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Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture
2019

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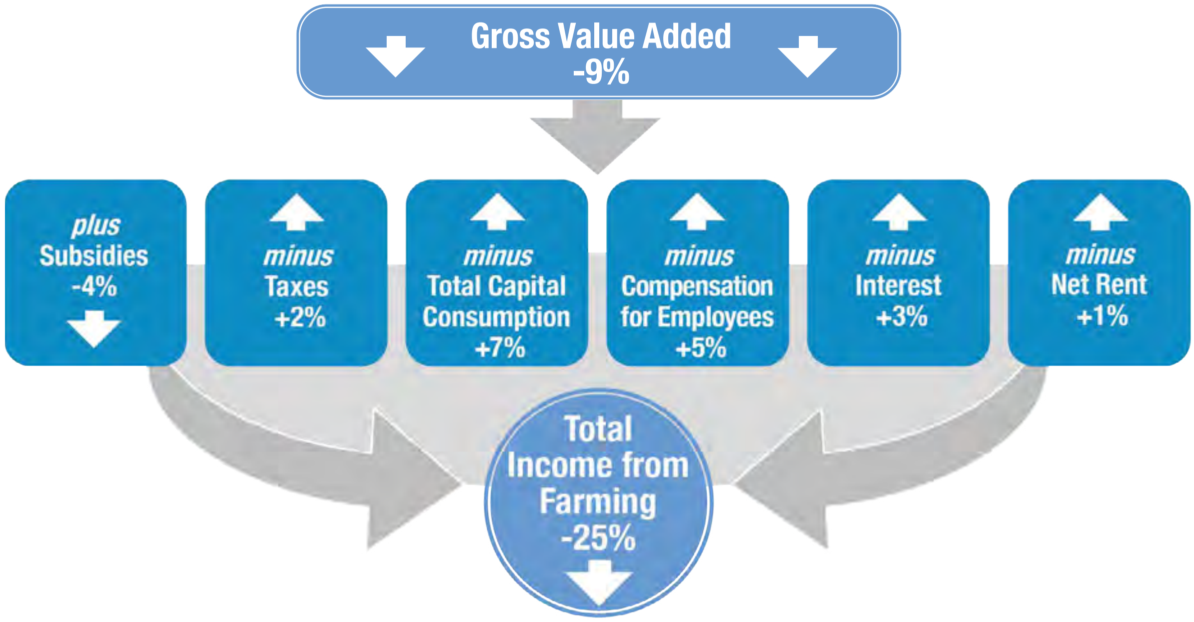
A National Statistics publication

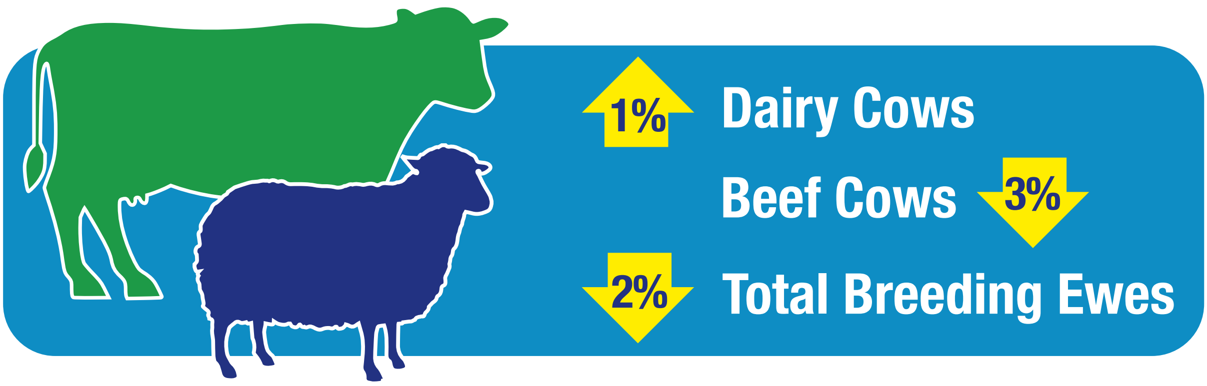
Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2019

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

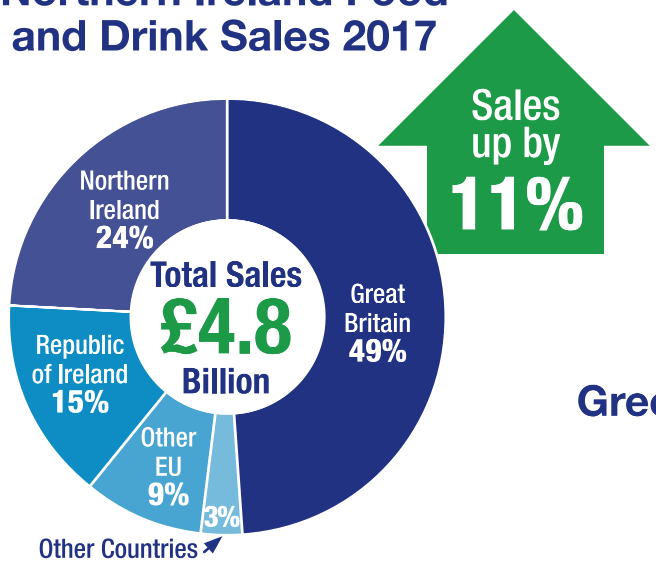
Agricultural Income Changes 2018 & 2019



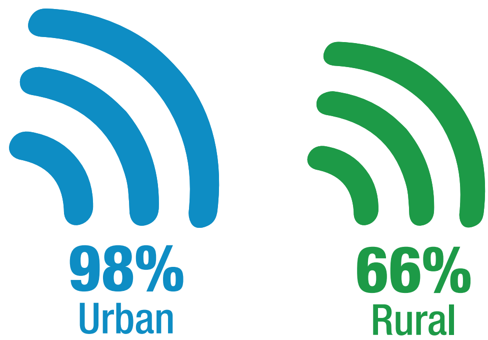
Cattle and Sheep Changes 2019



Northern Ireland Food and Drink Sales 2017



Coverage of Superfast Broadband 2019



Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2017

KEY FACTS 2019

Note: comparisons are with 2018 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms decreased considerably in 2019 (note this follows on from a similar decrease in 2018).
- **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 25 per cent (26 per cent in real terms) to £290 million, from £386 million in 2018.
- Following the decrease in 2019, TIFF is now 4.4 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- The decrease of TIFF in 2019 was mainly driven by lower product prices on national and international markets. The notable exception to this were pig prices which increased due to the effects of African Swine Fever on pigmeat supply in China.

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

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £2.15 billion for 2019, a 2.1 per cent decrease from 2018. There were decreases in the output of the milk, cattle, sheep, poultry, eggs, and horticultural sectors, but these were partially offset by increases in output from the pigs and crops sectors.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') increased by 0.6 per cent, to £1.62 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 53 per cent of the gross input figure, fell by 1.7 per cent in 2019 to £851 million. There was a 2.3 per cent decrease in the volume of feedstuffs purchased and a 0.5 per cent increase in the average price paid per tonne. Total machinery expenses increased by 1.9 per cent to £161 million in 2019. This increase was mainly due to a 2.8 per cent increase in the cost of fuel & oils. Agricultural contracting costs also increased by 5.9 per cent to £102.2 million in 2019.
- **Gross value added** decreased in 2019 to £553 million; a decrease of 9.4 per cent, while **net value added** - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies fell by 16.3 per cent, to £467 million.

Productivity (Table 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 0.2 per cent improvement 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 5.4 per cent.

Cash flow (Table 2.4)	• **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have fallen by 14.3 per cent, to £347 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** decreased from £33,410 in 2017/18 to £28,612 in 2018/19, a decrease of £4,798 per farm. It is expected to decrease from £28,612 in 2018/19 to £24,679 in 2019/20 i.e. a further decrease of £3,933 or 14 per cent per farm.
Subsidies (Table 2.10)	• The value of all **direct payments** to farmers decreased by £11.2 million or 3.7 per cent in 2019, to £289.6 million. This decrease is mainly attributed to a reduction of £8.8 million in Area of Natural Constraint (ANC) payments for 2019. The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2019 was £286 million, a net decrease of 0.2 per cent or £0.7 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2018. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 98.6 per cent of all direct payments.
Labour (Table 2.14)	• The **total agricultural labour force** in 2019 increased marginally by 0.4 per cent to just over 49,400 persons. Within this total there was a 0.4 per cent increase in the number of farmers (full-time and part time), a 2.4 per cent rise in the number of spouses and a 0.9 per cent decrease in other workers.
Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)	• The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2019 census was 1.61 million, a 1.1 per cent decrease from the previous year. At June 2019, there were 313,500 dairy cows an increase of 0.9 per cent from 2018 and 247,000 beef cows a decrease of 3.5 per cent compared to 2018. In June 2019, the sheep breeding flock was 1.9 per cent lower than in 2018 at 938,500 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 1.99 million in 2019. • At June 2019, the total number of **pigs** was 674,400, an increase of 6.4 per cent compared to 2018. There was a 4.3 per cent decrease to 47,500 in sow numbers and a 7.3 per cent increase to 626,900 in the number of other pigs. **Broiler** numbers decreased by 13.1 per cent to 15.4 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** increased by 15.4 per cent to 5.0 million birds.

Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)	• There was a 1.0 per cent decrease, to 41,700 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2018 and 2019. The total area of **cereals** was 29,800 hectares in June 2019, which was an increase of 0.5 per cent compared to 2018. In 2019, the total area of potatoes grown increased by 5.5 per cent to 3,800 hectares compared to the previous year.
Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)	• There were 24,827 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2019, which was 68 less than in 2018.
Food & Drinks Sector	• The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate an increase in gross turnover between 2016 and 2018. Employment has grown over the period. Exports account for 26 percent of sales by the food and drinks processing sector.
Rural Population	• In 2019, 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	• There have been no cases of BSE since 2012. During 2019 1,757 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 2,089 in 2018. 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 2019, the animal incidence rate for BVD remains at less than 1%. The Veterinary Service (DAERA) carried out 513 on-farm welfare inspections in 2019. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, followups, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 87 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 100 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2019, a total of 2 farm animal keepers were disqualified by the courts as a result of serious welfare breaches.
Environment	• The landfill rates for Local Authority collected municipal waste and household waste have been declining over the past seven years. In 2019, some 46,000 hectares or 5 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2017, agriculture was estimated to contribute 27 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. Total emissions from agriculture increased by 2.0 per cent between 1990 and 2017.

KEY FACTS COMPARISIONS 2019

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.3[P]	0.6[2]	1.3[2]	1.5[1]
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural employment ('000)	27	351	97	4,714[1]
As % of total civil employment	3.1	1.1	4.2	2.6[1]
LAND USE				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	1,023	17,521[1]	4,516	151,317[5]
As % of total area	75	72[1]	64[1]	45[5]
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	69.1	51.0[2]	75.0[6]	60.6[6]
FARMS				
Number ('000)	25	217[2]	138[3]	4,418[5]
Average agricultural area (ha)	41.2	81.4[2]	32.4[3]	34.3[5]
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	95	96[1]	76[3]	47[5]
Beef cows	18	28[1]	15[3]	22[5]
Sheep	202	429[1]	140[3]	173[5]
Pigs	1,858	457[1]	1,234[3]	461[5]
Laying hens	17,981	1,237[5]	273[3]	666[5]
Broilers	51,689	53,762[4]	15,400[3]	2,856[5]
Cereals (ha)	15.2	64.0[1]	26.5[3]	21.5[5]
Potatoes (ha)	8.9	15.7[1]	8.2[3]	3.5[5]

1. 2018, 2. 2017, 3. 2016, 4. 2014, 5. 2013, 6. 2007, P = Provisional

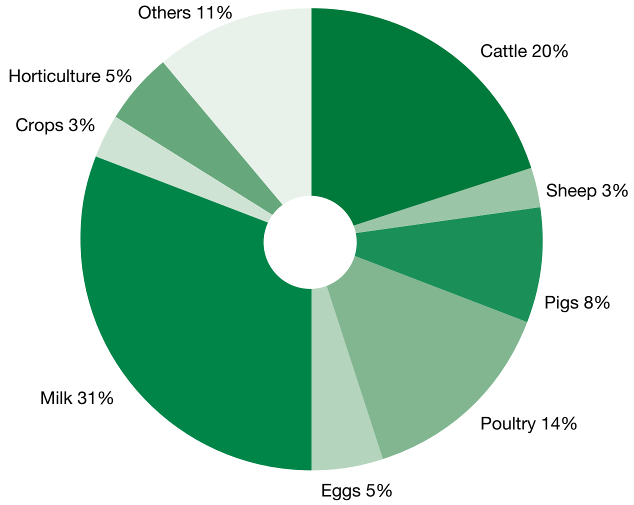
Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

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

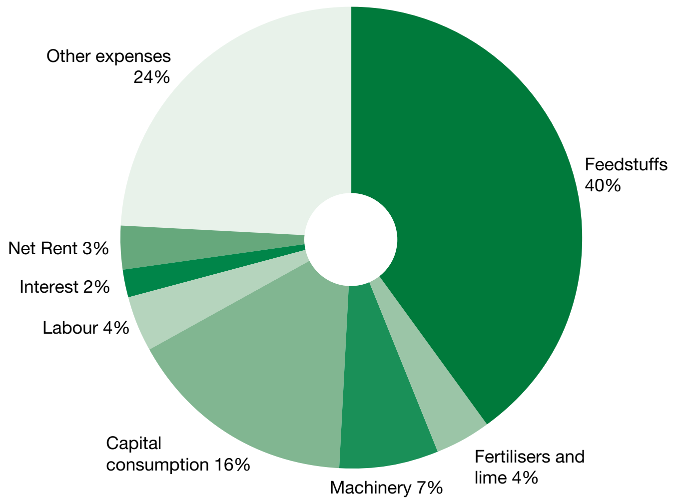
Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

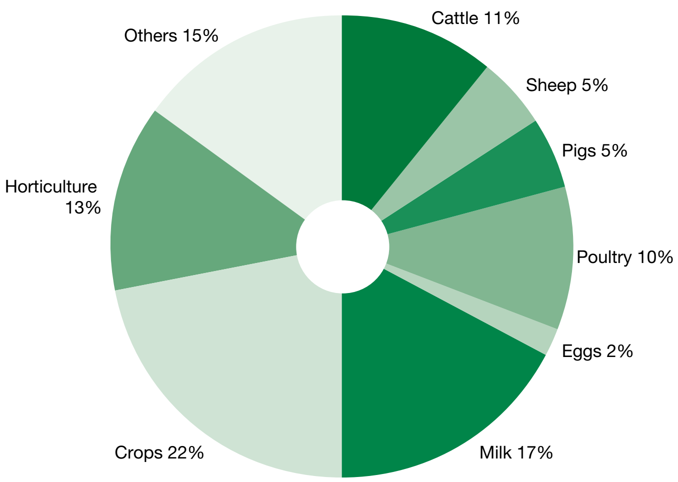
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2019



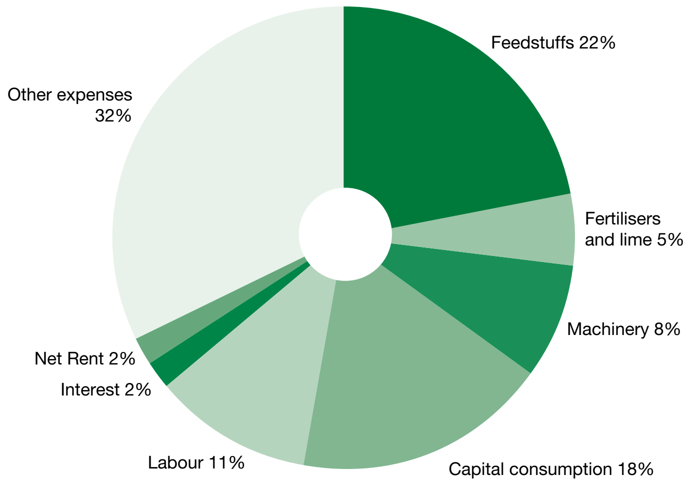
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2019



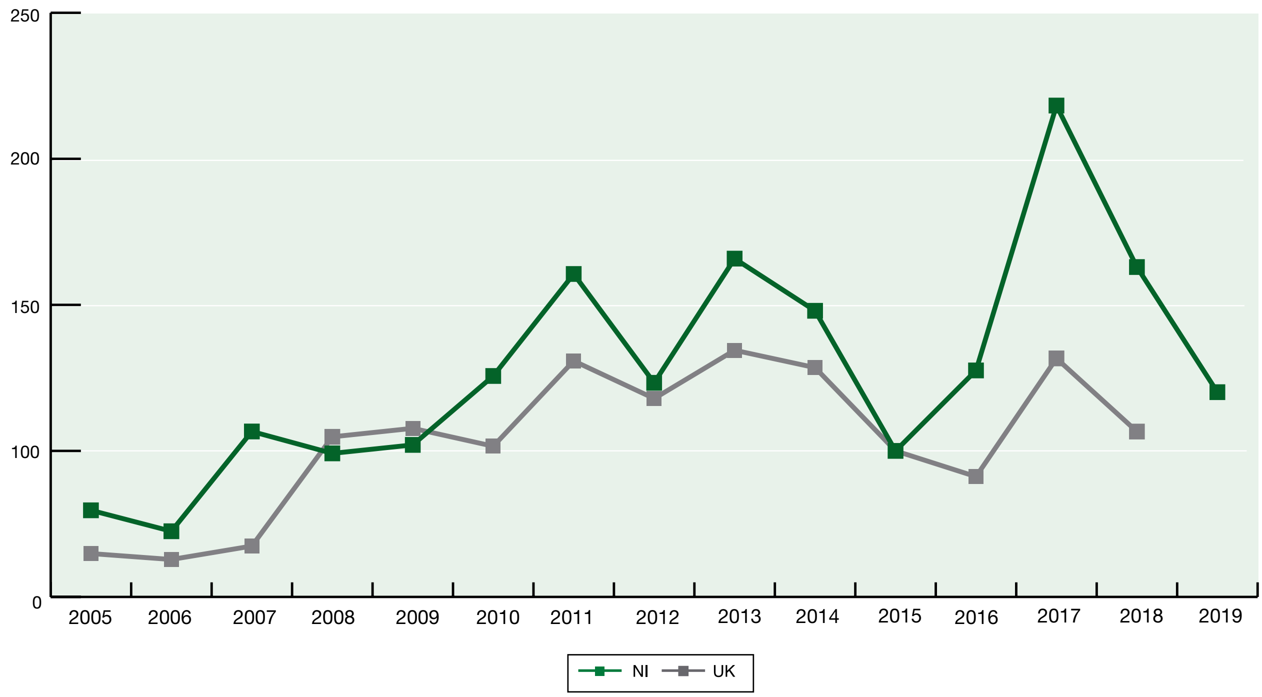
Gross ouput of UK agriculture, 2018



Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2018

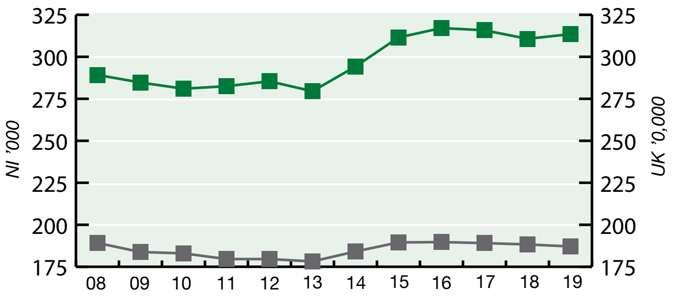


NI and UK Total Income from Farming Indices in real terms (2015 = 100)

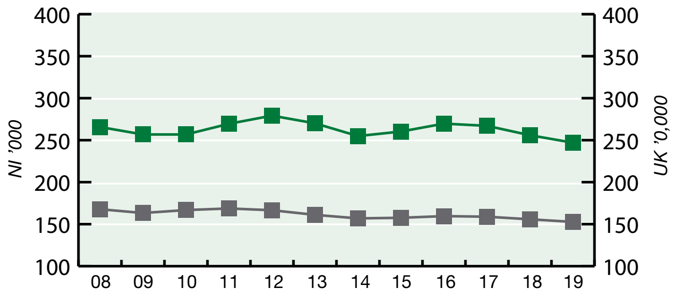


TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS

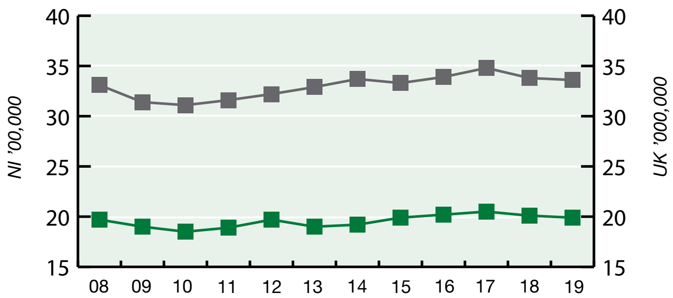
Dairy cows



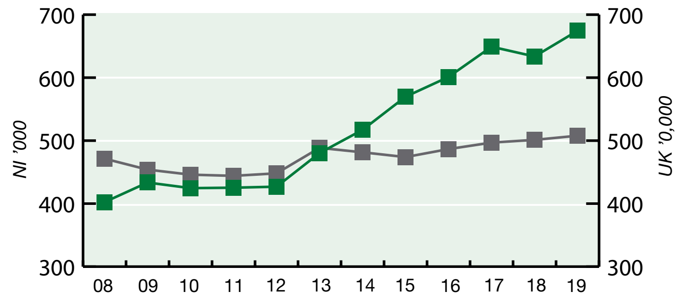
Beef cows



Sheep



Pigs



Breeding and laying fowl

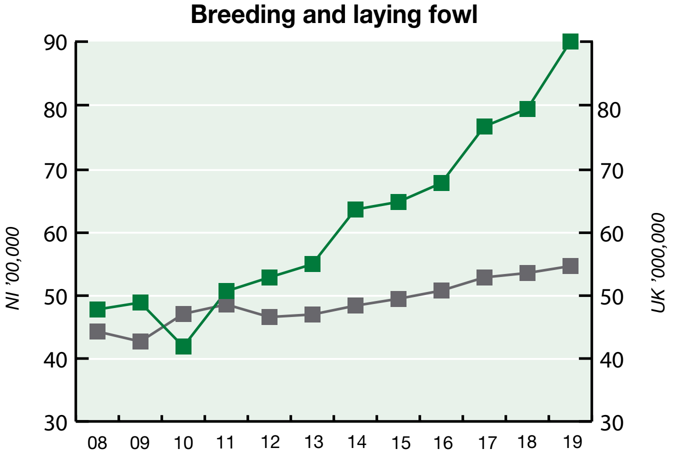
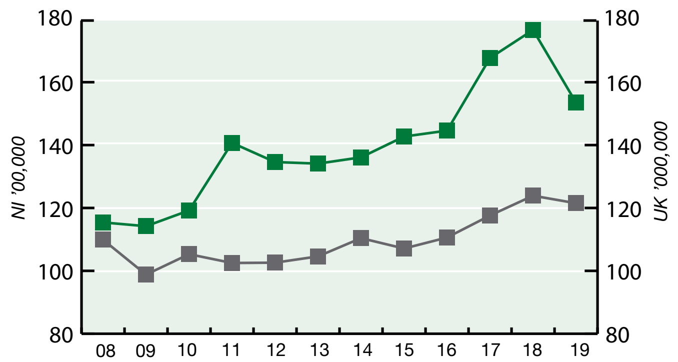
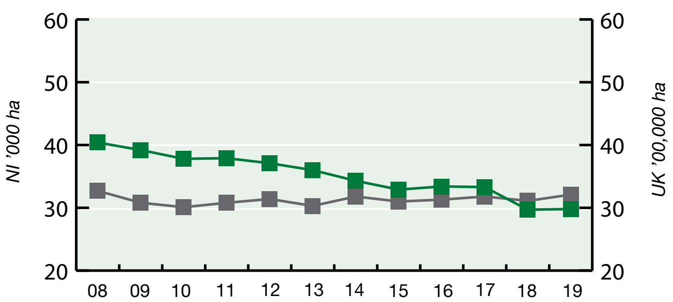


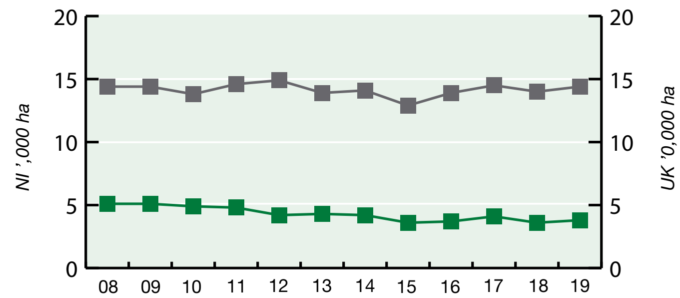
Table chickens

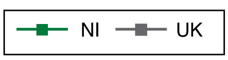


Cereals



Potatoes





CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Statistical Review* of Northern Ireland Agriculture is a compendium of agri-food, environment and rural statistics that is published annually. It is an important reference document for both DAERA stakeholders and policy makers. The data contained in the Statistical Review are derived from farm surveys, as well as surveys of food processors and agricultural input supply firms, administrative data sources, and other environmental and rural data sources.

This is the 56th edition of the publication and in line with the guidance, 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. Queries or comments on its contents can be made to the Editor, Paul Keatley, whose contact details are given below.

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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 2018 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture **decreased** in 2019. **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 25 per cent (26 per cent in real terms) from £386 million in 2018 to £290 million in 2019 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** in 2019, estimated at £2.15 billion, was 2.1 per cent lower compared with 2018. 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 2019, to £1.62 billion; 0.6 per cent higher. 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 9.4 per cent to £533 million in 2019 as a result of the fall in gross output and the increase in 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 16.3 per cent, to £467 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 5.0 per cent to £80 million in 2019 from £77 million in 2018. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.26) increased by 5.4 per cent to £51 million, whereas, conacre rent paid to non-farmers rose by 1.5 per cent to £56 million in 2019.

Total Income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF**) decreased in 2019, by 25 per cent to £290 million, a fall of 26 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following this decrease in 2019, TIFF was 4.4 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 2000 to 2019, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 15.0 per cent with the result that, in real terms, **TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour** in 2019 was 4.6 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 14.2 per cent, to £347 million in 2019.

Subsidies

Total direct payments to farmers decreased by 3.7 per cent or £11.2 million, to £289.6 million. This decrease is mainly attributed to a reduction of £8.8 million in Area of Natural Constraint (ANC) payments for 2019.

The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2019 was £286 million, a net decrease of 0.2 per cent or £0.7 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2018. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 98.6 per cent of all direct payments.

Investment

Gross annual capital investment increased by 2.7 per cent or £8 million to £286 million in 2019. Within this total there was a 2.9 per cent increase in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works was up by 2.3 per cent.

Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture[1] 2014 - 2019

£ million

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
OUTPUT[2]						
Livestock and livestock products[3]						
Finished cattle and calves[4]	392.0	402.3	432.9	464.4	459.7	427.0
Finished sheep and lambs[4]	69.4	63.3	75.0	73.1	80.3	65.6
Finished pigs	133.2	114.1	121.1	166.3	156.8	179.2
Poultry[5]	278.6	274.8	294.6	309.6	331.1	309.5
Eggs[6]	79.6	88.6	94.8	104.0	108.5	108.4
Milk	654.2	480.1	453.3	664.1	681.5	654.5
Minor products[7]	15.0	15.3	14.3	13.9	13.6	13.1
Total livestock and livestock products	**1,622.1**	**1,438.5**	**1,486.0**	**1,795.5**	**1,831.5**	**1,757.2**
Field crops						
Potatoes	18.8	17.2	20.3	23.0	21.0	23.3
Cereals	31.6	28.9	26.7	30.4	32.4	33.4
of which: barley	19.8	18.3	16.7	17.6	21.8	20.7
wheat	9.9	8.7	8.2	10.8	8.7	10.6
oats	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.1
Other crops[8]	12.4	12.4	10.5	11.4	13.0	14.1
Total field crops	**62.7**	**58.4**	**57.5**	**64.8**	**66.3**	**70.8**
Horticultural products						
Fruit	11.6	11.7	14.4	16.5	14.0	8.4
Vegetables	22.2	21.5	19.1	18.3	17.4	17.1
Mushrooms	54.6	67.5	52.2	54.3	53.6	55.0
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	14.3	18.9	20.9	25.3	24.8	20.8
Total horticultural products	**102.7**	**119.5**	**106.6**	**114.4**	**109.8**	**101.3**
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	59.2	74.4	90.0	82.7	76.8	103.3
Agricultural contract work[9]	79.6	73.7	74.5	79.8	96.4	102.2
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities[10]	17.6	17.4	13.4	13.5	14.0	14.2
A Gross output	**1,943.9**	**1,782.0**	**1,828.0**	**2,150.7**	**2,195.0**	**2,149.0**

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*

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
A	**Gross output**	**1,943.9**	**1,782.0**	**1,828.0**	**2,150.7**	**2,195.0**	**2,149.0**
	INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
	Expenditure						
	Feedstuffs[11]	773.5	727.9	707.0	770.8	865.0	850.6
	Seeds[12]	11.1	10.6	10.1	11.0	10.7	11.0
	Marketing expenses[13]	35.5	36.5	38.4	38.3	37.8	37.3
	Fertilisers and lime	82.5	74.1	70.7	84.2	85.1	85.0
	Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	152.2	139.2	135.7	146.8	158.0	161.0
	Farm maintenance	44.4	42.5	40.6	47.8	51.0	52.2
	Veterinary expenses and medicines	60.0	61.5	62.6	66.5	67.4	68.5
	Other variable costs[14]	119.3	124.7	119.1	129.8	135.8	143.3
	Miscellaneous expenses[15]	81.4	81.4	80.8	84.2	89.5	93.2
	Agricultural contract work	79.6	73.7	74.5	79.8	96.4	102.2
	Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	FISIM[16]	7.2	7.0	8.9	10.0	10.0	11.5
B	**Gross input**	**1,446.8**	**1,379.1**	**1,348.5**	**1,469.2**	**1,606.8**	**1,615.8**
C	**Gross value added (A-B)**	**497.1**	**402.9**	**479.4**	**681.4**	**588.2**	**533.1**
	Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
	- livestock	64.8	62.8	83.6	71.9	72.4	91.8
	- plant, machinery and vehicles	124.2	124.4	126.9	129.2	136.6	141.3
	- buildings and works	116.8	114.3	113.4	113.2	113.8	114.0
D	**Total consumption of fixed capital**	**305.7**	**301.5**	**324.0**	**314.3**	**322.8**	**347.0**
	Other subsidies (not paid on products)[17]	292.5	284.4	305.6	313.5	300.8	289.6
	Other taxes (not levied on products)[18]	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7	9.0	9.2
E	**Other subsidies (less taxes)**	**284.3**	**276.0**	**297.0**	**304.7**	**291.8**	**280.4**
F	**Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)**	**475.7**	**377.4**	**452.5**	**671.9**	**557.2**	**466.5**
G	Paid labour	65.2	68.8	68.1	74.8	76.6	80.4
H	Interest	31.2	33.9	39.5	35.8	38.7	39.9
I	Net rent[19]	51.3	51.7	54.4	54.8	55.6	56.4
J	**Total income from farming[20] (F-G-H-I)**	**328.1**	**223.0**	**290.5**	**506.5**	**386.3**	**289.8**

11. Includes home-fed cereals, proteins, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes.
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 27.
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 2014 - 2019

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Index at current prices						
Net value added[1]	126.1	100.0	119.9	178.0	147.6	123.6
Total income from farming[1]	147.1	100.0	130.3	227.1	173.2	129.9
Index in real terms[2]						
Net value added	126.8	100.0	117.4	171.1	138.9	114.3
Total income from farming	148.0	100.0	127.6	218.2	163.0	120.1

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

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices 2014 - 2019

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Gross output volume[1]	96.6	100.0	101.4	103.6	105.0	105.2
Gross input volume[1]	99.5	100.0	98.7	104.1	106.7	104.7
Gross value added volume[1]	92.7	100.0	104.9	102.9	102.8	105.8
Net value added volume[1]	89.7	100.0	107.9	104.5	105.3	108.6
Total factor productivity[2]	96.7	100.0	102.8	101.5	101.5	101.7
Labour productivity[3]	90.5	100.0	110.0	103.4	103.3	106.0
Single factorial terms of trade[4]	105.4	100.0	104.1	121.8	115.7	109.4

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 2014 - 2019

£ million

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Total income from farming	**328.1**	**223.0**	**290.5**	**506.5**	**386.3**	**289.8**
Less:						
output stock change	7.1	8.2	18.8	7.2	-9.3	-13.7
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	59.2	74.4	90.0	82.7	76.8	103.3
capital investment[1]	188.4	151.8	183.0	196.6	241.1	249.3
Plus:						
input stock change	0.8	0.7	1.4	-1.0	-0.7	1.1
capital consumption	305.7	301.5	324.0	314.3	322.8	347.0
capital grants paid in year[2]	2.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	15.9	22.5
change in borrowings	-25.4	14.5	26.5	-40.2	-10.7	25.9
Cash available to farm families from farming	**356.5**	**305.3**	**350.7**	**500.2**	**405.0**	**347.3**

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

2018

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2] Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total	Sector gross margins[3]	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	777.1	265.7	26.3	10.5	302.5	474.6	48.5%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	390.2	160.3	41.7	25.2	227.2	162.9	16.7%
Sheep and wool	81.2	21.0	13.9	5.3	40.2	41.0	4.2%
Total grazing livestock	**1,248.5**	**447.1**	**81.9**	**40.9**	**569.9**	**678.5**	**69.4%**
Pigs	156.9	101.3	-	4.1	105.4	51.5	5.3%
Poultry & Eggs	440.1	318.6	-	14.4	333.0	107.2	11.0%
Total intensive livestock	**597.0**	**419.9**	**-**	**18.5**	**438.4**	**158.6**	**16.2%**
Cereals	45.4	-	10.4	-	10.5	34.9	3.6%
Potatoes	21.0	-	4.2	-	4.2	16.8	1.7%
Horticulture[4]	109.8	-	19.3	10.4	29.7	80.1	8.2%
Total field crops	**176.2**	**-**	**33.9**	**10.5**	**44.4**	**131.8**	**13.5%**
Other items	16.9	5.7	1.6	0.1	7.5	9.4	1.0%
Total	**2,038.5**	**872.6**	**117.5**	**70.0**	**1,060.1**	**978.4**	**100.0%**

2019 (Provisional)

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2] Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total	Sector gross margins[3]	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	742.8	268.0	26.6	9.8	304.3	438.5	44.8%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	367.3	140.3	41.4	25.6	207.3	160.0	16.4%
Sheep and wool	66.5	20.1	14.2	5.3	39.6	26.9	2.8%
Total grazing livestock	**1,176.7**	**428.4**	**82.1**	**40.7**	**551.3**	**625.5**	**63.9%**
Pigs	179.1	113.2	-	4.5	117.7	61.4	6.3%
Poultry and eggs	417.8	312.6	-	12.8	325.4	92.4	9.4%
Total intensive livestock	**596.9**	**425.8**	**-**	**17.3**	**443.1**	**153.8**	**15.7%**
Cereals	47.6	-	11.5	-	11.5	36.0	3.7%
Potatoes	23.3	-	4.6	-	4.6	18.7	1.9%
Horticulture[4]	101.3	-	20.0	10.5	30.5	70.8	7.2%
Total field crops	**172.2**	**-**	**36.1**	**10.5**	**46.6**	**125.6**	**12.8%**
Other items	14.6	5.1	1.6	0.2	6.9	7.7	0.8%
Total	**1,960.4**	**859.3**	**119.9**	**68.7**	**1,047.9**	**912.6**	**100.0%**

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

Table 2.6 Quantities of the main products in output[1] 2014 - 2019

	Units of quantity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	134,001	136,752	145,830	145,216	148,732	148,732
Sheep and lambs	,,	20,982	20,996	21,153	21,317	20,685	20,274
Pigs[2]	,,	94,187	101,661	109,053	112,031	116,047	129,035
Cattle and calves	'000 head	446	439	467	472	475	462
Sheep and lambs	,,	929	933	971	982	949	901
Pigs[2]	,,	1,091	1,171	1,252	1,256	1,265	1,402
Poultry[3]	'000 tonnes lwt	279	278	299	315	330	302
Eggs[4]	m. doz	110	118	126	142	153	167
Milk[5]	m. litres	2,206	2,268	2,200	2,286	2,347	2,391
Field crops							
Wheat	'000 tonnes	58.6	66.4	63.2	65.0	52.1	59.0
Barley	,,	132.5	150.4	124.9	117.9	111.1	126.4
Oats	,,	10.6	10.2	14.7	9.4	13.5	9.6
Potatoes	,,	163.5	179.0	143.9	155.1	129.2	143.5
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	'000 tonnes	39.0	43.8	44.9	55.6	57.7	53.8
Vegetables	,,	71.9	61.8	57.0	56.8	46.5	54.6
Mushrooms	,,	36.8	45.1	35.7	35.5	34.1	34.3

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 2014 - 2019

£ per unit

	Units	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	1,086	1,106	1,082	1,162	1,174	1,119
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	3.29	3.26	3.19	3.48	3.49	3.26
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	297	308	305	303	310	335
Culled cows and bulls	head	681	666	670	747	768	708
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	2.18	2.14	2.16	2.47	2.51	2.25
Store cattle exported	head	770	795	749	801	806	782
Finished sheep and lambs	head	83.08	73.89	83.00	86.12	92.09	85.71
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.81	3.40	3.88	3.99	4.26	3.86
Finished clean pigs	head	125.00	102.41	102.27	134.79	129.76	133.25
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.46	1.19	1.18	1.52	1.42	1.46
Milk[2]	litre	0.297	0.212	0.206	0.291	0.290	0.274
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.721	0.751	0.751	0.730	0.695	0.651
Broilers	kg lwt	0.898	0.856	0.867	0.900	0.925	0.932
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop[3]	tonne	125	129	153	147	170	175
Seed	tonne	167	153	171	173	166	196
Barley	tonne	146	130	134	154	186	163
Wheat	tonne	156	136	137	161	182	174
Oats	tonne	162	153	149	158	190	194
Mushrooms	tonne	1,484	1,496	1,460	1,530	1,570	1,600
Apples	tonne	259	271	258	263	203	199

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 2014 - 2019

Indices: 2015 = 100

	Weights[2]	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional
Finished steers and heifers	221	101	100	98	107	107	100
Culled cows and bulls	32	102	100	101	116	118	105
Store cattle exported	3	97	100	94	101	101	98
Finished sheep and lambs	48	112	100	114	117	125	113
Finished clean pigs	71	123	100	100	128	120	123
Milk	360	140	100	97	137	137	129
Eggs for consumption	26	96	100	100	97	92	87
Broilers	80	108	100	101	105	108	109
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	19	97	100	119	114	132	136
Seed	3	109	100	112	113	109	128
Barley	23	112	100	102	118	142	125
Wheat	5	115	100	101	118	134	128
Mushrooms	33	99	100	98	102	105	107
Apples	6	96	100	95	97	75	73
Total products index[2]	**930**	**116**	**100**	**99**	**118**	**119**	**113**
Inputs index[3]	**1,000**	**106**	**100**	**98**	**98**	**104**	**106**

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] 2014 - 2019

£ per head

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,282	1,043	1,000	1,279	1,387	1,494
Dairy cows in calf	980	805	712	1,078	961	1,072
Dairy springing heifers	923	850	1,168	1,055	1,224	1,267
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	1,183	1,209	1,119	1,212	1,229	1,233
Beef cows in calf	955	942	902	924	938	1,068
Beef springing heifers	1,145	1,258	1,084	1,136	1,124	1,321
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	598	638	589	638	646	641
300-400 kg steers	721	753	701	757	757	745
400-500 kg steers	842	864	819	881	890	854
Over 500 kg steers	1,047	1,065	1,010	1,101	1,110	1,048
150-300 kg heifers	567	589	546	571	570	591
300-400 kg heifers	687	706	664	699	690	694
400-500 kg heifers	831	847	804	855	854	822
Over 500 kg heifers	1,018	1,024	980	1,058	1,068	1,024
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	371	461	421	469	415	409
Over 200 kg steers	690	719	677	729	749	742
Under 200 kg heifers	406	435	408	413	391	396
Over 200 kg heifers	633	658	619	659	663	676
Dropped calves						
For rearing	173	200	190	210	203	208
Cull cows	649	636	611	701	716	694
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	131.51	112.28	119.96	101.37	96.14	112.84
Blackface Cross	131.04	114.66	123.43	133.41	123.39	123.81
Other breeds	124.10	111.89	112.52	122.92	123.57	127.09
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	98.12	82.45	80.18	83.21	87.35	79.78
Blackface Cross	74.67	69.16	85.49	86.61	87.06	85.44
Other breeds	77.73	73.34	80.60	81.94	85.55	84.09
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	64.22	88.95	98.81	98.94	90.21	101.95
Blackface Cross	117.10	85.22	87.82	108.26	92.68	127.72
Other breeds	143.10	144.36	137.08	150.84	154.01	161.43
Cull ewes						
Blackface	38.20	41.32	39.51	41.88	42.74	43.49
Blackface Cross	52.93	54.84	51.02	53.03	55.68	61.64
Other breeds	61.57	67.65	62.22	63.61	66.89	69.51
Cull rams	64.91	68.24	65.83	63.26	68.19	69.41
Store lambs	59.62	51.37	59.01	60.59	63.54	61.07

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

Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1,2] 2014 - 2019

£ million[3]

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS[4]						
Single farm payment	**248.4**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Basic Payment Scheme	**-**	**160.1**	**186.3**	**195.3**	**193.7**	**192.9**
Greening Payment	**-**	**71.1**	**83.3**	**87.7**	**87.5**	**87.6**
Young Farmers Payment	**-**	**4.9**	**5.4**	**5.7**	**5.8**	**5.8**
Financial Discipline Deduction	**-**	**2.8**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**3.5**	**3.5**
Financial Discipline Reimbursement	**-**	**2.5**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**3.5**
Penalties	**-**	**0.6**	**0.9**	**0.8**	**0.7**	**0.7**
Other direct payments						
EU Support Package[5]	-	5.0	1.8	4.1	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital) (Or EFS from 2018)	4.8	4.6	3.7	-	2.9	3.4
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC[5] from 2015)	23.7	25.3	18.6	18.9	8.8	-
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	15.5	14.3	7.4	2.6	2.8	0.6
New Entrants Scheme	0.1	-	-	-	-	-
Others[6]	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments	**44.2**	**49.2**	**31.6**	**25.6**	**14.4**	**3.9**
Total direct payments	**292.5**	**284.4**	**305.6**	**313.5**	**300.8**	**289.6**

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. LFA allowance became the Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015.
6. Includes Organic Farming Scheme and other miscellaneous payments.
7. Includes Dairy Support Package, EU Milk Production Reduction Scheme, Small Dairy Farmers, Pig Industry competitiveness, Soil sampling and analysis etc.

Table 2.11 Capital grants and other direct payments not included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1] 2014 - 2019

£ million[2]

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	1.4	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Business Improvement Scheme	-	-	-	7.1	6.2	8.0
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	0.7	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital grants[4]	**2.0**	**-**	**-**	**7.1**	**6.2**	**8.0**
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation[3]	13.9	15.7	16.4	23.7	24.1	19.4
Snow Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments[4]	**13.9**	**15.7**	**16.4**	**23.7**	**24.1**	**19.4**

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] 2014 - 2019

£ million

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Total buildings and works[2]	**89.4**	**81.8**	**63.6**	**83.4**	**103.1**	**105.4**
Plant and machinery	107.9	86.6	95.0	130.6	163.4	161.7
Vehicles[2,3]	13.0	14.9	14.9	14.9	12.0	18.8
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	**120.9**	**101.5**	**110.0**	**145.5**	**175.4**	**180.6**
Total investment	**210.3**	**183.3**	**173.5**	**228.9**	**278.5**	**286.0**

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Milk quota (million litres)						
Owned[1]	2,098.1	-	-	-	-	-
Leased[2]	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**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 2014 - 2019

number of persons

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE[1]						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	16,206	16,637	16,233	16,760	16,964	16,954
Part time	12,894	13,431	13,571	13,586	13,721	13,859
Total	**29,100**	**30,068**	**29,804**	**30,346**	**30,685**	**30,813**
Spouses of farmers	**6,279**	**6,084**	**6,410**	**6,449**	**6,542**	**6,700**
Other workers						
Full time	3,485	3,463	3,209	3,441	3,411	3,430
Part time	4,081	3,971	4,215	4,319	4,340	4,453
Casual/seasonal	4,919	4,393	4,074	4,149	4,270	4,027
Total other workers	**12,485**	**11,827**	**11,498**	**11,909**	**12,021**	**11,910**
Total agricultural labour force	**47,864**	**47,979**	**47,712**	**48,704**	**49,248**	**49,423**
Annual Work Units (AWUs)[2]	**28,164**	**28,427**	**27,873**	**28,708**	**28,993**	**29,116**

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] 2014 - 2019

number of persons

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
MANPOWER STATISTICS[1]						
Self-employed						
Male	15,590	15,931	15,519	16,033	16,218	16,204
Female	616	706	714	727	746	750
Total	**16,206**	**16,637**	**16,233**	**16,760**	**16,964**	**16,954**
Employees						
Male	10,883	10,192	9,902	10,164	10,143	9,972
Female	1,602	1,635	1,596	1,745	1,878	1,938
Total	**12,485**	**11,827**	**11,498**	**11,909**	**12,021**	**11,910**
Total agricultural manpower	**28,691**	**28,464**	**27,731**	**28,669**	**28,985**	**28,864**

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 2019 decreased by 0.1 per cent to 334,234 head. The number of steers were 1.9 per cent lower at 155,210 head, heifers increased by 2.3 per cent to 134,277 head and the number of young bulls decreased by 0.2 per cent to 44,747. As a result the proportion of steers in the slaughter mix decreased from 47 per cent in 2018 to 46 per cent in 2019, while the proportion of heifers increased from 39 per cent in 2018 to 40 per cent in 2019. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered remained at 13 per cent in both 2018 and 2019.

The average dressed carcase weights increased in 2019 to 343 kg. As a result of this increase in carcass weight, the volume of clean beef produced increased by 2.0 per cent to 114,729 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 6.6 per cent lower at £3.26 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle decreased by 4.7 per cent to £374 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls decreased by 6.1 per cent to 102,505 head in 2019. Average carcase weights for these animals was 2.9 per cent higher at 315 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls fell by 10.6 per cent to £2.25 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, decreased 13.6 per cent to £73 million in 2019.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2019 decreased by 2 per cent to 5,970 head. An estimated 16,090 calves were exported in 2019, which was a decrease of 22.0 per cent compared with 2018 levels. The average calf price was 8.1 per cent higher at £335 per head and the revenue generated was £7.4 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland decreased by 34 per cent to 3,380 head in 2019. When combined with a 2.9 per cent decrease in the average producer price paid to £782 per head, this generated revenues of £2.6 million; a decrease of 35 per cent from 2018 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 85 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2019 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) decreased by 7.7 per cent to £434 million.

Milk

The annual average dairy cow population in 2019 was 0.2 per cent higher than 2018 at 311,276 head. Average gross milk yield per cow increased from 7,648 litres in 2018 to 7,792 litres in 2019; a 1.9 per cent increase.

The higher milk yields contributed to a 1.9 per cent increase in total milk output in 2019 in Northern Ireland; to 2.4 billion litres. The average gross milk price for 2019 (before deducting transport costs) was 27.37 pence per litre, a 5.8 per cent decrease. 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 continued to decline from its peak in 2017.

Overall, the value of output of milk decreased by 4.0 per cent in 2019, to £654 million.

Sheep and lambs

Marketings of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 4.9 per cent to 720,259 head in 2019, whereas, the average dressed carcase weight increased by 2.6 per cent in 2019 to 22.2 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2019 reduced by 2.4 per cent to 15,974 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices decreased by 9.3 per cent to 386 pence per kg deadweight in 2019. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs fell by 11.5 per cent to £62 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams decreased by 3.3 per cent to 124,663 head in 2019. There was a 6.1 per cent increase in the price received for these animals (£60 per head). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams increasing to £7.4 million; an increase of 2.5 per cent.

Overall, the total value of output (which deducts the value of imported sheep but includes breeding sheep and store exports) from the sector fell by 10.9 per cent, to £69 million in 2019.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2019 was 10.8 per cent higher at 1.39 million head. Average dressed carcase weights were 0.4 per cent higher at 91.5kg in 2019. When combined these changes resulted in an 11.3 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 126,903 tonnes. Pig producer prices increased by 2.2 per cent to 146 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 13.8 per cent higher at £185 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were up by 3.8 per cent in 2019 at 15,113 head. The average price per head of cull sows and boars increased by 1.5 per cent to 93 pence per kg deadweight. These changes resulted in market returns for these animals increasing by 5.3 per cent to £2.0 million in 2019.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector increased by 13.0 per cent to £178 million (this figure includes deductions for the value of imported pigs and additions for the value of breeding and store pig exports).

Poultry

In 2019, the total volume of poultry meat production was 301,657 tonnes liveweight, a decrease of 8.6 per cent from 2018 levels. Broiler production was 7.9 per cent lower at 283,441 tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were higher than 2018 levels by 0.7 per cent at 93 pence per kg. Overall, as a result of these changes the market value of broilers in 2019 was 7.3 per cent lower at £264 million. Broilers accounted for 85 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production decreased in 2019, by 70.4 per cent, to 2,098 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2019 was £312 million; 6.2 per cent lower than 2018.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 163 million dozen eggs in 2019, which is a new record level of production for Northern Ireland. This was a rise of 6.8 per cent on 2018 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 63 per cent in 2018 to 65 per cent in 2019 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 35 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs decreased, by 6.4 per cent, to 65 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs decreased by 0.1 per cent to £108 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

The area of potatoes planted in 2019 increased by 4.9 per cent to 3,777 hectares. The average yield increased, by 1.8 per cent, to 40 tonnes per hectare. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2019 is estimated to be 6.8 per cent higher at 151,271 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2019 were 14 per cent higher at 119,925 tonnes.

In 2019, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) fell by 6 per cent to 9,944 tonnes. In total for 2019, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 143,472 tonnes. This was an increase of 11 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £163 per tonne in 2019, an increase of 2.5 per cent from 2018 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was higher than 2018 at £196 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output rose in 2019, by 14 per cent, to £23 million.

Cereals

The area of spring barley sown in 2019 was 19.8 per cent lower than 2018 levels at 11,948 hectares, while recorded yields were up by 4.6 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley decreased by 16.1 per cent. The area of winter barley sown, in 2019, was up by 33.2 per cent to 7,739 hectares, while yields were higher by 16.3 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley increasing by 54.9 per cent. Overall, total barley production was 8.3 per cent higher in 2019 at 126,912 tonnes, with the total area of barley grown down 4.9 per cent at 19,687 hectares.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2019 was 13.8 per cent higher at 126,402 tonnes. The average producer price of barley decreased, by 12.3 per cent, to £163 per tonne. These changes plus a relatively minor stock change resulted in the value of barley output decreasing by 5.4 per cent to £20.7 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2019 was 18.4 per cent higher at 8,104 hectares. This coupled with an 8.1 per cent increase in yields resulted in production being up by 28.0 per cent to 61,029 tonnes.

In 2019, the volume of wheat sold or used on-farm was 13.2 per cent higher at 58,965 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat decreased by 5.8 per cent to £174 per tonne. These changes combined with a positive stock change contributed to the value of wheat output increasing by 22 per cent to £10.6 million.

The area of oats grown in 2019 was 7.2 per cent lower at 1,868 hectares. This coupled with yields being up by 17.8 per cent, resulted in oats production increasing by 9.3 per cent to 11,102 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 2.0 per cent higher at £194 per tonne. The changes in price and production resulted in the value of output rising to £2.1 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2019 decreased by 7.7 per cent to £101 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) decreased by 39.9 per cent to £8.4 million. Apple production fell by 6.8 per cent to 53,450 tonnes while prices decreased by 2.3 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples reduced by 8.9 per cent but apple output was much lower (down 46.6 per cent) due to a substantial stock change in 2019. The value of output from mushrooms increased by 2.6 per cent to £55 million as a result of a 1.9 per cent increase in price and a 0.7 per cent increase in production. Receipts from the sale of vegetables decreased, by 1.8 per cent, to £17.1 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock fell by 16.1 per cent to £20.8 million due to a reduction in the crop area.

Feedstuffs	The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2019 was 3.1 per cent lower than the 2018 levels at 2.45 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds decreased by 7.2 per cent with dairy compounds purchased falling by 3.7 per cent and beef cattle compounds decreasing by 13.3 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 20.9 per cent lower. Total purchases of pig compounds rose in 2019 by 12.6 per cent while poultry compounds rose by 0.7 per cent. Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) rose by 3.6 per cent in 2019 to 391,867 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 2.3 per cent lower in 2019 at 2.91 million tonnes. The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 0.5 per cent, to £292 per tonne in 2019. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2019 decreased, by 1.8 per cent, to £850 million.
Fertilisers and lime	The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2019 decreased by 10 per cent to 284,924 tonnes while the average price increased by 11.7 per cent to £280 per tonne. In volume terms, 45 per cent of total fertiliser sales were straights, while 55 per cent were compounds. As a result of these movements in both quantity purchased and price paid, the total value of fertiliser purchases increased, by 0.5 per cent, to £80 million. Total expenditure on lime decreased by 7.2 per cent when compared to 2018 levels to £5.2 million. The quantity purchased decreased by 15.7 per cent to 179,991 tonnes while the price paid increased by 10.0 per cent.
Marketing expenses	In 2019 total marketing expenses were 1.2 per cent lower than 2018 levels at £37.3 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £22.4 million, while sheep expenses were £3.7 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £6.1 million, while those for pigs were £5.1 million.
Machinery expenses	Machinery expenses in 2019 increased, by 1.9 per cent, to £161 million. This increase was driven by a 2.8 per cent increase in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global price commodity movements.
Interest	Total farm borrowings in 2019 increased by 2.8 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have risen from 4.60 per cent in 2018 to 4.75 per cent in 2019. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) increased by 5.4 per cent in 2019 to £51.4 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 2019, the volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 0.6 per cent lower, at 8.4 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 5.0 per cent higher than 2018 at £80.4 million.

Table 2.16 Output of cattle and calves 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales (‘000 head)	300.8	299.8	316.2	328.1	334.4	334.2
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	328.8	326.2	318.5	347.7	349.1	326.1
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	330.4	339.1	339.8	334.0	336.3	343.3
Quantity of output (‘000 tonnes)[2]	99.4	101.7	107.4	109.6	112.5	114.7
Value of output (£m)	326.8	331.6	342.2	381.1	392.6	374.1
Cows and bulls						
Sales (‘000 head)	94.6	98.4	110.1	106.3	109.2	102.5
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	218.4	213.6	215.8	246.7	251.4	224.8
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	311.8	312.0	310.5	302.8	305.9	314.8
Quantity of output (‘000 tonnes)[2]	29.5	30.7	34.2	32.2	33.4	32.3
Value of output (£m)	64.4	65.6	73.8	79.4	84.0	72.5
Calves						
Sales (‘000 head)	39.3	28.5	31.6	29.9	26.7	22.1
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	297	308	305	303	310	335
Value of output (£m)	11.7	8.8	9.6	9.1	8.3	7.4
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings (‘000 head)	11.0	11.9	9.4	7.4	5.1	3.4
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	770	795	749	801	806	782
Value of output (£m)	8.5	9.5	7.0	6.0	4.1	2.6
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings (‘000 head)	1.7	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.2	1.3
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,337	1,081	1,056	1,349	1,392	1,474
Value of output (£m)	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.0
Less Imported cattle						
Marketings (‘000 head)	29.2	31.6	16.4	19.2	20.9	25.2
Average producer price (£ per head)	976	921	891	995	1,021	962
Value of output (£m)	28.5	29.0	14.6	19.1	21.4	24.3
Total Market Value (£m)	**385.1**	**389.4**	**420.8**	**459.3**	**470.5**	**434.4**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+6.9	+12.9	+12.1	+5.1	-10.9	-7.4
Total value of output (£m)	**392.0**	**402.3**	**432.9**	**464.4**	**459.7**	**427.0**

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 2014 - 2019

per cent

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Cows and bulls	24	25	26	24	25	23
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	32	33	34	37	36	38
- the beef herd;	40	38	35	36	36	36
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	5	5	5	3	3	3
Total[1]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number marketed ('000 head)	**395**	**398**	**426**	**434**	**444**	**437**

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

Table 2.18 Output of milk 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	295.5	311.2	315.8	314.6	310.5	311.3
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum)[1]	7,567	7,391	7,076	7,370	7,648	7,792
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	**2,206**	**2,268**	**2,200**	**2,286**	**2,346**	**2,391**
of which:						
sales off farms	2,204	2,266	2,198	2,285	2,344	2,390
used in farm households	1	1	1	1	2	1
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price[2]	29.66	21.17	20.61	29.05	29.04	27.37
Net price[3]	29.31	20.82	20.24	28.73	28.74	27.12
Market Value (£m)	**654.2**	**480.1**	**453.3**	**664.1**	**681.5**	**654.5**
Value of output (£m)[2]	**654.2**	**480.1**	**453.3**	**664.1**	**681.5**	**654.5**

1. Comprising sales off farms, milk consumed in farm households and milk fed to other livestock.
2. After deduction of superlevy but not marketing expenses (transport costs).
3. After deduction of marketing expenses (transport costs) but not superlevy.

Table 2.19 Output of sheep 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished sheep and lambs	791.5	784.1	776.0	765.8	757.4	720.3
Culled ewes and rams	130.7	135.3	136.8	136.4	129.0	124.7
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished sheep and lambs	381.5	340.2	387.9	398.7	426.1	386.5
Culled ewes and rams	185.4	200.0	185.8	192.7	203.2	204.4
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.8	21.7	21.4	21.6	21.6	22.2
Culled ewes and rams	28.0	28.2	28.1	28.0	27.6	29.1
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	17.2	17.0	16.6	16.5	16.4	16.0
Culled ewes and rams	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6
Market Value (£m)[3]	**69.9**	**63.5**	**71.9**	**74.6**	**77.7**	**69.2**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.5	-0.3	+3.2	-1.5	+2.7	-3.6
Value of output (£m)	**69.4**	**63.2**	**75.0**	**73.1**	**80.3**	**65.6**

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished clean pigs	1,078.5	1,156.6	1,238.4	1,241.5	1,250.9	1,386.6
Culled sows and boars	12.8	14.2	14.0	14.7	14.6	15.1
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished clean pigs	145.93	118.84	118.27	152.19	142.39	145.59
Culled sows and boars	91.62	75.34	74.68	96.45	91.45	92.84
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	85.7	86.2	86.5	88.6	91.1	91.5
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	92.4	99.7	107.1	110.0	114.0	126.9
Culled sows and boars	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
Market Value (£m)[3]	**131.9**	**113.0**	**121.0**	**163.4**	**157.4**	**177.9**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.3	+1.1	+0.0	+2.9	-0.6	+1.2
Value of output (£m)	**133.2**	**114.1**	**121.1**	**166.3**	**156.8**	**179.2**

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	279.0	277.9	298.6	315.4	329.9	301.7
Broilers	250.9	253.0	272.4	294.0	307.9	283.4
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	88.5	84.7	85.3	87.5	90.1	89.2
Broilers	89.8	85.6	86.7	90.0	92.5	93.2
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	280.9	273.6	291.2	310.6	332.3	311.6
of which broilers	225.2	216.7	236.3	264.7	284.9	264.1
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-2.3	+1.1	+3.5	-1.0	-1.2	-2.1
Value of Output (£m)[1]	**280.9**	**273.6**	**291.2**	**310.6**	**332.3**	**311.6**

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	106.8	114.2	122.3	139.1	152.3	162.7
Average producer price (p per dozen)[1]	72.85	75.85	75.89	73.36	69.91	65.44
Value of output (£m)[2]	**79.6**	**88.6**	**94.8**	**104.0**	**108.5**	**108.4**

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 2014 - 2019

harvest years

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
Potatoes[1]						
Area ('000 hectares)	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	43.0	43.7	40.4	43.2	39.3	40.1
Production ('000 tonnes)	180.2	157.1	150.9	175.3	141.6	151.3
of which:						
saleable potatoes	156.3	134.1	131.3	155.0	116.1	131.2
chats[2] and waste	23.9	23.0	19.5	20.3	25.5	20.1
Barley[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	23.6	22.7	22.3	21.1	20.7	19.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.78	6.17	5.59	5.41	5.66	6.45
Production ('000 tonnes)	136.1	140.0	124.9	114.4	117.2	126.9
Wheat[4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.1
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.54	8.02	6.97	7.70	6.97	7.53
Production ('000 tonnes)	64.1	64.0	60.0	67.2	47.7	61.0
Oats[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.61	5.93	5.37	5.64	5.05	5.94
Production ('000 tonnes)	11.7	12.3	12.1	12.7	10.2	11.1
Oilseed rape[5]						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.60	3.90	3.10	3.90	3.50	3.50
Production ('000 tonnes)	1.8	2.4	1.7	2.9	2.7	2.7
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	20.6	14.2	11.6	7.3	16.7	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.6	8.1	7.1	6.4	5.6	-
Production ('000 tonnes)	156.6	115.3	82.1	46.4	93.5	-
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	309.4	308.1	286.7	298.5	293.3	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	32	30	30	29	31	-
Production ('000 tonnes)	9,812	9,357	8,660	8,805	9,137	-

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
POTATOES[2]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	126.4	147.9	119.3	129.3	105.2	119.9
Seed	13.3	11.7	11.0	12.1	10.5	9.9
Stockfeed	23.7	19.4	13.6	13.7	13.4	13.6
Total	**163.5**	**179.0**	**143.9**	**155.1**	**129.2**	**143.5**
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	125.68	131.88	155.01	148.81	175.73	176.55
Seed	167.37	152.86	170.70	172.98	166.00	196.39
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	15.9	19.5	18.5	19.2	18.5	21.2
Seed	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.7	2.0
Stockfeed	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Total[3]	**18.5**	**21.5**	**20.6**	**21.6**	**20.5**	**23.4**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	0.3	-4.5	-0.3	+1.4	+0.4	-0.1
Value of output (£m)	**18.8**	**17.1**	**20.2**	**23.0**	**21.0**	**23.3**
BARLEY[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	132.5	150.4	124.9	117.9	111.1	126.4
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	145.89	130.40	133.55	154.15	185.77	162.87
Market Value (£m)	**19.3**	**19.6**	**16.7**	**18.2**	**20.6**	**20.6**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.5	-1.3	0.0	-0.5	+1.2	+0.1
Value of output (£m)	**19.8**	**18.3**	**16.7**	**17.6**	**21.8**	**20.7**
WHEAT[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	58.6	66.4	63.2	65.0	52.1	59.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	155.66	135.87	137.29	160.5	182.45	173.97
Market Value (£m)	**9.1**	**9.0**	**8.7**	**10.4**	**9.5**	**10.3**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.8	-0.3	-0.4	+0.4	-0.8	+0.3
Value of output (£m)	**9.9**	**8.7**	**8.2**	**10.8**	**8.7**	**10.6**

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
APPLES[1]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	38.7	43.6	44.6	55.2	57.3	53.5
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	259	271	258	263	203	199
Market value (£m)	**10.0**	**11.8**	**11.5**	**14.5**	**11.7**	**10.6**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.6	-0.9	+2.1	+0.6	+1.2	-3.7
Value of Output (£m)	**10.6**	**10.9**	**13.6**	**15.1**	**12.9**	**6.9**
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	36.8	45.1	35.7	35.5	34.1	34.3
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,484	1,496	1,460	1,530	1,570	1,600
Value of output (£m)	**54.6**	**67.5**	**52.2**	**54.3**	**53.6**	**55.0**

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) 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS[1]						
Total quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,619	2,649	2,582	2,845	2,979	2,912
of which: Non-concentrates[2] ('000 tonnes)	51	54	53	67	71	69
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,183	2,172	2,131	2,374	2,530	2,451
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	386	423	399	404	378	392
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	295	275	273	271	291	292
Value of feed consumed (£m)	**772.6**	**727.5**	**705.0**	**770.8**	**865.5**	**850.0**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.9	+0.4	+2.0	-0.1	-0.5	+0.6
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	269	262	291	338	317	285
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	99	100	106	125	120	109
of which:						
Nitrogen	68	66	74	85	80	72
Phosphate	8	8	8	10	10	8
Potash	13	13	15	18	17	16
Sulphur	10	12	9	12	12	12
Average cost (£ per tonne)	298	275	230	236	251	280
Value of purchases (£m)	**80.2**	**72.0**	**66.9**	**80.0**	**79.5**	**79.9**
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	193	152	176	165	213	180
Average cost (£ per tonne)	12.03	13.45	21.94	25.36	26.05	28.66
Value of purchases (£m)	**2.3**	**2.0**	**3.9**	**4.2**	**5.6**	**5.2**
MARKETING EXPENSES[3]						
Cattle	20.2	20.5	21.9	22.4	22.5	22.4
Sheep	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7
Pigs	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3	5.1
Milk	7.6	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.1	6.1
Total	**35.5**	**36.5**	**38.4**	**38.3**	**37.7**	**37.3**
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8
Total interest charges (£m)[4]	**38.4**	**40.9**	**48.4**	**45.8**	**48.8**	**51.4**
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	40.20	40.33	40.04	39.86	39.39	39.91
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour)[5]	7.53	8.16	8.29	8.71	8.83	9.43
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week)[5]	302.80	328.96	332.08	347.24	347.68	376.38
Volume of paid labour (million hours)[6]	8.55	8.34	8.01	8.44	8.45	8.40
Value of paid labour (£m)[6]	**65.2**	**68.8**	**68.1**	**74.8**	**76.6**	**80.4**

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, 2018/2019*[1]).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Only 2,951 farms (12 per cent) have arable or horticultural crops. These crops occupy 44,500 hectares and make up just 4.3 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (19,600 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 8,100 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (29,800 hectares) was 2.9 per cent higher in 2019 than in 2018. 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 2019, the area of potatoes grown increased on 2018 levels by 5.5 per cent to 3,800 hectares. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2019, the cropped area also included 2,800 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,400 hectares) and vegetables (1,200 hectares).

Grazing livestock

All but 6 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2019, cattle were present on 19,919 farms (80 per cent), sheep on 9,921 farms (40 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 23,282 farms (94 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2019 Agricultural Census was similar to 2018 at approximately 1.6 million. There were 313,500 dairy cows (0.9 per cent more than in 2018), and 247,000 beef cows (3.5 per cent less than in 2018). 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 2019, the sheep breeding flock was 1.9 per cent smaller than in 2018 at 938,500 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock reduced by 1.0 percent from 2018 to just under 2.0 million in 2019.

[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 4.6 per cent of farms.

In 2019, pig numbers were derived from the NI Annual Pig Inventory (conducted in June) and were estimated at 674,400. Sow numbers decreased by 4.2 per cent to 47,500 in 2019.

In June 2019, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 24.8 million birds, 4.8 per cent lower than in 2018. The number of laying birds (5.0 million) increased by 15.4 per cent in 2019, and the numbers of broilers (15.4 million) decreased by 13.0 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 which, because of their relatively poor agricultural conditions, have been so designated under EU legislation. Further details are given in the Appendix.

Farms classed as **LFA farms** occupy 70 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 3.4) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 12 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1.3 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (187,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (155,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were 60,000 beef cows and 259,000 dairy cows in 2019. **LFA farms** account for 34 and 62 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

Table 3.1 Land use, 2019

thousand hectares

	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	45	952	16	10	**1,023**
Common grazing	-	36	-	-	**36**
NI Forest Service[1]	-	-	62	13	**75**
Other areas	-	-	35	185	**220**
All land[2]	**45**	**988**	**113**	**207**	**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 2014 - 2019

thousand hectares

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Oats	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9
Wheat	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.1
Barley: Winter	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.1	5.8	7.7
Spring	16.8	15.7	14.7	14.0	14.9	11.9
Mixed corn	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Potatoes	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8
Arable crop silage	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.3	3.9
Other field crops	4.4	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2
Total agricultural crops	**46.8**	**44.3**	**44.5**	**44.3**	**42.1**	**41.7**
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
Vegetables	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Other horticultural crops	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total horticultural crops	**3.0**	**3.1**	**2.9**	**3.0**	**2.8**	**2.8**
Grass: Under 5 years old	146.2	149.9	148.2	144.4	144.5	148.8
5 years old and over	641.8	650.4	652.6	660.6	663.2	659.9
Total grass	**788.0**	**800.3**	**800.8**	**805.0**	**807.6**	**808.7**
Total crops and grass	**837.8**	**847.7**	**848.2**	**852.2**	**852.5**	**853.2**
Rough grazing[1]	140.1	131.1	137.2	140.4	143.2	143.6
Woods and plantation	11.1	11.1	16.1	15.8	16.3	15.7
Other land[2]	7.8	7.9	11.8	11.4	10.4	9.8
Total area of farms	**996.8**	**997.7**	**1,013.2**	**1,019.7**	**1,022.4**	**1,023.2**

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

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2014 - 2019

thousand head

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CATTLE[1]						
Dairy cows	**294.2**	**311.5**	**317.1**	**315.8**	**310.7**	**313.5**
Dairy heifers in calf	62.1	60.8	58.8	60.1	59.0	60.3
Beef cows	**254.9**	**260.3**	**269.7**	**267.1**	**255.9**	**247.0**
Beef heifers in calf	31.9	31.7	31.1	30.4	29.7	29.1
Total cows	**549.1**	**571.8**	**586.9**	**582.9**	**566.6**	**560.5**
Total heifers in calf	**93.9**	**92.5**	**90.0**	**90.5**	**88.7**	**89.4**
Bulls for service	18.1	17.7	17.4	17.2	16.9	16.5
Other cattle						
Over 2 years	132.6	121.1	101.7	106.2	117.7	122.7
1-2 years	331.8	328.3	358.1	378.7	364.4	353.5
Under 1 year	441.8	477.4	510.5	491.0	474.8	469.1
Total cattle	**1,567.3**	**1,608.9**	**1,664.6**	**1,666.4**	**1,629.1**	**1,611.7**
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	910.6	938.6	955.2	973.3	956.5	938.5
Other sheep	1,012.3	1,051.0	1,067.8	1,079.2	1,049.5	1,002.4
Total sheep	**1,922.9**	**1,989.7**	**2,023.0**	**2,052.6**	**2,006.0**	**1,986.9**
PIGS[2]						
Sows and gilts	42.8	45.6	46.4	47.9	49.6	47.5
Other pigs	474.2	524.1	554.7	601.2	584.0	626.9
Total pigs	**517.1**	**569.7**	**601.1**	**649.1**	**633.6**	**674.4**
POULTRY[3]						
Laying birds	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8	4,331.9	4,998.7
Growing pullets	916.3	908.0	961.9	1,202.0	1,121.3	1,481.2
Breeding flock	2,413.7	2,404.9	2,282.7	2,526.9	2,515.9	2,558.7
Table chickens	13,614.2	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6	17,663.0	15,351.6
Total ordinary fowl	**19,988.8**	**20,760.1**	**21,253.8**	**24,458.3**	**25,632.1**	**24,390.2**
Other poultry	412.4	485.6	530.0	452.3	398.5	390.2
Total poultry	**20,401.1**	**21,245.7**	**21,783.8**	**24,910.6**	**26,030.6**	**24,780.4**
HORSES & PONIES[4]	**11.1**	**11.0**	**10.3**	**9.6**	**9.0**	**8.7**
GOATS	**3.2**	**3.8**	**3.8**	**4.2**	**3.8**	**3.4**

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 2019

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	25	18
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	22
Other agricultural crops	1	1	2	6	26
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	2	14
Total crops	**2**	**7**	**9**	**36**	**19**
Grass: Under 5 years old	48	43	90	59	61
5 years and over	267	194	461	199	70
Total grass	**315**	**237**	**551**	**258**	**68**
Rough grazing[2]	128	10	138	6	96
Woods/other land	6	13	19	7	75
Total area	**451**	**266**	**717**	**307**	**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 2019

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	50	104	155	259	37
Beef cows	114	73	187	60	76
Heifers in calf	21	29	50	39	56
Bulls for service	6	5	11	6	65
Other cattle					
Over 2 years	26	42	68	55	55
1-2 years	82	121	203	150	58
Under 1 year	138	152	289	180	62
Total cattle	**438**	**525**	**964**	**648**	**60**
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	541	209	750	188	80
Other sheep	578	251	829	219	79
Total sheep	**1,119**	**460**	**1,580**	**407**	**80**
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	6	13	19	29	40
Other pigs	63	146	209	418	33
Total pigs	**68**	**159**	**227**	**447**	**34**
POULTRY					
Laying birds	1,890	1,557	3,447	1,552	69
Table fowl	2,755	6,178	8,933	6,419	58
Other poultry	1,482	1,561	3,043	1,387	69
Total poultry	**6,127**	**9,296**	**15,422**	**9,358**	**62**
HORSES AND PONIES[2]	2	2	4	4	47
GOATS	2	1	2	1	64

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 2019 Census, 24,827, was 68 less than in 2018. 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 1,453 farms (5.9 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy 26.5 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 2019, are classified as **very small**. In 2019, there were 19,177 farms in this category (Table 4.3). 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 49 per cent of the farmed area (Table 4.14). The main activities of these farms are cattle and sheep rearing. In 2019, 59 per cent of beef cows[2] and 53 per cent of total sheep were to be found on very small farms. Almost 32,000 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.12).

There were 2,746 **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 26 per cent of poultry and 25 per cent of total sheep activities; they cover 19 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 17 per cent of the full time agricultural labour force (Table 4.14).

The 1,224 **medium** and 1,680 **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, 95 and 64 per cent shares of the livestock numbers, respectively.

Seventy-three per cent of **very small** and 66 per cent of **small farms** are mainly in the LFA whereas, for **medium** and **large** farms, the proportions are 56 and 47 per cent, respectively (Table 4.5).

Farm type

Almost 90 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 79 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping with 253 (1.0 per cent) classified as **cereal** farms, 679 (2.7 per cent) as **general cropping** and 249 (1.0 per cent) as horticulture. The **other types** category mainly consists of specialist horse farms, (166 farms in total). Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms together (808) account for 3.3 per cent, while **mixed** farms (499) 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 4.6 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 2019, 3,296 farms (13 per cent) had dairy cows, 14,156 (57 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) and 19,919 (80 per cent) had cattle of some type (Table 4.16). The average number of dairy cows per herd, 95, was 1 more than in 2018. It compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of approximately 17 cows. Sixty-seven per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with 8 per cent of beef cows.

In 2019, 9,694 farms had breeding sheep (Table 4.17), with an average of 97 ewes per flock. There were relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, with only 24 farms having a flock size of 1,000 ewes or more.

In 2019, pig data were extracted from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and showed that 366 commercial pig herds were operational in June (Table 4.19). Most of the pig herds (273 in 2019) had sows, averaging 174 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 39.6 per cent of total herds hold almost 98 per cent of pigs.

Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2019, with only commercial producers considered. Of the 278 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 93 per cent had flocks over 1,000. Thirty-nine businesses (14 per cent) farmed over thirty thousand birds with these farms accounting for 43 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with 62 per cent of farms having thirty thousand birds or more on farm when the Bird Register Update was conducted in June. Over 87 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2019, cereals were grown on 1,956 farms (Table 4.23), 7.9 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 15.2 hectares. Thirty-six per cent (695) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, while 121 farms grew 50 hectares or more and accounted for 37 per cent of the total cereal area grown.

Some 427 farms, 1.7 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2019. Of this number, 96 grew 10 hectares or more, with these farms accounting for more than three quarters of the total area of potatoes grown (Table 4.24).

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed[1], June 2019

Size group	By crops and grass area		By total area	
(hectares)	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	401	-	133	-
0.1 - 9.9	5,308	31,562	4,627	27,559
10.0 - 19.9	5,768	83,673	5,402	78,836
20.0 - 29.9	3,957	96,640	4,000	97,922
30.0 - 49.9	4,287	164,836	4,453	172,202
50.0 - 99.9	3,653	250,337	4,176	288,639
100.0 - 199.9	1,211	159,847	1,603	213,343
200.0 +	242	66,749	433	144,662
Total	**24,827**	**853,643**	**24,827**	**1,023,163**

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 2014 - 2019

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of farms	24,228	24,907	24,528	24,956	24,895	24,827
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	34.6	34.0	34.5	34.1	34.2	34.4
Total area	41.1	40.1	41.3	40.9	41.1	41.2
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7
10.0 - 19.9	9.8	10.1	9.6	10.0	9.9	9.8
20.0 - 29.9	11.4	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.3
30.0 - 49.9	20.2	20.3	19.7	19.5	19.2	19.3
50.0 - 99.9	30.2	29.5	29.2	29.1	29.0	29.3
100.0 +	25.1	24.8	25.9	26.1	26.6	26.5
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 2019

number

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Very Small	Business size[1]			All sizes
		Small	Medium	Large	
Under 10	5,422	138	55	94	5,709
10.0 - 19.9	5,543	149	42	34	5,768
20.0 - 29.9	3,622	238	52	45	3,957
30.0 - 49.9	3,172	836	178	101	4,287
50.0 - 99.9	1,325	1,108	647	573	3,653
100.0 +	93	277	250	833	1,453
Total	**19,177**	**2,746**	**1,224**	**1,680**	**24,827**

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

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2014 - 2019

number

Business size[1]	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Very small	18,521	19,078	18,651	19,060	19,188	19,177
Small	2,935	2,951	2,938	2,945	2,824	2,746
Medium	1,226	1,249	1,238	1,229	1,190	1,224
Large	1,546	1,629	1,701	1,722	1,693	1,680
Total	**24,228**	**24,907**	**24,528**	**24,956**	**24,895**	**24,827**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2019

number

Business size[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,167	5,852	14,019	5,158	73
Small	973	842	1,815	931	66
Medium	310	370	680	544	56
Large	285	510	795	885	47
Total	**9,735**	**7,574**	**17,309**	**7,518**	**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. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.6 Number of farms by business size and type, June 2019

number

Business type[1]	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	198	38	10	7	253
General cropping	589	35	15	40	679
Horticulture	80	41	26	102	249
Pigs	49	20	27	65	161
Poultry	169	236	127	115	647
Dairy	265	695	609	1,017	2,586
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	13,152	1,100	216	148	14,616
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,310	458	129	74	4,971
Mixed	256	97	49	97	499
Others	109	26	16	15	166
All types	**19,177**	**2,746**	**1,224**	**1,680**	**24,827**

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 2014 - 2019

number

Business type[1]	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cereals	297	281	275	272	264	253
General cropping	368	516	506	523	574	679
Horticulture	289	293	280	273	264	249
Pigs	179	185	174	181	177	161
Poultry	591	601	592	622	639	647
Dairy	2,655	2,742	2,694	2,635	2,545	2,586
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	14,316	14,497	14,325	14,687	14,700	14,616
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,775	5,014	4,969	5,097	5,109	4,971
Mixed	559	588	570	539	503	499
Others	199	190	143	127	120	166
All types	**24,228**	**24,907**	**24,528**	**24,956**	**24,895**	**24,827**

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 2019

number

Business type[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	9	33	42	211	17
General cropping	139	187	326	353	48
Horticulture	13	67	80	169	32
Pigs	32	57	89	72	55
Poultry	200	225	425	222	66
Dairy	540	913	1,453	1,133	56
Cattle & sheep	8,709	5,907	14,616	4,971	75
Mixed	55	141	196	303	39
Others	38	44	82	84	49
All types	**9,735**	**7,574**	**17,309**	**7,518**	**70**

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 2019

farms

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	11,395	798	274	288	12,755
50-<100%	4,503	1,248	631	848	7,230
>0-<50%	2,261	619	301	519	3,700
None owner occupied	1,018	81	18	25	1,142
All farms	**19,177**	**2,746**	**1,224**	**1,680**	**24,827**

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

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2014 - 2019

hectares

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Owner-occupied	690,477	713,095	730,767	737,994	739,243	738,976
Rented	306,327	284,653	282,481	281,742	283,152	284,188
Total	**996,804**	**997,748**	**1,013,248**	**1,019,736**	**1,022,395**	**1,023,163**
Percentage of owned land	**69.3**	**71.5**	**72.1**	**72.4**	**72.3**	**72.2**
Common grazing	**35,631**	**35,486**	**35,325**	**34,289**	**35,401**	**36,115**

Table 4.11 Average conacre rents by type of use, 2013 - 2018

£/hectare

Use	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Grass	226	236	241	262	259	266
Potatoes	734	706	508	670	650	736
Cereals	263	293	289	301	350	351
Rough grazing	33	38	49	51	64	66
All uses	**182**	**191**	**208**	**224**	**229**	**232**

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2019

number of persons

Labour item	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All farms
Farmers and partners					
Full time	9,735	3,029	1,604	2,586	16,954
Part time	12,266	893	281	419	13,859
Total	**22,001**	**3,922**	**1,885**	**3,005**	**30,813**
Spouses of farmers	**4,776**	**946**	**458**	**520**	**6,700**
Other workers					
Full time	823	385	319	1,903	3,430
Part time	2,506	760	401	786	4,453
Casual/seasonal	1,853	693	431	1,050	4,027
Total other workers	**5,182**	**1,838**	**1,151**	**3,739**	**11,910**
Total agricultural labour force	**31,959**	**6,706**	**3,494**	**7,264**	**49,423**

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 2019

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	6,162	5,130	11,292	5,662	67
Part time	5,587	4,240	9,827	4,032	71
Total	**11,749**	**9,370**	**21,119**	**9,694**	**69**
Spouses of farmers	**2,503**	**1,977**	**4,480**	**2,220**	**67**
Other workers					
Full time	764	1,030	1,794	1,636	52
Part time	1,448	1,404	2,852	1,601	64
Casual/seasonal	1,193	1,101	2,294	1,733	57
Total other workers	**3,405**	**3,535**	**6,940**	**4,970**	**58**
Total agricultural labour force	**17,657**	**14,882**	**32,539**	**16,884**	**66**

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 2019

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

Business size[1]

Item	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large			All Farms		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	**14,901**	**565**	**35**	**2,431**	**292**	**18**	**1,092**	**206**	**13**	**1,495**	**550**	**34**	**19,919**	**1,612**	**100**
Dairy cows	458	8	3	883	41	13	736	58	18	1,219	206	66	3,296	314	100
Beef cows	10,770	147	59	1,835	56	23	684	21	8	867	24	10	14,156	247	100
Slaughter cattle >1year	12,688	178	46	2,283	78	20	1,032	43	11	1,457	92	24	17,460	391	100
Sheep															
Total	**7,725**	**1,057**	**53**	**1,293**	**506**	**25**	**441**	**191**	**10**	**462**	**233**	**12**	**9,921**	**1,987**	**100**
Ewes	7,539	505	54	1,271	235	25	436	89	9	448	110	12	9,694	938	100
Pigs															
Total	**168**	**15**	**2**	**55**	**19**	**3**	**44**	**45**	**7**	**99**	**596**	**88**	**366**	**674**	**100**
Sows	106	1	3	42	2	4	36	4	8	89	41	85	273	48	100
Finishers/ Weaners	135	10	2	47	14	3	41	32	6	97	458	89	320	514	100
Poultry															
Total	**192**	**2,468**	**10**	**259**	**6,545**	**26**	**149**	**4,846**	**20**	**191**	**10,921**	**44**	**791**	**24,780**	**100**
Layers	57	275	6	107	1,283	26	56	1,129	23	58	2,312	46	278	4,999	100
Crops															
Oats	130	0	26	65	1	28	25	0	11	49	1	35	269	2	100
Wheat	215	2	20	130	2	21	74	1	12	196	4	46	615	8	100
Barley	814	6	31	351	5	25	156	2	12	302	6	32	1,623	20	100
Potatoes	191	0	11	110	1	17	49	0	12	77	2	61	427	4	100
Crops & grass	18,876	415	49	2,703	158	19	1,197	91	11	1,650	190	22	24,426	854	100
Rough grazing	4,300	73	51	750	36	25	277	15	10	314	20	14	5,641	144	100
Total area	**19,177**	**497**	**49**	**2,746**	**199**	**19**	**1,224**	**114**	**11**	**1,680**	**213**	**21**	**24,827**	**1,023**	**100**
Labour															
Full-time labour force[2]	9,545	12	52	2,480	4	17	1,170	2	10	1,639	5	22	14,834	22	100
Output															
Standard Output[3]	19,177	406	21	2,746	326	17	1,224	277	14	1,680	926	48	24,827	1,935	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 2019[1]

Number per farm	Dairy Cows: Numbers of Farms	Dairy Cows: Numbers of Cows	Dairy Cows: Percentage of Farms	Dairy Cows: Percentage of Cows	Beef cows: Numbers of Farms	Beef cows: Numbers of Cows	Beef cows: Percentages of Farms	Beef cows: Percentages of Cows
<10	206	1,354	6.3	0.4	6,142	27,085	43.4	11.0
10 - 14	85	1,015	2.6	0.3	2,272	26,951	16.0	10.9
15 - 19	91	1,537	2.8	0.5	1,610	27,187	11.4	11.0
20 - 29	199	4,915	6.0	1.6	1,877	44,923	13.3	18.2
30 - 39	222	7,733	6.7	2.5	920	31,171	6.5	12.6
40 - 49	230	10,306	7.0	3.3	452	20,043	3.2	8.1
50 - 59	245	13,297	7.4	4.2	300	16,250	2.1	6.6
60 - 69	254	16,401	7.7	5.2	173	11,057	1.2	4.5
70 - 99	566	47,407	17.2	15.1	268	21,933	1.9	8.9
100 & Over	1,198	209,584	36.3	66.8	142	20,409	1.0	8.3
Total 2019	**3,296**	**313,549**	**100**	**100**	**14,156**	**247,009**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***3,311***	***310,718***			***14,438***	***255,904***		
Average 2019		**95.1**				**17.4**		
Average 2018		***93.8***				***17.7***		

1. Cattle figures 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 2019[1]

Number per farm	Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter: Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cattle	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Cattle	Total cattle: Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cattle	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cattle
1 - 4	4,978	11,205	28.5	2.9	702	2,057	3.5	0.1
5 - 9	3,372	22,921	19.3	5.8	1,430	10,117	7.2	0.6
10 - 19	3,542	49,170	20.3	12.6	3,080	44,078	15.5	2.7
20 - 29	1,852	44,419	10.6	11.6	2,554	62,004	12.8	3.8
30 - 39	1,106	37,542	6.3	9.8	2,001	68,647	10.0	4.3
40 - 49	674	29,854	3.9	8.0	1,507	66,755	7.6	4.1
50 - 69	811	47,501	4.6	12.0	2,105	124,018	10.6	7.7
70 - 99	547	44,945	3.1	11.6	1,923	160,551	9.7	10.0
100 - 199	449	60,467	2.6	16.1	2,647	370,568	13.3	23.0
200 - 299	74	17,853	0.4	4.1	1,062	257,636	5.3	16.0
300 & over	55	25,364	0.3	5.6	908	445,345	4.6	27.6
Total 2019	**17,460**	**391,241**	**100**	**100**	**19,919**	**1,611,776**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***17,594***	***396,813***			***20,082***	***1,629,068***		
Average 2019		**22.4**				**80.9**		
Average 2018		***22.6***				***81.1***		

1. Cattle figures 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 2019

	Ewes				Total Sheep			
Number per farm	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Ewes	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Ewes	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Sheep	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Sheep
1 - 24	2,177	29,185	22.5	3.1	1,121	14,720	11.3	0.7
25 - 49	2,142	76,606	22.1	8.2	1,363	49,695	13.7	2.5
50 - 99	2,369	166,343	24.4	17.7	2,072	149,743	20.9	7.5
100 - 199	1,830	250,947	18.9	26.7	2,253	321,648	22.7	16.2
200 - 299	631	150,936	6.5	16.1	1,186	289,051	12.0	14.5
300 - 399	267	90,067	2.8	9.6	634	218,514	6.4	11.0
400 - 499	118	51,502	1.2	5.5	373	166,444	3.8	8.4
500 - 699	87	49,865	0.9	5.3	471	273,631	4.7	13.8
700 - 999	49	40,143	0.5	4.3	259	211,807	2.6	10.7
1,000 & Over	24	32,863	0.2	3.5	189	291,679	1.9	14.7
Total 2019	**9,694**	**938,457**	**100**	**100**	**9,921**	**1,986,932**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***9,756***	***956,548***			***9,984***	***2,005,998***		
Average 2019		**96.8**				**200.3**		
Average 2018		***98.0***				***200.9***		

Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2019[1]

	Sows (including gilts)			
Number per farm	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Sows	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Sows
1 - 9	84	282	30.8	0.6
10 - 19	17	254	6.2	0.5
20 - 49	41	1,426	15.0	3.0
50 - 99	37	2,721	13.6	5.7
100 - 199	42	6,007	15.4	12.6
200 - 299	17	4,152	6.2	8.7
300 - over	35	32,687	12.8	68.8
Total 2019	**273**	**47,529**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***275***	***49,635***		
Average 2019		**174.1**		
Average 2018		***180.5***		

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 2019[1]

	Finisher/Weaners				Total pigs			
Number per farm	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Pigs	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Pigs	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Pigs	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Pigs
1 - 9	86	260	26.9	0.1	103	307	28.1	0.0
10 - 19	15	174	4.7	0.0	24	324	6.6	0.0
20 - 49	27	844	8.4	0.2	27	914	7.4	0.1
50 - 99	15	1,085	4.7	0.2	15	1,039	4.1	0.2
100 - 199	18	2,367	5.6	0.5	24	3,595	6.6	0.5
200 - 399	26	6,900	8.1	1.3	28	8,491	7.7	1.3
400 - 999	42	27,225	13.1	5.3	38	25,801	10.4	3.8
1,000 - 1,999	44	61,427	13.8	11.9	47	71,602	12.8	10.6
2,000 & over	47	413,965	14.7	80.5	60	562,355	16.4	83.4
Total 2019	**320**	**514,247**	**100**	**100**	**366**	**674,428**	**100**	**1000**
Total 2018	***281***	***475,623***			***311***	***633,644***		
Average 2019		**1,607.0**				**1,842.7**		
Average 2018		***1,692.6***				***2,037.4***		

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 2019[1]

Number per farm	Laying Hens				Broilers			
	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Hens ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Hens	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Broilers ('000)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Broilers
1-999	19	6	6.8	0.1	9	1	3.0	0.0
1,000-4,999	16	52	5.8	1.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
5,000-9,999	67	504	24.1	10.1	7	61	2.4	0.4
10,000-19,999	112	1,667	40.3	33.3	54	880	18.2	5.7
20,000-29,999	25	611	9.0	12.2	42	1,039	14.1	6.8
30,000-49,999	30	1,012	10.8	20.2	74	2,775	24.9	18.1
50,000 & over	9	1,147	3.2	22.9	111	10,596	37.4	69.0
Total 2019	**278**	**4,999**	**100**	**100**	**297**	**15,352**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***232***	***4,332***			***332***	***17,663***		
Average 2019		**17,981**				**51,689**		
Average 2018		***18,672***				***53,202***		

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 2019[1]

Number per farm	Total poultry			
	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Birds ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Birds ('000)
1-999	38	13	4.8	0.1
1,000-4,999	26	80	3.3	0.3
5,000-9,999	110	819	13.9	3.3
10,000-19,999	246	3,744	31.1	15.1
20,000-29,999	107	2,636	13.5	10.6
30,000-49,999	133	4,801	16.8	19.4
50,000 & over	131	12,687	16.6	51.2
Total 2019	**791**	**24,780**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***779***	***26,031***		
Average 2019		**31,328**		
Average 2018		***33,415***		

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 2019

Number per farm (ha)	Barley				Wheat			
	Number of Farms	Area of Barley (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Barley	Number of Farms	Area of Wheat (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Wheat
under 1	24	16	1.5	0.1	14	10	2.3	0.1
1 - 4.9	577	1,714	35.6	8.7	184	558	29.9	6.9
5 - 9.9	440	3,093	27.1	15.7	168	1,227	27.3	15.1
10 - 19.9	327	4,515	20.1	22.9	140	1,841	22.8	22.7
20 - 29.9	107	2,517	6.6	12.8	46	1,108	7.5	13.7
30 - 39.9	52	1,760	3.2	8.9	27	909	4.4	11.2
40 - 49.9	34	1,482	2.1	7.5	15	639	2.4	7.9
50 & over	62	4,591	3.8	23.3	21	1,812	3.4	22.4
Total 2019	**1,623**	**19,687**	**100**	**100**	**615**	**8,104**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***1,647***	***20,703***			***544***	***6,845***		
Average 2019		**12.1**				**13.2**		
Average 2018		***12.6***				***12.6***		

Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2019

Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cereals
	Total cereals			
under 1	33	21	1.7	0.1
1 - 4.9	662	1,957	33.8	6.6
5 - 9.9	483	3,410	24.7	11.4
10 - 19.9	385	5,329	19.7	17.9
20 - 29.9	147	3,481	7.5	11.7
30 - 39.9	74	2,483	3.8	8.3
40 - 49.9	51	2,251	2.6	7.5
50 & over	121	10,889	6.2	36.5
Total 2019	**1,956**	**29,820**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***1,961***	***29,662***		
Average 2019		**15.2**		
Average 2018		***15.1***		

Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2019

Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Potatoes
	Potatoes			
under 1	93	43	21.8	1.1
1 - 4.9	181	439	42.4	11.6
5 - 9.9	57	401	13.3	10.6
10 - 19.9	49	670	11.5	17.7
20 - 29.9	18	437	4.2	11.6
30 - 39.9	7	222	1.6	5.9
40 - 49.9	7	305	1.6	8.1
50 & over	15	1,259	3.5	33.3
Total 2019	**427**	**3,777**	**100**	**100**
Total 2018	***432***	***3,601***		
Average 2019		**8.8**		
Average 2018		***8.3***		

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 2018/19'.

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 2018/19. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2019/20 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 2014/2015 are presented in Table 5.1.

Income changes 2018/19

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2017/18 and 2018/19 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 265 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 88 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 decreased between 2017/18 and 2018/19 on Pig, Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (LFA), Cattle & Sheep (Lowland), and Mixed farms. Whereas, they all increased between 2017/18 and 2018/19 on Cereal and General Cropping farms.

Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income decreased from £33,410 in 2017/18 to £28,612 in 2018/19, a decrease of £4,798 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income decreased from £27,755 in 2017/18 to £21,925 in 2018/19 (a decrease of £5,830 per farm) and average Cash Income decreased from £51,470 in 2017/18 to £48,419 in 2018/19 (a decrease of £3,051 per farm).

Provisional estimates of incomes for 2019/20

Provisional forcasts of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2020 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types decreasing from £28,612 in 2018/19 to £24,679 in 2019/20 i.e. a decrease of £3,933 or 14 per cent per farm.

Farm Business Income is also expected to fall (by varying amounts) for Cereals, Dairy, Cattle and Sheep (LFA), Cattle and Sheep (Lowland), and Mixed farm types between 2018/19 and 2019/20. For all these farm types, the downturn in their incomes is mainly attributed to lower product prices in the 2019/20 accounting year. The results also show that Pigs are the only farm type expected to show a rise in Farm Business Income for 2019/20 when compared with the previous year. The upturn in incomes for Pig farms is due to higher pigmeat prices in 2019/20.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to fall from £48,419 in 2018/19 to £44,486 in 2019/20, which is a decrease of £3,933 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to be £17,991 in 2019/20 which is a £3,933 decrease on the previous year.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in mid-January 2020 and relate to an account year ending in mid-February 2020. 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 2019/20, 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.

Table 5.1 Indices of average cash income in real terms by farm type, 2014/2015 to 2019/20[1]

Indices: 2011/12 - 2013/14 = 100

Business type	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20 (provisional)
Cereals	86	71	76	100	158	130
General cropping	43	46	71	28	159	130
Pigs	120	79	129	217	155	196
Dairy	96	55	68	118	107	98
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	87	105	103	94	89	75
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	105	94	90	123	92	82
Mixed	87	38	75	109	72	65
All types	93	73	82	111	99	89

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, 2018/19

per cent

	Dairy			Cattle and sheep (LFA)			All types		
Income (£'s)	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**
Less than 0	1	11	1	6	38	25	5	30	1
1 - 4,999	0	2	1	6	6	6	4	6	7
5,000 - 9,999	1	2	4	7	15	12	6	9	10
10,000 - 14,999	3	5	5	8	10	10	8	8	7
15,000 - 19,999	1	5	7	19	12	14	10	8	11
20,000 - 29,999	7	13	15	20	7	17	15	12	15
30,000 - 49,999	19	19	14	17	8	9	20	11	12
> 50,000	68	41	52	16	2	8	32	16	22
Total	..	**100**	..	..	**100**	..	..	**100**	..
Number of farms in sample		101			97			265	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2017/18 and 2018/19

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
Cereals	...	...	73.5	104.7	...	...	...	...	28.8	55.1
General cropping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.5	117.7
Pigs	...	...	...	...	138.8	127.0	...	...	108.1	81.9
Dairy	26.0	20.7	48.9	45.5	84.5	77.9	150.1	140.9	97.8	91.1
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	19.7	18.5	35.2	34.9	66.1	74.0	111.1	109.9	28.1	27.6
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	20.3	16.7	35.9	35.9	65.8	61.6	...	...	28.4	25.9
Mixed	27.9	28.1	64.2	13.5	...	...	164.1	112.7	85.8	55.9
All types	20.2	18.6	41.0	39.5	78.8	80.3	149.6	135.3	51.5	48.4

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

Table 5.4 Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2017/18 and 2018/19

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
Cereals	...	...	38.3	64.1	...	...	...	...	38.3	64.1
General cropping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.4	96.6
Pigs	...	...	...	...	109.0	81.9	...	...	87.6	58.0
Dairy	22.1	17.2	36.2	31.7	60.1	48.5	101.7	87.4	68.1	57.8
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	10.5	7.6	21.9	19.4	49.5	52.3	98.7	73.9	17.3	14.4
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	11.0	8.2	23.0	16.1	38.7	30.1	...	...	16.8	12.3
Mixed	19.4	23.6	17.2	26.3	...	...	90.0	57.3	42.0	34.1
All types	11.4	8.7	26.1	24.1	54.0	50.4	101.3	83.5	33.4	28.6

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, 2017/18 and 2018/19

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
Cereals	...	...	28.8	55.1	...	...	...	...	28.8	55.1
General cropping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-6.3	86.9
Pigs	...	...	...	...	126.1	100.9	...	...	108.1	81.9
Dairy	22.0	17.0	31.7	24.3	55.0	43.4	102.8	83.4	66.0	52.8
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	6.3	3.3	14.8	11.71	4.5	14.8	41.9	14.9	9.8	6.4
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	2.4	-1.3	14.0	7.4	38.0	26.9	...	...	8.6	3.5
Mixed	-1.3	2.8	5.1	13.6	...	...	98.6	68.5	37.0	29.0
All types	5.9	2.8	19.2	16.2	44.4	40.1	100.9	79.5	27.8	21.9

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

Table 5.6 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2018/19

£'000 per farm[1]

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (SLR)	1.7	1.5	3.1	1.0	1.1	2.3	1.7
Total farm area (ha)	120.1	54.6	88.2	94.6	64.5	82.5	85.4
Farm Business income	64.1	96.6	57.8	14.4	12.3	34.1	28.6
Total tenant's capital	**163.6**	**91.5**	**227.9**	**111.0**	**139.2**	**214.9**	**153.6**
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	6.0	10.6	40.7	36.9	64.9	71.7	45.0
crops	17.8	7.4	20.4	6.5	8.0	19.4	11.1
other	2.7	3.9	3.3	0.9	1.4	2.2	1.8
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	6.4	0.0	97.6	35.8	30.6	40.7	51.6
machinery	130.7	69.6	65.9	30.8	34.2	80.9	44.1

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, 2017/18 and 2018/19

£'000 per farm[1]

		Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
		2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19
	ASSETS						
	Total fixed assets	1,359.5	1,389.7	1108.5	1,138.3	1,232.4	1,258.6
	of which:						
	land and buildings	1,202.3	1,221.0	1,042.3	1,071.8	1,139.1	1,161.1
	other fixed assets	157.2	168.8	66.2	66.5	93.3	97.5
	Total current assets	94.9	97.6	55.2	60.2	75.5	80.1
	of which:						
	trading livestock, crops and stores	63.3	65.5	43.3	45.1	56.6	59.1
	debtors/other short term lending	20.4	19.9	.5	.4	6.4	6.2
	cash in hand and the bank	11.2	12.3	11.3	14.6	12.5	14.7
A	**Total assets**	**1,454.5**	**1,487.4**	**1,163.7**	**1,198.5**	**1,307.9**	**1,338.7**
	LIABILITIES						
	Total long/medium term loans	71.2	83.4	4.9	4.2	28.6	31.6
	of which:						
	bank/other institutional	70.2	83.2	4.9	4.2	28.0	31.3
	Total short term loans	37.3	36.3	8.3	8.5	18.4	18.6
	of which:						
	bank overdraft	22.2	21.6	6.3	6.2	11.7	12.0
B	**Total external liabilities**	**108.5**	**119.7**	**13.2**	**12.7**	**47.0**	**50.2**
	NET WORTH (A-B)	**1346.0**	**1367.7**	**1150.4**	**1185.8**	**1260.9**	**1288.5**

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

6. FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

Turnover	Gross turnover in the food and drinks processing sector increased in 2017 with turnover increasing in all ten subsectors. Provisional figures for 2018 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 increased in 2017 following two years of decline but is still below 2012 levels. Value added per employee has grown steadily over the last five years. Return on capital employed (ROCE) has increased by 3 percentage points since 2015.
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 2013. 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 increased in 2018 after remaining static in 2017.
Destination of Sales	Great Britain was the main destination of sales from the NI food and drinks processing sector in 2017. The Republic of Ireland is the largest export market. Exports to Republic of Ireland and other European Union countries account for 23.5 per cent of Northern Ireland's food and drinks processing sector sales. The Rest of the World accounts for 2.7 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 in 2019 and accounts for 50.7 per cent of the total value of external sales. The total value of external sales and fell between 2018 and 2019 driven by a decrease in sales to Great Britain and Republic of Ireland. The fall in both external and export sales was partially offset by a 28.1 per cent increase in sales to Other EU countries over the same period.
Raw Milk Sales	The value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland increased fo the third year in a row to £243.4 million in 2018. This is 58.9 per cent greater than the previous peak set in 2014.
Live Animal Purchases	Republic of Ireland was the largest external market for NI live live animal purchases for three out of the four subsectors in 2019 and accounted for 86.5 per cent of the total value of external purchases. Both the total value of purchases from outside NI and the total value of imports have increased by around one third since 2016. However, they are still well below 2014 levels.
Non-Edible Exports	The total value of non-edible product exports has experienced a third year of growth in 2018 following two years of decline.

Table 6.1 Gross Turnover of the NI food and drinks processing sector 2013-2018[1,2]

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Animal by-products	40	51	57	48	53	44
Bakeries	286	287	283	311	329	344
Beef and sheepmeat	1,214	1,244	1,252	1,190	1,312	1,390
Drinks	416	417	386	369	389	377
Eggs	132	139	143	153	175	145
Fish	76	77	77	80	94	99
Fruit and vegetables	299	306	309	321	337	353
Milk and milk products	1,000	1,010	905	876	1,068	1,083
Pigmeat	316	328	302	318	343	382
Poultrymeat	697	706	701	680	709	734
Total processing sector	**4,475**	**4,565**	**4,415**	**4,347**	**4,810**	**4,951**

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 2018 have been estimated by adjusting the 2017 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 2012-2017[1,2]

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
Sales per employee (£)	209,513	214,706	222,836	204,810	192,877	203,448
Value added per employee (£)	33,797	33,792	34,673	35,116	36,743	38,238
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	10.6	10.3	10.4	9.4	11.3	12.4

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 2013-2018

Full-time equivalents

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (provisional)
Processing of products[1,2]						
Animal by-products	117	116	116	115	112	109
Bakeries	3,261	3,466	3,719	3,823	3,936	4,195
Beef and sheepmeat	4,385	4,549	4,758	5,081	5,116	5,337
Drinks	1,377	1,362	1,327	1,328	1,295	1,326
Eggs	291	311	346	378	418	318
Fish	533	553	550	596	643	643
Fruit and vegetables	2,305	2,400	2,415	2,508	2,537	2,789
Milk and milk products	2,182	1,856	1,856	1,954	2,222	1,999
Pigmeat	1,378	1,366	1,414	1,528	1,725	1,484
Poultrymeat	5,014	4,510	5,055	5,230	5,639	6,621
Total processing sector	**20,843**	**20,486**	**21,555**	**22,539**	**23,641**	**24,818**
Agency Employment in food and drinks processing	**1,858**	**2,402**	**2,464**	**2,599**	**2,785**	**2,793**
Manufacture and supply of inputs[3]						
Animal feed	750	750	750	750	750	750
Fertilisers and lime	200	200	200	200	200	200
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	910	910	910	910	910	910
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	750	750	730	730	750	750
Services[4]	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Total supply sector	**3,760**	**3,760**	**3,740**	**3,740**	**3,760**	**3,760**

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, 2015-2018

	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Catching	708	151	700	175	686	152	686	168
Processing and marketing	484	232	516	241	530	242	618	263
Others	112	46	113	47	126	56	118	58
Total	**1,304**	**429**	**1,329**	**463**	**1,342**	**450**	**1,422**	**489**

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA.

Table 6.5 Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2017

£ 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	*	*	*	*	*	-	53.1	*	*
Bakeries	164.3	66.2	95.5	0.7	2.6	-	329.3	165.0	98.8
Beef/Sheepmeat	161.3	927.6	85.3	125.2	12.7	-	1,312.2	1,150.8	223.3
Drinks	160.7	32.9	170.5	13.1	11.7	-	388.9	228.2	195.3
Eggs	56.5	106.0	*	*	-	-	175.4	118.9	12.9
Fish	13.6	45.6	7.2	24.2	3.4	-	94.0	80.4	34.8
Fruit/Vegetables	113.8	159.7	61.4	0.8	1.3	-	337.0	223.3	63.6
Milk/Milk Products	290.4	363.6	128.6	*	*	0.9	1,067.6	776.3	412.7
Pigmeat	141.8	111.1	72.6	*	*	-	343.2	201.4	90.3
Poultrymeat	*	*	79.5	*	*	-	709.0	*	*
Total	**1,167.8**	**2,377.1**	**716.0**	**416.1**	**131.9**	**0.9**	**4,809.7**	**3,641.1**	**1,264.0**

*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, 2019 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Exports[6]
Live Cattle	4.0	4.9	3.2	0.0	12.1	8.0
Live Sheep	3.2	35.1	0.1	0.0	38.4	35.2
Live Pigs	2.6	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	2.0
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	23.7	10.3	14.1	0.0	48.1	24.4
Total	**33.5**	**52.3**	**17.3**	**0.0**	**103.1**	**69.6**

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 2014 - 2019

£ million

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
GB[2]	45.6	49.7	46.1	40.4	38.2	33.5
ROI[3]	43.6	42.5	53.0	53.5	59.3	52.3
Other EU[4]	21.5	19.1	15.7	16.2	13.5	17.3
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**110.7**	**111.3**	**114.8**	**110.1**	**111.0**	**103.1**
Export[7]	**65.1**	**61.6**	**68.7**	**69.7**	**72.8**	**69.6**

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 2013-2018

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales Value (£ millions)	137.2	153.2	126.3	132.5	234.9	243.4

Table 6.9 External purchases of live animals to Northern Ireland by origin, 2019 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Imports[6]
Live Cattle	7.0	33.4	1.2	0.0	41.7	34.6
Live Sheep	1.3	2.6	0.0	0.0	3.9	2.6
Live Pigs	0.4	64.1	0.1	0.0	64.6	64.2
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0
Total	**14.3**	**100.2**	**1.3**	**0.0**	**115.8**	**101.5**

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, 2014 - 2019

£ million

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (provisional)
GB[2]	9.7	9.2	9.9	14.4	13.7	14.3
ROI[3]	130.7	117.4	75.3	95.5	95.3	100.2
Other EU[4]	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.0	1.3
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**140.8**	**127.3**	**85.7**	**111.4**	**110.0**	**115.8**
Import[7]	**131.1**	**118.1**	**75.9**	**96.9**	**96.3**	**101.5**

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 2013-2018

£ million

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Animal feedstuffs[1]	124.2	103.1	101.1	108.9	125.0	135.7
Animal hides and skins	37.0	31.9	32.4	26.4	25.9	21.5
Processed wood and timber	41.8	47.6	47.0	56.2	63.8	72.0
Inedible animal and veg products[2]	23.2	24.4	19.9	16.7	18.4	17.6
Total	**226.2**	**207.0**	**200.4**	**208.2**	**233.1**	**246.8**

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' as well as urban and rural 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).

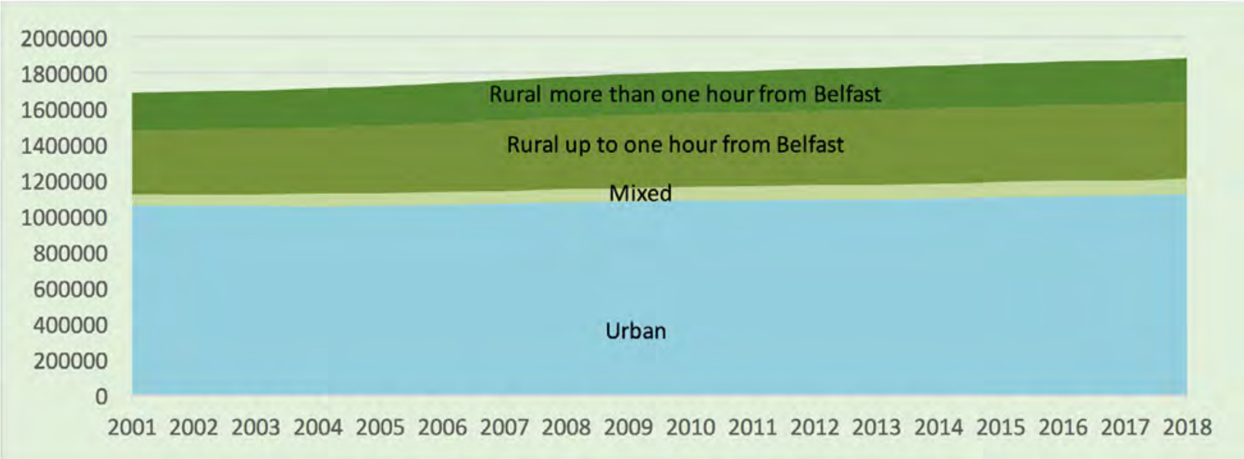
Information in Table 7.13 is based on the Locale definitions of rural and urban used by Ofcom. Locale is a third-party data source which uses a combination of Government conurbation definitions, population density, urban sprawl boundaries, Ordinance Survey roadmaps and visual inspection to classify areas. Details of the Locale definitions are available at: http://www.bluewavegeographics.com/images/LOCALE_Classification.pdf

Rural Population

In 2019, 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 and mixed urban/rural areas have experienced a much greater population growth since 2001 than towns and cities, with the biggest increases being in mixed 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 incomes between rural dwellers living close to, and those living more distant from Belfast. Rural households located more than an hour's drive from Belfast have lower incomes and a much higher risk of poverty than those closer to Belfast (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2).
Businesses	In 2019, there were 75,490 businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE schemes in Northern Ireland. In 2019, 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). However, median fire and ambulance response times are much longer in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.16 and 7.17).

Figure 7.1 Population Trends in NI 2001-2018



Source:
Source: NISRA Mid-year estimates 2018, November, 2019.
Small area look up table, urban/rural status 2015.

Table 7.1 Median equivalised[1] net[2] disposable weekly household income, 2017/2018

	Before Housing Costs £	After Housing Costs £
Urban	**475**	**427**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	485	433
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	497	452
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	493	449
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	464	434
All Rural	**485**	**444**
All Households (NI)	**480**	**431**

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, 2017/18.

Table 7.2 Percentage of individuals with incomes below 60% UK Median Income[1] 2017/2018

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
All Urban	**16**	**20**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	16	14
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	15	14
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	14	12
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	18	16
All Rural	**15**	**14**
All Households (NI)	**16**	**18**

1. Relative poverty threshold.

Source: DfC, Households below average income, 2017/18.

Table 7.3 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered business operating in NI by broad industry group[1], 2019

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%	36%	48%	41%	**25%**
Production	7%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	**7%**
Construction	11%	15%	18%	16%	16%	16%	**14%**
Motor trades	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**4%**
Wholesale	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	**4%**
Retail	12%	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	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	**4%**
Public administration and defence	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	*****
Education	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	**1%**
Health	6%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	**4%**
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	10%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	**6%**
All Industries	**31,645**	**24,815**	**19,025**	**26,320**	**17,520**	**43,845**	**75,490**

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: DoF Interdepartmental Business Register, 2019.

Table 7.4 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee sizeband, 2019

		Rural					
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	Total
Sole Trader (No employees)	15%	42%	43%	46%	39%	85%	**16,950**
Other[2] (No employees)	18%	44%	38%	46%	36%	82%	**7,560**
Micro (1-9 employees)	52%	30%	19%	31%	17%	48%	**42,770**
Small (10-49 employees)	66%	22%	12%	23%	11%	34%	**6,530**
Medium (50-249 employees)	73%	19%	8%	20%	7%	27%	**1,370**
Large (250+ employees)	87%	10%	3%	10%	3%	13%	**310**
All	**42%**	**33%**	**25%**	**35%**	**23%**	**58%**	**75,490**

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: DoF Interdepartmental Business Register, 2019.

Table 7.5 Highest educational qualification 2018/2019

	Degree level or higher qualifications	Qualifications below degree level	No qualifications	Base[1] =100%
All Urban	**27%**	**51%**	**22%**	**1,727**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	32%	50%	18%	646
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	21%	55%	24%	403
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	30%	52%	18%	679
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	23%	52%	25%	370
All rural	**28%**	**52%**	**20%**	**1,049**
Total	**27%**	**51%**	**21%**	**2,776**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2018/19.

Table 7.6 Performance of school leavers, 2017/2018

		Rural					
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	**All rural**	**All NI**
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C[2]	**84%**	87%	87%	87%	87%	**87%**	**85%**
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C[2] **inc. GCSE English and maths**	**68%**	75%	75%	76%	74%	**75%**	**71%**
2+ A Levels A*-E[2]	**56%**	58%	58%	59%	55%	**58%**	**57%**
TOTAL	**12,453**	5,326	3,616	5,624	3,318	**8,942**	**21,395**

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

Source: DE School Leaver's Survey 2017/18.

Table 7.7 Destinations of school leavers, 2017/2018

		Rural					
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	**All rural**	**All NI**
Higher Education[2]	**41%**	47%	45%	48%	43%	**46%**	**43%**
Further Education	**34%**	34%	32%	32%	36%	**33%**	**34%**
Employment	**11%**	8%	9%	9%	7%	**8%**	**10%**
Training[3]	**10%**	9%	12%	10%	11%	**10%**	**10%**
Unemployment	**3%**	1%	1%	1%	1%	**1%**	**2%**
Others	**2%**	1%	1%	1%	1%	**1%**	**2%**
TOTAL	**12,453**	**5,326**	**3,616**	**5,624**	**3,318**	**8,942**	**21,395**

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 2017/18.

Table 7.8 Housing Tenure, 2018/2019

	Owner occupied/ co-ownership	**Social rented**	**Private rented**	**Rent free**	**Base =100%**
All Urban	**63%**	**21%**	**15%**	**1%**	**2,817**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	81%	7%	11%	1%	1,006
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	80%	8%	11%	1%	634
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	82%	6%	11%	1%	1,077
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	78%	9%	12%	1%	563
All rural	**80%**	**7%**	**11%**	**1%**	**1,640**
All Households (NI)	**68%**	**16%**	**14%**	**1%**	**4,457**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2018/19.

Table 7.9 House prices, 2019

	Q3 2019	Increase since Q1, 2015
All Urban	**£133,520**	**25.6%**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	£158,612	27.0%
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	£157,926	28.9%
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	£161,670	25.4%
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	£149,506	33.6%
All Rural	**£158,531**	**27.7%**
All Households (NI)	**£139,951**	**26.1%**

Source: NI House price Index, Detailed Statistics, Quarter 3, 2019, November, 2019 https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-house-price-index-statistical-reports

Table 7.10 Average household size, 2018/2019

	Mean number persons per household	Base=100%
All Urban	**2.31**	**2,819**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	2.68	1,006
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	2.67	634
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	2.65	1,077
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	2.73	563
All Rural	**2.68**	**1,641**
All Households (NI)	**2.44**	**4,460**

Note: Information on distance from settlement is missing for one household. Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2018/19.

Table 7.11 Household access to car or van, 2018/2019

	No cars /vans	1 car /van	2 cars vans	>2 cars /vans	Base= 100%
All Urban	**24%**	**45%**	**27%**	**5%**	**2,819**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	7%	34%	44%	15%	1,006
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	9%	37%	39%	15%	634
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	7%	34%	43%	16%	1,077
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	10%	37%	39%	14%	563
All rural	**8%**	**35%**	**42%**	**15%**	**1,641**
Total	**18%**	**41%**	**32%**	**8%**	**4,460**

Note: Information on distance from settlement is missing for one household. Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2018/19.

Table 7.12 Access to public transport[1], 2015/2017

	Urban	Rural	All NI
Walk to nearest bus stop			
3 minutes or less	40%	22%	33%
44 minutes or longer	0%	9%	4%
Bus service frequency			
At least once every 15 minutes	23%	0%	14%
Less than three times a day	1%	11%	5%
Don't know	23%	42%	30%
Walk to nearest railway station			
6 minutes or less	6%	1%	4%
44 minutes or longer or n/a	43%	92%	60%
Rail service frequency[2]			
At least once an hour	85%	71%	80%
Less frequent service	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	12%	24%	16%

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 2015-17 https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/travel-survey-northern-ireland-depth-report-2015-2017

Table 7.13 Broadband speeds and availability, 2019

	Urban[1]	Rural[1]	NI
Average download speeds (Mbits)	62	35	55
Average monthly data usage (GB)	335	288	322
Coverage of Superfast Broadband (>=30Mbits)	98%	66%	89%
Fixed Broadband take-up	87%	81%	85%
Coverage of Ultrafast Broadband (>=300Mbits)	65%	11%	49%
Premises served by full fibre	39%	11%	31%
Premises unable to obtain decent broadband service[2]	1%	19%	6%

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

Source: Ofcom, 2019: Connected Nations 2019, Northern Ireland report, https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/186408/connected-nations-2019-ni-report.pdf

Table 7.14 Life expectancy at birth[1] 2012-2017

Years	2012-14		2013-15		2014-16		2015-17	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Urban	77.3	81.6	77.2	81.5	77.4	81.5	77.2	81.6
Mixed Urban/Rural	79.1	82.2	78.9	82.3	79.5	81.9	80.2	82.5
Rural	79.9	83.7	80	83.7	80.3	83.8	80.3	83.7
All NI	**78.3**	**82.3**	**78.3**	**82.3**	**78.5**	**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: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2019 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2019

Table 7.15 Standardised Death Rate - All cause Mortality under 75 years[1] 2009-2017

Deaths per 100,000 population	2009-13	2010-14	2011-15	2012-16	2013-17
Urban	429	420	413	411	411
Mixed Urban/Rural	327	332	320	327	329
Rural	327	316	310	306	305
All NI	**388**	**379**	**372**	**369**	**369**

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: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2019 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2019

Table 7.16 Median Fire Response Times[1] 2013-2018

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Urban	05:15	05:21	07:27	06:52	07:00
Mixed Urban/Rural	07:58	08:23	09:51	09:39	09:32
Rural	11:48	12:07	08:32	13:54	14:11
All NI	**06:20**	**06:26**	**07:49**	**08:02**	**08:11**

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

Source: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2019 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2019

Table 7.17 Median Ambulance Response Times[1] 2014-2018

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Urban	06:53	07:46	08:09	08:46	11:32
Mixed Urban/Rural	07:42	09:09	09:50	10:26	12:35
Rural	13:33	15:03	15:34	16:08	18:15
All NI	**08:15**	**09:21**	**09:57**	**10:36**	**13:36**

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

Source: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2019 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2019

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 viral diarrhoea (BVD), bovine brucellosis (BR) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

BSE was first reported in Northern Ireland during 1988 and since 2012 there have been no recorded cases. 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 2019, there were 1,757 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine TB. The herd incidence has reduced sharply in 2019 and now stands just above the 2017 level.

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 2019, 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 513 on-farm welfare inspections in 2019. 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 513 welfare inspections carried out on farms by VSAHG during 2019, 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 50 random cross compliance inspections in 2019, 100 per cent achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 100% in 2017 and 98% in 2018).

Of the complaint, follow-up, and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 87 per cent achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 91% in 2017 and 90% in 2018). 13 per cent of these 452 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 4 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 2019, 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.

Table 8.1 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Statistics

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing[1]	25,841	26,105	25,945	25,733	25,416	24,949
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	26,670	27,716	27,504	28,378	23,490	27,963
Total number of animals TB tested	1,607,660	1,662,526	1,709,790	1,750,170	1,744,580	1,732,196
Total new herd TB incidents[2]	1,397	1,688	1,739	2,208	2,089	1,757
Number of TB reactors	8,838	10,996	11,923	15,949	15,330	13,019

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	2019
Number of Herds with BVD Animal Statuses Set	17,317	17,200	16,635
Number of Herds with Positive BVD Animal Statuses (Prevalence)	1,764 (10.2%)	1,317 (7.7%)	971 (5.84%)
Number of Animals with BVD Status Set	533,254	515,200	526,865
Number of Animals with Positive BVD Status (Prevalence)	3,526 (0.66%)	2,576 (0.5%)	1,939 (0.37%)
Number of Animals with Inconclusive BVD Status (Prevalence)	46 (0.01%)	36 (<0.01%)	10 (<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 2019

Type of inspections	Compliance with animal welfare legislation	Number of Inspections	Category of Non-compliance	Number per category	Percentage of total %
Cross-compliance programme of random inspections	No	0	A B C	0 1 0	0 0 0
	Yes	50		50	100%
	Total	**50**		**50**	**100%**
Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections	No	61	A B C	34 4 21	7.8 0.9 4.5
	Yes	402		402	86.8
	Total	**463**		**463**	**100%**
All inspections	No	61	A B C	36 4 21	7.0 0.8 4.1
	Yes	452		452	88.1
	Total	**513**		**513**	**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 2018/19, Northern Ireland's councils collected 990,233 tonnes of Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal waste (see table 9.1). This was a 1.3 per cent increase on the 977,817 tonnes collected in 2017/18. 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 has seen an increase in LAC municipal waste arisings from 924,412 tonnes in 2013/14 to the 990,233 reported for 2018/19, a 7.1 per cent increase. The household waste per capita and household waste per household increased between 2013/14 and 2016/17, before gently decreasing for two consecutive years in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The recycling rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste have increased over the last six years. The LAC recycling rate increased from 41 per cent in 2013/14 to 50 per cent in 2018/19 whilst the household recycling rate increased from 41 per cent in 2013/14 to 50 per cent in 2018/19.

The proportion of LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery has seen strong growth between 2013/14 and 2018/19 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 10 per cent in 2013/14 to 19 per cent in 2018/19.

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 29 per cent in 2018/19, which is 4 percentage points less than the 2017/18 rate (33 per cent) and 20 percentage points less than the 2013/14 rate (49 per cent).

The amount of biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW) sent to landfill in 2018/19 has fallen by 39 per cent compared with the amount sent in 2013/14. 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 has also fallen gradually from 82 per cent in 2013/14 to 65 per cent in 2018/19.

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 contain two councils: Causeway Coast & Glens; and Derry City & Strabane. The remaining three councils are 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 2017, Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 20.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$). This was a decrease of 3.3 per cent compared to 2016. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 17.9 per cent compared to 24.3 $MtCO_2e$ in the base year (see figure 9.1). The base year is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for the fluorinated gases.

The largest sectors in terms of emissions in 2017 (see figure 9.2) were agriculture (27 per cent), transport (23 per cent) and energy supply (17 per cent). Most sectors showed a decreasing trend since the base year. The largest decreases, in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, were in the energy supply, waste management and residential sectors. These were driven by improvements in energy efficiency, fuel switching from coal to natural gas, which became available in the late 1990s, and the introduction of methane capture and oxidation systems in landfill management. Emissions from the agriculture sector increased by 2.0 per cent between the base year and 2017, and by 1.2 per cent between 2016 and 2017.

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 10 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 7 year term in late 2015. All NICMS agreements ended on 31st December 2019.

The trends for uptake of agri-environment schemes and the area under agreement have been determined by a number of factors including length of scheme agreement, farmer participation, available funding and resources to manage and deliver schemes. In 2017 DAERA launched its new agri-environment scheme - the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS). This is a voluntary scheme under the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is part financed by the EU. It offers participants a 5-year agreement to deliver a range of environmental measures. In 2019, 38,000 hectares were managed under the Environmental Farming Scheme, bringing the total area of agricultural land managed under agri-environment scheme agreements to 46,000 hectares.

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 13 per cent from 9 thousand hectares in 2013 to 8 thousand hectares in 2018. The UK overall recorded a decrease of 18 per cent, from 575 thousand hectares in 2013 to 474 thousand hectares in 2018 (see table 9.5).

Forestry

In Northern Ireland the state owned forest area has changed little since 2000 (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 51 thousand hectares in 2018/19. 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 2018/19, 238 hectares of new woodland was planted and part funded by the European Commission under the 2014 -2020 Rural Development Programme compared to 210 hectares supported in 2017/18.

Table 9.1 Local Authority Collected Waste Management Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2013/14 - 2018/19

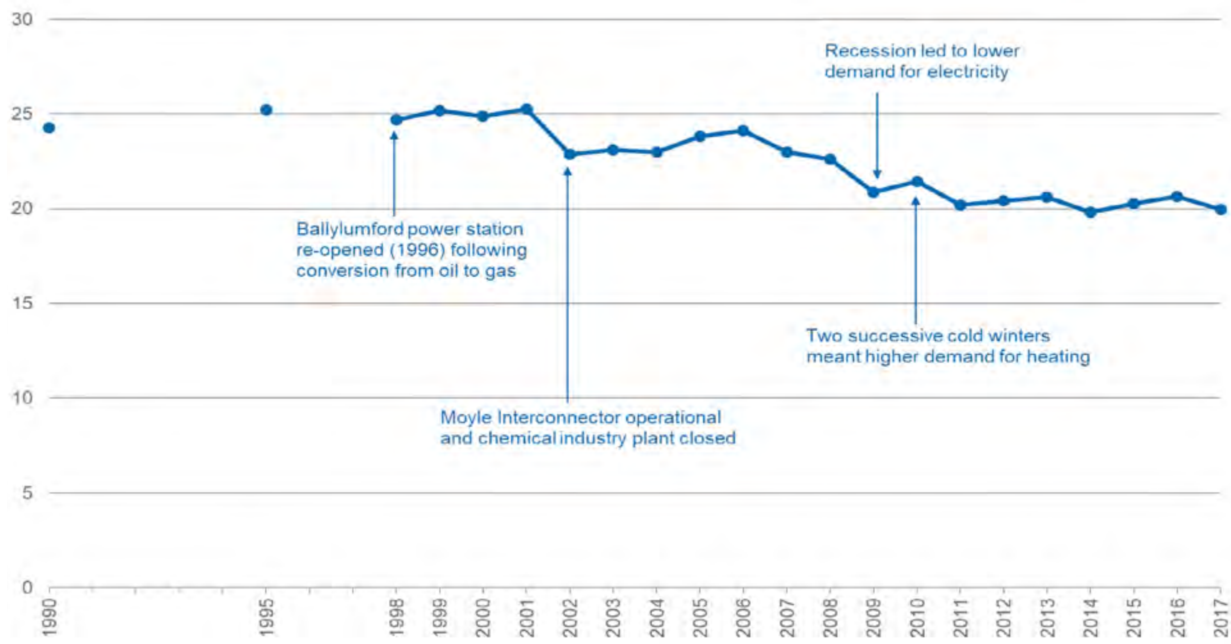
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Arisings						
Total LAC municipal waste arisings (tonnes)	924,412	951,423	969,157	985,994	977,817	990,233
Household waste arisings (tonnes)	814,764	839,569	860,786	875,965	874,257	879,163
Non household waste arisings (tonnes)	109,649	111,853	108,371	110,028	103,561	111,070
Proportion of total LAC arisings from household waste	88%	88%	89%	89%	89%	89%
Household waste per capita and per household						
Annual household waste per capita (kg)	445.3	456.2	464.9	470.4	467.3	467.2
Annual household waste per household (kg)	1,130	1,158	1,179	1,190	1,177	1,170
Recycling						
LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	40.7	41.4	41.8	44.0	47.6	49.8
Household waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	41.4	42.0	42.2	44.3	48.1	50.0
Energy Recovery						
LAC municipal waste sent for enegy recovery (%)	10.1	14.9	17.6	18.5	18.4	19.4
Landfill						
LAC municipal waste landfilled (%)	48.6	43.4	40.3	37.3	32.6	28.9
Household waste landfilled (%)	48.0	42.7	39.7	36.7	32.0	28.4
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW)						
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste landfilled (tonnes)	251,951	229,099	218,898	204,380	171,295	153,323
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste allocation (tonnes)	305,714	291,428	277,142	262,857	248,570	234,284
Proportion of allocation utilised (%)	82	79	79	78	69	65

Source: NIEA, https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2018

Notes:
LAC = local authority collected.

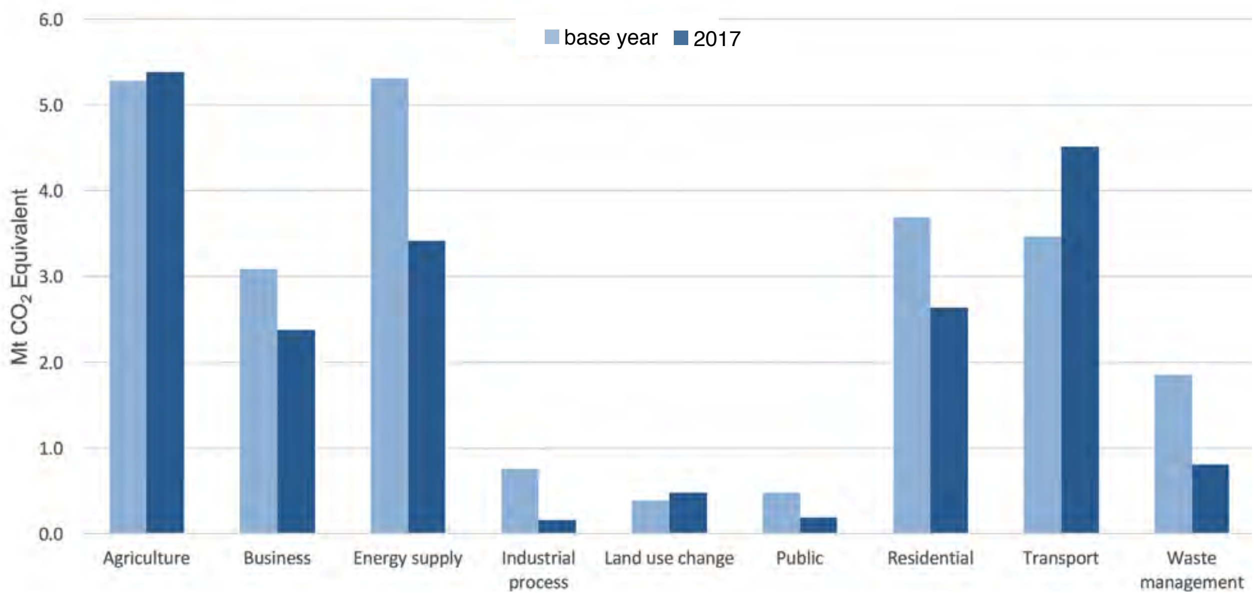
Rates calculated by dividing total tonnage waste sent in each category by total waste arisings.
The per capita rates are calculated by dividing household waste arisings by population (using NISRA mid-year estimates).
The per household rates are calculated by dividing household waste arisings by number 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.
However in any scheme year a council may transfer allowances to other councils in order to ensure that each council does not exceed the amount it is permitted to send to landfill.
The allowance allocations shown above are after transfers. For more information see NIEA's annual NILAS report:
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-landfill-allowance-scheme-nilas

Figure 9.1 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland, 1990 and 2017



Source: Ricardo Energy & Environment.
https://naei.beis.gov.uk/reports/reports?section_id=4
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 2017



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	-	-	0.4
Good	-	29.8	30.9	-	-	30.9
Moderate	-	52.4	54.4	-	-	56.9
Poor	-	12.9	10	-	-	9.3
Bad	-	1.8	1.8	-	-	1.8
No data	-	0.9	1.1	-	-	0.7

Source: Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive statistics report September 2018.

1. 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'.
2. 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. The 2014 figures were based on information that was partially incomplete and therefore may be less robust than subsequent estimates. 2014 figures were prepared for both sets of standards and water bodies (first cycle and second cycle) so that comparisons could be made for that year.
3. 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), 2012 - 2017

Unit: Percentage of sites

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0 to < 25 mg NO_3/l	98.2	95.8	96.2	96.1	98.0	98.0
25 to < 40 mg NO_3/l	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	2.0	0.0
≥ 50 mg NO_3/l	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, 2014 - 2019

thousand hectares

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Environmental Farming Scheme[1]	-	-	-	3	20	38
Organic Farming Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0
Countryside Management Scheme	280	246	46	46	46	8
Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme	84	59	0	0	0	0

Source: Countryside Management Division, DAERA.

1. 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, 2013 - 2018

thousand hectares

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Northern Ireland	9	9	8	8	8	8
Wales	102	96	83	81	86	85
Scotland	148	136	126	122	123	92
England	316	308	304	297	300	289
UK	575	549	521	508	517	474

Source: DEFRA.

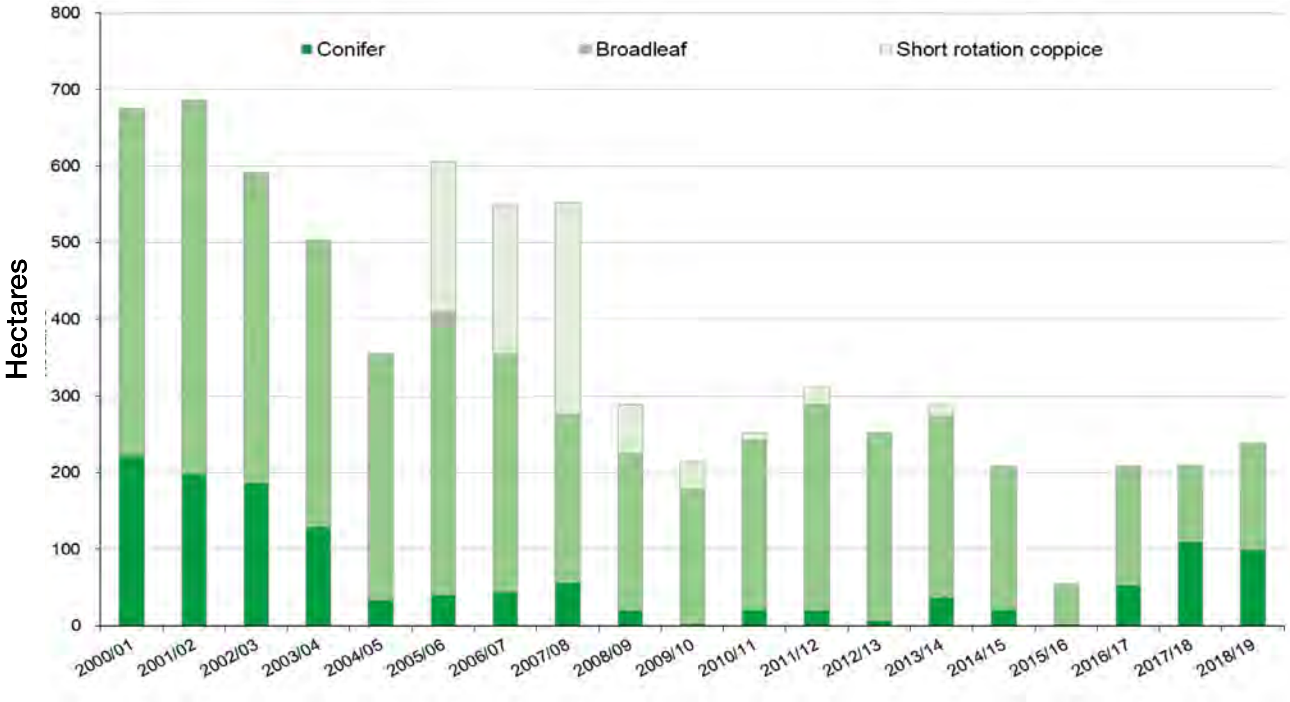
Table 9.6 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 2000/01 - 2018/19

	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11	2015/16	2017/18	2018/19
Forested area (000ha)						
State	61	61	61	62	62	62
Private[1]	22	25	27	50	52	51
All forested areas	**83**	**86**	**88**	**112**	**113**	**113**
Timber production from state forests						
Volume (000 cubic metres)	359	387	496	409	421	395
Visitors to Forest Parks						
Day Visitors (000's)	…	370	393	432	509	532
Employees (number) Forest Service	360	288	222	223	214	207

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 - 2018/19



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 2019 would change by almost ±13 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 2019 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2018 to January 2020, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2019). 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 2018 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2018 is now estimated at £557.2 million (previously £521.6 million) while total income from farming for 2018 is now estimated at £386.3 million (previously £359.6 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 2019 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 2019 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 2019 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 p90.

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:

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, 2018/19, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 350 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. For example, 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

NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in 2011 following a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/statistics-on-agriculture-in-northern-ireland/

No official compliance checks have been completed since, however, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice since designation and have made the following improvements:

- Improved statistical output by creating infographics to accompany the report
- Improved statistical output by creating tables to accompany the report

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