

2 OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Out of 22 864 agricultural holdings 98.7% utilised a certain acreage of the agricultural area and 286 holdings did not possess any agricultural area. Most holdings utilised hired land; only 22.0% of utilised agricultural area was owned by holdings. Generally, share of hired land grew with the total UAA: holdings with less than 3 ha of UAA kept on average 83.0% of own land, while holdings with more than 2 000 ha owned only 10.3% of UAA.

Share of own land in holdings rose since 2000. Number of holdings with acreage above 500 ha almost did not change (1 900 in 2000 and 1 796 in 2010), but their share of own land went up from 1.4% to 14.4% in this size group. The largest increase was recorded in the size group 100-500 ha (+22.4 p.p.), followed by size group of 50-100 ha (+16.2 p.p.).

Natural persons owned 455 919 ha of UAA, i.e. 45.0% out of total acreage (1 013 303 ha). Own land represented one third or more in all size groups; holdings in size groups up to 20 ha kept even more than two thirds of own land.

Legal persons usually did not own such large acreages of own land compared with natural persons; their share of hired land was 87.4%. The smallest proportion of own land was recorded in cooperatives; they usually utilised parcels owned by their members. The largest proportion of own land was noted for cooperatives with 30-50 ha of UAA (41.0%). Limited liability companies hired 81.5 % out of total amount of 802 631 ha; out of them no size group shared less than 10 % of own land.

The percentage of hired land distinctly decreased in holdings of both natural and legal persons during the period 2000–2010. This decrease accounted for 19.0 p. p. in natural persons and for 11.3 p. p. for legal persons.

Graph 2 – Hired and own land in agricultural holdings

