

## Commentary

The Vineyards 2015 structure survey involves 18 216 vine growers registered in the Vineyard Register as at 30 July 2015. They utilised 17 688.59 ha of vineyards. The average vineyard area per one grower was 0.97 ha.

The vast majority of the vine growers in the Czech Republic were natural persons (17 895 vine growers; 98.2% of the subjects). They cultivated 7 840.09 ha of vineyards (44.3%) and their average vineyard area was 0.44 ha. There were only 321 legal persons, i.e. 1.8% out of the total number of vine growers; however, they utilised more than a half of the total vineyard area (9 848.50 ha; 55.7%). The average vineyard area of a legal person – 30.68 ha – was distinctly higher in comparison with the average for a natural person.

Small vine growers with their vineyard area up to 1 ha prevailed in the Czech Republic (17 023 holdings; 93.5%). These growers with their average vineyard area of 0.15 ha utilised 2 629.03 ha, i.e. 14.9% of the total vineyard area. The size class above 1 ha to 30 ha involved 1 086 vine growers (6.0%) having almost one third of the vineyard area (5 277.78 ha; 29.8%); their average vineyard size was 4.86 ha. The largest vine growers utilising vineyard area above 30 ha (107 holdings; 0.6%) utilised more than a half of the total vineyard area (9 781.79 ha; 55.3%) with the average area reaching 91.42 ha per holding.

As for production type, vineyards with wine grape varieties suitable for the production of wines with protected designation of origin (PDO) prevailed with 17 537.72 ha (99.1% of the total vineyard area). Vineyards with wine grape varieties suitable for the production of wines with protected geographical indication (PGI) were planted on 115.48 ha (0.7%). The total area of other vineyards, i.e. vineyards intended to produce vegetative propagation material, breeding plots and gene pool, was 35.39 ha (0.2%).

Vineyards in production covered 16 469.93 ha; i.e. the vast majority (93.3%) of the total area of vineyards with wine grape varieties. Vineyards not yet in production were planted on 1 183.28 ha; that was 6.7% of the total area of vineyards with wine grape varieties.

Vine growers vineyards intended for production of wines with PDO were the category of specialisation prevailing distinctly with 17 123 holdings (94.0%); they utilised 15 347.84 ha of vineyards (86.8% of the total vineyard area). Vineyards exclusively intended for production of wines with PGI were grown by 778 vine growers (4.3%) with their area of 75.42 ha (0.4%). Vineyards suitable exclusively for production of wines with PDO or PGI were cultivated by 288 holdings (1.6%) and their area was 910.92 ha (5.1%). Other vine growers (27 holdings; 0.1%) with 1 354.40 ha (7.7%) had vineyards intended exclusively for several types of production or for other than wine production.

The vast majority of vineyards (16 688.86 ha; 94.3%) as well as vine growers (17 619 holdings; 96.7%) were located in Jihomoravský Region. A much lesser extent of wine production was recorded in Zlínský Region, where 436 vine growers maintained 342.43 ha (1.9%); in Středočeský Region there were 73 vine growers with 325.28 ha (1.8%), in Ústecký Region 55 vine growers with 310.50 ha (1.8%), and in Hlavní město Praha 12 vine growers with 12.43 ha (0.1%). In all other regions the vine cultivation was marginal, the number of vine growers did not exceed 5 holdings per region and the vineyard area was also negligible. The only region with no vineyards registered was Karlovarský Region.

White vine varieties were planted on 10 347.52 ha of vineyards and distinctly exceeded one half of the area under vines (58.5%). Red varieties were cultivated on one third of the area (5 516.54 ha; 31.2%) and other varieties on one tenth of the area (1 824.53 ha; 10.3%).

Veltliner grün (1 664.95 ha; 9.4% of the total vineyard area), Müller Thurgau (1 554.78 ha; 8.8%), Riesling weiss (1 225.64 ha; 6.9%) and Welschriesling (1 195.01 ha; 6.8%) were recorded as white varieties with the largest area. The most frequently planted red varieties were Saint Laurent (1 184.45 ha; 6.7%), Blaufränkisch (1 146.46 ha; 6.5%) and Zweigeltrebe (771.17 ha; 4.4%); Pinot gris was the most prevalent out of other varieties (906.61 ha; 5.1%).

More than a half of vineyards planted their vineyards with Veltliner grün (10 303 holdings; 56.6%). Further favourite varieties planted by almost one half of vine growers were Müller Thurgau (8 779 holdings; 48.2%) and Saint Laurent (8 439 holdings; 46.3%).

The age structure of vineyards was dominated by ones fully in production aged between 10 and 29 years. This category embraced 9 652.37 ha, i.e. more than one half of the total vineyard area (54.6%). New plantations up to 2 years old were planted on 1 187.50 ha (6.7%). Young plantations between 3 and 9 years old were grown on 1 673.79 ha (9.5%). Old plantations above 30 years old covered almost one third of vineyards – 5 174.94 ha (29.3 %).

The largest share of young plantations aged less than 9 years was recorded in Středočeský Region (84.53 ha; 26.0% of the vineyard area in this region). The highest proportion of vineyards fully in production aged between 10 and 29 years was registered in Jihomoravský Region 9 242.21 ha; 55.4% of the total vineyard area in this region). The largest percentage in the oldest age class was noted in Ústecký Region, where more than one half of vineyards were older than 30 years (173.66 ha; 55.9% of the vineyard area in this region).

Varieties with the highest share of young plantations less than 9 years old were Pinot gris (27.1% of the total vineyard area), Chardonnay (20.6%) and Sauvignon (17.9%). On the other hand, the largest proportion of plantations aged over 30 years was recorded for traditional varieties as Saint Laurent (57.9% of the total vineyard area), Veltliner grün (50.9%), Welschriesling (48.4%) and Müller Thurgau (44.5%).

### **Comparison of Vineyards Survey 2009 and Vineyards 2015**

The Vineyards Survey 2009 did not involve vine growers with their vineyard area below 0.1 ha (see Methodological notes). In 2015 this category included 7 581 vine growers (41.6% of the total number of holdings) who utilised 504.78 ha (2.9% of the total vineyard area). The category up to 0.1 from the 2015 survey is not included in the following comparison.

During the last five years the vineyard area increased from 16 290.20 ha in 2009 to 17 183.81 ha in 2015 (+5.5%). On the contrary, the number of vine growers declined from 10 919 to 10 635 (-2.6%). The average vineyard area grew from 1.49 ha in 2009 to 1.62 ha in 2015 (+8.3%). In the size class up to 1 ha, both the number of vine growers and vineyard area decreased by 4.0%; the average area of 0.22 ha remained at the same level. An increase of both number of holdings and vineyard area was recorded in the size class from 1 to 30 ha (+11.2% and +18.3%, respectively); their average area rose by 6.5% to 4.86 ha. In the largest size class – above 30 ha – 3 holdings disappeared and the area slightly grew (+1.7%). The average vineyard area increased in this size class by 4.6% to 91.42 ha.

Comparison of results of both surveys concerning vineyard area classified by legal form of vine growers, size classes, varietal composition and age structure of vineyards is presented in the tables 10 to 13. The data are not fully comparable due to different methodology used in both surveys (see Methodological notes).