

261/2016 - 21 December 2016

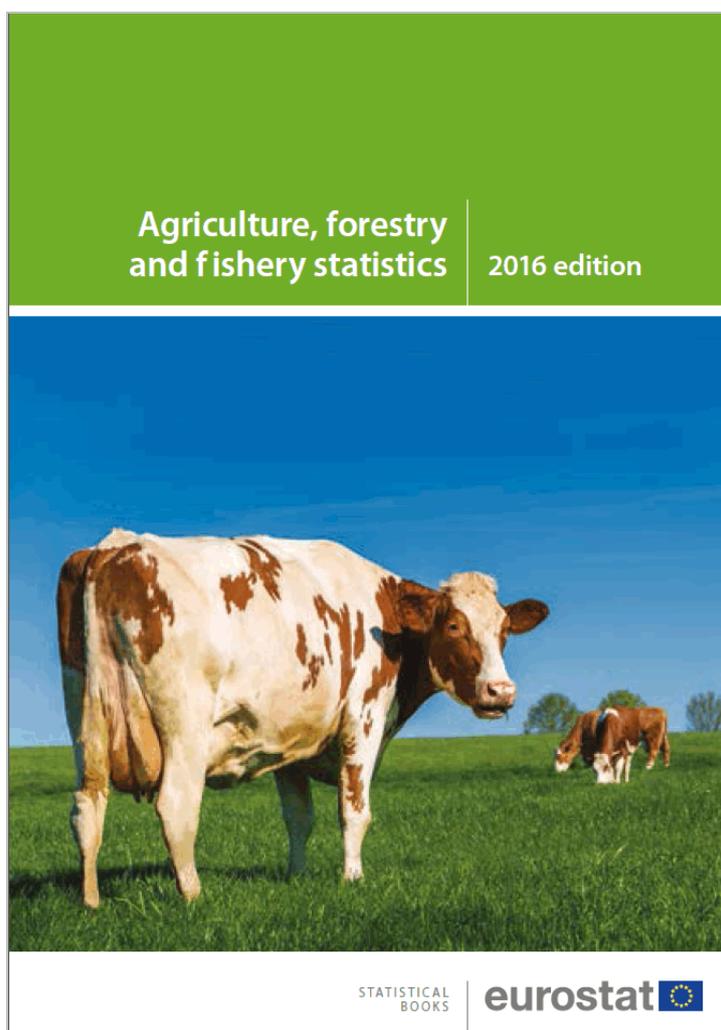
Eurostat publication

How is the EU doing in terms of agriculture, forestry and fisheries?

Latest facts and figures in these areas

Which Member States are the biggest producers of cereals, tomatoes or apples? How much cow's milk is collected by dairies in the **European Union** (EU)? Which Member States produce the most cheese, butter or cream? And which produce the most meat from cattle, pigs or poultry? How many people work in the agricultural sector in each EU Member State? How have prices changed over recent years? How important are the forest resources in the EU? How many tonnes of fish were caught and how large is aquaculture production?

The answers to these questions and many more are found in the 2016 edition of the [Agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistical book](#), published today by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. This publication covers production data and includes a wide variety of indicators such as the size of farms and the prices of agricultural products as well as data related to aspects that are relevant for the environmental features of agriculture (e.g. irrigation methods, use of pesticides, or wood used for energy).



A wide range of indicators

The publication opens with a focus chapter which offers an overview of the main characteristics of the EU cultivation, production and economic value of **dry pulses**, on the occasion of the FAO's international year on this topic.

In the chapter dedicated to the **structure of agricultural holdings**, the dichotomy between small family-run, labour-intensive, diversified farms and larger corporate farms, which tend to be relatively specialized, is analysed from different perspectives, including the structure of the labour force. Some interesting findings from this part show notably that:

- very large farms accounted for 6.3% of the total number of farms and for 71.4% of agricultural standard output in the EU;
- farming is a predominantly family activity within the EU, with more than three-quarters (76.3%) of the EU agricultural labour force being family members.

Information provided on **agricultural accounts and prices** covers agricultural output, labour input, income and price indices, while a whole chapter is dedicated to **agriculture and environment**, assessing the risk of pollution by nitrogen and phosphorus and presenting figures on irrigable and irrigated areas as well as on pesticide sales.

Agricultural production indicators present detailed data on crops, livestock and meat as well as milk and its products. From this section, readers will learn for example that:

- Spain and Germany recorded the highest number of pigs across the EU (with 28.4 and 27.7 million head respectively), France the highest number of bovines (19.4 million head) and the United Kingdom the highest number of sheep (23.1 million head);
- the Netherlands, Spain and Italy were the most important producers of vegetables in the EU in terms of economic value, accounting for more than half of EU production in 2015;
- Spain, Italy and France were the top 3 producers of fruit in the EU in terms of economic value, accounting for over 60% of EU output in 2015.

For **forestry**, statistics are presented notably for area as well as for some economic and employment indicators. This chapter also deals with primary wood products, wood as a source of energy, wood based industries and tropical wood imports to the EU. You may discover that:

- in 2015, the EU had approximately 182 million hectares of forests and other wooded land, corresponding to an estimated 41 % of its total area. The EU's forests and other wooded land covered approximately the same proportion of land area as that used for agriculture (together over 80%);
- among the EU Member States, Sweden produced the most round wood (70 million m³) in 2014, followed by Finland, Germany and France (each producing between 52 and 57 million m³).

Finally, the chapter devoted to **fisheries** includes indicators on fishing fleet, catches and landings, as well as on aquaculture. Did you know for instance that:

- within the EU, the four largest fishery producers in terms of volume were in 2014 Spain (1.4 million live weight tonnes), the United Kingdom (1.0 mn), Denmark (0.8 mn) and France (0.7 mn);
- Atlantic salmon produced by far the highest economic value (almost €0.9 bn).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

For more information

Eurostat publication "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics", 2016 edition. [PDF-version](#) and underlying data available on the Eurostat website. Also available in [Statistics Explained](#).

Eurostat website section dedicated to [agricultural statistics](#).

Eurostat website section dedicated to [forestry](#).

Eurostat website section dedicated to [fisheries](#).

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Vincent BOURGEAIS
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Production of the publication:

Roberta FORTI
Tel: +352-4301-38 942
roberta.forti@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu