

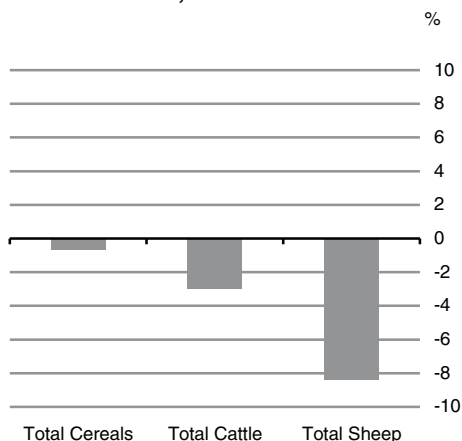


Central Statistics Office

An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

24 October 2007

Selected items, June 2006/2007



Crops and Livestock Survey

June 2007 – Provisional Estimates

	Total Cereals	Cattle	Sheep
	'000 ha	'000	'000
June 2006	279.8	6,915.9	5,973.2
June 2007	277.9	6,710.1	5,470.9
% change	-0.7%	-3.0%	-8.4%

Sheep Numbers down 8.4% in June 2007

Preliminary estimates from the June 2007 agricultural survey show that the number of sheep (5,470,900) was down 8.4% on the previous June. This decrease was due to decreases in ewes 2 years and over (-8.8%), other sheep (-8.3%) and ewes under 2 years (-7.6%). The number of sheep is at its lowest since 1986. *See Table 2.*

The results also indicate the total number of cattle decreased by 205,700 (-3.0%). This was largely due to a decrease in males 1-2 years of 64,900 (-7.1%). There was also a decrease in dairy heifers of 8,400 (-3.7%). *See Table 2.*

A comparison with the June 2006 results indicates that:

- ◆ The area under cereals has decreased by 0.7%. There was a decrease in the area under wheat of 3,200 ha (-3.6%) and under oats of 700 ha (-3.4%). However, some of this decrease was offset by an increase in the area under other cereals of 1,300 ha (27.4%).
- ◆ The area under potatoes increased by 1.7% to 12,300 ha.

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Table 1 Area under Crops

Description	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	Change 2006 - 2007	
	'000 hectares			'000 ha	%
Wheat - total	95.2	87.5	84.4	-3.2	-3.6
Winter wheat	65.0	59.2	65.3	6.1	10.4
Spring wheat	30.2	28.3	19.0	-9.3	-32.9
Oats - total	16.8	20.4	19.7	-0.7	-3.4
Winter oats	8.6	9.3	12.2	2.9	31.2
Spring oats	8.2	11.1	7.5	-3.6	-32.3
Barley - total	164.4	167.0	167.7	0.7	0.4
Winter barley	17.0	15.1	18.2	3.1	20.8
Spring barley	147.4	151.9	149.4	-2.5	-1.6
Other cereals	5.5	4.9	6.3	1.3	27.4
Total cereals	282.0	279.8	277.9	-1.8	-0.7
Potatoes	11.8	12.1	12.3	0.2	1.7

Table 2 Number of Livestock

Description	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	Change 2006 - 2007	
	'000			'000	%
Total cattle	6,982.6	6,915.9	6,710.1	-205.7	-3.0
Breeding cattle	2,788.1	2,779.7	2,726.5	-53.2	-1.9
Dairy cows ¹	1,113.7	1,109.2	1,094.5	-14.7	-1.3
Other cows	1,227.8	1,215.4	1,190.6	-24.8	-2.0
Dairy heifers ²	230.2	228.7	220.3	-8.4	-3.7
Other heifers	148.1	157.0	152.5	-4.5	-2.9
Bulls	68.3	69.3	68.6	-0.8	-1.1
Other cattle	4,194.5	4,136.2	3,983.7	-152.5	-3.7
Male: 2 years and over	619.3	639.7	610.3	-29.4	-4.6
Female: 2 years and over	310.2	311.5	305.2	-6.3	-2.0
Male: 1-2 years	940.2	915.7	850.8	-64.9	-7.1
Female: 1-2 years	635.3	638.1	627.3	-10.8	-1.7
Male: under 1 year	842.5	801.7	782.6	-19.1	-2.4
Female: under 1 year	847.0	829.5	807.4	-22.1	-2.7
Total sheep	6,392.2	5,973.2	5,470.9	-502.3	-8.4
Breeding sheep	3,454.5	3,200.0	2,926.9	-273.1	-8.5
Ewes: 2 years and over	2,774.7	2,619.7	2,390.5	-229.2	-8.8
: under 2 years	583.5	484.6	448.0	-36.6	-7.6
Rams	96.3	95.7	88.4	-7.3	-7.6
Other sheep	2,937.8	2,773.2	2,544.0	-229.2	-8.3

¹ Dairy cows are those kept principally to produce milk for human consumption.

² Heifers in calf intended for the dairy herd.

Area under selected cereals, May/June 2006

'000 ha

Country	Wheat	Oats	Barley
European Union	21,840	*	13,260
Austria	285	35	206
Belgium	210	*	49
Cyprus	7	5	53
Czech Republic	782	58	528
Denmark	686	69	679
Estonia	91	33	142
Finland	192	354	564
France	5,247	107	1,669
Germany	3,115	184	2,025
Greece	610	45	75
Ireland	88	20	167
Italy	1,926	161	331
Latvia	215	63	154
Lithuania	344	59	382
Luxembourg	13	2	10
Hungary	1,075	59	293
Malta	*	*	*
Netherlands	140	2	44
Poland	2,176	539	1,221
Portugal	105	54	44
Slovakia	351	21	185
Slovenia	32	2	17
Spain	1,958	503	3,233
Sweden	360	197	307
United Kingdom	1,835	*	882

* Data not available

Source: New Cronos database, Eurostat and National Data

Background Notes

Introduction This release presents provisional estimates of land utilisation and livestock numbers in June 2007 at State level. The estimates are based on returns from the June 2007 Crops and Livestock Survey.

Coverage Farms where the agricultural area used was at least 1 hectare (2.47 acres) may be included in the June Agricultural Survey. Farms with less than 1 hectare may also be included if they were engaged in intensive production (e.g. pigs, poultry).

Results The results are based on the trends between June 2006 and June 2007 obtained by comparing the returns from the 2006 sample with the 2007 returns for the same 16,300 farms.

As the figures in the text and tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 units there may be slight discrepancies between the sum (or difference) of the constituent items and the total shown. Percentage changes have been calculated on actual figures.

Comparison with DAF CMMS Data The Department of Agriculture and Food Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) has provided new administrative information on cattle numbers and on flows into/out of the cattle population since December 2002. Overall, the CMMS figure for 1 December 2006 indicated total cattle numbers some 6.9% higher than the CSO estimate for 1 December 2006.

The CSO is continuing to compare the CMMS and CSO survey figures at farm level, in order to provide a more detailed analysis and explanation of the reasons for the differences in level between the two sources of data.