

Economic Accounts for Agriculture: 2023

NR174/2024

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By the end of 2023, the total agricultural output is estimated to have grown by 2.4 per cent over 2022; while the gross value added increased by 1.0 per cent.



Provisional figures on the total output value of the local agricultural produce sold during 2023 indicate an increase of 2.4 per cent over 2022 to a total of €138.7 million; while the intermediate consumption incurred by the operating agricultural holdings increased by 3.2 per cent to a total of €87.2 million. As a result, the respective gross value added edged up by 1.0 per cent to a total of €51.6 million. Additionally, the consumption of fixed capital inputs that was utilised by the farmers for the generation of the income advanced by 2.0 per cent to a total of €7.1 million, while the total wage bill paid by the same holdings rose by 20.6 per cent to €7.3 million.

Concerning the financial support distributed to the sector during the year under review, the total assistance coming from both EU-funded programmes and Government funds improved by 32.8 per cent to €21.0 million, up from €15.8 million in 2022. Consequently, the net operating surplus of the sector advanced by 8.0 per cent to €58.2 million. Moreover, when considering the negative net property income of €1.0 million paid by the agricultural holdings during 2023, the net entrepreneurial income increased by 8.2 per cent to €57.2 million (Table 1, Charts 1 and 2).

On the earnings side of the accounts, the increase in the value of agricultural output resulted from a higher output value in crop production and from products derived through secondary activities undertaken by the same holdings of 11.9 and 3.2 per cent, respectively. The latter improvements were partially offset by lower output values in both livestock products and animal products of 6.4 and 0.4 per cent, respectively (Table 2, Chart 3).

On the expenditure side, the intermediate consumption incurred by the agricultural holdings registered higher expenses on livestock feeding costs, crop cultivation expenses and various other expenses amounting to 4.0, 2.6 and 3.5 per cent, respectively. These expenses were partly offset by a drop in energy and fuel costs of 1.2 per cent (Table 3, Chart 4).

Chart 1. The agricultural sector's output, intermediate consumption and gross value added

in € thousands

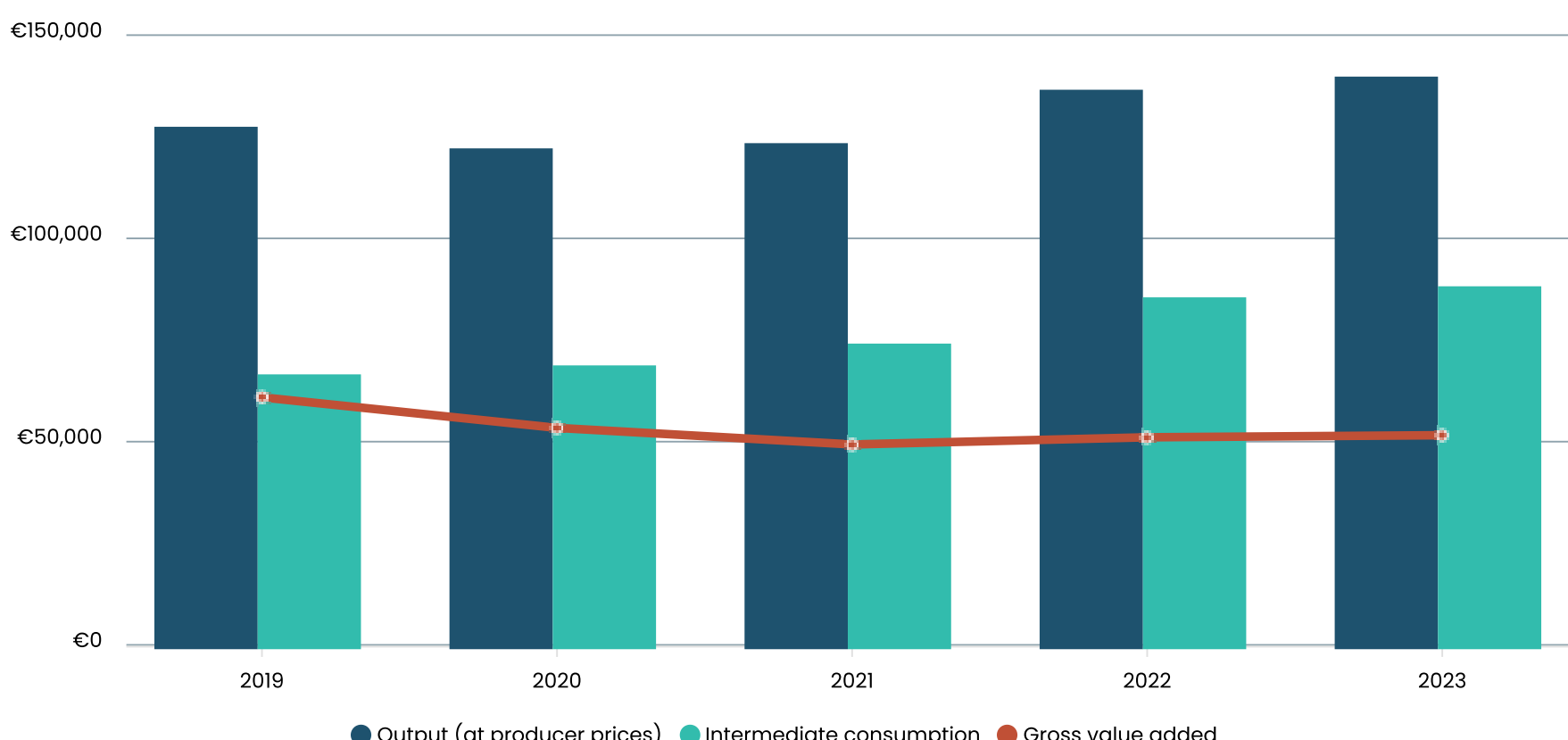


Chart 2. Net entrepreneurial income of the agricultural sector by year

in € thousands

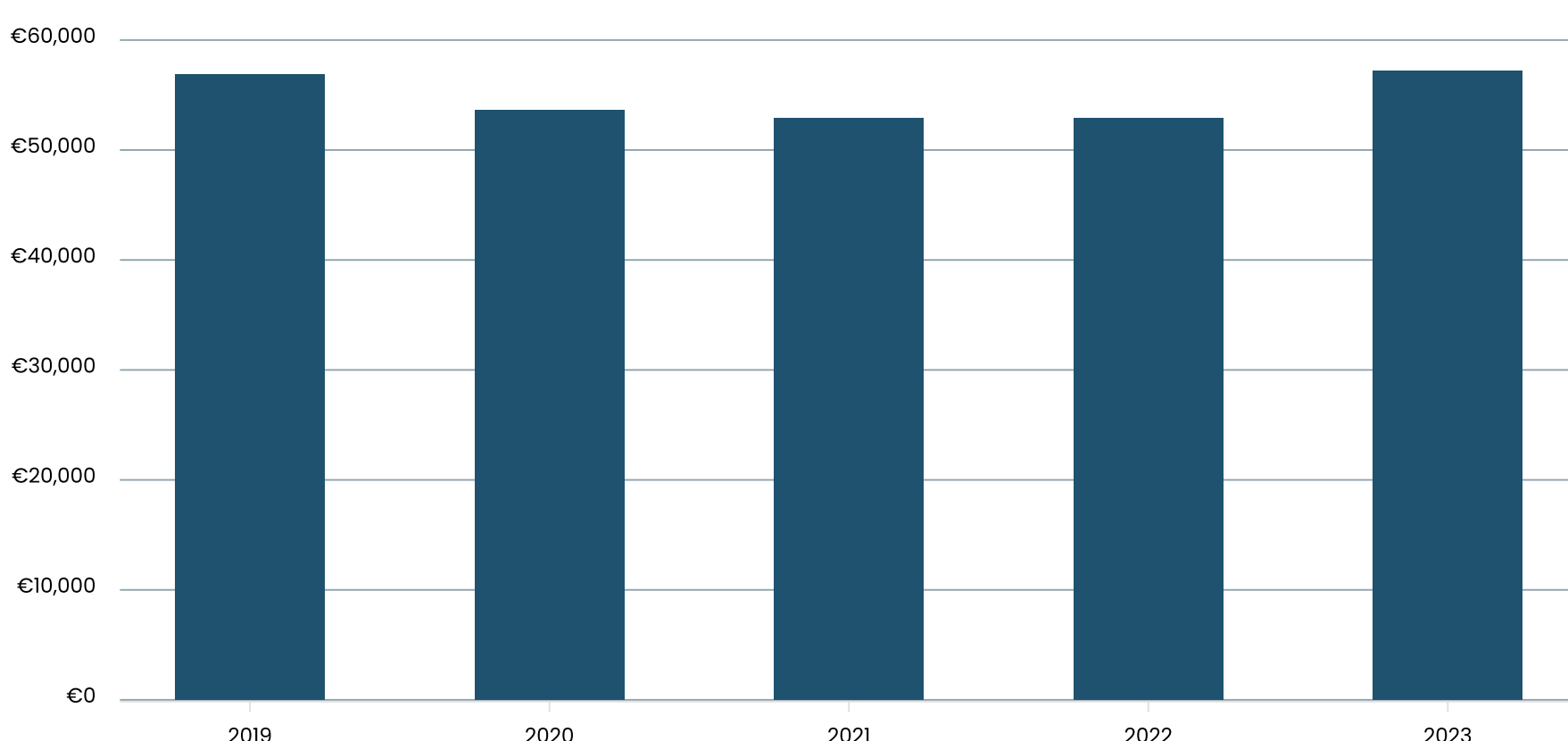


Chart 3. The percentage share of agricultural output by category of produce and year

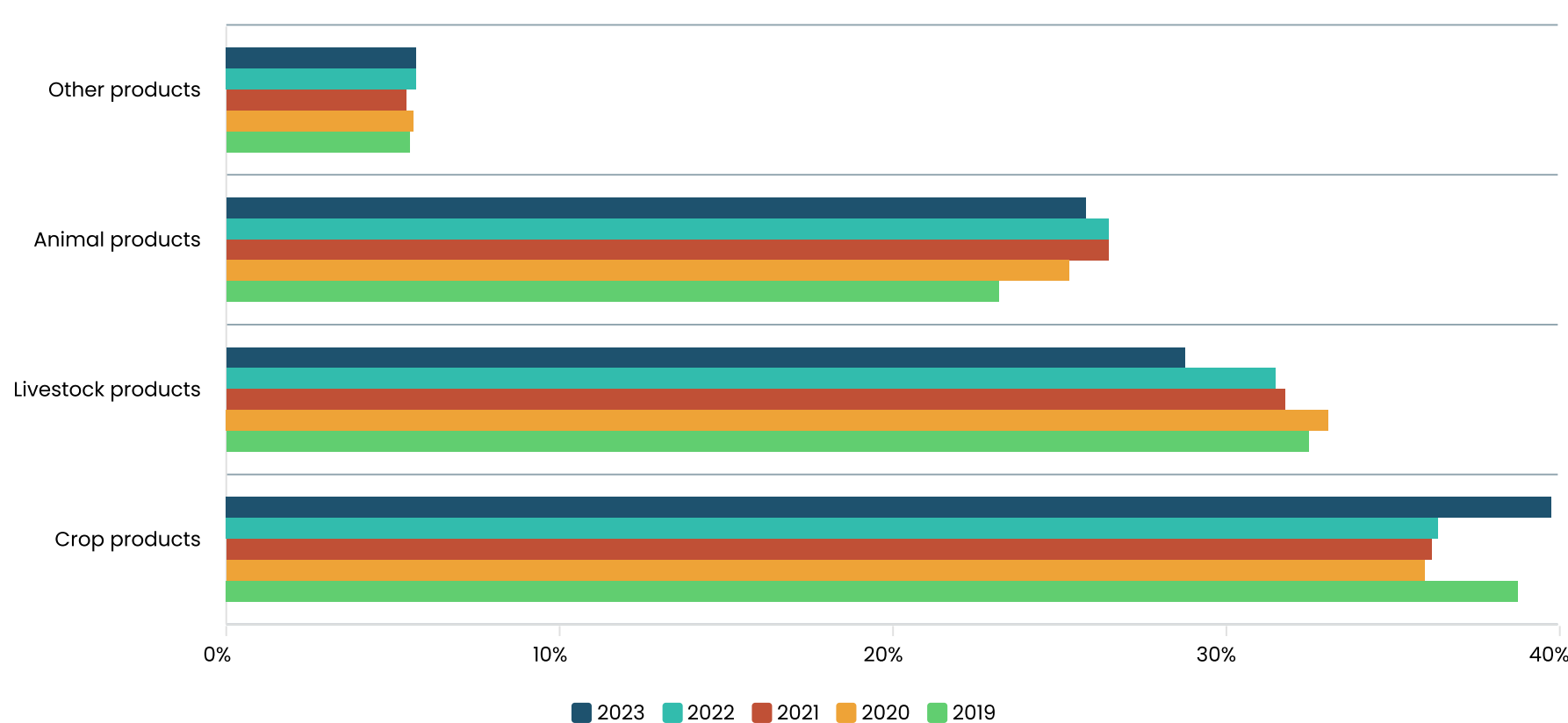


Chart 4. Agricultural intermediate consumption by category and relative share of total expense: 2023

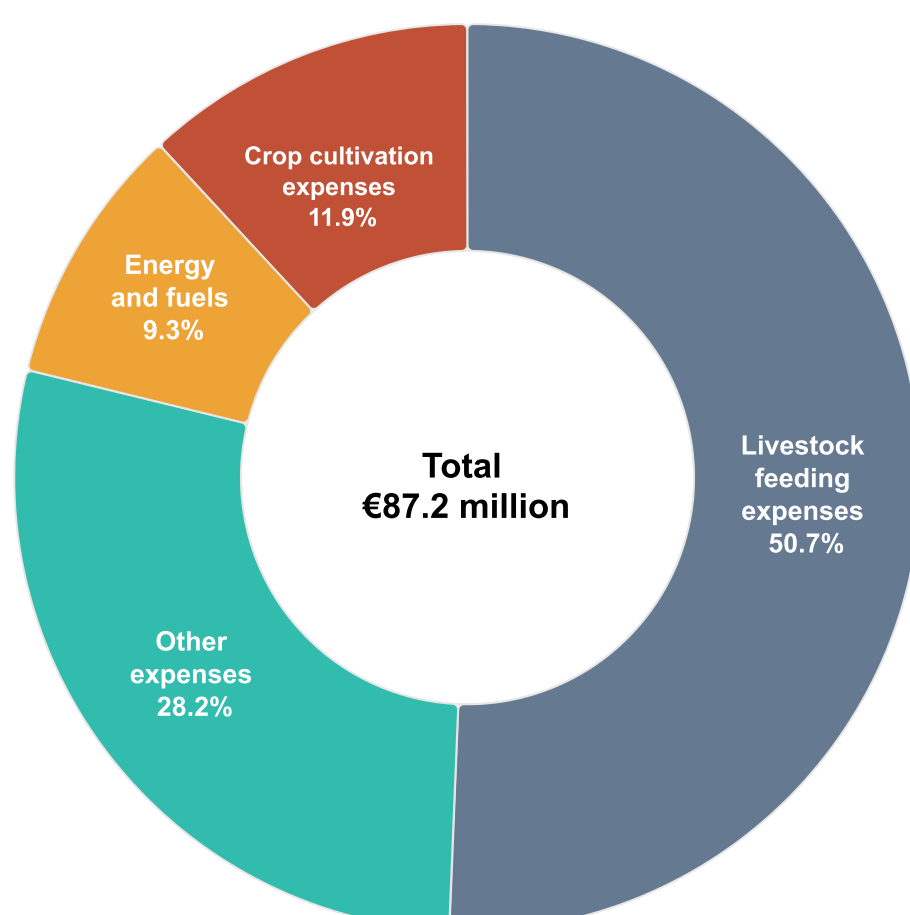


Table 1. Production account of the agricultural sector by year

€ 000

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ^P	Percentage change 2023/2022
Output	126,398	121,088	122,374	135,511	138,742	2.4
<i>less</i> Intermediate consumption	65,499	67,705	73,064	84,443	87,161	3.2
Value added, gross	60,899	53,383	49,310	51,069	51,582	1.0
<i>less</i> Consumption of fixed capital	6,750	7,356	6,925	6,932	7,071	2.0
Value added, net	54,149	46,027	42,385	44,137	44,510	0.8
<i>less</i> Compensation of employees	5,026	5,398	5,603	6,061	7,309	20.6
<i>less</i> Taxes on production	0	0	0	0	0	-
<i>add</i> Subsidies on production ¹	8,826	14,035	17,084	15,825	21,015	32.8
Operating surplus, net	57,949	54,663	53,866	53,901	58,217	8.0
<i>add</i> Net property income	(1,038)	(1,061)	(1,003)	(1,011)	(1,008)	-0.3
Entrepreneurial income, net	56,911	53,602	52,862	52,890	57,208	8.2

^P Provisional

¹ See methodological note no. 6

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Agricultural output by year and type of produce

	€ 000					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ^P	Percentage change 2023/2022
Output	126,398	121,088	122,374	135,511	138,742	2.4
Livestock products	41,029	40,047	38,964	42,649	39,926	-6.4
Beef	3,135	3,413	3,228	3,647	4,006	9.8
Pork	9,612	9,953	10,496	9,906	8,931	-9.8
Sheep and goats	430	429	420	468	463	-1.1
Poultry	6,846	7,390	7,235	9,113	10,343	13.5
Rabbits	21,006	18,862	17,585	19,514	16,183	-17.1
Animal products	29,314	30,677	32,464	35,894	35,743	-0.4
Milk	20,390	21,419	22,741	24,435	22,395	-8.4
Eggs	8,661	9,020	9,456	11,204	13,121	17.1
Other animal products	263	238	268	254	227	-10.6
Crop products	49,047	43,545	44,349	49,295	55,154	11.9
Forage	4,198	3,945	4,378	4,403	4,416	0.3
Vegetables	31,824	27,978	28,049	31,793	37,023	16.5
Potatoes	4,787	3,731	3,480	3,453	4,191	21.4
Fruits	5,939	5,669	5,926	7,035	6,936	-1.4
Flowers and seeds	2,299	2,223	2,516	2,611	2,589	-0.8
Other products coming from secondary activities ¹	7,008	6,819	6,596	7,674	7,919	3.2
Wine	1,565	1,397	1,279	1,740	2,026	16.5
Cheese	5,443	5,422	5,317	5,934	5,893	-0.7

^P Provisional

¹ Refers to activities carried out directly by farmers on their agricultural holdings.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Agricultural intermediate consumption by year and type of expense

	€ 000					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 ^P	Percentage change 2023/2022
Intermediate consumption	65,499	67,705	73,064	84,443	87,161	3.2
Crop cultivation expenses	7,311	7,375	7,722	10,056	10,320	2.6
Seeds and planting stock	4,657	4,682	4,808	5,054	5,146	1.8
Fertilisers and soil improvers	2,055	2,086	2,287	4,282	4,406	2.9
Plant protection products and pesticides	598	607	628	720	768	6.7
Livestock feeding expenses	30,757	31,834	36,573	42,477	44,196	4.0
Energy and fuels	8,135	8,291	8,070	8,236	8,135	-1.2
Electricity	982	1,025	1,018	1,053	1,031	-2.1
Other fuels and propellants	7,153	7,266	7,052	7,183	7,104	-1.1
Other expenses	19,296	20,204	20,698	23,673	24,510	3.5
Maintenance expenses (other than buildings)	6,982	7,099	7,273	8,534	9,079	6.4
Maintenance of buildings	2,305	2,417	2,500	2,962	3,121	5.4
Veterinary services	1,474	1,668	1,728	1,970	2,098	6.5
Other agricultural expenses	8,536	9,021	9,197	10,208	10,213	0.0

^P Provisional

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. The data published in this release is based on the methodologies for the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry (EAA/EAF 97, Rev. 1.1).
2. Data on the generated output of agriculture is collected from various sources. Both the civil abattoir and the private slaughterhouses provide monthly slaughtering statistics by type of animal. The Malta Food Agency provides data on the volume and wholesale value of fruit and vegetables sold by the farmer, the Rural Affairs Department provides administrative data on the activity of wineries, whereas the Agriculture and Rural Payment Agency provides data on subsidies. Separately, the NSO collects statistical data through an annual census on the quantity and value of tomatoes picked for processing, while it also makes use of other available data sources for the estimation of some other specific variables in this release.
3. Data on intermediate consumption is based on compilations whose sources are administrative records and input price indices that are collected on a quarterly basis from the retail businesses that cater for the agricultural sector.
4. The Economic Accounts and the other economic indicators published in this release refer to a complete calendar year.
5. The data in this release is provisional and subject to revision. Updates are carried out annually in respect of a rolling two-year period.
6. Revisions have been made to the 'Subsidies on production' due to a reclassification of subsidies paid as capital transfers and subsidies on production in line with the benchmark revision of the [National Accounts](#) (Note 2.9).
7. Definitions:
 - **Output** represents the total value of agricultural produce generated through agricultural activity over an entire calendar year period.
 - **Intermediate consumption** represents the value of specifically classified goods and services used as inputs in agricultural production processes, with the exception of some specific items which, by methodology, are classified elsewhere.
 - **Gross value added** of the agricultural activity is the value of output less intermediate consumption by all the agricultural holdings before deducting any incurred gross fixed capital consumption (i.e. depreciation of fixed assets).
 - **Net entrepreneurial income** measures the net operating surplus of the agricultural holding with the addition of any net property income (i.e. after adding and deducting any transactions such as rents and interest).
8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

[Metadata](#)

[Statistical concepts](#)
9. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).
10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).
11. For further assistance send your request through our [online request form](#).

