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Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture
2022

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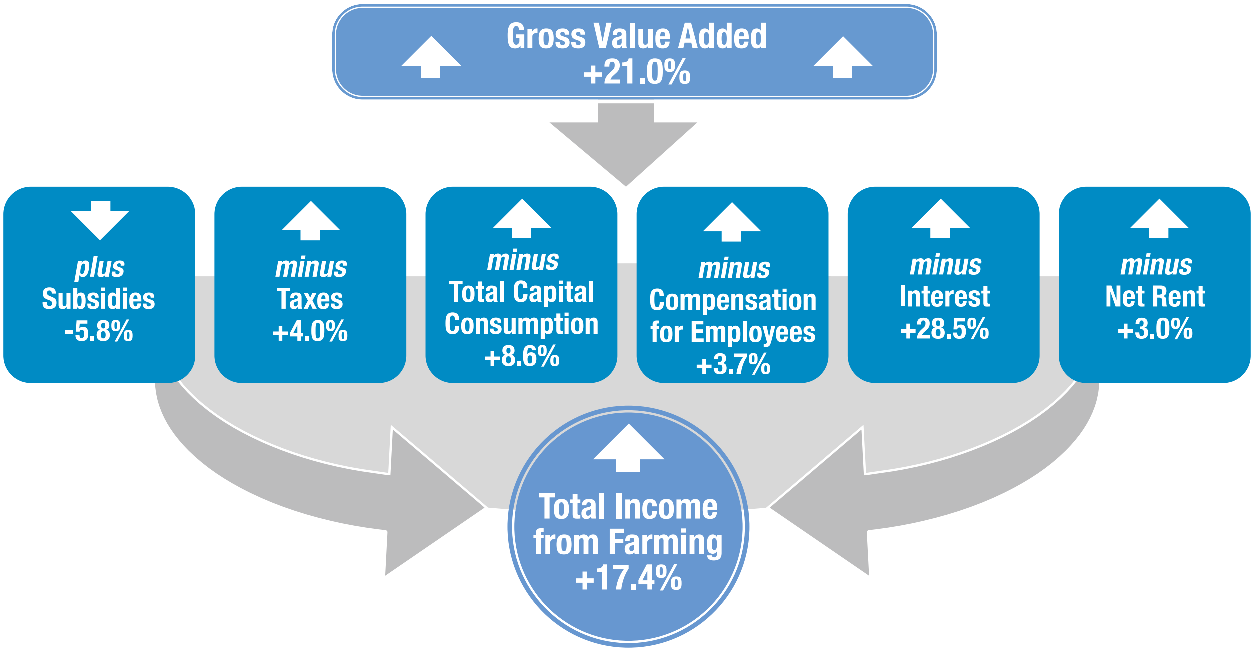
A National Statistics publication

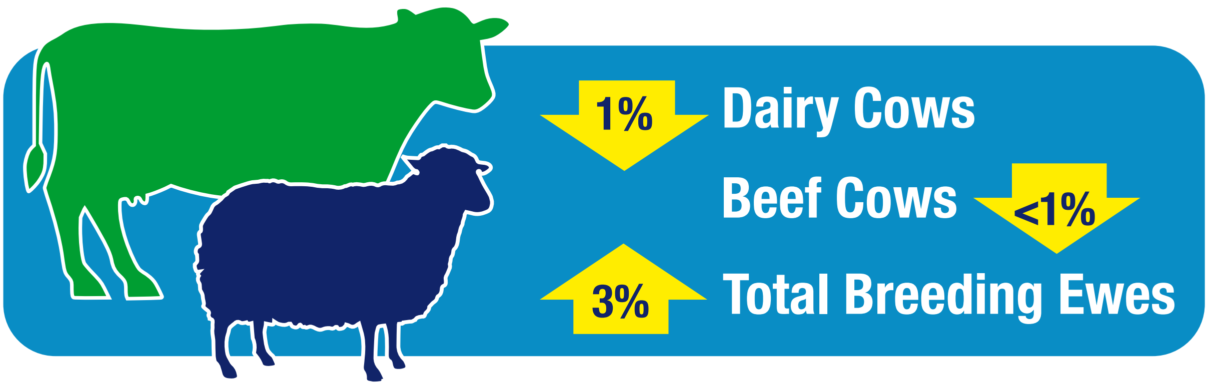
Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2022

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

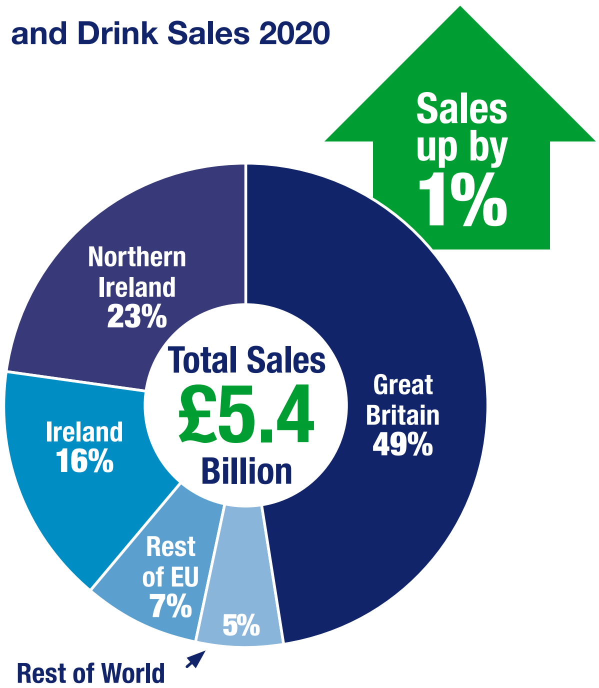
Agricultural Income changes 2021 & 2022



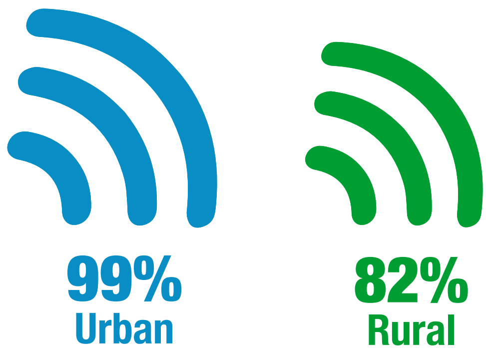
Cattle and Sheep Changes 2022



Northern Ireland Food and Drink Sales 2020



Coverage of Superfast Broadband 2022



Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2021

KEY FACTS 2022

Note: comparisons are with 2021 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms increased in 2022.
- **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 17.4 per cent (11.3 per cent in real terms) to £605 million, from £515 million in 2021.
- Following the increase in 2022, TIFF is now 65.8 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- This increase of TIFF in 2022 was mainly driven by higher product prices for most sectors in 2022.
- While product prices were generally higher in 2022, input costs also rose to record levels 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 £3.07 billion for 2022, a 23.0 per cent increase from 2021. There were also increases in the output for almost all sub-sectors. In particular milk output was up by £322 million to £1.13 billion due to a 40.5% increase in milk prices.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') increased by 23.8 per cent, to £2.18 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 54.1 per cent of the gross input figure, increased by 22.1 per cent in 2022 to £1.18 billion. There was a 1.3 per cent decrease in the volume of feedstuffs purchased and a 23.9 per cent increase in the average price paid per tonne. Total machinery expenses increased by 31.0 per cent to £208 million in 2022. This increase was mainly due to a 58.1 per cent increase in the cost of fuel & oils. Agricultural contracting costs also increased by 23.5 per cent to £119 million in 2022 whereas, total fertiliser and lime costs increased by 101.6% to £194 million in 2022.
- **Gross value added** increased in 2022 to £887 million; an increase of 21.0 per cent, while net value added - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies increased by 15.2 per cent, to £794 million.

Productivity (Tables 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 2.6 per cent rise in **total factor productivity (TFP)** - the productivity of all resources in the industry. **Single factorial terms of trade**, which is a measure of farmers' economic welfare, increased by 1.1 per cent.

Cash flow (Table 2.4)

- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have increased by 11.8 per cent, to £558 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 £34,844 in 2020/21 to £43,100 in 2021/22, an increase of £8,256 per farm. It is expected to increase from £43,100 in 2021/22 to £47,305 in 2022/23, i.e. an increase of £4,205 or 10 per cent per farm.

Subsidies (Table 2.10)

- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers decreased by 5.8 per cent or £18.6 million, to £304.3 million in 2022, mainly due to decreases in Basic Payment Scheme and COVID-19 payments.

  The total value of the Basic and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2022 was £297 million, a net decrease of 4 per cent or £12.3 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2021. The Basic, and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 98 per cent of all direct payments.

Labour (Table 2.14)

- The **total agricultural labour force** in 2022 was 51,760 persons, a 0.8 per cent decrease from 2021.

Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)

- The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2022 census was 1.69 million head, a 0.3 per cent increase from the previous year. At June 2022, there were 316,800 dairy cows an decrease of 0.5 per cent from 2021 and 246,200 beef cows an decrease of 0.3 per cent compared to 2021. In June 2022, the **sheep** breeding flock was 3.0 per cent higher than in 2021 at 997,200 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 2.1 million in 2022.
- At June 2022, the total number of **pigs** was 738,600, an increase of 3.0 per cent compared to 2021. There was a 6.8 per cent decrease to 46,700 in sow numbers and a 3.8 per cent increase to 691,900 in the number of other pigs. **Broiler** numbers decreased by 25.4 per cent to 11.9 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** increased by 22.7 per cent to 5.3 million birds.

Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)

- There was a 3.6 per cent increase, to 48,100 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2021 and 2022.

The total area of **cereals** was 32,700 hectares in June 2022, which was an increase of 7.3 per cent compared to 2021. In 2022, the total area of potatoes grown remained similar at 3,500 hectares compared to the previous year.

Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)

- There were 26,089 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2022, a 0.1 per cent increase from 2021.

Food & Drinks Sector

- The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate an increase in gross turnover between 2016 and 2020. Employment has also grown over the period. Exports account for 28 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 2022 2,253 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 1,968 in 2021. 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 2022, the animal incidence rate for BVD remains at less than 1%.

  The Veterinary Service (DAERA) carried out 544 on-farm welfare inspections in 2022. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 87 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 98 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2022, no 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 declined between 2016/17 to 2020/21 and then increased in 2021/22. In 2022, some 64,000 hectares of farmland were managed under the Environmental Farming Scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2021, agriculture was estimated to contribute 28 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. Total emissions from agriculture increased by 14.7 per cent between 1990 and 2021.

KEY FACTS COMPARISONS 2022

	NI	UK	ROI	EU27
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.9[P]	0.7[1]	1.0[1]	1.5[1]
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural, Forestry & Fishing employment ('000)	19	249	96	7,410
As % of total civil employment	2.2	0.8	3.8	3.7
LAND USE				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	1,043	17,227[1]	4,348	161,495[4]
As % of total area	77	71[1]	62	39[4]
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	62.9	50.4[3]	75.0[8]	50.7[8]
FARMS				
Number ('000)	26	216[1]	135[2]	9,067[2]
Average agricultural area (ha)	40.0	80.6[1]	33.4[2]	17.1[2]
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	99	105[1]	90[2]	-
Beef cows	18	28[1]	15[2]	-
Sheep	210	431[3]	156[2]	-
Pigs	1,819	519[1]	1,106[2]	-
Laying hens	10,796	1,237[7]	558[2]	-
Broilers	51,742	53,762[6]	27,383[2]	-
Cereals (ha)	15.4	70.5[1]	28.3[2]	-
Potatoes (ha)	9.1	16.7[1]	8.2[5]	-

1. 2021, 2. 2020, 3. 2019, 4. 2018, 5. 2016, 6. 2014, 7. 2013, 8. 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.

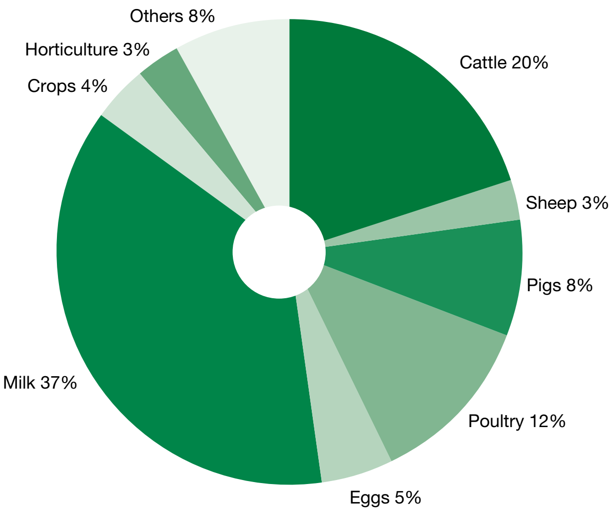
Note 2. Due to national accounting principles GVA figures do not include Single Farm Payment.

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

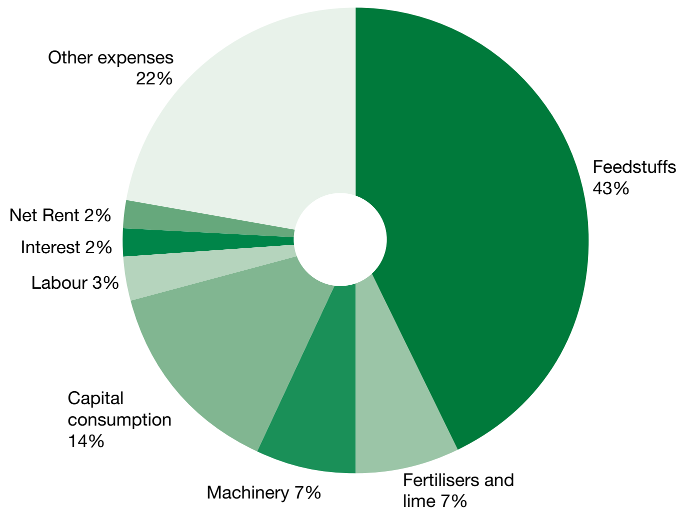
Note 4. The value given for LFA in the EU27 grouping excludes Croatia as it was not a member state in 2007.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

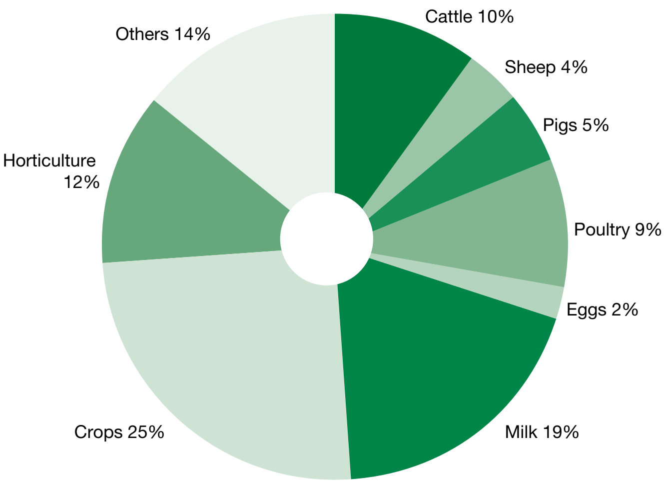
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2022



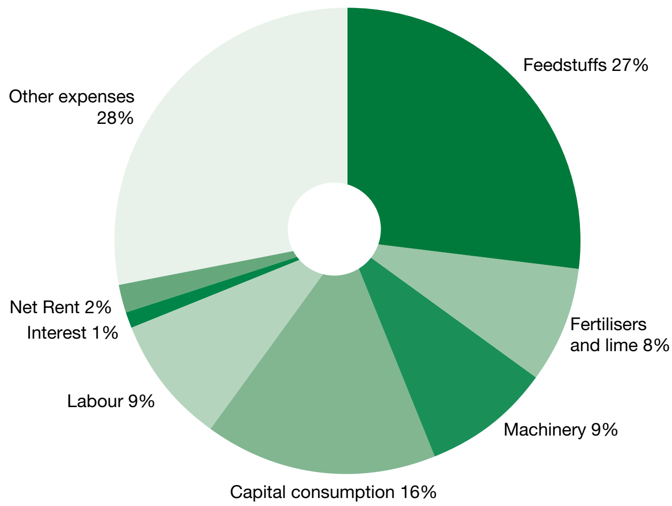
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2022



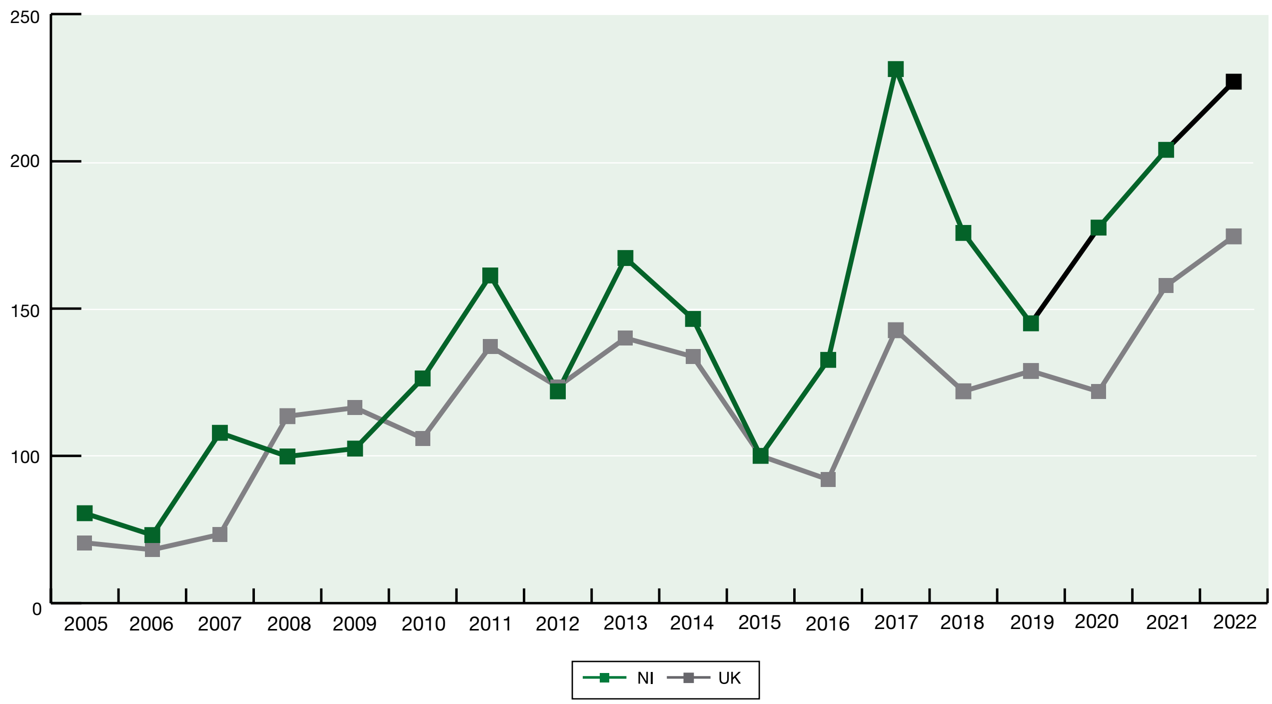
Gross ouput of UK agriculture, 2022



Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2022

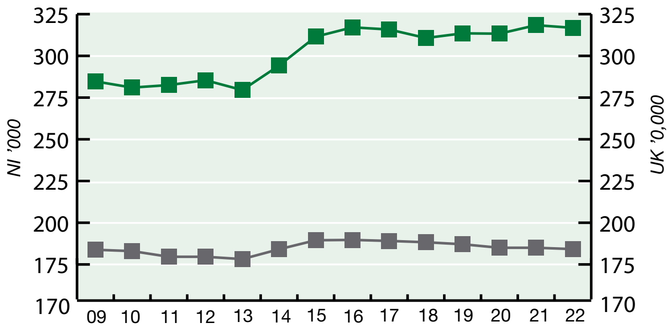


NI and UK Total Income from Farming Indices in real terms (2015 = 100)

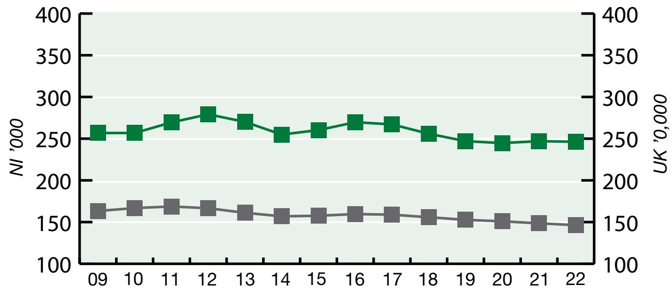


TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS

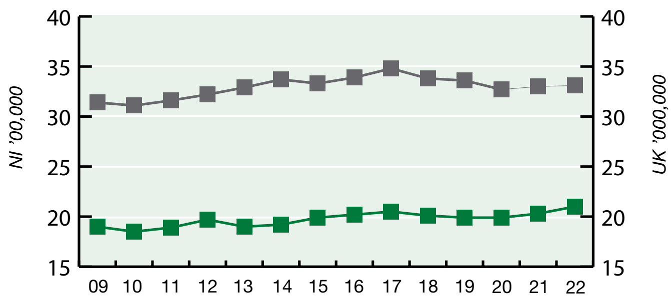
Dairy cows



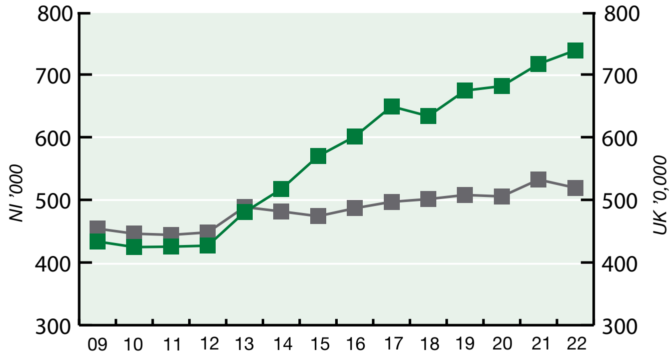
Beef cows



Sheep



Pigs



Breeding and laying birds

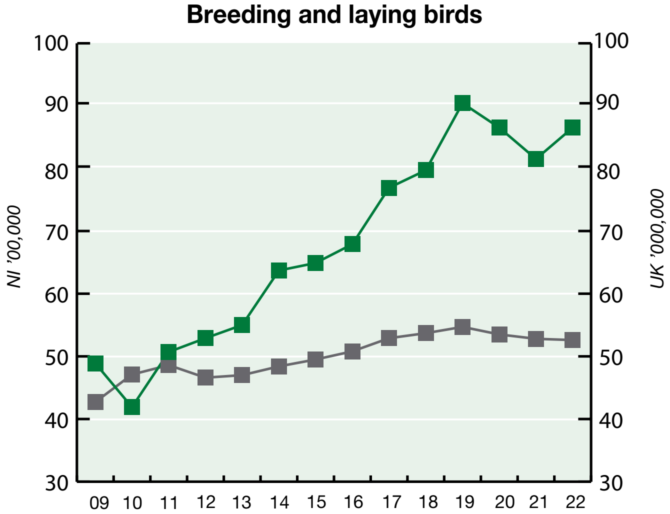
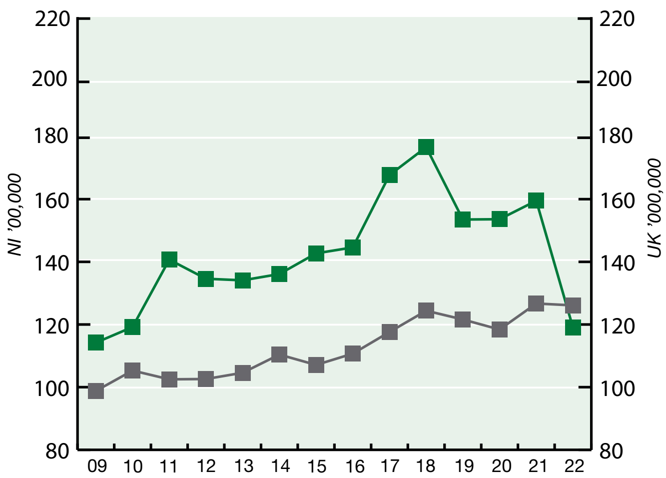
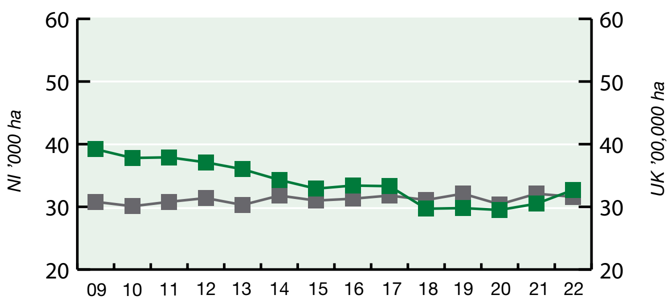


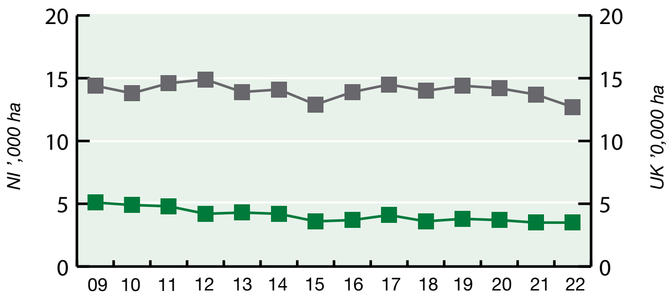
Table chickens



Cereals



Potatoes



NI UK

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 59th 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 2021 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture increased in 2022. **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 17.4 per cent (11.3 per cent in real terms) from £515 million in 2021 to £605 million in 2022 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** in 2022, estimated at £3.07 billion, was 23.0 per cent higher compared with 2021. 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 2022, to £2.18 billion; 23.8 per cent higher. This increase can mainly be attributed to a 22.1 per cent rise in feedstuffs costs, a 101.6 per cent rise in fertilisers (including lime) costs and a 58.1 per cent rise in machinery fuel (including oils) 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 21.0 cent to £887 million in 2022 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 by 15.2 per cent, to £794 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 3.7 per cent to £84 million in 2022 from £81 million in 2021. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.26) increased by 23.4 per cent to £61 million, whereas, conacre rent paid to non-farmers increased by 3.0 per cent to £59 million in 2022.

Total Income from farming	The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF)** increased in 2022, by 17.4 per cent to £605 million, an increase of 11.3 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following this increase in 2022, TIFF was 65.8 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 2003 to 2022, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 4.4 per cent with the result that, in real terms, **TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour** in 2022 was 59.0 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 11.8 per cent, to £557.6 million in 2022.
Subsidies	**Total direct payments** to farmers decreased by 5.8 per cent or £18.6 million, to £304.3 million in 2022, mainly due to decreases in Basic Payment Scheme and COVID-19 payments. The total value of the Basic and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2022 was £297 million, a net decrease of 4.0 per cent or £12.3 million compared with the equivalent payments in 2021. The Basic and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 98 per cent of all direct payments.
Investment	**Gross annual capital investment** increased by 2.3 per cent or £6.7 million to £294 million in 2022. Within this total there was a 1.9 per cent increase in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works was up by 3.1 per cent.

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Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture[1] 2017-2022

£ million

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
OUTPUT[2]						
Livestock and livestock products[3]						
Finished cattle and calves[4]	464.4	459.5	431.0	450.7	518.9	602.7
Finished sheep and lambs[4]	73.2	80.3	66.5	79.7	99.4	105.8
Finished pigs	168.4	162.8	183.3	210.8	208.9	258.7
Poultry[5]	310.1	330.8	308.2	299.4	323.7	375.6
Eggs[6]	102.0	103.6	108.0	120.4	125.0	148.1
Milk	664.1	681.6	656.5	668.7	809.5	1131.1
Minor products[7]	13.9	13.6	12.7	10.2	11.4	10.7
Total livestock and livestock products	**1,796.1**	**1,832.2**	**1,766.2**	**1,840.0**	**2,096.8**	**2,632.6**
Field crops						
Potatoes	21.8	19.7	21.6	20.2	19.4	26.6
Cereals	30.4	32.4	33.3	31.1	47.8	64.5
of which: barley	17.6	21.8	20.7	20.5	30.5	40.7
wheat	10.8	8.7	10.6	8.8	15.1	20.5
oats	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.2	3.3
Other crops[8]	11.4	13.0	14.1	10.2	15.9	17.7
Total field crops	**63.6**	**65.0**	**69.0**	**61.5**	**83.2**	**108.8**
Horticultural products						
Fruit	16.5	14.0	8.4	12.5	11.9	17.7
Vegetables	18.3	17.4	17.1	18.3	26.0	21.2
Mushrooms	54.3	53.6	54.6	46.0	30.0	28.6
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	25.3	24.8	20.8	18.6	18.4	28.9
Total horticultural products	**114.4**	**109.8**	**101.0**	**95.4**	**86.2**	**96.4**
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	81.2	75.4	89.6	125.6	116.2	94.2
Agricultural contract work[9]	79.8	93.0	90.6	87.7	96.3	118.9
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities[10]	13.5	13.9	13.8	13.7	14.0	14.7
A Gross output	**2,148.7**	**2,189.3**	**2,130.2**	**2,223.9**	**2,492.8**	**3,065.6**

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)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
							£ million
A	**Gross output**	**2,148.7**	**2,189.3**	**2,130.2**	**2,223.9**	**2,492.8**	**3,065.6**
	INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
	Expenditure						
	Feedstuffs[11]	744.1	847.0	830.0	839.9	966.1	1179.4
	Seeds[12]	11.0	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.6	11.4
	Marketing expenses[13]	38.2	37.6	37.1	38.1	39.3	40.7
	Fertilisers and lime	84.2	84.5	85.7	83.2	96.2	193.9
	Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	146.8	155.3	148.3	143.2	158.8	207.9
	Farm maintenance	47.8	50.8	43.3	52.0	61.4	69.7
	Veterinary expenses and medicines	66.4	66.0	63.2	68.1	72.7	73.6
	Other variable costs[14]	128.6	133.0	135.3	135.2	143.3	148.9
	Miscellaneous expenses[15]	85.1	88.4	86.5	88.9	101.8	119.6
	Agricultural contract work	79.8	93.0	90.6	87.7	96.3	118.9
	Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	FISIM[16]	10.4	10.1	12.8	14.2	13.4	14.6
B	**Gross input**	**1,442.4**	**1,576.4**	**1,543.5**	**1,561.2**	**1,759.9**	**2,178.6**
C	**Gross value added (A-B)**	**706.3**	**612.9**	**586.7**	**662.8**	**732.9**	**887.1**
	Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
	- livestock	70.0	70.5	89.9	103.9	92.8	96.2
	- plant, machinery and vehicles	130.7	138.4	141.0	142.3	149.6	168.0
	- buildings and works	114.7	115.4	115.4	112.3	114.6	123.4
D	**Total consumption of fixed capital**	**315.5**	**324.3**	**346.3**	**358.5**	**356.9**	**387.6**
	Other subsidies (not paid on products)[17]	313.7	301.0	289.4	319.4	322.9	304.3
	Other taxes (not levied on products)[18]	8.7	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.3	9.6
E	**Other subsidies (less taxes)**	**304.9**	**292.2**	**280.5**	**310.4**	**313.7**	**294.7**
F	**Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)**	**695.7**	**580.9**	**520.9**	**614.6**	**689.6**	**794.1**
G	Paid labour	74.8	76.4	78.0	73.8	80.9	83.9
H	Interest	35.1	38.7	39.1	34.3	36.0	46.3
I	Net rent[19]	54.8	55.6	58.0	57.2	57.5	59.3
J	**Total income from farming[20] (F-G-H-I)**	**531.0**	**410.3**	**345.7**	**449.3**	**515.2**	**604.6**

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 2017 - 2022

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Index at current prices						
Net value added[1]	185.2	154.6	138.6	163.6	183.5	211.4
Total income from farming[1]	239.9	185.4	156.2	203.0	232.8	273.2
Index in real terms[2]						
Net value added	178.6	146.5	128.7	143.0	160.8	175.7
Total income from farming	231.3	175.7	145.0	177.5	203.9	227.0

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

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices 2017 - 2022

Indices: 2015 = 100

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Gross output volume[1]	104.2	105.5	105.6	106.4	108.7	110.1
Gross input volume[1]	104.5	105.6	105.3	103.1	104.1	101.7
Gross value added volume[1]	103.7	105.3	106.0	110.3	114.3	120.1
Net value added volume[1]	105.6	108.9	109.9	115.8	121.3	130.6
Total factor productivity[2]	101.9	102.7	102.8	104.3	105.3	108.0
Labour productivity[3]	104.6	106.8	107.3	108.6	113.2	124.6
Single factorial terms of trade[4]	126.2	117.8	112.9	117.4	117.3	118.6

1. Calculated by applying 2000 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 2000 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 2017 - 2022

£ million

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Total income from farming	**531.0**	**410.3**	**345.7**	**449.3**	**515.2**	**604.6**
Less:						
output stock change	+7.1	-8.9	-9.6	+11.5	+43.4	-4.1
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	81.2	75.4	89.6	125.6	116.2	94.2
capital investment[1]	229.2	263.0	191.6	242.9	272.6	278.3
Plus:						
input stock change	-0.9	-0.7	+0.5	+0.4	+2.4	-0.5
capital consumption	315.5	324.3	346.3	358.5	356.9	387.6
capital grants paid in year[2]	7.1	18.7	18.7	16.3	14.9	13.0
change in borrowings	-42.3	-4.9	+36.5	+49.6	+41.6	-78.8
Cash available to farm families from farming	**492.8**	**418.1**	**476.2**	**494.2**	**498.8**	**557.6**

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

2021

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2]: Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total	Sector gross margins[3]	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	916.0	316.4	29.9	10.2	356.5	559.4	48.5%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	465.2	137.9	45.9	27.1	210.9	254.3	22.0%
Sheep and wool	100.0	20.9	16.4	5.8	43.1	56.9	4.9%
Total grazing livestock	**1,481.2**	**475.2**	**92.1**	**43.2**	**610.5**	**870.7**	**75.4%**
Pigs	208.9	139.6	-	4.8	144.4	64.5	5.6%
Poultry & Eggs	448.9	353.9	-	14.3	368.3	80.6	7.0%
Total intensive livestock	**657.7**	**493.5**	**-**	**19.1**	**512.6**	**145.1**	**12.6%**
Cereals	63.8	-	11.4	-	11.4	52.4	4.5%
Potatoes	19.4	-	4.7	-	4.7	14.8	1.3%
Horticulture[4]	86.2	-	14.1	9.6	23.7	62.5	5.4%
Total field crops	**169.4**	**-**	**30.2**	**9.7**	**39.8**	**129.6**	**11.2%**
Other items	13.8	3.4	1.3	0.1	4.8	9.0	0.8%
Total	**2,322.2**	**972.2**	**123.6**	**72.0**	**1,167.8**	**1,154.4**	**100.0%**

2022 (Provisional)

Sector	Adjusted outputs[1]	Estimated specific costs[2]: Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total	Sector gross margins[3]	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	1,249.2	386.6	59.1	10.5	456.2	793.0	56.4%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	532.3	155.7	92.5	28.8	277.0	255.4	18.2%
Sheep and wool	106.3	26.5	32.6	6.2	65.3	41.1	2.9%
Total grazing livestock	**1,887.8**	**568.7**	**184.3**	**45.4**	**798.4**	**1,089.4**	**77.4%**
Pigs	258.7	187.3	-	4.9	192.2	66.5	4.7%
Poultry & Eggs	524.0	429.6	-	13.6	443.2	80.8	5.7%
Total intensive livestock	**782.7**	**616.9**	**-**	**18.5**	**635.4**	**147.3**	**10.5%**
Cereals	82.2	-	13.3	-	13.3	68.9	4.9%
Potatoes	26.6	-	5.2	-	5.2	21.5	1.5%
Horticulture[4]	96.4	-	13.6	10.1	23.7	72.6	5.2%
Total field crops	**205.2**	**-**	**32.1**	**10.2**	**42.2**	**162.9**	**11.6%**
Other items	14.5	4.6	2.6	0.1	7.3	7.2	0.5%
Total	**2,890.2**	**1,190.2**	**218.9**	**74.2**	**1,483.4**	**1,406.8**	**100.0%**

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

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

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

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

Table 2.6 Quantities of the main products in output[1] 2017 - 2022

	Units of quantity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	145,216	148,732	149,464	150,109	152,043	164,242
Sheep and lambs	,,	21,332	20,685	20,274	20,926	19,931	21,814
Pigs[2]	,,	112,031	116,216	129,532	139,449	144,129	149,169
Cattle and calves	'000 head	472	475	462	451	452	493
Sheep and lambs	,,	983	949	901	951	901	994
Pigs[2]	,,	1,256	1,267	1,401	1,480	1,536	1,576
Poultry[3]	'000 tonnes lwt	317	330	302	310	320	301
Eggs[4]	m. doz	140	149	156	163	167	176
Milk[5]	m. litres	2,285	2,345	2,390	2,447	2,540	2,526
Field crops							
Wheat	'000 tonnes	65.0	52.1	59.0	51.6	59.7	62.8
Barley	,,	117.9	111.1	126.4	122.0	132.6	139.2
Oats	,,	9.4	13.5	9.6	12.0	11.2	11.6
Potatoes	,,	152.0	122.9	157.1	131.9	129.3	144.6
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	'000 tonnes	55.6	57.7	53.8	40.6	41.9	49.2
Vegetables	,,	57.4	49.6	49.9	54.8	69.3	60.9
Mushrooms	,,	35.5	34.1	34.3	28.6	18.6	16.4

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 2017 - 2022

£ per unit

	Units	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	1,162	1,174	1,119	1,196	1,332	1,438
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	3.48	3.49	3.26	3.46	3.83	4.17
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	303	310	334	449	650	768
Culled cows and bulls	head	747	769	708	779	861	984
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	2.47	2.51	2.25	2.43	2.70	3.15
Store cattle exported	head	801	806	782	816	911	912
Finished sheep and lambs	head	86.12	92.09	85.71	98.30	117.21	118.01
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.99	4.26	3.86	4.52	5.36	5.35
Finished clean pigs	head	134.79	131.45	135.20	147.85	139.76	168.19
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.52	1.44	1.47	1.58	1.50	1.79
Milk[2]	litre	0.291	0.290	0.275	0.273	0.319	0.448
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.730	0.694	0.694	0.739	0.749	0.843
Broilers	kg lwt	0.900	0.925	0.922	0.876	0.950	1.195
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop[3]	tonne	147	169	173	164	171	203
Seed	tonne	173	166	195	181	180	186
Barley	tonne	154	186	163	168	222	294
Wheat	tonne	160	182	174	191	237	303
Oats	tonne	157	190	183	181	204	270
Mushrooms	tonne	1,530	1,570	1,590	1,610	1,610	1,740
Apples	tonne	263	203	199	230	245	338

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 2017 - 2022

Indices: 2015 = 100

	Weights[2]	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Finished steers and heifers	206	107	107	100	106	117	128
Culled cows and bulls	41	116	118	105	114	127	147
Store cattle exported	6	101	101	98	103	115	115
Finished sheep and lambs	36	117	125	113	133	157	157
Finished clean pigs	74	128	121	124	133	126	150
Milk	298	137	137	130	129	150	211
Eggs for consumption	55	97	92	92	98	100	112
Broilers	135	105	108	108	102	111	171
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	12	114	131	135	128	133	158
Seed	1	113	109	128	118	118	121
Barley	12	118	142	125	129	170	225
Wheat	6	118	134	128	140	174	223
Mushrooms	42	102	105	106	108	108	116
Apples	7	97	75	73	85	90	125
Total products index[2]	**931**	**118**	**119**	**114**	**117**	**129**	**165**
Inputs index[3]	**1,000**	**95**	**104**	**104**	**104**	**116**	**151**

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] 2017 - 2022

£ per head

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,279	1,387	1,494	1,598	1,643	1,851
Dairy cows in calf	1,078	961	1,072	1,422	1,383	1,239
Dairy springing heifers	1,055	1,224	1,267	1,457	1,374	1,502
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	1,212	1,229	1,233	1,401	1,425	1,471
Beef cows in calf	924	938	1,068	1,106	1,136	1,072
Beef springing heifers	1,136	1,124	1,321	1,440	1,269	1,244
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	638	646	641	698	791	785
300-400 kg steers	757	757	745	783	863	868
400-500 kg steers	881	890	854	906	984	1,002
Over 500 kg steers	1,101	1,110	1,048	1,134	1,225	1,311
150-300 kg heifers	571	570	591	672	718	687
300-400 kg heifers	699	690	694	739	845	808
400-500 kg heifers	855	854	822	876	958	966
Over 500 kg heifers	1,058	1,068	1,024	1,100	1,202	1,275
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	469	415	409	423	431	394
Over 200 kg steers	729	749	742	774	815	836
Under 200 kg heifers	413	391	396	463	447	428
Over 200 kg heifers	659	663	680	721	761	761
Dropped calves						
For rearing	210	203	208	255	251	208
Cull cows	701	716	694	772	848	985
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	101.37	96.14	112.84	125.36	105.08	148.22
Blackface Cross	133.41	123.39	123.81	152.40	162.54	151.33
Other breeds	122.92	123.57	127.09	151.10	166.46	157.41
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	83.21	87.35	79.78	95.77	107.24	110.03
Blackface Cross	86.61	87.06	85.44	107.14	113.50	105.81
Other breeds	81.94	85.55	84.09	102.96	114.33	103.81
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	98.94	90.21	101.95	119.52	122.86	115.84
Blackface Cross	108.26	92.68	127.72	162.53	181.37	170.55
Other breeds	150.84	154.01	161.43	168.73	212.96	206.73
Cull ewes						
Blackface	41.88	42.74	43.49	55.56	54.31	56.60
Blackface Cross	53.03	55.68	61.64	71.09	83.36	85.95
Other breeds	63.61	66.89	69.51	78.36	95.16	104.47
Cull rams	63.26	68.19	69.41	82.59	103.30	113.88
Store lambs	60.59	63.54	61.07	73.49	82.91	79.44

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

Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1,2] 2017 - 2022

£ million[3]

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS[4]						
Single farm payment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basic Payment Scheme	195.4	194.0	192.4	201.1	307.1	295.5
Greening Payment	87.8	87.7	87.7	87.9	-	-
Young Farmers Payment	5.7	5.8	5.8	3.9	2.7	2.0
Financial Discipline Deduction	3.4	3.5	3.5	-	-	-
Financial Discipline Reimbursement	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	-	-
Penalties	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.5
Other direct payments						
EU Support Package[7]	4.1	-	-	-	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital) (Or EFS from 2018)	-	2.9	3.6	4.1	4.5	5.9
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC[5] from 2015)	18.9	8.8	-	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	2.6	2.8	0.8	-	-	-
New Entrants Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others[6]	-	-	-	19.9	9.2	1.5
Total other direct payments	**25.6**	**14.4**	**4.4**	**24.0**	**13.7**	**7.4**
Total direct payments	**313.7**	**301.0**	**289.4**	**319.4**	**322.9**	**304.3**

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. Transport Fodder Scheme in 2013. COVID-19 payments. Protein Crop Payment.
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] 2017 - 2022

£ million[2]

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) - Capital	-	9.7	13.6	12.0	2.7	4.5
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Business Improvement Scheme	7.1	9.0	5.1	4.3	12.3	8.6
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital grants[4]	**7.1**	**18.7**	**18.7**	**16.3**	**14.9**	**13.0**
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation[3]	23.7	24.1	20.1	21.4	26.7	32.5
Snow Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments[4]	**23.7**	**24.1**	**20.1**	**21.4**	**26.7**	**32.5**

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

Table 2.12 Estimated gross annual capital investment in fixed assets and equipment[1] 2017 - 2022

£ million

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Total buildings and works[2]	**83.4**	**97.2**	**106.4**	**84.9**	**104.0**	**107.2**
Plant and machinery	133.5	153.5	109.6	138.3	163.2	166.1
Vehicles[2,3]	12.0	18.9	14.4	14.7	19.5	20.3
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	**145.5**	**172.4**	**124.0**	**153.0**	**182.8**	**186.3**
Total investment	**228.9**	**269.5**	**230.4**	**237.9**	**286.8**	**293.5**

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) 2017-2022

	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Indicator							
Total Bacterial Count	000' per ml	17	19	17	20	21	21
Somatic Cell Count	000' per ml	196	196	197	201	205	194
Butterfat Content	%	4.01	4.03	4.04	4.06	4.10	4.15
Protein Content	%	3.26	3.28	3.29	3.30	3.30	3.31
Lactose Content	%	4.68	4.68	4.67	4.72	4.74	4.75

Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms 2017 - 2022

number of persons

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE[1,2]						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	18,585	18,814	18,895	20,253	20,294	19,740
Part time	18,210	18,413	18,618	19,065	20,073	20,651
Total	**36,795**	**37,227**	**37,513**	**39,318**	**40,367**	**40,391**
Other workers						
Full time	3,441	3,411	3,430	3,058	2,902	2,696
Part time	4,319	4,340	4,453	3,829	4,018	3,953
Casual/seasonal	4,149	4,270	4,027	5,096	4,908	4,720
Total other workers	**11,909**	**12,021**	**11,910**	**11,983**	**11,828**	**11,369**
Total agricultural labour force	**48,704**	**49,248**	**49,423**	**51,301**	**52,195**	**51,760**
Annual Work Units (AWUs)[3]	**28,708**	**28,993**	**29,116**	**30,321**	**30,468**	**29,800**

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] 2017 - 2022

number of persons

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MANPOWER STATISTICS[1]						
Self-employed						
Male	16,033	16,218	16,204	17,335	17,686	17,345
Female	727	746	750	2,918	2,608	2,395
Total	**16,760**	**16,964**	**16,954**	**20,253**	**20,294**	**19,740**
Employees						
Male	10,164	10,143	9,972	9,716	9,566	9,050
Female	1,745	1,878	1,938	2,267	2,262	2,319
Total	**11,909**	**12,021**	**11,910**	**11,983**	**11,828**	**11,369**
Total agricultural manpower	**28,669**	**28,985**	**28,864**	**32,236**	**32,122**	**31,109**

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 2022 increased by 7.6 per cent to 359,130 head. The number of steers were 3.7 per cent higher at 171,973 head, heifers increased by 10.2 per cent to 144,735 head and the number of young bulls increased by 16.5 per cent to 42,422. As a result, the proportion of steers in the slaughter mix decreased from 49.7 per cent in 2021 to 47.9 per cent in 2022, while the proportion of heifers increased from 39.4 per cent in 2021 to 40.3 per cent in 2022. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered increased from 10.9 per cent in 2021 to 11.8 per cent in 2022.

The average dressed carcase weights decreased by 0.9 per cent in 2022 to 344.5 kg. With the increase in cattle marketed the volume of clean beef produced increased by 6.7 per cent to 123,733 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 8.9 per cent higher at £4.17 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 16.2 per cent to £516 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls increased by 14.9 per cent to 123,337 head in 2022. Average carcase weights for these animals was 1.9 per cent lower at 312 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls increased by 16.6 per cent to £3.15 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, increased 31.4 per cent to £121.3 million in 2022.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2022 increased by 18.1 per cent to 7,000 head. An estimated 305 calves were exported in 2022, which was a decrease of 80.2 per cent compared with 2021 levels. The average calf price was 18.3 per cent higher at £768 per head and the revenue generated was £5.6 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland decreased by 8.4 per cent to 3,422 head in 2022. When combined with an 0.1 per cent increase in the average producer price paid to £912 per head, this generated revenues of £3.1 million; a decrease of 8.2 per cent from 2021 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 65.3 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2022 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) increased by 16.1 per cent to £603 million.

Milk

The annual average dairy cow population in 2022 was relatively unchanged from 2021 and stood at 318,100 head. Average gross milk yield per cow decreased from 8,083 litres in 2021 to 8,036 litres in 2022; a 0.6 per cent decrease.

The lower milk yields contributed to a 0.6 per cent decrease in total milk output for 2022 in Northern Ireland; to 2.5 billion litres. The average gross milk price for 2022 (before deducting transport costs) was 44.77 pence per litre, a 40.5 per cent increase.

Overall, the value of output of milk increased by 39.7 per cent in 2022, to £1.13 billion.

Sheep and lambs

Marketing's of clean sheep and lambs increased by 6.0 per cent to 752,315 head in 2022, whereas, the average dressed carcase weight increased by 0.8 per cent in 2022 to 22.0 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2022 increased by 6.8 per cent to 16,582 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices decreased by 0.1 per cent to 535 pence per kg deadweight in 2022. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs increased by 6.7 per cent to £89 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams increased by 13.7 per cent to 154,289 head in 2022. There was a 9.9 per cent increase in the price received for these animals (£86 per head). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams increasing to £13.3 million; an increase of 24.9 per cent.

Overall, the total value of output (which deducts the value of imported sheep but includes breeding sheep and store exports) from the sector increased by 6.4 per cent, to £106 million in 2022.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2022 was 2.8 per cent higher at 1.56 million head. Average dressed carcase weights were 0.9 per cent higher at 94.2kg in 2022. When combined these changes resulted in a 3.8 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 147,133 tonnes. Pig producer prices increased by 19.2 per cent to 179 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 23.7 per cent higher at £263 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were down by 13.6 per cent in 2022 at 14,471 head. The estimated market returns for these animals was £2.0 million in 2022.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector increased by 23.8 per cent to £259 million (this figure includes deductions for the value of imported pigs and additions for the value of breeding and store pig exports).

Poultry

In 2022, the total volume of poultry meat production was 300,614 tonnes liveweight, a decrease of 6.0 per cent from 2021 levels. Broiler production was 6.9 per cent lower at 281,547 tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were higher than 2021 levels by 25.8 per cent at 120 pence per kg. Overall, as a result of these changes the market value of broilers in 2022 was 17.1 per cent higher at £337 million. Broilers accounted for 90 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production increased in 2022, by 17.6 per cent, to 2,894 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2022 was £376 million; 16.1 per cent higher than 2021.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 149 million dozen eggs in 2022. This was an increase of 4.2 per cent on 2021 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 77.8 per cent in 2021 to 80.2 per cent in 2022 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 19.8 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs increased by 15.1 per cent, to 91 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs increased by 18.4 per cent to £148 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

The area of potatoes planted in 2022 increased by 0.5 per cent to 3,486 hectares. The average yield increased, by 14.5 per cent, to 46 tonnes per hectare. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2022 is estimated to be 15.1 per cent higher at 159,399 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2022 were 15 per cent higher at 116,480 tonnes.

In 2022, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) decreased by 15 per cent to 9,464 tonnes. In total for 2022, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 144,602 tonnes. This was an increase of 12 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £205 per tonne in 2022, an increase of 18 per cent from 2021 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was higher than 2021 at £186 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output rose in 2022, by 36.9 per cent, to just under £27 million.

Cereals

The area of spring barley sown in 2022 was 3.5 per cent higher than 2021 levels at 13,353 hectares, while recorded yields were down by 2.1 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley increased by 1.3 per cent to 78,319 tonnes. The area of winter barley sown, in 2022, was up by 8.3 per cent to 8,604 hectares, while yields were down by 7.4 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley increasing by 0.3 per cent to 60,063 tonnes. Overall, total barley production was 0.9 per cent higher in 2022 at 138,382 tonnes, with the total area of barley grown up 5.3 per cent at 21,957 hectares and yields down 4.3 at 6.30 tonnes per hectare.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2022 was 5.0 per cent higher at 139,206 tonnes. The average producer price of barley increased, by 32.5 per cent, to £294 per tonne. These changes plus a decrease in stocks resulted in the value of barley output increasing by 33.3 per cent to £40.7 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2022 was 11.5 per cent higher at 8,625 hectares. This coupled however with a 4.8 per cent decrease in yields resulted in production being up by 6.2 per cent to 67,538 tonnes.

In 2022, the volume of wheat sold or used on-farm was 5.2 per cent higher at 62,782 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat increased by 28.0 per cent to £303 per tonne. These changes plus an increase in stocks contributed to the value of wheat output increasing by 35.7 per cent to £20.5 million.

The area of oats grown in 2022 was 5.3 per cent higher at 1,973 hectares with yields increasing by 6.5 per cent. This resulted in oats production increasing by 12.2 per cent to 12,258 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 32.5 per cent higher at £270 per tonne. The changes in price and production plus stock changes resulted in the value of oat output increasing by 49.4 per cent to £3.3 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2022 increased by 11.8 per cent to £96 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) increased by 49.5 per cent to £17.7 million. Apple production increased by 17.6 per cent to 48,888 tonnes while prices increased by 38.2 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples increased by 62.5 per cent to £16.5 million. The value of output from mushrooms decreased by 4.6 per cent to £29 million as a result of a 11.8 per cent decrease in production and a price increase of 8.1 per cent. Receipts from the sale of vegetables decreased, by 18.3 per cent to £21.2 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock rose by 56.7 per cent to £28.9 million.

Feedstuffs

The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2022 was 1.0 per cent lower than the 2021 levels at 2.48 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds increased by 0.6 per cent with dairy compounds purchased increasing by 1.0 per cent and beef cattle compounds decreasing by 5.6 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 10.2 per cent lower. Total purchases of pig compounds fell in 2022 by 2.6 per cent while poultry compounds decreased by 2.4 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) fell by 1.2 per cent in 2022 to 377,829 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 1.3 per cent lower in 2022 at 2.91 million tonnes. The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 23.9 per cent, to £405 per tonne in 2022. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2022 increased by 22.1 per cent, to £1.2 billion.

Fertilisers and lime

The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2022 decreased by 15.8 per cent to 257,410 tonnes while the average price increased by 147.7 per cent to £715 per tonne. In volume terms, 52 per cent of total fertiliser sales were straights, while 48 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 108.7 per cent, to £184 million.

Total expenditure on lime increased by 23.5 per cent when compared to 2021 levels to £9.9 million. The quantity purchased increased by 3.2 per cent to 250,373 tonnes while the price paid increased by 19.7 per cent.

Marketing expenses

In 2022 total marketing expenses were 2.8 per cent higher than 2021 levels at £40.7 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £24.9 million, while sheep expenses were £4.2 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £6.1 million, while those for pigs were £5.5 million.

Machinery expenses

Machinery expenses in 2022 increased, by 31.0 per cent, to £207.9 million. This increase was driven by a 58.1 per cent increase in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global price commodity movements.

Interest

Total farm borrowings in 2022 decreased by 7.0 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have increased from 4.11 per cent in 2021 to 5.43 per cent in 2022. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) increased by 23.4 per cent in 2022 to £61.0 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 2022, the volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 0.6 per cent lower, at 7.95 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 3.7 per cent higher than 2021 at £83.9 million.

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Table 2.16 Output of cattle and calves 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	328.1	334.4	334.3	331.7	333.6	359.1
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	347.7	349.1	326.1	346.1	383.3	417.4
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	334.0	336.3	343.3	345.7	347.5	344.5
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	109.6	112.5	114.7	114.7	115.9	123.7
Value of output (£m)	381.1	392.6	374.2	396.8	444.4	516.5
Cows and bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	106.3	109.2	102.5	105.0	107.3	123.3
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1,2]	246.7	251.4	224.8	243.2	270.3	315.1
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	302.8	305.9	314.8	320.4	318.5	312.3
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	32.2	33.4	32.3	33.6	34.2	38.5
Value of output (£m)	79.4	84.0	72.5	81.8	92.4	121.3
Calves						
Sales ('000 head)	29.9	26.7	22.0	11.9	7.5	7.3
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	303	310	334	449	650	768
Value of output (£m)	9.1	8.3	7.4	5.3	4.9	5.6
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	7.4	5.1	3.4	2.6	3.7	3.4
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	801	806	782	816	911	912
Value of output (£m)	6.0	4.1	2.6	2.1	3.4	3.1
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	2.1	2.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,349	1,392	1,473	1,606	1,715	1,850
Value of output (£m)	2.9	3.0	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.7
Less Imported cattle						
Marketings ('000 head)	19.2	21.1	25.6	50.2	58.9	34.2
Average producer price (£ per head)	995	1,022	964	1,006	1,053	1,163
Value of output (£m)	19.1	21.6	24.7	50.6	62.1	39.8
Total Market Value (£m)	**459.3**	**470.4**	**434.0**	**437.2**	**484.6**	**608.4**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+5.1	-10.8	-3.0	+13.5	+34.3	-5.8
Total value of output (£m)	**464.4**	**459.5**	**431.0**	**450.7**	**518.9**	**602.7**

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 2017 - 2022

per cent

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Cows and bulls	24	25	23	24	24	26
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	37	36	38	38	38	37
- the beef herd;	36	36	36	34	31	29
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	3	3	3	4	8	10
Total[1]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number marketed ('000 head)	**434**	**444**	**437**	**437**	**441**	**482**

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

Table 2.18 Output of milk 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	314.6	310.5	311.9	313.4	318.1	318.1
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum)[1]	7,367	7,653	7,763	7,901	8,083	8,036
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	**2,285**	**2,347**	**2,391**	**2,447**	**2,541**	**2,527**
of which:						
sales off farms	2,285	2,345	2,390	2,447	2,540	2,526
used in farm households	1	2	1	1	1	1
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price[2]	29.05	29.04	27.46	27.33	31.86	44.77
Net price[3]	28.73	28.74	27.21	27.08	31.62	44.52
Market Value (£m)	**664.1**	**681.6**	**656.5**	**668.7**	**809.5**	**1,131.1**
Value of output (£m)[2]	**664.1**	**681.6**	**656.5**	**668.7**	**809.5**	**1,131.1**

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 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished sheep and lambs	765.8	757.4	720.3	765.4	709.7	752.3
Culled ewes and rams	136.7	129.0	124.7	126.8	135.7	154.3
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished sheep and lambs	398.7	426.1	386.5	451.9	535.8	535.4
Culled ewes and rams	192.7	203.0	204.3	247.6	285.1	318.1
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.6	21.6	22.2	21.8	21.9	22.0
Culled ewes and rams	28.0	27.6	29.1	28.2	27.6	27.1
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	16.5	16.4	16.0	16.6	15.5	16.6
Culled ewes and rams	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.2
Market Value (£m)[3]	**74.7**	**77.6**	**69.3**	**84.2**	**95.4**	**105.8**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.5	+2.6	-2.8	-4.5	+4.1	0.0
Value of output (£m)	**73.2**	**80.3**	**66.5**	**79.7**	**99.4**	**105.8**

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 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished clean pigs	1,241.5	1,250.9	1,386.8	1,463.1	1,519.0	1,561.7
Culled sows and boars	14.7	15.8	13.7	16.7	16.7	14.5
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished clean pigs	152.19	144.26	146.94	157.77	149.74	178.5
Culled sows and boars	96.45	91.42	92.22	100.34	95.08	115.8
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	88.6	91.1	92.0	93.7	93.3	94.2
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	110.0	114.0	127.6	137.1	141.8	147.1
Culled sows and boars	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.0
Market Value (£m)[3]	**165.4**	**163.4**	**182.0**	**210.5**	**207.9**	**258.0**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+2.9	-0.6	+1.3	+0.2	+1.0	+0.7
Value of output (£m)	**168.4**	**162.8**	**183.3**	**210.8**	**208.9**	**258.7**

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 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	317.0	330.0	302.1	310.1	319.6	300.6
Broilers	294.9	307.9	283.1	291.0	302.3	281.5
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	87.4	90.0	88.5	84.3	91.6	114.0
Broilers	90.0	92.5	92.2	87.6	95.0	119.5
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	311.1	332.0	309.0	297.6	322.6	375.4
of which broilers	265.5	284.9	261.1	255.0	287.3	336.6
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.0	-1.2	-0.8	+1.8	+1.1	+0.3
Value of Output (£m)[1]	**310.1**	**330.8**	**308.2**	**299.4**	**323.7**	**375.6**

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

Table 2.22 Output of eggs 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	136.4	145.3	151.4	151.9	143.3	149.3
Average producer price (p per dozen)[1]	73.36	69.91	69.96	75.35	79.09	91.0
Value of output (£m)[2]	**102.0**	**103.6**	**108.0**	**120.4**	**125.0**	**148.1**

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

Table 2.23 Crop production 2017 - 2022

Harvest years

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
Potatoes[1]						
Area (‘000 hectares)	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.5
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	43.2	39.3	40.1	39.4	39.9	45.7
Production (‘000 tonnes)	175.3	141.6	151.3	146.3	138.4	159.4
of which:						
saleable potatoes	155.0	116.1	131.2	130.3	118.4	139.5
chats[2] and waste	20.3	25.5	20.1	16.0	20.0	19.9
Barley[3,4]						
Area (‘000 hectares)	21.1	20.7	19.7	20.3	20.8	22.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.41	5.66	6.45	6.00	6.58	6.3
Production (‘000 tonnes)	114.4	117.2	126.9	122.0	137.2	138.4
Wheat[4]						
Area (‘000 hectares)	8.7	6.8	8.1	7.1	7.7	8.6
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.70	6.97	7.53	6.49	8.22	7.8
Production (‘000 tonnes)	67.2	47.7	61.0	46.3	63.6	67.5
Oats[3,4]						
Area (‘000 hectares)	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.64	5.05	5.94	5.44	5.83	6.2
Production (‘000 tonnes)	12.7	10.2	11.1	10.2	10.9	12.3
Oilseed rape[5]						
Area (‘000 hectares)	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.90	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.5
Production (‘000 tonnes)	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.9
Hay						
Area (‘000 hectares)	7.3	16.7	-	-	-	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.4	5.6	-	-	-	-
Production (‘000 tonnes)	46.4	93.5	-	-	-	-
Grass silage						
Area (‘000 hectares)	298.5	293.3	-	-	-	-
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	29	31	-	-	-	-
Production (‘000 tonnes)	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 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
POTATOES[2]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	121.3	94.1	124.6	104.8	100.9	116.5
Seed	12.1	10.5	10.5	11.3	11.2	9.5
Stockfeed	18.6	18.2	22.1	15.8	17.3	18.7
Total	**152.0**	**122.9**	**157.1**	**131.9**	**129.3**	**144.6**
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	148.90	175.51	175.08	165.28	172.77	204.53
Seed	173.05	166.15	195.44	181.13	180.57	185.55
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	18.1	16.5	21.8	17.3	17.4	23.8
Seed	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8
Stockfeed	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6
Total[3]	**20.5**	**18.7**	**24.3**	**19.7**	**19.9**	**26.2**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.3	+0.8	-2.6	+0.6	-0.4	+0.5
Value of output (£m)	**21.8**	**19.5**	**21.7**	**20.2**	**19.5**	**26.7**
BARLEY[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	117.9	111.1	126.4	122.0	132.6	139.21
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	154.15	185.77	162.87	167.61	221.82	293.88
Market Value (£m)	**18.2**	**20.6**	**20.6**	**20.4**	**29.4**	**40.9**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.5	+1.2	+0.1	+0.0	+1.1	-0.2
Value of output (£m)	**17.6**	**21.8**	**20.7**	**20.5**	**30.5**	**40.7**
WHEAT[4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	65.0	52.1	59.0	51.6	59.7	62.8
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	160.50	182.45	173.97	190.51	236.98	303.26
Market Value (£m)	**10.4**	**9.5**	**10.3**	**9.8**	**14.1**	**19.04**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.4	-0.8	+0.3	-1.0	+1.0	+1.4
Value of output (£m)	**10.8**	**8.7**	**10.6**	**8.8**	**15.1**	**20.5**

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 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
APPLES[1]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	55.2	57.3	53.5	40.3	41.6	48.9
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	263	203	199	230	245	338
Market value (£m)	**14.5**	**11.7**	**10.6**	**9.3**	**10.2**	**16.5**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.6	+1.2	-3.7	+1.8	+0.1	-0.2
Value of Output (£m)	**15.1**	**12.9**	**6.9**	**11.1**	**10.3**	**16.4**
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	35.5	34.1	34.3	28.6	18.6	16.4
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,530	1,570	1,590	1,610	1,610	1,740
Value of output (£m)	**54.3**	**53.6**	**54.6**	**46.0**	**30.0**	**28.6**

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) 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS[1]						
Total quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,845	2,942	2,920	2,886	2,951	2912
of which: Non-concentrates[2] ('000 tonnes)	67	32	65	66	59	52
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,374	2,530	2,457	2,451	2,509	2,483
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	404	379	398	369	383	378
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	262	288	284	291	327	405
Value of feed consumed (£m)	**744.1**	**847.0**	**830.0**	**839.9**	**966.1**	**1,179.4**
of which: stock change due to volume	+0.0	-0.5	-0.5	+1.3	+1.3	-0.3
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	338	317	285	333	306	257
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	125	119	109	126	118	99
of which:						
Nitrogen	85	80	72	84	77	67
Phosphate	10	10	8	9	9	7
Potash	18	17	16	17	16	12
Sulphur	12	12	12	16	16	13
Average cost (£ per tonne)	236	251	282	229	289	715
Value of purchases (£m)	**80.0**	**79.5**	**80.3**	**76.3**	**88.2**	**184.0**
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	165	193	154	210	243	250
Average cost (£ per tonne)	25.32	25.78	35.22	32.76	32.97	39.47
Value of purchases (£m)	**4.2**	**5.0**	**5.4**	**6.9**	**8.0**	**9.9**
MARKETING EXPENSES[3]						
Cattle	22.4	22.4	22.3	23.0	24.3	24.9
Sheep	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.2
Pigs	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.5
Milk	7.4	7.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.1
Total	**38.2**	**37.6**	**37.1**	**38.0**	**39.5**	**40.7**
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.1	1.5
Total interest charges (£m)[4]	**45.5**	**48.8**	**51.9**	**48.5**	**49.4**	**61.0**
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	39.86	39.39	39.62	39.50	40.40	40.41
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour)[5]	8.71	8.83	9.41	9.40	9.89	10.50
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week)[5]	347.24	347.68	372.74	371.37	399.37	424.17
Volume of paid labour (million hours)[6]	8.44	8.43	8.20	7.85	8.00	7.95
Value of paid labour (£m)[6]	**74.8**	**76.4**	**78.0**	**73.8**	**80.9**	**83.9**

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 77.0 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing. Around 8.7 per cent of the total land area is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part (52.8 per cent) of the total forested area (118,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2021/2022*[1]).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Arable or horticultural crops occupy 48,100 hectares and make up just 4.6 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (22,000 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 8,600 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (32,700 hectares) was 7.1 per cent higher in 2022 than in 2021. 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 2022, the area of potatoes grown remained similar to 2021 levels at 3,500 hectares. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2022, the cropped area also included 2,400 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,300 hectares) and vegetables (1,000 hectares).

Grazing livestock

All but 9.1 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2022, cattle were present on 20,518 farms (78.6 per cent), sheep on 10,003 farms (38.3 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 23,708 farms (90.9 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2022 Agricultural Census was greater than in 2021 at approximately 1.7 million, an increase of 0.3 per cent. There were 316,800 dairy cows, and 246,200 beef cows (0.4 per cent less than in 2021). 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 2022, the sheep breeding flock was 3.0 per cent larger than in 2021 at 997,227 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock increased by 3.2 per cent to just over 2.1 million in 2022.

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

Intensive livestock In Northern Ireland, pigs and/or poultry (for commercial purposes) are present on 4.9 per cent of farms.

In 2022, pig numbers were estimated at 738,500. Sow numbers decreased by 6.9 per cent to 46,600 in 2022.

In June 2022, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 20.6 million birds, 15.6 per cent lower than in 2021. The number of laying birds (5.3 million) increased by 22.7 per cent in 2022, and the numbers of broilers decreased by 25.4 per cent to 11.9 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 69.3 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 3.4) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 11.8 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1.4 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 (157,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were just under 60,000 beef cows and 160,000 dairy cows in 2022. **LFA farms** account for 30 and 62 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

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Table 3.1 Land use, 2022

thousand hectares

	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	48	964	19	12	**1,043**
Common grazing	-	36	-	-	**36**
NI Forest Service[1]	-	-	62	13	**75**
Other areas	-	-	38	162	**199**
All land[2]	**48**	**1000**	**118**	**187**	**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 2017 - 2022

thousand hectares

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Oats	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Wheat	8.7	6.8	8.1	7.1	7.7	8.6
Barley: Winter	7.1	5.8	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.6
Spring	14.0	14.9	11.9	12.6	12.9	13.4
Mixed corn	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Potatoes	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.5
Arable crop silage	3.6	4.3	3.9	4.2	4.1	3.9
Other field crops	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.6	5.6
Total agricultural crops	**44.3**	**42.1**	**42.1**	**42.9**	**43.7**	**45.7**
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Vegetables	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.0
Other horticultural crops	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total horticultural crops	**3.0**	**2.8**	**2.8**	**2.7**	**2.8**	**2.4**
Grass: Under 5 years old	144.4	144.5	148.8	141.4	137.8	139.8
5 years old and over	660.6	663.2	659.9	674.8	680.5	682.4
Total grass	**805.0**	**807.6**	**808.7**	**816.3**	**818.3**	**822.2**
Total crops and grass	**852.2**	**852.5**	**853.6**	**861.8**	**864.7**	**870.3**
Rough grazing[1]	140.4	143.2	143.6	140.6	141.3	141.6
Woods and plantation	15.8	16.3	15.7	17.3	18.8	19.0
Other land[2]	11.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.9	12.4
Total area of farms	**1,019.7**	**1,022.4**	**1,023.2**	**1,029.8**	**1,035.6**	**1,043.3**

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

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2017 - 2022

thousand head

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CATTLE[1]						
Dairy cows	**315.8**	**310.7**	**313.5**	**313.3**	**318.4**	**316.8**
Beef cows	**267.1**	**255.9**	**247.0**	**244.7**	**247.0**	**246.2**
Total cows	**582.9**	**566.6**	**560.5**	**558.0**	**565.3**	**563.0**
Bulls for service	17.2	16.9	16.5	20.0	20.2	19.9
Total cattle	**1,666.4**	**1,629.1**	**1,611.7**	**1,611.4**	**1,682.0**	**1,687.0**
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	973.3	956.5	938.5	946.1	968.3	997.2
Other sheep	1,079.2	1,049.5	1,048.5	1,044.9	1,066.5	1,103.7
Total sheep	**2,052.6**	**2,006.0**	**1,986.9**	**1,991.0**	**2,034.8**	**2,100.9**
PIGS[2]						
Sows and gilts	47.9	49.6	47.5	45.9	50.1	46.7
Other pigs	601.2	584.0	626.9	635.6	666.7	691.9
Total pigs	**649.1**	**633.6**	**674.4**	**681.5**	**716.8**	**738.6**
POULTRY[3]						
Laying birds	3,962.8	4,331.9	4,998.7	4,936.6	4,313.2	5,290.0
Growing pullets	1,202.0	1,121.3	1,481.2	1,495.7	1,745.3	1,484.3
Breeding flock	2,526.9	2,515.9	2,558.7	2,214.3	2,090.2	1,870.7
Table chickens	16,766.6	17,663.0	15,351.6	15,364.4	15,946.7	11,900.6
Total ordinary fowl	**24,458.3**	**25,632.1**	**24,390.2**	**24,011.0**	**24,095.4**	**20,545.6**
Other poultry	452.3	398.5	390.2	341.1	367.4	97.5
Total poultry	**24,910.6**	**26,030.6**	**24,780.4**	**24,352.1**	**24,462.8**	**20,643.1**
HORSES & PONIES[4]	**9.6**	**9.0**	**8.7**	**7.0**	**6.2**	**6.3**
GOATS	**4.2**	**3.8**	**3.4**	**3.0**	**2.9**	**2.8**

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

Table 3.4 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1] of farm, June 2022

thousand hectares

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	**Disadvantaged Area (DA)**	**Total LFA**	**Non LFA**	**LFA as % NI**
Cereals	1	5	6	26	19
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	24
Other agricultural crops	1	2	3	7	30
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	2	17
Total crops	**3**	**8**	**10**	**38**	**22**
Grass: Under 5 years old	41	41	83	57	59
5 years and over	275	202	477	206	70
Total grass	**316**	**243**	**559**	**263**	**68**
Rough grazing[2]	128	8	136	5	96
Woods/other land	6	5	10	9	55
Other land	3	3	6	6	49
Total area	**456**	**266**	**722**	**321**	**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 2022

thousand head

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	**Disadvantaged Area (DA)**	**Total LFA**	**Non LFA**	**LFA as % NI**
CATTLE					
Dairy cows	50	107	157	160	49
Beef cows	113	74	187	60	76
Bulls for service	6	6	13	7	63
Total cattle	**452**	**554**	**1,005**	**682**	**60**
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	570	222	793	205	80
Other sheep	607	262	868	235	79
Total sheep	**1,177**	**484**	**1,661**	**440**	**79**
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	6	12	18	28	39
Other pigs	64	138	202	489	29
Total pigs	**70**	**149**	**219**	**520**	**30**
POULTRY					
Laying birds	1,655	2,049	3,703	1,587	70
Table fowl	2,701	4,199	6,900	5,001	58
Other poultry	833	1,422	2,255	1,197	65
Total poultry	**5,188**	**7,670**	**12,858**	**7,785**	**62**
HORSES AND PONIES[2]	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**48**
GOATS	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**71**

1. See Note 1, Table 3.4.
2. See Note 3, Table 3.3.

4. FARM STRUCTURE

Methodological Notes

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

> *'a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products'*

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

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland covers all active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.

Farms

In June 2022 there were 26,089 farms in Northern Ireland with 1,043,270 hectares of land farmed.

Around 25 per cent of farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass, while 1,541 farms (5.9 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy 27.7 per cent of the total area of crops and grass.

Business size

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

The majority of farm businesses in Northern Ireland, 79 per cent in 2022, are classified as **very small**. In 2022, there were 20,506 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 48 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 2022, 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 2,667 **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 23 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 1,217 **medium** and 1,699 **large** farms (together representing 11 per cent of all farms) contribute 64 per cent of the total SO from approximately one third (33 per cent) of the land area (Table 4.14). These farms dominate the dairy, pigs and poultry layer sectors with 86, 95 and 72 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 59 and 48 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 9.7 per cent classified as **dairy** farms and 79.2 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping with 277 (1.1 per cent) classified as **cereal** farms, 1,206 (4.6 per cent) as **general cropping** and 192 (0.7 per cent) as **horticulture**. Specialist **pigs and poultry farms** together (706) account for 2.7 per cent, while **mixed and other farms** (516) 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 4.8 per cent were entirely rented or leased, 43.3 per cent had a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 51.8 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 2022, 3,185 farms (12.2 per cent) had dairy cows, 14,051 (53.9 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) The average number of dairy cows per herd, 99.5, was slightly more than in 2021. It compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of approximately 18 cows. 68.0 per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with 8.2 per cent of beef cows.

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

In 2022, 9,732 farms had breeding sheep (Table 4.17), with an average of 103 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 2022 there were 406 commercial pig herds operational in June (Table 4.19). Most of the pig herds (267 in 2022) had sows, averaging 175 sows per herd (Table 4.18). Ninety-two 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 27.1 per cent of total herds hold almost 95 per cent of pigs.

Of the 490 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 54.4 per cent had flocks over 5,000 accounting of 99% of laying hens. Seventy eight businesses (16.0 per cent) farmed over twenty thousand birds with these farms accounting for over 53.4 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with 81.7 per cent of farms having twenty thousand birds or more on farm. Over 95.3 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2022, cereals were grown on 2,128 farms (Table 4.23), 8.2 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 15.4 hectares. Thirty-seven per cent (781) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, while 134 farms grew 50 hectares or more and accounted for 38.1 per cent of the total cereal area grown.

Some 381 farms, 1.5 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2022. Of this number, 94 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 2022

Size group (hectares)	By crops and grass area Farms	By crops and grass area Hectares	By total area Farms	By total area Hectares
Nil	336	0	137	0
0.1 - 9.9	6,413	36,095	5,776	32,656
10.0 - 19.9	5,930	85,590	5,533	79,997
20.0 - 29.9	4,034	98,224	3,980	97,001
30.0 - 49.9	4,242	163,214	4,431	171,195
50.0 - 99.9	3,593	245,761	4,106	283,647
100.0 - 199.9	1,272	167,336	1,654	220,208
200.0 +	269	74,102	472	158,565
Total	**26,089**	**870,323**	**26,089**	**1,043,270**

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 2017 - 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of farms	24,895	24,827	25,896	25,896	26,077	26,089
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	34.2	34.4	33.3	33.3	33.2	33.4
Total area	41.1	41.2	39.8	39.8	39.7	40.0
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of: (hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.7	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1
10.0 - 19.9	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.8
20.0 - 29.9	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3
30.0 - 49.9	19.2	19.3	19.1	19.1	18.7	18.8
50.0 - 99.9	29.0	29.3	28.7	28.7	28.6	28.2
100.0 +	26.6	26.5	26.8	26.8	27.3	27.7
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 2022

number

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Very Small	Business size[1] Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Under 10	6,551	94	41	56	6,742
10.0 - 19.9	5,695	157	45	38	5,935
20.0 - 29.9	3,680	250	60	43	4,033
30.0 - 49.9	3,187	768	193	94	4,242
50.0 - 99.9	1,277	1,104	621	592	3,594
100.0 +	116	294	257	876	1,543
Total	**20,506**	**2,667**	**1,217**	**1,699**	**26,089**

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

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2017 - 2022

number

Business size[1]	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Very small	19,060	19,188	19,177	20,329	20,454	20,506
Small	2,945	2,824	2,746	2,765	2,747	2,667
Medium	1,229	1,190	1,224	1,167	1,177	1,217
Large	1,722	1,693	1,680	1,635	1,699	1,699
Total	**24,956**	**24,895**	**24,827**	**25,896**	**26,077**	**26,089**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2022

number

Business size[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,480	6,402	14,882	5,624	73
Small	927	838	1,765	902	66
Medium	341	373	714	503	59
Large	282	525	807	892	48
Total	**10,030**	**8,138**	**18,168**	**7,921**	**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 2022

number

Business type[1]	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	220	40	11	6	277
General cropping	1,123	31	15	37	1,206
Horticulture	58	36	28	70	192
Pigs	41	18	28	65	152
Poultry	122	195	134	103	554
Dairy	201	670	602	1,064	2,537
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	13,839	1,123	238	151	15,351
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,616	474	120	94	5,304
Mixed & Others	286	80	41	109	516
All types	**20,506**	**2,667**	**1,217**	**1,699**	**26,089**

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 2017 - 2022

number

Business type[1]	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cereals	272	264	253	254	267	277
General cropping	523	574	679	1,105	1,201	1,206
Horticulture	273	264	249	226	226	192
Pigs	181	177	161	173	182	152
Poultry	622	639	647	628	622	554
Dairy	2,635	2,545	2,586	2,603	2,562	2,537
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	14,687	14,700	14,616	15,137	15,235	15,351
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	5,097	5,109	4,971	5,230	5,255	5,304
Mixed & Other	666	623	665	540	527	516
All types	**24,956**	**24,895**	**24,827**	**25,896**	**26,077**	**26,089**

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 2022

number

Business type[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	11	38	49	228	18
General cropping	267	368	635	571	53
Horticulture	15	55	70	122	37
Pigs	29	56	85	67	56
Poultry	165	195	360	194	65
Dairy	507	926	1,433	1,104	57
Cattle & sheep	8,998	6,353	15,351	5,304	74
Mixed & Others	38	147	185	331	36
All types	**10,030**	**8,138**	**18,168**	**7,921**	**70**

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

Table 4.9 Number of farms by business size and proportion of area owner occupied, June 2022

farms

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	12,267	755	264	240	13,526
50-<100%	4,599	1,257	618	913	7,387
>0-<50%	2,496	587	304	532	3,919
None owner occupied	1,144	68	31	14	1,257
All farms	**20,506**	**2,667**	**1,217**	**1,699**	**26,089**

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

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2017 - 2022

hectares

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Owner-occupied	737,994	739,243	738,976	747,173	749,775	752,624
Rented	281,742	283,152	284,188	282,649	285,867	290,645
Total	**1,019,736**	**1,022,395**	**1,023,163**	**1,029,822**	**1,035,642**	**1,043,270**
Percentage of owned land	**72.4**	**72.3**	**72.2**	**72.6**	**72.4**	**72.1**
Common grazing	**34,289**	**35,401**	**36,115**	**35,931**	**36,077**	**35,886**

Table 4.11 Average conacre rents by type of use, 2016 - 2021

£/hectare

Use	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Grass	262	259	266	279	284	286
Potatoes	670	650	736	748	795	-
Cereals	301	350	351	353	379	392
Rough grazing	51	64	66	63	71	70
All uses	**224**	**229**	**232**	**242**	**245**	**243**

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2022

number of persons

Labour item	Business size[1]				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	All farms
Farmers and partners					
Full time	11,927	3,076	1,726	3,011	19,740
Part time	17,466	1,686	652	847	20,651
Total	**29,393**	**4,762**	**2,378**	**3,858**	**40,391**
Spouses of farmers[2]	-	-	-	-	-
Other workers					
Full time	512	245	245	1,694	2,696
Part time	2,204	577	365	807	3,953
Casual/seasonal	2,359	707	429	1,225	4,720
Total other workers	**5,075**	**1,529**	**1,039**	**3,726**	**11,369**
Total agricultural labour force	**34,468**	**6,291**	**3,417**	**7,584**	**51,760**

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.
2. In 2022 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions. Prior to 2020 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 2022

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	7,035	6,131	13,166	6,574	67
Part time	7,984	6,369	14,353	6,298	70
Total	**15,019**	**12,500**	**27,519**	**12,872**	**68**
Spouses of farmers[2]					
Other workers					
Full time	550	781	1,331	1,365	49
Part time	1,262	1,160	2,422	1,531	61
Casual/seasonal	1,401	1,332	2,733	1,987	58
Total other workers	**3,213**	**3,273**	**6,486**	**4,883**	**57**
Total agricultural labour force	**18,232**	**15,773**	**34,005**	**17,755**	**66**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.
2. In 2022 Spouses were included in the Farmers, Partners and Directors questions. Prior to 2020 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 2022

A. Number of farms having the item

B. Total for each item ('000)

C. Percentage of Northern Ireland total of each item

Business size[1]

Item	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large			All Farms		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	**15,479**	**584**	**35**	**2,378**	**297**	**18**	**1,109**	**208**	**12**	**1,552**	**598**	**35**	**20,518**	**1,687**	**100**
Dairy cows	381	7	2	823	38	12	702	55	17	1,279	217	68	3,185	317	100
Beef cows	10,717	148	60	1,747	54	22	700	21	9	887	23	9	14,051	246	100
Sheep															
Total	**7,827**	**1,093**	**52**	**1,260**	**515**	**25**	**429**	**224**	**11**	**487**	**269**	**13**	**10,003**	**2,101**	**100**
Ewes	7,605	522	52	1,242	244	24	414	104	11	471	128	13	9,732	997	100
Pigs															
Total	**205**	**12**	**2**	**58**	**21**	**3**	**43**	**48**	**6**	**100**	**657**	**89**	**406**	**739**	**100**
Sows	110	1	2	40	1	3	31	3	6	86	41	89	267	47	100
Finishers/ Weaners	118	9	2	40	16	3	36	38	7	96	494	89	290	557	100
Poultry															
Total	**367**	**1,769**	**9**	**224**	**4,703**	**23**	**160**	**5,030**	**24**	**192**	**9,141**	**44**	**943**	**20,643**	**100**
Layers	220	204	4	115	1,282	24	74	1,350	26	81	2,454	46	490	5,290	100
Crops															
Oats	128	1	26	76	1	29	26	0	13	54	1	31	284	2	100
Wheat	227	2	19	114	2	20	74	1	13	211	4	48	626	9	100
Barley	916	7	30	342	5	22	169	3	13	357	8	35	1,784	22	100
Potatoes	167	0	11	92	1	15	44	0	12	78	2	62	381	3	100
Crops & grass	20,219	422	49	2,651	157	18	1,199	90	10	1,684	201	23	25,753	870	100
Rough grazing	4,354	69	49	721	36	25	296	17	12	319	20	14	5,690	142	100
Total area	**20,506**	**503**	**48**	**2,667**	**196**	**19**	**1,217**	**116**	**11**	**1,699**	**228**	**22**	**26,089**	**1,043**	**100**
Labour															
Full-time labour force[2]	10,618	12	55	2,378	3	15	1,159	2	9	1,673	5	21	15,828	22	100
Output															
Standard Output[3]	20,506	464	20	2,667	360	16	1,217	336	14	1,699	1,160	50	26,089	2,320	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 2022[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	188	1,221	5.9	0.4	6,169	26,605	43.9	10.8
10 - 14	72	858	2.3	0.3	2,099	24,968	14.9	10.1
15 - 19	76	1,281	2.4	0.4	1,550	26,144	11.0	10.6
20 - 29	154	3,815	4.8	1.2	1,919	45,717	13.7	18.6
30 - 39	193	6,684	6.1	2.1	926	31,413	6.6	12.8
40 - 49	229	10,215	7.2	3.2	514	22,681	3.7	9.2
50 - 59	255	13,872	8.0	4.4	289	15,697	2.1	6.4
60 - 69	237	15,184	7.4	4.8	177	11,265	1.3	4.6
70 - 99	580	48,395	18.2	15.3	264	21,560	1.9	8.8
100 & Over	1,201	215,250	37.7	68.0	144	20,190	1.0	8.2
Total 2022	**3,185**	**316,775**	**100**	**100**	**14,051**	**246,240**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***3,252***	***318,372***			***14,179***	***246,956***		
Average 2022		**99.5**				**17.5**		
Average 2021		***97.9***				***17.4***		

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 2022[1]

Number per farm	Total cattle			
	Numbers of		Percentage of	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
1 - 4	961	2,632	4.7	0.2
5 - 9	1,613	11,225	7.9	0.7
10 - 19	3,049	43,390	14.9	2.6
20 - 29	2,475	60,097	12.1	3.6
30 - 39	1,960	67,029	9.6	4.0
40 - 49	1,497	66,202	7.3	3.9
50 - 69	2,185	128,380	10.6	7.6
70 - 99	2,000	166,293	9.7	9.9
100 - 199	2,706	378,777	13.2	22.5
200 - 299	1,066	260,082	5.2	15.4
300 & over	1,006	502,892	4.9	29.8
Total 2022	**20,518**	**1,686,999**	**10**	**100**
Total 2021	***20,474***	***1,681,991***		
Average 2022		**82.2**		
Average 2021		***82.2***		

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 2022

Number per farm	Ewes: Numbers of Farms	Ewes: Numbers of Ewes	Ewes: Percentage of Farms	Ewes: Percentage of Ewes	Total Sheep: Numbers of Farms	Total Sheep: Numbers of Sheep	Total Sheep: Percentages of Farms	Total Sheep: Percentages of Sheep
1 - 24	2,325	30,544	23.9	3.1	1,269	17,005	12.7	0.8
25 - 49	1,911	68,554	19.6	6.9	1,232	44,936	12.3	2.1
50 - 99	2,267	160,309	23.3	16.1	1,976	141,717	19.8	6.6
100 - 199	1,949	269,190	20.0	27.0	2,212	316,513	22.1	15.1
200 - 299	649	157,038	6.7	15.7	1,266	311,431	12.7	14.8
300 - 399	302	101,854	3.1	10.2	684	235,934	6.8	11.2
400 - 499	141	62,263	1.4	6.2	355	158,314	3.5	7.5
500 - 999	160	106,604	1.6	10.7	797	538,725	8.0	25.6
1,000 & Over	28	40,871	0.3	4.1	212	336,311	2.1	16.0
Total 2022	**9,732**	**997,227**	**100**	**100**	**10,003**	**2,100,886**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***9,599***	***968,300***			***9,853***	***2,034,786***		
Average 2022		**102.5**				**210.0**		
Average 2021		***100.9***				***206.5***		

Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2022[1]

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts): Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Sows	Percentage of Farms	Percentage of Sows
1 - 9	102	298	38.2	0.6
10 - 19	19	258	7.1	0.6
20 - 49	26	852	9.7	1.8
50 - 99	30	2,138	11.2	4.6
100 - 199	42	6,067	15.7	13.0
200 - 299	18	4,305	6.7	9.2
300 - over	30	32,739	11.2	70.2
Total 2022	**267**	**46,657**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***270***	***50,086***		
Average 2022		**174.7**		
Average 2021		***185.5***		

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

Table 4.19 Distribution of (a) Finishers/Weaners and (b) total pigs by herd size, June 2022[1]

Number per farm	Finisher/Weaners: Numbers of Farms	Finisher/Weaners: Numbers of Pigs	Finisher/Weaners: Percentage of Farms	Finisher/Weaners: Percentage of Pigs	Total pigs: Numbers of Farms	Total pigs: Numbers of Pigs	Total pigs: Percentages of Farms	Total pigs: Percentages of Pigs
1 - 9	60	223	20.7	0.0	148	467	36.5	0.1
10 - 19	26	339	9.0	0.1	26	376	6.4	0.1
20 - 49	19	634	6.6	0.1	28	888	6.9	0.1
50 - 99	16	1,127	5.5	0.2	18	1,222	4.4	0.2
100 - 199	10	1,376	3.4	0.2	16	2,184	3.9	0.3
200 - 399	22	6,237	7.6	1.1	18	5,383	4.4	0.7
400 - 999	42	27,511	14.5	4.9	42	27,200	10.3	3.7
1,000 - 1,999	37	53,194	12.8	9.5	37	54,710	9.1	7.4
2,000 & over	58	466,806	20.0	83.7	73	646,110	18.0	87.5
Total 2022	**290**	**557,447**	**100**	**100**	**406**	**738,540**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***307***	***545,389***			***404***	***716,798***		
Average 2022		**1,922.2**				**1,819.1**		
Average 2021		***1,776.5***				***1,774.3***		

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 2022[1]

Number per farm	Laying Hens: Numbers of Farms	Laying Hens: Numbers of Hens ('000)	Laying Hens: Percentage of Farms	Laying Hens: Percentage of Hens	Broilers: Numbers of Farms	Broilers: Numbers of Broilers ('000)	Broilers: Percentages of Farms	Broilers: Percentages of Broilers
1 - 999[2]	210	7	42.9	0.1	4	0	1.7	0.0
1,000 - 4,999	13	40	2.7	0.8	1	5	0.4	0.0
5,000 - 9,999	54	410	11.0	7.8	6	45	2.6	0.4
10,000 - 19,999	135	2,010	27.6	38.0	31	508	13.5	4.3
20,000 - 29,999	36	890	7.3	16.8	30	731	13.0	6.1
30,000 - 49,999	34	1,182	6.9	22.4	67	2,488	29.1	20.9
50,000 & over	8	750	1.6	14.2	91	8,123	39.6	68.3
Total 2022	**490**	**5,290**	**100**	**100**	**230**	**11,901**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***457***	***4,313***			***297***	***15,947***		
Average 2022		**10,796**				**51,742**		
Average 2021		***9,438***				***53,693***		

1. Figures for poultry numbers are taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
2. From 2021 includes farms with less than 250 birds.

Table 4.21 Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2022[1]

Number per farm	Total poultry: Numbers of Farms	Total poultry: Numbers of Birds ('000)	Total poultry: Percentage of Farms	Total poultry: Percentage of Birds ('000)
1 - 999[2]	285	15	30.2	0.1
1,000 - 4,999	22	70	2.3	0.3
5,000 - 9,999	90	676	9.5	3.3
10,000 - 19,999	221	3,337	23.4	16.2
20,000 - 29,999	95	2,334	10.1	11.3
30,000 - 49,999	126	4,533	13.4	22.0
50,000 & over	104	9,678	11.0	46.9
Total 2022	**943**	**20,643**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***1,010***	***24,463***		
Average 2022		**21,891**		
Average 2021		***24,221***		

1. Figures for poultry numbers are taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
2. From 2021 includes farms with less than 250 birds.

Table 4.22 Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2022

Number per farm (ha)	Barley: Number of Farms	Barley: Area of Barley (ha)	Barley: Percentages of Farms	Barley: Percentages of Barley	Wheat: Number of Farms	Wheat: Area of Wheat (ha)	Wheat: Percentages of Farms	Wheat: Percentages of Wheat
under 1	30	21	1.7	0.1	9	6	1.4	0.1
1 - 4.9	661	1,982	37.1	9.0	194	589	31.0	6.8
5 - 9.9	448	3,159	25.1	14.4	149	1,059	23.8	12.3
10 - 19.9	356	4,931	20.0	22.5	153	2,058	24.4	23.9
20 - 29.9	127	2,999	7.1	13.7	53	1,232	8.5	14.3
30 - 39.9	60	2,055	3.4	9.4	24	802	3.8	9.3
40 - 49.9	36	1,601	2.0	7.3	19	815	3.0	9.5
50 & over	66	5,210	3.7	23.7	25	2,064	4.0	23.9
Total 2022	**1,784**	**21,957**	**100**	**100**	**626**	**8,625**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***1,715***	***20,843***			***564***	***7,734***		
Average 2022		**12.3**				**13.8**		
Average 2021		***12.2***				***13.7***		

Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2022

Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Total cereals Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cereals
under 1	39	24	1.8	0.1
1 - 4.9	742	2,207	34.9	6.8
5 - 9.9	506	3,609	23.8	11.01
10 - 19.9	426	5,908	20.0	18.1
20 - 29.9	150	3,549	7.0	10.9
30 - 39.9	82	2,801	3.9	8.6
40 - 49.9	49	2,143	2.3	6.6
50 & over	134	12,440	6.3	38.1
Total 2022	**2,128**	**32,681**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***2,023***	***30,507***		
Average 2022		**15.4**		
Average 2021		***15.1***		

Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2022

Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Potatoes Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Potatoes
under 1	85	40	22.3	1.1
1 - 4.9	154	400	40.4	11.5
5 - 9.9	48	328	12.6	9.4
10 - 19.9	46	625	12.1	17.9
20 - 29.9	20	481	5.2	13.8
30 - 39.9	7	235	1.8	6.7
40 - 49.9	9	389	2.4	11.2
50 & over	12	989	3.1	28.4
Total 2022	**381**	**3,486**	**100**	**100**
Total 2021	***385***	***3,468***		
Average 2022		**9.1**		
Average 2021		***9.0***		

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 2021/22'.

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 2021/22. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2022/23 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 2017/18 are presented in Table 5.1.

Income changes 2021/22

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2020/21 and 2021/22 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 199 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 2020/21 and 2021/22 on Cereal, Dairy, Cattle and Sheep (LFA), Cattle and Sheep (Lowland) and Mixed farms. In contrast, the Pig farm type category showed a decrease in average Farm Business Income.

Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income increased from £34,844 in 2020/21 to £43,100 in 2021/22, an increase of £8,256 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income increased from £26,554 in 2020/21 to £35,181 in 2021/22 (an increase of £8,627 per farm) and average Cash Income increased from £47,599 in 2020/21 to £58,891 in 2021/22 (an increase of £11,293 per farm).

Provisional estimates of incomes for 2022/23

Provisional forecasts of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2023 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types increasing from £43,100 in 2021/22 to £47,305 in 2022/23, i.e. an increase of £4,205 or 10% per farm.

Farm Business Income is expected to increase for Dairy, Pigs and Mixed farm types between 2021/22 and 2022/23. The increase is particularly marked for Dairy farms with the higher raw milk price more than offsetting increases in input costs. Despite increases in output prices, it is forecast that the average income of pig producers in 2022/23 is only marginally higher compared to the low levels experienced in 2021/22. Cereal, Cattle & Sheep (LFA) and Cattle & Sheep (lowland) farm incomes are expected to fall by 33%, 66% and 54% respectively. It is forecast that increases in cereal and beef prices are insufficient to offset the higher input costs for these farm types.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £58,891 in 2021/22 to £63,096 in 2022/23, which is an increase of £4,205 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £35,181 in 2021/22 to £39,467 in 2022/23.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in April 2023 and relate to an account year ending in mid-February 2023. 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 2022/23, 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, 2017/18 to 2022/23[1]

Indices: 2014/15 - 2016/17 = 100

Business type	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23 (provisional)
Cereals	129	204	102	114	367	264
General cropping	54	302	63	19	-	-
Pigs	199	143	119	165	126	129
Dairy	163	147	129	134	161	227
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	96	91	86	89	99	49
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	128	96	90	80	121	71
Mixed	164	109	144	108	214	200
All types	135	120	107	109	135	139

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, 2021/22

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	4	8	23	13	5	18	10
1 - 4,999	0	3	0	7	13	8	5	13	6
5,000 - 9,999	0	2	0	3	14	13	4	9	9
10,000 - 14,999	1	5	2	9	7	14	5	7	9
15,000 - 19,999	3	5	8	8	8	8	6	6	8
20,000 - 29,999	8	11	6	23	13	10	17	9	8
30,000 - 49,999	18	9	23	25	13	19	22	11	20
> 50,000	70	58	58	18	8	14	36	26	29
Total	..	**100**	..	..	**100**	..	..	**100**	..
Number of farms in sample		74			76			199	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2020/21 and 2021/22

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	120.4	204.0
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Pigs	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	174.6	138.1	123.6	90.0
Dairy	9.5	21.3	48.6	52.6	57.5	74.6	142.5	177.6	87.1	107.8
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	17.6	20.0	39.8	40.5	87.4	94.2	139.4	154.7	30.0	32.4
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	11.5	17.4	28.6	30.2	73.2	108.7	…	…	22.6	35.4
Mixed	. . .	. . .	28.3	91.2	…	…	89.7	134.5	65.8	118.8
All types	15.8	19.4	41.2	47.1	66.9	85.9	134.0	170.8	47.6	58.9

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

Table 5.4 Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2020/21 and 2021/22

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	55.3	122.6
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Pigs	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	117.8	54.8	85.7	37.4
Dairy	5.9	8.3	29.0	40.3	42.1	58.6	102.6	138.2	61.2	83.2
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	12.5	14.1	23.9	28.4	72.2	70.5	118.2	112.9	21.0	23.1
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	10.0	11.9	22.0	19.4	45.0	64.0	…	…	21.2	24.1
Mixed	…	…	46.0	64.1	…	…	83.5	104.2	65.7	82.9
All types	11.7	13.2	26.2	33.4	50.0	62.4	103.7	130.0	34.8	43.1

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

Table 5.5 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2020/21 and 2021/22

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22
Cereals	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	50.0	128.4
General cropping	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .
Pigs	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	155.8	88.6	104.5	53.7
Dairy	4.3	8.1	17.4	29.4	33.4	49.2	95.8	131.5	53.0	75.2
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	5.9	7.4	17.5	22.6	41.4	41.0	54.5	49.9	12.0	14.2
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	1.8	3.5	10.7	10.9	45.5	64.9	…	…	12.8	16.4
Mixed	…	…	38.2	56.4	…	…	74.9	97.7	56.5	75.8
All types	5.0	6.4	17.2	25.5	37.1	49.8	95.5	122.0	26.6	35.2

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

Table 5.6 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2021/22

£'000 per farm[1]

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (SLR)	2.0	…	3.1	1.1	1.1	3.3	1.8
Total farm area (ha)	138.4	…	87.9	98.9	65.4	131.8	89.3
Farm Business income	122.6	…	83.2	23.1	24.1	82.9	43.1
Total tenant's capital	**222.9**	**…**	**260.8**	**135.4**	**173.3**	**392.4**	**187.2**
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	0.5	…	45.7	41.3	82.9	151.7	54.3
crops	5.6	…	21.2	8.5	9.4	28.6	12.9
other	0.5	…	4.0	1.7	1.5	4.7	2.4
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	1.5	…	110.5	47.0	44.2	63.5	64.4
machinery	214.9	…	79.3	37.0	35.4	143.9	53.3

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

Table 5.7 Average closing valuations by farm type, 2020/21 and 2021/22

£'000 per farm[1]

	Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22
ASSETS						
Total fixed assets	1393.2	1436.3	1205.1	1245.7	1293.3	1334.4
of which:						
land and buildings	1217.3	1241.4	1124.6	1161.9	1182.5	1214.6
other fixed assets	175.9	194.9	80.5	83.8	110.8	119.8
Total current assets	100.8	113.2	66.7	71.8	91.0	99.9
of which:						
trading livestock, crops and stores	67.7	74.3	49.2	53.7	67.1	72.1
debtors/other short term lending	22.4	27.8	.5	.9	7.2	8.9
cash in hand and the bank	10.8	11.1	17.0	17.2	16.7	18.8
A Total assets	**1494.0**	**1549.5**	**1271.8**	**1317.5**	**1384.3**	**1434.3**
LIABILITIES						
Total long/medium term loans	64.1	65.2	7.4	9.2	26.7	29.5
of which:						
bank/other institutional	64.1	65.2	7.4	9.2	26.4	29.3
Total short term loans	27.3	26.7	7.6	9.3	13.5	14.1
of which:						
bank overdraft	16.4	14.8	4.5	6.2	8.2	8.2
B Total external liabilities	**91.4**	**91.9**	**14.9**	**18.5**	**40.2**	**43.7**
NET WORTH (A-B)	**1402.6**	**1457.6**	**1256.9**	**1299.0**	**1344.1**	**1390.7**

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 1 per cent in 2020 to £5,424m. Five out of the ten subsectors recorded an increase in turnover.

Performance

Sales per employee in the food and drinks processing sector recorded a small increase in 2020 of £250. Value added per employee has grown steadily by £8,262 since 2015. Return on capital employed (ROCE) has increased by 5.2 percentage points since 2015.

Employment

The total number of full-time equivalent employees in the food and drinks processing sector was 25,078 in 2020; an increase of 16 per cent since 2015. A substantial fall in agency employment since 2019 has led to total number full-time equivalent employees in the sector falling from a peak of 26,961 in 2018 to 26,558 in 2020. Employment in the input supply sectors has increased since 2015.

Fishing Employment

The total number of people employed in the fishing industry has increased by decreased by 1 per cent in 2021.

Destination of Sales

Great Britain was the main destination of sales from the NI food and drinks processing sector in 2020. The Republic of Ireland is the largest export market. Exports to Republic of Ireland and other European Union countries account for 23 per cent of Northern Ireland's food and drinks processing sector sales. The Rest of the World accounts for 5 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 2022 for three out of the four subsectors and accounts for 54 per cent of the total value of external sales. The total value of external sales and export sales increased by £10.3m and £7.9m respectively between 2021 and 2022.

Raw Milk Sales

The value of raw milk sales to Republic of Ireland increased by 77 per cent between 2016 and 2017 to £234.9 million. Since 2017, external sales have remained above £200 million per annum.

Live Animal Purchases

Republic of Ireland was the largest external market for NI live animal purchases for three out of the four subsectors in 2022 and accounted for 91 per cent of the total value of external purchases. Between 2021 and 2022 total live animal imports from the Republic of Ireland and EU decreased by £13.7m and £1.0m respectively. Purchases from GB increased by £0.7m.

Non-Edible Exports

In 2021 the total value of non-edible product exports increased by £60.2m; an increase of 25 per cent. Sales increased by a further 4 per cent in 2022 to stand at £315.7m.

Table 6.1 Gross Turnover of the NI food and drinks processing sector 2015-2020[1,2]

£ million

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Animal by-products	57	48	53	47	45	48
Bakeries	283	304	327	376	405	442
Beef and sheepmeat	1,252	1,189	1,315	1,443	1,395	1,470
Drinks	386	369	391	419	449	422
Eggs	143	153	175	182	190	190
Fish	77	80	90	89	95	90
Fruit and vegetables	309	322	339	367	398	416
Milk and milk products	905	902	1,068	1,143	1,227	1,187
Pigmeat	302	317	343	366	401	454
Poultrymeat	701	680	709	745	771	706
Total processing sector	**4,415**	**4,365**	**4,811**	**5,176**	**5,376**	**5,424**

1. For a description of how the data has been estimated, see the publication “Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Report 2020”.
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 2015-2020[1,2]

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sales per employee (£)	204,810	192,860	203,308	213,777	216,018	216,268
Value added per employee (£)	35,112	36,716	38,540	38,567	40,332	43,374
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	9.4	11.3	12.4	11.8	12.1	14.6

1. For a description of how the data has been estimated, see the publication “Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Report 2020”.
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 2015-2020

Full-time equivalents

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Processing of products[1,2]						
Animal by-products	116	113	112	115	102	110
Bakeries	3,719	3,849	3,925	4,093	4,418	4,403
Beef and sheepmeat	4,758	5,070	5,155	5,507	5,660	5,639
Drinks	1,327	1,334	1,318	1,424	1,442	1,306
Eggs	346	379	395	413	417	405
Fish	550	596	643	633	629	604
Fruit and vegetables	2,415	2,509	2,553	2,847	2,969	3,068
Milk and milk products	1,856	1,965	2,200	2,354	2,299	2,132
Pigmeat	1,414	1,530	1,725	1,656	1,735	1,922
Poultrymeat	5,055	5,071	5,639	5,171	5,215	5,491
Total processing sector	**21,555**	**22,413**	**23,663**	**24,212**	**24,885**	**25,078**
Agency Employment in food and drinks processing	**2,231**	**2,357**	**2,616**	**2,749**	**1,651**	**1,480**
Manufacture and supply of inputs[3]						
Animal feed and fertilisers & lime	859	-	860	-	1,058	-
Farm machinery	1,550	-	1,547	-	1,774	-
Services[4]	1,535	-	1,743	-	2,094	-
Total supply sector	**3,944**	**-**	**4,150**	**-**	**4,926**	**-**

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. Source: Bi-Annual Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey.
4. Includes veterinary activities, support activities for crop and animal production, farm animal boarding and care, post-harvest crop activities, hunting/trapping and related service activities and environmental consulting activities.

Table 6.4 Employment in Northern Ireland fishing industry, 2017-2021

	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Full Time	**Part Time**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Catching	686	152	686	168	654	168	633	176	632	184
Processing and marketing	530	242	618	263	470	250	583	257	573	237
Others	126	56	118	58	111	56	91	49	117	54
Total	**1,342**	**450**	**1,422**	**489**	**1,235**	**474**	**1,337**	**482**	**1,322**	**475**

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA.

Table 6.5 Destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales, 2020

£ 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	**48.4**	*	*
Bakeries	200.9	129.3	105.7	1.3	4.7	0.0	**441.9**	241.0	111.7
Beef/Sheepmeat	224.1	1,002.6	116.8	*	*	0.0	**1,469.6**	1,245.5	242.9
Drinks	178.0	37.9	171.8	12.9	21.2	0.0	**421.7**	243.7	205.8
Eggs	59.0	118.3	12.1	*	*	0.0	**189.7**	130.6	12.4
Fish	14.4	47.6	6.7	18.1	3.0	0.0	**89.8**	75.4	27.8
Fruit/Vegetables	122.4	210.1	82.3	0.3	1.0	0.0	**416.1**	293.7	83.6
Milk/Milk Products	273.6	325.3	248.9	211.2	128.0	0.0	**1,186.9**	913.3	588.1
Pigmeat	99.2	225.4	72.6	*	*	0.0	**453.5**	354.4	129.0
Poultrymeat	*	*	*	*	*	0.0	**705.9**	*	*
Total	**1,259.0**	**2,650.3**	**874.9**	**391.3**	**248.0**	**0.0**	**5,423.6**	**4,164.6**	**1,514.3**

*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, 2022 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Exports[6]
Live Cattle	3.5	5.3	0.3	0.0	9.1	5.6
Live Sheep	10.5	43.5	0.4	0.0	54.4	43.9
Live Pigs	2.2	2.4	0.0	0.0	4.6	2.4
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	14.9	7.2	17.1	0.0	39.2	24.3
Total	**31.1**	**58.5**	**17.8**	**0.0**	**107.4**	**76.3**

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 2017 - 2022

£ million

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
GB[2]	40.4	38.2	34.1	28.4	28.6	31.1
ROI[3]	53.5	59.3	49.9	57.5	54.5	58.5
Other EU[4]	16.2	13.5	18.1	14.0	13.9	17.8
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**110.1**	**111.0**	**102.1**	**100.0**	**97.1**	**107.4**
Export[7]	**69.7**	**72.8**	**68.0**	**71.6**	**68.4**	**76.3**

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 2016-2021

£ million

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Sales Value (£ millions)	132.5	234.9	240.8	211.9	201.0	231.7

Table 6.9 External purchases of live animals to Northern Ireland by origin, 2022 (Provisional)

£ million

	GB[1]	ROI[2]	Other EU[3]	ROW[4]	External[5]	Imports[6]
Live Cattle	4.3	61.0	2.0	0.0	67.2	62.9
Live Sheep	0.7	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.9	3.2
Live Pigs	0.2	73.1	0.1	0.0	73.4	73.3
Live Poultry/Hatching Eggs	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	0.0
Total	**11.7**	**137.4**	**2.1**	**0.0**	**151.1**	**139.5**

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

Table 6.10 External purchases of live animals[1] to Northern Ireland by origin, 2017 - 2022

£ million

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (provisional)
GB[2]	14.4	13.7	14.3	13.7	11.0	11.7
ROI[3]	95.5	95.3	100.5	144.1	151.0	137.4
Other EU[4]	1.4	1.0	1.4	2.3	3.1	2.1
ROW[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External[6]	**111.4**	**110.0**	**116.3**	**160.1**	**165.1**	**151.1**
Import[7]	**96.9**	**96.3**	**101.9**	**146.4**	**154.2**	**139.5**

1. 'Live Animal' sales consist of live cattle, live sheep, live pig, live poultry sales.
2. Great Britain, 3. Republic of Ireland, 4. Other European Union, 5. Rest of World, 6. Purchases outside NI, 7. Purchases from outside UK.

Table 6.11 Value of non-edible product exports 2017-2022

£ million

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Animal feedstuffs[1]	125.0	135.7	135.3	149.0	170.3	196.5
Animal hides and skins	25.9	21.5	11.8	7.0	12.3	8.0
Processed wood and timber	63.8	72.0	64.3	67.2	100.3	89.7
Inedible animal and veg products[2]	18.4	17.6	21.7	21.0	21.5	21.5
Total	**233.2**	**246.8**	**233.2**	**244.2**	**304.4**	**315.7**

1. Excluding un-milled cereals.
2. Including cut flowers, hardy nursery stock, bulbs, bedding, etc. and excluding hides and skins.

7. RURAL POPULATION

Methodological Notes

With the exception of Table 7.13, the definition of rural used throughout this section is that provided in the Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 2015). This classification recommends a default urban-rural boundary at a population threshold of 5,000.

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

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

Information in Table 7.13 is based on the Locale definitions of rural and urban used by Ofcom. Locale is a third-party data source which uses a combination of Government conurbation definitions, population density, urban sprawl boundaries, 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 2022, there were 78,885 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).

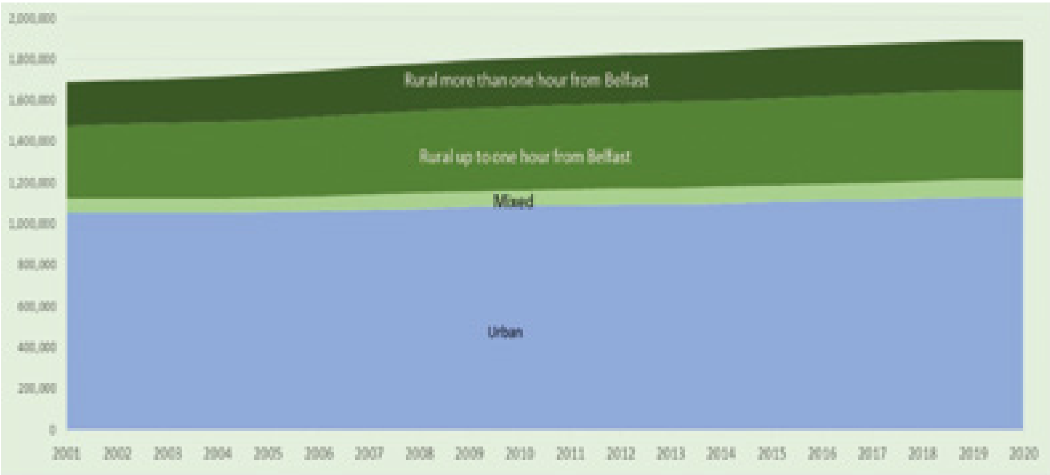
Transport and telecommunications

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 have both improved significantly in recent years due to the rollout of Project Stratum, with superfast speeds now available to 82% of rural residential premises (see Table 7.13).

Health

Average life expectancy is higher and mortality rates are lower in rural than in urban areas (see Tables 7.14 and 7.15). Median fire and ambulance response times continue to increase overall, but 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], 2022

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%	46%	39%	**23%**
Production	7%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	**7%**
Construction	11%	15%	19%	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)	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	**4%**
Accommodation & food services	9%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	**6%**
Information & communication	5%	1%	1%	1%	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%	6%	3%	5%	**8%**
Business administration and support services	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	**4%**
Public administration and defence	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	**0%**
Education	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	**1%**
Health	6%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	**4%**
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services	10%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	**6%**
All Industries	**33,435**	**25,675**	**19,775**	**27,320**	**18,130**	**45,450**	**78,885**

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, 2022.

Table 7.4 Number of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses operating in NI, by employee size band, 2022

		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%	**16,190**
Other[2] (No employees)	16%	45%	40%	47%	37%	84%	**7,220**
Micro (1-9 employees)	51%	30%	19%	31%	18%	49%	**47,100**
Small (10-49 employees)	65%	23%	12%	23%	11%	35%	**6,730**
Medium (50-249 employees)	72%	20%	9%	20%	8%	28%	**1,320**
Large (250+ employees)	84%	13%	3%	11%	5%	16%	**320**
All	**42%**	**33%**	**25%**	**35%**	**23%**	**58%**	**78,885**

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, 2022.

Table 7.5 Highest educational qualification 2021/2022

	Degree level or higher qualifications	Qualifications below degree level	No qualifications	Base[1] =100%
All Urban	**32%**	**49%**	**19%**	**2,451**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	32%	50%	19%	1,002
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	21%	55%	24%	623
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	30%	52%	18%	1,061
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	25%	49%	26%	564
All rural	**30%**	**50%**	**21%**	**1,625**
Total	**31%**	**49%**	**19%**	**4,076**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2021/22.

Table 7.6 Performance of school leavers, 2020/2021

		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]	91%	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	92%
At least 5 GCSEs A*-C[2] **inc. GCSE English and maths**	74%	82%	83%	82%	82%	82%	78%
2+ A Levels A*-E[2]	59%	62%	63%	63%	62%	62%	60%
TOTAL	**12,512**	**5,423**	**3,543**	**5,732**	**3,234**	**8,966**	**21,610**

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 2020/21.

Table 7.7 Destinations of school leavers, 2020/2021

		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%	48%	50%	50%	50%	48%
Further Education	27%	28%	26%	28%	25%	27%	27%
Employment	12%	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%	11%
Training[3]	10%	9%	13%	9%	14%	11%	11%
Unemployment	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Others	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
TOTAL	**12,512**	**5,423**	**3,543**	**5,732**	**3,234**	**8,966**	**21,610**

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 2020/21.

Table 7.8 Housing Tenure, 2021/2022

	Owner occupied/ co-ownership	**Social rented**	**Private rented**	**Rent free**	**Base =100%**
All Urban	**67%**	**18%**	**15%**	**1%**	**2,190**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	83%	6%	9%	1%	843
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	79%	7%	11%	2%	499
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	83%	5%	9%	2%	887
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	78%	8%	11%	2%	455
All rural	**81%**	**6%**	**10%**	**2%**	**1,342**
All Households (NI)	**72%**	**14%**	**13%**	**1%**	**3,532**

Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2021/22.

Table 7.9 Average House prices, 2022

	Q4 2022	Increase since Q1, 2015
All Urban	**£166,118**	**56.2%**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	£201,220	61.1%
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	£201,551	64.5%
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	£205,246	59.2%
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	£190,204	70.0%
All Rural	**£201,396**	**62.2%**
All Households (NI)	**£175,234**	**58.0%**

Source. NI House price Index, Detailed Statistics, Quarter 4, 2022
https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-house-price-index-statistical-reports

Table 7.10 Average household size, 2021/2022

	Mean number persons per household	Base=100%
All Urban	**2.28**	**2,191**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	2.54	843
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	2.59	499
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	2.60	887
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	2.52	455
All Rural	**2.57**	**1,342**
All Households (NI)	**2.39**	**3,533**

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, 2021/2022

	No cars /vans	1 car /van	2 cars vans	>2 cars /vans	Base= 100%
All Urban	**20%**	**47%**	**26%**	**7%**	**2,189**
Rural <= 20 minutes of a medium or larger settlement	6%	36%	41%	17%	842
Rural > 20 minutes from a medium or larger settlement	8%	41%	37%	14%	499
Rural <= 1 hour from Belfast	5%	36%	43%	16%	887
Rural > 1 hour from Belfast	11%	42%	31%	15%	455
All rural	**7%**	**38%**	**39%**	**16%**	**1,342**
Total	**15%**	**44%**	**31%**	**10%**	**3,531**

Note: Information on distance from settlement is missing for one household. Source: DoF, NI Continuous Household Survey, 2021/22.

Table 7.12 Access to public transport[1,3], 2020

	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.
3. The Covid-19 pandemic and significant changes to the survey methodology have had an impact on the reporting of the data. Full details are available in the 2020 Technical Report.

Source: Travel Survey for NI, Urban-Rural report 2020
https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/travel-survey-northern-ireland-depth-report-2020

Table 7.13 Broadband speeds and availability, 2022

	Urban[1]	Rural[1]	NI
Average download speeds (Mbits)	134	68	115
Average monthly data usage (GB)	506	423	481
Coverage of Superfast Broadband (>=30Mbits)	99%	82%	94%
Coverage of Gigabit-Capable Broadband (>=1Gbit/s)	96%	65%	87%
Premises served by full fibre	94%	65%	85%
Premises unable to obtain decent broadband service[2]			1%*

1. Based on Locale classification of Urban and Rural.
2. At least 10Mbit/s download and 1Mbit/s upload speeds (estimated at 9,000 NI Households in 2022).

Source: Ofcom, 2022: Connected Nations 2022, Northern Ireland report:
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/249287/connected-nations-northern-ireland.pdf

Table 7.14 Life expectancy at birth[1] 2014-2020

Years	2014-16		2015-17		2016-18		2017-2019		2018-2020	
	Male	**Female**	**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	77.4	81.5
Mixed Urban/Rural	79.5	81.9	80.2	82.5	80.2	82.5	80.2	83.1	79.9	82.6
Rural	80.3	83.8	80.3	83.7	80.5	83.9	80.8	84.0	80.7	84.1
All NI	**78.5**	**82.3**	**78.5**	**82.3**	**78.7**	**82.4**	**78.8**	**82.6**	**78.7**	**82.4**

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 2022
https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2022

Table 7.15 Standardised Death Rate - All cause Mortality under 75 years[1] 2012-2020

Deaths per 100,000 population	2012-16	2013-17	2014-18	2015-19	2016-20
Urban	411	411	410	408	412
Mixed Urban/Rural	327	329	321	308	309
Rural	306	305	300	297	294
All NI	**369**	**369**	**366**	**363**	**364**

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 2022 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2022

Table 7.16 Median Fire Response Times[1] 2016-2021

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Urban	06:52	07:00	07:02	07:04	07:22
Mixed Urban/Rural	09:39	09:32	10:09	10:21	10:30
Rural	13:54	14:11	14:36	14:09	14:33
All NI	**08:02**	**08:11**	**08:23**	**08:15**	**08:39**

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 2022
https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2022

Table 7.17 Median Ambulance Response Times[1] 2017-2021

Time (Minutes:Seconds)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Urban	08:46	11:32	13:14	15:01	22:45
Mixed Urban/Rural	10:26	12:35	15:55	16:56	25:50
Rural	16:08	18:15	20:33	22:34	28:46
All NI	**10:36**	**13:36**	**15:36**	**17:14**	**24:37**

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

Source: DoH, Health inequalities annual report 2022
https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2022

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 2022, there were 2,253 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine TB. The herd incidence has increased in 2022 and is higher than the 2017 level.

BVD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle that can be spread directly by infected animals, or indirectly, for example by contaminated materials. The Northern Ireland programme is an industry led scheme and the compulsory phase began on 1st March 2016. It is based on testing ear tissue tag samples, collected using tissue sample-enabled official identity tags, for BVD virus. In 2022, 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 544 on-farm welfare inspections in 2022. 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 544 welfare inspections carried out on farms by VSAHG during 2022, 90% were compliant, follow-up, targeted, or cross compliance inspections (where herds are identified as being “at risk”) with the remaining 10% being random cross compliance checks.

Of the 52 random cross compliance inspections in 2022, 98% achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 100% in 2020 and 2021).

Of the compliant, follow-up, and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 87% achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 84% in 2020 and 79% in 2021). 13% of these 492 inspections indicated levels of non-compliance needing corrective action. This category of inspections carries a higher risk of non-compliance compared to those that are randomly selected from all Northern Ireland keepers as they are identified through known triggers. The vast majority of Northern Ireland herd keepers comply with the legislation.

Taking all welfare inspections into account there were 4% assessed as showing a serious welfare problem requiring immediate action with respect to application of administrative or criminal penalties.

All welfare inspections where a breach is recorded are referred for consideration of basic farm payment scheme penalties.

In 2022, no 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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing[1]	25,733	25,416	24,949	24,957	24,787	24,389
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	28,378	23,490	27,963	28,562	29,830	26,878
Total number of animals TB tested	1,750,170	1,744,580	1,732,200	1,720,278	1,827,579	1,850,287
Total new herd TB incidents[2]	2,208	2,089	1,757	1,861	1,969	2,253
Number of TB reactors	15,949	15,330	13,019	12,852	14,359	17,370

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

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Herds with BVD Animal Statuses Set	16,346	16,324	16,129
Number of Herds with Positive BVD Animal Statuses (Prevalence	826 (5.05%)	847 (5.19%)	723 (4.48%)
Number of Animals with BVD Status Set	539,702	560,194	557,416
Number of Animals with Positive BVD Status (Prevalence)	1,541 (0.29%)	1,823 (0.33%)	1,472 (0.26%)
Number of Animals with Inconclusive BVD Status (Prevalence)	3 (<0.01%)	2 (<0.01%)	4 (<0.01%)

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

Table 8.3 Outcomes of on-farm animal welfare inspections completed on NI farms in 2022

Type of inspections	Compliance with animal welfare legislation	Number of Inspections	Category of Non-compliance	Number per category	Percentage of total %
Cross-compliance programme of random inspections	No	1	A B C	0 1 0	0 1.92 0
	Yes	51		51	98.08
	Total	**52**		**52**	**100%**
Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections	No	65	A B C	40 5 20	8.13 1.02 4.06
	Yes	427		427	86.79
	Total	**492**		**492**	**100%**
All inspections	No	66	A B C	40 6 20	7.35 1.10 3.68
	Yes	478		478	87.87
	Total	**544**		**544**	**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 2021/22, Northern Ireland's councils collected 1,034,637 tonnes of Local Authority Collected (LAC) Municipal waste (see table 9.1). This is similar to 2020/21 when 1,031,169 tonnes were collected. 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 985,994 tonnes in 2016/17 to the 1,034,637 reported for 2021/22, a 4.9 per cent increase. Household waste per capita and household waste per household decreased in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21.

The recycling rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste increased between 2016/17 to 2019/20 before falling in both 2020/21 and 2021/22. The LAC recycling rate increased from 44 per cent in 2016/17 to 51.1 per cent in 2019/20 but has fallen to 49.7 per cent since. The household waste recycling rate was 50.1 per cent in 2021/22.

The proportion of LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery saw strong growth between 2016/17 and 2020/21 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 18.5 per cent in 2016/17 to 24.6 per cent in 2020/21. In 2021/22 the energy recovery rate decreased slightly to 23.2 per cent.

The landfill rates for LAC municipal waste and household waste declined between 2016/17 to 2020/21 with an increase in landfill rate recorded in the most recent year. Almost one quarter of all LAC municipal waste was landfilled in 2021/22.

The amount of biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW) sent to landfill in 2021/22 has fallen by 31 per cent compared with the amount sent in 2016/17. 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 15 per cent of the population with the remaining 26 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 2021, Northern Ireland's net greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 22.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$). This net figure is a result of an estimated 23.7 $MtCO_2e$ total emissions, offset by 1.2 $MtCO_2e$ of emissions removed through sequestration. This was an increase of 5.0 per cent compared to 2020. The longer-term trend showed a decrease of 23.2 per cent compared to 29.2 $MtCO_2e$ 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 2021 (see figure 9.2) were agriculture (28 per cent), transport (17 per cent), business (14 per cent) and energy supply (14 per cent). All sectors, with the exception of waste management and public, showed an increase in emissions. The largest increases in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent were in the Transport (0.4 $MtCO_2e$), Agriculture (0.3 $MtCO_2e$) and Energy Supply (0.2 $MtCO_2e$) sectors.

The rise in transport emissions reflects the relaxation of COVID19 travel restrictions. The increase in agricultural emissions was primarily due to increased emissions from off-road machinery as a result of favourable growing conditions for cereals and other crops. The increase in emissions seen in energy supply was driven by less favourable weather conditions for renewable sources.

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 (https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-water-framework-directive-statistics-report-2021). 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 31 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 Water (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/groundwater) ensures that the Water Framework Directive (as transposed) maintains the Groundwater Daughter Directive 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 2021, nitrate concentrations were monitored at 56 groundwater sites across Northern Ireland giving an average concentration of 5.01 mg NO_3/l. Groundwater nitrate concentrations across Northern Ireland are generally low with 55 of the 56 (98.2 per cent) stations below 25 mg NO_3/l in 2021.

Table 9.4 provides information on the source of substantiated water pollution incidents. Water pollution incidents fell by 22 per cent to 676 substantiated incidents in 2022. Water pollution originating from farms remains the largest source 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 2022, 64,000 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 2017 and 2022. The total organic and organic in conversion agricultural land area in the UK overall was 509 thousand hectares in 2022 similar to that recorded 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. The area of privately owned forest area is estimated to be 55 thousand hectares in 2021/22 (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 2022, 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, 451 hectares of new woodland was planted in 2022/23, compared to 540 hectares in 2021/22.

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Table 9.1 Local Authority Collected (LAC) Waste Management Statistics for Northern Ireland, 2016/17 - 2021/22

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Arisings						
Total LAC municipal waste arisings (tonnes)	985,994	977,817	990,233	998,985	1,031,169	1,034,637
Household waste arisings (tonnes)	875,965	874,257	879,163	880,842	924,224	910,847
Non household waste arisings (tonnes)	110,028	103,561	111,070	118,143	106,945	123,790
Proportion of total LAC arisings from household waste (%)	88.8	89.4	88.8	88.2	89.6	88.0
Household waste per capita and per household						
Annual household waste per capita (kg)	470.4	467.3	467.2	465.2	487.6	478.6
Annual household waste per household (kg)	1,190	1,177	1,170	1,160	1,207	1,178
Recycling						
LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	44.0	47.6	49.8	51.1	50.0	49.7
Household waste sent for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (%)	44.3	48.1	50.0	51.9	50.9	50.1
Energy Recovery						
LAC municipal waste sent for energy recovery (%)	18.5	18.4	19.4	22.1	24.6	23.2
Landfill						
LAC municipal waste landfilled (%)	37.3	32.6	28.9	24.0	22.8	24.9
Household waste landfilled (%)	36.7	32.0	28.4	23.7	22.4	24.7
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste (BLACMW)						
Biodegradable LAC municipal waste landfilled (tonnes)	204,380	171,295	153,323	126,286	126,404	141,301
LAC municipal waste allocation (tonnes)	367,484	319,212	285,905	240,220	234,956	257,900
Proportion of LAC municipal waste landfilled which was biodegradable (%)	55.6	53.7	53.6	52.6	53.8	54.8

Source: *https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2021*

Notes:

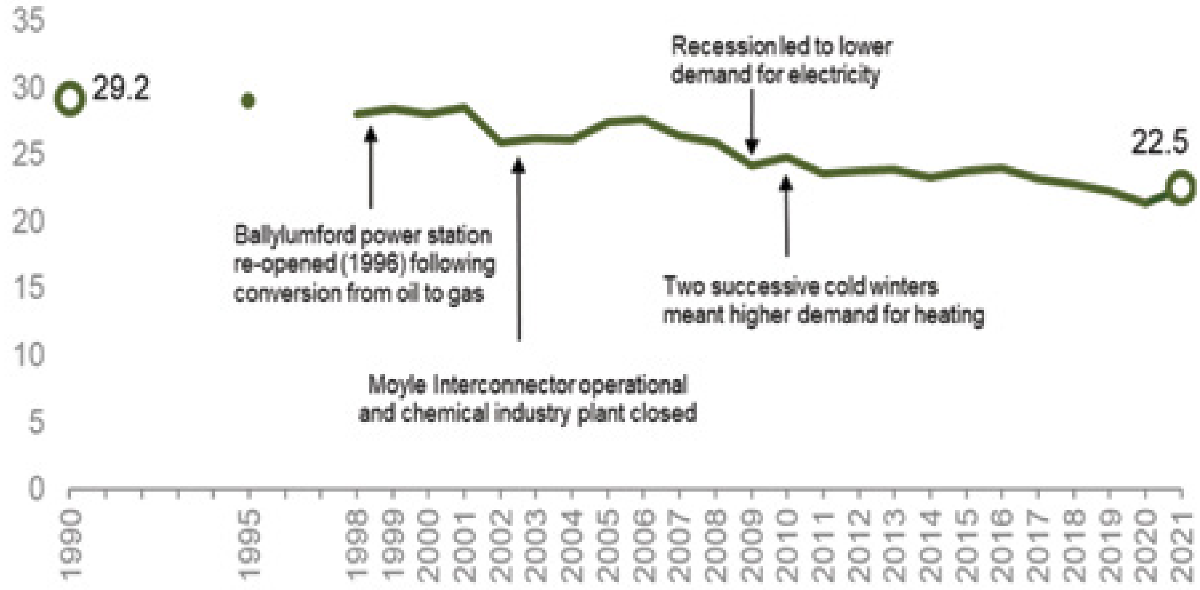
Rates calculated by dividing total tonnage waste sent in each category by total waste arisings.

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).

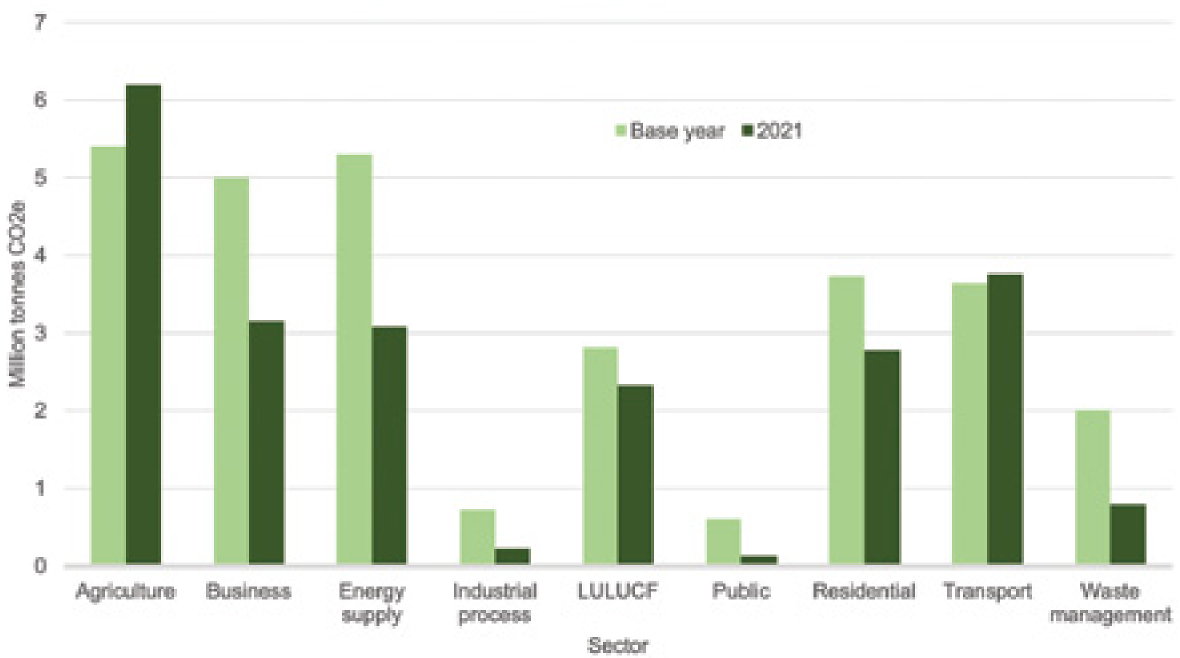
All energy recovery figures reported are derived from waste products being converted into energy through incineration, although other technologies exist.

Figure 9.1 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland, 1990, 1995, 1998-2021



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 2021



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	**138**	31
Moderate	**245**	54	**256**	57	**254**	56
Poor	**45**	10	**42**	9	**49**	11
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.

Note: Minor revisions to 2021 figures following a software error identified.

Table 9.3 Annual mean nitrate concentrations (in groundwater), 2016 - 2021

Unit: Percentage of sites

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
0 to < 25 mg NO_3/l	98.0	98.0	94.4	96.4	94.0	98.2
25 to < 40 mg NO_3/l	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	2.0	0.0
40 to < 50 mg NO_3/l	2.0	0.0	1.9	1.8	0.0	1.8
≥ 50 mg NO_3/l	0.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	4.0	0.0

Source: NIEA

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

Table 9.4 Source of substantiated water pollution incidents, 2017 - 2022

Substantiated incidents

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Farm	304	284	343	296	253	194
Industry	201	185	164	163	152	119
NI Water	131	129	100	122	109	92
Domestic	199	165	151	170	187	122
Transport	17	15	22	18	12	10
Other	176	146	161	178	158	139
Total	**1,028**	**924**	**941**	**947**	**871**	**676**

Source: NIEA

Table 9.5 Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes, 2017 - 2022

thousand hectares

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Environmental Farming Scheme[1]	3	20	38	48	62	64
NI Countryside Management Scheme	46	46	8	0	0	0

Source: Countryside Management Division, DAERA.

1. The Environmental Farming Scheme includes an organic farming option, the organic hectares under agreement have been included within the scheme total.

Table 9.6 Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area, 2017 - 2022

thousand hectares

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Northern Ireland	8	8	8	8	8	8
Wales	86	85	84	83	83	78
Scotland	123	92	92	96	104	111
England	300	289	301	302	311	312
UK	517	474	485	489	507	509

Source: DEFRA.

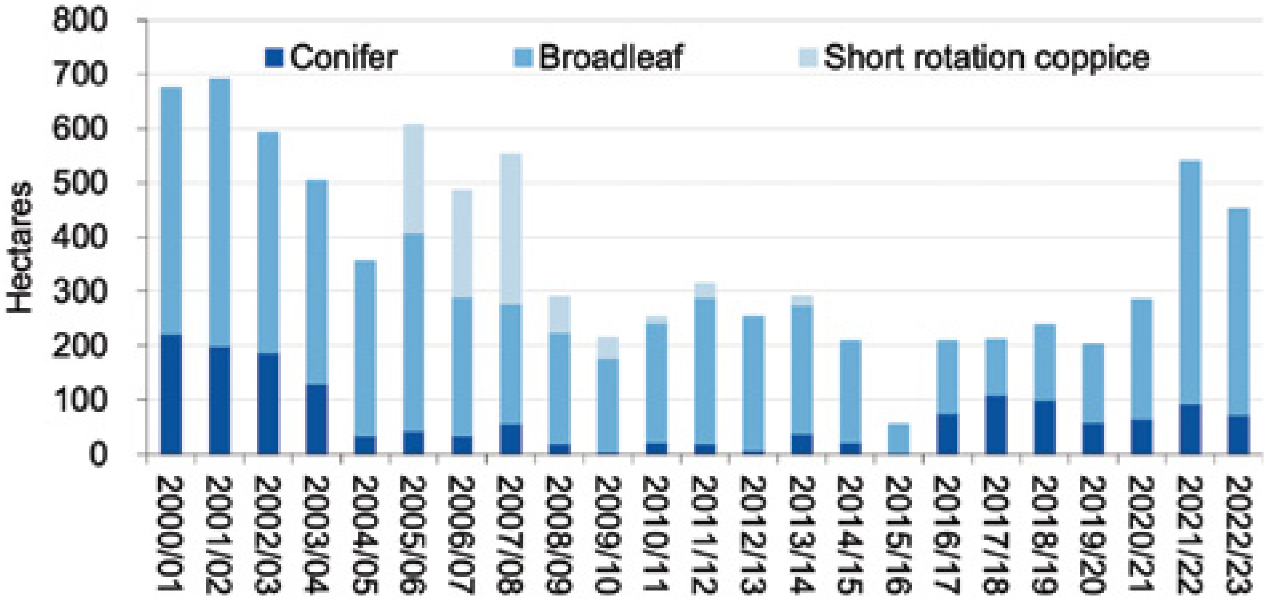
Table 9.7 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland, 2000/01 - 2021/22

	2000/01	2010/11	2015/16	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Forested area (000ha)						
State	61	61	62	62	62	62
Private[1]	22	27	50	54	55	55
All forested areas	**83**	**88**	**112**	**117**	**117**	**118**
Timber production from state forests						
Volume (000 cubic metres)	359	496	409	419	408	398
Visitors to Forest Parks						
Charged day visitors to recreation areas (000's)[2]	…	393	432	465	76	557
Employees (number) Forest Service	360	222	223	210	212	210

Source: Forest Service, DAERA

1. The Forest Service introduced a new Woodland Register in 2011/12 and this has identified more privately owned woodland than the previous measurement approach. Note that the data from 2011/12 onwards for 'Private' forested area is not comparable to data for previous years.
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 - 2022/23



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 2022 would change by around +9 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 2022 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2021 to January 2023, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2022). 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 2021 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2021 is now estimated at £689.6 million (previously £676.5 million) while total income from farming for 2021 is now estimated at £515.2 million (previously £501.3 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.

In the most recent accounting year, 2021/22, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 273 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 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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