

Agricultural land prices and rents

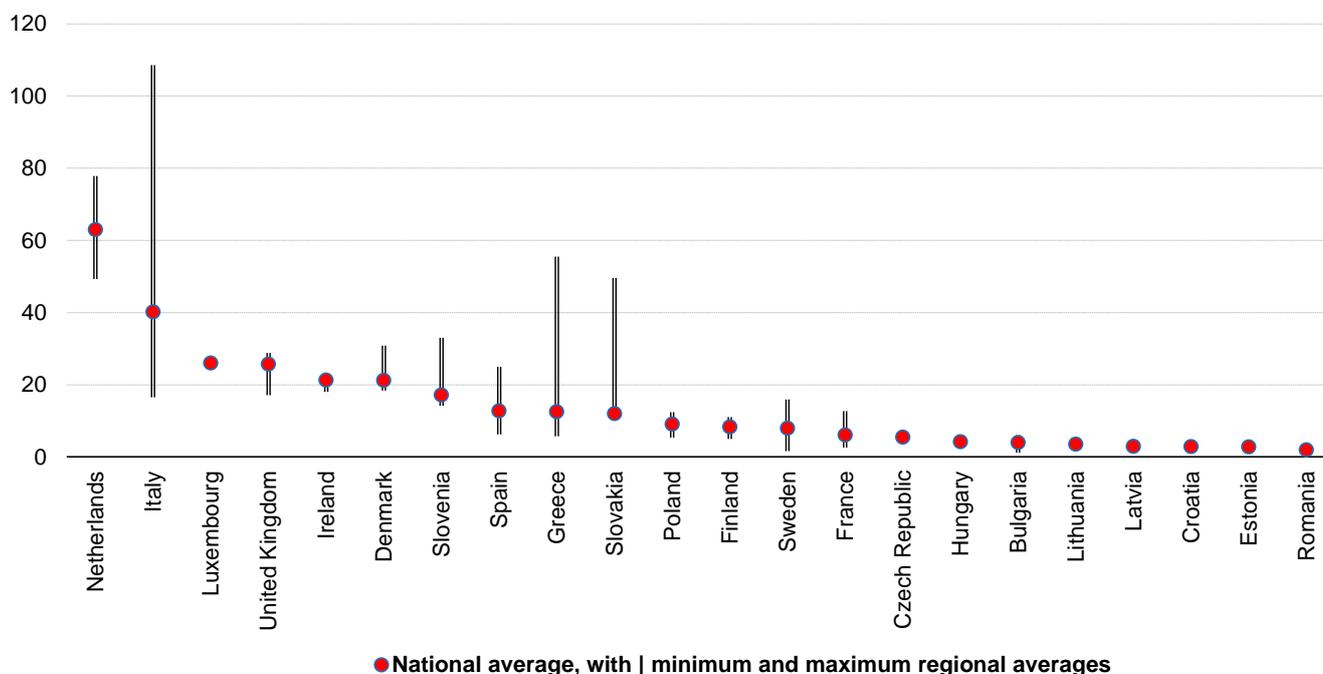
Land prices vary considerably between and within Member States

On average, the **Netherlands** recorded the most expensive purchase price of one hectare of arable land in the EU in 2016 (EUR 63 000). Indeed, the price of arable land in every region of the Netherlands was above all other available national averages in the EU. However, among the EU regions for which data are available, the most expensive price for arable land was in the *Liguria* region of Italy (an average EUR 108 000 per hectare).

Arable land was cheapest in **Romania**, with a hectare costing an average EUR 1 958 in 2016. At the regional level, a hectare of arable land cost least in the *Yugozapaden* region of Bulgaria (an average EUR 1 165).

This information, published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, comes from a new set of statistics on agricultural land prices and rents, which covers most of the EU Member States.

National and regional prices of arable land, 2016
(EUR 1 000 per hectare)



Regions at NUTS 2 level, with the exception of the United Kingdom (NUTS 1)

Italy: data for 2015

Data for Belgium, Germany, Cyprus, Malta, Austria and Portugal not available

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

The level of land prices depends on a number of national (laws), regional (climate, proximity to networks) and localised factors (soil quality, slope, drainage etc.) as well as the market forces of supply and demand (including influence of foreign ownership rules). As such, it is interesting to note developments in prices for regions over time.

From the data available, the strongest growth in land prices of arable land between 2011 and 2016 was in the **Czech Republic** (a three-fold increase), **Lithuania**, **Estonia**, **Latvia** and **Hungary** (a two-fold increase). Prices rose in other Member States too, albeit at much lower rates.

In almost all regions, buying arable land was more expensive than buying permanent grassland (as much as 20 times more expensive in the Greek islands of *Voreio Aigaio*). Likewise, buying irrigable arable land was more expensive than non-irrigable arable land (as much as six times more expensive in the Spanish *Región de Murcia*).

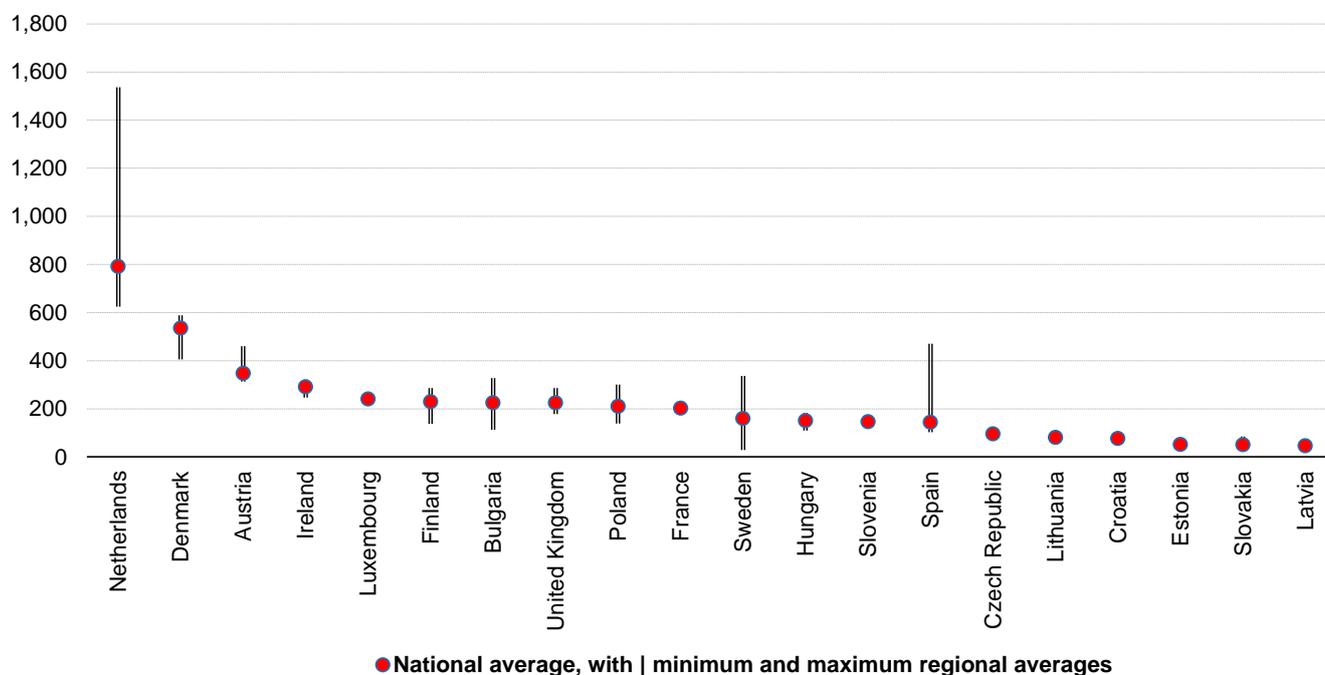
Highest rental price of agricultural land in Flevoland

Not all land is owned by the farmer working the land. Many farmers rent their land, as either a short- or long-term business decision. The cost of renting land is another factor that farmers have to absorb in their business. Mirroring the variation in arable land prices, annual rental prices of one hectare of agricultural land (arable or permanent grassland) also vary starkly between Member States and regions within Member States.

Renting one hectare of agricultural land was most expensive in the **Netherlands** (an average EUR 791 for the year), with the highest regional average in Flevoland (NL) being almost twice the national average (EUR 1 536 for the year). Renting agricultural land was cheapest on average in **Latvia** (EUR 46 per hectare per year), although the cheapest regions in the EU for renting were *Mellersta Norrland* and *Övre Norrland* in Sweden (both EUR 28 per hectare per year).

As with land prices, renting permanent grassland was cheaper than renting arable land.

National and regional agricultural land rent prices, 2016
(EUR per hectare)



Regions at NUTS 2 level, with the exception of Austria and the United Kingdom (NUTS 1)

Data for Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Romania not available

France: Data on regional level not available

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Background

This press release marks the public launch of these new data sets. It underlines the interest of the European Commission in having information about this primary agricultural resource and the efforts that Member States have made in producing data that conform to a common methodology.

A majority of Member States have now provided data for some, if not all, of the period 2011-2016, including regional data where possible. Accompanying, high-quality metadata help frame the comparability of data between Member States and between regions within a Member State. These metadata files are also made available with the data sets. Improvements to the data sets will continue, most particularly with a view to completing the gaps that currently exist.

Geographic information

These data are based on the **Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) 2013** as set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1319/2013 of 9 December 2013. NUTS 2013 provides a uniform, consistent breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the EU.

Methods and definitions

Data are collected on an annual basis. The common methodology on agricultural land prices and rents in the European Union is the basis for comparable statistics.

Agricultural land prices refer to the price of one hectare of free agricultural land during the reference period (a calendar year). Depending on the Member State, these prices can be collected from the owner of the agricultural land who is selling (selling prices) or from the physical person/legal person/legal entity who is purchasing the land for agricultural purposes (purchase prices).

Agricultural land rents refer to the price of renting one hectare of agricultural land during the reference period (a calendar year). The renting price should be collected from the agricultural holdings renting the land for agricultural purposes (renting price paid).

The prices and rents expressed in national currency are converted into Euro by using the corresponding annual exchange rate, to allow comparisons among Member States

For more information

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

Eurostat [database](#) on agriculture.

Related EU and national [metadata files](#).

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