

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE
AGRICULTURAL CENSUS, JUNE 2005
FINAL RESULTS

Embargoed until 9.30 on Tuesday 15th November

The final results of the June 2005 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 2005.

The main changes between June 2004 and June 2005 are:

- **Farm businesses:** The number of active farm businesses included in the June 2005 census, 27,064, was 550 fewer than in 2004. 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 5 per cent decrease in the total area of **Cereals** between 2004 and 2005. The areas of winter barley and spring barley fell by 11 and 3 per cent respectively. The area of oats decreased by 21 per cent while that of wheat fell by 3 per cent. The area of **Potatoes** was down by 20 per cent but there were significant increases for other field crops, including arable silage and forage maize.
- **Cattle:** There was little change in the total number of cattle on farms in June 2005 compared with 2004. There were marginally more cows while beef heifers fell by 12%. Cattle for rearing and fattening were down by 1%.
- **Sheep:** The number of ewes fell by 7% when compared with June 2004 and there were 1 per cent fewer lambs.
- **Pigs:** Overall, in June 2005 there were 4 per cent fewer pigs on farms compared with June 2004, with the breeding herd down by 3 per cent.
- **Poultry:** Total poultry numbers decreased by 14 per cent since June 2004. This was due, in the main, to a 16 per cent reduction in the number of broilers. The breeding flock decreased by 28 per cent, while laying hens increased by 2 per cent.
- **Farmers and workers:** In 2005 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 4 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 2004*" (DARD, 2004) which is available in full on www.dardni.gov.uk. The 2005 version of this annual publication will be available in hard copy and on that site in January 2006.

Northern Ireland Agricultural Census
Final Results For June 2005

Table 1 Crops, grass and other land

		June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	% Change 2005/2004
		'000 ha			%
Crops and grass					
	Cereal crops				
	Oats	2.5	2.5	1.9	-21
	Wheat	7.3	8.6	8.4	-3
	Barley (winter)	4.1	4.5	4.0	-11
	Barley (spring)	23.6	22.5	21.7	-3
	Total cereals^(a)	37.8	38.3	36.2	-5
	Other field crops				
	Potatoes	6.0	5.7	4.5	-20
	Arable silage	2.3	2.8	3.2	15
	Forage Maize	2.1	2.2	2.4	9
	Other crops	1.4	1.8	2.1	20
	Total	12.0	12.5	12.3	-1
	Horticultural crops				
	Fruit	1.6	1.5	1.5	-4
	Vegetables for sale	1.5	1.4	1.4	-4
	Bulbs , flowers & nursery stocks	0.1	0.2	0.1	-5
	Total	3.2	3.1	3.0	-4
Total crops		53.0	53.9	51.5	-4
	Grass for mowing and grazing				
	Under 5 yrs old	138.0	141.8	135.6	-4
	5 yrs old and over	710.3	696.7	675.8	-3
	Total grass	848.2	838.5	811.4	-3
	Total crops and grass	901.2	892.3	862.9	-3
	Rough grazing (b)				
	Rough land for grazing	152.9	151.2	148.6	-2
	Other land				
	Set aside	3.5	3.4	2.4	-31
	Woods and plantations	8.4	8.2	8.6	4
	Other land	7.8	7.6	7.1	-7
Total area^(b)		1,073.7	1,062.8	1,029.5	-3

(a) Including mixed corn

(b) Excludes common rough grazing

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Table 2 Cattle

	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	% Change 2005/2004
	'000 head			%
<i>Cows mainly for producing milk for sale</i>				
Cows and heifers in milk	268.7	265.9	268.3	1
Cows in calf but not in milk	21.5	22.4	22.3	0
Total dairy cows	290.1	288.3	290.5	1
<i>Cows mainly for producing and rearing calves for beef</i>				
Cows and heifers in milk	239.9	240.5	239.6	0
Cows in calf but not in milk	55.5	55.7	57.3	3
Total beef cows	295.4	296.2	296.9	0
Total cows	585.6	584.5	587.4	1
<i>Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing milk for sale</i>				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	25.7	28.1	29.8	6
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	34.3	34.4	34.2	0
Total	60.0	62.5	64.0	3
<i>Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing calves for beef</i>				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	19.8	21.0	19.2	-9
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	13.4	13.3	10.9	-18
Total	33.3	34.3	30.1	-12
<i>Bulls for service</i>				
2 years old and over	12.6	12.9	13.2	2
1 year old and under 2 years	4.0	4.0	4.0	-1
Total	16.6	17.0	17.2	2
<i>All other cattle and calves 2 years old and over</i>				
Male	66.9	66.8	71.3	7
Females for slaughter	32.8	33.2	34.0	3
Females for breeding but not in calf	15.0	15.5	15.6	1
Total	114.8	115.4	120.8	5
<i>1 year old and under 2 years</i>				
Male	210.4	208.6	202.6	-3
Females for slaughter	123.4	119.2	121.1	2
Females for breeding but not in calf	69.7	69.6	65.3	-6
Total	403.5	397.3	389.0	-2
<i>6 months old and under 1 year</i>				
Male	96.7	95.4	90.4	-5
Female	95.0	93.2	93.7	1
Total	191.7	188.6	184.0	-2
<i>Under 6 months old</i>				
Male	138.2	136.6	133.9	-2
Female	141.6	141.5	139.2	-2
Total	279.8	278.1	273.0	-2
Total cattle	1,685.3	1,677.6	1,665.6	-1

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Table 3 Sheep, pigs and poultry

		June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	% Change 2005/2004
		'000 head			%
Sheep					
	Female sheep for breeding				
	Ewes put to the ram in the previous year	953.6	943.1	900.8	-4
	Other ewes for breeding	152.0	157.4	126.5	-20
	Total breeding ewes(a)	1,105.6	1,100.5	1,027.3	-7
	Rams for service	29.6	29.2	28.6	-2
	Other sheep over 1 year(a)	9.5	10.1	10.6	5
	Total sheep over 1 year	1,144.7	1,139.8	1,066.5	-6
	Under 1 year old	1,096.4	1,085.6	1,078.6	-1
Total sheep & lambs		2,241.1	2,225.4	2,145.1	-4
Pigs					
	Breeding herd				
	Sows in pig	28.1	25.4	25.7	1
	Gilts in pig	5.0	4.6	4.5	-3
	Others sows (being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding)	9.7	7.8	6.6	-15
	Total female breeding herd	42.9	37.8	36.7	-3
	Gilts 50kg (110lb) liveweight and over, not yet in pig	3.3	3.2	2.8	-12
	Boars being used for service	1.2	1.1	1.0	-9
	All other pigs (including culled sows and boars) of liveweight				
	80kg & over	63.0	56.7	59.0	4
	50kg (110lb) and under 80kg (175lb)	106.5	108.4	87.1	-20
	20kg (45lb) and under 50kg (110lb)	112.6	111.4	91.8	-18
	Under 20kg (45lb)	104.1	105.4	126.6	20
Total pigs		433.7	424.1	405.1	-4
Poultry					
	Commercial laying flock				
	Total laying birds	2,203.2	2,266.1	2,319.2	2
	Growing pullets from day old to point of lay	552.9	509.8	669.5	31
	Breeding flock (mainly for producing hatching eggs)	2,518.2	2,284.8	1,634.5	-28
	Table birds				
	Broilers and other table birds	12,811.4	15,006.9	12,525.7	-17
	Total ordinary fowl	18,085.8	20,067.6	17,148.8	-15
	Turkeys and other poultry	439.6	441.7	465.4	5
Total poultry		18,525.4	20,509.2	17,614.3	-14

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Table 4 Farm Labour

	June 2003	June 2004	June 2005	% Change 2005/2004
Farmers and workers	<i>'000 persons</i>			%
<i>Farmers and partners</i>				
Full-time	19.3	18.3	18.2	-1
Part-time	14.7	14.9	14.4	-4
Total farmers	34.0	33.3	32.5	-2
<i>Spouses</i>				
Full-time	2.2	2.1	2.0	-4
Part-time	4.3	4.3	4.1	-3
Total spouses	6.4	6.4	6.2	-3
<i>Other workers</i>				
<i>Full-time</i>				
Paid	2.3	2.3	2.1	-7
Other	0.5	0.5	0.5	-5
Total	2.8	2.7	2.6	-7
<i>Part-time</i>				
Paid	1.6	1.5	1.4	-5
Other	1.3	1.3	1.1	-15
Total	2.8	2.8	2.5	-10
<i>Casual</i>				
Paid	5.0	4.8	4.3	-11
Other	3.5	3.3	3.0	-9
Total	8.4	8.1	7.3	-10
Total other workers	14.1	13.7	12.4	-10
Total farmers, spouses and other workers	54.5	53.3	51.1	-4

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