

Farm structure in Denmark - 2007

The agricultural area per holding increases by 14% since 2005

This Statistics in Focus is part of a series of country-specific publications on the results of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) 2007. It provides a brief but nevertheless comprehensive insight into the farm structure in Denmark.

44 618 agricultural holdings were recorded in Denmark in the 2007 Farm Structure Survey (14% less than in 2005). This drop is due to the decrease in the number of all farms under 100 ha.

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Due to the different coverage of the FSS across Member States, the total number of surveyed farms is not comparable between countries. This is why the present analysis focuses on holdings of at least one European Size Unit (ESU). See the methodological notes for more information on the concept of ESU.

In 2007, about **44 360 agricultural holdings** had an economic size of at least 1 ESU, compared to 51 300 in 2005.

- They made use of **2.66 million ha of utilised agricultural area**, which represents on average **60 ha** per holding, a 14% increase from the 2005 value of **52.7 ha/holding**.
- These holdings employed **55 700 AWUs** (annual work units), the equivalent of 55 700 people working full time;
- They had **4.58 million livestock units (LSU)** in 2007.

Amongst these **44 360** agricultural holdings:

- **53%** made use of less than one AWU, while another **20%** made use of 2 or more AWUs;
- **4%** used less than 5 ha, while **34%** used 50 ha or more;
- 38% of the holdings specialised in cereals, oil seed and protein crops;

- 17% were engaged in general field cropping;
- 10% of the holdings specialised in dairy farming.

Amongst the sole holders:

- 12% were women in 2007;
- 45% were aged 55 or more, and 6% were younger than 35 years;
- 48% of sole/main holders had another gainful activity in 2007.

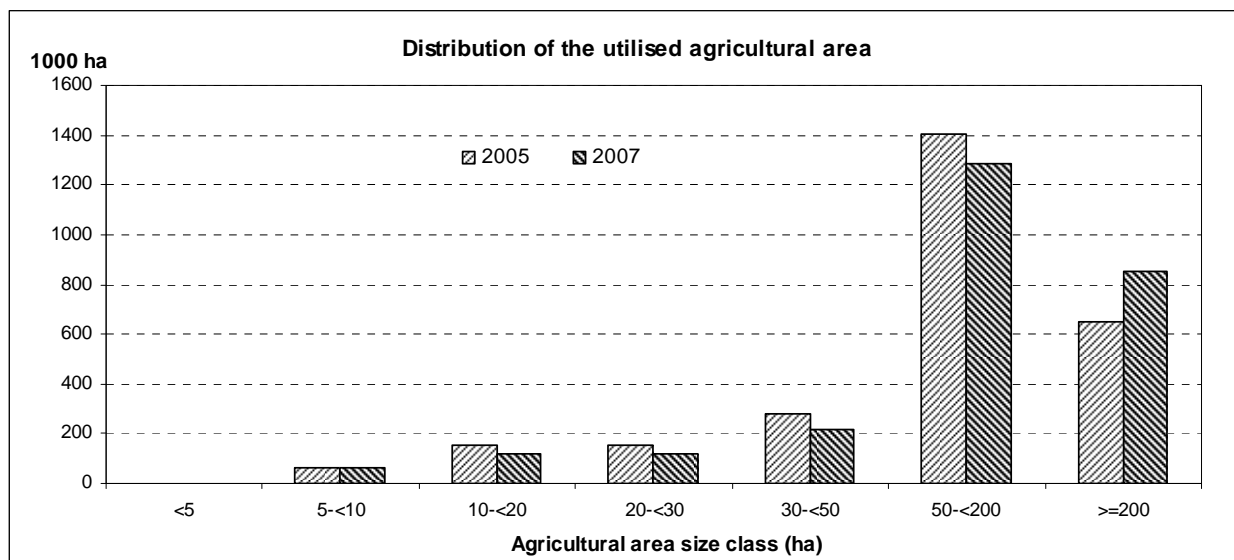
In Denmark in 2007, 71% of the agricultural area was owned by farmers;

133 115 ha (5% of the utilised agricultural area), were organically farmed (compared to 5.2% in 2005);

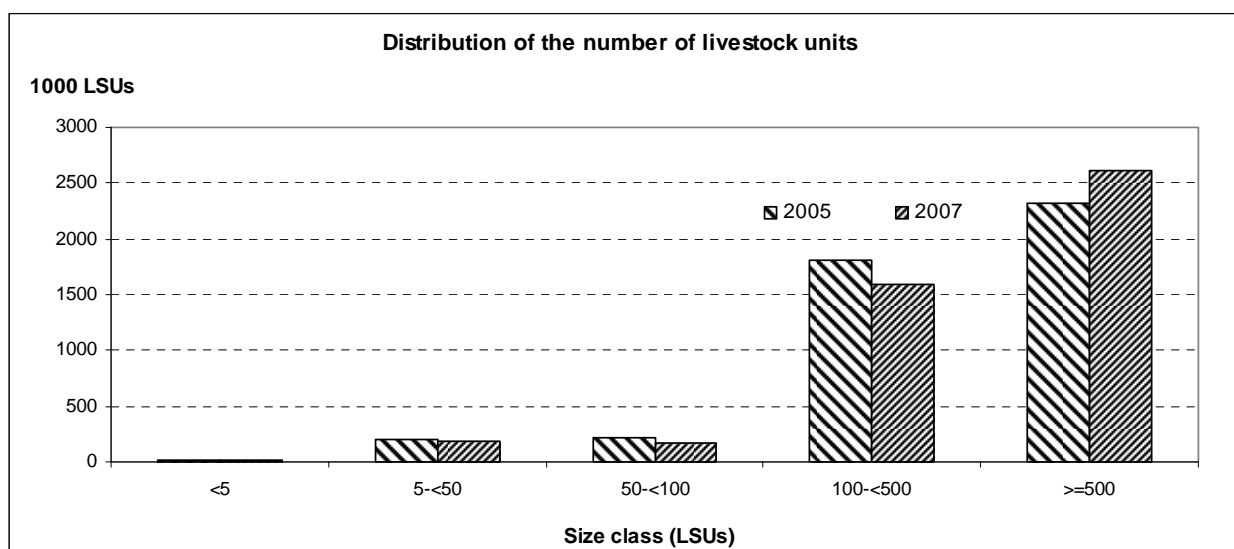
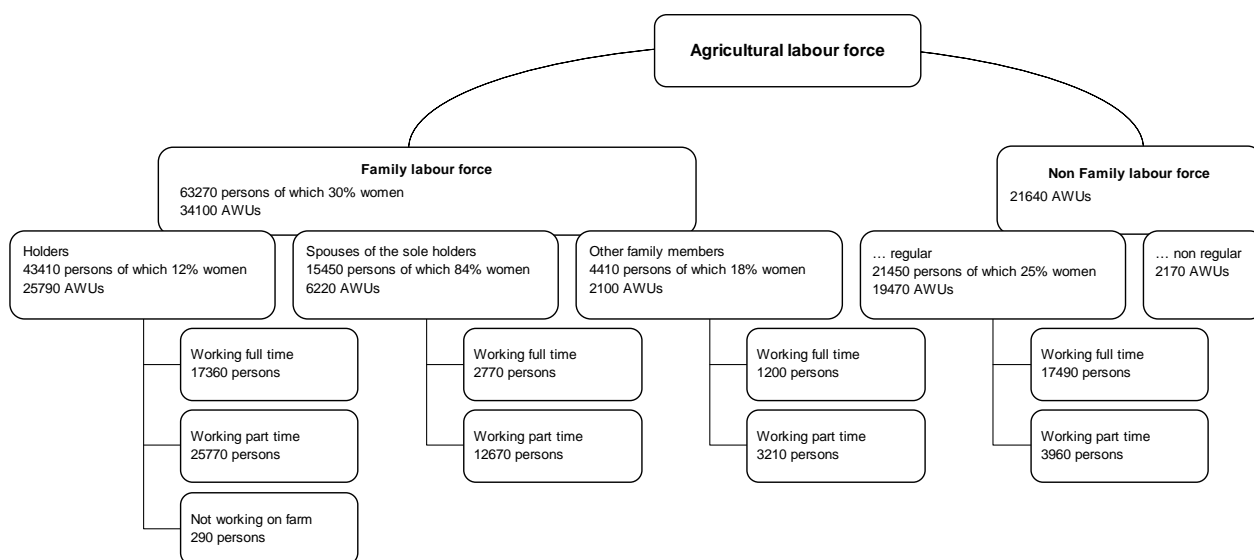
The share of farms with another gainful activity than agricultural production rose from 18% in 2005 to 23% in 2007.

The labour force has decreased by 8% from 2005 to 2007. Considering the regular labour force, the reduction was 12.5% during the same period.

In Denmark 61% of the agricultural land and 66% of the livestock are in farms with 100 ha or more of agriculture area.



Description of the labour force in Denmark



*LSUs = Livestock Unit

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)				
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100	
Total labour force										
1000 annual work units	14.0	8.7	9.7	23.3	55.7	16.3	12.1	3.0	24.4	
Family labour force										
1000 persons	24.9	14.3	10.6	13.5	63.3	20.9	23.2	3.4	15.8	
1000 annual work units	8.9	7.2	7.5	10.6	34.1	9.1	10.0	2.5	12.5	
Non-family labour regularly employed										
1000 persons	5.2	1.6	2.3	12.4	21.4	6.7	2.2	0.6	12.0	
1000 annual work units	4.6	1.2	1.9	11.7	19.5	6.0	1.8	0.4	11.3	
Non regular non family labour force										
1000 annual work units	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.0	2.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.7	
Holding managers	1000	18.6	10.5	7.1	8.2	44.4	16.4	16.2	2.3	9.4
- women	(%)	16.2	9.3	6.9	7.8	11.5	11.2	15.0	7.5	7.0
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	72.0	49.1	16.7	4.9	45.4	61.0	58.4	13.1	3.7
- 50 % and over	(%)	12.2	20.9	16.9	5.4	13.8	12.9	19.3	15.5	5.3
Sole/main holders	1000	18.3	10.3	7.0	7.9	43.4	16.0	16.0	2.3	9.2
- women	(%)	16.4	9.5	7.1	8.2	11.8	11.5	15.3	7.7	7.2
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		4.7	4.3	7.0	10.2	6.0	5.0	4.3	5.4	10.9
- from 35 to 44 years		20.4	18.3	22.3	27.5	21.5	18.6	20.4	18.6	29.2
- from 45 to 54 years		27.1	28.0	29.8	27.9	27.9	25.8	29.0	31.2	29.0
- from 55 to 64 years		24.3	25.8	25.8	21.1	24.3	24.9	25.0	31.5	20.2
- 65 years and over		23.4	23.6	15.1	13.3	20.3	25.7	21.3	13.3	10.7
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	73.5	49.7	17.0	5.1	46.4	62.7	59.2	13.3	3.8
- 50 % and over	(%)	12.5	21.2	17.2	5.6	14.1	13.2	19.6	15.7	5.5
- with another gainful activity ¹	(%)	64.2	54.7	31.0	17.1	48.1	54.9	63.1	28.8	14.9
- as a main occupation		59.6	45.6	18.4	4.9	39.8	48.4	55.3	15.4	4.2
- as a subsidiary occupation		4.5	9.1	12.6	12.2	8.3	6.6	7.9	13.4	10.7
Spouse of sole holder	1000	5.8	3.2	2.7	3.8	15.4	3.9	6.2	0.8	4.6
- women	(%)	76.2	84.6	89.4	90.1	83.6	82.9	77.9	88.0	91.1
-distribution by age	(%)									
- under 35 years		7.8	7.4	11.2	16.0	10.3	7.9	7.8	7.9	16.1
- from 35 to 54 years		57.6	53.9	57.5	57.8	56.9	48.9	58.9	56.6	60.9
- 55 years and over		34.6	38.7	31.4	26.2	32.9	43.2	33.3	35.5	23.0
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	79.5	76.2	58.8	50.5	68.2	75.0	79.2	57.1	49.5
- 50 % and over	(%)	10.4	12.1	18.2	17.6	13.9	10.7	11.3	21.1	18.7
- with another gainful activity	(%)	67.9	63.8	54.6	48.7	60.1	58.3	70.4	52.3	49.0
Other members of the holder's family working on the holding	1000	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.9	4.4	1.0	1.0	0.3	2.1
- women	(%)	28.0	19.5	18.0	13.6	18.3	16.7	26.9	17.8	15.0
- part-time:										
- under 50 %	(%)	75.4	76.9	68.1	44.1	60.9	70.1	77.0	63.5	48.5
- 50 % and over	(%)	9.8	8.0	11.7	14.6	11.9	8.4	10.9	15.8	13.6
- with another gainful activity	(%)	64.4	64.6	54.8	41.7	52.8	58.8	67.2	49.8	43.5

*LSU = Livestock Unit

¹Only holders who are also farms managers

"0" less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms		Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)			
		<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Holdings										
- total number	1000	18.6	10.5	7.1	8.2	44.4	16.4	16.2	2.3	9.4
- by legal personality of the holder	(%)									
- sole holder		98.0	98.9	98.1	96.1	97.9	97.3	98.7	98.4	97.2
- legal person		2.0	1.1	1.8	3.9	2.1	2.7	1.3	1.6	2.8
- group holders		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- by employed labour force	(%)									
- under 1 AWU		78.9	62.7	25.8	4.4	52.9	69.1	69.4	20.8	4.1
- from 1 to less than 2 AWU		15.0	30.8	52.3	29.6	27.4	21.0	24.8	64.4	33.9
- from 2 to less than 3 AWU		2.7	4.3	16.2	29.8	10.2	4.8	3.9	11.4	30.3
- 3 AWU and over		3.3	2.1	5.7	36.2	9.5	5.1	1.9	3.4	31.7
- by economic size	(%)									
- from 1 to less than 8 ESU		61.1	1.7	0	0	26.1	31.3	39.6	0.6	0
- from 8 to less than 16 ESU		29.2	19.2	0.1	0	16.8	21.2	24.0	2.9	0.1
- from 16 to less than 40 ESU		4.4	64.9	16.0	0.2	19.7	23.3	25.0	29.4	2.0
- from 40 to less than 100 ESU		1.6	11.8	54.5	12.1	14.4	13.7	8.7	55.2	15.4
- 100 ESU and over		3.7	2.4	29.3	87.7	23.0	10.4	2.8	11.8	82.5
- by type of farming (top 5 + 'other')	(%)									
... specialist cereals, oil seed and protein crops		37.7	52.2	34.9	20.8	37.6	64.0	33.9	12.4	4.0
... general field cropping		17.5	17.0	17.2	15.8	17.0	18.3	23.5	10.5	5.2
... specialist dairy farming		1.3	5.9	20.4	26.4	10.1	0	2.0	34.2	35.6
... field crops – grazing livestock combined		12.2	10.5	6.2	3.8	9.3	1.8	18.5	20.6	3.6
... various crops and livestock combined		0.9	4.3	10.7	19.6	6.7	0.1	0.8	7.3	28.3
Other types		30.5	10.0	10.5	13.5	19.4	15.8	21.4	14.9	23.3
- by farming methods	(%)									
- organic farming		3.9	5.5	4.9	5.6	4.8	3.5	5.7	6.6	4.9
- irrigating		3.4	8.0	17.3	25.0	10.7	7.9	5.2	16.0	23.7
- with crops under glass		3.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.6	3.3	0.9	0.5	0.2
- with another gainful activity than agricultural production:	(%)									
Tourism		0.8	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.1
Handicraft		3.6	3.1	2.4	1.4	2.9	3.9	3.2	1.2	0.9
Processing of farm products		0.7	0.5	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.5
Wood processing		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aquaculture		0	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0
Renewable energy production		0.6	1.6	3.5	8.2	2.7	2.2	1.4	3.1	5.7
Contractual work		5.3	10.7	15.2	21.2	11.1	12.1	8.4	10.8	14.2
Other gainful activities n.a.e		10.1	8.9	7.7	6.9	8.8	9.2	11.2	6.6	4.7

*LSU = Livestock unit

"0" less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)				
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100	
Area	(1000 ha)									
Total area of agricultural holdings	241.6	374.8	543.2	1814.4	2974.0	865.6	559.2	167.0	1382.2	
• H. Other area	55.6	38.0	33.7	186.4	313.7	112.9	95.4	29.1	76.3	
Wooded area	33.8	20.5	15.2	138.5	208.0	78.8	63.4	23.1	42.6	
• Agricultural area	186.0	336.8	509.5	1628.0	2660.3	752.7	463.8	137.9	1305.9	
- D. Arable land	139.7	299.7	470.1	1540.4	2450.0	702.5	391.9	119.3	1236.3	
Cereals	85.7	195.5	271.9	892.1	1445.2	464.1	239.4	61.4	680.3	
<i>Common wheat and spelt</i>	28.2	76.1	122.5	464.9	691.7	229.0	97.3	21.9	343.4	
<i>Durum wheat</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rye</i>	2.5	4.0	5.1	18.5	30.0	12.5	5.9	1.1	10.6	
<i>Barley</i>	48.6	101.1	127.1	349.5	626.2	197.8	117.3	33.1	278.0	
<i>Oats</i>	3.6	8.9	10.1	32.9	55.6	14.2	12.0	3.0	26.5	
<i>Grain maize</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dried pulses	0.3	1.0	0.8	3.6	5.6	2.6	1.1	0.2	1.7	
Root crops	1.5	5.9	13.9	63.0	84.3	42.9	12.0	3.6	25.8	
<i>Potatoes</i>	0.6	1.9	5.5	33.2	41.2	21.8	5.7	1.8	11.9	
<i>Sugar beet</i>	0.7	3.1	7.2	28.4	39.3	21.0	5.7	0.9	11.8	
<i>Fodder root</i>	0.3	0.8	1.3	1.4	3.8	0.1	0.6	1.0	2.1	
Industrial crops	5.5	18.6	31.2	124.8	180.1	58.5	25.0	5.1	91.4	
<i>Tobacco</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Hops</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Cotton</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Rape and turnip</i>	5.5	18.6	31.1	124.7	179.8	58.4	25.0	5.1	91.4	
<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	0.9	1.1	2.0	7.0	11.1	7.7	1.9	0.2	1.2	
<i>outside</i>	0.8	1.1	2.0	7.0	11.0	7.6	1.9	0.2	1.2	
<i>under glass</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	
Flower and ornamental plants	0.4	0.1	0	0	0.5	0.4	0	0	0	
<i>outside</i>	0.1	0	0	0	0.2	0.1	0	0	0	
<i>under glass</i>	0.3	0	0	0	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	
Forage plants	37.5	49.4	104.0	280.5	471.4	33.2	70.2	38.8	329.2	
Fallow land	6.1	22.1	32.1	97.0	157.4	52.7	24.8	7.1	72.7	
- E. Kitchen garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- F. Permanent pasture and meadows	43.9	34.6	37.0	85.3	200.8	43.2	70.1	18.5	68.9	
- G. Permanent crops	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.3	9.5	7.0	1.8	0.1	0.7	
Fruit and berry plantation	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	6.8	5.0	1.2	0	0.6	
Citrus plantation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Olive trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vineyard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ratios										
Agricultural area per holding	(ha)	10.0	32.2	71.9	199.1	60.0	45.9	28.6	59.5	138.7
Agricultural area...	(%)									
... own farmed		89.8	83.7	77.0	63.8	70.7	70.3	78.9	75.1	67.5
... in less favoured or mountain area		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
... organic farmed		4.2	5.2	4.7	5.1	5.0	3.0	6.5	8.6	5.3
... irrigated		2.2	4.7	9.3	11.5	9.6	6.8	5.0	10.4	12.6

*LSU = Livestock unit

":" not available

"0" less than half of the unit or nil

Size of the farms	Agricultural area (ha)				All farms	Livestock (LSU*)			
	<20	20-<50	50-<100	>=100		0	>0-<50	50-<100	>=100
Total livestock (1000 LSU)	506.5	291.1	775.8	3008.4	4581.8	0	202.7	167.0	4212.1
of which grazing (%)	21.4	46.2	35.5	22.2	25.9	:	90.5	78.7	20.7
Grazing livestock (1000 heads)									
Equidae	30.8	11.3	4.9	5.2	52.2	0	42.6	4.1	5.6
Bovine animals	118.3	185.7	377.2	885.0	1566.2	0	218.9	189.8	1157.5
Under 1 year	43.9	73.9	127.9	275.1	520.8	0	84.6	77.9	358.3
From 1 to less than 2 years	24.0	35.7	75.4	164.1	299.2	0	45.0	38.4	215.8
Dairy cows	9.7	28.3	129.3	378.1	545.4	0	9.3	40.9	495.2
Other cows	30.5	33.7	21.3	20.5	106.0	0	61.4	19.9	24.6
Other bovine animals 2 years and older	10.3	14.2	23.3	47.2	94.8	0	18.5	12.7	63.6
Sheep	58.2	35.5	19.3	43.3	156.3	0	89.2	23.0	44.0
Goats	6.9	1.7	2.6	3.3	14.4	0	7.3	3.7	3.4
Granivores									
Pigs (1000 heads)	1626.1	556.9	1952.0	9588.5	13723.5	0	68.7	122.8	13532.0
Piglets < 20 kg	590.1	130.1	564.4	2985.5	4270.1	0	15.1	15.4	4239.5
Breeding sows	203.6	41.6	187.3	976.3	1408.8	0	4.7	4.8	1399.2
Other pigs	832.4	385.2	1200.3	5626.7	8044.6	0	48.8	102.5	7893.3
Poultry (million heads)	2.6	1.2	3.2	9.7	16.7	0	0.1	0.1	16.5
Broilers	1.5	0.3	2.2	7.6	11.8	0	0	0	11.7
Laying hens	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.8	4.2	0	0.1	0.1	4.0
Other poultry	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8	0	0	0	0.7
Rabbits, breeding females (1000 heads)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beehives (1000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average size of herds* (head/holding)									
Equidae (head/holding)	6.7	7.1	5.2	5.0	6.4	:	6.4	12.4	4.7
Cattle (head/holding)	23.4	47.6	117.9	257.3	100.3	:	24.2	100.4	248.6
Dairy cows (head/holding)	29.8	33.9	75.7	150.2	101.3	:	13.3	41.5	133.9
Other cows (head/holding)	7.3	12.8	16.3	19.0	11.5	:	8.5	25.1	20.5
Sheep (head/holding)	37.6	61.6	59.5	137.0	56.6	:	39.9	144.6	120.0
Goats (head/holding)	18.0	11.9	28.2	33.0	20.1	:	14.0	90.2	22.0
Pigs (head/holding)	1467.6	443.4	1177.3	3003.9	1902.6	:	56.7	213.5	2493.5
Breeding sows (head/holding)	339.9	76.5	265.6	557.9	391.5	:	7.6	29.4	497.1
Other pigs > 20 kg (head/holding)	791.2	318.3	729.7	1767.7	1134.8	:	44.2	180.2	1457.4
Rabbits, breeding females (head/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Laying hens (1000/holding)	0.5	1.2	2.4	7.1	1.5	:	0	0.6	9.5
Broilers (1000/holding)	16.6	7.1	42.8	83.1	41.1	:	0	0.3	74.4
Beehives (hive/holding)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

*LSU = Livestock unit

": " not available

Size of the farms	Absolute figures			% of total	
	Total	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU	< 1 ESU	>= 1 ESU
Regular Labour force (1000 pers)	85.1	0.4	84.7	0.4	99.6
Regular Labour force (1000 AWU)	53.7	0.1	53.6	0.2	99.8
Holder with... (1000)	43.7	0.3	43.4	0.6	99.4
... at least 65 years	8.9	0.1	8.8	0.8	99.2
... another gainful activity	20.9	0.2	20.8	0.8	99.2
Number of sole holdings (1000)	44.6	0.3	44.4	0.6	99.4
... producing mainly for own consumption	0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
... producing mainly for direct sales	0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:
SGM (1000 ESU)	3576.2	0.1	3576.1	0.0	100.0
Agricultural area (1000 ha)	2662.6	2.3	2660.3	0.1	99.9
... own farmed	1882.0	2.3	1879.7	0.1	99.9
Livestock (1000 LSU*)	4582.2	0.4	4581.8	0.0	100.0

*LSU = Livestock Unit

► METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The survey on the structure of agricultural holdings in Denmark was carried out in June 2007 on a sample basis. Prior to this survey, a full-scale agricultural census was last conducted in 1999. The reference day of the farm structure survey was the 15 June 2007 in the case of land area, land use and livestock. For the labour force characteristics the reference period was the 12 months preceding the reference day of the survey.

According to the national definition, an agricultural holding is an economic and technical unit which produces agricultural products and which can be run by one person, by a group of persons or by a company. Units having the agriculture as the secondary activity are also included.

On the basis of the Statistical Farm Register (that has been updated by the subsequent sample surveys from 2001-2006), a stratified sample was drawn. The holdings – including the newly established ones – have been stratified into 8 groups by economic size of the farms [using standard gross margin (SGM) at 1995 prices], by regions (9 regions) and by type of farming (11 categories significant in Denmark). In practice 700 strata were used (from the 792 possible). In each stratum farms are selected randomly. The extrapolation factor is calculated simply as the number of farms in the population divided by the number of farms in the sample within each stratum. Some specific horticultural farms were covered exhaustively (type of farming 21, 32 and 61). The selection ratio is also 100% for all the new and for big farms (with over 100 ha of agriculture area). In 2007 the sample consisted of 24 865 units which, when extrapolated, provided 44 618 farms.

The list of characteristics and their definitions were fully compliant with the EU requirements concerning the Farm Structure Survey 2007. However, when calculating the stratum by the type of farming, one group is calculated differently from the common European standard. In Denmark the farm type 61 includes all farms where more than 1/2 of the standard gross margin (SGM) comes from the sum of horticulture and permanent crops (except those farms which are classified under 21 and 32), instead of considering type 61 all the farms with at least 1/3 of the SGM from horticulture and another 1/3 from permanent crops.

In Denmark the FSS makes use of data from other registers in order to reduce the burden on the farmers and also to diminish the expenses of the survey. 44 characteristics of the FSS are drawn from the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) register, the registrations of bovine animals and the Organic Farm Register.

The data are controlled at different levels. They are checked manually for major differences among farms included in previous surveys. The first check covers 15 to 20% of the questionnaires, and the doubts are removed by telephone contacts with the farmers. In a second step unrealistic and missing data are checked automatically. A final control is done on the aggregated results, compared with the previous ones by checking the discrepancies.

Non-response is not a significant problem in the Danish FSS concerning only 0.5% of the farms. For strata's with non-response the extrapolation factor is corrected proportionately to the non-response. The information from previous surveys and experts' opinions were also used.

Between FSS 2005 and 2007 "maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental conditions" (GAEC) became an agricultural activity and the concerned land has been included in the agricultural area. In Denmark it covers 2 100 ha, all the area being in farms with at least 1 ESU.

For each activity ('enterprise') on a farm (for instance wheat, dairy cow or vineyard), a 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 a 1200-euro standard gross margin).

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

► REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Farm Structure Survey, 2007. National Methodological Report, Denmark (available at request).

Website of the Statistics Denmark: <http://www.dst.dk/>

Table bank for data: www.statbank.dk

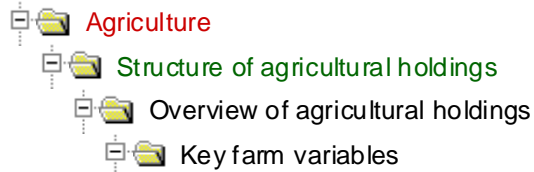
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