



European
Commission

June 2020

Statistical Factsheet

Belgium



CONTENTS

Main figures	1
1. KEY DATA	2
2. POPULATION & ECONOMY	3
3. FINANCIAL ASPECTS	4-5
4. ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS	6-12
5. AGRICULTURAL TRADE	13-14
6. FARM STRUCTURE	15-16

Main figures - Year 2019

Population (1 st January)	11 455 519	persons
Area*	30 666	km ²
Currency	EUR	euro
Nominal GDP at current prices	473 639	million EUR
GDP per capita at current prices	41 243	EUR
GDP per capita at purchasing power	37 199	PPS
Harmonised index of consumer prices	1.2%	change over previous year
Unemployment rate	5.4	% of labour force
Exports (goods & services)	386 328	million EUR (current prices)
Imports (goods & services)	386 311	million EUR (current prices)
Balance (goods & services)	17	million EUR (current prices)
Exports of agricultural products	40 961	million EUR
Imports of agricultural products	33 833	million EUR
Current account balance	-1.2	% of GDP
General government balance	-1.9	% of GDP
General government gross debt	98.6	% of GDP

Sources: European Commission, Eurostat, and Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs.

Updated: June 2020

* Data refer to the year

2016

Belgium

1. KEY DATA

Macroeconomics				
Population (new European Commission methodology)				
Total population (number of persons), of which:	2019	11 455 519	2.6%	of EU27_2020
in predominantly rural regions (PR)	2019	8.5%	20.5%	in EU27_2020
in intermediate regions	2019	38.1%	39.1%	in EU27_2020
in predominantly urban regions	2019	53.4%	40.4%	in EU27_2020
Population in PR regions (number of persons)	2019	973 712	1.1%	of EU27_2020
GDP				
In EUR (current prices):				
total (million EUR)	2019	473 639	3.4%	of EU27_2020
GDP per capita (EUR/person)	2019	41 243	31 094	in EU27_2020
GDP per capita (PPS/person)	2019	37 199	31 744	in EU27_2020
Real GDP growth rate (% change over previous year)	2019	1.4%	1.5%	in EU27_2020
Gross value added				
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (% of total GVA)	2019	0.5%	1.8%	in EU27_2020
Financial aspects				
Agricultural expenditure				
Total expenditure (million EUR), of which:	2019	652.0	1.2%	of EU27_2020
Direct payments (%)	2019	74.9%	70.0%	in EU27_2020
Market measures (%)	2019	9.3%	4.5%	in EU27_2020
Rural development (%)	2019	15.8%	25.5%	in EU27_2020
Economic accounts of agriculture				
Agricultural output				
Agricultural goods output (million EUR), of which:	2019	8 654.2	2.2%	of EU27_2020
Crop output, of which:		43.9%	1.8%	of EU27_2020
Cereals (including seeds)		4.8%	0.9%	of EU27_2020
Industrial crops		2.3%	1.1%	of EU27_2020
Forage plants		8.1%	3.0%	of EU27_2020
Vegetables and horticultural products		16.5%	2.5%	of EU27_2020
Potatoes		6.4%	4.0%	of EU27_2020
Fruits		5.5%	1.8%	of EU27_2020
Wine		0.0%	0.0%	of EU27_2020
Olive oil		0.0%	0.0%	of EU27_2020
Animal output, of which:		55.6%	3.0%	of EU27_2020
Cattle		11.4%	3.5%	of EU27_2020
Pigs		18.5%	4.1%	of EU27_2020
Sheep and goats		0.1%	0.3%	of EU27_2020
Poultry		8.1%	3.6%	of EU27_2020
Milk		15.7%	2.5%	of EU27_2020
Eggs		1.2%	1.2%	of EU27_2020
Gross value added at basic prices (million EUR)	2019	2 279.3	1.3%	of EU27_2020
Agricultural input				
Total intermediate consumption (million EUR)	2019	6 411.5	2.7%	of EU27_2020
Agricultural income				
Indicator A (% change over previous year)	2019	12.9%	2.4%	in EU27_2020
Farm structure				
Holdings				
Total (No), of which:	2016	36 890	0.4%	of EU27_2020
UAA < 5 ha (%)	2016	13.9%	66.6%	in EU27_2020
Economic size < 4 000 €	2016	2.6%	54.9%	in EU27_2020
Holder < 35 years (%)	number	6.0%	5.1%	in EU27_2020
Holder > 64 years (%)	number	20.3%	32.8%	in EU27_2020
UAA per holding (ha)	Total	36.7	15.2	in EU27_2020
Labour force				
AWU (No)	2016	55 350	0.6%	of EU27_2020
Female farm holders (%)	2016	14.2%	30.7%	in EU27_2020
Male farm holders (%)	2016	85.8%	68.8%	in EU27_2020
Agriculture in % of total employment	2019	0.8%	4.1%	in EU27_2020

Sources: European Commission, Eurostat and Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Updated: June 2020

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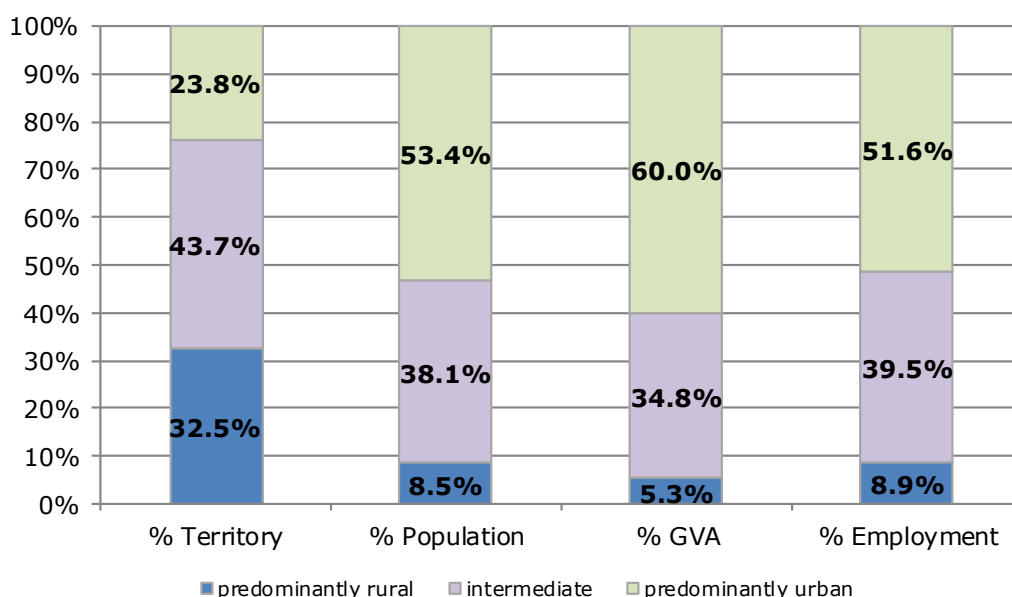
2. POPULATION AND ECONOMY

Importance of rural areas

	Territory (km ²)	Population (persons)	GVA (Million EUR)	Employment (persons)
Year	2016	2019	2016	2018
Predominantly Rural Regions	9 971	973 712	19 922	416 600
Intermediate Regions	13 407	4 369 826	131 764	1 858 200
Predominantly Urban Regions	7 288	6 111 981	227 426	2 424 600
Total	30 666	11 455 519	379 113	4 699 400

Source: Eurostat.

Updated: June 2020



Economic forecast

Indicators	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
GDP										
In million EUR (current prices)	386 175	392 880	403 003	416 701	430 372	446 365	459 820	473 639	446 055	483 312
Per capita (in PPS; current prices)	31 970	32 090	33 130	34 738	34 752	35 357	36 249	37 199	34 750	37 369
% change over previous period										
GDP growth (at constant prices)	9.6%	0.5%	1.6%	2.0%	1.5%	2.0%	1.5%	1.4%	-7.2%	6.7%
GDP deflator	2.0%	1.3%	1.0%	1.3%	1.7%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%
Harmonised index of consumer prices	2.6%	1.2%	0.5%	0.6%	1.8%	2.2%	2.3%	1.2%	0.2%	1.3%
Exports (goods and services)	-0.5%	0.4%	5.2%	3.7%	6.5%	5.3%	1.2%	1.0%	-10.6%	7.7%
Imports (goods and services)	-0.7%	-0.2%	5.5%	3.9%	7.5%	4.4%	2.1%	1.2%	-10.2%	8.1%
Net exports of goods and services (million EUR)	243	3 135	3 300	5 909	5 136	6 221	-750	17	581	-4
% of total employment										
Unemployment rate	7.6	8.4	8.5	8.5	7.8	7.1	6.0	5.4	7.0	6.6
% of GDP										
Current account balance	-0.1	1.0	0.8	1.4	0.6	1.2	-1.4	-1.2	-0.7	-0.8
General government balance	-4.3	-3.1	-3.1	-2.4	-2.4	-0.7	-0.8	-1.9	-8.9	-4.2
General government gross debt	104.8	105.5	107.0	105.2	104.9	101.7	99.8	98.6	113.8	110.0

Source: European Commission, Eurostat and Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs

Updated: June 2020

Data for 2020 and 2021 are forecasts

Belgium

3.1. AGRICULTURE: FINANCIAL ASPECTS

CAP expenditure

Measures	2019		
	1 000 EUR		
Decoupled direct aids	403 151	61.8%	82.5%
Other direct aids	79 084	12.1%	16.2%
Additional amounts of aid	0	0.0%	0.0%
Reimbursement of direct aids in relation to financial discipline	6 137	0.9%	1.3%
Direct payments	488 372	74.9%	100.0%
Olive oil	0	0.0%	0.0%
Textile plants	0	0.0%	0.0%
Fruit and vegetables	55 272	8.5%	91.1%
Wine sector	0	0.0%	0.0%
Promotion	3 801	0.6%	6.3%
Other plant products/measures	0	0.0%	0.0%
Milk and milk products	-1 019	-0.2%	-1.7%
Beef and veal	0	0.0%	0.0%
Sheepmeat and goatmeat	0	0.0%	0.0%
Pigmeat, eggs, poultry and other	249	0.0%	0.4%
School schemes*	2 384	0.4%	3.9%
Market measures	60 687	9.3%	100%
Rural development	102 913	15.8%	100%
TOTAL	651 971	100.0%	

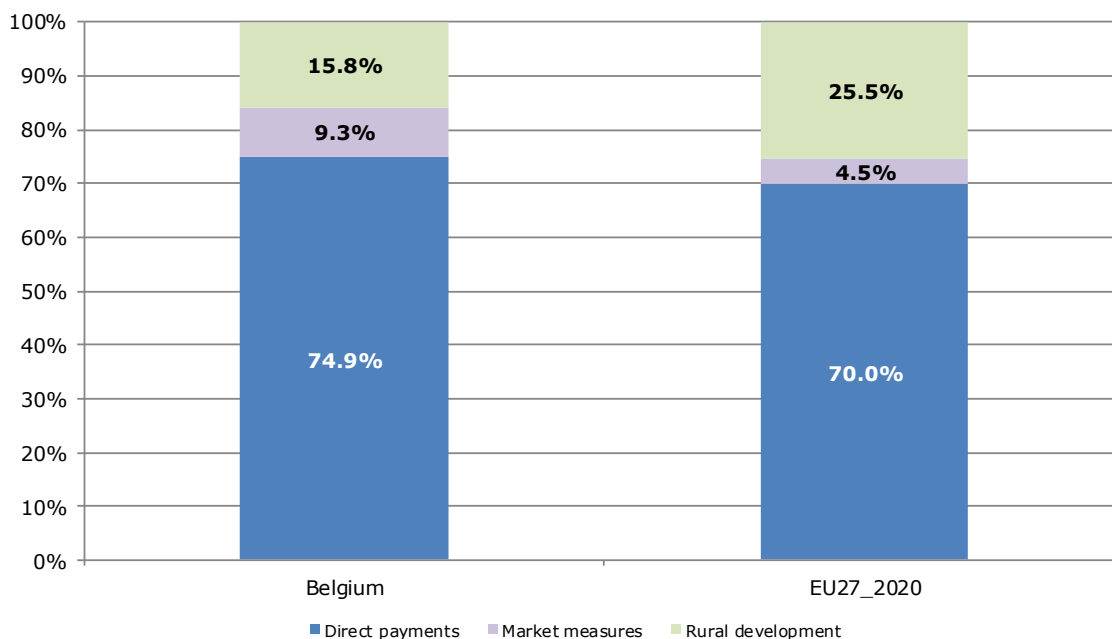
Note: Expenditure in commitments for direct payments and market measures; ceilings of support for rural development.

* Programme implementation based on school years; reimbursement possible in the next financial year

Source: European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Updated: June 2020

Distribution of CAP expenditure



3.2. AGRICULTURE: FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Distribution of direct aids to the producers

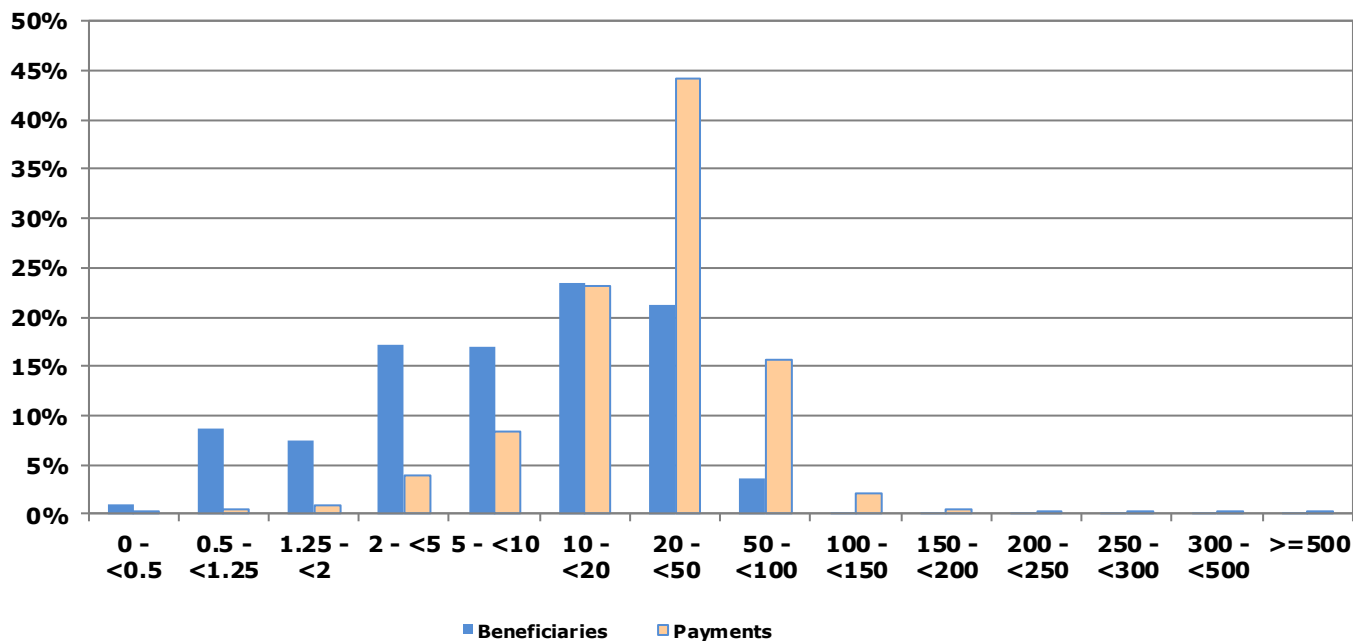
Size-class of aid (all direct payments)	Financial year 2018*			
	Beneficiaries		Payments in EUR	
	x 1 000	% of total	x 1 000	% of total
< 0 €	0.01	0.02%	- 3	0.0%
≥ 0 and < 500 €	0.34	1.01%	125	0.0%
≥ 500 and < 1 250 €	2.96	8.68%	2 595	0.5%
≥ 1 250 and < 2 000 €	2.53	7.42%	4 071	0.8%
≥ 2 000 and < 5 000 €	5.88	17.24%	19 495	3.9%
≥ 5 000 and < 10 000 €	5.76	16.89%	42 447	8.5%
≥ 10 000 and < 20 000 €	8.01	23.50%	116 526	23.2%
≥ 20 000 and < 50 000 €	7.26	21.30%	221 428	44.2%
≥ 50 000 and < 100 000 €	1.23	3.60%	78 932	15.7%
≥ 100 000 and < 150 000 €	0.10	0.28%	11 056	2.2%
≥ 150 000 and < 200 000 €	0.02	0.05%	2 654	0.5%
≥ 200 000 and < 250 000 €	0.00	0.01%	882	0.2%
≥ 250 000 and < 300 000 €	0.00	0.00%	259	0.1%
≥ 300 000 and < 500 000 €	0.00	0.00%	322	0.1%
≥ 500 000 €	0.00	0.00%	680	0.1%
Total	34.09	100%	501 469	100%

Source: European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

* Figures for financial year 2019 will become available during the second half of 2020.

Note: In order to protect the anonymity of the beneficiaries, numbers less than 10 have been made invisible in this table.

Indicative figures on the distribution of direct aid by size-class of aid (1 000 EUR)



Belgium

4.1. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Agricultural output

Output components (constant prices)	2017	2018	2019		
	Million EUR		Million EUR	% of total	% of EU27_2020
Cereals:	338	370	362	4.8%	0.9%
Wheat and spelt	213	255	250	3%	1.2%
Rye and meslin	0	0	0	0%	0.0%
Barley	46	51	48	1%	0.6%
Oats and summer cereal mixtures	2	2	2	0%	0.2%
Grain maize	75	59	60	1%	0.6%
Rice	0	0	0	0%	0.0%
Other cereals	2	3	2	0%	0.1%
Industrial crops:	205	192	173	2.3%	1.1%
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	41	38	23	0%	0.3%
Protein crops	1	1	1	0%	0.1%
Raw tobacco	0	0	0	0%	0.1%
Sugar beet	119	103	94	1%	3.8%
Other industrial crops	44	50	54	1%	1.5%
Forage plants	592	575	613	8.2%	2.9%
Vegetables and horticultural products	1 206	1 188	1 242	16.6%	2.4%
Potatoes	467	410	480	6.4%	3.8%
Fruits	379	408	417	5.6%	1.7%
Wine	0	0	0	0%	0.0%
Olive oil	0	0	0	0%	0.0%
Other crop products	25	25	25	0%	1.1%
Crop output	3 212	3 169	3 312	44.2%	1.7%
Animals:	2 931	2 789	2 909	38.8%	3.4%
Cattle	934	911	862	11.5%	3.4%
Pigs	1 319	1 164	1 397	18.6%	3.9%
Equines	3	3	3	0.0%	0.4%
Sheep and goats	12	13	11	0.1%	0.3%
Poultry	642	676	613	8.2%	3.5%
Other animals	22	22	23	0.3%	1.1%
Animal products:	1 320	1 219	1 281	17.1%	2.2%
Milk	1 208	1 126	1 187	15.8%	2.4%
Eggs	111	92	93	1.2%	1.2%
Other animal products	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%
Animal output	4 251	4 008	4 190	55.8%	2.9%
Agricultural goods output	7 463	7 177	7 502	100.0%	2.2%

Updated: June 2020

Note: 2019 data are estimates and may still change.

Source: Eurostat, Economic Accounts for Agriculture (values at real producer prices).

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4.2. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Agricultural input

Input components	2017	2018	2019	2018/2017	2019/2018
	Million EUR			% Change	
Seeds and planting stock	320.6	310.8	301.6	-3.0%	-3.0%
Energy	499.0	528.1	527.3	5.8%	-0.2%
Fertilisers and soil improvers	189.8	190.7	188.5	0.5%	-1.2%
Plant protection products	221.8	222.6	217.0	0.3%	-2.5%
Veterinary expenses	220.7	222.1	220.4	0.6%	-0.8%
Feedingstuffs	2 827.5	2 923.8	3 026.5	3.4%	3.5%
Maintenance of materials	205.5	204.2	200.9	-0.6%	-1.6%
Maintenance of buildings	83.4	85.4	83.6	2.4%	-2.1%
Agricultural services	115.3	116.0	116.5	0.6%	0.4%
Other goods and services	600.3	604.0	598.9	0.6%	-0.8%
Total intermediate consumption	5 389.6	5 511.9	5 584.7	2.3%	1.3%
Fixed capital consumption	704.9	663.3	659.6	-5.9%	-0.6%

Note: 2019 data are estimates and may still change.

Source: Eurostat, Economic Accounts for Agriculture: values at real basic prices (2010 = 100)

Updated: June 2020

Agricultural income

Values at basic prices	2017	2018	2019	2018/2017	2019/2018
	Million EUR			% Change	
Output of the agricultural "industry":	7 531.4	7 245.2	7 570.2	-3.8%	4.5%
Crop output	3 212.0	3 168.9	3 312.1	-1.3%	4.5%
Animal output:	4 250.7	4 008.0	4 189.6	-5.7%	4.5%
<i>Animals</i>	2 931.2	2 789.2	2 909.0	-4.8%	4.3%
<i>Animal products</i>	1 319.5	1 218.7	1 280.6	-7.6%	5.1%
Agricultural services	36.8	36.6	36.7	-0.5%	0.1%
Secondary activities	31.8	31.6	31.9	-0.5%	0.7%
- Intermediate consumption	5 389.6	5 511.9	5 584.7	2.3%	1.3%
= Gross value added at basic prices	2 141.8	1 733.3	1 985.4	-19.1%	14.5%
- Consumption of fixed capital	704.9	663.3	659.6	-5.9%	-0.6%
- Taxes	2.9	2.1	2.1	-27.7%	-0.5%
+ Subsidies	498.2	537.2	488.1	7.8%	-9.1%
= Factor income	1 932.2	1 605.1	1 811.8	-16.9%	12.9%
Agricultural income* (2010=100)	89.2	73.6	83.1	-17.5%	12.9%

Note: 2019 data are estimates and may still change.

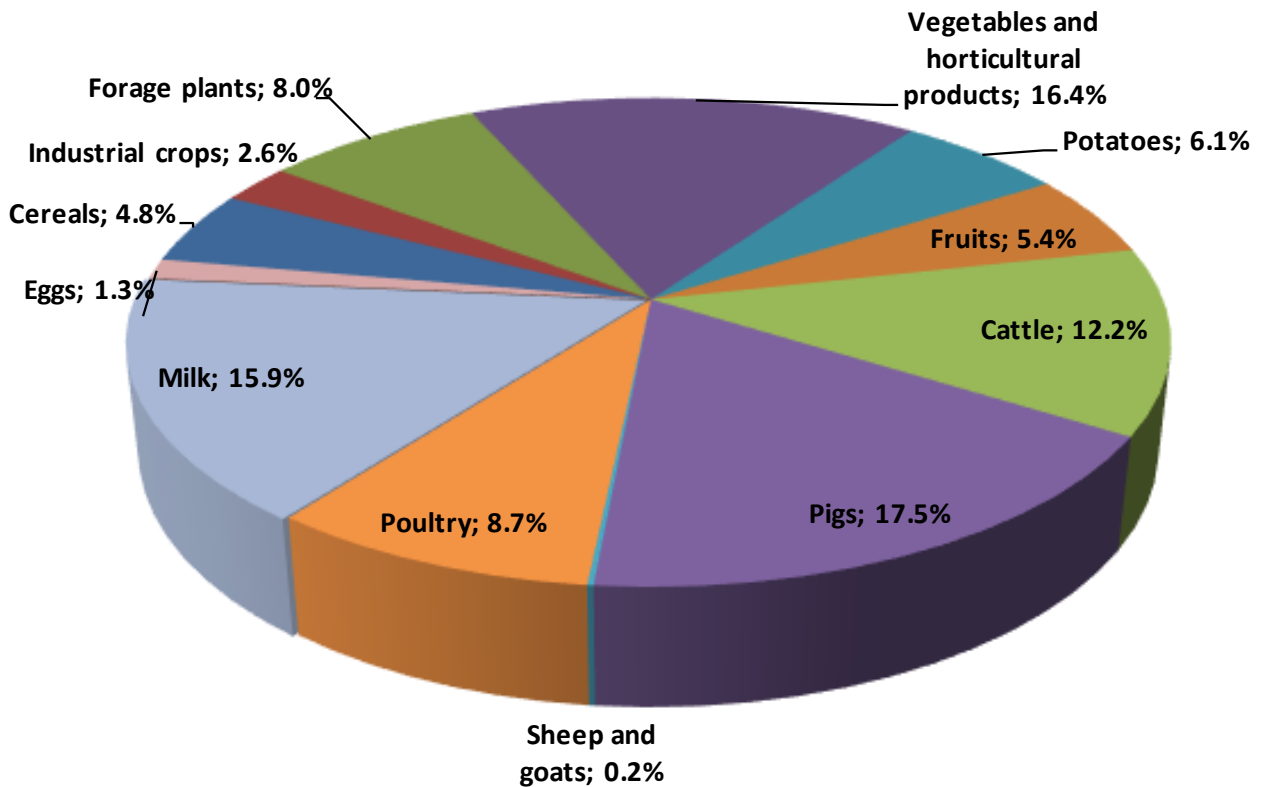
Source: Eurostat, Economic Accounts for Agriculture (values at real prices; constant prices for "Indicator A - see definition at the end of this document).

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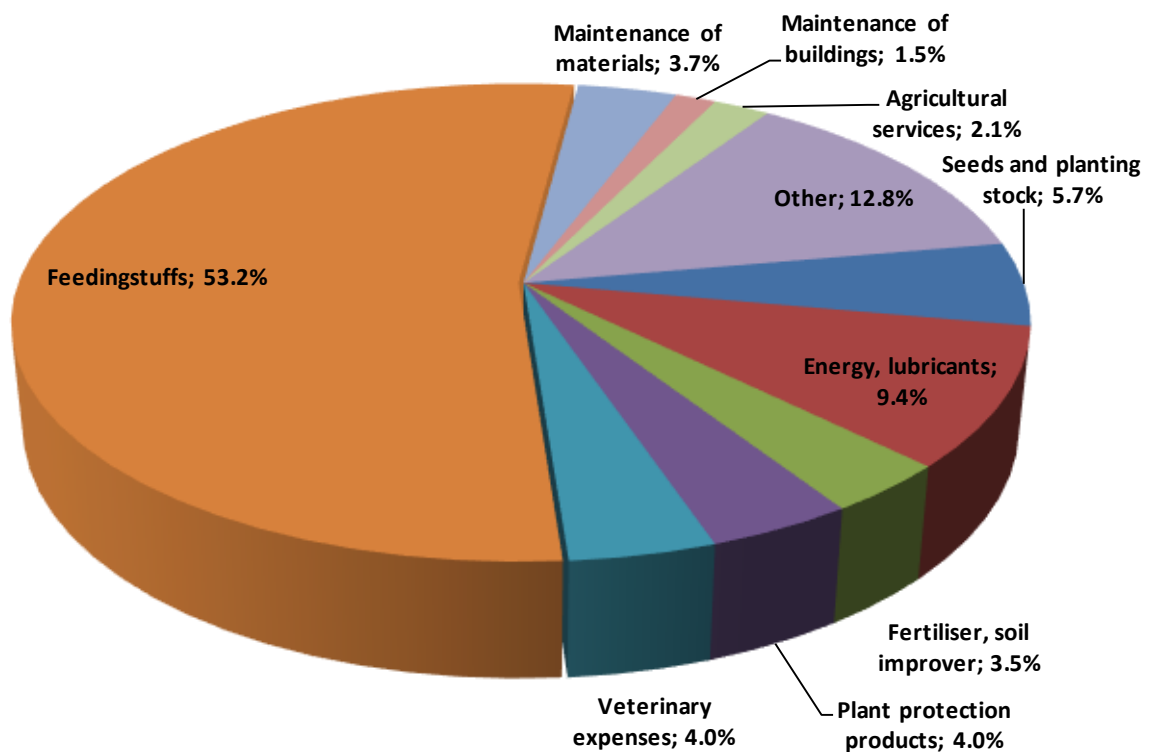
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4.3. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Output components (2017-2019 average)



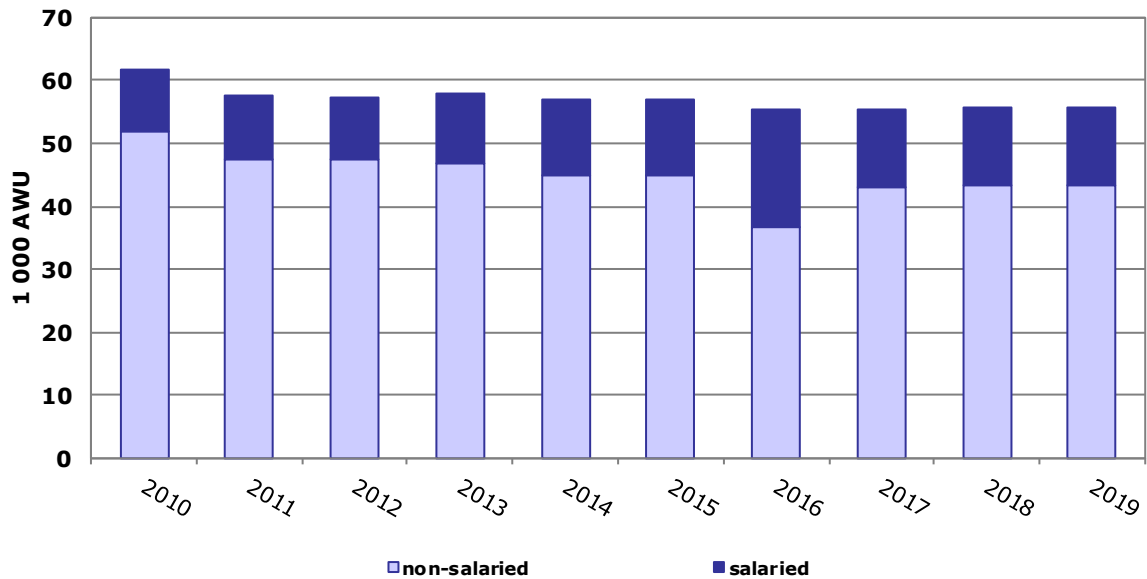
Intermediate consumption (2017-2019 average)



Source: Eurostat, Economic Accounts for Agriculture (values at real basic price)
Updated: June 2020

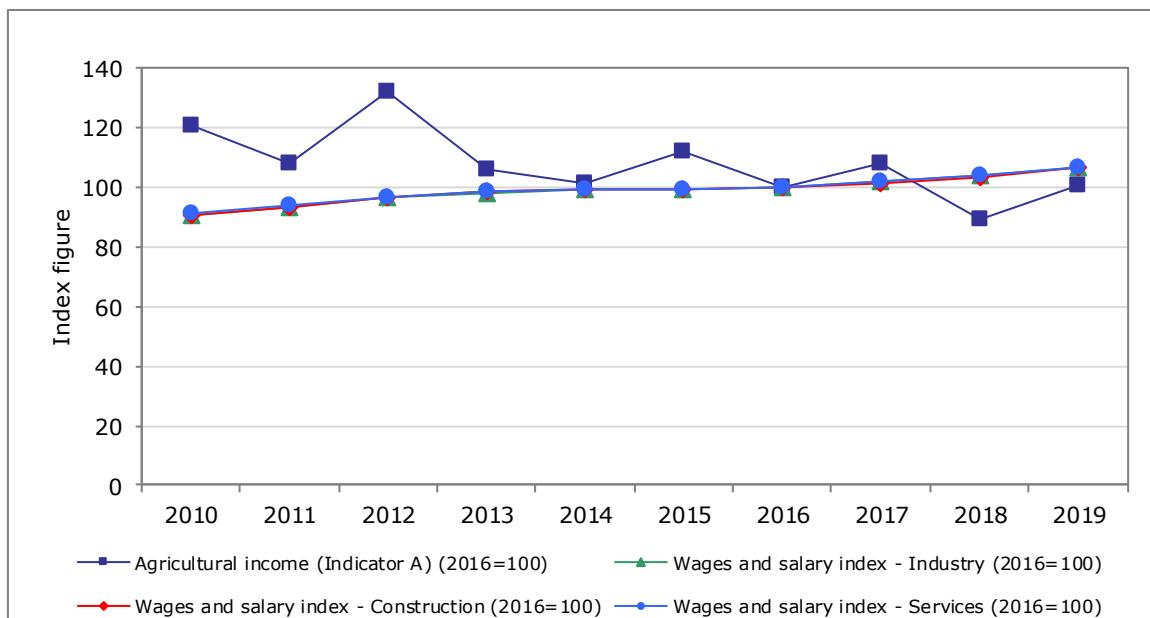
4.4. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Evolution of agricultural labour input



Source: Eurostat Updated: June 2020

Evolution of agricultural income (*) compared to wages and salaries in other sectors of the economy

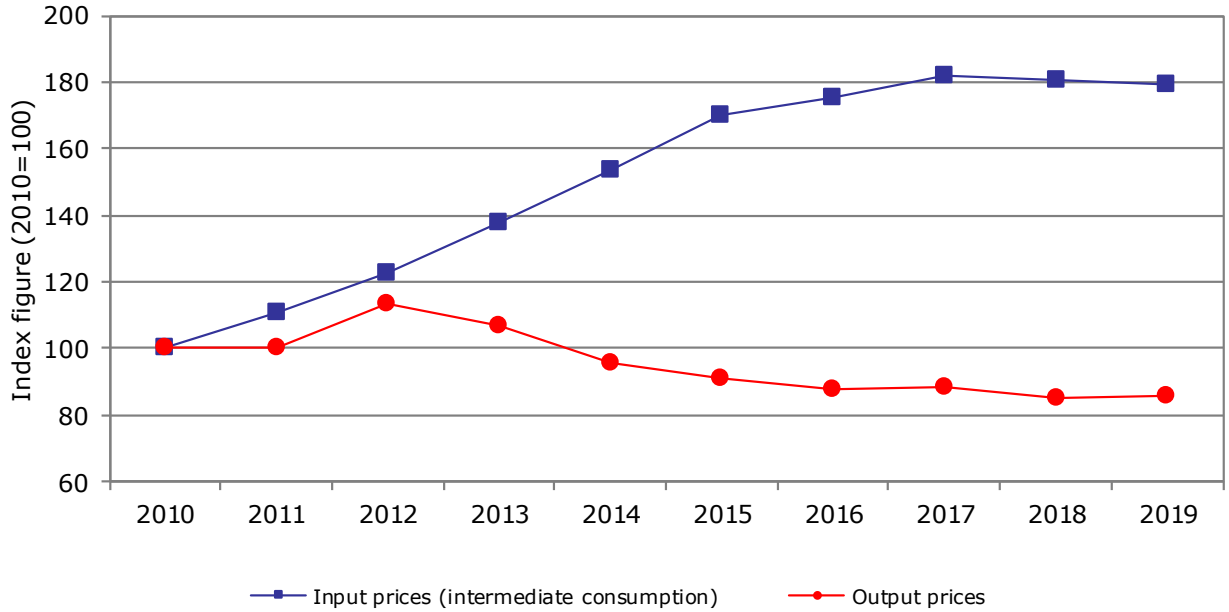


Source: Eurostat Updated: June 2020

(*) The so-called indicator A is the real net value added at factor cost of agriculture per annual work unit (AWU). The net value added at factor cost (factor income) is calculated by subtracting the consumption of fixed capital from gross value added at basic prices and adding the value of subsidies less taxes. The AWU is defined as the work volume corresponding to one full-time employed worked.

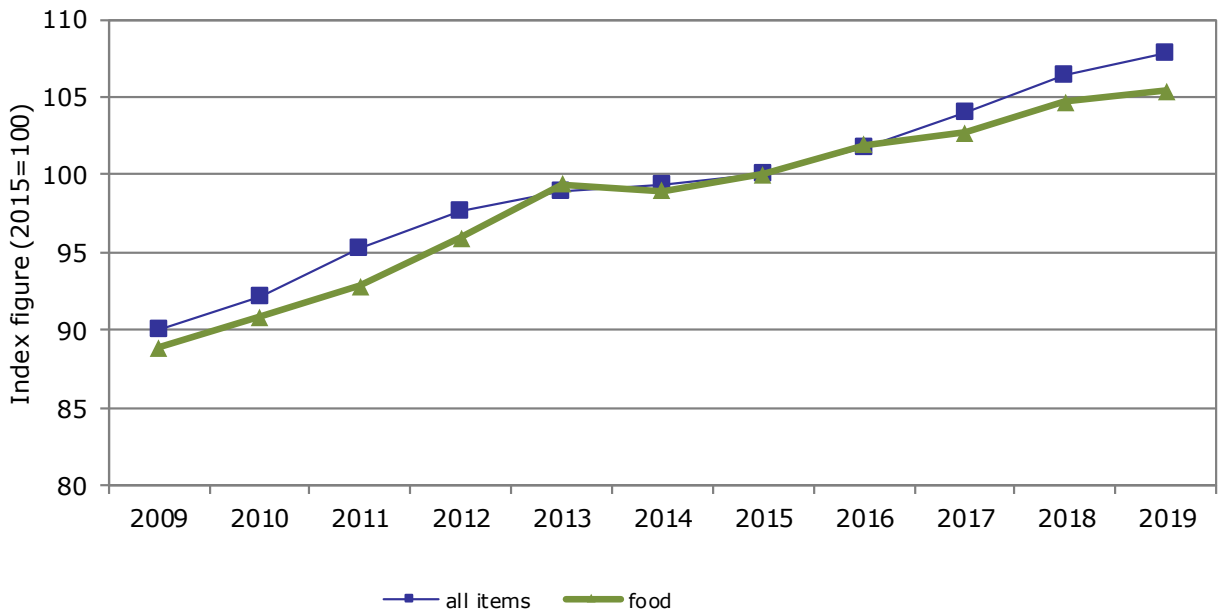
4.5. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Evolution of agricultural input and output prices



Source: Eurostat Updated: June 2020

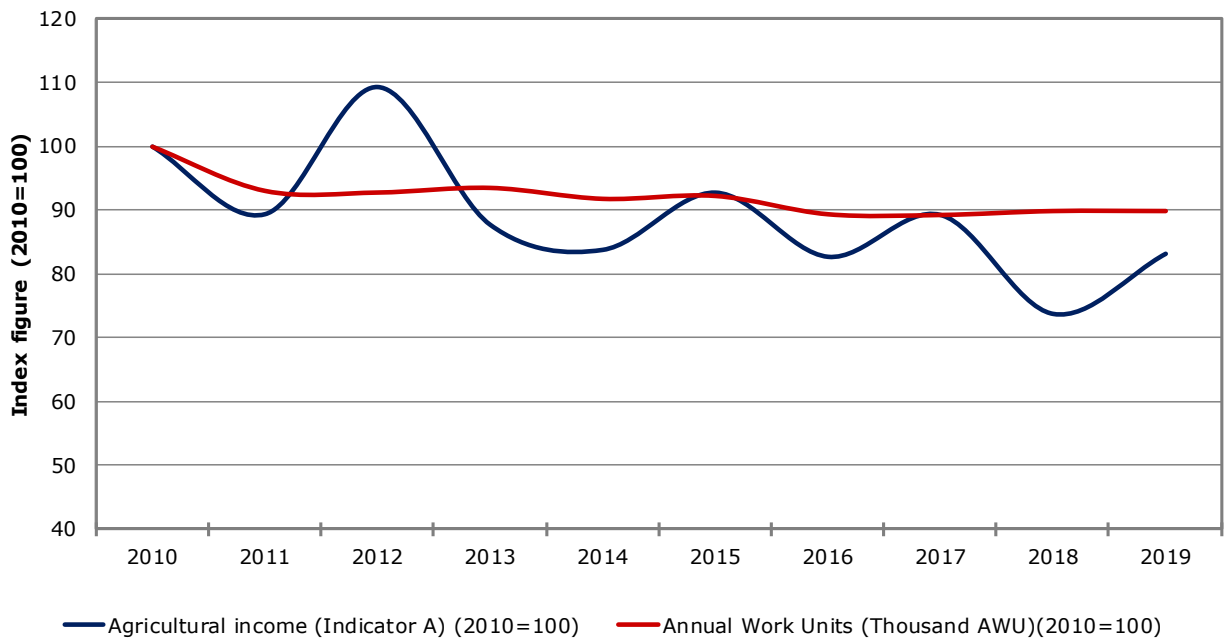
Evolution of harmonised indices of consumer prices



Source: Eurostat Updated: June 2020

4.6. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Farmers' income and labour development index (real terms)

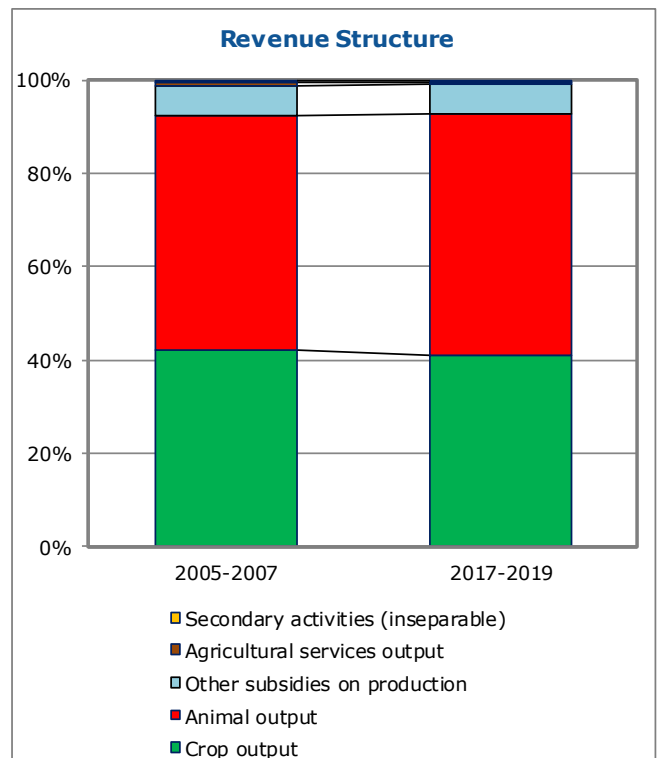
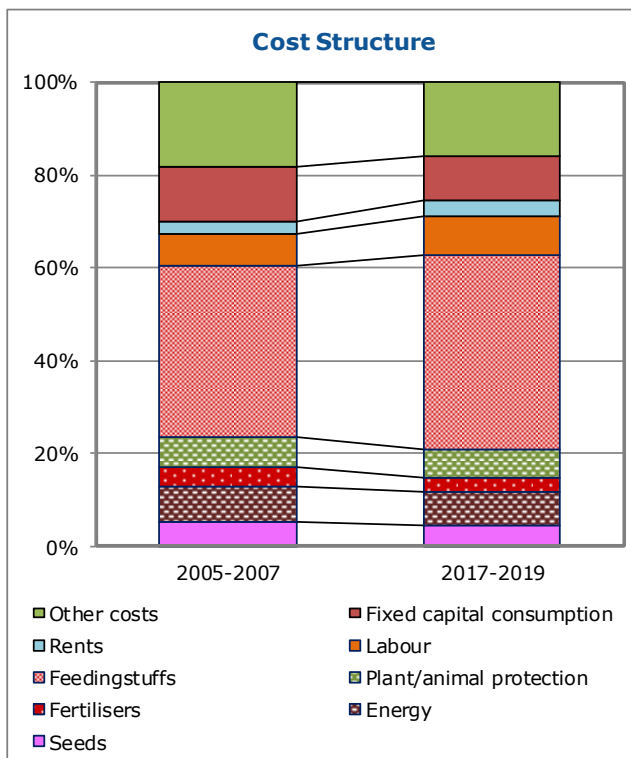
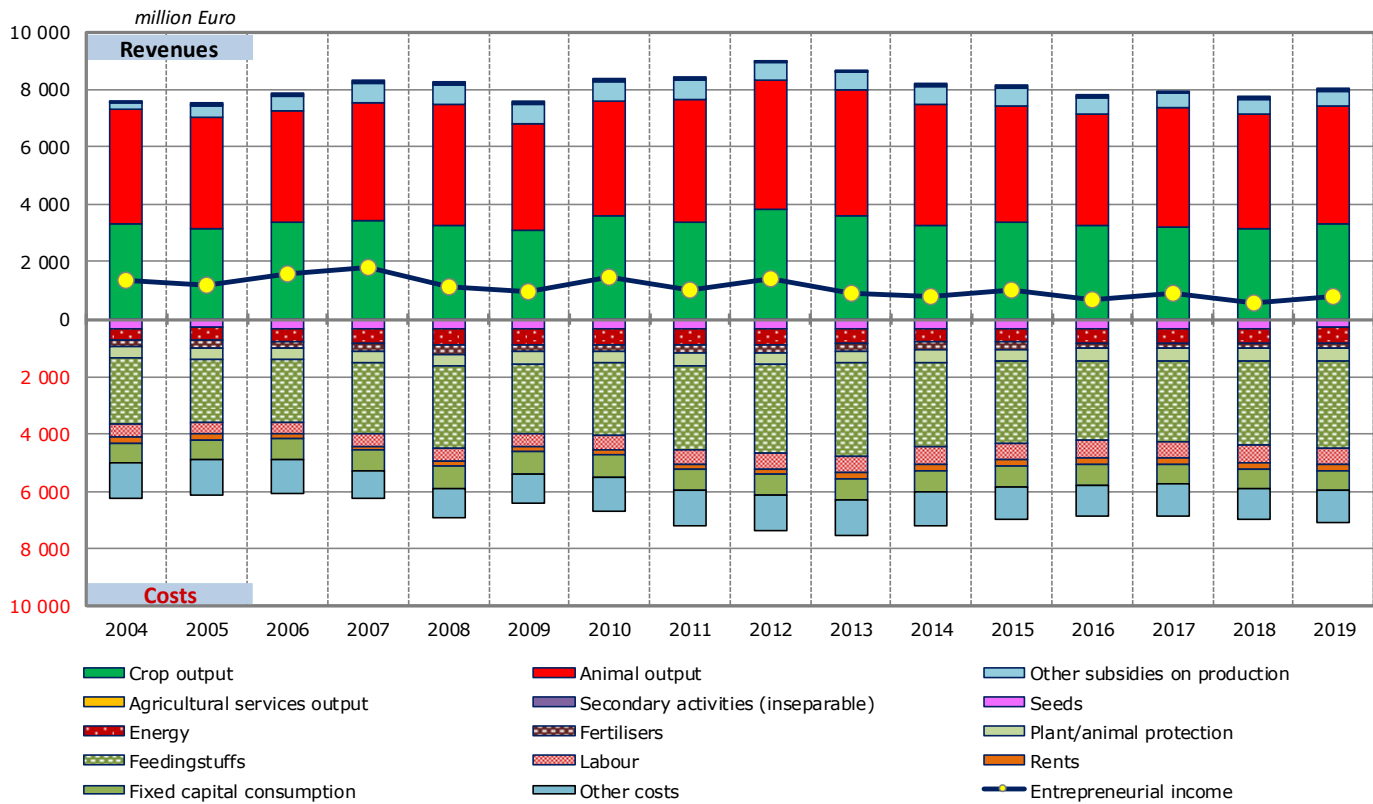


Source: Eurostat and DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Updated: June 2020

4.7. AGRICULTURE: ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Agricultural income (real prices)



Source: Eurostat Updated: June 2020

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5.1. AGRICULTURAL TRADE

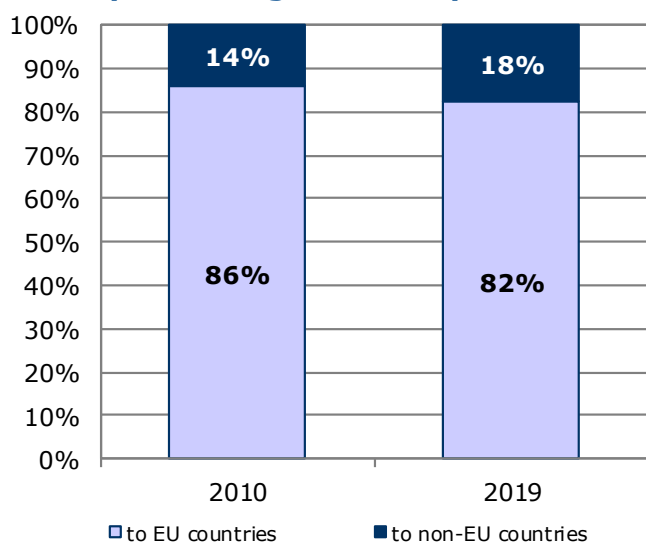
Agricultural trade in 2019

By category of product	Total trade	Trade with EU countries		Trade with non-EU countries	
	Million EUR	Million EUR	% change 2019/2018	Million EUR	% change 2019/2018
Exports					
Commodities	7 185.2	5 577.2	-5.1%	1 608.0	-0.99%
Other primary products	9 540.1	8 685.4	-1.3%	854.6	-3.95%
Processed products	6 364.5	5 443.4	5.8%	921.1	22.88%
Food preparations	10 450.2	8 334.7	2.3%	2 115.6	8.42%
Beverages	3 197.1	2 412.9	8.4%	784.2	5.89%
Non edible	4 223.8	3 243.1	4.0%	980.7	10.52%
Total agricultural products	40 961.0	33 696.6	1.2%	7 264.3	6.16%
as % of total exports	10.3%	11.7%		6.6%	
Imports					
Commodities	9 845.4	6 730.0	-4.9%	3 115.3	9.1%
Other primary products	8 477.5	6 262.5	-1.9%	2 215.0	-7.4%
Processed products	5 380.8	4 584.7	0.3%	796.0	-2.7%
Food preparations	5 198.4	4 809.6	1.8%	388.8	-4.5%
Beverages	1 591.7	1 513.0	-3.9%	78.7	14.7%
Non edible	3 339.5	2 146.8	-4.7%	1 192.7	0.7%
Total agricultural products	33 833.4	26 046.8	-2.0%	7 786.6	0.78%
as % of total imports	8.9%	10.7%		5.7%	
Balance					
Commodities	-2 660.2	-1 152.8		-1 507.3	
Other primary products	1 062.5	2 422.9		-1 360.4	
Processed products	983.8	858.7		125.1	
Food preparations	5 251.8	3 525.1		1 726.8	
Beverages	1 605.4	899.8		705.6	
Non edible	884.3	1 096.3		-212.0	
Total agricultural products	7 127.6	7 649.8		-522.3	

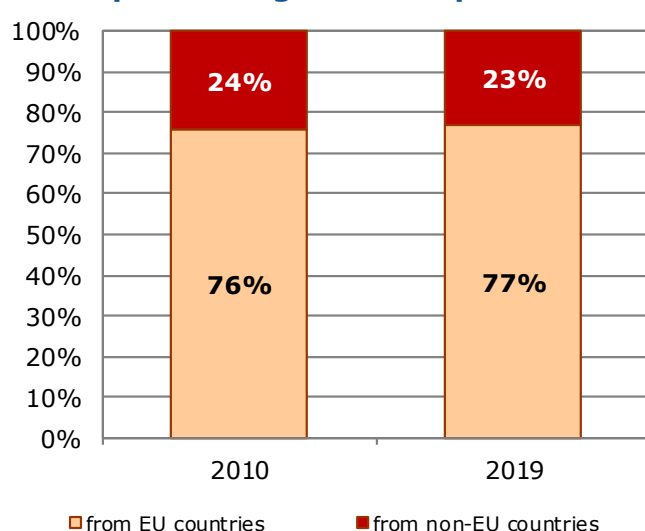
Source: Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, based on COMEXT data

Updated: June 2020

Exports of agricultural products



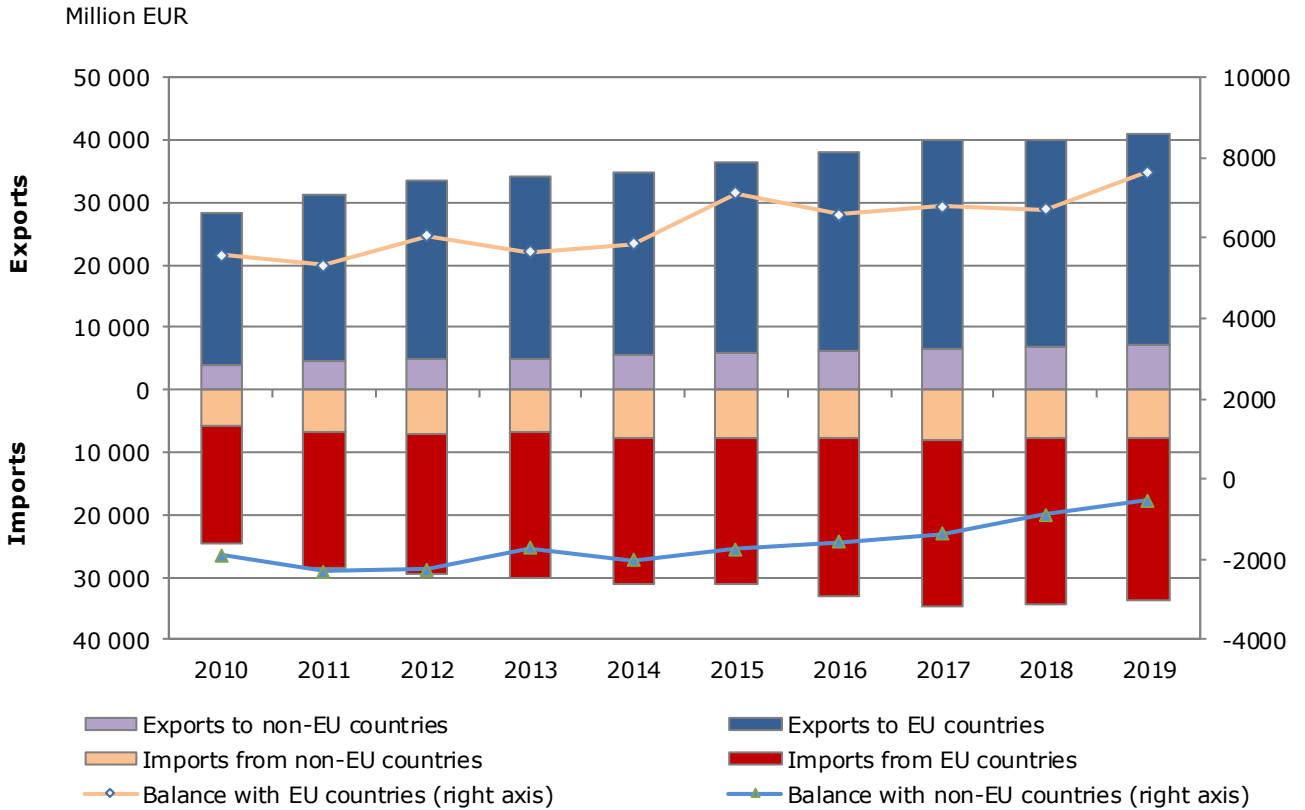
Imports of agricultural products



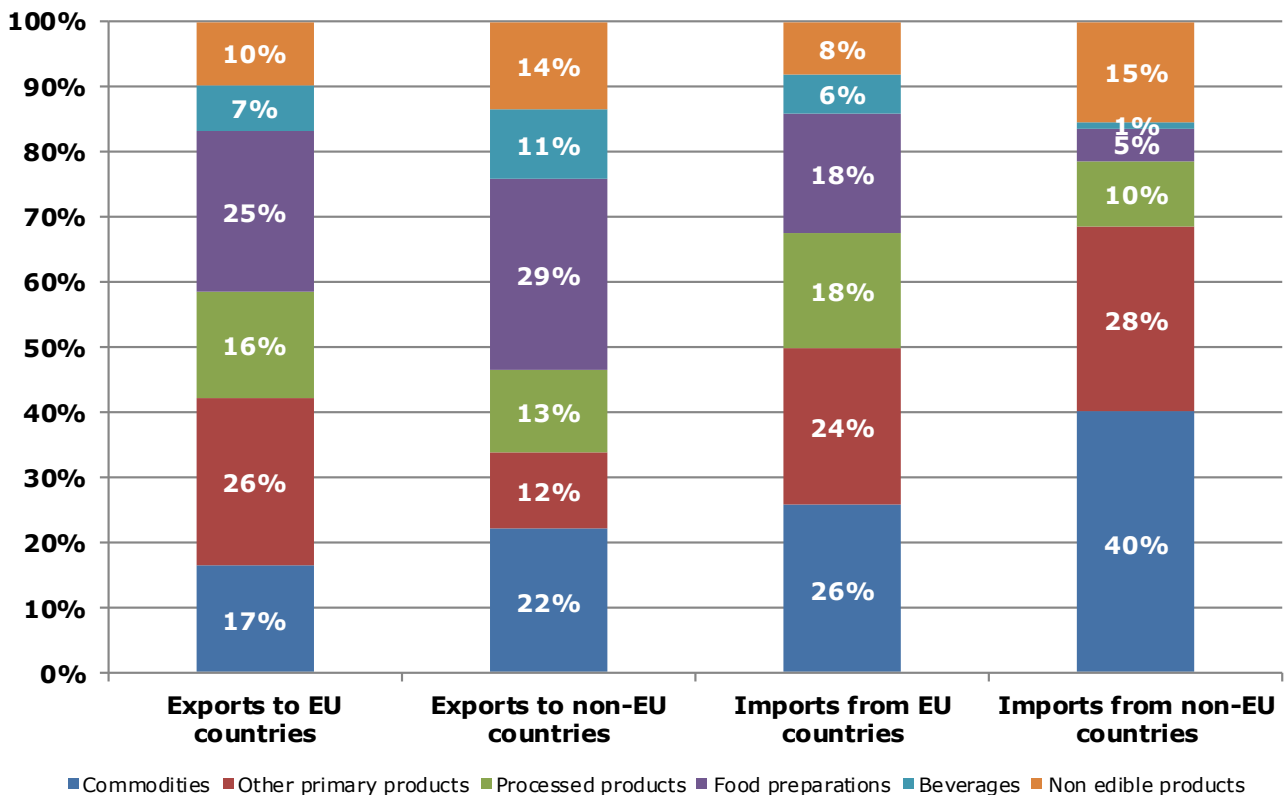
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5.2. AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Evolution of agricultural trade with EU and non-EU countries



Structure of agricultural exports and imports



6.1. FARM STRUCTURE

Structure of agricultural holdings

Holdings		2010		2016	
		Total	%	Total	%
By UAA (*)	< 5 ha	9 670	22.6%	5 110	13.9%
	5-10 ha	5 190	12.1%	4 770	12.9%
	10-20 ha	6 800	15.9%	6 530	17.7%
	20-30 ha	5 080	11.9%	4 670	12.7%
	30-50 ha	7 090	16.5%	6 480	17.6%
	50-100 ha	6 780	15.8%	6 870	18.6%
	> 100 ha	2 260	5.3%	2 470	6.7%
By economic size (**)	< 4 000 €	3 090	7.2%	920	2.5%
	< 8 000 €	2 560	6.0%	1 380	3.7%
	< 15 000 €	3 230	7.5%	2 410	6.5%
	< 25 000 €	2 920	6.8%	2 670	7.2%
	< 50 000 €	4 490	10.5%	4 310	11.7%
	< 100 000 €	5 720	13.3%	5 130	13.9%
	< 250 000 €	11 500	26.8%	9 010	24.4%
	< 500 000 €	6 510	15.2%	7 170	19.4%
=/> 500 000 €	2 840	6.6%	3 880	10.5%	
By LSU (***)	0	11 200	26.1%	11 450	31.0%
	0-5	3 860	9.0%	2 570	7.0%
	5-10	2 360	5.5%	1 660	4.5%
	10-15	1 540	3.6%	1 170	3.2%
	15-20	1 160	2.7%	970	2.6%
	20-50	4 910	11.5%	3 940	10.7%
	50-100	6 230	14.5%	4 550	12.3%
	100-500	10 350	24.2%	9 060	24.6%
> 500	1 250	2.9%	1 520	4.1%	
By age of holder	< 35 years	2 050	4.8%	2 200	6.0%
	35-44 years	8 000	18.7%	4 120	11.2%
	45-54 years	13 780	32.2%	11 360	30.8%
	55-64 years	10 470	24.4%	10 510	28.5%
	> 64 years	8 550	20.0%	7 490	20.3%
	not applicable	:	:	1 200	3.3%
Total		42 850	100%	36 880	100%
UAA in 1 000 ha		1 358		1 354	
UAA (ha) per holding		31.7		36.7	

Source: Eurostat, Farm Structure Survey

Updated: June 2020

(*) UAA = Utilised agricultural area.

(**) Economic size: 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.

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

6.2. FARM STRUCTURE

Structure of farm labour force

2016			
Family labour force		Non family labour force	
persons:	51 110	Data not available	
of which women:	31.7%		
AWUs (*):	34 920	AWUs:	14 810
Holders	Family members	Regular non family labour force	Non regular non family labour force
persons:	persons:	persons:	Data not available
30 990	20 120	19 800	
of which women:	of which women:	of which women:	
14.2%	58.7%	28.5%	
AWUs:	AWUs:	AWUs:	AWUs:
23 280	11 640	14 810	5 620
Total farm labour force (persons)		70 910	
Total farm labour force (AWUs)		55 350	

Source: Eurostat, Farm Structure Survey

Updated: June 2020

* AWUs = Annual work units. An AWU is equivalent to a worker employed on a full time basis for one year.

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