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Министерство на земеделието и храните



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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CENSUS OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN 2010

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

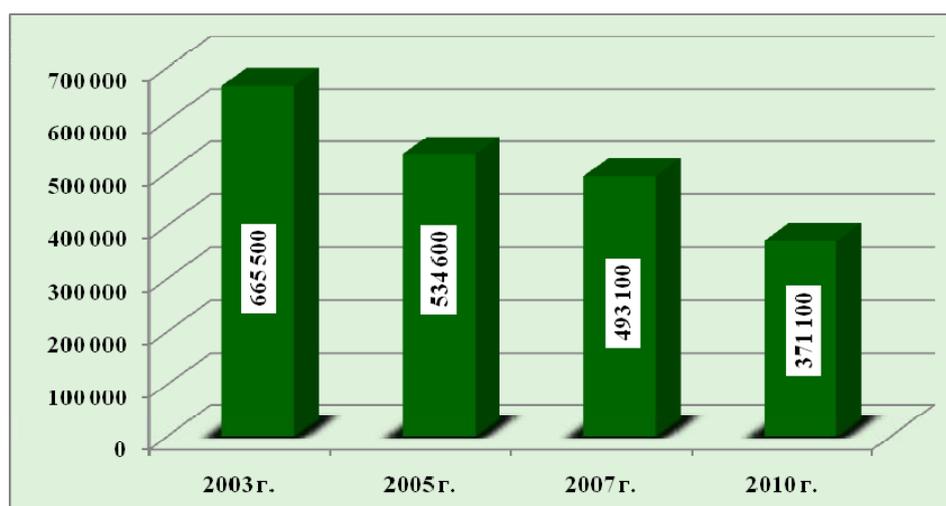
Over 371 000 units have been surveyed, representing agricultural holdings as defined in the Law on the Census of the Agricultural Holdings in Bulgaria in 2010. Their number has decreased by about 1/4 to 2007 (see Methodological notes on page 6).

Utilized agricultural area (UAA) is 3 620 900 hectares and it is divided among about 358 000 holdings. Over 13 000 agricultural holdings have no UAA.

About 80% of UAA is rented or leased and the remaining land is owned by the agricultural holdings.

Over 751 000 people worked on agricultural holdings in 2010, their number decreased by 21% compared to 2007. Of these, 697 000 belong to the category of family labor. Labor input is 394 000 annual work units (AWU), which is a decrease of 16% compared to 2007.

Figure 1. Number of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria

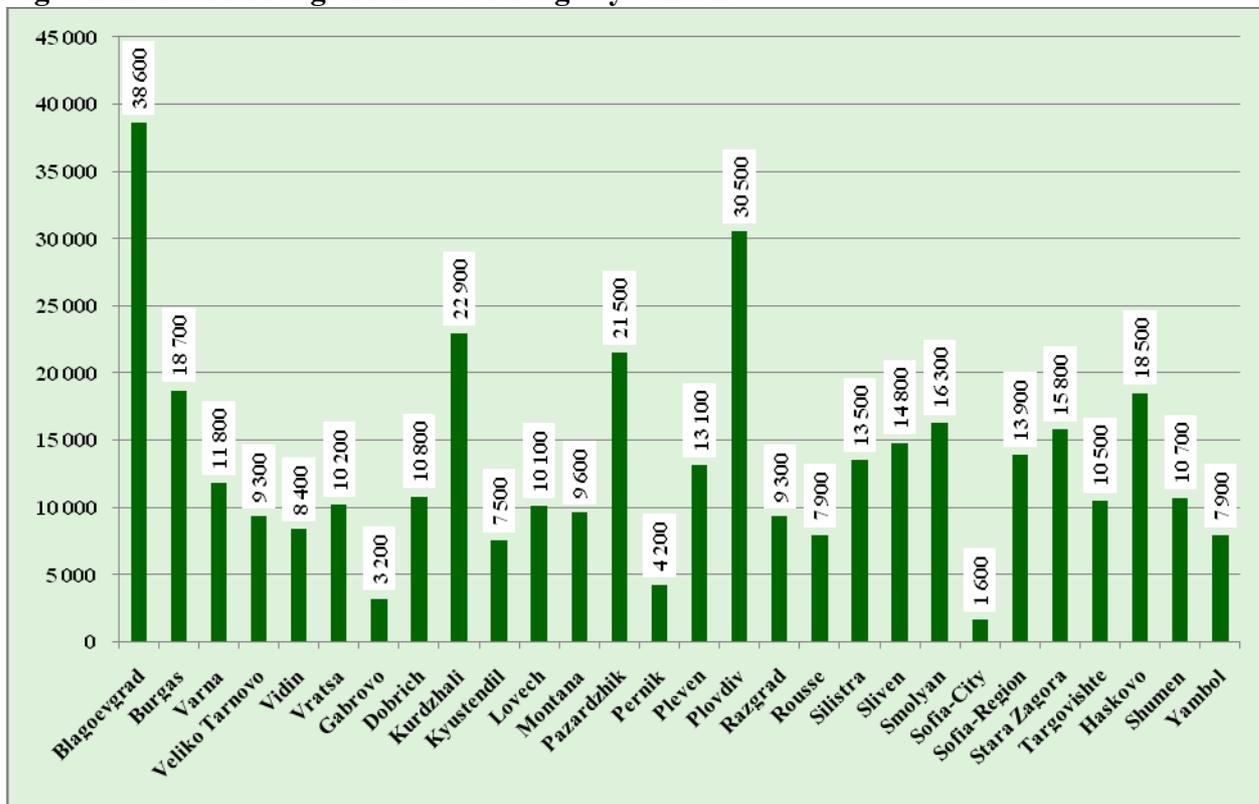


Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

RESULTS AND ANALYSES

The agricultural holdings surveyed during the census in 2010 were 371 100, which is a decrease of 44% compared to the number of holdings surveyed during the census in 2003. A trend of decrease has been maintained over the recent years. Conducted sample surveys of the structure of agricultural holdings in 2005 and 2007 show that the number of holdings decreased by 19.7% in 2005 compared to 2003, by 7.8% in 2007 compared to 2005 and by 24.7% in 2010 compared to 2007.

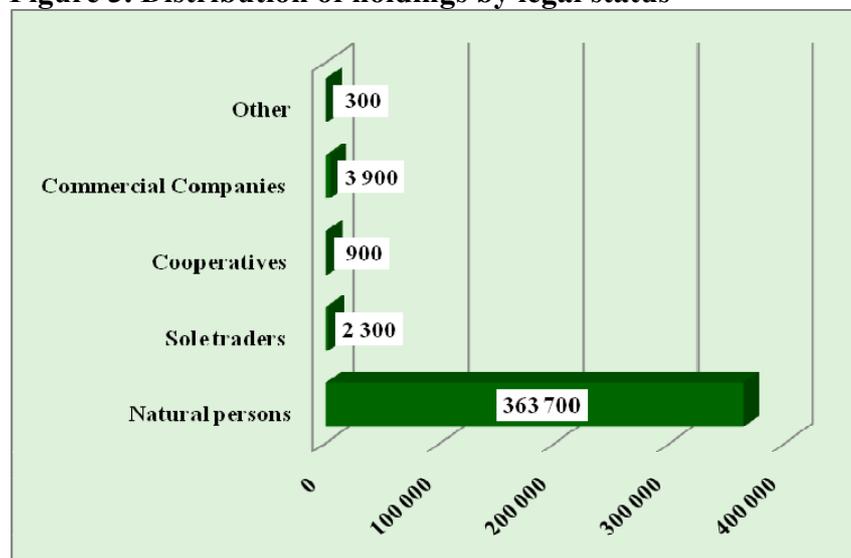
Figure 2. Number of agricultural holdings by districts



Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

The district of Blagoevgrad has the highest number of agricultural holdings – 38 600, which is 10.4% of all holdings in the country. Next is the district of Plovdiv – with 30 500 agricultural holdings, or 8.2% of total holdings. The agricultural holdings located in Sofia-City are the smallest in number – 1 600 or 0.4% followed by the agricultural holdings in the district of Gabrovo – 3 200 holdings, or 0.9%.

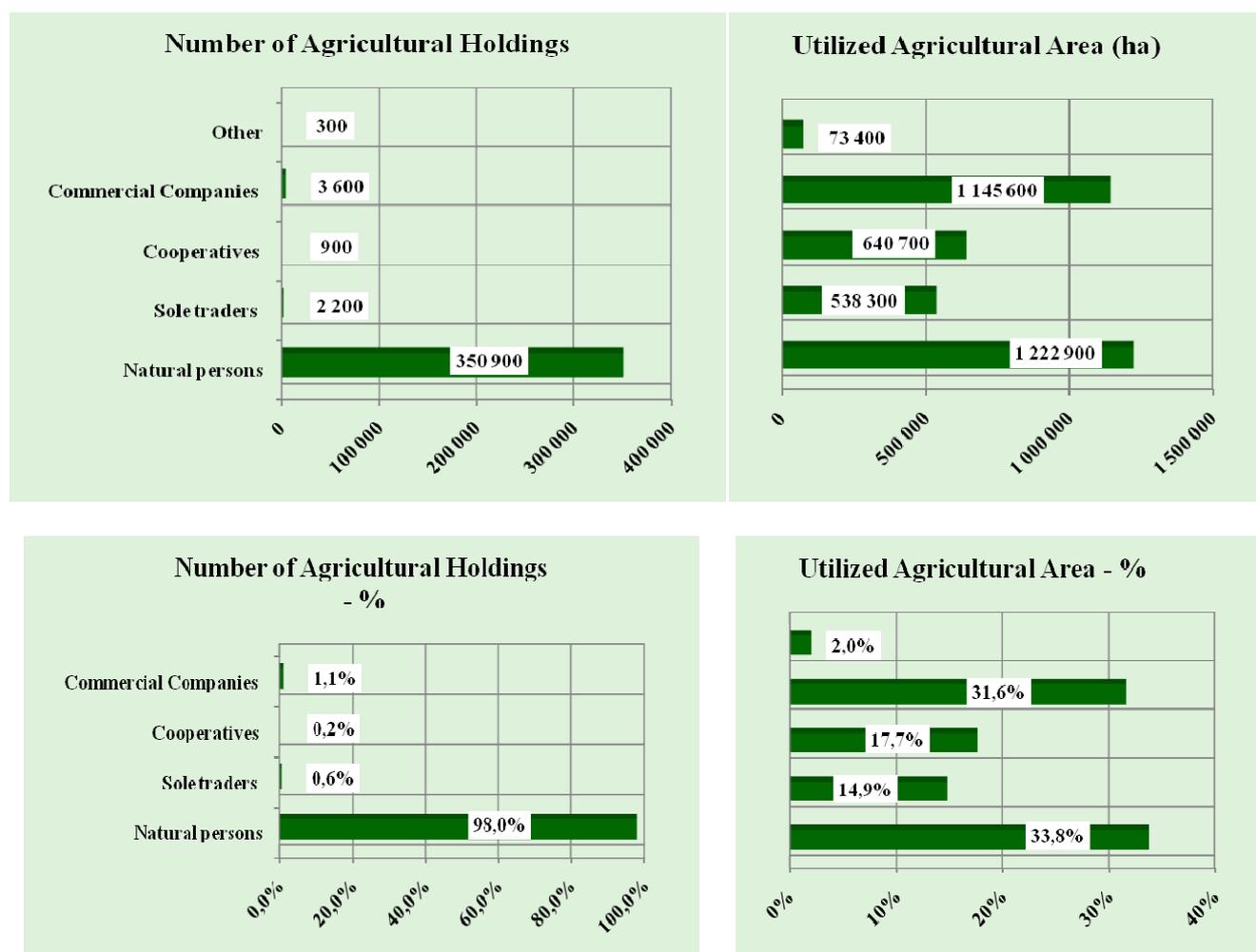
Figure 3. Distribution of holdings by legal status



Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

The holdings owned by individuals are 363 700 or 98% of all agricultural holdings; followed by those owned by commercial companies – 1%, sole traders – 0.6%, cooperatives – about 0.3% and other holdings – about 0.1%.

Figure 4. Distribution of agricultural holdings according to legal status and the UAA (data are for holdings with UAA)



Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

357 900 agricultural holdings use agricultural area to the amount of 3 620 900 ha. An agricultural holding manages the average of 10.1 ha of utilized agricultural area, this indicator being the highest in the Northeast region (17.6 ha) and lowest in the Southwest region (3.6 ha).

Natural persons manage 33.8% of the UAA. The commercial companies manage 31.6% of the UAA of the country, the cooperatives – 17.7%, sole traders – 14.9%, and the remaining holdings – 2%.

Table 1. Distribution of agricultural holdings and UAA by category

Indicators	Utilized agricultural area		incl. arable land		incl. kitchen gardens		incl. permanent grassland		incl. permanent crops	
	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
Bulgaria	357 900	3 620 900	250 900	3 133 000	228 200	10 600	107 400	377 300	118 800	100 000
Rel. share* (%)	100.0 %	100.0 %	70.1 %	86.5 %	63.8 %	0.3 %	30.0 %	10.4 %	33.2 %	2.8 %

Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

*The sum of the relative share of the number of holdings is bigger than 100%, a holding may manage more than one category of areas.

In the UAA of 3 620 900 ha of the agricultural holdings, the share of arable land of 86.5% is the highest, followed by permanent grassland – 10.4% of the UAA. Permanent crops occupy 2.8% of the UAA.

Table 2. Distribution of agricultural holdings and arable land according to groups of crops

Indicators	Arable land		incl. cereal crops		incl. industrial plants		incl. fodder crops		incl. vegetables (incl. potatoes and strawberries)		incl. other	
	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
Bulgaria	250 900	3 133 000	119 900	1 819 600	57 900	1 062 800	75 300	106 300	133 900	37 500	14 500	106 800
Rel. share* (%)	100.0 %	100.0 %	47.8 %	58.1 %	23.1 %	33.9 %	30.0 %	3.4 %	53.4 %	1.2 %	5.8 %	3.4 %

Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

*The sum of the relative share of the number of holdings is bigger than 100%, a holding may manage more than one category of areas.

The arable land is 3 133 000 hectares and is divided into 250 900 agricultural holdings. Cereals are grown on 47.8% of the holdings, representing 58.1% of the arable land. Industrial crops occupy 33.9% of the arable land and are grown on 23.1% of the holdings possessing arable land. Most industrial plants are grown in the Northwest region – 250 300 ha or 23.6%. Vegetables occupy 1.2% of the arable land and are grown mainly in the South Central region - 44.6% of the land under vegetables. Fodder crops are grown in 30% of the holdings on an area of 106,300 ha. This area is only 3.4% of the arable land.

Table 3. Distribution of agricultural holdings by size of UAA

Indicators	Total	From 0.00 ha to 1.99 ha	From 2.00 ha to 4.99 ha	From 5.00 ha to 9.99 ha	From 10.00 ha to 49.99 ha	From 50.00 ha to 99.99 ha	100.00 and more
Number of holdings	371 000	308 800	30 400	10 800	12 900	2 900	5 300
UAA (ha)	3 620 900	144 300	90 600	73 000	279 700	203 300	2 830 300

Source: MAF, Agrostistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

The agricultural holdings with UAA from 0.00 to 1.99 ha in 2010 were 83.2% of all holdings. Over 78.2% of the UAA is located in holdings with an area of 100.00 ha or more, the average UAA of these holdings was 534 ha.

Table 4. Distribution of holdings and number of animals by size of UAA

Size of UAA (ha)	Total Livestock holdings	Cattle		Buffalos		Equidae	
		Number of holdings	Heads	Number of holdings	Heads	Number of holdings	Heads
UAA = 0.0	13 100	4 200	44 500	100	600	2 800	4 600
UAA>0.0 - UAA <10.0	256 400	85 200	295 300	700	2 900	87 100	97 700
UAA>=10.0	10 800	6 200	239 300	200	6 600	3 000	10 500
Total	280 300	95 600	579 100	1 000	10 100	92 900	112 800

Table 4. continued

Size of UAA (ha)	Goats		Sheep		Pigs	
	Number of holdings	Heads	Number of holdings	Heads	Number of holdings	Heads
UAA = 0.0	3 500	28 600	3 200	101 600	2 500	296 800
UAA>0.0 - UAA <10.0	79 300	322 500	84 200	932 800	75 800	204 300
UAA>=10.0	1 800	39 900	4 500	384 200	4 100	157 700
Total	84 600	391 000	91 900	1 418 600	82 400	658 800

Table 4. continued

Size of UAA (ha)	Poultry		Rabbits		Honey bee colonies	
	Number of holdings	Heads	Number of holdings	Heads	Number of holdings	Honey bee colonies
UAA = 0.0	4 500	8 558 700	800	18 500	2 800	121 900
UAA>0.0 - UAA <10.0	175 100	5 855 800	23 300	257 600	20 300	447 500
UAA>=10.0	6 000	3 570 700	900	21 200	900	19 600
Total	185 700	17 985 200	25 000	297 200	24 000	589 000

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

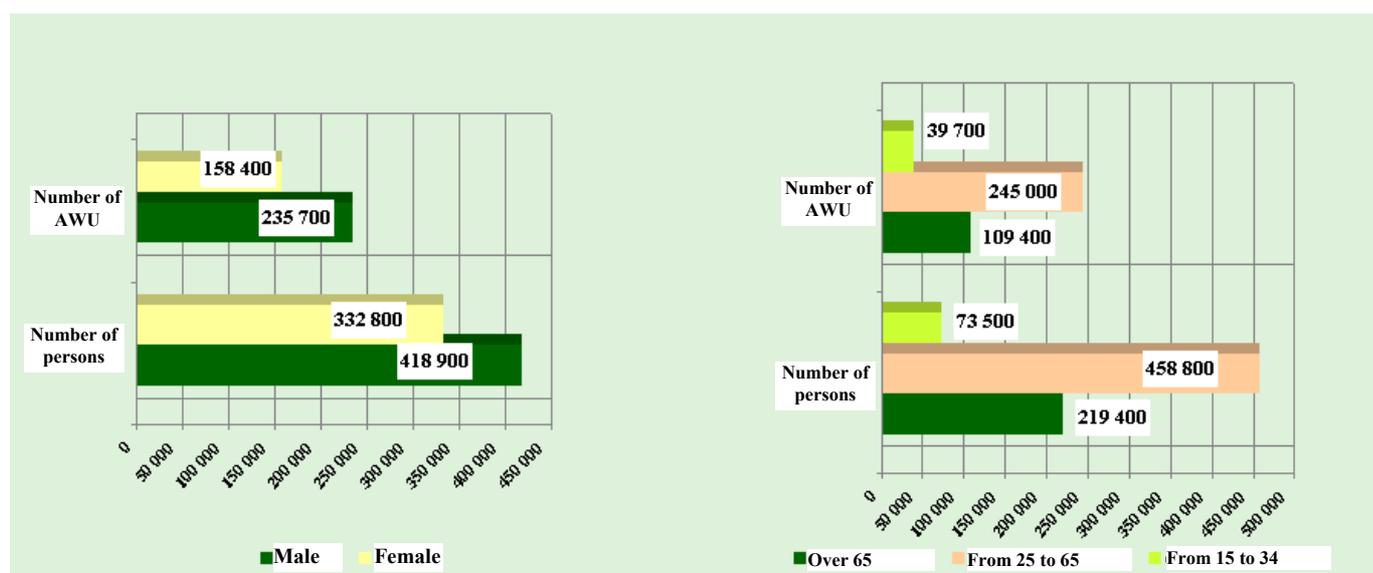
Around 280 300 were the holdings that kept livestock, poultry and bees as of 31 August 2010. Of these 91.5% used agricultural area from 0.01 ha to 10 ha (the analysis of the UAA of the holdings does not include collectively used common land for grazing animals). In the holdings with UAA from 0.01 ha to 10 ha 86.6% of equidae species, 82.5% of goats and 65.8% of sheep were raised. Cattle were raised in 34.1% of the holdings. Of these 4.4% did not have UAA and raised 7.7% of cattle, and the holdings with UAA from 0.01 ha to 10 ha were 89.1% and they raised 51.0% of the cattle. In the holdings without UAA 45.1% of the pigs and 47.6% of the birds were raised. 66.2% of the livestock holdings raised poultry. Over 10 ha of UAA were owned by 3.8% of the livestock breeding holdings. 5% of the holdings that raised pigs farmed more than 10 ha of the UAA and they raised 23.9% of the pigs.

About 100 of the surveyed agricultural holdings were engaged in activities for the production of mushrooms, growing of silkworms, hatcheries and others.

Labour force in agriculture

371 100 agricultural holdings employed 751 700 persons in 2010, the proportion of family labour force was 92.8% or 697 400 employed persons . 54 300 persons were employed in agriculture as paid workers. The total reduction of the persons employed in agriculture compared to those in 2007 was 20.8%. The annual work units (AWU) of all employed were 394 100, of these 343 100 were family labour force and 51 000 were paid labour force.

Figure 5. Distribution of persons working in agricultural holdings, and their annual work units according to sex and age group



Source: MAF, Agrostatistics Department, Agricultural Census'2010 – preliminary results

The proportion of men employed in agricultural holdings in 2010 was 55.7%. Employed men were by 22.1% less compared to 2007. Total of 61.0% of employed persons were aged 35 to 64 years. In the agricultural holdings 9.8% of the persons employed were aged between 15 and 34 years, and 29.2% were persons over 65 years of age.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The census of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria in 2010 was conducted in compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 and the Law on the census of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria in 2010 (promulgated in SG. 102 of 22.12.2009). The census was organized by the Agrostistics Department, Agriculture, Forestry and Land Relations Directorate of MAF, together with the Regional Directorates for Agriculture and the data were collected from the farmers by interview and statistical questionnaires were filled by specially trained interviewers. Under EU law, comprehensive data on agricultural holdings shall be collected every 10 years by conducting census of agricultural holdings. This is the second census of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria carried out in accordance with the *acquis communautaire*; the first one was made in 2003. Between the two censuses data were updated through sample statistical surveys held in 2005 and 2007.

The results of the census reflect the state of agriculture in Bulgaria in 2010 and are the basis for decision making by the Government. Based on these data the European Union and the other European institutions make their decisions in the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the EU.

The presented preliminary results were prepared in early May 2011 in the form of summarized tables and graphs, having put into a computer programme and checked for compliance at national level the collected individual data from the completed questionnaires of the agricultural holdings.

Agricultural holding or “holding” is a separate technical and economic unit, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products or maintains agricultural land, which is no longer used for production purposes, in good agricultural and environmental condition within the meaning of Article 2(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008.

Utilized agricultural area of the agricultural holdings includes their arable land, permanent crops, permanent grassland and the kitchen gardens. The UAA of the agricultural holdings does not include common land collectively used by several holdings for grazing animals.

Crop year is the period from 1 October to 30 September the following year or until the harvest.

Annual work unit – 1 AWU is equal to the working hours per worker in full working time within one year. In Bulgaria it is assumed that 1 AWU is equal to 1 856 hours worked per year or 232 man-days. The man-days worked by seasonal workers are divided into 232, to turn their work into annual work unit.

The preliminary data is presented based on the location of the agricultural holdings that meet the threshold criteria in the Law on the Census of the Agricultural Holdings in Bulgaria, as follows:

1. They must cultivate (manage) at least 0.5 hectares of utilized agricultural area, 0.3 hectares of arable land, 0.5 hectares of meadows, 0.1 hectares of orchards (pure crop), 0.1 hectares of vineyards, 0.1 hectares of (clean) specialty crops (vegetables, hop, tobacco, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants, flowers, ornamental plants, berries, mushrooms, nurseries, etc.), 0.05 hectares of glasshouses.

2. They must raise at least: 1 cow, 1 buffalo-cow, 2 cattle, 2 buffalos, 1 female animal for breeding (equidae), 2 equidae animals, 5 pigs, 1 breeding sow, 5 breeding female sheep, 2 breeding female goats, 50 laying hens, 100 chickens for fattening, 10 honey bee colonies, 10 breeding female rabbits, 1 reproductive male animal used for natural insemination – a bull, stallion, boar, special types of animals or birds – 1 000 quails, 30 other birds (turkeys, geese, ducks, etc.), ostriches, angora goats, angora rabbits, minks, nutria, silkworms, etc.

In subsequent publications the preliminary results of the census of agricultural holdings in 2010 by statistical areas will be presented.