Department of
Agriculture and
Rural Development
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POLICY AND ECONOMICS DIVISION

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture

2007

Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry

A National Statistics Publication

A National Statistics publication

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2007

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Policy and Economics Division

National Statistics publication

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PREFACE

The *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture* has been published annually since 1964. It contains a wide range of statistics on the agricultural industry and is an important reference document for agri-food sector stakeholders.

During 2006-07 a consultation exercise was undertaken on the headline indicator for farm level income. As a result, 'Farm Business Income' (FBI) was introduced as the new headline measure in 2007. FBI will also be introduced in England, Scotland and Wales and will be used in the presentation of UK farm level income statistics. It is closely aligned to the main EU measure of farm incomes 'Family Farm Income' and therefore allows easier comparison between Northern Ireland and other Member States. The figures for this new indicator of farm level income along with a full description of the measure itself are present in Chapter Five.

The data contained in the *Statistical Review* are derived mainly from farm surveys, including the Agricultural Census and the Farm Business Survey, and surveys of food processing and agricultural input supply firms. These surveys are carried out in order to enable the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to meet the legislative requirements with which it is charged.

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 data for a selection of Statistical Review tables. These may also be obtained in hard copy form on request from Policy and Economics Division. Details of other publications and statistical releases available from Policy and Economics Division are given on page 84.

The *Statistical Review* is a National Statistics publication, indicating that its contents are produced to best professional standards. Queries or comments on its contents can be made to the Editor, Seamus McErlean, whose contact details are given below.

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March 2008

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KEY FACTS

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.3[1,P]	0.5[2]	2.3[2]	1.8[3]
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural employment (‘000 AWU)	29[1]	298[2]	153[2]	5,797[3]
As % of total civil employment	3.7[1]	1.4[2]	5.4[2]	3.7[3]
LAND USE				
Agricultural area (‘000 ha)	1,015[1]	17,472[2]	4,305[3]	128,416[3]
As % of total area	75.1[1]	71.4[2]	61.3[3]	39.7[3]
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	70.3[1]	45.3[3]	69.0[3]	60.6[3]
FARMS				
Number (‘000)	26.1[1]	324[2]	133[3]	5,799[3]
Average agricultural area (ha)	38.8[1]	54.0[2]	31.8[3]	26.9[3]
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	69[1]	84[3]	45[3]	35[3]
Beef cows	16[1]	29[3]	15[3]	19[3]
Sheep	234[1]	426[3]	147[3]	152[3]
Pigs	838[1]	424[3]	1,979[3]	210[3]
Laying hens	17,200[1]	1,100[3]	290[3]	350[3]
Broilers	42,000[1]	36,000[3]	7,000[3]	1,200[3]
Cereals (ha)	12.5[1]	51.7[3]	20.0[3]	16.5[3]
Potatoes (ha)	7.3[1]	13.4[3]	3.1[3]	2.2[3]

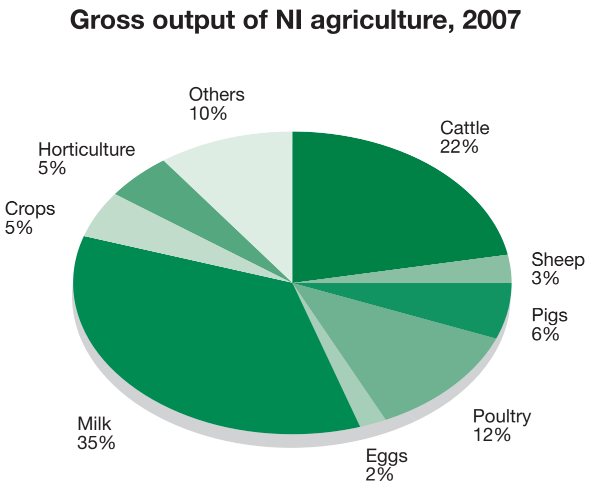
1. 2007 2. 2006 3. 2005 P= Provisional

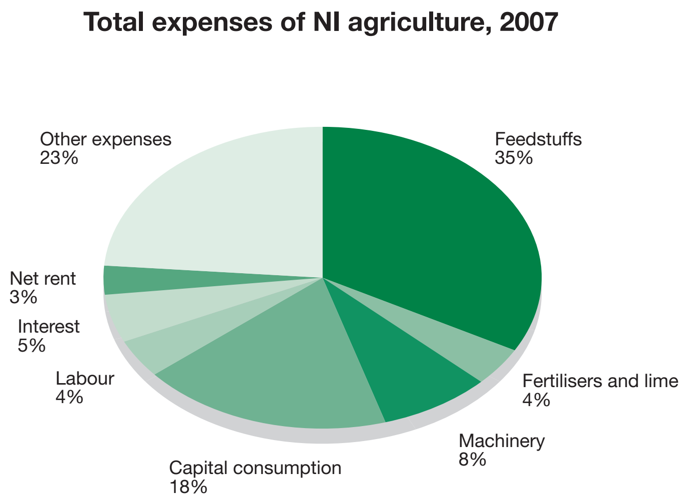
Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

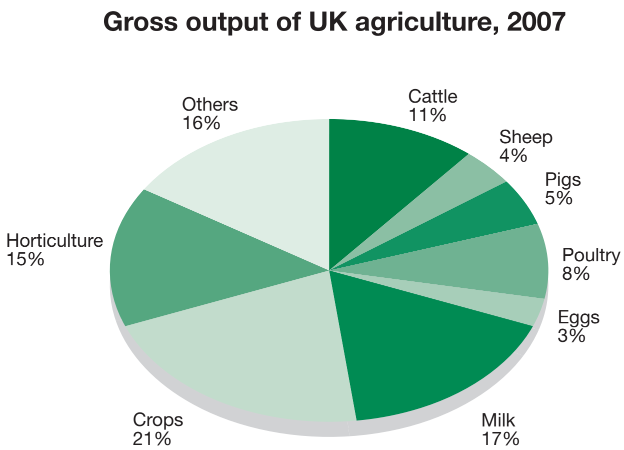
Note 2. Due to national accounting principles GVA figures do not include Single Farm Payment.

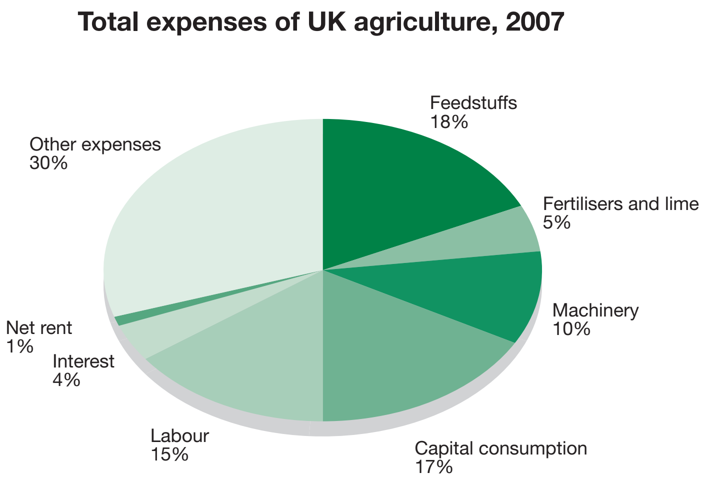
Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

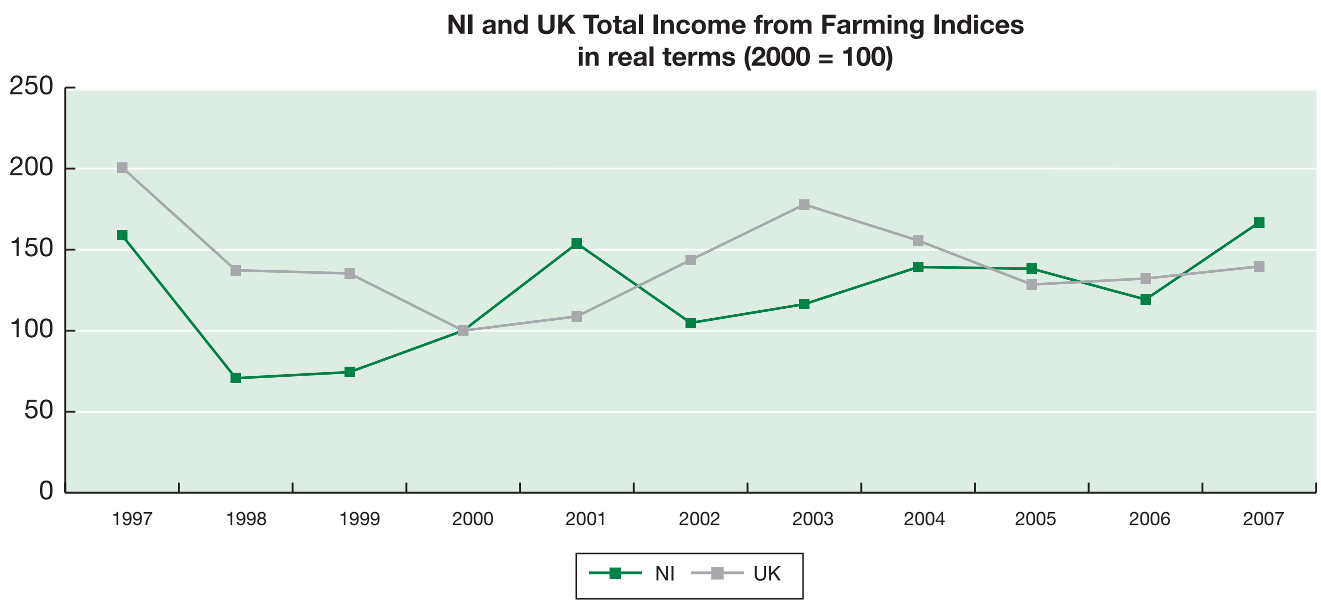
COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE





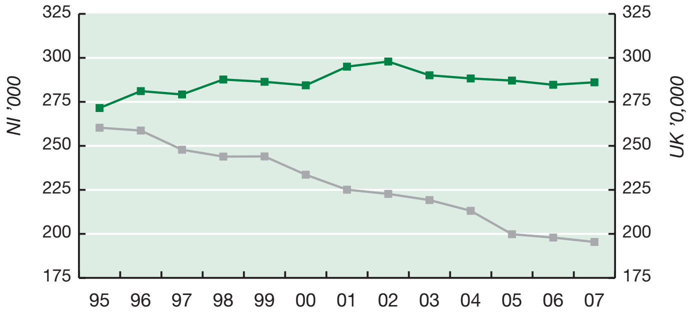




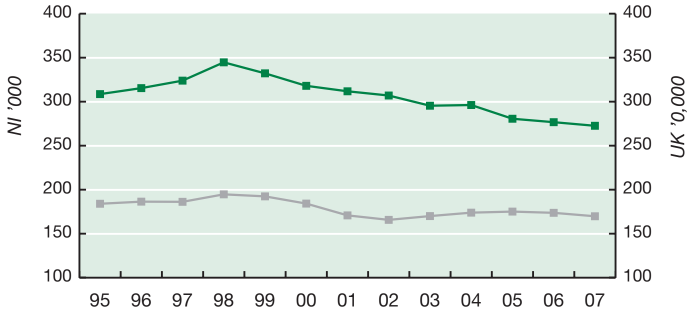


TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS

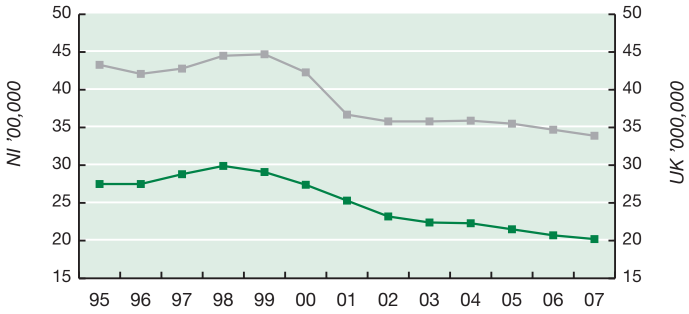
Dairy cows



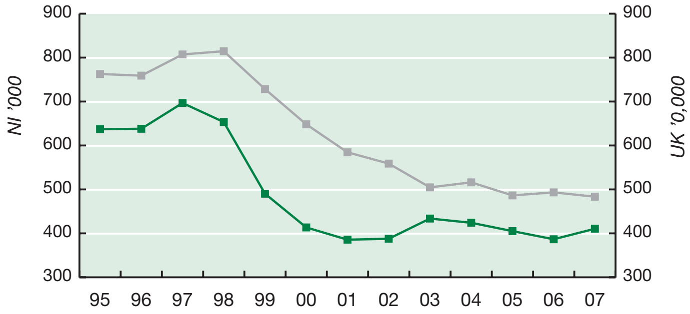
Beef cows



Sheep



Pigs



Laying birds

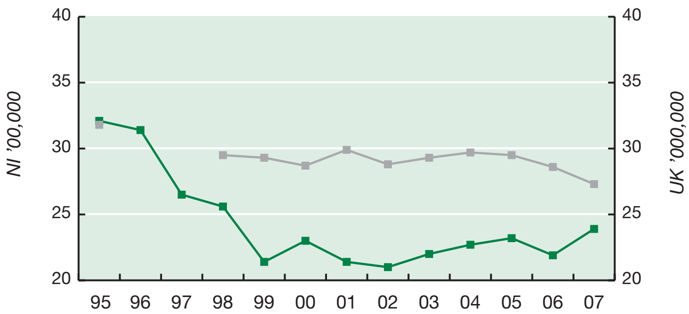
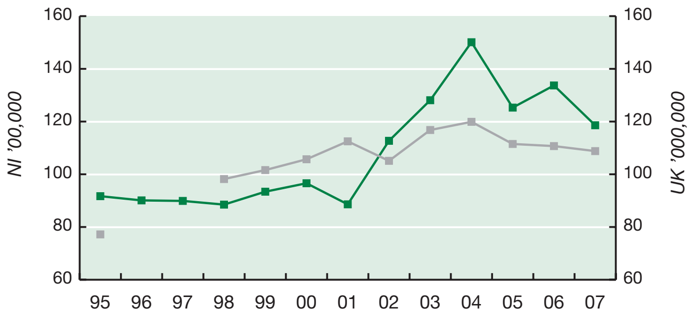
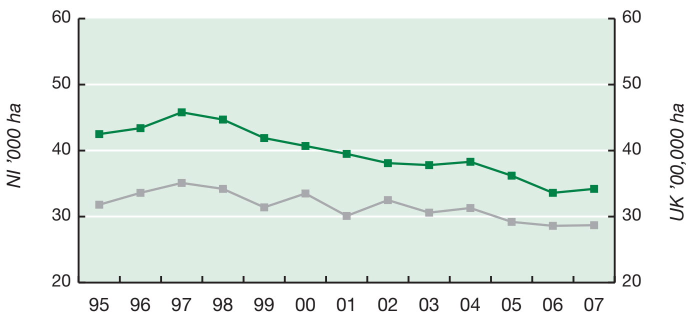


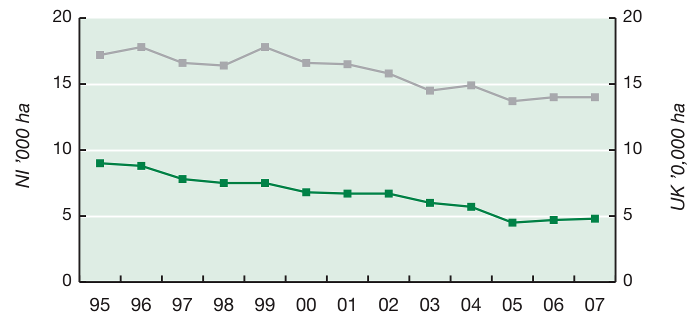
Table chickens



Cereals



Potatoes



NI UK

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Note: comparisons are with 2006 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- There was a a substantial rise in the income of Northern Ireland agriculture in 2007.
- **Total income from farming (TIFF)** – measures the return to farmers, partners and directors, their spouses and other family workers for their labour, management input and own capital invested.– increased by 46 per cent (40 per cent in real terms) to £233 million, from £160 million in 2006.
- Following the increase in 2007, TIFF is now 3.5 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- The increase in income in 2007 can be attributed to a number of factors; firstly, improved productivity; secondly, improvement in milk and cereal prices; and, thirdly, increases in beef and milk production. The positive impacts of these factors were off-set somewhat by a large increase in feed costs.
- At the United Kingdom level, TIFF increased by 10 per cent in 2007 to £2.54 billion, a rise of 5.7 per cent in real terms. Total Income from Farming per full time person equivalent in the UK is estimated to have risen by 13.4 per cent in current prices, or by 8.7 per cent in real terms, to £13,349. The larger increase in TIFF in Northern Ireland compared to the UK as a whole is mostly due to the greater impact of rising milk producer prices on Northern Ireland agriculture compared to GB (The dairy sector accounts for a much greater share of production in Northern Ireland compared to the UK as a whole.) In addition, English agriculture in particular was affected by flooding in the summer of 2007 which curtailed arable production there.

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

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £1.23 billion for 2007. This is 16 per cent above the level calculated for 2006 and is attributable to the increase in the value of milk, beef and cereals output.
- **Gross input** (or ‘intermediate consumption’) increased by 8.5 per cent, to £877 million, mainly as a result of a 16 per cent increase in costs of feedstuffs.

- **Gross value added** increased by 39 per cent in 2007 to £353 million, while **net value added** – gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus subsidies such as the Single Farm Payment (SFP) – increased, by 29 per cent, to £390 million.

Productivity (Table 2.3)

- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to produce a 3.8 per cent improvement in **total factor productivity** – the productivity of all resources in the industry. Output volume changes coupled with a 3.8 per cent fall in the volume of labour input generated a 13 per cent increase in labour productivity in 2007. **Single factorial terms of trade**, which is a measure of farmers' economic welfare, increased by 3.4 per cent (similar to TFP). This suggests that overall the increase in input prices was largely compensated for by the increase in output prices, however, this was not the case for all sub-sectors.

Cash flow (Table 2.4)

- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** is estimated to have increased in 2007 by 65 per cent, to around £344 million. In this estimate, 'book' items such as stock changes as well as capital formation and consumption are removed and account is taken of the level of investment and change in borrowings, thereby more realistically portraying cash available from farming.

Farm level incomes (Table 5.3-5.4)

- **Farm Business Income (FBI)** was introduced this year as the new headline measure of farm income following consultation in 2006-07. FBI will also be introduced in England, Scotland and Wales and will be used for UK farm income statistics. Measured across all farm types, average **Farm Business Income** increased to £18,135 in 2006/07, which is an increase of £464 per farm compared to the previous year. It is expected to increase to £21,562 in 2007/08, which is an increase of £3,427 per farm. However, **Farm Business Income** is expected to decline for some farm types such as LFA Cattle and Sheep, Lowland Cattle and Sheep, Pigs, and Mixed Farms in 2007/08.

Subsidies (Table 2.10)

- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers increased in 2007 by £4 million or 1.4 per cent, to almost £275 million. This increase is attributed mainly to an increase in Single Farm Payment due to exchange rate movements. The total value of the Single Farm Payment estimated to have accrued in 2007 is £231 million, a net increase of 2.3% compared with 2006. Single Farm Payments account for approximately 84 per cent of all direct payments.

Labour (Table 2.14)	• The **total agricultural labour force** decreased by 2 per cent in 2007, to around 49,000 persons. This included a 2.5 per cent reduction in the number of farmers, to approximately 31,200, with the number of full time farmers declining by 4.4 per cent and the number of part time farmers remaining unchanged. The total number of full time, part time and casual workers combined, decreased by around 2 per cent.
Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)	• The number of **cattle** recorded at 1.64 million in the June 2007 census has fallen by 3 per cent since 2006. Compared with 2006, the number of dairy cows increased by 0.5 per cent, while there was a 1.5 per cent decrease in the beef cow herd. Total **sheep** numbers decreased to 2.02 million, while breeding ewe numbers declined by 3.4 per cent, to 957 thousand ewes. Ewe numbers are now at their lowest level since 1986. • At June 2007, the number of **pigs** totalled 410,500, 6 per cent higher than in 2006. However, the female pig breeding herd decreased by 1 per cent, to 37,000 sows. **Broilers** decreased by 11 per cent to 11.9 million birds in 2007, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** increased by 9 per cent to 2.4 million birds.
Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)	• There was a 2.6 per cent increase, to 51,200 hectares, in the total **cropped area** between June 2006 and 2007. The total area of **cereals** increased by 2 per cent, to 34,000 hectares, mainly as a result of an increase in wheat production areas.
Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)	• There were 26,146 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2007, which was 593 fewer than in 2006. The downward trend in farm numbers continues at the rate of a 2 per cent decrease per year. This rate of decrease has been relatively constant over the past 10 years.
Agri-Food Sector Performance	• **Agricultural Gross Value Added per head** in Northern Ireland as a percentage of the UK figure improved in 2007. The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate only slow growth over the period 2000 to 2005.

Rural Economy

- Over the years from 2002 to 2007, the average gross weekly earnings of people in rural areas were consistently below those of people living in urban areas. There is increasing evidence that the gap is growing. Average gross weekly earnings increased in 2007 in urban, but fell in accessible rural areas, with only slight growth in less accessible rural areas. Data on net VAT registrations indicate that 67 per cent of total net registrations occurred in rural areas in the 10 year period from 1998 to 2007.

Animal Health and Welfare

- Since the first cases of BSE were reported in Northern Ireland during 1988, there has been a total of 2,179 cases. The number of BSE cases in Northern Ireland has declined significantly since the peak in 1993. The number of cases in 2007 was 14.

  During 2006, 1,513 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis, compared with 2,300 new incidents in 2004 and 1,792 new incidents in 2005.

  The Veterinary Service (DARD) carried out 621 on-farm welfare inspections in 2007. Of those inspections carried out as a result of complaints 68 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for programmed visits 95 per cent were fully compliant with legislation.

Agri-environment

- In 2007, some 448,000 hectares or 40 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. There has been some overall improvement in chemical river quality in Northern Ireland since 2003; however, biological river quality has deteriorated. At around 6 and 10 per cent respectively, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are the two least densely forested countries in the EU.

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2. THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

A. AGGREGATE OUTPUT, INPUT AND INCOME

Methodological note

A 25-year time series of the Aggregate Agricultural Account is available on the DARD website, at www.dardni.gov.uk. In the following commentary, comparisons are with 2006 unless otherwise stated. A change in the treatment of subsidy payments from 2005 (as a result of decoupling) means that some of the estimates within the AAA are not comparable with earlier years. Such figures are shown in 'italics' with a shaded background within the statistical tables on the pages that follow.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture increased substantially in 2007. **Total income from farming (TIFF)** – which represents the return on own labour, management input and own capital invested for all those with an entrepreneurial involvement in farming (including all members of their families working on farms) – increased by 46 per cent (a 40 per cent increase in real terms) to £233 million, from £160 million in 2006 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** is estimated at £1.23 billion in 2007, which is an increase of 16 per cent compared with 2006. This increase is explained by increases in the gross output for milk, beef and cereals sectors. Full details of trends in all the individual outputs are given in Section 2B.

Inputs (or 'intermediate consumption')

The value of **gross input** increased in 2007, by 8.5 per cent, to £877 million. Most of this increase is explained by a 16 per cent (or £59 million) increase in expenditure on feedstuffs to £434 million. The increased expenditure on feedstuffs reflects an 18 per cent increase in the unit cost of feed and occurred despite a 2 per cent fall in volume used. Expenditure on fertilisers and quota leasing both decreased. The volume of fertilisers used, in keeping with recent trends, decreased by 6 per cent while at the same time there was a 2 per cent decrease in the cost per tonne in 2007. Machinery and marketing expenses increased in 2007. Full details of trends in individual inputs are given in Section 2B.

Gross and net value added

Gross value added – gross output less gross input – increased by 39 per cent in 2007 to £353 million. **Net value added** (at factor cost), i.e. gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus subsidies such as the Single Farm Payment (SFP) – increased, by 29 per cent, to £390 million.

Net value added is the sum of all 'incomes' arising in the industry, namely the earnings of paid labour, interest on borrowed capital, rent on conacre land (paid to non-farming persons) and the residual 'total income from farming'. The cost of paid labour (also termed 'compensation of employees') increased by 4.8 per cent in 2007, to around £55 million, while there was a 14 per cent increase in bank advances for farming purposes as well as a 12 per cent increase in interest rates causing total interest payments to rise, by 28 per cent, to £58 million. Conacre rent paid to non-farmers fell by 1 per cent, to £43.7 million, mainly as a result of a reduction in the amount of land rented.

Total income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF)** increased in 2007, by 46 per cent to £233 million, a rise of 40 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following the increase in 2007, TIFF is now 3.5 per cent above the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation. Over the same 20-year period, the number of persons drawing an income from farming also declined steadily. From 1988 to 2007, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 32 per cent with the result that, in real terms, TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour in 2007 was 27 per cent *above* the 20-year average.

Cash flow

TIFF measures the return (on own labour, management input and own capital invested) to farmers, their spouses and other family workers, i.e. all those with an entrepreneurial interest in farming. It is calculated according to internationally agreed practices, which require the inclusion of 'book' items such as stock changes 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 grown in 2007 by 65 per cent, to around £333 million.

Subsidies **Total direct payments** to farmers increased in 2007 by £4 million or 1.4 per cent, to almost £275 million. This increase is attributed mainly to an increase in Single Farm Payment due to exchange rate movements. The total value of the Single Farm Payment estimated to have accrued in 2007 is £231 million a net increase of 2.3% compared with 2006. Single Farm Payments account for approximately 84 per cent of all direct payments. Direct payments exclude the value of market support such as intervention purchases and export refunds.

Investment **Gross annual capital investment** increased in 2007 by around £15 million to £206 million. Within this total there was increased investment in plant and machinery as well as decreased investment in vehicles. Investment in buildings and works also increased to £112 million (of which £28 million was grant aided investment).

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

£ million

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
OUTPUT[2]						
Livestock and livestock products[3]						
Finished cattle and calves[4]	361.0	372.8	413.5	*243.3*	*238.6*	*273.2*
Finished sheep and lambs[5]	59.1	57.5	66.7	*43.7*	*51.9*	*41.7*
Finished pigs[6]	59.1	69.5	68.7	63.1	64.7	68.2
Poultry[7]	115.8	121.9	139.9	136.0	138.8	149.1
Eggs[8]	26.4	31.7	23.0	22.2	22.1	25.6
Milk	292.8	331.2	348.6	*343.4*	*328.4*	*419.8*
Minor products[9]	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.8	8.7
Total livestock and livestock products	**922.4**	**992.9**	**1,069.0**	***860.2***	***853.2***	***986.4***
Field crops						
Potatoes	21.4	22.0	21.0	13.3	19.6	21.4
Cereals[10]	20.8	26.5	28.0	*15.9*	*18.6*	*28.3*
of which: barley[10]	14.3	18.2	18.0	*9.8*	*10.9*	*16.9*
wheat[10]	5.2	6.7	8.4	*5.3*	*6.6*	*10.0*
oats[10]	1.3	1.6	1.6	*0.8*	*1.1*	*1.5*
Other crops[10,11]	7.5	8.6	7.5	*8.6*	*10.1*	*12.0*
Total field crops	**49.7**	**57.2**	**56.6**	***37.8***	***48.3***	***61.8***
Horticultural products						
Fruit	4.1	5.8	7.7	4.9	8.4	11.5
Vegetables	15.1	16.1	16.4	15.1	16.2	19.4
Mushrooms	27.1	25.1	23.5	24.2	19.4	21.7
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	13.1	13.8	14.2	14.3	12.0	11.2
Total horticultural products	**59.4**	**60.8**	**61.7**	**58.4**	**56.0**	**63.8**
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	49.5	61.3	49.8	51.3	39.5	50.6
Agricultural contract work[12]	37.3	40.8	45.5	47.9	49.4	51.8
Milk quota leasing	3.7	4.3	7.1	0.7	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities[13]	18.4	21.5	19.4	17.1	15.8	15.8
A Gross output	**1,140.4**	**1,238.7**	**1,309.1**	***1,073.4***	***1,062.1***	***1,230.1***
of which:						
subsidies (less taxes) on products[14]	210.9	205.3	242.6	*26.0*	*7.7*	*4.2*

1. A description of the methodology relating to this series and the derivation of the main aggregates, is given in the Appendix. The output data for 2005, 2006 and 2007 excludes the Single Farm Payment, and **therefore data in italics and with shaded background is not comparable to previous years where italics (and background shading) are not used.**
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, Beef Special Premium, Extensification Supplement, Agrimoney Compensation, Slaughter Premium, receipts from the Over Thirty Months Scheme and Older Cattle Disposal Scheme. The LFA Compensatory Allowance is included in subsidies'.
5. Includes Sheep Annual Premium, Rural World (LFA) Supplement and Agrimoney Compensation. The LFA Compensatory Allowance is included in 'other subsidies'.
6. Includes Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (Ongoers) payments.
7. Includes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds, and eggs for hatching.
8. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.

Table 2.1 contd.

£ million

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
A	**Gross output**	**1,140.4**	**1,238.7**	**1,309.1**	***1,073.4***	***1,062.1***	***1,230.1***
	INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
	Expenditure						
	Feedstuffs[15]	301.8	354.0	365.0	362.6	375.0	433.7
	Seeds[16]	8.7	10.1	8.4	7.4	7.0	7.7
	Marketing expenses[17]	34.1	34.3	34.2	32.5	30.9	32.0
	Fertilisers and lime	58.9	59.4	56.7	53.2	54.1	50.1
	Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	79.1	86.2	90.3	92.0	97.0	99.6
	Farm maintenance	26.6	31.8	29.6	31.0	31.8	32.1
	Veterinary expenses and medicines	31.5	32.0	34.6	36.1	37.1	38.3
	Miscellaneous expenses	105.7	116.5	118.5	124.2	126.8	131.9
	Agricultural contract work	37.3	40.8	45.5	47.9	49.4	51.8
	Milk quota leasing	6.0	5.9	10.5	2.0	0.0	0.0
B	**Gross input**	**689.8**	**771.0**	**793.1**	**788.8**	**809.0**	**877.4**
C	**Gross value added (A-B)**	**450.6**	**467.7**	**516.0**	***284.6***	***253.2***	***352.7***
	Consumption of fixed capital						
	- livestock	47.9	42.1	52.5	45.5	33.3	48.5
	- plant, machinery and vehicles	80.7	79.1	79.7	81.8	83.3	84.9
	- buildings and works	94.3	94.5	91.6	91.1	92.0	93.7
D	**Total consumption of fixed capital**	**222.8**	**215.7**	**223.8**	**218.4**	**208.5**	**227.1**
	Other subsidies (not paid on products)[18]	37.2	33.7	35.2	*258.1*	*263.1*	*270.5*
	Other taxes (not levied on products)[19]	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.4
E	**Other subsidies (less taxes)**	31.8	28.1	29.3	*252.2*	*256.9*	*264.1*
F	**Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)**	**259.6**	**280.0**	**321.5**	**318.3**	**301.6**	**389.6**
G	Paid labour	48.6	52.2	54.1	52.7	52.3	54.8
H	Interest	34.9	34.5	41.7	42.6	45.5	58.2
I	Net rent[20]	51.3	50.6	49.9	43.5	44.2	43.7
J	**Total income from farming[21] (F-G-H-I)**	**124.9**	**142.7**	**175.8**	**179.5**	**159.6**	**233.0**

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, triticale 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 Single Farm Payment, LFA Compensatory Allowance, set-aside payments, payments for the non-capital element of the Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme 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: 2000 = 100

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Index at current prices						
Net value added[1]	101.4	109.3	125.6	124.3	117.8	152.2
Total income from farming[1]	108.4	123.9	152.7	155.9	138.6	202.3
Index in real terms[2]						
Net value added	98.0	102.7	114.5	110.2	101.3	125.5
Total income from farming	104.8	116.3	139.2	138.2	119.2	166.8

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

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices

Indices: 2000 = 100

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Gross output volume[1]	105.2	108.3	110.8	110.2	110.6	114.5
Gross input volume[1]	104.0	108.7	110.3	107.3	105.8	104.4
Gross value added volume[1]	106.7	107.8	111.5	114.1	117.0	127.9
Net value added volume[1]	112.6	116.7	121.9	128.1	135.3	150.1
Total factor productivity[2]	103.4	106.4	108.4	110.9	114.7	119.1
Labour productivity[3]	119.8	125.4	135.5	145.2	155.2	175.5
Single factorial terms of trade[4]	98.8	106.0	103.2	107.1	112.1	115.9

1. Calculated by applying 2000 output and input prices to the volume of each item of output and input in every year. The resulting series, therefore, represent volume changes at constant 2000 prices.
2. Calculated as the ratio of output at constant prices to all inputs (including labour and capital) at constant prices.
3. Calculated as the ratio of net value added at constant prices to total labour input (in Annual Work Units).
4. Single factorial terms of trade is a new indicator that measures changes in farmers' economic welfare. See section A in Chapter Six for a full explanation of this concept.

Table 2.4 Estimated cash flow for agriculture

£ million

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Total income from farming	**124.9**	**142.7**	**175.8**	**179.5**	**159.6**	**233.0**
Less:						
output stock change	-13.4	+7.3	+4.2	-6.7	-9.1	-12.9
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	49.5	61.3	49.8	51.3	39.5	50.6
capital investment[1]	104.7	128.5	114.2	183.5	187.5	187.1
Plus:						
input stock change	-0.8	+1.8	-0.4	+0.1	+0.4	-0.6
capital consumption	222.8	215.7	223.8	218.4	208.5	227.1
capital grants paid in year[2]	0.4	0.1	0.2	1.6	17.8	20.1
change in borrowings	1.2	18.1	49.2	-7.8	40.0	88.9
Cash available to farm families from farming	**207.7**	**181.3**	**280.4**	**163.7**	**208.4**	**343.7**

1. The capital investment figures used are those given in Table 2.12 but with a deduction made for the value of work done by principal farmers and spouses. The figures for buildings and works in Table 2.12 are estimated from the Farm Business Survey (with an addition for non grant-aided investment) and are shown in that table as investment in the year in which work was undertaken.

   Since there is known to be a delay between work being done and grant being paid, the investment estimates have been included in the 'cash flow' one year earlier.
2. These estimates are entered in the year in which they are paid. The grants are mostly in respect of capital investments made in previous years.

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

2006 (Final)

Sector	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	372.9	89.5	16.1	10.7	116.2	256.7	53.0%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	211.6	103.6	29.0	21.9	154.4	57.1	11.8%
Sheep and wool	49.0	12.2	8.0	3.9	24.1	24.9	5.1%
Total grazing livestock	**633.5**	**205.3**	**53.0**	**36.4**	**294.8**	**338.7**	**69.9%**
Pigs	64.7	35.2	-	1.6	36.9	27.8	5.8%
Poultry	160.4	132.8	-	5.8	138.7	21.8	4.5%
Total pigs and poultry	**225.1**	**168.1**	**-**	**7.4**	**175.5**	**49.6**	**10.2%**
Cereals	28.4	-	7.5	-	7.5	20.9	4.3%
Potatoes	19.6	-	3.5	-	3.5	16.1	3.3%
Total field crops	**48.1**	**-**	**10.9**	**0.1**	**11.0**	**37.1**	**7.7%**
Horticulture[5]	56.0	-	9.3	5.1	14.4	41.6	8.6%
Other items	24.4	6.0	1.1	0.1	7.2	17.2	3.6%
Total	**987.1**	**379.4**	**74.4**	**49.1**	**502.9**	**484.3**	**100.0%**

2007 (Provisional)

Sector	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	469.1	109.2	15.6	11.3	136.2	333.0	57.7%
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	234.7	105.4	26.5	23.1	155.0	79.7	13.8%
Sheep and wool	42.0	11.9	6.1	4.5	22.4	19.5	3.4%
Total grazing livestock	**745.8**	**226.5**	**48.2**	**38.9**	**313.6**	**432.2**	**74.8%**
Pigs	68.1	50.4	-	1.6	52.0	16.1	2.8%
Poultry	174.8	154.7	-	6.3	161.0	13.8	2.4%
Total pigs and poultry	**242.9**	**205.1**	**-**	**8.0**	**213.0**	**29.9**	**5.2%**
Cereals	40.0	-	7.7	-	7.7	32.3	5.6%
Potatoes	21.4	-	4.9	-	4.9	16.5	2.9%
Total field crops	**61.5**	**-**	**12.6**	**0.1**	**12.6**	**48.8**	**8.5%**
Horticulture[5]	63.8	-	10.9	5.5	16.4	47.4	8.2%
Other items	27.1	6.8	1.1	0.2	8.0	19.1	3.3%
Total	**1,141.1**	**438.4**	**72.7**	**52.6**	**563.7**	**577.4**	**100.0%**

1. Owing to changes in methodology, these estimates are not comparable with those for years prior to 2005. Single Farm Payment has not been included.
2. The items making up total gross output (as shown in Table 2.1) have been regrouped into the above enterprises and Outputs have been adjusted for changes in volume. In the case for breeding livestock stock appreciation has been excluded;
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 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. Horticulture comprises fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and hardy nursery stock.

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

	Units of quantity	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves[2]	tonnes dcw	128,730	131,328	139,845	132,300	139,686	157,380
Over Thirty Months Scheme[3]	tonnes carcase wt	33,573	27,584	32,488	29,995	2,531	-
Sheep and lambs	tonnes dcw	19,307	19,363	21,937	21,212	23,348	21,144
Pigs[4]	,,	72,183	76,953	74,554	67,341	67,322	71,366
Cattle and calves[2]	'000 head	420	423	449	406	445	507
Older Cattle Disposal Scheme	,,	-	-	-	-	22.5	19.0
Sheep and lambs	,,	916	895	987	956	1,051	960
Pigs[4]	,,	965	993	935	840	830	886
Poultry[5]	'000 tonnes lwt	183.1	199.6	222.0	228.9	235.2	248.7
Eggs[6]	m. doz	67.9	62.6	60.2	60.1	56.3	51.1
Milk	m. litres	1,780	1,786	1,788	1,870	1,909	1,917
Field crops							
Wheat	'000 tonnes	39.9	48.0	58.3	64.9	67.1	67.4
Barley	,,	131.7	124.6	136.8	127.9	115.4	117.7
Oats	,,	12.3	12.8	14.1	11.4	10.5	10.2
Potatoes	,,	274.7	233.5	236.8	173.1	170.9	177.4
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	'000 tonnes	39.8	24.7	37.2	44.4	40.4	69.1
Vegetables	,,	51.1	50.9	54.3	52.7	49.5	57.3
Mushrooms	,,	22.0	20.7	19.4	19.6	17.0	19.0

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.
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. Includes exports of store pigs.
5. Excludes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds and hatching eggs.
6. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.

Table 2.7 Average producer prices[1] of agricultural products

£ per unit

	Unit	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls[2]	head	482	507	541	588	629	643
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls[2]	kg dwt	1.56	1.62	1.71	1.78	1.92	1.93
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	79	96	94	68	93	94
Culled cows and bulls[2]	head	267	253	234	232	437	462
Culled cows and bulls[2]	kg dwt	1.08	1.05	0.95	0.95	1.40	1.43
Older cattle disposal scheme	head	-	-	-	-	245	222
Store cattle exported	head	397	429	447	414	434	439
Finished sheep and lambs	head	46.22	49.54	51.84	50.71	52.37	51.88
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	2.27	2.40	2.42	2.36	2.45	2.43
Finished clean pigs	head	62.69	69.86	75.20	76.44	79.21	78.55
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	0.85	0.91	0.95	0.96	0.99	0.99
Culled sows and boars	head	67	60	70	80	80	80
Milk[3]	litre	0.164	0.185	0.187	0.183	0.172	0.218
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.389	0.506	0.382	0.370	0.392	0.502
Broilers	kg lwt	0.512	0.499	0.519	0.507	0.508	0.531
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop[4]	tonne	97	100	103	88	117	133
Seed	tonne	158	126	111	95	125	173
Barley	tonne	76	87	90	83	95	141
Wheat	tonne	78	94	95	86	100	147
Mushrooms	tonne	1,232	1,210	1,210	1,232	1,144	1,144
Apples	tonne	120	265	148	122	168	179

1. Before deduction of marketing charges, commissions and levies, where applicable.
2. Includes cattle slaughtered under the Over Thirty Months Scheme.
3. Before deduction of superlevy, if applicable.
4. 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: 2000 = 100

	Weights[2]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Finished steers and heifers[3]	221	101	105	111	115	124	125
Culled cows and bulls[3]	32	105	102	92	92	135	139
Store cattle exported	3	104	112	117	109	114	115
Finished sheep and lambs	48	118	125	126	123	127	126
Finished clean pigs	71	103	110	115	116	119	119
Culled sows and boars	1	80	72	83	96	96	96
Milk	359	88	100	101	99	93	118
Eggs for consumption	26	104	135	102	99	105	134
Broilers	80	103	101	105	102	102	107
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	19	135	140	143	123	164	185
Seed	3	238	190	168	144	189	262
Barley	16	99	113	117	109	124	184
Wheat	3	96	116	117	106	123	182
Mushrooms	33	99	97	97	99	92	92
Apples	6	108	238	133	109	151	161
Total products index[2]	**920**	**98**	**106**	**107**	**106**	**110**	**123**
Inputs index[4]	**1,000**	**103**	**107**	**113**	**110**	**112**	**126**

1. The indices relate to prices from which marketing expenses have not been deducted.
2. The total products index is calculated by taking into account the significance of each item in the base period (2000). 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.
4. This index does not cover all inputs. It comprises feedstuffs, seeds, fertilisers and lime, and marketing expenses.

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

£ per head

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	623	690	626	664	669	858
Dairy cows in calf	488	535	478	477	534	635
Dairy springing heifers	483	421	517	440	527	754
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	538	597	616	529	592	613
Beef cows in calf	434	442	437	427	480	504
Beef springing heifers	490	518	570	502	493	535
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	342	349	365	309	323	334
300-400 kg steers	403	425	451	399	405	413
400-500 kg steers	470	505	528	471	491	488
Over 500 kg steers	555	594	618	564	603	604
150-300 kg heifers	244	252	281	275	283	291
300-400 kg heifers	325	347	369	355	369	375
400-500 kg heifers	403	436	452	434	466	465
Over 500 kg heifers	480	512	532	515	557	565
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	205	201	208	156	208	267
Over 200 kg steers	404	442	409	352	398	321
Under 200 kg heifers	150	162	170	166	206	242
Over 200 kg heifers	252	293	292	289	328	292
Dropped calves						
For rearing	80	95	95	69	88	96
Cull cows	295	284	269	280	358	377
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	59.07	65.20	48.34	47.04	60.90	74.27
Blackface Cross	62.33	71.00	48.00	75.15	71.79	72.46
Other breeds	62.81	69.51	65.10	65.12	62.20	67.26
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	38.86	45.85	23.83	24.92	33.04	34.22
Blackface Cross	52.92	56.23	39.65	47.29	44.11	40.67
Other breeds	45.13	47.10	45.43	42.11	47.99	48.38
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	45.76	47.49	48.45	43.31	42.28	46.98
Blackface Cross	…	…	43.83	45.44	63.00	68.00
Other breeds	76.51	77.52	80.18	70.49	75.44	73.86
Cull ewes						
Blackface	15.64	18.26	16.21	14.41	15.21	22.49
Blackface Cross	17.14	18.22	20.74	17.05	18.65	17.68
Other breeds	26.98	33.37	33.36	27.86	31.02	30.91
Cull rams	32.75	37.88	41.97	33.06	34.55	36.41
Store lambs	32.89	35.77	34.24	30.87	33.77	32.89
PIGS[2]						
Breeding pigs						
Sows in pig	104	127	92	…	…	…
Springing gilts	102	96	-	…	…	…
Weaner/store pigs						
Under 15kg	13.98	16.07	15.40	…	…	…
15-30kg	20.34	22.57	23.00	…	…	…
30-45kg	31.32	30.10	31.02	…	…	…
Over 45kg	55.08	49.40	54.37	…	…	…
Cull sows	57.65	63.20	72.89	…	…	…
Cull boars	60.47	60.63	80.80	…	…	…

1. Average prices calculated from returns made by auction marts.
2. Pig prices have been unavailable since July 2004.

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

£ million[3]

	2002	2003 [4]	2004 [4]	2005 [4]	2006 [4]	2007[4] (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS[5]						
Single farm payment	-	-	-	224.4	226.0	231.1
Cereals						
Arable Area Payments Scheme	7.7	8.6	8.4	-	-	-
Other crops	0.6	0.6	0.7	-	-	-
Cattle						
Beef Special Premium	48.1	44.2	53.7	-	-	-
Suckler Cow Premium	43.4	44.3	48.8	-	-	-
Extensification Supplement	30.3	32.5	36.1	-	-	-
Over Thirty Months Scheme[6]	33.0	26.4	28.1	26.0	2.2	-
Older Cattle Disposal Scheme	-	-	-	-	5.5	4.2
Slaughter Premium	28.8	29.0	32.9	-	-	-
Beef Quality Initiative	-	-	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6
Total cattle	**183.7**	**176.4**	**200.5**	**26.8**	**8.3**	**4.8**
Sheep						
Sheep Annual Premium[7]	18.3	19.0	20.9	-	-	-
Total sheep	**18.3**	**19.0**	**20.9**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Pigs						
Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (Ongoers)	0.7	0.7	-	-	-	-
Total pigs	**0.7**	**0.7**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Milk						
Dairy Premium	-	-	13.6	-	-	-
Total milk	**-**	**-**	**13.6**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other direct payments						
Set-aside (Arable Area Payments Scheme)	0.6	0.7	0.6	-	-	-
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital)	5.0	5.2	5.7	4.9	4.8	5.0
Weather Aid	4.6	-	-	-	-	-
LFA Compensatory Allowance	23.5	23.7	22.1	21.8	21.0	20.7
Countryside Management Scheme	2.9	3.1	5.6	5.8	10.2	12.4
Others[8]	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6
Total other direct payments	**37.2**	**33.1**	**34.2**	**32.9**	**36.5**	**38.8**
Total direct payments	**248.1**	**238.5**	**278.3**	**284.0**	**270.8**	**274.7**
LEVIES[9]						
Milk						
Superlevy	-	-	0.5	-	-	-

1. Table 2.1
2. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).
3. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.
4. Payments after 'modulation' (i.e.reduction) of 3% in 2002, 3.5% in 2003 and 2004, 3% in 2005, 8.5% in 2006 and 9.5% in 2007 where applicable. Total modulation amounted to £5.4 million in 2002, £6.5 million in 2003 and £7.3 million in 2004. After application of €5,000 franchise per farm from 2005, total modulation amounted to £4.5 million in 2005, £17.5 million in 2006 and £19.7 million in 2007.
5. Excludes expenditure on market regulation (such as intervention purchases and export refunds) by the UK Rural Payments Agency.
6. Gross producer receipts before marketing expenses.
7. Includes Rural World (LFA) Supplement.
8. Includes Organic Farming Scheme and other miscellaneous payments.
9. Excludes non-government levies.

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

£ million[2]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme	0.3	0.2	-	-	-	-
Investment in agricultural holdings	-	-	-	1.3	2.7	0.1
Organic Farming (Conversion of Animal Housing) Scheme	-	-	-	0.8	0.8	0.3
Farm Nutrient Management Scheme	-	-	-	0.4	12.2	16.0
Total capital grants	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**2.4**	**15.7**	**16.5**
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation[3]	25.4	22.1	15.6	11.5	11.3	13.7
Total other direct payments[4]	**25.4**	**22.2**	**15.6**	**11.6**	**11.3**	**13.7**

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

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

£ million

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Grant-aided investment[2]	2.8	2.7	0.8	5.2	28.5	27.6
Non-aided investment	27.6	28.5	44.0	35.0	70.1	84.2
Total buildings and works[3]	**30.4**	**31.2**	**44.8**	**40.2**	**98.6**	**111.8**
Plant and machinery	57.9	67.1	63.7	79.0	82.8	85.4
Vehicles[3,4]	20.7	21.8	17.8	12.5	9.5	8.3
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	**78.6**	**88.9**	**81.5**	**91.5**	**92.2**	**93.7**
Total investment	**109.0**	**120.0**	**126.2**	**131.7**	**190.9**	**205.5**

1. Excluding investment in forestry and arterial drainage.
2. See Table 2.11 for details.
3. Estimated from the Farm Business Survey.
4. Vehicles shown at 'farm share'.

Table 2.13 Milk quota

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Milk quota (million litres):						
Owned[1]	1,651.7	1,670.2	1,763.1	1,769.6	1,817.0	1,853.1
Leased[2]	198.7	69.2	31.2	69.3	12.7	-1.3
Total	**1,850.4**	**1,739.4**	**1,794.3**	**1,838.9**	**1,829.7**	**1,851.8**

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.

Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms

number of persons

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE[1]						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	19,706	19,265	18,329	18,159	17,981	17,185
Part time	14,826	14,728	14,934	14,367	14,013	14,022
Total	**34,532**	**33,993**	**33,263**	**32,526**	**31,994**	**31,207**
Spouses of farmers	**6,201**	**6,428**	**6,396**	**6,186**	**6,285**	**6,345**
Other workers						
Full time	2,720	2,794	2,741	2,553	2,531	2,946
Part time	2,773	2,848	2,785	2,514	2,347	2,696
Casual/seasonal	8,047	8,423	8,147	7,294	6,795	5,780
Total other workers	**13,540**	**14,065**	**13,673**	**12,361**	**11,673**	**11,422**
Total agricultural labour force	**54,273**	**54,486**	**53,332**	**51,073**	**49,952**	**48,974**
Annual Work Units (AWUs)[2]	**31,925**	**31,641**	**30,595**	**30,002**	**29,622**	**29,071**

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

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
MANPOWER STATISTICS[1]						
Self-employed						
Male	18,393	18,069	17,249	17,106	16,918	16,261
Female	1,313	1,196	1,080	1,053	1,063	924
Total	**19,706**	**19,265**	**18,329**	**18,159**	**17,981**	**17,185**
Employees						
Male	11,848	12,368	12,060	10,939	10,285	10,085
Female	1,692	1,697	1,613	1,422	1,388	1,337
Total	**13,540**	**14,065**	**13,673**	**12,361**	**11,673**	**11,422**
Total agricultural manpower	**33,246**	**33,330**	**32,002**	**30,520**	**29,654**	**28,607**

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 Gross Turnover of the food and drinks processing sector[1]

£ million

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (provisional)
Animal by-products	23	23	24	17	17	17
Bakeries	150	167	175	175	180	181
Beef and sheepmeat	484	503	518	586	600	602
Drinks	315	302	324	291	274	278
Eggs	34	32	35	34	31	33
Fish	80	84	75	77	78	76
Fruit and vegetables	127	141	156	138	148	154
Milk and milk products	522	541	573	612	607	599
Pigmeat	159	164	179	191	170	171
Poultrymeat	299	318	340	372	405	384
Total processing sector	**2,194**	**2,275**	**2,399**	**2,492**	**2,510**	**2,494**

1. 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 2006 have been estimated by adjusting the 2005 baseline, largely on the basis of information available within DARD.

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

£ million

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (provisional)
Animal by-products	19	20	21	15	14	15
Bakeries	37	47	53	60	57	55
Beef and sheepmeat	277	291	304	356	374	360
Drinks	106	152	155	141	145	130
Eggs	26	25	27	26	25	25
Fish	61	64	56	55	54	55
Fruit and vegetables	67	80	90	79	87	90
Milk and milk products	345	349	369	430	425	400
Pigmeat	77	82	91	103	96	90
Poultrymeat	212	233	262	289	320	290
Total processing sector	**1,227**	**1,342**	**1,427**	**1,554**	**1,599**	**1,510**

1. The term 'external sales' refers to sales to Great Britain, RoI, foreign countries and intervention.
2. See note 1 Table 2.16
3. These figures are not comparable with the export statistics published in pre-1996 issues of the Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture.

Table 2.18 Estimated employment in the food and drinks processing sector[1]

full-time equivalents

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (provisional)
Animal by-products	270	255	216	170	164	162
Bakeries	3,416	3,500	3,274	3,134	2,933	2,986
Beef and sheepmeat	2,770	2,810	2,623	2,846	2,896	2,878
Drinks	1,780	1,542	1,563	1,407	1,246	1,249
Eggs	205	193	197	172	151	144
Fish	996	1,000	900	861	791	761
Fruit and vegetables	1,499	1,538	1,613	1,673	1,766	1,778
Milk and milk products	2,227	2,228	2,369	2,423	2,436	2,393
Pigmeat	1,454	1,489	1,541	1,572	1,442	1,451
Poultrymeat	4,160	4,178	4,399	4,261	4,890	4,572
Total processing sector	**18,774**	**18,733**	**18,693**	**18,517**	**18,714**	**18,372**

1. See note 1 Table 2.16

B. COMMODITIES AND INPUTS

The introduction of the Single Farm Payment has fundamentally altered the definition of commodity output. Up until 2004 direct subsidies were included in output values in the tables where relevant. From 2005 the Single Farm Payment **cannot** be included in any equivalent output value because it is not commodity specific – however it is included in the aggregate figure (see Table 2.10). These changes are required to conform to agreed national accounting principles but have led to a discontinuity in the value of output series for some products. A ‘market value’ has therefore been estimated to assist in like for like comparisons between years before and after the introduction of Single Farm Payments (or decoupling of direct subsidies). The market value excludes subsidies and stock changes. An alternative comparator ‘Output at Market Value’ can be estimated by adding stock changes to market value but this measure is not shown separately.

As in other sections, data from 2005 (post decoupling), which is not calculated on a comparable basis with earlier data, is identified in italics and background shading.

Cattle and calves

The number of clean cattle presented for slaughter in 2007 increased by 21,000 or 5.7 per cent to 388,500 head. The number of animals slaughtered has increase across all categories, however, the biggest increase was in the number of steers slaughtered which increased by 12,000. The proportion of steers slaughtered increased from 50 per cent in 2006 to 51 per cent in 2007. This is attributed to the disruption to normal marketing of male beef animals in 2005, when additional male animals were presented as young bulls which had the affect of reducing the number of steer animals available in 2006. The proportion of heifers entering the food chain fell from 38 to 37 per cent although the number of heifers slaughtered increased.

External sales of finished beef cattle rose by 2,700 head or 66 per cent in 2007. Great Britain was the main destination for these animals accounting for 79 per cent of the total. The rest were exported to other destinations within the EU.

Average dressed carcase weight was 6.6kg higher in 2007 at 334 kg compared with 2006. In total, the volume of clean beef output rose by 7.8 per cent to 129,700 tonnes. Average deadweight producer price increased marginally by 0.2 per cent to 193 pence per kg. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 8.0 per cent to £250 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls increased by 13 per cent in 2007 to 97,100 head. Average carcase weights for these animals increased by 3.2 per cent to 323kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls was up by 2.4 per cent on 2006 levels at 143 pence per kg deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales increased by 21 per cent to £40.3 million in 2007. Non-food sources i.e. OCDS accounted for £4.2 million or 10 per cent of total cull cattle receipts. In 2005, prior to the removal of the beef export ban in 2006, non-food sources accounted for 95 per cent of total cull cattle receipts.

An estimated 33,200 calves were sold in 2007, up from 17,400 calves in 2006. This can be attributed to the first full year of trading since the resumption of live exports following the removal of the beef export ban in May 2006. The average calf price increased by 0.5 per cent to £94 per head and the revenue generated amounted to £3.1 million.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2007 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle exports, store exports, OTMS and OCDS) increased by 15 per cent to £273 million.

Milk

In 2007, the annual average dairy cow population increased to 288,100 head. Average gross milk yield per cow decreased in 2007 by 1 per cent, to 6,800 litres. This may be attributable in part to the poor weather conditions experienced throughout the summer months.

The increase in cow numbers led to a total output of 1.92 billion litres (up 0.4 per cent), which is the highest level of milk output ever attained in Northern Ireland. Although production levels have marginally increased, milk prices (gross) in 2007 were 27 per cent higher, at 22 pence per litre, than in 2006 as a result of strong global demand for milk products coupled with a drought affecting some major global dairying regions.

Consequently, the value of output of milk rose, by £91 million or 28 per cent, to £420 million.

Sheep and lambs

Marketings of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 5.4 per cent in 2007 to 837,000 head. Average dressed carcase weight was similar to 2006, at 21.4 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheepmeat produced fell by 5.7 per cent to 17,900 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices also decreased, by 0.7 per cent, to 243 pence per kg deadweight. The combined volume and price changes meant that total market value of clean sheep and lambs decreased, by 6.3 per cent, to £43 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams decreased, by 26 per cent, to 123,200 head. There was a 4.6 per cent increase in the price received for these animals. In combination these changes resulted in a fall in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams by 22 per cent to £2.9 million.

Overall, the total value of output from the sheep sector decreased, by 20 per cent, to £41.7 million.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs marketed during 2007 was 7.1 per cent higher than in 2006, at 871,100 head. Average dressed carcase weight fell, by 0.5 per cent, to 79.7 kg. These changes resulted in a 6.6 per cent rise in the quantity of pigmeat produced, to 69,400 tonnes. Pig producer prices decreased by 0.4 per cent to 98.6 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, output from clean pig production was 6.2 per cent higher, at £68 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars decreased, by 13 per cent, to 12,600 head. The average price per head of cull sows and boars remained unchanged from 2006, which caused market returns for these animals to decrease (by 13 per cent) to £1 million.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector increased, by 5.4 per cent, to £68.2 million.

Poultry

The total volume of poultrymeat production in 2007 increased by 5.7 per cent, to 248,700 tonnes liveweight. This is a continuation of recent trends in production within this sector. The production of broilers was up 6.9 per cent to 228,900 tonnes liveweight, and therefore with producer prices increasing by 4.6 per cent to 53 pence per kg, market value increased to £122 million, 12 per cent higher than in 2006. Broilers accounts for 81 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production decreased, by 11 per cent, to 9,600 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector was 7.5 per cent higher than in 2006, at £149 million.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 50 million dozen eggs in 2007. This was a fall of 8.5 per cent on the 2006 level. The average producer price of eggs however increased, by 28 per cent, to 50 pence per dozen. The overall value of egg output therefore increased, by 16 per cent, to £25.6 million (including eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

In 2007, the area of potatoes planted increased marginally to 4,800 hectares suggesting that the substantial decline the area planted over the last few years may be coming to an end. The average yield decreased, by 5.0 per cent, to 40 tonnes per hectare. This was most likely due to the adverse weather conditions during the 2007 growing season. Consequently, the total quantity of potatoes harvested was 4.8 per cent lower at 189,000 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes in 2007 were 1.9 per cent higher at 134,000 tonnes. There was an 18 per cent increase in sales in the first half of the 2007 calendar year but a 5.5 per cent decrease during the second half of the year when the sales pattern is compared with the previous calendar year. Sales in the first six months of 2007 would be almost exclusively from the 2006 harvest, while sales in the last six months of 2007 would be mainly from the 2007 harvest. In 2007, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) increased by 9.4 per cent to 20,000 tonnes. In total for 2007, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 177,400 tonnes, which is a 3.8 per cent increase on the level of production in 2006.

The average price of ware potatoes in 2007 was £134 per tonne, which was 11 per cent higher than in 2006. The average price of seed potatoes increased, by 38 per cent, to £173 per tonne. The total value of potato output increased in 2007, by 9.0 per cent, to £21.4 million.

Cereals

In 2007, spring barley yields were up by 8.0 per cent while winter barley yields fell by 7.5 per cent. The area of spring barley declined by 0.7 per cent to 18,100 hectares while winter barley increased by 2.9 per cent to 4,700 hectares. As a consequence, production of spring barley increased by 7.2 per cent while winter barley decreased by 4.9 per cent. Overall, total barley production increased, by 4.0 per cent, to 119,300 tonnes while the total area of barley grown increased marginally.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2007 increased by 2.0 per cent to 117,700 tonnes. The average producer price of barley increased, by 49 per cent, to £141 per tonne. These changes resulted in a 55 per cent increase in the value of barley output, to £16.9 million.

In 2007, the area of wheat grown was 5.1 per cent higher than 2006 but when coupled with a 2.2 per cent decrease in yield, production increased by 2.7 per cent, to 67,900 tonnes. The volume of wheat sold or used on-farm in 2007 increased marginally by 0.4 per cent to 67,400 tonnes. The price of wheat, however, increased by 48 per cent, to £147 per tonne. These changes meant that the value of output of wheat output grew by 52 per cent to £10 million.

The area of oats grown rose by 8.9 per cent to 2,000 hectares, but with yield decreasing by 12 per cent, production fell, by 3.7 per cent, to 10,500 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 40 per cent higher at £139 per tonne, resulting in the value of output growing by 36 per cent, to £1.4 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2007 increased by 14 per cent to £63.8 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) rose by 37 per cent to £11.5 million. Apple production rose by 71 per cent to 69,000 tonnes; prices also rose by 6.1 per cent resulting in a 40 per cent increase in output value. The value of output of mushrooms increased by 12 per cent to £21.7 million while receipts from the sale of vegetables increased by 20 per cent to £19.4 million. Ornamental and hardy nursery stock output fell by 6.8 per cent to £11.2 million.

Feedstuffs

The volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2007 increased by 0.5 per cent to 1.80 million tonnes. Purchase volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds showed a net increase of 0.4 per cent in 2007. Within this overall change, dairy and calf compounds increased by 4.3 and 3.6 per cent, respectively, while beef cattle compounds decreased by 9 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased decreased by 13 per cent while, for pig and poultry compounds purchases increased by 0.6 and 2.2 per cent, respectively.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) fell by 9.8 per cent in 2007 to 356,000 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 2.1 per cent lower than 2006 levels at 2.19 million tonnes.

The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) increased, by 18 per cent, to £198 per tonne in 2007. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs increased, by 16 per cent, to £434 million.

Fertilisers and lime

The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2007 fell by 6.2 per cent to 300,000 tonnes while the average price also fell by 1.8 per cent to £161 per tonne. This fall in price reflects a 9 per cent swing in the volume of fertiliser sales from compounds to lower priced straights. As a result, the total value of fertiliser purchases decreased, by 7.9 per cent, to £48.5 million.

Total expenditure on lime rose by 14 per cent to £1.6 million. The quantity purchased increased by 9.3 per cent, while prices increased by 4.2 per cent.

Marketing expenses

Increased transport costs in 2007 had a knock-on effect on marketing expenses, which were 3.8 per cent higher than in 2006, at £32.0 million. Cattle marketing expenses increased to £19.3 million, while sheep expenses were up to £3.3 million. Marketing expenses for milk increased slightly to £7.8 million, while those for pigs remained at £1.7 million.

Machinery expenses

In 2007, machinery expenses rose, by 2.8 per cent, to £99.6 million. Within this total, expenditure on repairs increased by 2.8 per cent, fuel and oil expenditure rose by 5.5 per cent while other expenses fell by 2.6 per cent.

Interest

Total borrowing for farming purposes in 2007 was up 14 per cent. The average cost of borrowing increased by 0.87 percentage points to 8.0 per cent. As a result, the total interest bill increased by 28 per cent, to £58.2 million.

Labour

In 2007 the volume of paid labour input, excluding labour used on capital projects was 1.0 per cent lower, at 7.79 million hours, while paid labour costs rose by 4.8 per cent to £54.8 million.

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Table 2.19 Output of cattle and calves

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales (inc. OTMS) ('000 head)	410.3	412.8	433.0	394.0	367.7	388.5
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1]	155.6	161.6	171.4	178.3	192.2	192.6
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	309.8	313.5	315.5	329.8	327.3	333.9
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[2]	127.1	129.4	136.6	129.9	120.3	129.7
Value of output (inc. OTMS) (£m)	197.8	209.1	234.2	231.6	231.3	249.9
Cows and bulls						
Sales (inc. OTMS and OCDS) ('000 head)	124.2	106.0	126.5	114.4	86.2	97.1
Average producer price (p per kg dwt)[1]	108.1	104.9	94.9	95.2	139.8	143.2
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)[2]	247.0	241.1	246.3	244.1	312.8	322.8
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)[3]	30.7	25.6	31.1	27.9	19.9	25.2
Value of output (inc. OTMS and OCDS) (£m)	33.2	26.8	29.5	26.6	33.4	40.3
Calves						
Sales ('000 head)	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	17.4	33.2
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	79	96	94	68	93	94
Value of output (£m)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.6	3.1
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	6.5	6.9	7.7	8.1	5.9	6.8
Average producer price (£ per head)[1]	397	429	447	414	434	439
Value of output (£m)	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.3	2.6	3.0
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.8
Average producer price (£ per head)	631	678	622	568	590	774
Value of output (£m)	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.4
***less* Imported cattle**						
Marketings ('000 head)	37.6	43.7	50.1	30.3	28.9	30.1
Average producer price (£ per head)	485	531	551	528	528	548
Value of output (£m)	18.2	23.2	27.6	16.0	15.2	16.5
Total Market Value (£m)	**216.6**	**216.8**	**240.8**	**246.5**	**254.6**	**281.1**
Other receipts (£m)[3]	150.7	150.0	171.4	-	-	-
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-6.2	+5.9	+1.3	-3.2	-16.0	-8.0
Total value of output (£m)	**361.0**	**372.8**	**413.5**	***243.3***[4]	***238.6***	***273.2***
Net receipts from non-food outlets (included above)						
Over Thirty Months Scheme (£m)[5]	33.0	26.4	28.1	26.0	2.2	-
Older Cattle Disposal Scheme (£m)	-	-	-	-	5.5	4.2

1. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses for cattle for human consumption and for destruction under the Over Thirty Months Scheme. Excludes animals to the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme.
2. Including animals sold under the Over Thirty Months Scheme, but excluding animals under the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme.
3. Includes Suckler Cow Premium, Beef Special Premium, Extensification Supplement and Slaughter Premium. The LFA Compensatory Allowance is included with 'other subsidies'.
4. Figures in italics (with background shading) are not directly comparable with previous years because of a different treatment of direct payments following decoupling.
5. Excludes Slaughter Premium.

Table 2.20 Sources of home-fed finished cattle marketed[1]

per cent

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Cows and bulls	23	20	23	23	19	22
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	32	34	32	33	36	34
- the beef herd;	39	39	37	36	40	38
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	6	7	7	9	6	5
Total[2]	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Total number marketed ('000 head)	**534**	**519**	**571**	**508**	**454**	**490**

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

Table 2.21 Output of milk

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	296.7	291.1	287.0	284.0	284.7	288.1
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum)[1]	6,120	6,260	6,380	6,720	6,850	6,800
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	1,780	1,786	1,788	1,870	1,909	1,917
of which:						
sales off farms	1,774	1,781	1,784	1,866	1,905	1,913
used in farm households	6	5	4	4	4	4
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price[2]	16.39	18.46	18.67	18.31	17.15	21.84
Net price[3]	15.89	18.00	18.23	17.88	16.75	21.43
Market Value (£m)	**292.8**	**331.2**	**335.0**	**343.4**	**328.4**	**419.8**
Other receipts (£m)[4]	-	-	13.6	-	-	-
Value of output (£m)[2]	**292.8**	**331.2**	**348.6**	***343.4***[5]	***328.4***	***419.8***

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 Dairy Premium Scheme and Additional Dairy Premium.
5. See note 4 Table 2.18.

Table 2.22 Output of sheep

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished sheep and lambs	823	756	835	828	885	837
Culled ewes and rams	92.7	139.4	152.0	128.5	166.1	123.2
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished sheep and lambs	226.7	239.7	242.0	235.9	244.6	243.0
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	20.4	20.7	21.4	21.5	21.4	21.4
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	16.8	15.6	17.9	17.8	18.9	17.9
Culled ewes and rams	2.5	3.8	4.1	3.4	4.4	3.3
Market Value (£m)[3]	**38.6**	**39.2**	**45.3**	**42.8**	**48.3**	**44.9**
Other receipts (£m)[4]	18.3	19.0	20.9	-	-	-
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+2.1	-0.7	+0.5	+0.8	+3.6	-3.2
Value of output (£m)	**59.1**	**57.5**	**66.7**	***43.7***[5]	***51.9***	***41.7***

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports.
2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.
3. Includes breeding and store sheep exported less all sheep imported.
4. Comprising Sheep Annual Premium and Rural World (LFA) Supplement. The LFA Compensatory Allowance is included with 'other subsidies'.
5. See note 4 Table 2.18.

Table 2.23 Output of pigs

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)[1]						
Finished clean pigs	947.2	974.9	918.1	827.1	813.1	871.1
Culled sows and boars	16.1	15.7	14.5	10.6	14.5	12.6
Average price (p per kg deadweight)[2]						
Finished clean pigs	85.19	91.37	95.46	96.24	98.94	98.57
Culled sows and boars	44.21	39.95	46.05	53.16	53.22	53.20
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	73.6	76.5	78.8	79.4	80.1	79.7
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	69.7	74.5	72.3	65.7	65.1	69.4
Culled sows and boars	2.4	2.4	2.2	1.6	2.2	1.9
Market Value (£m)[3]	**60.2**	**68.8**	**68.8**	**62.9**	**64.7**	**69.1**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.0	+0.7	0.0	+0.2	0.0	-0.9
Value of output (£m)	**59.1**	**69.5**	**68.7**	**63.1**	**64.7**	**68.2**

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports.
2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.
3. Includes breeding and store pigs exported less all pigs imported. Also includes Pig Industry Restructuring Scheme (Ongoers).

Table 2.24 Output of poultry

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	183.1	199.6	222.0	228.9	235.2	248.7
Broilers	161.2	177.9	197.9	206.2	214.1	228.9
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	50.3	49.2	51.0	49.7	49.6	51.7
Broilers	51.2	49.9	51.9	50.7	50.8	53.1
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	115.5	121.0	138.2	136.6	138.2	150.3
of which broilers	82.6	88.8	102.8	104.5	108.8	121.6
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.3	+0.9	+1.8	-0.7	+0.5	-1.2
Value of Output (£m)[1]	**115.8**	**121.9**	**139.9**	**136.0**	**138.8**	**149.1**

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

Table 2.25 Output of eggs

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	65.3	60.9	58.7	58.5	54.4	49.8
Average producer price (p per dozen)[1]	39.27	50.72	38.36	37.18	39.56	50.47
Value of output (£m)[2]	**26.4**	**31.7**	**23.0**	**22.2**	**22.1**	**25.6**

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

Table 2.26 Crop production

harvest years

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Potatoes[1]						
Area ('000 hectares)	6.7	6.0	5.7	4.5	4.7	4.8
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	35.4	40.7	41.8	38.4	41.9	39.8
Production ('000 tonnes)	237.7	246.1	237.0	174.4	199.0	189.4
of which:						
saleable potatoes	213.7	217.6	211.6	156.1	172.4	163.9
chats[2] and waste	24.0	28.5	25.4	18.3	26.6	25.6
Barley[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	28.5	27.8	27.0	25.7	22.8	22.8
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.92	4.93	5.12	4.57	5.03	5.23
Production ('000 tonnes)	111.7	136.8	138.4	117.6	114.8	119.3
Wheat[4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	7.2	7.3	8.6	8.4	8.7	9.2
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.51	7.17	7.54	7.37	7.58	7.41
Production ('000 tonnes)	47.1	52.4	65.1	62.0	66.1	67.9
Oats[3,4]						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.4	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.1	5.8	5.75	5.03	5.87	5.19
Production ('000 tonnes)	12.0	14.3	14.1	9.8	10.9	10.5
Oilseed rape[5]						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.40	3.27	2.90	3.20	3.30	3.10
Production ('000 tonnes)	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.2
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	13.8	16.9	13.2	14.6	14.1	11.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	6.24	7.19	7.80	6.86	7.56	8.03
Production ('000 tonnes)	86.3	121.7	103.0	99.9	106.8	88.6
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	286.7	286.4	294.1	304.2	270.3	271.9
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	25.00	26.23	25.71	26.03	30.80	31.52
Production ('000 tonnes)	7,169.1	7,514.3	7,561.1	7920.1	8325.9	8571.2

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. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 9% moisture content.

Table 2.27 Output[1] of potatoes, barley and wheat

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
POTATOES[2]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	207.9	177.1	181.6	133.4	131.3	133.9
Seed	36.4	29.4	27.8	20.2	18.4	20.2
Stockfeed	30.4	26.9	27.4	19.5	21.2	23.4
Total	**274.7**	**233.5**	**236.8**	**173.1**	**170.9**	**177.4**
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	98.81	105.59	105.96	91.50	120.53	134.09
Seed	157.62	125.92	111.43	95.13	125.33	173.32
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	20.5	18.7	19.2	12.2	15.8	17.9
Seed	5.7	3.7	3.1	1.9	2.3	3.5
Stockfeed	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
Total[2]	**26.5**	**22.6**	**22.5**	**14.2**	**18.3**	**21.8**
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-5.0	-0.6	-1.5	-1.0	+1.3	-0.3
Value of output (£m)	**21.4**	**22.0**	**21.0**	**13.3**	**19.6**	**21.4**
BARLEY[3]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	131.7	124.6	136.8	127.9	115.4	117.7
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	76.02	86.60	89.63	83.14	94.95	141.03
Market Value (£m)	10.0	10.8	12.3	10.6	11.0	16.6
Other Receipts (£m)[4]	5.7	6.3	5.7	-	-	-
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.5	+1.1	+0.1	-0.8	-0.1	0.3
Value of output (£m)	**14.3**	**18.2**	**18.0**	***9.8***[5]	***10.9***	***16.9***
WHEAT[3]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	38.0	48.0	58.3	64.9	67.1	67.4
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	77.35	94.37	95.06	85.53	99.65	147.09
Market Value (£m)	3.1	4.5	5.5	5.6	6.7	9.9
Other Receipts (£m)[4]	1.5	1.8	2.3	-	-	-
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.5	+0.4	+0.6	-0.3	-0.1	+0.1
Value of output (£m)	**5.2**	**6.7**	**8.4**	***5.3***[5]	***6.6***	***10.0***

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.
5. See note 4 Table 2.18.

Table 2.28 Output of apples and mushrooms

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
APPLES[1]						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	39.4	24.5	36.9	44.2	40.3	69.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	120	265	148	122	168	179
Market value (£m)	4.7	6.5	5.5	5.4	6.8	12.3
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-1.5	-1.3	+1.4	-0.9	+1.2	-1.2
Value of Output (£m)	**3.2**	**5.2**	**6.8**	**4.4**	**8.0**	**11.1**
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	22.0	20.7	19.4	19.6	17.0	19.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,232	1,210	1,210	1,232	1,144	1,144
Value of output (£m)	**27.1**	**25.1**	**23.5**	**24.2**	**19.4**	**21.7**

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

Table 2.29 Quantity and cost of the main items of expenditure (including interest and labour)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS[1]						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	1,974	2,156	2,120	2,188	2,236	2,188
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	153	164	172	166	168	198
Value of feed consumed (£m)	**301.8**	**354.0**	**365.0**	**362.6**	**375.0**	**433.7**
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+0.5	+1.3	-0.1	-0.2	+0.4	-0.4
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	427	427	390	348	320	300
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	152	157	140	123	112	101
of which:						
Nitrogen	105	108	99	88	80	76
Phosphate	21	22	17	14	12	8
Potash	26	27	24	21	19	17
Average cost (£ per tonne of nutrient)	378	364	394	423	471	480
Value of purchases (£m)	**57.5**	**57.1**	**55.2**	**51.8**	**52.6**	**48.5**
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	96	144	91	92	90	98
Average cost (£ per tonne)	14.00	15.60	15.60	15.00	16.00	16.67
Value of purchases (£m)	**1.3**	**2.3**	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.6**
MARKETING EXPENSES[2]						
cattle	18.5	19.3	20.3	18.6	18.8	19.3
sheep	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	2.7	3.3
pigs	2.5	2.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
milk	9.0	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.8
Total	**34.1**	**34.3**	**34.2**	**32.5**	**30.9**	**32.0**
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	4.0	3.7	4.4	4.7	4.6	5.5
Total interest charges (£m)[3]	**34.9**	**34.5**	**41.7**	**42.6**	**45.5**	**58.2**
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid male workers	42.85	41.92	41.45	41.99	40.74	41.79
Average earnings of full-time paid male workers (£ per hour)[4]	5.33	5.56	5.99	6.17	6.30	6.91
Average earnings of full-time paid male workers (£ per week)[4]	228.39	233.08	248.29	259.08	256.66	288.77
Volume of paid labour (million hours)[5]	8.96	9.16	8.68	8.32	7.87	7.79
Value of paid labour (£m)[5]	**48.6**	**52.2**	**54.1**	**52.7**	**52.3**	**54.8**

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 75 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing, and a further 6 per cent is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part of the forested area (87,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2006/2007*[1]).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Only 3,991 farms (15 per cent) have arable or horticultural crops. These crops occupy 51,200 hectares and make up only 5 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (22,800 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 9,200 hectares. In 2007, the cropped area also included approximately 3,000 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,400 hectares) and vegetables (1,300 hectares). The area of cereals was 2 per cent higher in 2007 compared with 2006. Over the 10 year period since 1997 the cropped land area has decreased by 14 per cent, with 25 per cent less land in cereals and 38 per cent less in potatoes.

Grazing livestock

All but 6 per cent of Northern Ireland farms have cattle or sheep. In 2007, cattle were present on 22,252 farms (85 per cent), sheep on 8,646 farms (33 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 24,483 farms (94 per cent).

The total number of cattle, recorded at 1.64 million in the June 2007 census, has fallen by 2 per cent since 2000. At June 2007, there were 286,000 dairy cows, half a per cent more than in 2006. There were 273,000 beef cows, 1.5 per cent less than in 2006. Both beef cow and total cattle populations peaked in 1998 and are now below the levels in that year by 21 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

In 2007, the sheep breeding flock was 3 per cent smaller than in 2006 with 957.3 thousand ewes. Ewe numbers are at their lowest level since 1986. Including lambs and other sheep the flock totalled 2.02 million in 2007.

Intensive livestock

Pigs and/or poultry are present on 4 per cent of Northern Ireland's farms, where the poultry are kept for commercial purposes.

The number of pigs in Northern Ireland at June 2007 was estimated at 410,500, 6 per cent more than in the previous June, while the number of pig herds increased by 8 per cent to 490. There was a fall in sow numbers of 1 per cent between 2006 and 2007 to 37,000.

[1] Available on the DARD website at http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/index/publications/annual-reports.htm

The size of the Northern Ireland pig herd contracted significantly between 1997 and 2001 when pig numbers fell by 45 per cent. In 2007 there were 490 farms with pigs.

In June 2007, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 17.3 million birds, 6 per cent higher than in 2006. The number of laying birds (2.4 million) was 9 per cent higher while there was 11 per cent less broilers (11.9 million) in 2007.

The past few years have seen total poultry numbers at their highest ever recorded level except for during the wartime years. However the laying flock is 28 per cent lower than in 1994.

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**. Crops occupy 13 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with 2 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (210,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (143,000), whereas, on **lowland farms**, there were 62,000 beef cows and 144,000 dairy cows in 2007. **LFA farms** account for 45 and 57 per cent of the Province's pigs and poultry respectively.

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Table 3.1 Land use, 2007

thousand hectares

	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	51	941	10	13	1,015
Common grazing	-	36	-	-	36
NI Forest Service[1]	-	-	61	15	76
Other areas	-	-	16	208	224
All land[2]	**51**	**977**	**87**	**236**	**1,351**

1. Excludes 1,600 ha let to farmers; these areas are included in the area of agricultural holdings.

2. Land area, excluding significant areas of inland water.

Table 3.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land, June 2002 - 2007

thousand hectares

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Oats	2.4	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.0
Wheat	7.2	7.3	8.6	8.4	8.7	9.2
Barley: Winter	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.6	4.7
Spring	24.5	23.6	22.5	21.7	18.2	18.1
Mixed corn	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Potatoes	6.7	6.0	5.7	4.5	4.7	4.8
Arable crop silage	1.9	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.3
Other field crops	2.7	3.6	4.0	4.5	5.2	6.0
Total agricultural crops	**49.5**	**49.8**	**50.7**	**48.5**	**46.8**	**48.2**
Fruit	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
Other horticultural crops	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total horticultural crops	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.1**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**2.9**
Grass: Under 5 years old	136.4	138.0	141.8	135.6	126.5	122.1
5 years old and over	707.3	710.3	696.7	675.8	677.2	671.9
Total grass	**843.7**	**848.2**	**838.5**	**811.4**	**803.7**	**794.0**
Total crops and grass	**896.3**	**901.3**	**892.3**	**862.9**	**853.5**	**845.2**
Rough grazing[1]	151.6	152.9	151.2	148.6	151.3	146.5
Woods and plantations	7.9	8.4	8.2	8.6	9.6	9.9
Other land[2]	11.3	11.2	11.0	9.4	14.1	12.9
Total area of farms	**1,067.2**	**1,073.7**	**1,062.8**	**1,029.5**	**1,028.5**	**1,014.5**

1. Excludes common rough grazing (36,380 ha).

2. Includes set aside and land not used for agriculture.

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2002 - 2007

thousand head

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CATTLE[1]						
Dairy cows						
In milk	276.2	268.7	265.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	21.7	21.5	22.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total dairy cows	**297.9**	**290.1**	**288.3**	**287.1**	**284.7**	**286.1**
Dairy heifers in calf	58.5	60.0	62.5	64.2	66.5	67.8
Beef cows						
In milk	255.5	239.9	240.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	51.5	55.5	55.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total beef cows	**307.0**	**295.4**	**296.2**	**280.6**	**276.7**	**272.6**
Beef heifers in calf	33.0	33.3	34.3	42.4	41.8	36.7
Total cows	**604.9**	**585.6**	**584.5**	**567.7**	**561.5**	**558.7**
Total heifers in calf	**91.5**	**93.3**	**96.7**	**106.7**	**108.3**	**104.5**
Bulls for service	16.5	16.6	17.0	**19.7**	**19.7**	**17.6**
Other cattle						
Over 2 years	111.4	114.8	115.4	**175.9**	**170.5**	**160.8**
1-2 years	387.8	403.5	397.3	**374.1**	**368.3**	**362.7**
Under 1 year	472.4	471.5	466.7	468.7	460.9	439.2
Total cattle	**1,684.5**	**1,685.3**	**1,677.6**	**1,712.7**	**1,689.3**	**1,643.5**
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	1,128.6	1,105.6	1,100.5	1,027.3	991.1	957.3
Other sheep	1,195.5	1,135.5	1,124.9	1,117.8	1,079.4	1,066.7
Total sheep	**2,324.2**	**2,241.1**	**2,225.4**	**2,145.1**	**2,070.5**	**2,024.0**
PIGS						
Sows and gilts	39.3	42.9	37.8	36.7	37.4	37.0
Other pigs	348.4	390.8	386.2	368.4	349.2	373.5
Total pigs	**387.7**	**433.7**	**424.1**	**405.1**	**386.6**	**410.5**
POULTRY[2]						
Laying birds	2,099.4	2,203.2	2,266.07	2,319.23	2,187.66	2,393.95
Growing pullets	534.1	552.9	509.8	669.5	743.1	1039.8
Breeding flock	2,506.2	2,518.2	2,284.8	1,634.5	1,594.8	1,538.0
Table chickens	11,273.3	12,811.4	15,006.9	12,525.7	13,367.1	11,861.3
Total ordinary fowl	**16,413.0**	**18,085.8**	**20,067.6**	**17,148.8**	**17,892.7**	**16,833.0**
Other poultry	448.8	439.6	441.7	465.4	518.3	451.9
Total poultry	**16,861.8**	**18,525.4**	**20,509.2**	**17,614.3**	**18,411.0**	**17,284.9**
HORSES & PONIES	**10.1**	**9.9**	**9.2**	**9.3**	**10.3**	**10.8**
GOATS	**3.3**	**2.9**	**2.7**	**2.3**	**2.5**	**2.5**

1. From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS
2. Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2007

Table 3.4 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1] of farm, June 2007

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	5	7	27	20
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	27
Other agricultural crops	1	2	3	7	29
Horticultural crops	0	1	1	2	20
Total crops	**3**	**9**	**11**	**40**	**22**
Grass: Under 5 years old	39	35	74	48	60
5 years and over	270	201	470	201	70
Total grass	**309**	**235**	**544**	**250**	**69**
Rough grazing[2]	131	11	142	5	97
Woods/other land	11	4	15	8	66
Total area	**454**	**259**	**713**	**302**	**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 2007

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	46	97	143	144	50
Beef cows	132	78	210	62	77
Heifers in calf	23	33	56	48	54
Bulls for service	5	6	10	7	58
Other cattle					
Over 2 years	37	51	89	72	55
1-2 years	98	120	218	145	60
Under 1 year	141	140	281	158	64
Total cattle	**482**	**526**	**1,007**	**636**	**61**
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	547	223	771	187	80
Other sheep	594	259	853	213	80
Total sheep	**1,142**	**482**	**1,624**	**400**	**80**
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	7	11	18	19	47
Other pigs	62	105	166	207	45
Total pigs	**68**	**116**	**184**	**227**	**45**
POULTRY					
Laying birds	945	979	1,923	470	80
Table fowl	1914	4272	6,186	5675	52
Other poultry	584	1105	1,689	1341	56
Total poultry	**3,443**	**6,356**	**9,799**	**7,486**	**57**
HORSES AND PONIES	**2**	**3**	**5**	**6**	**48**
GOATS	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**75**

1. See Note 1, Table 3.4.

4. FARM STRUCTURE

Methodological Notes

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

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

but it differs from that used elsewhere in the UK.

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

The number of active farm businesses included in the June 2007 census, 26,146, was 593 fewer than in 2006. This is a net change, with some new businesses being created and others merging or ceasing to be active. The downward trend in the number of farms is 2.0 per cent per year from 2002 to 2007 and 2.0 per cent over the past 10 years.

Almost a quarter of all farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass while just over 1,200 farms (5 per cent) have 100 hectares or more; these latter occupy 22 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), and land quality is very variable, area alone does not accurately reflect the level of business activity on farms. To overcome this problem Standard Gross Margins (SGMs) have been used throughout the EU as the basis for measuring both farm business size and defining farm type. The concept was adapted in the UK where farms were categorised as belonging to a particular size band: **very small, small, medium** or **large**, depending on total farm SGM. However, it was felt that the results were difficult to interpret and that a size definition more clearly linked to labour requirements would be more meaningful. So, while farm business type will continue to be based on the SGM approach, from 2004 onwards, farm size will reflect Standard Labour Requirements (SLRs) on farms (see appendix, page 79). While the system applies across the UK it has been possible to adapt it to account for some regional variation. Smaller field sizes in Northern Ireland, compared with the rest of the UK, mean that additional labour inputs are required for grassland and cropping activities and this is reflected in higher SLR coefficients than apply for Great Britain. Farms will continue to be classed as **very small, small, medium** or **large** but based on their underlying total SLR.

The majority of farm businesses in Northern Ireland, 76 per cent in 2007, are classified as **very small**. In 2007 there were 19,990 farms in this category (Table 4.3), 329 less than in 2006. These farms are unlikely to provide full time employment or an adequate income solely from farming activities.[1] They contribute 26 per cent of the industry's total SGM but account for 48 per cent of the farmed area (Table 4.15). Their main activities are cattle rearing and fattening and they have 60 per cent of beef cows and 45 per cent of cattle for fattening that are over one year old. Around 31,800 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.13).

There are 3,367 **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 13 per cent of pigs to 28 per cent of sheep; they cover 22 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 20 per cent of the full time agricultural labour force (Table 4.15).

The 1,363 **medium** and 1,426 **large** farms (together representing 11 per cent of the total number) contribute 53 per cent of the total SGM from under a third (29%) of the land area (Table 4.15). They are particularly dominant in the dairy, pigs and poultry sectors with, respectively, 74, 81 and 59 per cent shares of the livestock numbers.

Seventy four per cent of **very small** and 65 per cent of **small** farms are mainly in the LFA whereas, for **medium** and **large** farms, the proportions are 55 and 43 per cent respectively (Table 4.5).

Farm type

Eighty-eight per cent of Northern Ireland farms derive two-thirds or more of their total SGM from cattle and/or sheep (Table 4.6), including 14 per cent classified as **dairy** farms and 74 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping, 467 (2 per cent) being classed as **cereal** farms, 231 (1 per cent) as **general cropping** and 284 (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 (799). Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms (547) and **mixed** farms (779) make up 2 and 3 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, 45 per cent have a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 48 per cent are entirely owner-occupied (Table 4.9). Much of the rented land is taken

[1] For further information on the persons living and working on farms of different sizes, see "Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland", DARD 2002.

under the conacre system of short-term lettings which is a particular feature of land tenure throughout Ireland. By renting conacre land, farmers may expand their businesses to grow more crops or keep more livestock than would be possible on the 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

In 2007, 4,151 farms (16 per cent) had dairy cows, 17,035 (65 per cent) had beef cows and 22,252 (85 per cent) had cattle of some type. The average number of dairy cows per herd, 69, was 2 more than in 2006[2]. It compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of 16 cows. Forty-nine per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with 9 per cent of beef cows.

Some 8,483 farms had breeding sheep, with an average of 113 ewes per flock. There are relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, only 33 farms having 1,000 ewes or more.

Pigs were present on 490 farms, 38 more than in 2006. Most of the pig herds (388 in 2007) had sows, averaging 95 sows per herd. Thirty eight per cent, (147) had fewer than 10 sows and 23 per cent (89) had 100 or more.

Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2007, with only commercial producers considered. Of the 139 business with laying hens the majority (73%) had over 1,000 birds. Nineteen businesses farmed over thirty thousand birds and these farms account for almost two thirds of the total laying birds. A similar situation exists for broiler flocks, where 84 per cent of the birds were in 161 (58 per cent) farm businesses (Table 4.21).

In 2007 cereals were grown on 2,736 farms, 10 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland, and the average cereal enterprise consisted of 12.5 hectares (Table 4.24). While over 40 per cent (1,126) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, the 111 farms which grew 50 hectares or more accounted for around a third of cereal area grown.

Some 656 farms, 3 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2007. Of this number, 122 grew 10 hectares or more and these farms accounted for three quarters of the total area of potatoes grown (Table 4.25).

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

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed[1] , June 2007

Size group	By crops and grass area		By total area	
(hectares)	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	501	-	230	-
0.1 - 9.9	5,707	33,181	5,036	29,154
10.0 - 19.9	6,120	88,691	5,649	82,315
20.0 - 29.9	4,163	101,951	4,129	101,438
30.0 - 49.9	4,643	179,320	4,909	190,255
50.0 - 99.9	3,779	257,224	4,383	301,018
100.0 - 199.9	1,067	138,747	1,466	195,479
200.0 +	166	46,089	344	114,886
Total	**26,146**	**845,203**	**26,146**	**1,014,544**

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 2002 - 2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of farms	28,513	28,281	27,614	27,064	26,739	26,146
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	31.4	31.9	32.3	31.9	31.9	32.3
Total area	37.4	38.0	38.5	38.0	38.5	38.8
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
10.0 - 19.9	10.8	10.5	10.4	10.9	10.7	10.5
20.0 - 29.9	12.1	11.8	11.8	12.1	12.1	12.1
30.0 - 49.9	21.6	21.3	21.2	21.6	21.4	21.2
50.0 - 99.9	30.5	30.4	30.6	30.4	30.5	30.4
100.0 +	20.8	21.9	22.1	21.1	21.2	21.9
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 2007

number

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Under 10	5,917	147	72	72	6,208
10.0 - 19.9	5,895	167	24	34	6,120
20.0 - 29.9	3,759	306	57	41	4,163
30.0 - 49.9	3,171	1,139	246	87	4,643
50.0 - 99.9	1,177	1,339	729	534	3,779
100.0 +	71	269	235	658	1,233
Total	**19,990**	**3,367**	**1,363**	**1,426**	**26,146**

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

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2002 - 2007

number

Business size[1]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Very small	15,295	15,206	20,758	20,468	20,319	19,990
Small	9,387	9,365	3,984	3,823	3,650	3,367
Medium	3,069	2,946	1,584	1,478	1,415	1,363
Large	762	764	1,288	1,295	1,355	1,426
Total	**28,513**	**28,281**	**27,614**	**27,064**	**26,739**	**26,146**

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category[1], June 2007

number

Business size[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,537	6,295	14,832	5,158	74
Small	1,131	1,041	2,172	1,195	65
Medium	327	429	756	607	55
Large	215	401	616	810	43
Total	**10,210**	**8,166**	**18,376**	**7,770**	**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 2007

number

Business type[1]	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	392	46	18	11	467
General cropping	123	52	20	36	231
Horticulture	122	57	28	77	284
Pigs & poultry	273	135	68	71	547
Dairy	694	1,212	774	939	3,619
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	13,374	1,185	241	123	14,923
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	3,874	467	104	52	4,497
Mixed	458	173	71	77	779
Others	680	40	39	40	799
All types	**19,990**	**3,367**	**1,363**	**1,426**	**26,146**

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 2002 - 2007

number

Business type[1]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cereals	479	457	467	469	443	467
General cropping	305	295	314	224	230	231
Horticulture	338	322	312	306	301	284
Pigs & poultry	507	510	557	541	575	547
Dairy	4,596	4,425	4,201	4,058	3,761	3,619
Cattle & sheep (LFA)[2]	15,628	15,700	15,464	15,430	15,230	14,923
Cattle & sheep (lowland)[2]	4,680	4,589	4,565	4,619	4,629	4,497
Mixed	1,004	1,058	1,034	944	918	779
Others	976	925	700	473	652	799
All types	**28,513**	**28,281**	**27,614**	**27,064**	**26,739**	**26,146**

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 2007

number

Business type[2]	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	18	77	95	372	20
General cropping	13	54	67	164	29
Horticulture	13	86	99	185	35
Pigs & poultry	129	183	312	235	57
Dairy	787	1,307	2,094	1,525	58
Cattle & sheep	8,945	5,978	14,923	4,497	77
Mixed	97	215	312	467	40
Others	208	266	474	325	59
All types	**10,210**	**8,166**	**18,376**	**7,770**	**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 2007

farms

Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
All owner occupied	11,225	915	299	239	12,678
50-<100%	4,648	1,555	666	716	7,585
>0-<50%	2,564	787	361	445	4,157
None owner occupied	1,553	110	37	26	1,726
All farms	**19,990**	**3,367**	**1,363**	**1,426**	**26,146**

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

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2002 - 2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Owner-occupied	715,811	708,559	701,500	701,311	704,985	695,381
Rented	351,451	365,189	361,312	328,209	323,510	319,163
Total	**1,067,262**	**1,073,748**	**1,062,812**	**1,029,520**	**1,028,495**	**1,014,544**
Aver. percentage of owned land	**67.1**	**66.0**	**66.0**	**68.1**	**68.5**	**68.5**
Common grazing	**41,000**	**35,500**	**29,400**	**29,400** [1]	**37,500**	**36,380**

1. 2004

Table 4.11 Average conacre rents by type of use, 2001 - 2006

£/hectare

Use	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Grass	192	201	199	198	180	174
Potatoes	406	412	479	433	453	567
Cereals	233	246	208	247	156	186
Rough grazing	49	51	54	53	45	44
All uses	**184**	**174**	**166**	**165**	**158**	**165**

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Number of sales and average price of agricultural land by area sold, 2000 - 2005[1,2]

	2000	2001[3]	2002[4]	2003[5]	2004[5]	2005[5]
Number of sales	174	67	55	44	40	63
Area (hectares)	1,614	597	550	520	562	1,095
Value (£ '000)	15,545	5,950	6,851	7,774	9,153	21,722
Average price (£ per ha) by hectare size group						
2 - 9.9	11,749	13,209	14,793	16,376	18,830	27,877
10 - 19.9	7,380	8,665	10,681	12,696	15,082	19,317
20 and over	8,722	6,026	10,449	14,871	12,668	18,149
All sizes (unweighted)	9,634	9,961	12,456	14,950	16,286	19,837

Source: Valuation and Lands Agency.

Notes:

1. Figures have been revised to 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 for 2001 and previous years.
4. Figures for 2002 are estimates due to lack of data.
5. Land sales of less than five hectares are not included for 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Table 4.13 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2007

number of persons

Labour item	Business size[1]				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Farmers and partners					
Full time	9,867	3,569	1,663	2,086	17,185
Part time	12,630	839	257	296	14,022
Total	**22,497**	**4,408**	**1,920**	**2,382**	**31,207**
Spouses of farmers	**4,098**	**1,060**	**576**	**611**	**6,345**
Other workers					
Full time	729	483	338	1,396	2,946
Part time	1,454	528	320	394	2,696
Casual/seasonal	2,990	1,082	643	1,065	5,780
Total other workers	**5,173**	**2,093**	**1,301**	**2,855**	**11,422**
Total agricultural labour force	**31,768**	**7,561**	**3,797**	**5,848**	**48,974**

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 2007

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	6,214	5,289	11,503	5,682	67
Part time	5,592	4,507	10,099	3,923	72
Total	**11,806**	**9,796**	**21,602**	**9,605**	**69**
Spouses of farmers	**2,246**	**1,932**	**4,178**	**2,167**	**66**
Other workers					
Full time	701	797	1,498	1,448	51
Part time	883	825	1,708	988	63
Casual/seasonal	1,861	1,746	3,607	2,173	62
Total other workers	**3,445**	**3,368**	**6,813**	**4,609**	**60**
Total agricultural labour force	**17,497**	**15,096**	**32,593**	**16,381**	**67**

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 2007

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 farms		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	16,678	616	*37*	3,070	370	*23*	1,231	235	*14*	1,273	422	*26*	22,252	1,643	*100*
Dairy cows	893	16	*5*	1,379	60	*21*	845	64	*23*	1,034	146	*51*	4,151	286	*100*
Beef cows	13,322	164	*60*	2,253	62	*23*	765	24	*9*	695	22	*8*	17,035	273	*100*
Slaughter cattle >1year	15,295	199	*45*	3,031	105	*23*	1,223	56	*13*	1,272	87	*19*	20,821	447	*100*
Sheep															
Total	6,366	977	*48*	1,456	574	*28*	447	223	*11*	377	250	*12*	8,646	2,024	*100*
Ewes	6,243	464	*48*	1,440	270	*28*	434	106	*11*	366	117	*12*	8,483	957	*100*
Pigs															
Total	245	26	*6*	103	52	*13*	60	51	*12*	82	282	*69*	490	410	*100*
Sows	172	2	*5*	87	5	*13*	53	4	*12*	76	26	*70*	388	37	*100*
Other pigs over 20 kg	137	17	*7*	87	32	*13*	52	29	*12*	76	162	*67*	352	241	*100*
Poultry															
Total	284	3,039	*18*	180	4,179	*24*	107	3,890	*23*	101	6,176	*36*	672	17,285	*100*
Layers	62	130	*5*	35	367	*15*	16	262	*11*	26	1,634	*68*	139	2,394	*100*
Crops															
Oats	172	1	*27*	91	0	*24*	46	0	*22*	52	1	*26*	361	2	*100*
Wheat	218	2	*16*	140	2	*18*	112	1	*14*	234	5	*52*	704	9	*100*
Barley	1,141	7	*33*	551	6	*24*	266	3	*15*	327	6	*28*	2,285	23	*100*
Potatoes	342	1	*12*	154	1	*18*	62	1	*13*	98	3	*56*	656	5	*100*
Crops & grass	19,612	411	*49*	3,311	184	*22*	1,329	96	*11*	1,393	154	*18*	25,645	845	*100*
Rough grazing	4,756	72	*49*	952	37	*26*	355	17	*12*	282	19	*13*	6,345	147	*100*
Total area	19,990	492	*48*	3,367	224	*22*	1,363	115	*11*	1,426	183	*18*	26,146	1,015	*100*
Labour															
Full-time labour force[2]	9,450	12	*52*	3,095	4	*20*	1,304	2	*10*	1,396	4	*17*	15,245	22	*100*
Output															
SGM[3]	19,990	187	*26*	3,367	157	*22*	1,363	119	*16*	1,426	267	*37*	26,146	729	*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 2007[1]

Number per farm	Dairy cows: Numbers of Farms	Dairy cows: Numbers of Cows	Dairy cows: Percentages of Farms	Dairy cows: Percentages of Cows	Beef cows: Numbers of Farms	Beef cows: Numbers of Cows	Beef cows: Percentages of Farms	Beef cows: Percentages of Cows
<10	296	1,973	7.1	0.7	8,240	34,676	48.4	12.7
10 - 14	218	2,597	5.3	0.9	2,595	30,795	15.2	11.3
15 - 19	218	3,704	5.3	1.3	1,720	28,937	10.1	10.6
20 - 29	339	8,313	8.2	2.9	2,038	48,789	12.0	17.9
30 - 39	419	14,500	10.1	5.1	1,007	34,101	5.9	12.5
40 - 49	370	16,459	8.9	5.8	542	23,960	3.2	8.8
50 - 59	379	20,597	9.1	7.2	284	15,456	1.7	5.7
60 - 69	283	18,283	6.8	6.4	190	12,189	1.1	4.5
70 - 99	707	58,649	17.0	20.5	250	20,188	1.5	7.4
100 - 199	784	105,318	18.9	36.8	150	18,851	0.9	6.9
200 & over	138	35,680	3.3	12.5	19	4,674	0.1	1.7
Total 2007	**4,151**	**286,073**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**17,035**	**272,616**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***4,254***	***284,718***			***17,029***	***276,734***		
Average 2007		**68.9**				**16.0**		
Average 2006		***66.9***				***16.3***		

1. Cattle figures for 2006 and 2007 were derived from APHIS

Table 4.17 Distribution of (a) slaughter cattle one year-old and over and (b) total cattle by herd size, June 2007[1]

Number per farm	Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter: Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cattle	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cattle	Total cattle: Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Cattle	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cattle
1 - 4	5,356	12,402	25.7	2.8	1,262	3,094	5.7	0.2
5 - 9	4,146	28,103	19.9	6.3	1,614	11,352	7.3	0.7
10 - 19	4,412	61,440	21.2	13.7	3,288	46,446	14.8	2.8
20 - 29	2,396	57,587	11.5	12.9	2,694	65,272	12.1	4.0
30 - 39	1,391	47,353	6.7	10.6	2,004	68,684	9.0	4.2
40 - 49	905	39,964	4.3	8.9	1,665	73,947	7.5	4.5
50 - 69	983	57,014	4.7	12.8	2,365	139,119	10.6	8.5
70 - 99	670	55,255	3.2	12.4	2,268	188,541	10.2	11.5
100 - 199	472	61,103	2.3	13.7	3,255	453,924	14.6	27.6
200 - 299	61	14,517	0.3	3.2	1,063	257,193	4.8	15.6
300 & over	29	12,417	0.1	2.8	774	335,886	3.5	20.4
Total 2007	**20,821**	**447,155**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**22,252**	**1,643,458**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***21,100***	***458,992***			***23,209***	***1,689,256***		
Average 2007		**21.5**				**73.9**		
Average 2006		***21.8***				***72.8***		

1. Cattle figures for 2006 and 2007 were derived from APHIS

Table 4.18 Distribution of (a) ewes and (b) total sheep by flock size, June 2007

Number per farm	Ewes: Numbers of Farms	Ewes: Numbers of Ewes	Ewes: Percentages of Farms	Ewes: Percentages of Ewes	Total sheep: Numbers of Farms	Total sheep: Numbers of Sheep	Total sheep: Percentages of Farms	Total sheep: Percentages of Sheep
1 - 24	1,462	20,450	17.2	2.1	726	9,550	8.4	0.5
25 - 49	1,623	58,640	19.1	6.1	967	35,834	11.2	1.8
50 - 99	2,230	158,055	26.3	16.5	1,578	115,617	18.3	5.7
100 - 199	1,925	261,134	22.7	27.3	2,108	303,333	24.4	15.0
200 - 299	640	152,133	7.5	15.9	1,277	311,746	14.8	15.4
300 - 399	257	86,692	3.0	9.1	641	221,364	7.4	10.9
400 - 499	151	66,179	1.8	6.9	376	168,035	4.3	8.3
500 - 699	107	61,756	1.3	6.5	481	279,932	5.6	13.8
700 - 999	55	45,061	0.6	4.7	261	214,377	3.0	10.6
1,000 - 1,499	22	26,054	0.3	2.7	141	168,462	1.6	8.3
1,500 & over	11	21,162	0.1	2.2	90	195,728	1.0	9.7
Total 2007	**8,483**	**957,318**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**8,646**	**2,023,978**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***8,589***	***991,051***			***8,750***	***2,070,454***		
Average 2007		**112.9**				**234.1**		
Average 2006		***115.4***				***236.6***		

Table 4.19 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2007

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts): Numbers of Farms	Numbers of Sows	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Sows
1 - 4	109	224	28.1	0.6
5 - 9	38	246	9.8	0.7
10 - 19	36	452	9.3	1.2
20 - 29	26	604	6.7	1.6
30 - 49	32	1,243	8.2	3.4
50 - 99	58	4,283	14.9	11.6
100 - 199	48	6,842	12.4	18.5
200 - 299	13	2,974	3.4	8.0
300 & over	28	20,109	7.2	54.4
Total 2007	**388**	**36,977**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***357***	***37,443***		
Average 2007		**95.3**		
Average 2006		***104.9***		

Table 4.20 Distribution of (a) fattening pigs 20kg and over and (b) total pigs by herd size, June 2007

Number per farm	Fattening pigs 20kg & over: Numbers of Farms	Fattening pigs 20kg & over: Numbers of Pigs	Fattening pigs 20kg & over: Percentages of Farms	Fattening pigs 20kg & over: Percentages of Pigs	Total pigs: Numbers of Farms	Total pigs: Numbers of Pigs	Total pigs: Percentages of Farms	Total pigs: Percentages of Pigs
1 - 9	50	202	14.2	0.1	115	307	23.5	0.1
10 - 19	18	260	5.1	0.1	35	488	7.1	0.1
20 - 49	36	1,079	10.2	0.4	56	1,757	11.4	0.4
50 - 99	26	1,857	7.4	0.8	26	1,929	5.3	0.5
100 - 199	38	5,494	10.8	2.3	33	4,746	6.7	1.2
200 - 399	46	14,221	13.1	5.9	49	13,925	10.0	3.4
400 - 999	84	53,696	23.9	22.3	79	55,374	16.1	13.5
1,000 - 1,999	32	45,496	9.1	18.9	56	80,217	11.4	19.5
2,000 & over	22	118,392	6.3	49.2	41	251,707	8.4	61.3
Total 2007	**352**	**240,697**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**490**	**410,450**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***354***	***219,275***			***452***	***386,599***		
Average 2007		**683.8**				**837.7**		
Average 2006		***619.4***				***855.3***		

Table 4.21 Distribution of (a) laying hens and (b) broilers by flock size, June 2007[1]

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	38	3	27.3	0.1	10	7	3.6	0.1
1,000 - 4,999	18	55	12.9	2.3				
5,000 - 9,999	26	178	18.7	7.4	12	98	4.3	0.8
10,000 - 19,999	30	412	21.6	17.2	64	1,022	22.9	8.6
20,000 - 29,999	8	177	5.8	7.4	33	742	11.8	6.3
30,000 - 49,999	9	301	6.5	12.6	88	3,286	31.4	27.7
50,000 & over	10	1,268	7.2	53.0	73	6,707	26.1	56.5
Total 2007	**139** [2]	**2,394**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**280**[2]	**11,861**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***1,040***	***2,188***			***345***	***13,367***		
Average 2007		**17,223** [2]				**42,362** [2]		
Average 2006		***2,104***				***38,745***		

1. Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2007.
2. For 2007, commercial producers only were included, in previous years all poultry keepers were included.

Table 4.22 Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2007[1]

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	70	12	10.4	0.1
1,000 - 4,999	78	227	11.6	1.3
5,000 - 9,999	106	749	15.8	4.3
10,000 - 19,999	162	2,412	24.1	14.0
20,000 - 29,999	61	1,412	9.1	8.2
30,000 - 49,999	104	3,831	15.5	22.2
50,000 & over	91	8,642	13.5	50.0
Total 2007	**672** [2]	**17,285**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***1,908***	***18,411***		
Average 2007		**25,722** [2]		
Average 2006		***9,649***		

1. Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2007.
2. For 2007, commercial producers only were included, in previous years all poultry keepers were included.

Table 4.23 Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2007

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	46	33	2.0	0.1	5	4	0.7	0.0
1 - 4.9	971	2,834	42.5	12.4	234	704	33.2	7.7
5 - 9.9	604	4,227	26.4	18.5	201	1,431	28.6	15.6
10 - 19.9	406	5,490	17.8	24.0	157	2,076	22.3	22.7
20 - 29.9	128	3,047	5.6	13.3	51	1,228	7.2	13.4
30 - 39.9	48	1,656	2.1	7.3	18	595	2.6	6.5
40 - 49.9	30	1,310	1.3	5.7	12	525	1.7	5.7
50 & over	52	4,236	2.3	18.6	26	2,599	3.7	28.4
Total 2007	**2,285**	**22,833**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**704**	**9,161**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***2,311***	***22,825***			***670***	***8,720***		
Average 2007		**10.0**				**13.0**		
Average 2006		***9.9***				***13.0***		

Table 4.24 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2007

Area per farm (ha)	Total cereals			
	Number of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Cereals
under 1	52	36	1.9	0.1
1 - 4.9	1,074	3,139	39.3	9.2
5 - 9.9	697	4,870	25.5	14.2
10 - 19.9	528	7,322	19.3	21.4
20 - 29.9	155	3,758	5.7	11.0
30 - 39.9	71	2,418	2.6	7.1
40 - 49.9	48	2,094	1.8	6.1
50 & over	111	10,570	4.1	30.9
Total 2007	**2,736**	**34,206**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***2,752***	***33,560***		
Average 2007		**12.5**		
Average 2006		***12.2***		

Table 4.25 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2007

Area per farm (ha)	Potatoes			
	Number of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Percentages of Potatoes
under 1	193	87	29.4	1.8
1 - 4.9	266	609	40.5	12.8
5 - 9.9	75	504	11.4	10.6
10 - 19.9	59	830	9.0	17.4
20 - 29.9	25	589	3.8	12.4
30 - 39.9	13	436	2.0	9.2
40 - 49.9	10	442	1.5	9.3
50 & over	15	1,264	2.3	26.5
Total 2007	**656**	**4,760**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total 2006	***693***	***4,748***		
Average 2007		**7.3**		
Average 2006		***6.9***		

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 2006/07'.

Farms in the FBS are classified by type and size. A brief description of the typology system can be found in the Appendix to this publication.

The accounting concepts and practices used in compiling FBS income data differ from those on which the Aggregate Agricultural Account, presented in Section 2, are based. The income measures derived from the two sources are not, therefore, directly comparable. It should be noted that the latest year for which FBS results are available is 2006/07. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2007/08 year.

Income measures

Farm Business Income (FBI) was introduced this year as the new headline measure of farm income following consultation in 2006-07. FBI will also be introduced in England, Scotland and Wales and will be used for UK farm income statistics. It is closely aligned to the main EU measure of farm incomes 'Family Farm Income' and therefore allows easier comparison between Northern Ireland and other Member States. FBI is the return to all unpaid labour (farmer, spouses and others with an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business) and to their capital invested in the farm business which includes land and buildings.

Net Farm Income (NFI), the previous headline measure of farm income will continue to be published for an interim period, but as a secondary measure in line with the views expressed during consultation. NFI represents the return to the farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and tenant-type capital invested in the farm business. In order for NFI to represent the return to farmer and spouse alone, a notional deduction is made for any unpaid labour that is provided in addition to that of the farmer or spouse. Also, to confine NFI to tenant type activities and assets of the business an imputed rent is firstly deducted for owner occupied land and buildings and for landlord-type improvements made by the tenant. Secondly, no account is taken of interest paid on any farming loans, overdrafts or mortgages or any interest earned on financial assets.

FBI differs from NFI in that it represents the return to all unpaid labour, not just the farmer and spouse and it treats the tenure of farms as it is: tenants as tenants, owner occupiers as owner occupiers and those with both types of tenure as mixed.

Cash Income (CI), measures the difference between total farm receipts and total farm cash costs. This measure excludes notional items such as depreciation charges and livestock/crop valuation changes. It also takes no account of net expenditure on capital investment. CI provides a better indication than NFI and FBI of the short term income position. Trends in Cash Income since 2002/2003 are presented in Table 5.1.

Income changes in 2006/07

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the year ending mid-February 2005/06 and 2006/07 are presented in Tables 5.3-5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 267 farm businesses which were in the FBS in both account years and are at least 0.5 Standard Labour Requirements in size. This sample of farms is representative of 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.

At the individual farm type level the results show that average Farm Business Income and average Net Farm Income increased between 2005/06 and 2006/07 on all farm types with the exception of Dairy farms. Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income increased from £17,671 in 2005/06 to £18,135 in 2006/07, which is an increase of £464 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income increased from £10,891 in 2005/06 to £11,492 in 2006/07, which is an increase of £601 per farm. In average cash income terms, Cereals, General Cropping, Pigs and Mixed farm types showed an increase in 2006/07 compared to the previous year, whereas Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (LFA), and Cattle & Sheep (lowland) showed a decrease. Measured across all farm types, average Cash Income decreased from £29,852 in 2005/06 to 28,536 in 2006/07 which is a decrease of £1,316.

Provisional estimates of incomes for 2007/08

Provisional estimates of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2008 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types increasing from £18,135 in 2006/07 to £21,562 in 2007/08, which is an increase of £3,427 per farm. At the individual farm type level the results show that Farm Business Income is expected to increase between 2006/07 and 2007/08 on Cereal, General Cropping, and Dairy farms. The main reason for this increase in incomes is higher cereal, potato and milk prices in the 2007/08 accounting year. The results also show that Farm Business Income is expected to fall on LFA Cattle and Sheep, Lowland

Cattle and Sheep, Pigs, and Mixed Farms for 2007/08 in comparison to the previous year. This downturn in incomes is resulting mainly from higher animal feed costs in the 2007/08 accounting year.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to increase from £28,536 in 2006/07 to £34,681 in 2007/08, which is an increase of £6,145 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to be £15,389 in 2007/08 which is a £3,897 increase on the previous year.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in mid-January 2008 and relate to an account year ending in mid February 2008. 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 2007/08, 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 cash income in real terms by farm type, 2002/2003 to 2007/08[1]

Indices: 1994/95 - 1996/97 = 100

Business type	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08 (provisional)
Cereals	22	100	47	79	77	102
General cropping	120	124	87	84	113	136
Pigs and poultry	21	46	. . .	. . .	98	61
Dairy	65	87	90	98	95	124
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	75	80	91	112	95	109
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	119	97	137	119	109	139
Mixed	61	69	69	69	92	91
All types	68	82	88	97	91	111

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

Table 5.2 Distribution of farms by cash Income (CI), net farm income (NFI), farm business income (FBI) and by farm type, 2006/07

per cent

	Dairy			Cattle and sheep (LFA)			All types		
Income (£'s)CINFI	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**	**CI**	**NFI**	**FBI**
Less than 0	2	16	12	3	37	14	6	30	13
1 - 4,999	1	5	10	6	18	18	3	14	14
5,000 - 9,999	8	14	7	11	17	18	15	12	14
10,000 - 14,999	5	12	8	21	12	21	10	11	14
15,000 - 19,999	15	11	11	18	7	8	14	8	10
20,000 - 29,999	16	11	18	21	3	11	15	9	15
30,000 - 49,999	21	16	19	17	4	7	20	8	12
> 50,000	32	15	15	3	2	3	17	8	8
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number of farms in sample		104			123			267	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2005/06 and 2006/07

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
Cereals	24.2	27.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.2	27.3
General cropping	...	...	22.3	46.6	...	...	...	...	23.8	41.7
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.9	40.9
Dairy	17.2	13.5	25.5	24.9	58.9	51.4	79.2	80.9	44.9	42.8
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	15.4	15.2	28.3	25.3	43.6	29.3	94.6	78.0	22.2	20.1
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	11.9	4.3	22.6	22.2	...	...	...	...	20.5	16.6
Mixed	...	...	6.3	26.9	55.5	65.2	...	...	22.3	31.3
All types	14.8	13.0	24.8	25.4	55.8	50.0	79.1	78.7	29.9	28.5

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

Table 5.4 Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2005/06 and 2006/07

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
Cereals	7.3	13.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.3	13.2
General cropping	...	...	2.9	25.5	...	...	...	...	14.5	29.5
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28.9	33.4
Dairy	10.1	5.3	18.0	15.9	41.3	34.8	56.1	51.7	31.3	27.3
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	6.3	7.6	16.0	17.5	26.6	27.6	64.1	58.3	11.3	12.6
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	-1.8	2.0	9.4	14.0	51.6	49.1	49.3	55.8	7.0	10.7
Mixed	...	...	10.2	14.8	27.3	34.6	...	...	9.1	18.2
All types	5.1	6.5	15.4	16.6	38.7	35.5	52.9	52.0	17.7	18.1

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

Table 5.5 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2005/06 and 2006/07

£'000 per farm[1]

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
Cereals	0.4	5.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.4	5.0
General cropping	...	...	-4.3	18.6	...	...	...	...	-0.9	14.2
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.6	31.5
Dairy	7.3	3.0	13.2	11.3	30.4	24.5	48.8	46.6	24.9	21.6
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	1.0	2.1	9.0	9.9	12.1	12.8	47.3	40.5	4.8	5.7
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	-7.5	-3.5	-0.5	4.4	...	...	...	...	-2.9	0.9
Mixed	...	...	2.4	6.9	19.2	24.7	...	...	6.2	15.0
All types	0.2	1.3	9.0	10.0	25.3	22.4	45.0	46.4	10.9	11.5

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

Table 5.6 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2006/07

£'000 per farm

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (ESUs)	23.5	23.9	72.1	21.0	20.0	31.3	39.0
Total farm area (ha)	56.7	46.2	66.9	94.9	57.4	71.8	76.4
Net farm income	5.0	14.2	21.6	5.7	0.9	15.0	11.5
Total tenant's capital	**54.2**	**78.0**	**110.2**	**64.1**	**86.1**	**89.5**	**84.4**
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	3.8	21.0	19.2	21.3	42.0	27.3	24.2
crops	8.3	2.7	6.6	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.8
other	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	1.4	7.0	51.6	17.2	12.8	26.9	28.5
machinery	40.0	45.9	31.9	21.2	26.7	30.3	26.2

Table 5.7 Average closing valuations by farm type, 2005/06 and 2006/07[1,2]

£'000 per farm[1]

	Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07	2005/06	2006/07
ASSETS						
Total fixed assets	495.5	1018.0	426.1	848.8	459.2	937.3
of which:						
land and buildings	412.0	934.5	381.4	803.9	401.6	879.5
other fixed assets	83.5	83.5	44.7	44.8	57.6	57.8
Total current assets	34.3	34.2	24.8	26.6	31.8	32.9
of which:						
trading livestock, crops and stores	26.7	26.5	24.8	26.6	29.1	30.2
debtors/other short term lending	7.2	7.6	-	-	2.5	2.6
cash in hand and at bank	0.4	0.1	-	-	0.1	-
A Total assets	**529.8**	**1052.2**	**450.9**	**875.4**	**491.0**	**970.2**
LIABILITIES						
Total long/medium term loans	28.1	31.2	5.4	13.1	12.5	16.7
of which:						
bank/other institutional	28.1	29.9	5.3	13.0	12.4	16.3
Total short term loans	18.5	20.9	7.1	7.1	10.5	11.5
of which:						
bank overdraft	13.4	15.4	5.2	5.9	7.2	8.2
B Total external liabilities	**46.6**	**52.1**	**12.5**	**20.2**	**23.0**	**28.2**
NET WORTH (A-B)	**483.2**	**1000.1**	**438.4**	**855.2**	**468.0**	**942.0**

1. Data are averages within each farm type.
2. Land and building were re-valued in the 2006/07 account year.

6. STATISTICAL INDICATORS FOR AGRI-FOOD SECTOR PERFORMANCE, THE RURAL ECONOMY, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

A. AGRI-FOOD SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Agricultural productivity

Total factor productivity (TFP) is a volume based productivity measure, which takes account of all factors/resources used in production and is calculated on an annual basis for the agricultural sector. Agricultural TFP growth in Northern Ireland appears to have been faster than in the UK as a whole over the last five years. **Single Factorial Terms of Trade** is a useful measure of changes in farmers' economic welfare. It provides additional information on the state of the agri-food industry in Northern Ireland by adding perspective to TFP. Changes in this index over time provide an indication of whether or not the traditional decline in farm gate prices relative to farm input prices is offset by improvements in productivity. Consequently, it is a measure of return to factors engaged in agricultural production and, in effect, a measure of how farmers' economic welfare changes over any given period. An increase implies an improvement in farmers' welfare (in other words, although farm-gate prices may have fallen relative to input costs, this has been more than offset by improved productivity). On the other hand, a decrease means that improved productivity has not kept pace with adverse output/input price movements and, hence, the benefits of any productivity improvement are being captured by economic agents in the rest of the domestic economy and/or foreign economies. **Labour productivity** is another widely used measure of productivity, which is a partial measure because all inputs other than labour are ignored. Agricultural labour productivity has grown rapidly in the last five years.

GVA per work unit	Gross Value Added (GVA) per head for agriculture fluctuates considerably between years in both the UK and Northern Ireland. This occurs mainly because of the influence of market price changes on GVA. Nonetheless it is clear that GVA per head for the UK is considerably larger that that for Northern Ireland. Reasons for the higher GVA in the UK compared with Northern Ireland are related to the differences in the mix of farming enterprises due to land quality and economies of scale. Returns for some enterprises are higher than others. For instance, field crop enterprises have higher GVA per hectare than grassland based enterprises. Each enterprise requires specific conditions and these are not equally distributed throughout the UK. In general, most of the land area in Northern Ireland is characterised by conditions that are less than ideal for cropping. In Northern Ireland the average farm size is 39 hectares and only 5 per cent of land is cropped, while in the UK the average farm size is 54 hectares and 25 per cent of land is used to grow crops.
Food sector Performance	The performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector indicate slow growth in recent years, with the exception of the rate of return on capital employed (ROCE). ROCE for the food and drinks processing sector is lower in comparison with other sectors of the economy.

Table 6.1 Agricultural productivity indices

Indices: 2000 = 100

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
Total factor productivity in NI[1]	103.41	106.40	108.43	110.90	114.71	119.12
Total factor productivity in UK[2]	103.50	105.19	105.58	109.20	110.58	109.30
Single Factorial Terms of Trade[3]	98.75	105.99	103.17	107.15	112.07	115.90
Labour productivity in NI[4]	119.82	125.39	135.46	145.16	155.20	175.46

1. Calculated as the ratio of output at constant prices to all inputs (including labour and capital) at constant prices.
2. Source: Agriculture in the United Kingdom, DEFRA
3. For further details on calculation of this index consult, Fleming, E. 2007 'Use of the single factoral terms of trade to analyse agricultural production', *The Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 51, p. 113-119.
4. Calculated as the ratio of net value added at constant prices to total labour input (in Annual Work Units).

Table 6.2 Comparison of Agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) per annual work unit (AWU) between UK and Northern Ireland[1]

GVA/AWU		2005	2006	2007 (provisional)
UK	£/head	17,173	18,395	20,467
Northern Ireland	£/head	9,485	8,547	12,133
NI as % of UK	%	55	46	59

1. Up until 2004 direct subsidies are included in the GVA figures. From 2005 the Single Farm Payment (SFP) cannot be included within GVA figures due to changes required to conform to agreed national accounting principles as SFP cannot be attributed to a particular agricultural sector. Therefore, there is a discontinuity in the series as GVA/AWU figures before 2005 and after 2004 cannot be compared.

Table 6.3 Performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector in Northern Ireland

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Sales per employee (£)	113,870	116,852	121,457	128,352	134,602	134,143
Value added per employee (£)	22,164	23,457	24,414	25,147	26,110	26,742
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	9.3	9.9	10.0	9.0	9.8	10.1

B. RURAL ECONOMY

Methodological notes

There are many definitions of the rural population. The definition used here is based on Local Government Districts (LGD). There are undoubtedly better definitions of the rural population available, but this definition is preferred because most of the geographical data that is available annually in Northern Ireland is only available at the LGD level. The definition used defines urban as the LGDs of Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, North Down and Derry while the other LGDs are treated as rural.

Analysis by NISRA of the 2001 Census by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) has shown clear differences between the more accessible east and the less accessible west of Northern Ireland, and so data for accessible rural and less accessible rural are comparable also. The definition of more accessible and less accessible areas is based on LGDs and the split is as follows. The accessible rural LGDs are Antrim, Ballymena, Banbridge, Craigavon, Down, Larne, Lisburn and Newtownards. The less accessible rural LGDs are Armagh, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Limavady, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry & Mourne and Omagh

Rural Population

In 2001, using the LGD based definition of the rural population, 32 per cent of the total population are less accessible rural, 30 per cent are accessible rural and overall 62 percent are rural. A census of the population takes place every ten years and estimates for the years in-between are produced at the LGD level only. The trends in Figure 6.1 indicate that the urban population is expected to remain close to current levels over the projection period, while the accessible rural and less accessible rural populations are expected to increase.

Earnings

The average gross weekly earnings of people in rural areas were consistently below those of people living in urban areas over the years from 2002 to 2007. There is some evidence to indicate that the gap between rural and urban weekly earnings is widening over time. Average gross weekly earnings increased in 2007 in urban areas, but decreased in accessible rural areas while growing only slightly in less accessible rural areas.

Rural Businesses

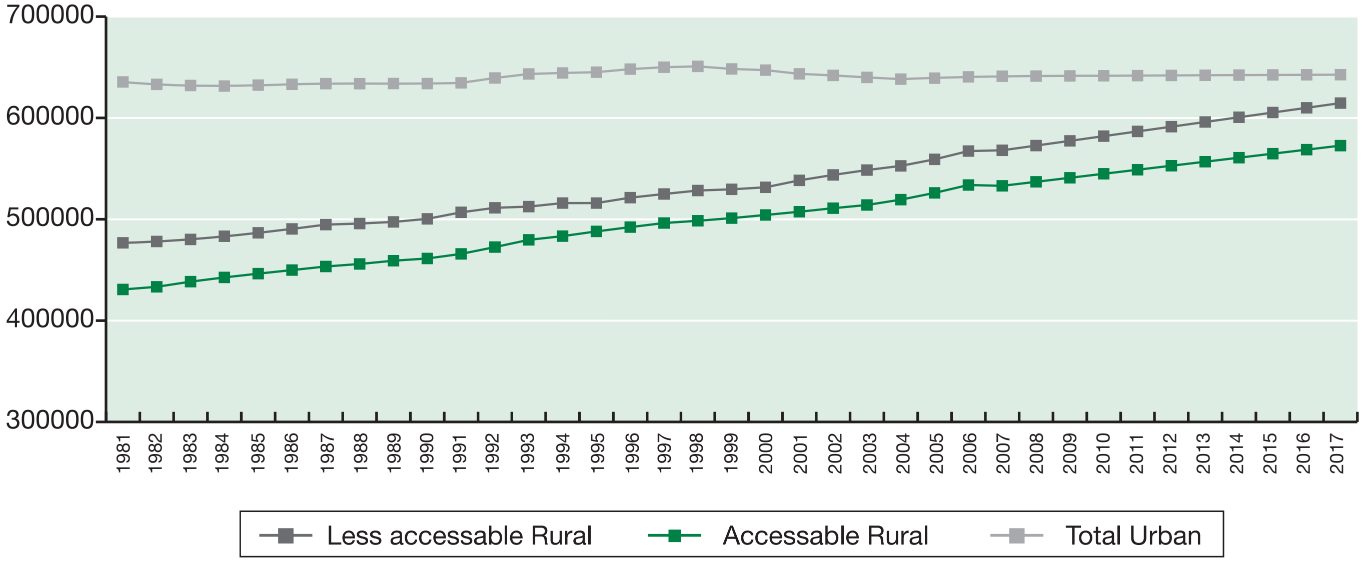
In 2007, there were around 68,330 businesses in Northern Ireland that were registered for VAT. Businesses are legally obliged to register for VAT once their turnover exceeds £58,000. Approximately 26 per cent of businesses are located, or have their head offices, in urban areas. The tendency for head offices to be located in Belfast may skew the figures a little. Agriculture dominates the Accessible Rural and Less Accessible Rural areas, accounting for 24 and 37 per cent of total VAT registered businesses in these zones respectively.

The number of net VAT registrations disaggregated by area over the 10 year period from 1998-2007 indicates that rural areas both accessible and less accessible have demonstrated the strongest growth in net registrations by accounting for 67 per cent of total net registrations over this period.

Rural Employment

Northern Ireland is a small business economy, with micro businesses (those with less than 10 employees) accounting for 85 per cent of the total number of firms. Given the importance of agriculture in rural areas (normally farmers are sole traders with few or no PAYE employees), it is a little surprising that the distribution of micro business is not more skewed. In fact while around 88 per cent of rural businesses have fewer than 10 employees, the number of micro businesses, as a share of total businesses in the urban zone, is also very high at 76 per cent.

Figure 6.1. **Population Trends and Projections in NI[1]**



1. The changes in the rural and urban populations from 1981 to 2004 are actual while those for 2005 to 2017 are estimates. Source: NISRA (NINIS website: http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/)

Table 6.4 Average Gross Weekly Earnings per Person[1]

£ per week

	2002	2003	2004[2]	2005[2]	2006[2]	2007[2]
Urban	385.58	396.27	427.60	434.80	462.12	475.65
Accessible Rural	356.48	364.65	393.36	411.29	440.00	438.66
Less Accessible Rural	346.68	360.58	375.51	388.68	403.76	406.25

1. LGD based definition of Rural Areas is used. Source: NISRA (NINIS website: http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/)
2. Survey methodology changed in 2004 and again in 2006 therefore creating discontinuity in the time series, data for previous years therefore are not directly comparable. Source: DETI, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Table 6.5 VAT registered enterprises in Northern Ireland by industrial group, Urban – Rural classification, 2007[1,2,3]

	Urban %	Accessible Rural %	Less Accessible Rural %	Total Number
Agriculture (incl. Fishing)	5	29	67	16,710
Production	24	31	45	4,645
Construction	18	33	49	9,500
Motor Trades	23	33	44	2,760
Wholesale	34	32	34	3,635
Retail	36	29	35	9,455
Hotel & Catering	38	27	35	4,025
Transport	23	32	45	2,550
Post & Telecom	37	33	33	460
Finance	51	22	27	715
Property & Business Services	48	25	27	9,400
Education	47	25	27	275
Health	42	29	28	955
Public Admin & Other Serv.	45	29	27	3,245
All Categories	**26**	**29**	**44**	**68,330**

1. Many smaller farm businesses voluntarily register for VAT, as farmers do not charge VAT on most sales and benefit by reclaiming VAT on input costs. In contrast many smaller businesses in other sectors of the economy will not voluntarily register.
2. It should be noted that firms operating from more than one site, are normally only recorded in the area where their head office is located. Coverage includes both companies and the self-employed.
3. Source: Derived from UK Business: Activity, Size and Location, 2007 (National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Table 6.6 Northern Ireland Net VAT Registrations, 1998 – 2007[1,2]

Year	Urban No.	Urban % of total VAT registered	Accessible Rural No.	Accessible Rural % of total VAT registered	Less Accessible Rural No.	Less Accessible Rural % of total VAT registered	NI Annual Net Change No.	NI Annual Net Change % of total VAT registered
1998	-85	-0.7	220	1.4	215	0.9	355	0.7
1999	70	0.6	40	0.3	50	0.2	170	0.3
2000	10	0.1	265	1.7	715	2.9	990	1.9
2001	230	1.8	110	0.7	375	1.5	720	1.3
2002	-100	-0.8	0	0	-60	-0.2	-160	-0.3
2003	40	0.3	100	0.6	125	0.5	255	0.5
2004	4,245	25	2,470	13	2,430	8.9	9,145	15
2005	-3,990	-31	-2,100	-13	-1,565	-6.1	-7,650	-14
2006	175	1.3	385	2.3	845	3.2	1,405	2.5
2007	4,900	27	3,105	16	3,660	12	11,660	17

1. Source: Derived from UK Business: Activity, Size and Location (various years) (National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/)
2. Registration rates provide an indicator of the level of entrepreneurship and of the health of the business population. It should be noted that VAT registrations are not synonymous with business start-ups, as some registrations are the result of changes in ownership. In most cases businesses de-register for VAT because of closure. Closure does not necessarily involve bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, which make up only around one in four closures throughout the UK.

Table 6.7 VAT registered enterprises by employee size-band, Urban – Rural Classification, 2007[1]

Employee Size Band	Urban Number	Urban %	Accessible Rural Number	Accessible Rural %	Less Accessible Rural Number	Less Accessible Rural %	Total Number	Total %
0-4	10,025	21	14,120	30	23,465	49	47,610	100
5-9	3,645	35	3,035	29	3,700	36	10,380	100
10-49	3,580	41	2,395	28	2,665	31	8,640	100
50-99	410	42	270	28	290	30	970	100
100-249	255	54	110	23	105	22	470	100
250+	100	67	30	20	20	13	150	100
Total	**18,015**	**26**	**19,960**	**29**	**30,245**	**44**	**68,220**	**100**

1. Source: Derived from UK Business: Activity, Size and Location, 2007 (National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/)

C. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Disease

DARD has on-going programmes of disease management and eradication, and also undertakes animal welfare surveillance activity. Recent diseases of high importance are bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Since BSE was first reported in Northern Ireland during 1988, there have been a total of 2,179 cases. The number of BSE cases in Northern Ireland has declined significantly since the peak in 1993. There were only 14 cases of BSE in 2007.

During 2006, an additional 1,513 herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis, while 118 were newly infected with brucellosis. Both diseases were at peak levels in 2002 and since that time the herd incidence for bovine tuberculosis has been reduced by nearly 50%, while the herd incidence for brucellosis has been reduced by more than 50%.

Animal welfare

DARD plays an important and active role in educating livestock keepers in standards of welfare and carries out a programme of animal welfare surveillance. Farm premises, farming practices, animal transportation, markets and slaughter are all assessed against legal requirements, and enforcement used where necessary. The responsibility for many of these routine and targeted checks falls to the Veterinary Service (VS).

The VS carried out 621 on-farm welfare inspections in 2007. Inspections take place as a result of complaints or are programmed as part of the statutory surveillance requirement to assess whether on-farm welfare meets the standards laid down in legislation and welfare codes. Beginning in 2007 many of the inspections are carried out as part of the Cross-Compliance inspection requirements associated with the Single Farm Payment scheme. Some inspections, particularly in the complaint category, will represent repeated visits to the same farm where an on-farm welfare problem has been identified. Some visits will involve more than one category of stock inspection. Of those inspections carried out in 2007 as a result of complaints (and targeted visits) 68 per cent were fully compliant with legislation (compared with 58 per cent in 2004), while for programmed visits 95 per cent were fully compliant with legislation (compared with 91 per cent in 2004).

All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms are treated as a matter of urgency. DARD also co-operate closely with other organisations such as local authorities and the USPCA.

Figure 6.2 **Bovine Spongiform Encephalophathy (BSE) Confirmed cases in N.I including reported and active surveillance**

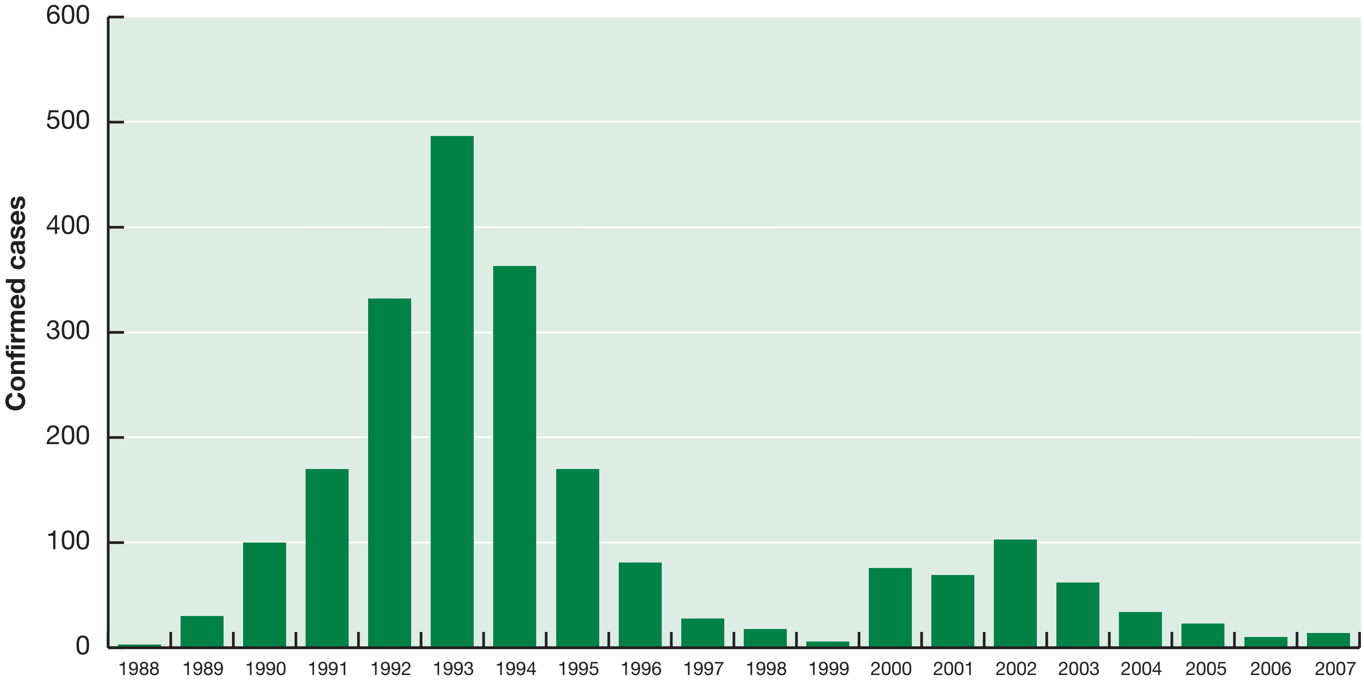


Table 6.8 Confirmed cases of BSE: 2003 – December 2007[1]

cases

Type	Category	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Passive Surveillance	On farm suspects	8	8	1	0	0
	Abattoir suspects	3	0	0	0	0
Active Surveillance	Fallen animals	4	1	5	7	9
	OTM Casualty animals	43	21	15	3	3
	OTM Random animals	2	1	0	0	0
	OTM Ante-Mortem Failure animals	2	2	0	0	1
	Over 42 months survey (including 1996/97 cohort)	0	1	0	0	0
	Cohorts of BSE Cases	0	0	2	0	1
Total		**62**	**34**	**23**	**10**	**14**

1. Source: TSE Branch DARD, contact James Moody 028 905 24642

Table 6.9 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) statistics for the UK in 2005 and 2006

	GB 2005	GB 2006	N. Ireland 2005	N. Ireland 2006
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing[1]	91,103	89,413	28,263	27,710
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	46,629	56,208	30,263	29,218
Total number of animals TB tested	4,849,206	5,469,939	1,776,064	1,711,870
Total new herd TB incidents[2]	3,673	3,528	1,792	1,513
TB reactors slaughtered	25,769	19,991	10,479	9,383
Herds with a TB movement restriction on 31 December	5,748	6,856	…	…

1. Based on the number of cattle herds presenting cattle for a TB herd test during the previous four years in the case of Northern Ireland and based on the total number of cattle herds registered on Vetnet in the case of GB.
2. Herds with at least one TB skin reactor animal but no TB skin reactor animals during the previous 12 months.

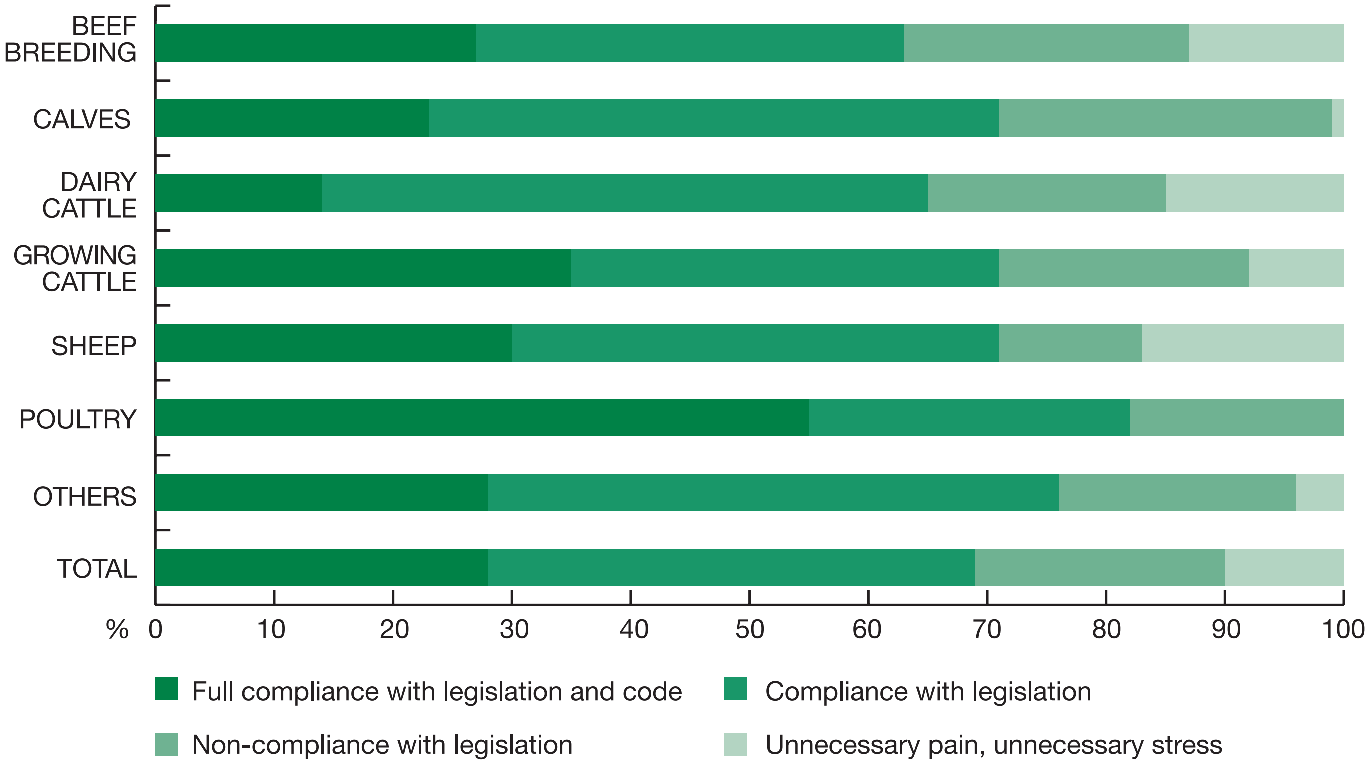
Table 6.10 Bovine Brucellosis (BR) statistics for Northern Ireland in 2005 and 2006

	2005	2006
No. cattle herds eligible for BR testing[1]	25,310	25,002
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	26,013	25,352
Total number of animals BR tested	973,569	985,182
Total new herd BR incidents[2]	88	118
BR reactors slaughtered	384	314

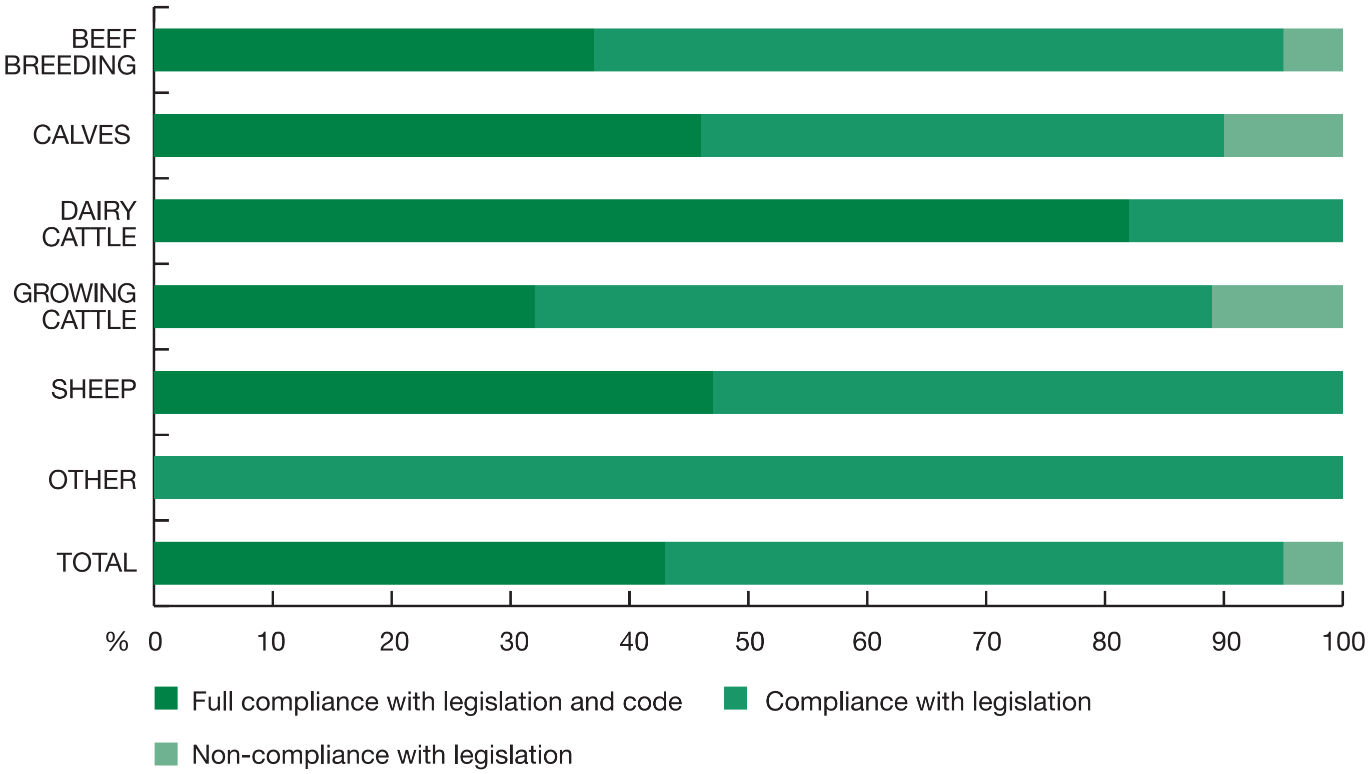
1. Based on the number of cattle herds presenting cattle for a brucellosis herd test during the previous four years.
2. Herds with at least one brucellosis serological reactor animal but no reactor animals during the previous 12 months.

Figure 6.3 and 6.4 **Outcomes of on-farm welfare inspections completed on NI farms in 2007**

Results of VS assessments of the welfare of animals on farm in Northern Ireland during complaint and targeted visits between 1st January and 31st December 2007



Results of VS assessments of the welfare of animals on farm in Northern Ireland during programmed and elective visits between 1st January and 31st December 2007



D. AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

Agri-Environmental Schemes

The land–based agri-environmental schemes are managed in the UK under the Rural Development Programme (RDP). Five schemes, or composites, were operational in Northern Ireland by 2003: the Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme, Countryside Management Scheme, organic farming schemes, woodland schemes, and areas of Special Scientific Interest. In 2007, some 448,000 hectares or 40 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland.

Organic farming

Organic farming involves holistic production management systems for crops and livestock, based on ecological principles that impose strict limitations on farm inputs, especially purchased inputs, in order to minimise damage to the environment and wildlife. Farming is only considered to be 'organic' at EU-level if it complies with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91. Austria has the highest proportion of farmland under organic management amongst the EU-15, while Northern Ireland has the lowest.

Water quality

Farming continues to be a source of water pollution, both diffuse, such as from fertiliser and pesticides spread on the land, and point sources such as runoff from livestock buildings. The main areas of concern are nitrate pollution in surface and groundwater, phosphorus levels in surface water and contamination by pesticides. The lengths of rivers with nitrates levels over 30 mg NO3 per litre are low in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland compared to England. It is believed that agriculture accounts for around 60 per cent of the nitrate in rivers. High levels of phosphate in freshwater can cause eutrophication, which affects the ecological balance of the water environment leading to excessive plant growth. The percentage of phosphates found in rivers that is attributable to agriculture is likely to be about 30 per cent. Further information can be found at: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/, http://www.sepa.org.uk/, http://www.doeni.gov.uk/.

Another way to access water quality is in terms of its chemical and biological status. There has been relatively little overall change in the proportion of rivers of good or fair chemical quality since 2000, though there has been some improvement in Northern Ireland over the last three years. In terms of biological quality, the percentage of rivers of good quality has improved in England and Wales, but has fallen in Northern Ireland since 2000.

Forestry

In Northern Ireland the state owned forest area has changed little since 1995. The area of privately owned forest has increased by 37 per cent over the same time period. The volume of timber produced by state forests has increased by 86 per cent since 1995.

The area of woodland in the UK has increased over the past century. Approximately 5 per cent of the UK was covered by woodland in 1924; in 2005 almost 12 per cent of the UK was wooded. Figures for 2004 indicate that woodland covered 17 per cent of Scotland, 14 per cent of Wales, and 9 per cent of England.

The level of forest cover within the EU27 countries varies considerably. At around 6 and 10 per cent respectively, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are the two least densely forested countries in the EU27. The two most densely forested countries are Finland and Sweden with 74 and 67 per cent of the total land area with forest cover.

Table 6.11 Proportion of UK Farmland in Agri-Environmental Schemes[1,2]

% of area farmed

Country	Average of 1993-1995	2000	2003	2005	2007
England	4.9	10.7	17.8	28.3	…
Wales	2.8	14.9	20.3	17.3	…
Scotland	3.9	32.6	43.7	50.8	…
Northern Ireland	9.5	19.9	27.0	32.5	40.0
UK	4.7	18.7	27.8	34.3	…

1. The results are for cumulative land area, i.e. all the land receiving payments in each time period, not just new agreements. Source: DEFRA, Welsh Assembly and Scottish Executive websites.
2. Area farmed excludes common grazing.

Table 6.12 Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area[1]

thousand hectares

Country	1998	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Northern Ireland	…	6	7	7	10	9
Wales	…	55	58	64	71	79
Scotland	…	429	372	345	248	235
England	…	252	257	258	292	296
UK	79	741	695	675	620	620

1. Source: DEFRA

Table 6.13 Percentage of rivers by Chemical water quality[1,2]

	England			Wales			Northern Ireland[3]		
Class	Good	Fair	Poor[4]	Good	Fair	Poor[4]	Good	Fair	Poor[4]
1990	43	40	17	86	11	3	…	…	…
1995	55	35	10	93	5	1	…	…	…
2000	64	29	6	93	5	1	…	…	…
2003	62	31	7	93	6	2	58	35	7
2005	64	29	7	95	3	2	63	33	4
2006	66	27	6	95	3	2	74	22	3

1. Based on the GQA chemical classification system. Figures are three year averages ending in the year shown. Source: Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Heritage Service.
2. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Scotland has a different system for measuring the chemical quality of rivers which is not strictly comparable to that used in England, Wales and NI.
3. The length of rivers chemically classified in NI was greatly increased in 2002 and this means that results obtained before this point in time are not comparable to later figures.
4. Poor (and bad).

Table 6.14 Percentage of rivers and canals by biological water quality[1,2]

	England			Wales			Northern Ireland[3]		
Class	Good	Fair	Poor[4]	Good	Fair	Poor[4]	Good	Fair	Poor[4]
1990[4]	60	30	11	78	20	2	…	…	…
1995	66	27	6	87	13	0	…	…	…
2000	67	27	6	78	20	1	61	36	3
2003	69	26	5	79	20	1	57	41	3
2005	71	24	5	80	19	1	56	42	2
2006	71	24	5	82	17	1	54	44	2

1. Source: Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Heritage Service.
2. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Scotland has a different system for measuring the chemical quality of rivers which is not strictly comparable to that used in England, Wales and NI.
3. The river length monitored in Northern Ireland more than doubled in 1999 and this means that results obtained before this point in time are not comparable to later figures.
4. Poor (and bad).

Table 6.15 Nitrate concentrations in rivers *(% river lengths >30mgNO_3/l)*[1]

	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	33	36	34	32	31	32	32	32
Wales[2]	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scotland	…	3	2	2	2	3	3	3
Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1. Three year averages ending in the year shown. Annual average for Scotland. Source: Environment Agency, Environment and Heritage Service
2. Wales refers to national boundary not Environment Agency Wales river catchment boundary.

Table 6.16 Phosphate concentrations in rivers *(% river lengths >0.1mgP/l)*[1]

	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	67	56	60	60	60	59	58	57	58
Wales[2]	26	10	8	7	7	8	8	9	8
Scotland	...	…	5	5	3	4	4	3	4
Northern Ireland	...	25	27	27	26	21	23	22	23

1. Three year averages ending in the year shown. Annual average for Scotland. Source: Environment Agency, Environment and Heritage Service
2. Wales refers to national boundary not Environment Agency Wales river catchment boundary.

Table 6.17 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland

	1995-96	2000-01	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Forested area (000ha)					
State	61	61	61	61	61
Private	19	22	25	25	26
All forested areas	**80**	**83**	**86**	**86**	**87**
Timber production from state forests					
Volume (000 cubic metres)	223	359	405	387	414
Visitors to Forest Parks					
Day Visitors (000's)	…	…	440	370	410
Employees (number) Forest service	460	360	310	288	262

Source: Forest Service, DARD

Table 6.18 Forest cover, 2005 – international comparisons

Country	Forest area (000 ha)	Total land area (000 ha)	Forest as a % of land area
Northern Ireland	85	1,345	6.3
UK	2,845	24,088	11.8
France	15,554	55,010	28.3
Finland	22,500	30,447	73.9
Sweden	27,528	41,162	66.9
EU27	155,584	419,185	37.1
World	3,952,025	13,052,852	30.3

Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 – Annex 3 Global tables (not National Statistics)

APPENDIX

STATISTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

AGGREGATE AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT (AAA)

The AAA, from which agriculture's output, input, value added and income are obtained, is conducted according to the rules and conventions of the United Nations *System of National Accounts 1993*, the subsequent *European System of Accounts 1995* and Regulation (EC) No. 138/2004 (which incorporates the revised European Union's *Manual on the Economic Accounts for Agriculture 1997*, introduced throughout the UK in 1998).

The main features of the AAA are as follows:

(i) The AAA is conducted on a 'sector' basis. This means that agricultural activity includes 'inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities', such as pony trekking, which are carried out on-farm and for which the inputs cannot be separated from farming inputs. (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 were 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 Single Farm Payment are counted in the year in which they are due rather than in the year when they are paid. The detailed allocation of subsidies is documented in footnotes to Table 2.1. (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 outputs and inputs 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 (such as the Single Farm Payment)
= **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 EU Statistical Office) indicator used for income comparisons across the EU. The derivation of TIFF is:

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

Cash flow

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

Sensitivity of estimates

Since agricultural income measures are 'residuals' between two large aggregates, they are sensitive to quite small changes in either aggregate. For example, total income from farming in 2007 would change by almost ±10 per cent if there were one per cent changes (in opposite directions) in gross output and gross input. The degree of sensitivity rises as the level of income falls.

Provisional estimates

'Provisional' figures for 2007 presented in this *Review* are based on data available in December 2007-January 2008, in most cases covering the first 9-11 months of the year. However, for some items less information was available. Provisional figures are therefore subject to revision when complete information becomes available. Revised figures will be published in next year's *Review*.

Revisions to Income series

The 2006 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2006 is now estimated at £301.6 million (previously £332.1 million) while total income from farming for 2006 is now estimated at £159.6 million (previously £181.9 million). A 25-year consistent series of the AAA is available on the DARD website at www.dardni.gov.uk

Single Farm Payment

The **Single Farm Payment (SFP)** was introduced in 2005 and replaces many of the direct payments that were attributable to particular sectors and payable on a per head or per hectare basis. The treatment of the **SFP** in the aggregate agriculture accounts is different from that of the direct payments because it is not attributable to any one sector. Direct payments such as Beef Special Premium and Suckler Cow Premium were included in the **gross output** figures because they were attributable to finished cattle and calf production. Thus, while Beef Special Premium and Suckler Cow Premium appear in the **gross value added** figures the SFP does not. However, SFP is added to **gross value added** as part of the **net value added** calculation. As a consequence **gross value added** figures from 2005 are much lower than the figures before and they are not strictly comparable. The **net value added** and **total income from farming** figures are comparable between pre-2005 and post-2005.

CENSUS

Statistics on employment on farms (Tables 2.14 and 2.15), crop areas and livestock numbers (Section 3) and farm structure, (Section 4) are derived from the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census. This is an annual statistical survey which is based on a large sample survey, though in 2000 a full census of every farm was conducted. In 2007 forms were issued to all the larger businesses but to only half those classified as 'Very Small' unless they had pigs or mushrooms.

The records which were aggregated to provide the published results include 2007 returns from those which 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 from which a 2007 return was not obtained, estimates were based on the IACS and other administrative systems. Owners of pig herds or mushroom enterprises who failed to make a return in 2007 were contacted by telephone in order that up to date information could be obtained.

Census coverage

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

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

Years	**Census methods and coverage**
Until 1954	Census information was collected by police enumerators who identified and visited all farms, including any under one acre (0.4 hectares), and recorded in special books information given to them orally by the farmer.
1954-1972	A postal census was introduced in 1954. This used the list of farmers which had been identified in the 1953 census, but included only those of **one acre or more**. From this time onwards a distinction was made between '**main**' holdings which were included in the census and '**minor**' holdings which were surveyed on a sample basis using simplified questions. Estimates were made for their total crop areas and livestock numbers but these holdings were not included in the count of farms.
1973-1980	In 1973, in conformity with a similar change in the rest of the United Kingdom, an alteration was made in the scope of the census in Northern Ireland. From then until 1980, the main census covered all holdings which had **at least 10 acres (4 hectares)** of land with the addition of any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose stock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This definition of a 'main' holding removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, brought back a number of 'minor' holdings of less than one acre. The net reduction in the number of 'main' holdings arising from these adjustments was some 5,500.
1981-1996	A further change was made between 1980 and 1981 when, with the introduction of a new system of farm classification, and with changes to the minimum threshold in other parts of the UK, the threshold for inclusion in the 'main' census in Northern Ireland was raised. This new threshold restricted the census to holdings which had (a) a total land area (owned or taken on long-term lease) of 6 hectares or more or (b) any full-time workers other than the farmer or (c) a farm business size of 1,000 ECUs of Standard Gross Margin. This change resulted in the exclusion of a further 6,690 'minor' holdings from the main census between 1980 and 1981.

1997	The basis of the agricultural census was changed in 1997 from a 'census register' to a central register of all of the Department's 'clients'. The change was made possible as a result of the introduction of IACS and of work undertaken to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification across all schemes, with each farmer who was/is in contact with the Department being allocated a unique Client Reference Number and each "Client" being linked to a Business Identifier. The population surveyed in 1997 consisted of one 'Client' in each business for which a census return with crops and/or livestock was obtained in the preceding year or which had received a subsidy in respect of crops or livestock during the preceding 15 months. Also included were those with a milk quota and those known by the Department to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between 'main' and 'minor' holdings was discontinued.
1998-1999	A further 166 pig farms with no owned land were added to the population in 1998 and sampling was introduced. Census forms were issued only to half of the '**very small**' farms.
2000	A full census was conducted. Mushroom production was targeted and around 100 mushroom businesses which had not previously been surveyed were identified and added to the list of businesses covered.
2001-2006	A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999.
2007	A sample survey was carried out. The number of cattle questions on the survey form were reduced as data was sourced primarily from APHIS (Animal and Public Health Information System) to determine cattle numbers. No poultry questions were asked, with data on poultry being sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Farm business size Farm business size is determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). Standards or norms have been calculated for all major enterprises. The total SLR for each farm is calculated by multiplying its crop areas and livestock numbers by the appropriate SLR coefficients and then summing the result for all enterprises on the farm. A standard labour unit is equivalent to 1,900 hours of work per year.

Prior to 2004, the farm business size had been determined by calculating each farm's Standard Gross Margin (SGM). However, it was felt that using SLR's was a more appropriate and accurate method to size farm businesses in the UK.

To show year-to-year changes in business size, the enterprise SLR coefficients are held constant for a number of years. The current series (introduced in 2004) is based on the average labour requirements during the period 1999-2001. For a list of these values, see table below.

STANDARD LABOUR REQUIREMENTS
The following factors have been used to classify farms in N.I.

Enterprise	Item	Unit	Standard Labour Requirement (hours)
Crops	Cereals	ha	30
	Oilseeds	ha	22.5
	Potatoes	ha	135
	Outdoor vegetables	ha	150
	Set-aside	ha	1.5
Fruit and Ornamentals	Fruit	ha	450
	Ornamentals	ha	1,500
Indoor Crops	Glasshouse vegetables	ha	5,000
	Other glasshouse	ha	25,000
	Mushrooms	house	1,050
Forage	Forage crops	ha	9
	Grass	ha	6
	Rough grazing	ha	2.25
Cattle	Dairy Cows	head	39
	Beef cows	head	12
	Other cattle	head	9
Sheep	Ewes and rams: Lowland	head	5.2
	Ewes and rams: LFA	head	4.2
	Other sheep: Lowland	head	3.3
	Other sheep: LFA	head	2.6
Pigs	Sows and gilts	head	16
	Piglets	head	1.0
	Other pigs	head	1.3
Poultry	Laying hens	head	0.17
	Pullets	head	0.12
	Broilers	head	0.04
	Turkeys, Ducks etc.	head	0.045
Other Livestock	Horses	head	150
	Goats	head	20
	Deer	head	15

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

Size	Standard Labour Requirement
Very small	Less than 1
Small	1-<2
Medium	2-<3
Large	3-<5
Very large	5 or more

* 1 standard labour unit = 1900 hours.

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

Farm business type

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 72 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 than 2/3 of 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 their total SGM in cattle and sheep.

Other types Farms which specialise in enterprises which do not fit in 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 340 individual The Farm Business Survey (FBS) is a continuous annual survey that monitors the physical and financial performance of farm businesses in Northern Ireland. The survey is carried out by Policy and Economics Division of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Similar surveys are carried out in England by DEFRA, in Scotland by Scottish Government, and in Wales by WAG. These surveys along with the Northern Ireland FBS constitute the UK's contribution to the Farm Accounts Data Network (FADN) of the European Union which was established under EC regulation 79/65.

In the most recent accounting year, 2006/07, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 349 businesses. This accounting information enables outputs, inputs and incomes to be analysed by farming type and business size. Trends in farm incomes from the FBS are produced by comparing results from identical samples of farms participating in the survey in successive years. Indices showing trends in cash incomes are derived by linking the results of identical samples from successive pairs of years (Table 5.1).

Differences between FBS and AAA	The coverage and methodology of the FBS differ in several important respects from the Aggregate Agricultural Account (AAA) presented in Section 2. The FBS does not cover **Very Small** farms or **horticultural** businesses, whereas, the AAA covers the whole agricultural sector; FBS account years end between October and May, with an average account ending date of mid-February, while the AAA relates to calendar years; Except in the case of breeding livestock appreciation, Farm Business Income includes changes in both the volume and price of crops and livestock, whereas the AAA includes volume changes only; For these reasons no direct comparison between the FBS and AAA income series can be made.

GENERAL NOTES TO TABLES

Symbols:

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

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

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

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

Abbreviations:

dcw	-	dressed carcase weight
dwt	-	deadweight
lwt	-	liveweight

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