

Farm structure in Denmark – 2005

53% of the agricultural land and 58% of the livestock are in farms of 100 ha or more

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 Denmark. A similar publication was issued in November 2004 presenting the results of the FSS 2003 in Denmark.

* * *

In June 2005 in Denmark, about **48.1 thousand*** agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 European Size Unit (ESU).

- These holdings employed 58.4 thousand AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 58.4 thousand persons working full time;
- they made use of about 2.6 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average **53.8 ha per holding** (compared to 54.7 ha in 2003).

Among these 48.1 thousand agricultural holdings

- 54% made use of less than one AWU, while 20% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 9% used less than 5 ha agricultural area, while 15% used 100 ha or more;
- 39% were holdings of the type specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops, 18% general field cropping, 11% were specialist dairy farms, 8% engaged in combined field cropping and grazing livestock and 7% had various crops and livestock combined;
- 5% were organic farms;
- 31% benefited from direct investment aid.

Among the 47.7 thousand sole holders

- 11% were women;
- 42% were aged 55 or more, and only 7% were younger than 35 years;
- 39% had another gainful activity as their major occupation.

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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Agriculture

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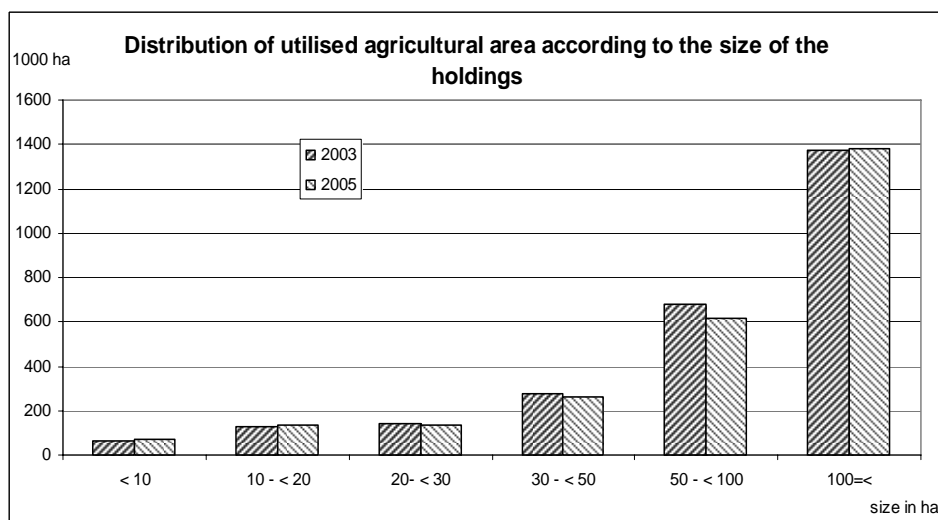
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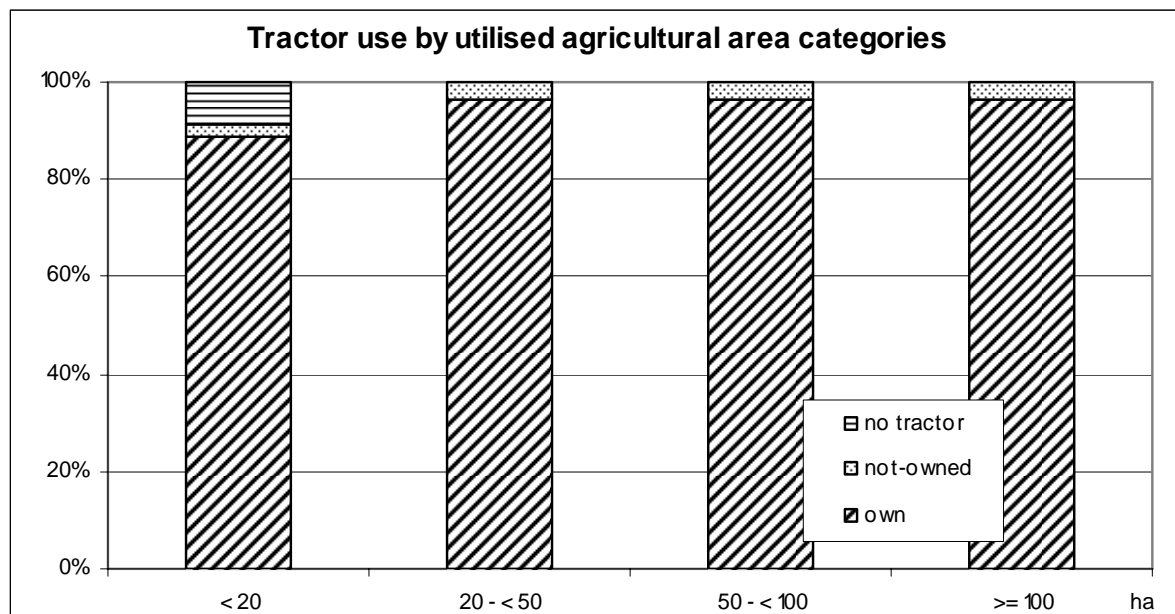
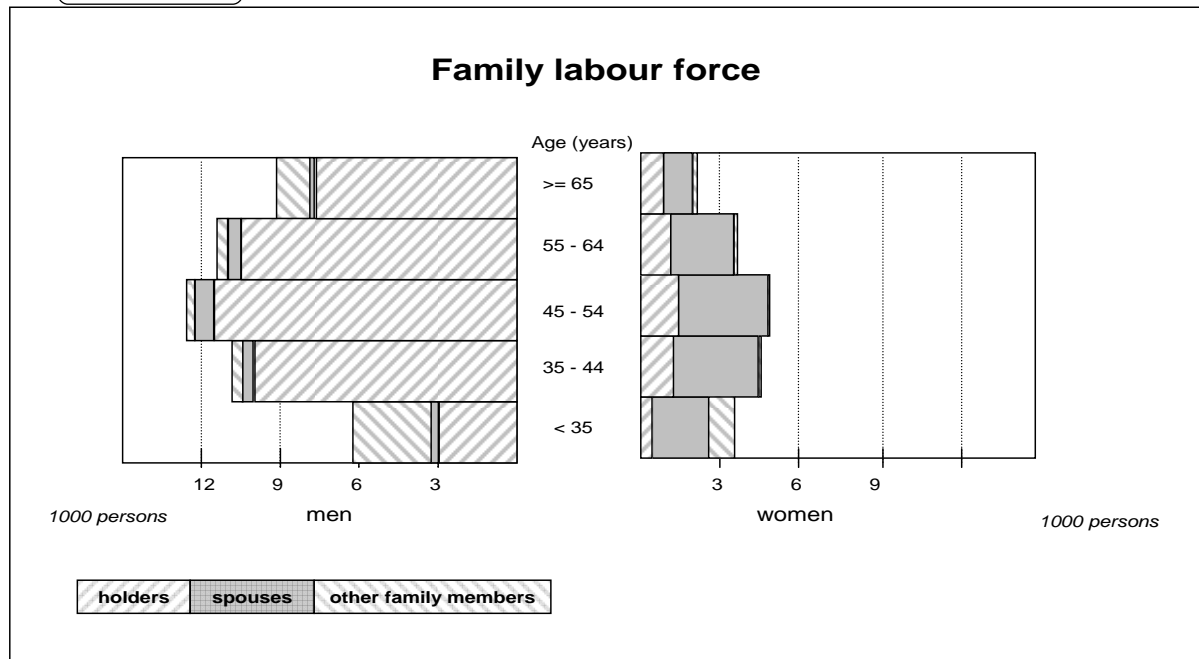
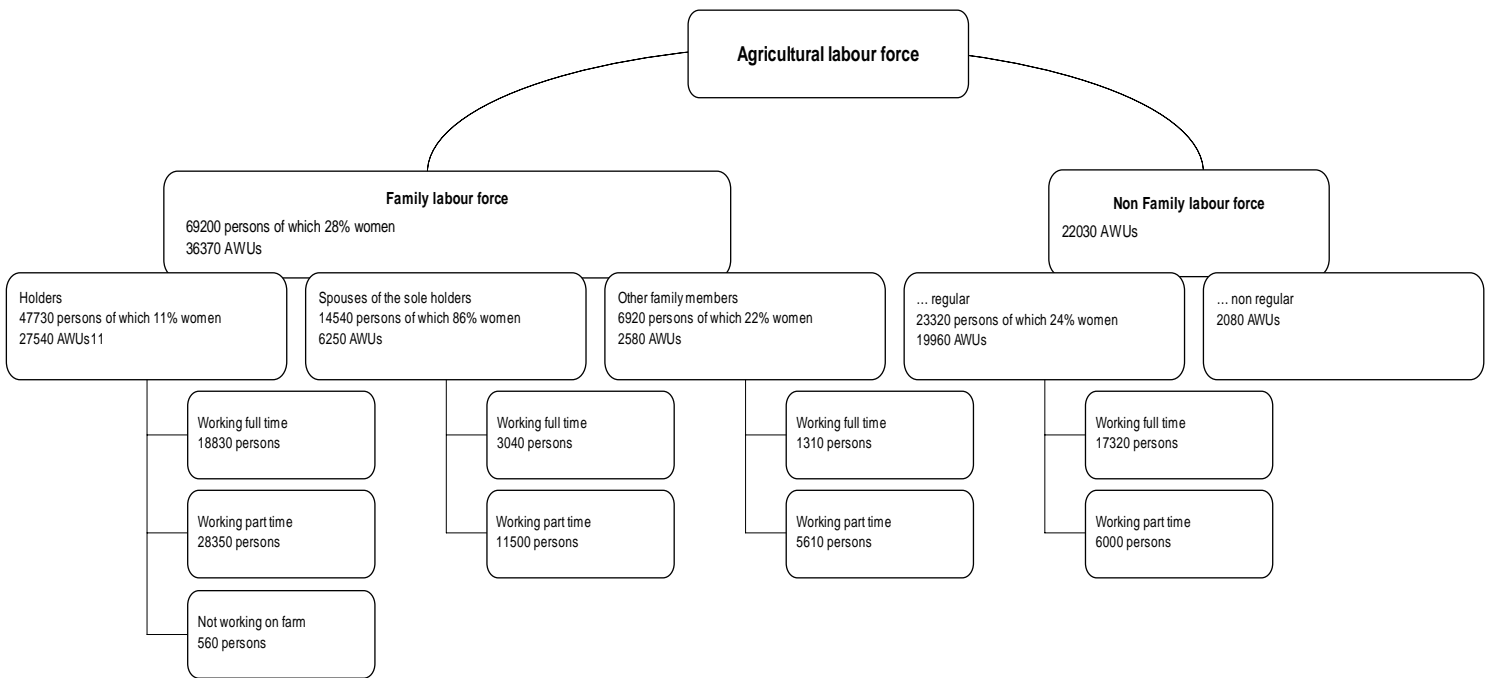
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Due to differences in the threshold across Member States, the total number of farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis, including Tables 1-4 and the graphs focus on holdings of at least one ESU. See methodological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



Denmark 2005 – Holdings of at least 1 ESU



Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU*)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<		0	0<-<100	100-<500	500 =<
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	14.1	10.3	12.9	21.1	58.4	17.0	15.9	15.7	9.8
Family labour force									
1000 persons	26.2	17.0	13.5	12.5	69.2	22.5	28.9	13.5	4.3
1000 annual work units	8.8	8.6	9.6	9.4	36.4	9.4	13.3	10.3	3.4
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	6.0	2.0	3.6	11.7	23.3	7.8	3.2	5.9	6.4
1000 annual work units	4.7	1.4	3.0	10.8	20.0	6.6	2.3	5.0	6.1
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.8	2.1	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.3
Holding managers (1000)	19.9	12.2	8.6	7.4	48.1	17.8	20.0	7.8	2.5
- women (%)	14.4	9.7	6.3	6.6	10.6	10.8	12.8	5.7	6.4
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	75.6	48.7	15.7	6.2	47.4	64.0	55.0	4.3	2.7
- 50 % and over(%)	9.9	18.0	13.5	7.0	12.2	11.3	16.4	6.1	3.4
- with a basic agricult. training only (%)	19.4	38.2	63.5	73.2	40.3	31.7	30.4	73.2	78.9
- with a full agricultural training (%)	3.5	5.0	5.7	7.9	5.0	5.1	4.5	5.1	7.8
Sole/main holders (1000)	19.7	12.1	8.5	7.3	47.7	17.6	19.9	7.7	2.4
- women (%)	14.7	9.9	6.4	6.9	10.8	11.1	12.9	5.9	6.6
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	5.9	5.7	8.7	10.9	7.1	5.8	5.7	11.3	15.5
- from 35 to 44 years	21.8	20.4	26.8	29.5	23.5	20.9	21.4	31.3	34.3
- from 45 to 54 years	26.9	26.8	27.9	27.6	27.1	24.6	29.0	28.7	25.6
- from 55 to 64 years	24.1	25.7	25.4	21.6	24.3	24.5	26.3	21.1	17.6
- 65 years and over	21.3	21.4	11.2	10.3	17.8	24.2	17.5	7.6	7.0
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	76.3	48.8	15.8	6.3	47.8	64.6	55.2	4.4	2.8
- 50 % and over(%)	10.0	18.1	13.6	7.1	12.3	11.4	16.5	6.1	3.5
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	65.4	53.4	29.0	19.8	48.9	55.4	60.0	16.6	14.6
- as main occupation	59.7	40.9	14.3	5.3	38.6	47.3	48.6	4.1	2.0
- as a subsidiary occupation	5.7	12.5	14.7	14.4	10.4	8.0	11.3	12.5	12.5
Spouse of sole holder working on the holding (1000)	4.9	3.4	3.1	3.2	14.5	3.5	6.4	3.5	1.2
- women (%)	78.1	84.8	91.0	92.2	85.5	83.5	81.2	92.8	93.0
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	18.4	13.9	17.7	19.6	17.4	15.5	15.5	21.1	23.2
- from 35 to 54 years	52.4	50.2	55.4	57.6	53.6	47.0	53.7	58.6	58.7
- 55 years and over	29.2	36.0	26.9	22.8	28.9	37.6	30.9	20.3	18.1
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	79.0	73.2	52.8	48.4	65.4	71.6	76.0	46.9	43.7
- 50 % and over(%)	8.7	12.9	17.2	18.9	13.7	9.4	11.7	19.0	22.0
- with another gainful activity (%)	69.3	64.0	51.1	48.4	59.6	58.6	69.3	47.6	45.7
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.1	6.9	1.4	2.6	2.2	0.7
- women (%)	30.0	20.4	18.2	18.9	21.6	20.1	26.1	17.8	20.3
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	83.1	83.3	71.2	58.3	72.7	77.7	81.9	64.9	52.8
- 50 % and over(%)	5.9	7.5	9.4	10.0	8.3	6.2	8.3	9.4	9.5
- with another gainful activity (%)	35.9	33.4	24.3	19.0	27.4	31.6	34.5	19.0	18.9

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)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - <100	100 =<		0	0-<100	100-<500	500 =<
Holdings									
- total number (1000)	19.9	12.2	8.6	7.4	48.1	17.8	20.0	7.8	2.5
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	99.0	99.7	99.3	98.5	99.2	99.1	99.5	99.4	96.5
- legal person	1.0	0.3	0.7	1.5	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.6	3.5
- 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	81.0	60.6	23.1	6.1	53.9	71.6	63.8	5.5	0.7
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	12.8	31.9	46.4	28.0	26.0	17.9	28.5	41.4	14.8
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	2.8	5.4	22.2	28.7	10.9	5.0	5.4	34.8	22.6
- 3 AWU and over	3.4	2.1	8.3	37.2	9.2	5.5	2.3	18.3	61.9
- by economic size (%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU	57.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	23.8	28.9	31.6	0.0	0.0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU	32.1	17.6	0.0	0.0	17.8	22.7	22.5	0.1	0.0
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU	5.1	63.1	14.0	0.1	20.6	25.0	26.0	3.1	0.0
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU	2.1	15.0	48.5	13.2	15.4	13.4	16.4	21.9	1.2
- 100 ESU and over	3.5	3.8	37.5	86.7	22.5	9.9	3.6	75.0	98.8
- by farm type (%)	75.7								
- specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	42.6	50.4	30.4	21.0	39.0	65.4	34.0	4.2	0.8
- general field cropping	18.7	18.8	15.8	19.6	18.3	20.7	23.0	6.1	2.8
- specialist dairy farming	1.8	9.8	26.9	20.2	11.1	0.0	8.3	46.7	2.3
- field crops – grazing livestock combined	11.3	7.7	4.3	3.1	7.9	2.0	15.7	3.4	0.4
- various crops and livestock combined	1.3	4.9	12.2	22.0	7.3	0.0	2.3	24.6	45.5
- other types of farming	24.4	8.4	10.5	14.1	16.3	11.9	16.6	15.1	48.2
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	4.4	4.9	5.8	5.8	5.0	3.9	6.2	6.0	0.9
- irrigating	4.2	12.0	22.6	24.5	12.6	9.5	9.3	26.9	17.0
- 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	3.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.5	3.5	0.5	0.1	0.0
- benefiting of direct investment aids	17.7	28.2	45.0	54.8	30.9	19.6	28.8	55.2	52.5
- using a tractor (%)	91.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.3	94.4	97.1	99.1	95.9
- with their own tractor	88.9	96.3	96.9	96.4	93.4	89.5	95.2	97.3	93.8
- using a combine harvester (%)	68.7	91.3	89.6	96.1	82.4	86.2	77.4	83.2	91.6
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production (%)	14.8	16.0	19.7	29.5	18.3	19.2	17.1	17.0	24.5
- tourism	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.1
- handicraft	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.6	2.5	1.4	0.5	0.4
- processing of farm products	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5
- wood processing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- aquaculture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
- renewable energy production	0.6	1.4	2.9	7.2	2.2	1.9	1.2	3.5	8.7
- contractual work	3.2	6.8	11.3	19.6	8.1	9.0	5.6	10.3	15.2
- other gainful activities n.a.e.	9.6	6.9	6.2	6.0	7.8	8.1	9.4	4.1	3.7

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

Size of the farm (1000 ha)	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)			
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 =<		0	0-<-<100	100-<500	500 =<
Area									
Total area of agricultural holdings	229.3	422.2	645.8	1527.2	2824.4	862.5	717.8	782.4	461.7
Other area	30.0	28.1	29.7	148.4	236.1	100.2	79.6	34.3	22.0
Wooded area	17.5	17.7	17.1	114.8	167.2	71.6	58.8	22.1	14.7
Agricultural area	199.2	394.1	616.1	1378.8	2588.3	762.3	638.2	748.1	439.7
Arable land	159.7	358.8	576.0	1303.9	2398.4	710.6	556.3	704.6	426.9
Cereals	109.2	230.7	317.8	796.7	1454.5	480.9	334.4	325.0	314.2
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	31.9	84.7	134.2	406.4	657.2	224.9	121.8	145.0	165.5
<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>	2.9	4.5	5.7	13.9	27.0	12.2	6.6	4.3	3.9
<i>Barley</i>	65.7	124.5	157.1	326.6	673.9	216.1	180.4	153.4	124.0
<i>Oats</i>	4.7	10.1	11.8	29.0	55.6	15.4	14.9	12.5	12.8
<i>Grain maize</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dried pulses	0.8	2.7	3.1	8.5	15.1	6.6	4.3	2.7	1.5
Root crops	2.1	9.2	18.9	60.4	90.7	43.9	17.7	18.5	10.5
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.6	2.7	7.3	29.0	39.5	20.3	7.0	7.0	5.2
<i>Sugar beet</i>	1.1	5.2	9.6	30.4	46.4	23.4	8.4	9.3	5.2
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.4	1.3	2.0	1.1	4.8	0.2	2.3	2.2	0.1
Industrial crops	3.1	12.6	23.6	70.9	110.3	30.9	19.4	27.3	32.6
<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>	3.1	12.6	23.6	70.8	110.1	30.8	19.4	27.3	32.6
<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	0.9	1.4	2.0	6.0	10.4	7.1	1.7	1.3	0.3
<i>outside</i>	0.8	1.4	2.0	6.0	10.2	7.0	1.7	1.3	0.3
<i>under glass</i>	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flower and ornamental plants	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>outside</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>under glass</i>	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	36.8	66.6	148.3	188.4	440.1	39.9	119.3	260.9	20.0
Fallow land	4.0	28.2	46.1	98.1	176.5	57.9	37.9	50.4	30.3
Kitchen garden	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent pasture and meadows	37.2	33.0	37.6	72.7	180.6	44.5	80.4	43.1	12.5
Permanent crops	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.2	9.3	7.1	1.5	0.5	0.2
Fruit and berry plantation	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.6	7.0	5.1	1.2	0.5	0.2
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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	10.0	32.4	71.6	186.1	53.8	42.9	31.8	96.0	175.0
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	90.1	85.3	79.5	68.3	75.2	72.5	80.8	76.4	69.6
... in less favoured or mountain area	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
... organic farmed	4.6	4.8	5.6	5.5	5.3	4.1	7.1	7.6	1.0
... irrigated	3.1	7.2	12.2	10.3	9.7	7.7	7.6	14.5	8.2

Symbols : not available

0 less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farm	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LU)		
	< 20	20 - < 50	50 - < 100	100 = <		0 < - < 100	100 - < 500	500 = <
Total livestock (1000 LU)	444.1	402.8	1069.8	2606.9	4523.5	420.0	1787.0	2316.5
of which grazing (%)	24.9	47.5	39.5	17.2	25.9	80.9	43.3	2.5
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)								
Equidae	28.1	10.2	4.8	4.1	47.3	42.6	3.6	1.1
Bovine animals	126.5	261.4	565.3	591.1	1544.3	443.0	1023.4	77.9
Under 1 year	51.2	96.4	182.4	185.9	516.1	174.3	315.9	25.8
From 1 to less than 2 years	22.2	47.8	95.3	97.9	263.2	84.8	165.4	13.0
Dairy cows	13.0	64.3	228.4	252.1	557.9	73.8	454.0	30.0
Other cows	30.5	32.2	19.1	16.2	97.9	75.3	18.9	3.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	9.5	20.7	40.0	39.1	109.3	34.7	69.1	5.5
Sheep	60.1	39.4	19.5	41.7	160.7	126.6	31.8	2.3
Goats	3.8	1.7	3.9	1.0	10.4	9.9	0.4	0.1
Granivores								
Pigs (1000 heads)	1335.5	784.1	2579.7	8766.9	13466.3	282.9	3964.4	9219.0
Piglets < 20 kg	470.1	208.1	785.2	2710.8	4174.2	56.4	1081.4	3036.4
Breeding sows	166.9	68.3	261.1	902.9	1399.2	16.1	361.0	1022.1
Other pigs	698.6	507.7	1533.4	5153.2	7892.9	210.3	2522.1	5160.6
Poultry (million heads)	2.6	1.7	3.7	9.6	17.5	0.5	4.2	12.7
Broilers	1.5	0.7	2.7	6.9	11.8	0.0	2.3	9.5
Laying hens	0.9	0.9	0.8	2.4	5.1	0.4	1.8	2.9
Other poultry	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beehives (1000)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average size of herds*								
Equidae (head/holding)	6.0	5.9	4.7	4.5	5.6	6.0	3.9	3.5
Cattle (head/holding)	24.9	55.5	137.8	218.3	93.1	38.5	217.4	208.3
Dairy cows (head/holding)	27.7	42.4	84.9	138.2	85.8	30.5	115.2	216.0
Other cows (head/holding)	7.8	12.0	14.7	16.7	11.0	9.9	17.8	17.5
Sheep (head/holding)	35.1	58.4	49.4	149.4	52.5	46.9	111.8	30.6
Goats (head/holding)	13.1	13.4	43.5	20.9	18.7	21.1	5.2	8.0
Pigs (head/holding)	889.8	441.0	1094.5	2697.5	1515.4	104.2	1044.6	3880.1
Breeding sows (head/holding)	208.3	85.0	227.8	495.0	305.8	13.6	205.3	628.2
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	487.1	289.5	656.4	1588.1	900.2	80.7	665.8	2172.9
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.5	1.1	2.1	12.0	1.6	0.1	5.0	39.9
Broilers (1000/holding)	11.1	9.7	46.5	86.1	34.1	0.2	33.4	95.8
Beehives (hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

* 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)	92.7	0.2	92.5	0.2	99.8
Regular labour force	(1000 AWU)	56.4	0.0	56.3	0.1	99.9
Holders	(1000 persons)	47.9	0.1	47.7	0.3	99.7
... at least 65 years old		8.6	0.0	8.5	0.4	99.6
... having another gainful activity		23.2	0.1	23.1	0.4	99.6
Number of holdings	(1000)	48.3	0.1	48.1	0.3	99.7
... producing mainly for own consumption		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales		0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... using a tractor		46.5	0.1	46.4	0.3	99.7
Standard Gross Margin (SGM)	(1000 ESU)	3521.0	0.0	3521.0	0.0	100.0
Agricultural area	(1000 ha)	2589.8	1.5	2588.3	0.1	99.9
... owned farmed		1948.1	1.5	1946.6	0.1	99.9
Livestock	(1000 LU)	4523.6	0.1	4523.5	0.0	100.0

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

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Denmark was carried out in June 2005 using sample survey. A full-scale agricultural census was conducted in 1999. The reference date of the FSS 2005 was 24 June 2005, however for the labour force characteristics the reference period was the preceding 12 months.

The target population was all the farms included in the farm register, which is updated on an annual basis mainly from administrative data sources. The sample is stratified by economic size of the farms (using SGM at 1995 prices; 8 groups), by regions (12 units) and by type of farming (11 categories significant in Denmark). In practice 900 strata are used (from the 1056 possible). In drawing the sample frame optimal allocation is applied: the higher the standard deviation of SGM is in a given stratum the higher is the share of the selected holdings; except for horticulture (2.1, 3.2 and 6.1 types) where all holdings are selected due to their speciality and number. In the stratum 'new farms' the selection ratio is also 100%. In each stratum farms are selected randomly. About 24.300 units were sampled.

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 for one year. In Denmark it is 1800 hours (225 working days of 8 working hours per day).

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 cannot be compared between countries due to the differences in coverage of FSS.

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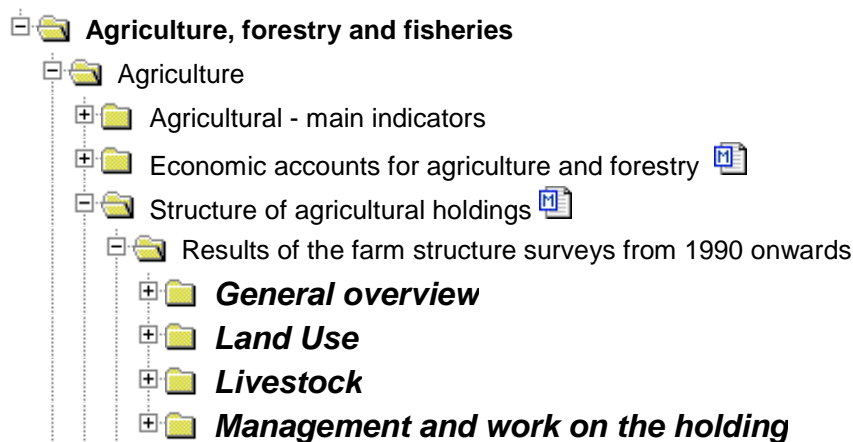
Website of the Statistics Denmark: www.dst.dk

Table bank for data: www.statbank.dk

National Methodological Report – FSS 2005 (available on request)

Further information:

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



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