

9. The size of the holdings according to the numbers of bred animals

The size of the holdings according to the numbers of bred cattle

In 2007, approximately 34% of the total number of holdings of natural persons and 55% of the total number of holdings of legal persons were involved in cattle breeding. The numbers of animals bred in holdings of natural persons and in holdings of legal persons differ substantially. Almost three fifths (59.5%) of the holdings of natural persons involved in cattle breeding had only 1 to 10 head of cattle and one third had 11 to 50 head of cattle. In comparison, almost two fifths (37.4 %) of the holdings of legal persons involved in cattle breeding had 101 to 500 head of cattle per holding, approximately one quarter had 501 to 1,000 head of cattle and just under one quarter had 1,000 to 5,000 head of cattle per holding.

Most of the cattle are bred in holdings of legal persons. The high concentration of cattle is typical for all the legal forms of legal persons and especially for joint stock companies and co-operatives. In the case of joint stock companies and co-operatives, the highest share of cattle was in holdings breeding more than 1,000 and less than 5,000 head of cattle (65.6% and 59.5% respectively).

Tab. 16 - Shares of the size groups of holdings: by number of cattle they kept

Size group by cattle (number of heads)	Natural persons		Legal persons		Of which					
					Limited liability companies		Join stock companies		Cooperatives	
	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)
Total:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	66.1	-	44.9	-	57.7	-	32.6	-	16.4	-
1 - 10	20.1	8.8	1.4	0.0	1.9	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.0
11 - 50	9.7	27.2	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.7	1.4	0.1	0.9	0.0
51 - 100	2.2	18.3	2.6	0.5	3.7	1.8	0.9	0.1	1.5	0.2
101 - 500	1.7	36.7	20.6	16.0	22.0	37.7	14.1	7.0	25.4	11.4
501 - 1000	0.1	8.5	14.8	28.5	8.0	35.7	22.9	25.4	27.2	27.4
1001 - 5000	0.0	0.5	12.9	53.4	2.9	24.0	27.2	65.6	27.9	59.5
> 5000	-	-	0.1	1.3	-	-	0.2	1.8	0.2	1.5

The size of the holding according to the numbers of bred pigs

Less units are involved in breeding pigs than in breeding cattle. In 2007, approximately 30% of holdings of natural persons and 33% of holdings of legal persons were involved with breeding pigs. The predominant number of pigs is, as in the case of cattle, bred in intensive, large-scale operations in holdings of legal persons. The share of pigs in operations with a high concentration of animals is also predominant in the case of holdings of natural persons.

Tab. 17 - Shares of the size groups of holdings: by number of pigs they kept

Size group by pigs (number of heads)	Natural persons		Legal persons		Of which					
					Limited liability companies		Join stock companies		Cooperatives	
	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)	RU (%)	Heads (%)
Total:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	71.4	-	67.0	-	81.2	-	49.5	-	43.6	-
1 - 10	23.0	8.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0
11 - 50	3.4	12.2	1.3	0.0	1.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.8	0.1
51 - 100	0.9	9.6	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.3	1.2	0.0	0.7	0.0
101 - 500	1.0	30.9	7.0	2.3	6.2	5.6	5.1	0.7	11.7	3.2
501 - 1 000	0.1	12.8	5.6	4.7	2.3	5.4	8.1	2.6	12.8	8.8
1 001 - 5 000	0.1	26.4	13.3	34.0	5.5	36.9	24.6	25.1	25.4	53.7
> 5 000	-	-	3.8	58.9	1.3	51.6	10.8	71.5	3.8	34.2

Holdings involved in sheep and goats breeding

Whereas from the point of agricultural production the predominant share of significant types of farm animals is bred in holdings of legal persons, the situation is different with regard to sheep, goats and marginally bred animals. Holdings of natural persons have a substantial share of their numbers and these holdings are also often involved in processing their products.

In 2007, holdings of natural persons bred 82.0% of the total number of sheep and 89.6% of the total number of goats. In the last two years, the numbers of goats have risen from 149,065 in 2005 to 172,797 in 2007 and the numbers of sheep have risen from 14,149 in 2005 to 15,853 in 2007. During the same period the loading of the agricultural land with sheep rose from 4.2 to 4.9 sheep per 100 ha of utilised agricultural area and from 17.0 to 19.0 sheep per 100 ha of permanent grassland. The growth in the numbers of sheep and goats is not only associated with the subsidy and support measures implemented by the state, but also with the lack of mutton and the growing interest in a healthy diet including, for example, the production of sheep and goat's milk cheese.

Out of a total number of 172,797 sheep, more than one third are bred in flocks numbering 101 to 500 sheep. The second highest share of the overall numbers (29.5%) is accounted for by holdings with flocks of 11 to 50 sheep. In goat breeding, the most common group size is 1 to 10 animals. Whereas high animal concentrations are not typical for goat breeding, sheep are bred in group sizes of 1,001 to 5,000 animals (3.3%).

Holdings involved in breeding marginal animals

Holdings of natural persons are in the absolute majority among rabbit breeders (99.7%). Rabbits are a typical representative of the type of animal which is widely bred for self-supply. In 2007, the share of rabbits bred in holdings of natural persons amounted to 85.3%. On average, there are 27 rabbits per holding of natural person and 1,486 rabbits per holding of legal person. When evaluating the results of the survey, it is however necessary to take into account the survey's threshold values.

Ostrich breeding has increased among the marginally bred animals in recent years. In the two-year period between 2005 and 2007, their numbers increased from 2,166 animals in 2005 to 4,023 animals in 2007. The increases occurred in both legal forms of agricultural holdings and the numbers even almost doubled in the case of holdings of legal persons. The decisive share (70.2%) of the animals is, however, bred at holdings of natural persons.

The numbers of marginally bred animals have generally increased (with an exception of guinea fowl). Between 2005 and 2007, for example, numbers of quail increased by 22.9%.

The numbers of fur animals, which fell significantly in the period after 1989, increased by 15.3% in the two-year period between 2005 and 2007.