



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

# Agricultural monitoring: Farm Accountancy Data Network

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## Description

The Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) is a federal statistical survey organisation based at the Agroscope research institute. As mandated by the legislator (see the Ordinance on the Evaluation of Sustainability in Agriculture, SR 919.118), Agroscope monitors the economic situation of Swiss farms and farming families. The FADN's statistical survey system is based on two surveys or samples: the Income Situation sample (ISS) and the Farm Management sample (FMS). Both surveys take place annually, but they serve different purposes. While the ISS is used to monitor the income situation of farms and farm households, the FMS provides detailed operational statistics for the major production branches within Swiss agriculture.

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## Methodology

### INCOME SITUATION SAMPLE

#### Methodology used

- Sample survey of farms using a random sample from the list in the agricultural information system for farm, structure and contribution data (AGIS database)
- The sampled population includes all commercial farms (currently excluding legal entities) that are above the minimum standard output threshold for a region and thus cover 95% of the total standard output of the valley, hill and mountain region.
- Survey area: Whole of Switzerland
- Selection process: Stratified random sample (stratification criteria: farm type, region and size categories)
- Form of recruitment: By telephone, with prior written notification by letter
- Data collection method: Online survey tool; data is collected in pseudonymised form.
- Requirements for participation: Keeping of financial accounts, agreement to the linking of collected data with information from the AGIS database
- Annual target sample size: 2,300 farms.

#### Variables used

Detailed figures are collected on the following topics:

- Livestock and its composition by animal category
- Workforce (age, education, days worked, etc.)
- Household members (number, age, etc.)
- Profit and loss account (income & expenses)
- Balance sheet (assets & liabilities)
- In the case of individual farms, additional income for the farm household not included in the financial accounts is recorded.

The monetary data collected comes mainly from the farm's financial accounts and the farm household's tax returns.

#### Survey date/period

The survey for year  $t$  takes place from January to September of year  $t+1$ .

#### Frequency of publication

Annual

#### Degree of regionalisation

Switzerland and agricultural regions (valley, hill and mountain)

#### Linkages

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The data collected is linked to the AGIS data, which contains information on land areas, livestock numbers and direct payments received.

**If necessary, details of the quality of the statistical information (e.g. coefficients of variation)**

Details of the quality of the statistical information are available in the annual publication 'Landwirtschaftliche Einkommensstatistik' (Agricultural Income Statistics), which can be downloaded free of charge at [www.einkommensstatistik.ch](http://www.einkommensstatistik.ch).

## FARM MANAGEMENT SAMPLE

### Methodology used

- Sample survey of farms that are included in the AGIS database, are above a specified minimum size, belong to the relevant strata (farm type, region, size category) and use variable direct costing.
- The aim is to achieve a sample distribution in proportion to the distribution of farms in the strata of the sampled population (AGIS data). Farms are recruited via the accounting offices in accordance with the selection plan and the criteria set out in the compensation modality. The sample composition is controlled via the amount of compensation, which is determined according to the oversupply or undersupply of farms in certain strata.
- Data collection method: Online survey tool with interfaces to agricultural accounting software.
- Annual target sample size: 1,600 farms.

### Variables used

As for Income Situation sample.

Additional variables:

- Yields and variable direct costing at production branch level.
- Detailed balance sheet and profit and loss account figures based on the FADN chart of accounts.
- Asset figures for the farm household based on tax returns.

### Survey date/period

The survey for year t takes place from January to August of year t+1.

### Frequency of publication

Annual

### Degree of regionalisation

Based on selected strata by farm type, region and size category.

### Linkages

None

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## Revision policy

The methodology is revised as and when necessary. The last comprehensive revision, which led to a fundamental revision of the entire survey system, took place in 2015 and is described in detail in [Renner et al. \(2018\)](#).

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## Relevant legislation

Article 185 (Data on implementation, monitoring and assessments) of the Agriculture Act (SR 910.1);  
Ordinance on the Evaluation of Sustainability in Agriculture (SR 919.118);  
Ordinance on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys (Statistical Surveys Ordinance), Annex No 154 (SR 431.012.1).

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## Organisation

### Lead institution

Federal Office for Agriculture, Agroscope

### Generic information/contact addresses

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[Farm Accountancy Data Network \(admin.ch\)](https://admin.ch)

**Cooperation with external parties (survey institutes)**

Income Situation sample: Recruiting agency (currently YouGov Switzerland), expert hotline and validation agency (currently TSM Treuhand GmbH) and agricultural accounting offices

Farm Management sample: Agricultural accounting offices and Treuland (Swiss Fiduciary Association for Agriculture)

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