

## Euro-SDMX metadata structure (ESMS)

**Country:** Greece

**Domain name:** 2003 Farm Structure Survey

NSSG metadata
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1. Contact		<a href="#">Contents</a>
1.1 Contact organisation	National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG)	
1.2 Contact organisation unit	Structure of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings Statistics Section of the Primary Sector Statistics Division	
1.3 Contact name	Mrs V. Benaki	
1.4 Contact person function	Head of the Structure of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings Statistics Section	
1.5 Contact mail address	46, Pireos & Eponiton str., PO Box 80847, 18510 Piraeus, Greece.	
1.6 Contact e-mail address	<a href="mailto:vasbenaki@statistics.gr">vasbenaki@statistics.gr</a>	
1.7 Contact phone number	+302131352052	

<b>1.8 Contact fax number</b>	+302131352481
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<b>2. Metadata update</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>2.1 Metadata last update</b>	
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<b>2.3 Metadata last certified</b>	

<b>3. Statistical presentation</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>3.1 Data description</b>	
<p>The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) is a wide range, periodic statistical procedure aiming at the collection of objective and quantitative information for the determination of the basic characteristics of the structure of agricultural holdings in the country.</p> <p>This survey, traditionally, aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collecting information on the structure of the agricultural holdings and monitoring their development,</li> <li>• monitoring the evolution of the agricultural production and population, and</li> <li>• adapting the surveyed characteristics to the latest developments in the agricultural sector.</li> </ul> <p>The evolution of the farms structure is a key element for drafting the National and Common agricultural policy and therefore the collection of information and the compilation of time series for the characteristics of those farms is a necessity.</p> <p>In order to address this need, the EU has adopted a schedule of structural surveys including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a basic survey (full scope Agricultural Census - AC) every 10 years,</li> <li>• biennial sample based intermediate surveys between them</li> </ul> <p>Specifically, the FSS aims at the collection of statistical data relevant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of agriculture and livestock holdings at national, regional and local levels,</li> <li>• the characteristics of those holdings regarding their legal form, type of tenure, structure (type of crops, livestock and poultry, farming techniques, etc),</li> <li>• the methods of agricultural production.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.2 Classification system</b>	
<p>Typology is a classification system for the agricultural holdings. Detailed information on the typology systems can be found in EU legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission Decision (EEC) No 377/85 of 7 June 1985 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings</li> <li>• Commission Decision of 19 April 1988 fixing the agro-economic trend coefficient to be used for defining the European size unit in connection with the Community typology for agricultural holdings (88/284/EEC)</li> <li>• Commission Decision of 13 June 1996 amending Decision No 85/377/EEC establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (96/393/EC)</li> <li>• Commission Decision of 22 October 1999 amending Decision 85/377/EEC establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (1999/725/EC)</li> <li>• Commission Decision of 16 May 2003 amending Decision 85/377/EEC establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (2003/369/EC)</li> </ul>	
<b>3.3 Sector coverage</b>	
<p>The FSS covers at least 99% of the agricultural activity.</p>	
<b>3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions</b>	

The main purpose of the Structure Survey is to provide a common list of characteristics, which are studied on the basis of common rules and procedures, thus offering the possibility to make comparisons among the agricultural and livestock holdings all over the European Union. As a result, a complex volume of statistical data is compiled.

Both Structure Surveys and Agricultural-Livestock Censuses produce statistical information on specific targets set by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and at the same time they offer a basis for the compilation of statistical data on agriculture and agriculture labour force.

The full list of characteristics and their definitions are laid down by EU legislation.

The characteristics surveyed in the FSS are in compliance with the relevant Commission Decision. More specifically, during the FSS information is collected on:

- the number of agriculture and livestock holdings at national, regional and local level
- the geographical position of the holding,
- the legal form and management of the holding,
- the utilised agricultural area (arable crops, permanent crops, permanent pastures and meadows), other areas in the holding (woodland, unused barren grazing land, areas not cultivated for various reasons etc.),
- the type of tenure of the utilised agriculture area in the holding (owned, rented, jointly owned etc.),
- the number of parcels making up the holding's utilised agriculture area,
- the successive secondary crops, combined crops etc.,
- the livestock rearing,
- the holding's labour force,
- information of agro-environmental interest and information on the holding's multifunctional role,
- irrigation and other cultivation techniques.

Details about those characteristics can be found in Annex I of Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88.

Furthermore, there is classification system for the agricultural holdings, based on their techno-economic orientation (type) of farming and their economic size, referred to as Typology. Both of them are determined on the basis of the Standard Gross Margin (SGM).

Techno-economic orientation (type): refers to the typology of the agricultural holdings based on their production structure.

Economic size: is the SGM of the holding. This corresponds to the SGMs of each production sector of the holding.

### 3.5 Statistical population

The survey unit was an agricultural, livestock or mixed holding, whose owner:

- a) owns at least one (1) stremma (0.1 ha) of utilized agricultural area or at least half a stremma (0.05 ha) of greenhouses, regardless of the type of crop, the ownership of the land or the location, or
- b) breeds its own animals, namely: one (1) or more cows or two (2) or more other "large animals" of any type and age (oxen, horses, donkeys, mules), or five (5) or more "small animals" (sheep, goats, pigs) of any age and type, or fifty (50) or more poultry birds, or twenty (20) or more hives of "domestic" or "European" bees or five (5) or more ostriches.

Similarly, any mixed agricultural/livestock holding is also a survey unit.

### 3.6 Statistical population

The Sampling Frame, which was used in the 2003 FSS was the updated Register of Agricultural Holdings of the NSSG (henceforth Register) as this resulted from the 1999/2000 Agricultural Census. The Register of the NSSG is updated using information from other surveys conducted by the NSSG, such as the structural agricultural surveys (conducted every two years), the special annual agricultural surveys (orchard survey, surveys on areas under vine, cereals production, production other than cereals, pigs, cattle, sheep and goats livestock), as well as various administrative sources.

### 3.7 Reference area (geographical coverage)

The survey was conducted in all the Departments (NUTS 3) of Greece (50 Departments across Greece plus 4 in Attica).

### 3.8 Time coverage

The results of the 1999/2000 survey are available online. The results of previous surveys, from 1993 to 1997, are available, to all the interested parties, through the Library Section of the Statistical Information and Publications Division.

### 3.9 Base period

The 2003 FSS data have been processed with Standard gross margin (SGM) coefficients with base year the year 2000.

## 4. Unit of measure

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Two kinds of units are generally used: the units of measure for the characteristics (areas in stremma (0.1ha), livestock in heads, labour force in persons or AWU) and the number of agricultural holdings having this characteristic.

## 5. Reference period

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The reference period for the 2003 FSS data as regards crops, labour force and other characteristics was the cultivation period from 1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003. The reference date for the survey data, as regards livestock, was 1 November 2003.

## 6. Institutional mandate

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### 6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The National Statistical Service of Greece is an independent General Secretariat acting under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The main statute concerning the NSSG is the Legislative Decree 3627/16-11-56, as it has been modified from subsequent laws and provisions (Presidential Decree 224/10-7-86, Law 2392/9-4-96, Presidential Decree 226/8-9-2000).

The proclamation and duty delegation of the FSS 2003, as well as the details of implementation and processing, were determined in the joint decision 11994/Γ2-2213/31-10-2005 of the Ministers for Economic Affairs and Finance and the co-responsible Ministers of Internal Affairs and Agriculture.

The rules governing the farm structure surveys are laid down in a number of Council Regulations and Commission Regulations and Decisions, which are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. These documents contain the following information:

- Basic rules on organising the surveys FSS 2003 (Regulations (EEC) No 2467/96 and 571/88)
- List of characteristics that the Member States shall survey (Regulation (EC) 143/2002, Decisions (EC) No 377/98, 621/97, 170/96, 677/94, 156/93, Regulations (EEC) No 807/89, 571/88)
- Definitions of the characteristics (Regulation (EC) No 1444/2002, Decisions (EC) No 115/2000, 418/97, 170/96 and (EEC) No 651/89)
- Use of data sources other than statistical surveys (Decisions (EC) No 377/98, 621/97)
- Deadlines for transmission of FSS data (Regulations (EC) 68/2003, 714/1999, 407/97, Decisions (EEC)

No 502/93, 652/89)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification of holdings to their economic size and farm types (typology) (Decisions (EC) No 369/2003, 725/1999, 393/96, Decisions (EEC) No 284/88, 377/85).</li> </ul>
<b>6.2 Data sharing</b>
None.

<b>7. Confidentiality</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>7.1 Confidentiality policy</b>	
<p>Confidentiality policy is based on the Legislative Decree 3627/16-11-56, as amended by subsequent laws and provisions (Presidential Decree 224/10-7-86, Law 2392/9-4-96, Presidential Decree 226/8-9-2000)</p> <p>Furthermore, Council Regulation (CE) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 (OJ No L 52/1) and Council Regulation (EURATOM, EEC) no 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of the data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (OJ No L 151/ 1) stipulate the detailed rules used for receiving, processing and disseminating the confidential data.</p>	
<b>7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment</b>	
<p>Confidential are considered the cells where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of individual records used for the calculation of the cell is too small</li> <li>• the 2 individual records with the highest values represent at least 85% of the cell value.</li> </ul>	

<b>8. Release policy</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>8.1 Release calendar</b>	
<p>The release calendar adheres to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the legal and contractual deadlines for data transmission</li> <li>• the maximum time granted for validation</li> <li>• the extra-time granted if necessary</li> </ul>	
<b>8.2 Access to release calendar</b>	
<p>The reference period for the 2003 FSS data as regards crops, labour force and other characteristics was the cultivation period from 1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003. The reference date as regards livestock data was 1 November 2003. The results were released in 2005.</p>	
<b>8.3 User access</b>	
<p>Data are disseminated simultaneously to all interested parties through the database updates and through Eurostat's website</p>	

<b>9. Frequency of dissemination</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<p>The frequency of dissemination is 10 years for the basic survey (Agriculture Census) and 2 years, in between, for the sample based surveys.</p>	

<b>10. Dissemination format</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>10.1 Press releases</b>	
No.	
<b>10.2 Publications</b>	
The results of the 2003 FSS have been published in the Year Book of 2005 and in a special publication (available in Greek).	
<b>10.3 On-line database</b>	
Results are available in a tabular form from NGGS website. (Also see section 10.5 Other).	
<b>10.4 Micro-data access</b>	
<b>10.5 Other</b>	
Users can be given data or other statistical analysis, after submitting an application to the Statistical Information and Publications Division, National Statistical Service of Greece, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 213-1352 311, Fax: (30) 213-1352 312, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.source@statistics.gr">data.source@statistics.gr</a> ).	

<b>11. Accessibility of documentation</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>11.1 Documentation on methodology</b>	
The survey methodology and the dissemination mode of the survey results are laid down by the NSSG, taking into consideration international practices, guidelines and rules set out by Eurostat on the specific statistical theme.	
<b>11.2 Quality documentation</b>	
The National Methodological Report is available upon request. Mail orders can be placed by writing to National Statistical Service of Greece, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 213-1352 311, Fax: (30) 213-1352 312, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.source@statistics.gr">data.source@statistics.gr</a> ).	

<b>12. Quality management</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>12.1 Quality assurance</b>	
Quality is ensured through the systematic data validation and the relevant national methodological assessment report.	
<b>12.2 Αξιολόγηση ποιότητας</b>	
<b>Phase1</b>	
During phase 1 the following works took place:	
1. Logical checks and completeness checks. At a first stage, the interviewers and then the assistant	

supervisors checked all the questionnaires for completeness and consistency.

2. Data entry. The data are checked automatically during data entry. Any errors are to be corrected either directly, or in a later stage, as soon as the correct answer is available.
3. Quality checks at the level of the Department (NUTS 3). The unified file was checked at the level of the Department in order to identify general errors, such as double recordings of holdings, etc. Moreover, quality checks were conducted to the aggregated data of the Departments. Quality checks aimed at ensuring quality both of the final file and the file at the level of the Department.

## Phase 2

The final file was checked at a central level for the following:

1. Validation of the individual files of the 54 Departments
2. Integration of data and creation of a unified Oracle Database.
3. Checks on the data of the Database
4. Identification of double recordings or multiple recording in the Database. A series of checks, similar to the checks conducted at the level of the Department, was conducted in the central Database which included all the data. In the cases where errors were found, there was a contact with the Regional Statistical Offices in order to validate the data or to correct the errors.
5. Quality checks of data. The results of the 2003 survey were compared with the results from other Agricultural Censuses and other surveys and with the available administrative data in order to identify the longitudinal trend and to assess the results over time.

## 13. Relevance

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### 13.1 User needs

A user is anybody using and analyzing statistical data relevant to Agriculture and the CAP: national and community experts involved in the drafting of the National and EU agricultural policy, researchers involved in agriculture and professional groups (media, unions).

### 13.2 User satisfaction

### 13.3 Completeness

A complete set of Tables displaying the results of the surveyed characteristics (see Annex I of Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 regarding relevant requirements).

## 14. Accuracy and reliability

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### 14.1 Overall accuracy

The initial sample included 92,196 agricultural and livestock holdings (sampling fraction = 11.3%) The size of the sample was defined taking into consideration economic criteria and criteria in terms of precision and more specifically:

1. At national level, the standard relative error for an arable crop must be less than 5% when this crop covers an area bigger than 1% of the total utilized area (at national level)
2. At national level, the standard relevant error for the number of cattle, pig, sheep, goat and poultry must be less than 3.5%.
3. At the level of the region (NUTS 2), the standard relative error for an arable crop must be less than

5%, when this specific crop covers an area bigger than 5% of the total utilized area at the level of the region, under the condition that the utilized agricultural area of this region (NUTS 2) is bigger than 5% of the total utilized area at national level.

At the level of the region (NUTS 2), the standard relevant error for the number animals of a specific species must be less than 8% when the animal units of the specific species are more than 10% of the total animal units of the region, under the condition that the animal units of the region are more than 5% of the total animal units at national level.

## 14.2 Sampling errors

The coefficients of variations (%) for the main survey characteristics are presented in the following table:

**Table 1: Sampling error expressed by the coefficient of variability - CV (%)**

Code	Variable	CV (%)	Code	Variable	CV (%)
A11	Utilized agricultural area	0,6	D14-D15	Fresh vegetables	1,6
D01	Common wheat and spelt	2,4	D18	Forage plants	1,7
D02	Durum wheat	1,1	G03	Olive plantations	0,5
D04	Barley	2,8	G04	Vineyards	1,1
D05	Oats	2,7	G04B	Vineyards -other wines	-
D06	Grain maize	1,3	G04C	Vineyards -table grapes	-
D01-D08	Cereals Total)	0,8	J02 - J08	Bovine	2,8
D09	Pulses (Total)	5,7	J11 - J13	Pigs	2,2
D11	Sugar beets	2,3	J09	Sheep	1,1
D23	Tobacco	1,3	J10	Goats	1,5
D25	Cotton	0,8			

## 14.3 Non sampling errors

The survey covered all the area of Greece and therefore there were no coverage errors, as regards areas or the population.

Due to the fact the NSSG Register included holdings that were no longer in operation, the initial sample was reduced by a small percentage. As a result, the sampling errors of the estimates of the surveyed characteristics have been inflated by a small percentage.

Errors in the classification of the holdings, due to the incomplete update of the Register, were detected and corrected from the sample data.

Measurement and processing errors were identified as extreme values and corrected through logical tests.

Within each stratum, non-responding holders were replaced by others with similar characteristics.

Non-sampling errors cannot be obtained from the sample data. However, comparisons of the survey results with the corresponding data from administrative sources (Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food), annual agricultural statistical survey, as well the livestock and the crop production statistics surveys have taken place to detect non-sampling errors. No statistically significant differences were observed, thus non-sampling errors were almost negligible.



<b>15. Timeliness and punctuality</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>15.1 Timeliness</b>	
Transmission deadline is 14 months after the end of the reference period (T). (T+14)	
<b>15.2 Punctuality</b>	
Delayed transmission due to strikes in NSSG.	

  

<b>16. Comparability</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>16.1 Geographical comparability</b>	
The main aim of the Farm Structure Surveys (FSS) is to provide a common list of characteristics, observed using common rules and procedures, thus ensuring that the results are harmonized and comparable geographically over the European Union.	
<b>16.2 Temporal comparability</b>	
All surveyed variables are comparable over time.	

  

<b>17. Coherence</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>17.1 Cross-domain coherence</b>	
<b>17.2 Internal coherence</b>	
The internal coherence of the data sets is guaranteed by a common set of validation rules and a common fixed definition of the variables and formulas.	

  

<b>18. Cost and burden</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
It is estimated that the 2003 FSS required about 45.000 workhours of NSSG personel.	

  

<b>19. Data revision</b>	<a href="#">Contents</a>
<b>19.1 Revision policy</b>	
The data are provisional when first released. The data become final as soon as they are checked and validated by NSSG as well as Eurostat.	
<b>19.2 Revision practice</b>	
In case errors are detected during some analysis, the data may be subject to revisions.	

## 20. Statistical processing

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### 20.1 Source data

The sampling method adopted by the NSSG for this survey was the one-stage stratified random sampling with sampling unit the agricultural, livestock or mixed holding. The final sample size was 92.196 holdings, corresponding to a percentage larger than 10% of the total holdings of the country. The stratification was based on the Department (NUTS 3), the Type (techno-economic orientation of production) and the Economic Size of the holding.

The variable used for the classification of the holdings according to their Economic Size of the holdings, limits and population was the Standard Gross Margin (SGM) of the holding. The value of SGM, combined with the Type of the holding, presents very high correlation to all the characteristics of the survey.

By stratifying the holdings according to the values of SGM in each geographical region (NUTS3) the Departments (NUTS3) and according to Type, there was no overlapping of the strata and the variance within the strata was much lower than the total variance, especially when there were several strata.

In each separate Region (NUTS 2), the distribution of the sample into the sampling strata was based on the Neyman allocation.

The sampling units were drawn randomly from the sampling frame. In each stratum the sample has been selected with equal probabilities by systematic random sampling from the population of holdings belonging to this stratum.

### 20.2 Frequency of data collection

The FSS is conducted every two years –in the period between censuses - in order to collect quantitative information relating to the structure of the farming sector.

### 20.3 Data collection

The data of the FSS were collected using a specially designed questionnaire. The questionnaire covered all the variables considered necessary for the formulation of agricultural policy and the assessment of development programmes. The questionnaire was designed and drawn up on the basis of consultations with the main users, (Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works), and co-responsible departments of the NSSG, (Divisions of Organization and Methodology, Informatics, Statistical Information and Publications and National Accounts).

Data collection for the FSS was carried out through personal interviews with the holders or the managers of the holdings by the Statistical Interviewers.

The Regional Statistical Offices (RSOs) were responsible for the data collection. The head of each RSO was in charge of organizing and coordinating the whole work of the survey in each Department. A team of officials of the RSOs (Assistant Supervisors) assisted the Supervisor. The Supervisor and the Assistant Supervisors trained the Interviewers, assigned the sampling units to them (40-50 holdings per Interviewer) and supervised their work.

The list of the sampling units was sent to each regional office by the central service of NSSG to the RSOs. Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors had to contact local administrations in order to update the list of farmers employing organic farming practices, and trace new holdings. Furthermore, the Statistical Interviewers had to contact local farmer organizations or administrations in order to update incorrect contact references.

Before the date of the interview, the Interviewers had a first contact with the farmers in order to arrange the interview date. The interviews generally took place in the holder's residence, although some interviews were conducted in municipality offices. The Interviewer conducted the interviews and completed the questionnaires with data provided by the holder. The time required to complete a questionnaire was about 25 minutes.

In the case the holder was absent, the Interviewer had to make a second visit or obtain the required information from another person, able to give accurate information about the holding i.e a member of the holder's family, or an employee of the holding.

In case of difficulties (non-response, permanent absence of the holder etc.) the original sample holding was replaced by a holding from the complementary sample according to the relevant rules given to Interviewers.

If a sample unit was found split in two or more holdings the Interviewer should fill in a questionnaire for each

new holding, apart from the one included in the original sample unit, reporting the new status of the previous holding.

The Interviewer had to report to his/her Assistant Supervisor every week about the process of his/hers work and to deliver the completed questionnaires.

The Assistant Supervisors gathered the completed questionnaires in order to check the quality of the data collected. They could correct wrong data using a red ink pen and sign each questionnaire at the last page.

If the completed questionnaires did not fulfill the requirements of the survey they were returned to the Interviewer to correct them.

#### **20.4 Data validation**

The system for processing the survey data is decentralized in the RSOs. The processing and checking of the data was carried out in two phases as described in section 12.2 above.

#### **20.5 Data compilation**

Additional interviews, mainly over telephone, were attempted in cases of incomplete or erroneous data.

Data imputation was used for handling missing or incorrect data items, based on correct answers in similar questions with the help of appropriate models.

Re-weighting was also used for handling non-responding holdings. The initial weights (inverse of probability selection) were re-defined by multiplying with the inverse response rate in each stratum.

A complementary sample was also drawn in order to replace holdings in the following cases:

- when the holding was sold/rented or merged with other holding,
- when the holding was temporarily closed (for no more than 6 months),
- when the holding changed location and the new location was outside the settlement where the holding was registered,
- when the holder was unknown and/or the sampling unit had been misclassified in the agricultural sector,
- when the holder refused to give the required information

#### **20.6 Adjustments**

### **21. Comments**

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