

Economic Information

Agricultural Holdings Land and Employment Cheshire 2002 to 2005

Sheet : Ec E 3



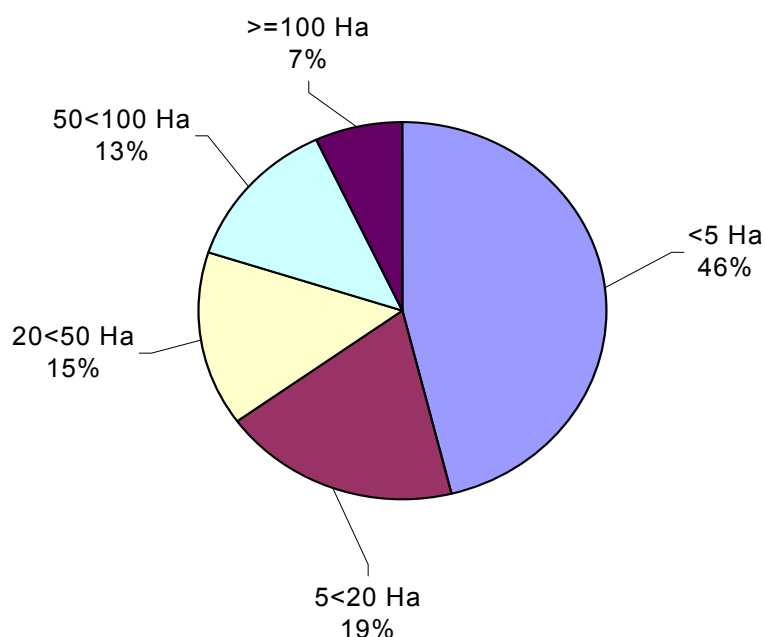
Issued : Dec 2006

Updated : Annually

Change in Agricultural Holdings and Labour Force 2002 to 2005⁵

Item		2002 Total	2003 Total	2004 Total	2005 Total	% Change 2004 - 2005
Land and Holdings:						
Agricultural Land ¹ (total area in hectares)		148,442	153,653	158,143	155,795	-1.5
Number of holdings		5,135	4,390	4,409	4,609	4.5
Holdings by EC farm type: (Based on Standard Gross Margins)						
Cereals		184	189	219	212	-3.2
General Cropping		127	118	114	115	0.9
Horticulture		201	198	196	188	-4.1
Pigs and Poultry		162	158	175	200	14.3
Dairy		988	934	899	851	-5.3
Cattle and Sheep (LFA) ⁴		156	153	154	145	-5.8
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)		921	965	1,042	1,033	-0.9
Mixed		216	210	253	252	-0.4
Other Types (includes inactive holdings 2001-2004)		2,180	2,291	2,226	2,269	1.9
Labour Force²:						
Principal Farmers, Spouses, other farmers, Partners and Directors	FT	3,003	2,895	2,842	2,819	-0.8
	PT	3,034	3,001	3,216	3,190	-0.8
Salaried Managers	FT	246	225	300	260	-13.3
	PT	61	52	84	91	7.6
Male Employees	FT	1,240	1,121	1,062	1,108	4.2
	PT	341	302	344	406	15.3
Female Employees	FT	164	155	153	162	5.6
	PT	298	271	272	322	15.5
Casual Workers		792	762	845	689	-22.6
Total Workforce³		9,179	8,784	9,118	9,048	-0.8

Proportion of Farm Size Groups in Cheshire



Commentary:

Agriculture remains an important element in the Cheshire economy. The annual Agricultural and Horticultural Census provides data on land use, crops, holdings, tenure and manpower in this sector. The census gives a more complete picture of labour force than the Annual Business Inquiry, as it includes the self-employed.

The agricultural workforce of Cheshire has been in decline for several decades. This trend is shown between 2004 and 2005 with a 1.1% decrease.

Two thirds (66%) of the agricultural labour force in 2005 were associated with the family of the farmer, other farmers, partners, directors and spouses of farmers. Within this group, both full-time working and part-time working had declined slightly between 2004 and 2005.

The census shows that the livestock industry remains important to Cheshire. In 2005, Cheshire had a total dairy and beef herd of 111,050, which was 29% of the North-West's and 5.4% of England's total breeding herds. However, the number of dairy holdings decreased by 5.6% between 2004 and 2005.

From 2004 a change in the methodology used to publish June Agricultural Census Data was adopted. This was to 'repopulate' data that would otherwise be suppressed due to disclosure and data-protection reasons.

The repopulated data would be a random number based on the original data, so would be a good approximation of the actual value, without compromising confidentiality.

Source:

1. Agricultural and Horticultural Census, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

Notes:

1. Agricultural land total excludes seasonal lets.
2. All labour force figures exclude school children.
3. Figures include trainees employed under an official scheme at Agricultural Wages Board rates or above.
4. LFA – Less Favoured Area.
5. The census is carried out in the month of June.