

Germany - European Union Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000

Main Results

Number and total area of holdings

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	471 960	19 097 900

Number and total area of holdings by size of agricultural area

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	471 960	19 097 900
Holdings without agricult. land	2 070	9 290
0 - 2 ha of agricultural area	35 760	54 500
2 - 5	79 800	410 020
5 - 10	73 950	714 450
10 - 20	87 360	1 578 670
20 - 30	51 770	1 514 570
30 - 50	62 580	2 755 890
50 - 100	54 310	4 078 210
>= 100 ha	24 360	7 982 300

Legal status

Holdings operated by:	Number of holdings	
Civil Persons	440 060	—
Other	31 900	—

Tenure of agricultural land

		Agricultural area (ha)
Total	—	17 151 560
Owned	—	6 224 280
Rented	—	10 766 640
Under other forms of tenure	—	160 640

Holders (Individuals) by sex

	Number of holders	
Total	440 060	—
male	401 130	—
female	38 930	—

Holders (Individuals) by age

	Number of holders	
Total	440 060	—
< 35 years of age	72 530	—
35 to 44	128 940	—
45 to 54	113 800	—
55 to 64	99 110	—
65 >	25 680	—

Holders and members of their household engaged in agricultural work on the holding

	Number of persons	
Total	940 810	—
Male	588 130	—
Female	352 680	—
Of which, full time:		
Total	231 490	—
Male	202 520	—
Female	28 980	—

Hired permanent workers		
	Number of workers	
Total	195 730	—
Of which, full time:	150 880	—

Land use		
	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
All land	471 960	19 097 900
Agricultural land	—	17 151 560
Cropland	—	12 037 760
Arable land	356 510	11 830 080
of which: kitchen gardens	57 970	8 600
Permanent crops	67 890	207 680
Permanent mead./pastures	371 170	5 113 800
Wood / forest land	246 520	1 496 790
All other land	—	449 550

Temporary crops		
	Holdings reporting	Area (ha)
Wheat, total	—	2 601 120
Soft wheat	200 160	2 589 100
Durum wheat	1 930	12 020
Rye	57 460	756 920
Barley	239 840	2 210 350
Oats	162 440	695 550
Maize	41 690	370 740
Dry pulses	20 900	212 200
Potatoes	96 170	308 500
Sugarbeets	48 250	489 160
Industrial plants	88 020	1 466 530
Rapeseed and Turnip	78 970	1 198 040
Tobacco	660	4 310
Hops	2 330	18 490
Sunflowerseed	3 610	33 350
Vegetables (grown in the open)	20 690	101 020

Livestock		
	Holdings reporting	Head/units
Cattle, total	237 960	14 895 810
of which: dairy cows	152 650	4 765 140
Sheep	33 980	2 723 660
Pigs	141 450	26 101 030
Chickens, total	—	68 970 000
Broilers	115 120	58 330 000
Laying hens	15 460	10 640 000

GERMANY – Agricultural Census 1999

Explanatory Notes

Historical outline:

Beginning with 1949, agricultural censuses have been carried out in Federal Republic of Germany in 1960, 1971, 1979. Since 1975 an agricultural report, based on agriculture structure survey (land use, livestock and labour force surveys), was also prepared regularly at two-yearly interval. The agricultural census of 1999 followed the 1991 census which was the first carried out in the unified Germany. Biennial structure surveys complement the results of agricultural census with more up-to-date information and are considered as integral part of agricultural census programme. The 1999 census corresponds to Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 1999/2000 of European Union.

Organization:

The agricultural census was carried out as per notification of June 1998 issued under amended Agricultural Statistics Law. The amended law envisaged harmonizing definition of thresholds for holding for integrating important surveys, reducing the respondent burden, greater use of representative surveys and administrative data. Conducting of agricultural census every 8 to 10 years is part of the programme of tasks of the German Statistical Office. The Federal Statistical Office undertook the methodological preparation, processing of results, and coordination with the Landers (regions) who in turn carried out the census with the support of municipalities.

Enumeration period:

The questionnaire for the main survey were despatched in May 1999 and were followed up to November 1999. The wine-growing survey, which was based on vineyard register, was carried out in 1999.

Reference date:

For the Farm structure Survey 1999/2000 in Germany, the reference dates were as follows:

Crops: normally the day of the questioning, between January and May 1999.

Livestock: 3rd May 1999

Farm labour:

- Family labour and permanently employed non-family workers: 4 weeks from 29 March to 25 April 1999.
- Non-permanently employed workers, including seasonal workers: 12 months before the questioning, from May 1998 to end of April 1999.
- Family labour, permanently employed workers and non-permanently employed workers: 12 months before the questioning, from May 1998 to end of April 1999, divided into 4 working-time-groups.

Definitions:

Holding:

A holding is a single unit, both technically and economically, having a single management and producing agricultural, forestry and fish products and its scale of operation is above a specified size.

Coverage:

Geographically, the survey covered the entire territory of the unified Germany.

The general survey (total) included following groups of holdings:

- with an area used for agriculture of two hectares or more or a minimum stock of animals (8 bovines, 8 pigs, 20 sheep, 200 laying hens/ broilers/ geese) or producing special crops (0.3 hectare of vineyards/ hops/tobacco/tree nurseries/outdoor flowers/market gardening and cultivation under glass cover/ medicinal plants);
- holdings with a wooded area of at least 10 hectares.

The cut-offs applied for 1999 census are higher for cropped land area, wooded land area, area under special crops, and lower for number of sheep as compared to those applied to 1991 census.

Frame:

The list of holding prepared for 1995 agricultural structure survey was updated to include new holdings and to delete non-existent holdings. Duplications were ruled out as new admissions are

thoroughly checked before inclusion in the Farm Register which also uses the data from agricultural association during the process of completion.

Methods:

Agricultural census programme is subdivided into a **general survey** which covers all the agricultural, forestry, market gardening and wine-growing holdings, and **special sample surveys** focused on activities like wine-growing, market gardening, and inland water fishing. At the time of census, the legal base for carrying survey on market gardening and inland fishing was yet to be created. In the May 1999 survey programme, the two component of census programme were implemented together. While all the holdings had to answer a general part, only about 20% of the holdings had to answer the detailed special survey questionnaire. The information on land use, crops, livestock, socio-economic conditions of holding, labour force, tenancy, ownership and succession etc. was collected by 100 percent coverage. The information on non-holding income, use of natural fertilizers of animal origin, vocational training, and social insurance was collected from a representative sample. Thus in this integrated system the data on production and structural characteristics was collected at the same time. The data collection method differed from region to region; it included direct interview as well as a postal survey followed up by telephone. The data was entered into a processing and plausibility checking programme using direct entry and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.

Data source:

European Commission – Eurostat, Theme 5, Agriculture and Fisheries – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000 – 2003 Edition – Detailed Tables

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European Community Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000 Explanatory Notes

Historical outline:

EU Farm Structure Surveys are carried out regularly at roughly two-years intervals, the first being conducted in 1966/67, followed by the surveys of 1970/71, 1975, 1977, 1979/80, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989/90, 1993, 1995 and 1997. The 1999/2000 Farm Structure Survey (FSS), to which data here presented refer, is the thirteen in the series of European Community surveys and the third for the Community of Fifteen.

Organization:

The farm structure survey is organized and conducted by the Statistical Offices of each Member State. Information collected at national level is then forwarded to Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, which regulates the quality of statistics by prescribing acceptable level of sample size, precision of estimates and degree of non-sampling errors etc.

Enumeration period:

The Community Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings was implemented between 1 December 1998 and 1 March 2001.

Reference date:

Reference dates are:

For legal personality and management of the holding: the day of the survey;
For livestock numbers: the reference day of the survey;
For farm labour force: the 12 months preceding the day of the survey.

Definitions:

Holding:

A holding is a single unit, both technically and economically, having a single management and producing agricultural products.

Holder:

Is a single or a group of natural persons, or a legal person, on whose account and name the holding is operated. The holder is legally and economically responsible for the holding, and takes the economic risks.

Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA):

Is the holding's area consisting of arable land, kitchen gardens, land under permanent crops and land under permanent meadows and pastures.

Standard Gross Margin (SGM):

The SGM determines the techno-economic orientation and techno-economic size of the holding. It is calculated, for each crop or animal production, as the difference between the standard value of the production and the standard amount of certain specific costs (mainly proportional specific costs).

Economic size of holding:

For each production, the area or the number of livestock is multiplied by the product's SGM local coefficient. The estimated figures are added to obtain the economic size of the holding, expressed in European Size Units (ESUs), each equivalent to € 1200. The relative importance of SGMs of the various productions makes it possible to classify holdings by type of farming. This measure is also utilized by some countries for fixing thresholds on size of holdings.

Family labour force:

Includes holders (natural persons), their spouses and other members of holder's household working on the holding.

Non-family labour force regularly employed:

Non-members of holder's household who worked on the holding in every week of the 12 months prior to the survey.

Coverage:

Geographically, the survey covered the entire territory of each EU15 Member State.

Statistically, the Farm Structure Survey includes:

- Agricultural holdings whose utilized agricultural area is one hectare or more;
- Agricultural holdings with less than one hectare of agricultural land but producing a certain proportion of produce for sale, or if their production units exceed certain physical thresholds.

Only the smallest holdings (representing about 1% or less of the total Gross Standard Margin of the country concerned) were excluded from the Survey.

Methods:

The 1999/2000 Farm Structure Survey, providing results at national as well as regional level, was carried out as a complete enumeration census in the majority of the fifteen Member States of the European Community. Eurostat is the responsible agency for the correct processing of individual data supplied by each Member State and guarantees that the tabular results are correct in the formal sense. The data, as received from the Member States, are cleaned, validated and standardized by Eurostat and are published after reconciliation of error lists in consultation with the Member State.

Out of the 15 EU Member States, Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are authorized to use information available from the Integrated Administration and Control System, set up according to Council Regulations (EEC) n.3508/92 of 27/11/1992 and n.3887/92 of 23/12/1992. The Netherlands are authorized to use data from the National Farm Register, for certain characteristics related to legal status of the holder and labour force.

Data source:

European Commission – Eurostat, Theme 5, Agriculture and Fisheries – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000 – 2003 Edition – Detailed Tables

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