



# French farmers are relatively young

**European farmers and growers are getting on in years, with five farmers aged over 65 for every one under 35. French farmers are among the youngest.**

European farmers and growers are getting on in years: only 7% are under 35, and 32% are over 65. In Portugal, Romania, Bulgaria and Italy, over 40% of all farmers fall into the oldest age group. Conversely, the percentage of over-65s is under 10% in Austria, Germany and Finland. French farmers and growers are among the youngest in Europe. The percentage of over-65s is only half as big again as the proportion of under-35s. The ratio is five to one for the European Union as a whole, but is ten to one or more in Bulgaria, Italy and Portugal. In only three countries does the number of farmers under 35 years of age exceed

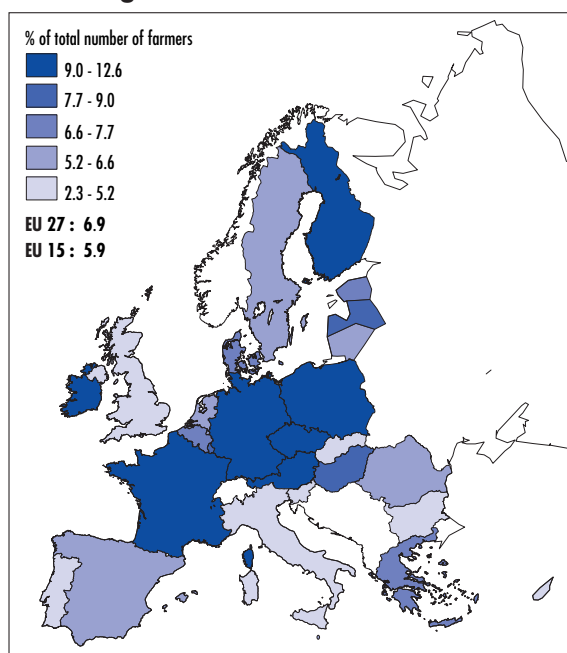
those over 65 years of age: Austria, Germany and Finland.

### Definition

EUROSTAT defines a **farmer** as the individual or legal entity for whom the holding generates value. In most cases he or she will be at the head of the holding and responsible for its day-to-day management. There is therefore only one farmer per agricultural holding.

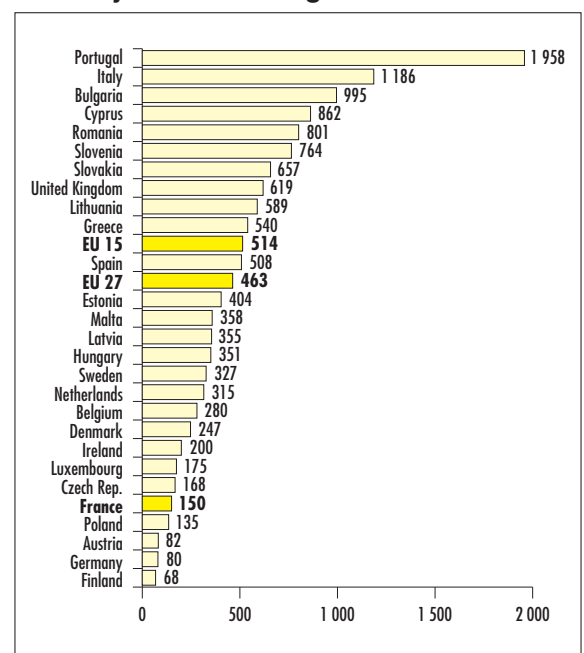
More statistics on page 26.

Percentage of farmers under 35



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005

Number of farmers 65 years of age or more for every 100 farmers aged under 35



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005