

Farm Structure Survey in Sweden - 2007

The number of holdings under 5 ha has been reduced by one third since 2005.

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 Sweden.

72 600 agricultural holdings were recorded in Sweden in the 2007 Farm Structure Survey which represents a 4.2% decrease since 2005. The farms with at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU) have suffered a more significant reduction (-13%). This drop affects all size classes, but with greater impact on farms under 20 ha (-22%).

* * *

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 **57 500 agricultural holdings** had an economic size of at least 1 ESU, compared with 66 300 in 2005 (a 13% reduction).

- They made use of **2.99 million ha of utilised agricultural area- UAA**, (3% less compared with 3.09 million ha in 2005), which is on average about 52 ha per holding;
- These holdings employed **57 100 AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 57 100 people working full time, revealing a decrease of 14% since 2005;
- They had **1.7 million livestock units (LSU)** in 2007, 3% less than in 2005.

Amongst these **57 500** agricultural holdings:

- 58 % made use of less than one AWU, while another 14% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 42% used less than 20 ha (compared with 46% in 2005), while 14% used 100 ha or more;
- 54% of Swedish farms are crop specialists;

- 30% were engaged in general field cropping;
- 21% were specialised in cereals, oil seed and protein crops;
- 16% were specialists in cattle – rearing and fattening.

Amongst the sole holders:

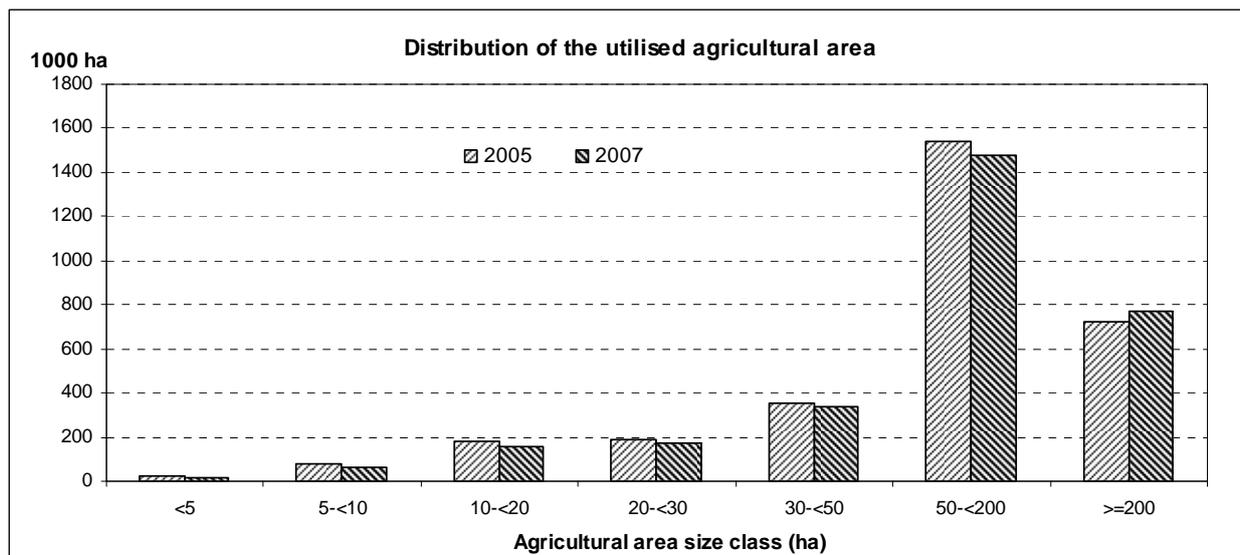
- 12% were women in 2007;
- 52% were aged 55 or more, and 5% were younger than 35 years;
- 67% of sole holders had another gainful activity in 2007 (compared with 64% in 2005);

In Sweden in 2007 60% of the agricultural area was owned by the holders.

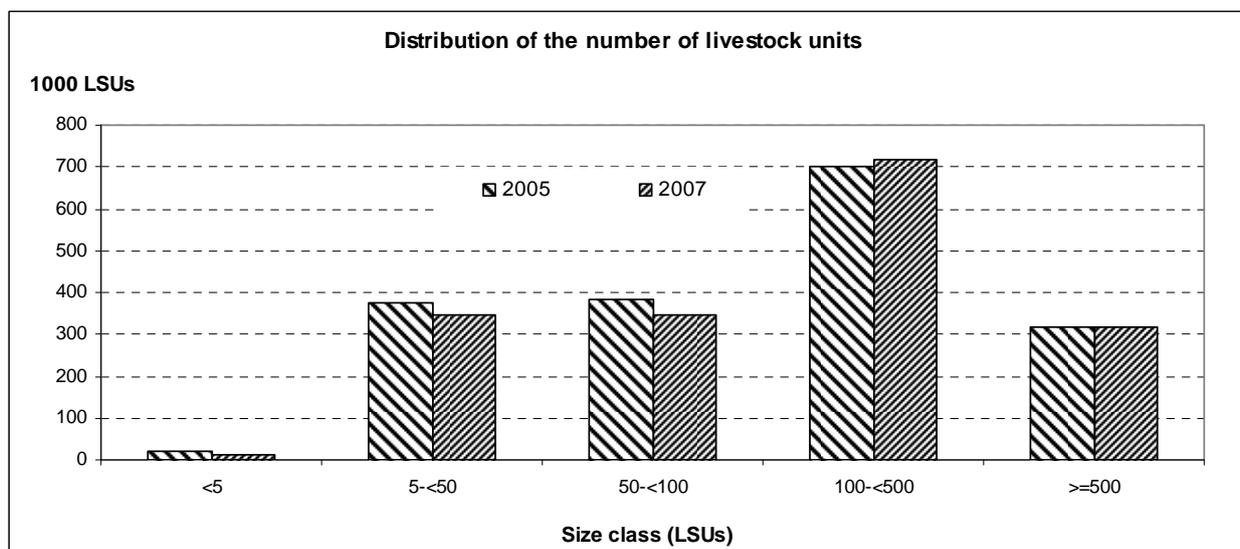
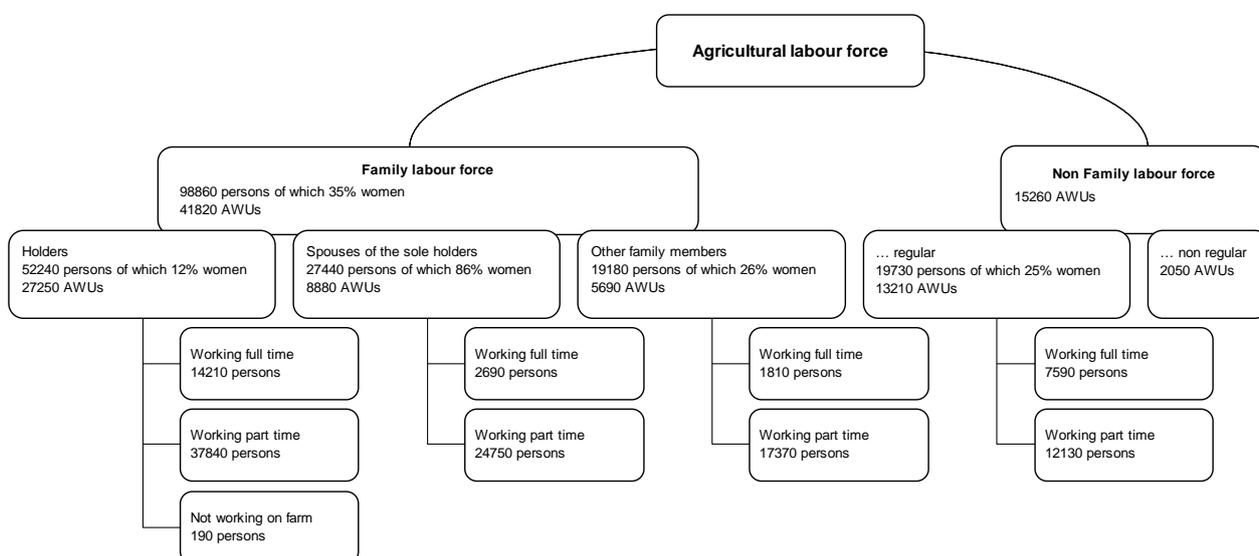
The family labour force has decreased by 15% from 2005 to 2007.

There is an increasing tendency towards organic farming, the percentage of farms with area of organic farming rose from 4% to 5%, and the share of this area is now 7.6% of the total UAA, 31 000 ha more than in 2005.

The number of holdings under 5 ha has been reduced by one third since 2005 (around 2 500 holdings less). For farms with UAA between 5 and 20 ha the reduction was 19%.



Description of the labour force in Sweden



* LSU = Livestock unit

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	12.3	13.7	13.2	17.9	57.1	15.0	21.6	8.6	11.8	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	37.9	28.2	19.1	13.6	98.9	41.3	40.3	10.0	7.3	
1000 annual work units	10.1	12.0	10.8	8.9	41.8	11.3	18.5	6.8	5.3	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	3.6	2.5	3.3	10.3	19.7	5.3	4.4	2.5	7.5	
1000 annual work units	1.9	1.3	2.0	8.0	13.2	2.9	2.6	1.7	6.0	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.0	2.1	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.5	
Holding managers	1000	23.2	15.6	10.0	7.9	56.6	26.1	21.4	4.9	4.2
- women (%)		14.8	9.3	6.2	4.2	10.3	10.8	11.8	5.9	4.3
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		78.7	48.5	23.0	9.1	50.9	76.3	39.5	5.4	3.9
- 50 % and over (%)		13.5	26.2	24.7	17.9	19.6	14.0	30.0	12.9	8.6
Sole/main holders	1000	22.3	14.9	9.2	5.9	52.2	24.6	20.3	4.4	3.0
- women (%)		16.0	10.7	6.8	4.9	11.6	12.5	12.7	7.0	4.2
-distribution by age (%)										
- under 35 years		4.4	4.7	5.3	6.5	4.9	4.4	4.9	5.4	7.7
- from 35 to 44 years		13.9	15.4	19.1	22.6	16.3	13.8	16.7	22.0	24.7
- from 45 to 54 years		21.7	26.8	32.6	34.7	26.5	22.7	28.1	35.1	35.2
- from 55 to 64 years		29.7	31.3	30.9	29.0	30.3	30.0	31.0	30.7	27.0
- 65 years and over		30.3	21.8	12.0	7.2	22.1	29.1	19.3	6.8	5.4
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		81.9	50.7	24.9	12.2	55.1	81.1	41.7	5.9	5.4
- 50 % and over (%)		14.0	27.4	26.7	23.9	21.2	14.9	31.7	14.3	12.0
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)		76.1	70.7	55.6	42.3	67.3	76.2	69.3	34.6	24.7
- as a main occupation		65.9	51.1	28.5	13.8	49.4	62.3	47.7	11.1	7.6
- as a subsidiary occupation		10.3	19.6	27.2	28.5	17.9	13.9	21.6	23.5	17.0
Spouse of sole holder	1000	10.2	8.0	5.4	3.8	27.4	10.5	11.9	2.9	2.1
- women (%)		78.8	86.2	92.2	94.5	85.8	82.7	85.3	92.2	95.3
-distribution by age (%)										
- under 35 years		4.9	5.4	6.4	7.8	5.8	4.6	6.2	6.4	8.6
- from 35 to 54 years		41.6	49.0	56.2	62.3	49.5	39.4	52.6	62.2	65.7
- 55 years and over		53.5	45.6	37.4	29.9	44.7	56.0	41.3	31.4	25.7
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		89.5	78.2	65.9	57.1	77.1	91.0	76.7	51.0	44.9
- 50 % and over (%)		7.0	14.6	17.9	19.6	13.1	6.7	15.0	23.0	21.1
- with another gainful activity (%)		74.3	74.7	70.9	65.5	72.5	73.9	76.4	62.8	56.2
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	5.4	5.3	4.5	3.9	19.2	6.2	8.1	2.6	2.2
- women (%)		28.2	26.5	24.6	22.2	25.7	22.3	29.7	24.5	21.8
- part-time: - under 50 % (%)		93.4	87.2	76.6	60.5	81.0	93.2	85.1	66.1	49.9
- 50 % and over (%)		5.1	8.5	11.8	14.6	9.6	4.7	9.9	15.1	15.4
- with another gainful activity (%)		61.5	62.4	57.6	45.7	57.6	64.0	59.8	50.3	40.5

*LSU = Livestock unit

¹ 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	24.2	15.4	10.0	7.9	57.5	27.5	20.9	4.9	4.2
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		96.1	95.6	92.3	74.8	92.3	94.1	94.7	90.1	71.8
- legal person		3.9	4.4	7.7	25.2	7.7	5.9	5.3	9.9	28.2
- group holders		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		84.0	59.2	31.4	11.4	57.8	82.5	50.1	6.1	2.9
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		12.6	33.9	46.8	37.8	28.0	13.5	40.4	53.3	25.3
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		2.2	5.8	18.0	27.7	9.5	2.3	7.8	33.5	35.2
- 3 AWU and over		1.2	1.1	3.9	23.1	4.7	1.7	1.6	7.1	36.6
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		91.5	45.9	10.0	2.0	52.8	64.4	60.0	1.9	0.2
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		3.8	33.7	17.7	2.8	14.1	14.6	17.7	7.8	0.4
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		2.2	16.2	42.2	16.3	14.8	11.8	16.3	32.0	7.3
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		1.2	3.5	26.7	44.7	12.2	6.1	4.7	55.6	40.0
- 100 ESU and over		1.2	0.7	3.3	34.2	6.0	3.1	1.3	2.7	52.1
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... general field cropping		48.0	19.8	13.1	14.3	29.8	56.7	6.1	2.3	2.7
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops		16.2	25.6	23.8	25.9	21.4	27.5	21.5	3.3	1.5
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening		12.0	23.4	17.1	9.8	15.7	0	35.9	22.2	9.7
... specialist dairy farming		1.0	9.4	26.2	27.6	11.3	0	9.3	51.6	48.2
... field crops – grazing livestock combined		9.9	11.8	11.2	10.7	10.7	8.3	14.3	12.0	7.3
Other types of farming		12.9	10.0	8.6	11.7	11.2	7.5	12.8	8.6	30.6
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		1.8	4.4	7.9	11.7	4.9	2.6	5.7	10.0	10.0
- irrigating		1.9	3.2	5.7	10.2	4.1	4.2	2.8	4.4	9.4
- with crops under glass		2.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.9	0.6	0.2	0.5
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		4.1	5.8	6.3	7.1	5.4	3.9	6.8	6.4	5.8
Handicraft		0.7	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.9
Processing of farm products		1.9	2.5	2.5	3.9	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.5	3.0
Wood processing		2.0	2.1	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.1
Aquaculture		0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Renewable energy production		1.3	1.8	2.1	3.7	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.7	3.0
Contractual work		6.1	13.4	19.9	25.4	13.2	9.6	14.6	20.3	20.5
Other gainful activities n.a.e		4.4	5.3	4.7	5.7	4.9	4.6	5.5	4.4	4.4

* 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	1243.3	1341.9	1456.2	2360.1	6401.4	2438.0	2058.1	829.7	1075.6	
· H. Other area	1006.6	837.1	746.3	822.7	3412.8	1545.5	1136.6	361.1	369.5	
Wooded area	977.3	796.1	688.3	743.4	3205.2	1470.1	1068.7	334.6	331.7	
· Agricultural area	236.7	504.7	709.8	1537.4	2988.6	892.4	921.5	468.5	706.2	
- D. Arable land	203.8	424.6	601.5	1297.8	2527.7	844.4	745.3	365.2	572.8	
Cereals	34.9	121.3	216.4	616.2	988.8	404.1	254.4	109.3	220.9	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	6.2	29.2	65.3	261.0	361.6	175.5	86.5	26.6	73.1	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rye</i>	0.6	1.9	4.3	18.0	24.7	13.0	5.5	2.3	3.9	
<i>Barley</i>	12.4	44.8	78.4	190.6	326.3	119.8	82.2	43.1	81.2	
<i>Oats</i>	13.6	37.4	52.6	103.5	207.0	78.8	64.7	25.8	37.7	
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dried pulses	0.4	1.3	3.5	14.6	19.7	7.6	4.2	1.9	6.0	
Root crops	1.9	7.1	13.8	46.3	69.1	37.0	14.1	4.7	13.3	
<i>Potatoes</i>	1.3	3.4	6.1	17.6	28.4	14.2	5.8	2.0	6.4	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.6	3.7	7.7	28.7	40.7	22.8	8.3	2.7	7.0	
<i>Fodder root</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Industrial crops	1.4	6.5	15.3	69.0	92.2	45.0	23.7	5.8	17.6	
<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>	1.3	6.2	14.8	65.5	87.8	42.5	22.7	5.7	16.8	
<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	1.5	2.2	3.5	13.0	20.1	13.0	4.0	0.8	2.4	
<i>outside</i>	1.3	2.2	3.5	12.9	19.9	12.8	4.0	0.8	2.4	
<i>under glass</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
Flower and ornamental plants	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	
<i>outside</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	
Forage plants	131.2	221.0	279.2	413.7	1045.1	184.9	369.0	218.5	272.6	
Fallow land	30.8	63.0	66.3	110.3	270.5	140.7	70.1	22.9	36.7	
- E. Kitchen garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	31.5	79.2	107.8	238.5	457.0	45.2	175.3	103.2	133.3	
- G. Permanent crops	1.4	0.9	0.6	1.0	4.0	2.8	0.9	0.1	0.2	
Fruit and berry plantation	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	2.7	2.1	0.5	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)	9.8	32.7	71.0	195.0	51.9	32.4	44.0	96.1	169.0
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		84.7	70.7	59.5	52.4	59.7	68.2	62.2	51.3	51.5
... in less favoured or mountain area		67.7	58.1	52.4	36.1	46.2	29.5	53.7	61.9	47.3
... organic farmed		1.9	4.2	7.1	9.8	7.6	3.9	6.6	10.6	11.4
... irrigated		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

* 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)	198.1	242.8	434.2	865.2	1740.3	0	357.9	345.6	1036.8
of which grazing	(%)	32.8	81.8	79.5	66.5	68.0	:	96.8	93.7	49.6
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		20.0	23.0	13.7	15.4	72.1	0	53.8	9.3	9.0
Bovine animals		67.4	248.5	460.1	777.8	1553.9	0	417.5	439.9	696.5
Under 1 year		21.5	79.5	142.8	243.2	487.0	0	134.5	138.1	214.5
From 1 to less than 2 years		17.1	64.3	114.6	192.8	388.8	0	111.6	109.2	168.0
Dairy cows		4.7	35.5	114.1	215.4	369.6	0	41.0	109.4	219.2
Other cows		18.2	46.8	50.9	69.3	185.2	0	92.5	48.0	44.7
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		6.0	22.4	37.8	57.1	123.3	0	37.9	35.3	50.1
Sheep		39.4	111.6	102.6	118.7	372.3	0	236.5	71.7	64.1
Goats		:	:	:	:	:	0	:	:	:
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)	272.4	145.4	300.8	957.6	1676.3	0	62.7	93.3	1520.3
Piglets < 20 kg		87.2	59.4	98.7	234.2	479.5	0	40.2	46.2	393.1
Breeding sows		38.0	21.3	30.9	88.8	178.9	0	6.7	12.7	159.5
Other pigs		147.2	64.7	171.2	634.7	1017.8	0	15.7	34.4	967.7
Poultry	(million heads)	5.7	1.1	2.0	4.9	13.8	0	0.2	0.3	13.3
Broilers		1.8	0.5	1.4	3.0	6.7	0	0	0	6.6
Laying hens		3.9	0.7	0.6	1.8	7.1	0	0.1	0.3	6.6
Other poultry		0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0.1
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beehives	(1000)	:	:	:	:	:	0	:	:	:
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae	(head/holding)	7.8	7.8	7.0	8.6	7.8	:	7.4	8.5	9.8
Cattle	(head/holding)	16.1	34.1	74.1	161.1	69.0	:	28.1	96.5	224.5
Dairy cows	(head/holding)	19.1	23.5	40.9	84.4	52.1	:	19.1	40.2	98.6
Other cows	(head/holding)	5.7	10.6	19.2	38.3	15.4	:	9.4	31.5	61.1
Sheep	(head/holding)	39.5	75.9	104.0	146.9	87.4	:	70.2	143.2	163.8
Goats	(head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Pigs	(head/holding)	598.8	272.8	554.0	1339.3	746.3	:	80.6	259.9	1369.6
Breeding sows	(head/holding)	114.9	55.4	92.2	241.9	126.3	:	12.3	48.9	261.5
Other pigs > 20 kg	(head/holding)	374.6	137.8	334.4	915.8	492.2	:	24.7	101.2	886.2
Rabbits, breeding females	(head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	2.9	0.7	1.4	6.0	2.3	:	0.1	0.9	19.8
Broilers	(1000/holding)	24.3	15.9	45.2	70.8	37.8	:	0.2	3.2	82.6
Beehives	(hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

* LSU = Livestock unit

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular Labour force	(1000 pers)	150.0	31.4	118.6	20.9	79.1
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	63.4	8.3	55.0	13.2	86.8
Holders with...	(1000)	67.9	15.7	52.2	23.1	76.9
... at least 65 years		14.7	3.1	11.5	21.4	78.6
... another gainful activity		45.0	12.0	32.9	26.8	73.2
Number of sole holdings	(1000)	72.6	15.1	57.5	20.8	79.2
... producing mainly for own consumption		:	:	:	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		:	:	:	:	:
SGM	(1000 ESU)	1793.4	6.8	1786.6	0.4	99.6
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	3118.0	129.4	2988.6	4.1	95.9
... own farmed		1891.1	105.8	1785.2	5.6	94.4
Livestock	(1000 LSU*)	1784.8	44.5	1740.3	2.5	97.5

*LSU = Livestock Unit

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The 2007 survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Sweden was carried out by the Swedish Board of Agriculture with the reference day on the 7 June 2007. The reference period for labour force and irrigation was June 2006 to May 2007. It was a combination of an exhaustive and a sample survey according to the EU requirements.

The target population was all the holdings operating in agriculture, horticulture or in animal husbandry and reaching at least one of the thresholds (at least 2 ha of arable land; 200 m² under glass or 2500 m² outdoor horticulture; 50 cows, sows or ewes; 250 other cattle or pigs; 1000 poultry). These holdings are recorded in the statistical farm register, which is updated on an annual basis [using statistical surveys and administrative sources like the Integrated Administrative and Control System (IACS), the Bovine Register, other livestock registers and the Organic Farm Register].

The target population for the FSS 2007 accounted about 72 600 farms. The frame was stratified by regions, by size classes of arable land and of different livestock. In practice 125 strata were used. In 89 strata simple random sampling with Neyman-allocation was applied based on the arable land area and on the number of different livestock. In the remaining 35 strata the selection ratio is 100% (for instance for large holdings). A special stratum was surveyed only in the census and not in the sample. It covers the holdings out of the different administrative sources, suspected to have stopped their activity. The sample size was 31 200.

The questionnaires were printed and mailed with a personal code that allowed the farmer to answer on the web through specific software. 10 % of the answers were received through the internet (5% in the case of the FSS questionnaires).

Several administrative sources were used for collecting the FSS data: The IACS for the crop areas, the Bovine Register and the milk delivery database for the data on the cattle and the Organic Farming Register. The data were checked in 2 steps, software was used for checking the validation criteria

that were then checked manually. The corrections were possible by using data from the original hardcopy of the questionnaires and by contacting the respondents by telephone.

The non-response was 3% for the FSS questionnaire, and partial non-response affected specially the labour force and the rural development issues. In these cases, after other complementary efforts, imputation was used. In the particular case of rural development, the 2006/2007 survey on other gainful activities clarified the situation. The empty answers were taken as missing values and not as non-existing activities. Therefore the change in imputation method had an inflating effect on the numbers of holdings with other gainful activities compared to the 2005 values.

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 Sweden it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

A Livestock Unit (LSU) is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals (heads) is converted into LSU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Website of Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket):
<http://www.sjv.se/>

Website of Statistics Sweden (Statistiska centralbyrån):
<http://www.scb.se/>

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available for request)

Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Select your theme on the left side of the homepage and then 'Data' from the menu.

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries](#)

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries



Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/125 L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408 Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

2, rue Mercier

L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>

E-mail: info@publications.europa.eu

Manuscript completed on: 01.10.2008

Data extracted on: 18.08.2008

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-08-085-EN-C

© European Communities, 2008