

Structure of agricultural holdings

France 2003

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

8/2005

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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 13 Member States: Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, 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 France*, in 2003 about 566 300 agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least one ESU (European size unit) (10% decline in the number of the holdings on the motherland compared to 2000).**

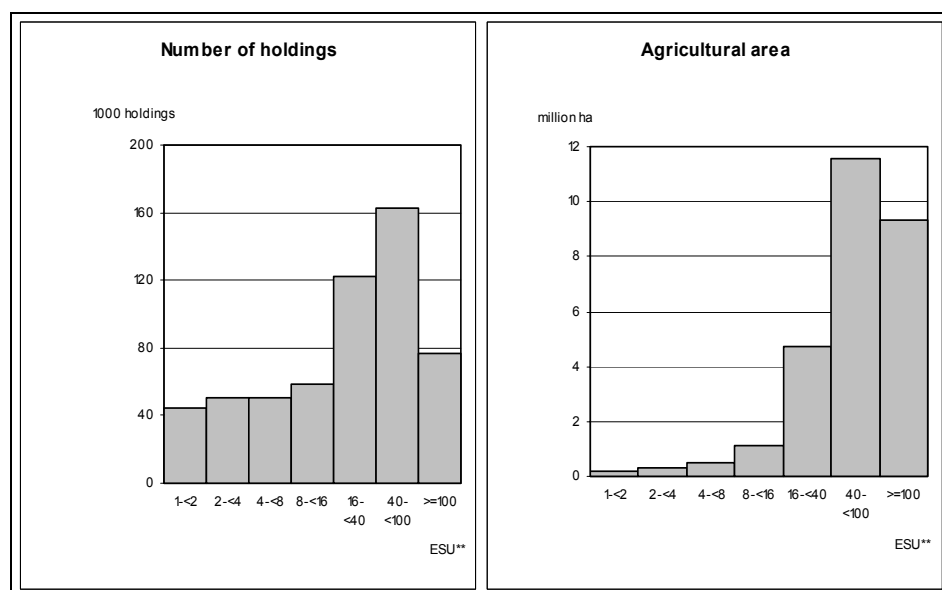
- These holdings employed 901 100 AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 901 100 persons working full time;
- they made use of 27.7 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 48.9 hectare per holding (50.6 ha on the motherland compared to 45.8 ha in 2000).

Amongst these 566 300 agricultural holdings,

- 32% made use of less than one AWU, while 29% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 22% used less than 5 ha, while 15% used 100 ha or more;
- 19% were mixed holdings, while 81% were specialised: for cereals, oil seed and protein crops 17%, vineyards 14%, dairies 12%, cattle rearing and fattening 12%, other grazing livestock 11%, field cropping 7%, other permanent crops 4%, horticulture 3% (of which 35% under glass), pigs and poultry 2%;
- about 1.5% practised organic farming.

Amongst the 479 400 sole holders

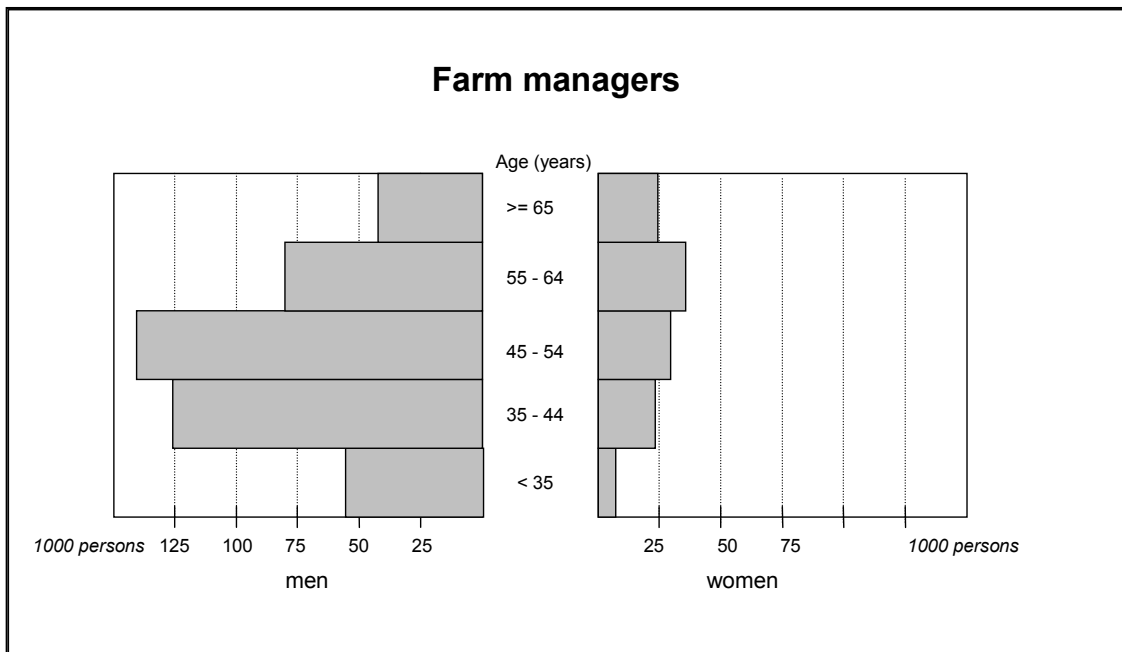
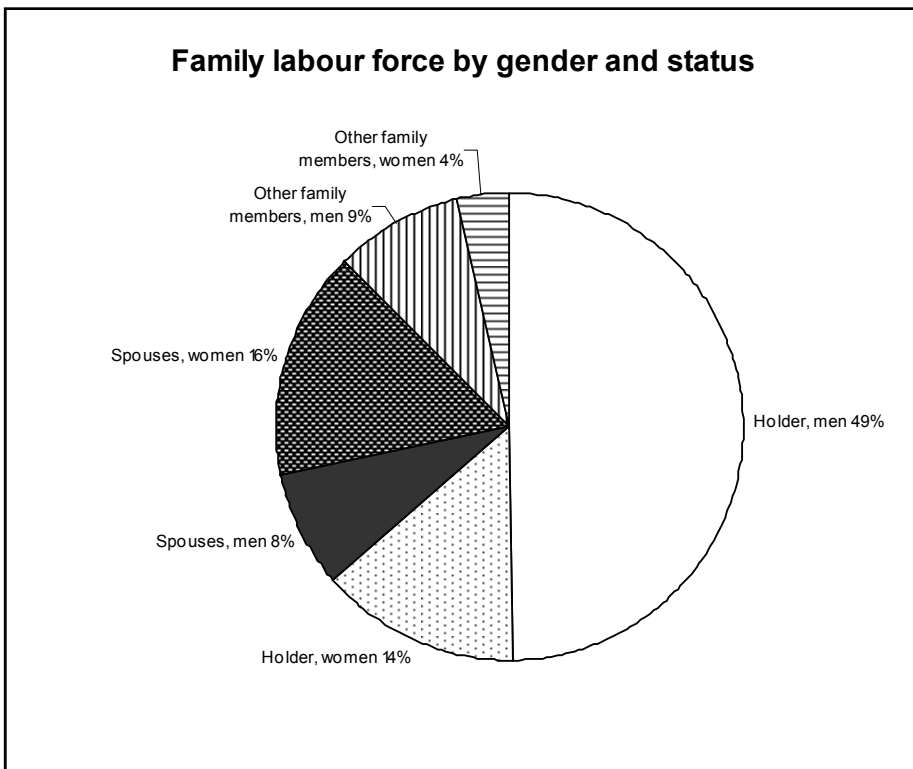
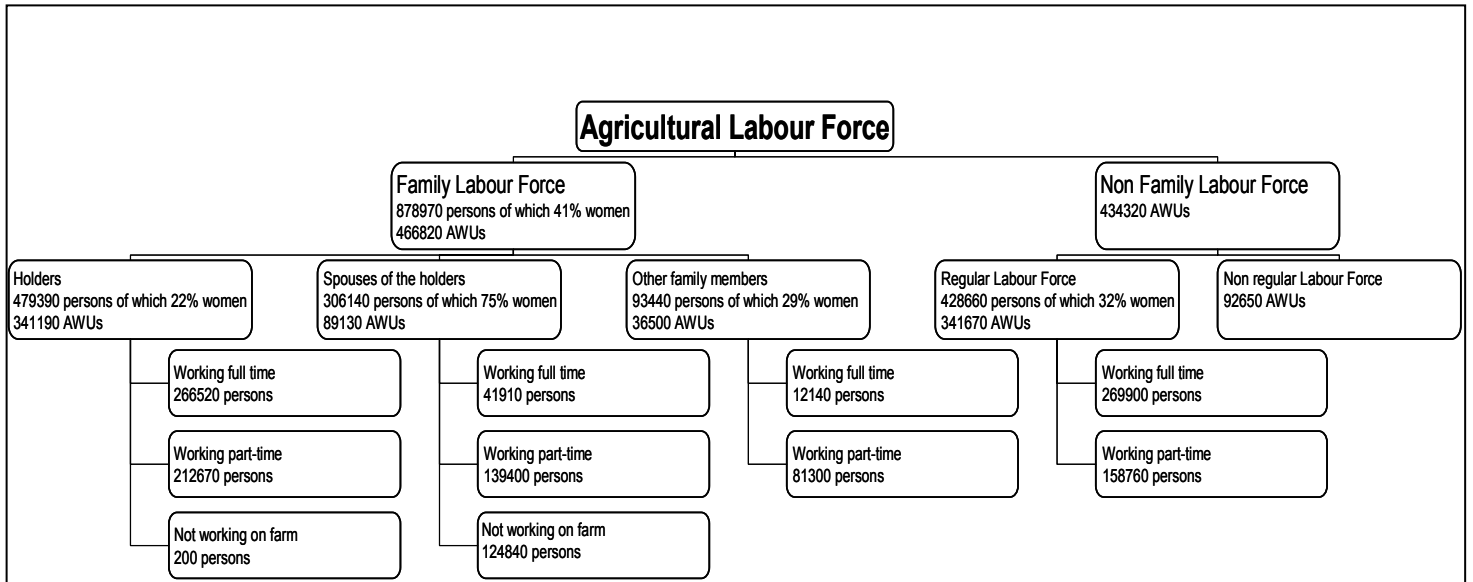
- 22% were women;
- 35% were aged 55 or more, only 11% is younger than 35 years;
- 17% had another gainful activity as major occupation.



* In 2003, the presented results are including the figures of the overseas departments for the first time.

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

France, 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	12.7	901.1	15.1	23.6	35.2	56.4	166.2	300.6	304.1
Family labour force									
1000 persons	81.5	879.0	77.8	89.0	90.9	105.2	220.9	228.5	66.6
1000 annual work units	11.6	466.8	14.0	22.0	31.0	50.0	136.0	161.1	52.7
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	1.4	428.7	1.5	2.1	5.0	8.1	33.5	150.8	227.6
1000 annual work units	0.9	341.7	0.7	1.1	2.9	4.6	22.8	115.8	193.7
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.2	92.7	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.8	7.4	23.6	57.7
Holding managers (1000)	47.7	566.3	44.7	50.4	50.5	58.8	122.1	162.6	77.2
- women (%)	23.6	21.2	26.5	32.2	33.5	32.5	21.7	12.9	11.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	93.1	29.2	88.3	78.2	61.2	39.0	16.0	5.7	4.5
- 50 % and over (%)	3.8	11.7	7.5	12.4	18.8	18.8	13.3	8.4	7.5
Sole/main holders (1000)	47.2	479.4	44.3	49.7	49.5	56.5	114.4	122.4	42.7
- women (%)	23.7	21.9	26.5	32.3	33.2	32.9	21.7	11.3	8.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	3.0	11.0	3.0	4.0	6.3	8.7	11.2	16.4	20.3
- from 35 to 44 years	12.2	24.0	10.6	12.8	18.6	21.8	27.1	30.5	33.1
- from 45 to 54 years	18.5	29.6	18.5	21.2	26.1	31.2	33.6	33.6	30.6
- from 55 to 64 years	23.4	21.9	23.0	23.7	26.4	27.1	23.6	17.4	14.4
- 65 years and over	42.8	13.5	44.9	38.4	22.6	11.2	4.5	2.0	1.6
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	93.4	32.4	88.6	78.5	61.4	38.8	15.5	4.9	2.9
- 50 % and over (%)	3.8	11.9	7.5	12.3	18.8	19.0	13.4	8.0	5.7
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	37.9	24.9	34.4	37.3	41.2	34.3	18.9	10.8	13.1
- as main occupation	36.3	17.4	32.2	33.0	35.1	24.0	9.5	3.0	2.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	1.6	7.6	2.2	4.4	6.1	10.4	9.4	7.9	11.0
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	31.8	306.1	30.7	32.9	34.0	36.7	76.1	78.2	17.5
- women (%)	77.7	74.8	74.4	64.6	64.3	60.9	74.2	87.6	90.5
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	3.3	9.5	3.1	4.1	5.7	8.1	11.2	14.5	10.8
- from 35 to 54 years	33.4	55.4	31.7	35.2	45.8	52.8	62.2	68.0	72.4
- 55 years and over	63.2	35.2	65.2	60.7	48.5	39.1	26.6	17.5	16.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	27.6	33.9	37.5	43.0	42.6	40.6	32.3	25.4	24.7
- 50 % and over (%)	0.6	11.6	2.0	4.0	7.7	11.4	15.5	15.5	17.1
- with another gainful activity (%)	36.7	42.5	32.7	33.4	46.8	47.6	45.6	42.8	42.2
- as main occupation	36.6	41.2	32.5	33.2	46.0	46.2	43.9	40.9	40.5
- as a subsidiary occupation	0.1	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.7
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	2.4	93.4	2.9	6.5	7.5	11.9	30.4	27.9	6.3
- women (%)	29.5	28.7	25.7	31.1	24.7	31.4	30.5	27.6	23.5
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	95.6	71.1	92.5	91.4	80.9	76.6	71.4	64.7	45.0
- 50 % and over (%)	2.2	16.0	6.4	7.0	14.1	15.6	16.9	17.5	20.9
- with another gainful activity (%)	47.2	23.0	36.9	41.4	29.3	27.3	18.2	17.8	28.8

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)	47.7	566.3	44.7	50.4	50.5	58.8	122.1	162.6	77.2
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	98.9	76.6	98.8	98.2	97.4	95.6	91.2	62.7	27.6
- legal person	0.9	15.4	1.0	1.4	2.1	3.8	6.4	24.7	44.7
- group holders	0.2	8.0	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6	2.4	12.5	27.8
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	95.9	31.6	92.5	84.4	69.2	45.7	18.8	5.7	1.2
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	3.4	39.3	6.6	14.3	26.2	45.7	60.9	50.8	20.2
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	0.4	18.9	0.8	1.2	3.7	7.2	17.0	33.0	33.2
- 3 AWU and over	0.3	10.2	0.1	0.1	0.9	1.4	3.3	10.6	45.4
- by agricultural area (%)									
- under 5 ha	90.3	22.3	77.4	61.4	39.7	24.9	12.1	4.8	4.5
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	9.3	20.6	20.3	35.0	49.1	38.4	16.1	8.8	11.0
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	0.4	21.4	2.2	3.3	10.2	31.5	43.3	19.4	13.4
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	0	20.9	0.1	0.3	0.8	4.1	25.4	43.9	17.0
- 100 ha and over	0	14.8	0	0.1	0.2	1.0	3.2	23.1	54.1
- by livestock size (%)									
- without livestock	30.7	34.1	29.1	35.0	37.5	36.8	29.6	29.8	48.4
- under 10 LSU	69.3	21.2	70.7	55.7	34.9	21.9	10.9	7.2	6.3
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0	5.9	0.2	9.0	20.0	14.2	5.1	2.0	1.2
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0	13.0	0	0.3	7.4	24.5	29.8	10.0	3.3
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	14.4	0	0	0.2	2.2	21.9	29.0	8.2
- 100 LSU and over	0	11.4	0	0	0	0.4	2.7	22.0	32.6
- by farm type (%)									
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	1.7	16.9	7.9	15.6	17.7	19.9	16.2	18.6	17.6
... general field cropping	1.6	6.7	3.2	5.1	6.5	7.0	4.9	6.0	13.7
... specialist horticulture	0.1	2.8	0.5	1.0	2.1	4.5	4.1	2.3	3.5
... specialist vineyard	11.2	13.8	11.2	14.3	14.9	13.5	11.4	11.8	22.6
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	1.5	2.7	2.2	2.9	5.0	3.2	2.5	1.9	3.2
... specialist olives	3.9	0.2	1.7	0.5	0.3	0	0	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.4
... specialist dairy farming	0	12.0	1.2	1.4	1.4	4.6	16.8	23.1	6.7
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	10.6	11.9	15.0	15.4	16.9	18.3	17.8	7.1	1.0
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	1.9	0	0.3	0.4	0.6	2.2	3.5	2.4
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	47.0	8.7	26.4	17.5	12.9	9.1	7.7	4.0	0.8
... specialist granivores	0.9	2.3	0.6	1.2	1.5	2.4	2.1	2.2	4.9
... mixed cropping	1.9	4.7	7.2	8.5	6.6	5.5	3.9	3.2	3.5
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	7.1	2.7	8.9	5.7	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.8
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	3.3	1.4	2.0	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.8	2.1	2.6
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	0.5	7.3	2.2	4.1	5.7	6.3	5.8	9.7	11.8
... various crops and livestock combined	6.6	2.9	8.7	5.3	3.7	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.4
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.1	1.5	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.9	2.3	1.8	1.1
- irrigating	2.0	17.2	3.7	6.2	10.0	15.6	19.1	20.4	28.3
- with crops under glass	0	2.6	0.1	0.3	1.1	3.4	3.7	2.7	4.1
- % in less favoured or mountain area	42.1	44.2	47.6	52.2	53.9	55.1	55.3	36.3	20.9

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	160.3	29429.8	254.8	394.4	621.2	1290.0	5177.2	12065.2	9627.1
• H. Other area	50.3	1744.7	79.8	103.2	126.7	169.7	441.7	516.9	306.7
Wooded area	33.3	1129.2	60.3	70.9	98.0	125.7	306.9	310.1	157.4
• Agricultural area	110.1	27685.2	175.0	291.2	494.5	1120.3	4735.5	11548.3	9320.4
- D. Arable land	8.6	18335.9	26.9	70.9	161.9	437.6	2254.5	7890.6	7493.6
Cereals	1.0	8913.1	10.1	37.8	80.5	204.5	932.0	3626.1	4022.1
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.5	4516.5	3.5	14.3	25.0	68.6	346.1	1827.5	2231.4
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	364.2	0.4	1.0	3.4	9.2	42.5	145.6	162.1
<i>Rye</i>	0	28.7	0.1	0.3	0.8	1.4	7.6	10.0	8.4
<i>Barley</i>	0.1	1748.7	2.1	7.0	12.5	31.6	170.8	713.1	811.7
<i>Oats</i>	0.1	128.9	0.5	2.2	3.6	8.8	28.3	53.5	31.9
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.1	1683.7	2.5	10.0	28.4	66.7	237.2	667.1	671.8
Dried pulses	0	469.0	0.2	0.5	1.5	4.7	25.6	170.8	265.6
Root crops	0.2	589.9	0.4	0.8	1.4	3.0	19.6	132.4	432.3
<i>Potatoes</i>	0	157.3	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.5	6.1	27.3	120.7
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	418.3	0	0	0.1	0.8	11.1	98.5	307.8
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.1	14.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	2.5	6.6	3.8
Industrial crops	0.2	2004.8	1.4	5.7	16.1	50.7	189.9	827.5	913.5
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	9.3	0	0	0	0.2	1.6	4.5	2.9
<i>Hops</i>	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.5	0.3
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0	1059.8	0.2	0.7	1.5	7.2	48.6	418.6	583.0
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.1	680.8	0.6	2.9	9.3	27.8	108.7	321.4	210.0
<i>Soya</i>	0	76.4	0	0.1	0.7	1.8	11.2	38.1	24.5
Fresh vegetables, melons, <i>outside</i>	0	265.4	0.1	0.5	1.2	3.3	17.5	69.8	173.0
<i>under glass</i>	0	258.5	0.1	0.5	1.2	3.2	16.9	68.2	168.6
<i>Flower and ornamental plants</i> <i>outside</i>	0	8.7	0	0	0	0.2	0.9	1.7	5.8
<i>under glass</i>	0	6.3	0	0	0	0.2	0.6	1.1	4.4
Fodder plants	4.5	4695.1	10.9	18.6	48.9	137.9	904.9	2465.0	1109.0
Fallow land	2.8	1344.8	3.9	6.9	12.1	32.6	159.0	580.6	549.9
- E. Kitchen garden	0.5	17.7	1.4	2.1	1.9	1.9	4.1	4.6	1.7
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	97.4	8209.4	140.6	206.9	310.8	647.2	2334.4	3303.5	1265.9
- G. Permanent crops	3.6	1122.2	6.0	11.3	19.8	33.6	142.5	349.6	559.3
Fruit and berry plantation	0.4	210.9	1.0	3.0	5.9	7.8	29.3	53.4	110.6
Citrus plantation	0	4.0	0	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	1.4	0.8
Olive trees	1.5	12.9	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.8	2.3
Vineyard	1.7	870.9	3.0	6.9	11.2	22.7	108.1	289.8	429.3
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	2.3	48.9	3.9	5.8	9.8	19.1	38.8	71.0	120.8
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	80.4	28.4	75.0	70.7	64.9	52.5	41.4	26.4	17.3
... in less favoured or mountain area	47.6	44.2	55.1	64.0	66.6	68.7	68.3	45.1	25.9
... organic farmed	0.1	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.9	2.5	2.3	1.6	0.7
... irrigated	1.6	7.0	1.3	1.5	2.5	2.9	3.8	6.0	10.9
... under cover crop protecting soil	0	3.5	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.1	3.2	5.8

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 ⁺)	52.6	23263.6	98.8	171.1	313.4	705.1	3741.9	10146.2	8087.1
of which grazing (%)	92.0	66.2	91.0	90.1	88.2	83.8	85.9	74.0	44.1
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)									
Equidae	29.8	365.6	43.7	52.8	83.0	55.4	60.4	49.9	20.6
Bovine animals									
Under 1 year	2.6	5113.2	10.6	23.3	50.2	166.1	1054.0	2571.2	1237.7
From 1 to less than 2 years	4.5	3525.4	11.5	21.8	36.4	85.5	551.4	1776.0	1042.9
Dairy cows	0	4051.0	0.8	2.5	5.7	34.8	581.4	2215.8	1210.0
Other cows	4.1	4128.8	14.4	44.2	106.8	273.7	1277.4	1814.5	597.7
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	6.3	2618.5	17.3	28.6	44.3	105.9	515.2	1293.3	613.9
Sheep	107.6	9154.3	143.1	233.8	305.8	676.5	2961.4	3856.5	977.2
Goats	7.2	1308.3	13.6	19.3	49.2	86.3	263.5	633.8	242.6
Granivores									
Pigs (1000 heads)									
Piglets < 20 kg	0.9	5413.8	1.3	2.8	6.8	15.0	162.0	1314.5	3911.2
Breeding sows	0.2	1356.0	0.6	1.7	4.8	7.2	46.7	327.0	968.1
Other pigs	1.6	8464.3	3.4	6.7	12.2	31.4	272.4	2527.2	5610.9
Poultry (million heads)	0.2	295.0	0.4	0.9	2.3	6.8	28.8	113.1	142.6
Broilers	0.1	138.5	0.1	0.4	1.5	3.8	15.0	64.7	53.0
Laying hens	0.1	73.8	0.2	0.3	0.4	1.1	6.6	14.4	50.9
Other poultry	0	82.7	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.9	7.2	34.0	38.7
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	12.0	963.2	28.8	38.0	42.0	76.1	222.6	398.1	157.5
Beehives (1000)	22.8	640.3	37.5	51.1	73.3	99.2	248.2	83.0	48.0
Total livestock per holding with... (LSU/holding)									
Livestock	1.6	62.3	3.1	5.2	9.9	19.0	43.5	88.9	203.0
Grazing livestock	1.7	59.8	3.7	6.2	11.6	20.1	44.8	87.9	168.0
Bovine animals (cattle)	2.2	69.8	4.1	6.8	12.2	22.1	47.7	91.8	176.6
Cattle, other than cows	2.4	71.6	4.4	7.2	12.7	22.8	48.3	92.0	177.4
Granivores	1.3	68.5	2.3	4.2	8.1	17.2	42.0	101.2	285.7
Pigs	1.7	107.6	2.7	4.9	7.8	15.7	42.3	120.2	351.9
Average size of herds* (head/holding)									
Equidae	2.5	6.6	5.0	7.4	12.5	10.0	5.7	4.1	4.4
Dairy cows	:	35.6	1.1	1.8	3.7	8.6	21.6	37.3	60.5
Other cows	1.2	27.5	2.2	4.1	7.9	14.8	29.9	40.1	46.1
Sheep	7.8	135.3	15.2	26.2	44.1	92.1	182.8	255.2	263.0
Goats	4.9	53.7	5.3	6.9	13.9	23.1	47.6	124.6	216.6
Breeding sows	1.0	86.8	1.4	2.6	4.0	5.5	17.9	72.9	194.7
Other pigs > 20 kg	2.0	174.1	1.7	2.6	3.1	6.6	24.2	158.7	688.9
Rabbits, breeding females	2.4	14.1	3.5	4.0	5.0	9.7	13.0	27.1	59.9
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.4	5.6
Broilers (1000/holding)	0	1.6	0	0	0.2	0.4	0.7	2.8	9.5
Beehives (hive/holding)	9.9	55.8	13.9	23.5	43.1	81.5	118.4	66.0	145.8

* 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-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production:									
(% all holdings)	13.8	25.6	18.7	22.7	25.2	26.4	23.7	24.7	35.8
Tourism	2.1	2.9	2.0	2.9	4.1	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.7
Handicraft	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
Processing of farm products	1.9	9.0	3.3	5.5	6.7	7.7	8.3	9.7	16.9
Wood processing	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.5
Aquaculture	0.2	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0
Renewable energy production	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0
Contractual work	0.2	4.3	0.5	1.0	1.3	2.3	3.0	6.2	10.1
Other gainful activities n.a.e	11.0	18.3	15.3	18.7	20.8	20.6	17.5	15.5	23.7

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The 2003 survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in France was carried out between October 2003 and April 2004 on a sample base. Prior full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 2000. For the first time the 2003 results are including the overseas departments.

The target population was the holdings producing agricultural goods, reaching a certain threshold (in terms of land area, number of livestock or volume of production) and independently run. These holdings are drawn from an updated permanent Sample Survey Basis. The frame was stratified by type of farming and economic size. For each department (NUTS 3) an exhaustiveness threshold (generally 250ESU) was defined to ensure all units with biggest importance being included; these holdings were inserted into a separate stratum. Generally 20 strata (in Brittany 24) were defined, plus the special ones. In the strata random sampling with Neyman-allocation was applied based on SGM, but in some cases on utilised agricultural area. In each department (NUT 3) the number of holdings drawn varies between 300 and 1200 depending on the importance and diversity of agriculture. The sample size was 79 431 (of which 3 809 in the overseas departments).

The data are multi-level checked. The non-response was 0.59%, which was handled by "replacement" (interviewing a holding with similar characteristics). Where replacement was not possible questionnaires were filled in using information from the 2000 census and administrative data sources (CAP files). Missing or incorrect data were handled following telephone contact with the farmers.

For each activity ('entreprise') 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 1824 hours (228 working days of 8 working hours per day).

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

370 000 exploitations professionnelles. Enquête sur la structure des exploitations agricoles en 2003. Agreste Primeur 147, ministère de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche et de la ruralité, July 2004

Website of the *Service central des enquêtes et études statistiques* of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs: www.agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr

Publications (Résultats de travaux/Structure des exploitations 2003): www.agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr/default.asp?rub=resw&hauteur=535

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

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

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ORIGINAL TEXT: English