



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

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**CAP POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION**

**Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector**

*Key Statistics June 2016*



**Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry**



Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector  
Key Statistics  
June 2016

Key Facts on  
Agriculture,  
Fishing and Forestry

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DAERA

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**Table 1: General economic data**

	NI	Scotland	Wales	England	UK	EU 27
GVA per head (£, 2014)	18,682	23,102	17,573	25,367	24,958	19,333 <sup>1</sup>
Population ('000, 2014)	1,840	5,348	3,092	54,317	64,597	502,697
Area (sq. km)	13,562	77,933	20,733	130,279	242,507	4,306,539 <sup>2</sup>
Population Density (per sq. km, 2014)	136	69	149	417	266	117
Bank Base interest rate (% , June 2016)						0.5
RPI (% change, April 2015 - April 2016)						1.3
Unemployment rate (% , Quarter 1 2016)	6.2	6.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	8.8

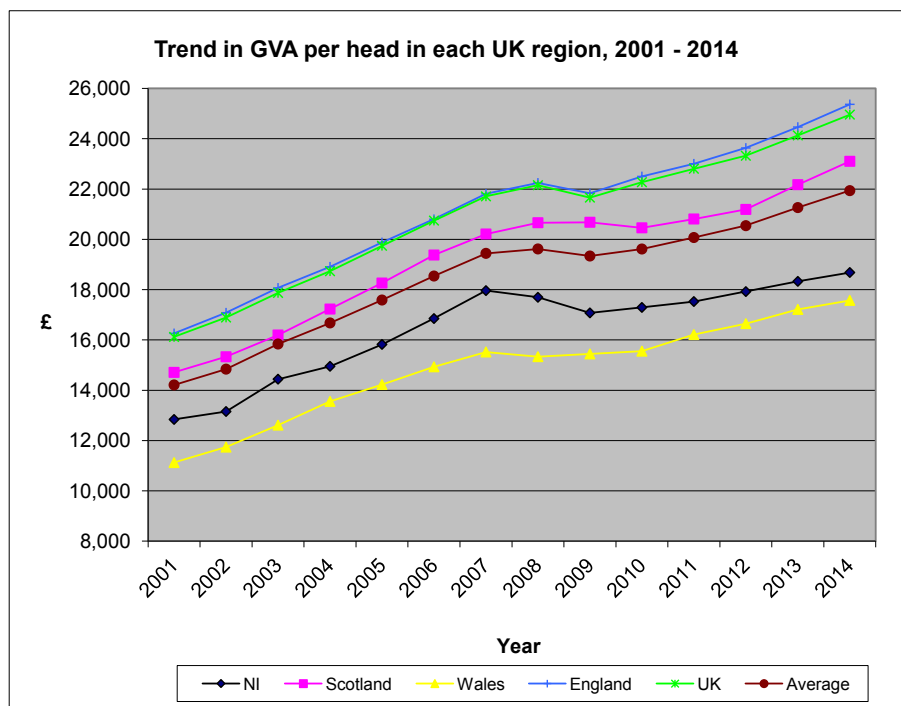
Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted and taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). EU27 figure from Eurostat, February 2016.

GVA - Gross Value Added (at basic prices)

RPI - Retail Price Index

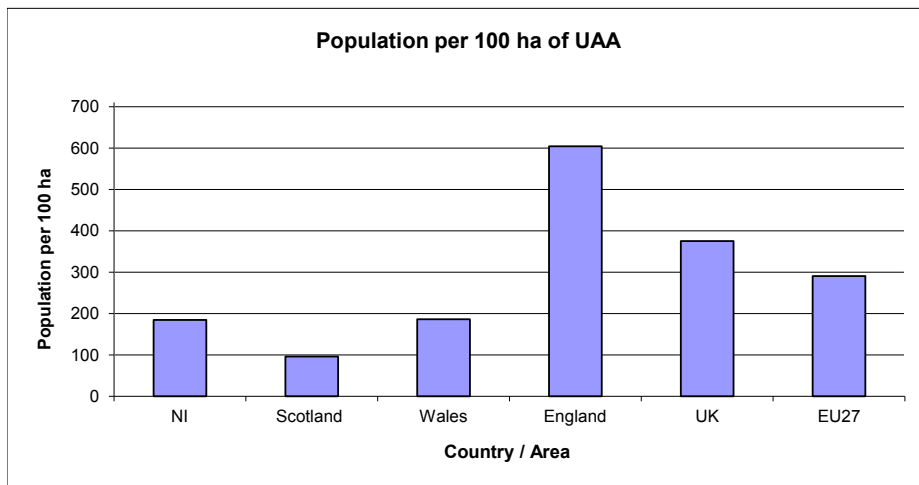
1. 2013, 2. 2012

**Figure 1 - Trend in GVA per head in each UK region, 2001 - 2014**



Note: GVA is in basic prices

**Figure 2 - Population per 100 ha of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA), 2014**



**Table 2: Agriculture: general data, 2015**

	NI	Scot	Wales	Eng	UK	ROI	EU27
Share of total GVA (%)	1.0	1.0 <sup>1</sup>	0.7 <sup>1</sup>	0.6 <sup>1</sup>	0.6 <sup>1</sup>	2.5 <sup>1</sup>	1.7 <sup>2</sup>
No. employed in agriculture forestry & fishing ('000)	26	40	32	259	356	109 <sup>4</sup>	9,784
Share of employment (%)	3.2	1.5	2.3	1.0	1.1	5.5 <sup>4</sup>	4.5
Number of farms ('000)	25	52	35 <sup>5</sup>	102	214	140 <sup>2</sup>	10,684 <sup>2</sup>
Average farm size (Ha)	40	118	45	88	80	33 <sup>2</sup>	16 <sup>2</sup>
LFA (% Agricultural area)	69	86	80	17	49	75 <sup>3</sup>	51 <sup>3</sup>

1. 2014, 2. 2013, 3. 2007

4. CSO Quarterly National Household Survey, 1st quarter, 2016

5. Methodology for Wales farm numbers changed compared with previous year

Due to National Accounting principles, GVA figures do not include Single Farm Payment

Source for UK employment data (SIC 2007, main job) - Labour force survey (2015)

**Table 3: Agriculture in NI: structural adjustment, 1995, 2005 and 2013-2015**

	1995	2005	2013	2014	2015	
Number of farms	33,092	27,064	24,503	24,228	24,907	
Average farm size (Ha)		32.3	38.0	40.7	41.1	40.1
Total farmers and workers	62,953	51,073	47,796	47,864	47,979	

**Table 4: Agri - food sector GVA and employment, 2015**

	NI		UK	
	£m	% of GVA	£m	% of GVA
<b>Gross value added<sup>1</sup></b>				
Agriculture	351	1.0	8,495	0.6 <sup>3</sup>
Food and drink processing	760 <sup>2</sup>	2.2 <sup>2</sup>	25,921 <sup>3</sup>	1.7 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>'000 persons</b>	<b>% of total employment</b>	<b>'000 persons</b>	<b>% of total employment</b>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	26	3.2 <sup>4</sup>	356	1.1 <sup>5</sup>
Food and drink processing <sup>7</sup>	18 <sup>6</sup>	2.3 <sup>4</sup>	402	1.3 <sup>5</sup>

1. GVA figures are at basic prices.

2. Size and Performance of the NI Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics, 2014 Provisional estimate.

This includes an estimate of the value added of those food and drinks processing businesses with a turnover of less than £250,000.

3. UK agriculture % of GVA is 2014 figure. UK GVA food and drink processing are 2013 figures

4. % of total LFS employment (823,000 in NI at 2015)

5. % of total LFS employment (31,117,000 in UK at 2015)

6. Please note that the 95% confidence interval for this figure ranges from 14,000 to 23,000

7. Includes SIC 2007 10.11 - 11.07

**Table 5: Distribution of farm outputs in NI and share of UK totals, 2015**

	% of NI total		NI output as % of UK output	
	Gross output	Gross Margin	On farm employment	
<b>Enterprise</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Dairy	27.5	42.1	21	13.1
Cattle	22.6	21.3	50	14.4
Sheep & wool	3.7	4.1	15	5.8
Pigs	6.5	2.4	} 4	10.5
Poultry & eggs	18.9	9.1		11.4
Cereals & oilseed rape	1.7	4.1	} 10	1.4
Potatoes	1.0	1.8		3.2
Horticulture	6.8	11.6		3.8
Others	11.4	3.6		3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.3</b>

Source: Aggregate Agricultural Account. Employment data from June 2015 Agricultural Survey.

**Table 6: NI food and drink processing sector - gross turnover, value added, employment by subsector, external and export sales, (Provisional 2014)**

Subsector	Gross turnover	Value added	Employees <sup>1</sup>	External <sup>2</sup> Sales	Export <sup>3</sup> Sales
	£m	£m		£m	£m
Animal by-products	51	10	120	50	30
Bakeries	304	100	3,377	130	75
Beef and sheepmeat	1,279	145	4,594	1,070	290
Drinks	433	110	1,382	240	200
Eggs	134	20	298	100	20
Fish	73	15	502	65	35
Fruit and vegetables	287	65	2,144	190	60
Milk and milk products	1,118	95	2,258	795	540
Pigmeat	327	40	1,358	205	75
Poultrymeat	766	160	5,753	575	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,772</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>21,783</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>1,460</b>

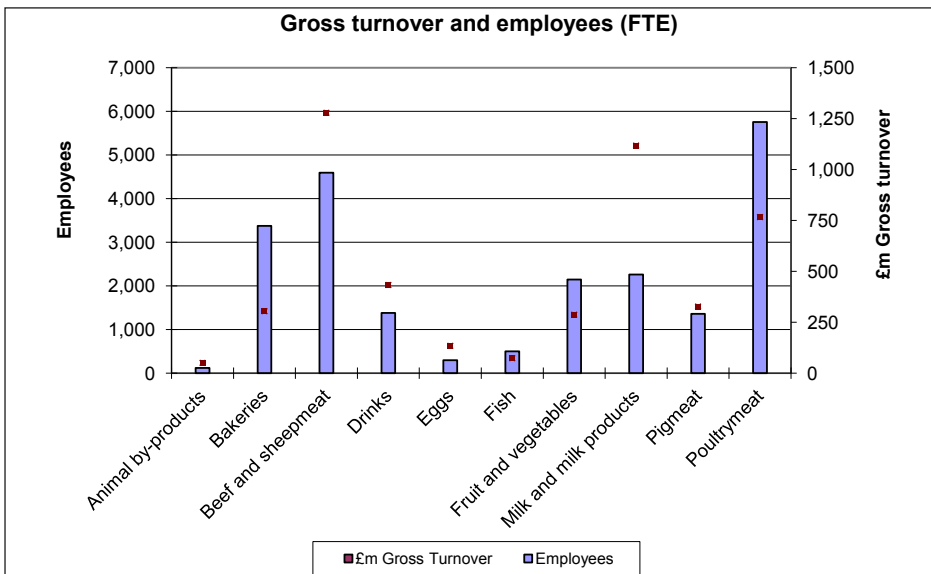
1. Full - time equivalents. This is an estimation of the total direct employment in the sector, as some workers are provided by employment agencies and not shown in these figures. The July 2015 edition of the Size and Performance publication presented an initial estimation of agency employment in 2014 at 2,132 full-time equivalents.

2. Sales outside NI

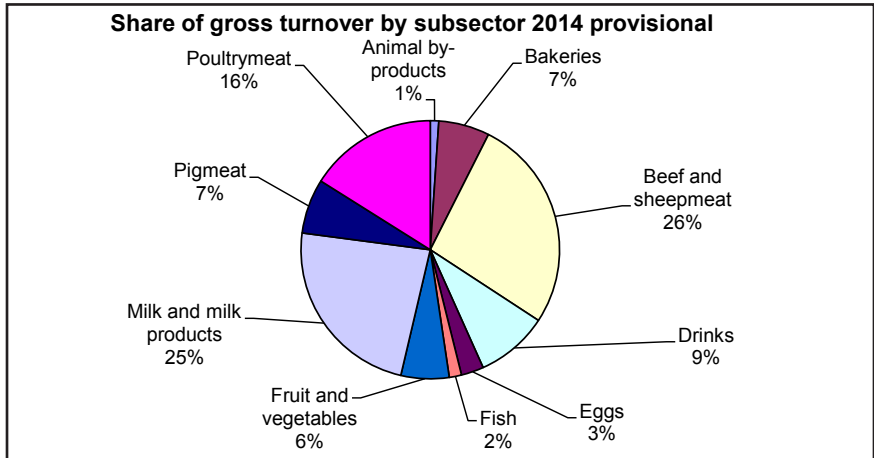
3. Sales outside UK

Source: Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics, 2014 provisional estimates. These figures exclude an estimate of those food and drinks processing businesses with a turnover of less than £250,000. Provisional estimates for 2014 have been estimated by adjusting the 2013 baseline largely on the basis of information available within DAERA. Provisional estimates for 2014 will be updated in the next version of the publication 'Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics', which will be published in July 2016.

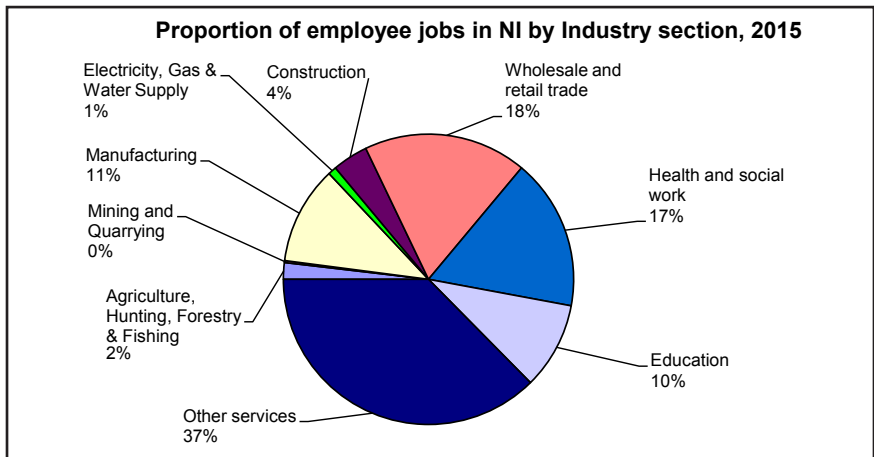
**Figure 3 - Gross turnover and full time equivalent (FTE) workforce by food processing subsector, NI (Provisional 2014)**



**Figure 4 - Proportion of gross turnover by subsector, NI (Provisional 2014)**



**Figure 5 - Proportion of employee jobs by Industry section, December 2015**





**Table 7: Total income from farming, NI and UK, 2015**

	NI	UK
Total income from farming (£)	£183m	£3,769m
% change on previous year :		
Current prices	-41%	-29%
Real terms	-42%	-29%

Source: Aggregate Agricultural Account

Note: For an explanation of the change in TIFF in NI and UK see Chapter 1 of the Statistical Review of NI Agriculture 2015 and Chapter 3 of Agriculture in the UK 2015.

**Table 8: Average income<sup>1</sup> by type of farm, NI, 2013/14 and 2014/15**

	Net farm income <sup>2</sup>		Farm Business Income <sup>3</sup>		Cash income <sup>4</sup>	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Type of farm:</b>						
Cereals	13,735	17,584	20,928	23,657	58,200	53,334
Dairy	61,193	47,139	60,573	45,728	89,574	76,424
Cattle & sheep (LFA)	6,842	8,096	13,459	14,745	25,497	25,227
Cattle & sheep (Lowland)	8,379	6,111	16,419	15,726	32,038	27,735
Mixed	37,981	20,400	57,289	37,138	77,397	62,651

Source: Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland 2013/14 and 2014/15

1. Based on information gathered from farms over 0.5 Standard Labour Requirements

2. The calculation of net farm income assumes that all farms are tenanted: net farm income therefore represents the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant-style capital of the business.

3. Farm Business income is the return to all unpaid labour and to their capital invested (inc land and buildings) in the business

4. Cash income is the difference between total receipts and total expenditure

Note: Farm typing methodology has changed from 2011 and is now based on Standard Outputs. Further information can be found in the farm income publication. [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics)

**Table 9: Net farm Income, Farm Business Income and Cash Income for dairy, LFA cattle & sheep, and mixed farms throughout the UK, 2013/14 and 2014/15**

	Dairy		LFA Cattle & Sheep		Mixed	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
<b>Net farm income</b>						
England	73,100	69,100	6,000	6,400	14,400	7,500
Wales	64,740	58,119	7,790	11,303	-	-
Scotland	78,260	70,424	19,991	20,661	17,707	-222
NI	61,193	47,139	6,842	8,096	37,981	20,400
<b>Farm Business Income</b>						
England	87,800	83,800	14,500	14,600	29,600	21,600
Wales	76,997	70,180	19,223	23,337	-	-
Scotland	78,055	68,471	25,632	26,185	30,039	11,506
NI	60,573	45,728	13,459	14,745	57,289	37,138
<b>Cash income</b>						
England	113,100	116,400	27,100	26,500	58,500	45,800
Wales	92,528	90,772	31,065	35,846	-	-
Scotland	99,471	101,032	42,829	40,529	55,953	39,345
NI	89,574	76,424	25,497	25,227	77,397	62,651

Source: Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland 2013/14 and 2014/15

Note: All regions define farm types using Standard Output Methodology, Scotland use 2007SO averages and other regions use 2010SO averages.

Note: England figures to nearest £100

**Table 10: Number of farms in the UK by size & country - June 2015**

	Business size (SLR) <sup>1</sup>				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large / Very Large	
<b>Farms</b>					
NI	19,078	2,951	1,249	1,629	24,907
England <sup>2</sup>	63,203	15,370	8,651	15,227	102,451
Scotland	42,357	3,443	1,992	4,511	52,303
Wales <sup>3</sup>	25,953	3,382	1,974	3,569	34,878
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,591</b>	<b>25,146</b>	<b>13,866</b>	<b>24,936</b>	<b>214,539</b>

1. Standard Labour Requirements

2. Figures which relate to commercial holdings only as defined by EU regulation

3. Excludes holdings with a SLR of zero

**Table 11: Percentage distribution of farms in the UK by size & country - June 2015**

	Business size (SLR)				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large / Very Large	
<b>Farms (%)</b>					
NI	77	12	5	7	100
England	62	15	8	15	100
Scotland	81	7	4	9	100
Wales	74	10	6	10	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 12: Number of farms in NI by size and type - June 2015**

Business type	Business size (SLR)					All sizes
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large		
Cereals	226	37	12	6		<b>281</b>
General cropping	420	38	15	43		<b>516</b>
Horticulture	99	54	28	112		<b>293</b>
Pigs	55	28	37	65		<b>185</b>
Poultry	215	208	101	77		<b>601</b>
Dairy	323	763	629	1,027		<b>2,742</b>
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	12,985	1,157	231	124		<b>14,497</b>
Cattle and sheep (Lowland)	4,283	539	114	78		<b>5,014</b>
Mixed	337	103	62	86		<b>588</b>
Others	135	24	20	11		<b>190</b>
<b>All types</b>	<b>19,078</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,629</b>		<b>24,907</b>

Source: June 2015 Agricultural Survey

Note: Farm Business type methodology has changed from 2011 and is now based on Standard Outputs. Further information can be found in the Census publication. [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics)

**Table 13: Crop areas and livestock numbers, NI, 1995, 2005 and 2013 - 2015**

	1995	2005	2013	2014	2015
<b>Livestock ('000 head)</b>					
<b>Cattle</b>					
Dairy cows	271.5	287.1	279.5	294.2	311.5
Beef cows	308.6	280.6	270.1	254.9	260.3
Total cattle	1,699.1	1,712.7	1,587.8	1,567.3	1,608.9
<b>Sheep</b>					
Breeding ewes	1,345.3	1,027.3	921.4	910.6	938.6
Total sheep	2,753.5	2,145.1	1,903.5	1,922.9	1,989.7
<b>Pigs</b>					
Female Breeding pigs	68.4	36.7	42.5	42.8	45.6
Total pigs	636.9	405.1	480.3	517.1	569.7
<b>Poultry</b>					
Laying flock	3,206.3	2,319.2	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1
Broilers	9,170.0	12,525.7	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1
<b>Crops ('000 hectares)</b>					
Cereals	42.5	36.2	35.9	34.2	32.9
Potatoes	9.0	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.6
Horticultural crops	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1

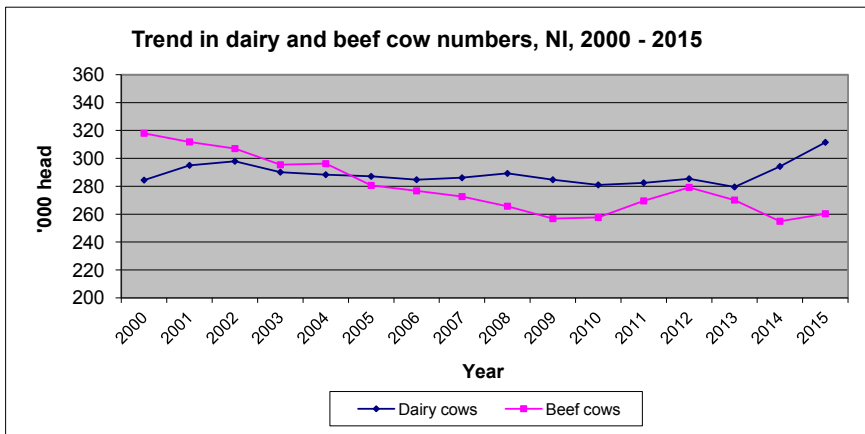
Source: June Agricultural Survey

Notes: From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS

From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update

From 2013 onwards, pig figures derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

**Figure 6 - Trend in dairy and beef cow numbers, NI, 2000 - 2015**



**Table 14: Average size of enterprise, NI, 1995, 2005 and 2013 - 2015**

	1995	2005	2013	2014	2015
<b>Average livestock numbers (per herd/flock)</b>					
Dairy cows	45	66	82	86	88
Beef cows	17	18	18	17	17
Total cattle	60	73	79	78	79
Ewes	112	118	106	103	101
Total sheep	222	243	215	213	209
Sows	33	100	129	121	144
Total pigs	282	925	1149	1175	1628
Total poultry (farms with more than 500 birds)	24,344	28,828	27,826	28,849	28,819
<b>Average cropping areas (ha)</b>					
Cereals	9	12	14	14	14
Potatoes	5	6	8	8	7

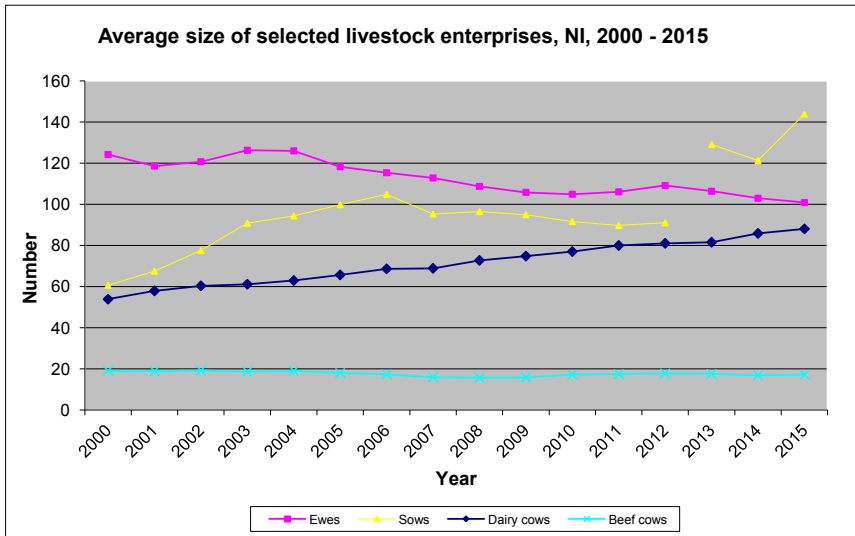
Source: June Agricultural Survey

Notes: From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS

From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update

From 2013 onwards, pig figures derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

**Figure 7 - Average size of selected livestock enterprises, NI, 2000 - 2015**



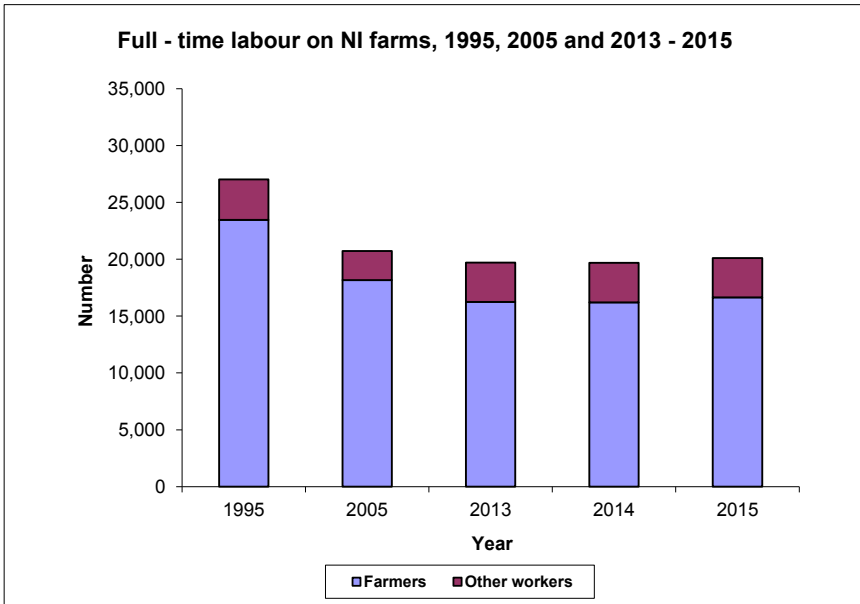
Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

**Table 15: Number of farmers and workers, NI, 1995, 2005 and 2013 - 2015**

	1995	2005	2013	2014	2015
<b>Farmers, partners &amp; directors:</b>					
Full-time	23,468	18,159	16,235	16,206	16,637
Part-time	16,337	14,367	12,798	12,894	13,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,805</b>	<b>32,526</b>	<b>29,033</b>	<b>29,100</b>	<b>30,068</b>
<b>Spouses</b>	<b>6,807</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>6,391</b>	<b>6,279</b>	<b>6,084</b>
<b>Other workers</b>					
Full-time	3,554	2,553	3,464	3,485	3,463
Part-time	3,223	2,514	4,009	4,081	3,971
Casual/Seasonal	9,564	7,294	4,899	4,919	4,393
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>16,341</b>	<b>12,361</b>	<b>12,372</b>	<b>12,485</b>	<b>11,827</b>
<b>Total agricultural labour force</b>	<b>62,953</b>	<b>51,073</b>	<b>47,796</b>	<b>47,864</b>	<b>47,979</b>

Source: June Agricultural Survey

**Figure 8 - Full - time labour on NI farms, 1995, 2005 and 2013 - 2015**

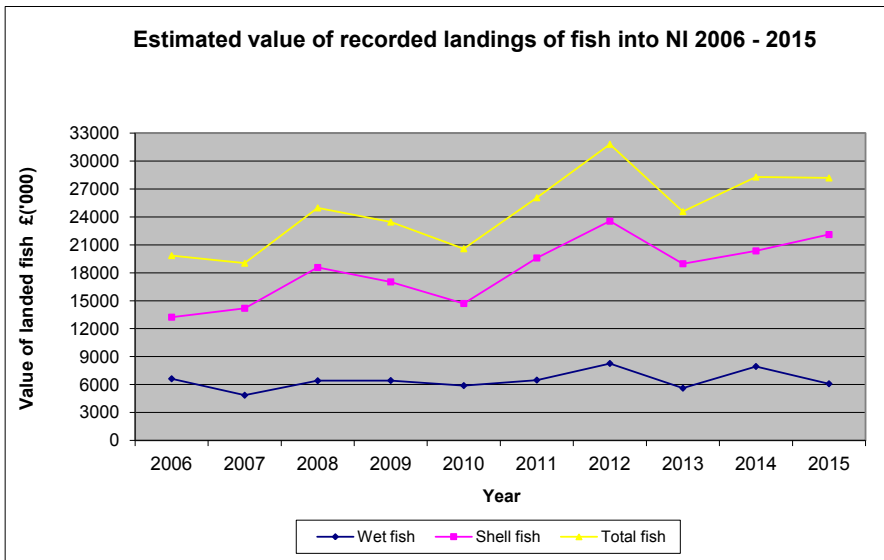


**Table 16: Liveweight and estimated value of recorded landings of fish into NI, 2012 - 2015**

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Tonnes	£ ('000)	Tonnes	£ ('000)	Tonnes	£ ('000)	Tonnes	£ ('000)
<b>Total wet fish</b>	10,683	8,259	9,348	5,603	12,324	7,936	10,253	6,078
<b>Total shell fish</b>	12,974	23,550	11,801	18,975	10,689	20,352	12,248	22,111
<b>Total fish</b>	23,657	31,809	21,149	24,578	23,013	28,288	22,501	28,190

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA

**Figure 9 - Estimated value of recorded landings of fish into NI, 2006 - 2015**



**Table 17: Employment in NI fishing industry, 2012 - 2015**

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
<b>Catching</b>	654	154	675	139	683	149	708	151
<b>Processing and marketing</b>	445	163	460	170	463	175	484	232
<b>Others</b>	108	32	110	37	104	44	112	46
<b>Total</b>	1,207	349	1,245	346	1,250	368	1,304	429

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA

**Table 18: Area of woodland throughout the UK by forest type, 2015**

	Conifers ('000 HA)	Broadleaves ('000 HA)	Total ('000 HA)	% of Total Land Area in Forestry
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1,614	1,540	3,154	13.0%
<b>England</b>	339	965	1,304	10.0%
<b>Scotland</b>	1,057	375	1,432	18.4%
<b>Wales</b>	150	156	306	14.8%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	67	45	112	8.3%

Source: Forestry Commission

**Table 19: Number of farms using agricultural contractors in 2013**

	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Hay/Silage Making	13,534	2,155	1,825	17,514
Crop Harvesting	1,009	368	646	2,023
Spreading slurry/fertilisers etc	7,497	1,416	1,607	10,520
Other field work	2,472	581	689	3,742
Milking	53	97	265	415
Sheep shearing	4,118	806	493	5,417
Other livestock work	971	196	196	1,363
Hedge cutting	11,191	2,020	1,796	15,007

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey 2013, NI

**Table 20: Percentage of farms using agricultural contractors by business size in 2013**

	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Hay/Silage Making	72	70	67	71
Crop Harvesting	5	12	24	8
Spreading slurry/fertilisers etc	40	46	59	43
Other field work	13	19	25	15
Milking	0	3	10	2
Sheep shearing	22	26	18	22
Other livestock work	5	6	7	6
Hedge cutting	60	66	66	61

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey 2013, NI

**Table 21: Number of farms using agricultural contractors from 2005-2013**

	2005	2007	2010	2013
Hay/Silage Making	18,849	18,015	16,787	17,514
Crop Harvesting	2,300	1,979	1,932	2,023
Spreading slurry/fertilisers etc	11,004	10,500	10,257	10,520
Other field work	3,953	3,749	3,613	3,742
Milking	653	599	443	415
Sheep shearing	4,551	4,432	3,877	5,417
Other livestock work	1,554	1,474	1,178	1,363
Hedge cutting	14,840	14,705	13,905	15,007

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey 2013, NI



## Further information

### 1. Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics)

Agricultural Census in N.I. 2015 publication (ISBN no. 978-1-84807-598-6)

Statistical Review of N.I. Agriculture 2015 publication (ISBN no. 978-1-84807-597-9)

Size and performance of the N.I. Food and Drinks Processing Sector publication 2013  
(ISBN no. 978-1-84807-534-4)

EU Farm Structure Survey 2013 (ISBN no. 978-1-84807-569-6)

Farm Incomes in N.I. publication

Food consumption and expenditure information

Fisheries statistics

Forestry statistics

### 2. United Kingdom

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)  
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom)

GOV.UK statistics release calendar  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

### 3. Republic of Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/)

Central statistics office Ireland, [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)  
[www.cso.ie/en/statistics/agricultureandfishing/](http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/agricultureandfishing/)

Official Statistics Ireland, [www.statcentral.ie](http://www.statcentral.ie)  
[www.statcentral.ie/viewstats.asp?type=Agriculture%20and%20Fishing](http://www.statcentral.ie/viewstats.asp?type=Agriculture%20and%20Fishing)

### 4. European Union

Eurostat, [www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat)  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/overview>

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