

**STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE**  
**AGRICULTURAL CENSUS, JUNE 2006**  
**FINAL RESULTS**

**Embargoed until 9.30 on Tuesday 14th November**

The final results of the June 2006 agricultural census were released today by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, providing estimates of crop areas, numbers of livestock and of farmers and workers on active farm businesses on the census date of 1st June 2006.

The main changes between June 2005 and June 2006 are:

- **Farm businesses:** The number of active farm businesses included in the June 2006 census, 26,739, was 325 fewer than in 2005. This is a net change, with some new businesses being created and others merging or ceasing to be active. The downward trend in the number of farms is 2.0 per cent per year over both the past 5 years and the past 10 years.
- **Crops:** There was a 7 per cent decrease in the total area of **Cereals** between 2005 and 2006. The area of winter barley increased by 15 per cent while the area of spring barley fell by 16 per cent. The area of oats decreased by 4 per cent, with wheat increasing by 4 per cent. The area of **Potatoes** was up by 5 per cent and there were significant increases for other field crops, including arable silage and forage maize.
- **Cattle:** The total number of cattle on farms in June 2006 was 2 per cent lower than in 2005. The number of beef cows fell by 5 per cent but beef heifers in-calf rose by 3 per cent. Total dairy cow numbers increased by 2 per cent. Cattle for rearing and fattening were down by 2 per cent.
- **Sheep:** The number of ewes fell by 4 per cent when compared with June 2005 and there were 3 per cent fewer lambs.
- **Pigs:** Overall, in June 2006 there were 5 per cent fewer pigs on farms compared with June 2005. However, the breeding herd was up by 2 per cent.
- **Poultry:** Total poultry numbers increased by 5 per cent since June 2005. This was due, in the main, to a 7 per cent increase in the number of broilers. The breeding flock and the number of laying hens decreased by 2 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.
- **Farmers and workers:** In 2006 there were 2 per cent fewer farmers and business partners, reflecting the change in the number of farms. The total labour force was down by 2 per cent.

Further information from the Agricultural & Horticultural Census is available on the Statistics section of the DARD website where spreadsheets show crop areas, numbers of livestock, farmers and workers and farms for the past 20 years. A new spreadsheet has been added showing the historic trend in the numbers of farms with each of the main enterprises, such as dairy cows or pigs, and the average enterprise size.

Full details of the coverage of the census and of terms used were given in the booklet "*The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland: Results for June 2005*" (DARD, 2005) which is available in full on [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk). The 2006 version of this annual publication will be available in hard copy and on that site in January 2007.

**Northern Ireland Agricultural Census**  
**Final Results For June 2006**

*Table 1 Crops, grass and other land*

	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	% Change 2006/2005
	<b>'000 ha</b>			<b>%</b>
<b>Crops and grass</b>				
<b>Cereal crops</b>				
Oats	2.5	1.9	1.9	-4
Wheat	8.6	8.4	8.7	4
Barley (winter)	4.5	4.0	4.6	15
Barley (spring)	22.5	21.7	18.2	-16
<b>Total cereals<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>Other field crops</b>				
Potatoes	5.7	4.5	4.7	5
Arable silage	2.8	3.2	3.3	4
Forage Maize	2.2	2.4	2.7	11
Other crops	1.8	2.1	2.5	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Horticultural crops</b>				
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.5	-1
Vegetables for sale	1.4	1.4	1.4	1
Bulbs , flowers & nursery stocks	0.2	0.1	0.1	-9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Grass for mowing and grazing</b>				
Under 5 yrs old	141.8	135.6	126.5	-7
5 yrs old and over	696.7	675.8	677.2	0
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>838.5</b>	<b>811.4</b>	<b>803.7</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Total crops and grass</b>	<b>892.3</b>	<b>862.9</b>	<b>853.5</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Rough grazing (b)</b>				
Rough land for grazing	151.2	148.6	151.3	2
<b>Other land</b>				
Set aside	3.4	2.4	2.3	-3
Woods and plantations	8.2	8.6	9.6	12
Other land	7.6	7.1	11.8	67
<b>Total area<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>1,062.8</b>	<b>1,029.5</b>	<b>1,028.5</b>	<b>0</b>

(a) Including mixed corn

(b) Excludes common rough grazing

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*Table 2 Cattle*

	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	% Change 2006/2005
	<b>'000 head</b>			<b>%</b>
<b><i>Cows mainly for producing milk for sale</i></b>				
Cows and heifers in milk	265.9	268.3	271.5	1
Cows in calf but not in milk	22.4	22.3	24.5	10
<b>Total dairy cows</b>	<b>288.3</b>	<b>290.5</b>	<b>296.0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>Cows mainly for producing and rearing calves for beef</i></b>				
Cows and heifers in milk	240.5	239.6	225.8	-6
Cows in calf but not in milk	55.7	57.3	57.2	0
<b>Total beef cows</b>	<b>296.2</b>	<b>296.9</b>	<b>283.0</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Total cows</b>	<b>584.5</b>	<b>587.4</b>	<b>579.0</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b><i>Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing milk for sale</i></b>				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	28.1	29.8	30.4	2
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	34.4	34.2	33.1	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b><i>Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing calves for beef</i></b>				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	21.0	19.2	19.3	0
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	13.3	10.9	11.7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Bulls for service</i></b>				
2 years old and over	12.9	13.2	14.1	7
1 year old and under 2 years	4.0	4.0	4.2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b><i>All other cattle and calves</i></b>				
<b><i>2 years old and over</i></b>				
Male	66.8	71.3	73.1	3
Females for slaughter	33.2	34.0	38.5	13
Females for breeding but not in calf	15.5	15.6	15.4	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>115.4</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>127.1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><i>1 year old and under 2 years</i></b>				
Male	208.6	202.6	188.8	-7
Females for slaughter	119.2	121.1	126.8	5
Females for breeding but not in calf	69.6	65.3	59.3	-9
<b>Total</b>	<b>397.3</b>	<b>389.0</b>	<b>374.8</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b><i>6 months old and under 1 year</i></b>				
Male	95.4	90.4	88.2	-2
Female	93.2	93.7	94.6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>184.0</b>	<b>182.8</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b><i>Under 6 months old</i></b>				
Male	136.6	133.9	125.8	-6
Female	141.5	139.2	133.5	-4
<b>Total</b>	<b>278.1</b>	<b>273.0</b>	<b>259.3</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>1,677.6</b>	<b>1,665.6</b>	<b>1,635.7</b>	<b>-2</b>

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*Table 3 Sheep, pigs and poultry*

		June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	% Change 2006/2005
		<b>'000 head</b>			<b>%</b>
<b>Sheep</b>					
<i><b>Female sheep for breeding</b></i>					
	Ewes put to the ram in the previous year	943.1	900.8	864.6	-4
	Other ewes for breeding	157.4	126.5	126.5	0
	<b>Total breeding ewes(a)</b>	<b>1,100.5</b>	<b>1,027.3</b>	<b>991.1</b>	<b>-4</b>
	Rams for service	29.2	28.6	27.5	-4
	Other sheep over 1 year(a)	10.1	10.6	11.1	4
	<b>Total sheep over 1 year</b>	<b>1,139.8</b>	<b>1,066.5</b>	<b>1,029.6</b>	<b>-3</b>
	Under 1 year old	1,085.6	1,078.6	1,040.9	-3
<b>Total sheep &amp; lambs</b>		<b>2,225.4</b>	<b>2,145.1</b>	<b>2,070.5</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Pigs</b>					
<i><b>Breeding herd</b></i>					
	Sows in pig	25.4	25.7	25.9	1
	Gilts in pig	4.6	4.5	4.8	7
	Others sows (being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding)	7.8	6.6	6.7	2
	<b>Total female breeding herd</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>2</b>
	Gilts 50kg (110lb) liveweight and over, not yet in pig	3.2	2.8	3.4	19
	Boars being used for service	1.1	1.0	0.9	-9
<i><b>All other pigs (including culled sows and boars) of liveweight</b></i>					
	80kg & over	56.7	59.0	55.8	-6
	50kg (110lb) and under 80kg (175lb)	108.4	87.1	79.9	-8
	20kg (45lb) and under 50kg (110lb)	111.4	91.8	83.6	-9
	Under 20kg (45lb)	105.4	126.6	125.6	-1
<b>Total pigs</b>		<b>424.1</b>	<b>405.1</b>	<b>386.6</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Poultry</b>					
<i><b>Commercial laying flock</b></i>					
	Total laying birds	2,266.1	2,319.2	2,187.7	-6
	Growing pullets from day old to point of lay	509.8	669.5	743.1	11
	Breeding flock (mainly for producing hatching eggs)	2,284.8	1,634.5	1,594.8	-2
<i><b>Table birds</b></i>					
	Broilers and other table birds	15,006.9	12,525.7	13,367.1	7
	<b>Total ordinary fowl</b>	<b>20,067.6</b>	<b>17,148.8</b>	<b>17,892.7</b>	<b>4</b>
	Turkeys and other poultry	441.7	465.4	518.3	11
<b>Total poultry</b>		<b>20,509.2</b>	<b>17,614.3</b>	<b>18,411.0</b>	<b>5</b>

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*Table 4 Farm Labour*

	June 2004	June 2005	June 2006	% Change 2006/2005
	<i>'000 persons</i>			%
<b>Farmers and workers</b>				
<i>Farmers and partners</i>				
Full-time	18.3	18.2	18.0	-1
Part-time	14.9	14.4	14.0	-2
<b>Total farmers</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>-2</b>
<i>Spouses</i>				
Full-time	2.1	2.0	2.1	1
Part-time	4.3	4.1	4.2	2
<b>Total spouses</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Other workers</i>				
<i>Full-time</i>				
Paid	2.3	2.1	2.1	2
Other	0.5	0.5	0.4	-12
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-1</b>
<i>Part-time</i>				
Paid	1.5	1.4	1.3	-7
Other	1.3	1.1	1.0	-7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-7</b>
<i>Casual</i>				
Paid	4.8	4.3	4.2	-2
Other	3.3	3.0	2.6	-14
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Total farmers, spouses and other workers</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>-2</b>

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