

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Farm Structure Survey (Full Survey 2010)

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Executive summary

The Farm Structure Survey provides important information about the structure of agricultural and forestry holdings and gives an overview of the development of structural changes in agriculture and forestry at both national and European level. On the basis of EU legislation, the Farm Structure Survey is currently conducted as a full survey every 10 years (at the end of the decade) and as a sample survey at regular intervals in between (most recently in 2003, 2005 and 2007; future sample surveys will be carried out in 2013 and 2016).

Data from the Farm Structure Survey is incorporated into many other areas of agricultural statistics and provides an essential basis for making informed agricultural policy decisions at national and international level (see figure 1).

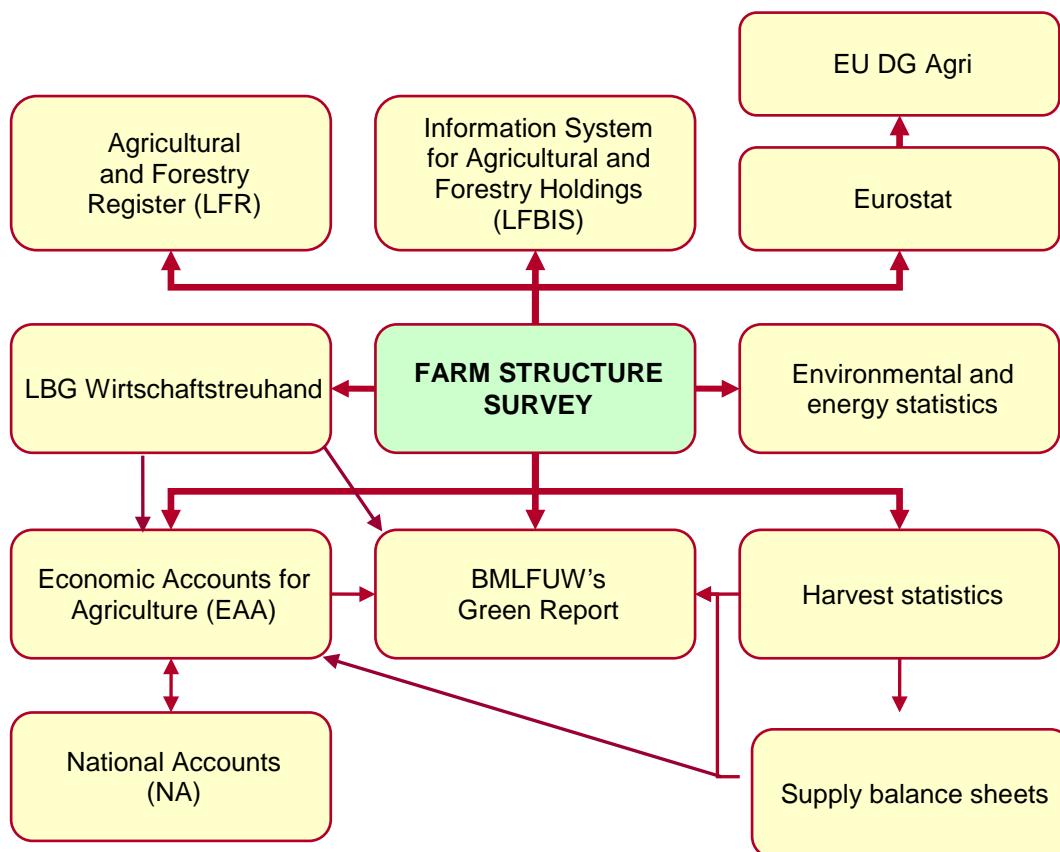


Figure 1: Users of Farm Structure Survey data

The statistics focus on the **farm structure** of agricultural and forestry holdings in 2010 with the following groups of characteristics: type of tenure, land use, labour force, livestock, other holding-specific data and rural development. The list of questions was predefined by existing EU legislation and was primarily based on the requirements of the European Commission, although comparability between the member states and with previous surveys was taken into consideration.

The applicable EU regulation stipulated that, in conjunction with the Farm Structure Survey 2010 (FSS 2010), a **S**urvey on **A**gricultural **P**roduction **M**ethods (SAPM) was to be carried out in which data on land management, irrigation, types of livestock housing and animal manure was to be recorded. Furthermore, issues of national importance (e.g. farm holidays) were also included in the survey programme. The Horticultural and Field Vegetable Cultivation Survey, which had previously been conducted separately at five to six year intervals, was also integrated into the Farm Structure Survey, albeit to a greatly reduced extent as a horticultural module.

The characteristics are collected as primary statistics from agricultural and forestry holdings and also provided by administrative data, as has been the case since 1997. Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 permitted the use of data from the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), the Austrian programme for the promotion of environmentally friendly and extensive agriculture that protects natural habitats (ÖPUL), the Cattle Database (CDB), information from the IACS/ÖPUL system relating to organically farmed holdings and also funding data relating to rural development measures. In addition, Austria made an application to use data from the veterinary information system (VIS) and from the mineral oil tax refund (MÖST) as well.

The Farm Structure Survey 2010 was carried out with the participation of the municipalities as a **full survey** using an electronic questionnaire only. The amendments and high number of respondents combined with the extensive list of questions made it necessary to redesign the questionnaire. As a result, an e-Quest questionnaire (which could also be filled in offline) rather than a Web-based questionnaire was used.

The **universe** was formed by the active holding units entered in the Agricultural and Forestry Register (LFR), which are regularly updated using information from a variety of primary agricultural statistics surveys and by comparing the data with various administrative data sets (funding applications, etc.) and which meet the survey criteria on the basis of the most recent information available.

The definition of “holding” in the Farm Structure Survey is essentially based on the practice of **agricultural and forestry activities** (with exceptions specified in more detail in Section 2.1.1), although inclusion in **NACE Section A (Agriculture, forestry and fishing)** is not the only decisive factor. All agricultural and forestry holdings that meet the survey criteria relevant to the Farm Structure Survey had to be recorded, irrespective of whether the relevant holdings undertake these activities as primary or secondary activities. In contrast to various business statistics, the data only needs to be entered for the agricultural and forestry sector and includes primary and secondary activities alike.

In contrast to previous surveys, agricultural holdings were surveyed at the level of the agricultural enterprise for the first time in the Farm Structure Survey 2010. The survey unit (statistical unit) used was therefore the agricultural enterprise with its main holding and, if applicable, the associated agricultural and forestry sub-holdings. Around 7% of holdings had two or more sub-holdings of this kind (in many cases, these are Alpine pasture units). In comparison with the last full survey in 1999, this change did not have any serious effects since the issue of sub-holdings had not yet arisen to any significant extent. In the 1999 survey, the cultivated area of the holding had to be specified as a whole and was not to be divided between any permanent establishments.

In accordance with Eurostat’s requirements, the holdings were assigned geographically as far as possible according to their actual location if the relevant information was available. This was generally done using the main holding or – in its absence – an addressable object (e.g. in the case of agricultural communities, Alpine pasture holdings or woodland holdings) using the location of the most important parcel.

Farm Structure Survey (Full Survey 2010) – Main Features

Subject matter	<p>Farm Structure Survey (FSS 2010): records the farm structure of agricultural and forestry holdings</p> <p>Horticultural and field vegetable cultivation module (see separate standard documentation)</p> <p>Survey on Agricultural Production Methods (SAPM 2010)</p>
Population	<p>Agricultural and forestry holdings (according to the Agricultural and Forestry Register) that meet specific recording criteria applicable to the Farm Structure Survey</p> <p>173 317 holdings</p>
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey (full survey) using administrative data
Data sources/Survey techniques	<p><u>e-Quest questionnaire</u> with some data from administrative sources already entered (IACS including ÖPUL, Cattle Database, VIS, mineral oil tax refund)</p> <p><u>Administrative data</u> (support measures for rural development) added after the survey</p> <p>In addition, the following sources were used for the specific breakdown of the results for publication of the national results: Land Register for Mountain Farms (AMA and BMLFUW) and definition of less favoured areas (BMLFUW).</p>
Reference period or due day	<p><u>Due days:</u></p> <p>1 April 2010 Livestock characteristics</p> <p>15 May 2010 Type of tenure and land characteristics in horticulture and field vegetable cultivation</p> <p>31 October 2010 All other survey characteristics</p> <p><u>Reference periods:</u></p> <p>1 November 2009 to 31 October 2010: Land characteristics, labour force, secondary activities and agricultural production methods</p> <p>1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010: Landscape features, average irrigated area and support measures for rural development</p> <p>1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010: Livestock characteristics if a livestock holding has no animal of the category reared on the due day of 1 April 2010.</p> <p>For information on reference periods and due days relating to the horticultural and field vegetable cultivation module, see the separate standard documentation.</p>
Periodicity	10 years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Compulsory
Main legal acts	<p>Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008; Regulation (EC) No 1200/2009</p> <p>National legal basis: Regulation Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) II No. 122/2010 (in German), based on the Federal Statistics Act 2000, BGBl. I No. 163/1999, as amended by BGBl. I No. 136/2001, BGBl. I No. 71/2003, BGBl. I No. 92/2007, BGBl. I No. 125/2009, BGBl. I No. 111/2010</p>
Most detailed regional breakdown	Municipalities
Availability of results	<p>FSS 2010: Preliminary data: t + 12 months</p> <p>Final data: t + 19 months</p> <p>SAPM 2010: t + 29 months</p>
Other	<p>The definition of "holding" in the Farm Structure Survey is essentially based on the practice of agricultural and forestry activities (with exceptions specified in more detail in Section 2.1.1), although inclusion in NACE Section A (Agriculture, forestry and fishing) is not the only decisive factor. All agricultural and forestry holdings that meet the survey criteria relevant to the Farm Structure Survey had to be recorded, irrespective of whether the relevant holdings undertake these activities as primary or secondary activities.</p>