

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Lithuania

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### **Preliminary results of Agricultural Census 2010 in Lithuania**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

Statistics Lithuania released preliminary data from its Agricultural Census 2010. Final Census data will be released by year's end. Since 2003 Lithuania's agricultural sector has undergone significant change as it adjusts to membership in the European Union. Farm numbers, average sizes, crops sown and livestock populations all reflect the influence of the membership on the country's agricultural sector.



## General Information:

Between May 3 and September 30, 2010, Lithuania conducted its first farm-level Agricultural Census since 2003, or prior to the country's accession to the European Union. The census involved: (1) a full survey of farms managing an area of agricultural land of at least one hectare (Ha) and, (2) an abridged "sample" survey of farms managing less acreage. The census tallied 459,064 farmers' and family farms, agricultural companies, and agricultural-related enterprises. The number of operations surveyed exceeded the initial target by 3,140 due to discovery of new agricultural-related businesses established since the last census. According to the Statistics Lithuania report data collected is currently being revised, processed, analyzed, and prepared for the transmission to Eurostat. A special publication dedicated to the Census is to be published in 2012.

Preliminary data show 200 thousand farms operating on one or more hectares (Ha) of agricultural land. Further, farms operating on less than one Ha of agricultural land report an average annual income from agricultural product sales of at least LTL 5000 (around US\$ 2,100\*).

Indicator	All farms		Farmer's and family farms		Agricultural companies and enterprises	
	2003	2010	2003	2010	2003	2010
Number of farms (thous.)	272.1	199.9	271.5	199.3	0.6	0.6
Agricultural land utilized (thous. Ha)	2491.0	2734.7	2188.3	2367.0	302.7	367.7
Average size of a farm according to the area of agricultural land (Ha)	9.3	13.8	8.2	12.0	504.7	580.8

Source: Statistics Lithuania

Farm consolidation initiated by the EU accession process resulting with 27 percent fewer farms in Lithuania today. Major consolidation occurred with farms in the size ranges of 2–5 Ha (numbers declined 37 per cent) and 5–10 Ha (numbers declined 30 percent).

Land area in agriculture expanded 9 percent. At the same time, the average farm size also increased, from 9.3 Ha in 2003 to 13.8 Ha in 2010. There are 118 thousand small farms, defined as up to 5 Ha, that account for more than a half (59 per cent) of all farms which occupy 11 percent of total agricultural land.

Groups of farms	The number of farms (thousand)		Agricultural land (thousand Ha)	
	2003	2010	2003	2010
<b>Total</b>	<b>272.1</b>	<b>199.9</b>	<b>2491</b>	<b>2734.7</b>
< 1	0.4	1.0	0.1	0.3
1–2	33.9	31.5	51.9	46.3
2–5	134.6	85.0	422.6	266.3
5–10	57.2	39.9	398.8	277.0
10–20	28.5	21.5	389.8	296.0
20–30	7.5	6.6	180.0	160.6
30–50	5.0	5.8	188.9	226.9
50–100	3.0	4.8	205.6	325.5
100–200	1.2	2.2	165.5	299.2

200–300	0.3	0.7	82.2	164.2
300–400	0.1	0.3	45.1	107.6
400–500	0.1	0.2	37.7	75.5
≥ 500	0.3	0.4	322.8	489.3

Source: Statistics Lithuania

Preliminary census data show:

- 2,736,431 Ha of utilized agricultural land;
- 2,109,021 Ha of arable land (including 1,990,733 Ha of sown area and 118,288 ha of fallows);
- 605,951 Ha of meadows and pastures;
- 20,003 Ha of fruit and berry plantations;
- 1,143 Ha of nurseries and other permanent crops;
- 313 Ha of greenhouses;
- 21,388 Ha of unutilized agricultural land.

Preliminary data also indicate major changes in crops sown. Sown area increased for rapeseed by nearly 385 percent (to 256 thousand Ha in 2010), for cereal crops by nearly 17 percent, and for pulses by 60 percent (mainly due to area to peas expanding from 7.4 to 28.7 thousand Ha, and to lupines expanding from 2 to 11.6 thousand Ha). Meanwhile sown area decreased for flax for fiber to zero (from 8.9 thousand Ha); for potatoes by 60 percent (to 33,200 Ha in 2010), and for sugar beets by 40 percent (to 15,400 Ha in 2010).

Crop	Sown area (thousand Ha)	
	2003	2010
Winter wheat	283.2	372.8
Spring wheat	53.3	152.3
Winter barley	13.0	15.6
Spring barley	295.3	223.4
Winter triticale	66.1	91.9
Spring triticale	12.4	19.7
Rye	59.8	51.5
Oats	48.2	62.0
Mixed grain	14.3	21.5
Buckwheat	16.3	19.4
Maize	2.7	7.7

Source: Statistics Lithuania

Preliminary census data show major changes in Lithuanian meat eating habits as reflected by shifts in livestock and poultry populations.

Type	Number of livestock and poultry	
	2003	2010
Cattle – total	895,366	740,756
dairy cows	451,054	352,747
Pigs – total	1,089,323	860,361
breeding sows	90,826	80,521
Sheep – total	30,960	64,209

breeding females	14,291	30,286
Goats – total	43,498	16,668
breeding females	23,260	8,271
Horses – total	65,387	28,778
Poultry – total	8,703,859	11,402,263
broilers	2,503,762	3,860,942
laying hens	4,015,339	4,462,127
geese	75,432	117,795
ducks	111,149	42,614
turkeys	127,093	207,809
ostriches	434	1,467
Rabbits – total	404,462	150,443
Beehives	84,709	92,555

Source: Statistics Lithuania

In November 2011 Statistics Lithuania plans to release official agricultural production information. In 2012, per requirements of EU legislation, census data will be transmitted to the Statistical Office of the European Union.

\* Exchange rate from the MoneyConverter.com dated April 11, 2011.