



Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 16/2003

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Structure of agricultural holdings in the EU

Main results of the Community survey, 1999-2000 rev.1

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The detailed results of the 1999-2000 Community survey on the structure of agricultural holdings (Farm Structure Survey, FSS) are now available for all EU Member States. Information is available for each holding on employment (number of persons in employment, working time, age, sex, status, level of training), on land use and on methods of cultivation (organic farming, areas under irrigation, areas covered by greenhouses) and on livestock numbers.

The 6.8 million agricultural holdings surveyed in the EU in 1999-2000

- made use of 6.3 million AWU (annual work units), that is, the equivalent of 6.3 million persons employed full time;
- used an area of 127 million hectares, that is, an area of 19 ha per agricultural holding on average.

Amongst these 6.8 million European holdings,

- 63% made use of less than one AWU, while 12% made use of 2 or more AWU's (30% of holdings in Luxembourg, 36% of holdings in the Netherlands);
- 58% used less than 5 ha (in Greece, Italy and Portugal more than 3 out of 4 holding used less than 5 ha), while 3% used more than 100 ha (17% of holdings in the United Kingdom);
- 17% are mixed holdings (mixed cropping, mixed livestock and crops and livestock combined), while 3% are specialised in horticulture, 36% in permanent crops (vineyards, olive groves, orchards), 21% field cropping (cereals, beet etc.), 22% grazing livestock (of which 7% specialised in dairy production), 1% animal production without land (pigs, poultry);
- 2% practise organic farming (9% of Austrian holdings, 11% of Swedish ones);
- 2% practise agriculture under glass (6% of Belgian holdings, 11% of Dutch ones).

Of all holdings, 3% were held by a legal person (company), 1% by a group of physical persons (partnership) in a group holding, and 96% by a sole holder.

54% of holdings and 55% of the agricultural area are localised in less favoured areas or mountain areas.

Amongst the 6.5 million sole holders,

- 24% are women;
- 52% are aged 55 or more;
- three quarters work part time on their holding;
- 26% have another gainful activity as main employment.



Table 1 - Structure of the labour force*Symbols : not available*

	EU-15	B	DK	D ²	EL	E	F	IRL
Total labour force								
- annual works units (1000 AWU)	6,332	74	66	618	587	1,078	949	168
Family labour force								
- persons (1000)	12,185	95	84	941	1421	2,254	858	244
- annual works units (1000 AWU)	4,645	63	47	430	504	710	483	156
Non-family labour regularly employed								
- persons (1000)	1,323	12	19	196	10	185	462	14
- annual works units (1000 AWU)	1,022	9	17	170	9	143	372	8
Non-family labour not regularly employed								
- annual works units (1000 AWU)	652	2	2	18	75	227	94	5
Holding managers³ (1000)	6,669	62	58	445	817	1,287	618	142
- % women	23	16	8	8	24	22	26	10
- % part time	76	40	57	59	87	79	51	44
- % full agricultural training	5 ¹	18	18	0	0	1	32	0
Sole holders (1000)	6,484	59	57	440	817	1,236	538	141
- % women	24	15	9	9	25	27	23	11
- distribution by age (%)								
- under 35 years	8	11	9	16	9	9	10	13
- 35 to 44 years	17	25	24	29	15	16	22	22
- 45 to 54 years	23	23	25	26	20	22	30	26
- 55 to 64 years	24	21	23	23	25	25	20	20
- 65 years and over	29	20	20	6	31	28	18	20
- % with another gainful activity ⁴								
- as a main occupation	26	14	34	39	22	28	19	30
- as a subsidiary occupation	4	4	7	6	2	4	6	14
Spouses of sole holders working on the holding (1000)	2,881	25	19	230	402	414	207	45
- % women	76	88	89	92	81	63	67	91
- % part time 50 % and over	16	21	17	16	19	11	21	26
- % part time under 50 %	74	55	61	75	74	79	56	45
- % with another gainful activity	31	17	49	20	18	28	98	52
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	2,820	11	8	271	202	603	113	57
- % women	32 ¹	23	:	38	31	28	31	22
- % part time 50 % and over	9	10	9	9	16	6	15	18
- % part time under 50 %	81	54	69	78	77	87	73	61
- % with another gainful activity	47 ¹	23	:	100	31	53	23	66

¹ Average of the member states for which data are available.² In Germany and the United Kingdom, the labour input data are based on a sample. The data in Table 1 may not correspond exactly with the data in Table 2.³ Managers of group holdings excluded.⁴ Only for the holders who are also manager of the holding.

Table 1 - Structure of the labour force

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK ²	
1,364	4	205	182	524	103	74	334	Total labour force - annual works units (1000 AWU)
3,886	6	194	507	1,003	165	133	397	Family labour force - persons (1000)
1,158	4	137	167	429	86	56	215	- annual works units (1000 AWU)
75	1	82	19	61	19	24	143	Non-family labour regularly employed - persons (1000)
49	1	57	12	47	12	15	101	- annual works units (1000 AWU)
157	0	9	2	39	5	3	15	Non-family labour not regularly employed - annual works units (1000 AWU)
2,152	3	100	199	416	77	81	212	Holding managers³ (1000)
28	12	8	31	23	11	10	16	- % women
88	40	39	69	83	54	71	58	- % part time
3	38	5	10	1	6	:	12	- % full agricultural training
2,136	3	95	195	409	76	76	206	Sole holders (1000)
30	20	8	30	23	11	10	13	- % women
5	11	7	16	4	11	7	5	- distribution by age (%)
12	23	21	29	11	27	19	18	- under 35 years
20	26	25	26	20	36	28	26	- 35 to 44 years
24	21	27	19	27	19	25	26	- 45 to 54 years
39	19	19	10	38	6	21	25	- 55 to 64 years
								- 65 years and over
25	12	13	24	28	26	43	24	- % with another gainful activity ⁴
1	5	8	13	2	17	20	12	- as a main occupation
								- as a subsidiary occupation
921	2	33	120	303	43	35	82	Spouses of sole holders working on the holding (1000)
70	81	96	69	84	89	89	91	- % women
8	70	35	28	30	16	14	18	- % part time 50 % and over
87	24	51	65	61	48	76	64	- % part time under 50 %
24	15	16	32	23	40	66	41	- % with another gainful activity
828	2	66	193	290	46	21	110	Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)
29	29	41	43	45	30	25	26	- % women
7	39	23	7	9	10	10	13	- % part time 50 % and over
84	32	35	88	87	83	79	55	- % part time under 50 %
40	17	2	41	46	0	:	41	- % with another gainful activity

Table 2 - Structure and area of holdings*Symbols : not available - none*

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL
Holdings								
- total number (1000)	6,769	62	58	472	817	1,287	664	142
- by legal personality of the holder (%)								
- sole holders	96	96	99	95	100	96	81	100
- legal persons	3	4	1	1	0	4	12	0
- group holdings	1	0	0	4	0	0	7	0
- by total labour force (%)								
- less than 1 AWU	63	35	52	47	72	69	39	35
- 1 but less than 2 AWU	24	47	29	35	20	22	35	49
- 2 but less than 3 AWU	8	14	13	13	6	6	17	13
- 3 AWU and more	4	4	7	6	1	3	9	4
- by AA class (%)								
- under 5 ha	58	31	3	25	77	58	29	8
- 5 but less than 20 ha	23	30	36	34	20	26	20	36
- 20 but less than 50 ha	11	27	30	24	3	9	21	39
- 50 but less than 100 ha	5	10	20	12	0	4	18	14
- 100 ha and more	3	2	11	5	0	4	12	3
- by main type of farming (%)								
... specialist cereals	13	3	37	15	8	11	15	2
... general field cropping	8	11	12	9	15	4	5	2
... specialist horticulture	3	8	2	2	2	4	2	0
... specialist vineyard	7	0	0	6	2	7	14	0
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	8	3	1	2	7	17	2	0
... specialist olives	14	0	0	0	35	18	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	6	2	1	1	8	7	1	0
... specialist dairy farming	7	14	15	19	0	4	11	19
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	5	18	1	4	0	4	12	51
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	1	6	0	2	0	1	2	3
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	9	7	3	11	5	6	12	20
... specialist granivores	1	7	6	2	0	2	2	0
... mixed cropping	8	3	2	5	9	7	5	0
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	2	2	1	3	2	2	4	0
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	1	4	1	1	0	1	1	0
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	4	10	8	12	2	2	7	3
... various crops and livestock combined	3	2	9	6	3	2	4	0
- by type of farming system (%)								
- organic farming	2	1	4	2	0	1	1	1
- irrigating	36 ¹	:	:	:	57	47	14	0
- with crops under glass	2	6	2	2	1	3	3	0
- with accounts (%)	26 ¹	40	97	36	1	11	50	58
- % in less favoured areas or mountain areas	54	14	0	56	59	72	42	62
Agricultural Area								
- (1000 hectares)	126,797	1,394	2,645	17,152	3,583	26,158	27,856	4,444
- (hectares per holding)	18,7	22,6	45,7	36,3	4,4	20,3	42,0	31,4
- % in less favoured areas or mountain areas	55	20	0	50	69	81	44	52

¹ Average of the member states for which data are available.

Table 2 - Structure and area of holdings

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
2,152	3	102	199	416	81	81	233	Holdings - total number (1000)
99	98	94	98	98	93	93	95	- by legal personality of the holder (%)
1	2	4	2	2	1	7	3	- sole holders
0	0	2	0	0	6	0	2	- legal persons
								- group holdings
80	25	23	55	45	42	62	43	- by total labour force (%)
14	45	41	37	39	30	26	29	- less than 1 AWU
4	23	22	6	12	23	9	15	- 1 but less than 2 AWU
2	7	14	1	4	5	4	12	- 2 but less than 3 AWU
								- 3 AWU and more
78	22	31	36	79	11	12	23	- by AA class (%)
16	17	33	42	16	39	38	24	- under 5 ha
4	19	28	18	3	37	27	21	- 5 but less than 20 ha
1	32	7	3	1	11	15	16	- 20 but less than 50 ha
1	10	1	1	1	2	8	17	- 50 but less than 100 ha
								- 100 ha and more
16	6	1	13	2	35	20	13	- by main type of farming (%)
9	1	13	4	7	13	32	6	... specialist cereals
2	1	14	1	3	5	2	2	... general field cropping
9	16	0	7	11	0	0	0	... specialist horticulture
9	0	2	2	7	0	0	1	... specialist vineyard
19	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	... specialist fruit and citrus fruit
10	0	3	0	9	0	0	0	... specialist olives
3	32	26	24	3	26	16	11	... various permanent crops combined
1	10	4	7	2	4	6	14	... specialist dairy farming
0	6	1	9	1	1	0	1	... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening
7	8	17	15	6	4	2	38	... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined
0	2	9	3	2	2	1	3	... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock
10	1	2	3	21	2	1	1	... specialist granivores
1	2	0	2	6	0	1	0	... mixed cropping
0	2	3	1	2	0	0	1	... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock
2	11	3	4	4	4	12	4	... mixed livestock, mainly granivores
2	1	2	4	7	3	4	1	... field crops – grazing livestock combined
								... various crops and livestock combined
2	1	1	9	0	6	11	1	- by type of farming system (%)
31	0	:	:	:	:	:	:	- organic farming
2	1	11	1	1	4	1	2	- irrigating
								- with crops under glass
31	42	100	5	7	20	:	:	- with accounts (%)
46	100	0	69	71	77	63	36	- % in less favoured areas or mountain areas
13,069	128	2,028	3,388	3,863	2,219	3,073	15,799	Agricultural Area - (1000 hectares)
6,1	45,3	20,0	17,0	9,3	27,3	37,8	67,7	- (hectares per holding)
50	100	0	68	86	73	47	45	- % in less favoured areas or mountain areas

The Community survey on the structure of agricultural holdings was implemented between 1 December 1998 and 1 March 2001 according to the following Community Regulations and Decisions:

Designation	Legal basis	Official Journal
Survey organisation	Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 of 29 February 1988 and Council Regulation (EEC) No 2467/96 of 17 December 1996	L 56 of 2.3.1988 L 335 of 24.12.1996
List of characteristics	Commission Decision 98/377/CE of 18 May 1998	L 168 of 13.6.1998
Transmission of results	Commission Decision 1999/714/CE of 19 October 1999	L 282 of 5.11.1999
Definition of characteristics	Commission Decision 2000/115/CE of 24 November 1999	L 38 of 12.2.2000
Community typology	Commission Decision 85/377/CEE of 7 June 1985 and Commission Decision 1999/725/CE of 22 October 1999	L 220 of 17.8.85 L 291 of 13.11.1999

The FSS relates to agricultural holdings whose utilised agricultural area is one hectare or more and those whose area is less than one hectare if they produce a certain proportion for sale or if their production unit exceeds certain physical thresholds. Only the smallest holdings, which together contribute 1% or less of the total SGM of the country concerned, may be excluded.

Definitions

A holding is a single unit, both technically and economically, which has single management and which produces agricultural products.

The holder of the holding is that natural person, group of natural persons or the legal person on whose account and in whose name the holding is operated and who is legally and economically responsible for the holding, i.e. who takes the economic risks of the holding. All partners on a group holding who take part in the farm work on the holding are considered being holders.

Generally, the family members of the holder are the spouse, relatives in the ascending or descending line (including those by marriage and by adoption) and brothers and sisters of the holder or his/her spouse.

Manager of the holding is the natural person responsible for the normal daily financial and production routines of running the holding concerned.

Farm labour force of the holding includes all persons having completed their compulsory education (having reached school-leaving age) who carried out farm work on the holding under survey during the 12 months up to the survey day, including holders who do not carry out any work on the holding.

The amount of labour input is expressed in **Annual Work Units** (AWU). An AWU is the equivalent of one person working full time, that is, at least 1,800 hours of work per year.

The utilised agricultural area (UAA) is the total area taken up by arable land, permanent pasture and meadow, land used for permanent crops and kitchen gardens.

Community typology of holdings

The Community typology means a uniform classification of the holdings in the EU based on their technico-economic orientation and their economic size. The technico-economic orientation and economic size of the holding are determined on the basis of the standard gross margin.

For each crop or animal production, a standard gross margin is calculated as the difference between the standard value of the production and the standard amount of certain specific costs.

The technico-economic orientation is determined by the relative contribution of the different productions to the total standard gross margin of the holding.

The less-favoured areas shall include mountain areas, in which farming is necessary to protect the countryside, particularly for reasons of protection against erosion or in order to meet leisure needs; they shall also include other areas where the maintenance of a minimum population or the conservation of the countryside are not assured (OJ L142 of 2.6.97).

Reference publications

Data for the countries which are candidate for accession to the EU have been published by Eurostat, Landsis and Statistics Sweden in September 2002.

Farm Structure in the European Union Accession Countries and Comparisons with the Member States

The national results of the Farm Structure Survey are available in national publications in hard copy or electronic form.

Belgium : *Statistiques agricoles 2001, "Recensement agricole et horticole au 15 mai 2000"*, Août 2001
http://statbel.fgov.be/products/agriculture_fr.asp

Denmark : *Landbrug 2000, Statistik om Landbrug, gartneri og skovbrug*
http://www.dst.dk/dst/extview.asp?o_id=3363&file=/pukora/view/cat_index.asp&caid=samepub&pti=3&msi=8&si=2&extxt=Landbrug

Germany : *Betriebsgrößenstruktur – Agrarstrukturerhebung 2001. Ergebnisse nach Regierungsbezirken*, Kennziffer : 2030211
<http://www.destatis.de/download/veroe/gesamtk.pdf>

Greece : *Greece in figures 2002*, National Statistics Service of Greece
http://www.statistics.gr/Main_eng.asp

Spain : *Censo Agrario 1999 – Proyecto*, INE
<http://www.ine.es/prodyser/catalogo/agracenp.htm>

France : *Recensement agricole 2000 : France métropolitaine*, ref. SCERAFR00, 2001, SCEES
http://www.webcommerce.insee.fr/Catalogue/descriptif_produit.asp?Code%5FProduit=SCERAFR00&TABLE=&ID=11&Choix=Agriculture%5F%2D%5FIndustrie%5Fagro%2Dalimentaire

Ireland : *Demographic, Social and Economic Situation of the Farming Community - 1991 Censuses of Agriculture and Transport*
<http://www.cso.ie/principalstats/publications.html>

Italy : *Caratteristiche strutturali delle aziende agricole per l'anno 2000 – Quinto censimento generali dell'agricoltura*, ISTAT
<http://agricoltura.Censimenti.it/dati.htm>

Luxembourg : *Le recensement agricole*, bulletin du Statec n°3/02, ISSN 0076-1583
http://statec.gouvernement.lu/html_fr/statistiques/bulletin/bull3_2001.pdf

Netherlands : *The year 2000 in figures*, Statistics Netherlands
<http://www.cbs.nl/en/publications/recent/year-2000/010102.htm>
Landbouwtellingen 1980-2001, Central Bureau voor de Statistiek, Voorburg/Heerlen
<http://statline.cbs.nl/StatWeb/start.asp?STB=G1,G2&LA=nl&DM=SLNL&PA=7316sllb&D1=42-44&D2=0&D3=a&HDR=T&TT=2>

Austria : *Ergebnisse der landwirtschaftlichen Statistik im Jahre 1999*, ISBN 3-7046-1604-4, August 2000
Statistik der Landwirtschaft 2000, ISBN 3-7046-1749-0, September 2001
[http://www.statistik.at/katalog-bin/detail.pl?FilePos=21709&Suchbegriffe=Land,Forstwirtschaft&Verknuepfung=Und&UniqueID=\\${in}{UniqueID}](http://www.statistik.at/katalog-bin/detail.pl?FilePos=21709&Suchbegriffe=Land,Forstwirtschaft&Verknuepfung=Und&UniqueID=${in}{UniqueID})

Portugal : *Recenseamento Geral Da Agricultura 1999 - Publicações Regionais*, INE
<http://www.ine.pt/prodserv/destaque/d010802/d010802.html>

Finland : *Maatalouslas-kenta 2000 – julkaisu ilmestynyt*, TIKE
<http://tike.mmm.fi/>

Sweden : *Yearbook of agricultural statistics*, Statistics Sweden
<http://www.scb.se/eng/publkat/jordbruk/jordbruk.asp>

United Kingdom : *EC Farm Structure Survey*
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Analysis.asp?vlnk=181&More=Y>

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➤ Databases

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