

## MERL LIBRARY BIBLIOGRAPHY SERIES

### AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD STATISTICS

#### (A) Historical data

**There are two key printed statistical compilations:**

Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. *A century of agricultural statistics: Great Britain, 1866-1966*. HMSO, 1968. MERL LIBRARY 3260 GRE

Marks, H. F. and Britton, D.K. (eds). *A hundred years of British food and farming: a statistical survey*. Taylor & Francis, 1989. MERL LIBRARY OVERSIZE 3260 MAR

The former has a very useful commentary on the various tables and maps, while the latter has a Long-Term Index of Prices of Consumer Goods and Services in the UK to reflect changes in the purchasing power of the pound over time.

These sources provide historical information relating to:

- Acreage and production of crops
- Agricultural holdings
- Agricultural land
- Agricultural machinery
- Agricultural prices
- Agricultural workers and wages
- Farming net income
- Food consumption and expenditure
- Livestock and livestock products
- Value of agricultural output

When looking for any market-related agricultural statistics, both current and historical, important sources are our holdings of *Farmers Weekly* and *Farmer and Stockbreeder*, which publish a wide range of commodity and livestock data, and are particularly useful when trying to track down regional variations.

In addition, it is always worth consulting the 11-volume *Agrarian history of England and Wales* (held at MERL LIBRARY 2030 AGR) which contains many statistical tables. Also available in the MERL library are the Wye College (University of London) statistical handbooks of UK agriculture (MERL LIBRARY OVERSIZE 3260 BUR) and volumes such as *Agrifacts: A Handbook of UK and EEC Agricultural and Food Statistics* (MERL LIBRARY 3260 BUR).

The following is a selection of key tables from this series for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century data, arranged by the headings above:

## **Acreege and production of crops**

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 2A.1 Estimates of average wheat yields in England and Wales, 1830-93, p. 88.

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 2A.2 Estimates of average barley yields in England and Wales, 1836-93, p. 91.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 36.8 All crop distributions by counties 1875, 1895, 1915, p. 1793.

## **Agricultural holdings**

Volume VII (pt 2), Table 36.10 Landholdings by counties, 1875, 1895, 1915, pp. 1807-13

Volume VIII Table 58. Summary of cropping and livestock in agricultural holdings in England and Wales, 1910-39, p. 331.

## **Agricultural land.**

Volume VI Table 1.1 Area of arable, meadow and pasture in England and Wales, 1770-1856, p. 31.

Volume VI. Table 6.3 Landowner's incomes 1760-1873, p. 619.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 36.2a) England: land use: crops annually, 1866-1914. pp. 1770-3.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 36.3 Extent of cultivated land (England and Wales), 1836-1914, p. 1778.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 39.1 Schedule A income tax and rental estimates England and Wales 1850-1914, pp. 1920-1.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 39.3 Land prices 1850-1914, p. 1923.

Volume VII (pt 2) Conclusion Table 1- Principal agricultural land use changes in England and Wales 1875-1914, p 2142.

Volume VII (pt 2) Conclusion Table 2- Estimated value of agricultural output in England and Wales 1868/70-1911/13, p 2143.

## **Agricultural machinery**

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 44.34 Machinery prices, 1850-1914, p.2100-1.

### **Agricultural prices**

Volume VII (p2 2) Table 15.1 Price changes for agricultural products 1849-1913, p. 961.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 44.20 Fat pork and bacon prices, 1850-1914, pp. 2074-5.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 44.21 Beef prices, 1850-1914, p. 2076.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 44.27 Regional butter prices, 1850-1914 p. 2088

Volume VII 44.33 livestock feeds prices 1850-1914, p.2098-9.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 44.35 Fertiliser prices, 1850-1914, pp. 2102-3.

### **Agricultural workers and wages**

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 3.31 Labour productivity in UK agriculture, 1871-1911, p.315.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 41.3a) Number of persons in England and Wales engaged in agriculture, arboriculture and horticulture, 1851-1911, p. 1970.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 42.2 Nominal weekly wages for agricultural labourers by county 1850-1901, pp. 2003-4.

### **Farming net income**

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 3.20 Distribution of farm income, 1867-1914, p 271.

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 13.10 Estimated farm occupier's capital in England and Wales, 1860-1910, p. 914.

### **Food consumption and expenditure**

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 17.1 Estimated quantities of wheaten flour milled in the United Kingdom, imported and consumed per head, 1850-1914, p. 1067.

### **Livestock and livestock products**

Volume VI Table 4.1 Sheep statistics, 1750-1850, p. 327.

Volume VI Table 4.2 Cattle statistics, 1750-1850, p340.

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 6.1 Number of pigs in England and Wales, 854-1913, p. 488.

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 6.2 Poultry numbers in England and Wales, 1885-1913, p. 491.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 36.9 All animal distributions by counties 1875, 1895, 1915 pp. 1800-6.

### **Value of agricultural output**

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 3.8 Indexes of two estimates of the United Kingdom agricultural production/output, 1867-9 to 1911-13, p 243.

Volume VII (pt 1) Table 3.27 Product distribution in UK agriculture, 1870-1909/13, p. 299.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 38.4 UK gross agricultural output and product distribution at current prices, 1867/96-1911-1913, p 1888.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 38.8 Gross value of the United Kingdom farm output, crops, 1867-1914, p. 1895.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 38.9 Outputs, inputs and incentive income in UK agriculture, 1867-1914, p. 1901.

Volume VII (pt 2) Table 38.11 Estimates of agricultural output for England and Wales, 1867-1914 a) crops b) animals, pp. 1906-9.

### **(B) Government statistical publications**

All of the key official agricultural statistics for the United Kingdom are held at the beginning of the MERL LIBRARY PERRR periodical sequence in the reading room at MERL. They comprise, in chronological order:

*Reports of Poor Law inspectors on agricultural statistics (England)*: contains data for 1855.

*Agricultural returns for Great Britain*, 1867, 1871-2, 1874-7, 1880-1901;

*Agricultural statistics, Great Britain* 1902-1911; continued by:

*Agricultural statistics, England and Wales* 1912-1978/79; absorbed in:

*Agricultural statistics, United Kingdom* 1939/44 – 1989; continued by:

*Digest of agricultural census statistics* 1991-1997

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) published an *Annual Review of Agriculture* White Paper, setting out the data considered during the Annual Review of the economic condition and prospects of the United Kingdom agricultural industry. This became *Agriculture in the United Kingdom*. The library holds the series under its various titles from 1951-2004.

These are the prime sources for checking agricultural statistics on:

- Agricultural holdings
- Agricultural prices and subsidies
- Area of crops and grassland
- Earnings and conditions of employment
- Farm structures
- Food consumption and expenditure
- Food supplies
- Horticulture
- Land prices and rents
- Livestock numbers

### **Data for Scotland:**

*Agricultural statistics (Scotland), 1926-76* - MERL LIBRARY PERRR (Reading Room); continued by:

*Economic report on Scottish agriculture, 1980-1989* (missing 1987) - MERL LIBRARY PERST – held in remote store, available by request.

### **Data for Wales:**

*Annual digest of Welsh agricultural statistics, 1952-1979* - MERL LIBRARY PERST--ANN – held in remote store, available by request; continued by:

*Welsh agricultural statistics, 1979-1986* - MERL LIBRARY PERST--WEL– held in remote store, available by request.

### **Data for Northern Ireland:**

*Statistical review of Northern Ireland agriculture, 1963-1997* - MERL LIBRARY PERST – held in remote store, available by request.

### **More specialised sources include:**

#### **Agricultural output**

*Output and utilisation of farm produce in the United Kingdom, 1946/47 – 1987* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA – open access MERL library corridor.

#### **Earnings and conditions of employment**

*Agricultural labour in England and Wales, 1975-1983* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA – open access MERL library corridor.

#### **Farm structures**

*Farm classification in England and Wales, 1963-1977* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

## **Farming net income**

*Departmental net income calculation (output, input and income) for the United Kingdom, 1957-1987* - MERL LIBRARY PERST– held in remote store, available by request.

*Farm incomes in England & Wales, 1944/45 - 1977/78* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

*Farm incomes in England : a report based on the Farm Management Survey, 1978/79 - 1983/84* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

*Farm incomes in the United Kingdom, 1986 - 1992/93 (missing 1990/91)*, MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

## **Food consumption and expenditure**

*Domestic food consumption and expenditure / annual report of the National Food Survey Committee. 1950-1959* - MERL LIBRARY PERCA – closed access storage, available on request; 1960-1964 - MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

*Household food consumption and expenditure / annual report of the National Food Survey Committee, 1964-1991* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

*National food survey : annual report on household food consumption and expenditure, 1998* - MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

## **Horticulture**

*Basic horticultural statistics for the United Kingdom, 1971-1980; 1985-1995 (missing 1980-1989)*, MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

## **Land prices and rents**

*Agricultural land prices in England and Wales, 1976-1985*, MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

*Farm rents in England and Wales, 1963-1976*, MERL LIBRARY PERST– held in remote store, available by request; 1977 - 1979, 1981 - 1986, MERL LIBRARY PEROA - open access MERL library corridor.

## **(C) Current statistical information**

From 1997 onwards, MAFF (now Defra) began to phase out many of its printed publications and a large body of historical and current statistical information can now be consulted free of charge on the Defra website  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

The data published by Defra is derived from the June Agricultural Survey (historically named the June Agricultural and Horticultural Census), an annual

survey of agricultural activity which collects information from carefully selected agricultural holdings in England relating to land use, crops, livestock, labour, horticulture and glasshouse. The key sources are:

*Agriculture in the United Kingdom*: this is the major annual compilation, available in PDF format with datasets and with summary statistics published in the pocketbook, *Agricultural Statistics in your Pocket*, including:

- Animal health and welfare
- Commodities
- Environment
- Food chain
- Organic farming
- Prices
- Productivity

*Agricultural market reports*

*Basic horticultural statistics for the United Kingdom*: This annual publication is designed to provide, in one easy-to-reference booklet, comprehensive statistics on the production and value of horticultural crops grown in the United Kingdom. Some statistics on potatoes and hops are also included as well as overseas trade data. Each publication covers an 11 year period.

*Family food (Expenditure and food survey)*: *Family Food* is the source of detailed statistical information on purchased quantities, expenditure and nutrient intakes derived from both household and eating out food and drink. Historical estimates from 1940 to 2000 are based on data from the National Food Survey.

*Farm accounts in England*: derived from the *Farm Business Survey* and provides information on the financial position and physical and economic performance of farm businesses in England.

*Farm incomes in the United Kingdom*

*Statistics digest: farm labour and wages data*

### **(D) Regional and county data**

There are detailed tables available on the **Defra website** at regional, county, local authority and ward level. For example, to take Berkshire as an example, it is possible to obtain data on Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham on labour, land use, livestock and crops.

There are historical county profiles from 1900-1980.