

Farm Structure Survey in Bulgaria - 2007

Average Utilized Agricultural Area per holding – 24 ha

This Statistics in Focus is part 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 Bulgaria.

493 100 agricultural holdings were recorded in Bulgaria in the Farm Structure Survey 2007, which represented an 8% decrease since 2005. Farms under 1 European Size Unit (ESU) suffered a significant reduction (-10%), while the number of farms with at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU) decreased by 0,2%.

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Due to the different coverage of the FSS across Member States, the total number of surveyed farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis focuses on holdings of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU). See the methodological notes for more information on the concept of ESU.

In 2007, a total of **117 800 agricultural holdings** had an economic size of at least 1 ESU, which was almost the same as in 2005 (118 100). On the other hand, farms under 1 ESU suffered a significant reduction (-10%) in the same period.

However, there were **2.87 million ha of utilised agricultural area - UAA**, (+15.3% compared with 2.49 million ha in 2005), consequently the average UAA per holding increased from 21.1 ha per holding to 24.3 ha per holding;

These holdings employed **222 100 (annual work units) (AWUs)**, the equivalent of 222 100 people working full time. This showed a decrease of 10% compared to 2005;

In 2007 they had **920 000 livestock units (LSU)** in 2007, which is 5.6% more than in 2005.

Amongst these **117 800 agricultural holdings**:

30% made use of less than one AWU, while another 27% made use of 2 or more AWUs;

92% used less than 20 ha, while 5% used 50 ha or more;

21% of the farms specialised in general field cropping;

14% specialised in dairy farming;

11% combined field crops and grazing livestock;

10% were specialised in mixed cropping;

9% were engaged in grazing sheep, goats and other livestock;

Amongst the sole holders:

13% were women in 2007;

55% were aged 55 or more and 6% were younger than 35 years;

44% of sole holders had another gainful activity in 2007.

In Bulgaria in 2007, a total of 17% of the agricultural area was farmed by its owners.

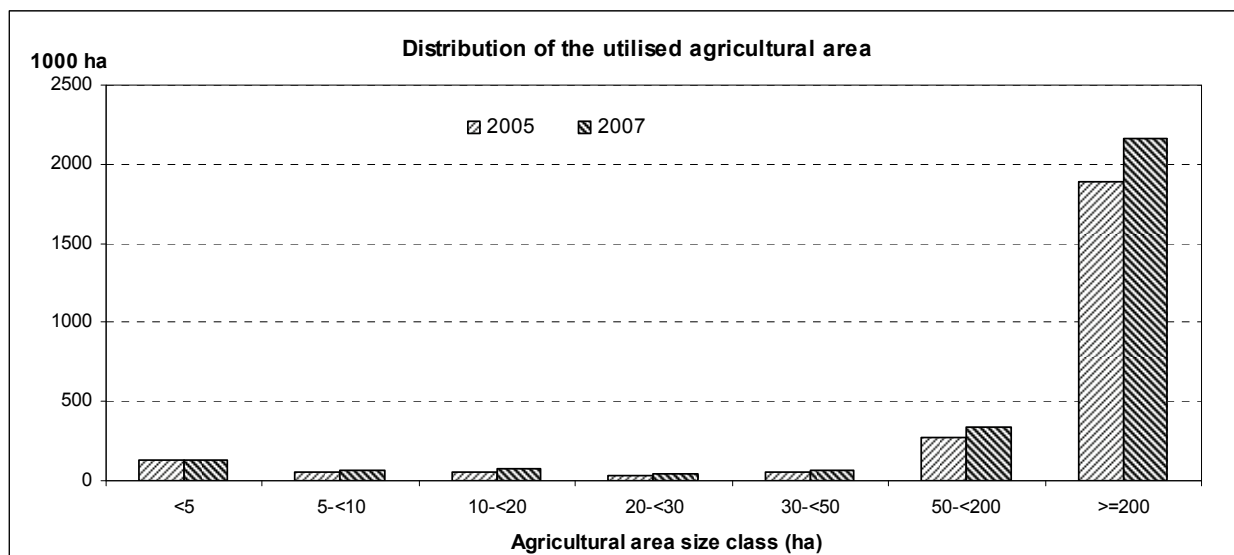
The family labour force regularly employed decreased by 10% from 2005 to 2007.

The number of farms having vineyards as their main crop rose by 6 times while those specialized in fruit and citrus fruit trees rose by 197%.

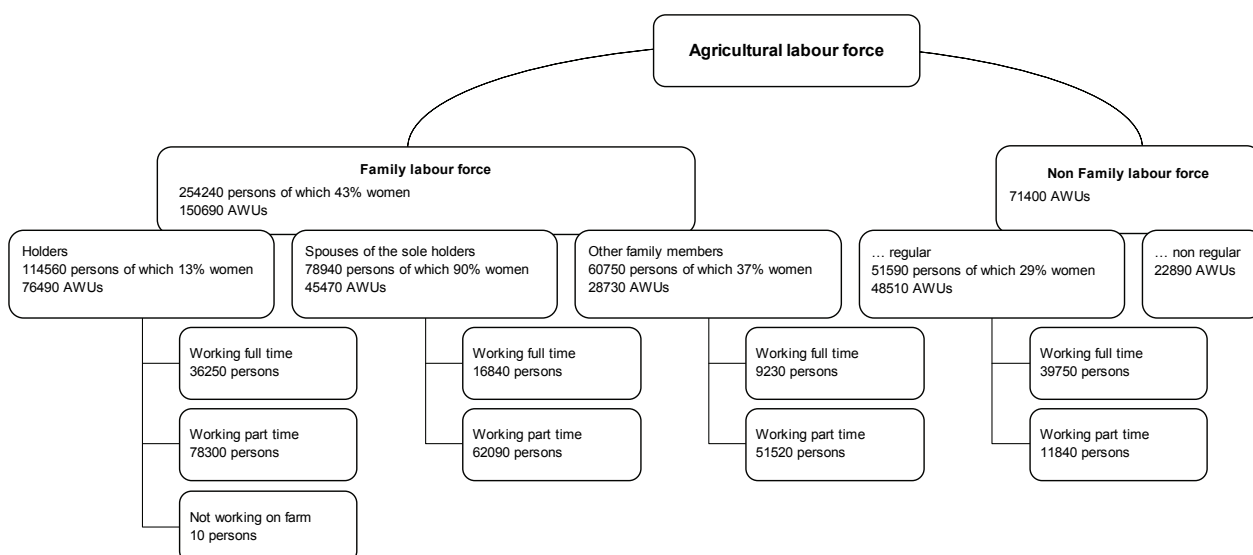
8% of the UAA in Bulgaria was permanent grassland and meadow in 2007. The increase of the area of grassland and meadow, between 2005 and 2007, was 291% (from 59 000 ha to 231 000 ha).

Between 2005 and 2007, noticeable increases were also recognized in the areas used for rape and turnip (multiplied by 4.6), forage plants (+40%), fruit and berry plantations (+46%) and grain maize (+32%).

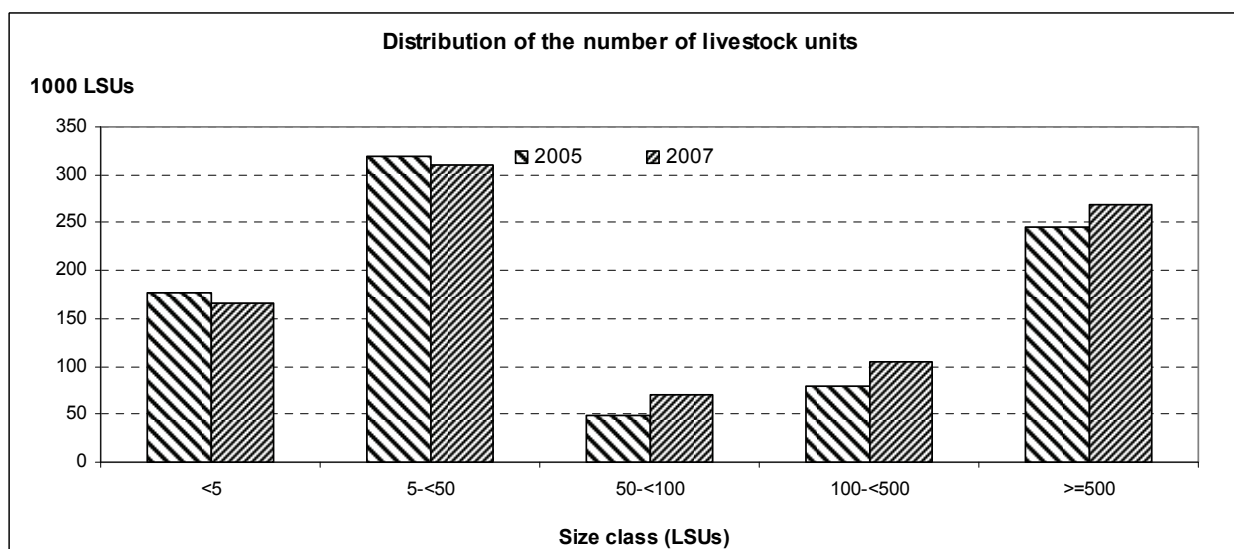
In the same period, there was a decrease in the area used for tobacco plantations (-33%).



Description of the Labour Force in Bulgaria



Source: Eurostat



*LSUs = Livestock Units

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)				
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100	
Total labour force										
1000 annual work units	160.7	11.4	7.0	43.1	222.1	57.5	146.4	5.2	13.0	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	238.7	7.3	3.6	4.7	254.2	29.0	222.1	2.3	0.8	
1000 annual work units	139.7	4.9	2.5	3.5	150.7	15.0	133.2	1.9	0.6	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	11.3	3.7	2.8	33.8	51.6	30.3	6.3	2.9	12.1	
1000 annual work units	10.6	3.4	2.5	32.0	48.5	28.3	5.6	2.8	11.8	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	10.3	3.0	1.9	7.6	22.9	14.1	7.6	0.6	0.6	
Holding managers	1000	108.1	3.5	2.0	4.2	117.8	16.6	99.5	1.1	0.7
- women (%)		13.5	8.3	10.3	11.9	13.2	13.1	13.2	12.9	19.5
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		34.3	14.8	16.3	7.0	32.4	35.2	32.4	6.4	8.6
- 50 % and over (%)		35.4	33.6	27.5	20.5	34.7	35.1	35.0	18.3	13.4
Sole/main holders	1000	107.5	3.2	1.7	2.2	114.6	14.1	99.2	0.9	0.4
- women (%)		13.5	6.8	10.3	10.8	13.2	12.9	13.2	13.0	24.2
- distribution by age (%)										
- under 35 years		5.3	10.8	12.2	14.7	5.7	8.1	5.3	9.7	10.9
- from 35 to 44 years		15.0	24.8	28.2	28.2	15.7	22.4	14.6	25.2	28.8
- from 45 to 54 years		23.3	26.8	26.5	29.1	23.5	26.2	22.9	36.7	44.9
- from 55 to 64 years		28.5	25.5	21.2	21.2	28.2	25.9	28.6	21.2	12.5
- 65 years and over		28.0	12.2	11.9	6.9	26.9	17.3	28.5	7.2	2.9
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		34.5	16.4	19.3	13.1	33.3	41.4	32.5	7.4	15.6
- 50 % and over (%)		35.6	37.4	32.5	38.3	35.7	41.4	35.1	21.2	24.4
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)		44.0	39.7	37.3	39.5	43.7	54.8	42.2	35.9	44.6
- as a main occupation		29.6	20.4	15.2	12.5	28.8	37.4	27.8	12.0	19.6
- as a subsidiary occupation		14.4	19.4	22.1	27.0	14.9	17.4	14.4	23.9	25.0
Spouse of sole holder	1000	74.9	2.0	1.0	1.1	78.9	8.1	70.0	0.6	0.2
- women (%)		90.2	93.9	87.3	85.8	90.2	88.8	90.4	85.1	69.3
- distribution by age (%)										
- under 35 years		6.1	10.6	14.2	13.6	6.4	8.6	6.1	11.3	12.4
- from 35 to 54 years		45.7	59.2	48.9	63.3	46.3	55.5	45.1	58.1	61.9
- 55 years and over		48.2	30.1	36.9	23.1	47.3	35.8	48.8	30.7	25.7
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		44.6	41.0	40.7	35.6	44.3	56.3	43.2	22.5	12.8
- 50 % and over (%)		34.6	28.4	29.9	33.1	34.4	30.7	34.9	21.2	39.4
- with another gainful activity (%)		51.3	53.7	52.1	63.6	51.5	67.6	49.6	52.2	59.2
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	56.3	2.1	1.0	1.4	60.7	6.8	53.0	0.8	0.2
- women (%)		37.6	31.2	22.3	24.6	36.9	34.8	37.2	34.1	30.3
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		59.6	47.8	43.7	39.1	58.5	69.0	57.7	29.4	30.8
- 50 % and over (%)		26.1	28.5	30.4	31.0	26.3	23.2	26.7	22.7	39.3
- with another gainful activity (%)		71.7	62.0	57.3	51.7	70.7	72.7	70.8	53.0	46.0

*LSU = Livestock unit

¹ Only holders who are also farm managers.Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_lfft](#))

"0" less than a half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)				
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100	
Holdings										
- total number	1000	108.1	3.5	2.0	4.2	117.8	16.6	99.5	1.1	0.7
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		99.4	90.0	84.6	53.4	97.3	85.0	99.7	86.4	55.1
- legal person		0.6	10.0	15.4	46.6	2.7	15.0	0.3	13.7	44.9
- group holders		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		31.6	17.3	14.0	4.0	29.9	36.2	29.3	4.5	3.1
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		45.1	32.8	28.1	14.9	43.3	29.3	46.1	23.8	10.2
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		17.6	22.8	20.8	12.4	17.6	13.0	18.5	16.2	12.3
- 3 AWU and over		5.7	27.2	37.1	68.7	9.1	21.4	6.1	55.6	74.4
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		96.4	55.3	12.5	2.0	90.4	70.8	95.2	9.0	0.9
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		2.5	27.5	52.8	3.6	4.1	7.1	3.4	22.3	1.6
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		0.8	13.4	26.8	30.3	2.7	8.0	1.0	59.3	25.5
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		0.2	3.0	6.6	29.9	1.4	6.9	0.3	4.2	32.3
- 100 ESU and over		0.1	0.8	1.4	34.3	1.4	7.3	0.1	5.2	39.8
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... general field cropping		21.8	11.7	10.5	7.9	20.8	25.3	20.4	0.5	2.1
... specialist dairy farming		14.6	14.2	10.0	2.5	14.1	0	15.9	54.7	23.0
... field crops – grazing livestock combined		11.7	10.2	7.4	3.0	11.3	0.3	13.2	8.4	6.2
... mixed cropping		10.4	5.6	3.0	4.0	9.9	9.0	10.2	1.2	3.7
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock		9.2	4.5	5.9	4.4	8.8	1.0	10.1	11.8	8.6
Other types of farming		32.3	53.8	63.0	78.0	35.1	64.5	30.2	23.4	56.4
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.2	0.4
- irrigating		22.4	14.7	10.9	9.9	21.5	33.3	19.7	10.1	11.4
- with crops under glass		5.3	2.2	1.0	0.7	4.9	10.6	4.1	0.5	0.3
- with another gainful activity other than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		0.1	0.9	0	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0	4.1
Handicraft		0.1	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0	0
Processing of farm products		0.1	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.8	2.3
Wood processing		0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1
Aquaculture		0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1
Renewable energy production		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contractual work		3.1	13.6	16.5	25.5	4.4	7.4	3.8	8.5	9.3
Other gainful activities n.a.e		0.5	1.2	3.1	2.4	0.6	1.2	0.5	1.8	4.0

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_kvaaesu](#))

"0" less than a half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)				
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100	
Area	(1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	500.0	145.1	257.4	2944.2	3846.7	2722.7	735.6	110.9	277.4	
· H. Other area	232.7	38.9	119.0	589.0	979.6	899.9	74.9	0.9	4.0	
Wooded area	219.3	36.7	112.5	565.7	934.2	873.2	60.9	0.1	0	
· Agricultural area	267.3	106.2	138.4	2355.2	2867.1	1822.9	660.7	110.1	273.4	
- D. Arable land	194.1	85.5	107.3	2172.8	2559.6	1681.0	542.3	90.4	246.0	
Cereals	105.8	51.9	69.3	1414.8	1641.7	1087.9	338.6	57.8	157.5	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	53.5	28.8	38.0	925.1	1045.4	721.3	196.1	35.0	92.9	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.8	0.1	0.2	4.3	5.5	2.7	1.3	0.9	0.6	
<i>Rye</i>	1.6	0.4	0.4	4.1	6.5	2.8	2.9	0.3	0.5	
<i>Barley</i>	13.4	7.2	10.1	172.1	202.8	124.9	45.5	8.7	23.6	
<i>Oats</i>	5.3	2.0	2.0	14.1	23.4	8.4	10.9	1.4	2.7	
<i>Grain maize</i>	29.9	12.0	15.6	280.5	337.9	216.4	76.1	11.1	34.4	
Dried pulses	1.1	0.1	0.2	7.9	9.3	5.7	2.5	0.1	1.0	
Root crops	9.7	0.9	0.4	3.4	14.3	5.1	8.1	0.4	0.7	
<i>Potatoes</i>	9.4	0.8	0.3	1.3	11.9	3.9	7.9	0.1	0	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	0	0	1.3	1.4	1.0	0	0	0.3	
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.2	0	0.1	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	
Industrial crops	33.6	21.7	27.9	655.5	738.8	521.5	137.7	23.5	56.1	
<i>Tobacco</i>	11.9	0.5	0.8	4.1	17.3	6.2	11.1	0	0	
<i>Hops</i>	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.1	0	
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0.1	0.3	0.1	50.4	50.9	38.6	6.2	1.3	4.8	
<i>Sunflower</i>	14.5	16.0	23.2	568.0	621.8	447.5	106.1	20.0	48.2	
<i>Soya</i>	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	13.7	1.7	1.2	3.4	20.0	9.9	9.9	0.1	0.1	
<i>outside</i>	12.9	1.5	1.2	3.3	18.9	9.3	9.5	0.1	0.1	
<i>under glass</i>	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.6	0.4	0	0	
Flower and ornamental plants	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0	0	
<i>outside</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	
Forage plants	23.8	6.8	5.1	48.3	83.9	17.7	33.2	7.0	26.1	
Fallow land	6.2	2.4	3.0	39.3	50.8	32.6	12.1	1.5	4.6	
- E. Kitchen garden	3.6	0.1	0	0	3.8	0.3	3.5	0	0	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	46.2	12.6	23.8	148.2	230.8	90.3	97.9	18.5	24.1	
- G. Permanent crops	23.4	8.0	7.3	34.1	72.8	51.2	17.1	1.2	3.3	
Fruit and berry plantation	12.8	3.5	2.4	11.5	30.3	20.0	9.1	0.5	0.7	
Citrus plantation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vineyard	10.1	4.3	4.7	21.8	40.9	29.8	7.8	0.7	2.6	
Ratios										
Agricultural area per holding	(ha)	2.5	30.0	70.9	560.2	24.3	110.1	6.6	103.4	391.2
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		73.4	31.1	21.6	9.7	17.0	12.1	34.8	11.5	9.1
... in less favoured or mountain area		31.4	15.1	16.7	10.2	12.7	9.9	19.3	13.3	14.8
... organic farmed		0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.6
... irrigated		8.7	3.6	2.6	1.2	2.1	1.8	3.0	0.7	2.3

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_lusum](#))

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

Size of the farms		Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU)			
		<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Total livestock	(1000 LSU)	702.4	45.0	30.6	142.0	920.0	0	477.9	70.1	371.9
of which grazing	(%)	58.1	86.5	86.6	59.1	60.6	:	86.7	86.8	22.2
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		48.1	1.2	0.4	1.6	51.3	0	48.7	1.3	1.3
Bovine animals		345.9	39.9	27.3	83.4	496.4	0	345.8	63.8	86.9
Under 1 year		77.4	8.1	6.1	19.0	110.7	0	78.6	13.1	19.0
From 1 to less than 2 years		36.3	5.1	3.1	12.4	56.9	0	35.9	8.2	12.8
Dairy cows		206.6	23.5	14.4	43.3	287.8	0	207.7	34.6	45.5
Other cows		8.5	0.6	1.3	1.4	11.8	0	7.1	3.1	1.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		17.0	2.5	2.4	7.2	29.2	0	16.4	4.7	8.0
Sheep		724.5	46.7	37.2	148.3	956.8	0	780.4	69.8	106.6
Goats		129.0	3.2	3.4	12.1	147.7	0	132.2	7.1	8.5
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)	468.6	17.6	5.7	180.0	671.9	0	145.7	16.6	509.6
Piglets < 20 kg		128.4	4.2	1.5	53.9	188.0	0	35.7	4.8	147.5
Breeding sows		86.6	2.8	1.6	15.8	106.7	0	27.6	3.4	75.7
Other pigs		253.5	10.6	2.6	110.3	377.1	0	82.3	8.4	286.4
Poultry	(million heads)	13.1	0.1	0.3	1.0	14.4	0	1.5	0.3	12.6
Broilers		7.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	7.6	0	0.3	0.2	7.2
Laying hens		3.9	0.1	0	0.3	4.3	0	1.0	0.1	3.2
Other poultry		2.2	0	0	0.3	2.5	0	0.2	0.1	2.2
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	50.4	1.7	0.7	2.4	55.1	0	53.0	0.2	1.9
Beehives	(1000)	275.1	3.1	1.9	3.1	283.2	85.9	195.4	1.1	0.7
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae	(head/holding)	1.2	1.7	2.1	7.3	1.2	:	1.2	3.6	14.5
Cattle	(head/holding)	5.2	25.1	43.6	107.7	7.2	:	5.1	69.0	223.5
Dairy cows	(head/holding)	3.3	15.9	24.9	61.8	4.4	:	3.2	40.8	124.3
Other cows	(head/holding)	4.9	18.5	38.0	38.0	6.4	:	4.1	41.3	46.9
Sheep	(head/holding)	17.9	40.3	70.0	238.9	22.4	:	18.5	173.3	533.1
Goats	(head/holding)	6.8	9.0	14.8	56.3	7.5	:	6.8	40.1	90.3
Pigs	(head/holding)	12.8	12.6	10.1	261.3	17.2	:	3.8	34.3	1952.6
Breeding sows	(head/holding)	8.4	5.2	7.0	57.4	9.5	:	2.5	12.0	459.1
Other pigs > 20 kg	(head/holding)	8.5	9.8	6.9	193.9	11.8	:	2.6	21.2	1168.8
Rabbits, breeding females	(head/holding)	8.0	10.0	10.8	33.1	8.3	:	8.1	6.9	241.6
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0.1	0	0.1	0.5	0.1	:	0	0.2	17.3
Broilers	(1000/holding)	1.3	0.7	11.1	8.0	1.3	:	0	4.4	80.6
Beehives	(hive/holding)	30.7	12.8	16.6	27.7	30.1	66.5	24.3	14.0	54.3

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_lssum](#))

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular labour force	(1000 pers)	950.0	644.2	305.8	67.8	32.2
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	470.1	270.9	199.2	57.6	42.4
Holder with...	(1000)	489.8	375.2	114.6	76.6	23.4
... at least 65 years		221.9	191.1	30.8	86.1	13.9
... another gainful activity		180.7	130.6	50.0	72.3	27.7
Number of sole holdings	(1000)	493.1	375.3	117.8	76.1	23.9
... producing mainly for own consumption		343.9	306.9	37.0	89.2	10.8
... producing mainly for direct sales		25.2	15.0	10.2	59.4	40.6
SGM	(1000 ESU)	1061.3	126.0	935.3	11.9	88.1
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	3050.7	183.7	2867.1	6.0	94.0
... own farmed		647.1	158.5	488.6	24.5	75.5
Livestock	(1000 LSU*)	1246.0	326.0	920.0	26.2	73.8

Source: Eurostat

*LSU = Livestock unit

➤ METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The Agrostistics Directorate of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF), in collaboration with its 28 district Directorates, implements the survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria.

The FSS 2007 was the second sample survey after the last Agricultural Census in 2003 (AC 2003). The reference period was the 2006/2007 crop year (October 2006 to September 2007). In the case of the livestock the reference date was the day of the interview and for the labour force characteristics the reference period was the 12 months preceding the day of the interview.

An agricultural holding in Bulgaria is an independent economic unit with independent management that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- 0.5 ha of UAA or 0.3 ha of arable land;
- 0.1 ha of specialized crop, or 0.05 of greenhouse crops, or 0.2 ha of permanent grassland;
- 1 cow or buffalo, 2 other bovine animals, 1 female equidea, 2 working animals (equidae), 1 breeding sow, 5 pigs, 5 breeding sheep, 2 breeding goats, or 50 laying hens, or 100 poultry for fattening, or 10 beehives, or 10 breeding female rabbits, or 1 reproductive male animal;
- if their production exceeds certain physical thresholds.

The thresholds applied since the 2003 AC were significantly lower than the ones of the other Member States for covering at least 99% of the national agricultural production. In the 2003 AC, 665 500 holdings met the definition and this population (along with the updates from the 2005 FSS) was the frame used for drawing the 2007 FSS sample.

The stratification criteria used were the farm type and the economic class. The new holdings (created after November 2003), were added to the sample in the exhaustive stratum. The final size of the sample was 40 382 holdings. The sample was drawn using the Neyman allocations method.

The collection of the data was carried out from 15 October to 30 November 2007. The questionnaires were completed using a face-to-face interview. The non-response rate was 0.12%.

Between FSS 2005 and 2007, "maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental conditions" (GAEC) became an agricultural activity and the land in question has been included in the agricultural area. In Bulgaria, it covers close to 31 000 ha, all in holdings with at least 1 ESU.

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 SGM).

An Annual work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year. In Bulgaria it is 1856 hours (232 working days of 8 working hours per day).

A Livestock Unit (LSU) is equivalent to a dairy cow.

The number of animals (number of heads) is converted into LSU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

➤ REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Bulgaria: <http://www.mzh.government.bg/>
National Methodological Report – FSS 2007 (available on request)

Further information

Eurostat Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data on "Agriculture Statistics":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/data/database>

More information about "Agriculture Statistics":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/introduction>

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Manuscript completed on: 23.03.2010

Data extracted on: 18.01.2010

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-10-016-EN-N

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