

Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings 2007

The average used agricultural area per operation increases 3.6% in 2007 as compared with 2005, standing at 23.85 hectares

The number of operations decreases 3.3%

The data referring to the agricultural campaign between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007 confirmed the decreasing trend in the number of operations and the increase in the used agricultural area (UAA).

Thus, the number of operations decreased 3.3% as compared with the year 2005, while the UAA increased 0.2%.

Both circumstances can be translated as an increase of 3.6% in the average used agricultural area per operation, which rose from 23.03 hectares in 2005 to 23.85 hectares in 2007.

Worth noting in the increase in the used agricultural area of cultivated lands, was the increase of 3.6% in olive groves, which reached 2.2 million hectares.

	2005	2007	2007/2005 % variation
Number of operations	1,079,420	1,043,907	-3.3
Total area (TA) (ha)	33,107,065	33,162,188	0.2
Used agricultural area (UAA) (ha)	24,855,129	24,892,517	0.2
Cultivated lands (CL) (ha)	16,201,920	16,242,729	0.3
- Herbaceous and fallow land (ha)	11,941,940	11,887,456	-0.5
- Fruit trees (ha)	1,095,779	1,102,546	0.6
- Olive grove (ha)	2,131,818	2,208,041	3.6
- Vineyard (ha)	1,018,909	1,032,273	1.3
- Other crops (ha)	13,475	12,413	-7.9
Permanent pastures (ha)	8,653,209	8,649,788	0.0

ha: hectares

Average results per operation	2005	2007	2007/2005 % variation
Average TA per operation (ha)	30.67	31.77	3.6
Average UAA per operation (ha)	23.03	23.85	3.5
Average number of cattle per operation	43.11	46.29	7.4
Average number of sheep per operation	230.62	237.04	2.8
Average number of pigs per operation	196.75	216.56	10.1
Average number of poultry per operation	885.59	869.25	-1.8

ha: hectares

Castilla y León and Aragón register the largest used agricultural area per operation

The Autonomous Communities of Castilla y León and Aragón presented the largest average sizes per operation (with 57.70 and 47.99 hectares, respectively). They were followed by Comunidad de Madrid, Extremadura, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and Castilla-La Mancha, all with values above the national average.

At the opposite extreme were Canarias (3.94 hectares), Comunitat Valenciana (5.07) and Galicia (8.50).

Surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings 2005 and 2007

	Average UAA per operation 2005 ha	Average UAA per operation 2007 ha	2007/2005 % variation
National total¹	23.03	23.85	3.6
Andalucía	17.42	17.62	1.1
Aragón	46.37	47.99	3.5
Asturias (Principado de)	12.71	12.73	0.2
Balears (Illes)	15.20	14.73	-3.1
Canarias	3.82	3.94	3.1
Cantabria	22.62	23.61	4.4
Castilla y León	54.33	57.70	6.2
Castilla-La Mancha	32.11	33.93	5.6
Cataluña	20.21	21.17	4.8
Comunitat Valenciana	4.87	5.07	4.1
Extremadura	38.63	38.21	-1.1
Galicia	7.98	8.50	6.6
Madrid (Comunidad de)	38.75	39.02	0.7
Murcia (Región de)	11.37	11.72	3.1
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	33.10	35.87	8.4
País Vasco	11.01	11.19	1.6
Rioja (La)	20.55	22.38	8.9

¹ Includes Ceuta and Melilla

Castilla y León has the highest number of head of cattle and sheep, whereas Cataluña records the highest figures relating to pigs and poultry

By species, the largest number of cattle was concentrated in the Autonomous Communities of Castilla y León (with 1,170,771 head), Galicia (983,433) and Extremadura (714,048).

In terms of sheep, Castilla y León, Extremadura and Castilla-La Mancha presented the highest figures, with values of 3.9, 3.8 and 2.6 million, respectively.

Cataluña was the leading Community in the number of pigs, with 6.4 million. It was followed by Aragón, with 3.7 million.

Considering the number of poultry, worth noting were Cataluña (with 39.4 million), Castilla-La Mancha (24.8 million) and Andalucía (19.7 million).

Main livestock species (number of head). 2007

Autonomous Community	Cattle		Sheep		Pigs		Poultry	
	Oper.	Head	Oper.	Head	Oper.	Head	Oper.	Head
National total¹	124,015	5,740,562	79,137	18,758,635	108,164	23,423,678	189,181	164,446,484
Andalucía	4,817	501,800	9,663	2,547,077	7,301	2,118,750	16,400	19,772,739
Aragón	2,417	362,638	4,213	2,379,387	2,562	3,770,459	4,443	14,868,760
Asturias (Principado de)	19,272	405,186	2,643	36,709	7,984	26,508	18,835	577,567
Balears (Illes)	525	36,815	3,906	293,148	3,376	60,434	7,359	629,262
Canarias	972	17,476	1,916	67,751	714	65,743	2,651	2,928,996
Cantabria	7,650	267,275	1,744	58,099	679	15,359	6,242	307,576
Castilla y León	14,960	1,170,771	10,255	3,924,207	11,466	3,338,462	15,142	18,740,216
Castilla - La Mancha	2,215	298,107	6,108	2,658,997	1,567	1,396,103	6,380	24,845,936
Cataluña	4,341	476,975	2,111	621,493	5,129	6,422,889	7,181	39,436,718
Comunidad Valenciana	557	49,794	1,681	365,217	983	1,130,049	5,192	13,859,746
Extremadura	7,397	714,048	10,169	3,800,106	12,218	1,637,254	11,897	3,222,836
Galicia	48,227	983,433	15,745	250,686	50,844	1,214,992	73,077	13,721,177
Madrid (Comunidad de)	1,236	84,881	532	110,461	66	37,341	718	2,228,102
Murcia (Región de)	250	69,161	1,477	507,437	857	1,453,077	2,034	2,932,347
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	1,848	107,471	1,933	695,369	771	591,235	2,045	2,624,921
País Vasco	7,022	155,112	4,692	293,442	1,477	36,794	8,904	1,575,503
Rioja (La)	305	39,614	344	148,926	172	108,229	676	2,173,947

1 Includes Ceuta and Melilla

For further information see INEbase-www.ine.es All press releases at: www.ine.es/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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Methodological note

Background

The Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings is conducted in all member countries of the European Union, in accordance with Regulations (EC) No. 143/2002, No. 2139/2004 and No. 204/2006 of the Commission.

The first community survey was carried out in the member States in 1966/67. Subsequently, surveys were conducted in the years 1970/71, 1975, 1979/80, 1983 and 1985, constantly including modifications resulting from the experience of previous surveys and establishing biannual periodicity.

Spain participated for the first time in this community programme with the sample survey in 1987. Subsequently, censuses were carried out in 1989 and 1999, and sample surveys in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2003 and 2005.

Data was obtained in collaboration with the Basque Statistics Institute (EUSTAT) and the Cataluña Statistics Institute (IDESCAT), within the territorial scope of their Communities, and in accordance with the agreements signed between the INE and the respective Statistics Institutes.

Scope of application

The research was carried out throughout the national territory, during the last quarter of the year 2007, via direct interview with the owners of the selected agricultural operations.

The data refer to agricultural year 2007, that is, the campaign between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007, with the exception of livestock breeding, for which the reference date is the day of the interview.

The research units are those agricultural operations that fulfil some of the following conditions: have at least 1 ha of Used Agricultural Area (UAA); have at least 0.2 ha used for fruits, vegetables and flowers, greenhouse cultivation, irrigated or hard greenhouse fruit trees; have a certain economic importance, if they are livestock breeders.

For the Survey in the years 2003, 2005 and 2007, a panel has been designed, which through the establishment of affiliation rules, may be used to assign a probability of selection to the operations that have appeared since the 1999 Agrarian Census. This has allowed for the conception of a single-stage sample design, with a stratification of the operations, by technical-economic orientation and size, researching approximately 50,000 operations.

Definitions

Agricultural operation

An agricultural operation is the technical-economic unit from which agricultural products are obtained under the responsibility of an owner. Said unit is characterised by the common use of labour and means of production: machinery, land, buildings, fertilisers,

Owner of the operation

The owner of the operation is defined as the individual or legal entity that, acting freely and autonomously, takes on the risk of an agricultural operation, managing it themselves or through another. Specifically, the owner of the operation is considered to be the owner who directly manages his or her land, the lessee, the share farmer and anyone who takes on the risk of an operation, regardless of the tenancy regime of the land.

Operation manager

The operation manager is the person responsible for the current and daily management of the agricultural operation. In general, this coincides with the owner, although it may be a family member of the owner, or another wage-earning person.

Every operation has a single operation manager.

Total area

The total operation area is made up of the area of all the plots included in the operation: the area owned by the owner, the area rented out for working and the area worked and governed by other types of tenancy agreement. Areas owned by the owner, but granted to third persons, are excluded.

The total operation area is comprised of the used agricultural area and the other land that, forming a part of the operation, is not productive or not capable of substantial vegetable exploitation, such as waste land, threshing floors, stony ground, roads, waters and forest land.

Used agricultural area

The used agricultural area is the whole of the cultivated areas of land, and land used as permanent pastures. The cultivated land includes arable crops, fallow lands, kitchen gardens and land for woody crops.

Main characteristics studied

The characteristics studied refer to the size of the operation, legal nature of the operation, tenancy regime of the land, cultivation areas, subsequent crops, mushroom, greenhouse, type of crop association, head of livestock, labour, rural development, ecological agriculture and production destination.