

Structure of agricultural holdings

Malta 2003

A farm structure survey was carried out in all EU Member States in 2003 (2002 in Poland). The detailed results are now available for 10 Member States: Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Results for the other Member States will become available in the course of the next six months. This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications, all following the same structure.

* * *

In Malta, in October-November, 2003 almost 7 300 agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least one ESU (European size unit)*.

- These holdings employed 4 000 AWUs (annual work unit), the equivalent of 4 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of 9.5 thousand ha of agricultural area, which is on average 1.3 hectare per holding.

Amongst these 7 300 agricultural holdings,

- 61% made use of less than one AWU, while 17% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 97% used less than 5 ha;
- 37% were mixed holdings, while 63% were specialised: horticulture 25%, field cropping 19%, permanent crops 12% (of which 78% fruits and citrus-fruits), pigs and poultry 5%, grazing livestock 3%.

Amongst the 7 200 sole holders

- 11% were women;
- 43% were aged 55 or more, however only 24% in the holdings of an economic size at least 40 ESU;
- 52% had another gainful activity as major occupation.

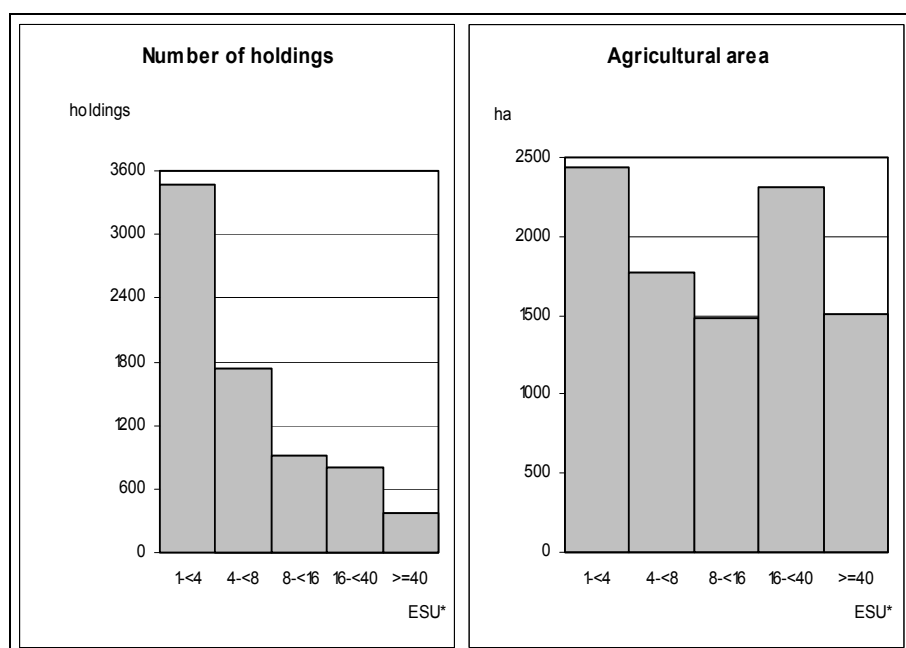
Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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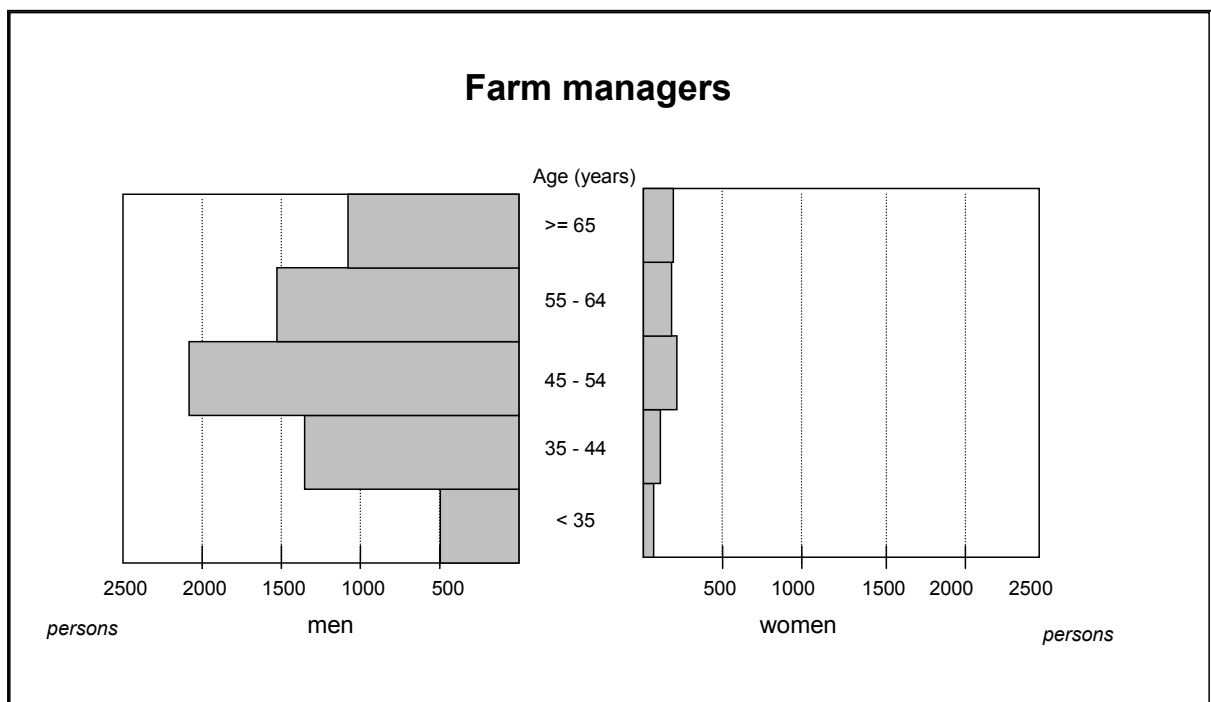
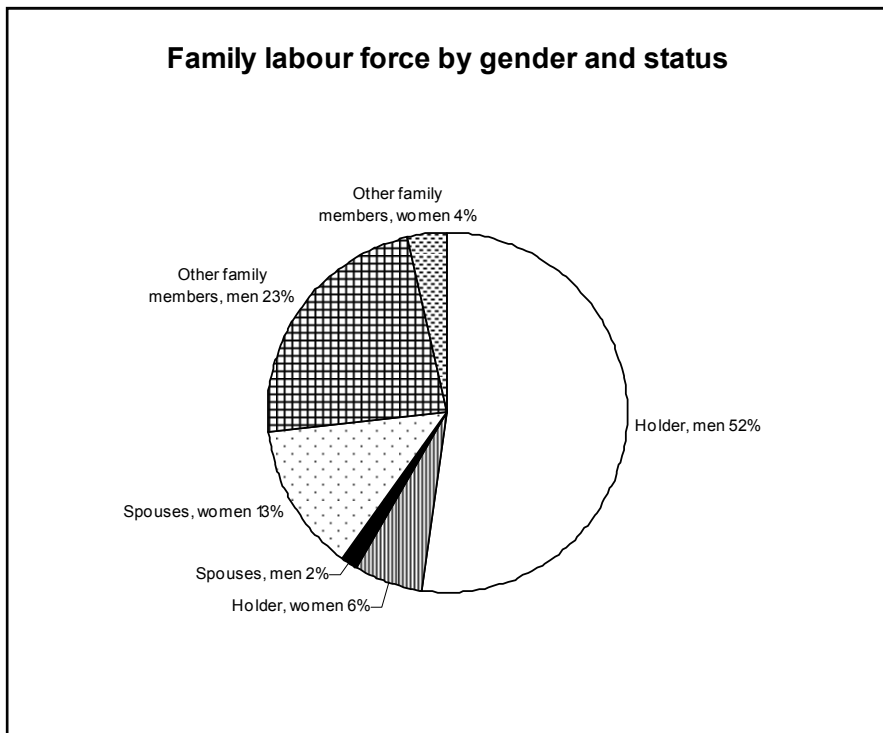
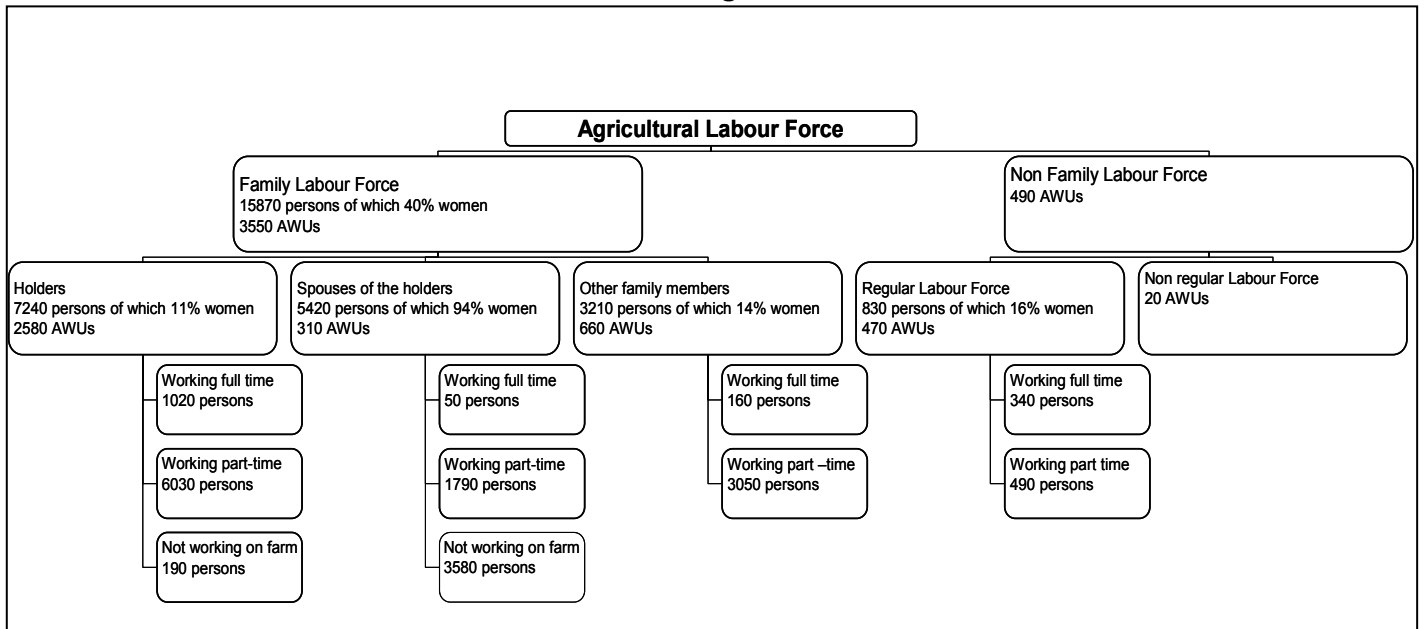
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* ESU measures the economic size of the holdings (see methodological notes).



Malta, 2003 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	>=40
Total labour force							
1000 annual work units	0.5	4.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.8
Family labour force							
1000 persons	7.2	15.9	7.4	3.9	2.0	1.7	0.8
1000 annual work units	0.5	3.5	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5
Non-family labour regularly employed							
1000 persons	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
1000 annual work units	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.1	0.3
Non regular non family labour force							
1000 annual work units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holding managers (1000)	3.7	7.3	3.5	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.4
- women (%)	10.7	10.3	12.8	8.9	11.1	5.1	2.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	95.9	62.4	84.2	65.1	43.8	10.5	4.6
- 50 % and over (%)	4.0	22.7	14.6	29.9	37.2	34.0	5.7
Sole/main holders (1000)	3.7	7.2	3.5	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.3
- women (%)	15.6	11.0	14.3	9.1	11.2	4.6	1.5
- distribution by age (%)							
- under 35 years	4.3	6.8	5.5	4.6	14.6	8.5	5.8
- from 35 to 44 years	12.5	19.0	18.1	19.3	14.2	24.1	27.2
- from 45 to 54 years	28.5	31.0	29.7	31.1	29.1	33.5	43.0
- from 55 to 64 years	24.7	23.8	21.1	29.5	25.2	23.1	19.9
- 65 years and over	30.0	19.5	25.7	15.5	16.8	10.8	4.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	88.9	61.8	82.7	65.5	41.1	11.0	5.6
- 50 % and over (%)	4.0	21.5	13.7	28.3	33.4	34.1	4.7
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	52.6	53.9	53.8	64.7	59.9	38.2	13.4
- as main occupation	52.6	52.0	53.7	62.8	56.6	29.7	11.9
- as a subsidiary occupation	0	1.9	0.1	1.9	3.3	8.3	1.5
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	2.7	5.4	2.6	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.2
- women (%)	89.7	94.3	93.4	95.5	92.5	96.0	98.0
- distribution by age (%)							
- under 35 years	6.2	8.3	5.4	11.3	11.2	10.7	9.8
- from 35 to 54 years	49.6	57.9	55.3	58.0	57.3	64.5	71.8
- 55 years and over	44.2	33.8	39.4	30.7	31.6	24.8	18.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	19.6	29.5	26.8	27.0	37.0	40.1	25.3
- 50 % and over (%)	0.8	3.6	0.6	3.6	4.7	10.2	16.3
- with another gainful activity (%)	15.1	9.1	10.5	10.3	5.5	5.8	4.1
- as main occupation	15.1	7.9	9.7	7.7	5.5	4.9	3.7
- as a subsidiary occupation	0	1.1	0.8	2.6	0	0.9	0.4
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	0.8	3.2	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2
- women (%)	13.2	13.7	14.0	12.9	12.0	11.5	21.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	99.9	81.7	92.5	90.3	69.0	58.3	39.2
- 50 % and over (%)	0.1	13.2	7.5	9.7	28.7	25.3	14.0
- with another gainful activity (%)	80.8	66.8	75.1	66.8	64.8	62.8	26.6

¹ Only holders being also farm managers.

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	>=40
Holdings							
- total number (1000)	3.7	7.3	3.5	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.4
- by legal personality of the holder (%)							
- sole holder	98.6	95.9	98.0	97.9	96.0	92.5	74.4
- legal person	0	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.1	7.5
- group holders	1.4	3.3	1.5	2.0	3.9	6.4	18.1
- by employed labour force (%)							
- under 1 AWU	95.9	61.1	83.7	64.1	40.0	7.7	3.8
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	4.0	22.0	14.0	30.3	35.2	32.1	3.8
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	0.1	12.6	2.3	5.0	20.5	52.7	37.2
- 3 AWU and over	0	4.3	0	0.6	4.3	7.7	55.0
- by agricultural area (%)							
- under 5 ha	100.0	96.6	100.0	98.6	98.9	90.5	64.2
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	0	3.3	0	1.4	1.1	9.5	35.0
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- 100 ha and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by livestock size (%)							
- without livestock	87.1	64.9	72.4	61.1	61.7	60.3	30.5
- under 10 LSU	12.9	28.3	27.1	35.1	33.3	20.6	12.7
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0	1.7	0.5	3.7	2.8	1.9	0.8
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0	1.2	0	0.1	2.2	7.4	2.7
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	1.8	0	0	0	9.4	15.6
- 100 LSU and over	0	2.0	0	0	0	0.4	37.7
- by farm type (%)							
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... general field cropping	44.8	18.6	24.4	16.6	16.7	8.7	0.3
... specialist horticulture	0.6	24.5	17.4	31.6	33.8	30.4	23.2
... specialist vineyard	6.2	0.9	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	8.8	8.8	11.6	6.5	8.4	4.4	3.5
... specialist olives	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	2.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	3.4	0.5	1.1
... specialist dairy farming	0	1.6	0	0.1	1.1	6.8	13.2
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.3
... specialist granivores	3.8	5.4	2.3	4.4	4.1	8.9	34.5
... mixed cropping	7.4	33.0	36.0	32.0	26.9	36.7	17.0
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.5	0.1	1.5	0.5
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.6	0.1	3.5
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	0.5	0.3	0	1.0	0.4	0	0
... various crops and livestock combined	3.0	1.7	1.1	2.5	3.3	1.1	1.9
- by farming methods (%)							
- organic farming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- irrigating	7.6	46.9	31.4	55.4	63.2	75.0	51.5
- with crops under glass	0.1	4.4	0.7	2.6	7.4	12.5	22.4
- % in less favoured or mountain area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	>=40
Area (1000 ha)							
• Total area of agricultural holdings	1.5	10.7	2.8	2.0	1.7	2.7	1.7
• H. Other area	0.2	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Wooded area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Agricultural area	1.3	9.5	2.4	1.8	1.5	2.3	1.5
- D. Arable land	1.0	8.3	2.1	1.6	1.3	2.0	1.3
Cereals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common wheat and spelt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durum wheat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grain maize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried pulses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Root crops	0	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1
Potatoes	0	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1
Sugar beet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fodder root	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial crops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tobacco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cotton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape and turnip	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sunflower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	0	2.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5
outside	0	2.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5
under glass	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Flower and ornamental plants	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
outside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
under glass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fodder plants	0.8	4.4	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6
Fallow land	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0
- E. Kitchen garden	0.3	0.2	0.1	0	0	0	0
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- G. Permanent crops	0.1	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Fruit and berry plantation	0	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Citrus plantation	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vineyard	0	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Ratios							
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	0.3	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.6	2.9	4.1
Agricultural area... (%)							
... own farmed	22.1	19.2	17.7	22.4	18.3	17.7	21.0
... in less favoured or mountain area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... organic farmed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... irrigated	1.5	22.2	7.4	17.5	24.8	33.9	31.3
... under cover crop protecting soil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)		<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	>=40
Total livestock	(1000 LSU⁺)	0.2	48.7	0.8	1.7	1.5	8.2	36.5
of which grazing	(%)	77.0	32.4	57.0	52.5	37.7	53.0	26.1
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)							
Equidae		0.1	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Bovine animals								
Under 1 year		0	5.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.4	3.7
From 1 to less than 2 years		0	4.6	0	0.1	0.1	1.4	3.0
Dairy cows		0	7.6	0	0	0.2	2.2	5.2
Other cows		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		0	0.8	0	0.2	0	0.2	0.4
Sheep		0.4	9.9	1.4	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.2
Goats		0.1	4.7	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.5	1.3
Granivores								
Pigs	(1000 heads)							
Piglets < 20 kg		0	19.9	0	0	0.1	2.1	17.6
Breeding sows		0	7.9	0	0	0	0.9	7.0
Other pigs		0	48.2	0	0.5	0.2	3.4	44.2
Poultry	(million heads)	0	1.4	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.9
Broilers		0	0.9	0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
Laying hens		0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.4
Other poultry		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	0.6	12.4	2.4	2.6	2.8	1.1	3.6
Beehives	(1000)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total livestock per holding with...	(LSU/holding)							
Livestock		0.4	19.0	0.8	2.5	4.4	25.6	141.5
Grazing livestock		0.8	21.6	1.7	4.3	4.1	25.4	123.7
Bovine animals (cattle)		2.0	64.1	7.5	8.0	10.2	55.1	155.3
Cattle, other than cows		2.0	64.1	7.5	8.0	10.2	55.1	155.3
Granivores		0.4	20.5	0.7	2.3	4.1	24.8	159.1
Pigs		:	146.2	:	11.6	16.3	44.0	216.4
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)							
Equidae		1.4	1.7	1.5	2.4	1.2	1.4	1.9
Dairy cows		:	44.1	1.8	8.5	14.7	30.9	74.2
Other cows		:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sheep		2.6	12.6	5.5	10.9	13.6	20.0	26.1
Goats		1.9	11.1	4.5	5.7	10.2	21.1	31.0
Breeding sows		:	59.7	:	:	4.8	25.2	75.9
Other pigs > 20 kg		:	323.6	:	31.3	40.8	91.3	480.2
Rabbits, breeding females		2.1	8.6	3.8	6.2	11.5	10.1	61.4
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0	0.6	0	0	0.1	0.6	6.0
Broilers	(1000/holding)	0	4.0	0.3	2.4	2.1	6.9	12.5
Beehives	(hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

* number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animals

+ LSU : Livestock Unit

Symbols : not available 0 less than half of the unit or nil

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	>=40
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production: (% all holdings)	0.4	5.7	3.7	5.9	9.4	7.4	12.1
Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handicraft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Processing of farm products	0	5.5	3.7	5.9	8.9	6.2	11.1
Wood processing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aquaculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renewable energy production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contractual work	0.4	0.4	0.1	0	0.4	1.6	2.2
Other gainful activities n.a.e	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings was carried out in October and November 2003 on a sample base. This was the first Farm Structure Survey (FSS) in Malta being in full compliance with EU requirements. Prior full-scale agricultural census was conducted on an annual basis between 1955/56 and 1982/83; however later censuses were organised only in 1991 and 2001. The reference time of the FSS 2003 is the crop year 2002/03 (finished on 30th September last year), while in case of livestock and machinery 1st October, 2003.

The FSS relates to agricultural holdings whose utilised agricultural area is one hectare or more and those whose area is less than one hectare if they produce a certain proportion for sale or if their production unit exceeds certain physical thresholds. The target population was the units (holdings) surveyed in the census 2001 (now included in agricultural register updated on a monthly base), from where a 12.6% sample was drawn (1502 holdings). A matrix based on typology of the agricultural holdings was established (10 farm types and 6 economic classes). This method has resulted 50 different strata (29 on island Malta and 21 on island Gozo). In order to obtain reasonable and representative samples, certain strata were clustered; within the others a full-scope observation took place. Following the determination of the optimal sample size in each stratum, simple random sample was used to choose the units from the strata population. In case of livestock no threshold was applied. The data are multi-level checked and the non-responding units are imputed using their data from census 2001 or the previous livestock survey. The sample was re-weighted taking into account the holdings not involved in agricultural activity any more.

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat, dairy cow or vineyard), a **standard gross margin (SGM)** is estimated, based on the area (or the number of heads) and a regional coefficient. The sum of such margins in a farm is its **economic size**, expressed in **European Size Units (ESU)**. 1 ESU is equal to 1200 euros.

Due to differences in the coverage of units of less than 1 ESU across Member States, these data are not comparable between countries. That is why the present analysis and graphs focus on the holdings of at least one ESU.

Each farm is classified in the community typology by its economic size and its **type of farming**, depending on the share of each enterprise in its economic size. For instance, a farm where breeding sows account for more than 2/3 of the economic size is classified as *specialist pig rearing* (type 5011). Depending on the level of aggregation, farms are grouped into 8 to 70 types.

Annual working unit (AWU) means the labour force working yearly like a worker employed on full time basis; it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Farm Structure Survey 2003, News Release No. 150/2004 (13 August 2004) National Statistics Office, Malta

Publication of the data on NUTS3 level is foreseen in the third quarter of 2004.

Website of the National Statistical Office: www.nso.gov.mt

