

Farm structure in Finland – 2005

Almost half of the agricultural land and livestock is in farms of 50 ha or more

This Statistics in Focus is part 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 Finland. A similar publication was issued in November 2004 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Finland.

* * *

In 2005 in Finland, about **70 thousand*** agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

- These holdings employed 83.3 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 83.3 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 2.3 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average **32.3 ha per holding** (compared to 30.2 ha in 2003).

Among these 70 thousand agricultural holdings

- 47% made use of less than one AWU, while 24% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 1% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 4% used 100 ha or more;
- 38% were holdings of the type specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops, 21% were specialist dairy farming, 19% general field cropping, 6% were engaged in combined field cropping and grazing livestock and 4% were specialist horticulture;
- 100% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas;
- 6% were organic farms;
- 8% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 69.2 thousand sole holders

- 11% were women;
- 34% were aged 55 or more, and only 9% were younger than 35 years;
- 34% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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Agriculture

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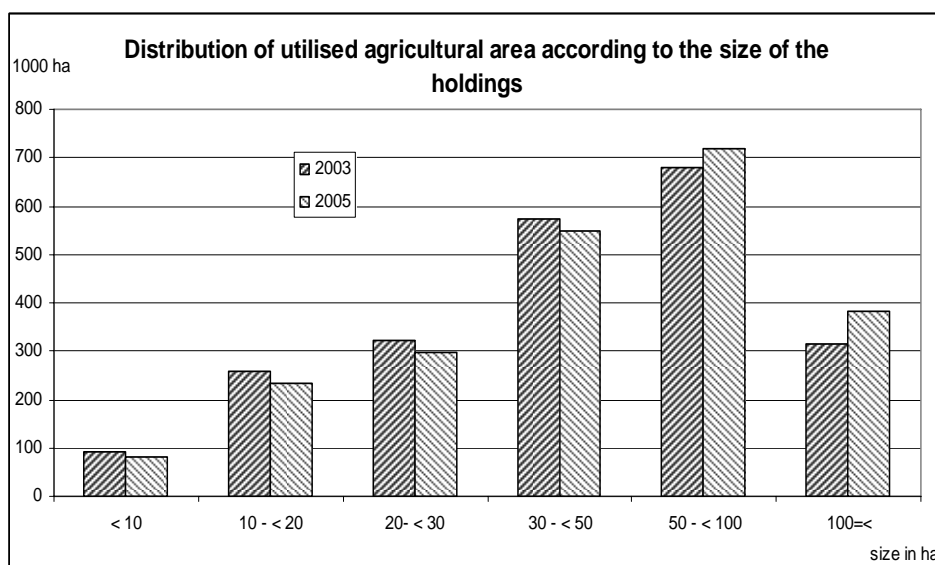
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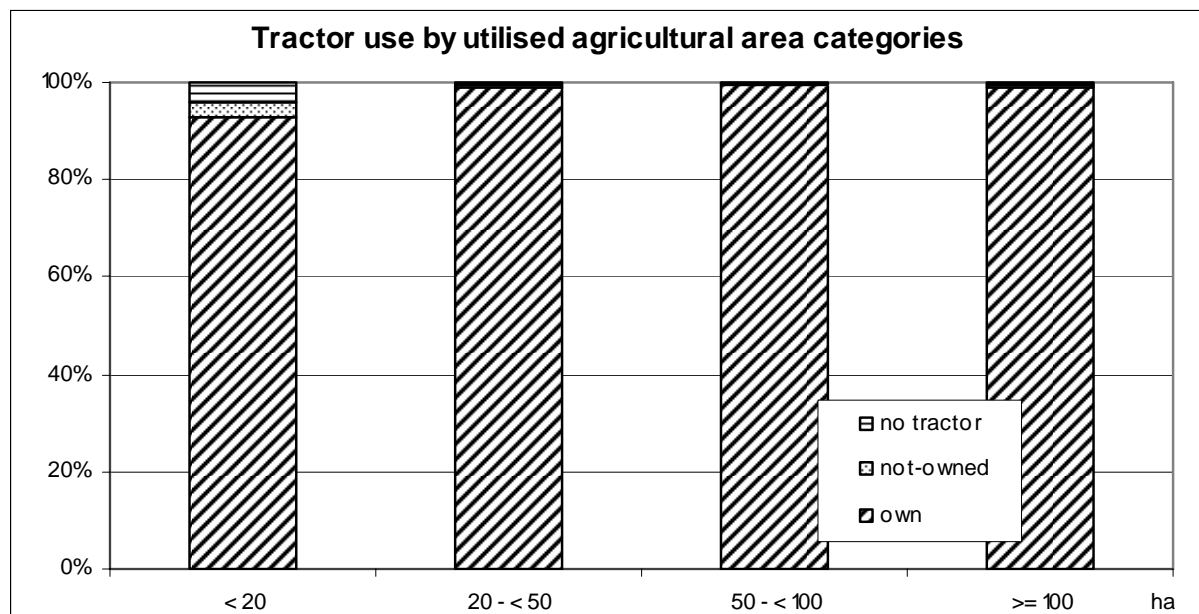
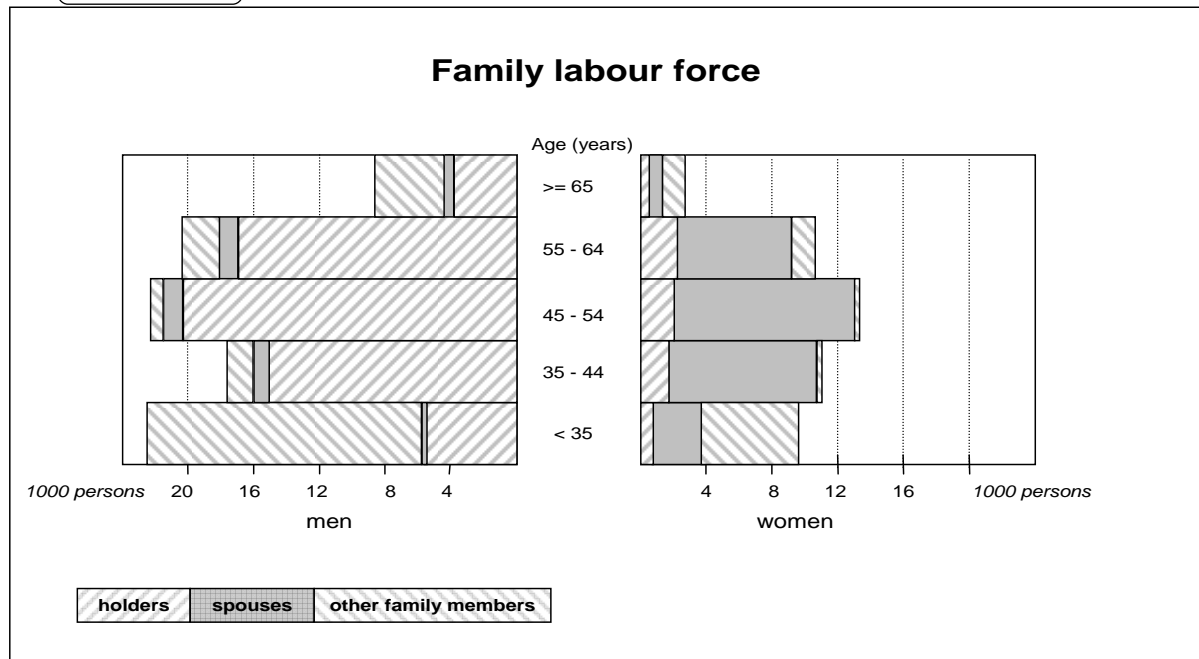
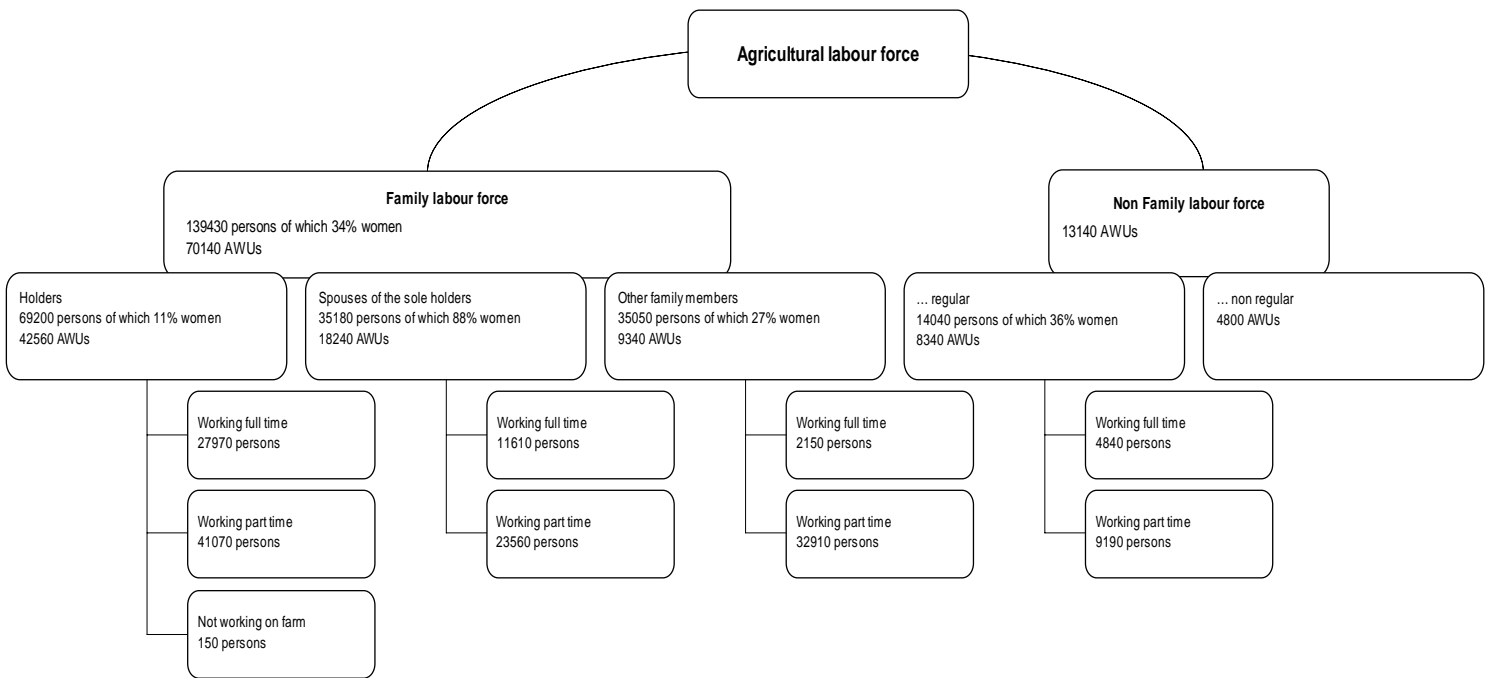
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Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, the total number of farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological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



Finland 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<		0	0 <- < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	24.6	34.4	18.2	6.2	83.3	30.7	38.9	8.5	5.1
Family labour force									
1000 persons	52.4	56.6	24.3	6.2	139.4	72.8	53.0	9.2	4.3
1000 annual work units	19.5	31.4	15.3	4.0	70.1	23.9	36.0	7.1	3.2
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	5.5	3.6	2.9	2.0	14.0	7.5	3.4	1.3	1.8
1000 annual work units	3.2	1.7	1.8	1.5	8.3	3.8	2.1	1.0	1.4
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	1.9	1.2	1.0	0.6	4.8	3.1	0.8	0.4	0.4
Holding managers (1000)	30.6	26.2	10.6	2.7	70.0	40.2	24.1	3.8	1.9
- women (%)	14.6	8.3	5.6	5.7	10.4	9.1	13.6	6.8	6.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	62.9	33.5	16.8	10.7	42.5	66.5	12.6	1.8	4.1
- 50 % and over(%)	14.6	16.7	20.9	22.9	16.7	20.4	13.4	4.9	7.1
- with a basic agricult. training only (%)	20.9	38.8	47.7	45.6	32.9	28.5	36.1	50.1	48.0
- with a full agricultural training (%)	4.0	7.6	15.3	23.9	7.9	7.7	6.2	14.0	20.3
Sole/main holders (1000)	28.9	26.9	10.7	2.6	69.2	39.4	24.1	3.9	1.9
- women (%)	14.7	8.5	5.8	5.4	10.6	9.5	13.3	6.8	5.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	7.0	9.7	13.8	12.4	9.3	8.4	9.4	14.9	14.7
- from 35 to 44 years	18.8	25.9	33.2	36.0	24.5	22.2	25.0	38.1	36.9
- from 45 to 54 years	31.1	33.2	32.9	33.3	32.3	31.7	33.4	30.9	32.7
- from 55 to 64 years	33.3	26.7	18.1	16.8	27.7	30.0	27.1	15.2	14.4
- 65 years and over	9.9	4.5	2.1	1.4	6.3	7.8	5.0	0.9	1.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	64.5	33.6	16.9	11.0	43.1	67.5	12.7	1.8	4.4
- 50 % and over(%)	15.0	16.8	21.0	23.6	16.9	20.7	13.5	5.0	7.5
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	57.9	40.6	31.6	28.1	46.0	63.0	25.9	13.8	13.6
- as main occupation	48.2	26.8	15.7	10.7	33.5	49.6	14.3	3.2	3.7
- as a subsidiary occupation	9.7	13.8	16.0	17.4	12.5	13.4	11.6	10.7	10.1
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	12.2	14.7	6.7	1.6	35.2	16.6	14.6	2.7	1.3
- women (%)	81.0	90.5	94.3	95.5	88.2	87.0	87.7	94.2	96.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	6.2	10.3	15.0	13.7	10.0	7.7	10.6	17.5	16.3
- from 35 to 54 years	55.0	64.9	70.6	73.1	62.9	59.7	64.2	71.9	72.4
- 55 years and over	38.8	24.7	14.4	13.2	27.1	32.7	25.3	10.6	11.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	72.3	47.1	40.1	42.0	54.3	83.4	31.0	16.7	24.5
- 50 % and over(%)	12.1	12.6	13.4	15.0	12.7	9.8	15.4	14.4	15.1
- with another gainful activity (%)	57.1	42.0	37.0	35.7	46.0	63.2	32.8	20.9	26.9
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	11.3	14.9	6.9	1.9	35.1	16.9	14.3	2.7	1.2
- women (%)	28.4	26.9	24.9	26.6	27.0	23.0	31.4	28.4	26.5
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	90.6	84.6	79.5	75.9	85.1	93.4	78.8	71.1	73.2
- 50 % and over(%)	5.8	9.0	12.0	13.6	8.8	4.5	12.5	13.6	14.8
- with another gainful activity (%)	38.4	31.2	25.3	21.6	31.8	37.4	28.6	19.0	20.3

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

* LU = Livestock Unit

¹ Refers only to holders who are also farm managers.

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - <100	100 =<		0	0 <- < 50	50 - <100	100 =<
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	30.6	26.2	10.6	2.7	70.0	40.2	24.1	3.8	1.9
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	91.7	93.3	91.0	82.9	91.9	91.8	93.2	89.8	81.0
- legal person	2.4	0.3	0.6	2.9	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.0	6.1
- group holders	5.8	6.3	8.4	14.1	6.7	6.6	6.0	9.2	13.0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	66.7	39.0	23.0	12.6	47.2	74.1	14.0	1.2	1.9
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	22.7	32.4	34.2	33.8	28.6	19.1	44.3	28.4	28.6
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	8.1	25.5	34.4	31.7	19.7	4.3	37.6	54.5	43.5
- 3 AWU and over	2.6	3.1	8.4	21.8	4.4	2.4	4.1	15.8	26.0
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	73.7	10.3	0.1	0.0	36.1	52.9	16.7	0.1	0.0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	11.0	34.9	2.1	0.0	18.2	22.7	14.8	0.7	0.3
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	11.6	35.0	46.5	9.5	25.5	17.2	42.4	14.2	9.5
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	2.7	19.0	44.4	61.0	17.3	5.8	25.8	68.8	48.6
- 100 ESU and over	1.0	0.7	6.9	29.5	2.9	1.3	0.3	16.2	41.6
- by farm type (%)									
- specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	36.7	38.2	36.6	44.2	37.5	61.8	5.4	2.9	1.8
- specialist dairy farming	10.5	31.2	29.6	15.2	21.3	0.0	52.7	52.5	12.6
- general field cropping	27.5	13.1	9.8	11.4	18.8	27.4	8.6	1.1	1.5
- field crops – grazing livestock combined	6.5	5.2	6.9	9.4	6.2	0.3	16.5	5.5	2.1
- specialist horticulture	7.9	1.1	0.8	0.5	4.0	6.7	0.4	0.1	0.2
- other types of farming	10.9	11.1	16.3	19.3	12.1	3.8	16.4	38.0	81.8
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	5.0	6.0	6.4	8.0	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.4	4.3
- irrigating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- with fixed irrigation equipment	2.6	1.3	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.8	0.5	0.9	1.5
- with crops under glass	4.9	0.7	0.6	0.8	2.5	4.1	0.4	0.4	0.6
- benefiting of direct investment aids	4.5	9.3	15.2	16.0	8.4	5.7	10.1	21.2	16.7
- using a tractor (%)									
- with their own tractor	96.1	99.7	99.9	99.7	98.2	97.8	98.7	99.6	97.6
- using a combine harvester (%)									
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	24.6	29.1	37.4	43.6	29.0	31.2	26.2	25.3	27.7
- tourism	2.9	2.6	3.3	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.1	2.0
- handicraft	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1
- processing of farm products	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.7
- wood processing	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.2	0.6	0.8
- aquaculture	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
- renewable energy production	1.7	2.3	2.6	3.1	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.4	1.3
- contractual work	9.4	18.0	26.5	32.2	16.3	16.7	15.2	18.5	15.6
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	12.7	10.0	11.6	14.0	11.6	13.1	9.7	7.1	11.3

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

Size of the farm (1000 ha)	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
Area									
Total area of agricultural holdings	1600.7	2562.3	1566.9	727.1	6457.0	3182.1	2391.2	560.2	323.4
Other area	1283.4	1717.5	848.8	345.8	4195.5	2083.1	1643.7	309.3	159.4
Wooded area	990.3	1337.6	663.4	268.3	3259.6	1642.6	1254.5	237.5	124.9
Agricultural area	317.3	844.7	718.1	381.4	2261.5	1099.0	747.6	250.9	164.1
Arable land	310.2	835.7	711.1	374.1	2231.2	1089.1	734.0	247.4	160.7
Cereals	142.8	428.6	392.5	220.7	1184.5	702.9	281.1	104.3	96.2
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	13.8	58.9	77.3	65.1	215.1	160.3	28.3	10.0	16.5
<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>	1.7	4.9	4.6	3.2	14.3	11.0	2.4	0.5	0.5
<i>Barley</i>	62.7	214.7	206.4	110.8	594.6	348.4	126.5	57.5	62.1
<i>Oats</i>	64.3	149.7	103.8	41.5	359.4	182.5	123.7	36.2	17.0
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dried pulses	0.4	1.9	2.5	2.2	6.9	3.9	1.7	0.8	0.5
Root crops	6.8	22.7	19.3	11.3	60.2	47.1	7.9	2.4	2.7
<i>Potatoes</i>	4.6	12.1	8.6	3.6	28.9	24.2	3.4	0.6	0.7
<i>Sugar beet</i>	2.2	10.6	10.8	7.7	31.3	23.0	4.5	1.8	2.0
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Industrial crops	9.4	30.4	33.1	29.5	102.4	78.8	14.4	4.3	4.9
<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>	5.2	21.1	28.0	22.6	76.9	58.3	10.6	3.7	4.2
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	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	4.1	3.4	3.0	1.7	12.2	10.6	1.0	0.2	0.5
<i>outside</i>	3.8	3.4	3.0	1.7	11.9	10.3	0.9	0.2	0.5
<i>under glass</i>	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	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>	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	111.7	269.6	179.8	61.9	623.1	88.5	376.1	117.6	40.8
Fallow land	34.6	78.8	80.5	46.7	240.6	156.1	51.6	17.8	15.1
Kitchen garden	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent pasture and meadows	4.4	7.7	6.4	7.1	25.6	5.7	13.1	3.4	3.4
Permanent crops	2.7	1.3	0.6	0.1	4.7	4.2	0.5	0.0	0.0
Fruit and berry plantation	2.4	1.1	0.4	0.1	4.1	3.6	0.4	0.0	0.0
Citrus plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Olive trees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vineyard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	10.4	32.3	67.9	142.7	32.3	27.3	31.1	65.9	84.3
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	82.8	71.6	59.9	52.1	66.1	69.1	65.7	59.2	58.9
... 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	4.6	4.9	5.4	6.3	5.3	4.4	6.1	6.7	5.0
... irrigated	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 farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <		0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <
Total livestock (1000 LU)	148.4	437.2	391.7	180.0	1157.4	483.1	258.2	416.1
of which grazing (%)	53.5	71.3	60.4	44.4	61.1	91.4	73.3	18.4
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	15.3	7.0	2.9	1.2	26.4	24.6	1.0	0.8
Bovine animals	89.2	418.2	335.8	115.6	958.8	567.7	271.4	119.7
Under 1 year	31.4	134.8	121.1	41.6	328.9	178.4	98.0	52.6
From 1 to less than 2 years	20.3	100.7	87.0	32.3	240.2	135.5	70.4	34.4
Dairy cows	31.2	156.4	103.0	28.1	318.8	217.4	80.8	20.5
Other cows	2.3	10.6	12.8	8.9	34.6	14.7	11.7	8.2
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	4.0	15.7	11.9	4.7	36.3	21.7	10.4	4.1
Sheep	34.3	32.6	14.6	5.7	87.2	77.1	8.6	1.5
Goats	3.9	1.7	1.2	0.2	6.9	6.3	0.5	0.1
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	201.6	406.0	473.5	319.9	1401.0	165.6	264.6	970.8
Piglets < 20 kg	82.0	152.2	135.4	81.3	451.0	90.6	103.8	256.6
Breeding sows	32.2	57.2	52.2	35.1	176.7	29.5	36.8	110.4
Other pigs	87.4	196.6	285.9	203.5	773.4	45.5	124.0	603.8
Poultry (million heads)	2.4	2.9	3.4	1.9	10.5	0.7	0.7	9.1
Broilers	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.2	5.5	0.0	0.0	5.5
Laying hens	0.9	1.4	1.7	0.6	4.6	0.7	0.7	3.2
Other poultry	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beehives (1000)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average size of herds*								
Equidae (head/holding)	5.5	5.2	4.7	7.1	5.4	5.4	4.0	6.7
Cattle (head/holding)	17.8	38.5	71.8	129.5	44.7	31.5	94.8	210.1
Dairy cows (head/holding)	8.5	17.5	27.8	43.9	18.8	15.1	35.8	63.5
Other cows (head/holding)	5.5	13.2	23.3	44.4	17.5	10.5	27.5	55.7
Sheep (head/holding)	36.6	63.8	74.5	82.6	51.0	48.3	100.2	49.6
Goats (head/holding)	16.9	14.6	22.3	12.7	16.8	16.5	27.8	9.3
Pigs (head/holding)	499.1	304.4	488.7	848.6	454.3	142.9	315.4	893.9
Breeding sows (head/holding)	117.1	56.8	80.1	151.8	81.6	32.2	61.5	169.8
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	226.9	151.9	301.2	544.2	257.6	42.0	149.2	556.0
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens (1000/holding)	1.5	2.3	5.6	5.8	2.8	0.6	3.7	15.0
Broilers (1000/holding)	35.6	33.4	41.7	43.5	38.0	1.0	8.0	38.5
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)	154.2	0.8	153.5	0.5	99.5
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	78.7	0.2	78.5	0.2	99.8
Holders	(1000 persons)	69.7	0.5	69.2	0.7	99.3
... at least 65 years old		4.4	0.1	4.3	1.5	98.5
... having another gainful activity		29.5	0.3	29.2	0.9	99.1
Number of holdings	(1000)	70.6	0.6	70.0	0.8	99.2
... producing mainly for own consumption		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... using a tractor		69.3	0.4	68.9	0.6	99.4
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	1772.4	0.4	1772.0	0.0	100.0
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	2263.6	2.1	2261.5	0.1	99.9
... owned farmed		1497.4	1.8	1495.6	0.1	99.9
Livestock	(1000 LU)	1157.5	0.2	1157.4	0.0	100.0

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

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Finland was carried out in 2005 using a combined method (exhaustive and sample). A prior full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 2000. Data were collected from two sources: from statistical registers (full scope part) and interviews on labour force, machinery, irrigation and non-agricultural activity (sample part). The registers used were the Rural Business Register, the Horticultural Enterprise Register, the Register of Bovine Animals and the Register of Organic Farming. The reference time (period) of the FSS 2005 was in the case of land use, the summer of 2003; for livestock 1 May (bovines) and 1 April (others); for farm labour force and machinery, 12 months before 31 August 2005; and in the case of non agricultural activity, the year 2005.

The target population was all active farms engaged in agricultural or horticultural production for sale, and having at least 1 ha utilised agricultural area or reached at least 1 ESU size. The targeted farms are included in the annually updated registers; the newly activated ones are taken from the Integrated Administrative and Control System (IACS). The frame for the sample part was stratified by economic size of the farms (4-6 groups), by location (20 units) and by type of farming (7 categories). In practice 564 strata are used, the sample is allocated by the Neymann method using the SGM data; however all holdings with at least 100 hectares or 100 ESU or 10 000 broilers are selected. The sample is drawn randomly with increasing sampling rate by farm size. The ratio was bigger in the case of livestock holdings due to greater variances of key variables.

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 for one year. In Finland 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.

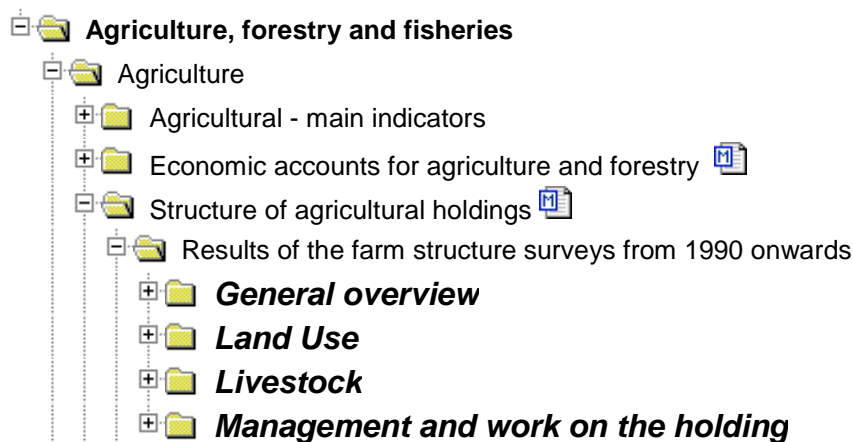
Subsistence farming refers here to all farms below 1 ESU economic size. Note that the number of farms cannot be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- Eurojyvä (Data on FSS 2005), Information centre of Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry, (will be published in 2007)*
- Bulletin on farm labour force, 2005, Information centre of Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry – MTT Agrifood Research Finland, May 2006*
- Bulletin on farm labour force 2005, Information centre of Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry (May 2006)*
- Bulletin on machinery 2005, Information centre of Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry (September 2006)*
- Bulletin on secondary business activities 2005, Information centre of Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry - MTT Agrifood Research Finland (will be published in November 2006)*
- Results are available in MATILDA database (www.matilda.fi)
- Website of the Information centre of Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry: www.mmtike.fi
- National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available on request)*

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Theme: Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](#)



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