

INTRODUCTION

The Farm Structure Survey 2013 was conducted during autumn 2013 as a sample survey. It followed the Agricultural census 2010, sample surveys carried out in 2007, 2005, and 2003, and Agricultural census 2000. The aim of the survey was to obtain detailed and complex information on agricultural holdings in the Czech Republic: its size, structure and development of agricultural holdings, about their equipment, specialisation of their production, and other gainful activities. The survey also serves as data source for update of the Farm Register, which is a basis for yearly surveys in agriculture.

Farm Structure Surveys are conducted in all the European Union member countries following requirements of EU/EC legislation. The most important legal act is the Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 November 2008, on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88. The implementing regulation for this legislation is the Regulation No 1200/2009 of 30 November 2009.

The abovementioned legislation states that the survey shall cover (i) agricultural holdings¹ where the agricultural area utilised for farming is one hectare or more; (ii) agricultural holdings where the agricultural area utilised for farming is less than one hectare, if those holdings produce a certain proportion for sale or if their production unit exceeds certain physical thresholds. Member States can use a survey threshold above one hectare but this threshold shall be fixed at a level that excludes only the smallest agricultural holdings which together contribute 2% or less to the total utilised agricultural area and 2% or less to the total number of livestock units². In the Czech Republic the following threshold values were set down for the Farm Structure Survey 2013:

- Acreage above 5 ha of utilised agricultural area (own or rented), or
- More than 1 ha of orchards, or
- 3,500 m² of vineyards, or
- Sum of acreages for vegetable, strawberries and flowers above 2,500 m², or
- Breeding of 5 heads of cattle, or
- 10 heads of pigs, or
- 10 heads of sheep and goats, or
- 100 heads of poultry including ostriches.

The sample for the survey was set up using stratified random sampling. The questionnaire was filled in by 11 186 reporting units. The analysis of the results was based on grossed-up data for 26 246 agricultural holdings (23 345 holdings of natural persons and 2 901 holdings of legal persons) which reached defined threshold values.

Among the most important results of Farm Structure Survey 2013 belongs classification of agricultural holdings by their type of farming, economic size, and by importance of their other gainful activities. The farm typology [Commission Regulation (EC) No 1242/2008 of 8 December 2008 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings] in the Czech Republic is elaborated by the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (IAEI), responsible for the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN), on the basis of detailed knowledge of microeconomic features of agricultural holdings based on Farm Structure Survey data.

The publication presented consists of two autonomous parts that show possible ways of analytical classification and data utilisation. The first part is focused on the farm typology; it was elaborated by authors from the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information. The second part describes changes in the Czech agricultural sector by comparison of outcomes of Farm Structure Survey 2013 and Agricultural census 2000 and differences between regions reflected in the FSS 2013 results. The chapter was written by authors from the Czech Statistical Office.

¹ Agricultural holding means a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which 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.

² Livestock unit (LSU) means a standard measurement unit that allows the aggregation of the various categories of livestock in order to enable them to be compared.