

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY

2000

NORTHERN IRELAND:

REPORT ON

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE,

FARM DIVERSIFICATION,

USE OF CONTRACTORS

A National Statistics Publication

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Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Economics and Statistics Division

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prepared by:

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Economics and Statistics Division

DARD

FOREWORD

Statistics on agricultural employment are collected each year in the June agricultural census and are published by DARD in the annual *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture*. 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 Structure Survey.

This report presents the Northern Ireland data collected for that purpose in 2000. It contains comparisons with the results of the 1993, 1995 and 1997 surveys in Northern Ireland. 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, was included in the survey for the first time in 2000. The EU also required Member States to conduct a full census of all farm businesses for a number of key items, including, for the first time, farm diversification, and there is a section on that topic in this report. This will be updated in future Structure Survey years.

Most of the data collected in 2000 will be sent to Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the EU) and, along with similar data from all other regions of the Union, will be used in the preparation of an EU report on the 2000 EU Structure Survey.

One of the most useful aspects of the EU Structure Survey is that it provides, at 2 or 3 year intervals, 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.

Further analyses of the database and details of the survey may be obtained from Sheila Magee on 028-90524427. A charge may be levied for this, depending on the amount of work involved.

T.F. STAINER
Chief Agricultural Economist
April 2001

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2000

NORTHERN IRELAND

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SUMMARY OF KEY STATISTICS

Labour force

- 60,400 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months up to March 2000.
- Labour use on farms equated to 32,500 Annual Work Units (full time job equivalents)
- Occupiers and their family members provided 90% of the Annual Work Units.

Business status

- Fewer than 100 farm businesses out of the total of 29,890, were owned by an institution or limited liability company.
- On 90% of farms, the manager (the person most responsible for day-to-day management) was the principal occupier.
- Only 1% of managers were neither the occupier or a member of the occupier's family.

Gender

- Female workers provided 26% of the labour input on farms.
- 7% of farms were managed by females.

Age

- 23% of the labour force were under 35 and 17% were 65 or over.
- 11% of the managers were under 35 and 22% were 65 or over.
- On Very Small farms, 27% of managers were aged 65 or more.
- On Medium and Large farms, 11% of managers were aged 65 or more.

Work-time

- 61% of the labour force worked less than 30 hours per week on the farms (i.e. part-time) and 39% worked 30 hours or more.
- 47% of the managers worked part-time and 53% full-time.
- On 65% of farms, the total labour input amounted to 30 hours per week or more and on 57% it was 40 hours per week or more.

Other gainful activities

- 29% of farmers had other work
- 38% of farmers aged under 65 had other work
- 72% of farmers had a spouse, of whom 61% contributed to the work on the farm.
- On 42% of farms, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work
- on 54% of farms where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work
- on 65% of farms, either the farmer was 65 or over (retirement pension age) or one or both of the farmer and spouse had other work

Agricultural education

- 9% of the labour force had undertaken formal agricultural education
- 20% of the labour force on Medium or Large businesses had formal agricultural education and 5% on Very Small businesses.
- 13% of managers had formal agricultural education
- 24% of managers under 45 had formal agricultural education, compared with 2% of those aged 65 and over

Farm diversification

- 8% of farms had some diversification activity (as defined in the structure survey).
- 3% of farms undertook agricultural contracting
- 13% of farms in the Belfast and Outer Belfast areas had diversified, compared with 6% in the West and South of Northern Ireland

Use of agricultural contractors

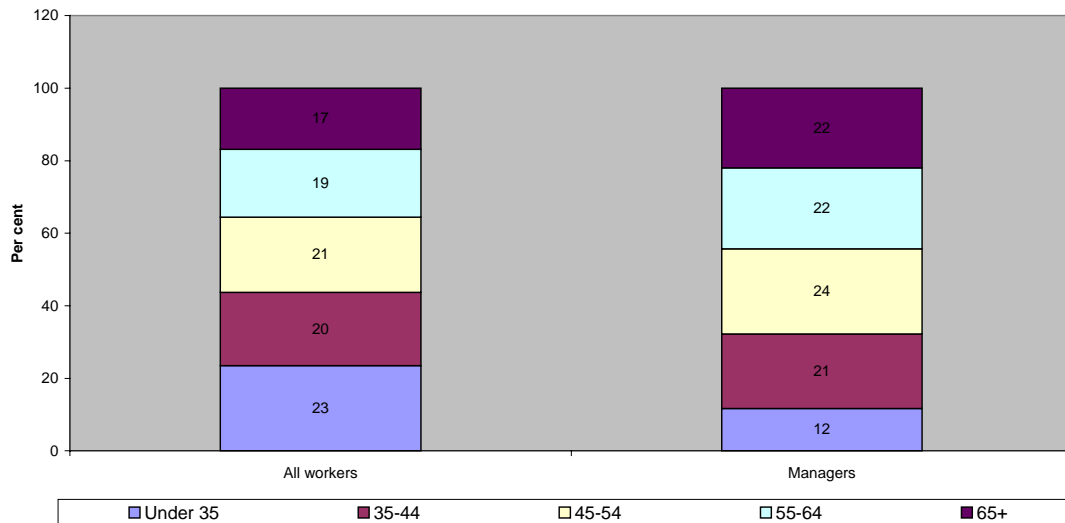
- 75% of farms had used agricultural contractors during the previous year
- 65% of farms used agricultural contractors for hay or silage making.

Number of tractors

- 51,730 tractors were owned by farmers

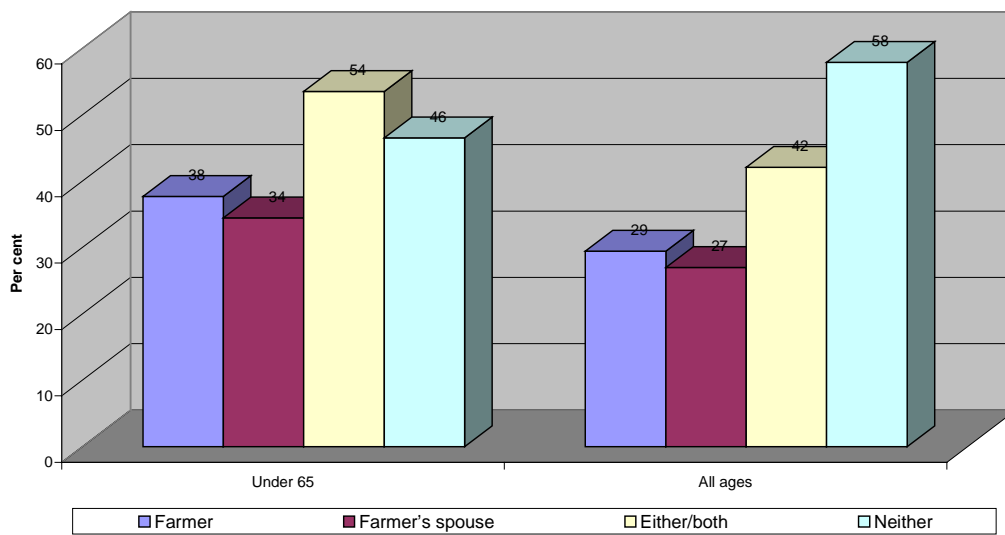
SUMMARY OF KEY STATISTICS

Ages of the Total Labour Force and the Principal Managers



Note: The manager (one per farm) is the person most responsible for day-to-day management. Most, though not all, managers are farm owners (occupiers).

Farms where the Farmer and/or Spouse has Other Gainful Activity



Note: Farmers are occupiers who are also responsible for day to day management.

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2000

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 Structure Survey¹, is conducted every ten years to coincide with a World Census of Agriculture organised by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). In the intervening years, three, less detailed, surveys are held. A major survey was held in 2000, preceded by interim enquiries in 1993, 1995 and 1997. The main items covered were crop areas, livestock numbers, numbers and details of the farm labour force and, in 2000, the incidence of farm diversification.

The 2000 survey was conducted on all 7 million agricultural holdings in the EU15 and also in some of the Candidate Countries, bringing its total scope above 10 million holdings. Because it covers such a diversity of farming climates, practices, management and ownership structures, the harmonised set of questions used in the survey is not always appropriate for individual countries. Consequently Eurostat² allow Member States to disregard some questions as being either non-existent or non significant (e.g. areas of citrus fruits in the UK). Some questions are optional, some may be provided for a sample only and others must be provided for each holding.

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 NewCronos⁵ data system. The statistics are used by the EU to monitor changes, particularly in farm structure and in the numbers of farm workers, and to model the impact of external developments or policy proposals. For the 2000 survey, Member States have been required to provide sub-regional, NUTS3⁶, indicators which will enable the EU to make detailed comparisons at sub-regional level.

1.2 METHODOLOGY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland data for the 2000 Survey came from three sources:

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

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 €140,000 for the 2000 survey.

⁴ See "Farm Structure 1997 Survey", Eurostat 2000 and "Farm structure: Historic results – Surveys from 1966/67 to 1997", Eurostat 2000.

⁵ An on-line data base accessible by Government and academic users.

⁶ Nomenclature of statistical territorial units (NUTS).

The main information on crop areas and livestock numbers was collected in the June Agricultural Census which, because of the Structure Survey legal requirements, was conducted as a full census in 2000, rather than a sample survey as had been the case in the two preceding years. A limited amount of information was obtained from administrative sources, notably organic farming and agri-forestry set-aside. To complete the data for the Structure Survey, a special survey was conducted in March 2000, addressing mainly details of the farm labour force and farm diversification. Eurostat authorised the UK to collect the labour data from a sample of farms but, since there was an obligation to collect farm diversification information from all, the special survey was issued, by post, to all 30,000 farms in Northern Ireland.

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 of work done) was expanded in the Northern Ireland survey to give an indication of the activities undertaken by contractors. Also, the categories of farm diversification activities for which information was collected (e.g. agricultural contracting, livestock haulage) differed from those required by the EU. This facilitated a meaningful analysis of NI data while still allowing international comparisons to be made when the NI categories are regrouped into the definitions specified for the Structure Survey.

This report includes the results of the special survey along with comparable statistics from the three previous surveys held in 1993, 1995 and 1997. The results of the June 2000 Agricultural Census were published earlier⁷.

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 2000 census and which was represented in the 2000 Structure Survey, totalled **29,891 farms**⁸. A farm is defined as *any active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, or with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity*.

1.4 THE RAISING FRAMEWORK

Non-response was handled differently for the special survey than was the case for the June Census. In the latter case, estimates are made for each non-respondent (29%), using the previous return from that farm supplemented by trends for the respondents and, in some cases, the available administrative data, principally from IACS. Hence data are available for each of

⁷ "The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland: Results for June 2000", DARD 2000.

⁸ The special survey was issued to the active farms in the June 1999 survey but only those which were still active in 2000 were included in the final data file.

the June census items for each farm business. For the information collected in the special survey, a raising factor was set against each of the respondents rather than estimated data being imputed for the non-respondents (43%). Thus, although the survey covered all farms, the results are based on a sample. Results were obtained from 16,843 farms in 2000, twice as many as in the three previous surveys and for the first time regional Northern Ireland analyses are included in the report.

The strata used for raising were based on:

Type of farm (9): Cereals, General Cropping, Horticulture, Pigs & Poultry, Dairying, Cattle & Sheep: LFA, Cattle & Sheep: Lowland, Mixed, and Other types.

Size of business (3): Very Small, Small and Medium/Large.

NUTS3 area (5) : Belfast, Outer Belfast, East of NI, North of NI, West & South of NI.

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 Census. Full definitions of the former are contained in Annex I of Commission Decision 2000/115/EC of which a summary is given in **Annex 2** to this report along with definitions of the main terms used in this report.

The main differences are:

- the Structure Survey records the numbers working on farms at any time during the preceding year whereas the census refers to a single date;
- 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 concerned on the census date.

Changes in the coverage and definitions between the 1997 and 2000 surveys which affect comparisons made throughout this report are detailed in **Annex 1**. Because of these changes, comparisons with earlier years should be treated with caution.

2. THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE

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. Further distinctions are made according to management status and, in Chapters 3 and 4, statistics 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 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, in the 2000 Structure Survey, 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.

Total persons

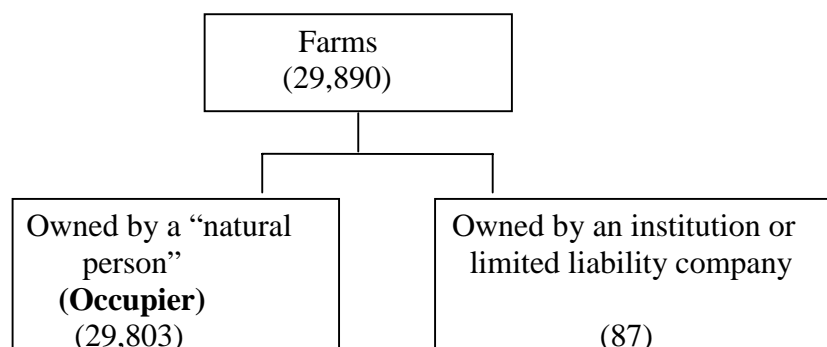
Based on the 2000 Structure Survey, the total labour force was estimated as **60,400 persons**, including all persons aged 16 and over who contributed to the work of the farms during the 12 month period up to March 2000 but excluding any hired workers engaged on a casual basis. The June 2000 Agricultural Census, which is the other main source of information on the labour input on farms, recorded 57,800 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 (13,200) than in the June census (7,000 recorded as spouses but others were recorded as business partners).

Occupiers, their spouses and other family members comprise 93% of the labour force, with only 7% being regular hired workers compared with 9% in the earlier surveys.

Business status

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

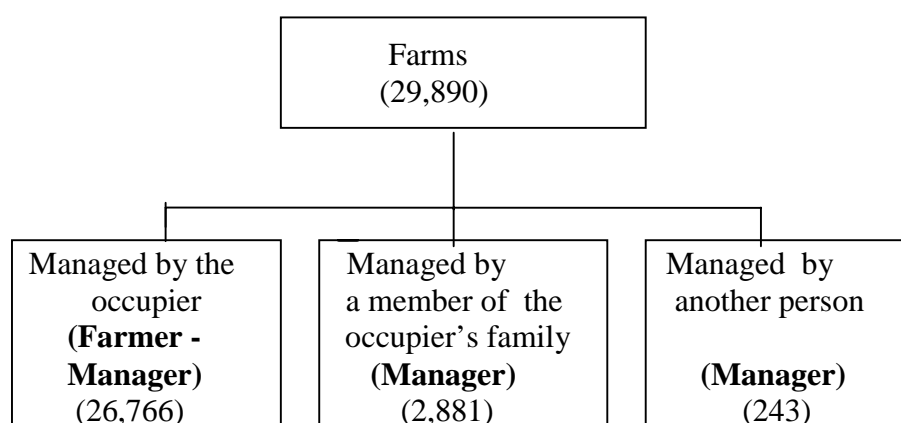
- (a) a limited liability company or an institution, such as a school or hospital; or
- (b) a "natural person", meaning a private individual or individuals, including partnerships.



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.

Management status

Respondents to the survey were asked to indicate who was responsible for the day to day running of the farm business. In most cases (90%), this person was the same as the occupier but on 3% of farms this role was filled by the occupier's spouse, on 7% by another family member and on 1% (including farms owned by institutions) there was a hired or paid manager.



Gender

Seventy-two percent of workers were male and 28% female, with little difference in the proportions on farms of different size. However the results of the 2000 survey indicate a change from earlier years when females made up 22 or 23%.

Ages

The age structure of the labour varies markedly by size of business and category of worker. On the Very Small businesses, 12% were aged under 30 and 22% were 65 or over, while on the Medium/Large businesses 20% were under 30 and 10% were 65 and over.

The median age in 2000 was within the 45-49 years age band, as in the 1995 survey when this amount of detail was last collected. For occupiers and their spouses the median was in the 50-54 age band, compared to 30-34 for other family members and 35-39 for hired workers.

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 2000 survey, 61% of the labour force worked part-time on the farms and 39% full-time, a marked change compared with 1993 when 49% of workers were full-time, reducing to 48% and 46% in 1995 and 1997 respectively. There have been some changes in the scope of the survey which affect comparisons between years. These are given in detail in Annex 1.

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% of a full year, 0.875 for one who works over 75% but less than 100%, 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.

On the basis of total labour input amounting to at least 0.75 AWU, 65% of farms may be termed “full-time”. Female workers, who made up 28% of the members of the labour force, contributed 26% of the labour input.

LABOUR FORCE MEMBERS, NUMBERS AND STATUS

NUMBERS 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	15,019	10,274	3,719	29,012	57	45	33	48
* Occupiers' spouses	5,720	5,180	2,288	13,188	22	23	20	22
* Occupiers' family	4,948	5,831	3,137	13,917	19	26	28	23
* Regular hired workers	830	1,431	2,021	4,282	3	6	18	7
Total persons	26,517	22,716	11,166	60,399	100	100	100	100

PERSONAL STATUS BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
	Percent			
* Occupiers	50	49	50	48
* Occupiers' spouses	15	14	14	22
* Occupiers' family	26	28	28	23
* Regular hired workers	9	9	9	7
Total persons	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	15,503	10,525	3,776	29,803	100	100	99	100
* Company, school, etc	32	22	32	87	0	0	1	0
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	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	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	90	89	87	90
* Occupier's spouse	599	253	30	882	4	2	1	3
* Other family member	825	784	390	1,999	5	7	10	7
* Hired	83	85	76	243	1	1	2	1
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

LABOUR FORCE : GENDER

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	19,190	16,275	8,207	43,672	72	72	73	72
* Female	7,327	6,441	2,959	16,727	28	28	26	28
Total persons	26,517	22,716	11,166	60,399	100	100	100	100

GENDER BY PERSONAL STATUS	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
Person is:	Persons				
* Male	26,724	960	12,224	3,763	43,672
* Female	2,288	12,228	1,692	519	16,727
Total persons	29,012	13,188	13,917	4,282	60,399

GENDER BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
Person is:	Percent			
* Male	77	78	78	72
* Female	23	22	22	28
Total persons	100	100	100	100

LABOUR FORCE: AGES

AGES BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Age:	Persons				Percent			
* Under 25	1,852	2,407	1,287	5,546	7	11	12	9
* 25-29	1,392	1,570	894	3,857	5	7	8	6
* 30-34	1,819	1,853	1,110	4,783	7	8	10	8
* 35-39	2,347	2,211	1,308	5,866	9	10	12	10
* 40-44	2,721	2,253	1,392	6,366	10	10	12	11
* 45-49	2,521	2,163	1,086	5,769	10	10	10	10
* 50-54	2,986	2,595	1,152	6,734	11	11	10	11
* 55-59	2,403	2,247	955	5,606	9	10	9	9
* 60-64	2,720	2,145	819	5,685	10	9	7	9
* 65 & over	5,756	3,271	1,161	10,188	22	14	10	17
Total persons	26,517	22,716	11,166	60,399	100	100	100	100

AGES BY PERSONAL STATUS	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
Age:	Persons				
* Under 25	323	57	4,205	961	5,546
* 25-29	706	319	2,267	565	3,857
* 30-34	1,481	765	1,961	576	4,783
* 35-39	2,358	1,298	1,626	585	5,866
* 40-44	3,065	1,753	1,053	496	6,366
* 45-49	3,071	1,807	555	337	5,769
* 50-54	3,787	2,185	441	322	6,734
* 55-59	3,366	1,701	325	213	5,606
* 60-64	3,541	1,639	391	114	5,685
* 65 & over	7,315	1,665	1,093	114	10,188
Total persons	29,012	13,188	13,917	4,282	60,399

AGES BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
Age:	Percent			
* Under 25		12		9
* 25-29		7		6
* 30-34		9		8
* 35-39	N.A.	8	N.A.	10
* 40-44		8		11
* 45-49		9		10
* 50-54		10		11
* 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%	13,521	6,986	2,094	22,600	51	31	19	37
* 25-<50%	5,198	3,423	932	9,553	20	15	8	16
* 50-<75%	2,224	1,928	698	4,851	8	8	6	8
Part-time	20,944	12,337	3,724	37,004	79	54	33	61
* 75-<100%	1,019	1,175	459	2,654	4	5	4	4
* 100%	4,555	9,204	6,982	20,741	17	41	63	34
Full-time	5,574	10,379	7,442	23,394	21	46	67	39
Total persons	26,517	22,716	11,166	60,399	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%	7,075	7,333	6,541	1,652	22,600
* 25-<50%	4,375	2,305	2,312	561	9,553
* 50-<75%	2,584	920	1,013	333	4,851
Part-time	14,034	10,558	9,867	2,545	37,004
* 75-<100%	1,522	388	587	157	2,654
* 100%	13,457	2,242	3,463	1,580	20,741
Full-time	14,979	2,629	4,050	1,736	23,394
Total persons	29,012	13,188	13,917	4,282	60,399

WORK-TIME BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
	All sizes, Percent			
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:				
* >0-<25%	28	28	30	37
* 25-<50%	14	15	15	16
* 50-<75%	9	9	9	8
Part-time	51	52	54	61
* 75-<100%	4	5	4	4
* 100%	45	44	42	34
Full-time	49	48	46	39
Total persons	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	7,123	8,310	3,495	18,928	68	61	41	58
* Occupiers' spouses	1,681	2,097	1,160	4,937	16	15	14	15
* Other family	1,434	2,577	2,284	6,295	14	19	27	19
* Hired (regular)	238	610	1,494	2,342	2	4	18	7
* Hired (casual)	178	408	369	955	2	3	4	3
All persons	10,476	13,594	8,432	32,502	100	100	100	100

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	8,184	10,962	6,919	26,063	79	81	82	80
* Females	2,292	2,632	1,513	6,439	21	19	18	20
Total AWU excluding hired casual	10,298	13,186	8,063	31,547	100	100	100	100

AWU BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
AWU contributed by:	Percent			
* Occupiers	56	56	57	58
* Occupiers' spouses	12	11	10	15
* Other family	21	22	22	19
* Hired (regular)	8	8	7	7
* Hired (casual)	3	3	3	3
All persons	100	100	100	100
Total AWU	37,046	35,457	33,181	32,502

ANNUAL WORK UNITS PER FARM	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	3,405	254	17	3,676	22	2	0	12
* 0.25-<0.5	3,580	600	32	4,212	23	6	1	14
* 0.5-<0.75	1,980	713	25	2,718	13	7	1	9
"Part-time"	8,965	1,566	74	10,606	58	15	2	35
* 0.75-<1	1,538	676	28	2,242	10	6	1	8
* 1	1,883	1,759	229	3,871	12	17	6	13
* 1-<2	2,413	4,415	1,223	8,050	16	42	32	27
* 2-<3	643	1,794	1,410	3,847	4	17	37	13
* 3+	93	337	845	1,275	1	3	22	4
"Full-time"	6,570	8,981	3,734	19,284	42	85	98	65
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

LABOUR FORCE: OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITIES

OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Persons				Percent			
Occupiers, spouses and family members who work on the farm								
* No OGA	14,012	13,781	7,543	35,336	55	65	82	63
* With OGA	11,675	7,504	1,602	20,781	45	35	18	37
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	5,637	4,943	1,107	11,687	22	23	12	21
** OGA as minor activity	6,038	2,562	494	9,094	24	12	5	16
Total family members who work on the farm¹	25,687	21,285	9,145	56,117	100	100	100	100

¹ This information was not collected for hired workers.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Persons				Percent			
Persons with:								
* Practical experience only	25,140	20,302	8,967	54,409	95	89	80	90
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	827	1,600	1,461	3,888	3	7	13	6
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	550	814	738	2,101	2	4	7	3
Total persons	26,517	22,716	11,166	60,399	100	100	100	100

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY PERSONAL STATUS	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
	Persons				
* Practical experience only	25,904	12,879	11,728	3,898	54,409
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	2,275	186	1,221	206	3,888
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	833	123	967	178	2,101
Total persons	29,012	13,188	13,917	4,282	60,399

3. FARMERS

Definition

Farmers are a sub-set of the occupiers, comprising those who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the farm.

Gender

94% of farmers were male, 6% female.

Marital status

A question on the marital status of farmers was included in the Northern Ireland survey for the first time (not an EU requirement) and it indicated that 28% of farmers had no spouse, ranging from 33% for those with Very Small businesses to 15% of those with Medium or Large businesses. The majority (61%) of farmers' spouses contributed to the work of the farms.

Age

For the first time in this series of surveys, the median age for farmers was between 50 and 54 years, rather than between 55 and 59 years, and the proportion over 65 years of age has fallen from 27% in 1993 to 24% in 2000. There was little difference in the age structure by type of farm, apart from there being fewer Dairy farmers over 65 (17%) compared to the other farm types.

Work-time

Overall 53% of farmers worked for at least around 30 hours per week and were termed "full-time". This compares with 65% in 1993 and 1995 and 61% in 1997.

Other gainful activities

29% of farmers had some other gainful activity, on or off farm. It was considerably higher, at 40%, for those with Very Small farms and 35% of those with Cattle & Sheep farms. Overall the proportion has risen from 19% in 1993, 21% in 1995 and 23% in 1997.

Other gainful activities: Farmer and spouse

On 42% of farms either the farmer or spouse or both had another gainful activity. For Very Small farms, where 30% of farmers are aged over 65, the combined proportion with other work was 47%. Overall only 3% of farmers aged 65 or over, and 3% of their spouses, had another job. However, on the majority (54%) of farms where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer and/or spouse had another job, including 64% of those in that age group with Very Small farm businesses. On almost two-thirds of all farms where the farmer was under 45, either the farmer, spouse or both had other work.

Agricultural education

The Structure survey definitions distinguish between formal courses in agricultural education and training that last under 2 years and those that last 2 years or longer. In total, 8% of farmers had undergone the former type of agricultural education and 3% the latter. This varied considerably by the age of the farmer, with 22% of those aged under 45 having received some formal agricultural education compared with only 2% of those over 65. Also, a higher proportion of Dairy farmers (20%) had received formal education compared with Cattle & Sheep farmers (9%) and Other farm types (15%).

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	12,838	9,020	3,288	25,146	92	96	99	94
* Female	1,189	406	25	1,620	8	4	1	6
Total farmers	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY GENDER AND BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Farmer is:	Farmers				Percent			
* Male	4,266	17,430	3,450	25,146	98	93	93	94
* Female	75	1,296	249	1,620	2	7	7	6
Total farmers	4,340	18,726	3,699	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY GENDER AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
Farmer is:	All sizes, Percent			
* Male	93	94	94	94
* Female	7	6	6	6
Total farmers	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:	9,332	6,976	2,831	19,139	67	74	85	72
** Works on the farm	4,995	4,642	2,051	11,687	36	49	62	44
** Does no work on the farm	4,337	2,334	780	7,452	31	25	24	28
Farmer has no spouse:	4,695	2,450	481	7,626	33	26	15	28
Total farmers	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	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	216	83	12	310	2	1	0	1
* 25-29	384	243	56	682	3	3	2	3
* 30-34	694	553	199	1,446	5	6	6	5
* 35-39	1,055	844	367	2,266	8	9	11	8
* 40-44	1,386	1,035	502	2,923	10	11	15	11
* 45-49	1,328	1,054	493	2,874	9	11	15	11
* 50-54	1,712	1,326	481	3,519	12	14	15	13
* 55-59	1,443	1,213	461	3,116	10	13	14	12
* 60-64	1,659	1,228	327	3,214	12	13	10	12
* 65 & over	4,152	1,849	415	6,415	30	20	13	24
Total farmers	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY AGE AND BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Farmer is aged:	Farmers				Percent			
* Under 25	16	268	26	310	0	1	1	1
* 25-29	80	544	57	682	2	3	2	3
* 30-34	222	1,022	203	1,446	5	5	5	5
* 35-39	431	1,501	334	2,266	10	8	9	8
* 40-44	549	2,002	372	2,923	13	11	10	11
* 45-49	563	1,897	414	2,874	13	10	11	11
* 50-54	589	2,357	573	3,519	14	13	15	13
* 55-59	593	2,059	464	3,116	14	11	13	12
* 60-64	553	2,252	409	3,214	13	12	11	12
* 65 & over	744	4,824	847	6,415	17	26	23	24
Total farmers	4,340	18,726	3,699	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
Farmer is aged:	All sizes, Percent			
* Under 25	1	1	0	1
* 25-29	3	2	2	3
* 30-34	6	5	5	5
* 35-39	7	8	7	8
* 40-44	9	9	10	11
* 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%	5,421	662	55	6,138	39	7	2	23
* 25-<50%	2,935	958	53	3,946	21	10	2	15
* 50-<75%	1,515	808	67	2,389	11	9	2	9
Part-time	9,871	2,428	174	12,473	70	26	5	47
* 75-<100%	715	615	83	1,413	5	7	2	5
* 100%	3,442	6,383	3,055	12,880	25	68	92	48
Full-time	4,157	6,998	3,138	14,293	30	74	95	53
Total farmers	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
	Farmers				Percent			
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	84	4,892	1,161	6,138	2	26	31	23
* 25-<50%	101	3,390	455	3,946	2	18	12	15
* 50-<75%	133	1,995	261	2,389	3	11	7	9
Part-time	318	10,277	1,877	12,473	7	55	51	47
* 75-<100%	130	1,101	182	1,413	3	6	5	5
* 100%	3,892	7,348	1,639	12,880	90	39	44	48
Full-time	4,022	8,449	1,822	14,293	93	45	49	53
Total farmers	4,340	18,726	3,699	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BUSINESS TYPE	1993	1995	1997	2000
	All sizes, Percent			
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year				
* >0-<25%	16	14	18	23
* 25-<50%	11	12	12	15
* 50-<75%	8	9	9	9
Part-time	35	35	39	47
* 75-<100%	4	5	4	5
* 100%	61	60	57	48
Full-time	65	65	61	53
Total farmers	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	8,361	7,363	3,158	18,883	60	78	95	71
* With OGA	5,666	2,063	154	7,883	40	22	5	29
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	4,792	1,288	67	6,146	34	14	2	23
** OGA as minor activity	874	776	87	1,737	6	8	3	6
Total farmers	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Farmer's other gainful activity:	Farmers				Percent			
* No OGA	4,100	12,262	2,520	18,883	94	65	68	71
* With OGA	240	6,464	1,179	7,883	6	35	32	29
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	95	5,098	953	6,146	2	27	26	23
** OGA as minor activity	145	1,366	226	1,737	3	7	6	6
Total farmers	4,340	18,726	3,699	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY	1993	1995	1997	2000
Farmer's other gainful activity:	Percent			
* No OGA	81	79	77	71
* With OGA	19	21	23	29
of whom:				
** OGA as major activity	13	14	16	23
** OGA as minor activity	5	7	7	6
Total farmers	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	5,666	2,063	154	7,883	40	22	5	29
* Farmer's spouse	3,644	2,652	923	7,220	26	28	28	27
* Either/both	6,559	3,706	1,005	11,270	47	39	30	42
* Neither	7,468	5,721	2,307	15,496	53	61	70	58
Total farms	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	100	100	100	100

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	157	50	5	212	4	3	1	3
* Farmer's spouse	116	77	11	204	3	4	3	3
* Either/both	246	120	15	381	6	7	4	6
* Neither	3,906	1,728	400	6,034	94	93	96	94
Total farms	4,152	1,849	415	6,415	100	100	100	100

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	5,509	2,013	148	7,671	56	27	5	38
* Farmer's spouse	3,528	2,575	912	7,015	36	34	31	34
* Either/both	6,313	3,585	990	10,889	64	47	34	54
* Neither	3,562	3,992	1,907	9,462	36	53	66	46
Total farms	9,876	7,578	2,897	20,350	100	100	100	100

FARMERS AGED UNDER 45	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Persons with other gainful activity:	Farms				Percent			
* Farmer	2,636	1,058	74	3,768	71	38	7	49
* Farmer's spouse	1,568	1,104	448	3,119	42	40	39	41
* Either/both	2,902	1,655	483	5,039	78	60	42	66
* Neither	832	1,102	653	2,588	22	40	58	34
Total farms	3,734	2,757	1,136	7,627	100	100	100	100

FARMERS AND SPOUSE: OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY

ALL FARMERS BY TYPE OF FARM	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Persons with other gainful activity:	Farms				Percent			
* Farmer	240	6,464	1,179	7,883	6	35	32	29
* Farmer's spouse	1,093	4,994	1,132	7,220	25	27	31	27
* Either/both	1,238	8,361	1,671	11,270	29	45	45	42
* Neither	3,103	10,366	2,028	15,496	71	55	55	58
Total farms	4,340	18,726	3,699	26,766	100	100	100	100

ALL FARMERS BY AREA	NUTS3 area				NUTS3 area			
	Belfast/ Outer Belfast	East of NI	North	West & South	Belfast/ Outer Belfast	East of NI	North	West & South
Persons with other gainful activity:	Farms				Percent			
* Farmer	446	1,920	1,181	4,336	31	32	26	29
* Farmer's spouse	385	1,803	1,322	3,710	27	30	29	25
* Either/both	627	2,735	1,919	5,989	43	45	43	41
* Neither	822	3,319	2,583	8,772	57	55	57	59
Total farms	1,449	6,054	4,503	14,761	100	100	100	100

FARMERS: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

FARMERS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmers with:	Farmers				Percent			
* Practical experience only	13,214	8,160	2,399	23,772	94	87	72	89
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	531	924	739	2,194	4	10	22	8
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	282	343	175	800	2	4	5	3
Total farmers	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Farmers with:	Farmers				Percent			
* Practical experience only	3,475	17,151	3,146	23,772	80	92	85	89
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	705	1,072	417	2,194	16	6	11	8
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	161	503	136	800	4	3	4	3
Total farmers	4,340	18,726	3,699	26,766	100	100	100	100

FARMERS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY AGE	Farmer's age				Farmer's age			
	Under 45	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 & over	Under 45	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 & over
Farmers with:	Farmers				Percent			
* Practical experience only	5,992	5,540	5,951	6,275	79	87	94	98
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	1,114	650	326	112	15	10	5	2
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	521	203	53	29	7	3	1	0
Total farmers	7,627	6,393	6,330	6,415	100	100	100	100

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

Definition

In Section 2 information was presented for for all workers, including those described as Occupiers, i.e. those with the legal and financial responsibility for the farms, and Section 3 referred to the subset of the occupiers, termed Farmers, who were responsible for the day to day management. Where the occupier is not responsible for management of the farm, someone else has this role. Section 4 refers to all managers, i.e. the one person for each farm who has the main responsibility for the day to day running of the business. Because most of them (90%) are also farmers, information on this group is similar to that in Section 3.

Status

Northern Ireland farms are primarily family businesses, with only 1% of the managers being non-family. The occupiers were the managers of 90% of farms, with spouses the managers on 3% 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.

Gender

The proportion of female managers, at 7%, was very similar to that recorded throughout the 1990s.

Age

31% of managers were under 45 and 22% were 65 or over. Managers of Dairy farms were younger than those with other types of business, 36% being under 45 and only 16% over 65.

Work-time

The work-time breakdown for managers was similar to that for farmers, with 47% working under 30 hours a week and being termed “part-time” and 53% “full-time”.

Other gainful activity

The percentage of managers having other work ranged from 42% of those with Very Small businesses to 5% of those managing Medium or Large businesses. The range was also quite wide by type of business, from 36% of those managing Cattle & Sheep farms to 6% managing Dairy farms.

Agricultural education

As was found for the farmers, the proportions of managers having undertaken formal agricultural education varied by size of business, type of business and age of manager. While 22% of those primarily responsible for managing Dairy farms had some formal agricultural education, the proportion was only 9% of those managing Cattle & Sheep farms. Almost a quarter (24%) of those aged under 45 who were primarily responsible for managing a farm had an agricultural qualification.

MANAGERS: IDENTITY AND GENDER

MANAGEMENT STATUS	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager is:	Farms				Percent			
* The occupier	14,027	9,426	3,312	26,766	90	89	87	90
* Occupier's spouse	599	253	30	882	4	2	1	3
* Other family member	825	784	390	1,999	5	7	10	7
* Hired	83	85	76	243	1	1	2	1
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	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	13,712	9,806	3,689	27,207	90	94	99	93
* Female	1,790	719	87	2,597	10	6	1	7
Total managers	15,503	10,525	3,776	29,803	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY GENDER AND BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Manager is:	Managers				Percent			
* Male	4,733	19,155	3,782	27,671	97	92	91	93
* Female	122	1,737	360	2,219	3	8	9	7
Total managers	4,855	20,892	4,143	29,890	100	100	100	100

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

MANAGERS: AGE

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	313	189	54	556	2	2	1	2
* 25-29	502	375	126	1,003	3	4	3	3
* 30-34	883	735	307	1,925	6	7	8	6
* 35-39	1,254	1,081	483	2,818	8	10	13	9
* 40-44	1,599	1,158	577	3,334	10	11	15	11
* 45-49	1,514	1,167	524	3,206	10	11	14	11
* 50-54	1,897	1,412	510	3,819	12	13	13	13
* 55-59	1,563	1,284	475	3,322	10	12	12	11
* 60-64	1,748	1,257	333	3,339	11	12	9	11
* 65 & over	4,261	1,889	419	6,568	27	18	11	22
Total managers	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY AGE AND BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Manager is aged:	Managers				Percent			
* Under 25	68	443	46	556	1	2	1	2
* 25-29	165	734	104	1,003	3	4	3	3
* 30-34	318	1,330	277	1,925	7	6	7	6
* 35-39	560	1,837	421	2,818	12	9	10	9
* 40-44	616	2,300	418	3,334	13	11	10	11
* 45-49	593	2,151	462	3,206	12	10	11	11
* 50-54	613	2,577	629	3,819	13	12	15	13
* 55-59	606	2,222	495	3,322	12	11	12	11
* 60-64	560	2,351	428	3,339	12	11	10	11
* 65 & over	757	4,949	862	6,568	16	24	21	22
Total managers	4,855	20,892	4,143	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY AGE AND AREA	NUTS3 Area ¹				NUTS3 Area			
	Belfast/ Outer Belfast	East of NI	North	West & South	Belfast/ Outer Belfast	East of NI	North	West & South
Manager is aged:	Managers				Percent			
* Under 25	29	99	76	353	2	1	2	2
* 25-29	38	211	161	593	2	3	3	4
* 30-34	88	433	370	1,034	5	6	7	6
* 35-39	139	644	527	1,508	8	9	11	9
* 40-44	159	797	562	1,816	10	12	11	11
* 45-49	185	710	553	1,758	11	10	11	11
* 50-54	216	941	656	2,006	13	14	13	12
* 55-59	209	818	575	1,720	13	12	12	10
* 60-64	192	732	495	1,920	12	11	10	12
* 65 & over	400	1,477	1,004	3,687	24	22	20	22
Total managers	1,656	6,862	4,978	16,394	100	100	100	100

¹ See Annex 2 for a definition of NUTS areas.

MANAGERS: AGE

MANAGERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000
Manager is aged:	All sizes, Percent			
* Under 25	2	2	1	2
* 25-29	4	4	4	3
* 30-34	7	7	7	6
* 35-39	8	9	8	9
* 40-44	9	9	10	11
* 45-49	11	11	11	11
* 50-54	11	12	12	13
* 55-59	11	11	12	11
* 60-64	12	12	11	11
* 65 & over	25	24	24	22
Total managers	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS: WORK-TIME

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
	Managers				Percent			
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	6,042	763	65	6,871	39	7	2	23
* 25-<50%	3,355	1,145	64	4,564	22	11	2	15
* 50-<75%	1,659	965	76	2,700	11	9	2	9
Part-time	11,056	2,874	205	14,135	71	27	5	47
* 75-<100%	788	730	108	1,626	5	7	3	5
* 100%	3,691	6,943	3,495	14,129	24	66	92	47
Full-time	4,479	7,673	3,603	15,755	29	73	95	53
Total managers	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
	Managers				Percent			
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	102	5,479	1,290	6,871	2	26	31	23
* 25-<50%	118	3,950	495	4,564	2	19	12	15
* 50-<75%	155	2,251	294	2,700	3	11	7	9
Part-time	376	11,680	2,079	14,135	8	56	50	47
* 75-<100%	161	1,259	206	1,626	3	6	5	5
* 100%	4,318	7,953	1,858	14,129	89	38	45	47
Full-time	4,479	9,212	2,064	15,755	92	44	50	53
Total managers	4,855	20,892	4,143	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BUSINESS TYPE	1993	1995	1997	2000
	All sizes, Percent			
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year				
* >0-<25%	16	14	18	23
* 25-<50%	11	13	13	15
* 50-<75%	9	9	9	9
Part-time	36	36	40	47
* 75-<100%	4	5	5	5
* 100%	60	59	56	47
Full-time	64	64	61	53
Total managers	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS: OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY

MANAGERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager's other gainful activity:	Managers				Percent			
* No OGA	9,032	8,068	3,602	20,702	58	77	95	69
* With OGA	6,503	2,479	206	9,188	42	24	5	31
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	5,520	1,545	78	7,142	36	15	2	24
** OGA as minor activity	983	934	128	2,045	6	9	3	7
Total managers	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY BUSINESS TYPE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Manager's other gainful activity:	Managers				Percent			
* No OGA	4,556	13,334	2,813	20,703	94	64	68	69
* With OGA	299	7,558	1,330	9,187	6	36	32	31
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	118	5,958	1,066	7,142	2	29	26	24
** OGA as minor activity	181	1,600	264	2,045	4	8	6	7
Total managers	4,855	20,892	4,143	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

MANAGERS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Managers with:	Managers				Percent			
* Practical experience only	14,532	8,968	2,632	26,132	94	85	69	87
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	640	1,101	903	2,644	4	10	24	9
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	364	477	274	1,115	2	5	7	4
Total managers	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business type				Business type			
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Other types	All
Managers with:	Managers				Percent			
* Practical experience only	3,764	18,910	3,458	26,132	78	91	83	87
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	833	1,312	499	2,644	17	6	12	9
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	258	671	186	1,115	5	3	4	4
Total managers	4,855	20,892	4,143	29,890	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION BY MANAGER'S AGE	Manager's age				Manager's age			
	Under 45	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 & over	Under 45	45 to 54	55 & over	65 & over
Managers with:	Managers				Percent			
* Practical experience only	7,352	6,108	6,248	6,423	76	87	94	98
* Formal course lasting less than 2 years	1,503	676	351	114	16	10	5	2
* Formal course lasting 2 years or more	781	241	62	31	8	3	1	0
Total managers	9,636	7,025	6,661	6,568	100	100	100	100

5 DIVERSIFICATION

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.

Results

Eight per cent of farms had some form of diversification, as defined above. Agricultural contracting was the most common, involving an estimated 916 farms, which is 3 per cent of the total. Diversification is most commonly found on the Medium/Large farms, 13%, compared with 9% of Small and 6% of Very Small farms.

Diversification was more common around Belfast (13%) and in the East (10%) compared with 9% in the North and 7% in the West & South. The latter area includes more than half of the farms in Northern Ireland.

FARMS WITH DIVERSIFICATION BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Agricultural contracting	273	422	221	916	2	4	6	3
* Livestock haulage	84	84	30	198	1	1	1	1
* Tourism	116	114	64	294	1	1	2	1
* Equine sport	149	67	22	238	1	1	1	1
* Other sport	20	7	7	35	0	0	0	0
* Direct sales	107	173	87	367	1	2	2	1
* Food processing	33	38	34	105	0	0	1	0
* Repairs/engineering	159	107	50	316	1	1	1	1
* Other commercial activities	120	129	63	311	1	1	2	1
Any	947	996	479	2,422	6	9	13	8
None	14,588	9,551	3,330	27,468	94	91	87	92
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

DIVERSIFICATION BY AREA	NUTS3 Area ¹				NUTS3 Area			
	Belfast/ Outer Belfast	East of NI	North	West & South	Belfast/ Outer Belfast	East of NI	North	West & South
Farm has diversification:	Farms				Percent			
* Yes	221	698	424	1,079	13	10	9	7
* No	1,435	6,164	4,554	15,315	87	90	91	93
Total farms	1,656	6,862	4,978	16,394	100	100	100	100

¹ See Annex 2 for a definition of NUTS areas.

6 USE OF AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS

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?”

Results

Three-quarters of farms used contractors for some task(s), with the Very Small farms (70%) being slightly less likely to do so. Hay or silage making was the most common activity, with contractors involved on 65 per cent of farms, followed by spreading slurry/manure and hedge cutting, each being undertaken by contractors on 36 per cent of farms.

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	10,821	8,421	3,054	22,296	70	80	80	75
* No	4,714	2,126	754	7,594	30	20	20	25
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100

Used agricultural contractors for:

* Hay/silage making	9,797	7,321	2,448	19,566	63	69	64	65
* Crop harvesting	659	972	596	2,227	4	9	16	7
* Spreading slurry/manure/fertilisers/lime	5,029	4,235	1,590	10,854	32	40	42	36
* Other field work	1,143	1,255	636	3,035	7	12	17	10
* Milking	27	164	328	519	0	2	9	2
* Sheep shearing	1,534	2,311	501	4,345	10	22	13	15
* Other livestock work	604	562	195	1,362	4	5	5	5
* Hedge cutting	4,598	4,344	1,782	10,724	30	41	47	36

PERSON-DAYS OF CONTRACT WORK	Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Total person-days	92,132	109,456	67,271	268,859
Days per farm (all farms)	6	10	18	9
Days per farm (using)	9	13	22	12

7 NUMBER OF TRACTORS

Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Enter the number of tractors belonging exclusively to the farm”

Results

There were 51,730 tractors on Northern Ireland farms in 2000, an average of 1.73 per farm. This compares with 49,400 in the 1995 survey, the previous most recent occasion when numbers were assessed.

NUMBER OF TRACTORS PER FARM	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Farms				Percent			
* 0	2,853	581	102	3,536	18	6	3	12
* 1	8,392	3,055	292	11,739	54	29	8	39
* 2	3,290	4,005	845	8,139	21	38	22	27
* 3	767	1,916	1,214	3,898	5	18	32	13
* 4 or more	233	990	1,338	2,561	1	9	35	9
Total farms	15,535	10,547	3,808	29,890	100	100	100	100
Total tractors	18,405	21,216	12,109	51,730				

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. Consequently, where comparisons with earlier surveys are made in this report, these cover only the surveys in 1993, 1995 and 1997.

In addition a number of features affect the apparent trends between 2000 and these three earlier years and these are noted below.

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.

QUESTIONS ON THE OCCUPIER’S SPOUSE

The data to be supplied to Eurostat on the gender, age and work-time of occupiers’ spouses refer only to those spouses who do some farm work; this restriction applies also to information on whether the spouse of occupier-managers (farmers) does any other paid work. Prior to the 2000 survey, the questions asked specified that data on spouses should be recorded only if they did some farm work. However, in Northern Ireland there was interest in knowing the proportion of farmers’ spouses who have other employment. This led to a development of the questions for the 2000 Survey to gather information on all spouses, whether they did farm work or not. This change in questioning may partly have resulted in a large increase in the number of spouses doing some farm work, especially those whose work input amounted to less than 25% of a normal working year, i.e. less than 10 hours or so per week.

WORK DONE BY AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS

The 2000 Survey in Northern Ireland sought more detail on the work input of agricultural contractors than is demanded by Eurostat, which requires only the total number of days of work done by contractors. Since the information previously collected for this was thought to understate the true position, and to provide valuable additional statistics, the questioning was broadened to highlight and collect information on the types of work done by contractors. This may partly explain an apparent doubling of contractor input between the 1997 and 2000 surveys.

ANNEX 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For a detailed description of the terms and definitions used in the EU Structure Survey, see Annex 1 of EU Commission Decision 83/461/EEC. 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.

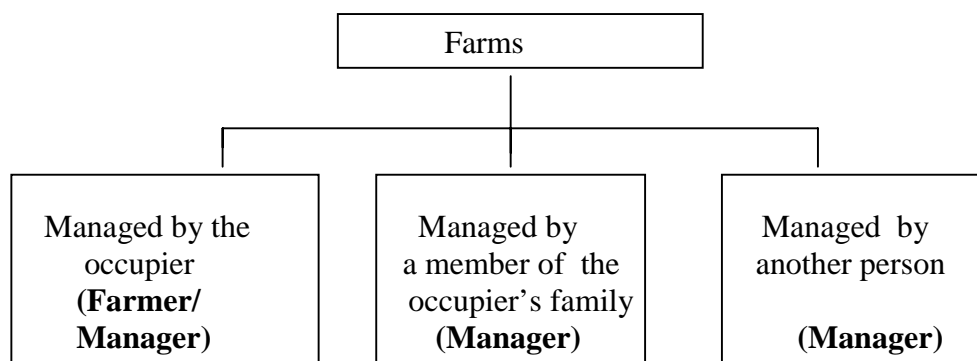
LABOUR FORCE

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.

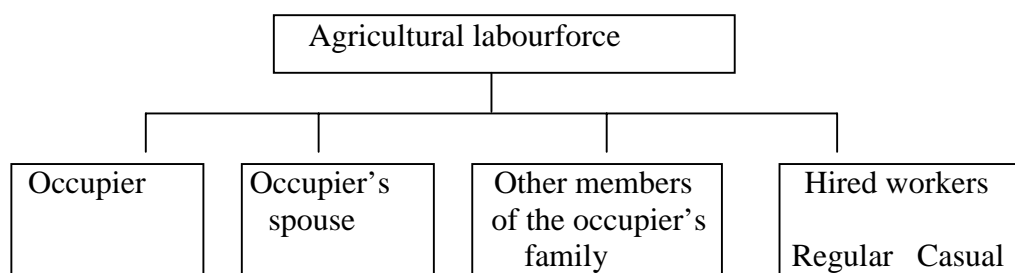
Farmer The agricultural census applies the term “farmer” to all persons who are self-employed on their own or their family business (i.e. farmers and partners). However, for the Structure Survey, the terms “occupiers” and “managers” are used.



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 SIZE (See Annex 3)

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. (Further details and the SGM values used in this survey are given in Annex 3.)

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 SGM¹, using 1987-89 values for SGMs (€1 = £0.68); to provide continuity of statistics, these SGM values are held constant for a number of years². However, the EU updates SGM values for each Structure Survey and before Eurostat publishes the results of the 2000 survey, it will apply 1996-98 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.

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.

¹ See Commission Decision 85/377/EEC.

² See "Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1991/92 Edition (HMSO, 1993) and The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics, UK 1993 (HMSO, 1993).

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.

BUSINESS TYPE

The EU system of classifying farms according to farm type (on which the UK system is based) is set out in Commission Decision 85/377/EEC. Although 75 different types are recognised by the EU, for UK statistical purposes these are grouped into 9 robust categories, which have particular relevance to UK conditions. Since there are relatively few of some types in Northern Ireland, results are presented for 2 robust business types and an aggregation of the other categories, namely:

Dairy farms: farms with more than 2/3 of their total SGM in dairying (including associated young stock).

Cattle & Sheep farms: farms which do not qualify as dairy farms but have more than 2/3 of their total SGM in cattle and sheep.

Other types: all other types of farm.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Within the EU there is a standard nomenclature of statistical territorial units classification into regions, termed the NUTS system. For Northern Ireland the relevant distinctions are:

- NUTS1 : UK
- NUTS2 : Northern Ireland
- NUTS3: aggregations of District Council areas
- NUTS4: individual District council areas
- NUTS5: electoral wards

The **NUTS3 areas** are:

Belfast: Belfast

Outer Belfast: Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, North Down

East: Antrim, Ards, Ballymena, Banbridge, Craigavon, Down, Larne.

North: Ballymoney, Coleraine, Londonderry, Limavady, Moyle, Strabane.

West & South: Armagh, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Magherafelt, Newry & Mourne, Omagh.

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% and 50% 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% 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: FARM BUSINESS SIZE

Until 1980, in UK agricultural statistics, business size was measured by units reflecting labour requirements, known as standard man days (smds). In GB, farms below 275 smds were regarded as “part-time” but in Northern Ireland, with smaller and generally less heavily capitalised farms, a lower threshold (200 smds) was used. However, because of the considerable influence of enterprise size on labour input per hectare or per head of livestock, the use in the statistical system of the same smd values for all sizes of enterprise was unsatisfactory.

With full effect from June 1981, a method of measuring farm size based on the system developed for use in the European Community, was applied to Northern Ireland agricultural census data. Standard man days were replaced in UK agricultural statistics by Standard Gross Margins (SGM), based on the income-generating capacity of the crops and livestock on farms, rather than their labour requirement. The gross margin of an enterprise is its total output less the variable costs which are directly attributable to it, where a variable cost is a cost which can be readily allocated to a specific enterprise and which varies in approximately direct proportion to changes in the scale of that enterprise. Examples of variable costs are seed, fertiliser, feedingstuff and veterinary and medicine costs.

The 2000 Structure Survey was prepared using Standard Gross Margins (estimates of the average level of gross margin per hectare or per head for the region) based on average values during 1987 to 1989, measured in €. These values are used in UK farm structure statistics where they have been held constant for a number of years so that changes in farm business size will reflect real changes in business activity rather than a change in prices. Eurostat, on the other hand, change the SGM values for each Structure Survey and will publish data from the 2000 surveys using the latest, 1996-98, SGMs. These and other recent sets of SGM values are shown overleaf.

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. For statistical purposes, farms are divided into bands of total SGM but, since the SGM totals can be very large, they are scaled down into European Size Units.

STANDARD GROSS MARGINS

		1987-89	1991-93	1993-95	1996-98	
		€	€	€	€	
Crops	Wheat	776	871	1,017	1,029	per ha
	Barley	582	623	749	795	per ha
	Oats	598	602	891	840	per ha
	Mixed corn	473	590	603	767	per ha
	Potatoes	2,111	2,250	3,142	2,146	per ha
	Oilseed rape	793	672	689	885	per ha
	Linseed	1,168	811	649	719	per ha
	Open-air horticulture					
	Vegetables	5,095	3,483	3,398	8,923	per ha
	Fruit	2,252	2,873	3,710	5,297	per ha
	Flowers/nursery	15,350	26,599	30,001	26,179	per ha
	Glasshouses:					
	Vegetables	28,386	140,911	127,735	162,602	per ha
	Flowers	137,513	186,529	188,305	218,546	per ha
	Mushrooms	4,686	5,694	5,408	4,201	per 100 m ²
	Grass/ fodder crops	0	0	0	0	per ha
	Setaside	261	254	279	406	per ha
	Other crops	473	590	581	557	per ha
Cattle	Dairy cows	958	965	1,065	1,094	per head
	Beef cows	316(357)	233(236)	298(341)	343(338)	per head (in LFA)
	Heifers 2 yrs +	34	88	117	82	per head
	Heifers 1-2 yrs	97	182	142	96	per head
	Bulls/steers 2 yrs +	56	100	161	69	per head
	Bulls/steers 1-2 yrs	95	202	276	145	per head
	Calves under 1 year	51	120	125	104	per head
Sheep	Ewes	68 (62)	60 (62)	60 (62)	59(63)	per head (in LFA)
	Other sheep	1	1	1	1	per head
	Lambs	0	0	0	0	per head (included with ewe)
Horses	Mares, stallions	474	58	135	113	per head
	Others	0	0	0	113	per head
Pigs	Sows	185	285	240	302	per head
	Piglets (under 20kg)	0	0	0	0	per head (included with sow)
	Other pigs	18	12	16	35	per head
Poultry	Hens	107	113	174	168	per 100
	Broilers	54	81	99	115	per 100
	Others	184	467	638	481	per 100

- Notes:**
- 1 These SGMs apply to crop areas and livestock numbers at June (not to the annual throughput).
 - 2 At the time of calculation, €1 = £0.68 (1987-89), £0.74 (1991-93) , £0.79 (1993-95) and £0.77 (1996-98).
 - 3 €1,200 of SGM=1 European Size Unit (ESU)