



Published 15 October 2015

Farming Statistics Provisional crop areas and livestock populations At June 2015 - United Kingdom

This release contains provisional estimates for land use, crop areas and livestock populations on agricultural holdings in the UK. Final results will be published on 17 December 2015. Results are not yet available for poultry, horses, goats, farmed deer, camelids and labour numbers. These will be published with the final results on 17 December 2015. Wales do not produce provisional results for crop areas and livestock numbers so 2014 figures for Wales have been carried forward to allow UK totals to be calculated for 2015. This year with Scotland results not being published until later this month, crop areas and livestock numbers for 2014 have been carried forward to allow UK totals to be calculated for 2015.

The key results are given below.

Agricultural land and arable crop areas ([Tables 1 - 2](#))

The total utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the UK has decreased by 0.3% to almost 17.2 million hectares. The area of total crops has decreased by 0.5%, helping to offset the 20% increase in uncropped arable land.

Crop yields and production

Yield and production figures for cereals and oilseeds are undergoing additional quality assurance to ensure their robustness, and will be published as soon as possible when this is complete.

Horticultural crops ([Tables 3 - 5](#))

In 2015 the total area of horticultural crops increased by 6.4% to 174 thousand hectares. Vegetables and salad for human consumption make up the majority (70%) of this area and increased by 5.6% to 123 thousand hectares in 2015.

Livestock ([Tables 6 - 10](#))

In 2015, the total number of cattle and calves increased by 0.5% to 9.9 million. The breeding herd increased by 1.3% to almost 3.5 million, largely due to the 2.0% increase seen in the dairy herd.

Fattening pigs decreased by 2.2% in 2015 and despite a small increase (0.3%) in the breeding herd, the total number of pigs fell by 1.9% to 4.7 million.

Enquiries on this publication to Sarah Thompson (crop areas and livestock numbers) or Joanne Gardiner (cereal and oilseed production and yields), Farming Statistics, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tel: 01904 455332, email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

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The UK population of sheep and lambs decreased by 0.6% in 2015, to 33.6 million animals. This was largely due to a 1.1% decrease in the number of lambs, which now stands at 16.8 million.

Estimates for poultry, horses, goats, farmed deer and camelids will be included in the final publication due on 17 December 2015.

Agricultural workforce ([Table 11](#))

The total number of people working on agricultural holdings will be published on 17 December 2015.

Key country level changes

Figure 1 shows how the UK percentage change for certain items compares to the country level changes. The increase seen in the wheat area in England has driven the larger UK level change. This is due to the largest proportion of this crop being grown in England.

Figure 1: Percentage changes between 2014 and 2015 by UK country

	UK % change	England % change	N. Ireland % change
Wheat area	-5.3%	-5.8%	11.0%
Potatoes area	-6.4%	-8.3%	-7.3%
Pigs	-1.9%	-3.2%	7.2%
Sheep	-0.6%	-1.6%	3.1%
Cattle	0.5%	0.2%	2.7%

Note: Wales do not produce provisional results for crop areas or livestock numbers and Scottish estimates are not available until later in the month this year. Therefore 2014 figures for Wales and Scotland are used to calculate provisional UK totals for 2015.

Data uses, next publications and survey methodology ([pages 15 - 18](#))

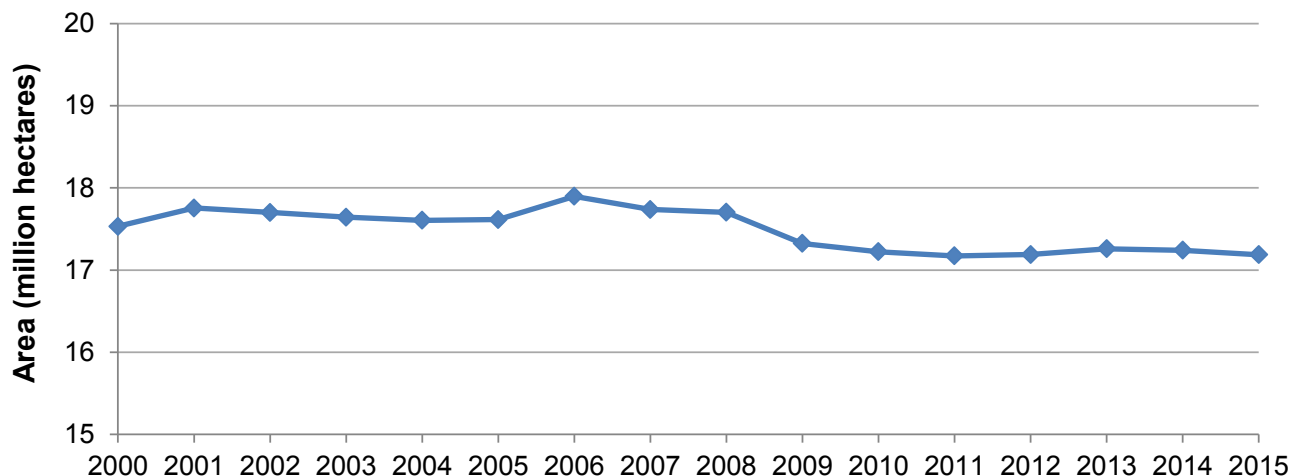
Information on how each of the UK countries run their surveys can be found on pages 15 to 18 along with data uses and upcoming publication dates.

Detailed results

Utilised agricultural area

The utilised agricultural area is made up of all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, land used for outdoor pigs, temporary and permanent grassland and common rough grazing. In June 2015 the total utilised agricultural area in the UK was 17.2 million hectares, covering 70% of the UK land area. Figure 2 shows that the total utilised agricultural area has remained between 17 and 18 million hectares since 2000.

Figure 2: Total utilised agricultural area at 1 June 2000 to 2015

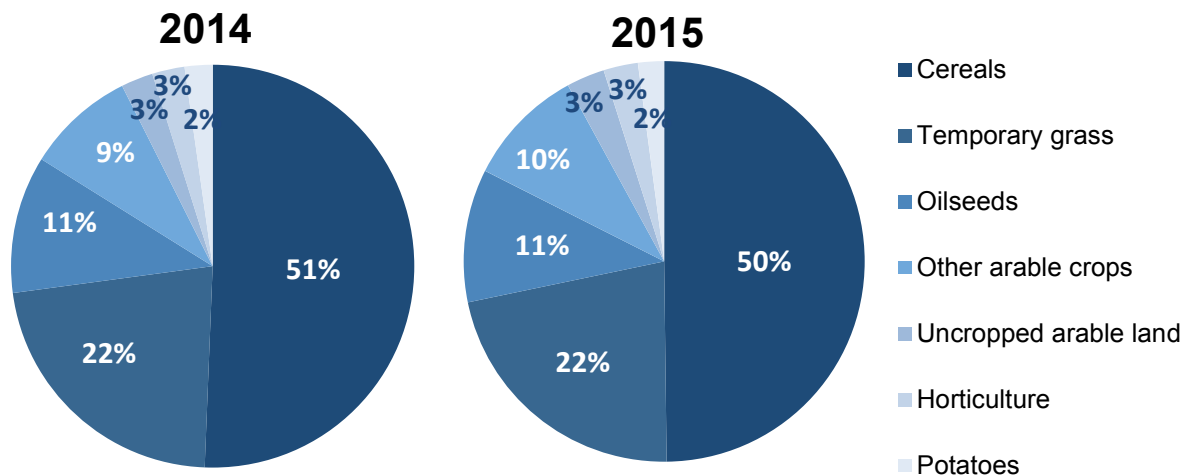


Croppable area

Croppable area consists of cereals, oilseed, potatoes, other arable crops, horticultural crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grass. In 2015, the croppable area decreased by 0.3% to almost 6.3 million hectares. This represents over a third of the UK utilised agricultural area.

Figure 3 shows that on the whole the proportion of croppable land used for each purpose remained similar between 2014 and 2015, however some categories did see large value changes (Table 1). The largest proportional change in area was uncropped arable land which increased by 20.2%. Potatoes saw the largest decrease of 6.4%.

Figure 3: Breakdown of croppable area at 1 June 2015 compared to 2014



Cereals and oilseeds

Figure 4: Crop areas in the UK between 1984 and 2015

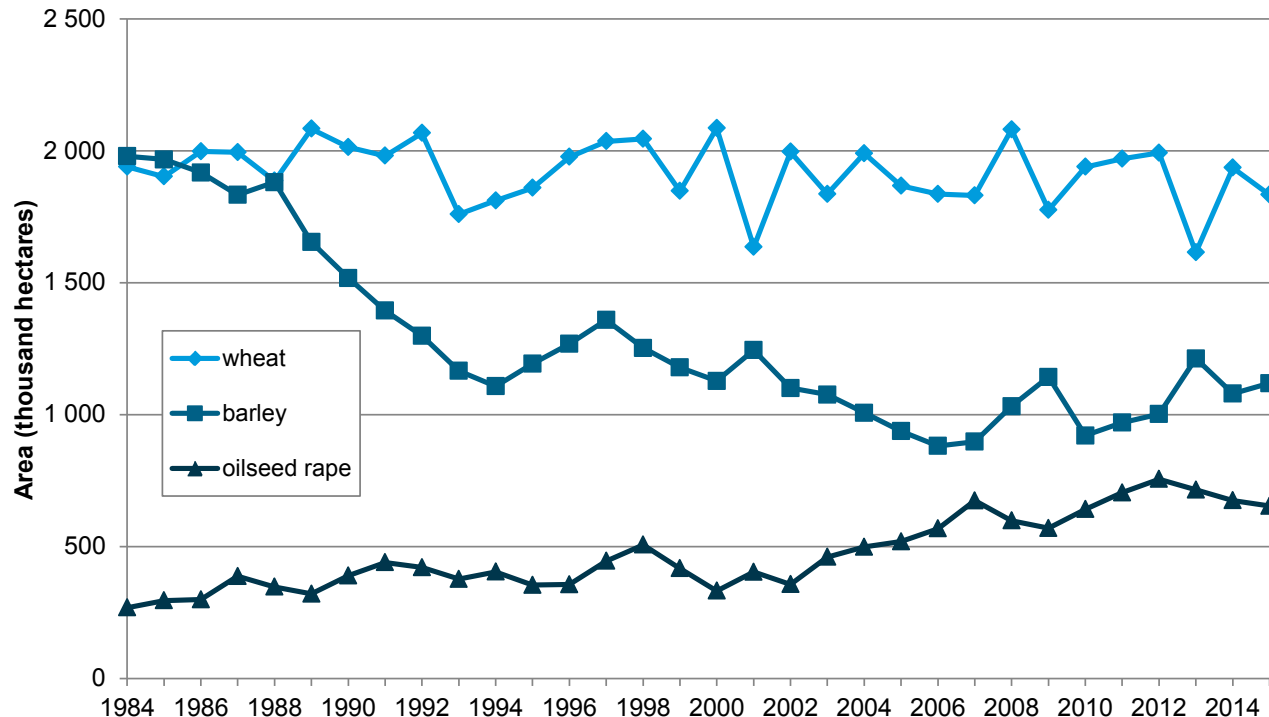


Figure 4 shows the area of the three most popular crops grown in the UK; wheat, barley and oilseed rape. Since 1984 the wheat area has fluctuated between approximately 1.6 and 2.1 million hectares. The area of barley has declined considerably over the years. However, in 2015 barley increased by 3.7% to 1.1 million hectares. The oilseed rape area has increased from 269 to 654 thousand hectares between 1984 and 2015. However, the oilseed rape area has decreased for the last three years after reaching a record high in 2012.

Horticultural crops

The total area of horticultural crops saw an increase of 6.4% between 2014 and 2015 and now stands at 174 thousand hectares, the highest since 2011.

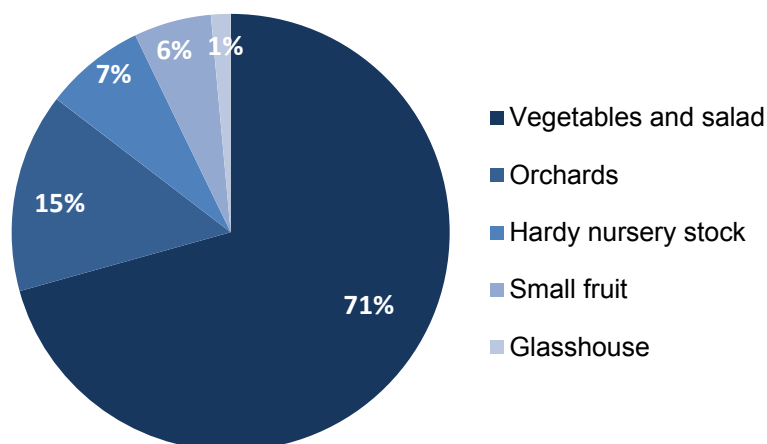
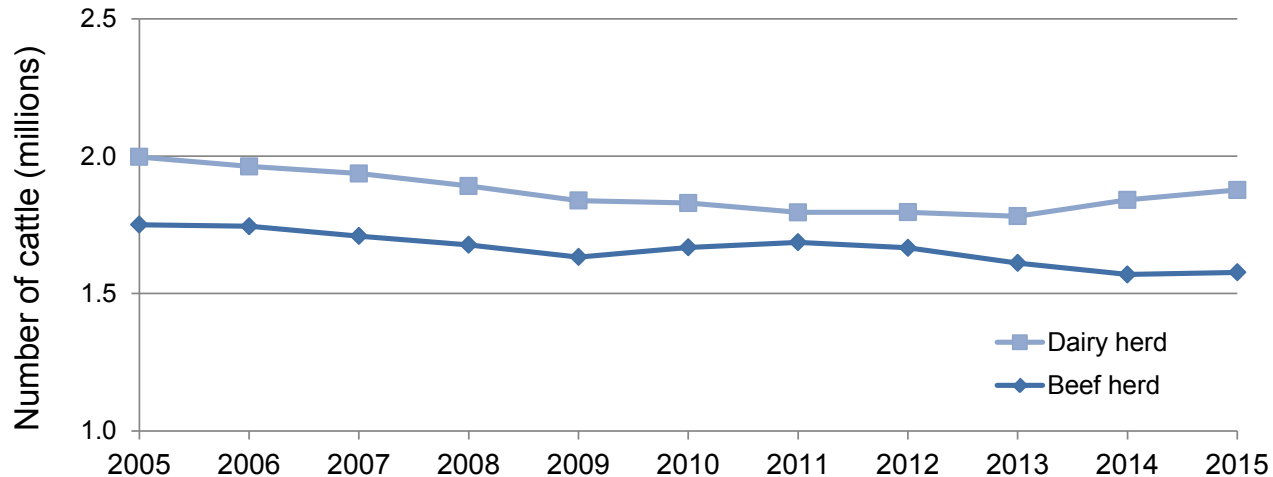


Figure 5: Breakdown of total horticultural area at 1 June 2015

The area of vegetables and salad for human consumption increased by 5.6% between 2014 and 2015. This accounts for 71% of the total horticultural area (see Figure 8). Orchards and small fruit together account for a further 21% of the horticultural area with hardy nursery stock and glasshouse accounting for the remaining 7% and 1% respectively.

Cattle

Figure 6: Dairy and beef herd numbers at June 2005 to 2015



The total number of cattle and calves in the UK increased by 0.5% in 2015 to 9.9 million head. The breeding herd accounts for over a third of total cattle and increased by 1.3% to 3.5 million head in 2015. The beef herd increased by 0.5%, the first increase since 2011. The dairy herd increased for the second year running to 1.9 million (see Figure 9). The main dairy and beef herds are made up of female cattle aged 2 years or more that have calved.

Pigs

The total number of pigs in the UK decreased by 1.9%, from 4.8 million animals in 2014 to 4.7 million in 2015. The main reason for this was the 2.2% decrease in fattening pigs, largely due to the 3.6% fall in the England figures which account for 81% of the UK fatteners. The female breeding herd showed a small increase (0.3%) to 407 thousand animals.

Sheep

Sheep figures decreased by 0.6% in 2015 to 33.6 million sheep and lambs in the UK, largely due to the 1.1% decrease in the number of lambs. The female breeding flock remained almost unchanged at 16 million.

Comparisons to other EU countries

Data on livestock populations are collected each year under EU Regulation 1165/2008 (cattle, pigs and sheep) and 543/2009 (crops and land). Therefore, results can be compared across EU Member States. Data are available to search and download on the Eurostat website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/data/main-tables>

According to the data from 2014, the UK is the 6th largest cereal producer, the largest producer of sheep and the 3rd largest producer of cattle of the EU 28 Member States. Figures 7 to 9 below show the comparison of these activities across all Member States.

Figure 7: Cereal areas in 2014 by EU Member State

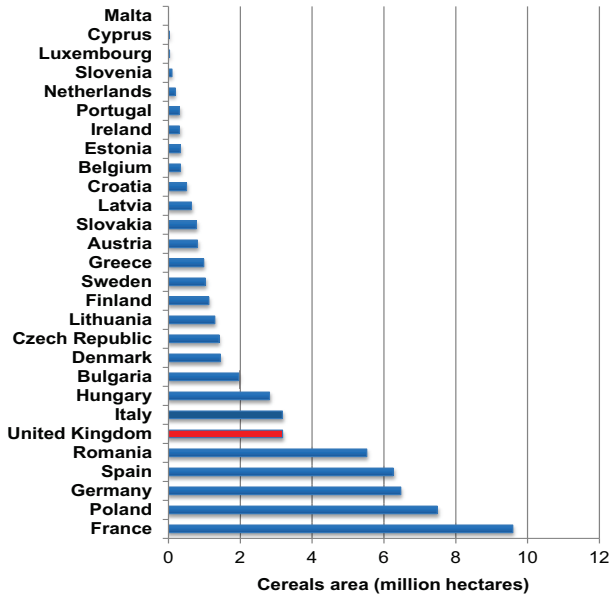
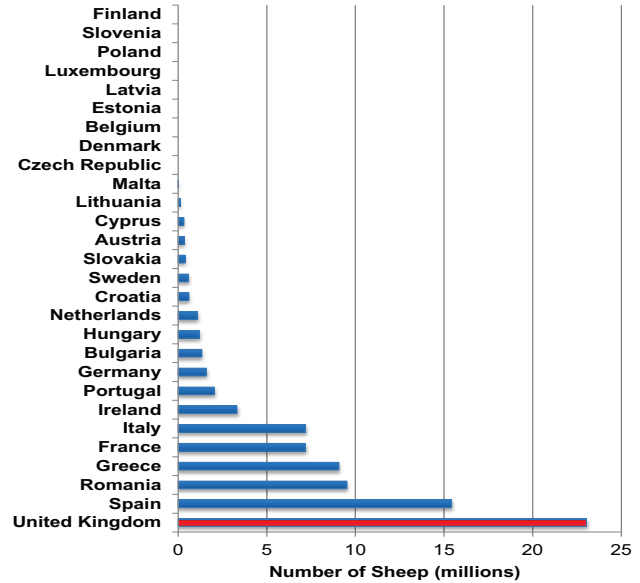


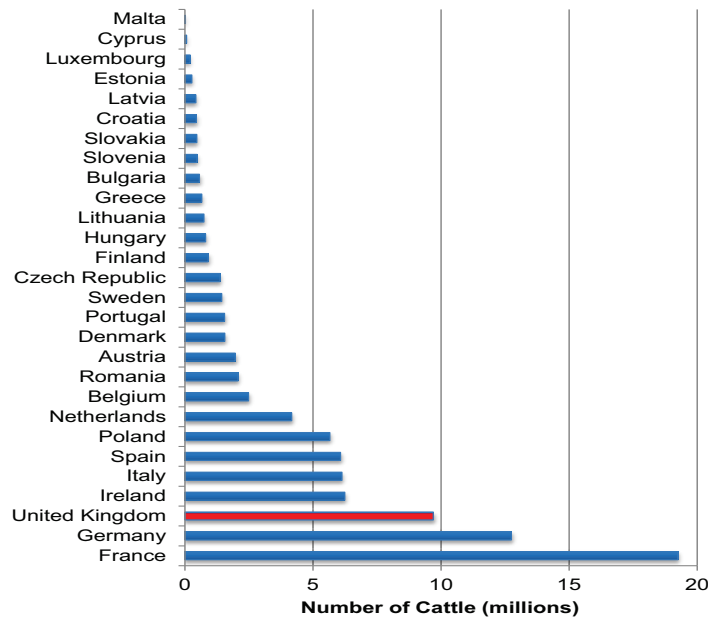
Figure 8: Number of sheep in 2014 by EU Member State



(data in figures 11 and 12 refer to December 2014, not June 2014)

Source: Eurostat

Figure 9: Number of cattle in 2014 by EU Member State



Source: Eurostat

Results Tables

Table 1: Summary of land use on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Utilised agricultural area ^(a)	17 259	17 240	17 187	-0.3%
Total agricultural land (including common rough grazing)	18 449	18 456	18 412	-0.2%
Common rough grazing	1 198	1 199	1 199	0.0%
Total area on agricultural holdings	17 250	17 257	17 214	-0.3%
Total croppable area	6 310	6 278	6 260	-0.3%
Total crops	4 665	4 722	4 696	-0.5%
Arable crops	4 502	4 559	4 522	-0.8%
Cereals	3 028	3 179	3 119	-1.9%
Oilseeds	752	691	672	-2.8%
Potatoes	139	141	131	-6.4%
Other arable crops	582	548	600	9.5%
Horticultural crops	163	164	174	6.4%
Uncropped arable land ^(b)	255	160	193	20.2%
Temporary grass under 5 years old	1 390	1 396	1 372	-1.7%
Permanent grassland (incl. rough grazing)	9 742	9 755	9 719	-0.4%
Grass over 5 years old	5 802	5 824	5 804	-0.3%
Sole right rough grazing ^(c)	3 940	3 930	3 915	-0.4%
Other land on agricultural holdings	1 198	1 224	1 235	0.9%
Woodland	865	897	914	1.8%
Land used for outdoor pigs	9	8	9	10.3%
All other non-agricultural land	324	318	312	-2.1%

(a) Includes all arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs (excludes woodland and other non-agricultural land).

(b) Includes all arable land not in production, including GAEC12 land, game strips, wild bird cover and game cover.

(c) Classified as mountains, hills, heathland or moorland.

Table 2: Area of arable crops on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total arable crops	4 502	4 559	4 522	-0.8%
Cereals	3 028	3 179	3 119	-1.9%
Wheat	1 615	1 936	1 833	-5.3%
Barley	1 213	1 080	1 119	3.7%
winter	310	429	442	3.1%
spring	903	651	677	4.0%
Oats	177	137	131	-4.7%
Minor cereals ^(a)	24	26	36	36.2%
Oilseed crops	752	691	672	-2.8%
Oilseed rape	715	675	654	-3.1%
winter	621	661	647	-2.0%
spring	95	14	7	-50.6%
Linseed	34	15	15	3.3%
Borage	3	2	3	37.2%
Potatoes	139	141	131	-6.4%
Other (non-horticultural) crops	582	548	600	9.5%
Sugar beet (not for stock feeding)	117	116	90	-22.3%
Field beans	118	107	168	57.3%
Peas for harvesting dry	29	32	43	36.0%
Maize (incl. fodder and grain maize)	194	183	186	1.3%
Root crops, brassicas and fodder beet for stock feeding	48	39	40	3.0%
Other crops for stock feeding ^(b)	40	40	39	-0.8%
All other arable crops ^(c)	35	30	33	7.4%

(a) Minor cereals are a total of rye, mixed corn and triticale.

(b) Includes leguminous forage crops.

(c) Includes short rotation coppice, miscanthus and crops for aromatic or medicinal use.

Table 3: Area of fruit and vegetables grown in the open on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total fruit and vegetables	149	149	159	6.4%
Orchards ^(a)	23.4	23.4	25.8	10.2%
Small fruit ^{(b) (c)}	9.6	9.4	10.0	6.8%
Strawberries	3.5	3.1	3.4	8.3%
Other small fruit (incl. gooseberries and blackberries)	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.0%
Vegetables and salad for human consumption ^{(b)(d)}	116	116	123	5.6%
Peas and beans	37	38	39	2.5%
All other vegetables and salad	79	78	83	7.2%

(a) Includes both commercial and non-commercial. Commercial orchards are those from which growers intend to sell fruit.

(b) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

(c) Small fruit includes crops grown in Spanish tunnels.

(d) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

Table 4: Area of hardy nursery stock on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousand hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total hardy nursery stock, bulbs and flowers ^(a)	11.9	12.0	13.0	8.0%
Hardy nursery stock	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.6%
Bulbs and flowers grown in the open	5.8	5.9	6.8	15.8%

(a) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

Table 5: Area of glasshouses and protected crops on agricultural holdings on 1 June ^{(a) (b)}

	Hectares			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total glasshouse area on 1 June ^(c)	2 555	2 594	2 516	-3.0%
Vegetables, salad and fruit	1 799	1 869	1 798	-3.8%
Flowers, foliage and other plants	594	568	526	-7.3%
Not in use on 1 June	132	127	162	27.3%

(a) These figures relate to land usage on 1 June and are not necessarily good indicators of annual production as more than one crop may be obtained in each season, a crop may overlap two seasons, or may be planted after 1 June.

(b) 'Glasshouse' includes any fixed or mobile structure high enough to walk through, which is glazed or clad with film, rigid plastics or other glass substitutes. It excludes lights, low plastic tunnels, French and Spanish tunnels. These are reported as crops grown in the open (table 4).

(c) Due to the small areas grown, some UK countries do not collect data on individual crops in this category. For these countries the areas are included in this total estimate only. Therefore the total estimate does not always sum to the component parts.

Table 6: Cattle and calves on agricultural holdings on 1 June ^{(a) (b)}

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total cattle and calves	9 844	9 837	9 890	0.5%
All female cattle	7 083	7 100	7 159	0.8%
Aged 2 years or more	4 177	4 228	4 233	0.1%
Total breeding herd	3 393	3 411	3 455	1.3%
- Beef herd	1 611	1 569	1 577	0.5%
- Dairy herd	1 782	1 841	1 877	2.0%
Other female cattle	784	817	778	-4.8%
- Beef	398	409	389	-4.9%
- Dairy	387	408	389	-4.7%
Aged between 1 and 2 years	1 414	1 373	1 377	0.3%
- Beef	876	834	835	0.0%
- Dairy	538	539	543	0.8%
Less than 1 year	1 492	1 499	1 549	3.3%
- Beef	938	936	969	3.4%
- Dairy	554	563	580	3.1%
All male cattle	2 761	2 737	2 731	-0.2%
Aged 2 years or more	384	424	396	-6.6%
Aged between 1 and 2 years	1 060	1 011	1 005	-0.6%
Less than 1 year	1 316	1 302	1 329	2.1%

(a) These figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) in England, Wales and Scotland and the equivalent APHIS system in Northern Ireland.

(b) In 2013 Scotland changed the source of cattle figures from survey data to the Cattle Tracing System and has since revised results back to 2006. More information about these changes can be found in the Scottish June release here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubFinalResultsJuneCensus>

Table 7: Pigs on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total pigs	4 885	4 815	4 725	-1.9%
Breeding pigs	522	501	505	0.9%
Female breeding herd	421	406	407	0.3%
Sows in pig	284	282	286	1.3%
Gilts in pig	66	57	56	-3.0%
Other sows ^(a)	70	67	66	-1.5%
Other breeding pigs	101	95	98	3.4%
Boars being used for service	15	14	15	5.7%
Gilts intended for first time breeding	86	80	83	3.0%
Fattening pigs (incl. barren sows)	4 363	4 315	4 221	-2.2%

(a) Either being suckled or dry sows being kept for further breeding.

Table 8: Sheep and lambs on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total sheep and lambs	32 856	33 743	33 555	-0.6%
Female breeding flock	15 561	16 026	15 988	-0.2%
Ewes intended for further breeding or for slaughter	12 998	13 515	13 380	-1.0%
Ewes intended for first time breeding	2 564	2 511	2 608	3.8%
Other sheep and lambs	17 295	17 717	17 567	-0.8%
Lambs under 1 year old	16 381	16 936	16 755	-1.1%
Rams	432	417	420	0.5%
Other sheep 1 year and over	482	364	393	8.0%

Table 9: Poultry on agricultural holdings on 1 June ^(a)

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total poultry	162 609	169 684	tba	
Total breeding and laying fowl	47 024	48 404	tba	
Hens and pullets laying eggs for eating	35 841	37 146	tba	
Breeding flock	11 184	11 258	tba	
Table chickens (broilers)	104 576	110 374	tba	
Other poultry	11 008	10 907	tba	
Ducks	2 354	1 998	tba	
Geese	86	103	tba	
Turkeys	4 113	3 772	tba	
All other poultry	4 455	5 033	tba	

tba: to be announced. Estimates for poultry numbers will be published on 17 December 2015. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

(a) Due to production cycles, subgroups within the poultry population are often volatile as the 'point in time' nature of the June Survey can lead to large variations in the numbers in each category.

Table 10: All other livestock on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Thousands			
	2013	2014	2015	% change 2015-14
Total other livestock	447	453	tba	
Goats	98	100	tba	
Farmed deer	32	32	tba	
Horses	293	303	tba	
Any livestock not recorded elsewhere ^(a)	24	18	tba	
- of which alpacas	11	9	tba	
- of which llamas	1	2	tba	

tba: to be announced. Estimates for other livestock numbers will be published on 17 December 2015. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

(a) Includes camelids, donkeys and mules.

Table 11: Number of people working on agricultural holdings on 1 June

	Number of people (thousands)			% change 2015-14
	2013	2014	2015	
Total number of people working on agricultural holdings	464	476	tba	
Farmers, partners, directors and spouses	290	294	tba	
Full time	138	140	tba	
Part time ^(a)	152	155	tba	
Salaried managers	11	11	tba	
Regular and casual workers	162	170	tba	
Regular workers	101	104	tba	
- Full time	63	64	tba	
- Part time ^(a)	39	40	tba	
Casual workers	61	66	tba	
- Male	40	47	tba	
- Female	21	19	tba	

tba: to be announced. Estimates for the agricultural workforce will be published on 17 December 2015. The table has been included here to show historic results only.

(a) Part time is defined as working less than 39 hours per week.

Data uses and users

Land

- Data on crop areas (both arable and horticultural) help us monitor the long term trends in cropping. Amongst many other things, this helps us assess the impacts of the abolition of formal set-aside.
- The data will enable us to assess how land areas vary across the UK regions and in different geographic areas (such as the Uplands, National Parks, and River Basin Districts).
- The cereals and oilseed rape harvest estimates are heavily used by the cereals industry to monitor the availability of grain throughout the year.
- Any changes in the agricultural sector also affect people. For many, it is their livelihood and a way of life.

Livestock

- Data from the June Survey help us monitor changes in livestock populations over time and the effects of e.g. CAP reform on the industry.
- The numbers are also used to make forecasts of meat and milk production to inform industry of the availability of supply which affects prices.
- Livestock distributions across the UK help assess the risk of veterinary disease and to control outbreaks.
- The data are also used heavily in calculations of the greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions inventories.

Results from the England June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture also have a wide range of uses and users with requests for data being made on a daily basis. A document providing information of specific uses and users can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>.

Other survey results and publications

Results from all the Defra farming surveys can be viewed on the Defra website via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=statistics. This also contains details of future publication dates.

The next Farming Statistics publications due from the June Survey of Agriculture and the Cereal and Oilseed Rape Production Survey are shown below. Please note that the publication dates are provisional and subject to change.

England Publications

- 29 October 2015: Farming Statistics final land use, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2015 – England.

UK Publications

- 17 December 2015: Farming Statistics final crop areas, yields, livestock populations and agricultural workforce at 1 June 2015 – United Kingdom.

More detailed results from the June Survey can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>. This includes various time series of crop areas and livestock numbers dating back as early as 1866 and detailed geographical breakdowns of the results.

Methodology: June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

Data on crop areas and livestock populations are collected in the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture carried out by each of the UK agriculture departments. The methodology adopted by each country is below.

England

England results are the final results from the June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture in 2015. The June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture was historically a postal survey run annually. However from 2011 onwards, the survey has been run predominantly online with an option for farmers to complete a paper form if they preferred.

Approximately 25 thousand 'commercial' holdings were asked to complete the survey in 2015. Commercial holdings are defined as those with significant levels of farming activity, i.e. holdings with more than five hectares of agricultural land, one hectare of orchards, 0.5 hectares of vegetables or 0.1 hectares of protected crops, or more than 10 cows, 50 pigs, 20 sheep, 20 goats or 1,000 poultry.

Checks were carried out to ensure the sample was representative across farm size. The size of a farm is determined by its Standard Labour Requirement (SLR). In the SLR system, each livestock type and land-use has a theoretical amount of labour required each year. This value is multiplied by the land area or livestock numbers and then summed to give the SLR for the holding. The SLR represents the typical number of full time workers required on the holding.

The small farms (those with low SLRs) were sampled at a lower rate and the sampling rate increased with farm size as in table 13 below. This method minimises the burden on farmers whilst maximising the coverage. To improve the coverage of the pig and poultry sectors, a special data collection exercise was run to collect data from a central point for some of the largest companies.

Table 12: June 2015 sample design

Stratum	Description	Sampling rate (%)	Population size
1	SLR < 0.5	11	39 683
2	SLR >= 0.5 and < 1	16	15 885
3	SLR >= 1 and < 2	26	15 348
4	SLR >= 2 and < 3	38	8 408
5	SLR >= 3 and < 5	55	7 641
6	SLR >= 5	67	7 648
10	SLR unknown	13	9 862
All		24	104 475

The results in this statistical release are based on responses from just over 20 thousand commercial holdings, representing a response rate of 62%.

The data are subject to rigorous validation checks which identify inconsistencies within the data or large year-on-year changes. Any records that have not been cleaned by the results production stage are excluded from the analysis.

Population totals are estimated for each question on the survey to account for the non-sampled and non-responding holdings. This survey uses the technique known as ratio raising, in which the trend between the sample data and base data (previous year's data) is calculated for each stratum. The calculated ratio is then applied to the previous year's population data to give England level estimates.

For holdings where we do not have base data (new holdings or long-term non-responders) the sample estimates are raised according to the inverse sampling fraction.

Cattle results are sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS). The data include returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error. More information on the use of this administrative data can be found on the “survey notes and guidance” web page via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182225/defra-stats-foodfarm-landuselivestock-june-results-BovineRegisters.pdf

Final crop areas and cattle, sheep and pig populations from the England 2014 June Survey were published on 18 September 2014 and can be viewed on our website via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry>.

More details on the June Survey methodology can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-survey-notes-and-guidance>.

Scotland

This year with Scotland results not being published until later this month, crop areas and livestock numbers for 2014 have been carried forward to allow provisional UK totals to be calculated for 2015.

Data collection

The June Agricultural Census is conducted annually by the Scottish Government’s Rural & Environment Science & Analytical Services (RESAS). Data for the June Census is collected from three sources:

- Land data extracted from the Single Application Form (SAF) database for around 24,900 holdings that are claiming Single Farm Payment (SFP). These data are accurate as farmers can face penalties for supplying incorrect data. A cut-down survey form is sent to all the 24,900 holdings that completed a SAF in 2014 (as this year’s SAF data was unavailable at the time census forms were issued) so that additional data on livestock and labour can be collected.
- From the remaining 27,300 holdings who didn’t complete a SAF in 2014, 7,700 holdings were sampled and sent a full census form covering land, livestock and labour. This includes 430 holdings that completed a SAF for the first time in 2015.
- Cattle data for the 2015 census were obtained through the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), an administrative data source held by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) which records cattle movements across Great Britain.

In terms of area, in June 2014, returns were received for 94 per cent of land-use data (shaded grey), 100 per cent of cattle data, and 72 per cent of other data. Final June 2015 results for Scotland are scheduled for publication on 27 October 2015 by the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) division.

Contact details - Saughton House (Q Spur), Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD (telephone: 0300 244 9709, email: agric.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Wales

Wales do not produce provisional results for crop areas and livestock numbers so 2014 figures for Wales have been carried forward to allow UK totals to be calculated for 2015. Final results for Wales will be published by the Welsh Assembly Government in the winter of 2015 at: www.wales.gov.uk/statistics. The publication date has not been finalised. For further details contact the Statistical Directorate 6, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ (telephone: Cardiff (02920) 825082).

Northern Ireland

In 2015 the Northern Ireland Agricultural and Horticultural Survey was conducted as a sample survey. A total of 20,300 forms were issued with provisional results based on 9,400 returned forms. Data for the cattle section is a complete census as it is extracted from the APHIS cattle tracing database. Data for the pig and poultry sections are also complete censuses extracted from the NI Annual Inventory of Pigs and Update of NI Bird Register respectively. Provisional results were published on 27 August 2015 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Belfast, BT4 3SB (telephone: Belfast (02890) 525450) and are available on the internet at: www.dardni.gov.uk/statistical-bulletins. Final results will be published on 26 November 2015.