

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Farm Structure Survey Census 2020

This documentation is valid from/for the reference period/due day:
2020-03-01

Status: **09. January 2024**



STATISTICS AUSTRIA
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13
Phone: +43 1 711 28-0
www.statistik.at

**Directorate Spatial Statistics
Organizational unit Agriculture and Forestry, VIS**

Contact person:
Martina Dötzl
Phone: +43 1 711 28-7344
E-Mail: martina.doetzl@statistik.gv.at

Contact person:
DI Stefan Peyr
Tel.: +43 1 711 28-7532
E-Mail: stefan.peyr@statistik.gv.at

Executive Summary

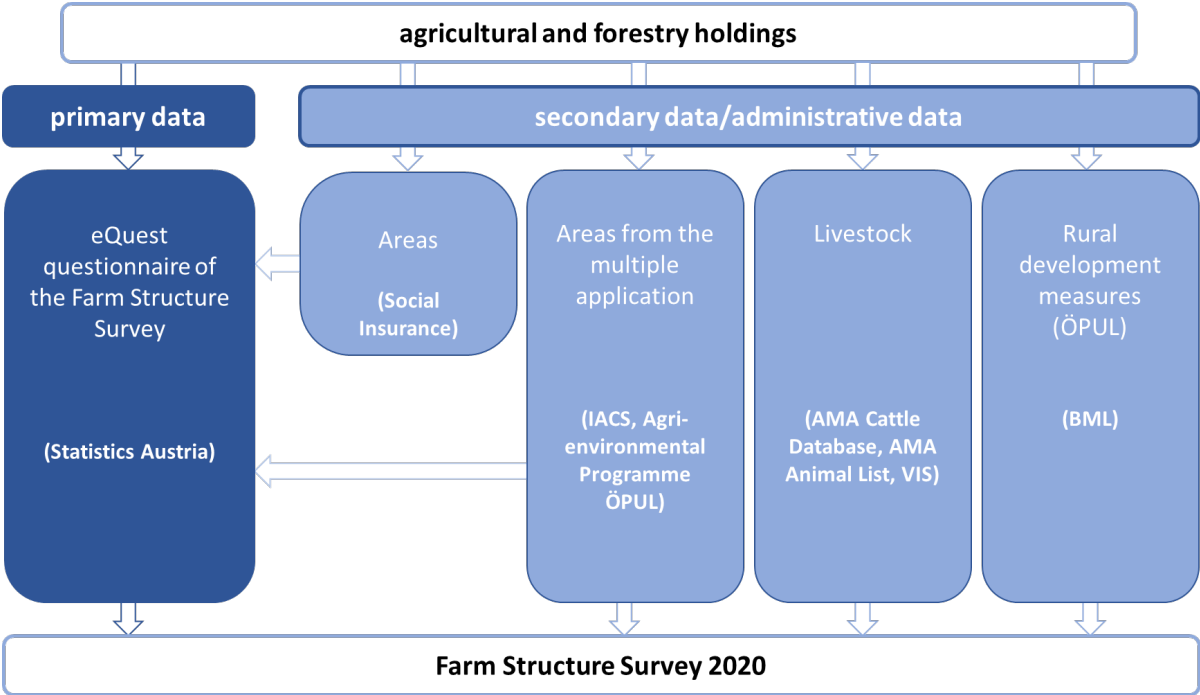
The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) provides important information on the structure of agricultural and forestry holdings and gives an overview of the development of structural change in agriculture and forestry at both national and European level. Based on EU legislation, the FSS is currently carried out every 10 years as a full survey (most recently in 2010 and 2020) and as a sample survey at regular intervals in between (most recently in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2013 and 2016; in future in 2023 and 2026). 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 2020 with the topics tenure, land use, livestock, organic farming, labour force and secondary activities, use of support measures for rural development, animal housing and manure management, reliability of energy supply and other farm-specific information. The topics are determined by the applicable EU legal basis and are primarily based on the needs of the European Commission, taking into account comparability between the Member States.

The reference dates were: April 1, 2020 with regard to livestock characteristics, May 15, 2020 with regard to ownership and allocation to less favoured areas and March 1, 2020 with regard to all other survey characteristics. Deviating from this, the reference period was: 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020 with regard to rural development support measures and the calendar year 2020 with regard to farm management, labour force, organic farming, participation in the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), land, animal housing and manure management as well as livestock, if a livestock holding does not have an animal of the livestock species held on the reference date of 1 April 2020.

The characteristics were collected from agricultural and forestry holdings via a questionnaire or were covered by administrative data, where available - as has been the case since 1997 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 Data sources of the 2020 Farm Structure Survey



S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

According to the Federal Statistics Act 2000, there is a fundamental obligation to use administrative data. According to Regulation (EU) 2018/1091, already proven data sources (Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), including the Austrian Program for the Promotion of Environmentally Sound, Extensive and Habitat-Protecting Agriculture (ÖPUL), the Cattle Database (RDB), the system for the identification and registration of sheep and goats, the vineyard register, information from the IACS/ÖPUL system relating to organic farms and funding data relating to rural development measures) can be used without separate application or provision of proof of quality. According to the applicable EU legal basis, the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) had to be informed of the use of other data sources in the year before the reference year, providing details on the quality of the planned data source. This option was used by Austria for the data from the Veterinary Information System (VIS) and the Social Insurance Institution for the Self-Employed (SVS). The Farm Structure Survey 2020 was conducted as a census exclusively by means of an electronic questionnaire (eQuest-Web).

The population consisted of active agricultural and forestry business units that meet the survey criteria (thresholds). While in the European Union only agricultural holdings are of interest, in Austria, based on the national implementing ordinance, holdings with forestry land are also taken into account - due to the economic importance of the forest. 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 mere fact of belonging to NACE Section A (Agriculture, forestry and fishing) alone is 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 (such as the structural business statistics), the information was only to be provided for the agricultural and forestry part and included primary and secondary activities (main and secondary activities) equally. In other words: in the FSS, only the agricultural and forestry part and the associated characteristics were taken into account; there was no further allocation based on NACE-activities as in the economic statistics.

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 farm or, in the absence of an addressable object (e.g. in the case of alpine pastures or forest enterprises), the location of the most important parcel of land in terms of size or economic importance.

It should not go unmentioned that despite the COVID-related adversities (start of the field phase in the first lockdown, delay in the multiple application (MFA) campaign by Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA) and chambers of agriculture, difficulty in maintaining a regulated hotline operation during the lockdowns, etc.), the deadline for data delivery to Eurostat (March 31, 2022) was met.