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Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture

2021

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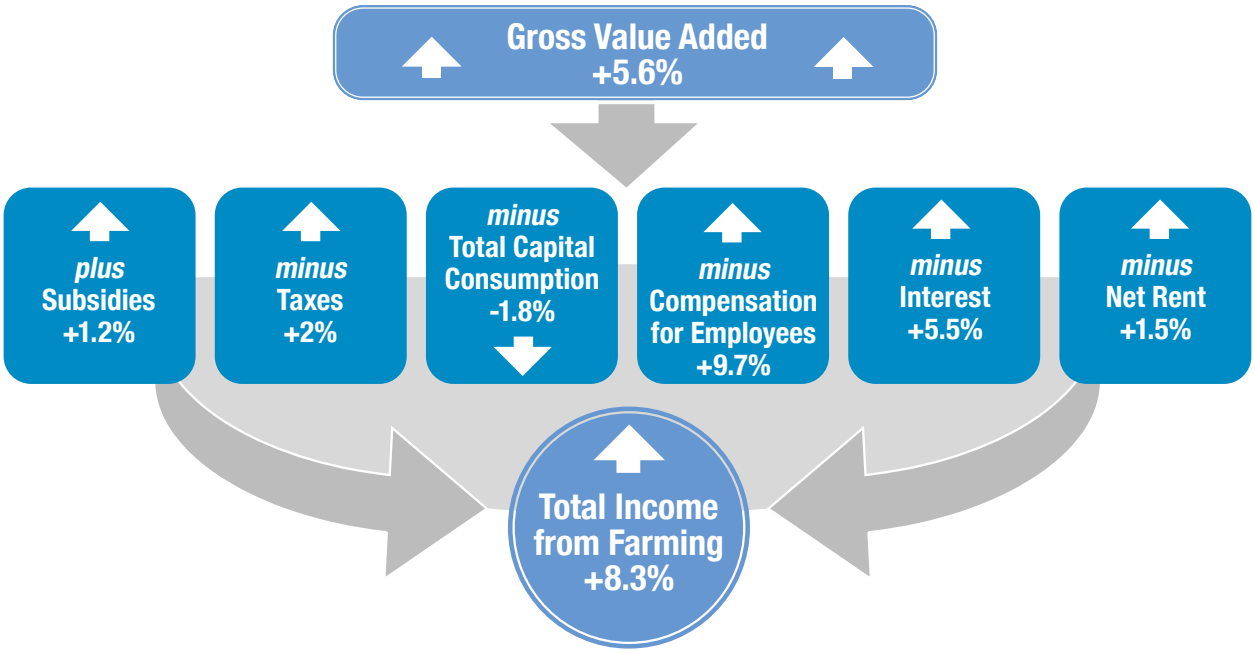
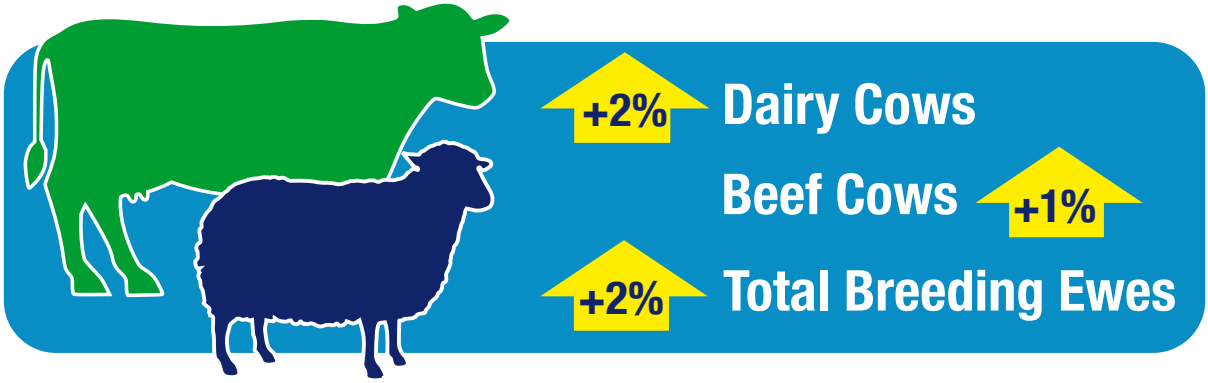
Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2021

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

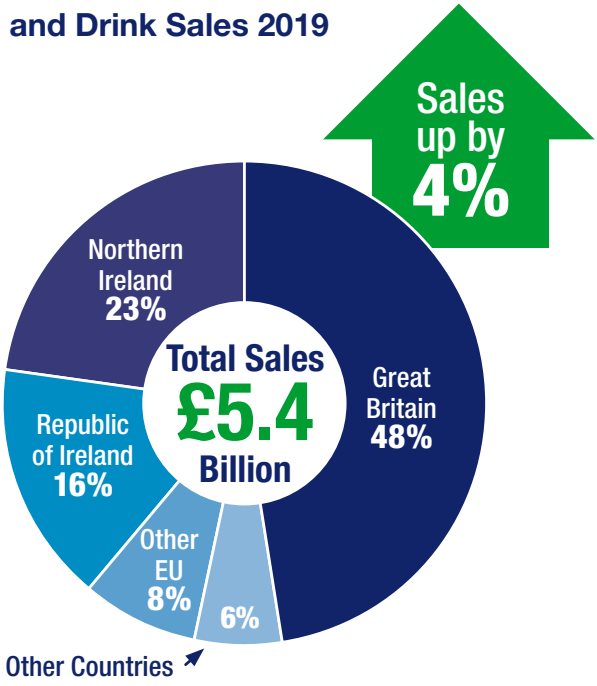
Agricultural Income changes 2020 & 2021



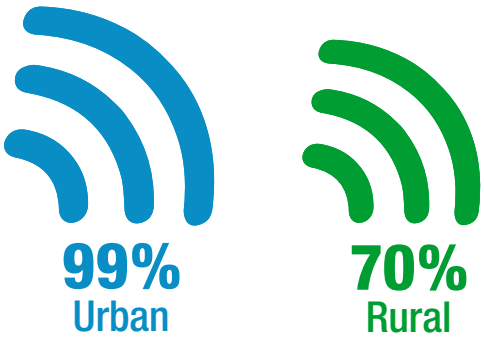
Cattle and Sheep Changes 2021



Northern Ireland Food and Drink Sales 2019



Coverage of Superfast Broadband 2021



Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2020

KEY FACTS 2021

Note: comparisons are with 2020 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms increased in 2021.
- **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 8.3 per cent (8.0 per cent in real terms) to £501 million, from £463 million in 2020.
- Following the increase in 2021, TIFF is now 54.2 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- This increase of TIFF in 2021 was mainly driven by higher product prices for most sectors in 2021.
- While product prices were generally higher in 2021, input costs also rose with marked increases in feed, fertiliser, electricity and fuel prices. These rising input costs offset the increased returns achieved through the higher product prices to a considerable degree.

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

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £2.43 billion for 2021, a 8.9 per cent increase from 2020. There were increases in the output of the milk, cattle, sheep, poultry, eggs and horticultural sectors, but these were partially offset by decreases in output from the pigs and horticultural sectors.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') increased by 10.3 per cent, to £1.72 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 56 per cent of the gross input figure, increased by 14.1 per cent in 2021 to £958 million. There was a 2.0 per cent increase in the volume of feedstuffs purchased and an 11.9 per cent increase in the average price paid per tonne. Total machinery expenses increased by 8.3 per cent to £152 million in 2021. This increase was mainly due to an 18.4 per cent increase in the cost of fuel & oils. Agricultural contracting costs also increased by 8.3 per cent to £95 million in 2021 whereas, total fertiliser and lime costs increased by 15.7% to £96 million in 2021.
- **Gross value added** increased in 2021 to £716 million; an increase of 5.6 per cent, while **net value added** - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies increased by 7.7 per cent, to £676 million.

Productivity (Table 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 1.4 per cent decline in **total factor productivity (TFP)** - the productivity of all resources in the industry. **Single factorial terms of trade**, which is a measure of farmers' economic welfare, decreased by 2.4 per cent.

Cash flow (Table 2.4)

- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have increased by 6.8 per cent, to £568 million. In this estimate, 'non-cash' items such as stock changes as well as capital formation and consumption are removed and account is taken of the level of investment and change in borrowings, thereby more realistically portraying cash available from farming.

Farm level incomes (Tables 5.3 - 5.4)

- **Farm Business Income (FBI)** is the headline measure of farm-level income used throughout the UK. Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income increased from £25,305 in 2019/20 to £34,402 in 2020/21, an increase of £9,097 per farm. It is expected to increase from £34,402 in 2020/21 to £39,741 in 2021/22, i.e. an increase of £5,339 or 16 per cent per farm.

Subsidies (Table 2.10)

- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers increased by 1.2 per cent or £3.7 million, to £322.2 million in 2021, mainly due to increases in Basic Payment Scheme payments.

  The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2021 was £309 million, a net increase of 4 per cent or £13.1 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2020. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 96 per cent of all direct payments.

Labour (Table 2.14)

- The **total agricultural labour force** in 2021 was 52,195 persons, a 1.7 per cent increase from 2020.

Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)

- The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2021 census was 1.68 million head, a 4.4 per cent increase from the previous year. At June 2021, there were 318,400 dairy cows an increase of 1.6 per cent from 2020 and 247,000 beef cows an increase of 0.9 per cent compared to 2020. In June 2021, the **sheep** breeding flock was 2.3 per cent higher than in 2020 at 968,300 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 2.03 million in 2021.

- At June 2021, the total number of **pigs** was 716,800, an increase of 5.2 per cent compared to 2020. There was a 9.2 per cent increase to 50,100 in sow numbers and a 4.9 per cent increase to 666,700 in the number of other pigs. **Broiler** numbers increased by 3.8 per cent to 15.9 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** decreased by 12.6 per cent to 4.3 million birds.

Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)

- There was a 1.9 per cent increase, to 43,700 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2020 and 2021. The total area of cereals was 30,400 hectares in June 2021, which was an increase of 3.4 per cent compared to 2020.

In 2021, the total area of potatoes grown decreased by 5.4 per cent to 3,500 hectares compared to the previous year.

Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)

- There were 26,077 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2021, a 0.7 per cent increase from 2020.

Food & Drinks Sector

- The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate an increase in gross turnover between 2016 and 2019. Employment has also grown over the period. Exports account for 29 per cent of sales by the food and drinks processing sector.

Rural Population

- In 2020, 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 2021 1,968 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 1,861 in 2020. 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 2021, the animal incidence rate for BVD remains at less than 1%.

  The Veterinary Service (DAERA) carried out 408 on-farm welfare inspections in 2021. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 79 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 100 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2021, 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 2021, some 62,000 hectares of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2020, agriculture was estimated to contribute 27 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. Total emissions from agriculture increased by 5.8 per cent between 1990 and 2020.

KEY FACTS COMPARISONS 2021

	NI	UK	ROI	EU27
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.6[P]	0.5[1]	0.9[1]	1.5[1]
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural, Forestry & Fishing employment ('000)	17	284	101	8,457[1]
As % of total civil employment	2.1	0.9	4.2	4.3[1]
LAND USE				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	1,036	17,138[P]	4,337	161,495[3]
As % of total area	76[P]	70[P]	62	39[3]
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	69.0	50.4[2]	75.0[7]	50.7[7]
FARMS				
Number ('000)	26	219[2]	135[1]	10,283[4]
Average agricultural area (ha)	39.7	80.7[2]	33.4[1]	15.2[4]
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	98	100[2]	90[1]	-
Beef cows	17	28[2]	15[1]	-
Sheep	207	431[2]	156[1]	-
Pigs	1,774	482[2]	1,106[1]	-
Laying hens	9,438	1,237[6]	558[1]	-
Broilers	53,693	53,762[5]	27,383[1]	-
Cereals (ha)	15.1	67.0[2]	28.3[1]	-
Potatoes (ha)	9.0	16.4[2]	8.2[4]	-

1. 2020, 2. 2019, 3. 2018, 4. 2016, 5. 2014, 6. 2013, 7. 2007, P = Provisional

Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland;

EU27 = Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

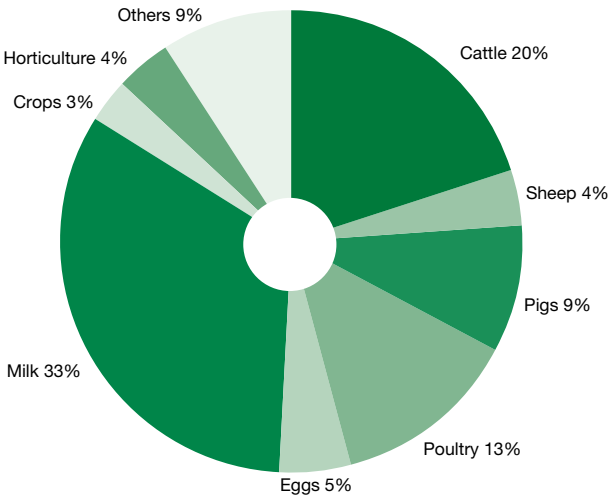
Note 2. Due to national accounting principles GVA figures do not include Single Farm Payment.

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

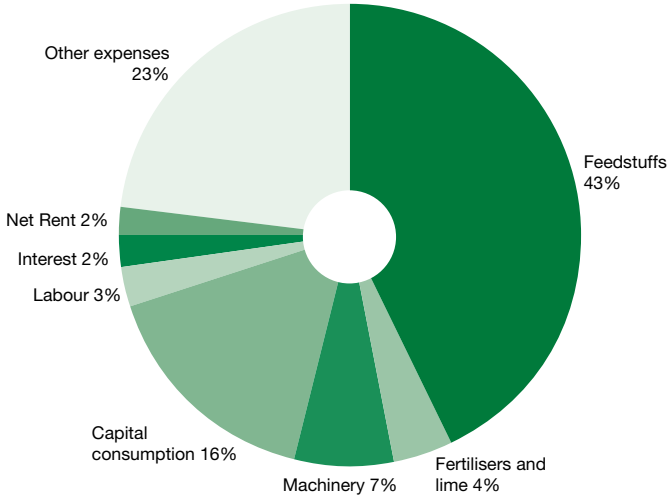
Note 4. The value given for LFA in the EU27 grouping excludes Croatia as it was not a member state in 2007.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

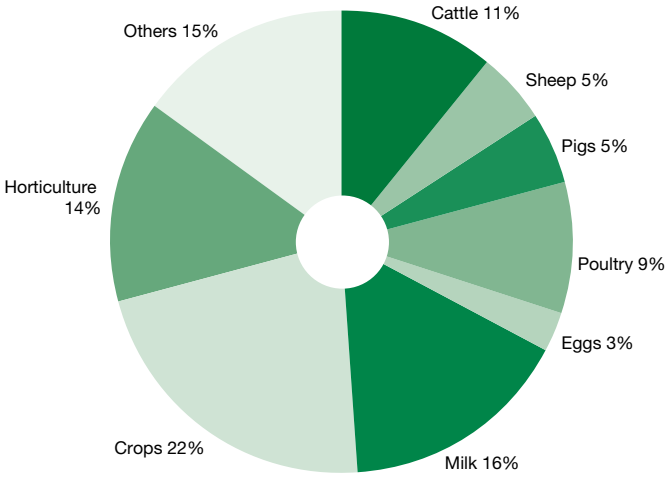
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2021



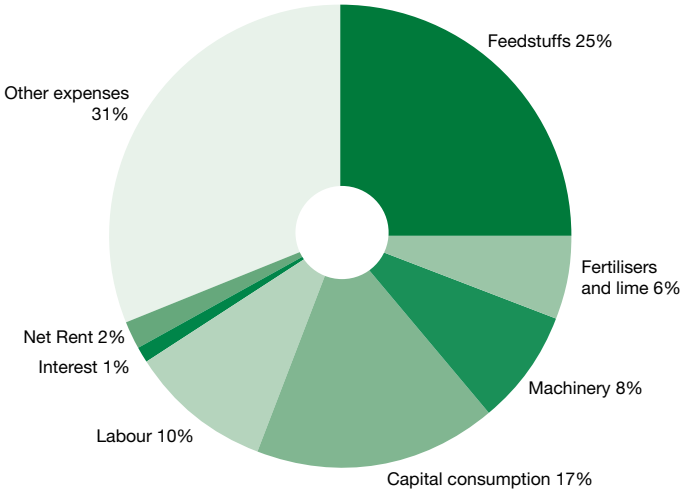
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2021



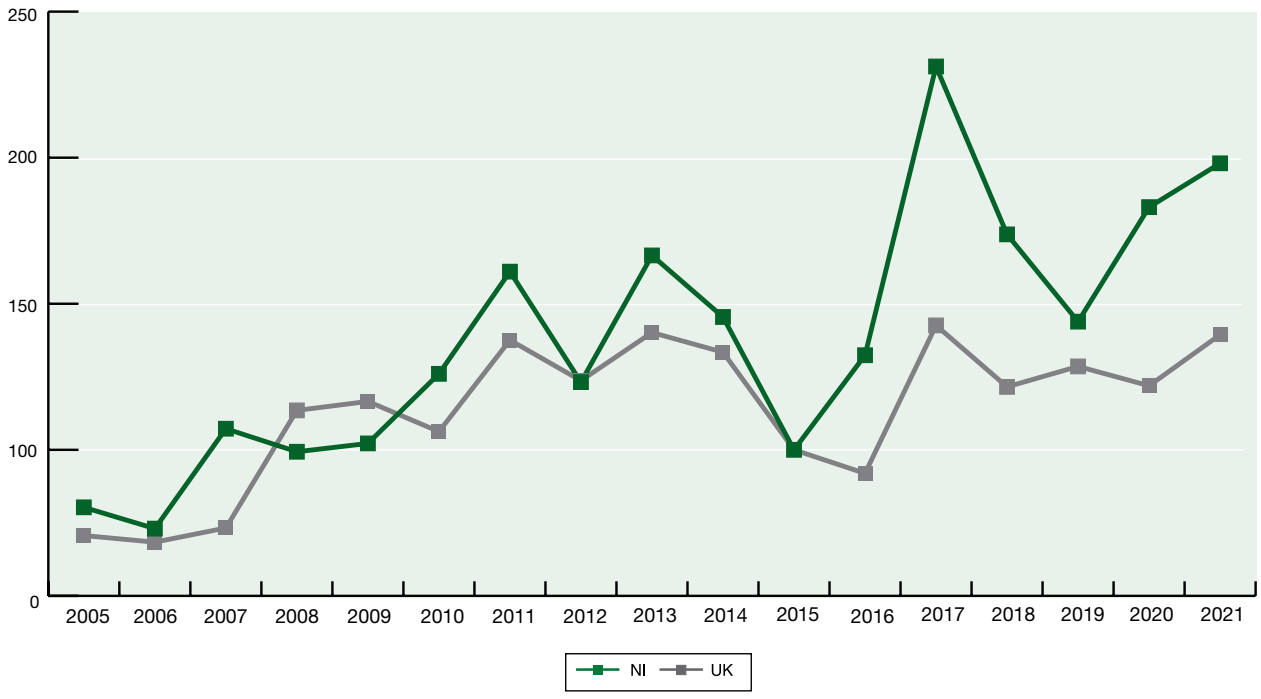
Gross ouput of UK agriculture, 2021



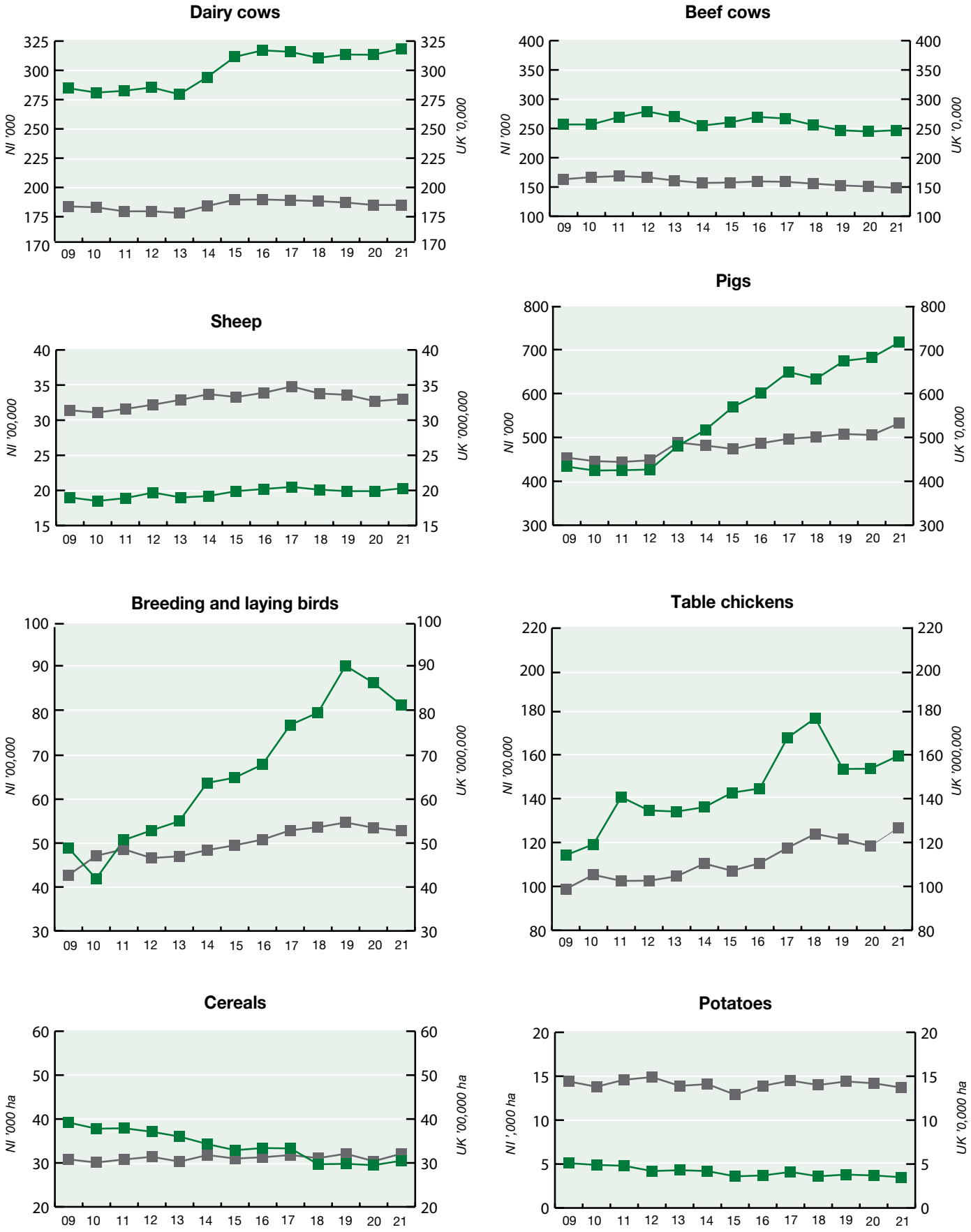
Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2021



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



TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

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

This is the 58th edition of the publication and in line with the guidance, DAERA provides a number of hardcopies to designated public libraries and the NI Assembly Government. Normally, after these requirements have been satisfied a small number of hardcopies become available and these are distributed free of charge on a first come first served basis while stocks last - please contact the Editor at the address below. As with all DAERA statistical publications, the *Statistical Review* is available in electronic format, free of charge, on the DAERA website, at www.daera-ni.gov.uk. Queries or comments on its contents can be made to the Editor, Paul Keatley, whose contact details are given below.

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2. THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY
A. AGGREGATE OUTPUT, INPUT AND INCOME

Methodological note

A series of the Aggregate Agricultural Account covering several decades is available on the DAERA website, at www.daera-ni.gov.uk. In the following commentary, comparisons are with 2020 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture increased in 2021. **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 8.3 per cent (8.0 per cent in real terms) from £463 million in 2020 to £501 million in 2021 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** in 2021, estimated at £2.43 billion, was 8.9 per cent higher compared with 2020. 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 'intermediate consumption')

The value of **gross input** also increased during 2021, to £1.72 billion; 10.3 per cent higher. This increase can mainly be attributed to a 14.1 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 5.6 per added cent to £716 million in 2021 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 7.7 per cent, to £676 million.

Net value added is the sum of all 'incomes' arising in the industry, namely the earnings of paid labour, interest on borrowed capital, rent on conacre land (paid to non-farming persons) and the residual 'total income from farming'. The cost of paid labour (also termed 'compensation of employees') increased by 9.7 per cent to £81 million in 2021 from £74 million in 2020. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.26) increased by 2.1 per cent to £50 million, whereas, conacre rent paid to non-farmers increased by 1.5 per cent to £58 million in 2021.

Total Income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF)** increased in 2021, by 8.3 per cent to £501 million, an increase of 8.0 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following this increase in 2021, TIFF was 54.2 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 2002 to 2021, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 4.8 per cent with the result that, in real terms, **TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour** in 2021 was 46.6 per cent above the 20-year average.

Cash flow

TIFF measures the return (on own labour, management input and own capital invested) to farmers, their spouses and other family workers, i.e. all those with an entrepreneurial interest in farming. It is calculated according to internationally agreed practices, which require the inclusion of 'book' items such as stock changes, capital formation and consumption (depreciation). TIFF may not, therefore, realistically portray the cash available from farming. In the estimates shown in Table 2.4, TIFF is adjusted to remove these non-cash items and to take account of the level of investment and change in borrowings (the derivation is given in the footnotes to Table 2.4). **Cash available to farm families from farming** was estimated to have increased by 6.8 per cent, to £568.1 million in 2021.

Subsidies

Total direct payments to farmers increased by 1.2 per cent or £3.7 million, to £322.2 million in 2021, mainly due to increases in Basic Payment Scheme payments.

The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2021 was £309 million, a net increase of 4 per cent or £13.1 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2020. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 96 per cent of all direct payments.

Investment

Gross annual capital investment increased by 1.7 per cent or £3.8 million to £231 million in 2021. Within this total there was a 2.9 per cent increase in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works down by 0.4 per cent.

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Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture[1] 2016-2021

£ million

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
OUTPUT[2]						
Livestock and livestock products[3]						
Finished cattle and calves[4]	432.9	464.4	459.5	431.0	453.4	484.7
Finished sheep and lambs[4]	75.0	73.1	80.3	65.7	84.2	95.2
Finished pigs	123.5	168.4	160.3	182.1	211.8	208.5
Poultry[5]	291.7	310.1	331.3	308.8	300.2	324.5
Eggs[6]	94.8	102.0	103.6	108.0	120.4	124.9
Milk	453.3	664.1	681.6	656.5	668.7	804.5
Minor products[7]	14.3	13.9	13.6	12.7	10.2	11.3
Total livestock and livestock products	**1,485.6**	**1,796.0**	**1,830.2**	**1,764.8**	**1,848.9**	**2,053.5**
Field crops						
Potatoes	20.3	23.0	21.0	23.3	21.2	20.9
Cereals	26.7	30.4	32.4	33.3	31.1	46.7
of which: barley	16.7	17.6	21.8	20.7	20.5	29.4
wheat	8.2	10.8	8.7	10.6	8.8	15.1
oats	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.2
Other crops[8]	10.5	11.4	13.0	14.1	10.2	15.9
Total field crops	**57.5**	**64.8**	**66.4**	**70.7**	**62.5**	**83.6**
Horticultural products						
Fruit	14.4	16.5	14.0	8.4	12.5	11.8
Vegetables	19.1	18.3	17.4	17.1	18.3	26.4
Mushrooms	52.2	54.3	53.6	54.6	46.0	30.0
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	20.9	25.3	24.8	20.8	18.6	18.4
Total horticultural products	**106.6**	**114.4**	**109.8**	**101.0**	**95.4**	**86.6**
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	89.0	81.2	75.4	89.6	125.6	99.3
Agricultural contract work[9]	74.5	79.8	93.0	90.6	87.3	94.5
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities[10]	13.4	13.5	13.9	13.8	13.7	13.9
A Gross output	**1,826.6**	**2,149.8**	**2,188.7**	**2,130.4**	**2,233.5**	**2,431.4**

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

Table 2.1 (continued)

£ million

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
A	**Gross output**	**1,826.6**	**2,149.8**	**2,188.7**	**2,130.4**	**2,233.5**	**2,431.4**
	INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
	Expenditure						
	Feedstuffs[11]	697.0	744.1	847.1	830.1	840.0	958.0
	Seeds[12]	10.1	11.0	10.7	10.5	10.6	10.5
	Marketing expenses[13]	38.3	38.2	37.7	37.1	38.0	39.6
	Fertilisers and lime	70.7	84.2	84.5	85.7	83.0	96.1
	Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	135.7	146.8	155.3	148.3	140.6	152.2
	Farm maintenance	40.6	47.8	50.8	43.3	52.0	53.4
	Veterinary expenses and medicines	63.1	66.4	66.0	63.2	67.2	69.7
	Other variable costs[14]	119.3	129.5	133.9	135.6	136.3	139.2
	Miscellaneous expenses[15]	81.0	84.2	87.5	85.6	86.2	88.9
	Agricultural contract work	74.5	79.8	93.0	90.6	87.3	94.5
	Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	FISIM[16]	8.9	10.4	10.1	12.8	14.2	13.3
B	**Gross input**	**1,339.4**	**1,442.5**	**1,576.5**	**1,542.7**	**1,555.5**	**1,715.3**
C	**Gross value added (A-B)**	**487.2**	**707.3**	**612.1**	**587.7**	**678.0**	**716.1**
	Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
	- livestock	82.1	70.0	70.5	89.9	103.9	93.5
	- plant, machinery and vehicles	126.9	130.7	140.5	143.8	144.6	148.2
	- buildings and works	113.4	113.3	113.8	113.9	110.8	110.9
D	**Total consumption of fixed capital**	**322.4**	**314.0**	**324.8**	**347.6**	**359.3**	**352.6**
	Other subsidies (not paid on products)[17]	305.7	313.7	301.0	289.4	318.5	322.2
	Other taxes (not levied on products)[18]	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.2
E	**Other subsidies (less taxes)**	**297.1**	**304.9**	**292.2**	**280.5**	**309.5**	**313.0**
F	**Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)**	**461.8**	**698.3**	**579.5**	**520.6**	**628.2**	**676.5**
G	Paid labour	68.1	74.8	76.4	78.0	73.8	81.0
H	Interest	39.4	35.1	38.7	39.1	34.3	36.2
I	Net rent[19]	54.4	54.8	55.6	58.0	57.2	58.0
J	**Total income from farming[20] (F-G-H-I)**	**300.0**	**533.5**	**408.9**	**345.4**	**462.9**	**501.3**

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 2016 - 2021

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Index at current prices						
Net value added[1]	122.6	185.3	153.8	138.2	166.7	179.5
Total income from farming[1]	134.9	239.9	183.9	155.3	208.2	225.4
Index in real terms[2]						
Net value added	120.3	178.6	145.4	128.0	146.6	157.8
Total income from farming	132.4	231.2	173.7	143.9	183.1	198.1

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

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices 2016 - 2021

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Gross output volume[1]	101.8	104.1	105.4	105.6	106.7	107.2
Gross input volume[1]	98.6	104.5	105.6	105.3	102.9	104.3
Gross value added volume[1]	105.6	103.7	105.3	106.0	111.2	110.6
Net value added volume[1]	108.8	105.7	109.0	110.0	117.5	117.6
Total factor productivity[2]	103.3	101.9	102.6	102.8	104.7	103.2
Labour productivity[3]	111.0	104.6	106.8	107.4	110.2	111.7
Single factorial terms of trade[4]	105.9	126.2	117.7	112.9	117.7	114.9

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 2016 - 2021

£ million

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Total income from farming	**300.0**	**533.5**	**408.9**	**345.4**	**462.9**	**501.3**
Less:						
output stock change	+18.8	+7.2	-8.8	-10.8	+18.6	+2.7
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	89.0	81.2	75.4	89.6	125.6	99.3
capital investment[1]	183.0	229.2	263.0	188.1	213.4	246.6
Plus:						
input stock change	+1.3	-0.8	-0.7	0.0	+1.2	+0.7
capital consumption	322.4	314.0	324.8	347.6	359.3	352.6
capital grants paid in year[2]	0.0	7.1	18.6	18.7	16.4	15.5
change in borrowings	+24.6	-42.3	-4.9	+36.5	+49.6	+46.5
Cash available to farm families from farming	**357.6**	**493.8**	**417.1**	**481.3**	**531.8**	**568.1**

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

Table 2.5 Aggregate gross margin estimates for the main agricultural sectors

2020

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2]				Sector gross margins[3]	
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	768.5	264.2	26.0	8.8	299.0	469.4	45.5%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	400.6	130.7	39.3	24.2	194.2	206.4	20.0%
Sheep and wool	84.4	18.8	13.7	4.9	37.4	47.0	4.6%
Total grazing livestock	**1,253.5**	**413.7**	**79.0**	**37.9**	**530.7**	**722.8**	**70.0%**
Pigs	211.8	114.4	-	4.7	119.1	92.7	9.0%
Poultry & Eggs	420.3	312.0	-	13.6	325.6	94.7	9.2%
Total intensive livestock	**632.1**	**426.4**	**-**	**18.3**	**444.7**	**187.4**	**18.2%**
Cereals	41.4	-	11.2	-	11.3	30.1	2.9%
Potatoes	21.2	-	4.7	-	4.7	16.5	1.6%
Horticulture[4]	95.4	-	17.3	8.9	26.2	69.2	6.7%
Total field crops	**158.0**	**-**	**33.2**	**9.0**	**42.2**	**115.9**	**11.2%**
Other items	12.6	4.8	1.3	0.1	6.1	6.5	0.6%
Total	**2,056.2**	**844.9**	**113.5**	**65.2**	**1,023.6**	**1,032.6**	**100.0%**

2021 (Provisional)

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2]				Sector gross margins[3]	
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	903.3	312.7	30.0	10.3	353.1	550.2	50.1%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	417.8	142.0	46.5	27.3	215.8	202.0	18.4%
Sheep and wool	95.6	21.2	15.7	5.7	42.6	53.0	4.8%
Total grazing livestock	**1,416.6**	**476.0**	**92.2**	**43.3**	**611.4**	**805.2**	**73.3%**
Pigs	208.5	134.2	-	4.7	138.9	69.6	6.3%
Poultry & Eggs	449.4	349.9	-	14.9	364.8	84.6	7.7%
Total intensive livestock	**657.9**	**484.0**	**-**	**19.7**	**503.7**	**154.2**	**14.0%**
Cereals	62.6	-	11.4	-	11.4	51.2	4.7%
Potatoes	20.9	-	4.5	-	4.5	16.4	1.5%
Horticulture[4]	86.6	-	13.9	9.6	23.5	63.1	5.7%
Total field crops	**170.1**	**-**	**29.8**	**9.6**	**39.4**	**130.7**	**11.9%**
Other items	13.9	4.7	1.3	0.1	6.1	7.8	0.7%
Total	**2,258.6**	**964.7**	**123.2**	**72.8**	**1,160.7**	**1,097.9**	**100.0%**

1. The items making up total gross output (as shown in Table 2.1) have been regrouped into the above enterprises and outputs have been adjusted for changes in volume. In the case for breeding livestock stock appreciation has been excluded.

2. Estimates of the costs of the inputs of seed, fertiliser, spray, purchased feedstuffs and home grown cereals have been allocated amongst the various enterprises on the basis of results obtained from analysis of the Farm Business Survey. Other variable costs have been allocated as appropriate. No attempt has been made to allocate fuel, machinery or other overhead expenses.

3. 'Sector gross margins' represent the value of products remaining after deducting most of the variable costs and give a useful measure of the contribution of each enterprise to the earnings of the agricultural industry.

4. Horticulture comprises fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and hardy nursery stock.

Table 2.6 Quantities of the main products in output[1] 2016 - 2021

	Units of quantity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	145,830	145,216	148,732	149,464	150,109	152,051
Sheep and lambs	,,	21,153	21,317	20,685	20,274	20,926	19,923
Pigs[2]	,,	109,707	112,031	116,040	129,541	139,424	144,136
Cattle and calves	'000 head	467	472	475	462	451	452
Sheep and lambs	,,	971	982	949	901	951	901
Pigs[2]	,,	1,252	1,256	1,265	1,401	1,480	1,536
Poultry[3]	'000 tonnes lwt	299	317	330	302	310	318
Eggs[4]	m. doz	126	140	149	156	163	168
Milk[5]	m. litres	2,200	2,286	2,347	2,391	2,447	2,532
Field crops							
Wheat	'000 tonnes	63.2	65.0	52.1	59.0	51.6	59.7
Barley	,,	124.9	117.9	111.1	126.4	122.0	132.6
Oats	,,	14.7	9.4	13.5	9.6	12.0	11.2
Potatoes	,,	143.9	155.1	126.5	161.8	134.3	131.7
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	'000 tonnes	44.9	55.6	57.7	53.8	40.6	41.9
Vegetables	,,	58.0	57.4	49.6	49.9	54.8	69.3
Mushrooms	,,	35.7	35.5	34.1	34.3	28.6	18.6

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[1] of agricultural products 2016 - 2021

£ per unit

	Units	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	1,082	1,162	1,174	1,119	1,196	1,332
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	3.19	3.48	3.49	3.26	3.46	3.83
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	305	303	310	334	449	649
Culled cows and bulls	head	670	747	769	708	779	861
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	2.16	2.47	2.51	2.25	2.43	2.70
Store cattle exported	head	749	801	806	782	816	910
Finished sheep and lambs	head	83.00	86.12	92.09	85.71	98.30	116.98
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.88	3.99	4.26	3.86	4.52	5.35
Finished clean pigs	head	102.91	134.79	131.45	135.20	147.85	139.76
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.18	1.52	1.44	1.47	1.58	1.50
Milk[2]	litre	0.206	0.291	0.290	0.275	0.273	0.318
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.751	0.730	0.694	0.694	0.739	0.744
Broilers	kg lwt	0.867	0.900	0.925	0.922	0.876	0.947
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop[3]	tonne	153	147	169	173	164	171
Seed	tonne	171	173	166	195	181	180
Barley	tonne	134	154	186	163	168	222
Wheat	tonne	137	161	182	174	191	237
Oats	tonne	149	158	190	183	181	204
Mushrooms	tonne	1,460	1,530	1,570	1,590	1,610	1,610
Apples	tonne	258	263	203	199	230	245

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

Table 2.8 Indices of producer prices[1] of agricultural output 2016 - 2021

Indices: 2015 = 100

	Weights[2]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional
Finished steers and heifers	206	98	107	107	100	106	117
Culled cows and bulls	41	101	116	118	105	114	126
Store cattle exported	6	94	101	101	98	103	114
Finished sheep and lambs	36	114	117	125	113	133	157
Finished clean pigs	74	100	128	121	124	133	126
Milk	298	97	137	137	130	129	150
Eggs for consumption	55	100	97	92	92	98	99
Broilers	135	101	105	108	108	102	111
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	12	119	114	132	136	128	133
Seed	1	112	113	109	128	118	118
Barley	12	102	118	142	125	129	170
Wheat	6	101	118	134	128	140	174
Mushrooms	42	98	102	105	106	108	108
Apples	7	95	97	75	73	85	90
Total products index[2]	931	99	118	119	114	117	129
Inputs index[3]	1,000	97	95	104	104	104	116

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

Table 2.9 Average market prices of breeding and store livestock[1] 2016 - 2021

£ per head

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,000	1,279	1,387	1,494	1,598	1,643
Dairy cows in calf	712	1,078	961	1,072	1,422	1,383
Dairy springing heifers	1,168	1,055	1,224	1,267	1,457	1,374
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	1,119	1,212	1,229	1,233	1,401	1,425
Beef cows in calf	902	924	938	1,068	1,106	1,136
Beef springing heifers	1,084	1,136	1,124	1,321	1,440	1,269
Store cattle						
50-300 kg steers	589	638	646	641	698	791
300-400 kg steers	701	757	757	745	783	863
400-500 kg steers	819	881	890	854	906	984
Over 500 kg steers	1,010	1,101	1,110	1,048	1,134	1,225
150-300 kg heifers	546	571	570	591	672	718
300-400 kg heifers	664	699	690	694	739	845
400-500 kg heifers	804	855	854	822	876	958
Over 500 kg heifers	980	1,058	1,068	1,024	1,100	1,202
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	421	469	415	409	423	431
Over 200 kg steers	677	729	749	742	774	815
Under 200 kg heifers	408	413	391	396	463	447
Over 200 kg heifers	619	659	663	680	721	761
Dropped calves						
For rearing	190	210	203	208	255	251
Cull cows	611	701	716	694	772	848
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	119.96	101.37	96.14	112.84	125.36	105.08
Blackface Cross	123.43	133.41	123.39	123.81	152.40	162.54
Other breeds	112.52	122.92	123.57	127.09	151.10	166.46
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	80.18	83.21	87.35	79.78	95.77	107.24
Blackface Cross	85.49	86.61	87.06	85.44	107.14	113.50
Other breeds	80.60	81.94	85.55	84.09	102.96	114.33
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	98.81	98.94	90.21	101.95	119.52	122.86
Blackface Cross	87.82	108.26	92.68	127.72	162.53	181.37
Other breeds	137.08	150.84	154.01	161.43	168.73	212.96
Cull ewes						
Blackface	39.51	41.88	42.74	43.49	55.56	54.31
Blackface Cross	51.02	53.03	55.68	61.64	71.09	83.36
Other breeds	62.22	63.61	66.89	69.51	78.36	95.16
Cull rams	65.83	63.26	68.19	69.41	82.59	103.30
Store lambs	59.01	60.59	63.54	61.07	73.49	82.91

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

Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1,2] 2016 - 2021

£ *million*[3]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS[4]						
Single farm payment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basic Payment Scheme	186.3	195.4	194.0	192.4	201.1	306.9
Greening Payment	83.3	87.8	87.7	87.7	87.9	0.0
Young Farmers Payment	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.8	3.9	2.4
Financial Discipline Deduction	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	-	-
Financial Discipline Reimbursement	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	0.0
Penalties	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Other direct payments						
EU Support Package[7]	1.8	4.1	-	-	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital) (Or EFS from 2018)	3.7	-	2.9	3.6	4.1	4.5
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC[5] from 2015)	18.6	18.9	8.8	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	7.4	2.6	2.8	0.8	-	-
New Entrants Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others[6]	-	-	-	-	19.0	9.2
Total other direct payments	**31.6**	**25.6**	**14.4**	**4.4**	**23.1**	**13.8**
Total direct payments	**305.7**	**313.7**	**301.0**	**289.4**	**318.5**	**322.2**

1. Table 2.1
2. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).
3. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.
4. Excludes expenditure on market regulation (such as intervention purchases and export refunds) by the UK Rural Payments Agency.
5. LFA allowance became the Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015.
6. Includes Organic Farming Scheme and other miscellaneous payments.
7. Includes Dairy Support Package, EU Milk Production Reduction Scheme, Small Dairy Farmers, Pig Industry competitiveness, Soil sampling and analysis etc.

Table 2.11 Capital grants and other direct payments not included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1] 2016 - 2021

£ million[2]

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) - Capital	-	-	9.7	13.6	12.0	3.4
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Business Improvement Scheme	-	7.1	8.8	5.1	4.4	12.1
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital grants[4]	**-**	**7.1**	**18.6**	**18.7**	**16.4**	**15.5**
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation[3]	16.4	23.7	24.1	20.1	21.4	24.0
Snow Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments[4]	**16.4**	**23.7**	**24.1**	**20.1**	**21.4**	**24.0**

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

Table 2.12 Estimated gross annual capital investment in fixed assets and equipment[1] 2016 - 2021

£ million

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Total buildings and works[2]	**63.6**	**83.4**	**97.2**	**106.4**	**81.4**	**81.1**
Plant and machinery	95.0	133.5	153.5	109.6	130.6	134.2
Vehicles[2,3]	14.9	12.0	18.9	14.4	15.2	15.8
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	**110.0**	**145.5**	**172.4**	**124.0**	**145.9**	**150.1**
Total investment	**173.5**	**228.9**	**269.5**	**230.4**	**227.3**	**231.1**

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 quality statistics (Annual weighted aritmetic average) 2016-2021

	Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Indicator							
Total Bacterial Count	000' per ml	17	17	19	17	20	21
Somatic Cell Count	000' per ml	195	196	196	197	201	205
Butterfat Content	%	4.00	4.01	4.03	4.04	4.06	4.10
Protein Content	%	3.23	3.26	3.28	3.29	3.30	3.30
Lactose Content	%	4.67	4.68	4.68	4.67	4.72	4.70

Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms 2016 - 2021

number of persons

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE[1,2]						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	18,030	18,585	18,814	18,895	20,253	20,294
Part time	18,184	18,210	18,413	18,618	19,065	20,073
Total	**36,214**	**36,795**	**37,227**	**37,513**	**39,318**	**40,367**
Other workers						
Full time	3,209	3,441	3,411	3,430	3,058	2,902
Part time	4,215	4,319	4,340	4,453	3,829	4,018
Casual/seasonal	4,074	4,149	4,270	4,027	5,096	4,908
Total other workers	**11,498**	**11,909**	**12,021**	**11,910**	**11,983**	**11,828**
Total agricultural labour force	**47,712**	**48,704**	**49,248**	**49,423**	**51,301**	**52,195**
Annual Work Units (AWUs)[3]	**27,873**	**28,708**	**28,993**	**29,116**	**30,321**	**29,920**

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[1,2] 2016 - 2021

number of persons

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MANPOWER STATISTICS[1]						
Self-employed						
Male	15,519	16,033	16,218	16,204	17,335	17,686
Female	714	727	746	750	2,918	2,608
Total	**16,233**	**16,760**	**16,964**	**16,954**	**20,253**	**20,294**
Employees						
Male	9,902	10,164	10,143	9,972	9,716	9,566
Female	1,596	1,745	1,878	1,938	2,267	2,262
Total	**11,498**	**11,909**	**12,021**	**11,910**	**11,983**	**11,828**
Total agricultural manpower	**27,731**	**28,669**	**28,985**	**28,864**	**32,236**	**32,122**

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 2021 increased by 0.6 per cent to 333,649 head. The number of steers were 1.4 per cent higher at 165,864 head, heifers decreased by 1.7 per cent to 131,377 head and the number of young bulls increased by 5.6 per cent to 36,408. As a result the proportion of steers in the slaughter mix increased from 49.3 per cent in 2020 to 49.7 per cent in 2021, while the proportion of heifers decreased from 40.3 per cent in 2020 to 39.4 per cent in 2021. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered increased from 10.4 per cent in 2020 to 10.9 per cent in 2021.

The average dressed carcase weights increased by 0.5 per cent in 2021 to 347.5 kg. With the increase in cattle marketed the volume of clean beef produced increased by 1.1 per cent to 115,940 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 10.8 per cent higher at £3.83 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 12.0 per cent to £444 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls increased by 2.2 per cent to 107,302 head in 2021. Average carcase weights for these animals was 0.6 per cent lower at 318 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls increased by 11.1 per cent to £2.70 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, increased 12.9 per cent to £92.3 million in 2021.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2021 increased by 8.9 per cent to 5,927 head. An estimated 1543 calves were exported in 2021, which was a decrease of 76.1 per cent compared with 2020 levels. The average calf price was 44.7 per cent higher at £649 per head and the revenue generated was £4.9 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland increased by 48 per cent to 3,775 head in 2021. When combined with an 11.6 per cent increase in the average producer price paid to £910 per head, this generated revenues of £3.4 million; an increase of 65.2 per cent from 2020 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 74.9 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2021 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) increased by 10.9 per cent to £485 million.

Milk

The annual average dairy cow population in 2021 was 1.0 per cent higher than 2020 at 318,200 head. Average gross milk yield per cow increased from 7,861 litres in 2020 to 8,066 litres in 2021; a 2.6 per cent increase.

The higher dairy cow population and milk yields contributed to a 3.5 per cent increase in total milk output for 2021 in Northern

Ireland; to 2.5 billion litres. The average gross milk price for 2021 (before deducting transport costs) was 31.77 pence per litre, a 16.3 per cent increase.

Overall, the value of output of milk increased by 20.3 per cent in 2021, to £804 million.

Sheep and lambs

Marketing's of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 7.3 per cent to 709,659 head in 2021, whereas, the average dressed carcase weight increased by 0.5 per cent in 2021 to 21.9 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2021 decreased by 6.8 per cent to 15,517 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices increased by 18.4 per cent to 535 pence per kg deadweight in 2021. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs increased by 10.3 per cent to £83 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams increased by 7.1 per cent to 135,732 head in 2021. There was a 12.4 per cent increase in the price received for these animals (£79 per head). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams increasing to £10.7 million; an increase of 20.4 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 13.1 per cent, to £95 million in 2021.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2021 was 3.8 per cent higher at 1.52 million head. Average dressed carcase weights were 0.4 per cent lower at 93.3kg in 2021. When combined these changes resulted in a 3.4 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 141,763 tonnes. Pig producer prices decreased by 5.1 per cent to 150 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 1.9 per cent lower at £212 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were up by 2.2 per cent in 2021 at 16,855 head. The estimated market returns for these animals was £2.4 million in 2021.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector decreased by 1.6 per cent to £209 million (this figure includes deductions for the value of imported pigs and additions for the value of breeding and store pig exports).

Poultry

In 2021, the total volume of poultry meat production was 318,003 tonnes liveweight, an increase of 2.6 per cent from 2020 levels. Broiler production was 3.4 per cent higher at 300,997 tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were higher than 2020 levels by 8.1 per cent at 95 pence per kg. Overall, as a result of these changes the market value of broilers in 2021 was 11.9 per cent

higher at £285 million. Broilers accounted for 88 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production decreased in 2021, by 20.1 per cent, to 2,461 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2021 was £325 million; 8.1 per cent higher than 2020.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 142 million dozen eggs in 2021. This was a decrease of 6.9 per cent on 2020 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 73.5 per cent in 2020 to 77.6 per cent in 2021 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 22.4 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs increased, by 4.5 per cent, to 79 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs increased by 3.7 per cent to £125 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

The area of potatoes planted in 2021 decreased by 6.7 per cent to 3,468 hectares. The average yield increased, by 1.4 per cent, to 40 tonnes per hectare. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2021 is estimated to be 5.3 per cent lower at 138,443 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2021 were 2 per cent lower at 109,004 tonnes.

In 2021, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) decreased by 2 per cent to 11,039 tonnes. In total for 2021, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 131,723 tonnes. This was a decrease of 2 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £173 per tonne in 2021, an increase of 5 per cent from 2020 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was lower than 2020 at £180 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output fell in 2021, by 1.5 per cent, to just under £21 million.

Cereals

The area of spring barley sown in 2021 was 2.7 per cent higher than 2020 levels at 12,898 hectares, while recorded yields were up by 6.3 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley increased by 9.1 per cent. The area of winter barley sown, in 2021, was up by 2.2 per cent to 7,944 hectares, while yields were up by 14.5 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley increasing by 17.0 per cent. Overall, total barley production was 12.4 per cent higher in 2021 at 137,198 tonnes, with the total area of barley grown up 2.5 per cent at 20,843 hectares.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2021 was 8.7 per cent higher at 132,637 tonnes. The average producer price of barley increased, by 32.3 per cent, to £222 per tonne. These changes

resulted in the value of barley output increasing by 43.9 per cent to £29.4 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2021 was 8.5 per cent higher at 7,734 hectares. This coupled with a 26.8 per cent increase in yields resulted in production being up by 37.5 per cent to 63,609 tonnes.

In 2021, the volume of wheat sold or used on-farm was 15.8 per cent higher at 59,674 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat increased by 24.2 per cent to £237 per tonne. These changes plus an increase in stocks contributed to the value of wheat output increasing by 71.7 per cent to £15.1 million.

The area of oats grown in 2021 was 0.6 per cent lower at 1,874 hectares with yields increasing by 7.3 per cent. This resulted in oats production increasing by 7.0 per cent to 10,930 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 12.9 per cent higher at £204 per tonne. The changes in price and production plus stock changes resulted in the value of oat output increasing by 22.3 per cent to £2.2 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2021 decreased by 9.3 per cent to £87 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) decreased by 6 per cent to £11.8 million. Apple production increased by 3.2 per cent to 41,574 tonnes while prices increased by 6.2 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples increased by 9.6 per cent. The value of output from mushrooms decreased by 34.9 per cent to £30 million as a result of a 34.9 per cent decrease in production and price remaining constant from 2020. Receipts from the sale of vegetables increased, by 44.0 per cent, to £26.4 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock fell by 1.0 per cent to £18.4 million.

Feedstuffs

The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2021 was 3.7 per cent higher than the 2021 levels at 2.54 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds increased by 2.2 per cent with dairy compounds purchased increasing by 2.3 per cent and beef cattle compounds increasing by 3.8 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 4.1 per cent higher. Total purchases of pig compounds rose in 2021 by 4.1 per cent while poultry compounds increased by 6.0 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) fell by 8.8 per cent in 2021 to 336,593 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 2.0 per cent higher in 2021 at 2.94 million tonnes. The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 11.9 per cent, to £325 per tonne in 2021. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2021 increased, by 14.1 per cent, to £958 million.

Fertilisers and lime

The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2021 decreased by 8.2 per cent to 305,531 tonnes while the average price increased by 25.8 per cent to £289 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 increased, by 15.5 per cent, to £88 million.

Total expenditure on lime increased by 17.8 per cent when compared to 2020 levels to £8 million. The quantity purchased increased by 8.2 per cent to 212,343 tonnes while the price paid increased by 8.9 per cent

Marketing expenses

In 2021 total marketing expenses were 4.0 per cent higher than 2020 levels at £39.5 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £24.3 million, while sheep expenses were £3.9 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £6.1 million, while those for pigs were £5.2 million.

Machinery expenses

Machinery expenses in 2021 increased, by 8.3 per cent, to £152.2 million. This increase was driven by an 18.4 per cent increase in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global price commodity movements.

Interest

Total farm borrowings in 2021 increased by 4.0 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have decreased from 4.22 per cent in 2020 to 4.10 per cent in 2021. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) increased by 2.1 per cent in 2021 to £49.5 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 2021, the volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 3.8 per cent higher, at 8.15 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 9.7 per cent higher than 2020 at £81.0 million.

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Table 2.16 Output of cattle and calves 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	316.2	328.1	334.4	334.3	331.7	333.6
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	318.5	347.7	349.1	326.1	346.1	383.3
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	339.8	334.0	336.3	343.3	345.7	347.5
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	107.4	109.6	112.5	114.7	114.7	115.9
Value of output (£m)	342.2	381.1	392.6	374.2	396.8	444.4
Cows and bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	110.1	106.3	109.2	102.5	105.0	107.3
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	215.8	246.7	251.4	224.8	243.2	270.2
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	310.5	302.8	305.9	314.8	320.4	318.5
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	34.2	32.2	33.4	32.3	33.6	34.2
Value of output (£m)	73.8	79.4	84.0	72.5	81.8	92.3
Calves						
Sales ('000 head)	31.6	29.9	26.7	22.0	11.9	7.5
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	305	303	310	334	449	649
Value of output (£m)	9.6	9.1	8.3	7.4	5.3	4.9
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	9.4	7.4	5.1	3.4	2.6	3.8
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	749	801	806	782	816	910
Value of output (£m)	7.0	6.0	4.1	2.6	2.1	3.4
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	2.6	2.1	2.2	1.3	1.1	1.0
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,056	1,349	1,392	1,473	1,606	1,712
Value of output (£m)	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.0	1.7	1.6
Less Imported cattle						
Marketings ('000 head)	16.4	19.2	21.1	25.6	50.2	58.8
Average producer price (£ per head)	891	995	1,022	964	1,006	1,052
Value of output (£m)	14.6	19.1	21.6	24.7	50.6	61.8
Total Market Value (£m)	**420.8**	**459.3**	**470.4**	**434.0**	**437.2**	**484.8**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+12.1	+5.1	-10.9	-3.0	+16.2	-0.1
Total value of output (£m)	**432.9**	**464.4**	**459.5**	**431.0**	**453.4**	**484.7**

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 2016 - 2021

per cent

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Cows and bulls	26	24	25	23	24	24
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	34	37	36	38	38	38
- the beef herd;	35	36	36	36	34	31
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	5	3	3	3	4	8
Total[1]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number marketed ('000 head)	**426**	**434**	**444**	**437**	**437**	**441**

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

Table 2.18 Output of milk 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	315.8	314.6	310.5	312.9	315.0	318.2
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum)[1]	7,076	7,367	7,653	7,739	7,861	8,066
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	**2,200**	**2,285**	**2,347**	**2,391**	**2,447**	**2,532**
of which:						
sales off farms	2,198	2,285	2,345	2,390	2,447	2,531
used in farm households	1	1	2	1	1	1
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price[2]	20.61	29.05	29.04	27.46	27.33	31.77
Net price[3]	20.24	28.73	28.74	27.21	27.08	31.53
Market Value (£m)	**453.3**	**664.1**	**681.6**	**656.5**	**668.7**	**804.5**
Value of output (£m)[2]	**453.3**	**664.1**	**681.6**	**656.5**	**668.7**	**804.5**

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

Table 2.19 Output of sheep 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished sheep and lambs	776.0	765.8	757.4	720.3	765.4	709.7
Culled ewes and rams	136.8	136.4	129.0	124.7	126.8	135.7
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished sheep and lambs	387.9	398.7	426.1	386.5	451.9	535.0
Culled ewes and rams	185.8	192.7	203.2	204.0	247.7	285.1
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.4	21.6	21.6	22.2	21.8	21.9
Culled ewes and rams	28.1	28.0	27.6	29.1	28.2	27.6
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	16.6	16.5	16.4	16.0	16.6	15.5
Culled ewes and rams	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7
Market Value (£m)[3]	**71.9**	**74.6**	**77.7**	**69.3**	**84.2**	**95.2**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+3.2	-1.5	+2.7	-3.6	0.0	0.0
Value of output (£m)	**75.0**	**73.1**	**80.3**	**65.7**	**84.2**	**95.2**

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 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished clean pigs	1,238.4	1,241.5	1,250.9	1,386.8	1,463.1	1,518.9
Culled sows and boars	14.0	14.7	14.6	13.7	16.5	16.9
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished clean pigs	118.29	152.19	144.26	146.94	157.77	149.74
Culled sows and boars	74.68	96.45	91.45	92.14	100.38	95.09
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	87.0	88.6	91.1	92.0	93.7	93.3
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	107.7	110.0	114.0	127.6	137.1	141.8
Culled sows and boars	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.4
Market Value (£m)[3]	**123.5**	**165.4**	**161.0**	**180.9**	**211.6**	**208.3**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.0	+2.9	-0.6	+1.2	+0.2	+0.2
Value of output (£m)	**123.5**	**168.4**	**160.3**	**182.1**	**211.8**	**208.5**

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 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	298.6	317.0	330.1	302.1	309.9	318.0
Broilers	272.4	294.9	307.9	283.1	291.0	301.0
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	85.3	87.4	90.0	88.5	84.4	91.3
Broilers	86.7	90.0	92.5	92.2	87.6	94.7
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	288.3	311.1	332.4	309.6	298.4	324.5
of which broilers	236.3	265.5	284.9	261.1	255.0	285.2
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+3.5	-1.0	-1.2	-0.8	+1.8	+0.0
Value of Output (£m)[1]	**291.7**	**310.1**	**331.3**	**308.8**	**300.2**	**324.5**

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 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	122.3	136.4	145.3	151.4	151.9	141.5
Average producer price (p per dozen)[1]	75.89	73.36	69.91	69.96	75.35	78.70
Value of output (£m)[2]	**94.8**	**102.0**	**103.6**	**108.0**	**120.4**	**124.9**

1. Relates to graded eggs sold through packing stations only and differs from that shown in Table 2.7.
2. Includes eggs for processing, duck eggs and unrecorded sales.

Table 2.23 Crop production 2016 - 2021

Harvest years

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
Potatoes[1]						
Area ('000 hectares)	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.5
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	40.4	43.2	39.3	40.1	39.4	39.9
Production ('000 tonnes)	150.9	175.3	141.6	151.3	146.3	138.4
of which:						
saleable potatoes	131.3	155.0	116.1	131.2	130.3	118.4
chats[2] and waste	19.5	20.3	25.5	20.1	16.0	20.0
Barley[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	22.3	21.1	20.7	19.7	20.3	20.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.59	5.41	5.66	6.45	6.00	6.58
Production ('000 tonnes)	124.9	114.4	117.2	126.9	122.0	137.2
Wheat[4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.1	7.1	7.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.97	7.70	6.97	7.53	6.49	8.22
Production ('000 tonnes)	60.0	67.2	47.7	61.0	46.3	63.6
Oats[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.37	5.64	5.05	5.94	5.44	5.83
Production ('000 tonnes)	12.1	12.7	10.2	11.1	10.2	10.9
Oilseed rape[5]						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.10	3.90	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Production ('000 tonnes)	1.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	11.6	7.3	16.7	-	-	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.1	6.4	5.6	-	-	-
Production ('000 tonnes)	82.1	46.4	93.5	-	-	-
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	286.7	298.5	293.3	-	-	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	30	29	31	-	-	-
Production ('000 tonnes)	8,660	8,805	9,137	-	-	-

1. Includes early, maincrop ware and seed crops.
2. Under 40 mm.
3. Comprises spring and winter varieties.
4. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 15% moisture content.
5. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 9% moisture content.

Table 2.24 Output[1] of potatoes, barley and wheat 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
POTATOES[2]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	119.3	129.3	102.8	136.1	111.3	109.0
Seed	11.0	12.1	10.5	10.5	11.3	11.0
Stockfeed	13.6	13.7	13.1	15.3	11.7	11.7
Total	**143.9**	**155.1**	**126.5**	**161.8**	**134.3**	**131.7**
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	155.01	148.81	175.42	175.05	165.22	172.69
Seed	170.70	172.98	166.10	195.18	181.04	180.09
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	18.5	19.2	18.0	23.8	18.4	18.8
Seed	1.9	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0
Stockfeed	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total[3]	**20.6**	**21.6**	**20.0**	**26.1**	**20.6**	**21.1**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.3	+1.4	+0.9	-2.8	+0.6	-0.2
Value of output (£m)	**20.3**	**23.0**	**21.0**	**23.3**	**21.2**	**20.9**
BARLEY[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	124.9	117.9	111.1	126.4	122.0	132.6
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	133.55	154.15	185.77	162.87	167.61	221.82
Market Value (£m)	16.7	18.2	20.6	20.6	20.4	29.4
Stock change due to volume (£m)	0.0	-0.5	+1.2	+0.1	+0.0	+0.0
Value of output (£m)	**16.7**	**17.6**	**21.8**	**20.7**	**20.5**	**29.4**
WHEAT[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	63.2	65.0	52.1	59.0	51.6	59.7
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	137.29	160.50	182.45	173.97	190.51	236.61
Market Value (£m)	**8.7**	**10.4**	**9.5**	**10.3**	**9.8**	**14.1**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.4	+0.4	-0.8	+0.3	-1.0	+1.0
Value of output (£m)	**8.2**	**10.8**	**8.7**	**10.6**	**8.8**	**15.1**

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 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
APPLES[1]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	44.6	55.2	57.3	53.5	40.3	41.6
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	258	263	203	199	230	245
Market value (£m)	**11.5**	**14.5**	**11.7**	**10.6**	**9.3**	**10.2**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+2.1	+0.6	+1.2	-3.7	+1.8	+0.1
Value of Output (£m)	**13.6**	**15.1**	**12.9**	**6.9**	**11.1**	**10.3**
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	35.7	35.5	34.1	34.3	28.6	18.6
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,460	1,530	1,570	1,590	1,610	1,610
Value of output (£m)	**52.2**	**54.3**	**53.6**	**54.6**	**46.0**	**30.0**

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

Table 2.26 Quantity and cost of the main items of expenditure (including interest and labour) 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS[1]						
Total quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,582	2,845	2,942	2,920	2,886	2,944
of which: Non-concentrates[2] ('000 tonnes)	53	67	32	65	66	66
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,131	2,374	2,530	2,457	2,451	2,541
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	399	404	379	398	369	337
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	269	262	288	284	291	325
Value of feed consumed (£m)	**697.0**	**744.1**	**847.1**	**830.1**	**840.0**	**958.0**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+1.9	+0.0	-0.5	-0.5	+1.3	+0.6
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	291	338	317	285	333	306
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	106	125	120	109	126	118
of which:						
Nitrogen	74	85	80	72	84	77
Phosphate	8	10	10	8	9	9
Potash	15	18	17	16	17	16
Sulphur	9	12	12	12	16	16
Average cost (£ per tonne)	230	236	251	282	229	289
Value of purchases (£m)	**66.9**	**80.0**	**79.5**	**80.3**	**76.3**	**88.2**
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	176	165	193	154	196	212
Average cost (£ per tonne)	21.94	25.32	25.78	35.22	34.40	37.45
Value of purchases (£m)	**3.9**	**4.2**	**5.0**	**5.4**	**6.7**	**8.0**
MARKETING EXPENSES[3]						
Cattle	21.9	22.4	22.4	22.3	23.0	24.3
Sheep	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9
Pigs	4.3	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.2	5.2
Milk	8.2	7.4	7.1	6.1	6.0	6.1
Total	**38.3**	**38.2**	**37.6**	**37.1**	**38.0**	**39.5**
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.1
Total interest charges (£m)[4]	**48.3**	**45.5**	**48.8**	**51.9**	**48.5**	**49.5**
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	40.04	39.86	39.39	39.62	39.50	40.50
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour)[5]	8.29	8.71	8.83	9.41	9.40	9.77
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week)[5]	332.08	347.24	347.68	372.74	371.37	395.90
Volume of paid labour (million hours)[6]	8.00	8.44	8.43	8.20	7.85	8.15
Value of paid labour (£m)[6]	**68.1**	**74.8**	**76.4**	**78.0**	**73.8**	**81.0**

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 77 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing. Around 8.8 per cent of the total land area is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part (52.1 per cent) of the total forested area (119,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2020/2021* [1]).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Arable or horticultural crops occupy 46,500 hectares and make up just 4.5 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (20,800 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 7,700 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (30,500 hectares) was 3.6 per cent higher in 2021 than in 2020. 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 2021, the area of potatoes grown decreased on 2020 levels by 6.7 per cent to 3,500 hectares. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2021, the cropped area also included 2,800 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,300 hectares) and vegetables (1,400 hectares).

Grazing livestock

All but 8 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2021, cattle were present on 20,474 farms (79 per cent), sheep on 9,853 farms (38 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 24,067 farms (92 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2021 Agricultural Census was greater than in 2020 at approximately 1.7 million, an increase of 4.38 per cent. There were 318,400 dairy cows, and 247,000 beef cows (1.3 per cent more than in 2020). 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 2021, the sheep breeding flock was 2.4 per cent larger than in 2020 at 968,300 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock increased by 2.2 per cent to just over 2.0 million in 2021.

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

Intensive livestock

In Northern Ireland, pigs and/or poultry (for commercial purposes) are present on 5.2 per cent of farms.

In 2021, pig numbers were estimated at 716,800. Sow numbers increased by 9.13 per cent to 50,086 in 2021.

In June 2021, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 24.0 million birds, 0.5 per cent higher than in 2021. The number of laying birds (4.3 million) decreased by 12.6 per cent in 2021, and the numbers of broilers increased by 3.8 per cent to 15.9 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 11.6 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1.3 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (187,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (156,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were just under 60,000 beef cows and 162,000 dairy cows in 2021. **LFA farms** account for 32 and 62 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

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Table 3.1 Land use, 2021

thousand hectares

	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	46	960	19	11	1,036
Common grazing	-	36	-	-	**36**
NI Forest Service[1]	-	-	62	13	**75**
Other areas	-	-	38	168	**206**
All land[2]	**46**	**996**	**119**	**192**	**1,353**

1. Excludes 1,700 ha let to farmers; these areas are included in the area of agricultural holdings.
2. Land area, excluding significant areas of inland water.

Table 3.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land, June 2016 - 2021

thousand hectares

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Oats	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Wheat	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.1	7.1	7.7
Barley: Winter	7.6	7.1	5.8	7.7	7.8	7.9
Spring	14.7	14.0	14.9	11.9	12.6	12.9
Mixed corn	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Potatoes	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.5
Arable crop silage	3.3	3.6	4.3	3.9	4.2	4.1
Other field crops	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.6
Total agricultural crops	**44.5**	**44.3**	**42.1**	**42.1**	**42.9**	**43.7**
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Vegetables	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4
Other horticultural crops	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total horticultural crops	**2.9**	**3.0**	**2.8**	**2.8**	**2.7**	**2.8**
Grass: Under 5 years old	148.2	144.4	144.5	148.8	141.4	137.8
5 years old and over	652.6	660.6	663.2	659.9	674.8	680.5
Total grass	**800.8**	**805.0**	**807.6**	**808.7**	**816.3**	**818.3**
Total crops and grass	**848.2**	**852.2**	**852.5**	**853.6**	**861.8**	**864.7**
Rough grazing[1]	137.2	140.4	143.2	143.6	140.6	141.3
Woods and plantation	16.1	15.8	16.3	15.7	17.3	18.8
Other land[2]	11.8	11.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.9
Total area of farms	**1,013.2**	**1,019.7**	**1,022.4**	**1,023.2**	**1,029.8**	**1,035.6**

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

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2016 - 2021

thousand head

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
CATTLE[1]						
Dairy cows	**317.1**	**315.8**	**310.7**	**313.5**	**313.3**	**318.4**
Beef cows	**269.7**	**267.1**	**255.9**	**247.0**	**244.7**	**247.0**
Total cows	**586.9**	**582.9**	**566.6**	**560.5**	**558.0**	**565.3**
Bulls for service	17.4	17.2	16.9	16.5	20.0	20.2
Total cattle	**1,664.6**	**1,666.4**	**1,629.1**	**1,611.7**	**1,611.4**	**1,682.0**
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	955.2	973.3	956.5	938.5	946.1	968.3
Other sheep	1,067.8	1,079.2	1,049.5	1,048.5	1,044.9	1,066.5
Total sheep	**2,023.0**	**2,052.6**	**2,006.0**	**1,986.9**	**1,991.0**	**2,034.8**
PIGS[2]						
Sows and gilts	46.4	47.9	49.6	47.5	45.9	50.1
Other pigs	554.7	601.2	584.0	626.9	635.6	666.7
Total pigs	**601.1**	**649.1**	**633.6**	**674.4**	**681.5**	**716.8**
POULTRY[3]						
Laying birds	3,550.0	3,962.8	4,331.9	4,998.7	4,936.6	4,313.2
Growing pullets	961.9	1,202.0	1,121.3	1,481.2	1,495.7	1,745.3
Breeding flock	2,282.7	2,526.9	2,515.9	2,558.7	2,214.3	2,090.2
Table chickens	14,459.2	16,766.6	17,663.0	15,351.6	15,364.4	15,946.7
Total ordinary fowl	**21,253.8**	**24,458.3**	**25,632.1**	**24,390.2**	**24,011.1**	**24,095.4**
Other poultry	530.0	452.3	398.5	390.2	341.1	367.4
Total poultry	**21,783.8**	**24,910.6**	**26,030.6**	**24,780.4**	**24,352.2**	**24,462.8**
HORSES & PONIES[4]	**10.3**	**9.6**	**9.0**	**8.7**	**7.0**	**6.2**
GOATS	**3.8**	**4.2**	**3.8**	**3.4**	**3.0**	**2.9**

1. From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS.
2. From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.
3. From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
4. Horses and ponies on agricultural holdings.

Table 3.4 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1] of farm, June 2021

thousand hectares

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	1	4	5	25	18
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	25
Other agricultural crops	1	2	3	7	31
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	2	13
Total crops	**2**	**7**	**10**	**37**	**21**
Grass: Under 5 years old	41	40	82	56	59
5 years and over	271	202	473	207	70
Total grass	**312**	**243**	**555**	**263**	**68**
Rough grazing[2]	127	9	136	6	96
Woods/other land	6	5	10	8	56
Other land	3	2	5	6	48
Total area	**451**	**265**	**716**	**320**	**69**

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

Table 3.5 Livestock numbers by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1] of farm, June 2021

thousand head

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
CATTLE					
Dairy cows	49	107	156	162	49
Beef cows	113	74	187	60	76
Bulls for service	6	6	13	8	62
Total cattle	**450**	**554**	**1,003**	**679**	**60**
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	553	218	771	197	80
Other sheep	587	254	841	226	79
Total sheep	**1,140**	**472**	**1,612**	**423**	**79**
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	6	13	19	32	37
Other pigs	64	145	208	459	31
Total pigs	**70**	**157**	**227**	**490**	**32**
POULTRY					
Laying birds	1,466	1,537	3,003	1,310	70
Table fowl	2,921	6,513	9,434	6,512	59
Other poultry	1,070	1,734	2,804	1,399	67
Total poultry	**5,457**	**9,784**	**15,241**	**9,222**	**62**
HORSES AND PONIES[2]	1	2	3	3	50
GOATS	1	1	2	1	69

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 2021 there were 26,077 farms in Northern Ireland with 1,035,642 hectares of land farmed.

Around 26 per cent of farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass, while 1,526 farms (5.9 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy 27.3 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, 78 per cent in 2021, are classified as **very small**. In 2021, there were 20,454 farms in this category (Table 4.3). These farms are unlikely to provide full time employment or an adequate income solely from farming activities.[1] They contribute 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

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

these farms are cattle and sheep rearing. In 2021, 60 per cent of beef cows[2] and 52 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 2,747 **small** farms, generally involving one person full time with, in some cases, part time or seasonal help. These farms make important contributions to all sectors, for example accounting for 28 per cent of poultry and 25 per cent of total sheep activities; they cover 19 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 15 per cent of the full time agricultural labour force (Table 4.14).

The 1,177 **medium** and 1,699 **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 85, 94 and 63 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 58 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 267 (1.0 per cent) classified as **cereal** farms, 1,201 (4.6 per cent) as **general cropping** and 226 (1.0 per cent) as **horticulture**. Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms together (804) account for 3.1 per cent, while **mixed and other** farms (527) make up 2.0 per cent of the total.

Farm tenure

Almost all farms in Northern Ireland have owned land and just under half include at least some rented land. Within the total farms, only 4.6 per cent were entirely rented or leased, 43.2 per cent had a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 52 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 2021, 3,252 farms (13 per cent) had dairy cows, 14,179 (55 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) The average number of dairy cows per herd, 97.9, was slightly more than in 2020. It compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of approximately 17 cows. Sixty-eight per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with 8 per cent of beef cows.

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

In 2021, 9,599 farms had breeding sheep (Table 4.17), with an average of 101 ewes per flock. There were relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, with only 28 farms having a flock size of 1,000 ewes or more.

In 2021 there were 404 commercial pig herds operational in June (Table 4.19). Most of the pig herds (270 in 2021) had sows, averaging 186 sows per herd (Table 4.18). Ninety-three 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 29.7 per cent of total herds hold almost 95 per cent of pigs.

Of the 457 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 51 per cent had flocks over 5,000 accounting of 99% of laying hens. Sixty-two businesses (14 per cent) farmed over twenty thousand birds with these farms accounting for over 50 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with 85 per cent of farms having twenty thousand birds or more on farm. Over 96 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2021, cereals were grown on 2,023 farms (Table 4.23), 7.8 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 15.1 hectares. Thirty-eight per cent (763) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, while 127 farms grew 50 hectares or more and accounted for 38 per cent of the total cereal area grown.

Some 385 farms, 1.5 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2021. Of this number, 91 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[1], June 2021

Size group (hectares)	By crops and grass area		By total area	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	378	0	162	0
0.1 - 9.9	6,370	35,894	5,705	32,275
10.0 - 19.9	5,948	85,681	5,571	80,470
20.0 - 29.9	4,021	98,041	3,960	96,583
30.0 - 49.9	4,207	161,581	4,425	170,589
50.0 - 99.9	3,627	247,285	4,158	286,132
100.0 - 199.9	1,278	167,425	1,651	219,393
200.0 +	248	68,824	445	150,201
Total	**26,077**	**864,730**	**26,077**	**1,035,642**

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 2016 - 2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of farms	24,956	24,895	24,827	25,896	25,896	26,077
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	34.1	34.2	34.4	33.3	33.3	33.2
Total area	40.9	41.1	41.2	39.8	39.8	39.7
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.2
10.0 - 19.9	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9
20.0 - 29.9	11.6	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3
30.0 - 49.9	19.5	19.2	19.3	19.1	19.1	18.7
50.0 - 99.9	29.1	29.0	29.3	28.7	28.7	28.6
100.0 +	26.1	26.6	26.5	26.8	26.8	27.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 4.3 Number of farms by business size and area farmed, June 2021

number

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Under 10	6,523	122	40	63	6,748
10.0 - 19.9	5,705	173	38	32	5,948
20.0 - 29.9	3,674	261	45	41	4,021
30.0 - 49.9	3,127	789	195	96	4,207
50.0 - 99.9	1,318	1,102	606	601	3,627
100.0 +	107	300	253	866	1,526
Total	**20,454**	**2,747**	**1,177**	**1,699**	**26,077**

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

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2016 - 2021

number

Business size[1]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Very small	18,651	19,060	19,188	19,177	20,329	20,454
Small	2,938	2,945	2,824	2,746	2,765	2,747
Medium	1,238	1,229	1,190	1,224	1,167	1,177
Large	1,701	1,722	1,693	1,680	1,635	1,699
Total	**24,528**	**24,956**	**24,895**	**24,827**	**25,896**	**26,077**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2021

number

Business size[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,477	6,362	14,839	5,615	73
Small	956	869	1,825	922	66
Medium	321	360	681	496	58
Large	272	532	804	895	47
Total	**10,026**	**8,123**	**18,149**	**7,928**	**70**

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

2. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.6 Number of farms by business size and type, June 2021

number

Business type[1]	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	213	39	10	5	267
General cropping	1,118	30	17	36	1,201
Horticulture	94	42	28	62	226
Pigs	62	25	27	68	182
Poultry	137	254	123	108	622
Dairy	229	693	578	1,062	2,562
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	13,739	1,116	229	151	15,235
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,582	466	121	86	5,255
Mixed & Others	280	82	44	121	527
All types	**20,454**	**2,747**	**1,177**	**1,699**	**26,077**

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 2016 - 2021

number

Business type[1]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cereals	275	272	264	253	254	267
General cropping	506	523	574	679	1,105	1,201
Horticulture	280	273	264	249	226	226
Pigs	174	181	177	161	173	182
Poultry	592	622	639	647	628	622
Dairy	2,694	2,635	2,545	2,586	2,603	2,5623
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	14,325	14,687	14,700	14,616	15,137	15,235
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,969	5,097	5,109	4,971	5,230	5,255
Mixed & Other	713	666	623	665	540	527
All types	**24,528**	**24,956**	**24,895**	**24,827**	**25,896**	**26,077**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.6.
2. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

Table 4.8 Number of farms by business type and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2021

number

Business type[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	*	*	*	*	16
General cropping	264	370	634	567	53
Horticulture	13	70	83	143	37
Pigs	35	63	98	84	54
Poultry	174	236	410	212	66
Dairy	518	932	1,450	1,112	57
Cattle & sheep	8,967	6,268	15,235	5,255	74
Mixed & Others	*	*	*	*	37
All types	**10,026**	**8,123**	**18,149**	**7,928**	**70**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.
2. See Note 1, Table 4.6.

* Figures suppressed due to data confidentiality constraints.

Table 4.9 Number of farms by business size and proportion of area owner occupied, June 2021

farms

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	12,302	806	243	250	13,601
50-<100%	4,614	1,254	617	891	7,376
>0-<50%	2,453	610	286	542	3,891
None owner occupied	1,085	77	31	16	1,209
All farms	**20,454**	**2,747**	**1,177**	**1,699**	**26,077**

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

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2016 - 2021

hectares

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Owner-occupied	730,767	737,994	739,243	738,976	747,173	749,775
Rented	282,481	281,742	283,152	284,188	282,649	285,867
Total	**1,013,248**	**1,019,736**	**1,022,395**	**1,023,163**	**1,029,822**	**1,035,642**
Percentage of owned land	**72.1**	**72.4**	**72.3**	**72.2**	**72.6**	**72.4**
Common grazing	**35,325**	**34,289**	**35,401**	**36,115**	**35,931**	**36,077**

Table 4.11 Average conacre rents by type of use, 2015 - 2020

£/hectare

Use	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grass	241	262	259	266	279	284
Potatoes	508	670	650	736	748	795
Cereals	289	301	350	351	353	379
Rough grazing	49	51	64	66	63	71
All uses	**208**	**224**	**229**	**232**	**242**	**245**

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2021

number of persons

Labour item	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All farms
Farmers and partners					
Full time	12,340	3,226	1,693	3,035	20,294
Part time	17,028	1,640	641	764	20,073
Total	**29,368**	**4,866**	**2,334**	**3,799**	**40,367**
Spouses of farmers[2]					**N/A**
Other workers					
Full time	652	279	240	1,731	2,902
Part time	2,302	631	316	769	4,018
Casual/seasonal	2,490	758	471	1,189	4,908
Total other workers	**5,444**	**1,668**	**1,027**	**3,689**	**11,828**
Total agricultural labour force	**34,812**	**6,534**	**3,361**	**7,488**	**52,195**

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[1], June 2021

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	7,303	6,246	13,549	6,745	67
Part time	7,749	6,186	13,935	6,138	69
Total	**15,052**	**12,432**	**27,484**	**12,883**	**68**
Spouses of farmers[2]					
Other workers					
Full time	587	821	1,408	1,494	49
Part time	1,242	1,242	2,484	1,534	62
Casual/seasonal	1,460	1,435	2,895	2,013	59
Total other workers	**3,289**	**3,498**	**6,787**	**5,041**	**57**
Total agricultural labour force	**18,341**	**15,930**	**34,271**	**17,924**	**66**

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 2021

A. Number of farms having the item

B. Total for each item ('000)

C. Percentage of Northern Ireland total of each item

Item	Business size[1]														
	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large			All Farms		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	**15,396**	**591**	**35**	**2,431**	**301**	**18**	**1,083**	**202**	**12**	**1,564**	**588**	**35**	**20,474**	**1,682**	**100**
Dairy cows	417	7	2	872	40	13	688	54	17	1,275	217	68	3,252	318	100
Beef cows	10,795	148	60	1,777	54	22	693	21	9	914	24	10	14,179	247	100
Sheep															
Total	**7,705**	**1,051**	**52**	**1,245**	**517**	**25**	**437**	**209**	**10**	**466**	**257**	**13**	**9,853**	**2,035**	**100**
Ewes	7,491	505	52	1,225	243	25	428	99	10	455	121	13	9,599	968	100
Pigs															
Total	**210**	**15**	**2**	**54**	**30**	**4**	**41**	**43**	**6**	**99**	**629**	**88**	**404**	**717**	**100**
Sows	119	1	3	36	2	4	27	3	6	88	44	88	270	50	100
Finishers/ Weaners	130	11	2	44	24	4	35	34	6	98	476	87	307	545	100
Poultry															
Total	**380**	**2,009**	**8**	**281**	**6,960**	**28**	**149**	**4,459**	**18**	**200**	**11,035**	**45**	**1,010**	**24,463**	**100**
Layers	222	209	5	110	1,202	28	65	1,104	26	60	1,798	42	457	4,313	100
Crops															
Oats	129	1	27	68	1	29	24	0	11	54	1	32	275	2	100
Wheat	185	1	17	116	2	21	67	1	16	196	4	46	564	8	100
Barley	887	6	30	340	5	22	160	3	14	328	7	34	1,715	21	100
Potatoes	174	0	11	98	1	17	41	0	13	72	2	59	385	3	100
Crops & grass	20,134	421	49	2,719	157	18	1,163	88	10	1,683	198	23	25,699	865	100
Rough grazing	4,355	69	49	738	35	25	289	17	12	302	20	14	5,684	141	100
Total area	**20,454**	**502**	**49**	**2,747**	**196**	**19**	**114,640**	**115**	**11**	**1,699**	**224**	**22**	**26,077**	**1,036**	**100**
Labour															
Full-time labour force[2]	10,902	13	56	2,454	4	15	1,130	2	8	1,670	5	21	16,156	23	100
Output															
Standard Output[3]	20,454	481	20	2,747	396	17	1,177	321	14	1,699	1,161	49	26,077	2,358	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 2021[1]

Number per farm	Dairy Cows				Beef cows			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
<10	207	1,346	6.4	0.4	6,157	26,412	43.4	10.7
10 - 14	87	1,009	2.7	0.3	2,272	27,006	16.0	10.9
15 - 19	77	1,289	2.4	0.4	1,524	25,757	10.7	10.4
20 - 29	168	4,165	5.2	1.3	1,936	46,267	13.7	18.7
30 - 39	210	7,282	6.5	2.3	939	31,941	6.6	12.9
40 - 49	230	10,233	7.1	3.2	478	20,979	3.4	8.5
50 - 59	247	13,434	7.6	4.2	293	15,892	2.1	6.4
60 - 69	236	15,196	7.3	4.8	189	12,144	1.3	4.9
70 - 99	575	47,967	17.7	15.1	249	20,369	1.8	8.2
100 & Over	1,215	216,451	37.4	68.0	142	20,189	1.0	8.2
Total 2021	**3,252**	**318,372**	**100**	**100**	**14,179**	**246,956**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***3,272***	***313,283***			***14,289***	***244,702***		
Average 2021		**97.9**				**17.4**		
Average 2020		***95.7***				***17.1***		

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 2021[1]

Number per farm	Total cattle			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
1 - 4	858	2,384	4.2	0.1
5 - 9	1,518	10,665	7.4	0.6
10 - 19	3,034	43,096	14.8	2.6
20 - 29	2,509	60,914	12.3	3.6
30 - 39	1,987	68,099	9.7	4.0
40 - 49	1,514	67,284	7.4	4.0
50 - 69	2,194	128,630	10.7	7.6
70 - 99	2,092	174,071	10.2	10.3
100 - 199	2,702	377,992	13.2	22.5
200 - 299	1,098	267,675	5.4	15.9
300 & over	968	481,181	4.7	28.6
Total 2021	**20,474**	**1,681,991**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***20,433***	***1,611,467***		
Average 2021		**82.2**		
Average 2020		***78.9***		

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 2021

Number per farm	Ewes				Total Sheep			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	2,303	30,503	24.0	3.2	1,266	16,336	12.8	0.8
25 - 49	1,972	70,830	20.5	7.3	1,235	45,280	12.5	2.2
50 - 99	2,203	155,436	23.0	16.1	2,022	143,760	20.5	7.1
100 - 199	1,859	255,500	19.4	26.4	2,175	312,087	22.1	15.3
200 - 299	652	156,266	6.8	16.1	1,151	280,712	11.7	13.8
300 - 399	294	99,457	3.1	10.3	659	225,332	6.7	11.1
400 - 499	134	58,650	1.4	6.1	384	171,411	3.9	8.4
500 - 999	154	101,531	1.6	10.5	743	501,735	7.5	24.7
1,000 & Over	28	40,127	0.3	4.1	218	338,133	2.2	16.6
Total 2021	**9,599**	**968,300**	100	100	**9,853**	**2,034,786**	100	100
Total 2020	***9,710***	***946,054***			***9,966***	***1,990,938***		
Average 2021		**100.9**				**206.5**		
Average 2020		***97.4***				***199.8***		

Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2021[1]

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts)			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	92	301	34.1	0.6
10 - 19	15	209	5.6	0.4
20 - 49	32	1,055	11.9	2.1
50 - 99	32	2,167	11.9	4.3
100 - 199	48	6,834	17.8	13.6
200 - 299	18	4,269	6.7	8.5
300 - over	33	35,251	12.2	70.4
Total 2021	**270**	**50,086**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***271***	***45,896***		
Average 2021		**185.5**		
Average 2020		***169.4***		

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 2021[1]

Number per farm	Finisher/Weaners				Total pigs			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	60	211	19.5	0.0	128	382	31.7	0.1
10 - 19	26	341	8.5	0.1	23	320	5.7	0.0
20 - 49	23	662	7.5	0.1	32	1,006	7.9	0.1
50 - 99	9	597	2.9	0.1	21	1,421	5.2	0.2
100 - 199	19	2,528	6.2	0.5	14	1,980	3.5	0.3
200 - 399	22	6,150	7.2	1.1	27	7,645	6.7	1.1
400 - 999	48	33,462	15.6	6.1	39	26,434	9.7	3.7
1,000 - 1,999	55	83,020	17.9	15.2	54	80,689	13.4	11.3
2,000 & over	45	418,418	14.7	76.7	66	596,921	16.3	83.3
Total 2021	**307**	**545,389**	**100**	**100**	**404**	**716,798**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***295***	***524,614***			***396***	***681,467***		
Average 2021		**1,776.5**				**1,774.3**		
Average 2020		***1,778.4***				***1,720.9***		

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

Table 4.20 Distribution of (a) laying hens and (b) broilers by flock size, June 2021[1]

Number per farm	Laying Hens				Broilers			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Hens ('000)	Farms	Hens	Farms	Broilers ('000)	Farms	Broilers
1 - 999[2]	212	7	46.4	0.2	5	0	1.7	0.0
1,000 - 4,999	12	35	2.6	0.8	0	0	0.0	0.0
5,000 - 9,999	54	419	11.8	9.7	5	38	1.7	0.2
10,000 - 19,999	117	1,683	25.6	39.0	36	587	12.1	3.7
20,000 - 29,999	25	599	5.5	13.9	36	854	12.1	5.4
30,000 - 49,999	32	1,063	7.0	24.6	90	3,302	30.3	20.7
50,000 & over	5	508	1.1	11.8	125	11,166	42.1	70.0
Total 2021	**457**	**4,313**	100	100	**297**	**15,947**	100	100
Total 2020	***404***	***4,937***			***299***	***15,364***		
Average 2021		**9,438**				**53,693**		
Average 2020		***12,220***				***51,385***		

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 2021[1]

Number per farm	Total poultry			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Birds ('000)	Farms	Birds ('000)
1 - 999[2]	285	13	28.2	0.1
1,000 - 4,999	20	65	2.0	0.3
5,000 - 9,999	95	718	9.4	2.9
10,000 - 19,999	230	3,404	22.8	13.9
20,000 - 29,999	97	2,310	9.6	9.4
30,000 - 49,999	143	5,107	14.2	20.9
50,000 & over	140	12,845	13.9	52.5
Total 2021	**1,010**	**24,463**	100	100
Total 2020	***956***	***24,352***		
Average 2021		**24,221**		
Average 2020		***25,473***		

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 2021

Number per farm (ha)	Barley				Wheat			
	Number of	Area of	Percentages of		Number of	Area of	Percentages of	
	Farms	Barley (ha)	Farms	Barley	Farms	Wheat (ha)	Farms	Wheat
under 1	24	16	1.4	0.1	11	6	2.0	0.1
1 - 4.9	654	1,917	38.1	9.2	154	471	27.3	6.1
5 - 9.9	444	3,160	25.9	15.2	152	1,073	27.0	13.9
10 - 19.9	321	4,492	18.7	21.6	141	1,911	25.0	24.7
20 - 29.9	113	2,682	6.6	12.9	47	1,133	8.3	14.7
30 - 39.9	59	1,982	3.4	9.5	24	832	4.3	10.8
40 - 49.9	29	1,281	1.7	6.1	15	634	2.7	8.2
50 & over	771	5,314	4.1	25.5	20	1,674	3.5	21.6
Total 2021	**1,715**	**20,843**	**100**	**100**	**564**	**7,734**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***1,620***	***20,336***			***558***	***7,132***		
Average 2021		**12.2**				**13.7**		
Average 2020		***12.6***				***12.8***		

Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2021

Area per farm (ha)	Total cereals			
	Numbers of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cereals
under 1	30	19	1.5	0.1
1 - 4.9	733	2,168	36.2	7.1
5 - 9.9	476	3,391	23.5	11.1
10 - 19.9	394	5,462	19.5	17.9
20 - 29.9	139	3,336	6.9	10.9
30 - 39.9	83	2,849	4.1	9.3
40 - 49.9	41	1,810	2.0	5.9
50 & over	127	11,472	6.3	37.6
Total 2021	**2,023**	**30,507**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***1,923***	***29,460***		
Average 2021		**15.1**		
Average 2020		***15.3***		

Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2021

Area per farm (ha)	Potatoes			
	Numbers of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Potatoes
under 1	78	37	20.3	1.1
1 - 4.9	158	391	41.0	11.3
5 - 9.9	58	407	15.1	11.7
10 - 19.9	45	624	11.7	18.0
20 - 29.9	20	473	5.2	13.7
30 - 39.9	7	244	1.8	7.0
40 - 49.9	9	393	2.3	11.3
50 & over	10	898	2.6	25.9
Total 2021	**385**	**3,468**	**100**	**100**
Total 2020	***427***	***3,777***		
Average 2021		**9.0**		
Average 2020		***8.8***		

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 2020/21'.

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 2020/21. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2021/22 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 EU 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 2016/2017 are presented in Table 5.1

Income changes 2020/21

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2019/20 and 2020/21 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 226 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 increased between 2019/20 and 2020/21 on Pig, Dairy, Cattle and Sheep (LFA), Cattle and Sheep (Lowland) and Mixed farms. In contrast, Farm Business Income decreased on General Cropping farms and showed little change on Cereal farms.

Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income increased from £25,305 in 2019/20 to £34,402 in 2020/21, an increase of £9,097 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income increased from £17,835 in 2019/20 to £26,470 in 2020/21 (an increase of £8,635 per farm) and average Cash Income increased from £42,452 in 2019/20 to £47,819 in 2020/21 (an increase of £5,367 per farm).

Provisional estimates of incomes for 2021/22

Provisional forecasts of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2022 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types increasing from £34,402 in 2020/21 to £39,741 in 2021/22, i.e. an increase of £5,339 or 16% per farm.

Farm Business Income is expected to increase (by varying amounts) for Cereals, Dairy and Mixed farm types between 2020/21 and 2021/22. For these farms, the upturn in their incomes is mainly attributable to higher output prices in the 2021/22 accounting year. Yield increases also contributed to higher incomes in the cereals sector. Despite higher output prices, Cattle & Sheep (LFA) and Cattle & Sheep (Lowland) farm incomes showed little change due to the offsetting impact of higher input costs. Pig farms are expected to show a decrease in farm incomes due to lower pigmeat prices and higher feed costs.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £47,819 in 2020/21 to £53,823 in 2021/22, which is an increase of £6,004 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £26,470 in 2020/21 to £32,178 in 2021/22.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in January 2022 and relate to an account year ending in mid-February 2022. 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 2021/22, 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, 2016/17 to 2021/22[1]

Indices: 2013/14 - 2015/16 = 100

Business type	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22 (provisional)
Cereals	88	116	183	91	103	148
General cropping	145	58	327	69	21	33
Pigs	124	209	150	125	174	111
Dairy	76	133	120	105	110	137
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	106	97	92	88	90	95
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	89	122	92	86	76	77
Mixed	102	148	98	129	98	110
All types	90	122	109	98	99	113

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, 2020/21

per cent

	Dairy			Cattle and sheep (LFA)			All types		
Income (£'s)	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**
Less than 0	0	7	1	7	25	16	8	23	11
1 - 4,999	0	3	2	11	3	5	6	5	4
5,000 - 9,999	1	8	8	8	15	6	6	11	8
10,000 - 14,999	3	4	5	9	19	22	8	13	17
15,000 - 19,999	1	4	3	9	8	15	6	6	10
20,000 - 29,999	9	13	10	17	10	14	13	12	14
30,000 - 49,999	20	17	22	23	13	12	23	12	16
> 50,000	65	44	48	16	6	10	31	19	21
Total	**..**	**100**	**..**	**..**	**100**	**..**	**..**	**100**	**..**
Number of farms in sample		87			89			226	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2019/20 and 2020/21

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	64.2	63.7
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	33.5	8.1
Pigs	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	128.3	174.6	84.6	119.2
Dairy	20.1	15.9	44.4	45.5	62.5	60.3	126.9	147.5	82.5	90.7
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	14.4	15.1	34.1	44.6	82.3	88.7	94.3	138.9	24.8	29.2
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	12.5	10.5	27.9	37.4	52.6	63.9	. . .	. . .	19.3	23.4
Mixed	. . .	. . .	63.4	34.6	…	…	117.2	123.7	64.2	60.5
All types	14.0	14.0	37.6	43.4	65.5	66.8	118.0	141.2	42.5	47.8

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 5.4 Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2019/20 and 2020/21

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	33.6	33.5
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	5.0	1.1
Pigs	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	79.6	115.9	54.8	81.8
Dairy	12.0	17.3	27.1	28.1	34.0	39.7	80.7	104.7	50.7	62.8
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	6.3	11.2	19.7	28.5	48.7	60.1	75.1	118.0	13.5	20.5
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	7.4	11.3	15.1	24.9	20.7	33.5	…	…	13.8	21.2
Mixed	…	…	28.1	48.5	…	…	59.7	93.2	32.1	53.4
All types	7.0	11.7	21.1	28.0	35.9	43.8	78.8	105.6	25.3	34.4

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 5.5 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2019/20 and 2020/21

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	32.7	32.6
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	0.5	-7.1
Pigs	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	117.3	155.8	76.3	100.5
Dairy	11.3	16.5	15.7	16.8	32.0	37.6	74.2	95.9	44.2	55.3
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	1.8	6.9	14.1	22.2	15.1	26.8	15.6	56.1	6.0	13.0
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	-1.3	1.7	3.2	12.6	20.3	32.7	…	…	4.8	11.6
Mixed	…	…	13.3	34.5	…	…	49.3	83.7	10.5	32.2
All types	0.7	5.3	12.5	19.0	26.5	34.2	71.2	96.2	17.8	26.5

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

Table 5.6 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2020/21

£'000 per farm[1]

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (SLR)	1.3	1.6	3.1	1.0	1.1	2.3	1.7
Total farm area (ha)	99.2	61.6	87.4	97.5	65.4	90.9	87.1
Farm Business income	33.5	1.1	62.8	20.5	21.2	53.4	34.4
Total tenant's capital	**94.5**	**119.7**	**242.8**	**117.6**	**158.6**	**220.3**	**164.8**
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	0.0	45.8	41.9	37.6	76.0	86.8	48.3
crops	2.9	28.6	21.0	6.9	8.6	17.9	11.6
other	0.5	0.1	3.0	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.7
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	1.1	0.0	104.5	40.5	41.3	39.3	57.8
machinery	89.9	45.2	72.4	31.5	31.5	74.6	45.4

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 5.7 Average closing valuations by farm type, 2019/20 and 2020/21

£'000 per farm[1]

		Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
		2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
	ASSETS						
	Total fixed assets	1416.0	1449.3	1121.7	1137.0	1271.9	1292.4
	of which:						
	land and buildings	1248.1	1269.8	1052.6	1064.1	1173.7	1187.5
	other fixed assets	167.9	179.5	69.1	72.9	98.2	105.0
	Total current assets	94.8	106.3	56.7	61.7	80.5	88.1
	of which:						
	trading livestock, crops and stores	62.4	69.5	44.5	46.8	59.0	64.1
	debtors/other short term lending	19.6	23.3	.4	.4	6.2	7.2
	cash in hand and the bank	12.8	13.5	11.8	14.5	15.3	16.9
A	**Total assets**	**1510.8**	**1555.6**	**1178.4**	**1198.7**	**1352.4**	**1380.6**
	LIABILITIES						
	Total long/medium term loans	74.8	76.3	5.6	6.8	26.9	28.6
	of which:						
	bank/other institutional	74.6	76.2	5.5	6.8	26.7	28.4
	Total short term loans	32.9	29.3	8.0	6.9	14.8	13.1
	of which:						
	bank overdraft	19.0	17.0	5.8	4.3	9.1	7.6
B	**Total external liabilities**	**107.6**	**105.6**	**13.5**	**13.8**	**41.7**	**41.7**
	NET WORTH (A-B)	**1403.2**	**1450.0**	**1164.9**	**1184.9**	**1310.7**	**1338.8**

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

6. FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

Turnover	Gross turnover in the food and drinks processing sector increased by 4 per cent in 2019 to £5,365m. Eight out of the ten subsectors recorded an increase in turnover. Animal by-products and beef and sheepmeat both recorded a fall.
Performance	Sales per employee in the food and drinks processing sector increased in 2019 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 3.9 percentage points since 2015.
Employment	The total number of full time equivalent employees (i.e. total processing sector and agency employment) involved in the processing of food and drink products has grown each year from 2014. Employment in the input supply sectors has increased since 2016.
Fishing Employment	The total number of people employed in the fishing industry has increased by 6 per cent in 2020.
Destination of Sales	Great Britain was the main destination of sales from the NI food and drinks processing sector in 2019. 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 6 per cent of the sector's total sales.
Live Animal Sales	Republic of Ireland was the main destination for NI external live animal sales in 2021 and accounts for 57 per cent of the total value of external sales. The total value of external sales and export sales decreased between 2020 and 2021 as a result of decreases in sales to Republic of Ireland and Other European countries. Sales to the Great Britain grew by 1 per cent.
Raw Milk Sales	The value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland increased by 91 per cent between 2015 and 2018 to £240.8m. Between 2018 and 2020 sales have fallen by 17 per cent to £201.0m.
Live Animal Purchases	Republic of Ireland was the largest external market for NI live animal purchases for three out of the four subsectors in 2021 and accounted for 92 per cent of the total value of external purchases. Between 2020 and 2021 total live animal imports from the Republic of Ireland and EU increased by £8.3m. Purchases from GB decreased by £4.5m.
Non-Edible Exports	The total value of non-edible product exports has increased by 5 per cent in 2020 to £244.2m.

Table 6.1 Gross Turnover of the NI food and drinks processing sector 2014-2019[1,2]

£ million

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Animal by-products	51	57	48	53	47	45
Bakeries	286	283	311	326	377	406
Beef and sheepmeat	1,244	1,252	1,190	1,312	1,438	1,390
Drinks	417	386	369	391	419	449
Eggs	139	143	153	175	182	190
Fish	77	77	80	90	89	93
Fruit and vegetables	308	309	321	339	367	393
Milk and milk products	1,010	905	876	1,068	1,143	1,228
Pigmeat	328	302	318	343	366	400
Poultrymeat	706	701	680	709	745	772
Total processing sector	**4,567**	**4,415**	**4,347**	**4,807**	**5,172**	**5,365**

1. For a description of how the data has been estimated, see the publication "Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Report 2019".
2. These figures do not include an estimate of the gross turnover of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

Table 6.2 Performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector in Northern Ireland 2014-2019[1,2]

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sales per employee (£)	222,892	204,810	192,860	203,398	213,900	215,082
Value added per employee (£)	34,670	35,112	36,716	38,548	38,592	40,0273
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	10.4	9.4	11.3	12.4	11.7	13.3

1. For a description of how the data has been estimated, see the publication "Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Report 2019".
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 2014-2019

Full-time equivalents

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Processing of products[1,2]						
Animal by-products	116	116	115	112	115	102
Bakeries	3,466	3,719	3,823	3,926	4,101	4,541
Beef and sheepmeat	4,549	4,758	5,081	5,123	5,468	5,617
Drinks	1,362	1,327	1,328	1,318	1,424	1,442
Eggs	311	346	378	395	413	417
Fish	553	550	596	643	633	624
Fruit and vegetables	2,403	2,415	2,509	2,553	2,847	2,959
Milk and milk products	1,856	1,856	1,954	2,200	2,354	2,299
Pigmeat	1,366	1,414	1,528	1,725	1,656	1,730
Poultrymeat	4,510	5,055	5,230	5,639	5,171	5,215
Total processing sector	**20,489**	**21,555**	**22,540**	**23,632**	**24,181**	**24,945**
Agency Employment in food and drinks processing	**2,175**	**2,231**	**2,357**	**2,616**	**2,749**	**2,034**
Manufacture and supply of inputs[3]						
Animal feed	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,070	1,170	1,200
Fertilisers and lime	200	200	200	200	200	200
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	910	910	910	910	910	910
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	730	730	730	750	770	760
Services[4]	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Total supply sector	**3,990**	**3,990**	**3,990**	**4,080**	**4,200**	**4,220**

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, 2016-2020

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Catching	700	175	686	152	686	168	654	168	633	176
Processing and marketing	516	241	530	242	618	263	470	250	583	257
Others	113	47	126	56	118	58	111	56	91	49
Total	**1,329**	**463**	**1,342**	**450**	**1,422**	**489**	**1,235**	**474**	**1,337**	**482**

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA.

Table 6.5 Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2019

£ million

	NI[1]	GB[2]	ROI[3]	Other[4] EU	ROW[5]	Inter-vention	Total Sales	External[6] Sales	Export[7] Sales
Animal By-Products	*	*	*	*	*	0.0	45.1	*	*
Bakeries	159.6	121.0	117.0	2.9	5.1	0.0	405.6	246.0	125.0
Beef/Sheepmeat	206.5	941.9	104.8	106.2	30.8	0.0	1,390.3	1,183.7	241.8
Drinks	199.2	39.6	165.8	*	*	0.0	449.1	249.9	210.2
Eggs	60.2	114.9	14.5	*	*	0.0	189.8	129.6	14.7
Fish	14.6	49.4	6.0	*	*	0.0	92.6	78.0	28.5
Fruit/Vegetables	125.5	188.1	77.9	0.7	1.0	0.0	393.3	267.7	79.6
Milk/Milk Products	192.4	462.1	206.0	229.1	138.2	0.0	1,227.7	1,035.4	573.2
Pigmeat	101.3	121.7	82.4	*	*	0.0	400.1	298.8	177.1
Poultrymeat	*	*	*	*	*	0.0	771.6	*	*
Total	**1,241.9**	**2,548.7**	**855.6**	**410.1**	**308.8**	**0.0**	**5,365.2**	**4,123.2**	**1,574.5**

*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, 2021 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Exports[6]
Live Cattle	4.4	4.3	0.2	0.0	8.9	4.5
Live Sheep	7.1	38.3	0.5	0.0	46.0	38.9
Live Pigs	1.6	2.4	0.0	0.0	4.0	2.4
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	15.5	11.7	13.2	0.0	40.5	25.0
Total	**28.6**	**56.8**	**13.9**	**0.0**	**99.3**	**70.7**

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

Table 6.7 External sales of live animals[1] from Northern Ireland by destination 2016 - 2021

£ million

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
GB[2]	46.1	40.4	38.2	34.1	28.4	28.6
ROI[3]	53.0	53.5	59.3	49.9	57.5	56.8
Other EU[4]	15.7	16.2	13.5	18.1	14.0	13.9
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**114.8**	**110.1**	**111.0**	**102.1**	**100.0**	**99.3**
Export[7]	**68.7**	**69.7**	**72.8**	**68.0**	**71.6**	**70.7**

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

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

Table 6.8 Value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland 2015-2020

£ million

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sales Value (£ millions)	126.3	132.5	234.9	240.8	211.9	201.0

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

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Imports[6]
Live Cattle	2.7	80.8	4.0	0.0	87.5	84.8
Live Sheep	0.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.2
Live Pigs	0.0	66.4	0.1	0.0	66.5	66.5
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	6.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	6.4	0.1
Total	**19.2**	**150.5**	**4.2**	**0.0**	**163.9**	**154.7**

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

Table 6.10 External purchases of live animals[1] to Northern Ireland by origin, 2016 - 2021

£ million

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (provisional)
GB[2]	9.9	14.4	13.7	14.3	13.7	9.2
ROI[3]	75.3	95.5	95.3	100.5	144.1	150.5
Other EU[4]	0.5	1.4	1.0	1.4	2.3	4.2
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**85.7**	**111.4**	**110.0**	**116.3**	**160.1**	**163.9**
Import[7]	**75.9**	**96.9**	**96.3**	**101.9**	**146.4**	**154.7**

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 2015-2020

£ million

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Animal feedstuffs[1]	101.1	108.9	125.0	135.7	135.3	149.0
Animal hides and skins	32.4	26.4	25.9	21.5	11.8	7.0
Processed wood and timber	47.0	56.2	63.8	72.0	64.3	67.2
Inedible animal and veg products[2]	19.9	16.7	18.4	17.6	21.7	21.0
Total	**200.3**	**208.2**	**233.2**	**246.8**	**233.2**	**244.2**

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).

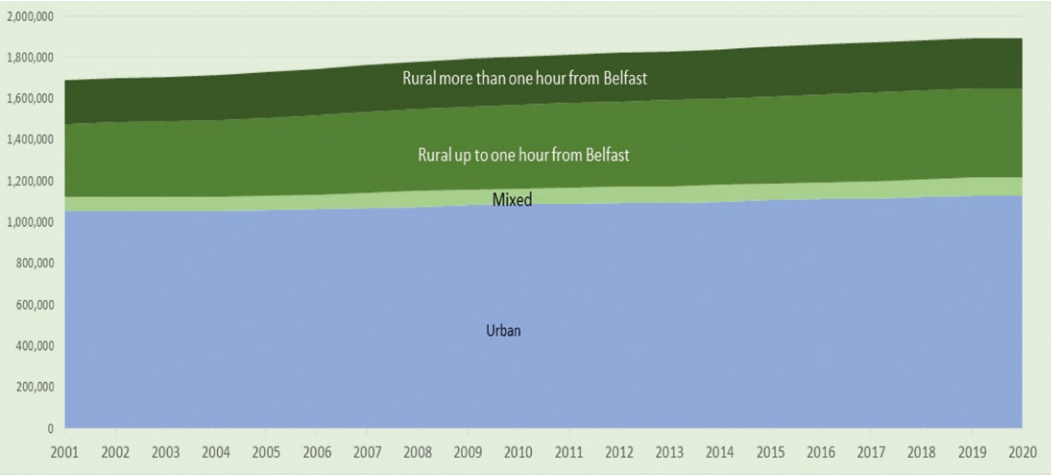
I Information in Table 7.13 is based on the Locale definitions of rural and urban used by Ofcom. Locale is a third-party data source which uses a combination of Government conurbation definitions, population density, urban sprawl boundaries, Ordinance Survey roadmaps and visual inspection to classify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

Rural Population

In 2020, 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, 60 percent lived within 20 minutes' drive time of a medium or larger settlement and 63 percent lived within an hour's drive time from Belfast. Rural and mixed urban/rural areas have experienced a much greater population growth since 2001 than towns and cities, with the biggest increases being in mixed areas, and in rural areas less than an hour's distance from Belfast (see Figure 7.1).

Income	Rural households on average enjoy higher incomes than their urban counterparts. However, there is a difference in incomes between rural dwellers living close to, and those living more distant from Belfast. Rural households located more than an hour's drive from Belfast have lower incomes and a much higher risk of poverty than those closer to Belfast (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2).
Businesses	In 2021, there were 77,640 businesses registered for VAT and/ or PAYE schemes in Northern Ireland. In 2019, businesses were legally obliged to register for VAT once their turnover exceeded £85,000. Agriculture is by far the leading industry in rural areas, particularly in those which are more than an hour's distance from Belfast. The majority of small businesses without employees are also located in rural areas, reflecting the dominance of agriculture in the rural economy (see Tables 7.3 and 7.4).
Education	The adult population of more remote rural areas have on average a lower level of formal educational attainment than those living in urban areas, whereas those living closer to towns and cities have higher levels (see Table 7.5). Rural school leavers are more likely to achieve GCSE or A level qualifications and to enter higher education than their urban peers (see Tables 7.6 and 7.7).
Housing	Rural areas show a much higher level of home ownership and a much lower level of social renting than urban areas, although the latter may in part reflect availability. House prices are in general higher and have been rising slightly more quickly in rural than in urban areas. The average household size is also higher in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.8 - 7.10).
Transport and telecommunications	Rural dwellers have a heavy reliance on private transport, in comparison to those in urban areas who enjoy much better access to bus and rail services (see Tables 7.11 and 7.12). Broadband speed and availability, though improving, are still much poorer in rural than in urban areas, due in part to the relatively high cost of deploying communications infrastructure in areas of sparse population or difficult terrain (see Table 7.13).
Health	Average life expectancy is higher and mortality rates are lower in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.14 and 7.15). However, median fire and ambulance response times are much longer in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.16 and 7.17).

Figure 7.1 Population Trends in NI 2001-2020



Source: NISRA Mid-year estimates 2020, November, 2020.

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

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

Table 7.1 Median equivalised[1] net[2] disposable weekly household income, 2019/2020

	Before Housing Costs £	After Housing Costs £
Urban	**500**	**456**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	540	498
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	520	486
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	575	531
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	453	414
All Rural	**530**	**494**
All Households (NI)	**506**	**473**

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, 2019/20.

Table 7.2 Percentage of individuals with incomes below 60% UK Median Income[1] 2019/2020

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
All Urban	**15**	**17**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	17	14
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	22	19
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	15	14
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	25	20
All Rural	**19**	**16**
All Households (NI)	**313**	**311**

1. Relative poverty threshold.

Source: DfC, Households below average income, 2019/20.

Table 7.3 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered business operating in NI by broad industry group[1], 2021

Broad Industry Group[1]	Urban	Rural					
		<=20 mins to settlement[2]	>20mins to settlement[2]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	Total
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2%	35%	45%	35%	47%	40%	**23%**
Production	7%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	**7%**
Construction	10%	15%	18%	17%	17%	17%	**14%**
Motor trades	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**4%**
Wholesale	5%	5%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**4%**
Retail	12%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	**8%**
Transport & storage (inc. postal)	4%	5%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**4%**
Accommodation & food services	9%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	**5%**
Information & communication	5%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	**3%**
Finance & insurance	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	**2%**
Property	5%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	**3%**
Professional, scientific & technical	13%	5%	4%	5%	3%	5%	**8%**
Business administration and support services	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	**4%**
Public administration and defence	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	*
Education	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	**1%**
Health	6%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	**4%**
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	10%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	**6%**
All Industries	**32,985**	**25,310**	**19,350**	**26,895**	**17,760**	**44,655**	**77,640**

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, 2021.

Table 7.4 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee size band, 2021

		Rural					
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	Total
Sole Trader (No employees)	16%	41%	43%	46%	38%	84%	**16,650**
Other[2] (No employees)	17%	44%	39%	47%	36%	83%	**7,280**
Micro (1-9 employees)	52%	29%	19%	31%	17%	48%	**45,420**
Small (10-49 employees)	65%	23%	12%	23%	11%	35%	**6,575**
Medium (50-249 employees)	72%	19%	9%	21%	7%	28%	**1,375**
Large (250+ employees)	84%	12%	4%	12%	4%	16%	**335**
All	**42%**	**33%**	**25%**	**35%**	**23%**	**58%**	**77,640**

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, 2021.

Table 7.5 Highest educational qualification 2019/2020

	Degree level or higher qualifications	Qualifications below degree level	No qualifications	Base[1] =100%
All Urban	**26%**	**53%**	**21%**	**1,799**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	32%	51%	16%	695
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	24%	50%	26%	451
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	33%	52%	16%	707
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	23%	50%	27%	439
All rural	**29%**	**51%**	**20%**	**1,146**
Total	**27%**	**52%**	**21%**	**2,945**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2019/20.

Table 7.6 Performance of school leavers, 2019/2020

		Rural					
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	All NI
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C[2]	**90%**	93%	94%	93%	94%	**93%**	**91%**
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C[2] inc. GCSE English and maths	**72%**	81%	82%	82%	81%	**81%**	**76%**
2+ A Levels A*-E[2]	**59%**	62%	60%	62%	60%	**61%**	**60%**
TOTAL	**12,005**	**5,140**	**3,384**	**5,380**	**3,144**	**8,524**	**20,529**

1. Settlement with population of 10,000 or more.
2. Including equivalents.
3. Missing/Invalid pupil residential postcodes have been omitted

Source: DE School Leaver's Survey 2019/20.

Table 7.7 Destinations of school leavers, 2019/2020

		Rural					
	Urban	<=20 mins to settlement[1]	>20mins to settlement[1]	<=hour from Belfast	> hour from Belfast	All rural	All NI
Higher Education[2]	**46%**	51%	49%	52%	48%	**51%**	**48%**
Further Education	**30%**	29%	27%	27%	32%	**28%**	**29%**
Employment	**10%**	7%	8%	8%	7%	**8%**	**9%**
Training[3]	**9%**	9%	12%	10%	10%	**10%**	**9%**
Unemployment	**3%**	2%	2%	2%	2%	**2%**	**3%**
Others	**2%**	1%	1%	2%	1%	**1%**	**2%**
TOTAL	**12,005**	**5,140**	**3,384**	**5,380**	**3,144**	**8,524**	**20,529**

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.
4. Missing/Invalid pupil residential postcodes have been omitted

Source: DE School Leaver's Survey 2019/20.

Table 7.8 Housing Tenure, 2019/2020

	Owner occupied/ co-ownership	Social rented	Private rented	Rent free	Base =100%
All Urban	**65%**	**19%**	**15%**	**1%**	**2,885**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	81%	7%	11%	1%	1,051
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	79%	8%	12%	2%	617
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	82%	7%	10%	1%	1,067
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	76%	8%	14%	2%	601
All rural	**80%**	**7%**	**12%**	**1%**	**1,668**
All Households (NI)	**69%**	**16%**	**13%**	**1%**	**4,553**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2019/20.

Table 7.9 Average House prices, 2021

	Q4 2021	Increase since Q1, 2015
All Urban	**£151,388**	**42.4%**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	£180,768	44.7%
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	£182,584	49.0%
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	£183,588	42.4%
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	£174,740	56.2%
All Rural	**£181,411**	**46.1%**
All Households (NI)	**£159,141**	**43.5%**

Source: NI House price Index, Detailed Statistics, Quarter 4,2021 *https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-house-price-index-statistical-reports*

Table 7.10 Average household size, 2019/2020

	Mean number persons per household	Base=100%
All Urban	**2.29**	**2,885**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	2.54	1,051
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	2.59	617
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	2.60	1,067
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	2.52	601
All Rural	**2.57**	**1,668**
All Households (NI)	**2.39**	**4,553**

Note: Information on distance from settlement is missing for one household. Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2019/20.

Table 7.11 Household access to car or van, 2019/2020

	No cars /vans	1 car /van	2 cars vans	>2 cars /vans	Base= 100%
All Urban	**22%**	**46%**	**26%**	**6%**	**2,885**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	7%	35%	44%	14%	1,051
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	10%	34%	41%	15%	617
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	7%	34%	45%	14%	1,067
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	11%	36%	39%	14%	601
All rural	**8%**	**35%**	**43%**	**14%**	**1,668**
Total	**17%**	**42%**	**32%**	**9%**	**4,553**

Note: Information on distance from settlement is missing for one household. Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2019/20.

Table 7.12 Access to public transport[1], 2017/2019

	Urban	Rural	All NI
Walk to nearest bus stop			
3 minutes or less	40%	18%	32%
44 minutes or longer	0%	10%	4%
Bus service frequency			
At least once every 15 minutes	23%	0%	14%
Less than three times a day	1%	10%	5%
Don't know	23%	41%	30%
Walk to nearest railway station			
6 minutes or less	4%	1%	3%
44 minutes or longer or n/a	43%	92%	61%
Rail service frequency[2]			
At least once an hour	86%	74%	82%
Less frequent service	1%	2%	2%
Don't know	10%	19%	13%

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 2017-19 https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/travel-survey-northern-ireland-depth-report-2017-2019

Table 7.13 Broadband speeds and availability, 2021

	Urban[1]	Rural[1]	NI
Average download speeds (Mbits)	95	50	82
Average monthly data usage (GB)	477	403	455
Coverage of Superfast Broadband (>=30Mbits)	99%	70%	91%
Fixed Broadband take-up[2]	87%	81%	85%
Coverage of Ultrafast Broadband (>=300Mbits)	92%	36%	76%
Premises served by full fibre	69%	28%	55%
Premises unable to obtain decent broadband service[3]	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, 2021: Connected Nations 2021, Northern Ireland report https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0023/229721/connected-nations-2021-northern-ireland.pdf

Table 7.14 Life expectancy at birth[1] 2014-2019

Years	2014-16		2015-17		2016-18		2017-2019	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Urban	77.4	81.5	77.2	81.6	77.5	81.6	77.5	81.7
Mixed Urban/Rural	79.5	81.9	80.2	82.5	80.2	82.5	80.2	83.1
Rural	80.3	83.8	80.3	83.7	80.5	83.9	80.8	84.0
All NI	**78.5**	**82.3**	**78.5**	**82.3**	**78.7**	**82.4**	**78.8**	**82.6**

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 2021 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2021

Table 7.15 Standardised Death Rate - All cause Mortality under 75 years[1] 2011-2019

Deaths per 100,000 population	2011-15	2012-16	2013-17	2014-18	2015-19
Urban	413	411	411	410	408
Mixed Urban/Rural	320	327	329	321	308
Rural	310	306	305	300	297
All NI	**372**	**369**	**369**	**366**	**363**

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 2021 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2021

Table 7.16 Median Fire Response Times[1] 2015-2020

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Urban	07:27	06:52	07:00	07:02	07:04
Mixed Urban/Rural	09:51	09:39	09:32	10:09	10:21
Rural	08:32	13:54	14:11	14:36	14:09
All NI	**07:49**	**08:02**	**08:11**	**08:23**	**08:05**

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 2021 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2021

Table 7.17 Median Ambulance Response Times[1] 2016-2020

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Urban	08:09	08:46	11:32	13:14	15:01
Mixed Urban/Rural	09:50	10:26	12:35	15:55	16:56
Rural	15:34	16:08	18:15	20:33	22:34
All NI	**09:57**	**10:36**	**13:36**	**15:36**	**17:14**

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

Source: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2021 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2021

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 2021, there were 1,968 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine TB. The herd incidence has increased slightly in 2021 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 2021, 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 408 on-farm welfare inspections in 2021. 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 408 welfare inspections carried out on farms by VSAHG during 2021, 93% were compliant, follow-up, targeted, or cross compliance inspections (where herds are identified as being “at risk”) with the remaining 7% being random cross compliance checks.

Of the 29 random cross compliance inspections in 2021, 100% achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 100% in 2019 and 2020).

Of the compliant, follow-up, and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 79% achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 87% in 2019 and 84% in 2020). 21% of these 379 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 6% 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 2021, 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 etc.

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Table 8.1 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Statistics

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing[1]	25,945	25,733	25,416	24,949	24,957	24,787
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	27,504	28,378	23,490	27,963	28,562	29,830
Total number of animals TB tested	1,709,790	1,750,170	1,744,580	1,732,200	1,720,278	1,827,749
Total new herd TB incidents[2]	1,739	2,208	2,089	1,757	1,861	1,968
Number of TB reactors	11,923	15,949	15,330	13,019	12,852	14,355

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

	2019	2020	2021
Number of Herds with BVD Animal Statuses Set	16,635	16,346	16,312
Number of Herds with Positive BVD Animal Statuses (Prevalence	971 (5.84%)	826 (5.05%)	856 (5.25%)
Number of Animals with BVD Status Set	526,865	539,702	561,665
Number of Animals with Positive BVD Status (Prevalence)	1,939 (0.37%)	1,541 (0.29%)	1837 (0.33%)
Number of Animals with Inconclusive BVD Status (Prevalence)	10 (<0.01%)	3 (<0.01%)	6 (<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 2021

Type of inspections	Compliance with animal welfare legislation	Number of Inspections	Category of Non-compliance	Number per category	Percentage of total %
Cross-compliance programme of random inspections	No	0	A B C	0 0 0	0 0 0
	Yes	29		29	100%
	Total	**29**		**29**	**100%**
Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections	No	79	A B C	47 6 26	12.40 1.58 6.86
	Yes	300		300	79.16
	Total	**379**		**379**	**100%**
All inspections	No	79	A B C	47 6 26	11.52 1.47 6.37
	Yes	329		329	80.64
	Total	**408**		**408**	**100%**

1. Reference EC decision 2006/778. Categories of non-compliance are defined as follows:
   - Category A: non-compliance related to housing or animal treatment with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties, though corrective action is required within 3 months.
   - Category B: non-compliance associated with staff training, record keeping or frequency of inspection of animals with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties, though notice should give an appropriate amount of time to make the necessary improvements i.e. more than 3 months.
   - Category C: a serious welfare problem requiring immediate action with respect to application of administrative or criminal penalties.

9. ENVIRONMENT

Local Authority Collected Waste

In 2020/21, Northern Ireland's councils collected 1,031,169 tonnes of Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal waste (see table 9.1). This was a 3.2 per cent increase on the 998,985 tonnes collected in 2019/20. 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 969,157 tonnes in 2015/16 to the 1,031,169 reported for 2020/21, a 6.4 per cent increase. The household waste per capita and household waste per household decreased between 2016/17 and 2019/20, before rising in 2020/21.

The recycling rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste increased between 2015/16 and 2019/20 before falling in 2020/21. The LAC recycling rate increased from 42 per cent in 2015/16 to 51 per cent in 2019/20, before falling to 50 per cent in 2020/21. The household waste recycling rate was 51 per cent in 2020/21.

The proportion of LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery has seen strong growth between 2015/16 and 2020/21 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 17.6 per cent in 2015/16 to 24.6 per cent in 2020/21.

The landfill rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste have been declining over the last six years. The landfill rate for LAC municipal waste recorded a new low of 23 per cent in 2020/21, which is 1 percentage point less than the 2019/20 rate (24 per cent) and 17 percentage points less than the 2015/16 rate (40 per cent).

The amount of biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW) sent to landfill in 2020/21 has fallen by 42 per cent compared with the amount sent in 2015/16. The proportion of LAC municipal waste being sent to landfill which was biodegradable was between 56 and 53 per cent during this time period.

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 2020, Northern Ireland's net greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 20.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$). This net figure is a result of an estimated 22.0 $MtCO_2e$ total emissions, offset by 1.1 $MtCO_2e$ of emissions removed through sequestration. This was a decrease of 4.2 per cent compared to 2019. The longer term trend showed a decrease of 23.9 per cent compared to 27.5 $MtCO_2e$ in the base year (see figure 9.1). The base year is 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for the fluorinated gases.

The largest sectors in terms of emissions in 2020 (see figure 9.2) were agriculture (27 per cent), transport (16 per cent), energy supply (14 per cent) and residential (14 per cent). Most sectors showed a decreasing trend since the base year. The largest decreases between 2019 and 2020, in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, were in the transport (-0.9 $MtCO_2e$) and residential (-0.1 $MtCO_2e$) sectors. The decline in transport emissions reflects the travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reduction in travel is reflected across all vehicle types, but particularly passenger cars and buses. The decline in residential emissions was driven by fuel switching from coal to natural gas, displacing more carbon intensive fuels.

Water quality

There are 571 water bodies in Northern Ireland, 496 of these are surface water bodies: including 450 rivers, 21 lakes, and 25 transitional & coastal water bodies (Marine). The remaining 75 are groundwater bodies. For surface waters, ecology and chemistry status of water bodies are assessed using Water Framework Directive (WFD) specifications. Ecology and chemistry status combine to an overall surface water status.

In 2018, new priority substances were introduced to the monitoring programme. For the first time the presence of ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic (uPBT) substances, so-called 'forever' chemicals, have been assessed as part of chemical status. Due to their bioaccumulative and persistent nature, uPBT substances have been detected at all monitored stations and resulted in failures of all of those stations. These failures were extrapolated to all water bodies so no river water bodies achieved good chemical status in 2021 as explained in the latest WFD report This report presents ecological and chemical status, as well as overall surface water status to provide more detailed information.

Table 9.2 provides information on river ecological status only. The ecological status reflects the key pressures acting upon our water environment such as excess nutrients and organic pollution resulting from agricultural and urban (sewage) land use. The ecology status of river water-bodies can be assigned to one of five classes from 'high' through to 'bad'. In 2021, approximately 32 per cent of river water bodies were classified as 'high' or 'good' ecological status. This compares with approximately 31 per cent classified as 'high' or 'good' in 2018 and 33 per cent in 2015.

Regional monitoring of nitrate concentrations in groundwater across Northern Ireland began in 2000. The Groundwater Daughter Directive sets the groundwater quality standard at 50 mg NO_3/l. In the period 2000 to 2006, approximately 91 per cent of sites had an annual mean concentration of less than 40 mg NO_3/l and approximately 82 per cent were less than 25 mg NO_3/l. Regional monitoring re-commenced in 2008, after a major review of the network was undertaken. The figures both pre and post review are broadly comparable. In 2020, nitrate concentrations were monitored at 50 groundwater sites across Northern Ireland giving an average concentration of 7.07 mg NO_3/l. Groundwater nitrate concentrations across Northern Ireland are generally low with 47 of the 50 (94 per cent) stations below 25 mg NO_3/l in 2020.

Table 9.4 provides information on the source of substantiated water pollution incidents. Water pollution originating from farms was the largest source in 2021 accounting for 29 per cent 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). The area of agricultural land managed through these schemes decreased by 85 per cent to 46,000 hectares (approximately 5 per cent of NI farmland) between 2015 and 2016. This was due to the expiration in 2016 of those remaining 10 year agreements from older agri-environment schemes such as the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) and the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme (ESAS). Within the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS), 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 2021, 62,000 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 remained at 8 thousand hectares between 2016 and 2021. The UK overall recorded an increase of 4 per cent, from 489 thousand hectares in 2020 to 507 thousand hectares in 2021 (see table 9.6).

Forestry

In Northern Ireland the state owned forest area has changed little since 2000. 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 2020/21 (see table 9.7). 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 2021, 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. When combined with NI Forest Service planting, 422 hectares of new woodland was planted in 2021/22, compared to 284 hectares in 2020/21.

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Table 9.1 Local Authority Collected (LAC) Waste Management Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2015/16 - 2020/21

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Arisings						
Total LAC municipal waste arisings (tonnes)	969,157	985,994	977,817	990,233	998,985	1,031,169
Household waste arisings (tonnes)	860,786	875,965	874,257	879,163	880,842	924,224
Non household waste arisings (tonnes)	108,371	110,028	103,561	111,070	118,143	106,945
Proportion of total LAC arisings from household waste (%)	88.8	88.8	89.4	88.8	88.2	89.6
Household waste per capita and per household						
Annual household waste per capita (kg)	464.9	470.4	467.3	467.2	465.2	487.6
Annual household waste per household (kg)	1,179	1,190	1,177	1,170	1,160	1,207
Recycling						
LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	41.8	44.0	47.6	49.8	51.1	50.0
Household waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	42.2	44.3	48.1	50.0	51.9	50.9
Energy Recovery						
LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery (%)	17.6	18.5	18.4	19.4	22.1	24.6
Landfill						
LAC municipal waste landfilled (%)	40.3	37.3	32.6	28.9	24.0	22.8
Household waste landfilled (%)	39.7	36.7	32.0	28.4	23.7	22.4
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW)						
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste landfilled (tonnes)	218,898	204,380	171,295	153,323	126,286	126,404
LAC municipal waste allocation (tonnes)	390,256	367,484	319,212	285,905	240,220	234,956
Proportion of LAC municipal waste landfilled which was biodegradable (%)	56.1	55.6	53.7	53.6	52.6	53.8

Source: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2020

Notes:

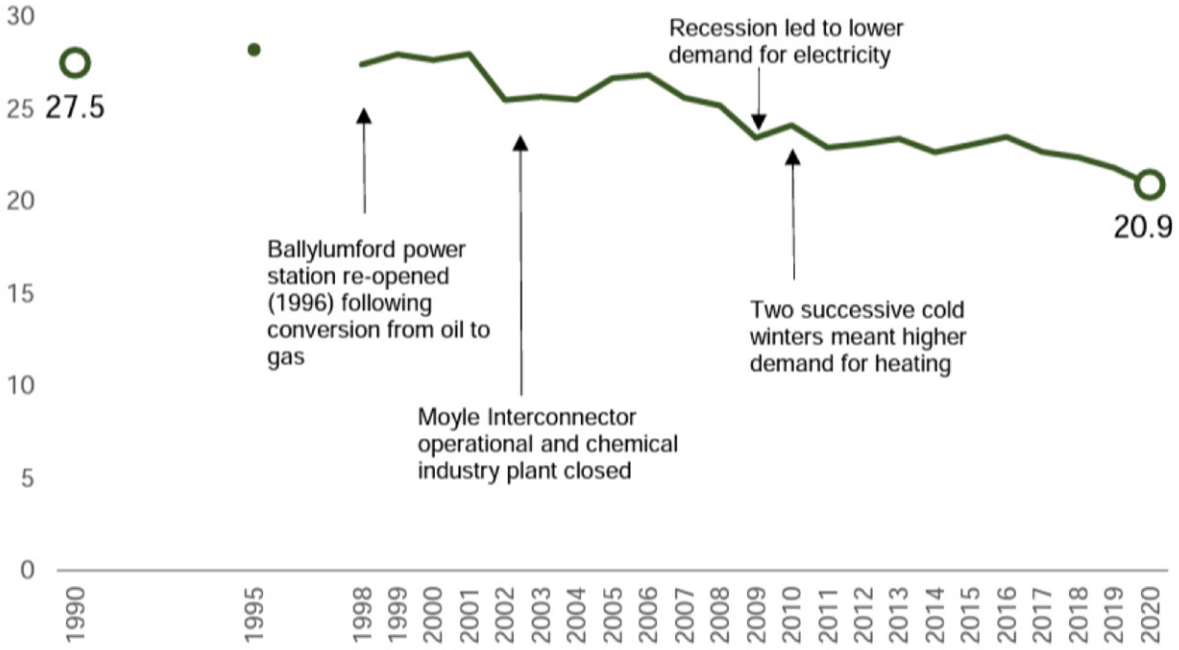
Rates calculated by dividing total tonnage waste sent in each category by total waste arisings.

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.

Figure 9.1 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland, 1990, 1995, 1998-2020



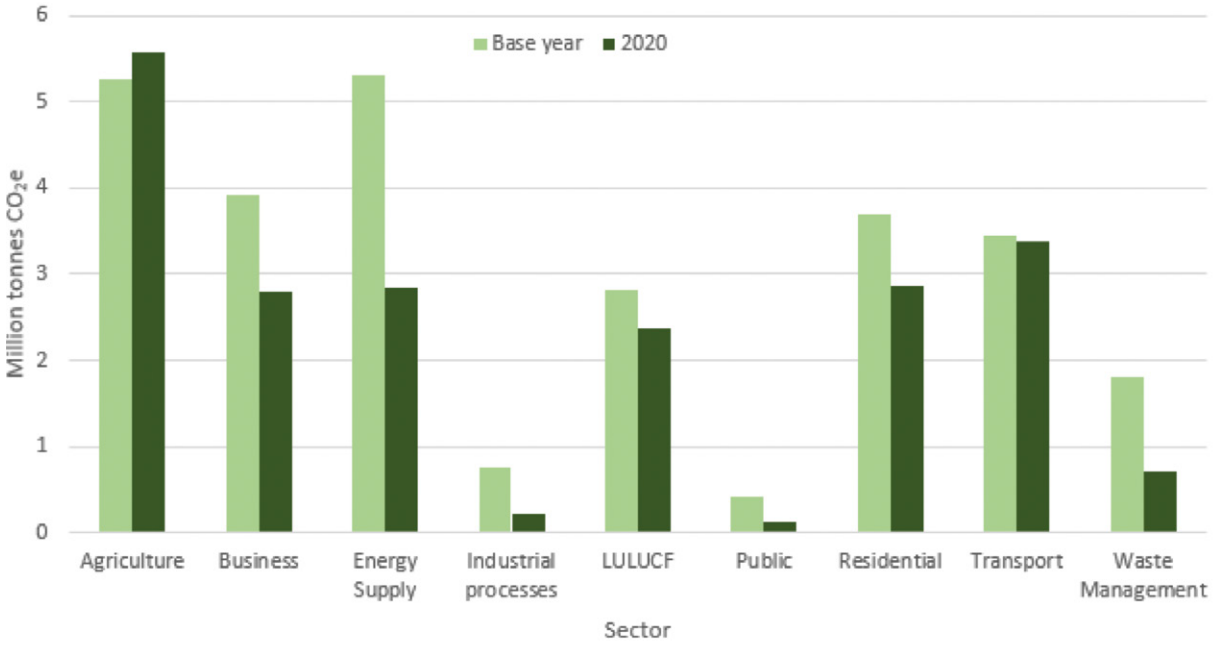
Source: Ricardo Energy & Environment.

https://naei.beis.gov.uk/reports/reports?section_id=4

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

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

Figure 9.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland by sector, 1990 to 2020



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 River ecological status 2015, 2018 and 2021

Number/Percentage of river water-bodies

Classification	2015		2018		2021	
	No.	%	**No.**	%	**No.**	%
High	**8**	2	**2**	0	**2**	0
Good	**139**	31	**139**	31	**141**	31
Moderate	**245**	54	**256**	57	**259**	58
Poor	**45**	10	**42**	9	**41**	9
Bad	**8**	2	**8**	2	**3**	1
No data	**5**	1	**3**	1	**4**	1

Source: Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive statistics report December 2021.

Table 9.3 Annual mean nitrate concentrations (in groundwater), 2015 - 2020

Unit: Percentage of sites

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0 to < 25 mg NO_3/l	96.1	98.0	98.0	94.4	96.4	94.0
25 to < 40 mg NO_3/l	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	2.0
40 to < 50 mg NO_3/l	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.9	1.8	0.0
≥ 50 mg NO_3/l	2.0	0.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	4.0

Source: NIEA

Note: Reduced sampling in 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

Table 9.4 Source of substantiated water pollution incidents, 2016 - 2021

Substantiated incidents

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Farm	328	304	284	343	296	253
Industry	164	201	185	164	163	152
NI Water	136	131	129	100	122	109
Domestic	213	199	165	151	170	187
Transport	13	17	15	22	18	12
Other	173	176	146	161	178	158
Total	**1,027**	**1,028**	**924**	**941**	**947**	**871**

Source: NIEA

Table 9.5 Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes, 2016 - 2021

thousand hectares

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Environmental Farming Scheme[1]	-	3	20	38	48	62
NI Countryside Management Scheme	46	46	46	8	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, 2016 - 2021

thousand hectares

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Northern Ireland	8	8	8	8	8	8
Wales	81	86	85	84	83	83
Scotland	122	123	92	92	96	104
England	297	300	289	301	302	311
UK	508	517	474	485	489	507

Source: DEFRA.

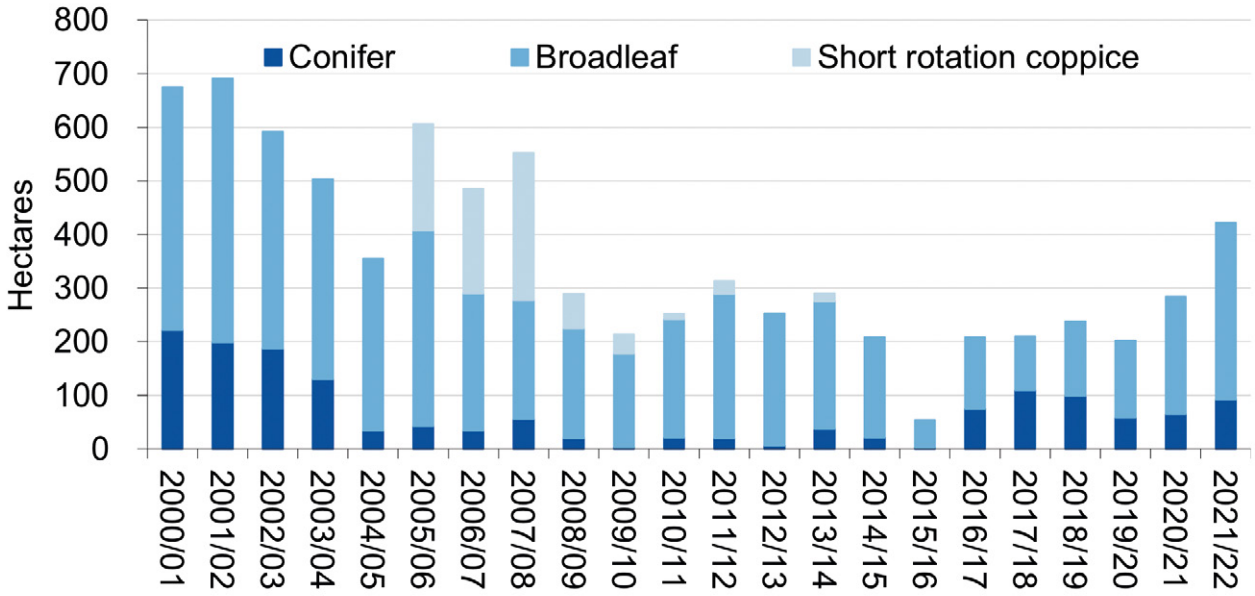
Table 9.7 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 2010/11 - 2020/21

	2010/11	2015/16	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Forested area (000ha)						
State	61	62	62	62	62	62
Private[1]	27	50	52	51	56	56
All forested areas	**88**	**112**	**113**	**113**	**118**	**119**
Timber production from state forests						
Volume (000 cubic metres)	496	409	421	395	419	408
Visitors to Forest Parks						
Charged day visitors to recreation areas (000's)[2]	393	432	509	532	465	76
Employees (number) Forest Service	222	223	214	207	210	212

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.
2. Charging to forest service carparks ceased between April and December 2020 facilitating the free use of an outdoor recreational environment.

Figure 9.3 Area of new forest and woodland plantings by private landowners supported by grant aid and NI Forest Service planting, 2000/01 - 2021/22



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 2021 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 2021 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2020 to January 2022, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2021). 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 2020 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2020 is now estimated at £628.2 million (previously £623.1 million) while total income from farming for 2020 is now estimated at £462.9 million (previously £456.3 million). A 30-year plus consistent series of the AAA is available on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk.

Census

Statistics on employment on farms (Tables 2.14 and 2.15), crop areas and livestock numbers (Section 3) and farm structure, (Section 4) are derived from the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census.

This is an annual statistical survey which is based on a large sample survey. From 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 **one acre or more**. From this time onwards a distinction was made between **'main'** holdings which were included in the census and **'minor'** holdings which were surveyed on a sample basis using simplified questions. Estimates were made for their total crop areas and livestock numbers but these holdings were not included in the count of farms.
1973-1980	In 1973, in conformity with a similar change in the rest of the United Kingdom, an alteration was made in the scope of the census in Northern Ireland. From then

until 1980, the main census covered all holdings which had at least 10 acres (4 hectares) of land with the addition of any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose stock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This definition of a 'main' holding removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, brought back a number of 'minor' holdings of less than one acre. The net reduction in the number of 'main' holdings arising from these adjustments was some 5,500.

1981-1996 A further change was made between 1980 and 1981 when, with the introduction of a new system of farm classification, and with changes to the minimum threshold in other parts of the UK, the threshold for inclusion in the 'main' census in Northern Ireland was raised. This new threshold restricted the census to holdings which had (a) a total land area (owned or taken on long-term lease) of 6 hectares or more or (b) any full-time workers other than the farmer or (c) a farm business size of 1,000 ECUs of Standard Gross Margin. This change resulted in the exclusion of a further 6,690 'minor' holdings from the main census between 1980 and 1981.

1997 The basis of the agricultural census was changed in 1997 from a 'census register' to a central register of all of the Department's 'clients'. The change was made possible as a result of the introduction of IACS and of work undertaken to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification across all schemes, with each farmer who was/is in contact with the Department being allocated a unique Client Reference Number and each "Client" being linked to a Business Identifier. The population surveyed in 1997 consisted of one 'Client' in each business for which a census return with crops and/or livestock was obtained in the preceding year or which had received a subsidy in respect of crops or livestock during the preceding 15 months. Also included were those with a milk quota and those known by the Department to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between 'main' and 'minor' holdings was discontinued.

1998-1999 A further 166 pig farms with no owned land were added to the population in 1998 and sampling was introduced. Census forms were issued only to half of the **'very small'** farms.

2000	A full census was conducted. Mushroom production was targeted and around 100 mushroom businesses which had not previously been surveyed were identified and added to the list of businesses covered.
2001-2006	A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999.
2007-2009	A sample survey was carried out. The number of cattle questions on the survey form were reduced as data was sourced primarily from APHIS (Animal and Public Health Information System) to determine cattle numbers. No poultry questions were asked, with data on poultry being sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
2010	A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was carried out.
2011-2012	Sample survey completed similar to years 2007-2009.
2013	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 p89.

STANDARD LABOUR REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

Size	Standard Labour Requirement
Very small	Less than 1
Small	1-<2
Medium	2-<3
Large	3-<5
Very large	5 or more

* 1 standard labour unit = 1900 hours.

Since there are few farms in the **very large** size range in Northern Ireland, these are included in the **large** category.

Farm business type[1]

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

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

[1]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:

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

Less Favoured Areas

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

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

Farm Business Survey (FBS)

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

In the most recent accounting year, 2020/21, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 309 businesses. This accounting information enables outputs, inputs and incomes to be analysed by farming type and business size. Trends in farm incomes from the FBS are produced by comparing results from identical samples of farms participating in the survey in successive years. Indices showing trends in cash incomes are derived by linking the results of identical samples from successive pairs of years (Table 5.1).

Differences between FBS and AAA

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

GENERAL NOTES TO TABLES

Symbols:

- means nil, or an insignificant quantity.

... means not available, or not collected.

Rounding:

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

Metric units:

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

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

Abbreviations:

dcw	-	dressed carcase weight
dwt	-	deadweight
lwt	-	liveweight

NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

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

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

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

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

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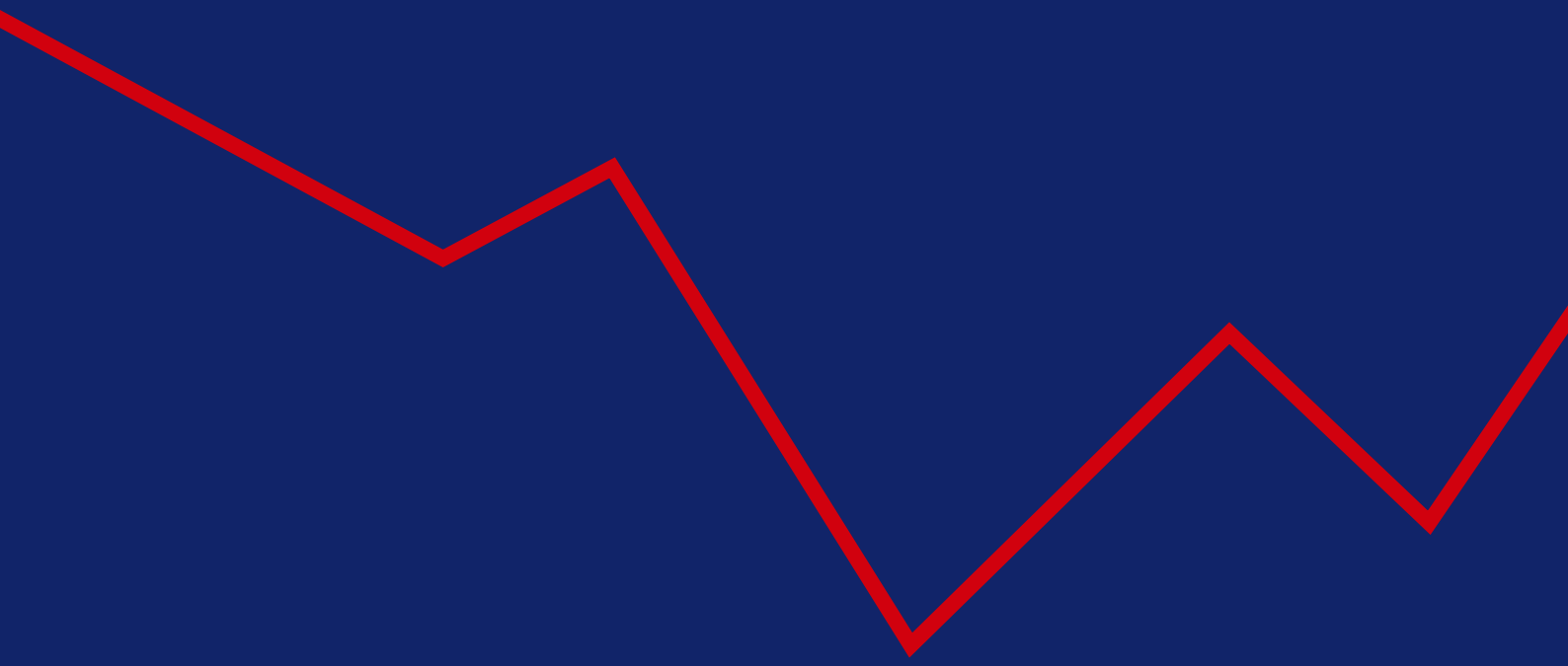

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