IFA Estimate of Farm Numbers, Farm Size and Farm Income by County

The attached table provides an up-to-date (2008) estimate of the number of farms, farm size, farm economic size and a breakdown of Farm Income by County.

The last breakdown of farms on a per-County basis was published by the CSO in their full Census of Agriculture 2000. A breakdown of the number of farms per county, the average size of a farm and the economic size of each farm is provided in this publication.

The Economic size of a farm is calculated by applying standard gross margins to each unit of production on the farm and the total of these gives the farm's economic size. It is expressed in ESU's (European size units); 1 ESU equals a standard gross margin of €1,200.

This breakdown provided in the CSO Census is now out of date, as the number of farms in the country has fallen from over 142,000 to just 128,300 in that time period.

The updated figures have been estimated using the 2007 Farm Structure Survey, which provides data on the number of farms, farm size and farm economic size on a regional basis.

Farm Income data is provided on a national basis only and is sourced from the CSO Output, Input and Income in Agriculture 2008 publication.

To get a county-by-county breakdown of farm income, it is estimated that each county's share of national Farm Income is equivalent to its share of the total National Economic Size. For example, the Economic Size of the farms in Cavan is 3.3% of total Economic Size of all farms in the country. Therefore, Farm Income for Cavan is estimated as 3.3% of the Total National Farm Income of €2,299 million, which is €75.7million.

The next full Census of Agriculture will be undertaken in 2010, the results of which will then replace this estimate.

Rowena Dwyer
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IFA Estimate of Farm Numbers, Farm Size and Farm Income by County 2008

Region	County	Number of farms	Average size (hectare)	Total Hectares per County	Average Economic Size (ESU)	Total Economic Size Per County	County ESU as a % of National	ESU as a % of total	Farm Income By County 2008 (€ m)
Border	Cavan	4,967	25.7	127,694	16.1	80,062	3.3%	3.3%	75.7
Border	Donegal	7,964	26.7	212,887	8.0	63,884	2.6%	2.6%	60.4
Border	Leitrim	3,368	25.1	84,540	6.1	20,524	0.8%	0.8%	19.4
Border	Louth	1,596	35.8	57,138	21.3	33,965	1.4%	1.4%	32.1
Border	Monaghan	4,131	22.2	91,877	18.2	75,192	3.1%	3.1%	71.1
Border	Sligo	4,075	25.0	101,854	7.8	31,743	1.3%	1.3%	30.0
Sub-total		**26,100**	**25.9**	675,990	**11.7**	**305,370**	**12.6%**	**12.6%**	**288.6**
Midland	Laois	3,136	36.3	113,973	22.9	71,704	2.9%	2.9%	67.8
Midland	Longford	2,537	27.7	70,249	11.8	30,055	1.2%	1.2%	28.4
Midland	Offaly	3,252	35.5	115,524	21.0	68,344	2.8%	2.8%	64.6
Midland	Westmeath	3,175	35.9	114,075	17.3	54,958	2.3%	2.3%	51.9
Sub-total		**12,100**	**34.2**	413,820	**18.6**	**225,060**	**9.3%**	**9.3%**	**212.7**
West	Galway	12,602	25.2	317,850	9.0	113,261	4.7%	4.7%	107.0
West	Mayo	11,564	22.5	259,664	9.0	103,935	4.3%	4.3%	98.2
West	Roscommon	5,935	25.4	150,906	8.5	50,694	2.1%	2.1%	47.9
Sub-total		**30,100**	**24.2**	728,420	**8.9**	**267,890**	**11.0%**	**11.0%**	**253.2**
Mid-East and Dublin	Dublin	796	43.3	34,437	35.0	27,859	1.1%	1.1%	26.3
Mid-East and Dublin	Kildare	2,395	42.9	102,675	26.5	63,576	2.6%	2.6%	60.1
Mid-East and Dublin	Meath	3,967	41.2	163,548	28.8	114,358	4.7%	4.7%	108.1
Mid-East and Dublin	Wicklow	2,143	43.3	92,730	26.4	56,467	2.3%	2.3%	53.4
Sub-total		**9,300**	**42.3**	393,390	**28.2**	**262,260**	**10.8%**	**10.8%**	**247.9**
Mid-West	Limerick	5,430	33.8	183,327	24.8	134,594	5.5%	5.5%	127.2
Mid-West	Clare	5,891	32.4	190,964	13.2	77,482	3.2%	3.2%	73.2
Mid-West	North Tipperary	3,379	40.2	135,798	27.7	93,684	3.9%	3.9%	88.5
Sub-total		**14,700**	**34.7**	510,090	**20.8**	**305,760**	**12.6%**	**12.6%**	**289.0**
South-East	Waterford	2,497	46.1	115,041	38.9	97,008	4.0%	4.0%	91.7
South-East	Carlow	1,682	39.6	66,558	28.8	48,445	2.0%	2.0%	45.8
South-East	Kilkenny	3,379	44.0	148,692	35.2	118,887	4.9%	4.9%	112.4
South-East	Wexford	4,134	41.4	171,263	34.1	141,141	5.8%	5.8%	133.4
South-East	South Tipperary	3,508	42.0	147,486	34.8	121,959	5.0%	5.0%	115.3
Sub-total		**15,200**	**42.7**	649,040	**34.7**	**527,440**	**21.7%**	**21.7%**	**498.5**
South-West	Cork	13,020	38.7	503,229	30.7	400,254	16.5%	16.5%	378.3
South-West	Kerry	7,780	33.7	262,211	17.8	138,466	5.7%	5.7%	130.9
Sub-total		**20,800**	**36.8**	765,440	**25.9**	**538,720**	**22.1%**	**22.1%**	**509.2**
Ireland		**128,300**	**32.2**	**4,136,190**	**19.0**	**2,432,500**	**100%**	**100.0%**	**2,299**

(1 ESU = €1,200)