



Less than half of European territory is given over to agriculture

The land area given over to agriculture varies greatly between Member States, from 7% of national territory in Finland and Sweden, where forest predominates, to over 60% in Ireland, Denmark, Hungary and the United Kingdom.

In 2005, of a total land area of 432 million hectares, the Member States of the European Union devoted 180 million hectares, or approximately 40%, to agricultural production. In France, the figure exceeds one half and the United Kingdom farms on 65% of its national territory. Conversely, forests occupy a large percentage of land in Finland, Sweden and, to a lesser extent, Greece, Austria and the Baltic States.

Arable land generally accounts for the majority of cultivated land but this varies between States: over 90% in Finland and Denmark, but 62% in France, where areas permanently under grass constitute one third of Utilised Agriculture Area.

Spain has permanent crops on one fifth of the land.

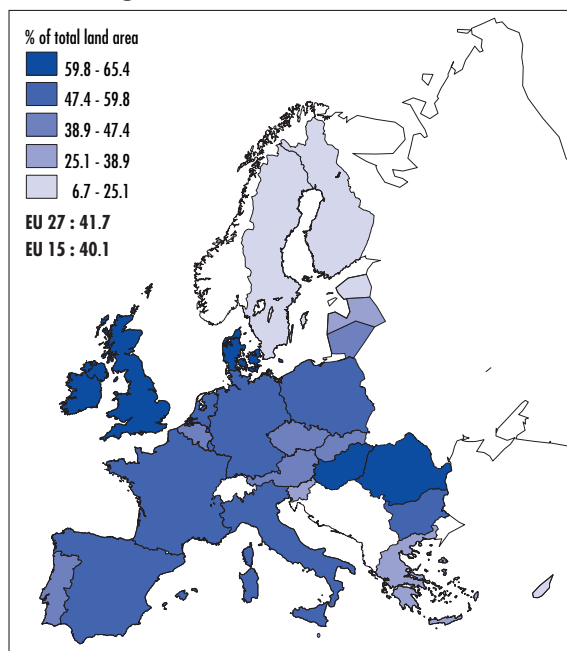
Definitions

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

Arable land comprises areas used to grow cereals, oil-seeds, protein crops, industrial beet, textile plants, medicinal and perfume plants, potatoes, field-grown fresh vegetables and pulses and forage crops, as well as fallow or set-aside land.

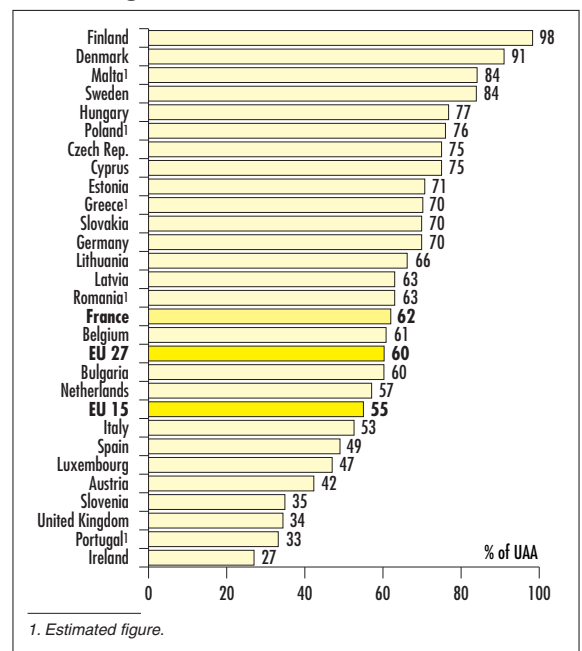
More statistics on page 23.

Percentage of UAA in total land area



Source: Eurostat 2005

Percentage of arable land in UAA



Source: Eurostat 2005