

What Is the Best Indicator of Work Performed in Agriculture?

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Abstract: The share of agriculture in the majority of European countries including Hungary is displaying a lessening trend; nevertheless, nearly half of the Hungarian households are involved in some kind of agricultural production. Legal agricultural enterprises are also involved in agricultural activity. The surveys used for measurement, comparison and assessment of agricultural labour activities associated with enterprises and households are not an easy task to conduct with many statistical indicators needed for compliance with international statistical standards.

Statistics measuring agricultural labour input in Hungary:

1. The residential labour force survey which is a sample survey covering households collecting information on the economic activity of people from 15 to 74 years. Including employed by agricultural enterprises and working in private farms, for which agricultural activity is the main source of earnings;
2. The enterprise labour statistics is based on the observation of businesses and budgetary organizations employing at least five people. Including employees of agricultural enterprises, game and forest management and fishery entities;
3. The population censuses obtain the agricultural activity of the members of the household in the previous year. Including the number of days worked in agriculture;
4. For the requirements of Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) agricultural labour input statistics provides data on any work carried out in agriculture converted into the Annual Working Unit (1 AWU is equal to 1800 hours of agricultural work).

The methodology and definitions of statistics differ from each other; therefore, the results produced also vary. This paper looks at how to assess and use statistical results coming from different surveys, which indicator provides an appropriate representation of domestic agriculture and related work performed, and what additional information is required to satisfy the needs of data users e.g. in agrarian and rural development policy, and whether there is necessity to change the methodologies.