

Farm Structure Survey in Norway - 2007

The area used for organic farming increased by 9%

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 Norway.

49 900 agricultural holdings were recorded in Norway in the 2007 Farm Structure Survey (6% less than in 2005).

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Due to the different coverage of the FSS 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 European Size Unit (ESU). See the methodological notes for more information on the concept of ESU.

In 2007, 49 800 **agricultural holdings** had an economic size of at least 1 ESU (99.8% of all holdings), compared with 52 800 in 2005 (a 5.6% reduction).

They use about **1.03 million ha of utilised agricultural area** (UAA), the same as in 2005. In 2007 in Norway the average utilised agricultural area per holding was 20.7 ha (compared with 19.6 ha in 2005);

These holdings employed **56 200 AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 56 200 people working full time; (4.5% less than in 2005). The average area per AWU was 18.3 ha (around 0.7 ha more than in 2005);

They had **1.27 million livestock units** (LSU) in 2007, slightly more (1%) than in 2005.

Amongst these **49 800** agricultural holdings:

48.2% made use of less than one AWU, while another 13.4% made use of 2 or more AWUs;

60% used less than 20 ha, while 6% used 50 ha or more;

25 % of Norwegian farms specialised in dairy farming;

24% were engaged in sheep, goats and other grazing livestock;

17% specialised in cereals, oil seed and protein crops;

8% specialised in cattle – rearing and fattening;

7% were specialist in general field cropping;

The family labour force decreased by 8% from 2005 to 2007 and it made up 80% of the total labour force in Norway.

Amongst the sole holders:

13% were women;

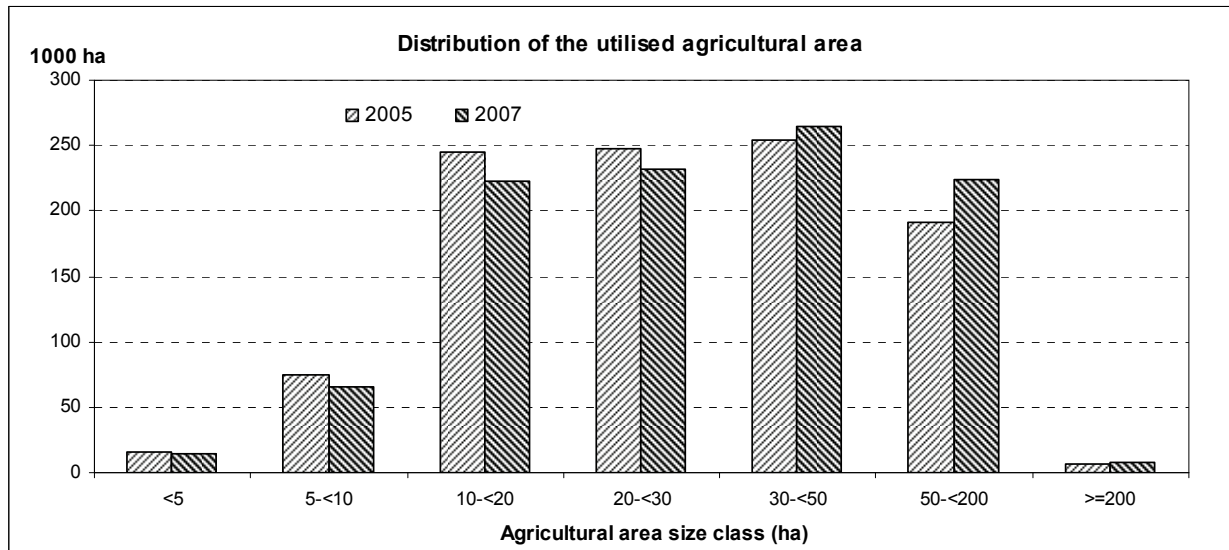
36% were aged 55 or more and 8% were younger than 35 years (1% less than in 2005);

79% of the sole holders had another gainful activity in 2007.

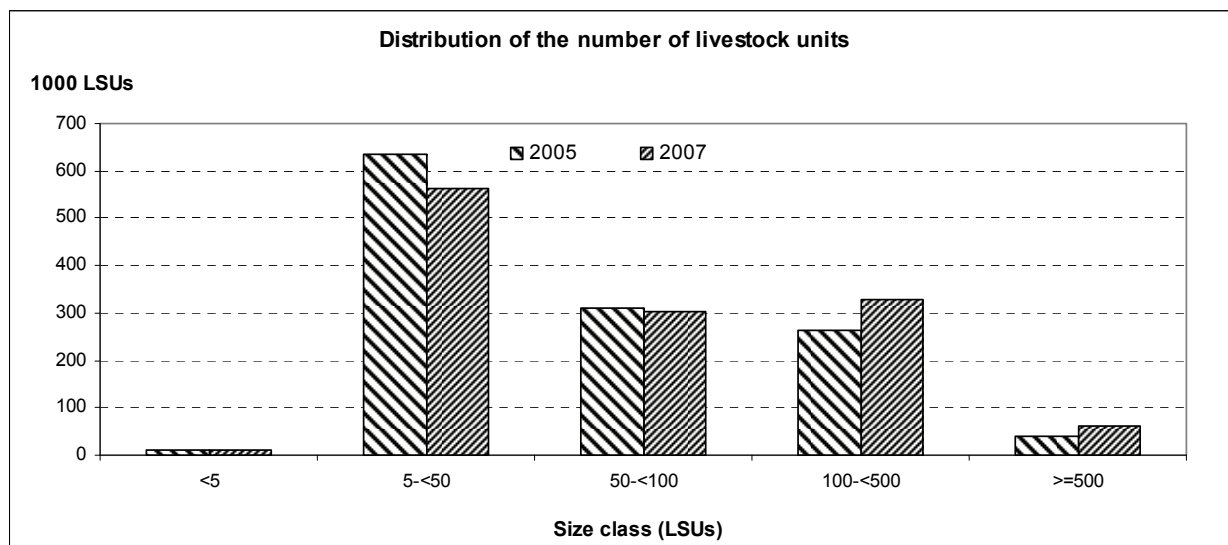
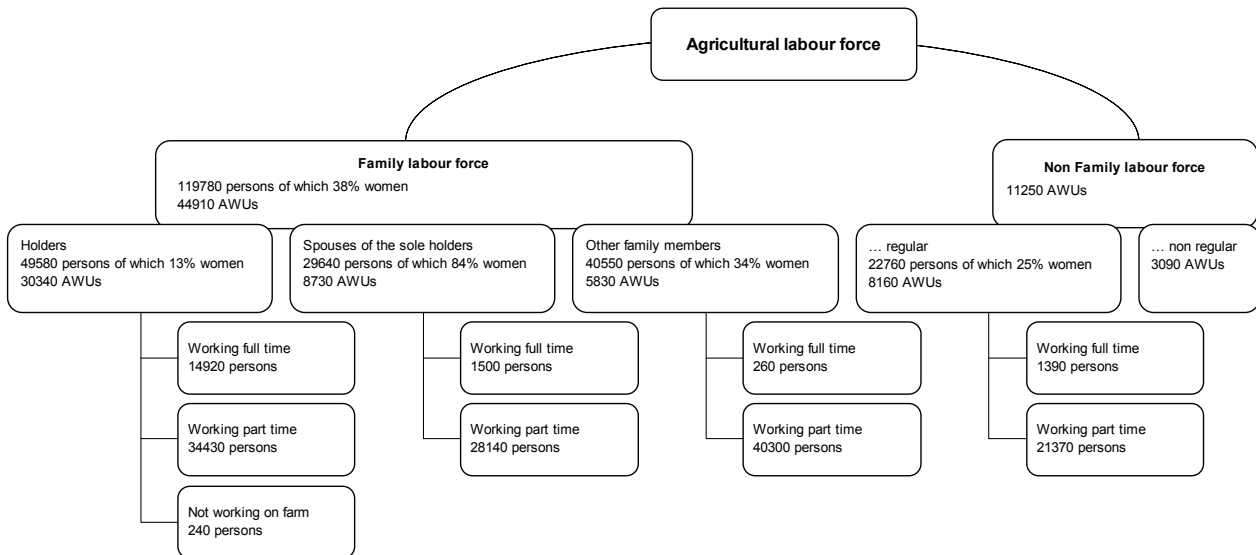
In Norway in 2007, 63% of the agricultural area was farmed by its owners.

The area used for cereals decreased by 4%. Between 2005 and 2007 the area used for barley decreased by 14%.

There was a 3% increase in the number of holdings with organic farming. The area under organic farming grew by 9% in the same time; in 2007 it counted for 4% of the UAA.



Description of the labour force in Norway



*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	28.2	22.1	5.0	0.8	56.2	9.9	32.4	8.7	5.2	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	69.7	42.7	6.5	0.9	119.8	28.7	73.7	11.3	6.1	
1000 annual work units	22.6	18.5	3.3	0.5	44.9	6.7	28.8	6.2	3.3	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	11.1	8.7	2.5	0.5	22.8	3.5	11.0	5.0	3.2	
1000 annual work units	4.0	2.6	1.2	0.3	8.2	1.6	2.8	2.2	1.6	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	1.6	0.9	0.5	0.1	3.1	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.3	
Holding managers	1000	30.1	16.6	2.7	0.4	49.8	14.1	28.6	4.7	2.5
- women (%)		14.8	9.8	7.7	2.8	12.6	11.0	14.3	8.3	10.7
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		51.3	25.2	13.3	10.4	40.2	72.9	31.9	8.1	11.6
- 50 % and over (%)		28.9	30.1	32.5	35.5	29.5	17.7	35.0	30.2	32.2
Sole/main holders	1000	29.9	16.6	2.7	0.4	49.6	13.9	28.5	4.7	2.5
- women (%)		15.2	10.3	8.3	2.8	13.1	11.8	14.6	8.6	10.7
-distribution by age (%)										
- under 35 years		7.0	8.3	7.9	8.0	7.5	5.7	7.5	10.1	11.8
- from 35 to 44 years		21.7	28.6	30.1	36.9	24.6	22.6	23.6	31.2	35.0
- from 45 to 54 years		30.1	33.6	35.3	35.3	31.6	31.8	30.9	33.3	35.2
- from 55 to 64 years		31.0	25.1	23.6	17.5	28.5	31.2	29.4	21.6	16.0
- 65 years and over		10.1	4.5	2.9	2.3	7.8	8.7	8.5	3.7	2.0
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		51.6	25.3	13.4	10.6	40.4	73.8	32.0	8.1	11.8
- 50 % and over (%)		29.1	30.1	32.7	36.1	29.7	17.9	35.1	30.3	32.8
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)		80.2	77.0	76.1	78.1	78.9	87.1	77.6	69.2	65.9
- as a main occupation		49.1	29.6	18.3	20.1	40.7	65.6	35.3	12.0	16.7
- as a subsidiary occupation		31.1	47.4	57.8	58.0	38.2	21.5	42.3	57.1	49.1
Spouse of sole holder	1000	17.1	10.6	1.6	0.2	29.6	7.0	18.3	2.8	1.6
- women (%)		80.6	87.1	89.1	98.0	83.5	83.1	82.4	89.2	88.2
-distribution by age (%)										
- under 35 years		7.3	10.3	9.7	8.6	8.5	5.7	8.4	13.5	14.0
- from 35 to 54 years		56.9	66.9	68.4	75.0	61.2	59.8	60.1	66.3	71.9
- 55 years and over		35.8	22.9	21.9	16.8	30.2	34.5	31.5	20.3	14.1
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		81.8	70.9	67.6	77.9	77.1	92.1	75.2	61.1	60.1
- 50 % and over (%)		14.8	22.1	21.7	17.6	17.9	6.1	20.0	28.1	27.2
- with another gainful activity (%)		72.9	71.8	67.7	69.7	72.2	79.5	71.4	65.1	61.5
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	22.6	15.5	2.2	0.3	40.6	7.7	26.9	3.8	2.0
- women (%)		35.3	32.2	30.1	27.5	33.8	26.0	36.4	31.0	33.1
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		94.9	91.4	88.8	75.6	93.1	95.8	93.9	86.6	85.3
- 50 % and over (%)		4.5	7.9	9.7	23.0	6.2	3.5	5.8	12.1	11.8
- with another gainful activity (%)		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

*LSU = Livestock unit

¹ Only holders who are also farm managersSource: Eurostat ([ef_ov_lfft](#))

Norway – 2007

Table 2 – Agricultural holdings by size

": not available. "0" less than a half of the unit or nil. Differences between totals and sub items can appear due to rounding.

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	30.1	16.6	2.7	0.4	49.8	14.5	28.6	4.5	2.2
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		95.0	95.6	87.7	83.0	94.7	97.5	96.8	81.0	81.4
- legal person		0.7	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.5	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.9
- group holders		4.3	4.2	11.6	15.5	4.8	1.3	3.1	18.8	16.6
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		60.4	31.4	20.1	14.0	48.2	80.7	41.9	7.9	12.5
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		30.2	52.2	45.8	39.8	38.5	12.8	48.4	53.7	41.2
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		7.0	14.1	23.6	22.6	10.4	2.9	8.8	31.2	32.1
- 3 AWU and over		2.4	2.3	10.5	23.4	3.0	3.7	0.9	7.3	14.3
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		39.9	0.8	0	0	24.4	31.0	26.7	0.1	0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		28.4	10.5	0.1	0.2	20.7	29.6	20.9	0.2	0.1
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		18.6	40.5	8.9	0.2	25.2	26.5	28.3	11.4	3.5
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		10.3	42.0	53.7	21.4	23.3	9.0	23.6	64.2	31.2
- 100 ESU and over		2.9	6.3	37.2	78.1	6.5	3.8	0.6	24.1	65.2
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... specialist dairy farming		16.7	38.8	27.9	15.1	24.7	0	33.2	51.8	21.7
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock		31.4	13.9	6.0	2.4	24.0	4.2	38.0	9.5	2.0
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops		17.0	16.9	22.6	29.7	17.4	54.1	2.8	0.3	0.3
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening		7.9	7.9	6.5	3.2	7.8	0	12.0	8.4	3.1
... general field cropping		7.6	6.4	11.2	20.9	7.5	18.0	3.7	0.7	0.9
Other types of farming		19.4	16.0	25.9	28.7	18.7	23.7	10.4	29.2	72.0
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		3.4	4.8	8.2	11.4	4.2	3.1	4.7	3.9	5.4
- irrigating		10.0	11.2	20.2	26.6	11.1	17.4	8.1	10.1	12.2
- with crops under glass		2.1	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.4	4.0	0.4	0.4	0.8
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		5.1	5.5	3.8	3.8	5.2	3.7	6.2	3.9	3.3
Handicraft		1.2	0.9	0.9	0	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.4
Processing of farm products		1.5	1.6	1.2	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.8	1.1	1.3
Wood processing		6.4	7.7	5.7	5.6	6.8	7.4	7.1	4.4	4.2
Aquaculture		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Renewable energy production		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Contractual work		11.6	21.7	32.6	44.9	16.3	16.8	15.1	21.1	18.1
Other gainful activities n.a.e		3.8	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.9	2.8	4.6	3.5	2.5

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef ov kvaesu](#))

"0" less than a half of the unit or nil. Differences between totals and sub items can appear due to rounding.

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	3157.6	2544.6	527.9	104.9	6335.1	1471.6	4006.6	628.8	228.2	
· H. Other area	2855.0	2047.1	348.9	52.5	5303.4	1192.4	3498.8	470.9	141.3	
Wooded area	1126.0	950.9	207.8	41.5	2326.1	769.9	1264.6	213.5	78.1	
· Agricultural area	302.6	497.5	176.0	55.6	1031.8	290.6	507.9	152.6	80.6	
- D. Arable land	156.6	284.6	127.7	47.6	616.5	254.7	223.1	83.7	55.0	
Cereals	68.0	130.5	80.3	33.8	312.6	201.5	55.1	27.2	28.8	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	12.8	34.6	28.5	15.3	91.2	57.7	14.3	9.0	10.2	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rye</i>	1.0	2.6	2.5	1.5	7.6	4.8	1.3	0.6	0.9	
<i>Barley</i>	34.0	62.4	33.3	11.1	140.7	85.3	26.7	14.0	14.6	
<i>Oats</i>	20.2	30.5	15.9	5.9	72.4	53.6	12.3	3.4	3.0	
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dried pulses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Root crops	2.0	5.2	4.6	2.7	14.5	9.4	2.5	1.1	1.5	
<i>Potatoes</i>	2.0	5.2	4.6	2.7	14.5	9.4	2.5	1.1	1.5	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Fodder root</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Industrial crops	0.8	2.0	1.9	1.5	6.2	4.1	0.9	0.5	0.6	
<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>	0.8	2.0	1.9	1.5	6.2	4.1	0.9	0.5	0.6	
<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	2.2	3.5	2.5	1.2	9.5	6.6	1.3	0.8	0.8	
<i>outdoor</i>	2.1	3.5	2.5	1.2	9.4	6.5	1.3	0.8	0.8	
<i>under glass</i>	0.1	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>outdoor</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
Forage plants	81.8	140.6	36.1	7.4	265.9	28.4	161.7	53.3	22.6	
Fallow land	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.7	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	
- E. Kitchen garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	143.3	212.5	48.2	8.0	412.1	33.6	284.2	68.8	25.5	
- G. Permanent crops	2.7	0.4	0.1	0	3.2	2.4	0.6	0	0.1	
Fruit and berry plantation	2.5	0.3	0.1	0	2.9	2.2	0.6	0	0.1	
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)	10.0	30.0	65.5	135.3	20.7	20.0	17.7	34.3	36.7
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		75.4	63.4	51.2	35.5	63.4	69.7	64.3	55.3	51.9
... in less favoured or mountain area		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... organic farmed		3.3	3.6	4.3	4.2	3.7	2.0	4.6	3.4	4.1
... irrigated		4.6	4.7	7.7	7.2	5.3	9.5	3.2	4.7	5.8

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_lusum](#))

":" not available. "0" less than a half of the unit or nil. Differences between totals and sub items can appear due to rounding.

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)	518.7	563.6	152.9	32.0	1267.3	0	571.3	303.3	392.6
of which grazing	(%)	66.0	76.2	68.4	60.1	70.7	:	96.0	77.3	28.7
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		18.4	11.5	2.1	0.6	32.6	0	27.9	3.4	1.3
Bovine animals		281.7	470.9	128.6	24.2	905.5	0	485.3	276.5	143.8
Under 1 year		88.8	156.0	40.7	7.3	292.8	0	161.0	87.5	44.3
From 1 to less than 2 years		77.7	129.0	38.5	7.1	252.4	0	123.9	81.9	46.6
Dairy cows		82.7	134.0	30.9	5.7	253.4	0	144.2	74.5	34.7
Other cows		17.3	30.0	11.0	2.7	60.9	0	34.9	17.4	8.7
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		15.1	21.9	7.5	1.5	46.1	0	21.3	15.2	9.5
Sheep		1228.9	887.0	133.6	17.2	2266.7	0	1778.4	374.6	113.7
Goats		51.5	19.2	0.9	0.4	72.0	0	68.2	3.1	0.8
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)	333.1	363.7	119.8	21.2	837.9	0	84.6	222.7	530.5
Piglets < 20 kg		107.8	121.6	37.8	4.4	271.6	0	41.1	82.9	147.6
Breeding sows		41.8	40.2	13.7	1.5	97.2	0	9.6	23.4	64.2
Other pigs		183.6	201.9	68.4	15.2	469.1	0	33.9	116.4	318.7
Poultry	(million heads)	9.8	5.5	2.2	0.6	18.1	0	0.5	1.8	15.8
Broilers		6.4	4.1	1.7	0.4	12.6	0	0.1	0.8	11.7
Laying hens		3.0	1.3	0.5	0.2	4.9	0	0.4	1.0	3.5
Other poultry		0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0	0	0	0.6
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	1.2	0.5	0.1	0	1.8	0	1.6	0.2	0.1
Beehives	(1000)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae	(head/holding)	4.9	4.8	6.0	7.9	5.0	:	4.9	5.7	4.8
Cattle	(head/holding)	31.8	51.1	94.1	138.5	46.1	:	32.1	80.7	130.5
Dairy cows	(head/holding)	15.4	18.6	30.8	55.2	18.5	:	14.4	26.4	41.5
Other cows	(head/holding)	7.1	13.1	22.1	29.7	11.5	:	8.8	17.8	23.7
Sheep	(head/holding)	110.8	200.4	277.7	374.8	141.3	:	124.8	276.7	255.5
Goats	(head/holding)	54.6	56.2	41.0	36.6	54.7	:	55.8	41.4	36.5
Pigs	(head/holding)	239.3	297.2	417.5	353.2	282.8	:	79.8	243.1	538.1
Breeding sows	(head/holding)	51.8	54.1	77.9	61.2	55.6	:	16.7	42.6	102.9
Other pigs > 20 kg	(head/holding)	142.4	176.6	247.7	262.6	169.6	:	37.7	132.0	324.2
Rabbits, breeding females	(head/holding)	4.3	3.6	4.0	6.1	4.1	:	4.1	3.9	4.3
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	2.5	2.2	4.6	6.4	2.6	:	0.3	3.2	11.1
Broilers	(1000/holding)	24.9	32.1	33.3	34.8	28.1	:	2.3	10.7	35.2
Beehives	(hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

*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)	142.7	0.2	142.5	0.2	99.8
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	53.1	0.1	53.1	0.1	99.9
Holders with...	(1000)	49.7	0.1	49.6	0.2	99.8
... at least 65 years		3.9	0.0	3.9	0.1	99.9
... another gainful activity		39.4	0.1	39.3	0.2	99.8
Number of sole holdings	(1000)	49.9	0.1	49.8	0.2	99.8
... producing mainly for own consumption		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
SGM	(1000 ESU)	1753.5	0.1	1753.5	0.0	100.0
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	1032.0	0.2	1031.8	0.0	100.0
... own farmed		653.9	0.3	653.7	0.0	100.0
Livestock	(1000 LSU*)	1267.6	0.3	1267.3	0.0	100.0

*LSU = Livestock unit

➤ METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The Norwegian survey on the structure of agricultural holdings was carried out by Statistics Norway based on two main sources: the population of agricultural holdings taken from the System of Application for Government Production Subsidies (PRO), with 31 of July as the registration date, and the annual Sample Survey of Agriculture (providing information on labour input, irrigation and rural development with 1st of June as the reference date and the prior 12 months for the labour characteristics).

The target population of the FSS 2007 was the same as for the Census in 1999, and the sample surveys in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2006 and includes all holdings with at least 0.5 ha of UAA, or keeping livestock or cultivating horticultural crops over a certain threshold. The total population was close to 50 000 holdings, 3.6% not applying for subsidies.

The sample used in FSS 2005 was updated (removing the ceased holdings and adding the new ones) and was used for the 2007 FSS. The sample design was based on three stratification criteria: 18 counties, 6 classes of UAA and 8 farm types. The sample size was close to 11 000 holdings.

The questionnaires were mailed to the respondents. It was their responsibility to fill them out and to mail them back to Statistics Norway. Another option (that has been available since 2005) was to fill out the electronic version of the questionnaire. In the case of FSS 2007 28% of the respondents chose this method (compared to

22% in 2005). The non-response rate was 10%. Re-weighting was used for unit non-response. Item non-response was corrected with data from additional sources.

The administrative data used in the FSS (about 80 crop and livestock characteristics) were taken from the System of Application for Government Production Subsidies (PRO).

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 a 1200-euro SGM).

An Annual work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year. In Norway it is 1845 hours (230.6 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 Statistics Norway (Statistisk Sentralbyrå):
<http://www.ssb.no/>

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>

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