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Structure of agricultural holdings

United Kingdom 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 months. This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications, all following the same structure.

* * *

In 2003, in the United Kingdom, 181 800 agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least one ESU (European size unit)*, which means a 0.4% increase compared to 2000.**

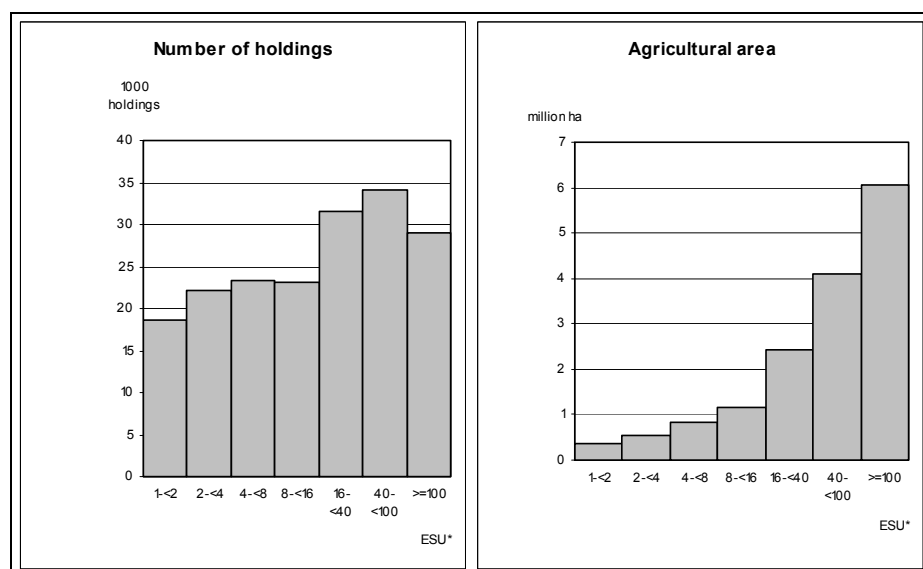
- These holdings employed 308 000 AWUs (annual work unit), the equivalent of 308 000 persons working full time;
- they made use of almost 15.5 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 85.2 hectare per holding (compared to 84.6 ha in 2000).

Amongst these 181 800 agricultural holdings:

- 27% made use of less than one AWU, while 57% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 14% used less than 5 ha, while 22% used more than 100 ha;
- 9% were mixed holdings, while 91% were specialised: various grazing livestock including sheep 29%, cattle fattening and rearing 21%, dairy 13%, cereals, oil seed and protein crops 16%, field cropping 6%, pigs and poultry 3%, horticulture 3% (of which 68% under glass);
- 1.4% practised organic farming.

Amongst the 180 100 sole holders,

- 12% were women;
- 54% were aged 55 or more, and not more than 4% were younger than 35 years;
- 23% had another gainful activity as major occupation.

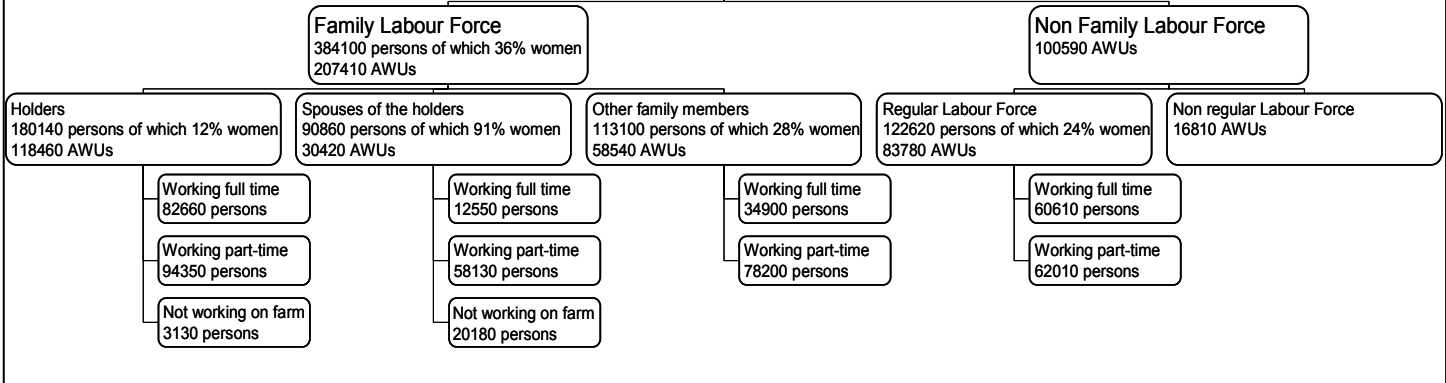


* ESU measures the economic size of the holdings (see methodological notes).

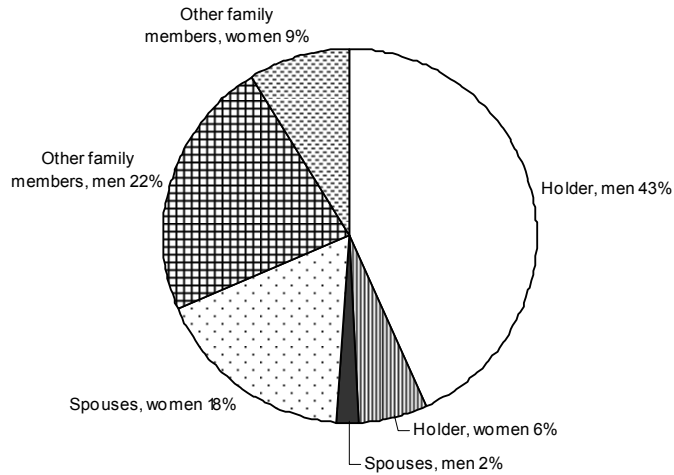
** In England and Wales, the sampling being based on the register, without applying any thresholds, meant that a large number of minor holdings previously (up to 2000) not covered, were included in the FSS 2003.

United Kingdom, 2003 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU

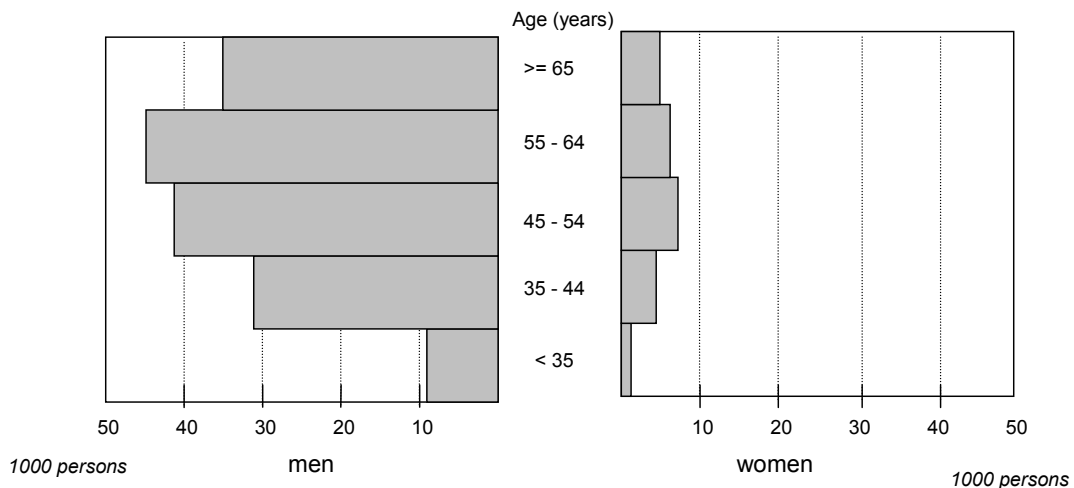
Agricultural Labour Force



Family labour force by gender and status



Farm managers



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

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	44.2	308.0	11.5	16.7	21.8	27.4	46.1	66.6	117.8
Family labour force									
1000 persons	148.5	384.0	36.1	42.6	45.7	47.2	66.3	77.9	68.2
1000 annual work units	34.4	207.4	10.6	14.9	19.4	23.6	39.0	51.8	48.1
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	22.6	122.6	2.2	3.7	4.9	6.4	11.8	19.8	73.8
1000 annual work units	8.6	83.8	0.7	1.4	2.0	3.1	5.8	12.0	58.7
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	1.3	16.8	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.3	2.7	11.1
Holding managers (1000)	98.8	181.8	18.5	22.2	23.3	23.1	31.5	34.1	29.0
- women (%)	23.5	13.0	28.3	23.3	17.6	12.6	8.3	5.9	4.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	85.5	35.4	75.5	63.8	49.3	34.5	21.9	15.1	12.0
- 50 % and over (%)	6.9	17.0	12.9	18.5	22.5	22.2	17.7	12.6	14.2
Sole/main holders (1000)	90.4	180.1	20.3	22.9	23.6	23.3	30.8	32.8	26.4
- women (%)	22.4	12.1	25.7	22.7	16.1	11.7	7.6	4.9	3.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	2.3	4.0	3.6	3.5	5.0	4.1	3.8	4.3	3.9
- from 35 to 44 years	10.7	17.0	12.1	12.7	14.6	15.2	18.2	20.3	22.5
- from 45 to 54 years	21.5	25.4	24.5	23.8	22.7	22.3	25.6	27.8	29.7
- from 55 to 64 years	29.3	28.8	28.1	28.6	28.3	29.2	29.1	29.2	28.5
- 65 years and over	36.2	24.8	31.7	31.5	29.5	29.2	23.2	18.4	15.5
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	83.6	36.1	74.9	63.7	49.5	35.2	22.3	15.2	12.9
- 50 % and over (%)	6.8	16.3	11.6	17.1	21.4	21.2	17.1	12.4	14.3
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	46.7	37.3	50.0	50.9	48.5	42.1	33.3	24.3	22.0
- as main occupation	41.6	23.1	42.5	40.5	35.1	24.9	15.5	9.4	6.6
- as a subsidiary occupation	5.1	14.2	7.5	10.4	13.5	17.2	17.8	14.9	15.4
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	36.2	90.9	9.5	11.3	11.7	11.6	15.9	17.3	13.5
- women (%)	84.9	91.1	78.8	80.8	88.3	91.3	94.4	97.5	98.5
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	3.5	5.3	3.7	3.2	5.4	5.5	5.7	6.9	5.6
- from 35 to 54 years	44.7	50.3	46.3	45.9	45.2	46.3	50.7	55.1	58.3
- 55 years and over	51.8	44.3	50.0	50.9	49.4	48.2	43.6	38.0	36.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	55.0	50.8	62.4	57.7	54.1	49.0	46.4	46.1	46.8
- 50 % and over (%)	5.3	13.2	7.6	10.3	11.3	11.8	15.1	16.0	16.6
- with another gainful activity (%)	50.3	43.7	54.1	50.7	45.6	42.9	42.1	39.8	36.8
- as main occupation	44.2	33.7	47.2	42.3	36.8	34.0	31.6	27.6	24.3
- as a subsidiary occupation	6.1	10.1	6.9	8.5	8.9	8.8	10.5	12.1	12.5
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	21.8	113.0	6.3	8.5	10.5	12.3	19.5	27.8	28.2
- women (%)	34.2	28.3	36.9	36.5	32.7	29.1	27.6	25.7	24.8
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	83.1	54.4	84.7	81.0	77.7	69.3	59.3	42.9	32.5
- 50 % and over (%)	11.7	19.3	7.2	11.3	12.9	14.8	15.9	15.3	34.9
- with another gainful activity (%)	63.3	44.9	63.2	65.6	67.6	61.5	49.0	35.5	25.4

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-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	98.8	181.8	18.5	22.2	23.3	23.1	31.5	34.1	29.0
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	95.4	96.9	98.8	98.8	98.2	98.4	97.7	97.0	90.9
- legal person	4.6	3.1	1.2	1.2	1.8	1.6	2.3	3.0	9.1
- group holders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	80.1	27.1	66.5	53.8	39.0	25.9	14.8	8.3	4.1
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	9.7	16.0	18.3	23.1	25.4	22.1	15.3	8.9	5.1
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	6.7	28.9	11.4	17.8	27.3	38.0	45.3	37.2	16.5
- 3 AWU and over	3.5	28.0	3.8	5.3	8.3	14.0	24.6	45.5	74.4
- by agricultural area (%)									
- under 5 ha	78.4	14.3	53.6	29.5	12.1	7.3	5.1	4.6	6.3
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	15.8	22.6	39.1	55.4	50.7	24.0	7.8	3.1	2.1
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	4.0	22.6	5.6	12.2	30.6	50.5	36.9	17.0	3.5
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	1.2	19.0	0.9	1.9	4.8	14.4	36.3	38.6	16.8
- 100 ha and over	0.6	21.6	0.8	0.9	1.7	3.8	13.9	36.6	71.2
- by livestock size (%)									
- without livestock	69.8	17.0	7.6	9.7	11.7	15.9	18.5	21.1	27.4
- under 10 LSU	29.9	16.9	81.4	41.9	6.8	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.4
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0.2	11.6	10.4	39.2	32.9	4.5	2.4	1.9	1.5
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0.1	17.1	0.6	8.9	46.1	47.7	13.6	5.5	3.4
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	13.9	0	0.3	2.3	25.2	33.5	20.2	4.8
- 100 LSU and over	0	23.5	0	0	0.2	1.8	27.9	47.6	59.4
- by farm type (%)									
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	0.7	15.8	5.0	7.6	10.3	15.4	18.5	22.2	23.5
... general field cropping	2.8	6.0	0.5	0.7	1.2	2.2	5.3	9.5	17.3
... specialist horticulture	0.2	2.6	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.1	4.3
... specialist vineyard	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	0.5	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.7	0.6
... specialist olives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	0	0.4	0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7
... specialist dairy farming	0	12.5	0.9	1.1	1.1	2.4	9.1	28.4	31.1
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	3.9	20.6	21.2	28.5	36.4	35.1	22.1	8.7	2.2
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.6
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	51.3	28.6	60.1	50.0	39.0	30.2	26.3	13.3	2.8
... specialist granivores	4.5	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.7	5.6
... mixed cropping	0.1	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.6
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	1.2	1.1	2.9	2.0	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	0.5	4.9	0.5	1.2	2.5	4.6	7.9	7.2	6.9
... various crops and livestock combined	0.1	1.0	2.0	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.8
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	0.2	1.4	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.1
- irrigating	0.1	2.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.3	2.5	8.8
- with crops under glass	0.1	2.8	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.0	3.2	3.8	5.5
- % in less favoured or mountain area	23.9	34.4	32.7	37.8	42.0	42.4	41.9	32.2	14.8

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

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Area (1000 ha)									
• Total area of agricultural holdings	723.9	16192.0	390.4	584.1	865.2	1219.1	2536.9	4230.9	6365.4
• H. Other area	112.4	697.7	24.9	32.9	47.6	51.3	90.9	148.2	301.8
Wooded area	84.9	434.0	14.9	25.1	36.5	37.4	61.0	90.7	168.4
• Agricultural area	611.5	15494.3	365.5	551.2	817.6	1167.8	2445.9	4082.7	6063.6
- D. Arable land	52.8	6253.9	17.3	37.4	78.7	165.5	531.6	1358.3	4065.1
Cereals	0.1	3057.8	0.9	4.6	16.4	53.4	215.5	656.9	2110.2
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0	1836.5	0.3	1.2	4.5	18.5	90.4	342.7	1378.8
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rye</i>	0	4.3	0	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.5	3.5
<i>Barley</i>	0.1	1076.7	0.5	2.9	10.4	30.6	108.9	277.0	646.4
<i>Oats</i>	0	121.3	0.1	0.3	1.2	3.6	13.5	31.7	70.8
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dried pulses	0	235.5	0.1	0.3	1.0	2.9	14.0	44.6	172.7
Root crops	0.6	336.1	0.1	0.4	1.1	3.0	14.9	55.6	260.9
<i>Potatoes</i>	0	145.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.8	4.5	20.8	118.7
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	162.1	0	0.1	0.3	0.9	6.0	24.9	130.0
Fodder root	0.6	28.9	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.4	4.4	9.9	12.3
Industrial crops	0	575.1	0.1	0.4	1.3	4.7	26.6	100.7	441.3
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Hops</i>	0	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	1.8
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0	531.3	0	0.1	0.6	3.4	22.0	92.8	412.3
<i>Sunflower</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Soya</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	0	129.3	0	0.1	0.2	0.7	2.8	9.7	115.7
<i>outside</i>	0	128.4	0	0.1	0.2	0.7	2.7	9.6	115.0
<i>under glass</i>	0	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.7
Flower and ornamental plants	0	7.9	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.7	6.4
<i>outside</i>	0	7.0	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	5.6
<i>under glass</i>	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.8
Fodder plants	47.4	1267.1	12.8	24.9	46.6	77.9	193.1	338.4	573.4
Fallow land	4.6	616.7	3.1	6.3	11.5	21.9	62.2	146.6	365.0
- E. Kitchen garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	558.6	9205.0	347.9	513.2	737.9	1000.7	1911.1	2718.0	1976.0
- G. Permanent crops	0.1	35.4	0.2	0.6	1.0	1.5	3.3	6.4	22.5
Fruit and berry plantation	0.1	29.8	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.4	3.0	5.9	17.9
Citrus plantation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vineyard	0	0.6	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	6.2	85.2	19.7	24.9	35.0	50.5	77.7	119.8	208.8
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	81.7	64.1	83.4	78.0	78.4	72.2	61.6	59.8	62.1
... in less favoured or mountain area	48.2	45.8	75.9	73.7	70.5	67.5	64.7	55.1	20.1
... organic farmed	0.4	2.3	0.2	0.4	2.1	1.2	4.2	3.4	1.3
... irrigated	0.3	1.4	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	3.4
... under cover crop protecting soil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1

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

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total livestock (1000 LSU ⁺)	61.9	14380.7	102.1	236.9	481.0	853.9	2229.1	3891.6	6586.2
of which grazing (%)	92.6	78.4	95.6	95.9	96.2	94.4	92.8	89.8	62.4
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)									
Equidae	20.9	272.5	29.2	43.8	47.8	45.2	44.2	32.7	29.6
Bovine animals									
Under 1 year	3.9	2821.6	10.9	36.7	99.9	207.6	506.7	865.9	1094.0
From 1 to less than 2 years	7.4	2704.6	20.4	54.5	122.0	206.3	486.9	793.7	1020.8
Dairy cows	0	2191.9	0.2	0.9	2.0	7.4	81.1	592.7	1507.6
Other cows	1.7	1696.4	6.6	27.1	82.0	173.7	410.8	563.7	432.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	6.3	1073.4	10.6	23.8	52.4	90.9	200.6	311.5	383.6
Sheep	259.6	35379.6	400.6	946.4	1841.8	3147.0	9030.3	12512.5	7500.9
Goats	10.1	76.7	8.2	10.3	8.8	6.6	10.4	13.6	18.8
Granivores									
Pigs (1000 heads)									
Piglets < 20 kg	2.3	1392.3	2.3	10.9	7.6	23.7	76.0	186.7	1085.1
Breeding sows	0.5	575.4	1.0	2.2	4.5	8.0	22.0	63.4	474.4
Other pigs	3.3	3071.4	3.8	14.0	33.7	95.6	290.6	581.7	2052.0
Poultry (million heads)	0.2	174.8	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.3	5.6	17.9	149.2
Broilers	0	113.4	0	0	0.1	0.8	3.2	10.9	98.4
Laying hens	0.1	48.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	2.2	6.3	38.8
Other poultry	0	13.3	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	12.1
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Beehives (1000)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total livestock per holding with... (LSU/holding)									
Livestock	2.1	95.3	6.0	11.8	23.3	43.9	86.9	144.7	312.6
Grazing livestock	2.4	98.8	6.1	12.1	23.7	45.0	89.4	150.5	342.9
Bovine animals (cattle)	13.1	134.9	17.6	23.5	34.7	57.1	104.1	166.7	385.6
Cattle, other than cows	13.9	136.8	18.6	24.3	35.3	57.6	104.9	167.8	387.6
Granivores	49.7	1496.6	132.7	208.0	407.9	695.3	1434.4	2256.0	3270.2
Pigs	6.1	481.7	20.2	46.3	112.1	236.7	516.9	921.5	2029.0
Average size of herds* (head/holding)									
Equidae	2.0	6.6	3.7	5.8	8.0	9.7	8.7	6.4	6.5
Dairy cows	1.0	77.8	1.0	1.6	2.9	6.9	21.5	54.5	137.1
Other cows	1.4	27.6	2.6	4.7	8.7	15.8	27.4	47.2	73.6
Sheep	21.7	487.3	53.7	102.1	184.5	314.2	599.4	924.0	1032.2
Goats	3.0	11.6	4.9	6.6	7.7	8.3	13.6	29.8	78.2
Breeding sows	1.5	88.7	2.2	3.1	5.2	9.4	21.4	56.7	326.7
Other pigs > 20 kg	3.4	385.4	7.2	17.0	37.3	96.2	220.0	384.5	1086.9
Rabbits, breeding females	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0	2.0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.6	1.9	20.1
Broilers (1000/holding)	0	59.7	0.1	0.1	1.0	5.6	12.9	29.5	128.1
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-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production:									
(% all holdings)	8.8	20.1	13.2	15.5	18.2	19.2	20.4	22.4	27.7
Tourism	5.0	8.8	7.4	8.1	9.5	8.4	8.1	8.6	11.2
Handicraft	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Processing of farm products	0.2	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.5
Wood processing	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Aquaculture	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Renewable energy production	0	0.1	0.2	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Contractual work	1.7	7.1	2.0	2.6	4.4	5.7	8.1	9.4	13.7
Other gainful activities n.a.e	2.5	6.4	4.0	5.8	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.9	7.9

➤ METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in the countries of the United Kingdom was carried out in 2003 using both exhaustive and sample surveys or their combination. The reference time in case of livestock and land area was beginning of June 2003 (1st in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, 5th in England); for labour force data, 12 months up to end of September 2003 in England and Wales, and end of February 2003 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The target population was all active farms in each country included in the continuously updated Census Registers for the June survey. For the labour force surveys, however, 65 thousand units were allocated proportionally (using number of total holdings) among the countries. In England and Wales sample surveys were organised in June and October. In Scotland the March survey was sample-based, while in June all active big holdings (at least 1 ha farmed land and at least 1 2/3 ESU and/or full-time farmer and significant poultry stock or horticulture) were included. In Northern Ireland a combined method was used: all active farms, except the very small ones where 50% sample was drawn. The samples were stratified by size and, in case of the March or October surveys, by type. The sampling ratios were 5% to 100% depending on the strata (with a higher ratio in the case of bigger holdings or of new holdings). The sampling was a random one.

The data are multi-level checked. The non-responding units and the missing/incorrect data were handled partly by imputation (previous data taking into account trends, data of similar holdings or administrative sources) partly by raising the estimation factors of the strata. In a few cases, units were contacted by phone.

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).

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The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland Results for June 2003, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, December 2003

EU Farm Structure Survey 2003, Northern Ireland, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, March 2004

Useful websites: statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/agri.asp, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/sacs03-00.asp>, www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/index.htm; www.dardni.gov.uk/econs/stats.htm

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/Agriculture/Structure of agricultural holdings](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg_12_10_1)

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