

Farm structure in Latvia - 2007

Utilised Agricultural Area up by 10%

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 Latvia.

107 750 agricultural holdings were recorded in Latvia in the 2007 Farm structure survey, a 16% decrease since 2005. This drop results mainly from the concentration of farms: the smaller farms have suffered a 22% reduction accompanied by a growth in area (19%) and number (25%) in the larger farms.

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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 one European Size Unit (ESU). See the methodological notes for more information on the concept of ESU.

In 2007, about **44 400 agricultural holdings** had an economic size of at least 1 ESU, compared to 44 900 in 2005.

- They used **1.4 million ha of agricultural area-UAA**, (10% up from 1.3 million ha in 2005), which is on average about 32 ha per holding;
- These holdings employed **70 000 AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 70 000 people working full time, a decrease of 14% since 2005;
- They had **0.46 million livestock units (LSU)** in 2007, 11% more than in 2005, mainly due to an increase of 70% in the number of sheep and of 13% in cattle.

Amongst these 44 400 agricultural holdings:

- 32 % made use of less than one AWU, while another 21% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 68% used less than 20 ha, while 5% used 100 ha or more;
- 49% were producing mainly for own consumption, a decrease compared with 2007 (53%).

- 37% of Latvian farms specialize in livestock;
- 31% of the holdings specialised in dairy farming;
- 19% were engaged in field crops – grazing livestock combined;
- 15% specialize in mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock.

Amongst the sole holders:

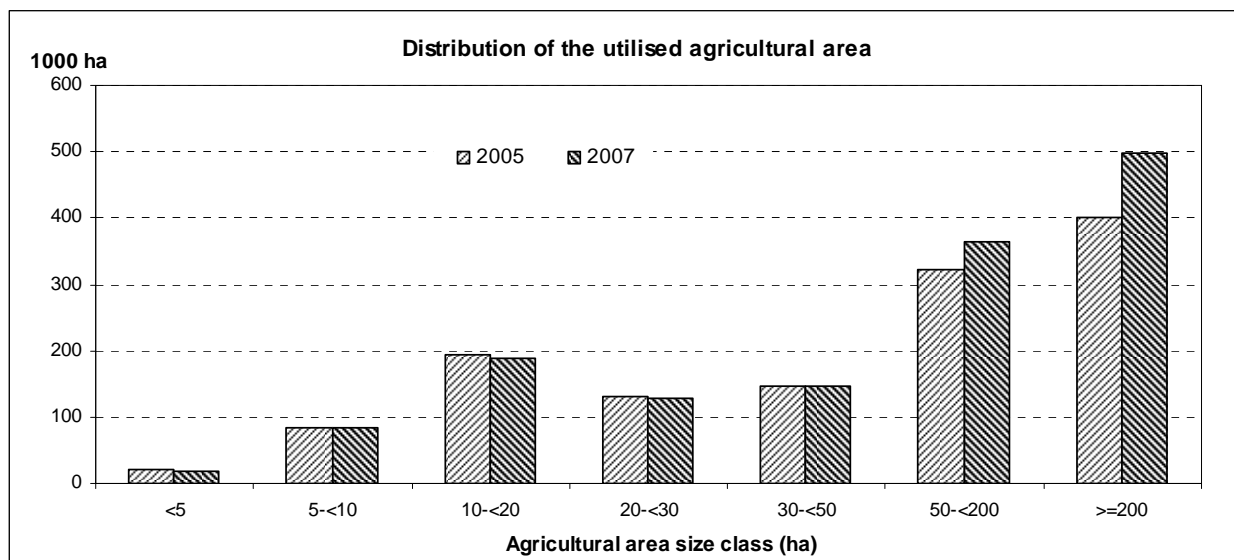
- 43% were women in 2007, (almost half of the holdings with UAA under 20 ha are owned by women, the value falls to 22% for farms with 100 ha of UAA and over);
- 46% were aged 55 or more, and 7% were younger than 35 years;
- 31% of sole holders had another gainful activity in 2007.

In Latvia in 2007, 68% of the agricultural area was owned by farmers.

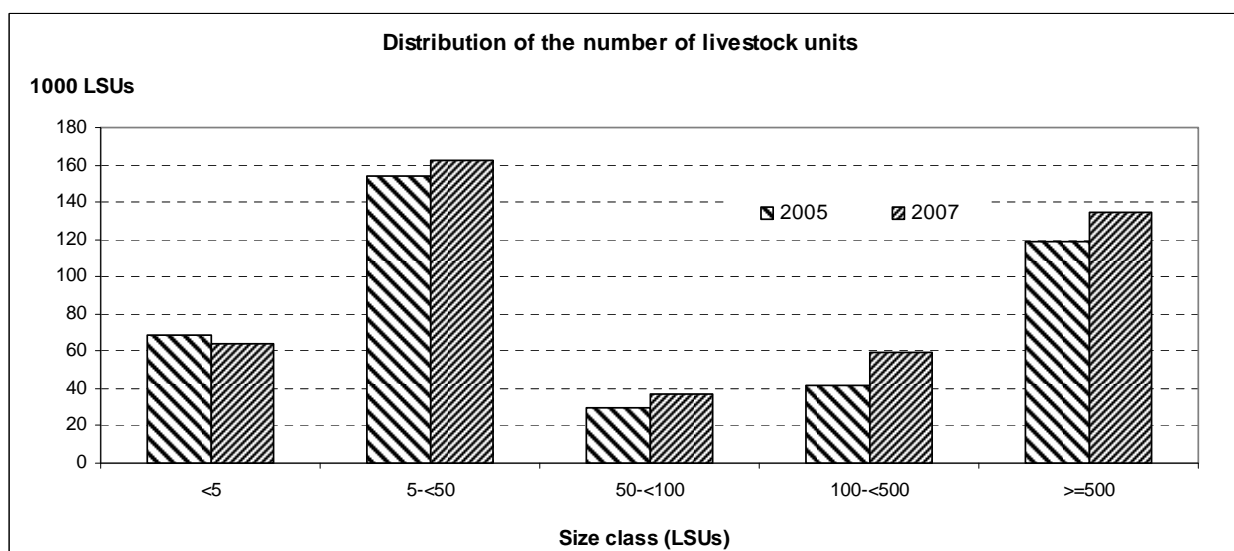
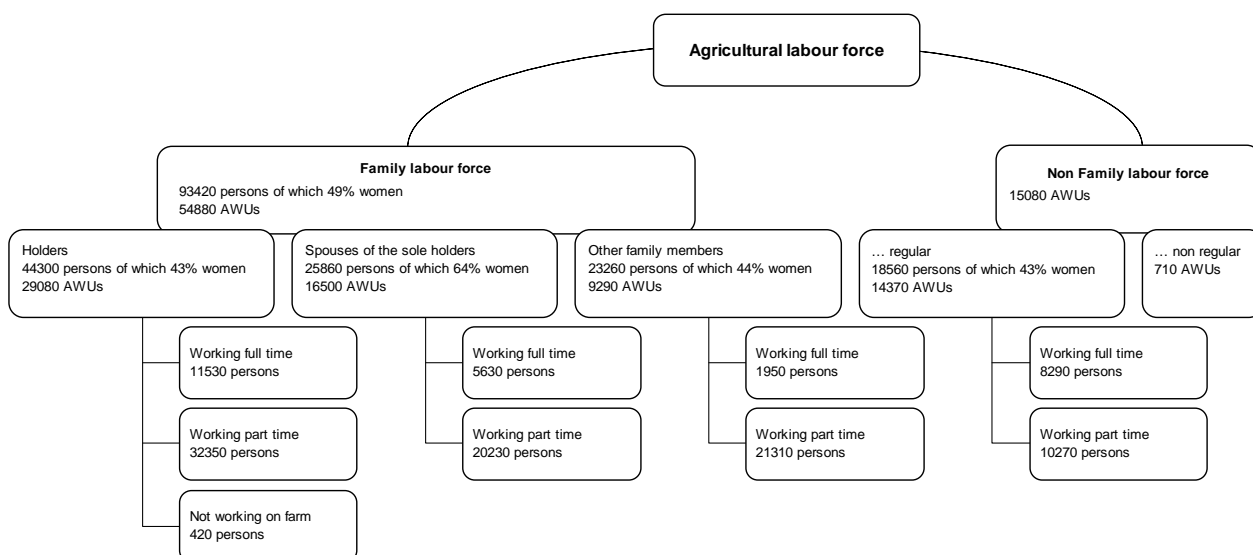
The family labour force decreased by 16% from 2005 to 2007.

96 900 ha were organically farmed (6.8% of the utilised agricultural area, compared with 1.3% in 2005). The number of farms with organic farming also had a significant increase: from slightly over 400 in 2005 to almost 2 500 in 2007.

The share of holdings producing mainly for direct sales rose to 12% in 2007, compared with 7% in 2005.



Description of the labour force in Latvia



*LSUs = Livestock Uni

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	38.9	13.8	5.1	12.1	70.0	8.0	52.0	1.8	8.1	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	63.0	19.9	6.1	4.4	93.4	9.6	81.7	1.3	0.8	
1000 annual work units	35.0	12.6	4.1	3.1	54.9	4.2	49.1	1.0	0.6	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	5.2	1.7	1.3	10.4	18.6	4.7	4.4	1.0	8.5	
1000 annual work units	3.6	1.1	0.9	8.8	14.4	3.6	2.6	0.8	7.4	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	
Holding managers	1000	30.2	9.2	2.8	2.2	44.4	5.9	37.6	0.5	0.4
- women	(%)	48.4	36.6	29.0	21.4	43.4	27.4	46.2	32.8	29.2
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	34.5	26.2	19.7	17.1	31.0	59.5	27.2	5.4	3.2
- 50 % and over	(%)	45.6	38.6	32.5	28.1	42.5	24.3	45.8	24.4	23.7
Sole/main holders	1000	30.2	9.2	2.8	2.2	44.3	5.8	37.5	0.5	0.4
- women	(%)	48.3	36.6	28.7	22.3	43.4	27.8	46.1	33.6	26.8
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		6.1	8.0	11.2	12.2	7.1	11.2	6.4	12.9	9.2
- from 35 to 44 years		18.1	21.9	27.9	30.0	20.1	24.6	19.2	25.6	27.6
- from 45 to 54 years		24.7	30.8	31.8	36.8	27.0	30.2	26.2	37.6	38.3
- from 55 to 64 years		22.4	20.3	17.7	12.9	21.2	17.5	21.9	14.9	16.6
- 65 years and over		28.7	19.0	11.3	8.0	24.6	16.5	26.3	8.9	8.4
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	34.6	26.2	19.7	17.2	31.1	60.0	27.2	5.4	3.3
- 50 % and over	(%)	45.6	38.7	32.7	28.3	42.5	24.5	45.8	24.4	24.2
- with another gainful activity ¹	(%)	32.6	31.6	25.4	21.6	31.4	47.9	29.4	12.4	12.0
- as a main occupation		28.5	26.0	18.7	13.1	26.6	41.2	24.8	5.7	4.5
- as a subsidiary occupation		4.2	5.6	6.7	8.5	4.8	6.7	4.5	6.6	7.5
Spouse of sole holder	1000	17.2	5.8	1.7	1.2	25.9	2.3	23.0	0.4	0.2
- women	(%)	61.6	67.8	70.4	77.4	64.2	72.7	63.2	69.4	72.8
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		5.8	7.1	10.6	12.1	6.7	9.8	6.3	8.9	11.1
- from 35 to 54 years		48.3	56.2	64.1	68.5	52.0	59.9	50.8	68.1	70.6
- 55 years and over		46.0	36.7	25.4	19.4	41.3	30.3	42.9	23.1	18.3
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	38.9	28.3	26.4	28.5	35.2	68.2	32.4	12.5	9.4
- 50 % and over	(%)	44.7	41.9	35.4	35.4	43.0	22.3	45.3	36.1	34.4
- with another gainful activity	(%)	33.9	30.8	26.5	25.8	32.3	48.9	31.1	15.8	9.4
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	15.7	5.0	1.6	1.1	23.3	1.5	21.2	0.4	0.2
- women	(%)	46.1	42.8	40.2	35.2	44.5	36.4	45.2	39.7	37.7
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	72.7	66.2	58.3	50.4	69.3	80.9	69.4	37.9	31.1
- 50 % and over	(%)	21.5	23.0	25.6	26.6	22.3	13.2	22.7	25.8	39.9
- with another gainful activity	(%)	33.1	27.2	21.3	19.0	30.4	41.2	30.1	11.9	14.8

*LSU = Livestock unit¹ Only holders who are also farm managers

"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	30.2	9.2	2.8	2.2	44.4	5.9	37.6	0.5	0.4
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		99.5	99.4	98.7	91.3	99.0	97.0	99.7	97.2	71.8
- legal person		0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.8	0	0	2.2
- group holders		0.4	0.5	0.8	8.0	0.8	2.2	0.3	2.8	25.9
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		37.0	25.6	20.1	11.7	32.3	63.8	28.2	0	0.5
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		49.3	46.5	37.6	23.8	46.7	22.5	51.4	17.0	3.7
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		12.3	23.8	29.9	20.9	16.2	5.8	17.6	33.8	12.5
- 3 AWU and over		1.5	4.1	12.4	43.6	4.8	7.9	2.8	49.3	83.3
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		99.1	83.7	33.2	9.4	87.4	78.1	91.0	1.8	0.2
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		0.6	14.7	42.6	8.9	6.6	8.2	6.4	6.8	1.0
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		0.1	1.5	23.4	39.7	3.8	6.8	2.3	71.8	9.0
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		0	0.1	0.7	28.4	1.5	4.5	0.3	18.6	47.9
- 100 ESU and over		0.1	0	0.1	13.6	0.8	2.3	0.1	0.9	41.9
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... specialist dairy farming		32.5	31.4	28.5	20.7	31.4	0	35.6	64.9	53.1
... field crops – grazing livestock combined		20.3	17.9	14.5	12.5	19.1	2.0	21.9	11.6	16.5
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock		19.2	9.8	3.0	1.2	15.4	0.4	18.0	3.0	1.5
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops		4.8	11.0	26.4	47.7	9.5	40.8	4.8	3.3	4.0
... general field cropping		8.7	12.6	9.8	6.3	9.4	33.0	6.0	1.1	1.0
Other types of farming		14.5	17.3	17.8	11.6	15.2	23.7	13.7	16.1	23.9
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		2.7	10.6	15.3	11.6	5.6	4.0	5.6	16.4	10.7
- irrigating		0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	1.8	0.1	0.2	0.2
- with crops under glass		0.8	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.7	2.7	0.4	0.2	1.0
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		0.4	1.1	1.4	3.0	0.7	1.7	0.5	1.7	1.5
Handicraft		0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Processing of farm products		0.2	0.2	0.3	1.5	0.2	0.8	0.1	0	3.5
Wood processing		0.3	0.9	1.7	2.6	0.7	1.7	0.5	1.1	1.5
Aquaculture		0.1	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.5
Renewable energy production		0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0.2	0.2
Contractual work		1.4	4.2	8.5	15.2	3.1	5.2	2.6	10.3	14.5
Other gainful activities n.a.e		7.1	14.1	20.6	25.3	10.3	16.1	9.2	17.0	19.5

* LSU = Livestock unit

"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	513.0	439.4	285.5	829.4	2067.4	597.8	1173.9	92.5	203.2	
• H. Other area	222.0	163.7	94.7	158.2	638.6	177.9	419.7	18.4	22.7	
Wooded area	150.3	113.8	60.1	97.4	421.6	116.2	284.0	11.0	10.5	
• Agricultural area	291.1	275.7	190.8	671.2	1428.8	419.9	754.2	74.2	180.5	
- D. Arable land	150.4	163.5	127.8	575.1	1016.7	352.3	455.9	54.6	153.9	
Cereals	50.3	61.6	62.8	326.0	500.7	216.1	200.0	20.7	63.9	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	13.9	18.1	21.8	165.0	218.9	120.6	65.9	6.2	26.1	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rye</i>	4.1	5.8	6.4	36.7	53.0	24.3	20.1	2.1	6.4	
<i>Barley</i>	18.5	20.7	19.8	80.4	139.3	47.2	65.4	7.3	19.4	
<i>Oats</i>	10.5	12.3	10.7	25.4	58.9	14.1	34.8	3.3	6.8	
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dried pulses	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	
Root crops	13.1	5.7	2.9	5.3	27.1	7.9	18.3	0.4	0.6	
<i>Potatoes</i>	12.0	5.3	2.8	4.9	25.2	7.6	16.7	0.4	0.5	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0	
<i>Fodder root</i>	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	1.6	0	0	
Industrial crops	1.6	2.9	4.4	85.4	94.2	61.3	18.8	1.6	12.6	
<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>	1.5	2.6	4.2	83.9	92.2	60.4	18.0	1.5	12.3	
<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	2.9	1.2	0.6	1.3	6.0	3.2	2.7	0	0	
<i>outside</i>	2.9	1.2	0.6	1.3	5.9	3.2	2.7	0	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
Flower and ornamental plants	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
<i>outside</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Forage plants	76.2	81.5	47.2	121.4	326.3	34.4	190.9	29.9	71.0	
Fallow land	4.8	8.5	8.4	30.8	52.5	25.1	21.6	1.7	4.2	
- E. Kitchen garden	1.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7	0	0	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	134.0	108.6	61.9	94.5	399.0	62.8	290.2	19.4	26.5	
- G. Permanent crops	5.4	3.1	1.0	1.6	11.1	4.5	6.3	0.1	0.2	
Fruit and berry plantation	5.2	3.0	1.0	1.5	10.7	4.3	6.2	0.1	0.2	
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)	9.6	30.1	68.8	305.4	32.2	71.6	20.1	136.9	450.2
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		92.0	85.1	71.7	49.3	67.9	60.7	79.3	55.5	42.6
... in less favoured or mountain area		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... organic farmed		3.3	9.6	12.2	5.6	6.8	3.5	8.3	13.7	5.1
... irrigated		0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0

*LSU = Livestock unit

": 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)	180.4	81.1	55.6	141.3	458.4	0	226.6	37.4	194.5
of which grazing (%)	47.9	81.8	76.7	75.0	65.8	:	84.2	88.8	39.8
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)									
Equidae	4.4	1.8	0.9	1.2	8.2	0	7.1	0.5	0.7
Bovine animals	104.3	83.0	54.5	134.9	376.7	0	236.1	42.6	98.0
Under 1 year	30.5	24.2	15.2	32.1	102.0	0	69.4	10.9	21.7
From 1 to less than 2 years	18.2	16.8	11.9	29.7	76.6	0	45.5	9.0	22.1
Dairy cows	52.0	36.0	22.5	61.3	171.8	0	107.2	18.4	46.1
Other cows	1.0	3.1	2.4	3.8	10.4	0	6.5	1.7	2.2
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	2.6	2.9	2.5	7.9	16.0	0	7.5	2.5	6.0
Sheep	24.1	22.8	8.8	5.6	61.3	0	57.8	2.6	0.9
Goats	7.0	2.3	1.6	0.1	11.1	0	10.4	0.6	0
Granivores									
Pigs (1000 heads)	187.7	44.4	44.0	127.4	403.5	0	109.8	15.2	278.4
Piglets < 20 kg	38.8	10.4	8.3	32.2	89.7	0	23.6	2.9	63.3
Breeding sows	20.3	5.5	5.2	19.0	50.0	0	10.1	1.7	38.2
Other pigs	128.6	28.6	30.4	76.2	263.8	0	76.2	10.7	176.9
Poultry (million heads)	3.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.4	0	0.4	0	3.9
Broilers	1.7	0	0	0	1.7	0	0	0	1.7
Laying hens	2.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.6	0	0.4	0	2.2
Other poultry	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	13.4	3.6	0.7	0.2	17.9	0	17.8	0	0
Beehives (1000)	32.9	13.3	5.6	2.0	53.8	19.3	34.1	0.2	0.2
Average size of herds* (head/holding)									
Equidae (head/holding)	1.1	2.0	4.8	11.1	1.6	:	1.4	9.4	21.6
Cattle (head/holding)	4.2	12.2	29.6	117.9	10.9	:	7.0	83.9	299.7
Dairy cows (head/holding)	2.2	5.6	13.5	60.8	5.2	:	3.3	39.4	149.7
Other cows (head/holding)	3.3	6.1	8.4	17.7	7.8	:	5.5	17.6	46.0
Sheep (head/holding)	11.4	30.2	60.0	92.9	19.9	:	19.0	93.0	91.1
Goats (head/holding)	5.3	9.7	29.8	5.6	6.8	:	6.5	40.8	15.0
Pigs (head/holding)	12.3	10.4	44.6	255.4	19.3	:	5.3	92.3	2175.4
Breeding sows (head/holding)	14.4	4.8	12.0	71.0	15.4	:	3.3	14.3	375.0
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	9.4	7.2	32.7	158.1	13.8	:	4.1	66.3	1426.6
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	4.3	5.4	5.3	5.6	4.5	:	4.6	3.8	2.6
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.1	0	0.1	0.4	0.1	:	0	0	69.7
Broilers (1000/holding)	8.0	0	0.1	0	5.8	:	0	0	566.3
Beehives (hive/holding)	10.8	10.7	16.8	13.7	11.3	33.1	8.3	6.2	10.2

*LSU = Livestock unit

Size of the Farms	Absolute figures			% of total	
	Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular Labour force (1000 pers)	217.6	105.6	112.0	48.5	51.5
Regular labour force (1000 AWU)	103.9	34.6	69.2	33.3	66.7
Holder with...	107.6	63.3	44.3	58.8	41.2
... at least 65 years	31.7	20.8	10.9	65.6	34.4
... another gainful activity	42.3	28.4	13.9	67.0	33.0
Number of sole holdings (1000)	107.8	63.4	44.4	58.8	41.2
... producing mainly for own consumption	77.6	56.0	21.6	72.2	27.8
... producing mainly for direct sales	9.5	4.3	5.1	46.0	54.0
SGM (1000 ESU)	331.0	26.9	304.1	8.1	91.9
Agricultural area (1000 ha)	1773.8	345.0	1428.8	19.5	80.5
... own farmed	1302.5	332.0	970.5	25.5	74.5
Livestock (1000 LSU*)	487.9	29.4	458.4	6.0	94.0

*LSU = Livestock Unit

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Latvia was carried out in the summer 2007 using a combined method (exhaustive and sample survey). This was the fourth Farm Structure Survey in Latvia; prior to this, one full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 2001 and two other sample surveys in 2003 and 2005. The reference date of the FSS 2007 was the 1st June 2007. The reference period for labour force covers June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007.

The sample frame for the 2007 FSS was the statistical Farm Register, created in 1999 and regularly updated by statistical and administrative sources. The target population for the FSS 2007 covers all the holdings with a threshold of at least 0.1 ESU, new farms with at least 5 ha, and non-active farms with 10 ha or more. The non-active farms were included because the farm register does not always list the real activity of the holding.

Exhaustive enumeration was used for all active farms with 2 or more ESU, this included 17 875 holdings. The other holdings were sampled through a simple stratified random sample. The frame was stratified by activity (active, non-active and new or unobserved units), location (NUTS4 level), by economic size/area (4 categories of ESU for active farms, 7 categories in UAA for other ones) and by type of farming (8 groups; only for active farms). The sample included a total of 58 002 holdings.

The verification of the surveys and the data was done in three different steps: There was a manual check where the surveys had a visual control for missing or incorrect features. After scanning the surveys an arithmetical and logical validation was carried out. There was also a

comparison between the results of the survey, the administrative information and data from previous surveys. For very discrepant results the holders interviewed in previous surveys were contacted by phone and the errors were corrected.

Between FSS 2005 and 2007 "maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental conditions" (GAEC) became an agricultural activity and the concerned land has been included in the agricultural area. In Latvia it covers 1 100 ha, 46% being in farms 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 Latvia it is 1840 hours (230 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 Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (LR Centrālā statistikas pārvalde): <http://www.csb.gov.lv/>

National Methodological Report – FSS 2007 Latvia (available for request)

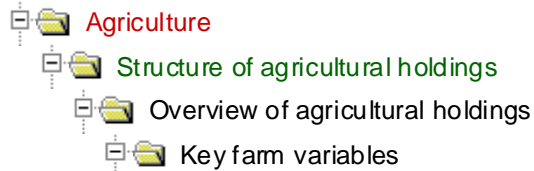
Further information

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