

**STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE**  
**AGRICULTURAL CENSUS, JUNE 2007**  
**FINAL RESULTS**

**Embargoed until 9.30 on Tuesday 20th November**

The final results of the June 2007 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 2007.

The main changes between June 2006 and June 2007 are:

- **Farm businesses:** The number of active farm businesses included in the June 2007 census, 26,146, was 593 fewer than in 2006. 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 averages 2.0 per cent per year over both the past 5 years and the past 10 years.
- **Crops:** There was a 2 per cent increase in the total area of **Cereals** between 2006 and 2007. The area of winter barley increased by 3 per cent while there was no change in the area of spring barley. The area of oats increased by 9 per cent, with wheat increasing by 5 per cent. There was no change in the area of **Potatoes** but there was a significant increase in the area of forage maize (18 per cent).
- **Cattle:** The total number of cattle on farms in June 2007 was 2 per cent lower than in 2006. The number of beef cows fell by 3 per cent but the total dairy cow numbers increased by 2 per cent. Cattle for rearing and fattening were down by 3%.
- **Sheep:** The number of ewes fell by 3 per cent when compared with June 2006 and there were 1 per cent fewer lambs.
- **Pigs:** Overall, in June 2007 there were 6 per cent more pigs on farms compared with June 2006. However, the breeding herd was down by 1 per cent.
- **Poultry:** Total poultry numbers decreased by 6 per cent since June 2006. This was due, in the main, to a 11 per cent decrease in the number of broilers. The breeding flock decreased by 4 per cent and the number of laying hens, rose by 9%.
- **Farmers and workers:** In 2007 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.

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Final Results For June 2007

*Table 1 Crops, grass and other land*

	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% Change 2007/2006
	'000 ha			%
<b>Crops and grass</b>				
<b><i>Cereal crops</i></b>				
Oats	1.9	1.9	2.0	9
Wheat	8.4	8.7	9.2	5
Barley (winter)	4.0	4.6	4.7	3
Barley (spring)	21.7	18.2	18.2	0
<b>Total cereals<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>Other field crops</i></b>				
Potatoes	4.5	4.7	4.8	0
Arable silage	3.2	3.3	3.3	-1
Forage Maize	2.4	2.7	3.2	18
Other crops	2.1	2.5	2.7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Horticultural crops</i></b>				
Fruit	1.5	1.5	1.4	-2
Vegetables for sale	1.4	1.4	1.3	-3
Bulbs, flowers & nursery stocks	0.1	0.1	0.1	-27
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Grass for mowing and grazing</i></b>				
Under 5 yrs old	135.6	126.5	122.4	-3
5 yrs old and over	675.8	677.2	673.2	-1
<b>Total grass</b>	<b>811.4</b>	<b>803.7</b>	<b>795.6</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Total crops and grass</b>	<b>862.9</b>	<b>853.5</b>	<b>846.7</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b><i>Rough grazing (b)</i></b>				
Rough land for grazing	148.6	151.3	146.5	-3
<b><i>Other land</i></b>				
Set aside	2.4	2.3	2.0	-14
Woods and plantations	8.6	9.6	9.9	3
Other land	7.1	11.8	11.1	-6
<b>Total area<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>1,029.5</b>	<b>1,028.5</b>	<b>1,016.1</b>	<b>-1</b>

(a) Including mixed com

(b) Excludes common rough grazing

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*Table 2 Cattle*

	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% Change 2007/2006
	<b>'000 head</b>			<b>%</b>
<b>Cows mainly for producing milk for sale</b>				
Total dairy cows	287.1	284.7	290.3	2
<b>Cows mainly for producing and rearing calves for beef</b>				
Total beef cows	280.6	276.7	269.5	-3
<b>Total cows</b>	<b>567.7</b>	<b>561.5</b>	<b>559.7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing milk for sale</b>				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	27.7	27.5	28.2	3
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	36.6	39.0	39.7	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing calves for beef</b>				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	26.1	25.7	23.3	-9
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	16.4	16.1	14.4	-11
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>-10</b>
<b>Bulls for service</b>				
2 years old and over	15.5	15.6	14.1	-9
1 year old and under 2 years	4.3	4.2	3.5	-16
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>-11</b>
<b>All other cattle and calves 2 years old and over</b>				
Male	77.4	75.5	73.3	-3
Females for slaughter	87.0	83.6	77.9	-7
Females for breeding but not in calf	11.5	11.4	9.7	-15
<b>Total</b>	<b>175.9</b>	<b>170.5</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>1 year old and under 2 years</b>				
Male	193.2	190.0	188.3	-1
Females for slaughter	111.6	109.9	108.2	-1
Females for breeding but not in calf	69.2	68.5	66.7	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>374.1</b>	<b>368.3</b>	<b>363.3</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>6 months old and under 1 year</b>				
Male	95.6	93.9	87.9	-6
Female	102.7	101.4	102.1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>198.2</b>	<b>195.2</b>	<b>189.9</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Under 6 months old</b>				
Male	132.2	128.8	118.1	-8
Female	138.2	136.9	132.2	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>270.5</b>	<b>265.7</b>	<b>250.2</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>1,712.7</b>	<b>1,689.3</b>	<b>1,647.5</b>	<b>-2</b>

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*Table 3 Sheep, pigs and poultry*

		June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% Change 2007/2006
		<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	900.8	864.6	839.8	-3
	Other ewes for breeding	126.5	126.5	118.0	-7
	<b>Total breeding ewes(a)</b>	<b>1,027.3</b>	<b>991.1</b>	<b>957.9</b>	-3
	Rams for service	28.6	27.5	27.3	-1
	Other sheep over 1 year(a)	10.6	11.1	12.2	10
	<b>Total sheep over 1 year</b>	<b>1,066.5</b>	<b>1,029.6</b>	<b>997.3</b>	-3
	Under 1 year old	1,078.6	1,040.9	1,027.9	-1
<b>Total sheep &amp; lambs</b>		<b>2,145.1</b>	<b>2,070.5</b>	<b>2,025.2</b>	-2
<b>Pigs</b>					
	<i><b>Breeding herd</b></i>				
	Sows in pig	25.7	25.9	25.9	0
	Gilts in pig	4.5	4.8	4.3	-10
	Others sows (being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding)	6.6	6.7	6.7	0
	<b>Total female breeding herd</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>36.9</b>	-1
	Gilts 50kg (110lb) liveweight and over, not yet in pig	2.8	3.4	3.3	-3
	Boars being used for service	1.0	0.9	0.9	-4
	<i><b>All other pigs (including culled sows and boars) of liveweight</b></i>				
	80kg & over	59.0	55.8	65.6	18
	50kg (110lb) and under 80kg (175lb)	87.1	79.9	86.1	8
	20kg (45lb) and under 50kg (110lb)	91.8	83.6	88.6	6
	Under 20kg (45lb)	126.6	125.6	128.4	2
<b>Total pigs</b>		<b>405.1</b>	<b>386.6</b>	<b>409.7</b>	6
<b>Poultry</b>					
	<i><b>Commercial laying flock</b></i>				
	Total laying birds	2,319.2	2,187.7	2,394.0	9
	Growing pullets from day old to point of lay	669.5	743.1	1,039.8	40
	Breeding flock (mainly for producing hatching eggs)	1,634.5	1,594.8	1,538.0	-4
	<i><b>Table birds</b></i>				
	Broilers and other table birds	12,525.7	13,367.1	11,875.8	-11
	<b>Total ordinary fowl</b>	<b>17,148.8</b>	<b>17,892.7</b>	<b>16,847.5</b>	-6
	Turkeys and other poultry	465.4	518.3	500.9	-3
<b>Total poultry</b>		<b>17,614.3</b>	<b>18,411.0</b>	<b>17,348.4</b>	-6

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*Table 4 Farm Labour*

	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	% Change 2007/2006
	<i>'000 persons</i>			%
<b>Farmers and workers</b>				
<i>Farmers and partners</i>				
Full-time	18.2	18.0	17.2	-4
Part-time	14.4	14.0	14.0	0
<b>Total farmers</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>-2</b>
<i>Spouses</i>				
Full-time	2.0	2.1	1.9	-7
Part-time	4.1	4.2	4.4	5
<b>Total spouses</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Other workers</i>				
<i>Full-time</i>				
Paid	2.1	2.1	2.1	0
Other	0.5	0.4	0.8	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Part-time</i>				
Paid	1.4	1.3	1.3	-5
Other	1.1	1.0	1.4	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Casual</i>				
Paid	4.3	4.2	3.7	-11
Other	3.0	2.6	2.1	-21
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Total other workers</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Total farmers, spouses and other workers</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>-2</b>

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 2006*" (DARD, 2006) which is available in full on [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk). The 2007 version of this annual publication will be available in hard copy and on that site in January 2008.

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