

Farm structure (ef)

National Reference Metadata in ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS)

Compiling agency: Please provide the name of the organisation of the contact points for the data or metadata. Statistics Austria

Time Dimension: 2013-A0

Data Provider: AT1

Data Flow: FSS_ESQRS_A:1.0



Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

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1. Contact

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1.1. Contact organisation	<i>Please provide the name of the organisation of the contact points for the data or metadata.</i> Statistics Austria
1.2. Contact organisation unit	<i>Please specify an addressable subdivision of an organisation.</i> Directorate Spatial Statistics Agriculture and Forestry
1.5. Contact mail address	<i>Please specify the postal address of the contact points for the data or metadata.</i> Statistics Austria Directorate Spatial Statistics Guglgasse 13 1110 Vienna Austria

2. Introduction

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2.a. Brief description of the national history of Farm Structure Surveys (FSS)

*This item is of special interest for countries with less experience in FSS surveys. In these cases it is useful to include a brief description about the related statistical activities e.g. establishment/update of the statistical register, etc. Please keep the description **brief** (expected length of maximum 250 words)*

Austria conducted its first survey of all agricultural and forestry holdings in 1902. Subsequent farm surveys were held in 1930, 1939 and 1951, and every ten years from 1960 to 1990. These were interspersed with land-use surveys, conducted every three to four years, and, as from 1973, labour-force surveys. Surveys of machinery and equipment were also carried out separately at six-year intervals. The first Farm Structure Survey based on a random sample was conducted in 1993, but the questionnaire was still largely based on the characteristics of the 1990 Agricultural Census for the sake of comparability in the continuation of the national time series. It nevertheless incorporated some initial adjustments to bring it closer into line with EU requirements while taking account of Austria's own needs. The questionnaire for the 1995 survey was completely aligned with the EU's list of characteristics in the year of accession. Following a consequent recommendation by the Working Party of the special advisory subcommittee on Agricultural Statistics, a full survey was conducted. Another sample survey was carried out in 1997, and Austria was permitted for the first time to use administrative data. The European Union intended the Farm Structure Survey to be carried out in the form of a comprehensive census at the turn of the decade, with the Member States able to choose between 1999 and 2000. In Austria, the FSS took place in 1999, with a reference date of 1 June. The Farm Structure Surveys 2003 and 2005, in common with that of 2007, took the form of a sample survey with 1 December as the reference date. The Farm Structure Survey 2010 was conducted in form of a census on the reference date 31 October 2010. The next sample survey is planned for 2016, the next census for 2020.

2.b. Brief description of the national legislation of FSS

*Please **briefly** specify the following provisions from the national legislation:*

At national level, Austria's Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management (MoA) adopted the Regulation

- the reference of the national legal base of the FSS survey (Act, Government Decree, etc.)	(BGBl. II No 284/2013) regarding the preparation of statistics concerning the structure of the agricultural holdings in the year 2013 on the basis of the Federal Statistics Act 2000, BGBl. I No 163/1999, as last amended by BGBl. I No 136/2001, BGBl. I No 71/2003, BGBl. I No 92/2007, BGBl. I No 125/2009 and BGBl. I No. 111/2010.
- the scope and the coverage of the survey	<p>Statistical units, survey population Statistical units are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural and forestry holdings with an utilized agricultural area of at least 1 hectare; • Wine-growing holdings with at least 25 ares under market vines; • Holdings with at least 15 ares of intensively utilized fruit orchards or 10 ares under berries, strawberries, vegetables, hops, flowers or ornamental plants or under vine or forestry or tree-, forest- and viticultural nurseries; • Holdings which operate greenhouses (under glass or foil) covering at least one are, the majority of the produce being grown for market; • Forestry holdings with at least 3 hectare of wooded area; • Livestock holdings with at least 3 head of cattle or 5 pigs or 10 sheep or 10 goats or 100 poultry (any type). <p>The sample survey covered 30.000 holdings.</p> <p>Survey characteristics The characteristics to be surveyed are listened in the appendix of the regulation.</p> <p>Survey type Individual characteristics shall be covered by using administrative data, if available. Other survey characteristics shall be collected by questioning all statistical units. The questions are asked using standardised survey documents (electronic questionnaire and explanatory notes), which are designed and made available to the respondents by Statistics Austria.</p>
- the frequency and the reference period of the survey	<p>The frequency of the surveys is determined by the European legislation and each survey is dealt with under a separate national regulation. Reference dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 April 2013 for details regarding livestock data, • 15 May 2013 for details regarding ownership conditions and land-area-related survey characteristics and • 31 October 2013 for all other survey characteristics. <p>Reference periods are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013 for details regarding machinery, labour force and other gainful activities, • 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 for details regarding arable land, land and irrigation, • the calendar year 2013 for details regarding livestock, in cases where livestock husbandry holdings have not put up a single head of the reared livestock on the reference day (1 April 2013). • 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013 for support for rural development.
- the responsibility for the survey	<p>Statistics Austria has to fulfill the commitments of Austria, by conducting surveys and producing reliable statistics according to EU and national legal bases. Austria's Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management (MoA) adopted the Regulation (BGBl. II No 284/2013) regarding the preparation of statistics concerning the structure of the agricultural holdings in the year 2013. The tasks and obligations of Statistics Austria in terms of compiling federal statistics are laid down in the Federal Statistics Act 2000 (BGBl. I No 163/1999, as last amended by BGBl. I No 136/2001, BGBl. I No 71/2003, BGBl. I No 92/2007, BGBl. I No 125/2009 and BGBl. I No. 111/2010).</p> <p>Statistics Austria is required to inform respondents of the legal consequences, under Article 66 of the Federal Statistics Act 2000, as amended, of refusing to provide information and of giving information which the respondent knows to be incorrect.</p>
- the administrative and financial provisions	<p>There are provisions on the publication of the results, on the transmission of data to the LFBIS and on reimbursement of costs.</p> <p>Transmission of data to the LFBIS Statistics Austria is required to transmit the data on individual holdings to the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, the Environment and Water Management for inclusion in the Agriculture and Forestry Holding Information System (LFBIS).</p>
- the obligations of the respondents with respect to the survey	<p>Obligation to provide information Article 9 of the Federal Statistics Act 2000, as amended on survey characteristics lays down an obligation to provide information insofar as it cannot be obtained from administrative data. Physical and legal persons and partnerships under commercial law who/which operate a statistical unit in their own name are obliged to provide information. Moreover, natural and legal persons and partnerships under commercial law who either operate a selected holding which does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the survey or who sold or closed their holding are required to provide the relevant information in the form of a reasoned nil return.</p> <p>Obligation on respondents to cooperate Respondents have to provide their information on time, in full and to best of their knowledge. The information can be provided during a telephone interview with specially trained staff of Statistics Austria or independently by filling in an electronic questionnaire (direct respondents). The deadline for the direct respondents was 28 November 2013. Those farmers, who took the help of the interviewers to complete and submit their questionnaire, either called directly the free hotline – or arranged an interview by sending the reply card back to Statistics Austria, filled in with their telephone number and availability (weekday and time window). This had to be done until 15 November 2013.</p> <p>Obligations on other persons The former managers (holders) of statistical units are obliged to cooperate in the identification of the new respondent by Statistics Austria.</p>
- the identification, protection and obligations of survey enumerators	not applicable.
	<p>Obligations on the holders of administrative data to cooperate Under the Federal Statistics Act 2000 (BGBl. I No 163/1999, as last amended by BGBl. I No 136/2001, BGBl. I No 71/2003, BGBl. I No</p>

- the right of access to administrative data	92/2007, BGBl. I No 125/2009 and BGBl. I No. 111/2010), Statistics Austria is required to use the available administrative data instead of information obtained using its own questionnaires, so as to minimize the respondents' workload. On the other hand there is an obligation on the holders of administrative data to cooperate. According to the Regulation (BGBl. II No. 284/2013) regarding the preparation of statistics concerning the structure of the agricultural holdings in the year 2013 Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA) is required to transmit the administrative data necessary for collecting the survey characteristics at the request of Statistics Austria free of charge on an electronic data carrier.
- confidentiality provisions	The Federal Statistics Act 2000 (BGBl. I No 163/1999, as last amended by BGBl. I No 136/2001, BGBl. I No 71/2003, BGBl. I No 92/2007, BGBl. I No 125/2009 and BGBl. I No. 111/2010) contains provisions governing data protection. The surveyed data are subject of confidentiality (§ 17 Federal Statistics Act – Statistical Confidentiality) and will be treated in the strictest confidence; a forwarding of data to third parties is permitted only under the in the legal bases mentioned conditions (e.g. the transmission of data to the LFBIS: see above- administrative and financial provisions).

3. Quality management - assessment

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[Not requested]

4. Relevance

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4.1. Relevance - User Needs

4.1.a Overview of the main groups of national characteristics

Please indicate the main groups of national characteristics which are surveyed.

Please include references to characteristics surveyed only for national purposes and mention for which purposes and where the request came from (i.e. which are the users).

In order to satisfy both national needs and various Directives, the survey of the individual characteristics was more detailed for certain groups. Those characteristics were aggregated prior to transmission to Eurostat in line with the rules for the provision of FSS data (see **Annex 1 national characteristics**).

4.1.b Reference periods/dates of the main groups of national characteristics

Please indicate the reference periods/dates of the main groups of national characteristics. *(new)* Please provide justifications if the reference periods/dates from the Regulation 1166/2008 are not respected.

The reference periods/dates from the Regulation 1166/2008 are respected.

Reference dates of the main groups of national characteristics are:

- 1 April 2013 for details regarding livestock data,
- 15 May 2013 for details regarding ownership conditions and land-area-related survey characteristics and
- 31 October 2013 for all other survey characteristics.

Reference periods of the main groups of national characteristics are:

- 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013 for details regarding machinery, labour force and other gainful activities,
- 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 for details regarding arable land, land and irrigation,
- the calendar year 2013 for details regarding livestock, in cases where livestock husbandry holdings have not put up a single head of the reared livestock on the reference day (1 April 2013),
- 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013 for support for rural development.

Annexes:

[National-characteristics](#)

4.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

[Not requested]

4.3. Completeness

Characteristics not collected (non-significant, non-existent or *(new)* possibly not collected for other reasons)

For non-significant or non-existent characteristics, you may repeat the information sent to Eurostat according to art. 7 par. 3 of Regulation 1166/2008. You can also attach the relevant file to this section using the "Add file" button below. The overall answer to this item should provide information on:

- the list of characteristics non-significant and the list of characteristics non-existent from the EU list of characteristics [\[1\]](#);
- the reasons i.e. the prevalence or physical thresholds;
- the source(s) of information used (for the prevalence or physical thresholds);
- *(new)* how are non-significant or non-existent characteristics marked in the dataset transmitted to Eurostat.

(new) In addition, please specify whether non-significant characteristics are reported under the headings of other characteristics (as in the case of some countries). If yes, please specify which those other characteristics are and please indicate if the Standard Output of those other characteristics is recalculated considering the inclusion of the non-significant characteristics.

According to art 7 par. 3 of the Regulation 1166/2008 Austria informed the Commission on 11. 12. 2012 about the characteristics excluded from the data collection (shown in **Annex 2 NE_NS_admin_sources**).

Non-significant or non-existent characteristics are indicated as "0" or ":-".

Destination of the holding's production: Household consumes more than 50 % of the value of the final production of the holding is not significant and indicated as "n"

Support for rural development: Holding benefited from one of the following rural development measures during the last 3 years: RD measures not offered/not existent in Austria are indicated with "n"

The following not significant characteristics are reported under the headings of other characteristics:

- "Flax" under "other fibre crops (code B_1_6_11)"
- "Nuts" under "Fruit species" (code B_4_1_1)"
- Kiwis/"Fruit of subtropical climate zones" under "Fruit of temperate climate zones (code "
- "Table grapes" under "Quality wine/Vineyards (code B_4_4_1)"

The Standard Output is not recalculated considering the inclusion of the non-significant characteristics.

[1]:See Annex III of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88.

Annexes:

[NE_NS_adm_sources](#)

4.3.1. Data completeness - rate

[Not requested]

5. Accuracy and reliability

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5.1. Accuracy - overall

Main sources of error

Please provide a **brief** general assessment on the main sources of error (e.g. sampling errors, measurement errors etc.)

In all cases where precision requirements are applicable the precision requirements are met. The **relative standard errors (RSEs)** are below the thresholds stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008. In this context it also has to be stressed that in accordance with Eurostat specifications, only one weighting is to be used for each holding within a stratum. Especially in strata with a high weight the extrapolation of characteristics with a lower frequency may lead to results, which would afford calibration/post-stratification for this characteristic.

5.2. Sampling error

*Section 5.2 should be completed **only** in case of sample surveys.*

5.2.a. Applicability of precision requirements (precision criteria)

The precision requirements stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008 are applicable only in some cases, depending on the actual value of characteristics. Thus, we are first interested to know the actual value of characteristics, in order to determine the applicability of precision requirements.

Please provide the actual values of the characteristics in a separate Excel file (template provided by Eurostat) and annex the completed file using the "Add file" button below. Here, we are interested in the point estimates (the weighted values), **NOT** in the relative standard errors (RSEs).

5.2.b. Method used for estimation of relative standard errors (RSEs)

Please describe the method used for estimation of RSEs. You can annex a document with the description of method and formulae applied, using the "Add file" button.

The customary standard formulae for estimation of RSEs is shown in **Annex_5_Formula_RSE**.

Annexes:

[Applicability of precision requirements](#)

[Relative standard errors](#)

[Formula_RSE](#)

5.2.1. Sampling error - indicators

5.2.1.a Relative standard errors (RSEs)

(new - the information request is not new, but only the template) Please provide the RSEs in a separate Excel file (template provided by Eurostat) and annex the completed file using the "Add file" button below. The Excel file comprises tables related to the precision requirements stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008.

5.2.1.b. (new) Reasons for possible cases where precision requirements are applicable and estimated RSEs are above the thresholds

The cases where precision requirements are applicable are identified with the information provided in section 5.2.a. For those cases, the requirement is that the estimated RSEs are below the thresholds stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008. However, in some of these cases, estimated RSEs might be above the thresholds. In the latter cases, please provide justifications.

In all cases where precision requirements are applicable the precision requirements are met. The estimated RSEs are below the thresholds stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008.

5.3. Non-sampling error

*Section 5.3 should be completed **only** in case of a sample survey or a census.*

*Section 5.3 should **not** be completed when data are **entirely** taken from administrative sources. In this case, section 12.1.e.5 of the report provides the relevant information.*

Assessment of possible bias

If comparison with another source or consistency study is made, please give a **brief** description of the source used and the differences observed which can be proof of bias.

(new) Please also consider here bias risks associated with non-response by assessing the distribution of non-response across holdings' categories.

1. Primary statistics

The characteristics collected as primary statistics during the Farm Structure Survey were subjected to a plausibility check at micro level and key characteristics were also compared with any available data at macro level (see also 12.4. data validation). In addition, various tests and monitoring measures were carried out during the plausibility checks.

Non-response is reduced by the electronic questionnaire, which was designed in such a way that it could only be sent once the compulsory fields had been correctly completed. To prevent individual pages of the questionnaire being inadvertently missed out, a marker was placed on each page of the Internet questionnaire which had to be set to signify that the page had been completed. There were also cross-checks between dependent items in the questionnaire (e.g. OGA - energy and equipment). In the hindsight it is not possible to quantify non-response across holdings' categories. In general it is obvious that the risk of non-response tends to be higher in the context of characteristics, which can hardly be cross-checked or which might be considered to be more confidential by the respondents.

2. Secondary statistics (see point 12.1.e.5)

5.3.1. Coverage error

5.3.1.a Under-coverage errors

Under-coverage units are target population units that are not accessible via the frame. This mainly includes new units not included in the frame, either through real birth or demergers, and wrongly classified units. This generally leads to bias in the estimates. If possible, please provide an assessment on the extent of under-coverage.

There is no under-coverage of agricultural holdings, because newly created holdings usually submit subsidy applications and their administrative data are used for inclusion in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR).

5.3.1.b Over-coverage

Over-coverage units are units that do not belong to the target population. Please mention whether the data was corrected for over-coverage and if yes, please describe.

Since holdings are identified by a unique holding number and they have only one chance of selection in the sample and only one return can be submitted for each holding number, there has been practically no over-recording. Over-coverage: The sample weights were not adapted because of non-response due to non-existence of holdings or when holdings fell below the thresholds at the time of the data collection.

5.3.1.c Misclassification errors

Misclassification refers to wrongly classified units (for example by geographical area or size) which belong to the target population. Please provide an assessment on the extent of misclassification errors and how they were addressed.

Did not occur.

5.3.1.d Contact errors

They refer to units with incomplete or incorrect contact data. Please describe how possible errors were corrected.

Documents had to be reissued to 371 holdings whose documents had been lost or "misplaced". 21 holdings had their documents sent 2 times, one holding needed 3 and another one holding even needed 4 deliveries.

About 170 holdings (approximately 0.57 % of the number to whom the documents were sent) whose documents were returned to Statistics Austria as undeliverable because of incorrect or incomplete addresses were identified with the help of the communes or the internet, and the documents were resent.

5.3.1.e Multiple listings

Multiple listings are units which are present more than once in the frame. Please indicate the proportion of multiple listings in the frame which are present more than once in the frame and specify how the duplicates were eliminated.

Did not occur.

5.3.1.f Other relevant information, if any

not applicable

5.3.1.1. Over-coverage - rate

Please provide the value of the over-coverage rate.

The over-coverage rate is the proportion of units accessible via the frame which do not belong to the target population (e.g. holdings with ceased activities still included in the frame).

The frame essentially comprised active holdings in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) meeting the thresholds of the FSS. According to the national definition (including holdings with more than 3 ha forest) there were 178726 units and 155184 units according to the EU definition. Quality of the frame is ensured by the routine maintenance of the Agricultural and Forestry Register (AFR), which is continually updated in the light of various primary agricultural surveys and by updates/comparison with various types of administrative data (applications for subsidies, social insurance information, necrologies etc.).

The target population of the FSS 2013 comprises 166317 units (national) and 140433 units (EU).

Per definition the over-coverage rate would be 6.9% and 9.5% respectively.

5.3.2. Measurement error

5.3.2.a Causes of measurement errors in the FSS survey

The causes are commonly categorised as:

- *Survey instrument: the form, questionnaire or measuring device used for data collection may lead to the recording of wrong values;*
- *Respondent: respondents may, consciously or unconsciously, give erroneous data;*
- *Interviewer: interviewers may influence the answers given by respondents.*

Please include here possible problems caused by difficult questions, unclear definitions, sensitive questions etc. which are likely to determine measurement errors.

Measurement errors:

The recording errors that were made by respondents (e.g. wrong unit of measurement for cultivated area) were able to be adjusted during the plausibility checks;

5.3.2.b If available, failure rates during data editing. Please mention if the data was corrected.

Not applicable due to the electronic questionnaire.

5.3.2.c If available, assessments based on comparisons with external data, re-interviews, etc.

see 5.3.4.b

5.3.3. Non response error

5.3.3.a (new) Unit non-response: reasons and treatment

Please specify the reasons for unit non-response and how the unit non-response was accounted for. Unit non-response can be accounted for by e.g. re-weighting, imputation.

In the end 69 units refused to fill in the questionnaire. Their data could be imputed by using administrative or other data-sources (Internet, etc.). The main reason for unit non response is the lack of willingness to bear the burden of filling in the questionnaire or to contact the hotline or to be available for a telephone-interview.

5.3.3.b Item non-response: reasons and treatment

Please mention any characteristic(s) having higher item non-response rate together with the reasons of the item non-response. This information is important and will be useful for the organisation of future surveys. Please also specify how the item non-response was accounted for. Item non-response can be accounted for by e.g. re-weighting, imputation.

The electronic questionnaire was designed in such a way that it could only be sent once the compulsory fields had been correctly completed. This made it possible to reduce the non-response rate. In the paper-based questionnaires in previous surveys, characteristics frequently came back uncompleted. Similarly, to prevent individual pages of the questionnaire being inadvertently missed out, a marker was placed on each page of the Internet questionnaire which had to be set to signify that the page had been completed. There were also cross-checks between dependent items in the questionnaire (e.g. OGA - energy and equipment). In addition, various tests and monitoring measures were carried out during the plausibility checks.

5.3.3.1. Unit non-response - rate

Please provide the ratio of the number of non-responding holdings with no information or not usable information (item 5.1, table in section 12.3.d) to the total number of in-scope (eligible) units (item 5, table in section 12.3.d).

69/29.058 = 0.237%

5.3.3.2. Item non-response - rate

Please provide the ratio of the in-scope (eligible) units which have not responded to a particular item (characteristic) to the in-scope (eligible) units that are required to respond to that particular item (characteristic). Please provide this rate for characteristics with high item non-response.

Item non response can virtually be excluded for most characteristics due to the measures mentioned above (electronic questionnaire).

5.3.4. Processing error

5.3.4.a Assessment of processing errors affecting individual observations

Please give a quantitative or qualitative assessment of processing errors.

During the FSS 2013 there were no internet problems where datasets could not be sent or only incomplete datasets could be sent.

5.3.4.b Completion/correction methods applied

These can consist of follow-up interviews, imputation, re-weighting, use of other data sources etc. Please describe.

(see also 12.4.) What is given here is a general information on how missing data was dealt with, regardless for what reason data were missing.

The data sets were checked for missing, incorrect or implausible information, using an extensive plausibility application. Holdings with missing, incorrect or implausible data were detected by the program. About 75 % of the questionnaires needed further checking due to information errors (information errors see 12.4.a) or "real" errors. For each holding, all errors and information errors were listed and categorised. The correcting operations took place directly in the plausibility application. The staff themselves could correct logical obvious errors. Frequent meetings of the staff facilitated information flows. Discussing the main issues arising from the work made it easier to standardise the criteria to solve similar situations.

Missing or incorrect entries were completed from other data sources wherever available (e.g. administrative data from IACS or ÖPUL, "total area information" from the social insurance for farmers) to avoid burdening the respondents. The forestry yearbook, containing the areas of Austria's largest forestry holdings, was another means of checking data. If these sources were not exhaustive, individual items from the 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 or 2010 Farm Structure Survey were used, wherever possible, to check and/or supplement the data. Where this did not provide clarity, individual holdings had to be contacted by telephone.

Moreover, the nil returns were examined. If, for example, administrative information on the holding was available, the nil return was rejected and the holding was surveyed again. This was done in close collaboration with staff dealing with the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR), as the information from the nil returns (business closure, leasing, etc.) were used for updating the registers.

5.3.4.c Imputation methods

Please specify what kind of imputation methods were used and for which items (characteristics).

see 5.3.4.b

5.3.4.d Tools used and people/organisations authorised to make corrections

The data sets were checked for missing, incorrect or implausible information, using an extensive plausibility application. The Statistics Austria's project team which were specially trained and authorised to process and rectify the data sets made the corrections.

5.3.4.1. Imputation - rate

Please provide the ratio of the number of replaced values to the total number of values for a given characteristic, for each main characteristic where this method was applied.

The imputation-rate could be kept very low by the measures mentioned in 5.3.3.b, but it cannot be quantified for single characteristics.

5.3.4.2. Common units - proportion

[Not requested]

5.3.5. Model assumption error

In case of models used for estimation, please provide an estimation of related errors.

No models used.

5.3.6. Data revision

N/A

5.3.6.1. Data revision - policy

Brief description of the revision policy

Data revision is not planned so far.

5.3.6.2. Data revision - practice

Data revision practice

Please describe the practice, provide the main reasons for revisions and the extent to which the revisions improved accuracy.
Please provide the average number of revisions (planned and unplanned) for main characteristics.

N/A

5.3.6.3. Data revision - average size

[Not requested]

5.3.7. Seasonal adjustment

[Not requested]

6. Timeliness and punctuality[Top](#)

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6.1. Timeliness

See below

6.1.1. Time lag - first result

Please indicate the number of months from the last day of the reference period to the day of publication of first results.

5 Months; last day of the reference period: 31 December 2013; day of publication of first results: 30 May 2014.

6.1.2. Time lag - final result

Please indicate the number of months from the last day of the reference period to the day of publication of complete and final results.

11 Months; last day of the reference period: 31 December 2013; day of publication of final results: 21 November 2014.

6.2. Punctuality

See below

6.2.1. Punctuality - delivery and publication

Please indicate the number of days between the delivery/ release date of data and the target date on which they were scheduled for delivery/ release.

0 days (release date: 2014/11/21 - target date: 2014/11/21)

0 days (delivery date: 2014/12/03 - target date: 2014/12/03)

7. Accessibility and clarity[Top](#)

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7.1. Dissemination format - News release

[Not requested]

7.2. Dissemination format - Publications

Regular and ad-hoc publications in which data are made available to the public

7.2.a The nature of publications

Please specify the nature of publications. For example, the publications can contain preliminary results or final results, can be technical reports, etc.
Please also specify if the publications contain metadata.

Eurostat – Eurofarm data base and various publications

- Individual data on each holding unit in accordance with EU criteria and requirements were transmitted to Eurostat via eDAMIS for entry in the Eurofarm data base and publication purposes.

Publication of results at national level

Publication of the results of the 2013 Farm Structure Survey were scheduled to take place as follows:

- Press release preliminary information**

The most important data were available in the form of a press release containing preliminary national information on May 30, 2014. The press release was made available on the Internet at www.statistik.at.

- Press release final data**

Final data were available in the form of a press release containing final national information on November 21, 2014. The press release was made available on the Internet at www.statistik.at.

- Summary report**

Furthermore, a summary report containing the results and meta information was published on November 21, 2014.

Pursuant to the Federal Statistics Act 2000, [BGBl. I No 163/1999](#), as last amended by [BGBl. I No 136/2001](#), [BGBl. I No 71/2003](#), [BGBl. I No 92/2007](#), [BGBl. I No 125/2009](#), [BGBl. I No. 111/2010](#) and [BGBl. I No 40/2014](#). Statistics Austria is obliged to make the main results available via the Internet free of charge. They are available at www.statistik.at.

The summary report is available on the Internet free of charge as a pdf file.

- Statistical Yearbook of Austria**

Various Statistics Austria publications contain contributions setting out the results of the FSS.

These publications, which include a CD-ROM, are also available for a fee. They can also be downloaded as pdf files free of charge at www.statistik.at/web_de/services/stat_jahrbuch/index.html.

- Standard tables** on the Statistics Austria homepage

- STATcube** – [Statistics Austria's statistical database](#)

- Standard documentation; meta-information**

(Definitions, explanatory notes, methods, quality)

Concepts, definitions and explanations relating to the information on the FSS 2013, plus notes on the methods used and on quality, are available end of October 2015 free of charge, in a standardised form, at www.statistik.at.

Data transmission to the LFBIS (Agricultural and Forestry Holdings Information System)

The Regulation governing the Farm Structure Survey obliges Statistics Austria to transmit the data to the Federal Minister of Agriculture for entry in the LFBIS.

7.2.b Date of issuing (actual or planned)

- Press release preliminary information May 30, 2014
- Press release final data November 21, 2014
- Summary report November 21, 2014
- Standard tables starting with November 21, 2014
- STATcube starting with December 2014
- Statistical Yearbook and further tables starting 2015
- Standard documentation; meta-information; October 2015

7.2.c References for on-line publications.

- Press release: http://www.statistik.at/dynamic/wcmsprod/jdcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=079739
- Summary report: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/static/agrarstrukturhebung_2013_stichprobe_079748.pdf
- Standard tables: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/land_und_forstwirtschaft/agrarstruktur_flaechen_ertraege/betriebsstruktur/index.html ; http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/land_und_forstwirtschaft/agrarstruktur_flaechen_ertraege/arbeitskraefte/index.html
- STATcube: http://www.statistik.at/web_en/publications_services/superstar_database/index.html
- Standard documentation; meta-information: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/dokumentationen/Land-undForstwirtschaft/index.html

7.3. Dissemination format - online database

Please provide information about on-line databases in which the disseminated data can be accessed.

STATcube is the statistical database system of Statistics Austria — a contemporary product characterised by a user friendly interface. It enables to conduct data analyses and create data reports online in different formats according to various requirements. STATcube is available online at www.statcube.com.

A subscription provides access to more detailed data and additional features not available with the free guest access. This Guest access can be used to assess whether the purchase of a subscription is worthwhile. The database includes features which can only be fully accessed by subscribers (labelled with the tag [partly ABO]) and other features only accessible to subscribers (labelled with the tag [ABO]). Please note: the abbreviation "ABO" stands for the German translation of the term "subscription".

7.3.1. Data tables - consultations

Restricted for publication

7.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

[Not requested]

7.5. Documentation on methodology

7.5.a Available documentation on methodology on FSS national survey

Please provide references.

Standard documentation; meta-information

(Definitions, explanatory notes, methods, quality)

Concepts, definitions and explanations relating to the information on the FSS 2013, plus notes on the methods used and on quality, will be available October 2015 in German free of charge, in a standardised form, at http://www.statistik.at/web_de/dokumentationen/Land-undForstwirtschaft/index.html.

7.5.b Main scientific references

Please provide references.

N/A

7.5.1. Metadata completeness - rate

[Not requested]

7.5.2. Metadata - consultations

[Not requested]

7.6. Quality management - documentation

Available documentation on quality

Please provide references.

see 7.5.a

7.7. Dissemination format - other

[Not requested]

8. Comparability

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8.1. Comparability - geographical

8.1.a National vs. EU definition of a holding

Please indicate possible differences between the national definition and the EU definition of the holding [2]. Please also indicate the reasons.

There are no differences between the national definition and the EU definition of the holding.

Increased use of administrative data made an adaptation according to the subsidy requirements necessary. The FSS 2013 and the Agricultural Census 2010 defined, in contrast to previous surveys, the holding as company (main holding) that includes all production units (part holdings) sharing labour and means of production.

8.1.b National survey coverage vs. coverage of the records sent to Eurostat

Please indicate possible differences between the population covered in the national survey and the population covered by the records sent to Eurostat. Please also specify the reasons.

The population covered in the national survey may be different from the population covered by the records which are sent to Eurostat, in case very low national thresholds are applied or no national thresholds are applied.

According to a national regulation, statistical units include forestry holdings with at least three hectares of wooded area.

The only significant changes to the survey size criteria were made at national level for the 1999 Farm Structure Survey. The changes involved raising the lower limits for land area and the size of livestock herds. Concerning the units, which are relevant for the FSS at European level, the thresholds, which were set following Austria's accession to the EU Treaty in 1995, have been maintained/kept unchanged ever since.

8.1.c National vs. EU definitions of characteristics

Please indicate the version of the Handbook on implementing the FSS definitions used for the organisation of the current FSS survey.

Please indicate possible differences between national and EU definitions of characteristics and classifications of characteristics, the differences, the reasons and the impact on the comparability with the EU definitions. This information is relevant for users.

Please also indicate the number of hours per year for a full-time employee, used to calculate the Annual Work Unit.

Definitions used in FSS 2013 are mainly based on the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1200/2009. Furthermore, the guidelines according to the „Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions“ are implemented as far as possible.

The latest version used during the organisation of the FSS 2013 (preparation of the questionnaire and manual for the respondents) was version CPSA_SB_652_Rev_10 (Handbook implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions_rev10).

Definitions of characteristics, already different to EU definitions that do NOT affect the comparability with previous survey (census) data:

- The number of hours for a „full-time employee“ was set 2 000 hours per year (250 working days of eight hours), whereas the EU Regulation provides for only 1 800 hours per year (225 working days of eight hours). As these are only guidelines, and as the European requirements are, according to experts, too low for Austria, the national Working Party of the Agricultural Statistics Advisory Committee decided to increase the number of hours as from the 1995 Farm Structure Survey. This deviation has not changed in time series and can mostly be attributed to specific national circumstances.

National justified changes of the definitions of characteristics that affect the comparability with previous survey (census) data:

- Rented area: In the FSS 2013 and the Agricultural Census 2010, leased areas within the family (e.g. father to son) are valued as rented areas and not as property of the tenant as in previous surveys.

8.1.d Common land

The legal change of the utilised agricultural area concept, and also the fact that there are various options for the coverage of the common land make this an obligatory section in this report for all countries.

8.1.d.1 Current methodology for collecting information on the common land

If common land does not exist in the country, please specify this.

If common land exists and you do not collect information on common land, please specify this and the reasons.

If you collect information on common land, please describe the methodology by referring to the below options. Combinations of the options are possible; if you use more options, please briefly describe each one.

- common land is included in the land use data of the agricultural holdings making use of the common land.
- common land is included as special holdings i.e. the common land holdings. In addition to records with data representing agricultural holdings, records representing the common land holdings are created.
- common land is collected at regional level and included in regional records. In addition to records with data representing agricultural holdings, records representing the regional sum of the common land are created. According to discussion in a Working Group, this third option has been converted into the second option (common land holdings) allowing all common land to be formatted and included in the Eurofarm tables.

In addition, please specify:

- whether there was a set of specific questions in the FSS questionnaire on common land or a separate questionnaire. In the case of a separate questionnaire, it should be attached to this report, section 12.3.e.
- (new) how was the common land treated in terms of tenure classification;
- (new) how can common land be identified in the data.

Common land has been included in the previous FSS as special agricultural holdings (AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES). In Austria an AGRARIAN COMMUNITY is described as an association of real estate property owners, who have a common right of ownership over a piece of land, the so-called common land. The agrarian community is a public body and thus an independent legal body, which can acquire a title and incur debts. The registered owner of the properties is in each case the agrarian community. The affiliation of the individual members to the agrarian community is evident as „portion right“.

This methodology was kept unchanged for the FSS 2013. This approach (separate record) meets the practice of the subsidy system, where common land units themselves can apply for subsidies and are treated like other farms.

There were no particular questions and no separate questionnaire for common land units.

In terms of tenure classification common land holdings were treated like other holdings. In the survey the land (non-material shares) was not assigned to the individual farms of the members of the agrarian community, as this would bear the risk of double counting.

The common land units are flagged in the dataset.

8.1.d.2 Possible problems encountered in relation to the collection of information on common land and possible solutions for future FSS surveys

Please provide this information in case information on common land is collected.

Referring to the ANNEX IV, 5. TREATMENT OF SPECIAL CASES, (h) Forage of COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1242/2008 of 8 December 2008 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings, the following problem appears:

If there is no grazing livestock (i.e. equidae, cattle, sheep or goats) on the holding, the forage (i.e. roots and brassicas, plants harvested green, pasture and meadows) is considered as intended for sale and is part of the general cropping output.

Agrarian communities (predominantly alpine pastures) do not own livestock by themselves. The grazing livestock is owned by the individual members of the community, who have their own holdings, where the livestock is allocated.

By definition the forage (i.e. ... pasture and meadows) is considered as intended for sale and is part of the general cropping output. In opinion of Statistics Austria an agrarian community managing an alpine pasture should not be equated with cropping farms in this context.

8.1.d.3 Total area of common land surveyed in the reference year

Please indicate the survey estimate in case information on common land is collected.

Total area of common land: 782.071 ha
 UAA: 202.133 ha
 The delta (total area minus UAA) are forests and "other land". In most cases those common land-units are situated in the alpine region; so practically the "other land" comprises infertile land, heaths, rock, scree, marshland, tracks etc..

8.1.d.4 (new) Number of agricultural holdings making use of the common land or Number of (specially created) common land holdings in the reference year

Please indicate this number in case information on common land is collected.

Number of (specially created) common land holdings: 2.774

8.1.e. Location of the holding

8.1.e.1 The origin of the coordinates

Please specify from which source you have obtained the origin of the coordinates (the geographical reference of the holding). This is required in the Handbook (document 3.1. Methodology - Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions - REV 10). For example: cadastre information system, IACS (Integrated Administrative Control System), CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) with digital maps, address register (address of the farm or of the farmer), LAU2 (village, town, municipality etc.) region of the farm.

The location of the agriculture holdings to be included in the Farm Structure Survey was obtained by the National Statistical Institute by compiling existing data of the Address-Buildings and Dwellings Register (ABDR).

The location of the holdings is determined individually (one set of coordinates for each holding).

basis:

- There is a linkage between the unique holding number and the unique object number (ABDR) for each holding in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR).
- Coordinates are assigned to each ABDR-Object (object number).
- Exact allocation of plots to NUTS3-regions and the LFA codes.
- 5000m grid as polygon; the central-points of the grid-cells are assigned to a NUTS3-region and the correct LFA-code.
- The original coordinates are collected in the EPSG 31254, 31255 and 31256 projections based on coordinate reference system MGI EPSG 4312.

In a second step the coordinates were perturbed to prevent identification of single units (see **8.1.e.3**).

After the survey the coordinates were amalgamated with the surveyed data via the unique holding number.

8.1.e.2 (new) The reference system

Eurostat asks to transmit the coordinates based on the reference system ETRS89 (European Terrestrial Reference system 1989) but has set up his system to allow coordinate transformation from different reference systems.

Please specify the reference system used in countries to store data on location of the agricultural holdings. This information is required by the Handbook (document 3.1. Methodology - Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions - REV 10).

The original coordinates are collected in the EPSG 31254, 31255 and 31256 coordinate reference system. Before transmission the original coordinates of the central-points of the grid-cells are transformed into the European Terrestrial Reference System ETRS 89 and reprojected into WGS 84.

8.1.e.3 (new) The rounding of the coordinates

Eurostat recommends the transmission of the exact coordinates (the data is handled respecting statistical confidentiality provisions).

If countries still round the coordinates to a grid system, Eurostat recommends the grid based on the INSPIRE data specification on Coordinate Reference System.

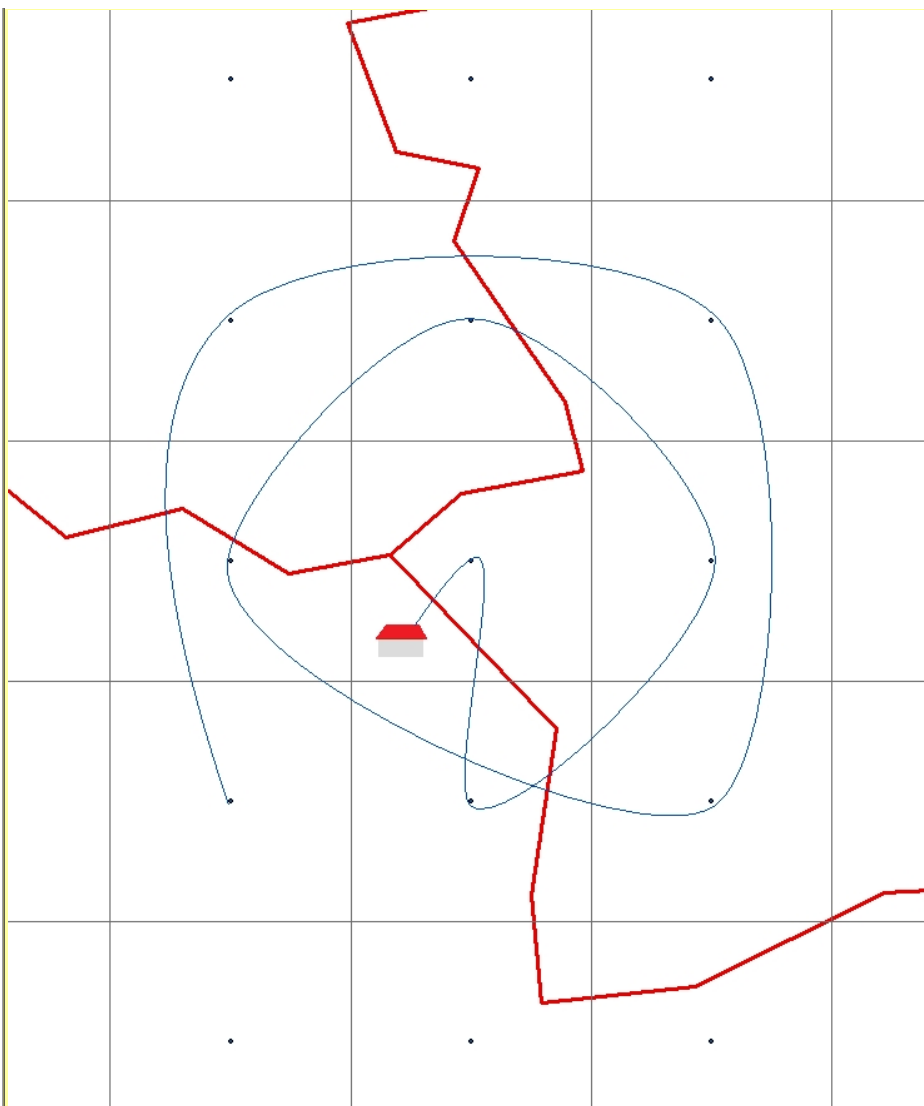
Please specify if you transmit the exact coordinates or if you round them. If in the last case, please briefly describe the rounding method and the level of the rounding. For example: LAU2, regions lower than LAU2, census enumeration areas, grids, grouping by 5 holdings (ranked by latitude and longitude).

The coordinates were perturbed to prevent identification of single units. The individual holding is allocated to the central point of the corresponding 5 km grid cell (based on the INSPIRE data specification on Coordinate Reference System). In this step it was ensured not to change the individual allocation to the correct NUTS 3 region and with regard to the Less Favoured Areas (LFA) (see below "GIS-operations and perturbation"). The coordinates of the central points themselves are precise ones.

GIS-operations and perturbation

- Linking the objects of the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) with the ABDR-Objects (112 Objects without coordinates were assigned manually by using a GIS application (AGRARGIS).
- Assigning the grid cells (5000m) to the individual objects (point in polygon).
- Assigning the NUTS3 region and the less-favoured areas codes (LFA Code) to the individual objects (point in polygon).
- Checking the compliance of the NUTS3/LFA (farm) with NUTS3/LFA (central-point of grid-cell).
- If the NUTS3/LFA attribution was matching, the central point of the grid cell was assigned to the object.
- If the NUTS3/LFA attribution was not matching, the object was moved to a matching neighbouring grid-cell (Sequence: S-E-N-W-SO-NO-NW-SW; see Figure below).

Moving order of holdings, which had to be reallocated



- Assessing accuracy by calculating the distance between the original coordinate and the chosen/perturbed coordinate:

Mean distance: 2,1 km

- Only 54 holdings do not meet the required accuracy (distance below 9,27 km) after perturbation. For reasons of data protection those 54 holdings remained perturbed and were not moved again. (Note: The number of coordinates not meeting the accuracy is higher than in 2010, because additionally the compliance with the LFA code had to be achieved during perturbation).

8.1.e.4 (new) The criteria used to determine the NUTS3 region of the holding

Please indicate which criterion is used to determine the NUTS3 region of the holding. Criteria:

- the majority of the total area of the holding where the holding is located;
- the building (administrative, for livestock or other production);
- the most important parcel (in terms of production);
- the residence of the farmer (if it is not further than 5 km from the farm).

The criteria used to determine the NUTS3 region of the holding was the address of the farm.

8.1.f (new) Organic farming

Possible differences between national standards and rules for certification of organic products and the ones set out in Council Regulation No.834/2007

Please mention possible differences. This information is requested by the handbook (document 3.1. Methodology - Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions - REV 10).

no differences

[2] See Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88

8.1.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics - coefficient

[Not requested]

8.2. Comparability - over time

8.2.a Possible changes of the definition of the holding, the reasons and the impact of the changes on the comparability with previous sample survey/census data

Please indicate the relevant case from the ones below:

- There have been no changes, in which case this should be reported.
 - There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.
 - There have been sufficient changes to warrant the designation of a break in series.
- In the second and third cases, please indicate the changes, the reasons and their impact on the comparability over time.
Particularly in the third case, please indicate any information relevant for users.

b.) Increased use of administrative data made an adaption of the definition according to the subsidy requirements necessary. The FSS 2013 and the Agricultural Census 2010 defined, in contrast to previous surveys, the holding as company (main holding) that includes all production units (part holdings). Most part holdings cultivated areas with alpine pastures. This change had marginal and not quantifiable impact and is not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.

8.2.b (new) Possible changes in the coverage of holdings for which records are sent to Eurostat, the reasons and the impact on the comparability with previous sample survey/census data processed by Eurostat

Please indicate the relevant case from the ones below:

- There have been no changes.
 - There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.
 - There have been sufficient changes to warrant the designation of a break in series.
- In the second and third cases, please indicate the changes, the reasons and their impact on the comparability over time.
Particularly in the third case, please indicate which procedure Eurostat should apply to compare the data over years and any other information relevant for users.

a. There have been no changes in the coverage.

8.2.c Changes of definitions and/or reference time and/or measurements of characteristics, the reasons and the impact of the changes on the comparability with previous sample survey/census data

Please specify the characteristics whose definitions underwent changes, the reasons and the impact on the comparability over time.

Please indicate the relevant case from the ones below:

- There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.
 - There have been sufficient changes to warrant the designation of a break in series.
- Particularly in the second case, please indicate any information relevant for users.

- The number of hours for a „full-time employee“ was set 2 000 hours per year (250 working days of eight hours), whereas the EU Regulation provides for only 1 800 hours per year (225 working days of eight hours). As these are only guidelines, and as the European requirements are, according to experts, too low for Austria, the national Working Party of the Agricultural Statistics Advisory Committee decided to increase the number of hours as from the 1995 Farm Structure Survey.
- This deviation has not changed in time series, can mostly be attributed to specific national circumstances and does not affect the comparability with previous survey (census) data.
- Rented area: In the FSS 2013 and the Agricultural Census 2010, leased areas within the family (e.g. father to son) are valued as rented areas and not as property of the tenant as in previous surveys.
- This change affects the comparability with survey (census) data before 2010.
- Many Austrian agricultural holdings include forest land. In previous surveys, agricultural and forestry activities were recorded together; thus it was difficult to make a precise division between agriculture and forestry or to attribute activities to one or the other. Agricultural activities included therefore to some extent forestry activities. In the frame of the FSS 2013 and Agricultural Census 2010, agricultural and forestry activities are recorded separately.
- This change affects the comparability with survey (census) data before 2010.

Changes of definitions in EU handbook, which affect the comparability with previous survey (census) data:

- Other gainful activities of the holding:
Since 2010 6.01.03 Processing of farm products – wine processing is excluded unless the bought-in proportion of wine is significant.
Since 2010 6.01.08 Forestry; in the past forestry was not seen as other gainful activity in Austria.
- Since 2010 Christmas tree plantations are no longer attributed to the forest area, but recorded as agricultural area under permanent crops (area size low).
- Since 2010 Pullets for laying purposes (< 0,5 year) not stalled up on egg farms were added to the position other poultry 3.05.03.

8.2.d (new) Changes over time in the results as compared to previous sample survey/census, which may be attributed to sampling variability

This item is applicable when at least one of the two surveys whose results are compared is carried out as a sample survey.

Please indicate any information relevant for users.

N/A

8.2.e Common Land

8.2.e.1 Possible change in the decision or in the methodology to collect common land, compared with previous sample survey/census data and reasons.

Please specify possible changes and reasons.

Former and current methodology

Common land has been included in the previous FSS as special agricultural holdings. This methodology was kept unchanged for the FSS 2010. There were no particular questions for and no separate questionnaire for common land units.

The national situation of COMMON LAND

In Austria an AGRARIAN COMMUNITY is described as an association of real estate property owners, who have a common right of ownership over a piece of land, the so-called common land. The agrarian community is a public body and thus an independent legal body, which can acquire a title and incur debts. The registered owner of the properties is in each case the agrarian community. The affiliation of the individual members to the agrarian community is evident as „portion right“. Each agrarian community must have a chairman, the plenary assembly of all members is the most substantial decision maker and often there is also an executive committee or a committee. There are different possibilities to manage the common land. Predominantly the area is managed jointly (in one unit). Some agrarian communities are a few centuries old, but the legal form “agrarian community” has only been existing since some decades. Previously they were organized in other legal forms. The historical development of the individual agrarian communities can be quite different. Mostly they resulted from common property of farmers of one village in alpine pastures or forests.

The UAA of the common land is predominantly made up of grassland. Only very few AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES own arable land. Machinery in the possession of the AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES is irrelevant. Mostly the work is done by the members of the agrarian community. Sometimes a herder, milker, or cheese maker is paid.

8.2.e.2 Change of the total area of common land and of the number of agricultural holdings making use of the common land number of common land holdings compared with the previous sample survey/census data and possible reason(s)

Please specify.

Results regarding common land

	2007	2010	2013
Common Land units	2944	2715	2774
Total area	641321	785993	782071
UAA	240468	252872	202133

The table shows the number of common land holdings compared with the previous sample survey/census data. It is not possible to give information on the number of agricultural holdings making use of the common land.

In most cases those common land-units are situated in the alpine region; so practically the "other land" comprises infertile land, heaths, rock, scree, marshland, tracks etc. The decline of permanent grassland is caused by various reasons (e.g. an increase of permanent grassland no longer used for production, scrub encroachment and forest growth etc.). But, to a non-negligible extent this trend is superimposed by the following effect: Alpine pastures often have a gradual transition to wooded area or unproductive area (heaths, rock, scree, marshland etc.). It is difficult to divide these areas exactly from the forage areas. With the progressing use of GIS-tools, and aerial photographs this separation of areas is done more exactly than it was done in the past.

8.2.f Major trends on the main characteristics compared with the previous sample survey/census data

Please complete the following table. Comments must be given in case there is a change of more than 10% in the current FSS survey compared with the previous one for any numeric main characteristic.

This comparison concerns the population covered by the records sent to Eurostat.

Main characteristic	Current FSS survey	Previous FSS survey	Difference in %	Comments
Number of holdings	140433	150165	-6.48	
UAA (A_3_1), ha	2726885	2878165	-5.26	
Arable land, ha	1363861	1371288	-0.54	
Permanent grassland (B_3), ha;	1296270	1439474	-9.95	The decline of permanent grassland is caused by various reasons (e.g. an increase of permanent grassland no longer used for production, Scrub encroachment and forest growth etc.). But, to a non-negligible extent this trend is superimposed by the following effect: Alpine pastures often have a gradual transition to wooded area or unproductive area (heaths, rock, scree, marshland etc.). It is difficult to divide these areas exactly from the forage areas. With the progressing use of GIS-tools, and aerial photographs this separation of areas is done more exactly than it was done in the past.
Permanent crops (B_4), ha;	65162	65199	-0.06	
Wooded area (B_5_2), ha;	2264833	2269851	-0.22	
Unutilized Agricultural area (B_5_1), ha;	129776	85349	52.05	This trend is mainly due to an increase of B_3 (permanent grassland no longer used for production purpose). See also comment permanent grassland.
Fallow land (B_1_12_1 + B_1_12_2), ha;	38474	43105	-10.74	Since the set-aside obligation was suspended in 2008 fallow land decreases.
LSU in LSU;	2439091	2517174	-3.10	
Cattle (C_2), head;	1952402	2023512	-3.51	
Family Labour force - in persons (without holder);	173778	174405	-0.36	
Family Labour force - in AWU (without holder);	29905	32375	-7.63	
Holder - in persons;	136373	146183	-6.71	
Holder - in AWU;	63014	65409	-3.66	
Non family Labour force - in persons (regularly employed);	28909	27079	6.76	
Non family Labour force - in AWU (regularly employed);	14820	13396	10.63	The decline of family labour force is largely compensated by non family labour force

8.2.1. Length of comparable time series

[Not requested]

8.3. Comparability - domain

Comparisons with other data sources at micro/macro level

Other data sources can be for example administrative data, crop production surveys, animal surveys, labour force surveys, National Accounts.
If you run comparisons, please give a brief description of the results of these comparisons and possible adjustment made to FSS data. If not, please indicate why not.

8.3.a Comparisons at micro level

The administrative data (IACS, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register)), Veterinary Information System (VIS)) concerning areas and livestock were integrated into the electronic questionnaire and checked by respondents while completing the questionnaire. Details on individual purpose(s) of the use of administrative sources see 12.1.e.3 !
During the plausibility checks for some characteristics, wherever necessary, micro-level sample-based verification was performed. Because of the disparate aims, definitions, etc. of the various data sources the results do not provide a 100% match. The differences between microdata were clarified and also corrected if needed. If necessary, the holders were contacted for additional information. The differences occurred due to differences in definitions, units and methodology.

8.3.b Comparisons at macro level

Once the processing was complete, the results were then checked at macro-level and compared with the results of the 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2010 Farm Structure Surveys, and with other available sources such as the Cattle Survey, subsidy data and the Livestock Register.
The differences with IACS data on macro data level were caused by differences in definitions and methodology (not all holdings are applying for subsidies etc.). For example, IACS data includes the data of 125.588 subsidy applicants (10.6% less than the number of agricultural holdings in the FSS 2013) with 2.645.495 hectares total utilized agricultural area (3 % less than in the FSS 2013) with 1.353.021 hectares arable land (0.8% less than in the FSS 2013).
There were practically no differences with the crop production survey. Differences with animal surveys were small and caused by different reference dates.
A comparison of the FSS labour force data with the Labour Force Survey is not reasonable due to fundamental methodological differences.

9. Coherence

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9.1. Coherence - cross domain

(new) Coherence with other data sources

Please indicate whether the FSS statistics are reconcilable (i.e. can be combined) with those obtained through other data sources or statistical domains.

There are several other surveys (like livestock survey, crops on arable land, survey of areas under wine, labour force survey etc.) collecting data similar to some individual topics of the FSS. Results of these surveys are only partially comparable with results of the FSS due to different objectives and definitions.

Coherence with IACS data (data of the Agrarmarkt Austria, AMA):

The differences with IACS data on macro data level were caused by differences in definitions and methodology (not all holdings are applying for subsidies etc.). For example, IACS data includes the data of 125.588 subsidy applicants (10.6% less than the number of agricultural holdings in the FSS 2013) with 2.645.495 hectares total utilized agricultural area (3 % less than in the FSS 2013) with 1.353.021 hectares arable land (0.8% less than in the FSS 2013).

On the level of the single holding the data are coherent and are used as administrative data to pre-fill in the questionnaires which are then checked by farmers during the survey.

Coherence with cadastral area:

Concerning area-related evaluations on regional level it must be noted that all areas of the FSS are related with the agricultural and forestry holdings (location of the main holding). Therefore regional summations of areas are not comparable with the area indicated in the cadastre.

Coherence with the survey of areas under wine:

According to the definition of the survey of vineyard areas 2009 (without area threshold), 20181 holdings with a cultivated vineyard area of 45585.81ha were recorded. The FSS 2010, in contrast, covered vineyards with an area lower limit of 0.25ha and recorded therefore only 14401 holdings with a cultivated vineyard area of 46635ha (including temporary inoperative or cleared vineyard area).

Coherence with crop production:

There are no relevant differences.

Coherence with livestock data:

Minimal differences between results of the FSS and results of livestock census or the Veterinary Information System can be attributed to different reference dates or survey thresholds.

Coherence with business statistics:

In according to the legal basis, the FSS has to record the production potential of the agricultural and forestry sector. This means collecting data about areas, livestock, labour force and other specific characteristics of holdings reaching certain threshold values regarding size of area or livestock. In this regard it does not matter whether these holdings are conducted on a full time or part time basis. The FSS considers only the part of an enterprise dealing with agriculture and forestry as well as related characteristics; in contrast to the business statistics, results are not classified depending on the main focus of the holdings.

Coherence with labour force survey:

The main focus of the labour force survey is on persons employed while the FSS reports labour force data for measuring agricultural and forestry labour inputs; that means that the FSS is recording also partially employed family members (regardless their principal employment) and persons in retirement. Thus, comparing results concerning labour force of the FSS with results of the general labour force survey is only partially meaningful due to basic methodical differences.

9.1.1 Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics

[Not requested]

9.1.2. Coherence - National Accounts

[Not requested]

9.2. Coherence - internal

[Not requested]

10. Cost and Burden

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Co-ordination with other surveys: burden on respondents

Please indicate if there is any co-ordination between surveys to avoid the situation that some farms have to answer multiple questionnaires with the same kind of questions.

Double burden of **very few** farms occurred in the context FSS and animal surveys. In the trade off between the use of administrative data with a given reference date (1 April 2013) for **all** farms of the FSS sample and a double burden of **some** farms also chosen for the animal surveys the project team decided to run two separated surveys with an optimised use of administrative data and precisely tailored questionnaires. Another reason not to join the two surveys on the reference date of the animal survey in December is that time is rather short to survey all farms of the FSS sample and process the livestock data for the animal survey in time.

11. Confidentiality[Top](#)

The confidentiality is required by law. This report should confirm these arrangements. Please provide the requested information, taking into consideration that this report is a non-confidential document.

11.1. Confidentiality - policy**Dissemination of micro-data to external users for research purposes**

Please mention if micro-data are also disseminated and if yes, the confidentiality provisions that are applied.

Data is published and circulated in accordance with the Federal Statistics Act 2000, [BGBl. I No 163/1999](#) (as last amended by [BGBl. I No 136/2001](#), [BGBl. I No 71/2003](#), [BGBl. I No 92/2007](#), [BGBl. No 125/2009](#), [BGBl. I No 111/2010](#) and [BGBl. I No 40/2014](#)) and the Data Protection Act 2000, [BGBl. I No 165/1999](#) (as last amended by [BGBl. I No 83/2013](#)). This means that only anonymised data is transmitted. No information relating to individuals can be inferred from publication of the results and the provision of anonymised individual data.

Under the Federal Act on the Information System for Agricultural and Forestry Holdings (LFBIS Act) [BGBl. No 448/1980](#), as amended by [BGBl. No 597/1981](#) and [BGBl. No 505/1994](#) § 3 (1), data obtained in the course of surveys ordered by regulation of the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on the basis of the Federal Statistics Act must be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry insofar as this was ordered in said regulation.

In accordance with EU regulation ([EC No 1166/2008](#)) anonymised individual data must be transferred to Eurostat.

In general no access to micro-data for research purposes is granted. Access can be provided on demand and each request is treated and checked individually.

11.2. Confidentiality - data treatment**The procedures applied for ensuring confidentiality of the data during dissemination**

Procedures can include controlled rounding, cell suppression, aggregation of disclosive information, aggregation rules on aggregated confidential data, primary confidentiality with regard to single data values etc. Main reference: [Handbook on Statistical Disclosure Control](#) (2007).

In the dissemination of the FSS 2013 data, the deepest regional breakdown is the NUTS 2 - level. On this level no problems were detected on data protection issues.

12. Statistical processing[Top](#)**Survey organisation and calendar**

*Please provide **brief** information on:*

12.a The steps of the survey organisation and the starting and ending time of each step.

This information could help countries in the future planning of the activities.

As guidelines, the steps can consist of the following. Please adapt to the national situation if needed.

1. definition of survey objective and requirements:

1.1. formation of workgroups for survey organisation;

1.2. consultation of users;

1.3. set-up objectives, target population, statistical units, classifications, precision requirements etc.;

1.4. survey promotion.

2. survey design:

2.1. set-up organisation of the survey (e.g. detailed timetable, specification of resources, costs estimation);

2.2. definition of the survey variables;

2.3. design of the sampling frame and sampling procedures;

2.4. design of data collection procedures (e.g. questionnaire design, selection of data collection modes etc.);

2.5. design of data processing procedures (e.g. CATI/CAPI/CAWI input programmes etc.);

2.6. pilot survey organisation and execution.

3. data collection:

3.1. sampling frame construction and sample selection;

3.2. recruitment of interviewers;

3.3. training of interviewers;

3.4. fieldwork;

3.5. evaluation and assessment of

The steps of the survey organisation**1. Definition of survey objective and requirements**

1.1. Discussion and analysis of the experiences of the 2010 Census; suggestions for improvements and checks on their practicability; formation of workgroups for survey organisation

From April 2012

1.2. Set-up objectives, target population, statistical units, classifications, precision requirements etc.

From October 2012

1.3. Drafting of the national Regulation in cooperation with the MoA

October 2012 – April 2013

1.4. Survey promotion

September 2013 – October 2013

1.5. Publication of the national regulation

1st October 2013

2. Survey design

2.1. Set-up organisation of the survey (e.g. detailed timetable, specification of resources, costs estimation)

April 2012

2.2. Definition of the survey variables

October 2012 – April 2013

2.3. Determining the survey population; checks and release for dispatch

July – September 2013

2.4. Design of the sampling frame and sampling procedures; sampling frame construction

July – September 2013

2.5. Design, further development and testing of the electronic questionnaire

January – September 2013

2.6. Design of the plausibility program by specialists

October 2013 – March 2014

2.7. Compilation of other survey documents (instructions for use etc.)

January – September 2013

3. Data collection

3.1. Checks on the availability of administrative data

January – July 2013

3.2. Obtaining administrative data

September 2013; April 2014

3.3. Printing, addressing and sending the survey documents (external)

August – October 2013

3.4. Sample selection

October 2013

3.5. Recruitment of temporary telephone interviewers

August – October 2013

3.6. Training of telephone interviewers

October 2013

Reference date of the survey

31 October 2013

last day of the reference period

31 December 2013

3.7. Fieldwork

October 2013 – March 2014

3.8. Reminder and warning procedures

December 2013 – April 2014

3.9. Evaluation and assessment of fieldwork

July 2014

4. Data processing and validation

<i>fieldwork.</i> 4. <i>data processing and validation:</i> 4.1. <i>data entry and data coding;</i> 4.2. <i>data validation (at record level);</i> 4.3. <i>data correction and imputation.</i> 5. <i>data compilation:</i> 5.1. <i>weight calculation and estimation;</i> 5.2. <i>calculation of derived variables;</i> 5.3. <i>calculation of quality indicators (e.g. non-response rates, relative standard errors, coverage errors, bias etc.);</i> 5.4. <i>aggregation and tabulation;</i> 5.5. <i>validation of aggregated data.</i> 6. <i>data analysis</i> 7. <i>data dissemination</i>	4.1. Programming the plausibility program; design of the plausibility application by the IT Dept. and tests of its functions by specialists, using fictitious holdings	June 2013 – April 2014
	4.2. Data taken from the electronic questionnaire in tranches for processing by the IT Dept.	December 2013 – April 2014
	4.3. Data validation (at record level), imputation, plausibility checks, data correction	April 2014 – October 2014
	5. Data compilation	
	5.1. Weight calculation and estimation	May 2014 – December 2014
	5.2. Calculation of derived variables	May 2014 – December 2014
	5.3. Calculation of quality indicators (e.g. non-response rates, relative standard errors, coverage errors, bias etc.)	November 2014 – December 2014
	5.4. Aggregation and tabulation - compilation and programming of the tabulation program (STATcube) and of the Eurostat data files	May 2014 – December 2014
	5.5. Validation of aggregated data; checks on results; analysis	September – December 2014
	6. data analysis	
7. data dissemination		
7.1. National dissemination and publication of the results in the form of a press release, rapid report, and publication on the Internet	May 2014; November 2014; January 2015	
7.2. Transmission of individual data of the FSS 2013 to Eurostat	December 2014	

12.b The bodies involved and the split of responsibilities among bodies with respect to the main steps of the survey process	<p>The project team</p> <p>Statistics Austria bears ultimate responsibility for implementing the Farm Structure Survey. The Farm Structure Survey is one of many projects of the Agriculture and Forestry Sector of the Directorate for Spatial Statistics (<i>Raumwirtschaft</i>). Its specialist team is supported by EDP (electronic data processing) and statistical experts.</p> <p>Technical advice concerning the contents is provided by the Working Party of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics, which comprises leading experts at various relevant institutions/organizations in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>The main tasks were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling the survey program in line with EU requirements and taking national requirements into account; • Cooperating in drafting the national regulation with the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management (MoA); • Placing information articles in relevant media; • Coordination of tasks between special departments and IT Department; • Sample design and drawing the sample; • Design of a plausibility program in cooperation with the IT Dept.; • Compilation of the questionnaire, instructing printers to print the documents, dispatching documents to the respondents; • Training staff in how to execute the survey (hotline agents (permanent staff) and telephone interviewers (temporary staff); training staff of Statistics Austria in how to process the survey; • Telephone hotline providing respondents with information during the survey phase; • Obtaining, processing and combining data from the various sources; • Initiating reminder procedures in case of belated respondents; • Reminding respondents who had not replied and reporting non-respondents to the competent authorities; • Checks on the completeness and plausibility of the data; • Specifications for the creation of the database (STATcube - data cube), tabulation, publication and dissemination of results; • Processing individual data in line with EU rules, extrapolation and transmission to Eurostat. <p>Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics</p> <p>The Federal Statistics Act 2000 (BGBl. I No 163/1999, as last amended by BGBl. I No 136/2001, BGBl. I No 71/2003, BGBl. I No 92/2007, BGBl. I No 125/2009, BGBl. I No 111/2010 and BGBl. I No 40/2014) provides for the creation of Advisory Committees for the various relevant areas of activity. The Farm Structure Survey comes under the aegis of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics, which comprises experts from various Austrian institutions (representatives of the MoA, the Governments of the Länder, Chambers of Agriculture at Land level, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, LBG Wirtschaftstreuhand- and Beratungsgesellschaft (a limited company), the University of Agriculture (Universität für Bodenkultur) etc.). This body is tasked with providing Statistics Austria, which bears ultimate responsibility for the survey as such, with mainly technical advice and support in the planning and implementation of the survey.</p>
	<p>12.c Serious deviations (if any) from the established calendar and reasons. <i>Please mention only serious deviations with significant consequences on the quality and the transmission time of data to Eurostat.</i></p> <p>No significant deviations from the schedule.</p>

12.1. Source data
12.1.a Target population
12.1.a.1 The national definition of an agricultural holding <i>Please mention if the national definition of the holding is as according to the EU definition [3] or not. If not, please mention the national definition of a holding.</i>
The definition of the holding is consistent with the definition fixed in Regulation (EC No 1166/2008). „Agricultural holding“ or „holding“ means a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes agricultural activities listed in Annex I to the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC No 1166/2008) within the economic territory of the European Union, either as its primary or secondary activity.
12.1.a.2 The number of holdings in the population disregarding any possible thresholds applied (the entire number of holdings in the country), according to the EU definition of a holding or, if different from the EU definition of a holding, according to the national definition. <i>Please indicate the number. If it is not possible to provide this information, please provide the reasons.</i>
It does not appear relevant to give information about the total number of units registered in the Farm Register (Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR), which comprehensively records all the agricultural and forestry holdings

domiciled in Austria for various purposes and regardless of any threshold. The information would be misleading and has no practical benefit in the context of this methodology report.

12.1.a.3 The national survey coverage; the thresholds applied in the national survey (if any) and the geographical coverage

Please briefly describe the national target population which is the population for which national inferences are made.

Please consider possible thresholds applied in the national survey and please mention them.

Please mention the geographical coverage (including any geographical areas not covered).

The population for the Farm Structure Survey 2013 included all the agricultural and forestry holdings in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) which carry out agricultural and forestry activities and meeting the definition below (178 726 holdings).

The definition of the holding is consistent with the definition fixed in Regulation [No 1166/2008](#): „Agricultural holding“ or „holding“ means a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes agricultural activities listed in Annex I to the European Parliament and Council Regulation [\(EC\) No 1166/2008](#) within the economic territory of the European Union, either as its primary or secondary activity.

Thresholds of the FSS comply with requirements in Article 3.2. of the Regulation [\(EC\) No 1166/2008](#). Statistical units are, in accordance with § 2 of the National Regulation [BGBl. II No. 284/2013](#) regarding the preparation of statistics concerning the agriculture and agricultural production 2013, agricultural holdings in line with Article 2 lit. a of the Regulation [\(EC\) No 1166/2008](#), that reach one of the following thresholds:

1. 1 hectare utilized agricultural area (UAA);
2. Wine-growing holdings with at least 25 areas under market vines;
3. Holdings with at least 15 ares of intensively utilized fruit orchards, or 10 ares under berries, strawberries, vegetables, hops, flowers or decorative plants, or under vine or forest, or tree-, forest- and viticultural nurseries;
4. Holdings which operate greenhouses (high/low glass or foil) covering at least one are, the majority of the produce being grown for market;
5. Livestock holdings with at least three head of cattle, five pigs, 10 sheep, 10 goats or 100 head of poultry of any type.
6. **In addition according to a national regulation, statistical units include forestry holdings with at least three hectares of wooded area.**

Geographical coverage: Austria

12.1.a.4 (new) The number of holdings in the nationally covered population (see 12.1.a.3), according to the EU definition of a holding or, if different from the EU definition of a holding, according to the national definition.

Please indicate the number. These are holdings in the national survey coverage. If national thresholds are applied, the size of the national survey population is the number of holdings in the population by considering the thresholds applied in the national survey (see 12.1.a.3).

population according to the national definition: 166317 holdings (including forestry holdings with exclusively

12.1.a.5 (new) The survey coverage of the records sent to Eurostat

The survey coverage of the records sent to Eurostat can be different from the national survey coverage in case very low (or no) national thresholds are applied.

Please indicate if the coverage of the records sent to Eurostat is different the national survey coverage. If yes, please indicate the differences and how you selected the records sent to Eurostat.

The dataset of 26628 holdings was sent to Eurostat (see table in **12.3.d, point 5**; This dataset comprises all holdings of the sample meeting the EU thresholds. Excluded in this dataset are the forestry holdings with exclusively wooded area of three hectares and more.

12.1.a.6 The number of holdings in the population covered by the records transferred to Eurostat, according to the EU definition of a holding and, if different from the EU definition of a holding, according to the national definition (*this number should be reported as item 1, in the table from section 12.3.d*).

Population covered by the records transferred to Eurostat: 140433 holdings

12.1.a.7 (new) Records sent to Eurostat on holdings with standard output equal to zero.

These can be holdings with only fallow land and/or only kitchen gardens and/or only crops and animals for which standard output coefficients are not defined (crops and animals not valued). In the case of a few countries, a significant amount of records have been sent to Eurostat with standard output equal to zero. Please provide any information that could help Eurostat and users to better understand why standard output is equal to zero and why those holdings are included in the survey.

According to the national methodology forestry area is factored in the standard output. Using the EU standard output coefficients the extrapolated number of holdings with a standard output equal to zero might be round 80. These holdings are included in the survey due to the fact that they have forestry area in combination with more than one ha fallow land and/or kitchen gardens.

12.1.a.8 Proofs that the requirements stipulated in art. 3.2 and (new) 3.3 of the Regulation 1166/2008 are met in the data transmitted to Eurostat

Art. 3.2: *However, Member States which use a survey threshold above one hectare shall fix this threshold at a level that excludes only the smallest agricultural holdings which together contribute 2% or less to the total utilised agricultural area excluding common land and 2% or less to the total number of livestock units.*

Art. 3.3: *In any case, all agricultural holdings reaching one of the physical thresholds specified in Annex II shall be covered.*

Thresholds of the FSS comply with requirements in Article 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the Regulation [\(EC\) No 1166/2008](#). Statistical units are, in accordance with § 2 of the National Regulation [BGBl. II No. 284/2013](#) regarding the preparation of statistics concerning the agriculture and agricultural production 2013, agricultural holdings in line with Article 2 lit. a of the Regulation [\(EC\) No 1166/2008](#), that reach one of the following thresholds:

1. 1 hectare utilized agricultural area (UAA);
2. Wine-growing holdings with at least 25 areas under market vines;
3. Holdings with at least 15 ares of intensively utilized fruit orchards, or 10 ares under berries, strawberries, vegetables, hops, flowers or decorative plants, or under vine or forest, or tree-, forest- and viticultural nurseries;
4. Holdings which operate greenhouses (high/low glass or foil) covering at least one are, the majority of the produce being grown for market;
5. Livestock holdings with at least three head of cattle, five pigs, 10 sheep, 10 goats or 100 head of poultry of any type.

12.1.b Source of data

Please mention the source of data for example exhaustive coverage of units in a survey (census), sample survey, use of administrative sources, combinations, etc.

The FSS 2013 was conducted in form of a sample survey. The administrative data (IACS, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register)), Veterinary Information System (VIS) were integrated into the electronic questionnaire and checked by respondents while completing the questionnaire. The funding data (measures for rural development) and coordinates were consolidated after the survey with FSS data using the unique identification number of the holding. Details on individual purpose(s) of the use of administrative sources see 12.1.e.3 !

12.1.c (Sampling) frame

Section 12.1.c refers to the frame used to identify holdings to be surveyed and therefore should be completed only in case of a sample survey or a census.

Section 12.1.c should not be completed when data are entirely taken from administrative sources. In this case, section 12.1.e of the report provides the relevant information.

12.1.c.1 Source of the frame

Please specify the source of the frame, for example a statistical register (farm register, business register etc.), an administrative source etc.

The frame of the FSS 2013 essentially comprised the active holding units in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) meeting the national thresholds applied (178.726 units). Quality is ensured by the routine maintenance of the Agricultural and Forestry Register, which is continually updated in the light of various primary agricultural surveys and by comparison with various types of administrative data (applications for subsidies, social insurance information, necrologies etc.).

12.1.c.2 Type of frame

Please specify whether it is a list frame or an area frame, whether you used a combination of multiple frames etc.

The type of frame is a list frame.

12.1.c.3 Time reference and updating process for the frame

The Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) is continually updated in the light of various primary agricultural surveys and by comparison with various types of administrative data (applications for subsidies, social insurance information, necrologies etc.).

12.1.d Sampling design

Section 12.1.d should be completed only in case of a sample survey.

Please describe the sampling design according to the following structure. This structure aims to increase the clarity and comparability of information between countries.

12.1.d.1 the name of the sampling design and whether it is a probability design.

A probability sampling design ensures known probabilities for units selected. In practice, non-response generally makes samples depart from the probability ones. However, the point here is to report on whether or not the gross sample (net sample plus non-respondents) has been selected in a probability way.

The sample was designed as a stratified random sample and therefore is a probability design.

12.1.d.2 (new) the number of sampling stages.

If the survey sample is selected from another sample (e.g. master sample) please consider this stage. If you use sub-sampling for some of the characteristics, please distinguish the cases in your answer.

A single stage design was used, there was no subsampling for any characteristics.

12.1.d.3 (new) the sampling unit at each stage

For example, sampling units can be holdings in a single-stage design or municipalities/villages as primary sampling units and holdings as secondary sampling units in a two-stage design etc.

Sampling units were the holdings.

12.1.d.4 the stratification variables and the sampling stage where they are applied

For example, in a single-stage design, holdings can be stratified by region and size.

Selected characteristics from the Agricultural Census 2010 were basically used for stratification purposes, e.g. total land area, orchards or vineyards and the number of workers. Since the FSS 2013 also included livestock numbers, the most recent data on cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry were used for stratification.

The holdings in the sampling frame were divided into between 6 and 15 strata depending on the Federal State (*Land*). The strata with numbers 1 to 3 (Salzburg, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna) or 4 to 9 (the other federal provinces) were formed by combining the size categories for the characteristics 'total area in ha (TA)' and 'arable area in ha (AA)'. The other strata comprise holdings with a high livestock population, a large labour force or significant fruit/vine cultivation.

For stratification purposes, the conditions shown in **Annexes 6 and 7** had to be met in each Federal State (*Land*).

12.1.d.5 (new) the sampling method at each stage

The sampling method can be exhaustive selection, simple random sampling, systematic sampling with equal probabilities, systematic sampling with probabilities proportional to size, etc.

One stage: Stratified random sample.

12.1.d.6 the list and description of full coverage strata

Full coverage strata are strata with complete enumeration (all units are selected in the sample).

Full coverage strata can be found highlighted in grey in the **Annex 6** (FSS_ESQRS_A_AT_2013_Annex_6_detailed-stratification-and-delimitations-per-NUTS2), which shows the detailed stratification and delimitations per Federal State (Land, NUTS 2)

12.1.d.7 the overall sample size, how it was determined and any allocation method used

Allocation methods can be equal allocation, proportional allocation, Neyman allocation, optimal allocation considering different costs across strata etc.

The sample survey covered 30 000 holdings. This size of sample guarantees sufficient accuracy. Calculations have shown that the required mandatory specifications regarding simple relative standard errors are satisfied with this sample size. Thus, 17 % of all holdings had to be surveyed.

12.1.d.8 sampling across time

This item refers to whether a new sample is drawn in each occasion, or a part or the whole sample is retained over all/several occasions. The latter two cases should be justified.

A new sample is drawn on each occasion.

12.1.d.9 the software tool used in the sample selection

SAS procedure PROC OPTMODEL

12.1.d.10 other relevant information, if any

N/A

12.1.e Use of administrative data sources

12.1.e.1 Name, legal base, time reference and (new);updating of the source

If more than one administrative data source is used, please provide this information for each of them.

Article 4 (1) of the regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 governs the use of following administrative data (see also Annex 8):

Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including the Austrian program for the funding of environmentally sustainable extensive agriculture that conserves the natural world (ÖPUL)

- Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, amending Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005, (EC) No 247/2006, (EC) No 378/2007 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, (EC) No 992/2009, (EC) No 1120/2009, (EC) No 1250/2009, (EU) No 360/2010, (EU) No 730/2010.

- data are updated every year and used according to the reference dates and periods of the survey (see 4.1.b).

System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register)

- Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97; (EC) No 1082/2003.
- data are continuously updated and used according to the reference dates and periods of the survey (see 4.1.b).

Register of organic farms (comment: in a strict sense, there is no register of organic farms in Austria, information is taken from IACS/ÖPUL) (information see above).

Measures for rural development

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).
- data are updated every year and used according to the reference dates and periods of the survey (see 4.1.b).

Based on Article 4 (2), Austria requested further the use of following administrative data:

Veterinary Information System (VIS)

- Directive 2000/16/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 10 April 2000 amending Council Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feeding stuffs and Council Directive 96/25/EC on the circulation of feed materials; Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC; Animal Diseases Act – TSG, Act of 6 August 1909, RGBl. No 177, concerning the defense and eradication of animal diseases (as amended in 2008 BGBl. I 2008/36); Animal identification and registration act 2009 BGBl. II No 291/2009; Regulation of the Minister of Health on the identification of pigs, sheep, goats and equidae and the registration of animal husbandry (Animal identification and Registration ordinance 2009; TKZVO 2009); Approved or registered ABP-plants according to Reg. (EC) No 1069/2009; Lists of approved food establishments according to Reg. (EC) No 853/2004.
- data are updated every year and used according to the reference dates and periods of the survey (see 4.1.b).

Coordinates

- Regulation on the address register BGBl. II No 218/2005 Regulation of the Federal Minister for the Economy and Labour concerning the content and the structure of the address register and the reimbursement of costs of queries and excerpts.
- Actualization is done with information regarding changes in the address or in the existence of buildings as well as by acquisition of building measures. The process of allocating coordinates to the individual addresses in Austria is the task of the local authorities and an ongoing process.

12.1.e.2 Definition of the reporting unit (holding)

If more than one administrative data source is used, please provide this information for each of them.

Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Measures for rural development, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS)

The definition of the reporting unit meets the definitions used for the subsidy system and the related administrative data. Every agricultural and forestry holding has a unique identification number, that is used in subsidies as well as in the frame of statistical surveys. The assignment between various data sources is done with this unique identification number.

Coordinates

The assignment is done with the unique identification number. Holdings in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) are clearly connected with an object number to objects of the Address-Buildings and Dwellings Register (ABDR). The ABDR contains address data for the parcel of land, buildings and dwellings and other units of use. Each object number is assigned with x/y coordinates. The used coordinates meet all requirements concerning clarity, completeness, coherence and accuracy.

12.1.e.3 The purpose(s) of the use of administrative sources

Purpose	Administrative source <i>Please specify the name of the administrative source(s) in the rows of this column. The row(s) where the name(s) of the source(s) is (are) specified indicate(s) the purpose(s) of the use of that (those) source(s).</i>
- to totally replace the survey, on all characteristics and on the whole survey population	---
- to replace the survey on some of the characteristics and on the whole survey population. <i>Please indicate these (groups of) characteristics, the common identifiers and the method(s) of integration (record linkage algorithm).</i>	<p>Measures for rural development Questions on the measures for rural development were not part of the questionnaire. Administrative data (funding data for rural development) were consolidated after the survey with FSS data using the unique identification number of the holding.</p> <p>System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register) The cattle register contains the complete bovine categories, with exception of dairy cows/other cows, for the breakdown of individual items in accordance with the guidelines of the FSS. Dairy cows and other cows are calculated subsequently. Record day of cattle data (FSS) correlates with the record day of the cattle data base (1 April 2013). The total number of cattle for the reference date 1 April 2013 was integrated into the electronic questionnaire. The detailed information (categories) was consolidated after the survey with FSS data using the unique identification number of the holding.</p> <p>Coordinates The coordinates were merged after the survey with FSS data by means of the unique holding number. The coordinates were perturbed to prevent an identification of single units, nonetheless it was ensured to provide the location only to the nearest 5 minutes. For further details see point 8.1.e.1.</p>
- to replace the survey on all characteristics and on a part of the survey population	N/A

- to replace the survey on some of the characteristics and on a part of the survey population. <i>Please indicate these (groups of) characteristics, the common identifiers and the method(s) of integration (record linkage algorithm).</i>	N/A
- to build/update the (sampling) frame (used for census or for sample survey)	Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS)
- to pre-fill answers in the questionnaires which are then checked by farmers during the survey	Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS) The administrative data (IACS and VIS) concerning areas and livestock were integrated into the electronic questionnaire and checked by respondents while completing the questionnaire.
- to impute item/unit non-response	Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS), Measures for rural development
- to validate the survey data (quality control). <i>Please indicate actions taken in case of large discrepancies</i>	Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS). There were only minor discrepancies - in case of large discrepancies the farmers would have been recalled.
- to calibrate of survey estimates. <i>Please indicate the calibration variables</i>	N/A
- other (<i>please specify in the next column</i>)	N/A
12.1.e.4 Difficulties of using administrative source(s) and measures taken	

For each administrative source used, please briefly describe any difficulties and the way those difficulties were addressed. Examples of difficulties:

- incoherence of concepts/definitions;
- incoherence of classification systems;
- different population coverage;
- problems creating the links between the units: the units in administrative sources do not correspond directly to the definition of required statistical units;
- problems creating the links between databases caused by e.g. the lack of common identifiers, obstacles related to IT issues etc.;
- impossibilities to establish cooperation with register owners;
- (too high) costs charged for the access by the register owners;
- problems related to data quality of the source;
- resistance to change caused by a general lack of trust in the quality of the source;
- timeliness and punctuality: the final validated data in the source may not be in time to meet statistical deadlines or may relate to a period which does not coincide with the statistical reference period;
- risks concerning the stability of the source to political changes etc.

Austria runs the FSS late in the year for the sake of optimising the use of administrative data. To an earlier date the administrative data would not be available in the same(verified) quality to pre-fill answers in the questionnaires which are then checked by farmers during the survey.

Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL

In the AMA multiple application, area data are often recorded more detailed in *Schlagnutzungsarten* (land parcels). Transition tables were used for aggregating these *Schlagnutzungsarten* to the required FSS categories. Not sufficiently by administrative data covered characteristics, were entered into the electronic questionnaire in the frame of the FSS 2013 by respondents.

Essentially, there is a good correlation between the characteristics. In isolated cases Statistics Austria had to assign the IACS data to relevant items in the FSS program. The record day of the area data correlates with the record day of the IACS data (15 May 2013).

Area data has to be provided by 15 May of the current harvest year. Information on ecological farming has to be provided by 15 November. Both data sources were matched by the unique holding number. There were no mismatching cases.

System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register)

Data had to be aggregated.

Measures for rural development

no difficulties.

Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS)

Data had to be aggregated.

Coordinates

No essential drawbacks occurred. Only 112 holdings could not be processed automatically due to missing coordinates. They had to be located „by hand“ by using a GIS-application (AGRARGIS). In the user interface of this GIS-application the location of the unit was identified on a topographical map (ÖK50) and on aerial photographs, the cursor was set on the right spot and the coordinates were added into our database. The accuracy of the perturbed coordinates was assessed by calculating the distance between the original coordinate and the chosen/perturbed coordinate (Mean distance: 2,1 km). Only 54 holdings do not meet the required accuracy (distance below 9,27 km) after perturbation. For reasons of data protection those 54 holdings remained perturbed and were not moved again. (Note: The number of coordinates not meeting the accuracy is higher than in 2010, because additionally the compliance with the LFA code had to be achieved during perturbation). For more information please see item 8.1.e.

12.1.e.5 Quality assessment of the administrative sources

Section 12.1.e.5 should **not** be completed when administrative sources are used only for building/updating the (sampling) frame of a census or a sample survey . In that case, other sections of the report (sections 5.3, 12.1.c, 12.3.d) provide relevant information.

	Administrative source and assessment of errors <i>Please specify the name of the administrative source(s) in this column, along with information required for each row.</i>
-coverage:	
	Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration

<p>- over-coverage If the source covers more units than it should, please provide an assessment of the over-coverage rate and mention whether the out-of-scope units were excluded.</p>	<p>of bovine animals (cattle register), Measures for rural development, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS): Out-of scope units were excluded.</p>
<p>- under-coverage If the source covers less units than it should, please provide an assessment of the extent of under-coverage (if possible) and mention if and how the missing information is derived.</p>	<p>Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL: Data are only available for holdings which submit a multiple application to Agrarmarkt Austria. Holdings which do not submit a claim in a particular year are required to make the data available in the course of the FSS. System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Measures for rural development, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS): Agricultural holdings keeping livestock which neither require to be reported by the VIS full survey nor submit an IACS funding request have to provide the information about livestock as part of the Farm Structure Survey. This applies only to very few holdings keeping exclusively poultry, horses or farmed game.</p>
<p>- misclassification Please mention whether the information allows for the requested classification of units and whether there are errors in classification variables.</p>	<p>Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL: Essentially, there is a good correlation between the characteristics. In isolated cases Statistics Austria had to assign the IACS data to relevant items in the FSS program. System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Measures for rural development, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS): Misclassification is excluded.</p>
<p>- multiple listings Please provide an assessment on units which were present more than once in the source and specify how the duplicates were eliminated.</p>	<p>Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Measures for rural development, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS): There are no multiple listing errors.</p>
<p>- rate of unreported events If data of the System for the Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals is used, please provide an assessment of the rate of unreported events. Unreported events refer to births, deaths or loss, sales or change of owners etc. of animals, which create under – and/or over-coverage errors for the estimates of animals.</p>	<p>Unreported events can be excluded due to the control- and sanctioning mechanisms (see also coherence below).</p>
<p>- missing data (analogue to item and unit non-response errors in a survey). Please provide an assessment of missing data, specify for which characteristics and how it was accounted for (e.g. by imputation).</p>	<p>Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL: There are missing data on B_1_7 Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, B_1_8 Flowers and B_2 Kitchen gardens. The respondents are required to make the data available in the course of the FSS.</p>
<p>- errors in register variables (analogue to measurement errors in a survey) i.e. erroneous values for certain variables</p>	<p>Quality is ensured by the routine maintenance of the Agricultural and Forestry Register, which is continually updated in the light of various primary agricultural surveys and by comparison with various types of administrative data (applications for subsidies, IACS, VIS, social insurance information etc.).</p>
<p>- processing errors. Please provide an assessment. You can mention here imputation methods used, if any.</p>	<p>Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL, System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register), Measures for rural development, Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS): In principle there are no processing errors in the context with the use of administrative data. Nevertheless, by prefiling the administrative data (IACS and VIS) concerning areas and livestock into the electronic questionnaire the respondents would have the opportunity to check and correct the data while completing the electronic questionnaire.</p>
<p>- coherence (comparison to other available data) of the administrative data (ex-ante and/or ex-post)</p>	<p>Integrated administration and control system (IACS) including ÖPUL In 1995 the information in the IACS was compared with the results of agricultural surveys carried out in the traditional manner (Farm Structure Surveys and livestock censuses). Comparison of the items revealed a very good match. As <i>in situ</i> inspections are carried out at farmers' premises as part of the IACS and false declarations punished by reductions in premiums, it can be assumed that the administrative data are highly accurate. The use of a digital cadaster map (DCM) is also expected to yield accurate information on areas. System for identification and registration of bovine animals (cattle register) Comparisons were made between the analyses of the Cattle Register and the results of the livestock censuses. There was a close correlation between the results of the two data sources. The data were checked as part of the application to use administrative data from the Cattle Register instead of statistical cattle surveys. The use of data from the Cattle Register makes for a greater accuracy and reliability of the results for a cattle population, as a series of checks are performed in the course of the administrative process. Electronic Veterinary Register pursuant to §8 Animal Diseases Act (TSG) – Veterinary Information System (VIS) Comparisons of VIS data with results from statistical surveys suggest a good correlation between results from various data sources. The annually on 1 April surveyed data were integrated into the VIS database. As these administrative data underlie continuous controls, a great accuracy and reliability of the results can be assumed.</p>
<p>- other drawbacks (if any) of the use of data from the administrative source. Please specify the drawbacks in the next column.</p>	<p>Coordinates No essential drawbacks occurred. Only 112 holdings could not be processed automatically due to missing coordinates. They had to be located „by hand“ by using a GIS-application (AGRARGIS). In the user interface of this GIS-application the location of the unit was identified on a topographical map (ÖK50) and on aerial photographs, the cursor was set on the right spot and the coordinates were added into our database.</p>

[3] See Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88

Annexes:[Adm sources](#)[Detailed-stratification-and-delimitations-per-NUTS2](#)[Stratification-conditions-NUTS2](#)**12.2. Frequency of data collection***(new) Please indicate the frequency of data collection.*

The frequency of the surveys/data collection is determined by the European legislation and each survey is dealt with under a separate national regulation.

12.3. Data collection**12.3.a Data collection modes***Please specify the data collection mode(s) used.**These can be for example:*

- Telephone

The data collection is carried out through the telephone interviews, usually supported by the CATI technology.

- Face-to-face

An interviewer visits selected holdings to directly communicate with them and get the required data.

- Internet

The data collection is carried out by using questionnaires which can be completed through internet applications.

- Self-completed paper questionnaires

The data is gathered through self-completed paper questionnaires which can be collected on a spot or sent to the survey organisation by mail.

- Mixed-mode

*Several modes for data collection are combined. The typical example is the survey where the telephone interviews are complemented with the face-to-face interviews for the respondents who were not reached by telephone.*The Farm Structure Survey was held solely using an electronic questionnaire (**e-Quest**). The farmers were able to submit their return either directly at the computer after entering their user ID and password (direct respondents) or during a personal interview by telephone using the same electronic questionnaire.

Those farmers, who took the help of the telephone interviewers to complete and submit their questionnaire, either called directly the free hotline or arranged an interview by sending a prepaid reply card back to Statistics Austria, filled in with their telephone number and availability (workday and time window). The competent interviewers opened the farmer's survey form using the farmer's access data and filled out the electronic questionnaire with the necessary information.

The survey took the form of a personalised electronic questionnaire, in which the name and the address of the holdings were already entered and only had to be checked and, if necessary, corrected. Detailed information material on how to use the electronic questionnaire and administer the Farm Structure Survey was sent directly to the respondents by post in October 2013. These consisted of an accompanying letter, a survey manual with a full description of the electronic questionnaire and a reply card (to arrange an interview) with a prepaid envelope.

A dedicated free hotline was set up by Statistics Austria to answer any questions that arose during the survey phase. In addition, queries could be sent by e-mail to Agrarstrukturhebung@statistik.gv.at.**12.3.b Data entry modes***Please specify the data entry mode(s) used.**These can be, for example:*

- Optical character recognition (OCR);
- Electronic data capture during personal interview;
- Entering the data online by the holder etc.

Due to an exclusive use of the electronic questionnaire, no separate data collection was necessary. The data were entered by the respondents or by the telephone interviewers (see above). The data of only very few holdings, who submitted their questionnaire by mail or fax to Statistics Austria, had to be entered manually into the electronic questionnaire.

The IT department took the data directly from the questionnaire in tranches and imported it into a database.

12.3.c Measures taken to increase response rates*Please specify, for example:*

- call-back strategies, written / telephone reminders, contacting respondents who have only partly completed the questionnaires;
- giving priority to more important, for example large holdings;
- taking care that the mailing list is based on up to date information;
- training staff in handling difficult respondents;
- legal actions taken on non-response.

The following measures were taken to increase response rates.

Maintaining up-to-date information in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR)

The Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR) on which the FSS is based is constantly being enhanced in terms of technical aspects and content maintenance as a result of increased updating options (administrative data, other registers etc.). In the run-up to the survey additional measures were taken to improve the up-to-dateness (e.g. adjustments with necrologies etc.).

Awareness campaign

Concerted articles were published in the relevant newspapers, journals and web pages to inform on the survey, its purposes and the importance of cooperation.

Trainings

- Training of all hotline agents (permanent staff of Statistics Austria) engaged in the FSS.
- Training of all telephone interviewers (temporary staff) engaged in the FSS.

Hotline-strategy

For the hotline staff and telephone interviewers at Statistics Austria, a list of frequently asked questions with regard to the motivation of respondents was compiled as a means of preparing them for questions from "difficult" respondents. Hotline agents were trained to convince respondents, who called and signalled to boycott the FSS, to give the information via direct telephone interview. Regular meetings of the hotline agents and the issue of newsletters facilitated information flows.

Telephone Interviews

Although the relatively low return quota of the reply cards (to arrange an interview) requires further improvement (only about 12% reply cards were returned), the farmers very willingly accepted the possibility to provide the information via telephone interview in the end. The low return quota of the reply cards had to be offset by intensified research for telephone contact information in the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR), phone book and internet.

Reminders for overdue questionnaires

A graded series of reminders for overdue questionnaires was applied.

- In former surveys the local authorities had to ensure that all questionnaires were returned and it was their responsibility to ask the holdings (either in person, over the telephone, in writing or by registered mail) to complete the questionnaire. The FSS 2013 was the first survey without directly involving the Austrian local authorities. Now the holdings were targeted by telephone-interview procedures by staff at Statistics Austria.
- About 4,022 farmers, who had failed to complete the questionnaire on time or who could not be contacted by phone, were reminded and notified of the legal consequences via registered letter.
- 83 farmers insisted on their refusal and were ultimately reported by Statistics Austria to the relevant authorities in April 2014 to initiate administrative penal proceedings. Since Statistics Austria has no executive power to pursue administrative penal proceedings, information about these holdings had to be given to the relevant administrative districts that are responsible in Austria for conducting prosecutions. Normally a fine is imposed and a deadline is set for supplying the required information, i.e. payment of the fine does not release the farmer from the duty of supplying information; he/she must still provide the data in all cases.
- After prosecution 14 farmers submitted their data properly – if very late in some cases – to Statistics Austria. 69 farmers did not cooperate at all. Their data had to be imputed.

12.3.d Monitoring of response and non-response

The following table should be completed only in case of a sample survey or a census.

It should **not** be completed when data are entirely taken from administrative sources. In the latter case, section 12.1.e.5 provides relevant information.

The following table aims to collect exact information of the number of holdings in a uniform way. This information allows, among other, calculating response rates according to the definition of response rates in the Eurostat (2009) [ESS Handbook for Quality Reports](#), page 49. These definitions of the response rates are presented in the handbook for sample surveys but, as stated in the same handbook, page 57, they are also applicable to censuses.

The following table refers to the number of holdings covered by the records sent to Eurostat.

- If you send records on all surveyed holdings to Eurostat, then please include all surveyed holdings.

- If you send records on a subset of surveyed holdings to Eurostat (that, according to Regulation 1166/2008, account for 98% of the utilised agricultural area and 98% of the livestock units), then please consider only the subset of holdings transferred to Eurostat, if possible. If this is not possible, please explain and then include information concerning all holdings surveyed in the country.

This table refers to the number of holdings according to the EU definition, and, if different from the EU definition [4], according to the national definition. Please specify the case.

Common land holdings (special holdings created to report common land), if any, should not be included in the number of the holdings of any category below. They should be reported in section 8.1.d.4

Please note that the following table refers to the number of holdings covered by the whole sample including forestry holdings, which are part of the sample due to the national definition of the holding and including the common land units! It was not possible to separate the subset of holdings transferred to Eurostat and the common land units in hindsight. (For calculating the response rate it seems to be irrelevant, if the unit is a common land unit or not.)

Number in brackets are the holdings according to the EU definition (records transferred to Eurostat: 26628).

1.	Number of holdings in the population covered by the records sent to Eurostat Please note that the survey coverage of the records sent to Eurostat can be different from the national survey coverage in case very low (or no) national thresholds are applied. In case of a census 1=3+4+5	166317 (EU: 140433)
2.	Number of holdings in the gross sample The number of holdings selected from the sampling frame to be included in the sample. This item should be completed <u>only</u> in case of a sample survey, in which case 2=3+4+5	30000 (EU: 27862)
3.	(new) Number of ineligible holdings The number of surveyed holdings which result to be out-of-scope (the frame is not updated and the data collection reveals that some holdings e.g. fall below set thresholds during the reference period), which do not exist at the selected address, which have the activities ceased during the reference period etc.	942
3.1	Number of holdings with ceased activities This item is a subset of 3. 3.1>=3.1.1+3.1.2	472
3.1.1	Number of holdings which definitively ceased i.e. the land is abandoned. This item should be completed only if information is available.	280
3.1.2	Number of holdings with ceased activities following the change of manager This item should be completed only if information is available.	192
4	(new) Number of holdings with unknown eligibility status The number of surveyed holdings which could not be contacted (e.g. in a CATI survey) and for which it is not certain if they are eligible (e.g. in scope) or not.	-
5	(new) Number of eligible holdings The number of surveyed holdings which are eligible 5=5.1+5.2	29058 (EU: 26628)
5.1	Number of non-responding holdings The number of eligible holdings which: - were contacted but refused to take part in the survey; - were contacted but were unable to participate in the survey for various reasons;	69

	- participated in the survey but the entire survey form cannot be used because of poor quality etc. This item refers to holdings for which no data is collected (unit non-response). 5.1>=5.1.1+5.1.2	
5.1.1	Number of non-responding holdings – re-weighted	-
5.1.2	Number of non-responding holdings – imputed	69
5.2	Number of responding holdings This item includes holdings which provided completed questionnaires, either entirely or partially.	28989

12.3.e Questionnaire(s)

Please annex the questionnaire(s) used for the data collection, using the "Add file" button. If possible, please provide the questionnaire in English, French or German.

[4] See Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88

Annexes:

[Questionnaire](#)

12.4. Data validation**12.4.a Edit rules/checks**

Please mention edit rules applied. For example: data format checks, completeness checks, routing (skip) checks, range/outlier checks, relational checks, ratio edits, etc.

Micro-level processing was carried out by means of extensive plausibility checks. The formal checks on the data involved a plausibility program containing about **141** plausibility rules, which again **included all the controls of the Data Suppliers Manual**. The types of checks performed were completeness checks, data validation, valid value checks, range checks, relational checks, arithmetic checks, ratio edits.

The plausibility rules made distinctions between the following types of error:

- Automatic errors

These were errors that could be automatically corrected using programmed instructions.

- Information errors (**78**)

This mainly involved identifying input errors. Limit values were incorporated into the program for certain items in particular, e.g. to prevent entries being made in the wrong units of measurement (for example m²) in the case of specialised crops. If these limits were exceeded, this fact was reported. Processing staff then had to investigate or use their specialised knowledge to confirm that the data were correct or make the necessary corrections.

- Other errors (**63**)

Processing staff had to correct these, either by recalling/consulting the respondents or on the basis of their specialised knowledge.

Moreover, the nil returns were examined. If, for example, administrative information on the holding was available, the holding was surveyed again. This was done in close collaboration with staff dealing with the Farm Register (or Agricultural and Forestry Register, AFR), as the information from the nil returns (business closure, leasing, etc.) were used for updating the registers.

12.4.b Tools used for data validation

Please mention tools used.

Application for Plausibility checks

The data sets were checked for missing, incorrect or implausible information, using an extensive plausibility application. The program was developed in cooperation with the IT Dept. Care was taken to ensure that missing, incorrect and implausible entries were detected by the program and either highlighted or immediately corrected. The functionality of the plausibility program was first checked using fictitious holdings. The correction applications contained a number of deliberate errors in order to check whether the program would recognise and report them.

The errors detected (incorrect entries, missing or implausible data) had to be investigated and rectified by the processing team. Errors were eliminated and plausibility checks carried out directly via the application. Holdings for which errors still remain are flagged as incorrect and had to be processed once again. This process was repeated until the program detected no more errors or inconsistencies. The staff themselves could correct logical obvious errors. Frequent meetings of the staff facilitated information flows. Discussing the main issues arising from the work made it easier to standardise the criteria to solve similar situations.

Missing or incorrect entries were completed from other data sources wherever available (e.g. administrative data from IACS or ÖPUL, "total area information" from the social insurance for farmers) to avoid burdening the respondents. The forestry yearbook, containing the areas of Austria's largest forestry holdings, was another means of checking data. If these sources were not exhaustive, individual items from the 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 or 2010 Farm Structure Survey were used, wherever possible, to supplement and/or check the data. Where this did not provide clarity, individual holdings had to be contacted by telephone.

Figure: Plausibility application - search function

AS2013

STATISTIK AUSTRIA
Die Informationsmanager

AS 2013

User PEYRS Schnellabfrage

Allgemeines **Suche** **Abfragen**

Suche

Suchkriterien

GemNr PLZ Rechtsform

Richtig/Falsch

Plausstatus

Meldung/Leermeldung

Fehlercode

Reservierte Einheiten

Status Leermeldungen IFarm

12.4.c Level of data validation

Please mention. For example, data validation can be done at the level of the interviewer, of the supervisor, of the local collection centre, of the final collection centre.

At the level of the Electronic questionnaire (respondent/telephone interviewer)

The questionnaire was designed in such a way that certain data items were checked for plausibility and for completeness respectively while being entered or before the questionnaire could be returned, with the result that serious errors did not go undetected and were not accepted. Preventive measures were also taken to avoid instances of individual questionnaire sheets inadvertently being "skipped over": the marker was required to enter "The entries on this page are complete" on every page of the questionnaire. The checks in the electronic questionnaire included completeness checks, valid value checks, relational checks.

At the level of the Application for Plausibility checks (processing team)

Formal checks on the data imported into the database involved the plausibility program mentioned above.

12.5. Data compilation

Sections 12.5.a and 12.5.b should be completed *only* in case of sample surveys.

12.5.a Methods for deriving the extrapolation factor (the weight)

Please give a description of the extrapolation procedures used to weight the data of the sampled holdings to the population, discussing the different steps taken, as follows:

12.5.a.1 Design weights

Please explain how design weights were obtained. In case the approach departed from the usual one that consists of taking the inverse of the inclusion probabilities, then the latter should be explained. Design weights are defined as the inverse of the units' selection probabilities.

Design weights were obtained by taking the inverse of selection probabilities of holdings.

12.5.a.2 Adjustment of weights for non-response

Please mention if you applied re-weighting for non-response. If yes, then the method used to determine the correction factors should be explained: reweighted Horvitz-Thompson estimator, ratio estimation, regression estimation, etc.

Please indicate if response homogeneity groups have been created.

The response rate was ultimately 99.77%. The data of the 69 units which refused to fill in the questionnaire, could be imputed by using administrative or other data-sources (Internet etc.). Therefore no re-weighting for non-response was necessary.

Non-response because of non-existence of holdings at the time of the data collection: No adaption of sample weights necessary.

12.5.a.3 Adjustment of weights to external data sources

Please mention if you adjusted the weights to external sources and if so please describe and mention the variables used from the sources and the sources. Generally, samples are adjusted to external data sources in order to make their accuracy better. For instance, the calibration technique aims at calculating new weights which provide error-free estimates for a certain number of characteristics. If the characteristics are strongly correlated with the variables of interest, then the level of accuracy for most of the survey estimates is improved.

The weights were not adjusted to external sources.

12.5.a.4 Any other applied adjustment of weights

For example, extreme weights (which increase the variance of the estimates) can be trimmed.

The adjustments of weights, which might be appropriate for individual, very specific characteristics is limited. In accordance with Eurostat specifications, only one weighting shall be used for each holding, which leads to large differences for individual characteristics in the sample errors.

12.5.b Formulae applied for estimation methods

Please annex the formulae applied for estimation methods, using the "Add file" button.

12.5.c Other relevant information (if any)

N/A

12.6. Adjustment

[Not requested]

13. Comment
[Top](#)
13.a Any regional specification

Please include relevant information such as on extreme weather conditions in certain region(s) during the agricultural year (reference period), differences in methodology across regions etc.

Due to the weather conditions irrigation needs in 2013 were higher than in 2010.
There were no differences in methodology across regions.

13.b Possible improvements in the future

Please suggest possible improvements.

N/A

13.c Other annexes

Please annex any other(s) file(s), deemed as useful, using the "Add file" button.

Please indicate here the nature and purpose of the file(s).

N/A

Related metadata
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Annexes
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