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POLICY AND ECONOMICS DIVISION

EU Farm Structure Survey 2010 Northern Ireland



Agriculture



EU Farm Structure Survey

2010

Northern Ireland

**Report on
Agricultural Labour Force, Farm Diversification,
and
Contractor use**

**(incorporating results
of the EU Survey of Agricultural Production Methods)**

Prepared by:
Malcolm Megaw
Policy & Economics Division
DARD

Foreword

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

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

This report presents the Northern Ireland data collected for that purpose in 2010. It contains comparisons with the results of other surveys since 1993 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.

A sample survey on production methods, asking additional questions to satisfy EU requirements was conducted in March 2010. The results of that survey are also presented in this report.

Most of the data collected in 2010 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 EU wide statistics on the structure of agriculture.

The results of the 2007 EU Farm Structure Survey for each of the EU Member States may be viewed at

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/introduction>

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

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

Norman Fulton
Director of Policy and Economics Division
March 2011

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EU Farm Structure Survey 2010

Northern Ireland

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Summary of Key Statistics

Labour force

- 49,934 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months ending March 2010.
- The total labour input on farms in Northern Ireland equated to 27,330 Annual Work Units (full time job equivalents).
- Occupiers and their family members provided 94 percent of the labour input.

Business status

- The majority of farms are family owned and managed; only 161 farm businesses out of the total of 24,471 were owned by an institution or limited liability company.
- On 99 percent of farms, the principal occupier or a member of his or her family was the manager (the person most responsible for day-to-day management).
- Only 1 percent of managers were neither the occupier nor a member of the occupier's family.

Gender

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

Age

- The median age of farmers (57 years) was the same as in 2007.
- Five percent of farmers were aged under 35 in 2010 (6 percent in 2007).
- The ages of farmers differed for each business size; on Very Small farms, 31 percent were aged 65 or more, compared with 26 percent on Small and 18 percent on Medium or Large farms.

Work-time

- 48 percent of the farmers worked 30 hours or more per week on farms (i.e. full-time).
- The total Annual Work Units equated to 27,330 full time jobs (29,786 in 2007).

Other gainful activities

- The proportion of farmers who had other work was at 40 percent, (37 percent was recorded in 2007) .
- For those farmers under 65, the proportion that had other work was 52 percent in 2010 compared with 44 percent in 2007.
- On 56 percent of all farms, and for 71 percent of those where the farmer was aged under 65, either the farmer or spouse or both had other work in 2010. (52 percent and 65 percent respectively in 2007).
- On 84 percent of very small farms, with a farmer under 65, either the farmer or the farmer's spouse had other gainful activity.

Farm diversification

- 9 percent of farms had some diversification activity (as defined in the Structure Survey), including 4 percent of farms which undertook agricultural contracting.
- 5 percent of NI farms had diversification other than agricultural contracting or haulage.

Use of agricultural contractors

- 77 percent of farms used agricultural contractors during the previous year, compared with 79 percent in 2007.
- 69 percent of all farms used agricultural contractors for hay or silage making.

Use of the internet

- 49 percent of farms have access to the internet.
- 43 percent of farms have access to broadband.
- 28 percent of farms use the internet for business purposes.

Manure and slurry storage

- 40 percent of farms stored solid manure.
- 65 percent of farms used a below-ground slurry tank.

Livestock housing

- 40 percent of cattle were housed on cubicles with slatted floors.
- 49 percent of pigs were housed on partially slatted floors and 49 percent on completely slatted floors.
- 50 percent of laying hens were housed on deep litter flooring.

Landscape features

- 25 percent of farms planted new hedges at some time in the past 3 years.
- 10 percent of farms maintained stone walls at some time during the past 3 years.

Winter cover

- 3 percent of arable land was left over winter with no cover.

Manure and slurry application

- 44 percent of all land received slurry at some time during the year.
- 10 percent of all land received solid manure at some time in the year.

EU Farm Structure Survey 2010 NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Introduction

1.1 The Survey

In each country of the European Union (EU), a major agricultural statistical survey, known as the EU Farm Structure Survey¹, is conducted every ten years to coincide with a World Census of Agriculture organised by FAO, and in the intervening years, three, less detailed, surveys are held. A major survey was held in 2000 followed by sample surveys in 2003, 2005 and 2007, with 2010 being again, a full census year. 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 2010 census survey was conducted on all 13 million agricultural holdings in the EU27 and also some of the Candidate Countries. As it covers such a diversity of farming climates, practices, management and ownership structures, the harmonised set of questions are not always relevant to 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 €200,000 for the 2010 survey.

⁴ See "Farm Structure Survey", Eurostat 2007.

1.2 Methodology in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland data for the 2010 Survey came from three sources:

- the June 2010 Agricultural Census
- administrative sources
- a special survey in March 2010 to collect the information not available elsewhere.

The main data on crop areas and livestock numbers were collected in the June Agricultural Census. The detailed results of this were published on 31st January 2011⁵. A limited amount of information was obtained from administrative sources, notably on areas of organic farming⁶ and Rural Development schemes. To complete the data for the Structure Survey, a special survey⁷ was conducted in February/March 2010, to obtain information mainly about the Production Methods.

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.

This current report includes the results of the specialised labour questions and other areas of interest not normally collected as part of the June survey along with comparable statistics from the seven previous structure surveys held from 1993 to date. 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, 1995 and 1997 surveys and those conducted from 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

⁵ “The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland: Results for June 2010”, DARD 2010.

⁶ For statistical information on organic farming in NI and the whole of the UK see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/enviro/organics/index.htm>

⁷ Legislation has been introduced enabling all information to be collected under one survey, should the conditions allow.

⁸ See Annex 1.

The Northern Ireland population of farms which met this definition in the June 2010 census and which was represented in the 2007 Structure Survey, totalled **24,471 farms**⁹. However, the final data sent to Eurostat will consist of a file with only **23,451 farms** due to the imposition of thresholds of activity.

1.4 The Raising Framework

Although termed the June “census”, it is normally a sample survey. In 2010 a full census was attempted with some 27,516 forms sent out and 20,727 returned (a response rate of 75.3 percent). Estimates were made for the non-respondents based on their most recent return and available administrative data, notably from the cattle tracing system (APHIS) or the grants and subsidies system) IACS.

While the basic information from the June survey and other administrative sources was processed as a census, the Production Methods survey was a sample survey with 2,845 forms returned from a sample of 5,209 (a response rate of 54.6%). No reminder letters were sent with this postal survey as it was thought they would clash with the Single Farm Payment literature so the initial survey was slightly enlarged to compensate.

1.5 Terms and Definitions

In previous years there were 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 Survey. Full definitions of the former are contained in Commission Regulation 1444/2002.

The main differences were:

- 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.

In 2010, the labour questions were combined to avoid duplication. The EU definitions were used as the default questions, which were then qualified to provide data which could be used to continue the usual June time series.

⁹ The special survey was issued to a sample of the active farms in the June 2009 survey but only those which were still active in 2010 were included in the final data file.

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

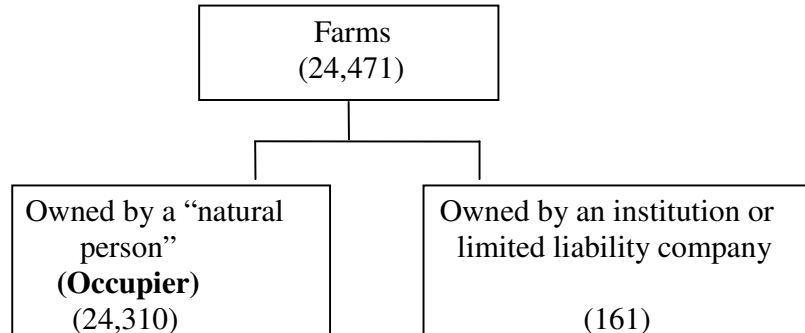
Based on the 2010 Structure Survey, the total labour force was estimated as **49,934 persons**; this includes all persons aged 16 and over who contributed to the work of the farms during the 12 month period up to June 2010 but excludes any hired workers engaged on a casual basis. The June 2010 Agricultural Census, which is the other main source of information on the labour input on farms, recorded 46,948 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 (7,971) than in the June census where 6,206 were recorded as spouses but others were recorded as business partners.

Occupiers, their spouses and other family members comprise 93 percent of the labour force, with only 7 percent being regular hired workers. The proportions differ by business size with regular hired workers making up 15 percent of those on the Medium and Large farms compared with 2 percent on the Very Small and 7 percent on the Small farms.

2.3 Business status

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

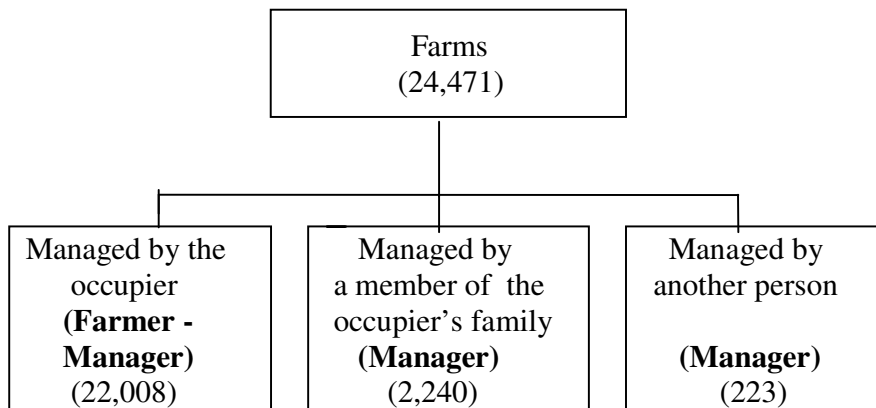
- a) a limited liability company or an institution, such as a school or hospital; or
- b) a “natural person”, meaning a private individual or individuals, including partnerships.



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

2.4 Management status

Respondents to the survey were asked to indicate who was responsible for the day to day running of the farm business. In most cases (90 percent), this person was the same as the occupier but on 9 percent of farms this role was filled by either the occupier’s spouse, or by another family member and on 1 percent (including farms owned by institutions) there was a hired or paid manager.



2.5 Gender Seventy-seven percent of workers were male and 23 percent female. There is some indication that larger farms tend to have male managers.

2.6 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 2010 survey, 63 percent of the regular labour force worked part-time on the farms and 37 percent full-time, the same result as in 2007.

2.7 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.

Of the total of 27,330 AWU recorded some 55 percent was attributed to the occupiers, 18 percent to the occupiers spouses and 21 percent to other family.

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	11,614	8,489	3,917	24,020	57	47	34	48
* Occupiers' spouses	3,718	2,749	1,504	7,971	18	15	13	16
* Occupiers' family	4,801	5,510	4,280	14,591	23	31	38	29
* Regular hired workers	392	1,293	1,667	3,352	2	7	15	7
Total persons	20,525	18,041	11,368	49,934	100	100	100	100

Personal status by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
	Percent							
* Occupiers	50	49	50	48	47	48	47	48
* Occupiers' spouses	15	14	14	22	18	17	16	16
* Occupiers' family	26	28	28	23	26	30	28	29
* Regular hired workers	9	9	9	7	9	5	9	7
Total persons	100	100	100	100	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	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	90	90	88	90
* Occupier's spouse	363	222	58	643	3	3	1	3
* Other family member	681	567	349	1,597	6	7	9	7
* Hired	93	61	69	223	1	1	2	1
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	100	100	100	100

Note: Percentage columns may not add to 100 due to rounding

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	15,305	14,079	9,122	38,506	75	78	80	77
* Female	5,220	3,962	2,246	11,428	25	22	20	23
Total persons	20,525	18,041	11,368	49,934	100	100	100	100

Gender by personal status	Occupier	Occupier's spouse	Other family member	Regular hired worker	All workers
Person is:	Persons				
* Male	22,412	510	12,389	3,195	38,506
* Female	1,608	7,461	2,202	157	11,428
Total persons	24,020	7,971	14,591	3,352	49,934

Gender by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Person is:	Percent							
* Male	77	78	78	72	74	78	77	77
* Female	23	22	22	28	26	22	23	23
Total persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	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%	10,191	5,216	2,151	17,558	50	27	19	35
* 25-<50%	4,159	3,584	1,074	8,817	20	19	9	18
* 50-<75%	1,959	2,380	780	5,119	10	13	7	10
Part-time	16,309	11,180	4,005	31,494	79	59	35	63
* 75-<100%	869	1,681	730	3,280	4	9	6	7
* 100%	3,347	5,180	6,633	15,160	16	31	58	30
Full-time	4,216	6,861	7,363	18,440	21	41	65	37
Total persons	20,525	18,041	11,368	49,934	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%	6,227	1,598	7,670	2,063	17,558
* 25-<50%	3,773	1,784	2,767	493	8,817
* 50-<75%	2,667	1,029	1,199	224	5,119
Part-time	12,667	4,411	11,636	2,780	31,494
* 75-<100%	1,659	888	632	101	3,280
* 100%	9,694	2,672	2,323	471	15,160
Full-time	11,353	3,560	2,955	572	18,440
Total persons	24,020	7,971	14,591	3,352	49,934

Work-time by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
	All sizes, Percent							
Person's work-time as a proportion of a full working year:								
* >0-<25%	28	28	30	37	35	35	37	35
* 25-<50%	14	15	15	16	16	17	15	18
* 50-<75%	9	9	9	8	9	10	11	10
Part-time	51	52	54	61	60	62	63	63
* 75-<100%	4	5	4	4	5	5	6	7
* 100%	45	44	42	34	35	33	31	30
Full-time	49	48	46	39	40	38	37	37
Total persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Labour Force: Annual Work Units

Annual work units by business size and personal status	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
AWU contributed by:	Annual Work Units				Percent			
* Occupiers	6,168	5,422	3,416	15,006	56	55	53	55
* Occupiers' spouses	2,039	1,792	1,129	4,960	18	18	18	18
* Other family	2,311	2,031	1,280	5,622	21	21	20	21
* Hired (regular)	469	413	260	1142	4	4	4	4
* Hired (casual)	90	209	301	600	1	2	5	2
All persons	11,077	9,867	6,386	27,330	100	100	100	100

AWU by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
AWU contributed by:	Percent							
* Occupiers	56	56	57	58	55	57	56	55
* Occupiers' spouses	12	11	10	15	12	14	11	18
* Other family	21	22	22	19	22	20	23	21
* Hired (regular)	8	8	7	7	8	6	6	4
* Hired (casual)	3	3	3	3	3	2	4	2
All persons	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total AWU	37,046	35,457	33,181	32,502	33,272	30,639	29,786	27,330

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 2010 survey indicated that 32 percent of farmers in Northern Ireland had no spouse, ranging from 35 percent for those with Very Small businesses to 24 percent of those with Large businesses. Under half (45 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 2010 was 57 years, the same as in 2007. The survey showed that there were 5 percent of farmers under 35 years old in 2010 compared with 6 percent in 2007 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 48 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

Forty percent of farmers had some other gainful activity (37 per cent in 2005), on or off farm, the proportion having risen significantly from 19 percent in 1993, 21 percent in 1995, 23 percent in 1997, 29 percent in 2000 and 34 percent in 2003.

On 56 percent of farms either the farmer or spouse or both had another gainful activity, ranging from 62 percent of the Very Small farms to 52 percent and 40 percent of the Small or Medium/Large farms respectively. Since the age of the farmer is relevant to this distribution, separate analyses have been made for farms where the farmer is 65 or over and those where he/she is under 65. The latter indicates that 52 percent of farmers under 65 years old have other gainful activities, and on 71 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	9,931	7,405	3,463	20,799	92	96	99	95
* Female	812	352	45	1,209	8	4	1	5
Total farmers	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	100	100	100	100

Farmers by gender and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Farmer is:	All sizes, Percent							
* Male	93	94	94	94	94	95	94	95
* Female	7	6	6	6	6	5	6	5
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers by marital status and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmer has a spouse:	Farmers				Percent			
of whom:								
* Works on the farm	2,885	2,454	1,336	6,675	27	32	38	30
* Does no work on the farm	4,118	2,879	1,317	8,314	38	37	38	38
Farmer has no spouse:	3,740	2,424	855	7,019	35	31	24	32
Total farmers	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	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	57	35	42	134	1	1	1	1
* 25-34	461	318	139	918	4	4	4	4
* 35-44	1,476	1,211	688	3,375	14	16	20	15
* 45-54	2,512	1,904	1,048	5,464	23	25	30	25
* 55-64	2,929	2,241	941	6,111	27	29	27	28
* 65 & over	3,308	2,048	650	6,006	31	26	18	27
Total farmers	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	100	100	100	100

Farmers by age and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Farmer is aged:	All sizes, Percent							
* Under 25	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
* 25-34	9	7	7	8	6	6	5	4
* 35-44	16	17	17	19	20	18	16	15
* 45-54	23	23	24	24	23	24	24	25
* 55-64	25	25	25	24	25	25	27	28
* 65 & over	27	26	27	24	25	26	27	27
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers: Work-time

Farmers by work-time on farm and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
	Farmers				Percent			
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	4,670	702	65	5,437	43	9	2	25
* 25-<50%	2,243	1,196	52	3,491	21	15	1	16
* 50-<75%	1,169	1,212	88	2,469	11	16	3	11
Part-time	8,082	3,110	205	11,397	75	40	5	52
* 75-<100%	504	924	88	1,516	5	12	3	7
* 100%	2,157	3,723	3,215	9,095	20	48	92	41
Full-time	2,661	4,647	3,303	10,611	25	60	95	48
Total farmers	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	100	100	100	100

Farmers by work-time on farm and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
	All sizes, Percent							
Farmer's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	16	14	18	23	20	19	21	25
* 25-<50%	11	12	12	15	16	17	17	16
* 50-<75%	8	9	9	9	10	11	11	11
Part-time	35	35	39	47	45	47	48	52
* 75-<100%	4	5	4	5	6	6	5	7
* 100%	61	60	57	48	49	47	47	41
Full-time	65	65	61	53	55	53	52	48
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers: Other gainful activity

Farmers other gainful activity by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Farmer's other gainful activity:	Farmers				Percent			
* No OGA	4,862	5,298	3,008	13,168	45	68	86	60
* With OGA	5,881	2,459	500	8,840	55	32	14	40
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	4,865	1,512	185	6,562	45	20	5	30
** OGA as minor activity	1,016	947	315	2,278	10	12	9	10
Total farmers	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	100	100	100	100

Farmers other gainful activity by survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Farmer's other gainful activity:	Percent							
* No OGA	81	79	77	71	66	63	63	60
* With OGA	19	21	23	29	34	37	37	40
of whom:								
** OGA as major activity	13	14	16	23	24	27	27	30
** OGA as minor activity	5	7	7	6	9	11	11	10
Total farmers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Farmers and spouses: 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	5,881	2,459	500	8,840	55	32	14	40
* Farmer's spouse	3,606	2,815	1,075	7,496	34	36	31	34
* Either/both	6,706	4,065	1,413	12,297	62	52	40	56
* Neither	4,037	3,692	2,095	9,711	38	48	60	44
Total farms^[1]	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	100	100	100	100

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

Farmers aged 65 and 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	355	227	53	635	10	11	7	10
* Farmer's spouse	262	187	51	500	8	9	7	8
* Either/both	528	369	90	987	16	17	13	16
* Neither	2,864	1,782	625	5,271	84	83	87	84
Total farms^[1]	3,392	2,151	715	6,258	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	5,526	2,232	474	8,232	75	40	17	52
* Farmer's spouse	3,344	2,629	1,043	7,016	45	47	37	45
* Either/both	6,178	3,696	1,323	11,197	84	66	47	71
* Neither	1,173	1,910	1,470	4,553	16	34	53	29
Total farms^[1]	7,351	5,606	2,793	15,750	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 (90 percent) are also farmers, information on this group is similar to that in Section 3.

4.1 Status

Northern Ireland farms are primarily family businesses, with less than 1 percent of the managers being non-family. The occupiers were the managers of 90 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 2010, at 6 percent, was broadly similar to that recorded since the 1990s.

4.4 Age

In the 2010 survey, 22 percent of managers were under 45 and 26 percent were 65 or over. This compares with the 2007 figures of 25 percent and, also, 26 percent respectively.

4.5 Work-time

The work-time of managers was similar to that for farmers, with 50 percent working under 30 hours a week and being termed “part-time” and 50 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	10,743	7,757	3,508	22,008	90	90	88	90
* Occupier's spouse	363	222	58	643	3	3	1	3
* Other family member	681	567	349	1,597	6	7	9	7
* Hired	93	61	69	223	1	1	2	1
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	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	10,878	8,165	3,926	22,969	92	95	99	94
* Female	1,002	442	58	1,502	8	5	1	6
Total managers	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	100	100	100	100

Managers by gender and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Farmer is:	All sizes, Percent							
* Male	92	93	92	93	93	93	92	94
* Female	8	7	8	7	7	7	8	6
Total managers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Managers by age and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Manager is aged:	Managers				Percent			
* Under 25	94	58	60	212	1	1	2	1
* 25-34	489	342	154	985	4	4	4	4
* 35-44	1,839	1,496	830	4,165	15	17	21	17
* 45-54	2,707	2,326	1,125	6,158	23	27	28	25
* 55-64	3,259	2,200	1,086	6,545	27	26	27	27
* 65 & over	3,492	2,185	729	6,406	29	25	18	26
Total managers	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	100	100	100	100

Managers: Age and work-time

Managers by age and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Manager is aged:	All sizes, Percent							
* Under 25	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
* 25-34	11	11	11	9	8	8	6	4
* 35-44	17	18	18	20	21	19	18	17
* 45-54	22	23	23	24	23	24	24	25
* 55-64	23	23	23	22	23	24	25	27
* 65 & over	25	24	24	22	23	24	26	26
Total managers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Managers by work-time on farm and business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Managers				Percent			
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	4,928	823	81	5,832	41	10	2	24
* 25-<50%	2,338	1,339	62	3,740	20	16	2	15
* 50-<75%	1,214	1,315	106	2,636	10	15	3	11
Part-time	8,481	3,477	249	12,207	71	40	6	50
* 75-<100%	1,214	1,315	104	2,634	10	15	3	11
* 100%	2,185	3,815	3,631	9,630	18	44	91	39
Full-time	3,399	5,130	3,735	12,264	29	60	94	50
Total managers	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	100	100	100	100

Managers by work-time on farm and survey date	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
	All sizes, Percent							
Manager's work-time as a proportion of a full working year								
* >0-<25%	16	14	18	23	20	20	22	24
* 25-<50%	11	13	13	15	16	17	17	15
* 50-<75%	9	9	9	9	10	11	11	11
Part-time	36	36	40	47	46	48	49	50
* 75-<100%	4	5	5	5	6	6	5	11
* 100%	60	59	56	47	49	46	45	39
Full-time	64	64	61	53	54	52	51	50
Total managers	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

5. Diversification

5.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

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

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

5.2 Results

Farms with diversification by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
	Farms				Percent			
* Agricultural contracting/ haulage	282	447	358	1,087	2	5	9	4
* Tourism	109	102	88	299	1	1	2	1
* Equine sport	93	23	12	128	1	0	0	1
* Other sport	19	12	10	41	0	0	0	0
* Direct sales	38	69	45	152	0	1	1	1
* Food processing	24	45	26	95	0	1	1	0
* Other commercial activities	255	221	246	722	2	2	6	3
Any diversification	736	891	682	2,309	6	10	17	9
Any diversification other than contracting/haulage	449	403	336	1,188	4	5	8	5
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	100	100	100	100

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

Diversification can be defined in many different ways. In the EU Farm Structure Survey it includes agricultural contracting or haulage, and on this basis 9 percent of farms in Northern Ireland had diversified, ranging from 6 percent of those with Very Small businesses to 17 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.

On this definition 5 percent¹⁰ of Northern Ireland farms in 2010 had diversified. Figures for England (2005/6) appear in <http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/published-data/diversification/documents/Divers11.pdf> though this survey uses a different system for data collection and figures may not be directly comparable.

Questions on diversification were introduced to the Farm Structure Survey in 2000 when they indicated that 8 percent of farms had any diversification compared with the 9 percent in the 2010 survey.

Farms with diversification by survey date	Farms				Percent			
	2003	2005	2007	2010	2003	2005	2007	2010
* Agricultural contracting/haulage	1,010	1,032	905	1,087	4	4	3	4
* Tourism	366	342	298	299	1	1	1	1
* Equine sport	408	267	220	128	1	1	1	1
* Other sport	173	42	48	41	1	0	0	0
* Direct sales	457	321	144	152	2	1	1	1
* Food processing	213	145	100	95	1	1	0	0
* Other commercial activities	804	719	973	722	3	3	4	3
Any diversification	3,016	2,517	2,339	2,309	11	9	9	9
Any diversification other than contracting/ haulage	2,126	1,631	1,604	1,188	8	6	6	5
Total farms ^[1]	28,281	27,064	26,146	24,471	100	100	100	100

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

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

[http://www.dardni.gov.uk/farmers-and-families-pdf.08.234_farmers_and_farm_families_in_northern_ireland.pdf\(2\).pdf](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/farmers-and-families-pdf.08.234_farmers_and_farm_families_in_northern_ireland.pdf(2).pdf)

¹⁰ Some contracting farms also had other forms of diversification.

6. Use of agricultural contractors

6.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

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

6.2 Results

Some 77 percent of farms used contractors for some task(s), with the Very Small farms (71 percent) being slightly less likely to do so. Contract hay or silage making was the most common activity (69 percent of farms), followed by hedge cutting (57 percent) and spreading slurry/manure (42 percent). This involved 202,245 person days, the equivalent of over 1,000 Annual Work Units.

Farms using contractors by business size	Business size				Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Used agricultural contractors	Farms				Percent			
* Yes	8,404	6,995	3,334	18,733	71	81	84	77
* No	3,476	1,612	650	5,738	29	19	16	23
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471	100	100	100	100

Used agricultural contractors for:

* Hay/silage making	7,117	6,543	3,127	16,787	60	76	78	69
* Crop harvesting	380	761	791	1,932	3	9	20	8
* Spreading slurry/manure/fertilisers/lime	3,549	4,368	2,340	10,257	30	51	59	42
* Other field work	1,082	1,461	1,070	3,613	9	17	27	15
* Milking	5	58	380	443	0	1	10	2
* Sheep shearing	1,481	1,852	544	3,877	12	22	14	16
* Other livestock work	415	508	255	1,178	3	6	6	5
* Hedge cutting	5,725	5,494	2,686	13,905	48	64	67	57

Person-days of contract work	Business size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Total person-days	70,148	70,967	61,130	202,245
Days per farm (all farms)	6	9	19	9
Days per farm (using)	8	12	24	12

Farms using contractors by survey date	Farms					Percent				
	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Used agricultural contractors										
* Yes	22,296	22,874	22,356	20,708	18,733	75	81	83	79	77
* No	7,594	5,407	4,708	5,436	5,738	25	19	17	21	23
Total farms	29,890	28,281	27,064	26,143	24,471	100	100	100	100	100
Used agricultural contractors for:										
* Hay/silage making	19,566	19,028	18,849	18,015	16,787	65	67	70	69	69
* Crop harvesting	2,227	2,398	2,300	1,979	1,932	7	8	9	8	8
* Spreading slurry/ manure/fertilisers/lime	10,854	11,623	11,004	10,500	10,257	36	41	41	40	42
* Other field work	3,035	4,228	3,953	3,749	3,613	10	15	15	14	15
* Milking	519	635	653	599	443	2	2	2	2	2
* Sheep shearing	4,345	4,679	4,551	4,432	3,877	15	17	17	17	16
* Other livestock work	1,362	1,701	1,554	1,474	1,178	5	6	6	6	5
* Hedge cutting	10,724	14,874	14,840	14,705	13,905	36	53	55	56	57

Person-days of contract work by survey date	Year				
	2000	2003	2005	2007	2010
Total person-days	268,859	333,197	231,705	236,635	202,245
Days per farm (all farms)	9	12	9	9	9
Days per farm (using)	12	15	10	12	12

7. Internet Access

7.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Do you have internet access?”

If yes, do you have broadband access?”

If you have internet access do you use it for business purposes”

7.2 Results

Just under half of all farms reported having internet access. This ranged from 41 percent of very small farms to 72 percent of the medium or large farms. Most farms reported having broadband though there was a difference of 6 percentage points between those who said they had the internet and those who had broadband.

There was a marked difference in the percentage of farms that used the internet for business purposes when farm size was considered, with only 19 percent of very small farms doing so, while 55 percent of medium and large farms reported that they did use the internet in that way.

Percentage of farms with internet access	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
* Cereals	52	68	81	61
* General Cropping	47	42	75	54
* Horticulture	52	53	88	66
* Pigs and Poultry	63	74	83	77
* Dairy	44	44	72	66
* Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	38	48	62	42
* Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	48	55	72	52
* Mixed Farming	59	56	78	63
* Other	63	39	47	58
Total farms ^[1]	41	50	72	49

[1] Farm Types in this report were calculated using the SGM methodology

Percentage of farms with broadband access	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Medium / Large	All
* Cereals	44	64	77	55
* General Cropping	47	40	68	51
* Horticulture	46	47	83	61
* Pigs and Poultry	63	67	78	72
* Dairy	37	36	64	58
* Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	32	40	55	36
* Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	43	49	69	47
* Mixed Farming	50	48	69	55
* Other	58	35	47	53
Total farms	36	43	65	43

Percentage of farms with using the internet for business purposes	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Cereals	23	43	65	35
* General Cropping	33	21	53	35
* Horticulture	32	36	73	49
* Pigs and Poultry	46	48	63	55
* Dairy	44	25	56	50
* Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	16	27	43	21
* Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	24	33	54	28
* Mixed Farming	30	35	56	41
* Other	30	19	25	28
Total farms	19	29	55	28

The age profile of farmers using the internet for business purposes does show some skewness towards younger farmers with a large decrease in internet use by the over 65 category compared to the overall manager age profile.

Percentage of farm managers (by age) and internet usage	Internet Access			Age profile of all Managers
	With Internet Access	With Broadband Access	Using Internet for Business purposes	
* Under 25	1	1	1	1
* 25-34	5	5	6	4
* 35-44	22	21	22	17
* 45-54	33	33	32	25
* 55-64	26	26	26	27
* 65 & over	14	14	14	26
Total farmers	100	100	100	100
Percentage of all farm managers with 'internet access', 'broadband' and 'using for business purposes'	49	43	28	

The above table shows the different age distribution for farm managers and their access to, and use of, the internet. For example, of the farm managers who had internet access (49 percent of all farm managers) only 14 percent of those farmers were over 65 years of age. This compares to the profile of all farm managers where 26 percent of farm managers were over 65 years of age.

Only 28 percent of respondents reported using the internet for business purposes. The distribution of age ranges within this subgroup mirrors closely that within the two 'internet access' groups but, again, shows that more of the group are in the younger age bands than can be seen from the distribution in the overall population.

8. Manure and Slurry storage

8.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Which of the following storage facilities have you used in the past 12 months?

Solid Manure (is the facility covered)?

Slurry in a tank above ground (is the facility covered)?

Slurry in a tank below ground (is the facility covered)?

Slurry in a lagoon (is the facility covered)?”

8.2 Results

Forty percent of farms reported having a solid manure storage area, and 6 percent of all farms had a solid manure storage area that was covered. Eight percent of all farms had an above ground slurry tank, while 65 percent of all farms had a below ground slurry tank. Only 8 percent of farms reported keeping slurry in a lagoon.

Percentage of farms with manure and slurry facilities	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Solid manure	30	46	58	40
* Solid Manure covered	4	8	10	6
* Slurry in a tank above ground	2	4	33	8
* Slurry in a tank above ground covered	0	1	1	1
* Slurry in a tank below ground	51	77	85	65
* Slurry in a tank below ground covered	34	52	49	43
* Slurry in a lagoon	4	9	19	8
* Slurry in a lagoon covered	0	1	1	1

Respondents were asked:

“In the past 12 months, what percentage of total manure and slurry produced by livestock that you own was applied to land that you do not farm?”

Percentage of slurry or manure taken off the farm	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* none	93	90	74	89
* >0 – 25%	3	5	17	6
* >25-50%	1	3	4	2
* >50-75%	1	1	2	1
* >75-100%	3	2	3	3
Total farms	100	100	100	100

9. Cattle Housing

9.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“How many cattle did you keep in the following housing systems during winter 2009/2010?”

9.2 Results

The most common type of housing system for cattle was ‘cubicle - slatted floor’ with 40 percent of the cattle housed by this method. ‘Loose housing - slatted floor’ accounted for 32 percent of cattle housing with ‘cubicle - solid floor’ and ‘loose housing - solid floor’ accounting for 12 percent and 15 percent respectively.

Number of cattle housed	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Cattle places - byre tied	4,437	3,079	643	8,159
* Cattle places - cubicle - solid floor	13,700	39,521	114,468	167,689
* Cattle places - cubicle - slatted floor	63,216	174,613	329,030	566,859
* Cattle places - loose housing - solid floor	32,353	69,043	118,676	220,072
* Cattle places - loose housing - slatted floor	67,445	222,909	167,353	457,707
* Cattle places - other	1,077	5,955	5,871	12,903
Total	182,228	515,120	736,041	1,433,389

Percentage of cattle housed	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Cattle places - byre tied	2	1	0	1
* Cattle places - cubicle - solid floor	8	8	16	12
* Cattle places - cubicle - slatted floor	35	34	45	40
* Cattle places - loose housing - solid floor	18	13	16	15
* Cattle places - loose housing - slatted floor	37	43	23	32
* Cattle places - other	1	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100

10. Pig Housing

10.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“How many pigs do you usually keep in the following housing systems?”

10.2 Results

Similar numbers of pigs are kept in either ‘partially slatted’ or ‘fully slatted’ housing with very few being kept in other forms of housing.

Number of pigs housed	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Pig Housing - partially slatted	2,065	22,352	260,347	284,764
* Pig Housing - completely slatted	776	42,714	238,532	282,022
* Pig Housing - deep litter housing	219	4,636	5,713	10,568
* Pig Housing - other	1,181	99	59	1,339
Total	4,241	69,801	504,651	578,693

Percentage of pigs housed	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Pig Housing - partially slatted	49	32	52	49
* Pig Housing - completely slatted	18	61	47	49
* Pig Housing - deep litter housing	5	7	1	2
* Pig Housing - other	28	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

11. Laying Hen Housing

11.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“How many laying hens do you usually keep in the following housing systems?”

11.2 Results

Fifty percent of laying hens were housed in deep litter while 21 percent were housed in cages with belt or scraper. Cages (deep pit) and ‘other’ (mostly free range) accounted for an additional 13 percent each.

Number of laying hens housed	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Laying hens housing - cages - deep pit	161	165,670	288,294	454,125
* Laying hens housing - cages - stilt house	0	0	108,706	108,706
* Laying hens housing - cages - belt or scraper	0	6,548	716,115	722,663
* Laying hens housing - deep litter	478	169,143	1,532,529	1,702,150
* Laying hens housing - other	6,043	4,663	417,890	428,596
Total	6,682	346,024	3,063,534	3,416,240

Percentage of laying hens housed	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* Laying hens housing - cages - deep pit	2	48	9	13
* Laying hens housing - cages - stilt house	0	0	4	3
* Laying hens housing - cages - belt or scraper	0	2	23	21
* Laying hens housing - deep litter	7	49	50	50
* Laying hens housing - other	90	1	14	13
Total	100	100	100	100

12. Landscape features

12.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“Have any new hedges been planted in the past 3 years?”

“Have any existing hedges been maintained in the past three years?”

12.2 Results

Twenty five percent of farms reported having undertaken some form of new hedge work in 2010.

Eighty eight percent of farms reported as having maintained existing hedges.

Hedges	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* New hedges planted	2,143	2,565	1,429	6,174
* Percentage of total farms	18	30	36	25
* Hedges maintained	10,042	7,740	3,709	21,491
* Percentage of total farms	85	90	93	88
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471

Tree Lines	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* New tree lines planted	572	661	302	1535
* Percentage of total farms	5	8	8	6
* Tree lines maintained	1,339	1,259	608	3,206
* Percentage of total farms	11	15	15	13
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471

Stone walls	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
* New stone walls	236	201	99	536
* Percentage of total farms	2	2	2	2
* Stone walls maintained	1,082	1,097	382	2,561
* Percentage of total farms	9	13	10	10
Total farms	11,880	8,607	3,984	24,471

13. Winter Cover

13.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“What area of cover, if any, did you have on your arable land over winter?”

13.2 Results

The table below shows a breakdown of cover on land which was ploughed in 2009 and which was intended for arable crop production in 2010. Forty six percent of this land was seeded with winter crops and a similar amount was left as crop residues.

Percentage of Winter Cover	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Area of standard winter crops	27	42	49	46
Area of field vegetables (eg potatoes)	3	2	4	4
Area of cover crop	7	2	1	2
Area of crop residues	57	51	43	46
Area of bare soil	6	4	2	3
Total winter cover	100	100	100	100

14. Cultivation

14.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

“What area of land that you farm was cultivated in the past 12 months using the following methods?”

14.2 Results

Some 94 percent of land that was used for arable purposes was ploughed using the inversion ploughing method. Only 5 percent of arable land was used by using zero tillage – none on the medium or large farms.

Percentage of Cultivation methods	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Area of inversion ploughing	81	88	98	94
Area of reduced tillage	3	2	1	2
Area of zero tillage	16	10	0	5
Total ploughed land	100	100	100	100

15. Manure and Slurry Application

15.1 Definitions

Respondents were asked:

*“On what area of land that you farm was slurry applied at least once during the past 12 months?
“Of this, on what area was the slurry injected into the soil or ploughed in within 4 hours of application”*

“On what area of land that you farm was solid manure applied at least once during the past 12 months?

“Of this, on what area was the solid manure ploughed in within 4 hours of application”

15.2 Results

Some 44 percent of land received slurry during the 12 months previous to March 1st 2010. On only 5 percent of land on which slurry was spread was it either injected or ploughed in within 4 hours.

Slurry Application	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Percentage of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) on which slurry was spread at least once	33	36	58	44
Percentage of land on which slurry was spread which was either injected into the soil or ploughed in within 4 hours	1	2	8	5

Ten percent of land received solid manure at least once during the 12 months previous to March 1st 2010. Of this coverage, 12 percent was ploughed in within 4 hours of application.

Solid Manure Application	Farm size			
	Very Small	Small	Med/ Large	All
Percentage of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) on which solid manure was spread at least once	10	9	10	10
Percentage of land on which the solid manure was spread which was ploughed in within 4 hours	2	3	26	12

Annex 1: Comparisons with earlier surveys

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

Coverage

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

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

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

The coverage in the 2010 survey is fully comparable with that in 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

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.

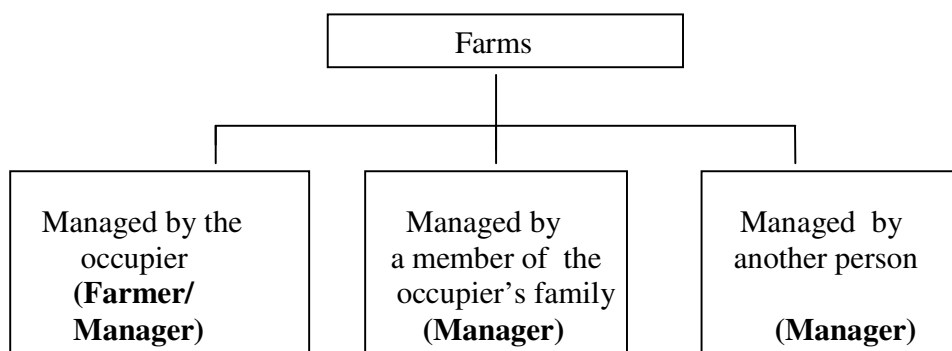
Labour Force

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.

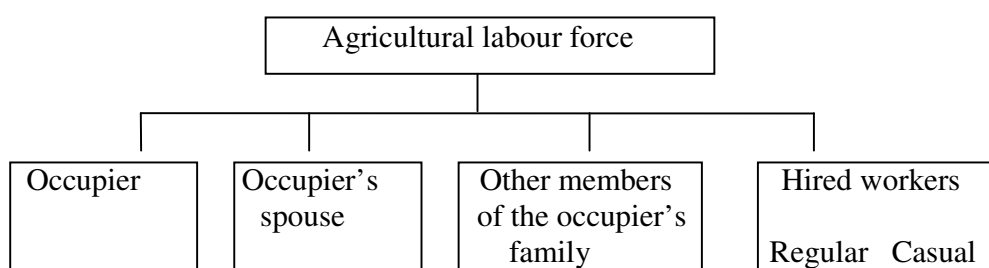
Farmer The agricultural census applies the term “farmer” to all persons who are self-employed on their own or their family business (i.e. farmers and partners). However, for the Structure Survey, the terms “occupiers” and “managers” are used.



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 size¹¹

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. The 2010 Structure survey will be typed by Eurostat, by a new Standard Output (SO) methodology. Calculations for this are not finalized at the time of publication of this report.

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 years .

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.

¹¹ 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.

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 2007 Structure Survey for other European countries and Northern Ireland

The following data have been derived from the Eurostat database 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 13.7 million holdings in the 2007 Structure Survey for the EU27, of which the UK contributed 2.2 percent and within that, Northern Ireland 0.2 percent.

NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE EU 2003 to 2007

Year	Number of Holdings ('000)		
	2003	2005	2007
Belgium	55	52	48
Bulgaria	666	535	493
Czech Rep.	46	42	39
Denmark	49	52	45
Germany	412	390	371
Estonia	37	28	23
Ireland	135	133	128
Greece	824	834	860
Spain	1,141	1,079	1,044
France	614	567	527
Italy	1,964	1,729	1,679
Cyprus	45	45	40
Latvia	127	129	108
Lithuania	272	253	230
Luxembourg	2	2	2
Hungary	773	715	626
Malta	11	11	11
Netherlands	86	82	77
Austria	174	171	165
Poland	2,172	2,476	2,391
Portugal	359	324	275
Romania	4,485	4,256	3,931
Slovenia	77	77	75
Slovakia	72	68	69
Finland	75	71	68
Sweden	68	76	73
UK	281	287	300
Norway	58	53	50
Switzerland	:	64	:
EU15	6,239	5,846	5,662
EU25	9,870	9,688	9,691
EU27	15,021	14,482	13,700
NI	28	26	26

Notes

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

TOTAL FARM LABOUR 1990 - 2007

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

Year	1990	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007
Belgium	93.48	85.15	78.85	79.1	74.07	72.46	69.59	65.60
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	:	791.56	624.66	490.86
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	:	166.4	151.9	137.31
Denmark	95.15	104.75	104.96	97.93	66.46	60.71	60.45	55.86
Germany	1,029.65	804.19	710.96	656.84	617.62	688.78	643.23	609.30
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:	37.52	36.9	32.07
Greece	680.33	702.17	637.94	597.27	587.48	614.25	600.8	568.71
Spain	1,143.35	1,112.1	1,089.6	1,098.98	1,077.73	997.77	992.64	967.68
France	:	:	:	:	:	913.83	855.49	804.62
Ireland	249.65	239.51	218.48	202.31	168.45	161.11	152.38	147.54
Italy	1,923.99	1,836.69	1,818.02	1,798.09	1,364.92	1,475.98	1,374.26	1302.18
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	32.2	28.66	25.92
Latvia	:	:	:	:	145.15	140.88	137.25	104.79
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	:	222.13	221.55	180.14
Luxembourg	6.28	5.8	5.33	5.04	4.45	3.96	3.99	3.75
Hungary	:	:	:	:	:	525.79	462.74	403.42
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	4.5	4.06	4.22
Netherlands	225.02	224.44	210	208.66	205.05	186.26	173.93	165.11
Austria	:	:	187.35	177.63	181.85	175.43	166.44	163.33
Poland	:	:	:	:	:	2,190.87	2,273.59	2,263.15
Portugal	846.9	604.71	583.58	519.8	524.15	455.16	398.08	338.04
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	2,699.51	2,595.59	2,205.28
Slovenia	:	:	:	:	107.53	95.37	94.98	83.72
Slovakia	:	:	:	:	136.54	118.63	98.79	91.29
Finland	:	:	131.39	125.71	102.55	97.54	83.46	72.39
Sweden	:	:	87.67	81.76	74.24	70.66	71.1	65.47
UK	473.67	433.9	383.98	415.99	354.32	352.22	339.08	341.37
Norway	:	:	:	:	71.2	64.2	58.83	56.26
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU15	:	:	7,263.5	7,023.21	6,352.69	6,326.13	5,982.91	5,670.97
EU25	:	:	:	:	:	9,860.42	9,493.31	:
EU27	:	:	:	:	:	13,350.38	12,713.56	11,693.13
NI	:	37	35	33	33	33	31	30

Note: Units in "thousand AWU"

OTHER GAINFUL ACTIVITY 2000 - 2007

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

Year	2000	2003	2005	2007
Belgium	3.1	3.8	4.2	3.9
Czech Rep.	:	8.1	10.7	12.2
Denmark	11.6	14.3	18.3	23.4
Germany	:	19.4	22.5	21.7
Estonia	:	7.5	6.8	8.3
Greece	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.4
Spain	:	2.3	3.2	3.5
France	:	24.7	25.0	23.6
Ireland	3.6	4.8	4.4	5.1
Italy	8.8	4.6	6.1	6.4
Cyprus	:	6.1	5.6	6.6
Latvia	10.2	3.0	8.5	9.1
Lithuania	:	1.7	1.0	0.7
Luxembourg	7.5	11.0	14.7	17.3
Hungary	4.7	11.2	5.1	5.0
Malta	:	4.0	4.3	3.9
Netherlands	2.9	29.7	22.5	18.5
Austria	16.7	18.7	21.4	21.5
Poland	:	3.3	5.4	4.8
Portugal	8.1	9.9	9.0	7.4
Slovenia	4.6	3.7	4.1	4.1
Slovakia	3.4	3.9	2.4	4.5
Finland	21.4	25.3	29.0	27.6
Sweden	7.0	12.8	13.1	23.2
UK	19.3	16.3	24.0	23.2
Bulgaria	:	4.1	2.1	2.0
Romania	:	4.2	22.1	15.7
Norway	29.5	25.4	32.2	27.5
Switzerland	:	:	:	
EU15	:	8.7	10.0	9.8
EU25	:	7.3	8.1	
EU27	:	6.2	12.0	9.9
NI	2.4	3.0	2.5	2.3

Note: Units in "thousand farms"

AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE

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

Year	1990	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007
Belgium	9.83	9.13	10.88	9.14	6.64	4.42	3.39	2.59
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	:	4.04	3.97	3.59
Denmark	8.78	6.93	6.56	6.5	5.44	4.02	3.68	2.60
Germany	101.43	103.42	98.16	85.89	72.53	49.33	35.42	28.28
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:	3.44	1.84	1.22
Greece	73.77	58.87	49.03	44.36	71.25	60.43	56.8	60.42
Spain	113.27	88.44	76.59	69.29	110.82	67.72	53.51	44.26
France	:	:	:	:	:	54.37	42.43	33.84
Ireland	22.45	23.53	20.89	17.71	18.38	15.1	10.79	8.88
Italy	137.59	132.96	110.21	119.45	110.6	76.13	56.49	49.07
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	2.91	1.45	0.98
Latvia	:	:	:	:	14.63	10.86	9.85	7.76
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	:	19.17	13.19	9.74
Luxembourg	0.45	0.38	0.36	0.3	0.29	0.2	0.16	0.12
Hungary	:	:	:	:	87.68	44.53	54.68	46.85
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	0.65	0.57	0.46
Netherlands	11.29	11.8	10.31	7.35	6.46	5.78	4.09	2.83
Austria	:	:	39.71	34.76	30.87	21.86	18.27	15.66
Poland	:	:	:	:	:	353.43	313.35	293.75
Portugal	39.66	22.81	18.52	15.05	17.02	9.41	6.86	5.17
Slovenia	:	:	:	:	4.49	2.98	3.42	2.99
Slovakia	:	:	:	:	3.65	3.82	2.76	2.39
Finland	:	:	16.12	13.09	8.67	7.32	6.46	6.12
Sweden	:	:	7.45	6.42	5.27	3.83	3.9	3.73
UK	16.81	15.45	13.65	13.45	11.66	9.32	8.63	7.46
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	:	33.71	21.97	15.05
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	391.54	218.37	166.87
Norway	:	:	:	:	9.62	6.03	4.59	3.7
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU15	:	:	570.74	521.81	529.16	389.26	310.6	271.02
EU25	:	:	:	:	:	835.08	715.68	:
EU27	:	:	:	:	:	1,260.24	956.01	822.67
NI	:	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.1

Note: Units in "thousand owner occupiers"

AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

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

Year	1990	1993	1995	1997	2000	2003	2005	2007
Belgium	17.24	15.72	11.82	12.07	11.74	10.54	10.12	9.36
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	:	270.17	222.19	221.89
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	:	7.86	7.03	6.76
Denmark	16.31	15.93	15.65	13.17	11.31	7.83	9.47	8.87
Germany	47.02	42.24	41.84	40.55	25.68	24.22	28.11	27.33
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:	10.2	7.99	7.28
Greece	215.74	240.79	248.5	281.06	253.46	292.63	306.73	321.15
Spain	383.9	364.07	371.35	368.36	347.42	366.25	359.37	361.35
France	:	:	:	:	:	84.92	75.11	65.80
Ireland	38.65	32.31	32.5	32.31	28.04	26.81	31.61	31.87
Italy	850.95	850.58	912.29	827.65	825.95	788.4	734.95	740.54
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	9.26	12.18	11.69
Latvia	:	:	:	:	36.32	34.46	36.93	31.69
Lithuania	:	:	:	:	:	102.28	80.66	93.46
Luxembourg	0.66	0.64	0.61	0.57	0.52	0.42	0.41	0.36
Hungary	:	:	:	:	268.98	229.47	194.75	171.84
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	2.52	2.59	2.79
Netherlands	18.69	19.11	19	20.2	18.22	13.53	13.29	13.27
Austria	:	:	20.94	20.93	20.26	14.56	18.7	17.80
Poland	:	:	:	:	:	320.01	421.95	387.90
Portugal	170.86	161.48	156.99	154.97	154.6	163.85	150.13	129.62
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	1,719.35	1,848.97	1,761.76
Slovenia	:	:	:	:	27.71	26.2	26.22	26.29
Slovakia	:	:	:	:	19.43	18.93	20.04	22.02
Finland	:	:	7.07	5.41	4.59	4.82	4.39	4.16
Sweden	:	:	18.04	17.69	15.92	11.6	14.85	14.67
UK	50.05	51.34	55.19	49.87	56.23	77.46	84.24	92.47
Norway	:	:	:	:	6.23	4.46	4.12	3.87
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU15	:	:	2,021.95	1,950.42	1871.3	1,887.84	1,840.57	1,838.66
EU25	:	:	:	:	:	2,649.02	2,650.91	2,600.34
EU27	:	:	:	:	:	4,639.15	4,722.07	4,584.02
NI	:	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.0

Note: Units in "thousand owner occupiers"

Average Breeding herd size for beef cattle and sheep 2007

Year	Beef cattle			Sheep		
	Head	Holdings	Herd Size	Head	Holdings	Herd Size
Belgium	544,520	19,630	27.7	121,470	3,750	32.4
Bulgaria	16,300	3,330	4.9	1,283,560	133,110	9.6
Czech Rep.	154,470	5,020	30.8	105,190	4,270	24.6
Denmark	105,960	9,180	11.5	72,580	2,690	27.0
Germany	742,990	58,560	12.7	1,468,150	25,480	57.6
Estonia	8,970	960	9.3	49,960	2,240	22.3
Greece	188,810	9,520	19.8	8,116,400	125,910	64.5
Spain	1,670,020	77,670	21.5	17,072,220	77,110	221.4
France	4,276,820	134,470	31.8	6,814,190	64,950	104.9
Ireland	1,115,810	70,200	15.9	2,966,830	37,760	78.6
Italy	600,520	44,150	13.6	5,891,940	70,450	83.6
Cyprus	2,560	110	23.3	178,260	1,430	124.7
Latvia	10,640	1,500	7.1	40,450	4,330	9.3
Lithuania	11,900	3,480	3.4	22,990	3,550	6.5
Luxembourg	32,820	1,450	22.6	4,330	200	21.7
Hungary	56,170	2,230	25.2	976,710	15,540	62.9
Malta	0	0	0	7,520	980	7.7
Netherlands	88,830	8,090	11.0	644,800	13,570	47.5
Austria	267,970	48,630	5.5	213,170	13,420	15.9
Poland	56,840	7,500	7.6	208,000	13,880	15.0
Portugal	370,610	21,970	16.9	1,953,060	45,410	43.0
Romania	45,630	21,560	2.1	7,339,120	373,150	19.7
Slovenia	52,250	17,460	3.0	89,460	5,500	16.3
Slovakia	36,010	940	38.3	281,980	3,280	86.0
Finland	43,280	2,160	20.0	62,170	1,840	33.8
Sweden	185,720	12,500	14.9	230,900	7,960	29.0
UK	1,694,280	65,420	25.9	15,257,700	76,420	199.7
Norway	60,950	5,310	11.5	868,910	15,950	54.5
Switzerland						
EU27	12,380,700	647,690	19.1	71,473,110	1,128,180	63.4
NI	272,616	17,035	16.0	957,318	8,483	112.9

Policy and Economics Division
Department of Agriculture
and Rural Development
Dundonald House
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST BT4 3SB

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