

Farm structure in Latvia – 2005

The utilised agricultural area per holding has increased by 27% since 2003

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 Latvia. A similar publication was issued in December 2004 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Latvia.

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In July 2005 in Latvia, about 45 thousand* agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

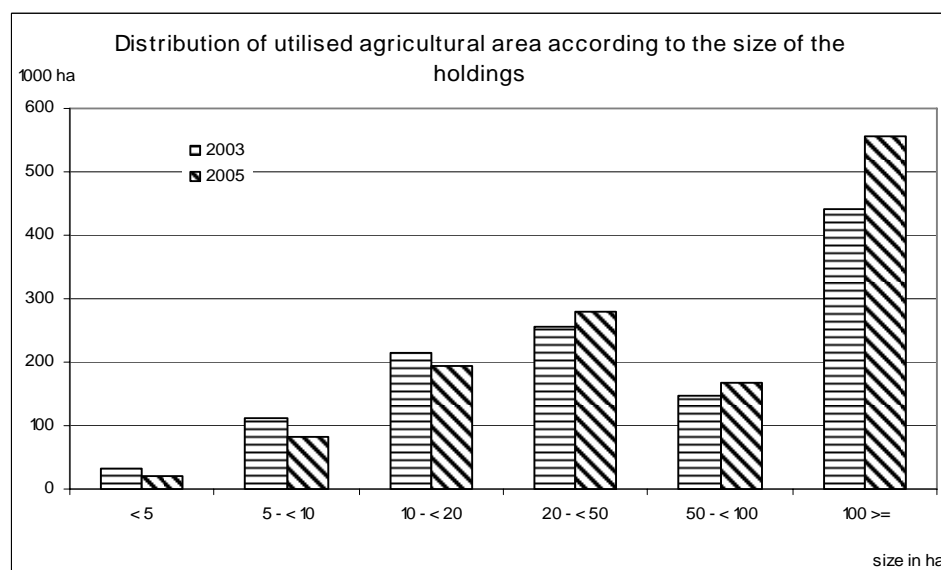
- These holdings employed 82 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 82 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 1.3 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 29 ha per holding (compared to 22.8 ha in 2003).

Among these 45 thousand agricultural holdings

- 21% made use of less than one AWU, while 32% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 14% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 10% used 50 ha or more;
- 23% were holdings of the type combined field crops – grazing livestock, 21% were specialised dairy farms, 18% engaged in mixed – mainly grazing – livestock, 12% were classified as general field cropping and 11% mixed cropping;
- 53% were producing mainly for their own consumption;
- 1% were organic farms;
- 14% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 45 thousand sole holders

- 42% were women;
- 46% were aged 55 or more, and only 7% were younger than 35 years;
- 24% 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 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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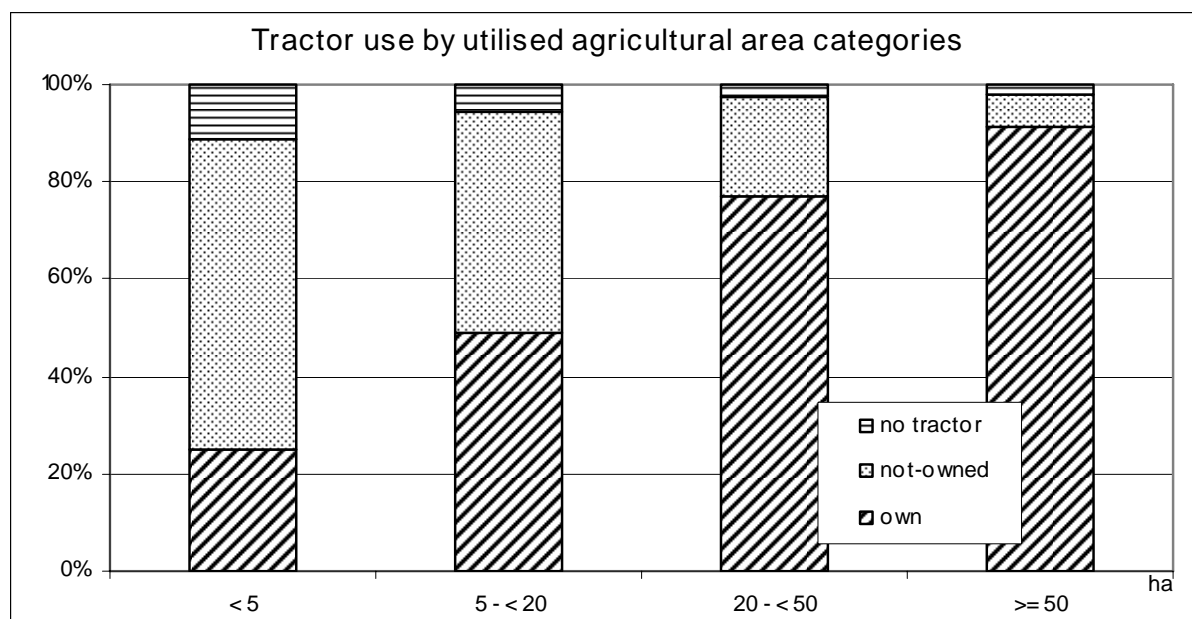
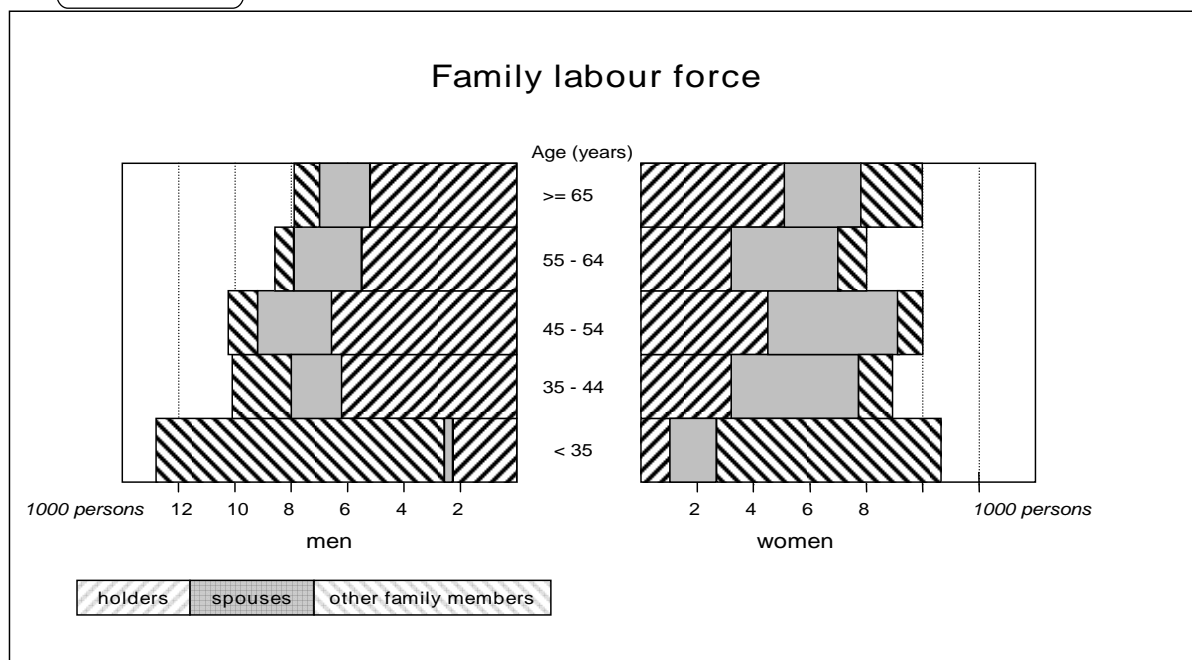
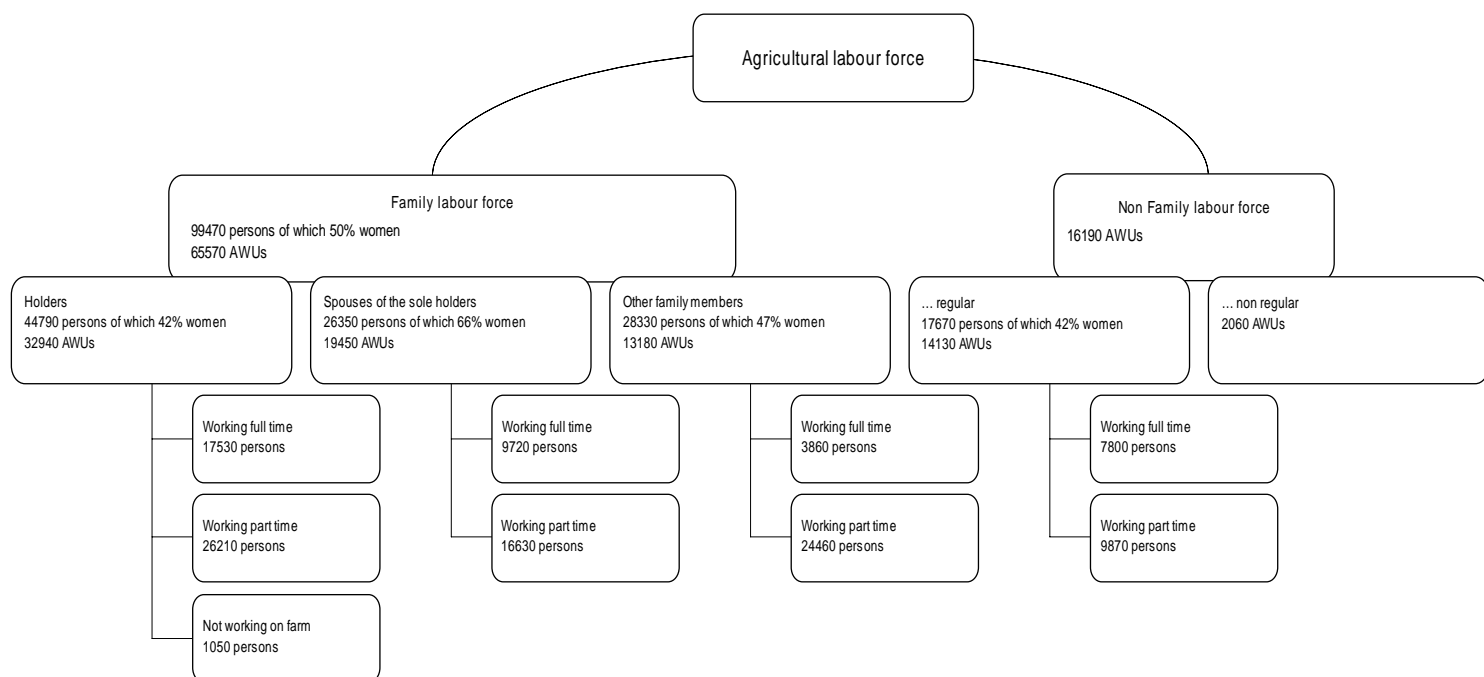
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Latvia 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



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	8.8	38.5	17.2	17.2	81.8	8.1	37.4	26.3	10.0
Family labour force									
1000 persons	13.0	55.5	21.2	9.7	99.5	9.8	56.3	31.9	1.5
1000 annual work units	7.6	36.0	14.8	7.2	65.6	4.5	35.5	24.3	1.3
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	1.3	2.6	2.6	11.2	17.7	4.0	1.9	2.0	9.8
1000 annual work units	1.0	1.7	2.1	9.4	14.1	3.1	1.1	1.4	8.5
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	2.1	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.2
Holding managers (1000)	6.2	25.1	9.3	4.4	44.9	5.7	25.4	13.1	0.7
- women (%)	53.0	45.1	35.2	24.7	42.2	29.5	45.3	42.4	28.7
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	31.0	22.0	18.9	12.4	21.7	53.1	22.6	7.2	5.6
- 50 % and over (%)	43.1	41.6	31.4	22.6	37.8	27.3	45.3	29.3	13.9
- with a basic agricultural training only (%)	11.6	19.3	30.8	32.5	21.9	19.2	16.3	33.4	29.3
- with a full agricultural training (%)	23.3	26.8	40.5	57.8	32.2	40.6	26.7	37.1	67.1
Sole/main holders (1000)	6.2	25.1	9.3	4.3	44.8	5.7	25.4	13.1	0.7
- women (%)	52.5	44.9	35.5	25.7	42.2	31.0	44.9	42.4	30.2
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	6.8	6.7	7.8	11.2	7.4	13.0	6.1	7.3	9.9
- from 35 to 44 years	18.6	19.2	24.7	28.6	21.2	25.7	19.3	22.5	27.7
- from 45 to 54 years	22.9	23.5	27.4	31.8	25.0	26.4	22.8	28.1	35.5
- from 55 to 64 years	24.8	24.0	22.7	19.2	23.4	18.5	23.8	24.9	18.7
- 65 years and over	26.9	26.6	17.4	9.2	23.0	16.4	27.9	17.2	8.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	31.1	22.1	18.9	12.5	21.7	53.6	22.6	7.2	5.7
- 50 % and over (%)	43.2	41.6	31.5	22.8	37.9	27.5	45.3	29.4	14.2
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	35.7	30.9	31.2	25.4	31.1	49.4	32.0	22.4	14.3
- as main occupation	29.0	25.0	23.1	14.4	24.2	41.0	26.2	14.0	6.4
- as a subsidiary occupation	6.7	5.9	8.1	11.0	6.9	8.4	5.8	8.4	7.9
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	3.2	14.6	5.9	2.6	26.4	2.2	14.8	9.0	0.4
- women (%)	60.8	64.7	69.2	75.6	66.3	70.9	65.9	65.6	72.3
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	6.1	7.0	7.6	10.6	7.4	10.9	6.6	7.6	9.0
- from 35 to 54 years	50.0	48.2	55.9	63.9	51.7	61.4	47.4	55.6	67.8
- 55 years and over	43.8	44.9	36.6	25.4	41.0	27.7	45.9	36.8	23.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	34.3	23.5	19.7	19.3	23.5	60.9	26.3	10.2	9.0
- 50 % and over (%)	43.0	42.4	35.4	29.4	39.6	28.0	45.0	34.4	20.7
- with another gainful activity (%)	35.7	29.4	29.6	26.6	29.9	49.2	31.8	22.7	15.4
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	3.7	15.8	6.0	2.8	28.3	2.0	16.1	9.8	0.4
- women (%)	49.7	48.0	45.9	40.5	47.1	42.1	48.4	46.2	37.6
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	68.8	63.0	57.4	50.6	61.4	77.8	65.2	53.0	31.2
- 50 % and over (%)	22.8	24.8	26.5	25.6	25.0	15.2	24.5	27.7	28.3
- with another gainful activity (%)	35.5	29.2	24.2	18.2	27.9	32.8	31.2	22.1	13.8

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 < - < 5	5 - < 50	50 = <
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	6.2	25.1	9.3	4.4	44.9	5.7	25.4	13.1	0.7
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	99.2	99.8	99.4	93.9	99.0	96.4	99.9	99.7	78.9
- legal person	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	2.4
- group holders	0.5	0.2	0.4	5.3	0.8	2.7	0.1	0.2	18.6
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	32.6	21.7	17.6	10.9	21.3	58.2	22.2	4.6	0.4
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	50.2	50.6	41.2	27.2	46.3	26.9	54.2	41.6	8.6
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	14.6	24.4	33.4	31.8	25.6	7.3	20.7	43.5	21.1
- 3 AWU and over	2.6	3.4	7.8	30.2	6.8	7.7	2.9	10.3	70.0
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	98.9	99.3	92.1	32.6	91.3	82.7	98.2	86.5	1.8
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	0.3	0.6	6.8	31.1	4.8	7.3	1.1	10.7	10.2
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	0.5	0.1	0.8	22.9	2.5	5.3	0.5	2.3	51.1
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	0.0	0.0	0.1	8.5	0.9	3.1	0.1	0.4	17.0
- 100 ESU and over	0.3	0.0	0.1	4.9	0.6	1.5	0.0	0.0	20.0
- by farm type (%)									
- field crops – grazing livestock combined	21.0	26.0	19.6	13.5	22.8	2.4	29.7	18.7	14.0
- specialist dairy farming	23.0	19.9	21.6	21.3	20.8	0.0	15.9	37.7	52.7
- mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	18.2	21.0	14.0	4.4	17.6	0.4	20.1	21.0	3.9
- general field cropping	10.0	10.7	16.1	14.6	12.1	41.6	11.0	1.9	2.9
- mixed cropping	11.1	11.5	12.2	6.9	11.1	12.4	13.7	6.1	1.2
- other types of farming	16.7	10.8	16.5	39.2	15.6	43.1	9.6	14.5	25.3
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.0	0.3	1.9	3.6	0.9	0.6	0.3	2.0	4.3
- irrigating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- with fixed irrigation equipment	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
- with crops under glass	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	3.3	0.4	0.2	0.5
- benefiting of direct investment aids	3.1	9.0	22.4	36.5	13.7	12.1	6.3	26.4	54.6
- using a tractor (%)	88.6	94.6	97.6	97.9	94.7	89.4	94.3	97.8	97.0
- with their own tractor	25.0	49.1	77.0	91.2	55.6	49.3	46.6	73.8	94.6
- using a combine harvester (%)	31.6	54.4	61.8	76.3	54.9	44.1	52.2	64.3	64.8
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	4.9	9.1	17.3	28.8	12.1	18.4	9.4	13.9	25.4
- tourism	0.3	0.8	1.3	2.6	1.0	1.6	0.8	1.0	1.9
- handicraft	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0
- processing of farm products	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8
- wood processing	0.3	0.3	1.0	3.1	0.7	2.1	0.5	0.6	2.4
- aquaculture	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5
- renewable energy production	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
- contractual work	0.5	1.7	3.8	11.0	2.9	3.9	1.8	3.9	12.0
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	3.6	6.8	13.2	19.8	9.0	14.0	7.1	10.1	14.1

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	47.5	498.4	453.6	927.6	1927.3	490.6	590.5	597.1	249.0
Other area	27.3	220.4	175.0	202.9	625.7	164.1	241.5	187.4	32.6
Wooded area	15.0	148.3	120.7	121.8	405.8	101.9	160.2	127.2	16.4
Agricultural area	20.2	278.0	278.7	724.7	1301.5	326.5	349.0	409.7	216.4
Arable land	12.1	153.7	169.8	581.2	916.8	271.3	208.9	264.6	172.0
Cereals	2.7	48.2	61.7	311.4	424.0	151.4	81.1	115.8	75.7
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.7	11.8	16.7	140.9	170.0	82.6	25.3	32.5	29.6
<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>	0.1	3.7	5.2	27.3	36.3	12.7	7.8	9.3	6.4
<i>Barley</i>	1.2	17.2	21.9	94.5	134.7	39.9	28.8	41.6	24.5
<i>Oats</i>	0.5	11.3	12.3	29.0	53.0	8.3	13.1	22.0	9.7
<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	0.2	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3
Root crops	3.3	14.0	7.3	18.5	43.1	14.6	14.8	10.1	3.5
<i>Potatoes</i>	2.9	12.2	6.1	6.2	27.3	6.8	12.3	7.5	0.8
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.0	0.2	0.6	12.0	12.8	7.7	1.0	1.5	2.6
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.3	1.6	0.6	0.3	2.9	0.1	1.6	1.1	0.1
Industrial crops	0.0	2.0	2.5	60.7	65.2	36.3	7.9	8.9	12.2
<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	1.8	2.2	57.9	62.0	35.2	7.2	8.1	11.5
<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	0.9	2.8	1.3	2.0	6.9	3.5	2.5	0.9	0.1
<i>outside</i>	0.9	2.8	1.2	2.0	6.8	3.4	2.4	0.9	0.1
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	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	4.5	76.1	79.7	135.9	296.1	35.0	81.7	107.9	71.7
Fallow land	0.5	9.6	15.7	47.3	73.1	27.2	18.9	19.6	7.4
Kitchen garden	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.0
Permanent pasture and meadows	6.7	117.2	103.7	140.0	367.7	49.4	132.5	141.9	44.0
Permanent crops	1.3	6.7	4.9	3.4	16.3	5.7	7.2	3.0	0.4
Fruit and berry plantation	1.2	6.5	4.7	3.3	15.7	5.4	7.0	3.0	0.4
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)	3.3	11.1	30.1	166.6	29.0	57.3	13.8	31.4	294.0
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	89.4	93.2	85.9	53.8	69.6	61.7	87.0	74.9	43.6
... 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	0.0	0.4	1.7	1.6	1.3	0.6	0.5	2.5	1.7
... irrigated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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)	44.5	106.0	103.1	159.1	412.7	68.7	153.7	190.3
of which grazing (%)	26.2	70.6	56.2	75.9	64.3	76.1	82.4	45.4
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	0.6	4.4	1.9	1.8	8.7	3.5	4.1	1.1
Bovine animals	13.9	92.0	74.2	156.7	336.7	62.2	163.2	111.4
Under 1 year	4.2	29.8	24.5	43.1	101.7	19.5	53.3	28.9
From 1 to less than 2 years	1.6	14.4	14.1	33.0	63.1	7.5	31.9	23.7
Dairy cows	7.8	45.9	32.3	68.7	154.8	34.4	70.4	50.0
Other cows	0.0	0.4	1.2	3.1	4.6	0.1	3.0	1.5
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	0.2	1.5	2.1	8.7	12.6	0.8	4.5	7.3
Sheep	1.4	14.0	14.7	6.1	36.1	8.6	26.5	1.1
Goats	2.1	3.7	2.5	0.8	9.2	5.3	3.8	0.1
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	112.2	79.7	77.2	135.3	404.4	41.6	88.0	274.8
Piglets < 20 kg	37.2	12.7	22.6	30.2	102.7	5.8	18.7	78.3
Breeding sows	12.7	7.3	10.1	16.3	46.4	1.7	10.1	34.6
Other pigs	62.2	59.7	44.5	88.8	255.2	34.1	59.2	161.9
Poultry (million heads)	0.5	0.9	2.1	0.2	3.7	0.3	0.2	3.1
Broilers	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2
Laying hens	0.5	0.3	1.5	0.2	2.4	0.3	0.2	2.0
Other poultry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	3.7	10.3	3.3	1.1	18.3	12.6	5.6	0.1
Beehives * (1000)	10.4	22.3	11.5	6.0	50.2	24.0	10.7	0.3
Average size of herds**								
Equidae (head/holding)	1.3	1.1	1.8	6.5	1.5	1.1	1.7	14.3
Cattle (head/holding)	3.1	4.5	10.8	57.4	9.7	2.9	12.9	178.2
Dairy cows (head/holding)	1.8	2.3	4.9	27.4	4.6	1.7	5.7	83.8
Other cows (head/holding)	2.2	2.4	3.6	9.7	5.7	1.2	4.7	16.6
Sheep (head/holding)	5.3	7.7	20.7	37.9	12.3	5.7	18.7	44.2
Goats (head/holding)	4.5	4.0	9.6	11.1	5.3	4.1	9.0	6.2
Pigs (head/holding)	36.7	5.4	15.5	78.9	16.5	2.7	9.9	913.0
Breeding sows (head/holding)	35.6	4.2	6.9	20.6	10.7	1.5	3.4	151.8
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	21.9	4.3	9.4	53.4	11.0	2.4	6.9	545.3
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	4.2	3.3	3.7	5.0	3.6	3.5	3.9	6.3
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	14.4
Broilers (1000/holding)	0.0	1.7	4.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	192.3
Beehives (hive/holding)	20.5	8.5	9.2	13.9	10.4	8.7	6.6	6.9

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

* Bees are not taken into account when calculating Livestock Unit, there are 15.2 thousand hives on holdings with 0 LU.

** Number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animals.

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular labour force	(1000 persons)	260.9	143.8	117.1	55.1	44.9
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	133.9	54.2	79.7	40.5	59.5
Holders	(1000 persons)	128.5	83.8	44.8	65.2	34.8
... at least 65 years old		36.9	26.6	10.3	72.1	27.9
... having another gainful activity		45.2	31.9	13.3	70.6	29.4
Number of holdings	(1000)	128.7	83.8	44.9	65.1	34.9
... producing mainly for own consumption		98.4	74.8	23.6	76.0	24.0
... producing mainly for direct sales		25.8	5.9	19.9	22.8	77.2
... using a tractor		109.5	67.0	42.5	61.2	38.8
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	270.2	37.3	232.9	13.8	86.2
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	1701.7	400.1	1301.5	23.5	76.5
... owned farmed		1289.4	383.1	906.3	29.7	70.3
Livestock	(1000 LU)	456.3	43.6	412.7	9.5	90.5

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

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Latvia was carried out between 13 and 29 August 2005 with the reference day of

1 July (for labour force information the preceding 12 months was the reference period). The survey was carried out using a combination of exhaustive and sample methods. The previous full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 2001.

The target population was all economically active farms which produce agricultural products; indeed some holdings may provide other supplementary (non-agricultural) products and services. These holdings are included in the regularly updated statistical farm register. The frame was stratified by activity (active, non-active and new or unobserved units), location (NUTS4 level), by economic size (4 categories of ESU for active farms, 7 categories in UAA for other ones) and by type of farming (3 groups; only for active farms). For non-active farms owned by natural person a 10 hectare agricultural land threshold was applied. In practice all holdings have an economic size of at least 2 ESU and units with specific processes in production were included, while from the other strata sample was drawn randomly. Altogether 60 thousand holdings were chosen to be surveyed.

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 Latvia 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

Provisional Results of Farm Structure Sample Survey 2005 (press release), Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, Riga, December 2005

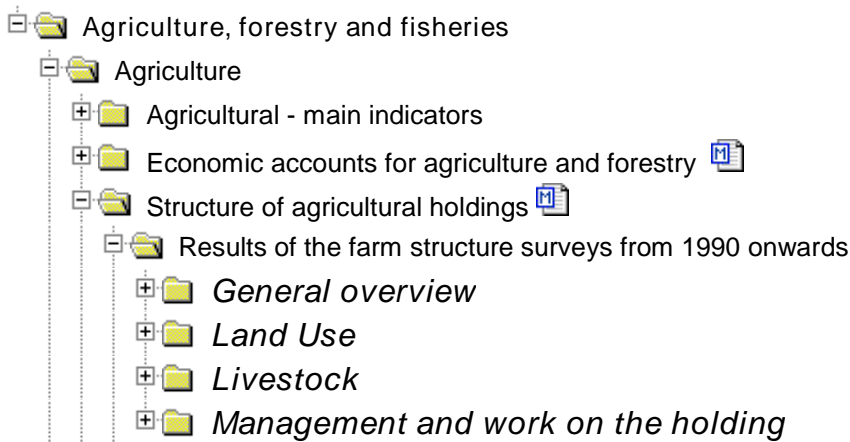
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Website of Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (LR Centrālā statistikas pārvalde): www.csb.lv/avidus.cfm

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available for request)

Further information:

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



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