

# Glossary: Standard output (SO)

Statistics Explained

The **standard output** of an agricultural product (crop or livestock), abbreviated as **SO**, is the average monetary value of the agricultural output at farm-gate price, in euro per hectare or per head of livestock.

There is a regional SO coefficient for each product, as an average value over a reference period (5 years, except for the SO 2004 coefficient calculated using the average of 3 years). The sum of all the SO per hectare of crop and per head of livestock in a farm is a measure of its overall [economic size](#), expressed in euro.

The standard output is used to classify [agricultural holdings](#) by type of farming and by economic size.

Until 2007 the [Farm structure survey \(FSS\)](#) and the Farm accountancy data network (FADN) have used [standard gross margin \(SGM\)](#) to classify [agricultural holdings](#) by type of farming and by economic size ( [Commission Decision \(EEC\) No 377/1985](#) ).

From FSS 2010 this classification uses standard output (SO) instead of SGM according to [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1242/2008](#), which is replaced by [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) No 1198/2014](#) for FSS 2016 and onwards.

The principle of both concepts SGM and SO is the same; only the way they are calculated differs:

- $SGM = Output + Direct\ Payments - Costs$
- $SO = Output$

The decision to leave SGM was driven by the [CAP](#) moving from coupled to decoupled payments. Since decoupled direct payments cannot be attributed to any specific production, they were excluded from the calculation. If the cost were kept in the calculation there would be the possibility of negative SGM values in cases where costs were higher than the output. Therefore only the output is taken into account.

The main differences between SO and SGM are:

- SO excludes direct payments and includes the production costs;
- the fodder requirement in the case of some livestock characteristics is included in the calculation of the SO;
- the unit used to measure SO is the euro and not [ESU](#) (1 200 Euro) as in the SGM classification.

Figure 1 shows the use of SO and SGM coefficients in Farm structure surveys in the different campaigns.

		Reference data																																		
		Typology	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		
IFS	2026	SO																																		
	2023	SO																																		
	2020	SO																																		
	2016	SO																																		
	2013	SO																																		
FSS	2010	SO																																		
	2007	SO																																		
		SGM																																		
	2005	SO																																		
		SGM																																		
	2003	SO																																		
		SGM																																		
	2000	SO																																		
		SGM																																		

2013 and 2010 data and recalculation of 2007 and 2005 data with SO coefficients  
Historical data SGM and typology calculated with SGM coefficients

**Figure 1: The use of SO and SGM coefficients in Farm structure surveys**

The standard output coefficients tables for each Member State are available in the [additional data](#) webpage

## Further information

- [European Commission - Farm Accounting Data Network \(FADN\)](#)
- [Farm structure](#) (ESMS metadata file - ef\_sims)
- [Farm structure survey — methodological articles](#)
- [Commission Decision \(EEC\) No 377/1985](#) of 7 June 1985 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (legal text)
- [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 1242/2008](#) of 8 December 2008 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings
- [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 867/2009](#) of 21 September 2009 amending and correcting Regulation (EC) No 1242/2008 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings
- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) No 1198/2014](#) of 1 August 2014 supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2009 setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Union
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2015/220](#) of 3 February 2015 laying down rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2009 setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Union

## Related concepts

- [Farm structure survey \(FSS\)](#)
- [Standard gross margin \(SGM\)](#)
- [Economic size unit](#)
- [Agricultural holdings](#)

## Statistical data

- [Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics](#)
- [Standard Output coefficients](#)