



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Plant Protection Products**



# Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

## Plant Protection Products

This documentation applies to the reporting period:  
**2020**

Last edited: 28/03/2022



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## 2. Introduction

This release contains data on active substances contained in plant protection products placed on the market in Ireland annually from 2012 onwards.

These substances are classified as:

Fungicides and bactericides;  
Herbicides, haulm destructors and moss killers;  
Insecticides and acaricides;  
Molluscicides;  
Plant growth regulators; and  
Miscellaneous plant protection products.

The data are expressed in measurement units of tonnes of active substance.

## 3. Contact

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<b>Contact Organisation Unit:</b>	Environment and Climate
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## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

28/03/2022

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

28/03/2022

### 4.3. Metadata last update

28/03/2022



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

The dataset comprises amounts of active substances contained in annual sales of plant protection products placed on the market from 2012 onwards, according to Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/269 of 16 February 2017 as regards the list of active substances. The data are disseminated at the highest aggregation level, also called major groups in the Harmonised classification of substances. These are the following:

- F - Fungicides and bactericides;
- H - Herbicides, haulm destructors and moss killers;
- I - Insecticides and acaricides;
- M - Molluscicides;
- PGR - Plant growth regulators; and
- ZR - Other plant protection products.

Data on sales of pesticides cover agricultural and non-agricultural uses.

### 5.2. Classification System

The classification of active substances in plant protection products is set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/269 of 16 February 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on pesticides.

Active substances are classified according to chemical and functional similarity. Aggregation levels in descending order comprise: major groups, categories of products, chemical classes and active substances. In this release the data are classified at the level of major group only due to confidentiality issues.

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

The statistics cover the weight of active substances in plant protection products placed on the market in Ireland.

### 5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

The release contains data on sales of pesticides used as plant protection products in Ireland. The scope of the statistics covers plant protection products and their active substances, as defined below.

Plant protection product: products consisting of or containing active substances, safeners or synergists, and intended for one of the following uses: protecting plants or plant products against all harmful organisms or preventing the action of such organisms, unless the main purpose of these products is considered to be for reasons of hygiene rather than for the protection of plants or plant products; influencing the life processes of plants, such as substances influencing their growth, other than as a nutrient; preserving plant products, in so far as such substances or products are not subject to special Community provisions on preservatives; destroying undesired plants or parts of plants, except algae unless the products are applied on soil or water to protect plants; checking or preventing undesired growth of plants, except algae unless the products are applied on soil or water to protect plants.

Active substances: substances or micro-organisms, including viruses, having general or specific action against harmful organisms or on plants, parts of plants or plant products.

Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishes a common framework for the systematic production of statistics on the placing on the market and agricultural use of those pesticides which are plant protection products as defined in Article 2 (a)(i).

The statistics shall apply to the annual amounts of pesticides active substances placed on the market in accordance with Annex I and the quantity of active substances shall be aggregated according to the list in Annex III (as amended).

### 5.5. Statistical Unit

An enterprise placing plant protection products on the market; an authorisation holder or holder of parallel trade permits.



## 5.6. Statistical Population

All enterprises placing plant protection products on the market, authorisation holders and holders of parallel trade permits.

## 5.7. Reference Area

Ireland

## 5.8. Time Coverage

2012-2020

## 5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

## 6. Unit of Measure

Tonnes of active substance in plant protection products placed on the market.

## 7. Reference Period

Calendar year.

## 8. Institutional Mandate

### 8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Commission Regulation (EU) No 656/2011 of 7 July 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning statistics on pesticides, as regards definitions and list of active substances.

Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/269 of 16 February 2017 as regards the list of active substances.

In Ireland the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is responsible for the transmission of data on pesticide sales to Eurostat under the above legislation.

### 8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

## 9. Confidentiality

### 9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body. These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

### 9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All confidential data are treated in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act 1993.



## 10. Release Policy

### 10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

### 10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie), or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

### 10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

## 11. Frequency of Dissemination

Annual.

## 12. Accessibility and clarity

### 12.1. News release

No press release was issued with this publication.

### 12.2. Publications

The Plant Protection Products 2020 release is published on the CSO website at the following link: [https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ppp/plantprotection\\_products2020/](https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ppp/plantprotection_products2020/)

### 12.3. On-line database

The tables associated with this release can be found in our online dissemination database, PxStat through the following link: <https://data.cso.ie/>

#### 12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

As this is a new release there are currently no data on consultations.

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

### 12.5. Other

Not applicable.

#### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not known.





## 12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Documentation of the methodology used by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to collect and report data on pesticide sales is provided by the Department in the Eurostat quality report accompanying the data collection. It is published by Eurostat at the following link:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/aei\\_fm\\_salpest09\\_esqrsps\\_ie.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/aei_fm_salpest09_esqrsps_ie.htm)

### 12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

## 12.7. Quality Documentation

Further information on the documentation associated with this output can be found in the Methods page in cso.ie

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/environment/plantprotectionproducts/>

## 13. Quality Management

### 13.1. Quality Assurance

#### Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

### 13.2. Quality Assessment

Not Assessed.

## 14. Relevance

### 14.1. User Needs

#### 14.1.1. Main National Users

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine considers that the national users in Ireland would be the product authorisation holders and the marketing companies as well as environmental groups, crop advisory services and the media.

#### 14.1.2. Principal External Users

International users include Eurostat, EU Commission Directorate-General Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), EU Commission Directorate-General Environment (DG ENV), the European Environment Agency (EEA), researchers, students and public.

### 14.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

### 14.3. Data Completeness

Not calculated.

#### 14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.

## 15. Accuracy and reliability

### 15.1. Overall accuracy

The degree of accuracy is expected to be high as all authorisation holders are contacted with data requests and the response rate is high (90% in 2019).



## 15.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable.

### 15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable as all units of the population are included.

## 15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

### 15.3.1. Coverage error

Not applicable.

#### 15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

#### 15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not applicable.

### 15.3.2. Measurement error

Expected to be low as respondents report simple totals for exports, imports and production.

### 15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Expected to be low due to very high response rate.

#### 15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

For example, this was 10% in 2019 according to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

#### 15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not known but expected to be very low or non-existent.

### 15.3.4. Processing error

Expected to be very low or non-existent.

### 15.3.5. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

## 16. Timeliness and punctuality

### 16.1. Timeliness

This release was published 66 weeks after the end of the reference year. Data are submitted to Eurostat 15 months after the end of the reference year.

#### 16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Not applicable.

#### 16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

66 weeks

### 16.2. Punctuality

The CSO statistical release was published on 05 April 2022, 11am as specified in the CSO's release calendar.

#### 16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

The release was delivered on time according to the release calendar.



## 17. Comparability

### 17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Data are collected on a country level (NUTS 0). They are not comparable on a regional level. The geographical comparability between countries is evaluated by Eurostat. According to Eurostat, from 2016 onwards geographical comparability between Member States is very good due to the Harmonised classification of substances in Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009, but from 2011 to 2015, comparability between Member States is not ensured due to ongoing revisions of the time series.

### 17.2. Comparability over time

In Ireland the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has implemented the same data collection procedure over the time period 2012-2020.

#### 17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

9 years.

### 17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Not applicable.

#### 17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

#### 17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

### 17.4. Coherence – internal

Not applicable.

## 18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

## 19. Data Revision

### 19.1. Data Revision Policy

Revisions refer to changes made to published statistical data when the information used in its production has been updated or corrected. This information includes all data used in compiling the statistic e.g. respondent data, administrative data, weights and factors, methodology, classifications, definitions, modifications to survey questionnaires, survey scope and data collection methods.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

### 19.2. Data Revision Practice

There were no revisions as this is a new release.

#### 19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.



## 20. Statistical processing

### 20.1. Source Data

The process of data collection is via census of all authorisation holders and enterprises involved in placing plant protection products on the market and is carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This CSO release is based on the data published by the Department at the following link:

<https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidestatistics/>

#### 20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

All enterprises placing plant protection products on the market; authorisation holders and holders of parallel trade permits and marketing companies.

#### 20.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

#### 20.1.3. Survey size

160 enterprises and authorisation holders in 2019.

#### 20.1.4. Survey technique

Written email request for data.

### 20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

### 20.3. Data Collection

The process of data collection is carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through direct requests to all relevant product authorisation holders and marketing companies to submit the required sales data within a given timeframe.

#### 20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Data collection via direct request to relevant companies.

#### 20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Documents used by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to collect data can be found here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/aei\\_fm\\_salpest09\\_esqrsp.ie.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/aei_fm_salpest09_esqrsp.ie.htm)

#### 20.3.3. Survey Participation

All enterprises placing plant protection products on the market; authorisation holders and holders of parallel trade permits and marketing companies are sent data requests. The response rate tends to be high.

#### 20.3.4. Data Capture

Documents used by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to record data can be found here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/aei\\_fm\\_salpest09\\_esqrsp.ie.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/aei_fm_salpest09_esqrsp.ie.htm)

### 20.4. Data Validation

Data at active substance level are checked by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine against levels for previous years and queries may be issued to respondents if needed. In addition, when the data are received the quantities can be checked against quantities reported to the annual fee section of the Department and compared to previous records. Records are required to be kept by product authorisation holders and marketing companies (as per Regulation 1107/2009 implemented by SI 159/2012). When a company renews its annual fee it submits an auditor's certificate from its accounts unit which declares quantities of product sold in the relevant year. Quantities on this certificate are used for cross-checking the data.

### 20.5. Data Compilation

Returns from relevant companies are entered to a spreadsheet on a product quantity basis by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This is converted to active substance quantities and totals for each active substance as per the harmonised classification of substances under ANNEX III of Regulation 1185/2009 are calculated. This CSO release uses the data compiled by the Department in the manner described.



#### **20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)**

Not applicable.

##### **20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate**

Not applicable.

#### **20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting**

Not applicable.

### **20.6. Adjustment**

Not applicable.

#### **20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment**

Not applicable.

## **21. Comment**