

## 6. The size of the holdings according to the utilised agricultural area

Czech holdings have shown significant variability in the area of farmed land and substantial differences can be monitored between holdings of natural and legal persons. Even though the agricultural sector was privatised and transformed after 1989, this only slightly influenced the size structure of the arising holdings and large holdings continued to exist in the Czech Republic in 2007. Their advantage lies in the greater options for distributing their fixed costs. Large holdings dominate both crop and animal production.

From the point of view of crop production, the fundamental criteria when comparing the size of the agricultural holdings is the area of the utilised agricultural area, as well as the primary production factor (see Table 13)

**Tab. 13 - Size of holdings: by utilised agricultural area**

Size group by UAA (ha)	RU, total				Natural persons				Legal persons			
	Number		UAA (ha)		Number		UAA (ha)		Number		UAA (ha)	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
Total	39 396	100.0	3 518 073	100.0	36 455	100.0	1 034 568	100.0	2 941	100.0	2 483 505	100.0
0,00	909	2.3	-	-	711	2.0	-	-	198	6.7	-	-
0,01 - 2,99	15 764	40.4	17 626	0.5	15 647	42.9	17 464	1.7	117	4.0	162	0.0
3,00 - 9,99	7 666	19.5	43 126	1.2	7 535	20.7	42 338	4.1	131	4.5	788	0.0
10,00 - 19,99	4 030	10.2	56 393	1.6	3 924	10.8	54 906	5.3	106	3.6	1 487	0.1
20,00 - 29,99	2 130	5.4	51 499	1.5	2 069	5.7	50 022	4.8	61	2.1	1 477	0.1
30,00 - 49,99	2 329	5.9	89 455	2.5	2 202	6.0	84 572	8.2	127	4.3	4 883	0.2
50,00 - 99,99	2 309	5.9	161 145	4.6	2 156	5.9	150 202	14.5	153	5.2	10 943	0.4
100,00 - 499,99	2 440	6.2	527 237	15.0	1 916	5.3	377 624	36.5	524	17.8	149 613	6.0
500,00 - 1999,99	1 464	3.7	1 521 072	43.2	289	0.8	239 697	23.3	1 175	39.9	1 281 375	51.6
>= 2000,00	356	0.9	1 050 519	29.9	7	0.0	17 742	1.7	349	11.9	1 032 777	41.6

Whereas holdings of natural persons farm smaller areas of agricultural land (up to 20 ha), the holdings of legal persons most frequently farm large areas of agricultural land (over 100 and up to 2,000 ha). From the point of view of the utilised area, the main size categories for holdings of natural persons are 100 to 500 and 500 to 2000 ha, while they are 500 to 2000 and over 2000 ha for holdings of legal persons. The number of holdings in these size categories has not significantly changed from the previous survey in 2005.

### Holdings of natural persons

Holdings of natural persons most frequently farm an area of agricultural land up to 3 ha. Such holdings account for 44.9%. A further 20.7% of the holdings of natural persons farm an area of agricultural land between 3 and 10 ha and 10.8% of holdings farm between 10 and 20 ha of agricultural land. The remaining 23.7% of holdings are equally divided among the other size categories, with the exception of the largest size categories of above 500 and above 2,000 ha. Holdings of natural persons farming an area in excess of 500 ha do not appear or they appear only sporadically. Most agricultural land is used by holdings of natural persons farming 100 to 500 ha (36.5% of the agricultural land farmed by holdings of natural persons) and 500 to 2,000 ha of agricultural land (23.3% of the agricultural land farmed by holdings of natural persons).

### Holdings of legal persons

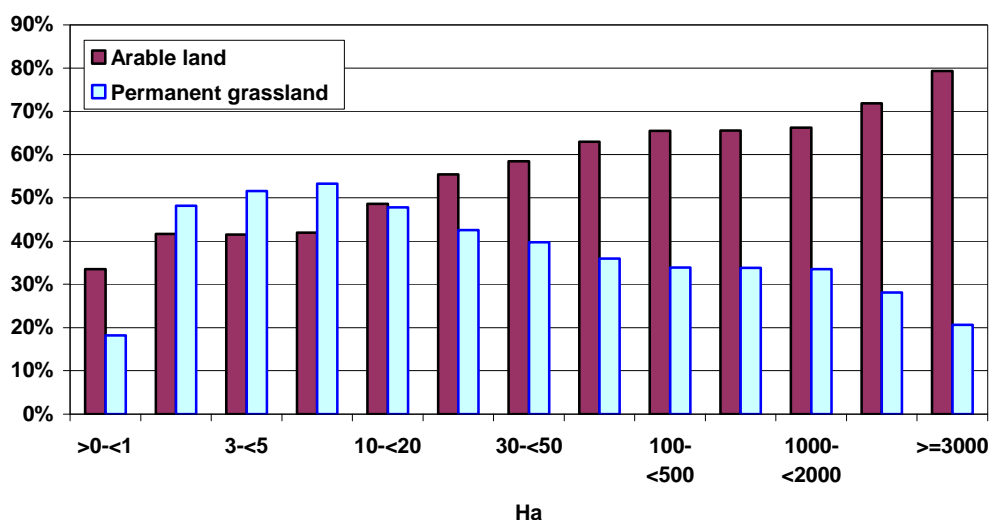
Most holdings of legal persons (39.9%) farm an area of 500 – 2,000 ha of agricultural land. A further 17.8% of the holdings farm 100 - 500 ha of land and 11.9% of the holdings farm in the category of more than 2,000 ha of utilised area. The remaining 30.4% of holdings of legal persons are divided among the other size categories, including the smallest.

The most agricultural land is used by holdings of legal persons farming 500 to 2,000 ha (51.6% of the agricultural land farmed by holdings of legal persons) and more than 2,000 ha of agricultural land (41.6% of the agricultural land farmed by holdings of legal persons).

Within the framework of the individual legal forms of the legal persons, co-operatives and joint stock companies farm the largest area of agricultural land. As far as co-operatives are concerned, 33.8% of them farm 1 – 2 thousand ha, 15.7% farm 2 – 3 thousand ha and 6.9% farm 3 thousand and more ha of agricultural land. As far as joint stock companies are concerned, 30.3% of them farm 1 – 2 thousand ha, 15.5% farm 2 – 3 thousand ha and 10.4% farm 3 thousand and more ha of agricultural land.

Most of the utilised agricultural area consists of arable land and permanent grassland. Not even 2% of the utilised agricultural area was used for orchards, kitchen gardens, vineyards, hop-gardens and other permanent crops. Arable land has a higher share than permanent grassland in both holdings of natural and legal persons. Permanent grassland forms a more significant share in holdings of natural persons (37%) than in holdings of legal persons (21%). Analogously, the situation is reversed in the case of arable land – it accounts for 62% of the utilised agricultural area in holdings of natural persons and 78% of the land in holdings of legal persons. There are differences in the composition of the agricultural land (the share of the arable land and the permanent grassland) between the holdings according to the area of the land which they farm. However, this trend is more marked in holdings of legal persons than in holdings of natural persons (see graphs 9 and 10).

**Graph 9 – Share (%) of arable land and permanent grassland in agricultural land total in holdings of natural persons: by size groups of holdings**



**Graph 10 - Share (%) of arable land and permanent grassland in agricultural land total in holdings of legal persons: by size groups of holdings**

