

2 Structure of agricultural holdings broken down by economic size classes

As stated in the previous chapter, the EU agricultural holdings classification system enables a detailed breakdown of agricultural holdings into 14 economic size classes. For the purposes of this evaluation, the classes were merged into three basic groups of economic size. The analysis covers small-scale holdings (economic size class I.-V.), medium-scale holdings (economic size class VI.-IX.) and large-scale holdings (economic size class X.-XIV.). Results of the Farm Structure Survey concerning economic size structure of holdings are given in Table 3.

The most numerous group is represented by small holdings that make up less than two thirds (60%) of all agricultural holdings in the CR. The second most represented is a group of medium-scale agricultural holdings (33%). The group of large agricultural holdings (7%) is the least numerous one. In detail, the economic size class III includes most of the holdings (4 347 holdings), followed by economic size class IV (4 320 holdings) and class VI (3 190 holdings). The smallest number of agricultural holdings belongs to size class XI, where belong only 266 holdings. Despite this is the least represented group, the substantial part of the agricultural production of the CR is concentrated within large-scale agricultural holdings (economic size class X.-XIV.). These holdings cover 66% of utilised agriculture area and 76% of animal production (in livestock units). The opposite situation is represented by small-scale holdings (mostly natural persons), which involve the largest number of the holdings, but utilise only 5% of the agricultural land resources and rear approximately 4% of the livestock.

The results of the structural survey show the dependency between economic size and the legal form of agricultural holdings. Approximately two thirds of natural persons (66%) were included into the small-scale economic size class (I.-V.). The share of large holdings is negligible (1%) in the natural persons' group. A completely different size structure is formed by legal person holdings with more than half of large-scale holdings (52%). Approximately 39% of legal person holdings fall into the medium size classes. Remaining 9% represent the small size legal persons, for which in many cases the agricultural production is not their principal orientation.

Table 3: Structure of the holdings broken down by their economic size

Economic size class	Agricultural holdings, total		Holdings of natural persons		Holdings of legal persons	
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%
I	1 160	4,4	1 159	5,0	1	0,0
II	2 841	10,7	2 827	12,1	14	0,5
III	4 347	16,4	4 286	18,4	61	2,0
IV	4 320	16,3	4 211	18,1	109	3,5
V	3 052	11,5	2 951	12,7	101	3,2
Small (I.-V.)	15 720	59,5	15 434	66,2	286	9,2
VI	3 190	12,1	3 025	13,0	166	5,3
VII	2 396	9,1	2 187	9,4	208	6,7
VIII	2 229	8,4	1 793	7,7	437	14,1
IX	978	3,7	570	2,4	409	13,2
Medium (VI.-IX.)	8 794	33,3	7 575	32,5	1 219	39,2
X	439	1,7	178	0,8	261	8,4
XI	266	1,0	64	0,3	202	6,5
XII	358	1,4	51	0,2	307	9,9
XIII	512	1,9	23	0,1	489	15,7
XIV	345	1,3	2	0,0	343	11,0
Large (X.-XIV.)	1 920	7,3	318	1,4	1 602	51,6
Total*	26 434	100,0	23 327	100,0	3 107	100,0

*Not including non-classified holdings

From a regional point of view, the size structure of agricultural holdings is similar in particular regions. The largest share of small holdings occurred in Zlín Region (77%), Liberec Region (69%) and in Moravia-Silesia Region (68%). Middle-sized holdings form the largest proportion in the Central Bohemian Region (41%), in the Ústí nad Labem Region (39%) and in Vysočina Region (39%). The highest share of large-scale holdings is typical for The Central Bohemia Region (10%), Olomouc Region (9%) and Pardubice Region (9%). In terms of absolute numbers, most of small sized holdings were situated in South Moravian Region (2 325 holdings), that covers almost 15% of all small agricultural holdings in the Czech Republic. Most of large-scale holdings occurred in Central Bohemian Region, where 329 large farms were registered. These holdings shared 17% of the total number of large holdings in the Czech Republic.