

Structure of agricultural holdings

The Netherlands 2003

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

4/2005

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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 11 Member States: Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, 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.

* * *

In the Netherlands, in the spring 2003 there were about 85 400* agricultural holdings, which means 16% decline compared to 2000.

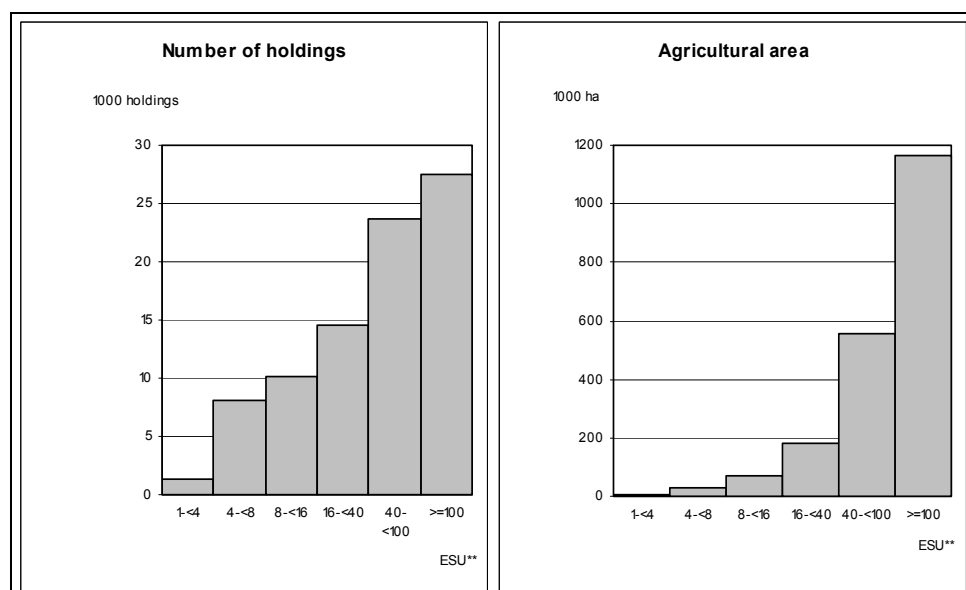
- These holdings employed 185 800 AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 185 800 persons working full time;
- they made use of 2 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 23.5 hectare per holding (compared to 20 ha in 2000).

Amongst these 85 400 agricultural holdings,

- 23% made use of less than one AWU, while 36% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 30% used less than 5 ha, while 2% used more than 100 ha;
- 10% were mixed holdings, while 90% were specialised: dairies 26%, sheep, goat and mixed grazing livestock 22%, field cropping 13%, horticulture 13% (of which 60% under glass), pigs and poultry 7%, permanent crops 5%, cattle fattening and rearing 3%, cereals, oil seed and protein crops 1%;
- about 1% practised organic farming.

Amongst the 81 900 sole holders

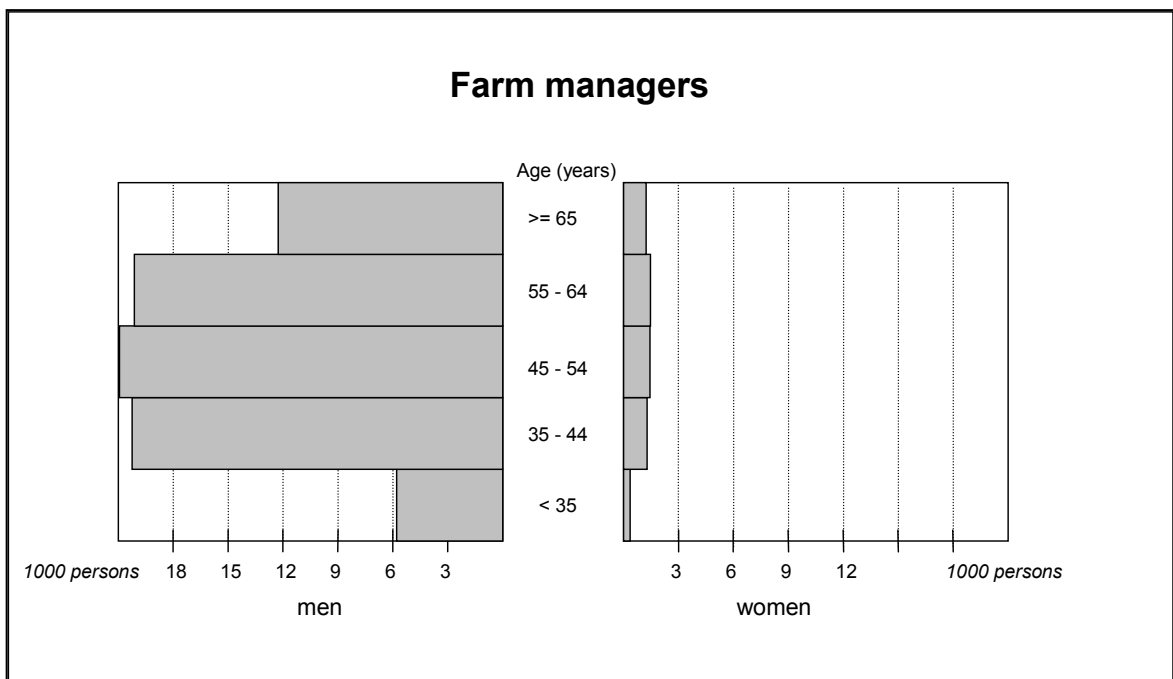
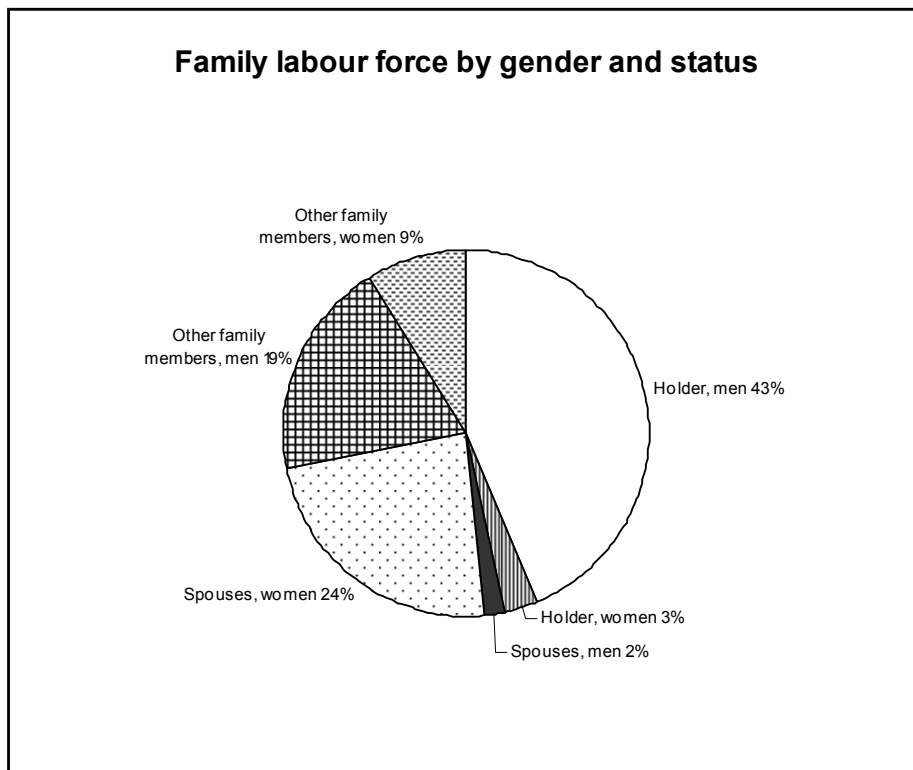
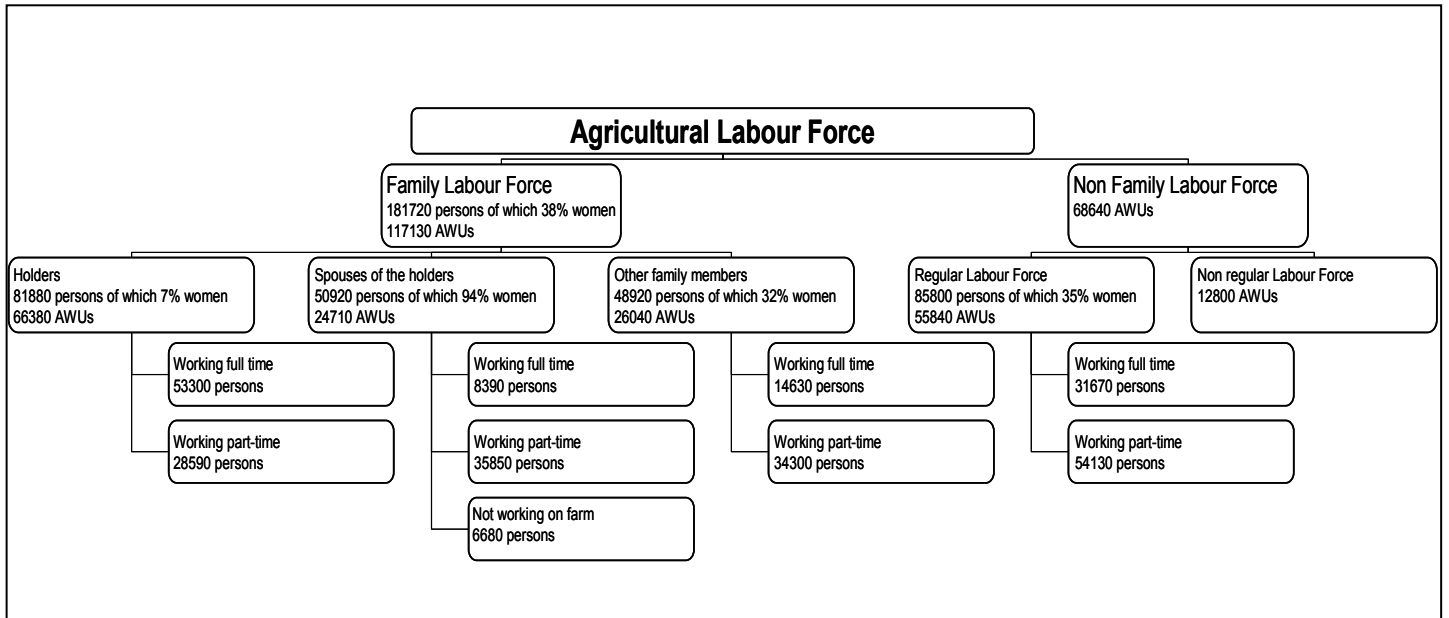
- 7% were women;
- 42% were aged 55 or more;
- 13% had another gainful activity as major occupation.



* In the Netherlands, farms above 3 NGE (Nederlandse Grootte Eenheid) are surveyed (3 NGE = 3.4375 ESU).

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

The Netherlands, 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-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total labour force								
1000 annual work units	0.5	185.8	1.0	5.3	8.9	19.6	44.5	106.4
Family labour force								
1000 persons	0.3	181.7	2.0	12.5	16.9	27.6	52.5	70.2
1000 annual work units	0.2	117.1	0.7	4.5	7.7	16.4	36.4	51.4
Non-family labour regularly employed								
1000 persons	0.4	85.8	0.5	1.3	2.0	4.8	11.1	66.1
1000 annual work units	0.2	55.8	0.3	0.7	1.1	2.7	6.2	44.8
Non regular non family labour force								
1000 annual work units	0.1	12.8	0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.9	10.1
Holding managers (1000)	0.1	85.4	1.3	8.2	10.1	14.6	23.7	27.5
- women (%)	7.7	6.9	11.5	11.0	11.2	9.0	5.5	4.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	14.7	19.1	67.2	64.2	46.2	20.9	6.1	3.6
- 50 % and over (%)	7.7	15.8	13.6	19.8	28.6	30.4	12.5	5.3
Sole/main holders (1000)	0.1	81.9	1.3	8.0	9.9	14.2	23.1	25.5
- women (%)	7.1	7.0	12.0	11.1	11.1	8.8	5.6	4.1
- distribution by age (%)								
- under 35 years	16.1	7.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	5.0	7.7	10.4
- from 35 to 44 years	26.8	25.1	12.3	12.5	14.9	19.1	29.1	33.3
- from 45 to 54 years	30.4	26.0	21.2	18.9	21.6	25.3	28.7	28.0
- from 55 to 64 years	17.9	25.4	22.7	24.5	27.9	30.2	25.1	22.5
- 65 years and over	8.9	16.5	41.3	41.1	32.0	20.4	9.4	5.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	12.5	19.1	68.1	64.5	46.3	20.5	5.7	3.1
- 50 % and over (%)	8.0	15.9	14.0	19.7	28.8	30.5	12.3	4.8
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	14.8	23.2	38.3	40.5	42.4	37.2	17.7	6.5
- as main occupation	5.6	12.8	33.6	35.1	32.7	19.1	4.1	1.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	9.3	10.4	4.7	5.4	9.7	18.1	13.6	5.3
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	0.1	50.9	0.5	3.1	4.6	8.1	15.7	18.9
- women (%)	95.7	94.2	88.5	90.7	89.8	91.9	95.2	96.1
- distribution by age (%)								
- under 35 years	20.0	10.2	4.8	5.1	5.4	6.9	10.4	13.4
- from 35 to 54 years	61.4	59.4	49.9	45.8	49.1	52.9	63.0	64.3
- 55 years and over	18.6	30.4	45.3	49.1	45.5	40.2	26.6	22.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	27.1	38.5	37.0	45.7	51.3	48.4	38.7	29.9
- 50 % and over (%)	41.4	31.9	13.3	9.5	15.3	24.5	35.3	40.4
- with another gainful activity (%)	25.7	29.2	31.9	32.5	34.6	33.3	30.6	24.2
- as main occupation	12.9	11.9	19.8	20.4	19.0	15.6	11.0	7.7
- as a subsidiary occupation	12.9	17.3	12.1	12.1	15.6	17.7	19.6	16.6
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	0.1	48.9	0.2	1.4	2.4	5.3	13.7	25.9
- women (%)	26.7	31.6	33.9	28.8	30.1	31.0	31.7	31.9
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	53.3	53.0	77.5	81.6	75.5	69.0	56.5	44.1
- 50 % and over (%)	6.7	17.1	4.1	9.4	12.6	16.3	19.0	17.1
- with another gainful activity (%)	18.7	22.5	31.7	38.6	40.1	35.8	26.2	15.3

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-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings								
- total number (1000)	0.1	85.4	1.3	8.2	10.1	14.6	23.7	27.5
- by legal personality of the holder (%)								
- sole holder	76.2	93.8	95.8	97.5	96.7	95.7	95.1	89.4
- legal person	21.7	4.1	3.5	1.9	2.3	2.8	2.6	7.4
- group holders	2.1	2.2	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.5	2.4	3.2
- by employed labour force (%)								
- under 1 AWU	12.6	22.8	74.7	76.1	60.4	30.8	5.7	1.1
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	26.6	40.8	16.8	19.6	32.2	53.2	58.9	29.4
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	22.4	21.1	4.7	3.1	5.5	12.1	26.1	33.5
- 3 AWU and over	38.5	15.3	3.8	1.3	1.9	3.9	9.3	36.0
- by agricultural area (%)								
- under 5 ha	93.0	29.5	97.9	72.8	31.6	25.8	19.0	23.6
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	4.9	30.2	2.1	27.2	68.1	54.5	23.1	11.7
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	2.1	28.2	0.1	0	0.3	19.6	51.4	32.6
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	0	10.1	0	0	0	0.1	6.4	25.8
- 100 ha and over	0	2.1	0	0	0	0	0.1	6.3
- by livestock size (%)								
- without livestock	97.9	32.0	40.1	33.2	30.4	32.0	28.5	35.1
- under 10 LSU	2.1	14.6	57.0	56.5	35.4	11.8	4.3	2.8
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0	6.6	2.4	8.5	22.8	14.7	1.6	0.4
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0	9.5	0.5	1.6	7.8	26.4	13.0	0.9
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	15.3	0	0.2	3.1	7.5	33.7	13.3
- 100 LSU and over	0	21.9	0	0	0.5	7.6	19.0	47.4
- by farm type (%)								
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	0.7	1.3	6.4	4.7	3.8	1.1	0.4	0.1
... general field cropping	4.2	13.3	16.8	14.8	16.0	17.5	14.4	8.4
... specialist horticulture	0.7	13.1	3.0	3.0	4.6	8.9	10.2	24.6
... specialist vineyard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	0	2.2	0.5	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.0	1.4
... specialist olives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	0	3.2	0.8	1.2	2.2	3.9	3.8	3.5
... specialist dairy farming	0	25.7	0.5	0.5	1.4	8.0	38.2	41.8
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	0	3.0	3.2	4.5	4.8	4.6	2.6	1.5
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	19.6	21.1	60.8	59.3	50.6	31.9	8.3	2.2
... specialist granivores	0	6.7	0.6	1.2	2.9	6.4	9.5	7.8
... mixed cropping	0.7	2.3	0.8	1.3	1.6	2.5	2.6	2.5
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	2.8	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	0	1.8	0.2	0.5	1.6	2.9	2.0	1.7
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	0.7	3.3	5.2	5.8	6.0	5.7	2.1	1.1
... various crops and livestock combined	59.4	1.6	0.6	0.7	1.2	2.0	1.6	2.0
- by farming methods (%)								
- organic farming	1.4	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.5	1.9	1.2
- irrigating	2.1	9.0	2.3	3.2	4.4	7.8	10.2	12.3
- with crops under glass	0	11.1	1.0	1.2	2.3	6.8	9.3	21.5
- % in less favoured or mountain area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Area (1000 ha)								
• Total area of agricultural holdings	0.3	2189.8	3.6	32.9	71.9	191.3	576.1	1314.1
• H. Other area	0.1	182.8	0.3	2.0	3.6	8.2	18.1	150.5
Wooded area	0	106.0	0	0.2	0.6	1.8	3.4	99.9
• Agricultural area	0.2	2007.0	3.3	30.9	68.2	183.0	558.0	1163.6
- D. Arable land	0.2	1100.9	1.3	12.0	29.6	89.8	294.6	673.6
Cereals	0	221.1	0.4	4.0	10.1	29.1	69.5	108.0
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0	129.9	0.2	1.5	3.8	14.6	41.7	68.1
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rye</i>	0	3.5	0	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.6
<i>Barley</i>	0	55.0	0.2	1.2	2.7	8.0	18.3	24.7
<i>Oats</i>	0	2.5	0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.0
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	24.5	0.1	1.0	2.7	4.6	6.2	10.1
Dried pulses	0	5.7	0	0	0.2	0.8	2.2	2.5
Root crops	0	262.1	0.1	1.1	3.7	17.9	74.8	164.5
<i>Potatoes</i>	0	158.6	0	0.4	1.2	7.9	43.1	106.1
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	102.8	0.1	0.7	2.4	9.9	31.6	58.1
<i>Fodder root</i>	0	0.6	0	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.3
Industrial crops	0	12.6	0	0.1	0.2	1.4	4.5	6.4
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Hops</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0.6
<i>Sunflower</i>	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1
<i>Soya</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	0	79.3	0	0.2	0.8	4.5	20.2	53.6
<i>outside</i>	0	75.0	0	0.2	0.8	4.4	19.9	49.7
<i>under glass</i>	0	4.3	0	0	0	0	0.3	4.0
Flower and ornamental plants	0	34.2	0	0	0.1	0.6	2.6	30.9
<i>outside</i>	0	28.4	0	0	0.1	0.5	2.2	25.5
<i>under glass</i>	0	5.8	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	5.4
Fodder plants	0	425.2	0.6	5.7	12.9	30.0	103.6	272.4
Fallow land	0.2	27.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	2.0	7.1	17.0
- E. Kitchen garden	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	0	875.0	2.0	18.7	38.2	91.0	254.1	471.2
- G. Permanent crops	0	31.1	0	0.2	0.5	2.3	9.4	18.8
Fruit and berry plantation	0	18.8	0	0.1	0.4	1.5	7.1	9.6
Citrus plantation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vineyard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ratios								
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	1.5	23.5	2.5	3.8	6.7	12.6	23.6	42.2
Agricultural area... (%)								
... own farmed	78.3	61.4	80.1	76.9	70.8	64.0	60.4	60.4
... in less favoured or mountain area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... organic farmed	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.6	2.2	1.8
... irrigated	0.5	3.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.4	3.7
... under cover crop protecting soil	0	2.3	0.4	1.3	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4

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

Economic size (ESU)		<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total livestock	(1000 LSU⁺)	0	6154.2	3.1	34.8	101.3	418.8	1706.9	3889.3
of which grazing	(%)	100.0	47.8	91.8	84.6	66.3	46.8	48.6	46.8
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)								
Equidae		0	126.3	0.6	7.6	16.0	29.2	36.3	36.6
Bovine animals									
Under 1 year		0	1364.1	0.5	5.7	18.1	90.5	398.7	850.7
From 1 to less than 2 years		0	645.6	0.4	5.5	15.9	54.1	178.1	391.6
Dairy cows		0	1477.8	0	0.3	1.5	22.5	400.1	1053.3
Other cows		0	144.0	0.5	6.6	18.4	43.6	42.8	32.2
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		0	127.7	0.2	2.1	5.3	15.2	39.2	65.7
Sheep		0	1184.5	13.2	94.8	148.8	263.5	358.7	305.7
Goats		0	274.2	0.3	4.1	5.4	21.7	138.4	104.2
Granivores									
Pigs	(1000 heads)								
Piglets < 20 kg		0	4541.7	0	0.8	8.6	75.3	1305.1	3151.8
Breeding sows		0	1126.6	0	0.2	1.7	18.3	316.6	789.8
Other pigs		0	5500.8	0.8	16.1	103.0	634.4	1801.9	2944.7
Poultry	(million heads)	0	81.2	0	0	0.2	1.6	13.4	66.1
Broilers		0	42.3	0	0	0	0.5	7.2	34.5
Laying hens		0	36.9	0	0	0.1	0.9	5.7	30.1
Other poultry		0	2.0	0	0	0	0.1	0.4	1.5
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	0	44.6	0	0.4	1.8	12.5	21.3	8.7
Beehives	(1000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total livestock per holding with...	(LSU/holding)	1.3	106.1	4.0	6.4	14.4	42.3	100.8	217.4
Livestock		1.3	81.3	3.8	5.9	12.2	33.3	82.5	166.0
Grazing livestock		:	90.5	4.8	7.4	14.5	35.3	80.3	158.4
Bovine animals (cattle)		:	92.3	4.8	7.6	14.6	35.6	80.2	158.5
Cattle, other than cows		:	271.5	10.9	21.2	47.7	111.6	205.0	451.7
Granivores		:	253.9	15.0	26.3	53.7	118.4	205.1	415.7
Pigs		:							
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)								
Equidae		1.0	7.1	2.0	2.9	4.8	7.8	9.2	9.4
Dairy cows		:	59.1	1.4	1.8	3.6	13.3	40.5	82.1
Other cows		:	10.9	3.3	4.6	7.8	13.0	13.4	11.5
Sheep		10.3	80.4	38.1	46.4	63.3	94.6	92.7	91.7
Goats		:	58.2	4.4	7.5	7.9	26.4	102.3	85.0
Breeding sows		:	247.4	3.3	8.3	24.0	63.1	165.2	351.5
Other pigs > 20 kg		:	523.0	49.8	86.3	169.9	353.8	444.6	762.1
Rabbits, breeding females		:	375.1	:	69.7	108.2	270.7	574.6	666.5
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	:	22.0	0	0.2	1.1	3.9	11.3	41.2
Broilers	(1000/holding)	:	54.4	:	3.0	4.8	12.3	33.6	68.0
Beehives	(hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

+ LSU : Livestock Unit

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

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production:								
(% all holdings)	18.9	29.7	15.5	18.6	22.4	30.6	33.3	32.9
Tourism	2.1	3.0	1.6	2.4	2.7	3.8	3.5	2.4
Handicraft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Processing of farm products	0.7	1.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.6	1.7
Wood processing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aquaculture	2.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Renewable energy production	2.8	2.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	2.1	5.6
Contractual work	1.4	5.8	1.9	2.1	3.1	5.3	7.2	7.2
Other gainful activities n.a.e	11.2	22.7	12.9	15.3	18.4	25.0	26.0	22.9

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in The Netherlands was carried out in the spring 2003 on an exhaustive base. Such full-scale agricultural censuses have been conducted on an annual basis since 1934. The reference time of the FSS 2003 was 1 April 2003. However for characteristics that cannot be determined on this date the situation for later in 2003 or the whole year was taken into account.

The target population was all the farms registered in the National Farm Register, which is updated continuously. For the census all holdings above 3 NGE (Nederlandse Grootte Eenheid) are selected (97 thousand farms in 2003). [The NGE is the Dutch equivalent of the ESU, but due to the differences in inflation levels 1 NGE is 1375 euros in the concerning year.] For certain characteristics (e.g. environmental aspects, less-favoured and set-aside areas) administrative sources and Geographic Information System have been used.

The data are multi-level checked; 99% of the questionnaires have been returned completed. Partly completed forms and errors have been corrected via phone-calls.

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).

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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'Statline' database: statline.cbs.nl

Website of the Centraal Bureau voor der Statistiek: www.cbs.nl

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

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