

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY

2005

NORTHERN IRELAND

REPORT ON

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE,

FARM DIVERSIFICATION,

AND

CONTRACTOR USE

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EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2005

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.

This report presents the Northern Ireland data collected for that purpose in 2005. It contains comparisons with the results of the 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2003 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 2005 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 2005 EU Structure Survey.

The EU Structure Survey 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. Eurostat provides the framework for each survey and in 2005 included for the first time detailed questions on the labour input of both family and non-family workers.

The results of the 2003 EU Farm Structure Survey for each of the EU Member States may be viewed at

<http://www.eu-datashop.de/en/publications/select.php?th=5&k=2>

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 028-90524850. A charge may be levied for this, depending on the amount of work involved.

Norman Fulton
Director of Policy and Economics Division
March 2006

SUMMARY OF KEY STATISTICS

Labour force

- 54,926 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months ending March 2005.
- The total labour input on farms in Northern Ireland equated to 30,639 Annual Work Units (full time job equivalents).
- Occupiers and their family members provided 92 percent of the labour input.

Business status

- The majority of farms are family owned and managed; fewer than 50 farm businesses out of the total of 27,064 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 22 percent of the workforce and 19 percent of the labour input (Annual Work Units) on farms.
- 7 percent of farms were managed by females.

Age

- The median age of farmers (55 years old) remained constant in 2005 with that recorded in 2003.
- The number of farmers aged under 35 in 2005 also remained unchanged from that recorded for 2003 (7 percent).
- The ages of farmers differed for each business size; on Very Small farms, 31 percent were aged 65 or more, compared with 24 percent on Medium and 14 percent on Large farms.
- There was a lower percentage of all workers under 35 in 2005 than in 2003, 20 percent compared with 23 percent, and a higher aged 65 or over population, 20 percent in 2005 compared with 17 percent in 2003.

Work-time

- 38 percent of the farmers and workers worked 30 hours or more per week on the farms (i.e. full-time).
- On 67 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 higher, at 37 percent, 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 48 percent in 2005.

- On 52 percent of all farms, and for 66 percent of those where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work in 2005. (43 percent and 55 percent respectively in 2003)
- On 79 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 16.6 (2003) percent in England.

Use of agricultural contractors

- 83 percent of farms used agricultural contractors during the previous year, compared with 81 percent in 2003 and 75 percent in 2000.
- 70 percent of all farms used agricultural contractors for hay or silage making.

Tractors and Machinery

- 92 percent of farms owned at least one tractor.

EU FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY 2005

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 a sample survey in 2003 and in 2005. 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 2005 survey.

⁴ See "Farm Structure 1999/2000 Survey", Eurostat 2003.

1.2 Methodology in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland data for the 2005 Survey came from three sources:

- the June 2005 Agricultural Census
- administrative sources
- a special survey in March 2005 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 2005, 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 2005 Agricultural Census were published on 15th November 2005⁷. This report includes the results of the special survey along with comparable statistics from the five previous surveys held in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2003. 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 2005 census and which was represented in the 2005 Structure Survey, totaled **27,064 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 New 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 2005”, DARD 2005.

⁸ See Annex 1.

⁹ The special survey was issued to a sample of the active farms in the June 2004 survey but only those which were still active in 2005 were included in the final data file.

1.4 The Raising Framework

Although termed the June “census”, this was a sample survey in which 24,258 farms were surveyed with a response of 16,859 (69.5 percent). The sample excluded the Very Small farms which had been surveyed and made a return in 2004¹⁰. 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 13,319 farms was selected from the June 2004 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 8,581 (64 percent) of whom 8,302 were still active in 2005 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 2005.

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 2005 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

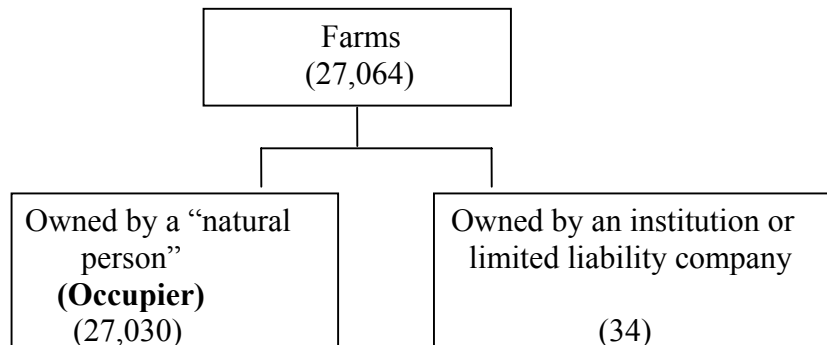
Based on the 2005 Structure Survey, the total labour force was estimated as **54,926 persons**; this includes all persons aged 16 and over who contributed to the work of the farms during the 12 month period up to March 2005 but excludes any hired workers engaged on a casual basis. The June 2005 Agricultural Census, which is the other main source of information on the labour input on farms, recorded 51,073 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 (9,329) than in the June census where 6,186 were recorded as spouses but others were recorded as business partners.

Occupiers, their spouses and other family members comprise 95 percent of the labour force, with only 5 percent being regular hired workers. The proportions differ by business size with regular hired workers making up 16 percent of those on the Medium and Large farms compared with 2 percent on the Very Small and 3 percent on the Small farms. During the period 1993 to 2005 there has been little change in the composition of the work force though occupiers' spouses have been more prominent in the last three surveys.

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:

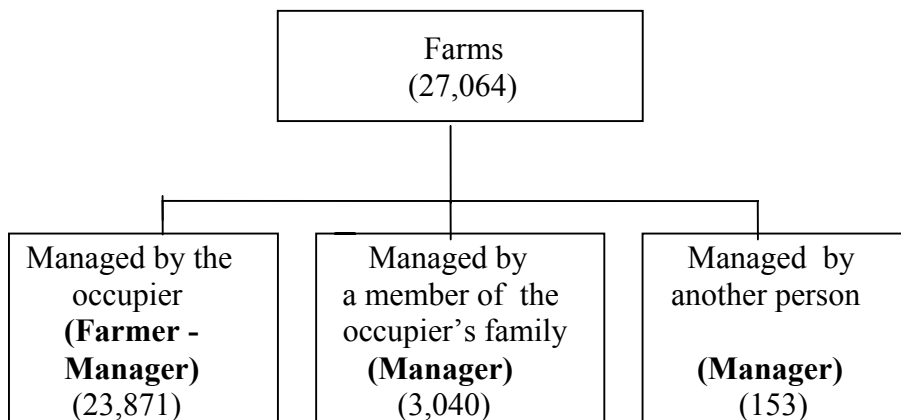
- a) a limited liability company or an institution, such as a school or hospital; or
- b) a “natural person”, meaning a private individual or individuals, including partnerships.



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 (88 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 8 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-eight percent of workers were male and 22 percent female, with little difference in the male:female percentages on farms of different size. This is comparable to the findings of surveys of 1993 to 1997 but show a decrease in the percentage of females working from the 2000 and 2003 surveys.

2.6 Ages

In the 1995 and 2000 surveys information was collected on the ages of all the workers. This was repeated in 2005 but with condensed age-bands. This report includes the results of the 1995 and 2000 surveys when the median age of all workers in both years was within the 45-49 years age band. There was a lower percentage of all workers under 35 in 2005 than in 2003, 20 percent compared with 23 percent, and a higher aged 65 or over population, 20 percent in 2005 compared with 17 percent in 2003.

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 2005 survey, 62 percent of the regular labour force worked part-time on the farms and 38 percent full-time, a small change from the 60 percent and 40 percent respectively seen in 2003, 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, 67 percent may be termed “full-time” the same percentage as in 2003 and an increase from the 65 percent observed in 2000.

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	12,765	9,473	4,223	26,462	56	47	35	48
* Occupiers' spouses	3,656	3,657	2,016	9,329	16	18	17	17
* Occupiers' family	6,090	6,284	3,853	16,227	27	31	32	30
* Regular hired workers	422	623	1,862	2,907	2	3	16	5
Total persons	22,933	20,038	11,954	54,926	100	100	100	100

PERSONAL STATUS BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
	Percent					
* Occupiers	50	49	50	48	47	48
* Occupiers' spouses	15	14	14	22	18	17
* Occupiers' family	26	28	28	23	26	30
* Regular hired workers	9	9	9	7	9	5
Total persons	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	13,072	9,673	4,285	27,030	100	100	99	100
* Company, school, etc	4	4	26	34	0	0	1	0
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	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	11,676	8,498	3,697	23,871	89	88	86	88
* Occupier's spouse	554	300	34	888	4	3	1	3
* Other family member	798	838	516	2,152	6	9	12	8
* Hired	48	41	64	153	0	0	1	1
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	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	17,986	15,484	9,133	42,604	78	77	76	78
* Female	4,947	4,554	2,821	12,322	22	23	24	22
Total persons	22,933	20,038	11,954	54,926	100	100	100	100

GENDER BY PERSONAL STATUS	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
Person is:	Persons				
* Male	24,524	812	14,840	2,428	42,604
* Female	1,938	8,517	1,387	479	12,322
Total persons	26,462	9,329	16,227	2,907	54,926

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

AGES BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	AGES BY SURVEY DATE	2005
Age:	Percent					Age:	
* Under 25		12		9		* Under 25	9
* 25-29		7		6		* 24-34	11
* 30-34		9		8		* 35-44	19
* 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%	10,792	5,994	2,337	19,123	47	30	20	35
* 25-<50%	4,980	3,329	1,108	9,417	22	17	9	17
* 50-<75%	2,445	2,173	710	5,328	11	11	6	10
Part-time	18,217	11,496	4,155	33,868	79	57	35	62
* 75-<100%	1,068	1,239	581	2,889	5	6	5	5
* 100%	3,649	7,303	7,217	18,169	16	36	60	33
Full-time	4,717	8,542	7,798	21,058	21	43	65	38
Total persons	22,934	20,038	11,953	54,926	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%	5,549	3,432	9,243	899	19,123
* 25-<50%	4,410	2,368	2,342	297	9,417
* 50-<75%	2,940	981	1,157	250	5,328
Part-time	12,899	6,781	12,742	1,446	33,868
* 75-<100%	1,605	471	615	197	2,888
* 100%	11,958	2,076	2,871	1,264	18,169
Full-time	13,563	2,547	3,486	1,461	21,057
Total persons	26,462	9,328	16,227	2,907	54,926

WORK-TIME BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
	All sizes, Percent					
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:						
* >0-<25%	28	28	30	37	35	35
* 25-<50%	14	15	15	16	16	17
* 50-<75%	9	9	9	8	9	10
Part-time	51	52	54	61	60	62
* 75-<100%	4	5	4	4	5	5
* 100%	45	44	42	34	35	33
Full-time	49	48	46	39	40	38
Total persons	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	6,250	7,358	3,939	17,547	66	61	43	57
* Occupiers' spouses	1,386	1,831	1,202	4,419	15	15	13	14
* Other family	1,534	2,275	2,357	6,166	16	19	26	20
* Hired (regular)	157	279	1,380	1,816	2	2	15	6
* Hired (casual)	134	228	329	691	1	2	4	2
All persons	9,461	11,971	9,207	30,639	100	100	100	100

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

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	7,459	9,509	7,150	24,118	80	81	81	81
* Females	1,868	2,234	1,727	5,829	20	19	19	19
Total AWU excluding hired casual	9,327	11,743	8,877	29,947	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	2,405	214	16	2,635	18	2	0	10
* 0.25-<0.5	2,823	595	28	3,446	22	6	1	13
* 0.5-<0.75	1,950	916	41	2,907	15	9	1	11
"Part-time"	7,178	1,725	85	8,988	55	18	2	33
* 0.75-<1	1,480	876	77	2,433	11	9	2	9
* 1	1,602	1,593	331	3,526	12	16	8	13
* 1-<2	2,166	3,830	1,586	7,582	17	40	37	28
* 2-<3	596	1,451	1,435	3,482	5	15	33	13
* 3+	56	199	795	1,050	0	2	18	4
"Full-time"	5,900	7,949	4,224	18,073	45	82	98	67
Total farms	13,076	9,671	4,311	27,064	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 five percent of farmers were male, 5 percent female.

3.3 Marital status

The 2005 survey indicated that 27 percent of farmers in Northern Ireland had no spouse, ranging from 31 percent for those with Very Small businesses to 17 percent of those with Medium or Large businesses. Under half (43 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 2005 was 55 years. This was the same as that in the 2003 survey. Those with Medium or Large farms were generally younger, 40 percent over 55, than those with Very Small or Small farms, where 55 percent and 50 percent respectively were of that age. The survey showed that there were 7 percent of farmers under 35 in 2005 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 53 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, 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 57 percent of the Very Small farms to 40 percent and 49 percent of the Medium or 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 48 percent of farmers under 65 have other gainful activities, and on 66 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	10,783	8,187	3,667	22,637	92	96	99	95
* Female	893	311	29	1,233	8	4	1	5
Total farmers	11,676	8,498	3,696	23,870	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY GENDER AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
Farmer is:	All sizes, Percent					
* Male	93	94	94	94	94	95
* Female	7	6	6	6	6	5
Total farmers	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	2,840	3,036	1,674	7,550	24	36	45	32
* Does no work on the farm	5,164	3,318	1,397	9,879	44	39	38	41
Farmer has no spouse:	3,673	2,145	625	6,443	31	25	17	27
Total farmers	11,677	8,499	3,696	23,872	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	114	44	10	168	1	1	0	1
* 25-34	726	488	189	1,403	6	6	5	6
* 35-44	1,737	1,673	911	4,321	15	20	25	18
* 45-54	2,710	2,012	1,109	5,831	23	24	30	24
* 55-64	2,777	2,213	961	5,951	24	26	26	25
* 65 & over	3,613	2,067	516	6,196	31	24	14	26
Total farmers	11,677	8,497	3,696	23,870	100	100	100	100

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

FARMERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
Farmer is aged:	All sizes, Percent					
* Under 25	1	1	0	1		
* 25-29	3	2	2	3	n.a.	n.a.
* 30-34	6	5	5	5	at	at
* 35-39	7	8	7	8	this	this
* 40-44	9	9	10	11	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%	3,869	577	71	4,517	33	7	2	19
* 25-<50%	2,836	1,069	66	3,971	24	13	2	17
* 50-<75%	1,547	1,060	81	2,688	13	12	2	11
Part-time	8,252	2,706	218	11,176	70	32	6	47
* 75-<100%	668	698	95	1,461	6	8	3	6
* 100%	2,756	5,095	3,383	11,234	24	60	92	47
Full-time	3,424	5,793	3,478	12,695	30	68	94	53
Total farmers	11,676	8,498	3,696	23,870	100	100	100	100

FARMERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
	All sizes, Percent					
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year						
* >0-<25%	16	14	18	23	20	19
* 25-<50%	11	12	12	15	16	17
* 50-<75%	8	9	9	9	10	11
Part-time	35	35	39	47	45	47
* 75-<100%	4	5	4	5	6	6
* 100%	61	60	57	48	49	47
Full-time	65	65	61	53	55	53
Total farmers	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	5,751	5,779	3,399	14,929	49	68	92	63
* With OGA	5,924	2,719	298	8,941	51	32	8	37
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	4,750	1,532	95	6,377	41	18	3	27
** OGA as minor activity	1,174	1,187	203	2,564	10	14	5	11
Total farmers	11,675	8,498	3,697	23,870	100	100	100	100

FARMERS' OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY BY SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
Farmer's other gainful activity:	Percent					
* No OGA	81	79	77	71	66	63
* With OGA	19	21	23	29	34	37
of whom:						
** OGA as major activity	13	14	16	23	24	27
** OGA as minor activity	5	7	7	6	9	11
Total farmers	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	5,924	2,719	298	8,941	51	32	8	37
* Farmer's spouse	4,019	2,930	1,348	8,297	34	34	36	35
* Either/both	6,692	4,137	1,483	12,312	57	49	40	52
* Neither	4,984	4,361	2,214	11,559	43	51	60	48
Total farms [1]	11,675	8,498	3,697	23,870	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	307	118	7	432	8	6	1	7
* Farmer's spouse	207	181	27	415	6	9	5	7
* Either/both	432	268	31	731	12	13	6	12
* Neither	3,181	1,799	485	5,465	88	87	94	88
Total farms [1]	3,613	2,067	516	6,196	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	5,617	2,601	291	8,509	70	40	9	48
* Farmer's spouse	3,812	2,749	1,322	7,883	47	43	42	45
* Either/both	6,260	3,868	1,452	11,580	78	60	46	66
* Neither	1,804	2,562	1,728	6,094	22	40	54	34
Total farms [1]	8,064	6,431	3,181	17,676	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 only 1 percent of the managers being non-family. The occupiers were the managers of 88 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 2005, at 7 percent, was very similar to that recorded throughout the 1990s, though higher than the 5 percent of farmers who are female.

4.4 Age

In the 2005 survey, 28 percent of managers were under 45 and 24 percent were 65 or over. This compares with the 2003 figures of 30 percent and 23 percent respectively.

4.5 Work-time

The work-time of managers was similar to that for farmers, with 48 percent working under 30 hours a week and being termed “part-time” and 52 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	11,676	8,498	3,697	23,871	89	88	86	88
* Occupier's spouse	554	300	34	888	4	3	1	3
* Other family member	798	838	516	2,152	6	9	12	8
* Hired	48	41	64	153	0	0	1	1
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	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	11,827	9,139	4,240	25,206	90	94	98	93
* Female	1,249	537	70	1,856	10	6	2	7
Total managers	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY GENDER AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
Farmer is:	All sizes, Percent					
* Male	92	93	92	93	93	93
* Female	8	7	8	7	7	7
Total managers	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	238	127	38	403	2	1	1	1
* 25-34	958	737	374	2,069	7	8	9	8
* 35-44	2,074	2,028	1,167	5,269	16	21	27	19
* 45-54	3,029	2,245	1,187	6,461	23	23	28	24
* 55-64	2,999	2,371	1,000	6,370	23	25	23	24
* 65 & over	3,779	2,168	543	6,490	29	22	13	24
Total managers	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS: AGE AND WORK-TIME

MANAGERS BY AGE AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
Manager is aged:	All sizes, Percent					
* Under 25	2	2	1	2	1	1
* 25-34	11	11	11	9	8	8
* 35-44	17	18	18	20	21	19
* 45-54	22	23	23	24	23	24
* 55-64	23	23	23	22	23	24
* 65 & over	25	24	24	22	23	24
Total managers	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%	4,465	742	91	5,298	34	8	2	20
* 25-<50%	3,174	1,294	86	4,554	24	13	2	17
* 50-<75%	1,734	1,259	100	3,093	13	13	2	11
Part-time	9,373	3,295	277	12,945	72	34	6	48
* 75-<100%	771	821	127	1,719	6	8	3	6
* 100%	2,932	5,561	3,907	12,400	22	57	91	46
Full-time	3,703	6,382	4,034	14,119	28	66	94	52
Total managers	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100

MANAGERS BY WORK-TIME ON FARM AND SURVEY DATE	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005
	All sizes, Percent					
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year						
* >0-<25%	16	14	18	23	20	20
* 25-<50%	11	13	13	15	16	17
* 50-<75%	9	9	9	9	10	11
Part-time	36	36	40	47	46	48
* 75-<100%	4	5	5	5	6	6
* 100%	60	59	56	47	49	46
Full-time	64	64	61	53	54	52
Total managers	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	325	443	264	1,032	2	5	6	4
* Tourism	134	124	84	342	1	1	2	1
* Equine sport	203	51	13	267	2	1	0	1
* Other sport	20	15	7	42	0	0	0	0
* Direct sales	101	133	87	321	1	1	2	1
* Food processing	32	60	53	145	0	1	1	1
* Other commercial activities	283	313	124	719	2	3	3	3
Any diversification	956	1,001	560	2,517	7	10	13	9
Any diversification other than contracting/haulage	692	623	316	1,631	5	6	7	6
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100

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 13 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 2005 had diversified. Comparable figures for England (2003) appear in <http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/jundiv.pdf> and

¹¹ Some contracting farms also had other forms of diversification.

indicate that 16.6 percent of farms in England had one or more diversification activity other than contracting and haulage. These, included 5.4 percent relating to tourism, 7.6 percent sport and recreation, 3.3 percent direct sales, 1.0 percent food processing and 3.0 percent other activities.

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 2005 survey.

FARMS WITH DIVERSIFICATION BY SURVEY DATE	Farms			Percent		
	2000	2003	2005	2000	2003	2005
* Agricultural contracting/ haulage	1,044	1,010	1,032	3	4	4
* Tourism	294	366	342	1	1	1
* Equine sport	238	408	267	1	1	1
* Other sport	35	173	42	0	1	0
* Direct sales	367	457	321	1	2	1
* Food processing	105	213	145	0	1	1
* Other commercial activities	618	804	719	2	3	3
Any diversification	2,422	3,016	2,517	8	11	9
Any diversification other than contracting/ haulage	1,542	2,126	1,631	5	8	6
Total farms ^[1]	29,890	28,281	27,064	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/econs/spub0015.htm>

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 83 percent of farms used contractors for some task(s), with the Very Small farms (79 percent) being slightly less likely to do so. Contract hay or silage making was the most common activity (70 percent of farms), followed by hedge cutting (55 percent) and spreading slurry/manure (41 percent). This involved 231,705 person days, the equivalent of over 1,000 Annual Work Units.

Compared with 2003 the proportion of farmers who used contractors had grown from 81 percent to 83 percent, with particular growth in use for hay and silage making and hedge cutting.

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	10,350	8,263	3,774	22,387	79	85	88	83
* No	2,726	1,414	537	4,677	21	15	12	17
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100

Used agricultural contractors for:

* Hay/silage making	8,939	7,093	2,945	18,977	68	73	68	70
* Crop harvesting	416	991	900	2,307	3	10	21	9
* Spreading slurry/manure/fertilisers/lime	4,798	4,222	2,033	11,053	37	44	47	41
* Other field work	1,585	1,504	869	3,958	12	16	20	15
* Milking	33	134	485	652	0	1	11	2
* Sheep shearing	1,660	2,294	651	4,605	13	24	15	17
* Other livestock work	706	590	259	1,555	5	6	6	6
* Hedge cutting	6,448	5,776	2,678	14,902	49	60	62	55

PERSON-DAYS OF CONTRACT WORK	Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Total person-days	65,822	87,648	78,235	231,705
Days per farm (all farms)	5	9	18	9
Days per farm (using)	6	11	21	10

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

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

7. TRACTORS AND MACHINERY

7.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked if they owned tractors and other types of farm equipment.

7.2 Results

A total of 24,897 farms reported owning a tractor (92 percent) with 99 percent of the largest farms owning at least one. Some 17 percent of farms reported owning a quad, ranging from 9 percent of very small farms to 32 percent of the Medium and Large farms.

TRACTORS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT OWNED BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
					Percent			
Type of equipment								
* Tractor	17,850	20,700	13,623	52,173	-	-	-	-
* Cultivator	102	193	288	583	-	-	-	-
* Combine Harvester	192	491	474	1,157	-	-	-	-
* Forage Harvesters	790	1,752	1,397	3,939	-	-	-	-
* Quads	1,403	2,328	1,760	5,491	-	-	-	-
Tractors on:								
* Farms with at least 1 tractor	11,332	9,307	4,258	24,897	87	96	99	92
* Farms with no tractors	1,744	370	53	2,167	13	4	1	8
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100
* Farms with at least 1 quad	1,231	1,959	1,398	4,588	9	20	32	17
Total farms	13,076	9,677	4,311	27,064	100	100	100	100

TRACTORS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT SHARED BY BUSINESS SIZE	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
					Percent			
Number of Farms sharing								
* Tractor	2,386	1,461	464	4,311	55	34	11	100
* Cultivator	17	35	33	85	20	41	39	100
* Combine Harvester	154	286	146	586	26	49	25	100
* Forage Harvesters	882	828	305	2,015	44	41	15	100

ANNEX 1: COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER SURVEYS

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

COVERAGE

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

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

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

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

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.

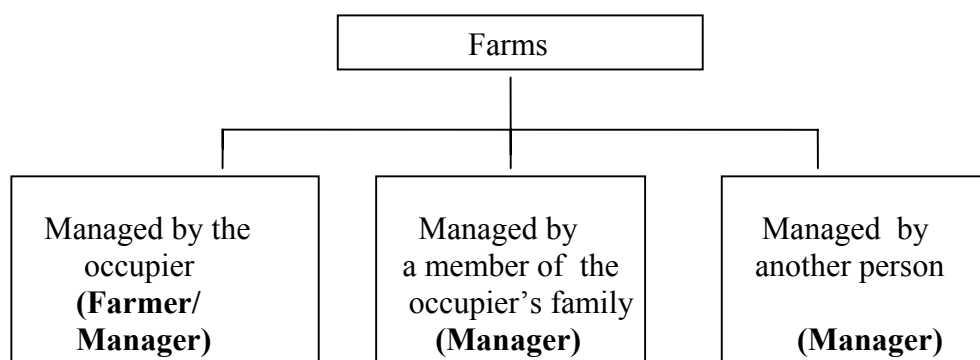
LABOUR FORCE

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.

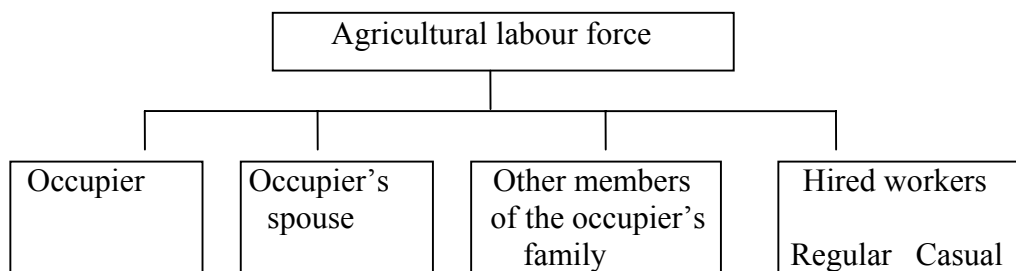
Farmer The agricultural census applies the term “farmer” to all persons who are self-employed on their own or their family business (i.e. farmers and partners). However, for the Structure Survey, the terms “occupiers” and “managers” are used.



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 2005 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 2003 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’ 2003” 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 6.6 million holdings in the 2003 Structure Survey for the EU25, of which the UK contributed 2.8 percent and Northern Ireland 0.4 percent

Average size ranged from 1.6 ESU in Lithuania to 95.6 ESU in the Netherlands, with the UK average of 38.7 fourth highest; that of Northern Ireland, 18.3 ESU was slightly below the EU15 average and slightly below that in the Irish Republic.

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND ECONOMIC SIZE¹, 2003

	Number of Holdings ('000)	Total Standard Gross Margin ('000 ESU)	Average SGM (ESU)
Belgium	55	3,223	58.6
Czech Rep.	46	1,467	32.1
Denmark	49	3,714	76.4
Germany	412	21,037	51.0
Estonia	37	135	3.7
Greece	824	5,178	6.3
Spain	1,141	17,266	15.1
France	614	29,121	47.4
Ireland	135	2,809	20.8
Italy	1,964	19,366	9.9
Cyprus	45	295	6.5
Latvia	127	261	2.1
Lithuania	272	437	1.6
Luxembourg	2	105	42.5
Hungary	773	1,757	2.3
Malta	11	81	7.4
Netherlands	86	8,173	95.6
Austria	174	2,423	13.9
Poland	2,172	7,511	3.5
Portugal	359	2,325	6.5
Slovenia	77	355	4.6
Slovakia	72	516	7.2
Finland	75	1,662	22.2
Sweden	68	1,935	28.5
UK	281	10,851	38.7
Bulgaria	666	1,076	1.6
Romania	4,485	5,113	1.1
Norway	58	1,633	28.0
EU15	6,239	129,187	20.7
EU25	9,870	142,001	14.4
Total (of 28)	15,079	149,824	9.9
NI	28	519	18.3

Notes

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

Distribution of Holdings by Area Farmed

A similar picture is shown in terms of the area farmed with a marked difference between the Mediterranean and Northern European countries, though these distributions are also affected by the different thresholds for inclusion in the survey. Denmark had the highest proportion, 16%, of its farms over 100 hectares. The range in Northern Ireland, with 9% under 5ha and 6% over 100ha, was similar to that of the Irish Republic.

The average farm area for Northern Ireland was 38 ha, almost double the EU15 average and two-thirds the UK average.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY AGRICULTURAL AREA, 2003

	% Holdings by Agricultural Area					Average area	% area in LFA
	Under 5ha	5-20 ha	20-50 ha	50-100 ha	100 ha +	Ha/farm	
Belgium	28.0	29.3	27.8	11.8	3.1	25.4	20
Czech Rep.	58.1	19.9	8.5	4.5	9.1	79.3	0
Denmark	3.7	34.7	26.3	19.5	15.8	54.7	0
Germany	23.6	33.3	22.8	13.4	6.9	41.2	49
Estonia	50.8	34.2	9.1	2.8	3.0	21.6	0
Greece	76.1	19.8	3.3	0.6	0.2	4.8	70
Spain	55.0	26.3	10.0	4.3	4.4	22.1	78
France	27.6	19.7	19.8	19.3	13.7	45.3	44
Ireland	7.7	36.2	38.2	14.4	3.6	32.3	52
Italy	76.8	16.7	4.4	1.3	0.7	6.7	49
Cyprus	87.5	9.7	1.9	0.6	0.4	3.5	0
Latvia	50.6	39.1	7.3	1.8	1.2	11.8	0
Lithuania	62.1	31.5	4.6	1.1	0.8	9.2	0
Luxembourg	19.9	16.7	17.9	31.7	13.8	52.3	100
Hungary	89.6	7.1	1.8	0.7	0.7	5.6	0
Malta	97.7	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0
Netherlands	29.6	30.1	28.1	10.1	2.1	23.5	0
Austria	32.3	42.2	19.7	4.2	1.7	18.7	67
Poland	66.5	28.5	4.2	0.5	0.3	6.6	0
Portugal	76.6	17.0	3.6	1.1	1.6	10.4	88
Slovenia	57.6	39.3	2.9	0.2	0.1	6.3	0
Slovakia	91.9	3.5	1.3	0.8	2.6	29.8	0
Finland	9.9	36.3	37.2	13.5	3.0	29.9	100
Sweden	10.4	35.2	26.0	16.8	11.6	46.1	48
UK	36.9	20.2	16.0	12.7	14.2	57.4	46
Bulgaria	96.8	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	4.4	0
Romania	93.8	5.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	3.1	0
Norway	14.1	53.1	28.9	3.5	0.4	17.9	0
EU15	56.6	22.4	11.0	5.9	4.1	20.2	55
EU25	61.9	23.0	8.3	4.0	2.8	15.8	44
Total (of 28)	72.7	17.0	5.6	2.7	1.9	11.5	40
NI	8.7	34.1	33.8	16.5	6.8	38.0	70

Distribution of Holdings by Type of Farming

For the EU-15 almost 60% of farms are predominantly crop-based, whether cereals, other crops, or horticulture including vines, olives and other permanent crops. Farms based mainly on grazing livestock, namely dairying, beef, sheep or goats, make up more than half the farms in Ireland, Luxembourg, Austria and the UK. Ireland is the most heavily dependant on these types of farming, with 92% in the Republic and 88% in Northern Ireland.

PERCENT OF HOLDINGS BY TYPE OF FARMING, 2003

	Number of Holdings							Total Holdings
	Cereals	General Cropping	Horticulture and permanent crops	Dairy	Other grazing livestock	Pigs and Poultry	Mixed other	
Belgium	3.3	12.3	12.4	15.5	32.3	9.3	15.1	54,950
Czech Rep.	11.4	13.1	14.4	4.4	19.1	11.5	26.1	45,780
Denmark	38.2	14.2	3.0	13.1	6.4	6.0	19.0	48,620
Germany	16.1	7.6	11.7	20.9	22.3	4.3	17.1	412,290
Estonia	4.6	8.5	1.9	10.8	34.7	1.2	38.4	36,870
Greece	9.6	13.6	54.5	0.4	8.1	0.7	13.1	824,450
Spain	11.9	3.5	53.8	3.1	12.4	3.4	11.9	1,140,740
France	15.7	6.3	20.3	11.0	28.3	3.7	14.6	614,010
Ireland	2.3	1.6	0.8	17.3	74.9	0.6	2.4	135,260
Italy	16.1	8.7	52.6	2.5	7.1	0.7	12.4	1,963,810
Cyprus	5.5	4.3	72.5	0.5	5.3	1.3	10.6	45,200
Latvia	2.1	29.0	3.4	7.4	13.5	1.3	43.3	126,630
Lithuania	3.7	16.2	1.0	10.1	20.7	1.6	46.8	272,110
Luxembourg	6.9	0.8	16.7	30.1	30.5	3.3	11.8	2,460
Hungary	9.7	4.7	17.7	0.9	2.7	33.6	30.6	773,370
Malta	0.0	27.4	29.7	1.1	2.8	5.7	33.3	10,970
Netherlands	1.3	13.2	18.5	25.6	25.4	8.5	7.3	85,510
Austria	12.6	3.9	9.0	21.8	35.7	7.4	9.6	173,760
Poland	11.7	21.8	7.3	5.6	13.1	10.5	29.9	2,172,210
Portugal	2.1	9.1	36.9	3.9	12.3	3.6	32.1	359,270
Slovenia	1.9	2.4	9.5	11.9	35.8	3.6	34.9	76,810
Slovakia	6.4	14.3	6.5	5.9	6.6	13.4	47.0	71,740
Finland	37.3	16.8	4.7	22.7	4.9	2.4	11.3	74,970
Sweden	22.3	20.5	1.2	13.6	27.1	1.9	13.3	67,900
UK	10.5	4.9	3.1	8.1	52.0	4.5	16.8	280,620
Bulgaria	2.3	8.1	8.2	7.2	21.9	25.4	26.8	665,560
Romania	9.2	5.4	3.3	1.1	11.8	34.9	34.3	4,484,900
Norway	17.7	5.6	3.2	27.1	34.0	3.8	8.6	58,260
EU15	13.1	8.0	39.4	6.5	16.5	2.5	14.0	6,238,620
EU25	11.9	11.3	28.5	6.0	14.9	6.8	20.6	9,870,310
Total (of 28)	10.7	9.4	20.0	4.6	14.3	16.0	24.9	15,079,030
NI	1.6	1.0	1.1	15.7	71.8	1.8	7.0	28,281

Age of occupiers

The published analysis relates to the principal occupiers of agricultural holdings who may not be the person in charge of day-to-day management or do any farm work. The analyses of Northern Ireland data in the rest of this report refers to (a) farmers, i.e. those who both own and manage their business and (b) all principal managers, i.e. the persons most responsible for day-to-day management.

There is considerable variation between countries in the age distribution of occupiers with the Mediterranean countries generally having an older age profile. There are, however, administrative differences between countries which lead to differing age profiles. The median age both for the UK and Northern Ireland is around 55 but somewhat lower in the Irish Republic.

OCCUPIERS: DISTRIBUTION BY AGE, 2003

Figures are percentages						
	<35 years old	35-44 years old	45-54 years old	55-64 years old	65 years old and over	Total holders
Belgium	8.6	24.8	24.4	21.8	20.4	51,580
Czech Rep.	9.4	17.2	29.4	25.7	18.3	42,980
Denmark	8.4	25.2	26.4	23.6	16.3	47,930
Germany	12.1	32.1	30.6	19.2	5.9	407,210
Estonia	9.5	17.8	22.5	21.8	28.3	36,080
Greece	7.3	15.3	19.9	21.9	35.5	823,920
Spain	6.2	14.9	20.3	25.0	33.6	1,089,560
France	10.3	22.9	28.6	22.0	16.1	526,620
Ireland	11.1	21.5	24.9	22.2	20.3	135,080
Italy	3.9	12.1	19.3	24.3	40.4	1,950,290
Cyprus	6.5	20.1	27.8	24.8	20.7	44,750
Latvia	8.6	20.3	21.6	22.3	27.2	126,520
Lithuania	7.1	17.3	17.6	20.4	37.7	271,500
Luxembourg	8.3	24.4	30.6	19.4	17.4	2,420
Hungary	5.8	14.0	26.4	23.8	30.0	765,660
Malta	5.9	16.8	30.2	24.1	23.1	10,930
Netherlands	7.0	25.1	26.0	25.4	16.5	82,000
Austria	12.8	31.3	31.0	16.3	8.6	170,180
Poland	16.3	25.5	28.8	14.6	14.8	2,168,170
Portugal	2.7	9.2	17.9	23.8	46.4	352,790
Slovenia	3.9	14.7	24.8	22.6	34.0	77,040
Slovakia	5.5	16.1	26.8	24.6	27.0	70,080
Finland	9.9	25.3	33.3	25.0	6.5	73,890
Sweden	6.1	19.3	27.6	28.6	18.4	62,960
UK	3.4	14.9	24.1	28.9	28.6	270,530
Bulgaria	5.1	10.4	18.2	25.4	40.8	661,730
Romania	8.8	11.9	18.6	22.2	38.5	4,462,220
Norway	10.4	26.6	30.4	24.9	7.7	58,030
EU15	6.4	16.7	22.2	23.5	31.2	6,046,960
EU25	8.6	18.5	24.0	21.4	27.4	9,660,670
Total (of 28)	8.5	16.2	22.1	21.9	31.3	14,842,650
NI	6.9	19.8	23.3	24.6	25.4	24,967

Managers

Only 0.8% of managers worked on organic farms. In Northern Ireland 0.2% of managers worked on organic farms.

30% of farmers (managers) throughout the EU15 (31% of the EU25) had another gainful occupation, including 40% in the UK and 34% in Northern Ireland.

MANAGERS: 2003

	% Managers on organic farms	% With other gainful activity
Belgium	1.0	18.2
Czech Rep.	1.1	44.4
Denmark	5.3	41.9
Germany	2.8	47.6
Estonia	0.8	44.3
Greece	0.9	21.8
Spain	0.9	31.6
France	1.4	23.9
Ireland	0.6	41.9
Italy	2.0	28.3
Cyprus	0.2	55.5
Latvia	0.5	32.8
Lithuania	0.1	22.4
Luxembourg	1.6	16.4
Hungary	0.1	38.1
Malta	0.0	52.0
Netherlands	1.3	22.7
Austria	10.3	34.8
Poland	0.0	28.5
Portugal	0.3	28.8
Slovenia	0.0	78.9
Slovakia	0.1	43.0
Finland	5.7	43.0
Sweden	22.2	61.4
UK	1.0	40.4
Bulgaria	0.0	25.3
Romania	0.0	19.9
Norway	3.3	72.3
EU15	0.8	30.4
EU25	0.8	31.2
Total (of 28)	0.8	27.6
NI	0.2	33.6