

Agriculture in the EU27

Employment in the agriculture sector down by 25% between 2000 and 2009

Real income generated per worker up by 5%

Between 2000 and 2009, employment in the agricultural sector in the **EU27** decreased by 25%, the equivalent of 3.7 million full-time jobs¹. It fell by 17% in the **EU15**² and by 31% in the 12 Member States (**NMS12**)² that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007. In 2009, employment in the agricultural sector was equivalent to 11.2 million full-time jobs in the **EU27**, of which 5.4 million were in the **EU15** and 5.8 million in the **NMS12**.

Between 2000 and 2009, real agricultural income³ per worker increased by 5% on average in the **EU27**, although the change differed significantly between the **NMS12** (+61%) and the **EU15** (-10%).

The figures in this News Release are drawn from a report⁴ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Fall in employment of between 3% in Greece and 55% in Estonia from 2000 to 2009

In 2009, the five Member States with the highest employment in the agricultural sector accounted for almost two thirds of the **EU27** total: **Poland** (20% of **EU27** employment in agricultural sector, the equivalent of 2.2 million full-time workers), **Romania** (19% and 2.1 million), **Italy** (10% and 1.2 million), **Spain** and **France** (both 8% and 0.9 million).

Between 2000 and 2009, employment in the agricultural sector fell in all Member States. In general, the largest decreases were found among the **NMS12**: **Estonia** (-55%), **Bulgaria** (-48%) and **Slovakia** (-43%). The smallest decreases were registered in **Greece** (-3%) and **Ireland** (-4%). Among the five Member States with the highest employment in the agricultural sector, employment fell by 11% in **Poland**, 41% in **Romania**, 16% in **Italy** and 17% in both **Spain** and **France**.

Over 100% increase in real agricultural income per worker in Latvia, Estonia and Poland from 2000 to 2009

Between 2000 and 2009, real agricultural income per worker rose in 17 Member States and fell in ten. The highest increases were found in **Latvia** (+140%), **Estonia** (+131%), **Poland** (+107%), the **United Kingdom** (+71%) and **Lithuania** (+70%), and the largest decreases in **Denmark** (-46%), **Italy** and **Luxembourg** (both -36%), **Ireland** (-30%) and the **Netherlands** (-28%).

Between 2008 and 2009, real agricultural income⁵ per worker fell by 12% in the **EU27**. Real agricultural income per worker fell in 21 Member States, remained nearly unchanged in two and rose in four. The largest decreases were found in **Hungary** (-32%), **Luxembourg** (-25%), **Ireland** (-24%), **Germany** and **Italy** (both -21%), and the highest increases in **Malta** (+8%) and **Denmark** (+4%).

Agricultural employment and real agricultural income

	Agricultural employment		Real agricultural income per worker (%)	
	AWU ¹ (1 000) 2009	2009/2000 (%)	2009/2008	2009/2000
EU27	11 223	-24.9	-11.6	5.3
EU15	5 424	-16.7	-11.6	-9.6
NMS12	5 799	-31.2	-12.5	61.2
Belgium	64	-14.8	0.4	-22.1
Bulgaria	400	-48.1	-10.0	35.4
Czech Republic	134	-19.0	-17.0	54.4
Denmark	56	-26.1	4.3	-46.2
Germany	536	-21.7	-21.0	11.9
Estonia	29	-55.0	-17.6	131.4
Ireland	147	-3.9	-23.6	-30.1
Greece	571	-2.6	0.3	-16.9
Spain	909	-17.5	-1.8	-2.2
France	858	-16.6	-19.0	-19.6
Italy	1 164	-15.9	-20.6	-35.8
Cyprus	26	-15.6	0.9	-7.9
Latvia	92	-38.2	-14.8	139.6
Lithuania	147	-21.1	-16.4	69.8
Luxembourg	4	-16.3	-25.2	-35.6
Hungary	441	-34.8	-32.2	33.5
Malta	4	-10.6	7.8	1.5
Netherlands	182	-17.2	-8.5	-27.6
Austria	153	-13.5	-19.4	5.7
Poland	2 214	-11.3	-0.7	107.3
Portugal	344	-31.6	-3.8	4.9
Romania	2 148	-41.1	-18.3	37.2
Slovenia	82	-21.1	-15.2	16.6
Slovakia	82	-42.5	-12.8	51.7
Finland	87	-21.8	2.6	1.6
Sweden	63	-17.4	-6.6	33.7
United Kingdom	290	-13.2	-5.3	71.2
Norway	58	-19.3	-5.2	-25.9
Switzerland	85	-16.3	-6.8	-2.4

1. In order to take account of part-time and seasonal work, agricultural labour is measured in annual work unit (AWU), which is the equivalent of a full-time worker engaged in agricultural activities over an entire year.
2. EU15 includes Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. NMS12 refers to the twelve new Member States that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.
3. Agricultural income comprises the income generated by agricultural activities (as well as inseparable non-agricultural, secondary activities) over a given accounting period, even though in certain cases the corresponding revenues will not be received until a later date. It does not, therefore, constitute the income effectively received in the course of the accounting period itself. Moreover, it must not be confused with the total income of farming households as it does not comprise income from other sources (non-agricultural activities, salaries, social benefits, income from property).

Data for 2000-2008 and the estimates for 2009 have been compiled by the national authorities in the Member States of the European Union in accordance with the methodology of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (which is close to the methodology of the national accounts, ESA95, but incorporates a number of changes to take account of the special features of the agricultural economy). The real agricultural income per annual work unit, corresponds to the real net value added at factor cost of agriculture, per total annual work unit. Net value added at factor cost is calculated by subtracting from the value of agricultural output at basic prices the value of intermediate consumption, the consumption of fixed capital and production taxes, and adding the value of production subsidies.

The variation in income between 2008 and 2009 is based on 2008 exchange rates, while the variation between 2000 and 2009 is based on 2005 exchange rates. The real values are calculated by using the implicit GDP deflators. The deflators for 2009 are provisional.

4. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 18/2010 "EU Agricultural Income down 11.6% in 2009". Available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
5. Data have been revised compared to those issued in News Release 186/2009 of 18 December 2009. The first estimate for the change in EU27 real agricultural income per worker for 2009 was -12.2%.

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