

Contents

Table 1 – Labour force.....	3
Table 2 – Agricultural holdings....	4
Table 3 – Land use.....	5
Table 4 – Livestock.....	6
Table 5 – Non agricultural activity...7	

Structure of agricultural holdings

Ireland 2003

A farm structure survey was carried out in all EU Member States in 2003 (2002 in Poland). The detailed results are now available for 10 Member States: Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Results for the other Member States will become available in the course of the next six months. This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications, all following the same structure.

* * *

In Ireland, in June, 2003, almost 126 800 agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least one ESU (European size unit)*, which means a 4% decline compared to 2000.

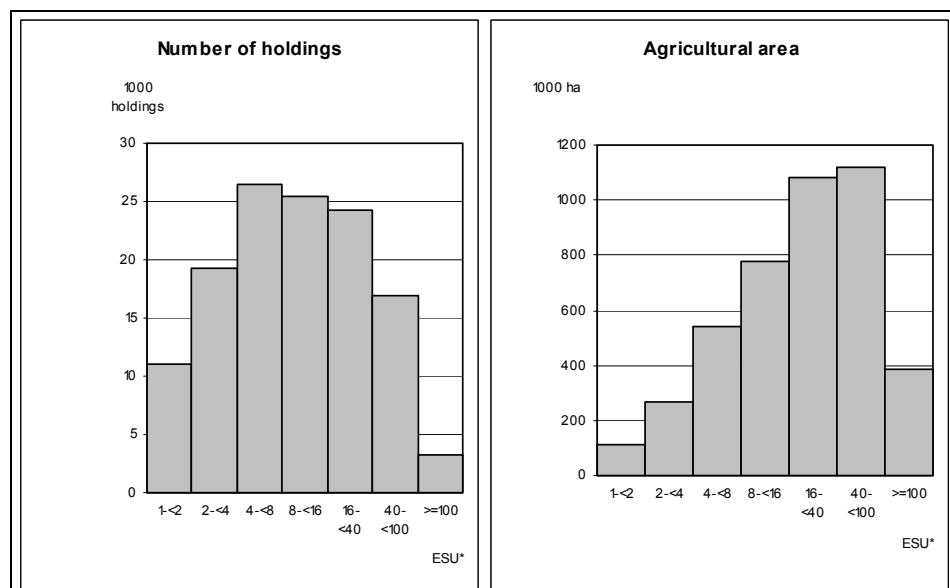
- These holdings employed 154 600 AWUs (annual work unit), the equivalent of 154 600 persons working full time;
- they made use of 4.3 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 33.8 hectare per holding (compared to 32.9 ha in 2000).

Amongst these 126 800 agricultural holdings,

- 17% made use of less than one AWU, while 65% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 6% used less than 5 ha, while 4% used more than 100 ha;
- 3% were mixed holdings, while 97% were specialised: cattle fattening and rearing 53%, various grazing livestock (including sheep) 21%, dairies 18%, field cropping 4%, horticulture 1% (of which almost one fourth under glass);
- about 1% practised organic farming.

Amongst the 126 600 sole holders

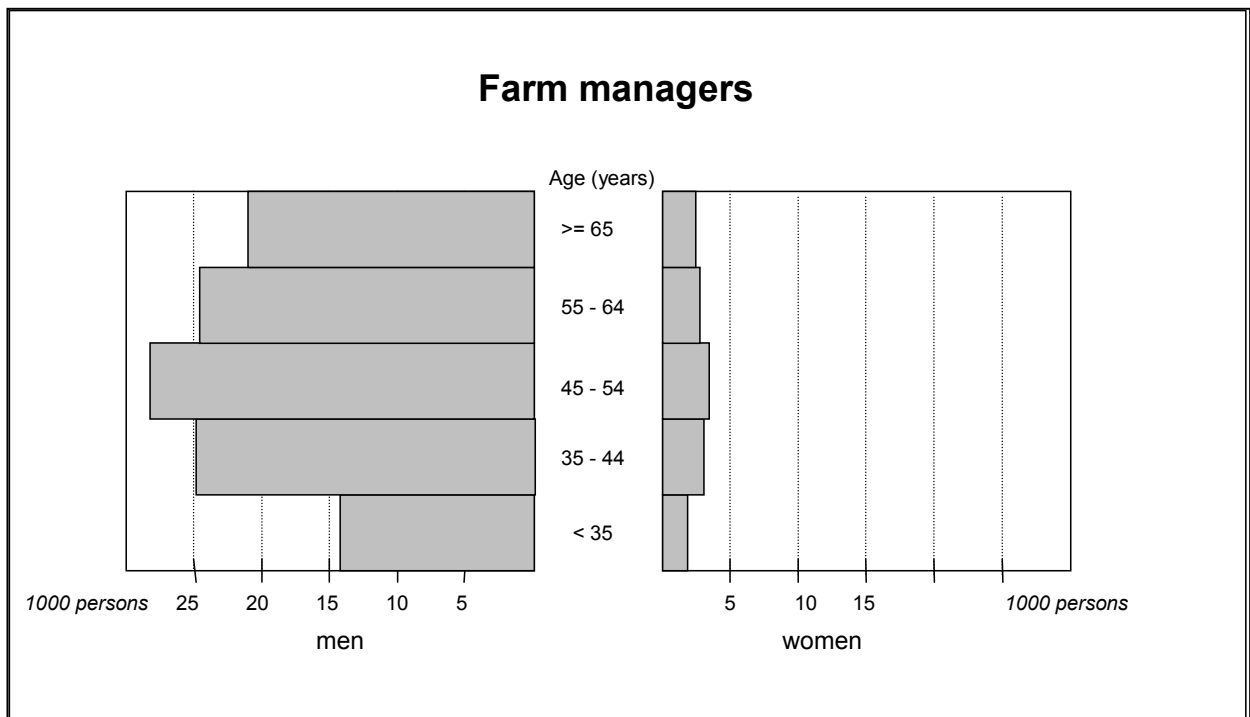
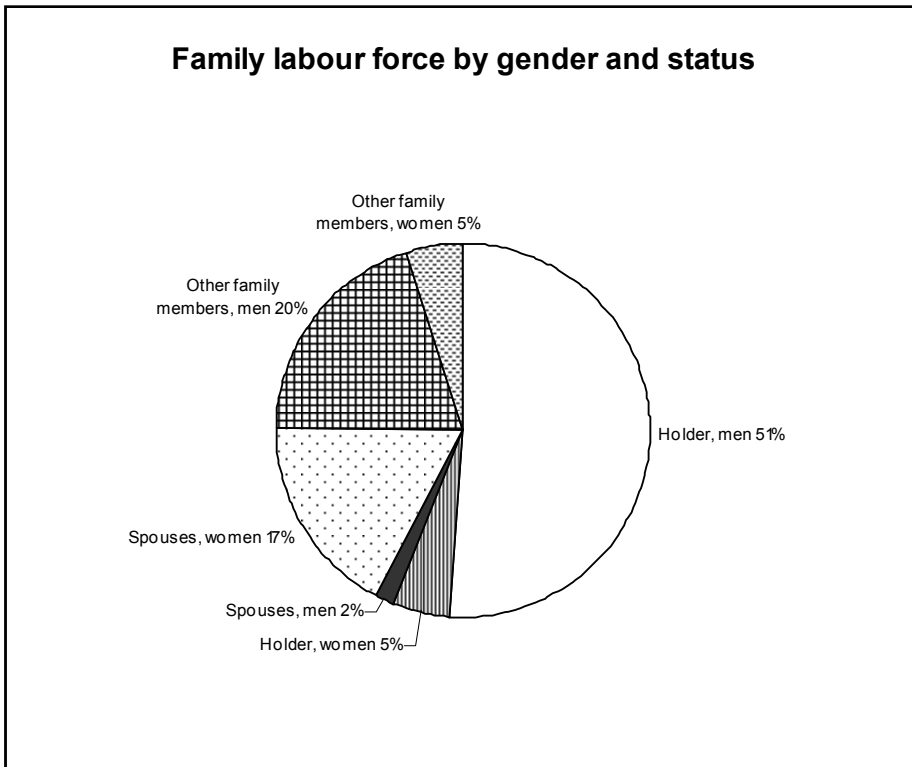
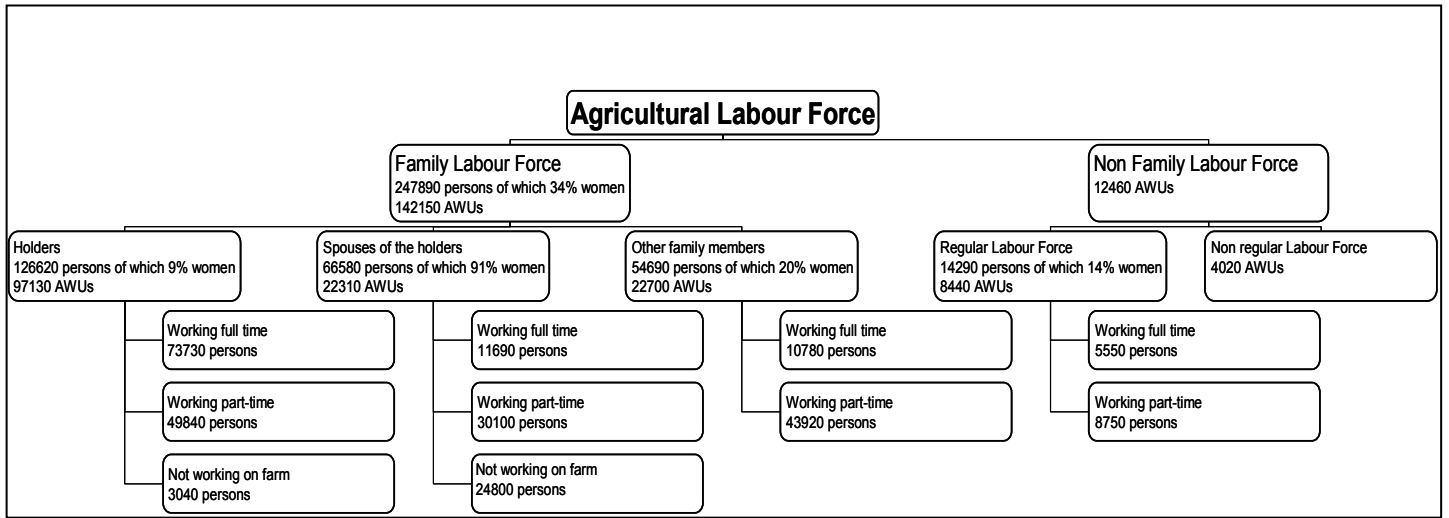
- 9% were women;
- 42% were aged 55 or more, and only 11% were younger than 35 years;
- 27% had another gainful activity as major occupation.



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



Ireland, 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	5.4	154.6	8.0	16.7	27.0	30.2	33.8	29.0	10.0
Family labour force									
1000 persons	13.2	247.8	17.4	32.9	49.3	50.0	50.8	39.6	7.8
1000 annual work units	5.3	142.1	7.8	16.2	26.3	28.8	31.7	25.9	5.4
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	0.2	14.3	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.8	2.5	3.4	4.5
1000 annual work units	0.1	8.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.9	3.7
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.1	4.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.0
Holding managers (1000)	8.5	126.8	11.0	19.3	26.5	25.5	24.3	17.0	3.2
- women (%)	10.1	10.7	11.0	11.4	11.1	10.9	9.9	10.1	10.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	50.7	20.8	44.4	33.8	25.1	17.8	10.7	5.5	7.2
- 50 % and over (%)	19.3	19.5	23.1	27.5	28.0	22.8	11.5	4.0	4.5
Sole/main holders (1000)	8.5	126.6	11.0	19.3	26.5	25.5	24.3	17.0	3.1
- women (%)	8.2	9.1	9.4	9.9	9.0	8.9	8.5	9.2	8.9
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	9.9	11.2	10.7	10.1	9.6	10.8	11.9	14.7	12.2
- from 35 to 44 years	19.6	21.6	17.3	17.6	19.4	21.6	23.5	29.2	25.7
- from 45 to 54 years	22.0	25.1	23.6	25.2	25.4	24.6	25.9	25.1	25.5
- from 55 to 64 years	22.9	22.1	20.7	21.6	22.2	22.8	23.3	20.4	24.1
- 65 years and over	25.6	19.9	27.7	25.6	23.3	20.2	15.4	10.6	12.5
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	48.7	20.4	43.4	32.8	24.5	17.6	10.8	5.7	6.6
- 50 % and over (%)	18.4	18.9	22.2	26.3	27.0	22.3	11.4	4.1	5.4
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	61.4	40.5	57.9	53.8	51.1	44.2	28.9	13.5	14.4
- as main occupation	50.6	26.5	47.7	41.8	36.6	26.6	12.2	3.6	4.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	10.8	14.1	10.2	11.9	14.5	17.6	16.7	9.8	10.3
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	3.3	66.6	4.3	8.4	13.1	13.3	14.1	11.2	2.1
- women (%)	92.4	90.8	91.5	89.7	90.5	91.1	91.0	90.9	92.6
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	8.7	9.9	7.3	8.2	9.3	9.2	9.5	14.0	11.3
- from 35 to 54 years	54.0	57.9	54.2	54.9	55.5	57.2	60.7	62.0	56.9
- 55 years and over	37.2	32.2	38.4	37.0	35.2	33.6	29.9	24.0	31.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	28.0	30.9	29.7	32.3	32.8	30.9	30.2	29.6	28.0
- 50 % and over (%)	7.3	14.3	8.9	10.7	13.8	14.2	16.5	16.9	14.9
- with another gainful activity (%)	43.1	45.9	41.5	45.0	48.4	47.3	46.5	44.8	36.8
- as main occupation	28.2	30.3	28.8	32.5	33.0	31.0	30.1	26.8	22.8
- as a subsidiary occupation	14.9	15.7	12.7	12.5	15.4	16.3	16.5	18.0	14.0
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	1.5	54.7	2.1	5.2	9.7	11.2	12.4	11.4	2.7
- women (%)	15.3	20.3	18.7	22.1	20.6	19.8	19.6	20.9	20.7
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	71.6	63.7	71.4	70.4	69.8	68.3	64.0	55.7	37.2
- 50 % and over (%)	18.6	16.6	16.6	17.0	17.8	17.4	17.3	14.8	12.2
- with another gainful activity (%)	86.0	78.6	83.4	85.0	85.6	83.5	79.7	70.2	46.8

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)	8.5	126.8	11.0	19.3	26.5	25.5	24.3	17.0	3.2
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9	97.0
- legal person	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.0
- group holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	47.9	17.0	39.7	29.4	20.4	13.6	7.9	3.5	3.4
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	19.9	18.4	24.0	26.9	26.4	20.4	10.3	3.5	4.1
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	29.9	48.1	33.3	37.9	43.9	51.8	60.9	56.7	20.5
- 3 AWU and over	2.3	16.6	2.9	5.7	9.3	14.2	20.9	36.3	71.9
- by agricultural area (%)									
- under 5 ha	38.7	5.6	28.4	12.4	2.8	0.9	0.7	1.0	9.0
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	49.6	35.3	62.4	70.7	58.1	25.1	8.5	1.2	4.1
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	9.8	40.1	8.4	15.5	36.3	65.0	60.5	34.3	5.4
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	1.6	15.2	0.7	1.2	2.5	8.0	27.9	50.6	30.2
- 100 ha and over	0.3	3.8	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.0	2.6	12.9	51.4
- by livestock size (%)									
- without livestock	22.7	2.9	0.9	1.5	1.7	2.9	3.3	3.7	21.6
- under 10 LSU	76.6	15.9	96.7	41.3	2.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.7
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0.6	19.1	2.0	56.3	43.5	4.7	0.9	0.5	1.1
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0	30.6	0.3	0.9	51.6	74.9	22.5	1.7	2.6
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	19.8	0	0	0.2	16.1	61.1	35.2	1.9
- 100 LSU and over	0	11.7	0	0	0.1	0.4	11.1	57.9	71.1
- by farm type (%)									
... specialist cereals	0	2.5	0.7	1.4	1.8	3.0	3.1	3.4	7.4
... general field cropping	6.1	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.8	2.3	3.2	8.9
... specialist horticulture	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.1	12.1
... specialist vineyard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	0.2	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
... specialist olives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	0.1	0.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.7
... specialist dairy farming	0.3	18.4	0.7	0.9	1.5	6.3	33.8	67.5	44.5
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	49.1	53.2	71.8	74.7	73.2	63.2	33.2	8.3	2.9
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	1.9	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.3	3.0	4.5	6.0
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	41.5	18.8	25.3	21.7	21.1	22.6	17.7	6.6	2.2
... specialist granivores	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	6.2
... mixed cropping	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.3
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.3
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	0	0.2	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.7
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	1.4	2.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.9	5.2	4.1	5.7
... various crops and livestock combined	0	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7
- irrigating	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- with crops under glass	0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	2.7
- % in less favoured or mountain area	71.3	61.5	78.0	78.4	74.8	65.8	49.4	29.5	20.6

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	101.6	4608.8	125.2	291.8	594.6	833.1	1156.8	1183.5	423.8
• H. Other area	12.5	326.3	14.5	27.2	53.6	56.6	73.6	64.2	36.7
Wooded area	6.0	125.8	4.4	9.0	22.5	20.5	25.5	24.2	19.6
• Agricultural area	89.1	4282.6	110.7	264.6	541.0	776.5	1083.3	1119.3	387.2
- D. Arable land	16.2	1167.8	16.5	39.6	90.1	152.1	268.5	387.3	213.8
Cereals	0	302.3	0.2	1.4	5.4	19.9	65.4	110.0	100.0
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0	95.7	0	0.1	0.4	2.2	11.5	30.4	51.0
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rye</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Barley</i>	0	183.3	0.1	1.2	4.4	16.2	49.1	71.5	40.8
<i>Oats</i>	0	20.8	0.1	0	0.5	1.3	4.6	7.3	7.1
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried pulses	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	0.3	1.2	1.5
Root crops	0	51.6	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.7	10.0	18.6	20.6
<i>Potatoes</i>	0	14.2	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.0	3.3	9.4
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	31.8	0	0	0.2	0.9	7.5	13.3	9.8
<i>Fodder root</i>	0	5.6	0	0	0.2	0.6	1.5	2.0	1.4
Industrial crops	0	2.1	0	0.1	0	0	0.5	0.6	1.0
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<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>	0	2.1	0	0.1	0	0	0.5	0.6	1.0
<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	0	4.3	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.7	3.2
<i>outside</i>	0	4.0	0	0	0	0	0.3	0.6	3.0
<i>under glass</i>	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Flower and ornamental plants	0	1.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
<i>outside</i>	0	1.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
<i>under glass</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fodder plants	16.1	777.6	16.0	37.8	83.2	128.7	186.8	247.7	77.5
Fallow land	0	23.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.4	4.5	8.1	9.4
- E. Kitchen garden	0	0.3	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	72.9	3112.8	94.2	225.0	450.9	624.2	814.4	731.3	172.8
- G. Permanent crops	0	1.7	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.6
Fruit and berry plantation	0	1.3	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3
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)	10.5	33.8	10.1	13.7	20.4	30.5	44.5	66.0	122.2
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	91.6	79.9	92.9	90.9	88.4	84.5	80.3	74.5	62.2
... in less favoured or mountain area	75.7	51.2	83.3	82.7	78.6	68.7	50.5	28.4	14.9
... organic farmed	1.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1
... irrigated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... under cover crop protecting soil	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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⁺)	17.3	6349.4	62.9	206.6	544.3	962.8	1607.7	2021.9	943.3
of which grazing (%)	98.2	91.5	98.9	98.8	99.0	97.9	96.8	96.0	60.0
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)									
Equidae	2.1	73.9	4.7	9.6	13.1	16.2	16.4	11.5	2.5
Bovine animals									
Under 1 year	4.3	1756.0	18.5	64.1	178.9	294.3	432.3	592.1	175.8
From 1 to less than 2 years	4.0	1773.3	16.9	60.6	155.3	276.9	473.0	615.3	175.2
Dairy cows	0	1155.5	0.1	0.7	3.4	21.8	245.0	667.5	217.1
Other cows	6.4	1181.0	25.9	83.5	213.9	330.8	334.7	162.3	29.9
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	2.4	1115.5	11.1	40.6	114.5	207.9	313.1	323.8	104.5
Sheep	35.8	6813.5	86.3	245.3	697.7	1402.4	2347.4	1696.2	338.2
Goats	0.2	7.5	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.6	2.3	1.5	0
Granivores									
Pigs (1000 heads)									
Piglets < 20 kg	0	529.1	0	0	0.1	0.3	4.1	38.4	486.0
Breeding sows	0	172.6	0	0	0	0.1	1.5	12.9	158.0
Other pigs	0	1011.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.7	16.6	100.8	890.9
Poultry (million heads)	0	12.7	0.1	0.3	0.5	2.2	4.9	3.7	1.0
Broilers	0	9.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.8	4.0	2.4	0.3
Laying hens	0	2.1	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.3
Other poultry	0	1.4	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beehives (1000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total livestock per holding with... (LSU/holding)									
Livestock	2.6	51.6	5.8	10.9	20.9	38.9	68.4	123.7	379.6
Grazing livestock	2.6	51.1	5.7	10.8	20.8	38.7	68.2	123.5	365.1
Bovine animals (cattle)	2.8	53.9	6.1	11.3	21.4	39.4	68.6	123.9	372.5
Cattle, other than cows	2.8	54.3	6.1	11.3	21.4	39.5	68.7	124.0	372.8
Granivores	2.5	107.9	6.4	12.2	23.0	46.4	86.2	163.4	1134.6
Pigs	3.0	437.1	6.2	11.6	21.3	43.8	87.9	209.2	1382.1
Average size of herds* (head/holding)									
Equidae	2.2	4.9	3.5	4.5	4.2	5.1	5.5	5.5	7.4
Dairy cows	1.0	42.8	1.4	2.4	4.6	10.4	26.5	53.1	112.2
Other cows	2.3	15.6	4.2	7.2	12.0	18.9	24.3	21.5	26.8
Sheep	23.8	184.4	39.0	58.1	92.1	147.1	262.6	435.0	582.2
Goats	2.7	4.2	3.3	2.7	2.4	3.4	6.8	7.5	2.0
Breeding sows	2.0	285.4	2.0	3.9	2.2	4.9	17.7	66.7	594.1
Other pigs > 20 kg	4.0	919.6	2.3	3.5	3.6	21.8	76.7	329.5	3148.1
Rabbits, breeding females	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.8	2.3
Broilers (1000/holding)	0.2	9.6	0.9	2.4	2.6	9.3	17.7	12.1	10.8
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-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production:									
(% all holdings)	3.5	4.7	3.3	2.6	3.4	4.7	6.0	6.9	11.1
Tourism	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.8
Handicraft	0.3	0.1	0.2	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Processing of farm products	0	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.2	0.1	0.4
Wood processing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1
Aquaculture	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1
Renewable energy production	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4
Contractual work	0.1	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.3	2.2	2.6	4.5
Other gainful activities n.a.e	2.2	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.9	2.6	3.0	2.9	5.8

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Ireland was carried out on a sample base by the reference date of 1st June 2003. The target population was all the active farms in Ireland regardless of any thresholds.

The basis for sampling was the periodically updated farm register (based on census 2000 and administrative information). The population was stratified by size of land area (10 strata). Additionally 3 strata were determined (due to their significance): specialised pig and specialised poultry holdings, as well as new holdings. The sampling rate was determined by using Neymann-allocation, except the 3 special strata where coverage was 100%. The sample was randomly selected.

The data are multi-level checked and the non-responding units are imputed using their previous year data or a limited number of them were phone-contacted. Due to uncertainty on the number of farms not involved in production any more, a hybrid methodology was used to estimate final results. Based on the present and previous returns (matched cases) estimates on crops and livestock were calculated. Based on the farm register a preliminary population frame was calculated, and to each stratum a grossing factor was determined using the proportion of returned questionnaires. With these grossing factors another set of estimates was calculated, and the two sets were compared. The differences were small, but helped to eliminate the overcoverage of the preliminary population frame, and determine the right grossing factor in each stratum. Finally the corrected grossing factors were used to estimate the results.

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 work 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

Crops and Livestock Survey, June 2003 – Provisional Estimates, CSO, September 2003.

Crops and Livestock Survey, June 2003 (final results), CSO, April 2004.

A detailed publication is envisaged by the end of 2004.

Website of the Central Statistics Office Ireland: www.cso.ie

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/Agriculture/Structure of agricultural holdings](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg-08-01-01)

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/017 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 35349 •

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int

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.

The complete details concerning this support network can be found on our Internet site: www.europa.eu.int/comm/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.eu.int>

E-mail: info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int

BELGIEN/BELGIQUE/BELGIË - DANMARK - DEUTSCHLAND - EESTI – ELLÁDA - ESPAÑA - FRANCE - IRELAND - ITALIA - KYPROS/KIBRIS – LUXEMBOURG - MAGYARORSZÁG – MALTA - NEDERLAND - ÖSTERREICH - POLSKA - PORTUGAL - SLOVENIJA - SLOVENSKO - SUOMI/FINLAND - SVERIGE - UNITED KINGDOM - BALGARIJA - HRVATSKA - ÍSLAND – NORGE - SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA - AUSTRALIA - BRASIL - CANADA - EGYPT - MALAYSIA - MÉXICO - SOUTH KOREA - SRI LANKA - T'AI-WAN - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This Statistics in Focus was compiled by György Benoist, Ulrich Eidmann and Pol Marquer (ESTAT E1).

ORIGINAL TEXT: English