

France - European Union Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000 Main Results

Number and total area of holdings

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	663 810	29 897 670

Number and total area of holdings by size of agricultural area

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	663 810	29 897 670
Holdings without agricult. land	10 720	14 330
0 - 2 ha of agricultural area	101 020	197 670
2 - 5	81 620	395 120
5 - 10	60 510	564 790
10 - 20	71 240	1 250 550
20 - 30	51 970	1 473 740
30 - 50	85 830	3 703 230
50 - 100	122 150	9 148 280
>= 100 ha	78 750	13 149 960

Legal status

Holdings operated by:	Number of holdings	
Civil Persons	538 000	—
Other	125 810	—

Tenure of agricultural land

		Agricultural area (ha)
Total	—	27 856 310
Owned	—	10 110 030
Rented	—	17 457 160
Under other forms of tenure	—	289 120

Holdings (Individuals) by sex

	Number of holders	
Total	538 000	—
male	411 720	—
female	126 280	—

Holdings (Individuals) by age

	Number of holders	
Total	538 000	—
< 35 years of age	53 270	—
35 to 44	120 150	—
45 to 54	161 690	—
55 to 64	105 540	—
65 >	97 350	—

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

	Number of persons	
Total	857 620	—
Male	558 140	—
Female	299 480	—
Of which, full time:		
Total	306 150	—
Male	226 810	—
Female	79 340	—

Hired permanent workers		
	Number of workers	
Total	461 970	—
Of which, full time:	290 280	—

Land use		
	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
All land	663 810	29 897 670
Agricultural land	—	27 856 310
Cropland	—	19 540 380
Arable land	452 000	18 419 340
of which: kitchen gardens	262 500	23 680
Permanent crops	184 240	1 121 040
Permanent mead./pastures	410 320	8 315 930
Wood / forest land	214 710	1 303 420
All other land	—	737 940

Temporary crops		
	Holdings reporting	Area (ha)
Wheat, total	—	—
Soft wheat	263 770	4 896 510
Durum wheat	20 410	338 600
Rye	8 450	30 480
Barley	171 360	1 521 930
Oats	38 380	101 390
Maize	142 700	1 753 870
Dry pulses	48 670	475 390
Potatoes	30 500	157 820
Sugarbeets	31 800	409 060
Industrial plants	128 720	2 105 200
Tobacco	5 100	9 560
Hops	120	830
Rapeseed and Turnip	74 300	1 176 100
Sunflowerseed	59 940	722 870
Soybeans	7 910	76 790
Vegetables (grown in the open)	42 040	240 810

Permanent crops		
	Holdings reporting	Area (ha)
Citrus fruits	500	2380
Olives	11730	14240
Grapes	143 750	883 660

Livestock		
	Holdings reporting	Head/units
Cattle, total	282 010	20 258 920
of which: dairy cows	128 340	4 193 270
Sheep	95 670	9 416 240
Goats	27 290	1 201 940
Pigs	59 550	14 869 720
Chickens, total	—	203 370 000
Broilers	125 630	126 300 000
Laying hens	231 820	77 070 000

Machinery		
	Holdings reporting use	Units
Tractors belonging to the holding (owned)	550 080	1 249 600
Tractors not belonging to the holding	218 780	—

FRANCE – Agricultural Census 2000

Explanatory Notes

Historical outline:

The 2000 Agricultural Census in France is the fifth taken after the end of the Second World War, and follows those of 1955, 1970, 1979 and 1988. Apart from decennial agricultural census, farm structure surveys are carried out at roughly at two-year intervals since 1966/67. The results obtained through 1988/89 census were updated through structure sample surveys of 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1997. Statistical prescriptions of European Union Regulations are followed and the country supplies required agricultural data to Eurostat also.

Organization:

The census was organized by the Central Service of Statistical Surveys and Studies (SCEES) which is the Central Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Legal basis was provided by a decree signed by National Statistical Information Council (CNIS) and National Committee on Computerization and Freedoms (CNIL), which followed European Union Regulations. Services of regional and local statistics departments of SCEES and of municipalities were also utilized for the field work.

Enumeration period:

During the winter of 1999/2000 the list of agricultural holdings was drawn up. Eligible holdings were surveyed during 1 October 2000 to 31 January 2001.

Reference date:

- Crops: data refer to the agricultural year 2000 (1 November 1999 - 31 October 2000).
- Livestock: data refer to the day of enumeration. Data on poultry numbers to be slaughtered for Christmas are those present on the holding on 1st December 2000.
- Data on seasonal or occasional employment refer to those persons who worked during the agricultural year 1999-2000.

Definitions:

Superficie agricole utilisée:

Includes arable land, land under permanent crops, and land under permanent meadows and pastures.

Holding:

Agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production satisfying at the same time the following three conditions:

- it produces an agricultural product;
- it is equal to or above the threshold size (1 ha or more of "superficie agricole utilisée", or 0.2 Ha of specialized crops, or a certain number of livestock, or a certain level of agricultural output etc;
- it is subject to independent everyday management.

Coverage:

The census was carried out through out the country including overseas areas. However, the results reported here relate to the territory of France in Europe (France Métropolitaine). The data relating to French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion (Départements d'Outre-Mer), are recorded in the Data-Bank at country level.

Frame:

A basic list of holdings (frame) was compiled on computer using the 1988 survey list which had been updated on the basis of subsequent surveys, as the reference list. The 1988 list was matched with the data derived from social security documentation in respect of farmer. The data maintained by the National Statistical Institute (INSEE) in business index of registered farmers was pooled to get a common identifier for using different list at local level. The list was perfected to avoid the duplication and to eliminate very small holdings which did not qualify the threshold criteria. The list such prepared was reviewed at municipality level with help of other locally available files and information to include all holdings covered by the census. The municipality level lists were finalized in the meeting of a local committee in each town hall.

Methods:

The survey was a complete enumeration census conducted through direct interview of farmers. The census took place in seven major stages: preparation, compilation of list of holdings to be surveyed, recruitment of temporary staff, training, data collection, validation and dissemination. To cope up with the additional work load about 4700 non-permanent workers were recruited and trained. A field testing of questionnaires was carried out during February – March 1999 through out France. 22 different versions of the census questionnaire were used to meet the requirements of 19 regions and the 4 overseas areas. Each version, however, had a common core. The data on two additional questionnaires on viticulture and aromatic and medicinal plants were also collected with the census. To maintain the quality of the data, extensive checks were provided at field level, data capture level, validation level and finally by making aggregate comparison with previous data.

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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