

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

FINAL RESULTS OF THE JUNE 2008 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The final results of the June 2008 Agricultural Census were released today by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The statistics provide estimates of crop areas, numbers of livestock and of farmers and workers on active farm businesses on the census date of 1st June 2008.

The main changes between June 2007 and June 2008 are:

Cereals: There was a 19 per cent increase in the total area of cereals compared with 2007. The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2007 for harvest in 2008 was 18,200 ha, while the total of spring cereal crops was 21,900 ha. The areas of winter wheat and winter barley increased by 32 and 30 per cent respectively. The area of spring barley rose by 8 per cent.

Other crops: The area of potatoes was 7 per cent higher than in 2007 at 5,100 ha; while that of forage maize was 10 per cent higher at 3,500 ha.

Cattle: Total cattle numbers were 1 per cent lower than in 2007. The number of dairy cows rose by 1 per cent to 289,200; while the number of beef cows fell by 3 per cent to 265,700.

Sheep: The number of breeding ewes fell by 2 per cent to 935,300.

Pigs: The number of breeding sows fell by 4 per cent to 35,500.

Poultry: There was little change in the numbers of laying hens while the number of broiler hens on farms at 1st June was 4 per cent lower than at the same date in 2007.

Farmers and workers: There was a 1 per cent fall in the number of farmers in 2008, and the total number of persons working on farms also fell by 1 per cent. On a headcount basis the total farm labour force stood at 48,500 in June 2008.

Tables giving more details of the June Agricultural Census results are available at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/news/press-releases-statistical/press-release-statistical-current.htm>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The survey results were prepared by Farm Surveys Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB.
2. In an effort to reduce the compliance burden on farmers, the survey form sent to farmers omitted most of the cattle and all of the poultry questions. Survey information was then augmented with data from APHIS for missing cattle variables, and from the Northern Ireland Bird Register Update for poultry. The changes will improve the robustness of the statistics, but the new methodology means a break in the data series that started in 1996.
3. 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 2007"* (DARD, 2007) and will be repeated in the 2008 issue of this annual publication, available in January 2009. These booklets may be accessed on the Department's internet site.
4. A spreadsheet with summary results of the census is available, in electronic format, for the period 1982 to 2007, from Policy and Economics Division, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB. This series is also available on the Department's

internet site. Special analyses can be undertaken on request but a charge will be made for this.

5. All media queries to DARD Press Office on 028 90524619
6. All recent DARD statistical press releases can be found at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/news/press-releases-statistical>

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Northern Ireland Agricultural Census
Final Results For June 2008

Table 1 Crops, grass and other land

	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008	% Change 2008/2007
	'000 ha			%
Crops and grass				
<i>Cereal crops</i>				
Oats	1.9	2.0	2.4	19
Wheat	8.7	9.2	12.1	32
Barley (winter)	4.6	4.7	6.1	30
Barley (spring)	18.2	18.2	19.5	8
Total cereals^(a)	33.6	34.0	40.4	19
<i>Other field crops</i>				
Potatoes	4.7	4.8	5.1	7
Arable silage	3.3	3.3	3.2	-1
Forage Maize	2.7	3.2	3.5	10
Other crops	2.5	2.7	1.6	-42
Total	13.3	13.9	13.4	-4
<i>Horticultural crops</i>				
Fruit	1.5	1.4	1.5	3
Vegetables for sale	1.4	1.3	1.3	0
Bulbs , flowers & nursery stocks	0.1	0.1	0.1	3
Total	3.0	2.9	2.9	2
Total crops	49.9	50.8	56.8	12
<i>Grass for mowing and grazing</i>				
Under 5 yrs old	126.5	122.4	117.6	-4
5 yrs old and over	677.2	673.2	674.8	0
Total grass	803.7	795.6	792.4	0
Total crops and grass	853.6	846.4	849.2	0
<i>Rough grazing (b)</i>				
Rough land for grazing	151.3	146.5	147.2	0
<i>Other land</i>				
Set aside	2.3	2.0	1.2	-41
Woods and plantations	9.6	9.9	10.0	1
Other land	11.8	11.1	11.2	1
Total area^(b)	1,028.5	1,015.9	1,018.7	0

(a) Including mixed corn

(b) Excludes common rough grazing

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Table 2 Cattle

	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008	% Change 2008/2007
	'000 head			%
Cows mainly for producing milk for sale				
Total dairy cows	284.7	286.1	289.2	1
Cows mainly for producing and rearing calves for beef				
Total beef cows	280.6	272.6	265.7	-3
Total cows	565.3	558.7	554.9	-1
Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing milk for sale				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	27.5	28.1	26.9	-4
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	39.0	39.8	37.4	-6
Total	66.5	67.8	64.3	-5
Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing calves for beef				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	25.7	22.3	24.3	9
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	16.1	14.4	15.4	7
Total	41.8	36.7	39.7	8
Bulls for service				
2 years old and over	15.6	14.1	15.6	11
1 year old and under 2 years	4.2	3.5	4.0	15
Total	19.7	17.6	19.6	11
All other cattle and calves				
2 years old and over				
Male	75.5	73.2	65.5	-11
Females for slaughter	83.6	77.9	75.4	-3
Females for breeding but not in calf	11.4	9.7	10.6	9
Total	170.5	160.8	151.5	-6
1 year old and under 2 years				
Male	190.0	188.0	170.2	-9
Females for slaughter	109.9	108.0	98.2	-9
Females for breeding but not in calf	68.5	66.6	65.1	-2
Total	368.3	362.7	333.5	-8
6 months old and under 1 year				
Male	93.9	87.7	84.0	-4
Female	101.4	101.7	103.0	1
Total	195.2	189.4	186.9	-1
Under 6 months old				
Male	128.8	117.9	128.6	9
Female	136.9	131.9	143.5	9
Total	265.7	249.8	272.1	9
Total cattle	1,693.1	1,643.4	1,622.5	-1

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Table 3 Sheep, pigs and poultry

		June 2006	June 2007	June 2008	% Change 2008/2007
		'000 head			%
Sheep					
<i>Female sheep for breeding</i>					
	Ewes put to the ram in the previous year	864.6	839.8	823.0	-2
	Other ewes for breeding	126.5	118.0	112.3	-5
	Total breeding ewes	991.1	957.9	935.3	-2
	Rams for service	27.5	27.3	26.9	-1
	Other sheep over 1 year	11.1	12.2	12.5	3
	Total sheep over 1 year	1,029.6	997.3	974.7	-2
	Under 1 year old	1,040.9	1,027.9	998.8	-3
Total sheep & lambs		2,070.5	2,025.2	1,973.5	-3
Pigs					
<i>Breeding herd</i>					
	Sows in pig	25.9	25.9	25.3	-2
	Gilts in pig	4.8	4.3	3.6	-16
	Others sows (being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding)	6.7	6.7	6.5	-2
	Total female breeding herd	37.4	36.9	35.5	-4
	Gilts 50kg (110lb) liveweight and over, not yet in pig	3.4	3.3	3.2	-4
	Boars being used for service	0.9	0.9	0.7	-14
<i>All other pigs (including culled sows and boars) of liveweight</i>					
	80kg & over	55.8	65.6	70.1	7
	50kg (110lb) and under 80kg (175lb)	79.9	86.1	82.4	-4
	20kg (45lb) and under 50kg (110lb)	83.6	88.6	85.8	-3
	Under 20kg (45lb)	125.6	128.4	124.1	-3
Total pigs		386.6	409.7	401.9	-2
Poultry					
<i>Commercial laying flock</i>					
	Total laying birds	2,187.7	2,394.0	2,359.2	-1
	Growing pullets from day old to point of lay	743.1	1,039.8	1,176.0	13
	Breeding flock (mainly for producing hatching eggs)	1,594.8	1,538.0	1,178.3	-23
<i>Table birds</i>					
	Broilers and other table birds	13,367.1	11,875.8	11,450.0	-4
	Total ordinary fowl	17,892.7	16,847.5	16,163.5	-4
	Turkeys and other poultry	518.3	500.9	799.5	60
Total poultry		18,411.0	17,348.4	16,963.0	-2

Note: Others in 2008 includes game birds

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Table 4 Farm Labour

	June 2006	June 2007	June 2008	% Change 2008/2007
<i>'000 persons</i>				
Farmers and workers				%
<i>Farmers and partners</i>				
Full-time	18.0	17.2	17.0	-1
Part-time	14.0	14.0	13.9	-1
Total farmers	32.0	31.3	30.9	-1
<i>Spouses</i>				
Full-time	2.1	1.9	1.8	-6
Part-time	4.2	4.4	4.5	1
Total spouses	6.3	6.4	6.3	-1
<i>Other workers</i>				
<i>Full-time</i>				
Paid	2.1	2.1	2.1	2
Other	0.4	0.8	1.0	18
Total	2.5	3.0	3.1	6
<i>Part-time</i>				
Paid	1.3	1.3	0.9	-30
Other	1.0	1.4	1.6	8
Total	2.3	2.7	2.4	-10
<i>Casual</i>				
Paid	4.2	3.7	3.7	0
Other	2.6	2.1	2.0	-4
Total	6.8	5.8	5.7	-1
Total other workers	11.7	11.4	11.3	-1
Total farmers, spouses and other workers	50.0	49.1	48.5	-1