

Ireland - Agricultural Census 2000

Main Results

Number and total area of holdings

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	141 530	4 714 970

Number and total area of holdings by size of agricultural area

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	141 530	4 714 970
Holdings without agricult. land	30	—
0 - 2 ha of agricultural area	3 070	5 210
2 - 5	8 570	37 360
5 - 10	16 740	141 680
10 - 20	34 290	543 020
20 - 30	25 040	654 830
30 - 50	29 630	1 209 900
50 - 100	19 540	1 366 740
>= 100 ha	4 620	756 120

Fragmentation

	Number of holdings	
Total	141 530	—
Holdings with:		
1 parcel	39 642	—
2 parcels	35 985	—
3 parcels	25 312	—
4 parcels	14 891	—
5 parcels and more	25 700	—

Legal status

Holdings operated by:	Number of holdings	
Civil Persons	141 340	—
Other	190	—

Tenure of agricultural land

		Agricultural area (ha)
Total	—	17 151 560
Owned	—	3 616 510
Rented	—	827 460

Holders (Individuals) by sex

	Number of holders	
Total	141 340	—
male	126 240	—
female	15 100	—

Holders (Individuals) by age

	Number of holders	
Total	141 340	—
< 35 years of age	18 380	—
35 to 44	30 780	—
45 to 54	36 330	—
55 to 64	27 810	—
65 >	28 040	—

Holders and members of their household engaged in agric. work on the holding		
	Number of persons	
Total	243 600	—
Male	175 390	—
Female	68 210	—
Of which, full time:		
Total	102 500	—
Male	84 970	—
Female	17 530	—

Hired permanent workers		
	Number of workers	
Total	14 350	—
Of which, full time:	5 050	—

Land use		
	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
All land		4 714 970
Agricultural land	—	4 443 970
Cropland	—	1 110 940
Arable land	72 910	1 109 360
of which: kitchen gardens	1 690	420
Permanent crops	500	1 580
Permanent mead./pastures	129 500	3 333 030
Wood / forest land	15 130	103 760
All other land	—	167 240

Temporary crops		
	Holdings reporting	Area (ha)
Soft wheat	3 350	77 970
Barley	12 980	182 310
Oats	2 280	16 820
Dry pulses	190	1 500
Potatoes	4 920	13 540
Sugarbeets	4 650	32 200
Industrial plants	330	2 680
Rapeseed and Turnip	330	2 680
Vegetables (grown in the open)	1 040	4 100

Livestock		
	Holdings reporting	Head/units
Cattle, total	124 110	7 036 010
of which: dairy cows	31 810	1 177 450
Sheep	43 680	6 891 530
Goats	2 180	8 100
Pigs	1 280	1 722 110
Chickens, total	—	12 730 000
Broilers	1 350	10 800 000
Laying hens	8 990	1 930 000

Machinery		
	Holdings reporting	Units
Tractors belonging to the holding (owned)	108 760	160 080
Tractors not belonging to the holding	60 870	—

IRELAND – National Agricultural Census 2000

Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Ireland participated in all World Census of Agriculture Rounds. Agricultural censuses were conducted annually between 1847 and 1953, and every five years from 1960 to 1980. Farm Structure Sample Surveys were also undertaken in 1983, 1985 and 1987. Complete enumeration census was undertaken in 1991 on the basis of a register listing the premises and households identified as farms during the population census. The Census of Agriculture 2000 was the third decennial complete enumeration census in the series beginning 1980. The statutory basis of the census was provided by Statistics (Census of Agriculture) Order 2000. Ireland also participates in Farm Structure Survey (FSS) of Eurostat.

Organization: The Central Statistics Office (CSO) was the governmental body responsible for the organization and implementation of the Census of Agriculture 2000. The census project was lead by the head of the Agriculture Division of CSO and a project board was established to oversee the census direction.

Enumeration period: June-October 2000.

Reference date: 1 June 2000.

Definitions:

Farm:

Is defined, in line with the definition adopted for the EU Surveys on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings, as *a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products*. The agricultural production covers all crops (including horticultural crops) and any kind of livestock raising (including intensive raising). A farm may consist of one or more parcels (separate pieces of land), managed as a single unit and using the same production means. The farm could be managed by one or more persons. It may consist of land owned by the holder, rented from others, or of a combination of the two forms of tenure. In the case of intensive crop or livestock production, the farm may consist of a very small land area.

Utilized Agricultural Area (AAU):

Is the combined area under crops, silage, hay, pasture, rough grazing land (including fallow land) in use.

Minimum size of farm:

- The farm should consist of at least one hectare of agricultural area used for farming (AAU);
- Farms with less than one hectare of AAU were included in the census if reporting an *intensive* agricultural production, e.g. of pigs or poultry.

Coverage:

Geographically, the census covered the entire country. Statistically, objective of the census was to identify every operational farm, if it satisfied the minimum size criteria, and collect data on agricultural activities undertaken on it.

Frame: Since the 1991 Census of Agriculture, an up-to-date register of active farms is maintained by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and is adjusted to take account of births/deaths of farms. This is used as a sample frame for the regular crops and livestock sample surveys. On the occasion of the 2000 Census of Agriculture a new register was drawn up, using the information contained in other special purpose registers like those on agricultural regulations and subsidies, horticultural or pig or poultry farmers, specialized farms maintained by bodies like the Department of Agriculture, the Horticultural Development Board, and the Agriculture and Food Development Authority. The list prepared by pooling of information from several registers was cleaned by eliminating duplicate records.

Methods: As against the interview based approach followed in previous census, the 2000 Census of Agriculture was then conducted by post and telephonic follow-up, if required. Questionnaires were sent to the 190,000 possibly active farms of the register. Respondents were asked to return the questionnaire duly filled by 9 June 2000 and non-response was followed-up up to October 2000. A supplementary Pig Questionnaire reporting additional questions was sent to larger pig farmers. The response rate was 97% of active farms. In order to avoid response burden of farmers, greater use has been made of administrative information for 2000 census. Besides, a sample survey of at least 30,000 farms is conducted in June of each year to prepare annual estimates on the basis of matched sample using Census of Agriculture as a benchmark.

Data source: The results presented here are from FSS 1999/2000 of Eurostat. For data on fragmentation of holdings, report from Central Statistics Office has been used.

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Web link for the national report: http://www.csso.ie/releasespublications/pr_agrifishpubshardcopies.htm

European Community Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000 Explanatory Notes

Historical outline:

EU Farm Structure Surveys are carried out regularly at roughly two-years intervals, the first being conducted in 1966/67, followed by the surveys of 1970/71, 1975, 1977, 1979/80, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989/90, 1993, 1995, 1997 and. The 1999/2000 Farm Structure Survey (FSS), to which data here presented refer, is the thirteen in the series of European Community Surveys and the third for the Community of Fifteen. The 1999/2000 FSS was implemented by member countries between 1 December 1998 and 1 March 2001.

Organization:

The farm structure survey is organized and conducted by the Statistical Offices of each Member State. Information collected at national level is then forwarded to Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, which regulates the quality of statistics by prescribing acceptable level of sample size, precision of estimates and degree of non-sampling errors etc.

Definitions:

Holding:

A holding is a single unit, both technically and economically, having a single management and producing agricultural products.

Holder:

Is a single or a group of natural persons, or a legal person, on whose account and name the holding is operated. The holder is legally and economically responsible for the holding, and takes the economic risks.

Utilized Agricultural Area (AAU):

Is the holding's area consisting of arable land, kitchen gardens, land under permanent crops and land under permanent meadows and pastures.

Standard Gross Margin (SGM):

The SGM determines the techno-economic orientation and techno-economic size of the holding. It is calculated, for each crop or animal production, as the difference between the standard value of the production and the standard amount of certain specific costs (mainly proportional specific costs).

Economic size of holding:

For each production, the area or the number of livestock is multiplied by the product's SGM local coefficient. The estimated figures are added to obtain the economic size of the holding, expressed in European Size Units (ESUs), each equivalent to € 1200. The relative importance of SGMs of the various productions makes it possible to classify holdings by type of farming. This measure is also utilized by some countries for fixing thresholds on size of holdings.

Family labour force:

Includes holders (natural persons), their spouses and other members of holder's household working on the holding.

Non-family labour force regularly employed:

Non-members of holder's household who worked on the holding in every week of the 12 months prior to the survey.

Coverage:

Geographically, the survey covered the entire territory of each EU15 Member State.

Statistically, the Farm Structure Survey includes:

- Agricultural holdings whose utilized agricultural area is one hectare or more;
- Agricultural holdings with less than one hectare of agricultural land but producing a certain proportion of produce for sale, or if their production units exceed certain physical thresholds.

Only the smallest holdings (representing about 1% or less of the total Gross Standard Margin of the country concerned) were excluded from the Survey.

Methods:

The 1999/2000 Farm Structure Survey (was) is carried out as a complete enumeration census in the majority of the fifteen Member States of the European Community. Eurostat is the responsible agency for the correct processing of holding level data supplied by each Member State and guarantees that the tabular results are correct in the formal sense. The data, as received from the Member States, are cleaned , validated and standardized by Eurostat and are published after reconciliation of error lists in consultation with the Member State.

Out of the 15 EU Member States, Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are authorized to use information available from the Integrated Administration and Control System, set up according to Council Regulations (EEC) n.3508/92 of 27/11/1992 and n.3887/92 of 23/12/1992. The Netherlands are authorized to use data from the National Farm Register, for certain characteristics related to legal status of the holder and labour force.

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