

Farm structure in Malta – 2005

61% of agricultural holdings are cultivating less than 1 ha

This Statistics in Focus is the third issue of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2005. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Malta. A similar publication was issued in November 2004 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Malta.

In Autumn 2005 in Malta, about **7.2 thousand*** agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

- These holdings employed 3.7 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 3.7 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 8.9 thousand ha of agricultural area, which is on average **1.2 ha per holding** (compared to 1.3 ha in 2003).

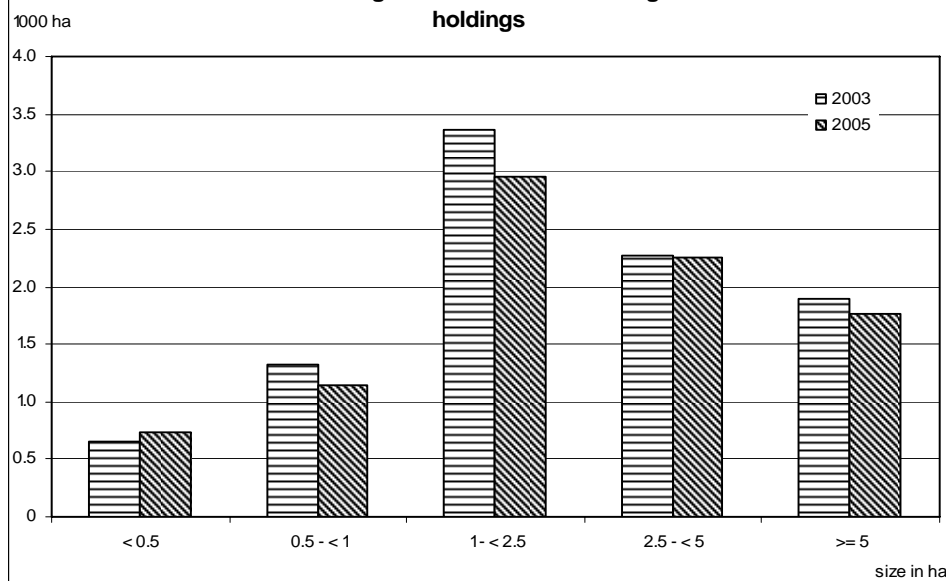
Among these 7.2 thousand agricultural holdings

- 81% made use of less than one AWU, while 5% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 97% used less than 5 ha agricultural area;
- 34% were producing various crops and livestock, 29% were engaged in mixed cropping, 11% were specialised in horticulture, 6% were general field cropping and 3% kept sheep, goats and other grazing livestock;
- 100% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured areas;
- 33% were producing mainly for their own consumption;
- 1% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 7.2 thousand sole holders

- 6% were women;
- 47% were aged 55 or more, and only 7% younger than 35 years;
- 53% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.

Distribution of utilised agricultural area according to the size of the holdings



* Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, this figure is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on the holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological notes for more information on the concept of the ESU.

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

13/2006

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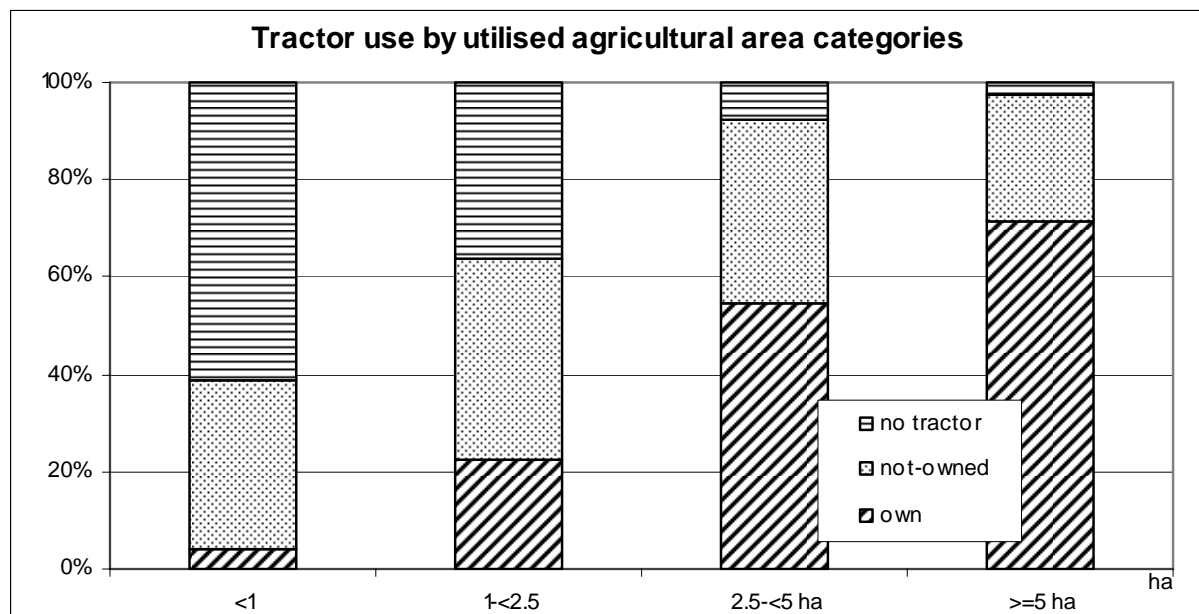
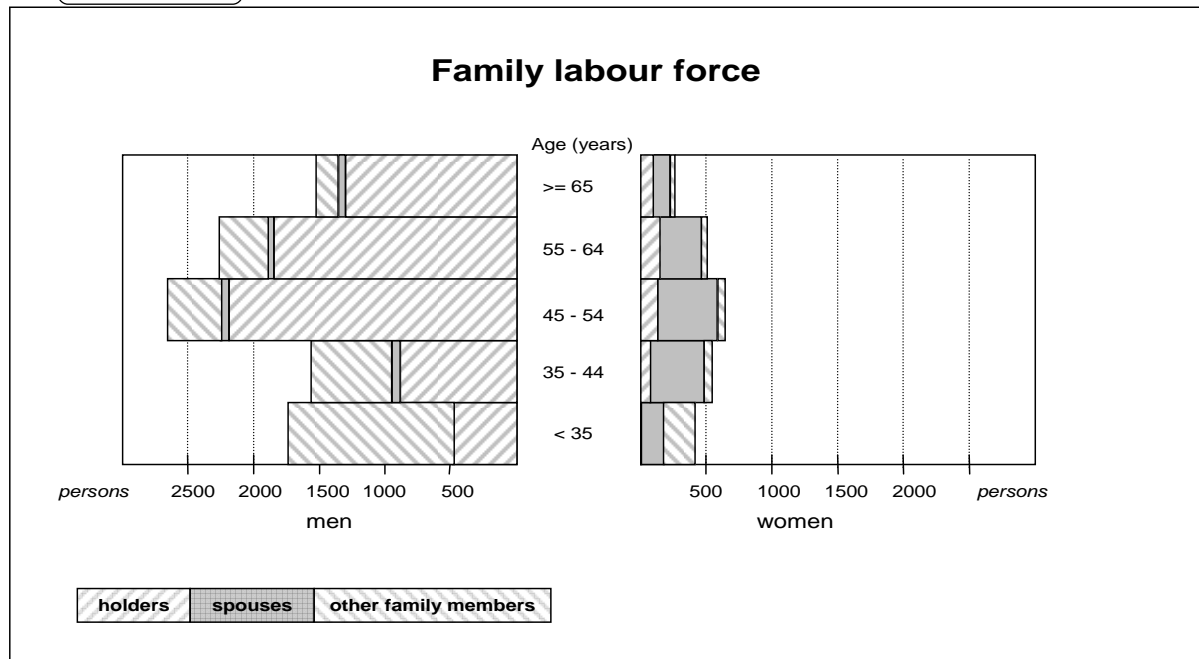
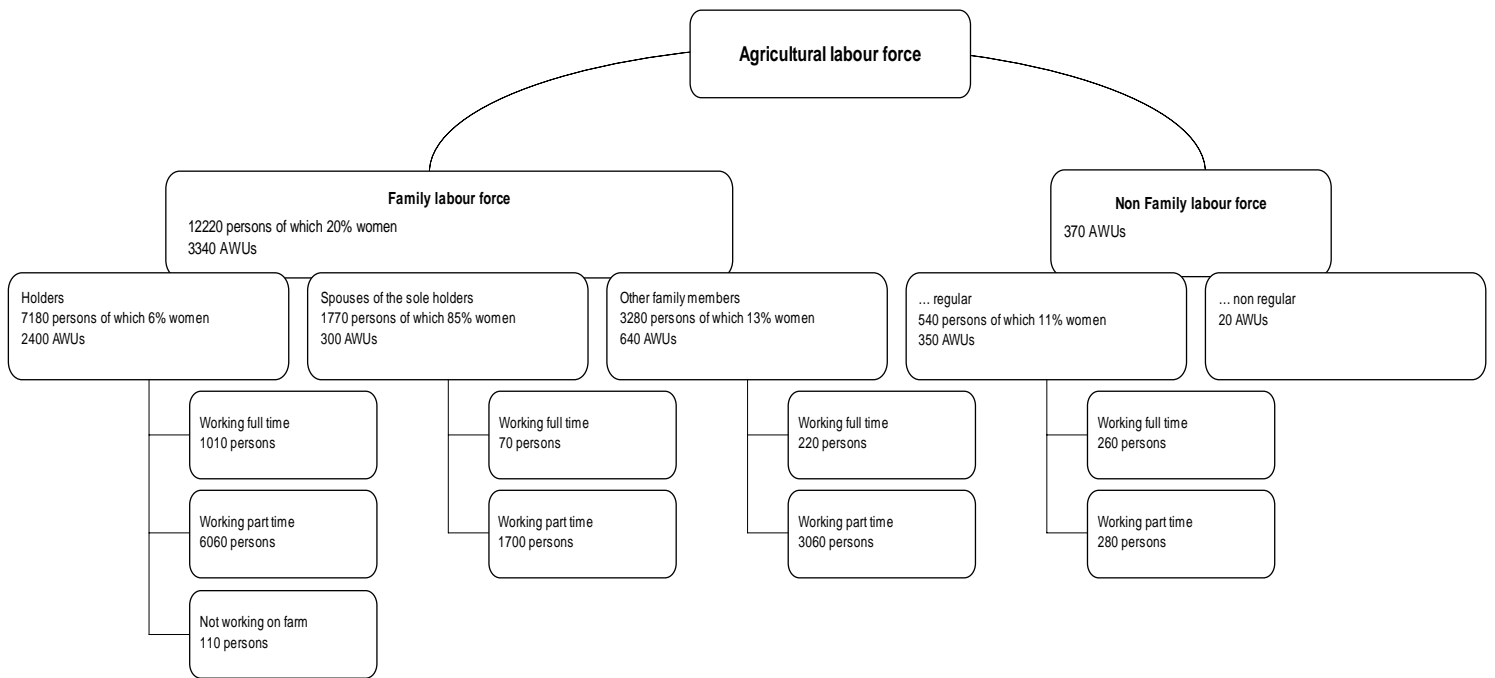
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Malta 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 0.5	0.5 - < 1	1 - < 2.5	2.5 =<		0	0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 =<
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.2	3.7	2.0	0.9	0.3	0.5
Family labour force									
1000 persons	4.1	3.0	3.3	1.9	12.2	7.8	3.3	0.6	0.5
1000 annual work units	0.8	0.5	1.1	1.0	3.3	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.4
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2
1000 annual work units	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Holding managers (1000)	2.7	1.7	1.9	0.9	7.2	4.8	1.8	0.3	0.2
- women (%)	5.8	3.9	4.2	2.9	4.6	4.8	4.9	1.0	2.8
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	89.8	90.7	64.0	31.8	75.9	82.0	76.8	29.9	4.4
- 50 % and over (%)	4.0	3.8	19.9	13.4	9.4	7.6	13.8	14.6	4.8
- with a basic agricultural training only (%)	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.1	3.4	0.4
- with a full agricultural training (%)	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.6
Sole/main holders (1000)	2.7	1.7	1.9	0.9	7.2	4.8	1.8	0.3	0.2
- women (%)	7.7	7.1	4.9	3.5	6.3	6.5	6.7	3.1	4.3
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	7.7	7.7	3.7	10.0	6.9	6.6	5.8	16.3	9.5
- from 35 to 44 years	12.1	12.4	13.7	18.8	13.4	13.6	10.3	20.7	25.1
- from 45 to 54 years	30.9	32.4	31.6	38.3	32.3	33.8	27.9	32.3	36.8
- from 55 to 64 years	28.5	26.7	30.1	23.1	27.8	26.7	31.2	26.5	25.5
- 65 years and over	20.8	20.8	20.9	10.0	19.5	19.3	24.8	4.1	3.0
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	90.0	90.9	64.2	32.5	76.3	82.2	77.0	29.9	4.8
- 50 % and over (%)	4.0	3.8	20.0	13.7	9.4	7.6	13.9	14.6	5.2
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	54.5	56.6	51.6	40.1	52.5	54.9	51.7	48.4	11.7
- as main occupation	54.4	56.2	47.5	35.9	50.8	53.2	51.1	39.3	8.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	0.1	0.4	4.2	4.3	1.7	1.7	0.5	9.1	3.6
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.8	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.1
- women (%)	69.6	82.3	92.7	96.8	84.8	79.0	97.1	92.2	87.7
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	5.8	11.7	10.6	13.5	10.1	10.0	11.8	5.8	8.6
- from 35 to 54 years	50.0	58.9	60.7	58.3	56.7	61.6	40.6	68.9	61.7
- 55 years and over	44.2	29.4	28.9	28.0	33.1	28.4	47.7	25.2	29.6
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	97.4	95.8	84.6	81.5	90.0	91.5	95.3	82.5	48.1
- 50 % and over (%)	0.6	2.3	11.9	10.3	6.2	6.5	2.4	14.6	12.3
- with another gainful activity (%)	24.0	21.1	7.1	7.8	15.1	16.3	15.7	8.7	2.5
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	3.3	1.9	1.1	0.2	0.2
- women (%)	10.3	10.5	15.6	19.2	13.4	11.8	16.0	16.9	12.5
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	92.9	96.8	90.6	68.5	89.0	92.5	93.0	74.7	37.5
- 50 % and over (%)	2.9	1.7	3.8	11.8	4.4	3.5	3.1	11.0	16.1
- with another gainful activity (%)	62.9	51.5	69.0	50.8	59.3	65.0	56.0	45.5	29.2

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

* LU = Livestock Unit

¹ Refers only holders who are also farm managers.

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 0.5	0.5 - < 1	1 - < 2.5	2.5 =<		0	0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 =<
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	2.7	1.7	1.9	0.9	7.2	4.8	1.8	0.3	0.2
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	99.3	98.1	97.1	90.1	97.3	97.8	98.7	95.6	79.9
- legal person	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.0	7.2
- group holders	0.4	1.6	2.7	7.6	2.2	2.0	1.0	4.8	12.4
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	91.7	93.1	74.6	37.3	80.7	85.0	87.1	36.4	3.2
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	6.3	5.8	21.0	41.6	14.5	12.4	10.2	50.7	45.0
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	1.4	1.0	3.4	14.0	3.4	2.0	2.2	9.9	32.1
- 3 AWU and over	0.5	0.1	0.9	7.2	1.4	0.6	0.6	3.1	19.3
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	94.2	95.7	74.7	23.8	80.6	86.0	82.5	47.3	1.2
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	1.4	2.9	19.9	23.4	9.4	7.5	11.8	32.3	2.4
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	2.9	1.2	4.3	41.7	7.7	5.8	4.8	19.0	53.4
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	1.2	0.2	0.8	9.1	1.8	0.8	0.7	1.0	31.7
- 100 ESU and over	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	11.6
- by farm type (%)									
- various crops and livestock combined	61.0	39.6	7.0	1.6	34.2	38.0	32.5	9.2	2.0
- mixed cropping	12.3	31.3	46.3	38.9	29.2	33.0	26.6	6.1	0.8
- specialist horticulture	5.6	7.5	15.6	27.1	11.4	12.9	10.4	2.0	0.8
- general field cropping	1.4	3.5	13.0	11.9	6.3	7.6	4.8	0.0	0.0
- sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	3.7	5.3	1.1	2.1	3.2	0.0	6.1	37.4	3.2
- other types of farming	16.0	12.9	17.0	18.5	15.8	8.6	19.7	45.2	93.2
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- irrigating	15.7	28.5	53.1	80.4	36.7	36.2	40.3	31.0	28.1
- with fixed irrigation equipment	10.2	20.9	35.2	57.5	25.3	25.0	27.5	23.1	18.1
- with crops under glass	1.4	1.9	4.8	14.2	4.0	4.4	3.0	3.4	4.4
- benefiting of direct investment aids	0.3	0.1	0.7	2.9	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	4.8
- using a tractor (%)	27.2	57.2	63.8	93.5	52.3	48.1	59.1	64.3	69.5
- with their own tractor	1.9	8.0	22.3	59.0	15.9	13.8	15.6	29.6	43.8
- using a combine harvester (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	2.8	6.2	6.6	18.3	6.5	1.4	14.4	36.4	12.0
- tourism	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- handicraft	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- processing of farm products	2.8	6.2	6.3	16.6	6.3	1.2	14.3	36.1	9.6
- wood processing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- aquaculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- renewable energy production	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- contractual work	0.0	0.0	0.5	5.5	0.8	0.3	0.5	8.5	4.4
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

Size of the farms (1000 ha)	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 0.5	0.5 - < 1	1 - < 2.5	2.5 =<		0	0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 =<
Area									
Total area of agricultural holdings	0.9	1.4	3.4	4.4	10.1	6.1	2.7	0.5	0.8
Other area	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1
Wooded area	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agricultural area	0.7	1.2	2.9	4.0	8.9	5.4	2.3	0.5	0.7
Arable land	0.2	0.8	2.5	3.5	7.0	4.0	1.9	0.5	0.7
Cereals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Rye</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Barley</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Oats</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dried pulses	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Root crops	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Industrial crops	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Tobacco</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Hops</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Cotton</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Soya</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
<i>outside</i>	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>outside</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	0.1	0.4	1.4	1.8	3.7	1.9	0.9	0.3	0.5
Fallow land	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0
Kitchen garden	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0
Permanent pasture and meadows	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent crops	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.0
Fruit and berry plantation	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Citrus plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Olive trees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vineyard	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	0.3	0.7	1.5	4.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.6	2.8
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	21.4	20.2	22.5	18.5	20.3	20.0	19.7	15.9	27.3
... in less favoured or mountain area	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
... organic farmed	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
... irrigated	11.5	14.5	25.7	35.4	27.5	30.1	25.6	20.0	18.8

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
	< 0.5	0.5 - < 1	1 - < 2.5	2.5 = <		0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 = <
Total livestock (1000 LU)	20.0	3.4	8.1	14.3	45.6	1.3	5.4	39.0
of which grazing (%)	23.0	39.6	33.4	56.9	36.7	74.3	50.5	33.5
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2
Bovine animals	5.6	1.1	3.1	10.0	19.8	0.0	2.9	16.9
Under 1 year	1.8	0.4	0.9	2.6	5.7	0.0	1.0	4.7
From 1 to less than 2 years	1.4	0.4	0.8	2.8	5.5	0.0	1.2	4.3
Dairy cows	1.9	0.2	1.1	4.1	7.3	0.0	0.6	6.7
Other cows	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.2	1.2
Sheep	2.8	2.6	2.0	3.3	10.6	5.1	4.4	1.1
Goats	1.8	0.7	0.9	1.7	5.0	0.9	2.1	2.0
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	39.7	6.0	12.0	15.5	73.2	0.0	4.8	68.4
Piglets < 20 kg	11.7	2.5	3.9	3.7	21.8	0.0	1.8	20.0
Breeding sows	5.5	0.6	1.3	2.0	9.5	0.0	0.5	9.0
Other pigs	22.5	2.9	6.8	9.8	41.9	0.0	2.5	39.5
Poultry (million heads)	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.9
Broilers	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.5
Laying hens	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
Other poultry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	4.4	1.6	2.4	1.5	9.9	5.8	2.6	1.5
Beehives (1000)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Average size of herds*								
Equidae (head/holding)	1.7	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.5	2.6	2.1
Cattle (head/holding)	52.6	22.4	71.3	91.4	64.4	3.0	17.7	120.0
Dairy cows (head/holding)	44.1	20.3	35.8	42.7	40.4	1.0	9.7	55.5
Other cows (head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sheep (head/holding)	11.2	11.7	8.5	15.0	11.6	7.5	27.8	14.5
Goats (head/holding)	10.8	9.4	7.7	14.6	10.8	3.9	12.7	34.9
Pigs (head/holding)	536.4	248.3	401.1	910.4	504.6	:	110.8	677.2
Breeding sows (head/holding)	78.2	25.6	57.2	119.2	70.4	:	15.2	89.0
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	307.7	119.5	226.1	575.8	291.0	:	57.0	394.5
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	9.8	5.1	6.1	8.5	7.4	4.8	26.2	44.4
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.6	6.4
Broilers (1000/holding)	4.0	3.9	3.5	5.7	4.3	0.0	2.3	11.2
Beehives (hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

* Number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animal.

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular labour force	(1000 persons)	18.3	5.6	12.8	30.3	69.7
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	4.0	0.3	3.7	8.6	91.4
Holders	(1000 persons)	11.0	3.9	7.2	35.0	65.0
... at least 65 years old		2.6	1.2	1.4	46.0	54.0
... having another gainful activity		5.2	1.7	3.6	31.8	68.2
Number of holdings	(1000)	11.1	3.9	7.2	34.8	65.2
... producing mainly for own consumption		3.9	1.5	2.4	37.5	62.5
... producing mainly for direct sales		0.5	0.0	0.5	5.6	94.2
... using a tractor		5.1	1.3	3.8	25.5	74.5
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	51.5	1.9	49.6	3.6	96.4
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	10.3	1.4	8.9	13.5	86.5
... owned farmed		2.1	0.3	1.8	13.4	86.6
Livestock	(1000 LU)	46.1	0.5	45.6	1.1	98.9

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

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings was carried out in the autumn of 2005 on a sample basis. The previous full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 2001. The reference period for the FSS 2005 was the crop year 2004/05 (ending on 31 August 2005), and for livestock, labour force and machinery 1 September, 2005.

The target population were the units (holdings) included in statistical farm register updated continuously on a monthly base. This population was stratified according to the type of farming (8 groups) and economical size (3 groups), as well as the regions. Certain typology and size classes were clustered in order to get a representative sample. All the holdings having at least 8 ESU were sampled exhaustively. In the other strata optimum allocation method was used with random selection. Holdings in each sampled strata were chosen on the proportion of the total standard deviation of the SGM within the strata. Altogether 1561 holdings have been selected, which is 14% of the registered population. Additionally 18 new holdings were surveyed.

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.

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 work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis in one year. In Malta it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

Livestock Unit (LU) is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals (number of heads) is converted into LU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

Subsistence farming refers here to all farms below 1 ESU economic size. Note that the number of farms can't be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

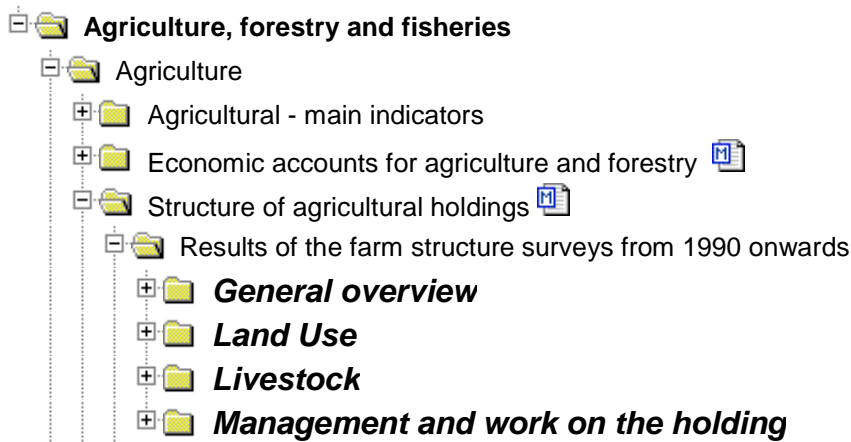
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Website of the National Statistical Office: www.nso.gov.mt

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available for request)

Further information:

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