

Structure of agricultural holdings

Italy 2003

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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A farm structure survey was carried out in all EU Member States in 2003 (2002 in Poland). The detailed results are now available for Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Results for the other Member States will become available in the course of the next months. This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications, all following the same structure.

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In Italy, in December 2003 about 1 426 300 agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 ESU (European Size Unit)*, which means 6.5% decline compared to 2000.

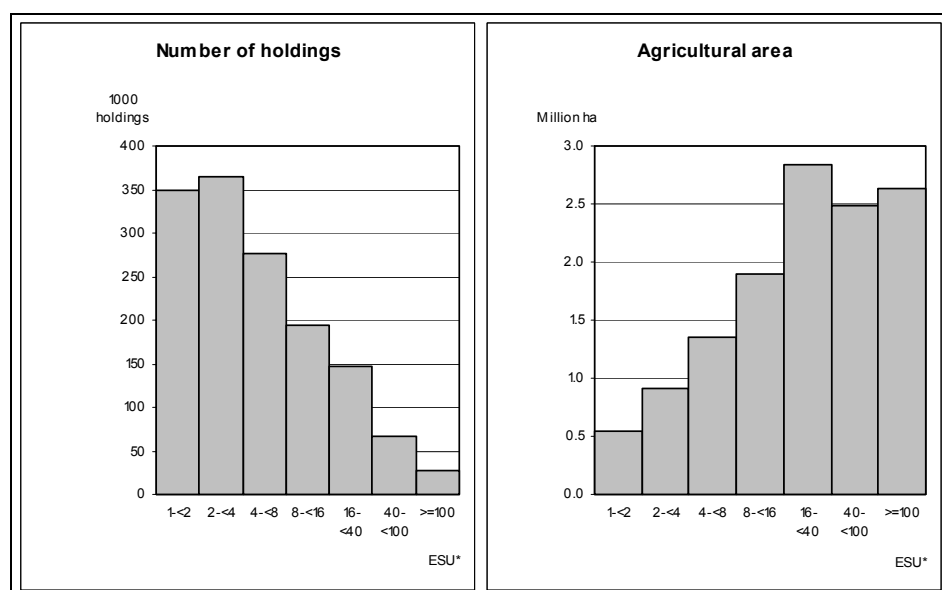
- These holdings employed 1.32 million AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 1.32 million persons working full time;
- they made use of 12.7 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 8.9 hectare per holding (compared to 8.2 ha in 2000).

Amongst these 1 426 300 agricultural holdings,

- 65% made use of less than one AWU, while 11% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 69% used less than 5 ha, while 1% used 100 ha or more;
- 14% were mixed holdings, while 86% were specialised: for olive productions 21%, cereals, oil seed and protein crops 16%, vineyards 11%, fruit and citrus fruit 9%, combined permanent crops 9%, field cropping 9%, dairies 3%, sheep, goat and various grazing livestock 3%, horticulture 2% (of which more than half under glass), cattle fattening and rearing 1%;
- about 2% practised organic farming.

Amongst the 1.41 million sole holders

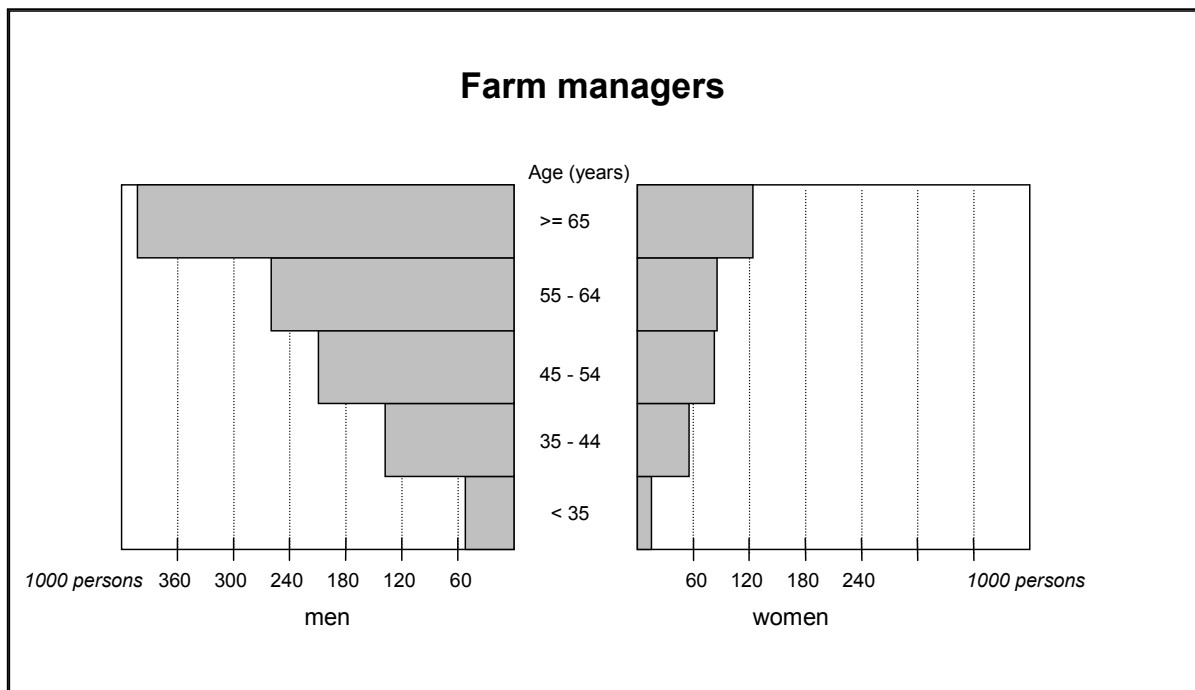
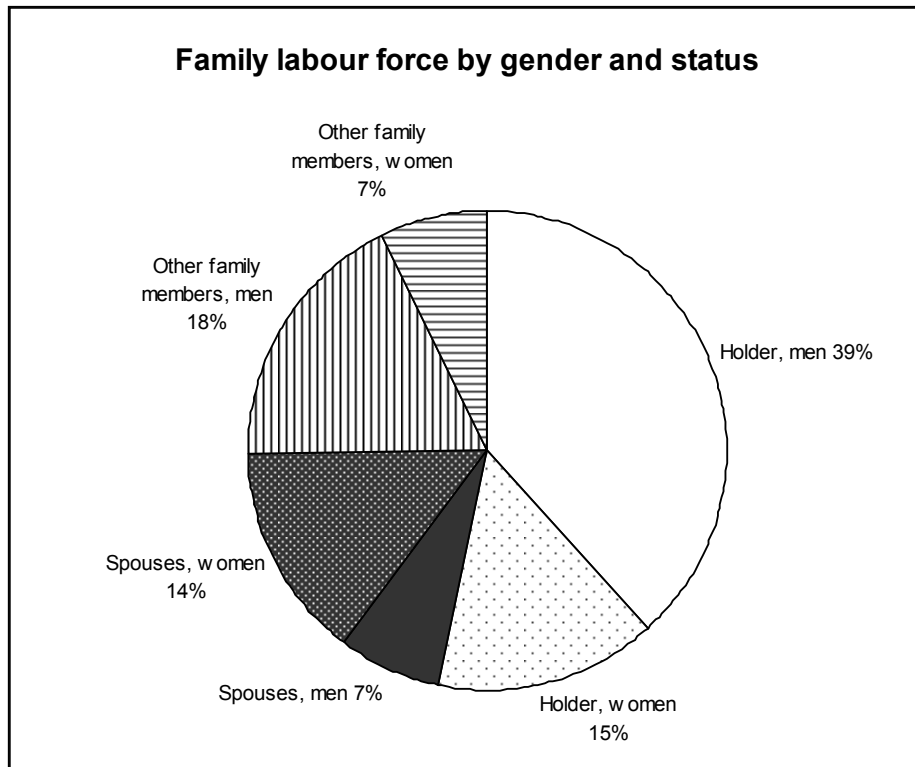
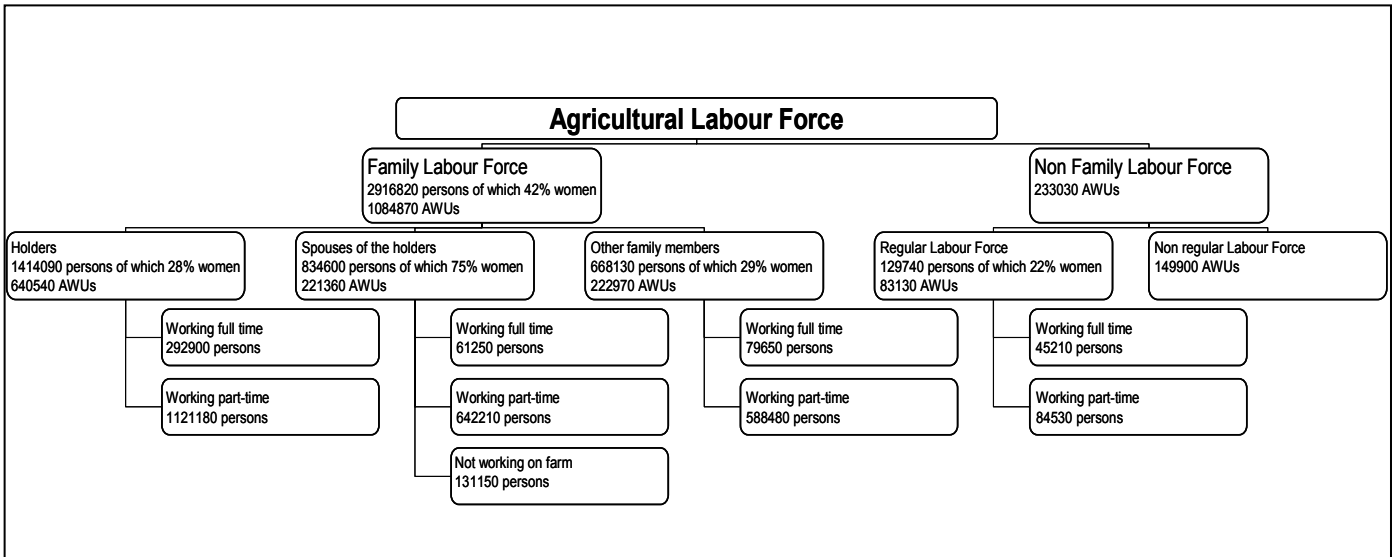
- 28% were women;
- 63% were aged 55 or more, and only 5% younger than 35 years;
- 22% had another gainful activity as major occupation.



* ESU measures the economic size of the holdings (see methodological notes).



Italy, 2003 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	158.1	1317.9	139.3	190.6	212.4	223.3	242.4	169.5	140.4
Family labour force									
1000 persons	877.7	2916.8	631.5	707.5	574.2	423.0	346.6	165.5	68.5
1000 annual work units	153.6	1084.9	134.2	181.6	197.2	199.3	204.0	115.3	53.2
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	6.5	129.7	3.0	3.5	7.7	12.6	20.3	28.2	54.3
1000 annual work units	1.8	83.1	0.7	1.1	2.9	6.4	11.3	19.5	41.3
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	2.7	149.9	4.5	7.8	12.2	17.6	27.1	34.7	45.9
Holding managers (1000)	537.6	1426.3	349.1	365.3	275.8	194.1	147.6	67.0	27.3
- women (%)	32.5	25.4	30.1	28.1	27.1	23.8	15.8	11.0	10.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	93.7	62.5	87.7	80.3	63.8	38.1	20.2	13.9	11.3
- 50 % and over (%)	4.0	16.3	8.4	13.3	20.5	26.7	22.8	14.5	11.6
Sole/main holders (1000)	536.2	1414.1	348.5	364.7	274.4	192.3	145.1	64.6	24.4
- women (%)	35.5	28.1	33.3	31.1	29.6	26.3	17.7	11.7	10.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	2.1	4.6	2.3	2.6	4.2	6.0	9.5	12.0	11.0
- from 35 to 44 years	9.9	12.9	8.1	10.8	10.9	15.9	22.2	24.5	25.5
- from 45 to 54 years	18.0	19.8	20.4	17.6	18.0	21.8	22.0	23.8	24.2
- from 55 to 64 years	24.9	24.1	24.7	24.6	25.0	23.4	23.4	19.5	19.2
- 65 years and over	45.2	38.6	44.4	44.4	41.9	32.9	22.9	20.3	20.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	93.7	63.3	88.2	80.8	64.0	39.3	20.5	14.0	9.1
- 50 % and over (%)	4.0	16.0	8.0	13.0	20.4	26.0	22.8	14.2	11.2
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	33.3	26.3	31.8	32.4	25.7	22.1	15.1	11.0	9.8
- as main occupation	31.5	21.7	29.5	28.0	20.9	15.7	7.9	4.7	3.8
- as a subsidiary occupation	1.8	4.6	2.3	4.4	4.8	6.3	7.2	6.3	6.0
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	252.8	834.6	182.4	209.1	168.2	121.6	95.5	42.4	15.3
- women (%)	69.4	74.8	70.7	72.6	72.8	73.9	82.6	89.4	92.6
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	1.9	4.3	1.5	3.0	3.3	5.6	8.7	11.3	11.3
- from 35 to 54 years	33.9	40.4	36.6	34.6	37.0	45.3	50.4	56.7	57.6
- 55 years and over	64.2	55.3	61.9	62.4	59.7	49.2	40.9	32.0	31.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	73.7	67.5	77.9	77.3	73.0	62.4	45.2	32.6	27.1
- 50 % and over (%)	1.4	9.4	4.0	5.7	8.2	13.7	19.0	18.8	18.9
- with another gainful activity (%)	25.7	26.6	27.9	26.1	26.6	29.3	24.0	22.8	20.5
- as main occupation	25.5	24.2	26.6	24.1	23.8	26.0	21.3	19.9	17.7
- as a subsidiary occupation	0.2	2.4	1.3	2.0	2.8	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.8
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	88.7	668.1	100.7	133.7	131.6	109.0	106.0	58.4	28.8
- women (%)	28.4	28.6	25.2	30.2	29.6	29.2	30.2	26.5	24.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	96.8	78.4	97.0	94.2	89.5	78.8	65.3	37.2	19.9
- 50 % and over (%)	3.0	9.7	2.3	4.2	7.5	12.1	16.6	19.6	16.1
- with another gainful activity (%)	58.9	46.5	58.4	56.9	53.4	47.1	36.7	20.8	11.2

¹ Only holders being also farm managers.

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	537.6	1426.3	349.1	365.3	275.8	194.1	147.6	67.0	27.3
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	99.7	99.1	99.8	99.8	99.5	99.1	98.3	96.5	89.3
- legal person	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.7	3.5	10.7
- group holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	95.8	64.8	91.0	85.2	68.7	39.5	16.3	6.9	3.4
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	3.9	23.9	8.0	13.1	26.7	47.9	50.4	30.7	14.3
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	0.2	7.5	0.9	1.6	4.1	10.4	26.3	33.0	20.9
- 3 AWU and over	0.1	3.7	0	0.2	0.5	2.2	7.0	29.4	61.5
- by agricultural area (%)									
- under 5 ha	98.4	68.7	97.1	91.8	68.0	40.4	19.4	12.9	7.6
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	1.5	22.4	2.6	7.8	30.3	50.7	50.0	31.9	16.7
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	0.1	6.1	0.2	0.3	1.4	7.4	24.9	33.8	27.8
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	0	1.8	0	0.1	0.2	1.1	4.3	15.3	23.3
- 100 ha and over	0	1.0	0.1	0	0.1	0.4	1.4	6.0	24.6
- by livestock size (%)									
- without livestock	88.7	79.3	87.5	84.9	79.9	73.4	66.5	60.2	54.1
- under 10 LSU ⁺	11.3	13.0	12.5	14.4	17.2	13.7	7.8	4.6	2.4
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0	2.4	0.1	0.5	2.0	8.6	6.1	1.2	0.6
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0	2.7	0	0.1	0.9	3.6	15.1	9.3	1.2
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	1.3	0	0	0	0.6	3.1	16.4	5.4
- 100 LSU and over	0	1.2	0	0	0	0.1	1.3	8.2	36.3
- by farm type (%)									
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	15.3	16.3	17.7	16.8	17.0	16.9	14.0	11.0	8.8
... general field cropping	8.4	8.9	7.1	7.5	9.8	9.5	12.2	11.7	10.6
... specialist horticulture	0	2.3	0.5	0.2	1.3	3.4	6.9	9.3	12.6
... specialist vineyard	10.3	11.3	9.7	10.4	12.9	14.6	12.0	7.6	7.6
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	6.7	9.3	8.0	8.7	10.8	9.9	11.0	9.0	4.5
... specialist olives	28.0	21.3	32.3	29.4	19.0	10.4	5.0	4.8	2.7
... various permanent crops combined	5.4	9.2	8.9	10.3	9.6	9.7	7.5	7.2	7.7
... specialist dairy farming	0	3.4	0.5	0.9	2.3	4.5	7.7	15.5	24.7
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.2
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	12.6	2.9	2.4	1.5	2.0	4.3	6.7	5.5	2.3
... specialist granivores	0.9	0.4	0	0	0.1	0.4	0.6	2.5	6.9
... mixed cropping	4.5	10.1	9.7	11.2	11.1	10.1	8.3	7.2	4.8
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.7
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	0.6	1.6	0.8	0.8	1.4	2.3	3.6	3.3	2.8
... various crops and livestock combined	2.4	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.3	1.5
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	1.1	2.3	1.1	1.7	2.1	2.9	4.3	5.1	5.9
- irrigating	7.1	25.2	12.9	18.3	25.5	34.1	40.7	51.5	61.9
- with crops under glass	0	1.9	0	0.1	0.8	2.4	6.8	9.0	12.0
- % in less favoured or mountain area	53.3	42.6	47.3	43.3	41.7	41.5	39.6	34.4	23.2

+ LSU : Livestock Unit

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Area (1000 ha)									
• Total area of agricultural holdings	815.8	17416.8	807.5	1287.3	1859.0	2547.7	3744.5	3465.7	3705.1
• H. Other area	376.2	4740.5	262.7	371.1	502.2	644.9	903.6	981.0	1075.0
Wooded area	278.0	3388.2	158.8	254.4	356.2	440.2	648.4	772.1	758.2
• Agricultural area	439.5	12676.3	544.8	916.2	1356.8	1902.8	2840.9	2484.7	2630.1
- D. Arable land	170.1	7107.8	262.4	455.7	712.8	1020.0	1592.1	1494.6	1570.1
Cereals	73.5	4137.7	144.6	296.5	449.9	636.3	939.4	838.3	832.7
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	12.9	470.4	21.3	37.4	55.6	70.5	104.4	84.3	96.8
<i>Durum wheat</i>	31.8	1876.1	65.8	149.8	230.9	345.1	487.2	360.3	236.9
<i>Rye</i>	0.1	3.4	0.6	0.4	0	0.4	1.1	0.3	0.7
<i>Barley</i>	8.0	262.5	13.8	28.9	35.1	42.9	60.6	45.3	35.9
<i>Oats</i>	4.0	134.9	5.5	11.8	18.3	21.4	34.6	29.8	13.4
<i>Grain maize</i>	15.8	1090.2	36.1	65.9	105.0	147.8	220.6	225.8	289.0
Dried pulses	1.1	101.2	3.1	4.0	8.1	13.1	27.1	24.6	21.2
Root crops	0.9	229.6	2.5	7.4	14.5	24.0	53.3	65.1	62.7
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.7	33.0	1.3	2.3	3.9	4.0	6.1	9.8	5.5
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	191.6	1.1	5.2	10.5	19.1	44.9	54.3	56.5
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.1	5.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.9	2.3	0.9	0.8
Industrial crops	2.1	304.4	6.0	16.1	31.1	36.7	70.4	57.4	86.6
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	34.5	0.1	0.3	1.8	4.0	10.6	5.7	12.1
<i>Hops</i>	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0	1.6	0	0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4
<i>Sunflower</i>	1.1	121.3	2.5	6.4	13.8	18.0	31.3	21.5	27.7
<i>Soya</i>	0.9	139.9	3.2	9.2	15.1	14.2	26.6	28.3	43.3
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	2.3	246.8	4.0	9.6	14.9	23.1	48.7	60.2	86.4
<i>outside</i>	2.3	227.0	4.0	9.5	14.5	22.0	43.9	56.4	76.6
<i>under glass</i>	0	19.8	0	0	0.3	1.1	4.8	3.8	9.8
Flower and ornamental plants	0	10.1	0	0	0.2	0.4	1.7	3.5	4.4
<i>outside</i>	0	6.5	0	0	0.1	0.4	1.1	2.2	2.6
<i>under glass</i>	0	3.7	0	0	0	0.1	0.6	1.2	1.7
Fodder plants	43.3	1649.7	59.8	88.9	154.4	243.1	377.0	362.2	364.3
Fallow land	46.9	405.7	42.3	33.0	39.5	42.5	71.5	78.1	98.9
- E. Kitchen garden	11.8	27.5	6.6	7.6	5.6	3.8	2.6	1.0	0.2
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	175.4	3161.0	121.9	158.1	269.9	476.4	787.7	621.6	725.4
- G. Permanent crops	82.2	2380.0	153.9	294.8	368.4	402.7	458.4	367.5	334.3
Fruit and berry plantation	10.8	453.1	19.8	37.8	56.8	69.3	109.4	91.2	68.7
Citrus plantation	2.1	132.0	4.1	10.7	20.2	25.4	27.1	22.4	22.1
Olive trees	50.0	1003.0	97.5	181.6	190.6	168.9	150.6	124.8	89.0
Vineyard	18.9	755.7	31.9	63.8	99.6	137.1	166.8	122.0	134.4
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	0.8	8.9	1.6	2.5	4.9	9.8	19.2	37.1	96.2
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	91.8	70.8	90.5	87.9	82.6	73.2	66.1	63.6	64.6
... in less favoured or mountain area	62.6	48.9	57.2	50.9	52.6	54.6	51.9	45.9	40.0
... organic farmed	0.5	2.9	0.7	1.1	1.7	2.1	3.3	4.2	3.4
... irrigated	3.1	14.5	5.3	7.8	9.9	11.6	13.4	17.7	21.2
... under cover crop protecting soil	1.2	2.9	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3	3.0	3.8	3.2

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)		<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total livestock	(1000 LSU)	42.8	9959.4	63.1	140.1	294.8	706.4	1563.6	2300.0	4891.4
of which grazing	(%)	59.3	55.7	71.6	78.2	82.8	77.6	76.2	63.7	39.8
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		10.7	109.8	6.0	13.8	18.8	26.7	20.6	15.7	8.2
Bovine animals										
Under 1 year		6.0	1677.8	12.6	32.7	68.5	132.9	299.0	420.3	711.9
From 1 to less than 2 years		3.9	1545.9	13.1	21.3	57.6	120.9	292.2	415.5	625.2
Dairy cows		0	1857.0	1.7	8.1	33.6	85.9	262.9	512.5	952.2
Other cows		7.9	616.3	17.1	34.4	67.3	142.4	183.7	129.4	42.0
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		1.9	544.5	4.0	13.9	24.5	56.9	102.5	142.3	200.4
Sheep		26.7	8140.3	56.7	179.7	422.1	1187.9	3259.5	2439.4	595.0
Goats		10.4	887.8	17.3	53.3	107.3	221.0	281.8	168.1	39.0
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)									
Piglets < 20 kg		0.9	1701.4	3.2	13.4	16.5	28.3	109.0	297.7	1233.4
Breeding sows		2.0	734.0	1.2	6.3	11.7	21.8	66.9	120.6	505.6
Other pigs		21.6	6120.3	25.3	48.9	92.3	116.3	329.4	993.3	4514.7
Poultry	(million heads)	0.7	172.4	0.7	0.8	1.1	5.1	12.0	30.6	122.2
Broilers		0.3	107.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	1.5	3.7	16.0	84.9
Laying hens		0.3	35.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.6	5.4	25.7
Other poultry		0.1	30.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	3.1	5.7	9.2	11.6
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	50.9	948.9	48.0	66.8	46.4	86.7	209.6	229.7	261.7
Beehives	(1000)	12.1	287.2	6.8	24.0	62.3	146.9	38.1	8.0	1.0
Total livestock per holding with...	(LSU/holding)									
Livestock		0.7	33.8	1.4	2.5	5.3	13.7	31.7	86.3	389.7
Grazing livestock		1.3	30.7	2.7	3.8	7.2	14.5	29.9	69.1	230.9
Bovine animals (cattle)		2.2	38.3	3.5	5.0	8.4	15.7	31.3	72.3	234.4
Cattle, other than cows		2.1	39.8	3.7	5.2	8.8	16.0	31.5	72.5	234.7
Granivores		0.5	33.8	0.9	1.9	3.8	13.3	33.4	125.9	783.1
Pigs		0.7	31.8	1.1	2.3	4.3	12.1	28.2	100.8	726.2
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae		1.9	4.7	2.7	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.4	6.2	9.2
Dairy cows		1.0	27.5	1.0	1.9	3.8	6.6	14.8	37.4	118.2
Other cows		3.1	13.7	4.0	5.2	7.7	12.7	18.8	37.4	56.4
Sheep		3.7	114.0	11.0	14.6	29.5	74.8	193.6	401.7	667.8
Goats		4.5	30.6	6.0	9.3	15.2	37.0	54.2	89.8	144.0
Breeding sows		3.2	52.6	2.4	5.5	5.7	8.0	16.1	55.0	420.0
Other pigs > 20 kg		1.3	57.4	1.7	2.1	3.7	6.4	20.7	152.9	1790.8
Rabbits, breeding females		4.4	24.5	5.3	6.3	5.8	16.9	47.1	182.0	810.1
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0	0.4	0	0	0	0	0.3	2.0	28.0
Broilers	(1000/holding)	0	1.6	0	0	0	0.1	0.6	6.1	68.1
Beehives	(hive/holding)	9.3	50.1	12.9	24.5	37.3	94.8	58.1	28.1	16.9

* number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animals

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production:									
(% all holdings)	2.8	5.2	3.7	4.4	4.4	6.1	8.7	9.1	9.9
Tourism	0	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.7	1.5	2.3	2.9	2.8
Handicraft	0.2	0.1	0	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Processing of farm products	2.7	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.2	5.6	5.4	6.2
Wood processing	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0
Aquaculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
Renewable energy production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0
Contractual work	0	0.2	0	0	0.1	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.0
Other gainful activities n.a.e	0	0.2	0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Italy was carried out between in December 2003 on a sample base. Prior to this survey full-scale agricultural census has been conducted last time in 2000. The reference period of FSS 2003 was from 1st November 2002 until 31st October 2003, however for livestock 1st December 2003.

The target population was all the holdings exceeding the determined threshold in 2003 [at least 1 hectare utilised agricultural area or production of a certain proportion for sale (at least 2500 euro) or exceeding of certain physical thresholds]. The largest holdings above the optimal threshold (at least 273 ha UAA, 446 LSU or separately established economic size for certain types of farming) determined by Hidioglou-method were included exhaustively. Rest units were observed by a random sample. Stratification was done by province or region, by dimension (UAA, LSU, ESU) and type of farming using a 'stepwise' procedure (set of refinements until reached the good efficiency). Sample size and Allocation were done by multivariate and multi-domain context of Neyman-method considering upper thresholds for the expected coefficients of variation for main variables at national and regional levels. The total number of observed units is about 55 000.

The data are multi-level checked. Item and unit non-response were handled by phone-check (in case of farms with high influence), by comparison between collected and administrative data and by mixed and hierarchical editing and imputation procedure (in case of farms with low influence).

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat, dairy cow or vineyard), a **standard gross margin (SGM)** is estimated, based on the area (or the number of heads) and a regional coefficient. The sum of such margins in a farm is its **economic size**, expressed in **European Size Units (ESU)**. 1 ESU is equal to 1200 euros.

Due to differences in the coverage of units of less than 1 ESU across Member States, these data are not comparable between countries. That is why the present analysis and graphs focus on the holdings of at least one ESU.

Each farm is classified in the community typology by its economic size and its **type of farming**, depending on the share of each enterprise in its economic size. For instance, a farm where breeding sows account for more than 2/3 of the economic size is classified as *specialist pig rearing* (type 5011). Depending on the level of aggregation, farms are grouped into 8 to 70 types.

Annual working unit (AWU) means the labour force working yearly like a worker employed on full time basis, it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

The date of extraction of the data used for this Statistics in Focus corresponds to the date of completion of the manuscript.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Website of Istituto Nazionale di Statistica: www.istat.it/Imprese-e-strutturaazagr/strutturaazagr.htm and www.istat.it/Censimenti/Agricoltura/index.htm

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/Agriculture/Structure of agricultural holdings](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Agri/Structure_of_agricultural_holdings)

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