



Northern Europe has bigger farms

15% of French agricultural holdings have areas exceeding 100 hectares. This percentage is also above 13% in Luxembourg, Denmark and the United Kingdom, while the countries of Southern Europe generally have smaller holdings.

In 2005, only 2% of all agricultural holdings in the European Union had a Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) of 100 hectares or more. The first point is that Northern Europe contrasts with the South, where the small size of holdings is often due to their specialisation in permanent crops grown on small areas of land. The second is that Europe's new Member States generally have smaller units. With 15% of all holdings farming more than 100 hectares in 2005, France comes top for this in the EU. In the Czech Republic, 10% of units are also of this size, but 53% farm less than five hectares (26% in France). Two types of agriculture seem to coexist, one deriving from former State-owned structures, and the other more traditional

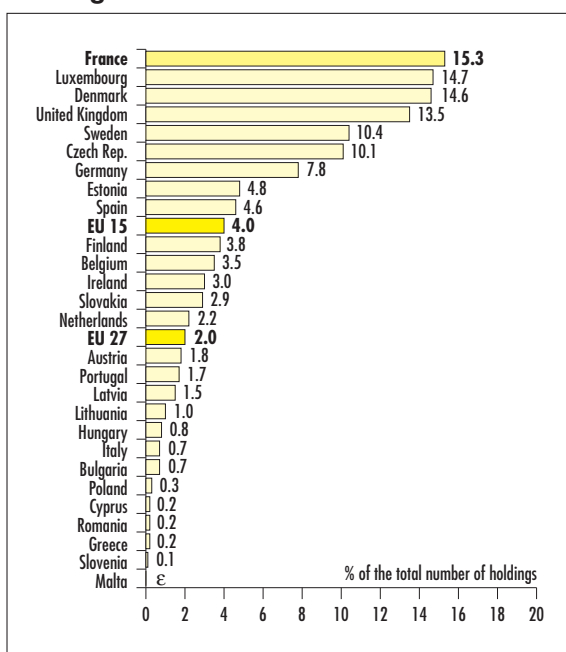
in character. In Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Malta, at least 90% of all holdings are farming on less than five hectares.

Definition

UAA, Utilised Agricultural Area, includes arable land, areas permanently under grass and permanent crops.

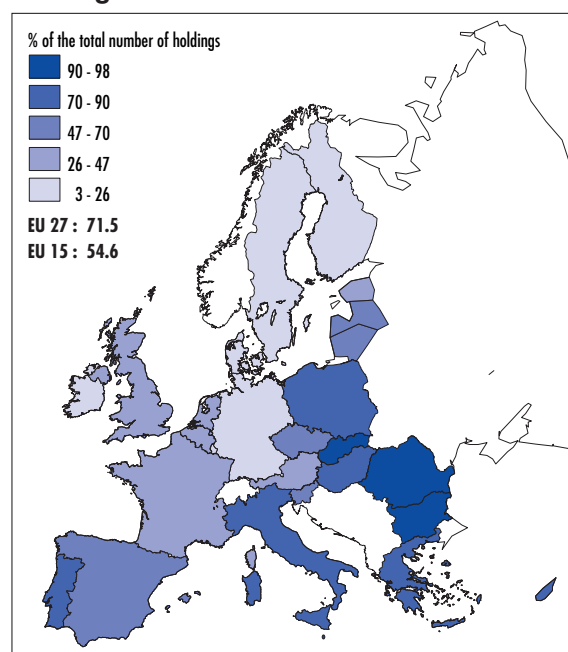
More statistics on page 25.

Holdings with 100 hectares or more



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005

Holdings with less than five hectares



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005