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CAP POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

EU Farm Structure Survey 2016 Northern Ireland



Agricultural Labour Force, Farm Diversification and Contractor use



EU Farm Structure Survey

2016

Northern Ireland

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

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EU Farm Structure Survey 2016

Northern Ireland

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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* (DAERA). 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 2016. It contains comparisons with the results of other surveys since 1995 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 2016 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 2013 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@daera-ni.gov.uk. A charge may be levied for this, depending on the amount of work involved.

Paul Caskie
Director of CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
July 2017

Summary of Key Statistics

Labour force

- 53,877 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months ending March 2016.
- The total labour input on farms in Northern Ireland equated to 28,640 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 204 farm businesses out of the total of 24,528 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 16 percent of the labour input (Annual Work Units) on farms.
- 5 percent of farms were managed by females.

Age

- The median age of farmers (58 years) was the same as recorded in 2013.
- 6 percent of farmers were aged under 35 in 2016 (4 percent in 2013).
- The ages of farmers differed for each business size; on Very Small farms, 36 percent were aged 65 or more, compared with 24 percent on Small and 21 percent on Medium or Large farms.

Work-time

- 55 percent of farmers worked 30 hours or more per week on farms (i.e. full-time).
- The total Annual Work Units equated to 28,640 full time jobs (27,464 in 2013).

Other gainful activities

- The proportion of farmers who had other work was recorded at 32 percent, (36 percent was recorded in 2013).
- For those farmers under 65, the proportion that had other work was 44 percent in 2016 compared with 48 percent in 2013.
- On 43 percent of all farms, and for 55 percent of those where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work in 2016. (51 percent and 66 percent respectively in 2013).
- On 61 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

- 11 percent of farms had some diversification activity (as defined in the Structure Survey), including 3 percent of farms which undertook agricultural contracting/haulage.
- 8 percent of NI farms had diversification other than agricultural contracting or haulage.

Use of agricultural contractors

- 90 percent of farms used agricultural contractors during the previous year, compared with 89 percent in 2013 and 77 percent in 2010.
- 74 percent of all farms used agricultural contractors for hay or silage making.

Use of the internet

- 69 percent of farms have access to the internet.
- 64 percent of farms have access to broadband.
- 48 percent of farms use the internet for business purposes.

Nutrient Management

- 47 percent of farms completed soil analysis in any of the previous 4 years before March 2016.
- Half of all farms have spread lime in any of the previous 4 years before March 2016.

Manure and slurry storage

- 36 percent of farms stored solid manure unroofed on a solid base.
- 71 percent of farms used a below-ground slurry tank.

Manure and slurry application

- 83 percent of slurry and manure was applied using the broadcast method and not ploughed in.

Cultivation

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

Renewable Energy Production

- 12 percent of farms made use of renewable energy within their business.

Training

- 25 percent of managers have attended a formal training course compared to 17 percent recorded in 2013.

EU Farm Structure Survey 2016 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, 2013 and 2016. 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 2016 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 DAERA will receive approximately €100,000 for the 2016 survey.

1.2 Methodology in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland data for the 2016 Survey came from three sources:

- the June 2016 Agricultural and Horticultural Survey
- administrative sources
- special survey in March 2016 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 2016, 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 2016 Agricultural Census were published on 31st January 2017⁵ 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 1995 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 1995 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-2016

⁵ www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland

⁶ See Annex 1.

The Northern Ireland population of farms which met this definition in the June 2016 census and which was represented in the 2016 Structure Survey, totaled 24,528 farms⁷. However, the final data sent to Eurostat will consist of a file of 9,500 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 2016 some 20,148 forms were sent out and 13,990 returned (a response rate of 69 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 2015 survey but only those which were still active in 2016 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

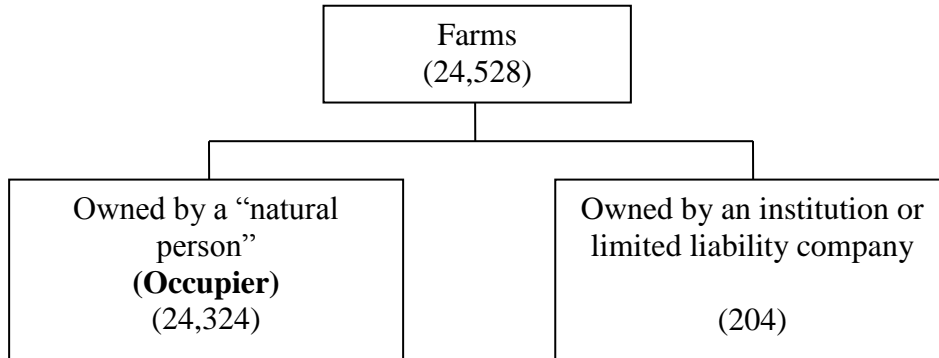
Based on the 2016 Structure Survey, the total labour force was estimated as **53,877 persons**; this includes all persons aged 16 and over who contributed to the work of the farms during the 12 month period up to March 2016 but excludes any hired workers engaged on a casual basis. The June 2016 Agricultural Census, which is the other main source of information on the labour input on farms, recorded 47,712 persons working on farms at the 1st June census date, including hired casual workers. The definitions in the two surveys differ, for example, significantly more occupiers' spouses were recorded in the Structure Survey (8,484) than in the June census where 6,410 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 23 percent of those on the Medium and Large farms compared with 4 percent on the Very Small and 10 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:

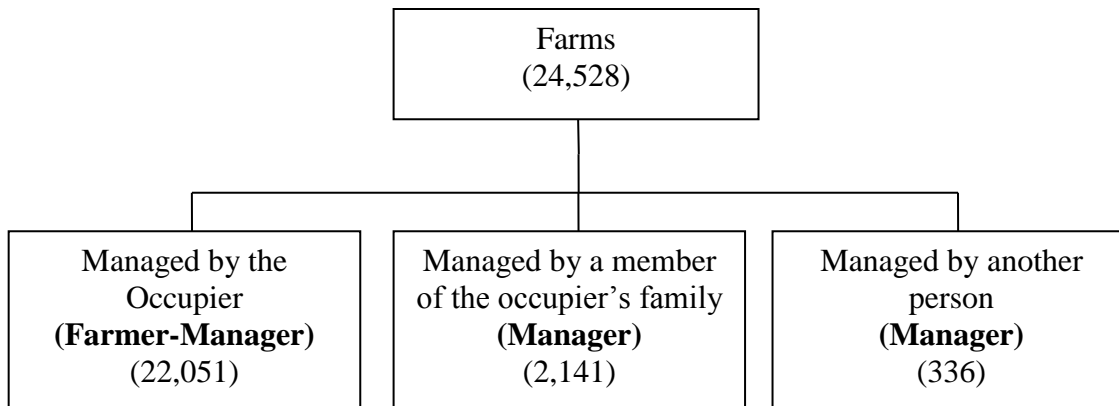
- a) a limited liability company or an institution, such as a school or hospital; or
- b) a “natural person”, meaning a private individual or individuals, including partnerships.



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 (90 percent), this person was the same as the occupier but on 9 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. This is the same proportional split as recorded in 2013.

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 2016 survey, 64 percent of the regular labour force worked part-time on the farms and 36 percent full-time, compared to 63 percent and 37 percent respectively in 2013.

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 28,640 AWU recorded some 56 percent was attributed to the occupiers, 11 percent to the occupiers spouses and 23 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	18,596	2,906	2,822	24,324	50	41	30	45
Occupiers' spouses	5,982	1,168	1,334	8,484	16	16	14	16
Occupiers' family	11,026	2,404	3,184	16,614	30	34	34	31
Regular hired workers	1,636	685	2,134	4,455	4	10	23	8
Total persons	37,240	7,163	9,474	53,877	100	100	100	100

Table 2.2

Personal status by survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Persons working on farms:	Percent								
Occupiers	49	50	48	47	48	47	48	48	45
Occupiers' spouses	14	14	22	18	17	16	16	15	16
Occupiers' family	28	28	23	26	30	28	29	30	31
Regular hired workers	9	9	7	9	5	9	7	8	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	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	91	87	83	90
Occupier's spouse	400	46	31	477	2	2	1	2
Other family member	1,064	274	326	1,664	6	9	11	7
Hired	133	59	144	336	1	2	5	1
Total farms	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	100	100	100	100

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	28,348	5,356	7,358	41,062	76	75	78	76
Female	8,892	1,807	2,116	12,815	24	25	22	24
Total persons	37,240	7,163	9,474	53,877	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	22,840	566	13,506	4,150	41,062
Female	1,484	7,918	3,108	305	12,815
Total persons	24,324	8,484	16,614	4,455	53,877

Table 2.6

Gender by survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Person is:	Percent								
Male	78	78	72	74	78	77	77	76	76
Female	22	22	28	26	22	23	23	24	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%	15,279	2,077	2,162	19,518	41	29	23	36
25-<50%	8,380	1,037	1,061	10,478	23	14	11	19
50-<75%	3,393	533	621	4,547	9	7	7	8
Part-time	27,052	3,647	3,844	34,543	73	51	41	64
75-<100%	2,549	663	672	3,884	7	9	7	7
100%	7,639	2,853	4,958	15,450	21	40	52	29
Full-time	10,188	3,516	5,630	19,334	27	49	59	36
Total persons	37,240	7,163	9,474	53,877	100	100	100	100

Table 2.8

Work-time 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%	5,059	4,527	7,934	1,998	19,518
25-<50%	4,197	1,610	3,953	718	10,478
50-<75%	2,339	645	1,208	355	4,547
Part-time	11,595	6,782	13,095	3,071	34,543
75-<100%	2,318	413	868	285	3,884
100%	10,411	1,289	2,651	1,099	15,450
Full-time	12,729	1,702	3,519	1,384	19,334
Total persons	24,324	8,484	16,614	4,455	53,877

Table 2.9

Work-time by survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:									
>0-<25%	28	30	37	35	35	37	35	38	36
25-<50%	15	15	16	16	17	15	18	17	19
50-<75%	9	9	8	9	10	11	10	9	8
Part-time	52	54	61	60	62	63	63	63	64
75-<100%	5	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	7
100%	44	42	34	35	33	31	30	30	29
Full-time	48	46	39	40	38	37	37	37	36
Total persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: percentage columns may not add due to rounding

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	11,041	2,461	2,575	16,077	64	54	38	56
Occupiers' spouses	2,080	494	650	3,224	12	11	9	11
Other family	3,418	1,155	2,067	6,640	20	25	30	23
Hired (regular)	479	303	1,306	2,088	3	7	19	7
Hired (casual)	238	124	249	611	1	3	4	2
Total persons	17,256	4,537	6,847	28,640	100	100	100	100

Table 2.11

Work-time by survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
AWU contributed by:	Percent								
Occupiers	56	57	58	55	57	56	55	58	56
Occupiers' spouses	11	10	15	12	14	11	18	11	11
Other family	22	22	19	22	20	23	21	22	23
Hired (regular)	8	7	7	8	6	6	4	7	7
Hired (casual)	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	3	3
All persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total AWU	35,457	33,181	32,502	33,272	30,639	29,786	27,328	27,464	28,640

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

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 six percent of farmers were male, four percent female.

3.3 Marital status

The 2016 survey indicated that 30 percent of farmers in Northern Ireland had no spouse, ranging from 32 percent for those with Very Small businesses to 17 percent of those with Large businesses. Approximately half (48 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 2016 was 58 years, the same as 2013 and one year older than recorded in 2010. The survey showed that there were 6 percent of farmers under 35 years old in 2016 compared with 4 percent in 2013 and 5 percent in 2010. 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 55 percent of farmers worked for at least 30 hours per week and have been termed "full-time", compared with 65 percent in 1995.

3.6 Other gainful activities

Thirty two percent of farmers had some other gainful activity (36 per cent in 2013), on or off farm, the proportion having risen significantly from 21 percent in 1995.

On 43 percent of farms either the farmer or spouse or both had another gainful activity, ranging from 45 percent of the Very Small farms to 29 percent of 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 44 percent of farmers under 65 years old have other gainful activities, and on 55 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	16,202	2,469	2,400	21,071	95	96	98	96
Female	852	90	38	980	5	4	2	4
Total farmers	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	100	100	100	100

Table 3.2

Farmers by gender and survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Farmer is:	<i>All sizes, percent</i>								
Male	94	94	94	94	95	94	95	95	96
Female	6	6	6	6	5	6	5	5	4
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	5,298	1,022	1,141	7,461	31	40	47	34
- Does not work on the farm	6,306	892	878	8,076	37	35	36	37
Farmer has no spouse:	5,450	645	419	6,514	32	25	17	30
Total farmers	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	100	100	100	100

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

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	170	31	48	249	1	1	2	1
25-34	833	122	136	1,091	5	5	6	5
35-44	2,011	393	416	2,820	12	15	17	13
45-54	3,882	737	666	5,285	23	29	27	24
55-64	4,034	661	662	5,357	24	26	27	24
65 & over	6,124	615	510	7,249	36	24	21	33
Total farmers	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	100	100	100	100

Table 3.5

Farmers by age and survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Farmer is aged:	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
Under 25	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
25-34	7	7	8	6	6	5	4	4	5
35-44	17	17	19	20	18	16	15	13	13
45-54	23	24	24	23	24	24	25	25	24
55-64	25	25	24	25	25	27	28	26	24
65 & over	26	27	24	25	26	27	27	33	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%	3,862	172	77	4,111	23	7	3	19
25-<50%	3,630	109	56	3,795	21	4	2	17
50-<75%	1,938	122	54	2,114	11	5	2	10
Part-time	9,430	403	187	10,020	55	16	8	45
75-<100%	1,706	305	177	2,188	10	12	7	10
100%	5,918	1,850	2,075	9,843	35	72	85	45
Full-time	7,624	2,155	2,252	12,031	45	84	92	55
Total farmers	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	100	100	100	100

Table 3.7

Farmers by work-time on farm and survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
>0-<25%	14	18	23	20	19	21	25	20	19
25-<50%	12	12	15	16	17	17	16	16	17
50-<75%	9	9	9	10	11	11	11	11	10
Part-time	35	39	47	45	47	48	52	47	45
75-<100%	5	4	5	6	6	5	7	9	10
100%	60	57	48	49	47	47	41	44	45
Full-time	65	61	53	55	53	52	48	53	55
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	10,626	2,058	2,212	14,896	62	80	91	68
With OGA	6,428	501	226	7,155	38	20	9	32
of whom:								
- OGA as major activity	4,484	182	57	4,723	26	7	2	21
- OGA as minor activity	1,944	319	169	2,432	11	12	7	11
Total farmers	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	100	100	100	100

Table 3.9

Farmers other gainful activity by survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Farmer's other gainful activity:	<i>All sizes, Percent</i>								
No OGA	79	77	71	66	63	63	60	64	68
With OGA	21	23	29	34	37	37	40	36	32
of whom:									
- OGA as major activity	14	16	23	24	27	27	30	25	21
- OGA as minor activity	7	7	6	9	11	11	10	11	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	6,428	501	226	7,155	38	20	9	32
Farmer's spouse	3,916	613	582	5,111	23	24	24	23
Either/both	7,758	917	711	9,386	45	36	29	43
Neither	9,296	1,642	1,727	12,665	55	64	71	57
Total farms	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	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	581	36	18	634	9	6	3	9
Farmer's spouse	624	54	54	732	10	9	11	10
Either/both	1,057	90	67	1,214	17	15	13	17
Neither	5,066	526	443	6,035	83	85	87	83
Total farms	6,123	616	510	7,249	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	5,847	465	209	6,521	53	24	11	44
Farmer's spouse	3,292	559	528	4,379	30	29	27	30
Either/both	6,701	827	644	8,172	61	43	33	55
Neither	4,230	1,116	1,284	6,630	39	57	67	45
Total farms	10,931	1,943	1,928	14,802	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 (90 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 90 percent of farms, with spouses the managers on 2 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 2016, at 5 percent, has decreased slightly since the 1990s. The proportion of female managers in 1995 was 7 percent.

4.4 Age

In the 2016 survey, 22 percent of managers were under 45 and 31 percent were 65 or over. This compares with the 2013 figures of 20 percent and 31 percent respectively.

4.5 Work-time

The work-time of managers was similar to that for farmers, with 46 percent working under 30 hours a week and being termed “part-time” and 54 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	17,054	2,559	2,438	22,051	91	87	83	90
Occupier's spouse	400	46	31	477	2	2	1	2
Other family member	1,064	274	326	1,664	6	9	11	7
Hired	133	59	144	336	1	2	5	1
Total farms	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	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	17,535	2,797	2,865	23,197	94	95	97	95
Female	1,116	141	74	1,331	6	5	3	5
Total managers	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	100	100	100	100

Table 4.3

Managers by gender and survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Manager is:	Percent								
Male	93	92	93	93	93	92	94	93	95
Female	7	8	7	7	7	8	6	7	5
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	296	70	82	448	2	2	3	2
25-34	1090	196	282	1568	6	7	10	6
35-44	2,431	491	530	3,452	13	17	18	14
45-54	4,272	845	793	5,910	23	29	27	24
55-64	4,239	693	702	5,634	23	24	24	23
65 & over	6,323	643	550	7,516	34	22	19	31
Total managers	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	100	100	100	100

Managers: Age and work-time

Table 4.5

Managers by age and survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Manager is:	<i>Percent</i>								
Under 25	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
25-34	11	11	9	8	8	6	4	5	6
35-44	18	18	20	21	19	18	17	14	14
45-54	23	23	24	23	24	24	25	25	24
55-64	23	23	22	23	24	25	27	25	23
65 & over	24	24	22	23	24	26	26	31	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%	4,179	193	87	4,459	22	7	3	18
25-<50%	4,211	159	91	4,461	23	5	3	18
50-<75%	2,146	159	79	2,384	12	5	3	10
Part-time	10,536	511	257	11,304	56	17	9	46
75-<100%	1,885	382	225	2,492	10	13	8	10
100%	6,230	2,045	2,457	10,732	33	70	84	44
Full-time	8,115	2,427	2,682	13,224	44	83	91	54
Total managers	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	100	100	100	100

Table 4.7

Managers by work-time on farm and survey date	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year	<i>Percent</i>								
>0-<25%	14	18	23	20	20	22	25	20	18
25-<50%	13	13	15	16	17	17	16	16	18
50-<75%	9	9	9	10	11	11	11	11	10
Part-time	36	40	47	46	48	49	52	48	46
75-<100%	5	5	5	6	6	5	11	9	10
100%	59	56	47	49	46	45	41	43	44
Full-time	64	61	53	54	52	51	48	52	54
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	490	173	165	828	3	6	6	3
Tourism	194	43	55	292	1	1	2	1
Equine sport	84	67	30	181	0	2	1	1
Renewable energy	517	177	313	1,007	3	6	11	4
Direct sales	141	32	42	215	1	1	1	1
Food processing	90	8	51	149	0	0	2	1
Other commercial activities	339	98	52	489	2	3	2	2
Any diversification	1,594	518	600	2,712	9	18	20	11
Any diversification other than contracting/haulage	1,203	385	477	2,065	6	13	16	8
Total farms	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	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 11 percent of farms in Northern Ireland had diversified, ranging from 9 percent of those with Very Small businesses to 20 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 8 percent⁸ of Northern Ireland farms in 2016 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:

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 11 percent in the 2016 survey.

Table 5.2

Farms with diversification by business size	Farms					Percent				
	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Agricultural contracting/haulage	1,032	905	1,087	958	828	4	3	4	4	3
Tourism	342	298	268	300	292	1	1	1	1	1
Equine sport	267	220	128	184	181	1	1	1	1	1
Other sport	42	48	41	56	-	0	0	0	0	-
Renewable energy	-	-	-	-	1,007	-	-	-	-	4
Direct sales	321	144	152	329	215	1	1	1	1	1
Food processing	145	100	95	190	149	1	0	0	1	1
Other commercial activities	719	973	722	1,004	489	3	4	3	4	2
Any diversification	2,517	2,339	2,309	2,564	2,712	9	9	9	10	11
Any diversification other than contracting / haulage	1,631	1,604	1,188	1,812	2,065	6	6	5	7	8
Total farms	27,064	26,146	24,471	24,503	24,528	100	100	100	100	100

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

From 2016, other sport added to other activities. Renewable energy removed from other activities and added as a new category to the table.

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” (DAERA, 2002) or on the DAERA website at the following link:

www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics/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 90 percent of farms used contractors for some task(s), with Small farms (92 percent) being slightly more likely to do so. Contract hay or silage making was the most common activity (74 percent of farms), followed by hedge cutting (64 percent) and spreading slurry/manure (43 percent). This involved 210,643 person days, the equivalent of approximately 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	16,738	2,692	2,678	22,108	90	92	91	90
No	1,913	246	261	2,420	10	8	9	10
Total farms	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	100	100	100	100
Used agricultural contractors for:								
Hay/silage making	14,043	2,096	2,015	18,154	75	71	69	74
Crop harvesting	990	307	518	1,815	5	10	18	7
Spreading slurry / manure / fertilizers / lime	7,559	1,399	1,639	10,597	41	48	56	43
Other field work	2,601	568	715	3,884	14	19	24	16
Milking	65	117	254	437	0	4	9	2
Sheep shearing	4,696	884	572	6,153	25	30	19	25
Other livestock work	1,253	218	208	1,679	7	7	7	7
Hedge cutting	11,891	2,030	1,890	15,811	64	69	64	64

Table 6.2

Person-days of contract work	Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Total person-days	117,899	33,158	59,586	210,643
Days per farm (all farms)	6	11	20	9
Days per farm (using)	7	12	22	10

Table 6.3

Farms using contractors by survey date	Year					Year				
	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Used agricultural contractors	Farms					Percent				
Yes	22,356	20,708	18,733	21,693	22,108	83	79	77	89	90
No	4,708	5,436	5,738	2,810	2,420	17	21	23	11	10
Total farms	27,064	26,144	24,471	24,503	24,528	100	100	100	100	100
Used agricultural contractors for:										
Hay/silage making	18,849	18,015	16,787	17,514	18,154	70	69	69	71	74
Crop harvesting	2,300	1,979	1,932	2,023	1,815	9	8	8	8	7
Spreading slurry / manure / fertilizers / lime	11,004	10,500	10,257	10,520	10,597	41	40	42	43	43
Other field work	3,953	3,749	3,613	3,742	3,884	15	14	15	15	16
Milking	653	599	443	415	437	2	2	2	2	2
Sheep shearing	4,551	4,432	3,877	5,417	6,153	17	17	16	22	25
Other livestock work	1,554	1,474	1,178	1,363	1,679	6	6	5	6	7
Hedge cutting	14,840	14,705	13,905	15,007	15,811	55	56	57	61	64

Table 6.4

Farms using contractors by survey date	Year						
	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2013	2016
Total person-days	268,859	333,197	231,705	236,635	202,245	227,791	210,643
Days per farm (all farms)	9	12	9	9	9	9	9
Days per farm (using)	12	15	10	12	12	11	10

7. Internet Access

7.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Do you have internet access?”

If yes, do you have broadband access?”

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

7.2 Results

Sixty nine percent of all farms reported having internet access compared to 60 percent in 2013. This ranged from 64 percent of very small farms to 89 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 41 percent of very small farms doing so, while 78 percent of medium and large farms reported that they did use the internet in that way.

Table 7.1

Percentage of farms with internet access	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
Cereals	74	79	89	76
General Cropping	64	96	94	70
Horticulture	76	76	88	82
Pigs & Poultry	84	89	93	89
Dairy	64	81	90	85
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	62	75	83	64
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	69	80	85	71
Mixed Farming	73	84	89	80
Other	100	100	86	98
Total Farms	64	80	89	69

Table 7.2

Percentage of farms with broadband access	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
Cereals	69	74	89	71
General Cropping	63	96	91	69
Horticulture	68	76	82	76
Pigs & Poultry	79	84	88	84
Dairy	60	77	84	79
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	56	68	77	57
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	64	75	80	66
Mixed Farming	69	81	85	76
Other	100	100	57	93
Total Farms	59	74	83	64

Table 7.3

Percentage of farms using the internet for business purposes	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
Cereals	54	74	78	58
General Cropping	49	84	82	56
Horticulture	48	48	76	61
Pigs & Poultry	63	76	81	73
Dairy	48	64	81	72
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	39	55	68	41
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	44	63	74	48
Mixed Farming	49	58	74	58
Other	94	67	71	85
Total Farms	41	61	78	48

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 7.4

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	2	2	3	2
25-34	8	8	9	6
35-44	17	17	18	14
45-54	27	28	28	24
55-64	24	24	24	23
65 & over	22	21	19	31
Total	100	100	100	100

8. Nutrient Management

8.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“In any of the last 4 years have you:

Completed soil analysis on land that you farm?

Spread lime on land that you farm?

Tested the nutrient value of manure or slurry used?

Completed a nutrient management plan?”

8.2 Results

Some 47 percent of farms had completed soil analysis on their farmed land in any of the 4 years before March 2016, with 50 percent having spread lime in this time period. Seven percent of farms had tested the nutrient value of manure or slurry being used on the farm. Eighteen percent had completed a nutrient management plan during the previous 4 years.

Table 8.1

Nutrient management by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Farms				Percent			
Soil Analysis	7,192	2,020	2,320	11,532	39	69	79	47
Spread lime	8,112	2,080	2,191	12,383	43	71	75	50
Tested nutrient value of manure/slurry	915	308	617	1,840	5	10	21	7
Completed a nutrient management plan	2,127	901	1,501	4,529	11	31	51	18
Total Farms	18,651	2,938	2,939	24,528	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 unroofed

Solid Manure roofed

Slurry in a tank below ground?

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

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

9.2 Results

Thirty-six percent of farms reported having a solid manure storage area, and 13 percent of all farms had a solid manure storage area that was covered. Seven percent of all farms had an above ground slurry tank, while 71 percent of all farms had a below ground slurry tank. A further seven 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 unroofed	32	45	51	36
Solid Manure roofed	10	18	21	13
Slurry in a tank below ground	66	83	87	71
Slurry in a tank above ground	2	13	32	7
Slurry in a tank above ground covered	1	1	1	1
Slurry in a lagoon	5	11	15	7
Slurry in a lagoon covered	0	1	1	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	95	85	59	89
>0 – 25%	2	8	26	6
>25-50%	1	3	9	2
>50-75%	0	2	3	1
>75-100%	2	2	3	2
Total farms	100	100	100	100

10. Manure and Slurry Application

10.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Considering the total manure/slurry applied on farm in the past 12 months, please indicate the approximate percentage applied using the following methods

Broadcast – not ploughed in.

Broadcast – ploughed in within 4 hours of application.

Broadcast – ploughed in after 4 hours of application.

Bandspread – Trailing hose

Bandspread – Trailing shoe

Injection – shallow/open slots

10.2 Results

The most popular manure/slurry application method during the 12 months previous to March 1st 2016 was broadcast and not ploughed in with an average of 83 percent of slurry applied in this way. The next most popular application method was Bandspread using a trailing hose with just an average of 6 per cent of slurry applied by this method.

Table 10.1

Average percentage of each application method for farms that applied manure/slurry in the past 12 months	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
Broadcast – Not ploughed in	85	81	71	83
Broadcast – Ploughed in within 4 hours	1	2	2	2
Broadcast – Ploughed in after 4 hours	3	4	5	3
Bandspread – Trailing hose	5	7	11	6
Bandspread – Trailing shoe	4	4	9	5
Injection – Shallow/open slot	1	1	1	1

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

11. Cultivation

11.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

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

11.2 Results

Ninety two 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 1 percent of arable land.

Table 11.1

Percentage of Cultivation methods	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med / Large	All
Area of inversion ploughing	94	96	90	92
Area of reduced tillage	4	2	9	6
Area of zero tillage	2	2	1	1
Total ploughed land	100	100	100	100

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

12. Renewable Energy Production

12.1 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.”

12.2 Results

Almost twelve percent of farms produce or use renewable energy. The most popular renewable energy types found on farms in 2013 and 2016 were solar followed by wind generation and biomass. The number of solar installations in 2016 were almost 6 times the number estimated in 2013, while wind turbine and biomass installations have approximately doubled.

Table 12.1

Percentage of farm businesses with Renewable energy	2013	2016
Wind	0.9	1.7
Biomass	0.7	1.7
Bio-methane	0.0	0.1
Solar	1.4	8.2
Hydro	0.2	0.1
Other energy production	0.1	0.0
Total	3.3	11.9

13. Agricultural Training

13.1 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.*

13.2 Results

Seventy-five percent of managers had practical experience only, while 17 percent attended a course lasting under 2 years, and 8 percent attended a longer training course. The percentage of managers with formal training increased from 17 percent in 2013 to 25 percent in 2016.

Table 13.1

Type of Training	Number	Percent
Practical Training	18,820	75
Course lasting under 2 years	4,251	17
Course lasting over 2 years	1,997	8
Total	24,503	100

Table 13.2

Percentage Type of Training	Year	
	2013	2016
Practical Training	83	75
Course lasting under 2 years	11	17
Course lasting over 2 years	6	8
Total	100	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 2016 survey is fully comparable with Structure Surveys from 2000 to 2013.

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

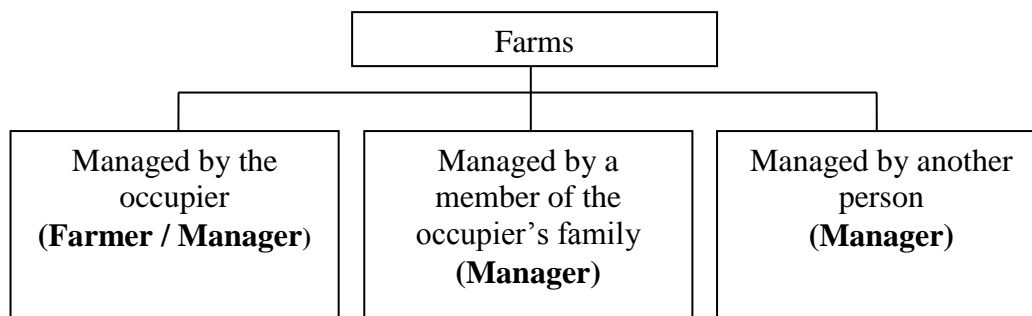
This is the person who is legally and financially responsible for the holding. Where occupancy is shared by more than one person, one of them is designated as “the occupier”. Occupiers are described as “natural persons” for the Structure Survey except in cases where a farm is owned by an institution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

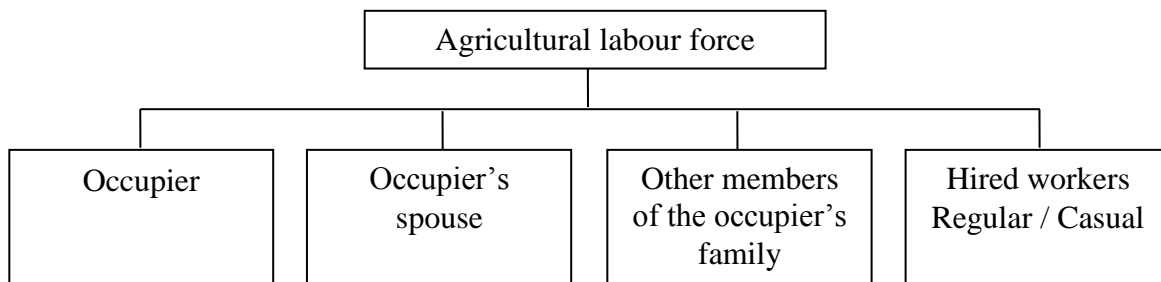
These are other members of the occupier's family, aged 16 or over, who contribute to the work of the farm.

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 the 2010 and earlier Structure Survey Reports, farm business size was 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.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/agricultural-census-northern-ireland

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 online 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	38
Bulgaria	666	535	493	370	254
Czech Rep.	46	42	39	23	26
Denmark	49	52	45	42	38
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	1,010
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	491
Malta	11	11	11	13	9
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	54
Sweden	68	76	73	71	67
UK	281	287	227	187	183
Norway	58	53	50	47	43
Switzerland	:	64	:	59	:
Croatia	:	:	181	233	157
EU15	6,239	5,846	5,662	5,226	4,437
EU25	9,870	9,688	9,691	7,785	6,797
EU27	15,021	14,482	13,700	12,015	10,681
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	1,308
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	2,619
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	12,099
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	4,657
Malta	11	10	10	11	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	2,282
Sweden	3,127	3,192	3,118	3,066	3,036
UK	16,106	15,957	16,043	16,882	17,327
Norway	1,040	1,035	1,032	1,006	996
Switzerland	:	:	1,057	1,048	:
Croatia	:	:	979	1,316	:
EU15	125,981	124,932	124,459	126,113	124,574
EU25	155,958	155,360	155,594	156,717	155,336
EU27	172,793	171,996	172,398	174,499	173,043
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	56.73
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	791.56	624.66	494.45	406.52	320.23
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	166.4	151.90	137.31	107.99	105.08
Denmark	104.75	104.96	97.93	66.46	60.71	60.45	55.86	51.06	53.17
Germany	804.19	710.96	656.84	617.62	688.78	643.23	609.30	545.50	522.73
Estonia	:	:	:	:	37.52	36.90	32.07	25.12	22.06
Greece	702.17	637.94	597.27	587.48	614.25	152.38	568.71	429.52	463.86
Spain	1,112.1	1,089.6	1,098.98	1,077.73	997.77	600.80	967.68	888.97	813.55
France	:	:	:	:	913.83	992.64	804.62	779.66	724.69
Ireland	239.51	218.48	202.31	168.45	161.11	855.49	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	1,302.18	953.79	816.92
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	3.70	3.53
Hungary	:	:	:	:	525.79	462.74	403.42	423.49	433.70
Malta	:	:	:	:	4.5	4.06	4.22	4.87	4.45
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	57.55
Sweden	:	87.67	81.76	74.24	70.66	71.10	65.47	56.85	59.32
UK	433.9	383.98	415.99	354.32	352.22	339.08	306.20	265.66	274.52
Norway	:	:	:	71.2	64.2	58.83	56.26	46.38	44.00
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	116.7	95.96	:
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	188.58	184.48	175.05
EU15	:	7,263.5	7,023.21	6,352.69	6,326.12	5,984.92	5,635.78	4,900.71	4,598.20
EU25	:	:	:	:	9,860.41	9,495.34	8,961.81	7,742.69	7,458.50
EU27	:	:	:	:	13,351.48	12,715.59	11,661.54	9,759.47	9,331.36
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	1.33
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	2.6	1.91	0.91
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	7.03
Italy	132.96	110.21	119.45	110.6	76.13	56.49	49.07	79.32	44.5
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	29.28
Malta	:	:	:	:	0.65	0.57	0.46	0.56	0.35
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	4.61
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	5.98	5.02	5.43
Norway	:	:	:	9.62	6.03	4.59	3.7	4.25	3.41
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	4.02	:
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	4.36	8.95	6.24
EU15	:	570.74	521.81	529.16	389.24	310.88	269.55	278.64	201.02
EU25	:	:	:	:	835.07	715.96	639.28	567.6	424.39
EU27	:	:	:	:	1260.32	956.3	821.2	866.31	598.6
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	7.01
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	7.84	9.17
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	65.8	58.47	54.14
Ireland	32.31	32.5	32.31	28.04	26.81	31.61	31.87	36.64	42.32
Italy	850.58	912.29	827.65	825.95	788.4	734.95	740.54	615.84	407.84
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	148.15
Malta	:	:	:	:	2.52	2.59	2.79	3.41	2.39
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	17.8	13.44	12.38
Poland	:	:	:	:	320.01	421.95	387.9	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	5.57
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	57.71	59.44
Norway	:	:	:	6.23	4.46	:	3.87	4.31	5.59
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	2.83	:
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	78.15	80.09	52.49
EU15	:	2,021.95	1,950.42	1871.3	1,887.84	1,841.48	1,813.71	1,569.98	1,392.32
EU25	:	:	:	:	2,649.03	2,651.82	2,575.43	2,021.01	1,820.01
EU27	:	:	:	:	4,638.55	4,722.98	4,559.08	3,636.53	3,427.60
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	522,440	520,700	464,830	97,970	89,150
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	96,980	568,200	582,340	72,400	72,320
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	645,810	1,832,370	1,762,460	6,223,110	5,875,350
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	93,470	245,050	241,010	863,750	799,370
Malta	190	70	6,740	6,240	9,820	8,920
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	57,330	289,340	283,120	64,770	69,320
Sweden	197,050	188,810	348,100	344,020	259,670	270,580
UK	1,647,250	1,611,020	1,843,460	1,766,960	14,054,650	14,712,290
Norway	69,870	75,000	238,440	228,900	870,460	859,490
Switzerland	111,290	:	589,020	:	240,540	:
Croatia	16,790	29,870	211,560	172,920	548,640	545,750
EU27	12,436,690	12,395,690	23,262,790	23,039,310	65,692,290	64,622,310
NI	257,650	270,110	281,040	279,480	875,900	921,420

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