

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.

The common classification of holdings is built on different nested levels. Homogeneous groups of holdings can be assembled in a greater or lower degree of aggregation. Depending on the amount of details required, the types of farming are divided into :

- general types of farming (1 digit),
 - principal types of farming (2 digits),
 - * particular types of farming (3 digits), in earlier years in a few cases split into subdivisions of
 - particular types of farming (4 digits).

Table 1 shows the changes in the classification of agricultural holdings by type of farming between the Farm structure surveys 1985 and 2016.

Code and designation	1985	1995	2003, 2005	2007, 2010, 2013	2016
1 Specialist field crops	X	X	X	X	X
11 Specialist cereals	X				
111 Specialist cereals (other than rice)	X				
112 Specialist rice	X				
113 Cereals and rice combined	X				
12 General field cropping	X				
121 Specialist root crops	X				
122 Cereals and root crops combined	X				
123 Specialist field vegetables	X				
124 Various field crops	X				
1241 Specialist tobacco	X				
1242 Specialist cotton	X				
1243 Specialist oilseed and textile crops	X				
1244 Various field crops combined	X				
13 Specialist cereals, oilseed and protein crops		X	X		
131 Specialist cereals (other than rice), oilseeds and protein crops		X	X		
132 Specialist rice		X	X		
133 Cereals, oilseeds, protein crops and rice combined		X	X		
14 General field cropping		X	X		
141 Specialist root crops		X	X		
142 Cereals and root crops combined		X	X		
143 Specialist field vegetables		X	X		
144 Various field crops		X	X		
1441 Specialist tobacco		X	X		
1442 Specialist cotton		X	X		
1443 Various field crops combined		X	X		
15 Specialist cereals, oilseeds and protein crops				X	X
151 Specialist cereals (other than rice), oilseeds and protein crops				X	X
152 Specialist rice				X	X
153 Cereals, oilseeds, protein crops and rice combined				X	X
16 General field cropping				X	X
161 Specialist root crops				X	X
162 Cereals, oilseeds, protein crops and root crops combined				X	X
163 Specialist field vegetables				X	X
164 Specialist tobacco				X	X
165 Specialist cotton				X	X
166 Various field crops combined				X	X
2 Specialist horticulture	X	X	X	X	X
20 Specialist horticulture	X	X	X		
201 Specialist market garden vegetables	X	X	X		
2011 Specialist market garden vegetables - outdoor	X	X	X		
2012 Specialist market garden vegetables - under glass	X	X	X		
2013 Specialist market garden vegetables, outdoor and under glass combined	X	X	X		
202 Specialist flowers and ornamentals	X	X	X		
2021 Specialist flowers and ornamentals - outdoor	X	X	X		
2022 Specialist flowers and ornamentals - under glass	X	X	X		
2023 Specialist flowers and ornamentals, outdoor and under glass combined	X	X	X		
203 General market garden cropping	X	X	X		
2031 General market garden cropping - outdoor	X	X	X		
2032 General market garden cropping - under glass	X	X	X		
2033 Specialist mushrooms	X	X	X		
2034 Various market garden crops combined	X	X	X		
21 Specialist horticulture indoor				X	X
211 Specialist vegetables indoor				X	X
212 Specialist flowers and ornamentals indoor				X	X
213 Mixed horticulture indoor specialist				X	X
22 Specialist horticulture outdoor				X	X
221 Specialist vegetables outdoor				X	X
222 Specialist flowers and ornamentals outdoor				X	X
223 Mixed horticulture outdoor specialist				X	X
23 Other horticulture				X	X
231 Specialist mushrooms				X	X
232 Specialist nurseries				X	X
233 Various horticulture				X	X
3 Specialist permanent crops	X	X	X	X	X
31 Specialist vineyards	X	X	X		
311 Specialist quality wine	X	X	X		
312 Specialist wine other than quality wine	X	X	X		
313 Quality and other wine combined	X	X	X		
314 Vineyards for various types of production	X	X	X		
3141 Specialist table grapes	X	X	X		
3142 Specialist raisins	X	X	X		
3143 Mixed vineyards	X	X	X		
32 Specialist fruit and citrus fruit	X	X	X		
321 Specialist fruit (other than citrus)	X	X	X		
3211 Specialist fresh fruit (other than citrus)	X	X	X		
3212 Specialist nuts	X	X	X		
3213 Fresh fruit (other than citrus) and nuts combined	X	X	X		
322 Specialist citrus fruit	X	X	X		
323 Fruit and citrus fruit combined	X	X	X		
33 Specialist olives	X	X	X		
330 Specialist olives	X	X	X		
34 Various permanent crops combined	X	X	X		
340 Various permanent crops combined	X	X			
35 Specialist vineyards				X	X
351 Specialist quality wine				X	X
352 Specialist wine other than quality wine				X	X
353 Specialist table grapes				X	X
354 Other vineyards				X	X
36 Specialist fruit and citrus fruit				X	X
361 Specialist fruit (other than citrus, tropical fruits or nuts)				X	X
362 Specialist citrus fruit				X	X
363 Specialist nuts				X	X
364 Specialist tropical fruits				X	X
365 Specialist fruit, citrus, tropical fruits and nuts: mixed production				X	X
37 Specialist olives				X	X
370 Specialist olives				X	X
38 Various permanent crops combined				X	X
380 Various permanent crops combined				X	X
4 Specialist grazing livestock	X	X	X	X	X
41 Specialist dairying	X	X	X		
411 Specialist milk production	X	X	X		
412 Specialist milk production with cattle rearing	X	X	X		
42 Specialist cattle - rearing and fattening	X	X	X		
421 Specialist cattle - mainly rearing	X	X	X		
422 Specialist cattle - mainly fattening	X	X	X		
43 Cattle - dairying, rearing and fattening combined	X	X	X		
431 Cattle - dairying with rearing and fattening	X	X	X		
432 Cattle rearing and fattening with dairying	X	X	X		
44 Sheep, goats and other grazing livestock	X	X	X		
441 Specialist sheep	X	X	X		
442 Sheep and cattle combined	X	X	X		
443 Specialist goats	X	X	X		
444 Various grazing livestock - no dominant enterprise	X	X	X		
45 Specialist dairying				X	X
450 Specialist dairying				X	X
46 Specialist cattle - rearing and fattening				X	X
460 Specialist cattle - rearing and fattening				X	X
47 Cattle - dairying, rearing and fattening combined				X	X
470 Cattle - dairying, rearing and fattening combined				X	X
48 Sheep, goats and other grazing livestock				X	X
481 Specialist sheep				X	X
482 Sheep and cattle combined				X	X
483 Specialist goats				X	X
484 Various grazing livestock				X	X
5 Specialist granivores	X	X	X	X	X
50 Specialist granivores	X	X	X		
501 Specialist pigs	X	X	X		
5011 Specialist pig rearing	X	X	X		
5012 Specialist pig fattening	X	X	X		
5013 Pig rearing and fattening combined	X	X	X		
502 Specialist poultry	X	X	X		

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.

The farm structure survey online database is only available from 1990 onwards.

Figure 1 shows the use of SO and SGM coefficients in Farm structure surveys in the period 1990-2016.

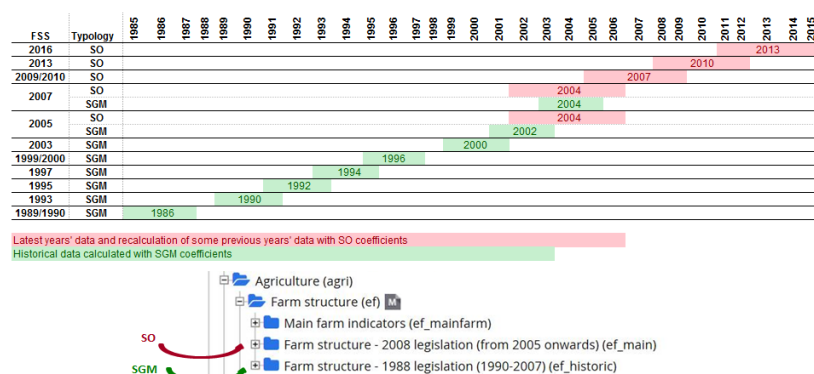


Figure 1: The use of SO and SGM coefficients in Farm structure surveys in the period 2000-2016

Please find the standard output coefficients tables for each Member State in Eurostat Website at page [SO coefficients](#)

Further information

- [European Commission - Farm Accounting Data Network - Methodology](#)
- [Structure of agricultural holdings](#) (ESMS metadata file — ef_esms)
- [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](#)

Source data for tables and figures (MS Excel)

- [Standard Output \(SO\): tables and figures](#)