IRELAND

ORGANIC SECTOR FACTSHEET

PRODUCTION/MARKET TRENDS & POLICIES

KEY INDICATORS

With 223,400 hectares, Ireland had 5% of its farmland under organic management, constituting one of the lowest organic area shares in the European Union. Organic farmland grew almost sevenfold between 2001-2024, thus growing slower than the EU average. Regarding organic retail sales, with 137 million euros, an estimated 2.7% of food retail sales were organic in Ireland, thus below the EU organic share.

ORGANIC FARMLAND	2001	2024
Area* (Share of Total Farmland)	30,017 (0.7%)	223,400 ha (5%)
Area Growth from 2001 to 2024	644.2%	

ORGANIC LAND USE & AQUACULTURE	2001	2024
Arable Land* (Share of Total)	2,606 ha (0.2%)	12,283 ha (2.8%)
Permanent Crops* (Share of Total)	N/D	210 ha (11%)
Grassland* (Share of Total)	27,410 ha (0.9%)	210,906 ha (5.2%)
Aquaculture Production (Share of Total)	N/D	34,366 t (97.9%) (2022)

ORGANIC OPERATORS	2001	2024
Producers (Share of Total)	918 (0.7%)	4,999 (3.8%)
Aquaculture Producers	N/D	55
Processors	88	189
Importers	N/D	199

ORGANIC RETAIL SALES	2001	2024
Retail Sales (Share of Total)	25 M €	137 M€ (2.7%)
Per Capita Consumption	6.5 €	31.7 €
Retail Sales Growth from 2001 to 2024	529 %	
Imports	N/D	55,125 t

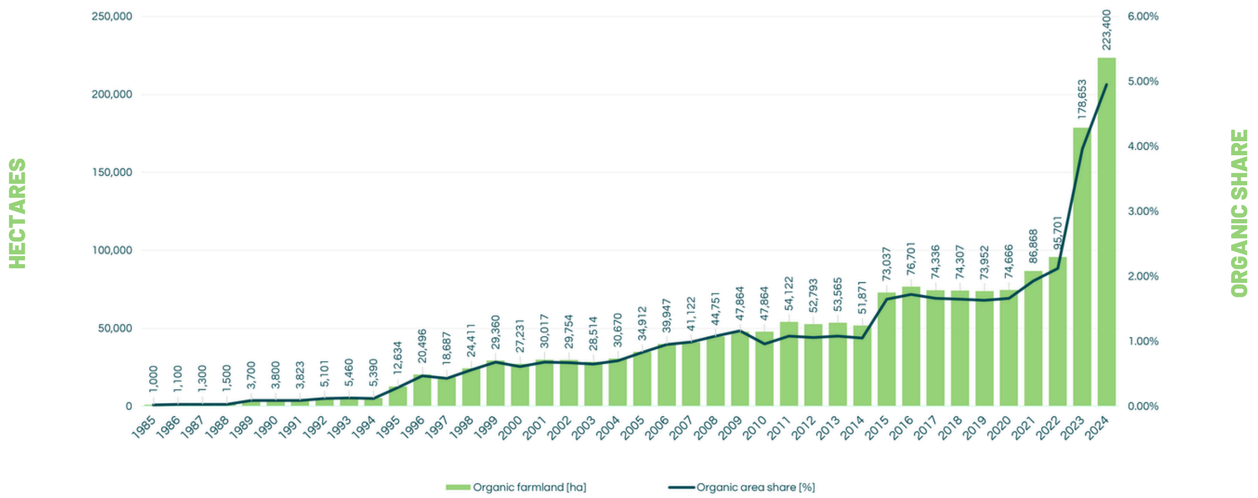
Source: FiBL survey based on national data sources, Eurostat and TRACES/European Commission in the framework of the OrganicTargets4EU project

**In conversion and fully organic*

IRELAND
ORGANIC SECTOR FACTSHEET
PRODUCTION/MARKET TRENDS & POLICIES

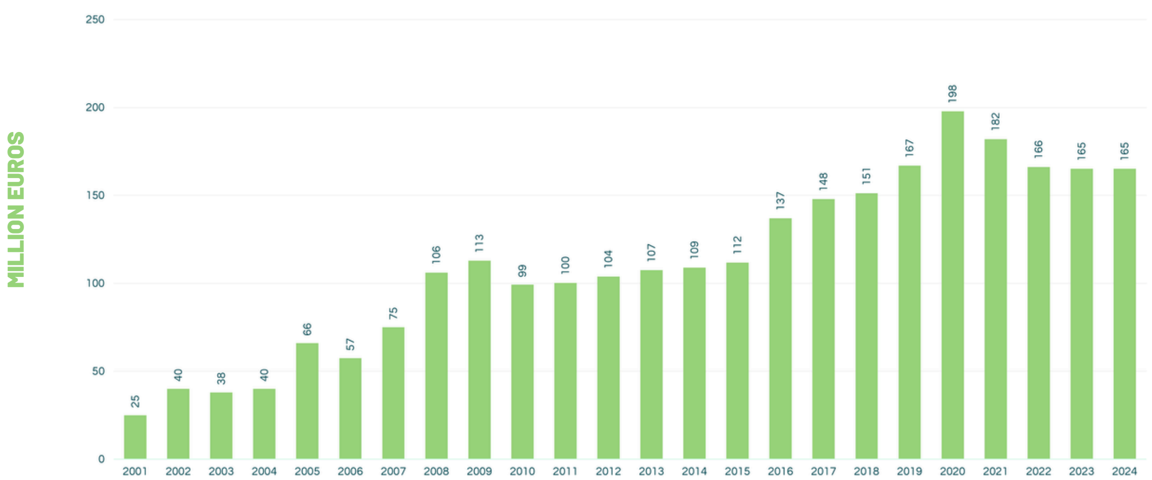
KEY INDICATORS

DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC FARMLAND IN IRELAND



Source: FiBL-AMI Survey, based on Eurostat, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Nic Lampkin

DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC SALES IN IRELAND



Source: FiBL-AMI Survey based on Bord Bia and other national data sources

CAP ORGANIC POLICY SUPPORT

The Ireland CAP strategic plan projects a 4-5 fold increase in organic area and more than 10 times the annual expenditure by 2027 compared with 2018. This substantial increase in expenditure is due in part to a trebling of payment rates per hectare for horticulture and permanent crops, and 25-75% increase in support for arable and grassland. These large increases in support have contributed to a sharp rise in the number of producers converting in 2022 and 2023. Organic farming is prioritised for some other CAP SP measures.

CONVERSION & MAINTENANCE	2018	2027
Land Area Supported (Change from 2018)*	72 kha	337 kha (+368%)
Share of Total Agricultural Area Supported*	1.6%	7.5% (+368%)
Share of Certified Organic Area Supported (Change)*	97%	N/D
Expenditure per Year*	8 M€	89 M€ (+1016%)
Expenditure per Hectare Supported*	111 €	265 € (+139%)

SHARE OF CAP RESOURCES	CAP EXP. 2023-2027	ORGANIC SHARE*
Organic Farming Support (P1)*	256 M€	100%
Eco-Schemes (P1)	1,483 M€	7.9%
Agri-Environment, Climate, Welfare (P2)	1,757 M€	
Total CAP Expenditure	9,832 M€	2.6%

including in-conversion and fully organic land

CAP ORGANIC CONVERSION AND MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS FOR DIFFERENT LAND USES

INDICATOR	YEAR	FUND	GRASSLAND*	ARABLE CROPS	HORTICULTURE	FRUIT CROPS	ALL AREAS >70HA
Conversion Support (€/ha)	2019	P2	220	260	300	300	
	2023	P2	300	320	800	800	60
Change from 2019 to 2023			36%	+23%	+167%	+167%	
Maintenance Support (€/ha)	2019	P2	170	170	200	200	
	2023	P2	250	270	600	600	30
Change from 2019 to 2023			47%	+59%	+200%	+200%	
Conversion Support Higher than Maintenance	2019		+29%	+53%	+50%	+50%	
	2023		+20%	+19%	+33%	+33%	100%

P1 (Pillar 1) European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF); P2 (Pillar 2) European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and national co-financing

**Additional €50/ha available for organic dairy farmers*

Sources for pages 3 and 4
Lampkin N, Lembo G, Rehburg P (2024) Assessment of agricultural and aquaculture policy responses to the organic F2F targets. OrganicTargets4EU project Deliverable 1.2. Braunschweig: Thünen-Institut.
Lampkin N, Sanders, J (2022) Policy support for organic farming in the European Union 2010-2020. Thünen Working Paper 200. Braunschweig: Thünen-Institut.
Sources for updates: Contacts in national Ministries and organic sector organisations (pers. comm. 2026)

IRELAND
ORGANIC SECTOR FACTSHEET
PRODUCTION/MARKET TRENDS & POLICIES

NATIONAL ORGANIC ACTION PLAN

The current OAP is Ireland's third since 2008. It is different from most other national OAPs in terms of its focus on individual sub-sectors like milk, meat, arable crops and horticulture. The previous plan was more modest in terms of ambition, both in terms of targets and scope of individual actions. The implementation of the current plan is taking account of the need to respond with information and market to support to the increased rates of conversion stimulated by the higher support payments from 2023.

TARGETS

	PERIOD	LAND AREA TARGET	OTHER TARGETS
Previous Action Plan	2013-15	Unspecified increase	N/D
Current Action Plan	2019-25	10% of UAA by 2030 target set in 2023 Climate Action Plan	Individual sector (dairy, beef, arable etc.) targets

KEY ACTIONS

	PREVIOUS ACTION PLAN (2013 - 2015)	**CURRENT ACTION PLAN** (2019 - 2025)
PRODUCTION	Increase support effectiveness and market focus	As previous; support conversion; consider additional support for suckler cows, protein crops
MARKETS	Support producer organisations and market development; encourage processor engagement; develop public procurement opportunities; identify potential export markets; address regulatory constraints on aquaculture	Support producer organisation in horticulture; promote awareness of public procurement opportunities and pilot projects; encourage use of organic in hospitality sector; regulatory development
INFORMATION	Increase consumer awareness of local and seasonal organic products; maintain existing advisory service; identify specialist needs; support demonstration farms, discussion groups; improve supply chain communication; identify sector training needs; apprenticeships; organic modules in schools, higher education; research specific technical issues in aquaculture; sector-focused market research, supply statistics, financial assessments	Increased promotion with EU funds; focus on consumer understanding, awareness of availability and seasonality; National Organic Week; sector knowledge transfer initiatives; encourage apprenticehip and internship schemes; research to improve production efficiency and produce technical guidelines for specific enterprises; value chain analyses and supply statistics incl aquaculture; market reviews; purchasing of commercial market data

AQUACULTURE

The organic share of total aquaculture production in Ireland is almost 50%, making Ireland the lead country in Europe. Organic aquaculture has been supported as part of the EMFF (2014-2020) and EMFAF (2021-2027) operational programmes and the Multi-annual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture, including investment aids, increased competitiveness, research, innovation and knowledge transfer, and high production and certification standards. Addressing regulatory issues for organic aquaculture also featured in the previous national organic action plan. As the funding is project specific and there is no ring-fenced organic budget, statistics on organic aquaculture support expenditure are not available.

OrganicTargets4EU
www.organictargets.eu

Project Coordinator
Ambra De Simone
IFOAM Organics Europe
www.organicseurope.bio

Authors
Helga Willer
(FiBL, Switzerland)

Nicolas Lampkin
(Thünen-Institut, Germany)

Sabine Reinecke
(FiBL, Switzerland)

Design
CONSULAI

Publication year
2026

Funded by the European Union

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101060368) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (Grant no. 22.00155). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency (REA) or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Neither the European Union nor any other granting authority can be held responsible for them.