

1 STRUCTURE AND DESCRIPTION OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

In total 22 864 agricultural holdings were included in the Agricultural census 2010; holdings of natural persons prevailed (86.5%). Out of all holdings of natural persons, 77.5% were registered as agricultural entrepreneurs and 15.0% were small-scale farmers (not registered yet, i.e. without identification number). Remaining 13.5 % of total were holdings of legal persons. Among them, the most prevailing types were limited liability companies (56.8%) followed by joint stock companies (21.1%) and cooperatives (17.1%).

During the last ten years the total number of agricultural holdings declined by 13.8%. The number of natural persons decreased by 16.6% in connection with a structural change in legal forms: in 2000 there were 83.3% private farmers and 8.4% small-scale farmers out of total number of natural persons (23 714 holdings). On the contrary, the number of legal persons increased by 9.1 % in the last ten years. The greatest increment was recorded in limited liability companies (+33.7 %) and in joint stock companies (+7.8 %), while the number of cooperatives went down (-28.8%).

Agricultural holdings by their utilised agricultural area

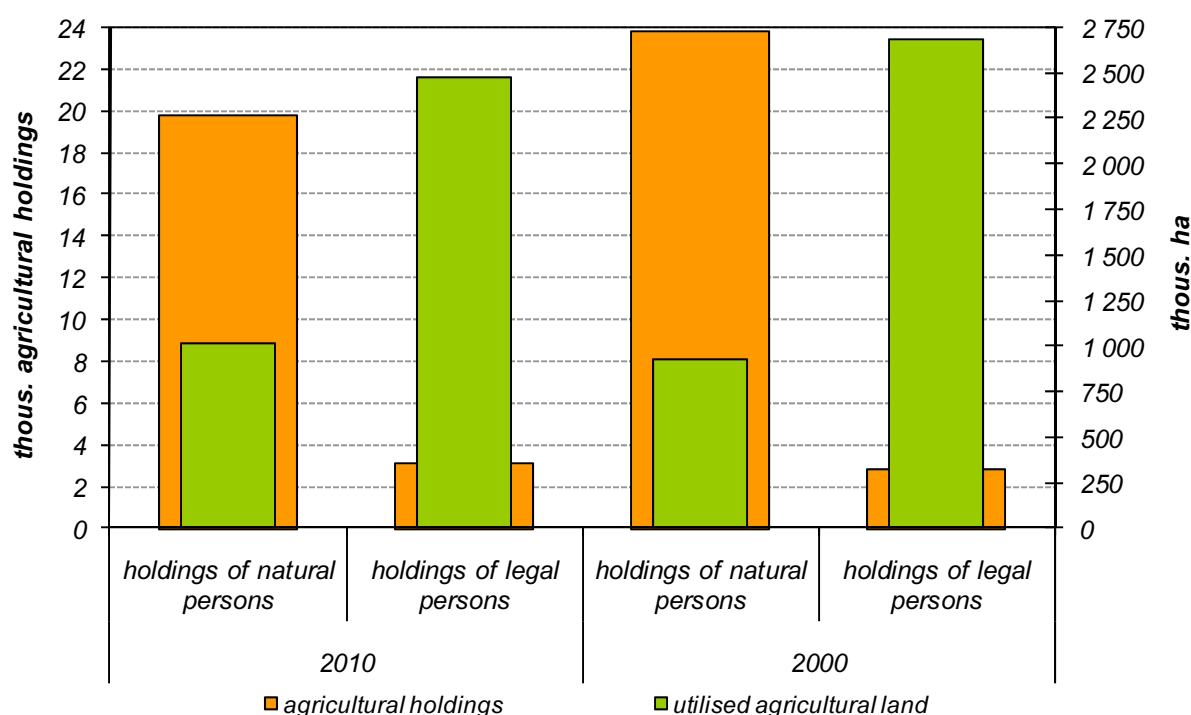
In 2010 the utilised agricultural area was concentrated in holdings of legal persons (70.9%); this share decreased since 2010 to the benefit of holdings of natural persons by 3.5 percentage points.

Holdings with 10-50 ha of utilised agricultural area prevailed (36.4%), while the smallest share belonged to holdings without UAA (1.3%), and, on the other side, to holdings with more than 2 000 ha of UAA (1.5%). Group of holdings with more than 500 ha was represented only by 1 796 ones (7.9%); however, they shared 72.0% of the total agricultural area. On the contrary, 16 027 holdings with less than 50 ha (70.1%) utilised only 6.6% of the UAA.

There were distinct differences among the legal forms as for size groups of holdings. Natural persons utilised mainly small acreages up to 20 ha (56.4% of holdings), while acreages above 100 ha were typical for legal persons (69.3% of holdings).

In comparison with 2000, shares of holdings in particular size groups as well as shares of particular size groups on the total utilised agricultural area did not change significantly. The share of natural persons with less than 20 ha of UAA decreased by 10.9 p. p. At the same time the share of legal persons with more than 100 ha went down by 5.2 p. p. Comparison of holdings of natural and legal persons together with their utilised agricultural area in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Graph 1.

Graph 1 - Structure of agricultural holdings



Average agricultural area per holding

The average utilised agricultural area per holding accounted for 152 ha in 2010, compared with 136 ha per holding in 2000. Large increment of the average acreage was recorded in holdings of natural persons (+ 30.9%). In holdings of legal persons the average acreage decreased by 15.6% except for joint stock companies where it grew by 6.1%.

Table 1: Structure of agricultural holdings

		AGC 2010		AGC 2000		Index 2010/2000
		abs.	(%)	abs.	(%)	
Agricultural holdings, total	Agricultural holdings	22 864	100,0	26 539	100,0	86,2
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	3 483 500	100,0	3 604 400	100,0	96,6
	Average acreage (ha)	152	x	136	x	111,9
Holdings of natural persons	Agricultural holdings	19 781	86,5	23 714	89,4	83,4
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	1 013 303	29,1	923 775	25,6	109,7
	Average acreage (ha)	51	x	39	x	130,9
Holdings of legal persons	Agricultural holdings	3 083	13,5	2 825	10,6	109,1
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	2 470 197	70,9	2 680 625	74,4	92,2
	Average acreage (ha)	801	x	949	x	84,4
Business companies & partnerships	Agricultural holdings	2 432	10,6	1 948	7,3	124,8
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	1 706 264	49,0	1 578 841	43,8	108,1
	Average acreage (ha)	702	x	810	x	86,6
Limited liability companies	Agricultural holdings	1 751	7,7	1 310	4,9	133,7
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	802 631	23,0	783 686	21,7	102,4
	Average acreage (ha)	458	x	598	x	76,6
Joint stock companies	Agricultural holdings	649	2,8	602	2,3	107,8
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	891 479	25,6	779 696	21,6	114,3
	Average acreage (ha)	1 374	x	1 295	x	106,1
Cooperatives	Agricultural holdings	527	2,3	740	2,8	71,2
	Utilised agricultural area (ha)	733 798	21,1	1 059 447	29,4	69,3
	Average acreage (ha)	1 392	x	1 432	x	97,2

Organic farming

In total 10.3% of agricultural holdings dealt with organic farming in 2010, of which 84.5% performed solely agricultural production (i.e. did not utilise conventional and organic production methods together). Organic production methods were applied on 11.4% of utilised agricultural area, of which 85.8% belonged to holdings performing solely organic production. A huge boom of organic farming was recorded in the last ten years: number of holdings involved in organic farming increased almost six times and acreage of agricultural area under organic farming tripled. Even greater growth was recorded in holdings performing solely organic production: number of such holdings rose nearly eight times and their utilised agricultural area almost five times.

Table 2 – Agricultural holdings involved in organic farming and their utilised agricultural area

	AGC 2010		AGC 2000		Index 2010/2000
	abs.	(%)	abs.	(%)	
Agricultural holdings, total	22 864	100.0	26 539	100.0	86.2
of which holdings applying organic methods (certified or in conversion period)	2 355	10.3	413	1.6	570.2
of which holdings performing solely organic production (certified or in conversion period)	1 991	8.7	257	1.0	774.7
Utilised agricultural area, total (ha)	3 483 500	100.0	3 604 400	100.0	96.6
of which organically utilised area (certified or in conversion period) (ha)	398 591	11.4	132 244	3.7	301.4
of which utilised area in holdings performing solely organic production (certified or in conversion period)(ha)	342 164	9.8	71 436	2.0	479.0