



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

www.dard.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an
Kintra Fordèrin**

POLICY AND ECONOMICS DIVISION

EU Farm Structure Survey 2013 Northern Ireland



Agricultural Labour Force, Farm Diversification and Contractor use



EU Farm Structure Survey

2013

Northern Ireland

**Report on
Agricultural Labour Force, Farm Diversification,
and
Contractor use**

Prepared by:
Conor McCormack
Policy & Economics Division
DARD

EU Farm Structure Survey 2013

Northern Ireland

Contents	Page
Summary of key statistics	5
1 Introduction	
1.1 The survey	7
1.2 Methodology in Northern Ireland	8
1.3 The survey population	8
1.4 The raising framework	9
1.5 Terms and definitions	9
2 The Total Labour Force	
2.1 Definitions	10
2.2 Total Persons	10
2.3 Business Status	11
2.4 Management Status	11
2.5 Gender	12
2.6 Work-time	12
2.7 Annual Work Units (AWU)	12
3 Farmers	
3.1 Definition	17
3.2 Gender	17
3.3 Marital Status	17
3.4 Age	17
3.5 Work-time	17
3.6 Other gainful activity	17
4 Managers	
4.1 Definitions	23
4.2 Status	23
4.3 Gender	23
4.4 Age	23
4.5 Work-time	23
5 Farm diversification	
5.1 Definition	26
5.2 Results	26
6 Use of agricultural contractors	
6.1 Definitions	28
6.2 Results	28

7	Tractors and Machinery	
	7.1	Definitions 30
	7.2	Results 30
8	Internet access	
	8.1	Definitions 31
	8.2	Results 31
9	Manure storage	
	9.1	Definitions 33
	9.2	Results 33
10	Manure and slurry application	
	10.1	Definitions 34
	10.2	Results 34
11	Cultivation	
	11.1	Definitions 35
	11.2	Results 35
12	Agricultural Training	
	12.1	Definitions 35
	12.2	Results 35
13	Renewable Energy Production	
	13.1	Definitions 36
	13.2	Results 36
14	Future Planning	
	14.1	Definitions 36
	14.2	Results 36
Annex 1		
	Comparisons with earlier surveys	37
Annex 2		
	Terms and definitions	38
Annex 3		
	Key results from the EU Structure Survey for Other European Countries and Northern Ireland	41

Foreword

Statistics on agricultural employment are collected each year in the June Agricultural & Horticultural Census and are published in the annual *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture* (DARD). However, EU legislation requires the collection of more detailed information, on a comparable basis throughout the European Union, every two or three years. This exercise is known as the EU Farm Structure Survey.

The survey provides information, not elsewhere available, on the age structure of farmers, the time they spend on farm work and whether or not they do any other paid work.

This report presents the Northern Ireland data collected for that purpose in 2013. It contains comparisons with the results of other surveys since 1993 as well as some additional information not required by the EU, such as the use of agricultural contractors, which is of interest to policy makers in Northern Ireland.

Most of the data collected in 2013 will be sent to Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the EU) and, along with similar data from all other regions of the Union, will be used in the preparation of EU wide statistics on the structure of agriculture.

The results of the 2010 EU Farm Structure Survey for each of the EU Member States may be viewed at

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/farm-structure>

Extracts of particular interest to Northern Ireland are reproduced in Annex 3 of this report, comparing Northern Ireland with the average situation in the EU and other states.

Further analyses of the Northern Ireland database may be obtained from Conor McCormack on Conor.McCormack@dardni.gov.uk. A charge may be levied for this, depending on the amount of work involved.

Norman Fulton
Director of Policy and Economics Division
October 2015

Summary of Key Statistics

Labour force

- 51,174 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months ending March 2013.
- The total labour input on farms in Northern Ireland equated to 27,464 Annual Work Units (full time job equivalents).
- Occupiers and their family members provided 90 percent of the labour input.

Business status

- The majority of farms are family owned and managed; only 191 farm businesses out of the total of 24,503 were owned by an institution or limited liability company.
- On 99 percent of farms, the principal occupier or a member of his or her family was the manager (the person most responsible for day-to-day management).
- Only 1 percent of managers were neither the occupier nor a member of the occupier's family.

Gender

- Female workers accounted for 24 percent of the workforce and 17 percent of the labour input (Annual Work Units) on farms.
- 7 percent of farms were managed by females.

Age

- The median age of farmers (58 years) was one year older than in 2010.
- Four percent of farmers were aged under 35 in 2013 (5 percent in 2010).
- The ages of farmers differed for each business size; on Very Small farms, 36 percent were aged 65 or more, compared with 25 percent on Small and 20 percent on Medium or Large farms.

Work-time

- 53 percent of the farmers worked 30 hours or more per week on farms (i.e. full-time).
- The total Annual Work Units equated to 27,464 full time jobs (27,328 in 2010).

Other gainful activities

- The proportion of farmers who had other work was at 36 percent, (40 percent was recorded in 2010).
- For those farmers under 65, the proportion that had other work was 48 percent in 2013 compared with 52 percent in 2010.
- On 51 percent of all farms, and for 66 percent of those where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work in 2013. (56 percent and 71 percent respectively in 2010).
- On 72 percent of very small farms, with the farmer aged under 65, either the farmer or the farmer's spouse had other gainful activity.

Farm diversification

- 10 percent of farms had some diversification activity (as defined in the Structure Survey), including 4 percent of farms which undertook agricultural contracting.
- 7 percent of NI farms had diversification other than agricultural contracting or haulage.

Use of agricultural contractors

- 89 percent of farms used agricultural contractors during the previous year, compared with 77 percent in 2010.
- 71 percent of all farms used agricultural contractors for hay or silage making.

Tractors and Machinery

- 90 percent of farms owned at least one tractor.
- 31 percent of farms owned at least one quad (17 percent in 2005).

Use of the internet

- 60 percent of farms have access to the internet.
- 55 percent of farms have access to broadband.
- 42 percent of farms use the internet for business purposes.

Manure and slurry storage

- 44 percent of farms stored solid manure on a solid base.
- 68 percent of farms used a below-ground slurry tank.

Manure and slurry application

- 37 percent of all land received slurry at some time during the year.
- 8 percent of all land received solid manure at some time in the year.

Cultivation

- 91 percent of land that was used for arable purposes was ploughed using the inversion ploughing method.

Training

- 83 percent of managers had practical experience only, with 17 percent having attended a formal training course.

Renewable Energy Production

- 3 percent of farms produce renewable energy.

Future Planning

- 55 percent of farm businesses have a plan for succession.

EU Farm Structure Survey 2013 NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Introduction

1.1 The Survey

In each country of the European Union (EU), a major agricultural statistical survey, known as the EU Farm Structure Survey¹, is conducted every ten years to coincide with a World Census of Agriculture organised by FAO, and in the intervening years, three, less detailed, surveys are held. Major surveys were held in 2000 and 2010 with sample surveys in 2003, 2005 2007 and 2013. The main items covered are crop areas, livestock numbers, numbers and details of the farm labour force and, since 2000, the incidence of farm diversification.

The 2013 survey was conducted as a sample survey in all EU countries. As it covers such a diversity of farming climates, practices and management and ownership structures, the harmonised set of questions is not always relevant for individual countries. Consequently Eurostat² allow some countries to disregard some questions as being either non-existent or non significant (e.g. areas of citrus fruits in the UK).

Partly funded by the EU³, each Member State collects the data, anonymises the records and sends them to Eurostat where they are entered into the Eurofarm database. Analyses are made and key statistics published in a survey report and on Eurostat's data dissemination website. Subsequently the statistics are used by the EU to monitor changes, particularly in farm structure and the numbers of farm workers, and to model the impact of external developments or policy proposals.

¹ Each Member State is required to do this by Council Regulation No 1166/2008.

² The Statistical Office of the European Community.

³ DARD will receive around €100,000 for the 2013 survey.

1.2 Methodology in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland data for the 2013 Survey came from three sources:

- the June 2013 Agricultural and Horticultural Survey
- administrative sources
- special survey in March 2013 to collect the information not available elsewhere.

The main data on crop areas and livestock numbers were collected in the June Agricultural Census. A limited amount of information was obtained from administrative sources, notably on areas of organic farming⁴ and Rural Development schemes. To complete the data for the EU, a special Structure Survey was conducted in March 2013, to obtain information on labour, machinery, diversification and training.

A few additional questions, not required by the Structure Survey but of interest locally, were included in the Northern Ireland special survey. To address a gap in available data, the obligatory Structure Survey question on the use of agricultural contractors was expanded in the Northern Ireland survey to provide information on the main activities for which contractors were used. Also the categories of farm diversification activities for which information was collected differed from those required by the EU. This facilitated a meaningful analysis of NI data as well as international comparisons.

The detailed results of the June 2013 Agricultural Census were published on 31st January 2014⁵ providing information on crop areas, livestock and total labour disaggregated by District Council, County and Rural District.

This Farm Structure report includes the results of the specialised labour questions and other areas of interest not normally collected as part of the June survey along with comparable statistics from the eight previous surveys held from 1993 to date. However, because of changes made to the method of determining the population of farm businesses⁶, caution should be exercised in interpreting changes between the 1993 to 1997 surveys and those conducted in 2000 and thereafter.

1.3 The Survey Population

For the purpose of the Structure Survey, a farm is defined (Article 2 of Council Regulation 1166/2008) as:

a single unit, both technically and economically, which has single management and which undertakes agricultural activities

⁴ For statistical information on organic farming in UK plus NI
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/organic-farming-statistics-2013

⁵ www.dardni.gov.uk/agricultural-census-ni

⁶ See Annex 1.

The Northern Ireland population of farms which met this definition in the June 2013 census and which was represented in the 2013 Structure Survey, totaled 24,503 farms⁷. However, the final data sent to Eurostat will consist of a file of 10,268 farms as it was a sample survey and also due to the imposition of thresholds of activity.

1.4 The Raising Framework

Although popularly termed the June “census”, it is normally a sample survey. In 2013 some 19,682 forms were sent out and 13,328 returned (a response rate of 68 percent). Estimates were made for the non-respondents based on their most recent return and available administrative data, notably from the cattle tracing system (APHIS) or the grants and subsidies system (IACS).

1.5 Terms and Definitions

In previous years there were significant differences between the terms used in the labour force part of the Structure Survey and those used in the labour section of the annual June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey. Full definitions of the former are contained in Commission Regulation 1200/2009.

The main differences were:

- the Structure Survey records the numbers of persons working on farms at any time during the preceding year whereas the census refers to a single date;
- the Structure Survey requires that, except for limited companies and institutions, one person is designated as the principal occupier whereas in the census there may be several “farmers and partners”;
- the total labour force counted in the Structure Survey excludes hired workers who are employed on a casual basis whereas in the census they are recorded if they are working on the holding on the census date.

⁷ The special survey was issued to a sample of the active farms in the June 2012 survey but only those which were still active in 2013 were included in the final data file.

2. The Total Agricultural Labour Force

2.1 Definitions

In this chapter persons in the labour force are classified either as

- occupier (one per farm)
- occupier's spouse
- other member of the occupier's family
- hired worker.

The definitions for the status of persons in the Structure Survey are especially complex, partly due to the variety of permutations of ownership and management status. In Chapters 3 and 4, statistics on management status are presented on Farmers (a sub-set of occupiers comprising those who are responsible for day to day management) and Managers (the persons responsible for day to day management, including both farmers and other managers).

It is recognised that the definitions are not entirely satisfactory because in some situations both ownership and management responsibilities may be shared by a number of equal partners, but Eurostat requires one person to be designated as the principal occupier and one as the principal manager. Moreover, some Member States distinguish further between businesses which are owned by families and those owned by several unrelated persons, the latter being termed "Group holdings" but there are too few of these in Northern Ireland to be significant and they have not been analysed separately from family groups.

2.2 Total persons

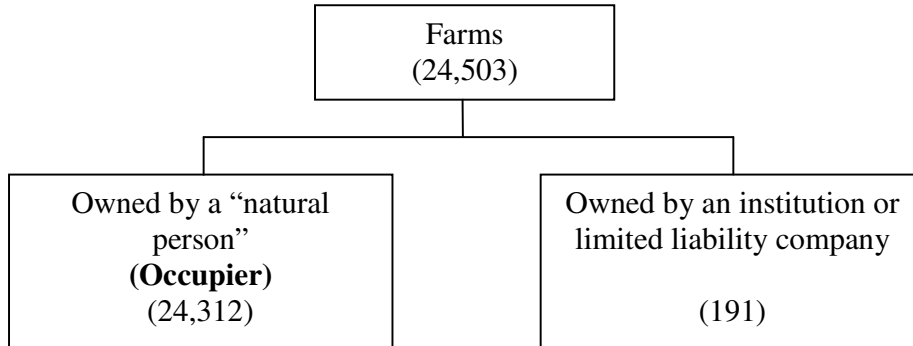
Based on the 2013 Structure Survey, the total labour force was estimated as **51,174 persons**; this includes all persons aged 16 and over who contributed to the work of the farms during the 12 month period up to March 2013 but excludes any hired workers engaged on a casual basis. The June 2013 Agricultural Census, which is the other main source of information on the labour input on farms, recorded 47,796 persons working on farms at the 1st June census date, including hired casual workers. The definitions in the two surveys differ but it appears that significantly more occupiers' spouses were recorded in the Structure Survey (7,725) than in the June census where 6,391 were recorded as spouses but others were recorded as business partners.

Occupiers, their spouses and other family members comprise 92 percent of the labour force, with only 8 percent being regular hired workers. The proportions differ by business size with regular hired workers making up 22 percent of those on the Medium and Large farms compared with 4 percent on the Very Small and 9 percent on the Small farms.

2.3 Business status

The occupier is the person who has “legal and financial responsibility for the farm” and is usually, though not always, the owner. The Structure Survey specifies that the occupier may be either:

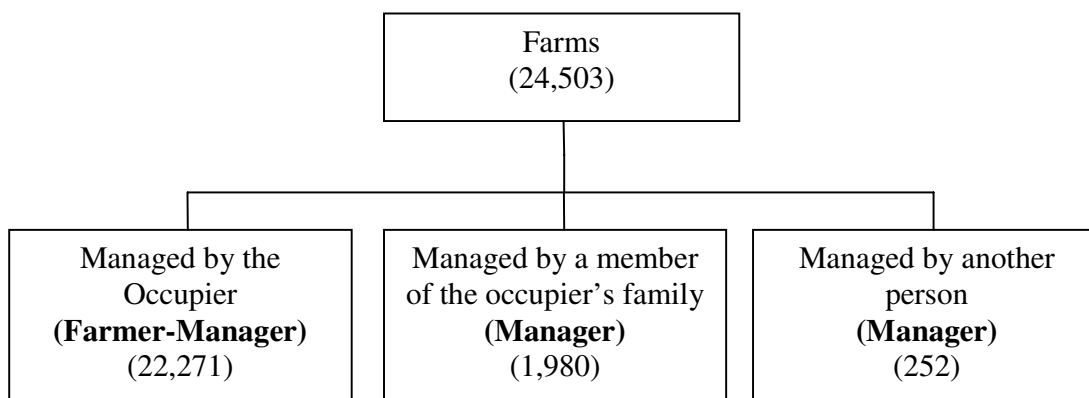
- a) a limited liability company or an institution, such as a school or hospital; or
- b) a “natural person”, meaning a private individual or individuals, including partnerships.



Where occupancy was shared, respondents were asked to identify the principal occupier and, if that responsibility was equally shared, the eldest partner was deemed to be the principal partner or occupier.

2.4 Management status

Respondents to the survey were asked to indicate who was responsible for the day to day running of the farm business. In most cases (91 percent), this person was the same as the occupier but on 8 percent of farms this role was filled by either the occupier’s spouse, or by another family member and on 1 percent (including farms owned by institutions) there was a hired or paid manager.



2.5 Gender Seventy-six percent of workers were male and 24 percent female. There is some indication that larger farms tend to have male managers.

2.6 Work-time

The questions on work-time in the Structure Survey are phrased in terms of the proportion of a full working year. In Northern Ireland, where the current Agricultural Wages Regulations relate to 39 hours, this was specified as “normally around 40 hours per week over a full year”. The results of this survey have been presented to be comparable with Labour Market Statistics in which employment of 30 hours per week or more is deemed to be “full-time”.

In the 2013 survey, 63 percent of the regular labour force worked part-time on the farms and 37 percent full-time, the same result as in 2010.

2.7 Annual work units

To measure the total labour input, the stated work times were converted into Annual Work Units (AWU) on the basis of 1 AWU per person who works 100 percent of a full year, 0.875 for one who works over 75 percent but less than 100 percent, etc. Although the survey did not collect information on the number of hired workers employed on a casual or seasonal basis, the number of casual days worked is specified and these are converted to AWU on the basis of 225 days per AWU.

Of the total of 27,464 AWU recorded some 58 percent was attributed to the occupiers, 11 percent to the occupiers spouses and 22 percent to other family.

Labour Force Members, Numbers and Status

Table 2.1

Persons by status and business size	Business size *				Business size *			
	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Persons working on farms:	Persons				Percent			
Occupiers	18,641	3,033	2,637	24,311	52	42	31	48
Occupiers' spouses	5,363	1,162	1,200	7,725	15	16	14	15
Occupiers' family	10,005	2,369	2,754	15,128	28	33	33	30
Regular hired workers	1,509	639	1,862	4,010	4	9	22	8
Total persons	35,518	7,203	8,453	51,174	100	100	100	100

* Farm Business Size is not comparable with previous Structure Survey reports. See Annex 2.

Table 2.2

Personal status by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Persons working on farms:	<i>Percent</i>								
Occupiers	50	49	50	48	47	48	47	48	48
Occupiers' spouses	15	14	14	22	18	17	16	16	15
Occupiers' family	26	28	28	23	26	30	28	29	30
Regular hired workers	9	9	9	7	9	5	9	7	8
Total persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2.3

Management status by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Manager is:	Persons/Farms				Percent			
The occupier	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	92	91	86	91
Occupier's spouse	573	47	28	648	3	2	1	3
Other family member	875	206	251	1,332	5	7	9	5
Hired	121	37	94	252	1	1	3	1
Total farms	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Note: percentage columns may not add to 100 due to rounding

Labour Force: Gender and Ages

Table 2.4

Gender by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Person is:	Persons				Percent			
Male	27,035	5,436	6,543	39,014	76	75	77	76
Female	8,483	1,767	1,910	12,160	24	25	23	24
Total persons	35,518	7,203	8,453	51,174	100	100	100	100

Table 2.5

Gender by personal status	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
Person is:					
Male	22,458	615	12,284	3,657	39,014
Female	1,853	7,110	2,844	353	12,160
Total persons	24,311	7,725	15,128	4,010	51,174

Table 2.6

Gender by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Person is:	Percent								
Male	77	78	78	72	74	78	77	77	76
Female	23	22	22	28	26	22	23	23	24
Total persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Labour Force: Work -time

Table 2.7

Work-time by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Persons				Percent			
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:								
>0-<25%	15,435	2,024	1,891	19,350	43	28	22	38
25-<50%	6,821	858	794	8,473	19	12	9	17
50-<75%	3,517	576	540	4,633	10	8	6	9
Part-time	25,773	3,458	3,225	32,456	73	48	38	63
75-<100%	2,255	604	639	3,498	6	8	8	7
100%	7,490	3,141	4,589	15,220	21	44	54	30
Full-time	9,745	3,745	5,228	18,718	27	52	62	37
Total persons	35,518	7,203	8,453	51,174	100	100	100	100

Table 2.8

Gender by personal status	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
	Persons				
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:					
>0-<25%	5,562	4,208	7,801	1,779	19,350
25-<50%	3,793	1,294	2,824	562	8,473
50-<75%	2,569	594	1,154	316	4,633
Part-time	11,924	6,096	11,779	2,657	32,456
75-<100%	2,127	367	764	240	3,498
100%	10,260	1,262	2,585	1,113	15,220
Full-time	12,387	1,629	3,349	1,353	18,718
Total persons	24,311	7,725	15,128	4,010	51,174

Table 2.9

Work-time by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:									
>0-<25%	28	28	30	37	35	35	37	35	38
25-<50%	14	15	15	16	16	17	15	18	17
50-<75%	9	9	9	8	9	10	11	10	9
Part-time	51	52	54	61	60	62	63	63	63
75-<100%	4	5	4	4	5	5	6	7	7
100%	45	44	42	34	35	33	31	30	30
Full-time	49	48	46	39	40	38	37	37	37
Total persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Labour Force: Annual Work Units

Table 2.10

Annual work units by business size and personal status	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
AWU contributed by:	Annual Work Units				Percent			
Occupiers	10,739	2,643	2,416	15,798	66	56	38	58
Occupiers' spouses	1,830	535	601	2,966	11	11	9	11
Other family	3,089	1,127	1,794	6,010	19	24	28	22
Hired (regular)	452	294	1,207	1,953	3	6	19	7
Hired (casual)	272	144	321	737	2	3	5	3
Total persons	16,382	4,743	6,339	27,464	100	100	100	100

Table 2.11

Work-time by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
AWU contributed by:	Percent								
Occupiers	56	56	57	58	55	57	56	55	58
Occupiers' spouses	12	11	10	15	12	14	11	18	11
Other family	21	22	22	19	22	20	23	21	22
Hired (regular)	8	8	7	7	8	6	6	4	7
Hired (casual)	3	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	3
All persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total AWU	37,046	35,457	33,181	32,502	33,272	30,639	29,786	27,328	27,464

3. Farmers

3.1 Definition

Farmers are a sub-set of the occupiers, comprising those who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the farm. The survey forms include instructions that where responsibility for the business is shared by more than one person, the senior partner should be designated as the farmer.

3.2 Gender

Ninety five percent of farmers were male, 5 percent female.

3.3 Marital status

The 2013 survey indicated that 31 percent of farmers in Northern Ireland had no spouse, ranging from 33 percent for those with Very Small businesses to 18 percent of those with Large businesses. Under half (43 percent) of farmers' spouses contributed to the work of the farms.

3.4 Age

In previous years, information was sought on farmers' ages within 5 year age bands but from the 2003 survey this was changed to 10 year bands. The median age for farmers in Northern Ireland in 2013 was 58 years, one year older than in 2010. The survey showed that there were 4 percent of farmers under 35 years old in 2013 compared with 5 percent in 2010 and 6 percent in 2007. However, it is stressed that these figures refer only to the principal farmer in each business rather than to all farmers.

3.5 Work-time

Overall 53 percent of farmers worked for at least 30 hours per week and have been termed "full-time", compared with 65 percent in 1993.

3.6 Other gainful activities

Thirty six percent of farmers had some other gainful activity (40 per cent in 2010), on or off farm, the proportion having risen significantly from 19 percent in 1993.

On 51 percent of farms either the farmer or spouse or both had another gainful activity, ranging from 53 percent of the Very Small farms to 43 percent of both Small and Medium/Large farms. Since the age of the farmer is relevant to this distribution, separate analyses have been made for farms where the farmer is 65 or over and those where he/she is under 65. The latter indicates that 48 percent of farmers under 65 years old have other gainful activities, and on 66 percent of such farms either the farmer or spouse does other work.

Farmers: Gender & Marital Status

Table 3.1

Farmers by gender and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmer is:	Farmers				Percent			
Male	16,071	2,683	2,298	21,052	94	97	98	95
Female	1,079	90	50	1,219	6	3	2	5
Total farmers	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	100	100	100	100

Table 3.2

Farmers by gender and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Farmer is:	<i>All sizes, percent</i>								
Male	93	94	94	94	94	95	94	95	95
Female	7	6	6	6	6	5	6	5	5
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3.3

Farmers by marital status and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmer has a spouse:	Farmers				Percent			
of whom:								
- Works on the farm	4,647	1,026	1,049	6,722	27	37	45	30
- Does not work on the farm	6,798	1,051	884	8,733	40	38	38	39
Farmer has no spouse:	5,705	696	415	6,816	33	25	18	31
Total farmers	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	100	100	100	100

Farmers: Ages

Table 3.4

Farmers by age and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmer is aged:	Farmers				Percent			
Under 25	70	16	12	98	0	1	1	0
25-34	601	100	101	802	4	4	4	4
35-44	2,036	378	412	2,826	12	14	18	13
45-54	3,933	820	756	5,509	23	30	32	25
55-64	4,408	775	593	5,776	26	28	25	26
65 & over	6,102	684	474	7,260	36	25	20	33
Total farmers	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	100	100	100	100

Table 3.5

Farmers by age and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Farmer is aged:	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
Under 25	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
25-34	9	7	7	8	6	6	5	4	4
35-44	16	17	17	19	20	18	16	15	13
45-54	23	23	24	24	23	24	24	25	25
55-64	25	25	25	24	25	25	27	28	26
65 & over	27	26	27	24	25	26	27	27	33
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers: Work-time

Table 3.6

Farmers by work-time on farm and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year	Farmers				Percent			
>0-<25%	4,315	117	45	4,477	25	4	2	20
25-<50%	3,358	124	69	3,551	20	4	3	16
50-<75%	2,176	176	75	2,427	13	6	3	11
Part-time	9,849	417	189	10,455	57	15	8	47
75-<100%	1,557	299	181	2,037	9	11	8	9
100%	5,744	2,057	1,978	9,779	33	74	84	44
Full-time	7,301	2,356	2,159	11,816	43	85	92	53
Total farmers	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	100	100	100	100

Table 3.7

Farmers by work-time on farm and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
>0-<25%	16	14	18	23	20	19	21	25	20
25-<50%	11	12	12	15	16	17	17	16	16
50-<75%	8	9	9	9	10	11	11	11	11
Part-time	35	35	39	47	45	47	48	52	47
75-<100%	4	5	4	5	6	6	5	7	9
100%	61	60	57	48	49	47	47	41	44
Full-time	65	65	61	53	55	53	52	48	53
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers: Other gainful activity

Table 3.8

Farmers other gainful activity by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Farmer's other gainful activity:	Farmers				Percent			
No OGA	10,006	2,223	2,028	14,257	58	80	86	64
With OGA	7,144	550	320	8,014	42	20	14	36
of whom:								
- OGA as major activity	5,253	223	113	5,589	31	8	5	25
- OGA as minor activity	1,891	327	207	2,425	11	12	9	11
Total farmers	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	100	100	100	100

Table 3.9

Farmers other gainful activity by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Farmer's other gainful activity:	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
No OGA	81	79	77	71	66	63	63	60	64
With OGA	19	21	23	29	34	37	37	40	36
of whom:									
- OGA as major activity	13	14	16	23	24	27	27	30	25
- OGA as minor activity	5	7	7	6	9	11	11	10	11
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers and spouses: Other gainful activity

Table 3.10

All farmers	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Persons with other gainful activity:	Farms				Percent			
Farmer	7,144	550	320	8,014	42	20	14	36
Farmer's spouse	5,596	914	874	7,384	33	33	37	33
Either/both	9,099	1,201	1,004	11,304	53	43	43	51
Neither	8,051	1,572	1,344	10,967	47	57	57	49
Total farms	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	100	100	100	100

Note: Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

Table 3.11

Farmers aged 65 and over	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Persons with other gainful activity:	Farms				Percent			
Farmer	687	65	41	793	11	10	9	11
Farmer's spouse	636	89	45	770	10	13	10	11
Either/both	1,150	136	67	1,353	19	20	14	19
Neither	4,952	548	407	5,907	81	80	86	81
Total farms	6,102	684	474	7,260	100	100	100	100

Note: Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

Table 3.12

Farmers aged under 65	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Persons with other gainful activity:	Farms				Percent			
Farmer	6,457	485	279	7,221	58	23	15	48
Farmer's spouse	4,960	825	829	6,614	45	40	44	44
Either/both	7,949	1,065	937	9,951	72	51	50	66
Neither	3,099	1,024	937	5,060	28	49	50	34
Total farms	11,048	2,089	1,874	15,011	100	100	100	100

Note: Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

4 Managers (Persons responsible for the running of the farm)

4.1 Definition

In Section 2 information was presented for all workers, including those described as Occupiers, i.e. those with the legal and financial responsibility for the farms, and Section 3 referred to the subset of the occupiers, termed Farmers, who were responsible for the day to day management. Where the occupier is not responsible for management of the farm, someone else has this role. Section 4 refers to all managers, i.e. the one person for each farm who has the main responsibility for the day to day running of the business. Because most of them (91 percent) are also farmers, information on this group is similar to that in Section 3.

4.1 Status

Northern Ireland farms are primarily family businesses, with 1 percent of the managers being non-family. The occupiers were the managers of 91 percent of farms, with spouses the managers on 3 percent and other family members the managers on the remainder. The other family members were mainly from a younger generation, so that, as a group, managers are slightly younger than farmers.

4.3 Gender

The proportion of female managers in 2013, at 7 percent, was broadly similar to that recorded since the 1990s.

4.4 Age

In the 2013 survey, 20 percent of managers were under 45 and 31 percent were 65 or over. This compares with the 2010 figures of 22 percent and 26 percent respectively.

4.5 Work-time

The work-time of managers was similar to that for farmers, with 48 percent working under 30 hours a week and being termed “part-time” and 52 percent “full-time”.

Managers: Identity, Gender and Age

Table 4.1

Management status by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager is:	Farms				Percent			
The occupier	17,150	2,773	2,348	22,271	92	91	86	91
Occupier's spouse	573	47	28	648	3	2	1	3
Other family member	875	206	251	1,332	5	7	9	5
Hired	121	37	94	252	1	1	3	1
Total farms	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Table 4.2

Managers by gender and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager is:	Managers				Percent			
Male	17,310	2,932	2,641	22,883	92	96	97	93
Female	1,409	131	80	1,620	8	4	3	7
Total managers	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Table 4.3

Managers by gender and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Manager is:	Percent								
Male	92	93	92	93	93	93	92	94	93
Female	8	7	8	7	7	7	8	6	7
Total managers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4.4

Managers by age and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager is:	Farms				Percent			
Under 25	118	28	26	172	1	1	1	1
25-34	822	147	193	1,163	4	5	7	5
35-44	2,385	475	539	3,398	13	16	20	14
45-54	4,406	901	841	6,148	24	29	31	25
55-64	4,691	808	628	6,127	25	26	23	25
65 & over	6,297	704	494	7,495	34	23	18	31
Total managers	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Managers: Age and work-time

Table 4.5

Managers by age and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Manager is:	<i>Percent</i>								
Under 25	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
25-34	11	11	11	9	8	8	6	4	5
35-44	17	18	18	20	21	19	18	17	14
45-54	22	23	23	24	23	24	24	25	25
55-64	23	23	23	22	23	24	25	27	25
65 & over	25	24	24	22	23	24	26	26	31
Total managers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4.6

Managers by work-time on farm and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year	Farms				Percent			
>0-<25%	4,782	133	58	4,973	26	4	2	20
25-<50%	3,752	150	78	3,980	20	5	3	16
50-<75%	2,420	198	92	2,710	13	6	3	11
Part-time	10,954	481	228	11,663	59	16	8	48
75-<100%	1,718	356	227	2,301	9	12	8	9
100%	6,047	2,226	2,266	10,539	32	73	83	43
Full-time	7,765	2,582	2,493	12,840	41	84	92	52
Total managers	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Table 4.7

Managers by work-time on farm and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year	<i>Percent</i>								
>0-<25%	16	14	18	23	20	20	22	25	20
25-<50%	11	13	13	15	16	17	17	16	16
50-<75%	9	9	9	9	10	11	11	11	11
Part-time	36	36	40	47	46	48	49	52	48
75-<100%	4	5	5	5	6	6	5	11	9
100%	60	59	56	47	49	46	45	41	43
Full-time	64	64	61	53	54	52	51	48	52
Total managers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

5. Diversification

5.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Please tick a box beside any of the commercial activities listed which you run on this farm. Exclude mainstream farming, i.e. livestock breeding and rearing and crop production, and exclude activities run by persons who are not part of your farm business.”

The categories listed were as shown below. A separate box was provided for the recording of details so that office staff could check the correct classification.

5.2 Results

Table 5.1

Farms with diversification by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Farms				Percent			
Agricultural contracting/ haulage	606	187	165	958	3	6	6	4
Tourism	201	42	57	300	1	1	2	1
Equine sport	78	47	59	184	0	2	2	1
Other sport	33	15	8	56	0	0	0	0
Direct sales	223	55	51	329	1	2	2	1
Food processing	125	38	27	190	1	1	1	1
Other commercial activities	698	139	167	1,004	4	5	6	4
Any diversification	1,670	447	447	2,564	9	15	16	10
Any diversification other than contracting/haulage	1,207	291	314	1,812	6	10	12	7
Total farms	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Note: A business may have more than one diversification activity.

Diversification can be defined in many different ways. In the EU Farm Structure Survey it includes agricultural contracting or haulage, and on this basis 10 percent of farms in Northern Ireland had diversified, ranging from 9 percent of those with Very Small businesses to 16 percent of those with Medium or Large farm businesses.

Agricultural contracting and haulage are part of the agricultural industry, i.e. payments are made from one farmer to another, and hence for the industry as a whole they are not classified as diversification. On this definition 7 percent⁸ of Northern Ireland farms in 2013 had diversified.

⁸ Some contracting farms also had other forms of diversification.

Diversification figures for England from the 2010 structure survey can be found online at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diversification-and-renewable-energy-production-on-farms-in-england-in-2010>

Questions on diversification were introduced to the Farm Structure Survey in 2000 when they indicated that 8 percent of farms had any diversification compared with the 10 percent in the 2013 survey.

Table 5.2

Farms with diversification by business size	Farms					Percent				
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Agricultural contracting/haulage	1,010	1,032	905	1,087	958	4	4	3	4	4
Tourism	366	342	298	268	300	1	1	1	1	1
Equine sport	408	267	220	128	184	1	1	1	1	1
Other sport	173	42	48	41	56	1	0	0	0	0
Direct sales	457	321	144	152	329	2	1	1	1	1
Food processing	213	145	100	95	190	1	1	0	0	1
Other commercial activities	804	719	973	722	1,004	3	3	4	3	4
Any diversification	3,016	2,517	2,339	2,309	2,564	11	9	9	9	10
Any diversification other than contracting / haulage	2,126	1,631	1,604	1,188	1,812	8	6	6	5	7
Total farms	28,281	27,064	26,146	24,471	24,503	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

In 2001/02 a major survey was carried out on 10 percent of Northern Ireland family farms, involving interviews rather than a postal enquiry and therefore providing more accurate data, bearing in mind the indistinct lines of demarcation between mainstream farming, on-farm diversification and off-farm employment. That survey suggested that 13 percent of farms had diversified, at that time, including contracting, and that a further 2 percent included horse breeding, mushroom production or other novel crops or livestock in their concept of diversification. Full details of that survey, including types of diversification, employment provided and its contribution to total income can be seen in the publication “Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland” (DARD, 2002) or on the DARD website at the following link:

www.dardni.gov.uk/statistical-reports

6. Use of agricultural contractors

6.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Did you employ contractors to carry out any work relating to crop or livestock production (not building) during the past 12 months? If yes, give the number of person-days worked by contractors and their staff? For which activities were they employed?”

6.2 Results

Some 89 percent of farms used contractors for some task(s), with the Very Small farms (88 percent) being slightly less likely to do so. Contract hay or silage making was the most common activity (71 percent of farms), followed by hedge cutting (61 percent) and spreading slurry/manure (43 percent). This involved 227,791 person days, the equivalent of over 1,000 Annual Work Units.

Table 6.1

Farms using contractors by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Used agricultural contractors	Farms				Percent			
Yes	16,415	2,782	2,496	21,693	88	91	92	89
No	2,304	281	225	2,810	12	9	8	11
Total farms	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100
Used agricultural contractors for:								
Hay/silage making	13,534	2,155	1,825	17,514	72	70	67	71
Crop harvesting	1,009	368	646	2,023	5	12	24	8
Spreading slurry / manure / fertilizers / lime	7,497	1,416	1,607	10,520	40	46	59	43
Other field work	2,472	581	689	3,742	13	19	25	15
Milking	53	97	265	415	0	3	10	2
Sheep shearing	4,118	806	493	5,417	22	26	18	22
Other livestock work	971	196	196	1,363	5	6	7	6
Hedge cutting	11,191	2,020	1,796	15,007	60	66	66	61

Table 6.2

Person-days of contract work	Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Total person-days	121,478	36,208	70,105	227,791
Days per farm (all farms)	6	12	26	9
Days per farm (using)	7	13	28	11

Table 6.3

Farms using contractors by survey date	Year					Year				
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Used agricultural contractors	Farms					Percent				
Yes	22,874	22,356	20,708	18,733	21,693	81	83	79	77	89
No	5,407	4,708	5,436	5,738	2,810	19	17	21	23	11
Total farms	28,281	27,064	26,143	24,471	24,503	100	100	100	100	100
Used agricultural contractors for:										
Hay/silage making	19,028	18,849	18,015	16,787	17,514	67	70	69	69	71
Crop harvesting	2,398	2,300	1,979	1,932	2,023	8	9	8	8	8
Spreading slurry / manure / fertilizers / lime	11,623	11,004	10,500	10,257	10,520	41	41	40	42	43
Other field work	4,228	3,953	3,749	3,613	3,742	15	15	14	15	15
Milking	635	653	599	443	415	2	2	2	2	2
Sheep shearing	4,679	4,551	4,432	3,877	5,417	17	17	17	16	22
Other livestock work	1,701	1,554	1,474	1,178	1,363	6	6	6	5	6
Hedge cutting	14,874	14,840	14,705	13,905	15,007	53	55	56	57	61

Table 6.4

Farms using contractors by survey date	Year					
	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Total person-days	268,859	333,197	231,705	236,635	202,245	227,791
Days per farm (all farms)	9	12	9	9	9	9
Days per farm (using)	12	15	10	12	12	11

7. Tractors and Machinery

7.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked if they owned tractors and other types of farm equipment.

7.2 Results

A total of 22,171 farms reported owning a tractor (90 percent) with 97 percent of the largest farms owning at least one. Some 31 percent of farms reported owning a quad, ranging from 25 percent of very small farms to 57 percent of the Medium and Large farms.

Table 7.1

Tractors and other equipment owned by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Type of equipment					<i>Percent</i>			
Tractor (excluding vintage)	29,343	7,521	8,800	45,664	-	-	-	-
Combine Harvester	511	236	275	1,022	-	-	-	-
Forage Harvesters	1,573	583	727	2,883	-	-	-	-
Potato/Veg Harvester	221	92	215	528	-	-	-	-
Quads	4,834	1,520	1,655	8,008	-	-	-	-
Farms with at least 1 tractor	16,618	2,910	2,644	22,171	89	95	97	90
Farms with at least 1 quad	4,700	1,454	1,545	7,699	25	47	57	31
Total farms	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Table 7.2

Tractors and other equipment used but owned by another business or contractor	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Type of equipment					<i>Percent</i>			
Tractor (excluding vintage)	12,192	2,036	1,897	16,125	65	66	70	66
Combine Harvester	1,069	352	446	1,867	6	11	16	8
Forage Harvesters	4,840	1,279	1,365	7,484	26	42	50	31
Potato/Veg Harvester	153	26	39	218	1	1	1	1
Quads	440	72	71	583	2	2	3	2
Total farms	18,719	3,063	2,721	24,503	100	100	100	100

Note: Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

8. Internet Access

8.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Do you have internet access?”

If yes, do you have broadband access?”

If you have internet access do you use it for business purposes”

8.2 Results

Sixty percent of all farms reported having internet access compared to 49 percent in 2010. This ranged from 55 percent of very small farms to 83 percent of the medium or large farms. Most farms with internet reported having a broadband service with a difference of 5 percentage points between those who said they had internet and those who had broadband.

There was a marked difference in the percentage of farms that used the internet for business purposes when farm size was considered, with only 35 percent of very small farms doing so, while 73 percent of medium and large farms reported that they did use the internet in that way.

Table 8.1

Percentage of farms with internet access	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
Cereals	69	87	80	73
General Cropping	53	96	89	62
Horticulture	51	66	75	63
Pigs	66	63	85	76
Poultry	82	83	91	84
Dairy	55	78	86	79
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	52	65	76	54
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	59	70	73	61
Mixed Farming	63	80	81	70
Other	66	71	88	69
Total Farms	55	72	83	60

Table 8.2

Percentage of farms with broadband access	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
Cereals	64	87	80	69
General Cropping	50	96	89	60
Horticulture	51	59	69	59
Pigs	51	63	81	69
Poultry	79	80	84	80
Dairy	48	73	82	75
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	47	59	71	49
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	55	64	72	57
Mixed Farming	54	80	74	63
Other	61	66	81	64
Total Farms	50	67	79	55

Table 8.3

Percentage of farms using the internet for business purposes	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
Cereals	43	80	80	51
General Cropping	41	63	76	48
Horticulture	40	48	64	51
Pigs	16	25	67	44
Poultry	66	72	76	71
Dairy	40	65	78	69
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	32	45	59	34
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	39	56	62	42
Mixed Farming	46	54	73	54
Other	29	51	81	37
Total Farms	35	55	73	42

The age profile of farmers using the internet for business purposes does show some skewness towards younger farmers with a large decrease in internet use by the over 65 category compared to the overall manager age profile.

Table 8.4

Percentage of farm managers (by age) and internet usage	Internet Access			Age profile of all Managers
	With Internet Access	With Broadband Access	Using Internet for Business purposes	
Under 25	1	1	1	1
25-34	6	6	6	5
35-44	17	17	18	14
45-54	30	31	31	25
55-64	26	26	26	25
65 & over	19	19	18	31
Total farmers	100	100	100	100

9. Manure and Slurry storage

9.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Which of the following storage facilities have you used in the past 12 months?

Solid Manure (is the facility covered)?

Slurry in a tank above ground (is the facility covered)?

Slurry in a tank below ground (is the facility covered)?

Slurry in a lagoon (is the facility covered)?”

9.2 Results

Forty four percent of farms reported having a solid manure storage area, and 8 percent of all farms had a solid manure storage area that was covered. Eight percent of all farms had an above ground slurry tank, while 68 percent of all farms had a below ground slurry tank. Only 7 percent of farms reported keeping slurry in a lagoon.

Table 9.1

Percentage of farms with manure and slurry facilities	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
Solid manure	39	57	65	44
Solid Manure covered	7	11	11	8
Slurry in a tank above ground	3	15	33	8
Slurry in a tank above ground covered	1	1	2	1
Slurry in a tank below ground	63	82	84	68
Slurry in a tank below ground covered	40	48	46	41
Slurry in a lagoon	5	12	15	7
Slurry in a lagoon covered	0	1	0	0

Respondents were asked:

“In the past 12 months, what percentage of total manure and slurry produced by livestock that you own was applied to land that you do not farm?”

Table 9.2

Percentage of slurry or manure taken off the farm	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
none	92	83	65	88
>0 – 25%	3	10	22	6
>25-50%	2	4	8	3
>50-75%	1	1	3	1
>75-100%	2	3	3	2
Total farms	100	100	100	100

10. Manure and Slurry Application

10.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

*“On what area of land that you farm was slurry applied at least once during the past 12 months?
“Of this, on what area was the slurry injected into the soil or ploughed in within 4 hours of application”*

“On what area of land that you farm was solid manure applied at least once during the past 12 months?”

“Of this, on what area was the solid manure ploughed in within 4 hours of application”

10.2 Results

Some 37 percent of land received slurry during the 12 months previous to March 1st 2013. On only 3 percent of land on which slurry was spread was it either injected or ploughed in within 4 hours.

Table 10.1

Slurry Application	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
Percentage of Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA) on which slurry was spread at least once	33	38	43	37
Percentage of land on which slurry was spread which was either injected into the soil or ploughed in within 4 hours	2	3	5	3

Eight percent of land received solid manure at least once during the 12 months previous to March 1st 2013. Of this coverage, 11 percent was ploughed in within 4 hours of application.

Table 10.2

Solid Manure Application	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
Percentage of Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA) on which solid manure was spread at least once	8	8	7	8
Percentage of land on which the solid manure was spread which was ploughed in within 4 hours	6	12	19	11

11. Cultivation

11.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“What area of land that you farm was cultivated in the past 12 months using the following methods?”

11.2 Results

Ninety one percent of land that was used for arable purposes was ploughed using the inversion ploughing method while zero tillage cultivation methods were used on only 4 percent of arable land.

Table 11.1

Percentage of Cultivation methods	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
Area of inversion ploughing	91	94	89	91
Area of reduced tillage	3	2	7	5
Area of zero tillage	6	4	4	4
Total ploughed land	100	100	100	100

12. Agricultural Training

12.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Indicate any agricultural training that the person mainly responsible for the day to day running of the farm has gained:

- *Practical experience only*
- *Formal course lasting less than 2 years*
- *Formal course lasting 2 years or more.*

12.2 Results

Eighty three percent of managers had practical experience only, while 11 percent attended a course lasting under 2 years, and 6 percent attended a longer training course.

Table 12.1

Type of Training	Number	Percent
Practical Training	20,266	83
Course lasting under 2 years	2,802	11
Course lasting over 2 years	1,435	6
Total	24,503	100

13. Renewable Energy Production

13.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Please indicate which of the following are used by your farm business: Wind turbine; Bio methane; Bio mass; Solar; Hydro energy; other renewable source.

13.2 Results

Just over three percent of farms produce renewable energy. The most popular renewable energy types found on farms in 2013 were solar followed by wind generation.

Table 13.1

Type of Renewable energy	<i>Percent</i>
Wind	0.9
Biomass	0.7
Bio-methane	0.0
Solar	1.4
Hydro	0.2
Other energy production	0.1
Total	3.3

14. Future planning

14.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“For succession purposes, the future of the farm business is: Secured with son(s) or daughters(s); Secured with other family member(s), Undecided.

14.2 Results

Approximately 55 percent of farm businesses have a plan for succession while 45 percent remain undecided.

Table 14.1

Plan for succession	Farms	<i>Percent</i>
Son / Daughter	11,744	48
Other Family member	1,728	7
Undecided	11,031	45
Total	24,503	100

Annex 1: Comparisons with earlier surveys

Periodic Structure Surveys have been carried out in Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom since 1975, and during that time there have been changes in definitions, both of the population covered and the questions asked. Of particular significance was the change after 1990 to restrict the coverage to active farmers as opposed to land owners. Revisions to the farm register after the 1997 survey affected trends encompassing data before and after that date.

Coverage

After the 1997 survey was carried out, the statistical definition of a farm was changed and is now based on separate business status as applied under the Integrated Administration and Control system (IACS), having previously been based on land ownership. The census, as well as the Structure Survey, 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**. Access to IACS data identified a number of active farm businesses which had not previously been included in the census or structure surveys as well as some on the census list which had ceased operation.

Up to and including the 1997 Structure Survey, the population covered excluded “minor” holdings, i.e. those farming under 6 hectares of land and with a business size of less than €1,000 of SGM.

The combined effects of the change in definition, access to administrative data and the inclusion of the “minor” holdings led to 5,000 farms being added to the estimated farm population in 1997. This change was made after the Structure Survey in that year was carried out so that the effect of the register change impacts on comparisons between the 1997 and 2000 Surveys. For the most part the farms added to the register were Very Small businesses.

The coverage in the 2013 survey is fully comparable with Structure Surveys from 2000 to 2010.

Annex 2: Terms and definitions

For a detailed description of the terms and definitions used in the EU Structure Survey, see EU Commission Regulation 1200/2009. The main points are summarised below, along with indications of the main differences between the Structure Survey and June Census agricultural labour statistics.

Business units

Farms

The term “farm” is used to denote a single unit both technically and economically, which has single management and which undertakes agricultural activities. (Annex I of EU Regulation 1166/2008 provides a list of agricultural activities). Such units may consist entirely of owned land, entirely of rented land or a combination of both.

Labour Force

Numbers of persons

The labour force includes those aged 16 or over who worked on the holding surveyed at any time during the 12 months prior to the date of the survey. The labour input of non-family workers who work on a casual or seasonal basis is measured by the number of days they work but the persons concerned are excluded from the head count. The agricultural census counts only those working on the actual census date and includes hired casual workers.

Occupier

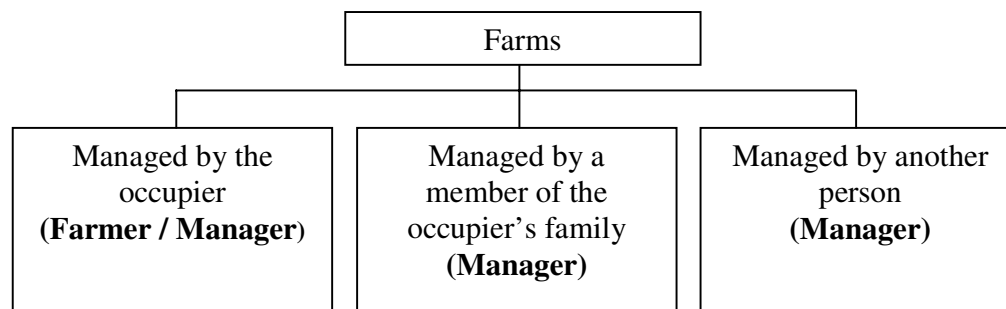
This is the person who is legally and financially responsible for the holding. Where occupancy is shared by more than one person, one of them is designated as “the occupier”. Occupiers are described as “natural persons” for the Structure Survey except in cases where a farm is owned by an institution such as a school, hospital, etc. or by a limited liability company.

Manager

This is the person responsible for the day-to-day running of the farm. One person per farm is deemed to be the manager.

Farmer

The agricultural census applies the term “farmer” to all persons who are self-employed on their own or their family business (i.e. farmers and partners). However, for the Structure Survey, the terms “occupiers” and “managers” are used.



Family workers

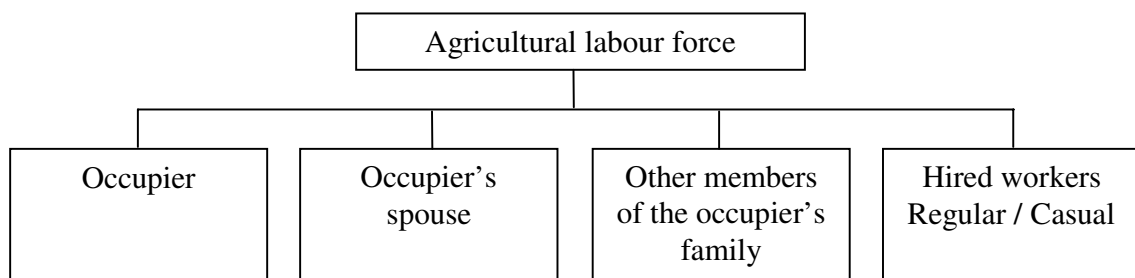
These are other members of the occupier's family, aged 16 or over, who contribute to the work of the farm.

Hired workers (regular)

These are non-family workers who are employed on the farm on a regular basis.

Hired workers (casual)

These refer to non-family workers directly employed on the farm. The number of days worked by such workers is collected for the Structure Survey, rather than the number of persons. Numbers of hired workers in the agricultural census also include persons who work on a seasonal or casual basis on the census date.



Farm Business size

Standard Labour Units (SLR)

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.

In previous Structure Survey Reports, farm business size had been determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Gross Margin (SGM). However, it was felt that using SLRs was a more appropriate and accurate method to size farm businesses in the UK.

Farm business size tables are now fully comparable between the EU Structure report and the Agricultural Census report.

To show year-to-year changes in business size, the enterprise SLR coefficients are held constant for a number of years. The current list of Standard Labour coefficients can be found online in the Agricultural Census in NI publication at the following link:

www.dardni.gov.uk/agricultural-census-ni

The Agricultural Census publication also contains details of the farm type classifications used in this publication.

For analysis and tables in the Agricultural Census in NI report, business size is described in terms of four SLR size bands.

UK agricultural statistics business size bands

Size	Standard labour unit* (2000)
Very Small	Less than 1
Small	1 < 2
Medium	2 < 3
Large	3 or more

* 1 Standard Labour unit = 1900 hours

Due to the relatively small numbers of Large farms in the Structure Survey sample, results are combined with Medium sized farms for analysis contained within this report.

Other terms

Farm work

This includes all agricultural activities to do with working the holding and marketing its produce.

Full working year

The time spent on farm work is specified in terms of proportions of a full working year; in Northern Ireland this was stated to be normally around 40 hours per week (based on the 39 hours specified in the current Agricultural Wages Schedule) over the full year.

Annual Work Units (AWU)

An Annual Work Unit is the equivalent of a person working for a full working year. Fractions of it are calculated as the mid values of the range of time given by respondents, e.g. 0.375 AWU is allocated for each person who works between 25 percent and 50 percent of a full working year. The survey collects details of the numbers of days worked by casual workers and these are converted to AWU on the basis of 225 days (1800 hours) per AWU.

Full time employment

In this report, persons who work for 75 percent or more of a full working year are described as being in full time employment. This description complies with that used for employment statistics published by NISRA's Economic and Labour Market Statistics Branch where 30 hours per week or less is described as part-time employment.

Other Gainful Activity (OGA)

This term refers to all activities, other than agricultural work on the holding surveyed, carried out for remuneration. It includes agricultural work on another holding or non-agricultural work on or off the holding.

Annex 3: Key statistics from the EU Structure Survey for other European countries and Northern Ireland

The following data have been derived from the Eurostat database available on line from <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/data>. Data for Northern Ireland have been added for comparison. From 2010, thresholds were applied to define the number of farms to be included in the Farm Structure Survey, i.e. 1 hectare or over plus any below that size with significant business activity. In previous years different thresholds applied in several EU member states. With the common definition, 12 million holdings were recorded in the 2010 Structure Survey for the EU27, of which the UK contributed 1.6 percent and within that, Northern Ireland 0.2 percent.

NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE EU 2003 to 2013

Year	Number of Holdings ('000)				
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Belgium	55	52	48	43	:
Bulgaria	666	535	493	370	254
Czech Rep.	46	42	39	23	26
Denmark	49	52	45	42	:
Germany	412	390	371	299	285
Estonia	37	28	23	20	19
Ireland	135	133	128	140	140
Greece	824	834	860	723	710
Spain	1,141	1,079	1,044	990	965
France	614	567	527	516	472
Italy	1,964	1,729	1,679	1,621	:
Cyprus	45	45	40	39	35
Latvia	127	129	108	83	82
Lithuania	272	253	230	200	172
Luxembourg	2	2	2	2	2
Hungary	773	715	626	577	:
Malta	11	11	11	13	:
Netherlands	86	82	77	72	67
Austria	174	171	165	150	140
Poland	2,172	2,476	2,391	1,507	1,429
Portugal	359	324	275	305	264
Romania	4,485	4,256	3,931	3,859	3,630
Slovenia	77	77	75	75	72
Slovakia	72	68	69	24	24
Finland	75	71	68	64	:
Sweden	68	76	73	71	67
UK	281	287	227	187	:
Norway	58	53	50	47	44
Switzerland	:	64	:	59	:
Croatia	:	:	181	233	:
					:
EU15	6,239	5,846	5,662	5,226	:
EU25	9,870	9,688	9,691	7,785	:
EU27	15,021	14,482	13,700	12,015	:
					:
NI	28	27	26	25	25

TOTAL UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREA IN THE EU 2003 to 2013

The EU definition of Utilised Agricultural Area includes total area on farms plus common grazing but excludes woodland and other land.

Year	Area in Hectares ('000)				
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Belgium	1,394	1,386	1,374	1,358	:
Bulgaria	2,904	2,729	3,051	4,476	4,651
Czech Rep.	3,632	3,558	3,518	3,484	3,491
Denmark	2,658	2,708	2,663	2,647	:
Germany	16,982	17,035	16,931	16,704	16,700
Estonia	796	829	906	940	958
Ireland	4,298	4,219	4,139	4,991	4,959
Greece	3,968	3,984	4,076	5,178	4,857
Spain	25,175	24,855	24,893	23,753	23,300
France	27,795	27,590	27,477	27,837	27,739
Italy	13,116	12,708	12,744	12,856	:
Cyprus	156	152	146	118	109
Latvia	1,489	1,702	1,774	1,796	1,878
Lithuania	2,491	2,792	2,649	2,743	2,861
Luxembourg	128	129	131	131	131
Hungary	4,352	4,267	4,229	4,686	:
Malta	11	10	10	11	:
Netherlands	2,007	1,958	1,914	1,872	1,848
Austria	3,257	3,266	3,189	2,878	2,727
Poland	14,426	14,755	15,477	14,447	14,410
Portugal	3,725	3,680	3,473	3,668	3,642
Romania	13,931	13,907	13,753	13,306	13,056
Slovenia	486	485	489	483	486
Slovakia	2,138	1,879	1,937	1,896	1,902
Finland	2,245	2,264	2,292	2,291	:
Sweden	3,127	3,192	3,118	3,066	3,029:
UK	16,106	15,957	16,043	16,882	:
Norway	1,040	1,035	1,032	1,006	987
Switzerland	:	:	1,057	1,048	:
Croatia	:	:	979	1,316	:
					:
EU15	125,981	124,932	124,459	126,113	:
EU25	155,958	155,360	155,594	156,717	:
EU27	172,793	171,996	172,398	174,499	:
					:
NI	1,093	1,043	1,030	1,014	1,016

TOTAL FARM LABOUR¹, 1993 - 2013

Labour force includes everyone (over the legal age limit) having provided an agricultural work on and for the holding during the last 12 months. The work time of each person is recorded as percentage of a full-time. One AWU equals the work of a full-time employee.

Year	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Belgium	85.15	78.85	79.1	74.07	72.46	69.59	65.60	61.55	:
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	791.56	624.66	490.86	406.52	320.23
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	166.4	151.9	137.31	107.99	105.08
Denmark	104.75	104.96	97.93	66.46	60.71	60.45	55.86	52.3	:
Germany	804.19	710.96	656.84	617.62	688.78	643.23	609.30	545.50	522.73
Estonia	:	:	:	:	37.52	36.9	32.07	25.12	22.06
Greece	702.17	637.94	597.27	587.48	614.25	600.8	568.71	429.52	463.86
Spain	1,112.1	1,089.6	1,098.98	1,077.73	997.77	992.64	967.68	888.97	813.55
France	:	:	:	:	913.83	855.49	804.62	779.66	724.69
Ireland	239.51	218.48	202.31	168.45	161.11	152.38	147.54	165.36	163.69
Italy	1,836.69	1,818.02	1,798.09	1,364.92	1,475.98	1,374.26	1302.18	953.79	:
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	32.2	28.66	25.92	18.59	16.55
Latvia	:	:	:	145.15	140.88	137.25	104.79	85.15	82.09
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	222.13	221.55	180.14	146.77	144.77
Luxembourg	5.8	5.33	5.04	4.45	3.96	3.99	3.75	3.7	3.53
Hungary	:	:	:	:	525.79	462.74	403.42	423.49	:
Malta	:	:	:	:	4.5	4.06	4.22	4.87	:
Netherlands	224.44	210	208.66	205.05	186.26	173.93	165.11	161.69	153.31
Austria	:	187.35	177.63	181.85	175.43	166.44	163.33	114.27	111.16
Poland	:	:	:	:	2,190.87	2,273.59	2,263.15	1,897.24	1,918.55
Portugal	604.71	583.58	519.8	524.15	455.16	398.08	338.04	363.40	323.47
Romania	:	:	:	:	2,699.51	2,595.59	2,205.28	1,610.26	1,552.63
Slovenia	:	:	:	107.53	95.37	94.98	83.72	76.65	82.45
Slovakia	:	:	:	136.54	118.63	98.79	91.29	56.11	50.60
Finland	:	131.39	125.71	102.55	97.54	83.46	72.39	59.73	:
Sweden	:	87.67	81.76	74.24	70.66	71.1	65.47	56.85	31.09:
UK	433.9	383.98	415.99	354.32	352.22	339.08	341.37	266.28	:
Norway	:	:	:	71.2	64.2	58.83	56.26	46.38	44.00
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	116.70	95.96	:
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	188.58	184.48	:
EU15	:	7,263.5	7,023.21	6,352.69	6,326.13	5,982.91	5,635.78	4,902.57	:
EU25	:	:	:	:	9,860.42	9,493.31	8,961.81	7,744.55	:
EU27	:	:	:	:	13,350.38	12,713.56	11,661.54	9,761.33	:
NI	37	35	33	33	33	31	30	27	27

Note: Units in "thousand AWU"

AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE, 1993 - 2013

The farm holder is the legal or physical person taking benefit of the agricultural activity. They are only accounted for as the individual holders and not the holders of group holdings

Year	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Belgium	9.13	10.88	9.14	6.64	4.42	3.39	2.59	1.72	:
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	33.71	21.97	15.05	25.01	15.83
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	4.04	3.97	3.59	2.44	1.03
Denmark	6.93	6.56	6.5	5.44	4.02	3.68	2.60	1.95	:
Germany	103.42	98.16	85.89	72.53	49.33	35.42	28.28	21.22	19.22
Estonia	:	:	:	:	3.44	1.84	1.22	1.05	0.99
Greece	58.87	49.03	44.36	71.25	60.43	56.8	60.42	50.56	36.47
Spain	88.44	76.59	69.29	110.82	67.72	53.51	44.26	43.41	26.72
France	:	:	:	:	54.37	42.43	33.84	35.05	30.92
Ireland	23.53	20.89	17.71	18.38	15.1	10.79	8.88	8.68	8.22
Italy	132.96	110.21	119.45	110.6	76.13	56.49	49.07	79.32	:
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	2.91	1.45	0.98	1.01	0.55
Latvia	:	:	:	14.63	10.86	9.85	7.76	4.62	4.24
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	19.17	13.19	9.74	11.47	9.57
Luxembourg	0.38	0.36	0.3	0.29	0.2	0.16	0.12	0.14	0.16
Hungary	:	:	:	87.68	44.53	54.68	46.85	39.72	:
Malta	:	:	:	:	0.65	0.57	0.46	0.56	:
Netherlands	11.8	10.31	7.35	6.46	5.78	4.09	2.83	2.11	1.68
Austria	:	39.71	34.76	30.87	21.86	18.27	15.66	14.37	13.87
Poland	:	:	:	:	353.43	313.35	293.75	223.66	173.06
Portugal	22.81	18.52	15.05	17.02	9.41	6.86	5.17	6.85	5.62
Romania	:	:	:	:	391.54	218.37	166.87	273.7	158.38
Slovenia	:	:	:	4.49	2.98	3.42	2.99	2.94	2.7
Slovakia	:	:	:	3.65	3.82	2.76	2.39	1.49	1.6
Finland	:	16.12	13.09	8.67	7.32	6.46	6.12	5.37	:
Sweden	:	7.45	6.42	5.27	3.83	3.9	3.73	2.91	2.55
UK	15.45	13.65	13.45	11.66	9.32	8.63	7.46	5.06	:
Norway	:	:	:	9.62	6.03	4.59	3.7	4.25	3.41
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	4.02	:
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	8.95	:
EU15	:	570.74	521.81	529.16	389.26	310.6	271.03	278.72	:
EU25	:	:	:	:	835.08	715.68	640.76	567.68	:
EU27	:	:	:	:	1,260.24	956.01	822.68	866.39	:
NI	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.1	0.9

Note: Units in "thousand owner occupiers"

AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE, 1993 - 2013

The farm holder is the legal or physical person taking benefit of the agricultural activity. They are only accounted for as the individual holders and not the holders of group holdings

Year	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013
Belgium	15.72	11.82	12.07	11.74	10.54	10.12	9.39	8.02	:
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	270.17	222.19	221.89	137.8	93
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	7.86	7.03	6.76	2.76	5.78
Denmark	15.93	15.65	13.17	11.31	7.83	9.47	8.87	7.91	:
Germany	42.24	41.84	40.55	25.68	24.22	28.11	27.33	14.76	17.73
Estonia	:	:	:	:	10.2	7.99	7.28	5.51	5.81
Greece	240.79	248.5	281.06	253.46	292.63	306.73	321.15	251.86	240.57
Spain	364.07	371.35	368.36	347.42	366.25	359.37	361.35	326.16	370.47
France	:	:	:	:	84.92	75.11	65.80	58.47	54.14
Ireland	32.31	32.5	32.31	28.04	26.81	31.61	31.87	36.64	37.71
Italy	850.58	912.29	827.65	825.95	788.4	734.95	740.54	615.84	:
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	9.26	12.18	11.69	12.51	13.91
Latvia	:	:	:	36.32	34.46	36.93	31.69	25.09	24.66
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	102.28	80.66	93.46	73.26	59.61
Luxembourg	0.64	0.61	0.57	0.52	0.42	0.41	0.36	0.33	0.33
Hungary	:	:	:	268.98	229.47	194.75	171.84	168.89	:
Malta	:	:	:	:	2.52	2.59	2.79	3.41	:
Netherlands	19.11	19	20.2	18.22	13.53	13.29	13.27	13.27	14.1
Austria	:	20.94	20.93	20.26	14.56	18.7	17.80	13.44	12.38
Poland	:	:	:	:	320.01	421.95	387.90	129.09	138.66
Portugal	161.48	156.99	154.97	154.6	163.85	150.13	129.62	141.92	131.86
Romania	:	:	:	:	1,719.35	1,848.97	1,761.76	1,477.72	1,514.59
Slovenia	:	:	:	27.71	26.2	26.22	26.29	25.02	23.74
Slovakia	:	:	:	19.43	18.93	20.04	22.02	5.49	4.98
Finland	:	7.07	5.41	4.59	4.82	4.39	4.16	6.03	:
Sweden	:	18.04	17.69	15.92	11.6	14.85	14.67	17.69	19.39
UK	51.34	55.19	49.87	56.23	77.46	84.24	67.53	58.24	:
Norway	:	:	:	6.23	4.46	4.12	3.87	4.31	5.59
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	2.83	:
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	78.15	80.09	:
EU15	:	2,021.95	1,950.42	1871.3	1,887.84	1,840.57	1,813.71	1,570.58	:
EU25	:	:	:	:	2,649.02	2,650.91	2,575.43	2,021.61	:
EU27	:	:	:	:	4,639.15	4,722.07	4,559.08	3,637.13	:
NI	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.0	7.3

Note: Units in "thousand owner occupiers"

TOTAL BREEDING HERDS FOR BEEF, DAIRY AND SHEEP 2010-2013

Year	Beef cows		Dairy cows		Sheep (breeding ewes)	
	Head 2010	Head 2013	Head 2010	Head 2013	Head 2010	Head 2013
Belgium	527,830	:	520,700	:	97,970	:
Bulgaria	19,830	39,770	333,790	314,670	1,272,480	1,244,410
Czech Rep.	168,710	188,930	380,880	369,980	117,290	130,910
Denmark	101,090	:	568,200	:	72,400	:
Germany	665,270	617,050	4,164,790	4,251,420	1,338,010	1,220,140
Estonia	12,590	20,140	96,260	96,050	65,460	69,760
Greece	136,920	177,870	131,170	133,260	6,796,320	7,190,930
Spain	1,854,770	1,858,430	910,310	876,070	14,853,250	14,038,900
France	4,136,460	3,991,750	3,720,040	3,737,180	6,533,870	5,515,490
Ireland	1,158,320	1,150,270	1,070,860	1,163,200	2,449,550	2,564,060
Italy	506,870	:	1,832,370	:	6,223,110	:
Cyprus	1,430	960	20,520	21,670	180,990	183,360
Latvia	17,590	28,250	166,410	166,560	47,510	57,550
Lithuania	17,420	28,920	352,630	318,140	30,620	45,930
Luxembourg	32,490	30,220	45,010	46,200	4,550	4,580
Hungary	70,900	:	245,050	:	863,750	:
Malta	190	:	6,740	:	9,820	:
Netherlands	115,340	83,600	1,478,640	1,552,920	558,180	551,380
Austria	264,370	240,700	539,970	536,000	213,890	207,500
Poland	140,270	160,420	2,505,600	2,343,530	167,860	148,290
Portugal	441,610	381,880	278,420	264,790	1,900,410	1,659,190
Romania	34,110	61,350	1,151,350	1,147,320	7,095,630	7,483,110
Slovenia	66,740	65,210	107,960	103,850	90,260	81,930
Slovakia	45,900	54,040	154,220	145,520	330,020	327,590
Finland	55,370	:	289,340	:	64,770	:
Sweden	197,050	188,810	348,100	344,020	259,670	270,580
UK	1,647,250	:	1,843,460	:	14,054,650	:
Norway	69,870	75,000	238,440	228,900	870,460	859,490
Switzerland	111,290	:	589,020	:	240,540	:
Croatia	16,790	:	211,560	:	548,640	:
EU27	12,436,690	:	23,262,790	:	65,692,290	:
NI	257,650	270,110	281,040	279,480	875,900	921,420

Policy and Economics Division
Department of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Dundonald House
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST BT4 3SB

I B 978 I 84807 569 6

www. [dard.gov.uk](http://www.dard.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

Talmhaíochta agus
Forbartha Tuaithe

MÁNNYSTRIE O

Fairms an
Kintra Fordèrin



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**