

# Farm structure in Estonia – 2005

79% of agricultural land and 67% of livestock  
in farms of 50 ha 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 Estonia. A similar publication was issued in March 2005 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Estonia.*

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In June 2005 in Estonia, about 13 thousand\* agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

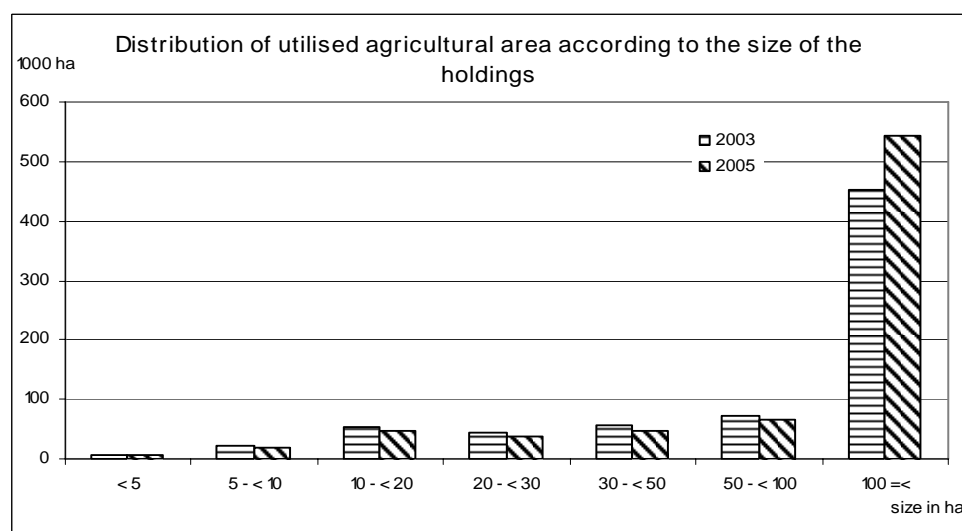
- These holdings employed 28 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 28 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 764 thousand ha of agricultural area, which is on average 57 ha per holding (compared to 48.3 ha in 2003).

Among these 13 thousand agricultural holdings

- 34% made use of less than one AWU, while 19% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 19% used less than 5 ha, while 17% used 50 ha or more;
- 16% were type of mixed livestock holdings mainly with herbivore, 14% were engaged in mixed cropping, 13% in combined field cropping – grazing livestock, 13% in general field cropping, while 12% were specialised in dairy farming;
- 39% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas;
- 4% were organic farms;
- 38% were producing mainly for their own consumption;
- 5% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the almost 13 thousand sole holders

- 34% were women;
- 51% were aged 55 or more, and only 7% younger than 35 years;
- 32% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.



*Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, this figure is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on the holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological notes for more information on the concept of the ESU.*

## Statistics in focus

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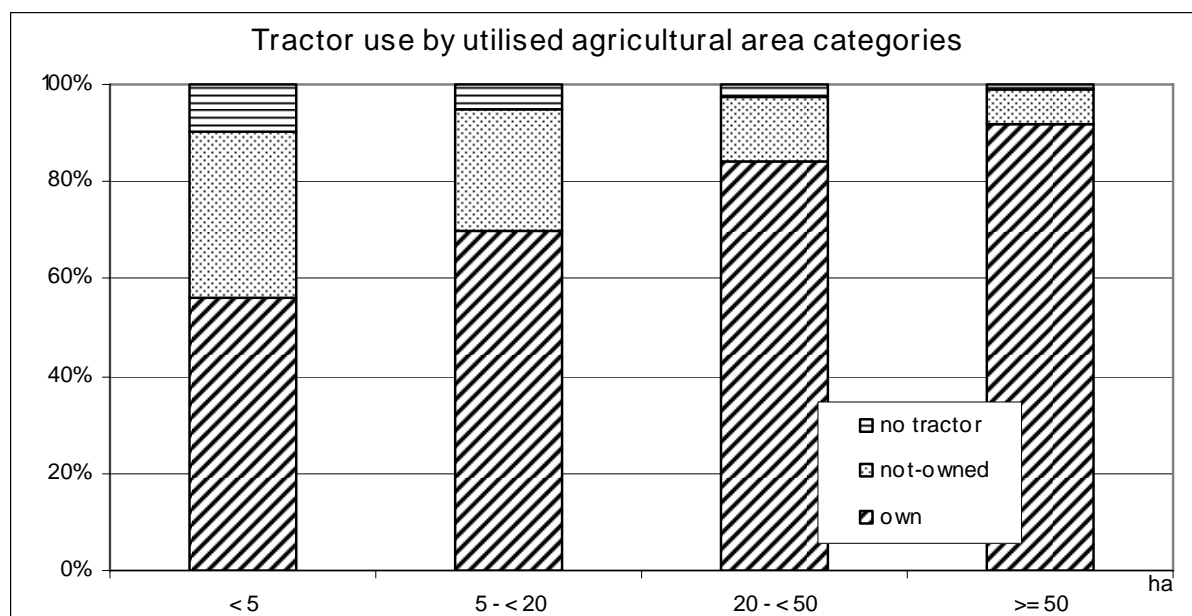
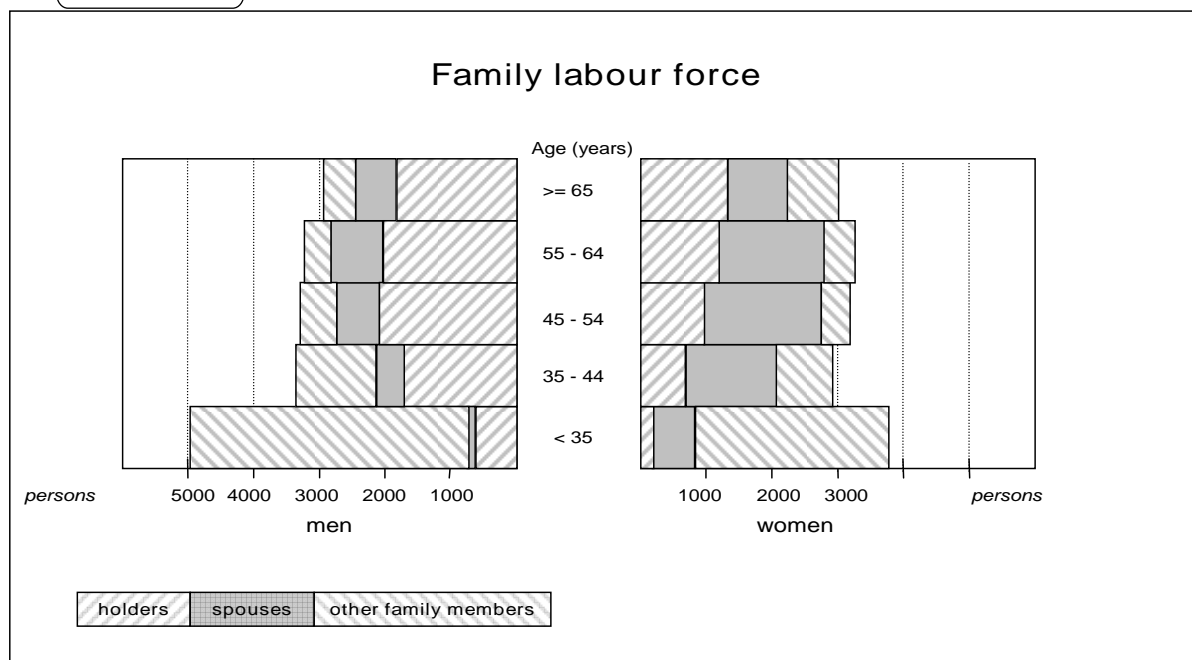
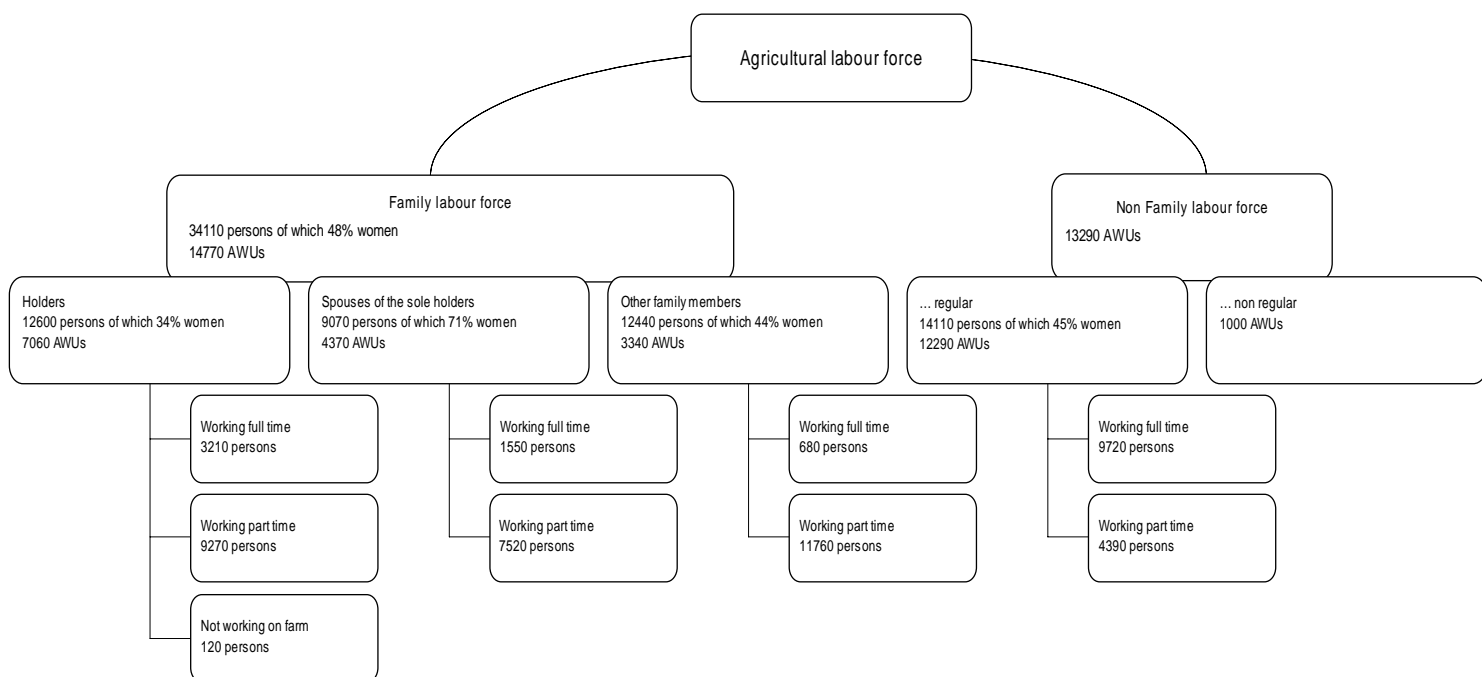
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# Estonia 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



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	3.8	6.6	3.8	13.9	28.1	4.8	6.7	5.4	11.2
Family labour force									
1000 persons	6.5	15.7	7.2	4.7	34.1	7.5	16.9	8.8	0.9
1000 annual work units	2.3	6.2	3.4	2.9	14.8	2.8	6.5	4.9	0.6
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	1.6	0.5	0.4	11.6	14.1	2.2	0.1	0.5	11.3
1000 annual work units	1.3	0.3	0.2	10.4	12.3	1.7	0.1	0.3	10.2
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4
Holding managers (1000)	2.5	5.9	2.8	2.3	13.4	3.4	6.1	3.2	0.7
- women (%)	41.3	37.5	28.0	15.1	32.5	23.4	37.8	35.1	18.2
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	57.3	52.7	37.6	14.4	44.0	55.7	52.3	23.4	5.5
- 50 % and over (%)	26.2	30.2	29.2	19.1	27.4	21.8	30.8	29.6	13.3
- with a basic agricultural training only (%)	7.0	8.0	7.8	10.3	8.2	7.1	8.2	9.1	9.0
- with a full agricultural training (%)	25.1	25.5	35.7	52.7	32.1	36.0	25.2	35.0	61.8
Sole/main holders (1000)	2.4	5.8	2.7	1.7	12.6	3.1	6.1	3.1	0.3
- women (%)	42.1	37.8	28.7	17.4	34.0	24.5	38.5	36.0	20.6
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	6.5	5.6	7.6	8.6	6.6	11.7	4.5	5.7	4.9
- from 35 to 44 years	19.6	16.6	18.8	27.5	19.1	24.2	16.2	18.9	25.5
- from 45 to 54 years	22.0	21.1	24.3	34.0	23.6	25.0	19.8	28.2	40.9
- from 55 to 64 years	25.7	25.8	28.0	21.5	25.7	20.9	26.5	29.4	21.3
- 65 years and over	26.2	31.0	21.3	8.5	25.0	18.3	33.0	17.8	7.0
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	59.6	53.1	38.5	19.4	46.7	60.9	52.5	24.2	12.6
- 50 % and over (%)	27.2	30.4	29.8	25.8	29.1	23.8	30.9	30.6	30.4
- with another gainful activity <sup>1</sup> (%)	41.0	39.9	38.0	24.7	37.6	52.5	36.6	27.0	12.2
- as main occupation	37.9	35.6	31.1	15.2	32.3	46.6	32.1	20.9	6.1
- as a subsidiary occupation	3.0	4.2	6.9	9.4	5.3	5.9	4.6	6.1	6.1
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	1.7	4.1	2.0	1.3	9.1	2.1	4.4	2.4	0.2
- women (%)	64.9	68.8	74.6	82.3	71.2	78.0	68.9	68.4	80.9
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	8.1	7.7	8.7	11.5	8.5	13.9	6.6	7.3	8.7
- from 35 to 54 years	48.3	42.7	47.7	62.1	47.6	53.3	41.6	51.5	67.8
- 55 years and over	43.5	49.6	43.6	26.3	43.9	32.8	51.7	41.2	23.5
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	69.4	61.5	51.8	39.7	57.9	71.6	64.1	38.0	23.0
- 50 % and over (%)	23.2	28.0	25.4	17.4	25.1	18.8	26.8	28.5	11.3
- with another gainful activity (%)	44.7	41.4	40.2	36.8	41.1	58.3	38.0	33.8	20.9
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	2.4	5.8	2.5	1.7	12.4	2.3	6.5	3.4	0.3
- women (%)	46.0	46.1	42.2	39.1	44.3	42.0	46.1	42.7	41.0
- part-time									
- under 50 % (%)	90.9	88.5	83.3	71.0	85.4	86.8	89.2	79.4	65.1
- 50 % and over (%)	6.8	8.1	11.4	12.6	9.1	8.5	7.9	11.8	10.5
- with another gainful activity (%)	43.6	44.4	39.1	31.1	41.3	42.6	43.2	38.4	24.1

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

\* LU = Livestock Unit

<sup>1</sup> 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)	2.5	5.9	2.8	2.3	13.4	3.4	6.1	3.2	0.7
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	96.2	99.2	97.7	74.0	94.1	91.4	99.7	96.6	43.7
- legal person	3.8	0.8	2.3	26.0	5.9	8.6	0.3	3.4	56.3
- 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	44.7	39.7	29.8	11.3	33.8	51.8	37.3	14.3	1.7
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	47.1	52.5	47.9	30.5	46.9	33.2	56.4	51.1	9.3
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	5.4	6.8	19.1	24.9	12.1	8.7	5.6	27.8	15.0
- 3 AWU and over	2.8	0.9	3.2	33.4	7.2	6.4	0.7	6.9	74.0
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	97.1	98.6	94.3	28.7	85.7	82.4	97.4	83.2	5.2
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	1.0	1.0	4.8	26.2	6.0	7.3	1.5	13.4	6.3
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	0.8	0.3	0.7	23.5	4.3	6.3	0.9	3.0	33.4
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	0.6	0.1	0.1	11.8	2.1	2.8	0.2	0.4	25.5
- 100 ESU and over	0.5	0.0	0.0	9.9	1.8	1.2	0.0	0.1	29.6
- by farm type (%)									
- mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	16.6	22.9	10.1	2.9	15.7	4.5	24.0	15.1	0.8
- mixed cropping	20.8	16.3	11.3	1.7	13.6	10.0	21.2	5.6	0.9
- field crops – grazing livestock combined	7.5	15.0	14.1	14.6	13.4	4.9	15.4	17.6	18.5
- general field cropping	16.9	13.4	13.4	7.2	13.0	27.0	11.4	3.5	0.6
- specialist dairy farming	6.6	7.5	14.9	26.6	12.1	0.0	5.1	29.7	54.7
- other types of farming	31.5	24.9	36.2	47.0	32.2	53.6	22.8	28.6	24.6
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.5	2.2	7.2	9.9	4.2	2.8	2.2	8.9	7.6
- irrigating	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- with fixed irrigation equipment	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- with crops under glass	13.3	3.1	1.4	0.5	4.2	8.1	4.1	1.1	0.2
- benefiting of direct investment aids	1.0	0.3	1.1	24.6	4.7	5.5	0.7	3.1	44.3
- using a tractor (%)									
- with their own tractor	56.0	70.1	84.0	92.0	74.0	64.6	71.7	84.7	93.3
- using a combine harvester (%)	24.5	54.8	66.0	82.4	56.1	48.3	56.3	60.3	74.5
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	6.7	6.8	12.0	20.6	10.2	13.6	6.8	10.7	20.8
- tourism	1.0	1.0	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.3	0.9	2.0	2.7
- handicraft	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.3
- processing of farm products	1.3	1.1	1.9	3.5	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.8	4.4
- wood processing	1.7	1.5	4.1	5.1	2.7	4.4	1.8	2.5	2.4
- aquaculture	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5
- renewable energy production	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
- contractual work	1.4	2.1	3.8	12.5	4.1	5.3	2.7	3.6	13.1
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	0.9	1.0	2.0	2.2	1.4	1.7	0.8	1.8	2.1

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	0 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 =<
Area (1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	24.9	132.1	129.1	674.3	960.5	236.3	161.0	190.3	372.9
Other area	18.7	65.5	44.4	68.0	196.7	59.4	65.8	49.2	22.3
Wooded area	10.6	47.4	33.7	42.8	134.7	38.9	47.0	37.5	11.2
Agricultural area	6.2	66.6	84.7	606.3	763.8	177.0	95.2	141.1	350.5
Arable land	3.0	32.1	50.0	477.4	562.5	151.6	60.5	83.5	267.0
Cereals	0.7	14.6	23.4	240.6	279.4	95.3	33.4	34.8	116.0
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.2	3.4	5.4	75.5	84.5	36.0	9.7	9.0	29.8
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Rye</i>	0.0	0.4	0.8	7.9	9.1	2.7	0.6	1.2	4.6
<i>Barley</i>	0.3	6.8	12.0	122.7	141.8	47.0	16.6	16.3	61.9
<i>Oats</i>	0.1	3.1	4.1	30.0	37.4	8.3	5.3	6.8	17.1
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dried pulses	0.0	0.2	0.3	3.9	4.4	2.5	0.5	0.5	0.9
Root crops	1.1	2.8	1.7	2.6	8.1	3.5	2.7	1.5	0.5
<i>Potatoes</i>	1.0	2.7	1.7	2.5	8.0	3.5	2.6	1.4	0.4
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Industrial crops	0.0	0.6	1.5	44.9	47.0	21.8	3.3	3.2	18.7
<i>Tobacco</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Hops</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	0.6	1.5	44.6	46.6	21.5	3.3	3.2	18.7
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Soya</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	1.9	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
<i>outside</i>	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>outside</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	0.6	11.3	19.0	163.6	194.5	16.6	14.8	39.6	123.5
Fallow land	0.2	2.2	3.6	18.1	24.1	9.2	5.2	3.6	6.0
Kitchen garden	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.3	2.4	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.0
Permanent pasture and meadows	2.6	32.8	33.8	127.9	197.0	23.6	33.2	56.9	83.4
Permanent crops	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.9	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.0
Fruit and berry plantation	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.0
Citrus plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Olive trees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vineyard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	2.5	11.3	30.6	269.2	57.0	51.6	15.6	44.2	535.2
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	93.5	88.9	76.2	31.4	41.9	46.7	72.9	56.2	25.4
... in less favoured or mountain area	49.1	52.7	49.8	35.2	38.5	35.7	49.2	54.4	30.6
... organic farmed	0.6	2.4	6.2	4.6	4.5	1.7	3.0	10.3	4.1
... irrigated	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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)	58.8	22.2	20.8	204.8	306.6	13.1	45.4	248.1
of which grazing (%)	5.8	68.4	76.1	83.9	67.3	78.9	91.1	62.3
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	0.3	1.3	0.9	2.3	4.8	0.8	3.1	1.0
Bovine animals	3.4	16.4	18.7	214.3	252.8	10.6	48.4	193.8
Under 1 year	0.9	4.8	5.3	44.5	55.4	3.1	13.8	38.5
From 1 to less than 2 years	0.7	4.0	5.2	54.9	64.7	2.3	13.0	49.4
Dairy cows	1.6	6.8	6.9	97.0	112.3	5.0	17.1	90.2
Other cows	0.1	0.4	0.8	3.6	4.9	0.1	2.9	2.0
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	0.1	0.4	0.5	14.4	15.4	0.1	1.6	13.7
Sheep	4.5	17.9	13.3	21.1	56.8	15.4	34.2	7.2
Goats	0.7	1.3	0.6	0.3	2.8	1.6	1.2	0.1
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	178.6	29.2	18.9	125.3	352.0	6.4	12.3	333.3
Piglets < 20 kg	74.8	11.7	5.5	34.2	126.1	2.6	3.6	120.0
Breeding sows	21.4	1.3	1.5	10.0	34.2	0.4	1.2	32.5
Other pigs	82.4	16.3	11.9	81.1	191.7	3.4	7.5	180.8
Poultry (million heads)	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.1	0.1	0.1	1.9
Broilers	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Laying hens	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.9
Other poultry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	1.9	3.2	1.0	0.6	6.6	4.3	2.2	0.1
Beehives * (1000)	8.7	8.0	2.6	1.5	20.7	8.7	3.4	0.2
Average size of herds**								
Equidae (head/holding)	2.9	2.8	4.2	11.3	4.9	1.7	6.5	17.9
Cattle (head/holding)	3.5	5.2	11.9	159.2	35.8	2.8	17.4	359.0
Dairy cows (head/holding)	1.7	2.4	5.0	84.4	17.6	1.5	6.9	177.3
Other cows (head/holding)	7.5	3.6	4.8	13.7	8.9	1.5	7.2	21.6
Sheep (head/holding)	15.6	18.9	33.1	109.9	31.0	13.6	51.5	219.2
Goats (head/holding)	5.0	6.4	6.2	7.7	6.1	5.1	7.8	6.9
Pigs (head/holding)	340.8	16.9	25.6	309.3	103.6	3.1	10.4	2007.7
Breeding sows (head/holding)	224.9	6.6	10.4	58.4	57.0	2.2	4.1	266.7
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	221.6	13.4	20.9	237.8	76.9	2.5	7.8	1173.9
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	6.8	7.1	7.1	8.7	7.1	6.2	9.6	16.0
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	9.9
Broilers (1000/holding)	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	194.6
Beehives (hive/holding)	22.1	8.7	7.1	8.4	11.2	8.0	7.5	8.7

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

\* Bees are not taken into account when calculating Livestock Unit, there are 8.4 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)	81.2	32.9	48.2	40.6	59.4
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	35.8	8.8	27.1	24.5	75.5
Holders	(1000 persons)	26.9	14.3	12.6	53.1	46.9
... at least 65 years old		8.0	4.8	3.2	60.5	39.4
... having another gainful activity		10.4	6.0	4.4	57.5	42.5
Number of holdings	(1000)	27.7	14.4	13.4	51.7	48.3
... producing mainly for own consumption		17.4	12.3	5.1	70.8	29.2
... producing mainly for direct sales		5.3	1.4	3.8	27.1	72.9
... using a tractor		24.8	12.1	12.8	48.6	51.4
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	135.4	7.9	127.5	5.9	94.1
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	828.9	65.1	763.8	7.9	92.1
... owned farmed		380.2	60.0	320.2	15.8	84.2
Livestock	(1000 LU)	316.1	9.5	306.6	3.0	97.0

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

### ► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Estonia was carried out in the summer 2005 using a combined method (exhaustive and sample survey). This was the third FSS in Estonia; prior to this, one full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 2001. The reference date of the farm structure survey was 1st June 2005. However for labour force characteristics the reference period was the preceding 12 months.

The target population comprised all the holdings with a threshold of at least 1 ha UAA or, if UAA is less than 1 ha, at least 1 ESU or the production being intended mainly for sale. These holdings are included in the regularly updated Farm Register. The largest holdings (economic size 2 ESU or more), the units with legal entity, the holdings of small-numbered strata (horticulture, permanent crops and breeding granivores) as well as the organic farms and units participating in the survey on sown areas were selected exhaustively (altogether 11.3 thousand units). From the rest a simple random sample was drawn using the economic size, the type of farming and the location as stratification variables. The total number of selected holdings was about 20.1 thousand.

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat or dairy cow), 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. 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 can't be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

### ► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Põllumajandustootmine koondub suurmajapidamistesse/Agricultural activity concentrates into larger holdings, New Release No. 49., Statistikaamet, Tallinn, 28 April 2006

Põllumajanduslikud majapidamised 2005. Agricultural Holdings, Statistikaamet, Tallinn, June 2006.

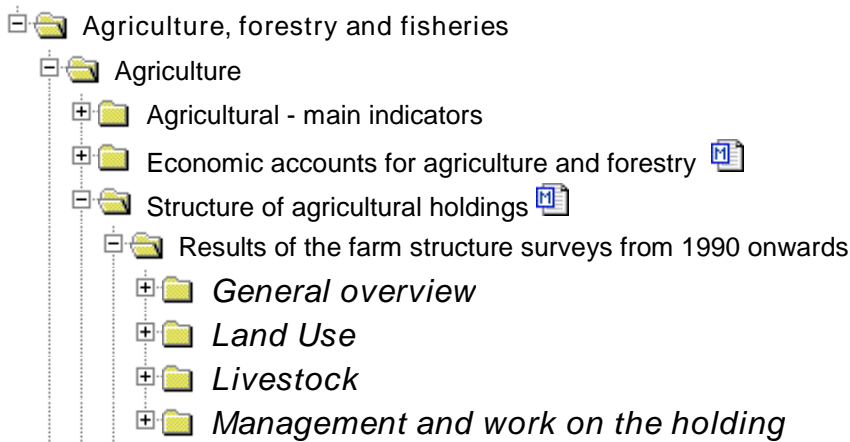
Detailed data in the statistical database of the Statistical Office of Estonia (Structure and typology of agricultural holdings) [http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/I\\_Databas/Economy/Economy.asp](http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/I_Databas/Economy/Economy.asp)

Website of the Statistical Office of Estonia (Statistikaamet): [www.stat.ee](http://www.stat.ee)

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available for request)

## Further information:

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



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