



Agriculture in Ireland

By Bella Fay



How important is agriculture to Ireland?

- ❖ The agri-food sector is one of Ireland's most important indigenous manufacturing sectors. It employs around 167,500 people.

<https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/rural-economy/agri-food-business/agriculture-in-ireland/>

- ❖ Agri-food is employing 8.6% of the working population

https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/news/key-eu-policy-areas/agriculture_en



FUN FACT

The average dairy cow produces seven gallons of milk a day, that's 2,100 pounds of milk a month.



How much of Ireland's GDP is related to Agriculture?

- ❖ The agri-food sector in Ireland in 2016 generated 7% of gross value added (€13.9 billion) and 9.8% of Ireland's merchandise exports.
- ❖ When employment in inputs, processing and marketing is included, the agri-food sector accounts for almost 10% of employment.

What was % before we joined the EU and what is the % now?

- ❖ The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was introduced in 1962
- ❖ When introduced it sought to increase agriculture productivity and insure availability of food at a reasonable price.
- ❖ In 1973 before joining the EU farming employed 24% of working population. After we joined the EU by 2007 only 7% of workforce are employed in farming.

- ❖ When the Irish joined the EEC around one in five people worked in the farming industry.
- ❖ Nearly 70% of all Irish agricultural goods ended up on British soil and trade with other countries remained limited.
- ❖ Over the course of a five-year transition period into the EEC, Ireland's farming sector had huge increases in financial success.
- ❖ During these years, the annual income for a family-farm tripled from the low figure of less than €1,500 in 1972.



Why has the percentage of farmers dropped over the years?

- ❖ The percentage of farmers have been dropping since 1972.
- ❖ This is because young people do not want to pursue a career in farming.
- ❖ These young people are moving from farming areas such, as Galway and the midlands, to areas with larger choices for education and jobs, such as Dublin.

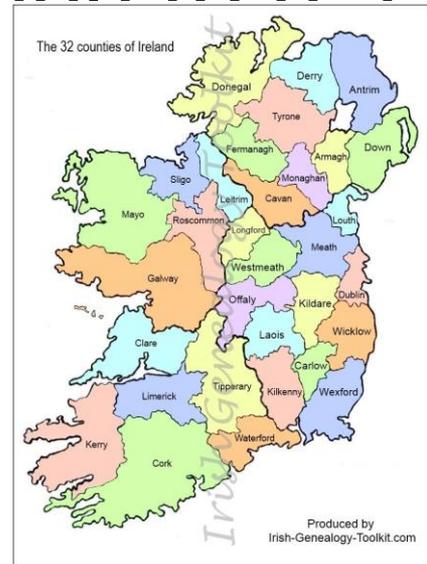


Primary Agriculture

- ❖ In 2016, Gross Agricultural Output (GAO) was valued at €6.92 billion.
- ❖ The beef and dairy categories are the largest and account for 38.8% and 29.5% of GAO. Other sectors to have a share in GAO include pig (7.8%), sheep (4%), cereals (3.9%), and other (16%).

FUN FACT

The land area of Ireland extends to 69 million hectares, of which 4.5 million hectares is used for agriculture.



Thanks for listening!