

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

**ORGANIC STATISTICS  
UNITED KINGDOM**

The latest statistics produced by Defra on the organic farming sector were released on 3 July 2008 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

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 in the United Kingdom.

This Statistical Notice is the sixth 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." See <http://defraweb/farm/organic/policy/actionplan/>

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](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 2008)**

	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)	Total agricultural area <sup>(1)</sup> (ha) at June 2007	% of total agricultural area
North East	4,755	25,803	30,557	587,480	5.2%
North West	3,278	20,442	23,720	919,119	2.6%
Yorkshire & Humberside	4,112	9,625	13,737	1,090,900	1.3%
East Midlands	3,082	13,229	16,311	1,229,750	1.3%
West Midlands	5,721	28,166	33,887	958,818	3.5%
Eastern	5,263	12,698	17,960	1,427,800	1.3%
South West	48,191	106,278	154,470	1,869,030	8.3%
South East (Inc London)	14,635	42,503	57,138	1,208,460	4.7%
England	89,037	258,744	347,781	9,291,357	3.7%
Wales	30,908	65,127	96,035	1,499,606	6.4%
Scotland	34,759	193,133	227,892	5,594,860	4.1%
Northern Ireland	3,188	7,299	10,488	1,014,544	1.0%
UK	157,893	524,303	682,196	17,400,367	3.9%

The total area of organic and in-conversion land in the UK as at January 2008 was 682,196 ha. This represents a 10 per cent increase from a year ago and represents 3.9% of the total agricultural area (excluding common grazing) in the UK. Of this figure, 23% was in-conversion and 77% was fully organic.

Since January 2007 the fully organic area has increased by 5%, the area of land in conversion has risen by 30%.

The area of fully organic or in-conversion land in England and Wales has increased this year. The area in Scotland has decreased by around 3% since January 2007. The area of fully organic land in Northern Ireland was higher than in January 2007 but the area of land in conversion fell compared to last year.

**Notes:**

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes common grazing land

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**Table 2**  
**Organic and In-conversion Land use in the UK (Jan 2008)**

	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)	% of total area for crop category
Cereals	13,152	38,392	51,544	1.8%
Other Crops	3,476	7,796	11,272	1.1%
Fruit & Nuts	402	1,623	2,025	6.3%
Vegetables	2,556	14,321	16,878	3.9%
Herbs & Ornamentals	130	482	612	3.5%
Temporary pasture	34,221	90,892	125,113	6.0%
Permanent pasture (inc. rough grazing)	93,637	358,384	452,021	5.0%
Woodland	5,552	5,933	11,484	1.7%
Other	4,767	6,482	11,248	
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,893</b>	<b>524,303</b>	<b>682,196</b>	

Of the organic and in-conversion, 66% was used for permanent pasture and a further 18% was used for temporary pasture.

The area of organic and in-conversion land has increased mainly due to a rise in permanent and temporary pasture since January 2007.

# ORGANIC STATISTICS

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**Table 3**  
**Organic Producers, Growers, Processors and Importers - Regional Breakdown**  
**(Jan 2008)**

	Producers and Growers <sup>(1)</sup>	Processors and / or Importers <sup>(2)</sup>	Total*
North East	137	53	173
North West	211	180	367
Yorkshire & Humberside	190	191	356
East Midlands	276	241	487
West Midlands	408	188	556
Eastern	315	298	574
South West	1,631	509	1,961
South East (Inc London)	556	579	1,042
England	3,724	2,239	5,516
Wales	857	149	953
Scotland	671	231	860
Northern Ireland	254	56	302
<b>UK</b>	<b>5,506</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>7,631</b>

*\*Totals do not double count combined producer/processors.*

Since January 2007 there has been a 19% increase in the number of producers and growers and a 11% increase in the number of processors. The largest percentage increase in the number of producers was in England (24%).

There were increases in the number of processors or importers in every region. The largest concentration of processors and importers in the South West and South East of England remained at around 49% of the England total.

Of those registered producers, 4724 (86%) 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) Processors 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 2008)**

	Producers
North East	58
North West	95
Yorkshire & Humberside	85
East Midlands	127
West Midlands	190
Eastern	76
South West	705
South East (Inc London)	188
England	1,524
Wales	580
Scotland	282
Northern Ireland	176
<b>UK</b>	<b>2,562</b>

59% of the UK organic and in conversion livestock producers are based in England, which compares with 68% of all organic producers being based in England. 47% of all organic UK producers have some organic livestock production.

The total number of livestock producers in the UK has increased by 5% from January 2007. The number of producers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland rose whilst in Scotland there was a small decrease.

**Table 5**  
**Estimate of Producers of Organic and In Conversion Livestock Numbers**  
**(Jan 2008)**

	Livestock Numbers	% of total for livestock category
Cattle	250,376	2.4%
Sheep	863,122	2.5%
Pigs	50,435	1.0%
Poultry	4,440,698	2.7%
Goats	539	0.6%
Other Livestock	3,415	n/a

The number of organic and in conversion cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry have all increased since January 2007. An increase in livestock numbers has taken place in each year since 2004.

Organic and in conversion livestock represents a small proportion of total livestock. For cattle, sheep and poultry the proportion is between 2 and 3%; and it is around 1% of pigs.

The figures have been compiled from annual figures recorded ending 1 January 2008.

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.

The data represents information collected on farms during an annual inspection and reflects the livestock population on the farm at that time. The data does not reflect the total throughput of livestock during the year.

**Table 6**  
**United Kingdom Trends in In-conversion and Organic Production,**  
**Operator, and Livestock Numbers**

	January 2006	January 2007	January 2008
			(hectares)
In-conversion	85,951	121,137	157,893
Organic	533,902	498,646	524,303
			(no)
Producers and growers	4,285	4,639	5,506
Processors and/or importers	2,128	2,404	2,675
			(no of head)
Cattle	214,276	244,752	250,376
Sheep	691,000	747,299	863,122
Pigs	29,995	32,926	50,435
Poultry	3,439,548	4,421,326	4,440,698