

8 Size of holdings by number of livestock

Regardless of the legal form of holding, the number of cattle, poultry and pig breeders is lower than in 2000. Also the above-mentioned livestock experienced a decrease in numbers as compared to 2003.

36.1% of holdings deal with keeping cattle in the Czech Republic, which is 10.5 percentage points less than in 2003. The number of holdings of natural persons dealing with cattle breeding has diminished by 43.4% over the last five years. The number of cattle breeders decreased in all the smallest categories of holdings of natural persons (i.e. up to 30 hectares of agricultural area). In contrast, starting with the size category 30– 50 ha and more, the number of breeders - holdings of natural persons increased. The most significant (the highest) is the increase in the category of more than 3 000 hectares. The increase in the group of farmers with 100– 500 hectares of UAA is the second highest. A dip or a rise in numbers of cattle corresponds with changes in numbers of breeders. The more agricultural area the holding utilises, the higher number of cattle-stock it keeps. A decrease in the size group of 1 000 – 2 000 hectares is the only one exception.

Almost four fifths (78.0%) of the total cattle livestock (represented by almost 1 426 thousand heads) are bred in holdings of legal persons. The highest number of cattle is bred in agricultural cooperatives (almost 441 thousand heads, resp. 30.9%) and joint stock companies (a little bit more than 405 thousand heads, resp. 28.4%). The number of heads of cattle bred in the limited liability companies (248 048 heads) is lower in comparison to holdings of natural persons. In terms of holdings of legal persons (regardless of their specific legal form), the biggest share of the total number of cattle is in holdings utilising more than 1 000 ha of agricultural land. 79.6% of cattle bred in holdings of legal persons falling into three the highest categories according to the utilised area (1 000 – 1 999 ha, 2 000 – 2 999 ha and more than 3 000 ha).

Concerning holdings of natural persons, cattle are mostly bred in holdings utilising 100 – 500 ha (it represents 37% of all cattle livestock kept in holdings of natural persons).

Tab. 13 Shares of the size groups in the number of holdings and cattle in total

Size group by cattle (number of heads)	Holdings of natural persons		Holdings of legal persons		incl.						
					Limited liability companies		Joint stock companies		Cooperatives		
	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	65.4	x	43.0	x	55.8	x	33.4	x	16.1	x	
1 - 10	19.0	6.4	1.2	0.0	1.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	
11 - 50	9.8	21.7	3.1	0.2	4.6	0.8	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.0	
51 - 100	2.8	18.4	2.5	0.5	3.6	1.7	1.1	0.1	0.9	0.1	
101 - 500	2.0	41.7	21.3	16.1	22.9	38.3	14.6	7.4	25.2	11.0	
501 - 1000	0.1	8.1	15.4	28.1	8.1	33.3	23.5	26.9	27.2	26.0	
1001 and more	0.0	2.4	13.6	55.0	3.2	25.8	26.0	65.5	29.5	62.9	

Looking at the numbers of bred animals in holdings, one can say that holdings of natural persons (19.0% of them) keep most often 1 – 10 heads of cattle. The dominant number of cattle-stock is bred in the holdings of natural persons falling into the category of 101 – 500 heads of cattle (41.7% of heads), followed by the category of 11 – 50 heads of cattle (21.7% of heads). The most numerous group of holdings breeding 1 – 10 heads is in the fifth place. They breed only a small part – 6.4% – of the cattle-stock in the holdings of natural persons.

In terms of holdings of legal persons, the most numerous group represent the holdings with 101 – 500 heads of cattle. This is thanks to cooperatives, as 25.2% of the cooperatives belong to this category.

Tab. 14 Shares of the size groups in the number of holdings and pigs in total

Size group by pigs (number of heads)	Holdings of natural persons		Holdings of legal persons		Holdings of legal					
					Limited liability companies		Joint stock companies		Cooperatives	
	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %	RU %	heads %
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0	65.7	x	62.5	x	77.8	x	44.9	x	39.6	x
1 - 10	27.1	7.9	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
11 - 50	3.8	9.1	1.2	0.0	1.5	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.0
51 - 100	1.2	8.7	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.3	1.6	0.1	1.2	0.1
101 - 500	1.5	33.2	8.4	2.5	7.7	6.3	6.1	0.8	12.3	3.2
501 - 1000	0.2	13.6	6.9	5.2	3.2	6.7	10.3	3.2	13.5	8.6
1001 - 5000	0.1	26.6	15.0	35.2	6.4	37.9	25.4	25.0	28.3	56.0
5001 and	0.0	0.0	4.1	56.9	1.4	48.7	11.3	71.1	3.9	32.1

In the year 2005, 34.5% of reporting units were dealing with a pig breeding, whereas in 2000, 45.6% were. The decrease was observed in both the number of holdings of legal as well as natural persons and in pig-stock.

9.6% of the total pig-stock is bred in the holdings of natural persons. Both the decrease in the number of holdings and the decrease by approximately one fourth in pig-stock were observed in these holdings. This decrease was the most significant in categories of holdings utilising the areas up to 1 ha and 2 000 – 3 000 ha of UAA. In these categories the pig-stock decreased by 63.4% and 76.4%, respectively. The holdings utilising 100 – 500 ha were the exception: their number rose by 46.4% in comparison to 2003. On the other hand, the increase in their number was not accompanied by an increase in pig-stock.

Small farmers without identification numbers represent almost one third of the total number of 13 524 breeders. But they breed only 3.5% (629 heads) of pig-stock bred in the holdings of natural persons. Such a small breeder owns approximately 2.7 pigs. This indicates he is just a self-supplier and he is probably not going to extend his stock. These farmers just barely met the threshold values for the survey. It is predicted that the number of such breeders will go down in the future. These small breeders represent more than two fifths of holdings without agricultural land.

90.4% of the total pig-stock is bred in the holdings of legal persons. In a breakdown by legal form, the shares are the following: 55.4% in joint stock companies, 24.4% in cooperatives, 19.2% in limited liability companies. The share of pigs in holdings without agricultural land is rising year by year regardless of the legal form. For example, in terms of the holdings of legal persons, this share increased from 23.5% in 2003 to 29.1% in 2005. It is caused by the decreasing of number of these holdings on one side and by increases in their pig-stock on the other side. It is obvious that these holdings specialize only in pig breeding and, in spite of the fact that they must buy feed they are able to profit.