

**SECTION 6a -  
CRITICAL ECONOMY  
SECTOR:  
AGRICULTURE**

## Overview of Data Sources

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/publications/> Rol Dept of Agric, Food & Marine - Publications, by year

[http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Database/eirestat/Agriculture%20Land%20Sales/Agriculture%20and%20Sales\\_statbank.asp?SP=Agriculture%20Land%20Sales&Planguage=0](http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Database/eirestat/Agriculture%20Land%20Sales/Agriculture%20and%20Sales_statbank.asp?SP=Agriculture%20Land%20Sales&Planguage=0) Click Business Sectors at lhs, then Agriculture & Fishing. Not useful, all are dated and are not by County

<http://www.statcentral.ie/viewstats.asp?type=Agriculture%20and%20Fishing> Rol Ag Data list - Useful, but some data are dated

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/agricultureandfishing/> Rol CSO Up-to-Date Data list

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/2010/Full2010.pdf>

Rol 2010 Farm Census, Final Results December 2012

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/agricultureandfishing/censusofagriculturemainresultsjune2000/> Rol 2000 Farm Census, Final Results, December 2002

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/tables35to46.pdf> Employment in Agriculture 2000 ROI

<http://census.cso.ie/agrimap/> Rol 2010 Agri Census Mapping, useful Summary Profiles - by County, ED, etc.

[http://www.airo.ie/mapping-module/atlas/Census\\_of\\_Agriculture/Census%20of%2BAgriculture%2B2010](http://www.airo.ie/mapping-module/atlas/Census_of_Agriculture/Census%20of%2BAgriculture%2B2010) AIRO Mapping of Rol 2010 Farm Census, by County, Region

[http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/lerc/farm\\_surveys.asp](http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/lerc/farm_surveys.asp) Rol Annual Teagasc National Farm Survey, 2011 p.15 & Tables 14a-e, Border Region - data on financial performance of farms. Good Glossary at end

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/default.asp3.htm> NI Dept of Agric & Rural Dev - Agri data

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/the-agricultural-census-ni-2010.pdf> 2010 Farm Census, p43-51 District Tables

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/complete2000.pdf> 2000 Farm Census, p43-51 District Tables, or

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/pivotgrid.aspx?dataSetVars=ds-2391-lh-37-yn-1999-2011-sk-38-sn-Agriculture%20and%20Environment-yearfilter--> NISRA NINIS Interactive Content, Agric & Env 1999-2011

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/Agriculture%20and%20Environment/Agriculture/Farm%20Census/atlas.html> NISRA NINIS Interactive Farm Census Map 1999-2011

### 6a.1 Significance of Agriculture Sector

Agriculture has been the traditional basis for the economies of this entire Region, including its 'market' towns. The land also provides the environment for many people to live, travel, recreation, etc. - so it is an integral part of the life of the Central Border Region. Though this 'industry' has transformed significantly in the past generation - in terms of employment, farm activity, and mechanisation, etc., it remains a very important part of the economy and the life of the Region.

Specifically, the produce of the land makes a very significant contribution to the employment (full-time and part-time / family farming) and wealth generation of the Region - with dairy products, crops and meat production, as well as secondary processing

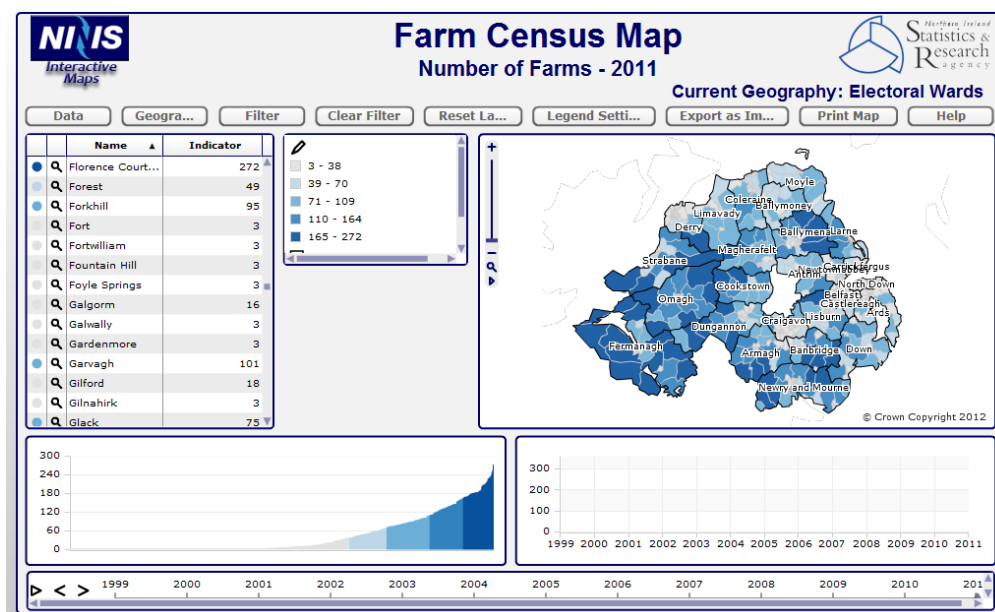
and services, supporting many businesses across the Region - artisan / specialist foods and also many international-scales, exporting businesses.

In RoI, the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine produces a large amount of statistical data. In particular, a comprehensive Farm Census is held every 10 years in 2010, 2000, etc.), as well as the Teagasc National Farm Survey. In NI, the Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) also produces a wide range of statistics; in particular, a sample Farm Census is held annually with a full Census every 10 years, to co-incide with that in RoI.

## 6a.2 Number of Farms, Farm Size and Employment

### Commentary

As can be seen from Table 37, there were **over 42,000 farms in the Central Border Region** in 2010, which was a 6% reduction from 2000. However, whilst each of the three NI Districts lost 17 - 20% of their farms, there was very little fall in farm numbers in the RoI counties - with Donegal actually increasing its numbers by 435 farms (5%). Reflecting the general fall in farm numbers, there has been a notable increase in average farm size, especially in NI.



There were **72,213 people working in agriculture in 2010** in the Central Border Region. Whilst the overall numbers working in agriculture in 2010 remains similar to 2000, the NI Districts have reduced worker numbers by 14 - 20% - in line with the NI trend, but the RoI counties have all increased their worker numbers by between 5 and 11%. These figures could however mask changes in the amount of casual, part-time, seasonal staff, etc. and

the shift to more labour intensive farm types - so would require further analysis. There is undoubtedly a fragmented and flexible workforce involved in farming, including family members and much part-time working; however, as noted in the Data Difficulties section below, the labour data is not particularly compatible in the two jurisdictions.

In contrast to the Farm Census, the figures from the main Census show much smaller numbers of people who are employed in Agriculture - as their main occupation (the rest are presumably part-time, casual and seasonal). Nevertheless, the 2010 Census shows that employment in Agriculture is still an important part of the economy of the Region, being **21,493** or around 4% of all workers in the NI Districts and 7 - 12% of workers in the Rol counties. The relative percentages of farm workers have declined over the decade - in all LGDs, but it is interesting to note that the actual numbers employed have increased since 2006, rising to approximately the same levels as 2001 / 02.

The farms in the NI Districts tend to be slightly larger, with the largest average farms in the Region being located in the Fermanagh and Omagh District. Overall, it appears that the NI farms of the Region have experienced greater structural change over the past decade.

**Table 37: Analysis of Agriculture Sector in Central Border Region 2000 & 2010**

Area	No. of Farms		Average Farm Size (crops & grass) (ha)		Employment in Agriculture	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Cavan	5,491	5,282	25.2	26.4	9,457	9,899
Donegal	8,805	9,240	26.2	27.9	13,975	15,503
Leitrim	3,724	3,673	24.6	25.1	6,071	6,654
Monaghan	4,567	4,565	21.8	23.3	8,235	8,740
Sligo	4,505	4,395	24.5	26.3	7,700	8,136
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	4,228	3,380	26.1	30.5	8,746	7,143
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	6,036	4,999	29.7	34.4	10,392	8,644
Mid Ulster District Council	5,065	4,155	25.6	28.8	9,253	7,494
<b>ICBAN Region</b>	<b>42,421</b>	<b>39,689</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>73,829</b>	<b>72,213</b>
Rep of Ireland	141,525	139,860	31.4	32.7	257,948	272,016
Northern Ireland	29,891	24,471	29.6	34.1	57,823	46,948

Source: Rol and NI Farm Census 2000 & 2010

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/2010/Full2010.pdf>

Rol 2010 Farm Census, Tables 1 and 37

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/agricultureandfishing/censusofagriculturemainresultsjune2000/> Rol 2000 Farm Census, Tables 1 and 35

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/the-agricultural-census-ni-2010.pdf> NI 2010 Farm Census, Tables 6.1 & 6.7

**Table 38: Employment in Agriculture\* in Central Border Region - Census 2001/02 - 2011**

Area	2001 / 02		2006		2011	
	Number	% of total pop that is At Work	Number	% of total pop that is At Work	Number	% of total pop that is At Work
Cavan	3,367	15.0%	2,740	9.7%	3,381	12.4%
Donegal	4,042	8.4%	3,796	6.7%	4,036	7.6%
Leitrim	1,275	12.8%	1,173	9.3%	1,215	10.1%
Monaghan	2,856	13.5%	2,627	10.4%	2,860	12.4%
Sligo	1,928	8.1%	1,795	6.6%	1,770	7.0%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	2,934	4.0%	N/A	N/A	26,48	2.9%
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	2,874	6.9%	N/A	N/A	2,713	5.5%
Mid Ulster District Council	2,952	6.2%	N/A	N/A	2,870	4.7%
<b>ICBAN Region</b>	<b>22,228</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>21,493</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
Rep of Ireland	97,281	5.9%	89,277	4.6%	94,247	5.2%
Northern Ireland	20,724	3.0%	N/A	N/A	17,822	2.2%

Source: ROI Census - CSO & NI Census - NISRA

<http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?maintable=CD319&Planguage=0>

RoI 2011 Census (& 2006) Profile 3, Table CD319, Broad Ind. Group - Agric., Forestry & Fishing

<http://census.cso.ie/Census/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=1485> RoI 2002 Census, Interactive Tables, Volume 5, Table 13, Broad Ind. Group - Agric., Forestry & Fishing

[http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/key\\_stats\\_bulletin\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/key_stats_bulletin_2011.pdf) 2011 NI Click on p 31 link to Table KS605NI (Persons) Broad Ind. Group - Agric., Forestry & Fishing

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/2001%20Census%20Results/Key%20Statistics/KeyStatisticstoOutputArealLevel.html> 2001 NI Scroll down to Table KS11a. Broad Ind. Group - Agric., Forestry & Fishing

\* Note that the Census category includes Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing

### 6.a.3 Type of Farming in the Central Border Region

#### Commentary

The tables below give an indication of the relative importance of the various farming types across the Region, and how they have changed between 2000 and 2010. Specifically, **dairying appears to be strong in Cavan, Monaghan and all the NI Districts** (though the size of the farms would require further analysis) whilst there are many beef farms in all the LGDs, with sheep and mixed farms being particularly prevalent in Donegal.

There are over **1.5 million cattle** across the Region, whilst the **1.9 million sheep** are concentrated in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, and the NI Councils areas. The Region has **almost one third of the island's pigs**, especially in Cavan with over 300,000 stock. **Sixty per cent of the island's poultry** is in the Region - with over 16 million, especially in Monaghan, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Mid Ulster District Councils, as well as and Cavan. The amount of poultry being kept has increased by over three million from 2000 to 2010 (though the numbers have fallen by almost half a million in the Rol Counties. Another key statistic in the Region shows that the number of sheep has fallen by more than 20% in the period from 2000 to 2010.

**Table 39: Main Farm Types in the Central Border Region 2010**

Area	Dairy	Beef	Sheep	Mixed Livestock	Mixed Crops
	<b>Number of Farms</b>				
Cavan	593	3,685	212	378	288
Donegal	180	3,462	3,393	1,163	704
Leitrim	43	2,510	519	312	267
Monaghan	599	3,115	98	238	265
Sligo	141	2,971	492	456	311
<b>Rep of Ireland</b>	<b>15,654</b>	<b>77,738</b>	<b>13,555</b>	<b>14,697</b>	<b>9,635</b>
	Dairy	Cattle & Sheep	Pigs & Poultry	Mixed	Horticulture
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	443	2,274	81	152	154
Fermanagh & Omagh District Councils	612	4,547	57	32	7
Mid Ulster District Councils	567	4,020	167	136	19
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>3,194</b>	<b>4,198</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>289</b>
<b>ICBAN Region</b>	<b>3,178</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Rol and NI Farm Census 2000 & 2010

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/2010/Full2010.pdf>

Rol 2010 Farm Census, Table 2,

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/the-agricultural-census-ni-2010.pdf> NI 2010 Farm Census, Table 6.3

**Table 40a: Livestock Numbers in the Central Border Region 2000**

Area	Pigs	Cattle	Sheep	Poultry
Cavan	374,648	249,217	95,063	831,470
Donegal	39,385	189,142	678,057	44,591
Leitrim	7,351	90,905	127,611	40,906
Monaghan	40,059	214,328	57,231	6,496,132
Sligo	3,414	136,198	173,205	9,236
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	68,262	229,157	219,494	3,446,000
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	42,242	312,742	318,368	903,000
Mid Ulster District Council	135,647	272,499	288,445	2,326,967
<b>ICBAN Region</b>	<b>711,008</b>	<b>1,694,188</b>	<b>1,957,474</b>	<b>14,098,302</b>
Rep of Ireland*	1,722,108	7,037,435	6,891,534	13,960,771
Northern Ireland	413,480	1,676,479	2,740,586	15,376,000

Source: Rol and NI Farm Census 2000

**Table 40b: Livestock Numbers in the Central Border Region 2010**

Area	Pigs	Cattle	Sheep	Poultry
Cavan	332,880	219,463	67,237	1,097,381
Donegal	38,525	191,288	576,463	28,962
Leitrim	3,389	68,795	121,793	2,136
Monaghan	24,550	199,501	44,622	5,847,740
Sligo	4,265	115,814	156,586	11,229
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	88,680	232,582	132,452	2,343,000
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	32,637	277,870	218,900	1,521,000
Mid Ulster District Council	141,829	270,417	188,268	6,343,000
<b>ICBAN Region</b>	<b>666,755</b>	<b>1,575,730</b>	<b>1,506,321</b>	<b>17,194,448</b>
Rep of Ireland	1,516,291	6,606,585	4,745,424	10,924,807
Northern Ireland	424,604	1,604,356	1,847,694	16,531,000

Source: Rol and NI Farm Census, 2010

**Table 40c: Change in Livestock Numbers in the Central Border Region 2001 - 2010**

Area	Pigs	Cattle	Sheep	Poultry
Cavan	-41,768	-29,754	-27,826	+265,911
Donegal	-860	+2,146	-101,594	-15,629
Leitrim	-3,962	-22,110	-5,818	-38,770
Monaghan	-15,509	-14,827	-12,609	-648,392
Sligo	+851	-20,384	-16,619	+1,993
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	+20,418	+3425	-87,042	-1,103,000
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	-9,605	-34,872	-99,468	+618,000
Mid Ulster District Council	+6,182	-2,082	-100,177	+4,016,033
<b>ICBAN Region</b>	<b>-44,253</b>	<b>-118,458</b>	<b>-451,153</b>	<b>3,096,146</b>
Rep of Ireland	-205,817	-430,850	-2,146,110	-3,035,964
Northern Ireland	+11,124	-72,123	-892,892	+1,155,000

Source: *Rol and NI Farm Census 2000 & 2010*

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/2010/Full2010.pdf>

Rol 2010 Farm Census, Table 8

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/agricultureandfishing/censusofagriculturemainresultsjune2000/> Rol 2000 Farm Census, Table 12

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/complete2000.pdf> NI 2000 Farm Census, p43-51, District Table 6.6

#### **6.a.4 Other Key Agriculture Data for the Central Border Region**

There are a lot of other statistics and reports available on the various other aspects of agriculture in the Central Border Region, such as:

Farm Types, incl. Organic Farming

Land / Soil Quality

LFA/SFA Classification

No. Employed - F/T & P/T

Age of Farmers

Farm Business Size

Average Wages

Diversification

The websites detailed above - of the Rol Dept of Agriculture, Food & Marine and the NI Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development, especially the Farm Census, do provide some information on these aspects - but it is often not compatible in both jurisdictions and may not be available at local or LGD level.

Forestry data is available from the respective Government Departments:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests/forests-service-general-information/forests-statistics-and-mapping/>

<http://www.coillte.ie/coillte-forest/>

#### **Data Difficulties**

*The Definitions of 'farm' are the same, for Rol and NI. 'Farm size', in hectares, seems the same - though the Rol census is more explicit in that it measures only the actual Agricultural Area Utilised (AAU). 'Farm business size' is measured differently; in Rol the value of the Standard Output (SO) of the farm is used to measure the 'economic size' of the farm (SO has replaced the Standard Gross Margin (SGM)) whereas NI uses the Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) method (which also replaced the SGM method in 2004).*

*In terms of 'employment' or 'labour used', the Rol measures the family workers (holder, spouse and other family) plus regular non-family workers as well as non-regular labour (contract, casual and relief). In NI, the labour force is measured in terms of regular (>20*



*weeks pa) or casual (<20 weeks pa) and full or part-time (<> 30 hrs per week). Rol Census gives the number of workers and the number of Annual Work Units (AWU) - in order to reflect the different amount of time each worker inputs, whereas the NI Census only gives the number of persons. Therefore, the figures for agricultural employment are merely an indicator, which may have limited compatibility across the border.*

*In terms of 'data difficulties', it is noted that the results for livestock numbers in NI Ag. Census are not as detailed as in Rol. The records in NI do not include livestock such as goats, deer and horses, resulting in these figures not being comparable. Certain livestock types are grouped for certain tables e.g. all cattle (dairy and beef), cattle & sheep, pigs & poultry, mixed and crops / horticulture.*

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/2010/Full2010.pdf>  
Rol 2010 Farm Census, p100-107 Definitions