

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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The accession of the new EU Member States has increased the area under field crops by 25%

During the period 2001-2003, the average area under arable crops in the EU-25 stood at 85.6 million ha. The ten new Member States accounted for 22 million hectares, or 25.7%. Their contribution to the overall figure is particularly high for root crops (35.8%) and cereals (29.5%), and less so for pulses (12.3%), fodder (15.6%) or industrial plants (19.8%).

Cereals: production 20% higher

During the period 2001-2003, almost 53 million hectares of cereals were harvested on average EU-25. The ten accession countries accounted for 15.5 million hectares, or 29.5%. Poland contributed over half of this total with 8.4 million hectares. In production terms, this contribution amounted to 49 million tonnes, or 20% of EU-25 production (189.8 million tonnes). This discrepancy between production and area is related to differences in productivity and to the different structure of the area under cereals in the new Member States.

Common wheat: + 28.5% by area, +18.9% by production

The area under common wheat totalled 18.8 million hectares, 5.4 million of which came from the addition of the new countries. Production was up 20.1 million tonnes, or 18.9%. The yields observed do, however, vary widely. The average yield for EU-25 is 56.6 quintals/ha as against 64.3 for EU-15 and 37.5 for the new Member States.

Barley: +20.9% by area, +15.2% by production

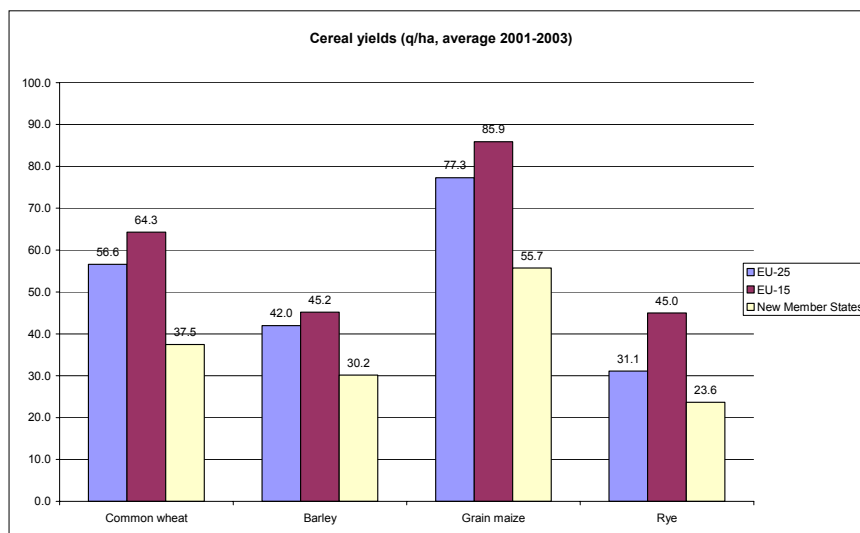
The area under barley in the EU-25 amounted to 13.4 million hectares, 2.8 of which came from the new Member States. This is the lowest contribution to figures for the main field crops, and amounts, in volume terms, to just 15%. Given the limited extent of the area added and the more homogeneous nature of the yield figures, the average yield for the EU-25 is 42 q /ha, which is closer to the EU-15 average (45.2 q /ha) than the corresponding wheat yield figure.

Grain maize: +28.5% by area, +20.5% by production

With respect to grain maize, the accession countries make a similar contribution to that for common wheat. The area under grain maize in the EU-25 totalled 6.3 million hectares, 1.8 of which came from the new Member States. Hungary accounts for over 68% of this new surface area. The yields fluctuate considerably with enlargement reducing the EU-25 average yield from 85.9 q/ha to 77.3 q /ha.

Rye: +65.1% by area, +49.5% by production

The new Member States make their most significant contribution to this type of cereal. Areas under rye in the EU-25 rose to almost 3 million hectares, 1.9 of which are in the new Member States. Production increased by 4.6 million tonnes, as the volume produced by the EU-25 reached 9.3 million tonnes.



The structure of the area under cereals has changed slightly.

These different contributions make slight changes to the proportions of the various cereals in the total area under cereals.

- The importance of common wheat and maize remains the same.
- The importance of barley and durum wheat has fallen at the expense of rye, oats and other cereals.

A significant increase in root crops

This category of crops is the one in which the new Member States make their most significant contribution. The area under potatoes is up 50% and production by 32%.

For sugar beet, the increase in area is 22% and production is up 16.5%.

Less pronounced change for industrial crops

In the industrial crops sector, there are significant increases for oilseed plants and for rape and turnip rape in particular (+25.5% by area and +19.6% by production). The increase is less significant for fibre plants (+4.1% by area). For other industrial plants, the new Member States make a major contribution to hops (+28.8% by area), but make less of a difference to tobacco (+15.4%).

Contribution of new Member States to crop under arable land (1000 ha, %)

	2001	2002	2003	Average 2001-2003
European Union (25 countries)	86593.2	85490.2	84591.8	85558.4
European Union (15 countries)	63183.3	64772.0	62766.7	63574.0
New Member States	23409.9	20718.2	21825.2	21984.4
% share for new Member States	27.0%	24.2%	25.8%	25.7%
Cereals				
European Union (25 countries)	53131.1	53246.6	51856.7	52744.8
European Union (15 countries)	36941.0	37867.2	36790.8	37199.7
New Member States	16190.1	15379.4	15065.9	15545.1
% share for new Member States	30.5%	28.9%	29.1%	29.5%
Pulses				
European Union (25 countries)	1977.1	1911.9	1920.3	1936.4
European Union (15 countries)	1685.8	1695.6	1714.9	1698.8
New Member States	291.3	216.3	205.4	237.7
% share for new Member States	14.7%	11.3%	10.7%	12.3%
Root crops				
European Union (25 countries)	5556.8	5005.6	4696.5	5086.3
European Union (15 countries)	3340.6	3300.8	3158.9	3266.8
New Member States	2216.2	1704.7	1537.6	1819.5
% share for new Member States	39.9%	34.1%	32.7%	35.8%
Industrial plants				
European Union (25 countries)	8448.0	8175.1	8613.7	8412.3
European Union (15 countries)	6717.9	6900.7	6619.0	6745.9
New Member States	1730.1	1274.4	1994.7	1666.4
% share for new Member States	20.5%	15.6%	23.2%	19.8%
Fodder from arable land				
European Union (25 countries)	17480.1	17151.1	17504.7	17378.6
European Union (15 countries)	14498.0	15007.7	14483.1	14662.9
New Member States	2982.2	2143.4	3021.6	2715.7
% share for new Member States	17.1%	12.5%	17.3%	15.6%

Source: New Cronos september 2004.

➤ CE QU'IL FAUT SAVOIR – NOTES METHODOLOGIQUES

Methodology box:

The term 'areas under field crops' means areas under:

- cereals;
- root crops;
- industrial plants;
- fodder from arable land.

The provision of statistics in this field is set out in two Council Regulations

Statistics on cereals in the EU are governed by Council Regulation No 837/90 of 26 March 1990.

This Regulation stipulates that, for all cereals where production exceeds 50 000 tonnes per year, the Member States must provide Eurostat with annual data on:

- areas under cultivation,
- average yield, and
- production harvested.

These data are to be sent on the following dates:

Areas	Yield and production
- 1 October of the harvest year: <i>provisional data</i> .	- 15 November of the harvest year: <i>initial estimates</i> .
- 1 April of the year following the harvest year: <i>final data</i> .	- 1 February of the year following the harvest year: <i>provisional data</i> . - 1 October of the year following the harvest year: <i>final data</i>

Statistics on crop products other than cereals are governed by Council Regulation (EEC) No 959/93 of 5 April 1993.

This Regulation stipulates that for crops other than cereals the Member States must provide data on areas and production on the following dates:

Areas	Yield and production
- 1 October of the harvest year: <i>provisional data</i>	<u>1 October: provisional data:</u> - field peas; - broad and field beans; - tobacco <u>1 November: provisional data</u> - rape and turnip rape; - sunflower seeds; <u>1 December: provisional data</u> - potatoes; - sugar beet; - fodder beet; - linseed; - cotton seeds. <u>15 April of the year following the harvest year: provisional data</u> - Other products
1 April of the year following the harvest year: <i>final data</i> .	<u>1 October of the year following the harvest year: final data</u> All products

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT Website/Agriculture and fisheries/Agriculture/Agricultural product](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/Website/Agriculture_and_fisheries/Agriculture/Agricultural_product)

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/017 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 35349 •

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

The complete details concerning this support network can be found on our Internet site: www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/

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