



Europe has one worker per agricultural holding on average

In 2005, each agricultural holding in Europe employed on average 0.9 of a full-time worker. French holdings, which are bigger on average, employ 1.5 workers. Most of the work is done by family members.

In 2005, the total work done on Europe's 14.5 million agricultural holdings equated to 12.7 million workers employed full-time for the whole year. Most of the work provided by the European workforce as a whole is done by non-salaried individuals: farmers and their family members working on the holding. In France, half of all agricultural work is done by salaried employees, either because the holding is incorporated as a company and pays the farmer a salary, or because the holding employs non-family members as permanent or seasonal labour. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, large entities have survived from the former State system in which very big farms employed large workforces. Poland on the other hand has always had very small farms.

Definition

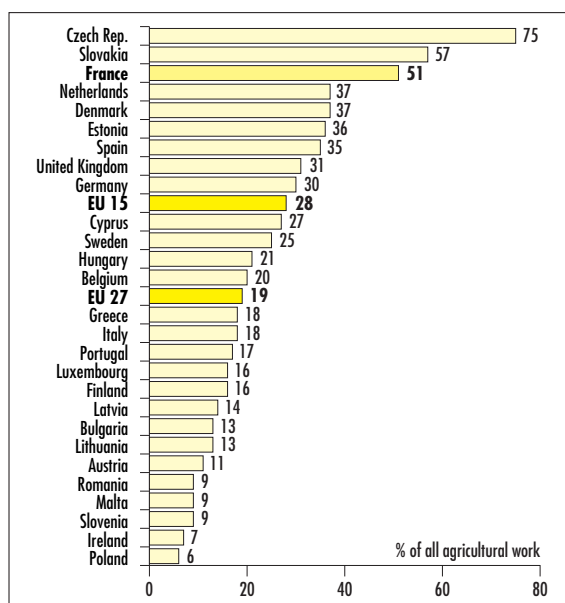
An **Annual Work Unit (AWU)** is the work done by a person employed full-time for one year. As defined by EUROSTAT, salaried work includes the following:

- Work done by non-family members, who may be hired on a permanent basis, i.e. regularly throughout the year, or as seasonal workers to perform a defined task (crop picking for example).
- Work done by farmers on a holding that is registered as a company.

As defined by the French statistics office, salaried work includes only that done by non-family members hired as workers. Work done by farmers, whether on an individual basis or on a holding registered as a company, is included in family work.

More statistics on page 27.

Percentage of work done by salaried workers



Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005

Numbers of workers and agricultural work units

Thousands of workers or thousands of AWU

| | Permanent workers | AWU | Permanent workers | AWU |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| EU 27 | 29 710.8 | 12 715.6 | Austria | 439.0 |
| EU 15 | 11 991.2 | 5 984.9 | Ireland | 249.8 |
| Romania | 8 514.7 | 2 595.6 | Czech Republic | 183.7 |
| Poland | 5 111.5 | 2 273.6 | Latvia | 260.9 |
| Italy | 3 279.4 | 1 374.3 | Slovakia | 219.8 |
| Spain | 2 185.7 | 992.6 | Slovenia | 207.6 |
| France | 1 142.2 | 855.5 | Finland | 154.2 |
| Germany | 970.1 | 643.2 | Sweden | 154.1 |
| Bulgaria | 1 077.9 | 624.7 | Belgium | 95.0 |
| Greece | 1 526.7 | 600.8 | Denmark | 97.3 |
| Hungary | 1 422.8 | 462.8 | Estonia | 81.2 |
| Portugal | 806.9 | 398.1 | Cyprus | 83.7 |
| United Kingdom | 647.9 | 339.1 | Malta | 18.3 |
| Lithuania | 537.5 | 221.5 | Luxembourg | 5.7 |
| Netherlands | 237.4 | 173.9 | | 4.0 |

Source: Eurostat Farm Structure Survey 2005