Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Statistical Review *of* Northern Ireland Agriculture 2002

A National Statistics publication

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Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2002

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Economics and Statistics Division

A National Statistics publication

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ISBN 1 85527 568 6

Designed by DARD Media Services 02.03.298

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PREFACE

The *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture* is the main compendium of statistics on agriculture in Northern Ireland. It contains a wide range of information on the industry at aggregate level.

A companion publication, *Farm Incomes in Northern Ireland 2001/02*, provides more detailed information on performance at farm business level.

Details of other publications and statistical releases available from Economics and Statistics Division are given on page 60.

As with all DARD statistical publications, the *Statistical Review* is now available, free of charge, on the DARD website, at www.dardni.gov.uk. This website also contains long-term time series of a selection of *Statistical Review* tables. These may also be obtained in the form of hard copy, on request from Economics and Statistics Division.

The *Statistical Review* has been designated a National Statistics publication, denoting that its contents are produced to best professional standards. Users' comments on its contents are always welcome; these may be made directly to me or to the Editor, Ivan Hunter, at the address given below.

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March 2003

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KEY FACTS

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	2.5[1]	0.8[1]	3.2[1]	1.9[2]
EMPLOYMENT*				
Agricultural employment (‘000)	34[2]	390[2]	121[1]	6,697[2]
As % of total civil employment	4.8[2]	1.4[2]	6.9[1]	4.1[2]
**ILO definition – see note 2*				
LAND USE				
Agricultural area (‘000 ha)	1,068[1]	17,154[1]	4,443[3]	129,600[3]
As % of total area	78.7[1]	70.4[1]	63.1[3]	40.6[3]
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	70.0[1]	42.9[3]	66.8[4]	54.3[4]
FARMS				
Number (‘000)	28.5[1]	232[3]	142[3]	6,989[4]
Average agricultural area (ha)	37.4[1]	71.6[3]	31.4[3]	18.4[4]
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	60[1]	73[3]	37[3]	25[4]
Beef cows	19[1]	28[3]	14[3]	15[4]
Sheep	246[1]	510[3]	158[3]	138[4]
Pigs	653[1]	576[3]	1,345[3]	114[4]
Laying hens	1,789[1]	1,482[3]	215[3]	189[4]
Broilers	38,474[1]	53,508[3]	12,078[3]	595[4]
Cereals (ha)	11.1[1]	50.8[3]	18.9[3]	13.0[4]
Potatoes (ha)	6.7[1]	11.5[3]	2.8[3]	1.4[4]

1. 2002 2. 2001 3. 2000 4. 1997

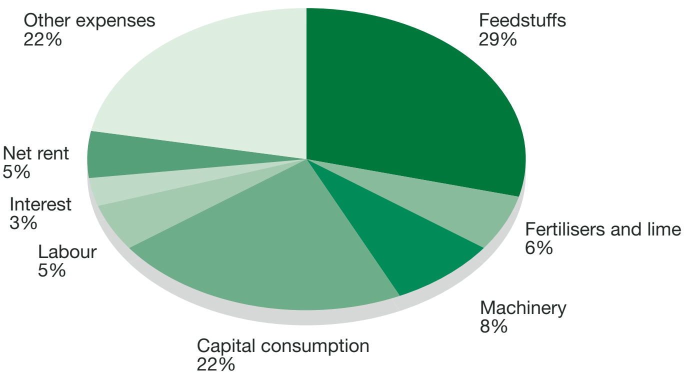
Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Note 2. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines sector of employment according to a person’s main occupation; its figures relate to agriculture, forestry and fishing. This source is used to provide consistency in comparisons across different countries. The figures for Northern Ireland differ slightly from those shown in Table 2.15.

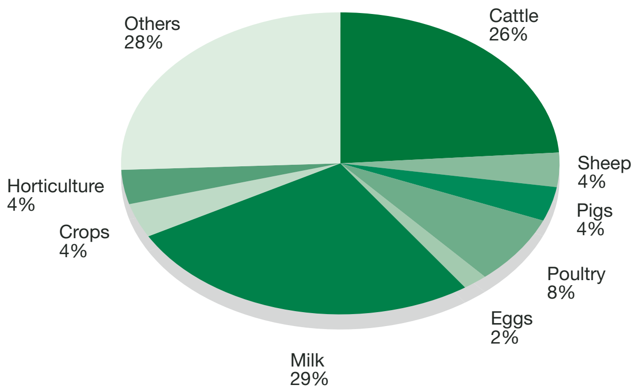
Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

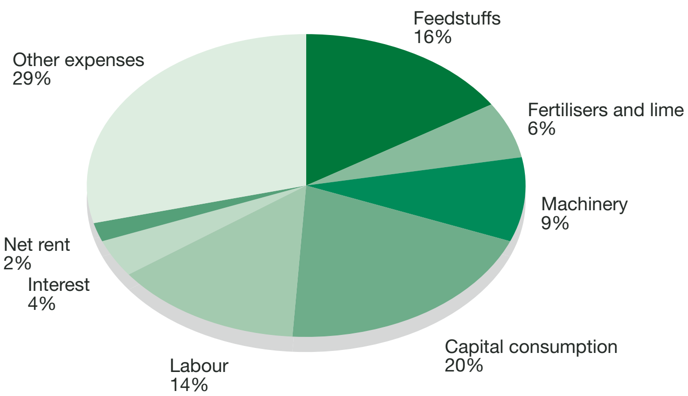
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2002



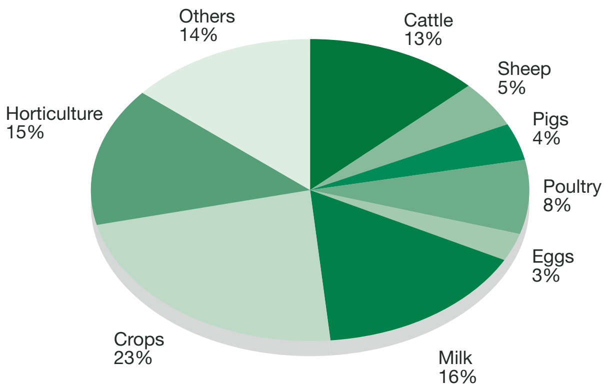
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2002



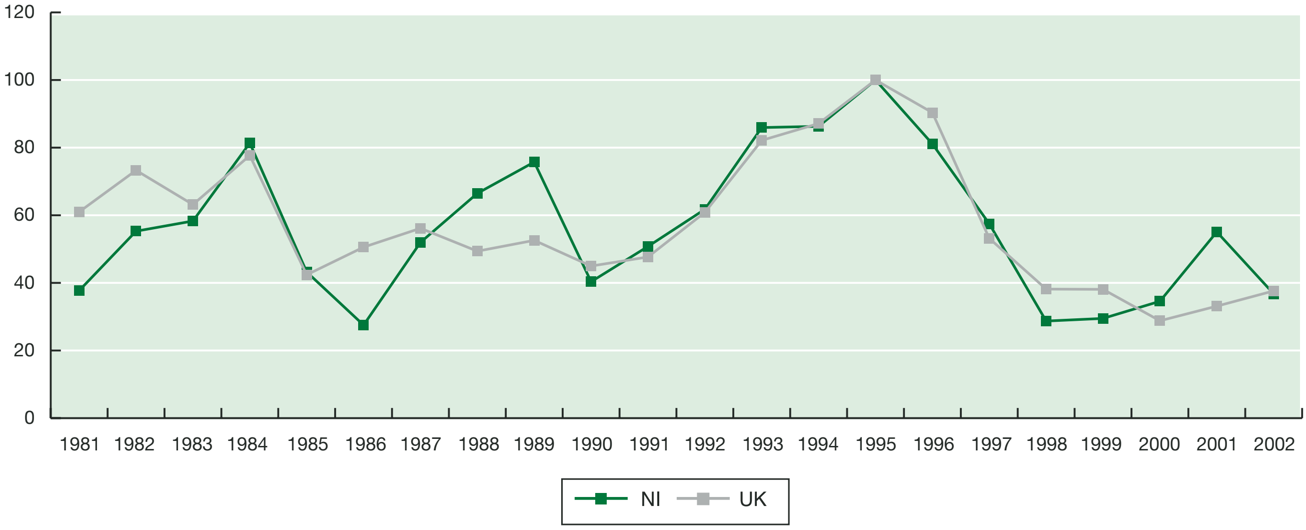
Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2002



Gross output of UK agriculture, 2002

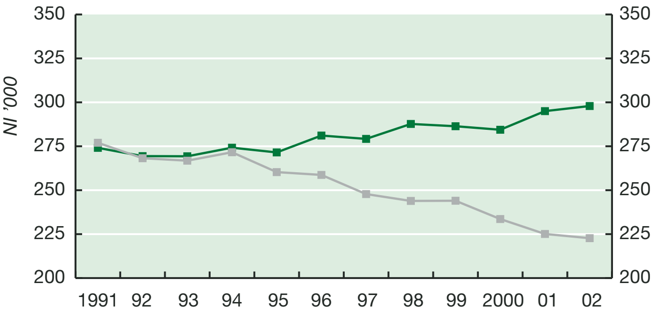


NI and UK Total Income from Farming in real terms (1995 = 100)

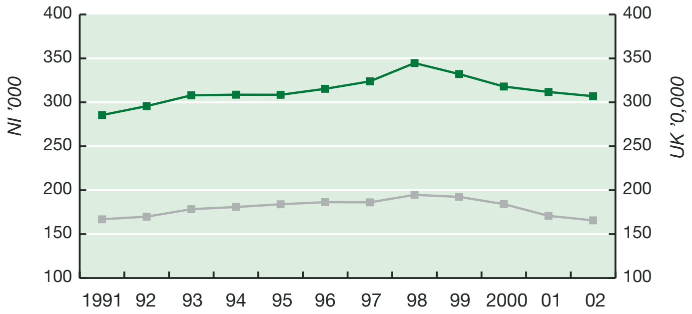


TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS

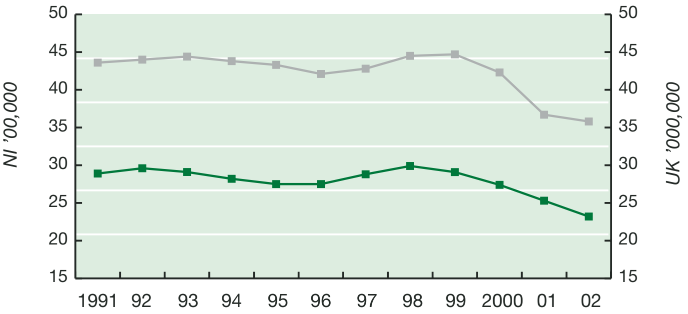
Dairy cows



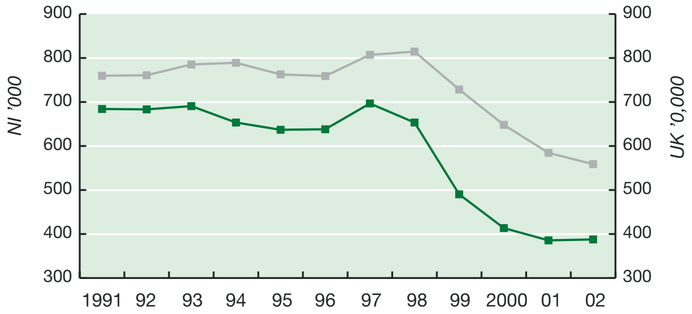
Beef cows



Sheep



Pigs



Laying birds

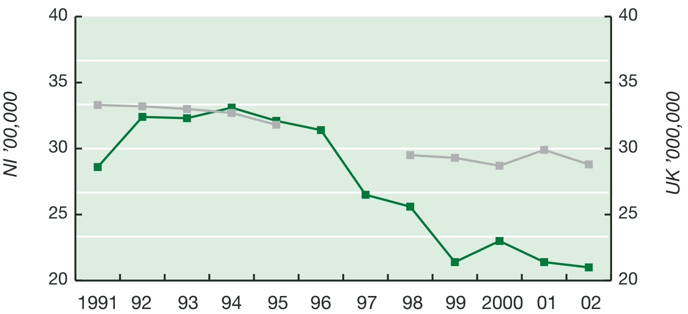
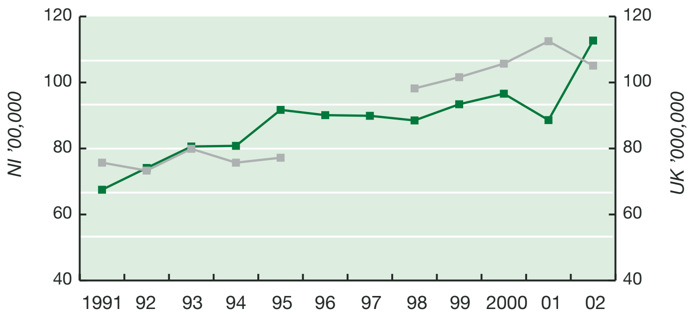
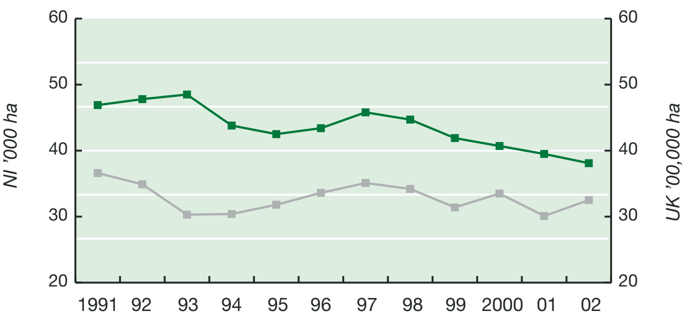


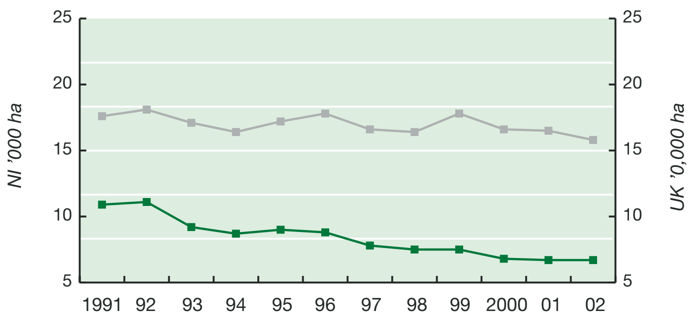
Table chickens



Cereals



Potatoes



NI UK

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Note: comparisons are with 2001 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- There was a sharp fall in the income of Northern Ireland agriculture in 2002, following the substantial rise in 2001, though from a low base.
- **Total income from farming (TIFF)** - which measures the return to farmers and all members of their families working on farms – declined by 32 per cent (33 per cent in real terms) to £129 million, from £191 million in 2001.
- This decrease, which follows a rise of 59 per cent in real terms in 2001, means that, in 2002, TIFF was 63 per cent below the 22 year peak reached in 1995.
- The decline in income in 2002 resulted mainly from two factors; first, a fall of 14 per cent in the average producer milk price, leading to a reduction of £59 million, to £292 million, in the value of milk output; and, second, the consequences of adverse weather throughout much of 2002 (with rainfall 23 per cent above the long-term average), which led both to reduced volumes of output and significantly increased input costs.
- At United Kingdom level, TIFF rose by 15 per cent, to £2.36 billion, an increase of 14 per cent in real terms. The reason for the rise in income in Great Britain, compared with a fall in Northern Ireland, was the recovery from Foot and Mouth Disease which took place in Great Britain in 2002, whereas in Northern Ireland it occurred in 2001, and the fact that the adverse weather in Northern Ireland in 2002 was not experienced over much of Great Britain.
- Above average rainfall in 8 months of 2002 led to farmers keeping livestock indoors for much longer than normal. This resulted in lower production of some commodities and to higher input use; it severely disrupted silage and hay making and reduced their quality; and it necessitated increased purchases of feedstuffs to compensate for the lack of home-saved fodder. The net result was a reduced output value accompanied by increased costs. Together, these accounted for a significant proportion of the income decline in 2002.

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

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture declined by 3 per cent, to £1,142 million, the result of a 4 per cent fall in the average producer return and a 1 per cent increase in the volume of output.
- **Gross input** (or ‘intermediate consumption’) rose by 4 per cent, to £679 million, reflecting a 3 per cent increase in the volume of inputs used and a 1 per cent rise in unit costs.
- **Gross value added** fell by 12 per cent, to £463 million. **Net value added** – gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or ‘depreciation’) – decreased by 19 per cent, to £267 million.

Productivity

- The 1 per cent rise in the volume of output and the 3 per cent increase in the quantity of inputs combined to produce a 1 per cent fall in **total factor productivity** – the productivity of all resources in the industry. However, **labour productivity** increased by 2 per cent in 2002, as a result of a 3 per cent reduction in the volume of labour input.

Cash flow (Table 2.4)

- **Cash available to farm families from farming** declined by 14 per cent to £208 million in 2002. This is a much smaller decrease than that recorded in TIFF, largely because of a lower level of gross fixed capital formation (which is deducted in the calculation of cash flow) and a significant rise in the level of borrowings (a change which is added on in the calculation).

Farm level incomes (Table 5.1-5.6)

- The average **net farm income** across all full-time farms in the year to March 2003 is expected to be £4,600 per farm, £3,700 lower than in the previous year, with declines forecast on farms of all types. Cash income is expected to average £16,100 per farm, a fall of £4,000 between years.

Subsidies (Table 2.10)

- The value of **direct payments** to farmers rose by 5 per cent, to £240 million in 2002. Cattle premium payments increased by over £30 million (excluding agrimonetary payments paid in 2001), with increases under all schemes, while sheep payments rose by over £8 million. Offsetting these increases was the effect of the termination in 2002 of agrimonetary compensation which, in 2001, had been worth £24 million to Northern Ireland farmers.

Labour (Table 2.14)

- **The total agricultural labour force** declined by 4 per cent, to 54,300 persons between June 2001 and June 2002. The number of farmers (34,500) fell by 4 per cent and spouses by 5 per cent. Full-time and casual workers both declined by 3 per cent.

Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)

- For the third consecutive June census, **cattle** numbers totalled 1.68 million. However, there were 2 per cent fewer beef cows but 1 per cent more dairy cows. Total **sheep** numbers again fell by 8 per cent to 2.32 million head, while breeding ewe numbers also declined by 8 per cent, to 1.13 million ewes.

- At June 2002, the number of **pigs** totalled 388,000, 1 per cent higher than in 2001. However, the female breeding herd again declined by 3 per cent, to 39,300 sows, while the number of farms with pigs fell over the year by 13 per cent and now totals less than 600. The number of **table birds** increased by over a quarter, to 11.3 million in 2002, but the **commercial laying flock** fell by 2 per cent, to 2.10 million birds.

Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)

- There was a 3 per cent reduction, to 52,600 hectares, in the total **cropped area** between June 2001 and 2002. The **cereals** area declined by 4 per cent, to 38,100 hectares.

Farms (Table 4.2)

- The number of active **farm businesses** included in the June 2002 census, 28,513, was 1,300 fewer than in 2001, following a fall of just 73 in 2001. This partly reflects the abnormal situation in 2001 when it is believed the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak may have delayed structural adjustments in the industry. The number of active farms fell by 2.3 per cent per year from 2000 to 2002 compared with an average of 1.9 per cent per year over the past 10 years.

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2. THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

A. AGGREGATE OUTPUT, INPUT AND INCOME

Methodological note

All of the figures quoted in this section are on the basis of the series of the Aggregate Agricultural Account (AAA) introduced in 1998. A 22-year time series of the AAA is available on the DARD website, at www.dardni.gov.uk. In the following commentary, comparisons are with 2001 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

There was a sharp fall in the income of Northern Ireland agriculture in 2002, following the substantial rise in 2001, though from a low base. **Total income from farming (TIFF)** – which measures the return to farmers and all members of their families working on farms – declined by 32 per cent (33 per cent in real terms) to £129 million, from £191 million in 2001 (see Tables 2.1-2.3).

Output

The value of **gross output** declined by 3.1 per cent to £1,142 million in 2002. This was the result of a 4.0 per cent fall in the average producer return and a 1.0 per cent increase in the volume of gross output.

The major contributory factor in the fall in the value of output was a decline of £59 million, to £292 million, in the output of milk, largely the result of a 14 per cent fall in the producer milk price. The values of several other commodities also declined, including sheep (down 9.3 per cent), pigs (6.2 per cent), cereals (13 per cent) and fruit (56 per cent). Some of these reductions were caused, at least in part, by the adverse weather experienced in Northern Ireland over much of 2002. However, the value of output of cattle, poultry and eggs increased, by 9.6, 7.9 and 8.0 per cent respectively, and there were also increases in the values of output of wheat (up 65 per cent) and potatoes (12.9 per cent). There was an almost four fold increase in revenue from quota leasing, but a 15 per cent fall in gross fixed capital formation. Details of trends in individual outputs and inputs are given in Section 2B.

Inputs (or 'intermediate consumption')

The value of **gross input** rose by 4.1 per cent in 2002, to £679 million, the result of a 3.2 per cent increase in the volume used and a 0.9 per cent rise in the unit cost. Over half of the increase in the value of gross input was accounted for by a £14 million rise, to £288 million, in expenditure on feedstuffs, with the quantity increasing by 6.6 per cent and the unit cost falling by 1.4 per cent respectively. Again, the volume increase reflects the impact of the adverse weather, as farmers were forced to substitute purchased feedstuffs for home-produced fodder. Expenditure on fertilisers, machinery, inter-farm expenses and quota leasing all increased.

Gross and net value added

Gross value added – gross output less gross input – fell in 2002, by 12.0 per cent, to £463 million, the unit value decreasing by 11 per cent and the volume by 1.0 per cent. Net value added (at factor cost) – gross value added minus capital consumption plus subsidies (less taxes) not paid on products – fell by 18.6 per cent, to £267 million.

Net value added is the sum of all 'incomes' arising in the industry, namely the earnings of paid labour, interest on borrowed capital, rent on conacre land (taken from non-farming persons) and the residual 'total income from farming'. The cost of paid labour (also known as 'compensation of employees') increased by 2.0 per cent, to £48.8 million, while a reduction in the average interest rate in 2002 caused interest payments to fall, by 13 per cent, to just under £35 million. Conacre rent paid to non-farmers rose, by 9.7 per cent, to £54 million.

Total income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF)** declined by 32 per cent in 2002, to £129 million, a fall of 33 per cent after allowing for inflation. This decline followed a 59 per cent rise in real terms in 2001, although this was from a very low base. Despite the increase in 2001, the latest fall means that, in real terms, the years 1998 to 2002 include four of the six lowest income years since 1970. Of course, over the same 32-year period, the number of persons drawing an income from farming has also declined steadily. The number of annual work units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 48 per cent from 1970 to 2002.

Cash flow

TIFF measures the return to farmers, their spouses and other family workers, i.e. all those with an entrepreneurial interest in farming. It is calculated according to internationally agreed practices which require the inclusion of 'book' items such as stock changes and capital formation and consumption. TIFF may not, therefore, realistically portray the cash available from farming. In the estimates shown in Table 2.4, TIFF is adjusted to remove these 'book' items and to take account of the level of investment and change in borrowings. (The derivation is given in the footnotes to Table 2.4.) **Cash available to farm families from farming** is estimated to have fallen in 2002 by 14 per cent, to £208 million. This is a much smaller decrease than that in TIFF, mainly because (i) the cash-flow figures include (as a deduction) a significant reduction in the capital formation of breeding livestock and (ii) they include a significant increase in borrowings in 2002.

Subsidies

Direct payments to farmers increased in 2002 by £11.9 million, to over £240 million. The rise was mainly because of further phased increases in direct payments under the Agenda 2000 CAP reforms and a strengthening of the euro relative to sterling. These changes offset the effects of the abolition of agrimonetary compensation. Payments on cattle totalled £181 million, 76 per cent of the total, while subsidies on sheep and arable crops accounted for 8 and 3 per cent respectively. 'Other direct payments', predominantly the area-based LFA Compensatory Allowance, decreased to £31 million, or 13 per cent of the total. (Direct payments exclude the value of market support such as intervention purchases and export refunds.)

Investment

Estimated **gross annual capital investment** fell by 3.4 per cent to £106 million in 2002, with declines in all categories. Investment in buildings and works decreased by 8.1 per cent, to £24.8 million, with drops in both grant-aided and non-aided investment. Investment in plant and machinery fell by 1.7 per cent to £64.1 million and purchases of vehicles by 2.8 per cent to £17.6 million.

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Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture (new series)[1]

£ million

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
OUTPUT[2]						
Livestock and livestock products[3]						
Finished cattle and calves[4]	380.8	326.0	325.0	332.6	338.9	371.4
Finished sheep and lambs[5]	81.2	77.2	68.6	66.5	65.4	59.3
Finished pigs[6]	102.7	68.8	59.5	52.3	62.6	58.7
Poultry[7]	111.2	107.3	98.4	97.8	106.9	115.4
Eggs[8]	24.1	21.8	20.6	24.5	22.4	24.2
Milk	319.3	297.0	301.5	302.7	351.7	292.3
Minor products[9]	8.0	7.6	7.7	8.5	8.3	8.0
Total livestock and livestock products	**1,027.4**	**905.7**	**881.4**	**884.8**	**956.1**	**929.3**
Field crops						
Potatoes	16.7	25.4	33.0	17.3	21.2	23.9
Cereals[10]	30.7	26.6	25.3	25.6	23.7	20.7
of which: barley[10]	22.8	19.2	20.9	19.8	19.2	14.3
wheat[10]	6.3	5.9	2.7	4.1	3.1	5.2
oats[10]	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.3
Other crops[10,11]	4.8	7.2	8.1	8.0	9.2	6.9
Total field crops	**52.2**	**59.1**	**66.4**	**50.8**	**54.1**	**51.5**
Horticultural products						
Fruit	9.8	6.0	5.4	5.4	6.9	3.0
Vegetables	10.2	10.8	10.1	14.6	15.6	14.9
Mushrooms	30.4	30.5	30.0	27.6	28.8	27.6
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	10.1	11.3	12.3	12.6	12.6	13.1
Total horticultural products	**60.5**	**58.5**	**57.8**	**60.3**	**63.8**	**58.6**
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	72.1	43.1	36.4	39.2	57.3	48.8
Agricultural contract work[12]	30.2	29.2	29.0	32.4	34.8	35.8
Milk quota leasing	10.0	8.7	9.3	1.4	0.9	3.6
Inseparable non-agricultural activities[13]	9.4	10.6	11.7	12.9	11.7	14.4
A Gross output	**1,261.8**	**1,114.9**	**1,091.9**	**1,081.7**	**1,178.8**	**1,141.9**
of which:						
subsidies (less taxes) on products[14]	223.3	197.4	194.9	194.8	194.2	208.9

1. A description of the new series, first introduced in the 1998 *Statistical Review*, and the derivation of the main aggregates, is given in the Appendix.
2. Output represents the estimated value of home-produced sales, including the value of inter-farm transfers and on-farm use (see Appendix). It includes the value of subsidies on products, the sale value of store animals imported from the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain and finished in Northern Ireland and the value of produce used in farm households. Stock change estimates are included within the individual output and input items.
3. Includes finished, breeding and store animals exported to the Republic of Ireland and shipped to Great Britain. The value of imported animals has been deducted.
4. Includes Suckler Cow Premium, Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance, Beef Special Premium, Beef Deseasonalisation Premium, Extensification Supplement, Agrimoney Compensation, Slaughter Premium, Flagged Suckler Herd Payments, BSE related supplements, receipts from the Over Thirty Months Scheme and Calf Processing Aid Scheme and Foot and Mouth Disease non-capital compensation payments. The LFA Compensatory Allowance, introduced in 2001, is included in 'other subsidies'.
5. Includes Sheep Annual Premium, Rural World (LFA) Supplement, Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance, Agrimoney Compensation and Foot and Mouth Disease non-capital compensation payments. The LFA Compensatory Allowance, introduced in 2001, is included in 'other subsidies'.
6. Includes Pig Welfare Slaughter Scheme, Foot and Mouth Disease non-capital compensation and Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (Ongoers) payments.
7. Includes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds, and eggs for hatching.

Table 2.1 contd.

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
							£ million
A	**Gross output**	**1,261.8**	**1,114.9**	**1,091.9**	**1,081.7**	**1,178.8**	**1,141.9**
	INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
	Expenditure						
	Feedstuffs[15]	308.4	275.0	261.0	249.0	273.6	287.7
	Seeds[16]	9.0	8.4	9.5	7.0	7.6	8.7
	Marketing expenses[17]	36.3	36.2	35.3	35.6	35.2	39.9
	Fertilisers and lime	68.6	55.9	60.2	56.3	56.7	58.9
	Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	82.8	74.0	73.3	73.1	75.0	78.8
	Farm maintenance	29.9	26.9	27.2	27.9	30.1	29.1
	Veterinary expenses and medicines	32.8	30.3	27.7	27.0	27.7	28.0
	Miscellaneous expenses	115.5	113.1	108.2	103.6	109.3	105.6
	Agricultural contract work	30.2	29.2	29.0	32.4	34.8	35.8
	Milk quota leasing	10.3	8.5	8.5	2.8	2.0	6.2
B	**Gross input**	**723.8**	**657.4**	**639.8**	**614.7**	**652.1**	**678.8**
C	**Gross value added (A-B)**	**538.0**	**457.5**	**452.1**	**467.0**	**526.6**	**463.2**
	Consumption of fixed capital						
	- livestock	49.4	44.1	41.7	36.7	53.2	46.7
	- plant, machinery and vehicles	79.5	80.3	79.7	78.5	80.5	82.0
	- buildings and works	91.2	92.9	95.4	94.2	93.5	93.6
D	**Total consumption of fixed capital**	**220.1**	**217.2**	**216.9**	**209.3**	**227.2**	**222.3**
	Other subsidies (not paid on products)[18]	4.2	3.8	5.6	6.7	34.0	31.2
	Other taxes (not levied on products)[19]	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9
E	**Other subsidies (less taxes)**	-1.4	-1.7	0.2	1.4	28.9	26.3
F	**Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)**	**316.4**	**238.5**	**235.4**	**259.1**	**328.3**	**267.3**
G	Paid labour	41.9	43.4	44.6	49.0	47.9	48.8
H	Interest	45.1	52.1	44.0	46.0	40.4	35.0
I	Net rent[20]	48.7	49.5	49.4	46.6	49.4	54.2
J	**Total income from farming[21] (F-G-H-I)**	**180.7**	**93.4**	**97.4**	**117.5**	**190.6**	**129.2**

8. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.
9. Includes horses, wool, deer and minor livestock products.
10. Includes Arable Area Payments but excludes set-aside payments,which are included in 'other subsidies'.
11. Hay, straw, flax, linseed, oilseed rape, mixed corn, protein crops, lawn turf and associated Arable Area Payments.
12. Receipts to both farmer contractors and specialist contractors.
13. Receipts from non-agricultural activities which use farm resources.
14. See Table 2.10 for details of the individual items included within this item.
15. Includes home-fed cereals, proteins and stockfeed potatoes.
16. Includes home-saved seed.
17. Hired transport charges, auction fees, slaughter charges and inter farm expenses.
18. Includes LFA Compensatory Allowance, set-aside payments and payments for the non-capital element of the Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme, Newcastle Disease Compensation and other minor grants and subsidies.
19. Farm rates and vehicle road tax.
20. Conacre payments to non-producing landowners.
21. This estimate should be regarded only as an indicator of trend. The income estimate, being a residual, is subject to cumulative errors in the estimation of input and output items (see Appendix).

Table 2.2 Summary income indicators at current prices and in real terms

Indices: 1995 = 100

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Index at current prices						
Net value added[1]	75.7	57.0	56.3	62.0	78.5	63.9
Total income from farming[1]	60.7	31.4	32.7	39.5	64.1	43.4
Index in real terms[2]						
Net value added	71.6	52.2	50.7	54.2	67.5	54.1
Total income from farming	57.5	28.7	29.5	34.6	55.1	36.8

1. For definitions see Appendix.
2. Deflated by the Retail Prices Index.

Table 2.3 Gross output, gross input, gross value added and net value added at constant 1995 prices[1]

Indices: 1995 = 100

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Gross output	101.0	101.2	99.5	97.9	103.9	104.9
Gross input	99.2	96.5	97.0	91.0	92.6	95.6
Gross value added	103.0	106.5	102.4	105.6	116.6	115.4
Net value added	105.5	108.4	103.1	110.7	127.2	125.2

1. Calculated by applying 1995 output and input prices to the volume of each item of output and input in every year. The resulting series, therefore, represent volume changes.

Table 2.4 Estimated cash flow for agriculture

£ million

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Total income from farming	**180.7**	**93.4**	**97.4**	**117.5**	**190.6**	**129.2**
Less:						
output stock change	+1.7	-12.4	+1.0	-8.3	+4.2	-4.1
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	72.1	43.1	36.4	39.2	57.3	48.8
capital investment[1]	112.7	79.8	75.6	87.0	103.6	102.4
Plus:						
input stock change	-0.4	+1.4	-1.9	+0.2	+0.9	-1.0
capital consumption	220.1	217.2	216.9	209.3	227.2	222.3
capital grants paid in year[2]	15.0	17.4	5.6	2.8	2.4	1.2
change in borrowings	52.7	41.7	14.7	15.0	-13.4	3.0
Cash available to farm families from farming	**281.6**	**260.6**	**219.8**	**227.0**	**242.6**	**207.8**

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

Table 2.5 Aggregate gross margin estimates for the main agricultural sectors[1]

2001 (Revised)

Form of production	Adjusted outputs[2]	Estimated specific costs[3]: Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total	Sector gross margins[4]	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	384.9	69.5	15.9	13.2	98.6	286.3	39.9
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	350.9	66.6	29.6	21.3	117.6	233.4	32.5
Sheep and wool	68.1	11.8	9.9	5.2	26.9	41.3	5.8
Total grazing livestock	**804.0**	**147.9**	**55.4**	**39.7**	**243.0**	**560.9**	**78.2**
Pigs	62.9	36.8	-	2.6	39.4	23.5	3.3
Poultry	129.8	91.7	-	3.6	95.3	34.5	4.8
Total pigs and poultry	**192.7**	**128.6**	**-**	**6.1**	**134.7**	**58.0**	**8.1**
Cereals	33.3	-	6.5	-	6.5	26.7	3.7
Potatoes	21.2	-	4.8	-	4.8	16.4	2.3
Total field crops	**54.4**	**-**	**11.3**	**-**	**11.3**	**43.1**	**6.0**
Horticulture[5]	64.2	-	17.3	2.6	19.9	44.3	6.2
Other items	14.1	2.2	0.9	0.1	3.2	10.9	1.5
Total	**1,129.4**	**278.6**	**84.9**	**48.5**	**412.1**	**717.3**	**100.0**

2002 (Provisional)

Form of production	Adjusted outputs[2]	Estimated specific costs[3]: Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays	Others	Total	Sector gross margins[4]	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
Dairy cows and followers	337.8	73.6	17.1	12.5	103.3	234.5	35.4
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	375.3	69.0	31.8	24.8	125.6	249.7	37.7
Sheep and wool	64.5	12.0	8.9	5.0	25.9	38.6	5.8
Total grazing livestock	**777.6**	**154.6**	**57.9**	**42.3**	**254.8**	**522.8**	**78.9**
Pigs	59.3	35.9	-	2.5	38.4	20.8	3.1
Poultry	139.6	99.7	-	3.9	103.7	36.0	5.4
Total pigs and poultry	**198.9**	**135.7**	**-**	**6.4**	**142.1**	**56.8**	**8.6**
Cereals	27.2	-	7.4	-	7.4	19.8	3.0
Potatoes	23.9	-	5.7	-	5.7	18.2	2.7
Total field crops	**51.1**	**-**	**13.1**	**-**	**13.1**	**38.0**	**5.7**
Horticulture[5]	57.0	-	16.7	2.7	19.4	37.6	5.7
Other items	11.3	2.5	1.0	0.1	3.6	7.7	1.2
Total	**1,095.9**	**292.7**	**88.6**	**51.6**	**433.0**	**663.0**	**100.0**

1. Owing to changes in methodology, these estimates are not comparable with those for years prior to 1999.
2. The items making up total gross output (as shown in Table 2.1) have been regrouped into the above enterprises and adjusted as follows:-
   (i) Outputs have been adjusted for changes in the beginning and end-of-year valuations. In the case of breeding livestock, stock appreciation has been excluded;
   (ii) Outputs include compensation payments.
3. Estimates of the costs of the inputs of seed, fertiliser, spray, purchased feedstuffs and home grown cereals have been allocated amongst the various enterprises on the basis of results obtained from analysis of the Farm Business Survey. Other variable costs have been allocated as appropriate. No attempt has been made to allocate fuel, machinery or other overhead expenses.
4. 'Sector gross margins' represent the value of products remaining after deducting most of the variable costs and give a useful measure of the contribution of each enterprise to the earnings of the agricultural industry.
5. Comprises fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and hardy nursery stock.

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

	Units of quantity	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves[2]	tonnes dcw	121,054	120,133	113,865	121,263	118,229	128,267
Over Thirty Months Scheme[3]	tonnes carcase wt	24,617	29,660	31,413	28,427	28,315	34,103
Sheep and lambs[4]	tonnes dcw	23,828	25,368	24,873	23,534	25,852	19,317
Pigs[5]	,,	95,533	96,138	87,650	65,050	69,274	70,259
Cattle and calves[2]	'000 head	386	395	387	409	385	420
Calf Processing Aid Scheme	,,	54	67	36	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs[4]	,,	1,130	1,241	1,228	1,127	1,207	926
Pigs[5]	,,	1,342	1,344	1,213	900	940	942
Poultry[6]	'000 tonnes lwt	158.8	163.2	160.7	158.5	161.7	184.3
Eggs[7]	m. doz	69.1	71.9	64.0	65.1	68.2	67.4
Milk	m. litres	1,501	1,510	1,573	1,635	1,800	1,779
Field crops							
Wheat	'000 tonnes	46.3	48.0	32.6	34.7	29.8	38.0
Barley	,,	176.6	168.0	159.3	176.4	169.1	131.7
Oats	,,	11.4	12.2	11.7	14.3	12.6	12.2
Potatoes	,,	293.5	276.9	270.7	294.2	248.2	254.4
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	'000 tonnes	31.4	28.0	26.2	45.9	51.2	37.1
Vegetables	,,	37.4	35.6	31.3	42.1	47.0	49.0
Mushrooms	,,	26.5	26.5	25.2	22.2	25.0	24.0

1. Estimated home-produced sales, on-farm use and household consumption. See Footnote 2 to Table 2.1.
2. Excludes cattle slaughtered under the Over Thirty Months Scheme, Calf Processing Aid Scheme and under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.
3. Cattle processed under the Over Thirty Months Scheme are not dressed to a normal carcase specification. Therefore, care must be taken when comparing the weight of beef processed under this Scheme with the weight of beef sold for human consumption.
4. Excludes sheep slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.
5. Includes pigs slaughtered under the 1998 and 2000 Pig Welfare Slaughter Schemes and exports of store pigs. Pigs slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures are excluded.
6. Excludes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds and hatching eggs.
7. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.

Table 2.7 Average producer prices[1] of agricultural products

£ per unit

	Unit	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls[2]	head	526	437	453	466	478	482
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls[2]	kg dwt	1.67	1.43	1.52	1.55	1.55	1.56
Calves slaughtered or exported[3]	head	69	62	47	98	119	79
Culled cows and bulls[2]	head	340	255	247	246	270	267
Culled cows and bulls[2]	kg dwt	1.37	1.14	1.10	1.03	1.09	1.09
Store cattle exported	head	430	334	347	381	401	397
Finished sheep and lambs	head	51.33	39.26	35.43	39.06	50.41	46.18
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	2.51	1.98	1.80	1.92	2.47	2.27
Finished clean pigs[4]	head	74.68	51.40	50.58	59.51	66.46	62.65
Finished clean pigs[4]	kg dwt	1.05	0.73	0.71	0.83	0.92	0.85
Culled sows and boars	head	101	50	52	67	84	69
Milk[5]	litre	0.213	0.200	0.192	0.185	0.190	0.164
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.349	0.303	0.322	0.376	0.328	0.359
Broilers	kg lwt	0.574	0.531	0.507	0.496	0.518	0.509
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop[6]	tonne	63	112	123	71	97	96
Seed	tonne	69	102	167	66	87	159
Barley	tonne	90	83	83	77	78	76
Wheat	tonne	96	87	84	81	86	77
Mushrooms	tonne	1,146	1,150	1,190	1,243	1,150	1,150
Apples	tonne	214	248	102	111	112	106

1. Before deduction of marketing charges, commissions and levies, where applicable. Animals slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures are not included.
2. Includes cattle slaughtered under the Over Thirty Months Scheme.
3. Includes calves processed under the Calf Processing Aid Scheme.
4. Includes pigs slaughtered under the 1998 Pig Welfare Slaughter Scheme.
5. Before deduction of superlevy, if applicable.
6. Does not include early potatoes. Therefore, the price differs from that quoted in Table 2.26.

Table 2.8 Indices of producer prices[1] of agricultural output

Indices: 1995 = 100

	Weights[2]	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Finished steers and heifers[3]	260	74	63	67	68	68	69
Culled cows and bulls[3]	44	75	63	61	57	60	60
Store cattle exported	4	80	62	65	71	75	74
Finished sheep and lambs	44	120	95	86	92	119	109
Finished clean pigs	94	93	65	63	74	82	76
Culled sows and boars	2	80	42	45	57	58	48
Milk	321	82	76	73	71	73	63
Eggs for consumption	25	88	76	81	95	83	90
Broilers	61	105	97	92	90	94	93
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	31	36	63	70	41	55	55
Seed	12	32	48	78	31	41	75
Barley	18	76	70	70	64	65	64
Wheat	6	78	71	68	65	69	62
Mushrooms	26	95	95	98	103	95	95
Apples	5	155	180	74	81	82	77
Total products index[2]	**953**	**82**	**73**	**73**	**72**	**75**	**71**

1. The indices relate to prices from which marketing expenses have not been deducted. Animals slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures are not included.
2. The total products index is calculated by taking into account the significance of each item in the base period (1995). This is shown in the column of weights. Since only the main items of output are included, the total of their weights does not add to 1,000. Also, since the price index does not cover items such as production grants, compensation payments and gross fixed capital formation, it should not be regarded as a 'deflator' to be used in estimating the volume of output. (A volume series of gross output is given in Table 2.3).
3. Includes cattle slaughtered under the Over Thirty Months Scheme.

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

£ per head

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001[2]	2002 (provisional)
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	665	552	561	559	761	623
Dairy cows in calf	624	487	446	438	617	488
Dairy springing heifers		480	475	477	693	483
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	618	452	425	471	521	538
Beef cows in calf	558	357	328	334	400	434
Beef springing heifers		409	389	395	469	490
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	355	258	241	280	314	342
300-400 kg steers	418	329	326	358	385	403
400-500 kg steers	493	379	394	421	445	470
Over 500 kg steers		452	486	492	515	555
150-300 kg heifers	253	178	144	183	207	244
300-400 kg heifers	331	247	242	279	297	325
400-500 kg heifers	424	331	349	365	372	403
Over 500 kg heifers		419	433	447	448	480
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	281	174	175	202	206	205
Over 200 kg steers	381	272	297	329	380	404
Under 200 kg heifers	157	81	76	115	143	150
Over 200 kg heifers	240	146	151	201	251	252
Dropped calves						
For rearing	130	84	50	48	63	80
For Calf Processing Aid Scheme (dairy type)	-	67	40	-	-	-
For Calf Processing Aid Scheme (beef type)	-	66	39	-	-	-
Cull cows	360	291	275	281	292	295
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface		32.63	26.87	38.23	56.17	59.07
Blackface Cross	35.92	41.41	29.81	43.74	-	62.33
Other breeds		45.37	34.48	41.78	56.02	62.81
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface		16.79	19.58	31.16	36.94	38.86
Blackface Cross	56.61	22.66	21.56	27.96	43.31	52.92
Other breeds		27.48	22.31	31.04	50.01	45.13
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	-	38.82	35.47	25.67	-	45.76
Blackface Cross	-	43.45	13.81	-	-	-
Other breeds	-	59.67	50.59	53.14	66.44	76.51
Cull ewes						
Blackface		10.01	6.93	12.04	15.80	15.64
Blackface Cross	29.64	15.81	11.19	15.70	22.96	17.14
Other breeds		16.68	12.61	17.77	29.19	26.98
Cull rams	-	23.29	16.83	22.17	32.01	32.75
Store lambs	42.20	20.61	18.17	26.02	36.31	32.89
PIGS						
Breeding pigs						
Sows in pig	156	81	67	110	134	104
Springing gilts	172	100	53	120	-	102
Weaner/store pigs						
Under 15kg	22.68	10.18	11.51	15.75	21.17	13.98
15-30kg		15.82	15.70	19.93	24.79	20.34
30-45kg	40.73	22.21	23.16	26.74	34.82	31.32
Over 45kg		31.88	36.15	44.50	51.78	55.08
Cull sows	100.72	47.65	52.12	64.31	72.50	57.65
Cull boars	-	51.33	50.33	67.59	69.47	60.47

1. Average prices calculated from returns made by auction marts.
2. Due to Foot and Mouth Disease, livestock markets were closed for the following periods in 2001: cattle 22 February to 1 September; sheep 22 February to 1 October. Pig prices were unavailable from 22 February 2001 until 9 March 2002.

Table 2.10 Direct payments and levies included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account[1,2]

£ million[3]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001[4]	2002[4] (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS[5]						
Cereals						
Arable Area Payments Scheme	8.8	8.3	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.7
Arable Area Payments Scheme Agrimoney Compensation[6]	-	-	1.1	0.6	0.2	-
Total cereals	**8.8**	**8.3**	**8.2**	**8.0**	**7.4**	**7.7**
Other crops[6]	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6
Cattle						
Beef Special Premium	39.1	37.3	34.0	35.8	38.4	43.5
Beef Special Premium Agrimoney Compensation[6]	-	-	4.6	3.0	4.7	-
Suckler Cow Premium	42.7	41.4	37.8	36.1	38.7	44.6
Suckler Cow Premium - BSE Top-up	7.7	-	-	-	-	-
Suckler Cow Premium - Agrimoney Compensation[6]	13.2	8.6	5.3	3.5	5.1	-
Flagged Suckler Herd Payments	1.6	0.5	-	-	-	-
Extensification Supplement	21.3	21.2	19.2	25.7	27.6	33.1
Extensification Supplement Agrimoney Compensation[6]	-	-	2.3	2.0	3.2	-
Deseasonalisation Premium	6.0	5.6	2.6	-	-	-
Deseasonalisation Premium Agrimoney Compensation[6]	-	-	0.5	0.2	0.1	-
Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance	24.2	11.9	18.4	18.1	-	-
Over Thirty Months Scheme[7]	30.5	31.0	31.7	26.6	27.7	33.5
Calf Processing Aid Scheme[7]	3.7	4.0	1.4	-	-	-
Slaughter Premium	-	-	-	10.2	17.3	26.6
Foot and Mouth Disease compensation (non-capital)	-	-	-	-	1.5	-
Total cattle	**190.0**	**161.6**	**157.8**	**161.1**	**164.1**	**181.3**
Sheep						
Sheep Annual Premium[8]	20.9	25.9	22.5	17.9	10.3	18.7
Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance	3.7	3.8	5.9	5.8	-	-
Agrimoney Compensation[6]	0.9	2.3	0.8	2.0	1.4	-
Foot and Mouth Disease compensation (non-capital)	-	-	-	-	1.2	-
Total sheep	**25.5**	**32.0**	**29.1**	**25.7**	**12.9**	**18.7**
Pigs						
Pig Welfare Slaughter Scheme	-	0.5	-	-	-	-
Foot and Mouth Disease compensation (non-capital)	-	-	-	-	0.2	-
Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (Ongers)	-	-	-	-	-	0.7
Total pigs	**-**	**0.5**	**-**	**-**	**0.2**	**0.7**
Milk						
Milk Agrimoney Compensation[6]	-	-	-	2.4	9.2	-
Total milk	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2.4**	**9.2**	**-**
Other direct payments						
Set-aside (Arable Area Payments Scheme)	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital)	3.5	3.0	4.4	4.9	6.6	4.6
LFA Compensatory Allowance	-	-	-	-	24.6	23.5
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	0.9	1.0
Others[9]	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.4
Total other direct payments	**4.2**	**3.8**	**5.6**	**6.7**	**34.0**	**31.2**
Total direct payments	**228.6**	**206.4**	**201.1**	**204.1**	**228.2**	**240.1**
LEVIES[10]						
Milk						
Superlevy	1.2	5.3	0.5	2.6	-	-
Total levies	**1.2**	**5.3**	**0.5**	**2.6**	**-**	**-**

1. Table 2.1
2. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (i.e. they are on an accruals basis).
3. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.
4. Payments after 'modulation' (i.e.reduction) of 2.5% in 2001 and 3% in 2002, where applicable. Total modulation amounted to £3.6 million in 2001 and £5.4 million in 2002.
5. Excludes expenditure on market regulation (such as intervention purchases and export refunds) by the UK Rural Payments Agency.
6. Transitional, Definitive, Market Support and Premium Agrimoney Compensation, as applicable.
7. Gross producer receipts before marketing expenses.
8. Includes Rural World (LFA) Supplement.
9. Includes Sheep Compensation Scheme, Farm Woodlands Scheme, Organic Farming Scheme and other miscellaneous payments.
10. Excludes non-government levies.

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

£ million[2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Sub-programme for Agricultural and Rural Development	16.1	3.7	0.2	-	-	-
Farm and Countryside Enhancement Scheme	4.4	-	-	-	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas[3]	2.0	3.0	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.1
Farm Woodland Schemes	-	-	-	1.4	0.8	0.8
Miscellaneous grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total capital grants	**23.5**	**7.3**	**2.3**	**2.7**	**2.0**	**1.3**
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Foot and Mouth compensation (capital)	-	-	-	-	4.4	-
Other cattle disease compensation[4]	5.5	7.0	13.0	15.6	15.4	23.5
Other animal disease compensation[5]	4.1	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
Other miscellaneous payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other direct payments	**9.6**	**7.3**	**13.1**	**15.6**	**20.1**	**23.6**

1. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (i.e. they are on an accruals basis).
2. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.
3. Non-capital element is included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account.
4. Comprises tuberculosis, brucellosis, and BSE reactor compensation payments.
5. Comprises salmonella and the capital element of Newcastle Disease payments.

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

£ million

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Grant-aided investment[2]	50.1	53.1	116.3	36.5	41.7	46.8	43.3	9.5	1.3	1.3	0.5
Non-aided investment	3.5	3.7	8.1	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.1	14.0	18.8	25.8	24.3
Total buildings and works[3]	**53.6**	**56.9**	**124.5**	**39.1**	**44.6**	**50.1**	**46.4**	**27.1**	**20.1**	**27.0**	**24.8**
Plant and machinery	45.3	52.1	61.0	70.1	60.2	56.0	44.8	44.6	46.4	65.2	64.1
Vehicles[4,5]	16.7	25.4	20.2	23.2	24.4	19.2	15.5	15.4	17.0	18.1	17.6
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	**62.0**	**77.5**	**81.2**	**93.3**	**84.6**	**75.2**	**60.3**	**60.0**	**63.3**	**83.3**	**81.7**
Total investment	**115.7**	**134.4**	**205.6**	**132.4**	**129.2**	**125.3**	**106.7**	**87.0**	**83.5**	**110.3**	**106.5**

1. Excluding investment in forestry and arterial drainage.
2. Investment under the following schemes in various years: Agriculture and Horticulture Development, Agriculture Improvement, Farm and Conservation Enhancement, Farm and Conservation Schemes, Agricultural Development Operational Programme, Sub Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development.
3. From 1999, estimated from the Farm Business Survey.
4. Estimated from the Farm Business Survey.
5. Vehicles shown at 'farm share'.

Table 2.13 Total quotas and other subsidy ceilings

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Milk quota (million litres):						
Owned[1]	1,448.4	1,510.7	1,549.5	1,597.3	1,621.5	1,651.7
Leased[2]	17.0	2.6	-5.4	-15.0	60.2	198.7
Total	1,465.4	1,513.0	1,544.1	1,582.3	1,681.7	1,850.4
Suckler Cow Premium:						
Quota (no. of units)[3]	320,032	322,054	321,917	311,729	311,729	312,000
Premia paid (no. of cows)	307,616	315,725	310,701	304,835	305,126	306,000
Sheep Annual Premium:						
Quota (no. of units)[3]	1,321,306	1,425,965	1,425,965	1,425,965	1,425,965	1,508,658
Premia paid (no. of ewes)	1,303,136	1,326,275	1,345,899	1,285,009	1,202,376	1,100,000
Beef Special Premium:						
Reference herd (no. of steers)	236,507	234,683	234,683	234,683	...[4]	...[4]
Premia paid (no. of animals)						
steers: first age premium[5]	223,749	213,861	205,968	211,109	200,429	...
second age premium	216,827	215,443	203,406	216,261	196,118	...
bulls	9,869	10,845	17,598	41,392	59,057	...
Arable Area Payments:						
Base area (ha)	52,900	52,900	52,900	52,900	52,900	52,900
Area paid: crops (ha)	39,113	39,899	39,542	38,867	39,376	40,386
set-aside (ha)	1,078	1,316	2,473	2,498	3,096	2,965

1. Permanent wholesale and direct sale quota as at 31 March each year.
2. Quota leased-in to, less quota leased-out from Northern Ireland as at 31 March each year.
3. Quota shown is the total amount available in Northern Ireland, including the national reserve.
4. The Northern Ireland regional reference herd has been replaced by a UK wide ceiling.
5. Figures for first age premium are based on number of premia paid after scale back for the regional ceiling being exceeded.

Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms

number of persons

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	22,409	22,502	21,536	20,534	20,169	19,706
Part time	16,828	16,330	16,073	15,386	15,786	14,826
Total	**39,237**	**38,832**	**37,609**	**35,920**	**35,955**	**34,532**
Spouses of farmers	**7,001**	**7,042**	**7,034**	**7,034**	**6,520**	**6,201**
Other workers						
Full time	2,981	2,929	3,030	3,005	2,797	2,720
Part time	3,088	2,933	2,793	3,062	2,782	2,773
Casual/seasonal	9,570	9,360	8,785	8,802	8,308	8,047
Total other workers	**15,639**	**15,222**	**14,608**	**14,869**	**13,887**	**13,540**
Total agricultural labour force	**61,877**	**61,096**	**59,251**	**57,823**	**56,362**	**54,273**
Annual Work Units (AWUs)[2]	**36,625**	**36,435**	**34,973**	**33,557**	**32,590**	**31,600**

1. Full-time work is defined as involving 30 hours per week or more and casual work as covering less than 20 weeks per year.
2. An Annual Work Unit is equivalent to the time worked by one person employed full-time in agricultural activities over a whole year.

Table 2.15 Agricultural manpower[1]

number of persons

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
MANPOWER STATISTICS[1]						
Self-employed						
Male	20,791	20,834	20,006	19,247	18,768	18,393
Female	1,618	1,668	1,530	1,287	1,401	1,313
Total	**22,409**	**22,502**	**21,536**	**20,534**	**20,169**	**19,706**
Employees						
Male	13,730	13,440	12,962	12,957	12,245	11,848
Female	1,909	1,782	1,646	1,912	1,642	1,692
Total	**15,639**	**15,222**	**14,608**	**14,869**	**13,887**	**13,540**
Total agricultural manpower	**38,048**	**37,724**	**36,144**	**35,403**	**34,056**	**33,246**

1. Agricultural manpower statistics refer to the count of employees and self-employed workers in agriculture, as used by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in aggregate labour statistics. The count of self-employed includes farmers and partners who work full-time on their farms; the count of employees includes all other workers except part-time farmers and partners and farmers' spouses.

Table 2.16 Estimated employment in the food and drinks processing and input supply sectors[1]

full-time equivalents

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (provisional)
Processing of products[2]						
Animal by-products	270	270	250	280	260	250
Bakeries	3,800	3,580	3,330	3,320	3,290	3,200
Beef and sheepmeat	2,410	2,210	2,250	2,500	2,790	2,700
Drinks	1,760	1,820	1,840	1,820	1,820	1,800
Eggs	390	330	390	360	340	300
Fish	1,060	980	1,120	950	990	950
Fruit and vegetables	1,240	1,250	1,300	1,370	1,370	1,300
Milk and milk products	2,800	2,800	2,590	2,460	2,380	2,300
Pigmeat	2,330	2,400	2,360	1,990	1,490	1,500
Poultrymeat	3,810	3,800	3,970	3,780	4,100	4,000
Total processing sector	**19,870**	**19,440**	**19,400**	**18,830**	**18,830**	**18,300**
Manufacture and supply of inputs[3]						
Animal feed	830	830	820	790	820	800
Fertilisers and lime	500	520	520	490	500	500
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	850	820	820	820	830	830
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	920	920	920	900	880	870
Services[4]	1,600	1,520	1,530	1,520	1,500	1,400
Total supply sector	**4,700**	**4,610**	**4,610**	**4,520**	**4,530**	**4,400**
Total ancillary employment	**24,570**	**24,050**	**24,010**	**23,350**	**23,360**	**22,700**

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten employees.
2. For a description of how the data for processing have been estimated, see the publication "*Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector*", Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). Figures for 1996 and 1997 have been revised and figures for 2001 have been estimated by adjusting the 2000 baseline, largely on the basis of information available within DARD.
3. Estimated from trade directory information and other (mainly DARD) sources.
4. Includes contractors, veterinary surgeons, workers in auction marts, employees of farming and marketing associations and artificial insemination workers.

Table 2.17 External sales[1] of the food and drinks processing sector[2,3]

£ million

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (provisional)
Animal by-products	18	18	20	19	20	20
Bakeries	22	26	30	36	36	30
Beef and sheepmeat	307	264	225	222	237	230
Drinks	64	77	51	52	94	90
Eggs	43	34	35	33	35	30
Fish	56	59	66	59	60	60
Fruit and vegetables	58	64	70	69	72	70
Milk and milk products	408	320	352	344	325	300
Pigmeat	133	140	125	112	79	75
Poultrymeat	166	171	170	173	186	180
Total processing sector	**1,276**	**1,172**	**1,143**	**1,118**	**1,143**	**1,085**

1. The term 'external sales' refers to sales to Great Britain, RoI, foreign countries and intervention.
2. For a description of how the data have been estimated, see the publication "*Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector*", DARD. Figures for 1996 and 1997 have been revised and figures for 2001 have been estimated by adjusting the 2000 baseline, largely on the basis of information available within DARD.
3. These figures are not comparable with the export statistics published in pre-1996 issues of the *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture*.

B. COMMODITIES AND INPUTS

Cattle and calves

Marketings of finished clean cattle increased by 7.5 per cent in 2002, to 411,000 head. Almost all of these animals were destined for human consumption, the remainder being destroyed under the Over Thirty Months Scheme (OTMS). The increase in marketings was the result of 6.7 and 5.1 per cent rises in the number of steers and heifers slaughtered respectively. Slaughterings of young bulls also continued to rise in 2002, to total 53,000 head, an increase of 17 per cent on 2001 levels. At 310kg, the average carcase weight was similar to that in 2001. In total, the volume of clean beef output increased by 7.8 per cent to 127,000 tonnes. With the average deadweight price unchanged from 2001 levels, the overall effect of these changes was a rise of 8.4 per cent in the total sales value of finished clean cattle, to £198 million.

Disposals of culled cows and bulls increased by 21 per cent in 2002 to 124,000 head. The average carcase weight of these animals declined by 1.2 per cent while the price realised per kilogram deadweight was almost unchanged from 2001 levels. Ninety-seven per cent of cull cows and bulls were destroyed under the OTMS. Total receipts from cull cattle disposals increased by 19 per cent to £33.1 million.

Since the ending of the Calf Processing Aid Scheme (CPAS) on 31 July 1999, calf sales have declined to a very low level. In total 4,000 were sold in 2002, compared with 41,800 in 1999. The revenue generated amounted to £0.3 million.

Overall, the total sales value of cattle and calves in 2002 (including those sold into the OTMS) increased by 11 per cent to £235 million.

The total value of direct headage payments on cattle was 8.3 per cent higher in 2002 at £148 million. Beef Special Premium (BSP) payments increased by 13 per cent and Suckler Cow Premium (SCP) payments by 15 per cent, to £43.5 million and £44.6 million respectively. Receipts from Extensification Supplement rose by 20 per cent to £33.1 million. Payments under the Slaughter Premium scheme were 54 per cent higher at £26.6 million. In 2001, agrimoney compensation paid on various cattle schemes amounted to £13.1 million. No agrimoney compensation was payable in 2002.

Combining the sales value of cattle sold for human consumption with receipts from the OTMS, direct headage payments and year-end stock changes, less the cost of imported animals, returns from cattle production in 2002 totalled £371 million. This was an increase of 9.6 per cent on 2001 but a drop in real terms of 25 per cent compared with 1995 (the last year before the BSE crisis and sterling's appreciation).

Milk

The annual average dairy cow population was similar to that in 2001 at 296,000 head. However, mainly as a result of weather conditions, the average gross milk yield per cow fell by 1.3 per cent to 6,140 litres.

The drop in milk yield caused total milk sales to fall by 1.2 per cent in 2002 to 1,779 million litres. Nevertheless, milk sales were 23 per cent above 1996 levels, reflecting purchases and increased leasing of milk quota from Great Britain.

The average producer price for milk fell steeply in 2002, by 14 per cent, resulting in the lowest annual average price in nominal terms since 1987. As a result, the value of milk output was 17 per cent lower at £292 million.

Sheep and lambs

Marketings of clean sheep and lambs continued to decline in 2002, falling to 864,000 head, an 18 per cent decrease compared with 2001. Average dressed carcase weight was unchanged in 2002, at 20.4 kilograms per head. The volume of clean sheepmeat produced fell by 18 per cent to 17,600 tonnes. Producer prices also fell, by 8.4 per cent, to 227 pence per kilogram deadweight, with the result that market returns from clean sheep and lambs decreased by 25 per cent to £39.9 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams decreased by 43 per cent to 62,300 head. Although there was a 25 per cent rise in price, the overall value of market receipts fell by 29 per cent, to £1.5 million.

Total market returns from sheep production declined by 25 per cent, to £41.4 million.

In 2002, a flat rate Sheep Annual Premium (SAP) was introduced across the European Union. This replaced the previous premium which varied according to sheep prices. High sheep prices across the EU in 2001 had resulted in a low rate of SAP in that year. In 2002, receipts from the SAP (including Rural World Supplement) increased by 59 per cent, amounting to £18.7 million. This represented 32 per cent of the total value of sheep output which, nevertheless, decreased by 9.3 per cent to £59.3 million.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs marketed during 2002 was similar to 2001 levels at 928,000 head. Average dressed carcase weight also increased, by 1.7 per cent to 73.6kg. These increases resulted in a rise of 2.1 per cent, to 68,300 tonnes, in the quantity of pigmeat produced. Producer prices declined by 7.3 per cent, to 85.1 pence per kilogram deadweight. Overall market returns from clean pig production were 5.4 per cent lower at £58.1 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars decreased by 17 per cent to 12,800 head. The average price per head also declined, by 18 per cent, causing market returns from cull sow and boar sales to fall by 32 per cent, to £0.9 million.

Overall, the value of pig output in 2002 decreased by 6.2 per cent, to £58.7 million.

Poultry

The total volume of poultrymeat production in 2002 increased by 14 per cent to 184,000 tonnes liveweight. Broiler chicken production rose by 17 per cent to 162,000 tonnes liveweight, its highest level ever. Turkey production decreased by 5.2 per cent to 13,700 tonnes liveweight. Although average producer prices declined by 1.2 per cent, the value of poultrymeat output increased by 13 per cent to £92.1 million. The total value of poultry output (including the export of poultry and hatching eggs, net of imports, and a small positive stock change) was 8.0 per cent higher than in 2001, at £115 million. Within this total, the value of broiler chicken output rose by 15 per cent, to £82.3 million.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs in 2002 decreased by 1.2 per cent, to 64.9 million dozen eggs. However, the average producer price increased by 9.3 per cent from the 2001 level, leading to a rise in the overall value of egg output of 8.0 per cent, to £24.2 million (including eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

In 2002, the area of potatoes increased by 0.7 per cent, to 6,700 hectares, and the average yield decreased by 0.7 per cent, to 39.3 tonnes per hectare. Consequently, the total potential quantity of potatoes harvested was virtually unchanged at 264,000 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes in 2002 were slightly up at 190,000 tonnes. This comprised a year-on-year reduction in sales of 4.8 per cent during the first half of the year and a 9.3 per cent increase during the second half of the year. Over the year, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) rose by 16 per cent to 36,000 tonnes. In total, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) in 2002 increased by 2.5 per cent to 254,000 tonnes.

The average price of ware potatoes in 2002 was £99 per tonne, which was similar to 2001. The average price of seed potatoes increased by 84 per cent, to £159 per tonne. The total value of potato output (including a negative stock change of £0.8 million) increased by 13 per cent, to £23.9 million.

Cereals

The area of wheat in 2002 was 76 per cent higher than in the previous year. Coupled with a 4.5 per cent increase in yield, this resulted in an increase in production of 84 per cent, to 47,000 tonnes. Yields of both spring and winter barley fell by 26 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. The area of spring barley also fell by 18 per cent to 24,500 hectares, but that of winter barley increased by 41 per cent to 3,900 hectares. Therefore, production of spring barley decreased by 40 per cent while winter barley production increased by 20 per cent. Overall there was a decrease in barley production of 33 per cent, to 112,000 tonnes. With the area of oats almost static at 2,400 hectares, a decrease of 3 per cent in the yield of oats led to a slight decrease in production, to 12,000 tonnes.

In total, the production of cereals in 2002 decreased by 17 per cent, to 171,000 tonnes.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2002 decreased by 22 per cent compared with the previous year, while the average producer price decreased by 2.3 per cent. This resulted in a decrease in total market returns, to £10.0 million. The value of Arable Area Payments totalled £5.7 million. Including a negative stock change of £1.5 million, the value of barley output declined by 25 per cent, to £14.3 million.

In 2002, the average producer price for wheat fell by 9.9 per cent. However, the volume of wheat output increased by 27 per cent, which resulted in a rise in total market returns of 15 per cent, to £2.9 million. The value of Arable Area Payments increased by 67 per cent on 2001 levels, to £1.5 million. As a result, the total value of wheat output (including a small positive stock change) increased by 65 per cent, to £5.2 million.

The volume of oats output decreased by 2.9 per cent in 2002. The average producer price also fell, by 7.5 per cent, resulting in total market returns of £0.9 million, a decline of 10 per cent on 2001 levels. Arable Area Payments increased by 6.7 per cent, to £0.4 million. Overall, the total value of oats output declined by 8.4 per cent, to £1.3 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2002 decreased by 8.2 per cent, to £58.6 million. Returns from sales of fruit (mainly apples) decreased by 56 per cent to £3.0 million (including a negative stock change of £1.9 million). There was a 28 per cent fall in the volume of apple output and a 6.2 per cent decline in the average price. The value of output of mushrooms decreased by 4.0 per cent to £27.6 million and receipts from the sale of vegetables by 4.4 per cent, to £14.9 million.

Feedstuffs

The total volume of compound feedstuffs purchased during 2002 increased by 8 per cent, to 1.48 million tonnes. Purchases of cattle compounds rose by 9.3 per cent, pig compounds by 6.2 per cent, poultry compounds by 6.1 per cent and sheep compounds by 9.2 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) increased by 1.5 per cent, to 336,000 tonnes. In total, there was a 6.6 per cent increase, to 1.85 million tonnes, in the total volume of feed purchased.

The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) decreased in 2002 by 1.3 per cent, to £155 per tonne. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs (including a small stock change) rose by 5.2 per cent, to £288 million.

Fertilisers and lime

The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2002 increased by 3.2 cent to 427,000 tonnes product weight and the average price increased by 0.9 per cent, to £135 per tonne. As a result, the total value of fertiliser purchases rose by 4.2 per cent, to £57.5 million.

The total lime bill fell by 6.9 per cent to £1.4 million. This was due to an 8.5 per cent decrease in the volume of lime purchased, while the average price increased slightly.

Marketing expenses

Marketing expenses increased by 13 per cent in 2002, to £39.9 million. Those for cattle rose significantly, to £24.2 million, while those for sheep increased slightly to £4.1 million. Marketing expenses for milk and pigs declined slightly.

Machinery expenses

Machinery expenses rose, by 5.1 per cent, to £78.8 million in 2002. Within this total, expenditure on repairs increased by 2.8 per cent and that on fuel and oil by 6.5 per cent. Other machinery expenses rose by 6.5 per cent.

Interest

Bank advances for current farming purposes showed a small increase in 2002. However, the rate of interest charged decreased, by 1.1 percentage points, to 6.5 per cent. As a result, the total interest bill fell by 13 per cent, to £35.0 million.

Labour

In 2002, the volume of paid labour input was only slightly down on 2001 levels at 9.0 million hours. The average hourly labour cost rose by 3.0 per cent, resulting in a small increase in the paid labour bill, to £48.8 million.

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Table 2.18 Output of cattle and calves

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls[1]						
Sales (inc. to the OTMS) ('000 head)	387.6	393.2	379.1	397.4	382.4	411.2
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[2]	167.2	143.4	152.4	154.6	154.8	155.5
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[3]	314.8	304.5	297.1	301.1	308.8	309.7
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[3]	122.0	119.7	112.6	119.7	118.1	127.3
Value of output (inc. sales to OTMS) (£m)	204.0	171.7	171.7	185.0	182.7	198.1
Cows and bulls[1]						
Sales (inc. to the OTMS) ('000 head)	84.8	118.1	125.8	108.4	102.5	124.0
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[2]	137.1	113.0	110.1	103.2	108.6	108.5
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[3]	247.6	224.0	224.4	238.2	248.7	245.6
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[3]	21.0	26.5	28.2	25.8	25.5	30.5
Value of output (inc. sales to OTMS) (£m)	28.8	29.9	31.1	26.7	27.7	33.1
Calves						
Sales (inc. to the CPAS) ('000 head)	55.8	69.7	41.8	6.8	2.7	4.0
Average producer price (£ per head)[2]	69	62	47	98	119	79
Value of output (inc. sales to CPAS) (£m)	3.8	4.3	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.3
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	1.7	3.3	5.7	5.9	1.1	6.5
Average producer price (£ per head)[2]	430	334	347	381	401	397
Value of output (£m)	0.7	1.1	2.0	2.2	0.4	2.6
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	2.5	2.5	1.3	1.3	0.1	1.8
Average producer price (£ per head)	779	585	574	558	1222	625
Value of output (£m)	2.0	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	1.1
Other receipts (£m)[4]	155.8	126.5	124.7	134.5	136.5	147.8
***less* Imported cattle**						
Marketings ('000 head)	24.3	6.5	14.5	22.8	26.6	23.2
Average producer price (£ per head)	476	468	465	498	508	489
Value of output (£m)	11.6	3.1	6.7	11.3	13.5	11.3
Total value of output (inc. OTMS and CPAS) (£m)	**380.8**	**326.0**	**325.0**	**332.6**	**338.9**	**371.4**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	-2.8	-6.2	-0.4	-5.8	+5.2	-0.2
Net receipts from non-food outlets (included above)						
Over Thirty Months Scheme (£m)[5]	30.5	31.0	31.7	26.6	27.1	33.5
Calf Processing Aid Scheme (£m)	3.7	4.0	1.4	-	-	-

1. Excludes animals slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.
2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses for cattle for human consumption and for destruction under the Over Thirty Months Scheme or Calf Processing Aid Scheme, if applicable.
3. Including animals sold under the Over Thirty Months Scheme.
4. Includes Suckler Cow Premium, Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance, Beef Special Premium, Beef Deseasonalisation Premium, Extensification Supplement, Agrimoney Compensation, Slaughter Premium, Flagged Suckler Herd Payments, BSE related supplements and Foot and Mouth Disease Compensation (non-capital) payments. The LFA Compensatory Allowance is included with 'other subsidies'.
5. Excludes Slaughter Premium.

Table 2.19 Sources of home-fed finished cattle marketed[1]

per cent

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Cows and bulls	18	23	25	21	21	23
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	35	30	27	27	30	34
- the beef herd;	44	42	47	50	47	39
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	2	4	1	2	2	4
Total[2]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number marketed ('000 head)	**474**	**511**	**505**	**506**	**483**	**524**

1. Includes cattle slaughtered under the Over Thirty Months Scheme and the BSE Selective Cull.
2. Individual items may not add to 100 due to roundings.

Table 2.20 Output of milk

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	279.9	286.3	285.7	286.1	295.5	295.9
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum)[1]	5,510	5,410	5,640	5,850	6,220	6,140
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	1,501	1,510	1,573	1,635	1,800	1,779
of which:						
sales off farms	1,493	1,503	1,565	1,627	1,793	1,773
used in farm households	8	7	8	7	7	7
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price[2]	21.21	19.61	19.12	18.37	18.95	16.37
Net price[3]	20.63	19.32	18.54	17.96	18.40	15.86
Other receipts (£m)[4]	-	-	-	2.4	9.2	-
Value of output (£m)[2]	**319.3**	**297.0**	**301.5**	**302.7**	**351.7**	**292.3**

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

Table 2.21 Output of sheep

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished sheep and lambs	1,020	1,123	1,115	1,019	1,056	864
Culled ewes and rams	110.1	118.3	113.0	108.2	109.4	62.3
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished sheep and lambs	250.6	198.2	179.6	192.4	247.4	226.5
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	20.5	19.8	19.7	20.3	20.4	20.4
Output of all sheep and lambs						
Quantity ('000 tonnes)	23.8	25.4	24.9	23.5	24.6	19.3
Market value (£m)	54.9	46.0	40.8	41.6	55.3	41.4
Other receipts (£m)[3]	25.5	32.0	29.1	25.7	12.9	18.7
Value of output (£m)[4]	**81.2**	**77.2**	**68.6**	**66.5**	**65.4**	**59.3**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+2.0	+0.0	-0.5	+0.2	-2.5	+0.7

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports but excluding animals slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.
2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.
3. Comprising Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance, Sheep Annual Premium, Rural World (LFA) Supplement, Agrimoney Compensation and Foot and Mouth Disease Compensation (non-capital) payments. The LFA Compensatory Allowance is included with 'other subsidies'.
4. Includes breeding and store sheep exported less all sheep imported.

Table 2.22 Output of pigs

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished clean pigs	1,285.4	1,313.7	1,192.4	884.6	924.1	927.7
Culled sows and boars	24.6	22.4	17.7	13.1	15.4	12.8
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished clean pigs[3]	104.8	72.5	70.6	83.0	91.8	85.1
Culled sows and boars	76.5	39.6	42.6	54.8	55.7	45.8
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs[3]	71.3	70.9	71.6	71.7	72.4	73.6
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	95.5	96.1	87.7	65.1	69.2	70.3
Value of output (£m)[4]	**102.7**	**68.8**	**59.5**	**52.3**	**62.6**	**58.7**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.7	-0.6	-2.0	-1.2	+0.4	-0.3

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports and pigs slaughtered under the 1998 and 2000 Pig Welfare Slaughter Schemes. Excludes animals slaughtered under Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.
2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses, including receipts from the 1998 and 2000 Pig Welfare Slaughter Schemes.
3. Clean pig producer prices and carcase weights changed from a UK to an EU carcase dressing specification from 1997. This change increased the average price per kilogram by approximately 1.6% and reduced the average carcase weight by a similar amount.
4. Includes breeding and store pigs exported less all pigs imported. Also includes receipts from 1998 and 2000 Pig Welfare Slaughter Schemes, Foot and Mouth Disease compensation (non-capital) payments and Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (Ongoers).

Table 2.23 Output of poultry

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	158.8	163.2	160.7	158.5	161.7	184.3
Broilers	132.2	134.6	135.9	135.4	138.2	161.7
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	58.1	53.7	49.8	48.9	50.6	50.0
Broilers	57.4	53.1	50.7	49.6	51.8	50.9
Value of output (£m)[1]						
All poultry (including broilers)	**111.2**	**107.3**	**98.4**	**97.8**	**106.9**	**115.4**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	+0.8	+0.5
Broilers	75.9	71.4	69.0	67.2	71.6	82.3

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

Table 2.24 Output of eggs

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	66.7	69.7	61.7	62.2	65.7	64.9
Average producer price (p per dozen)[1]	35.1	30.4	32.4	38.1	33.1	36.1
Value of output (£m)[2]	**24.1**	**21.8**	**20.6**	**24.5**	**22.4**	**24.2**

1. Relates to graded eggs sold through packing stations.
2. Includes eggs for processing, duck eggs and unrecorded sales.

Table 2.25 Crop production

harvest years

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
Potatoes[1]						
Area ('000 hectares)	7.8	7.5	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.7
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	39.8	37.1	42.4	43.4	39.6	39.3
Production ('000 tonnes)	309.3	279.0	319.7	294.0	263.8	263.7
of which:						
saleable potatoes	275.4	250.8	287.6	258.9	236.9	238.0
chats[2] and waste	33.9	28.2	32.1	35.1	26.9	25.7
Barley[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	36.5	34.8	35.7	32.6	32.8	28.5
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	4.88	4.41	4.70	5.49	5.12	3.92
Production ('000 tonnes)	178.0	153.5	168.0	179.1	167.9	111.7
Wheat[4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	6.9	7.1	3.3	5.0	4.1	7.2
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.02	6.94	6.76	7.26	6.23	6.51
Production ('000 tonnes)	48.5	49.6	22.0	36.2	25.6	47.1
Oats[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.4
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.16	4.53	4.41	4.81	5.26	5.10
Production ('000 tonnes)	12.3	11.8	12.3	14.2	12.8	12.0
Oilseed rape[5]						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.13	2.84	2.96	2.86	2.60	3.50
Production ('000 tonnes)	1.6	2.5	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.3
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	31.4	13.9	20.3	25.7	22.2	13.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	7.42	6.79	6.98	6.77	8.43	6.24
Production ('000 tonnes)	233.2	94.4	141.9	174.4	186.8	86.3
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	277.8	289.6	285.6	287.1	299.1	286.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	29.47	27.07	29.33	26.32	27.61	25.00
Production ('000 tonnes)	8,186.1	7,837.4	8,374.5	7,556.5	8,260.2	7,169.1

1. Includes early, maincrop ware and seed crops.
2. Under 40 mm.
3. Comprises spring and winter varieties.
4. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 15% moisture content.
5. Area and production estimates include industrial-use oilseed rape grown on set-aside land. Areas are taken from the Arable Area Payments Scheme. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 9% moisture content.

Table 2.26 Output[1] of potatoes, barley and wheat

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
POTATOES[2]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	203.7	201.7	203.3	229.4	187.8	190.4
Seed	55.4	44.4	37.8	31.2	31.2	36.1
Stockfeed	34.4	30.8	29.7	33.7	29.2	27.9
Total	**293.5**	**276.9**	**270.7**	**294.2**	**248.2**	**254.4**
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	63.94	114.46	121.86	74.58	98.44	98.70
Seed	69.01	101.75	167.26	66.35	86.77	159.34
Value of output (£m)						
Ware	13.0	23.1	24.8	17.1	18.5	18.8
Seed	3.8	4.5	6.3	2.1	2.7	5.7
Stockfeed	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total	**16.7**	**25.4**	**33.0**	**17.3**	**21.2**	**23.9**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	-0.4	-2.4	+1.7	-2.1	-0.2	-0.8
BARLEY[3,4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	176.6	168.0	159.3	176.4	169.1	131.7
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	90.33	83.24	83.25	76.58	77.82	76.02
Value of output (£m)	**22.8**	**19.2**	**20.9**	**19.8**	**19.2**	**14.3**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.1	-1.2	+0.7	+0.2	-0.1	-1.5
WHEAT[3,4]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	46.3	48.0	32.6	34.7	29.8	38.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	96.18	87.48	84.29	80.52	85.87	77.35
Value of output (£m)	**6.3**	**5.9**	**2.7**	**4.1**	**3.1**	**5.2**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.2	+0.1	-0.9	+0.1	-0.4	+0.7

1. Output data are for calendar years and reflect the influence of two crop years.
2. Includes ware consumed in farm households and seed retentions but excludes in-store losses.
3. Includes cereals retained on the farm of origin or sold farm-to-farm.
4. Includes Arable Area Payments but excludes set-aside payments.

Table 2.27 Output of apples and mushrooms

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
APPLES[1]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	31.0	27.6	25.8	45.5	51.0	36.7
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	214	248	102	111	112	106
Value of output (£m)	**9.0**	**5.2**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**6.2**	**2.0**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+2.3	-1.7	+1.8	-0.6	+0.5	-1.9
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	26.5	26.5	25.2	22.2	25.0	24.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,146	1,150	1,190	1,243	1,150	1,150
Value of output (£m)	**30.4**	**30.5**	**30.0**	**27.6**	**28.8**	**27.6**

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

Table 2.28 Quantity and cost of the main items of expenditure (including interest and labour)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS[1]						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	1,715	1,669	1,717	1,641	1,739	1,854
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	180	164	153	152	157	155
Value of feed consumed (£m)	**308.4**	**275.0**	**261.0**	**249.0**	**273.6**	**287.7**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	-0.3	+1.5	-1.7	-0.1	+0.5	+0.3
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	445	446	468	445	414	427
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	164	158	172	162	147	152
of which:						
Nitrogen	112	110	121	114	102	105
Phosphate	23	22	24	22	20	21
Potash	29	26	28	27	25	26
Average cost (£ per tonne of nutrient)	403	347	340	337	375	378
Value of purchases (£m)	**66.3**	**54.8**	**58.6**	**54.6**	**55.2**	**57.5**
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	172	78	118	122	104	95
Average cost (£ per tonne)	13.50	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.25
Value of purchases (£m)	**2.3**	**1.1**	**1.7**	**1.7**	**1.5**	**1.4**
MARKETING EXPENSES[2]						
Cattle	20.1	21.0	20.5	20.9	18.9	24.2
Sheep	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.1
Pigs	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.6	2.5
Milk	9.8	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.8	9.1
Total	**36.3**	**36.2**	**35.3**	**35.6**	**35.2**	**39.9**
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	6.6	7.2	5.4	6.0	5.1	4.0
Total interest charges (£m)[3]	**45.1**	**52.1**	**44.0**	**46.0**	**40.4**	**35.0**
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid male workers	42.05	43.05	40.65	41.46	42.43	43.49
Average earnings of full-time paid male workers (£ per hour)[4]	4.27	4.43	4.67	5.17	5.27	5.32
Average earnings of full-time paid male workers (£ per week)[4]	179.52	190.75	189.84	214.35	223.61	231.37
Volume of paid labour (million hours)[5]	9.84	9.79	9.52	9.33	9.07	8.97
Value of paid labour (£m)[5]	**41.9**	**43.4**	**44.6**	**49.0**	**47.9**	**48.8**

1. Includes home-fed cereals, proteins and stockfeed potatoes.
2. Includes hired transport costs, auction fees, slaughter charges and interfarm expenses.
3. Includes interest on hire purchase and leasing agreements and trade credit.
4. Gross wage before deduction of tax and national insurance, and including the value of perks.
5. Excludes labour used on capital projects.

3. CROP AREAS AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Land use

Around 80 per cent of the Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing, and a further 6 per cent for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part of the forested area (83,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2001/2002*[1]).

Most farmland is under grass. Only 4,750 farms (17 per cent) have arable or horticultural crops. These crops occupy 52,600 hectares and make up only 5 per cent of the area of farms. Barley (28,500 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat and potatoes with 7,200 and 6,700 hectares respectively. In 2002, the cropped area also included 3,200 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,500 hectares) and vegetables (1,500 hectares). The area of cereals was 4 per cent lower in 2002 than in 2001. Over the 10 year period since 1992, there have been declines of 20 per cent in the areas both of all cereals and of all crops.

Grazing livestock

All but 6 per cent of Northern Ireland farms have cattle or sheep. In 2002, cattle were found on 24,400 farms (85 per cent), sheep on 9,500 farms (33 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 26,700 farms (94 per cent).

The total number of cattle recorded in the June 2002 census (1.68 million) was little different than in either 2000 or 2001. At June 2002, there were 297,900 dairy cows, 1 per cent more than in 2001, and, at 307,000, 2 per cent fewer beef cows. Compared with 1992 there were 11 per cent more dairy cows and 4 per cent more beef cows but the total number of cattle was virtually unchanged.

With 1.13 million ewes in 2002, the sheep breeding flock was 8 per cent smaller than in 2001; including lambs and other sheep the flock totalled 2.32 million. There are now 21 per cent fewer ewes than in 1992.

Intensive livestock

Pigs and/or poultry are found on 9 per cent of Northern Ireland's farms. This proportion falls to 5 per cent if farms with fewer than 50 birds are excluded.

The number of pigs in Northern Ireland at June 2002 was estimated at 387,700, 1 per cent more than in the previous June, while the number of pig herds fell by 13 per cent to 594. Numbers of sows and farms with sows fell by 3 and 16 per cent respectively between 2001 and 2002.

Since 1992, the total number of farms with pigs has fallen from 3,100 to just under 600 but, despite 43 per cent fewer pigs, average herd size has trebled.

With 16.9 million birds in June 2002, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was 18 per cent larger than in 2001. The number of laying birds (2.1 million) was largely unchanged but there were 27 per cent more broilers (11.3 million) in 2002.

Compared with June 1992 there were 35 per cent fewer laying hens in 2002 but there were more broilers and breeding birds, up by 52 and 138 per cent respectively.

[1] Available on the DARD website at www.dardni.gov.uk

Less Favoured Areas

The term Less Favoured Areas (LFA) is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of their relatively poor agricultural conditions, have been so designated under EU legislation. These areas, which include developed land as well as that used for agriculture and forestry, extend to 826,000 hectares. Further details are given in the Appendix.

Farms classed as **LFA farms** occupy 70 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 3.4). Crops are grown mainly on **lowland farms**, on which they occupy 12 per cent of farm land compared with 2 per cent elsewhere. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (248,100) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (148,700), whereas, on **lowland farms**, there were 58,900 beef cows and 149,300 dairy cows in 2002. **LFA farms** account for 42 and 59 per cent of the Province's pigs and poultry respectively.

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Table 3.1 Land use, 2002

thousand hectares

	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	53	995	8	11	1,067
Common grazing	-	41	-	-	41
NI Forest Service[1]	-	-	61	14	75
Other areas	-	-	14	154	168
All land[2]	**53**	**1,036**	**83**	**179**	**1,351**

1. Excludes 1,600 ha let to farmers; these areas are included in the area of farms.
2. Land area, excluding significant areas of inland water.

Table 3.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land, June 1997 - 2002

thousand hectares

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Oats	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.4
Wheat	6.9	7.1	3.3	5.0	4.1	7.2
Barley: Winter	7.7	7.7	5.1	5.2	2.8	3.9
Spring	28.7	27.1	30.6	27.4	30.0	24.5
Mixed corn	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Potatoes	7.8	7.5	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.7
Arable crop silage	1.7	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.9
Other field crops	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.1	2.4	2.7
Total agricultural crops	**56.6**	**55.9**	**53.2**	**50.8**	**50.9**	**49.5**
Fruit	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Other horticultural crops	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total horticultural crops	**3.1**	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.3**	**3.1**	**3.2**
Grass: Under 5 years old	181.9	155.6	140.9	141.6	140.2	136.4
5 years old and over	643.1	675.0	697.2	687.9	699.9	707.3
Total grass	**825.1**	**830.6**	**838.1**	**829.4**	**840.1**	**843.7**
Total crops and grass	**884.8**	**889.8**	**894.6**	**883.5**	**894.1**	**896.4**
Rough grazing[1]	164.1	159.1	158.7	156.5	154.1	151.6
Woods and plantations	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.2	7.9
Other land[2]	11.8	11.3	11.5	11.8	11.8	11.3
Total area of farms	**1,068.9**	**1,068.4**	**1,073.0**	**1,060.5**	**1,068.2**	**1,067.3**

1. Excludes common rough grazing (41,037 ha).
2. Includes set aside and land not used for agriculture.

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 1997 - 2002

thousand head

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
CATTLE						
Dairy cows						
In milk	259.4	266.8	267.1	265.7	275.4	276.2
In calf	19.8	20.8	19.3	18.6	19.6	21.7
Total dairy cows	**279.2**	**287.7**	**286.4**	**284.4**	**295.0**	**297.9**
Dairy heifers in calf	62.6	60.9	60.0	60.9	60.7	58.5
Beef cows						
In milk	272.1	287.1	274.2	262.2	260.2	255.5
In calf	51.8	57.6	58.0	55.8	51.6	51.5
Total beef cows	**323.9**	**344.7**	**332.2**	**318.0**	**311.8**	**307.0**
Beef heifers in calf	46.5	40.9	34.6	31.5	33.1	33.0
Total cows	**603.1**	**632.4**	**618.6**	**602.3**	**606.8**	**604.9**
Total heifers in calf	**109.1**	**101.8**	**94.6**	**92.4**	**93.7**	**91.5**
Bulls for service	16.5	17.1	16.9	16.3	16.7	16.5
Other cattle						
Over 2 years	101.2	108.6	105.7	106.8	110.3	111.4
1-2 years	417.3	409.6	402.1	387.8	380.3	387.8
Under 1 year	483.8	497.8	480.7	470.9	471.3	472.4
Total cattle	**1,731.0**	**1,767.3**	**1,718.6**	**1,676.5**	**1,679.1**	**1,684.5**
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	1,384.1	1,449.8	1,404.9	1,332.6	1,232.3	1,128.6
Other sheep	1,496.0	1,536.8	1,504.0	1,408.0	1,293.3	1,195.5
Total sheep	**2,880.1**	**2,986.6**	**2,908.9**	**2,740.6**	**2,525.6**	**2,324.2**
PIGS						
Sows and gilts	72.2	66.9	47.1	41.8	40.6	39.3
Other pigs	624.5	586.5	443.1	371.7	345.0	348.4
Total pigs	**696.7**	**653.4**	**490.2**	**413.5**	**385.6**	**387.7**
POULTRY						
Laying birds	2,648.9	2,562.1	2,140.1	2,300.0	2,142.6	2,099.4
Growing pullets	1,266.2	845.7	781.3	798.3	735.1	534.1
Breeding flock	2,138.2	2,334.5	2,266.1	2,196.3	2,145.2	2,506.2
Table chickens	8,994.9	8,854.1	9,342.0	9,655.4	8,863.6	11,273.3
Total ordinary fowl	**15,048.2**	**14,596.4**	**14,529.5**	**14,950.0**	**13,886.5**	**16,413.0**
Turkeys, geese and ducks	559.6	574.2	518.4	425.9	461.0	448.8
Total poultry	**15,607.8**	**15,170.6**	**15,047.9**	**15,375.9**	**14,347.5**	**16,861.8**
HORSES & PONIES	**9.9**	**9.8**	**9.9**	**9.5**	**10.1**	**10.1**
GOATS	**3.5**	**3.6**	**3.5**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**3.3**

Table 3.4 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1] of farm, June 2002

thousand hectares

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	2	7	9	30	23
Potatoes	0	1	2	5	26
Other agricultural crops	1	1	2	3	39
Horticultural crops	0	1	1	3	20
Total crops	**3**	**10**	**13**	**40**	**24**
Grass: Under 5 years old	42	39	81	55	60
5 years and over	285	212	497	210	70
Total grass	**328**	**251**	**578**	**265**	**69**
Rough grazing[2]	133	13	145	6	96
Woods/other land	6	4	10	9	52
Total area	**469**	**278**	**747**	**320**	**70**

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

Table 3.5 Livestock numbers by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1] of farm, June 2002

thousand head

	Numbers on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
CATTLE					
Dairy cows	50	99	149	149	50
Beef cows	161	87	248	59	81
Heifers in calf	23	28	51	40	56
Bulls for service	7	5	12	5	70
Other cattle					
Over 2 years	21	38	59	52	53
1-2 years	97	130	227	161	59
Under 1 year	171	143	314	158	67
Total cattle	**531**	**530**	**1,060**	**624**	**63**
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	643	263	907	222	80
Other sheep	661	296	956	239	80
Total sheep	**1,304**	**559**	**1,863**	**461**	**80**
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	6	11	17	22	44
Other pigs	52	96	148	201	42
Total pigs	**58**	**107**	**165**	**223**	**42**
POULTRY					
Laying birds	832	495	1,327	772	63
Table fowl	1,517	5,385	6,902	4,371	61
Other poultry	558	1,113	1,670	1,819	48
Total poultry	**2,907**	**6,993**	**9,900**	**6,962**	**59**
HORSES AND PONIES	**2**	**3**	**5**	**5**	**49**
GOATS	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**68**

1. See Note 1, Table 3.4.

4. FARM STRUCTURE

Methodological notes

In the agricultural census, the statistical definition of a farm[1] is the same as that applied under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), i.e. it is based on the concept of separate businesses. Until 1997, the definition was based on land ownership. The current definition is in keeping with that adopted for European Union surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, according to which a farm is:

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

but it differs from that used elsewhere in the UK.

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

Farms[1]

The number of active farm businesses included in the June 2002 census, 28,513, was 1,300 fewer than in 2001, following a fall of just 73 in 2001. This partly reflects the abnormal situation in 2001 when it is believed the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak may have delayed structural adjustments in the industry. The number of active farms fell by an average of 2.3 per cent per year from 2000 to 2002 and by an average of 1.9 per cent per year over the past 10 years.

A quarter of all farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass while just over 1,200 farms (4 per cent) have 100 hectares or more; these latter occupy 21 per cent of the crops and grass area.

Business size

Since quite large businesses can be operated on small areas (e.g. those with intensive livestock or horticultural crops), area alone does not accurately reflect the level of business activity. Standard Gross Margins (SGM) are used throughout the EU to measure farm business size. This concept has been adapted for use in the UK where, for statistical purposes, farms are classed as **very small, small, medium** or **large** according to their total SGM (see Appendix).

The majority of farm businesses in Northern Ireland, 54 per cent in 2002, are classified as **very small**. In 2002 there were 15,295 farms in this category (Table 4.3), 900 fewer than in 2001. These farms are unlikely to provide full-time employment or an adequate income solely from farming activities[2]. They contribute 10 per cent of the industry's total SGM but account for 24 per cent of the farmed area (Table 4.15). Their main activities are cattle rearing and fattening and they have 24 per cent of beef cows and 29 per cent of fattening cattle over one year old. Around 22,400 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.13).

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[1] In UK agricultural statistics publications, the terms 'holding' and 'farm' are used synonymously but, in Northern Ireland, where the owners of a significant proportion of holdings let out all of their land and take no part in agriculture, the former term refers to the areas under single ownership and the latter to the areas farmed in separate units, i.e. after adjustment for land let out or taken in conacre. This definition of 'farm' excludes holdings on which there is no farming activity.

[2] For further information on the persons living and working on farms of different sizes, see *Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland*, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), 2002 .

There are 9,387 **small** farms, generally involving one person full-time with, in some cases, part-time or seasonal help. These farms make important contributions to all sectors, from 20 per cent of pigs to 56 per cent of sheep and 58 per cent of beef cows; they cover 44 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 42 per cent of the full-time agricultural labour force (Table 4.15).

The 3,831 **medium** and **large** farms (together representing 13 per cent of the total number) contribute 56 per cent of the total SGM from under a third of the land area (Table 4.15). They are particularly dominant in the dairy, pigs and poultry sectors with, respectively, 83, 78 and 61 per cent shares of the livestock numbers.

Over 70 per cent of the **very small** and **small** farms are mainly in the LFA whereas, for **medium** and **large** farms, the proportions are 56 and 35 per cent respectively (Table 4.5).

Farm type

Eighty-seven per cent of Northern Ireland farms derive two-thirds or more of their total SGM from cattle and/or sheep (Table 4.6), including 16 per cent classified as **dairy** farms and 71 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping, 479 (2 per cent) being classed as **cereals** farms, 305 (1 per cent) as **general cropping** and 338 (1 per cent) as **horticulture**. These exclude specialist mushroom growers who, for statistical purposes, are included along with specialists in horses or goats, in the **other types** category (976). Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms (507) and **mixed** farms (1,004) make up 2 and 4 per cent of the total respectively.

Farm tenure

Most farms in Northern Ireland include some rented land; 7 per cent are entirely rented or leased, 47 per cent have a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 46 per cent are entirely owner-occupied (Table 4.9). Much of the rented land is taken under the conacre system of short-term lettings which is a particular feature of land tenure throughout Ireland. By renting conacre land, farmers may expand their businesses to grow more crops or keep more stock than would be possible on the area they own. Landowners who are unable or unwilling to farm all or part of their land may let it in conacre, i.e. on a seasonal basis, (nominally for 11 months or 364 days) without entering into a long-term commitment.

Enterprises

Tables 4.16 to 4.24 show the numbers of farms in 2002 having each enterprise and the distribution of enterprise sizes. They show that, in 2002, 4,933 farms (17 per cent) had dairy cows, 15,946 (56 per cent) had beef cows and 24,378 (85 per cent) had cattle of some type. The average number of dairy cows per herd, 60, was 2 more than in 2001. This compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of 19 cows. Over 37 per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with under 10 per cent of beef cows.

Some 9,300 farms had breeding sheep, with an average of 121 ewes per flock. There are relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, only 42 having 1,000 ewes or more.

Pigs were recorded on 594 farms, 13 per cent fewer than in 2001. Most of the pig herds (507 in 2002) had sows, averaging 78 sows per herd. Around a quarter (128) had fewer than 5 sows and 113 had 100 or more.

Although 1,173 farms recorded laying hens on their June census return, for the most part these were very small flocks. Only 91 farms had 1,000 or more birds (Table 4.21). A similar situation occurs with broiler flocks, where over 80 per cent of the birds were in 128 farm businesses (Table 4.21).

In 2002 cereals were grown on 3,429 farms, 12 per cent of the total. The average cereal enterprise consisted of 11.1 hectares (Table 4.24). While over 40 per cent (1,446) of the farms with cereals had under 5 hectares, the 107 farms which grew 50 hectares or more accounted for almost a quarter of the cereals area.

Some 1,007 farms, 4 per cent of the total, grew potatoes in 2002; of these, 181 with 10 hectares or more of the crop contributed over two-thirds of the total area (Table 4.25).

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Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed[1], June 2002

Size group (hectares)	By crops and grass area		By total area	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	362	-	69	-
0.1 - 9.9	6,775	37,723	5,981	33,226
10.0 - 19.9	6,657	96,620	6,236	91,207
20.0 - 29.9	4,433	108,629	4,359	107,307
30.0 - 49.9	5,023	193,650	5,339	206,613
50.0 - 99.9	4,022	273,713	4,680	321,261
100.0 - 199.9	1,072	139,709	1,488	198,370
200.0 +	169	46,315	361	109,278
Total	**28,513**	**896,360**	**28,513**	**1,067,262**

1. The area farmed is after adjustment for conacre taken or let.

Table 4.2 Number of farms, average area and distribution of area by area farmed, June 1997 - 2002

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of farms	32,118	31,817	31,132	29,891	29,818	28,513
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	27.5	28.0	28.7	29.6	30.0	31.4
Total area	33.3	33.6	34.5	35.5	35.8	37.4
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	5.5	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.2
10.0 - 19.9	12.5	12.1	12.0	11.7	11.4	10.8
20.0 - 29.9	13.6	13.5	13.3	12.9	12.7	12.1
30.0 - 49.9	22.9	23.0	22.4	22.5	22.4	21.6
50.0 - 99.9	30.0	30.0	30.6	30.8	30.8	30.5
100.0 +	15.6	16.1	16.6	17.5	18.0	20.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 4.3 Number of farms by business size and area farmed, June 2002

number

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Under 10	6,539	485	95	18	7,137
10.0 - 19.9	5,410	1,185	56	6	6,657
20.0 - 29.9	2,099	2,152	176	6	4,433
30.0 - 49.9	971	3,128	898	26	5,023
50.0 - 99.9	248	2,068	1,404	302	4,022
100.0 +	28	369	440	404	1,241
Total	**15,295**	**9,387**	**3,069**	**762**	**28,513**

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

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 1997 - 2002

number

Business size[1]	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Very small	16,859	16,470	16,493	15,535	16,153	15,295
Small	11,386	11,362	10,766	10,547	9,833	9,387
Medium	3,322	3,377	3,257	3,153	3,103	3,069
Large	551	608	616	656	729	762
Total	**32,118**	**31,817**	**31,132**	**29,891**	**29,818**	**28,513**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2002

number

Business size[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	6,042	4,932	10,974	4,321	72
Small	4,055	2,852	6,907	2,480	74
Medium	726	994	1,720	1,349	56
Large	76	188	264	498	35
Total	**10,899**	**8,966**	**19,865**	**8,648**	**70**

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

2. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.6 Number of farms by business size and type, June 2002

number

Business type[1]	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	283	164	26	6	479
General cropping	89	130	55	31	305
Horticulture	127	145	46	20	338
Pigs & poultry	186	222	77	22	507
Dairy	80	1,784	2,135	597	4,596
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	10,125	5,058	414	31	15,628
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	3,300	1,274	99	7	4,680
Mixed	338	492	138	36	1,004
Others	767	118	79	12	976
All types	**15,295**	**9,387**	**3,069**	**762**	**28,513**

1. For a description of how business size and type are measured, see Appendix.
2. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

Table 4.7 Number of farms by business type, June 1997 - 2002

number

Business type[1]	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Cereals	544	517	631	510	537	479
General cropping	443	389	372	322	311	305
Horticulture	402	389	370	346	331	338
Pigs & poultry	846	940	591	540	523	507
Dairy	5,233	5,121	5,039	4,855	4,741	4,596
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	16,955	16,983	16,891	16,183	16,061	15,628
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,860	4,942	4,985	4,709	4,850	4,680
Mixed	1,567	1,524	1,305	1,148	1,067	1,004
Others	1,268	1,012	1,048	1,278	1,397	976
All types	**32,118**	**31,817**	**31,132**	**29,891**	**29,818**	**28,513**

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

Table 4.8 Number of farms by business type and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2002

number

Business type[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	18	86	104	375	22
General cropping	13	70	83	222	27
Horticulture	15	88	103	235	30
Pigs & poultry	106	171	277	230	55
Dairy	1,073	1,677	2,750	1,846	60
Cattle & sheep	9,378	6,250	15,628	4,680	77
Mixed	97	299	396	608	39
Others	199	325	524	452	54
All types	**10,899**	**8,966**	**19,865**	**8,648**	**70**

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

Table 4.9 Number of farms by business size and proportion of area owner occupied, June 2002

farms

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size[1] Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	9,390	3,041	610	107	13,148
50-<100%	2,796	3,742	1,711	436	8,685
>0-<50%	1,679	2,126	708	212	4,725
None owner occupied	1,430	478	40	7	1,955
All farms	**15,295**	**9,387**	**3,069**	**762**	**28,513**
Av. percentage of owned land	**75**	**65**	**64**	**62**	**67**

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

Table 4.10 Average conacre rents by type of use, 1996 - 2001

£/hectare

Use	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Grass	211	212	201	196	189	192
Potatoes	524	472	453	479	482	406
Cereals	299	257	242	211	213	233
Rough grazing	42	46	59	51	51	49
All uses	**217**	**210**	**205**	**196**	**182**	**184**

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.11 Distribution of sales of agricultural land by price paid per hectare, 2001

	Under £5,000	£5,000 - £7,499	£7,500 - £9,999	£10,000 - £14,999	£15,000 & over	All sales
Number of reported sales	12	6	11	21	17	67
Area (hectares)	162	72	81	183	100	597
Percentage of area	27	12	13	31	17	100
Value (£ '000)	571	463	661	2,271	1,983	5,950
Percentage of value	10	8	11	38	33	100

Source: Valuation and Lands Agency.

Table 4.12 Number of sales and average price of agricultural land by area sold, 1996 - 2001

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of reported sales	223	257	223	163	174	67
Area (hectares)	3,425	2,912	2,151	1,672	1,614	597
Value (£ '000)	18,561	22,879	18,813	13,825	15,545	5,950
Average price (£ per ha) by hectare size group						
2 - 9.9	8,516	9,369	9,640	9,397	11,749	13,209
10 - 19.9	8,407	7,464	8,918	9,104	7,380	8,665
20 and over	3,468	7,019	7,702	6,165	8,722	6,026
All sizes (unweighted)	5,419	7,858	8,746	8,268	9,634	9,961

Source: Valuation and Lands Agency.

Notes:

1. Figures exclude land sold as development or building land.
2. The figures are lagged by three months to reflect the delay between the date at which the sale is agreed and the date at which it is included in the analysis.
3. Land sales of less than two hectares are not included in this return.

Table 4.13 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2002

number of persons

	Business size[1]				
	Very small	**Small**	**Medium**	**Large**	**All sizes**
Farmers and partners					
Full time	5,787	8,723	3,995	1,201	19,706
Part time	11,069	2,927	654	176	14,826
Total	**16,856**	**11,650**	**4,649**	**1,377**	**34,532**
Spouses of farmers	**2,296**	**2,429**	**1,130**	**346**	**6,201**
Other workers					
Full time	272	770	725	953	2,720
Part time	726	1,161	646	240	2,773
Casual/seasonal	2,261	3,451	1,681	654	8,047
Total other workers	**3,259**	**5,382**	**3,052**	**1,847**	**13,540**
Total agricultural labour force	**22,411**	**19,461**	**8,831**	**3,570**	**54,273**

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

Table 4.14 Distribution of the farm labour force by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2002

number of persons

	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	**Disadvantaged Area (DA)**	**Total LFA**	**Non LFA**	**LFA as % NI**
Farmers and partners					
Full time	7,064	6,136	13,200	6,506	67
Part time	5,701	4,767	10,468	4,358	71
Total	**12,765**	**10,903**	**23,668**	**10,864**	**69**
Spouses of farmers	**2,067**	**1,936**	**4,003**	**2,198**	**65**
Other workers					
Full time	637	642	1,279	1,441	47
Part time	931	854	1,785	988	64
Casual/seasonal	2,551	2,406	4,957	3,090	62
Total other workers	**4,119**	**3,902**	**8,021**	**5,519**	**59**
Total agricultural labour force	**18,951**	**16,741**	**35,692**	**18,581**	**66**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5 .

Table 4.15 Distribution of numbers of livestock, hectares of crops, full-time labour and output by business size, June 2002

A. Number of farms having the item
B. Total for each item ('000)
C. Percentage of Northern Ireland total of each item

Item	Business size[1]														
	Very small			Small			Medium			Large			All sizes		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	12,315	306	*18*	8,489	685	*41*	2,877	470	*28*	697	224	*13*	24,378	1,684	*100*
Dairy cows	122	1	*0*	1,932	52	*18*	2,250	151	*51*	629	94	*32*	4,933	298	*100*
Beef cows	8,321	74	*24*	6,493	178	*58*	986	46	*15*	146	9	*3*	15,946	307	*100*
Slaughter cattle >1year	8,529	122	*29*	6,402	188	*44*	2,070	86	*20*	440	26	*6*	17,441	423	*100*
Sheep															
Total	4,084	417	*18*	4,333	1,310	*56*	874	472	*20*	167	124	*5*	9,458	2,324	*100*
Ewes	4,014	204	*18*	4,310	638	*57*	862	227	*20*	162	60	*5*	9,348	1,129	*100*
Pigs															
Total	170	6	*2*	246	78	*20*	133	150	*39*	45	153	*39*	594	388	*100*
Sows	132	1	*2*	213	8	*20*	119	15	*38*	43	16	*39*	507	39	*100*
Other pigs over 20 kg	77	3	*1*	187	51	*20*	124	97	*38*	44	101	*40*	432	252	*100*
Poultry															
Total	967	543	*3*	713	6,094	*36*	258	5,148	*31*	55	5,077	*30*	1,993	16,862	*100*
Layers	708	108	*5*	356	467	*22*	91	730	*35*	18	795	*38*	1,173	2,099	*100*
Crops															
Oats	88	0	*9*	165	1	*33*	84	1	*35*	32	1	*23*	369	2	*100*
Wheat	58	0	*3*	239	2	*26*	212	2	*32*	161	3	*39*	670	7	*100*
Barley	686	3	*11*	1,355	11	*40*	697	9	*30*	270	5	*19*	3,008	28	*100*
Potatoes	241	0	*3*	491	2	*27*	198	2	*30*	77	3	*40*	1,007	7	*100*
Crops & grass	15,037	218	*24*	9,311	382	*43*	3,048	205	*23*	755	91	*10*	28,151	896	*100*
Rough grazing	3,273	31	*21*	3,172	81	*54*	860	33	*22*	161	6	*4*	7,466	152	*100*
Total area	15,295	254	*24*	9,387	470	*44*	3,069	244	*23*	762	100	*9*	28,513	1,067	*100*
Labour															
Full-time labour force[2]	5,570	7	*26*	7,941	10	*42*	3,008	5	*22*	753	2	*10*	17,272	25	*100*
Output															
SGM[3]	15,295	62	*10*	9,387	212	*34*	3,069	224	*35*	762	134	*21*	28,513	633	*100*

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.
2. The full-time labour force includes full-time farmers, partners, spouses and other full-time workers.
3. Figures in Column B are in million euros; for a definition of Standard Gross Margins, see Appendix.

Table 4.16 Distribution of (a) dairy cows and (b) beef cows by herd size, June 2002

	Dairy cows				Beef cows			
	Numbers of		Percentages of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
Number per farm	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
1 - 2	50	70	1.0	0.0	1,499	2,290	9.4	0.7
3 - 4	25	93	0.5	0.0	1,401	4,905	8.8	1.6
5 - 9	114	813	2.3	0.3	3,262	22,541	20.5	7.3
10 - 14	208	2,460	4.2	0.8	2,599	30,480	16.3	9.9
15 - 19	254	4,293	5.1	1.4	1,835	30,758	11.5	10.0
20 - 29	584	14,155	11.8	4.8	2,324	54,989	14.6	17.9
30 - 39	605	20,720	12.3	7.0	1,197	40,268	7.5	13.1
40 - 49	628	27,734	12.7	9.3	681	30,034	4.3	9.8
50 - 59	521	28,183	10.6	9.5	388	20,867	2.4	6.8
60 - 69	406	26,043	8.2	8.7	241	15,330	1.5	5.0
70 - 99	762	62,723	15.4	21.1	307	24,782	1.9	8.1
100 - 199	687	88,959	13.9	29.9	186	23,599	1.2	7.7
200 & over	89	21,689	1.8	7.3	26	6,168	0.2	2.0
Total 2002	**4,933**	**297,935**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**15,946**	**307,011**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***5,091***	***295,004***			***16,433***	***311,819***		
Average 2002		**60.4**				**19.3**		
Average 2001		***57.9***				***19.0***		

Table 4.17 Distribution of (a) slaughter cattle one year-old and over and (b) total cattle by herd size, June 2002

	Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter				Total cattle			
	Numbers of		Percentages of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
Number per farm	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle
1 - 4	3,488	8,201	20.0	1.9	917	2,550	3.8	0.2
5 - 9	3,051	20,857	17.5	4.9	1,674	11,645	6.9	0.7
10 - 19	4,141	57,816	23.7	13.7	3,580	51,372	14.7	3.0
20 - 29	2,261	54,054	13.0	12.8	2,989	72,533	12.3	4.3
30 - 39	1,408	47,886	8.1	11.3	2,319	79,351	9.5	4.7
40 - 49	876	38,517	5.0	9.1	2,007	88,678	8.2	5.3
50 - 69	1,028	59,523	5.9	14.1	2,819	165,543	11.6	9.8
70 - 99	651	53,215	3.7	12.6	2,730	226,617	11.2	13.5
100 - 199	468	61,071	2.7	14.4	3,771	520,907	15.5	30.9
200 - 299	49	11,498	0.3	2.7	1,040	248,493	4.3	14.8
300 & over	20	10,029	0.1	2.4	532	216,797	2.2	12.9
Total 2002	**17,441**	**422,667**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**24,378**	**1,684,486**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***18,144***	***414,191***			***24,945***	***1,679,132***		
Average 2002		**24.2**				**69.1**		
Average 2001		***22.8***				***67.3***		

Table 4.18 Distribution of (a) ewes and (b) total sheep by flock size, June 2002

	Ewes				Total sheep			
Number per farm	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Ewes	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Ewes	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Sheep	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Sheep
1 - 24	1,409	20,507	15.1	1.8	656	8,859	6.9	0.4
25 - 49	1,759	63,320	18.8	5.6	1,026	37,647	10.8	1.6
50 - 99	2,444	169,546	26.1	15.0	1,724	126,574	18.2	5.4
100 - 199	2,175	294,679	23.3	26.1	2,342	335,441	24.8	14.4
200 - 299	782	185,129	8.4	16.4	1,379	338,332	14.6	14.6
300 - 399	329	110,247	3.5	9.8	719	246,997	7.6	10.6
400 - 499	177	76,800	1.9	6.8	470	208,579	5.0	9.0
500 - 699	144	83,265	1.5	7.4	524	305,085	5.5	13.1
700 - 999	87	69,016	0.9	6.1	331	271,331	3.5	11.7
1,000 - 1,499	33	38,155	0.4	3.4	174	208,237	1.8	9.0
1,500 & over	9	17,960	0.1	1.6	113	237,079	1.2	10.2
Total 2002	**9,348**	**1,128,624**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**9,458**	**2,324,161**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***10,386***	***1,232,294***			***10,517***	***2,525,556***		
Average 2002		**120.7**				**245.7**		
Average 2001		***118.6***				***240.1***		

Table 4.19 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2002

	Sows (including gilts)			
Number per farm	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Sows	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Sows
1 - 4	128	283	25.2	0.7
5 - 9	55	371	10.8	0.9
10 - 19	53	716	10.5	1.8
20 - 29	32	748	6.3	1.9
30 - 49	47	1,819	9.3	4.6
50 - 99	79	5,597	15.6	14.2
100 - 199	60	8,412	11.8	21.4
200 - 299	27	6,614	5.3	16.8
300 & over	26	14,781	5.1	37.6
Total 2002	**507**	**39,341**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***601***	***40,591***		
Average 2002		**77.6**		
Average 2001		***67.5***		

Table 4.20 Distribution of (a) fattening pigs 20kg and over and (b) total pigs by herd size, June 2002

	Fattening pigs 20kg & over				Total pigs			
Number per farm	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Pigs	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Pigs	Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Pigs	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Pigs
1 - 9	40	118	9.3	0.0	115	377	19.4	0.1
10 - 19	28	397	6.5	0.2	41	568	6.9	0.1
20 - 49	48	1,500	11.1	0.6	62	2,039	10.4	0.5
50 - 99	27	1,811	6.3	0.7	49	3,446	8.2	0.9
100 - 199	63	8,865	14.6	3.5	59	8,697	9.9	2.2
200 - 399	62	17,828	14.4	7.1	57	16,454	9.6	4.2
400 - 999	98	64,449	22.7	25.5	100	65,937	16.8	17.0
1,000 - 1,999	39	53,438	9.0	21.2	63	86,241	10.6	22.2
2,000 & over	27	103,916	6.3	41.2	48	203,955	8.1	52.6
Total 2002	**432**	**252,322**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**594**	**387,714**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***502***	***247,453***			***679***	***385,559***		
Average 2002		**584.1**				**652.7**		
Average 2001		***492.9***				***567.8***		

Table 4.21 Distribution of (a) laying hens and (b) broilers by flock size, June 2002

Number per farm	Laying Hens: Numbers of Farms	Laying Hens: Numbers of Hens ('000)	Laying Hens: Percentages of Farms	Laying Hens: Percentages of Hens	Broilers: Numbers of Farms	Broilers: Numbers of Broilers ('000)	Broilers: Percentages of Farms	Broilers: Percentages of Broilers
1 - 999	1,082	22	92.2	1.1	40	1	13.7	0.0
1,000 - 4,999	21	78	1.8	3.7	5	18	1.7	0.2
5,000 - 9,999	23	147	2.0	7.0	19	146	6.5	1.3
10,000 - 19,999	23	295	2.0	14.1	59	905	20.1	8.0
20,000 - 29,999	8	180	0.7	8.6	42	913	14.3	8.1
30,000 - 49,999	5	188	0.4	9.0	67	2,577	22.9	22.9
50,000 & over	11	1,189	0.9	56.7	61	6,713	20.8	59.5
Total 2002	**1,173**	**2,099**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**293**	**11,273**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***1,241***	***2,143***			***281***	***8,864***		
Average 2002		**1,790**				**38,476**		
Average 2001		***1,727***				***31,543***		

Table 4.22 Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2002

Number per farm	Total poultry: Numbers of Farms	Total poultry: Numbers of Birds ('000)	Total poultry: Percentages of Farms	Total poultry: Percentages of Birds
1 - 999	1,425	43	59.9	0.3
1,000 - 4,999	82	273	3.4	1.8
5,000 - 9,999	124	855	5.2	5.5
10,000 - 19,999	150	2,131	6.3	13.7
20,000 - 29,999	58	1,305	2.4	8.4
30,000 - 49,999	78	2,999	3.3	19.2
50,000 & over	76	9,256	3.2	59.3
Total 2002	**1,993**	**16,862**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***2,082***	***14,347***		
Average 2002		**8,461**		
Average 2001		***6,891***		

Table 4.23 Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2001

Area per farm (ha)	Barley				Wheat			
	Number of Farms	Area of Barley (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Barley	Number of Farms	Area of Wheat (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Wheat
under 1	54	38	1.8	0.1	7	4	1.0	0.1
1 - 4.9	1,288	3,738	42.8	13.1	262	826	39.1	11.4
5 - 9.9	797	5,672	26.5	19.9	191	1,378	28.5	19.0
10 - 19.9	606	8,409	20.1	29.6	131	1,817	19.6	25.1
20 - 29.9	107	2,582	3.6	9.1	32	766	4.8	10.6
30 - 39.9	60	2,049	2.0	7.2	19	662	2.8	9.1
40 - 49.9	36	1,591	1.2	5.6	10	444	1.5	6.1
50 & over	60	4,377	2.0	15.4	18	1,340	2.7	18.5
Total 2002	**3,008**	**28,455**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**670**	**7,235**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***3,506***	***32,798***			***481***	***4,112***		
Average 2002		**9.5**				**10.8**		
Average 2001		***9.4***				***8.5***		

Table 4.24 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2002

Area per farm (ha)	Total cereals			
	Number of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cereals
under 1	66	44	1.9	0.1
1 - 4.9	1,380	3,997	40.2	10.5
5 - 9.9	888	6,303	25.9	16.5
10 - 19.9	739	10,510	21.6	27.6
20 - 29.9	123	2,948	3.6	7.7
30 - 39.9	78	2,703	2.3	7.1
40 - 49.9	48	2,133	1.4	5.6
50 & over	107	9,460	3.1	24.8
Total 2002	**3,429**	**38,097**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***3,858***	***39,526***		
Average 2002		**11.1**		
Average 2001		***10.2***		

Table 4.25 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2002

Area per farm (ha)	Potatoes			
	Number of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Potatoes
under 1	278	123	27.6	1.8
1 - 4.9	421	990	41.8	14.8
5 - 9.9	127	883	12.6	13.2
10 - 19.9	107	1,418	10.6	21.1
20 - 29.9	32	759	3.2	11.3
30 - 39.9	14	476	1.4	7.1
40 - 49.9	10	448	1.0	6.7
50 & over	18	1,611	1.8	24.0
Total 2002	**1,007**	**6,708**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2001	***1,057***	***6,663***		
Average 2002		**6.7**		
Average 2001		***6.3***		

5. INCOMES AT FARM LEVEL

Methodological notes

This section contains information, collected in the Farm Business Survey (FBS), on average incomes for the main types and sizes of full-time farm businesses in Northern Ireland. A detailed analysis of FBS results is published in 'Farm Incomes in Northern Ireland 2001/02'.

Farms in the FBS are classified by type and size according to the EU farm classification system. Details of the typology system are set out in Commission Decision 86/377/EEC and an abbreviated description appears in the Appendix to this publication.

The accounting concepts and practices used in compiling FBS income data differ from those on which the Aggregate Agricultural Account, presented in Section 2, is based. The income measures derived from the two sources are not, therefore, directly comparable. It should be noted that the latest year for which FBS results are available is 2001/02. However, forecast income estimates are also presented below for the 2002/03 year.

Income measures

The main farm level income indicator is **net farm income**, in which all farms are treated as though they were tenanted. This enables comparisons to be made among farms of different tenure across the United Kingdom. However, given that virtually all Northern Ireland farms are owner occupied, net farm income is not a particularly good indicator of the level of farm income perceived by farmers. **Cash income** (Table 5.3), which measures the difference between total farm receipts and total farm expenses, is probably the income measure with which farmers can most readily identify.

Trends in net farm income since 1997/98 are presented in Table 5.1. The net farm incomes presented in Table 5.2 and the cash incomes presented in Table 5.3 are for farms which were in the FBS sample in both the 2000/01 and 2001/02 account years. These constitute an identical sample of 317 farm businesses of 8 ESUs and over; they are representative of 98 per cent of the farms of this size in Northern Ireland. The only significant type of farm business excluded from the FBS is horticulture.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

Northern Ireland escaped the worst effects of the FMD outbreak which affected large parts of Great Britain in 2001. Only one farm in the Northern Ireland FBS sample received compensation payments for FMD. This farm has been excluded from the analysis and, therefore, the FBS results for 2001/02 have not been affected by FMD compensation payments.

Income changes by farm type in 2001/02

Net farm incomes and cash incomes in the years ending March 2001 and 2002 are presented in Tables 5.2 and 5.3 respectively. In the year ending March 2002, average net farm income rose by almost £2,100 (34 per cent) to £8,300. Net incomes improved on **dairy, LFA cattle and sheep** and **pigs and poultry** farms but declined on the other four types of farm business. Average cash income per farm rose by £1,100 (6 per cent) to £21,000 per farm. Dairy farms, up £4,800 (17 per cent), and **LFA cattle and sheep** farms, up £2,500 (21 per cent), recorded the largest increases in cash income.

Forecast estimates of income in 2002/03

Forecast incomes for full-time farm businesses for the year ending March 2003 indicate a decline in net farm incomes and cash incomes for all farm types. The declines in income reflect lower producer prices for milk, pigs, lambs and cereals.

The average net farm income across all farm types for the year ended March 2003 is expected to be £4,600, some £3,700 lower than the previous year. The largest fall in net income, in absolute terms, is expected to occur on **dairy** farms, while losses are expected on **cereals, general cropping,** and **pigs and poultry** farms.

Cash income is expected to average £16,100 per farm, a fall of £4,000. Reductions in cash income are expected to range between £2,000 for **pigs and poultry** farms to just over £9,000 for **cereals** farms.

The income estimates described above were prepared in mid-January 2003 and relate to an account year ending in March 2003. They are based on the most recent information on prices, animal populations and marketings, and crop areas and yields. They should be regarded only as broad indications of the levels of income in 2002/03, as a small change between the expected and actual out-turn values of either output or input can lead to a large change in income.

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Table 5.1 Indices of average net farm income in real terms by farm type, 1997/98 to 2002/03

Indices: 1994/95 - 1996/97 = 100

Business type	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 (provisional)
Cereals	-40	-5	97	-40	-120	-160
General cropping	73	282	-224	106	-72	-90
Pigs and poultry	44	-278	-7	66	-60	-120
Dairy	44	31	29	51	59	35
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	52	5	-3	1	6	5
Cattle and sheep (lowland)[1]	…	…	…	…	…	…
Mixed	-26	-13	-10	50	32	10

1. Turnover in the sample together with a period of negative incomes mean that the calculated indices are unreliable; consequently publication has been withheld.

Table 5.2 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2000/01 and 2001/02

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	Small (8-39.9 ESU)		Medium (40-99.9 ESU)		Large (100-999.9 ESU)		All sizes (8-999.9 ESU)	
	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02
Cereals	-1.7	-7.3	…	…	…	…	0.5	-5.0
General cropping	…	…	…	…	3.1	-23.7	8.3	-5.8
Pigs and poultry	-7.5	-1.7	…	…	…	…	-7.5	-1.7
Dairy	1.9	4.4	18.5	21.8	44.2	45.1	14.9	17.5
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	-0.1	2.7	11.2	18.9	17.9	20.9	0.9	4.0
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	2.9	0.7	…	…	…	…	2.7	2.2
Mixed	0.9	-0.3	19.6	16.1	…	…	4.9	3.2

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

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2000/01 and 2001/02

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	Small (8-39.9 ESU)		Medium (40-99.9 ESU)		Large (100-999.9 ESU)		All sizes (8-999.9 ESU)	
	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02
Cereals	18.0	11.3	…	…	…	…	16.4	15.5
General cropping	…	…	…	…	…	…	47.3	19.1
Pigs and poultry	…	…	…	…	…	…	-3.7	2.6
Dairy	10.2	12.5	33.0	39.0	69.4	78.1	28.1	32.9
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	10.2	13.0	29.9	29.1	68.7	68.3	12.0	14.5
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	14.9	3.6	…	…	…	…	17.7	5.3
Mixed	14.3	12.9	39.4	37.8	…	…	19.7	18.3

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

Table 5.4 Distribution of farms by net farm income and by farm type, 2001/02

per cent

	Dairy	Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	Mixed	All types
Net farm income (£'s)				
Less than 0	15	33	26	26
1 - 2,499	5	6	26	7
2,500 - 4,999	4	12	3	9
5,000 - 7,499	6	11	18	9
7,500 - 9,999	9	11	2	8
10,000 - 14,999	13	11	8	12
15,000 - 19,999	11	6	10	8
20,000 - 29,999	17	7	2	11
> 30,000	20	3	5	10
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number of farms in sample	146	113	19	317

Table 5.5 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2001/02

£'000 per farm

	Cereals	General cropping	Pigs and poultry	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed
Farm size (ESU)	26.0	71.9	24.3	55.2	21.8	19.3	29.1
Total farm area (ha)	71.2	96.5	24.6	57.6	94.3	56.5	67.1
Net farm income	-5.0	-5.8	-1.7	17.5	4.0	2.2	3.2
Total tenant's capital	**50.6**	**144.5**	**53.5**	**79.7**	**55.5**	**57.5**	**69.4**
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	17.3	13.0	31.3	14.2	17.4	25.4	34.1
crops	5.8	19.5	1.7	5.0	3.4	4.1	4.9
other	1.0	2.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.0
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	1.5	6.9	3.5	37.1	19.3	14.1	10.1
machinery	25.1	103.1	16.4	22.7	14.9	13.4	19.2

Table 5.6 Average closing valuations by farm type, 2000/01 and 2001/02

£'000 per farm[1]

	Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		Mixed	
	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01	2001/02
ASSETS						
Total fixed assets	427.8	440.2	302.8	305.5	335.8	340.8
of which:						
land and buildings	370.1	378.2	264.1	267.3	303.3	306.9
other fixed assets	57.7	62.0	38.7	38.3	32.5	33.9
Total current assets	25.1	25.5	28.4	22.6	44.6	43.8
of which:						
trading livestock	19.1	20.6	20.1	22.3	38.0	42.1
debtors/other short term lending	6.0	4.9	8.2	0.3	6.6	1.7
cash in hand and at bank	-	-	-	-	-	-
A Total assets	**452.9**	**465.7**	**331.2**	**328.2**	**380.3**	**384.6**
LIABILITIES						
Total long/medium term loans	27.0	21.1	5.7	5.5	1.3	1.8
of which:						
bank/other institutional	25.7	20.3	5.7	5.3	1.3	1.8
Total short term loans	15.2	14.9	8.9	9.4	10.0	9.1
of which:						
bank overdraft	10.2	8.9	7.8	8.0	9.3	7.0
B Total external liabilities	**42.2**	**36.1**	**14.6**	**14.9**	**11.3**	**10.9**
NET WORTH (A-B)	**410.7**	**429.7**	**316.6**	**313.2**	**369.1**	**373.7**

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

APPENDIX

STATISTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

AGGREGATE AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT (AAA)

The AAA, from which agriculture's output, input, value added and income are obtained, is conducted according to the rules and conventions of the United Nations *System of National Accounts 1993*, the subsequent *European System of Accounts 1995* and the revised European Union's *Manual on the Economic Accounts for Agriculture 1997*, introduced throughout the UK in 1998.

The main features of the AAA are as follows:

(i) The AAA is conducted on a 'sector' basis. This means that agricultural activity includes 'inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities', such as pony trekking, which are carried out on-farm and for which the inputs cannot be separated from farming inputs. (Previously, when it was conducted on a 'branch' basis, agricultural activity covered all agricultural products irrespective of the nature of the establishments in which they are produced and excluded other, non-agricultural activity taking place on farms.)

(ii) The AAA is calculated on an accruals basis, i.e. 'as due' rather than 'as paid'. This means that subsidies such as the Suckler Cow Premium and Arable Area Payments are counted in the year in which they are due rather than in the year when they are paid. The detailed allocation of subsidies is documented in footnotes to Table 2.1. (Previously, subsidy payments were dealt with on a cash, or 'as paid', basis.)

(iii) Rent paid on 'conacre' (short-term lettings) to non-farming persons is included as an expense. (All conacre rent was previously omitted because short-term renting was deemed to be a transfer within the agricultural branch.)

(iv) Capital formation in, and depreciation of, breeding livestock is included. (Previously, only net volume changes were included.)

(v) Direct inter-farm sales and on-farm use of finished products such as cereals are included as both output and input thereby, in most cases, leaving gross and net product and total income from farming unchanged. (Such transactions were previously excluded when the AAA was conducted on a 'national farm' basis.)

Income indicators

The main indicator of the return to all of the factors of production, i.e. land, labour, capital and 'enterprise', is **net value added** (strictly, net value added at factor cost). This is defined as gross output less expenditure on material and service inputs purchased from outside the sector, less consumption of fixed capital (or depreciation) plus subsidies not paid on products. Hence:

Gross output – gross input (also known as 'intermediate consumption')
= **gross value added**

Gross value added **–** consumption of fixed capital + subsidies not paid on products
= **net value added (at factor cost)**

The income of farm families is given by **total income from farming (TIFF)**. This includes returns to farmers, their spouses and family workers for their labour and 'enterprise' and on their own capital invested; it therefore represents the income of all those with an entrepreneurial involvement in farming. It is the preferred income measure, conforming to national and international accounting practice and forming the basis of a Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the EU) indicator used for income comparisons across the EU. The derivation of TIFF is:

Net value added (at factor cost)
less paid labour (also known as 'compensation of employees')
interest
net rent
= Total income from farming (TIFF)

Cash flow

A **cash flow** series is shown in Table 2.4. Cash flow omits the effects of stock changes, but takes into account receipts of capital grants, expenditure on capital investment and changes in borrowings. It is a useful indicator of cash available to farm families from farming, but should not be considered as an alternative measure of income.

Sensitivity of estimates

Since agricultural income measures are 'residuals' between two large aggregates, they are sensitive to quite small changes in either aggregate. For example, total income from farming in 2002 would change by $\pm$14 per cent if there were one per cent changes (in opposing directions) in gross output and gross input. The degree of sensitivity rises as the level of income falls.

Provisional estimates

'Provisional' figures for 2002 presented in this *Review* are based on data available in December 2002/January 2003, in most cases covering the first 9-11 months of the year. However, for some items less information was available. For example, information on some input costs will be obtained only when Farm Business Survey results for 2002/03 are produced. Provisional figures are therefore subject to revision when complete information becomes available. Revised figures will be published in next year's *Review*.

Revisions to income series

The 2001 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Several methodological changes were also introduced in 2002. These included revisions to quantities and values of sheep output as a result of improved information on sheep exports to the RoI and revisions to five items of input (machinery expenses, farm maintenance, veterinary expenses, miscellaneous expenses and contract work) arising from changes to Farm Business Survey coverage. Net value added in 2001 is now estimated at £328.3 million (previously £327.0 million) while total income from farming is now estimated at £190.6 million (previously £190.4 million). The income series for 2000 and earlier years have also been revised slightly from those published in previous editions. A 22-year consistent series of the AAA is available on the DARD website at www.dardni.gov.uk.

CENSUS

Statistics on employment on farms (Tables 2.14 and 2.15), crop areas and livestock numbers (Section 3) and farm structure (Section 4) are derived from the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census. This is an annual statistical survey which in 2001 and 2002 reverted to a sample survey following a full census in 2000. In 2002 forms were issued to all the larger businesses but to only half of those classified as **very small**, unless they had pigs, significant numbers of poultry or mushrooms.

The records which were aggregated to provide the published results include 2002 returns from those who returned their forms. For those who did not do so, estimates were included, based on the latest available returns and on information available in the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). For new farms for which a 2002 return was not obtained, estimates were based on the IACS and other administrative systems. Owners of pig herds, mushroom enterprises and major poultry flocks who failed to make a return in 2002 were contacted by telephone to obtain up-to-date information.

Census coverage

The statistical definition of a farm, which was changed in 1997, is based on separate business status as applied under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), having previously been based on land ownership. The census now covers **all active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.**

Over the past 50 years, the following criteria have been used to determine the coverage of the agricultural census in Northern Ireland:

Years	**Census methods and coverage**
Until 1954	Census information was collected by police enumerators who identified and visited all farms, including any under one acre (0.4 hectares), and recorded in special books information given to them orally by the farmer.
1954-1972	A postal census was introduced in 1954. This used the list of farmers which had been identified in the 1953 census, but included only those of **one acre or more**. From this time onwards a distinction was made between **'main'** holdings which were included in the census and **'minor'** holdings which were surveyed on a sample basis using simplified questions. Estimates were made for their total crop areas and livestock numbers but these holdings were not included in the count of farms.
1973-1980	In 1973, in conformity with a similar change in the rest of the United Kingdom, an alteration was made in the scope of the census in Northern Ireland. From then until 1980, the main census covered all holdings which had **at least 10 acres (4 hectares)** of land with the addition of any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose stock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This definition of a 'main' holding removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, brought back a number of 'minor' holdings of less than one acre. The net reduction in the number of 'main' holdings arising from these adjustments was some 5,500.
1981-1996	A further change was made between 1980 and 1981 when, with the introduction of a new system of farm classification, and with changes to the minimum threshold in other parts of the UK, the threshold for inclusion in the 'main' census in Northern Ireland was raised. This new threshold restricted the census to holdings which had (a) a total land area (owned or taken on long-term lease) of 6 hectares or more or (b) any full-time workers other than the farmer or (c) a farm business size of 1,000 ECUs of Standard Gross Margin. This change resulted in the exclusion of a further 6,690 'minor' holdings from the main census between 1980 and 1981.
1997	The basis of the agricultural census was changed in 1997 from a 'census register' to a central register of all of the Department's 'clients'. The change was made possible as a result of the introduction of IACS and of work undertaken to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification across all schemes, with each farmer who was/is in contact with the Department being allocated a unique Client Reference Number and each 'Client' being linked to a Business Identifier. The population surveyed in 1997 consisted of one 'Client' in each business for which a census return with crops and/or livestock was obtained in the preceding year or which had received a subsidy in respect of crops or livestock during the preceding 15 months. Also included were those with a milk quota and those known by the Department to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between 'main' and 'minor' holdings was discontinued.

1998-1999	A further 166 pig farms with no owned land were added to the population in 1998. Sampling was introduced and census forms were issued to only half of the **very small** farms.
2000	A full census was conducted. Mushroom production was targeted and around 100 mushroom businesses which had not previously been surveyed were identified and added to the list of businesses covered.
2001-2002	A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999.

Farm business size

Farm business size is determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Gross Margin (SGM). The gross margin of an enterprise is its total output less the variable costs, which are directly attributable to it. Standards or norms have been calculated for all major enterprises. The total SGM for each farm is calculated by multiplying its crop areas and livestock numbers by the appropriate SGM coefficients and then summing the result for all enterprises on the farm.

To show year-to-year changes in business size, the enterprise SGM coefficients are held constant for a number of years. The current series (introduced in 1993) is based on the average prices during the period 1987-89. For a list of these values, see *'The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland: Results for 2002'*. Because the system of classifying business size was developed for use within the EU statistical network, SGMs are measured in euros.

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

Term	1987-1989 SGM (euro*)	European Size Units
Very small	<9,600	less than 8
Small	9,600-<48,000	8-<40
Medium	48,000-<120,000	40-<100
Large	120,000-<240,000	100-<200
Very large	240,000 or more	200 or more

*€ 1 = ECU (was = £0.68 in 1987-1989).

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

In broad terms, **very small** farms are not big enough to provide full-time employment for one person, **small** farms are generally 1-2 person businesses, **medium** are 2-3 and **large** farms involve 3 or more persons.

Farm business type

The EU system of classifying farms according to farm type (on which the UK system is based) is set out in Commission Decision 85/377/EEC. Although 75 different types are recognised by the EU, for UK statistical purposes these are grouped into 9 robust categories, which have particular relevance to UK conditions. These are:

Type	Definition
Cereals	Farms with more than 2/3 of their total SGM in cereals, oilseeds and set aside.
General cropping	Farms which do not qualify as cereals farms but have more **cropping** than 2/3 on their total SGM in arable (not horticultural) crops or in a mixture of arable and horticultural crops and where arable crops account for more than 1/3 of total SGM.
Horticulture	Farms with more than 2/3 of their total SGM in horticultural crops (excluding specialist mushroom growers).
Pigs & poultry	Farms with more than 2/3 of their total SGM in pigs and/or poultry.
Dairy	Farms with more than 2/3 of their total SGM in dairying (including associated young stock).
Cattle & sheep (LFA)	Farms wholly or mainly in the Less Favoured Areas which do not qualify as dairy farms but have more than 2/3 of their total SGM in cattle and sheep.
Cattle & sheep (lowland)	Farms entirely or mainly outside the Less Favoured Areas, which do not qualify as dairy farms but have more than 2/3 of their total SGM in cattle and sheep.
Other types	Farms which specialise in enterprises which do not fit in well with mainstream agriculture, such as specialist mushrooms, specialist goat and specialist horse farms; also farms which are unclassified because they have no crops or stock at June (but which made hay/silage or intended to restock at a later date).

A fuller description of the system is given in *'Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom'* 1991/92 Edition (HMSO, 1993) and in *'The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics, UK 1993'* (HMSO, 1994).

Less Favoured Areas

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

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

FARM BUSINESS SURVEY (FBS)

The annual FBS is based on a sample of about 375 individual farms which keep detailed financial records, enabling outputs, inputs and incomes on farms to be analysed by farming type and business size. Trends in farm incomes from the FBS are produced by comparing results from identical samples of farms participating in the survey in successive years. Indices showing trends in net farm incomes are derived by linking the results of identical samples from successive pairs of years (Table 5.1).

Although most farms in Northern Ireland are owner occupied, FBS results are analysed according to conventions used throughout the UK to determine **net farm income**. This measure of income represents the return to the farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial effort and on the tenant-type assets of the farm business. The latter include livestock, crops and machinery but not land and buildings. Hence, an imputed rent for owned land is included in fixed costs as well as the actual cost of any rented land. This enables the trends in net farm income for Northern Ireland farming types to be compared directly with similar data for other countries and regions of the UK.

Differences between FBS and AAA

The coverage and methodology of the FBS differ in several important respects from the Aggregate Agricultural Account (AAA) presented in Section 2. The FBS does not cover **very small** farms or **horticultural** businesses; FBS account years end between October and May, with an average account ending date of March, while the AAA relates to calendar years; net farm income is calculated before deduction of interest on farming loans, while total income from farming in the AAA is net of interest on borrowings; except in the case of breeding livestock appreciation, net farm income includes changes in both the volume and price of crops and livestock, whereas the AAA includes volume changes only; and net farm income is net of an imputed rent on all owner-occupied land, while in the AAA only actual rent paid to non-farming persons is deducted. For these reasons no direct comparison between the FBS and AAA income series can be made.

GENERAL NOTES TO TABLES

Symbols:

-	means nil, or an insignificant quantity.
...	means not available, or not collected.

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

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

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

Abbreviations:

dcw	-	dressed carcase weight
dwt	-	deadweight
lwt	-	liveweight

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