

ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS FOR AGRICULTURE – 2019

NATIONAL REFERENCE METADATA IN SINGLE INTEGRATED METADATA STRUCTURE (SIMS)

CONCEPT 1 – CONTACT

Sub-Concept 1.1: Contact organisation

National Statistics Office (NSO) - Malta

Sub-Concept 1.2: Contact organisation unit

Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics Unit

Sub-Concept 1.3: Contact name

Mr. Ronald Tanti

Sub-Concept 1.4: Contact person function

Head of Unit

Sub-Concept 1.5: Contact mail address

National Statistics Office (NSO),
Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.

Sub-Concept 1.6: Contact e-mail address

ronald.tanti@gov.mt

Sub-Concept 1.7: Contact phone number

+356 2599 7333

CONCEPT 2 – METADATA UPDATE

Sub-Concept 2.1: Metadata last certified

2nd March 2021.

Sub-Concept 2.2: Metadata last posted

9th March 2021.

Sub-Concept 2.3: Metadata last update

9th March 2021.

CONCEPT 3 – STATISTICAL PRESENTATION

Sub-Concept 3.1: Data description

The Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) provide:

- Detailed information on income in the agricultural sector. The main purpose is to analyse the production process of the agricultural industry and the primary income generated by this production. The accounts are therefore based on the industry concept.
- Detailed data on the value of output (measured in both producer prices and basic prices), intermediate consumption, subsidies, consumption of fixed capital, rent and interest etc. The values are available in both current prices and constant prices.
- Being satellite account of the European System of Accounts (ESA), the EAA provide complementary information and concepts adapted to the particular nature of the agricultural industry. Although their structure very closely matches that of the national accounts, their compilation requires the formulation of appropriate rules and methods.

Sub-Concept 3.2: Classification system

The EAA are an integral part of the [ESA](#). As such, they are compiled based on [NACE Rev.2](#), the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community. The list of activities which defines the agricultural industry corresponds, in principle, to Division 01 of that classification, which is: Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities. The list of products collected is enclosed in annex.

Sub-Concept 3.3: Sector coverage

EAA cover the Agricultural sector.

Sub-Concept 3.4: Statistical concepts and definitions

One of the principal objectives of the EAA is to measure agricultural income and changes therein. The three agricultural income indicators can be described as follows:

Indicator A: The index of the real income of factors in agriculture per AWU

Indicator B: The index of real net agricultural entrepreneurial income, per non-salaried AWU

Indicator C: The net entrepreneurial income of agriculture

Other important EAA concepts and variables include:

Agricultural production: Equals the sum value of output of crops, animals, agricultural services and the value of inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities.

Intermediate consumption: Is the value of inputs used for agricultural production. It is valued at purchase prices.

Gross value added at basic prices: Equals the agricultural production at basic prices less intermediate consumption at purchase prices.

Net value added at basic prices: Equals agricultural production at basic prices less fixed capital consumption.

Factor income: Equals net value added less taxes on production plus other subsidies on production.
Net operating surplus/mixed income: Equals factor income less compensations of employees.
Net entrepreneurial income: Equals net operating surplus/net mixed income less paid rents and interest plus received interest that refers exclusively to agricultural production.
Agricultural labour input: Comprises all persons and employees who work as salaried or non-salaried labour force on typical agricultural jobs in agricultural industry. It is measured by annual work units.

Sub-Concept 3.5: Statistical unit

Statistical units are legal entities and parts thereof as well as tradesmen classified into section A Agriculture, hunting and fishing, division 01 and private family farms.

Sub-Concept 3.6: Statistical population

The economic accounts for agriculture cover the overall agricultural production, the production on private family farms and at business entities). The processing of grapes and olives on own holding is also included (the output of inseparable non-agricultural secondary activity).

Sub-Concept 3.7: Reference area

The entire territory of the country.

Sub-Concept 3.8: Time coverage

The EAA has a timeseries from 1999 onwards. In the annual news release, data for the last 5 years is published.

Sub-Concept 3.9: Base period

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 4 – UNIT OF MEASURE

EAA data are presented in thousand Euros.

CONCEPT 5 – REFERENCE PERIOD

The reference period is the calendar year.

CONCEPT 6 – INSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

Sub-Concept 6.1: Legal acts and other agreements

[Regulation \(EC\) No 138/2004](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community sets the legal basis for establishing a harmonized methodology for the compilation of the EAA. The regulation has been amended by Regulations 306/2005; 909/2006, 212/2008 (212/2008 relates to data from 2010) and 1350/2013.

Sub-Concept 6.2: Data sharing

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 7 – CONFIDENTIALITY

Sub-Concept 7.1: Confidentiality – Policy

At National level: Confidentiality is one of the major principles guiding the activities of the NSO.

Article 40 of the MSA Act stipulates the restrictions on the use of information and in Article 41, the prohibition of disclosure of information. Furthermore, Section IX of the Act (Offences and Penalties) lays down the measures to be taken in case of unlawful exercise of any officer of statistics regarding confidentiality of data. No cases of breaches in the law have been recorded to date.

Since its inception, the NSO has always operated within a culture of strict confidentiality to which it is also bound by the provisions of the Data Protection Act. This Act, which came fully into effect on July 15, 2003, seeks to protect individuals against the violation of their privacy by the processing of personal data.

Further information on access to microdata is available on the NSO's website through: <https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Microdata/Pages/Access-to-Microdata.aspx>

During 2009, the NSO has set up a Statistical Disclosure Committee to ensure that statistical confidentiality is observed, especially when requests for microdata are received by the NSO.

Upon employment, NSO employees are informed of the rules and duties pertaining to confidential information and its treatment. According to the MSA Act, before commencing work, every employee is required to take an oath of secrecy whose text is included in the Act.

At European level:

[Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

Sub-Concept 7.2: Confidentiality – Data Treatment

EAA statistics are not considered as confidential. No anonymised data are available.

CONCEPT 8 – RELEASE POLICY

Sub-Concept 8.1: Release Calendar

The release of the data is pre-announced at the beginning of the year in the 'News Release Calendar' portion on the NSO website.

Sub-Concept 8.2: Release Calendar access

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

Sub-Concept 8.3: User access

An internal policy on dissemination is in place to govern the dissemination of official statistics in an impartial, independent and timely manner, making them available simultaneously to all users. The NSO's primary channel for the dissemination of official statistics is the NSO website. Tailored requests for statistical information may also be submitted through the NSO website. Moreover, dedicated news releases are available in electronic format on the NSO website.

CONCEPT 9 – FREQUENCY OF DISSEMINATION

Yearly.

CONCEPT 10 – ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY

Sub-Concept 10.1: News release

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_B3/Environment_Energy_Transport_and_Agriculture_Statistics/Pages/Economic-Accounts-for-Agriculture.aspx

Sub-Concept 10.2: Publications

No other publications are available on the subject.

Sub-Concept 10.3: Online Database

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 10.4: Micro-data access

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 10.5: Other

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 10.6: Documentation on methodology

The data collected for EAA are in line with the methodology provided by the manual on the [Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry EAA/EAF 97 \(Rev.1.1\)](#) and the "[Target methodology for agricultural labour input \(ALI\) statistics \(Rev.1\)](#)", published in 2000.

Moreover, the unit documents all the work processes and procedures for internal purposes.

Sub-Concept 10.6.1: Metadata completeness rate

100%.

Sub-Concept 10.7: Quality Documentation

A metadata report is updated often and is available on the NSO metadata website.

CONCEPT 11 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Sub-Concept 11.1: Quality Assurance

The NSO has developed an internal Quality Management Framework (QMF) which is built on common requirements of the ESS Code of Practice (ESS CoP). A document was prepared to include a set of general quality guidelines spanning over all statistical domains. Assuring methodological soundness is an integral part of the QMF, nonetheless, the document spans also on other areas related to institutional aspects.

Every five to seven years, the NSO participates in a Peer Review exercise through which the compliance of its operations with principles of the ESS CoP is assessed by an expert team. Peer Reviews are indeed part of the European Statistical System (ESS) strategy to implement the ESS CoP. Each NSI is expected to provide information as requested by a standard self-assessment questionnaire. Following this an expert team visits the office to meet NSI representatives and main stakeholders. Peer Reviews result in a compliance report and the listing of a set of Improvement Actions which need to be followed up by the NSI. The next round of Peer Reviews is planned to be carried out in 2022.

Sub-Concept 11.2: Quality Assessment

The entire process is carried out in accordance with the best codes of practice for the collection, compilation, presentation and submission of statistical data.

CONCEPT 12 – RELEVANCE

Sub-Concept 12.1: User needs

The main users of the data are the National Accounts Unit (within the NSO) and Eurostat.

Sub-Concept 12.2: User satisfaction

The last User Satisfaction Survey was held in 2014 with the aim to collect information about key users' satisfaction with statistical output.

The NSO keeps record of the number of News Releases and publications disseminated on its website; the users to whom statistical products are provided; as well as the number of requests that are processed every year.

News Releases and tailor-made statistical outputs were assessed on account of their quality, timeliness, and on their ability to meet users' needs.

Sub-Concept 12.3: Data Completeness

All the data required by Eurostat are compiled and sent within the respective deadlines.

CONCEPT 13 – ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY

Sub-Concept 13.1: Overall accuracy

Collected data for the reference year are inputted manually by a statistician and checked for consistency by another person. Data used for the compilation of the economic accounts and the annual data are compared to the previous year. In case discrepancies emerge, the respective administrative source is contacted again to update or verify the figures. These measures ensure that the overall accuracy of statistics on economic accounts for agriculture is high.

Sub-Concept 13.2: Sampling errors

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3: Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3.1: Coverage error

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3.1.1: Over Coverage

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3.1.2: Common Units Proportion

Not applicable since only administrative data are used.

Sub-Concept 13.3.2: Measurement error

For the EAA, administrative data collected for other agricultural domains is used. Every effort is made to minimise any measurement errors by having in place checks across time as well as various re-checks and automatic validations and processing.

Sub-Concept 13.3.3: Non-response error

Not applicable since all the required variables are collected from the administrative sources.

Sub-Concept 13.3.3.1: Unit non-response

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3.3.2: Item non-response

Not applicable since all the required variables are collected from the administrative sources with no missing information.

Sub-Concept 13.3.4: Processing error

A series of checks (including automatic and in-built validation checks) and re-checks are in place across the compilation process to minimise the processing errors.

Sub-Concept 13.3.5: Model assumption error

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 14 – TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

Sub-Concept 14.1: Timeliness

First estimates of year n: Compiled and transmitted to Eurostat by the end of November of the reference year (n);

Second estimates: Compiled and transmitted to Eurostat by the end of January of n 1;

Final data: Compiled and transmitted to Eurostat by the end of September of n+1

The annual news release for reference year n is published in September of n+1.

Sub-Concept 14.2: Punctuality

News Releases were always published on time.

CONCEPT 15 – COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY

Sub-Concept 15.1: Comparability – Geographical

Not applicable since the data are collected at Nuts 2 level.

Sub-Concept 15.2: Comparability – Over Time

The comparable time series goes back to 1999.

Sub-Concept 15.3: Coherence – Cross Domain

Since the EAA are compiled from administrative sources of which the data are also used for other agricultural domains comprising animal and crop production amongst others, the data are reconcilable.

Sub-Concept 15.3.1: Coherence – Sub-Annual and Annual statistics

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 15.3.2: Coherence – National Accounts

The National Accounts section makes use of the same data. EAA statistics are thus completely reconcilable with National Accounts.

Sub-Concept 15.4: Coherence – Internal

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 16 – COST AND BURDEN

All the data collection together with the data inputting and analysis is done by a statistician. Costs are kept to a minimum since administrative sources are used.

CONCEPT 17 – DATA REVISION

Sub-Concept 17.1: Data revision – Policy

At the NSO, there is currently no internal policy governing revisions that occur for all statistics produced. Nonetheless, a revisions policy is being drafted to safeguard a coordinated revision system across statistical domains.

This policy will take account of the need and causes for revisions; time and frequency of revisions; data and other statistical products affected by such revisions; and length of periods revised.

For certain variables, mainly the subsidies paid to the farmers published for the current year, are provisional as there could be some minor revisions supplied directly by the Agricultural and Rural Paying Agency in the following year.

Sub-Concept 17.2: Data revision – Practice and Data Revision

Normally, there could be minor revisions in some of the variables due to updates in administrative sources. Whenever these updates are noticed, the new data are sent to Eurostat and data are updated for the next news release and annual publication.

CONCEPT 18 – STATISTICAL PROCESSING

Sub-Concept 18.1: Source data

Data with respect to the output side of agriculture are collected from a number of sources. The Department of Veterinary Services provides the slaughtering statistics of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats; while the slaughtering of poultry is obtained from the private slaughterhouses.

Data for milk and milk products is obtained from the dairy plant. The four official fruit and vegetable markets provide data on quantities and wholesale values of the produce obtained by the farmer.

The Agricultural and Rural Payments Agency provides information on subsidies and vintners. Data from tomato processors are collected directly by NSO by means of annual returns.

Agricultural Price Statistics is a main source for the valuation of agricultural output as well as intermediate consumption. Prices and price indices are also an important source for compiling values in constant prices.

Sub-Concept 18.2: Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on an annual basis.

Sub-Concept 18.3: Data Collection

The data used for the economic accounts are forwarded to the Unit by email and are compiled by administrative sources.

Sub-Concept 18.4: Data Validation

When the data are received and inputted in the respective file, data are checked against the previous month and/or quarter. If there are any major discrepancies, the administrative source is queried. Besides, the annual data of economic accounts is compared to the previous year and if any discrepancies arise, data are checked in detail and where necessary, the respective administrative source is contacted again for verification.

Sub-Concept 18.5: Data Compilation

By using the data from the administrative sources, the following statistics can be compiled:

- Gross and final production at producer and basic prices;
- Gross and net value added;
- Factor income; and
- Net entrepreneurial income.

Sub-Concept 18.5.1: Imputation

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 18.6: Adjustment

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 18.6.1: Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 19 – COMMENT

No comments.