

# Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2020



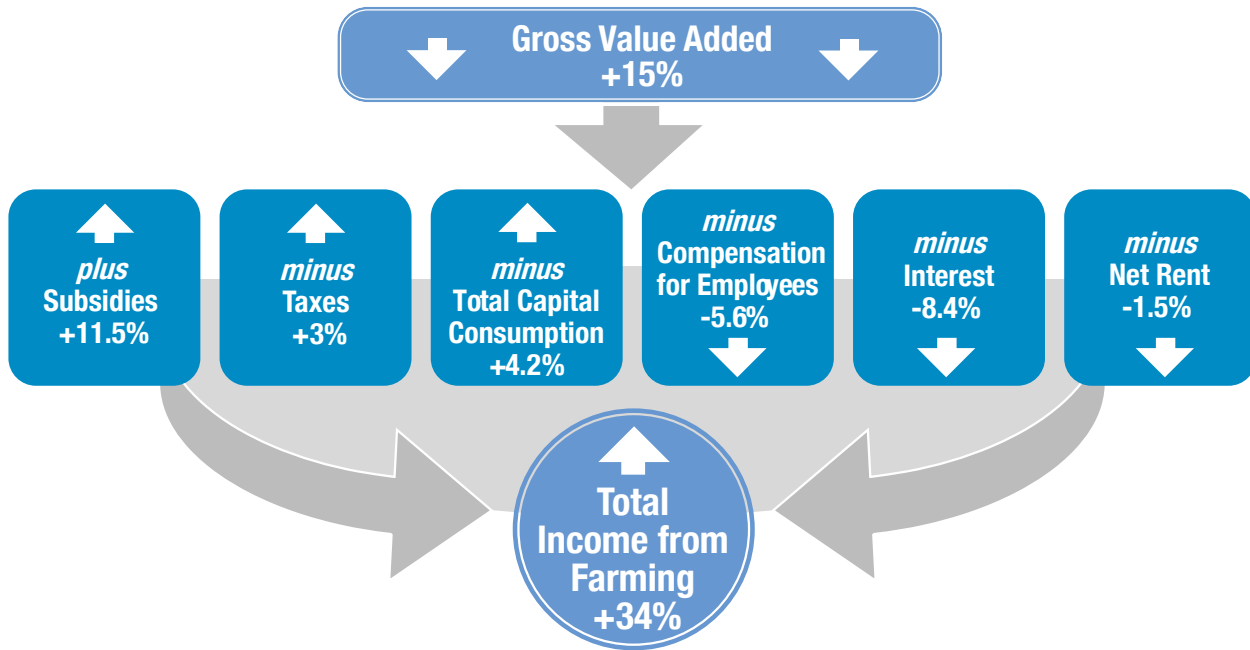
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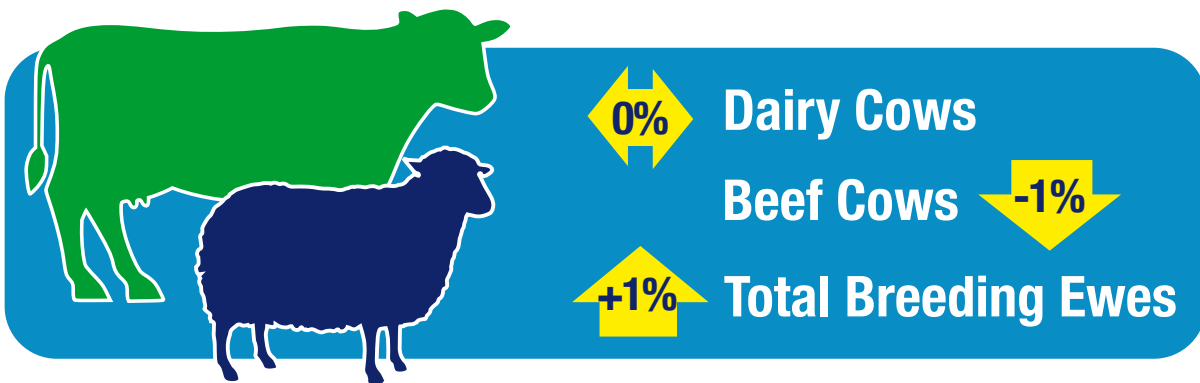
# **Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2020**

*Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs*

## Agricultural Income Changes 2019 & 2020



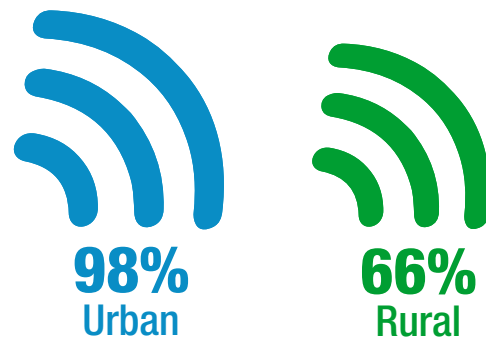
## Cattle and Sheep Changes 2020



## Northern Ireland Food and Drink Sales 2018



## Coverage of Superfast Broadband 2019



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2018



## KEY FACTS 2020

*Note: comparisons are with 2019 unless otherwise stated.*

### Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms increased in 2020.
- **Total income from farming (TIFF)** - which measures the return to farmers, partners and directors, their spouses and other family workers for their labour, management input and own capital invested - increased by 34 per cent (26 per cent in real terms) to £456 million, from £342 million in 2019.
- Following the increase in 2020, TIFF is now 44.4 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- This increase of TIFF in 2020 was mainly driven by higher product and subsidy payments in 2020.
- While product prices were generally higher in 2020, it is acknowledged that agricultural markets displayed considerable volatility in 2020. The prices for various agricultural products dipped at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic with the collapse of foodservice demand but then recovered in subsequent months.

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

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £2.23 billion for 2020, a 4.2 per cent increase from 2019. There were increases in the output of the milk, cattle, sheep, pigs, and eggs sectors, but these were partially offset by decreases in output from the poultry, crops and horticultural sectors.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') increased by 0.1 per cent, to £1.55 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 54 per cent of the gross input figure, increased by 0.9 per cent in 2020 to £837 million. There was a 1.2 per cent decrease in the volume of feedstuffs purchased and a 1.8 per cent increase in the average price paid per tonne. Total machinery expenses decreased by 4.7 per cent to £145 million in 2020. This decrease was mainly due to a 12.1 per cent decrease in the cost of fuel & oils. Agricultural contracting costs also increased by 2.1 per cent to £93 million in 2020 whereas, total fertiliser and lime costs decreased by 2.9% to £83 million in 2020.
- **Gross value added** increased in 2020 to £673 million; an increase of 15.0 per cent, while **net value added** - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies increased by 20.5 per cent, to £623 million.

### Productivity (Table 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 0.6 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, increased by 3.2 per cent.

- Cash flow (Table 2.4)**
- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have increased by 23.2 per cent, to £534 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 £29,657 in 2018/19 to £25,935 in 2019/20, a decrease of £3,722 per farm. It is expected to increase from £25,935 in 2019/20 to £33,039 in 2020/21, i.e. an increase of £7,104 or 27 per cent per farm.
- Subsidies (Table 2.10)**
- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers decreased by 11.5 per cent or £33.2 million, to £322.3 million in 2020 due to increases in area based scheme payments and the provision of COVID-19 support payments to the dairy, beef, sheep, potato and horticultural sectors. These latter payments were in response to the initial impact of Covid-19 on prices.
- The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2020 was £297 million, a net increase of 4 per cent or £11.6 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2019. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 92 per cent of all direct payments.
- Labour (Table 2.14)**
- The **total agricultural labour force** in 2020 was 51,301 persons. Due to methodological changes applied to the Agricultural Census during 2020, a direct comparison cannot be made with labour figures for previous years.
- Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)**
- The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2020 census was 1.61 million head, a marginal decrease from the previous year. At June 2020, there were 313,300 dairy cows a decrease of 0.1 per cent from 2019 and 244,700 beef cows a decrease of 0.9 per cent compared to 2019. In June 2020, the **sheep** breeding flock was 0.8 per cent higher than in 2019 at 946,100 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 1.99 million in 2020.
  - At June 2020, the total number of pigs was 681,500, an increase of 1.1 per cent compared to 2019. There was a 3.4 per cent decrease to 45,900 in sow numbers and a 1.4 per cent increase to 635,600 in the number of other pigs. **Broiler** numbers increased by 0.1 per cent to 15.4 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** decreased by 1.2 per cent to 4.9 million birds.

- Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)**
- There was a 1.9 per cent increase, to 42,900 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2019 and 2020. The total area of **cereals** was 29,500 hectares in June 2020, which was a decrease of 1 per cent compared to 2019. In 2020, the total area of potatoes grown decreased by 2.6 per cent to 3,700 hectares compared to the previous year.
- Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)**
- There were 25,896 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2020. Due to methodological changes applied to the Agricultural Census during 2020, a direct comparison cannot be made with farm numbers for previous years.
- 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 also grown over the period. Exports account for 27 percent of sales by the food and drinks processing sector.
- Rural Population**
- In 2018, 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 2020 1,861 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 1,757 in 2019. 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 2020, the animal incidence rate for BVD remains at less than 1%.
- The Veterinary Service (DAERA) carried out 412 on-farm welfare inspections in 2020. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 84 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 100 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2020, 1 farm animal keeper was 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 six years. In 2020, some 48,000 hectares of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2018, agriculture was estimated to contribute 27 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. Total emissions from agriculture increased by 0.8 per cent between 1990 and 2018.

## KEY FACTS COMPARISONS 2020

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
<b>GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)</b>				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.6 <sup>P</sup>	0.5 <sup>2</sup>	1.0 <sup>2</sup>	1.5 <sup>1</sup>
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
Agricultural employment ('000)	21	328	93	4,682 <sup>1</sup>
As % of total civil employment	2.4	1.0	4.2	2.5 <sup>1</sup>
<b>LAND USE</b>				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	1,030	17,532 <sup>1</sup>	4,524 <sup>1</sup>	151,317 <sup>5</sup>
As % of total area	76	72 <sup>1</sup>	64 <sup>1</sup>	45 <sup>5</sup>
<b>LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)</b>				
LFA as % of agricultural area	69.2	50.4 <sup>1</sup>	75.0 <sup>6</sup>	60.6 <sup>6</sup>
<b>FARMS</b>				
Number ('000)	26	219 <sup>1</sup>	138 <sup>3</sup>	4,418 <sup>5</sup>
Average agricultural area (ha)	39.8	80.7 <sup>1</sup>	32.4 <sup>3</sup>	34.3 <sup>5</sup>
<b>ENTERPRISES</b>				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	96	100 <sup>1</sup>	76 <sup>3</sup>	47 <sup>5</sup>
Beef cows	17	28 <sup>1</sup>	15 <sup>3</sup>	22 <sup>5</sup>
Sheep	200	431 <sup>1</sup>	140 <sup>3</sup>	173 <sup>5</sup>
Pigs	1,721	482 <sup>1</sup>	1,234 <sup>3</sup>	461 <sup>5</sup>
Laying hens	12,219	1,237 <sup>5</sup>	273 <sup>3</sup>	666 <sup>5</sup>
Broilers	51,386	53,762 <sup>4</sup>	15,400 <sup>3</sup>	2,856 <sup>5</sup>
Cereals (ha)	15.3	67.0 <sup>1</sup>	26.5 <sup>3</sup>	21.5 <sup>5</sup>
Potatoes (ha)	9.9	16.4 <sup>1</sup>	8.2 <sup>3</sup>	3.5 <sup>5</sup>

1. 2019, 2. 2018, 3. 2016, 4. 2014, 5. 2013, 6. 2007, P = Provisional

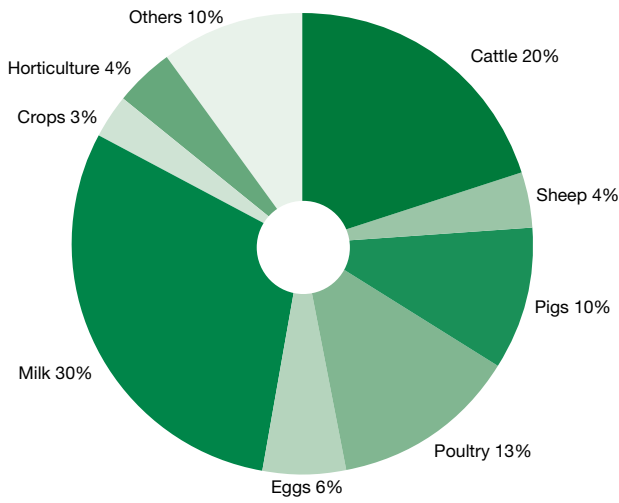
Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

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

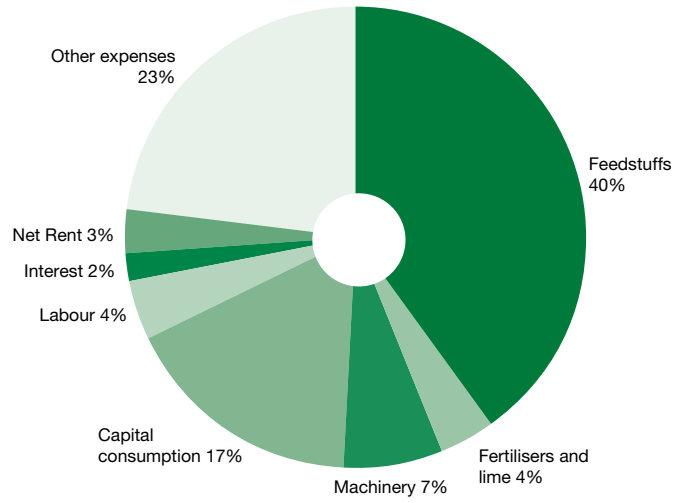
Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

# COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

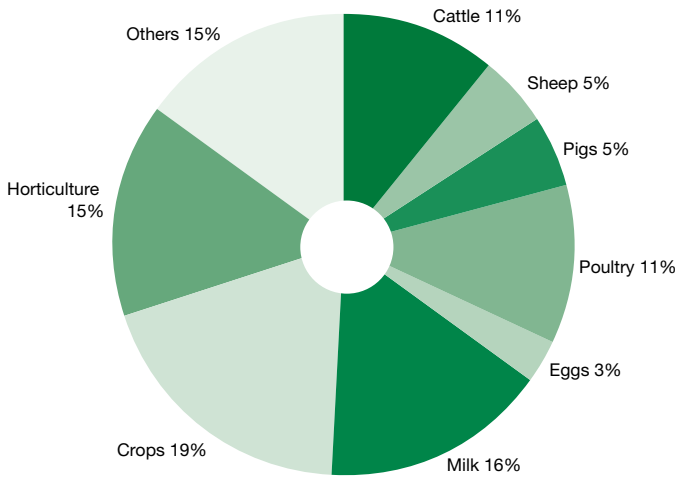
**Gross output of NI agriculture, 2020**



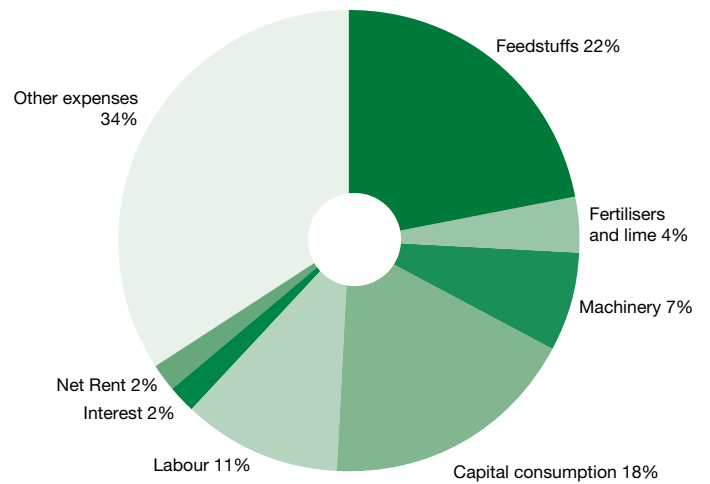
**Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2020**



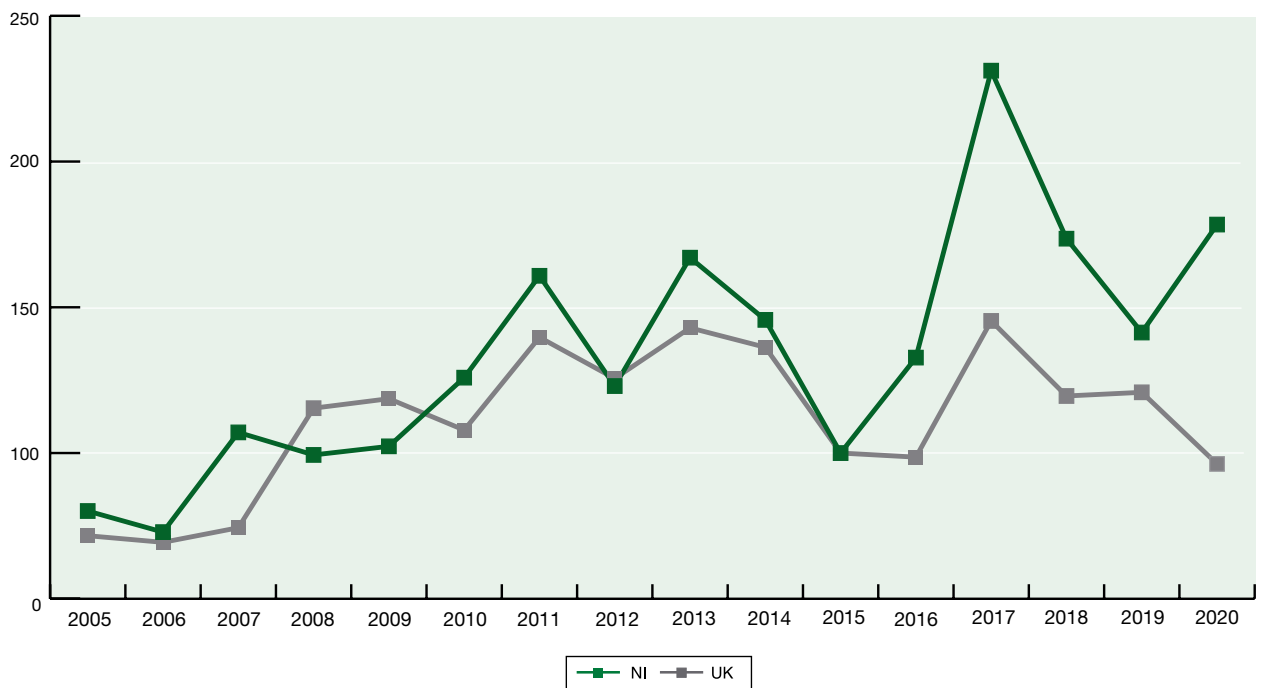
**Gross output of UK agriculture, 2020**



**Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2020**



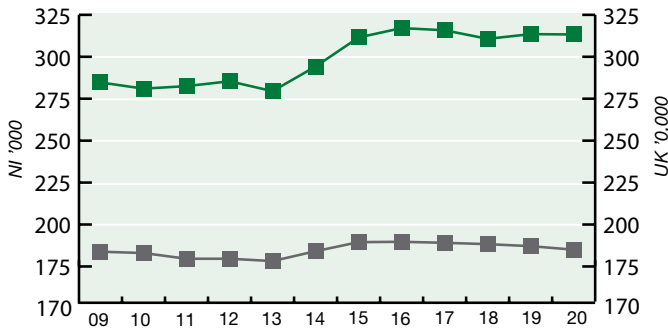
**NI and UK Total Income from Farming Indices in real terms (2015 = 100)**



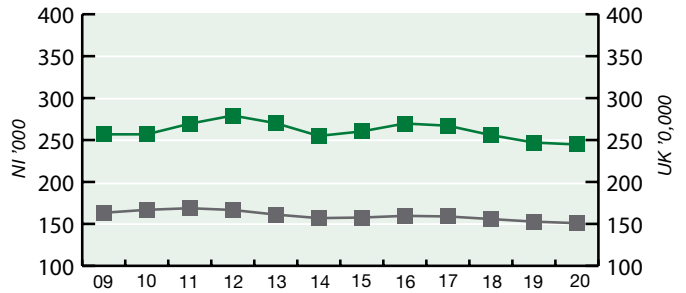


# TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS

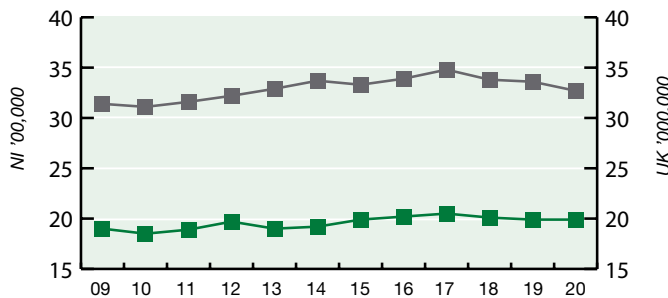
**Dairy cows**



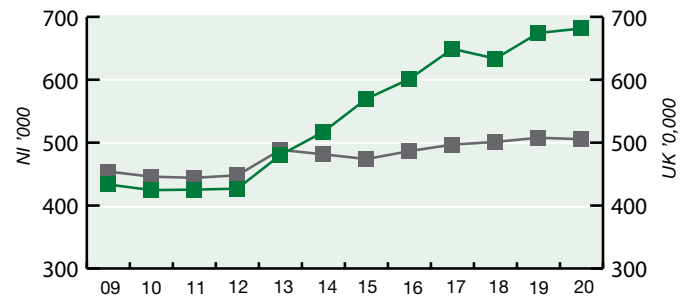
**Beef cows**



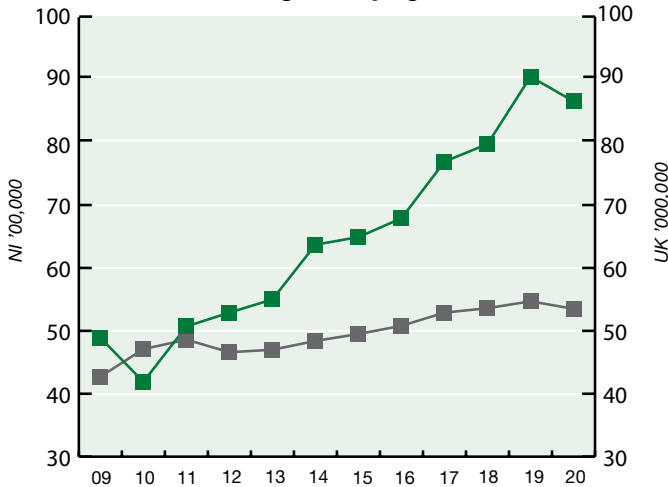
**Sheep**



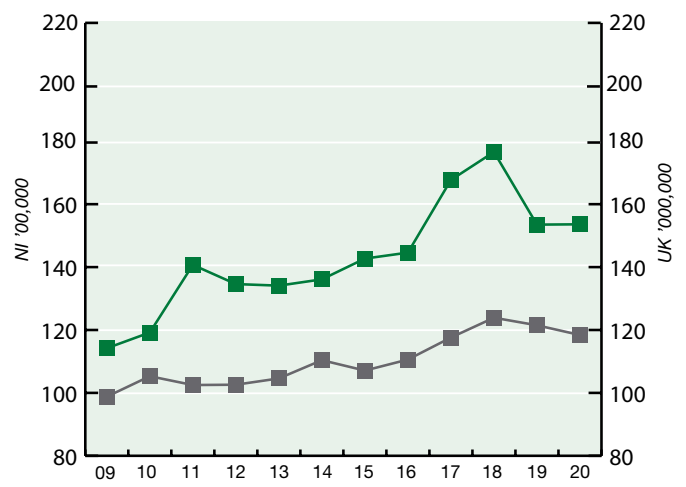
**Pigs**



**Breeding and laying birds**



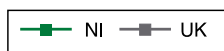
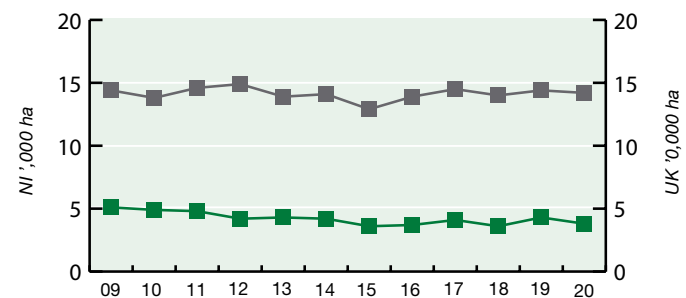
**Table chickens**



**Cereals**



**Potatoes**



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# 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 57th 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](http://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](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk). In the following commentary, comparisons are with 2019 unless otherwise stated.*

#### **Summary**

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture **increased** in 2020. **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) - increased by 34 per cent (26 per cent in real terms) from £342 million in 2019 to £456 million in 2020 (see Table 2.1).

#### **Output**

The value of **gross output** in 2020, estimated at £2.23 billion, was 4.2 per cent higher compared with 2019. 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 2020, to £1.55 billion; 0.1 per cent higher. This increase can mainly be attributed to a 0.9 per cent rise in feedstuffs costs. Full details of trends in individual inputs are also given in Section 2B.

#### **Gross and net value added**

**Gross value added** - gross output less gross input - increased by 15.0 per cent to £673 million in 2020 as a result of the increase 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 - increased further, by 20.5 per cent, to £623 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') decreased by 5.6 per cent to £74 million in 2020 from £78 million in 2019. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.26) decreased by 7.9 per cent to £48 million, whereas, conacre rent paid to non-farmers fell by 1.5 per cent to £57 million in 2020.

<b>Total Income from farming</b>	The net result of these changes was that <b>total income from farming (TIFF)</b> increased in 2020, by 34 per cent to £456 million, an increase of 26 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following this increase in 2020, TIFF was 44.4 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 2001 to 2020, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 8.0 per cent with the result that, in real terms, <b>TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour</b> in 2020 was 37.5 per cent above the 20-year average.
<b>Cash flow</b>	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). <b>Cash available to farm families from farming</b> was estimated to have increased by 23.2 per cent, to £533.7 million in 2020.
<b>Subsidies</b>	<p><b>Total direct payments</b> payments to farmers increased by 11.5 per cent or £33.2 million, to £322.3 million in 2020 due to increases in area based scheme payments and the provision of COVID-19 support payments to the dairy, beef, sheep, potato and horticultural sectors. These latter payments were in response to the initial impact of Covid-19 on prices.</p> <p>The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2020 was £297 million, a net increase of 4 per cent or £11.6 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2019. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 92 per cent of all direct payments.</p>
<b>Investment</b>	<b>Gross annual capital investment</b> increased by 1.6 per cent or £4 million to £248 million in 2020. Within this total there was a 1.1 per cent decrease in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works was up by 4.7 per cent.

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**Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture<sup>1</sup> 2015-2020**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>OUTPUT<sup>2</sup></b>						
<b>Livestock and livestock products<sup>3</sup></b>						
Finished cattle and calves <sup>4</sup>	402.3	432.9	464.4	459.5	431.0	437.7
Finished sheep and lambs <sup>4</sup>	63.3	75.0	73.1	80.3	65.7	83.6
Finished pigs	114.3	122.7	168.4	158.2	180.6	216.9
Poultry <sup>5</sup>	274.8	294.6	310.5	330.8	308.0	298.5
Eggs <sup>6</sup>	88.6	94.8	104.0	108.6	115.1	128.1
Milk	480.1	453.3	664.1	681.6	656.8	666.9
Minor products <sup>7</sup>	15.3	14.3	13.9	13.6	12.7	10.9
<b>Total livestock and livestock products</b>	<b>1,438.8</b>	<b>1,487.7</b>	<b>1,798.4</b>	<b>1,832.7</b>	<b>1,769.8</b>	<b>1,842.7</b>
<b>Field crops</b>						
Potatoes	17.2	20.3	23.0	21.0	23.3	20.9
Cereals	28.9	26.7	30.4	32.4	33.3	31.1
of which: barley	18.3	16.7	17.6	21.8	20.7	20.5
wheat	8.7	8.2	10.8	8.7	10.6	8.8
oats	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8
Other crops <sup>8</sup>	12.4	10.5	11.4	13.0	14.1	10.2
<b>Total field crops</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>62.2</b>
<b>Horticultural products</b>						
Fruit	11.7	14.4	16.5	14.0	8.4	12.5
Vegetables	21.5	19.1	18.3	17.4	17.1	18.3
Mushrooms	67.5	52.2	54.3	53.6	54.6	46.0
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	18.9	20.9	25.3	24.8	20.8	18.5
<b>Total horticultural products</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>114.4</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>95.4</b>
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	74.4	90.0	82.7	76.8	89.9	119.1
Agricultural contract work <sup>9</sup>	73.7	74.5	79.8	93.0	91.4	93.3
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities <sup>10</sup>	17.4	13.4	13.5	13.9	13.8	13.9
<b>A Gross output</b>	<b>1,782.2</b>	<b>1,829.6</b>	<b>2,153.6</b>	<b>2,192.5</b>	<b>2,136.7</b>	<b>2,226.5</b>

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

**Table 2.1 (continued)**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>A Gross output</b>	<b>1,782.2</b>	<b>1,829.6</b>	<b>2,153.6</b>	<b>2,192.5</b>	<b>2,136.7</b>	<b>2,226.5</b>
<b>INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')</b>						
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Feedstuffs <sup>11</sup>	728.6	697.0	744.1	847.1	829.6	836.6
Seeds <sup>12</sup>	10.6	10.1	11.0	10.7	10.5	10.6
Marketing expenses <sup>13</sup>	36.5	38.3	38.2	37.7	37.1	38.2
Fertilisers and lime	74.0	70.7	84.2	84.5	85.7	83.2
Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	139.2	135.7	146.8	155.3	151.8	144.7
Farm maintenance	42.5	40.6	47.8	50.8	43.8	43.5
Veterinary expenses and medicines	61.7	63.1	66.4	66.0	64.0	64.8
Other variable costs <sup>14</sup>	124.8	119.3	129.5	133.9	137.6	138.5
Miscellaneous expenses <sup>15</sup>	81.4	81.0	84.2	87.5	87.1	87.9
Agricultural contract work	73.7	74.5	79.8	93.0	91.4	93.3
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FISIM <sup>16</sup>	7.0	8.9	10.4	10.1	12.5	11.7
<b>B Gross input</b>	<b>1,380.0</b>	<b>1,339.4</b>	<b>1,442.5</b>	<b>1,576.5</b>	<b>1,551.0</b>	<b>1,553.0</b>
<b>C Gross value added (A-B)</b>	<b>402.3</b>	<b>490.3</b>	<b>711.1</b>	<b>616.0</b>	<b>585.7</b>	<b>673.5</b>
Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
- livestock	62.8	83.6	71.9	72.4	90.5	107.2
- plant, machinery and vehicles	124.4	126.9	130.7	140.5	144.0	144.7
- buildings and works	114.3	113.4	113.3	113.8	114.2	111.5
<b>D Total consumption of fixed capital</b>	<b>301.5</b>	<b>324.0</b>	<b>315.9</b>	<b>326.7</b>	<b>348.7</b>	<b>363.3</b>
Other subsidies (not paid on products) <sup>17</sup>	284.4	305.7	313.7	301.0	289.1	322.3
Other taxes (not levied on products) <sup>18</sup>	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.4
<b>E Other subsidies (less taxes)</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>297.1</b>	<b>304.9</b>	<b>292.2</b>	<b>280.0</b>	<b>313.0</b>
<b>F Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)</b>	<b>376.8</b>	<b>463.4</b>	<b>700.1</b>	<b>581.5</b>	<b>517.1</b>	<b>623.1</b>
<b>G Paid labour</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>73.6</b>
<b>H Interest</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>36.1</b>
<b>I Net rent<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>57.2</b>
<b>J Total income from farming<sup>20</sup> (F-G-H-I)</b>	<b>222.4</b>	<b>301.5</b>	<b>535.4</b>	<b>410.9</b>	<b>341.7</b>	<b>456.3</b>

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  
2015 - 2020**

	<i>Indices: 2015 = 100</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>Index at current prices</b>						
Net value added <sup>1</sup>	100.0	123.0	185.8	154.3	137.2	165.4
Total income from farming <sup>1</sup>	100.0	135.6	240.7	184.8	153.7	205.2
<b>Index in real terms<sup>2</sup></b>						
Net value added	100.0	120.4	178.5	145.0	126.2	143.8
Total income from farming	100.0	132.7	231.2	173.5	141.3	178.4

1. For definitions see Appendix.

2. Deflated by the GDP deflator.

**Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices 2015 - 2020**

	<i>Indices: 2015 = 100</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
Gross output volume <sup>1</sup>	100.0	101.8	104.1	105.4	105.6	106.5
Gross input volume <sup>1</sup>	100.0	98.7	104.5	105.6	105.4	104.6
Gross value added volume <sup>1</sup>	100.0	105.9	103.7	105.2	105.8	109.0
Net value added volume <sup>1</sup>	100.0	109.5	105.7	109.1	110.0	115.1
Total factor productivity <sup>2</sup>	100.0	103.2	101.8	102.5	102.7	103.3
Labour productivity <sup>3</sup>	100.0	111.7	104.7	107.0	107.4	107.9
Single factorial terms of trade <sup>4</sup>	100.0	105.9	126.1	117.5	112.7	116.3

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 2015 - 2020**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>Total income from farming</b>	<b>222.4</b>	<b>301.5</b>	<b>535.4</b>	<b>410.9</b>	<b>341.7</b>	<b>456.3</b>
Less:						
output stock change	8.2	18.8	7.2	-9.3	-8.0	1.7
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	74.4	90.0	82.7	76.8	89.9	119.1
capital investment <sup>1</sup>	151.8	183.0	229.2	271.6	230.4	217.3
Plus:						
input stock change	0.7	1.3	-0.8	-0.7	0.0	0.8
capital consumption	301.5	324.0	315.9	326.7	348.7	363.3
capital grants paid in year <sup>2</sup>	0.0	0.0	7.1	18.6	18.7	19.5
change in borrowings	14.5	24.6	-42.3	-4.9	36.5	31.8
<b>Cash available to farm families from farming</b>	<b>304.7</b>	<b>359.7</b>	<b>496.2</b>	<b>411.5</b>	<b>433.2</b>	<b>533.7</b>

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**

2019

Sector	Adjusted outputs <sup>1</sup>	Estimated specific costs <sup>2</sup>				Total	Sector gross margins <sup>3</sup>	
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	£m		£m	%
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	
Dairy cows and followers	742.1	265.8	26.7	9.8	302.3	439.8	46.9%	
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	364.6	133.6	41.3	25.5	200.3	164.3	17.5%	
Sheep and wool	66.2	20.9	14.1	5.3	40.4	25.8	2.8%	
<b>Total grazing livestock</b>	<b>1,172.9</b>	<b>420.3</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>543.0</b>	<b>629.9</b>	<b>67.1%</b>	
Pigs	180.8	103.0	-	4.5	107.4	73.3	7.8%	
Poultry & Eggs	423.1	309.1	-	12.9	322.0	101.0	10.8%	
<b>Total intensive livestock</b>	<b>603.8</b>	<b>412.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>429.5</b>	<b>174.4</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	
Cereals	47.5	-	11.5	-	11.5	36.0	3.8%	
Potatoes	23.3	-	4.2	-	4.2	19.1	2.0%	
Horticulture <sup>4</sup>	101.0	-	20.0	10.4	30.5	70.5	7.5%	
<b>Total field crops</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>125.6</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	
Other items	14.8	4.6	1.6	0.2	6.4	8.4	0.9%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,963.4</b>	<b>836.9</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>1,025.1</b>	<b>938.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

2020 (Provisional)

Sector	Adjusted outputs <sup>1</sup>	Estimated specific costs <sup>2</sup>				Total	Sector gross margins <sup>3</sup>	
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	£m		£m	%
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	
Dairy cows and followers	758.2	267.4	26.0	8.8	302.2	456.0	45.1%	
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	375.0	128.7	39.3	24.3	192.3	182.7	18.1%	
Sheep and wool	84.1	18.9	13.7	5.0	37.6	46.5	4.6%	
<b>Total grazing livestock</b>	<b>1,217.2</b>	<b>414.9</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>532.0</b>	<b>685.2</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	
Pigs	216.9	112.6	-	4.6	117.2	99.6	9.9%	
Poultry and eggs	426.5	310.0	-	13.6	323.5	102.9	10.2%	
<b>Total intensive livestock</b>	<b>643.3</b>	<b>422.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>440.8</b>	<b>202.6</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	
Cereals	41.4	-	11.2	-	11.3	30.1	3.0%	
Potatoes	20.9	-	4.7	-	4.7	16.2	1.6%	
Horticulture <sup>4</sup>	95.4	-	17.3	8.5	25.9	69.5	6.9%	
<b>Total field crops</b>	<b>157.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	
Other items	13.4	4.6	1.3	0.1	5.9	7.4	0.7%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,031.6</b>	<b>842.1</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>1,020.6</b>	<b>1,011.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 - 2020**

	Units of quantity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>Livestock and livestock products</b>							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	136,752	145,830	145,216	148,732	149,466	150,037
Sheep and lambs	„	20,996	21,153	21,317	20,685	20,290	20,982
Pigs <sup>2</sup>	„	101,661	109,053	112,031	116,047	129,541	142,351
Cattle and calves	‘000 head	439	467	472	475	462	451
Sheep and lambs	„	933	971	982	949	902	955
Pigs <sup>2</sup>	„	1,171	1,252	1,256	1,265	1,401	1,480
Poultry <sup>3</sup>	‘000 tonnes lwt	278	299	317	330	302	310
Eggs <sup>4</sup>	m. doz	118	126	142	156	166	173
Milk <sup>5</sup>	m. litres	2,268	2,200	2,286	2,347	2,392	2,447
<b>Field crops</b>							
Wheat	‘000 tonnes	66.4	63.2	65.0	52.1	59.0	51.6
Barley	„	150.4	124.9	117.9	111.1	126.4	122.0
Oats	„	10.2	14.7	9.4	13.5	9.6	12.0
Potatoes	„	179.0	143.9	155.1	129.2	143.0	138.9
<b>Horticultural crops</b>							
Fruit	‘000 tonnes	43.8	44.9	55.6	57.7	53.8	40.6
Vegetables	„	61.8	57.0	56.8	46.5	54.6	55.0
Mushrooms	„	45.1	35.7	35.5	34.1	34.3	28.6

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<sup>1</sup> of agricultural products 2015 - 2020**

*£ per unit*

	Units	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	1,106	1,082	1,162	1,174	1,119	1,196
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	3.26	3.19	3.48	3.49	3.26	3.46
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	308	305	303	310	334	449
Culled cows and bulls	head	666	670	747	768	708	779
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	2.14	2.16	2.47	2.51	2.25	2.43
Store cattle exported	head	795	749	801	806	782	815
Finished sheep and lambs	head	73.94	83.00	86.12	92.09	85.71	96.96
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.41	3.88	3.99	4.26	3.86	4.46
Finished clean pigs	head	102.41	102.27	134.79	129.76	134.12	151.27
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.19	1.18	1.52	1.42	1.46	1.58
Milk <sup>2</sup>	litre	0.212	0.206	0.291	0.290	0.275	0.272
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.751	0.751	0.730	0.694	0.695	0.740
Broilers	kg lwt	0.856	0.867	0.900	0.925	0.922	0.876
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop <sup>3</sup>	tonne	129	153	147	170	175	162
Seed	tonne	153	171	173	166	195	180
Barley	tonne	130	134	154	186	163	168
Wheat	tonne	136	137	161	182	174	191
Oats	tonne	153	149	158	190	183	181
Mushrooms	tonne	1,496	1,460	1,530	1,570	1,590	1,610
Apples	tonne	271	258	263	203	199	230

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<sup>1</sup> of agricultural output 2015 - 2020**

*Indices: 2015 = 100*

	Weights <sup>2</sup>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
Finished steers and heifers	206	100	98	107	107	100	106
Culled cows and bulls	41	100	101	116	118	105	114
Store cattle exported	6	100	94	101	101	98	103
Finished sheep and lambs	36	100	114	117	125	113	131
Finished clean pigs	74	100	100	128	120	123	133
Milk	298	100	97	137	137	130	129
Eggs for consumption	55	100	100	97	92	92	98
Broilers	135	100	101	105	108	108	102
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	12	100	119	114	132	136	126
Seed	1	100	112	113	109	128	118
Barley	12	100	102	118	142	125	129
Wheat	6	100	101	118	134	128	140
Mushrooms	42	100	98	102	105	106	108
Apples	7	100	95	97	75	73	85
<b>Total products index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>931</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Inputs index<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>103</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 - 2020**

	<i>£ per head</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>CATTLE</b>						
<b>Breeding cattle</b>						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,043	1,000	1,279	1,387	1,494	1,598
Dairy cows in calf	805	712	1,078	961	1,072	1,422
Dairy springing heifers	850	1,168	1,055	1,224	1,267	1,457
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	1,209	1,119	1,212	1,229	1,233	1,401
Beef cows in calf	942	902	924	938	1,068	1,106
Beef springing heifers	1,258	1,084	1,136	1,124	1,321	1,440
<b>Store cattle</b>						
150-300 kg steers	638	589	638	646	641	698
300-400 kg steers	753	701	757	757	745	783
400-500 kg steers	864	819	881	890	854	906
Over 500 kg steers	1,065	1,010	1,101	1,110	1,048	1,134
150-300 kg heifers	589	546	571	570	591	672
300-400 kg heifers	706	664	699	690	694	739
400-500 kg heifers	847	804	855	854	822	876
Over 500 kg heifers	1,024	980	1,058	1,068	1,024	1,100
<b>Suckled calves</b>						
Under 200 kg steers	461	421	469	415	409	423
Over 200 kg steers	719	677	729	749	742	774
Under 200 kg heifers	435	408	413	391	396	463
Over 200 kg heifers	658	619	659	663	680	721
<b>Dropped calves</b>						
For rearing	200	190	210	203	208	255
<b>Cull cows</b>						
	636	611	701	716	694	772
<b>SHEEP</b>						
<b>Breeding ewes/hoggets</b>						
Blackface	112.28	119.96	101.37	96.14	112.84	125.36
Blackface Cross	114.66	123.43	133.41	123.39	123.81	152.40
Other breeds	111.89	112.52	122.92	123.57	127.09	151.10
<b>Breeding ewe lambs</b>						
Blackface	82.45	80.18	83.21	87.35	79.78	95.77
Blackface Cross	69.16	85.49	86.61	87.06	85.44	107.14
Other breeds	73.34	80.60	81.94	85.55	84.09	102.96
<b>Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot</b>						
Blackface	88.95	98.81	98.94	90.21	101.95	119.52
Blackface Cross	85.22	87.82	108.26	92.68	127.72	162.53
Other breeds	144.36	137.08	150.84	154.01	161.43	168.73
<b>Cull ewes</b>						
Blackface	41.32	39.51	41.88	42.74	43.49	55.56
Blackface Cross	54.84	51.02	53.03	55.68	61.64	71.09
Other breeds	67.65	62.22	63.61	66.89	69.51	78.36
<b>Cull rams</b>						
	68.24	65.83	63.26	68.19	69.41	82.59
<b>Store lambs</b>						
	51.37	59.01	60.59	63.54	61.07	73.49

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

**Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account<sup>1,2</sup>  
2015 - 2020**

	<i>£ million<sup>3</sup></i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>DIRECT PAYMENTS<sup>4</sup></b>						
Single farm payment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basic Payment Scheme	160.0	186.3	195.4	194.0	192.2	201.7
Greening Payment	71.1	83.3	87.8	87.7	87.7	88.1
Young Farmers Payment	4.9	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.8	4.0
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	3.5
Penalties	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
<b>Other direct payments</b>						
EU Support Package <sup>5</sup>	5.0	1.8	4.1	-	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital) (Or EFS from 2018)	4.6	3.7	-	2.9	3.6	4.4
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC <sup>5</sup> from 2015)	25.3	18.6	18.9	8.8	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	14.3	7.4	2.6	2.8	0.6	-
New Entrants Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others <sup>6</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other direct payments</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>25.8</b>
<b>Total direct payments</b>	<b>284.4</b>	<b>305.7</b>	<b>313.7</b>	<b>301.0</b>	<b>289.1</b>	<b>322.3</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 - 2020**

	<i>£ million<sup>2</sup></i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>CAPITAL GRANTS</b>						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) - Capital	-	-	-	9.7	13.6	14.8
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Business Improvement Scheme	-	-	7.1	8.8	5.1	4.8
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total capital grants<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>
<b>OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS</b>						
Other animal disease compensation <sup>3</sup>	15.7	16.4	23.7	24.1	20.5	20.8
Snow Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other direct payments<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.8</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 - 2020**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>Total buildings and works<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>120.4</b>
Plant and machinery	86.6	95.0	133.5	153.5	114.0	112.9
Vehicles <sup>2,3</sup>	14.9	14.9	12.0	18.9	14.7	14.5
<b>Total plant, machinery and vehicles</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>145.5</b>	<b>172.4</b>	<b>128.7</b>	<b>127.3</b>
<b>Total investment</b>	<b>183.3</b>	<b>173.5</b>	<b>228.9</b>	<b>269.6</b>	<b>243.7</b>	<b>247.7</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Milk quota (million litres)</b>						
Owned <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leased <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

**Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms 2015 - 2020**

	<i>number of persons</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE<sup>1,2</sup></b>						
<b>Farmers and partners</b>						
Full time	18,434	18,030	18,585	18,814	18,895	20,253
Part time	17,718	18,184	18,210	18,413	18,618	19,065
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,152</b>	<b>36,214</b>	<b>36,795</b>	<b>37,227</b>	<b>37,513</b>	<b>39,318</b>
<b>Other workers</b>						
Full time	3,463	3,209	3,441	3,411	3,430	3,058
Part time	3,971	4,215	4,319	4,340	4,453	3,829
Casual/seasonal	4,393	4,074	4,149	4,270	4,027	5,096
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>11,498</b>	<b>11,909</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>11,910</b>	<b>11,983</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>47,979</b>	<b>47,712</b>	<b>48,704</b>	<b>49,248</b>	<b>49,423</b>	<b>51,301</b>
<b>Annual Work Units (AWUs)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>28,427</b>	<b>27,873</b>	<b>28,708</b>	<b>28,993</b>	<b>29,116</b>	<b>30,321</b>

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. In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Spouses questions. In previous years data on spouses was collected as a separate question.
3. 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<sup>1,2</sup> 2015 - 2020**

	<i>number of persons</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>MANPOWER STATISTICS<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>Self-employed</b>						
Male	15,931	15,519	16,033	16,218	16,204	17,335
Female	706	714	727	746	750	2,918
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,637</b>	<b>16,233</b>	<b>16,760</b>	<b>16,964</b>	<b>16,954</b>	<b>20,253</b>
<b>Employees</b>						
Male	10,192	9,902	10,164	10,143	9,972	9,716
Female	1,635	1,596	1,745	1,878	1,938	2,267
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>11,498</b>	<b>11,909</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>11,910</b>	<b>11,983</b>
<b>Total agricultural manpower</b>	<b>28,464</b>	<b>27,731</b>	<b>28,669</b>	<b>28,985</b>	<b>28,864</b>	<b>32,236</b>

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 and spouses who work full-time on their farms; the count of employees includes all other workers except part-time farmers and partners.
2. In 2020 there were methodological changes to how the Agricultural Manpower Statistics were collated and this resulted in an additional 2,200 farm workers that weren't previously included. It is important to note that these are not necessarily new workers but are as a direct result of new sampling techniques applied. Further information on these changes is available in the farm census methodology change paper: <https://www.daerani.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Farm%20Census%20Methodology%20Changes%202020.pdf>

## **B. COMMODITIES AND INPUTS**

**Cattle and calves** The number of clean cattle marketed during 2020 decreased by 0.8 per cent to 331,533 head. The number of steers were 5.4 per cent higher at 163,604 head, heifers decreased by 0.5 per cent to 133,641 head and the number of young bulls decreased by 23.4 per cent to 34,288. As a result the proportion of steers in the slaughter mix increased from 46.4 per cent in 2019 to 49.3 per cent in 2020, while the proportion of heifers increased from 40.2 per cent in 2019 to 40.3 per cent in 2020. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered decreased from 13.4 per cent in 2019 to 10.3 per cent in 2020.

The average dressed carcass weights increased by 0.7 per cent in 2020 to 345.7 kg. However, with the decrease in cattle marketed the volume of clean beef produced decreased by 0.1 per cent to 114,600 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 6.1 per cent higher at £3.46 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 6.0 per cent to £397 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls increased by 2.4 per cent to 104,995 head in 2020. Average carcass weights for these animals was 1.8 per cent higher at 320 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls increased by 8.2 per cent to £2.43 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, increased 12.8 per cent to £81.8 million in 2020.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2020 decreased by 8.6 per cent to 5,443 head. An estimated 6,451 calves were exported in 2020, which was a decrease of 60.0 per cent compared with 2019 levels. The average calf price was 34.2 per cent higher at £449 per head and the revenue generated was £5.3 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland decreased by 26 per cent to 2,516 head in 2020. When combined with a 4.2 per cent increase in the average producer price paid to £815 per head, this generated revenues of £2.1 million; a decrease of 22.5 per cent from 2019 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 68.0 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2020 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) increased by 0.8 per cent to £438 million.

**Milk** The annual average dairy cow population in 2020 was 0.1 per cent higher than 2019 at 312,200 head. Average gross milk yield per cow increased from 7,762 litres in 2019 to 7,936 litres in 2020; a 2.2 per cent increase.



The higher dairy cow population and milk yields contributed to a 2.3 per cent increase in total milk output for 2020 in Northern Ireland; to 2.4 billion litres. The average gross milk price for 2020 (before deducting transport costs) was 27.25 pence per litre, a 0.8 per cent decrease.

Overall, the value of output of milk increased by 1.5 per cent in 2020, to £667 million.

**Sheep and lambs** Marketings of clean sheep and lambs increased by 6.3 per cent to 765,373 head in 2020, whereas, the average dressed carcass weight decreased by 1.9 per cent in 2020 to 21.8 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2020 increased by 4.2 per cent to 16,653 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices increased by 15.3 per cent to 446 pence per kg deadweight in 2020. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs increased by 20.2 per cent to £74 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams increased by 1.7 per cent to 126,747 head in 2020. There was a 17.6 per cent increase in the price received for these animals (£70 per head). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams increasing to £8.9 million; an increase of 19.5 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 increased by 20.7 per cent, to £84 million in 2020.

**Pigs** The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2020 was 5.5 per cent higher at 1.46 million head. Average dressed carcass weights were 4.0 per cent higher at 95.7kg in 2020. When combined these changes resulted in a 9.7 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 139,978 tonnes. Pig producer prices increased by 8.5 per cent to 158 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 19.0 per cent higher at £221 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were up by 22.7 per cent in 2020 at 16,842 head. The estimated market returns for these animals was £2.4 million in 2020.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector increased by 20.8 per cent to £217 million (this figure includes deductions for the value of imported pigs and additions for the value of breeding and store pig exports).

**Poultry** In 2020, the total volume of poultry meat production was 310,290 tonnes liveweight, an increase of 2.7 per cent from 2019 levels. Broiler production was 2.8 per cent higher at 291,033 tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were lower than 2019 levels

by 5.0 per cent at 88 pence per kg. Overall, as a result of these changes the market value of broilers in 2020 was 2.4 per cent lower at £255 million. Broilers accounted for 86 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production increased in 2020, by 6.7 per cent, to 3,082 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2020 was £299 million; 3.1 per cent lower than 2019.

## **Eggs**

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 162 million dozen eggs in 2020. This was a rise of 0.4 per cent on 2019 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 64.9 per cent in 2019 to 73.5 per cent in 2020 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 26.5 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs increased, by 7.7 per cent, to 75 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs increased by 11.3 per cent to £128 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

## **Potatoes**

The area of potatoes planted in 2020 decreased by 1.6 per cent to 3,715 hectares. The average yield decreased, by 1.7 per cent, to 39 tonnes per hectare. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2020 is estimated to be 3.3 per cent lower at 146,251 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2020 were 3 per cent lower at 115,776 tonnes.

In 2020, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) increased by 5 per cent to 10,995 tonnes. In total for 2020, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 138,864 tonnes. This was a decrease of 3 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £163 per tonne in 2020, a decrease of 8 per cent from 2019 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was lower than 2019 at £180 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output fell in 2020, by 10 per cent, to just under £21 million.

## **Cereals**

The area of spring barley sown in 2020 was 5.2 per cent higher than 2019 levels at 12,565 hectares, while recorded yields were up by 4.4 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley increased by 9.8 per cent. The area of winter barley sown, in 2020, was up by 0.4 per cent to 7,772 hectares, while yields were lower by 18.3 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley decreasing by 17.9 per cent. Overall, total barley production was 3.9 per cent lower in 2020 at 122,023 tonnes, with the total area of barley grown up 3.3 per cent at 20,336 hectares.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2020 was 3.5 per cent lower at 121,997 tonnes. The average producer price of barley increased, by 2.9 per cent, to £168 per tonne. These changes plus a relatively minor stock change resulted in the value of barley output decreasing by 1.0 per cent to £20.5 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2020 was 12.0 per cent lower at 7,132 hectares. This coupled with a 13.9 per cent decrease in yields resulted in production being down by 24.2 per cent to 46,268 tonnes.

In 2020, the volume of wheat sold or used on-farm was 12.6 per cent lower at 51,555 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat increased by 9.5 per cent to £191 per tonne. These changes plus a reduction in stocks contributed to the value of wheat output decreasing by 17 per cent to £8.8 million.

The area of oats grown in 2020 was 0.6 per cent higher at 1,879 hectares. This coupled with yields being down by 8.5 per cent, resulted in oats production decreasing by 8.0 per cent to 10,216 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 1.3 per cent lower at £181 per tonne. The changes in price and production plus stock changes resulted in the value of oat output falling by 10.3 per cent to £1.8 million.

## **Horticulture**

The total value of horticultural output in 2020 decreased by 5.5 per cent to £95 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) increased by 49 per cent to £12.5 million. Apple production fell by 24.6 per cent to 40,285 tonnes while prices increased by 15.9 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples reduced by 12.6 per cent. The value of output from mushrooms decreased by 15.7 per cent to £46 million as a result of a 1.3 per cent increase in price and a 16.8 per cent decrease in production. Receipts from the sale of vegetables increased, by 7.1 per cent, to £18.3 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock fell by 11.1 per cent to £18.5 million.

## **Feedstuffs**

The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2020 was 0.1 per cent lower than the 2020 levels at 2.45 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds increased by 3.3 per cent with dairy compounds purchased increasing by 5.5 per cent and beef cattle compounds decreasing by 4.3 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 3.7 per cent higher. Total purchases of pig compounds rose in 2020 by 8.1 per cent while poultry compounds decreased by 6.9 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) fell by 7.5 per cent in 2020 to 368,336 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 1.2 per cent lower in 2020 at 2.89 million tonnes.

The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 1.8 per cent, to £289 per tonne in 2020. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2020 increased, by 0.6 per cent, to £835 million.

**Fertilisers and lime** The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2020 increased by 16.8 per cent to 332,700 tonnes while the average price decreased by 18.6 per cent to £229 per tonne. In volume terms, 44 per cent of total fertiliser sales were straights, while 56 per cent were compounds.

As a result of these movements in both quantity purchased and price paid, the total value of fertiliser purchases decreased, by 4.9 per cent, to £76 million.

Total expenditure on lime increased by 26.9 per cent when compared to 2019 levels to £6.9 million. The quantity purchased increased by 28.2 per cent to 197,472 tonnes while the price paid fell by 1.0 per cent

**Marketing expenses** In 2020 total marketing expenses were 3.0 per cent higher than 2019 levels at £38.2 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £23.1 million, while sheep expenses were £3.9 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £6.0 million, while those for pigs were £5.1 million.

**Machinery expenses** Machinery expenses in 2020 decreased, by 4.7 per cent, to £144.7 million. This decrease was driven by a 12.1 per cent decrease in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global price commodity movements.

**Interest** Total farm borrowings in 2020 increased by 3.1 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have decreased from 4.75 per cent in 2019 to 4.22 per cent in 2020. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) decreased by 7.9 per cent in 2020 to £47.8 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 2020, the volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 4.4 per cent lower, at 7.82 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 5.6 per cent lower than 2019 at £73.6 million.

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**Table 2.16 Output of cattle and calves 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>Steers, heifers and young bulls</b>						
Sales ('000 head)	299.8	316.2	328.1	334.4	334.3	331.5
Average producer price (p per kg dwt) <sup>1,2</sup>	326.2	318.5	347.7	349.1	326.1	346.1
Average dressed carcass weight (kg) <sup>2</sup>	339.1	339.8	334.0	336.3	343.3	345.7
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes) <sup>2</sup>	101.7	107.4	109.6	112.5	114.7	114.6
Value of output (£m)	331.6	342.2	381.1	392.6	374.2	396.6
<b>Cows and bulls</b>						
Sales ('000 head)	98.4	110.1	106.3	109.2	102.5	105.0
Average producer price (p per kg dwt) <sup>1,2</sup>	213.6	215.8	246.7	251.4	224.8	243.2
Average dressed carcass weight (kg) <sup>2</sup>	312.0	310.5	302.8	305.9	314.8	320.4
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes) <sup>2</sup>	30.7	34.2	32.2	33.4	32.3	33.6
Value of output (£m)	65.6	73.8	79.4	84.0	72.5	81.8
<b>Calves</b>						
Sales ('000 head)	28.5	31.6	29.9	26.7	22.0	11.9
Average producer price (£ per head) <sup>1</sup>	308	305	303	310	334	449
Value of output (£m)	8.8	9.6	9.1	8.3	7.4	5.3
<b>Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland</b>						
Marketings ('000 head)	11.9	9.4	7.4	5.1	3.4	2.5
Average producer price (£ per head) <sup>1</sup>	795	749	801	806	782	815
Value of output (£m)	9.5	7.0	6.0	4.1	2.6	2.1
<b>Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland</b>						
Marketings ('000 head)	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.2	1.3	1.1
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,081	1,056	1,349	1,392	1,473	1,326
Value of output (£m)	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.0	1.4
<b>Less Imported cattle</b>						
Marketings ('000 head)	31.6	16.4	19.2	21.1	25.6	49.8
Average producer price (£ per head)	921	891	995	1,022	964	995
Value of output (£m)	29.0	14.6	19.1	21.6	24.7	49.6
<b>Total Market Value (£m)</b>	<b>389.4</b>	<b>420.8</b>	<b>459.3</b>	<b>470.4</b>	<b>434.0</b>	<b>437.7</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+12.9	+12.1	+5.1	-10.9	-3.0	0.0
<b>Total value of output (£m)</b>	<b>402.3</b>	<b>432.9</b>	<b>464.4</b>	<b>459.5</b>	<b>431.0</b>	<b>437.7</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	<i>per cent</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>Cows and bulls</b>	25	26	24	25	23	24
<b>Steers and heifers originating from:</b>						
- the dairy herd;	33	34	37	36	38	38
- the beef herd;	38	35	36	36	36	34
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	5	5	3	3	3	4
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total number marketed ('000 head)</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>437</b>

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

**Table 2.18 Output of milk 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	311.2	315.8	314.6	310.5	311.9	312.2
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum) <sup>1</sup>	7,391	7,076	7,367	7,650	7,762	7,936
<b>Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>2,346</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>2,447</b>
of which:						
sales off farms	2,266	2,198	2,284	2,345	2,390	2,446
used in farm households	1	1	1	2	2	1
<b>Average producer price (pence per litre)</b>						
Gross price <sup>2</sup>	21.17	20.61	29.05	29.04	27.46	27.25
Net price <sup>3</sup>	20.82	20.24	28.73	28.74	27.21	27.00
<b>Market Value (£m)</b>	<b>480.1</b>	<b>453.3</b>	<b>664.1</b>	<b>681.6</b>	<b>656.8</b>	<b>666.9</b>
<b>Value of output (£m)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>480.1</b>	<b>453.3</b>	<b>664.1</b>	<b>681.6</b>	<b>656.8</b>	<b>666.9</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	(provisional)					
<b>Marketings ('000 head)<sup>1</sup></b>						
Finished sheep and lambs	784.1	776.0	765.8	757.4	720.3	765.4
Culled ewes and rams	135.3	136.8	136.4	129.0	124.7	126.7
<b>Average price (p per kg deadweight)<sup>2</sup></b>						
Finished sheep and lambs	340.5	387.9	398.7	426.1	386.5	445.6
Culled ewes and rams	200.0	185.8	192.7	203.2	204.4	247.6
<b>Average dressed carcase weight (kg)</b>						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.7	21.4	21.6	21.6	22.2	21.8
Culled ewes and rams	28.2	28.1	28.0	27.6	29.1	28.2
<b>Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)</b>						
Finished sheep and lambs	17.0	16.6	16.5	16.4	16.0	16.7
Culled ewes and rams	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6
<b>Market Value (£m)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>83.6</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.3	3.2	-1.5	2.7	-3.6	0.0
<b>Value of output (£m)</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>83.6</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>Marketings ('000 head)<sup>1</sup></b>						
Finished clean pigs	1,156.6	1,238.4	1,241.5	1,250.9	1,386.8	1,463.1
Culled sows and boars	14.2	14.0	14.7	14.6	13.7	16.8
<b>Average price (p per kg deadweight)<sup>2</sup></b>						
Finished clean pigs	118.84	118.27	152.19	142.39	145.76	158.11
Culled sows and boars	75.34	74.68	96.45	91.45	92.14	100.83
<b>Average dressed carcase weight (kg)</b>						
Finished clean pigs	86.2	86.5	88.6	91.1	92.0	95.7
<b>Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)</b>						
Finished clean pigs	99.7	107.1	110.0	114.0	127.6	140.0
Culled sows and boars	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.4
<b>Market Value (£m)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>113.2</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>165.4</b>	<b>158.8</b>	<b>179.4</b>	<b>216.7</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.1	+0.0	+2.9	-0.6	+1.2	+0.2
<b>Value of output (£m)</b>	<b>114.3</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>168.4</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>180.6</b>	<b>216.9</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)</b>						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	277.9	298.6	317.0	330.1	302.1	310.3
Broilers	253.0	272.4	294.9	307.9	283.1	291.0
<b>Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)</b>						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	84.7	85.3	87.4	90.0	88.5	84.2
Broilers	85.6	86.7	90.0	92.5	92.2	87.6
<b>Market value</b>						
All poultry (£m)	273.6	291.2	311.4	332.0	308.8	296.8
of which broilers	216.7	236.3	265.5	284.9	261.1	254.9
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.1	+3.5	-1.0	-1.2	-0.8	+1.7
<b>Value of Output (£m)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>274.8</b>	<b>294.6</b>	<b>310.5</b>	<b>330.8</b>	<b>308.0</b>	<b>298.5</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	114.2	122.3	139.1	152.3	161.5	162.1
Average producer price (p per dozen) <sup>1</sup>	75.85	75.89	73.36	69.91	69.96	75.35
<b>Value of output (£m)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>108.6</b>	<b>115.1</b>	<b>128.1</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	<i>harvest years</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>Potatoes<sup>1</sup></b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	43.7	40.4	43.2	39.3	40.1	39.4
Production ('000 tonnes)	157.1	150.9	175.3	141.6	151.3	146.3
of which:						
saleable potatoes	134.1	131.3	155.0	116.1	131.2	130.3
chats <sup>2</sup> and waste	23.0	19.5	20.3	25.5	20.1	16.0
<b>Barley<sup>3,4</sup></b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	22.7	22.3	21.1	20.7	19.7	20.3
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.17	5.59	5.41	5.66	6.45	6.00
Production ('000 tonnes)	140.0	124.9	114.4	117.2	126.9	122.0
<b>Wheat<sup>4</sup></b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.1	7.1
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	8.02	6.97	7.70	6.97	7.53	6.49
Production ('000 tonnes)	64.0	60.0	67.2	47.7	61.0	46.3
<b>Oats<sup>3,4</sup></b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.93	5.37	5.64	5.05	5.94	5.44
Production ('000 tonnes)	12.3	12.1	12.7	10.2	11.1	10.2
<b>Oilseed rape<sup>5</sup></b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.90	3.10	3.90	3.50	3.50	3.50
Production ('000 tonnes)	2.4	1.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8
<b>Hay</b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	14.2	11.6	7.3	16.7	-	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	8.1	7.1	6.4	5.6	-	-
Production ('000 tonnes)	115.3	82.1	46.4	93.5	-	-
<b>Grass silage</b>						
Area ('000 hectares)	308.1	286.7	298.5	293.3	-	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	30	30	29	31	-	-
Production ('000 tonnes)	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<sup>1</sup> of potatoes, barley and wheat 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>POTATOES<sup>2</sup></b>						
<b>Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)</b>						
Ware	147.9	119.3	129.3	105.2	119.0	115.8
Seed	11.7	11.0	12.1	10.5	10.5	11.0
Stockfeed	19.4	13.6	13.7	13.4	13.6	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>179.0</b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>155.1</b>	<b>129.2</b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>138.9</b>
<b>Average producer price (£ per tonne)</b>						
Ware	131.88	155.01	148.81	175.73	176.86	162.73
Seed	152.86	170.70	172.98	166.00	195.15	179.86
<b>Market Value (£m)</b>						
Ware	19.5	18.5	19.2	18.5	21.1	18.8
Seed	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.0
Stockfeed	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>21.0</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-4.4	-0.3	+1.4	+0.4	0.0	-0.1
<b>Value of output (£m)</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>
<b>BARLEY<sup>4</sup></b>						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	150.4	124.9	117.9	111.1	126.4	122.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	130.40	133.55	154.15	185.77	162.87	167.61
<b>Market Value (£m)</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>20.4</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.3	0.0	-0.5	+1.2	+0.1	+0.0
<b>Value of output (£m)</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>20.5</b>
<b>WHEAT<sup>4</sup></b>						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	66.4	63.2	65.0	52.1	59.0	51.6
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	135.87	137.29	160.50	182.45	173.97	190.51
<b>Market Value (£m)</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.3	-0.4	+0.4	-0.8	0.3	-1.0
<b>Value of output (£m)</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>APPLES<sup>1</sup></b>						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	43.6	44.6	55.2	57.3	53.5	40.3
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	271	258	263	203	199	230
<b>Market value (£m)</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.9	+2.1	+0.6	+1.2	-3.7	+1.8
<b>Value of Output (£m)</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>MUSHROOMS</b>						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	45.1	35.7	35.5	34.1	34.3	28.6
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,496	1,460	1,530	1,570	1,590	1,610
<b>Value of output (£m)</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>46.0</b>

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) 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
<b>FEEDSTUFFS<sup>1</sup></b>						
Total quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,649	2,582	2,845	2,942	2,920	2,886
of which: Non-concentrates <sup>2</sup> ('000 tonnes)	54	53	67	32	65	63
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,172	2,131	2,374	2,530	2,457	2,454
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	423	399	404	379	398	368
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	275	269	262	288	284	289
<b>Value of feed consumed (£m)</b>	<b>728.2</b>	<b>695.1</b>	<b>744.1</b>	<b>847.6</b>	<b>830.1</b>	<b>835.3</b>
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.4	+1.9	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	+1.4
<b>FERTILISERS</b>						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	262	291	338	317	285	333
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	100	106	125	120	109	126
of which:						
Nitrogen	66	74	85	80	72	84
Phosphate	8	8	10	10	8	9
Potash	13	15	18	17	16	17
Sulphur	12	9	12	12	12	16
Average cost (£ per tonne)	275	230	236	251	282	229
<b>Value of purchases (£m)</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>76.3</b>
<b>LIME</b>						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	149	176	165	193	154	197
Average cost (£ per tonne)	13.35	21.94	25.32	25.78	35.22	34.87
<b>Value of purchases (£m)</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>MARKETING EXPENSES<sup>3</sup></b>						
Cattle	20.5	21.9	22.4	22.4	22.3	23.1
Sheep	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.9
Pigs	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.1
Milk	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.1	6.1	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>38.2</b>
<b>INTEREST</b>						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.2
<b>Total interest charges (£m)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>
<b>LABOUR</b>						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	40.33	40.04	39.86	39.39	39.62	39.50
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour) <sup>5</sup>	8.16	8.29	8.71	8.83	9.41	9.40
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week) <sup>5</sup>	328.96	332.08	347.24	347.68	372.74	371.37
Volume of paid labour (million hours) <sup>6</sup>	8.34	8.01	8.44	8.43	8.18	7.82
<b>Value of paid labour (£m)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>73.6</b>

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 79 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing. Around 8.7 per cent of the total land area is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part (52.9 per cent) of the total forested area (118,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2019/2020*<sup>1</sup>).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Arable or horticultural crops occupy 45,600 hectares and make up just 4.4 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (20,400 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 7,100 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (29,500 hectares) was 1.0 per cent lower in 2020 than in 2019. 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 2020, the area of potatoes grown decreased on 2019 levels by 2.6 per cent to 3,700 hectares. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2020, the cropped area also included 2,700 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,300 hectares) and vegetables (1,200 hectares).

#### Grazing livestock

All but 8 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2020, cattle were present on 20,433 farms (79 per cent), sheep on 9,966 farms (38 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 23,917 farms (92 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2020 Agricultural Census was similar to 2019 at approximately 1.6 million. There were 313,300 dairy cows, and 244,700 beef cows (1.0 per cent less than in 2019). 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 2020, the sheep breeding flock was 0.8 per cent larger than in 2019 at 946,100 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock increased by 0.2 per cent to just under 2.0 million in 2020.

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<sup>1</sup>Available on the DAERA website at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/forest-service-annual-reports](http://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 5.1 per cent of farms.

In 2020, pig numbers were estimated at 681,500. Sow numbers decreased by 3.4 per cent to 45,900 in 2020.

In June 2020, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 24.0 million birds, 1.6 per cent lower than in 2019. The number of laying birds (4.9 million) decreased by 1.2 per cent in 2020, and the numbers of broilers remained the same at 15.4 million. Poultry production is a highly vertically integrated sector in Northern Ireland and production is managed in response to market conditions and business objectives in the processing sector.

### **Less Favoured Areas**

The term Less Favoured Areas (LFA) is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of their relatively poor agricultural conditions, have been so designated under EU legislation. Further details are given in the Appendix.

Farms classed as **LFA farms** occupy 69 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 3.4) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 11.4 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 (185,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (155,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were 59,000 beef cows and 159,000 dairy cows in 2020. **LFA farms** account for 34 and 61 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

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**Table 3.1 Land use, 2020**

	<i>thousand hectares</i>				
	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Grass and rough grazing</b>	<b>Woodland</b>	<b>Other land</b>	<b>Total land area</b>
Farms	46	957	17	10	<b>1,030</b>
Common grazing	-	36	-	-	<b>36</b>
NI Forest Service <sup>1</sup>	-	-	62	13	<b>75</b>
Other areas	-	-	39	172	<b>212</b>
<b>All land<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>46</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1,353</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	<i>thousand hectares</i>					
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Oats	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9
Wheat	8.0	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.1	7.1
Barley: Winter	7.0	7.6	7.1	5.8	7.7	7.8
Spring	15.7	14.7	14.0	14.9	11.9	12.6
Mixed corn	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Potatoes	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7
Arable crop silage	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.3	3.9	4.2
Other field crops	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.5
<b>Total agricultural crops</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>42.9</b>
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3
Vegetables	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2
Other horticultural crops	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Total horticultural crops</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Grass: Under 5 years old	149.9	148.2	144.4	144.5	148.8	141.4
5 years old and over	650.4	652.6	660.6	663.2	659.9	674.8
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>800.3</b>	<b>800.8</b>	<b>805.0</b>	<b>807.6</b>	<b>808.7</b>	<b>816.3</b>
<b>Total crops and grass</b>	<b>847.7</b>	<b>848.2</b>	<b>852.2</b>	<b>852.5</b>	<b>853.6</b>	<b>861.8</b>
Rough grazing <sup>1</sup>	131.1	137.2	140.4	143.2	143.6	140.6
Woods and plantation	11.1	16.1	15.8	16.3	15.7	17.3
Other land <sup>2</sup>	7.9	11.8	11.4	10.4	10.2	10.1
<b>Total area of farms</b>	<b>997.7</b>	<b>1,013.2</b>	<b>1,019.7</b>	<b>1,022.4</b>	<b>1,023.2</b>	<b>1,029.8</b>

1. Excludes common rough grazing.

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

**Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2015 - 2020***thousand head*

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>CATTLE<sup>1</sup></b>						
Dairy cows	311.5	317.1	315.8	310.7	313.5	313.3
Beef cows	260.3	269.7	267.1	255.9	247.0	244.7
<b>Total cows</b>	<b>571.8</b>	<b>586.9</b>	<b>582.9</b>	<b>566.6</b>	<b>560.5</b>	<b>558.0</b>
Bulls for service	17.7	17.4	17.2	16.9	16.5	20.0
<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>1,608.9</b>	<b>1,664.6</b>	<b>1,666.4</b>	<b>1,629.1</b>	<b>1,611.7</b>	<b>1,611.4</b>
<b>SHEEP</b>						
Breeding ewes	938.6	955.2	973.3	956.5	938.5	946.1
Other sheep	1,051.0	1,067.8	1,079.2	1,049.5	1,048.5	1,044.9
<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>1,989.7</b>	<b>2,023.0</b>	<b>2,052.6</b>	<b>2,006.0</b>	<b>1,986.9</b>	<b>1,991.0</b>
<b>PIGS<sup>2</sup></b>						
Sows and gilts	45.6	46.4	47.9	49.6	47.5	45.9
Other pigs	524.1	554.7	601.2	584.0	626.9	635.6
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>569.7</b>	<b>601.1</b>	<b>649.1</b>	<b>633.6</b>	<b>674.4</b>	<b>681.5</b>
<b>POULTRY<sup>3</sup></b>						
Laying birds	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8	4,331.9	4,998.7	4,936.6
Growing pullets	908.0	961.9	1,202.0	1,121.3	1,481.2	1,495.7
Breeding flock	2,404.9	2,282.7	2,526.9	2,515.9	2,558.7	2,214.3
Table chickens	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6	17,663.0	15,351.6	15,364.46
<b>Total ordinary fowl</b>	<b>20,760.1</b>	<b>21,253.8</b>	<b>24,458.3</b>	<b>25,632.1</b>	<b>24,390.2</b>	<b>24,011.1</b>
Other poultry	485.6	530.0	452.3	398.5	390.2	341.1
<b>Total poultry</b>	<b>21,245.7</b>	<b>21,783.8</b>	<b>24,910.6</b>	<b>26,030.6</b>	<b>24,780.4</b>	<b>24,352.2</b>
<b>HORSES &amp; PONIES<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>GOATS</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>

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<sup>1</sup> of farm, June 2020**

*thousand hectares*

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	1	4	5	24	18
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	22
Other agricultural crops	1	2	3	7	31
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	2	14
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>
Grass: Under 5 years old	44	40	84	57	60
5 years and over	271	199	470	205	70
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>68</b>
Rough grazing <sup>2</sup>	127	9	135	5	96
Woods/other land	5	4	9	8	53
Other land	3	2	5	6	45
<b>Total area</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>69</b>

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<sup>1</sup> of farm, June 2020**

*thousand head*

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
<b>CATTLE</b>					
Dairy cows	48	107	155	159	49
Beef cows	113	72	185	59	76
Bulls for service	7	6	13	7	64
<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>SHEEP</b>					
Breeding ewes	545	208	753	193	80
Other sheep	581	245	826	219	79
<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>PIGS</b>					
Sows and gilts	6	12	18	28	38
Other pigs	66	145	212	424	33
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>POULTRY</b>					
Laying birds	1,873	1,641	3,513	1,423	71
Table fowl	2,440	6,244	8,684	6,681	57
Other poultry	1,177	1,461	2,638	1,413	65
<b>Total poultry</b>	<b>5,489</b>	<b>9,346</b>	<b>14,835</b>	<b>9,517</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>HORSES AND PONIES<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>GOATS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>

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** In June 2020 there were 25,896 farms in Northern Ireland with 1,029,822 hectares of land farmed. An increase of 1,069 farms from 2019 resulting principally from key methodological changes in 2020 both in how the Agricultural Census data was collected and processed. Further details of this can be found in the Quality and Methodology report<sup>2</sup>.

Around 25 per cent of farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass, while 1,482 farms (5.7 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy 26.8 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, 79 per cent in 2020, are classified as **very small**. In 2020, there were 20,329 farms in

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/agricultural-census-northern-ireland-methodology-and-quality-report>

this category (Table 4.3). These farms are unlikely to provide full time employment or an adequate income solely from farming activities.<sup>3</sup> They contribute 20 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 2020, 60 per cent of beef cows<sup>4</sup> and 53 per cent of total sheep were to be found on very small farms. Over 34,000 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.12).

There were 2,765 **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 30 per cent of poultry and 25 per cent of total sheep activities; they cover 19 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 16 per cent of the full time agricultural labour force (Table 4.14).

The 1,167 **medium** and 1,635 **large** farms (together representing 11 per cent of all farms) contribute 63 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, 93 and 62 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 254 (1.0 per cent) classified as **cereal** farms, 1,105 (4.3 per cent) as **general cropping** and 226 (1.0 per cent) as **horticulture**. Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms together (801) account for 3.1 per cent, while **mixed and other** farms (540) make up 2.1 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, 43 per cent had a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 53 per cent were entirely owner-occupied (Table 4.9). 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.

### Enterprises

In 2020, 3,272 farms (13 per cent) had dairy cows, 14,289 (55 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) The average number of dairy cows per herd, 95.7, was the same as in 2019. It compares with an

<sup>3</sup> For further information on the persons living and working on farms of different sizes, see "Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland", DAERA 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Figures for cattle are derived from the cattle tracing system (APHIS).

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 2020, 9,710 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 23 farms having a flock size of 1,000 ewes or more.

In 2020 there were 396 commercial pig herds were operational in June (Table 4.19). Most of the pig herds (271 in 2020) had sows, averaging 169 sows per herd (Table 4.18). Ninety-one 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 31.9 per cent of total herds hold almost 92 per cent of pigs.

Of the 404 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 99 per cent had flocks over 5,000. Forty businesses (10 per cent) farmed over thirty thousand birds with these farms accounting for 47 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with 70 per cent of farms having thirty thousand birds or more on farm. Almost 90 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2020, cereals were grown on 1,923 farms (Table 4.23), 7.4 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 15.3 hectares. Thirty-seven per cent (708) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, while 119 farms grew 50 hectares or more and accounted for 38 per cent of the total cereal area grown.

Some 375 farms, 1.5 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2020. Of this number, 98 grew 10 hectares or more, with these farms accounting for more than three quarters of the total area of potatoes grown (Table 4.24).

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**Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed<sup>1</sup>, June 2020**

Size group (hectares)	By crops and grass area		By total area	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	476	0	213	0
0.1 - 9.9	6,125	35,375	5,438	31,490
10.0 - 19.9	5,925	85,562	5,604	81,281
20.0 - 29.9	4,004	97,695	4,007	97,915
30.0 - 49.9	4,271	164,546	4,457	172,266
50.0 - 99.9	3,613	247,450	4,128	285,152
100.0 - 199.9	1,222	160,214	1,603	213,046
200.0 +	260	70,976	446	148,671
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,896</b>	<b>861,819</b>	<b>25,896</b>	<b>1,029,822</b>

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 2015 - 2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Number of farms</b>	24,907	24,528	24,956	24,895	24,827	25,896
<b>Average area per farm (ha):</b>						
Crops and grass	34.0	34.5	34.1	34.2	34.4	33.3
Total area	40.1	41.3	40.9	41.1	41.2	39.8
<b>Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:</b>						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.1
10.0 - 19.9	10.1	9.6	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.9
20.0 - 29.9	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.3	11.3
30.0 - 49.9	20.3	19.7	19.5	19.2	19.3	19.1
50.0 - 99.9	29.5	29.2	29.1	29.0	29.3	28.7
100.0 +	24.8	25.9	26.1	26.6	26.5	26.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4.3 Number of farms by business size and area farmed, June 2020**

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size <sup>1</sup>					All sizes
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large		
Under 10	6,363	128	45	65		6,601
10.0 - 19.9	5,689	177	29	30		5,925
20.0 - 29.9	3,679	246	38	41		4,004
30.0 - 49.9	3,182	810	180	99		4,271
50.0 - 99.9	1,319	1,109	620	565		3,613
100.0 +	97	295	255	835		1,482
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,329</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,635</b>		<b>25,896</b>

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

**Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2015 - 2020**

	<i>number</i>					
<b>Business size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Very small	19,078	18,651	19,060	19,188	19,177	20,329
Small	2,951	2,938	2,945	2,824	2,746	2,765
Medium	1,249	1,238	1,229	1,190	1,224	1,167
Large	1,629	1,701	1,722	1,693	1,680	1,635
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>24,528</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>24,827</b>	<b>25,896</b>

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

**Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category<sup>1</sup>, June 2020**

	<i>number</i>				
<b>Business size<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)</b>	<b>Disadvantaged Area (DA)</b>	<b>Total LFA</b>	<b>Non LFA</b>	<b>LFA as % NI</b>
Very small	8,480	6,309	14,789	5,540	73
Small	969	846	1,815	950	66
Medium	303	351	654	513	56
Large	265	508	773	862	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,017</b>	<b>8,014</b>	<b>18,031</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>70</b>

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 2020**

	<i>number</i>				
<b>Business type<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Business size<sup>1</sup></b>				
	<b>Very small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>All sizes</b>
Cereals	197	39	12	6	254
General cropping	1,016	36	16	37	1,105
Horticulture	92	38	28	68	226
Pigs	61	26	22	64	173
Poultry	143	263	118	104	628
Dairy	261	700	597	1,045	2,603
Cattle & sheep (LFA) <sup>2</sup>	13,698	1,093	215	131	15,137
Cattle & sheep (lowland) <sup>2</sup>	4,559	486	112	73	5,230
Mixed & Others	302	84	47	107	540
<b>All types</b>	<b>2,0329</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>25,896</b>

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 2015 - 2020***number*

Business type <sup>1</sup>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cereals	281	275	272	264	253	254
General cropping	516	506	523	574	679	1,105
Horticulture	293	280	273	264	249	226
Pigs	185	174	181	177	161	173
Poultry	601	592	622	639	647	628
Dairy	2,742	2,694	2,635	2,545	2,586	2,603
Cattle & sheep (LFA) <sup>2</sup>	14,497	14,325	14,687	14,700	14,616	15,137
Cattle & sheep (lowland) <sup>2</sup>	4,775	5,014	4,969	5,097	5,109	4,971
Mixed & Other	778	713	666	623	665	540
<b>All types</b>	<b>24,907</b>	<b>24,528</b>	<b>24,956</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>24,827</b>	<b>25,896</b>

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<sup>1</sup>, June 2020***number*

Business type <sup>2</sup>	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	5	32	37	217	15
General cropping	260	323	583	522	53
Horticulture	11	64	75	151	33
Pigs	38	60	98	75	57
Poultry	174	239	413	215	66
Dairy	516	951	1,467	1,136	56
Cattle & sheep	8,936	6,201	15,137	5,230	74
Mixed & Others	77	144	221	319	41
<b>All types</b>	<b>10,017</b>	<b>8,014</b>	<b>18,031</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>70</b>

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 2020***farms*

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size <sup>1</sup>				All sizes
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
All owner occupied	12,295	822	259	246	13,622
50-<100%	4,595	1,258	607	856	7,316
>0-<50%	2,382	597	278	516	3,773
None owner occupied	1,057	88	23	17	1,185
<b>All farms</b>	<b>20,329</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>25,896</b>

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

**Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2015 - 2020**

	<i>hectares</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Owner-occupied</b>	713,095	730,767	737,994	739,243	738,976	747,173
<b>Rented</b>	284,653	282,481	281,742	283,152	284,188	282,649
<b>Total</b>	<b>997,748</b>	<b>1,013,248</b>	<b>1,019,736</b>	<b>1,022,395</b>	<b>1,023,163</b>	<b>1,029,822</b>
<b>Percentage of owned land</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>72.6</b>
<b>Common grazing</b>	<b>35,486</b>	<b>35,325</b>	<b>34,289</b>	<b>35,401</b>	<b>36,115</b>	<b>35,931</b>

**Table 4.11 Average conacre rents by type of use, 2014 - 2019**

	<i>£/hectare</i>					
Use	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Grass	236	241	262	259	266	279
Potatoes	706	508	670	650	736	748
Cereals	293	289	301	350	351	353
Rough grazing	38	49	51	64	66	63
<b>All uses</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>242</b>

Source: Farm Business Survey.

**Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2020**

Labour item	<i>number of persons</i>				
	Business size <sup>1</sup>				All farms
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
<b>Farmers and partners</b>					
Full time	12,281	3,361	1,724	2,887	20,253
Part time	16,328	1,517	538	682	19,065
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,609</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>3,569</b>	<b>39,318</b>
<b>Spouses of farmers<sup>2</sup></b>					<b>N/A</b>
<b>Other workers</b>					
Full time	613	334	246	1,865	3,058
Part time	2,178	649	292	710	3,829
Casual/seasonal	2,738	866	481	1,011	5,096
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>5,529</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>11,983</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>34,138</b>	<b>6,727</b>	<b>3,281</b>	<b>7,155</b>	<b>51,301</b>

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

2. In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions. In previous years data on spouses was collected as a separate question.

**Table 4.13 Distribution of the farm labour force by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category<sup>1</sup>, June 2020**

*number of persons*

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
<b>Farmers and partners</b>					
Full time	7,294	6,159	13,453	6,800	<b>66</b>
Part time	7,477	5,877	13,354	5,711	<b>70</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,771</b>	<b>12,036</b>	<b>26,807</b>	<b>12,511</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Spouses of farmers<sup>2</sup></b>					
<b>Other workers</b>					
Full time	599	919	1,518	1,540	<b>50</b>
Part time	1,207	1,200	2,407	1,422	<b>63</b>
Casual/seasonal	1,589	1,453	3,042	2,054	<b>60</b>
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>5,016</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>18,166</b>	<b>15,608</b>	<b>33,774</b>	<b>17,527</b>	<b>66</b>

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

2. In 2020 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions. In previous years data on spouses was collected as a separate question.



**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

Item	Business size <sup>1</sup>														
	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large			All Farms		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
<b>Cattle</b>															
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,440</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20,433</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>100</b>
Dairy cows	458	8	3	898	41	13	697	55	18	1,219	208	66	3,272	313	100
Beef cows	10,967	148	60	1,813	54	22	667	21	8	842	22	9	14,289	245	100
<b>Sheep</b>															
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,818</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9,966</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>100</b>
Ewes	7,608	505	53	1,243	236	25	416	92	10	443	113	12	9,710	946	100
<b>Pigs</b>															
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>100</b>
Sows	121	1	3	38	2	4	25	3	6	87	40	88	271	46	100
Finishers/ Weaners	123	13	2	45	23	4	31	28	5	96	461	88	295	525	100
<b>Poultry</b>															
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>4,546</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>10,534</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>24,352</b>	<b>100</b>
Layers	168	241	5	122	1,291	26	49	871	18	65	2,534	51	404	4,937	100
<b>Crops</b>															
Oats	132	0	27	66	0	29	25	0	15	51	0	30	274	0	100
Wheat	191	0	19	118	0	21	72	0	15	177	0	45	558	1	100
Barley	819	1	28	339	1	25	154	0	14	308	1	34	1,620	2	100
Potatoes	159	0	9	90	0	16	49	0	13	77	0	62	375	0	100
Crops & grass	19,945	423	49	2,725	159	18	1,149	89	10	1,611	191	22	25,430	862	100
Rough grazing	4,407	71	50	753	35	25	267	15	11	291	19	14	5,718	141	100
<b>Total area</b>	<b>20,329</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25,896</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Labour</b>															
Full-time labour force <sup>2</sup>	10,676	13	55	2,492	4	16	1,123	2	8	1,601	5	20	15,892	23	100
<b>Output</b>															
Standard Output <sup>3</sup>	20,329	466	20	2,765	397	17	1,167	321	14	1,635	1,141	49	25,896	2,325	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 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Number per farm	Dairy Cows				Beef cows			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
<10	210	1,369	6.4	0.4	6,303	27,256	44.1	11.1
10 - 14	91	1,086	2.8	0.3	2,209	26,221	15.5	10.7
15 - 19	75	1,268	2.3	0.4	1,609	27,121	11.3	11.1
20 - 29	198	4,903	6.1	1.6	1,916	45,880	13.4	18.7
30 - 39	211	7,226	6.4	2.3	927	31,529	6.5	12.9
40 - 49	229	10,144	7.0	3.2	476	21,035	3.3	8.6
50 - 59	252	13,775	7.7	4.4	309	16,709	2.2	6.8
60 - 69	251	16,206	7.7	5.2	167	10,722	1.2	4.4
70 - 99	565	47,298	17.3	15.1	242	19,755	1.7	8.1
100 & Over	1,190	210,008	36.4	67.0	131	18,474	0.9	7.5
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>3,272</b>	<b>313,283</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,289</b>	<b>244,702</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>313,549</b>			<b>14,156</b>	<b>247,009</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>95.7</b>				<b>17.1</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>95.1</b>				<b>17.4</b>		

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

**Table 4.16 Distribution of total cattle by herd size, June 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Number per farm	Total cattle			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
1 - 4	940	2,581	4.6	0.2
5 - 9	1,665	11,653	8.1	0.7
10 - 19	3,038	43,643	14.9	2.7
20 - 29	2,530	61,605	12.4	3.8
30 - 39	1,969	67,265	9.6	4.2
40 - 49	1,543	68,480	7.6	4.2
50 - 69	2,219	131,029	10.9	8.1
70 - 99	1,904	158,058	9.3	9.8
100 - 199	2,676	373,018	13.1	23.1
200 - 299	1,026	247,649	5.0	15.4
300 & over	923	446,486	4.5	27.7
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>20,433</b>	<b>1,611,467</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>19,919</b>	<b>1,611,776</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>78.9</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>80.9</b>		

1. Cattle figures are 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 2020**

Number per farm	Ewes				Total Sheep			
	Numbers of Farms	Ewes	Percentage of Farms	Ewes	Numbers of Farms	Sheep	Percentages of Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	2,294	30,862	23.6	3.3	1,216	15,883	12.2	0.8
25 - 49	2,118	76,720	21.8	8.1	1,280	46,922	12.8	2.4
50 - 99	2,323	164,696	23.9	17.4	2,118	150,607	21.3	7.6
100 - 199	1,784	248,597	18.4	26.3	2,308	328,101	23.2	16.5
200 - 299	653	158,036	6.7	16.7	1,114	272,866	11.2	13.7
300 - 399	249	84,480	2.6	8.9	635	219,539	6.4	11.0
400 - 499	124	54,387	1.3	5.7	377	169,070	3.8	8.5
500 - 699	87	49,865	0.9	5.3	471	273,631	4.7	13.8
700 - 999	142	94,957	1.5	10.0	723	482,845	7.3	24.3
1,000 & Over	23	33,319	0.2	3.5	195	305,105	2.0	15.3
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>9,710</b>	<b>946,054</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,966</b>	<b>1,990,938</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>9,694</b>	<b>938,457</b>			<b>9,921</b>	<b>1,986,932</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>97.4</b>				<b>199.8</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>96.8</b>				<b>200.3</b>		

**Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts)			
	Numbers of Farms	Sows	Percentage of Farms	Sows
1 - 9	97	282	35.8	0.6
10 - 19	17	223	6.3	0.5
20 - 49	32	1,139	11.8	2.5
50 - 99	33	2,356	12.2	5.1
100 - 199	46	6,502	17.0	14.2
200 - 299	16	3,800	5.9	8.3
300 - over	30	31,594	11.1	68.8
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>45,896</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2010</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>47,529</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>169.4</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>174.1</b>		

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 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Number per farm	Finisher/Weaners				Total pigs			
	Numbers of Farms	Pigs	Percentage of Farms	Pigs	Numbers of Farms	Pigs	Percentages of Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	67	207	22.7	0.0	132	363	22.7	0.0
10 - 19	20	285	6.8	0.1	22	315	6.8	0.1
20 - 49	15	452	5.1	0.1	28	860	5.1	0.1
50 - 99	11	783	3.7	0.1	17	1,142	3.7	0.1
100 - 199	15	2,229	5.1	0.4	16	2,454	5.1	0.4
200 - 399	23	7,050	7.8	1.3	21	5,825	7.8	1.3
400 - 999	50	32,684	16.9	6.2	50	32,945	16.9	6.2
1,000 - 1,999	49	71,068	16.6	13.5	53	82,948	16.6	13.5
2,000 & over	45	409,856	15.3	78.1	57	554,615	15.3	78.1
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>524,614</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>681,467</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>514,247</b>			<b>366</b>	<b>674,428</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>1,778.4</b>				<b>1,720.9</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>1,607.0</b>				<b>1,842.7</b>		

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 2020<sup>1</sup>**

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 <sup>2</sup>	151	6	37.4	0.1	9	1	3.0	0.0
1,000 - 4,999	15	46	3.7	0.9	2	6	0.7	0.0
5,000 - 9,999	60	458	14.9	9.3	3	20	1.0	0.1
10,000 - 19,999	117	1,612	29.0	32.7	45	743	15.1	4.8
20,000 - 29,999	21	502	5.2	10.2	32	789	10.7	5.1
30,000 - 49,999	29	974	7.2	19.7	96	3,656	32.1	23.8
50,000 & over	11	1,338	2.7	27.1	112	10,150	37.5	66.1
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>4,937</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>15,364</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>4,999</b>			<b>297</b>	<b>15,352</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>12,219</b>				<b>51,386</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>17,981</b>				<b>51,689</b>		

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

2. From 2020 includes farms with less than 250 birds.

**Table 4.21 Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Number per farm	Total poultry			
	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Birds ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Birds ('000)
1 - 999 <sup>2</sup>	217	12	22.7	0.0
1,000 - 4,999	27	87	2.8	0.4
5,000 - 9,999	102	761	10.7	3.1
10,000 - 19,999	237	3,473	24.8	14.3
20,000 - 29,999	96	2,376	10.0	9.8
30,000 - 49,999	147	5,397	15.4	22.2
50,000 & over	130	12,245	13.6	50.3
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>24,352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>24,780</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>25,473</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>31,328</b>		

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

2. From 2020 includes farms with less than 250 birds.

**Table 4.22 Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2020**

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	26	19	1.6	0.1	10	7	1.8	0.1
1 - 4.9	596	1,806	36.8	8.9	176	540	31.5	7.6
5 - 9.9	427	3,015	26.4	14.8	157	1,112	28.1	15.6
10 - 19.9	301	4,216	18.6	20.7	118	1,587	21.1	22.3
20 - 29.9	119	2,804	7.3	13.8	45	1,066	8.1	15.0
30 - 39.9	59	1,994	3.6	9.8	18	618	3.2	8.7
40 - 49.9	22	971	1.4	4.8	14	590	2.5	8.3
50 & over	70	5,511	4.3	27.1	20	1,610	3.6	22.6
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>20,336</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>7,132</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>19,687</b>			<b>615</b>	<b>8,104</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>12.6</b>				<b>12.8</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>12.1</b>				<b>13.2</b>		

**Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2020**

<b>Total cereals</b>				
<b>Area per farm (ha)</b>	<b>Numbers of Farms</b>	<b>Area of Cereals (ha)</b>	<b>Percentages of Farms Cereals</b>	
under 1	33	22	1.7	0.1
1 - 4.9	675	2,018	35.1	6.9
5 - 9.9	471	3,347	24.5	11.4
10 - 19.9	364	5,068	18.9	17.2
20 - 29.9	145	3,447	7.5	11.7
30 - 39.9	73	2,545	3.8	8.6
40 - 49.9	43	1,876	2.2	6.4
50 & over	119	11,137	6.2	37.8
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>29,460</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>29,820</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>15.3</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>15.2</b>		

**Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2020**

<b>Potatoes</b>				
<b>Area per farm (ha)</b>	<b>Numbers of Farms</b>	<b>Area of Potatoes (ha)</b>	<b>Percentages of Farms Potatoes</b>	
under 1	83	38	22.1	1.0
1 - 4.9	141	367	37.6	9.9
5 - 9.9	53	363	14.1	9.8
10 - 19.9	49	670	13.1	18.0
20 - 29.9	16	388	4.3	10.4
30 - 39.9	11	374	2.9	10.1
40 - 49.9	8	346	2.1	9.3
50 & over	14	1169	3.7	31.5
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>3,777</b>		
<b>Average 2020</b>		<b>9.9</b>		
<b>Average 2019</b>		<b>8.8</b>		

## 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 2019/20'.

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 2019/20. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2020/21 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 2015/2016 are presented in Table 5.1

**Income changes 2019/20** Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2018/19 and 2019/20 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 247 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 89 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 decreased between 2018/19 and 2019/20 on Cereal, General Cropping, Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (Lowland) and Mixed farms. In contrast, Farm Business Income increased on Pig and Cattle and Sheep (LFA) farms.

Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income decreased from £29,657 in 2018/19 to £25,935 in 2019/20, a decrease of £3,722 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income decreased from £23,276 in 2018/19 to £18,169 in 2019/20 (a decrease of £5,107 per farm) and average Cash Income decreased from £49,440 in 2018/19 to £44,395 in 2019/20 (a decrease of £5,045 per farm).

**Provisional estimates of incomes for 2020/21**

Provisional forecasts of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2021 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types increasing from £25,935 in 2019/20 to £33,039 in 2020/21, i.e. an increase of £7,104 or 27% per farm.

Farm Business Income is expected to increase (by varying amounts) for Dairy, Cattle and Sheep (LFA), Cattle and Sheep (Lowland), Pigs and Mixed farm types between 2019/20 and 2020/21. The improvement in incomes for these farm types reflects higher output prices and support payments. In contrast, despite higher output prices cereal farms are expected to show a decrease in incomes due to lower yields.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £44,395 in 2019/20 to £51,499 in 2020/21, which is an increase of £7,104 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £18,169 in 2019/20 to £25,273 in 2020/21.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in April 2021 and relate to an account year ending in mid-February 2021. 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 2020/21, 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, 2015/16 to 2020/21<sup>1</sup>**

*Indices: 2012/13 - 2014/15 = 100*

<b>Business type</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>16/17</b>	<b>17/18</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21 (provisional)</b>
Cereals	70	75	98	155	77	71
General cropping	62	95	38	214	45	55
Pigs	74	121	203	145	121	132
Dairy	58	71	124	111	98	106
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	114	112	102	96	92	103
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	95	91	124	93	87	96
Mixed	40	81	117	77	102	108
All types	77	87	118	104	94	102

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, 2019/20**

*per cent*

<b>Income (£'s)</b>	<b>Dairy</b>			<b>Cattle and sheep (LFA)</b>			<b>All types</b>		
	<b>CI</b>	<b>NFI</b>	<b>FBI</b>	<b>CI</b>	<b>NFI</b>	<b>FBI</b>	<b>CI</b>	<b>NFI</b>	<b>FBI</b>
<b>Less than 0</b>	1	13	3	11	45	24	6	34	17
<b>1 - 4,999</b>	1	3	2	4	2	11	4	5	8
<b>5,000 - 9,999</b>	0	12	9	8	14	11	7	12	12
<b>10,000 - 14,999</b>	0	5	6	7	11	7	5	11	9
<b>15,000 - 19,999</b>	8	3	6	11	9	14	13	7	11
<b>20,000 - 29,999</b>	7	6	12	28	7	10	19	6	9
<b>30,000 - 49,999</b>	20	26	26	15	6	12	14	12	16
<b>&gt; 50,000</b>	63	32	36	15	5	10	31	14	17
<b>Total</b>	..	<b>100</b>	..	..	<b>100</b>	..	..	<b>100</b>	..
Number of farms in sample		93			93			247	



**Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2018/19 and 2019/20**£'000 per farm<sup>1</sup>

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Cereals	...	...	123.9	88.6	...	...	...	...	73.8	53.5
General cropping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138.8	25.2
Pigs	...	...	...	...	127.0	122.6	...	...	81.4	80.9
Dairy	23.3	19.9	46.7	44.2	79.8	65.6	138.8	125.7	91.9	82.0
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	17.0	16.2	36.3	35.4	68.8	79.4	108.7	95.0	27.3	26.8
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	17.7	12.6	42.6	43.3	65.3	50.9	...	...	29.1	25.0
Mixed	...	...	13.3	46.2	46.4	28.2	103.9	128.0	58.2	75.6
All types	17.8	15.6	41.8	40.5	74.8	66.2	137.1	119.5	49.4	44.4

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, 2018/19 and 2019/20**£'000 per farm<sup>1</sup>

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Cereals	...	...	79.3	49.4	...	...	...	...	47.3	30.4
General cropping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113.0	3.0
Pigs	...	...	...	...	81.8	91.3	...	...	52.8	59.7
Dairy	19.0	11.7	32.1	27.8	47.8	39.5	88.1	80.7	58.6	51.8
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	6.8	7.4	20.7	21.9	45.6	49.6	73.4	75.4	14.3	15.2
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	10.3	7.3	21.8	20.8	19.6	13.7	...	...	14.5	11.9
Mixed	...	...	34.8	11.3	17.8	0.5	48.1	63.0	36.3	30.0
All types	8.5	7.7	26.4	23.5	42.9	37.7	87.9	75.2	29.7	25.9

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

**Table 5.5 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2018/19 and 2019/20**£'000 per farm<sup>1</sup>

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Cereals	...	...	66.4	41.1	...	...	...	...	41.8	25.6
General cropping	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104.9	-5.1
Pigs	...	...	...	...	100.9	117.3	...	...	54.5	61.7
Dairy	18.8	11.1	23.2	17.7	45.1	36.8	86.5	73.3	54.7	45.2
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	2.5	2.2	14.5	14.5	13.4	12.4	16.2	17.6	6.7	6.5
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	0.4	-2.7	12.4	11.3	22.2	13.9	...	...	5.8	2.9
Mixed	...	...	19.3	-6.0	26.2	15.1	56.8	68.0	36.3	29.3
All types	2.9	1.6	18.2	14.3	35.3	29.1	83.4	65.8	23.3	18.2

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, 2019/20**

£'000 per farm<sup>1</sup>

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
<b>Farm size (SLR)</b>	1.2	1.9	3.0	1.0	1.1	2.9	1.7
<b>Total farm area (ha)</b>	89.0	54.9	85.5	100.4	64.9	103.9	87.6
<b>Farm Business income</b>	30.4	3.0	51.8	15.2	11.9	30.0	25.9
<b>Total tenant's capital</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>227.4</b>	<b>116.3</b>	<b>144.3</b>	<b>273.8</b>	<b>156.3</b>
of which:							
<b>Short term (working) capital</b>							
trading livestock	0.0	8.1	39.2	38.0	68.6	85.9	44.9
crops	3.6	10.0	20.7	6.7	8.2	24.7	11.4
other	1.4	5.6	2.8	1.1	1.5	2.3	1.7
<b>Medium term capital</b>							
breeding livestock	0.6	0.0	96.7	39.5	28.3	53.5	52.6
machinery	67.1	83.8	68.0	31.0	37.7	107.5	45.8

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, 2018/19 and 2019/20**

£'000 per farm<sup>1</sup>

	Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	1367.8	1389.6	1151.5	1158.5	1256.8	1267.4
of which:						
land and buildings	1206.2	1224.0	1082.0	1088.1	1160.0	1168.8
other fixed assets	161.6	165.5	69.5	70.4	96.8	98.6
<b>Total current assets</b>	93.7	94.4	58.4	59.0	76.6	76.1
of which:						
trading livestock, crops and stores	62.4	63.1	46.0	45.6	58.2	57.8
debtors/other short term lending	19.2	19.3	.5	.3	6.0	6.0
cash in hand and the bank	12.1	12.0	11.9	13.0	12.4	12.4
<b>A Total assets</b>	<b>1461.5</b>	<b>1483.9</b>	<b>1209.8</b>	<b>1217.5</b>	<b>1333.4</b>	<b>1343.6</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
<b>Total long/medium term loans</b>	77.9	75.0	6.1	5.4	32.9	31.2
of which:						
bank/other institutional	77.7	74.9	6.1	5.4	32.7	31.0
<b>Total short term loans</b>	32.6	31.8	8.3	8.5	17.3	16.3
of which:						
bank overdraft	20.3	18.5	6.1	6.5	11.4	10.7
<b>B Total external liabilities</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>47.5</b>
<b>NET WORTH (A-B)</b>	<b>1351.0</b>	<b>1377.1</b>	<b>1195.4</b>	<b>1203.6</b>	<b>1283.3</b>	<b>1296.1</b>

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

## 6. FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

<b>Turnover</b>	Gross turnover in the food and drinks processing sector increased by 7 per cent in 2018 to £5,162m. Eight out of the ten subsectors recorded an increase in turnover. Animal by-products (-12%) and fish (-1%) both recorded a fall.
<b>Performance</b>	Sales per employee in the food and drinks processing sector increased in 2018 but remains below 2014 levels. Value added per employee has grown steadily over the last five years. Return on capital employed (ROCE) has increased by 3.2 percentage points since 2015.
<b>Employment</b>	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 increased since 2016.
<b>Fishing Employment</b>	The total number of people employed in the fishing industry has decreased by 11 per cent in 2019.
<b>Destination of Sales</b>	Great Britain was the main destination of sales from the NI food and drinks processing sector in 2018. The Republic of Ireland is the largest export market. Exports to Republic of Ireland and other European Union countries account for 24 per cent of Northern Ireland's food and drinks processing sector sales. The Rest of the World accounts for 3 per cent of the sector's total sales.
<b>Live Animal Sales</b>	Republic of Ireland was the main destination for NI external live animal sales in 2020 and accounts for 56 per cent of the total value of external sales. The total value of external sales and export sales decreased between 2019 and 2020 as a result of decreases in sales to Great Britain and Other European countries. Sales to the Republic of Ireland grew by 11 per cent.
<b>Raw Milk Sales</b>	The value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland increased by 91 per cent between 2015 and 2018 to peak at £240.8m. In 2019, sales fell by 12 per cent.
<b>Live Animal Purchases</b>	Republic of Ireland was the largest external market for NI live animal purchases for three out of the four subsectors in 2020 and accounted for 90 per cent of the total value of external purchases. Between 2019 and 2020 purchases from the Republic of Ireland increased by £44.5m driving a 38 per cent increase in external purchases of live animals and 45 per cent increase in imports.
<b>Non-Edible Exports</b>	The total value of non-edible product exports has fallen by 6 per cent in 2019 following three years of growth.

**Table 6.1 Gross Turnover of the NI food and drinks processing sector 2013-2018<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Animal by-products	40	51	57	48	53	47
Bakeries	286	286	283	311	326	376
Beef and sheepmeat	1,214	1,244	1,252	1,190	1,312	1,436
Drinks	416	417	386	369	391	415
Eggs	132	139	143	153	175	182
Fish	76	77	77	80	90	90
Fruit and vegetables	299	308	309	321	339	363
Milk and milk products	1,000	1,010	905	876	1,068	1,143
Pigmeat	316	328	302	318	343	365
Poultrymeat	697	706	701	680	709	745
<b>Total processing sector</b>	<b>4,475</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>4,347</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>5,162</b>

1. For a description of how the data has been estimated, see the publication "Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Report 2018".
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.
3. As a result of a lower number of available business returns, a robust provisional estimate was not possible for gross turnover in 2019.

**Table 6.2 Performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector in Northern Ireland 2013-2018<sup>1,2</sup>**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales per employee (£)	214,815	222,892	204,810	192,860	203,398	218,488
Value added per employee (£)	33,795	34,670	35,112	36,716	38,548	38,993
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	10.3	10.4	9.4	11.3	12.4	12.6

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**

	<i>Full-time equivalents</i>					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Processing of products<sup>1,2</sup></b>						
Animal by-products	117	116	116	115	112	115
Bakeries	3,261	3,466	3,719	3,823	3,926	4,057
Beef and sheepmeat	4,385	4,549	4,758	5,081	5,123	5,048
Drinks	1,377	1,362	1,327	1,328	1,318	1,399
Eggs	291	311	346	378	395	413
Fish	533	553	550	596	643	633
Fruit and vegetables	2,305	2,403	2,415	2,509	2,553	2,788
Milk and milk products	2,182	1,856	1,856	1,954	2,200	2,351
Pigmeat	1,378	1,366	1,414	1,528	1,725	1,652
Poultrymeat	5,014	4,510	5,055	5,230	5,639	5,171
<b>Total processing sector</b>	<b>20,843</b>	<b>20,489</b>	<b>21,555</b>	<b>22,540</b>	<b>23,632</b>	<b>23,625</b>
<b>Agency Employment in food and drinks processing</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>2,720</b>
<b>Manufacture and supply of inputs<sup>3</sup></b>						
Animal feed	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,100
Fertilisers and lime	200	200	200	200	200	200
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	910	910	910	910	910	910
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	750	730	730	730	750	770
Services <sup>4</sup>	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
<b>Total supply sector</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3,990</b>	<b>3,990</b>	<b>3,990</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>4,130</b>

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, 2015-2019**

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Full Time	Part Time	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	654	168
Processing and marketing	484	232	516	241	530	242	618	263	470	250
Others	112	46	113	47	126	56	118	58	111	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>474</b>

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA.

**Table 6.5 Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2018**

£ million

	NI <sup>1</sup>	GB <sup>2</sup>	ROI <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup> EU	ROW <sup>5</sup>	Inter- vention	Total Sales	External <sup>6</sup> Sales	Export <sup>7</sup> Sales
Animal By-Products	*	*	*	12.6	*	-00	46.6	*	*
Bakeries	179.4	88.3	103.2	1.2	3.9	-00	376.0	196.5	108.3
Beef/Sheepmeat	169.4	1,034.5	89.4	131.2	11.8	-00	1,436.4	1,266.9	232.5
Drinks	194.5	37.1	155.6	9.4	18.7	-00	415.4	220.8	183.7
Eggs	62.1	105.7	14.0	*	*	-00	182.0	119.9	14.2
Fish	15.3	39.8	7.1	24.3	3.1	-00	89.6	74.4	34.5
Fruit/Vegetables	119.7	170.3	70.5	1.1	1.1	-00	362.6	243.0	72.7
Milk/Milk Products	253.5	411.6	191.3	237.2	49.4	-00	1,142.9	889.5	477.9
Pigmeat	114.1	144.7	74.1	*	*	-00	364.9	250.9	106.2
Poultrymeat	*	*	*	*	*	-00	745.4	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,174.2</b>	<b>2,618.4</b>	<b>792.2</b>	<b>443.1</b>	<b>134.0</b>	<b>-00</b>	<b>5,161.8</b>	<b>3,987.6</b>	<b>1,369.2</b>

\*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, 2020 (Provisional)**

£ million

	GB <sup>1</sup>	ROI <sup>2</sup>	Other EU <sup>3</sup>	ROW <sup>4</sup>	External <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>6</sup>
Live Cattle	2.3	4.6	1.3	0.0	8.2	5.9
Live Sheep	4.7	37.9	0.7	0.0	43.4	38.6
Live Pigs	2.9	2.4	0.0	0.0	5.3	2.4
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	18.5	10.3	12.3	0.0	41.1	22.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>69.6</b>

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<sup>1</sup> from Northern Ireland by destination 2015 - 2020**

£ million

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
GB <sup>2</sup>	49.7	46.1	40.4	38.2	34.1	28.4
ROI <sup>3</sup>	42.5	53.0	53.5	59.3	49.9	55.2
Other EU <sup>4</sup>	19.1	15.7	16.2	13.5	18.1	14.3
ROW <sup>5</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>External<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>98.0</b>
<b>Export<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>69.6</b>

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

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

**Table 6.8 Value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland 2014-2019**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Sales Value (£ millions)</b>	153.2	126.3	132.5	234.9	240.8	211.9

**Table 6.9 External purchases of live animals to Northern Ireland by origin, 2020 (Provisional)**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	GB <sup>1</sup>	ROI <sup>2</sup>	Other EU <sup>3</sup>	ROW <sup>4</sup>	External <sup>5</sup>	Imports <sup>6</sup>
Live Cattle	6.0	65.8	2.3	0.0	74.1	68.1
Live Sheep	1.5	2.8	0.0	0.0	4.3	2.8
Live Pigs	0.2	76.4	0.0	0.0	76.6	76.4
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>145.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>160.7</b>	<b>147.3</b>

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<sup>1</sup> to Northern Ireland by origin, 2015 - 2020**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
GB <sup>2</sup>	9.2	9.9	14.4	13.7	14.3	13.5
ROI <sup>3</sup>	117.4	75.3	95.5	95.3	100.5	145.0
Other EU <sup>4</sup>	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.0	1.4	2.3
ROW <sup>5</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>External<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>127.3</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>116.3</b>	<b>160.7</b>
<b>Import<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>118.1</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>147.3</b>

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 2014-2019**

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Animal feedstuffs <sup>1</sup>	103.1	101.1	108.9	125.0	135.7	135.3
Animal hides and skins	31.9	32.4	26.4	25.9	21.5	11.8
Processed wood and timber	47.6	47.0	56.2	63.8	72.0	64.3
Inedible animal and veg products <sup>2</sup>	24.4	19.9	16.7	18.4	17.6	21.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>207.0</b>	<b>200.4</b>	<b>208.2</b>	<b>233.1</b>	<b>246.8</b>	<b>233.1</b>

1. Excluding un-milled cereals.

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

## 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, Ordnance Survey roadmaps and visual inspection to classify areas. Details of the Locale definitions are available at:

[http://www.bluewavegeographics.com/images/LOCALE\\_Classification.pdf](http://www.bluewavegeographics.com/images/LOCALE_Classification.pdf)

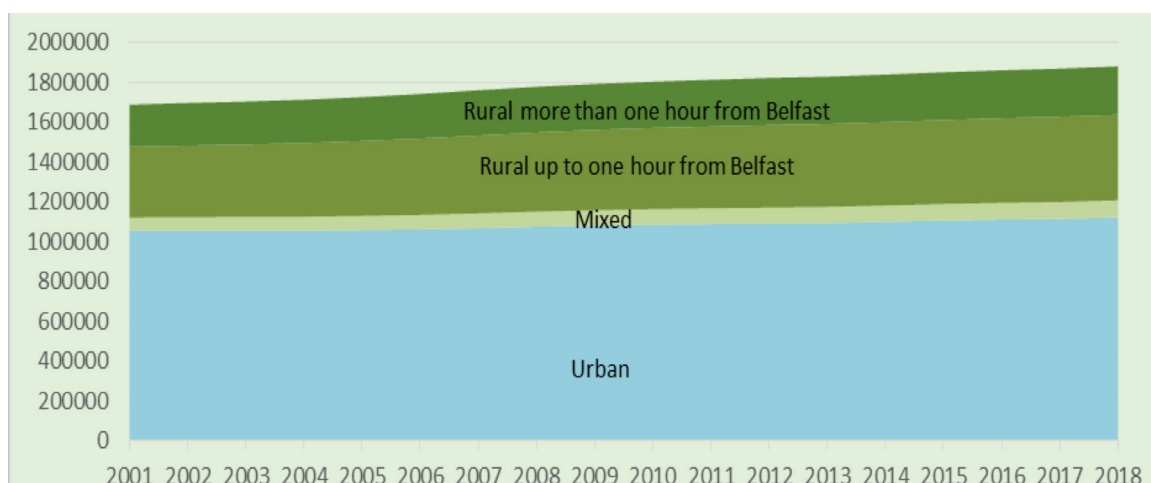
### Rural Population

In 2018, 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).



<b>Income</b>	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).
<b>Businesses</b>	In 2020, there were 76,090 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).
<b>Education</b>	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).
<b>Housing</b>	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).
<b>Transport and telecommunications</b>	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).
<b>Health</b>	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: NISRA Mid-year estimates 2018, November, 2019.

<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population>

Small area look up table, urban/rural status 2015.

<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=10&themeName=People+and+Places>

**Table 7.1 Median equivalised<sup>1</sup> net<sup>2</sup> disposable weekly household income, 2017/2018**

	Before Housing Costs £	After Housing Costs £
<b>Urban</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>427</b>
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
<b>All Rural</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>All Households (NI)</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>431</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 2017/2018**

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>
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
<b>All Rural</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>All Households (NI)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>

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<sup>1</sup>, 2020**

Broad Industry Group <sup>1</sup>	Urban		Rural			All rural	Total
		<=20 mins to settlement <sup>2</sup>	>20mins to settlement <sup>2</sup>	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast		
<b>Agriculture, forestry &amp; fishing</b>	2%	36%	46%	36%	48%	41%	<b>24%</b>
<b>Production</b>	7%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	<b>7%</b>
<b>Construction</b>	10%	15%	18%	16%	16%	16%	<b>14%</b>
<b>Motor trades</b>	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	<b>3%</b>
<b>Wholesale</b>	5%	5%	3%	4%	3%	4%	<b>4%</b>
<b>Retail</b>	12%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	<b>8%</b>
<b>Transport &amp; storage (inc. postal)</b>	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	<b>4%</b>
<b>Accommodation &amp; food services</b>	9%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	<b>6%</b>
<b>Information &amp; communication</b>	5%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	<b>3%</b>
<b>Finance &amp; insurance</b>	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<b>2%</b>
<b>Property</b>	5%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	<b>3%</b>
<b>Professional, scientific &amp; technical</b>	13%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	<b>8%</b>
<b>Business administration and support services</b>	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	<b>4%</b>
<b>Public administration and defence</b>	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	<b>*</b>
<b>Education</b>	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	<b>1%</b>
<b>Health</b>	6%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	<b>4%</b>
<b>Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services</b>	10%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	<b>6%</b>
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>24,845</b>	<b>19,040</b>	<b>26,420</b>	<b>17,465</b>	<b>43,885</b>	<b>76,090</b>

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, 2020.

**Table 7.4 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee size band, 2020**

	Rural					All rural	Total
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement <sup>1</sup>	>20mins to settlement <sup>1</sup>	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast		
<b>Sole Trader (No employees)</b>	16%	42%	43%	45%	40%	84%	<b>16,485</b>
<b>Other<sup>2</sup> (No employees)</b>	18%	44%	39%	46%	36%	82%	<b>7,485</b>
<b>Micro (1-9 employees)</b>	52%	29%	19%	31%	17%	48%	<b>43,945</b>
<b>Small (10-49 employees)</b>	66%	22%	12%	23%	11%	34%	<b>6,480</b>
<b>Medium (50-249 employees)</b>	73%	19%	8%	20%	7%	27%	<b>1,365</b>
<b>Large (250+ employees)</b>	86%	11%	3%	11%	3%	14%	<b>325</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>76,090</b>

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, 2020.

**Table 7.5 Highest educational qualification 2018/2019**

	Degree level or higher qualifications	Qualifications below degree level	No qualifications	Base <sup>1</sup> =100%
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1,727</b>
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
<b>All rural</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>1,049</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2,776</b>

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

**Table 7.6 Performance of school leavers, 2017/2018**

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

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**

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

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%
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2,817</b>
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%	564
<b>All rural</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1,641</b>
<b>All Households (NI)</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4,458</b>

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

**Table 7.9 Average House prices, 2020**

	Q1 2020	Increase since Q1, 2015
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>£134,314</b>	<b>26.3%</b>
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	£158,769	27.1%
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	£158,060	29.0%
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	£160,990	24.8%
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	£151,367	35.3%
<b>All Rural</b>	<b>£158,602</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
<b>All Households (NI)</b>	<b>£140,722</b>	<b>26.8%</b>

Source: NI House price Index, Detailed Statistics, Quarter 1, 2020 <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%
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2,819</b>
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
<b>All Rural</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>1,641</b>
<b>All Households (NI)</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>4,460</b>

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%
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2,819</b>
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
<b>All rural</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>1,641</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4,460</b>

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<sup>1</sup>, 2016/2018**

	Urban	Rural	All NI
<b>Walk to nearest bus stop</b>			
3 minutes or less	39%	20%	32%
44 minutes or longer	0%	9%	4%
<b>Bus service frequency</b>			
At least once every 15 minutes	23%	0%	15%
Less than three times a day	1%	10%	5%
Don't know	23%	44%	31%
<b>Walk to nearest railway station</b>			
6 minutes or less	6%	1%	4%
44 minutes or longer or n/a	43%	92%	60%
<b>Rail service frequency<sup>2</sup></b>			
At least once an hour	86%	73%	82%
Less frequent service	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	11%	22%	14%

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 2016-18* <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/travel-survey-northern-ireland-depth-report-2016-2018>

**Table 7.13 Broadband speeds and availability, 2020**

	Urban <sup>1</sup>	Rural <sup>1</sup>	NI
Average download speeds (Mbits)	74	40	64
Average monthly data usage (GB)	459	406	444
Coverage of Superfast Broadband (>=30Mbits)	99%	66%	89%
Fixed Broadband take-up <sup>2</sup>	87%	81%	85%
Coverage of Ultrafast Broadband (>=300Mbits)	71%	17%	56%
Premises served by full fibre	71%	17%	56%
Premises unable to obtain decent broadband service <sup>3</sup>	1%	19%	6%

1. Based on Locale classification of Urban and Rural.

2. 2019 figures

3. At least 10Mbit/s download and 1Mbit/s upload speeds. Source: Ofcom, 2020: Connected Nations 2020, Northern Ireland report [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0027/186408/connected-nations-2020-ni-report.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/186408/connected-nations-2020-ni-report.pdf)

**Table 7.14 Life expectancy at birth<sup>1</sup> 2013-2018**

Years	2013-15		2014-16		2015-17		2016-18	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Urban	77.2	81.5	77.4	81.5	77.2	81.6	77.5	81.6
Mixed Urban/Rural	78.9	82.3	79.5	81.9	80.2	82.5	80.2	82.5
Rural	80	83.7	80.3	83.8	80.3	83.7	80.5	83.9
All NI	<b>78.3</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>82.4</b>

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 2020 <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2020>

**Table 7.15 Standardised Death Rate - All cause Mortality under 75 years<sup>1</sup> 2010-2018**

Deaths per 100,000 population	2010-14	2011-15	2012-16	2013-17	2014-18
Urban	420	413	411	411	410
Mixed Urban/Rural	332	320	327	329	321
Rural	316	310	306	305	300
All NI	<b>379</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>366</b>

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 2020 <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2020>

**Table 7.16 Median Fire Response Times<sup>1</sup> 2014-2019**

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Urban	05:21	07:27	06:52	07:00	07:02
Mixed Urban/Rural	08:23	09:51	09:39	09:32	10:09
Rural	12:07	08:32	13:54	14:11	14:36
All NI	<b>06:26</b>	<b>07:49</b>	<b>08:02</b>	<b>08:11</b>	<b>08:23</b>

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 2020 <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2020>

**Table 7.17 Median Ambulance Response Times<sup>1</sup> 2015-2019**

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Urban	07:46	08:09	08:46	11:32	13:14
Mixed Urban/Rural	09:09	09:50	10:26	12:35	15:55
Rural	15:03	15:34	16:08	18:15	20:33
All NI	<b>09:21</b>	<b>09:57</b>	<b>10:36</b>	<b>13:36</b>	<b>15:36</b>

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

Source: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2020 <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2020>



## 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 2020, there were 1,861 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine TB. The herd incidence has increased slightly in 2020 and now stands above the 2016 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 2020, 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 412 on-farm welfare inspections in 2020. Inspections take place as a result of complaints from e.g. 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 412 welfare inspections carried out on farms by VSAHG during 2020, 94% were compliant, follow-up, targeted, or cross compliance inspections (where herds are identified as being “at risk”) with the remaining 6% being random cross compliance checks.

Of the 23 random cross compliance inspections in 2020, 100% achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 98% in 2018 and 100% in 2019).

Of the compliant, follow-up, and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 84% achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 90% in 2018 and 87% in 2019). 16% of these 389 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% 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 2020, 1 farm animal keeper was 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.

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**Table 8.1 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Statistics**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing <sup>1</sup>	26,105	25,945	25,733	25,416	24,949	24,957
<b>Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests</b>	27,716	27,504	28,378	23,490	27,963	28,562
Total number of animals TB tested	1,662,526	1,709,790	1,750,170	1,744,580	1,732,200	1,720,278
Total new herd TB incidents <sup>2</sup>	1,688	1,739	2,208	2,089	1,757	1,861
Number of TB reactors	10,996	11,923	15,949	15,330	13,019	12,852

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**

	2018	2019	2020
Number of Herds with BVD Animal Statuses Set	17,200	16,635	16,351
Number of Herds with Positive BVD Animal Statuses (Prevalence)	1,317 (7.7%)	971 (5.84%)	833 (5.10%)
Number of Animals with BVD Status Set	515,200	526,865	524,492
Number of Animals with Positive BVD Status (Prevalence)	2,576 (0.5%)	1,939 (0.37%)	1,555 (0.30%)
Number of Animals with Inconclusive BVD Status (Prevalence)	36 (<0.01%)	10 (<0.01%)	4 (<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 2020**

Type of inspections	Compliance with animal welfare legislation	Number of Inspections	Category of Non-compliance	Number per category	Percentage of total %
<b>Cross-compliance programme of random inspections</b>	No	0	A B C	0 0 0	0 0 0
	Yes	23		23	100%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections</b>	No	63	A B C	41 4 18	10.5 1.0 4.6
	Yes	326		326	83.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>All inspections</b>	No	63	A B C	41 4 18	10.0 1.0 4.4
	Yes	349		349	84.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>		<b>412</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 2019/20, Northern Ireland's councils collected 998,985 tonnes of Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal waste (see table 9.1). This was a 0.9 per cent increase on the 990,233 tonnes collected in 2018/19. 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 951,423 tonnes in 2014/15 to the 998,985 reported for 2019/20, a 5.0 per cent increase. The household waste per capita and household waste per household increased between 2014/15 and 2016/17, before gently decreasing for three consecutive years up to 2019/20.

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 2014/15 to 51 per cent in 2019/20 whilst the household recycling rate increased from 42 per cent in 2014/15 to 52 per cent in 2019/20.

The proportion of LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery has seen strong growth between 2014/15 and 2019/20 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 14.9 per cent in 2014/15 to 22.1 per cent in 2019/20.

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 24 per cent in 2019/20, which is 5 percentage points less than the 2018/19 rate (29 per cent) and 19 percentage points less than the 2014/15 rate (43 per cent).

The amount of biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW) sent to landfill in 2019/20 has fallen by 45 per cent compared with the amount sent in 2014/15. Whilst the tonnage of biodegradable LAC municipal waste being sent to landfill and BLACMW allocation have both decreased, the proportion of the allocation used has also fallen from 79 per cent in 2014/15 to 57 per cent in 2019/20.

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 2018, Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 19.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). This was a decrease of 2.5 per cent compared to 2017. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 20.0 per cent compared to 24.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 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 2018 (see figure 9.2) were agriculture (27 per cent), transport (23 per cent) and energy supply (15 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 0.8 per cent between the base year and 2018 but decreased by 1.7 per cent between 2017 and 2018.

## **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<sub>3</sub>/l. In the period 2000 to 2006, approximately 91 per cent of sites had an annual mean concentration of less than 40 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l and approximately 82 per cent were less than 25 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/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 2018, nitrate concentrations were monitored at 54 groundwater sites across Northern Ireland giving an average concentration of 6.1 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l. Groundwater nitrate concentrations across Northern Ireland are generally low with 51 of the 54 (94 per cent) stations below 25 mg NO<sub>3</sub>/l in 2018.

Table 9.4 provides information on the source of substantiated water pollution incidents. Water pollution originating from farms was the largest source in 2018 accounting for 31% of incidents. Water pollution from farms can be diffuse, such as from fertiliser and pesticides spread on the land, and point source such as runoff from livestock buildings. The main areas of concern are nitrate pollution in surface and groundwater, phosphorus levels in surface water and contamination by pesticides.

#### **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), and the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme (ESAS). 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 2020, 48,000 hectares were managed under the Environmental Farming Scheme.

**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. Northern Ireland has the lowest proportions of farmland under organic management in the UK. The area of land farmed organically in Northern Ireland has fallen by 10 per cent from 9 thousand hectares in 2014 to 8 thousand hectares in 2019. The UK overall recorded a decrease of 12 per cent, from 549 thousand hectares in 2014 to 485 thousand hectares in 2019 (see table 9.6).

**Forestry** In Northern Ireland the state owned forest area has changed little since 2000 (see table 9.7). 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 56 thousand hectares in 2019/20. 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 2020, 13 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 2019/20, 167 hectares of new woodland was planted and part funded by the European Commission under the 2014 -2020 Rural Development Programme compared to 238 hectares supported in 2018/19.

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**Table 9.1 Local Authority Collected Waste Management Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2014/15 - 2019/20**

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Arisings</b>						
Total LAC municipal waste arisings (tonnes)	951,423	969,157	985,994	977,817	990,233	998,985
Household waste arisings (tonnes)	839,569	860,786	875,965	874,257	879,163	880,842
Non household waste arisings (tonnes)	111,853	108,371	110,028	103,561	111,070	118,143
Proportion of total LAC arisings from household waste	88.2	88.8	88.8	89.4	88.8	88.2
<b>Household waste per capita and per household</b>						
Annual household waste per capita (kg)	456.2	464.9	470.4	467.3	467.2	465.2
Annual household waste per household (kg)	1,158	1,179	1,190	1,177	1,170	1,160
<b>Recycling</b>						
LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	41.4	41.8	44.0	47.6	49.8	51.1
Household waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	42.0	42.2	44.3	48.1	50.0	51.9
<b>Energy Recovery</b>						
LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery (%)	14.9	17.6	18.5	18.4	19.4	22.1
<b>Landfill</b>						
LAC municipal waste landfilled (%)	43.4	40.3	37.3	32.6	28.9	24.0
Household waste landfilled (%)	42.7	39.7	36.7	32.0	28.4	23.7
<b>Biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW)</b>						
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste landfilled (tonnes)	229,099	218,898	204,380	171,295	153,323	126,286
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste allocation (tonnes)	291,428	277,142	262,857	248,570	234,284	220,000
Proportion of allocation utilised (%)	78.6	79.0	77.8	68.9	65.4	57.4

Source: NIEA, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2019>

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.

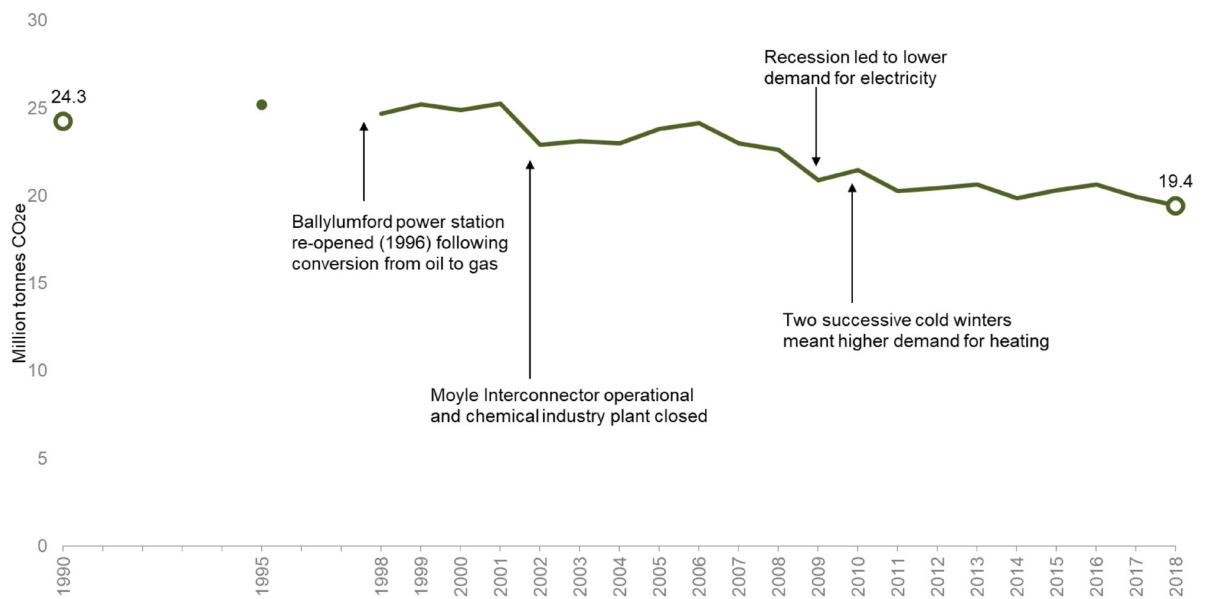
Under the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme regulations councils have been allocated a number of allowances (each allowance represents 1 tonne) for each year until 2019/20.

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, 1995, 1998-2018**



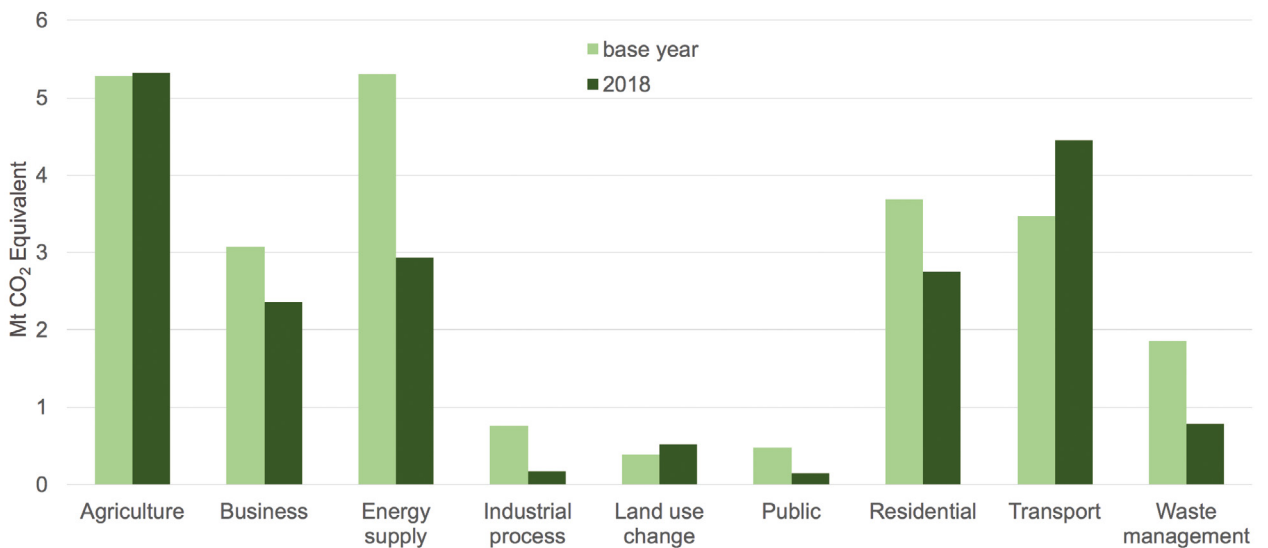
Source: Ricardo Energy & Environment.

[https://naei.beis.gov.uk/reports/reports?section\\_id=4](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 2018**



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)<sup>1,2,3</sup>, 2014 - 2019**

*Percentage of river water-bodies*

Classification	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
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 2019.

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), 2013 - 2018**

*Unit: Percentage of sites*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
0 to < 25 mg NO <sub>3</sub> /l	95.8	96.2	96.1	98.0	98.0	94.4
25 to < 40 mg NO <sub>3</sub> /l	2.1	1.9	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
40 to < 50 mg NO <sub>3</sub> /l	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.9
≥ 50 mg NO <sub>3</sub> /l	2.1	1.9	2.0	0.0	2.0	1.9

Source: NIEA

**Table 9.4 Source of substantiated water pollution incidents, 2013 - 2018**

*Substantiated incidents*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Farm	353	444	321	328	304	284
Industry	243	177	151	164	201	185
NI Water	214	161	137	136	131	129
Domestic	240	174	172	213	199	165
Transport	18	13	16	13	17	15
Other	242	269	181	173	176	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>924</b>

Source: NIEA

**Table 9.5 Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes, 2015 - 2020**

*thousand hectares*

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Environmental Farming Scheme <sup>1</sup>	-	-	3	20	38	48
Countryside Management Scheme	246	46	46	46	8	0
Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme	59	0	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 9.6 Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area, 2014 - 2019**

*thousand hectares*

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Northern Ireland	9	8	8	8	8	8
Wales	96	83	81	86	85	84
Scotland	136	126	122	123	92	92
England	308	304	297	300	289	301
UK	549	521	508	517	474	485

Source: DEFRA.

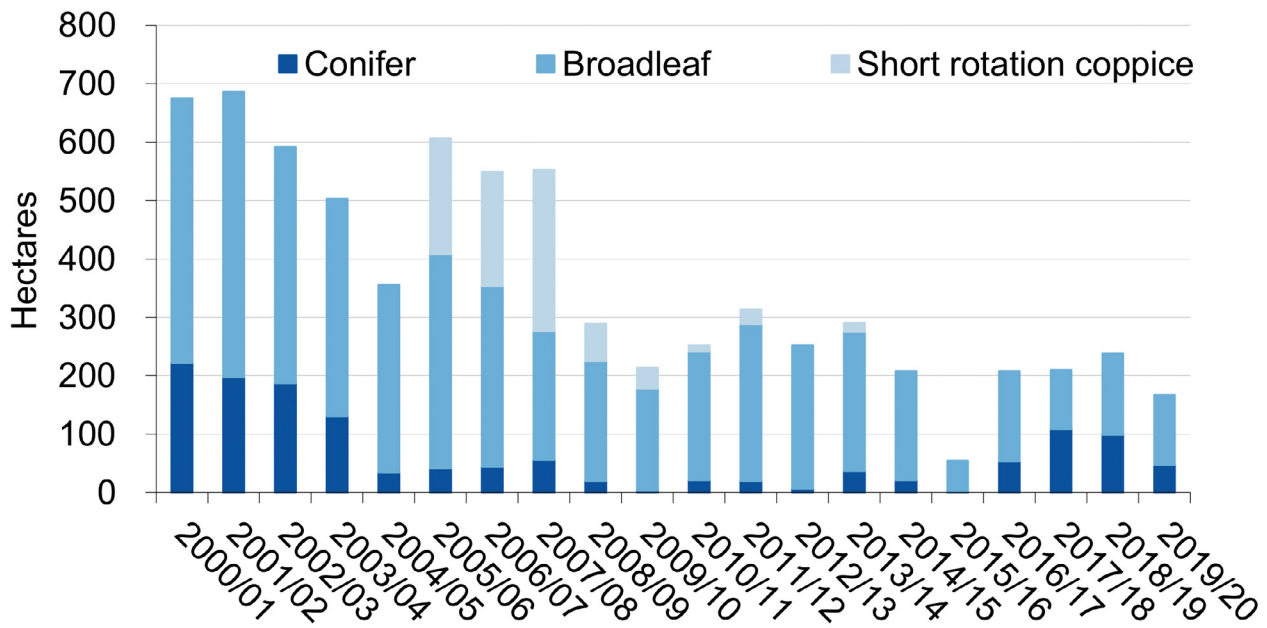
**Table 9.7 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 2005/06 - 2019/20**

	2005/06	2010/11	2015/16	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Forested area (000ha)</b>						
State	61	61	62	62	62	62
Private <sup>1</sup>	25	27	50	52	51	56
<b>All forested areas</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Timber production from state forests</b>						
Volume (000 cubic metres)	387	496	409	421	395	419
<b>Visitors to Forest Parks</b>						
Day Visitors (000's)	370	393	432	509	532	465
<b>Employees (number) Forest Service</b>	288	222	223	214	207	210

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 - 2019/20**



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 2020 would change by around +8 per cent if there were one per cent changes (in opposite directions) in gross output and gross input. The degree of sensitivity rises as the level of income falls.

**Provisional estimates**

‘Provisional’ figures for 2020 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2019 to January 2021, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2020). 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 2019 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2019 is now estimated at £517.1 million (previously £466.5 million) while total income from farming for 2019 is now estimated at £341.7 million (previously £289.8 million). A 30-year plus consistent series of the AAA is available on the DAERA website at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://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. In 2020 a revised methodology was used to create the census sample using Departmental Administration data. All farms were contacted and invited to participate in the survey. In response to COVID-19, the data collection for the 2020 Farm Census moved entirely online for the first time.

For farms that failed to submit an online response, estimates were completed for crop areas, livestock and labour figures. For the most part, these estimates were based on data collated from other administrative systems within the Department, or from the latest return from each farm, or in some cases farms with substantive numbers or areas of pigs, poultry or mushrooms were telephoned for information. The statistics are thus compiled from a survey of farm businesses augmented by administrative data. This has enabled detailed farm census statistics to be produced.

Further information on methodology and quality of the farm census data is available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/agricultural-census-northern-ireland-methodology-and-quality-report>

## 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 <b>one acre or more</b> . From this time onwards a distinction was made between <b>'main'</b> holdings which were included in the census and <b>'minor'</b> holdings 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 Sample survey completed similar to 2011-2012. Pig questions removed from paper form. Data on pigs sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.
- 2020 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was completed. The farm census population was sourced using available departmental administrative data and estimation processes were updated and improved. Survey was completed entirely online for the first time. Questionnaire was streamlined and shortened to reduce burden on farmers and encourage online completion.

**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<sup>5</sup>

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

Depending on the amount of detail required, farms can be classified into 1 of 62 types. Individual farms are allocated to a type category on the basis of the aggregate value of farm outputs. As it is not feasible to estimate the value of outputs on a farm-by-farm basis, Standard Outputs (SOs) are calculated as reference values for a variety of farm products. The SO of a specific product (crop or livestock) is the average monetary value (per ha or head) of agricultural output based on regional farm-gate prices over a 5 year period. The SO excludes direct payments and no costs are deducted. Once the numbers of livestock and hectares of crop for an individual farm have been multiplied by the relevant SOs, it is allocated to a type category depending on where most of the total SO comes from. To ensure a stable framework for comparison and analysis SO values, once calculated, are held constant for a number of years. The SO values in use at the moment cover the five year period centred on 2013.

<sup>5</sup>The EU typology has been updated from 2010 Standard Output coefficients to 2013 coefficients during 2020.

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

<b>Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Cereals</b>	Farms on which cereals and combinable crops account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.
<b>General cropping</b>	Farms which do not qualify as cereals farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in arable, including field scale vegetable, crops or in a mixture of arable and horticultural crops where arable crops account for more than one-third of the total SO and no other grouping accounts for more than one-third. In addition, farms with a substantial area of grassland but few livestock are also included within this farm type.
<b>Horticulture</b>	Farms with more than two-thirds of the total SO in horticultural crops (including specialist mushroom growers).
<b>Specialist pigs</b>	Farms of which pigs account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
<b>Specialist poultry</b>	Farms on which poultry account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
<b>Dairy</b>	Farms on which dairy cows account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.
<b>Grazing livestock (LFA)</b>	Farms wholly or mainly in the Less Favoured Area which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds their total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
<b>Grazing livestock (Lowland)</b>	Farms wholly or mainly outside the Less Favoured Area, which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds their total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
<b>Mixed</b>	Farms that have no dominant enterprise and do not fit into the above categories.
<b>Other types</b>	Farms that specialise in enterprises which do not fit the definitions of mainstream agricultural activities. For the most part this category is made up of specialist horse farms plus other farms that are unclassified.

### **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, 2019/20, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 325 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 carcass 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:

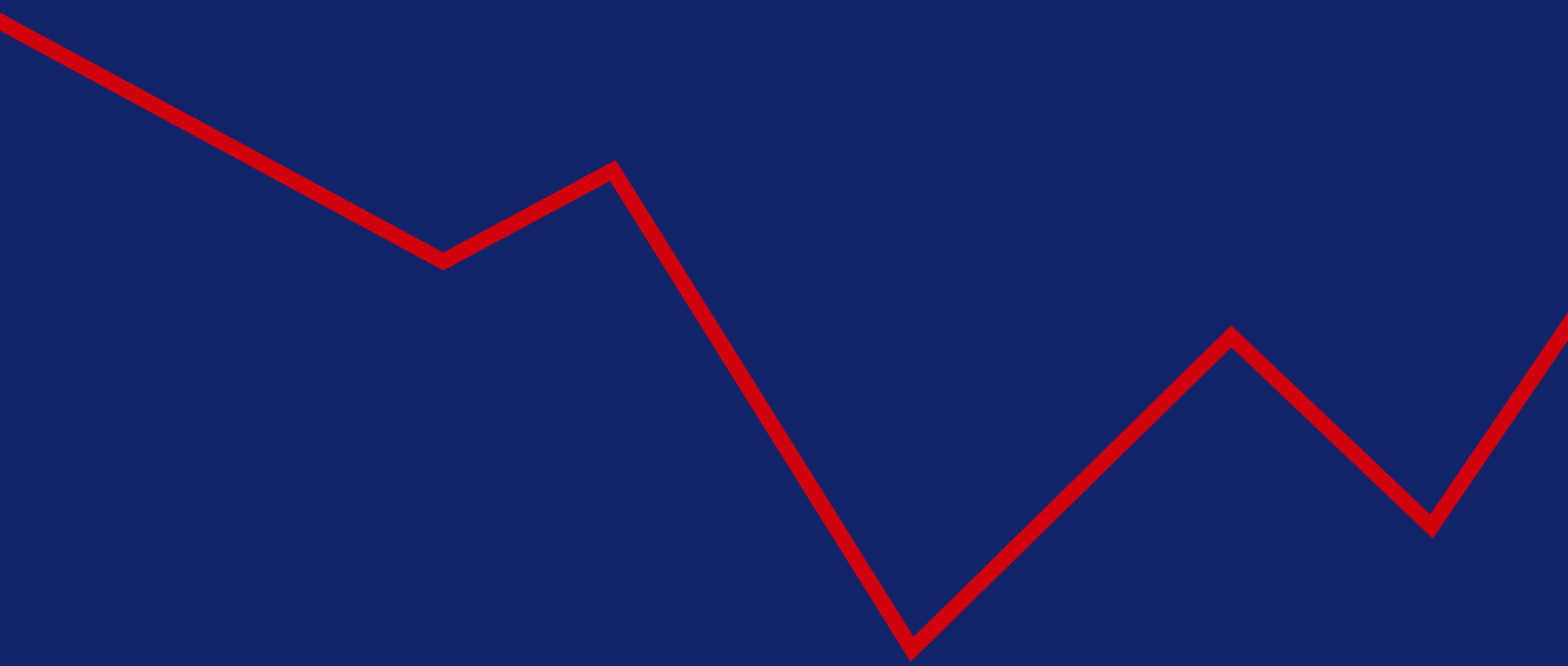
- Improved statistical output by creating infographics to accompany the report.
- Improved statistical output by creating tables to accompany the report.

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