

Farm structure in Poland - 2007

52% of agricultural land and 56% of livestock in farms of less than 20 ha

This Statistics in Focus is the first of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2007. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Poland.

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2.4 million agricultural holdings were recorded in Poland through the 2007 Farm structure survey (3.5% less than in 2005). This drop results mainly from a fall in the number of the smallest holdings which are not covered by the Single area payment system. The number of farms using less than 2 ha decreased from 84 000 in 2005 to 74 000 in 2007 (-12%).

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Due to the different coverage of the FSS 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 the methodological notes for more information on the concept of ESU.

In 2007, about **1.13 million agricultural holdings** had an economic size of at least 1 ESU, compared to 1.08 million in 2005.

- They made use of **13.9 million ha of utilised agricultural area**, which is on average 12.3 ha per holding (compared to 12.1 ha in 2005);
- These holdings employed **1.7 million AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 1.7 million people working full time;
- They had **10.7 million livestock units** (LSU) in 2007, 6% more than in 2005, mainly due to an increase in bovine animals.

Amongst these 1.13 million agricultural holdings:

- 29% made use of less than one AWU, while another 29% made use of 2 or more AWUs;

- 35% used less than 5 ha, while 2% used 50 ha or more;
- 20% were producing mainly for own consumption;
- 38% were holdings of the type mixed cropping;
- 36% were engaged in mixed livestock;
- 26% were mixed farms.

Amongst the sole holders:

- 23% were women in 2007, (compared to 22% in 2005);
- 23% were aged 55 or more, and 17% were younger than 35 years;
- 32% of family labour force had another gainful activity in 2007 (compared to 29% in 2005);
- Family labour force regularly employed has increased, on the contrary to non family labour force.

In Poland in 2007, 77% of the agricultural area was owned by farmers (more than 90% in the holdings with less than 20 hectares).

145 240 ha were organically farmed (1% of the utilised agricultural area, compared to 0.6% in 2005).

More than 80% of the dairy cows and 60% of the pigs are kept in farms with less than 50 livestock units.

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)				
	<5	5-<20	20-<50	>=50		0	>0-<5	5-<50	>=50	
Total labour force										
1000 annual work units	484.3	959.7	206.7	87.7	1738.4	228.6	691.7	731.3	86.9	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	957.1	1497.7	262.3	53.1	2770.1	398.5	1277.1	1029.9	64.6	
1000 annual work units	469.6	923.2	190.7	39.3	1622.7	179.3	677.9	714.6	50.9	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	6.1	6.6	5.2	42.0	59.9	21.8	2.0	3.2	32.9	
1000 annual work units	5.2	5.3	4.1	38.0	52.6	18.4	1.4	2.7	30.0	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	9.5	31.2	11.9	10.5	63.2	30.8	12.4	14.0	6.0	
Holding managers	1000	391.3	612.1	101.1	23.6	1128.1	205.6	508.0	389.9	24.6
- women	(%)	31.2	19.4	9.5	7.0	22.3	25.0	28.1	14.3	7.1
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	39.6	22.2	9.7	9.0	26.9	54.2	31.0	8.5	2.9
- 50 % and over	(%)	40.7	33.9	17.9	16.0	34.4	24.3	43.4	29.4	12.6
Sole/main holders	1000	391.1	611.7	100.8	21.2	1124.8	203.6	508.0	389.7	23.5
- women		32.0	20.3	9.9	7.5	23.2	26.2	29.3	14.7	7.7
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		13.3	18.3	20.3	20.4	16.8	15.8	15.0	19.3	20.3
- from 35 to 44 years		22.1	26.3	29.4	29.2	25.2	24.2	23.3	27.8	29.5
- from 45 to 54 years		31.5	36.4	36.9	36.2	34.7	35.7	32.3	37.2	36.6
- from 55 to 64 years		19.3	13.8	11.0	12.4	15.4	17.0	17.2	12.5	11.9
- 65 years and over		13.8	5.3	2.3	1.8	7.9	7.3	12.1	3.1	1.7
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	39.6	22.2	9.8	10.0	26.9	54.7	31.0	8.5	3.0
- 50 % and over	(%)	40.8	33.9	18.0	17.8	34.5	24.6	43.4	29.5	13.2
- with another gainful activity ¹	(%)	40.1	29.9	14.4	15.0	31.7	47.9	36.6	18.6	6.9
- as a main occupation		32.1	21.6	8.9	8.6	23.8	38.6	27.9	12.1	3.5
- as a subsidiary occupation		8.1	8.3	5.5	6.4	7.9	9.2	8.7	6.5	3.4
Spouse of sole holder	1000	253.4	400.5	75.1	15.6	744.6	110.9	331.7	282.5	19.5
- women	(%)	71.8	82.6	92.8	94.3	80.2	76.5	74.4	87.4	94.7
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		14.3	19.5	23.6	23.1	18.2	17.3	16.1	20.8	23.0
- from 35 to 54 years		59.1	67.6	69.0	69.1	64.9	65.5	60.5	69.3	69.8
- 55 years and over		26.6	13.0	7.4	7.8	16.9	17.1	23.4	9.9	7.2
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	49.9	32.8	20.3	24.4	37.2	60.3	44.2	21.5	14.0
- 50 % and over	(%)	36.6	39.9	39.5	38.0	38.7	23.1	39.7	43.6	39.4
- with another gainful activity	(%)	38.8	27.0	14.3	16.7	29.6	47.4	34.2	18.4	9.4
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	312.6	485.5	86.4	16.3	900.8	84.0	437.4	357.7	21.6
- women	(%)	45.1	44.3	40.5	36.1	44.1	41.7	45.1	43.7	37.7
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	75.5	66.3	55.1	50.4	68.2	71.7	73.9	61.7	46.3
- 50 % and over	(%)	19.8	24.4	26.8	25.1	23.0	18.7	20.9	26.3	27.5
- with another gainful activity	(%)	30.1	20.3	11.7	10.9	22.7	24.5	27.4	17.4	8.6

*LSU = Livestock Unit

¹Only holders who are also farms managers

"0" less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)				
	<5	5-<20	20-<50	>=50		0	>0-<5	5-<50	>=50	
Holdings										
- total number	1000	391.3	612.1	101.1	23.6	1128.1	205.6	508.0	389.9	24.6
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		100.0	99.9	99.7	89.8	99.7	99.0	100.0	99.9	95.5
- legal person		0	0.1	0.3	10.2	0.3	1.0	0	0.1	4.5
- group holders		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		41.7	25.0	10.6	9.0	29.2	59.7	33.6	9.0	2.0
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		41.7	44.1	36.5	30.1	42.3	23.0	47.1	47.2	26.0
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		13.7	25.2	38.9	30.2	22.5	11.5	16.0	35.6	41.4
- 3 AWU and over		2.9	5.8	13.9	30.7	6.0	5.9	3.3	8.2	30.7
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		96.4	80.2	14.5	0.9	78.3	83.6	96.6	56.2	4.8
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		1.9	15.9	39.0	8.5	13.0	8.3	2.5	29.5	6.2
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		1.3	3.5	42.2	47.0	7.1	5.4	0.8	13.8	46.0
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		0.3	0.4	4.1	30.0	1.3	1.8	0.2	0.4	34.0
- 100 ESU and over		0.1	0	0.3	13.7	0.4	0.8	0	0	9.1
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... field crops – grazing livestock combined		17.2	17.0	10.0	9.5	16.3	9.2	23.6	11.3	4.1
... mixed cropping		13.0	12.4	6.7	5.3	11.9	6.0	18.6	7.1	1.8
... general field cropping		11.9	10.0	10.5	15.8	10.8	21.2	13.7	2.3	1.5
... various crops and livestock combined		9.2	10.0	10.1	10.7	9.8	1.5	10.6	13.0	9.1
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores		7.5	9.3	7.5	2.7	8.4	0	4.7	17.4	12.8
Other types		41.1	41.3	55.2	56.0	42.8	62.1	28.9	48.9	70.6
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		0.3	0.6	1.0	3.2	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.5
- irrigating		1.3	1.3	1.6	2.5	1.4	3.9	0.9	0.6	1.3
- with crops under glass		4.0	1.3	0.5	0.3	2.2	6.7	1.6	0.7	0.2
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		0.4	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5
Handicraft		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
Processing of farm products		0.2	0.2	0.3	1.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	1.1
Wood processing		0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Aquaculture		0.3	0.7	1.7	2.7	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.9	1.9
Renewable energy production		0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.1
Contractual work		1.3	1.6	2.1	5.9	1.6	2.6	1.4	1.3	2.9
Other gainful activities n.a.e		2.2	2.0	2.2	4.5	2.2	5.3	1.4	1.4	2.6

*LSU = Livestock unit

"0" less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)				
	<5	5-<20	20-<50	>=50		0	>0-<5	5-<50	>=50	
Area	(1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	1522.5	6833.7	3220.0	4186.2	15762.4	3462.5	3703.4	6379.3	2217.3	
• H. Other area	296.6	888.8	295.3	426.1	1906.9	524.6	549.0	668.9	164.3	
Wooded area	156.5	513.3	156.8	96.1	922.6	165.9	314.3	391.2	51.2	
• Agricultural area	1225.9	5944.9	2924.7	3760.0	13855.6	2937.9	3154.4	5710.4	2052.9	
- D. Arable land	823.4	4421.2	2261.3	3192.1	10698.0	2302.2	2369.0	4298.8	1728.0	
Cereals	587.5	3411.6	1636.0	2048.6	7683.6	1505.0	1792.2	3261.5	1124.8	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	145.9	645.3	394.8	764.2	1950.2	585.2	448.6	583.0	333.3	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rye</i>	97.4	685.7	232.9	254.1	1270.0	226.8	352.6	574.6	116.0	
<i>Barley</i>	78.2	458.4	270.3	355.2	1162.0	237.8	243.7	471.0	209.5	
<i>Oats</i>	176.2	1010.3	400.7	217.1	1804.3	189.7	477.0	978.0	159.5	
<i>Grain maize</i>	6.3	28.9	28.2	182.8	246.2	102.6	26.1	32.4	85.2	
Dried pulses	11.6	55.5	27.3	31.6	126.1	29.9	36.6	45.6	14.1	
Root crops	100.1	334.2	153.9	161.5	749.8	144.3	198.9	320.2	86.3	
<i>Potatoes</i>	89.6	247.7	78.6	54.9	470.8	89.2	160.9	198.5	22.3	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	4.1	69.8	70.2	103.1	247.2	50.8	29.1	105.0	62.4	
<i>Fodder root</i>	6.3	16.7	5.1	3.5	31.7	4.4	8.9	16.7	1.7	
Industrial crops	20.0	136.8	136.1	561.6	854.6	322.0	118.9	173.2	240.5	
<i>Tobacco</i>	4.2	11.4	1.5	0.4	17.5	2.7	8.5	6.2	0.1	
<i>Hops</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	11.2	105.2	125.9	543.3	785.6	298.8	96.5	154.9	235.4	
<i>Sunflower</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Soya</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	37.7	111.2	36.4	33.4	218.6	91.6	69.8	47.1	10.1	
<i>outside</i>	35.2	107.9	36.1	33.3	212.5	88.0	68.0	46.4	10.1	
<i>under glass</i>	2.5	3.3	0.2	0.1	6.1	3.7	1.7	0.7	0	
Flower and ornamental plants	2.4	0.9	0.2	0.5	4.0	2.9	1.0	0.1	0.1	
<i>outside</i>	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.5	2.6	1.6	0.9	0.1	0.1	
<i>under glass</i>	1.1	0.3	0	0	1.4	1.3	0.1	0	0	
Forage plants	39.4	273.9	236.5	233.6	783.4	57.7	86.5	405.7	233.5	
Fallow land	17.2	79.9	23.1	103.5	223.6	130.0	53.3	27.6	12.8	
- E. Kitchen garden	9.4	14.9	2.7	1.6	28.5	4.0	13.4	9.6	1.4	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	301.7	1328.9	625.5	532.6	2788.7	418.6	681.8	1370.3	318.0	
- G. Permanent crops	91.4	180.0	35.2	33.7	340.4	213.1	90.2	31.6	5.5	
Fruit and berry plantation	85.9	173.9	32.4	30.0	322.1	201.1	85.3	30.6	5.2	
Citrus plantation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vineyard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ratios										
Agricultural area per holding	(ha)	3.1	9.7	28.9	159.4	12.3	14.3	6.2	14.6	83.3
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		91.6	90.1	76.9	52.7	77.3	68.8	87.6	83.5	56.3
... in less favoured or mountain area		43.2	52.9	53.8	46.6	50.5	42.0	47.8	56.4	50.5
... organic farmed		0.3	0.6	1.0	2.1	1.0	1.9	0.6	0.9	0.9
... irrigated		0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.5

*LSU = Livestock unit

": not available

"0" less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the fram		Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)			
		<5	5-<20	20-<50	>=50		0	>0-<5	5-<50	>=50
Total livestock	(1000 LSU)	1407.5	4621.1	2661.5	2052.2	10742.4	0	1150.2	5656.1	3936.1
of which grazing	(%)	29.7	47.5	51.6	34.2	43.7	:	51.4	56.5	22.9
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		71.4	144.9	34.8	27.1	278.3	0	91.8	164.7	21.8
Bovine animals		435.0	2688.1	1731.2	891.4	5745.7	0	638.4	3951.1	1156.3
Under 1 year		97.5	717.1	431.4	235.8	1481.8	0	160.7	1022.2	298.8
From 1 to less than 2 years		71.0	579.0	398.3	201.0	1249.3	0	100.2	878.0	271.1
Dairy cows		254.3	1275.8	800.9	358.1	2689.2	0	359.0	1854.2	476.0
Other cows		0.8	10.6	13.4	31.5	56.3	0	1.2	25.0	30.2
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		11.4	105.6	87.3	64.8	269.1	0	17.4	171.7	80.1
Sheep		40.0	112.3	67.6	72.7	292.6	0	34.5	203.6	54.5
Goats		33.7	33.7	9.4	5.5	82.3	0	49.3	27.5	5.6
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)	1352.9	8266.6	4477.9	4246.0	18343.3	0	1721.8	9778.3	6843.2
Piglets < 20 kg		421.2	2816.7	1339.8	1249.5	5827.2	0	721.0	3230.9	1875.2
Breeding sows		153.3	846.4	413.7	392.8	1806.3	0	202.6	997.2	606.5
Other pigs		778.4	4603.4	2724.5	2603.6	10709.9	0	798.2	5550.1	4361.5
Poultry	(million heads)	61.0	42.5	18.0	24.6	146.1	0	12.7	13.2	120.2
Broilers		36.8	22.7	10.8	12.5	82.8	0	3.5	3.8	75.5
Laying hens		20.2	13.3	4.0	7.1	44.5	0	6.8	6.6	31.1
Other poultry		4.1	6.5	3.2	5.1	18.9	0	2.4	2.8	13.6
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	329.1	205.9	24.7	5.7	565.4	0	405.4	154.8	5.3
Beehives	(1000)	329.7	159.0	24.6	6.3	519.6	204.9	220.0	90.4	4.3
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae	(head/holding)	1.6	2.4	4.4	13.1	2.4	:	1.4	3.2	11.4
Cattle	(head/holding)	2.4	7.3	25.0	86.6	9.1	:	2.2	12.1	79.2
Dairy cows	(head/holding)	1.5	3.8	12.7	41.5	4.7	:	1.4	6.1	37.3
Other cows	(head/holding)	1.7	3.0	6.5	31.4	8.0	:	1.3	4.7	34.7
Sheep	(head/holding)	11.7	24.5	58.2	162.0	30.5	:	7.8	40.9	236.0
Goats	(head/holding)	3.0	3.1	8.1	17.1	3.5	:	2.9	4.2	19.9
Pigs	(head/holding)	7.8	23.9	77.4	458.6	31.3	:	6.4	32.6	426.8
Breeding sows	(head/holding)	2.1	3.4	8.8	52.8	4.8	:	1.7	4.1	45.7
Other pigs > 20 kg	(head/holding)	5.5	15.7	51.0	291.4	21.5	:	3.8	20.3	275.8
Rabbits, breeding females	(head/holding)	7.3	4.9	5.1	9.1	6.1	:	6.6	5.1	7.1
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0.1	0	0.1	0.9	0.1	:	0	0	2.6
Broilers	(1000/holding)	0.3	0.1	0.3	2.5	0.2	:	0	0	9.3
Beehives	(hive/holding)	29.7	14.4	9.8	17.2	20.8	52.0	17.6	11.0	14.1

*LSU = Livestock unit

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular Labour force	(1000 pers)	5041.9	2211.9	2830.0	43.9	56.1
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	2193.7	518.5	1675.2	23.6	76.4
Holders with...	(1000)	2387.2	1262.5	1124.8	52.9	47.1
... at least 65 years		387.9	299.1	88.8	77.1	22.9
... another major gainful activity		911.5	567.0	344.5	62.2	37.8
Number of sole holdings	(1000)	2391.0	1262.8	1128.1	52.8	47.2
... producing mainly for own consumption		908.2	685.4	222.8	75.5	24.5
... producing mainly for direct sales		385.4	187.7	197.6	48.7	51.3
SGM	(1000 ESU)	8672.8	441.8	8231.0	5.1	94.9
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	15477.2	1621.6	13855.6	10.5	89.5
... own farmed		12215.8	1504.3	10711.5	12.3	87.7
Livestock	(1000 LSU)	11117.9	375.5	10742.4	3.4	96.6

*LSU = Livestock Unit

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Poland was carried out between 1 June and 9 July 2007 on a sample basis. Prior to this survey, a full-scale agricultural census was last conducted in 2002 and the sample farm structure survey in 2005. The reference day of the farm structure survey was the 1st June 2007 in the case of land area, land use, livestock, the characteristics defining the holder and manager and the number of tractors collected, to satisfy the national needs. For other characteristics the reference period was the 12 months preceding the reference day.

According to the national definition an agricultural holding has at least 0.1 ha total agricultural area; or has less than 0.1 ha of total agricultural area plus at least: 1 head of cattle and/or 5 heads of pigs or 1 sow and/or 3 heads of sheep or goats and/or 1 horse and/or 30 heads of poultry and/or 1 ostrich and/or 5 heads of female rabbits and/or 5 heads of other female fur animals and/or 3 heads of other animals kept for slaughter and/or 1 beehive.

On the basis of the Statistical Farm Register established after the 2002 census, a stratified sample was drawn. The holdings – including the newly established ones – have been divided into 8 groups according to their activity, size or legal form. The largest holdings, the units of legal entities as well as organic farms were observed without sampling. In the other groups different stratification criteria were used (e.g. total area, arable land, SGM) besides the geographic levels (NUTS2). Altogether, 29 strata were established in these groups, some of which were strata without sampling, while in the others Neymann and numerical optimisation methods of allocation were used to choose the units to be observed. The sample size was ca. 7% (i.e. 204,937 holdings were sampled out of a total population of 2,862,265 holdings).

The list of characteristics and their definitions were fully compliant with the EU requirements concerning the Farm Structure Survey 2007. However the areas of different categories of the permanent grassland are not fully comparable with the data from 2005 farm structure survey due to the introduction of a new characteristic on the permanent grassland eligible for financial support. Because of their minor economic significance in Poland

compared to the 2005 farm structure survey the areas of hop, flax and hemp were included under other industrial plants; the area of sunflower crops was included under other oil seed crops and the area of permanent crops under glass was included under other permanent crops in 2007.

The data are checked at different levels Unit non-response has occurred due to refusals, lack of contact and liquidation of holdings. For these units, no imputation of data was carried out. Only in the case of some unanswered variables in the enumerated holdings, was an answer imputed which occurred more often in the population. The information from previous surveys and experts' opinions were also used.

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 a 1200-euro standard gross margin).

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.

Annual working unit (AWU) means the labour force working yearly i.e. a worker employed on full time basis and working 2120 hours (265 working days of 8 working hours per day).

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