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Almost 90 per cent of total land declared by farmers, or 11,689 hectares, was utilised for agriculture.

Farm Structure Survey: 2013

Utilised agricultural area (UAA)

The total UAA amounted to 11,689 hectares (Table 1). Agricultural holdings in Malta and Gozo are small, where 9,427 (75.6 per cent) each had a UAA of less than 1.0 hectare. Medium-sized agricultural holdings made up 22.0 per cent of the total; such holdings comprise between one and five hectares, while 2.4 per cent are considered large, each having a minimum of five hectares of UAA (Table 2).

Arable land accounted for 76.7 per cent of the total UAA, while permanent crops and kitchen gardens made up the remaining 10.8 and 12.5 per cent respectively (Table 4). The cultivation of fodder plants (59.0 per cent) was predominant in the tenure of arable land, as shown in Table 5.

1,264 hectares of UAA comprised plantations, of which 54.0 per cent was dedicated to vineyard cultivation (Table 6). Fruit and berry plantations, mainly peaches, amounted to 30.5 per cent of total permanent crops, while citrus, olive and nurseries accounted for 7.1, 8.2 and 0.2 per cent respectively.

Livestock

As at 1 September 2013, the total cattle population amounted to 14,949 heads, of which 6,239, or 41.7 per cent, were dairy cows (Table 7). The pig population amounted to 51,641 heads, while sheep and goat stocks numbered 9,916 and 4,032 heads respectively (Tables 8-10). A total 0.9 million poultry heads were registered, of which 67.2 and 32.4 per cent were broilers and laying hens respectively (Table 11).

Legal personality and management of the holding

Agricultural holdings in Malta were predominantly run by sole holders (98.6 per cent), as shown in Table 12. Group holdings and companies accounted for 1.1 and 0.3 per cent of all holdings respectively. Sole holders also acted as farm managers in 96.9 per cent of all sole-holder agricultural holdings (Table 13).

Labour force

The agricultural labour force was made up of 19,066 persons, or 5,044 annual work units. Part-time employment amounted to 17,693 persons (92.8 per cent), while 1,372 persons (7.2 per cent) worked on a full-time basis. Males (79.3 per cent) were predominant in the agricultural labour force. Of all sole-holder managers, 45.7 per cent reported that they practised a major gainful activity outside of agriculture, while 52.4 per cent stated that they had no other gainful activity. The majority of the latter were either totally engaged in agriculture or were pensioners (Table 17). During the reference period, 84.6 per cent of all sole-holder managers were 45 years of age or older, while the majority of sole-holder managers (70.2 per cent) worked less than 25 per cent of one annual work unit (Tables 18 and 19) ■

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Land Use

Table 1. Distribution of land (ha) declared by farmers by type of land and region

Type of land (ha)	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total declared land	13,004	100.0	9,961	100.0	3,043	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Utilised agricultural area	11,689	89.9	8,801	88.4	2,888	94.9
Unutilised agricultural area	205	1.6	143	1.4	62	2.0
Other area (including garigue land)	1,110	8.5	1,018	10.2	92	3.0

Table 2. Distribution of agricultural holdings by size class of UAA (ha) and region

Size class of UAA (ha)	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural holdings	12,466	100.0	9,684	100.0	2,782	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
0	359	2.9	345	3.6	14	0.5
>0 - <0.5	6,097	48.9	4,613	47.6	1,484	53.4
0.5 - <1	2,971	23.8	2,381	24.6	590	21.2
1 - <2	1,607	12.9	1,321	13.6	286	10.3
2 - <5	1,129	9.1	807	8.3	322	11.6
5 and over	302	2.4	218	2.2	85	3.0

Table 3. Distribution of UAA (ha) by size class of UAA (ha) and region

Size class of UAA (ha)	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total utilised agricultural area (ha)	11,689	100.0	8,801	100.0	2,888	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
>0 - <0.5	1,462	12.5	1,105	12.6	356	12.3
0.5 - <1	2,088	17.9	1,686	19.2	402	13.9
1 - <2	2,261	19.3	1,878	21.3	383	13.3
2 - <5	3,474	29.7	2,459	27.9	1,016	35.2
5 and over	2,404	20.6	1,672	19.0	732	25.3

Table 4. Distribution of UAA (ha) by type and region

Type of UAA (ha)	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total utilised agricultural area (ha)	11,689	100.0	8,801	100.0	2,888	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Arable land	8,967	76.7	6,565	74.6	2,402	83.2
Permanent crops	1,264	10.8	1,094	12.4	170	5.9
Kitchen gardens	1,458	12.5	1,142	13.0	316	11.0

Table 5. Distribution of arable land (ha) by type and region

Type of arable land	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total arable land	8,967	100.0	6,565	100.0	2,402	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Potatoes	689	7.7	659	10.0	30	1.3
Flowers and seeds	34	0.4	22	0.3	11	0.5
Forage plants	5,290	59.0	3,340	50.9	1,950	81.2
Fallow land	959	10.7	816	12.4	142	5.9
Vegetables	1,996	22.3	1,728	26.3	268	11.2

Table 6. Distribution of permanent crops (ha) by type and region

Type of permanent crop (ha)	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total permanent crops	1,264	100.0	1,094	100.0	170	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Fruit and berry plantations	386	30.5	348	31.8	38	22.2
Citrus plantations	90	7.1	37	3.4	54	31.5
Olive plantations	104	8.2	86	7.9	17	10.1
Vineyards	683	54.0	621	56.8	62	36.2
Nurseries	2	0.2	2	0.2	0	0.0

Livestock

Table 7. Distribution of cattle by type and region

Type of cattle	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Cattle	14,949	100.0	9,849	100.0	5,099	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Cattle under 1 year	4,160	27.8	2,673	27.1	1,487	29.2
Cattle between 1 and 2 years	3,827	25.6	2,613	26.5	1,214	23.8
Cattle over 2 years (including dairy cows)	6,962	46.6	4,564	46.3	2,398	47.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Dairy Cows	6,239	41.7	4,039	41.0	2,200	43.1

Table 8. Distribution of pigs by type and region

Type of pig	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Pigs	51,641	100.0	47,375	100.0	4,267	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Piglets <20 kgs	13,890	26.9	12,645	26.7	1,245	29.2
Breeding Sows	5,159	10.0	4,724	10.0	435	10.2
Other Pigs	32,591	63.1	30,005	63.3	2,587	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 9. Distribution of sheep by type and region

Type of sheep	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Sheep	9,916	100.0	6,741	100.0	3,175	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Breeding females	8,919	89.9	5,905	87.6	3,014	94.9
Other Sheep	998	10.1	836	12.4	162	5.1

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

Table 10. Distribution of goats by type and region

Type of goat	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Goats	4,032	100.0	2,540	100.0	1,492	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Breeding females	3,589	89.0	2,236	88.0	1,353	90.7
Other Goats	443	11.0	305	12.0	138	9.3

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

Table 11. Distribution of poultry by type and region

Type of poultry	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total Poultry	918,426	100.0	694,555	100.0	223,871	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Broilers	616,974	67.2	448,491	64.6	168,482	75.3
Laying Hens	297,188	32.4	242,254	34.9	54,934	24.5
Other Poultry	4,264	0.5	3,810	0.5	454	0.2

Legal Personality

Table 12. Distribution of legal personality of agricultural holdings by type and region

Type of holding	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural holdings	12,466	100.0	9,684	100.0	2,782	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Sole-Holder	12,290	98.6	9,526	98.4	2,764	99.4
Group or Partnership	139	1.1	125	1.3	14	0.5
Company	37	0.3	33	0.3	4	0.1

Table 13. Distribution of managers of sole-holder holdings by type and region

Type of sole-holder holding	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total sole-holder holdings	12,290	100.0	9,526	100.0	2,764	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Manager is the sole-holder	11,915	96.9	9,290	97.5	2,625	95.0
Manager is the sole-holder's spouse	160	1.3	137	1.4	23	0.8
Manager is a family member of sole-holder	210	1.7	95	1.0	116	4.2
Manager is not a family member of sole-holder	5	0.0	5	0.1	0	0.0

Labour Force

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

Type of labour	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural labour force	19,066	100.0	14,995	100.0	4,071	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Part-time	17,693	92.8	13,895	92.7	3,799	93.3
Males	13,869	72.7	10,880	72.6	2,989	73.4
Females	3,824	20.1	3,014	20.1	810	19.9
Full-time	1,372	7.2	1,100	7.3	272	6.7
Males	1,245	6.5	1,002	6.7	244	6.0
Females	127	0.7	98	0.7	29	0.7

Table 15. Distribution of total agricultural labour force by sex and region

	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total agricultural labour force	19,066	100.0	14,995	100.0	4,071	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Males	15,115	79.3	11,882	79.2	3,233	79.4
Females	3,951	20.7	3,113	20.8	838	20.6

Table 16. Distribution of annual work units (AWU) by type of holding and region

	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total annual work units	5,044	100.0	4,015	100.0	1,029	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Sole-holder holdings	4,572	90.6	3,648	90.9	924	89.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Sole-holder managers	4,467	88.6	3,566	88.8	901	87.5
Other persons	104	2.1	81	2.0	23	2.2
Group or partnership	159	3.2	127	3.2	32	3.1
Company	313	6.2	240	6.0	73	7.1

Table 17. Distribution of 'sole-holder' managers by other gainful activity outside agriculture and region

	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole-holder' managers	11,915	100.0	9,290	100.0	2,625	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
Major activity	5,446	45.7	4,207	45.3	1,239	47.2
Subsidiary activity	226	1.9	159	1.7	66	2.5
No other activity	6,244	52.4	4,924	53.0	1,320	50.3

Table 18. Distribution of 'sole-holder' managers by age and region

	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole-holder' managers	11,915	100.0	9,290	100.0	2,625	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
<25 years	68	0.6	65	0.7	3	0.1
25 - 34 years	364	3.1	280	3.0	84	3.2
35 - 44 years	1,401	11.8	1,068	11.5	333	12.7
45 - 54 years	2,925	24.6	2,295	24.7	631	24.0
55 - 64 years	3,918	32.9	3,149	33.9	768	29.3
65 and over	3,239	27.2	2,433	26.2	806	30.7

Table 19. Distribution of 'sole-holder' managers by worktime and region

	MALTA	%	Malta	%	Gozo and Comino	%
Total 'sole-holder' managers	11,915	100.0	9,290	100.0	2,625	100.0
<i>of which:</i>						
>0 - < 25% of 1 AWU	8,359	70.2	6,478	69.7	1,880	71.6
25 - < 50% of 1 AWU	1,249	10.5	994	10.7	254	9.7
50 - < 75% of 1 AWU	879	7.4	653	7.0	225	8.6
75 - < 100% of 1 AWU	690	5.8	533	5.7	158	6.0
1 AWU	739	6.2	631	6.8	108	4.1

Methodological Notes

1. Scope and Overview

The aim of the survey is to provide a complete overview of the structure of agricultural holdings at a point in time through a representative sample and serves to monitor developments in the structure of agricultural farming practices.

The Farm Structure Survey is in line with Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods.

2. Definitions

Legal personality and management of the holding

The agricultural holding is a single unit which has a single management and which produces agricultural products. A holding may have agricultural land in different localities and hence, all information related to it is taken at the holder's residence.

Utilised agricultural area (UAA)

The utilised agricultural area is all the land used by the holding for agricultural production, whether rented or family owned. This includes arable land and permanent cropping

Arable land

Arable land is land which is worked regularly, generally under a system of crop rotation such as potatoes, vegetables, fodder and fallow land. The area under greenhouses is included under this heading.

Fallow land

Fallow land is land which is included in the crop rotation system but is not producing a harvest and is left to recover for the duration of the crop year.

Permanent crops

Land under permanent crops is the land cultivated with crops that occupy the land for long periods and need not be replanted after each harvest.

Kitchen Gardens

Kitchen gardens include those areas devoted to the cultivation of agricultural products mainly intended for consumption by the holder and his household.

Annual work units (AWU)

The annual work unit corresponds to the work performed by one person who is occupied in an agricultural holding on a full-time basis. Persons with a minimum working time of 1,800 hours annually are considered full-time workers and count as 1 AWU. The performance of part-time workers is converted into AWU pro rata.

3. Data collection

This data is based on a sample of farms extracted from the agricultural register. The whole list of agricultural holdings 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 total population at the time of the sample selection amounted to 12,502 agricultural holdings.

The agricultural holding is the sampling unit and comprises land and buildings on which agricultural activities are carried out. The holding is operated by the 'holder' who is a single individual, a partnership of individuals or a limited company. No thresholds were used.

The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) was carried out from September to November 2013. The reference day for livestock was 1 September 2013, while for land cover and the agricultural labour force the reference period referred to the agricultural crop year from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013.

The structure survey was carried out over a 12-week period through door-to-door interviewing. Out of a sample of 1,494 holdings, 1,488 participated in the survey yielding a response rate of 99.6 per cent.

4. Sampling Variability

The data in this release are based on statistical samples, thus estimates carry a sampling error. A numerical measure of the magnitude of the differences between sample estimates and the value of the entire population is provided by the quantity known as the standard error. This is usually expressed as a margin of error which quantifies uncertainty about a survey result and expresses the amount of random sampling error in a survey's results. This is normally associated with a statistical level of confidence in such a way as to make it possible to calculate confidence intervals of the form estimate \pm margin of error. The following table is a summary of the margin of error estimated at a 95% confidence level.

Sampling Variability of FSS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	Confidence Interval (95%)
Utilised Agricultural Area (ha)	11,689	428	11,689 \pm 428
Arable land (ha)	8,967	376	8,967 \pm 376
Permanent crops (ha)	1,264	57	1,264 \pm 57
Kitchen gardens (ha)	1,458	21	1,458 \pm 21
Fallow land (ha)	959	39	959 \pm 39
Bovine	14,931	783	14,931 \pm 783
Pigs	51,642	2,566	51,642 \pm 2,566
Broilers	616,973	51,651	616,973 \pm 51,651
Layers	297,191	57,891	297,191 \pm 57,891

The above table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, the estimated UAA is 11,689 ha and the margin of error is 428 ha. Hence, the true UAA falls between 11,261 ha and 12,117 ha.

5. Figures may not add up due to rounding.