

# AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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**Abstract:** *the article analyzes agricultural enterprises in the Czech Republic as a separate branch of the economy, which is often overlooked. The analysis for 2017 is presented, that is, the last one for which data are available. The author also tries to determine prospects for further development of the industry.*

**Keywords:** *Czech economy, Agricultural enterprises, Czech Republic, regional economy.*

The distribution of Czech agricultural holdings into individual classes of economic size is shown in Table 1.

*Table 1. Structure of the agricultural sector in the Czech Republic*

Size	Quantity	%
Small enterprises	13806	60,00%
Medium enterprises	7262	31,90%
Large enterprises	1671	7,30%

Source: Czech statistical office

For the purposes of this study, three basic groups of economic size were aggregated. Small size enterprises (economic size class I-V), medium size enterprises (economy class VI-IX) and large enterprises (economy class X-XIV) will be analyzed. In the Czech Republic, small farms with 61% of the highest representation, followed by medium-sized agricultural enterprises (32%), the largest group of large farms (7%). Within each class, the highest number of classes is the economy class III (4,109 subjects) followed by IV (3,504 subjects) and VI with 2,804 subjects. The smallest share belongs to size class XIV, which includes the 248 largest enterprises representing only 1% of all classified agricultural entities in the Czech Republic[1]. On the other hand, however, it should be noted that the core of the Czech agricultural production is concentrated within the group of large agricultural enterprises (economic size class X-XIV), which account for almost 65% of the agricultural land fund of the Czech Republic and account for more than 80% of the total number farmed livestock (converted to livestock units, LU). The protipol represents small agricultural entities, mostly enterprises of natural persons, which account for only 6% of the agricultural land of the Czech Republic with a share of 4% of the total number of farmed animals, as the most represented size group. The size structure of enterprises is different depending on the legal form of monitored intelligence units. Most enterprises of natural persons (68%) fall into the class of small economic size (I-V). On the contrary, the share of large enterprises of natural persons (1%) is very small. For legal entities, the situation is the opposite; almost half (48%) of these entities belong to the category of large enterprises. Approximately 37% of agricultural enterprises of legal entities were included in the medium size group, small legal entities then accounted for 15% of the total number of corporations of legal entities. Here, however, it should be noted that small businesses of legal entities are often subject to prague.

When evaluating agricultural holdings according to the regional distribution, it is obvious that the size structure within the monitored regions (with the exception of Prague) does not differ significantly[2, c. 3]. The proportions of the size groups of agricultural holdings in the regions surveyed are replicating national values. Higher share of small enterprises is managed in Zlínský (78%) and Liberec region (73%). Medium-sized agricultural holdings have the highest share in Central Bohemia (41%) and Ústí nad Labem (39%) in relative terms. The largest share of large enterprises is characterized by Olomouc Region (10%), Pardubice Region (9%) and Vysočina (9%). In absolute terms, there are the most small-sized enterprises in the South Moravian Region, where they manage 2 263 small farms, representing over 16% of all small-sized agricultural enterprises in the Czech Republic. Most large and medium-sized farms are located in Central Bohemia, which houses 1 229 medium-sized and 256 large farms. These entities account for 17% and 15% of the total number of agricultural holdings in the Czech Republic of medium and large economic size. The structure of land holdings of agricultural holdings operating in the decisive types of production and expressed in economic size classes confirms that traditional agricultural holdings of a universal multi-sectoral structure belonging to a mixed crop and livestock production group remain still the decisive forms of production focus at a high concentration of land holdings. The second position of significance belongs to the enterprises specialized in field production with more than 50% representation in the largest size group (class X to XIV) and the third most important type of production orientation in terms of land tenure is livestock farming of fodder. Commented groups of businesses manage in the Czech Republic for about 98% of the area of agricultural land[3].

Useful conclusions also result from an assessment of the above from a regional perspective. Field production is, in the area of Central Bohemia, Jihomoravský, Ústecký, Olomoucký, Jihočeský and Plzeňský, with a 70% share of the total area devoted to field production. It is obvious that field production is a more universal production focus with extensive expansion across most regions of the Czech Republic, while specialization in livestock farming, which fed large-scale forage and in particular KBTPM, is to some extent bound to less favorable mountain and mountainous areas with significant TTP see figure 6 in the annex). In the foreground of the scale of the largest polygastre breeders are located entrepreneurs operating in the border region, namely in the South Bohemian, Plzeňský, Moravskoslezský, Vysočina, Karlovarský, Liberecký and Hradec Králové regions, with 70% representation on the total area farmed by farms specializing in livestock breeding bulky forage. In relation to the specific soil climatic conditions between the regions with a smaller extension of this production specialization is the Jihomoravský Region with 9 ths. ha, the Central Bohemia Region with 36 thous. ha and the Olomouc and Pardubice regions (46 thousand ha). In connection with the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU, the mentioned production orientation finds itself in the conditions of Czech agriculture being increasingly used in all size classes. In the group of small enterprises (classes I to V), the given specialization applies in relation to the others to a greater extent, with about 13% share of the total area of the company dedicated to this production focus. It is logical that the production focus Mixed production is the largest, namely more than 40% of the total area of agricultural land in the Czech Republic. This is a method of farming, which practically follows on to the pre-November organization of agricultural production. The then cooperative, respectively. state-owned agricultural holdings of virtually unlimited size developed practically without limitation a multi-sectoral structure and consequently within the transformation process reached the current structure corresponding to the definition of a mixed enterprise. From the definition of the economic size of agricultural holdings, it must be concluded that in the SPO or SFO, the average area of the unit in the Agrocentzu 2010 is considerably smaller in size classes VI to IX compared to size classes X to XIV. This statement is valid. It is obvious that the benefits of the size are more available to the SPO and to the greatest extent to the mixed crop and livestock enterprises, where the average size of the sp / ZJ in size classes X to XIV oscillates around 1 750 ha, with the top level being Plzeňský, Středočeský a Jihomoravský, the average area of which varies between 1 900 and 2 200 ha. The highest values are reported by the Ústí nad Labem Region and the Vysočina Region with an average area of around 1 500 ha. In the case of entities of legal entities with a focus on field production, Karlovarský, Olomoucký, Zlínský and Jihočeský kraj. A slightly lower average area compared to field production was found in SPOs for the rearing of livestock stocking large-scale forage, where the large group of companies is at the forefront of Karlovarský, Olomoucký and Moravskoslezský regions[1]. Within the SFO group, benefits from the size of the X to XIV class are, at a considerably lower level, used by enterprises specializing in field production, with the remaining two types of production focus appearing sporadically in this size class (see Annex E2). This is due to the fact that the SFO group of the highest size classes is represented by a very small share of enterprises (about 1%). In the case of the field production enterprises, the entrepreneurs from the South Bohemian, Ústí and Pardubice regions are in the leading position in the large SFO group, ranging from 1,000 to 1,400 hectares. In the second monitored size class (V to IX), whether SPO or SFO, the average area covered by SPO is several times higher than that of the SFO. Again, the highest values are achieved by SPOs of mixed production with significant fluctuations in the area of the .p./ZJ. The largest farms, with the exception of the farms in the Karlovy Vary Region (average area of 738 ha), belong to agricultural holdings in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský Region and have an area of about 600 ha. Medium-sized entities of legal entities focusing on livestock farming, ha and the largest enterprises of the specialization are again present in the above mentioned regions. In general, the size characteristics of the above-mentioned specialized enterprises can not be combined with the climatic conditions of the region. The regions traditionally associated with agricultural activities, the regions with the largest extent of agricultural land, ie Central Bohemia, South Bohemia, the South Moravian Region, the Pilsen Region and the Vysočina Region, which account for 57% of the total land fund of the Czech Republic, are not usually among the areas characterized by the largest agricultural holdings[4, c. 30].

To express the intensity of livestock production, the numbers of reared pieces per livestock group recorded in the structural survey were recalculated according to Eurostat's livestock unit methodology (VDJ). The number of pieces per animal category was multiplied by the conversion factors.

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