

News Release



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Agriculture

Farm Structure Survey 2005

The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) was carried out in the months of September and October, 2005. The scope of the survey is to monitor changes in the structure of agricultural farming. The survey had a reference period of the 1st of September 2005 for land areas, animals and machinery, whilst the reference period for land cover and the agricultural labour force referred to the agricultural crop year from 1st September 2004 to 31st August 2005.

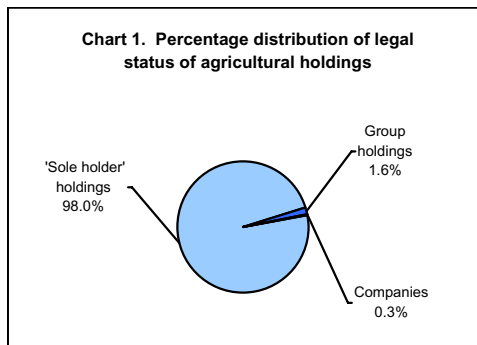
The 11,054 agricultural holdings on the agricultural register were grouped together according to their economic size and by typology of the holding. The economic size of the holdings were determined by applying the Standard Gross Margins (SGMs) of 2003. A total of 1,561 holdings were chosen for the sample, (14 per cent of the register), of which 1,123 holdings were to be surveyed using sampling techniques. Due to their economic size, 438 holdings were to be exhaustively surveyed. Newly registered holdings were included in the survey. There were a total of 1,413 respondents or a response rate of 89.5 per cent.

Theme:
Agriculture and Fisheries

Legal personality of the holding

The legal personality of the holdings in the Farm Structure Survey were grouped into three categories:

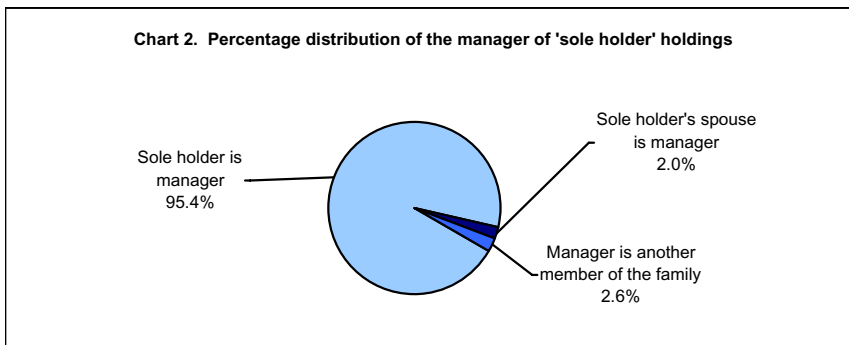
1. 'Sole Holder' holdings;
2. Group or Partnership holdings;
3. Companies.



The survey established a total of 11,072 units of agricultural holdings. The legal personality of the agricultural holdings indicates that 98.0 per cent of all holdings are 'sole holder', 1.6 per cent are group holdings or partnerships and a mere 0.3 per cent are companies. Chart 2 shows that 95.4 per cent of all managers of 'sole holder' holdings is the manager himself and less than 5 per cent of managers on 'sole holder' holdings are other family members.

Compiled by:

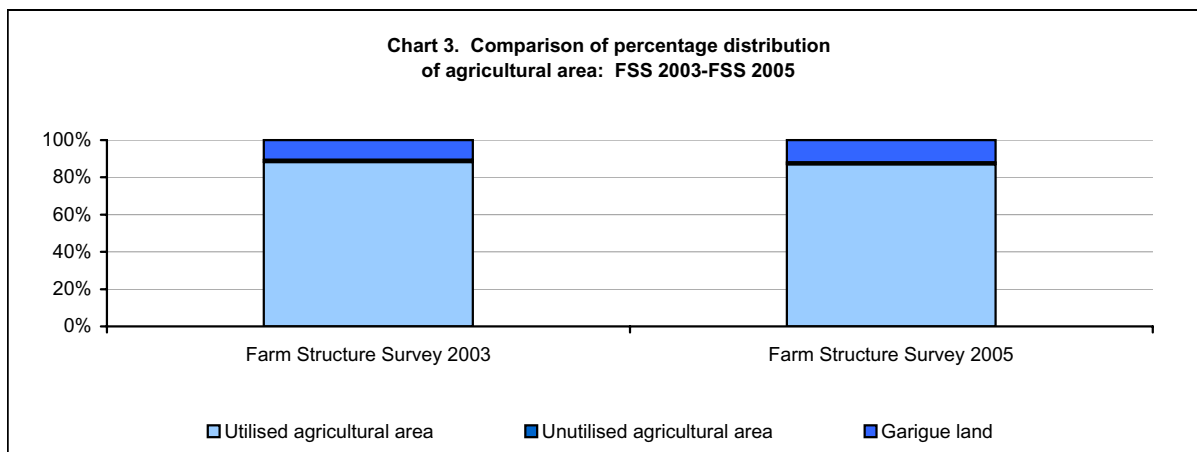
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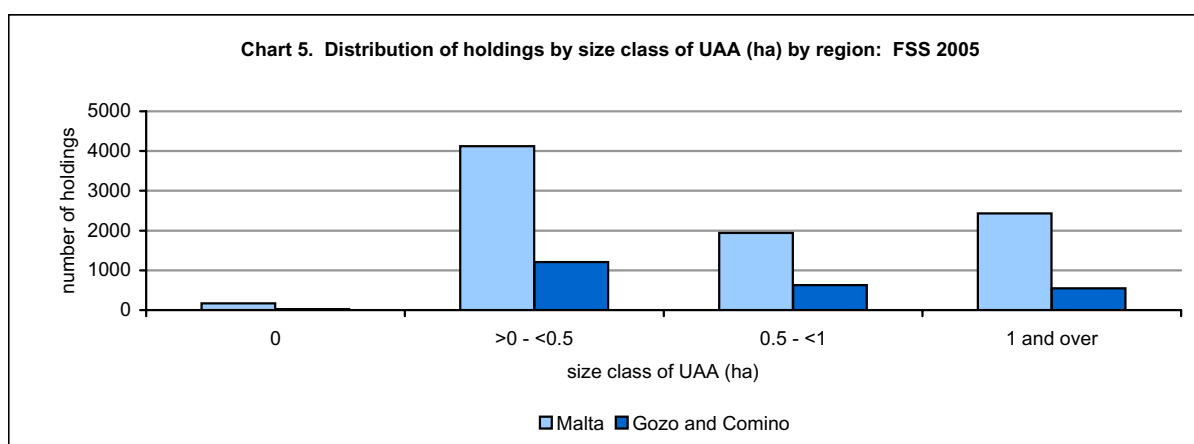
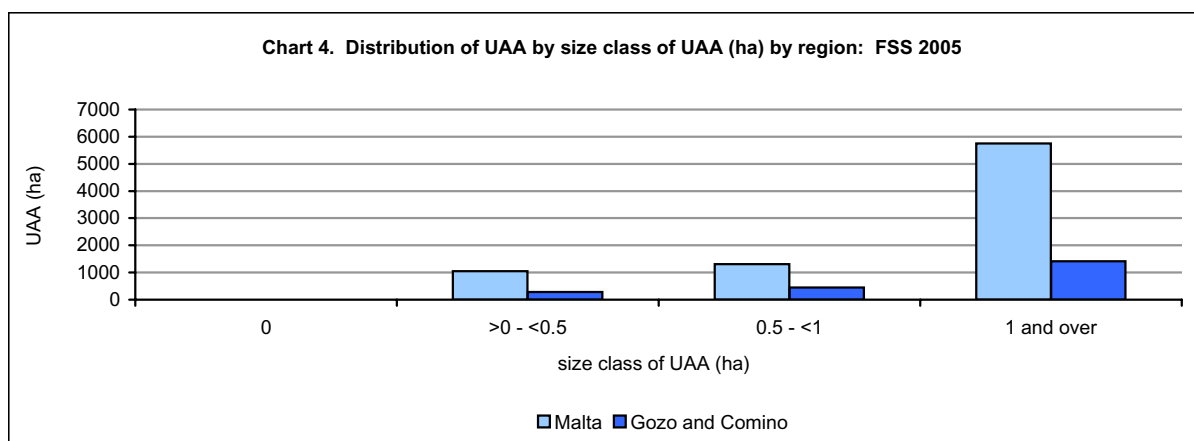
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Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)



As expected, when compared to the total utilised agricultural area recorded in the Farm Structure Survey 2003, little changes have occurred as a total of 10,254 ha were recorded in the FSS 2005.

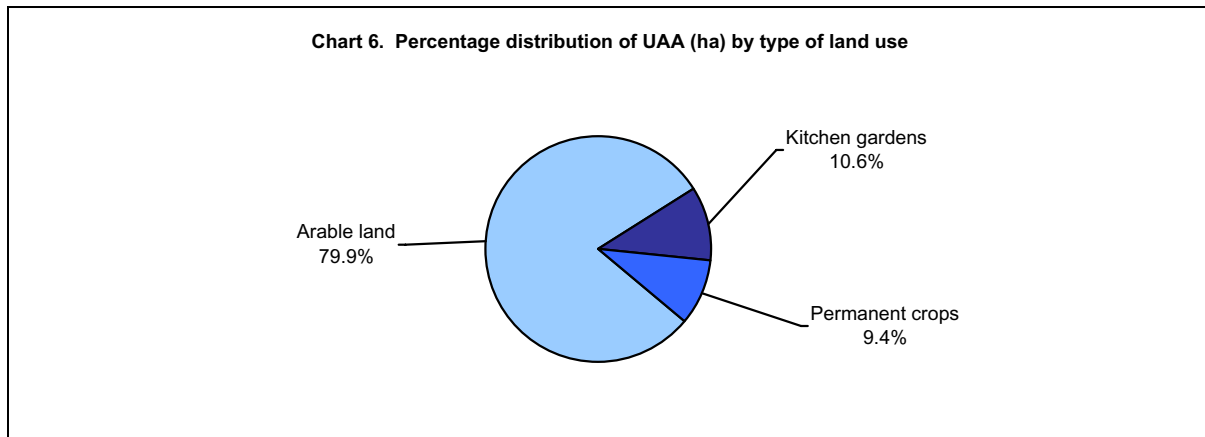
There were no apparent changes in the holding size structures and the majority of agricultural holdings are relatively small. A total of 5,520 agricultural holdings have less than 0.5 ha of utilised agricultural area, of which 190 holdings do not have any utilised agricultural area but are engaged in the rearing of livestock. Although the majority of agricultural holdings have less than 0.5 ha of UAA, these holdings have a total of 1,331 ha (13.0 per cent) of the total utilised agricultural area. On the other hand, whereas only 2,980 agricultural holdings (26.9 per cent) have 1 ha or more of UAA, these holdings have a total of 7,169 ha (69.9 per cent) of the total utilised agricultural area.



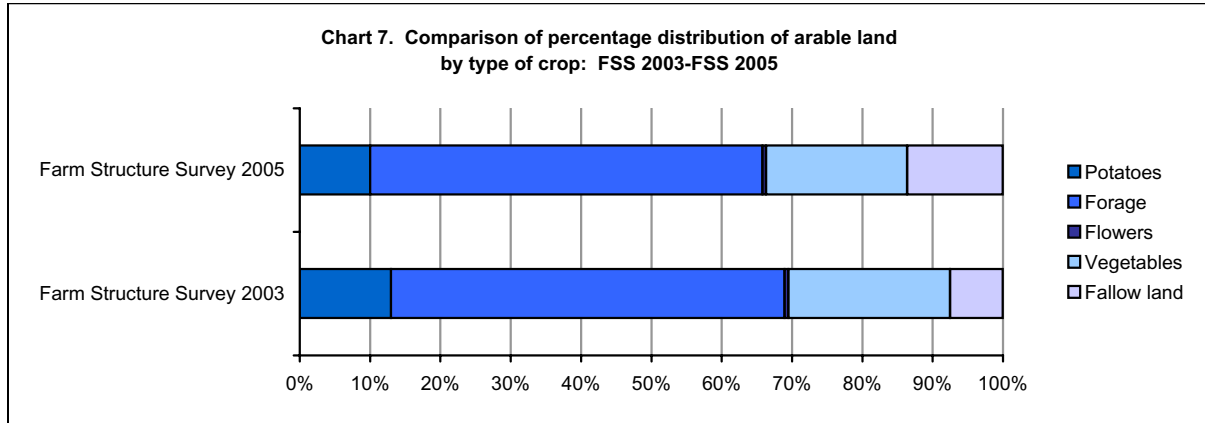
Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)

The structure of farming in Malta and Gozo is similar. The majority of farming in agriculture in Malta is based on the growing of some type of crops. Utilised agricultural area can be split up into three categories:

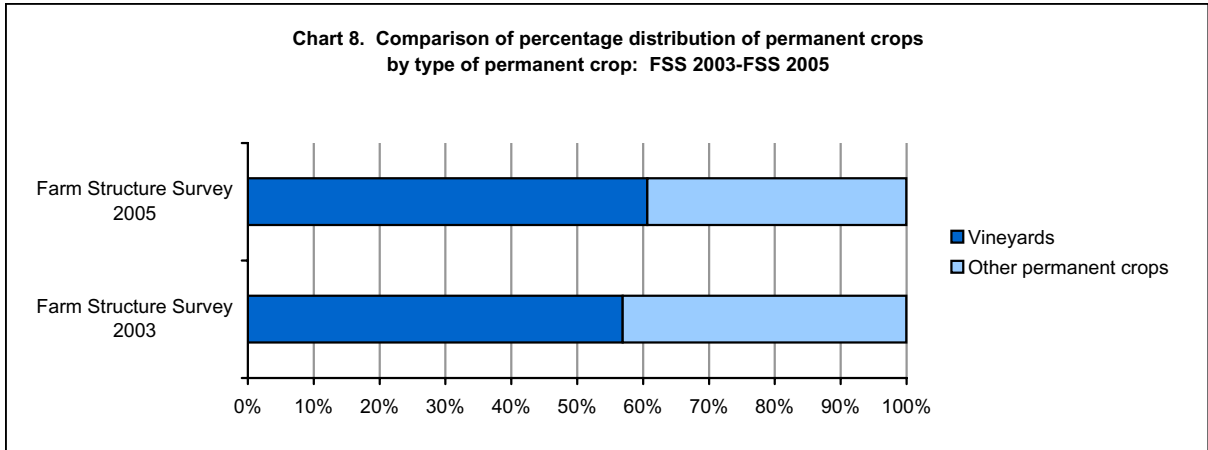
1. Arable area - land which is cultivated under a system of crop rotation;
2. Kitchen gardens - small plots of land intended for self-consumption;
3. Land under permanent crops - area of land not worked under a system of crop rotation but occupy the same field for a certain period of time - normally five years or more.



Arable area totalled 8,196 ha (79.9 per cent of UAA), of which 4,574 ha were devoted to the cultivation of forage plants. While kitchen gardens accounted for 9.4 per cent of the total UAA, the remaining 10.6 per cent of UAA were taken up by permanent crops.



When compared to the FSS 2003, there was a drop in the cultivation of potatoes and vegetables. The share of fallow land has increased from 7.5 per cent to 13.6 per cent of the total arable area in 2005. This increase was due to the share of potato cultivation declining from 13.0 per cent to 10.0 per cent and vegetable cultivation from 23.0 per cent to 20.0 per cent in 2005. The percentage of arable area cultivated with forage plants have remained practically unchanged.



Livestock

When compared to the FSS 2003, changes in the livestock sector were recorded. A total of 19,847 cattle were registered in the FSS 2005. While the total amount of cattle increased by 6.8 per cent from 18,578 cattle, the number of dairy cows declined by 4.7 per cent, from 7,632 to 7,274 dairy cows. When compared to the FSS 2003, the pig population registered a drop of 3.7 per cent, from 76,010 to 73,165 pigs.

The total number of poultry registered in the survey amounted to 1,052,013 heads. When compared to the structure survey in 2003 a decline of 23.9 per cent was recorded. Contrasting developments within the poultry sector contributed to this decline.

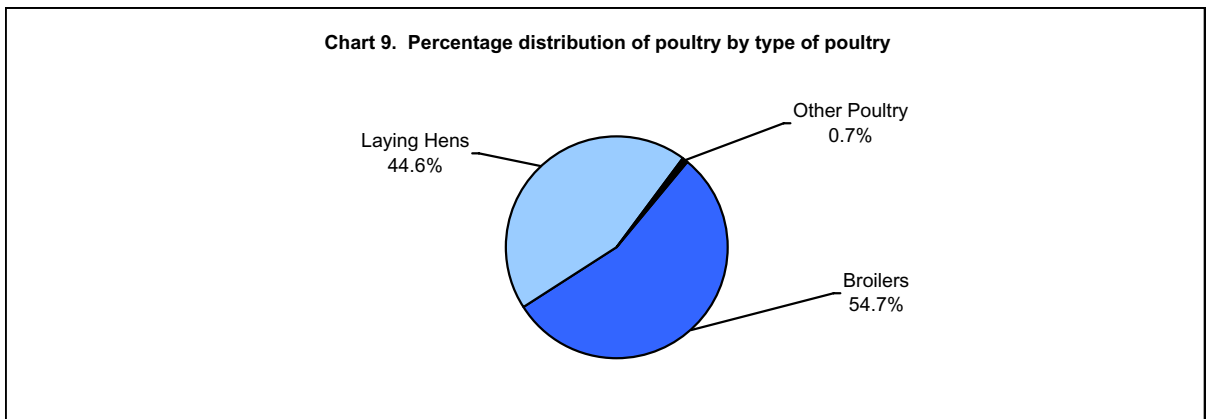


Chart 9 shows the percentage distribution of poultry. Whereas the number of broilers accounted for 61.7 per cent of total poultry in 2003, this percentage fell to 54.7 per cent in 2005. On the other hand, the percentage of laying hens increased from 36.6 per cent in 2003 to 44.6 per cent in 2005. Annual slaughtering figures of broilers have confirmed the decline in the number of broilers on poultry farms.

Labour Force

A total of 1,546 persons were engaged in agriculture on a full time basis, out of which 92.2 per cent are males with the remaining 7.8 per cent being females. There were 16,423 persons engaged on a part time basis. Female participation in agriculture is more pronounced in part time activity where 20.6 per cent is carried out by females. Although, at face value, this figure may seem a large percentage, the females are normally the spouses of sole holders who contribute less than 1 week effort in agriculture to just one full time equivalent. When converting all agricultural employment into full time equivalents, or annual work units (AWU's), the total annual work unit amounted to 4,039 AWU's. The survey also shows the distribution of agricultural effort by type of holding.

Chart 10. Percentage distribution of agricultural employment by sex

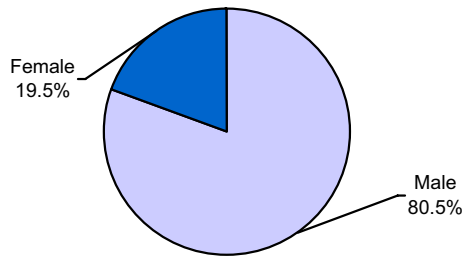
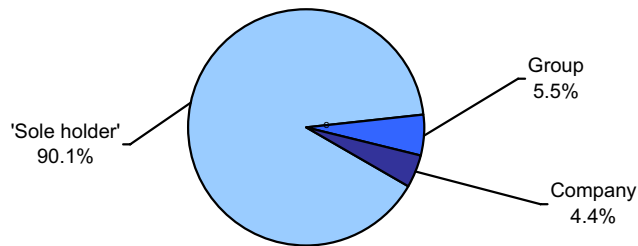


Chart 11 shows the distribution of the agricultural labour force. A total of 3,638 AWU's (90.1 per cent) come from 'sole holder' holdings, 224 AWU's (5.5 per cent) come from group holders and the remaining 177 AWU's (4.4 per cent) come from partnerships. The 'sole holder' is the largest contributor to the agricultural production.

Chart 11. Percentage distribution of agricultural effort by type of holding



There are 48.8 per cent of the total 'sole holders' whose main activity is outside agriculture and 50.1 per cent who have no other activity, presumably full time farmers or pensioners. The remaining 1.1 per cent have alternative employment which is subsidiary to agricultural employment. While there are 8.9 per cent of all 'sole holder' managers who were found to be engaged full time in agriculture, it was established that 7,626 'sole holders' (73.7 per cent) work less than 25 per cent of an AWU ■

Legal Personality

Table 1. Distribution of legal personality of agricultural holdings by region

Type of holding	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural holdings	11,072	100.0	8,661	100.0	2,411	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Sole Holder	10,854	98.0	8,500	98.1	2,354	97.6
Group or Partnership	182	1.6	131	1.5	51	2.1
Company	36	0.3	30	0.3	6	0.2

Table 2. Distribution of managers of sole holder holdings by region

Type of sole holder holding	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total sole holder holdings	10,854	100.0	8,500	100.0	2,354	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Manager is the sole holder	10,353	95.4	8,198	96.4	2,155	91.6
Manager is the sole holder's spouse	215	2.0	162	1.9	53	2.2
Manager is a family member of sole holder	286	2.6	140	1.7	146	6.2

Land Use

Table 3. Distribution of land (ha) declared by farmers by type of land by region

Type of land (ha)	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
	(ha)		(ha)		(ha)	
Total land declared	11,791	100.0	9,462	100.0	2,329	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Utilised agricultural area	10,254	87.0	8,119	85.8	2,135	91.7
Unutilised agricultural area	111	0.9	59	0.6	53	2.3
Other area (including garigue land)	1,426	12.1	1,285	13.6	142	6.1

Table 4. Distribution of agricultural holdings by size class of UAA (ha) by region

Size class of UAA (ha)	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
	(ha)		(ha)		(ha)	
Total agricultural holdings	11,072	100.0	8,661	100.0	2,411	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
0	189	1.7	166	1.9	24	1.0
>0 - <0.5	5,331	48.1	4,124	47.6	1,206	50.0
0.5 - <1	2,572	23.2	1,940	22.4	632	26.2
1 - <2	1,782	16.1	1,420	16.4	362	15.0
2 - <5	966	8.7	833	9.6	133	5.5
5 and over	231	2.1	177	2.0	54	2.2

Table 5. Distribution of UAA (ha) by size class of UAA (ha) by region

Size class of UAA (ha)	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
	(ha)		(ha)		(ha)	
Total utilised agricultural area (ha)	10,254	100.0	8,119	100.0	2,135	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
>0 - <0.5	1,331	13.0	1,053	13.0	278	13.0
0.5 - <1	1,754	17.1	1,311	16.1	443	20.8
1 - <2	2,483	24.2	1,954	24.1	529	24.8
2 - <5	2,919	28.5	2,525	31.1	394	18.5
5 and over	1,766	17.2	1,276	15.7	490	23.0

Table 6. Distribution of UAA (ha) by type by region

Type of UAA (ha)	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
	(ha)		(ha)		(ha)	
Total utilised agricultural area (ha)	10,254	100.0	8,119	100.0	2,135	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Arable land	8,196	79.9	6,388	78.7	1,807	84.7
Permanent crops	1,090	10.6	954	11.7	137	6.4
Kitchen gardens	968	9.4	777	9.6	191	8.9

Table 7. Distribution of arable land (ha) by type by region

Type of arable land	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
	(ha)		(ha)		(ha)	
Total arable land	8,196	100.0	6,388	100.0	1,807	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Potatoes	820	10.0	779	12.2	41	2.3
Flowers and seeds	40	0.5	25	0.4	16	0.9
Forage plants	4,574	55.8	3,237	50.7	1,336	73.9
Fallow land	1,115	13.6	1,016	15.9	99	5.5
Vegetables	1,647	20.1	1,332	20.8	315	17.4

Table 8. Distribution of permanent crops (ha) by type by region

Type of permanent crop (ha)	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total permanent crops	1,090	100.0	954	100.0	137	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Fruit and berry plantations	261	24.0	239	25.1	22	16.2
Citrus plantations	81	7.4	43	4.5	38	27.7
Olive plantations	87	8.0	71	7.5	16	11.5
Vineyards	661	60.6	600	62.9	61	44.5

Livestock

Table 9. Distribution of cattle by type by region

Type of cattle	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Cattle	19,847	100.0	13,188	100.0	6,659	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Cattle under 1 year	5,716	28.8	3,992	30.3	1,724	25.9
Cattle between 1 and 2 years	5,472	27.6	3,525	26.7	1,947	29.2
Cattle over 2 years (including dairy cows)	8,659	43.6	5,671	43.0	2,987	44.9
<i>of which:</i>						
Dairy Cows	7,274	36.7	4,545	34.5	2,729	41.0

Table 10. Distribution of pigs by type by region

Type of pig	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Pigs	73,165	100.0	70,606	100.0	2,560	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Piglets <20 kgs	21,757	29.7	20,994	29.7	763	29.8
Breeding Sows	9,505	13.0	9,260	13.1	245	9.6
Other Pigs	41,903	57.3	40,352	57.2	1,551	60.6

Note: Breeding Sows include all females intended for breeding whether bred or not. Other pigs include cull sows, cull boars and breeding boars, pigs from 20 to 50 kilograms and fattening pigs of 50 kilograms and over.

Table 11. Distribution of sheep by region

Type of sheep	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Sheep	10,995	100.0	6,815	100.0	4,181	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Breeding females	8,788	79.9	5,319	78.1	3,469	83.0
Other Sheep	2,207	20.1	1,496	21.9	712	17.0

Note: Breeding females are sheep that have lambed, ewes and ewe lambs for breeding and cull ewes. Other Sheep refer to all other sheep other than breeding females.

Table 12. Distribution of goats by region

Type of goat	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Goats	5,130	100.0	4,154	100.0	976	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Breeding females	3,861	75.3	3,054	73.5	807	82.7
Other Goats	1,269	24.7	1,100	26.5	169	17.3

Note: Breeding females are goats that have kidded, nanny goats and kids for breeding and cull nanny goats. Other Goats refer to all other goats other than breeding females.

Table 13. Distribution of poultry by region

Type of poultry	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Poultry	1,052,013	100.0	848,961	100.0	203,052	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Broilers	575,152	54.7	428,773	50.5	146,379	72.1
Laying Hens	469,189	44.6	412,970	48.6	56,218	27.7
Other Poultry	7,673	0.7	7,218	0.9	455	0.2

Labour Force

Table 14. Distribution of agricultural labour force by worktime by region

Type of labour	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural labour force	17,969	100.0	14,405	100.0	3,564	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Part-time	16,423	91.4	13,134	91.2	3,289	92.3
Full-time	1,546	8.6	1,271	8.8	275	7.7

Table 15. Distribution of total agricultural labour force by region

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural labour force	17,969	100.0	14,404	100.0	3,565	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Males	14,463	80.5	11,522	80.0	2,941	82.5
Females	3,506	19.5	2,882	20.0	624	17.5

Table 16. Distribution of agricultural full-time labour force by region

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total full-time agricultural labour force	1,546	100.0	1,270	100.0	276	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Males	1,426	92.2	1,168	92.0	258	93.5
Females	120	7.8	102	8.0	18	6.5

Table 17. Distribution of agricultural part-time labour force by region

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total part-time agricultural labour force	16,423	100.0	13,134	100.0	3,289	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Males	13,037	79.4	10,354	78.8	2,683	81.6
Females	3,386	20.6	2,780	21.2	606	18.4

Table 18. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by other gainful activity

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	10,354	100.0	8,198	100.0	2,156	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
major activity	5,048	48.8	4,098	50.0	950	44.1
subsidiary activity	116	1.1	90	1.1	26	1.2
no other activity	5,190	50.1	4,010	48.9	1,180	54.7

Table 19. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by age by major activity outside agriculture

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	5,049	100.0	4,098	100.0	951	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
<25 years	11	0.2	10	0.2	1	0.1
25 - 34 years	349	6.9	275	6.7	74	7.8
35 - 44 years	979	19.4	771	18.8	208	21.9
45 - 54 years	2,334	46.2	1,889	46.1	445	46.8
55 - 64 years	1,346	26.7	1,123	27.4	223	23.4
65 and over	30	0.6	30	0.7	-	-

Table 20. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by age by subsidiary activity outside agriculture

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	114	100.0	89	100.0	25	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
<25 years	4	3.5	1	1.1	3	12.0
25 - 34 years	2	1.8	1	1.1	1	4.0
35 - 44 years	19	16.7	14	15.7	5	20.0
45 - 54 years	39	34.2	30	33.7	9	36.0
55 - 64 years	45	39.5	38	42.7	7	28.0
65 and over	5	4.4	5	5.6	-	-

Table 21. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by age and no other activity outside agriculture

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	5,189	100.0	4,009	100.0	1,180	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
<25 years	7	0.1	5	0.1	2	0.2
25 - 34 years	141	2.7	117	2.9	24	2.0
35 - 44 years	388	7.5	358	8.9	30	2.5
45 - 54 years	795	15.3	622	15.5	173	14.7
55 - 64 years	1,519	29.3	1,152	28.7	367	31.1
65 and over	2,339	45.1	1,755	43.8	584	49.5

Table 22. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by worktime by major activity outside agriculture

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	5,048	100.0	4,098	100.0	950	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
>0 - <25% of 1 AWU	3,984	78.9	3,269	79.8	715	75.2
25 - <50% of 1 AWU	698	13.8	604	14.7	94	9.9
50 - <75% of 1 AWU	230	4.6	156	3.8	74	7.8
75 - <100% of 1 AWU	117	2.3	62	1.5	55	5.8
1 AWU	19	0.4	7	0.2	12	1.3

Table 23. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by worktime by subsidiary activity outside agriculture

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	114	100.0	89	100.0	25	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
>0 - <25% of 1 AWU	4	3.5	4	4.5	-	-
25 - <50% of 1 AWU	4	3.5	1	1.1	3	12.0
50 - <75% of 1 AWU	38	33.3	38	42.7	-	-
75 - <100% of 1 AWU	11	9.6	-	-	11	44.0
1 AWU	57	50.0	46	51.7	11	44.0

Table 24. Distribution of 'sole holder' managers by worktime and no other activity outside agriculture

	Maltese Islands	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole holder' managers	5,189	100.0	4,010	100.0	1,179	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
>0 - <25% of 1 AWU	3,638	70.1	2,735	68.2	903	76.5
25 - <50% of 1 AWU	429	8.3	369	9.2	60	5.1
50 - <75% of 1 AWU	123	2.4	44	1.1	79	6.7
75 - <100% of 1 AWU	149	2.9	108	2.7	41	3.5
1 AWU	850	16.4	754	18.8	96	8.1

Methodological Notes

1. Scope and Overview

The aim of the FSS is to provide a complete overview of the structure of agricultural holdings at a particular point in time and serves to monitor developments in the structure of agricultural farming practices. The two main reasons being:

- a. to reduce the burden on farmers for supplying information;
- b. structural changes are more evident over a longer period of time.

The structure survey is in line with Council Regulation 571/88 of 29th February 1988 on the organization of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings, which has been amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1444/2002 of 24th July 2002 *amending Commission Decision 2000/115/EC relating to the definitions of the characteristics, the exceptions to the definitions and the regions and districts regarding the surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings.*

2. Data collection

The data has been collected by means of a statistical sample survey extracted from a list of farmers from the Agricultural register. The whole list of farmers was stratified by economic size, typology, and region of the holdings. This type of stratification enabled groups of homogenous holdings to be grouped into specific strata. The units from each stratum were extracted using the optimum allocation method.

The FSS was carried out over an 8-week period through door-to-door interviewing by 22 interviewers, of which 19 interviewed holdings in Malta and 3 in Gozo.

A total of 1,413 out of 1,579 holdings responded to the survey. Thus, the response rate for the survey is considered very high at 89.5 per cent. For unit non-response among the very large agricultural holdings, imputation techniques were used. It was assumed that these holdings still existed but could not be reached. In order to tackle unit non-response from those strata where random sampling was undertaken, correction factors on the weights were applied to take into consideration unit non-response.

3. The data in this release are final and are not normally subject to revision.
4. Figures may not add up due to rounding.
5. Further information may be obtained from the National Statistics Office.