



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector

Key Statistics July 2018



Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry



Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector
Key Statistics
July 2018

Key Facts on
Agriculture,
Fishing and Forestry

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DAERA

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Table 1: General economic data

	NI	Scotland	Wales	England	UK	EU 27
GVA per head (£, 2016)	20,435	24,876	19,200	27,060	26,584	19,402 ¹
Population ('000, 2016)	1,862	5,405	3,113	55,268	65,648	506,087 ^P
Area (sq. km)	13,562	77,910	20,736	130,310	242,518	4,312,826 ²
Population Density (per sq. km, 2016)	137	69	150	424	271	117
Bank Base interest rate (% , June 2018)					0.5	
RPI (% change, April 2017 - April 2018)					3.4	
Unemployment rate (% , Quarter 1 2018)	3.1	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	7.4

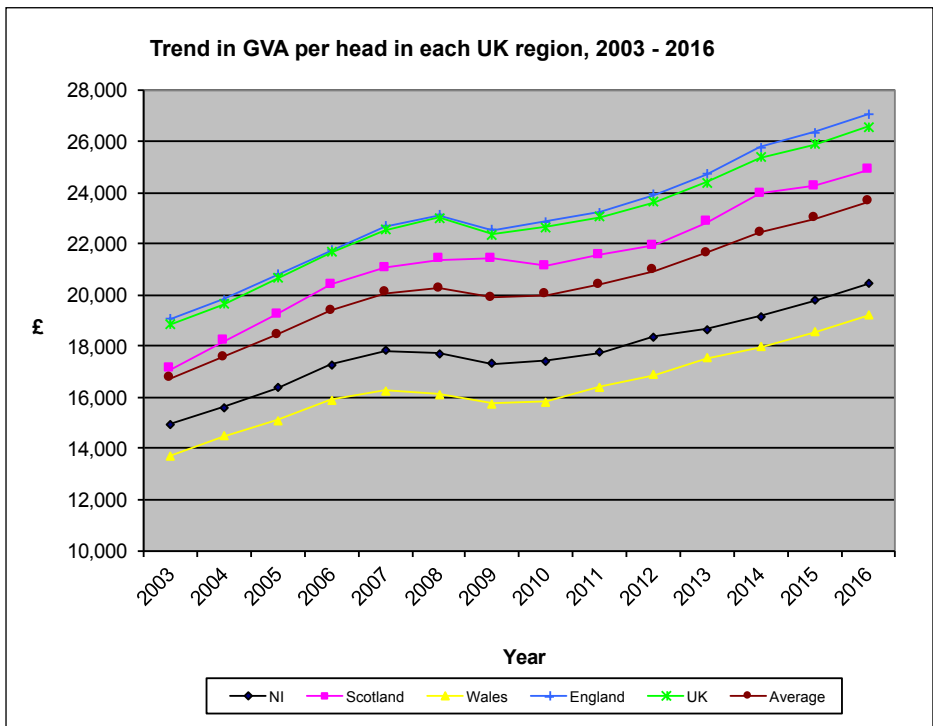
Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted and taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). EU27 figure from Eurostat.

GVA - Gross Value Added (at basic prices)

RPI - Retail Price Index

1. 2013, 2. 2015 P. Provisional estimate

Figure 1 - Trend in GVA per head in each UK region, 2003 - 2016



Note: GVA is in current basic prices

Figure 2 - Population per 100 ha of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA), 2016

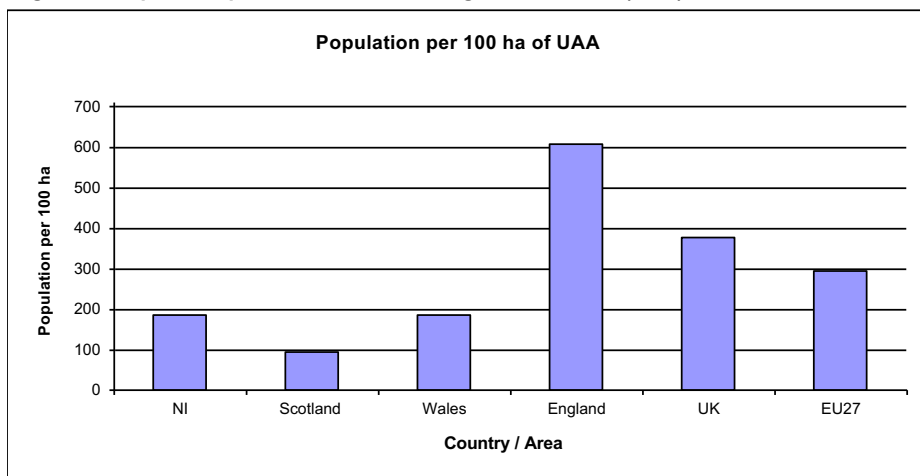


Table 2: Agriculture: general data, 2017

	NI	Scot	Wales	Eng	UK	ROI	EU27
Share of total GVA (%)	1.7	0.9 ¹	0.6 ¹	0.4 ¹	0.5 ¹	1.0 ¹	1.7 ²
No. employed in agriculture forestry & fishing ('000)	23	45	33	244	345	112 ⁵	9,365
Share of employment (%)	2.7 ⁴	1.7 ⁴	2.3 ⁴	0.9 ⁴	1.1 ⁴	5.0 ⁵	4.1
Number of farms ('000)	25	51	36	106	217	140 ²	10,684 ²
Average farm size (Ha)	41	124	44	87	81	33 ²	16 ²
LFA (% Agricultural area)	70	86	80	19	51	75 ³	51 ³

1. 2016, 2. 2013, 3. 2007

4. % of total LFS employment (835,000 in NI, 2,618,000 in Scotland, 1,431,000 in Wales, 27,054,000 in England, 31,937,000 in UK at 2017)

5. CSO Labour Force Survey, 4th quarter, 2017

Due to National Accounting principles, GVA figures do not include Direct Subsidy Receipts

Source for UK employment data (SIC 2007, main job) - Labour force survey (2017)

Table 3: Agriculture in NI: structural adjustment, 1997, 2007 and 2015-2017

	1997	2007	2015	2016	2017	
Number of farms	32,118	26,146	24,907	24,528	24,956	
Average farm size (Ha)		33.3	38.8	40.1	41.3	40.9
Total farmers and workers	62,280	48,974	47,979	47,712	48,704	

Table 4: Agri - food sector GVA and employment, 2017

	NI		UK	
	£m	% of GVA	£m	% of GVA
Gross value added¹				
Agriculture	644	1.7	10,300 ³	0.6 ³
Food and drink processing	827 ²	2.2 ²	26,061 ³	1.6 ³
Employment	'000 persons	% of total employment	'000 persons	% of total employment
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	23	2.7 ⁴	345	1.1 ⁵
Food and drink processing ⁷	14 ⁶	1.7 ⁴	378	1.2 ⁵

1. GVA figures are at basic prices.

2. Size and Performance of the NI Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics, 2016. This excludes the value added of those food and drinks processing businesses with a turnover of less than £250,000.

3. UK GVA agriculture are 2017 provisional figures. UK GVA food and drink processing are 2015 figures.

4. % of total LFS employment (835,000 in NI at 2017)

5. % of total LFS employment (31,937,000 in UK at 2017)

6. Please note that the 95% confidence interval for this figure ranges from 10,000 to 18,000

7. Includes SIC 2007 10.11 - 11.07

Table 5: Distribution of farm outputs in NI and share of UK totals, 2017

	% of NI total		NI output as % of UK output	
	Gross output	Gross Margin	On farm employment	
Enterprise	%	%	%	%
Dairy	31.6	51.4	20	15.2
Cattle	22.0	17.6	51	15.4
Sheep & wool	3.6	3.5	15	6.1
Pigs	7.8	6.5	} 5	12.3
Poultry & eggs	17.9	7.1		12.3
Cereals & oilseed rape	2.0	3.1	} 10	1.0
Potatoes	1.1	1.9		2.6
Horticulture	5.2	7.9		3.0
Others	8.8	1.0		4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100	7.9

Source: Aggregate Agricultural Account. Employment data from June 2017 Agricultural Survey.

Table 6: NI food and drink processing sector - gross turnover, value added, employment by subsector, external and export sales, 2016

Subsector	Gross turnover	Value added	Employees ¹	External ² Sales	Export Sales ³
	£m	£m		£m	£m
Animal by-products	48	9	113	*	*
Bakeries	304	105	3,849	148	88
Beef and sheepmeat	1,189	158	5,070	1,035	220
Drinks	369	99	1,334	217	182
Eggs	153	27	379	106	13
Fish	80	17	596	67	31
Fruit and vegetables	322	81	2,509	218	56
Milk and milk products	902	105	1,965	652	323
Pigmeat	317	50	1,530	192	71
Poultrymeat	680	176	5,071	*	*
Total	4,365	827	22,413	3,301	1,108

1. Full - time equivalents. This is an estimation of the total direct employment in the sector, as some workers are provided by employment agencies and not shown in these figures. The July 2018 edition of the Size and Performance publication presented an estimation of agency employment in 2016 at 2,599 full-time equivalents.

2. Sales outside NI

3. Sales outside UK

Source: Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics, 2016 with provisional estimates for 2017. These figures exclude those food and drinks processing businesses with a turnover of less than £250,000.

Figure 3 - Gross turnover and full time equivalent (FTE) workforce by food processing subsector in NI, 2016

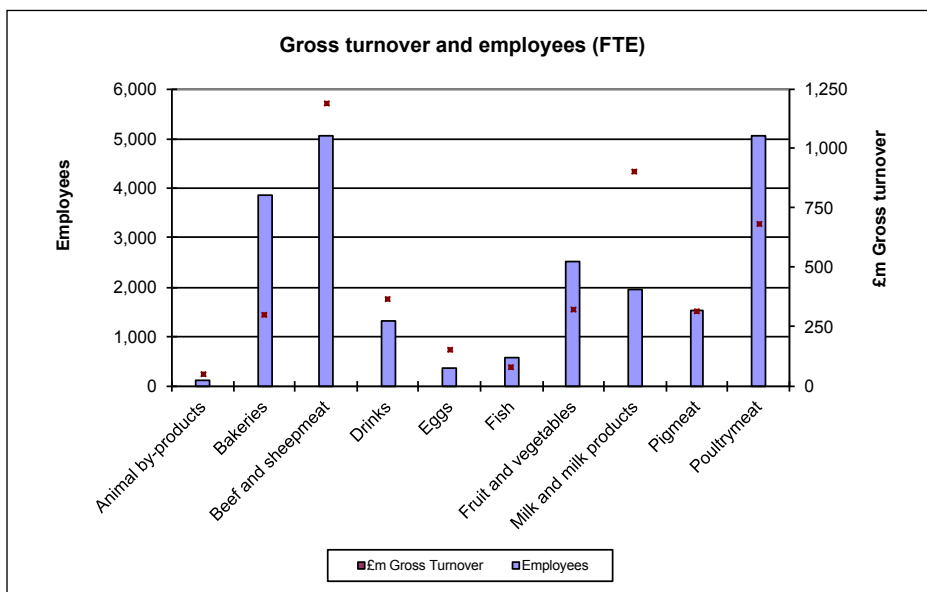


Figure 4 - Proportion of gross turnover by subsector in NI, 2016

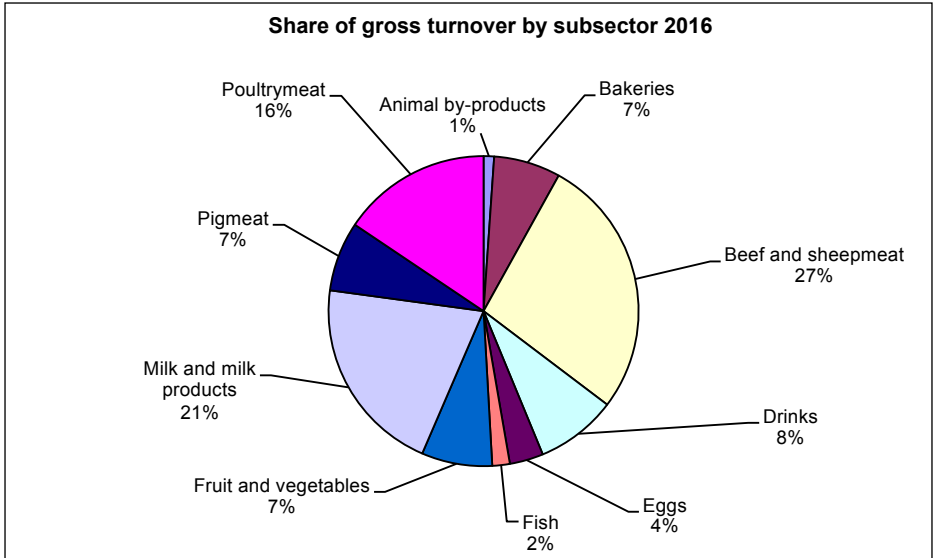


Figure 5 - Proportion of employee jobs by Industry section, December 2017

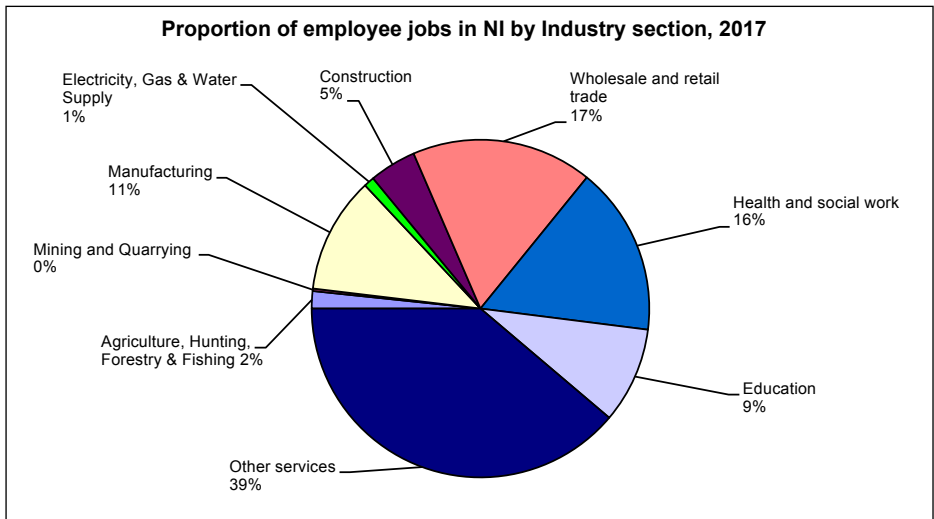


Table 7: Total income from farming, NI and UK, 2017

	NI	UK
Total income from farming (£)	£473m	£5,743m
% change on previous year :		
Current prices	87%	44%
Real terms	82%	41%

Source: Aggregate Agricultural Account

Note: For an explanation of the change in TIFF in NI and UK see Chapter 1 of the Statistical Review of NI Agriculture 2017 and Chapter 3 of Agriculture in the UK 2017.

Table 8: Average income¹ by type of farm, NI, 2015/16 and 2016/17

	Net farm income ²		Farm Business Income ³		Cash income ⁴	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Type of farm:						
Cereals	9,066	9,104	15,532	16,492	43,351	48,743
Dairy	12,291	23,113	12,014	23,618	43,698	56,026
Cattle & sheep (LFA)	9,886	13,607	17,118	21,352	31,458	30,724
Cattle & sheep (Lowland)	2,572	7,812	10,409	16,578	24,031	24,349
Mixed	8,390	21,840	14,932	27,637	33,680	56,329

Source: Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland 2015/16 and 2016/17

1. Based on information gathered from farms over 0.5 Standard Labour Requirements
2. The calculation of net farm income assumes that all farms are tenanted: net farm income therefore represents the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant-style capital of the business.
3. Farm Business income is the return to all unpaid labour and to their capital invested (inc land and buildings) in the business
4. Cash income is the difference between total receipts and total expenditure

Note: Farm typing methodology has changed from 2011 and is now based on Standard Outputs. Further information can be found in the farm income publication. www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics

Table 9: Net farm Income, Farm Business Income and Cash Income for dairy, LFA cattle & sheep, and mixed farms throughout the UK, 2015/16 and 2016/17

	Dairy		LFA Cattle & Sheep		Mixed	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
Net farm income						
England	27,100	33,700	9,800	16,600	3,200	11,300
Wales	19,605	18,125	11,236	12,634	-	-
Scotland	2,032	31,237	14,439	28,455	-10,565	11,039
NI	12,291	23,113	9,886	13,607	8,390	21,840
Farm Business Income						
England	43,900	50,000	19,000	27,000	18,400	28,800
Wales	32,812	31,280	21,867	23,081	-	-
Scotland	1,698	34,696	22,356	35,284	1,460	24,168
NI	12,014	23,618	17,118	21,352	14,932	27,637
Cash income						
England	90,800	78,500	32,300	37,100	47,800	59,600
Wales	60,387	58,165	33,915	35,952	-	-
Scotland	41,848	52,951	43,817	47,925	33,529	44,076
NI	43,698	56,026	31,458	30,724	33,680	56,329

Source: Farm Business Survey in Northern Ireland 2015/16 and 2016/17

Note: All regions define farm types using Standard Output Methodology. All regions use 2010SO averages.

Note: England figures to nearest £100

Table 10: Number of farms in the UK by size & country - June 2017

	Business size (SLR) ¹				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large / Very Large	
Farms					
NI	19,060	2,945	1,229	1,722	24,956
England ²	67,692	14,783	7,840	15,610	105,925
Scotland	40,946	3,113	1,886	5,193	51,138
Wales ³	26,893	3,194	1,842	3,618	35,547
Total	154,591	24,035	12,797	26,143	217,566

1. Standard Labour Requirements

2. Figures which relate to commercial holdings only as defined by EU regulation

3. Excludes holdings with a SLR of zero

Table 11: Percentage distribution of farms in the UK by size & country - June 2017

	Business size (SLR)				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large / Very Large	
Farms (%)					
NI	76	12	5	7	100
England	64	14	7	15	100
Scotland	80	6	4	10	100
Wales	76	9	5	10	100
Total	71	11	6	12	100

Table 12: Number of farms in NI by size and type - June 2017

Business type	Business size (SLR)				All sizes
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	
Cereals	223	30	11	8	272
General cropping	426	36	16	45	523
Horticulture	93	50	27	103	273
Pigs	54	24	31	72	181
Poultry	158	239	118	107	622
Dairy	269	723	607	1,036	2,635
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	13,115	1,181	240	151	14,687
Cattle and sheep (Lowland)	4,354	542	119	82	5,097
Mixed	285	99	49	106	539
Others	83	21	11	12	127
All types	19,060	2,945	1,229	1,722	24,956

Source: June 2017 Agricultural Survey

Note: Farm Business type methodology has changed from 2011 and is now based on Standard Outputs. Further information can be found in the Census publication. www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics

Table 13: Crop areas and livestock numbers, NI, 1997, 2007 and 2015 - 2017

	1997	2007	2015	2016	2017
Livestock ('000 head)					
Cattle					
Dairy cows	279.2	286.1	311.5	317.1	315.8
Beef cows	323.9	272.6	260.3	269.7	267.1
Total cattle	1,731.0	1,643.5	1,608.9	1,664.6	1,666.4
Sheep					
Breeding ewes	1,384.1	957.3	938.6	955.2	973.3
Total sheep	2,880.1	2,024.0	1,989.7	2,023.0	2,052.6
Pigs					
Female Breeding pigs	72.2	37.0	45.6	46.4	47.9
Total pigs	696.7	410.5	569.7	601.1	649.1
Poultry					
Laying flock	2,648.9	2,394.0	3,174.1	3,550.0	3,962.8
Broilers	8,994.9	11,861.3	14,273.1	14,459.2	16,766.6
Crops ('000 hectares)					
Cereals	45.8	34.2	32.9	33.4	32.3
Potatoes	7.8	4.8	3.6	3.7	4.1
Horticultural crops	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.0

Source: June Agricultural Survey

Notes: From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS

From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update

From 2013 onwards, pig figures derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

Figure 6 - Trend in dairy and beef cow numbers, NI, 2002 - 2017

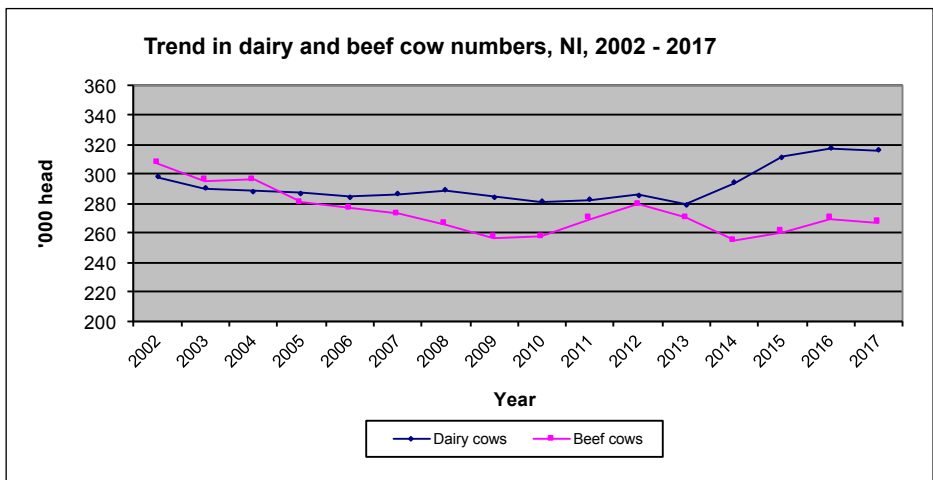


Table 14: Average size of enterprise, NI, 1997, 2007 and 2015 - 2017

	1997	2007	2015	2016	2017
Average livestock numbers (per herd/flock)					
Dairy cows	48	69	88	90	92
Beef cows	18	16	17	18	18
Total cattle	64	74	79	83	82
Ewes	120	113	101	100	100
Total sheep	246	234	209	206	206
Sows	37	95	144	158	165
Total pigs	316	838	1,628	1,784	2,016
Total poultry (farms with 500 or more birds)	22,113	28,236	28,819	29,753	33,123
Average cropping areas (ha)					
Cereals	10	13	14	15	15
Potatoes	5	7	7	8	8

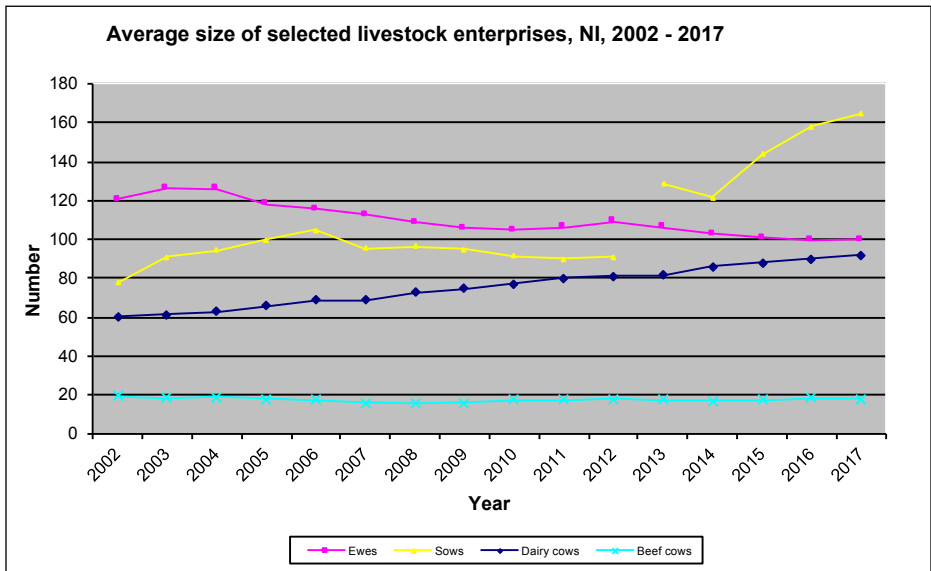
Source: June Agricultural Survey

Notes: From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS

From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update

From 2013 onwards, pig figures derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

Figure 7 - Average size of selected livestock enterprises, NI, 2002 - 2017



Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures derived from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

Table 15: Number of farmers and workers, NI, 1997, 2007 and 2015 - 2017

	1997	2007	2015	2016	2017
Farmers, partners & directors:					
Full-time	22,409	17,185	16,637	16,233	16,760
Part-time	17,151	14,022	13,431	13,571	13,586
Total	39,560	31,207	30,068	29,804	30,346
Spouses	7,030	6,345	6,084	6,410	6,449
Other workers					
Full-time	2,981	2,946	3,463	3,209	3,441
Part-time	3,103	2,696	3,971	4,215	4,319
Casual/Seasonal	9,606	5,780	4,393	4,074	4,149
Total other workers	15,690	11,422	11,827	11,498	11,909
Total agricultural labour force	62,280	48,974	47,979	47,712	48,704

Source: June Agricultural Survey

Figure 8 - Full-time labour on NI farms, 1997, 2007 and 2015 - 2017

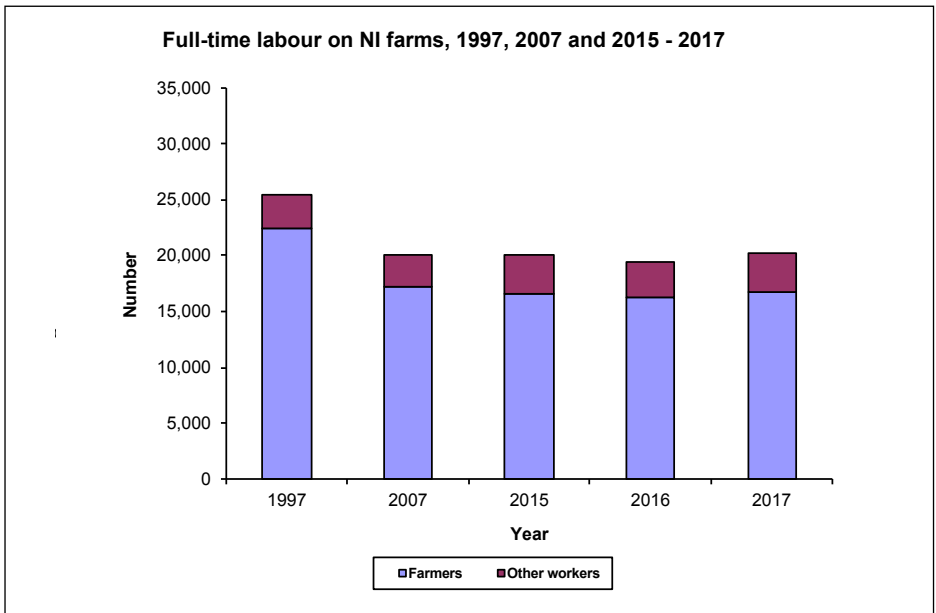


Table 16: Liveweight and estimated value of recorded landings of fish into NI, 2014 - 2017

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Tonnes	£ ('000)	Tonnes	£ ('000)	Tonnes	£ ('000)	Tonnes	£ ('000)
Total wet fish	12,324	7,936	10,253	6,078	13,606	9,459	11,791	10,433
Total shell fish	10,689	20,352	12,248	22,111	10,672	22,581	9,596	20,925
Total fish	23,013	28,288	22,501	28,190	24,279	32,040	21,387	31,358

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA

Figure 9 - Estimated value of recorded landings of fish into NI, 2008 - 2017

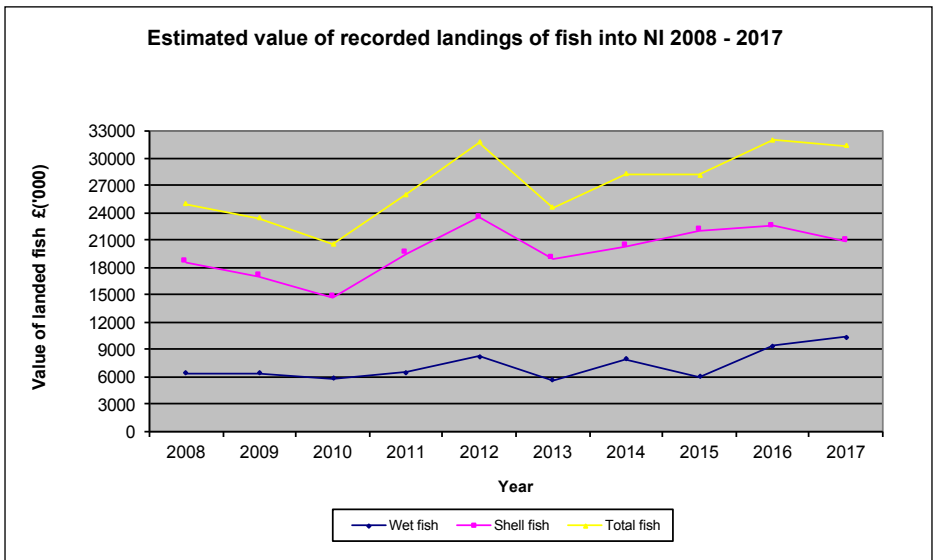


Table 17: Employment in NI fishing industry, 2014 - 2017

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
Catching	683	149	708	151	700	175	686	152
Processing and marketing	463	175	484	232	516	241	530	242
Others	104	44	112	46	113	47	126	56
Total	1,250	368	1,304	429	1,329	463	1,342	450

Source: Marine and Fisheries Division, DAERA

Table 18: Area of woodland throughout the UK by forest type, 2017

	Conifers ('000 HA)	Broadleaves ('000 HA)	Total ('000 HA)	% of Total Land Area in Forestry
United Kingdom	1,618	1,547	3,166	13.1%
England	340	967	1,306	10.0%
Scotland	1,061	378	1,440	18.5%
Wales	151	156	307	14.8%
Northern Ireland	66	46	112	8.3%

Source: Forestry Commission

Table 19: Number of farms using agricultural contractors in 2016

	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Hay/Silage Making	14,043	2,096	2,015	18,154
Crop Harvesting	990	307	518	1,815
Spreading slurry/fertilisers etc	7,559	1,399	1,639	10,597
Other field work	2,601	568	715	3,884
Milking	65	117	255	437
Sheep shearing	4,697	884	572	6,153
Other livestock work	1,253	218	208	1,679
Hedge cutting	11,891	2,030	1,890	15,811

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey 2016, NI

Table 20: Percentage of farms using agricultural contractors by business size in 2016

	Very Small	Small	Med/Large	All
Hay/Silage Making	75	71	69	74
Crop Harvesting	5	10	18	7
Spreading slurry/fertilisers etc	41	48	56	43
Other field work	14	19	24	16
Milking	0	4	9	2
Sheep shearing	25	30	19	25
Other livestock work	7	7	7	7
Hedge cutting	64	69	64	64

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey 2016, NI

Table 21: Number of farms using agricultural contractors from 2007-2016

	2007	2010	2013	2016
Hay/Silage Making	18,015	16,787	17,514	18,154
Crop Harvesting	1,979	1,932	2,023	1,815
Spreading slurry/fertilisers etc	10,500	10,257	10,520	10,597
Other field work	3,749	3,613	3,742	3,884
Milking	599	443	415	437
Sheep shearing	4,432	3,877	5,417	6,153
Other livestock work	1,474	1,178	1,363	1,679
Hedge cutting	14,705	13,905	15,007	15,811

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey 2016, NI

Further information

1. Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), www.daera-ni.gov.uk
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics

Agricultural Census in N.I. 2017 publication (ISBN no. 978-1-84807-835-2)

Statistical Review of N.I. Agriculture 2017 publication (ISBN no. 978-1-84807-841-3)

Size and performance of the N.I. Food and Drinks Processing Sector publication 2015
(ISBN no. 978-1-84807-791-1)

EU Farm Structure Survey 2016 (ISBN no. 978-1-84807-798-0)

Farm Incomes in N.I. publication

Food consumption and expenditure information

Fisheries statistics

Forestry statistics

2. United Kingdom

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), www.gov.uk/defra
www.gov.uk/government/collections/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom

GOV.UK statistics release calendar
www.statistics.gov.uk

3. Republic of Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, www.agriculture.gov.ie
www.agriculture.gov.ie/

Central statistics office Ireland, www.cso.ie
www.cso.ie/en/statistics/agriculture/

Official Statistics Ireland, www.statcentral.ie
www.statcentral.ie/viewstats.asp?type=Agriculture%20and%20Fishing

4. European Union

Eurostat, [www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/overview>

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