

Metropolitan France

agricultural census 2010

First trends

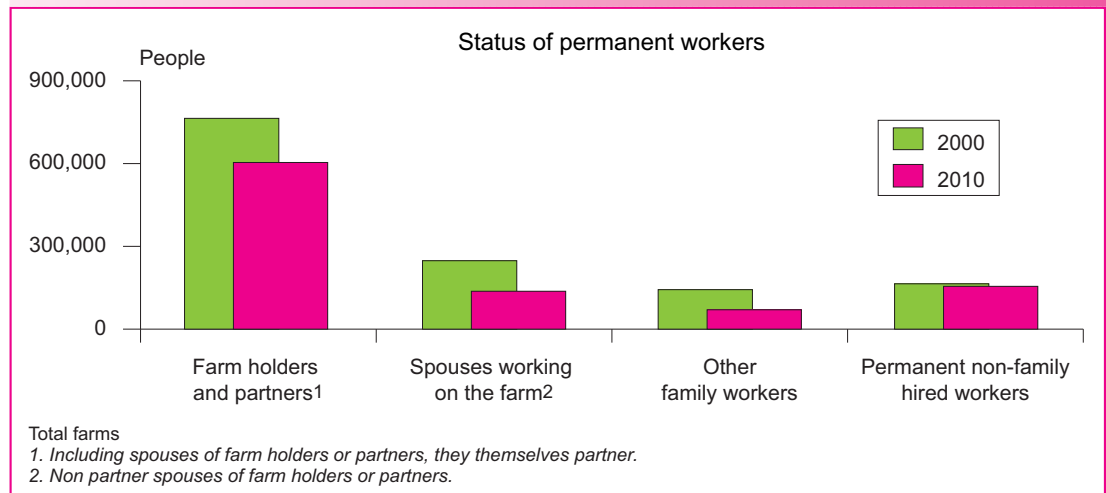
Nearly 500,000 farms and one million people are regularly involved in a farming activity. Agriculture is multi-dimensional. Farms range from small and middle sized farms, often with individual farm status, to large farms organized in a corporate structure. One quarter of the farms covers an area of less than 6 hectares and another quarter covers more than 82. The 10% larger farms exceed 143 hectares. Corporate structure farms tend to boost the number of partners and improve the awareness to the status of the spouse, women for the majority, who now represent 27% of farm holders and partners. Training is improving greatly for farm holders. Finally, 18% of farms market either through a short circuit, direct sale or through a single intermediary.

Nearly one million people

In 2010 in metropolitan France, 970,000 people held regular employment on farms. To this number must be added the contribution of seasonal workers, farm work firms and of farm machinery sharing cooperatives (CUMA) which are equivalent to 90,000 full time jobs. In all, farms use 750,000 annual work units (AWU). Farm holders and partners carry out almost 60% of the work that is necessary to the functioning of the farms compared to 56% in 2000. Their number has decreased by 21% (604,000) over 10 years but has been limited by the expansion of corporate structure farms and through the growing recognition of the status of spouses who often take on partner status. In 2010, there were 37,500 partner spouses compared to 26,800 in 2000.

On the other hand, the non-partner family is less involved. It contributes only 12% to the farm work compared to 19% in 2000. Many non-partner spouses do not participate at all. Hired farm labour is becoming more significant. 17% of the work is ensured by hired, non-family, permanent workers compared to 14% in 2000. Their number has decreased very little. Employment through partnerships of farm employers has increased and represents 8% of permanent hired labour compared to 5% in 2000. Hired family employment is also on the increase and concerns 4% of people. Recourse to a seasonal or casual labour force remains within the same proportions (11% of the volume of labour). Farm machinery sharing cooperatives (CUMA) and agricultural

604,000 farm holders and partners



Source: Agreste-Agricultural census



In ten years, the number of farms has decreased by 24% in Italy, 26% in France, 29% in the Netherlands, 36% in Germany.

One work unit for 36 hectares in 2010 (29 hectares in 2000). In the middle sized and large farms, one annual work unit exploits 96 hectares of grain and oilseed crops and 26 dairy cows in specialised dairy cattle livestock (respectively 82 hectares and 20 dairy cows in 2000).

■ A census every ten years covering the whole of France; national and international comparisons.

■ The data cover the years 2009-2010.

■ On internet by commune: interactive cartography framework data detailed data.

Follow the updates on the census on: www.agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr



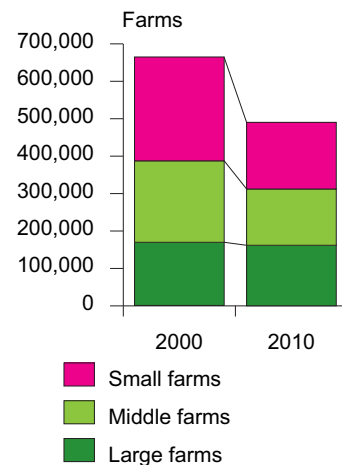
contractors are more than labour force supplements in that they provide necessary equipment and skills. More than half of farms, inclu-

ding one third of small farms, call them in but the volume of this type of labour totals only 2% of the global volume.

Farm enlargement

The average farm area grew by 13 hectares reaching 55 hectares in 2010 and even 80 hectares for the middle and large farms. Farm enlargement has brought about a decrease in their number (490,000 farms in metropolitan France in 2010) but this decrease was slower than in the previous 10 year period (-3.0% per year compared to a previous -3.5%). One out of four farms has disappeared over ten years. The number of small and middle sized farms is on a strong decline whereas the number of large farms remains constant and even on the increase for the very big farms. The decrease particularly affects livestock farms and mixed farming-livestock farms. Small dairy cattle farms have all but disappeared and large livestock farms have increased. Field cropping farms resist better. Their number has increased even for the middle sized and large farms specialised in grain and oilseed crops. There are fewer small farms and they make up only 36% of total farms compared to 42% in 2000. They exploit

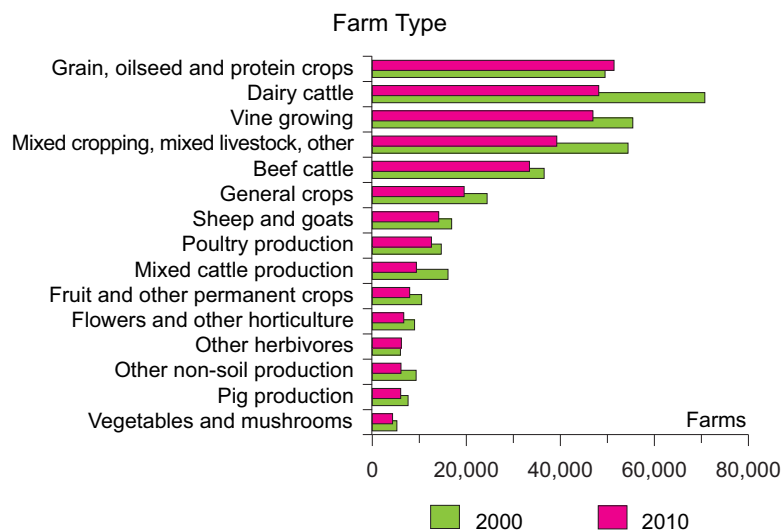
Large Farm Stability



Source: Agreste-Agricultural census

7% of the agricultural area in use (AA) and their average size is 10 hectares. Almost all have retained individual farm

30% cattle farming in spite of a sharp decrease



Middle and large farms.

Source: Agreste-Agricultural census

status. On average, they use the equivalent of 0.6 work units per farm. Half of the farm holders state that they farm less than a quarter of the time. One quarter of small farms are managed by

farm holders over 65 years old who have reduced their activity on the farm because of their age. Only 10% is managed by farm holders under 40 half of whom have two occupations.

One out of two workers on large farms

Middle and large farms take up 93% of the AA and 87% of the volume of labour. 30% of these farms specialise in cattle, 23% in field cropping and 15% in vine growing. One out of three farms is a large farm (one out of four in 2000). The larger the farm the more they take on a corporate structure. In 1985, the status of limited liability farms (EARL) was created which protects personal property by separating it from the capital of the company. 25% of middle and large farms (14% in 2000) and even 36% of the larger farms have this status today. Farm holders who work without a partner can adopt this status and this is the case for more than half of the EARL. Individual farm status is on the decline in middle sized farms (still 78% in 2010). In large farms, the decline is even more apparent. Only 32% of the farms are concerned by this status for 24% of the AA. For the farmers' economic interest groups (Gaec),

mostly family-run non-commercial companies, the proportions have remained the same since 2000 that is, 3% in middle sized farms and 19% in large farms, the under 40s being the most concerned. Most holders of large farms work on the farm full time. Only 6% also have other employment outside the agricultural sector. This proportion is still strong in middle sized farms especially among young farmers. 19% of young farm holders have other employment compared to 15% of the holders of middle sized farms. Middle sized farms use 1.4 annual work units and large farms use 2.7. Young farmers use practically as many as in the profession as a whole. One third of large farms employ at least one permanent worker.

Gisèle Giroux

SSP - Bureau de l'information statistique

24,800 farms in the overseas regions of France. 7,400 are middle sized and large.

52,300 people are in regular employment.

The equivalent of 34,200 annual work units.

5 hectares of farming acreage in use per farm on average, 11 hectares for the middle sized and large farms.

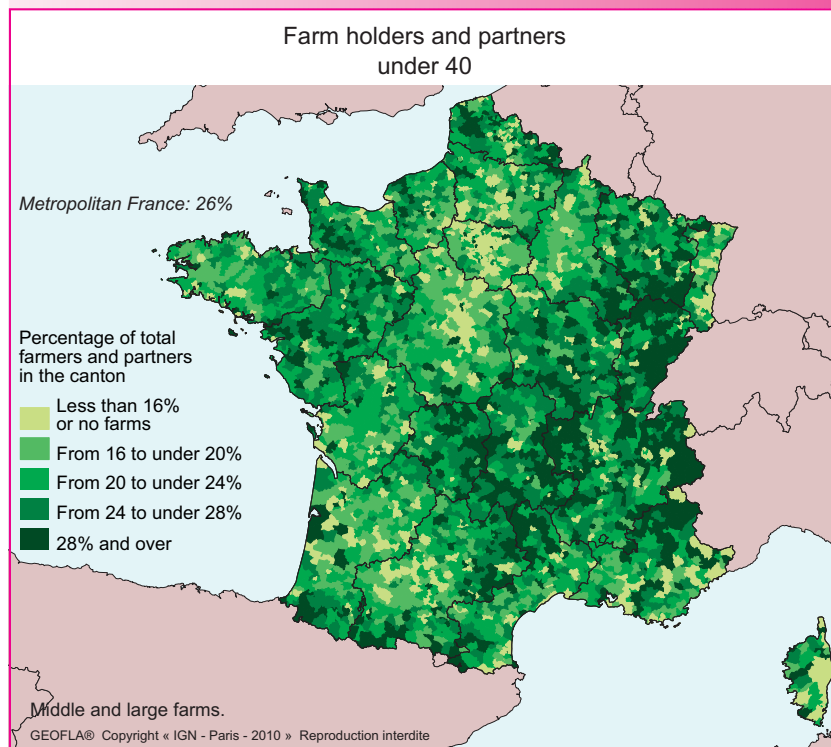
27% of farm holders and partners are women, with 24% on the middle sized and large farms.

On the middle sized and large farms, three quarters of farm holders and partners under 40 have at least their baccalaureat diploma.

90,500 farms, that is, almost one out of five, market directly or through a short circuit.

6,900 farms have renewable energy equipment.

No more young farmers in production areas



Source: Agreste-Agricultural census 2010

55 hectares on average per farm

	Total farms		Middle and large farms	
	2010	Evolution since 2000 (%)	2010	Evolution since 2000 (%)
Farms (thousands)	490	- 26	312	- 19
Farm holders and partners (thousands of people)	604	- 21	423	- 13
Non family workers (thousands of people)	155	- 6	148	- 5
Farm labour (thousands of AWU)	751	- 22	651	- 20
Agricultural area in use (AAU) (thousands of hectares)	26 961	- 3	25 096	- 2
Average agricultural area in use (hectare)*	55	+ 31	80	+ 22
Dairy cow farms (thousands)	82	- 36	78	- 34
Dairy cow livestock (thousands of heads)	3 717	- 11	3 700	- 11
Average dairy cow herd (heads)	45	+ 38	48	+ 36
Suckler cow farms (thousands)	121	- 27	88	- 21
Suckler cow livestock (thousands of heads)	4 100	- 5	3 784	- 1
Average suckler cow herd (heads)	34	+ 31	43	+ 25

* average area in use (AAU), including farms without AAU.

Source: Agreste-Agricultural census-2010 provisional results

Définitions

■ **A farm** is an economic unit that is part of agricultural production and meets certain criteria:

- its farming activity is either production or maintenance of the land to good agricultural and environmental standards which allows it to receive decoupled aid for production tools (SPR simple payment rights) or the availability of common grazing acreage that will allow it to apply for an agro-environmental grazier subsidy (AEGS).
- it is of a certain size, either 1 hectare of agricultural area, either 20 ares of specialised crops, or one production superior to a given threshold (1 cow or 6 mother ewes...).
- its everyday management is independent from all other units. Registration under the Sirene companies and institutions index or holding a registration for aid from the common agricultural

policy pre-supposes independent management.

■ **Agricultural workers** are people who take part in the work on a farm. Family workers include farm holders, partners, as well as family members, farm holder and partner spouses, and children so long as their work is on the farm. Permanent workers have part or full time employment all year round whatever the duration of the job. Seasonal or casual workers work part or full time, but only during part of the year.

■ The work undertaken on the farm also includes the services provided by firms or farm machinery sharing cooperatives the Cuma and is counted as working time.

Through the annual work unit (AWU) it is possible to hold different working

times concurrently. This unit corresponds to the equivalent full time working time of one person during one year.

■ Farm land and livestock are valued according to coefficients that calculate the **standard gross output (SGO)**. These coefficients are derived from average values over the period 2005 to 2009. The SGO outlays a potential of farm production and classifies farms according to their economic dimension into "middle sized or large farms" when this potential is superior or equal to 25,000 € and into "large farms" when it is superior or equal to 100,000 €. Each area or holder of livestock being part of the standard gross output also allows farms to be classified according to their specialisation (**type of farming-economic dimension**).