Direct payments to agricultural producers - graphs and figures

Financial year 2017
Direct payments in total CAP expenditure

• Direct payments are a key element of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They provide income support for farmers and promote sustainability and environmentally-friendly farming practices.

• In the financial year 2017, direct payments amounted to EUR 41.6 billion* (which represent 75% of the whole CAP expenditure) and benefited 6.5 million farms throughout the European Union.

• Decoupled direct payments have progressively replaced coupled payments as the most important component of CAP expenditure (although coupled payments increased slightly again in 2016). In 2017, decoupled direct aid came to EUR 35.37 billion*, 86% of all direct payments and 61% of the whole CAP expenditure.

* in current prices
The number of beneficiaries of direct payments is decreasing (-3% between 2016 and 2017; peaks in 2008 and 2014 are due to EU enlargements), partly because of structural adjustments in the European agricultural sector, but also due to stricter eligibility conditions such as the higher minimum requirements and the 'active farmer' clause. The overall amount of direct payments is increasing slightly (in nominal terms), leading to an increase in the average amount per beneficiary.
While most beneficiaries of direct payments receive rather small amounts, the greatest share of the direct payment envelope is spent on payments between EUR 10 000 and EUR 100 000.

- Roughly 76% of beneficiaries receive less than EUR 5000. This accounts for 15% of the total direct payment envelope.
- The greatest amount of expenditure (58%) is concentrated in the payment classes of EUR 10 000 to EUR 100 000, covering 14% of all beneficiaries.
- Only 0.5% of all beneficiaries receive more than EUR 100 000. Together, they obtain 16.4% of the total direct payment envelope.
Over time, the share of beneficiaries receiving very small amounts of direct payments (up to EUR 1250) has declined (from 63% in 2005 to 49% in 2017), leading mainly to an increase of beneficiaries in the next higher payment class (EUR 1250 to EUR 5000; from 19% in 2005 to 27% in 2017).

In contrast, total amounts spent in the different payment classes have changed only slightly between 2005 and 2017 (from 4.9% to 4.3% in the smallest and from 14.3% to 16.4% in the highest payment class).
The distribution of direct payments between Member States broadly reflects the distribution of agricultural area and livestock units between them.

Due to the phasing-in of payments in the Member States which joined the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2013, the share of those Member States in total direct payments has gradually increased (from 20% in the financial year 2014 to 23% in the financial year 2017) and will continue to increase in the coming years (the phasing-in remains for Bulgaria and Romania for calendar year 2016 and Croatia till 2022).
As is often stated, 80% of all beneficiaries receive 20% of the total direct payments (or conversely, 20% of beneficiaries receive 80% of the total direct payments).

Such distribution is mainly driven by the concentration of land and the nature of the support, which is largely area-based.

**Direct payments are as concentrated as land**: 20% of the largest farms in the EU concentrate 82% of agricultural land and production.
Share of direct payments and land covered by the top 20% of beneficiaries/farms by Member State - 2015*

* No more recent data available
Annex: Country graphs
Belgium

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs EUR (million)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Beneficiaries vs Payments
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Bulgaria 1/2

Bulgaria

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Bulgaria 2/2

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Czech Republic

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Denmark

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Germany

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Estonia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Ireland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Greece 1/2

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Spain

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
France

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) versus Payments (million euros: current prices)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

*Beneficiaries (thousand) and Payments (million euros: current prices)*
Croatia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. EUR (million)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Agriculture and Rural Development
Croatia 2/2

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Italy

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) | EUR (million)
--- | ---

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Beneficiaries | Payments
--- | ---
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Payment class (EUR/beneficiary):
- > 100 000
- 50 000 - 100 000
- 10 000 - 50 000
- 5 000 - 10 000
- 1250 < 5 000
- < 1250

Evolution of payments by payment class

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Cyprus

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

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Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Lithuania 1/2

Lithuania

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Luxembourg

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs EUR (million)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Hungary 1/2

Hungary

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Malta

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

**Beneficiaries (thousand)**

- Blue line: Beneficiaries (thousand)
- Red line: Payments (million euros: current prices)

**Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class**

- Blue bars: Beneficiaries
- Red bars: Payments

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**Malta**

**Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments**

**Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class**
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
The Netherlands

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Austria

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Poland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Portugal 1/2

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Portugal 2/2

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Romania

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. EUR (million)

- Beneficiaries (thousand)
- Payments (million euros: current prices)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

- Beneficiaries
- Payments

Agriculture and Rural Development
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Slovenia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

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- **Beneficiaries (thousand)**
- **Payments (million euros: current prices)**

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

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Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Slovakia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Sweden 1/2

Sweden

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. EUR (million)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. Payments (million euros: current prices)

Agriculture and Rural Development
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

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Evolution of payments by payment class

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United Kingdom

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. EUR (million) for the United Kingdom from 2005 to 2017.

Benefits are represented in blue and payments in red.

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class:

Bar chart showing the percentage distribution of beneficiaries and payments across different payment classes in the United Kingdom.
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class