



Fact Sheet on Irish Agriculture – February 2016



A: Role of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Food in the Irish Economy

Key Indicators for Primary and Agri-Food Sectors			Employment in the Agri-Food Sector (000s)	
<i>Relevant period in brackets.</i>	Primary Sector ¹	Agri-Food Sector ²		
% of GVA at factor cost (2014)	2.5%	7.6%		
% of employment (2015, Q3)	5.7%	8.5%		
% of merchandise exports (2015 ³)	7%	10.8%		
<p>According to the Census of Industrial Production, 2012, the Food & Beverages Sector accounts for:</p> <p>24% of all Industry Turnover (26% of all Manufacturing Industry Turnover)</p> <p>22% of all Industry Gross Output (24% of all Manufacturing Industry Gross Output)</p>				

B: Public Expenditure and Agriculture Related Payments

Total public expenditure on the agri-food sector by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine was approximately €2.4 billion in 2014. DAFM payments to farmers in 2014 totalled **€1.75 billion**, including Single Farm Payment, Rural Development, Structural and Forestry payments.

DAFM Expenditure on Irish Agriculture, 2014	
1 January to 31 December 2014	€m
EAGGF Guarantee direct expenditure	1,194.0
Single Farm Payment	1,178.0
Grassland Sheep, Burren Life, Dairy Efficiency Schemes	24.0
Export Refunds	0.0
Intervention	0.0
Other Market Supports & Recoveries	-8.0
Voted Expenditure (excluding Administration)	978.3
Rural Development*	405.0
Structural Measures*	31.7
State Bodies	187.9
Horse and Greyhound Fund	54.2
Animal Health	79.4
Research and Training	25.9
Market Support Costs*	8.8
Forestry and Bio-Fuels	112.0
Fisheries	15.9
Food Aid	9.9
Other	47.6
Administration	213.1
Total Voted Expenditure	1,191.4
Total DAFM Expenditure	2,385.4

* Total initial payments from the Vote - EU-funded elements recouped to the Vote subsequently.

¹ Primary sector taken to comprise Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

² Comprises primary production, food, beverages (& tobacco for GVA only) and wood processing sectors. Source: CSO and DAFM.

³ 10.8% (€12bn) comprises exports of primary unprocessed products, food & beverages whereas Bord Bia (Section G) covers Food & Beverages only

C: Estimates of Aggregate Agricultural Output, Input and Income - CSO

- The CSO's Advance Estimate of operating surplus in agriculture in 2015 was €2,600.1 million, an increase of 4.1% on 2014.
- In 2015, subsidies (net of levies) accounted for 55% of operating surplus.
- Beef and milk production currently account for 69% of agricultural output at producer prices (excluding forage).

Output, Input and Income in Agriculture, 2015					
Main Aggregates	Value €m		Main Commodities	Value €m	% of G/O
Goods Output @ Producer Prices ⁽¹⁾	7,118.1		Goods Output (excl forage)	6,103.4	100%
+ Contract Work	360.0		<i>of which</i>		
+ Subsidies - Taxes (Products)	-83.8		Cattle	2,397.2	39.3%
Agricultural Output @ Basic Prices	7,394.2		Milk	1,792.6	29.4%
- Intermediate Consumption	5,082.1		Pigs	463.5	7.6%
Gross Value Added @ Basic Prices	2,312.1		Sheep	243.1	4.0%
- Fixed Capital Consumption	729.2		Cereals	266.2	4.4%
+ Subsidies - Taxes (Production)	1,512.4		Others	940.8	15.4%
- Compensation of Employees	495.2		Forage Plants	1,014.7	
Operating Surplus	2,600.1		Goods Output at Producer Prices ⁽¹⁾	7,118.1	

¹ Including Forage

Source: [CSO Output, Input & Income in Agriculture - 2015 Advance Estimate](#)

D: Estimates of Family Farm and Farm Household Income

- The 2014 [National Farm Survey \(NFS\)](#)⁴ from Teagasc estimated that **average Family Farm Income (which excludes off-farm income) was up 5% in 2014, at €26,642**. Full-time farms, as defined by Teagasc, had an average farm income of **€51,661**, while the part-time equivalent was **€9,677**.
- The 2014 NFS data indicated that **on 30% of farms the farm-holder had an off-farm job**. It also showed that **on 51% of farms the holder and/or spouse had an off-farm job**. Overall, **on 75% of farms the farmer and/or spouse had some source of off-farm income** be it from employment, pension or social assistance.
- The CSO's [Farm Structures Survey 2013](#), estimated the average Standard Output of an Irish farm to be €35,912. Standard output is the average monetary value of agricultural output at farm-gate prices.

E: Farm Structures

Farm Structures Data for Ireland		
Relevant Year	Statistic	Relevant Data
2013	Farm Holdings	139,600
2013	Average Farm Size	32.5 Hectares
2013	Family Farm Holders by Age	5.9% < 35; 52.7% > 55
2015 ⁽¹⁾	Employment in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (CSO)	112,700

¹ Persons employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing is from the CSO's Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), Q3 2015. It covers people who identified this sector as their **primary** source of income in the week preceding the survey.

Sources: [Farm Structures Survey 2013](#); [CSO QNHS, Q3 2015](#)

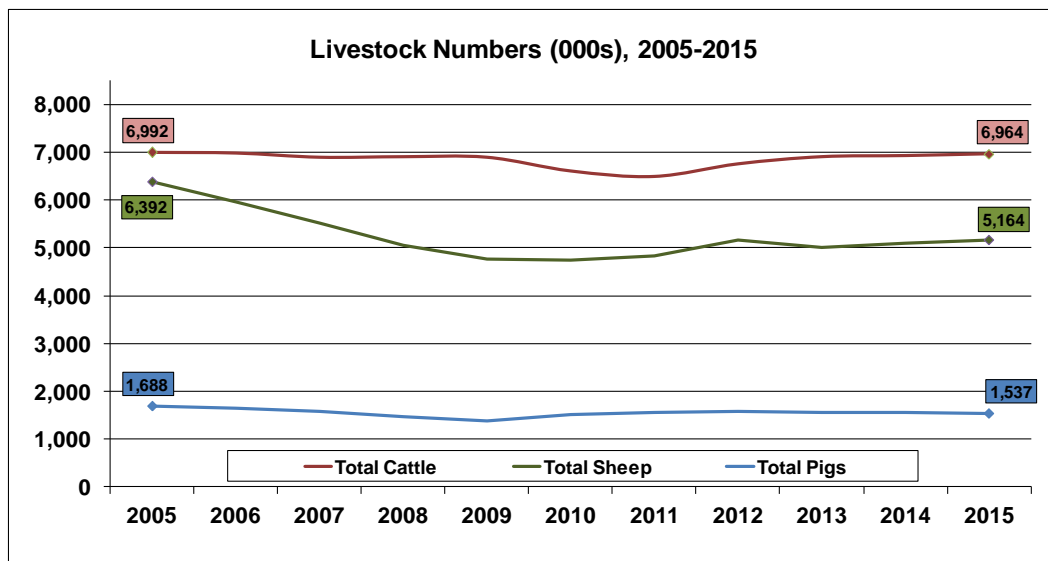
⁴ From the 2012 [National Farm Survey](#) farms with a Standard Output of less than €8,000 are excluded.

F: Land Usage & Livestock Numbers

- The land area of Ireland is 6.9 million hectares (2014), of which 4.5m hectares is used for agriculture and a further 0.73 million hectares for forestry.
- 81% of agricultural area is devoted to pasture, hay and grass silage (3.6 million hectares), 11% to rough grazing (0.5 million hectares) and 8.2% to crops (including cereals, see across), fruit & horticulture production (0.37 million hectares).
- The average land price in Ireland in 2014 was estimated to be €9,890 per acre. (Source: Farmers Journal Agricultural Land Price Report, 2014).

Area Under Certain Crops	
	000's Hectares
Cereals	306.7
<i>of which</i>	
Wheat	71.6
Oats	18.6
Barley	215.7
Potatoes	9.5

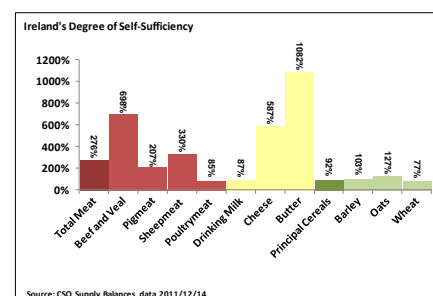
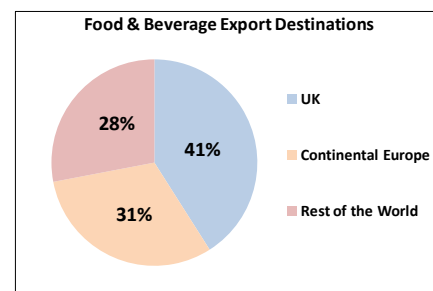
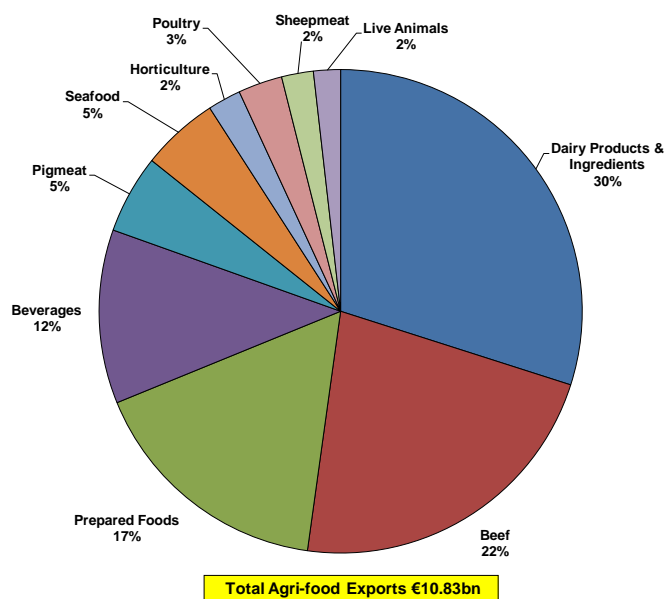
CSO Crops & Livestock Survey, June 2014 - Final



CSO June Crops & Livestock Surveys (latest, [June 2015 provisional](#)); CSO Pig Surveys (latest, [June 2015](#))

G: Self-Sufficiency and Exports³

[Bord Bia](#) estimates that in 2015 Ireland exported **€10.83 billion** worth of Food & Beverages, a result in large measure of Ireland's high level of self sufficiency in many products.



H: Commodity Price Trends

