

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

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Agriculture in Denmark

EU agricultural policies and their influence on statistics

Denmark and the other EU Member States lay down the EU agricultural policies, which constitute the overall framework for Danish agriculture. The collective agricultural policies exercise a direct and indirect influence on the incomes and decision-making behaviour of Danish farmers, and thus on the requirements made in relation to agricultural statistics.

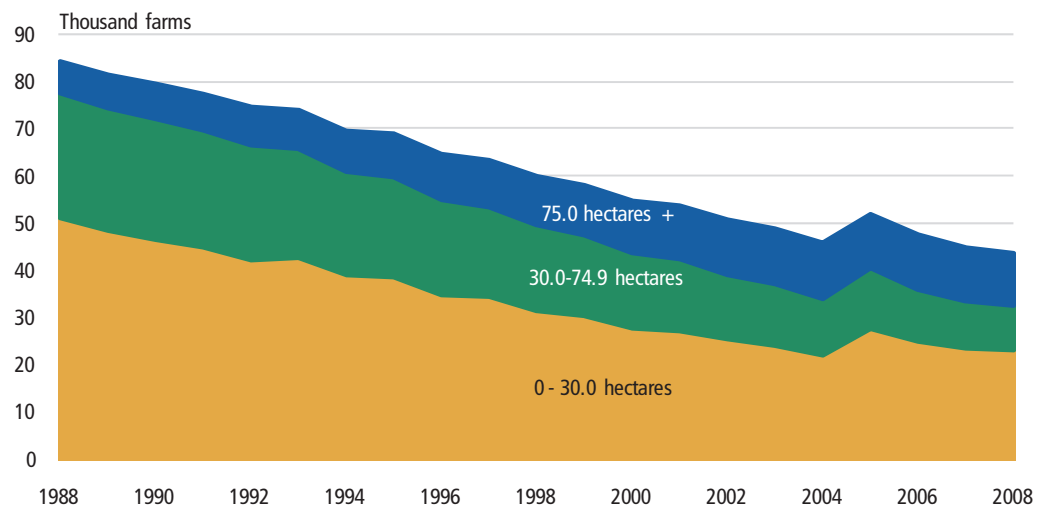
Falling significance to the Danish economy

Agriculture accounts for a falling share of the national economy due to an increase in the size of other sectors. While the relative importance of agriculture in terms of employment and overall economy has declined, agricultural production has increased in both scope and value. Agricultural exports continue to constitute an important part of exports, with pork as the most important product.

The structure of Danish agriculture – fewer, but larger farms

Throughout many years, structural trends within Danish agriculture have been marked by a steady annual decline in the number of farms. In 2008, the number of farms in Denmark constitutes 47,000 with at least 5 hectares of farm area, which has almost been halved over a period of 20 years. The average farm size is currently **62 (correction)** hectares, which is far above the EU average.

Figure 1 Number of farms by area



www.statbank.dk/bdf and bdf07

Nevertheless there are still many small farms in Denmark. Farms which are smaller than 30.0 hectares do in fact constitute a small majority of all farms, namely 54 per cent. This share was 61 per cent 20 years ago. Medium sized farms between 30.0 and 74.9 hectares constitute 21 per cent – 32 per cent 20 years ago. Finally the group of big farms of at least 75.0 hectares amounts to 25 per cent of all farms where the share of big farms was 8 per cent in 1988.