Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture

2018

Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry

NATIONAL STATISTICS

A National Statistics publication

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2018

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/

ISBN 978-1-84807-941-0

Published in March 2019 by Policy, Economics and Statistics Division,
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure No.

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 55th 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, Paul Keatley, whose contact details are given below.

Seamus McErlean
Director of Policy, Economics and Statistics Division.
March 2019

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

Tel: (028) 9052 4063
Email: Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk
Twitter: @DAERAstats

KEY FACTS 2018

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.4[P]	0.5[2]	1.0[2]	1.5[1]
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural employment ('000)	22	333	101	4,759
As % of total civil employment	2.6	1.0	4.5	2.6
LAND USE				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	1,022	17,476[1]	4,471[1]	151,317[4]
As % of total area	75	72[1]	65[1]	45[4]
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	68.8	51.0[1]	75.0[5]	60.6[5]
FARMS				
Number ('000)	25	217[1]	138[2]	4,418[4]
Average agricultural area (ha)	41.1	81.4[1]	32.4[2]	34.3[4]
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	94	93[1]	76[2]	47[4]
Beef cows	18	28[1]	15[2]	22[4]
Sheep	201	449[1]	140[2]	173[4]
Pigs	2,037	450[1]	1,234[2]	461[4]
Laying hens	18,672	1,237[4]	273[2]	666[4]
Broilers	54,515	53,762[3]	15,400[2]	2,856[4]
Cereals (ha)	15.1	63.7[1]	26.5[4]	21.5[4]
Potatoes (ha)	8.3	15.5[1]	8.2[2]	3.5[4]

---

1. 2017, 2. 2016 3. 2014 4. 2013, 5. 2007, P = Provisional

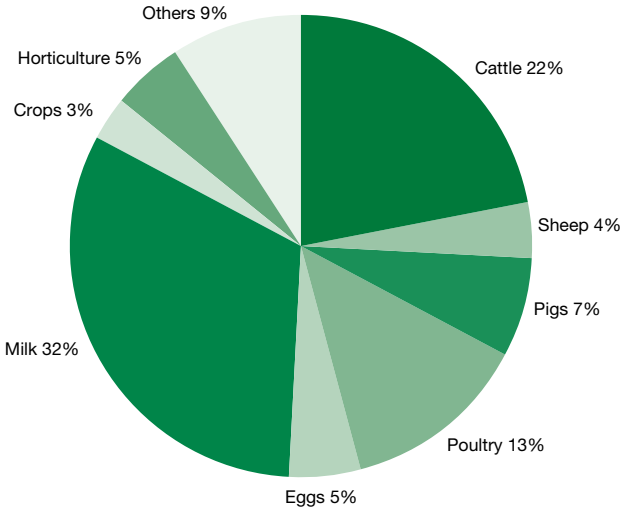
Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

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

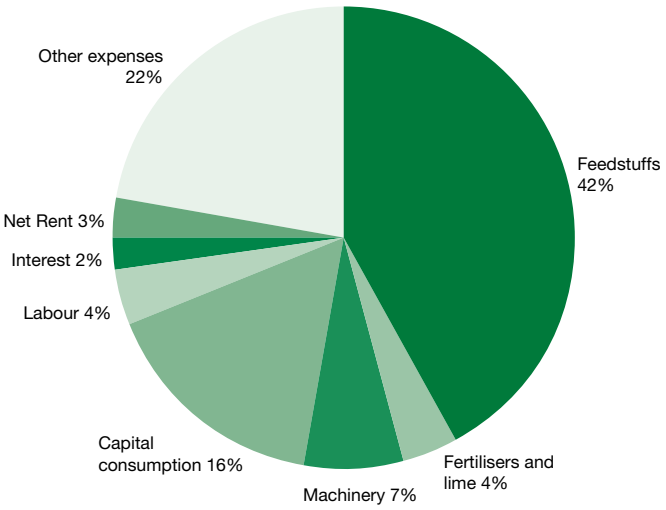
Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

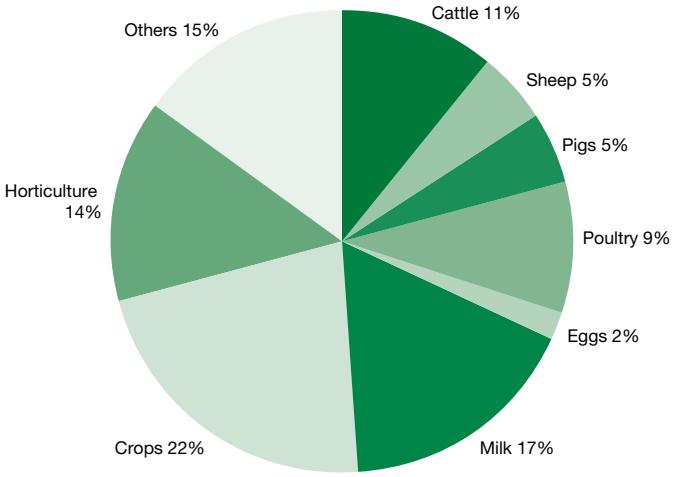
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2018



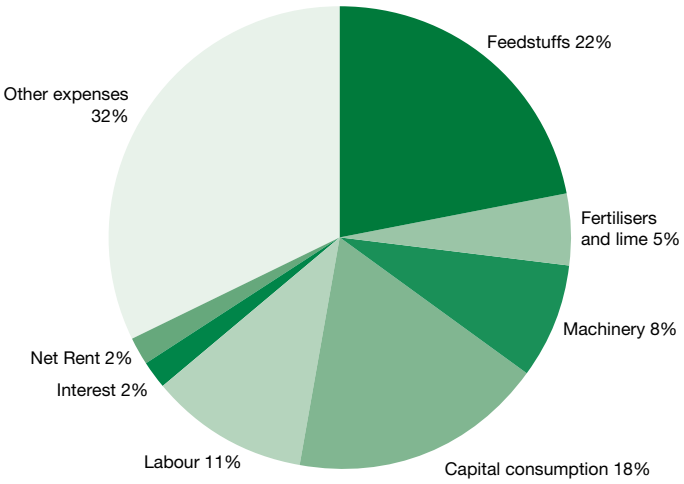
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2018



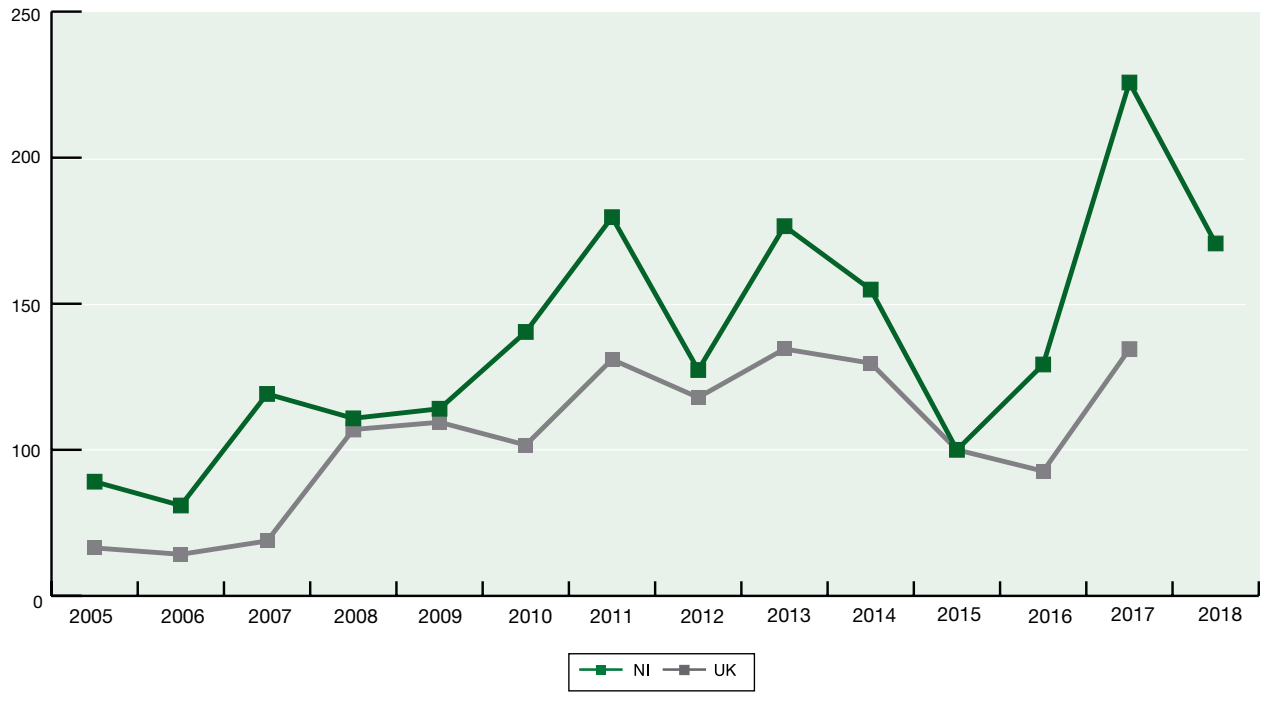
Gross ouput of UK agriculture, 2017



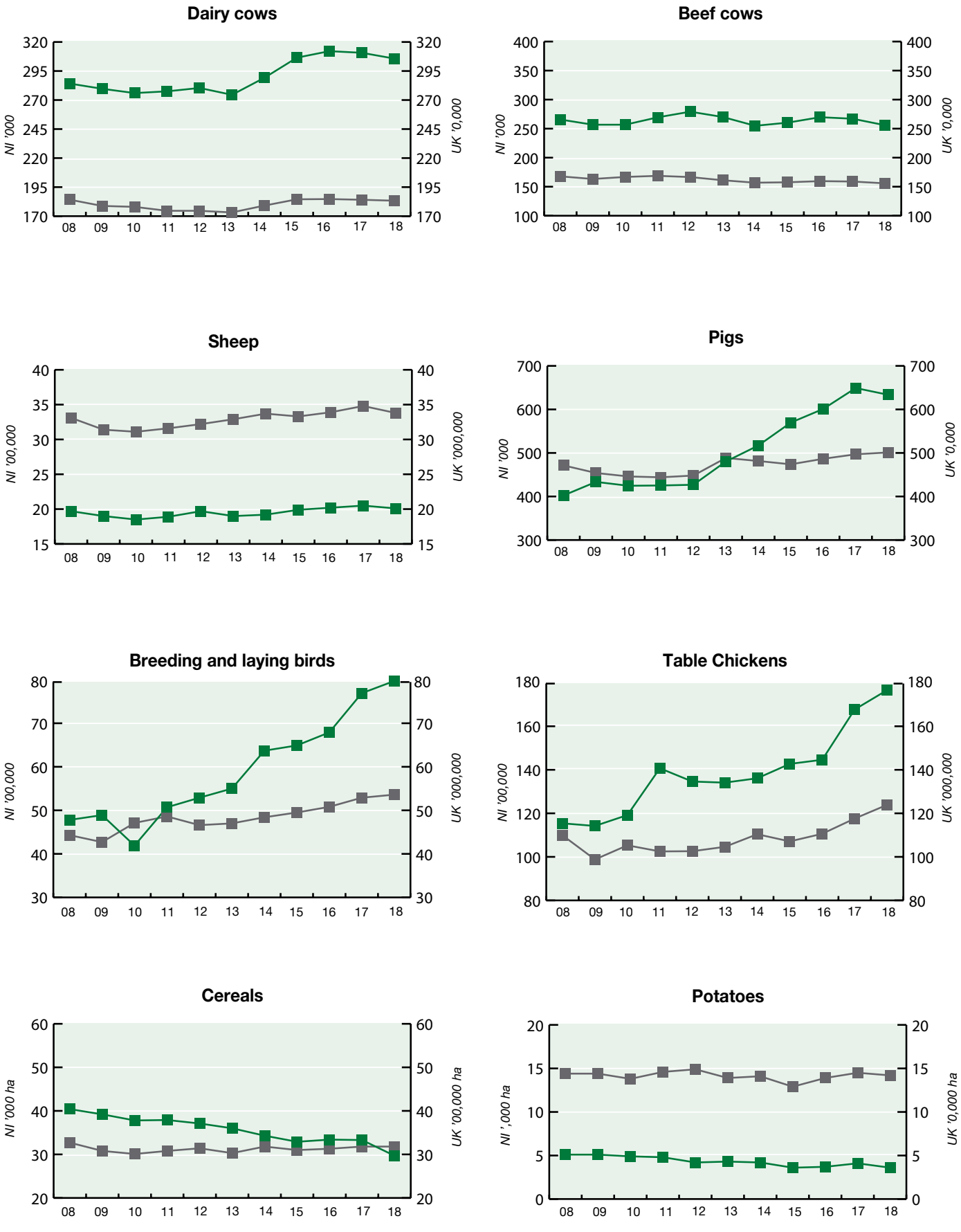
Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2017



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 2017 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms decreased considerably in 2018 (note this follows on from a very large increase 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 – decreased by 23 per cent (24 per cent in real terms) to £360 million, from £467 million in 2017.
- Following the decrease in 2018, TIFF is now 41 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- The decrease of TIFF in 2018 was mainly driven by a higher total cost for feedstuffs purchased by the sector. This higher cost is attributable to increases in both feed usage and prices in 2018. There are a range of factors that lead to these increases and it is difficult to isolate the importance of individual factors e.g. exchange rates, weather, oil prices, global production levels etc.

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

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £2.13 billion for 2018, a 1 per cent increase from 2017. There were increases in the output of the milk, cattle, sheep, poultry, eggs, and cereal sectors, but these were partially offset by decreases in output from the pigs, potatoes and horticultural sectors.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') increased by 8 per cent, to £1.58 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 55 per cent of the gross input figure, rose by 13 per cent in 2018 to £867 million. There was a 5 per cent increase in the volume of feedstuffs purchased and a 7 per cent increase in the average price paid per tonne. Total machinery expenses increased by 5 per cent to £156 million in 2018. This increase was largely due to a 10 per cent increase in the cost of fuel & oils. Agricultural contracting costs also increased by 4 per cent to £82.3 million in 2018.
- **Gross value added** decreased in 2018 to £553 million; a decrease of 13 per cent, while **net value added** - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies fell by 17 per cent, to £522 million.

Productivity (Table 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 0.4 per cent decline 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, decreased by 6 per cent.

Cash flow (Table 2.4)

- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have fallen by 19 per cent, to £363 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 £20,206 in 2016/17 to £33,870 in 2017/18, an increase of £13,664 per farm. It is expected to decrease from £33,870 in 2017/18 to £26,030 in 2018/19 i.e. a decrease of £7,840 or 23 per cent per farm.

Subsidies (Table 2.10)

- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers decreased by £12.9 million or 4.1 per cent in 2018, to £301 million. This decrease is mainly attributed to a reduction of £10 million in Area of Natural Constraint (ANC) payments for 2018.

  The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2018 was £286 million, a net decrease of 0.6 per cent or £2 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2017. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 95 per cent of all direct payments.

Labour (Table 2.14)

- The **total agricultural labour force** in 2018 increased marginally by 1 per cent to just over 49,200 persons. Within this total there was a 1.1 per cent increase in the number of farmers (full-time and part-time), a 1.4 per cent rise in the number of spouses and a 0.9 per cent increase in other workers.

Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)

- The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2018 census was 1.63 million head, a 2.2 per cent decrease from the previous year. At June 2018, there were 310,700 dairy cows a decrease of 1.6 per cent from 2017 and 255,900 beef cows a decrease of 4.2 per cent compared to 2017. In June 2018, the **sheep** breeding flock was 1.7 per cent higher than in 2017 at 956,500 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 2.01 million in 2018.

- At June 2018, the total number of **pigs** was 633,600, a decrease of 2.4 per cent compared to 2017. There was a 3.6 per cent increase to 49,600 in sow numbers. **Broiler** numbers increased by 4.8 per cent to 17.7 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** increased by 9.3 per cent to 4.3 million birds.

Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)

- There was a 4.8 per cent decrease, to 42,100 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2017 and 2018. The total area of **cereals** was 29,700 hectares in June 2018, which was a decrease of 8.2 per cent compared to 2017. In 2018, the total area of potatoes grown decreased by 11.1 per cent to 3,600 hectares compared to the previous year.

Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)

- There were 24,895 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2018, which was 61 less than in 2017. The long term trend in total farm numbers is generally downward and for the past 10 years the average annual change has been a decrease of about 0.4 per cent per annum.

Food & Drinks Sector (Tables 6.1 - 6.5)

- The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate a minor decrease in gross turnover in the period 2015 to 2016 followed by a partial recovery in 2017. Employment has grown over the period. Exports account for 25 percent of sales by the food and drinks processing sector.

Rural Population (Figure 7.1 and table 7.1)

- In 2017, 60 per cent of the population lived in urban areas, with 5 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 (Tables 8.1 - 8.3)

- There have been no cases of BSE since 2012. During 2018 2,088 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 2,208 in 2017. The last confirmed brucellosis breakdown occurred in February 2012 and Northern Ireland achieved Official Brucellosis Freedom on 6 October 2015. Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle and in March 2016 compulsory testing was introduced. In 2018, the animal incidence rate for BVD remains at less than 1 per cent.

  The Veterinary Service (DAERA) carried out 585 on-farm welfare inspections in 2018. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 90 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 98 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2018, a total of 2 farm animal keepers were disqualified by the courts as a result of serious welfare breaches.

Environment (Tables 9.1 - 9.4)

• The landfill rates for Local Authority collected municipal waste and household waste have been declining over the past seven years. In 2018, some 66,000 hectares or 6 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2016, agriculture was estimated to contribute 27 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. Total emissions from agriculture increased by 1.6 per cent between 1990 and 2016.

Contact: Paul Keatley, Tel: 028 9052 4063,
Email: Paul.Keatley@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 2017 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture in 2018 **decreased** from the record high level of the previous year. **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) – fell by 23 per cent (24 per cent in real terms) from £467 million in 2017 to £360 million in 2018 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** in 2018, estimated at £2.13 billion, was 1 per cent higher compared with 2017. 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 2018, to £1.58 billion; 8 per cent higher. Most of this increase can be attributed to a 13 per cent rise in expenditure on animal feedstuffs. 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 - decreased by 13 per cent to £553 million in 2018 as a result of the lower 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 – decreased further, by 17 per cent, to £522 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 4 per cent to £77 million in 2018 from £75 million in 2017. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.26) increased by 2 per cent to £38 million, whereas, conacre rent paid to non-farmers rose by 3 per cent to £56 million in 2018.

Total Income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF**) decreased in 2018, by 23 per cent to £360 million, a fall of 24 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following this decrease in 2018, TIFF was 41 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 1999 to 2018, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 18 per cent with the result that, in real terms, **TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour** in 2018 was 44 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 fallen by 19 per cent, to £363 million in 2018.

Subsidies

Total direct payments to farmers decreased by 4.1 per cent or £12.9 million, to £301 million. This decrease is mainly attributed to a reduction of £10 million in Area of Natural Constraint (ANC) payments for 2018.

The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2018 was £286 million, a net decrease of 0.6 per cent or £2 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2017. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 95 per cent of all direct payments.

Investment

Gross annual capital investment increased by 3.6 per cent or £8 million to £240 million in 2018. Within this total there was a 3.4 per cent increase in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works was up by 4.1 per cent.

Contact: Paul Keatley, Tel: 028 9052 4063,
Email: Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture[1]

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
OUTPUT[2]						
Livestock and livestock products[3]						
Finished cattle and calves[4]	442.4	392.0	402.3	432.9	464.4	467.3
Finished sheep and lambs[4]	66.7	69.4	63.2	75.0	72.3	78.3
Finished pigs	132.3	133.2	114.1	121.1	166.3	158.8
Poultry[5]	265.0	257.2	247.9	252.7	267.2	280.8
Eggs[6]	67.4	79.6	88.6	94.8	104.0	107.1
Milk	640.5	654.2	480.1	453.3	663.0	679.9
Minor products[7]	15.0	15.0	15.3	14.3	13.5	13.2
Total livestock and livestock products	**1,629.3**	**1,600.6**	**1,411.6**	**1,444.1**	**1,750.6**	**1,785.2**
Field crops						
Potatoes	26.5	18.8	17.1	20.2	22.7	20.6
Cereals	38.3	31.6	28.9	26.7	30.4	32.4
of which: barley	25.0	19.8	18.3	16.7	17.6	21.8
wheat	11.4	9.9	8.7	8.2	10.8	8.7
oats	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9
Other crops[8]	14.9	12.4	12.4	10.5	11.4	13.2
Total field crops	**79.7**	**62.7**	**58.3**	**57.5**	**64.5**	**66.2**
Horticultural products						
Fruit	9.8	11.4	11.8	15.3	16.8	14.7
Vegetables	20.5	22.2	21.5	19.1	18.3	17.4
Mushrooms	40.6	54.6	67.5	53.5	53.1	51.0
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	12.0	14.3	18.9	20.9	25.3	24.2
Total horticultural products	**82.8**	**102.5**	**119.6**	**108.8**	**113.5**	**107.4**
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	72.4	59.2	74.5	90.0	81.7	79.2
Agricultural contract work[9]	77.7	79.6	73.7	74.5	79.5	82.3
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities[10]	17.5	17.6	17.4	13.4	13.5	13.6
A Gross output	**1,959.5**	**1,922.3**	**1,755.1**	**1,788.2**	**2,103.4**	**2,133.9**

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)

£ million

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
A	**Gross output**	**1,959.5**	**1,922.3**	**1,755.1**	**1,788.2**	**2,103.4**	**2,133.9**
	INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
	Expenditure						
	Feedstuffs[11]	796.9	773.5	727.9	707.0	770.8	867.5
	Seeds[12]	12.2	11.1	10.6	10.1	10.9	11.1
	Marketing expenses[13]	36.0	35.5	36.5	38.4	38.3	37.8
	Fertilisers and lime	101.8	82.5	74.1	70.7	84.2	84.7
	Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	153.9	152.2	139.2	135.7	148.0	156.0
	Farm maintenance	43.5	44.4	42.5	40.6	48.3	49.5
	Veterinary expenses and medicines	57.5	60.1	61.1	62.2	66.3	64.6
	Other variable costs[14]	107.2	119.4	125.0	117.8	126.7	129.5
	Miscellaneous expenses[15]	78.4	81.4	81.4	80.8	85.3	88.7
	Agricultural contract work	77.7	79.6	73.7	74.5	79.5	82.3
	Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	FISIM[16]	9.2	7.2	6.9	7.4	8.8	8.9
B	**Gross input**	**1,474.3**	**1,447.0**	**1,378.9**	**1,345.3**	**1,467.1**	**1,580.7**
C	**Gross value added (A-B)**	**485.2**	**475.3**	**376.1**	**442.9**	**636.2**	**553.2**
	Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
	- livestock	65.0	64.8	62.8	83.6	71.8	72.3
	- plant, machinery and vehicles	122.3	124.2	124.4	126.9	130.7	138.3
	- buildings and works	118.4	116.8	114.3	113.4	113.3	112.9
D	**Total consumption of fixed capital**	**305.7**	**305.8**	**301.5**	**324.0**	**315.8**	**323.4**
	Other subsidies (not paid on products)[17]	314.3	292.5	284.7	306.0	313.7	300.8
	Other taxes (not levied on products)[18]	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7	9.0
E	**Other subsidies (less taxes)**	**306.2**	**284.3**	**276.4**	**297.4**	**304.9**	**291.8**
F	**Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)**	**485.7**	**453.8**	**351.1**	**416.3**	**625.4**	**521.6**
G	Paid labour	63.5	65.2	68.8	68.2	74.7	77.4
H	Interest	30.7	31.3	32.0	32.0	28.4	28.4
I	Net rent[19]	48.4	51.3	51.7	54.4	54.8	56.3
J	**Total income from farming[20] (F-G-H-I)**	**343.1**	**306.1**	**198.5**	**261.8**	**467.4**	**359.6**

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

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Index at current prices						
Net value added[1]	138.3	129.3	100.0	118.6	178.1	148.6
Total income from farming[1]	172.8	154.2	100.0	131.9	235.5	181.1
Index in real terms[2]						
Net value added	141.3	129.8	100.0	116.2	170.8	140.0
Total income from farming	176.6	154.8	100.0	129.2	225.7	170.6

1. For definitions see Appendix.
2. Deflated by the GDP deflator.

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Gross output volume[1]	92.1	96.5	100.0	101.4	103.5	104.9
Gross input volume[1]	99.8	99.7	100.0	98.7	104.2	106.4
Gross value added volume[1]	83.0	92.7	100.0	104.6	102.7	103.0
Net value added volume[1]	73.0	90.0	100.0	107.2	104.1	105.7
Total factor productivity[2]	91.0	96.5	100.0	102.8	101.4	101.0
Labour productivity[3]	73.7	90.8	100.0	109.3	103.1	103.6
Single factorial terms of trade[4]	103.3	105.8	100.0	103.3	121.2	113.7

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

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Total income from farming	**343.1**	**306.1**	**198.5**	**261.8**	**467.4**	**359.6**
Less:						
output stock change	-6.9	6.9	8.2	19.6	4.8	0.4
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	72.4	59.2	74.5	90.0	81.7	79.2
capital investment[1]	193.9	188.4	151.8	185.4	221.5	224.9
Plus:						
input stock change	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.4	-1.0	-0.6
capital consumption	305.7	305.8	301.5	324.0	315.8	323.4
capital grants paid in year[2]	4.4	2.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	8.6
change in borrowings	55.7	-28.7	14.4	27.0	-35.6	-23.7
Cash available to farm families from farming	**450.4**	**331.5**	**280.7**	**319.2**	**445.9**	**362.9**

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

2017

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2]				Sector gross margins[3]	
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	761.3	216.5	25.7	10.5	252.8	508.5	50.9%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	396.5	158.8	41.2	24.5	224.6	171.9	17.2%
Sheep and wool	73.1	20.9	14.0	5.1	40.1	33.0	3.3%
Total grazing livestock	**1,230.9**	**396.3**	**81.0**	**40.2**	**517.5**	**713.4**	**71.4%**
Pigs	167.6	88.6	-	4.1	92.7	74.9	7.5%
Poultry & Eggs	371.2	290.0	-	10.0	300.0	71.2	7.1%
Total intensive livestock	**538.8**	**378.7**	**-**	**14.1**	**392.7**	**146.1**	**14.6%**
Cereals	42.0	-	11.1	-	11.1	30.9	3.1%
Potatoes	22.7	-	4.9	-	4.9	17.9	1.8%
Horticulture[4]	113.5	-	20.2	11.1	31.3	82.2	8.2%
Total field crops	**178.2**	**-**	**36.2**	**11.1**	**47.3**	**130.9**	**13.1%**
Other items	15.1	4.5	1.7	0.1	6.4	8.8	0.9%
Total	**1,963.0**	**779.5**	**118.9**	**65.4**	**963.8**	**999.2**	**100.0%**

2018 (Provisional)

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2]				Sector gross margins[3]	
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	777.4	255.1	26.2	10.6	291.9	485.5	51.9%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	401.8	180.8	41.6	25.4	247.8	154.0	16.5%
Sheep and wool	79.5	21.3	14.1	5.3	40.7	38.8	4.2%
Total grazing livestock	**1,258.7**	**457.2**	**81.9**	**41.2**	**580.4**	**678.3**	**72.6%**
Pigs	158.8	97.1	-	4.0	101.1	57.6	6.2%
Poultry and eggs	387.9	315.9	-	10.4	326.3	61.7	6.6%
Total intensive livestock	**546.7**	**413.0**	**-**	**14.4**	**427.4**	**119.3**	**12.8%**
Cereals	45.5	-	10.4	-	10.5	35.0	3.7%
Potatoes	20.6	-	4.6	-	4.6	16.1	1.7%
Horticulture[4]	107.4	-	19.3	10.4	29.7	77.7	8.3%
Total field crops	**173.6**	**-**	**34.3**	**10.5**	**44.8**	**128.8**	**13.8%**
Other items	16.1	5.9	1.6	0.1	7.7	8.4	0.9%
Total	**1,995.1**	**876.2**	**117.9**	**66.2**	**1,060.3**	**934.8**	**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 output[1]

	Units of quantity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	140,552	134,001	136,752	145,830	145,216	148,693
Sheep and lambs	,,	20,953	20,982	20,996	21,153	21,317	20,602
Pigs[2]	,,	88,555	94,187	101,661	109,053	112,031	115,097
Cattle and calves	'000 head	470	446	439	467	472	474
Sheep and lambs	,,	951	929	933	971	982	946
Pigs[2]	,,	1,047	1,091	1,171	1,252	1,256	1,255
Poultry[3]	'000 tonnes lwt	270	279	278	299	315	328
Eggs[4]	m. doz	92	110	118	126	142	153
Milk[5]	m. litres	2,015	2,206	2,268	2,200	2,286	2,346
Field crops							
Wheat	'000 tonnes	58.7	58.6	66.4	63.2	65.0	52.1
Barley	,,	137.2	132.5	150.4	124.9	117.9	111.1
Oats	,,	9.6	10.6	10.2	14.7	9.4	13.5
Potatoes	,,	151.4	163.5	179.0	143.9	166.8	119.2
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	'000 tonnes	32.3	39.0	43.8	44.9	55.6	57.7
Vegetables	,,	51.1	71.2	64.8	58.0	57.4	49.6
Mushrooms	,,	28.0	36.8	45.1	35.7	35.5	34.1

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 prices[1] of agricultural products

£ per unit

	Units	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	1,157	1,086	1,106	1,082	1,162	1,174
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	3.55	3.29	3.26	3.19	3.48	3.49
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	247	297	308	305	303	314
Culled cows and bulls	head	785	681	666	670	747	768
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	2.57	2.18	2.14	2.16	2.47	2.51
Store cattle exported	head	762	770	795	749	801	806
Finished sheep and lambs	head	82.39	83.08	73.89	83.00	86.12	92.13
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.87	3.81	3.40	3.88	3.99	4.26
Finished clean pigs	head	130.72	125.00	102.41	102.27	134.79	129.73
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.56	1.46	1.19	1.18	1.52	1.42
Milk[2]	litre	0.318	0.297	0.212	0.206	0.290	0.290
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.734	0.721	0.751	0.751	0.730	0.701
Broilers	kg lwt	0.860	0.812	0.750	0.713	0.753	0.757
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop[3]	tonne	196	125	129	153	147	168
Seed	tonne	218	167	153	171	173	166
Barley	tonne	179	146	130	134	154	186
Wheat	tonne	195	156	136	137	161	182
Oats	tonne	193	162	153	149	158	190
Mushrooms	tonne	1,450	1,484	1,496	1,496	1,496	1,496
Apples	tonne	267	259	271	258	263	203

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 prices[1] of agricultural output

Indices: 2015 = 100

	Weights[2]	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional
Finished steers and heifers	216	109	101	100	98	107	107
Culled cows and bulls	41	120	102	100	101	116	117
Store cattle exported	6	96	97	100	94	101	101
Finished sheep and lambs	37	114	112	100	114	117	125
Finished clean pigs	75	131	123	100	100	128	120
Milk	303	150	140	100	97	137	137
Eggs for consumption	56	98	96	100	100	97	93
Broilers	120	115	108	100	95	100	101
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	12	152	97	100	119	114	131
Seed	1	143	109	100	112	113	109
Barley	12	137	112	100	102	118	142
Wheat	6	144	115	100	101	118	134
Mushrooms	43	97	99	100	100	100	100
Apples	7	99	96	100	95	97	75
Total products index[2]	**935**	**125**	**117**	**100**	**99**	**118**	**118**
Inputs index[3]	**1,000**	**110**	**106**	**100**	**98**	**98**	**105**

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 livestock[1]

£ per head

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,234	1,282	1,043	1,000	1,279	1,387
Dairy cows in calf	1,063	980	805	712	1,078	961
Dairy springing heifers	1,140	923	850	1,168	1,055	1,224
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	1,064	1,183	1,209	1,119	1,212	1,229
Beef cows in calf	864	955	942	902	924	938
Beef springing heifers	941	1,145	1,258	1,084	1,136	1,124
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	540	598	638	589	638	646
300-400 kg steers	689	721	753	701	757	757
400-500 kg steers	864	842	864	819	881	890
Over 500 kg steers	1,114	1,047	1,065	1,010	1,101	1,110
150-300 kg heifers	491	567	589	546	571	570
300-400 kg heifers	649	687	706	664	699	690
400-500 kg heifers	844	831	847	804	855	854
Over 500 kg heifers	1,063	1,018	1,024	980	1,058	1,068
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	356	371	461	421	469	415
Over 200 kg steers	650	690	719	677	729	749
Under 200 kg heifers	370	406	435	408	413	391
Over 200 kg heifers	575	633	658	619	659	663
Dropped calves						
For rearing	139	173	200	190	210	203
Cull cows	695	649	636	611	701	716
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	109.13	131.51	112.28	119.96	101.37	96.14
Blackface Cross	117.71	131.04	114.66	123.43	133.41	123.39
Other breeds	103.43	124.10	111.89	112.52	122.92	123.57
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	72.35	98.12	82.45	80.18	83.21	87.35
Blackface Cross	62.58	74.67	69.16	85.49	86.61	87.06
Other breeds	76.14	77.73	73.34	80.60	81.94	85.55
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	115.00	64.22	88.95	98.81	98.94	90.21
Blackface Cross	103.67	117.10	85.22	87.82	108.26	92.68
Other breeds	120.09	143.10	144.36	137.08	150.84	154.01
Cull ewes						
Blackface	30.28	38.20	41.32	39.51	41.88	42.74
Blackface Cross	41.29	52.93	54.84	51.02	53.03	55.68
Other breeds	51.31	61.57	67.65	62.22	63.61	66.89
Cull rams	56.23	64.91	68.24	65.83	63.26	68.19
Store lambs	54.77	59.62	51.37	59.01	60.59	63.54

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

Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1,2]

£ *million*[3]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS[4]						
Single farm payment	**265.2**	**248.4**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Basic Payment Scheme	**-**	**-**	**160.4**	**186.5**	**195.4**	**193.8**
Greening Payment	**-**	**-**	**71.1**	**83.4**	**87.8**	**87.5**
Young Farmers Payment	**-**	**-**	**4.9**	**5.3**	**5.7**	**5.8**
Financial Discipline Deduction	**-**	**-**	**2.8**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**3.5**
Financial Discipline Reimbursement	**-**	**-**	**2.5**	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.4**
Penalties	**-**	**-**	**0.6**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**
Other direct payments						
EU Support Package[5]	-	-	5.0	1.8	4.1	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital)	5.3	4.8	4.6	3.7	-	-
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC[6] from 2015)	23.7	23.7	25.3	18.6	18.9	8.8
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	18.6	15.5	14.2	7.4	2.6	2.8
Environmental Farming Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	2.9
New Entrants Scheme	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	-
Others[7]	1.3	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments	**49.1**	**44.2**	**49.2**	**31.6**	**25.6**	**14.5**
Total direct payments	**314.3**	**292.5**	**284.7**	**306.0**	**313.7**	**300.8**

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. Excludes expenditure on market regulation (such as intervention purchases and export refunds) by the UK Rural Payments Agency.
5. Includes Dairy Support Package, EU Milk Production Reduction Scheme, Small Dairy Farmers, Pig Industry competitiveness, Soil sampling and analysis etc.
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 Account[1]

£ million[2]

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	4.3	1.4	-	-	-	-
Farm Business Improvement Scheme	-	-	-	-	7.1	8.6
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	-	0.7	-	-	-	-
Total capital grants[4]	**4.4**	**2.0**	**-**	**-**	**7.1**	**8.6**
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation[3]	12.7	13.9	15.7	16.4	23.7	23.2
Snow Hardship Fund	2.8	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments[4]	**15.5**	**13.9**	**15.7**	**16.4**	**23.7**	**23.2**

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 equipment[1]

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Total buildings and works	**83.2**	**89.4**	**81.8**	**63.6**	**85.4**	**88.9**
Plant and machinery	106.6	107.9	86.6	95.0	134.4	139.8
Vehicles[2,3]	11.3	13.0	14.9	14.9	11.9	11.5
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	**117.9**	**120.9**	**101.5**	**110.0**	**146.4**	**151.3**
Total investment	**201.1**	**210.3**	**183.3**	**173.5**	**231.8**	**240.3**

1. Excluding investment in forestry and arterial drainage.
2. Estimated from the Farm Business Survey.
3. Vehicles shown at 'farm share'.

Table 2.13 Milk quota

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Milk quota (million litres)						
Owned[1]	2,044.9	2,098.1	-	-	-	-
Leased[2]	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-
Total	**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

number of persons

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE[1]						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	16,235	16,206	16,637	16,233	16,760	16,964
Part time	12,798	12,894	13,431	13,571	13,586	13,721
Total	**29,033**	**29,100**	**30,068**	**29,804**	**30,346**	**30,685**
Spouses of farmers	**6,391**	**6,279**	**6,084**	**6,410**	**6,449**	**6,542**
Other workers						
Full time	3,464	3,485	3,463	3,209	3,441	3,411
Part time	4,009	4,081	3,971	4,215	4,319	4,340
Casual/seasonal	4,899	4,919	4,393	4,074	4,149	4,270
Total other workers	**12,372**	**12,485**	**11,827**	**11,498**	**11,909**	**12,021**
Total agricultural labour force	**47,796**	**47,864**	**47,979**	**47,712**	**48,704**	**49,248**
Annual Work Units (AWUs)[2]	**28,173**	**28,164**	**28,427**	**27,873**	**28,708**	**28,993**

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 manpower[1]

number of persons

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MANPOWER STATISTICS[1]						
Self-employed						
Male	15,612	15,590	15,931	15,519	16,033	16,218
Female	623	616	706	714	727	746
Total	**16,235**	**16,206**	**16,637**	**16,233**	**16,760**	**16,964**
Employees						
Male	10,807	10,883	10,192	9,902	10,164	10,143
Female	1,565	1,602	1,635	1,596	1,745	1,878
Total	**12,372**	**12,485**	**11,827**	**11,498**	**11,909**	**12,021**
Total agricultural manpower	**28,607**	**28,691**	**28,464**	**27,731**	**28,669**	**28,985**

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 2018 increased by 1.9 per cent to 334,376 head. The number of steers were 5.4 per cent lower at 156,122 head, heifers increased by 5.7 per cent to 130,048 head and the number of young bulls increased by 24.2 per cent to 44,843. As a result the proportion of steers in the slaughter mix decreased from 51 per cent in 2017 to 48 per cent in 2018, while the proportion of heifers increased from 38 per cent in 2017 to 40 per cent in 2018. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered increased from 11 per cent in 2017 to 13 per cent in 2018.

The average dressed carcase weights increased in 2018 to 336 kg. As a result of the increase in the number of clean cattle marketed, the volume of clean beef produced increased by 2.6 per cent to 112,454 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 0.4 per cent higher at £3.49 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 3.0 per cent to £392 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls increased by 2.7 per cent to 109,204 head in 2018. Average carcase weights for these animals was 1.0 per cent higher at 306 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls rose by 1.7 per cent to £2.51 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, increased 5.5 per cent to £84 million in 2018.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2018 decreased by 3 per cent to 6,105 head. An estimated 19,193 calves were exported in 2018, which was a decrease of 17.6 per cent compared with 2017 levels. The average calf price was 3.6 per cent higher at £314 per head and the revenue generated was £8.1 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland decreased by 32 per cent to 5,082 head in 2018. When combined with a 0.6 per cent increase in the average producer price paid of £806 per head, this generated revenues of £4.1 million; a decrease of 31 per cent from 2017 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 84 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2018 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) increased by 0.6 per cent to £467 million.

Milk

The annual average dairy cow population in 2018 was 1.0 per cent lower than 2017 at 311,604 head. Average gross milk yield per cow increased from 7,370 litres in 2017 to 7,620 litres in 2018; a 3.4 per cent increase.

The higher milk yields contributed to a 2.6 per cent increase in total milk output in 2018 in Northern Ireland; to 2.3 billion litres. The average gross milk price for 2018 (before deducting transport costs) remained largely static when compared with 2017 at 28.98 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 2018, to £680 million, by 3 per cent.

Sheep and lambs

Marketings of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 1.5 per cent to 753,986 head in 2018. The average dressed carcase weight also remained steady in 2018 at 21.6 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2018 reduced by 1.5 per cent to 16,288 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices increased by 7.0 per cent to 426 pence per kg deadweight in 2018. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs rose by 5.3 per cent to £69 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams decreased by 5.4 per cent to 128,983 head in 2018. There was a 3.9 per cent increase in the price received for these animals (£56 per head). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams decreasing to £7.2 million; a decrease of 1.7 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 rose by 8.3 per cent, to £78 million in 2018.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2018 was 0.2 per cent lower at 1.24 million head. Average dressed carcase weights were 2.9 per cent higher at 91.1kg in 2018. When combined these changes resulted in a 2.6 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 112,862 tonnes. Pig producer prices decreased by 6 per cent to 142 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 4 per cent lower at £161 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were up by 7.8 per cent in 2018 at 15,853 head. The average price per head of cull sows and boars decreased by 5 per cent to 91 pence per kg deadweight. These changes resulted in market returns for these animals increasing by 2 per cent to £2.0 million in 2018

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector decreased by 5 per cent to £159 million (this figure includes deductions for the

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

Poultry

In 2018, the total volume of poultry meat production was 327,790 thousand tonnes liveweight, an increase of 3.9 per cent from 2017 levels. Broiler production was 4.0 per cent higher at 305,904 thousand tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were higher than 2017 levels by 4.7 per cent at 78 pence per kg. Overall, as a result of these changes the market value of broilers in 2018 was 4.7 per cent higher at £232 million. Broilers accounted for 84 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production increased in 2018, by 3 per cent, to 7,360 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2018 was £281 million; 5.1 per cent higher than 2017.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 149 million dozen eggs in 2018, which is a new record level of production for Northern Ireland. This was a rise of 7.2 per cent on 2017 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 58 per cent in 2017 to 62 per cent in 2018 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 38 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs decreased, by 3.9 per cent, to 70 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs increased by 3.0 per cent to £107 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

The area of potatoes planted in 2018 decreased by 11.2 per cent to 3,601 hectares. The average yield decreased, by 9.1 per cent, to 39 tonnes per hectare. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2018 is estimated to be 19.2 per cent lower at 141,623 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2018 were 31 per cent lower at 96,237 tonnes.

In 2018, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) fell by 15 per cent to 10,263 tonnes. In total for 2018, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 119,187 tonnes. This was a decrease of 29 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £175 per tonne in 2018, an increase of 18.1 per cent from 2017 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was lower than 2017 at £166 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output fell in 2018, by 9 per cent, to £21 million.

Cereals

The area of spring barley sown in 2018 was 6.2 per cent higher than 2017 levels at 14,894 hectares, while recorded yields were also up by 9.9 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley increased by 16.7 per cent. The area of winter barley sown, in 2018, was down by 18.4 per cent to 5,809 hectares, while yields were higher by 1.7 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley decreasing by 16.9 per cent. Overall, total barley production was 2.4 per cent higher in 2018 at 117,222 tonnes, with the total area of barley grown down 2.1 per cent at 20,703 hectares.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2018 was 5.8 per cent lower at 111,073 tonnes. The average producer price of barley increased, by 20.5 per cent, to £186 per tonne. These changes plus a positive stock change resulted in the value of barley output increasing by 23.9 per cent to £22 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2018 was 21.6 per cent lower at 6,845 hectares, coupled with a 9 per cent decrease in yields, production was down by 29.0 per cent to 47,685 tonnes.

In 2018, the volume of wheat sold or used on-farm was 19.8 per cent lower at 52,082 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat increased by 14 per cent to £182 per tonne. These changes combined with a negative stock change contributed to the value of wheat output decreasing by 20 per cent to £8.7 million.

The area of oats grown in 2018 was 10.6 per cent lower at 2,013 hectares. Yields were also down by 10.4 per cent, which resulted in oats production decreasing by 20.0 per cent to 10,160 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 20.8 per cent higher at £190 per tonne. The changes in price and production resulted in the value of output falling to £1.9 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2018 decreased by 5.4 per cent to £107 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) decreased by 12.4 per cent to £15 million. Apple production rose by 3.8 per cent to 57,327 tonnes while prices decreased by 22.7 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples reduced by 19.7 per cent. The value of output from mushrooms declined by 3.9 per cent to £51 million as a result of a similar reduction in production to 34,119 tonnes. Receipts from the sale of vegetables decreased, by 5.0 per cent, to £17 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock fell by 4 per cent to £24 million due to lower prices being obtained.

Feedstuffs

The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2018 was 6.9 per cent higher than the 2017 levels at 2.54 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all

cattle (and calf) compounds increased by 7 per cent with dairy compounds purchased rising by 3 per cent and beef cattle compounds increased by 3 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 19 per cent higher. Total purchases of pig compounds rose in 2018 by 8.1 per cent while poultry compounds rose by 5.6 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) fell by 5.5 per cent in 2018 to 381,752 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 5.1 per cent higher in 2018 at 2.99 million tonnes. The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 7.1 per cent, to £290 per tonne in 2018. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2018 increased, by 13 per cent, to £867 million.

Fertilisers and lime

The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2018 decreased by 6 per cent to 316,674 tonnes while the average price increased by 6.2 per cent to £251 per tonne. In volume terms, 40 per cent of total fertiliser sales were straights, while 60 per cent were compounds.

As a result of these movements in both quantity purchased and price paid, the total value of fertiliser purchases decreased, by 0.6 per cent, to £80 million.

Total expenditure on lime increased by 24.3 per cent when compared to 2017 levels to £5.2 million. The quantity purchased increased by 13.1 per cent to 186,595 tonnes while the price paid increased by 10 per cent.

Marketing expenses

In 2018 total marketing expenses were 1.4 per cent lower than 2017 levels at £38 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £23 million, while sheep expenses were £3.8 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £7.1 million, while those for pigs were £4.3 million.

Machinery expenses

Machinery expenses in 2018 increased, by 5.4 per cent, to £156 million. This increase was driven by a 9.8 per cent increase in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global price commodity movements.

Interest

Total farm borrowings in 2018 decreased by 2.6 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have risen marginally to 4.5 per cent. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) increased by 2.4 per cent in 2018 to £39 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 2018, the volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 0.3 per cent higher, at 8.5 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 3.6 per cent higher than 2017 at £77 million.

Contact: Paul Keatley, Tel: 028 9052 4063,
Email: Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 2.16 Output of cattle and calves

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	319.9	300.8	299.8	316.2	328.1	334.4
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	355.3	328.8	326.2	318.5	347.7	349.0
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	325.7	330.4	339.1	339.8	334.0	336.3
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	104.2	99.4	101.7	107.4	109.6	112.5
Value of output (£m)	370.2	326.8	331.6	342.2	381.1	392.5
Cows and bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	104.3	94.6	98.4	110.1	106.3	109.2
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	257.1	218.4	213.6	215.8	246.7	250.9
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	305.2	311.8	312.0	310.5	302.8	305.9
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	31.8	29.5	30.7	34.2	32.2	33.4
Value of output (£m)	81.8	64.4	65.6	73.8	79.4	83.8
Calves						
Sales ('000 head)	33.4	39.3	28.5	31.6	29.9	25.6
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	247	297	308	305	303	314
Value of output (£m)	8.3	11.7	8.8	9.6	9.1	8.1
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	12.1	11.0	11.9	9.4	7.4	5.1
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	762	770	795	749	801	806
Value of output (£m)	9.2	8.5	9.5	7.0	6.0	4.1
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	2.8	1.7	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.2
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,178	1,337	1,081	1,056	1,349	1,391
Value of output (£m)	3.3	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0
Less Imported cattle						
Marketings ('000 head)	24.1	29.2	31.6	16.4	19.2	20.8
Average producer price (£ per head)	981	976	921	891	995	1,019
Value of output (£m)	23.6	28.5	29.0	14.6	19.1	21.2
Total Market Value (£m)	**449.2**	**385.1**	**389.4**	**420.8**	**459.3**	**470.3**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-6.8	+6.9	+12.9	+12.1	+5.1	-3.0
Total value of output (£m)	**442.4**	**392.0**	**402.3**	**432.9**	**464.4**	**467.3**

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

per cent

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Cows and bulls	25	24	25	26	24	25
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	32	32	33	34	37	36
- the beef herd;	38	40	38	35	36	36
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	6	5	5	5	3	3
Total[1]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number marketed ('000 head)	**424**	**395**	**398**	**426**	**434**	**444**

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

Table 2.18 Output of milk

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	280.0	295.5	311.2	315.8	314.6	311.6
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum)[1]	7,310	7,570	7,390	7,080	7,370	7,620
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	2,015	2,206	2,268	2,200	2,286	2,346
of which:						
sales off farms	2,013	2,204	2,266	2,198	2,285	2,344
used in farm households	2	1	1	1	1	2
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price[2]	31.79	29.66	21.17	20.61	29.00	28.98
Net price[3]	31.44	29.31	20.82	20.24	28.68	28.68
Market Value (£m)	**640.5**	**654.2**	**480.1**	**453.3**	**663.0**	**679.9**
Value of output (£m)[2]	**640.5**	**654.2**	**480.1**	**453.3**	**663.0**	**679.9**

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished sheep and lambs	797.5	791.5	784.1	776.0	765.8	754.0
Culled ewes and rams	133.8	130.7	135.3	136.8	136.4	129.0
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished sheep and lambs	386.5	381.5	340.2	387.9	398.7	426.5
Culled ewes and rams	155.3	185.4	200.0	185.8	192.7	203.1
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.3	21.8	21.7	21.4	21.6	21.6
Culled ewes and rams	27.8	28.0	28.2	28.1	28.0	27.6
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	17.0	17.2	17.0	16.6	16.5	16.3
Culled ewes and rams	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6
Market Value (£m)[3]	**69.9**	**69.9**	**63.5**	**71.9**	**74.6**	**77.4**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-3.2	-0.5	-0.3	+3.2	-2.3	+0.9
Value of output (£m)	**66.7**	**69.4**	**63.2**	**75.0**	**72.3**	**78.3**

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished clean pigs	1,033.8	1,078.5	1,156.6	1,238.4	1,241.5	1,238.9
Culled sows and boars	13.0	12.8	14.2	14.0	14.7	15.9
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished clean pigs	155.81	145.93	118.84	118.27	152.19	142.41
Culled sows and boars	93.29	91.62	75.34	74.68	96.45	91.45
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	83.9	85.7	86.2	86.5	88.6	91.1
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	86.7	92.4	99.7	107.1	110.0	112.9
Culled sows and boars	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2
Market Value (£m)[3]	**132.2**	**131.9**	**113.0**	**121.0**	**163.3**	**159.3**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.0	+1.3	+1.1	+0.0	+2.9	-0.6
Value of output (£m)	**132.3**	**133.2**	**114.1**	**121.1**	**166.3**	**158.8**

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	269.9	279.0	277.9	298.6	315.4	327.8
Broilers	241.7	250.9	253.0	272.4	294.0	305.9
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	86.6	80.8	75.1	71.3	73.8	74.5
Broilers	86.0	81.2	75.0	71.4	75.3	75.7
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	265.6	259.4	246.8	249.3	268.2	280.6
of which broilers	207.8	203.8	189.8	194.4	221.3	231.7
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.6	-2.3	+1.1	+3.5	-1.0	+0.1
Value of Output (£m)[1]	**265.0**	**257.2**	**247.9**	**252.7**	**267.2**	**280.8**

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	89.2	106.8	114.2	122.3	139.1	149.0
Average producer price (p per dozen)[1]	74.07	72.85	75.85	75.89	73.36	70.50
Value of output (£m)[2]	**67.4**	**79.6**	**88.6**	**94.8**	**104.0**	**107.1**

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

harvest years

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Potatoes[1]						
Area ('000 hectares)	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	40.1	43.0	43.7	40.4	43.2	39.3
Production ('000 tonnes)	173.6	180.2	157.1	150.9	175.3	141.6
of which:						
saleable potatoes	141.3	156.3	134.1	131.3	155.0	116.1
chats[2] and waste	32.4	23.9	23.0	19.5	20.3	25.5
Barley[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	25.8	23.6	22.7	22.3	21.1	20.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.43	5.78	6.17	5.59	5.41	5.66
Production ('000 tonnes)	139.8	136.1	140.0	124.9	114.4	117.2
Wheat[4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.32	7.54	8.02	6.97	7.70	6.97
Production ('000 tonnes)	58.3	64.1	64.0	60.0	67.2	47.7
Oats[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.02	5.61	5.93	5.37	5.64	5.05
Production ('000 tonnes)	9.9	11.7	12.3	12.1	12.7	10.2
Oilseed rape[5]						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.00	3.60	3.90	3.10	3.90	3.50
Production ('000 tonnes)	1.4	1.8	2.4	1.7	2.9	2.7
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	19.6	20.6	14.2	11.6	7.3	10.5
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.3	7.6	8.1	7.1	6.4	6.6
Production ('000 tonnes)	143.2	156.6	115.3	82.1	46.4	69.9
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	290.6	309.4	308.1	286.7	298.5	313.4
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	31	32	30	30	29	29
Production ('000 tonnes)	9,070	9,812	9,357	8,660	8,805	9,060

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 Output[1] of potatoes, barley and wheat

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
POTATOES[2]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	111.8	126.4	147.9	119.3	139.9	96.2
Seed	14.9	13.3	11.7	11.0	12.1	10.3
Stockfeed	24.7	23.7	19.4	13.6	14.8	12.7
Total	**151.4**	**163.5**	**179.0**	**143.9**	**166.8**	**119.2**
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	197.55	125.68	131.88	155.01	148.34	175.19
Seed	218.14	167.37	152.86	170.70	172.98	166.49
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	22.1	15.9	19.5	18.5	20.7	16.9
Seed	3.2	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.7
Stockfeed	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Total[3]	**25.8**	**18.5**	**21.5**	**20.6**	**23.1**	**18.8**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	0.7	0.3	-4.5	-0.3	-0.4	1.8
Value of output (£m)	**26.5**	**18.8**	**17.1**	**20.2**	**22.7**	**20.6**
BARLEY[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	137.2	132.5	150.4	124.9	117.9	111.1
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	179.21	145.89	130.40	133.55	154.15	185.77
Market Value (£m)	24.6	19.3	19.6	16.7	18.2	20.6
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.4	+0.5	-1.3	0.0	-0.5	+1.2
Value of output (£m)	**25.0**	**19.8**	**18.3**	**16.7**	**17.6**	**21.8**
WHEAT[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	58.7	58.6	66.4	63.2	65.0	52.1
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	194.98	155.66	135.87	137.29	160.50	182.45
Market Value (£m)	**11.4**	**9.1**	**9.0**	**8.7**	**10.4**	**9.5**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.1	+0.8	-0.3	-0.4	+0.4	-0.8
Value of output (£m)	**11.4**	**9.9**	**8.7**	**8.2**	**10.8**	**8.7**

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
APPLES[1]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	32.0	38.7	43.6	44.6	55.2	57.3
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	267	259	271	258	263	203
Market value (£m)	8.5	10.0	11.8	11.5	14.5	11.7
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.0	+0.4	-0.8	+2.9	+0.8	+1.9
Value of Output (£m)	**8.5**	**10.4**	**11.0**	**14.5**	**15.4**	**13.6**
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	28.0	36.8	45.1	35.7	35.5	34.1
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,450	1,484	1,496	1,496	1,496	1,496
Value of output (£m)	**40.6**	**54.6**	**67.5**	**53.5**	**53.1**	**51.0**

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)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS[1]						
Total quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,626	2,619	2,649	2,582	2,845	2,989
of which: Non-concentrates[2] ('000 tonnes)	53	51	54	53	67	69
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,170	2,183	2,172	2,131	2,374	2,539
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	388	386	423	399	404	382
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	303	295	275	273	271	290
Value of feed consumed (£m)	**796.9**	**773.5**	**727.9**	**707.0**	**770.8**	**867.5**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.7	+0.9	+0.4	+2.0	-0.1	-0.4
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	328	269	262	291	338	317
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	118	99	100	106	125	120
of which:						
Nitrogen	81	68	66	74	85	80
Phosphate	9	8	8	8	10	10
Potash	16	13	13	15	18	17
Sulphur	11	10	12	9	12	12
Average cost (£ per tonne)	304	298	275	230	236	251
Value of purchases (£m)	**99.7**	**80.2**	**72.0**	**66.9**	**80.0**	**79.5**
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	167	193	152	176	165	187
Average cost (£ per tonne)	12.40	12.03	13.45	21.94	25.36	27.87
Value of purchases (£m)	**2.1**	**2.3**	**2.0**	**3.9**	**4.2**	**5.2**
MARKETING EXPENSES[3]						
Cattle	21.6	20.2	20.5	21.9	22.4	22.5
Sheep	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.8
Pigs	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3
Milk	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.1
Total	**36.0**	**35.5**	**36.5**	**38.4**	**38.3**	**37.8**
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5
Total interest charges (£m)[4]	**39.9**	**38.5**	**39.0**	**39.3**	**37.1**	**38.0**
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	41.14	40.20	40.33	40.04	39.86	41.21
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour)[5]	7.33	7.53	8.16	8.29	8.71	8.90
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week)[5]	301.35	302.80	328.96	332.08	347.24	366.56
Volume of paid labour (million hours)[6]	8.56	8.55	8.34	8.01	8.43	8.46
Value of paid labour (£m)[6]	**63.5**	**65.2**	**68.8**	**68.2**	**74.7**	**77.4**

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 78 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing. Around 8.4 per cent of the total land area is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part of the total forested area (113,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2017/2018*[1]).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Only 2,970 farms (12 per cent) have arable or horticultural crops. These crops occupy 44,900 hectares and make up just 4.4 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (20,700 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 6,800 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (29,700 hectares) was 8.2 per cent lower in 2018 than in 2017. 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 2018, the area of potatoes grown decreased on 2017 levels by 11.1 per cent to 3,600 hectares. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2018, the cropped area also included 2,800 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,500 hectares) and vegetables (1,100 hectares).

Grazing livestock

All but 6 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2018, cattle were present on 20,082 farms (81 per cent), sheep on 9,984 farms (40 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 23,400 farms (94 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2018 Agricultural Census was approximately 1.6 million, down 2.2 per cent from the previous year. There were 310,700 dairy cows (1.6 per cent less than in 2017), and 255,900 beef cows (4.2 per cent less than in 2017). 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 2018, the sheep breeding flock was 1.7 per cent smaller than in 2017 at 956,500 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 2.0 million in 2018, a 2.3 per cent reduction from 2017.

[1]Available 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 2018, pig numbers were derived from the NI Annual Pig Inventory (conducted in June) and were estimated at 633,600. Sow numbers increased to 49,600 in 2018.

In June 2018, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 26.0 million birds, 4.5 per cent higher than in 2017. The number of laying birds (4.3 million) increased by 9.3 per cent in 2018, and the numbers of broilers (17.7 million) increased by 5.3 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 1.2 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (194,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (152,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were 62,000 beef cows and 159,000 dairy cows in 2018. LFA farms account for 38 and 61 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

Contact: Des Muldoon, Tel: 028 9052 4802,

Email: Des.Muldoon@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 3.1 Land use, 2018

thousand hectares

	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	45	951	16	10	**1,022**
Common grazing	-	35	-	-	**34**
NI Forest Service[1]	-	-	62	13	**75**
Other areas	-	-	34	186	**220**
All land[2]	**45**	**986**	**113**	**209**	**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 2013 - 2018

thousand hectares

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Oats	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0
Wheat	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8
Barley: Winter	5.3	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.1	5.8
Spring	20.5	16.8	15.7	14.7	14.0	14.9
Mixed corn	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Potatoes	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6
Arable crop silage	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.3
Other field crops	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.6
Total agricultural crops	**48.6**	**46.8**	**44.3**	**44.5**	**44.3**	**42.1**
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1
Other horticultural crops	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total horticultural crops	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.1**	**2.9**	**3.0**	**2.8**
Grass: Under 5 years old	139.2	146.2	149.9	148.2	144.4	144.5
5 years old and over	648.8	641.8	650.4	652.6	660.6	663.2
Total grass	**788.0**	**788.0**	**800.3**	**800.8**	**805.0**	**807.6**
Total crops and grass	**839.6**	**837.8**	**847.7**	**848.2**	**852.2**	**852.5**
Rough grazing[1]	140.1	140.1	131.1	137.2	140.4	143.2
Woods and plantation	10.3	11.1	11.1	16.1	15.8	16.3
Other land[2]	8.0	7.8	7.9	11.8	11.4	10.4
Total area of farms	**998.0**	**996.8**	**997.7**	**1,013.2**	**1,019.7**	**1,022.4**

1. Excludes common rough grazing.
2. Includes set aside and land not used for agriculture.

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2013 - 2018

thousand head

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CATTLE[1]						
Dairy cows	**279.5**	**294.2**	**311.5**	**317.1**	**315.8**	**310.7**
Dairy heifers in calf	67.1	62.1	60.8	58.8	60.1	59.0
Beef cows	**270.1**	**254.9**	**260.3**	**269.7**	**267.1**	**255.9**
Beef heifers in calf	37.4	31.9	31.7	31.1	30.4	29.7
Total cows	**549.6**	**549.1**	**571.8**	**586.9**	**582.9**	**566.6**
Total heifers in calf	**104.5**	**93.9**	**92.5**	**90.0**	**90.5**	**88.7**
Bulls for service	18.8	18.1	17.7	17.4	17.2	16.9
Other cattle						
Over 2 years	113.3	132.6	121.1	101.7	106.2	117.7
1-2 years	345.2	331.8	328.3	358.1	378.7	364.4
Under 1 year	456.3	441.8	477.4	510.5	491.0	474.8
Total cattle	**1,587.8**	**1,567.3**	**1,608.9**	**1,664.6**	**1,666.4**	**1,629.1**
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	921.4	910.6	938.6	955.2	973.3	956.5
Other sheep	982.1	1,012.3	1,051.0	1,067.8	1,079.2	1,049.5
Total sheep	**1,903.5**	**1,922.9**	**1,989.7**	**2,023.0**	**2,052.6**	**2,006.0**
PIGS[2]						
Sows and gilts	42.5	42.8	45.6	46.4	47.9	49.6
Other pigs	437.8	474.2	524.1	554.7	601.2	584.0
Total pigs	**480.3**	**517.1**	**569.7**	**601.1**	**649.1**	**633.6**
POULTRY[3]						
Laying birds	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8	4,331.9
Growing pullets	909.3	916.3	908.0	961.9	1,202.0	1,121.3
Breeding flock	2,150.6	2,413.7	2,404.9	2,282.7	2,526.9	2,515.9
Table chickens	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6	17,663.0
Total ordinary fowl	**18,910.4**	**19,988.8**	**20,760.1**	**21,253.8**	**24,458.3**	**25,632.1**
Other poultry	463.5	412.4	485.6	530.0	452.3	398.5
Total poultry	**19,373.8**	**20,401.1**	**21,245.7**	**21,783.8**	**24,910.6**	**26,030.6**
HORSES & PONIES[4]	**11.7**	**11.1**	**11.0**	**10.3**	**9.6**	**9.0**
GOATS	**3.2**	**3.2**	**3.8**	**3.8**	**4.2**	**3.8**

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) category[1] of farm, June 2018

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	4	5	24	17
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	19
Other agricultural crops	1	1	2	7	26
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	2	14
Total crops	**2**	**6**	**9**	**36**	**19**
Grass: Under 5 years old	46	42	88	57	61
5 years and over	265	194	459	204	69
Total grass	**311**	**236**	**547**	**261**	**68**
Rough grazing[2]	127	10	137	6	96
Woods/other land	7	13	20	7	75
Total area	**447**	**265**	**713**	**310**	**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) category[1] of farm, June 2018

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	49	103	152	159	49
Beef cows	117	76	194	62	76
Heifers in calf	21	28	49	39	56
Bulls for service	6	5	11	6	65
Other cattle					
Over 2 years	24	39	63	55	53
1-2 years	82	122	204	160	56
Under 1 year	139	153	292	182	62
Total cattle	**439**	**526**	**965**	**664**	**59**
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	547	215	762	194	80
Other sheep	572	251	822	227	78
Total sheep	**1,119**	**466**	**1,585**	**421**	**79**
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	6	14	21	29	41
Other pigs	64	156	220	364	38
Total pigs	**70**	**170**	**241**	**393**	**38**
POULTRY					
Laying birds	1,766	1,114	2,881	1,451	66
Table fowl	3,605	6,742	10,348	7,315	59
Other poultry	1,225	1,314	2,539	1,497	63
Total poultry	**6,596**	**9,171**	**15,767**	**10,264**	**61**
HORSES AND PONIES[2]	2	2	5	4	50
GOATS	2	1	3	1	71

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 2018 Census, 24,895, was 61 less than in 2017. 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 1,473 farms (5.9 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy 26.6 per cent 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, 77 per cent in 2018, are classified as **very small**. In 2018, there were 19,188 farms in this category (Table 4.3) which is 128 more than in 2017. 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 2018, 59 per cent of beef cows[2] and 53 per cent of total sheep were to be found on very small farms. Approximately 31,100 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.12).

There were 2,824 **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 27 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 1,190 **medium** and 1,693 **large** farms (together representing 12 per cent of all farms) contribute 62 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 56 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 10 per cent classified as dairy farms and 80 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping with 264 (1.1 per cent) classified as **cereal** farms, 574 (2.3 per cent) as **general cropping** and 264 (1.1 per cent) as **horticulture**. The **other types** category mainly consists of specialist horse farms, (120 farms in total). Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms together (816) account for 3.3 per cent, while **mixed** farms (503) make up 2.0 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 5 per cent were entirely rented or leased, 44 per cent had a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 51 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 2018, 3,311 farms (13 per cent) had dairy cows, 14,438 (58 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) and 20,082 (81 per cent) had cattle of some type (Table 4.16). The average number of dairy cows per herd, 94, was 2 more than in 2017. 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.

In 2018, 9,756 farms had breeding sheep (Table 4.17), with an average of 98 ewes per flock. There were relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, with only 23 farms having a flock size of 1,000 ewes or more.

In 2018, pig data were extracted from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and showed that 311 commercial pig herds were operational in June (Table 4.19). Most of the pig herds (275 in 2018) had sows, averaging 181 sows per herd (Table 4.18). Ninety 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 37 per cent of total herds hold almost 94 per cent of pigs.

Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2018, with only commercial producers considered. Of the 232 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 97 per cent had flocks over 1,000. Twenty-eight businesses (12 per cent) farmed over thirty thousand birds with these farms accounting for 42 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with 65 per cent of farms having thirty thousand birds or more on farm when the Bird Register Update was conducted in June. Over 88 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2018, cereals were grown on 1,961 farms (Table 4.23), 7.9 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 15.1 hectares. Thirty-five per cent (696) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, while 129 farms grew 50 hectares or more and accounted for 38 per cent of the total cereal area grown.

Some 432 farms, 1.7 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2018. Of this number, 98 grew 10 hectares or more, with these farms accounting for more than three quarters of the total area of potatoes grown (Table 4.24).

Contact: Des Muldoon, Tel: 028 9052 4802,
Email: Des.Muldoon@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed[1], June 2018

Size group	By crops and grass area		By total area	
(hectares)	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	431	-	149	-
0.1 - 9.9	5,266	31,305	4,632	27,584
10.0 - 19.9	5,792	84,389	5,394	79,048
20.0 - 29.9	4,052	99,001	4,035	98,768
30.0 - 49.9	4,268	163,960	4,463	172,329
50.0 - 99.9	3,613	247,544	4,183	289,008
100.0 - 199.9	1,251	164,557	1,619	214,887
200.0 +	222	61,801	420	140,771
Total	**24,895**	**852,557**	**24,895**	**1,022,395**

1. The area farmed is owned land plus land taken on conacre minus land let out.

Table 4.2 Number of farms, average area and distribution of area by area farmed, June 2013 - 2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of farms	24,503	24,228	24,907	24,528	24,956	24,895
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	34.3	34.6	34.0	34.5	34.1	34.2
Total area	40.7	41.1	40.1	41.3	40.9	41.1
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7
10.0 - 19.9	9.9	9.8	10.1	9.6	10.0	9.9
20.0 - 29.9	11.5	11.4	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.6
30.0 - 49.9	20.2	20.2	20.3	19.7	19.5	19.2
50.0 - 99.9	30.3	30.2	29.5	29.2	29.1	29.0
100.0 +	24.6	25.1	24.8	25.9	26.1	26.6
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 2018

number

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Under 10	5,394	154	57	92	5,697
10.0 - 19.9	5,555	158	38	41	5,792
20.0 - 29.9	3,704	236	63	49	4,052
30.0 - 49.9	3,152	833	183	100	4,268
50.0 - 99.9	1,286	1,151	599	577	3,613
100.0 +	97	292	250	834	1,473
Total	**19,188**	**2,824**	**1,190**	**1,693**	**24,895**

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

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2013 - 2018

number

Business size[1]	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Very small	18,719	18,521	19,078	18,651	19,060	19,188
Small	3,063	2,935	2,951	2,938	2,945	2,824
Medium	1,187	1,226	1,249	1,238	1,229	1,190
Large	1,534	1,546	1,629	1,701	1,722	1,693
Total	**24,503**	**24,228**	**24,907**	**24,528**	**24,956**	**24,895**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2018

number

Business size[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,161	5,850	14,011	5,177	73
Small	986	860	1,846	978	65
Medium	304	364	668	522	56
Large	280	493	773	920	46
Total	**9,731**	**7,567**	**17,298**	**7,597**	**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 2018

number

Business type[1]	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	207	41	9	7	264
General cropping	481	34	21	38	574
Horticulture	83	51	25	105	264
Pigs	55	22	30	70	177
Poultry	177	236	115	111	639
Dairy	262	703	584	996	2,545
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	13,199	1,130	218	153	14,700
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,381	505	128	95	5,109
Mixed	263	88	44	108	503
Others	80	14	16	10	120
All types	**19,188**	**2,824**	**1,190**	**1,693**	**24,895**

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 2013 - 2018

number

Business type[1]	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cereals	311	297	281	275	272	264
General cropping	497	368	516	506	523	574
Horticulture	304	289	293	280	273	264
Pigs	177	179	185	174	181	177
Poultry	591	591	601	592	622	639
Dairy	2,598	2,655	2,742	2,694	2,635	2,545
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	14,457	14,316	14,497	14,325	14,687	14,700
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,786	4,775	5,014	4,969	5,097	5,109
Mixed	561	559	588	570	539	503
Others	221	199	190	143	127	120
All types	**24,503**	**24,228**	**24,907**	**24,528**	**24,956**	**24,895**

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) category[1], June 2018

number

Business type[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	7	32	39	225	15
General cropping	113	154	267	307	47
Horticulture	17	68	85	179	32
Pigs	38	66	104	73	59
Poultry	200	214	414	225	65
Dairy	534	892	1,426	1,119	56
Cattle & sheep	8,743	5,957	14,700	5,109	74
Mixed	52	152	204	299	41
Others	27	32	59	61	49
All types	**9,731**	**7,567**	**17,298**	**7,597**	**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 2018

farms

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	11,385	844	281	307	12,817
50-<100%	4,563	1,279	596	852	7,290
>0-<50%	2,206	628	294	513	3,641
None owner occupied	1,034	73	19	21	1,147
All farms	**19,188**	**2,824**	**1,190**	**1,693**	**24,895**

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

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2013 - 2018

hectares

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Owner-occupied	688,912	690,477	713,095	730,767	737,994	739,243
Rented	309,040	306,327	284,653	282,481	281,742	283,152
Total	**997,952**	**996,804**	**997,748**	**1,013,248**	**1,019,736**	**1,022,395**
Percentage of owned land	**69.0**	**69.3**	**71.5**	**72.1**	**72.4**	**72.3**
Common grazing	**35,407**	**35,631**	**35,486**	**35,325**	**34,289**	**35,401**

Table 4.11 Average conacre rents by type of use, 2012 - 2017

£/hectare

Use	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grass	216	226	236	241	262	259
Potatoes	501	734	706	508	670	650
Cereals	241	263	293	289	301	350
Rough grazing	37	33	38	49	51	64
All uses	**179**	**182**	**191**	**208**	**224**	**229**

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2018

number of persons

Labour item	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All farms
Farmers and partners					
Full time	9,702	3,131	1,561	2,570	16,964
Part time	12,156	870	278	417	13,721
Total	**21,858**	**4,001**	**1,839**	**2,987**	**30,685**
Spouses of farmers	**4,252**	**1,006**	**485**	**799**	**6,542**
Other workers					
Full time	657	307	294	2,153	3,411
Part time	2,416	787	354	783	4,340
Casual/seasonal	1,960	811	444	1,055	4,270
Total other workers	**5,033**	**1,905**	**1,092**	**3,991**	**12,021**
Total agricultural labour force	**31,143**	**6,912**	**3,416**	**7,777**	**49,248**

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) category[1], June 2018

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	6,164	5,110	11,274	5,690	66
Part time	5,469	4,206	9,675	4,046	71
Total	**11,633**	**9,316**	**20,949**	**9,736**	**68**
Spouses of farmers	**2,336**	**1,923**	**4,259**	**2,283**	**65**
Other workers					
Full time	755	994	1,749	1,662	51
Part time	1,465	1,262	2,727	1,613	63
Casual/seasonal	1,222	1,209	2,431	1,839	57
Total other workers	**3,442**	**3,465**	**6,907**	**5,114**	**57**
Total agricultural labour force	**17,411**	**14,704**	**32,115**	**17,133**	**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 2018

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]														
	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large			All Farms		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	15,022	573	*35*	2,499	301	*18*	1,056	201	*12*	1,505	553	*34*	20,082	1,629	*100*
Dairy cows	491	9	*3*	901	41	*13*	693	56	*18*	1,226	205	*66*	3,311	311	*100*
Beef cows	11,076	151	*59*	1,864	57	*22*	675	22	*9*	823	25	*10*	14,438	256	*100*
Slaughter cattle >1 year	12,792	174	*44*	2,344	82	*21*	999	43	*11*	1,459	98	*25*	17,594	397	*100*
Sheep															
Total	7,740	1,067	*53*	1,343	517	*26*	426	182	*9*	475	239	*12*	9,984	2,006	*100*
Ewes	7,557	512	*54*	1,323	244	*26*	416	86	*9*	460	114	*12*	9,756	957	*100*
Pigs															
Total	120	15	*2*	49	22	*3*	46	51	*8*	96	546	*86*	311	634	*100*
Sows	98	2	*3*	44	2	*4*	42	4	*8*	91	42	*85*	275	50	*100*
Finishers/ Weaners	101	11	*2*	43	15	*3*	42	37	*8*	95	413	*87*	281	476	*100*
Poultry															
Total	195	2,612	*10*	260	7,008	*27*	131	5,035	*19*	193	11,375	*44*	779	26,031	*100*
Layers	46	247	*6*	95	1,184	*27*	40	796	*18*	51	2,105	*49*	232	4,332	*100*
Crops															
Oats	137	1	*27*	61	1	*26*	28	0	*10*	56	1	*36*	282	2	*100*
Wheat	186	1	*20*	112	2	*22*	65	1	*12*	181	3	*46*	544	7	*100*
Barley	836	6	*31*	346	5	*23*	162	3	*13*	303	7	*33*	1,647	21	*100*
Potatoes	200	0	*11*	102	1	*18*	44	0	*12*	86	2	*59*	432	4	*100*
Crops & grass	19,053	486	*49*	2,784	198	*20*	1,164	104	*10*	1,666	209	*21*	24,667	996	*100*
Rough grazing	4,233	72	*50*	770	36	*25*	255	15	*10*	309	20	*14*	5,567	143	*100*
Total area	19,188	495	*48*	2,824	201	*20*	1,190	112	*11*	1,693	214	*21*	24,895	1,022	*100*
Labour															
Full-time labour force[2]	9,541	11	*51*	2,537	4	*17*	1,142	2	*9*	1,650	5	*23*	14,870	22	*100*
Output															
Standard Output[3]	19,188	411	*21*	2,824	332	*17*	1,190	270	*14*	1,693	920	*48*	24,895	1,932	*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 2018[1]

	Dairy Cows				Beef cows			
Number per farm	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	220	1,420	6.6	0.5	6,204	27,914	43.0	10.9
10 - 14	94	1,095	2.8	0.4	2,280	26,894	15.8	10.5
15 - 19	106	1,818	3.2	0.6	1,689	28,480	11.7	11.1
20 - 29	170	4,116	5.1	1.3	1,900	45,388	13.2	17.7
30 - 39	242	8,364	7.3	2.7	981	33,238	6.8	13.0
40 - 49	235	10,418	7.1	3.4	451	20,026	3.1	7.8
50 - 59	241	13,090	7.3	4.2	319	17,296	2.2	6.8
60 - 69	256	16,507	7.7	5.3	200	12,880	1.4	5.0
70 - 99	580	48,563	17.5	15.6	253	20,739	1.8	8.1
100 & Over	1,167	205,327	35.2	66.1	161	23,049	1.1	9.0
Total 2018	**3,311**	**310,718**	**100**	**100**	**14,438**	**255,904**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***3,428***	***315,782***			***14,724***	***267,102***		
Average 2018		**93.8**				**17.7**		
Average 2017		***92.1***				***18.1***		

1. Cattle figures for 2017 and 2018 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 2018[1]

	Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter				Total cattle			
Number per farm	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	4,899	11,022	27.8	2.8	660	1,891	3.3	0.1
5 - 9	3,289	22,578	18.7	5.8	1,389	9,850	6.9	0.6
10 - 19	3,685	51,079	20.9	12.6	3,117	44,487	15.5	2.7
20 - 29	1,957	46,857	11.1	11.6	2,592	62,744	12.9	3.9
30 - 39	1,163	39,653	6.6	9.8	2,019	69,199	10.1	4.2
40 - 49	640	28,187	3.6	8.0	1,544	68,207	7.7	4.2
50 - 69	820	47,793	4.7	12.0	2,128	124,941	10.6	7.7
70 - 99	564	46,127	3.2	11.6	1,963	163,431	9.8	10.0
100 - 199	447	59,696	2.5	16.1	2,702	378,115	13.5	23.2
200 - 299	77	18,308	0.4	4.1	1,033	250,011	5.1	15.3
300 & over	53	25,513	0.3	5.6	935	456,192	4.7	28.0
Total 2018	**17,594**	**396,813**	**100**	**100**	**20,082**	**1,629,068**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***17,661***	***397,158***			***20,237***	***1,666,446***		
Average 2018		**22.6**				**81.1**		
Average 2017		***22.5***				***82.3***		

1. Cattle figures for 2017 and 2018 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 2018

Number per farm	Ewes				Total Sheep			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	2,124	28,325	21.8	3.0	1,115	14,610	11.2	0.7
25 - 49	2,136	76,490	21.9	8.0	1,333	48,795	13.4	2.4
50 - 99	2,403	168,475	24.6	17.6	2,032	146,277	20.4	7.3
100 - 199	1,886	256,801	19.3	26.8	2,342	334,850	23.5	16.7
200 - 299	632	150,772	6.5	15.8	1,220	298,491	12.2	14.9
300 - 399	285	95,224	2.9	10.0	636	217,325	6.4	10.8
400 - 499	132	57,718	1.4	6.0	397	177,507	4.0	8.8
500 - 699	82	46,843	0.8	4.9	470	275,556	4.7	13.7
700 - 999	53	43,857	0.5	4.6	252	206,340	2.5	10.3
1,000 & Over	23	32,043	0.2	3.3	187	286,247	1.9	14.3
Total 2018	**9,756**	**956,548**	**100**	**100**	**9,984**	**2,005,998**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***9,770***	***973,341***			***9,973***	***2,052,555***		
Average 2018		**98.0**				**200.9**		
Average 2017		***99.6***				***205.8***		

Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2018[1]

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts)			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	68	292	24.7	0.6
10 - 19	23	321	8.4	0.6
20 - 49	43	1,422	15.6	2.9
50 - 99	43	3,127	15.6	6.3
100 - 199	43	6,251	15.6	12.6
200 - 299	17	4,188	6.2	8.4
300 - over	38	34,034	13.8	68.6
Total 2018	**275**	**49,635**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***291***	***47,905***		
Average 2018		**180.5**		
Average 2017		***164.6***		

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 2018[1]

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	27	124	9.6	0.0	24	154	7.7	0.0
10 - 19	20	250	7.1	0.1	20	267	6.4	0.0
20 - 49	26	773	9.3	0.2	36	1,095	11.6	0.2
50 - 99	23	1,655	8.2	0.3	17	1,172	5.5	0.2
100 - 199	19	2,522	6.8	0.5	30	4,293	9.6	0.7
200 - 399	31	8,752	11.0	1.8	31	8,968	10.0	1.4
400 - 999	40	27,335	14.2	5.7	38	24,775	12.2	3.9
1,000 - 1,999	44	60,996	15.7	12.8	52	78,835	16.7	12.4
2,000 & over	51	373,216	18.1	78.5	63	514,085	20.3	81.1
Total 2018	**281**	**475,623**	**100**	**100**	**311**	**633,644**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***287***	***484,987***			***322***	***649,120***		
Average 2018		**1,692.6**				**2,037.4**		
Average 2017		***1,689.9***				***2,015.9***		

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 2018[1]

Number per farm	Laying Hens				Broilers			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Hens ('000)	Farms	Hens	Farms	Broilers ('000)	Farms	Broilers
1-999	8	4	3.4	0.1	3	1	0.9	0.0
1,000-4,999	12	35	5.2	0.8	2	9	0.6	0.1
5,000-9,999	64	476	27.6	11.0	8	66	2.4	0.4
10,000-19,999	95	1,394	40.9	32.2	63	1,021	19.0	5.8
20,000-29,999	25	617	10.8	14.3	40	1,006	12.0	5.7
30,000-49,999	20	717	8.6	16.5	80	3,059	24.1	17.3
50,000 & over	8	1,089	3.4	25.1	136	12,500	41.0	70.8
Total 2018	**232**	**4,332**	**100**	**100**	**332**	**17,663**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***212***	***3,963***			***325***	***16,767***		
Average 2018		**18,672**				**53,202**		
Average 2017		***18,692***				***51,590***		

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 2018[1]

Number per farm	Total poultry			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Birds ('000)	Farms	Birds ('000)
1-999	24	13	3.1	0.1
1,000-4,999	30	90	3.9	0.3
5,000-9,999	110	812	14.1	3.1
10,000-19,999	234	3,556	30.0	13.7
20,000-29,999	106	2,651	13.6	10.2
30,000-49,999	122	4,521	15.7	17.4
50,000 & over	153	14,388	19.6	55.3
Total 2018	**779**	**26,031**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***761***	***24,911***		
Average 2018		**33,415**		
Average 2017		***32,734***		

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 2018

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	24	17	1.5	0.1	11	7	2.0	0.1
1 - 4.9	595	1,771	36.1	8.6	158	482	29.0	7.0
5 - 9.9	404	2,861	24.5	13.8	175	1,233	32.2	18.0
10 - 19.9	346	4,654	21.0	22.5	115	1,569	21.1	22.9
20 - 29.9	121	2,881	7.3	13.9	33	763	6.1	11.1
30 - 39.9	56	1,909	3.4	9.2	22	732	4.0	10.7
40 - 49.9	37	1,629	2.2	7.9	10	422	1.8	6.2
50 & over	64	4,981	3.9	24.1	20	1,638	3.7	23.9
Total 2018	**1,647**	**20,703**	**100**	**100**	**544**	**6,845**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***1,817***	***21,145***			***660***	***8,730***		
Average 2018		**12.6**				**12.6**		
Average 2017		***11.6***				***13.2***		

Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2018

Area per farm (ha)	Total cereals			
	Numbers of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cereals
under 1	30	19	1.5	0.1
1 - 4.9	666	1,950	34.0	6.6
5 - 9.9	488	3,473	24.9	11.7
10 - 19.9	395	5,441	20.1	18.3
20 - 29.9	137	3,287	7.0	11.1
30 - 39.9	76	2,560	3.9	8.6
40 - 49.9	40	1,744	2.0	5.9
50 & over	129	11,189	6.6	37.7
Total 2018	**1,961**	**29,662**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***2,164***	***32,298***		
Average 2018		**15.1**		
Average 2017		***14.9***		

Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2018

Area per farm (ha)	Potatoes			
	Numbers of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Potatoes
under 1	97	45	22.5	1.3
1 - 4.9	185	455	42.8	12.6
5 - 9.9	52	366	12.0	10.2
10 - 19.9	52	707	12.0	19.6
20 - 29.9	18	437	4.2	12.1
30 - 39.9	7	239	1.6	6.6
40 - 49.9	10	453	2.3	12.6
50 & over	11	899	2.5	25.0
Total 2018	**432**	**3,601**	**100**	**100**
Total 2017	***480***	***4,053***		
Average 2018		**8.3**		
Average 2017		***8.4***		

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 2017/18'.

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 2017/18. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2018/19 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 2013/2014 are presented in Table 5.1.

Income changes 2017/18

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2016/17 and 2017/18 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 279 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 90 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 2016/17 and 2017/18 on Pig, Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (Lowland), and Mixed farms. Whereas, they all decreased between 2016/17 and 2017/18 on General Cropping and Cattle & Sheep (LFA) farms. For Cereal 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 £20,206 in 2016/17 to £33,870 in 2017/18, an increase of £13,664 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income increased from £15,740 in 2016/17 to £28,550 in 2017/18 (an increase of £12,810 per farm) and average Cash Income increased from £37,986 in 2016/17 to £53,345 in 2017/18 (an increase of £15,359 per farm).

Provisional estimates of incomes for 2018/19

Provisional estimates of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2019 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types decreasing from £33,870 in 2017/18 to £26,030 in 2018/19 i.e. a decrease of £7,840 or 23 per cent per farm.

Farm Business Income is also expected to fall (by varying amounts) for Dairy, Cattle and Sheep (LFA), Cattle and Sheep (Lowland), Pigs and Mixed farm types between 2017/18 and 2018/19. For all these farm types with the exception of Pigs, the downturn in their incomes is mainly attributed to higher feed costs in the 2018/19 accounting year. The downturn in incomes for Pig farms is due to both lower pig prices and higher feed prices in 2018/19. The results also show that Cereals are the only farm type expected to show a rise in Farm Business Income for 2018/19 when compared with the previous year. The upturn in incomes for Cereal farms is due to higher grain and straw prices in the 2018/19 accounting year.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to fall from £53,345 in 2017/18 to £45,505 in 2018/19, which is a decrease of £7,840 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to be £20,710 in 2018/19 which is a £7,840 decrease on the previous year.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in mid-January 2019 and relate to an account year ending in mid-February 2019. 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 2018/19, 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, 2013/2014 to 2018/19[1]

Indices: 2010/11 - 2012/13 = 100

Business type	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19 (provisional)
Cereals	101	84	70	75	98	111
General cropping	47	35	37	57	23	26
Pigs	106	112	74	121	203	133
Dairy	124	101	58	72	124	102
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	99	87	105	103	94	83
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	115	118	105	100	137	123
Mixed	101	89	39	78	112	95
All types	110	95	75	84	114	96

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, 2017/18

per cent

	Dairy			Cattle and sheep (LFA)			All types		
Income (£'s)	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**
Less than 0	3	9	4	7	27	15	6	24	11
1 - 4,999	1	4	1	3	11	6	2	7	4
5,000 - 9,999	0	1	1	10	13	15	7	9	12
10,000 - 14,999	1	3	2	7	16	14	6	10	10
15,000 - 19,999	2	8	3	13	7	19	8	6	14
20,000 - 29,999	3	7	12	21	13	15	16	12	13
30,000 - 49,999	22	17	21	26	7	9	24	11	14
> 50,000	68	51	57	13	5	8	31	20	23
Total	**..**	**100**	**..**	**..**	**100**	**..**	**..**	**100**	**..**
Number of farms in sample		100			106			279	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2016/17 and 2017/18

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	86.4	97.6	. . .	. . .	71.0	65.0
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	58.6	20.6
Pigs	41.3	41.1	. . .	. . .	88.1	138.8	. . .	. . .	61.3	129.4
Dairy	11.0	15.1	31.7	48.1	48.6	86.4	87.6	160.1	56.3	99.1
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	19.3	19.8	37.2	33.8	62.3	62.6	140.1	144.7	29.1	28.6
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	18.4	18.5	26.8	35.9	50.3	46.1	. . .	. . .	25.8	33.9
Mixed	14.0	33.3	28.3	68.6	69.1	65.5	119.0	164.1	53.9	82.9
All types	18.6	19.8	33.5	39.6	54.6	76.6	91.8	162.0	38.0	53.3

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, 2016/17 and 2017/18

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	47.1	59.6	. . .	. . .	12.7	27.0
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	36.4	14.5
Pigs	27.6	31.3	. . .	. . .	65.6	109.4	. . .	. . .	39.3	86.2
Dairy	3.5	12.5	15.4	36.2	21.4	62.3	32.9	105.7	22.8	68.1
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	11.9	11.2	22.1	19.2	49.0	44.9	119.5	131.8	18.9	17.7
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	11.7	11.5	15.1	21.7	27.3	23.3	. . .	. . .	15.8	16.6
Mixed	11.4	29.4	23.4	23.0	30.9	30.6	51.8	90.7	28.2	44.9
All types	11.5	12.0	18.1	24.0	30.4	53.4	42.5	102.9	20.2	33.9

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, 2016/17 and 2017/18

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	42.8	55.5	. . .	. . .	7.2	23.7
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	18.9	-2.2
Pigs	30.1	33.4	. . .	. . .	76.6	126.1	. . .	. . .	63.6	110.4
Dairy	-4.7	3.6	11.3	30.8	21.6	56.4	37.5	106.4	22.8	64.7
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	7.5	6.8	18.2	16.0	28.3	22.6	78.1	87.2	13.1	11.9
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	2.2	3.3	4.7	10.4	26.2	21.5	. . .	. . .	6.2	7.4
Mixed	2.6	20.1	16.8	15.9	19.8	17.2	57.2	98.6	23.7	40.5
All types	5.5	6.3	13.1	18.7	25.1	44.3	44.0	101.6	15.7	28.5

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, 2017/18

£'000 per farm[1]

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (SLR)	1.9	1.6	3.1	1.1	1.2	2.1	1.7
Total farm area (ha)	128.0	75.7	86.0	94.6	66.4	81.8	85.3
Farm Business income	27.0	14.5	68.1	17.7	16.6	44.9	33.9
Total tenant's capital	**220.0**	**57.4**	**217.3**	**109.0**	**144.0**	**194.5**	**150.6**
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	15.6	8.5	39.6	37.8	67.8	80.4	46.3
crops	23.2	5.5	19.9	6.7	7.6	13.4	10.9
other	6.4	0.2	2.8	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.4
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	11.2	0.0	96.5	34.9	30.9	35.4	51.0
machinery	163.7	43.2	58.6	28.8	36.7	64.0	41.0

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, 2016/17 and 2017/18

£'000 per farm[1]

		Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
		2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
	ASSETS						
	Total fixed assets	1,344.4	1,356.6	1,109.9	1,114.0	1,223.8	1,233.3
	of which:						
	land and buildings	1,193.1	1,198.8	1,046.9	1,050.8	1,133.6	1,140.6
	other fixed assets	151.3	157.7	63.0	63.2	90.2	92.7
	Total current assets	85.6	95.0	54.2	56.8	72.9	76.9
	of which:						
	trading livestock, crops and stores	61.7	62.8	44.5	46.2	58.4	58.9
	debtors/other short term lending	16.7	20.8	.4	.7	5.2	6.5
	cash in hand and the bank	7.2	11.5	9.3	9.9	9.3	11.4
A	**Total assets**	**1,430.0**	**1,451.6**	**1,164.1**	**1,170.8**	**1,296.7**	**1,310.1**
	LIABILITIES						
	Total long/medium term loans	80.8	73.4	7.0	6.2	32.4	29.4
	of which:						
	bank/other institutional	79.8	72.4	7.0	6.2	31.9	28.9
	Total short term loans	44.3	38.4	8.3	9.2	19.8	18.8
	of which:						
	bank overdraft	29.2	22.5	6.7	7.1	13.6	11.9
B	**Total external liabilities**	**125.1**	**111.8**	**15.3**	**15.4**	**52.2**	**48.2**
	NET WORTH (A-B)	**1,304.9**	**1,339.8**	**1,148.8**	**1,155.4**	**1,244.5**	**1,262.0**

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

6. FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

Turnover

Gross turnover in the food and drinks processing sector continued to decline in 2016 with turnover decreasing in five subsectors. Provisional figures for 2017 estimate that there will be an upturn in turnover in the sector with an increase in turnover in seven out of the ten subsectors.

Performance

Sales per employee in the food and drinks processing sector experienced a second year of decline in 2016 and has fallen to its lowest level in six years. Value added per employee has grown steadily over the last six years. Return on capital employed (ROCE) has varied over the last 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 2012. 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 remained static in 2017 following three years of growth.

Destination of Sales

Great Britain was the main destination of sales from the NI food and drinks processing sector in 2016. The Republic of Ireland is the largest export market. Exports to Republic of Ireland and other European Union countries account for 22.6 per cent of Northern Ireland's food and drinks processing sector sales. The Rest of the World accounts for 2.8 per cent of the sector's total sales.

Live Animal Sales

Republic of Ireland was the main destination for NI external live farm level sales for three out of the four subsectors in 2018. Sales to Republic of Ireland account for 54.5 per cent of the total value of external sales. The total value of export sales has increased between 2015 and 2018 driven by an increase in sales to the Republic of Ireland.

Raw Milk Sales

The value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland reached a six year high of £234.9m in 2017. This is 53.3 per cent greater than the previous peak set in 2014.

Live Animal Purchases

Republic of Ireland was the largest external market for NI live animal purchases for three out of the four subsectors in 2018. Purchases from Republic of Ireland account for 86.4 per cent of the total value of external purchases. The total value of purchases from outside NI and total value of imports declined between 2013 and 2016 driven by a decline in purchases from Republic of Ireland. There was an increase in the value of purchases from Great Britain, Republic of Ireland and Other EU in 2017 but purchases declined from all three markets in 2018.

Non-Edible Exports The total value of non-edible product exports has experienced a second year of growth in 2017 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]

£ million

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Animal by-products	37	40	51	57	48	50
Bakeries	273	286	287	283	304	323
Beef and sheepmeat	1,167	1,214	1,244	1,252	1,189	1,230
Drinks	391	416	417	386	369	369
Eggs	113	132	139	143	153	150
Fish	70	76	77	77	80	82
Fruit and vegetables	255	299	306	309	322	340
Milk and milk products	972	1,000	1,010	905	902	926
Pigmeat	300	316	328	302	317	309
Poultrymeat	675	697	706	701	680	700
Total processing sector	**4,252**	**4,475**	**4,565**	**4,415**	**4,365**	**4,478**

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 2017 have been estimated by adjusting the 2016 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]

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sales per employee (£)	201,357	208,202	214,815	222,912	204,810	194,738
Value added per employee (£)	32,204	33,621	33,795	34,673	35,116	36,879
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	10.1	10.6	10.3	10.4	9.4	11.0

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

Full-time equivalents

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Processing of products[1,2]						
Animal by-products	120	117	116	116	113	112
Bakeries	3,260	3,261	3,466	3,719	3,849	4,053
Beef and sheepmeat	4,136	4,385	4,549	4,758	5,070	5,257
Drinks	1,385	1,377	1,362	1,327	1,334	1,312
Eggs	268	291	311	346	379	416
Fish	516	533	553	550	596	632
Fruit and vegetables	2,152	2,305	2,400	2,415	2,509	2,624
Milk and milk products	2,163	2,182	1,856	1,856	1,965	2,076
Pigmeat	1,312	1,378	1,366	1,414	1,530	1,653
Poultrymeat	4,985	5,014	4,510	5,055	5,071	5,346
Total processing sector	**20,294**	**20,843**	**20,486**	**21,555**	**22,413**	**23,479**
Agency Employment in food and drinks processing	**1,755**	**1,858**	**2,402**	**2,464**	**2,599**	**2,586**
Manufacture and supply of inputs[3]						
Animal feed	740	750	750	750	750	750
Fertilisers and lime	200	200	200	200	200	200
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	900	910	910	910	910	910
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	740	750	750	730	720	730
Services[4]	1,130	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Total supply sector	**3,710**	**3,750**	**3,750**	**3,740**	**3,730**	**3,740**

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, 2014-2017

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Catching	683	149	708	151	700	175	686	152
Processing and marketing	463	175	484	232	516	241	530	242
Others	104	44	112	46	113	47	126	56
Total	**1,250**	**368**	**1,304**	**429**	**1,329**	**463**	**1,342**	**450**

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA.

Table 6.5 Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2016

£ million

	NI[1]	GB[2]	ROI[3]	Other[4] EU	ROW[5]	Inter-vention	Total Sales	External[6] Sales	Export[7] Sales
Animal By-Products	*	*	*	*	*	-	47.9	*	*
Bakeries	156.0	59.7	84.8	0.7	2.6	-	303.9	147.8	88.1
Beef/Sheepmeat	154.0	814.8	83.1	122.3	15.1	-	1,189.3	1,035.3	220.5
Drinks	1 152.3	34.7	156.8	12.6	12.9	-	369.1	216.8	182.2
Eggs	47.6	92.8	*	*	-	-	153.4	105.8	13.0
Fish	12.8	35.8	6.5	21.5	3.1	-	79.7	66.9	31.1
Fruit/Vegetables	103.9	162.1	53.7	0.9	1.2	-	321.8	217.9	55.8
Milk/Milk Products	247.3	328.2	112.5	154.8	56.0	3.4	902.2	651.5	323.3
Pigmeat	124.8	121.8	56.3	*	*	-	317.1	192.4	70.5
Poultrymeat	*	*	75.6	*	*	-	680.3	*	*
Total	**1,060.3**	**2,193.4**	**645.8**	**341.5**	**120.4**	**3.4**	**4,364.7**	**3,301.0**	**1,107.6**

*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 External sales of live animals from Northern Ireland by destination, 2018 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Exports[6]
Live Cattle	8.1	9.1	4.0	0.0	21.2	13.1
Live Sheep	2.9	40.7	0.1	0.0	43.7	40.8
Live Pigs	3.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	5.2	2.2
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	23.8	9.0	9.0	0.0	41.8	18.0
Total	**37.8**	**61.0**	**13.1**	**0.0**	**111.9**	**74.1**

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

Table 6.7 External sales of live animals[1] from Northern Ireland by destination 2013-2018

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
GB[2]	50.2	45.6	49.7	46.1	40.4	37.8
ROI[3]	52.6	43.6	42.5	53.0	54.5	61.0
Other EU[4]	19.0	21.5	19.1	15.7	16.2	13.1
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**121.8**	**110.7**	**111.3**	**114.8**	**111.1**	**111.9**
Export[7]	**71.6**	**65.1**	**61.6**	**68.7**	**70.7**	**74.1**

1. 'Live Animal' sales consist of live cattle, live sheep, live pig, live poultry 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 raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland

£ million

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sales Value (£ millions)	116.7	137.2	153.2	126.3	132.5	234.9

Table 6.9 External purchases of live animals to Northern Ireland by origin, 2018 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Imports[6]
Live Cattle	6.9	25.5	0.9	0.0	33.3	26.4
Live Sheep	1.2	2.6	0.0	0.0	3.8	2.6
Live Pigs	0.0	63.0	0.1	0.0	63.1	63.1
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0
Total	**13.3**	**91.1**	**1.0**	**0.0**	**105.5**	**92.1**

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

Table 6.10 External purchases of live animals[1] to Northern Ireland by origin, 2013-2018

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
GB[2]	7.1	9.7	9.2	9.9	14.4	13.3
ROI[3]	141.5	130.7	117.4	75.3	95.5	91.1
Other EU[4]	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.0
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**149.0**	**140.8**	**127.3**	**85.7**	**111.3**	**105.5**
Import[7]	**141.9**	**131.1**	**118.1**	**75.9**	**96.9**	**92.1**

1. 'Live Animal' sales consist of live cattle, live sheep, live pig, live poultry sales.

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

Table 6.11 Value of non-edible product exports

£ million

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (provisional)
Animal feedstuffs[1]	97.7	124.2	103.1	101.1	108.9	125.0
Animal hides and skins	26.4	37.0	31.9	32.4	26.4	25.9
Processed wood and timber	40.6	41.8	47.6	47.0	56.2	63.8
Inedible animal and veg products[2]	15.4	23.2	24.4	19.9	16.7	18.4
Total	**180.0**	**226.2**	**207.0**	**200.4**	**208.2**	**233.1**

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 7.13, 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 7.13 is based on the Locale definitions of rural and urban used by Ofcom. Locale is a third-party data source which uses a combination of Government conurbation definitions, population density, urban sprawl boundaries, Ordinance 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 2017, based on mid-year population estimates at small area level, 60 percent of people in Northern Ireland lived in urban areas, 5 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 7.1).

Income Rural households on average enjoy higher incomes than their urban counterparts. However, there is a difference in individual incomes between rural dwellers living close to, and those more distant from Belfast. Residents living more than an hour's drive time from Belfast have a higher risk of poverty than rural dwellers living closer to Belfast (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2).

Businesses In 2018, there were 74,060 businesses which were registered for VAT and/or PAYE schemes in Northern Ireland. In 2018, 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 7.3 and 7.4).

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, whereas those living closer to towns and cities have higher levels (see Table 7.5). Rural school leavers are more likely to achieve GCSE or A level qualifications and to enter higher education than their urban peers (see Tables 7.6 and 7.7).

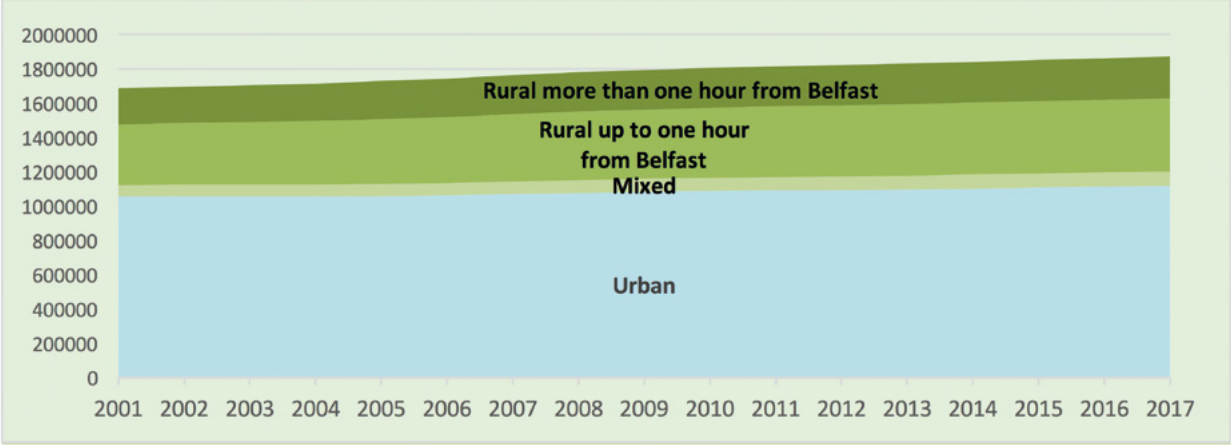
Housing Rural areas show a much higher level of home ownership and a much lower level of social renting than urban areas, although the latter may in part reflect availability. House prices are in general higher and have been rising slightly more quickly in rural than in urban areas. The average household size is also higher in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.8 - 7.10).

Transport and telecommunications Rural dwellers have a heavy reliance on private transport, in comparison to those in urban areas who enjoy much better access to bus and rail services (see Tables 7.11 and 7.12). Broadband speed and availability, though improving, are 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 7.13).

Health Average life expectancy is higher and mortality rates are lower in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.14 and 7.15). Median emergency response times are roughly twice as long in rural as in urban areas (see Tables 7.16 and 7.17).

Contact: Patricia McDowell, Tel. (028) 9052 4144,
E-mail. Patricia.McDowell@daera-ni.gov.uk

Figure 7.1 Population Trends in NI



Source:
NISRA Mid year estimates 2017, 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 equivalised[1] net[2] disposable weekly household income, 2016/17

	Before Housing Costs £	After Housing Costs £
Urban	**448**	**399**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	462	428
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	478	432
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	464	430
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	481	438
All Rural	**464**	**431**
All Households (NI)	**452**	**409**

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, 2016/17.

Table 7.2 Percentage of individuals with incomes below 60% UK Median Income[1] 2016/17

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
All Urban	**19**	**21**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	18	18
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	18	17
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	16	16
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	21	19
All Rural	**18**	**17**
All Households (NI)	**18**	**20**

1. Relative poverty threshold.

Source: DfC, Households below average income, 2016/17.

Table 7.3 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered business operating in NI by broad industry group[1], 2018

Broad Industry Group[1]	Urban	Rural					
		<=20 mins to settlement[2]	>20mins to settlement[2]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	Total
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2%	37%	47%	37%	48%	41%	**25%**
Production	7%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	**7%**
Construction	10%	15%	18%	16%	16%	16%	**14%**
Motor trades	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**3%**
Wholesale	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	**4%**
Retail	13%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	**8%**
Transport & storage (inc. postal)	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**3%**
Accommodation & food services	9%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	**5%**
Information & communication	5%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	**3%**
Finance & insurance	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	**2%**
Property	5%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	**3%**
Professional, scientific & technical	13%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	**8%**
Business administration and support services	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	**4%**
Public administration and defence	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	*
Education	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	**1%**
Health	6%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	**4%**
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	10%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	**6%**
All Industries	**31,060**	**24,420**	**18,580**	**25,875**	**17,125**	**43,000**	**74,060**

1. For full description of standard industrial classification (2007) see Office for National Statistics: https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/ukstandardindustrialclassificationofeconomicactivities/uksic2007

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

*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, 2018, DoF.

Table 7.4 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee sizeband, 2018

	Urban	Rural					
		<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	Total
Sole Trader (No employees)	14%	43%	43%	47%	39%	86%	**16,220**
Other[2] (No employees)	16%	45%	38%	47%	36%	84%	**7,300**
Micro (1-9 employees)	52%	29%	19%	31%	17%	48%	**42,405**
Small (10-49 employees)	66%	22%	12%	23%	11%	33%	**6,540**
Medium (50-249 employees)	73%	19%	8%	20%	7%	27%	**1,295**
Large (250+ employees)	89%	10%	3%	10%	3%	13%	**305**
All	**42%**	**33%**	**25%**	**35%**	**23%**	**58%**	**74,060**

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

2 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, 2018, DoF.

Table 7.5 Highest educational qualification 2017/18

	Degree level or higher qualifications	Qualifications below degree level	No qualifications	Base[1] =100%
All Urban	**29%**	**50%**	**21%**	**1,790**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	32%	49%	18%	598
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	25%	47%	28%	419
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	33%	48%	19%	660
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	22%	49%	30%	357
All rural	**29%**	**48%**	**22%**	**1,017**
Total	**29%**	**49%**	**22%**	**2,807**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2017/18.

Table 7.6 Performance of school leavers, 2016/17

	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*-C[2]	**82%**	86%	87%	87%	86%	**87%**	**84%**
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C[2] **inc. GCSE English and maths**	**66%**	74%	74%	75%	72%	**74%**	**70%**
2+ A Levels A*-E[2]	**57%**	61%	62%	62%	60%	**61%**	**59%**
TOTAL	**12694**	5,589	3,582	5,921	3,250	**9,171**	**21,865**

1. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.
2. Including equivalents.

Source: DE School Leaver's Survey 2016/17.

Table 7.7 Destinations of school leavers, 2016/17

	Urban	Rural					All NI
		<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	**All rural**	
Higher Education[2]	**41%**	47%	48%	48%	45%	**47%**	**43%**
Further Education	**35%**	34%	32%	31%	37%	**33%**	**34%**
Employment	**10%**	7%	7%	8%	6%	**7%**	**9%**
Training[3]	**10%**	9%	11%	9%	10%	**10%**	**10%**
Unemployment	**3%**	2%	1%	2%	1%	**1%**	**3%**
Others	**2%**	1%	1%	1%	1%	**1%**	**1%**
TOTAL	**12,694**	5,589	3,582	5,921	3,250	**9,171**	**21,865**

1. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.
2. Destination is defined by Institution. Institution 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 2016/17.

Table 7.8 Housing Tenure, 2017/18

	Owner occupied/ co-ownership	Social rented	Private rented	Rent free	Base =100%
All Urban	62%	21%	15%	1%	2,811
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	79%	6%	12%	2%	932
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	78%	7%	12%	2%	616
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	79%	6%	12%	2%	984
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	77%	8%	13%	2%	564
All rural	79%	7%	12%	2%	1,548
Total	**68%**	**16%**	**14%**	**1%**	**4,359**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2017/18.

Table 7.9 House prices, 2018

	Q3 2018	Increase since Q1, 2015
All Urban	**£129,180**	**21.5%**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	£152,390	22.0%
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	£151,219	23.4%
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	£155,326	20.4%
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	£143,034	27.9%
All Rural	**£152,048**	**22.5%**
All Households (NI)	**£135,060**	**21.7%**

Source: NI House price Index, Detailed Statistics, Quarter 3, 2018, November, 2018 https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-house-price-index-statistical-reports

Table 7.10 Average household size, 2017/18

	Mean number persons per household	Base=100%
All Urban	2.36	2,811
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	2.66	934
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	2.63	617
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	2.65	985
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	2.63	566
All Rural	2.64	1,551
All Households (NI)	**2.46**	**4,362**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2017/18.

Table 7.11 Household access to car or van, 2017/18

	No cars /vans	1 car /van	2 cars vans	>2 cars /vans	Base= 100%
All Urban	24%	45%	25%	6%	2,811
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	8%	37%	39%	15%	934
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	10%	40%	38%	12%	617
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	7%	38%	41%	14%	985
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	12%	39%	35%	13%	566
All rural	9%	38%	39%	14%	1,551
Total	**19%**	**43%**	**30%**	**9%**	**4,362**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2017/18.

Table 7.12 Access to public transport[1], 2014-2016

	Urban	Rural	All NI
Walk to nearest bus stop			
3 minutes or less	41%	22%	34%
44 minutes or longer	0%	9%	2%
Bus service frequency			
At least once every 15 minutes	22%	0%	14%
Less than daily	0%	2%	1%
Walk to nearest railway station			
6 minutes or less	5%	1%	4%
44 minutes or longer or n/a	43%	91%	60%
Rail service frequency[2]			
At least once an hour	85%	69%	80%
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 2014-16 https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/travel-survey-northern-ireland-tsni-urban-rural-report-2014-2016

Table 7.13 Broadband speeds and availability, 2018

	Urban[1]	Rural[1]	NI
Average download speeds (Mbits)	49	29	43
Average monthly data usage (GB)	255	203	240
Coverage of Superfast Broadband (>=30Mbits)	98%	67%	89%
Take-up of Superfast Broadband	50%	34%	45%
Coverage of Ultrafast Broadband (>=300Mbits)	50%	9%	38%
Premises served by full fibre	13%	8%	12%
Premises unable to obtain decent broadband service[2]	0%	17%	5%

1. Based on Locale classification of Urban and Rural.
2. At least 10Mbit/s download and 1Mbit/s upload speeds

Source: Ofcom, 2018: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland report, https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/130820/Connected-Nations-2018-Northern-Ireland.pdf

Table 7.14 Life expectancy at birth[1]

Years	2011-13		2012-14		2013-15		2014-16	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Urban	77.0	81.6	77.3	81.6	77.2	81.5	77.4	81.5
Mixed Urban/Rural	79.6	82.6	79.1	82.2	78.9	82.3	79.5	81.9
Rural	79.5	83.7	79.9	83.7	80.0	83.7	80.3	83.8
All NI	78.0	82.3	78.3	82.3	78.3	82.3	78.5	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.

Source: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2018

Table 7.15 Standardised Death Rate - All cause Mortality under 75 years[1]

Deaths per 100,000 population	2008-12	2009-13	2010-14
Urban	441	429	420
Mixed Urban/Rural	328	327	332
Rural	334	327	316
All NI	398	388	379

1. Calculated by standardising (using the direct method) the average death rate in persons under 75 in NI over a 5 year period to the 2013 European standard.

Source: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2018

Table 7.16 Median Fire Response Times[1]

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Urban	06:07	05:15	05:21	07:27	06:52
Mixed Urban/Rural	08:53	07:58	08:23	09:51	09:39
Rural	12:19	11:48	12:07	08:32	13:54
All NI	07:00	06:20	06:26	07:49	08:02

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-annual-report-2018

Table 7.17 Median Ambulance Response Times[1]

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Urban	05:43	06:53	07:46	08:09	08:46
Mixed Urban/Rural	07:17	07:42	09:09	09:50	10:26
Rural	12:30	13:33	15:03	15:34	16:08
All NI	06:48	08:15	09:21	09:57	10:36

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

Source: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2018

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). BSE was first reported in Northern Ireland during 1988. 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.

The last confirmed BR breakdown occurred in February 2012 and Northern Ireland achieved Official Brucellosis Freedom on 6th October 2015.

During 2018, there were 2,088 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine TB. The herd incidence has reduced in 2018 after seeing a sharp rise in 2017 compared to previous years – this is thought to be due to an increase in infection and an improvement in disease surveillance.

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 2018, the animal incidence remains at less than 1 per cent.

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).

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group carried out 585 on-farm welfare inspections in 2018. 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. Since 2007 many of the inspections are carried out as part of the Cross-Compliance inspection programme associated with the Basic Payment scheme. Some inspections, particularly in the complaint and follow-up categories, will represent repeated visits to the same farm where an on-farm welfare problem has been identified. Most inspections will involve more than one category of stock inspection.

Of the 585 welfare inspections carried out on farms by VSAHG during 2018, 90 per cent were complaint, follow-up, targeted, or cross compliance inspections (where herds are identified as being “at risk”) with the remaining 10 per cent being random cross compliance checks.

Of the 57 random cross compliance inspections in 2018, 98 per cent achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 96 per cent in 2016 and 100 per cent in 2017).

Of the complaint, follow-up, and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 90 per cent achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 88 per cent in 2016 and 91 per cent in 2017). 10 per cent of these 528 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 comply with the legislation.

Taking all welfare inspections into account there were 2.9 per cent 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 2018, a total of 2 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, local District Councils 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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing[1]	25,671	25,841	26,105	25,945	25,733	25,416
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	26,703	26,670	27,716	27,504	28,378	23,490
Total number of animals TB tested	1,620,055	1,607,660	1,662,526	1,709,790	1,750,170	1,744,432
Total new herd TB incidents[2]	1,479	1,397	1,688	1,739	2,208	2,088
Number of TB reactors	8,271	8,838	10,996	11,923	15,949	15,329

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 Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Eradication Programme Statistics

	2017	2018
Number of Herds with BVD Animal Statuses Set	17,317	17,200
Number of Herds with Positive BVD Animal Statuses (Prevalence)	1,764 (10.2%)	1,317 (7.7%)
Number of Animals with BVD Status Set	533,254	515,200
Number of Animals with Positive BVD Status (Prevalence)	3,526 (0.66%)	2,576 (0.5%)
Number of Animals with Inconclusive BVD Status (Prevalence)	46 (0.01%)	36 (<0.01%)

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

Table 8.3 Outcomes of on-farm animal welfare inspections completed on NI farms in 2018

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	1	A B C	0 1 0	0 1.8 0
	Yes	56		56	98.2%
	Total	**57**		**57**	**100%**
Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections	No	55	A B C	34 4 17	6.4 0.8 3.2
	Yes	473		473	89.6
	Total	**528**		**528**	**100%**
All inspections	No	58	A B C	34 5 17	5.8 0.9 2.9
	Yes	529		529	90.4
	Total	**585**		**585**	**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 2017/18, Northern Ireland's councils collected 977,817 tonnes of Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal waste (see table 9.1). This was a 0.8 per cent decrease on the 985,994 tonnes collected in 2016/17. Household waste accounts for the majority of total LAC municipal waste arisings and has varied between 88 per cent and 90 per cent in recent years. The longer term trend saw a reduction in LAC municipal waste arisings from 949,491 tonnes in 2011/12 to a low of 913,546 in 2012/13, a 3.8 per cent decrease. Since then arisings have increased by 7.0 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 until 2016/17. Like the total waste arirings, household waste per capita and household waste per household fell in 2017/18.

The recycling rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste have increased over the last seven years. The LAC recycling rate increased from 38 per cent in 2011/12 to 48 per cent in 2017/18 whilst the household recycling rate increased from 40 per cent in 2011/12 to 48 per cent in 2017/18. 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 0.2 percentage points to each rate in 2017/18.

The proportion of LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery has seen strong growth between 2011/12 and 2017/18 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 2.9 per cent in 2011/12 to 18 per cent in 2017/18.

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 33 per cent in 2017/18, which is 5 percentage points less than the 2016/17 rate (37 per cent) and 25 percentage points less than the 2011/12 rate (58 per cent).

The amount of biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW) sent to landfill in 2017/18 has fallen by 45 per cent compared with the amount sent in 2011/12. Whilst the tonnage of biodegradable LAC municipal waste being sent to landfill is decreasing in line with the allocation, the proportion of the allocation used in previous years 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. In 2017/18, 69 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 (NWRWMG) 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 2016, Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 20.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This was an increase of 1.3 per cent compared to 2015. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 16 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 2016 (see figure 9.2) were agriculture (27 per cent), transport (22 per cent) and energy supply (20 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 increased by 1.6 per cent between the base year and 2016, and by 2.7 percent between 2015 and 2016.

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 496 surface water bodies in Northern Ireland. This includes 450 rivers, 21 lakes, and 25 transitional and coastal waters. The total area covered remains the same but the water bodies across the two cycles are not directly comparable.

In 2018, approximately 11 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 12 per cent classified as 'poor' or 'bad' in 2015 (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 NO_3/l. In the period 2000 to 2006, approximately 91 per cent of sites had an annual mean concentration of less than 40 mg NO_3/l and approximately 82 per cent were less than 25 mg NO_3/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 2017, nitrate concentrations were monitored at 50 groundwater sites across Northern Ireland giving an average concentration of 4.5 mg NO_3/l. Groundwater nitrate concentrations across Northern Ireland are generally low with 49 of the 50 (98 per cent) stations below 25 mg NO_3/l in 2017. 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). This was due to the expiration in 2016 of those remaining ten year agreements from the older agri-environment schemes (CMS and ESAS). Within the NICMS scheme, a significant proportion of the total number of agreements also came to the end of their seven year term in late 2015. The land within this NIC1 proportion was considered to be outside the agreement period from 01/01/2016.

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 five year agreement to deliver a range of environmental measures. In 2018, 20,000 hectares were managed under the Environmental Farming Scheme, bringing the total area of agricultural land managed under agri-environment scheme agreements to 66,000 hectares (approximately 6 per cent of NI farmland).

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 33 per cent from 12 thousand hectares in 2011 to 8 thousand hectares in 2017. The UK overall recorded a decrease of 21 per cent, from 656 thousand hectares in 2011 to 517 thousand hectares in 2017 (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 52 thousand hectares in 2017/18. 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 2017/18, 210 hectares of new woodland was planted and part funded by the European Commission under the 2014 -2020 Rural Development Programme, slightly more than the 208 hectares supported in 2016/17. Only 54 hectares were supported in 2015/16. This dip can be explained by the closure of the 2006-2013 Rural Development Programme and the opening of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

Contact: Conor McCormack, Tel. (028) 9052 5450
E-mail. Connor.McCormack@daera-ni.gov.uk

Table 9.1 Local Authority Collected Waste Management Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2012/13 - 2017/18

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Arisings						
Total LAC municipal waste arisings (tonnes)	913,546	924,412	951,423	969,157	985,994	977,817
Household waste arisings (tonnes)	803,624	814,764	839,569	860,786	875,965	874,257
Non household waste arisings (tonnes)	109,922	109,649	111,853	108,371	110,028	103,561
	88%	88%	88%	89%	89%	89%
Household waste per capita and per household						
Annual household waste per capita (kg)	440.7	445.3	456.2	464.9	470.4	467.3
Annual household waste per household (tonnes)	1.121	1.130	1.158	1.179	1.190	1.177
Recycling						
LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	38.8	40.7	41.4	41.8	44.0	47.6
Household waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	39.8	41.4	42.0	42.2	44.3	48.1
Energy Recovery						
LAC municipal waste sent for enegy recovery (%)	6.9	10.1	14.9	17.6	18.5	18.4
Landfill						
LAC municipal waste landfilled (%)	53.6	48.6	43.4	40.3	37.3	32.6
Household waste landfilled (%)	52.8	48.0	42.7	39.7	36.7	32.0
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW)						
biodegradable LAC municipal waste landfilled (tonnes)	276,723	251,951	229,099	218,898	204,380	171,295
biodegradable LAC municipal waste allocation (tonnes)	320,000	305,714	291,428	277,142	262,857	248,570
proportion of allocation utilised (%)	86	82	79	79	78	69

Source: NIEA, https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-201

Notes:
LAC = local authority collected.

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

From 2012/13 onwards, reuse was included with recycling and composting. The impact was small, adding less than 0.1 - 0.2 percentage points to the NI rate.

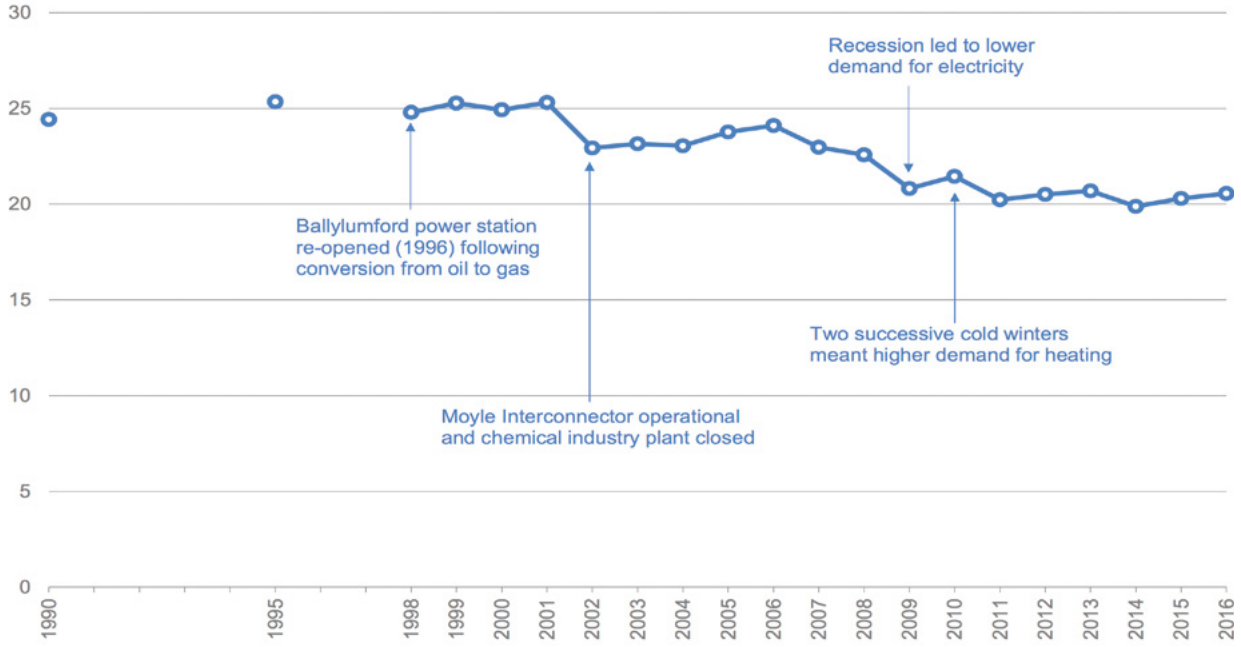
The per capita rates are calculated by dividing household waste arisings by population (using NISRA mid-year estimates).

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).

All energy recovery figures reported are derived from waste products being converted into energy through incineration, although other technologies exist.

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 2016



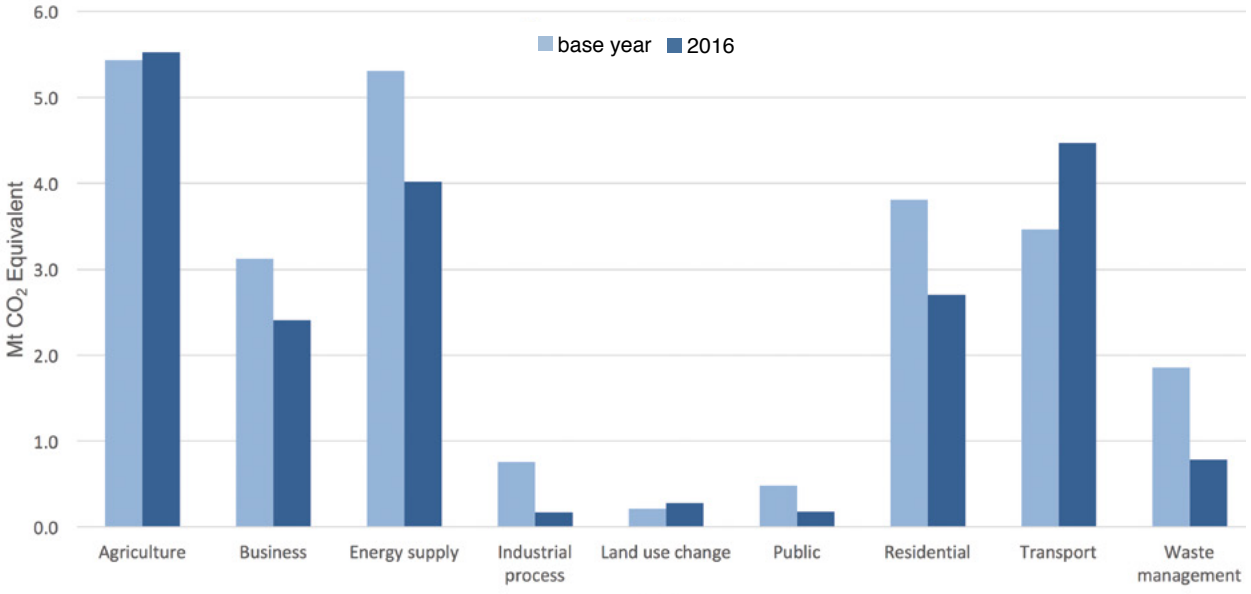
Source: Ricardo Energy & Environment.

http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=958

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 2016



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], 2013 - 2018

Percentage of river water-bodies

Classification	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
High	-	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.4
Good	-	29.8	30.9	30.9	30.9	30.9
Moderate	-	52.4	54.4	54.4	54.4	56.9
Poor	-	12.9	10	10	10	9.3
Bad	-	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
No data	-	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.7

1. Source: Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive statistics report October 2018.
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.
5. The 2016 and 2017 figures are based on data published Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive statistics report October 2015. The 2018 data provides an update at the midpoint of the implementation of Water Framework Directive Second Cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021.

Table 9.3 Annual mean nitrate concentrations (in groundwater), 2011 - 2017

Unit: Percentage of sites

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0 to < 25 mg NO_3/l	94.2	98.2	95.8	96.2	96.1	98.0	98.0
25 to < 40 mg NO_3/l	1.9	0.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	0.0	0.0
40 to < 50 mg NO_3/l	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
≥ 50 mg NO_3/l	3.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.0	0.0	2.0

Source: NIEA

Table 9.4 Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes, 2011 - 2018

thousand hectares

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Environmental Farming Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
Organic Farming Scheme	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Countryside Management Scheme	334	350	294	280	246	46	46	46
Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme	107	103	91	84	59	0	0	0

1. Source: Countryside Management Division, DAERA.
2. The Environmental Farming Scheme includes an organic farming option, the organic hectares under agreement have been included within the scheme total.

Table 9.5 Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area[1], 2011 - 2017

thousand hectares

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Northern Ireland	12	10	9	9	8	8	8
Wales	123	120	102	96	83	81	86
Scotland	170	152	148	136	126	122	123
England	351	324	316	308	304	297	300
UK	656	606	575	549	521	508	517

1. Source: DEFRA.

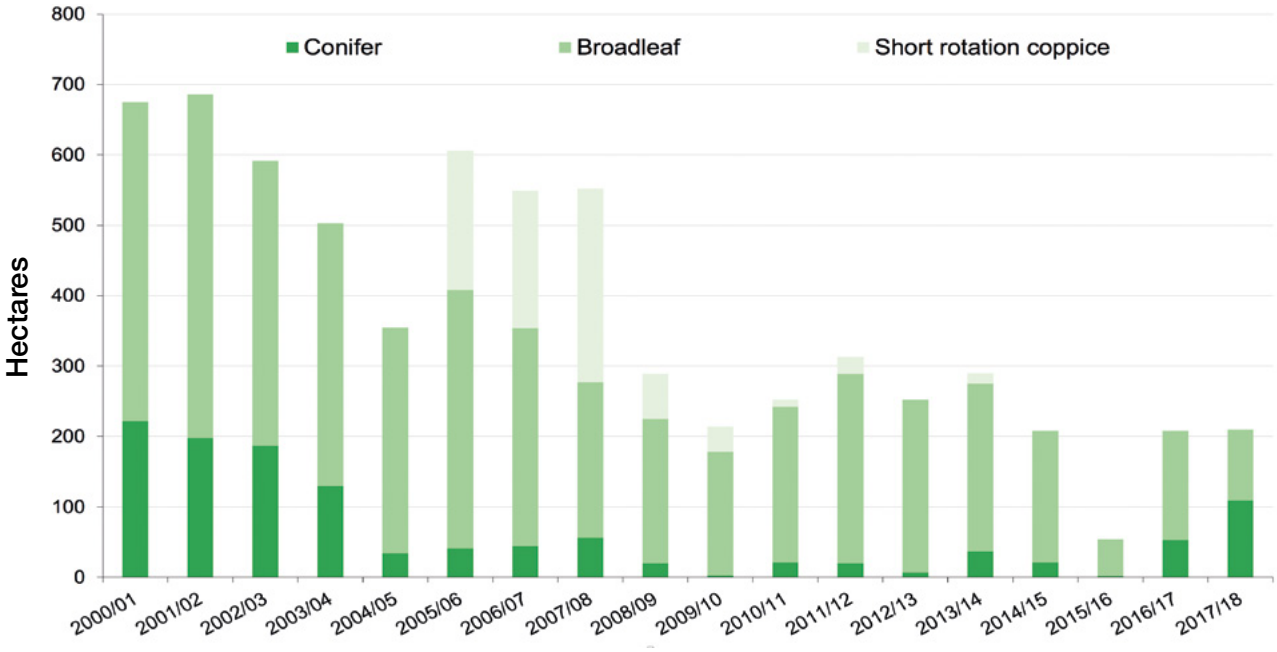
Table 9.6 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 2000/01 - 2017/18

	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Forested area (000ha)								
State	61	61	61	62	62	62	62	62
Private	22	25	27	50	50	50	50	52
All forested areas	**83**	**86**	**88**	**112**	**112**	**112**	**112**	**113**
Timber production from state forests								
Volume (000 cubic metres)	359	387	496	425	401	409	388	421
Visitors to Forest Parks								
Day Visitors (000's)	…	370	393	310	339	432	584	509
Employees (number) Forest Service	360	288	222	203	232	223	215	214

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, 2000/01 - 2017/18



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 the Single Farm Payment 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 Single Farm Payment)
= 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 2018 would change by almost ±7 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 2018 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2017 to January 2019, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2018). 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 2017 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2017 is now estimated at £625.4 million (previously £630.2 million) while total income from farming for 2017 is now estimated at £467.4.4 million (previously £473.4 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 type[1]

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.

[1]The 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:

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 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, 2017/18, 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:

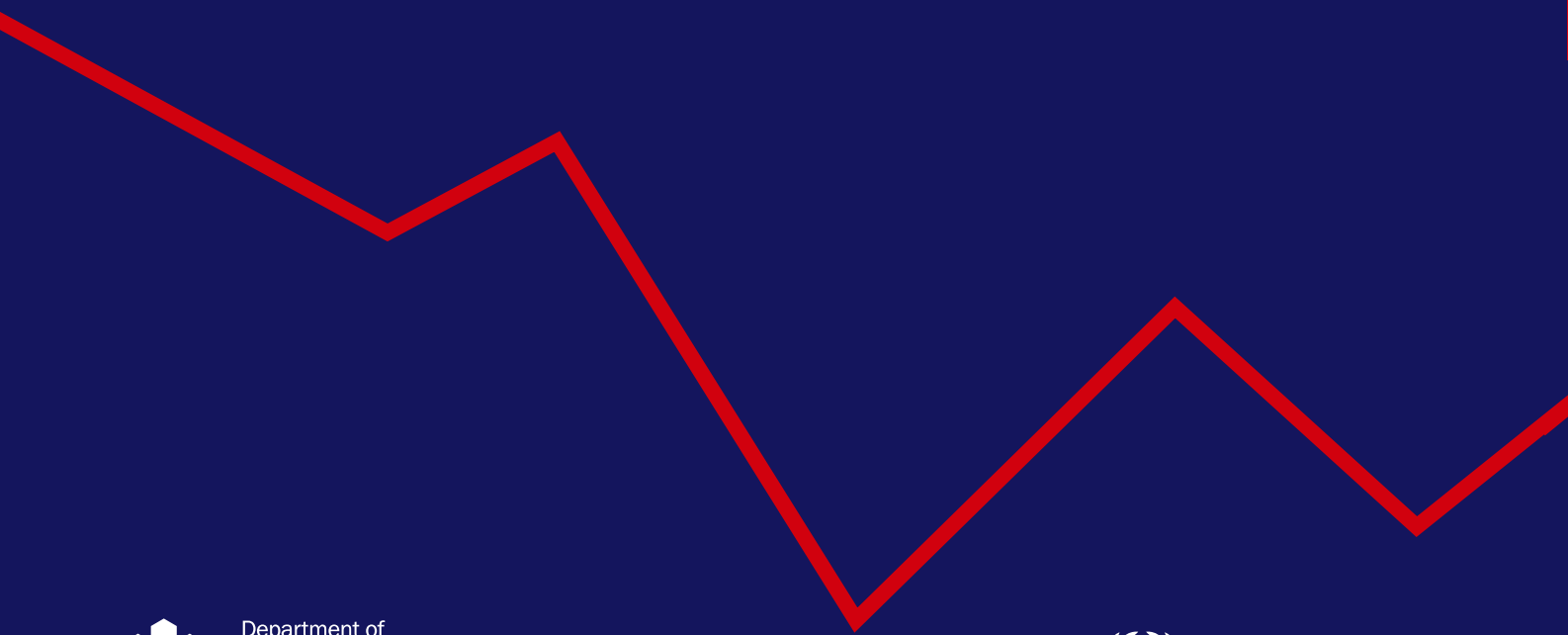
1 hectare (ha)	=	2.471 acres
1 kilogram (kg)	=	2.205 pounds
1 tonne (t)	=	0.9842 tons
1 litre (l)	=	0.2200 gallons

Abbreviations:

dcw	-	dressed carcase weight
dwt	-	deadweight
lwt	-	liveweight

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

ISBN 978-1-84807-941-0



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

DMS 18.19.208