

### People – 515,000 farms in France in 2010

The structure of French agriculture is changing: the number of farms is decreasing and farming is happening more on larger farms. In France, this process began a long time ago, in the middle of the XIX Century, as is the case for the majority of European countries. However, the real turning point was at the beginning of the 1960s when a modern agricultural policy was developed, first nationally and then at European level. This marked the beginning of modernising the agricultural sector and led to a decrease in the number of farms.

According to the 2010 agricultural census, there were 515,000 farms in France (mainland and overseas departments), compared to 665,000 in 2000. Today, these long-term demographic changes are continuing and it does not seem that they will end soon. The 2010 agricultural census did in fact reveal that, in certain regions in France, only 40% of farmers over the age of 50 (who were therefore expected to retire within the next 10 years) knew of a young farmer to take on their farm.

#### Jobs in agriculture in 2010 (1000 UTA)

France	849
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>11 116</b>
Rumania	2 087
Poland	2 164
Italy	1 177
Spain	924
Germany	555

(Source : Eurostat)

#### French working population in 2010

Active population	29
Agriculture	1
Industry	6
Services (excluding public admini)	10

(Source : Eurostat)

### Territory – 16% of the European Union's farmland

France has almost 27 million hectares of arable land, which is just under half the total surface area of the country. Arable land situated on either side of the 45th parallel north latitude line provides ideal conditions for a wide variety in production.

#### Average size in 2010 (ha)

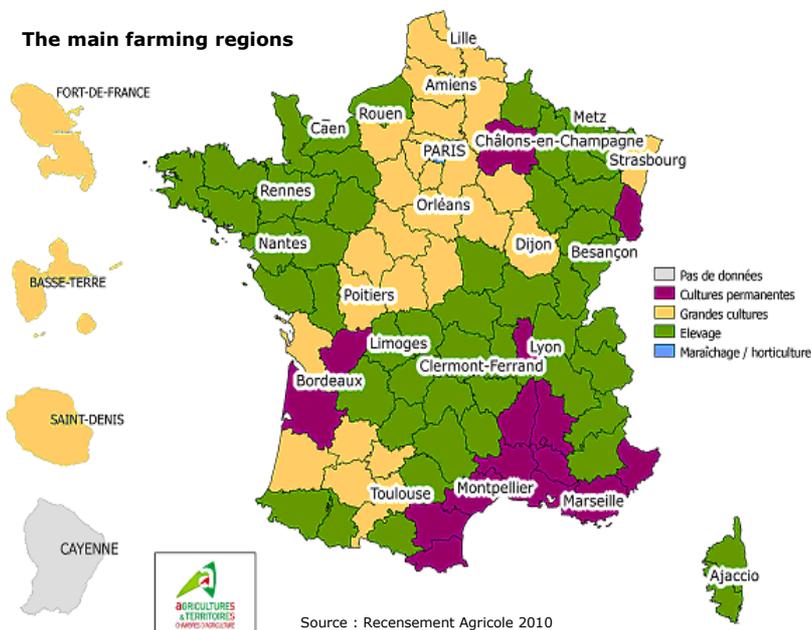
France	52,6
EU 25	19,6
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>14,1</b>
Czech Republic	152,1
Denmark	64,6
United Kingdom	78,6

#### Surface area in 2010 (1 000 hectares)

UAA France	27 090
UAA Spain	23 753
UAA Germany	16 704
UAA United Kingdom	15 918
UAA EU 25	153 108
<b>UAA EU 27</b>	<b>170 027</b>
Total area France	63 283
Total area EU 25	405 421
Total area EU 27	440 077

(Source : Eurostat)

#### The main farming regions



## Businesses– More than 500,000 small units, mainly family-run

Economic activity in France is predominantly carried out by a small number of large businesses, whereas agriculture remains an industry made up of small, mainly family-run businesses. On most French farms, the head of the farm works alone with occasional help from employees or family members. On average, French farms use 1.5 work units. However, cooperative structures are growing in number and in 2010 covered 46% of annual working units (AWU). Although there are more and more non-family members in the permanent work force, they still only represent 16% of all farm workers (compared to 10% in 2000). SMEs provide another key source of employment in France and across Europe, and agriculture contributes greatly to this sector of the economy as well.

Number of farms in 2010 (in thousand)

France	515
EU 25	7 826
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>12 054</b>
Romania	3 856
Poland	1 506
Italy	1 630

( Source : Eurostat)

## Production – Main country for agricultural production in the European Union

In 2010 the European Union produced 331 billion Euros of raw agricultural produce (non-processed). France contributed 18.5% of this, with production amounting to 61 billion Euros. Overall, France is the largest European agricultural producer, even though this position varies depending on the product. Other large producer countries in the EU are Germany (13% of European production), Spain and Italy (12% of European production each).

France's share and rank in the EU 25 agricultural production (in 2010)

Wheat and spelt	29 %	1 st
Grain maize	27 %	1 st
Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	26 %	1 st
Fruits	14 %	3 rd
Fresh vegetables	11 %	3 rd
Wine	54 %	1 st
Cattle	26 %	1 st
Pigs	9 %	3 rd
Poultry	18 %	1 st
Milk	16 %	2 nd

(Source : Eurostat)

## External trade – Agri-food, a safe bet for France

Since the end of the 70s, external trade for France has been a surplus industry. Although this surplus fell in 2009 because of the crisis and the severe decrease in global trade, it picked up again in 2010 (+8 billion Euros) and is expected to be even higher in 2011 (around +11 billion Euros). The agri-food sector is key for French exports (10 to 20% of all French exports). The main areas are: wine and drinks, cereals and dairy produce.

France's foreign trade balance in 2010 (billion €)

Agri-food products	8
Energy	-48,0
Industry	-23,0
Total FOB/FOB	-51,5

(Source : French Customs, INSEE)

## Agricultural income: lack of growth for agricultural activity in France

French agriculture has undergone many changes over the past few years, as shown by the extreme fluctuations in average farm income<sup>1</sup>. This is not however merely a short-term problem, rather a medium-term downward trend and agricultural income has been decreasing since 1998. In terms of growth, agricultural income is not increasing at the same rate as the rest of the French economy (cf the graph showing disposable income per inhabitant).

<sup>1</sup> The agricultural income shown on the graph indicates the average income earned on one farm for agricultural production. It does not show agricultural household income

