



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Life in 1916 Ireland

An Saol in Éirinn sa bhliain 1916

Stories from statistics - Agriculture

Scéalta ó staitisticí - Talmhaíocht

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The data compiled in this booklet comes from many sources.

It includes historical documents, official reports and statistics.

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Famine to 1916

Introduction

1916 may have been a watershed moment for Ireland politically, but Ireland’s agriculture sector experienced massive change in the decades preceding the Rising.

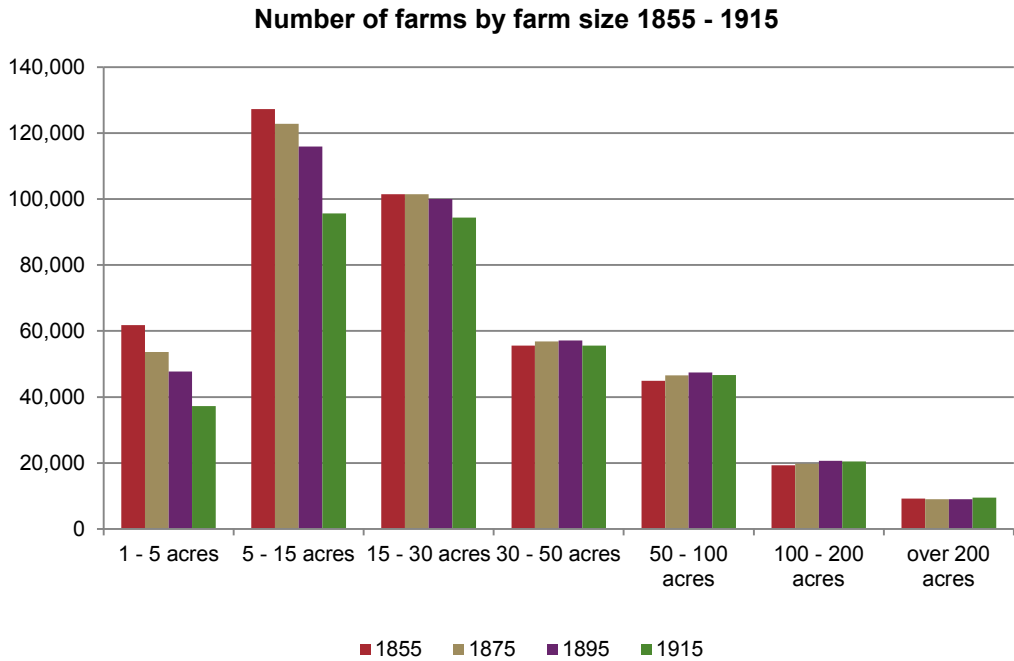
The Famine

Prior to the Great Famine (1845-1847), the structure of Irish Agriculture was made up of cottiers (peasant farmers renting small holdings), landless labourers, large graziers and mixed farms. Cereals and livestock were

produced by cottiers to pay their rent but they were largely dependent on potatoes for subsistence. The Famine hit the cottier and landless labourers hardest and the smallest farms declined most after the famine. In 1841, almost half (45%) of Irish land holdings were less than 5 acres. By 1851 such small holdings represented just 15% of all land holdings and this decline continued for the rest of the 19th century. The total number of land holdings fell from 419,500 in 1855 to 359,700 in 1915. By 2010, the number of land holdings had fallen to 139,860.

Number of farms by farm size 1855 - 1915

Year	1 - 5 acres	5 - 15 acres	15 - 30 acres	30 - 50 acres	50 - 100 acres	100 - 200 acres	over 200 acres	Total
1855	61,800	127,200	101,500	55,600	44,900	19,300	9,200	419,500
1860	63,500	129,900	103,700	56,800	46,000	19,800	9,300	428,900
1865	61,400	126,400	100,500	55,900	46,100	19,800	9,200	419,400
1870	57,500	124,700	101,700	56,200	46,600	19,700	9,000	415,400
1875	53,600	122,800	101,500	56,800	46,600	19,800	9,000	410,000
1880	50,000	119,100	101,200	56,500	46,900	20,200	9,200	402,900
1885	47,500	115,800	100,500	56,700	46,800	20,400	9,100	396,900
1890	46,300	115,400	100,300	56,800	47,100	20,700	9,200	395,800
1895	47,700	115,900	100,000	57,100	47,400	20,700	9,000	397,800
1900	47,700	115,800	100,200	57,100	47,700	20,700	9,000	398,300
1905	47,900	116,200	101,100	57,600	47,700	20,600	8,800	399,900
1910	48,300	115,900	103,500	58,700	48,500	20,500	8,600	404,000
1915	37,300	95,600	94,400	55,600	46,700	20,500	9,500	359,700



Arable to grassland

While much of the post Famine change can be directly attributed to the Famine, technological, economic, social and political factors also contributed to the change from arable farming to grassland. The greatest change was the area devoted to arable crops, which declined from

1.3 million hectares in 1847 to 700,000 hectares in 1915. The decline in arable land crops was matched by a significant increase in cattle numbers, increasing from 2.8 million in 1855 to more than 4 million by 1915.



Population decline

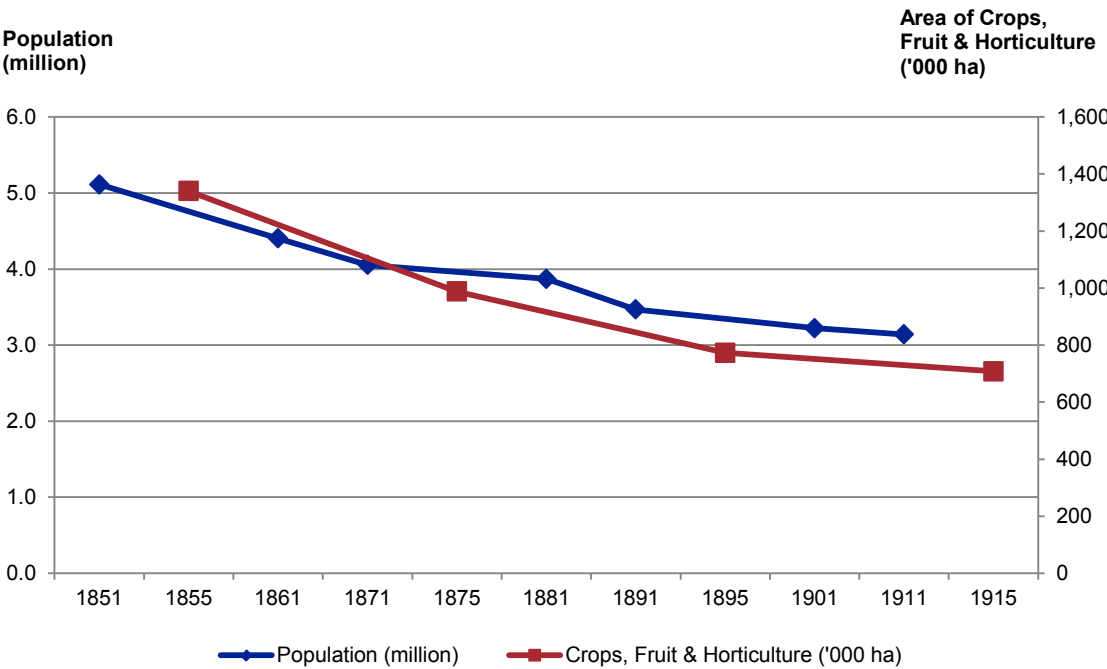
Prior to the Famine, agricultural production was extremely labour intensive. Outputs of arable crops were maximised by the use of ‘spade husbandry’¹, weeding by hand and the manual application of manure. The decline in population due to the Famine and subsequent emigration meant that the pool of labour to carry out this intensive cultivation was no longer readily available. The reports on Agricultural Statistics for Ireland (British Parliamentary Papers) carried the following comments annually from 1876 – 1881.

¹ Deep digging of the soil with a spade instead of using a plough to break up the soil

“There can be no doubt that if due attention were bestowed on the destruction of weeds, the lands of Ireland would afford a largely increased yield; but unfortunately luxuriant crops of weeds... are to be seen in almost every part of the country”

The reality was that the people required to destroy the weeds were no longer available. Emigration and the shift to livestock production were intertwined and one re-inforced the other in the decades after the Famine.

Population and Crop Areas 1851 - 1915



Political and Social Change in Britain

The Corn Laws, introduced in 1815, which had placed heavy import duties on cereals from outside of Great Britain and Ireland, were repealed in 1849. The purpose of the laws was to keep prices high to favour domestic producers, and as Ireland was part of the UK at that time, Irish cereals were not subject to import duties. The campaign to repeal the laws in Britain was a struggle between landowners and the emerging class of manufacturers and industrial workers. The high prices for cereals influenced the wages paid to industrial workers in that the factory wage had to be enough for a worker to feed himself and his family. The case for abolition was summarised as:

“When provisions are high, the people have so much to pay for them that they have little or nothing left to buy clothes with; and when they have little to buy clothes with, there are few clothes sold; and when there are few

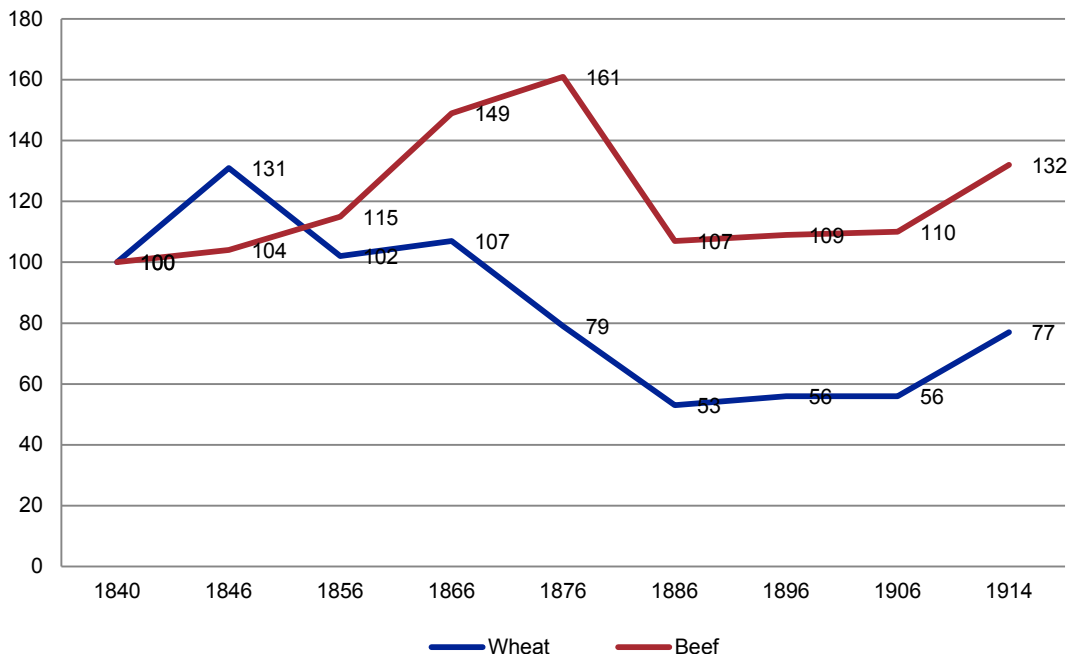
clothes sold, there are too many to sell, they are very cheap; and when they are very cheap, there cannot be much paid for making them: and that, consequently, the manufacturing working man's wages are reduced, the mills are shut up, business is ruined, and general distress is spread through the country. But when, as now, the working man has the said 25s. left in his pocket, he buys more clothing with it (ay, and other articles of comfort too), and that increases the demand for them, and the greater the demand...makes them rise in price, and the rising price enables the working man to get higher wages and the masters better profits. This, therefore, is the way I prove that high provisions make lower wages, and cheap provisions make higher wages”³

The repeal of the Corn Laws reflected the growing political power of urban manufacturing and the decline in power of landowners.

² ‘Corn’ referred to any grain that required grinding of which wheat was most important

³ Morley, J. (1905) *The Life of Richard Cobden*, 12th ed., London: T. Fisher Unwin, 985 p., republished by London: Routledge/Thoemmes (1995)

Thomas Barrington's Index of Irish Agricultural Prices (1840 = 100)



(Source: T. Barrington, 'Review of Irish Agricultural Prices' *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland* 15, 1927.)

Irish cereal exports to Britain and British grown cereals were replaced by cheap imports from countries whose climates were more conducive to cereal production. Areas of land used for the production of cereals shifted to the production of livestock. Improvements in shipping and the introduction of railways made it easier to ship agricultural produce over longer distances. From the 1870s onwards cereal imports from North America and Russia led to the decline in areas devoted to cereals across Northern Europe and also led to significant emigration from Germany, Scandinavia, and later, Italy to the Americas. The shift to livestock production also met an increased demand for meat and dairy products from rising living standards in Britain.

The Land League and the shift to Land Ownership

A Stock Market collapse in 1873 - 1874 in both Europe and the United States, coupled with deflationary economic policies, led to a drop in prices for agricultural produce across Europe. Irish farmers whose rents were fixed with no reference to the price of agricultural products were hit especially hard. While there was agitation for land reform before the late 1870s, the fall in incomes caused by the economic conditions contributed to the growing demand for change. Poor weather and crop failure caused widespread hardship, especially a failure in the potato harvest in 1879 where yields dropped by 56% (3 tonnes per acre to 1.3 tonnes per acre) .

The Land League was established at the Imperial Hotel in Castlebar on 21st of October 1879. The campaign of the Land League involved resistance to evictions, campaigns to reduce rents, and the boycott of both landlords who evicted tenants and those who rented the holdings of evicted tenants. The objectives of the Land League (Fair Rent, Fixity of Tenure and Free Sale) were addressed in the Land Acts of the 1880s which established Land Courts where rents were fixed with reference to the prices farmers received for their produce. Though the land acts of the 1880s and 1890s provided for tenant purchase, the conditions which applied, the lack of available

funds to purchase and the security of tenure provided in the acts, meant that it was not until the Wyndham Land Act of 1903 that significant land purchases took place. By 1916, almost two thirds (65%) of holdings were privately owned.

The Congested Districts Board

In seeking to improve the situation of the poorest Irish farmers, the Chief Secretary of Ireland A.J. Balfour established the Congested Districts Board in 1891. The remit of the Congested Districts Board was to initiate greater economic development in the counties of Cork, Kerry, Clare, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal. In total the Board covered an area of 3.6 million hectares and a population of 500,000 people. The Statutory definition of a 'congested' district was when *'the total rateable value [of a district] when divided by the population of the district, gives a sum of less than £1, 10s per person.'* The Congested Districts Board initiated public works, such as the construction of piers to assist the fishing industry and the West Clare Railway; sponsored the establishment of local industry such as Donegal tweed and Carrickmacross lace; promoted the modernization of farming methods through the provision of agricultural training and education. The work of the Congested Districts Board in agricultural training led to the establishment of the Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction in 1899.



1916 & 2010 - Then & Now

Farm Numbers

Data on the number of farms for years 1915 and 2010 are not directly comparable because of changes in how data on Agriculture was collected. However, despite the differences in definition, the data available for years 1915 and 2010 does show the significant decline in the total number of farms over the past century.

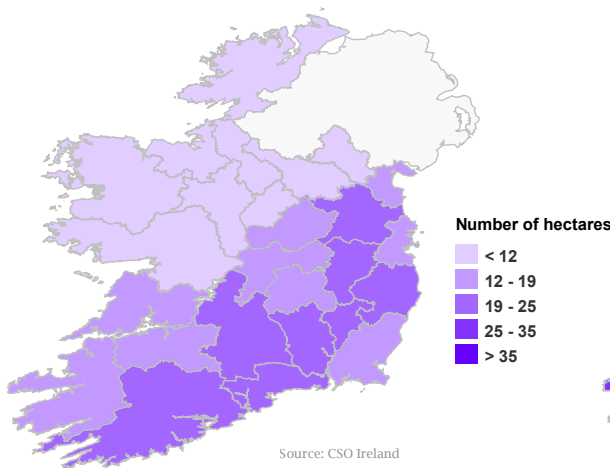
In 1915 there were 359,700 farms over one acre in Ireland and by 2010 the total number of farms had declined to 139,860 farms, a reduction of over 60%.

All counties in Ireland saw large reductions in the number of farms between 1915 and 2010. The counties with the largest percentage decline in the number of farms over this time period were Dublin with a drop of 83%, followed by Louth which declined by 72%. Leitrim and Cavan both had decreases of 71% in the number of farms over the same time period.

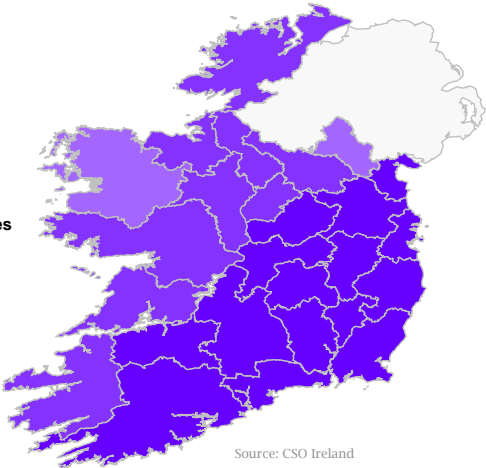
Average farm size in Ireland more than doubled, increasing from 14 hectares in 1915 to 33 hectares in 2010. There is a clear regional divide in average farm size in 2010 with the largest farms being in the South and East of the country.

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Average farm size 1915 (hectares)



Average farm size 2010 (hectares)



Numbers of farms and average farm size 1915 and 2010

	Number of farms > 1 acre		% change in farm numbers	Average farm size (ha)		% change in average farm size
	1915	2010		1915	2010	
<i>State</i>	359,700	139,860	-61.1	14	33	138
<i>Leinster</i>	88,100	34,814	-60.5	18	39	115
Carlow	3,900	1,802	-53.8	20	39	96
Dublin	4,800	798	-83.4	16	48	201
Kildare	6,100	2,578	-57.7	24	44	84
Kilkenny	9,400	3,737	-60.2	19	44	127
Laois	7,800	3,312	-57.5	18	37	105
Longford	7,400	2,601	-64.9	11	28	147
Louth	5,900	1,676	-71.6	12	36	211
Meath	9,100	4,569	-49.8	24	42	77
Offaly	7,900	3,462	-56.2	18	37	107
Westmeath	8,600	3,459	-59.8	17	37	113
Wexford	11,500	4,426	-61.5	18	41	128
Wicklow	5,700	2,394	-58.0	22	42	94
<i>Munster</i>	101,700	45,675	-55.1	18	37	109
Clare	15,700	6,550	-58.3	15	33	112
Cork	29,600	14,222	-52.0	19	38	100
Kerry	18,800	8,412	-55.3	15	34	132
Limerick	13,100	5,991	-54.3	18	35	90
Tipperary	18,000	7,739	-57.0	19	40	110
Waterford	6,500	2,761	-57.5	20	46	125
<i>Connacht</i>	109,000	40,284	-63.0	10	25	161
Galway	31,000	13,445	-56.6	11	26	129
Leitrim	12,700	3,673	-71.1	9	25	185
Mayo	33,100	12,458	-62.4	8	22	184
Roscommon	18,700	6,313	-66.2	10	27	161
Sligo	13,500	4,395	-67.4	9	26	182
<i>Ulster (part)</i>	60,900	19,087	-68.7	8	26	237
Cavan	17,900	5,282	-70.5	9	26	199
Donegal	29,000	9,240	-68.1	7	28	293
Monaghan	14,000	4,565	-67.4	8	23	189

Source: Farming since the Famine CSO, Census of Agriculture CSO



WOMAN DRIVING CATTLE,
ACHILL ISLAND, CO. MAYO



THREE MEN DIGGING POTATOES IN FIELD



Land Ownership

Land Ownership and Tenancy

The table “Tenancy of Farms 1916 and 2010” shows the number of farm holdings in 1916 including holdings of less than 1 acre (of which there were 83,995 in 1916). These small holdings of less than 1 acre are excluded from the table on page 13.

There were clear regional differences in the pattern of land ownership across Ireland in 1916,

even with the inclusion of these small holdings. In 1916, close to half (45%) of holdings in Leinster were tenanted, with over 70% tenanted in both Carlow and Dublin. This is in contrast to Connacht where just 23% of land holdings were tenanted. In 2010, only 3.4% of holdings rented all of the land they farmed while another 30% of farms rented some land in addition to their own land holding.



TWO CHILDREN BESIDE WATER PUMP IN FRONT OF HOUSE WITH DUCKS AND DOG - GALWAY

Tenancy of Farms 1916 and 2010

	1916			2010				
	Total holdings (including those of less than 1 acre)	Tenanted holdings	Tenanted holdings as a % of total holdings	Total farms	Farms with some land rented	Farms where all land is rented	% of farms with some land rented	% of farms where all land is rented
<i>State</i>	443,695	157,470	35.5	139,860	41,440	4,811	29.6	3.4
<i>Leinster</i>	124,866	56,806	45.5	34,814	12,123	1,519	34.8	4.4
Carlow	6,147	4,313	70.2	1,802	649	93	36.0	5.2
Dublin	10,087	7,098	70.4	798	327	55	41.0	6.9
Kildare	8,725	3,996	45.8	2,578	817	131	31.7	5.1
Kilkenny	12,488	3,894	31.2	3,737	1,380	118	36.9	3.2
Laois	10,297	5,900	57.3	3,312	1,039	112	31.4	3.4
Longford	8,954	1,817	20.3	2,601	760	83	29.2	3.2
Louth	8,775	4,531	51.6	1,676	686	86	40.9	5.1
Meath	13,324	6,136	46.1	4,569	1,684	220	36.9	4.8
Offaly	10,384	4,684	45.1	3,462	1,084	137	31.3	4.0
Westmeath	11,891	3,988	33.5	3,459	1,133	131	32.8	3.8
Wexford	15,612	6,150	39.4	4,426	1,706	223	38.5	5.0
Wicklow	8,182	4,299	52.5	2,394	858	130	35.8	5.4
<i>Munster</i>	134,237	50,476	37.6	45,675	14,067	1,713	30.8	3.8
Clare	18,024	8,035	44.6	6,550	1,467	138	22.4	2.1
Cork	41,070	16,239	39.5	14,222	4,701	547	33.1	3.8
Kerry	22,625	5,043	22.3	8,412	2,238	291	26.6	3.5
Limerick	19,284	6,860	35.6	5,991	1,996	262	33.3	4.4
Tipperary	23,045	8,703	37.8	7,739	2,703	331	34.9	4.3
Waterford	10,189	5,596	54.9	2,761	962	144	34.8	5.2
<i>Connacht</i>	117,657	26,642	22.6	40,284	9,622	825	23.9	2.0
Galway	33,265	10,165	30.6	13,445	3,059	267	22.8	2.0
Leitrim	13,670	1,769	12.9	3,673	982	90	26.7	2.5
Mayo	35,633	7,725	21.7	12,458	2,649	238	21.3	1.9
Roscommon	20,304	4,090	20.1	6,313	1,722	122	27.3	1.9
Sligo	14,785	2,893	19.6	4,395	1,210	108	27.5	2.5
<i>Ulster (part of)</i>	66,935	23,546	35.2	19,087	5,628	754	29.5	4.0
Cavan	19,698	5,565	28.3	5,282	1,580	140	29.9	2.7
Donegal	32,007	14,565	45.5	9,240	2,532	467	27.4	5.1
Monaghan	15,230	3,416	22.4	4,565	1,516	147	33.2	3.2

Source: Agricultural Statistics of Ireland 1916, Census of Agriculture CSO



NEW HOLDINGS IN MONIVEA, CO. GALWAY

C5.
R. WELCH



Area Farmed

Area Farmed and Area Under Crops

In contrast to the significant decline in the number of farms, the total area farmed in Ireland declined by only 7% between 1916 and 2010, from 4,929,000 to 4,569,000 hectares. Dublin and the surrounding counties of Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow accounted for over a third of this total decline in farmland, which is largely linked with the urbanisation of the greater Dublin area. The area of farmland in Dublin fell by 50% between 1916 and 2010.

There has been significant change in the area under crops in Ireland. With the exception of Leinster, the area devoted to crops declined significantly from 453,000 hectares to 112,000 hectares. In Leinster the area under crops remained relatively stable and only declined by 7,000 hectares while the area farmed declined by 243,000 hectares. Within Leinster the counties of Carlow, Dublin, Louth, Kildare and Meath all recorded increases in their total area devoted to crops.



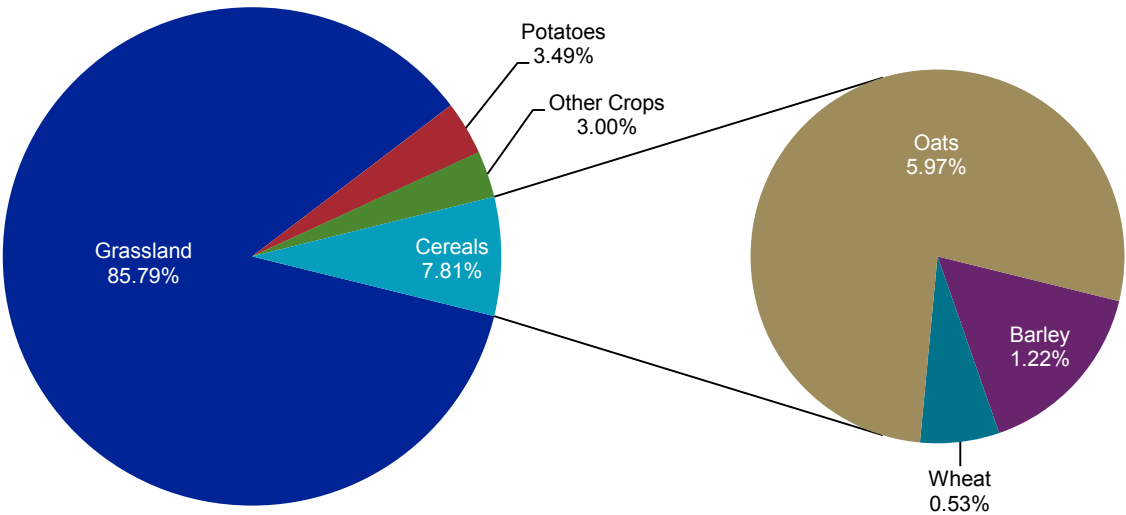
Area in Agricultural use and size of farms 1916 and 2010

'000 hectares

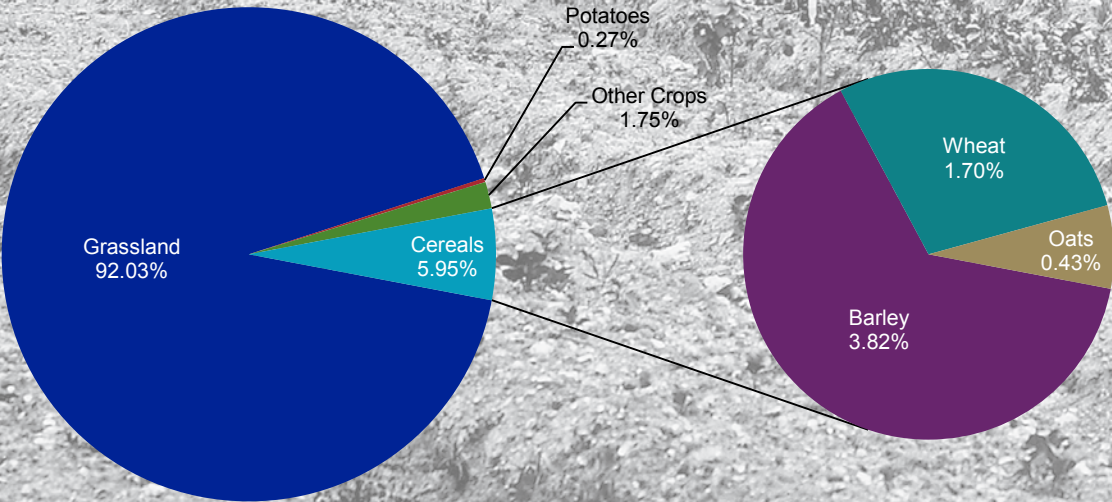
	Agricultural land use			Area under Crops		
	1916	2010	% change	1916	2010	% change
<i>State</i>	4,929	4,569	-7	702	354	-50%
<i>Leinster</i>	1,616	1,373	-15	249	242	-3%
Carlow	77	71	-9	15	18	21%
Dublin	76	38	-50	11	18	61%
Kildare	146	114	-22	19	31	62%
Kilkenny	181	165	-10	28	19	-32%
Laois	141	123	-13	27	18	-35%
Longford	84	73	-13	9	0	-96%
Louth	70	61	-12	20	21	5%
Meath	216	192	-11	16	37	131%
Offaly	145	126	-9	24	11	-54%
Westmeath	150	128	-14	11	6	-46%
Wexford	207	182	-12	52	52	0%
Wicklow	123	101	-18	17	12	-30%
<i>Munster</i>	1,795	1,687	-6	222	96	-57%
Clare	240	213	-11	17	0	-99%
Cork	559	541	-4	99	55	-44%
Kerry	275	286	4	26	3	-90%
Limerick	238	207	-13	15	2	-86%
Tipperary	351	313	-10	43	25	-41%
Waterford	132	126	-5	22	11	-52%
<i>Connacht</i>	1,042	1,005	-4	122	7	-95%
Galway	350	347	-1	43	5	-89%
Leitrim	113	92	-18	9	0	-99%
Mayo	260	279	7	39	1	-98%
Roscommon	195	171	-12	18	1	-95%
Sligo	124	115	-8	13	0	-99%
<i>Ulster (part of)</i>	476	504	6	109	9	-92%
Cavan	160	139	-12	23	0	-99%
Donegal	204	258	25	59	8	-86%
Monaghan	112	106	-6	27	1	-97%

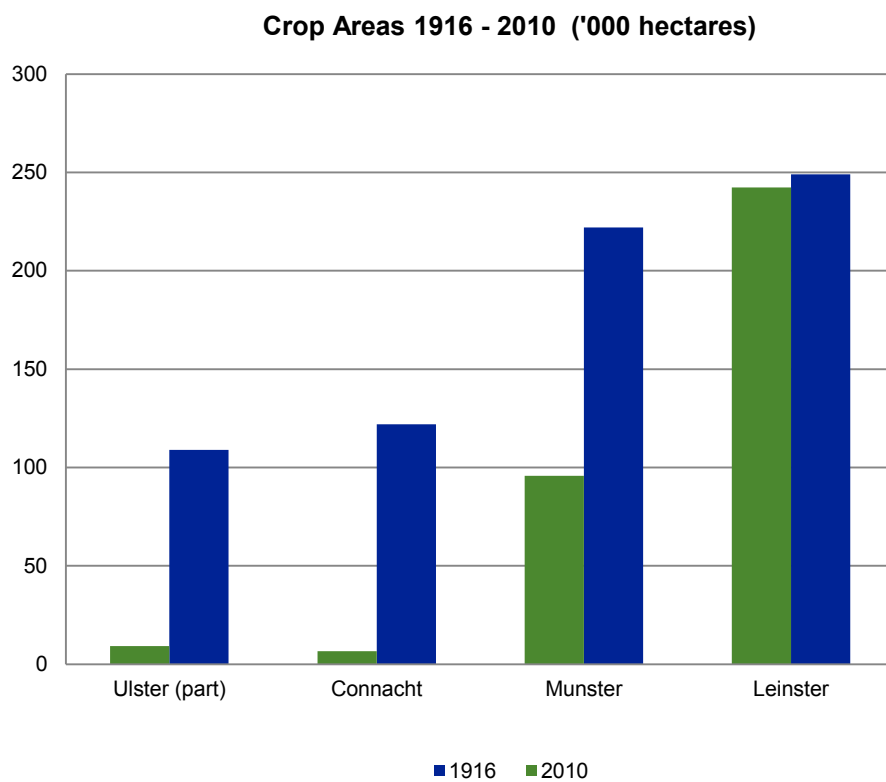
Source: Farming since the Famine CSO, Census of Agriculture CSO

Land Use 1916 ('000 hectares)



Land Use 2010 ('000 hectares)







MAN SHEARING SHEEP



Livestock

Cattle

The total number of cattle in Ireland increased by 58% from just under 4.2 million in 1916 to 6.6 million by 2010. The increase in cattle numbers has not been uniform across the State.

Cattle numbers increased by 65% in Leinster and Munster while the increase was 51% in Ulster and 38% in Connacht.

Livestock Numbers 1916 and 2010

(‘000)

	1916					2010				
	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part)	State Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part)	State Total
Total Cattle	1,262	1,707	794	404	4,167	2,083	2,821	1,093	610	6,607
Cows	233	636	222	144	1,235	630	1,026	365	208	2,229
Dairy Cows						282	658	54	76	1,071
Other Cows						348	368	311	132	1,158
Sheep	1,259	728	1,173	195	3,355	1,513	1,003	1,541	688	4,745
Pigs	303	441	235	110	1,089	490	574	56	396	1,516
Poultry	5,024	6,156	5,237	3,437	19,854	706	3,040	205	6,974	10,925
Horses & Ponies	175	168	75	51	469	37	35	27	7	106

Source: Farming Since the Famine, Census of Agriculture

Dairy Cattle

In 1916, most farms and small holdings kept a cow for milk for the house and liquid milk was not transported over long distances. This is in contrast to today with milk now transported nationwide for both processing and for sale to consumers. In 1916, Dairy Shorthorn cattle were the predominant breed of cow used for milk production.

Kerry cattle were utilised for milk production in Munster, especially in mountainous areas of Kerry and the Berehaven district of county Cork where larger breeds could not be kept. Kerry cattle were also kept on smaller holdings in Limerick, Cork & Tipperary.

In order to improve milk yields, milk testing associations were established from 1906. A Departmental Committee report ¹ on the Milk Industry in 1918 noted the results of the best 10 and worst 10 cows from six such associations. What is noticeable from the data is the variation in number of days a cow produced milk ranging from 137 days is the worst case to 306 at best. Today, dairy cows produce milk for a period of 280 – 300 days per annum. The average yield from the best cows in 1918 was 3,723 litres while average yield per cow in 2015 was approximately 5,000 litres, an increase of 33%.

¹ Report of the Departmental Committee on the decline of dairying in Ireland, 1920. Source <http://www.dippam.ac.uk/leppi/documents/22656>

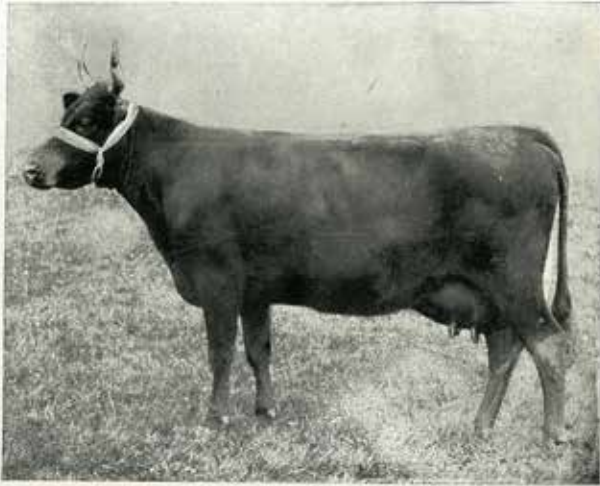


Fig. 2.—Kerry Cow “Castlelough Mona” (3659).
1st Prize and Blythwood Bowl R.D.S. Spring Show, 1916.

Beef Cattle

In 1916 beef production was primarily to produce live cattle for export. The main beef breeds in 1916 were Beef Shorthorn, Aberdeen Angus, Ayreshire, Hereford and the native Irish Dexter breed.

Sheep

Sheep numbers have increased by 41% since 1916. The greatest increases in sheep numbers have been in Leitrim where there has been six fold increase, and Kerry, Cavan, Monaghan, and Donegal where the increase has been between 230% and 280%.

Pigs

Pig numbers have increased by 39% since 1916. Back then most farms would have kept a pig for both domestic purposes and also as a source of income, whereas in 2010 only 1,209 farms kept pigs. Commercial large scale production among 320 specialist producers accounted for 94% of the total pig population in 2010.

Eggs

A century ago egg production made a significant contribution to the rural economy, representing 11% of total agricultural exports from Ireland. Eggs were a regular source of income and could be bartered with local shopkeepers for essential items such as tea and sugar which could not be produced on farm. Care of poultry and the income from eggs was normally a role taken on by the farmer's wife. It may have been her only source of independent income. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction instituted initiatives for the improvement of egg production, including the establishment of egg production co-ops. Schemes to improve the breed of hen used and improvements in the packaging of eggs for exports were also introduced.

Poultry

In 2010 Monaghan accounted for 53% of all poultry. As was the case with pigs, while most farms would have kept poultry in 1916, production in 2010 was concentrated in specialised production units, with 67 units farming 50,000 birds or more.





Employment in Agriculture

Numbers engaged in Agriculture

In 1912, 789,658 people (farm holders and their families) were engaged in farming on the Island of Ireland. By 2010 285,198 farm holders and family members (255,637 in ROI and 29,561 in Northern Ireland) were engaged in farming, a decline of 64%. The number of permanent agricultural workers (non-family) declined by

141,331 to 19,488 in the same period. The total number engaged in Agriculture in 1912 on the island of Ireland (holders, family members, employees and casual labour) was in excess of one million (1,073,238). By 2010 this number fell to a total of 312,758, a drop of over 70%.

Numbers directly employed in Agriculture 1912 and 2010

Year	Island of Ireland 1912			Republic of Ireland 2010			Northern Ireland 2010
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total
Farm Families	565,795	223,863	789,658	183,701	71,936	255,637	29,561
Other Permanent Labour	138,949	21,870	160,819	14,223	2,156	16,379	3,109
Temporary & Casual Labour	105,759	17,002	122,761	NA	NA	NA	8,072
Total	810,503	262,735	1,073,238	197,924	74,092	272,016	40,742

Source: Report and tables relating to Irish migratory agricultural and other labourers for 1912, Census of Agriculture 2010

Data on the numbers of temporary and casual / seasonal workers are not collected in the Census of Agriculture. Respondents are asked to estimate the Labour Input (Annual Work Units (AWU)) of these classes of workers. In 2010 Casual, Contract and Relief workers contributed 6,042 Annual Work Units out of a total AWU of 168,387 (3.6% of total)





Trade

Trade

Almost 100% of Ireland's exports in 1916 were to Britain, with Ireland mainly exporting primary products (i.e. products that required little or no processing such as live cattle, raw wool, eggs, etc.). Today, the UK takes 41% of Ireland's agri-exports, with 31% going to other EU markets and 28% to the rest of the world.

According to An Bord Bia:

- ◆ Irish food and drink is sold in more than 175 markets/countries worldwide
- ◆ The value of food and drink exports amounted to €10.8 billion
- ◆ 2015 was the sixth consecutive year of growth in exports of food and drink
- ◆ Dairy Exports in 2015 were valued at €3.24 billion. The top five markets for Irish dairy products were UK, China, the Netherlands, Germany and the US
- ◆ €2.4 billion worth of beef was exported in 2015, 54% of which went to the UK market
- ◆ Prepared foods, covering a range of items such as baked goods, confectionery, snacks, chilled foods and prepared meals, valued at €1.6 billion were exported in 2015

Selected Agriculture and Food Exports 1916

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	Value in £ sterling
Ale and beer	brls	780	£3,471
Porter	hhds	893,777	£3,053,738
Home made spirits (Whiskey etc.)	proof gallons	3,943,918	£4,272,578
Live Animal Exports			
Cattle			
Fat Cattle	head	424,711	£11,405,260
Store Cattle	head	389,661	£7,608,131
Milk Cows	head	53,105	£1,250,288
Springers	head	26	£597
Other Cattle	head	9,421	£94,210
Calves	head	13,200	£105,600
Sheep			
Sheep - Fat	head	300,311	£978,513
Store	head	13,546	£37,252
Lambs	head	323,270	£713,214
Pigs			
Pigs - Fat	head	263,989	£1,979,918
Store	head	14,392	£71,960
Goats	head	3,173	£2,380

Selected Agriculture and Food Exports 1916 - contd.

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	Value in £ sterling
Horses			
Stallions	head	272	£68,000
Mares	head	2,779	£222,320
Geldings	head	3,827	£306,160
Butter	cwts	764,456	£6,163,427
Cheese		13,418	£54,678
Chocolate	lbs	19,712	£1,478
Eggs	Gt hundreds	8,254,339	£6,328,326
Fats			
Lard	cwts	82,574	£350,940
Grease	cwts	45,801	£107,632
Feathers	cwts	16,185	£45,318
Fruit & Vegetables			
Apples & Pears	cwts	33,152	£33,152
Blackberries	cwts	9,421	£7,066
Gooseberries	cwts	418	£303
Potatoes	cwts	237,744	£1,287,943
Grain, Flour & Feeding stuff			
Wheat	cwts	20,947	£15,448
Oats	cwts	2,045,623	£1,227,374
Barley	cwts	99,371	£74,528
Malt	cwts	67,773	£79,069
Rye	cwts	267	£247
Maize	cwts	98,305	£57,345
Peas	cwts	660	£1,155
Beans	cwts	3,637	£8,183
Wheat flour	cwts	90,648	£78,184
Oatmeal	cwts	89,823	£83,086

Selected Agriculture and Food Exports 1916 - contd.

Commodity	Unit	Quantity	Value in £ sterling
Hay	tons	19,812	£113,919
Straw	tons	2,934	£11,589
Honey	cwts	1,051	£4,204
Meat, Poultry & Game			
Beef	cwts	24,183	£115,776
Mutton	cwts	2,867	£13,977
Pork	cwts	85,726	£380,409
Bacon	cwts	1,056,856	£5,759,865
Hams	cwts	128,526	£899,682
Tripe	cwts	5,002	£5,815
Meat: Preserved	cwts	2,971	£14,112
Sausages	cwts	2,971	£14,112
Poultry	cwts	325,936	£1,749,190
Rabbits	cwts	39,944	£72,565
Game	cwts	3,057	£20,686
Milk: Condensed	cwts	249,994	£724,983
Milk: Whole & Separated	cwts	3,692	£1,661
Milk; Cream	cwts	33,097	£177,069
Wool	lbs	10,332,928	£709,701

Source: *Report on the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports during the year 1916 - Table IV - Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction for Ireland*

<http://www.dippam.ac.uk/eppi/documents/22518/page/634640>

Units

brls (barrels): 36 imperial gallons or 164 litres

hhds: hogshead: 54 imperial gallons or 245 litres

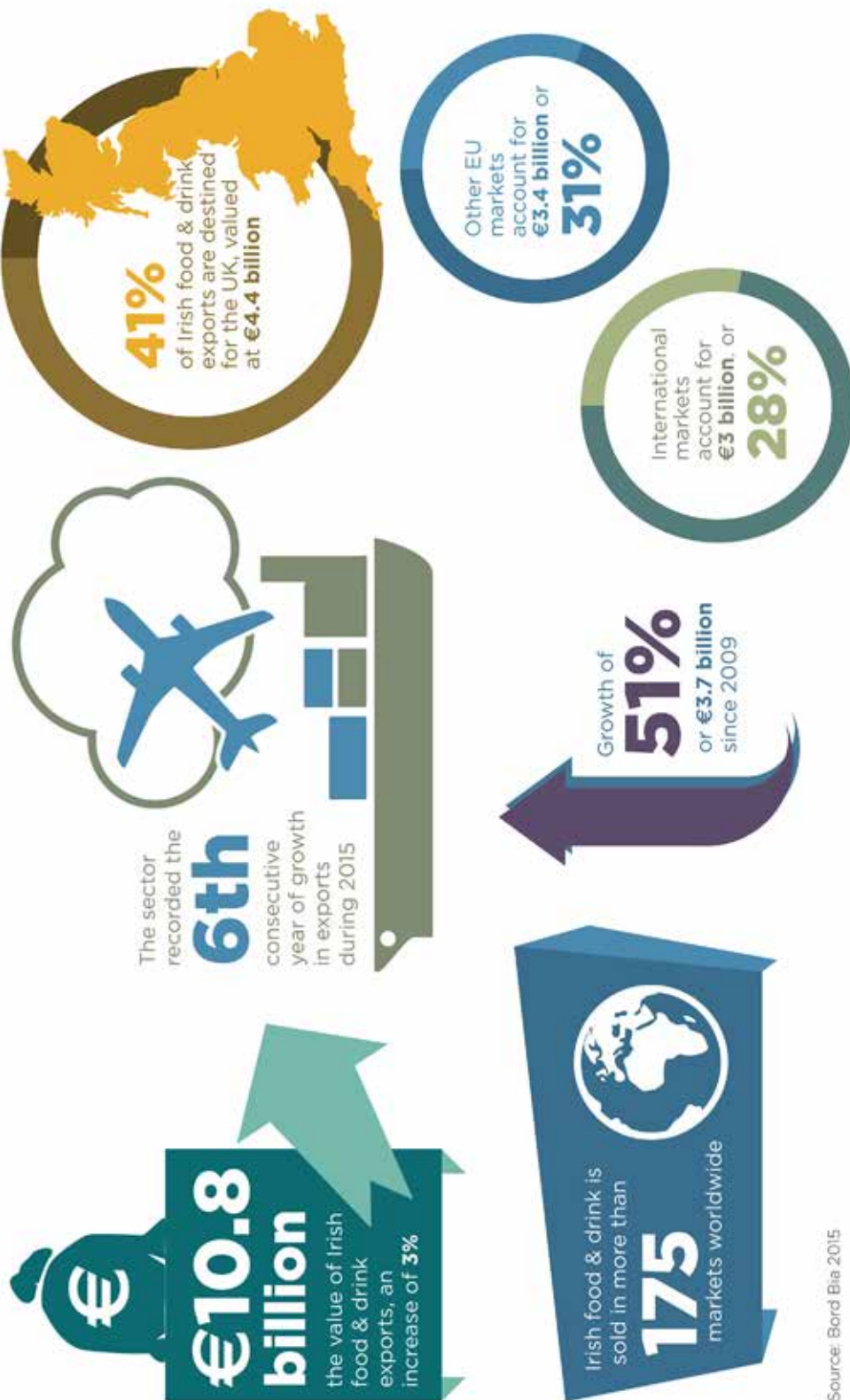
proof gallon: a liquid gallon of spirits that is 50% alcohol at 15 degrees celcius

cwts: hundredweights, 112 pounds or 50 kg

Gt hundreds: 1,200

Irish Food & Drink Exports 2015

Bord Bia
Irish Food Board



Source: Bord Bia 2015



Farm surveys through the years

Farm surveys through the years

Data on the area under crops and the number of livestock has been collected annually since 1847 while data on the total number of holdings has existed since 1855. This data series represents one of the oldest such series in the world. Comparable British data, giving the acreages under crops and the numbers of livestock, did not commence until 1867.

From 1847 to 1918 this information was collected by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary. From 1918 to 1923, during the War of Independence and the subsequent Civil War, a combination of postal surveys and returns obtained from representative farmers allowed estimates to be produced for the country as a whole. In 1924, an enumeration was made in each District Electoral Division (DED) in which a police station was situated. In 1925 the system of complete enumeration for the whole country was reinstated and continued uninterrupted up to 1953, with members of the new police force, An Garda Síochána, acting as enumerators for agricultural data.

As a result of declining numbers in the Garda force in rural areas civilian enumerators were recruited to assist in data collection from the mid-1950's onwards. A full Census of Agriculture was carried out on all holdings at 5 yearly intervals from 1955 to 1980.

For each Census, an enumerator was assigned to a particular District Electoral Division (DED) for which the total map area was known. The enumerator was required to account for all the agricultural land on holdings of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre or more in the DED. As an aid to conducting enumerations, the total area of the DED together with a list of the names and addresses of agricultural land holders and the total size of their holdings (as recorded in the last enumeration) was made available to each enumerator.

The 1991 Census of Agriculture was the culmination of a major EU sponsored programme undertaken by the Central Statistics

Office (CSO) to modernise the production of agricultural statistics in Ireland. This programme also involved the replacement of the traditional agricultural enumeration system with more cost effective postal surveys and the computerisation of the processing and analysis of the returns. Notwithstanding the introduction of postal surveys, the Census itself was undertaken by 1,300 field staff. These field staff were retained by the CSO following the completion of the 1991 Census of Population to perform an enumeration of all farms. This was necessary at the time because of the non-availability of a comprehensive and up-to-date register of farms on which to base a postal Census - indeed one of the principal objectives of the Agriculture Census was to construct such a register for future statistical use.

The 2000 Census of Agriculture was carried out using postal questionnaires only.

The 2010 Census of Agriculture was the first Census to use a combination of administrative records (data on cattle numbers and crop areas) and completed paper questionnaires.

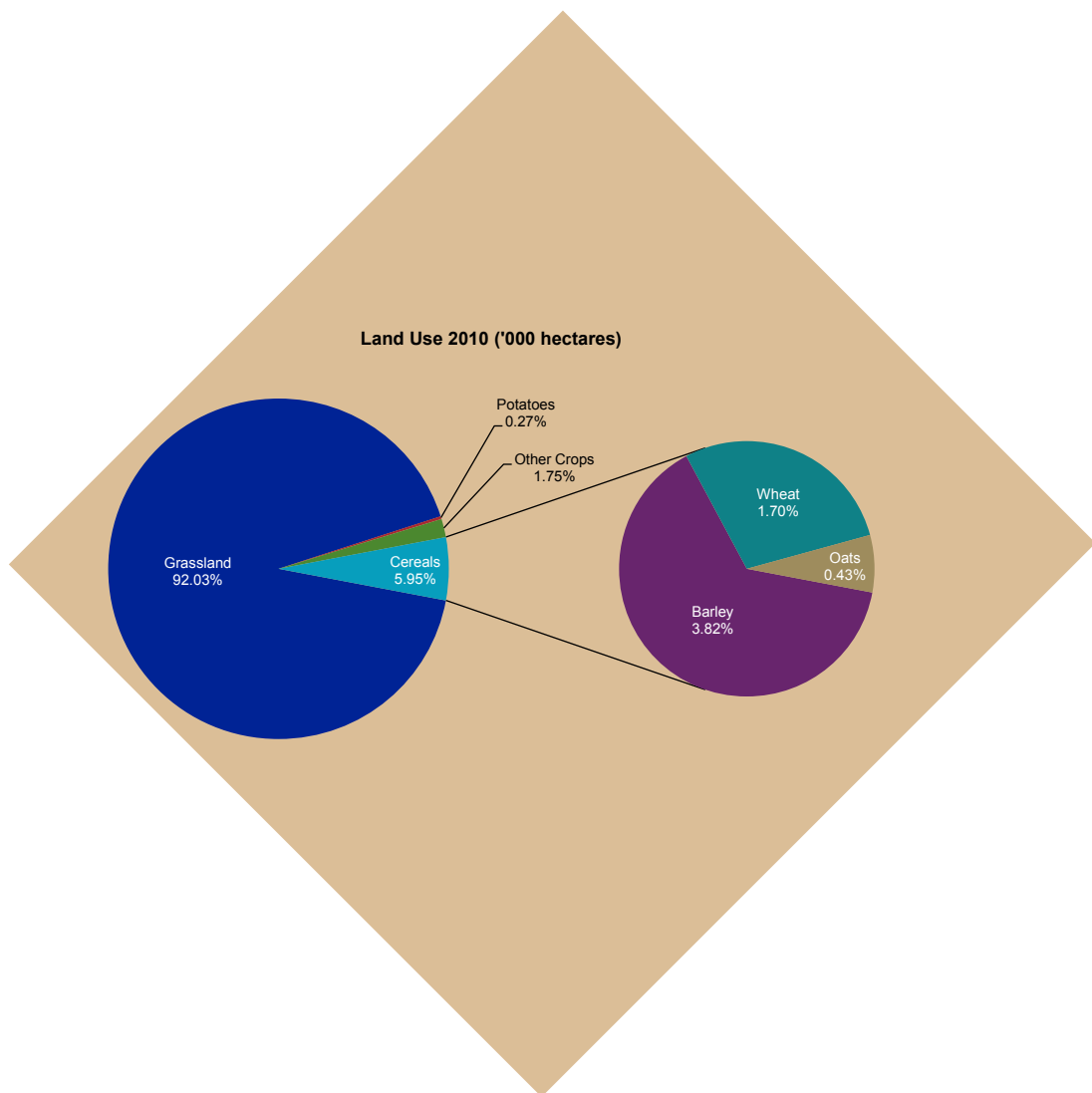
In between each Census of Agriculture the CSO carries out a Farm Structure Survey approximately every 3 years, along with annual sample surveys in June and December.

All information provided to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential and is used for statistical purposes only.

The results of all Surveys are made available on the CSO website at:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/agricultureandfishing/>

The CSO would like to express its gratitude to the farmers, past and present, who have given their time to complete CSO Surveys. Such information is vital to produce a comprehensive picture of Irish Agriculture.



Modern Statistical Data on Agriculture available from the CSO

Modern Statistical Data on Agriculture available from the CSO

The preceding pages provide a brief snapshot of the statistical data on agriculture from both a century ago and modern times.

The Central Statistics Office publishes a wide range of Statistics on Agriculture

Current releases and publications all can be accessed at:

<http://cso.ie/en/statistics/agricultureandfishing/>

Time series data can be accessed via the CSO statistical database, Statbank at:

<http://cso.ie/en/databases/>

Available publications and information:

- ◆ **Farming Since the Famine:** This is a compendium of Irish agricultural statistics from 1847 - 1996 providing details of farm numbers, crop areas and livestock numbers.
- ◆ **Census of Agriculture 2010 Final Results:** This provides the results of the most recent Census of Agriculture with detailed information at a county level on farm numbers, farm types, crop areas, livestock numbers, farm labour input and other topics.
- ◆ **Census of Agriculture 1991 - 2010 Interactive mapping tool:** Available online at: <http://www.cso.ie/en/interactivezone/interactivetools/>
This interactive tool provides selected information on farm numbers, crop areas, livestock numbers and labour input at Electoral District, Rural District, County and State level.
- ◆ **Farm Structure Survey:** In between each Census of Agriculture the CSO carries out a Farm Structure Survey which provides data at a regional level on farm numbers, crop areas, livestock numbers, farm labour input and other topics. The most recent results available from the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) are for 2013.
- ◆ **Area, Yield and Production of Crops:** This release presents estimates of the area, yield and production of the main arable crops.
- ◆ **Livestock Survey:** The results of this survey provides information on the number and type of livestock in both June and December including details of the bi-annual survey of specialist pig producers.
- ◆ **Agricultural Price Indices:** These are monthly and annual Price Indices for both inputs (e.g. seed, fertiliser, feedstuffs, etc.) and outputs (e.g. cereals, vegetables, livestock, milk, eggs, wool, etc.).
- ◆ **Agricultural Production:** Monthly data is available on Milk Production and Livestock Slaughtering.
- ◆ **Agricultural Accounts - Output, Input and Income in Agriculture:** Three estimates per year are produced to provide of the total value of all agricultural products and subsidies, the cost of inputs (such as feed, fertiliser, veterinary expenses, land rental, etc.) and an estimate of the total income from agriculture.

For further information on any of the above publications or releases please see:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/agricultureand fishing/>

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