Table 2.5 Agricultural labour force on commercial holdings
Enquiries: Emma Howat on +44 (0) 3000 600 170, email farming-statistics@defra.gov.uk

Thousands (as at June each year)

	2018	2019	2020
Total labour force	477	476	472
Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses	296	299	301
Full time	145	144	147
Part time	152	155	153
Regular employees, salaried managers and casual workers	181	177	171
Regular employees	..	..	..
Full time	..	..	..
Part time	..	..	..
Seasonal, casual or gang labour	..	..	..

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture
Notes:
1. Figures for England relate to commercial holdings only.
2. Total labour force includes farmers and spouses
3. Part-time is defined as working less than 39 hours per week (England & Wales), 38 hours per week (Scotland) and 30 hours per week (N. Ireland).
4. Regular employees include salaried managers as not all UK countries collect separate estimates.
5. For labour force numbers in earlier years see Structure of the agricultural industry
6. .. means 'not available' or 'not applicable'

Age of holders
(Table 2.6)

Table 2.6 shows the proportion of holders by age group. Agriculture typically has an aging workforce. In 2016, approximately 36% of all holders were over the typical retirement age of 65 years while the proportion of young people aged less than 35 years was 3%.

The proportions of holders in the central age bands of 45-54 years and 55-64 years have remained broadly unchanged over the previous decade. Since 2005 the proportion in the 35-44 years old band has decreased by 5% whilst the proportion in the oldest band, 65 years and over, has increased by 5%.

The average age of holders is defined using the median. This is the middle value when all holders' ages are ranked in order. In 2016 the median age for holders in the UK was 60 years old, an increase of 1 year from 2013.

Table 2.5 Agricultural labour force on commercial holdings (a)

Enquiries: Amanda Lyons on +44 (0) 20 8026 6126 email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Thousands

	At June of each year				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total labour force (incl. farmers and spouses)	481	464	476	476	466
Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses	298	290	294	294	290
Full time	141	138	140	142	139
Part time (b)	158	152	155	152	151
Regular employees, salaried managers and casual workers (c)	183	173	181	183	176
Regular employees	116	112	115	115	..
Full time	73	71	72	73	..
Part time (b)	44	41	43	43	..
Seasonal, casual or gang labour	67	61	66	67	..

Source: June Surveys/Census of Agriculture

(a) 2013 figures relate to commercial holdings only for all of the UK.
(b) Part time is defined as less than 39 hours per week in England and Wales, less than 38 hours per week in Scotland and less than 30 hours per week in Northern Ireland.
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Age of holders (table 2.6)

15. Table 2.6 shows the proportion of holders by age group. Agriculture typically has an aging workforce. In the United Kingdom, around a third of all holders were over the typical retirement age of 65 years while the proportion of young people aged less than 35 years was around 3%.

16. The proportions of holders in the central age bands of 45-54 years and 55-64 years have remained broadly unchanged over the past decade. The proportion in the 35-44 years old band has decreased by 5 percentage points whilst the proportion in the oldest band, 65 years and over, has increased by 5 percentage points. In 2013 the median age for holders in the UK was 59 years old, unchanged from 2010. The median is the middle value when all holders' ages are ranked in order.

Table 2.6 Proportion of holders in each age group (a)(b)

Enquiries: Amanda Lyons on +44 (0) 20 8026 6126 email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk

% of holders

	2003	2005	2007	2010 (c)	2013 (c)
Holders' age					
Under 35 years	3	3	3	3	3
35 - 44 years	15	14	12	11	10
45 - 54 years	24	23	23	25	25
55 - 64 years	29	29	29	29	28
65 years and over	29	31	33	32	34
Median age (years)	58	58	59	59	59

Source: EU Farm Structure Survey

(a) The holder is defined as the person in whose name the holding is operated. The data in this table relate to all holders whether or not the holder is also the manager of the holding.
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APPENDIX D

AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 2012

Labour force in agriculture (table 2.5)

14. The total number of people working on farms increased by 5 thousand workers between 2011 and 2012 and now stands at 481 thousand. Small increases were seen across most labour types with the largest increase in the number of casual workers, which rose by 6.9 per cent to 67 thousand.

Table 2.5 Agricultural labour force on commercial holdings (a)

Enquiries: Martin Allan on +44 (0) 1904 455332 email: farming-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Thousands	At June of each year				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total labour force on commercial holdings (incl. farmers and spouses)	483	464	466	476	481
Farmers, business partners, directors and spouses	302	289	295	299	298
Full time	140	137	134	140	141
Part time (b)	161	152	161	159	158
Salaried managers	14	11	11	11	11
Other workers	167	164	160	166	172
Full time	64	63	64	64	65
Male	54	52	..	..	..
Female	11	11	..	..	..
Part time (b)	43	42	39	39	41
Male	27	27	..	..	..
Female	16	16	..	..	..
Seasonal, casual or gang labour	60	59	56	62	67
Male	42	42	40	44	48
Female	18	17	17	18	19

Source: June Surveys of Agriculture .. Data not collected

(a) Figures for England relate to commercial holdings only.

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