

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Farm Structure Survey 2016

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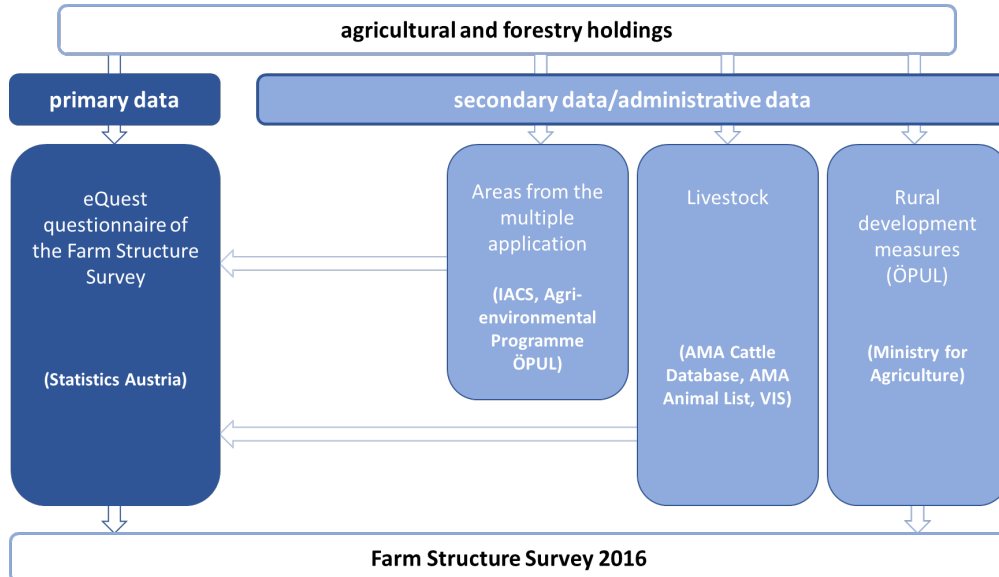
Executive Summary

The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) provides important information on the structure of agricultural and forestry holdings and gives an overview of the development of structural change in agriculture and forestry at both national and European level. Based on EU legal bases, the FSS is currently carried out every 10 years (at the turn of the decade), as a full survey, and in between at regular intervals (most recently in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2013 and 2016; in the future in 2023) as a sample survey. The FSS data are used in many other areas of agricultural statistics and form an indispensable basis for appropriate agricultural policy decisions at national and international level.

The subject of the statistics was the farm structure of agricultural and forestry holdings in 2016 with the topics tenure, land use, labor force, livestock, organic farming, soil management, manure, other gainful activities and rural development. The topics are prescribed by the applicable EU legal basis and were primarily oriented towards the needs of the European Commission, taking into account the comparability between the Member States as well as with previous surveys.

The characteristics were collected from agricultural and forestry holdings via a questionnaire, or were covered by administrative data, where available (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Data sources of the 2016 Farm Structure Survey



Source: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Farm Structure Survey.

According to Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008, the use of data from the Integrated Administration and Control System, from the System for the Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals, the organic farming registers and data concerning rural development measures was permitted. In addition, Austria requested the use of data from the Veterinary Information System (VIS).

The FSS 2016 was conducted as a sample survey exclusively by means of an electronic questionnaire (eQuest).

The population consisted of active agricultural and forestry units that meet the survey criteria (thresholds). The selection framework was the Agricultural and Forestry Register, which is continuously updated both on the basis of information from various primary agricultural statistical surveys and with various administrative data (subsidy applications etc.).

In the FSS, the production potential in agriculture and forestry was to be surveyed. The definition of holdings was thus essentially based on the performance of agricultural and forestry activities, whereby the mere fact of belonging to NACE section A (agriculture, forestry and fishing) was not decisive. All agricultural and forestry holdings meeting the survey criteria relevant for the FSS were to be covered, regardless of whether the holdings in question carried out these activities as their main or secondary occupation. In contrast to various economic statistics, the information was to be provided only for the agricultural and forestry part and includes primary and secondary activities (main and secondary activities) equally.

The spatial allocation of farms was largely based on their actual location, in accordance with Eurostat specifications. In most cases, this was the address of the main holding or, in the absence of an addressable object (e.g. in the case of common land units, mountain pastures or forest holdings), the location of the most important/largest parcel of land.

Although the FSS 2016 in Austria was launched very late in the year (survey reference date October 31), Statistics Austria is among the national statistical offices in Europe that fulfill their obligation to supply Eurostat with the required quality the earliest. The decision in favor of a later survey date and thus a later start of the survey was motivated by the need to make the best possible use of administrative data and thus to minimize the burden on respondents.

On the one hand, the IACS data and VIS livestock data integrated in the electronic questionnaire (eQuest) are only available in the corresponding quality in autumn. On the other hand, it is assumed that the willingness of farmers to provide information is higher at this time of the year due to lower peak workloads.

Farm Structure Survey 2016 – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Farm Structure Survey (FSS 2016): Survey of the farm structure of agricultural and forestry holdings.
Population	Agricultural and forestry holdings (according to the agricultural and forestry register) that meet the survey criteria applicable to the FSS; 162 018 holdings in the extrapolated result.
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey (sample survey of 30 000 units), using administrative data.
Data sources/Survey techniques	eQuest questionnaire with partially prefilled data from administrative data sources (IACS including ÖPUL, cattle database, VIS). Administrative data merged after the survey (rural development support measures). For the publication of the national results, the following additional sources are used: Allocation of mountain farmers (AMA or BML) and delimitation of less favoured areas (BML).
Reference period or due day	Reference dates: 2016-04-01 Livestock characteristics; 2016-05-15 tenure characteristics; 2016-10-31 all other survey characteristics. Reference periods: 2015-11-01 to 2016-10-31: labor force, secondary activities; 2015-10-01 to 2016-09-30: land, irrigation, soil management, farm manure; 2014-01-01 to 2016-12-31: rural development support measures; 2016-01-01 to 2016-12-31:6 livestock characteristics, if a livestock holding does not have an animal of the species held on the reference day of 2016-04-01.
Periodicity	2003, 2005, 2007, 2013, 2016, 2023, 2026
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	mandatory
Main legal acts	Regulation EC No 1166/2008, (EC) No 715/2014, (EU) No 1391/2015. Regulation (BGBl. II No 243/2016) on the basis of the Federal Statistics Act 2000, BGBl. I No 163/1999, as last amended by BGBl. I No 136/2001, BGBl. I No 71/2003, BGBl. I No 92/2007, BGBl. I No 125/2009, BGBl. I No. 111/2010 and BGBl. I No 40/2014.
Most detailed regional breakdown	Federal provinces (NUTS2)
Availability of results	Preliminary data: t + 6 months Final data: t + 12 months (EU micro data) t + 12 months (key figures national) t + 14 months (publication national)
Other	All agricultural and forestry holdings that fulfilled the survey criteria relevant for the FSS were to be covered, regardless of whether the holdings carried out agricultural and forestry activities as their main or secondary activity.