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Structure of agricultural holdings

Germany 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 Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Results for the other Member States will become available in the course of the next weeks. This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications, all following the same structure.

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In Germany, in the spring 2003 about 390 200 agricultural holdings had an economic size of at least 1 ESU (European Size Unit)*, which means about 13% decline compared to 2000.

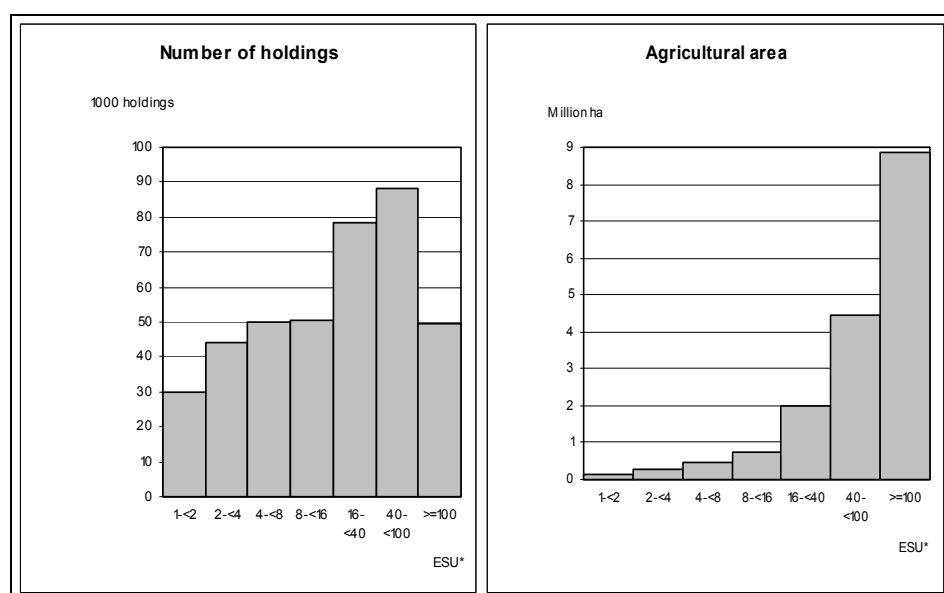
- These holdings employed 693 300 AWUs (annual work units), the equivalent of 693 300 persons working full time;
- they made use of 16.9 million ha of agricultural area, which is on average 43.3 hectare per holding.

Amongst these 390 200 agricultural holdings,

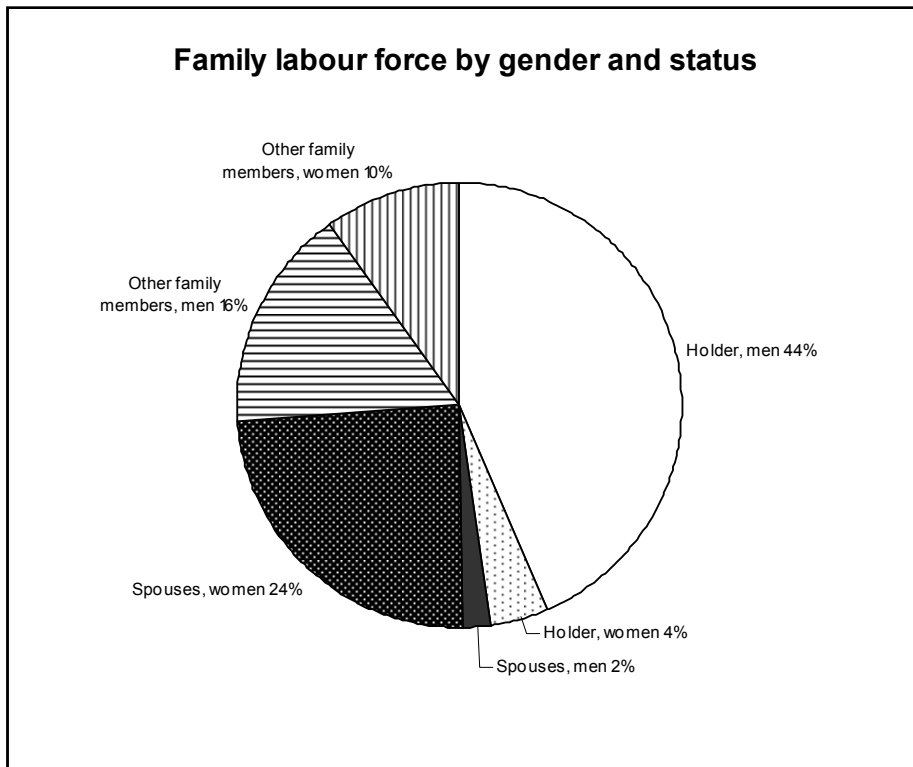
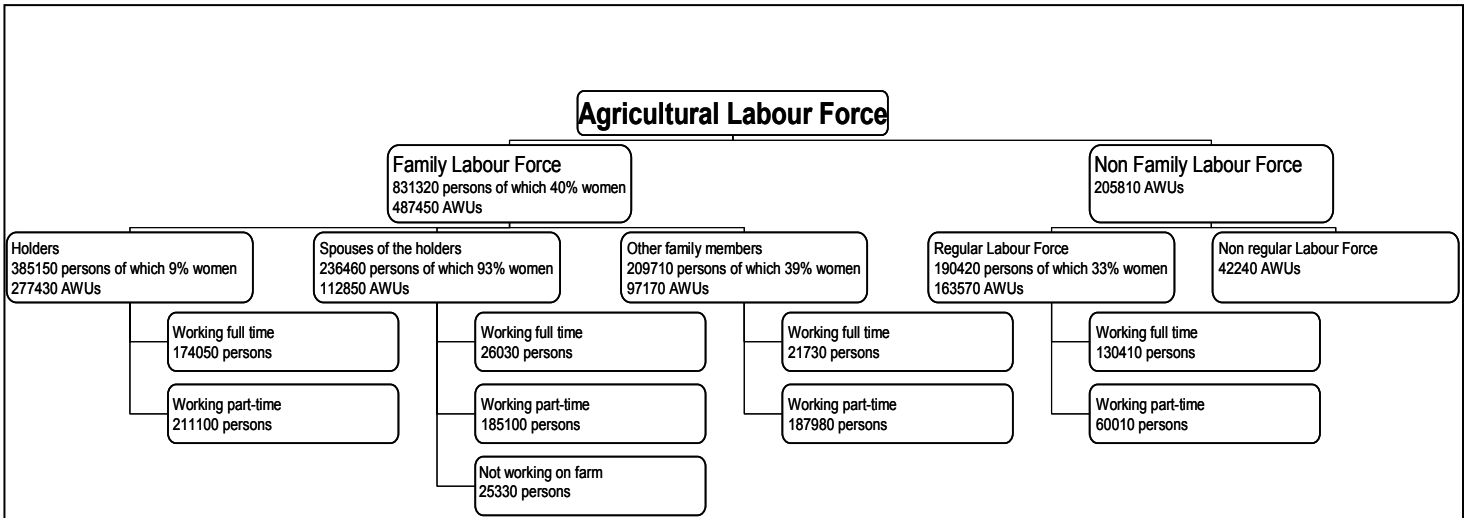
- 31% made use of less than one AWU, while 28% made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- 20% used less than 5 ha, while 7% used 100 ha or more;
- 21% were mixed holdings, while 79% were specialised: dairies 22%, cereals, oil seed and protein crops 17%, field cropping 8%, sheep, goats and other grazing livestock 8%, cattle fattening and rearing 6%, vineyards 6%, pigs and poultry 3%, horticulture 3% (of which 70% under glass), fruits fruits 2% and dairies combined with cattle fattening and rearing 2%;
- about 3% practised organic farming.

Amongst the 385 100 sole holders

- 9% were women;
- 25% were aged 55 or more, and 12% younger than 35 years;
- 44% had another gainful activity as major occupation.



Germany, 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-<2	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Total labour force									
1000 annual work units	11.5	693.3	18.8	32.3	46.1	57.7	122.2	181.4	234.7
Family labour force									
1000 persons	37.9	831.3	52.4	82.7	99.3	106.6	175.8	208.5	106.1
1000 annual work units	10.9	487.5	18.0	30.3	42.7	53.5	111.4	151.7	79.9
Non-family labour regularly employed									
1000 persons	1.0	190.4	1.1	3.1	5.2	5.7	11.4	28.9	134.9
1000 annual work units	0.6	163.6	0.6	1.6	2.9	3.6	8.3	23.2	123.3
Non regular non family labour force									
1000 annual work units	0.1	42.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	2.6	6.5	31.5
Holding managers (1000)	22.1	390.2	29.9	43.9	49.8	50.4	78.4	88.1	49.6
- women (%)	16.1	8.1	14.3	12.3	10.9	9.2	7.2	4.5	4.3
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	80.1	26.9	68.9	63.2	48.8	34.4	14.5	3.2	2.0
- 50 % and over (%)	16.6	27.2	25.6	30.4	38.9	45.6	36.1	12.9	5.9
Sole/main holders (1000)	22.1	385.1	29.8	43.8	49.5	50.2	78.0	87.6	46.4
- women (%)	15.9	8.5	14.5	12.9	11.5	10.2	7.6	4.8	4.3
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	7.8	12.4	8.3	11.7	12.7	14.4	13.2	12.2	12.0
- from 35 to 44 years	24.6	32.5	29.1	28.4	31.4	33.0	31.9	34.3	37.0
- from 45 to 54 years	30.1	30.6	30.0	28.8	29.6	29.3	30.8	32.6	31.2
- from 55 to 64 years	22.0	19.1	20.5	18.8	18.1	18.4	21.0	19.0	17.3
- 65 years and over	15.5	5.4	12.0	12.4	8.2	4.8	3.2	1.9	2.4
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	80.3	27.5	69.0	63.6	49.2	35.0	14.9	3.3	2.2
- 50 % and over (%)	16.4	27.3	25.7	30.1	38.8	45.3	36.1	13.0	6.2
- with another gainful activity ¹ (%)	69.2	48.8	71.7	73.2	75.3	72.7	48.8	16.9	8.1
- as main occupation	67.4	43.7	69.6	70.6	71.1	68.0	41.3	10.6	3.4
- as a subsidiary occupation	1.8	5.1	2.1	2.6	4.2	4.7	7.5	6.2	4.7
Spouse of sole holder (1000)	10.9	236.5	15.0	23.4	27.8	29.1	49.4	61.5	30.3
- women (%)	88.8	92.7	86.8	88.9	89.5	90.3	93.6	95.7	96.4
- distribution by age (%)									
- under 35 years	8.6	12.7	9.2	11.1	12.0	13.3	12.4	13.5	15.0
- from 35 to 54 years	60.8	68.7	62.7	60.4	65.8	67.9	69.3	72.4	73.2
- 55 years and over	30.7	18.5	28.2	28.5	22.2	18.7	18.3	14.1	11.9
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	64.1	41.0	63.0	65.4	60.3	52.3	33.1	25.0	27.7
- 50 % and over (%)	10.9	37.3	15.3	16.3	22.9	30.6	45.9	49.8	44.7
- with another gainful activity (%)	46.3	28.5	44.4	40.6	40.4	36.3	25.6	19.0	17.2
- as main occupation	44.5	25.1	41.9	37.3	38.0	32.5	21.7	15.3	14.2
- as a subsidiary occupation	1.8	3.4	2.6	3.3	2.5	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.0
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding (1000)	4.9	209.7	7.6	15.5	22.0	27.3	48.4	59.5	29.4
- women (%)	39.9	38.7	36.3	36.0	38.0	40.1	40.1	39.8	35.3
- part-time - under 50 % (%)	80.2	58.2	82.1	79.3	73.1	66.6	58.2	48.6	41.5
- 50 % and over (%)	18.4	31.4	16.8	18.3	24.5	29.1	34.8	36.3	33.9
- with another gainful activity (%)	42.1	20.2	31.5	29.3	28.9	25.7	22.3	14.7	8.5

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)	22.1	390.2	29.9	43.9	49.8	50.4	78.4	88.1	49.6
- by legal personality of the holder (%)									
- sole holder	98.4	94.0	98.3	98.2	97.4	97.6	97.2	93.6	76.5
- legal person	0.3	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	6.4
- group holders	1.3	4.7	1.2	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.2	5.8	17.1
- by employed labour force (%)									
- under 1 AWU	84.9	31.0	76.8	71.4	57.4	41.4	17.4	3.6	0.9
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU	13.9	41.3	21.3	25.0	35.6	47.5	57.6	49.8	26.1
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU	1.0	17.6	1.4	3.1	5.9	8.8	20.3	33.2	29.1
- 3 AWU and over	0.3	10.1	0.4	0.6	1.1	2.3	4.8	13.4	43.9
- by agricultural area (%)									
- under 5 ha	91.2	19.8	64.7	49.6	25.6	15.4	10.3	4.5	7.1
- from 5 to less than 20 ha	8.7	34.7	35.2	49.1	67.8	62.3	35.8	8.4	5.2
- from 20 to less than 50 ha	0	24.1	0	1.3	6.4	20.6	46.2	44.2	9.5
- from 50 to less than 100 ha	0	14.2	0	0	0.2	1.6	6.7	37.2	33.0
- 100 ha and over	0	7.3	0	0	0	0.1	1.0	5.8	45.2
- by livestock size (%)									
- without livestock	33.2	26.4	27.5	36.3	36.7	30.3	21.2	17.4	26.6
- under 10 LSU ⁺	66.8	21.3	71.9	50.3	35.6	21.2	7.5	3.7	3.6
- from 10 to less than 20 LSU	0	10.4	0.7	12.9	19.3	29.7	10.3	1.8	1.0
- from 20 to less than 50 LSU	0	17.1	0	0.6	8.3	17.5	50.5	14.3	2.3
- from 50 to less than 100 LSU	0	12.8	0	0	0	1.2	9.3	43.3	7.5
- 100 LSU and over	0	12.2	0	0	0	0	1.2	19.5	59.1
- by farm type (%)									
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops	0.9	16.9	16.5	24.9	29.9	27.1	13.0	7.0	10.8
... general field cropping	1.2	8.0	4.4	5.0	6.0	7.2	8.7	9.2	12.2
... specialist horticulture	0	2.6	0.1	0	0.4	1.3	3.1	3.6	7.5
... specialist vineyard	0	5.9	0	11.9	10.4	7.2	5.4	4.0	2.7
... specialist fruit and citrus fruit	0	2.4	0	4.1	4.9	3.4	1.7	1.2	2.1
... specialist olives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... various permanent crops combined	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.6
... specialist dairy farming	0	22.1	0.8	2.2	5.5	16.8	34.8	38.9	24.5
... specialist cattle – rearing and fattening	8.4	6.3	12.0	13.1	12.3	8.4	3.7	1.8	0.8
... cattle – dairy farming, rearing and fattening combined	0	2.1	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.7	2.9	3.3	2.2
... sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	79.0	7.9	46.8	19.2	9.6	3.8	1.7	0.5	0.2
... specialist granivores	0.5	2.9	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.6	2.5	3.9	8.0
... mixed cropping	0.6	3.2	3.5	4.1	4.1	3.6	2.7	2.5	3.1
... mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock	1.2	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.7	2.6	3.1	2.3
... mixed livestock, mainly granivores	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.4	2.4	2.9
... field crops – grazing livestock combined	4.1	9.1	10.8	9.3	9.0	9.3	8.0	9.3	9.4
... various crops and livestock combined	1.7	5.4	1.3	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.3	7.6	8.8
- by farming methods (%)									
- organic farming	1.0	2.9	2.4	2.5	3.6	3.7	3.2	2.4	2.0
- irrigating	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
- with crops under glass	0	2.5	0	0	0.2	1.0	2.8	3.6	7.2
- % in less favoured or mountain area	67.2	52.9	65.8	59.9	56.7	55.8	53.0	47.6	41.4

+ 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
Area (1000 ha)									
• Total area of agricultural holdings	122.0	18732.1	206.6	363.9	642.6	934.9	2330.2	4899.9	9354.0
• H. Other area	49.6	1822.8	66.9	105.0	165.4	173.3	337.7	460.4	514.1
Wooded area	40.4	1395.6	55.9	89.7	140.3	147.1	284.4	361.5	316.8
• Agricultural area	72.4	16909.3	139.7	258.8	477.2	761.6	1992.6	4439.5	8839.9
- D. Arable land	5.5	11824.8	25.7	83.8	214.6	422.1	1136.1	2871.9	7070.7
Cereals	0.7	6838.6	16.7	59.0	154.6	296.0	722.2	1672.2	3917.9
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	0.2	2955.4	3.3	14.8	40.1	87.4	251.3	667.1	1891.4
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	7.5	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.3	5.1
<i>Rye</i>	0.1	541.3	1.3	3.8	9.2	18.7	39.0	83.3	386.1
<i>Barley</i>	0.2	2080.3	6.9	23.3	64.7	116.4	265.4	574.1	1029.6
<i>Oats</i>	0.2	293.2	2.9	8.4	17.4	29.4	61.8	85.7	87.6
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	463.7	1.3	4.6	12.4	22.5	55.3	142.5	225.1
Dried pulses	0	209.5	0.2	1.2	2.8	5.8	14.5	30.6	154.4
Root crops	0.2	743.5	0.8	2.4	5.5	14.3	57.7	192.0	470.7
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.1	287.2	0.7	1.9	3.3	6.9	19.8	67.5	187.0
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0	445.8	0	0.1	1.6	6.7	36.0	121.3	280.1
<i>Fodder root</i>	0	10.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.9	3.2	3.6
Industrial crops	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	4.7	0	0	0	0	0.2	1.1	3.4
<i>Hops</i>	0	18.3	0	0	0	0.3	2.7	9.6	5.6
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	0	1271.9	0.6	3.9	16.1	34.7	83.5	215.2	918.0
<i>Sunflower</i>	0	37.8	0	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1	4.1	31.5
<i>Soya</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresh vegetables, melons,	0	113.6	0	0.1	0.3	0.8	3.6	12.0	96.8
<i>outside</i>	0	112.8	0	0.1	0.3	0.8	3.6	11.8	96.3
<i>under glass</i>	0	0.9	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.2	0.6
Flower and ornamental plants	0	9.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.5	1.5	7.1
<i>outside</i>	0	6.6	0	0	0	0.1	0.4	1.1	5.1
<i>under glass</i>	0	2.6	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.4	2.0
Fodder plants	1.6	1587.4	4.8	11.2	20.8	41.5	168.4	514.1	826.5
Fallow land	3.0	931.5	2.3	5.6	13.5	27.1	78.9	210.5	593.7
- E. Kitchen garden	0.4	6.1	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.5	1.6
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	64.7	4872.1	111.8	170.1	253.6	328.4	829.9	1512.1	1666.2
- G. Permanent crops	1.8	206.3	1.8	4.5	8.4	10.6	25.6	54.1	101.4
Fruit and berry plantation	0	69.0	0	0.9	2.4	3.3	6.6	14.2	41.6
Citrus plantation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vineyard	0	99.8	0	2.1	4.3	6.2	16.4	35.5	35.4
Ratios									
Agricultural area per holding (ha)	3.3	43.3	4.7	5.9	9.6	15.1	25.4	50.4	178.3
Agricultural area... (%)									
... own farmed	75.1	34.9	70.2	65.1	61.4	56.1	50.4	42.1	23.1
... in less favoured or mountain area	69.2	49.4	68.8	69.9	65.8	62.2	57.6	51.2	43.7
... organic farmed	1.1	3.3	3.0	4.6	6.2	5.8	4.6	3.2	2.7
... irrigated	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
... under cover crop protecting soil	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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)	37.8	18635.8	87.7	177.2	325.4	560.3	2055.8	5913.3	9516.1
of which grazing	(%)	95.4	56.1	91.7	88.6	85.7	78.0	74.0	63.4	44.6
Grazing livestock	(1000 heads)									
Equidae		29.3	485.1	49.8	70.0	103.7	74.0	77.8	70.0	39.9
Bovine animals										
Under 1 year		2.2	4172.4	10.0	35.7	83.4	162.1	565.5	1569.8	1745.8
From 1 to less than 2 years		5.2	3221.4	12.0	30.9	63.8	128.1	445.1	1201.8	1339.8
Dairy cows		0	4380.8	0.3	2.9	14.5	79.6	574.7	1675.2	2033.7
Other cows		2.1	765.8	11.9	37.6	75.3	99.2	165.6	166.6	209.5
Other bovine animals 2 years and older		1.9	1086.9	6.0	13.2	23.3	45.7	171.9	426.3	400.5
Sheep		48.2	2620.6	133.1	209.2	229.5	257.8	714.2	638.4	438.4
Goats		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Granivores										
Pigs	(1000 heads)									
Piglets < 20 kg		0.3	6931.3	2.5	11.0	41.4	122.7	643.2	2286.4	3824.2
Breeding sows		0	2620.6	0.4	3.0	12.8	42.6	220.4	770.3	1571.1
Other pigs		2.9	17053.8	14.4	44.6	105.4	284.5	1217.7	5155.1	10232.1
Poultry	(million heads)	0.1	124.9	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.9	3.4	15.0	104.6
Broilers		0	56.4	0	0	0	0.1	1.2	9.2	45.8
Laying hens		0	55.6	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.8	2.0	4.0	48.0
Other poultry		0	12.9	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.7	10.8
Rabbits, breeding females	(1000 heads)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Beehives	(1000)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total livestock per holding with...	(LSU/holding)									
Livestock		2.6	64.9	4.0	6.3	10.3	16.0	33.3	81.2	261.4
Grazing livestock		2.7	57.8	4.6	7.5	12.1	17.1	33.1	75.7	220.6
Bovine animals (cattle)		3.2	64.1	4.7	7.3	11.7	17.3	33.3	76.1	224.7
Cattle, other than cows		3.2	64.7	4.8	7.4	11.9	17.5	33.4	76.1	225.0
Granivores		2.2	76.0	3.2	4.9	8.1	14.7	33.8	94.0	333.0
Pigs		2.8	90.4	3.2	4.8	8.2	15.8	36.5	102.0	323.8
Average size of herds*	(head/holding)									
Equidae		3.3	7.8	5.3	7.7	11.8	10.7	8.1	6.3	5.5
Dairy cows		:	36.0	1.0	1.7	3.5	7.1	16.3	34.4	99.1
Other cows		1.9	10.5	2.9	4.6	7.3	9.9	10.1	10.0	28.8
Sheep		14.8	96.5	25.3	38.6	57.7	80.5	181.9	198.4	204.2
Goats		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Breeding sows		2.0	67.2	1.8	2.4	4.8	9.5	21.9	60.8	206.2
Other pigs > 20 kg		3.8	179.7	4.3	6.2	11.1	23.4	57.9	196.7	659.2
Rabbits, breeding females		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens	(1000/holding)	0	0.7	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	9.3
Broilers	(1000/holding)	0	5.2	0	0	0	0.1	0.7	5.2	37.1
Beehives	(hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

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

Economic size (ESU)	<1	>=1	1-<4	2-<4	4-<8	8-<16	16-<40	40-<100	>=100
Holdings with another gainful activity than agricultural production:									
(% all holdings)	10.1	19.9	14.4	15.8	19.1	19.4	20.6	22.8	22.1
Tourism	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.0	3.7	4.4	3.1	2.5
Handicraft	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Processing of farm products	1.5	8.4	4.3	6.5	8.7	9.6	9.1	8.8	9.4
Wood processing	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.2
Aquaculture	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1
Renewable energy production	0.9	2.3	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.6	2.2	3.3	3.9
Contractual work	0.5	4.9	1.1	1.3	2.2	3.2	5.1	8.5	8.2
Other gainful activities n.a.e	3.6	3.9	5.8	5.0	5.7	4.2	3.4	3.0	2.2

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Germany was carried out between March/April and June 2003 using a combined method (exhaustive and sample survey). Prior to this survey full-scale agricultural census has been conducted last time in 1999. The reference time of the farm structure survey 2003 was 3rd May 2003. However for labour force characteristics and for using natural fertilisers the reference period was from May 2002 until April 2003.

The target population were all the holdings above defined recording limits (threshold). The farm register, on the one hand, and the individual material of the 1999 agricultural census, on the other, were used to form this population. The FSS 2003 consisted of a general survey (full-scope on land use, livestock and certain labour force characteristics) and of a supplementary survey (sample for additional labour force characteristics and other information). The general part was collected from about 420 thousand holdings, while the supplementary part was asked from 100 thousand holdings.

For the sampling, a single-stage selection procedure was used: each holding assigned to the 1st stratum (in ascending order of strata) where it fulfils the criteria of the stratum. The total sample size (100 thousand) was distributed between the Federal Provinces taking into account comparability in terms of the reliability of the results. 26 strata were established according to size groups of UAA and animal stocks, but separate strata were formed for holdings with a high level of specialisation (e.g. poultry, large stocks of animals, hops, tobacco). As allocation attenuated proportionality and Neyman-Tschuprow methods were used; the final selection rates were determined by calculating a weighted mean value. For each Federal Provinces, 5 individual samples were selected. For each of them, estimations of 36 important characteristics were made, and on the basis of a comparison between the extrapolated results and the corresponding total values of the target population the best sample was chosen.

The data are multi-level checked. Partly completed forms and errors have been corrected via contact with the farmers or using other data sources (IACS, information from previous surveys).

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).

The date of extraction of the data used for this Statistics in Focus corresponds to the date of completion of the manuscript.

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Further concentration in German agriculture (selected provisional results), Press release of the Federal Statistical Office Germany, Wiesbaden, 21 January 2004.

Landwirtschaft in Deutschland: Konzentrationsprozesse und Ernteausfälle (Press-brochure), Federal Statistical Office Germany, Wiesbaden 2004.

Landwirtschaft in Zahlen 2003, Federal Statistical Office Germany, Wiesbaden 2004.

Website of the Federal Statistical Office Germany: www.destatis.de

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT website/Agriculture, forestry and fisheries/Agriculture/Structure of agricultural holdings](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Agri/Agri_struct.htm)

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ORIGINAL TEXT: English