

***JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM***

**ORGANIC STATISTICS
UNITED KINGDOM**

This Statistical Notice is the fourth to be published by Defra that brings together data from the various Organic Certification Bodies. Defra has worked in partnership with these Certifiers to publish data on the organic sector under a commitment within the "Action plan to develop organic food and farming in England."

The Statistical Notice contains information on fully organic land, land in-conversion to organic, the numbers of producers and processors / importers registered with the Organic Certification Bodies, the number of livestock and livestock producers. We hope to continue to work with the Organic Certification Bodies to further develop the data collected and published.

Figures for 2004 and 2005 have been revised. A dataset showing figures from 2003 onwards is available on the Defra website at
http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/index/list.asp?i_id=130

If you have any comments on the content, presentation or frequency of this notice then please contact us at the address given below.

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ORGANIC STATISTICS

UNITED KINGDOM

Table 1
Organic and In-conversion Land (Jan 2006)

	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)	Total agricultural area ⁽¹⁾ (ha)	% of total agricultural area
North East	6,643	29,296	35,939	584,373	6.2%
North West	3,236	18,858	22,094	905,086	2.4%
Yorkshire & Humberside	2,341	8,978	11,319	1,101,450	1.0%
East Midlands	2,434	13,172	15,606	1,226,476	1.3%
West Midlands	3,218	27,011	30,228	952,575	3.2%
Eastern	2,649	11,782	14,431	1,467,469	1.0%
South West	21,979	94,008	115,988	1,845,360	6.3%
South East (Inc London)	10,723	35,250	45,973	1,195,601	3.8%
England	53,223	238,355	291,578	9,278,388	3.1%
Wales	12,808	58,024	70,832	1,448,683	4.9%
Scotland	16,724	231,206	247,930	5,517,140	4.5%
Northern Ireland	3,196	6,317	9,513	1,029,500	0.9%
UK	85,951	533,902	619,852	17,273,711	3.6%

The total area of organic land and in-conversion land in the UK as at January 2006 was 619,852 ha. This represents a decrease of 8% from January 2005. Of this figure, 85,951 ha (14%) was in-conversion and 533,902 ha (86%) was fully organic. Whilst the fully organic area has decreased by 14% from January 2005, the area of land in conversion has risen by 63%.

This represents just under 4% of the total agricultural area (excluding common grazing) in the UK.

The areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have all increased slightly although the area in Scotland has decreased by over 97,000 ha (28%) from January 2005. Most of the decrease is permanent pasture. In conversion land in Northern Ireland has almost doubled which is permanent and temporary pasture.

⁽¹⁾ Excludes common grazing land

ORGANIC STATISTICS

UNITED KINGDOM

Table 2

Organic and In-conversion Land use in the UK (Jan 2006)

	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)	% of total area for crop category
Cereals	10,265	37,429	47,694	1.6%
Other Crops	3,504	7,284	10,788	1.2%
Fruit & Nuts	166	1,525	1,691	5.1%
Vegetables	1,305	12,413	13,718	2.6%
Herbs & Ornamentals	186	626	812	4.3%
Temporary pasture	15,865	82,043	97,907	8.2%
Set aside	1,434	2,309	3,743	0.7%
Permanent pasture (inc. rough grazing)	47,451	380,880	428,330	4.5%
Woodland	3,511	3,345	6,856	1.2%
Other	2,265	6,048	8,313	n/a
Total	85,951	533,902	619,852	

Of the organic and in-conversion, 69% was used for permanent pasture and a further 16% was used for temporary pasture.

The area of in-conversion land has increased for almost every area of land use since 2005, whilst fully organic land area has decreased for almost every category since 2005

Advances in data collection and categorisation may mean that categories are becoming more defined and accurate.

ORGANIC STATISTICS

UNITED KINGDOM

Table 3
Organic Producers, Growers, Processors and Importers - Regional Breakdown
(Jan 2006)

	Producers and Growers ⁽¹⁾	Processors and / or Importers ⁽²⁾	Total
North East	101	28	129
North West	168	143	311
Yorkshire & Humberside	138	141	279
East Midlands	221	195	416
West Midlands	335	143	478
Eastern	253	255	508
South West	1,152	380	1,532
South East (Inc London)	417	484	901
England	2,785	1,769	4,554
Wales	688	112	800
Scotland	595	197	792
Northern Ireland	217	50	267
UK	4,285	2,128	6,413

There has been a small decrease in the number of producers and growers (1%) although the number of processors has increased (31%) from January 2005. The overall area has increased so it would suggest that organic producers and processors are growing in size.

There were increases in the number of processors or importers in every region, whilst Northern Ireland saw the biggest rise in the number of producers and growers with an increase of 25% from 2005.

Of those registered producers, 4073 (95%) recorded a return of production of crops or livestock. Non returns account for land rented out, fish farms and other types of production not recorded.

Notes:

(1) Producers and growers also includes counts of registered producers regardless of generating production

(2) Processers and importers include abattoirs, bakers, storers and wholesalers.

The recorded location depends on the address registered with the Certification Bodies and so larger businesses may be recorded at their headquarters.

Table 4
Producers of Organic and In Conversion Livestock - Regional Breakdown
(Jan 2006)

	Producers
North East	54
North West	102
Yorkshire & Humberside	82
East Midlands	125
West Midlands	196
Eastern	86
South West	724
South East (Inc London)	201
England	1,570
Wales	502
Scotland	296
Northern Ireland	140
UK	2,508

63% of the UK livestock producers are based in England, which compares with 65% of all organic producers being based in England. 59% of all organic UK producers have some organic livestock production.

The total number of livestock producers has increased by 23% from January 2005. There were notable increases in Wales (25%), Northern Ireland (27%) and a small increase in Scotland (1%) whilst the number in England increased by 27%.

Table 5
Estimate of Producers of Organic and In Conversion Livestock Numbers
(2006)

	Livestock Numbers	% of total for livestock category
Cattle	214,276	2.1%
Sheep	691,000	1.9%
Pigs	29,995	0.6%
Poultry	3,439,548	1.9%
Goats	544	0.6%
Other Livestock	1,486	n/a

The figures have been compiled from annual figures recorded ending 1 January 2006

Certification bodies record production data at various times of the year so figures should be treated with care as they will not represent an exact snapshot of organic livestock farming.