

ORGANIC STATISTICS ENGLAND

This Statistical Notice is the second 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 and the number of livestock producers. We hope to continue to work with the Organic Certification Bodies to further develop the data collected and published.

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

Enquiries to: Michael Rowland, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Foss House, Kings Pool,
1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX
(tel: 01904 455557, email: michael.rowland@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

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ORGANIC STATISTICS

ENGLAND

Table 1
Organic and In-conversion Land (Jan 2004)

	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)	Total agricultural area (ha)	%age of total area
North East	6,812	22,071	28,883	580,296	5.0
North West	2,644	19,862	22,507	897,417	2.5
Yorkshire & Humberside	1,676	8,079	9,754	1,096,226	0.9
East Midlands	1,608	16,129	17,737	1,225,257	1.4
West Midlands	3,696	25,484	29,180	942,592	3.1
Eastern	2,986	9,687	12,672	1,458,963	0.9
South West	10,853	86,306	97,159	1,801,559	5.4
South East (inc London)	6,629	34,409	41,038	1,175,079	3.5
England	36,904	222,026	258,930	9,177,389	2.8

The total area of organic land and in-conversion land in England as at January 2004 was 258,930 ha. This represents a 3% increase from March 2003. Of this figure, 36,904 ha (14%) was in-conversion and 222,026 ha (86%) was fully organic. Whilst the fully organic area has increased by 21% from March 2003, the area of land in-conversion has fallen by 46%.

This represents almost 3% of the total agricultural area (excluding common grazing) in England.

The amount of organic and in-conversion land increased in almost every region although the North West showed a slight fall. The East Midlands region showed a 19% increase in organic and in-conversion land.

ORGANIC STATISTICS

ENGLAND

Table 2
Organic and In-conversion Land use in England (Jan 2004)

	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)	% of total area
Cereals	5,907	28,614	34,521	1.4
Other Crops	3,723	14,574	18,297	1.8
Fruit & Nuts	212	1,265	1,477	4.8
Vegetables	1,703	9,553	11,256	3.9
Herbs & Ornamentals	66	185	251	2.0
Temporary pasture	8,162	52,366	60,528	9.7
Set aside	1,545	2,560	4,105	7.0
Permanent pasture (inc. rough grazing)	14,720	107,854	122,574	3.3
Woodland	464	1,706	2,170	0.8
Non cropping	242	480	722	n/a
Other & Unknown	160	2,870	3,029	n/a
Total	36,904	222,026	258,930	2.8

Of the organic and in-conversion land, 47% was used for permanent pasture and a further 23% was used for temporary pasture.

There have been large increases in the areas used for cereals (21%), other crops (9%) and vegetables (15%). It is difficult to make comparisons elsewhere due to changes in the way the data is recorded.

ORGANIC STATISTICS

ENGLAND

Table 3
Organic Producers, Growers, Processors and Importers - Regional Breakdown
(Jan 2004)

	Producers and Growers	Processors and / or Importers ⁽¹⁾	Total
North East	73	30	103
North West	165	124	289
Yorkshire & Humberside	132	122	254
East Midlands	217	189	406
West Midlands	320	135	455
Eastern	250	233	483
South West	1,007	347	1,354
South East (Inc London)	406	450	856
England	2,570	1,630	4,200

There has been a small decrease in the number of producers and growers (2%) although the number of processors has increased (5%) from March 2003. As the overall area has increased this suggests that organic farms are growing in size.

There have been decreases in the total number of organic registrations involved in organic production in every English region and increases in the number of processors in every English region.

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ 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 2004)

	Producers
North East	51
North West	118
Yorkshire & Humberside	81
East Midlands	133
West Midlands	190
Eastern	98
South West	743
South East (Inc London)	222
<hr/> England <hr/>	<hr/> 1,636 <hr/>

45% of the English livestock producers are based in the South West and 3% in the North East.

This is the first time this data has been collected in this way by DEFRA and therefore previous comparisons can not be made.

We are currently working towards obtaining production figures from the various Organic Certification Bodies.