

Farm structure in Italy – 2005

42% of the holders are aged 65 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 Italy. A similar publication was issued in March 2005 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Italy.

* * *

At the end of 2005 in Italy, about **1.38 million*** agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

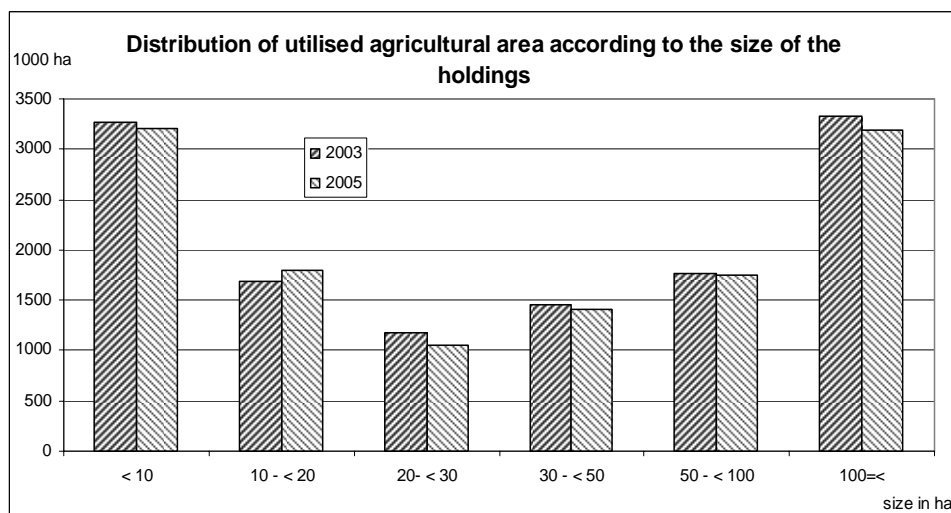
- These holdings employed 1.27 million AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 1.27 million thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 12.4 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average **9 ha per holding** (compared to 8.2 ha in 2003).

Among these 1.38 million agricultural holdings

- 64% made use of less than one AWU, while 12% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 67% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 1% used 100 ha or more;
- 19% were holdings of the type specialist olives, 15% specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops, 12% specialist vineyards, 10% were engaged in mixed cropping and 10% were general field cropping;
- 50% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas;
- 3% were organic farms;
- 25% were producing mainly for their own consumption;
- 15% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 1.35 million sole holders

- 30% were women;
- 65% were aged 55 or more, and only 4% were younger than 35 years;
- 23% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.



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.

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

22/2007

Agriculture

Authors

György BENOIST

PoI MARQUER

Contents

Table 1 – Labour force by size of the farms.....3

Table 2 – Agricultural holdings by size.....4

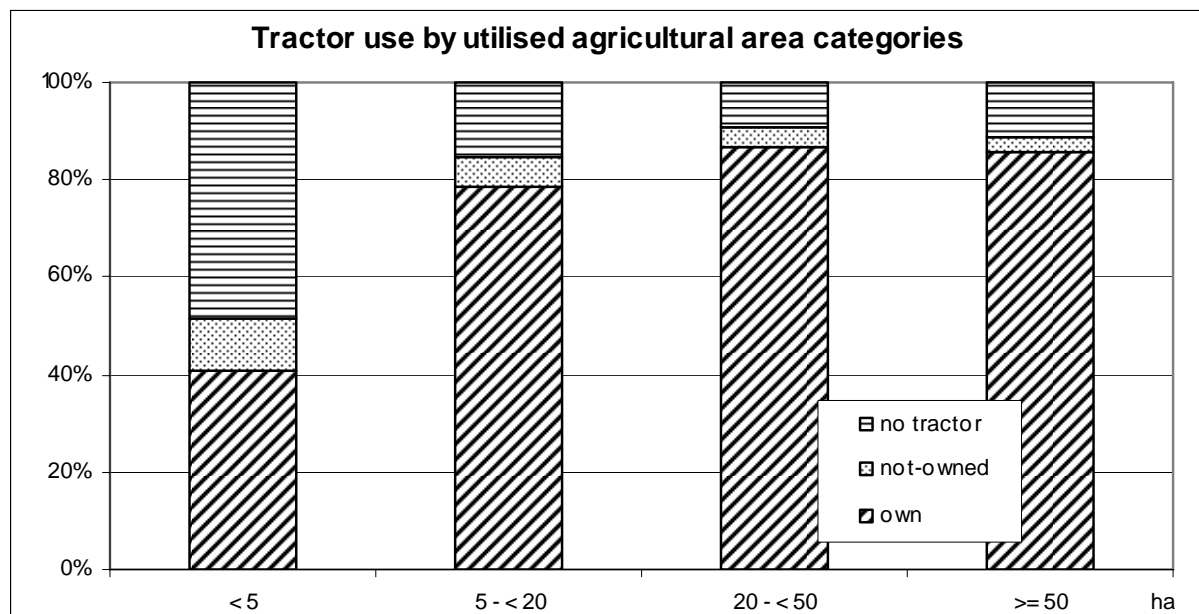
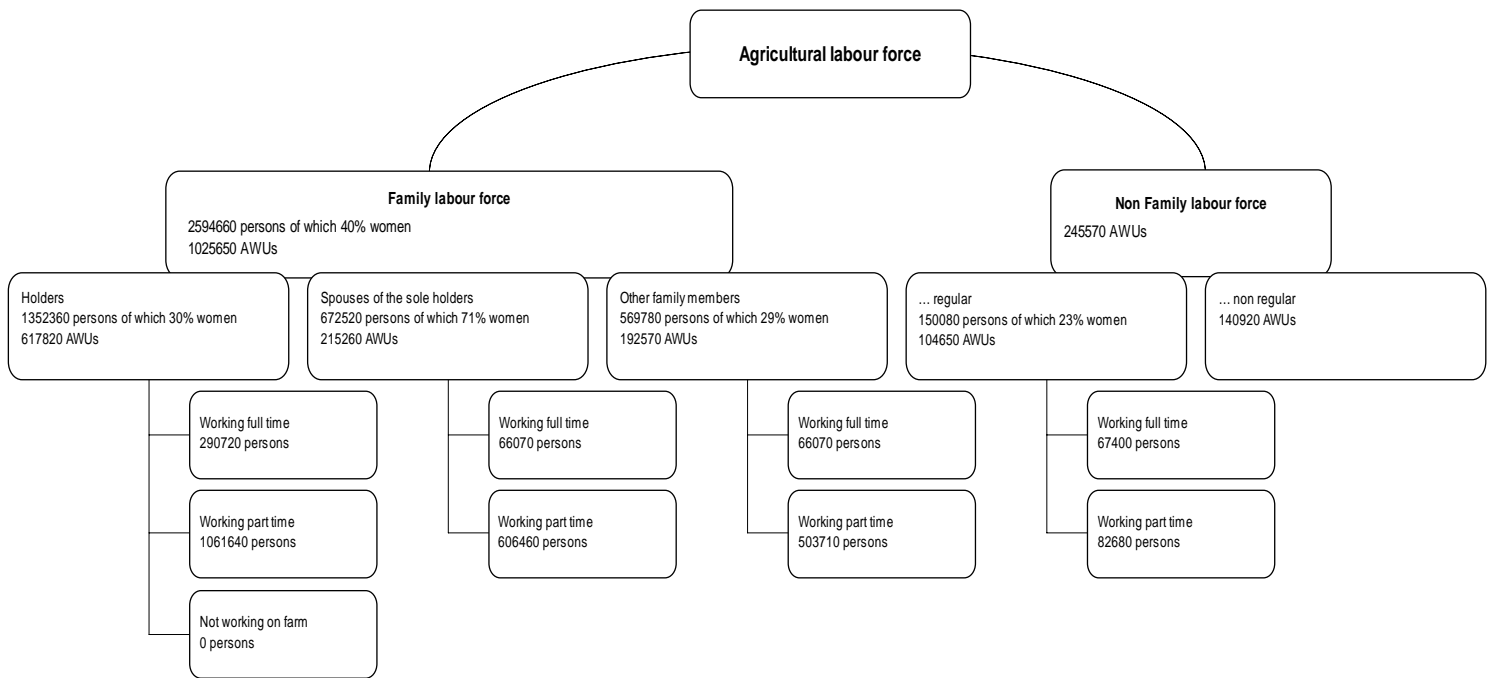
Table 3 – Land use by size of the farms.....5

Table 4 – Livestock by size of the farms.....6

Table 5 – Subsistence farming...7



Italy 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 = <		0	0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 = <
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	593.4	402.9	148.8	126.1	1271.2	856.6	140.6	168.5	105.5
Family labour force									
1000 persons	1709.3	661.4	158.2	65.9	2594.7	2021.9	285.5	216.1	71.2
1000 annual work units	535.6	337.9	103.5	48.7	1025.7	679.7	132.9	154.2	58.8
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	31.7	33.6	31.0	53.8	150.1	96.1	4.4	9.5	40.0
1000 annual work units	17.8	21.7	23.1	42.0	104.7	59.7	2.5	7.1	35.3
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	39.9	43.3	22.2	35.5	140.9	117.2	5.1	7.2	11.4
Holding managers (1000)	928.6	332.1	81.0	38.6	1380.3	1109.3	136.2	100.1	34.7
- women (%)	29.2	25.2	14.5	10.8	26.9	27.2	32.9	21.6	7.4
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	74.9	42.3	22.0	18.3	62.4	70.8	47.2	10.2	4.4
- 50 % and over(%)	13.2	20.8	18.5	14.3	15.4	14.7	24.2	14.1	6.7
- with a basic agricult. training only (%)	90.2	90.8	88.7	83.2	90.0	90.0	90.0	92.1	85.4
- with a full agricultural training (%)	2.2	5.0	8.3	15.2	3.6	3.4	1.7	4.8	12.5
Sole/main holders (1000)	922.8	325.1	74.6	29.8	1352.4	1091.0	135.4	98.1	27.9
- women (%)	31.8	27.4	17.7	14.1	29.6	29.9	35.2	23.6	9.2
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	2.6	5.5	8.6	9.6	3.8	3.3	3.1	8.5	11.8
- from 35 to 44 years	9.6	14.5	21.3	22.8	11.7	10.6	10.5	22.0	27.1
- from 45 to 54 years	18.9	18.8	21.7	25.0	19.2	18.5	18.8	24.5	28.3
- from 55 to 64 years	24.1	22.8	22.0	19.9	23.6	23.8	22.9	23.2	18.5
- 65 years and over	44.8	38.4	26.4	22.7	41.7	43.8	44.8	21.9	14.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	75.4	43.2	23.9	23.7	63.7	71.9	47.5	10.4	5.4
- 50 % and over(%)	13.3	21.2	20.1	18.5	15.7	14.9	24.4	14.4	8.4
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	31.9	20.9	16.0	17.0	28.0	30.4	21.7	15.9	9.0
- as main occupation	27.5	15.5	8.3	6.6	23.0	25.9	16.8	6.2	2.4
- as a subsidiary occupation	4.4	5.4	7.7	10.5	5.0	4.5	4.8	9.7	6.6
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	452.3	170.0	37.8	12.4	672.5	510.6	88.7	56.8	16.4
- women (%)	69.4	71.9	80.0	86.7	71.0	71.3	66.9	69.2	88.8
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	2.3	3.8	6.7	7.3	3.0	2.6	2.9	5.3	8.4
- from 35 to 54 years	34.3	40.5	49.7	57.9	37.2	35.4	33.1	52.2	64.0
- 55 years and over	63.3	55.7	43.6	34.8	59.8	62.0	64.0	42.5	27.6
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	86.9	68.3	53.9	46.9	79.6	85.8	73.9	45.0	34.8
- 50 % and over(%)	7.6	16.2	18.1	20.7	10.6	8.3	15.3	21.0	20.3
- with another gainful activity (%)	28.4	25.8	21.6	23.2	27.3	27.5	26.6	29.0	15.8
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	334.1	166.2	45.9	23.6	569.8	420.3	61.4	61.1	26.9
- women (%)	30.2	28.5	27.6	24.8	29.3	28.5	36.3	29.6	24.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	88.6	69.7	51.6	34.8	77.9	84.5	78.3	55.2	24.3
- 50 % and over(%)	7.2	13.9	17.3	20.5	10.5	9.1	9.5	18.5	17.3
- with another gainful activity (%)	53.6	40.4	29.3	20.2	46.4	50.0	49.6	33.1	14.6

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)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 =<		0	0 <- < 5	5 - < 50	50 =<
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	928.6	332.1	81.0	38.6	1380.3	1109.3	136.2	100.1	34.7
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	99.4	97.9	92.1	77.3	98.0	98.3	99.4	98.0	80.5
- legal person	0.6	2.1	7.9	22.7	2.0	1.7	0.6	2.0	19.5
- group holders	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	77.7	43.0	21.9	12.8	64.2	73.1	48.6	8.7	1.7
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	17.9	37.1	40.0	31.4	24.2	19.3	41.4	54.7	24.4
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	3.3	15.5	22.5	24.0	8.0	5.2	7.6	29.1	36.6
- 3 AWU and over	1.1	4.5	15.6	31.8	3.6	2.3	2.3	7.5	37.4
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	84.7	35.4	6.4	2.3	66.0	70.2	78.4	24.4	0.7
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	9.9	29.1	14.6	5.2	14.7	13.9	12.9	30.0	1.8
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	3.9	26.5	45.0	20.4	12.2	10.7	6.8	36.0	11.4
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	1.1	7.5	24.5	36.7	5.0	3.7	1.5	8.8	49.5
- 100 ESU and over	0.3	1.6	9.4	35.4	2.1	1.4	0.4	0.7	36.5
- by farm type (%)									
- specialist olives	26.1	6.5	2.4	2.3	19.3	22.7	10.4	0.7	0.1
- specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	11.7	22.2	23.3	21.3	15.2	17.3	10.6	3.7	0.4
- specialist vineyard	13.3	10.8	3.4	2.8	11.8	14.1	4.8	0.4	0.1
- mixed cropping	9.8	12.8	8.8	6.7	10.4	9.2	24.8	6.3	1.4
- general field cropping	8.6	13.0	14.7	12.4	10.1	11.1	10.7	1.4	0.9
- other types of farming	30.4	34.7	47.3	54.5	33.1	25.5	38.6	87.4	97.1
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	1.7	4.3	6.3	10.4	2.8	2.6	2.1	5.4	5.9
- irrigating	29.7	38.3	40.9	44.3	32.8	31.8	32.9	34.5	60.4
- with fixed irrigation equipment	13.7	18.4	15.0	16.1	15.0	16.2	8.4	9.8	18.1
- with crops under glass	2.6	1.5	1.2	0.8	2.2	2.6	1.2	0.6	0.7
- benefiting of direct investment aids	9.1	23.6	34.2	44.5	15.1	12.2	17.0	33.8	46.2
- using a tractor (%)									
- with their own tractor	40.7	78.4	86.8	85.5	53.7	48.3	67.1	82.1	93.8
- using a combine harvester (%)									
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)									
- tourism	0.4	1.7	2.1	4.1	0.9	0.5	1.5	3.9	1.9
- handicraft	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
- processing of farm products	4.9	6.1	9.1	11.8	5.6	4.4	9.7	12.9	8.2
- wood processing	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
- aquaculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
- renewable energy production	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
- contractual work	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.6
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.4	1.7

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)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 -< 50	50 =<		0	0 <- < 5	5 -< 50	50 =<
Area									
Total area of agricultural holdings	2459.7	4018.0	3069.0	7684.2	17230.9	11042.0	1071.3	2767.3	2350.2
Other area	640.1	833.7	599.4	2751.8	4825.0	3414.7	293.5	675.4	441.3
Wooded area	403.5	584.2	424.5	2164.8	3577.1	2586.2	208.1	497.8	285.0
Agricultural area	1819.6	3184.3	2469.6	4932.4	12405.9	7627.3	777.8	2091.9	1908.9
Arable land	755.6	1970.2	1692.2	2473.4	6891.3	4233.7	478.5	1019.7	1159.5
Cereals	448.9	1173.1	922.7	1320.8	3865.6	2670.4	277.5	458.2	459.4
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	70.6	170.8	127.5	155.3	524.1	370.5	45.1	53.3	55.3
<i>Durum wheat</i>	180.7	493.1	387.1	479.6	1540.5	1198.6	95.0	164.2	82.8
<i>Rye</i>	0.3	0.9	0.5	2.2	3.9	2.3	0.1	1.0	0.5
<i>Barley</i>	48.3	113.0	81.5	98.3	341.1	162.9	43.8	77.5	56.9
<i>Oats</i>	13.5	59.4	44.9	55.8	173.6	71.4	21.6	55.3	25.3
<i>Grain maize</i>	130.9	318.9	240.1	318.4	1008.3	648.1	56.8	85.8	217.5
Dried pulses	9.0	20.9	23.6	41.1	94.6	67.9	5.9	11.8	9.0
Root crops	21.5	63.5	58.9	87.9	231.8	184.1	16.8	12.3	18.7
<i>Potatoes</i>	9.8	9.7	5.8	5.3	30.6	24.0	3.1	2.5	1.0
<i>Sugar beet</i>	10.9	52.3	52.0	79.6	194.8	157.5	13.0	8.0	16.2
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.8	1.5	1.2	3.0	6.4	2.6	0.6	1.7	1.5
Industrial crops	29.8	71.0	58.0	112.9	271.6	216.3	23.5	13.3	18.5
<i>Tobacco</i>	6.5	9.6	4.2	12.3	32.7	23.7	5.3	2.5	1.2
<i>Hops</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	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	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.4	0.0	0.1	0.1
<i>Sunflower</i>	7.4	27.1	26.6	47.2	108.3	84.0	13.3	5.4	5.6
<i>Soya</i>	15.1	32.3	26.2	48.6	122.3	102.6	4.0	4.7	10.9
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	62.0	68.4	48.3	56.2	235.0	205.6	10.6	8.6	10.2
<i>outside</i>	51.3	62.0	45.5	53.7	212.5	184.6	10.0	8.2	9.7
<i>under glass</i>	10.7	6.4	2.9	2.5	22.5	21.0	0.6	0.5	0.4
Flower and ornamental plants	7.2	1.7	0.6	1.0	10.5	9.5	0.9	0.1	0.0
<i>outside</i>	3.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	5.6	4.8	0.8	0.1	0.0
<i>under glass</i>	3.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	4.9	4.8	0.1	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	133.6	466.9	488.4	670.8	1759.6	560.0	120.0	484.9	594.7
Fallow land	42.0	101.6	89.0	174.7	407.3	308.9	22.7	28.8	47.0
Kitchen garden	18.0	7.4	1.4	0.5	27.2	17.6	6.6	2.5	0.5
Permanent pasture and meadows	150.5	412.0	515.7	2176.1	3254.2	1429.3	153.7	973.4	697.9
Permanent crops	895.5	794.8	260.4	282.4	2233.1	1946.8	139.0	96.2	51.0
Fruit and berry plantation	134.0	170.1	55.9	44.3	404.3	341.4	30.9	19.1	13.0
Citrus plantation	58.6	36.8	13.2	12.4	121.0	115.3	1.7	2.9	1.2
Olive trees	464.1	283.6	93.1	118.5	959.3	828.0	65.8	48.7	16.9
Vineyard	230.7	294.2	93.5	100.7	719.0	636.3	39.4	25.0	18.2
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	2.0	9.6	30.5	127.9	9.0	6.9	5.7	20.9	55.1
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	92.2	80.7	67.0	65.8	73.7	82.2	75.6	60.2	54.1
... in less favoured or mountain area	44.3	42.8	45.7	58.3	49.7	43.1	62.5	69.0	49.9
... organic farmed	1.6	3.3	4.9	7.1	4.9	3.6	2.7	6.5	9.2
... irrigated	19.9	22.9	22.1	18.6	20.6	21.9	13.0	10.2	30.0

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 = <		0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 = <
Total livestock (1000 LU)	1408.8	2509.5	2477.5	3141.5	9537.3	199.5	1872.2	7465.5
of which grazing (%)	29.3	58.3	65.8	60.9	56.8	72.0	93.3	47.3
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	26.4	40.4	36.9	24.4	128.1	20.7	73.7	33.7
Bovine animals	460.2	1725.7	1835.7	2147.8	6169.4	122.9	1683.4	4363.1
Under 1 year	162.3	478.8	431.7	545.1	1617.9	45.6	419.0	1153.3
From 1 to less than 2 years	129.3	431.1	445.3	521.3	1527.1	31.8	391.5	1103.7
Dairy cows	100.8	536.2	594.8	627.6	1859.4	17.2	423.9	1418.3
Other cows	39.6	139.6	195.0	233.6	607.8	19.1	296.7	291.9
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	28.2	139.9	168.8	220.3	557.2	9.1	152.3	395.8
Sheep	596.2	1472.2	2041.8	2860.7	6970.9	358.1	4018.8	2594.0
Goats	192.7	232.0	207.5	279.6	911.8	105.4	532.4	273.9
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	1161.1	1632.9	2147.4	3807.9	8749.3	135.3	338.6	8275.4
Piglets < 20 kg	213.5	331.7	425.7	788.5	1759.4	9.0	62.4	1688.1
Breeding sows	92.5	116.6	148.1	346.0	703.2	3.6	41.7	657.8
Other pigs	855.1	1184.6	1573.6	2673.4	6286.7	122.7	234.5	5929.5
Poultry (million heads)	56.1	53.7	21.5	17.6	148.9	1.2	1.8	145.8
Broilers	34.8	33.7	12.9	8.9	90.3	0.6	0.8	88.9
Laying hens	12.6	13.6	4.0	5.8	36.0	0.5	0.8	34.7
Other poultry	8.7	6.4	4.6	2.9	22.6	0.1	0.2	22.3
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	270.9	314.9	242.2	27.8	855.8	107.9	513.2	234.8
Beehives* (1000)	624.2	63.1	7.7	2.9	698.0	15.4	30.6	4.5
Average size of herds**								
Equidae (head/holding)	3.0	4.4	7.1	7.6	4.8	2.1	5.5	10.7
Cattle (head/holding)	12.0	29.3	65.4	146.8	44.0	3.2	22.4	164.3
Dairy cows (head/holding)	7.8	20.0	42.2	96.0	30.8	2.0	12.4	80.3
Other cows (head/holding)	4.9	7.5	18.8	39.1	14.1	2.2	10.5	47.0
Sheep (head/holding)	25.5	59.1	152.3	338.3	99.4	12.2	116.8	405.6
Goats (head/holding)	15.4	22.6	48.9	110.6	30.8	7.9	37.8	132.5
Pigs (head/holding)	25.4	46.8	198.9	733.8	90.5	2.3	11.5	986.7
Breeding sows (head/holding)	37.0	24.1	39.9	139.0	51.9	2.0	5.3	174.1
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	19.0	34.4	151.2	535.1	66.3	2.1	8.2	724.3
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	18.2	49.5	135.0	67.7	36.5	5.6	141.6	439.6
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.4	0.8	1.0	4.0	0.6	0.0	0.1	12.9
Broilers (1000/holding)	1.5	3.1	5.3	11.0	2.4	0.0	0.1	38.6
Beehives (hive/holding)	123.9	45.2	14.2	26.8	98.5	12.2	30.4	27.6

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

* Bees are not taken into account when calculating Livestock Unit, there are 139.2 thousand hives on holdings with 0 LU.

** 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)	3279.4	534.7	2744.7	16.3	83.7
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	1231.9	101.6	1130.3	8.2	91.8
Holders	(1000 persons)	1699.5	347.1	1352.4	20.4	79.6
... at least 65 years old		734.9	170.5	564.4	23.2	76.8
... having another gainful activity		466.6	105.8	360.8	22.7	77.3
Number of holdings	(1000)	1728.5	348.2	1380.3	20.1	79.9
... producing mainly for own consumption		535.9	184.0	351.9	34.3	65.7
... producing mainly for direct sales		367.3	42.2	325.1	11.5	88.5
... using a tractor		968.6	102.7	865.9	10.6	89.4
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	22066.8	184.2	21882.5	0.8	99.2
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	12707.8	301.9	12405.9	2.4	97.6
... owned farmed		9430.2	283.4	9146.9	3.0	97.0
Livestock	(1000 LU)	9563.7	26.5	9537.3	0.3	99.7

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

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Italy was carried out from October 2005 until January 2006 on a sample basis. The full-scale census was last conducted in 2000. The reference period of the FSS 2005 was from 1st November 2004 until 31st October 2005 (1st December 2005 for livestock).

The target population was all the holdings exceeding the determined threshold in 2005 [at least 1 hectare of utilised agricultural area or production of a certain proportion either for sale (at least 2066 euro) or exceeding certain physical thresholds]. The largest holdings above the optimal threshold (at least 273 ha UAA, 446 LSU or separately established economic size for certain types of farming determined by the Hidioglou-method) were included exhaustively. Remaining units were observed by a random sample. Stratification was done by province or region, by dimension (UAA, LSU, ESU) and by type of farming determined by a 'stepwise' statistical procedure) to improve the statistical efficiency of the strata. Sample size and allocation were done using multivariate analysis and the Neyman method, with upper limits for the expected coefficients of variation for main variables at national and regional levels. The total number of observed units was about 56 500.

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 Italy 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

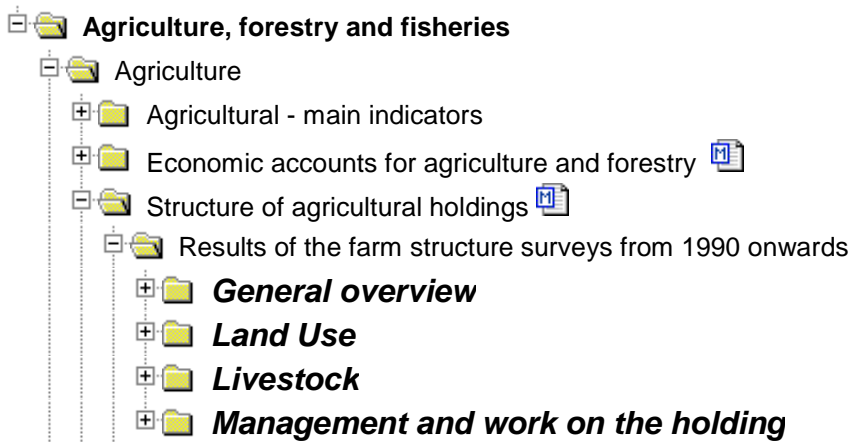
Struttura e produzioni delle aziende agricole, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, December 2006.

Website of Istituto Nazionale di Statistica: www.istat.it

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available on request)

Further information:

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



Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/125
L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408
Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:
Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

2, rue Mercier
L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>

E-mail: info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu
