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EU Farm Structure Survey 2007 Northern Ireland



Agriculture



A National Statistics Publication

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY

2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

REPORT ON

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE,

FARM DIVERSIFICATION,

AND

CONTRACTOR USE

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EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2007 NORTHERN IRELAND

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FOREWORD

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

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

This report presents the Northern Ireland data collected for that purpose in 2007. It contains comparisons with the results of the 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2005 surveys in Northern Ireland as well as some additional information not required by the EU, such as the use of agricultural contractors, which is of interest to policy makers in Northern Ireland.

Most of the data collected in 2007 has been sent to Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the EU) and, along with similar data from all other regions of the Union, will be used in the preparation of an EU report on the 2007 EU Structure Survey.

The results of the 2005 EU Farm Structure Survey for each of the EU Member States may be viewed at

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2173,45972494&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&_mo=containsall&_ms=&_saa=&_p_action=SUBMIT&_co=equal&_ci=1130657,0&_po=matchany&_pi=1130673,0&_an=product_type&_ao=containsall&_av=ITY_&_as=0&_ad=text&_na=1&_ob=41,0

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

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

Norman Fulton
Director of Policy and Economics Division
March 2008

SUMMARY OF KEY STATISTICS

Labour force

- 54,114 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months ending March 2007.
- The total labour input on farms in Northern Ireland equated to 29,786 Annual Work Units (full time job equivalents).
- Occupiers and their family members provided 90 percent of the labour input.

Business status

- The majority of farms are family owned and managed; fewer than 30 farm businesses out of the total of 26,146 were owned by an institution or limited liability company.
- On 99 percent of farms, the principal occupier or a member of his or her family was the manager (the person most responsible for day-to-day management).
- Only 1 percent of managers were neither the occupier nor a member of the occupier's family.

Gender

- Female workers accounted for 23 percent of the workforce and 18 percent of the labour input (Annual Work Units) on farms.
- 8 percent of farms were managed by females.

Age

- The median age of farmers (57 years) was 2 years older than in 2005.
- Six percent of farmers were aged under 35 in 2007 (7 percent in 2005).
- The ages of farmers differed for each business size; on Very Small farms, 32 percent were aged 65 or more, compared with 26 percent on Small and 17 percent on Medium or Large farms.

Work-time

- 52 percent of the farmers worked 30 hours or more per week on farms (i.e. full-time).
- On 64 percent of farms, the total labour input (AWU) amounted to 30 hours or more per week.

Other gainful activities

- The proportion of farmers who had other work was at 37 percent, the same as was recorded in 2005 compared with 34 percent in 2003, 29 percent in 2000 and 19 percent in 1993.
- For those farmers under 65, the proportion that had other work was 44 percent in 2007 compared with 48 percent in 2005.

- On 52 percent of all farms, and for 65 percent of those where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work in 2007. (52 percent and 66 percent respectively in 2005)
- On 75 percent of the Very Small farms, either the farmer was 65 or over (state pensionable age) or he/she had other work.

Farm diversification

- 9 percent of farms had some diversification activity (as defined in the Structure Survey), including 3 percent of farms which undertook agricultural contracting.
- 6 percent of NI farms had diversification other than agricultural contracting or haulage, compared with 21 percent (2005) in England.

Use of agricultural contractors

- 79 percent of farms used agricultural contractors during the previous year, compared with 83 percent in 2005 and 81 percent in 2003.
- 69 percent of all farms used agricultural contractors for hay or silage making.

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Survey

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

The 2000 census survey was conducted on all 6.5 million agricultural holdings in the EU25 and also some of the Candidate Countries, bringing its total scope to almost 8 million holdings. As it covers such a diversity of farming climates, practices and management and ownership structures, the harmonised set of questions is not always relevant for individual countries. Consequently Eurostat² allow some countries to disregard some questions as being either non-existent or non significant (e.g. areas of citrus fruits in the UK).

Partly funded by the EU³, each Member State collects the data, anonymises the records and sends them to Eurostat where they are entered into the Eurofarm database. Analyses are made and key statistics published in a survey Report⁴ and on Eurostat's New Cronos data system. Subsequently the statistics are used by the EU to monitor changes, particularly in farm structure and the numbers of farm workers, and to model the impact of external developments or policy proposals.

¹ Each Member State is required to do this by Council Regulation No 571/88.

² The Statistical Office of the European Community.

³ DARD will receive around €150,000 for the 2007 survey.

⁴ See "Farm Structure Survey", Eurostat 2005.

1.2 Methodology in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland data for the 2007 Survey came from three sources:

- the June 2007 Agricultural Census
- administrative sources
- a special survey in March 2007 to collect the information not available elsewhere.

The main data on crop areas and livestock numbers were collected in the June Agricultural Census. A limited amount of information was obtained from administrative sources, notably on areas of organic farming⁵ and ESA designated areas. To complete the data for the Structure Survey, a special survey⁶ was conducted in February/March 2007, to obtain information mainly about the farm labour force and farm diversification.

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

The results of the June 2007 Agricultural Census were published on 20th November 2007⁷. This report includes the results of the special survey along with comparable statistics from the five previous surveys held in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2005. However, because of changes made to the method of determining the population of farm businesses⁸, caution should be exercised in interpreting changes between the 1993 to 1997 surveys and those conducted in 2000 and thereafter.

1.3 The Survey Population

For the purpose of the Structure Survey, a farm is defined (Article 5 of Council Regulation 571/88) as:

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

The Northern Ireland population of farms which met this definition in the June 2007 census and which was represented in the 2007 Structure Survey, totaled **26,146 farms**⁹.

⁵ For statistical information on organic farming in NI and the whole of the UK see <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/orguk.pdf>

⁶ Legislation has been introduced enabling all information to be collected under one survey, should the conditions allow.

⁷ “The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland: Results for June 2007”, DARD 2007.

⁸ See Annex 1.

⁹ The special survey was issued to a sample of the active farms in the June 2006 survey but only those which were still active in 2007 were included in the final data file.

1.4 The Raising Framework

Although termed the June “census”, this was a sample survey in which 21,911 farms were surveyed with a response of 14,865 (67.8 percent). The sample excluded the Very Small farms which had been surveyed and made a return in 2006¹⁰. Estimates were made for the non-respondents based on their most recent return and available administrative data, notably from the cattle tracing system, IACS and the data available on crop and livestock grants.

Sampling and non-response were handled differently for the special survey than was the case for the June Census. A sample of 13,323 farms was selected from the June 2006 data file, stratified by business size and type, and included only those which had made a return within the four preceding years. Replies were received from 9,215 (69.2 percent) of whom 8,545 were still active in 2007 or provided sufficient detail and were included in the final data file. A raising factor was set against the data from each of the respondents, based on the type and size of farm business in 2007.

1.5 Terms and Definitions

There are significant differences between the terms used in the labour force part of the Structure Survey and those used in the labour section of the annual June Agricultural and Horticultural Census. Full definitions of the former are contained in Commission Regulation 1444/2002.

The main differences are:

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

The figures given in this report have been raised from sample results and individually rounded and so do not always add to the totals shown.

¹⁰ All farms with pigs, mushrooms or 1,000 or more poultry were included in the 2007 sample regardless of their business size.

2. THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE

2.1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

2.2 Total persons

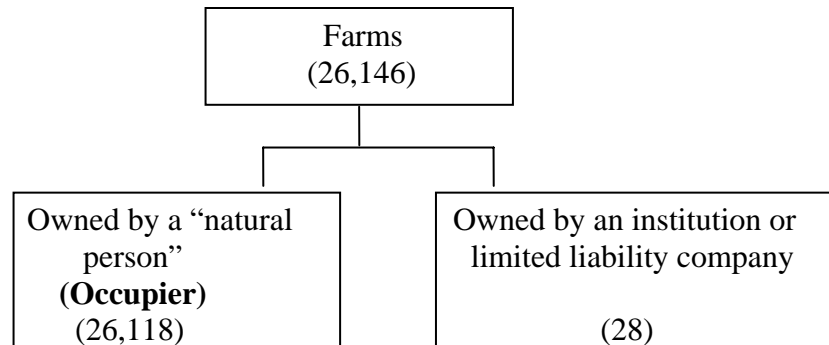
Based on the 2007 Structure Survey, the total labour force was estimated as **54,114 persons**; this includes all persons aged 16 and over who contributed to the work of the farms during the 12 month period up to March 2007 but excludes any hired workers engaged on a casual basis. The June 2007 Agricultural Census, which is the other main source of information on the labour input on farms, recorded 48,974 persons working on farms at the 1st June census date, including hired casual workers. The definitions in the two surveys differ but it appears that significantly more occupiers' spouses were recorded in the Structure Survey (8,802) than in the June census where 6,345 were recorded as spouses but others were recorded as business partners.

Occupiers, their spouses and other family members comprise 91 percent of the labour force, with only 9 percent being regular hired workers. The proportions differ by business size with regular hired workers making up 17 percent of those on the Medium and Large farms compared with 5 percent on the Very Small and 7 percent on the Small farms.

2.3 Business status

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

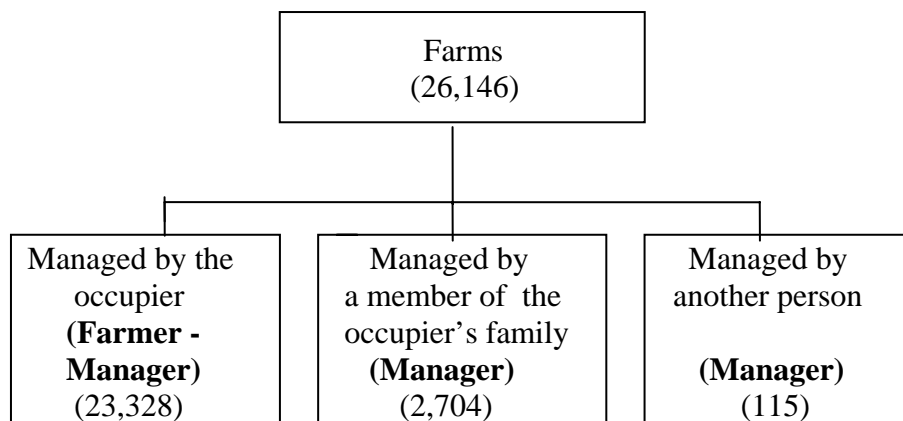
- a) a limited liability company or an institution, such as a school or hospital; or
- b) a “natural person”, meaning a private individual or individuals, including partnerships.



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

2.4 Management status

Respondents to the survey were asked to indicate who was responsible for the day to day running of the farm business. In most cases (89 percent), this person was the same as the occupier but on 3 percent of farms this role was filled by the occupier’s spouse, on 7 percent by another family member and on 1 percent (including farms owned by institutions) there was a hired or paid manager.



2.5 Gender

Seventy-seven percent of workers were male and 23 percent female, with little difference in the male:female percentages on farms of different size. This ratio has been reasonably consistent throughout the history of the survey.

2.6 Ages

In the 1995, 2000 and 2005 surveys information was collected on the ages of all the workers. This was not repeated in 2007, though previous surveys information has been presented within the suite of tables.

2.7 Work-time

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

In the 2007 survey, 63 percent of the regular labour force worked part-time on the farms and 37 percent full-time, similar to the 62 percent and 38 percent respectively recorded in 2005, but a marked change compared with 1993 when 51 percent of workers were part-time, increasing to 52 percent and 54 percent in 1995 and 1997 respectively. However, some changes in the scope of the survey, details of which are given in detail in Annex 1, affected comparisons between 1997 and 2000.

2.8 Annual work units

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

Based on farms where total labour input amounted to at least 0.75 AWU, 64 percent may be termed “full-time” (67 percent in 2005).

LABOUR FORCE MEMBERS, NUMBERS AND STATUS

| PERSONS BY STATUS AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Persons working on farms: | Persons | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Occupiers | 12,364 | 9,080 | 4,096 | 25,539 | 56 | 46 | 34 | 47 |
| * Occupiers' spouses | 3,446 | 3,469 | 1,887 | 8,802 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 16 |
| * Occupiers' family | 5,319 | 5,928 | 3,918 | 15,165 | 24 | 30 | 33 | 28 |
| * Regular hired workers | 1,119 | 1,436 | 2,053 | 4,607 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 9 |
| Total persons | 22,248 | 19,913 | 11,954 | 54,114 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| PERSONAL STATUS BY SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Percent | | | | | | |
| * Occupiers | 50 | 49 | 50 | 48 | 47 | 48 | 47 |
| * Occupiers' spouses | 15 | 14 | 14 | 22 | 18 | 17 | 16 |
| * Occupiers' family | 26 | 28 | 28 | 23 | 26 | 30 | 28 |
| * Regular hired workers | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 9 |
| Total persons | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| BUSINESS STATUS BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Occupier is: | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * A natural person | 12,751 | 9,228 | 4,139 | 26,118 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 100 |
| * Company, school, etc | 11 | 10 | 7 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total farms | 12,762 | 9,238 | 4,146 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| MANAGEMENT STATUS BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Manager is: | Persons/Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * The occupier | 11,399 | 8,301 | 3,628 | 23,328 | 89 | 90 | 88 | 89 |
| * Occupier's spouse | 516 | 242 | 50 | 808 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| * Other family member | 806 | 652 | 438 | 1,896 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 7 |
| * Hired | 41 | 43 | 29 | 115 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total farms | 12,762 | 9,238 | 4,146 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

LABOUR FORCE : GENDER AND AGES

| GENDER BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Person is: | Persons | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Male | 17,095 | 15,191 | 9,211 | 41,497 | 77 | 76 | 77 | 77 |
| * Female | 5,152 | 4,722 | 2,742 | 12,617 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 23 |
| Total persons | 22,248 | 19,913 | 11,954 | 54,114 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| GENDER BY PERSONAL STATUS | Occupier | Occupier's spouse | Other family member | Regular hired worker | All workers |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Person is: | Persons | | | | |
| * Male | 23,472 | 922 | 12,848 | 4,255 | 41,497 |
| * Female | 2,067 | 7,880 | 2,317 | 352 | 12,617 |
| Total persons | 25,539 | 8,802 | 15,165 | 4,607 | 54,114 |

| GENDER BY SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Person is: | Percent | | | | | | |
| * Male | 77 | 78 | 78 | 72 | 74 | 78 | 77 |
| * Female | 23 | 22 | 22 | 28 | 26 | 22 | 23 |
| Total persons | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| AGES BY SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | AGES BY SURVEY DATE | 2005 | 2007 |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|------|------------|------|----------------------|------------|------|
| Age: | Percent | | | | | Age: | | |
| * Under 25 | | 12 | | 9 | | * Under 25 | 9 | |
| * 25-29 | | 7 | | 6 | | * 24-34 | 11 | |
| * 30-34 | | 9 | | 8 | | * 35-44 | 19 | N.A. |
| * 35-39 | N.A. | 8 | N.A. | 10 | N.A. | * 45-54 | 20 | |
| * 40-44 | | 8 | | 11 | | * 55-64 | 21 | |
| * 45-49 | | 9 | | 10 | | * 65 & over | 20 | |
| * 50-54 | | 10 | | 11 | | Total persons | 100 | |
| * 55-59 | | 9 | | 9 | | | | |
| * 60-64 | | 9 | | 9 | | | | |
| * 65 & over | | 19 | | 17 | | | | |
| Total persons | | 100 | | 100 | | | | |

LABOUR FORCE: WORK-TIME

| WORK-TIME BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| | Persons | | | | Percent | | | |
| Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year: | | | | | | | | |
| * >0-<25% | 10,794 | 6,305 | 2,668 | 19,767 | 49 | 32 | 22 | 37 |
| * 25-<50% | 4,893 | 3,158 | 1,281 | 9,332 | 22 | 16 | 11 | 17 |
| * 50-<75% | 2,075 | 1,957 | 841 | 4,872 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| Part-time | 17,762 | 11,419 | 4,790 | 33,971 | 80 | 57 | 40 | 63 |
| * 75-<100% | 845 | 1,410 | 1,238 | 3,493 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| * 100% | 3,641 | 7,084 | 5,926 | 16,650 | 16 | 36 | 50 | 31 |
| Full-time | 4,486 | 8,493 | 7,164 | 20,143 | 20 | 43 | 60 | 37 |
| Total persons | 22,248 | 19,913 | 11,954 | 54,114 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| WORK-TIME BY PERSONAL STATUS | Occupier | Occupier's spouse | Other family member | Regular hired worker | All workers |
|--|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | Persons | | | | |
| Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year: | | | | | |
| * >0-<25% | 5,727 | 4,573 | 6,741 | 2,726 | 19,767 |
| * 25-<50% | 4,364 | 756 | 2,666 | 560 | 8,345 |
| * 50-<75% | 2,620 | 1,743 | 1,249 | 247 | 5,860 |
| Part-time | 12,711 | 7,072 | 10,656 | 3,533 | 33,972 |
| * 75-<100% | 1,230 | 333 | 1,725 | 205 | 3,493 |
| * 100% | 11,599 | 1,398 | 2,784 | 869 | 16,650 |
| Full-time | 12,829 | 1,731 | 4,509 | 1,074 | 20,143 |
| Total persons | 25,539 | 8,803 | 15,165 | 4,607 | 54,114 |

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

LABOUR FORCE: ANNUAL WORK UNITS

| ANNUAL WORK UNITS BY BUSINESS SIZE AND PERSONAL STATUS | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| AWU contributed by: | Annual Work Units | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Occupiers | 5,778 | 7,070 | 3,817 | 16,665 | 63 | 59 | 44 | 56 |
| * Occupiers' spouses | 971 | 1,461 | 964 | 3,397 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 11 |
| * Other family | 1,854 | 2,601 | 2,462 | 6,916 | 20 | 22 | 28 | 23 |
| * Hired (regular) | 259 | 390 | 1,108 | 1,756 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 6 |
| * Hired (casual) | 315 | 382 | 355 | 1,052 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| All persons | 9,176 | 11,903 | 8,706 | 29,786 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

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

| ANNUAL WORK UNITS BY BUSINESS SIZE AND GENDER | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| AWU contributed by: | Annual Work Units | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Males | 7,178 | 9,481 | 6,900 | 23,559 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 82 |
| * Females | 1,683 | 2,040 | 1,450 | 5,174 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 18 |
| Total AWU excluding hired casual | 8,861 | 11,521 | 8,351 | 28,733 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| ANNUAL WORK UNITS PER FARM BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Total labour input AWU per farm | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * <0.25 | 3,028 | 334 | 11 | 3,373 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 13 |
| * 0.25-<0.5 | 2,794 | 636 | 32 | 3,463 | 22 | 7 | 1 | 13 |
| * 0.5-<0.75 | 1,828 | 779 | 44 | 2,652 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 10 |
| "Part-time" | 7,651 | 1,749 | 87 | 9,487 | 60 | 19 | 2 | 36 |
| * 0.75-<1 | 930 | 693 | 62 | 1,685 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| * 1 | 632 | 618 | 158 | 1,408 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| * 1-<2 | 3,011 | 4,713 | 1,923 | 9,646 | 24 | 51 | 46 | 37 |
| * 2-<3 | 417 | 1,177 | 1,247 | 2,841 | 3 | 13 | 30 | 11 |
| * 3+ | 121 | 288 | 669 | 1,079 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 4 |
| "Full-time" | 5,111 | 7,489 | 4,058 | 16,659 | 40 | 81 | 98 | 64 |
| Total farms | 12,762 | 9,238 | 4,146 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

3. FARMERS

3.1 Definition

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

3.2 Gender

Ninety four percent of farmers were male, 6 percent female.

3.3 Marital status

The 2007 survey indicated that 29 percent of farmers in Northern Ireland had no spouse, ranging from 34 percent for those with Very Small businesses to 18 percent of those with Medium or Large businesses. Under half (46 percent) of farmers' spouses contributed to the work of the farms.

3.4 Age

In previous years, information was sought on farmers' ages within 5 year age bands but from the 2003 survey this was changed to 10 year bands. The median age for farmers in Northern Ireland in 2007 was 57 years. Those with Medium or Large farms were generally younger, 44 percent over 55 years old, than those with Very Small or Small farms, where 57 percent and 54 percent respectively were of that age. The survey showed that there were 6 percent of farmers under 35 years old in 2007 compared with 7 percent in 2003 and 9 percent in 2000. However, it is stressed that these figures refer only to the principal farmer in each business rather than to all farmers.

3.5 Work-time

Overall 52 percent of farmers worked for at least 30 hours per week and have been termed "full-time", compared with 65 percent in 1993.

3.6 Other gainful activities

Thirty seven percent of farmers had some other gainful activity (the same as in 2005), on or off farm, the proportion having risen significantly from 19 percent in 1993, 21 percent in 1995, 23 percent in 1997, 29 percent in 2000 and 34 percent in 2003.

On 52 percent of farms either the farmer or spouse or both had another gainful activity, ranging from 56 percent of the Very Small farms to 49 percent and 42 percent of the Small or Medium/Large farms respectively. Since the age of the farmer is relevant to this distribution, separate analyses have been made for farms where the farmer is 65 or over and those where he/she is under 65. The latter indicates that 44 percent of farmers under 65 years old have other gainful activities, and on 65 percent of such farms either the farmer or spouse does other work.

FARMERS: GENDER & MARITAL STATUS

| FARMERS BY GENDER AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Farmer is: | Farmers | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Male | 10,369 | 7,909 | 3,533 | 21,812 | 90 | 95 | 97 | 94 |
| * Female | 1,030 | 388 | 93 | 1,511 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Total farmers | 11,399 | 8,298 | 3,626 | 23,323 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| FARMERS BY GENDER AND SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|---|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Farmer is: | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| * Male | 93 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 94 | 95 | 94 |
| * Female | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Total farmers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| FARMERS BY MARITAL STATUS AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Farmer has a spouse: | Farmers | | | | Percent | | | |
| of whom: | | | | | | | | |
| * Works on the farm | 2,816 | 3,050 | 1,697 | 7,563 | 25 | 37 | 47 | 32 |
| * Does no work on the farm | 4,748 | 2,980 | 1,268 | 8,996 | 42 | 36 | 35 | 39 |
| Farmer has no spouse: | 3,835 | 2,267 | 661 | 6,764 | 34 | 27 | 18 | 29 |
| Total farmers | 11,399 | 8,298 | 3,626 | 23,323 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

FARMERS: AGES

| FARMERS BY AGE AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Farmer is aged: | Farmers | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Under 25 | 89 | 20 | 14 | 123 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| * 25-34 | 596 | 311 | 187 | 1,094 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| * 35-44 | 1,580 | 1,494 | 744 | 3,818 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 16 |
| * 45-54 | 2,619 | 1,981 | 1,094 | 5,693 | 23 | 24 | 30 | 24 |
| * 55-64 | 2,884 | 2,343 | 978 | 6,206 | 25 | 28 | 27 | 27 |
| * 65 & over | 3,631 | 2,148 | 609 | 6,389 | 32 | 26 | 17 | 27 |
| Total farmers | 11,399 | 8,298 | 3,626 | 23,323 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| FARMERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Farmer is aged: | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| * Under 25 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * 25-34 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| * 35-44 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 16 |
| * 45-54 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 24 |
| * 55-64 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 27 |
| * 65 & over | 27 | 26 | 27 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Total farmers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| FARMERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Farmer is aged: | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| * Under 25 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | |
| * 25-29 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| * 30-34 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | at | at | at |
| * 35-39 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | this | this | this |
| * 40-44 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | level | level | level |
| * 45-49 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | | | |
| * 50-54 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | | | |
| * 55-59 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 12 | | | |
| * 60-64 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | | | |
| * 65 & over | 27 | 26 | 27 | 24 | | | |
| Total farmers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | | |

FARMERS: WORK-TIME

| FARMERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| | Farmers | | | | Percent | | | |
| Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year | | | | | | | | |
| * >0-<25% | 4,082 | 662 | 61 | 4,805 | 36 | 8 | 2 | 21 |
| * 25-<50% | 2,856 | 1,024 | 88 | 3,968 | 25 | 12 | 2 | 17 |
| * 50-<75% | 1,409 | 925 | 121 | 2,456 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 11 |
| Part-time | 8,347 | 2,612 | 270 | 11,229 | 73 | 31 | 7 | 48 |
| * 75-<100% | 475 | 548 | 106 | 1,129 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| * 100% | 2,576 | 5,138 | 3,250 | 10,964 | 23 | 62 | 90 | 47 |
| Full-time | 3,052 | 5,686 | 3,356 | 12,094 | 27 | 69 | 93 | 52 |
| Total farmers | 11,399 | 8,298 | 3,626 | 23,323 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| FARMERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BY SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|--|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year | | | | | | | |
| * >0-<25% | 16 | 14 | 18 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 21 |
| * 25-<50% | 11 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| * 50-<75% | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Part-time | 35 | 35 | 39 | 47 | 45 | 47 | 48 |
| * 75-<100% | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| * 100% | 61 | 60 | 57 | 48 | 49 | 47 | 47 |
| Full-time | 65 | 65 | 61 | 53 | 55 | 53 | 52 |
| Total farmers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

FARMERS: OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY

| FARMERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Farmer's other gainful activity: | Farmers | | | | Percent | | | |
| * No OGA | 5,694 | 5,674 | 3,293 | 14,661 | 50 | 68 | 91 | 63 |
| * With OGA | 5,705 | 2,624 | 334 | 8,662 | 50 | 32 | 9 | 37 |
| of whom: | | | | | | | | |
| ** OGA as major activity | 4,619 | 1,479 | 100 | 6,199 | 41 | 18 | 3 | 27 |
| ** OGA as minor activity | 1,085 | 1,144 | 233 | 2,463 | 10 | 14 | 6 | 11 |
| Total farmers | 11,399 | 8,298 | 3,626 | 23,323 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| FARMERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Farmer's other gainful activity: | Percent | | | | | | |
| * No OGA | 81 | 79 | 77 | 71 | 66 | 63 | 63 |
| * With OGA | 19 | 21 | 23 | 29 | 34 | 37 | 37 |
| of whom: | | | | | | | |
| ** OGA as major activity | 13 | 14 | 16 | 23 | 24 | 27 | 27 |
| ** OGA as minor activity | 5 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 11 |
| Total farmers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

FARMERS AND SPOUSE: OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY

| ALL FARMERS | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Persons with other gainful activity: | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Farmer | 5,705 | 2,624 | 334 | 8,662 | 50 | 32 | 9 | 37 |
| * Farmer's spouse | 3,559 | 2,844 | 1,365 | 7,769 | 31 | 34 | 38 | 33 |
| * Either/both | 6,429 | 4,099 | 1,513 | 12,040 | 56 | 49 | 42 | 52 |
| * Neither | 4,970 | 4,199 | 2,113 | 11,282 | 44 | 51 | 58 | 48 |
| Total farms ^[1] | 11,399 | 8,298 | 3,626 | 23,323 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[1] Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

| FARMERS AGED 65 & OVER | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Persons with other gainful activity: | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Farmer | 336 | 159 | 11 | 506 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| * Farmer's spouse | 211 | 175 | 27 | 413 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| * Either/both | 507 | 303 | 38 | 848 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 11 |
| * Neither | 3,142 | 1,865 | 579 | 5,586 | 74 | 72 | 66 | 73 |
| Total farms ^[1] | 4,222 | 2,597 | 877 | 7,695 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[1] Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

| FARMERS AGED UNDER 65 | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Persons with other gainful activity: | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Farmer | 5,372 | 2,465 | 322 | 8,160 | 63 | 37 | 10 | 44 |
| * Farmer's spouse | 3,697 | 2,924 | 1,425 | 8,047 | 43 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| * Either/both | 6,275 | 4,050 | 1,562 | 11,887 | 74 | 61 | 48 | 65 |
| * Neither | 1,828 | 2,342 | 1,537 | 5,707 | 21 | 35 | 47 | 31 |
| Total farms ^[1] | 8,530 | 6,631 | 3,264 | 18,425 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[1] Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

4 MANAGERS (PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUNNING OF THE FARM)

4.1 Definition

In Section 2 information was presented for all workers, including those described as Occupiers, i.e. those with the legal and financial responsibility for the farms, and Section 3 referred to the subset of the occupiers, termed Farmers, who were responsible for the day to day management. Where the occupier is not responsible for management of the farm, someone else has this role. Section 4 refers to all managers, i.e. the one person for each farm who has the main responsibility for the day to day running of the business. Because most of them (89 percent) are also farmers, information on this group is similar to that in Section 3.

4.1 Status

Northern Ireland farms are primarily family businesses, with less than 1 percent of the managers being non-family. The occupiers were the managers of 89 percent of farms, with spouses the managers on 3 percent and other family members the managers on the remainder. The other family members were mainly from a younger generation, so that, as a group, managers are slightly younger than farmers.

4.3 Gender

The proportion of female managers in 2007, at 8 percent, was very similar to that recorded since the 1990s, though higher than the 6 percent of farmers who are female.

4.4 Age

In the 2007 survey, 25 percent of managers were under 45 and 26 percent were 65 or over. This compares with the 2005 figures of 28 percent and 24 percent respectively.

4.5 Work-time

The work-time of managers was similar to that for farmers, with 49 percent working under 30 hours a week and being termed “part-time” and 51 percent “full-time”.

MANAGERS: IDENTITY, GENDER AND AGE

| MANAGEMENT STATUS BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Manager is: | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * The occupier | 11,400 | 8,301 | 3,628 | 23,329 | 89 | 90 | 88 | 89 |
| * Occupier's spouse | 516 | 242 | 50 | 808 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| * Other family member | 806 | 652 | 438 | 1,896 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 7 |
| * Hired | 41 | 43 | 29 | 113 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total farms | 12,763 | 9,238 | 4,145 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| MANAGERS BY GENDER AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Manager is: | Managers | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Male | 11,409 | 8,711 | 4,027 | 24,147 | 89 | 94 | 97 | 92 |
| * Female | 1,354 | 527 | 118 | 1,999 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Total managers | 12,763 | 9,238 | 4,145 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| MANAGERS BY GENDER AND SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|--|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Farmer is: | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| * Male | 92 | 93 | 92 | 93 | 93 | 93 | 92 |
| * Female | 8 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Total managers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| MANAGERS BY AGE AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Manager is aged: | Managers | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Under 25 | 151 | 68 | 46 | 265 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * 25-34 | 746 | 476 | 301 | 1,523 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| * 35-44 | 1,876 | 1,776 | 970 | 4,622 | 15 | 19 | 23 | 18 |
| * 45-54 | 2,886 | 2,162 | 1,147 | 6,195 | 23 | 23 | 28 | 24 |
| * 55-64 | 3,154 | 2,451 | 1,012 | 6,617 | 25 | 27 | 24 | 25 |
| * 65 & over | 3,950 | 2,305 | 669 | 6,924 | 31 | 25 | 16 | 26 |
| Total managers | 12,763 | 9,238 | 4,145 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

MANAGERS: AGE AND WORK-TIME

| MANAGERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Manager is aged: | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| * Under 25 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * 25-34 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| * 35-44 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 21 | 19 | 18 |
| * 45-54 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 24 |
| * 55-64 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| * 65 & over | 25 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 26 |
| Total managers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| MANAGERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year | Managers | | | | Percent | | | |
| * >0-<25% | 4,811 | 828 | 87 | 5,726 | 38 | 9 | 2 | 22 |
| * 25-<50% | 3,100 | 1,216 | 117 | 4,433 | 24 | 13 | 3 | 17 |
| * 50-<75% | 1,567 | 1,057 | 146 | 2,770 | 12 | 11 | 4 | 11 |
| Part-time | 9,478 | 3,101 | 350 | 12,929 | 74 | 34 | 8 | 49 |
| * 75-<100% | 558 | 654 | 128 | 1,340 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| * 100% | 2,727 | 5,483 | 3,666 | 11,876 | 21 | 59 | 88 | 45 |
| Full-time | 3,285 | 6,137 | 3,794 | 13,216 | 26 | 66 | 92 | 51 |
| Total managers | 12,763 | 9,238 | 4,144 | 26,145 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

| MANAGERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND SURVEY DATE | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|---|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | All sizes, Percent | | | | | | |
| Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year | | | | | | | |
| * >0-<25% | 16 | 14 | 18 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 22 |
| * 25-<50% | 11 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| * 50-<75% | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Part-time | 36 | 36 | 40 | 47 | 46 | 48 | 49 |
| * 75-<100% | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| * 100% | 60 | 59 | 56 | 47 | 49 | 46 | 45 |
| Full-time | 64 | 64 | 61 | 53 | 54 | 52 | 51 |
| Total managers | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

5. DIVERSIFICATION

5.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

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

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

5.2 Results

| FARMS WITH DIVERSIFICATION BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Agricultural contracting/ haulage | 315 | 360 | 230 | 905 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| * Tourism | 103 | 135 | 60 | 298 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * Equine sport | 155 | 53 | 12 | 220 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| * Other sport | 30 | 11 | 8 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Direct sales | 58 | 57 | 29 | 144 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * Food processing | 29 | 36 | 35 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| * Other commercial activities | 360 | 417 | 196 | 973 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Any diversification | 921 | 908 | 510 | 2,339 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| Any diversification other than contracting/haulage | 670 | 630 | 304 | 1,604 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Total farms | 12,762 | 9,238 | 4,146 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

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

Diversification can be defined in many different ways. In the EU Farm Structure Survey it includes agricultural contracting or haulage, and on this basis 9 percent of farms in Northern Ireland had diversified, ranging from 7 percent of those with Very Small businesses to 12 percent of those with Medium or Large farm businesses.

Agricultural contracting and haulage are part of the agricultural industry, i.e. payments are made from one farmer to another, and hence for the industry as a whole they are not classified as diversification. For further details of this debate see <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/divagri.pdf>

On this definition 6 percent¹¹ of Northern Ireland farms in 2007 had diversified. Figures for England (2005/6) appear in <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/Diver07.pdf> though this survey uses a different system for data collection and figures may not be directly comparable.

Questions on diversification were introduced to the Farm Structure Survey in 2000 when they indicated that 8 percent of farms had diversified compared with the 9 percent in the 2007 survey.

| FARMS WITH DIVERSIFICATION BY SURVEY DATE | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
| * Agricultural contracting/ haulage | 1,044 | 1,010 | 1,032 | 905 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| * Tourism | 294 | 366 | 342 | 298 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * Equine sport | 238 | 408 | 267 | 220 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| * Other sport | 35 | 173 | 42 | 48 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| * Direct sales | 367 | 457 | 321 | 144 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| * Food processing | 105 | 213 | 145 | 100 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| * Other commercial activities | 618 | 804 | 719 | 973 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Any diversification | 2,422 | 3,016 | 2,517 | 2,339 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| Any diversification other than contracting/ haulage | 1,542 | 2,126 | 1,631 | 1,604 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Total farms ^[1] | 29,890 | 28,281 | 27,064 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[1] Total farms is not the sum of the preceding rows

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

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-statistics/farmers-and-farm-families-in-northern-ireland.htm>

¹¹ Some contracting farms also had other forms of diversification.

6. USE OF AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS

6.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

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

6.2 Results

Some 79 percent of farms used contractors for some task(s), with the Very Small farms (75 percent) being slightly less likely to do so. Contract hay or silage making was the most common activity (69 percent of farms), followed by hedge cutting (56 percent) and spreading slurry/manure (40 percent). This involved 236,635 person days, the equivalent of over 1,000 Annual Work Units.

| FARMS USING CONTRACTORS BY BUSINESS SIZE | Business size | | | | Business size | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Used agricultural contractors | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
| * Yes | 9,543 | 7,645 | 3,520 | 20,708 | 75 | 83 | 85 | 79 |
| * No | 3,219 | 1,593 | 626 | 5,439 | 25 | 17 | 15 | 21 |
| Total farms | 12,762 | 9,238 | 4,146 | 26,146 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Used agricultural contractors for:

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|--------|----|----|----|----|
| * Hay/silage making | 8,538 | 6,681 | 2,796 | 18,015 | 67 | 72 | 67 | 69 |
| * Crop harvesting | 334 | 808 | 837 | 1,979 | 3 | 9 | 20 | 8 |
| * Spreading slurry/ manure/fertilisers/lime | 4,611 | 3,798 | 2,091 | 10,500 | 36 | 41 | 50 | 40 |
| * Other field work | 1,499 | 1,426 | 824 | 3,749 | 12 | 15 | 20 | 14 |
| * Milking | 42 | 103 | 454 | 599 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 2 |
| * Sheep shearing | 1,588 | 2,246 | 598 | 4,432 | 12 | 24 | 14 | 17 |
| * Other livestock work | 683 | 572 | 219 | 1,474 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| * Hedge cutting | 6,503 | 5,617 | 2,585 | 14,705 | 51 | 61 | 62 | 56 |

| PERSON-DAYS OF CONTRACT WORK | Business size | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------|
| | Very Small | Small | Med/ Large | All |
| Total person-days | 70,926 | 85,840 | 79,868 | 236,635 |
| Days per farm (all farms) | 6 | 9 | 19 | 9 |
| Days per farm (using) | 8 | 12 | 25 | 12 |

| FARMS USING CONTRACTORS BY SURVEY DATE | Farms | | | | Percent | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
| Used agricultural contractors | | | | | | | | |
| * Yes | 22,296 | 22,874 | 22,356 | 20,708 | 75 | 81 | 83 | 79 |
| * No | 7,594 | 5,407 | 4,708 | 5,436 | 25 | 19 | 17 | 21 |
| Total farms | 29,890 | 28,281 | 27,064 | 26,143 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Used agricultural contractors for: | | | | | | | | |
| * Hay/silage making | 19,566 | 19,028 | 18,849 | 18,015 | 65 | 67 | 70 | 69 |
| * Crop harvesting | 2,227 | 2,398 | 2,300 | 1,979 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| * Spreading slurry/ manure/fertilisers/lime | 10,854 | 11,623 | 11,004 | 10,500 | 36 | 41 | 41 | 40 |
| * Other field work | 3,035 | 4,228 | 3,953 | 3,749 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 14 |
| * Milking | 519 | 635 | 653 | 599 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| * Sheep shearing | 4,345 | 4,679 | 4,551 | 4,432 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| * Other livestock work | 1,362 | 1,701 | 1,554 | 1,474 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| * Hedge cutting | 10,724 | 14,874 | 14,840 | 14,705 | 36 | 53 | 55 | 56 |

| PERSON-DAYS OF CONTRACT WORK BY SURVEY DATE | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total person-days | 268,859 | 333,197 | 231,705 | 236,635 |
| Days per farm (all farms) | 9 | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| Days per farm (using) | 12 | 15 | 10 | 12 |

ANNEX 1: COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER SURVEYS

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

COVERAGE

After the 1997 survey was carried out, the statistical definition of a farm was changed and is now based on separate business status as applied under the Integrated Administration and Control system (IACS), having previously been based on land ownership. The census, as well as the Structure Survey, now covers **all active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity**. Access to IACS data identified a number of active farm businesses which had not previously been included in the census or structure surveys as well as some on the census list which had ceased operation.

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

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

The coverage in the 2007 survey is fully comparable with that in 2000, 2003 and 2005.

ANNEX 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For a detailed description of the terms and definitions used in the EU Structure Survey, see EU Commission Regulation 1444/2002. The main points are summarised below, along with indications of the main differences between the Structure Survey and June Census agricultural labour statistics.

BUSINESS UNITS

Farms The term “farm” is used to denote a single unit both technically and economically, which has single management and the output of which is agricultural products (Annex II of 83/461/EEC contains a list of “agricultural products”). Such units may consist entirely of owned land, entirely of rented land or a combination of both.

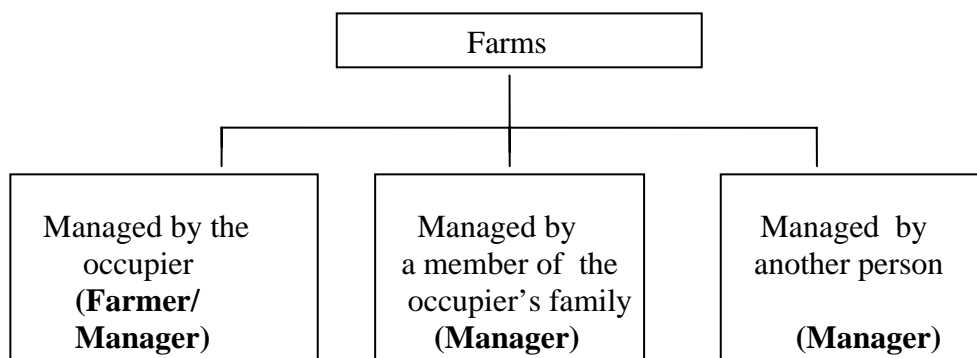
LABOUR FORCE

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

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

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

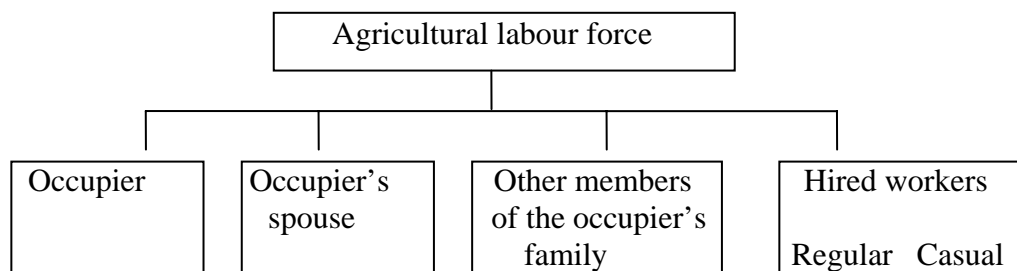
Farmer The agricultural census applies the term “farmer” to all persons who are self-employed on their own or their family business (i.e. farmers and partners). However, for the Structure Survey, the terms “occupiers” and “managers” are used.



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

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

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



BUSINESS SIZE¹²

Standard Gross Margin (SGM) The gross margin of an enterprise is its total output less the variable costs which are directly attributable to it. Standards or norms are calculated for each EU Region and the total SGM for each farm is calculated by multiplying its crop areas and livestock numbers by the appropriate SGM coefficients and then summing the result for all enterprises on the farm.

European Size Units (ESU) Farm size in the agricultural census, and in this report on the agricultural labour force, is measured in European Size Units (ESUs), where one ESU is defined as €1200 of SGM, using 2002-04 values for SGMs (€1 = £0.647); to provide continuity of statistics, these SGM values are held constant for a number of years¹³. However, the EU updates SGM values for each Structure Survey and before Eurostat publishes the results of the 2007 survey, it will apply 2002-04 values and reclassify the records for all Member States.

Very Small Businesses This term refers to farms of less than 8 ESUs. Farms in this size range are generally too small to provide full-time occupation for one person.

¹² The national method of measuring farm business size in the UK was changed in 2004 to one based on Standard Labour Requirements though EU focused reports will continue to be based on the ESU.

¹³ See "Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1991/92 Edition (HMSO, 1993) and The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics, UK 1993 (HMSO, 1993).

Small Businesses

This term refers to farms of between 8 and 40 ESU. Farms in this size range will generally occupy between 1 and 2 persons full-time.

Medium and Large Businesses

This term refers to farms of 40 ESUs or over. Farms in this size range generally occupy at least 2 persons full-time. Agricultural census statistics are published separately for Medium and Large businesses but, because of the relatively small numbers of Large farms in the Structure Survey sample, results are not given separately for them in this report.

OTHER TERMS**Farm work**

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

Full working year

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

Annual Work Units (AWU)

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

Full time employment

In this report, persons who work for 75 percent or more of a full working year are described as being in full time employment. This description complies with that used for employment statistics published by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment where 30 hours per week or less is described as part-time employment.

Other Gainful Activity (OGA)

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

ANNEX 3: KEY STATISTICS FROM THE 2005 STRUCTURE SURVEY FOR OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The following data have been derived from the Eurostat suite of leaflets “Structure of agricultural holdings – ‘Country’ 2005” available on line from <http://europa.eu.int>. Data for Northern Ireland have been added for comparison.

Number and Size of Holdings

Theoretically the Structure Survey collects data on a comparable basis throughout the EU but in practice there are significant differences, particularly in the threshold for inclusion, ranging from 0.1 ha of agricultural land (Greece) to at least 2ha (Sweden) or more than 1 ESU (Netherlands). The population covered in Northern Ireland is similar to that in the majority of countries, i.e. 1 hectare or over plus any below that size with significant business activity. With these definitions there were 7.7 million holdings in the 2005 Structure Survey for the EU25, of which the UK contributed 3.0 percent and within that, Northern Ireland 0.3 percent

Average size ranged from 2.1 ESU in Latvia to 102.4 ESU in the Netherlands, with the UK average of 36.9 seventh highest; that of Northern Ireland, 23.4 ESU was slightly above the EU15 average and above that in the Irish Republic.

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND ECONOMIC SIZE¹, 2003 and 2005

| Year | Number of Holdings ('000) | | Total Standard Gross Margin (‘000 ESU) | | Average SGM (ESU) | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | 2003 | 2005 | 2003 | 2005 | 2003 | 2005 |
| Belgium | 55 | 52 | 3,223 | 3,379 | 58.6 | 65.0 |
| Czech Rep. | 46 | 42 | 1,467 | 931 | 32.1 | 22.2 |
| Denmark | 49 | 52 | 3,714 | 3,608 | 76.4 | 69.4 |
| Germany | 412 | 390 | 21,037 | 19,392 | 51.0 | 49.7 |
| Estonia | 37 | 28 | 135 | 135 | 3.7 | 4.8 |
| Greece | 824 | 834 | 5,178 | 5,513 | 6.3 | 6.6 |
| Spain | 1,141 | 1079 | 17,266 | 20,003 | 15.1 | 18.5 |
| France | 614 | 567 | 29,121 | 28,583 | 47.4 | 50.4 |
| Ireland | 135 | 133 | 2,809 | 2,547 | 20.8 | 19.2 |
| Italy | 1,964 | 1729 | 19,366 | 22,196 | 9.9 | 12.8 |
| Cyprus | 45 | 45 | 295 | 299 | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| Latvia | 127 | 129 | 261 | 270 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Lithuania | 272 | 253 | 437 | 553 | 1.6 | 2.2 |
| Luxembourg | 2 | 2 | 105 | 114 | 42.5 | 57.0 |
| Hungary | 773 | 715 | 1,757 | 1,946 | 2.3 | 2.7 |
| Malta | 11 | 11 | 81 | 59 | 7.4 | 5.4 |
| Netherlands | 86 | 82 | 8,173 | 8,395 | 95.6 | 102.4 |
| Austria | 174 | 171 | 2,423 | 2,531 | 13.9 | 14.8 |
| Poland | 2,172 | 2476 | 7,511 | 8,264 | 3.5 | 3.3 |
| Portugal | 359 | 324 | 2,325 | 2,167 | 6.5 | 6.7 |
| Slovenia | 77 | 77 | 355 | 354 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| Slovakia | 72 | 68 | 516 | 519 | 7.2 | 7.6 |
| Finland | 75 | 71 | 1,662 | 1,772 | 22.2 | 25.0 |
| Sweden | 68 | 76 | 1,935 | 1,632 | 28.5 | 21.5 |
| UK | 281 | 287 | 10,851 | 10,590 | 38.7 | 36.9 |
| Bulgaria | 666 | 535 | 1,076 | 930 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Romania | 4,485 | 4256 | 5,113 | 4,700 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Norway | 58 | 53 | 1,633 | 1,788 | 28.0 | 33.7 |
| Switzerland | : | 64 | : | 2,845 | : | 44.5 |
| EU15 | 6,239 | 5,843 | 129,187 | 132,422 | 20.7 | 22.7 |
| EU25 | 9,870 | 9,688 | 142,001 | 145,752 | 14.4 | 15.0 |
| Total (of 28)² | 15,079 | 14,543 | 149,824 | 153,170 | 9.9 | 14.0 |
| NI | 28 | 26 | 519 | 633 | 18.3 | 23.4 |

Notes

1 Business size is measured in European Size Units (ESU). One ESU was measured as €1,200 of SGM at 1996/1998 values.

2 Excluding Switzerland

TOTAL FARM LABOUR¹, 1990 - 2005

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

| Year | 1990 | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Belgium | 93.48 | 85.15 | 78.85 | 79.1 | 74.07 | 72.46 | 69.59 |
| Czech Rep. | : | : | : | : | : | 166.4 | 151.9 |
| Denmark | 95.15 | 104.75 | 104.96 | 97.93 | 66.46 | 60.71 | 60.45 |
| Germany | 1,029.65 | 804.19 | 710.96 | 656.84 | 617.62 | 688.78 | 643.23 |
| Estonia | : | : | : | : | : | 37.52 | 36.9 |
| Greece | 680.33 | 702.17 | 637.94 | 597.27 | 587.48 | 614.25 | 600.8 |
| Spain | 1,143.35 | 1,112.1 | 1,089.6 | 1,098.98 | 1,077.73 | 997.77 | 992.64 |
| France | : | : | : | : | : | 913.83 | 855.49 |
| Ireland | 249.65 | 239.51 | 218.48 | 202.31 | 168.45 | 161.11 | 152.38 |
| Italy | 1,923.99 | 1,836.69 | 1,818.02 | 1,798.09 | 1,364.92 | 1,475.98 | 1,374.26 |
| Cyprus | : | : | : | : | : | 32.2 | 28.66 |
| Latvia | : | : | : | : | 145.15 | 140.88 | 137.25 |
| Lithuania | : | : | : | : | : | 222.13 | 221.55 |
| Luxembourg | 6.28 | 5.8 | 5.33 | 5.04 | 4.45 | 3.96 | 3.99 |
| Hungary | : | : | : | : | : | 525.79 | 462.74 |
| Malta | : | : | : | : | : | 4.5 | 4.06 |
| Netherlands | 225.02 | 224.44 | 210 | 208.66 | 205.05 | 186.26 | 173.93 |
| Austria | : | : | 187.35 | 177.63 | 181.85 | 175.43 | 166.44 |
| Poland | : | : | : | : | : | 2,190.87 | 2,273.59 |
| Portugal | 846.9 | 604.71 | 583.58 | 519.8 | 524.15 | 455.16 | 398.08 |
| Slovenia | : | : | : | : | 107.53 | 95.37 | 94.98 |
| Slovakia | : | : | : | : | 136.54 | 118.63 | 98.79 |
| Finland | : | : | 131.39 | 125.71 | 102.55 | 97.54 | 83.46 |
| Sweden | : | : | 87.67 | 81.76 | 74.24 | 70.66 | 71.1 |
| UK | 473.67 | 433.9 | 383.98 | 415.99 | 354.32 | 352.22 | 339.08 |
| Bulgaria | : | : | : | : | : | 791.56 | 624.66 |
| Romania | : | : | : | : | : | 2,699.51 | 2,595.59 |
| Norway | : | : | : | : | 71.2 | 64.2 | 58.83 |
| Switzerland | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| EU15 | : | : | 7,263.5 | 7,023.21 | 6,352.69 | 6,326.13 | 5,982.91 |
| EU25 | : | : | : | : | : | 9,860.42 | 9,493.31 |
| EU27 | : | : | : | : | : | 13,350.38 | 12,713.56 |
| NI | : | 37 | 35 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 31 |

Note: Units in "thousand AWU"

OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY 2000 - 2005

Other gainful activity is an activity that does not comprise any farm work but which directly related to the holding using its resources (area, machinery, buildings, etc.) or the products of the holding and which has an economic impact on the holding. It is carried out by the holder, his/hers family members or one or more partners on a group holding. For example such activities are: providing accommodation, processing of farm products, renewable energy production, etc.

| Year | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Belgium | 3.1 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| Czech Rep. | : | 8.1 | 10.7 |
| Denmark | 11.6 | 14.3 | 18.3 |
| Germany | : | 19.4 | 22.5 |
| Estonia | : | 7.5 | 6.8 |
| Greece | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Spain | : | 2.3 | 3.2 |
| France | : | 24.7 | 25.0 |
| Ireland | 3.6 | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| Italy | 8.8 | 4.6 | 6.1 |
| Cyprus | : | 6.1 | 5.6 |
| Latvia | 10.2 | 3.0 | 8.5 |
| Lithuania | : | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| Luxembourg | 7.5 | 11.0 | 14.7 |
| Hungary | 4.7 | 11.2 | 5.1 |
| Malta | : | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| Netherlands | 2.9 | 29.7 | 22.5 |
| Austria | 16.7 | 18.7 | 21.4 |
| Poland | : | 3.3 | 5.4 |
| Portugal | 8.1 | 9.9 | 9.0 |
| Slovenia | 4.6 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| Slovakia | 3.4 | 3.9 | 2.4 |
| Finland | 21.4 | 25.3 | 29.0 |
| Sweden | 7.0 | 12.8 | 13.1 |
| UK | 19.3 | 16.3 | 24.0 |
| Bulgaria | : | 4.1 | 2.1 |
| Romania | : | 4.2 | 22.1 |
| Norway | 29.5 | 25.4 | 32.2 |
| Switzerland | : | : | : |
| EU15 | : | 8.7 | 10.0 |
| EU25 | : | 7.3 | 8.1 |
| EU27 | : | 6.2 | 12.0 |
| NI | 2.4 | 3.0 | 2.5 |

Note: Units in "thousand farms"

AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE

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

| Year | 1990 | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 |
|-------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Belgium | 9.83 | 9.13 | 10.88 | 9.14 | 6.64 | 4.42 | 3.39 |
| Czech Rep. | : | : | : | : | : | 4.04 | 3.97 |
| Denmark | 8.78 | 6.93 | 6.56 | 6.5 | 5.44 | 4.02 | 3.68 |
| Germany | 101.43 | 103.42 | 98.16 | 85.89 | 72.53 | 49.33 | 35.42 |
| Estonia | : | : | : | : | : | 3.44 | 1.84 |
| Greece | 73.77 | 58.87 | 49.03 | 44.36 | 71.25 | 60.43 | 56.8 |
| Spain | 113.27 | 88.44 | 76.59 | 69.29 | 110.82 | 67.72 | 53.51 |
| France | : | : | : | : | : | 54.37 | 42.43 |
| Ireland | 22.45 | 23.53 | 20.89 | 17.71 | 18.38 | 15.1 | 10.79 |
| Italy | 137.59 | 132.96 | 110.21 | 119.45 | 110.6 | 76.13 | 56.49 |
| Cyprus | : | : | : | : | : | 2.91 | 1.45 |
| Latvia | : | : | : | : | 14.63 | 10.86 | 9.85 |
| Lithuania | : | : | : | : | : | 19.17 | 13.19 |
| Luxembourg | 0.45 | 0.38 | 0.36 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.2 | 0.16 |
| Hungary | : | : | : | : | 87.68 | 44.53 | 54.68 |
| Malta | : | : | : | : | : | 0.65 | 0.57 |
| Netherlands | 11.29 | 11.8 | 10.31 | 7.35 | 6.46 | 5.78 | 4.09 |
| Austria | : | : | 39.71 | 34.76 | 30.87 | 21.86 | 18.27 |
| Poland | : | : | : | : | : | 353.43 | 313.35 |
| Portugal | 39.66 | 22.81 | 18.52 | 15.05 | 17.02 | 9.41 | 6.86 |
| Slovenia | : | : | : | : | 4.49 | 2.98 | 3.42 |
| Slovakia | : | : | : | : | 3.65 | 3.82 | 2.76 |
| Finland | : | : | 16.12 | 13.09 | 8.67 | 7.32 | 6.46 |
| Sweden | : | : | 7.45 | 6.42 | 5.27 | 3.83 | 3.9 |
| UK | 16.81 | 15.45 | 13.65 | 13.45 | 11.66 | 9.32 | 8.63 |
| Bulgaria | : | : | : | : | : | 33.71 | 21.97 |
| Romania | : | : | : | : | : | 391.54 | 218.37 |
| Norway | : | : | : | : | 9.62 | 6.03 | 4.59 |
| Switzerland | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| EU15 | : | : | 570.74 | 521.81 | 529.16 | 389.26 | 310.6 |
| EU25 | : | : | : | : | : | 835.08 | 715.68 |
| EU27 | : | : | : | : | : | 1,260.24 | 956.01 |
| NI | : | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.6 |

Note: Units in "thousand owner occupiers"

AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

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

| Year | 1990 | 1993 | 1995 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2005 |
|-------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Belgium | 17.24 | 15.72 | 11.82 | 12.07 | 11.74 | 10.54 | 10.12 |
| Czech Rep. | : | : | : | : | : | 7.86 | 7.03 |
| Denmark | 16.31 | 15.93 | 15.65 | 13.17 | 11.31 | 7.83 | 9.47 |
| Germany | 47.02 | 42.24 | 41.84 | 40.55 | 25.68 | 24.22 | 28.11 |
| Estonia | : | : | : | : | : | 10.2 | 7.99 |
| Greece | 215.74 | 240.79 | 248.5 | 281.06 | 253.46 | 292.63 | 306.73 |
| Spain | 383.9 | 364.07 | 371.35 | 368.36 | 347.42 | 366.25 | 359.37 |
| France | : | : | : | : | : | 84.92 | 75.11 |
| Ireland | 38.65 | 32.31 | 32.5 | 32.31 | 28.04 | 26.81 | 31.61 |
| Italy | 850.95 | 850.58 | 912.29 | 827.65 | 825.95 | 788.4 | 734.95 |
| Cyprus | : | : | : | : | : | 9.26 | 12.18 |
| Latvia | : | : | : | : | 36.32 | 34.46 | 36.93 |
| Lithuania | : | : | : | : | : | 102.28 | 80.66 |
| Luxembourg | 0.66 | 0.64 | 0.61 | 0.57 | 0.52 | 0.42 | 0.41 |
| Hungary | : | : | : | : | 268.98 | 229.47 | 194.75 |
| Malta | : | : | : | : | : | 2.52 | 2.59 |
| Netherlands | 18.69 | 19.11 | 19 | 20.2 | 18.22 | 13.53 | 13.29 |
| Austria | : | : | 20.94 | 20.93 | 20.26 | 14.56 | 18.7 |
| Poland | : | : | : | : | : | 320.01 | 421.95 |
| Portugal | 170.86 | 161.48 | 156.99 | 154.97 | 154.6 | 163.85 | 150.13 |
| Slovenia | : | : | : | : | 27.71 | 26.2 | 26.22 |
| Slovakia | : | : | : | : | 19.43 | 18.93 | 20.04 |
| Finland | : | : | 7.07 | 5.41 | 4.59 | 4.82 | 4.39 |
| Sweden | : | : | 18.04 | 17.69 | 15.92 | 11.6 | 14.85 |
| UK | 50.05 | 51.34 | 55.19 | 49.87 | 56.23 | 77.46 | 84.24 |
| Bulgaria | : | : | : | : | : | 270.17 | 222.19 |
| Romania | : | : | : | : | : | 1,719.35 | 1,848.97 |
| Norway | : | : | : | : | 6.23 | 4.46 | 4.12 |
| Switzerland | | | | | | | |
| EU15 | : | : | 2,021.95 | 1,950.42 | 1871.3 | 1,887.84 | 1,840.57 |
| EU25 | : | : | : | : | : | 2,649.02 | 2,650.91 |
| EU27 | : | : | : | : | : | 4,639.15 | 4,722.07 |
| NI | : | 7.0 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.2 |

Note: Units in "thousand owner occupiers"

Average Breeding herd size for beef cattle and sheep 2005

| Year | Beef cattle | | | Sheep | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Head | Holdings | Herd Size | Head | Holdings | Herd Size |
| Belgium | 534,080 | 20,760 | 25.7 | 124,930 | 3,920 | 31.9 |
| Czech Rep. | 140,160 | 4,670 | 30.0 | | | |
| | | | | 96,320 | 1,160 | 23.2 |
| Denmark | 101,340 | 9,050 | 11.2 | | | |
| | | | | 78,510 | 3,120 | 25.2 |
| Germany | 746,800 | 73,600 | 10.1 | | | |
| | | | | 1,610,320 | 27,710 | 58.1 |
| Estonia | 5,180 | 660 | 7.8 | | | |
| | | | | 37,400 | 2,800 | 13.4 |
| Greece | 170,160 | 9,140 | 18.6 | 7,420,040 | 121,300 | 61.2 |
| Spain | 1,563,980 | 81,810 | 19.1 | 17,948,300 | 83,860 | 214.0 |
| France | 4,148,410 | 141,770 | 29.3 | 7,235,440 | 71,580 | 101.1 |
| Ireland | 1,167,630 | 76,360 | 15.3 | | | |
| | | | | 3,518,420 | 41,190 | 85.4 |
| Italy | 609,140 | 43,860 | 13.9 | 6,060,810 | 69,520 | 87.2 |
| Cyprus | 230 | 40 | 5.8 | 197,870 | 1,580 | 125.2 |
| Latvia | 4,830 | 920 | 5.3 | 25,950 | 4,470 | 5.8 |
| Lithuania | 9,150 | 3,510 | 2.6 | 19,170 | 3,880 | 4.9 |
| Luxembourg | 31,590 | 1,320 | 23.9 | 5,310 | 210 | 25.3 |
| Hungary | 46,840 | 2,430 | 19.3 | 1,082,300 | 15,940 | 67.9 |
| Malta | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8,790 | 1,010 | 8.7 |
| Netherlands | 151,640 | 13,200 | 11.5 | 648,240 | 13,710 | 47.3 |
| Austria | 270,720 | 52,250 | 5.2 | 210,320 | 13,340 | 15.8 |
| Poland | 30,380 | 4,980 | 6.1 | 204,070 | 13,040 | 15.6 |
| Portugal | 371,790 | 28,700 | 13.0 | 2,116,730 | 54,220 | 39.0 |
| Slovenia | 54,850 | 17,450 | 3.1 | 86,870 | 5,320 | 16.3 |
| Slovakia | 30,690 | 910 | 33.7 | 221,120 | 1,860 | 118.9 |
| Finland | 34,600 | 1,980 | 17.5 | 51,890 | 1,660 | 31.3 |
| Sweden | 176,610 | 12,820 | 13.8 | 212,000 | 7,580 | 28.0 |
| UK | 1,764,770 | 62,350 | 28.3 | 16,152,550 | 77,950 | 207.2 |
| Bulgaria | 11,170 | 2,710 | 4.1 | | | |
| | | | | 1,307,690 | 172,180 | 7.6 |
| Romania | 67,230 | 37,890 | 1.8 | 6,401,810 | 475,040 | 13.5 |
| Norway | 55,650 | 5,230 | 10.6 | 927,170 | 17,390 | 53.3 |
| Switzerland | 83,070 | 7,310 | 11.4 | 238,270 | 11,050 | 21.6 |
| EU15 | 11,843,260 | 628,970 | 18.8 | 63,393,810 | 590,870 | 107.3 |
| EU25 | 12,165,570 | 664,540 | 18.3 | 65,373,670 | 641,930 | 101.8 |
| EU27 | 12,243,970 | 705,140 | 17.4 | 73,083,170 | 1,289,150 | 56.7 |
| NI | 280,582 | 16,866 | 16.6 | 1,027,331 | 8,683 | 118.3 |

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