

STATISTICAL NEWS RELEASE

FINAL RESULTS OF JUNE 2009 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The final results of the June 2009 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 2009.

The main changes between June 2008 and June 2009 are:

Cereals: There was a 3% decrease in the total area of cereals compared with 2008. The total area of winter crops planted in autumn 2008 for harvest in 2009 was 15,500 ha, while the total of spring cereal crops was 23,600 ha. The areas of winter wheat and winter barley decreased by 16% and 17% respectively. The area of spring barley rose by 11 per cent.

Other crops: There was no change in the area of potatoes grown in 2009 compared to 2008, at 5,100ha; while the area of forage maize was 6% lower at 3,300 ha.

Cattle: Total cattle numbers were 1% lower than in 2008 at 1.6 million head. The number of dairy cows decreased by 2%, to 284,700; while the number of beef cows fell by 3% to 256,800.

Sheep: The number of breeding ewes fell by 5% to 892,400.

Pigs: The number of breeding sows rose by 8% to 38,200.

Poultry: Overall, there was little change in poultry numbers between 2008 and 2009 with a small 2% decrease in the total number of birds.

Farmers and workers: There was a 2% fall in the number of farmers in 2009, and the total number of persons working on farms also fell by 1%. On a headcount basis the total farm labour force stood at 48,000 in June 2009.

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 2008"* (DARD, 2008) and will be repeated in the 2009 issue of this annual publication, available in January 2010. 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 2008, 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>

A National Statistics publication

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Northern Ireland Agricultural Census
Final Results For June 2009

Table 1 Crops, grass and other land

	June 2007	June 2008	June 2009	% Change 2009/2008
	'000 ha			%
Crops and grass				
Cereal crops				
Oats	2.0	2.4	2.0	-15
Wheat	9.2	12.1	10.1	-16
Barley (winter)	4.7	6.1	5.1	-17
Barley (spring)	18.2	19.5	21.6	11
Total cereals^(a)	34.0	40.4	39.1	-3
Other field crops				
Potatoes	4.8	5.1	5.1	0
Arable silage	3.3	3.2	3.5	9
Forage Maize	3.2	3.5	3.3	-6
Other crops	2.7	1.6	1.8	12
Total	13.9	13.4	13.7	2
Horticultural crops				
Fruit	1.4	1.5	1.5	0
Vegetables for sale	1.3	1.3	1.4	1
Bulbs , flowers & nursery stocks	0.1	0.1	0.1	-3
Total	2.9	2.9	2.9	0
Total crops	50.8	56.8	55.7	-2
Grass for mowing and grazing				
Under 5 yrs old	122.4	117.6	120.6	3
5 yrs old and over	673.2	674.8	669.7	-1
Total grass	795.6	792.4	790.3	0
Total crops and grass	846.4	849.2	846.0	0
Rough grazing (b)				
Rough land for grazing	146.5	147.2	141.8	-4
Other land				
Woods and plantations	9.9	10.0	10.7	7
Other land	11.1	11.2	9.1	-19
Total area^(b)	1,015.9	1,018.7	1,007.6	-1

(a) Including mixed corn

(b) Excludes common rough grazing

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Table 2 Cattle

	June 2007	June 2008	June 2009	% Change 2009/2008
	'000 head			%
Cows mainly for producing milk for sale				
Total dairy cows	286.1	289.2	284.7	-2
Cows mainly for producing and rearing calves for beef				
Total beef cows	272.6	265.7	256.8	-3
Total cows	558.7	554.9	541.5	-2
Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing milk for sale				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	28.1	26.9	26.3	-2
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	39.8	37.4	36.2	-3
Total	67.8	64.3	62.5	-3
Heifers in calf with first calf intended mainly for producing calves for beef				
Heifers in calf with first calf (2 yrs +)	22.3	24.3	23.6	-3
Heifers in calf with first calf (< 2 yrs)	14.4	15.4	14.0	-9
Total	36.7	39.7	37.6	-5
Bulls for service				
2 years old and over	14.1	15.6	14.9	-4
1 year old and under 2 years	3.5	4.0	3.7	-9
Total	17.6	19.6	18.6	-5
All other cattle and calves				
2 years old and over				
Male	73.2	65.5	58.5	-11
Females for slaughter	77.9	75.4	63.5	-16
Females for breeding but not in calf	9.7	10.6	10.0	-5
Total	160.8	151.5	132.0	-13
1 year old and under 2 years				
Male	188.0	170.2	172.7	1
Females for slaughter	108.0	98.2	109.1	11
Females for breeding but not in calf	66.6	65.1	66.8	3
Total	362.7	333.5	348.6	5
6 months old and under 1 year				
Male	87.7	84.0	91.5	9
Female	101.7	103.0	100.4	-3
Total	189.4	186.9	191.9	3
Under 6 months old				
Male	117.9	128.6	129.5	1
Female	131.9	143.5	137.0	-5
Total	249.8	272.1	266.5	-2
Total cattle	1,643.4	1,622.5	1,599.1	-1

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Table 3 Sheep, pigs and poultry

		June 2007	June 2008	June 2009	% Change 2009/2008
		'000 head			%
Sheep					
<i>Female sheep for breeding</i>					
	Ewes put to the ram in the previous year	839.8	823.0	788.2	-4
	Other ewes for breeding	118.0	112.3	104.2	-7
	Total breeding ewes	957.9	935.3	892.4	-5
	Rams for service	27.3	26.9	26.0	-3
	Other sheep over 1 year(a)	12.2	12.5	13.6	8
	Total sheep over 1 year	997.3	974.7	932.0	-4
	Under 1 year old	1,027.9	998.8	964.8	-3
Total sheep & lambs		2,025.2	1,973.5	1,896.7	-4
Pigs					
<i>Breeding herd</i>					
	Sows in pig	25.9	25.3	27.9	10
	Gilts in pig	4.3	3.6	7.0	92
	Others sows (being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding)	6.7	6.5	3.4	-49
	Total female breeding herd	36.9	35.5	38.2	8
	Gilts 50kg (110lb) liveweight and over, not yet in pig	3.3	3.2	3.8	21
	Boars being used for service	0.9	0.7	0.7	-1
<i>All other pigs (including culled sows and boars) of liveweight</i>					
	80kg & over	65.6	70.1	74.2	6
	50kg (110lb) and under 80kg (175lb)	86.1	82.4	89.9	9
	20kg (45lb) and under 50kg (110lb)	88.6	85.8	92.5	8
	Under 20kg (45lb)	128.4	124.1	134.3	8
Total pigs		409.7	401.9	433.5	8
Poultry					
<i>Commercial laying flock</i>					
	Total laying birds	2,394.0	2,359.2	2,264.9	-4
	Growing pullets from day old to point of lay	1,039.8	1,176.0	1,006.1	-14
	Breeding flock (mainly for producing hatching eggs)	1,538.0	1,178.3	1,569.6	33
<i>Table birds</i>					
	Broilers and other table birds	11,875.8	11,450.0	11,292.1	-1
	Total ordinary fowl	16,847.5	16,163.5	16,132.7	0
	Turkeys and other poultry	500.9	799.5	443.9	-44
Total poultry		17,348.4	16,963.0	16,576.5	-2

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Table 4 Farm Labour

	June 2007	June 2008	June 2009	% Change 2009/2008
	'000 persons			%
Farmers and workers				
<i>Farmers and partners</i>				
Full-time	17.2	17.0	16.4	-3
Part-time	14.0	13.9	13.8	0
Total farmers	31.3	30.9	30.3	-2
<i>Spouses</i>				
Full-time	1.9	1.8	1.8	-2
Part-time	4.4	4.5	4.4	-1
Total spouses	6.4	6.3	6.2	-1
<i>Other workers</i>				
<i>Full-time</i>				
Paid	2.1	2.1	2.2	3
Other	0.8	1.0	0.9	-9
Total	3.0	3.1	3.1	-1
<i>Part-time</i>				
Paid	1.3	0.9	1.3	43
Other	1.4	1.6	2.0	27
Total	2.7	2.4	3.2	33
<i>Casual</i>				
Paid	3.7	3.7	3.4	-8
Other	2.1	2.0	1.8	-11
Total	5.8	5.7	5.2	-9
Total other workers	11.4	11.3	11.5	2
Total farmers, spouses and other workers	49.1	48.5	48.0	-1