

Preliminary data
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AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2010

Agricultural and horticultural labour force

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page showing a close-up of several yellow corn cobs. The cobs are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their kernels clearly visible, and become increasingly blurred as they recede into the background, creating a sense of depth.

Finland has around 64 000 agricultural and horticultural holdings

Farming and horticulture now employ 30% fewer people than in 2000

Average age of farmers risen to 51

Livestock farmers have the most qualifications

Today's farmers have had their holding for an average of 20 years

Over 80% of farms have a computer and internet connection

The number of agricultural and horticultural holdings is decreasing and the age of farmers has increased. Livestock farmers are younger on average and have run their holdings for a shorter time than crop farmers. Livestock farming has become less common, while the proportion of crop farms is growing.

Farming is the main occupational activity on most livestock farms, whereas it is often a subsidiary activity on crop farms. The amount of farm work is correspondingly greater on livestock farms than on crop farms, even if the number of people engaged in crop production is larger.

More than 80% of farms use computers and the internet. Fixed broadband is the most common type of internet connection, but mobile broadband is also used, especially in sparsely populated areas.



Finland has around 64 000 agricultural and horticultural holdings

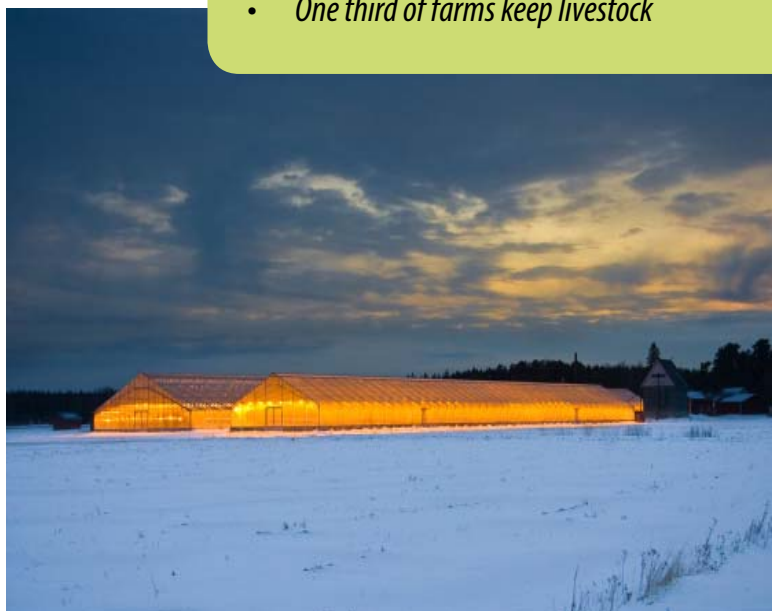
Preliminary data from the agricultural census indicate that Finland has 63 874 farms and horticultural holdings (**Figure 1**). The number of holdings fell by 20% over the ten years to 2010.

Some 90% of farms are traditional family holdings; 8% are run by a group holding and 2% are owned by a legal person or company (e.g. limited company or cooperative), association, central government, municipality or other entity.

The predominant agricultural activities are cereal and dairy farming. In 2000, dairy farms still made up 29% of all farms, whereas just 18% of farms now declare dairy farming as their main activity. By contrast, the proportion represented by cereal farms increased from 34% to 43% over the ten years.

One third of holdings now keep livestock, whereas in 2000 almost half still declared livestock to be their main activity. Some farms that have stopped their livestock activities have remained in operation as cereal farms, which shows as an increase in the popularity of cereal farming. The proportion of farms producing specialised crops has stayed almost the same, while that of farms engaging in horticulture has shrunk. The relative importance of horse-keeping has grown perceptibly, with the share of farms that keep horses increasing by almost one third.

- 90 % of Finland's farms are family holdings
- Proportion of crop farms increased to 43 %
- One third of farms keep livestock





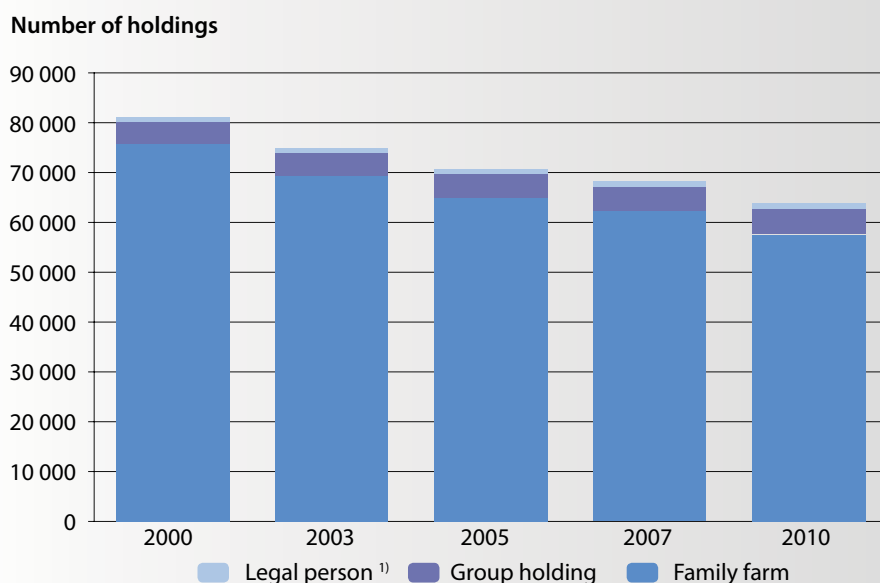
The agricultural labour force is largest in South-West Finland and South Ostrobothnia

The labour force density of farms and horticultural holdings reflects the distribution of the agricultural labour force across different regions. Labour force density is highest in South-West Finland and South Ostrobothnia (**Figure 2**). The total number of people employed in agriculture is also highest in these regions (**Figure 4**).

Farming is an important economic activity in many sparsely populated regions, such as Kainuu and Lapland (**Figure 3**), even though agriculture employs fewer people in those regions (**Figures 4 and 2**).



Figure 1. Number of agricultural and horticultural holdings



¹⁾ Company (e.g. limited company or cooperative), association, central government, municipality or other entity.

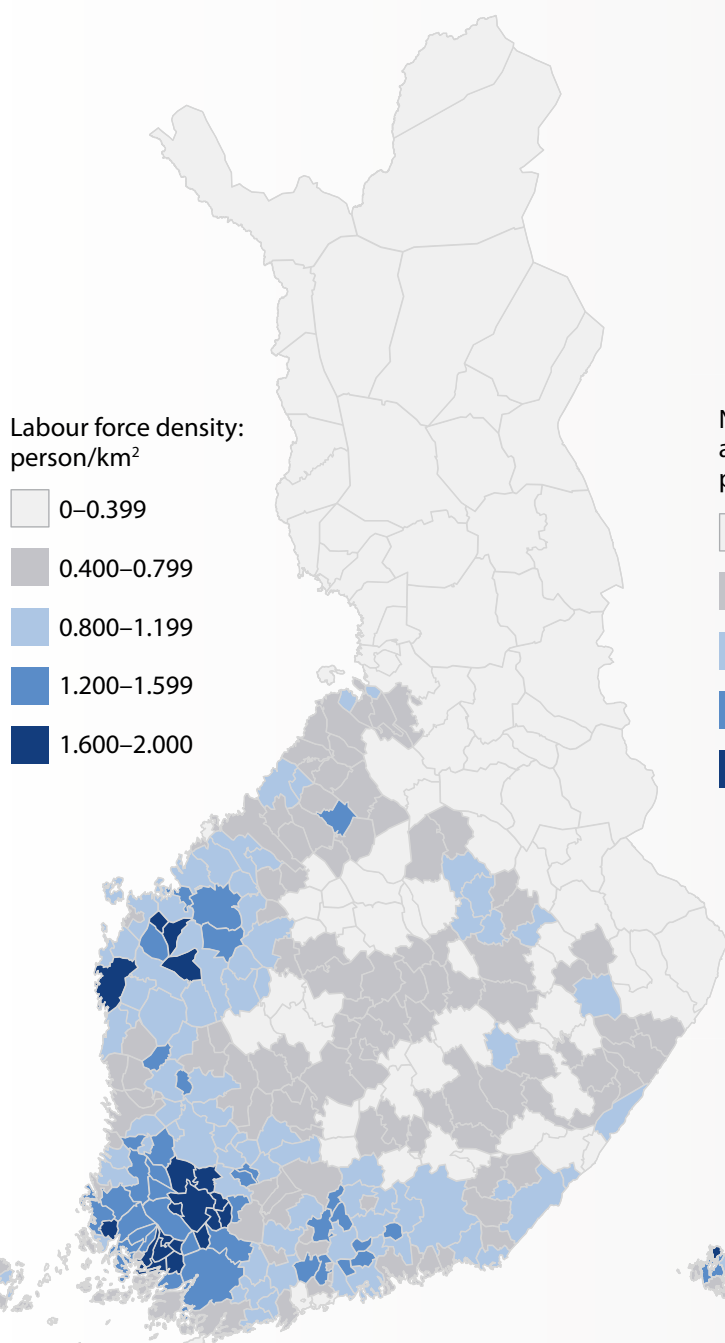
By production sector

By region

By year

Figure 2.

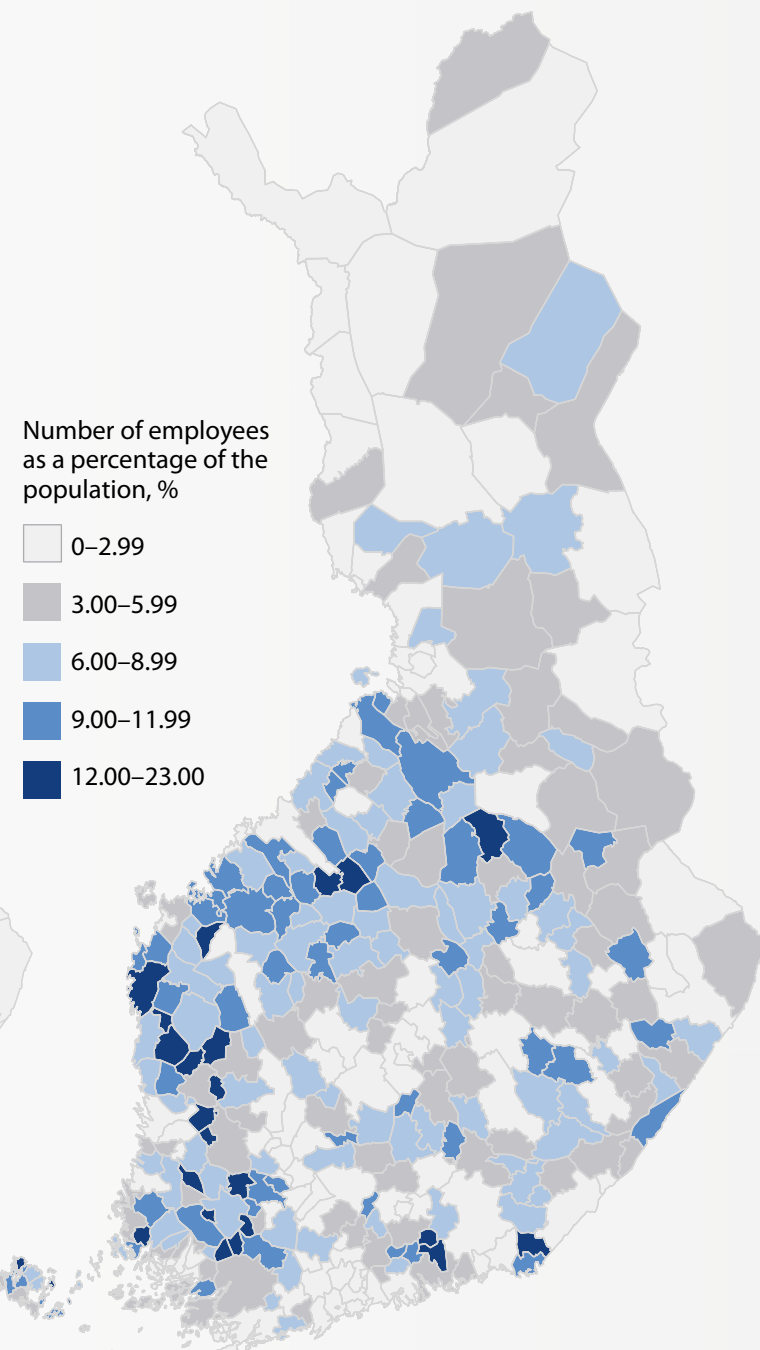
Labour force density for farms and horticultural holdings by municipality, 2010



The labour force comprises farmers and business partners, their spouses and other family members, as well as regular employees. Labour force density is calculated by dividing the size of the labour force by the surface area of the municipality.

Figure 3.

Number of employees of farms and horticultural holdings per municipality as a proportion of the population of the municipality where the holding is located, 2010



Some employees live outside the municipality where they are employed.

Farming and horticulture now employ 30% fewer people than in 2000

The number of people employed in the farming and horticulture sector has continued to decline, as has the amount of time worked (**Figure 4**). A total of around 79 000 person-years were worked in farming and horticulture in 2010 (**Table 5**). One person-year represents 1 800 working hours, or an 8-hour day over a 5-day week for 11 months of the year.

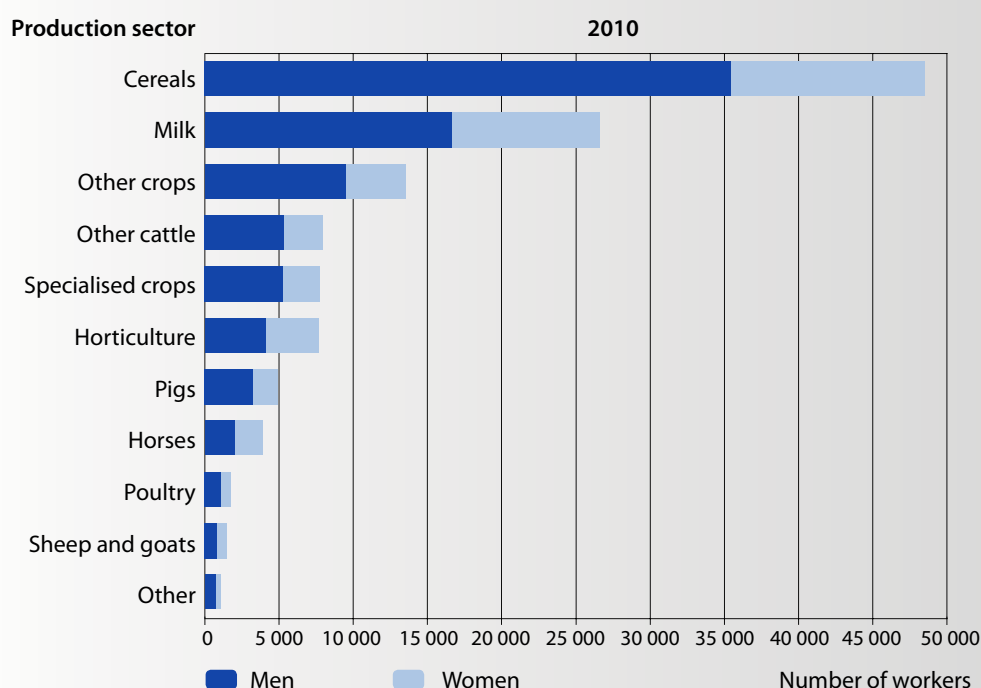
Some 12 000 fewer person-years were worked in farming and horticulture in 2010 than in 2000. The figures are not fully comparable because the 2010 census included all farms and horticultural holdings, whereas the 2000 figures excluded horticultural holdings with only greenhouse production.

In 2010, the agricultural and horticultural sector employed 125 300 people, compared with nearly 178 800 ten years ago. The size of the labour force fell by 30% over the ten years, whereas time worked decreased by a noticeably smaller percentage.



- 79 000 person-years worked in farming in 2010
- Over 125 000 people employed in farming in 2010

Figure 4. Agricultural and horticultural labour force



By production sector

By region

By year

Substantially more hours worked on dairy farms



Nearly 40% of the agricultural labour force is employed on cereal farms. The second largest employer is the dairy section. However, on average only one third of total working hours were devoted to farm work on cereal farms, compared with a definite majority of working hours on livestock farms (**Table 5**).

The workload on dairy farms is well over double that on crop farms. This is also evident from the regional distribution of work: the workload per person and share of the agricultural and horticultural sector in the total workload are largest on average in regions where livestock farming predominates (**Table 5**). Long hours are worked on dairy farms in particular: an average of 255 days a year per person was worked on such farms, whereas the standard person-year is 225 working days.

Table 5. Annual work in agriculture and horticulture, 2010

By production sector

By region

Production sector	Annual work in agriculture and horticulture Person-years	Annual work per person ¹⁾		Share of total work accounted for by agricultural and horticultural activities, % ²⁾
		8-hour working days/ person	Working hours/ person	
Milk production	33 769	255	2 044	90
Other cattle husbandry	7 197	183	1 461	75
Pig husbandry	4 975	205	1 638	81
Poultry husbandry	1 681	193	1 546	77
Sheep and goat husbandry	896	127	1 015	58
Horse husbandry	1 995	105	841	42
Cereals production	13 958	61	487	34
Special crop production	3 865	97	778	50
Horticultural production	7 455	149	1 188	66
Other plant production	3 021	46	366	28
Other production	265	47	378	26
All production sectors	79 078	126	1 004	58

¹⁾ Excluding short-term labour force, stand-ins and contracting workers.

²⁾ Only farmers, business partners, spouses and family members working in agriculture and horticulture.

Women make up one third of the labour force

In 2010 one third of the labour force in agriculture and horticulture were women. The proportion of women has dropped slightly, from 36% of the labour force in 2000.

Women are most likely to be found working on farms that keep horses, representing 48% of the labour force of farms that declare horse-keeping as their main activity.

Horticulture is also favoured by women, who make up 46% of the labour force of farms that declare horticulture as their main activity. Women make up the smallest proportion of the labour force of cereal farms, where they represent just 27% of workers. Cereal farms nevertheless employ both more women and more men in absolute terms.



- *Small decrease in the proportion of female farmers*

Average age of farmers risen to 51

The average age of a Finnish farmer is 51 years (**Figure 6**). This average has increased by three years, from 48 in the year 2000.

The youngest farmers on average (47 years) are pig farmers. The average age of dairy, beef, poultry and horse farmers is also under 50. The proportion of workers aged under 35 is largest on horse farms (14%), pig farms (12%) and dairy farms (11%). Farmers in other production sectors are on average aged 50 or older. A large number of older people are employed in horticulture, with 77% of the labour force here aged over 45 (**Figure 7**).



- *Youngest farmers on livestock farms*
- *Oldest farmers on horticultural holdings*

Figure 6. Average age of farmers and business partners

Region (ELY centre)

2010

By production sector

By region

By year

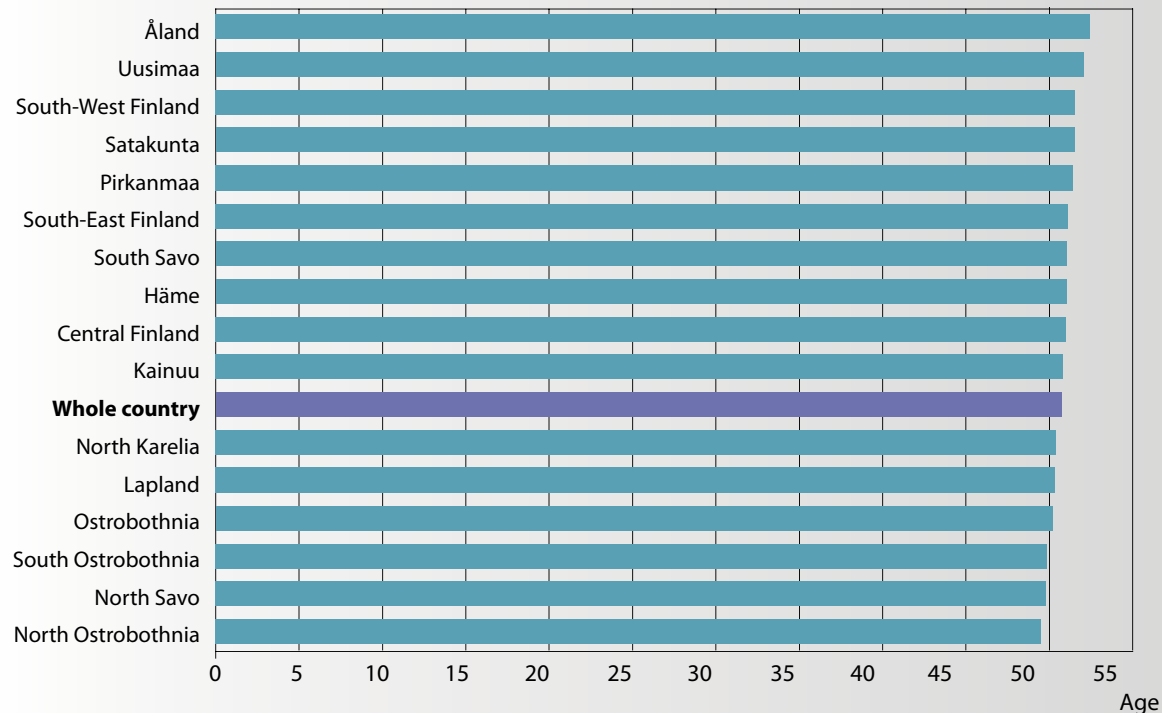


Figure 7. Breakdown of farmers and business partners by age

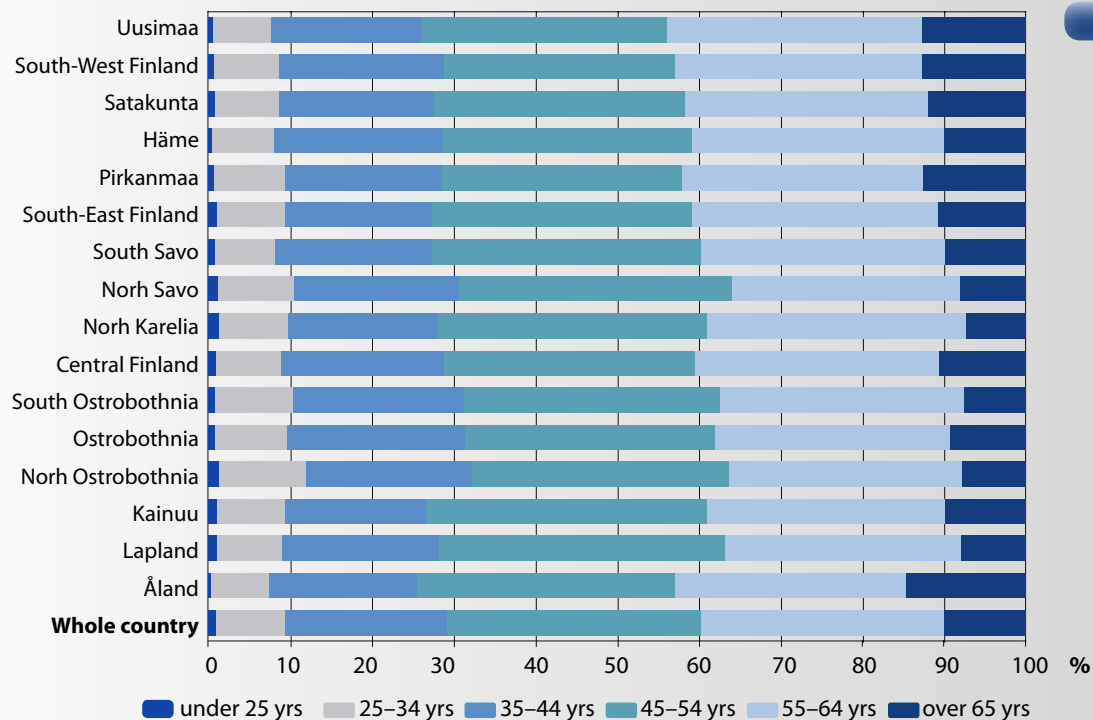
Region (ELY centre)

2010

By production sector

By region

By year



Livestock farmers have the most qualifications

Almost half of all farmers in the agricultural and horticultural sector have no specialised training (**Table 8**). Just over one third have a basic qualification in the sector, for instance from an agricultural college. Ten percent of managers have a higher agricultural or horticultural qualification, e.g. from a polytechnic or university.

Agricultural or horticultural qualifications are most common among livestock farmers, with the exception of sheep, goat and horse farmers, whose lack of training can probably be attributed to the fact that the activity started out as a hobby. People working on sheep, goat and horse farms often have a qualification in another field.

In the crop sector, managers on specialised crop production and horticulture farms are the most likely to have a relevant qualification (around 50%).



Table 8. Specialised qualifications of managers of farms and horticultural holdings, 2010

By production sector

By region

Region (ELY Centre)	Level of agricultural or horticultural training (% breakdown)		
	Practical experience	Basic qualification ¹⁾	Higher qualification ²⁾
Uusimaa	51	34	15
South-West Finland	53	35	12
Satakunta	63	28	9
Häme	51	36	13
Pirkanmaa	56	33	11
South-East Finland	55	37	7
South Savo	56	37	7
North Savo	48	42	10
North Karelia	51	41	8
Central Finland	56	34	9
South Ostrobothnia	63	29	8
Ostrobothnia	58	36	6
North Ostrobothnia	57	36	6
Kainuu	57	35	8
Lapland	65	30	5
Åland	56	37	7
Whole country	56	35	9

¹⁾ Agricultural college or equivalent.

²⁾ Polytechnic, university or equivalent.



Today's farmers have had their h

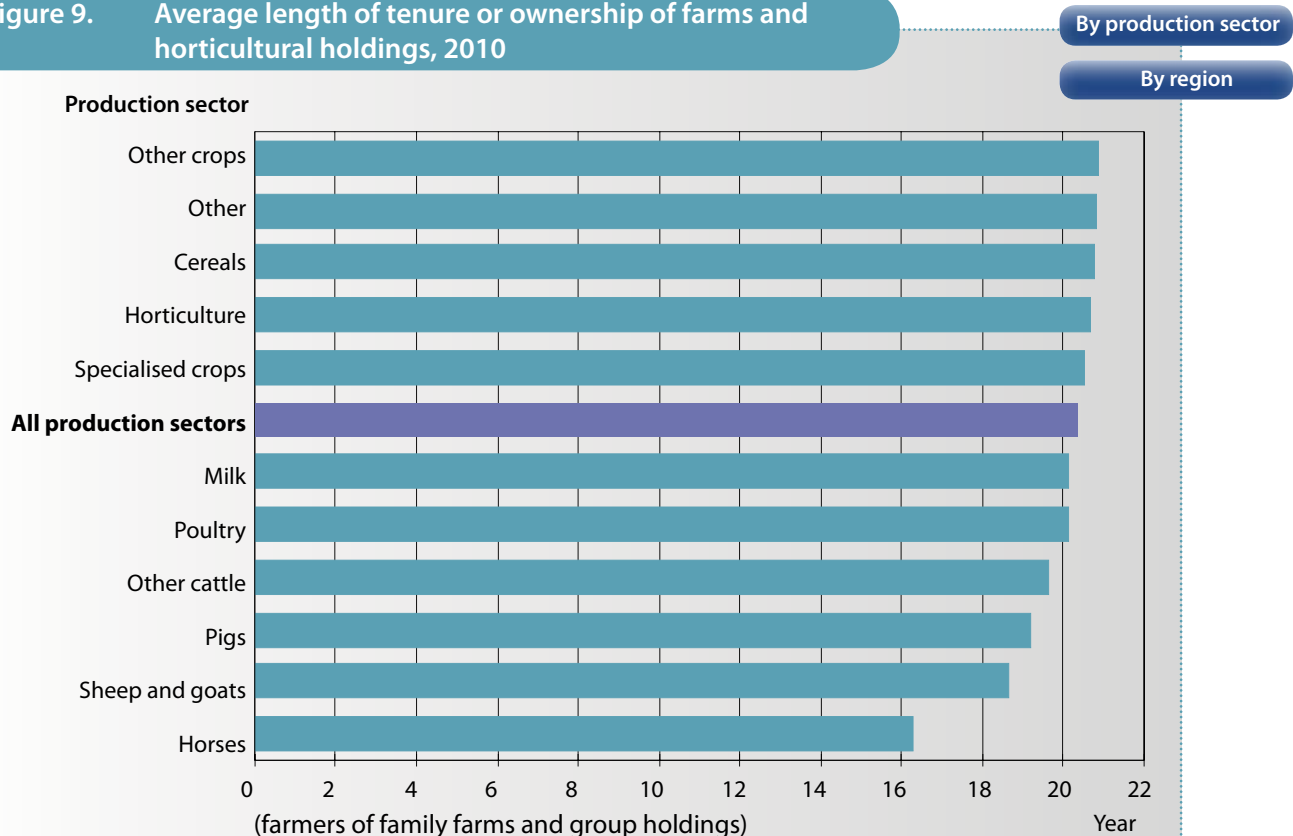
The average Finnish farm was last passed on to the next generation in 1989. This means that family farms and group holdings have been held by the same farmer or farmers for an average of just over 20 years (**Figure 9**). Ten percent of farms passed to the next generation during the five years up to 2010 (**Figure 10**).

There is virtually no difference in the length of tenure or ownership between regions. In the very southernmost and northernmost parts of Finland, it is slightly shorter than the average for the country as a whole.

Length of tenure or ownership does not seem to be correlated with farmers' age. In South-West Finland and Häme the proportion of younger farmers is smaller than for the country as a whole, even though tenure or ownership is shorter than the average in these regions. This indicates that farmers in the southern parts of the country started farming at a later age than farmers in the central and northern regions. The proportion of older farmers is also larger in the southern parts of the country.

- 10 % of farms passed to the next generation in the last five years

Figure 9. Average length of tenure or ownership of farms and horticultural holdings, 2010



olding for an average of 20 years

The average age of farmers in the north of Finland is slightly lower than that of farmers in the rest of the country, and there are fewer farmers in the higher age groups in the north.

Production sector seems to be more relevant than location to length of farm tenure or ownership. Crop farms have generally been with their present holder for longer than is the case for livestock farms. The same applies to farms producing other crops. Farmers whose main production sector is crop cultivation are on average older than livestock farmers.

The length of tenure or ownership of sheep, goat and horse farms is generally shorter than that of other farm types. The average age of farmers here is distinctly lower than the average, the number of young horse farmers being particularly high. Pig farmers are also younger and the length of tenure or ownership of pig farms is shorter than for other types of farm.

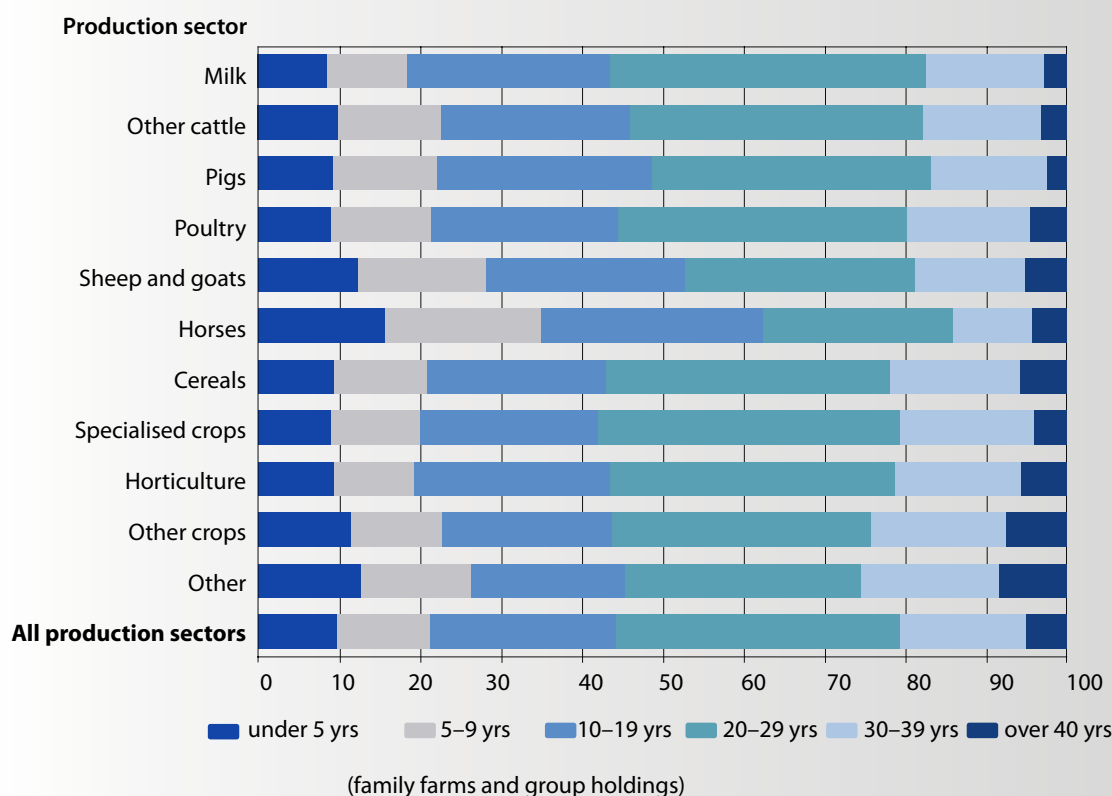


- *Proportion of younger farmers greater in northern Finland*

Figure 10. Breakdown of farms and horticultural holdings by length of tenure or ownership, 2010

By production sector

By region



Over 80% of farms have a computer and internet connection



- *Fixed broadband most common, mobile broadband also used*

Computers are used by 83% of farms and horticultural holdings, and almost all of these have an internet connection. The most common type of connection is fixed broadband (66% of farms with an internet connection) and the second most common is mobile broadband (24 %) ([Table 11](#)). The proportion of mobile broadband connections is larger and the proportion of fixed broadband connections smaller in sparsely populated regions, reflecting differences in network connectedness between different regions.

Regional differences in computer use are small. However, slightly fewer farms have an internet connection in more sparsely populated regions than in more densely populated regions. Broken down by production sector, computer use and internet connections are most common among pig and poultry farms ([Table 12](#)).



Table 11. Use of computers and internet connections on farms and horticultural holdings by production sector, 2010

	Farms using a computer %	Farms with an internet connection %	Connection type ¹⁾			
			Fixed broadband	Landline modem	Mobile broadband	Other
Production sector	% of farms with an internet connection					
Milk	89	86	66	10	22	6
Other cattle	87	84	63	11	26	6
Pigs	96	94	78	10	16	3
Poultry	93	92	76	13	19	2
Sheep and goats	82	80	57	13	26	8
Horses	82	81	61	13	28	4
Cereals	81	79	67	13	23	3
Specialised crops	91	89	75	12	18	2
Horticulture	86	83	67	12	22	5
Other crops	73	70	53	11	34	7
Other	76	72	55	9	31	8
All production sectors	83	81	66	12	24	4

¹⁾ The same farm may use more than one type of connection.

Table 12. Use of computers and internet connections on farms and horticultural holdings by region, 2010

	Farms using a computer %	Farms with an internet connection %	Connection type ¹⁾			
			Fixed broadband	Landline modem	Mobile broadband	Other
ELY Centre			% of farms with an internet connection			
Uusimaa	83	82	70	17	17	3
South-West Finland	83	81	74	12	20	1
Satakunta	83	81	68	10	28	2
Häme	84	83	76	12	18	1
Pirkanmaa	82	80	71	12	22	2
South-East Finland	83	81	66	12	25	4
South Savo	82	76	42	5	38	18
North Savo	86	83	58	10	32	5
North Karelia	82	78	49	9	32	12
Central Finland	82	80	49	10	41	7
South Ostrobothnia	84	82	72	11	19	2
Ostrobothnia	82	80	73	17	11	3
North Ostrobothnia	87	84	65	13	24	4
Kainuu	84	75	42	3	30	28
Lapland	82	79	52	11	35	7
Åland	78	77	84	10	9	1
Whole country	83	81	66	12	24	4

¹⁾ The same farm may use more than one type of connection.

The agricultural census is a statistical survey carried out every ten years in which information is collected from all farms on their workforce, equipment and production methods.

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