

# United Kingdom - European Union Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000

## Main Results

### Number and total area of holdings

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	233 250	16 527 630

### Number and total area of holdings by size of agricultural area

	Number of holdings	Total area (ha)
Total	233 250	16 527 630
Holdings without agricult. land	11 010	22 600
0 - 2 ha of agricultural area	21 370	24 300
2 - 5	21 480	86 400
5 - 10	25 670	206 600
10 - 20	30 420	471 530
20 - 30	19 930	518 600
30 - 50	27 900	1 143 500
50 - 100	36 600	2 711 940
>= 100 ha	38 870	11 342 160

### Legal status

Holdings operated by:	Number of holdings	
Civil Persons	205 560	—
Other	27 690	—

### Tenure of agricultural land

		Agricultural area (ha)
Total	—	15 798 510
Owned	—	10 456 940
Rented	—	5 341 570

### Holders by sex

	Number of holders	
Total	205 560	—
male	178 570	—
female	26 990	—

### Holders by age

	Number of holders	
Total	205 560	—
< 35 years of age	10 790	—
35 to 44	36 160	—
45 to 54	52 660	—
55 to 64	53 880	—
65 >	52 070	—

### Holders and members of their household engaged in agricultural work on the holding

	Number of persons	
Total	396 690	—
Male	267 410	—
Female	129 280	—
Of which, full time:		
Total	134 950	—
Male	112 230	—
Female	22 720	—

### Hired permanent workers

	Number of workers	
Total	142 650	—
Of which, full time:	75 050	—

<b>Land use</b>		
	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
All land	233 250	16 527 630
Agricultural land	–	15 798 500
Cropland	–	6 440 390
Arable land	116 660	6 402 490
Permanent crops	8 400	37 900
Permanent mead./pastures	193 690	9 358 110
Wood / forest land	52 190	458 670
All other land	–	270 460

<b>Temporary crops</b>		
	Holdings reporting	Area (ha)
Soft wheat	41 020	2 083 900
Rye	420	7 180
Barley	47 080	1 126 300
Oats	9 400	108 610
Dry pulses	10 450	207 500
Potatoes	14 450	165 750
Sugarbeets	8 560	172 570
Industrial plants	18 560	487 960
Hops	180	2 340
Rapeseed and Turnip	15 120	404 680
Vegetables (grown in the open)	8 480	121 840

<b>Livestock</b>		
	Holdings reporting	Head/units
Cattle, total	114 900	11 090 680
of which: dairy cows	31 860	2 334 840
Sheep	82 180	41 898 890
Goats	7 120	68 490
Pigs	11 190	6 442 720
Chickens, total	–	153 110 000
Broilers	1 970	105 300 000
Laying hens	27 080	47 810 000

# UNITED KINGDOM – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000

## Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** Agricultural censuses have been conducted annually in the United Kingdom since 1866. The United Kingdom has participated in the ten yearly rounds of the World Census of Agriculture Programme since 1930. It also participates in the Farm Structure Surveys (FSS) of European Community organized by Eurostat.

**Organization:** The collection of Statistics in UK is a devolved activity. Parallel but independent surveys of Agriculture and Horticulture were organized by the responsible departments in each of the four countries. At the Union level the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), earlier Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (MAFF), collated the data for the UK as a whole. Keeping in view separate procedures followed in each country their methodological details are given separately.

### Definition:

#### ***Agricultural holding:***

An economic unit which is run as single unit and uses common means of production. These are categorized in country specific size groups. Farm business on a holding is organized by a "farmer (holder)" who could be individual, a partnership of individuals, a limited company or an institution of some kind. Some farm businesses occupy more than one holding.

**Coverage:** Geographically, the survey covers England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Statistically, coverage of units differs from country to country as different thresholds are applied on the target holdings for the survey.

### Data source:

European Commission – Eurostat, Theme 5, Agriculture and Fisheries – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000 – 2003 Edition – Detailed Tables

### Mailing address:

Farming Statistics - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - Room 133A, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1 – 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX

Tel: (01904) 455332 / 455329

E-Mail: [farmling-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:farmling-statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://farmstats.defra.gov.uk>

### Country Specific Explanatory Notes:

#### **England and Wales – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000**

**Historical outline:** Since 1866 agricultural censuses have been conducted at the beginning of June each year. Initially the census covered land areas and livestock numbers but in 1921 it was extended to cover data on farm labour.

**Organization:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in England and the National Assembly for Wales organized the survey. Information for the June survey is collected under the authority of the Agricultural Statistics Act 1979, as amended by the Agriculture Amendment Act 1984. However, there is no legal requirements for farmers to complete the labour questionnaire.

**Enumeration period:** For June 2000 census, questionnaires were sent in May 2000 and followed up until August 2000. For the Labour survey forms were sent in September 2000 and reminders were sent up to November 2000.

**Reference date:** 2 June 2000: for crop area, livestock, holding management and number of farmers working on the holding;

#### **Definitions:**

***Minor holding:*** satisfy the following criteria:

- a) total operated area less than 6 hectares
- b) no regular whole time farmer or worker
- c) estimated annual labour requirement less than 100 days
- d) glass house area less than 100 square meters
- e) occupier does not farm another holding.

***Main holding:*** are the holdings which are not classed as minor holding.

**Coverage:** Only the main agricultural holdings were included and the minor agricultural holdings were excluded as they were statistically insignificant. However, the minor holdings received an abbreviated questionnaire.

**Frame:** A register of all holdings which is continuously updated serves as the frame. The register contains unique holding number, the contact details of the holder, size and legal status of the holding included particulars of associated holdings. Minor holdings are surveyed every five years to ensure that the details remain correct and a reclassification is carried out after each survey.

**Methods:** The survey was conducted in two parts: (i) relating to crops and livestock, and (ii) relating to labour force. Both surveys were conducted by post. The data on organic holdings was collected from administrative sources. Since 1995 June "Census" is conducted on sample basis. The sample design is as follows:

- all holdings above 8 ESU to be surveyed each year
- holdings between 3 to 8 ESU would be surveyed once every three years on rolling basis
- only 10% of the holdings below 3 ESU selected randomly.

However, the June 2000 Census was a complete enumeration but the Labour Survey was carried out by sample enumeration following a stratification based on Eurostat size bands and farm type.

**Mailing address:**

**England**

Lindsey Clothier, DEFRA, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO 1 7PX.

E-mail: [Lindsey.j.clothier@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Lindsey.j.clothier@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**Wales**

Stuart Neil, National Assembly for Wales, Agricultural Department, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ.

E-mail: [Stuart.neil@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.neil@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Scotland – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000**

**Historical outline:** For more than 100 years annual crop and livestock surveys have been carried out. Since 1975 Scotland also contributes to EU Farm Structure Surveys through these and other special surveys.

**Organization:** The Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SERAD) organized the 1999/2000 survey. Information for the June survey was collected under the authority of the Agricultural Act (Scotland) 1947. However, the act does not empower SERAD to collect information on farm diversification and farmer's income.

**Enumeration period:** For June 2000 census, questionnaires were sent in March 2000 and followed up until August 2000. For the March survey forms were sent in February 2000 and reminders were sent up to April 2000.

**Reference date:** 1 June 2000: for crop area, livestock, holding management and number of workers on the holding.

**Definitions:**

**Holding:** A single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products.

**Main Holding:**

The holdings operating more than 1 hectare of land and with greater than or equal to 1 2/3 ESU.

**Coverage:**

The addressed all holdings which at the time of preparing the mailing list, were believed to be active. The survey covered only the holdings above the threshold, viz., all main holdings, and/or with a full time farmer, and all holding where an occupier farms more than one holding, and holdings with significant poultry or horticultural activity. The information on Group holdings was not sought as they are insignificant in number.

**Frame:** A register based on land occupancy (ownership and tenancy) is maintained and updated annually by means of returns of annual surveys. Each discrete agricultural area is given a holding number. The holdings are classified as "main" or "minor" in this register which also contains information on land area and related transactions, description of holdings and contact details of occupier.

**Methods:**

The survey was conducted in two parts: (i) questionnaire on crops and livestock management and diversification collected in June 2000 (ii) questionnaire on all other FSS items collected in March 2000.

Normally, the main holdings are surveyed each year and minor holdings are surveyed every third year. However, the June 2000 survey was a complete enumeration but the March 2000 was carried out by sample enumeration following a stratification based on size bands and farm type. Both surveys were carried out by post.

**Mailing address:**

Venetia Radmore, SEERAD, 28 Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY.

[Venetia.radmore@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Venetia.radmore@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Northern Ireland – Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000**

**Historical outline:** The first crop and livestock survey was carried out in 1857. The series of current annual surveys started in 1921. Since 1975 Northern Ireland also contributes to EU Farm Structure Surveys through the annual surveys and other special surveys.

**Organization:** The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is responsible for collection of agricultural statistics including conducting of FSS in Northern Ireland. The Agricultural Returns Act (Northern Ireland) 1939 authorizes the DARD to demand information of the type requested in June survey. Similar authority is not available for collection of information on diversification and farmer's other gainful activities.

**Enumeration period:** The survey was conducted during February-March 2000 and May to August 2000.

**Reference date:** 1 June 2000: for crop area, livestock numbers and number of farm workers.

**Definitions:**

**Farm Business (Holding):** A single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products.

**Coverage:** Within the framework of threshold the survey covered "all active farm business having one hectare or more of farm land, whether owned or leased or taken on Corarce (annual lets), and those with under one hectare and having any cattle, sheep or pigs or with significant poultry or horticultural activity".

**Frame:** A register is maintained by the administration of Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) serves as the basis for statistical surveys. This register is updated on day-to-day basis and contains information on all farm businesses who have a contact with the Department in administrative (for receiving grants and subsidies) or statistical role. This register contains a client reference number, the business details and the contact information. The list of active farms is downloaded from this register. Lists from other business registers, e.g. of poultry owners, potato or horticultural specialist are appended to complete the frame. A survey reference number is attached to all the clients in the final list.

**Methods:** The survey was conducted in two parts: (i) questionnaire on crops, livestock and farm workers was collected in June 2000, and (ii) questionnaire on all other FSS items collected in February 2000. Both surveys were carried out by post.

**Mailing address:**

Shiela Magee, DARD, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

[Shiela.Magee@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:Shiela.Magee@dardni.gov.uk)

## **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 (UAA):**

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.

**Mailing address:**

Eurostat, Division F-1, Bâtiment Jean Monnet, Rue Alcide De Gasperi, L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel: (+352) 4301-37229

Fax: (+352) 4301-37317

E-mail: [Marleen.Copers@cec.eu.int](mailto:Marleen.Copers@cec.eu.int)

Web site:

[http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-52-03-756-3A/EN/KS-52-03-756-3A-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-52-03-756-3A/EN/KS-52-03-756-3A-EN.PDF)