

Farm structure in the Netherlands – 2005

23% of the holdings have a gainful activity other than agriculture

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 the Netherlands. A similar publication was issued in January 2005 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in the Netherlands.

In April 2005 in the Netherlands, about 81.8 thousand* agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

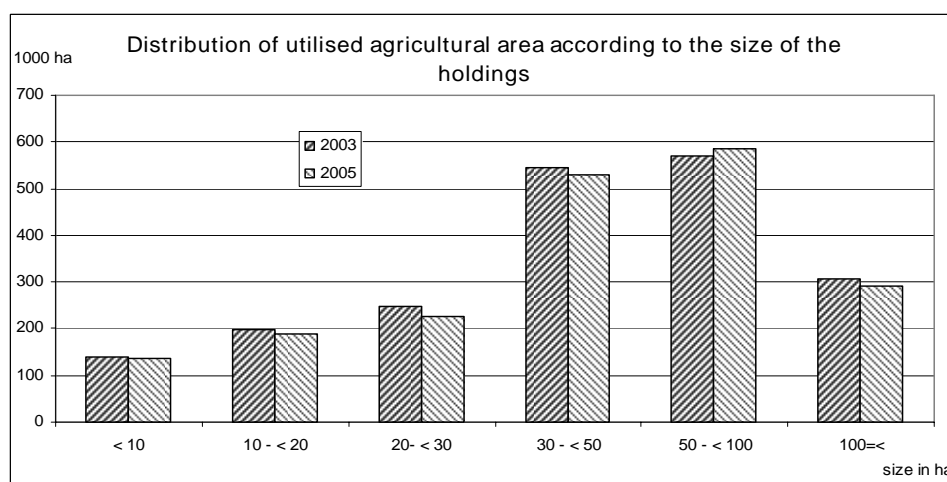
- These holdings employed 173.9 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 173.9 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 2 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 23.9 ha per holding (compared to 23.5 ha in 2003).

Among these 81.8 thousand agricultural holdings

- 23% made use of less than one AWU, while 36% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 29% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 2% used 100 ha or more;
- 25% were holdings of specialist dairy farming, 22% sheep, goat and other grazing livestock holding, 14% general field cropping, 13% were specialist horticulture and 7% had specialised in pigs and poultry;
- 2% were organic farms.

Among the 77.8 thousand sole holders

- 7% were women;
- 43% were aged 55 or more, and only 5% were younger than 35 years;
- 13% 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

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Agriculture

Authors

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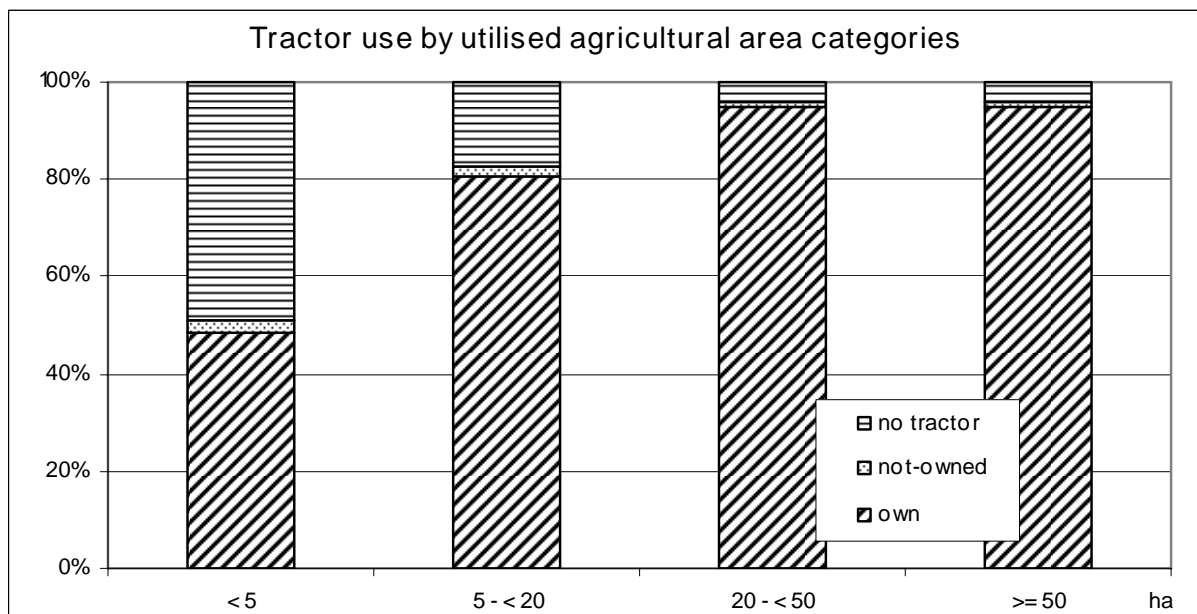
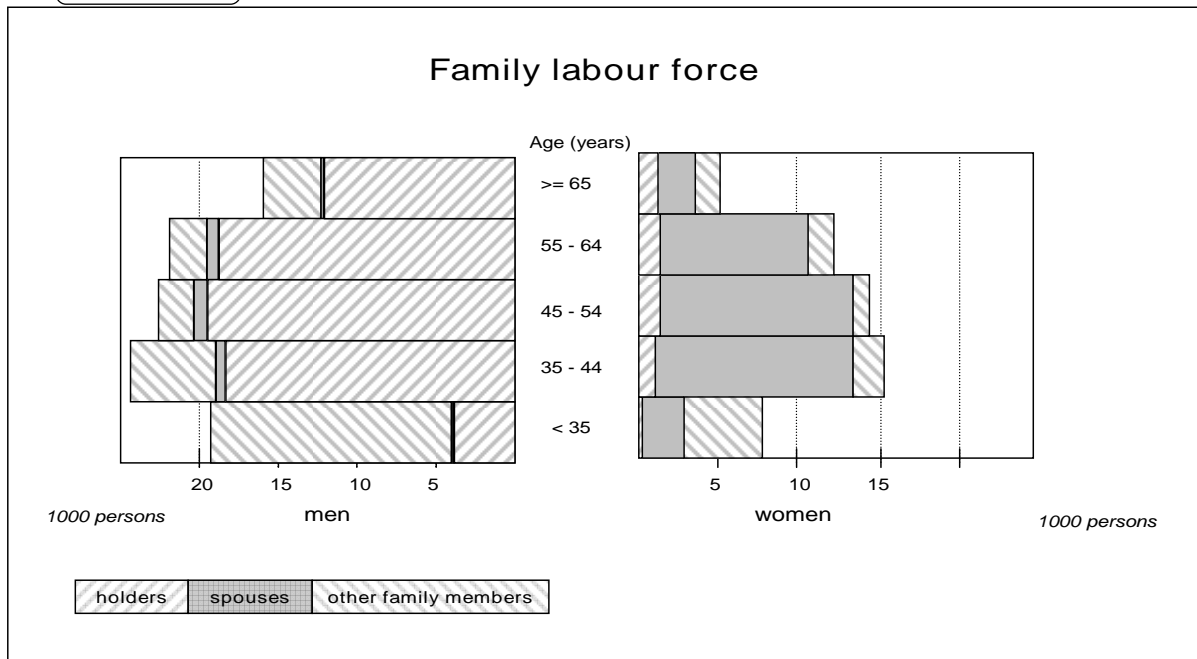
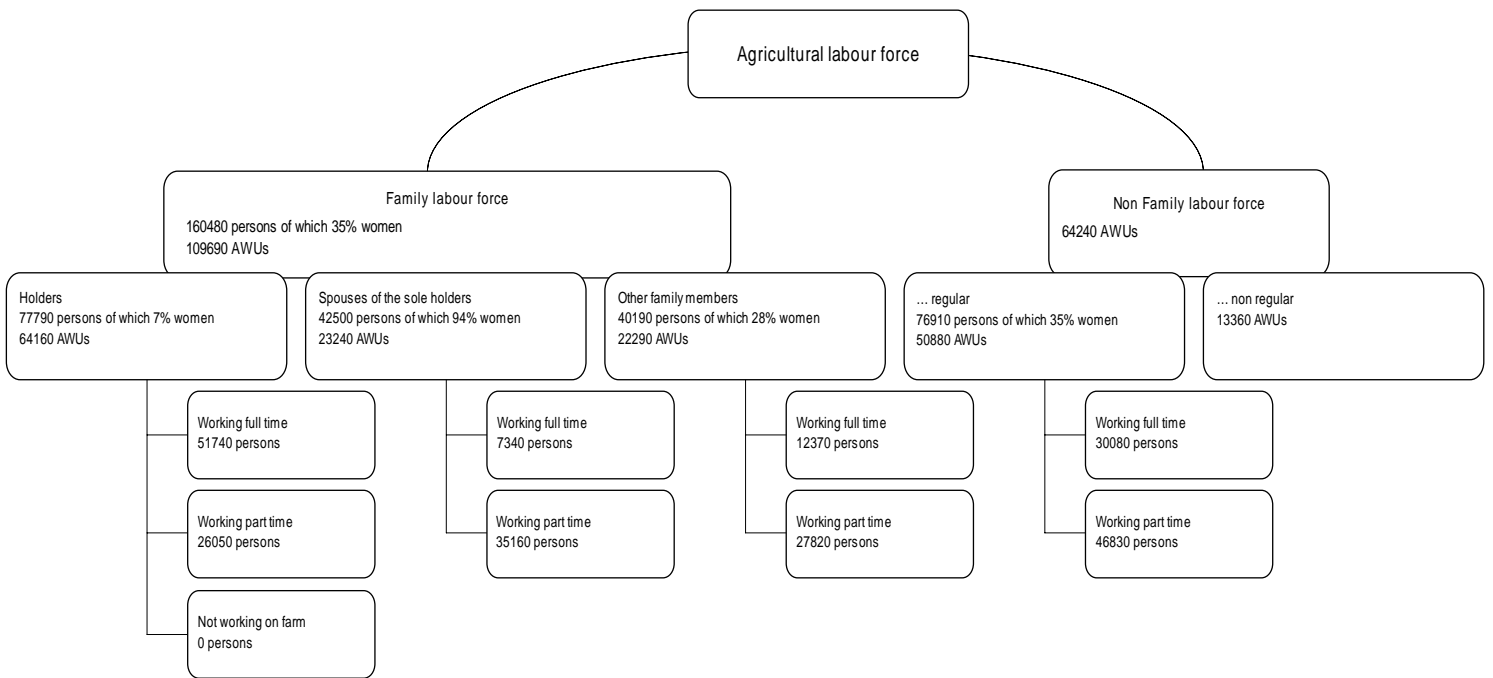
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The Netherlands 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 = <		0	0 < - < 100	100 - < 500	500 = <
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	55.7	45.0	44.5	28.6	173.9	83.3	50.8	34.2	5.7
Family labour force									
1000 persons	39.7	44.0	50.0	26.8	160.5	47.8	68.7	39.8	4.3
1000 annual work units	25.2	27.7	36.6	20.2	109.7	32.4	44.0	30.0	3.3
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	38.9	20.1	9.0	8.9	76.9	57.7	10.1	6.1	3.0
1000 annual work units	25.7	13.2	5.7	6.2	50.9	39.4	5.7	3.6	2.2
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	4.8	4.2	2.2	2.2	13.4	11.5	1.1	0.6	0.2
Holding managers (1000)	23.6	24.8	22.8	10.7	81.8	25.9	37.4	16.5	2.1
- women (%)	9.0	8.4	3.9	3.8	6.7	7.2	7.5	4.4	4.4
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	30.2	25.1	4.1	2.6	17.8	20.4	23.3	2.9	6.1
- 50 % and over(%)	17.8	23.7	9.9	5.3	15.8	14.8	20.6	7.4	7.1
- with a basic agricult. training only (%)	58.6	62.2	75.6	75.1	66.6	67.3	62.4	74.5	69.2
- with a full agricultural training (%)	4.2	3.8	4.5	9.6	4.9	6.6	3.6	4.8	5.6
Sole/main holders (1000)	21.6	23.7	22.2	10.2	77.8	23.3	36.7	16.1	1.7
- women (%)	9.3	8.5	3.9	3.8	6.8	7.6	7.4	4.4	4.8
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	5.3	4.2	5.7	6.5	5.3	5.9	3.9	7.1	7.3
- from 35 to 44 years	23.0	20.8	29.2	29.3	24.9	25.6	20.4	32.7	39.1
- from 45 to 54 years	25.4	24.0	29.7	30.0	26.8	26.4	25.6	30.0	29.4
- from 55 to 64 years	25.4	27.0	24.9	26.7	25.9	26.7	26.9	23.3	19.6
- 65 years and over	20.8	23.9	10.5	7.5	17.1	15.4	23.2	6.9	4.7
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	33.0	26.2	4.2	2.7	18.7	22.7	23.7	2.9	7.4
- 50 % and over(%)	19.5	24.7	10.2	5.6	16.6	16.4	21.0	7.6	8.7
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	30.9	33.3	15.4	10.1	24.4	22.4	31.1	13.6	9.9
- as main occupation	21.6	19.3	3.5	2.0	13.1	12.7	18.1	3.4	1.8
- as a subsidiary occupation	9.3	13.9	11.8	8.1	11.3	9.7	12.9	10.1	8.1
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	10.2	11.2	14.4	6.8	42.5	11.7	18.1	11.5	1.2
- women (%)	91.1	92.4	96.5	96.7	94.2	93.5	93.5	95.9	94.5
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	8.1	6.0	8.2	8.2	7.6	7.5	6.2	9.8	9.5
- from 35 to 54 years	61.6	56.8	64.8	64.2	61.8	62.0	58.3	66.3	70.6
- 55 years and over	30.3	37.1	27.1	27.6	30.6	30.5	35.5	24.0	19.9
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	47.5	53.6	41.7	38.1	45.7	45.9	54.0	34.4	25.8
- 50 % and over(%)	33.2	31.1	41.9	42.4	37.1	35.2	33.0	44.7	43.8
- with another gainful activity (%)	28.5	34.2	34.0	31.2	32.3	30.1	36.8	28.3	22.3
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	7.9	9.1	13.4	9.8	40.2	12.8	13.9	12.1	1.4
- women (%)	31.7	28.4	26.6	26.5	28.0	29.5	27.4	27.0	28.9
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	52.2	59.4	49.8	39.9	50.0	49.2	57.6	43.4	40.7
- 50 % and over(%)	15.5	18.2	22.2	18.9	19.2	15.2	21.3	21.0	19.5
- with another gainful activity (%)	13.0	20.4	18.1	12.1	16.1	13.1	21.6	13.8	9.3

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 < - < 100	100 - < 500	500 = <
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	23.6	24.8	22.8	10.7	81.8	25.9	37.4	16.5	2.1
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	89.8	94.0	95.5	92.1	92.9	87.5	96.6	94.8	78.9
- legal person	8.4	4.2	2.4	4.5	4.9	9.9	1.9	2.5	18.0
- group holders	1.8	1.9	2.1	3.4	2.1	2.6	1.5	2.7	3.1
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	36.7	34.8	6.1	2.3	23.1	24.6	31.9	3.7	2.0
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	29.1	42.0	56.2	36.1	41.5	31.2	47.6	44.7	32.3
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	13.8	13.4	28.5	38.4	21.0	16.2	16.0	37.7	35.9
- 3 AWU and over	20.4	9.8	9.2	23.2	14.5	28.0	4.5	14.0	29.8
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	27.3	10.6	0.0	0.0	11.1	11.3	16.4	0.0	0.0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	12.7	27.2	0.2	0.0	11.9	11.2	18.4	0.0	0.0
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	14.8	28.9	14.0	0.2	16.9	16.7	22.9	6.0	0.0
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	17.7	18.9	52.2	16.1	27.4	23.6	32.2	25.3	6.5
- 100 ESU and over	27.6	14.5	33.6	83.7	32.6	37.1	10.2	68.7	93.5
- by farm type (%)									
- specialist dairy farming	0.8	10.0	55.5	49.5	25.1	0.0	31.2	53.7	1.5
- sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	29.0	32.0	9.8	5.4	21.5	4.8	42.1	3.4	0.5
- general field cropping	3.3	14.7	15.4	29.4	13.5	32.9	6.4	0.9	0.4
- specialist horticulture	32.0	7.3	2.9	2.3	12.6	36.3	2.2	0.3	0.2
- specialist granivores	14.4	9.0	1.8	0.5	7.4	0.5	1.6	22.2	81.6
- other types of farming	20.5	27.2	14.7	12.9	19.9	25.4	16.5	19.6	15.9
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.8	1.2	2.0	2.5	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.3	0.5
- irrigating	9.7	10.8	12.7	13.5	11.4	19.3	6.3	10.7	10.4
- with fixed irrigation equipment	7.1	5.4	3.6	2.3	5.0	9.0	2.7	3.8	4.2
- with crops under glass	30.8	4.2	1.0	0.7	10.5	30.8	1.6	0.2	0.2
- benefiting of direct investment aids	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
- using a tractor (%)	50.9	82.8	95.8	96.1	79.0	66.1	83.3	90.0	73.4
- with their own tractor	48.5	80.4	94.8	95.1	77.1	63.3	81.8	89.0	71.3
- using a combine harvester (%)	3.2	6.3	9.8	25.2	8.8	16.6	5.7	4.2	6.0
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	9.5	18.7	31.2	41.3	22.5	16.0	25.2	27.7	12.8
- tourism	2.2	3.6	4.3	4.5	3.5	2.4	4.5	3.0	1.6
- handicraft	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- processing of farm products	0.6	0.9	1.8	2.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.8
- wood processing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- aquaculture	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
- renewable energy production	1.0	0.9	4.0	7.0	2.6	1.7	2.0	5.1	3.5
- contractual work	1.2	3.3	5.8	11.4	4.4	6.0	3.7	4.0	2.2
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	5.9	13.4	23.0	28.1	15.8	7.9	19.7	20.6	6.8

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<-<100	100-<500	500 =<
Area									
Total area of agricultural holdings	64.7	283.2	767.4	920.0	2035.2	537.6	766.7	684.8	46.1
Other area	14.6	10.4	9.8	42.4	77.2	29.3	33.3	13.9	0.7
Wooded area	0.5	4.1	3.7	27.0	35.3	16.5	13.1	5.5	0.1
Agricultural area	50.1	272.8	757.6	877.5	1958.1	508.3	733.3	671.0	45.4
Arable land	21.7	137.9	392.8	564.5	1117.0	450.9	308.2	321.9	36.1
Cereals	2.3	32.8	62.7	119.2	217.1	127.3	53.4	28.8	7.5
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.8	14.0	38.8	83.0	136.7	85.9	33.4	14.0	3.5
<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	0.6	0.7	1.2	2.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.0
<i>Barley</i>	0.5	7.6	15.0	27.5	50.6	30.4	12.4	6.8	1.0
<i>Oats</i>	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.7	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.0
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.8	9.2	6.2	4.6	20.7	7.6	4.3	5.9	2.8
Dried pulses	0.0	0.4	1.5	2.0	3.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.0
Root crops	1.2	15.7	64.2	166.6	247.6	156.0	50.9	32.6	8.1
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.5	6.7	36.4	112.1	155.8	100.8	30.4	19.4	5.1
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.6	8.8	27.6	54.3	91.3	55.1	20.3	13.0	2.9
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0
Industrial crops	0.1	0.9	3.3	7.8	12.0	7.4	3.0	1.3	0.3
<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	0.2	0.3	1.6	2.1	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.1
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	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	4.0	10.1	22.5	39.0	75.7	55.1	12.0	6.8	1.8
<i>outside</i>	1.4	8.6	22.2	39.0	71.2	50.9	11.8	6.8	1.8
<i>under glass</i>	2.6	1.5	0.3	0.1	4.4	4.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	6.8	7.2	9.6	8.8	32.4	28.9	2.2	1.1	0.2
<i>outside</i>	2.3	6.2	9.5	8.8	26.8	23.5	2.0	1.1	0.2
<i>under glass</i>	4.5	1.0	0.1	0.0	5.6	5.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	6.3	63.8	208.6	174.3	453.0	33.2	166.8	237.0	16.0
Fallow land	0.4	2.5	8.9	22.4	34.3	16.5	8.4	8.3	1.0
Kitchen garden	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Permanent pasture and meadows	23.8	120.3	356.8	307.8	808.7	29.5	422.4	347.7	9.0
Permanent crops	4.5	14.5	8.0	5.2	32.3	27.9	2.8	1.3	0.3
Fruit and berry plantation	1.6	9.8	5.0	2.2	18.6	16.2	1.6	0.6	0.2
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)	2.1	11.0	33.3	82.1	23.9	19.7	19.6	40.5	22.0
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	81.3	67.7	61.8	56.6	60.8	55.8	62.7	62.6	58.5
... in less favoured or mountain area	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
... organic farmed	0.8	1.1	1.8	2.5	2.0	1.9	2.5	1.7	0.9
... irrigated	5.9	6.0	5.2	3.9	4.8	8.8	2.6	3.8	8.2

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 < - < 100	100 - < 500	500 = <
Total livestock (1000 LU)	1547.7	1601.3	1966.2	1272.9	6388.1	1310.7	3211.6	1865.8
of which grazing (%)	13.8	26.6	67.7	76.9	46.2	92.4	50.9	5.7
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	46.5	47.9	27.2	11.7	133.3	107.1	23.3	2.9
Bovine animals	354.6	584.1	1644.7	1215.3	3798.8	1344.6	2246.0	208.2
Under 1 year	325.6	352.6	466.9	327.3	1472.4	353.5	948.2	170.7
From 1 to less than 2 years	11.4	79.1	307.8	232.1	630.4	279.0	339.5	11.9
Dairy cows	3.5	81.5	766.5	581.6	1433.2	551.9	861.7	19.6
Other cows	10.8	53.2	52.9	34.7	151.6	106.0	42.0	3.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	3.3	17.7	50.6	39.6	111.2	54.2	54.6	2.4
Sheep	161.0	423.4	468.0	310.1	1362.5	923.0	423.1	16.4
Goats	68.4	104.4	96.5	22.9	292.2	138.3	149.8	4.1
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	3722.8	4310.9	2407.5	870.3	11311.6	370.3	6023.6	4917.6
Piglets < 20 kg	1536.9	1803.5	926.8	295.8	4563.0	112.8	2667.7	1782.5
Breeding sows	379.6	444.9	219.9	72.4	1116.8	26.6	638.6	451.7
Other pigs	1806.3	2062.4	1260.8	502.2	5631.8	231.0	2717.3	2683.5
Poultry (million heads)	48.4	25.0	11.0	11.0	95.5	1.1	34.1	60.2
Broilers	19.6	11.0	5.4	8.4	44.5	0.3	17.4	26.7
Laying hens	27.5	13.3	5.3	2.3	48.4	0.7	15.7	31.9
Other poultry	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.3	2.6	0.0	1.0	1.6
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	31.9	12.1	4.0	0.1	48.0	45.0	3.0	0.0
Beehives (1000)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average size of herds*								
Equidae (head/holding)	7.3	8.5	6.9	6.8	7.5	7.6	7.3	8.3
Cattle (head/holding)	96.4	56.8	98.8	180.9	101.8	54.5	183.6	494.5
Dairy cows (head/holding)	9.2	23.9	55.5	98.5	60.9	41.6	85.5	107.7
Other cows (head/holding)	5.7	10.3	12.2	19.2	11.5	10.4	14.5	27.5
Sheep (head/holding)	48.1	88.1	109.9	158.8	94.8	83.3	137.7	75.9
Goats (head/holding)	55.3	74.6	69.6	42.9	64.1	40.3	142.0	57.8
Pigs (head/holding)	1383.4	1186.6	889.4	1328.7	1167.8	184.2	955.1	3594.8
Breeding sows (head/holding)	324.5	272.5	231.4	309.4	280.1	54.3	240.1	539.0
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	682.4	576.4	470.6	776.1	589.7	120.7	433.2	1965.9
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	483.1	389.2	365.6	30.0	436.7	437.2	494.2	35.0
Laying hens (1000/holding)	30.0	19.2	14.4	18.8	23.1	1.3	14.9	69.4
Broilers (1000/holding)	70.8	57.2	39.5	54.4	58.4	6.6	37.8	107.3
Beehives (hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

* 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)	237.4	0.0	237.4	0.0	100.0
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	160.6	0.0	160.6	0.0	100.0
Holders	(1000 persons)	77.8	0.0	77.8	0.0	100.0
... at least 65 years old		13.3	0.0	13.3	0.0	100.0
... having another gainful activity		18.2	0.0	18.2	0.0	100.0
Number of holdings	(1000)	81.8	0.0	81.8	0.0	100.0
... producing mainly for own consumption		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... using a tractor		64.6	0.0	64.6	0.0	100.0
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	8395.3	0.0	8395.3	0.0	100.0
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	1958.1	0.0	1958.1	0.0	100.0
... owned farmed		1190.2	0.0	1190.2	0.0	100.0
Livestock	(1000 LU)	6388.1	0.0	6388.1	0.0	100.0

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

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in the Netherlands was carried out in spring 2005 on an exhaustive basis. Such full-scale agricultural censuses have been conducted on an annual basis since 1934. The reference time of the FSS 2005 was 1 April 2005. However for characteristics that cannot be determined on this date the situation for later in 2005 or the whole year was taken into account.

The target population was all the farms registered in the National Farm Register, which is updated continuously. For the census all holdings above 3 NGE (Nederlandse Grootte Eenheid) are selected (about 82 thousand farms in 2005). [The NGE is the Dutch equivalent of the ESU, but due to the differences in inflation levels 1 NGE is 1400 euros in the year concerned.] For certain characteristics (e.g. environmental aspects, less-favoured and set-aside areas) administrative sources and the Geographic Information System have been 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 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 the Netherlands 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

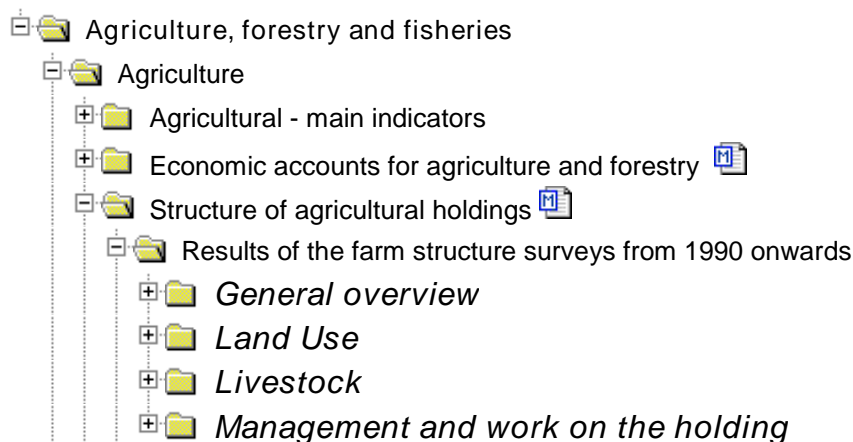
'Statline' database: [StatLine](http://www.cbs.nl)

Website of the Centraal Bureau voor der Statistiek: www.cbs.nl

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available on request)

Further information:

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



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