

2. The basic characteristics of the reporting units according to their legal form

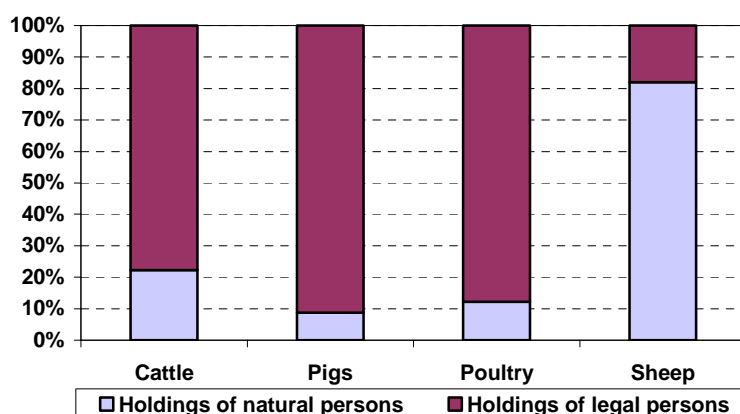
The ascertained shares of the individual legal forms of agricultural holdings in the fundamental monitored characteristics are set out in the following table.

Tab. 2 - Main indicators: by legal forms, 2007

	RU, total	Natural persons		Legal persons				
		Total	Of w which private farmers + agricultural entrepreneur	Total	Of w which			
					Business companies & partnerships	Of w which		Cooperatives
						Limited liability companies	Joint stock companies	
Number of reporting units	39 396	36 455	26 353	2 941	2 294	1 607	651	548
Agricultural area (ha)	3 518 073	1 034 568	982 716	2 483 505	1 679 562	779 486	886 151	773 946
Cattle (heads)	1 419 007	316 325	302 006	1 102 682	685 757	250 966	431 306	403 701
Pigs (heads)	2 875 874	254 017	230 771	2 621 857	1 998 787	496 479	1 500 565	597 587
Poultry (heads)	29 303 202	3 598 732	3 481 284	25 704 470	23 168 592	10 761 879	12 406 693	2 392 750
Percentage of total reporting units %								
Number of reporting units	100.0	92.5	66.9	7.5	5.8	4.1	1.7	1.4
Agricultural area	100.0	29.4	27.9	70.6	47.7	22.2	25.5	22.0
Cattle	100.0	22.3	21.3	77.7	48.3	17.7	30.4	28.4
Pigs	100.0	8.8	8.0	91.2	69.5	17.3	52.2	20.8
Poultry	100.0	12.3	11.9	87.7	79.1	36.7	42.3	8.2
Average per 1 reporting unit (average area of RU utilising agricultural land, average number of animals in RU keeping them)								
Agricultural area (ha)	91	29	38	905	799	527	1 502	1 425
Cattle (heads)	102	26	30	680	604	369	982	881
Pigs (heads)	252	24	34	2 700	3 143	1 644	4 561	1 934
Poultry (heads)	1 886	236	359	82 123	89 454	69 431	120 453	55 645

The holdings of legal persons continue to occupy a dominant share of both the area of utilised agricultural area (70.6%) and the number of bred animals (cattle: 77.7%, pigs: 91.2%, poultry: 87.7%). The shares of the holdings of legal and natural persons in the numbers of the main types of bred animals have not essentially changed in comparison with the previous survey in 2005. The area of agricultural land farmed by the holdings of legal persons fell by 1.3% in comparison with 2005.

Graph 2 – Share of main legal forms of agricultural holdings in total number of farmed animals in 2007



In comparison with 2005, the number of commercially active holdings involved in animal production has fallen. Along with the fall in the number of holdings of natural persons (by 7.5% in comparison with 2005), the number of such holdings involved in animal production also fell – the number of holdings involved in cattle breeding fell by 9.5%, pig breeding by 23.0% and poultry breeding by 21.0%. The number of holdings of legal persons in 2007 admittedly increased by 3.8% in comparison with 2005, but the numbers of

pig and poultry breeders among them fell. The number of holdings of legal persons - pig breeders fell by 8.7% and poultry breeders by 3.1% in comparison with 2005. An exception involve holding of legal persons breeding cattle, the number of which has increased by 0.4% since 2005.

Private farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs account for approximately 72% of the holdings of natural persons. Their share of the area of utilised agricultural area and the overall numbers of animals bred in holdings of natural persons are, however, higher and they fall in the range of 90 and 97%. The highest is in the case of poultry (96.7%) and the lowest is in the case of pigs (90.8%). The share of the numbers of farm animals bred by self-suppliers without a Company Registration Number (which met the threshold value for the survey) in the total number of physical entity farm animals was insignificant.

The average size of the holdings according to the numbers of animals

In 2007, differences were reported in the sizes of the holdings of natural and legal persons according to the average number of animals per agricultural holding (the average number of animals per holding was derived from the total numbers of animals of a certain type and the number of holdings involved in breeding them). The average number of animals per holding reached 26 head of cattle, 24 pigs and 236 head of poultry in the case of holding of natural persons. In the case of holdings of legal persons, the average sizes of the holdings were significantly bigger according to the numbers of bred animals pertaining per a holding (680 head of cattle, 2,700 pigs and 82,123 head of poultry). The greatest difference in the average numbers of animals per holding of legal and natural person was achieved in the case of poultry and the lowest in the case of cattle. The differences in the average size of the holdings according to the number of animals per holding are given by the work productivity, the used technology and the development of the situation in the market.

Differences exist among the individual legal forms of the commercial activities undertaken by legal entities in the Czech Republic with regard to the average size of the holdings breeding farm animals. The highest average size was reported in joint stock companies (982 head of cattle, 4,561 pigs, 120,453 head of poultry), which at the same time are also the largest breeders of the main types of farm animals (they have 30.4% of cattle, 52.2% of pigs and 42.3% of the total numbers of poultry).

With the exception of cattle in holdings of legal persons, the trend of increasing the average number of animals per agricultural holding continued in the period between 2005 and 2007. During the monitored period, this increase was the greatest in the case of poultry (especially in holdings of natural persons where it amounted to 38.8%) and the lowest in the case of cattle. The fluctuations in the average numbers of animals per holding are influenced by the type (size) of the farm animals and the breeding techniques arising from that.

The average size of the holdings according to the numbers of poultry

In comparison with 2005, the average size of the holdings from the point of view of the number of poultry per holding increased in holdings of legal and natural persons as a consequence of the reduction of the number of holdings in both legal forms and the increase in the numbers of poultry. In 2007, the number of holdings of natural persons involved in breeding poultry fell by 21.0% in comparison with 2005 (smaller holdings in particular were wound up). The fall in the numbers of legal persons involved in breeding poultry was less significant (by 3.1%).

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

In 2007, the average size of the holdings increased from the point of view of the number of head of cattle per holding of natural person. This change was especially caused by the reduction in the number of holdings of natural persons breeding cattle. In the case of legal persons, there was a slight fall in the average size of the holdings involved in breeding cattle by 1.3% due to the increase in the number of holdings and the fall in the numbers of head of cattle bred by holdings with this legal form of business.

The results of the survey clearly showed a change in the structure of cattle breeding. In the period from 2005 to 2007, the numbers of dairy cows fell and the growth in the numbers of suckler cows continued. In 2007, the share of dairy cows in the total cattle numbers at holdings of natural persons was 16.3%. In the case of legal persons, the share of dairy cows in the overall numbers of cattle in holdings of legal persons was 33.1%. A higher fall in the numbers of dairy cows occurred in holdings of natural persons (by 13.3%), the share of which in the total numbers of cattle in the Czech Republic is low (22.3% of the numbers of cattle and 12.4% of the numbers of dairy cows). This fall was given by economic problems which have manifested themselves more substantially in smaller holdings and predominantly in holdings of natural persons. In total,

the numbers of dairy cows fell by 5.4% in the monitored period (from 440,502 animals in 2005 to 416,518 in 2007) and the numbers of suckler cows increased by 10.2% (from 140,158 animals in 2005 to 154,470 in 2007). The breeding of dairy cows has been significantly influenced by the introduced quotas for milk production which do not enable the preservation of the existing numbers of dairy cows in the Czech Republic given the increasing yields achieved from dairy cows in the Czech Republic.

The average size of the holdings according to the numbers of pigs

The growth in the average number of pigs per holding was caused by the relatively high fall in the numbers of pig breeding holdings in comparison with the fall in the numbers of pigs. Reductions occurred in the numbers of pigs in both legal forms of business, but the fall in the numbers of pigs and breeders was more substantial in the case of holdings of natural persons. The changes in the numbers of pigs and the numbers of holdings were caused by the increasing costs which were difficult to cover given the low realisation prices for pigs for slaughter.