

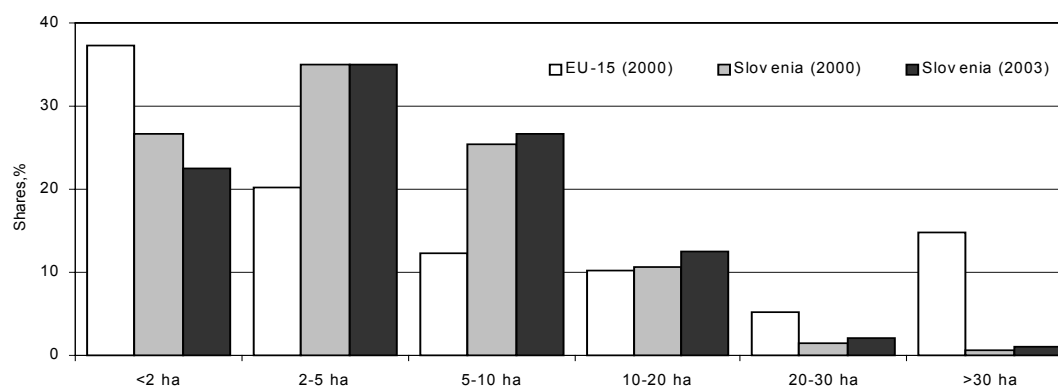
	2000 <sup>1</sup>		2003 <sup>2</sup>		2003/2000 % growth
	ha (thousand)	% share	ha (thousand)	% share	
<b>Utilised agricultural area</b>	486.2	100.0	481.0	100.0	-1.1
Arable land	170.8	35.1	162.1	33.7	-5.1
of which: - cereals	101.9	21.0	95.7	19.9	-6.0
- dried pulses	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	124.5
- root crops	18.9	3.9	12.9	2.7	-31.5
- industrial plants	4.1	0.8	7.4	1.5	78.5
- vegetables	2.5	0.5	3.1	0.6	23.1
- fodder from arable land	41.4	8.5	41.2	8.6	-0.5
Permanent grassland	285.4	58.7	290.3	60.3	1.7
Land under permanent crops	29.9	6.2	28.7	6.0	-4.1
<b>Livestock</b>	<b>No. (thousand)</b>		<b>No. (thousand)</b>		<b>% growth</b>
Cattle	499.5		478.1		-4.3
Pigs	602.0		607.9		1.0
Poultry	6,729.9		5,121.2		-23.9
Horses	14.4		16.9		17.0
Sheep and goats	125.4		148.1		18.1

Source of data: the SORS. Notes: <sup>1</sup> the complete census; <sup>2</sup> a sample survey covering 15,000 farms (provisional data).

According to the sample survey conducted in June this year, there are 77,145 **agricultural holdings** in Slovenia, i.e. family farms according to the EU criteria, agricultural enterprises, companies and co-operatives. Since 2000, when the complete census was conducted in Slovenia, the number has dropped by 9,322 or 10.8%. Agricultural holdings utilised a total of 481,034 ha of **agricultural land** (slightly less than a quarter of the national territory), just 1.1% less than in 2000 despite the relatively big fall in the number of holdings. The average size of an agricultural holding measured by utilised (rather than owned) agricultural area has increased over the last three years from 5.6 ha to 6.2 ha, or by a good one-tenth. The largest part is permanent grassland since the majority of agricultural area in Slovenia does not lend itself to agricultural production due to unfavourable geographical conditions. While the area of permanent grassland has increased over the last three years, arable land and land under permanent crops has shrunk. The land sown with cereals, Slovenia's most important crop, has fallen by 6% since 2000. As regards permanent crops, the area of orchards, mainly that of extensive orchard plantations, and vineyards has stayed unchanged, while the area of olive groves, otherwise small, has increased. Agricultural holdings are also expanding in terms of **livestock**; they have an average of 6.1 livestock units (calculated on the basis of weight: one livestock unit equals 600 kg), 10.9% more than in 2000. The number of sheep, horses and, to a lesser degree, pigs has also increased, while the number of beef and poultry, in particular, has dropped. Since the survey was conducted in June, it could not reveal any possible falls in the number of livestock units after this year's severe drought.

The **structure of agricultural holdings** is also improving in terms of size, which is highly important for increasing productivity in agriculture. Over half of all agricultural holdings still cultivate less than 5 ha of agricultural area, however, this figure has fallen by 17% since 2000, mainly in the category of farms using up to 2 ha of agricultural area (see graph). It is encouraging that large holdings are taking over the land of small holdings which have abandoned production. Consequently, the number of holdings cultivating more than 10 ha has climbed by 10%, the most in the category of farms utilising 30-100 ha of agricultural area, which is otherwise small in number. A comparison of the size of the average agricultural holding in Slovenia and the **EU-15** can only be made for 2000, the year when the census was conducted. The average Slovenian agricultural holding (5.6 ha) was over three times smaller than the respective one in the EU (18.7 ha, or as much as 31.4 ha if Greece, Italy and Portugal are excluded) as well as three times smaller than the average holding in Austria (17.0 ha) whose natural conditions for agriculture are similar to Slovenia's. This gap has narrowed over the last few years, however, Slovenia still has too many small and too few medium-sized agricultural holdings, while large ones are practically non-existent. In 2000, the category of farms cultivating over 30 ha comprised only 0.6%, those cultivating over 50 ha 0.2%, and those cultivating over 100 ha just 0.1% of all agricultural holdings (the respective figures for the EU were 14.7%, 8.9% and 3.5%) because holdings of this size are very large in view of Slovenia's geographical conditions.

Graph: **Agricultural holdings in Slovenia and the EU-15 by size**



Source of data: Eurostat New cronos, SORS.