Agricultural products, food and culinary traditions are a major part of Europe’s regional and cultural identity. This is, at least in part, due to a diverse range of natural environments, climates and farming practices that feed through into a wide array of agricultural products. A growing share of European Union (EU) consumers give importance to the provenance of their food, for example choosing regional products or traditional specialities, as witnessed in the growth of farmers’ markets and food fairs. This may be contrasted with the growing share of consumers who choose to shop in discount retailers that have radically changed the market for groceries in several Member States.

Around two fifths of the EU’s land is farmed: this underlines the important impact that farming can have on natural environments, natural resources, wildlife as well as soil and water quality. Farmers are increasingly being asked to manage the countryside for the benefit of all Europeans, delivering a public good through their maintenance of soils, landscapes and biodiversity, so that the whole of society can benefit from a countryside that is carefully managed and well looked after.

The common agricultural policy (CAP) covers all EU Member States. It is managed directly by the EU and funded from the EU’s budget. Its main aims are to ensure that EU farmers provide a stable and safe supply of food, produced in a sustainable way at affordable prices for more than 510 million consumers across the
EU. At the same time, it aims to ensure that farmers and other agricultural workers can make a reasonable living.

The challenges for EU agriculture continue to develop. There are environmental, economic and social dimensions, among which: impacts of climate change on agriculture and of agriculture on climate change; water pollution and scarcity; soil erosion and compaction; the impact of agriculture on air quality; preserving landscapes and biodiversity; pressures on farm income; weaknesses in productivity; imbalances in value chains; ensuring vibrant rural communities; development prospects for rural economies; setting-up young farmers in business; and territorial cohesion. The future CAP wants to prioritise small and medium-sized farms and encourage young farmers to join the profession.

This chapter presents regional agricultural statistics within the EU and provides a selection of Eurostat’s data within this domain, including information covering the structure of agriculture (average farm size and the importance of older farm managers), cereals, as well as animal production (livestock specialisation and cows’ milk production).

**Structure of agriculture**

There were 10.5 million farms in the EU-28 in 2016. Approximately one third of the total (32.7 %) were located in Romania, with a further one eighth (13.5 %) in Poland. The next highest shares were recorded in Italy (10.9% of the farms in the EU-28), Spain (9.0 %) and Greece (6.5 %).

A majority of farms in the EU are small. In 2016, two thirds of all EU farms were either very small (defined here as those farms with a standard output of less than EUR 2 000 per year) or small (with output in the range of EUR 2 000 to EUR 8 000 per year). Very small and small farms are commonly located across eastern and southern parts of the EU.

The 4.0 million farms in the EU that are classed as very small were responsible for only 1 % of the EU’s total agricultural economic output. They can be considered at the (semi-)subsistence end of the farming scale: about three quarters of such farms consumed more than half of their production themselves.

Map 1 presents an analysis of average farm size (in terms of standard output) for NUTS level 2 regions in 2016. The average (mean) size of the EU’s farms was EUR 34 800 of standard output. In the map, the average size of farms in each of the regions is presented in comparison with the average for the EU-28, which has been given a value of 100 (effectively 100 %); regions with an average farm size that is greater than or equal to the EU-28 average are coloured green and those where the average is lower are coloured yellow. Note, however, that the survey coverage varies between EU Member States and that this may impact the results presented below, as the use of different thresholds to exclude the smallest farms has a big impact on their average size.

The EU’s agricultural industry is broadly distinguished by three distinct groups of farms: (i) semi-subsistence farms; (ii) small and medium-sized farms; and (iii) large agricultural enterprises, which are more likely to have a legal form or be cooperatives. These three groups are clearly shown along geographic lines in Map 1.

The smallest average sizes of farms in the EU — as measured by standard output — were most commonly found in eastern and southern regions

There were 43 regions in the EU where the average farm size was less than half the EU-28 average in 2016 (as shown by the darkest share of yellow). All of the Greek, Romanian and Slovenian regions figured in this list, along with a number of regions in Poland, Hungary, Portugal and Bulgaria as well as Lithuania (national data) and Malta (one region at this level of detail). The region with the lowest level of standard output per farm (EUR 2 710) was Sud-Vest Oltenia in Romania.

The largest average size of farms in the EU were most commonly found in western regions

There were 64 regions across the EU where the average standard output per farm was at least five times as high as the EU-28 average, in other words at least EUR 174 000 (as shown by the darkest shade in Map 1).
These regions were located mainly in Germany, the Benelux Member States, the United Kingdom, France and Czechia. Among these 64 regions, there were 15 where the average farm size was at least 10 times as high as the EU-28 average; eight of these were in the Netherlands, six in Germany and one in Denmark (Syddanmark). The region with the highest level of standard output per farm (EUR 680 700 – nearly 20 times the EU-28 average) was Zuid-Holland.
Average economic size of farm holdings, 2016 (EU-28 = 100, based on the standard output of the average farm in relation to the EU-28 average, by NUTS 2 regions)

Map 1: Average economic size of farm holdings, 2016(EU-28 = 100, based on the standard output of the average farm in relation to the EU-28 average, by NUTS 2 regions)Source: Eurostat (ef_m_farmleg)
More than half of all farm managers in the EU-28 in 2016 were aged 55 years or over

Farm managers are those responsible for the normal daily financial and production routines of running a farm, such as what and how much to plant or rear and what labour, materials and equipment to employ. Often the farm manager is also the owner (also known as the ‘holder’) of the farm but this need not be the case, especially when the farm has a legal form.

Slow generational renewal and a high average age for farmers is a widespread issue in the EU’s farming sector. In May 2018, a report from the European Parliament looked at existing and potential new policies to support young farmers, such as providing incentives for older farmers to retire, addressing barriers to entry and increasing business skills among young farmers.

As there is only one farm manager per farm, the number of managers and farms is the same, 10.5 million across the EU-28 in 2016. Among these, 1.1 million (10.6 %) were aged less than 40 years, and so are considered for policy purposes as young farm managers. In the vast majority of regions in the EU the share of young farmers was less than 20.0 % in 2016, with just 17 reporting higher shares. They were principally located in Poland (eight regions) and Austria (six regions — including Salzburg with the highest share in the EU, at 27.6 %).

In 2016, more than one half (57.9 %) of all the EU’s farm managers were aged 55 years or over, and nearly one third (32.9 %) were aged 65 years or over. Map 2 focuses on this oldest age group, showing the share of farm managers in each NUTS level 2 region who were aged 65 years or over. Elderly farm managers were particularly common in Portuguese regions: in Algarve, almost two thirds (63.1 %) of farm managers in 2016 were aged 65 years or more, with shares that were close to or over 50 % in Centro, Área Metropolitana de Lisboa, Alentejo, Região Autónoma da Madeira and Norte. Aside from Portugal, at least 40.0 % of farm managers were aged 65 years or over in 31 regions, principally located in: Italy (10 regions, including Umbria which had the highest share (48.9 %) outside of Portugal); Romania (all eight regions); and the United Kingdom (seven regions).

These top-heavy age structures underline the policy interest in farm succession and the need to encourage a new generation of farmers. Elderly farm managers tend to work on the smallest farms (measured in economic terms) which are characterised by subsistence households and low levels of agricultural income.

Less than 10 % of farm managers were aged 65 years or over in 2016 in 46 of the EU’s regions, with Salzburg recording the lowest share at 4.0 %. These regions, where less than 1 in 10 farm managers were elderly, were principally located in: Germany (21 regions, of which only one was in eastern Germany); Austria (all nine regions); and Poland (eight regions).
Older farm managers, 2016
(% share of farm managers aged ≥ 65 years, by NUTS 2 regions)

Map 2: Older farm managers, 2016(% share of farm managers aged ≥ 65 years, by NUTS 2 regions)Source: Eurostat (ef_m_farmang)
Cereals and oilseeds

The French region of Centre — Val de Loire harvested more cereals in 2017 than any other region in the EU

Arable land is often used for the production of cereals, one of the most important outputs of the EU’s agricultural sector. Cereals are used primarily for human consumption and animal feed, but they are also used to make drinks and for industrial products (for example, starch). Cereals production in the EU is principally located in lowland regions, characterised by large plains, with a temperate climate and relatively modest levels of rainfall.

In 2017, EU-28 harvested production of cereals was 310.6 million tonnes. The level of cereals production in the EU’s NUTS level 2 regions is shown by the size of the circles in Map 3. The highest levels of production, at least 3.5 million tonnes, were principally located in:

• nine French regions, mainly in the west and the north, including the French region of Centre — Val de Loire which harvested more cereals (8.9 million tonnes) in 2017 than any other region in the EU, producing mainly common wheat and spelt;
• nine German regions (note that these are NUTS level 1 regions and therefore normally larger in area than NUTS level 2 regions);
• three Romanian regions and two Polish regions.

In the EU, the most commonly grown category of cereals was common wheat and spelt, which was also the most common cereal crop in 111 regions

There is considerable diversity in relation to the types of cereal that are grown in the EU, with regional specialisation reflecting, at least to some degree, topography, soil type, climate and rainfall, or competing land uses. As well as showing the total level of harvested cereals production for each region in 2017, Map 3 also provides information on the most commonly grown cereal in each NUTS level 2 region (as shown by the colour of each circle).

In 2017, the most commonly grown category of cereals in the EU was common wheat and spelt. This was the most common cereal crop in as many as 111 regions across the EU, most of which can be broadly grouped into:

• one arc running up from northern Spain, through most of the regions of France and the Benelux countries, England and Wales except for London (NUTS level 1 regions), through several German (NUTS level 1) regions, to most of the Danish regions and the Swedish regions (not the northernmost ones), as well as two southernmost Finnish regions;
• another group including all regions in the Baltic Member States, the majority of Polish regions, all Czech and Slovak regions, three eastern Austrian regions (as well as one in the west) and two northern Hungarian regions;
• all Bulgarian regions.

There were also a large number of regions (52) in the EU where grain maize and corn-cob mix was the most commonly grown cereal in 2017. The regions specialising in grain maize and corn-cob mix were principally located in:

• the Iberian Peninsula — most regions of Portugal as well as four Spanish regions, most of which bordered or were close to Portugal;
• northern regions of Italy (2016 data), central parts of neighbouring Austria, into eastern parts of Slovenia and Croatia, and onto most of Hungary and Romania, as well as most of mainland Greece.
Map 3: Harvested production of cereals (including seed) and most commonly grown cereals, 2017 (million tonnes, by NUTS 2 regions)

Source: Eurostat (apro_cpnhr)

Note: the map shows the harvested production of cereals (including seed) as proportional circles for each region, while the colour of each circle denotes the most commonly grown cereal in that region. Germany and the United Kingdom: NUTS level 1. Norway, Albania and Serbia: national data. Italy, Norway, Albania and Turkey: 2016. Montenegro: provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_cpnhr)
The regions where barley was the most commonly grown cereal were often, but not always, characterised as being more remote or mountainous regions of the EU, for example: central and northern Finland and Sweden; several parts of Spain, the Greek islands and Cyprus; all Irish regions, Northern Ireland and Scotland (NUTS level 1 regions in the United Kingdom).

Durum wheat was the most commonly grown type of cereal in several southern and western regions of the EU, for example: central and southern parts of Italy and the Italian islands (2016 data); Andalucía in the south of Spain; two regions in southern France — Languedoc-Roussillon and Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur.

In contrast to the situation for the four groups of cereals mentioned above, there were relatively few regions in the EU where any of the other cereals shown in Map 3 were the most commonly grown crop:

- the Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen in Italy was the only region where rye and winter cereal mixtures (maslin) was the most commonly grown crop (2016 data);
- oats were the most commonly grown crop in Sachsen-Anhalt (Germany) as well as in two island regions and the capital city region of Greece;
- triticale was the most commonly grown crop in four Polish regions running from the centre to the north-east of the country, including the capital city region;
- rice was the most commonly grown crop in two French overseas regions (Guyane and Mayotte), in Comunidad Valenciana in eastern Spain and in the metropolitan area around the Portuguese capital city.

**Sunflower was the most common oilseed crop in much of the south of the EU and in the more southerly of the eastern Member States**

Some oilseeds crops are processed for use in products for human consumption; however, much of the harvested production from oilseeds crops is used for animal feed. Oils extracted from some oilseed products may also be used for industrial purposes, for example to produce biodiesel, inks or paints.

In 2017, the EU-28’s harvested production of oilseed crops was 36.1 million tonnes. Rape and turnip rape seeds were together the most widely grown oilseed crop in the EU, accounting for 60.7 % of the total, followed by sunflower seeds with 28.9 %, soya with 7.6 %, cotton seed with 2.4 % and linseed with 0.4 %.

At a regional level (NUTS level 2), harvested production of oilseed crops in 2017 peaked at 1.5 and 1.4 million tonnes in the Romanian regions of Sud-Muntenia and Sud-Est. The only other NUTS level 2 region with a level of production above 750 000 tonnes was the French region of Centre — Val de Loire (1.2 million tonnes). An additional 17 regions recorded production of at least 500 000 tonnes in 2017, they were principally located in France (five regions), Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania (three regions each).

The production of rape, turnip rape and sunflower seeds was uncommon in the southern regions of Europe and in the Nordic countries, with the vast majority of production running in a band between these two extremes. Indeed, there were 28 regions in the EU where there was no production of oilseeds and these were generally located in southern parts of the EU. By contrast, there were a few exceptions in southern countries, where the production of oilseed crops was at least 100 000 tonnes, for example: Andalucía, Castilla y León and Castilla-La Mancha (in Spain); Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki (in Greece); and Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lombardia and Emilia-Romagna (in Italy; 2016 data).

Aside from providing information on the overall level of harvested production of oilseeds, Map 4 also details the most commonly grown oilseeds in each region (based on production). Rape and turnip rape seed was, by far, the most commonly grown type of oilseed: this was the case in 124 of the 196 regions across the EU that had some oilseed production. In 2017, the highest levels of harvested production were in:

- Centre - Val de Loire (1.03 million tonnes) and Champagne-Ardenne in France (699 000 tonnes);
- Sud-Muntenia in Romania, where production peaked at 733 000 tonnes.

In 2017, sunflower was the most commonly grown oilseed crop in 57 regions, mainly in the south of the EU or in the more southerly of the eastern Member States. These regions included: all of the regions in Bulgaria, Hungary (except for Nyugat-Dunántúl) and Romania (except for Sud-Muntenia), as well as 11 regions from Spain and 10 central, southern and island regions of Italy. The highest level of harvested production of sunflowers in the EU was recorded in Sud-Est (Romania; 951 000 tonnes).
Soya was the most commonly grown oilseed crop in several Austrian regions, northern Italian regions and Croatia.

Soya is a dual-purpose crop used both for producing oil and as a source of vegetable protein in food and feed sectors. A total of 15 regions across the EU reported soya as their most commonly grown oilseed in 2017, including: six regions in Austria; five regions in northern Italy (2016 data); and both Croatian regions.
Harvested production of oilseeds and most commonly grown oilseeds, 2017 (thousand tonnes, by NUTS 2 regions)

Map 4: Harvested production of oilseeds and most commonly grown oilseeds, 2017 (thousand tonnes, by NUTS 2 regions) Source: Eurostat (apro_cpnhr)
Livestock and milk

The information presented in Map 5 covers livestock farming in the EU, with statistics for bovines, swine (pigs), sheep and goats; note it excludes poultry as well as other less common animal types. The total livestock population for these four types of animals in the EU-28 was 339 million head in 2017. Pigs were the most commonly reared animals (150.3 million head of swine), followed by 88.8 million head of bovine animals, 86.9 million head of sheep and 12.7 million head of goats (the latter two figures being estimates made specifically for the purpose of this publication).

In 2017, Spain, Germany, France and the United Kingdom held the largest overall populations of livestock: Spain and Germany raised the greatest numbers of pigs, France raised the greatest number of bovine animals, the United Kingdom had the largest population of sheep, while Greece had the largest number of goats.

Map 5 shows patterns of regional specialisation for livestock for NUTS level 2 regions; note this is not based simply on a count of the number of heads of each type of animal, but is rather determined in relation to the EU-28 average and therefore shows a relative rather than absolute measure of specialisation. When considering these livestock populations it should be remembered that: some regions are larger than others; data for Germany and the United Kingdom are shown for NUTS level 1 regions; some predominantly urban areas with very little agriculture may report particularly high specialisation ratios from a very small total number of animals.

Several EU Member States had clear livestock rearing specialisations that were common to most or even all of their regions in 2017: this was the case for goats in Greece, swine in Denmark, bovines in Czechia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Sweden, as well as sheep in the United Kingdom. By contrast, a more diverse picture was apparent in a number of Member States, including Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal or Slovakia, with no clear national specialisation across different regions.

Half of the 12 regions with at least one million bovine animals were in France

Among the 86 regions in the EU which were relatively specialised in rearing bovines in 2017, there were 12 where the number of head rose above one million: half of these were located in France (Pays de la Loire, Basse-Normandie, Auvergne, Bourgogne, Limousin and Rhône-Alpes), while two were in Ireland (Eastern and Midland as well as Southern) — the latter had the highest count (3.6 million) of bovine animals across all regions in the EU-28.

There were 54 regions in the EU that were relatively specialised in rearing swine, of which 24 regions recorded in excess of a million head, with half of these having more than two million heads. These 12 regions with the highest numbers of swine were located in:

- Denmark — Midtjylland, Syddanmark and Nordjylland;
- Germany — Nordrhein-Westfalen and Niedersachsen (both NUTS level 1 regions), the latter having the highest count in the EU, at 8.7 million heads;
- Spain — Aragón and Cataluña;
- Prov. West-Vlaanderen (Belgium), Bretagne (France), Lombardia (Italy), Noord-Brabant (the Netherlands) and Wielkopolskie (Poland).

There were 47 regions in the EU where the rearing of goats was the most specialised (relative to the EU average) form of livestock farming in 2017. The southern Spanish region of Andalucía (1.1 million heads) was the only region in the EU to record more than one million goats, with Castilla-la Mancha and the Greek island region of Kriti the only other two regions where the population of goats was higher than half a million.

Finally, there were 40 regions across the EU where rearing sheep was the most specialised (relative to the EU average) form of livestock farming in 2017. A total of 16 of these regions had more than one million head of sheep, among which eight regions had more than two million head. Half of the largest sheep populations were in the west and north of the United Kingdom (NUTS level 1 regions), with the highest counts in Wales (5.7 million heads) and Scotland (4.9 million heads). The remaining four regions with more than two million head of sheep were Extremadura and Castilla y León in Spain, Sardegna in Italy and Centru in Romania.
Relative livestock specialisation and head of livestock, 2017
(based on % share of different livestock in relation to the EU-28 average; thousand head of livestock; by NUTS 2 regions)

Most commonly reared animal type (relative to EU-28)
EU-28 = Swine
- Bovines
- Goats
- Sheep
- Swine

Head of livestock for most commonly reared animal type (thousand head)
EU-28 = 150,258
- < 250
- 250 - < 500
- 500 - < 1,000
- 1,000 - < 2,000
- ≥ 2,000

Note: the colour of each circle denotes the most commonly reared animal for each region (based on a specialisation ratio relative to the EU-28 average), while the size of each circle represents the number of head of most commonly reared animal type (relative to the EU-28 average). Based on available data. Germany and the United Kingdom: NUTS level 1; Turkey: national data; Belgium: sheep and goats, 2016. Germany: goats, 2016. EU-28 totals for sheep and goats: Eurostat provisional estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Attiki (EL30), Comunidad de Madrid (ES30), Canarias (ES70), Cyprus (CY00), Latvia (LV00), Región Autónoma dos Acores (PT20), Región Autónoma de Madeira (PT30) and Northern Ireland (UKNI): provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: agr_r_animal, apro_mt_lscatl, apro_mt_lspig, apro_mt_lssheep and apro_mt_lsgoat)
The 14 regions in the EU with the largest production of cows’ milk contributed 29 % of the total EU-28 production in 2017

Cows’ milk production is generally high in regions with dairy pasture and arable land available for fodder crops. These are typically found in in regions characterised by temperate climates with a relatively high degree of rainfall.

EU-28 production of cows’ milk was 165 million tonnes in 2017. In general, cows’ milk production was relatively high in regions across Denmark, Germany, Ireland, parts of France, northern Italy, the Netherlands and Poland, as well as some Alpine regions and much of western England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (in the United Kingdom). In regions where grassland is scarcer (for example, around the Mediterranean or in south-eastern parts of the EU) dairy cow farming tends to be relatively uncommon.

There were 45 NUTS level 2 regions in the EU where cows’ milk production reached a million or more tonnes in 2017 and together these regions accounted for 57 % of the milk produced in the EU. Among these, 14 regions reported production of at least 2.5 million tonnes (those shown with the largest circle in Map 6); together they contributed 29 % of the EU-28 total. These 14 regions — with the largest production of cows’ milk — were principally located in north-western Germany, north-western France, northern Italy and north-eastern Poland. The highest regional levels of production were recorded in Bretagne (France; 5.6 million tonnes), Southern Ireland (Ireland; 5.4 million tonnes) and Lombardia (Italy; 4.9 million tonnes).
Map 6: Cows’ milk production, 2017 (thousand tonnes, by NUTS 2 regions)

Source: Eurostat (agr_r_milkpr) and (apro_mk_farm)
Source data for figures and maps

Agriculture at regional level

Data sources

An agricultural census is carried out every 10 years by EU Member States — the latest in 2010 and the next being in 2020 — in between there are two farm structure surveys (FSS), the last of which was conducted in 2016; these are the principal sources of agricultural statistics. In the census and FSS, EU Member States collect information from individual agricultural holdings, covering: the use of agricultural land; livestock numbers; rural development (for example, activities other than agriculture); management and farm labour input (including age, sex and relationship to the holder). The legal basis for farm structure surveys is provided by a lengthy list of survey-specific implementing regulations and decisions that cover aspects such as survey organisation, characteristics, definitions and typologies. For example, European Commission Regulation (EU) No 715/2014, which amended Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, covers a list of characteristics to be collected in the 2016 FSS. Note that these legislative documents are no longer in force and that new legislation has been enacted for future farm structure surveys and the agricultural census of 2020 (see Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on integrated farm statistics). Thresholds used for the farm structure survey are generally set so as to include farms with a utilised agricultural area over one hectare, although thresholds are raised to two hectares for Slovakia, three hectares for Luxembourg, and five hectares for Czechia, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The legal basis for crop statistics is Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 which was updated with the Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008, while milk and milk product statistics are collected under Decision 97/80/EC implementing Directive 96/16/EC on statistical surveys of milk and milk products.

The legal basis for livestock statistics is Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008, while milk and milk product statistics are collected under Decision 97/80/EC implementing Directive 96/16/EC on statistical surveys of milk and milk products.

For more information:

Dedicated section on agriculture

Agricultural statistics — methodology

Context

The common agricultural policy (CAP) is one of the EU’s oldest policies, supporting farmers and ensuring Europe’s food security. It aims:

- to support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food;
- to ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living;
- to help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- to maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;
- to keep the rural economy alive promoting jobs in farming, agri-foods industries and associated sectors.

The CAP is a common policy for all the Member States of the EU. It is managed for the EU as a whole and funded from the resources of the EU’s budget.

The CAP takes action in three ways:

- income support (direct payments ensure income stability, and remunerate farmers for environmentally friendly farming and delivering public goods not normally paid for by the markets, such as taking care of the countryside);
• market measures (the EU can take measures to deal with difficult market situations such as a sudden drop in demand due to a health scare, or a fall in prices as a result of a temporary oversupply on the market);
• rural development measures (national and regional programmes address the specific needs and challenges facing rural areas).

The current CAP programming period finishes in 2020. The European Commission has made a proposal to reform the CAP (COM(2018) 0322, 0392, 0393 and 0394). Under these plans, the future CAP would continue to ensure access to high-quality food and strong support for the EU’s farming model with an increased focus on the environment and climate, supporting the transition towards a more sustainable agricultural sector and the development of vibrant rural areas.

The nine objectives proposed for the future CAP are:
• to ensure a fair income to farmers;
• to increase competitiveness;
• to rebalance the power in the food chain;
• climate change action;
• environmental care;
• to preserve landscapes and biodiversity;
• to support generational renewal;
• vibrant rural areas;
• to protect food and health quality.

The European Commission’s proposals aim for a more flexible system, simplifying and modernising the way the CAP works for farmers and society at large. The proposed policy would shift the emphasis from compliance and rules towards results and performance. Furthermore, it would give more freedom to EU Member States, for example to decide on the way to meet common objectives set for the EU while responding to the specific needs of their farmers and rural communities.

Discussions in the European Parliament and Council concerning the proposals for the reformed CAP started in 2018. The reformed CAP is expected to be in force from 2021 onwards.

Other articles
• Agricultural production — livestock and meat
• Agricultural production — crops
• Livestock and meat production statistics
• Milk and milk product statistics

Publications
• Eurostat regional yearbook
• Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics — 2018 edition
Main tables

- **Regional statistics (t_reg)**, see:
  
  Regional agriculture statistics (t_reg Agr)
  
  Animal populations by NUTS 2 regions (tgs00045)
  Production of cow’s milk on farms by NUTS 2 regions (tgs00046)

- **Agriculture (t_agr)**, see:
  
  Agricultural production (t_apro)
  
  Milk and milk products (t_apro_mk)
  Production of cow’s milk on farms by NUTS 2 regions (tgs00046)
  Livestock and meat (t_apro_mt)
  Animal populations by NUTS 2 regions (tgs00045)

Database

- **Regional statistics by NUTS classification (reg)**, see:
  
  Regional agriculture statistics (reg Agr)
  
  Agri-environmental indicators (reg_aei)
  Structure of agricultural holdings (reg_ef)
  Agricultural production (reg_apro)

- **Agriculture (agr)**, see:
  
  Farm structure (ef)
  
  Main farm indicators by NUTS 2 regions (ef_mainfarm)
  
  Farm indicators by agricultural area, type of farm, standard output, legal form and NUTS 2 regions (ef_m_farmleg)
  
  Farm indicators by agricultural area, type of farm, standard output, sex and age of the manager and NUTS 2 regions (ef_m_farmang)

  Agricultural production (apro)
  
  Crops (apro_crop)
  Crop production (apro_cp)
  Crop production in national humidity by NUTS 2 regions (apro_cpnhr)

  Animal production (apro_anip)
  
  Milk and milk products (apro_mk)
  Production and utilization of milk on the farm - annual data (apro_mk_farm)
  Production of cow’s milk on farms by NUTS 2 regions (agr_r_milkpr)

  Livestock and meat (apro_mt)
  
  Livestock (apro_mt_ls)
  Bovine population - annual data (apro_mt_lscatl)
  Goats population - annual data (apro_mt_lsgoat)
  Sheep population - annual data (apro_mt_lssheep)
  Pig population - annual data (apro_mt_lspig)
  Animal populations by NUTS 2 regions (agr_r_animal)
Dedicated section

- Agriculture
- Regions and cities

Data visualisation

- Eurostat statistical atlas (Chapter 12)
- Regional statistics illustrated

Methodology

- Strategy for agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond
- Animal production statistics (ESMS metadata file — apro_anip_esms)
- Crop production (ESMS metadata file — apro_cp_esms)
- Farm structure (ESMS metadata file — ef_esms)

Legislation

Crop statistics are governed by:


Livestock and meat statistics are governed by:


Milk statistics are governed by:

- Directive 96/16/EC of 19 March 1996 on statistical surveys of milk and milk products

Surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings are governed by:

- Regulation (EC) No 2018/1091 of 18 July 2018 on integrated farm statistics

External links

- European Commission — Future of the common agricultural policy
- European Commission — Agriculture and Rural Development — Direct payments for farmers 2015-2020
- European Commission — Agriculture and Rural Development — Financing the CAP
- European Commission —EU quality schemes
- European Commission — Agriculture and Rural Development , see:
  - Beef and veal
  - Cereals, oilseeds and protein crops, rice
  - Milk and milk products
  - Pigmeat
  - Sheep meat and goat meat
  - Wine

Maps can be explored interactively using Eurostat’s statistical atlas (see user manual).

This article forms part of Eurostat’s annual flagship publication, the Eurostat regional yearbook.