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CAP POLICY, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DIVISION

The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland

Results for June 2016



Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division

THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS
IN
NORTHERN IRELAND
RESULTS FOR JUNE 2016

A National Statistics Publication

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PREFACE

This publication presents detailed analyses of the results of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census for June 2016 as well as time series data from 2002 to 2016. As such, the analyses provide a considerable amount of information on the changes that have occurred in the farming sector over the past 15 years.

The census data set includes geographical indicators that enable data to be produced for any area that can be defined in terms of electoral ward or by grid reference co-ordinates. This facilitates small area analyses that may be carried out on request, so long as this will not lead to data for individual farms being identified.

Individual publications relating to this annual survey are now available on the DAERA website, at www.daera-ni.gov.uk, as are all other DAERA statistical publications.

Commentary in Sections 3 to 5 of this report on aggregate results, farm structure results and farm enterprise results highlight key features and trends in the data. A more detailed analysis of the agriculture sector in Northern Ireland in 2016 can be found in the compendium publication, Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture, published annually at the end of March 2017.

Any enquiries about the tables contained within this Agricultural Census booklet should be addressed to:

Conor McCormack
Room 820
Dundonald House
Ballymiscaw
BT4 3SB
Telephone 028 90525450
Conor.McCormack@daera-ni.gov.uk

Paul Caskie
Director of CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
January 2017

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Dundonald House
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Census coverage

1.2 History of the Agricultural Census

1.3 Changes to the Census System

1.4 Data uses

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 CENSUS COVERAGE

The Agricultural Census is conducted annually in June. The 2016 survey data was collected by means of a sample survey in which forms were issued to half those classified as 'Very Small' (i.e. with a Standard Labour Requirement of less than 1 standard labour unit (1900 hours)) and to all other farm businesses. (Although no longer strictly a 'census', it will continue to be referred to as such because farmers are familiar with the term.) Estimates were made for the crop areas, livestock and labour numbers for farms that failed to return their 2016 census form. For the most part these estimates were based on data collated from other administrative systems within the Department, or from the latest return from each farm. However, all farms which had substantive numbers or areas of pigs, poultry or mushrooms in 2015, and which failed to make a return in 2016, were telephoned for the information.

As such the database used to compile the statistics is considered robust and can be used to provide accurate information to a low level of geography. An example is the Ward and Parliamentary constituency level data available from the NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service) website.

The population of farms to which these census statistics refer includes; **all active farm businesses having one or more hectare 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.**

The main results of the census, showing the total areas of each crop and total numbers of each type of livestock, were published in a Press Release on 24th November 2016. Further analyses are shown in this booklet, including details of the numbers, types and sizes of farms, the numbers of farms participating in each of the main enterprises and the size distribution of these enterprises. Data are also shown for the main geographical units below Northern Ireland level, namely District Council Areas, Rural Districts and Counties and for the three land classification categories.

Section 3 of this report presents data on the areas of crops and numbers of livestock over the past 15 years, from 2002 to 2016.

1.2 HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The first Agricultural Census in Ireland was conducted in 1847, in response to the need for information on the famine conditions at that time. The main use of the census continues to be to provide information for those involved in the industry or responsible for agricultural policy. With data stretching back over 150 years, the records provide an interesting insight into the changes which have taken place in farming. The statistics on the following page, relating to 50 year intervals, show how Northern Ireland has changed from a mixed farming economy to one dependent on grazing livestock.

Crop Areas and Livestock Numbers in Northern Ireland, 1866-2016

	1866	1916	1966	2016
Crop areas ('000 ha)				
Cereals	220	146	105	33
Potatoes	102	65	23	4
Flax	74	30	0	0
Hay and pasture	676	756	694	801
Livestock numbers ('000 head)				
Cattle	724	804	1,189	1,665
of which Cows	n.a.	n.a.	370	587
Sheep	246	409	1,054	2,023
Horses	119	113	n.a.	10
Pigs	261	202	1,057	601
Poultry	2,165	6,619	10,863	21,784

1.3 CHANGES TO THE CENSUS SYSTEM

Since 1950, there have been a number of changes in the coverage of the census and the way the census data were collected. These are summarised below:

Years	Census methods and coverage
Until 1954	Census information was collected by police enumerators who identified and visited all farms, including those under one acre. This information was given to them orally by the farmer and recorded in special books.
1954-1972	A postal census was introduced in 1954. This used the list of farmers which had been identified in the 1953 census, but included only those of one acre or more . From this time onwards, a distinction was made between " main " holdings which were included in the census and " minor " holdings (i.e. those under 1 acre) which were surveyed on a sample basis using fewer questions. Estimates for the minor holdings were made of their total crop areas and livestock numbers, but these holdings were not included in the count of farms.
1973-1980	In 1973, in conformity with a similar change in the rest of the United Kingdom, an alteration was made in the scope of the census in Northern Ireland. From then until 1980, the main census covered holdings which had at least 10 acres of land , plus any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose livestock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, included a number of "minor" holdings of less than one acre. Arising from these adjustments the net reduction in the number of holdings covered in the main census was some 5,500.

- 1981-1996 A new system of farm classification and changes to the minimum threshold were introduced in 1981. This new threshold restricted the census to holdings which had (a) a total land area (owned or taken on long-term lease) of **6 hectares or more** or (b) any full-time workers other than the farmer or (c) a farm business size of 1,000 ecus of Standard Gross Margin. This change resulted in the exclusion of a further 6,690 “minor” holdings from the main census between 1980 and 1981.
- 1997 In 1997 the basis of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Census was changed from a “census register” to a central register of all of the Department’s “clients”. The change was made possible as a result of the introduction of IACS¹ and of work undertaken in DAERA to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification of clients across all schemes, with each farmer who is in contact with the Department being allocated a unique Client Reference Number and each “Client” being linked to a Business Identifier. The population surveyed in the 1997 census consisted of one “Client” in each business for which a census return with crops and/or livestock was obtained in the preceding year or which had received a subsidy in respect of crops or livestock during the preceding 15 months. Also included were those with a milk quota and those known by DAERA to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between “main” and “minor” holdings was discontinued.
- 1998 Sampling was introduced and forms were issued to only half the farms categorised as “Very Small”. The records which were aggregated to provide the published results include 1998 returns from the sampled farms and 1997 returns from those not in the sample for 1998. The latter were trended to reflect the changes between 1997 and 1998 as recorded by the sampled farms. New information led to the addition of a further 166 pig farms involving no owned land; estimates of pig numbers in previous years were revised.
- 1999 The same level of sampling applied as in 1998 but the survey included all pig farms.
- 2000 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was carried out
- 2001 A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999. Farms on which animals had been slaughtered due to Foot and Mouth outbreaks were not surveyed. Estimates were made for the crop areas, livestock and labour numbers for these farms.

¹ The EU Integrated Administration and Control System

- 2002 - A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in
2006 1999. Where available, administrative data were used in conjunction with
previous census data, to provide estimates for those that were not
sampled, or failed to make a return in the current year.

- 2007 - A sample survey was carried out. The number of cattle questions on the
2009 survey form were reduced as additional data was sourced from APHIS
(Animal and Public Health Information System) to determine cattle
numbers. No poultry questions were asked, with data on poultry being
sourced from the NI Bird Register.

- 2010 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was completed.

- 2011 - Sample survey completed similar to years 2007 -2009.
2012

- 2013 - Sample survey completed similar to 2011-2012. Pig questions removed
from paper form. Data on pigs sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.

1.5 DATA USES

Agricultural census statistics are used for a wide range of purposes. Most of the data collected is required by the statistical office of the European Community - Eurostat - or by DG Agriculture and Rural Development. Along with similar data from other regions and Member States, the Commission uses it to formulate, monitor and evaluate EU agricultural, rural development, environmental and trade policies.

Data is also used by DAERA to provide an evidence base for policy development and, as such, it is used to assess the outcomes of policies under evaluation and to predict the impacts of policy options that are under consideration to support agriculture in Northern Ireland.

Researchers make extensive use of data to construct models of the agri-food sector that are needed to undertake detailed investigations of agriculture, trade and environmental policies.

Livestock numbers and land use data are used to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural sources for the UK greenhouse gas inventory and to monitor changes in emission levels over time.

Farmers make use of data to inform themselves about changes in the structure of the industry at regional level and at lower levels of geography down to Ward level.

Producer representative organisations use agricultural census statistics to assist with lobbying government departments and political representatives, while food processors and suppliers of goods and services to the farm sector uses data in business planning and decision-making on capital investment.

SECTION 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 Farms and farm structure

2.2 Agricultural labour force

2.3 Other terms

2.4 Symbols used

2.5 Standard Outputs

2.6 Standard Labour Requirements

SECTION 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 FARMS AND FARM STRUCTURE

Farms

In the 2016 census, a farm² was defined in accordance with the definition adopted for European Union surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, namely:

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

Only those with at least one hectare of agricultural land or with any cattle, sheep, pigs or significant poultry or horticultural crops were defined as a farm.

Farm Business Size

Farm business size is determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). Standards or norms have been calculated for all major enterprises. The total SLR for each farm is calculated by multiplying its crop areas and livestock numbers by the appropriate SLR coefficients and then summing the result for all enterprises on the farm.

Prior to 2004, the farm business size had been determined by calculating each farm's total Standard Gross Margin (SGM). However, it was felt that using SLRs was a more appropriate and accurate method to size farm businesses in the UK.

To show year-to-year changes in business size, the enterprise SLR coefficients are held constant for a number of years. In UK agricultural statistics, business size is described in terms of five SLR size bands.

UK agricultural statistics business size bands

Size	Standard labour unit* (2000)
Very Small	Less than 1
Small	1 < 2
Medium	2 < 3
Large	3 < 5
Very Large	5 or more

*1 Standard labour unit = 1900 hours

Since there are very few farms in the 'Very Large' size range in Northern Ireland, these are included in the 'Large' category in Census analyses.

² In UK agricultural statistical publications the terms "holdings" and "farms" are used synonymously but in Northern Ireland, where many landowners let out all their land and take no part in agriculture, the former term refers to the areas under single ownership and the latter to the areas farmed in separate units, i.e. after adjustment for land let out or taken in conacre. Farms exclude holdings that take no part in farming.

Farm Business Type³

The system of classifying farms according to the type of farming found on a holding is set out in Commission Regulation (EC) 1242/2008 and explained in greater detail in the EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) Typology Handbook RI/CC 1500 rev.3.

Depending on the amount of detail required, farms can be classified into 1 of 62 types. Individual farms are allocated to a type category on the basis of the aggregate value of farm outputs. As it is not feasible to estimate the value of outputs on a farm-by-farm basis, Standard Outputs (SOs) are calculated as reference values for a variety of farm products. The SO of a specific product (crop or livestock) is the average monetary value (per ha or head) of agricultural output based on regional farm-gate prices over a 5 year period. The SO excludes direct payments and no costs are deducted. Once the numbers of livestock and hectares of crop for an individual farm have been multiplied by the relevant SOs, it is allocated to a type category depending on where most of the total SO comes from. To ensure a stable framework for comparison and analysis SO values, once calculated, are held constant for a number of years. The SO values in use at the moment cover the five year period centred on 2010 and can be found at section 2.5.

For UK statistical purposes, the 62 farm types (not all of which are found in Northern Ireland) are grouped into 10 'robust' categories which have particular relevance to UK conditions. These are:

Cereals	Farms on which cereals and combinable crops account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.
General cropping	Farms which do not qualify as cereals farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in arable, including field scale vegetable, crops or in a mixture of arable and horticultural crops where arable crops account for more than one-third of the total SO and no other grouping accounts for more than one-third. In addition, farms with a substantial area of grassland but few livestock are also included within this farm type.
Horticulture	Farms with more than two-thirds of the total SO in horticultural crops (including specialist mushroom growers).
Specialist pigs	Farms of which pigs account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
Specialist poultry	Farms on which poultry account for more than two-thirds of total SO.
Dairy	Farms on which dairy cows account for more than two-thirds of the total SO.

³ The EU typology has changed from using 2007 coefficients to using 2010 coefficients. The impact of the change from SO2007 to SO2010 can be seen at Annex 1.

Grazing livestock (LFA)	Farms wholly or mainly in the Less Favoured Area which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
Grazing livestock (Lowland)	Farms wholly or mainly outside the Less Favoured Area which do not qualify as Dairy farms but have more than two-thirds of the total SO in grazing livestock (cattle and sheep).
Mixed	Farms that have no dominant enterprise and do not fit into the above categories.
Other types	Farms that specialise in enterprises which do not fit the definitions of mainstream agricultural activities. For the most part this category is made up of specialist horse farms plus other farms that are unclassified.

2.2 AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE

In conjunction with the other UK Agricultural Departments, an in-depth investigation was carried out in 1995 into the quality of statistics on the agricultural labour force. This indicated that while the number of workers recorded on each census form was generally realistic, there was confusion about the categories of workers into which farmers were asked to record themselves and other persons working on their farm. Consequently, the questions were revised to provide clearer definitions of the various categories and to bring these more into line with the requirements of data users. The definitions now used are:

Regular workers Those who work on the farm during at least 20 weeks per year.

Full-time Working 30 hours per week or more.

Part-time Working less than 30 hours per week.

Casual workers Those who work less than 20 weeks per year.

2.3 OTHER TERMS

Conacre	A system of short-term lettings, nominally for 11 months or 364 days
Less favoured areas (LFA)	Areas of poorer agricultural land which qualify for special aid under EU schemes
SDA	Severely Disadvantaged Areas, i.e. land classed as LFA under Directive 75/268/EEC
DA	Disadvantaged Areas, i.e. land classed as LFA under Directive 84/169/EEC.
Area farmed	Area farmed by each business on the census date. Agricultural land which is taken in conacre by persons operating a business is included but owned land which they let out in conacre is not. Common rough grazing is excluded
Crops & grass areas	Total area excluding rough grazing, set-aside, farm woodlands and non-agricultural land.
Livestock numbers	Numbers on farms on the census date.
Cereals	Barley, wheat, oats and mixed corn
Dairy cows	Cows in milk or in calf, mainly for producing milk for sale; includes heifers in milk but excludes in-calf heifers.
Beef cows	Cows in milk or in calf, mainly for producing calves for beef; includes heifers in milk but excludes in-calf heifers.
Breeding ewes	Female sheep over one year which lambed in the current season or are for future breeding. (In 1995 and earlier years, only those to be put to the ram in the current year were included)
Sows & gilts	Includes in-pig gilts but excludes gilts not yet in pig.
Total poultry	Hens, pullets, breeding fowl, broilers, turkeys, geese, ducks and other fowl

2.4 SYMBOLS USED

- Not available
- Figures combined

2.5 STANDARD OUTPUTS (SO)

		€	
Crops & Grass	Wheat	1,642	per ha
	Barley	1,166	per ha
	Oats	949	per ha
	Mixed corn	1037	per ha
	Potatoes	5,941	per ha
	Oilseed rape	1354	per ha
	Linseed	638	per ha
	Open-air horticulture		
	Vegetables	4,140	per ha
	Fruit	9,021	per ha
	Flowers/nursery	51,404	per ha
	Glasshouses:		
	Vegetables	155,309	per ha
	Flowers	348,608	per ha
	Mushrooms	35,276	per 100 m ²
	Forage Maize	571	per ha
Other fodder crops	557	per ha	
Other crops	650	per ha	
Grassland	238	per ha	
Cattle	Dairy cows	2,050	per head
	Beef cows	404	per head
	Heifers 2 yrs +	419	per head
	Heifers 1-2 yrs	419	per head
	Bulls/steers 2 yrs +	482	per head
	Bulls/steers 1-2 yrs	474	per head
	Calves under 1 year	430	per head
Sheep	Ewes	97	per head
	Other sheep	1	per head
	Lambs	0	per head (included with ewe)
Pigs	Sows	819	per head
	Piglets (under 20kg)	2	per head
	Other pigs	207	per head
Poultry	Hens	1,778	per 100
	Broilers	857	per 100
	Others	5,813	per 100
Horses	Mares, stallions	513	per head
	Others	0	per head

Notes: 1 These SOs apply to crop areas and livestock numbers at June (not to the annual throughput).

2 At the time of calculation, 1 euro = £0.85 (2008-2012)

2.6 STANDARD LABOUR REQUIREMENTS (SLR)

The following factors have been used to classify farms in N.I.

	Item	Unit	Standard Labour Requirement (hours)	Units per 1900 hours
Crops & Grass	Cereals	ha	30	63
	Oilseeds	ha	22.5	84
	Potatoes	ha	135	14
	Outdoor vegetables	ha	150	12.7
	Fruit	ha	450	4.2
	Ornamentals	ha	1,500	1.3
	Glasshouse vegetables	ha	5,000	0.4
	Other glasshouse	ha	25,000	0.1
	Mushrooms	house	1,050	1.8
	Setaside	ha	1.5	1,267
	Forage crops	ha	9	211
	Grass	ha	6	317
	Rough grazing	ha	2.25	844
	Cattle	Dairy cows	head	39
Beef cows		head	12	158
Other cattle		head	9	211
Sheep	Ewes and rams: Lowland	head	5.2	365
	Ewes and rams: LFA	head	4.2	452
	Other sheep: Lowland	head	3.3	576
	Other sheep: LFA	head	2.6	730
Pigs	Sows and gilts	head	16	119
	Piglets	head	1	1,900
	Other pigs	head	1.3	1,462
Poultry	Laying hens	head	0.17	11,176
	Pullets	head	0.12	15,833
	Broilers	head	0.04	47,500
	Turkeys, Ducks etc.	head	0.045	42,222
Other	Horses	head	150	12
	Goats	head	20	95
	Deer	head	15	127

SECTION 3: NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS

- 3.1 Overview and comparison with previous year
- 3.2 Latest results and 15 years time series data
- 3.3 Charts of 15 year time series data for principal statistics

SECTION 3: NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS

3.1 OVERVIEW AND COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEAR

The June 2016 Agricultural Census showed the following headline results and changes from the previous years:

Cereals: The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2015 for harvest in 2016 was 18,500 ha – an 8 per cent increase on the previous year. Within this group the area of winter barley has increased to 7,600 ha – the biggest area of this crop grown since 1998. The popularity of winter barley is attributed in part to its earlier ripening than spring barley and winter wheat and the advantage this brings with harvesting and follow-on field operations. Spring barley decreased by 6 per cent, with an area of 14,700ha. Overall the cereal area increased 500ha to 33,400 ha – a 2 per cent increase compared with 2015.

Other crops: The total area of potatoes grown increased by 4 per cent to 3,700 hectares. Over the 10 year period 2006 to 2016, the area in potatoes decreased by 21 per cent. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce while market returns are variable. Most production is undertaken by a small number of specialist growers who service the local retail and catering trades.

The area of forage maize decreased by 15 per cent from 2015 to 1,300 ha, and has decreased by 63 per cent since reaching a peak of 3,500 hectares in 2008. Mixed success with the crop (Northern Ireland latitudes and climate make it a marginal area for forage maize) has discouraged many growers from continuing to grow it. Its main use continues to be as a supplement to grass silage for winter feeding of dairy cows.

Cattle: Total cattle numbers increased by over 3 per cent on 2015 levels at 1.665 million head. Within this total dairy cows increased by 2 per cent to 317,100 while beef cows increased by 4 per cent to 269,700. The increase in dairy cow numbers reflected decisions about production made by farmers up to two years ago, when milk prices were high and prospects for expansion generally favourable.

Sheep: The number of breeding ewes was 2 per cent higher at June 2016 compared with the previous year. The number of spring lambs on farms in June was also 2 per cent higher which links in with the higher ewe numbers.

Pigs: The pig breeding herd increased by 2 per cent in June 2016, with total pigs increasing by 6 per cent to 601,100 – the highest it has ever been. A small number of large, highly productive businesses, drive most of the change in the sector.

Poultry: Poultry numbers were up by 3 per cent compared with June 2015. There was 12 per cent increase in the commercial laying flock, whilst the breeding flock for hatching eggs decreased 5 per cent to 2,283,000 head. Broiler chicken numbers remained at similar levels to 2015. The sector is highly vertically integrated and the number of birds coming forward is tailored to meet market demands.

Farmers and workers: The overall farm labour headcount (full-time, part-time and casual) decreased slightly to 47,700 in June 2016.

3.2 NORTHERN IRELAND TOTALS (2002-2016)

Tables and charts show the crop areas, livestock numbers and numbers of farmers and other workers for the 15 year period 2002 to 2016 at 1st June each year.

Table 3.1 Land Use

The total area in agricultural production is provided and details of land use disaggregated by grassland, rough grazing, arable, horticultural and other uses. The total area farmed has declined by 54,000 ha over the period, mainly as a result of the transfer of land to non-agricultural uses and the withdrawal of the most marginal (hill) land from production. The data illustrates the predominance of grassland as the major land use. Cropping accounts for less than 5 per cent of the total area farmed and is naturally constrained by relatively wet, maritime climate conditions and the predominance of heavy soil types.

Table 3.2 Cattle and calves

Cattle farming is the main agricultural activity in Northern Ireland. Total cattle numbers are provided with breakdowns for beef and dairy cattle and for a number of age groups. Dairy cow numbers have increased by just 6 per cent since 2002, but considerable structural adjustment has occurred as small scale milk producers have exited the industry and remaining dairy farms have tended to get bigger (see Table 5.5 for distribution of dairy farms by herd size and county). Beef cow numbers have

declined by 12 per cent since 2002. This is the result of persistently challenging trading conditions and changes in subsidy mechanisms after 2005 which meant that payments were no longer linked to the number of cows held.

From 2007, cattle statistics have been derived from the Animal and Public Health Information System, (APHIS). Data for the years 2005 and 2006 were revised using APHIS as the data source.

Table 3.3 Sheep

Total sheep numbers are provided and are further divided into male and female breeding flocks and lambs under 1 year.

Sheep flocks are typically, but not always, maintained on farms with cattle enterprises. Breeding ewe numbers rose rapidly in the 1990's peaking in 1998 at 1.450 million. After this they fell back by 40% to a low of 876,000 in 2010. Since then numbers have increased by 9 per cent but have seen considerable fluctuation in response to volatile lamb prices.

Table 3.3 Horses and ponies

Information on horses and ponies found on farms is provided for two ownership categories: holdings where animals are owned by the farmer and holdings where horses and ponies are owned by a third party.

The data relates to horse and ponies found on commercial farms, an unknown number of horses and ponies are located on holdings not covered by the survey where all land is rented out to third parties.

Table 3.3 Goats

Total goat numbers are provided and are further sub-divided into females that have kidded and other goats. The majority of goats are found in very small numbers on farms and have no commercial significance. A very small number of farm businesses maintain specialist milk producing herds. The total number of goats in June 2016 remained unchanged from the previous year.

Table 3.4 Pigs

Pig data is presented for the total herd, a number of female breeding categories, male boars, by weight band for fattening pigs until 2012 and by three categories after 2012.

The short production cycle associated with pigs, farm-gate price variability and sensitivity of producer margins to changes in feed costs, mean that population numbers are responsive to prevailing market conditions. The herd experienced a marked decline between 1998 and 2000 when trading conditions were very difficult and grant aid was available to assist the industry restructure. Since then total pig numbers have dipped and then recovered as the industry underwent considerable restructuring. Currently almost 88 percent of sows are found on fewer than 100 farms (see Table 5.11 for more detail).

From 2013 onwards, pig data have been sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Table 3.4 Poultry

For poultry a point estimate of total numbers is disaggregated into commercial egg laying birds, breeding birds, broilers and other birds – the latter comprising a number of minor activities. Broiler birds are reared on farms in a highly vertically integrated production system and population numbers are managed in response to market conditions.

From 2007 onwards, poultry data have been sourced from the annual Northern Ireland Bird Register Update. From 2008 onwards the other category included game birds.

Table 3.5 Farmers and other workers

Almost all farm businesses in Northern Ireland are owned and operated either by an owner occupier or by a family partnership. Most labour is therefore provided by the farm family. Farm labour data is presented for owners, spouse and other workers on a full-time and part-time basis. The long-term trend shows declining numbers in most labour categories, with both total farmers and total other-workers showing similar declines. The numbers of farmers in the full-time categories has also fallen proportionally more than that of the part-time categories. These trends reflect an overall decline in the number of farms and a greater reliance on part-time labour.

Labour input on an Annual Work Unit basis and for self-employed and employed persons in the agricultural sector can be found in Tables 2.14 and 2.15 of the Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture publication.

Table 3.6 Number of Farms

The population of farms to which these statistics refer includes all active farm businesses having one or more hectare 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.

Farm numbers fell 2 per cent from 2015 and have been in long-term decline. This is a result of economic drivers that make off-farm work more financially attractive while simultaneously encouraging the formation of larger scale production units to minimise costs and maintain farm income.

Table 3.1 Crop areas in Northern Ireland 2002-2016

	('000 hectares)							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Grass								
Under 5 yrs old	136.4	138.0	141.8	135.6	126.5	122.1	117.2	120.8
Over 5 yrs old	707.3	710.3	696.7	675.8	677.2	671.9	672.4	669.9
Total grass	843.7	848.2	838.5	811.4	803.7	794.0	789.6	790.7
Hill or rough land	151.6	152.9	151.2	148.6	151.3	146.5	147.1	141.9
Cereals								
Oats	2.4	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.1
Wheat	7.2	7.3	8.6	8.4	8.7	9.2	12.1	10.1
Barley (winter)	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.6	4.7	6.1	5.1
Barley (spring)	24.5	23.6	22.5	21.7	18.2	18.1	19.5	21.6
Mixed corn	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Total cereals	38.1	37.8	38.3	36.2	33.6	34.2	40.4	39.2
Other field crops								
Potatoes	6.7	6.0	5.7	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.1
Arable crop silage	1.9	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5
Forage maize	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.1	3.5	3.3
SRC Willow	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.3	0.4	0.5
Other crops ¹	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.1
Total other field crops	11.4	12.0	12.5	12.3	13.3	14.0	15.0	15.5
Horticultural crops								
Fruit	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vegetables	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Ornamentals	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total horticultural crops	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0
Total crops	52.6	53.0	53.9	51.5	49.8	51.2	58.3	57.7
Total crops & grass	896.3	901.2	892.3	862.9	853.5	845.2	848.0	848.4
Other land								
Set-aside	3.0	3.5	3.4	2.4	2.3	2.0	1.2	0.4
Woods and plantations	7.9	8.4	8.2	8.6	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.3
Other land ²	8.4	7.8	7.6	7.1	11.8	10.9	11.3	6.9
Total other land	19.3	19.6	19.2	18.1	23.7	22.8	22.3	17.6
TOTAL AREA FARMED	1,067.3	1,073.7	1,062.8	1,029.5	1,028.5	1,014.5	1,017.4	1,008.0

1. Other Crops - Oilseed rape, Turnip/beet, Kale/Cabbage, other stockfeed crops, Triticale, Linseed, Flax.

2. Other land - fallow land, roads, buildings, bogs, wasteland, gardens etc.

(’000 hectares)

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
							Grass
118.4	129.7	133.9	139.2	146.2	149.9	148.2	Under 5 yrs old
661.6	647.4	646.0	648.8	641.8	650.4	652.6	Over 5 yrs old
780.0	777.1	779.8	788.0	788.0	800.3	800.8	Total grass
140.5	140.9	138.8	140.1	140.1	131.1	137.2	Hill or rough land
							Cereals
2.3	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	Oats
10.9	11.6	9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0	8.6	Wheat
6.8	6.8	5.3	5.3	6.7	7.0	7.6	Barley (winter)
17.6	17.2	20.2	20.5	16.8	15.7	14.7	Barley (spring)
0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	Mixed corn
37.8	37.9	37.1	35.9	34.2	32.9	33.4	Total cereals
							Other field crops
4.9	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.7	Potatoes
3.9	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.3	Arable crop silage
2.9	2.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	Forage maize
0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	SRC Willow
2.7	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.1	Other crops
14.9	13.5	13.0	12.6	12.5	11.3	11.0	Total other field crops
							Horticultural crops
1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	Fruit
1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	Vegetables
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	Ornamentals
2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	Total horticultural crops
55.6	54.4	53.0	51.6	49.8	47.3	47.4	Total crops
835.5	831.5	832.8	839.6	837.8	847.7	848.2	Total crops & grass
							Other land
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Set-aside
10.2	10.8	11.0	10.3	11.1	11.1	16.1	Woods and plantations
7.8	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9	11.8	Other land
18.0	19.0	19.3	18.3	18.9	18.9	27.9	Total other land
994.0	991.4	991.0	998.0	996.8	997.7	1013.2	TOTAL AREA FARMED

Table 3.2 Cattle and calves in Northern Ireland 2002-2016

(*'000 head*)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Dairy cows								
In milk	276.2	268.7	265.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	21.7	21.5	22.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	297.9	290.1	288.3	287.1	284.7	286.1	289.2	284.7
Dairy heifers-in-calf								
2 years old	25.9	25.7	28.1	27.7	27.5	28.1	26.9	26.3
1-2 years	32.5	34.3	34.4	36.6	39.0	39.8	37.4	36.2
Total	58.5	60.0	62.5	64.2	66.5	67.8	64.3	62.5
Beef cows								
In milk	255.5	239.9	240.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
In calf	51.5	55.5	55.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	307.0	295.4	296.2	280.6	276.7	272.6	265.7	256.8
Beef heifers-in-calf								
2 years old	20.1	19.8	21.0	26.1	25.7	22.3	24.3	23.6
1-2 years	12.9	13.4	13.3	16.4	16.1	14.4	15.4	14.0
Total	33.0	33.3	34.3	42.4	41.8	36.7	39.7	37.6
Breeding bulls								
2 years old and over	12.4	12.6	12.9	15.5	15.6	14.1	15.6	14.9
1-2 years	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.5	4.0	3.7
Total	16.5	16.6	17.0	19.7	19.7	17.6	19.6	18.6
Other cattle								
2 years old								
Male	68.7	66.9	66.8	77.4	75.5	73.2	65.5	58.5
Females for slaughter	29.3	32.8	33.2	87.0	83.6	77.9	75.4	63.5
Females for breeding	13.4	15.0	15.5	11.5	11.4	9.7	10.6	10.0
Total	111.4	114.8	115.4	175.9	170.5	160.8	151.5	132.0
1-2 years								
Male	202.7	210.4	208.6	193.2	190.0	188.0	170.2	172.7
Females for slaughter	122.0	123.4	119.2	111.6	109.9	108.0	98.2	109.1
Females for breeding	63.1	69.7	69.6	69.2	68.5	66.6	65.1	66.8
Total	387.8	403.5	397.3	374.1	368.3	362.7	333.5	348.6
6-12 months								
Male	91.7	96.7	95.4	95.6	93.9	87.7	84.0	91.5
Female	93.2	95.0	93.2	102.7	101.4	101.7	103.0	100.4
Total	184.9	191.7	188.6	198.2	195.2	189.4	186.9	191.9
Under 6 months								
Male	140.0	138.2	136.6	132.2	128.8	117.9	128.6	129.5
Female	147.4	141.6	141.5	138.2	136.9	131.9	143.5	137.0
Total	287.5	279.8	278.1	270.5	265.7	249.8	272.1	266.5
TOTAL CATTLE	1,684.5	1,685.3	1,677.6	1,712.7	1,689.3	1,643.5	1,622.5	1,599.0

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

('000 head)

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
							Dairy cows
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In milk
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In calf
281.0	282.5	285.4	279.5	294.2	311.5	317.1	Total
							Dairy heifers-in-calf
26.1	26.0	27.3	27.8	27.2	26.6	25.3	2 years old
35.9	36.2	38.2	39.3	34.8	34.1	33.6	1-2 years
61.9	62.3	65.4	67.14	62.1	60.8	58.8	Total
							Beef cows
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In milk
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	In calf
257.6	269.5	279.2	270.1	254.9	260.3	269.7	Total
							Beef heifers-in-calf
24.0	27.2	24.5	21.1	19.1	19.1	18.8	2 years old
14.4	14.9	16.4	16.2	12.7	12.6	12.4	1-2 years
38.4	42.1	40.9	37.4	31.9	31.7	31.1	Total
							Breeding bulls
14.7	14.9	15.2	15.1	14.5	14.2	13.7	2 years old and over
3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7	1-2 years
18.4	18.7	19.0	18.8	18.1	17.7	17.4	Total
							Other cattle
							2 years old
57.3	49.4	47.0	43.0	49.0	46.9	43.7	Male
66.2	63.3	59.2	59.5	72.7	64.2	49.5	Females for slaughter
10.1	11.0	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.0	8.5	Females for breeding
133.6	123.7	117.2	113.3	132.6	121.1	101.7	Total
							1-2 years
176.4	166.4	164.0	168.0	154.3	153.4	166.6	Male
110.5	104.0	98.3	105.2	106.0	104.4	116.0	Females for slaughter
67.3	68.3	72.3	72.1	71.5	70.4	75.5	Females for breeding
354.2	338.7	334.5	345.2	331.8	328.3	358.1	Total
							6-12 months
89.2	85.2	92.9	89.4	84.3	90.4	97.7	Male
99.1	100.1	106.7	106.9	103.4	111.4	115.6	Female
188.3	185.4	199.6	196.3	187.8	201.8	213.3	Total
							Under 6 months
131.4	129.1	136.3	123.0	119.6	131.3	142.0	Male
139.4	138.4	148.0	137.0	134.4	144.3	155.2	Female
270.8	267.6	284.3	260.0	254.0	275.6	297.2	Total
1,604.4	1,590.5	1,625.4	1,587.8	1,567.3	1,608.9	1,664.6	TOTAL CATTLE

Table 3.3 Sheep, horses, ponies and goats in Northern Ireland 2002-2016

	('000 head)							
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
SHEEP								
Ewes								
Ewes which lambed	998.5	953.6	943.1	900.8	864.6	839.3	823.1	788.2
Others for breeding	130.2	152.0	157.4	126.5	126.5	118.0	112.3	104.2
Total	1,128.6	1,105.6	1,100.5	1,027.3	991.1	957.3	935.4	892.4
Other sheep								
Rams for service	31.1	29.6	29.2	28.6	27.5	27.3	26.9	26.0
Not for breeding	8.2	9.5	10.1	10.6	11.1	12.2	12.5	13.6
Lambs								
Under 1 year old	1,156.3	1,096.4	1,085.6	1,078.6	1,040.9	1,027.2	998.8	964.8
TOTAL SHEEP	2,324.2	2,241.1	2,225.4	2,145.1	2,070.5	2,024.0	1,973.6	1,896.7
HORSES AND PONIES								
Mares								
Horses	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ponies	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total mares	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Stallions	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other horses	4.5	4.5	3.9	4.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other ponies	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Horses/Ponies owned by occupier	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.5	9.0	9.8	10.2
Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1
TOTAL HORSES & PONIES	10.1	9.9	9.2	9.3	10.3	10.8	11.8	12.2
GOATS								
Female goats which have kidded	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3
All other goats and kids	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3
TOTAL GOATS	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.7

(’000 head)

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
SHEEP							
Ewes							
775.2	774.4	806.1	792.3	794.1	814.3	833.6	Ewes which lambed
100.7	120.8	131.4	129.2	116.5	124.3	121.6	Others for breeding
875.9	895.2	937.5	921.4	910.6	938.6	955.2	Total
Other sheep							
25.2	25.5	26.5	26.4	26.5	27.4	28.3	Rams for service
18.4	13.9	15.0	16.1	15.9	17.8	18.1	Not for breeding
Lambs							
928.1	953.0	990.0	939.6	969.9	1,005.8	1,021.4	Under 1 year old
1,847.7	1,887.6	1,968.9	1,903.5	1,922.9	1,989.7	2,023.0	TOTAL SHEEP
HORSES AND PONIES							
Mares							
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Horses
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Ponies
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Total mares
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Stallions
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Other horses
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Other ponies
10.2	9.9	10.0	9.7	9.1	9.1	8.4	Horses/Ponies owned by occupier
2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	Horses/Ponies not owned by occupier
12.5	12.0	12.0	11.7	11.1	11.0	10.3	TOTAL HORSES & PONIES
GOATS							
1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	Female goats which have kidded
1.4	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.3	All other goats and kids
2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.8	TOTAL GOATS

Table 3.4 Pigs and poultry in Northern Ireland 2002-2016

('000 head)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
PIGS								
Female breeding herd								
Sows in pig	26.4	28.1	25.4	25.7	25.9	26.0	25.3	27.9
Gilts in pig	5.0	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.3	6.5	3.4
Others sows for breeding	7.9	9.7	7.8	6.6	6.7	6.7	3.6	7.0
Total	39.3	42.9	37.8	36.7	37.4	37.0	35.5	38.2
Other breeding pigs								
Boars being used for service	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7
Maiden gilts	2.9	3.3	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.8
Other pigs								
Cull sows being fattened	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6
110kg and over	1.5	1.6	1.7	3.3	3.3	3.9	6.4	5.2
80 kg and under 110kg	48.4	61.0	54.3	55.2	51.9	61.0	63.7	68.4
50kg and under 80kg	96.6	106.5	108.4	87.1	79.9	86.2	82.4	89.9
20kg and under 50kg	105.6	112.6	111.4	91.8	83.6	88.7	85.8	92.5
Under 20kg	91.9	104.1	105.4	126.6	125.6	128.6	124.1	134.3
Finishers	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Weaners/Growers	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Suckling piglets	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	344.3	386.3	381.9	364.5	344.9	369.3	363.0	390.8
TOTAL PIGS	387.7	433.7	424.1	405.1	386.6	410.5	402.4	433.5
Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.								
POULTRY								
Commercial laying flock								
Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle	1,919.2	1,945.9	2,093.4	2,111.7	2,084.6	2,348.3	2,370.8	2,254.3
Second cycle	180.3	257.4	172.7	207.5	103.1	45.6	27.7	61.4
Total	2,099.4	2,203.2	2,266.1	2,319.2	2,187.7	2,394.0	2,398.5	2,315.7
Growing pullets	534.1	552.9	509.8	669.5	743.1	1,039.8	1,174.3	999.1
Breeding flock	2,506.2	2,518.2	2,284.8	1,634.5	1,594.8	1,538.0	1,205.2	1,573.2
Table birds								
Broilers	11,273.3	12,811.4	15,006.9	12,525.7	13,367.1	11,861.3	11,543.5	11,418.3
Other poultry	448.8	439.6	441.7	465.4	518.3	451.9	809.4	556.4
TOTAL POULTRY	16,861.8	18,525.4	20,509.2	17,614.3	18,411.0	17,284.9	17,130.9	16,862.7

Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
From 2008 onwards, game farms are included in poultry figures.

('000 head)

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
							PIGS
							Female breeding herd
25.7	25.9	26.0	29.5	29.3	30.2	31.7	Sows in pig
6.4	5.7	5.9	6.4	6.8	7.2	6.3	Gilts in pig
6.4	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.8	8.2	8.5	Others sows for breeding
38.5	38.0	38.3	42.5	42.8	45.6	46.4	Total
							Other breeding pigs
0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	Boars being used for service
4.3	4.5	4.3	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.5	Maiden gilts
							Other pigs
1.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	Cull sows being fattened
5.6	6.5	11.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	110kg and over
56.7	58.8	63.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	80 kg and under 110kg
82.0	88.0	85.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	50kg and under 80kg
102.3	93.0	88.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20kg and under 50kg
133.2	135.0	133.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Under 20kg
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	179.0	214.9	239.3	252.9	Finishers
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	166.8	164.4	180.4	193.8	Weaners/Growers
n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	85.6	88.5	97.4	101.2	Suckling piglets
381.0	382.0	383.7	432.1	468.4	517.7	548.3	Total
424.6	425.3	426.9	480.3	517.1	569.7	601.1	TOTAL PIGS

							POULTRY
							Commercial laying flock
2,077.2	2,411.7	2,556.1	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	Laying birds up to end of first laying cycle
22.1	18.0	0.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Second cycle
2,099.4	2,429.7	2,556.7	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1	3,550.0	Total
1,017.3	1,109.2	1,089.2	909.3	916.3	908.0	961.9	Growing pullets
1,078.2	1,528.0	1,641.1	2,150.6	2,413.7	2,404.9	2,282.7	Breeding flock
							Table birds
11,915.1	14,069.4	13,459.4	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1	14,459.2	Broilers
421.2	486.2	441.7	463.5	412.4	485.6	530.0	Other poultry
16,531.1	19,622.5	19,188.2	19,373.8	20,401.1	21,245.7	21,783.8	TOTAL POULTRY

Table 3.5 Farmers and other workers in Northern Ireland 2002-2016

		('000 workers)							
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Farmers									
Full time	Male	18.4	18.1	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.3	16.0	15.6
	Female	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8
	Total full-time farmers	19.7	19.3	18.3	18.2	18.0	17.2	16.9	16.4
Part time	Male	12.7	12.8	13.0	12.5	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.2
	Female	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6
	Total part-time farmers	14.8	14.7	14.9	14.4	14.0	14.0	14.2	13.8
TOTAL FARMERS		34.5	34.0	33.3	32.5	32.0	31.2	31.1	30.3
Farmers' spouses									
Full time	Total	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8
Part time	Total	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4
TOTAL SPOUSES		6.2	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2
Other workers									
Full time	Male	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.6
	Female	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
	Total full-time	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.1
Part time	Male	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.6
	Female	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6
	Total part-time	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.8	3.2
Casual	Male	7.2	7.6	7.4	6.7	6.2	5.3	5.2	4.8
	Female	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
	Total casual/seasonal	8.0	8.4	8.1	7.3	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.2
TOTAL OTHER WORKERS		13.5	14.1	13.7	12.4	11.7	11.4	11.6	11.5
TOTAL FARMERS, SPOUSES AND OTHER WORKERS		54.3	54.5	53.3	51.1	50.0	49.0	49.0	48.0

Table 3.6 Number of Farms in Northern Ireland, 2002 - 2016

		('000 farms)							
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
TOTAL FARMS		28.5	28.3	27.6	27.1	26.7	26.1	26.0	25.3

(’000 workers)

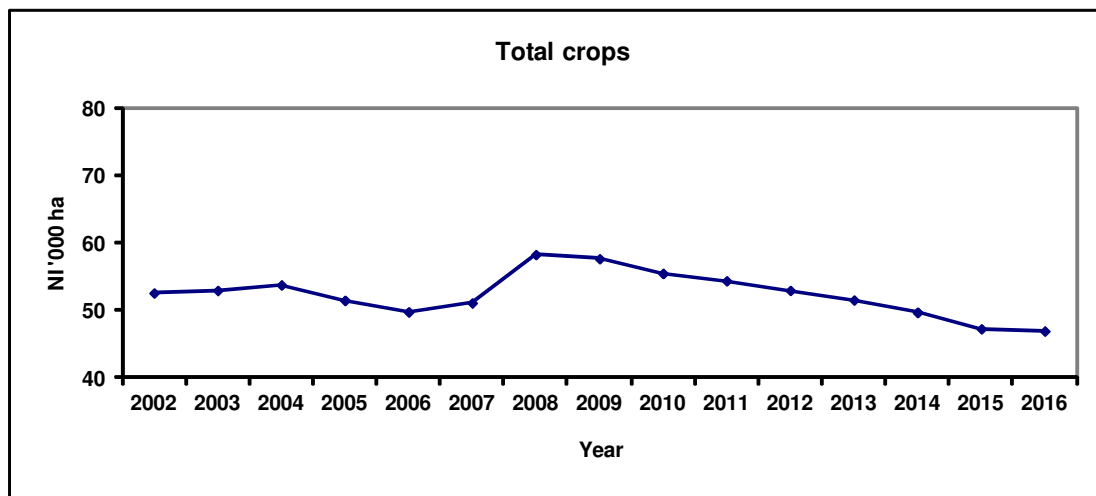
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
15.2	15.2	15.3	15.6	15.6	15.9	15.5	Male	Farmers
0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	Female	Full time
16.0	15.8	15.8	16.2	16.2	16.6	16.2		Total full-time farmers
12.1	11.9	11.7	11.4	11.4	11.9	12.1	Male	Part time
1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	Female	
13.6	13.3	13.2	12.8	12.9	13.4	13.6		Total part-time farmers
29.6	29.1	29.1	29.0	29.1	30.1	29.8		TOTAL FARMERS
1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	Total	Farmers' spouses
4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6	Total	Full time
								Part time
6.2	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.4		TOTAL SPOUSES
2.6	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	Male	Other workers
0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	Female	Full time
3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2		Total full-time
2.6	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4	Male	Part time
0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	Female	
3.2	3.4	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.2		Total part-time
4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.8	Male	Casual
0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	Female	
4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.1		Total casual/seasonal
11.2	11.4	12.1	12.4	12.5	11.8	11.5		TOTAL OTHER WORKERS
46.9	46.8	47.5	47.8	47.9	48.0	47.7		TOTAL FARMERS, SPOUSES AND OTHER WORKERS

(’000 farms)

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
24.5	24.4	24.3	24.5	24.2	24.9	24.5	TOTAL FARMS

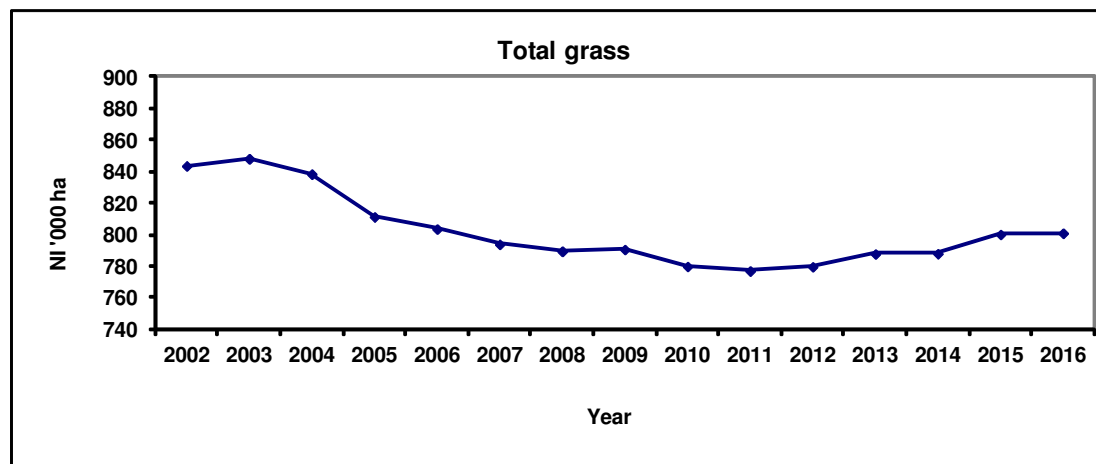
3.3 CHARTS OF TIME SERIES DATA FOR PRINCIPAL STATISTICS

Chart 3 - 1



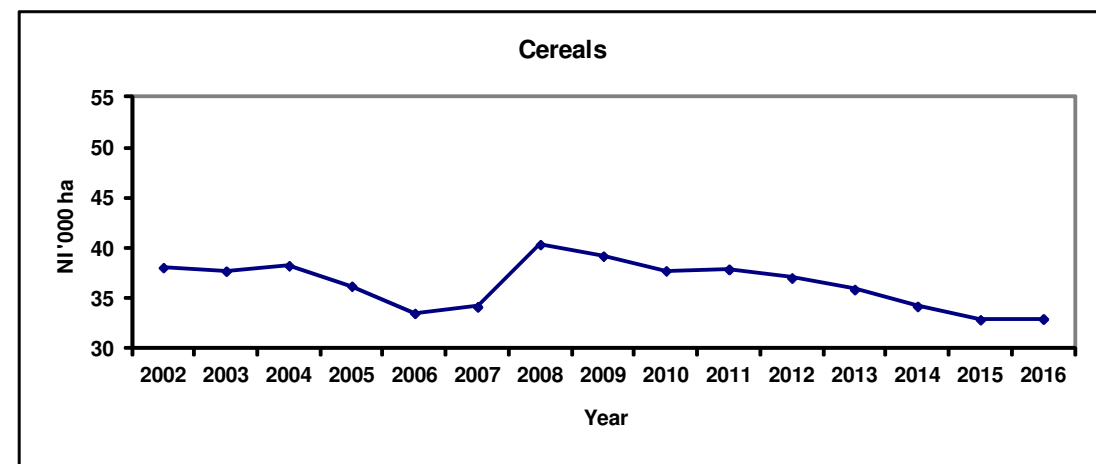
Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 2



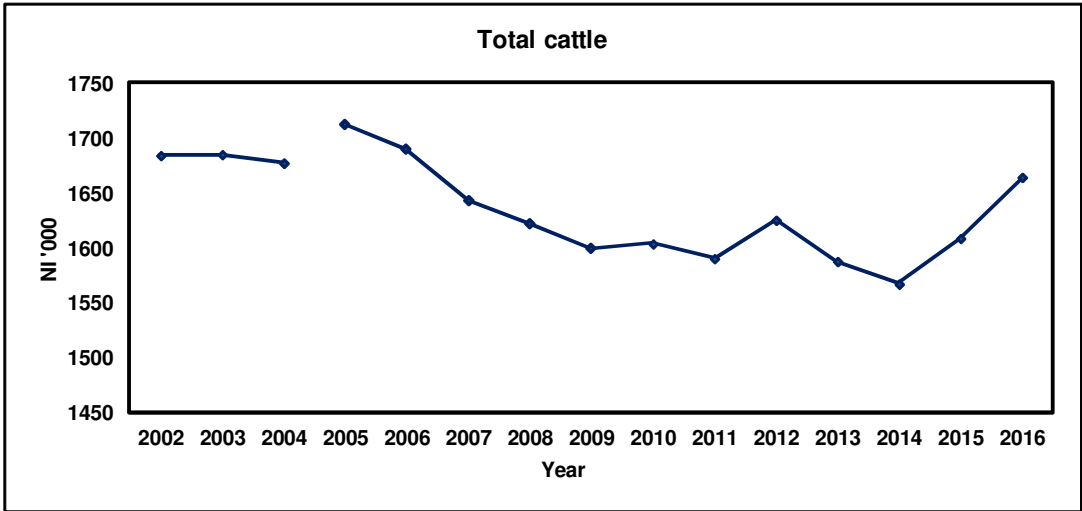
Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 3



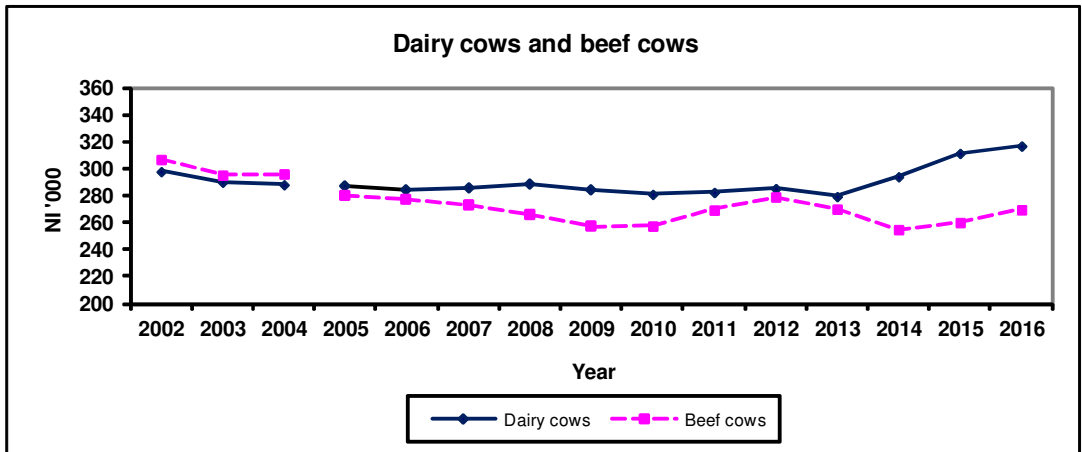
Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 4



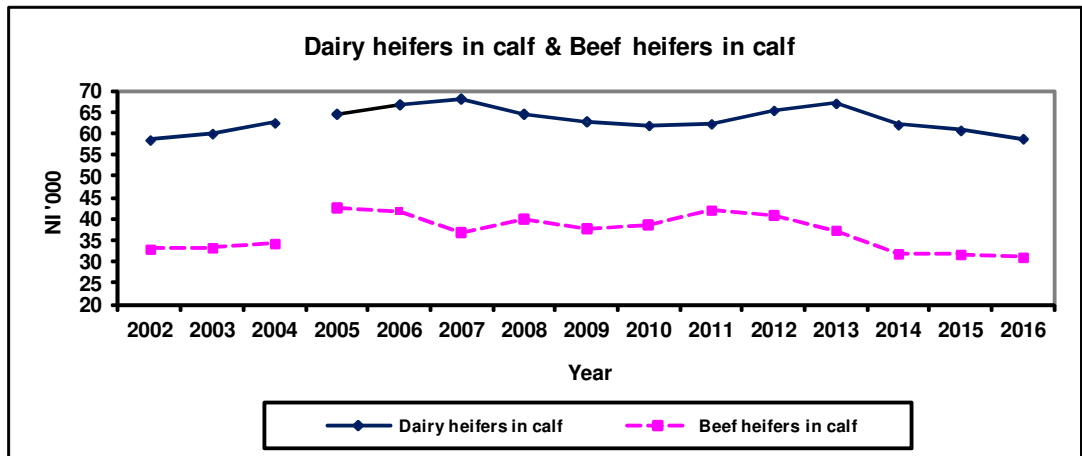
Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 5



Non-zero intercept

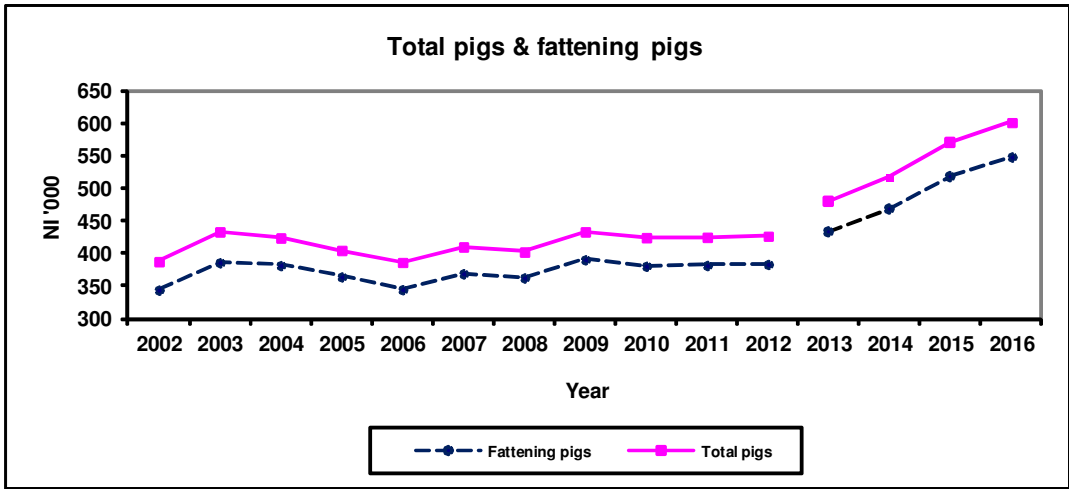
Chart 3 - 6



Non-zero intercept

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

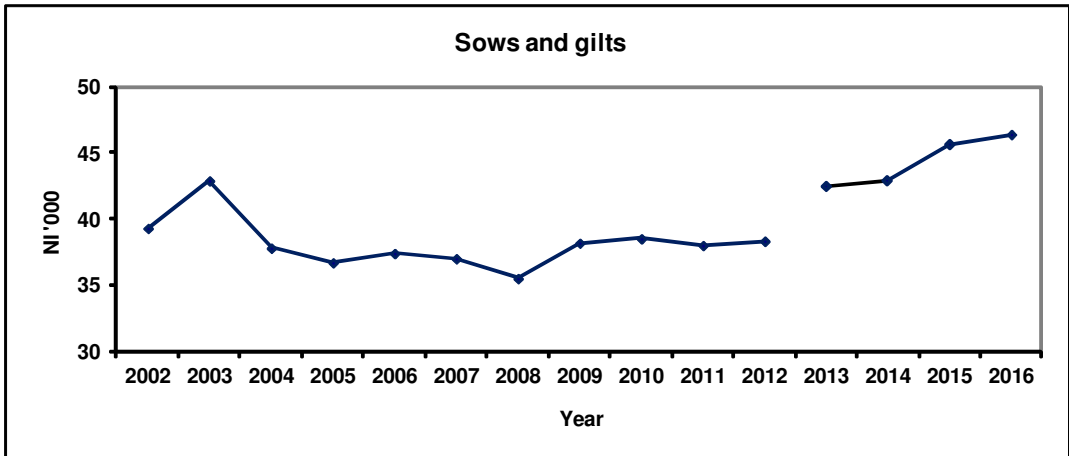
Chart 3 - 7



Non-zero intercept

Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs

Chart 3 - 8



Non-zero intercept

Note: From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs

Chart 3 - 9

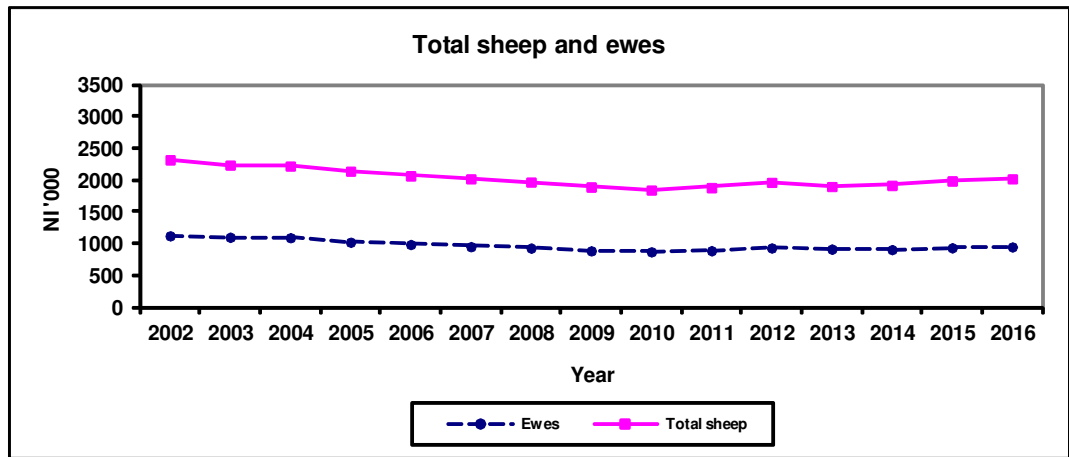
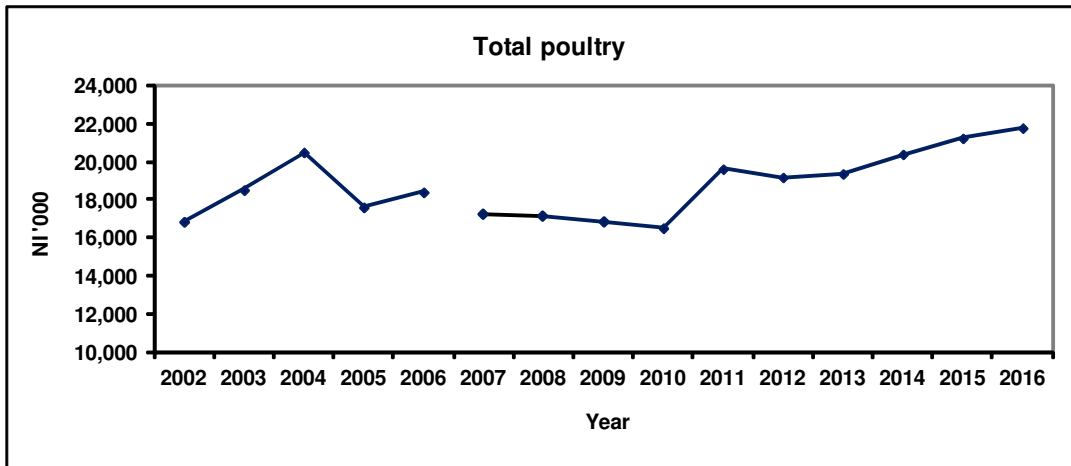
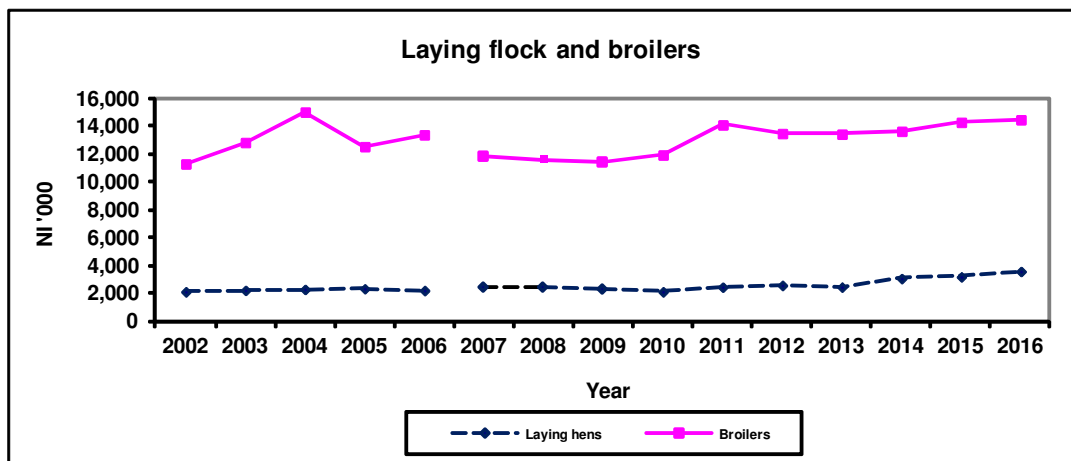


Chart 3 - 10



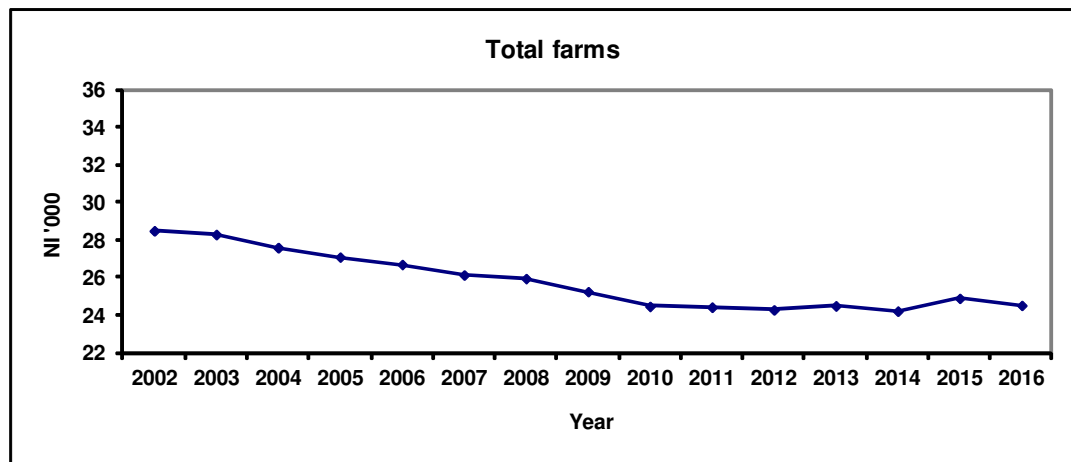
Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 11



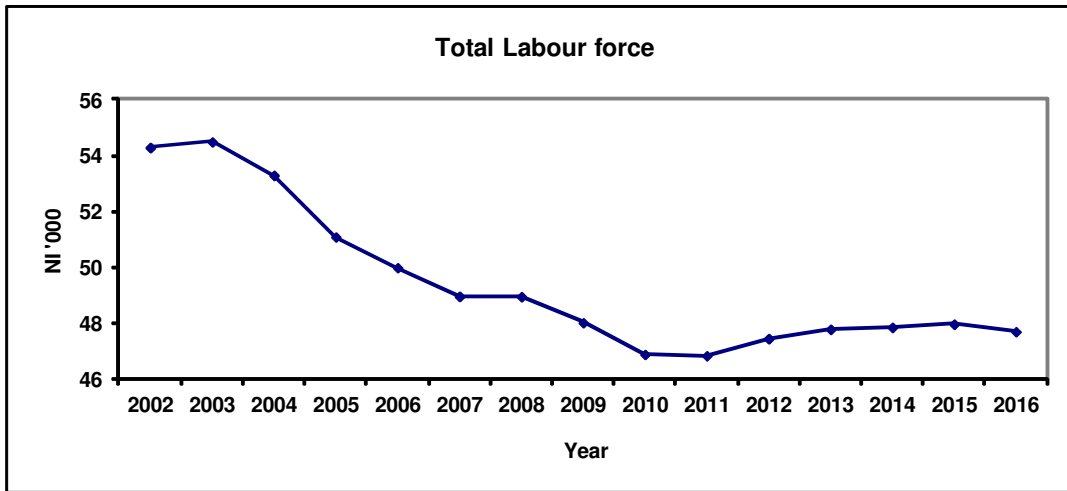
Note: From 2007 onwards, poultry figures were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update

Chart 3 - 12



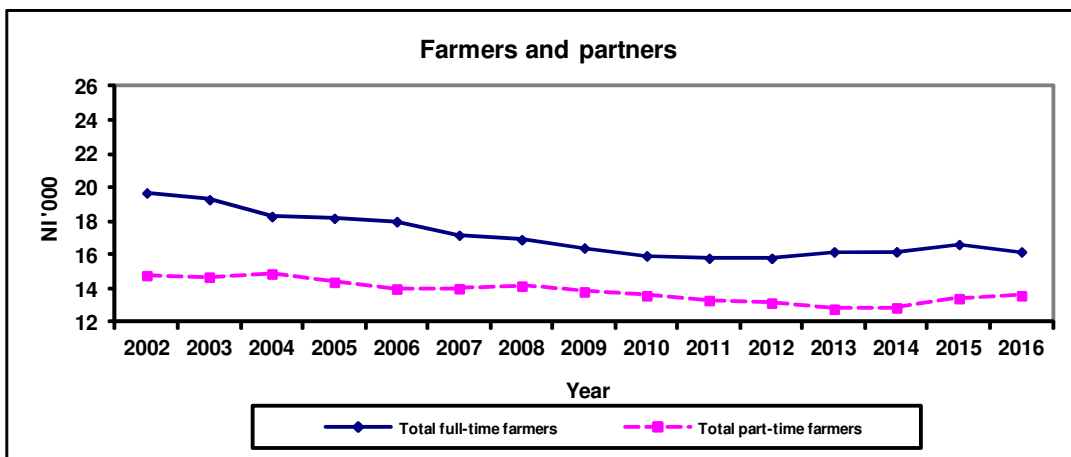
Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 13



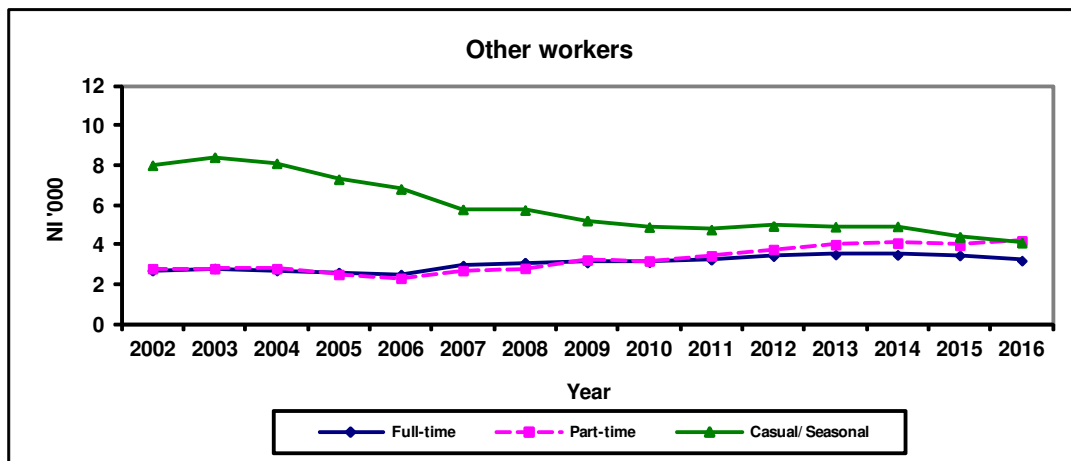
Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 14



Non-zero intercept

Chart 3 - 15



SECTION 4: FARM STRUCTURES

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by crops and grass area

The area of crops and grass (excluding rough grazing) found on individual farms for each county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified into 11 size bands.

The total area of crops and grass is little changed from the previous year. The modal size for farms in all counties is between 20-29.9 hectares, illustrating the relatively small scale of most holdings. Unless intensively managed, farms of less than 40ha are likely to be operated on a part-time basis.

Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total land area

The total area of land (including fallow areas, woodland and farm yards) found on individual farms for each county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified into 11 size bands.

The difference between the total area and the area of crops and grass (table 4.1) is due to rough grazing, farm woodland and small areas of other land not in production. Rough grazing is the most important component (total area 137,200 ha) and is low yielding permanent grassland, unimproved by fertiliser, cultivation, reseeding or drainage. These areas can normally only be used for extensive grazing of cattle and sheep.

Table 4.3 Number of farms in each county by type of farm and farm business size

The data on farm enterprise types illustrates the importance of cattle and sheep farms in Northern Ireland and the relative concentration of cereal and cropping farms in Co. Down. The farm type profile is very stable from year to year as most farm businesses have invested in specialist buildings and equipment, have engaged in improving the quality of breeding livestock and have developed management skills that are specific to particular activities. As a result, substantive change to the type of farm enterprise operated cannot be made without careful planning and investment. Likewise, natural constraints such as land type, altitude and rainfall amounts tend to limit the choice of farm enterprises that are viable at a particular location.

The size data demonstrates the predominance of 'very small' farm businesses in Northern Ireland. Many farms are managed on a part-time basis, either in combination with off-farm employment or after the normal retirement age. See Section 2.1 for more information on the methodology used to categorise farms by size and type.

Table 4.4 Number of farms in Northern Ireland by farm business size and farm type; crops and grass area; and total area.

The data presented shows that farm business size and type are linked: the majority of 'very small' farm businesses are involved in beef and sheep production, while the majority of 'large' farms are dairy businesses. As land purchase is very expensive and opportunities to buy land in particular locations are limited, most farm expansion is achieved by: diversification into sectors, such as poultry, that do not require additional land; or by capital investment that facilitates growth; or by renting land on a short-term basis to support additional livestock or cropping.

Table 4.5 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied

The data presented shows that as farm business size increases, the proportion of owner-occupied land farmed decreases. The limited supply and high purchase cost of land, means that renting is the main method by which businesses expand the area farmed, at least in the short to medium term.

Table 4.6 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size

The relatively small size of most farm businesses is reflected in the importance of part-time labour in the overall labour mix. Unusually, the long-term downward trend in the size of the agricultural labour force was halted in 2012 when the total agricultural workforce increased slightly on a headcount basis. The stabilisation in numbers is not attributed to an increase in demand for labour on farms, but rather to difficulties in farm family members securing off-farm employment and to changes in Common Agricultural Policy support arrangements in 2015 that link subsidises to some level of active farming.

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by crop & grass area farmed by county in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>Crops and grass area farmed (hectares)</i>	Crops & grass													
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
< 2	145	64	117	54	132	95	55	25	76	31	158	61	683	329
2 - 4.9	250	931	235	863	370	1,347	116	415	176	635	268	975	1,415	5,166
5 - 9.9	522	3,899	585	4,359	673	4,919	293	2,193	400	2,954	732	5,473	3,205	23,797
10 - 14.9	469	5,725	511	6,317	637	7,820	345	4,223	403	4,987	768	9,436	3,133	38,508
15 - 19.9	405	7,008	385	6,647	496	8,586	319	5,515	346	5,987	705	12,202	2,656	45,946
20 - 29.9	626	15,422	576	13,910	732	17,695	543	13,240	530	13,077	1,033	25,231	4,040	98,575
30 - 39.9	455	15,783	305	10,487	441	15,184	347	11,929	361	12,429	641	22,135	2,550	87,947
40 - 49.9	316	14,017	181	8,049	335	14,869	241	10,639	260	11,549	456	20,269	1,789	79,391
50 - 74.9	490	30,229	244	14,770	442	26,922	341	20,624	385	23,558	613	36,929	2,515	153,032
75 - 99.9	272	23,520	91	7,825	210	17,925	134	11,504	159	13,536	247	21,123	1,113	95,433
100 & over	345	54,466	116	17,029	294	45,159	176	27,877	213	33,872	285	41,641	1,429	220,044
Total	4,295	171,062	3,346	90,312	4,762	160,520	2,910	108,184	3,309	122,616	5,906	195,475	24,528	848,168

Table 4.2 Number and area of farms by total area by county in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>Total area (hectares)</i>	Total area													
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
< 2	87	63	77	58	94	90	25	20	42	28	109	59	434	318
2 - 4.9	197	741	219	815	321	1,170	82	314	152	544	218	805	1,189	4,388
5 - 9.9	433	3,228	563	4,234	636	4,678	244	1,869	333	2,461	609	4,554	2,818	21,023
10 - 14.9	420	5,168	492	6,122	616	7,566	326	4,011	353	4,390	664	8,147	2,871	35,403
15 - 19.9	362	6,299	398	6,861	490	8,487	323	5,571	304	5,288	634	10,995	2,511	43,500
20 - 29.9	603	14,989	605	14,623	744	18,040	543	13,274	456	11,237	1,035	25,389	3,986	97,551
30 - 39.9	473	16,416	312	10,769	464	16,058	365	12,571	374	12,908	643	22,228	2,631	90,950
40 - 49.9	328	14,535	200	8,890	343	15,245	255	11,307	270	12,088	505	22,454	1,901	84,519
50 - 74.9	555	34,170	260	15,671	488	29,745	370	22,356	452	27,604	711	42,964	2,836	172,509
75 - 99.9	330	28,595	96	8,282	243	20,834	168	14,486	198	17,024	337	28,803	1,372	118,024
100 & over	507	91,193	124	18,795	323	55,400	209	42,623	375	63,338	441	73,713	1,979	345,063
Total	4,295	215,397	3,346	95,119	4,762	177,312	2,910	128,401	3,309	156,909	5,906	240,111	24,528	1,013,248

Table 4.3 Number of farms by (a) type of farm and (b) farm business size by county in Northern Ireland, June 2016

	County						
	Antrim	Armagh	Down	Fermanagh	Londonderry	Tyrone	N.Ireland
<i>FARM TYPE:</i>							
Cereals	33	20	145	1	56	20	275
General cropping	79	58	158	37	89	85	506
Horticulture	34	153	50	3	13	27	280
Pigs	29	20	43	0	32	50	174
Poultry	161	74	54	36	35	232	592
Dairy	553	315	541	278	327	680	2,694
Cattle & sheep: LFA	2,364	1,894	1,760	2,502	1,857	3,948	14,325
Cattle & sheep: lowland	897	718	1,777	38	778	761	4,969
Mixed	110	75	178	9	111	87	570
Other type	35	19	56	6	11	16	143
All types	4,295	3,346	4,762	2,910	3,309	5,906	24,528
<i>FARM BUSINESS SIZE:</i>							
Very small	2,984	2,637	3,564	2,437	2,486	4,543	18,651
Small	631	335	560	282	432	698	2,938
Medium	278	151	221	108	189	291	1,238
Large	402	223	417	83	202	374	1,701
Total	4,295	3,346	4,762	2,910	3,309	5,906	24,528

Note: Farm business size is determined using Standard Labour Requirements.

Table 4.4 Number of farms by (a) type of farm; (b) crops and grass area and (c) total area by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2016

	Farm business size				Total
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	
FARM TYPE:					
Cereals	225	31	13	6	275
General cropping	406	40	16	44	506
Horticulture	98	50	33	99	280
Pigs	51	26	32	65	174
Poultry	191	216	104	81	592
Dairy	290	741	620	1,043	2,694
Cattle & sheep: LFA	12,775	1,163	232	155	14,325
Cattle & sheep: lowland	4,216	544	116	93	4,969
Mixed	305	103	60	102	570
Other type	94	24	12	13	143
All types	18,651	2,938	1,238	1,701	24,528
AREA OF CROPS & GRASS FARMED (hectares)					
Under 10	5,013	154	57	79	5,303
10 - 19.9	5,544	158	35	52	5,789
20.0 - 29.9	3,651	273	73	43	4,040
30.0 - 49.9	3,160	883	207	89	4,339
50.0 - 99.9	1,192	1,199	619	618	3,628
100 & over	91	271	247	820	1,429
Total	18,651	2,938	1,238	1,701	24,528
TOTAL AREA FARMED (hectares)					
Under 10	4,196	123	47	75	4,441
10 - 19.9	5,170	130	32	50	5,382
20.0 - 29.9	3,659	226	62	39	3,986
30.0 - 49.9	3,509	750	185	88	4,532
50.0 - 99.9	1,819	1,191	605	593	4,208
100 & over	298	518	307	856	1,979
Total	18,651	2,938	1,238	1,701	24,528

Table 4.5 Number of farms by farm business size and by percentage of area farmed which is owner-occupied, June 2016

Owner-occupied land as percentage of area farmed	Farm business size				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
All	10,933	889	290	296	12,408
50-<100%	4,475	1,309	618	860	7,262
>0-<50%	2,209	655	308	524	3,696
None	1,034	85	22	21	1,162
All farms	18,651	2,938	1,238	1,701	24,528
Average percentage owner-occupied	79	69	68	61	72

Table 4.6 Number of farmers and workers by farm business size in Northern Ireland, June 2016

	Farm business size				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
<i>Farmers, partners & directors:</i>					
Full-time	8,886	3,222	1,582	2,543	16,233
Part-time	12,028	867	284	392	13,571
Total	20,914	4,089	1,866	2,935	29,804
<i>Spouses</i>	4,145	991	488	786	6,410
<i>Other workers</i>					
Full-time	611	361	339	1,898	3,209
Part-time	2,318	745	400	752	4,215
Casual/seasonal	1,987	761	361	965	4,074
Total other workers	4,916	1,867	1,100	3,615	11,498
Total agricultural labour force	29,975	6,947	3,454	7,336	47,712

SECTION 5: FARM ENTERPRISES

Table 5.1 Total cereals

The distribution of farms with cereals and area of cereals (all types) grown by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 9 size bands.

While relatively small areas of cereals are grown on farms across all counties, larger scale operations are found predominately in Co. Down and Co. Londonderry. This is a result of more favourable climatic and/or soil conditions found in parts of these counties.

In 2016, the total area of cereals increased by 2 per cent compared with the previous year.

Table 5.2 Barley

The number of farms and area of barley (spring and winter) by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 8 size bands.

While relatively small areas of barley are grown on farms across all counties, the majority of production and larger scale operations are found predominately in Co. Down and Co. Londonderry. This is a result of more favourable climatic and/or soil conditions found in parts of these counties.

The area of spring barley decreased by 6 per cent compared with 2015 to the lowest area recorded in recent times; however winter barley increased by 9 per cent. The popularity of winter barley is attributed in part to its earlier ripening than spring barley and winter wheat and the advantage this brings with harvesting and follow-on field operations.

Table 5.3 Winter barley, Spring barley, Oats, Wheat.

The number of farms and area of barley (spring and winter), oats and wheat for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 9 size bands.

The data shows that majority of farmers grow less than 10 ha of cereal crops. The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2015 for harvest in 2016 increased by 8 per cent from the previous year.

Table 5.4 Potatoes

The number of farms and area of potatoes by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 8 size bands.

The data shows a large proportion of the potato crop is grown by a relatively small number of growers producing more than 15 ha each. The total area grown was 4 per cent higher in 2016 than in 2015.

Table 5.5 Dairy cows

The number of farms and dairy cows by county and for Northern Ireland is stratified by 10 size bands.

The number of dairy cows increased by 2 per cent compared with the previous year. The data shows that dairy cows are widely distributed across the region and that more than 65 per cent of cows are found in herds of 100 or more animals.

Table 5.6 Beef cows

The number of farms and beef cows by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole is stratified by 11 size bands.

The number of beef cows increased by 4 per cent compared with June 2015 to over 269,700 head.

The data shows that beef cows are widely distributed across the region and that almost half of the cows are found in herds of less than 30 animals.

Table 5.7 Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter

The number of farms and cattle over one year, intended for slaughter, by county and for Northern Ireland is stratified by 12 size bands.

Table 5.8 Total cattle

The number of farms and total cattle numbers, by county and for Northern Ireland is stratified by 13 size bands.

Farms with more than 250 cattle on 1st June (mainly specialist finishing units) accounted for approximately 7 per cent of herds but 34 per cent of total cattle numbers.

Table 5.9 Breeding ewes

The number of farms and breeding ewes by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 9 size bands

The number of breeding ewes is 2 per cent higher than last year. Breeding ewe numbers rose rapidly in the 1990's peaking in 1998 at 1.450 million. After this they fell back by 40 per cent to a low of 876,000 in 2010. Since then numbers have increased by 9 per cent but have seen considerable fluctuation in response to volatile lamb prices.

Table 5.10 Total sheep

The number of farms and total sheep by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 10 size bands

Farms with more than 500 sheep on 1st June account for approximately 10 per cent of flocks and approximately 39 per cent of the total sheep population.

Table 5.11 Sows

The number of farms and sows by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 5 size bands

Most pigs are concentrated in relatively few farms, with units of more than 200 sows on 1st June accounting for approximately 18 per cent of herds but almost three-quarters of total breeding sows.

Table 5.12 Finisher/Weaner pigs

The number of farms with Finishing and Weaner pigs by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 7 size bands

Farms with more than 1,000 Finisher/Weaner pigs on 1st June account for approximately 30 per cent of herds and 89 per cent of total Finisher/Weaner pigs.

Table 5.13 Total pigs

The number of farms and total pigs by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified by 7 size bands

Farms with more than 1,000 pigs on 1st June account for approximately one-third of herds and 92 per cent of total pigs

Table 5.14 Broilers, growing pullets, breeding fowl, laying hens, total ordinary fowl, total poultry.

The number of farms and total fowl by county and for Northern Ireland as a whole stratified into 7 size bands.

Broilers account for approximately two-thirds of all fowl at 1st June. Approximately 82 per cent of broilers were found on units with flocks of over 30,000 birds. The sector is highly vertically integrated and the number of birds coming forward is tailored to meet market demands.

Table 5.1 Distribution of farms and cereals by area of cereals by county, June 2016

<i>Area of cereals on farms (hectares)</i>	All Cereals											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone¹		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 1	7	5	10	15	18	12	12	7	26	33	43	27
1 - 1.9	44	64			75	110	43	64			192	282
2 - 4.9	113	373	40	134	248	815	147	477	71	235	619	2,034
5 - 9.9	112	809	55	375	201	1,447	130	922	62	435	560	3,988
10 - 19.9	77	1,045	41	535	181	2,521	102	1,389	42	570	443	6,060
20 - 29.9	35	824	15	353	63	1,537	36	891	17	399	166	4,003
30 - 39.9	11	374	10	414	45	1,532	16	574	8	285	82	2,826
40 - 49.9	11	491			22	967	11	489			52	2,299
50 and over	16	1,312	9	936	69	5,723	32	3,249	9	702	135	11,921
Total	426	5,295	180	2,761	922	14,662	529	8,061	235	2,659	2,292	33,439

¹ Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Table 5.2 Distribution of farms and crops by area of barley by county, June 2016

<i>Area of barley on farms (hectares)</i>	Barley (spring and winter)											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone¹		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 1	40	56	8	11	15	10	11	7	5	3	35	23
1 - 1.9					69	100	41	59	11	17	165	239
2 - 4.9	102	330	37	125	228	755	141	453	65	219	573	1,881
5 - 9.9	93	663	48	321	186	1,353	117	817	52	380	496	3,533
10 - 19.9	65	870	29	395	164	2,228	87	1,174	36	494	381	5,161
20 - 29.9	18	407	7	177	57	1,355	36	871	12	293	130	3,103
30 - 39.9	6	209	7	293	33	1,161	6	193	10	554	52	1,814
40 & over	15	784			48	3,127	30	2,075			103	6,581
Total	339	3,318	136	1,323	800	10,088	469	5,649	191	1,959	1,935	22,336

¹ Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Table 5.3 Distribution of farms and crops by area of crop, Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>Area of crop on farms (hectares)</i>	Winter Barley		Spring Barley		Oats		Wheat	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 1	40	57	36	24	16	10	11	7
1 - 1.9			163	233	70	101	33	50
2 - 4.9	203	688	529	1,735	144	452	165	556
5 - 9.9	211	1,528	420	2,954	70	475	181	1,283
10 - 19.9	138	1,863	304	4,162	35	459	145	2,003
20 - 29.9	46	1,102	86	2,060	11	243	64	1,515
30 - 39.9	25	836	24	847	9	518	25	858
40 - 49.9	10	430	19	851			14	600
50 and over	18	1,124	27	1,839			21	1,744
Total	691	7,628	1,608	14,708	355	2,257	659	8,616

Table 5.4 Distribution of farms and potatoes by area of potatoes by county, June 2016

<i>Area of potatoes on farms (hectares)</i>	Potatoes											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone ¹		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area	Farms	Area
under 0.5	13	4	7	1	28	7	5	1	19	5	72	18
0.5 - 0.9	8	6	8	6	29	19	9	6	5	3	59	40
1 - 1.9	19	27	5	6	26	33	15	19	7	10	72	96
2 - 2.9	10	22	6	13	16	39	11	26	6	15	49	115
3 - 4.9	17	67	9	98	23	85	16	66	10	36	68	261
5 - 9.9	10	86			24	180	20	130	15	158	68	465
10 - 14.9					12	141	6	71			23	274
15 & over	16	485			37	1,422	14	443			70	2,468
Total	93	697	35	125	195	1,926	96	762	62	227	481	3,737

¹ Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Table 5.5 Distribution of farms and dairy cows by number of dairy cows and county, June 2016

<i>Number of dairy cows on farms</i>	Dairy cows													
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 10	50	328	41	267	37	236	35	228	32	198	72	474	267	1,731
10 - 14	16	190	22	277	26	309	11	138	10	113	33	392	118	1,419
15 - 19	18	304	20	346	15	253	20	345	14	236	28	475	115	1,959
20 - 29	28	704	28	659	27	640	36	893	23	572	60	1,462	202	4,930
30 - 39	42	1,463	32	1,108	30	999	56	1,934	35	1,209	66	2,280	261	8,993
40 - 49	47	2,134	33	1,476	37	1,639	38	1,712	32	1,428	66	2,921	253	11,310
50 - 59	48	2,620	28	1,534	55	2,986	24	1,284	35	1,904	63	3,394	253	13,722
60 - 69	58	3,717	39	2,523	36	2,309	29	1,870	26	1,683	80	5,103	268	17,205
70 - 99	131	11,038	59	4,850	95	8,008	49	4,116	82	6,795	173	14,367	589	49,174
100 & over	299	47,358	132	24,062	305	53,955	61	10,099	151	26,033	255	45,196	1,203	206,703
Total	737	69,856	434	37,102	663	71,334	359	22,619	440	40,171	896	76,064	3,529	317,146

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2016.

Table 5.6 Distribution of farms and beef cows by number of beef cows and county, June 2016

<i>Number of beef cows on farms</i>	Beef cows													
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
< 5	453	967	530	1,243	638	1,450	372	984	404	907	864	2,032	3,261	7,583
5 - 9	360	2,533	415	2,850	492	3,374	527	3,690	324	2,254	805	5,551	2,923	20,252
10 - 14	298	3,566	343	4,035	361	4,289	406	4,817	301	3,586	654	7,744	2,363	28,037
15 - 19	246	4,150	229	3,865	269	4,530	314	5,292	234	3,923	409	6,893	1,701	28,653
20 - 29	301	7,286	231	5,557	294	7,133	342	8,203	277	6,608	527	12,633	1,972	47,420
30 - 39	180	6,235	120	4,155	148	5,117	140	4,834	133	4,583	227	7,814	948	32,738
40 - 49	114	4,982	68	3,026	84	3,698	104	4,528	72	3,165	129	5,643	571	25,042
50 - 59	73	3,950	31	1,701	63	3,411	64	3,486	31	1,679	71	3,856	333	18,083
60 - 69	46	2,956	22	1,418	33	2,128	35	2,241	36	2,332	49	3,134	221	14,209
70 - 99	67	5,422	21	1,731	48	3,899	55	4,482	40	3,224	54	4,462	285	23,220
100 & over	53	7,757	16	1,985	27	3,733	28	3,920	19	2,359	35	4,755	178	24,509
Total	2,191	49,804	2,026	31,566	2,457	42,762	2,387	46,477	1,871	34,620	3,824	64,517	14,756	269,746

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2016.

Table 5.7 Distribution of farms and cattle over one year old, intended for slaughter, by number of cattle and county, June 2016

Male and female cattle one year old & over, intended for slaughter														
<i>Number of cattle on farms</i>	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle
1 - 2	402	574	401	576	457	659	633	893	364	512	765	1,062	3,022	4,276
3 - 4	291	1,015	262	896	325	1,133	333	1,137	239	836	551	1,893	2,001	6,910
5 - 9	497	3,419	509	3,491	575	3,904	437	2,887	428	2,916	908	6,143	3,354	22,760
10 - 14	369	4,382	323	3,811	400	4,744	239	2,840	289	3,420	550	6,439	2,170	25,636
15 - 19	249	4,214	210	3,505	313	5,298	144	2,424	171	2,866	366	6,175	1,453	24,482
20 - 29	332	7,922	312	7,454	410	9,932	148	3,512	226	5,371	423	10,234	1,851	44,425
30 - 39	208	7,053	188	6,369	251	8,551	79	2,663	148	5,053	229	7,844	1,103	37,533
40 - 49	143	6,282	129	5,770	146	6,430	41	1,823	90	3,927	145	6,349	694	30,581
50 - 59	96	5,190	93	5,034	106	5,753	21	1,149	66	3,566	89	4,823	471	25,515
60 - 69	79	5,013	54	3,511	75	4,791	17	1,086	39	2,501	85	5,455	349	22,357
70 - 99	97	8,131	82	6,690	104	8,522	24	2,064	73	6,101	122	10,098	502	41,606
100 & over	109	18,169	95	15,823	112	19,829	12	2,325	72	11,236	116	22,346	516	89,728
Total	2,872	71,364	2,658	62,930	3,274	79,546	2,128	24,803	2,205	48,305	4,349	88,861	17,486	375,809

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2016.

Table 5.8 Distribution of farms and total cattle by number of cattle and county, June 2016

Total cattle														
<i>Number of cattle on farms</i>	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle
1 - 4	91	253	73	233	124	352	88	274	87	247	157	429	620	1,788
5 - 9	166	1,166	170	1,264	217	1,549	205	1,413	147	1,024	326	2,312	1,231	8,728
10 - 19	382	5,492	441	6,298	546	7,858	462	6,729	332	4,785	758	10,929	2,921	42,091
20 - 29	331	8,057	379	9,247	416	9,958	380	9,289	299	7,372	667	16,172	2,472	60,095
30 - 39	298	10,236	280	9,571	352	12,097	303	10,386	249	8,521	518	17,795	2,000	68,606
40 - 49	247	10,913	264	11,754	254	11,243	261	11,570	212	9,390	406	17,913	1,644	72,783
50 - 69	309	18,384	338	19,803	390	22,984	283	16,501	288	17,062	528	31,173	2,136	125,907
70 - 99	357	29,613	301	24,964	368	30,681	255	21,346	256	21,159	502	41,760	2,039	169,523
100 - 149	339	41,431	269	32,470	328	40,050	197	23,888	226	27,212	449	54,443	1,808	219,494
150 - 199	221	38,202	117	19,986	184	31,831	112	19,439	136	23,585	250	43,423	1,020	176,466
200 - 249	149	33,228	81	18,048	127	28,175	51	11,471	110	24,458	153	34,063	671	149,443
250 - 299	131	36,036	58	15,822	93	25,398	27	7,386	43	11,690	78	21,077	430	117,409
300 & over	215	97,965	112	56,345	235	111,981	54	23,881	125	58,854	209	103,233	950	452,259
Total	3,236	330,976	2,883	225,805	3,634	334,157	2,678	163,573	2,510	215,359	5,001	394,722	19,942	1,664,592

Note: Figures for cattle were derived from APHIS in 2016.

Table 5.9 Distribution of farms and breeding ewes by number of ewes and county, June 2016

<i>Number of ewes on farms</i>	Breeding ewes													
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes	Farms	Ewes
1 - 24	304	4,293	227	3,074	410	5,657	251	3,325	237	3,327	480	6,279	1,909	25,955
25 - 49	405	14,663	223	7,893	448	15,744	191	6,782	338	12,452	477	17,151	2,082	74,685
50 - 99	537	37,944	195	13,423	538	37,368	179	12,418	451	31,970	583	41,045	2,483	174,168
100 - 199	489	66,044	95	12,780	396	53,871	99	13,743	398	54,492	429	58,187	1,906	259,117
200 - 299	193	46,244	26	6,199	133	31,314	26	6,267	157	37,173	135	33,141	670	160,338
300 - 399	84	28,226	8	2,680	38	12,736	16	5,823	64	21,756	60	20,200	265	89,315
400 - 499	46	20,069			19	8,262			34	14,719	28	12,127	132	57,283
500 - 999	56	36,301			20	14,810	10	7,036	31	22,759	21	13,986	130	86,432
1,000 & over	8	12,585									5	6,860	21	27,905
Total	2,122	266,369	774	46,049	2,002	179,762	772	55,394	1,710	198,648	2,218	208,976	9,598	955,198

Table 5.10 Distribution of farms and total sheep by number of sheep and county, June 2016

<i>Number of sheep on farms</i>	Total sheep													
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Fermanagh		Londonderry		Tyrone		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep	Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	146	1,915	117	1,611	212	2,922	127	1,706	134	1,783	260	3,472	996	13,409
25 - 49	222	8,112	146	5,275	261	9,534	142	5,153	158	5,817	301	11,062	1,230	44,953
50 - 99	388	28,614	214	15,395	455	33,324	181	13,284	305	22,203	438	31,674	1,981	144,494
100 - 199	518	74,781	189	26,120	482	68,651	179	25,371	447	64,217	575	83,546	2,390	342,686
200 - 299	307	75,414	79	18,740	250	60,601	60	14,805	260	63,863	286	69,723	1,242	303,146
300 - 399	165	56,736	23	8,150	143	49,042	43	15,558	141	48,772	136	46,569	651	224,827
400 - 499	114	51,091	20	9,138	75	33,547	16	6,961	79	34,956	76	33,331	380	169,024
500 - 699	152	87,966	11	6,393	92	53,226	16	9,275	115	66,296	107	63,930	493	287,086
700 - 999	89	73,803	7	5,636	36	29,637	11	8,643	59	47,917	68	55,947	270	221,583
1,000 & over	71	111,281			22	32,937	12	19,096	41	58,570	31	49,881	177	271,765
Total	2,172	569,713	806	96,458	2,028	373,421	787	119,852	1,739	414,394	2,278	449,135	9,810	2,022,973

Table 5.11 Distribution of farms and sows by number of sows and county, June 2016

<i>Number of sows on farms</i>	Sows											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone¹		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows	Farms	Sows
1 - 9	19	73	7	25	18	58	17	72	17	63	78	291
10 - 49	12	256	9	263	21	560	14	343	21	659	77	2,081
50 - 99	11	800	6	473	9	657	7	517	11	856	44	3,296
100 - 200	9	3,762	11	8,683	17	2,503	8	1,296	10	1,299	43	6,303
200 & over					9	5,803	10	4,574	21	12,855	52	34,472
Total	51	4,891	33	9,444	74	9,581	56	6,802	80	15,732	294	46,443

¹ Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Note: Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Table 5.12 Distribution of farms and finisher/weaner pigs by number of pigs and county, June 2016

<i>Number of pigs on farms</i>	Finisher/Weaner pigs											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone¹		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	9	53	10	184	13	80	8	40	16	363	38	219
10 - 49	10	198			14	422	13	324			52	1,242
50 - 99	6	375	12	2,257			11	1,863	10	636	25	1,648
100 - 399	6	1,080			16	4,342			15	3,201	54	12,309
400 - 999	12	7,744	8	5,303	8	6,435	7	4,695	11	8,133	46	32,310
1,000 - 1,999	8	32,572	10	105,768	18	24,254	8	11,582	12	15,425	44	59,727
2,000 & over					7	42,225	8	35,839	20	131,776	47	339,714
Total	51	42,022	40	113,512	76	77,758	55	54,343	84	159,534	306	447,169

¹ Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Note: Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Table 5.13 Distribution of farms and total pigs by number of pigs and county, June 2016

Number of pigs on farms	Total pigs											
	Antrim		Armagh		Down		Londonderry		Fermanagh & Tyrone ¹		N.Ireland	
	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs	Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	10	65	12	414	10	68	21	422	5	30	30	194
10 - 49	12	254			14	248			16	338	67	1,419
50 - 99	6	408			5	376	5	325	5	387	24	1,722
100 - 399	9	1,609	8	1,750	11	2,303	10	2,209	18	3,886	56	11,757
400 - 999	10	7,458	8	4,854	11	5,693	8	5,929	10	6,354	47	30,288
1,000 - 1,999	11	47,272	13	139,338	20	30,933	8	12,269	15	20,471	53	78,131
2,000 and over					11	68,357	11	54,690	24	182,391	60	477,590
Total	58	57,066	41	146,356	82	107,978	63	75,844	93	213,857	337	601,101

¹ Figures for Fermanagh and Tyrone have been amalgamated due to data confidentiality constraints.

Note: Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Table 5.14 Distribution of farms and fowl by size of flock in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Size of flock on farms	Poultry											
	Broilers		Growing pullets		Breeding fowl		Laying hens		Ordinary fowl		Total poultry	
	Farms	Broilers ('000)	Farms	Pullets ('000)	Farms	Fowl ('000)	Farms	Hens ('000)	Farms	Birds ('000)	Farms	Birds ('000)
under 1,000	8	13,382	7	23,445	7	597	20	3,235	27	5,178	38	12,401
1,000 - 4,999					8	25,188	12	31,750	22	65,419	55	158,360
5,000 - 9,999	9	72,850			30	208,553	51	371,148	93	675,551	106	769,478
10,000 - 19,999	69	1,152,325	15	210,616	54	816,318	76	1,113,143	212	3,262,702	218	3,345,430
20,000 - 29,999	54	1,327,528	6	147,000	26	623,974	18	426,763	101	2,455,265	105	2,542,369
30,000 - 49,999	84	3,114,747	13	580,800	15	608,090	18	642,831	121	4,434,531	120	4,398,135
50,000 and over	99	8,778,336					7	961,142	113	10,355,115	115	10,557,607
Total	323	14,459,168	41	961,861	140	2,282,720	202	3,550,012	689	21,253,761	757	21,783,780

Note: Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

SECTION 6: DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA STATISTICS, 2016

Tables showing the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms in each District Council Area in 2016.

Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops and grass area

Table 6.2 Number of farms by farm business size

Table 6.3 Number of farms by farm type

Table 6.4 Number of farms by Less Favoured Area designation

Table 6.5 Crop and grass areas

Table 6.6 Livestock numbers

Table 6.7 Farm labour force

Map of District Council areas

Table 6.1 Number of farms by crops & grass area by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	Average crops & grass ha/farm	Crops & grass area									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total	0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	44.1	164	166	133	405	868	19	19	15	47	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	31.1	839	751	519	1,083	3,192	26	24	16	34	100
Belfast	60.9	3	7	4	11	25	12	28	16	44	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	43.1	466	486	347	1,213	2,512	19	19	14	48	100
Derry City and Strabane	39.9	299	365	288	795	1,747	17	21	16	46	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	35.4	803	1,215	941	2,075	5,034	16	24	19	41	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	39.5	179	173	133	347	832	22	21	16	42	100
Mid and East Antrim	36.2	402	387	262	711	1,762	23	22	15	40	100
Mid Ulster	30.2	961	1,050	698	1,381	4,090	23	26	17	34	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	26.9	1,044	1,057	636	1,050	3,787	28	28	17	28	100
Ards and North Down	45.7	143	132	79	325	679	21	19	12	48	100
Total	34.6	5,303	5,789	4,040	9,396	24,528	22	24	16	38	100

Note: Farms are allocated based on the postcode of the farmers main dwelling (i.e. where he/she resides). Where the farmer has deceased the farm may be allocated a temporary location based on a relatives address or a solicitor's office if the estate is subject to probate at the time of the survey.

Table 6.2 Number of farms by farm business size and by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	Average SO/farm (€ '000)	Farm business size									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		V. Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total	V.Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	97.8	598	130	47	93	868	69	15	5	11	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	98.1	2,334	374	192	292	3,192	73	12	6	9	100
Belfast	107.1	18	3	2	2	25	72	12	8	8	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	91.6	1,697	390	178	247	2,512	68	16	7	10	100
Derry City and Strabane	76.5	1,285	241	87	134	1,747	74	14	5	8	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	53.6	4,140	518	197	179	5,034	82	10	4	4	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	92.7	594	101	45	92	832	71	12	5	11	100
Mid and East Antrim	82.8	1,270	252	104	136	1,762	72	14	6	8	100
Mid Ulster	87.8	3,160	472	218	240	4,090	77	12	5	6	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	52.8	3,130	370	121	166	3,787	83	10	3	4	100
Ards and North Down	123.1	425	87	47	120	679	63	13	7	18	100
Total	77.5	18,651	2,938	1,238	1,701	24,528	76	12	5	7	100

Note: Farm business size classification is calculated from Standard Labour Requirements.

Table 6.3 Number of farms by farm type by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	Farm type										Total
	Cereals	General cropping	Horti-culture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep LFA	lowland	Mixed	Others	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	7	20	9	9	31	110	374	280	16	12	868
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	53	75	160	27	86	375	1,043	1,213	130	30	3,192
Belfast	0	2	0	0	0	1	14	6	1	1	25
Causeway Coast and Glens	37	68	9	12	71	331	1,321	555	95	13	2,512
Derry City and Strabane	22	38	5	13	16	193	1,238	184	33	5	1,747
Fermanagh and Omagh	5	68	7	14	82	521	4,196	112	18	11	5,034
Lisburn and Castlereagh	39	28	23	6	15	104	223	340	38	16	832
Mid and East Antrim	3	24	12	11	66	211	1,108	280	37	10	1,762
Mid Ulster	23	63	18	48	184	441	2,257	946	98	12	4,090
Newry, Mourne and Down	41	68	17	30	36	276	2,507	719	74	19	3,787
Ards and North Down	45	52	20	4	5	131	44	334	30	14	679
Total	275	506	280	174	592	2,694	14,325	4,969	570	143	24,528

Table 6.4 Number of farms by LFA designation by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	LFA designation									
	Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	141	326	467	401	868	16	38	54	46	100
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	305	1,042	1,347	1,845	3,192	10	33	42	58	100
Belfast	12	4	16	9	25	48	16	64	36	100
Causeway Coast and Glens	966	600	1,566	946	2,512	38	24	62	38	100
Derry City and Strabane	1,033	397	1,430	317	1,747	59	23	82	18	100
Fermanagh and Omagh	4,041	836	4,877	157	5,034	80	17	97	3	100
Lisburn and Castlereagh	72	212	284	548	832	9	25	34	66	100
Mid and East Antrim	679	672	1,351	411	1,762	39	38	77	23	100
Mid Ulster	1,129	1,626	2,755	1,335	4,090	28	40	67	33	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	1,179	1,647	2,826	961	3,787	31	43	75	25	100
Ards and North Down	5	58	63	616	679	1	9	9	91	100
Total	9,562	7,420	16,982	7,546	24,528	39	30	69	31	100

Table 6.5 Crop and grass areas by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	Crop areas (hectares)					Grass	Rough grazing	Other land	Total area farmed
	Cereals	Potatoes	Other farm crops	Horticulture crops	Total crops				
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,211	43	321	17	1,592	36,647	2,997	929	42,165
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	5,954	333	1,444	1,741	9,471	89,685	5,498	1,542	106,196
Belfast	24	18	14	12	68	1,456	658	55	2,237
Causeway Coast and Glens	6,731	931	1,288	40	8,990	99,370	32,918	2,518	143,795
Derry City and Strabane	3,003	297	624	36	3,960	65,700	23,170	3,023	95,854
Fermanagh and Omagh	326	9	372	20	726	177,598	23,872	4,441	206,638
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3,801	311	625	160	4,896	27,992	1,496	1,173	35,557
Mid and East Antrim	635	150	324	37	1,145	62,564	17,706	1,137	82,552
Mid Ulster	2,597	245	668	92	3,602	119,892	18,177	2,660	144,330
Newry, Mourne and Down	4,620	781	900	28	6,328	95,447	10,412	9,061	121,248
Ards and North Down	4,539	620	715	736	6,610	24,429	287	1,351	32,676
Total	33,439	3,737	7,296	2,917	47,388	800,780	137,191	27,890	1,013,248

Note: Individual figures may not add to the totals shown.

Table 6.6 Livestock numbers by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	Livestock numbers							
	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Total cattle	Breeding ewes	Total sheep	Sows & gilts	Total pigs	Total poultry ('000)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	14,995	13,058	80,337	33,124	74,806	1,961	22,751	1,098
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	48,124	26,038	247,604	58,086	123,246	10,889	162,769	3,092
Belfast	357	842	2,955	490	1,272	140	1,634	0
Causeway Coast and Glens	43,579	25,009	190,824	197,095	413,067	2,157	23,898	2,387
Derry City and Strabane	26,311	16,945	114,641	137,308	292,616	2,329	27,067	456
Fermanagh and Omagh	47,315	71,479	291,687	129,674	281,111	3,345	39,473	2,213
Lisburn and Castlereagh	14,416	7,237	62,861	17,215	37,004	2,007	26,178	646
Mid and East Antrim	25,484	20,269	123,753	119,258	253,693	1,072	10,639	2,512
Mid Ulster	47,124	43,275	273,389	107,067	225,295	15,575	209,709	8,016
Newry, Mourne and Down	29,720	39,282	211,803	137,138	279,091	5,348	61,587	1,208
Ards and North Down	19,721	6,312	64,738	18,743	41,772	1,620	15,396	157
Total	317,146	269,746	1,664,592	955,198	2,022,973	46,443	601,101	21,784

Notes: Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

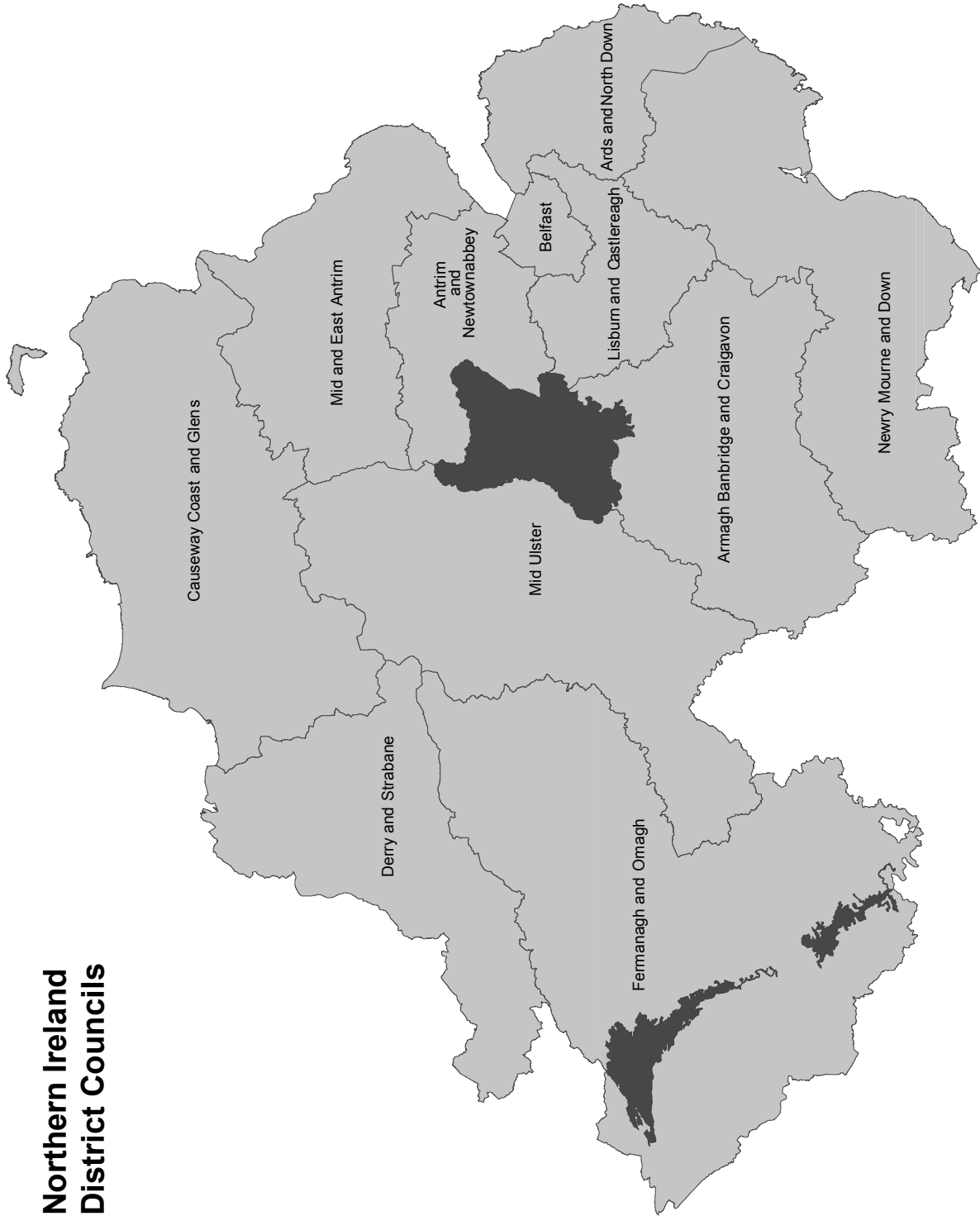
Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 6.7 Labour force by District Council in Northern Ireland, June 2016

<i>District Council</i>	Farm labour force						Agricultural labour force
	Farmers & partners			Other workers			
	Full-time	Part-time	Spouses	Full-time	Part-time	Casual/seasonal	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	643	440	277	151	179	148	1,838
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,131	1,783	880	745	617	882	7,038
Belfast	17	15	4	31	8	0	75
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,939	1,223	755	313	455	456	5,141
Derry City and Strabane	1,236	870	434	237	344	306	3,427
Fermanagh and Omagh	3,167	2,779	1,194	341	639	617	8,737
Lisburn and Castlereagh	570	485	260	148	154	188	1,805
Mid and East Antrim	1,251	899	514	189	341	258	3,452
Mid Ulster	2,602	2,348	966	415	682	581	7,594
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,155	2,383	907	414	608	488	6,955
Ards and North Down	522	346	219	225	188	150	1,650
Total	16,233	13,571	6,410	3,209	4,215	4,074	47,712

Northern Ireland District Councils



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SECTION 7: RURAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY STATISTICS, 2016

Tables showing the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms in each Rural District and County in 2016.

Table 7.1 Number of farms by crops and grass area

Table 7.2 Number of farms by farm business size

Table 7.3 Number of farms by farm type

Table 7.4 Number of farms by Less Favoured Area designation

Table 7.5 Crop and grass areas

Table 7.6 Livestock numbers

Table 7.7 Farm labour force

Map of Rural Districts and Counties

Table 7.1 Number of farms by crop & grass area by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	Average crops & grass ha/farm	Crops & grass area									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total	0-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30+	Total
Antrim	42.1	149	133	116	346	744	20	18	16	47	100
Ballycastle	40.2	99	93	61	232	485	20	19	13	48	100
Ballymena	35.0	267	280	182	457	1,186	23	24	15	39	100
Ballymoney	43.0	153	135	106	354	748	20	18	14	47	100
Newtownabbey	50.8	6	2	3	7	18	33	11	17	39	100
Larne	41.5	155	147	91	307	700	22	21	13	44	100
Lisburn	40.0	78	79	66	163	386	20	20	17	42	100
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	39.9	10	5	1	12	28	36	18	4	43	100
Total Co. Antrim	39.8	917	874	626	1,878	4,295	21	20	15	44	100
Armagh	28.4	432	373	281	488	1,574	27	24	18	31	100
Lurgan	30.1	86	79	52	102	319	27	25	16	32	100
Newry No 2	23.1	389	402	222	288	1,301	30	31	17	22	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	39.5	30	42	21	59	152	20	28	14	39	100
Total Co. Armagh	27.0	937	896	576	937	3,346	28	27	17	28	100
Banbridge	31.2	258	246	154	375	1,033	25	24	15	36	100
Castlereagh	53.6	10	9	4	14	37	27	24	11	38	100
East Down	36.5	184	214	161	385	944	19	23	17	41	100
Hillsborough	38.6	109	105	81	196	491	22	21	16	40	100
South Down	24.4	234	176	98	153	661	35	27	15	23	100
Moira	44.0	40	43	19	93	195	21	22	10	48	100
Newry No 1	24.1	196	207	127	180	710	28	29	18	25	100
North Down	45.4	137	128	84	319	668	21	19	13	48	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	30.9	7	5	4	7	23	30	22	17	30	100
Total Co. Down	33.7	1,175	1,133	732	1,722	4,762	25	24	15	36	100
Enniskillen	39.1	160	233	188	460	1,041	15	22	18	44	100
Irvinestown	39.3	130	158	130	310	728	18	22	18	43	100
Lisnaskea	34.1	174	273	225	469	1,141	15	24	20	41	100
Total Co. Fermanagh	37.2	464	664	543	1,239	2,910	16	23	19	43	100
Coleraine	40.9	131	152	103	363	749	17	20	14	48	100
Limavady	45.1	107	129	100	323	659	16	20	15	49	100
Londonderry	42.8	74	102	68	223	467	16	22	15	48	100
Magherafelt/Co. Londonderry Urban	29.5	340	366	259	469	1,434	24	26	18	33	100
Total Co. Londonderry	37.1	652	749	530	1,378	3,309	20	23	16	42	100
Castlederg	31.4	133	138	102	206	579	23	24	18	36	100
Clogher	34.4	110	142	119	275	646	17	22	18	43	100
Cookstown	28.6	212	254	134	287	887	24	29	15	32	100
Dungannon	30.0	279	296	201	352	1,128	25	26	18	31	100
Omagh	33.1	329	495	355	773	1,952	17	25	18	40	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	43.6	95	148	122	349	714	13	21	17	49	100
Total Co. Tyrone	33.1	1,158	1,473	1,033	2,242	5,906	20	25	17	38	100
Northern Ireland Total	34.6	5,303	5,789	4,040	9,396	24,528	22	24	16	38	100

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas. Farms are allocated based on the postcode of the farmers main dwelling (i.e. where he/she resides). Where the farmer has deceased the farm may be allocated a temporary location based on a relatives address or a solicitor's office if the estate is subject to probate at the time of the survey.

Table 7.2 Number of farms by farm business size by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	Average SO/farm (€'000)	Farm business size									
		Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
		V. Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total	V.Small	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Antrim	93.8	518	108	45	73	744	70	15	6	10	100
Ballycastle	63.0	332	87	30	36	485	68	18	6	7	100
Ballymena	96.0	834	174	77	101	1,186	70	15	6	9	100
Ballymoney	124.6	473	113	62	100	748	63	15	8	13	100
Newtownabbey	217.3	12	3	1	2	18	67	17	6	11	100
Larne	70.6	512	99	33	56	700	73	14	5	8	100
Lisburn	73.9	284	43	28	31	386	74	11	7	8	100
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	52.9	19	4	2	3	28	68	14	7	11	100
Total Co. Antrim	91.0	2,984	631	278	402	4,295	69	15	6	9	100
Armagh	101.4	1,177	190	82	125	1,574	75	12	5	8	100
Lurgan	83.0	233	37	20	29	319	73	12	6	9	100
Newry No 2	49.8	1,118	96	36	51	1,301	86	7	3	4	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	108.0	109	12	13	18	152	72	8	9	12	100
Total Co. Armagh	79.9	2,637	335	151	223	3,346	79	10	5	7	100
Banbridge	78.0	777	123	51	82	1,033	75	12	5	8	100
Castlereagh	124.0	26	3	2	6	37	70	8	5	16	100
East Down	66.9	725	119	47	53	944	77	13	5	6	100
Hillsborough	92.8	351	61	24	55	491	71	12	5	11	100
South Down	48.6	548	61	18	34	661	83	9	3	5	100
Moira	145.7	116	34	16	29	195	59	17	8	15	100
Newry No 1	58.0	586	70	17	37	710	83	10	2	5	100
North Down	119.3	417	87	44	120	668	62	13	7	18	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	46.5	18	2	2	1	23	78	9	9	4	100
Total Co. Down	79.0	3,564	560	221	417	4,762	75	12	5	9	100
Enniskillen	45.7	854	117	40	30	1,041	82	11	4	3	100
Irvinestown	33.3	642	52	19	15	728	88	7	3	2	100
Lisnaskea	57.4	941	113	49	38	1,141	82	10	4	3	100
Total Co. Fermanagh	47.2	2,437	282	108	83	2,910	84	10	4	3	100
Coleraine	84.4	526	97	60	66	749	70	13	8	9	100
Limavady	68.6	481	100	35	43	659	73	15	5	7	100
Londonderry	64.4	350	70	21	26	467	75	15	4	6	100
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	65.9	1,129	165	73	67	1,434	79	12	5	5	100
Total Co. Londonderry	70.4	2,486	432	189	202	3,309	75	13	6	6	100
Castlederg	64.7	458	68	18	35	579	79	12	3	6	100
Clogher	119.0	489	79	39	39	646	76	12	6	6	100
Cookstown	85.2	697	86	48	56	887	79	10	5	6	100
Dungannon	101.9	856	140	54	78	1,128	76	12	5	7	100
Omagh	63.0	1,554	217	85	96	1,952	80	11	4	5	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	94.5	489	108	47	70	714	68	15	7	10	100
Total Co. Tyrone	83.8	4,543	698	291	374	5,906	77	12	5	6	100
Northern Ireland Total	77.5	18,651	2,938	1,238	1,701	24,528	76	12	5	7	100

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Farm business size classification is calculated from Standard Labour Requirements.

Table 7.3 Number of farms by farm type by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	Farm type										
	Cereals	General cropping	Horti-culture	Pigs	Poultry	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep		Mixed	Others	Total
							LFA	lowland			
Antrim	7	13	5	8	32	100	308	250	12	9	744
Ballycastle	2	12	0	1	9	35	403	14	7	2	485
Ballymena	4	26	6	8	59	159	620	260	38	6	1,186
Ballymoney	7	16	1	5	41	159	258	225	30	6	748
Newtownabbey	0	0	2	1	0	0	10	5	0	0	18
Larne	0	2	7	5	9	63	572	34	3	5	700
Lisburn	13	9	13	1	11	36	176	101	20	6	386
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	0	1	0	0	0	1	17	8	0	1	28
Total Co. Antrim	33	79	34	29	161	553	2,364	897	110	35	4,295
Armagh	4	27	107	10	57	147	746	425	42	9	1,574
Lurgan	3	12	38	4	4	26	117	97	15	3	319
Newry No 2	4	16	5	5	11	118	1,024	100	12	6	1,301
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	9	3	3	1	2	24	7	96	6	1	152
Total Co. Armagh	20	58	153	20	74	315	1,894	718	75	19	3,346
Banbridge	29	28	5	11	11	136	327	423	49	14	1,033
Castlereagh	4	2	3	0	0	7	1	19	1	0	37
East Down	25	26	5	8	10	67	418	352	25	8	944
Hillsborough	16	16	6	4	5	66	121	229	18	10	491
South Down	4	14	3	11	2	38	444	125	19	1	661
Moira	11	11	3	3	11	36	6	96	14	4	195
Newry No 1	13	7	4	3	10	60	389	199	23	2	710
North Down	42	52	21	3	5	130	51	321	29	14	668
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	13	0	3	23
Total Co. Down	145	158	50	43	54	541	1,760	1,777	178	56	4,762
Enniskillen	1	12	2	0	5	111	892	13	3	2	1,041
Irvinestown	0	10	0	0	2	34	669	11	1	1	728
Lisnaskea	0	15	1	0	29	133	941	14	5	3	1,141
Total Co. Fermanagh	1	37	3	0	36	278	2,502	38	9	6	2,910
Coleraine	6	17	3	6	17	112	316	241	28	3	749
Limavady	20	23	6	1	3	41	422	112	28	3	659
Londonderry	13	15	2	2	1	29	330	66	7	2	467
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	17	34	2	23	14	145	789	359	48	3	1,434
Total Co. Londonderry	56	89	13	32	35	327	1,857	778	111	11	3,309
Castleerg	1	8	1	7	5	62	449	36	9	1	579
Clogher	0	10	0	3	35	77	458	51	11	1	646
Cookstown	2	12	2	13	51	100	487	201	15	4	887
Dungannon	4	12	16	7	94	112	558	297	23	5	1,128
Omagh	4	30	6	13	37	233	1,522	92	13	2	1,952
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	9	13	2	7	10	96	474	84	16	3	714
Total Co. Tyrone	20	85	27	50	232	680	3,948	761	87	16	5,906
Northern Ireland Total	275	506	280	174	592	2,694	14,325	4,969	570	143	24,528

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Table 7.4 Number of farms by LFA designation by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	LFA designation									
	Number of farms					Percentage distribution				
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA	Total
Antrim	126	257	383	361	744	17	35	51	49	100
Ballycastle	322	139	461	24	485	66	29	95	5	100
Ballymena	367	426	793	393	1,186	31	36	67	33	100
Ballymoney	101	256	357	391	748	14	34	48	52	100
Newtownabbey	6	7	13	5	18	33	39	72	28	100
Larne	343	320	663	37	700	49	46	95	5	100
Lisburn	79	144	223	163	386	20	37	58	42	100
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	14	4	18	10	28	50	14	64	36	100
Total Co. Antrim	1,358	1,553	2,911	1,384	4,295	32	36	68	32	100
Armagh	273	652	925	649	1,574	17	41	59	41	100
Lurgan	14	157	171	148	319	4	49	54	46	100
Newry No 2	359	807	1,166	135	1,301	28	62	90	10	100
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	3	6	9	143	152	2	4	6	94	100
Total Co. Armagh	649	1,622	2,271	1,075	3,346	19	48	68	32	100
Banbridge	177	219	396	637	1,033	17	21	38	62	100
Castlereagh	3	0	3	34	37	8	0	8	92	100
East Down	101	383	484	460	944	11	41	51	49	100
Hillsborough	14	132	146	345	491	3	27	30	70	100
South Down	323	162	485	176	661	49	25	73	27	100
Moira	0	6	6	189	195	0	3	3	97	100
Newry No 1	229	207	436	274	710	32	29	61	39	100
North Down	9	63	72	596	668	1	9	11	89	100
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	2	3	5	18	23	9	13	22	78	100
Total Co. Down	858	1,175	2,033	2,729	4,762	18	25	43	57	100
Enniskillen	991	34	1,025	16	1,041	95	3	98	2	100
Irvinestown	703	13	716	12	728	97	2	98	2	100
Lisnaskea	1,013	112	1,125	16	1,141	89	10	99	1	100
Total Co. Fermanagh	2,707	159	2,866	44	2,910	93	5	98	2	100
Coleraine	189	174	363	386	749	25	23	48	52	100
Limavady	381	91	472	187	659	58	14	72	28	100
Londonderry	296	61	357	110	467	63	13	76	24	100
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	448	466	914	520	1,434	31	32	64	36	100
Total Co. Londonderry	1,314	792	2,106	1,203	3,309	40	24	64	36	100
Castledearg	352	168	520	59	579	61	29	90	10	100
Clogher	278	303	581	65	646	43	47	90	10	100
Cookstown	336	254	590	297	887	38	29	67	33	100
Dungannon	125	598	723	405	1,128	11	53	64	36	100
Omagh	1,202	613	1,815	137	1,952	62	31	93	7	100
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	383	183	566	148	714	54	26	79	21	100
Total Co. Tyrone	2,676	2,119	4,795	1,111	5,906	45	36	81	19	100
Northern Ireland Total	9,562	7,420	16,982	7,546	24,528	39	30	69	31	100

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Table 7.5 Crop and grass areas by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	Crop areas (hectares)								Total area farmed
	Cereals	Potatoes	Other farm crops	Horti-culture crops	Total crops	Grass	Rough grazing	Other land	
Antrim	1,017	19	245	10	1,291	30,013	2,439	828	34,571
Ballycastle	519	251	122	2	895	18,587	11,876	416	31,773
Ballymena	741	162	278	24	1,205	40,345	9,803	827	52,180
Ballymoney	1,417	244	536	18	2,215	29,976	3,310	848	36,349
Newtownabbey	71	0	16	4	91	823	28	4	946
Larne	82	6	93	9	190	28,880	10,443	437	39,950
Lisburn	1,450	10	249	51	1,760	13,674	1,814	341	17,588
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	0	4	16	0	20	1,098	910	12	2,040
Total Co. Antrim	5,295	697	1,556	118	7,666	163,396	40,623	3,712	215,397
Armagh	936	55	387	1,215	2,594	42,064	1,120	942	46,720
Lurgan	464	65	93	476	1,099	8,517	162	223	10,001
Newry No 2	318	0	176	4	498	29,536	1,891	297	32,223
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	1,043	5	122	24	1,194	4,809	19	152	6,174
Total Co. Armagh	2,761	125	778	1,720	5,385	84,927	3,193	1,615	95,119
Banbridge	2,609	262	625	14	3,510	28,681	4,795	328	37,314
Castlereagh	126	1	113	4	244	1,738	306	760	3,048
East Down	2,862	142	459	10	3,472	30,989	1,488	828	36,777
Hillsborough	1,662	113	307	50	2,132	16,844	274	400	19,649
South Down	708	440	82	13	1,243	14,918	3,690	123	19,973
Moira	1,238	148	230	24	1,641	6,932	61	112	8,746
Newry No 1	1,031	120	188	1	1,340	15,790	1,909	172	19,212
North Down	4,378	699	745	752	6,574	23,763	264	1,115	31,715
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	48	1	10	0	59	652	47	120	879
Total Co. Down	14,662	1,926	2,759	869	20,216	140,305	12,834	3,958	177,312
Enniskillen	49	6	84	4	142	40,519	5,604	1,013	47,278
Irvinestown	0	0	2	1	4	28,599	2,394	723	31,720
Lisnaskea	74	0	37	10	121	38,800	2,427	8,055	49,404
Total Co. Fermanagh	123	6	123	15	267	107,917	10,426	9,791	128,401
Coleraine	1,683	91	292	1	2,067	28,555	5,067	620	36,309
Limavady	3,135	347	346	18	3,847	25,896	11,189	655	41,587
Londonderry	1,531	181	409	20	2,139	17,849	4,553	553	25,095
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	1,713	144	249	2	2,107	40,156	10,727	929	53,918
Total Co. Londonderry	8,061	762	1,296	41	10,160	112,456	31,536	2,757	156,909
Castleberg	96	17	62	0	176	17,990	6,779	272	25,217
Clogher	23	0	28	0	51	22,164	2,398	893	25,506
Cookstown	270	68	137	3	478	24,891	3,184	268	28,821
Dungannon	455	24	159	116	753	33,107	673	440	34,973
Omagh	318	23	235	18	593	64,113	13,106	1,904	79,716
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	1,375	90	165	16	1,645	29,515	12,439	2,280	45,880
Total Co. Tyrone	2,536	221	785	153	3,695	191,780	38,580	6,057	240,111
Northern Ireland Total	33,439	3,737	7,296	2,917	47,388	800,780	137,191	27,890	1,013,248

Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Table 7.6 Livestock numbers by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	Livestock numbers							('000)	
	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Total cattle	Breeding ewes	Total sheep	Sows & gilts	Total pigs	Total poultry	
Antrim	12,852	10,206	64,657	31,691	71,775	1,159	12,722	1,023	
Ballycastle	3,953	5,495	25,676	65,118	136,403	172	1,950	215	
Ballymena	19,722	12,474	90,434	60,171	126,511	1,549	18,464	2,386	
Ballymoney	20,735	5,368	69,680	33,779	73,561	233	2,254	1,381	
Newtownabbey	0	472	1,704	115	242	880	10,624	0	
Larne	8,305	9,896	47,699	66,834	142,254	645	7,144	327	
Lisburn	4,151	5,285	28,922	5,773	12,490	253	3,908	352	
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	138	608	2,204	2,888	6,477	0	0	0	
Total Co. Antrim	69,856	49,804	330,976	266,369	569,713	4,891	57,066	5,684	
Armagh	18,035	13,819	111,522	23,220	49,169	8,305	130,709	1,978	
Lurgan	3,076	3,215	21,125	2,470	5,482	232	3,458	130	
Newry No 2	12,854	13,639	78,982	15,157	31,562	522	7,439	437	
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	3,137	893	14,176	5,202	10,245	385	4,750	74	
Total Co. Armagh	37,102	31,566	225,805	46,049	96,458	9,444	146,356	2,619	
Banbridge	16,789	6,850	73,743	33,647	70,822	1,855	23,232	367	
Castlereagh	1,273	191	3,690	1,049	1,874	2	16	0	
East Down	7,594	12,245	63,393	38,386	81,661	3,914	43,188	263	
Hillsborough	9,762	4,064	40,143	12,572	26,584	1,289	15,712	167	
South Down	4,601	5,575	29,754	41,640	82,502	1,236	12,235	37	
Moira	5,568	1,478	21,178	1,716	3,729	358	4,084	589	
Newry No 1	5,956	6,076	38,241	32,352	65,275	691	7,017	486	
North Down	19,545	6,146	63,033	17,761	39,661	236	2,494	157	
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	246	137	982	639	1,313	0	0	0	
Total Co. Down	71,334	42,762	334,157	179,762	373,421	9,581	107,978	2,066	
Enniskillen	9,544	17,022	60,728	21,101	44,799	49	204	91	
Irvinestown	2,941	11,902	34,361	18,037	38,075	6	30	33	
Lisnaskea	10,134	17,553	68,484	16,256	36,978	125	1,766	867	
Total Co. Fermanagh	22,619	46,477	163,573	55,394	119,852	180	2,000	991	
Coleraine	13,488	7,945	62,609	34,115	73,668	623	6,638	520	
Limavady	6,971	6,752	39,834	64,792	131,611	92	468	147	
Londonderry	4,831	4,900	28,092	40,201	85,413	115	1,261	11	
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	14,881	15,023	84,824	59,540	123,702	5,972	67,477	714	
Total Co. Londonderry	40,171	34,620	215,359	198,648	414,394	6,802	75,844	1,392	
Castleterragh	7,320	4,924	29,902	37,461	81,016	1,524	19,289	159	
Clogher	7,829	9,345	48,955	11,916	24,920	4,329	76,466	1,733	
Cookstown	11,110	9,776	60,640	18,084	39,207	3,381	41,132	1,534	
Dungannon	13,155	9,942	79,754	13,937	29,913	1,778	22,111	4,312	
Omagh	23,789	22,508	119,884	67,921	146,912	2,466	28,452	966	
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	12,861	8,022	55,587	59,657	127,167	2,067	24,407	329	
Total Co. Tyrone	76,064	64,517	394,722	208,976	449,135	15,545	211,857	9,032	
Northern Ireland Total	317,146	269,746	1,664,592	955,198	2,022,973	46,443	601,101	21,784	

Notes: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 7.7 Labour force by Rural District in Northern Ireland, June 2016

Rural District	Farm labour force						Agricultural labour force
	Farmers & partners			Other workers			
	Full-time	Part-time	Spouses	Full-time	Part-time	Casual/seasonal	
Antrim	522	390	245	99	157	127	1,540
Ballycastle	365	226	138	46	89	98	962
Ballymena	869	612	336	125	205	165	2,312
Ballymoney	621	357	238	90	152	147	1,605
Newtownabbey	18	7	5	30	15	1	76
Larne	497	342	205	91	152	106	1,393
Lisburn	244	222	107	65	74	74	786
Co. Antrim Urban/Belfast	20	17	4	3	3	5	52
Total Co. Antrim	3,156	2,173	1,278	549	847	723	8,726
Armagh	1,011	871	402	484	289	520	3,577
Lurgan	212	187	78	74	74	153	778
Newry No 2	668	848	240	82	146	103	2,087
Tandragee/Co. Armagh Urban	101	83	46	43	37	45	355
Total Co. Armagh	1,992	1,989	766	683	546	821	6,797
Banbridge	674	601	315	141	194	164	2,089
Castlereagh	24	24	9	23	10	7	97
East Down	629	529	260	119	212	160	1,909
Hillsborough	335	285	161	95	80	94	1,050
South Down	377	442	181	50	120	95	1,265
Moira	152	110	69	35	44	31	441
Newry No 1	424	440	173	137	106	92	1,372
North Down	529	326	215	214	184	164	1,632
Co. Down Urban/Belfast	13	17	5	4	5	7	51
Total Co. Down	3,157	2,774	1,388	818	955	814	9,906
Enniskillen	652	572	291	59	131	145	1,850
Irinestown	412	448	158	36	88	85	1,227
Lisnaskea	702	636	285	71	137	108	1,939
Total Co. Fermanagh	1,766	1,656	734	166	356	338	5,016
Coleraine	566	367	239	90	125	131	1,518
Limavady	444	352	175	85	109	110	1,275
Londonderry	332	223	131	55	95	90	926
Magherafelt/Co. L'derry Urban	904	834	326	95	265	218	2,642
Total Co. Londonderry	2,246	1,776	871	325	594	549	6,361
Castleterragh	347	321	122	51	85	70	996
Clogher	448	324	177	50	104	96	1,199
Cookstown	553	534	206	89	142	107	1,631
Dungannon	720	647	273	172	163	157	2,132
Omagh	1,290	1,035	403	177	267	265	3,437
Strabane/Co. Tyrone Urban	558	342	192	129	156	134	1,511
Total Co. Tyrone	3,916	3,203	1,373	668	917	829	10,906
Northern Ireland Total	16,233	13,571	6,410	3,209	4,215	4,074	47,712

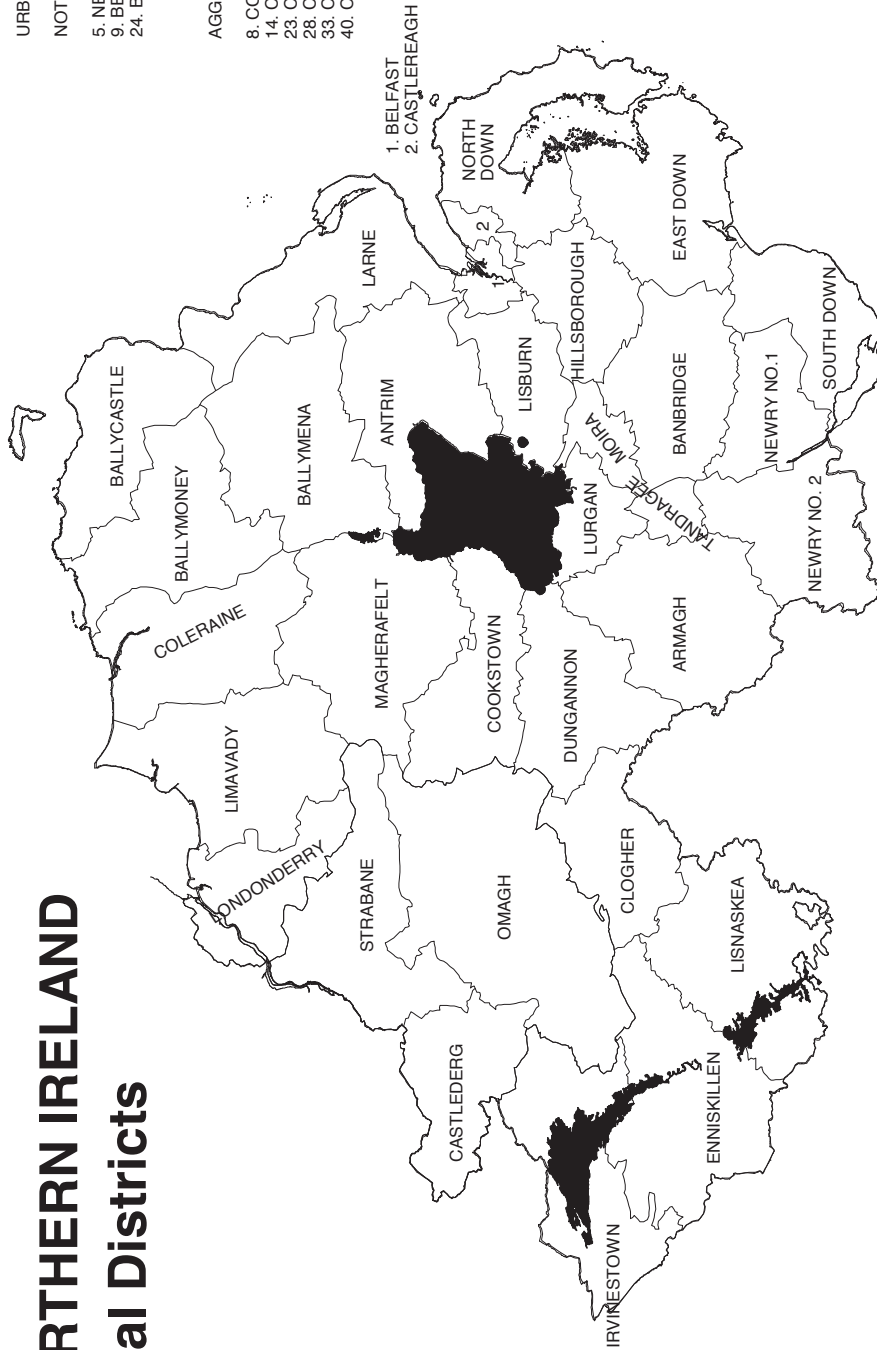
Note: County totals include figures for Urban areas.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Rural Districts

URBAN DISTRICTS (UD)
 NOT SHOWN ON MAP
 5. NEWTOWNABBNEY UD
 9. BELFAST (CO. ANTRIM)
 24. BELFAST (CO. DOWN) UD

AGGREGATES OF UDS IN:
 8. CO. ANTRIM
 14. CO. ARMAGH
 23. CO. DOWN
 28. CO. FERMANAGH
 33. CO. LONDONDERRY
 40. CO. TYRONE



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SECTION 8: LESS FAVOURED AREA (LFA) STATISTICS

The term Less Favoured Areas (LFA) is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of their relatively poor agricultural conditions, have been so designated under EU legislation. These areas, which include developed land as well as that used for agriculture and forestry, extend to 826,000 hectares. The LFA consists of Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) which is the original LFA as designated in 1975 (487,000 ha) and the Disadvantaged Area (DA) which was designated following reviews in 1984 (335,000 ha) and 1990 (3,700 ha).

Farms classed as LFA farms occupy 70 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 8.2) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 12 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows predominate on LFA farms (205,800), where they are more important than dairy cows (155,800), whereas, on lowland farms, there were 64,000 beef cows and 161,400 dairy cows in 2016 (Table 8.3). LFA farms account for 34 and 62 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

The following tables show the numbers of farms, crop areas, livestock numbers and persons working on farms which are wholly or mainly in areas classed as Severely Disadvantaged (SDA), Disadvantaged (DA) or Lowland.

Table 8.1 Number of farms by
 (a) farm type;
 (b) farm business size.

Table 8.2 Crop areas

Table 8.3 Numbers of cattle

Table 8.4 Numbers of sheep, horses, goats

Table 8.5 Numbers of pigs, poultry

Table 8.6 Farm labour force

Map of Less Favoured Area

Table 8.1 Numbers of farms by (a) type of farm and (b) farm business size by LFA category, June 2016

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
Farm type:						
Cereals	11	33	44	231	275	16.0
General cropping	92	139	231	275	506	45.7
Horticulture	23	74	97	183	280	34.6
Pigs	37	62	99	75	174	56.9
Poultry	170	212	382	210	592	64.5
Dairy	557	948	1,505	1,189	2,694	55.9
Cattle & sheep: LFA	8,588	5,737	14,325	0	14,325	100.0
Cattle & Sheep: lowland	0	0	0	4,969	4,969	0.0
Mixed	59	175	234	336	570	41.1
Other type	25	40	65	78	143	45.5
All types	9,562	7,420	16,982	7,546	24,528	69.2
Farm business size:						
Very small	7,968	5,634	13,602	5,049	18,651	72.9
Small	996	903	1,899	1,039	2,938	64.6
Medium	327	378	705	533	1,238	56.9
Large	271	505	776	925	1,701	45.6
Total	9,562	7,420	16,982	7,546	24,528	69.2

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

Table 8.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing & other land by LFA category, June 2016

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
Crops & grass:						
Cereal crops:						
Oats	119	513	632	1,625	2,257	28.0
Wheat	255	1,093	1,347	7,268	8,616	15.6
Winter barley	269	1,120	1,390	6,238	7,628	18.2
Spring barley	659	2,273	2,933	11,775	14,708	19.9
Mixed corn	31	71	102	128	230	44.3
Total cereals	1,334	5,070	6,404	27,035	33,439	19.2
Other crops:						
Potatoes	345	608	952	2,785	3,737	25.5
Other field crops	892	1,113	2,004	5,292	7,296	27.5
Fruit, vegetables & flowers:						
Fruit	24	236	261	1,240	1,501	17.4
Vegetables	5	105	110	1,124	1,234	8.9
Ornamentals	27	34	61	121	182	33.5
Total fruit, vegetables & flowers	56	375	431	2,486	2,917	14.8
Total crops	2,626	7,165	9,791	37,597	47,388	20.7
Grass						
Grass under 5 years old	47,749	41,402	89,151	59,015	148,166	60.2
Grass 5 years old & over	261,077	191,376	452,452	200,161	652,613	69.3
Total grass	308,826	232,778	541,603	259,176	800,780	67.6
Total crops and grass	311,452	239,943	551,395	296,773	848,168	65.0
Rough grazing	120,957	10,361	131,318	5,872	137,191	95.7
Woods & plantations	4,392	8,124	12,516	3,617	16,133	77.6
Other land	3,315	5,594	8,909	2,848	11,757	75.8
Total agricultural area	440,116	264,022	704,138	309,110	1,013,248	69.5

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

Table 8.3 Numbers of cattle by LFA category, June 2016

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
Cattle:						
Dairy cows						
Total dairy cows	51,711	104,071	155,782	161,364	317,146	49.1
Beef cows						
Total beef cows	125,908	79,869	205,777	63,969	269,746	76.3
Total cows	177,619	183,940	361,559	225,333	586,892	61.6
Dairy heifers in calf						
2 years old & over	3,797	8,521	12,318	12,975	25,293	48.7
Under 2 years	4,912	10,483	15,395	18,159	33,554	45.9
Beef heifers in calf						
2 years old & over	7,972	5,632	13,604	5,153	18,757	72.5
Under 2 years	5,578	3,708	9,286	3,066	12,352	75.2
Bulls being used for service						
2 years old & over	5,056	4,323	9,379	4,334	13,713	68.4
1 year old & under 2 years	1,025	1,151	2,176	1,505	3,681	59.1
All other cattle & calves :						
2 years old & over						
Male	6,787	14,039	20,826	22,862	43,688	47.7
Females intended for slaughter	12,088	15,813	27,901	21,593	49,494	56.4
Other females	2,045	2,765	4,810	3,720	8,530	56.4
1 year old & under 2 years						
Male	32,236	57,129	89,365	77,271	166,636	53.6
Females intended for slaughter	29,577	36,433	66,010	49,981	115,991	56.9
Other females	19,266	24,794	44,060	31,456	75,516	58.3
6 months old and under 1 year						
Male	25,426	32,758	58,184	39,514	97,698	59.6
Female	31,474	36,803	68,277	47,359	115,636	59.0
Under 6 months old						
Male	47,052	44,073	91,125	50,865	141,990	64.2
Female	49,063	48,812	97,875	57,296	155,171	63.1
Total cattle & calves	460,973	531,177	992,150	672,442	1,664,592	59.6

Notes: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.
Cattle figures sourced from APHIS.

Table 8.4 Numbers of sheep, horses & goats by LFA category, June 2016

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
Sheep:						
Sheep for breeding						
Put to the ram in 2015	463,001	194,631	657,632	175,978	833,610	78.9
Others 1 year old & over	73,830	23,984	97,814	23,774	121,588	80.4
Total breeding ewes	536,831	218,615	755,446	199,752	955,198	79.1
Rams for service	15,201	6,824	22,025	6,242	28,267	77.9
Other sheep & lambs:						
1 year old & over	8,808	4,342	13,150	4,990	18,140	72.5
Under 1 year	553,414	247,935	801,349	220,019	1,021,368	78.5
Total sheep	1,114,254	477,716	1,591,970	431,003	2,022,973	78.7
Horses and ponies:						
Horses/ponies owned by occupier	1,908	2,442	4,350	4,084	8,434	51.6
Horses/ponies NOT owned by occupier	297	500	797	1,063	1,860	42.8
Total horses & ponies	2,205	2,942	5,147	5,147	10,294	50.0
Goats:						
Total goats	1,718	1,059	2,777	1,038	3,815	72.8

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

Table 8.5 Numbers of pigs and poultry by LFA category, June 2016

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
Pigs:						
Breeding herd						
Sows in pig	3,417	9,456	12,873	18,834	31,707	40.6
Gilts in pig	595	1,505	2,100	4,168	6,268	33.5
Other breeding sows	1,116	2,025	3,141	5,327	8,468	37.1
Total female breeding herd	5,128	12,986	18,114	28,329	46,443	39.0
Maiden gilts	512	1,079	1,591	3,872	5,463	29.1
Boars being used for service	87	213	300	549	849	35.3
Other pigs:						
Finishers/Culls	20,550	55,309	75,859	177,488	253,347	29.9
Weaners/Growers	19,397	51,592	70,989	122,833	193,822	36.6
Piglets	10,828	26,845	37,673	63,504	101,177	37.2
Total pigs	56,502	148,024	204,526	396,575	601,101	34.0
Poultry: ('000) (thousand birds)						
Laying birds	1,376	1,053	2,429	1,121	3,550	68.4
Growing pullets	221	406	628	334	962	65.2
Breeding flock	768	705	1,474	809	2,283	64.6
Broilers & other table birds	2,245	6,269	8,514	5,945	14,459	58.9
Total ordinary fowl	4,610	8,434	13,045	8,209	21,254	61.4
Other poultry	300	107	407	123	530	76.8
Total poultry	4,910	8,542	13,452	8,332	21,784	61.8

Notes: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

Pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Poultry figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

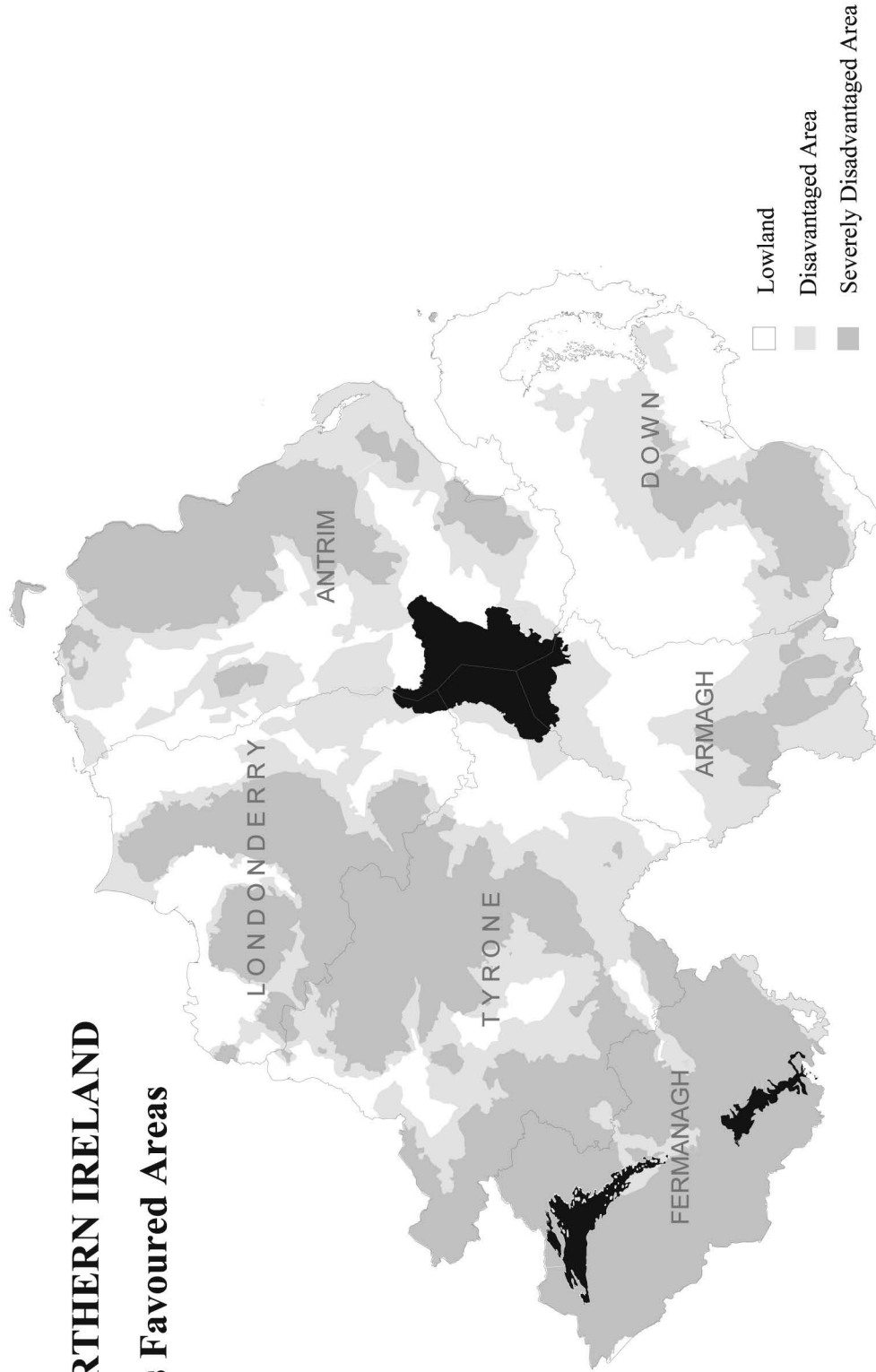
Table 8.6 Farm labour force on farms by LFA category, June 2016

	LFA category				N.Ireland total	LFA % of N.Ireland
	Mainly SDA	Mainly DA	Mainly LFA	Mainly non-LFA		
Farm Labour:						
Farmers, partners & directors						
Full-time	5,717	4,958	10,675	5,558	16,233	65.8
Part-time	5,539	4,064	9,603	3,968	13,571	70.8
Total	11,256	9,022	20,278	9,526	29,804	68.0
Spouses	2,257	1,907	4,164	2,246	6,410	65.0
Other / paid workers						
Full-time	663	834	1,497	1,712	3,209	46.7
Part-time	1,415	1,264	2,679	1,536	4,215	63.6
Casual/seasonal	1,190	1,160	2,350	1,724	4,074	57.7
Total other / paid workers	3,268	3,258	6,526	4,972	11,498	56.8
Total agricultural labour force	16,781	14,187	30,968	16,744	47,712	64.9

Note: Figures for Mainly LFA are the addition of figures for Mainly SDA and Mainly DA.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Less Favoured Areas



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ANNEX 1

TABLE 1: – Trend in farm numbers by type (2007 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2012 - 2016.

Table 1 shows the number of farms by type (based on the 2007 Standard Outputs (SO)) and size (based on the Standard Labour Requirements (SLR)) for the years 2012 – 2016.

TABLE 2: – Trend in farm numbers by type (2010 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2012 - 2016.

Table 2 shows the number of farms by type (based on the 2010 Standard Outputs (SO)) and size (based on the Standard Labour Requirements (SLR)) for the years 2012 – 2016.

Details of the SO and SLR methodology can be found in section 2 – terms and definitions.

Table 1 : Trend in farm numbers by type (2007 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2012-2016.

FARM TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cereals					
Very Small	229	235	223	217	218
Small	49	47	39	36	32
Medium	7	10	12	10	12
Large	7	8	9	6	5
Total	292	300	283	269	267
General Cropping					
Very Small	278	390	262	426	414
Small	34	41	44	42	42
Medium	29	29	30	18	17
Large	44	48	43	47	48
Total	385	508	379	533	521
Horticulture					
Very Small	117	133	120	99	102
Small	48	54	52	54	50
Medium	37	33	30	30	32
Large	84	91	90	110	99
Total	286	311	292	293	283
Pigs					
Very Small	55	49	49	56	52
Small	33	34	36	29	26
Medium	26	30	32	38	32
Large	62	64	63	66	66
Total	176	177	180	189	176
Poultry					
Very Small	224	244	238	218	193
Small	194	204	197	213	218
Medium	75	74	90	105	109
Large	78	80	78	80	85
Total	571	602	603	616	605
Dairy					
Very Small	327	361	349	343	302
Small	785	808	760	782	759
Medium	578	576	625	642	634
Large	972	939	992	1038	1056
Total	2,662	2,684	2,726	2,805	2,751
Cattle & sheep: LFA					
Very Small	12,623	12,680	12,652	12,845	12,674
Small	1,224	1,185	1,147	1,124	1,132
Medium	247	230	221	213	212
Large	127	138	110	117	144
Total	14,221	14,233	14,130	14,299	14,162
Cattle & sheep: Lowland					
Very Small	3,850	3,880	3,955	4,176	4,129
Small	528	526	506	510	517
Medium	114	127	102	105	109
Large	73	62	60	63	78
Total	4,565	4,595	4,623	4,854	4,833
Mixed					
Very Small	366	345	338	377	317
Small	116	96	89	102	103
Medium	63	49	58	57	57
Large	90	84	83	84	99
Total	635	574	568	620	576
Other type					
Very Small	372	402	335	321	250
Small	65	68	65	59	59
Medium	34	29	26	31	24
Large	21	20	18	18	21
Total	492	519	444	429	354
TOTAL FARMS	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907	24,528

Table 2 : Trend in farm numbers by type (2010 SO) and farm size (SLR) 2012-2016.

FARM TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cereals					
Very Small	233	244	236	226	225
Small	48	48	39	37	31
Medium	8	11	14	12	13
Large	7	8	8	6	6
Total	296	311	297	281	275
General Cropping					
Very Small	269	384	258	420	406
Small	34	38	41	38	40
Medium	28	29	28	15	16
Large	42	46	41	43	44
Total	373	497	368	516	506
Horticulture					
Very Small	112	131	117	99	98
Small	47	52	52	54	50
Medium	34	31	30	28	33
Large	85	90	90	112	99
Total	278	304	289	293	280
Pigs					
Very Small	62	50	49	55	51
Small	35	34	36	28	26
Medium	26	29	31	37	32
Large	63	64	63	65	65
Total	186	177	179	185	174
Poultry					
Very Small	222	243	234	215	191
Small	191	200	195	208	216
Medium	75	71	85	101	104
Large	72	77	77	77	81
Total	560	591	591	601	592
Dairy					
Very Small	312	339	333	323	290
Small	756	781	740	763	741
Medium	566	561	609	629	620
Large	960	917	973	1027	1043
Total	2,594	2,598	2,655	2,742	2,694
Cattle & sheep: LFA					
Very Small	12,763	12,837	12,777	12,985	12,775
Small	1,267	1,227	1,184	1,157	1,163
Medium	257	244	236	231	232
Large	139	149	119	124	155
Total	14,426	14,457	14,316	14,497	14,325
Cattle & sheep: Lowland					
Very Small	3,965	4,009	4,052	4,283	4,216
Small	557	555	534	539	544
Medium	128	137	111	114	116
Large	86	85	78	78	93
Total	4,736	4,786	4,775	5,014	4,969
Mixed					
Very Small	355	322	322	337	305
Small	111	98	88	103	103
Medium	67	54	63	62	60
Large	90	87	86	86	102
Total	623	561	559	588	570
Other type					
Very Small	148	160	143	135	94
Small	30	30	26	24	24
Medium	21	20	19	20	12
Large	14	11	11	11	13
Total	213	221	199	190	143
TOTAL FARMS	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907	24,528

ANNEX 2 NOTES FOR DATA USERS

Data Quality

The following points should be borne in mind when considering the data used in compiling the figures of this report.

1. In 2016, approximately 13,900 valid responses were received with the remaining figures for the missing farms being estimated.
2. The list of active farms (the farm register) used both to draw the sample and estimate the totals is reviewed and updated annually based on information received from surveys and through reference to administrative databases maintained either under livestock identification, registration and movement legislation or for the purposes of paying grants and subsidies. For horticulture and pigs the register is updated annually with information received from surveys supplemented by input from DAERA Advisory and Veterinary Services on new business start-ups.
3. The estimates connected with farm enterprises with relatively small population numbers (e.g. pigs and horticulture) may be subject to greater error.
4. Farms do not consist of contiguous fields and the location of the farm is centred on the address of the farmer, or the business owner.
5. Data on cattle is derived from APHIS (a cattle tracing system). This is a high quality database which has been audited and approved by the Eurostat for statistical work.

How the figures are compiled

The data used in compiling figures for this report comes from different sources with different quality issues.

The main postal survey utilises the most up to date farm register available.

This register is an amalgam of:

- a. active farmers (as recorded on the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), subsidy payment system. Note that from 2015 when the EU subsidy system was amended, receipt of the Basis Payment Scheme (BPS) indicates an active farm)
- b. pig farmers known to the Department, that are not part of the IACS system
- c. poultry farmers known to the Department that are not part of the IACS system
- d. mushroom farmers noted separately as specialist producers,
- e. top fruit, soft fruit and horticultural producers known to the Department
- f. active farmers registered on the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) not already encountered above.

For Northern Ireland the predominance of the cattle and sheep industries mean that a very high percentage of farms will be 'registered' through the IACS or APHIS systems.

However, it is possible for some of these enterprises (particularly minority ones where no compulsory register of animals is required) to exist and not be included on the register, e.g. horses.

Farmers are deactivated from the register because they have let the Department know (by some means from the list above) that they are no longer farming. However, it is possible that this deactivation will not take place in time for the yearly sample selection process, so each year a small number of non active farms continue to be recognised as active. Likewise, a small number of new farms (more properly farms that have been transferred to new owners) will not be recognised in time for the sample selection procedure.

Very small holdings, e.g. under a hectare, consisting of a few (non compulsory registration) animals may well fall outside the scope of the register, however, their contribution to the production of the overall agricultural sector is minimal.

The survey returns are processed and the data cleansed of logical inaccuracies. Farmers indicating that they are no longer farming are noted as inactive at this stage. For farms which do not have a survey return (through non-response or not sampled) data are imputed by analysing the size and type of farms missing and those where returns have been received.

Information on cattle is taken directly from APHIS. This is a census of all cattle alive (and on farms) at June 1st. Information on poultry is taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register – no action is taken on returns indicating that the birds are non commercial. From 2013 information on pigs is sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

These cattle, poultry and pig data are added to the framework established from the postal survey returns, creating a database of both actual and imputed values, which are used in calculating the years totals.

Bias and non response

While the response rate for the questionnaire part of the survey is normally approximately 70%, other aspects such as the data extracted from the APHIS cattle system, poultry extracted from the NI Update of the Bird Register and pigs from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs are complete censuses. Information on the size of farm is also obtainable from the Basic Payment Scheme and older information from previous surveys is often available. It is therefore possible to determine the size and type of farm which has not returned a form in a particular year. Analysis has demonstrated that there is no particular bias introduced as a result of non-response.

When analysing bias in a geographical context, the table below shows that the proportion of non-response by County are quite similar.

	County						
	ANTRIM	ARMAGH	DOWN	FERMANAGH	LDERRY	TYRONE	TOTAL
% Non response	29%	36%	30%	28%	28%	32%	30%

Geography

Although the June Agricultural Survey is collected at individual level; estimates are only compiled at, usually, district council level or higher. Normally the accuracy of the figures depends on the number of responses, so for some enterprises even estimates at district council level are impractical.

Additionally, the data are subject to the Data Protection Act and results may not be released at a level where an individual can be identified. This may be due to either a low number of instances or due to the dominance of one or two holdings.

Disclosure control methods

Estimates are not disclosed where the value is based on less than five holdings. Where estimates have been suppressed, the second smallest estimate in the grouping is also treated similarly so that neither estimate can be derived from the total. Where estimates are suppressed, the value is represented by the symbol "...". If a value is not present, it is recorded as zero. Data suppression in this report is minimal, affecting a small number of tables of Pig and Poultry farm distributions, and some minor cropping areas.

Arrangements for providing controlled access to micro-data

Subject to protecting confidentiality, controlled access to micro data is allowed in a limited number of circumstances and after careful consideration on a case by case basis. For the most part this relates to the use by researchers of the agricultural data for economic modelling and analysis.

Data may be released under arrangements described in a Service Level Agreement, a Concordat, contracts, and confidentiality declarations.

Occasionally, we provide contact details, under strict conditions, for researchers if it is necessary for *ad hoc* surveys to be conducted or other contact made as part of research activities supported by DAERA.

CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST BT4 3SB

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