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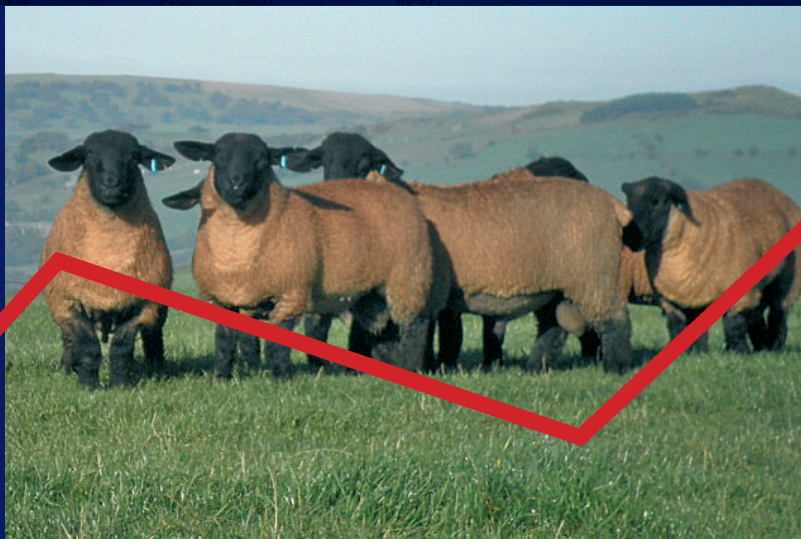
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Kintra Fordèrin**

POLICY AND ECONOMICS DIVISION

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2015



Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry



A National Statistics publication

Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture 2015

***Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Policy and Economics Division***

A National Statistics publication

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PREFACE

The *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture* is published annually and contains a wide range of statistics on the agricultural industry. It is an important reference document for agri-food sector stakeholders and policy makers. This is the 52nd edition.

The data contained in the *Statistical Review* are derived from farm surveys, including the Agricultural Census and the Farm Business Survey, and surveys of food processing and agricultural input supply firms. These surveys are carried out in order to enable the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to meet the legislative requirements with which it is charged. The data on animal welfare, the agri-environment and rural areas comes from a variety of other sources.

In next year's *Statistical Review*, we plan to introduce a wider range of rural statistics that will be based on a new definition of rural areas, which is a revision of the existing NISRA settlement classification scheme. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to update some of the current rural statistics in this edition because of the change in local council areas.

The *Statistical Review* is a Departmental publication and in line with the guidance for these publications, DARD provides a number of hardcopies to designated public libraries and the NI Assembly Government. Normally, after these requirements have been satisfied a small number of hardcopies become available and these are distributed free of charge on a first come first served basis while stocks last - please contact the Editor at the address below. As with all DARD statistical publications, the *Statistical Review* is available in electronic format, free of charge, on the DARD website, at www.dardni.gov.uk. This website also contains long-term trend data for a selection of *Statistical Review* tables. New statistical releases appearing on the DARD website are announced on the DARD Twitter account: @DARDstats. The *Statistical Review* is a National Statistics publication, indicating that its contents are produced to best professional standards. Queries or comments on its contents can be made to the Editor, Seamus McErlean, whose contact details are given below.

Norman Fulton
Director of Policy and Economics Division
March 2016

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

Tel: 028 9052 4675
Fax: 028 9052 4676
Email: Seamus.McErlean@dardni.gov.uk
Twitter: @DARDstats

KEY FACTS 2015

	NI	UK	ROI	EU15
GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)				
Agriculture as % of total GVA	1.0 ^P	0.6 ¹	2.5 ¹	1.6 ²
EMPLOYMENT				
Agricultural employment ('000)	26	350	110 ¹	4,944 ¹
As % of total civil employment	3.2	1.1	5.7 ¹	2.8 ¹
LAND USE				
Agricultural area ('000 ha)	998	17,259 ¹	4,477 ¹	155,766 ³
As % of total area	74	71 ¹	63 ¹	46 ³
LESS FAVOURED AREAS (LFA)				
LFA as % of agricultural area	69.1	47.5 ¹	75.0 ³	60.6 ³
FARMS				
Number ('000)	24.9	222.4 ¹	140 ²	5,608 ³
Average agricultural area (ha)	40.1	77.6 ¹	32.5 ²	27.8 ³
ENTERPRISES				
Average enterprise size:				
Dairy cows	88	83 ¹	58 ²	43 ²
Beef cows	17	27 ¹	14 ²	22 ²
Sheep	209	442 ¹	148 ²	169 ²
Pigs	1,628	444 ¹	1,254 ²	382 ²
Laying hens	16,000	1,237 ¹	280 ²	557 ²
Broilers	44,000	47,470 ¹	14,300 ²	2,200 ²
Cereals (ha)	13.9	60.5 ¹	24.1 ²	19.6 ²
Potatoes (ha)	7.3	15.5 ¹	7.8 ²	3.1 ²

1. 2013, 2. 2010, 3. 2007, P= Provisional

Note 1. NI = Northern Ireland; UK = United Kingdom; ROI = Republic of Ireland; EU15 = Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

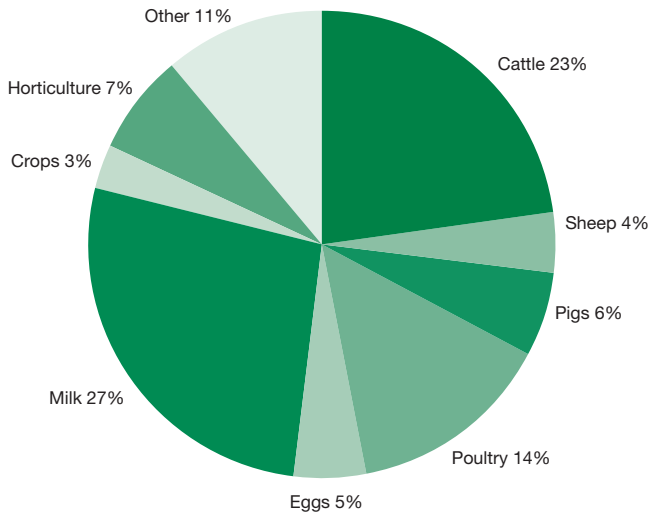
Note 2. Due to national accounting principles GVA figures do not include Single Farm Payment.

Note 3. In general, figures relate to the latest year for which statistics are available.

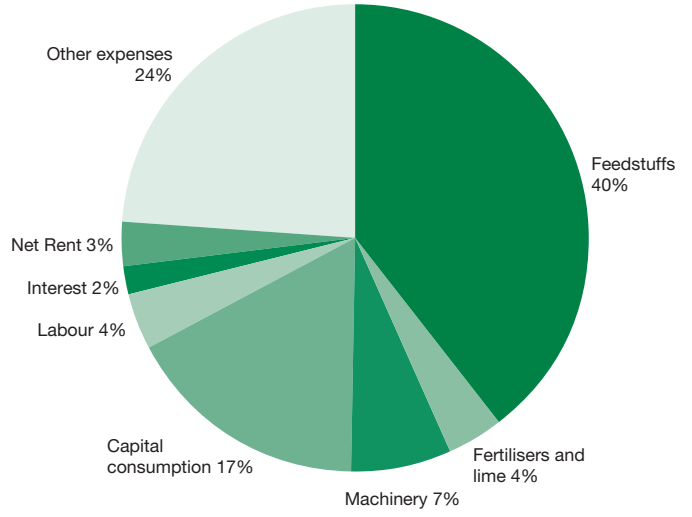
Note 4. The agricultural employment data is sourced from the Labour Force Survey, to enable comparison between countries.

COMPARISONS OF NI AND UK AGRICULTURE

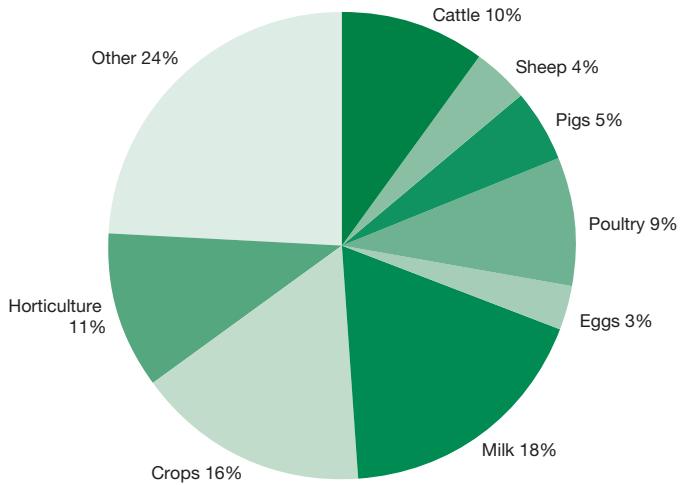
Gross output of NI agriculture, 2015



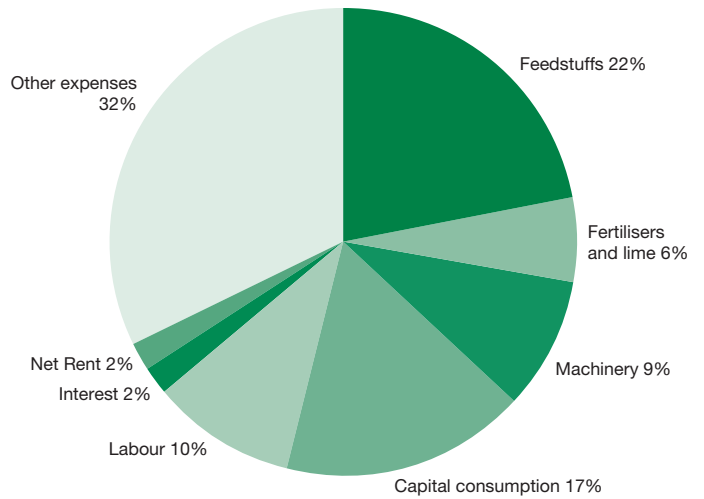
Total expenses of NI agriculture, 2015



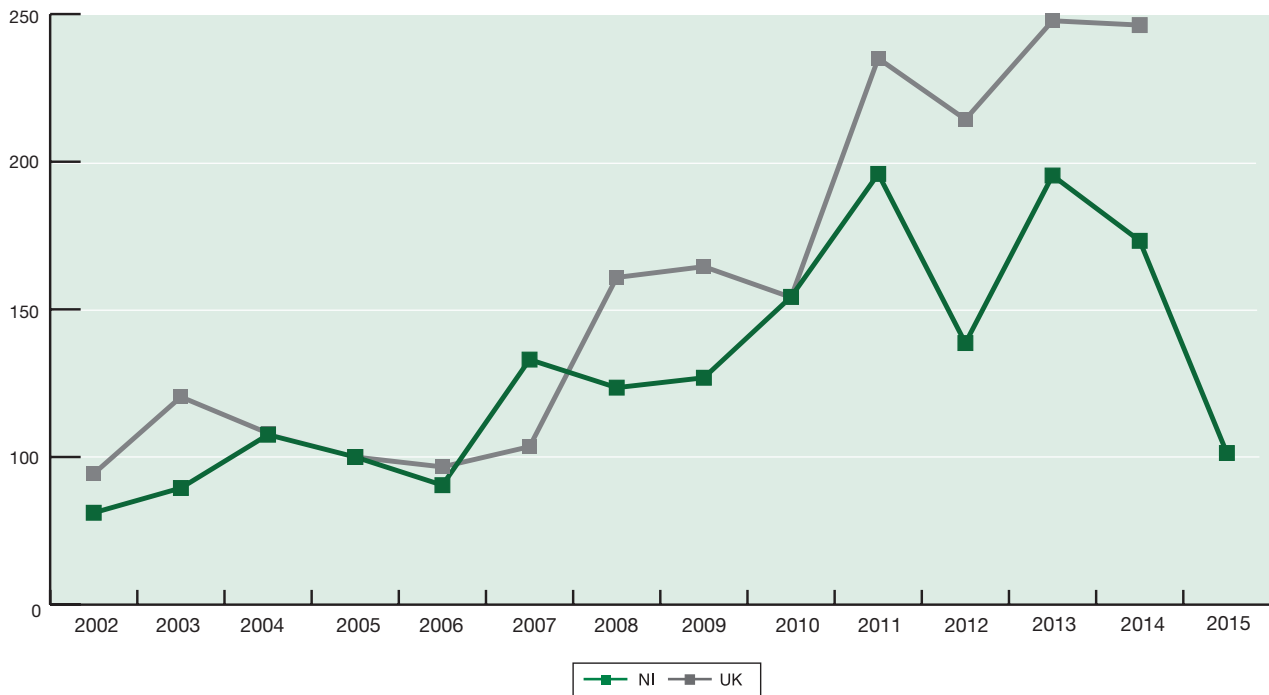
Gross output of UK agriculture, 2014



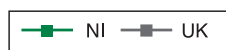
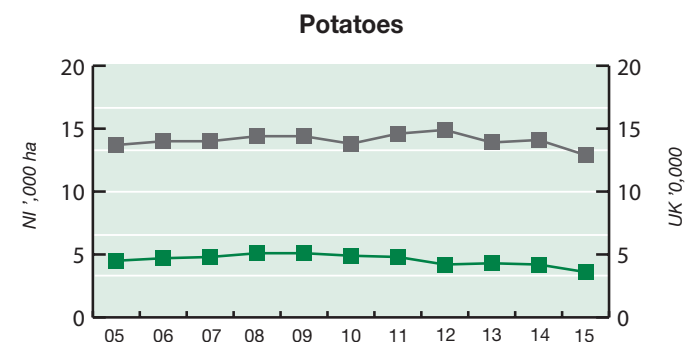
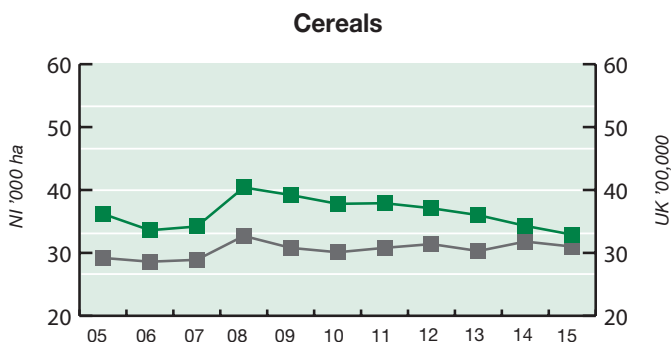
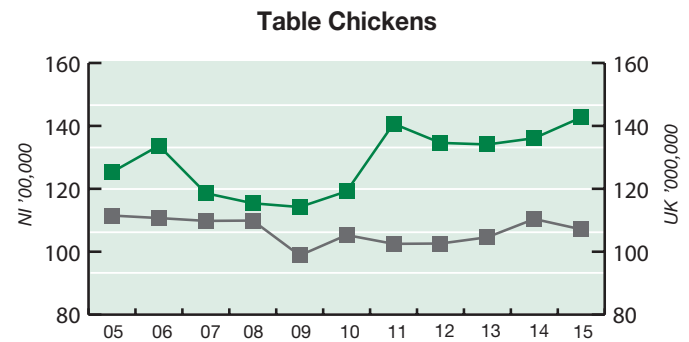
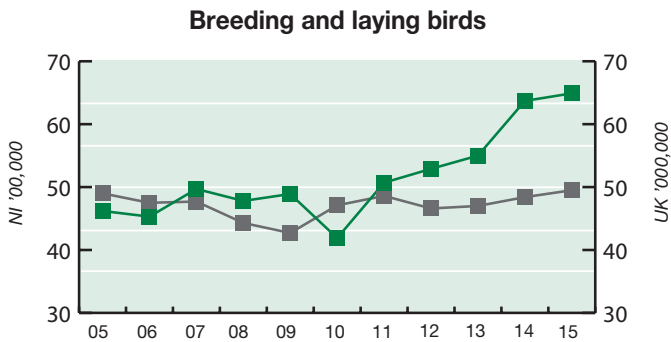
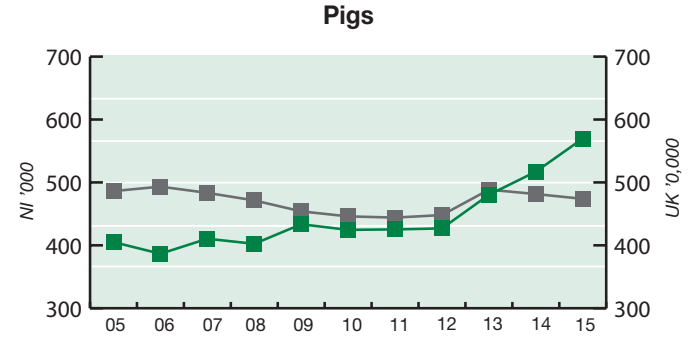
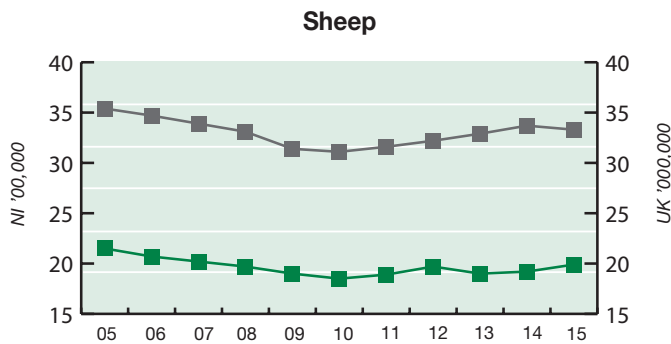
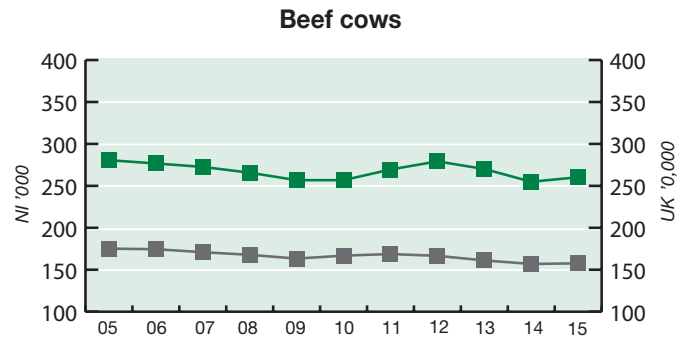
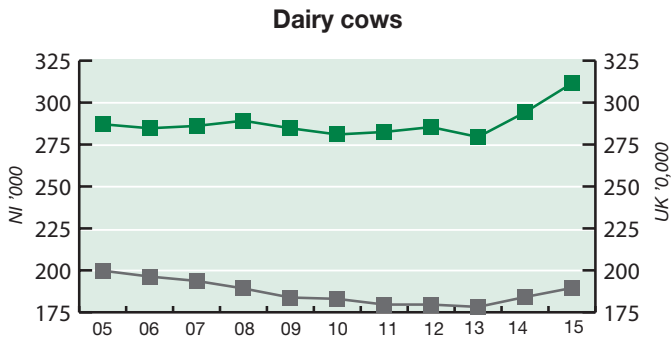
Total expenses of UK agriculture, 2014



NI and UK Total Income from Farming Indices in real terms (2005 = 100)



TRENDS IN NI AND UK LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND CROP AREAS



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Note: comparisons are with 2014 unless otherwise stated.

Aggregate income (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- The agricultural income of Northern Ireland farms decreased considerably in 2015.
- **Total income from farming (TIFF)** - which measures the return to farmers, partners and directors, their spouses and other family workers for their labour, management input and own capital invested - decreased by 41 per cent (42 per cent in real terms) to £183 million, from £312 million in 2014.
- Following the decrease in 2015, TIFF is now 19 per cent below the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation.
- The large decrease in incomes in 2015 can be attributed to a fall in price across a range of agricultural products, especially the dairy sector where average farm-gate milk price fell by 28 per cent in 2015 to 21.2 pence per litre and the pig sector where the producer price fell by 18 per cent. There was also a 5 per cent fall in the value of Single Farm Payments resulting from a less favourable exchange rate between Sterling and the Euro.

Output, input and value added (Tables 2.1 - 2.3)

- **Gross output** of Northern Ireland agriculture is estimated at £1.74 billion for 2015. This is a decrease of 9.4 per cent compared to 2014. There were decreases in the output of the milk, sheep, cereal, pigs and poultry sectors, while the eggs, mushrooms and flowers sectors were among those recording an increase in the value of output.
- **Gross input** (or 'intermediate consumption') decreased by 4.0 per cent, to £1.39 billion. Feedstuff costs, which accounted for 52 per cent of the gross input figure, fell by 5.7 per cent in 2015 to £729 million. This was due to a fall in the average price of feedstuffs of 6.5 per cent, which was partially off-set by a rise in the volume of all feed purchased of 0.8 per cent. The total cost of fertiliser and lime input fell by 10 per cent to £74 million. This was mainly due to a fall in the quantity of fertilisers purchased of 2.6 per cent and a decrease in the average price of 7.7 per cent. The volume of lime purchased also fell. Total machinery expenses decreased by 10 per cent to £136 million in 2015. This decrease was largely due to an 18 per cent reduction in the cost of fuel & oils.
- **Gross value added** was also lower in 2015 at £351 million; a decrease of 26 per cent, while **net value added** - gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies fell by 28 per cent, to £323 million.

- Productivity**
- Changes in the volumes of outputs and inputs combined to **(Table 2.3)** produce a 2.4 per cent increase in **total factor productivity (TFP)** - the productivity of all resources in the industry. However, **Single factorial terms of trade**, which is a measure of farmers' economic welfare, decreased by 6.5 per cent. The decrease in this index indicates that the increase in productivity was wiped out by a deterioration in the ratio between inputs costs and farm-gate prices (due to farm gate prices falling at a faster rate than input prices) to leave a deterioration in farmers' economic welfare.
- Cash flow (Table 2.4)**
- **Cash available to farm families from farming activity** was estimated to have fallen by 26 per cent, to £251 million. The magnitude of this decrease is less than the 41 per cent reduction in TIFF for 2015, because the level of borrowings increased while capital investments reduced. In this estimate, 'non-cash' items such as stock changes as well as capital formation and consumption are removed and account is taken of the level of investment and change in borrowings, thereby more realistically portraying cash available from farming.
- Farm level incomes (Table 5.3-5.4)**
- **Farm Business Income (FBI)** is the headline measure of farm-level income used throughout the UK. Measured across all farm types, average **Farm Business Income** decreased from £30,047 in 2013/14 to £24,942 in 2014/15, a fall of £5,105 per farm. It is expected to decrease from £24,942 in 2014/15 to £13,451 in 2015/16 i.e. a decrease of £11,491 or 46 per cent per farm. At the individual farm type level, the results show that Farm Business Income is expected to decrease between 2014/15 and 2015/16 for all farm types.
- Subsidies (Table 2.10)**
- The value of all **direct payments** to farmers decreased by £5.3 million or 1.8 per cent in 2015, to £287 million. This decrease was largely attributable to a reduction in the direct CAP payments as a result of less favourable exchange rates between Sterling and the Euro. The estimated value of 2015 direct subsidies (Basic, Greening and Young Farmers payments) was £236 million; a decrease of 5.0 per cent compared the Single Farm Payment in 2014.
- Labour (Table 2.14)**
- The **total agricultural labour force** in 2015 increased marginally by 0.2 per cent to just under 48,000 persons. Within this total there was a 3.3 per cent increase in the number of farmers (fulltime and part time), a 3.1 per cent fall in the number of spouses and a 5.3 per cent decrease in the other workers.

- Livestock numbers (Table 3.3)**
- The number of **cattle** recorded in the June 2015 census at just over 1.6 million, an increase of 2.7 per cent compared to the previous year. At June 2015, there were 311,500 dairy cows an increase 5.9 per cent from 2014 and 260,300 beef cows a increase of 2.1 per cent compared to 2014. In June 2015, the **sheep** breeding flock was 3.1 per cent higher than in 2014 with 938,600 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 1.99 million in 2015.
 - At June 2015, the total number of **pigs** was 569,700, an increase of 10 per cent compared to 2014. There was a 6.5 per cent increase to 45,600 in sow numbers. **Broiler** numbers increased by 4.8 per cent to 14.3 million birds, while the size of the **commercial laying flock** increased by 4.3 per cent to 3.17 million birds.
- Crops and grass areas (Table 3.2)**
- There was a 5.4 per cent decrease, to 44,300 hectares, in the total **agricultural cropped area** between June 2014 and 2015. The total area of **cereals** was 32,900 hectares in June 2015, which was a decrease of 4.0 per cent compared to 2014. In 2015, the total area of potatoes grown fell by 14 per cent to 3,600 hectares compared to the previous year.
- Farm Numbers (Table 4.2)**
- There were 24,907 active **farm businesses** in Northern Ireland at June 2015, which was 679 more than in 2014. This increase is in contrast to the general trend in total farm numbers which for many years has been downward at a rate of about 1.5 per cent per annum.
- Agri-Food Sector Performance**
- **Total Factor Productivity** of agriculture in Northern Ireland increased by 2.4 per cent between 2014 and 2015. The performance indicators for the **food and drinks processing sector** indicate continued growth over the period 2008 to 2013.
- Rural Economy**
- Due to reform of local Government which lead to a change in the number of councils, it has not been possible to update the rural economy statistics for 2015. New rural statistics, based on a revised definition, will appear in next year's edition of this publication. Over the years from 2009 to 2014, the average gross weekly earnings of people in rural areas were consistently below those of people living in urban areas.
- Animal Health and Welfare**
- Since the first cases of BSE were reported in Northern Ireland during 1988, there have been a total of 2,189 cases. The number of BSE cases in Northern Ireland has declined significantly since the peak in 1993. There have been no cases of BSE since 2012.

During 2015, 1,688 new herds in Northern Ireland were affected by bovine tuberculosis compared with 1,513 new incidents in 2006 and 1,397 in 2014. There were no new brucellosis serological reactor breakdowns compared with 118 in 2006 and 8 in 2014. The last confirmed brucellosis breakdown occurred in February 2012 and Northern Ireland achieved Official Brucellosis Freedom on 6 October 2015. Bovine tuberculosis was at a peak level in 2002 and since that time the herd incidence has reduced although a rising incidence was observed during 2015.

The Veterinary Service (DARD) carried out 657 on-farm welfare inspections in 2015. Of the inspections carried out as a result of complaints, risk assessment (related to cross-compliance) and targeted visits 80 per cent were fully compliant with legislation, while for random visits 100 per cent were fully compliant with legislation. In 2015, a total of 9 farm animal keepers were disqualified by the Courts as a result of serious welfare breaches.

**Agri-environment
and GHG emissions**

- In 2015, some 305,000 hectares or 29 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland. In 2015, almost 33 per cent of river water-bodies were classified as 'high' or 'good'. This was an increase of 0.7 of a percentage point compared with 2014. In 2013, agriculture was estimated to contribute 29 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland. However, total emissions from agriculture fell by 5.0 per cent between 1990 and 2013.

Contact: Seamus McErlean, Tel: 028 9052 4675,

Email: Seamus.McErlean@dardni.gov.uk

2. THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

A. AGGREGATE OUTPUT, INPUT AND INCOME

Methodological note

A series of the Aggregate Agricultural Account covering several decades is available on the DARD website, at www.dardni.gov.uk. In the following commentary, comparisons are with 2014 unless otherwise stated.

Summary

The estimated income of Northern Ireland agriculture **decreased** in 2015. **Total income from farming (TIFF)** - which represents the return on own labour, management input and own capital invested for all those with an entrepreneurial involvement in farming (including all members of the family working on farm) - fell by 41 per cent (42 per cent in real terms) to just under £183 million, from £312 million in 2014 (see Table 2.1).

Output

The value of **gross output** is estimated at £1.74 billion in 2015, which was a decrease of 9.4 per cent compared with 2014. The fall is largely explained by a fall in the value of milk output. Full details of commodity trends in all the individual outputs are given in Section 2B.

Inputs (or 'intermediate consumption')

The value of **gross input** also decreased in 2015, by 4.0 per cent, to £1.39 billion. Most of this can be attributed to a reduction in expenditure on feedstuffs as well as fuel and oils. Full details of trends in individual inputs are also given in Section 2B.

Gross and net value added

Gross value added - gross output less gross input - declined by 26 per cent to £351 million in 2015 from the revised 2014 figure of £473 million. **Net value added** (at factor cost), i.e. gross value added less consumption of fixed capital (or 'depreciation') plus direct CAP subsidies - also decreased, by 28 per cent, to £323 million.

Net value added is the sum of all 'incomes' arising in the industry, namely the earnings of paid labour, interest on borrowed capital, rent on conacre land (paid to non-farming persons) and the residual 'total income from farming'. The cost of paid labour (also termed 'compensation of employees') increased by 4.7 per cent from £65 million in 2014 to £68 million in 2015. The total cost of borrowings in agriculture (interest payments plus financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), see Table 2.29) was £36 million in 2015, a 1.1 per cent increase compared to 2014. Interest rates continued to remain low in 2015 and there was a 1.5 per cent increase in the level of borrowings. Conacre rent paid to non-farmers decreased by 3.2 per cent to £50 million in 2015.

Total Income from farming

The net result of these changes was that **total income from farming (TIFF)** decreased in 2015, by 41 per cent to £183 million, a fall of 42 per cent after allowing for inflation. Following the decrease in 2015, TIFF was 19 per cent below the average of the last twenty years after accounting for inflation. Over the same 20-year period, the number of persons drawing an income from farming also declined. From 1996 to 2015, the number of units of entrepreneurial labour decreased by 26 per cent with the result that, in real terms, TIFF per unit of entrepreneurial labour in 2015 was 12 per cent below the 20-year average.

Cash flow

TIFF measures the return (on own labour, management input and own capital invested) to farmers, their spouses and other family workers, i.e. all those with an entrepreneurial interest in farming. It is calculated according to internationally agreed practices, which require the inclusion of 'book' items such as stock changes, capital formation and consumption (depreciation). TIFF may not, therefore, realistically portray the cash available from farming. In the estimates shown in Table 2.4, TIFF is adjusted to remove these non-cash items and to take account of the level of investment and change in borrowings (the derivation is given in the footnotes to Table 2.4). **Cash available to farm families from farming** was estimated to have fallen by 26 per cent, to £251 million in 2015.

Subsidies

Total direct payments to farmers also decreased in 2015 by £5.3 million or 1.8 per cent, to £287 million. The total value of the Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments estimated to have accrued in 2015 was £236 million, a net decrease of 5.0 per cent or £12 million compared with the value of Single Farm Payment in 2014. The decrease in 2015 can be attributed to a less favourable exchange rate between Sterling and the Euro. The Basic, Greening and Young Farmer payments account for approximately 82 per cent of all direct payments. Direct payments exclude the value of EU market support measures such as intervention purchases and export refunds.

Investment

Gross annual capital investment decreased by 5.7 per cent or £12 million to £199 million in 2015. Within this total there was a 3.7 per cent decrease in total investment in plant, machinery and vehicles, while investment in buildings and works was down by 7.4 per cent.

Contact: Seamus McErlean, Tel: 028 9052 4675,

Email: Seamus.McErlean@dardni.gov.uk

Table 2.1 Aggregate Agricultural Account: estimated output, input, value added and income of agriculture¹

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(provisional)					
OUTPUT²						
Livestock and livestock products³						
Finished cattle and calves ⁴	315.1	354.6	415.7	442.3	391.9	393.8
Finished sheep and lambs ⁴	61.8	64.3	68.9	66.7	69.4	62.8
Finished pigs	99.7	106.9	114.5	132.5	133.1	112.9
Poultry ⁵	219.0	242.2	241.7	265.5	258.7	243.5
Eggs ⁶	52.6	56.6	65.6	67.4	79.6	86.6
Milk	470.8	548.1	524.5	640.6	654.2	479.9
Minor products ⁷	12.4	13.4	12.9	15.0	15.1	15.5
Total livestock and livestock products	1,231.4	1,386.1	1,443.9	1,630.1	1,602.1	1,395.1
Field crops						
Potatoes	22.9	23.4	19.0	26.5	18.8	17.2
Cereals	34.4	44.0	37.8	38.3	31.6	28.9
of which: barley	118.8	24.7	24.8	25.0	19.8	18.3
wheat	13.7	17.2	11.2	11.4	9.9	8.7
oats	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Other crops ⁸	14.1	12.6	13.3	14.9	12.4	12.4
Total field crops	71.5	80.1	70.1	79.7	62.7	58.5
Horticultural products						
Fruit	7.1	7.4	5.5	9.8	11.4	11.0
Vegetables	13.1	17.5	15.0	20.5	22.3	21.5
Mushrooms	19.7	24.7	38.4	40.6	54.6	67.5
Ornamental and hardy nursery stock	8.4	10.9	9.5	12.0	14.3	18.9
Total horticultural products	48.3	60.5	68.4	82.8	102.6	118.8
Capital formation (breeding livestock)	91.1	113.8	89.8	72.3	61.1	74.9
Agricultural contract work ⁹	65.2	69.6	71.4	77.7	79.9	80.1
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inseparable non-agricultural activities ¹⁰	15.0	15.1	15.1	17.5	17.6	17.6
A Gross output	1,522.5	1,725.1	1,758.7	1,960.1	1,925.9	1,744.9
of which:						
subsidies (less taxes) on products ¹¹	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1. A description of the methodology relating to this series and the derivation of the main aggregates, is given in the Appendix.

2. Output represents the estimated value of home-produced sales, including the value of inter-farm transfers and on-farm use (see Appendix). It includes the sale value of store animals imported from the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain and finished in Northern Ireland and the value of produce used in farm households. Stock change estimates are included within the individual output and input items.

3. Includes finished, breeding and store animals exported to the Republic of Ireland and shipped to Great Britain. The value of imported animals has been deducted.

4. The LFA Compensatory Allowance (or Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015) is included in 'other subsidies'.

5. Includes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds, and eggs for hatching.

6. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.

7. Includes horses, wool, deer and minor livestock products.

8. Hay, straw, flax, linseed, oilseed rape, mixed corn, protein crops, lawn turf, triticale, hemp and forage crops.

9. Receipts to both farmer contractors and specialist contractors.

10. Receipts from non-agricultural activities which use farm resources.

11. See Table 2.10 for details of the individual items included within this item.

Table 2.1 (continued)

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(provisional)					
A Gross output	1,522.5	1,725.1	1,758.7	1,960.1	1,925.9	1,744.9
INPUT (also known as 'intermediate consumption')						
Expenditure						
Feedstuffs ¹²	583.7	635.1	719.4	796.9	773.7	729.4
Seeds ¹³	8.8	9.7	9.3	12.2	11.5	11.0
Marketing expenses ¹⁴	34.9	35.4	38.1	36.0	35.5	36.5
Fertilisers and lime	73.9	79.9	83.0	102.2	82.9	74.3
Total machinery expenses (excl. depreciation)	131.6	149.9	150.2	153.9	150.9	135.8
Farm maintenance	46.6	46.5	43.0	43.5	45.2	45.4
Veterinary expenses and medicines	50.9	55.2	55.5	57.6	59.3	60.5
Other variable costs ¹⁵	56.4	57.7	56.9	63.3	67.6	69.8
Miscellaneous expenses ¹⁶	102.1	112.2	117.5	122.2	132.2	137.7
Agricultural contract work	65.2	69.6	71.4	77.7	79.9	80.1
Milk quota leasing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FISIM ¹⁷	16.3	16.5	16.1	14.4	13.9	14.0
B Gross input	1,170.3	1,267.8	1,360.4	1,479.9	1,452.7	1,394.4
C Gross value added (A-B)	352.2	457.2	398.3	480.3	473.2	350.5
Consumption of fixed capital (depreciation)						
- livestock	70.0	75.5	70.3	65.0	69.6	69.8
- plant, machinery and vehicles	104.1	112.3	118.8	122.3	124.3	125.7
- buildings and works	115.8	119.4	119.6	119.3	113.5	111.3
D Total consumption of fixed capital	289.9	307.3	308.8	306.7	307.4	306.9
Other subsidies (not paid on products) ¹⁸	326.4	320.5	294.6	314.3	292.5	287.2
Other taxes (not levied on products) ¹⁹	7.4	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.3
E Other subsidies (less taxes)	319.1	312.6	286.5	306.2	284.3	278.9
F Net value added (at factor cost) (C-D+E)	381.4	462.6	376.1	479.8	450.1	322.6
G Paid labour	54.9	60.2	67.1	63.5	65.2	68.3
H Interest	22.4	20.2	21.0	22.7	21.8	22.0
I Net rent²⁰	46.5	48.2	47.8	48.4	51.3	49.7
J Total income from farming²¹ (F-G-H-I)	257.6	334.1	240.2	345.2	311.8	182.5

12. Includes home-fed cereals, proteins, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes. The figure for 2013 includes additional cost of fodder imported under the fodder transport scheme.

13. Includes home-saved seed.

14. Hired transport charges, auction fees, slaughter charges and inter farm expenses.

15. Livestock costs other than veterinary and medicines, crop protection, other crop costs, packaging and royalties and levies.

16. Electricity, heating fuel, water rates, fire insurance and other overheads.

17. FISIM - Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured. A description is provided on page 27.

18. Includes Single Farm Payment (for the years 2010-2014), Basic, Greening and Young Farmer's Payments (in 2015) LFA Compensatory Allowance (or Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015), payments for the non-capital element of the Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme, Countryside Management Scheme and other minor grants and subsidies.

19. Farm rates and vehicle road tax.

20. Conacre payments to non-producing landowners.

21. This estimate should be regarded only as an indicator of trend. The income estimate, being a residual is subject to cumulative errors in the estimation of input and output items (see Appendix).

Table 2.2 Summary income indicators at current prices and in real terms

	<i>Indices: 2005 = 100</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(provisional)					
Index at current prices						
Net value added ¹	137.7	167.0	135.8	173.2	162.5	116.5
Total income from farming ¹	176.9	229.3	164.9	237.0	214.0	125.3
Index in real terms²						
Net value added	120.1	142.7	114.1	142.8	131.5	94.2
Total income from farming	154.2	195.9	138.6	195.3	173.2	101.4

1. For definitions see Appendix.

2. Deflated by the GDP deflator.

Table 2.3 Output and input volume and productivity indices

	<i>Indices: 2005 = 100</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(provisional)					
Gross output volume ¹	103.1	105.9	106.9	109.7	114.8	118.0
Gross input volume ¹	107.8	106.0	109.9	113.1	112.1	112.3
Gross value added volume ¹	97.0	105.8	102.9	105.3	118.3	125.6
Net value added volume ¹	90.7	102.8	98.7	103.2	128.3	139.1
Total factor productivity ²	101.3	103.4	101.5	102.0	108.6	111.2
Labour productivity ³	96.9	110.3	104.9	109.9	136.7	146.8
Single factorial terms of trade ⁴	103.6	103.4	96.9	104.7	107.9	100.9

1. Calculated by applying 2005 output and input prices to the volume of each item of output and input in every year. The resulting series, therefore, represent volume changes at constant 2005 prices.

2. Calculated as the ratio of output at constant prices to all inputs (including labour and capital) at constant prices.

3. Calculated as the ratio of net value added at constant prices to total labour input (in Annual Work Units).

4. Single factorial terms of trade measures changes in farmers' economic welfare. See section A in Chapter Six for a full explanation of this concept.

Table 2.4 Estimated cash flow for agriculture

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(provisional)					
Total income from farming	257.6	334.1	240.2	345.2	311.8	182.5
Less:						
output stock change	2.2	-20.7	1.2	-6.9	6.9	0.1
gross fixed capital formation (breeding livestock)	91.1	113.8	89.8	72.3	61.1	74.9
capital investment ¹	211.7	221.7	200.0	191.9	189.3	175.7
Plus:						
input stock change	2.2	-3.3	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.2
capital consumption	289.9	307.3	308.8	306.7	307.4	306.9
capital grants paid in year ²	2.4	5.5	1.2	4.4	2.0	0.0
change in borrowings	-23.0	-48.2	3.6	-8.3	-26.6	11.2
Cash available to farm families from farming	224.1	280.5	262.7	391.7	338.1	251.0

1. The capital investment figures used are those given in Table 2.12 but with a deduction made for the value of work done by principal farmers and spouses. The figures for buildings and works in Table 2.12 are estimated from the Farm Business Survey (with an addition for non grant-aided investment) and are shown in that table as investment in the year in which work was undertaken. Since there is known to be a delay between work being done and grant being paid, the investment estimates have been included in the 'cash flow' one year earlier.

2. These estimates are entered in the year in which they are paid. The grants are mostly in respect of capital investments made in previous years.

Table 2.5 Aggregate gross margin estimates for the main agricultural sectors

2014								
Sector	Adjusted outputs ¹	Estimated specific costs ²			Total	Sector gross margins ³		
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays			£m	£m	%
			£m	£m					£m
Dairy cows and followers	715.0	243.9	25.7	10.8	280.4	434.6	52.7%	
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	334.4	149.7	41.4	22.9	213.9	120.5	14.6%	
Sheep and wool	71.0	23.1	13.8	4.8	41.7	29.4	3.6%	
Total grazing livestock	1,120.4	416.6	80.9	38.5	536.0	584.5	70.8%	
Pigs	133.2	88.4	-	3.9	92.3	40.9	5.0%	
Poultry & Eggs	338.6	269.3	-	8.5	277.8	60.8	7.4%	
Total intensive livestock	471.8	357.7	-	12.4	370.1	101.7	12.3%	
Cereals	44.0	-	13.1	-	13.1	30.8	3.7%	
Potatoes	18.8	-	5.3	-	5.3	13.5	1.6%	
Horticulture ⁴	102.5	-	20.4	10.8	31.2	71.3	8.6%	
Total field crops	165.3	-	38.8	10.9	49.7	115.6	14.0%	
Other items	32.5	7.0	1.9	0.2	9.0	23.4	2.8%	
Total	1,789.9	781.3	121.5	61.9	964.7	825.2	100.0%	

2015 (Provisional)								
Sector	Adjusted outputs ¹	Estimated specific costs ²			Total	Sector gross margins ³		
		Feedstuffs	Fertilisers, seeds & sprays			£m	£m	%
			£m	£m					£m
Dairy cows and followers	572.9	238.4	24.0	11.3	273.7	299.1	42.1	
Beef cattle, rearing and fattening	335.8	123.8	37.7	23.2	184.7	151.2	21.3%	
Sheep and wool	64.5	17.6	12.5	4.9	35.0	29.4	4.1%	
Total grazing livestock	973.2	379.8	74.2	39.5	493.4	479.7	67.5%	
Pigs	112.9	91.6	-	4.1	95.7	17.2	2.4%	
Poultry and eggs	330.9	257.5	-	8.6	266.1	64.8	9.1%	
Total intensive livestock	443.8	349.1	-	12.7	361.8	81.9	11.5%	
Cereals	41.3	-	12.4	-	12.5	28.8	4.1%	
Potatoes	17.2	-	4.8	-	4.8	12.5	1.8%	
Horticulture ⁴	118.7	-	24.3	11.8	36.1	82.6	11.6%	
Total field crops	177.2	-	41.4	11.9	53.3	123.9	17.4%	
Other items	33.0	5.4	1.8	0.2	7.4	25.6	3.6%	
Total	1,627.1	734.4	117.4	64.2	916.0	711.1	100.0%	

1. The items making up total gross output (as shown in Table 2.1) have been regrouped into the above enterprises and outputs have been adjusted for changes in volume. In the case for breeding livestock stock appreciation has been excluded.
2. Estimates of the costs of the inputs of seed, fertiliser, spray, purchased feedstuffs and home grown cereals have been allocated amongst the various enterprises on the basis of results obtained from analysis of the Farm Business Survey. Other variable costs have been allocated as appropriate. No attempt has been made to allocate fuel, machinery or other overhead expenses.
3. 'Sector gross margins' represent the value of products remaining after deducting most of the variable costs and give a useful measure of the contribution of each enterprise to the earnings of the agricultural industry.
4. Horticulture comprises fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers and hardy nursery stock.

Table 2.6 Quantities of the main products in output¹

	Units of quantity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Livestock and livestock products							
Cattle and calves	tonnes dcw	148,365	144,031	141,757	140,534	133,974	136,741
Sheep and lambs	„	17,427	17,937	20,801	20,953	20,982	20,996
Pigs ²	„	84,089	84,274	86,468	88,614	94,197	101,726
Cattle and calves	‘000 head	475	463	458	470	446	439
Sheep and lambs	„	768	802	928	951	929	933
Pigs ²	„	1,014	1,015	1,042	1,047	1,091	1,171
Poultry ³	‘000 tonnes lwt	267	260	259	270	279	278
Eggs ⁴	m. doz	81	83	81	92	110	115
Milk ⁵	m. litres	1,852	1,982	2,001	2,015	2,206	2,262
Field crops							
Wheat	‘000 tonnes	81.1	89.7	71.8	58.7	58.6	66.4
Barley	„	137.7	137.3	134.1	137.2	132.5	150.4
Oats	„	12.5	12.8	11.6	9.6	10.6	10.2
Potatoes	„	183.3	199.3	176.7	151.4	163.5	162.0
Horticultural crops							
Fruit	‘000 tonnes	42.2	48.1	40.6	32.3	39.0	41.4
Vegetables	„	34.9	37.7	34.4	51.1	71.2	64.8
Mushrooms	„	16.3	17.7	26.9	28.0	36.8	45.1

1. Estimated home-produced sales, on-farm use and household consumption. See Footnote 2 to Table 2.1. Animals imported direct to slaughter are not included.
2. Includes exports of store pigs.
3. Excludes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds and hatching eggs.
4. Includes eggs for processing and duck eggs.
5. Includes farmhouse consumption.

Table 2.7 Average producer prices¹ of agricultural products

		<i>£ per unit</i>					
	Units	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
							(provisional)
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	head	842	977	1,074	1,157	1,086	1,106
Finished steers, heifers and young bulls	kg dwt	2.55	2.92	3.17	3.55	3.29	3.26
Calves slaughtered or exported	head	183	249	244	247	297	307
Culled cows and bulls	head	617	714	740	785	681	666
Culled cows and bulls	kg dwt	1.95	2.29	2.44	2.57	2.18	2.14
Store cattle exported	head	607	668	711	762	771	795
Finished sheep and lambs	head	80.19	89.79	78.46	82.39	83.08	73.89
Finished sheep and lambs	kg dwt	3.72	4.13	3.64	3.87	3.82	3.40
Finished clean pigs	head	105.00	110.14	115.44	130.72	125.01	102.41
Finished clean pigs	kg dwt	1.28	1.34	1.40	1.56	1.46	1.19
Milk ²	litre	0.254	0.276	0.262	0.318	0.297	0.212
Eggs for consumption	dozen	0.651	0.682	0.805	0.734	0.722	0.756
Broilers	kg lwt	0.716	0.803	0.804	0.860	0.812	0.750
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop ³	tonne	125	121	153	196	125	126
Seed	tonne	174	183	157	218	167	151
Barley	tonne	135	179	196	179	146	130
Wheat	tonne	152	191	203	195	156	136
Oats	tonne	140	173	207	193	162	152
Mushrooms	tonne	1,210	1,390	1,425	1,450	1,484	1,496
Apples	tonne	137	133	183	267	259	265

1. Before deduction of marketing charges, commissions and levies, where applicable.
2. Before deduction of superlevy, if applicable.
3. Does not include early potatoes. Therefore, the price differs from that quoted in Table 2.27.

Table 2.8 Indices of producer prices¹ of agricultural output

		<i>Indices: 2005 = 100</i>					
	Weights ²	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
							(provisional)
Finished steers and heifers	240	143	164	178	199	184	183
Culled cows and bulls	1	205	241	257	270	229	224
Store cattle exported	3	147	161	172	184	186	192
Finished sheep and lambs	44	158	175	154	164	162	144
Finished clean pigs	66	133	139	146	162	152	123
Milk	357	139	151	143	174	162	116
Eggs for consumption	23	180	189	223	204	200	209
Broilers	109	141	158	159	170	160	148
Potatoes:							
Ware maincrop	12	142	137	174	222	142	143
Seed	2	183	192	165	229	176	159
Barley	11	163	215	235	216	175	157
Wheat	6	177	223	237	228	182	159
Mushrooms	25	98	113	116	118	120	121
Apples	6	112	109	151	219	213	218
Total products index²	904	141	157	159	180	167	144
Inputs index³	1,000	138	157	166	175	168	159

1. The indices relate to prices from which marketing expenses have not been deducted.
2. The total products index is calculated by taking into account the significance of each item in the base period (2005). This is shown in the column of weights. Since only the main items of output are included, the total of their weights does not add to 1,000. Also, since the price index does not cover items such as production grants, compensation payments and gross fixed capital formation, it should not be regarded as a 'deflator' to be used in estimating the volume of output. (A volume series of gross output is given in Table 2.3).
3. This index does not cover all inputs. It comprises feedstuffs, seeds, fertilisers and lime, and marketing expenses.

Table 2.9 Average market prices of breeding and store livestock¹

	<i>£ per head</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CATTLE						
Breeding cattle						
Dairy cows/heifers in milk	1,188	1,273	1,251	1,234	1,282	1,043
Dairy cows in calf	1,102	1,195	1,157	1,063	980	805
Dairy springing heifers	1,041	1,227	1,130	1,140	923	850
Beef cows/heifers with calf at foot	923	1,091	1,098	1,064	1,183	1,209
Beef cows in calf	757	868	895	864	955	942
Beef springing heifers	895	1,008	1,088	941	1,145	1,258
Store cattle						
150-300 kg steers	445	513	532	540	598	638
300-400 kg steers	556	617	661	689	721	753
400-500 kg steers	658	735	794	864	842	864
Over 500 kg steers	808	936	1,029	1,114	1,047	1,065
150-300 kg heifers	422	473	498	491	567	589
300-400 kg heifers	526	580	626	649	687	706
400-500 kg heifers	642	723	779	844	831	847
Over 500 kg heifers	768	891	982	1,063	1,018	1,024
Suckled calves						
Under 200 kg steers	274	369	372	356	371	461
Over 200 kg steers	524	593	642	650	690	719
Under 200 kg heifers	309	382	401	370	406	435
Over 200 kg heifers	476	543	581	575	633	658
Dropped calves						
For rearing	136	166	163	139	173	200
Cull cows	557	692	701	695	649	636
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes/hoggets						
Blackface	116.61	89.28	107.04	109.13	131.51	112.28
Blackface Cross	109.77	135.07	106.92	117.71	131.04	114.66
Other breeds	119.33	138.74	109.70	103.43	124.10	111.89
Breeding ewe lambs						
Blackface	80.85	79.71	67.49	72.35	98.12	82.45
Blackface Cross	75.43	82.35	62.76	62.58	74.67	69.16
Other breeds	76.93	95.33	71.90	76.14	77.73	73.34
Breeding ewes/hoggets with lamb(s) at foot						
Blackface	76.65	113.18	89.00	115.00	64.22	88.95
Blackface Cross	137.57	168.14	135.74	103.67	117.10	85.22
Other breeds	139.71	169.10	157.72	120.09	143.10	144.36
Cull ewes						
Blackface	42.24	45.30	33.65	30.28	38.20	41.32
Blackface Cross	59.64	62.10	49.44	41.29	52.93	54.84
Other breeds	66.99	72.07	59.93	51.31	61.57	67.65
Cull rams	70.39	74.37	65.78	56.23	64.91	68.24
Store lambs	57.99	62.28	49.84	54.77	59.62	51.37

1. Average prices calculated from returns made by auction marts.

Table 2.10 Direct payments included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account^{1,2}

	<i>£ million³</i>					
	2010 ⁴	2011 ⁴	2012 ⁴	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
DIRECT PAYMENTS⁵						
Single farm payment	270.8	267.0	244.6	265.2	248.4	-
Basic Payment Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	158.8
Greening Payment	-	-	-	-	-	70.0
Young Farmers Payment	-	-	-	-	-	4.7
Financial Discipline Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	-	2.6
Milk						
EU Dairy Fund	3.7	-	-	-	-	-
Dairy Support Package	-	-	-	-	-	5.1
Total milk	3.7	-	-	-	-	5.1
Other direct payments						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (non-capital)	7.6	8.4	5.5	5.3	4.8	4.9
LFA Compensatory Allowance (or ANC ⁶ from 2015)	24.9	24.4	25.2	23.7	23.7	25.4
Countryside Management Scheme (non-capital)	22.7	20.2	18.9	18.6	15.5	15.7
New Entrants Scheme	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	-
Others ⁷	0.1	0.1	-	1.3	-	-
Total other direct payments	55.7	53.4	50.0	49.1	44.2	46.1
Total direct payments	326.4	320.5	294.6	314.3	292.5	287.2

1. Table 2.1

2. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).

3. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.

4. Single Farm Payments after 'modulation' (i.e. reduction) of 9.5% (4.5% on first €5,000) in 2007, 11% (6% on first €5,000) in 2008, 12% (7% on first €5,000) in 2009, 13% (8% on first €5,000) in 2010, 14% (9% on the first €5,000) in 2011 and 14% (9% on the first 5,000) in 2012. After application of €5,000 franchise per farm from 2005, total modulation amounted to £19.7 million in 2007, £26.7 million in 2008, £33.4 million in 2009, £34.7 million in 2010, £37.6 million in 2011 and £34.4 million in 2012.

5. Excludes expenditure on market regulation (such as intervention purchases and export refunds) by the UK Rural Payments Agency.

6. LFA allowance became the Areas of Natural Constraint payment from 2015.

7. Includes Organic Farming Scheme and other miscellaneous payments. Transport Fodder Scheme in 2013.

Table 2.11 Capital grants and other direct payments not included in the Aggregate Agricultural Account¹

	<i>£ million²</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
CAPITAL GRANTS						
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
Countryside Management Scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm Modernisation Scheme	2.1	4.9	-	4.3	1.4	-
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme	-	0.5	1.2	-	0.7	-
Total capital grants	2.1	5.5	1.2	4.4	2.0	-
OTHER DIRECT PAYMENTS						
Other animal disease compensation ³	10.1	12.6	16.9	12.7	13.9	16.4
Snow Hardship Fund	-	-	-	2.8	-	-
Total other direct payments⁴	10.1	12.6	16.9	15.5	13.9	16.4

1. These data relate to monies due rather than monies actually received (ie. they are on an accruals basis).

2. Dashes (-) indicate payments of nil or less than £50,000.

3. Includes tuberculosis, brucellosis, and BSE reactor compensation payments.

4. Includes miscellaneous minor payments.

Table 2.12 Estimated gross annual capital investment in fixed assets and equipment¹

	<i>£ million</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Grant-aided investment ²	5.9	11.0	5.6	10.4	4.1	0.0
Non-aided investment	126.4	81.3	66.2	72.8	83.2	80.0
Total buildings and works³	132.3	92.3	71.8	83.2	87.4	80.0
Plant and machinery	124.1	149.1	113.7	106.6	109.5	107.0
Vehicles ^{3,4}	15.9	15.8	14.6	11.3	13.7	11.7
Total plant, machinery and vehicles	140.0	164.9	128.3	117.9	123.2	118.6
Total investment	272.3	257.2	200.1	201.1	210.6	198.6

1. Excluding investment in forestry and arterial drainage.

2. See Table 2.11 for details.

3. Estimated from the Farm Business Survey.

4. Vehicles shown at 'farm share'.

Table 2.13 Milk quota

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Milk quota (million litres)						
Owned ¹	1,918.0	1,944.0	2,004.3	2,044.9	2,098.1	2,113.6
Leased ²	-	-	-0.7	-	-	-
Total³	1,918.0	1,944.0	2,003.6	2,044.9	2,098.1	2,113.6

1. Permanent wholesale and direct sale quota as at 31 March each year.

2. Quota leased-in, less quota leased-out in Northern Ireland as at 31 March each year.

3. Milk quota came to an end on 31 March 2015.

Table 2.14 Number of persons working on farms

	<i>number of persons</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR FORCE¹						
Farmers and partners						
Full time	15,965	15,823	15,886	16,235	16,206	16,637
Part time	13,596	13,320	13,171	12,798	12,894	13,431
Total	29,561	29,143	29,057	29,033	29,100	30,068
Spouses of farmers	6,206	6,263	6,293	6,391	6,279	6,084
Other workers						
Full time	3,109	3,249	3,422	3,464	3,485	3,463
Part time	3,187	3,436	3,754	4,009	4,081	3,971
Casual/seasonal	4,885	4,757	4,938	4,899	4,919	4,393
Total other workers	11,181	11,442	12,114	12,372	12,485	11,827
Total agricultural labour force	46,948	46,848	47,464	47,796	47,864	47,979
Annual Work Units (AWUs)²	28,077	27,964	28,237	28,173	28,164	28,427

1. Full-time work is defined as involving 30 hours per week or more and casual work as covering less than 20 weeks per year.

2. An Annual Work Unit is equivalent to the time worked by one person employed full-time in agricultural activities over a whole year.

Table 2.15 Agricultural manpower¹

	<i>number of persons</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MANPOWER STATISTICS¹						
Self-employed						
Male	15,154	15,185	15,288	15,612	15,590	15,931
Female	811	638	598	623	616	706
Total	15,965	15,823	15,886	16,235	16,206	16,637
Employees						
Male	9,704	9,963	10,535	10,807	10,883	10,192
Female	1,477	1,479	1,579	1,565	1,602	1,635
Total	11,181	11,442	12,114	12,372	12,485	11,827
Total agricultural manpower	27,146	27,265	28,000	28,607	28,691	28,464

1. Agricultural manpower statistics refer to the count of employees and self-employed workers in agriculture, as used by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in aggregate labour statistics. The count of self-employed includes farmers and partners who work full-time on their farms ; the count of employees includes all other workers except part-time farmers and partners and farmers' spouses.

Table 2.16 Gross Turnover of the food and drinks processing sector^{1,2}

	£ million					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(provisional)					
Animal by-products	20	23	29	37	41	51
Bakeries	262	260	269	269	292	304
Beef and sheepmeat	875	972	1,017	1,142	1,199	1,279
Drinks	330	350	387	391	416	433
Eggs	77	89	97	113	132	134
Fish	69	67	71	70	73	73
Fruit and vegetables	207	221	253	255	278	287
Milk and milk products	777	875	976	972	1,000	1,118
Pigmeat	230	244	250	300	316	327
Poultrymeat	594	645	671	675	765	766
Total processing sector	3,441	3,746	4,020	4,222	4,510	4,772

1. For a description of how the data have been estimated, see the publication "Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics", DARD. Figures for 2014 have been estimated by adjusting the 2013 baseline, largely on the basis of information available within DARD.
2. These figures do not include an estimate of the gross turnover of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

Table 2.17 External sales¹ of the food and drinks processing sector^{2,3,4}

	£ million					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(provisional)					
Animal by-products	18	22	27	35	38	50
Bakeries	102	102	111	114	126	130
Beef and sheepmeat	697	700	831	936	1,047	1,070
Drinks	193	209	212	217	237	240
Eggs	49	61	73	89	92	100
Fish	53	55	61	59	64	65
Fruit and vegetables	127	135	156	169	184	190
Milk and milk products	538	611	708	685	704	795
Pigmeat	139	153	151	205	192	205
Poultrymeat	485	539	459	463	621	575
Total processing sector	2,402	2,587	2,790	2,973	3,304	3,420

1. The term 'external sales' refers to sales to Great Britain, exports and intervention.
2. See note 1 Table 2.16.
3. These figures are not comparable with the export statistics published in pre-1996 issues of the *Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture*.
4. These figures do not include an estimate of the external sales of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

Table 2.18 Estimated employment in the food and drinks processing sector and input supply sectors

	<i>full-time equivalents</i>					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	(provisional)					
Processing of Products^{1,2}						
Animal by-products	123	115	114	120	121	120
Bakeries	3,403	3,396	3,164	3,259	3,368	3,377
Beef and sheepmeat	3,532	3,726	3,916	4,136	4,396	4,594
Drinks	1,168	1,168	1,437	1,385	1,377	1,382
Eggs	217	228	263	268	289	298
Fish	560	568	512	516	519	502
Fruit and vegetables	2,007	2,009	2,096	2,140	2,136	2,144
Milk and milk products	2,201	2,201	2,050	2,163	2,184	2,258
Pigmeat	1,392	1,305	1,291	1,312	1,373	1,358
Poultrymeat	5,079	5,262	5,124	4,985	5,593	5,753
Total direct employees	19,680	19,977	19,965	20,281	21,354	21,783
Agency employment in food and drinks processing	-	-	1,788	1,755	1,987	2,132
Manufacture and supply of inputs³						
Animal feed	750	740	740	740	750	750
Fertilisers and lime	200	200	200	200	200	200
Other requisites (incl. medicines)	900	910	890	900	910	910
Farm machinery (incl. servicing)	790	740	730	740	750	750
Services ⁴	1,150	1,140	1,120	1,130	1,150	1,150
Total supply sector	3,790	3,730	3,680	3,710	3,750	3,750

1. See note 1 Table 2.16.

2. These figures do not include an estimate of employment of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

3. Estimated from trade directory information and other DARD sources.

4. Includes contractors, veterinary surgeons, works in auction marts, employees of farming and marketing associations and artificial insemination workers.

B. COMMODITIES AND INPUTS

Cattle and calves The number of clean cattle presented for slaughter during 2015 decreased marginally to 299,800 head. The number of slaughtered steers increased by 14 per cent to 148,900 head while the number of heifers slaughtered decreased by 4.4 per cent to 112,800 head. Meanwhile, the number of young bulls slaughtered decreased by 30 per cent to 30,900. The proportion of steers slaughtered increased from 45 per cent in 2014 to 50 per cent in 2015, while the proportion of heifers decreased from 40 per cent in 2014 to 39 per cent in 2015. Meanwhile, the proportion of young bulls slaughtered decreased from 15 per cent in 2014 to 11 per cent in 2015.

The average dressed carcass weights increased by 2.6 per cent in 2015 to 339 kg. As a result the volume of clean beef produced increased by 2.3 per cent to 101,600 tonnes. The average producer price paid was 0.8 per cent lower at £3.26 per kilogram deadweight. The overall result of these changes was that the sales value of finished clean cattle increased by 1.5 per cent to £332 million.

Sales of culled cows and bulls increased in 2015 by 3.9 per cent to 98,400 head. Average carcass weights for these animals remained unchanged at 312 kg. The average price of culled cows and bulls fell by 2.2 per cent to £2.14 per kilogram deadweight. Overall, total receipts from cull cattle sales, increased 1.7 per cent to £66 million in 2015.

The number of calves presented for slaughter in 2015 decreased by 29 per cent to 6,500 head. An estimated 22,000 calves were exported in 2015, which is a fall of 27 per cent compared with 2014 levels. The average calf price was 3.7 per cent higher at £307 per head and the revenue generated was £8.8 million.

The number of store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland increased by 9.6 per cent to 11,950 head in 2015. When combined with a 3.2 per cent increase in the average producer price paid of £795 per head, this generated revenues of £9.5 million; an increase of 13 per cent from 2014 levels. The main market outlet for these store cattle was Great Britain, which accounted for 93 per cent of these shipments.

Overall, the value of output of cattle and calves in 2015 (which deducts the value of imported cattle but includes breeding cattle and store cattle exports) increased by 0.5 per cent to £394 million.

Milk

The annual average dairy cow population in 2015 was 4.2 per cent higher than 2014 at 307,900 head. Average gross milk yield per cow decreased from 7,580 litres in 2014 to 7,470 litres in 2015; a 1.4 per cent reduction. This may be attributable in part to the cooler and wetter weather conditions experienced during much of 2015.

The higher cow numbers contributed to a 2.7 per cent increase in total output to 2.3 billion litres, which is a new record level of production in Northern Ireland. The average gross milk price for 2015 (before deducting transport costs) was 28 per cent lower than 2014 at 21.22 pence per litre. The volatility in average milk price over recent years is a reflection of the fact that Northern Ireland is dependent on global commodity markets, where prices were rising throughout much of 2013 but have been falling during much of 2014 and 2015.

Overall, the value of output of milk decreased in 2015 by £174 million, or 27 per cent, to £480 million.

Sheep and lambs

Marketings of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 0.9 per cent to 784,100 head in 2015. The average dressed carcass weight also decreased marginally in 2015 to 21.7 kg per head. As a result, the volume of clean sheep meat produced during 2015 reduced by 1.2 per cent to 17,000 tonnes. Clean sheep and lamb producer prices decreased by 11 per cent to 340 pence per kg deadweight in 2015. The combined volume and price changes meant that the total market value of clean sheep and lambs decreased by 12 per cent to £58 million.

Marketings of culled ewes and rams increased by 3.5 per cent to 135,300 head in 2015. There was a 7.7 per cent increase in the producer price received for these animals (to 200 pence per kg deadweight). These changes resulted in the value of market receipts for culled ewes and rams increasing to £7.6 million; an increase of 12 per cent.

Overall, the total value of output (which deducts the value of imported sheep but includes breeding sheep and store exports) from the sector decreased by 10 per cent, to £63 million in 2015.

Pigs

The number of clean pigs slaughtered in 2015 was 7.2 per cent higher at 1.16 million head. Average dressed carcass weights increased by 0.6 per cent to 86.2kg in 2015. When combined these changes resulted in a 7.9 per cent increase in the quantity of pigmeat produced to 99,700 tonnes. However, pig producer prices decreased by 19 per cent to 119 pence per kg deadweight. As a result, the output from clean pig production was 12 per cent lower at £118 million.

Marketings of cull sows and boars were up by 14 per cent in 2015 at 14,600 head. The average price per head of cull sows and boars fell by 18 per cent to 75 pence per kg deadweight. These changes resulted in market returns for these animals decreasing by 6.8 per cent to £1.6 million in 2015.

Overall, the value of output from the pig sector fell by 15 per cent to £113 million (this figure includes deductions for the value of imported pigs and additions for the value of breeding and store pig exports).

Poultry

In 2015, the total volume of poultry meat production was 277,600 tonnes liveweight, a decrease of 0.5 per cent from 2014 levels. Broiler production was 0.8 per cent higher at 253,000 tonnes liveweight. Broiler producer prices were lower than 2014 levels by 7.6 cent at 75 pence per kg. Overall, the market value of broilers in 2015 was 6.8 per cent lower than 2014 values at £190 million. Broilers accounted for 78 per cent of the total market value of the poultry sector.

Turkey production decreased in 2015, by 24 per cent, to 11,200 tonnes liveweight.

The value of output from the poultry sector in 2015 was £244 million; 5.9 per cent lower than 2014.

Eggs

Packing station throughput of graded eggs was estimated at 111 million dozen eggs in 2015, which is a new record level of production for Northern Ireland. This was a rise of 4.0 per cent on 2014 levels. The proportion of throughput attributed to free range management systems increased from 51 per cent in 2014 to 53 per cent in 2015 with eggs originating from the intensive systems accounting for 45 per cent of throughput.

The average producer price of eggs increased, by 4.7 per cent, to 76 pence per dozen. Overall, the value of output for eggs increased by 8.9 per cent to £87 million (this figure includes eggs for processing, unrecorded sales for human consumption and duck eggs).

Potatoes

The area of potatoes planted in 2015 decreased by 14 per cent to 3,600 hectares. The average yield increased, by 1.6 per cent, to 44 tonnes per hectare as the result of a more favourable growing season. As a result of these changes the total quantity of potatoes harvested in 2015 is estimated to be 13 per cent lower at 157,100 tonnes.

Marketings of ware potatoes during 2015 were 4.9 per cent higher at 132,600 tonnes. Sales in the first half of the 2015 calendar year were 3.6 per cent higher when compared with the equivalent

period in 2014 and were almost exclusively from the 2014 harvest. However, during the second half of 2015 the level of sales were 3.7 per cent lower than for the same half of 2014 while these were mainly from the smaller 2015 harvest.

In 2015, the volume of seed potato output (including home-saved seed) fell by 13 per cent to 11,600 tonnes. In total for 2015, the volume of potato output (including ware, seed and stockfeed potatoes) was 162,000 tonnes. This was a decrease of 0.9 per cent.

The average price of ware potatoes was £130 per tonne in 2015, an increase of 3.2 per cent from 2014 levels. The average price of seed potatoes was also lower than 2014 at £151 per tonne. Overall, the total value of potato output dropped in 2015, by 8.2 per cent, to £17 million (after accounting for volume stock changes).

Cereals

The area of spring barley sown in 2015 decreased by 6.9 per cent to 15,700 hectares, while recorded yields increased by 4.9 per cent. As a consequence, production of spring barley decreased by 2.4 per cent. In 2015, the area of winter barley sown was up by 4.6 per cent to 7,000 hectares and yields increased by 7.7 per cent. These changes resulted in the production of winter barley increasing by 13 per cent. Overall, total barley production was 2.9 per cent higher in 2015 at 140,000 tonnes, even though the total area of barley grown was 3.6 per cent lower at 22,700 hectares.

The total volume of barley sold or used on-farm in 2015 was 14 per cent higher at 150,400 tonnes. The average producer price of barley decreased, by 11 per cent, to £130 per tonne. These changes plus a negative stock change resulted in the value of barley output falling by 7.7 per cent to £18 million.

The area of wheat grown in 2015 was 6.1 per cent lower than 2014 at 8,000 hectares but when coupled with a 6.4 per cent increase in yields, production only decreases marginally to 64,000 tonnes.

The volume of wheat sold or used on-farm in 2015 was 13 per cent higher than 2014 at 66,400 tonnes, while the price per tonne of wheat decreased by 13 per cent to £136 per tonne. These changes combined with a negative stock change contributed to the value of wheat output decreasing by 12 per cent to £8.7 million.

The area of oats grown in 2015 was 0.5 per cent lower at 2,100 hectares. However, when combined with a 5.6 per cent increase in yields, oats production increased by 5.1 per cent to 12,300 tonnes. The average producer price of oats was 5.9 per cent

lower at £152 per tonne. The changes in price and production resulted in the value of output falling by 0.9 per cent to £1.9 million.

Horticulture

The total value of horticultural output in 2015 increased by 16 per cent to £119 million. Returns from the sale of fruit (mainly apples) decreased by 4.2 per cent to £11 million. Apple production rose by 6.3 per cent to 41,100 tonnes while prices increased by 2.5 per cent. Overall, the market value of apples increased by 8.9 per cent. The value of output from mushrooms rose by 24 per cent to £67 million mainly as a result of a 23 per cent increase in production to 45,100 tonnes. Receipts from the sale of vegetables decreased, by 3.4 per cent, to £21 million. The output value of ornamental and hardy nursery stock rose by 32 per cent to £19 million due to a 22 per cent in the area used for this enterprise.

Feedstuffs

The total volume of all compound feedstuffs purchased during 2015 was unchanged from the 2014 levels at 2.18 million tonnes. Within this total, the purchased volumes of all cattle (and calf) compounds decreased by 1.6 per cent; dairy compounds purchased fell by 5.5 per cent while beef cattle compounds reduced by 1.7 per cent. The volume of sheep compounds purchased were 3.4 per cent lower. Total purchases of pig compounds decreased in 2015 by 1.4 per cent while poultry compounds increased by 3.2 per cent.

Inputs of straights (including home-fed cereals) increased by 9.3 per cent in 2015 to 421,700 tonnes. In total, the volume of all feed purchased was 0.8 per cent higher than 2014 levels at 2.64 million tonnes. The average price of feedstuffs (compounds and home-fed cereals) decreased, by 6.5 per cent, to £276 per tonne in 2015. Overall, the cost of purchased feedstuffs in 2015 fell, by 5.7 per cent, to £729 million.

Fertilisers and lime The quantity of fertilisers purchased in 2015 decreased by 2.6 per cent to 261,800 tonnes while the average price decreased by 7.7 per cent to £277 per tonne. In volume terms, 42 per cent of total fertiliser sales were straights, while 58 per cent were compounds.

As a result of the decreases in both quantity purchased and price paid, the total value of fertiliser purchases fell, by 10 per cent, to £72 million.

Total expenditure on lime reduced by 20 per cent when compared to 2014 levels to £1.9 million. The quantity purchased also decreased by 20 per cent to 154,100 tonnes while the price paid remained unchanged.

Marketing expenses	Total marketing expenses in 2015 were 2.8 per cent higher than 2014 levels at £36.5 million. Cattle marketing expenses were £20.5 million, while sheep expenses were £3.5 million. Marketing expenses for milk were £7.9 million, while those for pigs were £4.6 million.
Machinery expenses	In 2015, machinery expenses decreased, by 10 per cent, to £136 million. This decrease was driven by an 18 per cent fall in fuel and oil costs, reflecting global commodity movements.
Interest	<p>Total farm borrowings in 2015 increased by 1.5 per cent. The average cost of borrowing is estimated to have remained unchanged with 2014 levels at 4.5 per cent. As a result, the total interest bill (including FISIM) increased by 1.0 per cent in 2015 to £36 million.</p> <p>Financial intermediaries (mainly banks) charge explicit commissions and fees for their services to customers, as well as implicit ones by paying and charging different rates of interest to borrowers and lenders. The revenue from the margin on lending and borrowing by financial intermediaries is described as financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM). The inclusion of FISIM in the account is in line with recommended EU national accounting conventions. It is a reallocation to gross output of part of the interest paid by farmers. While the inclusion of FISIM will increase intermediate consumption and decrease gross value added, it will decrease, by the same amount, the figure shown for interest paid and consequently this change in methodology has no impact on total income from farming.</p>
Labour	The volume of paid labour input (excluding labour used on capital projects) was 0.5 per cent lower in 2015, at 8.5 million hours. The cost of paid labour was 4.7 per cent higher than 2014 at £68 million. This was due to a combination of increases in both the hourly rate of paid labour and the average hours per week worked which was partially offset by a reduction in the number of total workers employed.

Contact: William Taylor, Tel: 028 9052 4112,
Email: William.Taylor@dardni.gov.uk

Table 2.19 Output of cattle and calves

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Steers, heifers and young bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	353.7	331.1	313.3	319.9	300.8	299.8
Average producer price (p per kg dwt) ^{1,2}	255.4	292.3	317.4	355.3	328.8	326.2
Average dressed carcass weight (kg) ²	329.6	334.4	338.4	325.7	330.4	339.1
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes) ^{2,3}	116.6	110.7	106.0	104.2	99.4	101.6
Value of output (£m)	297.7	323.6	336.6	370.2	326.8	331.6
Cows and bulls						
Sales ('000 head)	92.2	96.6	105.6	104.3	94.6	98.4
Average producer price (p per kg dwt) ^{1,2}	195.2	229.1	244.4	257.1	218.4	213.6
Average dressed carcass weight (kg) ²	316.2	311.9	302.8	305.2	311.8	312.0
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes) ²	29.1	30.1	32.0	31.8	29.5	30.7
Value of output (£m)	56.9	69.0	78.1	81.8	64.4	65.6
Calves						
Sales ('000 head)	21.5	29.4	28.9	33.4	39.3	28.5
Average producer price (£ per head) ¹	183	249	244	247	297	307
Value of output (£m)	3.9	7.3	7.1	8.3	11.7	8.8
Store cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	7.6	6.2	9.9	12.0	10.9	11.9
Average producer price (£ per head) ¹	607	668	711	762	771	795
Value of output (£m)	4.6	4.1	7.0	9.2	8.4	9.5
Breeding cattle sold outside Northern Ireland						
Marketings ('000 head)	1.0	1.1	2.2	2.8	1.7	2.8
Average producer price (£ per head)	1,141	1,325	1,198	1,178	1,337	1,082
Value of output (£m)	1.1	1.5	2.6	3.3	2.3	3.0
Less Imported cattle						
Marketings ('000 head)	64.2	35.8	30.2	24.1	29.2	31.2
Average producer price (£ per head)	650	851	886	981	976	920
Value of output (£m)	41.7	30.5	26.8	23.6	28.5	28.7
Total Market Value (£m)	322.6	375.1	404.7	449.1	385.0	389.7
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-7.5	-20.50	+11.1	-6.8	+6.9	+4.0
Total value of output (£m)	315.1	354.6	415.7	442.3	391.9	393.8

1. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses for cattle for human consumption.

2. See note 2 Table 2.6.

Table 2.20 Sources of home-fed finished cattle marketed

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 <i>per cent</i> (provisional)
Cows and bulls	21	23	25	25	24	25
Steers and heifers originating from:						
- the dairy herd;	35	33	33	32	32	32
- the beef herd;	35	32	35	38	40	38
- calves and stores imported from the Republic of Ireland or shipped from Great Britain	9	13	7	6	4	5
Total¹	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total number marketed ('000 head)	446	428	419	424	395	399

1. Individual items may not add to 100 due to roundings.

Table 2.21 Output of milk

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Annual average number of dairy cows ('000 head)	279.3	281.2	282.5	280.0	295.5	307.9
Average gross yield per cow (to nearest 10 litres per annum) ¹	6,740	7,160	7,190	7,310	7,580	7,470
Total output of milk for human consumption (million litres)	1,852	1,982	2,001	2,015	2,206	2,262
of which:						
sales off farms	1,850	1,980	1,999	2,013	2,204	2,260
used in farm households	2	2	2	2	1	1
Average producer price (pence per litre)						
Gross price ²	25.42	27.65	26.21	31.79	29.66	21.22
Net price ³	25.03	27.26	25.72	31.44	29.31	20.87
Market Value (£m)	470.8	548.1	524.5	640.6	654.2	479.9
Value of output (£m)²	470.8	548.1	524.5	640.6	654.2	479.9

1. Comprising sales off farms, milk consumed in farm households and milk fed to other livestock.

2. After deduction of superlevy but not marketing expenses (transport costs).

3. After deduction of marketing expenses (transport costs) but not superlevy.

Table 2.22 Output of sheep

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)¹						
Finished sheep and lambs	657.3	693.1	776.6	797.5	791.5	784.1
Culled ewes and rams	110.8	99.3	134.8	133.8	130.7	135.3
Average price (p per kg deadweight)²						
Finished sheep and lambs	372.0	413.3	363.6	386.5	381.5	340.2
Culled ewes and rams	202.9	221.1	170.4	155.3	185.5	199.7
Average dressed carcass weight (kg)						
Finished sheep and lambs	21.6	21.7	21.6	21.3	21.8	21.7
Culled ewes and rams	28.0	27.9	28.5	27.8	28.0	28.2
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished sheep and lambs	14.2	15.1	16.8	17.0	17.2	17.0
Culled ewes and rams	3.1	2.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8
Market Value (£m)³	57.6	65.4	65.3	69.9	69.9	63.5
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+4.2	-1.1	+3.6	-3.2	-0.5	-0.8
Value of output (£m)	61.8	64.3	68.9	66.7	69.4	62.8

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports.

2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.

3. Includes breeding and store sheep exported less all sheep imported.

Table 2.23 Output of pigs

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Marketings ('000 head)¹						
Finished clean pigs	1,001.5	1,001.9	1,031.2	1,034.5	1,078.5	1,156.6
Culled sows and boars	12.8	12.7	11.0	13.0	12.9	14.6
Average price (p per kg deadweight)²						
Finished clean pigs	127.72	133.88	140.19	155.82	145.93	118.84
Culled sows and boars	82.65	81.00	95.87	93.29	91.58	75.20
Average dressed carcase weight (kg)						
Finished clean pigs	82.2	82.3	82.4	83.9	85.7	86.2
Quantity of Output ('000 tonnes)						
Finished clean pigs	82.3	82.4	84.9	86.8	92.4	99.7
Culled sows and boars	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.1
Market Value (£m)³	99.8	106.8	114.1	132.5	131.8	112.5
Stock change due to volume (£m)	-0.1	+0.1	+0.4	0.0	+1.3	+0.5
Value of output (£m)	99.7	106.9	114.5	132.5	133.1	112.9

1. Estimated home-produced marketings, including unrecorded exports.

2. Average realised return gross of marketing expenses.

3. Includes breeding and store pigs exported less all pigs imported.

Table 2.24 Output of poultry

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Poultrymeat production ('000 tonnes liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	266.5	260.0	259.1	269.9	279.0	277.6
Broilers	241.6	231.8	229.8	241.7	250.9	253.0
Average producer price (p per kg liveweight)						
All poultrymeat (including broilers)	71.3	81.9	81.4	86.6	80.8	75.1
Broilers	71.6	80.3	80.4	86.0	81.2	75.0
Market value						
All poultry (£m)	217.1	242.8	241.1	266.1	261.0	243.7
of which broilers	173.0	186.1	184.7	207.8	203.8	189.8
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.9	-0.5	+0.7	-0.6	-2.3	+0.6
Value of Output (£m)¹	219.0	242.2	241.7	265.5	258.7	244.3

1. Includes shipments and exports of breeding and non-breeding birds and eggs for hatching, less imports of birds and hatching eggs.

Table 2.25 Output of eggs

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Graded packing station throughput (million dozen)	79.2	81.2	79.7	89.2	106.8	111.1
Average producer price (p per dozen) ¹	65.37	68.49	80.80	74.07	72.85	76.26
Value of output (£m)²	52.6	56.6	65.6	67.4	79.6	86.6

1. Relates to graded eggs sold through packing stations only and differs from that shown in Table 2.7.

2. Includes eggs for processing, duck eggs and unrecorded sales.

Table 2.26 Crop production

	<i>harvest years</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(provisional)					
Potatoes¹						
Area ('000 hectares)	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6
Harvestable yield (tonnes per hectare)	42.0	45.5	39.4	40.1	43.0	43.7
Production ('000 tonnes)	207.2	219.8	163.6	173.6	180.2	157.1
of which:						
saleable potatoes	181.2	194.7	135.5	141.3	156.3	134.1
chats ² and waste	26.0	25.1	28.1	32.4	23.9	23.0
Barley^{3,4}						
Area ('000 hectares)	24.3	24.0	25.5	25.8	23.6	22.7
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.72	5.73	4.98	5.43	5.78	6.17
Production ('000 tonnes)	139.2	137.9	127.2	139.8	136.1	140.0
Wheat⁴						
Area ('000 hectares)	10.9	11.6	9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	8.18	7.77	5.98	7.32	7.54	8.02
Production ('000 tonnes)	89.1	89.9	56.2	58.3	64.1	64.0
Oats^{3,4}						
Area ('000 hectares)	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	5.78	6.02	4.77	5.02	5.61	5.93
Production ('000 tonnes)	13.5	12.6	9.0	9.9	11.7	12.3
Oilseed rape⁵						
Area ('000 hectares)	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	3.50	3.90	3.60	3.00	3.60	3.60
Production ('000 tonnes)	1.5	2.3	2.9	1.4	1.8	2.2
Hay						
Area ('000 hectares)	13.0	13.8	9.7	19.6	20.6	12.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	9.5	8.3	8.3	7.3	7.6	8.1
Production ('000 tonnes)	123.8	114.1	79.9	143.2	156.6	97.0
Grass silage						
Area ('000 hectares)	306.9	287.5	275.2	290.6	309.4	316.0
Yield (tonnes per hectare)	30.0	31.1	29.7	31.2	31.7	31.4
Production ('000 tonnes)	9,191	8,946	8,171	9,070	9,812	9,910

1. Includes early, maincrop ware and seed crops.

2. Under 40 mm.

3. Comprises spring and winter varieties.

4. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 15% moisture content.

5. Yield and production estimates are standardised to 9% moisture content.

Table 2.27 Output¹ of potatoes, barley and wheat

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
POTATOES²						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)						
Ware	139.4	155.2	136.2	111.8	126.4	132.6
Seed	19.8	19.8	16.1	14.9	13.3	11.6
Stockfeed	24.1	24.3	24.5	24.7	23.7	17.8
Total	183.3	199.3	176.7	151.4	163.5	162.0
Average producer price (£ per tonne)						
Ware	130.45	122.47	156.10	197.55	125.68	129.69
Seed	174.05	182.56	157.36	218.14	167.37	151.10
Market Value (£m)						
Ware	18.2	19.0	21.3	22.1	16.2	17.2
Seed	3.5	3.6	2.5	3.2	2.1	1.8
Stockfeed	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Total³	22.0	23.0	24.3	25.8	18.5	19.2
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.0	+0.5	-5.3	+0.7	+0.3	-2.0
Value of output (£m)	22.9	23.4	19.0	26.5	18.8	17.2
BARLEY⁴						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	137.7	137.3	134.1	137.2	132.5	150.4
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	135.14	178.94	195.76	179.21	145.89	130.36
Market Value (£m)	18.6	24.6	26.3	24.6	19.3	19.6
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.2	+0.1	-1.4	+0.4	+0.5	-1.3
Value of output (£m)	18.8	24.7	24.8	25.0	19.8	18.3
WHEAT⁴						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	81.1	89.7	71.8	58.7	58.6	66.4
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	151.73	191.10	203.08	194.98	155.66	135.84
Market Value (£m)	12.3	17.1	14.6	11.4	9.1	9.0
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+1.4	+0.0	-3.4	-0.1	+0.8	-0.3
Value of output (£m)	13.7	17.2	11.2	11.4	9.9	8.7

1. Output data are for calendar years and reflect the influence of two crop years.
2. Includes ware consumed in farm households and seed retentions but excludes in-store losses.
3. Net of inspection fees.
4. Includes cereals retained on the farm of origin or sold farm-to-farm.

Table 2.28 Output of apples and mushrooms

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
APPLES¹						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	42.0	47.9	40.4	32.0	38.7	41.1
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	137	133	183	267	259	265
Market value (£m)	5.7	6.4	7.4	8.5	10.0	10.9
Stock change due to volume (£m)	+0.6	+0.4	-2.8	-0.0	+0.4	-0.8
Value of Output (£m)	6.3	6.8	4.6	8.5	10.4	10.1
MUSHROOMS						
Quantity of output ('000 tonnes)	16.3	17.7	26.9	28.0	36.8	45.1
Average producer price (£ per tonne)	1,210	1,390	1,425	1,450	1,484	1,496
Value of output (£m)	19.7	24.7	38.4	40.6	54.6	67.5

1. Output data are for calendar years and reflect the influence of two crop years.

Table 2.29 Quantity and cost of the main items of expenditure (including interest and labour)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
FEEDSTUFFS¹						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes concentrate equivalent)	2,453	2,383	2,526	2,626	2,619	2,641
of which: Non-concentrates ² ('000 tonnes)	53	51	53	53	51	37
Compounds ('000 tonnes)	2,006	1,965	2,088	2,170	2,183	2,183
Straights & cereals fed on-farm ('000 tonnes)	393	367	385	388	386	422
Average cost (£ per tonne concentrate equivalent)	237	268	285	303	295	276
Value of feed consumed (£m)	583.7	635.1	719.4	796.9	773.7	729.4
of which:						
stock change due to volume	+2.1	-3.1	+0.1	+0.7	+0.9	+0.9
FERTILISERS						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes product)	303	247	264	328	269	262
Nutrient content ('000 tonnes)	101	80	88	118	99	100
of which:						
Nitrogen	80	63	70	81	68	66
Phosphate	7	6	6	9	8	8
Potash	13	11	12	16	13	13
Sulphur	-	-	-	11	10	12
Average cost (£ per tonne of nutrient)	238	316	308	305	300	277
Value of purchases (£m)	72.1	78.2	81.3	100.1	80.6	72.5
LIME						
Quantity purchased ('000 tonnes)	160	159	140	167	193	154
Average cost (£ per tonne)	10.84	10.67	12.33	12.40	12.03	12.01
Value of purchases (£m)	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.1	2.3	1.9
MARKETING EXPENSES³						
Cattle	20.2	19.9	21.1	21.6	20.2	20.5
Sheep	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.5
Pigs	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.6
Milk	7.1	7.6	9.8	7.1	7.6	7.9
Total	34.9	35.5	38.1	36.0	35.5	36.5
INTEREST						
Bank base lending rate (%)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total interest charges (£m)⁴	38.7	36.7	37.1	37.0	35.7	36.1
LABOUR						
Average weekly hours of full-time paid workers	39.63	40.58	40.85	41.14	40.20	40.83
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per hour) ⁵	7.28	7.40	7.73	7.33	7.53	7.92
Average earnings of full-time paid workers (£ per week) ⁵	288.59	300.32	315.80	301.35	302.80	323.52
Volume of paid labour (million hours) ⁶	7.46	8.05	8.53	8.56	8.56	8.52
Value of paid labour (£m)⁶	54.9	60.2	67.1	63.5	65.2	68.3

1. Includes compounds, straights, home-fed cereals, proteins, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes.

2. Includes milk by-products, forage crops, hay and stockfeed potatoes.

3. Includes hired transport costs, auction fees, slaughter charges and interfarm expenses.

4. Includes interest on hire purchase and leasing agreements and trade credit. Includes FISIM (See page 27 for an explanation of FISIM).

5. Gross wage before deduction of tax and national insurance, and including the value of perks.

6. Excludes labour used on capital projects.

3. CROP AREAS AND LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Land use

Approximately 76 per cent of the total Northern Ireland land area of 1.35 million hectares is used for agriculture, including common rough grazing. A further 8.3 per cent is used for forestry (Table 3.1). The greater part of the total forested area (112,000 hectares) is managed by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (see *Forest Service Annual Report, 2014/2015*¹).

Most farmland in Northern Ireland is under grass. Only 3,421 farms (14 per cent) have arable or horticultural crops. These crops occupy 47,300 hectares and make up only 5.4 per cent of the total area farmed. Barley (22,700 hectares) is the main crop grown followed by wheat with 8,000 hectares. The total area of cereals grown (32,900 hectares) was 3.9 per cent lower in 2015 than in 2014. This is the lowest area recorded over the last 10 years and contrasts with a high of 40,400 hectares in 2008. Weather has a significant impact on annual variation in the area grown, especially as it impacts ground conditions in the autumn when winter wheat and winter barley crops are sown. In 2015, the area of potatoes grown decreased on 2014 levels by 14 per cent to 3,600 hectares. Over the 10 year period 2005 to 2015, the area in potatoes decreased by 21 per cent. Potatoes are an expensive crop to produce, while market returns are variable. In 2015, the cropped area also included 3,100 hectares of horticultural crops, mainly apple orchards (1,500 hectares) and vegetables (1,400 hectares).

Grazing livestock

All but 6 per cent of Northern Ireland farms keep cattle or sheep. In 2015, cattle were present on 20,357 farms (82 per cent), sheep on 9,529 farms (38 per cent) and cattle and/or sheep on 23,287 farms (94 per cent).

The total number of cattle on farms at the time of the June 2015 Agricultural Census, was a little over 1.6 million, a 2.7 per cent increase on the previous year. There were 311,500 dairy cows (5.9 per cent more than in 2014), and 260,300 beef cows (2.1 per cent more than in 2014). The total cattle population peaked in 1998 at 1.8 million before gradually falling to just under 1.6 million in 2009. Since then the total number has remained relatively stable.

In June 2015, the sheep breeding flock was 3 per cent larger than in 2014 at 938,600 ewes. Including lambs and other sheep the entire flock totalled 1.99 million in 2015.

Intensive livestock In Northern Ireland, pigs and/or poultry (for commercial purposes) are present on 4.5 per cent of farms.

¹Available on the DARD website at www.dardni.gov.uk/forestry

In 2015, pig numbers were derived from the NI Annual Pig Inventory (conducted in June) and were estimated at 569,700. Sow numbers increased to 45,600 in 2015.

In June 2015, the Northern Ireland poultry flock was recorded at 21.2 million birds, 4.1 per cent higher than in 2014. The number of laying birds (3.2 million) increased by 4.3 per cent in 2015, and the numbers of broilers (14.3 million) increased by 4.8 per cent. Poultry production is a highly vertically integrated sector in Northern Ireland and production is managed in response to market conditions and business objectives in the processing sector.

Less Favoured Areas

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. Further details are given in the Appendix.

Farms classed as **LFA farms** occupy 69 per cent of farmed land in Northern Ireland (Table 3.4) and livestock farming predominates. Crops occupy 12 per cent of land on lowland farms compared with only 1.4 per cent in the case of LFA farms. There are also significant differences in the patterns of livestock farming. Beef cows (199,000) predominate on **LFA farms**, where they are more important than dairy cows (152,000). On **lowland farms**, in contrast, there were 62,000 beef cows and 159,000 dairy cows in 2015. **LFA farms** account for 33 and 63 per cent of the Northern Ireland's pigs and poultry, respectively.

Contact: Paul Caskie, Tel: 028 9052 4427,

Email: Paul.Caskie@dardni.gov.uk

Table 3.1 Land use, 2015

	<i>thousand hectares</i>				
	Crops	Grass and rough grazing	Woodland	Other land	Total land area
Farms	47	931	11	8	998
Common grazing	-	35	-	-	35
NI Forest Service ¹	-	-	62	12	74
Other areas	-	-	39	208	246
All land²	47	967	112	227	1,353

1. Excludes 1,700 ha let to farmers; these areas are included in the area of agricultural holdings.

2. Land area, excluding significant areas of inland water.

Table 3.2 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land, June 2010 - 2015

	<i>thousand hectares</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Oats	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1
Wheat	10.9	11.6	9.4	8.0	8.5	8.0
Barley: Winter	6.8	6.8	5.3	5.3	6.7	7.0
Spring	17.6	17.2	20.2	20.5	16.8	15.7
Mixed corn	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Potatoes	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6
Arable crop silage	3.9	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.0	3.3
Other field crops	6.1	5.4	5.2	4.2	4.4	4.5
Total agricultural crops	52.6	51.4	50.1	48.6	46.8	44.3
Fruit	52.6	51.4	50.1	48.6	46.8	44.3
Vegetables	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
Other horticultural crops	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total horticultural crops	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1
Grass: Under 5 years old	118.4	129.7	133.9	139.2	146.2	149.9
5 years old and over	661.6	647.4	646.0	648.8	641.8	650.4
Total grass	780.0	777.1	779.8	788.0	788.0	800.3
Total crops and grass	835.5	831.5	832.8	839.6	837.8	847.7
Rough grazing ¹	140.5	140.9	138.8	140.1	140.1	131.1
Woods and plantation	10.2	10.8	11.0	10.3	11.1	11.1
Other land ²	7.8	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.9
Total area of farms	994.0	991.4	991.0	998.0	996.8	997.7

1. Excludes common rough grazing.

2. Includes set aside and land not used for agriculture.

Table 3.3 Livestock numbers, June 2010 - 2015*thousand head*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CATTLE¹						
Dairy cows	281.0	282.5	285.4	279.5	294.2	311.5
Dairy heifers in calf	61.9	62.3	65.4	67.1	62.1	60.8
Beef cows	257.6	269.5	279.2	270.1	254.9	260.3
Beef heifers in calf	38.4	42.1	40.9	37.4	31.9	31.7
Total cows	538.7	552.0	564.6	549.6	549.1	571.8
Total heifers in calf	100.3	104.4	106.3	104.5	93.9	92.5
Bulls for service	18.4	18.7	19.0	18.8	18.1	17.7
Other cattle						
Over 2 years	133.6	123.7	117.2	113.3	132.6	121.1
1-2 years	354.2	338.7	334.5	345.2	331.8	328.3
Under 1 year	459.1	452.9	483.9	456.3	441.8	477.4
Total cattle	1,604.4	1,590.5	1,625.4	1,587.8	1,567.3	1,608.9
SHEEP						
Breeding ewes	875.9	895.2	937.5	921.4	910.6	938.6
Other sheep	971.8	992.4	1,031.4	982.1	1,012.3	1,051.0
Total sheep	1,847.7	1,887.6	1,968.9	1,903.5	1,922.9	1,989.7
PIGS²						
Sows and gilts	38.5	38.0	38.3	42.5	42.8	45.6
Other pigs	386.1	387.2	388.6	437.8	474.2	524.1
Total pigs	424.6	425.3	426.9	480.3	517.1	569.7
POULTRY³						
Laying birds	2,099.4	2,429.7	2,556.7	2,438.4	3,044.6	3,174.1
Growing pullets	1,017.3	1,109.2	1,089.2	909.3	916.3	908.0
Breeding flock	1,078.2	1,528.0	1,641.1	2,150.6	2,413.7	2,404.9
Table chickens	11,915.1	14,069.4	13,459.4	13,412.0	13,614.2	14,273.1
Total ordinary fowl	16,109.9	19,136.3	18,746.4	18,910.4	19,988.8	20,760.1
Other poultry	421.2	486.2	441.7	463.5	412.4	485.6
Total poultry	16,531.1	19,622.5	19,188.2	19,373.8	20,401.1	21,245.7
HORSES & PONIES⁴	12.5	12.0	12.0	11.7	11.1	11.0
GOATS	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.8

1. From 2005 onwards, cattle figures were derived from APHIS.

2. From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs

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

4. Horses and ponies on agricultural holdings.

Table 3.4 Areas of crops, grass, rough grazing and other land by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹ of farm, June 2015

thousand hectares

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	2	5	6	27	19
Potatoes	0	1	1	3	24
Other agricultural crops	1	1	2	6	27
Horticultural crops	0	0	0	3	14
Total crops	3	7	10	38	20
Grass: Under 5 years old	49	42	91	59	61
5 years and over	265	185	450	200	69
Total grass	314	227	541	259	68
Rough grazing ²	116	9	126	5	96
Woods/other land	7	6	13	6	68
Total area	440	249	689	308	69

1. For statistical purposes, farms classified as LFA farms have all or most of their land (after adjustment for conacre) within the LFA and are further classified as SDA or DA according to where the greater part of their LFA land lies. Lowland farms have most or all of their land outside the LFA.

2. Excludes common rough grazing.

Table 3.5 Livestock numbers by Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹ of farm, June 2015

thousand head

	Areas on farms wholly or mainly in:				
	Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
CATTLE					
Dairy cows	50	102	152	159	49
Beef cows	123	76	199	62	76
Heifers in calf	23	29	53	40	57
Bulls for service	6	6	12	6	67
Other cattle					
Over 2 years	26	39	65	56	54
1-2 years	74	107	181	148	55
Under 1 year	144	149	293	184	61
Total cattle	447	506	954	655	59
SHEEP					
Breeding ewes	534	209	743	196	79
Other sheep	577	247	823	228	78
Total sheep	1110	456	1566	423	79
PIGS					
Sows and gilts	5	11	16	29	36
Other pigs	42	127	169	355	32
Total pigs	47	139	185	384	33
POULTRY					
Laying birds	1327	967	2294	880	72
Table fowl	3201	5547	8748	5525	61
Other poultry	1160	1226	2385	1413	63
Total poultry	5688	7739	13428	7818	63
HORSES AND PONIES²	2	3	6	5	51
GOATS	1	1	3	1	75

1. See Note 1, Table 3.4.

2. See Note 3, Table 3.3.

4. FARM STRUCTURE

Methodological Notes	<p>In the Northern Ireland agricultural census, the statistical definition of a farm is the same as that applied under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), i.e. it is based on the concept of separate businesses. Until 1997, the definition was based on land ownership. The current definition is in keeping with that adopted for European Union surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, according to which a farm is:</p> <p><i>‘a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products’</i></p> <p>but it differs from that used elsewhere in the UK where a higher minimum size threshold is applied.</p> <p><i>The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland covers all active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.</i></p>
Farms	<p>The number of active farm businesses within the scope of the June 2015 Census, 24,907, was 679 higher than in 2014. This is a net change on the previous year, with some new businesses being created (often as off-shoots from existing farms) and others merging or ceasing to be active.</p> <p>Some 20 per cent of farms have less than 10 hectares of crops and grass, while some 1,351 farms (5.4 per cent) have 100 hectares or more. The latter occupy one quarter of the total area of crops and grass.</p>
Business size	<p>Since quite large businesses can be operated on small areas (e.g. those with intensive livestock or horticultural crops), and land quality is variable, area alone does not accurately capture the level of business activity on farms. To overcome this problem Standard Outputs (SO) are used throughout the EU to measure farm business size and define farm type. However, in the UK it is felt that SO can be difficult to interpret and that a size definition more clearly linked to labour requirements is more meaningful. So, while farm business type is based on the EU SO approach, from 2004 onwards farm size has been determined by Standard Labour Requirements (SLR) for farms (see appendix for more detail). The system applies across the UK, but has been adapted to take account of some regional variation. Smaller field sizes in Northern Ireland, compared with the rest of the UK, mean that additional labour inputs are required for grassland and cropping activities and when applicable this is reflected in higher SLR coefficients than apply for Great Britain. Using the SLR approach, the spectrum of farm sizes that exist are grouped into four bands: very small, small, medium or large.</p>

The majority of farm businesses in Northern Ireland, 77 per cent in 2015, are classified as **very small**. In 2015, there were 19,078 farms in this category (Table 4.3) which is slightly higher than the 2014 figure. These farms are unlikely to provide full time employment or an adequate income solely from farming activities.¹ They contribute 22 per cent of the industry's total SO but account for 50 per cent of the farmed area (Table 4.15). The main activities of these farms are cattle and sheep rearing. In 2015, 61 per cent of beef cows and 53 per cent of total sheep were to be found on very small farms. Approximately 30,400 persons are engaged in the work of these farms (Table 4.12).

There were 2,951 **small** farms, generally involving one person full time with, in some cases, part time or seasonal help. These farms make important contributions to all sectors, for example accounting for 28 per cent of poultry and 27 per cent of total sheep activities; they cover 20 per cent of the agricultural area and involve 18 per cent of the full time agricultural labour force (Table 4.14).

The 1,249 **medium** and 1,629 **large** farms (together representing 12 per cent of all farms) contribute 60 per cent of the total SO from under a third (30 per cent) of the land area. These farms dominate the dairy, pigs and poultry layer sectors with 82, 92 and 59 per cent shares of the livestock numbers, respectively.

Seventy-three per cent of **very small** and 65 per cent of **small** farms are mainly in the LFA whereas, for **medium** and **large** farms, the proportions are 55 and 44 per cent, respectively (Table 4.5).

Farm type

Eighty nine per cent of Northern Ireland farms derive two-thirds or more of their total SO from grazing livestock (Table 4.6), including 11 per cent classified as **dairy** farms and 78 per cent as **cattle and sheep**. Relatively few farms depend predominantly on cropping with 281 (1.1 per cent) classified as cereal farms, 516 (2.1 per cent) as **general cropping** and 293 (1.2 per cent) as horticulture. The **other types** category mainly consists of specialist horse farms, (190 farms in total). Specialist **pigs and poultry** farms together (786) account for 3.2 per cent, while **mixed** farms (588) make up 2.4 per cent of the total.

Farm tenure

Most farms in Northern Ireland include some rented land, 5.8 per cent were entirely rented or leased, 46 per cent had a mixture of owned and rented land and the remaining 48 per cent were entirely owner-occupied (Table 4.10). Much of the rented land is taken under the conacre system of short-term lettings which is a particular feature of land tenure throughout Ireland. By renting conacre land, farmers may expand their businesses to grow more crops or keep more livestock than would be possible on the owned area. Landowners who are unable or unwilling to farm all or part of their land may let it in conacre, i.e. on a seasonal basis, (nominally for 11 months or 364 days) without entering into a long-term commitment.

¹For further information on the persons living and working on farms of different sizes, see "Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland", DARD 2002.

Enterprises

In 2015, 3,537 farms (14 per cent) had dairy cows, 15,090 (61 per cent) had beef cows (Table 4.15) and 20,357 (82 per cent) had cattle of some type (Table 4.16). The average number of dairy cows per herd, 88, was 2 more than in 2014². It compares with an average herd size for beef breeding herds of approximately 17 cows. Sixty-four per cent of dairy cows are in herds of 100 or more cows, compared with 8 per cent of beef cows.

Some 9,305 farms had breeding sheep (Table 4.17), with an average of 101 ewes per flock. There were relatively few large flocks in Northern Ireland, with only 21 farms having a flock size of 1,000 ewes or more.

In 2015, pig data was extracted from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs and showed that 350 commercial pig herds were operational in June (Table 4.20). Most of the pig herds (317 in 2015) had sows, averaging 144 sows per herd (Table 4.18).

Eighty-eight per cent of sows were found on farms with 100 or more sows - although these farms make up only 31 per cent of farms with a pig enterprise. Similarly, of total pigs, 33 per cent of the largest units hold over 92 per cent of pigs.

Figures for poultry were taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update in 2015, with only commercial producers considered. Of the 196 business with laying hens (Table 4.20) 85 per cent had flocks over 1,000 birds. Twenty one businesses (11 per cent) farmed over thirty thousand birds with these farms accounting for 48 per cent of total laying birds. On broiler units, the average flock size is a great deal larger, with over half of farms having thirty thousand birds or more on farm when the register update was conducted in June. Over 80 per cent of broilers are found on these farms (Table 4.20).

In 2015, cereals were grown on 2,361 farms (Table 4.23), 9.5 per cent of all farms in Northern Ireland. The average area of a cereal enterprise was 14 hectares. While almost two-fifths (900) of the farms with cereals had less than 5 hectares, the 121 farms which grew 50 hectares or more accounted for almost one third of the total cereal area grown.

Some 494 farms, 2.0 per cent of total farms, grew potatoes in 2015. Of this number, 84 grew 10 hectares or more, with these farms accounting for almost three quarters of the total area of potatoes grown (Table 4.24).

*Contact: Paul Caskie, Tel: 028 9052 4427,
Email: Paul.Caskie@dardni.gov.uk*

²Figures for cattle are now derived from the cattle tracing system (APHIS).

Table 4.1 Number and area of farms by area farmed¹, June 2015

Size group (hectares)	By crops and grass area		By total area	
	Farms	Hectares	Farms	Hectares
Nil	446	-	160	-
0.1 - 9.9	5,042	30,017	4,448	26,386
10.0 - 19.9	5,844	85,229	5,465	80,231
20.0 - 29.9	4,100	100,163	4,022	98,632
30.0 - 49.9	4,464	172,059	4,700	182,171
50.0 - 99.9	3,660	250,120	4,237	292,731
100.0 - 199.9	1,154	150,395	1,512	200,723
200.0 +	197	59,683	363	116,874
Total	24,907	847,666	24,907	997,748

1. The area farmed is after adjustment for conacre taken or let.

Table 4.2 Number of farms, average area and distribution of area by area farmed, June 2010 - 2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of farms	24,471	24,436	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907
Average area per farm (ha):						
Crops and grass	34.1	34.0	34.3	34.3	34.6	34.0
Total area	40.6	40.6	40.8	40.7	41.1	40.1
Per cent of crops and grass area farmed in units of:						
(hectares)						
0.1 - 9.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
10.0 - 19.9	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.8	10.1
20.0 - 29.9	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.4	11.8
30.0 - 49.9	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.2	20.2	20.3
50.0 - 99.9	30.3	30.5	30.0	30.3	30.2	29.5
100.0 +	24.9	24.4	24.8	24.6	25.1	24.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4.3 Number of farms by business size and area farmed, June 2015

Area of crops and grass farmed (hectares)	Business size ¹					All sizes
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large		
Under 10	5,165	172	59	92		5,488
10.0 - 19.9	5,607	161	35	41		5,844
20.0 - 29.9	3,698	281	68	53		4,100
30.0 - 49.9	3,225	904	238	97		4,464
50.0 - 99.9	1,289	1,151	610	610		3,660
100.0 +	94	282	239	736		1,351
Total	19,078	2,951	1,249	1,629		24,907

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

Table 4.4 Number of farms by business size, June 2010 - 2015

<i>number</i>						
Business size¹	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Very small	18,617	18,563	18,441	18,719	18,521	19,078
Small	3,085	3,094	3,076	3,063	2,935	2,951
Medium	1,276	1,261	1,210	1,187	1,226	1,249
Large	1,493	1,518	1,558	1,534	1,546	1,629
Total	24,471	24,436	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907

1. See Note 1, Table 4.3

Table 4.5 Number of farms by business size and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹, June 2015

<i>number</i>					
Business size²	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Very small	8,168	5,717	13,885	5,193	73
Small	1029	881	1,910	1041	65
Medium	311	378	689	560	55
Large	259	473	732	897	44
Total	9,767	7,449	17,216	7,691	69

1. For statistical purposes, farms classified as LFA farms have all or most of their land (after adjustment for conacre) within the LFA and are further classified as SDA or DA according to where the greater part of their LFA land lies. Lowland farms have most or all of their land outside the LFA.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.3.

Table 4.6 Number of farms by business size and type, June 2015

Business type¹	Business size¹				
	Very small	Small	Medium	Large	All sizes
Cereals	226	37	12	6	281
General cropping	420	38	15	43	516
Horticulture	99	54	28	112	293
Pigs	55	28	37	65	185
Poultry	215	208	101	77	601
Dairy	323	763	629	1027	2742
Cattle & sheep (LFA) ²	12,985	1,157	231	124	14,497
Cattle & sheep (lowland) ²	4,283	539	114	78	5,014
Mixed	337	103	62	86	588
Others	135	24	20	11	190
All types	19,078	2,951	1,249	1,629	24,907

1. For a description of how business size and type are measured, see Appendix.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.5

Table 4.7 Number of farms by business type, June 2010 - 2015

	<i>number</i>					
Business type¹	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cereals	332	323	296	311	297	281
General cropping	326	293	373	497	368	516
Horticulture	309	288	278	304	289	293
Pigs	222	191	186	177	179	185
Poultry	463	606	560	591	591	601
Dairy	2,692	2,662	2,594	2,598	2,655	2,742
Cattle & sheep (LFA) ²	14,608	14,497	14,426	14,457	14,316	14,497
Cattle & sheep (lowland) ²	4,636	4,720	4,736	4,786	4,775	5,014
Mixed	657	642	623	561	559	588
Others	226	214	213	221	199	190
All types	24,471	24,436	24,285	24,503	24,228	24,907

1. See Note 1, Table 4.6.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

Table 4.8 Number of farms by business type and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹, June 2015

	<i>number</i>				
Business type²	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Cereals	8	31	39	242	14
General cropping	118	132	250	266	48
Horticulture	30	74	104	189	35
Pigs	40	60	100	85	54
Poultry	173	214	387	214	64
Dairy	571	943	1,514	1,228	55
Cattle & sheep	8,726	5,771	14,497	5,014	74
Mixed	67	174	241	347	41
Others	34	50	84	106	44
All types	9,767	7,449	17,216	7,691	69

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

2. See Note 1, Table 4.6.

Table 4.9 Number of farms by business size and proportion of area owner occupied, June 2015

	<i>farms</i>				
Owned land as percentage of farmed area	Business size¹				All sizes
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
All owner occupied	10,874	878	308	289	12,349
50-<100%	4,563	1318	606	806	7,293
>0-<50%	2,388	660	313	513	3,874
None owner occupied	1,253	95	22	21	1,391
All farms	19,078	2,951	1,249	1,629	24,907

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

Table 4.10 Area of land by type of tenure, 2010 - 2015

	<i>hectares</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Owner-occupied	673,050	675,006	678,167	688,912	690,477	713,095
Rented	320,924	316,435	312,815	309,040	306,327	284,653
Total	993,974	991,441	990,983	997,952	996,804	997,748
Percentage of owned land	67.7	68.1	68.4	69.0	69.3	71.5
Common grazing	36,836	36,794	36,845	35,407	35,631	35,486

Table 4.11 Average concrete rents by type of use, 2009 - 2014

	<i>£/hectare</i>					
Use	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Grass	188	189	195	216	226	236
Potatoes	623	654	703	501	734	706
Cereals	211	240	246	241	263	293
Rough grazing	34	37	41	37	33	38
All uses	168	172	179	179	182	191

Source: Farm Business Survey.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the farm labour force by business size, June 2015

Labour item	<i>number of persons</i>				All farms
	Business size ¹				
	Very Small	Small	Medium	Large	
Farmers and partners					
Full time	9,354	3,240	1,598	2,445	16,637
Part time	12,043	783	256	349	13,431
Total	21,397	4,023	1,854	2,794	30,068
Spouses of farmers	3,897	959	487	741	6,084
Other workers					
Full time	659	368	329	2,107	3,463
Part time	2,254	715	350	652	3,971
Casual/seasonal	2,169	748	414	1,062	4,393
Total other workers	5,082	1,831	1,093	3,821	11,827
Total agricultural labour force	30,376	6,813	3,434	7,356	47,979

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

Table 4.13 Number of farms by business type and Less Favoured Area (LFA) category¹, June 2015

number of persons

Labour item	Severely Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Disadvantaged Area (DA)	Total LFA	Non LFA	LFA as % NI
Farmers and partners					
Full time	5,892	5,020	10,912	5,725	66
Part time	5,486	4,000	9,486	3,945	71
Total	11,378	9,020	20,398	9,670	68
Spouses of farmers	2,149	1,776	3,925	2,159	65
Other workers					
Full time	733	902	1,635	1,828	47
Part time	1,355	1,215	2,570	1,401	65
Casual/seasonal	1,297	1,232	2,529	1,864	58
Total other workers	3,385	3,349	6,734	5,093	57
Total agricultural labour force	16,912	14,145	31,057	16,922	65

1. See Note 1, Table 4.5.

Table 4.14 Distribution of numbers of livestock, hectares of crops, full-time labour and output by business size, June 2015

A. Number of farms having the item
B. Total for each item ('000)
C. Percentage of Northern Ireland total of each item

Item	Business size ¹												All Farms		
	Very Small			Small			Medium			Large					
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Cattle															
Total	15,171	580	36	2,626	311	19	1,118	208	13	1,442	510	32	20,357	1,609	100
Dairy cows	584	10	3	1,004	45	14	756	60	19	1,193	197	63	3,537	312	100
Beef cows	11,610	158	61	1,996	60	23	689	21	8	795	21	8	15,090	260	100
Slaughter cattle >1 year	12,691	162	44	2,472	78	21	1,067	44	12	1,418	85	23	17,648	369	100
Sheep															
Total	7,288	1,052	53	1,401	536	27	425	191	10	415	210	11	9,529	1,990	100
Ewes	7,112	498	53	1,376	251	27	414	88	9	403	101	11	9,305	939	100
Pigs															
Total	142	15	3	62	30	5	50	59	10	96	466	82	350	570	100
Sows	125	2	4	53	2	4	45	5	10	94	37	82	317	46	100
Finishers/ Weaners	117	10	2	59	23	5	47	45	11	92	343	82	315	420	100
Poultry															
Total	252	2,654	12	241	6,001	28	139	4,442	21	150	8,149	38	782	21,246	100
Layers	60	237	7	70	788	25	34	543	17	32	1,607	51	196	3,174	100
Crops															
Oats	183	1	30	80	0	21	43	0	22	44	1	27	350	2	100
Wheat	216	2	20	125	2	20	69	1	13	214	4	47	624	8	100
Barley	1,059	8	34	445	5	24	180	3	12	318	7	30	2,002	23	100
Potatoes	267	0	13	107	1	18	42	0	10	78	2	59	494	4	100
Crops & grass	18,736	416	49	2,905	164	19	1,223	89	10	1,597	179	21	24,461	848	100
Rough grazing	4,224	69	52	795	36	27	277	12	9	264	15	12	5,560	131	100
Total area	19,078	494	50	2,951	202	20	1,249	102	10	1,629	199	20	24,907	998	100
Labour															
Full-time labour force ²	9,103	11	50	2,710	4	18	1,216	2	10	1,596	5	23	14,625	22	100
Output															
Standard Output ³	19,078	418	22	2,951	334	18	1,249	277	15	1,629	835	45	24,907	1,865	100

1. For a description of how business size is measured, see Appendix.

2. The full-time labour force includes full-time farmers, partners, spouses and other full-time workers.

3. Figures in Column B are in million euros; for a definition of Standard Gross Margins, see Appendix.

Table 4.15 Distribution of (a) dairy cows and (b) beef cows by herd size, June 2015¹

Number per farm	Dairy Cows				Beef cows			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows	Farms	Cows
<10	252	1,649	7.1	0.5	6,692	30,254	44.3	11.6
10 - 14	123	1,471	3.5	0.5	2,421	28,729	16.0	11.0
15 - 19	114	1,937	3.2	0.6	1,695	28,570	11.2	11.0
20 - 29	231	5,634	6.5	1.8	1,771	43,038	11.7	16.5
30 - 39	259	8,984	7.3	2.9	1,065	36,216	7.1	13.9
40 - 49	285	12,705	8.1	4.1	528	23,144	3.5	8.9
50 - 59	259	14,089	7.3	4.5	347	18,797	2.3	7.2
60 - 69	266	17,192	7.5	5.5	185	11,940	1.2	4.6
70 - 99	581	48,698	16.4	15.6	233	18,924	1.5	7.3
100 & Over	1,167	199,161	33.0	63.9	153	20,713	1.0	8.0
Total 2015	3,537	311,520	100.0	100.0	15,090	260,325	100.0	100.0
Total 2014	3,425	294,192			15,007	254,870		
Average 2015		88.1				17.3		
Average 2014		85.9				17.0		

1. Cattle figures for 2014 and 2015 were derived from APHIS - the DARD system for recording and tracing cattle movements.

Table 4.16 Distribution of (a) slaughter cattle one year-old and over and (b) total cattle by herd size, June 2015¹

Number per farm	Cattle one year old and over, intended for slaughter				Total cattle			
	Numbers of		Percentage of		Numbers of		Percentages of	
	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle	Farms	Cattle
1 - 4	5,271	11,768	29.9	3.2	723	2,004	3.6	0.1
5 - 9	3,293	22,373	18.7	6.1	1,355	9,592	6.7	0.6
10 - 19	3,633	50,034	20.6	13.6	3,173	45,563	15.6	2.8
20 - 29	1,847	44,467	10.5	12.1	2,577	62,730	12.7	3.9
30 - 39	1,105	37,785	6.3	10.2	1,999	68,326	9.8	4.2
40 - 49	690	30,449	3.9	8.3	1,541	68,188	7.6	4.2
50 - 69	774	44,850	4.4	12.2	2,250	132,436	11.1	8.2
70 - 99	530	43,729	3.0	11.9	2,033	169,063	10.0	10.5
100 - 199	389	50,852	2.2	13.8	2,775	388,292	13.6	24.1
200 - 299	81	18,895	0.5	5.1	1,053	255,143	5.2	15.9
300 & over	35	13,722	0.2	3.7	878	407,514	4.3	25.3
Total 2015	17,648	368,924	100.0	100.0	20,357	1,608,851	100.0	100.0
Total 2014	17,512	382,006			20,044	1,567,295		
Average 2015		20.9				79.0		
Average 2014		21.8				78.2		

1. Cattle figures for 2014 and 2015 were derived from APHIS - the DARD system for recording and tracing cattle movements.

Table 4.17 Distribution of (a) ewes and (b) total sheep by flock size, June 2015

Number per farm	Ewes				Total Sheep			
	Numbers of Farms	Ewes	Percentage of Farms	Ewes	Numbers of Farms	Sheep	Percentages of Farms	Sheep
1 - 24	1,838	24,733	19.8	2.6	979	12,966	10.3	0.7
25 - 49	1,996	71,597	21.5	7.6	1,202	43,997	12.6	2.2
50 - 99	2,406	169,968	25.9	18.1	1,843	135,195	19.3	6.8
100 - 199	1,868	254,519	20.1	27.1	2,319	333,058	24.3	16.7
200 - 299	653	155,852	7.0	16.6	1,236	301,431	13.0	15.1
300 - 399	277	93,474	3.0	10.0	633	216,427	6.6	10.9
400 - 499	109	47,699	1.2	5.1	403	179,824	4.2	9.0
500 - 699	83	47,333	0.9	5.0	481	283,357	5.0	14.2
700 - 999	54	44,497	0.6	4.7	255	208,831	2.7	10.5
1,000 & Over	21	28,972	0.2	3.1	178	274,588	1.9	13.8
Total 2015	9,305	938,644	100.0	100.0	9,529	1,989,674	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>8,844</i>	<i>910,595</i>			<i>9,047</i>	<i>1,922,870</i>		
Average 2015		100.9				208.8		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>103.0</i>				<i>212.5</i>		

Table 4.18 Distribution of breeding sows by herd size, June 2015¹

Number per farm	Sows (including gilts)			
	Numbers of Farms	Sows	Percentage of Farms	Sows
1 - 9	95	351	30.0	0.8
10 - 19	37	486	11.7	1.1
20 - 49	41	1,385	12.9	3.0
50 - 99	45	3,264	14.2	7.2
100 - 199	43	6,101	13.6	13.4
200 - 299	20	4,802	6.3	10.5
300 - over	36	29,222	11.4	64.1
Total 2015	317	45,611	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>42,826</i>		
Average 2015		143.9		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>121.3</i>		

1. From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Table 4.19 Distribution of (a) Finishers/Weaners and (b) total pigs by herd size, June 2015¹

Number per farm	Finisher/Weaners				Total pigs			
	Numbers of Farms	Pigs	Percentage of Farms	Pigs	Numbers of Farms	Pigs	Percentages of Farms	Pigs
1 - 9	25	134	7.9	0.0	24	153	6.9	0.0
10 - 19	37	513	11.7	0.1	32	434	9.1	0.1
20 - 49	39	1,259	12.4	0.3	44	1,382	12.6	0.2
50 - 99	22	1,592	7.0	0.4	34	2,416	9.7	0.4
100 - 199	19	2,723	6.0	0.6	27	3,954	7.7	0.7
200 - 399	31	8,674	9.8	2.1	30	8,840	8.6	1.6
400 - 999	44	29,588	14.0	7.0	42	27,721	12.0	4.9
1,000 - 1,999	54	73,722	17.1	17.5	57	84,578	16.3	14.8
2,000 & over	44	302,128	14.0	71.9	60	440,260	17.1	77.3
Total 2015	315	420,333	100.0	100.0	350	569,738	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>379,907</i>			<i>440</i>	<i>517,075</i>		
Average 2015		1,334.4				1,627.8		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>1,038.0</i>				<i>1,175.2</i>		

1. From 2013 onwards, pig figures sourced from the Northern Ireland Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Table 4.20 Distribution of (a) laying hens and (b) broilers by flock size, June 2015¹

Number per farm	Laying Hens				Broilers			
	Numbers of Farms	Hens ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Hens	Numbers of Farms	Broilers ('000)	Percentages of Farms	Broilers
1-999	30	4	15.3	0.1	3	1	0.9	0.0
1,000-4,999	14	33	7.1	1.1	9	29	2.8	0.2
5,000-9,999	57	413	29.1	13.0	15	119	4.6	0.8
10,000-19,999	58	838	29.6	26.4	75	1,240	23.0	8.7
20,000-29,999	16	376	8.2	11.9	54	1,366	16.6	9.6
30,000-49,999	13	462	6.6	14.6	72	2,698	22.1	18.9
50,000 & over	8	1,046	4.1	33.0	98	8,820	30.1	61.8
Total 2015	196	3,174	100.0	100.0	326	14,273	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>3,045</i>			<i>315</i>	<i>13,614</i>		
Average 2015		16,194				43,782		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>16,821</i>				<i>43,220</i>		

1. Figures for poultry numbers are taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 4.21 Distribution of total poultry by flock size, June 2015¹

Number per farm	Total poultry			
	Numbers of Farms	Birds ('000)	Percentage of Farms	Birds ('000)
1-999	58	15	7.4	0.1
1,000-4,999	58	162	7.4	0.8
5,000-9,999	124	893	15.9	4.2
10,000-19,999	226	3,465	28.9	16.3
20,000-29,999	104	2,576	13.3	12.1
30,000-49,999	98	3,601	12.5	16.9
50,000 & over	114	10,532	14.6	49.6
Total 2015	782	21,246	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>20,401</i>		
Average 2015		27,168		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>27,384</i>		

1. Figures for poultry numbers are taken from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.

Table 4.22 Distribution of (a) barley and (b) wheat by area of crop, June 2015

Number per farm (ha)	Barley				Wheat			
	Number of Farms	Area of Barley (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Barley	Number of Farms	Area of Wheat (ha)	Percentages of Farms	Wheat
under 1	29	20	1.4	0.1	6	4	1.0	0.0
1 - 4.9	788	2,290	39.4	10.1	190	593	30.4	7.4
5 - 9.9	510	3,599	25.5	15.8	178	1,249	28.5	15.7
10 - 19.9	385	5,281	19.2	23.3	141	1,979	22.6	24.8
20 - 29.9	143	3,474	7.1	15.3	57	1,375	9.1	17.2
30 - 39.9	46	1,600	2.3	7.0	22	739	3.5	9.3
40 - 49.9	42	1,842	2.1	8.1	16	675	2.6	8.5
50 & over	59	4,602	2.9	20.3	14	1,362	2.2	17.1
Total 2015	2,002	22,708	100.0	100.0	624	7,976	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>2,016</i>	<i>23,555</i>			<i>611</i>	<i>8,498</i>		
Average 2015		11.3				12.8		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>11.7</i>				<i>13.9</i>		

Table 4.23 Distribution of total cereals by area of crop, June 2015

Total cereals				
Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Area of Cereals (ha)	Percentages of Farms Cereals	
under 1	44	29	1.9	0.1
1 - 4.9	856	2,475	36.3	7.5
5 - 9.9	595	4,214	25.2	12.8
10 - 19.9	444	6,165	18.8	18.7
20 - 29.9	165	4,008	7.0	12.2
30 - 39.9	76	2,580	3.2	7.8
40 - 49.9	60	2,642	2.5	8.0
50 & over	121	10,812	5.1	32.8
Total 2015	2,361	32,924	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>2,402</i>	<i>34,246</i>		
Average 2015		13.9		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>14.3</i>		

Table 4.24 Distribution of potatoes by area of crop, June 2015

Potatoes				
Area per farm (ha)	Numbers of Farms	Area of Potatoes (ha)	Percentages of Farms Potatoes	
under 1	149	65	30.2	1.8
1 - 4.9	193	466	39.1	13.0
5 - 9.9	68	474	13.8	13.2
10 - 19.9	42	565	8.5	15.7
20 - 29.9	14	344	2.8	9.6
30 - 39.9	8	262	1.6	7.3
40 - 49.9	7	314	1.4	8.7
50 & over	13	1103	2.6	30.7
Total 2015	494	3,593	100.0	100.0
<i>Total 2014</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>4,188</i>		
Average 2015		7.3		
<i>Average 2014</i>		<i>7.5</i>		

5. INCOMES AT FARM LEVEL

Methodological Notes

This section contains information, collected in the Farm Business Survey (FBS), on average incomes for the main types and sizes of full time farm businesses in Northern Ireland. A detailed analysis of FBS results is published in 'Farm Incomes in Northern Ireland 2014/15'

Farms in the FBS are classified by type and size. A brief description of the typology system can be found in the Appendix to this publication.

The accounting concepts and practices used in compiling FBS income data differ from those on which the Aggregate Agricultural Account, presented in Section 2, are based. The income measures derived from the two sources are not therefore directly comparable. It should be noted that the latest year for which FBS results are available is 2014/15. However, provisional income estimates are also presented below for the 2015/16 year.

Income measures

Farm Business Income (FBI) was introduced in January 2008 as new headline measure of farm income in the UK following consultation in 2006-07. It is closely aligned to the main EU measure of farm incomes 'Family Farm Income' and therefore allows easier comparison between Northern Ireland and other Member States. FBI is the return to all unpaid labour (farmer, spouses and others with an entrepreneurial interest in the farm business) and to their capital invested in the farm business which includes land and buildings.

Net Farm Income (NFI) was the previous headline measure of farm income. NFI represents the return to the farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and tenant-type capital invested in the farm business. In order for NFI to represent the return to farmer and spouse alone, a notional deduction is made for any unpaid labour that is provided in addition to that of the farmer or spouse. Also, to confine NFI to tenant type activities and assets of the business an imputed rent is firstly deducted for owner occupied land and buildings and for landlord type improvements made by the tenant. Secondly, no account is taken of interest paid on any farming loans, overdrafts or mortgages or any interest earned on financial assets.

FBI differs from NFI in that it represents the return to all unpaid labour, not just the farmer and spouse and it treats the tenure of farms as it is: tenants as tenants, owner occupiers as owner occupiers and those with both types of tenure as mixed.

Cash Income (CI), measures the difference between total farm receipts and total farm cash costs. This measure excludes notional items such as depreciation charges and livestock/crop valuation changes. It also takes no account of net expenditure on capital

investment. CI provides a better indication than NFI and FBI of the short term income position. Trends in Cash Income since 2010/2011 are presented in Table 5.1.

**Income changes
2014/15**

Cash Income, Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income by type of farm for the years ending mid-February 2013/14 and 2014/15 are presented in Tables 5.3 to 5.5. These income figures are for a sample of 285 farm businesses which were in the FBS in both account years and are at least 0.5 Standard Labour Requirements in size. This sample of farms is representative of 93 per cent of the farms of this size in Northern Ireland. The only significant types of farm business excluded from the FBS are horticulture and poultry.

At the individual farm type level the results show that both Farm Business Income and Net Farm Income increased between 2013/14 and 2014/15 on Cereals and Cattle & Sheep (LFA) farms, whereas, they both decreased between 2013/14 and 2014/15 on General Cropping, Pig, Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (Lowland), and Mixed farms. In terms of Cash Income, the results show a decrease between 2013/14 and 2014/15 for each of the individual farm types.

Measured across all farm types, average Farm Business Income decreased from £30,047 in 2013/14 to £24,942 in 2014/15, a decrease of £5,105 per farm. Also measured across all farm types, average Net Farm Income decreased from £24,915 in 2013/14 to £19,899 in 2014/15 (a decrease of £5,016 per farm) and average Cash Income decreased from £48,141 in 2013/14 to £42,411 in 2014/15 (a decrease of £5,730 per farm).

**Provisional
estimates of
incomes for
2015/16**

Provisional estimates of incomes for full time farm businesses for the year ending mid February 2016 show average Farm Business Income measured across all farm types decreasing from £24,942 in 2014/15 to £13,451 in 2015/16 i.e. a decrease of £11,491 or 46 per cent per farm.

Farm Business Income is also expected to fall (by varying amounts) for all the individual farm types between 2014/15 and 2015/16. In each case, the downturn in their incomes can be attributed to lower product prices and lower subsidy receipts in the 2015/16 accounting year.

Average Cash Income measured across all farm types is estimated to decrease from £42,411 in 2014/15 to £30,921 in 2015/16, which is a decrease of £11,490 per farm. Whereas, average Net Farm Income measured across all farm types is estimated to be £8,408 in 2015/16 which is a £11,491 decrease on the previous year.

The provisional income estimates described above were prepared in mid-January 2016 and relate to an account year ending in mid February 2016. They are based on the most recent information on prices, animal populations and marketings, and crop areas

and yields. They should be regarded only as broad indications of the levels of income in 2015/16, as a small change between the expected and actual out-turn values of either output or input can lead to a large change in income.

Contact: Paul Keatley, Tel. (028) 9052 4063, E-mail. Paul.Keatley@dardni.gov.uk

Table 5.1 Indices of average cash income in real terms by farm type, 2010/2011 to 2015/16¹

Indices: 2007/08 - 2009/10 = 100

Business type	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 (provisional)
Cereals	143	106	152	135	113	111
General cropping	...	87	89	42	31	38
Pigs	178	130	115	150	158	104
Dairy	130	136	91	147	119	63
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	96	107	85	95	83	77
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	74	114	92	107	110	104
Mixed	131	154	138	142	125	106
All types	108	117	88	114	98	71

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.2 Distribution of farms by cash Income (CI), net farm income (NFI), farm business income (FBI) and by farm type, 2014/15

per cent

Income (£'s)	Dairy			Cattle and sheep (LFA)			All types		
	CI	NFI	FBI	CI	NFI	FBI	CI	NFI	FB
Less than 0	1	16	11	7	29	18	4	28	15
1 - 4,999	2	1	1	10	17	12	7	13	9
5,000 - 9,999	1	0	4	6	11	13	4	7	10
10,000 - 14,999	3	10	11	12	12	11	12	10	13
15,000 - 19,999	4	4	3	17	11	13	10	8	9
20,000 - 29,999	9	9	17	19	10	14	16	10	16
30,000 - 49,999	22	20	21	19	8	12	19	10	14
> 50,000	58	40	33	10	2	6	28	15	14
Total	..	100	..	..	100	..	..	100	..
Number of farms in sample		109			105			285	

Table 5.3 Cash income by business size and farm type, 2013/14 and 2014/15£'000 per farm¹

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
Cereals	31.0	23.2	84.9	86.7	...	...	...	...	58.2	53.3
General cropping	...	...	...	...	31.1	41.2	...	...	47.6	29.4
Pigs	...	...	47.4	32.3	...	...	...	...	87.5	67.9
Dairy	16.0	16.2	41.5	39.0	73.6	75.2	156.2	122.1	89.6	76.4
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	17.2	16.7	35.0	32.2	47.6	64.9	81.4	75.9	25.5	25.2
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	21.9	15.2	31.0	26.0	64.3	69.1	...	...	32.0	27.7
Mixed	36.0	24.9	65.8	49.6	95.0	75.5	147.7	131.5	77.4	62.7
All types	19.0	16.7	38.9	34.3	67.3	70.5	145.3	118.9	48.1	42.4

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.4 Farm business income by business size and farm type, 2013/14 and 2014/15£'000 per farm¹

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
Cereals	17.3	13.9	23.1	33.4	...	...	...	...	20.9	23.7
General cropping	...	...	...	...	1.3	26.8	...	...	28.4	11.4
Pigs	...	...	33.2	23.9	...	...	...	...	74.9	45.0
Dairy	11.2	11.0	27.4	24.4	52.6	49.3	104.3	69.2	60.6	45.7
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	8.6	9.2	18.0	19.4	22.3	35.3	64.8	57.8	13.5	14.7
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	9.2	9.2	14.5	11.8	24.1	36.4	...	...	16.4	15.7
Mixed	33.4	12.9	36.9	29.9	59.8	34.1	117.4	88.5	57.3	37.1
All types	10.0	9.6	21.5	19.6	42.3	42.9	102.2	70.8	30.0	24.9

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.5 Net farm income by business size and farm type, 2013/14 and 2014/15£'000 per farm¹

Business type	0.5 < 1 SLR		1 < 2 SLR		2 < 3 SLR		> 3 SLR		+ 0.5 SLR	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
Cereals	7.8	5.5	19.4	31.4	...	...	...	...	13.7	17.6
General cropping	...	...	...	...	-19.3	4.9	...	...	21.7	4.6
Pigs	...	...	35.2	28.4	...	...	...	...	86.1	59.7
Dairy	4.2	3.3	27.4	24.1	48.5	48.7	110.4	75.7	61.2	47.1
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	3.8	4.2	11.9	13.8	-0.1	12.4	41.1	32.8	6.8	8.1
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	1.5	0.0	4.2	0.5	28.5	33.9	...	...	8.4	6.1
Mixed	21.1	4.7	21.8	17.4	33.6	8.7	86.7	59.1	38.0	20.4
All types	4.1	3.4	16.2	14.4	33.7	35.5	102.6	71.7	24.9	19.9

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.6 Average tenant's capital by farm type, 2014/15
£'000 per farm¹

	Cereals	General cropping	Dairy	Cattle and sheep (LFA)	Cattle and sheep (lowland)	Mixed	All Types
Farm size (SLR)	1.3	1.3	3.0	1.1	1.2	1.9	1.7
Total farm area (ha)	95.9	57.2	82.7	106.7	67.4	79.2	89.8
Farm Business income	23.7	11.4	45.7	14.7	15.7	37.1	24.9
Total tenant's capital	112.2	82.1	209.4	103.4	138.5	178.5	142.5
of which:							
Short term (working) capital							
trading livestock	3.9	12.8	37.0	35.1	61.3	57.9	41.5
crops	9.5	11.7	17.6	6.5	8.8	18.6	10.5
other	1.2	0.8	2.3	0.6	1.0	1.8	1.2
Medium term capital							
breeding livestock	1.9	0.0	91.7	32.5	33.0	36.8	48.3
machinery	95.7	56.8	60.7	28.7	34.4	63.5	41.0

1. Where there are less than 3 farms in any particular cell, income figures are not published. However, where available, such income data are used to compile average 'all sizes' incomes.

Table 5.7 Average closing valuations by farm type, 2013/14 and 2014/15
£'000 per farm¹

	Dairy		Cattle and sheep (LFA)		All types	
	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
ASSETS						
Total fixed assets	1369.9	1382.8	1102.8	1102.7	1233.9	1239.6
of which:						
land and buildings	1223.2	1226.2	1042.6	1041.5	1146.6	1149.3
other fixed assets	146.7	156.6	60.2	61.2	87.3	90.2
Total current assets	77.0	84.9	41.5	51.6	58.6	67.9
of which:						
trading livestock, crops and stores	56.1	57.9	41.4	43.0	52.6	53.9
debtors/other short term lending	21.0	14.9	0.1	0.1	6.0	4.4
cash in hand at the bank	0.0	12.1	0.0	8.6	0.0	9.6
A Total assets	1,447.0	1,467.7	1,144.3	1,154.3	1,292.5	1,307.5
LIABILITIES						
Total long/medium term loans	65.6	71.0	5.2	6.2	23.6	26.5
of which:						
bank/other institutional	64.5	70.2	5.2	6.2	23.3	26.3
Total short term loans	31.2	34.7	9.8	9.1	16.2	17.1
of which:						
bank overdraft	22.8	23.1	8.7	7.3	12.6	12.4
B Total external liabilities	96.8	105.7	15.0	15.4	39.8	43.6
NET WORTH (A-B)	1,350.1	1362.0	1,129.3	1,139.0	1,252.7	1,263.8

1. Data are averages within each farm type.

6. STATISTICAL INDICATORS FOR AGRI-FOOD SECTOR PERFORMANCE, THE RURAL ECONOMY, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

A. AGRI-FOOD SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Agricultural productivity

Total factor productivity (TFP) is a volume based productivity measure, which takes account of all factors/resources used in production and is calculated on an annual basis for the agricultural sector. **Single Factorial Terms of Trade (SFTT)** is a useful measure of changes in farmers' economic welfare. It provides additional information on the state of the agri-food industry in Northern Ireland by adding perspective to TFP. Changes in this index over time provide an indication of whether or not the traditional decline in farm gate prices relative to farm input prices is offset by improvements in productivity. Consequently, it is a measure of return to factors engaged in agricultural production and, in effect, a measure of how farmers' economic welfare changes over any given period. An increase implies an improvement in farmers' welfare (in other words, although farm-gate prices may have fallen relative to input costs, this has been more than offset by improved productivity). On the other hand, a decrease means that improved productivity has not kept pace with adverse output/input price movements and, hence, the benefits of any productivity improvement are being captured by economic agents in the rest of the domestic economy and/or foreign economies. Alternatively, if productivity has deteriorated then a decrease/increase in SFTT suggests that the affect of this on farmers' welfare has not been reversed by improved/adverse changes in the relationship between output and input prices. In 2015, single factorial terms of trade decreased by 6.5 per cent. Although productivity rose in 2015 by 2.4 per cent, this increase was wiped out by a deterioration in the ratio between inputs costs and farm-gate prices (due to farm gate prices falling at a faster rate than input prices) to leave a deterioration in farmers' economic welfare. **Labour productivity** is another widely used measure of productivity, which is a partial measure because all inputs other than labour are ignored. Agricultural labour productivity increased by 7.4 per cent between 2014 and 2015.

Food Sector Performance

The performance indicator, sales per employee, in the food and drinks processing sector continued to grow in each year. Value added per employee experienced a similar growth trend up until 2012, the current estimates for 2013 show a marginal decline. Return on capital employed (ROCE) has been rising since 2007 apart from 2011 when there was a fall. Since then the trend has been upwards.

Table 6.1 Agricultural productivity indices*Indices: 2005 = 100*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (provisional)
Total factor productivity in NI ¹	101.3	103.4	101.5	102.0	108.6	111.2
Total factor productivity in UK ²	98.4	98.4	101.1	97.2	97.1	...
Single Factorial Terms of Trade ³	103.6	103.4	96.9	104.7	107.9	100.9
Labour productivity in NI ⁴	96.9	110.3	104.9	109.9	136.7	146.8

1. Calculated as the ratio of output at constant prices to all inputs (including labour and capital) at constant prices.
2. Source: *Agriculture in the United Kingdom*, DEFRA
3. Single factorial terms of trade measures changes in farmers' economic welfare. See section A in Chapter Six for a full explanation of this concept. For further details on calculation of this index consult, Fleming, E. 2007 'Use of the single factorial terms of trade to analyse agricultural production', *The Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 51, p. 113-119.
4. Calculated as the ratio of net value added at constant prices to total labour input (in Annual Work Units).

Table 6.2 Performance indicators for the food and drinks processing sector in Northern Ireland^{1,2}

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sales per employee (£)	166,801	174,865	187,544	201,357	208,202	211,207
Value added per employee (£)	29,258	31,394	31,869	32,204	33,621	33,609
Rate of return on capital employed (%)	7.5	9.9	10.5	10.1	10.6	11.1

1. For a description of how the data have been estimated, see the publication "Size and Performance of the Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Sector, Subsector Statistics", DARD.
2. These figures do not include an estimate of food and drinks processing businesses with turnovers of less than £250,000.

B. RURAL ECONOMY

Methodological notes

There are many definitions of the rural population. The definition used here is based on Local Government Districts (LGD). There are undoubtedly better definitions of the rural population available, but this definition is preferred in this case because most of the geographical data that is available annually in Northern Ireland is only available at the LGD level. The definition used defines urban as the LGDs of Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, North Down and Derry while the other LGDs are treated as rural.

Analysis by NISRA of the 2001 Census by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) has shown clear differences between the more accessible east and the less accessible west of Northern Ireland. Therefore, rural areas are split into more accessible and less accessible areas, defined as follows (based on LGDs). The accessible rural LGDs are Antrim, Ballymena, Banbridge, Craigavon, Down, Larne, Lisburn and Newtownards. The less accessible rural LGDs are Armagh, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Limavady, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry & Mourne and Omagh.

2015 data

In Northern Ireland, from 1 April 2015, 11 new councils took over from the previous 26 under a programme of local Government reform. The rural development data presented in this publication (and previous editions) is based on the 26 council system and it is not possible to produce updated figures on this basis for 2015. A new definition/classification of rural has been developed which is based on settlement size and it is proposed to publish rural statistics based on this new definition in future editions of this publication. However the new rural classification was not completed in time to allow the change to be introduced in this edition. As a result the rural statistics included in this edition have not been updated from last year's edition.

Rural Population

In 2014, using the LGD based definition of the rural population, 33 per cent of the total population are less accessible rural, 31 per cent are accessible rural and overall 64 percent are rural. A census of the population takes place every ten years and estimates for the years in-between are produced at the LGD level only. The trends in Figure 6.1 indicate that the urban population is expected to remain close to current levels over the projection period, while the accessible and less accessible rural populations are expected to increase

Earnings

Average gross weekly earnings increased in 2014 in urban and less accessible rural areas. Average gross weekly earnings of people in rural areas are consistently below those of people living in urban areas over the years from 2009 to 2014. Between 2013 and 2014 the gap decreased between those living in urban and less

accessible rural areas. The gap increased between those living in urban and accessible rural areas; and, decreased between those living in accessible rural areas and those living in less accessible rural areas.

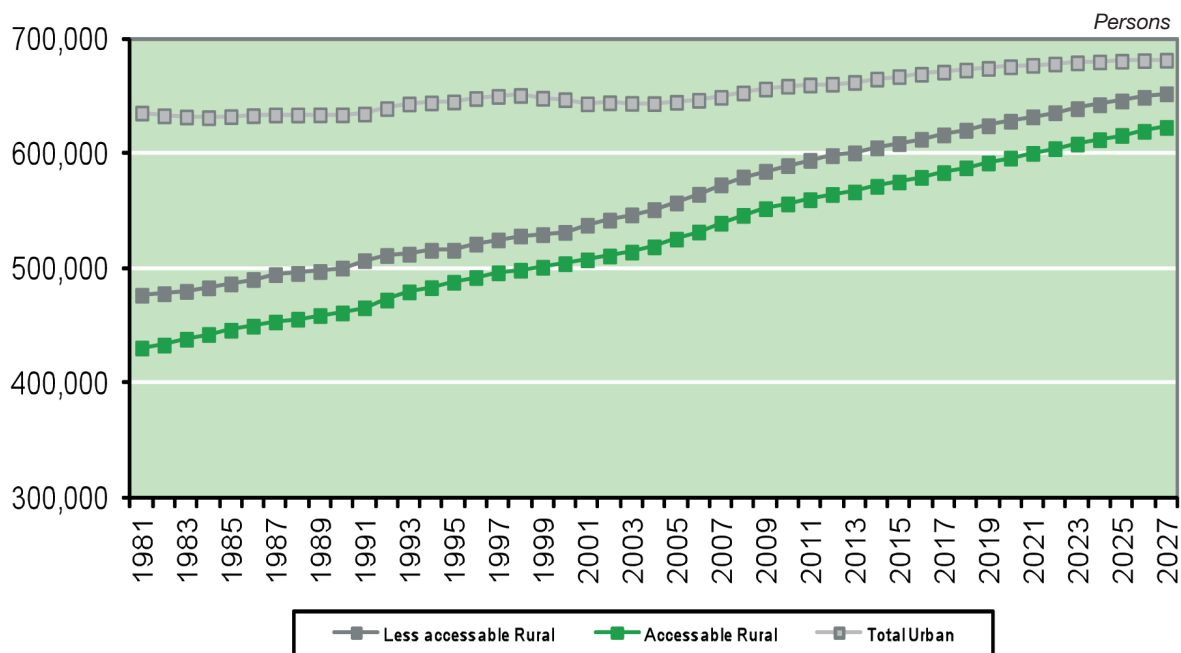
Rural Businesses In 2014 there were 66,650 businesses in Northern Ireland that were registered for VAT and /or PAYE schemes. Businesses are legally obliged to register for VAT once their turnover exceeds £79,000. Approximately 25 per cent of businesses are located, or have their head offices, in urban areas. The tendency for head offices to be located in Belfast may skew the figures a little. Agriculture is the dominant industry group in the Accessible Rural and Less Accessible Rural areas, accounting for 25 and 37 per cent, respectively, of total VAT registered businesses in these zones. Businesses involved in construction were second most prevalent in these rural areas, while those involved in retail were the third most prevalent.

Overall, the number of net VAT registrations fell in Northern Ireland in 2014. Net registrations fell in accessible rural areas and less accessible rural areas in 2014, while there was 1 per cent growth in urban areas.

**Rural
Employment**

Northern Ireland is a small business economy, with micro businesses (those with less than 10 employees) accounting for 89 per cent of the total number of firms. Given the importance of agriculture in rural areas (normally farmers are sole traders with few or no PAYE employees), it is a little surprising that the distribution of micro business is not more skewed. In fact while around 91 per cent of rural businesses have fewer than 10 employees, the number of micro businesses, as a share of total businesses in the urban zone, is also very high at 83 per cent.

Figure 6.1 Population Trends and Projections in NI¹



1. The changes in the rural and urban populations from 1981 to 2013 are actual while those for 2014 to 2027 are estimates.

Source: NISRA (NISRA website: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/>)

Table 6.3 Average Gross Weekly Earnings per Person¹

	<i>£ per week</i>					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Urban	499.55	520.68	529.10	521.05	549.48	550.03
Accessible Rural	480.26	472.43	492.71	505.44	505.66	496.34
Less Accessible Rural	439.53	451.97	431.33	452.08	461.30	465.55

1. LGD based definition of Rural Areas is used. Source: NISRA (NISRA website: <http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/>)

Table 6.4 VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises in Northern Ireland by industrial group, Urban - Rural classification, 2014^{1,2,3}

	Urban	Accessible Rural	Less Accessible Rural	Total
	%	%	%	Number
Agriculture (incl. Fishing)	4	28	67	16,945
Production	22	30	48	4,250
Construction	21	30	49	9,145
Motor Trades	22	32	46	2,335
Wholesale	28	33	39	3,190
Retail	31	29	40	5,980
Transport & Storage (inc. postal)	21	30	49	2,125
Accommodation & Food Services	36	29	35	3,610
Information & Communication	54	26	20	1,455
Finance & Insurance	48	24	27	990
Property	42	27	31	1,925
Professional, Scientific and Technical	50	26	24	4,940
Business Admin & Support Services	31	31	38	2,240
Public Admin & Defence	78	11	11	45
Education	42	25	33	565
Health	43	26	31	2,750
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Other Services	39	30	32	4,160
All Categories	25	29	46	66,650

1. Many smaller farm businesses voluntarily register for VAT, as farmers do not charge VAT on most sales and benefit by reclaiming VAT on input costs. In contrast many smaller businesses in other sectors of the economy will not voluntarily register.
2. It should be noted that firms operating from more than one site, are normally only recorded in the area where their head office is located. Coverage includes both companies and the self-employed.
3. Source: Derived from UK Business: Activity, Size and Location, 2013 (National Statistics website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk>)

Table 6.5 Northern Ireland Net VAT Registrations^{1,2}

Year	Urban		Accessible Rural		Less Accessible Rural		NI Annual Net Change	
	No.	% of total VAT registered	No.	% of total VAT registered	No.	% of total VAT registered	No.	% of total VAT registered
2005	-3,990	-31	-2,100	-13	-1,565	-6.1	-7,655	-14
2006	175	1.3	385	2.3	845	3.2	-1,405	2.5
2007	4,900	27	3,105	16	3,660	12	11,665	17
2008	300	1.6	870	4.2	2,055	6.4	3,225	4.5
2009	-345	-1.9	-230	-1.1	-360	-1.1	-935	-1.3
2010	-640	-3.7	-615	-3.1	-840	-2.7	-2,095	-3.1
2011	-275	-1.6	-175	-0.9	-130	-0.4	-580	-0.9
2012	-175	-1.0	-215	-1.1	-65	-0.2	-455	-0.7
2013	-180	-1.1	-335	-1.7	-280	-0.9	-795	-1.2
2014	175	1.0	-65	-0.3	-155	-0.5	-45	-0.1

1. Source: Derived from UK Business: Activity, Size and Location (various years) (National Statistics website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/>)

2. Registration rates provide an indicator of the level of entrepreneurship and of the health of the business population. It should be noted that VAT registrations are not synonymous with business start-ups, as some registrations are the result of changes in ownership. In most cases businesses de-register for VAT because of closure. Closure does not necessarily involve bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, which make up only around one in four closures throughout the UK.

Table 6.6 VAT registered enterprises by employee size-band, Urban - Rural Classification, 2014¹

Employee Size Band	Urban		Accessible Rural		Less Accessible Rural		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	11,345	22	14,785	29	24,970	49	51,100	100
5-9	2,705	33	2,450	30	3,100	38	8,255	100
10-49	2,295	38	1,710	28	2,055	34	6,060	100
50-99	295	44	160	24	220	33	675	100
100-249	160	46	70	20	120	34	350	100
250+	115	56	55	27	35	17	205	100
Total	16,915	25	19,230	29	30,500	46	66,645	100

1. Source: Derived from UK Business: Activity, Size and Location, 2014 (National Statistics website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/>)

C. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Disease

DARD has on-going programmes of disease management and eradication. Recent diseases of high importance are bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Since BSE was first reported in Northern Ireland during 1988, there have been a total of 2,189 cases. The number of BSE cases in Northern Ireland has declined significantly since the peak in 1993. There have been no cases of BSE since 2012.

During 2015, there were 1,688 new herd breakdowns in Northern Ireland due to bovine tuberculosis, while there were no new brucellosis breakdowns based on serology. The last confirmed brucellosis breakdown occurred in February 2012 and Northern Ireland achieved Official Brucellosis Freedom on 6 October 2015. Bovine tuberculosis was at a peak level in 2002 and since that time the herd incidence has reduced although a rising incidence was observed during 2015.

Animal welfare

DARD undertakes farm animal welfare surveillance activity and plays an important and active role in educating livestock keepers in standards of welfare. Farm premises, farming practices, animal transportation, markets and slaughter houses are all assessed against legal requirements, and enforcement used where necessary. The responsibility for many of these routine and targeted checks falls to the Veterinary Service (VS).

The Veterinary Service carried out 657 on-farm welfare inspections in 2015. Inspections take place as a result of complaints from members of the public; or are targeted as a result of information produced by vets working in meat plants; or are programmed as part of the statutory cross compliance surveillance system to assess whether on-farm welfare meets the standards laid down in legislation. Since 2007 many of the inspections are carried out as part of the Cross-Compliance inspection programme associated with the Single Farm Payment scheme. Some inspections, particularly in the complaint category, will represent repeated visits to the same farm where an on-farm welfare problem has been identified. Most inspections will involve more than one category of stock inspection.

Of the 657 welfare inspections carried out on farms by the VS during 2015, 91 per cent were complaint, targeted, or cross compliance inspections (where herds are identified as being “at risk”) with the remaining 9 per cent being random cross compliance checks.

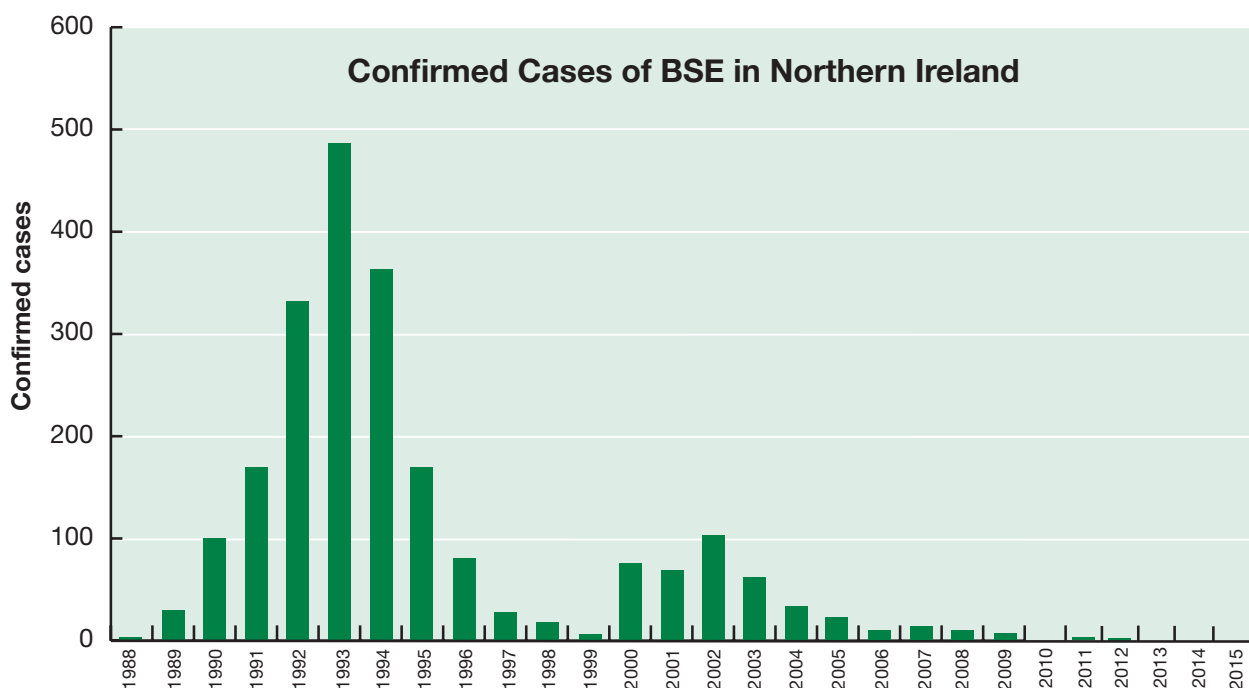
Of the 61 random cross compliance inspections in 2015, 100 per cent achieved an overall assessment of compliance with legislation (compared with 99 per cent in 2013 and 97 per cent in 2014).

Of the complaint and targeted visits and risk cross compliance inspections in total, 79.5 per cent achieved compliance with legislation (compared with 85 per cent in 2014 and 76 per cent in 2013). Just over 20 per cent of these 596 inspections indicated levels of non-compliance needing corrective action. This category of inspections carries a higher risk of non-compliance compared to those that are randomly selected from all Northern Ireland keepers as they are identified through known triggers. The vast majority of Northern Ireland herd keepers are compliant.

Taking all welfare inspections into account there were 9 per cent assessed as showing a serious welfare problem requiring immediate action with respect to application of administrative or criminal penalties. In 2015, a total of 9 farm animal keepers were disqualified by the courts as a result of serious welfare breaches.

All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms are treated as a matter of urgency. DARD also co-operate closely with other organisations such as PSNI and the USPCA.

Figure 6.2 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE): Confirmed cases in N.I including clinical and active surveillance cases¹



1. Source: TSE Branch DARD, contact James Moody 028 9052 4642.

Table 6.7 Confirmed cases of BSE¹

Type	Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Passive	On farm suspects	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surveillance	Abattoir suspects	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fallen animals	0	2	1	0	0	0
Active	OTM Casualty animals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surveillance	OTM Ante-Mortem Failure animals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Over 72 month Human Consumption animals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Over 72 month Human Consumption animals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cohorts of BSE Cases	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	2	1	0	0	0

1. Source: TSE Branch DARD, contact James Moody 028 9052 4642.

Table 6.8 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Statistics

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. cattle herds eligible for TB testing ¹	25,933	25,677	25,776	25,671	25,841	26,105
Total Number of Unrestricted Herd Tests	26,527	27,247	26,992	26,703	26,670	27,716
Total number of animals TB tested	1,583,268	1,607,171	1,643,626	1,620,055	1,607,660	1,662,526
Total new herd TB incidents ²	1,160	1,386	1,695	1,479	1,397	1,688
Number of TB reactors	6,404	8,136	10,897	8,271	8,838	10,996

1. Based on the number of cattle herds presenting cattle for a TB herd test during the previous four years.

2. Herds with at least one TB skin reactor animal but no TB skin reactor animals during the previous 12 months.

Table 6.9 Bovine Brucellosis (BR) Statistics

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 ³
No. cattle herds eligible for BR testing ¹	23,553	23,302	23,189	23,121	23,063	23,041
Total number of unrestricted Herd Tests	23,219	23,297	21,622	20,807	20,221	15,286
Total number of animals BR tested	925,361	945,609	938,693	926,298	902,672	732,716
Total new herd BR incidents ²	74	21	23	26	8	0
New BR herd incidents confirmed by isolation of <i>Br. abortus</i>	25	4	1	0	0	0
Number of BR reactors	184	247	64	32	10	0
Number of BR reactors confirmed by isolation of <i>Br. abortus</i>	49	70	8	0	0	0

1. Based on the number of cattle herds presenting cattle for a brucellosis herd test during the previous four years.

2. Herds with at least one brucellosis serological reactor animal but no reactor animals during the previous 12 months.

3. No confirmed BR breakdowns since February 2012 and Northern Ireland declared Officially Brucellosis Free on 6th October 2015.

Table 6.10 Outcomes (provisional) of on-farm animal welfare inspections completed on NI farms in 2015

Type of inspections	Compliance with animal welfare legislation	Number of Inspections	Category of Non-compliance	Number per category	Percentage of total %
Cross-compliance programme of random inspections	No	0	A	0	0.0
			B	0	0.0
			C	0	0.0
	Yes	61		61	100.0
	Total	61		61	100.0
Cross-compliance Risk Assessment based, other Targeted and Complaint related inspections	No	122	A	48	8.1
			B	12	2.0
			C	62	10.4
	Yes	474		474	79.5
	Total	596		596	100.0
All inspections	No	122	A	48	7.3
			B	12	1.8
			C	62	9.4
	Yes	535		535	81.4
	Total	657		657	100.0

Note 1 Reference EC decision 2006/778. Categories of non-compliance are defined as follows:

- Category A: non-compliance related to housing or animal treatment with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties, though corrective action is required within 3 months..
- Category B: non-compliance associated with staff training, record keeping or frequency of inspection of animals with no immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties, though notice should give an appropriate amount of time to make the necessary improvements i. e. more than 3 months.
- Category C: a serious welfare problem requiring immediate action with respect to application of administrative or criminal penalties.

D. AGRI-ENVIRONMENT

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The Emissions presence of these gases in the atmosphere affects the temperature of the earth. There are concerns that increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are contributing to climate changes with potentially harmful consequences for the environment and human health. Agriculture is a major contributor to emissions of methane and nitrous oxide. In 2013, agriculture was estimated to contribute 29 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland (compared to 25.6 per cent in 1990). Although the percentage contribution from agriculture to total emissions has grown, the absolute level of emissions from agriculture in Northern Ireland has fallen by 5 per cent between 1990 and 2013. Agricultural GHG emissions fell in Northern Ireland by less than one per cent in 2013 compared to 2012. This was mainly due to a decrease in the number of cattle, which was partially offset by emissions from grass with increase fertilizer application rates.

Agri-environmental schemes

Agri-environmental schemes are managed in Northern Ireland under the Rural Development Programme (RDP). In 2015, some 305,000 hectares or 29 per cent of farmland was registered in an agri-environmental scheme in Northern Ireland compared to 35 per cent in 2014. The percentage area of farmland under agreement decreased in 2015 because of the numbers of agreements now reaching the contract end point.

Organic farming

Organic farming involves holistic production management systems for crops and livestock, based on ecological principles that impose strict limitations on farm inputs, especially purchased inputs, in order to minimise damage to the environment and wildlife. Farming is only considered to be 'organic' at EU-level if it complies with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91. Northern Ireland has one of the lowest proportions of farmland under organic management amongst the EU-15. The area of land farmed organically in Northern Ireland has fallen from 14,840 hectares in 2010 to 8,980 hectares in 2014. There was a fall in the UK overall also.

Water quality

Farming continues to be a source of water pollution, both diffuse, such as from fertiliser and pesticides spread on the land, and point sources such as runoff from livestock buildings. The main areas of concern are nitrate pollution in surface and groundwater, phosphorus levels in surface water and contamination by pesticides.

There are a number of ways to assess water quality. An overall classification which uses a combination of biological, chemical and hydromorphological quality elements (including macroinvertebrates, pH and ammonia) can be derived from the specification of quality

elements in the Water Framework Directive. This classification permits the quality status of river water-bodies to be assigned as one of five classes from 'high through to 'bad'.

Note that figures provided in previous editions of this publication for the percentage of river water-bodies achieving Water Framework Directive (WFD) classifications overall were based on thresholds derived in the first river basin plan in 2009. The size thresholds taken from the Directive in the first river basin cycle were used to delineate 623 surface water bodies (rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal). During the first cycle there have been improvements made on the water body sets through better understanding of catchment characteristics and increased local knowledge. This has resulted in changes to the number of water bodies within the Northern Ireland. This is a refinement of the reporting and management units, but the total area covered by the Plan is not affected. The classification tools and standards that will be used for WFD classification from 2015 have changed during the first river basin cycle. It was always considered that, given the complexity of the classification tools and with the WFD emphasis on looking at various elements in connection with one another (e.g. for rivers, phosphorus, aquatic plants (macrophytes) and phytobenthos (diatoms) for nutrient enrichment) that there would be the need for further development. So revisions have been made to these tools and standards so that they now align much better. For the second cycle there will be 497 surface water bodies in Northern Ireland, including 450 rivers, 21 lakes, and 26 transitional and coastal waters. Unfortunately, figures based on the second cycle water body set and environmental standards are not available for the years prior to 2013.

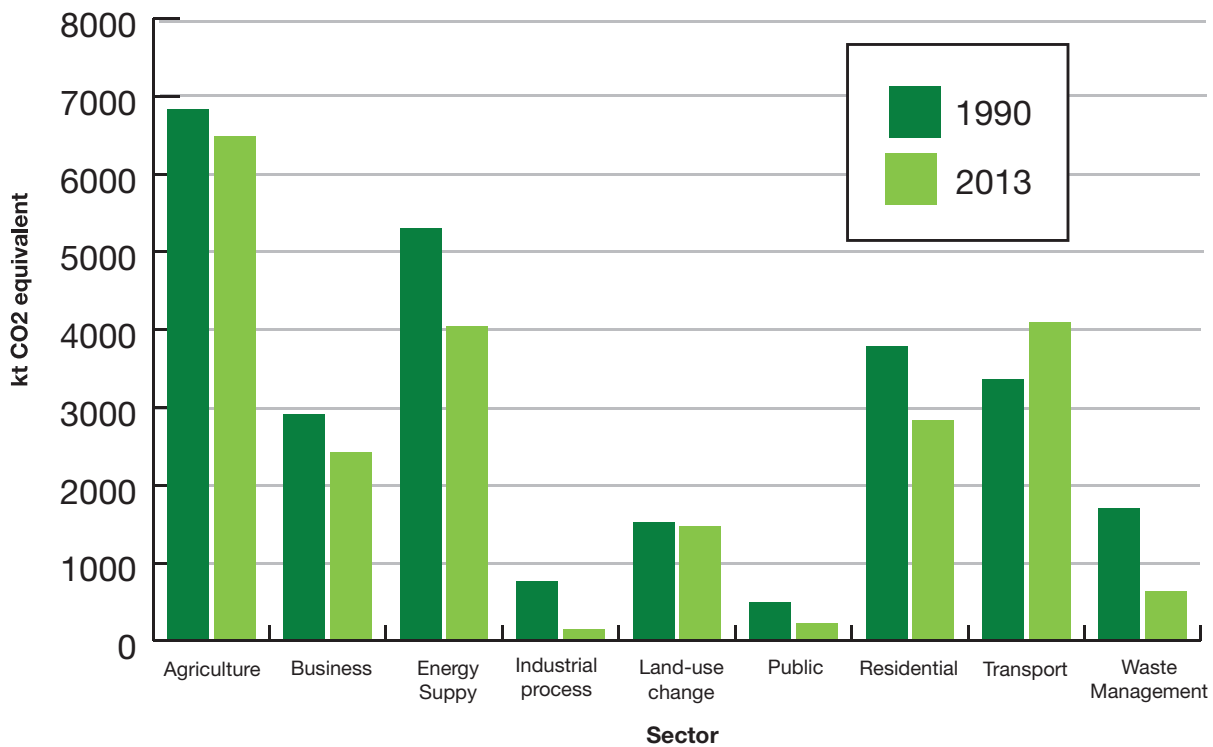
In 2015, approximately 12 per cent of river water bodies were classified as 'poor' or 'bad' quality, using the new water body sets and new standards. This compares with approximately 14 per cent classified as 'poor' or 'bad' in 2014.

Forestry

In Northern Ireland the state owned forest area has changed little since 1995. In 2012 the Northern Ireland Woodland Base-map incorporated new woodland data from the DARD Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) project. This has contributed a significant additional area of woodland that had not previously been captured by any of the original datasets. Remote sensing was used to identify significant areas of non-woodland and the removal of these also resulted in an improved estimate. Following the introduction of a new system the area of 'privately owned forest area' is estimated to be 50 thousand hectares in 2014/5. Privately-owned forest area data for the years prior to 2011/12 are now thought to be under-estimates.

The area of woodland in the UK has increased over the past century. Approximately 5 per cent of the UK was covered by woodland in 1924; in 2005 almost 12 per cent of the UK was wooded.

Figure 6.3 Total greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland by sector, 1990 & 2010



Source: Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2013. The report is compiled annually on behalf of the UK Government’s Department for Energy and Climate Change and the devolved administrations.

Table 6.11 Area of Farmland in Northern Ireland under Agri-Environmental Schemes

	<i>'000 hectares</i>					
Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Organic Farming Scheme	5	3	2	2	0	0
Countryside Management Scheme	351	333	350	295	280	246
New Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme	108	107	103	91	84	59

1. Source: Countryside Management Division, DARD.

Table 6.12 Organic and in-conversion agricultural land area¹

	<i>thousand hectares</i>						
Country	1998	2003	2008	2011	2012	2013	2014
Northern Ireland	...	8	13	12	10	9	9
Wales	...	58	125	123	120	102	96
Scotland	...	372	231	170	152	148	136
England	...	257	375	351	324	316	308
UK	79	695	744	656	606	576	549

1. Source: DEFRA

Table 6.13 Percentage of river water-bodies achieving Water Framework Directive classifications overall (second cycle water body set and environmental standards)^{1,2,3}

Percentage of river water-bodies

Classification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 ⁴	2015
High	-	-	-	-	2.2	1.8
Good	-	-	-	-	29.8	30.9
Moderate	-	-	-	-	52.4	54.4
Poor	-	-	-	-	12.9	10.0
Bad	-	-	-	-	1.8	1.8
No data	-	-	-	-	0.9	1.1

1. Source: Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive statistics report October 2015
2. The river waterbody classification has been produced using the results from the EU Water Framework Directive quality elements. Overall classification utilises a combination of biological, chemical and hydromorphological quality elements including macroinvertebrates, pH (measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution) and ammonia to assign status of river quality in one of five classes from 'high' through to 'bad'. The figures presented for each year relate to data gathered in the previous year.
3. The figures presented are based on the second cycle water body set and environmental standard, in which there are 450 rivers. Unfortunately, figures based on the second cycle are not available for the years prior to 2014.
4. The 2014 figures were based on information that was partially incomplete and therefore may be less robust than subsequent estimates.

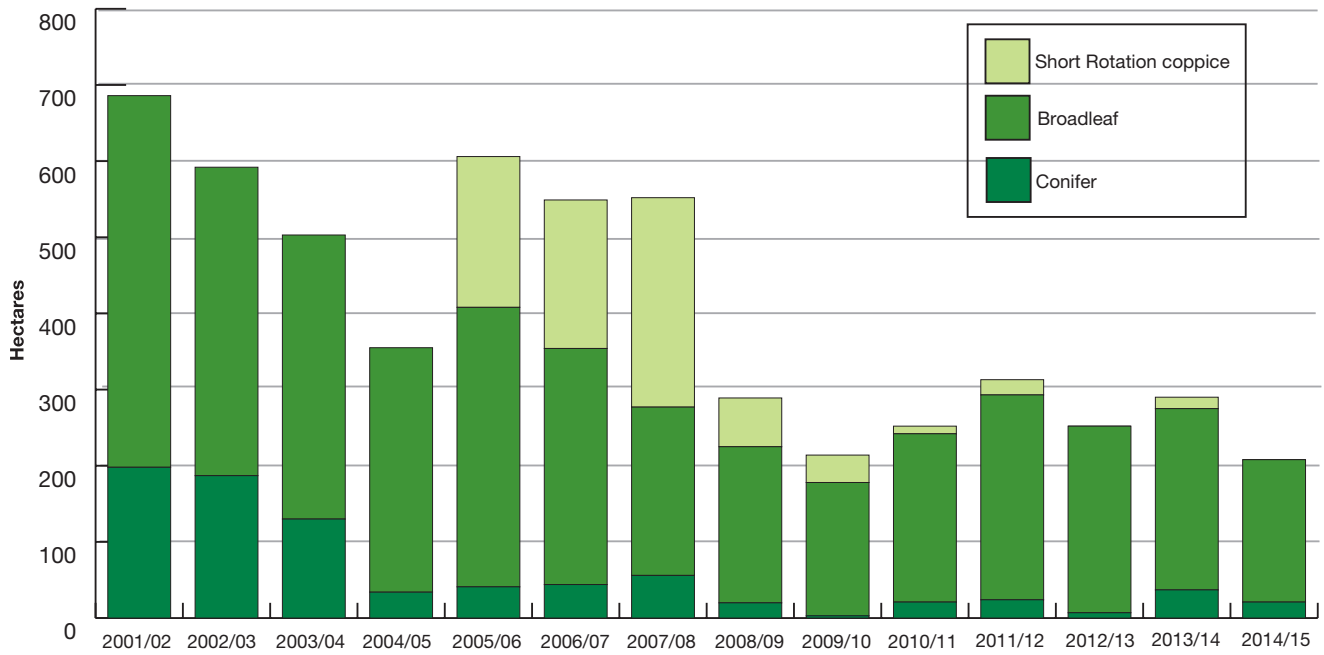
Table 6.14 Forestry area, production, forest park visitor numbers and employment in Northern Ireland

	1995/96	2000/01	2005/06	2010/11	2013/14	2014/15
Forested area (000ha)						
State	61	61	61	61	62	62
Private	19	22	25	27	50 ¹	50 ¹
All forested areas	80	83	86	88	112¹	112¹
Timber production from state forests						
Volume (000 cubic metres)	223	359	387	496	425	401
Visitors to Forest Parks						
Day Visitors (000's)	...	...	370	393	310	339
Employees (number) Forest Service	460	360	288	222	203	232

Source: Forest Service, DARD

1. The Forest Service introduced a new Woodland Register in 2011/12 and this has identified more privately owned woodland than the previous measurement approach. Note that the data from 2011/12 onwards for 'Private' forested area is not comparable to data for previous years.

Figure 6.4 Area of new forest and woodland plantings by private landowners supported by grant aid



Source: Forest Service, DARD

APPENDIX

STATISTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

AGGREGATE AGRICULTURAL ACCOUNT (AAA)

The AAA, from which agriculture's output, input, value added and income are obtained, is conducted according to the rules and conventions of the United Nations *System of National Accounts 1993*, the subsequent *European System of Accounts 1995* and Regulation (EC) No. 138/2004 (which incorporates the revised *European Union's Manual on the Economic Accounts for Agriculture 1997*, introduced throughout the UK in 1998).

The main features of the AAA are as follows:

- (i) The AAA is conducted on a 'sector' basis. This means that agricultural activity includes 'inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities', such as pony trekking, which are carried out on-farm and for which the inputs cannot be separated from farming inputs.
- (ii) The AAA is calculated on an accruals basis, i.e. 'as due' rather than 'as paid'. This means that subsidies such as the Single Farm Payment are counted in the year in which they are due rather than in the year when they are paid. The detailed allocation of subsidies is documented in footnotes to Table 2.1.
- (iii) Rent paid on 'conacre' (short-term lettings) to non-farming persons is included as an expense.
- (iv) Capital formation in, and depreciation of, breeding livestock is included.
- (v) Direct inter-farm sales and on-farm use of finished products such as cereals are included as both outputs and inputs thereby, in most cases, leaving gross and net product and total income from farming unchanged.

Income indicators

The main indicator of the return to all of the factors of production, i.e. land, labour, capital and 'enterprise', is **net value added** (strictly, net value added at factor cost). This is defined as gross output less expenditure on material and service inputs purchased from outside the sector, less consumption of fixed capital (or depreciation) plus subsidies not paid on products. Hence:

Gross output - gross input
(also known as 'intermediate consumption')
= gross value added

Gross value added - consumption of fixed capital + subsidies not paid on products (such as the Single Farm Payment)
= net value added (at factor cost)

The income of all farm families in NI is given by **total income from farming (TIFF)**. This includes returns to farmers, their spouses and family workers for their labour and ‘enterprise’ and on their own capital invested; it therefore represents the income of all those with an entrepreneurial involvement in farming. It is the preferred income measure, conforming to national and international accounting practice and forming the basis of a Eurostat (the EU Statistical Office) indicator used for income comparisons across the EU. The derivation of TIFF is:

Net value added (at factor cost)

less paid labour
(also known as ‘compensation of employees’)
interest
net rent

= Total income from farming (TIFF)

Cash flow

A **cash flow** series is shown in Table 2.4. Cash flow omits the effects of stock changes, but takes into account receipts of capital grants, expenditure on capital investment and changes in borrowings. It is a useful indicator of cash available to farm families from farming, but should not be considered as an alternative measure of income.

Sensitivity of estimates

Since agricultural income measures are ‘residuals’ between two large aggregates, they are sensitive to quite small changes in either aggregate. For example, total income from farming in 2015 would change by almost +17 per cent if there were one per cent changes (in opposite directions) in gross output and gross input. The degree of sensitivity rises as the level of income falls.

Provisional estimates

‘Provisional’ figures for 2015 presented in this *Review* are estimates based on data available during the period from December 2015 to January 2016, in most cases covering only the first 9-11 months of the year (2015). Forecasts are used to cover the months where no data is available. Provisional figures are therefore subject to revision when complete information becomes available. Revised figures will be published in next year’s *Review*.

Revisions to Income series

The 2014 figures have been revised as more complete information has become available. Net value added in 2014 is now estimated at £450.1 million (previously £419.4 million) while total income from farming for 2014 is now estimated at £311.8 million (previously £282.9 million). A 30-year plus consistent series of the AAA is available on the DARD website at www.dardni.gov.uk.

Census

Statistics on employment on farms (Tables 2.14 and 2.15), crop areas and livestock numbers (Section 3) and farm structure, (Section 4) are derived from the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census. This is an annual statistical survey which is based on a large sample survey, though in 2000 and 2010 a full census of every farm was conducted. In 2014 forms were issued to all the larger businesses but to only half those classified as 'Very Small'.

For those who did not return a form, estimates were included, based on the latest available returns and on information available in the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). For new farms from which a 2014 return was not obtained, estimates were based on the IACS and other administrative systems. Owners of horticultural, mushroom or very large enterprises who failed to make a return in 2014 were contacted by telephone in order that up to date information could be obtained. From 2013 onwards, data for pigs is sourced from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.

Census coverage

The statistical definition of a farm, which was changed in 1997, is based on separate business status as applied under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), having previously been based on land ownership. The census now covers **all active farm businesses having one hectare or more of farmed land, whether owned, leased or taken in conacre, and those with under one hectare having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity.**

Over the past 50 years, the following criteria have been used to determine the coverage of the agricultural census in Northern Ireland:

Years	Census methods and coverage
Until 1954	Census information was collected by police enumerators who identified and visited all farms, including any under one acre (0.4 hectares), and recorded in special books information given to them orally by the farmer.
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 which were surveyed on a sample basis using simplified questions. Estimates were made for 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 all holdings which had **at least 10 acres (4 hectares)** of land with the addition of any below that size which had any full-time agricultural workers or whose stock and cropping amounted to an annual estimated labour requirement of more than 40 man-days. This definition of a 'main' holding removed some 7,700 holdings from the old register but, at the same time, brought back a number of 'minor' holdings of less than one acre. The net reduction in the number of 'main' holdings arising from these adjustments was some 5,500.
- 1981-1996 A further change was made between 1980 and 1981 when, with the introduction of a new system of farm classification, and with changes to the minimum threshold in other parts of the UK, the threshold for inclusion in the 'main' census in Northern Ireland was raised. 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 The basis of the agricultural census was changed in 1997 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 IACS and of work undertaken to streamline administrative functions. This resulted in a common means of identification across all schemes, with each farmer who was/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 1997 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 the Department to be engaged in the production of pigs, poultry, potatoes or horticultural crops. The distinction between 'main' and 'minor' holdings was discontinued.

- 1998-1999 A further 166 pig farms with no owned land were added to the population in 1998 and sampling was introduced. Census forms were issued only to half of the **'very small'** farms.
- 2000 A full census was conducted. Mushroom production was targeted and around 100 mushroom businesses which had not previously been surveyed were identified and added to the list of businesses covered.
- 2001-2006 A sample survey was carried out on the same basis as that conducted in 1999.
- 2007-2009 A sample survey was carried out. The number of cattle questions on the survey form were reduced as data was sourced primarily 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 Northern Ireland Bird Register Update.
- 2010 A full census of all farm businesses in Northern Ireland was carried out.
- 2011 -2012 Sample survey completed similar to years 2007-2009.
- 2013 on Sample survey completed similar to 2011-2012. Pig questions removed from paper form. Data on pigs sourced from NI Annual Inventory of Pigs.

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. A standard labour unit is equivalent to 1,900 hours of work per year.

Prior to 2004, the farm business size had been determined by calculating each farm's Standard Gross Margin (SGM). However, it was felt that using SLR's 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. The current series (introduced in 2004) is based on the average labour requirements during the period 1999-2001. For a list of these values, see table on page 80.

STANDARD LABOUR REQUIREMENTS

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

Enterprise	Item	Unit	Standard Labour Requirement (hours)
Crops	Cereals	ha	30
	Oilseeds	ha	22.5
	Potatoes	ha	135
	Outdoor vegetables	ha	150
	Set-aside	ha	1.5
Fruit and Ornamentals	Fruit	ha	450
	Ornamentals	ha	1,500
Indoor Crops	Glasshouse vegetables	ha	5,000
	Other glasshouse	ha	25,000
	Mushrooms	house	1,050
Forage	Forage crops	ha	9
	Grass	ha	6
	Rough grazing	ha	2.25
Cattle	Dairy Cows	head	39
	Beef cows	head	12
	Other cattle	head	9
Sheep	Ewes and rams: Lowland	head	5.2
	Ewes and rams: LFA	head	4.2
	Other sheep: Lowland	head	3.3
	Other sheep: LFA	head	2.6
Pigs	Sows and gilts	head	16
	Piglets	head	1.0
	Other pigs	head	1.3
Poultry	Laying hens	head	0.17
	Pullets	head	0.12
	Broilers	head	0.04
	Turkeys, Ducks etc.	head	0.045
Other Livestock	Horses	head	150
	Goats	head	20
	Deer	head	15

In UK agricultural statistics, business size is described in terms of five SLR size bands. These are:

Size	Standard Labour Requirement
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 few farms in the **very large** size range in Northern Ireland, these are included in the **large** category.

Farm business type¹

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.

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.

¹The EU typology has been updated from 2007 Standard Output coefficients to 2010 coefficients. The impact of the change on the numbers of farms of each type can be seen at Annex 1 of the Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland publication.

These are:

Type	Definition
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.
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 their 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 their 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.

Less Favoured Areas

The term **Less Favoured Areas (LFA)** is used to describe those parts of the country which, because of the relatively poor agricultural conditions which prevail there, have been so designated under EU legislation. This recognition allows those who farm in such areas to apply for special support, such as LFA Compensatory Allowance (LFACA) and for additional benefits under various capital grant and forestry schemes.

The LFA consists of a **Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA)**, which is the original LFA as designated in 1975 (487,000 hectares), and the **Disadvantaged Area (DA)** which was designated following reviews in 1984 (335,000 hectares) and 1990 (3,700 hectares). (The areas designated include some non-agricultural land).

FARM BUSINESS SURVEY (FBS)

The Farm Business Survey (FBS) is a continuous annual survey that monitors the physical and financial performance of farm businesses in Northern Ireland. The survey is carried out by Policy and Economics Division of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Similar surveys are carried out in England by DEFRA, in Scotland by Scottish Government, and in Wales by WAG. These surveys along with the Northern Ireland FBS constitute the UK's contribution to the Farm Accounts Data Network (FADN) of the European Union which was established under EC regulation 79/65.

In the most recent accounting year, 2014/15, the FBS obtained farm accounts information from 360 businesses. This accounting information enables outputs, inputs and incomes to be analysed by farming type and business size. Trends in farm incomes from the FBS are produced by comparing results from identical samples of farms participating in the survey in successive years. Indices showing trends in cash incomes are derived by linking the results of identical samples from successive pairs of years (Table 5.1).

Differences between FBS and AAA

The coverage and methodology of the FBS differ in several important respects from the Aggregate Agricultural Account (AAA) presented in Section 2. The FBS does not cover **Very Small** farms or **horticultural** businesses, whereas, the AAA covers the whole agricultural sector. The FBS account years end between October and May, with an average account ending date of mid-February, while the AAA relates to calendar years. Farm Business Income includes changes in both the volume and price of crops and livestock, whereas the AAA includes volume changes only. For these reasons no direct comparison between the FBS and AAA income series can be made.

**GENERAL NOTES
TO TABLES**

Symbols:

- means nil, or an insignificant quantity.
- ... means not available, or not collected.

Rounding:

Most figures have been rounded individually and the totals shown may therefore differ slightly from the sum of the constituent items.

Metric units:

Metric units are used throughout this publication. Conversion factors from metric to imperial units, correct to 4 significant figures, are given below:

1 hectare (ha) = 2.471 acres

1 kilogram (kg) = 2.205 pounds

1 tonne (t) = 0.9842 tons

1 litre (l) = 0.2200 gallons

Abbreviations:

dcw - dressed carcase weight

dwt - deadweight

lwt - liveweight

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



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

www.dardni.gov.uk

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