



## Overview of the Irish Agri-food Sector

The agri-food sector is our oldest and largest indigenous exporting sector and its products are traded from every county in Ireland to 180 countries around the globe. The agri-food sector includes primary production in farming, fishing and forestry, and the processing and manufacture of food, beverages and wood products.

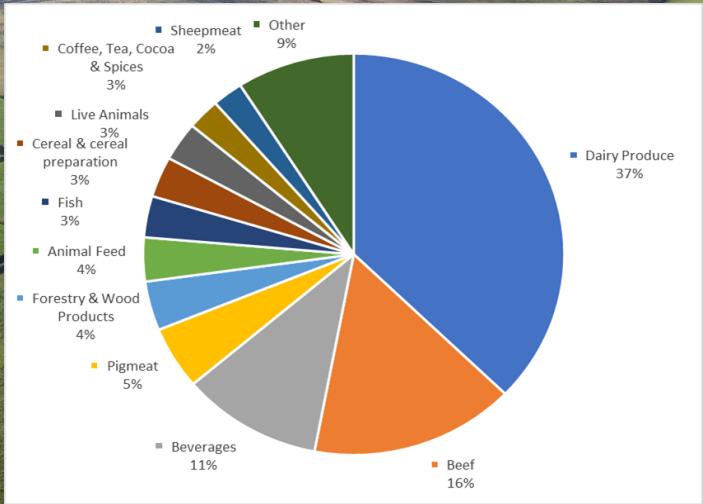
In 2022 the sector exported goods valued at a record €18.98 billion, accounting for 9% of all the merchandised goods exported from Ireland. The Irish agri-food sector is globally orientated, with approximately 90% of Irish beef, sheepmeat and dairy produce exported each year. In 2022 we exported more than one billion euros in value of each of fresh or chilled Irish beef, natural butter, cheese and Irish whiskey.

These record exports are dependent on the almost 165,000 people employed in the sector across 135,000 farms, 2,000 fishing vessels & aquaculture sites and some 2,000 food production and beverage enterprises. The sector is responsible for 4.5 million hectares of agricultural land and 808,848 hectares of forestry.

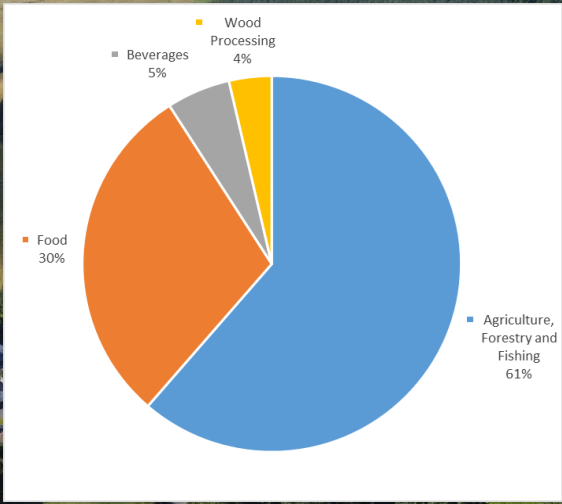
### Key Indicators for Agri- Food Sectors

<b>164,900 - People employed in the agri-food sector in 2022</b>	6.5% of total employment
<b>€18.3 billion - Gross Value Added at Factor Cost in agri-food sector (2022)</b>	6.7% of GNI* (Modified Gross National
<b>€45,800 was the estimated average Family Farm Income (FFI) across all systems, in 2022, ranging from €9,400 for cattle rearing to €150,900 for dairy</b>	31.9% increase on 2021 across all farm systems
<b>€18.98 billion - Estimated value of total agri-food exports in 2022</b>	9% of Irish merchandising exports

### Agri-food Exports by Category 2022



### Employment 2022





### Final Estimate of Aggregate Agricultural Output, Input and Income 2022

According to the CSO release [Output, Input and Income in Agriculture Final Estimate 2022](#) the value of Agricultural Output at Basic Prices increased by 28% (+€2,787m) to €12,894m in 2022. Intermediate Consumption costs increased by 29% (+€1,775m) to €7,919m in 2022. Agricultural Operating Surplus grew by 28% (+€1,042m) to €4,720m in 2022.

The value of Milk production rose by €1,629m to €5,026m. Milk generated 39% of the value of Agricultural Output at Basic Prices while Cattle production experienced an increase in production of 17% (+€446m) to €3,027m. While fertiliser volume was down in 2022 by 16%, the cost doubled from €606m in 2021 to €1,208m in 2022. The cost of feeding stuffs increased by 30% or €535m to €2,333m.

#### Output, Input and Income in Agriculture 2022 - Final Estimate

Main Aggregates	Value €m	Main Commodities	Value €m	% Of G/O
Goods Output @ Producer Prices <sup>1</sup>	12,285	Goods Output (excl. forage)	10,978	100%
+ Contract Work	574	of which		
+ Subsidies - Taxes (Products)	35	Cattle	3,027	25%
<b>Agricultural Output @ Basic Prices</b>	<b>12,894</b>	Milk	5,026	41%
- Intermediate Consumption	7,919	Pigs	620	5%
Gross Value Added @ Basic Prices	4,975	Sheep	377	3%
- Fixed Capital Consumption	1,213	Crops excl. Forage	1,308	11%
Net Subsidies	1,904	Other	617	5%
- Compensation of Employees	946	Forage Plants	1,308	
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>4,720</b>	Goods Output @ Producer Prices <sup>1</sup>	12,285	

Source : CSO <sup>1</sup> Including Forage

### Average Family Farm Income 2017 to 2022

The preliminary [Teagasc National Farm Survey 2022](#) issued in June 2023 shows that the average Family Farm Incomes (FFI) across all systems, in 2022 was €45,809 an increase of 32% on 2021 figures. The outcome for 2022 sees dairy farm incomes dramatically higher and a significant increase for tillage farms. Incomes on cattle other farms have a moderate increase while income on cattle rearing and sheep farms are somewhat lower in 2022.

While the actual outcome is a 32% increase in average Family Farm Income for 2022, it is important to emphasise that this increase is almost entirely attributable to the sharp rise in Dairy and Tillage farm incomes.

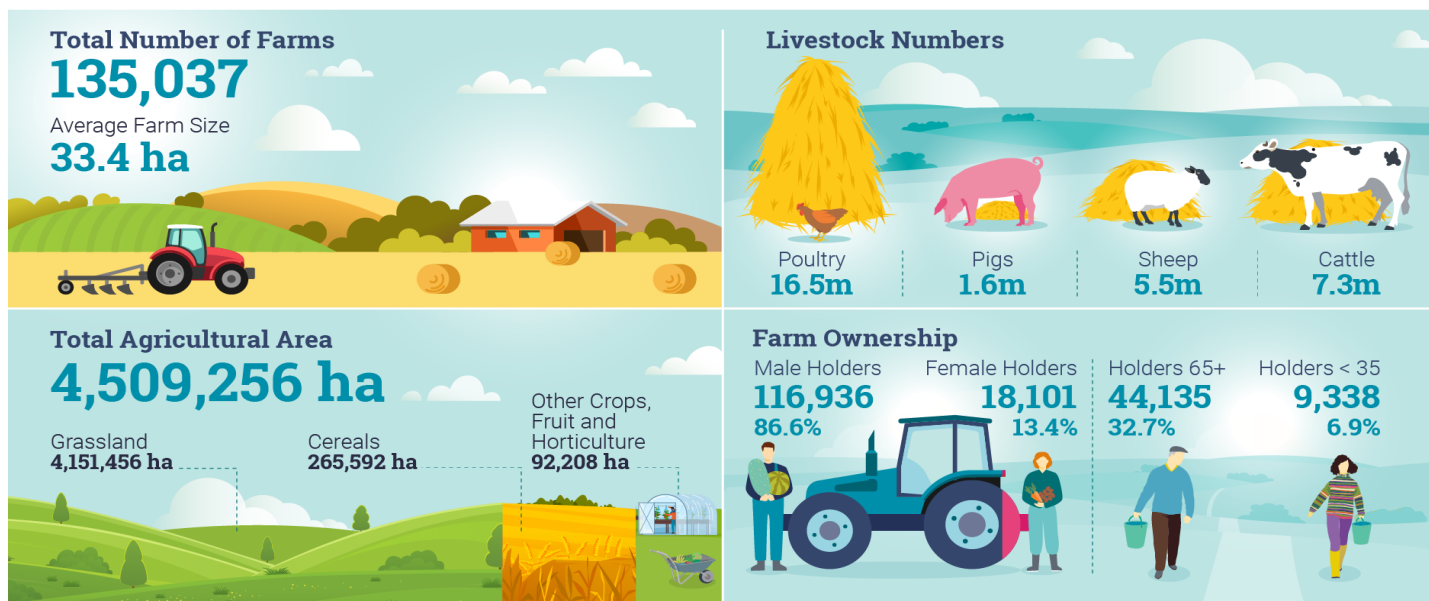
#### Family Farm Income 2017 to 2022

Farm Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 v 2021
Dairy	€90,222	€63,343	€69,231	€79,003	€98,745	€150,884	52.8%
Cattle Rearing	€10,688	€8,327	€9,192	€8,427	€10,865	€9,408	-13.4%
Cattle Other	€16,259	€15,056	€14,136	€15,525	€17,233	€18,811	9.2%
Sheep	€17,427	€13,434	€14,955	€17,880	€20,794	€16,454	-20.9%
Tillage	€36,440	€41,589	€33,741	€33,339	€57,939	€76,654	32.3%
Average	€30,270	€24,213	€24,804	€27,241	€34,719	€45,809	31.9%

Source : Agricultural Economics and Farm Surveys Department, Teagasc, June 2023



## Census Of Agriculture 2020 Preliminary Results



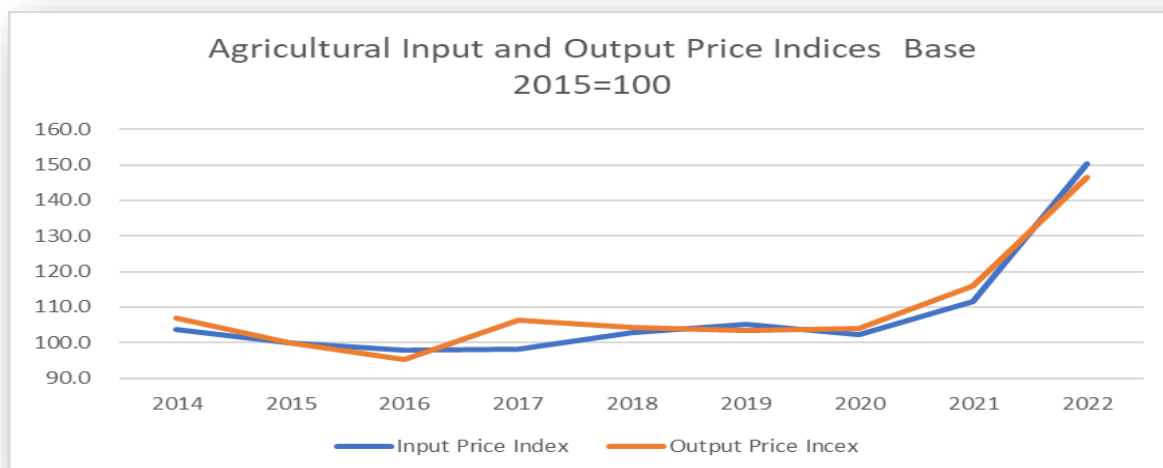
Agricultural Land Sales 2017 to 2021 (Source <a href="#">CSO</a> )					
All Land Types	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Value of Land Sold	€396,775,812	€355,949,924	€457,052,808	€334,919,849	€476,538,291
Number of Transactions	3,354	3,050	3,429	2,812	3,541
Volume of Land Sold - Acres	70,735	55,145	59,199	48,537	58,645
Average land price per acre	€5,609	€6,455	€7,721	€6,900	€8,126

## Agricultural Price Indices 2022

The CSO's [Agricultural Price Indices 2022—Preliminary Estimates](#) measures (a) index of producer prices of agricultural products - the Output Price Index, and (b) index of purchase prices of the means of agricultural production - the Input Price Index. The projected increase of 34.7% in the Input Price Index is mainly due to rises in Fertilisers (121.3%) and Energy prices (42.9%). Estimated increases are seen in all categories of the Agricultural Input Price Index, with the lowest estimated rise of 2.8% in Veterinary Expenses.

The estimated increase in the Output Price Index of 26.4% is mainly due to increases in milk prices of 43.3% and cereal prices of 40.7%. Estimated increases are seen in all categories of the Output Price Index, with the lowest rise of 1.3% in Fruit and Vegetables.

The annual Terms of Trade fell by 6.2% when compared with the year 2021.







## Irish Agriculture Labour Force and Organic Farming

### Census of Agriculture 2020

#### Agriculture Labour Force

**278,600**  
persons

73.04%  
male

26.96%  
female

#### Labour Units on Farms (Family & Non-Family)

20.09%  
female

79.91%  
male

#### Organic Farms in Ireland

**1,686**

(both fully and under conversion)

#### Livestock on Organic Farms

Cattle

**51,685**

Sheep

**74,870**

Poultry

**161,471**

0.71% of all cattle

1.36% of all sheep

0.98% of all poultry

## Agri-Food Strategy – Food Vision 2030

### Food Vision 2030 – A World Leader in Sustainable Food

The agri-food sector has benefited from an approach to strategic planning through the development of ten-year stakeholder-led strategies, updated every five years. Since their inception twenty years ago, these strategies have ensured that the sector has a coherent, stakeholder-led vision and strategy to underpin the sector's continued development.

A Sustainable Food System is profitable throughout (economic sustainability), has broad-based benefits for society (social sustainability) and has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (environmental sustainability).

The vision of the current agri-food strategy published in 2021 is that *"Ireland will become a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems over the next decade. This should deliver significant benefits for the Irish agri-food sector itself, for Irish society and the environment."*

*In demonstrating the Irish agri-food sector meets the highest standards of sustainability – economic, environmental, and social – this should also provide the basis for the future competitive advantage of the sector. By adopting an integrated food systems approach, Ireland will seek to become a global leader of innovation for sustainable food and agriculture systems, producing safe, nutritious, and high value food that tastes great, while protecting and enhancing our natural and cultural resources and contributing to vibrant rural and coastal communities and the national economy."*

Further details at [Food Vision 2030](#)

