

Performance of the agricultural sector

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in 29 April 2026
Planned article update: 6 November 2026*

Highlights

The EU's agricultural industry created an estimated gross value added of € 251.8 billion in 2025.

Agriculture contributed 1.3% to the EU's GDP in 2025.

Agricultural income per annual work unit is estimated to have risen for the EU as a whole in 2025 (+9.2%), to a level that was 30.8% higher than the index level in 2015.

This article gives an overview of the economic and resource performance of agriculture in the [European Union \(EU\)](#). It uses indicators on agricultural output, agricultural income and agricultural prices in the EU for economic performance and indicators on agricultural output and intermediate consumption for resource performance. The data are extracted from [Eurostat](#) collections of agricultural statistics: [economic accounts for agriculture \(EAA\)](#), agricultural price indices (API) and agri-environmental indicators (AEIs).

Value of agricultural output

Agriculture is an activity that falls within the primary sector of the economy, which is concerned with the extraction or harvesting of products from the earth. In an accounting context, an industry is a branch of economic activity. The term 'agricultural industry' is used to describe the branch of agricultural production, but it should not be understood as inferring that agriculture is industrialised or that it is about the processing of raw materials.

In this article, the term 'agricultural industry' is used only where precise accounting terms are required, with 'agricultural sector' being used elsewhere.

Agriculture contributed 1.3% to the EU's GDP in 2025, about the same share as 15 years earlier.

Agricultural production by the millions of mainly small farms across the EU forms a major economic sector, even before accounting for its role as the key building block of the downstream food and beverage processing industry. The agricultural sector contributed an estimated € 246.9 billion towards the EU's overall GDP in 2025. To put this in some context, the contribution of agriculture to the EU's economy was very similar to the GDP of Greece in 2025, the 16th largest economy among the EU countries.

This contribution (gross value added at producer prices, which is comparable to GDP at market prices), is the difference between the value of agricultural output and the value of various input costs built up in the production process, adjusted for taxes and subsidies on products. It is therefore interesting to look at the structure and composition of the value of agricultural production and the various inputs used.

The agricultural industry created added value of € 251.8 billion in 2025

The [gross value added](#) by the EU's agricultural industry, which is the difference between the value of everything that

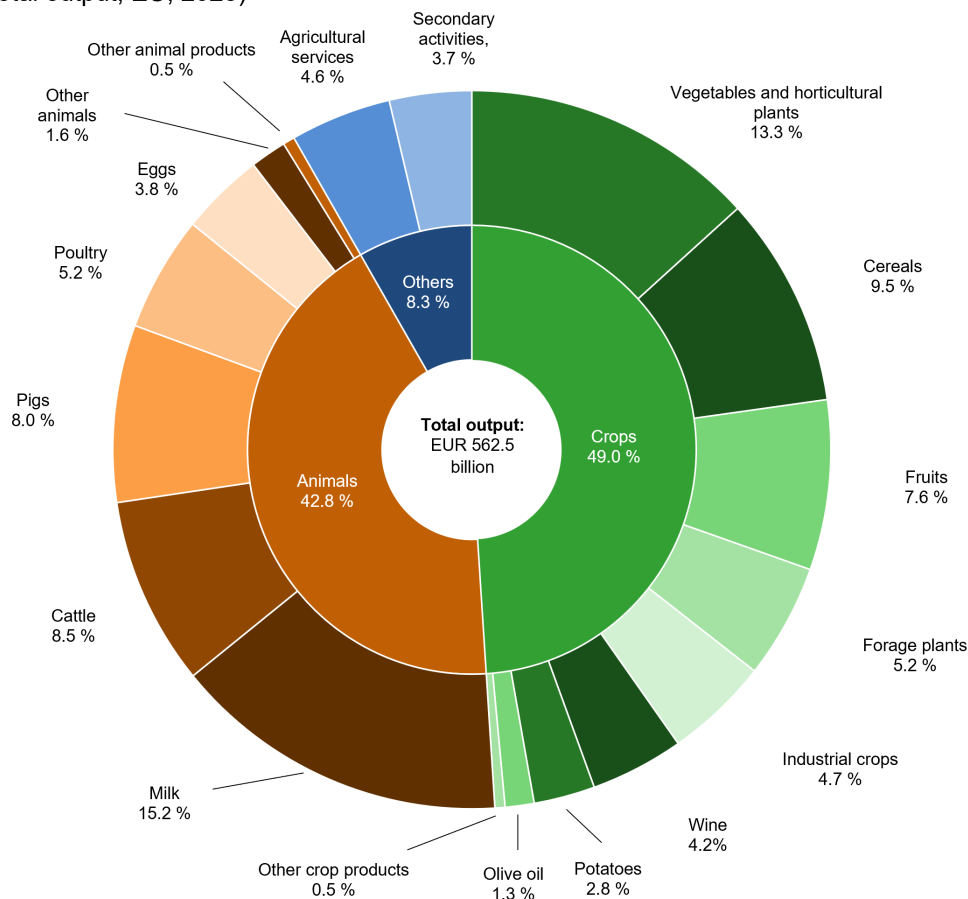
the EU's primary agricultural sector produced and the costs of the services and goods used in the production process, was an estimated € 251.8 billion in 2025. One way of looking at this is that for every € 1 spent on the cost of goods and services used in the production process (known as intermediate consumption), the EU's agricultural industry created added value of € 0.81. This relative value added increased sharply in 2025 and was higher than the medium-term high of € 0.77 in 2017.

The value of the output produced by the EU's agricultural industry was € 562.5 billion in 2025

The value of everything that the EU's agricultural industry produced in 2025 was an estimated € 562.5 billion; this includes the value of crops, of animals, of agricultural services, as well as some goods and services that were not strictly agricultural, but which could not be separately measured.

Almost half (49.0%) of the estimated value of the total output of the EU's agricultural industry in 2025 came from crops (€ 275.5 billion), within which vegetables and horticultural plants, and cereals were the most valuable crops (see Figure 1). Slightly more than two-fifths (42.8%) of total output came from animals and animal products (€ 240.6 billion), a majority coming from milk, cattle and pigs. Agricultural services (€ 25.6 billion) and inseparable non-agricultural activities (€ 20.8 billion) contributed the rest (8.3%).

Output of the agricultural industry (% of total output, EU, 2025)



Note: values at basic prices. Due to rounding, the aggregate shares for Crops, Animal and 'Others' do not add up to 100.0%.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa01)

eurostat 

Figure 1: Output of the agricultural industry Source: Eurostat (aact_eaa01)

Contributions from EU countries varied significantly, reflecting differences in volumes produced, prices received, as well as the mix of crops grown, animals reared, animal products collected, and services offered. A clear majority (56.4%) of the estimated total output value of the EU's agricultural industry came from the 'big 4' of France (€ 90.8 billion), Germany (€ 78.7 billion), Spain (€ 73.9 billion) and Italy (€ 73.6 billion). The next grouping of EU countries

was Poland (€ 45.5 billion), the Netherlands (€ 42.1 billion), and Romania (€ 23.4 billion). Three-quarters (76.1%) of the estimated total value of EU's agricultural output in 2025 came from these 7 EU countries.

Intermediate consumption for the EU's agricultural industry was € 310.8 billion in 2025

Producing all this output incurred costs. Farmers had to make purchases of goods and services to be used as inputs in the production process; they bought items like seeds, fertilisers, animal feedingstuffs and fuel for their tractors as well as veterinary services, among other things. Overall costs moderately increased in 2025 by 2.3% (driven by higher spending on feedingstuffs, fertilisers and energy and lubricants). These input costs are termed 'intermediate consumption' in an accounting context. Intermediate consumption for the agricultural industry is estimated to have been € 310.8 billion for the EU as a whole in 2025, some € 7.0 billion more than in 2022.

After the rapid increase in the overall price of goods and services consumed in agriculture in 2022 (+31.2%), and moderate decline in 2023 (-4.7%) and in 2024 (-6.1%), there was a slight increase in 2025 (0.4%). This increase in 2025 was driven by higher prices for fertilisers and soil improvers (+5.5%), veterinary expenses (+2.9%), maintenance of buildings (+2.3%) and maintenance of materials (+2.0%). Nevertheless, prices continued to decrease for energy and lubricants (-1.7%), seeds and planting stock (-1.4%) and animal feedingstuffs (-1.1%).

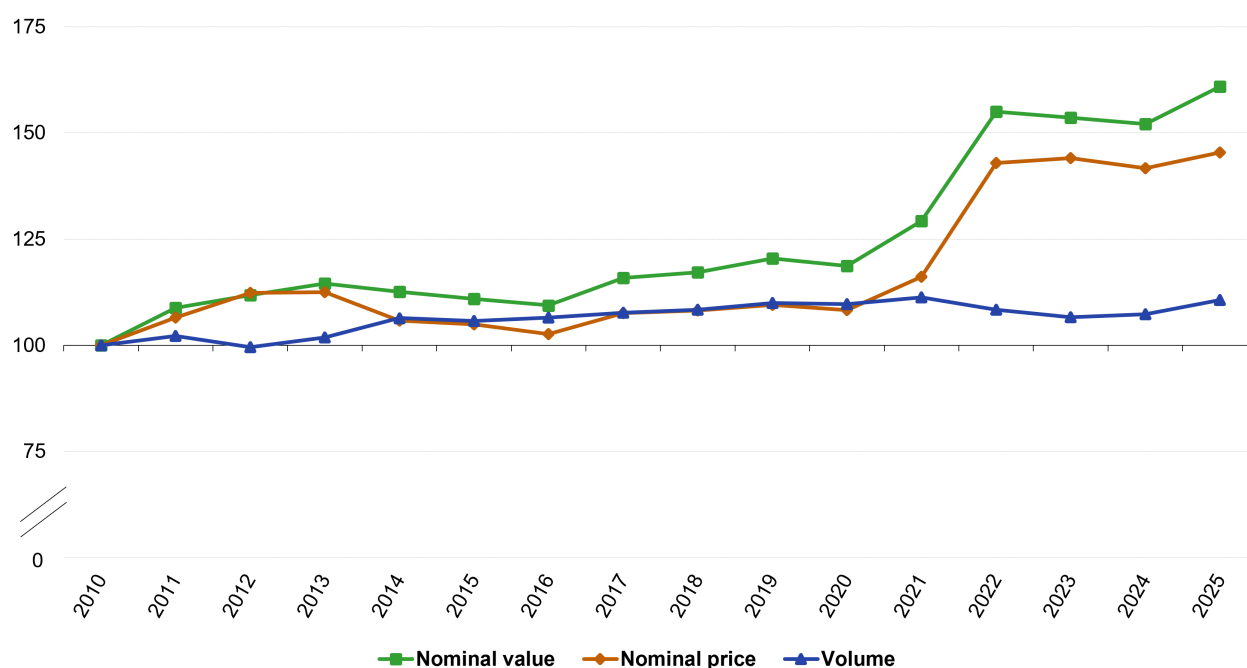
Some costs are associated with the farming of animals; they required feed. This accounted for an estimated 36.5% of total intermediate consumption, and veterinary services (a further 2.3%). Likewise, some costs are associated with crop farming; farmers required seeds and plants (an estimated 5.2% of total costs) and many used plant protection products, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides (a further 4.7%) as well as fertilisers and soil improvers (an estimated 7.5%). Other costs are common to all types of farms, independent of whether specialist or mixed type.

The value of the output produced by the EU's agricultural industry increased in 2025 after a slight fall back that followed the peak recorded in 2022

In 2025, the estimated value of agricultural output was 5.8% more in nominal terms than in 2024, and 3.8% more than the peak value of output in 2022 (see Figure 2). The change in nominal value in 2025 reflected an increase in the volume of output (+3.1%) and in the nominal price for agricultural goods and services as a whole (+2.6%).

Developments in output of the agricultural industry

(2010 = 100, basic prices, EU, 2010-2025)



Note: indices originally compiled with n-1 = 100; chain linked to reference year 2010 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa05)

eurostat 

Figure 2: Developments in output of the agricultural industry Source: Eurostat (aact_eaa05)

The increase in the output value of the EU's agricultural industry in 2025 reflected stark contrasts among EU countries. The sharpest rates of rise in value were in Romania (+15.6%), Poland (+15.2%), Czechia (+12.6%), Ireland (+12.2%) and Estonia and Slovakia (both +11.9%). However, there were also slight declines in value in Malta (-0.7%), Greece (-2.5%) and Cyprus (-3.2%).

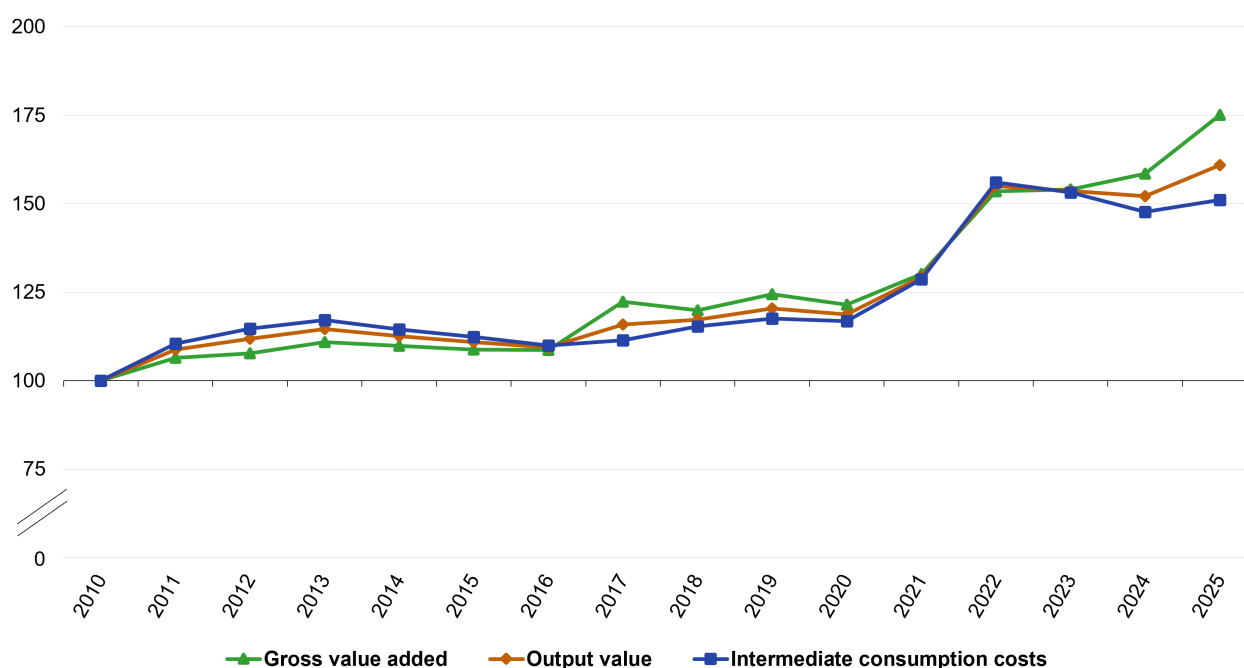
The gross value added generated by the EU's agricultural industry in 2025 continued its upward trend

In 2025, the gross value added generated by the EU's agricultural industry increased by 10.5% compared to the level in 2024. This resulted from the value of agricultural output rising at a faster rate (+5.8%) than the value of intermediate goods and services (+2.3%).

This increase in gross value added continued the upward trend since 2010.

Developments in output and consumption of the agricultural industry

(2010 = 100, basic prices, EU, 2010-2025)



Note: indices originally compiled with n-1 = 100; chain linked to reference year 2010 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa05)

eurostat 

Figure 3: Developments in output and consumption of the agricultural industry Source: Eurostat (aact_eaa05)

Agricultural labour productivity

The economic performance of the agricultural industry can be measured in terms of net value added at factor cost, which is gross value added adjusted for the consumption of fixed capital and subsidies and taxes on production. It is also known as factor income, as it is the remuneration available for all the factors of production (land, capital and labour).

Factor income in the EAA can be expressed per full-time labour equivalent. As such, it is considered a partial labour productivity measure; it is a measure of the net value added by the equivalent of each full-time worker in the agricultural industry. This productivity indicator is measured in real terms (adjusted for inflation) and expressed as an index (called Indicator A). It should not be confused with total income of farming households or the income of a person working in agriculture.

To understand the development of this agricultural income measure, it is first necessary to understand the development of the agricultural labour amongst which this remuneration is notionally shared. With so much part-time, seasonal and unsalaried labour input in agriculture, the amount of work actually carried out in farming activities is best described when using a unit called the annual work unit (AWU). This unit expresses the volume of work done in full-time work equivalents.

Downward trend in the volume of agricultural labour in the EU continued in 2025

Agricultural labour input in the EU was the equivalent of 7.4 million full-time workers in 2025. A majority of total agricultural labour input is non-salaried labour; it was the equivalent of 5.0 million full-time workers in 2025. Salaried labour was the equivalent of 2.3 million full-time workers.

There is a long-established downward trend in the number of people working in the EU's agricultural sector. During the period between 2010 and 2025, there was a loss equivalent to 3.0 million full-time workers across the EU, corresponding to an annual average rate of decline of 2.3% per year. The downward trend continued in 2025 by

2.2%.

Less total agricultural labour input was used in most EU countries in 2025 than in the preceding year, with particularly stark and renewed contractions in Romania (-11.7%) and Lithuania (-10.6%). By contrast, there were some countries where the volume of labour used in 2025 was estimated to have been higher; the strongest upturn was in Spain (+2.0%), with smaller rates of increase in Croatia (+1.0%), Cyprus (+0.9%), Ireland (+0.5%) and Malta (+0.4%).

In a few EU countries, particularly Spain, Cyprus and Ireland, more salaried agricultural labour was used in 2025 than in 2024 (see Figure 4), in part reflecting an increase in hiring requirements at seasonal peaks. In Romania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Italy, France, Bulgaria, Greece, Austria and Sweden, the greater amounts of salaried labour input contrasted with the overall decline in the total amount of agricultural labour used.

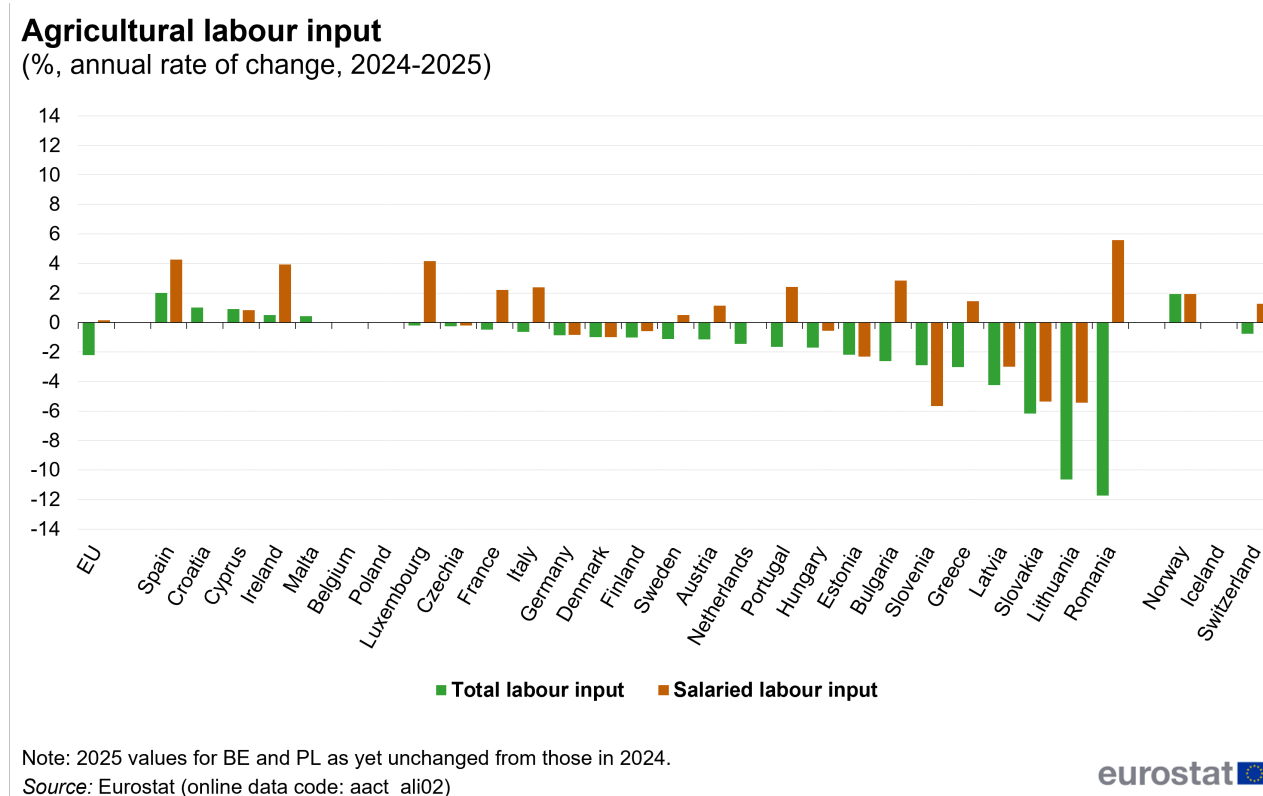


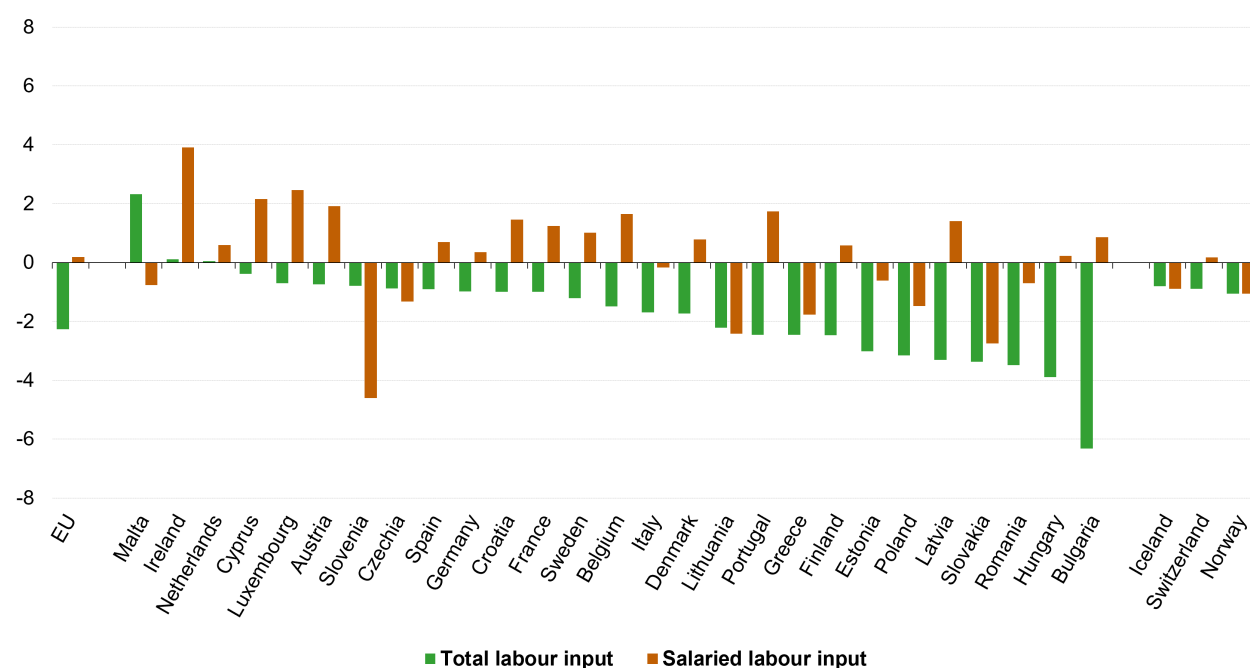
Figure 4: Agricultural labour input Source: Eurostat (aact_ali02)

Over the long-term, the amount of agricultural labour used has been in steady decline

Total agricultural labour input declined sharply in almost all EU countries during the 15-year period between 2010 and 2025 (see Figure 5); the sharpest rates of decline were in Bulgaria (an average -6.3% per year), Hungary (-3.9% per year), Romania (-3.5% per year), Slovakia (-3.4% per year), Latvia (-3.3% per year) and Poland (-3.2% per year). This contraction in the agricultural labour force reflected both push and pull factors; there have been great strides in mechanisation and efficiency on the one hand and, on the other, a wider choice of attractive job opportunities in other sectors of the economy. The main exception to this general trend was Malta (+2.3% per year on average).

Agricultural labour input

(%, average annual rate of change, 2010-2025)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_ali02)

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Figure 5: Agricultural labour input Source: Eurostat (aact_ali02)

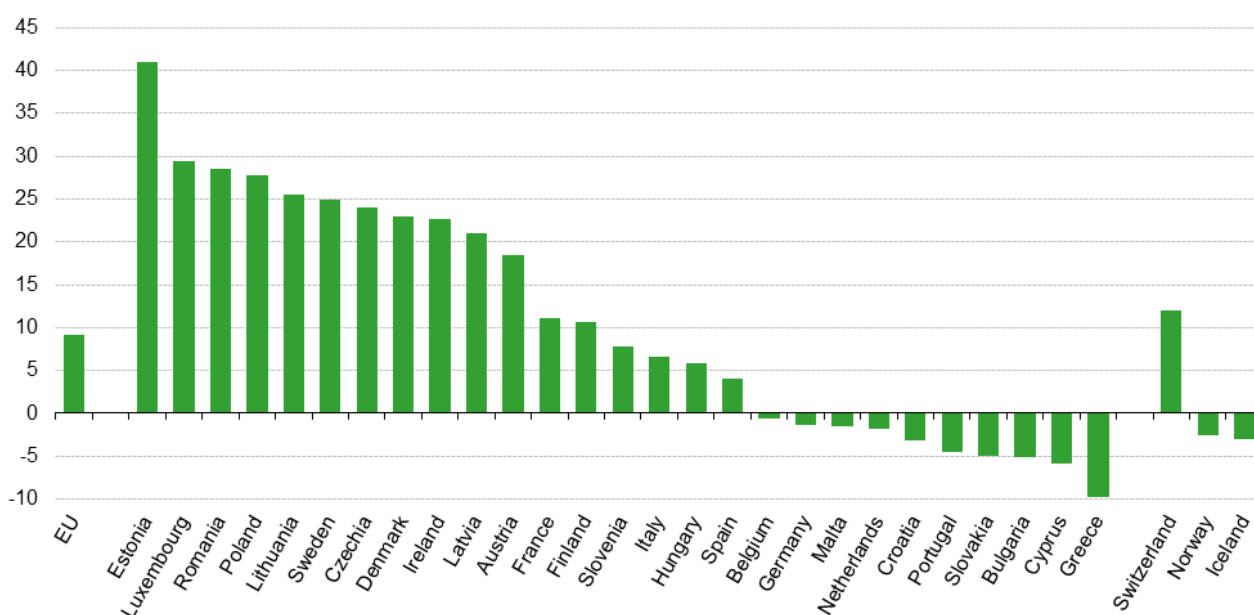
The contraction in the EU's total work input from non-salaried labour between 2010 and 2025 (-3.1% per year on average) contrasted with the slight increase in EU's work input from salaried labour (+0.2% per year on average). Over this period, there was growth in the use of salaried labour input in Ireland (+3.9% per year on average), Luxembourg (+2.5% per year on average), Cyprus (+2.2% per year on average), Austria (+1.9% per year on average), Portugal and Belgium (both +1.7% per year on average), among other EU countries. By contrast, there were relatively sharp contractions in the use of salaried labour input in Slovenia (-4.6% per year on average), Slovakia (-2.8% per year on average), Lithuania (-2.4% per year on average) and Greece (-1.8% per year on average).

Agricultural income as defined by real factor income per AWU increased for the EU as a whole in 2025 (an estimated +9.2%)

Agricultural income, as defined by deflated (real) factor income per AWU and expressed as an index (called indicator A), for the EU as a whole in 2025 was an estimated 9.2% higher than in 2024. This reflected a higher level of factor income compared with 2024 (+6.8%) and a smaller total agricultural labour input (-2.2%).

A majority of EU countries estimated increases in this index of agricultural income per AWU in 2025 (see Figure 6), underpinning the overall rise at the level of the EU as a whole. The sharpest rates of increase were in Estonia (+41.0%), Luxembourg (+29.5%), Romania (+28.5%), Poland (+27.8%) and Lithuania (+25.6%). As well as Romania and Poland, the index also increased in another 3 of the 7 biggest agricultural producing EU countries: France (+11.1%), Italy (+6.6%), Spain (+4.1%). Of the smaller number of EU countries where this index of agricultural income decreased in 2025, the sharpest rates were in Greece (-9.7%), Cyprus (-5.9%) and Bulgaria (-5.1%).

Agricultural income per annual work unit (Indicator A) (%, rate of change, 2024-2025)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa06)

eurostat 

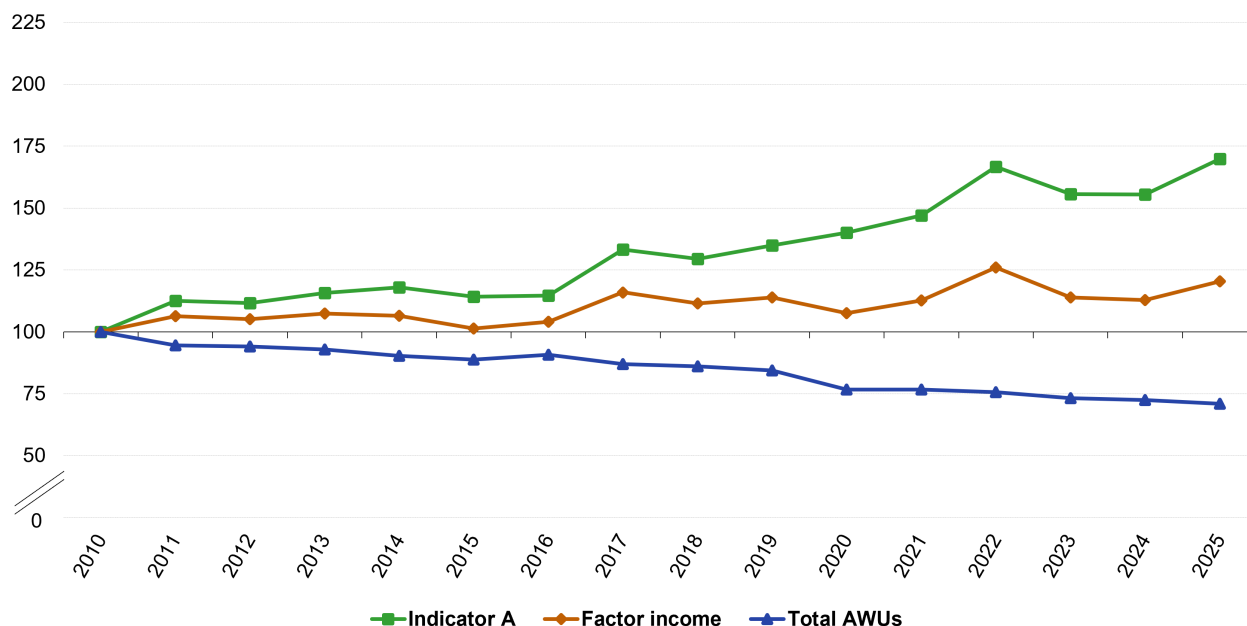
Figure 6: Agricultural income per annual work unit (Indicator A) Source: Eurostat (aact_eaa06)

2025 estimates confirm the upward trend in the index of agricultural income for the EU

Agricultural income per AWU for the EU as a whole is estimated to have risen in 2025 (+9.2%), reaffirming the upward trend since 2010 (see Figure 7).

Over the period, this upward development reflected growth in factor income accompanied by a continuing contraction in agricultural labour input. Agricultural income per AWU for the EU as a whole was an estimated 69.8% higher in 2025 than 15 years previously in 2010. Over the same period, factor income was an estimated 20.4% higher but agricultural labour input had shrunk by an estimated 29.1%.

Agricultural income per annual work unit (Indicator A) and key components (2010 = 100, EU, 2010-2025)



Note: indices originally compiled with n-1 = 100; chain linked to reference year 2010 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: aact_eaa06, aact_eaa05, and aact_ali02)

eurostat 

Figure 7: Agricultural income per annual work unit (Indicator A) and key components Source: Eurostat (aact_eaa06), (aact_eaa05) and (aact_ali02)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Download Excel file](#)

Data sources

The EAA are an extended account of the European system of accounts (ESA 2010). They cover the agricultural products and services produced over the accounting period sold by agricultural units, held in stocks on farms, or used for further processing by agricultural producers. The concepts of the EAA are adapted to the particular nature of the agricultural industry: for example, the EAA includes not only the production of grapes and olives but also the production of wine and olive oil by agricultural producers, if produced from own grapes and olives. It includes information on intra-unit consumption of crop products used in animal feed, as well as output accounted for by own account production of fixed capital goods and own final consumption of agricultural units.

The EAA comprises a production account, a generation of income account, an entrepreneurial income account and some elements of a capital account. For the production items, EU Member States transmit to Eurostat values at basic prices, as well as their components (values at producer prices, subsidies on products and taxes on products).

The output of agricultural activity includes output sold (including trade in agricultural goods and services between agricultural units), changes in stocks, output for own final use (own final consumption and own-account gross fixed capital formation), output produced for further processing by agricultural producers, as well as intra-unit consumption of livestock feed products. The output of the agricultural industry is made up of the sum of the output of agricultural products and of the goods and services produced in inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities; animal and crop output are the main product categories of agricultural output.

Three indicators are computed in relation to agricultural income

- an index of real income of factors in agricultural activity per AWU (Indicator A)

- an index of real net agricultural entrepreneurial income, per unpaid AWU (Indicator B)
- and the net entrepreneurial income of agriculture (Indicator C)

The information presented on agricultural income relates to indicator A (the real income of factors in agriculture per AWU). This indicator corresponds to the real (deflated) net value added at factor cost of agriculture per AWU and is expressed as an index. 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 adding the value of (other) subsidies less taxes on production.

Agricultural price statistics provide information on the development of producer (output) prices for agricultural products and purchaser prices for the means of agricultural production (the intermediate consumption of goods and services within the production process). Data on prices are available for single commodities and for larger aggregates in the form of absolute prices and price indices.

The index of producer prices for agricultural products is based on sales of agricultural products, while the input index (for intermediate goods and services) is based on purchases of the means of agricultural production. Prices should be recorded at points which are as close as possible to those of the transactions which the farmer actually undertakes. This means that product prices should be recorded at the first marketing stage to best indicate the actual producer prices received by farmers. Similarly, the prices paid by farmers for their means of production should be recorded at the last marketing stage, that at which the items arrive on the farm, to best indicate the purchase prices paid by farmers. It is assumed, by convention, that the fertilisers and feeding stuffs purchased are used in the same production period and that there are no stocks on farm.

As regards spatial comparisons, the structure of the weights with respect to products and means of production reflect the value of the sales and purchases in each country during the previous year (currently 2020 = 100); the weights therefore differ from one country to another.

Context

The performance of the agricultural sector has traditionally been about how successful farming is in delivering primary agricultural products and services.

The European Commission's new [Vision for agriculture and food](#) aims to foster trust and dialogue across the entire chain. It aims to build an attractive agri-food sector, foster a competitive and resilient sector, provide the conditions for a future-proof sector, and focus on food, fair living and working condition in rural areas. The vision for agriculture and food aims to foster trust and dialogue across the entire chain. It aims to build an attractive agri-food sector, foster a competitive and resilient sector, provide the conditions for a future-proof sector, and focus on food, fair living and working conditions in rural areas.

Among other things, the vision looks to

- secure the future of farmers to make agriculture financially viable and fighting back unfair practices: attract incomes from multiple sources, foster a fairer position in the food chain to enable farmers to thrive and earn a fair revenue
- properly reward ecosystem services
- create opportunities for young people in rural areas: encourage future generations to choose agricultural careers, harness the agri-food sector's entrepreneurial potential for a new wave of innovative agri-food businesses
- develop resistance to geopolitical changes: diversify trade relations, create new export opportunities, pursue international partnerships
- ensure products all have the same standards: align standards for imported products to guarantee the EU's ambitious standards do not lead to a competitive disadvantage, fully enforce food safety as it remains a non-negotiable priority

- increase the resilience of the agri-food sector: innovate and maintain leadership in global markets, protect the interests of European farmers, and reduce critical import dependencies

Assessing the performance of the agricultural sector matters for a number of reasons

- farming is a cornerstone of the rural community, one on which a number of 'upstream' sectors (such as machinery, animal healthcare and input businesses) and 'downstream' sectors (such as food processing, packaging and transport businesses) depend
- farming is about providing a stable supply of safe, quality food
- farming has a key role to play in preserving landscapes and biodiversity
- farming has a key role to play in climate change action
- to support this, there is a need to ensure a fair income for farmers

Economic impacts on farmers therefore not only influence future farming business decisions but also wider ecological and environmental business decisions and behaviour.

The performance of the agricultural sector as a whole can be assessed by bringing the information about the volume and price changes for agricultural goods and services under the umbrella of an accounting structure. To this end, the economic accounts for agriculture (EAA) provide a set of comparable data that provide an insight into

- the economic viability of agriculture
- the income generated by farmers through agricultural activity
- the structure and composition of agricultural production and the inputs used in that production
- the relationships between prices and quantities of both outputs and inputs

Footnotes

Explore further

Other articles

- [Agricultural production — livestock and meat](#)
- [Agricultural production — crops](#)
- [The EU potato sector — statistics on production, prices and trade](#)
- [The fruit and vegetable sector in the EU — a statistical overview](#)

Database

- [Agriculture \(agri\)](#) , see:

Economic accounts for agriculture (aact)

Economic Accounts for Agriculture (aact_eaa)

Agricultural Labour Input Statistics (aact_ali)

Unit value statistics for agricultural products (aact_uv)

Agricultural prices and price indices (apri)

Selling prices of agricultural products (absolute prices), land prices and rents (apri_ap)

Price indices of agricultural products (apri_pi)

- [Agriculture \(t_agr\)](#) , see:

Economic accounts for agriculture (t_aact)

Agricultural prices and price indices (t_apri)

Thematic section

- [Agriculture](#)

Publications

- [Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics — 2024 edition](#) (statistical book)

Methodology

- [Absolute agricultural prices](#) (ESMS metadata file — apri_ap_esms)
- [Economic accounts for agriculture](#) (ESMS metadata file — apri_ap_esms)
- [Manual on the economic accounts for agriculture and forestry EAA/EAF 97 \(Rev. 1.1\)](#)
- [Price indices of agricultural products](#) (ESMS metadata file — apri_ap_esms)
- [Target methodology for agricultural labour input \(ALI\) statistics \(Rev. 1\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — aact_esms)

Legislation

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 138/2004](#) of 5 December 2003 concerning economic accounts for agriculture
- [Summaries of EU Legislation: Economic accounts for agriculture](#)

External links

- [European Commission — Agriculture and rural development — food, farming, fisheries](#)
- [European Commission — a European Green Deal](#)
- [European Commission — farm to fork strategy](#)