

Farm structure in Luxembourg – 2005

84% of agricultural land and 86% of livestock in farms
of at least 50 ha

This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2005. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Luxembourg. A similar publication was issued in November 2004 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Luxembourg.

In May 2005 in Luxembourg, about **2400*** agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

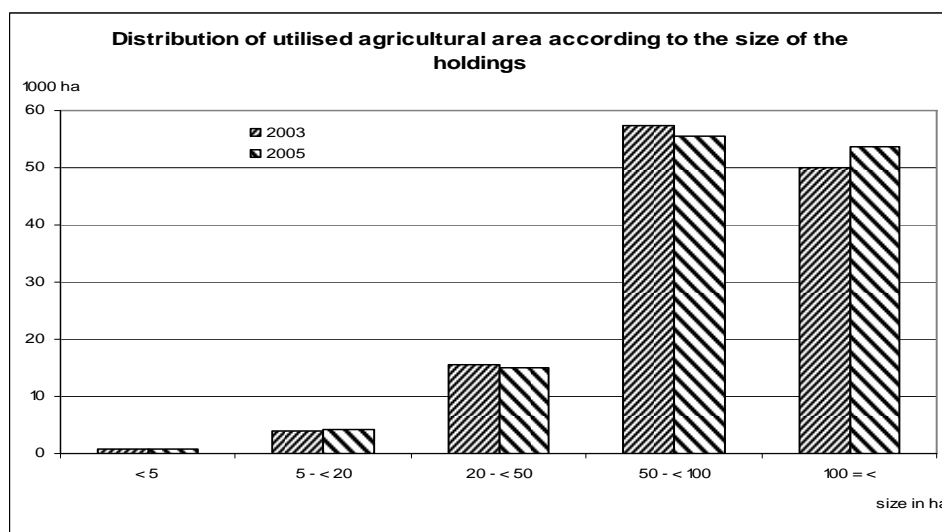
- These holdings employed 4 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 4 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 129 thousand ha of agricultural area, which is on average **54.5 ha per holding** (compared to 55.4 ha in 2003).

Among these 2400 agricultural holdings

- 22% made use of less than one AWU, while 31% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 21% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 17% used 100 ha or more;
- 29% were holdings specialised in dairy farming, 15% were type of vineyards, 11% were engaged in cattle rearing and fattening, 10% in sheep, goat and other grazing livestock husbandry while 8% were mixed dairy and cattle rearing-fattening;
- 100% of their agricultural area was situated in less favoured or mountain areas;
- 2% were organic farms;
- 53% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 2300 sole holders

- 20% were women;
- 37% were aged 55 or more, and only 7% were younger than 35 years;
- 18% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.



Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, this figure is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on the holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological notes for more information on the concept of the ESU.

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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Agriculture

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Contents

Table 1 – Labour force by size
of the farms.....3

Table 2 – Agricultural holdings
by size.....4

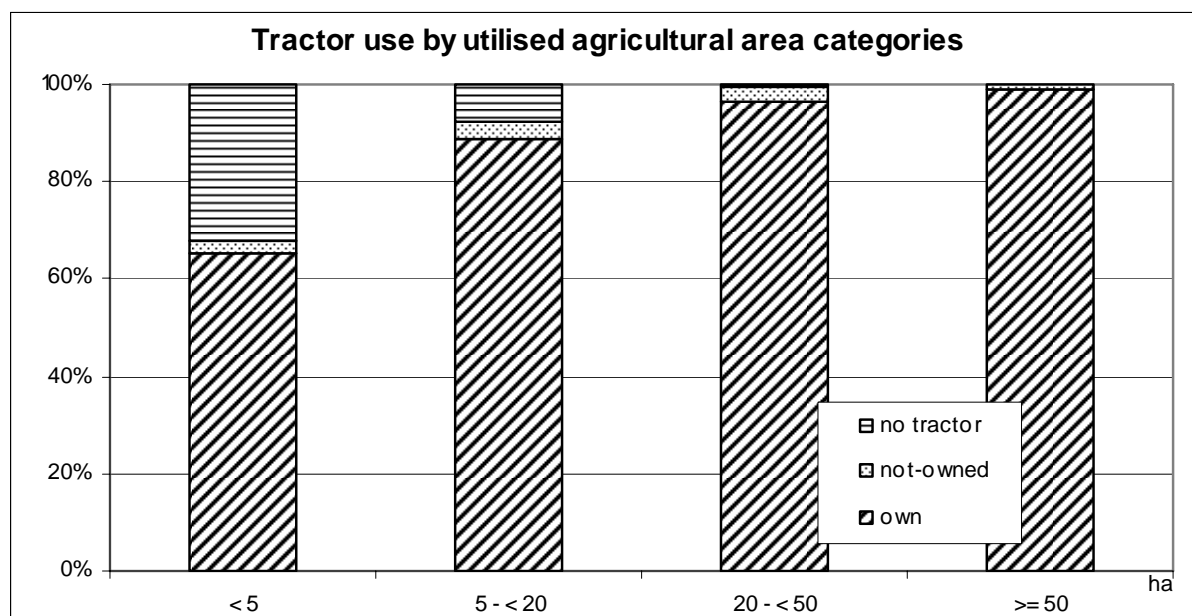
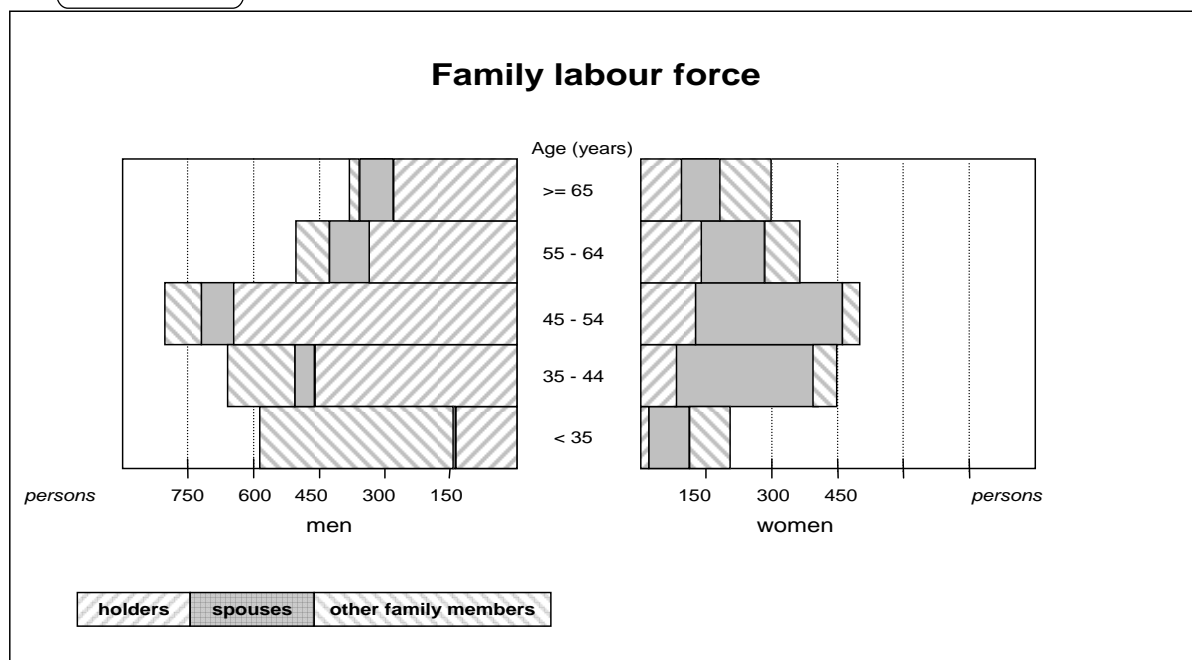
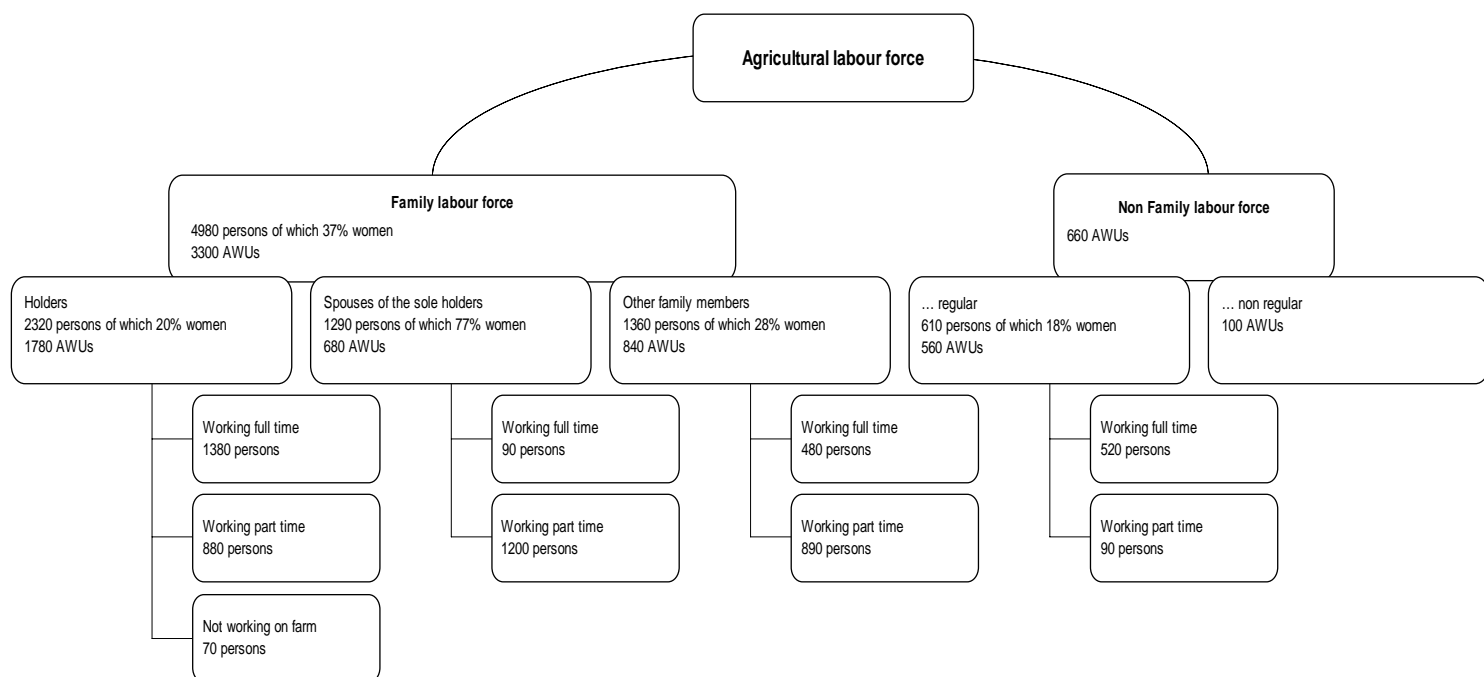
Table 3 – Land use by size of
the farms.....5

Table 4 – Livestock by size of
the farms.....6

Table 5 – Subsistence farming.7



Luxembourg 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 =<		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.3	4.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.4
Family labour force									
1000 persons	0.7	0.7	0.8	2.8	5.0	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.6
1000 annual work units	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.1	3.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.2
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
1000 annual work units	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Holding managers (1000)	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.1	2.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.6
- women (%)	19.3	15.3	19.3	6.2	12.5	14.9	20.1	7.8	4.7
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	51.7	28.5	8.1	0.2	16.0	32.5	29.0	0.4	0.2
- 50 % and over (%)	23.1	37.5	36.8	5.6	19.6	22.1	37.0	7.6	5.1
- with a basic agricultural training only (%)	6.7	13.7	17.2	16.1	14.1	12.0	13.0	16.8	14.7
- with a full agricultural training (%)	17.3	27.4	34.8	62.7	43.4	31.8	23.5	55.5	67.9
Sole/main holders (1000)	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.1	2.3	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.6
- women (%)	26.6	24.2	29.4	11.8	19.6	24.5	29.3	13.2	9.2
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	4.8	5.5	4.6	8.8	6.8	4.5	4.9	7.5	10.4
- from 35 to 44 years	16.6	19.0	18.6	29.3	23.4	20.4	17.1	25.9	31.5
- from 45 to 54 years	27.9	25.8	28.9	39.3	33.2	26.6	27.2	43.5	36.6
- from 55 to 64 years	21.0	20.6	27.5	17.6	20.5	23.8	23.6	17.0	17.2
- 65 years and over	29.6	29.1	20.5	5.0	16.1	24.7	27.2	6.2	4.3
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	53.8	29.7	8.2	0.2	16.2	34.2	29.5	0.4	0.2
- 50 % and over (%)	24.0	39.0	37.1	5.6	19.9	23.3	37.6	7.6	5.1
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	38.4	29.8	18.3	6.0	17.8	24.6	32.0	8.7	4.0
- as main occupation	35.8	23.6	7.7	0.4	11.8	20.5	24.2	0.8	0.5
- as a subsidiary occupation	2.6	6.2	10.6	5.6	6.0	4.1	7.8	7.8	3.5
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4
- women (%)	70.1	68.2	59.6	86.7	77.0	74.1	57.6	85.5	90.6
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	4.5	2.4	4.4	9.9	7.1	4.0	3.2	8.6	11.6
- from 35 to 54 years	45.8	52.4	48.4	70.8	60.6	50.9	49.6	68.3	70.7
- 55 years and over	49.8	45.3	47.1	19.3	32.3	45.1	47.2	23.1	17.7
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	60.7	42.9	30.2	16.5	29.2	45.5	42.9	16.9	16.4
- 50 % and over (%)	34.8	49.4	65.3	75.1	63.8	45.1	52.5	76.6	75.0
- with another gainful activity (%)	31.3	26.5	25.8	14.3	20.6	24.6	33.8	12.9	11.6
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.0	1.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.6
- women (%)	29.4	29.8	27.2	28.2	28.3	26.2	27.5	31.8	27.2
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	60.8	49.2	52.2	23.2	32.2	40.2	59.3	35.2	16.9
- 50 % and over (%)	19.6	32.3	30.6	34.7	32.8	27.9	27.8	33.2	35.8
- with another gainful activity (%)	38.2	31.5	35.6	6.4	14.9	27.9	37.7	11.9	3.9

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

* LU = Livestock Unit

¹ Refers only to holders who are also farm managers.

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 =<		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.1	2.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.6
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	96.0	96.0	99.0	99.7	98.3	95.0	98.4	99.8	99.3
- legal person	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.3	1.7	5.0	1.6	0.2	0.7
- group holders	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	58.8	44.1	16.7	0.4	21.5	38.4	41.4	1.1	0.5
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	28.4	34.3	73.3	50.5	47.7	33.6	50.6	67.6	36.4
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	6.7	12.4	7.4	37.9	22.4	15.1	5.9	27.4	45.5
- 3 AWU and over	6.2	9.2	2.6	11.1	8.4	12.9	2.0	3.9	17.6
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	60.5	57.5	8.1	0.2	22.3	36.1	46.2	0.2	0.0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	13.7	11.1	40.6	1.1	12.1	15.3	26.8	1.1	0.0
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	18.2	2.9	34.4	15.0	17.1	19.0	21.0	24.2	4.1
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	6.9	24.0	15.3	62.0	37.1	25.5	5.7	71.7	56.5
- 100 ESU and over	0.7	4.5	1.7	21.7	11.4	4.1	0.4	2.8	39.4
- by farm type (%)									
- specialist dairy farming	0.0	1.1	25.1	52.4	29.3	0.0	9.3	61.6	48.7
- specialist vineyard	55.9	27.2	1.7	0.3	15.4	74.7	4.0	0.2	0.2
- specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	2.0	14.5	22.7	9.0	11.0	0.0	17.3	11.5	10.2
- sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	21.5	23.2	9.3	2.0	10.4	0.0	27.8	3.4	1.4
- cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0.0	0.0	1.7	16.1	7.9	0.0	1.0	10.2	20.8
- other types of farming	20.6	34.0	39.6	20.3	26.0	25.3	40.5	13.0	18.8
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	1.1	1.3	2.6	2.5	2.1	1.1	3.0	2.4	1.2
- irrigating	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- with fixed irrigation equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- with crops under glass	6.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.4	6.3	0.6	0.0	0.2
- benefiting of direct investment aids	15.5	35.6	55.4	73.0	52.9	28.4	37.9	69.5	76.3
- using a tractor (%)									
- with their own tractor	67.8	92.3	99.3	100.0	92.5	81.0	88.9	99.8	99.3
- using a combine harvester (%)									
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)									
- tourism	4.9	9.2	12.9	22.4	15.3	7.9	10.9	18.2	24.0
- handicraft	1.3	1.8	3.8	2.9	2.6	1.1	3.5	1.9	3.0
- processing of farm products	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2
- wood processing	2.7	5.5	3.8	4.0	4.0	5.6	3.3	3.7	3.9
- aquaculture	0.7	1.1	1.7	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.2
- renewable energy production	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
- contractual work	0.2	0.5	4.3	14.8	7.9	0.2	3.4	10.6	17.1
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	0.9	0.3	1.0	3.6	2.1	0.9	0.8	3.4	3.6
	0.0	0.5	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.6	1.7	0.2

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

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)				
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 =<		0	0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<	
Area	(1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	1.1	4.6	16.2	115.1	137.0	3.1	21.6	41.2	71.1	
Other area	0.2	0.6	1.4	6.1	8.3	0.4	1.9	2.9	3.1	
Wooded area	0.2	0.5	1.2	5.2	7.1	0.4	1.7	2.5	2.6	
Agricultural area	0.9	4.0	14.8	109.0	128.7	2.7	19.7	38.3	68.0	
Arable land	0.1	1.3	6.6	51.9	59.9	1.4	9.0	17.7	31.9	
Cereals	0.1	0.9	3.8	23.8	28.5	1.0	5.5	8.4	13.6	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.0	0.2	1.1	10.6	11.9	0.4	1.9	3.3	6.4	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>Rye</i>	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	
<i>Barley</i>	0.0	0.4	1.6	7.9	9.9	0.4	2.2	3.1	4.3	
<i>Oats</i>	0.0	0.1	0.5	1.5	2.0	0.1	0.6	0.7	0.7	
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Dried pulses	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	
Root crops	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Industrial crops	0.0	0.1	0.4	4.2	4.7	0.2	0.7	1.3	2.6	
<i>Tobacco</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>Hops</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>Cotton</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0.0	0.1	0.3	3.7	4.1	0.2	0.6	1.1	2.2	
<i>Sunflower</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>Soya</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>outside</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Flower and ornamental plants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>outside</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<i>under glass</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Forage plants	0.0	0.2	2.3	20.3	22.8	0.1	2.3	7.0	13.4	
Fallow land	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.7	1.9	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	
Kitchen garden	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Permanent pasture and meadows	0.4	1.9	8.1	56.9	67.2	0.1	10.4	20.6	36.1	
Permanent crops	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.2	1.5	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	
Fruit and berry plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Citrus plantation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Olive trees	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Vineyard	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.1	1.3	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Ratios										
Agricultural area per holding	(ha)	2.0	10.7	35.4	97.8	54.5	6.0	24.9	71.4	115.1
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		81.8	71.5	56.6	41.9	44.8	68.8	55.0	45.8	40.3
... in less favoured or mountain area		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
... organic farmed		1.2	1.6	2.7	2.2	2.3	0.4	5.0	3.1	1.1
... irrigated		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
	< 5	5 - < 20	20 - < 50	50 =<		0 < - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<
Total livestock (1000 LU)	2.4	2.8	16.3	136.1	157.7	14.1	40.4	103.2
of which grazing (%)	28.4	87.9	85.1	88.4	87.1	96.8	97.5	81.7
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.6	4.2	2.5	0.8	0.8
Bovine animals	0.1	2.3	17.9	164.9	185.2	15.7	52.5	117.0
Under 1 year	0.0	0.6	4.7	43.8	49.2	4.2	13.5	31.6
From 1 to less than 2 years	0.0	0.4	3.5	38.0	42.1	3.1	11.1	27.9
Dairy cows	0.0	0.0	2.8	36.5	39.3	1.8	13.6	23.9
Other cows	0.0	0.8	4.3	26.4	31.6	4.3	7.4	19.9
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	0.0	0.4	2.5	20.1	23.0	2.3	7.0	13.7
Sheep	1.4	1.8	2.7	4.1	9.9	5.3	2.3	2.4
Goats	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	2.2	0.3	0.3	1.5
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	6.2	1.5	11.0	71.4	90.1	3.0	5.4	81.7
Piglets < 20 kg	2.5	0.7	5.2	26.3	34.7	2.3	3.7	28.7
Breeding sows	0.7	0.2	1.4	5.8	8.2	0.2	1.0	7.0
Other pigs	3.0	0.6	4.5	39.3	47.3	0.5	0.7	46.1
Poultry (million heads)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Broilers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Laying hens	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other poultry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.3
Beehives * (1000)	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0
Average size of herds**								
Equidae (head/holding)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Cattle (head/holding)	6.9	17.9	53.5	154.1	119.2	34.4	99.6	205.9
Dairy cows (head/holding)	:	7.8	23.8	43.3	40.7	19.7	32.9	51.9
Other cows (head/holding)	3.3	7.7	16.0	28.4	24.0	11.9	16.7	38.5
Sheep (head/holding)	26.0	33.6	55.7	51.4	42.6	32.7	84.8	52.7
Goats (head/holding)	7.0	5.4	2.7	43.8	19.7	4.5	15.9	84.7
Pigs (head/holding)	689.4	95.8	250.6	499.2	425.2	68.0	108.4	692.7
Breeding sows (head/holding)	174.5	28.4	48.2	72.1	66.9	9.1	29.9	107.3
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	375.0	47.5	149.0	314.1	270.3	18.1	18.1	426.7
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	4.3	4.2	7.8	3.7	4.5	4.3	4.0	5.8
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4
Broilers (1000/holding)	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Beehives (hive/holding)	12.7	40.3	6.6	5.3	17.4	9.2	3.3	6.7

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

* Bees are not taken into account when calculating Livestock Unit, there are 300 hives on holdings with 0 LU.

** Number of animals of a given livestock category per holding with this kind of animal.

		Absolute figures			% of total	
		Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular labour force	(1000 persons)	5.7	0.1	5.6	2.1	97.9
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	3.9	0.0	3.9	0.8	99.1
Holders	(1000 persons)	2.4	0.1	2.3	3.5	96.5
... at least 65 years old		0.4	0.0	0.4	9.2	90.8
... having another gainful activity		0.4	0.0	0.4	6.6	93.4
Number of holdings	(1000)	2.4	0.1	2.4	3.5	96.5
... producing mainly for own consumption		:	:	:	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		:	:	:	:	:
... using a tractor		2.2	0.1	2.2	2.8	97.2
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	113.8	0.1	113.8	0.0	100.0
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	129.1	0.4	128.7	0.3	99.7
... owned farmed		58.0	0.3	57.7	0.5	99.5
Livestock	(1000 LU)	157.8	0.1	157.7	0.1	99.9

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

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Luxembourg was carried out in May 2005 on an exhaustive base. The previous full-scale agricultural census was conducted on an annual basis since 1953. The reference time of the FSS 2005 was 15 May 2003, however for farm labour force characteristics the preceding 12 months.

The FSS relates to agricultural, viticulture and horticultural holdings whose utilised agricultural area is one hectare or more and those whose area is less than one hectare but they produce for sale (including the livestock units) or in case of vineyards having at least 100 m² of vineyards. The target population was all the farms with an operating base located in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The list of holdings was updated and completed at municipality level prior to the census.

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.

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 work unit (AWU) is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis in one year. In Luxembourg it is as 2200 working hours per year (275 eight-hour working days), provided the person is between 15 and 80 years.

Livestock Unit (LU) is equivalent to a dairy cow. The number of animals (number of heads) is converted into LU using a set of coefficients reflecting the feed requirements of the different animal categories.

Subsistence farming refers here to all farms below 1 ESU economic size. Note that the number of farms can't be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

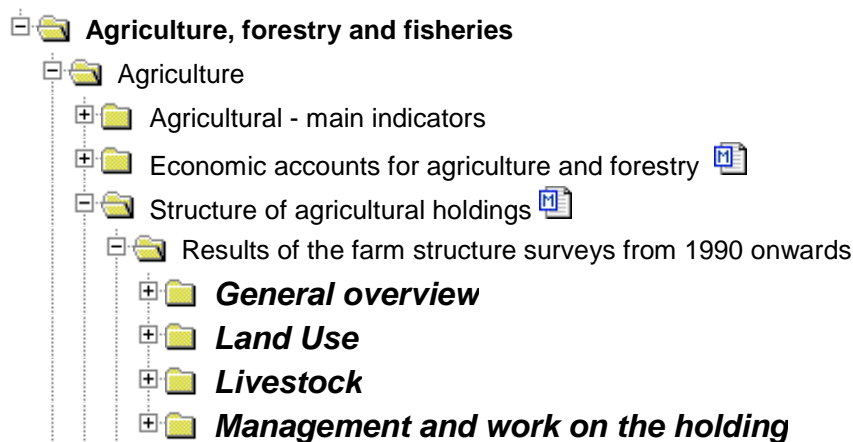
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Website of the Central Statistical Office of Luxembourg: www.statec.lu

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available for request)

Further information:

Databases: [EUROSTAT Website/Theme: Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](#)



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