

1 Introduction

The Integrated Farm Survey 2023 was conducted during autumn 2023 as a sample survey. In its contents and aims, it followed exhaustive Integrated Farm Survey 2020, sample structural surveys carried out in 2016, 2013, 2007, 2005, and 2003, and Agricultural censuses 2010 and 2000. Surveys on farm structure contribute to systematic building of European Communities' statistics on structure of agricultural holdings, which provide comparable outputs for all EU member states.

The aim of the survey is to obtain detailed and complex information on the Czech agricultural sector, i.e. its size, structure and development of agricultural holdings, on their equipment, specialisation of their production, and other gainful activities. The results are used in classification of agricultural holdings by their production orientation and economic size.

The data obtained in the survey are used for update of the Farm Register, which is maintained by the Czech Statistical office and serves as a basis for yearly surveys in agriculture. Results will be used for agricultural policy forming not only in the Czech Republic but also in the whole European Union.

1.1 Legislation

The Farm Structure Survey is conducted in all the European Union member countries following requirements of EU/EC legislation. The most important legal acts are Regulation (EC) No 2018/1091¹⁾ of the European Parliament and Commission Implementing Regulation No 2021/2286²⁾.

In the Czech Republic, the survey is conducted on the basis of Act No 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, and of Programme of Statistical Surveys for the year 2023³⁾.

1.2 Definition of the agricultural holding

Agricultural holding means a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and undertakes agricultural activities based on the common statistical classification of economic activities (CZ-NACE), either as its primary or secondary activity. Among these activities belong: growing of non-perennial crops (01.1); growing of perennial crops (01.2) including wine production from self-produced grapes; plant propagation (01.3); animal production (01.4); mixed farming (01.5); support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities (01.6). Agricultural holdings raising other animals (01.49) are excluded, except ones raising and breeding ostriches, emus and rabbits, and dealing with bee-keeping and production of honey and beeswax. Furthermore, all agricultural holdings carrying out activities under 01.6 of CZ-NACE are excluded, except holdings exclusively maintaining agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition.

The thresholds for the Integrated Farm Survey 2023 were set by Regulation (EU) No 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council to correspond to 98% coverage of total cultivated agricultural land (excluding kitchen gardens) and 98% coverage of livestock units⁴⁾.

¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on integrated farm statistics and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1166/2008 and (EU) No 1337/2011.

²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2286 of 16 December 2021 on the data to be provided for the reference year 2023 pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated farm statistics as regards the list of variables and their description and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1200/2009.

³⁾ Decree No. 324 of 12 October 2022 on the Statistical Survey Programme for 2023, No. 150/2022 Coll., distributed on 3 November 2022, including Annexes 1 and 2.

⁴⁾ Livestock unit (LSU) means a standard measurement unit that allows the aggregation of various categories of livestock in order to enable their comparison. 1 LSU represents 500 kg of live weight of an animal.

Threshold values for the survey:

- 5 ha of utilised agricultural area (own or rented), or
- 2 ha of arable land, or
- 0.5 ha of potatoes, or
- 0.5 ha of vegetables and strawberries, or
- summed area of aromatical, medicinal, and culinary plants, flowers and ornamental plants, seeds and seedlings, and nurseries at least 2 000 m², or
- summed area of orchards and other permanent crops at least 3 000 m², or
- 1 000 m² of vineyards;
- 100 m² of areas under cover, or
- 100 m² of cultivated mushrooms, or
- 1.7 livestock units.

1.3 Questionnaire and Reporting duty

Reporting duty applied to all reporting units included in the sample.

The questionnaire was sent electronically to legal persons and natural persons with a data box. Natural persons without a data were contacted by regular mail or by trained external interviewers.

Pursuant to Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, the reporting unit shall supply all requested data.

1.4 Output tables

The tables in the publication summarise the data for agricultural holdings that utilise at least 98% of the agricultural land or keep at least 98% of the total number of livestock units.

Calculations in the tables are based on non-rounded figures (incl. totals).

1.5 Farm Structure Survey results in international comparison

The European Statistical Office (Eurostat) collects results from all member countries and compiles publications summarizing main characteristic features of agriculture in each of them. These publications are available on Eurostat internet pages (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/publications/all-publications>).

Eurostat provides a database on its website, which is intended to serve for the comparison of the Farm Structure Surveys results on an international level; it contains aggregated tables in a demanded structure (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>).

Several methodological differences should be taken into account when using data from the Eurostat database:

- *According to the EU definition, hop is included in crops grown on arable land. In the Czech Republic, however, hop or hop-gardens are reported as permanent crops according to the Law No 252/1997 Coll., on agriculture, as amended. Due to this different approach, data on total arable area and permanent crops in Eurostat database differ from the data published at the national level. Data on total utilised agricultural area (permanent crops plus permanent grasslands plus arable land) are identical.*
- *Areas of grain maize and of green maize differ due to difference in inclusion of corn-cob-mix. According to the EU methodology, it is included in grain maize unlike the practice in the Czech Republic where its areas are included in green maize.*
- *Eurostat publishes indicators on the utilised agricultural area broken down into outdoor and under cover areas. Data on irrigation and soil management practices are reported for outdoor areas only. The areas reported in this publication include both types of areas.*

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- *no cases registered*
- . *data unavailable or unreliable*
- x *not applicable*
- 0 *less than half the final digit shown and greater than real zero*
- i. d. *individual data*