

Farm Structure Survey in Austria - 2007

A fall of 4% in the agricultural area

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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 Austria.

165 400 agricultural holdings were recorded in Austria in the Farm Structure Survey 2007 (3.1% fewer 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, 80% of the **agricultural holdings** (130 900) had an economic size of at least 1 ESU, compared with 137 000 in 2005 (a 4% reduction).

They use about **2.58 million ha of utilised agricultural area** (UAA), a decrease of 4.2% compared with 2005. The size of Austrian holdings was on average 19.7 ha per holding (compared with 19.6 ha in 2005).

These holdings employed **148 500 AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 148 500 people working full time; (3% less than 2005).

They had 2.46 **million livestock units** (LSU) in 2007, slightly more (1%) than in 2005.

Amongst these **130 900** agricultural holdings:

42.5% made use of less than one AWU, while another 13% made use of 2 or more AWUs;

69 % used less than 20 ha, while 7% used 50 ha or more;

24% of Austrian farms specialised in dairy farming;

14% specialised in cattle – rearing and fattening;

11% of the farms were engaged in growing cereals, oil seed and protein crops;

10% specialised in cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined;

10% specialised in vineyards.

The number of holdings specialized in vineyards increased by 5% from 11 900 (2005) to 12 600 (2007), while the area used for vineyards decreased by 1%.

60% of the agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas in 2007.

13% of the holdings were classified as practising organic farming; the area used for organic farming increased by 6% from 2005 to 2007.

The family labour force decreased by 4% between 2005 and 2007 and was 89% of the total labour force in Austrian holdings.

Amongst the sole holders:

33% were women;

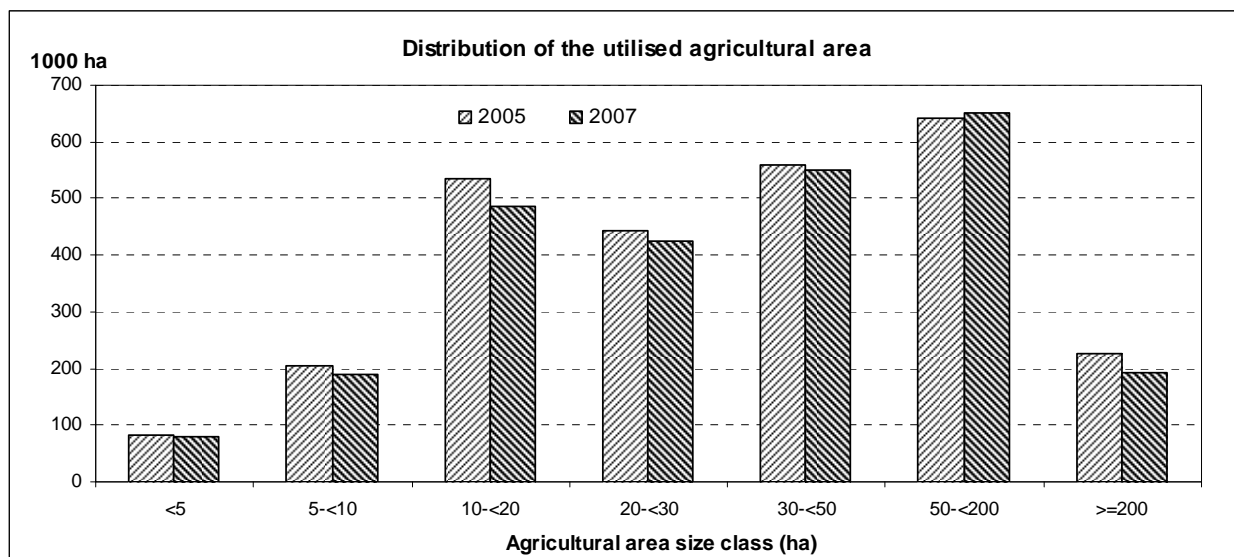
26% were aged 55 or more and 10% were younger than 35 years;

The number of sole holders younger than 35 years decreased by 16%.

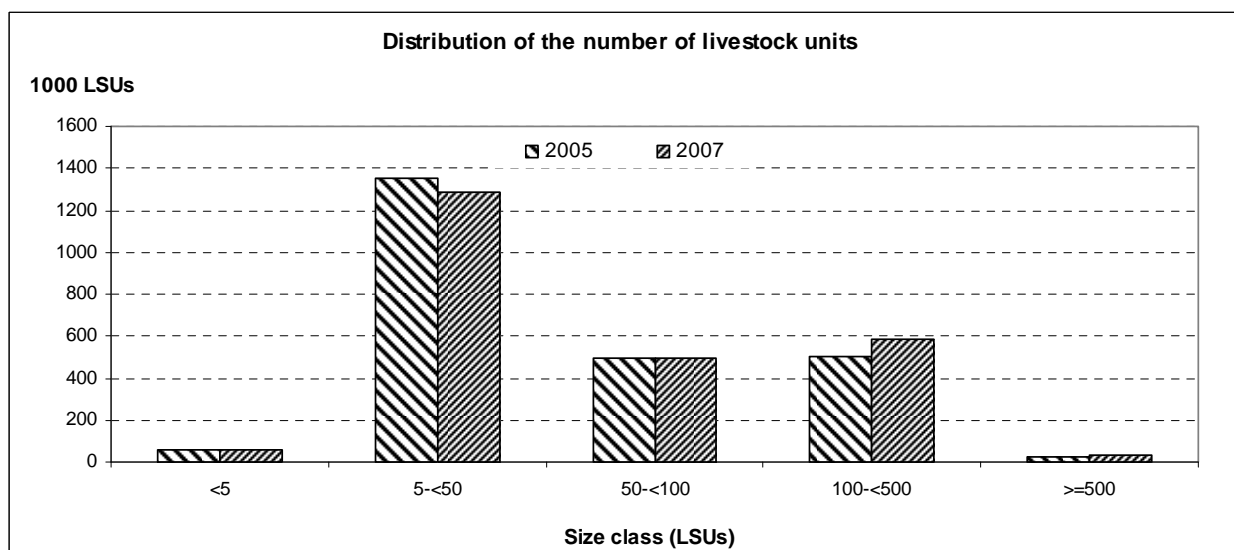
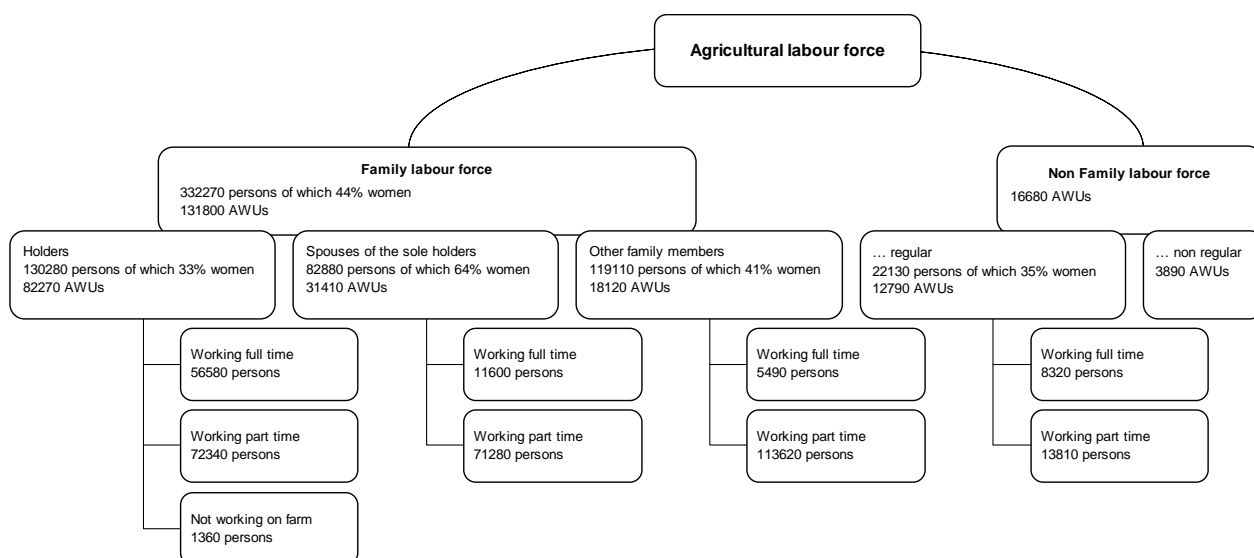
28% of the sole holders had another gainful activity in 2007.

In 2007 in Austria 66% of the agricultural area was farmed by its owners.

There was an increase in the rape and turnip area (+29%) in order to raise the bio fuel production, while area sown with sunflower and soya was reduced by 7%.



Description of the labour force in Austria



*LSUs = 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	84.4	47.2	11.9	5.0	148.5	33.2	95.7	12.1	7.6	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	223.2	86.3	18.7	4.1	332.3	58.4	243.1	20.8	9.9	
1000 annual work units	76.3	42.9	10.2	2.4	131.8	22.9	92.2	11.1	5.6	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	11.9	5.8	1.8	2.6	22.1	11.1	6.7	1.2	3.0	
1000 annual work units	6.2	3.3	1.1	2.2	12.8	7.5	2.6	0.8	1.8	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	1.8	1.0	0.6	0.4	3.9	2.7	0.9	0.2	0.1	
Holding managers	1000	90.2	31.8	7.1	1.7	130.9	28.6	91.3	7.3	3.7
- women	(%)	41.1	29.4	22.9	19.0	37.0	37.5	38.1	27.3	23.8
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	40.8	13.5	8.3	10.5	32.0	42.7	31.5	8.2	7.0
- 50 % and over	(%)	26.4	20.3	17.1	16.9	24.3	18.9	26.8	16.9	17.1
Sole/main holders	1000	89.9	31.7	7.1	1.6	130.3	28.2	91.2	7.3	3.6
- women	(%)	37.6	23.4	18.7	12.7	32.8	36.0	33.4	20.2	16.4
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		9.9	11.8	9.5	8.4	10.3	8.4	10.8	11.3	11.9
- from 35 to 44 years		28.4	33.8	35.2	32.6	30.1	26.7	30.4	36.4	37.8
- from 45 to 54 years		32.9	34.7	36.2	35.5	33.5	33.7	33.3	34.4	35.4
- from 55 to 64 years		17.7	16.2	16.4	19.1	17.3	21.0	16.4	15.2	13.4
- 65 years and over		11.2	3.5	2.7	4.3	8.8	10.2	9.1	2.8	1.5
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	40.9	13.6	8.3	11.2	32.1	43.2	31.6	8.2	7.1
- 50 % and over	(%)	26.5	20.3	17.3	18.0	24.4	19.1	26.9	17.0	17.5
- with another gainful activity ¹	(%)	33.8	17.0	12.1	10.7	28.2	32.3	29.1	10.7	10.7
- as a main occupation		22.7	6.8	2.8	2.7	17.5	23.8	17.2	3.1	2.6
- as a subsidiary occupation		11.1	10.2	9.3	8.0	10.8	8.5	11.8	7.6	8.0
Spouse of sole holder	1000	55.4	21.8	4.6	1.1	82.9	14.5	60.4	5.4	2.6
- women	(%)	57.9	75.3	80.2	89.4	64.1	59.1	63.1	79.2	83.9
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		9.7	14.0	13.4	11.6	11.0	7.2	11.5	14.8	13.8
- from 35 to 54 years		62.4	68.5	71.4	71.4	64.6	62.7	64.3	68.8	73.6
- 55 years and over		27.9	17.5	15.3	16.9	24.4	30.1	24.2	16.3	12.6
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	69.4	46.4	46.6	42.2	61.7	70.4	62.3	43.1	38.2
- 50 % and over	(%)	21.8	29.6	27.0	34.1	24.3	16.3	25.5	29.2	30.1
- with another gainful activity	(%)	46.5	27.9	25.2	16.0	40.0	47.4	40.9	20.7	18.9
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	78.0	32.8	7.0	1.4	119.1	15.6	91.6	8.2	3.7
- women	(%)	41.9	40.0	39.1	38.0	41.1	40.3	41.4	40.3	39.7
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	91.2	86.1	79.8	71.1	88.9	87.0	90.1	82.8	81.2
- 50 % and over	(%)	6.0	7.0	8.6	14.9	6.5	6.6	6.4	7.0	7.0
- with another gainful activity	(%)	43.7	33.6	29.8	31.5	40.0	36.4	42.1	29.0	27.2

*LSU = Livestock unit

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

":" 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
Holdings										
- total number	1000	90.2	31.8	7.1	1.7	130.9	28.6	91.3	7.3	3.7
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		97.3	98.5	96.7	87.9	97.5	96.2	98.0	97.3	94.8
- legal person		0.4	0.4	0.8	5.7	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.5	2.0
- group holders		2.3	1.1	2.4	6.4	2.1	2.6	1.9	2.2	3.3
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		53.8	19.2	12.0	9.3	42.5	52.7	43.2	10.5	9.4
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		38.7	57.4	58.9	50.1	44.5	33.2	46.5	57.9	55.4
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		6.0	20.2	23.0	25.2	10.6	8.6	9.2	27.0	28.4
- 3 AWU and over		1.6	3.1	6.1	15.3	2.4	5.5	1.1	4.6	6.9
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		59.0	7.6	3.1	10.5	42.8	39.3	49.0	0	0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		19.8	18.3	5.3	5.5	18.4	15.8	21.3	2.3	0.1
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		16.0	50.2	34.9	16.5	25.3	21.2	25.9	36.7	21.7
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		4.0	21.3	45.7	45.1	11.0	16.0	3.4	59.3	63.3
- 100 ESU and over		1.3	2.6	11.1	22.4	2.4	7.7	0.4	1.6	15.0
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... specialist dairy farming		22.4	31.9	15.8	17.2	24.2	0	31.8	33.5	5.9
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening		15.9	9.8	6.2	6.4	13.8	0	19.1	6.9	2.3
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops		10.5	10.4	17.2	26.4	11.0	31.4	5.9	0.4	0.1
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening com		9.2	12.6	5.6	8.8	9.8	0	13.2	11.2	1.5
... specialist vineyard		12.2	3.6	4.8	2.7	9.6	38.0	1.9	0.3	0.1
Other types of farming		29.8	31.7	50.4	38.6	31.5	30.5	28.1	47.8	90.1
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		12.2	14.4	13.2	24.8	13.0	5.6	16.2	7.2	2.1
- irrigating		3.4	3.6	13.1	10.5	4.1	13.3	1.5	1.3	1.4
- with crops under glass		1.5	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.1	4.3	0.3	0	0.1
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		8.8	7.3	7.6	13.2	8.4	4.6	10.1	5.9	1.4
Handicraft		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Processing of farm products		10.9	11.3	14.7	13.2	11.2	14.2	10.2	12.1	9.8
Wood processing		1.6	2.2	1.4	3.0	1.8	0.6	2.1	2.3	0.9
Aquaculture		0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Renewable energy production		0.7	2.8	4.1	2.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	3.1	4.0
Contractual work		4.5	12.2	16.1	15.7	7.1	4.4	7.3	13.0	13.0
Other gainful activities n.a.e		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_kvaaesu](#))

":" 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	
Area	(1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	1361.2	1407.4	605.5	1013.0	4387.2	1291.8	2465.9	394.1	235.4	
· H. Other area	605.5	431.3	134.7	640.0	1811.4	627.4	1008.8	103.7	71.5	
Wooded area	556.6	404.3	115.1	447.8	1523.7	459.2	917.1	90.9	56.6	
· Agricultural area	755.8	976.2	470.9	373.0	2575.8	664.5	1457.1	290.4	163.8	
- D. Arable land	285.1	555.6	348.3	178.2	1367.3	514.7	555.3	160.7	136.6	
Cereals	160.3	329.6	213.4	107.7	811.1	319.5	299.8	92.4	99.3	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	35.2	101.0	90.0	52.2	278.5	147.2	87.7	22.8	20.7	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.3	3.4	6.7	5.8	16.2	13.2	2.5	0.3	0.2	
<i>Rye</i>	13.0	18.5	9.3	4.8	45.5	14.0	27.5	3.0	1.1	
<i>Barley</i>	38.5	81.6	51.9	19.7	191.7	70.9	78.1	24.6	18.1	
<i>Oats</i>	13.3	16.2	4.0	1.7	35.3	5.4	24.7	3.6	1.5	
<i>Grain maize</i>	48.2	86.3	41.7	20.0	196.2	58.3	52.5	30.7	54.6	
Dried pulses	7.7	14.1	9.6	5.4	36.8	16.1	15.8	3.4	1.5	
Root crops	5.2	24.7	26.0	11.4	67.3	39.1	20.1	4.7	3.5	
<i>Potatoes</i>	2.7	8.1	8.3	3.7	22.8	10.7	9.5	1.6	1.0	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	2.4	16.4	17.6	7.7	44.2	28.2	10.4	3.0	2.5	
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.1	0.2	0	0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0	0	
Industrial crops	19.2	44.2	33.2	22.7	119.3	58.5	38.0	10.4	12.4	
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Hops</i>	0.2	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	3.6	19.1	13.7	10.4	46.7	20.3	14.4	5.0	7.0	
<i>Sunflower</i>	2.9	8.7	9.4	5.1	26.2	16.8	6.8	1.4	1.2	
<i>Soya</i>	4.2	7.4	4.1	3.8	19.5	9.0	7.1	1.6	1.7	
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	2.6	3.9	5.5	2.6	14.6	11.8	2.2	0.3	0.3	
<i>outside</i>	2.2	3.8	5.5	2.6	14.2	11.5	2.2	0.3	0.3	
<i>under glass</i>	0.4	0	0	0	0.4	0.4	0	0	0	
Flower and ornamental plants	0.4	0.1	0	0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0	
<i>outside</i>	0.2	0.1	0	0	0.3	0.2	0	0.1	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0.2	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0	0	0	
Forage plants	78.5	108.5	35.1	12.7	234.7	23.0	156.2	43.8	11.6	
Fallow land	9.3	28.6	23.9	12.9	74.8	41.5	20.6	5.2	7.5	
- E. Kitchen garden	1.3	0.8	0.2	0.1	2.4	0.7	1.5	0.2	0.1	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	429.3	403.5	114.6	192.5	1139.9	94.5	890.2	128.5	26.8	
- G. Permanent crops	40.0	16.3	7.7	2.2	66.2	54.7	10.1	1.0	0.4	
Fruit and berry plantation	10.7	2.7	0.8	0.2	14.4	10.5	3.2	0.5	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	28.4	13.2	6.4	1.9	49.8	42.6	6.7	0.4	0.2	
Ratios										
Agricultural area per holding	(ha)	8.4	30.7	66.1	213.4	19.7	23.3	16.0	39.6	44.5
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		79.9	65.6	51.2	60.4	66.4	59.9	71.8	60.6	54.5
... in less favoured or mountain area		75.5	56.9	40.8	60.1	59.9	30.5	76.6	57.6	34.0
... organic farmed		14.8	13.1	12.1	15.7	13.8	8.4	17.9	10.8	4.1
... irrigated		0.8	0.9	3.8	2.8	1.7	5.0	0.5	0.3	1.3

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_lusum](#))

":" 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)	941.5	1172.6	284.6	60.3	2459.1	0	1343.8	497.1	618.2
of which grazing (%)	67.7	56.7	49.7	64.6	60.3	:	86.8	52.8	8.8
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)									
Equidae	48.4	17.0	4.7	1.9	72.0	0	65.4	5.3	1.2
Bovine animals	807.8	911.0	197.1	51.5	1967.5	0	1525.1	365.2	77.1
Under 1 year	246.1	292.4	67.5	15.6	621.6	0	471.7	122.3	27.5
From 1 to less than 2 years	165.0	206.4	46.5	11.5	429.4	0	321.5	88.5	19.3
Dairy cows	203.9	256.5	48.8	12.4	521.7	0	398.9	103.7	19.1
Other cows	138.4	98.1	21.2	7.6	265.3	0	231.5	27.2	6.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	54.3	57.6	13.0	4.5	129.5	0	101.5	23.4	4.6
Sheep	209.3	61.9	13.2	9.1	293.5	0	268.0	20.2	5.3
Goats	40.6	13.2	3.0	1.0	57.8	0	53.6	3.4	0.8
Granivores									
Pigs (1000 heads)	893.6	1792.1	471.6	71.3	3228.5	0	579.0	859.8	1789.7
Piglets < 20 kg	224.0	440.1	103.4	12.6	780.1	0	143.5	238.0	398.5
Breeding sows	87.8	171.5	40.7	4.8	304.8	0	58.3	94.5	152.0
Other pigs	581.9	1180.5	327.4	53.8	2143.6	0	377.1	527.3	1239.2
Poultry (million heads)	6.9	5.0	2.0	0.2	14.1	0	2.3	2.0	9.8
Broilers	2.9	2.6	1.2	0.1	6.8	0	0.3	1.0	5.5
Laying hens	3.8	2.1	0.7	0.1	6.6	0	1.9	1.0	3.7
Other poultry	0.2	0.3	0.1	0	0.6	0	0.1	0.1	0.5
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beehives (1000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average size of herds* (head/holding)									
Equidae (head/holding)	4.5	5.2	6.9	8.1	4.8	:	4.7	6.8	6.4
Cattle (head/holding)	16.0	44.4	68.2	72.2	26.4	:	22.1	76.7	109.0
Dairy cows (head/holding)	6.6	15.9	24.1	23.6	10.6	:	8.8	27.3	44.3
Other cows (head/holding)	4.3	7.6	13.0	17.2	5.6	:	5.2	10.5	19.5
Sheep (head/holding)	22.7	32.2	50.2	50.2	25.4	:	24.2	57.5	42.9
Goats (head/holding)	5.6	7.8	8.9	9.3	6.2	:	6.0	8.6	8.8
Pigs (head/holding)	32.4	137.9	229.7	179.9	75.0	:	16.4	183.1	584.1
Breeding sows (head/holding)	18.7	45.3	57.5	47.4	32.8	:	11.2	41.2	84.6
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	21.6	92.2	162.2	139.1	50.9	:	11.0	113.1	406.0
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	:	0	0.4	3.7
Broilers (1000/holding)	3.7	7.7	17.7	3.6	5.6	:	0.4	6.0	25.3
Beehives (hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

*LSU = Livestock unit

Source: Eurostat ([ef_ov_issum](#))

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU*	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU*	>= 1 ESU
Regular Labour force	(1000 pers)	420.7	66.3	354.4	15.8	84.2
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	159.2	14.6	144.6	9.2	90.8
Holders with...	(1000)	161.3	31.0	130.3	19.2	80.8
... at least 65 years		17.8	6.4	11.4	35.8	64.2
... another gainful activity		52.2	15.2	37.0	29.1	70.9
Number of sole holdings	(1000)	165.4	34.5	130.9	20.9	79.1
... producing mainly for own consumption		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		6.8	0.4	6.3	6.5	93.5
SGM	(1000 ESU)	2767.1	9.3	2757.7	0.3	99.7
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	3189.1	613.3	2575.8	19.2	80.8
... own farmed		2229.0	518.7	1710.3	23.3	76.7
Livestock	(1000 LSU**)	2473.2	14.2	2459.1	0.6	99.4

* In Austria this category also includes AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES with alpine pastures but without own livestock. The grazing livestock is assigned to the single farms of their members. The agrarian communities are not to be understood as subsistence farming units in the proper sense ¹.

**LSU = Livestock unit

➤ METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Statistics Austria in collaboration with the communes implemented the 2007 survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Austria. The FSS 2007 was the third sample survey after the last Agricultural Census in 1999 (AC 1999). The reference day was the 1 December 2007. The reference period for area related characteristics was the 2006/2007 crop year, and for the data on labour force it was the period between December 2006 and November 2007.

The definition of an agricultural holding complies with the European Commission's definition. It includes all holdings with at least 1 hectare, or with at least 0.25 ha of market vineyards, 0.15 ha of fruit orchards, or 0.1 ha of berries, strawberries, vegetables, flowers, decorative plants, vine, nurseries and commercial nurseries of forest trees, or holdings with greenhouses covering at least 0.01 ha (producing mainly for market), or with at least 3 heads of cattle, 5 pigs, 10 sheep or goats, 100 heads of poultry. Holdings with at least 3 ha of forest were surveyed for national purposes.

The FSS 2007 used the Agriculture and Forestry Register as basis for the 2007 survey which recorded around 232 500 holdings. This register is continuously updated with the various Austrian agricultural surveys and with administrative data as well. The sample was a stratified random sample, based on the geographical regions, the labour force, typology, UAA and livestock. A total of around 40 000 holdings were included in the sample (17%).

Data from the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), from the Cattle Register and information on organic farming were used for providing information on the cultivated areas and livestock.

The survey was conducted solely by means of an internet questionnaire. About 34% of the farmers submitted their responses on their own PC (direct respondents). The other respondents received assistance from their municipalities. Altogether about 33 250 questionnaires (83%) were relevant according to EU criteria.

Since FSS 2005 "maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental conditions" (GAEC) is considered an agricultural activity. Beginning with the FSS 2007 the concerned land has been included in the agricultural area. In Austria it covers close to 4 300 ha, 77% in holdings 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 Austria it is 2000 hours (250 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 the Statistik Austria: <http://www.statistik.at/>
National Methodological Report – FSS 2007 (available on request)

Further information

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

Data on "Agriculture Statistics":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/data/database>

More information about "Agriculture Statistics":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/introduction>

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