

2 Structure of agricultural holdings broken down by economic size classes

The EU agricultural holdings classification system enables a detailed breakdown of agricultural holdings into 14 economic size classes. For this evaluation, the classes were merged into three aggregated 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 Integrated Farm Statistics concerning the economic size structure of holdings are given in Table 3.

The most numerous group is represented by small holdings that make up almost two-thirds (61%) of all agricultural holdings in the CR. The second most represented is a group of medium-scale agricultural holdings (32%). The group of large agricultural holdings (7%) is the least numerous one, which produce substantial part of the agricultural production of the CR. These holdings cover 63% of the utilised agriculture area and 77% 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 6% of the agricultural land resources and rear approximately 4% of the livestock. In detail, the economic size class III includes most of the holdings (4 034 holdings), followed by economic size class IV (3 703 holdings) and class I (3 637 holdings). The smallest number of agricultural holdings belongs to size class XI, where to belong only 281 holdings.

The economic size of agricultural holdings is closely related to their legal form. Approximately two-thirds of natural persons (67%) were included in 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. More than one-third of holdings (38%) belong to the large-scale category and 40% to the medium-scale category.

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	3 637	12.7	3 460	14.1	177	4.2
II	3 234	11.3	3 074	12.6	160	3.8
III	4 034	14.0	3 858	15.8	176	4.2
IV	3 703	12.9	3 475	14.2	228	5.4
V	2 878	10.0	2 690	11.0	188	4.5
Small (I.-V.)	17 486	60.9	16 557	67.6	929	22.0
VI	3 306	11.5	3 021	12.3	285	6.7
VII	2 606	9.1	2 250	9.2	356	8.4
VIII	2 357	8.2	1 763	7.2	594	14.1
IX	1 002	3.5	562	2.3	440	10.4
Medium (VI.-IX.)	9 271	32.3	7 596	31.0	1 675	39.7
X	423	1.5	157	0.6	266	6.3
XI	281	1.0	63	0.3	218	5.2
XII	362	1.3	58	0.2	304	7.2
XIII	493	1.7	32	0.1	461	10.9
XIV	400	1.4	30	0.1	370	8.8
Large (X.-XIV.)	1 959	6.8	340	1.4	1 619	38.3
Total*	28 716	100.0	24 493	100.0	4 223	100.0

*Not including non-classified holdings

Integrated Farm Statistics register holdings according to the farm headquarters. 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 (74%), South Moravian Region (72%), and in Liberec Region (65%). Middle-sized holdings form the largest proportion in the Ústí nad Labem Region (41%), in the Central Bohemian Region (39%), and in Vysočina Region (39%). The highest share of large-scale holdings is typical for the Ústí nad Labem Region (10%), the Prague capital Region (9%), the Central Bohemia Region (9%), and Pardubice Region (9%). In terms of absolute numbers, most of the small-sized holdings were situated in the South Moravian Region (4 119 holdings), which covers almost 24% of all small agricultural holdings in the Czech Republic. Most middle-scale and large-scale holdings occurred in the Central Bohemian Region, where 1 453 and 323 farms, respectively, were registered. These holdings shared 16% and 17%, respectively, of the total number of large holdings in the Czech Republic.