	130.72	125.01	102.41	102.22	134.79
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.40	1.56	1.46	1.19	1.18	1.52
Milk ²	litre	0.262	0.318	0.297	0.212	0.206	0.290
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.805	0.734	0.722	0.756	0.751	0.726
Broilers	kg lwt	0.804	0.860	0.812	0.750	0.713	0.753
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop ³	tonne	153	196	125	129	153	152
Seed	tonne	157	218	167	153	171	173
Barley	tonne	196	179	146	130	134	154
Wheat	tonne	203	195	156	136	137	161
Oats	tonne	207	193	162	153	149	155
Mushrooms	tonne	1,425	1,450	1,484	1,496	1,496	1,496
Apples	tonne	183	267	259	265	266	265

1. Before deduction of marketing charges, commissions and levies, where applicable.
2. Before deduction of superlevy, if applicable.
3. Does not include early potatoes. Therefore, the price differs from that quoted in Table 2.24.

Table 2.8 Indices of producer prices¹ of agricultural output

		<i>Indices: 2015 = 100</i>					
	Weights ²	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
							(provisional)
Finished steers and heifers	216	97	109	101	100	98	107
Culled cows and bulls	41	114	120	102	100	101	116
Store cattle exported	6	89	96	97	100	94	101
Finished sheep and lambs	37	107	114	112	100	114	117
Finished clean pigs	75	118	131	123	100	99	128
Milk	303	124	150	140	100	97	135
Eggs for consumption	56	107	98	96	100	99	97
Broilers	120	107	115	108	100	95	100
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	12	119	152	97	100	118	119
Seed	1	103	143	109	100	110	113
Barley	12	150	137	112	100	102	118
Wheat	6	149	144	115	100	101	118
Mushrooms	43	95	97	99	100	100	100
Apples	7	68	99	96	100	98	98
Total products index²	935	111	125	117	100	99	117
Inputs index³	1,000	105	110	107	100	100	101

1. The indices relate to prices from which marketing expenses have not been deducted.
2. The total products index is calculated by taking into account the significance of each item in the base period (2015). This is shown in the column of weights. Since only the main items of output are included, the total of their weights does not add to 1,000. Also, since the price index does not cover items such as production grants, compensation payments and gross fixed capital formation, it should not be regarded as a 'deflator' to be used in estimating the volume of output. (A volume series of gross output is given in Table 2.3).
3. This index does not cover all inputs. It comprises feedstuffs, seeds, fertilisers and lime and marketing expenses.

Table 2.9 Average market prices of breeding and store livestock¹

	<i>£ per head</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,251	1,234	1,282	1,043	1,000	1,279
Dairy cows in calf	1,157	1,063	980	805	712	1,078
Dairy springing heifers	1,130	1,140	923	850	1,168	1,055
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	1,098	1,064	1,183	1,209	1,119	1,212
Beef cows in calf	895	864	955	942	902	924
Beef springing heifers	1,088	941	1,145	1,258	1,084	1,136
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	532	540	598	638	589	638
300-400 kg steers	661	689	721	753	701	757
400-500 kg steers	794	864	842	864	819	881
Over 500 kg steers	1,029	1,114	1,047	1,065	1,010	1,101
150-300 kg heifers	498	491	567	589	546	571
300-400 kg heifers	626	649	687	706	664	699
400-500 kg heifers	779	844	831	847	804	855
Over 500 kg heifers	982	1,063	1,018	1,024	980	1,058
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	372	356	371	461	421	469
Over 200 kg steers	642	650	690	719	677	729
Under 200 kg heifers	401	370	406	435	408	413
Over 200 kg heifers	581	575	633	658	619	659
Dropped calves						
For rearing	163	139	173	200	190	210
Cull cows	701	695	649	636	611	701
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	107.04	109.13	131.51	112.28	119.96	101.37
Blackface Cross	106.92	117.71	131.04	114.66	123.43	133.41
Other breeds	109.70	103.43	124.10	111.89	112.52	122.92
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	67.49	72.35	98.12	82.45	80.18	83.21
Blackface Cross	62.76	62.58	74.67	69.16	85.49	86.61
Other breeds	71.90	76.14	77.73	73.34	80.60	81.94
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	89.00	115.00	64.22	88.95	98.81	98.94
Blackface Cross	135.74	103.67	117.10	85.22	87.82	108.26
Other breeds	157.72	120.09	143.10	144.36	137.08	150.84
Cull ewes						
Blackface	33.65	30.28	38.20	41.32	39.51	41.88
Blackface Cross	49.44	41.29	52.93	54.84	51.02	53.03
Other breeds	59.93	51.31	61.57	67.65	62.22	63.61
Cull rams	65.78	56.23	64.91	68.24	65.83	63.26
Store lambs	49.84	54.77	59.62	51.37	59.01	60.59

1. Average prices calculated from returns made by auction marts.

Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account^{1,2}

	<i>£ million³</i>					
	2012 ⁴	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS⁵						
Single farm payment	244.6	265.2	248.4	-	-	-
Basic Payment Scheme	-	-	-	160.3	185.6	195.0
Greening Payment	-	-	-	71.2	83.0	87.4
Young Farmers Payment	-	-	-	4.9	5.3	5.8
Financial Discipline Deduction	-	-	-	2.8	3.2	3.4
Financial Discipline Rembursement	-	-	-	2.5	3.2	3.4
Penalties⁶	-	-	-	0.7	0.8	0.9
Other direct payments						
EU Support Package ⁷	-	-	-	5.1	1.8	4.1
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital)	5.5	5.3	4.8	4.6	3.7	0.0
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC ⁸ from 2015)	25.2	23.7	23.7	25.3	18.6	19.0
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	18.9	18.6	15.5	14.2	7.4	2.7
New Entrants Scheme	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	-	-
Others ⁹	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total other direct payments	50.0	49.1	44.2	49.3	31.5	25.8
Total direct payments	294.6	314.3	292.5	284.7	304.6	313.2

1. Table 2.1

2. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).

3. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.

4. Single Farm Payments after 'modulation' (i.e.reduction) of 14% (9% on the first 5,000) in 2012. Total modulation amounted to £34.4 million in 2012.

5. Excludes expenditure on market regulation (such as intervention purchases and export refunds) by the UK Rural Payments Agency.

6. LFA allowance became the Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015.

7. Includes Organic Farming Scheme and other miscellaneous payments. Transport Fodder Scheme in 2013.

Table 2.11 Capital grants and other direct payments not included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account¹

	<i>£ million²</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	-	4.3	1.4	-	-	-
Farm Business Improvement Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	7.1
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	1.2	-	0.7	-	-	-
Total capital grants	1.2	4.4	2.0	-	-	7.1
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation ³	16.9	12.7	13.9	15.7	16.4	24.5
Snow Hardship Fund	-	2.8	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments⁴	16.9	15.5	13.9	15.7	16.4	24.5

1. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).
2. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.
3. Includes tuberculosis, brucellosis, and BSE reactor compensation payments.
4. Includes miscellaneous minor payments.

Table 2.12 Estimated gross annual capital investment in fixed assets and equipment¹

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Grant-aided investment ²	5.6	10.4	4.1	0.0	0.0	7.1
Non-aided investment	66.2	72.8	85.2	81.8	61.7	56.9
Total buildings and works³	71.8	83.2	89.4	81.8	61.7	64.1
Plant and machinery	113.7	106.6	107.9	86.6	93.4	104.4
Vehicles ^{3,4}	14.6	11.3	13.0	14.9	14.7	14.6
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	128.3	117.9	120.9	101.5	108.1	119.06
Total investment	200.1	201.1	210.3	183.3	169.8	183.1

1. Excluding investment in forestry and arterial drainage.
2. See Table 2.11 for details.
3. Estimated from the Farm Business Survey.
4. Vehicles shown at 'farm share'.

Table 2.13 Milk quota

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Milk quota (million litres)						
Owned ¹	2,004.3	2,044.9	2,098.1	-	-	-
Leased ²	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Total	2,003.6	2,044.9	2,098.1	-	-	-

1. Permanent wholesale and direct sale quota as at 31 March each year.
2. Quota leased-in, less quota leased-out in Northern Ireland as at 31 March each year.
3. The milk quota regime ended on 31 March 2015.

Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms

	<i>number of persons</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE¹						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	15,886	16,235	16,206	16,637	16,233	16,760
Part time	13,171	12,798	12,894	13,431	13,571	13,586
Total	29,057	29,033	29,100	30,068	29,804	30,346
Spouses of farmers	6,293	6,391	6,279	6,084	6,410	6,449
Other workers						
Full time	3,422	3,464	3,485	3,463	3,209	3,441
Part time	3,754	4,009	4,081	3,971	4,215	4,319
Casual/seasonal	4,938	4,899	4,919	4,393	4,074	4,149
Total other workers	12,114	12,372	12,485	11,827	11,498	11,909
Total agricultural labour force	47,464	47,796	47,864	47,979	47,712	48,704
Annual Work Units (AWUs)²	28,237	28,173	28,164	28,427	27,873	28,708

1. Full-time work is defined as involving 30 hours per week or more and casual work as covering less than 20 weeks per year.
2. An Annual Work Unit is equivalent to the time worked by one person employed full-time in agricultural activities over a whole year.

Table 2.15 Agricultural manpower¹

	<i>number of persons</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
MANPOWER STATISTICS¹						
Self-employed						
Male	15,288	15,612	15,590	15,931	15,519	16,033
Female	598	623	616	706	714	727
Total	15,886	16,235	16,206	16,637	16,233	16,760
Employees						
Male	10,535	10,807	10,883	10,192	9,902	10,164
Female	1,579	1,565	1,602	1,635	1,596	1,745
Total	12,114	12,372	12,485	11,827	11,498	11,909
Total agricultural manpower	28,000	28,607	28,691	28,464	27,731	28,669

1. Agricultural manpower statistics refer to the count of employees and self-employed workers in agriculture, as used by the Department of Economy in aggregate labour statistics. The count of self-employed includes farmers and partners who work full-time on their farms; the count of employees includes all other workers except part-time farmers and partners and farmers' spouses.

B. COMMODITIES AND INPUTS

Cattle and calves The number of clean cattle marketed during 2017 increased by 3.8 per cent to 328,032 head. The number of steers rose by 4.6 per cent to 165,003 head, heifers increased by 8.3 per cent to 123,034 head and the number of young bulls were 4.7 per cent lower at 36,099. As a result the proportion of steers in the slaughter mix remained unchanged at 51 per cent in 2017, while the proportion of heifers increased from 37 per cent in 2016 to 38 per cent in 2017. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered decreased from 12 per cent in 2016 to 11 per cent in 2017.

The average dressed carcass weights decreased in 2017 to 334 kg. As a result of the increase in the number of clean cattle marketed, the volume of clean beef produced increased by 2.0 per cent to 109,600 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 9.2 per cent higher at £3.48 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 11.4 per cent to £381 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls decreased by 3.5 per cent to 106,309 head in 2017. Average carcass weights for these animals was 2.5 per cent lower at 303 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls rose by 14.3 per cent to £2.47 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, increased 7.6 per cent to £79 million in 2017.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2017 decreased by 15 per cent to 6,282 head. An estimated 23,280 calves were exported in 2017, which was a marginal increase of 0.7 per cent compared with 2016 levels. The average calf price was 0.7 per cent lower at £303 per head and the revenue generated was £9.1 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland decreased by 21 per cent to 7,429 head in 2017. When combined with a 6.8 per cent increase in the average producer price paid of £800 per head, this generated revenues of £5.9 million; a decrease of 16 per cent from 2016 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 88 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2017 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) increased by 6.2 per cent to £460 million.

Milk The annual average dairy cow population in 2017 was 0.1 per cent lower than 2016 at 315,391 head. Average gross milk yield per cow increased from 6,970 litres in 2016 to 7,220 litres in 2017; a 3.6 per cent increase.

The higher milk yields contributed to a 3.6 per cent increase in total milk output in 2017 in Northern Ireland; to 2.2 billion litres. The average gross milk price for 2017 (before deducting transport costs) was 41 per cent higher than 2016 at 29.00 pence per litre. The volatility in average milk price over recent years is a reflection of the fact that Northern Ireland is dependent on global commodity markets, where prices were rising throughout much of 2013 but fell from 2014 to mid-2016, before rising through till the end of 2017.

Overall, the value of output of milk increased in 2017, to £662 million, by 46 per cent.

Sheep and lambs Marketings of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 1.6 per cent to 763,786 head in 2017. The average dressed carcass weight also increased marginally in 2017 to 21.7 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2017 reduced by 0.2 per cent to 16,570 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices increased by 2.3 per cent to 397 pence per kg deadweight in 2017. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs rose by 2.0 per cent to £66 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams decreased by 0.3 per cent to 136,357 head in 2017. There was a 3.3 per cent increase in the price received for these animals (£54 per head). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams increasing to £7.4 million; an increase of 2.9 per cent.

Overall, the total value of output (which deducts the value of imported sheep but includes breeding sheep and store exports) from the sector fell by 2.1 per cent, to £73 million in 2017.

Pigs The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2017 was 0.3 per cent higher at 1.24 million head. Average dressed carcass weights were 2.4 per cent higher at 88.6kg in 2017. When combined these changes resulted in a 2.7 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 109,956 tonnes. Pig producer prices increased by 29 per cent to 152 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 32 per cent higher at £167 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were up by 4.1 per cent in 2017 at 14,407 head. The average price per head of cull sows and boars increased by 29 per cent to 96 pence per kg deadweight. These changes resulted in market returns for these animals increasing by 35 per cent to £2.0 million in 2017.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector increased by 35 per cent to £163 million (this figure includes deductions for the

value of imported pigs and additions for the value of breeding and store pig exports).

Poultry

In 2017, the total volume of poultry meat production was 320,028 tonnes liveweight, an increase of 7.2 per cent from 2016 levels. Broiler production was 9.1 per cent higher at 297,212 tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were higher than 2016 levels by 5.5 cent at 75 pence per kg. Overall, as a result of these changes the market value of broilers in 2017 was 15.1 per cent higher at £224 million. Broilers accounted for 81 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production decreased in 2017, by 29 per cent, to 9,039 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2017 was £275 million; 8.9 per cent higher than 2016.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 134 million dozen eggs in 2017, which is a new record level of production for Northern Ireland. This was a rise of 9.5 per cent on 2016 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 56 per cent in 2016 to 59 per cent in 2017 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 41 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs decreased, by 3.7 per cent, to 73 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs increased by 5.3 per cent to £100 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

The area of potatoes planted in 2017 increased by 8.5 per cent to 4,053 hectares. The average yield increased, by 7.1 per cent, to 43 tonnes per hectare. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2017 is estimated to be 16.2 per cent higher at 175,279 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2017 were 23 per cent higher at 136,553 tonnes.

In 2017, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) grew by 19 per cent to 12,305 tonnes. In total for 2017, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 163,209 tonnes. This was an increase of 21 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £154 per tonne in 2017, an increase of 0.7 per cent from 2016 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was also higher than 2016 at £173 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output rose in 2017, by 17 per cent, to £24 million.

Cereals

The area of spring barley sown in 2017 was 4.6 per cent lower than 2016 levels at 14,031 hectares, while recorded yields were also down by 5.4 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley decreased by 9.7 per cent. The area of winter barley sown, in 2017, was down by 6.7 per cent to 7,114 hectares, while yields were marginally higher by 0.3 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley decreasing by 6.5 per cent. Overall, total barley production was 8.4 per cent lower in 2017 at 114,433 tonnes, with the total area of barley grown down 5.3 per cent at 21,145 hectares.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2017 was 5.6 per cent lower at 117,913 tonnes. The average producer price of barley increased, by 15.4 per cent, to £154 per tonne. These changes plus a negative stock change resulted in the value of barley output increasing by 5.7 per cent to £18 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2017 was 1.3 per cent higher at 8,730 hectares, coupled with a 10 per cent increase in yields, production was up by 11.9 per cent to 67,181 tonnes.

In 2017, the volume of wheat sold or used on-farm was 2.8 per cent higher at 64,977 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat increased by 17 per cent to £161 per tonne. These changes combined with a positive stock change contributed to the value of wheat output increasing by 31 per cent to £10.8 million.

The area of oats grown in 2017 was 0.2 per cent lower at 2,252 hectares. However, yields were up by 4.9 per cent, which resulted in oats production increasing by 4.6 per cent to 12,692 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 4.0 per cent higher at £154 per tonne. The changes in price and production resulted in the value of output falling to £1.5 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2017 increased by 4.1 per cent to £108 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) increased by 5.6 per cent to £11 million. Apple production fell by 1.3 per cent to 37,309 tonnes while prices decreased by 0.6 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples reduced by 1.9 per cent. The value of output from mushrooms marginally declined by 0.7 per cent to £53 million as a result of a similar reduction in production to 35,500 tonnes. Receipts from the sale of vegetables decreased, by 2.0 per cent, to £19 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock rose by 21 per cent to £25 million due to a 3.5 per cent increase in the area used for this enterprise.

Feedstuffs

The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2017 was 11.5 per cent higher than the 2016 levels at 2.38 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds increased by 16 per cent with dairy compounds purchased rising by 12 per cent and beef cattle compounds increased by 40 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 2.8 per cent lower. Total purchases of pig compounds rose in 2017 by 8.8 per cent while poultry compounds rose by 7.0 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) fell by 3.3 per cent in 2017 to 386,662 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 9.0 per cent higher in 2017 at 2.81 million tonnes. The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 1.7 per cent, to £278 per tonne in 2017. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2017 increased, by 11 per cent, to £783 million.

Fertilisers and lime The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2017 increased by 12 per cent to 326,786 tonnes while the average price increased by 4.3 per cent to £239 per tonne. In volume terms, 45 per cent of total fertiliser sales were straights, while 55 per cent were compounds.

As a result of these movements in both quantity purchased and price paid, the total value of fertiliser purchases increased, by 20 per cent, to £80 million.

Total expenditure on lime increased by 7.7 per cent when compared to 2016 levels to £4.1 million. The quantity purchased decreased by 6.4 per cent to 164,269 tonnes while the price paid increased by 15 per cent.

Marketing expenses

In 2017 total marketing expenses were 6 per cent higher than 2016 levels at £40 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £23 million, while sheep expenses were £4 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £7.5 million, while those for pigs were £4.5 million.

Machinery expenses

Machinery expenses in 2017 increased, by 4.1 per cent, to £143 million. This increase was driven by an 8.0 per cent increase in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global price commodity movements.

Interest

Total farm borrowings in 2017 decreased by 8.9 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have fallen marginally to 4.3 per cent. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) decreased by 5.2 per cent in 2017 to £38 million.

Financial intermediaries (mainly banks) charge explicit commissions and fees for their services to customers, as well as

implicit ones by paying and charging different rates of interest to borrowers and lenders. The revenue from the margin on lending and borrowing by financial intermediaries is described as financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM). The inclusion of FISIM in the account is in line with recommended EU national accounting conventions. It is a reallocation to gross output of part of the interest paid by farmers. While the inclusion of FISIM will increase intermediate consumption and decrease gross value added, it will decrease, by the same amount, the figure shown for interest paid and consequently this change in methodology has no impact on total income from farming.

Labour

In 2017, the volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 4.9 per cent higher, at 8.4 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 6.6 per cent higher than 2016 at £73 million.

Table 2.16 Output of cattle and calves

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	313.3	319.9	300.8	299.8	316.2	328.0
Average producer price (p per kg dwt) ^{1,2}	317.4	355.3	328.8	326.2	318.5	347.7
Average dressed carcass weight (kg) ²	338.4	325.7	330.4	339.1	339.8	334.0
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes) ²	106.0	104.2	99.4	101.6	107.4	109.6
Value of output (£m)	336.6	370.2	326.8	331.6	342.2	381.0
Cows and bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	105.6	104.3	94.6	98.4	110.1	106.3
Average producer price (p per kg dwt) ^{1,2}	244.4	257.1	218.4	213.6	215.8	246.7
Average dressed carcass weight (kg) ²	302.8	305.2	311.8	312.0	310.5	302.8
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes) ²	32.0	31.8	29.5	30.7	34.2	32.2
Value of output (£m)	78.1	81.8	64.4	65.6	73.8	79.4
Calves						
Sales ('000 head)	28.9	33.4	39.3	28.5	31.6	29.9
Average producer price (£ per head) ¹	244	247	297	307	305	303
Value of output (£m)	7.1	8.3	11.7	8.8	9.4	9.1
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	9.9	12.0	10.9	11.9	9.4	7.4
Average producer price (£ per head) ¹	711	762	771	795	749	800
Value of output (£m)	7.0	9.2	8.4	9.5	7.0	5.9
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	2.2	2.8	1.7	2.8	2.6	2.1
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,198	1,178	1,337	1,081	1,056	1,349
Value of output (£m)	2.6	3.3	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.9
Less Imported cattle						
Marketings ('000 head)	30.2	24.1	29.2	31.2	16.4	19.0
Average producer price (£ per head)	886	981	976	920	891	995
Value of output (£m)	26.8	23.6	28.5	29.0	14.6	18.9
Total Market Value (£m)	404.7	449.1	385.0	389.4	420.8	459.4
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+11.1	-6.8	+6.9	+12.9	+12.1	+0.5
Total value of output (£m)	415.7	442.3	391.9	402.3	432.9	459.9

1. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses for cattle for human consumption.

2. See note 1 Table 2.6.

Table 2.17 Sources of home-fed finished cattle marketed

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
					<i>per cent</i>	
					(provisional)	
Cows and bulls	25	25	24	25	26	24
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	33	32	32	33	34	37
- the beef herd;	35	38	40	38	35	36
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	7	6	4	5	5	3
Total¹	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total number marketed ('000 head)	419	424	395	398	426	434

1. Individual items may not add to 100 due to roundings.

Table 2.18 Output of milk

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
					<i>per cent</i>	
					(provisional)	
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	282.5	280.0	295.5	311.2	315.8	315.4
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum) ¹	7,190	7,310	7,580	7,390	6,970	7,220
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	2,001	2,015	2,206	2,268	2,167	2,244
of which:						
sales off farms	1,999	2,013	2,204	2,266	2,166	2,243
used in farm households	2	2	1	1	1	1
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price ²	26.21	31.79	29.66	21.22	20.55	29.00
Net price ³	25.72	31.44	29.31	20.87	20.18	28.67
Market Value (£m)	525.5	640.5	654.2	480.1	453.3	661.5
Value of output (£m)²	525.5	640.5	654.2	480.1	453.3	661.5

1. Comprising sales off farms, milk consumed in farm households and milk fed to other livestock.

2. After deduction of superlevy but not marketing expenses (transport costs).

3. After deduction of marketing expenses (transport costs) but not superlevy.

Table 2.19 Output of sheep

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
					<i>per cent</i>	
					(provisional)	
Marketings ('000 head)¹						
Finished sheep and lambs	776.6	797.5	791.5	784.1	776.0	763.8
Culled ewes and rams	134.8	133.8	130.7	135.3	136.8	136.4
Average price (p per kg deadweight)²						
Finished sheep and lambs	363.6	386.5	381.5	340.2	387.9	396.8
Culled ewes and rams	170.4	155.3	185.5	199.7	185.8	192.9
Average dressed carcass weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.6	21.3	21.8	21.7	21.4	21.7
Culled ewes and rams	28.5	27.8	28.0	28.2	28.1	28.0
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	16.8	17.0	17.2	17.0	16.6	16.6
Culled ewes and rams	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8
Market Value (£m)³	65.3	69.9	69.9	63.5	71.9	74.4
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+3.6	-3.2	-0.5	-0.3	+3.2	-1.0
Value of output (£m)	68.9	66.7	69.4	63.2	75.0	73.4

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports.

2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.

3. Includes breeding and store sheep exported less all sheep imported.

Table 2.20 Output of pigs

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)¹						
Finished clean pigs	1,031.2	1,034.5	1,078.5	1,156.6	1,238.0	1,241.5
Culled sows and boars	11.0	13.0	12.9	14.6	13.8	14.4
Average price (p per kg deadweight)²						
Finished clean pigs	140.19	155.82	145.93	118.84	118.26	152.19
Culled sows and boars	95.87	93.29	91.58	75.20	74.58	96.45
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	82.4	83.9	85.7	86.2	86.5	88.6
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	84.9	86.8	92.4	99.7	107.1	110.0
Culled sows and boars	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.0
Market Value (£m)³	114.1	132.5	132.1	113.7	121.0	163.1
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.4	0.0	+1.3	+1.1	-0.0	-0.3
Value of output (£m)	114.5	132.5	133.4	114.8	121.0	163.4

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports.

2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.

3. Includes breeding and store pigs exported less all pigs imported.

Table 2.21 Output of poultry

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	259.1	269.9	279.0	277.9	298.6	320.0
Broilers	229.8	241.7	250.9	253.0	272.4	297.2
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	81.4	86.6	80.8	75.1	71.3	73.8
Broilers	80.4	86.0	81.2	75.0	71.3	75.3
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	241.0	265.6	259.4	246.8	249.3	275.7
of which broilers	184.7	207.8	203.8	189.8	194.4	223.7
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.7	-0.6	-2.3	+1.1	+3.5	-0.4
Value of Output (£m)¹	241.6	265.0	257.2	247.9	252.7	275.3

1. Includes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds and eggs for hatching, less imports of birds and hatching eggs.

Table 2.22 Output of eggs

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	79.7	89.2	106.8	114.2	122.3	134.0
Average producer price (p per dozen) ¹	80.80	74.07	72.85	75.85	75.89	73.05
Value of output (£m)²	65.6	67.4	79.6	88.6	94.9	99.9

1. Relates to graded eggs sold through packing stations only and differs from that shown in Table 2.7.

2. Includes eggs for processing, duck eggs and unrecorded sales.

Table 2.23 Crop production

	<i>harvest years</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Potatoes¹						
Area ('000 hectares)	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	39.4	40.1	43.0	43.7	40.4	43.2
Production ('000 tonnes)	163.6	173.6	180.2	157.1	150.9	175.3
of which:						
saleable potatoes	135.5	141.3	156.3	134.1	131.3	155.0
chats ² and waste	28.1	32.4	23.9	23.0	19.5	20.3
Barley^{3,4}						
Area ('000 hectares)	25.5	25.8	23.6	22.7	22.3	21.1
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	4.98	5.43	5.78	6.17	5.59	5.41
Production ('000 tonnes)	127.2	139.8	136.1	140.0	124.9	114.4
Wheat⁴						
Area ('000 hectares)	9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.98	7.32	7.54	8.02	6.97	7.70
Production ('000 tonnes)	56.2	58.3	64.1	64.0	60.0	67.2
Oats^{3,4}						
Area ('000 hectares)	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	4.77	5.02	5.61	5.93	5.37	5.64
Production ('000 tonnes)	9.0	9.9	11.7	12.3	12.1	12.7
Oilseed rape⁵						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.60	3.00	3.60	3.60	3.10	3.90
Production ('000 tonnes)	2.9	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.9
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	9.7	19.6	20.6	14.2	13.0	7.3
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	8.3	7.3	7.6	8.1	8.2	6.4
Production ('000 tonnes)	79.9	143.2	156.6	115.3	106.0	46.4
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	275.2	290.6	309.4	308.1	308.0	298.5
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	29.7	31.2	31.7	30.4	30.7	29.5
Production ('000 tonnes)	8,171	9,070	9,812	9,357	9,450	8,805

1. Includes early, maincrop ware and seed crops.

2. Under 40 mm.

3. Comprises spring and winter varieties.

4. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 15% moisture content.

5. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 9% moisture content.

Table 2.24 Output¹ of potatoes, barley and wheat

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
POTATOES²						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	136.2	111.8	126.4	147.9	111.4	136.6
Seed	16.1	14.9	13.3	11.7	10.3	12.3
Stockfeed	24.5	24.7	23.7	19.4	12.7	14.4
Total	176.7	151.4	163.5	162.0	134.4	163.2
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	156.10	197.55	125.68	131.88	152.94	153.99
Seed	157.36	218.14	167.37	152.86	167.58	173.41
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	21.3	22.1	16.2	19.5	17.0	21.0
Seed	2.5	3.2	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.1
Stockfeed	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total³	24.3	25.8	18.5	21.6	19.0	23.4
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-5.3	+0.7	+0.3	-4.5	-0.3	+0.4
Value of output (£m)	19.0	26.5	18.8	17.1	20.2	23.8
BARLEY⁴						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	134.1	137.2	132.5	150.4	124.9	117.9
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	195.76	179.21	145.89	130.36	133.55	154.15
Market Value (£m)	26.3	24.6	19.3	19.6	16.7	18.2
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.4	+0.4	+0.5	-1.3	0.0	-0.5
Value of output (£m)	24.8	25.0	19.8	18.3	16.7	17.6
WHEAT⁴						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	71.8	58.7	58.6	66.4	63.2	65.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	203.08	194.98	155.66	135.84	137.29	160.50
Market Value (£m)	14.6	11.4	9.1	9.0	8.7	10.4
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-3.4	-0.1	+0.8	-0.3	-0.4	0.4
Value of output (£m)	11.2	11.4	9.9	8.7	8.2	10.8

1. Output data are for calendar years and reflect the influence of two crop years.

2. Includes ware consumed in farm households and seed retentions but excludes in-store losses.

3. Net of inspection fees.

4. Includes cereals retained on the farm of origin or sold farm-to-farm.

Table 2.25 Output of apples and mushrooms

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
APPLES¹						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	40.4	32.0	38.7	43.6	37.8	37.3
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	183	267	259	271	266	265
Market value (£m)	7.4	8.5	10.0	11.8	10.1	9.9
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-2.8	-0.0	+0.4	-0.8	-0.2	0.0
Value of Output (£m)	4.6	8.5	10.4	11.0	9.8	9.9
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	26.9	28.0	36.8	45.1	35.7	35.5
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,425	1,450	1,484	1,496	1,496	1,496
Value of output (£m)	38.4	40.6	54.6	67.5	53.5	53.1

1. Output data are for calendar years and reflect the influence of two crop years.

Table 2.26 Quantity and cost of the main items of expenditure (including interest and labour)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS¹						
Total quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,526	2,626	2,619	2,649	2,581	2,814
of which: Non-concentrates ² ('000 tonnes)	53	69	51	54	52	53
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,088	2,170	2,183	2,172	2,131	2,376
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	385	388	386	423	399	386
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	285	303	295	280	273	278
Value of feed consumed (£m)	719.3	796.2	772.6	727.9	707.0	782.7
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.1	+0.7	+0.9	+0.4	+2.0	+1.0
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	264	328	269	262	291	327
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	88	118	99	97	112	121
of which:						
Nitrogen	70	81	68	65	79	82
Phosphate	6	9	8	7	8	9
Potash	12	16	13	13	15	17
Sulphur	-	11	10	12	10	12
Average cost (£ per tonne of nutrient)	308	305	300	275	230	239
Value of purchases (£m)	81.3	100.1	80.6	72.0	66.9	239.3
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	140	167	193	152	176	164
Average cost (£ per tonne)	12.33	12.40	12.03	13.45	21.94	25.25
Value of purchases (£m)	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.0	3.9	4.1
MARKETING EXPENSES³						
Cattle	21.1	21.6	20.2	20.1	21.7	22.7
Sheep	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.8	4.0
Pigs	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.5
Milk	9.8	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.2	7.5
Total	38.1	36.0	35.5	35.5	37.6	39.8
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Total interest charges (£m)⁴	37.1	37.0	35.7	39.0	39.3	37.2
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	40.85	41.14	40.20	40.33	40.04	39.59
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour) ⁵	7.73	7.33	7.53	8.16	8.29	8.49
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week) ⁵	315.80	301.35	302.80	328.96	332.08	336.25
Volume of paid labour (million hours) ⁶	8.53	8.56	8.56	8.34	8.01	8.41
Value of paid labour (£m)⁶	67.1	63.5	65.2	68.8	68.2	72.7

1. Includes compounds, straights, home-fed cereals, proteins, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes.

2. Includes milk by-products, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes.

3. Includes hired transport costs, auction fees, slaughter charges and interfarm expenses.

4. Includes interest on hire purchase and leasing agreements and trade credit. Includes FISIM (See page 25 for an explanation of FISIM).

5. Gross wage before deduction of tax and national insurance, and including the value of perks.

6. Excludes labour used on capital projects.

3. CROP AREAS AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Land use

Approximately 75 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing. Around 8.3 per cent of the total land area is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part of the total forested area (112,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2016/2017*¹).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Only 3,150 farms (13 per cent) have arable or horticultural crops. These crops occupy 47,200 hectares and make up only 4.6 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (21,100 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 8,700 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (32,300 hectares) was 3.4 per cent lower in 2017 than in 2016. Weather has a significant impact on annual variation in the area grown, especially as it impacts ground conditions in the autumn when winter wheat and winter barley crops are sown. In 2017, the area of potatoes grown increased on 2016 levels by 8.4 per cent to 4,100 hectares. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2017, the cropped area also included 3,000 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,500 hectares) and vegetables (1,300 hectares).

Grazing livestock

All but 6 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2017, cattle were present on 20,237 farms (81 per cent), sheep on 9,973 farms (40 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 23,500 farms (94 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2017 Agricultural Census was approximately 1.7 million, unchanged from the previous year. There were 315,800 dairy cows (0.4 per cent less than in 2016), and 267,100 beef cows (1.0 per cent less than in 2016). The total cattle population peaked in 1998 at 1.8 million before gradually falling to just under 1.6 million in 2009. Since then the total number has remained relatively stable.

In June 2017, the sheep breeding flock was 1.9 per cent larger than in 2016 at 973,300 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 2.05 million in 2017 which is the highest numbers recorded since 2006.

¹Available on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/forest-service-annual-reports

Intensive livestock In Northern Ireland, pigs and/or poultry (for commercial purposes) are present on 4.3 per cent of farms.

In 2017, pig numbers were derived from the NI Annual Pig Inventory (conducted in June) and were estimated at 649,100. Sow numbers increased to 47,900 in 2017.

In June 2017, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 24.9 million birds, 14.4 per cent higher than in 2016. The number of laying birds (4.0 million) increased by 12 per cent in 2017, and the numbers of broilers (16.8 million) increased by 16 per cent. Poultry production is a highly vertically integrated sector in Northern Ireland and production is managed in response to market conditions and business objectives in the processing sector.

Less Favoured Areas

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. Further details are given in the Appendix.

Farms classed as **LFA farms** occupy 70 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 3.4) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 12 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1.3 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (204,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (155,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were 63,000 beef cows and 161,000 dairy cows in 2017. **LFA farms** account for 35 and 62 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

Contact: Paul Caskie, Tel: 028 9052 4427,

Email: Paul.Caskie@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 3.1 Land use, 2017

	<i>thousand hectares</i>				
	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	47	945	16	11	1,020
Common grazing	-	34	-	-	34
NI Forest Service ¹	-	-	62	12	74
Other areas	-	-	34	191	226
All land²	47	980	112	214	1,353

1. Excludes 1,700 ha let to farmers; these areas are included in the area of agricultural holdings.

2. Land area, excluding significant areas of inland water.

Table 3.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land, June 2012 - 2017

	<i>thousand hectares</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Oats	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3
Wheat	9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7
Barley: Winter	5.3	5.3	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.1
Spring	20.2	20.5	16.8	15.7	14.7	14.0
Mixed corn	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Potatoes	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1
Arable crop silage	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.6
Other field crops	5.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.3
Total agricultural crops	50.1	48.6	46.8	44.3	44.5	44.3
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3
Other horticultural crops	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total horticultural crops	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0
Grass: Under 5 years old	133.9	139.2	146.2	149.9	148.2	144.4
5 years old and over	646.0	648.8	641.8	650.4	652.6	660.6
Total grass	779.8	788.0	788.0	800.3	800.8	805.0
Total crops and grass	832.8	839.6	837.8	847.7	848.2	852.2
Rough grazing ¹	138.8	140.1	140.1	131.1	137.2	140.4
Woods and plantation	11.0	10.3	11.1	11.1	16.1	15.8
Other land ²	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9	11.8	11.4
Total area of farms	991.0	998.0	996.8	997.7	1,013.2	1,019.7

1. Excludes common rough grazing.

2. Includes set aside and land not used for agriculture.

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2012 - 2017*thousand head*

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CATTLE¹						
Dairy cows	285.4	279.5	294.2	311.5	317.1	315.8
Dairy heifers in calf	65.4	67.1	62.1	60.8	58.8	60.1
Beef cows	279.2	270.1	254.9	260.3	269.7	267.1
Beef heifers in calf	40.9	37.4	31.9	31.7	31.1	30.4
Total cows	564.6	549.6	549.1	571.8	586.9	582.9
Total heifers in calf	106.3	104.5	93.9	92.5	90.0	90.5
Bulls for service	19.0	18.8	18.1	17.7	17.4	17.2
Other cattle						
Over 2 years	117.2	113.3	132.6	121.1	101.7	106.2
1-2 years	334.5	345.2	331.8	328.3	358.1	378.7
Under 1 year	483.9	456.3	441.8	477.4	510.5	491.0
Total cattle	1,625.4	1,587.8	1,567.3	1,608.9	1,664.6	1,666.4
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	937.5	921.4	910.6	938.6	955.2	973.3
Other sheep	1,031.4	982.1	1,012.3	1,051.0	1,067.8	1,079.2
Total sheep	1,968.9	1,903.5	1,922.9	1,989.7	2,023.0	2,052.6
PIGS²						
Sows and gilts	38.3	42.5	42.8	45.6	46.4	47.9
Other pigs	388.6	437.8	474.2	524.1	554.7	601.2
Total pigs	426.9	480.3	517.1	569.7	601.1	649.1
POULTRY³						
Laying birds	2,556.7	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8
Growing pullets	1,089.2	909.3	916.3	908.0	961.9	1,202.0
Breeding flock	1,641.1	2,150.6	2,413.7	2,404.9	2,282.7	2,526.9
Table chickens	13,459.4	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6
Total ordinary fowl	18,746.4	18,910.4	19,988.8	20,760.1	21,253.8	24,458.3
Other poultry	441.7	463.5	412.4	485.6	530.0	452.3
Total poultry	19,188.2	19,373.8	20,401.1	21,245.7	21,783.8	24,910.6
HORSES & PONIES⁴	12.0	11.7	11.1	11.0	10.3	9.6
GOATS	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.8	4.2

1. From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS.

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

3. From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

4. Horses and ponies on agricultural holdings.

Table 3.4 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹ of farm, June 2017

thousand hectares

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	1	5	6	26	18
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	22
Other agricultural crops	1	1	2	6	27
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	3	14
Total crops	2	7	9	38	20
Grass: Under 5 years old	46	42	88	57	61
5 years and over	265	193	458	202	69
Total grass	311	235	546	259	68
Rough grazing ²	126	10	135	5	96
Woods/other land	7	13	21	6	77
Total area	447	265	711	308	70

1. For statistical purposes, farms classified as LFA farms have all or most of their land (after adjustment for conacre) within the LFA and are further classified as SDA or DA according to where the greater part of their LFA land lies. Lowland farms have most or all of their land outside the LFA.

2. Excludes common rough grazing.

Table 3.5 Livestock numbers by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹ of farm, June 2017

thousand head

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
CATTLE					
Dairy cows	51	104	155	161	49
Beef cows	124	80	204	63	76
Heifers in calf	22	29	51	40	56
Bulls for service	6	5	11	6	66
Other cattle					
Over 2 years	22	34	56	50	53
1-2 years	86	126	212	166	56
Under 1 year	148	157	305	186	62
Total cattle	459	536	995	672	60
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	553	220	773	200	79
Other sheep	588	259	847	232	78
Total sheep	1,141	480	1,620	432	79
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	5	14	19	29	40
Other pigs	57	152	210	392	35
Total pigs	62	167	229	420	35
POULTRY					
Laying birds	1,602	1,071	2,673	1,290	67
Table fowl	2,969	6,979	9,948	6,818	59
Other poultry	1,417	1,335	2,752	1,429	66
Total poultry	5,988	9,385	15,373	9,537	62
HORSES AND PONIES²	2	3	5	5	49
GOATS	2	1	3	1	73

1. See Note 1, Table 3.4.

2. See Note 3, Table 3.3.

4. FARM STRUCTURE

Methodological Notes In the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census, the statistical definition of a farm is the same as that applied under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), i.e. it is based on the concept of separate businesses. Until 1997, the definition was based on land ownership. The current definition is in keeping with that adopted for European Union surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, according to which a farm is:

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

but it differs from that used elsewhere in the UK where a higher minimum size threshold is applied.

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland covers all active farm businesses having one hectare or more 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.

Farms The number of active farm businesses within the scope of the June 2017 Census, 24,956, was 428 greater than in 2016. This is a net change on the previous year, with some new businesses being created (often as off-shoots from existing farms) and others merging or ceasing to be active.

Almost 23 per cent of farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass, while some 1,456 farms (5.8 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy over one quarter of the total area of crops and grass.

Business size Since quite large businesses can be operated on small areas (e.g. those with intensive livestock or horticultural crops), and land quality is variable, area alone does not accurately capture the level of business activity on farms. To overcome this problem Standard Outputs (SO) are used throughout the EU to measure farm business size and define farm type. However, in the UK it is felt that SO can be difficult to interpret and that a size definition more clearly linked to labour requirements is more meaningful. So, while farm business type is based on the EU SO approach, from 2004 onwards farm size has been determined by Standard Labour Requirements (SLR) for farms (see appendix for more detail). The system applies across the UK, but has been adapted to take account of some regional variation. Smaller field sizes in Northern Ireland, compared with the rest of the UK, mean that additional labour inputs are required for grassland and cropping activities and when applicable this is reflected in higher SLR coefficients than apply for Great Britain. Using the SLR approach, the spectrum of farm sizes that exist are grouped into four bands: **very small, small, medium or large.**

The majority of farm businesses in Northern Ireland, 76 per cent in 2017, are classified as **very small**. In 2017, there were 19,060 farms

in this category (Table 4.3) which is 409 more than in 2016. These farms are unlikely to provide full time employment or an adequate income solely from farming activities.¹ They contribute 21 per cent of the industry's total SO but account for 48 per cent of the farmed area (Table 4.14). The main activities of these farms are cattle and sheep rearing. In 2017, 58 per cent of beef cows² and 53 per cent of total sheep were to be found on very small farms. Approximately 30,552 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.12).

There were 2,945 **small** farms, generally involving one person full time with, in some cases, part time or seasonal help. These farms make important contributions to all sectors, for example accounting for 28 per cent of poultry and 26 per cent of total sheep activities; they cover 20 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 17 per cent of the full time agricultural labour force (Table 4.14).

The 1,229 **medium** and 1,722 **large** farms (together representing 12 per cent of all farms) contribute 61 per cent of the total SO from approximately one third (32 per cent) of the land area (Table 4.14). These farms dominate the dairy, pigs and poultry layer sectors with 84, 94 and 63 per cent shares of the livestock numbers, respectively.

Seventy-three per cent of **very small** and 65 per cent of **small** farms are mainly in the LFA whereas, for **medium** and **large** farms, the proportions are 59 and 46 per cent, respectively (Table 4.5).

Farm type

Ninety per cent of Northern Ireland farms derive two-thirds or more of their total SO from grazing livestock (Table 4.6), including 11 per cent classified as dairy farms and 79 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping with 272 (1.1 per cent) classified as cereal farms, 523 (2.1 per cent) as **general cropping** and 273 (1.1 per cent) as **horticulture**. The **other types** category mainly consists of specialist horse farms, (127 farms in total). Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms together (803) account for 3.2 per cent, while **mixed** farms (539) make up 2.2 per cent of the total.

Farm tenure

Almost all farms in Northern Ireland have owned land and just under half include at least some rented land. Within the total farms, only 4.5 per cent were entirely rented or leased, 44 per cent had a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 52 per cent were entirely owner-occupied (Table 4.10). Much of the rented land is taken under the conacre system of short-term lettings which is a particular feature of land tenure throughout Ireland. By renting conacre land, farmers may expand their businesses to grow more crops or keep more livestock than would be possible on the owned area. Landowners who are unable or unwilling to farm all or part of their land may let it in conacre, i.e. on a seasonal basis, (nominally for 11 months or 364 days) without entering into a long-term commitment.

¹ For further information on the persons living and working on farms of different sizes, see "Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland", DAERA 2002.

² Figures for cattle are derived from the cattle tracing system (APHIS).

Enterprises

In 2017, 3,428 farms (14 per cent) had dairy cows, 14,724 (59 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) and 20,237 (81 per cent) had cattle of some type (Table 4.16). The average number of dairy cows per herd, 92, was 2 more than in 2016. It compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of approximately 18 cows. Sixty-six per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with 9 per cent of beef cows.

Some 9,770 farms had breeding sheep (Table 4.17), with an average of 100 ewes per flock. There were relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, with only 20 farms having a flock size of 1,000 ewes or more.

In 2017, pig data was extracted from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and showed that 322 commercial pig herds were operational in June (Table 4.19). Most of the pig herds (291 in 2017) had sows, averaging 165 sows per herd (Table 4.18). Eighty-eight per cent of sows were found on farms with 100 or more sows – although these farms make up only one third of all farms with sows. Similarly, of total pigs, the largest units accounting for 36 per cent of total herds hold over 90 per cent of pigs.

Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2017, with only commercial producers considered. Of the 212 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 97 per cent had flocks over 1,000. Thirty-one businesses (15 per cent) farmed over thirty thousand birds with these farms accounting for 46 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with 64 per cent of farms having thirty thousand birds or more on farm when the Bird Register Update was conducted in June. Over 87 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2017, cereals were grown on 2,164 farms (Table 4.23), 8.7 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 14.9 hectares. Almost two-fifths (809) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, while 134 farms grew 50 hectares or more and accounted for over one third of the total cereal area grown.

Some 480 farms, 1.9 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2017. Of this number, 103 grew 10 hectares or more, with these farms accounting for almost three quarters of the total area of potatoes grown (Table 4.24).

Contact: Paul Caskie, Tel: 028 9052 4427,

Email: Paul.Caskie@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed¹, June 2017

Size group (hectares)	By crops and grass area		By total area	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	422	-	141	-
0.1 - 9.9	5,214	31,072	4,619	27,626
10.0 - 19.9	5,863	85,278	5,452	79,834
20.0 - 29.9	4,039	98,481	3,998	97,819
30.0 - 49.9	4,324	166,535	4,531	175,168
50.0 - 99.9	3,638	248,333	4,196	288,874
100.0 - 199.9	1,234	161,385	1,607	213,114
200.0 +	222	61,095	412	137,302
Total	24,956	852,179	24,956	1,019,736

1. The area farmed is after adjustment for conacre taken or let.

Table 4.2 Number of farms, average area and distribution of area by area farmed, June 2012 - 2017

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of farms	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907	24,528	24,956
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	34.3	34.3	34.6	34.0	34.5	34.1
Total area	40.8	40.7	41.1	40.1	41.3	40.9
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6
10.0 - 19.9	9.8	9.9	9.8	10.1	9.6	10.0
20.0 - 29.9	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.8	11.6	11.6
30.0 - 49.9	20.3	20.2	20.2	20.3	19.7	19.5
50.0 - 99.9	30.0	30.3	30.2	29.5	29.2	29.1
100.0 +	24.8	24.6	25.1	24.8	25.9	26.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4.3 Number of farms by business size and area farmed, June 2017

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size ¹				All sizes
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Under 10	5,324	155	59	98	5,636
10.0 - 19.9	5,609	173	39	42	5,863
20.0 - 29.9	3,667	267	59	46	4,039
30.0 - 49.9	3,145	864	218	97	4,324
50.0 - 99.9	1,226	1,211	598	603	3,638
100.0 +	89	275	256	836	1,456
Total	19,060	2,945	1,229	1,722	24,956

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2012 - 2017

<i>number</i>						
Business size¹	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Very small	18,441	18,719	18,521	19,078	18,651	19,060
Small	3,076	3,063	2,935	2,951	2,938	2,945
Medium	1,210	1,187	1,226	1,249	1,238	1,229
Large	1,558	1,534	1,546	1,629	1,701	1,722
Total	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907	24,528	24,956

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹, June 2017

<i>number</i>					
Business size²	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,128	5,761	13,889	5,171	73
Small	1,019	882	1,901	1,044	65
Medium	325	394	719	510	59
Large	283	501	784	938	46
Total	9,755	7,538	17,293	7,663	69

1. For statistical purposes, farms classified as LFA farms have all or most of their land (after adjustment for conacre) within the LFA and are further classified as SDA or DA according to where the greater part of their LFA land lies. Lowland farms have most or all of their land outside the LFA.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.6 Number of farms by business size and type, June 2017

Business type¹	Business size¹				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	223	30	11	8	272
General cropping	426	36	16	45	523
Horticulture	93	50	27	103	273
Pigs	54	24	31	72	181
Poultry	158	239	118	107	622
Dairy	269	723	607	1,036	2,635
Cattle & sheep (LFA) ²	13,115	1,181	240	151	14,687
Cattle & sheep (lowland) ²	4,354	542	119	82	5,097
Mixed	285	99	49	106	539
Others	83	21	11	12	127
All types	19,060	2,945	1,229	1,722	24,956

1. For a description of how business size and type are measured, see Appendix.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.5

Table 4.7 Number of farms by business type, June 2012 - 2017

	<i>number</i>					
Business type¹	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cereals	296	311	297	281	275	272
General cropping	373	497	368	516	506	523
Horticulture	278	304	289	293	280	273
Pigs	186	177	179	185	174	181
Poultry	560	591	591	601	592	622
Dairy	2,594	2,598	2,655	2,742	2,694	2,635
Cattle & sheep (LFA) ²	14,426	14,457	14,316	14,497	14,325	14,687
Cattle & sheep (lowland) ²	4,736	4,786	4,775	5,014	4,969	5,097
Mixed	623	561	559	588	570	539
Others	213	221	199	190	143	127
All types	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907	24,528	24,956

1. See Note 1, Table 4.6.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

Table 4.8 Number of farms by business type and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹, June 2017

	<i>number</i>				
Business type²	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	12	33	45	227	17
General cropping	94	138	232	291	44
Horticulture	23	66	89	184	33
Pigs	37	68	105	76	58
Poultry	182	223	405	217	65
Dairy	552	911	1,463	1,172	56
Cattle & sheep	8,782	5,905	14,687	5,097	74
Mixed	49	160	209	330	39
Others	24	34	58	69	46
All types	9,755	7,538	17,293	7,663	69

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.6.

Table 4.9 Number of farms by business size and proportion of area owner occupied, June 2017

	<i>farms</i>				
Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size¹				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	11,373	905	277	301	12,856
50-<100%	4,473	1,321	616	861	7,271
>0-<50%	2,211	636	316	536	3,699
None owner occupied	1,003	83	20	24	1,130
All farms	19,060	2,945	1,229	1,722	24,956

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2012 - 2017

	<i>hectares</i>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Owner-occupied	678,167	688,912	690,477	713,095	730,767	737,994
Rented	312,815	309,040	306,327	284,653	282,481	281,742
Total	990,983	997,952	996,804	997,748	1,013,248	1,019,736
Percentage of owned land	68.4	69.0	69.3	71.5	72.1	72.4
Common grazing	36,845	35,407	35,631	35,486	35,325	34,289

Table 4.11 Average concrete rents by type of use, 2011 - 2016

	<i>£/hectare</i>					
Use	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Grass	195	216	226	236	241	262
Potatoes	703	501	734	706	508	670
Cereals	246	241	263	293	289	301
Rough grazing	41	37	33	38	49	51
All uses	179	179	182	191	208	224

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2017

Labour item	<i>number of persons</i>				
	Business size ¹				All farms
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Farmers and partners					
Full time	9,488	3,163	1,560	2,549	16,760
Part time	11,991	895	281	419	13,586
Total	21,479	4,058	1,841	2,968	30,346
Spouses of farmers	4,122	1,014	514	799	6,449
Other workers					
Full time	641	301	315	2,184	3,441
Part time	2,343	816	393	767	4,319
Casual/seasonal	1,967	826	424	932	4,149
Total other workers	4,951	1,943	1,132	3,883	11,909
Total agricultural labour force	30,552	7,015	3,487	7,650	48,704

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

Table 4.13 Distribution of the farm labour force by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹, June 2017

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	6,066	5,054	11,120	5,640	66
Part time	5,468	4,131	9,599	3,987	71
Total	11,534	9,185	20,719	9,627	68
Spouses of farmers	2,278	1,915	4,193	2,256	65
Other workers					
Full time	740	892	1,632	1,809	47
Part time	1,449	1,316	2,765	1,554	64
Casual/seasonal	1,200	1,108	2,308	1,841	56
Total other workers	3,389	3,316	6,705	5,204	56
Total agricultural labour force	17,201	14,416	31,617	17,087	65

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

Table 4.14 Distribution of numbers of livestock, hectares of crops, full-time labour and output by business size, June 2017

A. Number of farms having the item
 B. Total for each item ('000)
 C. Percentage of Northern Ireland total of each item

Item	Business size ¹												All Farms		
	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large					
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	14,995	583	35	2,619	319	19	1,098	208	12	1,525	556	33	20,237	1,666	100
Dairy cows	500	9	3	962	43	13	720	57	18	1,246	207	66	3,428	316	100
Beef cows	11,180	156	58	1,983	62	23	714	24	9	847	26	10	14,724	267	100
Slaughter cattle >1 year	12,686	170	43	2,444	86	22	1,040	44	11	1,491	98	25	17,661	397	100
Sheep															
Total	7,639	1,079	53	1,395	530	26	455	206	10	484	238	12	9,973	2,053	100
Ewes	7,476	514	53	1,381	249	26	447	97	10	466	113	12	9,770	973	100
Pigs															
Total	127	16	2	51	22	3	45	52	8	99	559	86	322	649	100
Sows	106	2	3	48	2	4	41	4	8	96	40	84	291	48	100
Finishers/ Weaners	102	11	2	47	15	3	42	38	8	96	421	87	287	485	100
Poultry															
Total	174	2,224	9	264	7,089	28	138	5,205	21	185	10,393	42	761	24,911	100
Layers	45	228	6	77	975	25	41	745	19	49	2,015	51	212	3,963	100
Crops															
Oats	161	1	30	67	0	20	40	0	14	61	1	36	329	2	100
Wheat	222	2	19	136	2	21	80	1	11	222	4	49	660	9	100
Barley	917	7	33	383	5	21	184	3	14	333	7	32	1,817	21	100
Potatoes	234	0	12	100	1	17	51	0	9	95	3	62	480	4	100
Crops & grass	18,753	408	48	2,896	164	19	1,200	90	11	1,685	191	22	24,534	852	100
Rough grazing	4,138	69	49	761	35	25	277	17	12	303	19	14	5,479	140	100
Total area	19,060	488	48	2,945	202	20	1,229	116	11	1,722	215	21	24,956	1,020	100
Labour															
Full-time labour force ²	9,393	11	50	2,634	4	17	1,167	2	9	1,685	5	23	14,879	22	100
Output															
Standard Output ³	19,060	408	21	2,945	344	18	1,229	277	14	1,722	919	47	24,956	1,948	100

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.
2. The full-time labour force includes full-time farmers, partners, spouses and other full-time workers.
3. Figures in Column B are in million euros; for a definition of Standard Output, see Appendix.

Table 4.15 Distribution of (a) dairy cows and (b) beef cows by herd size, June 2017¹

Number per farm	Dairy Cows				Beef cows			
	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cows	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Cows	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cows	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cows
<10	263	1,698	7.7	0.5	6,185	28,006	42.0	10.5
10 - 14	106	1,260	3.1	0.4	2,327	27,580	15.8	10.3
15 - 19	94	1,580	2.7	0.5	1,718	29,064	11.7	10.9
20 - 29	181	4,363	5.3	1.4	1,968	47,056	13.4	17.6
30 - 39	259	8,929	7.6	2.8	1,031	34,944	7.0	13.1
40 - 49	243	10,796	7.1	3.4	513	22,795	3.5	8.5
50 - 59	267	14,529	7.8	4.6	315	17,030	2.1	6.4
60 - 69	232	14,966	6.8	4.7	224	14,389	1.5	5.4
70 - 99	605	50,781	17.6	16.1	272	22,347	1.8	8.4
100 & Over	1,178	206,880	34.4	65.5	171	23,891	1.2	8.9
Total 2017	3,428	315,782	100	100	14,724	267,102	100	100
Total 2016	3,529	317,146			14,756	269,746		
Average 2017		92.1				18.1		
Average 2016		89.9				18.3		

1. Cattle figures for 2016 and 2017 were derived from APHIS - the DAERA system for recording and tracing cattle movements.

Table 4.16 Distribution of (a) slaughter cattle one year-old and over and (b) total cattle by herd size, June 2017¹

Number per farm	Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter				Total cattle			
	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cattle	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Cattle	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cattle	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cattle
1 - 4	4,922	10,897	27.9	2.7	609	1,702	3.0	0.1
5 - 9	3,369	22,955	19.1	5.8	1,363	9,667	6.7	0.6
10 - 19	3,620	50,115	20.5	12.6	2,967	42,687	14.7	2.6
20 - 29	1,926	46,233	10.9	11.6	2,606	63,128	12.9	3.8
30 - 39	1,143	38,992	6.5	9.8	2,018	69,094	10.0	4.1
40 - 49	717	31,669	4.1	8.0	1,604	70,729	7.9	4.2
50 - 69	819	47,785	4.6	12.0	2,203	129,434	10.9	7.8
70 - 99	560	46,092	3.2	11.6	2,009	167,187	9.9	10.0
100 - 199	469	63,765	2.7	16.1	2,838	396,894	14.0	23.8
200 - 299	69	16,420	0.4	4.1	1,061	256,598	5.2	15.4
300 & over	47	22,235	0.3	5.6	959	459,326	4.7	27.6
Total 2017	17,661	397,158	100	100	20,237	1,666,446	100	100
Total 2016	17,486	375,809			19,942	1,664,592		
Average 2017		22.5				82.3		
Average 2016		21.5				83.5		

1. Cattle figures for 2016 and 2017 were derived from APHIS - the DAERA system for recording and tracing cattle movements.

Table 4.17 Distribution of (a) ewes and (b) total sheep by flock size, June 2017

Number per farm	Ewes				Total Sheep			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	1,988	26,763	20.3	2.7	1,015	13,106	10.2	0.6
25 - 49	2,137	76,634	21.9	7.9	1,291	47,491	12.9	2.3
50 - 99	2,483	173,423	25.4	17.8	2,038	148,165	20.4	7.2
100 - 199	1,924	263,088	19.7	27.0	2,394	342,436	24.0	16.7
200 - 299	668	159,609	6.8	16.4	1,233	301,850	12.4	14.7
300 - 399	279	93,909	2.9	9.6	656	225,375	6.6	11.0
400 - 499	131	57,086	1.3	5.9	400	178,399	4.0	8.7
500 - 699	86	49,271	0.9	5.1	495	290,332	5.0	14.1
700 - 999	54	44,453	0.6	4.6	260	212,982	2.6	10.4
1,000 & Over	20	29,105	0.2	3.0	191	292,419	1.9	14.2
Total 2017	9,770	973,341	100.0	100.0	9,973	2,052,555	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>9,598</i>	<i>955,198</i>			<i>9,810</i>	<i>2,022,973</i>		
Average 2017		99.6				205.8		
<i>Average 2016</i>		<i>99.5</i>				<i>206.2</i>		

Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2017¹

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts)			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	73	274	25.1	0.6
10 - 19	27	372	9.3	0.8
20 - 49	46	1,536	15.8	3.2
50 - 99	46	3,352	15.8	7.0
100 - 199	43	6,120	14.8	12.8
200 - 299	18	4,313	6.2	9.0
300 - over	38	31,938	13.1	66.7
Total 2017	291	47,905	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>46,443</i>		
Average 2017		164.6		
<i>Average 2016</i>		<i>158.0</i>		

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

Table 4.19 Distribution of (a) Finishers/Weaners and (b) total pigs by herd size, June 2017¹

Number per farm	Finisher/Weaners				Total pigs			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	28	143	9.8	0.0	28	180	8.7	0.0
10 - 19	17	203	5.9	0.0	24	307	7.5	0.0
20 - 49	33	1,027	11.5	0.2	36	1,135	11.2	0.2
50 - 99	18	1,254	6.3	0.3	18	1,324	5.6	0.2
100 - 199	22	3,064	7.7	0.6	27	4,039	8.4	0.6
200 - 399	32	9,341	11.1	1.9	29	8,343	9.0	1.3
400 - 999	42	28,626	14.6	5.9	44	27,656	13.7	4.3
1,000 - 1,999	46	63,724	16.0	13.1	50	72,873	15.5	11.2
2,000 & over	49	377,605	17.1	77.9	66	533,263	20.5	82.2
Total 2017	287	484,987	100.0	100.0	322	649,120	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>447,169</i>			<i>337</i>	<i>601,101</i>		
Average 2017		1689.9				2015.9		
<i>Average 2016</i>		<i>1461.3</i>				<i>1783.7</i>		

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

Table 4.20 Distribution of (a) laying hens and (b) broilers by flock size, June 2017¹

Number per farm	Laying Hens				Broilers			
	Numbers of Farms	Hens ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Hens	Numbers of Farms	Broilers ('000)	Percentages of Farms	Broilers
1-999	6	3	2.8	0.1	4	1	1.2	0.0
1,000-4,999	15	41	7.1	1.0	2	7	0.6	0.0
5,000-9,999	57	417	26.9	10.5	7	58	2.2	0.3
10,000-19,999	86	1,273	40.6	32.1	62	1,027	19.1	6.1
20,000-29,999	17	406	8.0	10.2	42	1,077	12.9	6.4
30,000-49,999	25	896	11.8	22.6	79	3,034	24.3	18.1
50,000 & over	6	926	2.8	23.4	129	11,562	39.7	69.0
Total 2017	212	3,963	100.0	100.0	325	16,767	100.0	100.0
Total 2016	202	3,550			323	14,459		
Average 2017		18,692				51,590		
Average 2016		17,574				44,765		

1. Figures for poultry numbers are taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 4.21 Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2017¹

Number per farm	Total poultry			
	Numbers of Farms	Birds ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Birds ('000)
1-999	20	9	2.6	0.0
1,000-4,999	36	102	4.7	0.4
5,000-9,999	102	739	13.4	3.0
10,000-19,999	230	3,552	30.2	14.3
20,000-29,999	102	2,507	13.4	10.1
30,000-49,999	124	4,627	16.3	18.6
50,000 & over	147	13,375	19.3	53.7
Total 2017	761	24,911	100.0	100.0
Total 2016	757	21,784		
Average 2017		32,734		
Average 2016		28,776		

1. Figures for poultry numbers are taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 4.22 Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2017

Number per farm (ha)	Barley				Wheat			
	Number of Farms	Area of Barley (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Barley	Number of Farms	Area of Wheat (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Wheat
under 1	30	21	1.7	0.1	10	6	1.5	0.1
1 - 4.9	697	2,025	38.4	9.6	211	672	32.0	7.7
5 - 9.9	450	3,167	24.8	15.0	179	1,284	27.1	14.7
10 - 19.9	359	4,900	19.8	23.2	140	1,928	21.2	22.1
20 - 29.9	135	3,256	7.4	15.4	58	1,396	8.8	16.0
30 - 39.9	51	1,748	2.8	8.3	25	843	3.8	9.7
40 - 49.9	41	1,810	2.3	8.6	15	644	2.3	7.4
50 & over	54	4,218	3.0	19.9	22	1,958	3.3	22.4
Total 2017	1,817	21,145	100.0	100.0	660	8,730	100.0	100.0
Total 2016	1,935	22,336			659	8,616		
Average 2017		11.6				13.2		
Average 2016		11.5				13.1		

Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2017

Total cereals				
Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms Cereals	
under 1	39	26	1.8	0.1
1 - 4.9	770	2,239	35.6	6.9
5 - 9.9	522	3,710	24.1	11.5
10 - 19.9	401	5,530	18.5	17.1
20 - 29.9	169	4,034	7.8	12.5
30 - 39.9	85	2,913	3.9	9.0
40 - 49.9	44	1,941	2.0	6.0
50 & over	134	11,906	6.2	36.9
Total 2017	2,164	32,298	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>2,292</i>	<i>33,439</i>		
Average 2017		14.9		
<i>Average 2016</i>		<i>14.6</i>		

Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2017

Potatoes				
Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms Potatoes	
under 1	111	51	23.1	1.3
1 - 4.9	193	445	40.2	11.0
5 - 9.9	73	520	15.2	12.8
10 - 19.9	51	712	10.6	17.6
20 - 29.9	19	434	4.0	10.7
30 - 39.9	7	226	1.5	5.6
40 - 49.9	14	620	2.9	15.3
50 & over	12	1,046	2.5	25.8
Total 2017	480	4,053	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2016</i>	<i>481</i>	<i>3,737</i>		
Average 2017		8.4		
<i>Average 2016</i>		<i>7.8</i>		

5. INCOMES AT FARM LEVEL

Methodological Notes

This section contains information, collected in the Farm Business Survey (FBS), on average incomes for the main types and sizes of full time farm businesses in Northern Ireland. A detailed analysis of FBS results is published in 'Farm Incomes in Northern Ireland 2016/17'.

Farms in the FBS are classified by type and size. A brief description of the typology system can be found in the Appendix to this publication.

The accounting concepts and practices used in compiling FBS income data differ from those on which the Aggregate Agricultural Account, presented in Section 2, are based. The income measures derived from the two sources are not therefore directly comparable. It should be noted that the latest year for which FBS results are available is 2016/17. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2017/18 year.

Income measures

Farm Business Income (FBI) was introduced in January 2008 as new headline measure of farm income in the UK following consultation in 2006-07. It is closely aligned to the main EU measure of farm incomes 'Family Farm Income' and therefore allows easier comparison between Northern Ireland and other Member States. FBI is the return to all unpaid labour (farmer, spouses and others with an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business) and to their capital invested in the farm business which includes land and buildings.

Net Farm Income (NFI) was the previous headline measure of farm income. NFI represents the return to the farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and tenant-type capital invested in the farm business. In order for NFI to represent the return to farmer and spouse alone, a notional deduction is made for any unpaid labour that is provided in addition to that of the farmer or spouse. Also, to confine NFI to tenant type activities and assets of the business, an imputed rent is firstly deducted for owner occupied land and buildings and for landlord type improvements made by the tenant. Secondly, no account is taken of interest paid on any farming loans, overdrafts or mortgages or any interest earned on financial assets.

FBI differs from NFI in that it represents the return to all unpaid labour, not just the farmer and spouse and it treats the tenure of farms as it is: tenants as tenants, owner occupiers as owner occupiers and those with both types of tenure as mixed.

Cash Income (CI), measures the difference between total farm receipts and total farm cash costs. This measure excludes notional items such as depreciation charges and livestock/crop valuation changes. It also takes no account of net expenditure on capital investment. CI provides a better indication than NFI and FBI of the short term income position. Trends in Cash Income since 2012/2013 are presented in Table 5.1.

**Income changes
2016/17**

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2015/16 and 2016/17 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 270 farm businesses which were in the FBS in both account years and are at least 0.5 Standard Labour Requirements in size. This sample of farms is representative of 91 per cent of the farms of this size in Northern Ireland. The only significant types of farm business excluded from the FBS are horticulture and poultry.

At the individual farm type level, the results show that Farm Business Income, Net Farm Income and Cash Income all increased between 2015/16 and 2016/17 on Cereal, General Cropping, Pig, Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (Lowland), and Mixed farms. Whereas, for Cattle & Sheep (LFA) farms there were increases in both Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income but their Cash Income showed a decrease.

Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income increased from £14,200 in 2015/16 to £21,928 in 2016/17, an increase of £7,728 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income increased from £9,266 in 2015/16 to £16,387 in 2016/17 (an increase of £7,121 per farm) and average Cash Income increased from £33,886 in 2015/16 to £38,741 in 2016/17 (an increase of £4,855 per farm).

**Provisional
estimates of
incomes for
2017/18**

Provisional estimates of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2018 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types increasing from £21,928 in 2016/17 to £37,880 in 2017/18 i.e. an increase of £15,952 or 73 per cent per farm.

Farm Business Income is also expected to rise (by varying amounts) for Dairy, Pigs and Mixed farm types between 2016/17 and 2017/18. For these farms, the upturn in their incomes is mainly attributed to higher milk and pig prices in the 2017/18 accounting year. The results also show that Farm Business Income is expected to fall by varying amounts on Cereals, General Cropping, Cattle & Sheep (LFA) and Cattle & Sheep (Lowland) farms for 2017/18 when compared with the previous year. These farm types also experienced higher product prices in 2017/18 but the associated rises were deemed insufficient to offset the combined effect of reduced receipts from agri-environment schemes and the extra weather related costs that these farms incurred.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £38,741 in 2016/17 to £54,692 in 2017/18, which is an increase of £15,951 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to be £32,339 in 2017/18 which is a £15,952 increase on the previous year.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in mid-January 2018 and relate to an account year ending in mid February 2018. They are based on the most recent information on prices, animal populations and marketings, and crop areas and yields. They should be regarded only as broad indications of the levels of income in 2017/18, as a small change between the expected and actual out-turn values of either output or input can lead to a large change in income.

Contact: Paul Keatley, Tel. (028) 9052 4063,
E-mail. Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 5.1 Indices of average cash income in real terms by farm type, 2012/2013 to 2017/18¹

Indices: 2009/10 - 2011/12 = 100

Business type	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18 (provisional)
Cereals	139	124	103	85	92	84
General cropping	113	54	40	43	66	59
Pigs	75	98	103	69	112	151
Dairy	82	132	107	62	76	149
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	82	92	80	97	95	94
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	94	110	113	101	96	92
Mixed	103	106	93	41	81	98
All types	84	110	94	74	84	117

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.2 Distribution of farms by cash Income (CI), net farm income (NFI), farm business income (FBI) and by farm type, 2016/17

per cent

Income (£'s)	Dairy			Cattle and sheep (LFA)			All types		
	CI	NFI	FBI	CI	NFI	FBI	CI	NFI	FBI
Less than 0	5	23	18	4	25	11	4	28	12
1 - 4,999	1	11	6	6	9	7	4	9	8
5,000 - 9,999	1	5	15	3	11	10	5	9	13
10,000 - 14,999	5	9	7	16	16	19	10	12	11
15,000 - 19,999	8	4	5	16	13	15	13	9	13
20,000 - 29,999	8	8	15	21	10	16	16	7	14
30,000 - 49,999	31	21	20	18	9	11	23	15	15
> 50,000	43	19	14	15	7	12	24	10	13
Total	..	100	..	..	100	..	..	100	..
Number of farms in sample		101			95			270	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17£'000 per farm¹

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43.4	48.7
General cropping	...	...	...	...	53.4	111.1	...	...	26.7	50.4
Pigs	...	...	19.7	49.5	...	...	47.1	94.0	45.5	75.6
Dairy	6.4	11.0	26.0	32.1	54.1	53.6	58.6	84.7	43.7	56.0
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	20.3	18.6	37.9	39.6	79.6	74.8	145.2	153.5	31.5	30.7
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	18.7	18.0	22.7	22.6	44.5	57.7	...	...	24.0	24.3
Mixed	9.0	14.0	13.7	39.5	50.9	66.5	73.0	117.6	33.7	56.3
All types	18.9	18.1	30.2	34.5	59.5	61.5	66.2	91.5	33.9	38.7

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.4 Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17£'000 per farm¹

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5	16.5
General cropping	...	...	...	...	25.5	75.8	...	...	5.8	27.6
Pigs	...	...	-7.4	20.4	...	...	6.0	79.0	16.1	58.7
Dairy	-1.2	4.8	10.4	15.8	24.6	26.0	8.7	32.1	12.0	23.6
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	9.7	12.1	20.7	25.6	44.3	60.2	111.9	130.0	17.1	21.4
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	7.4	13.0	11.1	15.3	23.2	27.8	...	...	10.4	16.6
Mixed	10.7	11.5	4.3	15.7	35.3	48.2	18.8	46.7	14.9	27.6
All types	8.6	12.0	14.4	19.9	30.4	36.9	18.4	44.2	14.2	21.9

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.5 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17£'000 per farm¹

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1	9.1
General cropping	...	...	...	...	11.3	61.4	...	...	-9.4	13.1
Pigs	...	...	9.3	37.7	...	...	27.9	100.6	31.7	73.9
Dairy	-4.8	0.7	7.6	10.7	25.4	27.0	11.7	34.7	12.3	23.1
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	5.1	7.2	12.4	16.5	26.2	40.2	71.0	89.5	9.9	13.6
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	-0.5	4.5	1.1	4.6	23.0	24.0	...	...	2.6	7.8
Mixed	2.5	2.6	0.0	10.4	-6.0	10.8	32.3	62.7	8.4	21.8
All types	3.1	6.2	7.5	11.8	24.9	30.7	19.1	44.6	9.3	16.4

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.6 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2016/17

	<i>£'000 per farm¹</i>						
	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (SLR)	1.2	1.6	3.1	1.1	1.2	2.1	1.7
Total farm area (ha)	91.3	74.8	85.5	100.5	70.5	76.0	88.3
Farm Business income	16.5	27.6	23.6	21.4	16.6	27.6	21.9
Total tenant's capital	112.9	90.1	212.9	104.8	136.5	179.9	144.8
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	4.0	8.4	38.8	34.9	62.4	74.9	42.9
crops	8.5	10.2	20.5	7.3	8.6	14.9	11.5
other	1.2	0.9	1.9	0.5	0.7	1.6	1.0
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	1.8	0.0	94.4	33.7	30.8	34.4	49.5
machinery	97.4	70.6	57.3	28.3	33.9	54.1	39.9

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.7 Average closing valuations by farm type, 2015/16 and 2016/17

	<i>£'000 per farm¹</i>					
	Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
ASSETS						
Total fixed assets	1,343.4	1,359.1	1,092.9	1,106.6	1,218.5	1,228.0
of which:						
land and buildings	1,192.1	1,207.7	1,031.4	1,044.8	1,129.6	1,138.9
other fixed assets	151.3	151.3	61.5	61.8	88.9	89.1
Total current assets	80.8	84.7	50.4	53.9	66.9	71.6
of which:						
trading livestock, crops and stores	61.2	61.1	41.4	44.1	54.4	56.6
debtors/other short term lending	12.3	16.7	.2	.5	3.8	5.3
cash in hand at the bank	7.3	6.9	8.8	9.3	8.8	9.7
A Total assets	1,424.2	1,443.8	1,143.3	1,160.4	1,285.4	1,299.6
LIABILITIES						
Total long/medium term loans	81.6	82.6	7.0	7.9	32.0	32.0
of which:						
bank/other institutional	80.7	81.7	7.0	7.9	31.4	31.5
Total short term loans	43.1	42.9	9.6	8.7	20.2	19.3
of which:						
bank overdraft	29.0	27.8	8.1	7.4	14.4	13.3
B Total external liabilities	124.7	125.5	16.6	16.6	52.2	51.3
NET WORTH (A-B)	1,299.5	1,318.2	1,126.7	1,143.8	1,233.2	1,248.3

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

6. FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

Turnover	Gross turnover in the food and drinks processing sector experienced a downturn in 2015 with turnover decreasing in five subsectors. Provisional figures for 2016 estimate that turnover in the sector will fall slightly with a decrease in turnover in four out of the ten subsectors.
Performance	Sales per employee in the food and drinks processing sector experienced a decrease in 2015 following five years of steady growth. Value added per employee has grown steadily over the last six years. Return on capital employed (ROCE) has varied from year to year over the six years.
Employment	The total number of full time equivalent employees (i.e. total processing sector and agency employment) involved in the processing of food and drink products has grown each year from 2011. Employment in the input supply sectors has remained fairly static over the last six years.
Fishing Employment	The total number of full time and part time employees in the fishing industry has grown annually since 2013.
Destination of Sales	Great Britain was the main destination of sales from the NI food and drinks processing sector in 2015. The Republic of Ireland is the largest export market. Exports to Republic of Ireland and other European Union countries account for 24 per cent of Northern Ireland's food and drinks processing sector sales. The Rest of the World accounts for 3.1 per cent of the sector's total sales.
Farm Level Exports	<p>Great Britain was the main destination for NI farm level external sales for three out of the five subsectors in 2016. The Republic of Ireland was the main destination for the total NI farm level external sales. Sales of raw milk to the Republic of Ireland account for 50 per cent of total external sales and 63 per cent of total export sales.</p> <p>Farm level sales to Great Britain and other EU countries declined in 2016. Farm level sales to the Republic of Ireland increased. External and export farm level sales have both declined since 2014. This decline is largely driven by a fall in the value of raw milk exports to the Republic of Ireland.</p>
Non-Edible Exports	The total value of non-edible product exports has increased in 2016 following two years of decline.

Contact: Philip Hamilton, Tel. (028) 9052 4312,
E-mail. Philip.Hamilton@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 6.1 Gross Turnover of the NI food and drinks processing sector^{1,2}

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (provisional)
Animal by-products	29	37	40	51	57	61
Bakeries	272	273	286	286	285	299
Beef and sheepmeat	1,039	1,167	1,214	1,244	1,256	1,226
Drinks	387	391	416	416	377	394
Eggs	97	113	132	139	152	152
Fish	71	70	76	77	77	77
Fruit and vegetables	253	257	301	309	314	325
Milk and milk products	976	972	1,000	1,010	905	904
Pigmeat	250	300	316	328	302	290
Poultrymeat	671	675	697	706	701	696
Total processing sector	4,044	4,254	4,477	4,566	4,424	4,423

1. For a description of how the data have been estimated, see the publication "Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics", DAERA. Figures for 2016 have been estimated by adjusting the 2015 baseline, largely on the basis of information available within DAERA.
2. These figures do not include an estimate of the gross turnover of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

Table 6.2 Performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector in Northern Ireland^{1,2}

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sales per employee (£)	187,544	201,357	208,202	214,815	222,912	205,548
Value added per employee (£)	31,869	32,204	33,621	33,795	34,673	36,260
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	10.5	10.1	10.6	10.3	10.4	10.2

1. For a description of how the data have been estimated, see the publication "Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics", DAERA.
2. These figures do not include an estimate of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

Table 6.3 Estimated employment in the NI food and drinks processing sector and input supply sectors

	<i>Full-time equivalents</i>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (provisional)
Processing of products^{1,2}						
Animal by-products	114	120	117	116	116	117
Bakeries	3,165	3,260	3,261	3,466	3,548	3,625
Beef and sheepmeat	3,916	4,136	4,385	4,549	4,748	4,689
Drinks	1,437	1,385	1,377	1,362	1,319	1,343
Eggs	263	268	291	311	359	367
Fish	512	516	533	553	550	555
Fruit and vegetables	2,096	2,152	2,305	2,400	2,434	2,558
Milk and milk products	2,050	2,163	2,182	1,856	1,987	2,076
Pigmeat	1,291	1,312	1,378	1,366	1,415	1,473
Poultrymeat	5,124	4,985	5,014	4,510	5,049	5,216
Total processing sector	19,966	20,294	20,843	20,486	21,524	22,017
Agency Employment in food and drinks processing						
	1,788	1,755	2,008	2,403	2,286	2,741
Manufacture and supply of inputs³						
Animal feed	740	740	750	750	750	750
Fertilisers and lime	200	200	200	200	200	200
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	890	900	910	910	910	910
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	730	740	750	750	730	720
Services ⁴	1,120	1,130	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Total supply sector	3,680	3,710	3,750	3,750	3,740	3,730

1 See note 1 Table 6.1.

2 These figures do not include an estimate of the employment of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

3 Estimated from trade directory information and other DAERA sources.

4 Includes contractors, veterinary surgeons, workers in auction marts, employees of farming and marketing associations and artificial insemination workers.

Table 6.4 Employment in Northern Ireland fishing industry, 2013-2016

	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Catching	675	139	683	149	708	151	700	175
Processing and marketing	460	170	463	175	484	232	516	241
Others	110	37	104	44	112	46	113	47
Total	1,245	346	1,250	368	1,304	429	1,329	463

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA.

Table 6.5 Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2015

	<i>£ million</i>								
	NI ¹	GB ²	ROI ³	Other ⁴ EU	ROW ⁵	Inter- vention	Total Sales	External ⁶ Sales	Export ⁷ Sales
Animal By-Products	*	*	*	*	*	-	56.7	*	*
Bakeries	155.9	53.2	73.1	0.4	2.4	-	284.9	129.1	75.8
Beef/Sheepmeat	206.9	813.3	83.8	126.9	24.6	-	1,255.6	1,048.7	235.4
Drinks	170.4	41.8	135.2	11.4	18.3	-	377.0	206.6	164.8
Eggs	46.3	91.0	*	*	-	-	151.8	105.5	14.5
Fish	12.8	33.9	6.1	21.9	2.3	-	77.0	64.2	30.3
Fruit/Vegetables	108.1	153.3	50.3	1.0	0.8	-	313.5	205.4	52.1
Milk/Milk Products	259.9	262.9	102.9	220.7	56.9	1.2	904.6	643.5	380.5
Pigmeat	121.4	101.5	65.4	*	*	-	302.1	180.7	79.2
Poultrymeat	*	*	89.7	*	*	-	700.9	*	*
Total	1,147.3	2,098.4	624.8	415.5	136.9	1.2	4,424.1	3,275.5	1,177.1

*Information has been suppressed to avoid disclosure.

1. Northern Ireland, 2. Great Britain, 3. Republic of Ireland, 4. Other European Union, 5. Rest of World, 6. Sales outside NI, 7. Sales outside UK.

Table 6.6 Destinations and value of Northern Ireland external farm level subsector sales, 2016

	<i>£ million</i>					
	GB ¹	ROI ²	Other EU ³	ROW ⁴	External ⁵	Exports ⁶
Live Cattle	13.9	10.6	4.5	0.0	29.0	15.1
Live Sheep	4.0	34.5	0.2	0.0	38.7	34.7
Live Pigs	3.7	1.5	0.0	0.0	5.2	1.5
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	24.5	6.4	10.9	0.0	41.8	17.3
Raw Milk	0.0	116.7	0.0	0.0	116.7	116.7
Total	46.1	169.7	15.6	0.0	231.4	185.3

1. Northern Ireland, 2. Great Britain, 3. Republic of Ireland, 4. Other European Union, 5. Rest of World, 6. Sales outside NI, 7. Sales outside UK.

Table 6.7 Farm level¹ external sales by destination

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GB ²	32.0	39.1	50.3	45.5	50.0	46.1
ROI ³	173.6	167.1	189.8	196.8	167.0	169.6
Other EU ⁴	14.1	17.3	19.0	21.5	19.1	15.7
ROW ⁵	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External⁶	219.7	223.5	259.1	263.8	236.1	231.4
Export⁷	187.7	184.4	208.8	218.3	186.1	185.3

1. 'Farm level' sales consist of live cattle, live sheep, live pig, live poultry and raw milk sales.

2. Great Britain, 3. Republic of Ireland, 4. Other European Union, 5. Rest of World, 6. Sales outside NI, 7. Sales outside UK.

Table 6.8 Value of non-edible product exports

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
						(provisional)
Animal feedstuffs ¹	90.1	97.7	124.2	103.1	101.1	109.9
Animal hides and skins	26.2	26.4	37.0	31.2	32.4	26.4
Processed wood and timber	48.2	40.6	41.8	47.6	47.0	56.2
Inedible animal and veg products ²	19.7	15.4	23.2	24.4	19.9	16.7
Total	184.2	180.0	226.2	206.3	200.4	209.2

1. Excluding un-milled cereals.

2. Including cut flowers, hardy nursery stock, bulbs, bedding, etc. and excluding hides and skins.

Source: HMRC Regional Trade Statistics.

7. RURAL POPULATION

Methodological Notes

With the exception of Table 6.14, the definition of rural used throughout this section is that provided in the Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 2015). This classification recommends a default urban-rural boundary at a population threshold of 5,000.

Much of the information included in these tables is aggregated from postcode level data. However, some data is available only at small area and not at postcode level. Small areas which comprise both urban and rural postcodes have been classified by NISRA as 'mixed' rural/urban areas. Therefore, where information is available only at small area level, tables in this section show data for 'mixed' areas.

The NISRA 2015 classification also includes a consideration of service provision, achieved by calculating estimated travel times to the location of a major service provider, operationalised as the town centre of a medium or larger settlement (at least 10,000 usual residents). Areas are further classified by their distance to Belfast. Where data is available, tables in this section provide information for rural areas within or outside a 20 minute drive-time of a medium or larger settlement, and within or outside an hour's distance from Belfast. A full description of the NISRA 2015 settlement classification is available at:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/geography/review-of-the-statistical-classification-and-delineation-of-settlements-march-2015.pdf>.

Information in Table 6.14 is based on the Locale definitions of rural and urban used by Ofcom in 2017

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/108813/ni-connected-nations-2017.pdf. Locale is a third-party data source which uses a combination of Government conurbation definitions, population density, urban sprawl boundaries, Ordnance Survey roadmaps and visual inspection to classify areas. Details of the Locale definitions are available at: http://www.bluewavegeographics.com/images/LOCALE_Classification.pdf

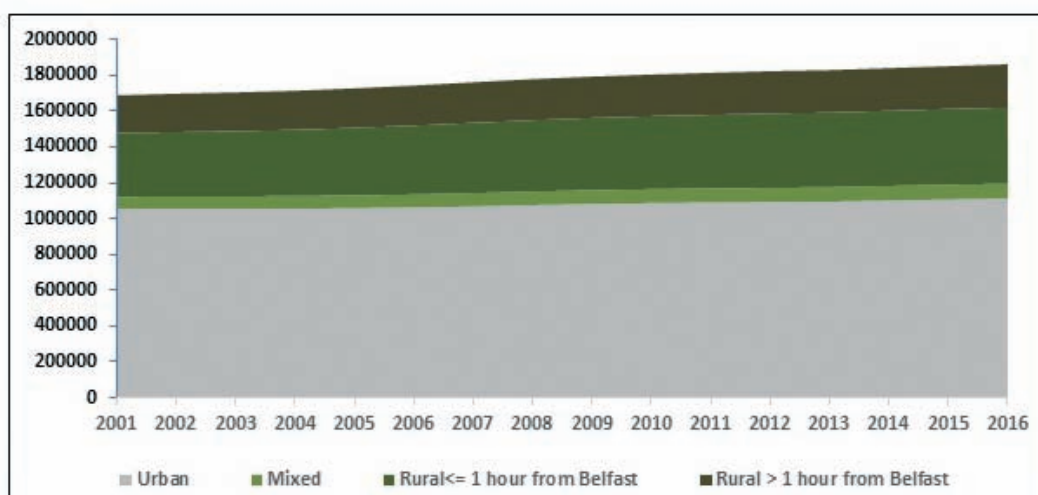
Rural Population

In 2016, based on mid-year population estimates at small area level, 60 percent of people in Northern Ireland lived in urban areas, 4 percent in mixed urban/rural areas and 36 percent in rural areas. Of those living in rural areas, 59 percent lived within 20 minutes' drive time of a medium or larger settlement and 64 percent lived within an hour's drive time from Belfast. Rural areas have experienced a much greater population growth since 2001 than urban areas, with the biggest increases being in mixed urban/rural areas, and in rural areas less than an hour's distance from Belfast (see Figure 6.1).

Income	Rural households on average enjoy higher incomes than their urban counterparts. However, there is a stark difference in incomes between those living in more remote and those in more accessible rural areas. Residents of more remote areas have lower incomes and a much higher risk of poverty than rural dwellers living closer to a medium or larger settlement and/or to Belfast (see Tables 6.2 and 6.3).
Businesses	In 2017, there were 71,615 businesses which were registered for VAT and/or PAYE schemes in Northern Ireland. In 2017 businesses were legally obliged to register for VAT once their turnover exceeded £85,000. Agriculture is by far the leading industry in rural areas, particularly in those which are more than an hour's distance from Belfast. The majority of small businesses without employees are also located in rural areas, reflecting the dominance of agriculture in the rural economy (see Tables 6.4 and 6.5).
Education	The adult population of more remote rural areas have on average a lower level of formal educational attainment than those living in urban areas (see Table 6.6). In contrast, rural school leavers are more likely to achieve GCSE or A level qualifications and to enter higher education than their urban peers (see Tables 6.7 and 6.8).
Housing	Rural areas show a higher level of home ownership and a much lower level of social renting than urban areas, although the latter may in part reflect availability. House prices are in general higher and have been rising faster in rural than in urban areas. The average household size is also higher in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 6.9 - 6.11).
Transport and telecommunications	Rural dwellers have a heavy reliance on private transport, in contrast to those in urban areas who enjoy much better access to bus and rail services (see Tables 6.12 and 6.13). Availability of superfast broadband and mobile services, though improving, is still much poorer in rural than in urban areas, due in part to the relatively high cost of deploying communications infrastructure in areas of sparse population or difficult terrain (see Table 6.14).
Health	Average life expectancy is higher and mortality rates are lower in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 6.15 and 6.16). Median emergency response times are much higher in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 6.17 and 6.18).

Contact: Paul Caskie, Tel. (028) 9052 4427,
E-mail. Paul.Caskie@daera-ni.gov.uk

Figure 7.1 Population Trends in NI



Source:

NISRA Mid year estimates 2016, <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population>
 Population change Small area look up table, urban/rural status 2015,
<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=10&themeName=People+and+Places>

Table 7.1 Median equivalised¹ net² disposable weekly household income, 2014/15

	Before Housing Costs £	After Housing Costs £
Urban	420	373
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	442	413
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	363	329
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	436	409
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	384	343
All Rural	422	397
All Households (NI)	420	380

1. Household income is adjusted to account for variation in household size and composition.

2. Net income is gross income less income tax, national insurance and a number of other costs. For full details see: Households Below Average Income Northern Ireland Quality and Methodology Information Report, 2014/15 <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/hbai-2014-15-quality-methodology-information-report.pdf>

Source: DfC, *Households below average income, 2014/15*.

Table 7.2 Percentage of individuals with incomes below 60% UK Median Income¹ 2014/15

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
All Urban	21	22
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	17	17
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	34	32
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	19	17
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	30	31
All Rural	23	22
All Households (NI)	22	22

1. Relative poverty threshold.

Source: DfC, *Households below average income, 2014/15*.

Table 7.3 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered business operating in NI by broad industry group¹, 2017

Broad Industry Group	Urban	Rural					Not assigned ³	Total
		<=20 mins to settlement ²	>20mins to settlement ²	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural		
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	3%	50%	47%	52%	45%	96%	1%	17,845
Production	42%	36%	22%	39%	20%	58%	0%	4,870
Construction	32%	36%	32%	41%	26%	67%	0%	9,680
Motor trades	40%	39%	20%	38%	21%	60%	0%	2,525
Wholesale	48%	34%	17%	35%	16%	51%	0%	3,225
Retail	67%	20%	13%	21%	13%	33%	0%	6,060
Transport & storage (inc. postal)	37%	39%	24%	40%	22%	62%	0%	2,360
Accommodation & food services	71%	16%	12%	17%	12%	29%	0%	3,865
Information & communication	75%	18%	6%	19%	5%	24%	1%	1,855
Finance & insurance	74%	17%	8%	18%	7%	25%	1%	1,180
Property	66%	22%	11%	23%	10%	33%	1%	2,075
Professional, scientific & technical	71%	19%	10%	21%	8%	29%	1%	5,630
Business administration and support services	53%	30%	16%	30%	16%	46%	0%	2,465
Public administration and defence	100%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	50
Education	73%	19%	8%	18%	9%	27%	1%	655
Health	71%	18%	10%	18%	10%	29%	0%	2,875
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	70%	20%	10%	21%	9%	30%	0%	4,400
All Industries	43%	32%	25%	34%	23%	57%	0%	71,615

1. For full description of standard industrial classification (2007) see Office for National Statistics: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/ukasic2007>

2. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.

3. A small number of businesses could not be classified as Urban/Rural due to incomplete geographical information.

*Counts under 5 have been suppressed.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and thus may not sum to totals.

Source: *Interdepartmental Business Register, 2017, DoF.*

Table 7.4 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee sizeband, 2017

	Urban	Rural					Not assigned ²	Total
		<=20 mins to settlement ¹	>20mins to settlement ¹	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural		
Sole Trader (No employees)	14%	42%	43%	46%	39%	85%	1%	15,615
Other³ (No employees)	16%	45%	38%	47%	35%	83%	1%	6,870
Micro (1-9 employees)	53%	29%	18%	30%	17%	47%	0%	41,000
Small (10-49 employees)	67%	21%	11%	22%	10%	33%	0%	6,560
Medium (50-249 employees)	74%	18%	8%	19%	7%	26%	0%	1,265
Large (250+ employees)	87%	11%	2%	8%	3%	13%	*	305
All	43%	32%	25%	34%	23%	57%	0%	71,615

1. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.

2. A small number of businesses could not be classified as Urban/Rural due to incomplete geographical information.

3. This sizeband includes partnerships, holding companies and those companies that are not yet trading, for example, if a factory is under construction.

*Counts under 5 have been suppressed.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and thus may not sum to totals.

Source: Interdepartmental Business Register, 2017, DoF.

Table 7.5 Highest educational qualification 2016/17

	Degree level or higher qualifications	Qualifications below degree level	No qualifications	Base ¹ =100%
All Urban	25%	49%	25%	2136
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	27%	49%	24%	640
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	19%	49%	32%	471
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	26%	50%	24%	699
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	21%	46%	33%	412
All rural	24%	49%	27%	1,111
Total	25%	49%	26%	3,247

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2016/17.

Table 7.6 Performance of school leavers, 2015/16

	Urban	Rural					All NI
		<=20 mins to settlement ¹	>20mins to settlement ¹	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C²	79%	85%	86%	86%	84%	85%	82%
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C² inc. GCSE English and maths	64%	73%	72%	74%	71%	73%	68%
2+ A Levels A*-E²	56%	59%	61%	60%	59%	60%	57%
TOTAL	13,262	5,584	3794	5956	3,422	9378	22,640

1. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.

2. Including equivalents.

Source: DE School Leaver's Survey 2015/16.

Table 7.7 Destinations of school leavers, 2015/16

	Urban	Rural					All NI
		<=20 mins to settlement ¹	>20mins to settlement ¹	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	
Higher Education²	40%	46%	47%	47%	46%	47%	43%
Further Education	35%	36%	32%	35%	34%	34%	34%
Employment	10%	7%	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%
Training³	10%	7%	10%	7%	11%	8%	10%
Unemployment	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Others	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
TOTAL	13,262	5,584	3,794	5,956	3,422	9378	22,640

1. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.

2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institutions may provide courses at both Further and Higher Education levels.

3. Numbers entering training include those entering the Training for Success programme, operated by the Department for the Economy. Training on Training for Success is delivered by a range of training providers, including Further Education Colleges. Training for Success trainees who receive training at Further Education Colleges are recorded as being in training and not in Further Education. This convention avoids double counting of Training for Success trainees.

Source: DE School Leaver's Survey 2015/16.

Table 7.8 Housing Tenure, 2016/17

	Owner occupied/ co-ownership	Social rented	Private rented	Rent free	Base =100%
All Urban	60%	21%	18%	1%	1,707
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	77%	8%	13%	3%	470
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	78%	7%	14%	2%	355
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	80%	6%	12%	3%	522
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	74%	10%	15%	2%	303
All rural	77%	7%	13%	2%	825
Total	66%	17%	16%	1%	2,532

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2016/17.

Table 7.9 House prices, 2017

	Q3 2017	Increase since Q1, 2015
All Urban	£126,040	18.5%
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	£150,923	20.8%
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	£147,806	20.6%
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	£153,126	18.7%
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	£141,177	26.2%
All Rural	£149,910	20.7%
All Households (NI)	£132,169	19.1%

Source: NI House price Index, Detailed Statistics, November, 2017, <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-house-price-index-statistical-reports>

Table 7.10 Average household size, 2016/17

	Mean number persons per household	Base=100%
All Urban	2.29	1,707
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	2.61	470
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	2.61	355
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	2.60	522
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	2.63	303
All Rural	2.61	825
All Households (NI)	2.39	2,532

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2016/17.

Table 7.11 Household access to car or van, 2016/17

	No cars /vans	1 car /van	2 cars vans	>2 cars /vans	Base=100%
All Urban	26%	46%	24%	4%	1,707
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	8%	41%	39%	13%	470
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	8%	39%	37%	16%	355
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	7%	41%	39%	13%	522
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	11%	38%	36%	16%	303
All rural	8%	40%	38%	14%	825
Total	20%	44%	28%	7%	2,532

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2016/17.

Table 7.12 Access to public transport¹, 2013-2015

	Urban	Rural	All NI
Walk to nearest bus stop			
3 minutes or less	41%	23%	34%
44 minutes or longer	0%	9%	3%
Bus service frequency			
At least once every 15 minutes	20%	0%	13%
Less than daily	0%	2%	1%
Walk to nearest railway station			
6 minutes or less	4%	1%	3%
44 minutes or longer or n/a	43%	91%	61%
Rail service frequency²			
At least once an hour	83%	66%	77%
Less frequent service	1%	2%	1%

1. These data are from the household level questionnaire which is asked once for the whole household.

2. This question was not asked if the respondent replied 'Not applicable' to the question on distance to nearest railway station.

Source: Travel Survey for NI, Urban-Rural report 2013-15, <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/travel-survey-northern-ireland-tsnj-urban-rural-report-2013-2015>

Table 7.13 Telecommunication services, 2017

	Urban ¹	Rural ¹	NI
Broadband speeds and availability			
Average download speeds (Mbits)	45	24	39
Average monthly data usage (GB)	201	152	187
Average upload speeds (Mbits)	6	5	5
Coverage of Superfast Broadband	97%	57%	85%
Mobile Coverage			
Indoor voice (premises) in partial not-spots	12%	42%	21%
Indoor voice (premises) in complete not-spots	0%	4%	1%
Indoor data (premises) in partial not-spots	13%	50%	24%
Indoor data (premises) in complete not-spots	0%	4%	1%

1. Based on Locale classification of Urban and Rural.

Source: Ofcom, 2017: Connected Nations 2017, Northern Ireland, https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/108813/ni-connected-nations-2017.pdf

Table 7.14 Life expectancy at birth¹

Years	2010-12		2011-13		2012-14		2013-15	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Urban	76.7	81.4	77.0	81.6	77.3	81.6	77.2	81.5
Mixed Urban/Rural	79.8	82.3	79.6	82.6	79.1	82.2	(2)	(2)
Rural	79.1	83.5	79.5	83.7	79.9	83.7	80.0	83.7
All NI	77.7	82.1	78.0	82.3	78.3	82.3	78.3	82.3

1. The expected years of life at time of birth based on mortality patterns in the period in question. Based on the average death rates over a 3 year period.

2. Figures not yet published

Source: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-regional-report-2016>, <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-life-expectancy-decomposition-2017>

Table 7.15 Standardised Death Rate - All age, all cause Mortality¹

Deaths per 100,000 population	2008-12	2009-13	2010-14
Urban	1,152	1,129	1,105
Mixed Urban/Rural	1,024	1,027	1,041
Rural	987	965	950
All NI	1,090	1,068	1,048

1. Calculated by standardising (using the direct method) the average death rate in NI over a 5 year period to the 2013 European standard.

Source: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-regional-report-2016>

Table 7.16 Median Fire Response Times¹

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Urban	06:44	06:42	06:07	05:15	05:21
Mixed Urban/Rural	09:20	09:54	08:53	07:58	08:23
Rural	13:49	14:44	12:19	11:48	12:07
All NI	07:57	08:10	07:00	06:20	06:26

1. The median response time taken by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) to respond to an incident.

Source: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-regional-report-2016>

Table 7.17 Median Ambulance Response Times¹

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Urban	04:53	05:42	05:43	06:53	07:46
Mixed Urban/Rural	05:56	07:22	07:17	07:42	09:09
Rural	11:46	12:41	12:30	13:33	15:03
All NI	05:50	06:51	06:48	08:15	09:21

1. The median time taken by the first ambulance to respond to an incident.

Source: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-regional-report-2016>

8. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Disease

DAERA has on-going programmes of disease management and eradication. Recent diseases of importance are bovine tuberculosis (TB), bovine brucellosis (BR), bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Since BSE was first reported in Northern Ireland during 1988, there have been total of 2,189 cases. Since 2012 there have been no recorded cases and in 2017 the World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE) approved "negligible risk status" for NI - the safest level possible.

During 2017, there were 2,208 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine TB. Since peaking in 2002, the herd incidence has reduced but 2017 has seen a sharp rise compared to previous years - this is thought to be due to an increase in infection and an improvement in testing for the disease.

The last confirmed BR breakdown occurred in February 2012 and Northern Ireland achieved Official Brucellosis Freedom on 6th October 2015. In 2017 there was one unconfirmed brucellosis breakdown based on serology.

BVD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle that can be spread directly by infected animals, or indirectly, for example by contaminated materials. The Northern Ireland programme is an industry led scheme and the compulsory phase began on 1st March 2016. It is based on testing ear tissue tag samples, collected using tissue sample-enabled official identity tags, for BVD virus. In 2017, the animal incidence remains at less than 1%.

Animal Welfare

DAERA undertakes farm animal welfare surveillance activity and plays an important and active role in educating livestock keepers in standards of welfare. Farm premises, farming practices, animal transportation, markets and slaughter houses are all assessed against legal requirements, and enforcement used where necessary. The responsibility for many of these routine and targeted checks falls to the Veterinary Service Animal Health Group (VSAHG).

VSAHG carried out 534 on-farm welfare inspections in 2017. Inspections take place as a result of complaints from members of the public; or are targeted as a result of information produced by vets working in meat plants; or are programmed as part of the statutory cross compliance surveillance system to assess whether on-farm welfare meets the standards laid down in legislation.

Of the 534 welfare inspections carried out on farms by VSAHG during 2017, 89 per cent were complaint, targeted, or cross compliance inspections (where herds are identified as being "at risk") with the remaining 11 per cent being random cross compliance checks.

Of the 57 random cross compliance inspections in 2017, 100 per cent achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 100 per cent in 2015 and 96 per cent in 2016).

Of the complaint and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 90 per cent achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 80 per cent in 2015 and 88 per cent in 2016). Just 9.6 per cent of these 477 inspections indicated levels of non-compliance needing corrective action. This category of inspections carries a higher risk of non-compliance compared to those that are randomly selected from all Northern Ireland keepers as they are identified through known triggers. The vast majority of Northern Ireland herd keepers are compliant.

Taking all welfare inspections into account, 2.4 per cent were assessed as showing a serious welfare problem requiring immediate action with respect to application of administrative or criminal penalties.

All welfare inspections where a breach is recorded are referred for consideration of basic farm payment scheme penalties. In 2017, a total of 3 farm animal keepers were disqualified by the courts as a result of serious welfare breaches.

All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms are treated as a matter of urgency. DAERA also co-operate closely with other organisations such as PSNI and the USPCA.

*Contact: Annabel Millar, Tel. (028) 9052 4058,
E-mail: Annabel.Millar@daera-ni.gov.uk*

Table 8.1 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Statistics

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing ¹	25,776	25,671	25,841	26,105	25,945	25,733
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	26,992	26,703	26,670	27,716	27,504	28,378
Total number of animals TB tested	1,643,626	1,620,055	1,607,660	1,662,526	1,709,790	1,750,170
Total new herd TB incidents ²	1,695	1,479	1,397	1,688	1,739	2,208
Number of TB reactors	10,897	8,271	8,838	10,996	11,923	15,949

1. Based on the number of cattle herds presenting cattle for a TB herd test during the previous four years.

2. Herds with at least one TB skin reactor animal but no TB skin reactor animals during the previous 12 months.

Table 8.2 Bovine Brucellosis (BR) Statistics

	2012	2013	2014	2015 ³	2016	2017
No. cattle herds eligible for BR testing ¹	23,189	23,121	23,063	23,041	22,547	21,999
Total number of unrestricted Herd Tests	21,622	20,807	20,221	15,286	8,689	8,788
Total number of animals BR tested	938,693	926,298	902,672	732,716	253,265	245,838
Total new herd BR incidents ²	23	26	8	0	2	1
New BR herd incidents confirmed by isolation of Br. abortus	1	0	0	0	0	0
Number of BR reactors	64	32	10	0	2	1
Number of BR reactors confirmed by isolation of Br. abortus	8	0	0	0	0	0

1. Based on the number of cattle herds presenting cattle for a brucellosis herd test during the previous four years.

2. Herds with at least one brucellosis serological reactor animal but no reactor animals during the previous 12 months.

3. No confirmed BR breakdowns since February 2012 and Northern Ireland declared Officially Brucellosis Free on 6th October 2015.

Table 8.3 Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Eradication Programme Statistics

	2017 Compulsory
Number of Herds with BVD Animal Statuses Set	17,317
Number of Herds with Positive BVD Animal Statuses (Prevalence)	1,764 (10.2%)
Number of Animals with BVD Status Set	533,254
Number of Animals with Positive BVD Status (Prevalence)	3,526 (0.66%)
Number of Animals with Inconclusive BVD Status (Prevalence)	46 (0.01%)

1. Compulsory testing was introduced from 1st March 2016. Before then, participation was on a voluntary basis.

Table 8.4 Outcomes of on-farm animal welfare inspections completed on NI farms in 2017

Type of inspections	Compliance with animal welfare legislation	Number of Inspections	Category of Non-compliance	Number per category	Percentage of total %
Cross-compliance programme of random inspections	No	0	A	0	0
			B	0	0
			C	0	0
	Yes	57		57	100%
	Total	57		57	100%
Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections	No	46	A	22	4.6
			B	11	2.3
			C	13	2.7
	Yes	431		431	90.4
	Total	477		477	100%
All inspections	No	46	A	22	4.2
			B	11	2.0
			C	13	2.4
	Yes	488		488	91.4
	Total	534		534	100%

1. Reference EC decision 2006/778. Categories of non-compliance are defined as follows:

- Category A: non-compliance related to housing or animal treatment with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties, though corrective action is required within 3 months.
- Category B: non-compliance associated with staff training, record keeping or frequency of inspection of animals with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties, though notice should give an appropriate amount of time to make the necessary improvements i. e. more than 3 months.
- Category C: a serious welfare problem requiring immediate action with respect to application of administrative or criminal penalties.

9. ENVIRONMENT

Local Authority Collected Waste In 2016/17, Northern Ireland's councils collected 985,994 tonnes of Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal waste (see table 9.1). This was a 1.7 per cent increase on the 969,157 tonnes collected in 2015/16. Household waste accounts for the majority of total LAC municipal waste arisings and has varied between 88 per cent and 89 per cent in recent years. The longer term trend has been a reduction in LAC municipal waste arisings from 985,176 tonnes in 2010/11 to a low of 913,546 in 2012/13, a 7.3 per cent decrease. Since then arisings have increased by 7.9 per cent. The household waste per capita and household waste per household followed a similar trend to the total waste arisings showing a fall until 2012/13 and then a gentle increase since.

The recycling rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste have increased over the last seven years. The LAC recycling rate increased from 36 per cent in 2010/11 to 44 per cent in 2016/17 whilst the household recycling rate increased from 37 per cent in 2010/11 to 44 per cent in 2016/17. It is important to bear in mind that the recycling rate has included reuse as well as dry recycling and composting rate from 2012/13 onwards, this added around 0.1 percentage points to the rate.

The proportion of LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery has seen strong growth between 2010/11 to 2016/17 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 1.4 per cent in 2010/11 to 18 per cent in 2016/17.

The landfill rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste have been declining over the last seven years. The landfill rate for LAC municipal waste recorded a new low of 37 per cent in 2016/17, which is 3 percentage points less than the 2015/16 rate (40 per cent) and 26 percentage points less than the 2010/11 rate (63 per cent).

The amount of biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW) sent to landfill in 2016/17 has fallen by 42 per cent compared with the amount sent in 2010/11. Whilst the tonnage of BLACMW being sent to landfill is decreasing in line with the allocation, the proportion of the allocation used has remained similar at around 75-82 per cent, with the exception of 2011/12 and 2012/13 when 66 per cent and 86 per cent of the allocation was used.

Waste Management Groups (WMGs) produce, develop and implement Waste Management Plans for their areas of responsibility and are an important part of the data submission process. The group with the largest share of the population is arc21 with 59 per cent. The North West Regional Waste Management Group (NWRWVG) has 16 per cent of the population with the remaining 25 per cent residing in councils belonging to no waste management

group. There were six councils in arc21: Antrim & Newtownabbey; Ards & North Down; Belfast; Lisburn & Castlereagh; Mid & East Antrim; and Newry, Mourne & Down. NWRWMG contained two councils: Causeway Coast & Glens; and Derry City & Strabane. The remaining three councils were not members of any WMG: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon; Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The presence of these gases in the atmosphere affects the temperature of the earth. There are concerns that increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are contributing to climate changes with potentially harmful consequences for the environment and human health. Agriculture is a major contributor to emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.

In 2015, Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 20.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This was an increase of 0.6 per cent compared to 2014. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 18 per cent compared to the base year (see figure 9.1). The base year is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for fluorinated gases. The largest sectors in terms of emissions in 2015 (see figure 9.2) were agriculture (29 per cent), transport (21 per cent) and energy supply (19 per cent). Most sectors showed a decreasing trend since the base year. The largest decreases were in the energy supply, residential and waste sectors. Emissions from the agriculture sector decreased by 3.3 per cent between the base year and 2015, whereas, between 2014 and 2015 its emissions increased by 1.3 per cent.

Water quality There are a number of ways to assess water quality. An overall classification which uses a combination of biological, chemical and hydromorphological quality elements (including macroinvertebrates, pH and ammonia) can be derived from the specification of quality elements in the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This classification permits the quality status of river water-bodies to be assigned as one of five classes from 'high' through to 'bad'.

WFD classifications prior to 2015 were based on the first cycle water body set that related to 623 water bodies. During the first cycle, improvements were made to the classification tools and standards that resulted in a reduction in the number of water bodies for the second cycle. Within the second cycle, there were a total of 497 surface water bodies in Northern Ireland. This includes 450 rivers, 21 lakes, and 26 transitional and coastal waters. The total area covered remains the same but the water bodies across the two cycles are not directly comparable.

In 2015, approximately 12 per cent of river water bodies were classified as 'poor' or 'bad' quality, using the new water body sets and new standards. This compares with approximately 14 per cent classified as 'poor' or 'bad' in 2014 (see table 9.2).

Regional monitoring of nitrate concentrations in groundwater across Northern Ireland began in 2000. The Groundwater Daughter Directive (2006/118/EC) sets the groundwater quality standard at 50 mg NO₃/l. In the period 2000 to 2006, approximately 91 per cent of sites had an annual mean concentration of less than 40 mg NO₃/l and approximately 82 per cent were less than 25 mg NO₃/l. Regional monitoring re-commenced in 2008, after a major review of the network was undertaken. The figures both pre and post review are broadly comparable. In 2016, nitrate concentrations were monitored at 52 groundwater sites across Northern Ireland giving an average concentration of 4.1 mg NO₃/l. Groundwater nitrate concentrations across Northern Ireland are generally low with 51 of the 52 (98 per cent) stations below 25 mg NO₃/l in 2016. Note that one station equals 2.0 per cent.

Agri-environmental Schemes Agri-environmental schemes are managed in Northern Ireland under the Rural Development Programme (RDP). In 2015, 305,000 hectares (approximately 29 per cent of NI farmland) had been managed under agri-environment scheme agreements. These schemes include the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS), Countryside Management Scheme (CMS), the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme (ESAS) and the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS). During 2016, the area of agricultural land managed through these schemes decreased by 85 per cent to 46,000 hectares (approximately 4-5 per cent of NI farmland) and maintained this level in 2017. This was due to the expiration in 2016 of those remaining 10 year agreements from the older agri-environment schemes (CMS and ESAS). Within the newer NICMS scheme, a significant proportion of the total number of agreements also came to the end of their 7 year term in late 2015. The land within this NIC1 proportion was considered to be outside the agreement period from 01/01/2016. There are now only approximately 585 agreements still active within the NICMS scheme.

The trends for uptake of agri-environment schemes and the area under agreement have been determined by a number of factors including length of scheme agreement, farmer participation, available funding and resources to manage and deliver schemes. In 2017 DAERA launched its new agri-environment scheme - the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS). This is a voluntary scheme under the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is part financed by the EU. It offers participants a 5-year agreement to deliver a range of environmental measures.

Organic farming Organic farming involves holistic production management systems for crops and livestock, based on ecological principles that impose strict limitations on farm inputs, especially purchased inputs, in order to minimise damage to the environment and wildlife. Farming is only considered to be ‘organic’ at EU-level if it complies with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91. Northern Ireland has one of the lowest proportions of farmland under organic management amongst the EU-15. The area of land farmed organically in Northern Ireland has fallen by 44 per cent from 15 thousand hectares in 2010 to 8 thousand hectares in 2016. The UK overall recorded a decrease of 29 per cent, from 718 thousand hectares in 2010 to 508 thousand hectares in 2016 (see table 9.5).

Forestry In Northern Ireland the state owned forest area has changed little since 1995 (see table 9.6). In 2012 the Northern Ireland Woodland Base-map incorporated new woodland data from the DAERA Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) project. This has contributed a significant additional area of woodland that had not previously been captured by any of the original datasets. Remote sensing was used to identify significant areas of non-woodland and the removal of these also resulted in an improved estimate. Following the introduction of a new system the area of ‘privately owned forest area’ is estimated to be 50 thousand hectares in 2016/17. Privately-owned forest area data for the years prior to 2011/12 are now thought to be under-estimates.

The area of woodland in the UK has increased over the past century. Approximately 5 per cent of the UK was covered by woodland in 1924; in 2005 almost 12 per cent of the UK was wooded.

Grant support to encourage afforestation and sustainable management of privately owned woodlands is provided by forestry measures in the Rural Development Programme. In 2016/17, 208 hectares of new woodland was planted and part funded by the European Commission under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. This is the same amount supported in 2014/15 and an increase on the 54 hectares supported in 2015/16. This dip in 2015/16 can be explained by the closure of the 2006-2013 Rural Development Programme and the opening of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

Contact: Paul Caskie, Tel. (028) 9052 4427

E-mail. Paul.Caskie@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 9.1 Local Authority Collected Waste Management Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2011/12 - 2016/17

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Arisings						
Total LAC municipal waste arisings (tonnes)	949,491	913,546	924,412	951,423	969,157	985,994
Household waste arisings (tonnes)	834,149	803,624	814,764	839,569	860,786	875,965
Non household waste arisings (tonnes)	115,343	109,922	109,649	111,853	108,371	110,028
	88%	88%	88%	88%	89%	89%
Household waste per capita and per household						
Annual household waste per capita (kg)	459.8	440.7	445.3	456.2	464.9	470.4
Annual household waste per household (tonnes)	1.170	1.121	1.130	1.158	1.179	1,190
Recycling						
LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	38.4	38.8	40.7	41.4	41.8	44.0
Household waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	39.7	39.8	41.4	42.0	42.2	44.4
Energy Recovery						
LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery (%)	2.9	6.9	10.1	14.9	17.6	18.5
Landfill						
LAC municipal waste landfilled (%)	58.1	53.6	48.6	43.4	40.3	37.3
Household waste landfilled (%)	56.7	52.8	48.0	42.7	39.7	36.7
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW)						
biodegradable LAC municipal waste landfilled (tonnes)	309,792	276,723	251,951	229,099	218,898	204,380
biodegradable LAC municipal waste allocation (tonnes)	465,950	320,000	305,714	291,428	277,142	262,857
proportion of allocation utilised (%)	66	86	82	79	79	78

Source: NIEA, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2016>

Notes:

LAC = local authority collected.

Rates calculated by dividing total tonnage of waste sent in each category by total waste arisings.

In 2012/13, reuse was included with recycling and composting. The impact was small, adding less than 0.1 percentage points to the NI rate.

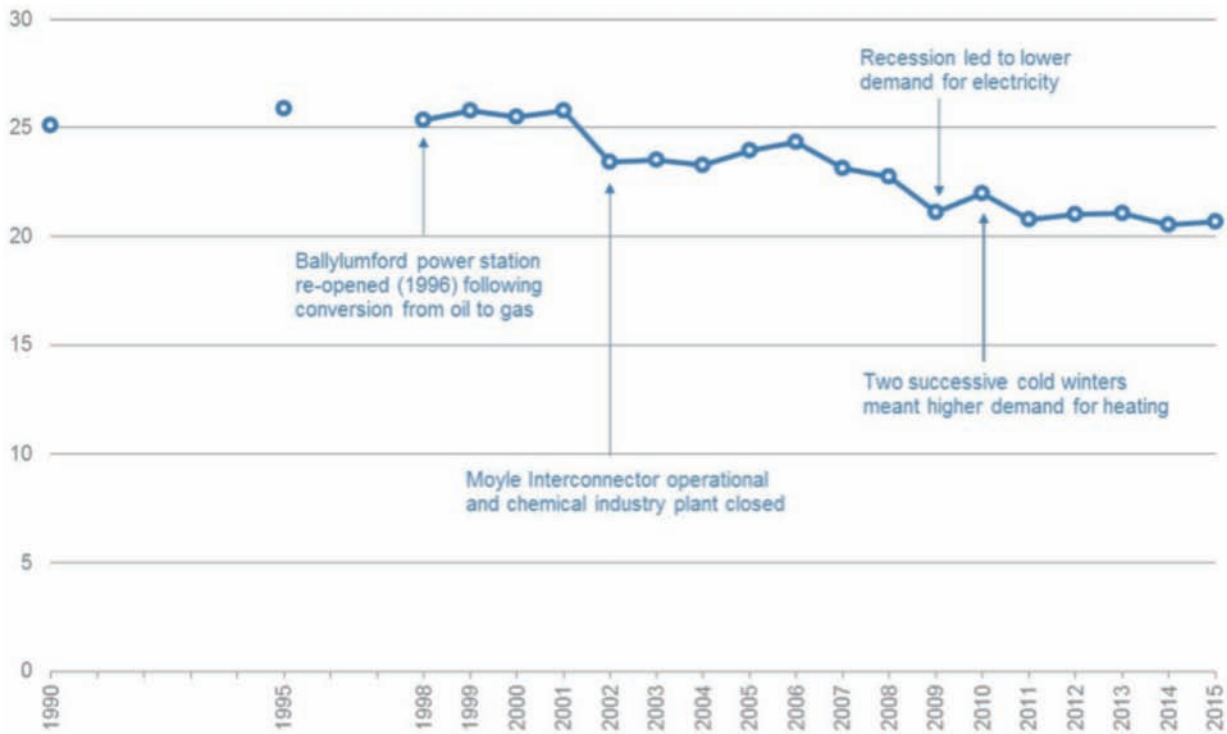
The per capita rates are calculated by dividing household waste arisings by population (using NISRA mid-year estimates).

The per household rates are calculated by dividing household waste arisings by number of households (estimated from the total housing stock from LPS adjusted for vacant properties using the 2011 census).

Energy recovery is when waste products are converted into energy through either incineration or the application of other technologies.

Under the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme regulations councils have been allocated a number of allowances (each allowance represents 1 tonne) for each year until 2019/20.

Figure 9.1 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland, 1990 and 2015



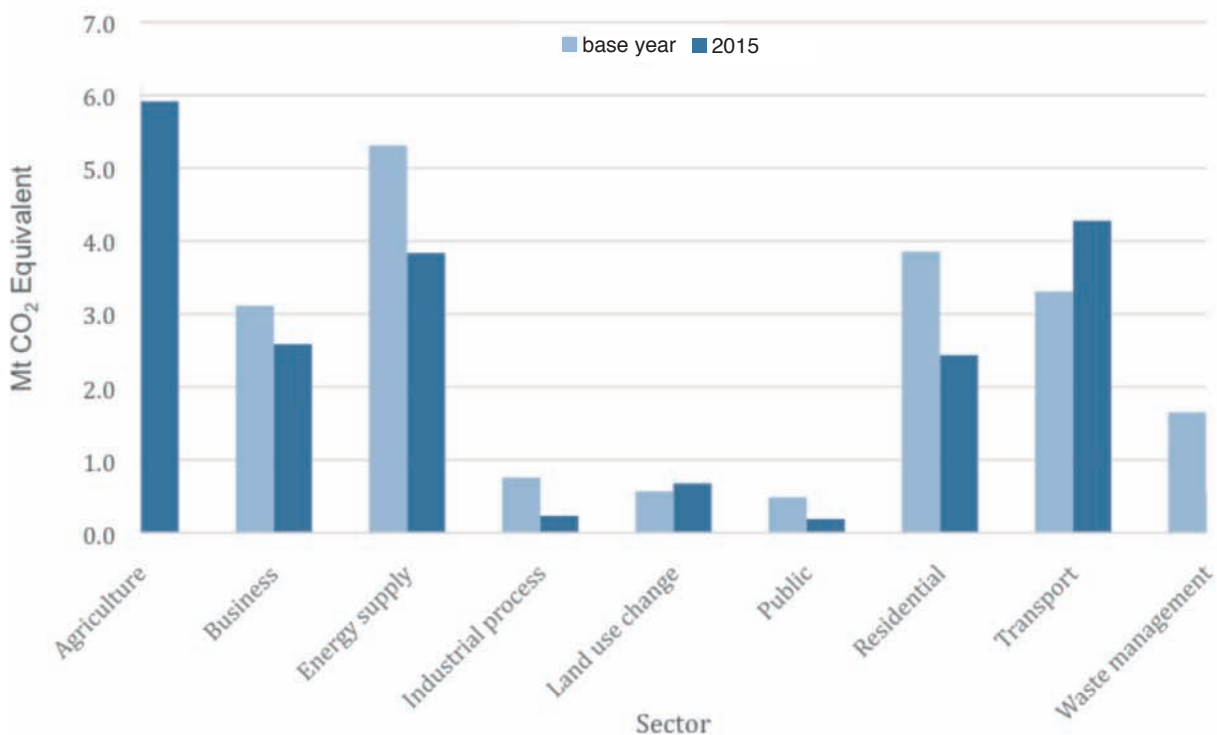
Source: Ricardo Energy & Environment.

http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=932

Note: Figures amended from previously published figures due to on-going improvements to data collection or estimation techniques.

Note: The base year for UK greenhouse gas emissions is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for fluorinated gases.

Figure 9.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland by sector, base year and 2015



Source: Ricardo Energy & Environment

Note: The base year for UK greenhouse gas emissions is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for fluorinated gases.

Table 9.2 Percentage of River Water Bodies Achieving Water Framework Directive Classification Overall (Second Cycle Water Body Set and Environmental Standards^{1,2,3}, 2010 - 2015

Percentage of river water-bodies

Classification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
High	-	-	-	-	2.2	1.8
Good	-	-	-	-	29.8	30.9
Moderate	-	-	-	-	52.4	54.4
Poor	-	-	-	-	12.9	10
Bad	-	-	-	-	1.8	1.8
No data	-	-	-	-	0.9	1.1

1. Source: Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive statistics report October 2015.
2. The river waterbody classification has been produced using the results from the EU Water Framework Directive quality elements. Overall classification utilises a combination of biological, chemical and hydromorphological quality elements including macroinvertebrates, pH (measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution) and ammonia to assign status of river quality in one of five classes from 'high' through to 'bad'. The figures presented for each year relate to data gathered in the previous year.
3. The figures presented are based on the second cycle water body set and environmental standard, in which there are 450 rivers. Unfortunately, figures based on the second cycle are not available for the years prior to 2014.
4. The 2014 figures were based on information that was partially incomplete and therefore may be less robust than subsequent estimates.

Table 9.3 Annual mean nitrate concentrations (in groundwater), 2010 - 2016

Unit: Percentage of sites

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
0 to < 25 mg NO ₃ /l	98.2	94.2	98.2	95.8	96.2	96.1	98
25 to < 40 mg NO ₃ /l	1.9	1.9	0	2.1	1.9	2	0
40 to < 50 mg NO ₃ /l	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
≥ 50 mg NO ₃ /l	0	3.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	2	0

Source: NIEA

Table 9.4 Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes, 2010 - 2017

thousand hectares

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Organic Farming Scheme	7	3	2	2	0	0	0	0
Countryside Management Scheme	354	334	350	294	280	246	46	46
New Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme	109	107	103	91	84	59	0	0

1. Source: Countryside Management Division, DAERA.

Table 9.5 Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area¹, 2010 - 2016*thousand hectares*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Northern Ireland	15	12	10	9	9	8	8
Wales	123	123	120	102	96	83	81
Scotland	189	170	152	148	136	126	122
England	392	351	324	316	308	304	297
UK	718	656	606	575	549	521	508

1. Source: DEFRA.

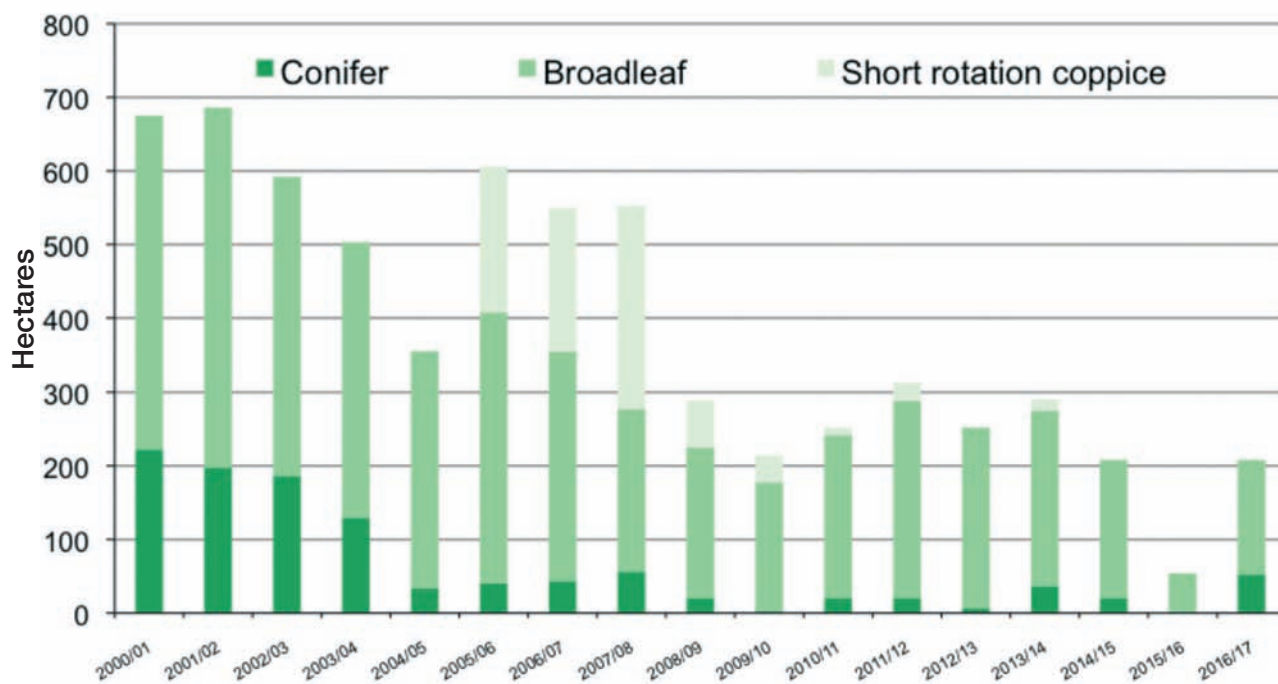
Table 9.6 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 1995/96 - 2016/17

	1995/96	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Forested area (000ha)								
State	61	61	61	61	62	62	62	62
Private	19	22	25	27	50	50	50	50
All forested areas	80	83	86	88	112	112	112	112
Timber production from state forests								
Volume (000 cubic metres)	223	359	387	496	425	401	409	388
Visitors to Forest Parks								
Day Visitors (000's)	...	...	370	393	310	339	432	584
Employees (number) Forest Service	460	360	288	222	203	232	223	215

Source: Forest Service, DAERA

1. The Forest Service introduced a new Woodland Register in 2011/12 and this has identified more privately owned woodland than the previous measurement approach. Note that the data from 2011/12 onwards for 'Private' forested area is not comparable to data for previous years.

Figure 9.3 Area of new forest and woodland plantings by private landowners supported by grant aid.



Source: Forest Service, DAERA.

APPENDIX

STATISTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

AGGREGATE AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT (AAA)

The AAA, from which agriculture's output, input, value added and income are obtained, is conducted according to the rules and conventions of the United Nations *System of National Accounts 1993*, the subsequent *European System of Accounts 1995* and Regulation (EC) No. 138/2004 (which incorporates the revised *European Union's Manual on the Economic Accounts for Agriculture 1997*, introduced throughout the UK in 1998).

The main features of the AAA are as follows:

- (i) The AAA is conducted on a 'sector' basis. This means that agricultural activity includes 'inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities', such as pony trekking, which are carried out on-farm and for which the inputs cannot be separated from farming inputs.
- (ii) The AAA is calculated on an accruals basis, i.e. 'as due' rather than 'as paid'. This means that subsidies such as CAP direct payments are counted in the year in which they are due rather than in the year when they are paid. The detailed allocation of subsidies is documented in footnotes to Table 2.1.
- (iii) Rent paid on 'conacre' (short-term lettings) to non-farming persons is included as an expense.
- (iv) Capital formation in, and depreciation of, breeding livestock is included.
- (v) Direct inter-farm sales and on-farm use of finished products such as cereals are included as both outputs and inputs thereby, in most cases, leaving gross and net product and total income from farming unchanged.

Income indicators

The main indicator of the return to all of the factors of production, i.e. land, labour, capital and 'enterprise', is **net value added** (strictly, net value added at factor cost). This is defined as gross output less expenditure on material and service inputs purchased from outside the sector, less consumption of fixed capital (or depreciation) plus subsidies not paid on products. Hence:

Gross output - gross input
(also known as 'intermediate consumption')
= gross value added

Gross value added - consumption of fixed capital + subsidies not paid on products (such as CAP direct payments)
= net value added (at factor cost)

The income of all farm families in NI is given by **total income from farming (TIFF)**. This includes returns to farmers, their spouses and family workers for their labour and ‘enterprise’ and on their own capital invested; it therefore represents the income of all those with an entrepreneurial involvement in farming. It is the preferred income measure, conforming to national and international accounting practice and forming the basis of a Eurostat (the EU Statistical Office) indicator used for income comparisons across the EU. The derivation of TIFF is:

Net value added (at factor cost)

less paid labour
 (also known as ‘compensation of employees’)
 interest
 net rent

= Total income from farming (TIFF)

Cash flow

A **cash flow** series is shown in Table 2.4. Cash flow omits the effects of stock changes, but takes into account receipts of capital grants, expenditure on capital investment and changes in borrowings. It is a useful indicator of cash available to farm families from farming, but should not be considered as an alternative measure of income.

Sensitivity of estimates

Since agricultural income measures are ‘residuals’ between two large aggregates, they are sensitive to quite small changes in either aggregate. For example, total income from farming in 2017 would change by almost ± 8 per cent if there were one per cent changes (in opposite directions) in gross output and gross input. The degree of sensitivity rises as the level of income falls.

Provisional estimates

‘Provisional’ figures for 2017 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2016 to January 2018, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2017). Forecasts are used to cover the months where no data is available. Provisional figures are therefore subject to revision when complete information becomes available. Revised figures will be published in next year’s *Review*.

Revisions to Income series

The 2016 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2016 is now estimated at £407.9 million (previously £394.5 million) while total income from farming for 2016 is now estimated at £253.4 million (previously £199.1 million). A 30-year plus consistent series of the AAA is available on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk.

Census

Statistics on employment on farms (Tables 2.14 and 2.15), crop areas and livestock numbers (Section 3) and farm structure, (Section 4) are derived from the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census. This is an annual statistical survey which is based on a large sample survey, though in 2000 and 2010 a full census of every farm was conducted. In 2017 forms were issued to all the larger businesses but to only half those classified as 'Very Small'.

For those who did not return a form, estimates were included based on the latest available returns and on information available in the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). For new farms from which a 2017 return was not obtained, estimates were based on the IACS and other administrative systems. Owners of horticultural, mushroom or very large enterprises who failed to make a return in 2017 were contacted by telephone in order that up to date information could be obtained. From 2013 onwards, data for pigs is sourced from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Census coverage

The statistical definition of a farm, which was changed in 1997, is based on separate business status as applied under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), having previously been based on land ownership. The census now covers **all active farm businesses having one hectare or more 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.**

Over the past 50 years, the following criteria have been used to determine the coverage of the agricultural census in Northern Ireland:

Years	Census methods and coverage
Until 1954	Census information was collected by police enumerators who identified and visited all farms, including any under one acre (0.4 hectares), and recorded in special books information given to them orally by the farmer.
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 one acre or more . From this time onwards a distinction was made between ' main ' holdings which were included in the census and ' minor ' holdings which were surveyed on a sample basis using simplified questions. Estimates were made for 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 all holdings which had **at least 10 acres (4 hectares)** of land with the addition of any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose stock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This definition of a 'main' holding removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, brought back a number of 'minor' holdings of less than one acre. The net reduction in the number of 'main' holdings arising from these adjustments was some 5,500.
- 1981-1996 A further change was made between 1980 and 1981 when, with the introduction of a new system of farm classification, and with changes to the minimum threshold in other parts of the UK, the threshold for inclusion in the 'main' census in Northern Ireland was raised. 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 The basis of the agricultural census was changed in 1997 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 and of work undertaken to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification across all schemes, with each farmer who was/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 1997 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 the Department to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between 'main' and 'minor' holdings was discontinued.

- 1998-1999 A further 166 pig farms with no owned land were added to the population in 1998 and sampling was introduced. Census forms were issued only to half of the **'very small'** farms.
- 2000 A full census was conducted. Mushroom production was targeted and around 100 mushroom businesses which had not previously been surveyed were identified and added to the list of businesses covered.
- 2001-2006 A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999.
- 2007-2009 A sample survey was carried out. The number of cattle questions on the survey form were reduced as data was sourced primarily 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 Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
- 2010 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was carried out.
- 2011 -2012 Sample survey completed similar to years 2007-2009.
- 2013 on Sample survey completed similar to 2011-2012. Pig questions removed from paper form. Data on pigs sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.

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. A standard labour unit is equivalent to 1,900 hours of work per year.

Prior to 2004, the farm business size had been determined by calculating each farm's Standard Gross Margin (SGM). However, it was felt that using SLR's 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. The current series (introduced in 2004) is based on the average labour requirements during the period 1999-2001. For a list of these values, see table on p87.

STANDARD LABOUR REQUIREMENTS

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

Enterprise	Item	Unit	Standard Labour Requirement (hours)
Crops	Cereals	ha	30
	Oilseeds	ha	22.5
	Potatoes	ha	135
	Outdoor vegetables	ha	150
	Set-aside	ha	1.5
Fruit and Ornamentals	Fruit	ha	450
	Ornamentals	ha	1,500
Indoor Crops	Glasshouse vegetables	ha	5,000
	Other glasshouse	ha	25,000
	Mushrooms	house	1,050
Forage	Forage crops	ha	9
	Grass	ha	6
	Rough grazing	ha	2.25
Cattle	Dairy Cows	head	39
	Beef cows	head	12
	Other cattle	head	9
Sheep	Ewes and rams: Lowland	head	5.2
	Ewes and rams: LFA	head	4.2
	Other sheep: Lowland	head	3.3
	Other sheep: LFA	head	2.6
Pigs	Sows and gilts	head	16
	Piglets	head	1.0
	Other pigs	head	1.3
Poultry	Laying hens	head	0.17
	Pullets	head	0.12
	Broilers	head	0.04
	Turkeys, Ducks etc.	head	0.045
Other Livestock	Horses	head	150
	Goats	head	20
	Deer	head	15

In UK agricultural statistics, business size is described in terms of five SLR size bands. These are:

Size	Standard Labour Requirement
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 few farms in the **very large** size range in Northern Ireland, these are included in the **large** category.

Farm business type¹

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.

¹The EU typology has been updated from 2007 Standard Output coefficients to 2010 coefficients. The impact of the change on the numbers of farms of each type can be seen at Annex 1 of the Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland publication.

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:

Type	Definition
Cereals	Farms on which cereals and combinable crops account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.
General cropping	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.
Horticulture	Farms with more than two-thirds of the total SO in horticultural crops (including specialist mushroom growers).
Specialist pigs	Farms of which pigs account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
Specialist poultry	Farms on which poultry account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
Dairy	Farms on which dairy cows account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.
Grazing livestock (LFA)	Farms wholly or mainly in the Less Favoured Area which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds their total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
Grazing livestock (Lowland)	Farms wholly or mainly outside the Less Favoured Area, which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds their total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
Mixed	Farms that have no dominant enterprise and do not fit into the above categories.
Other types	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.

Less Favoured Areas

The term **Less Favoured Areas (LFA)** is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of the relatively poor agricultural conditions which prevail there, have been so designated under EU legislation. This recognition allows those who farm in such areas to apply for special support, such as LFA Compensatory Allowance (LFACA) and for additional benefits under various capital grant and forestry schemes.

The LFA consists of a **Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)**, which is the original LFA as designated in 1975 (487,000 hectares), and the **Disadvantaged Area (DA)** which was designated following reviews in 1984 (335,000 hectares) and 1990 (3,700 hectares). (The areas designated include some non-agricultural land).

Farm Business Survey (FBS)

The Farm Business Survey (FBS) is a continuous annual survey that monitors the physical and financial performance of farm businesses in Northern Ireland. The survey is carried out by CAP Policy, Economics & Statistics Division of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. Similar surveys are carried out in England by DEFRA, in Scotland by Scottish Government, and in Wales by WAG. These surveys along with the Northern Ireland FBS constitute the UK's contribution to the Farm Accounts Data Network (FADN) of the European Union which was established under EC regulation 79/65.

In the most recent accounting year, 2016/17, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 360 businesses. This accounting information enables outputs, inputs and incomes to be analysed by farming type and business size. Trends in farm incomes from the FBS are produced by comparing results from identical samples of farms participating in the survey in successive years. Indices showing trends in cash incomes are derived by linking the results of identical samples from successive pairs of years (Table 5.1).

Differences between FBS and AAA

The coverage and methodology of the FBS differ in several important respects from the Aggregate Agricultural Account (AAA) presented in Section 2. The FBS does not cover **Very Small** farms or **horticultural** businesses, whereas, the AAA covers the whole agricultural sector. The FBS account years end between October and May, with an average account ending date of mid-February, while the AAA relates to calendar years. Farm Business Income includes changes in both the volume and price of crops and livestock, whereas the AAA includes volume changes only. For these reasons no direct comparison between the FBS and AAA income series can be made.

**GENERAL NOTES
TO TABLES**

Symbols:

- means nil, or an insignificant quantity.
- ... means not available, or not collected.

Rounding:

Most figures have been rounded individually and the totals shown may therefore differ slightly from the sum of the constituent items.

Metric units:

Metric units are used throughout this publication. Conversion factors from metric to imperial units, correct to 4 significant figures, are given below:

1 hectare (ha) = 2.471 acres

1 kilogram (kg) = 2.205 pounds

1 tonne (t) = 0.9842 tons

1 litre (l) = 0.2200 gallons

Abbreviations:

dcw - dressed carcase weight

dwt - deadweight

lwt - liveweight

CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST BT4 3SB

ISBN 978-1-84807-841-3



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

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

DMS 17.18.232