

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 15/2003

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Structure of agricultural holdings in the EU

Cereals, oilseeds and protein crops

The data arise from the Community surveys of 1999-2000 on the structure of agricultural holdings.

In EU-15, the areas under cereals, including the areas devoted to oilseeds (rapeseed, sunflowers, soyabean etc.), protein crops (field peas and field beans) and fallow land receiving aid, cover 48 million hectares, i.e. 38% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA) and two thirds (67%) of the arable land. Of these areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops, 8% are located in less-favoured farming areas.

As much as 38% of the areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops are located in holdings with more than 100 ha of cereals, oilseeds and protein crops.

Of these areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops, 28% are devoted to the cultivation of common wheat, 8% durum wheat, 22% barley, 18% other cereals, 12% oilseeds and 3% protein crops.

As many as 2.8 million holdings cultivate cereals, oilseeds or protein crops. More than half of them cultivate less than 5 ha each, and only 80 000 holdings (including 30 000 in France, 20 000 in Spain and 14 000 in the United Kingdom) cultivate more than 100 ha.

As many as 837 000 holdings (i.e. 12% of the agricultural holdings in EU-15) are specialised in the cultivation of "cereals (other than rice), oilseeds and protein crops", i.e. at least 2/3 of their gross margin comes from these crops. These holdings, heavily dependent on the cereals, oilseeds and protein crops, cultivate on average 28 ha of them: 71% (approximately 600 000 holdings, half of which in Italy) cultivate less than 20 ha, while 7% (approximately 60 000 holdings, including 25 000 in France and 10 000 in the United Kingdom) cultivate more than 100 ha.

These holdings use relatively little manpower: 0.6 annual work units (AWU) per holding on average, compared to 1.0 AWU for all agricultural holdings.

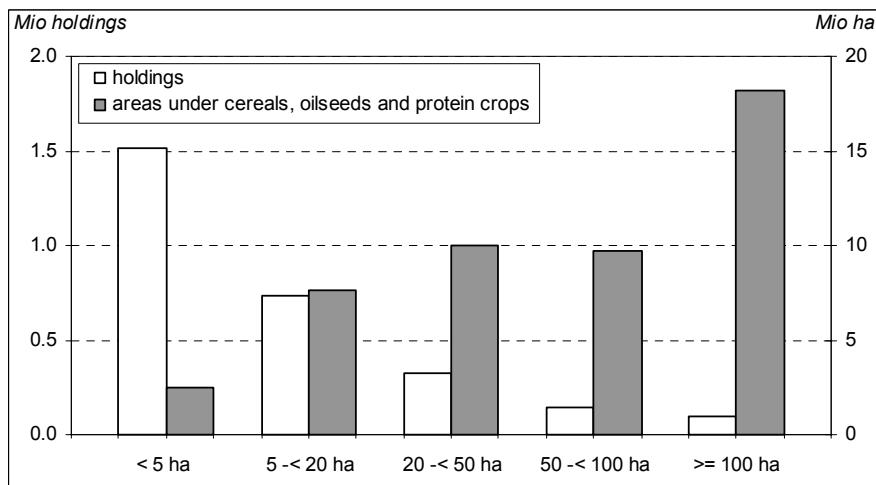


Figure 1: Number of cereal holdings and areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops according to the agricultural area of the holdings

Table 1 – Holdings cultivating cereals (other than rice), oilseeds and/or protein crops

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL
Holdings (1000)	2 802	31	53	314	277	405	370	15
- % of total number of agricultural holdings	41	51	91	67	34	31	56	11
Labour force (1000 AWU)	3 166	39	57	440	257	417	591	24
- AWU per holding	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.5
Area under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops								
- in 1000 ha	48 021	342	1 845	8 878	1 175	9 042	12 536	298
- in % of agricultural area	38	25	70	52	33	35	45	7
- % in mountain or less favoured areas	8	8	0	41	75	75	31	9
Distribution of areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)								
- Common wheat and spelt	28	62	34	29	13	17	39	26
- Durum wheat	8	0	0	0	50	10	3	0
- Barley	22	14	38	25	8	36	12	61
- Grain maize	9	10	0	4	16	4	14	0
- Other cereals except rice and fallow	18	6	17	25	9	17	12	11
- Pulses	3	1	4	2	1	4	4	1
- Other oil-seed or fibre plants	12	6	8	14	3	11	16	1
Distribution of holdings according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)								
- Under 5 ha	54	45	7	32	75	48	25	30
- 5 to 20 ha	26	40	42	40	21	26	32	45
- 20 to 50 ha	11	12	30	18	3	14	21	17
- 50 to 100 ha	5	3	14	6	0	7	13	5
- 100 ha and over	3	1	6	4	0	5	9	3
Distribution of areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)								
- Under 5 ha	5	9	1	3	30	3	2	4
- 5 to 20 ha	16	37	14	15	45	12	10	25
- 20 to 50 ha	21	31	28	20	19	20	20	27
- 50 to 100 ha	20	15	28	15	4	21	27	19
- 100 ha and over	38	8	30	47	2	43	41	24

Table 2 – Holdings specialised in the cultivation of cereals (other than rice), oilseeds and protein crops

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL
Holdings (1000)	837	2	22	69	64	138	103	3
- % of total number of agricultural holdings	12	3	37	15	8	11	15	2
Labour force (1000 AWU)	501	1	11	59	16	75	105	3
- AWU per holding	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.1
Area (1000 ha)	23 190	23	652	3 092	431	5 450	6 442	126
- ha per holding	27.7	12.1	30.3	44.8	6.8	39.5	62.7	41.9
Distribution of holdings according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)								
- Under 5 ha	41	47	2	22	62	23	13	9
- 5 to 20 ha	30	37	53	46	32	33	21	39
- 20 to 50 ha	14	11	31	16	6	22	20	29
- 50 to 100 ha	8	3	10	7	1	13	23	14
- 100 ha and over	7	2	4	8	0	10	23	10
Distribution of areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)								
- Under 5 ha	3	9	0	2	20	2	1	1
- 5 to 20 ha	11	30	20	11	43	9	4	11
- 20 to 50 ha	16	26	32	11	26	17	11	22
- 50 to 100 ha	20	18	22	12	7	22	26	23
- 100 ha and over	49	19	27	65	4	50	59	43

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
819	2	19	106	202	67	53	69	Holdings (1000)
38	67	19	53	49	82	66	30	- % of total number of agricultural holdings
613	3	34	107	296	85	58	144	Labour force (1000 AWU)
0.7	1.7	1.8	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.1	- AWU per holding
4 580	34	204	1 068	682	1 408	1 500	4 429	Area under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops
35	26	10	32	18	63	49	28	- in 1000 ha
36	100	0	32	85	66	29	5	- in % of agricultural area
								- % in mountain or less favoured areas
								Distribution of areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)
12	23	50	23	21	11	18	47	- Common wheat and spelt
37	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	- Durum wheat
6	38	29	23	3	40	32	25	- Barley
23	1	8	17	23	0	0	0	- Grain maize
10	24	10	19	29	45	40	12	- Other cereals except rice and fallow
1	2	2	5	3	1	2	5	- Pulses
10	12	1	12	10	4	7	11	- Other oil-seed or fibre plants
								Distribution of holdings according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)
75	17	40	55	93	18	23	13	- Under 5 ha
20	52	48	31	5	47	38	29	- 5 to 20 ha
4	26	10	12	1	26	23	22	- 20 to 50 ha
1	5	2	2	1	8	10	17	- 50 to 100 ha
0	0	0	0	1	2	5	20	- 100 ha and over
								Distribution of areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)
20	3	10	11	23	2	2	1	- Under 5 ha
33	34	47	31	12	25	15	5	- 5 to 20 ha
23	41	28	37	12	38	26	11	- 20 to 50 ha
12	17	10	14	12	24	25	19	- 50 to 100 ha
12	4	5	7	41	10	32	65	- 100 ha and over

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
330	0	1	25	7	28	16	30	Holdings (1000)
15	6	1	13	2	35	20	13	- % of total number of agricultural holdings
136	0	1	15	8	19	10	42	Labour force (1000 AWU)
0.4	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.6	1.4	- AWU per holding
2 388	3	13	333	197	749	657	2 634	Area (1000 ha)
7.2	19.4	18.0	13.1	27.8	26.5	41.2	88.8	- ha per holding
								Distribution of holdings according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)
68	17	23	50	52	7	7	6	- Under 5 ha
25	52	58	32	24	47	38	20	- 5 to 20 ha
6	22	10	13	11	33	29	22	- 20 to 50 ha
1	8	8	4	6	11	16	21	- 50 to 100 ha
1	1	2	1	8	2	10	30	- 100 ha and over
								Distribution of areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops according to areas under cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (%)
17	3	5	8	4	1	1	0	- Under 5 ha
32	29	31	25	8	21	10	3	- 5 to 20 ha
24	33	18	31	12	38	22	8	- 20 to 50 ha
13	27	29	20	14	27	27	17	- 50 to 100 ha
13	9	16	17	62	13	40	72	- 100 ha and over

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