Direct payments to agricultural producers - graphs and figures

Financial year 2019
Direct payments in total CAP expenditure

- Direct payments are a key element of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They provide income support for farmers and promote sustainability and environmentally-friendly farming practices.
- In the financial year 2019, direct payments amounted to **EUR 41.4 billion** (which represent 71% of the whole CAP expenditure) and benefited **6.3 million farms** throughout the European Union.
- Decoupled direct payments have progressively replaced coupled payments as the most important component of CAP expenditure (although coupled payments increased slightly again in recent years).

* in current prices
The number of beneficiaries of direct payments is decreasing (-1.2% between 2018 and 2019; increases in 2008 and 2014 are due to EU enlargements), partly because of structural adjustments in the European agricultural sector, but also due to stricter eligibility conditions such as the higher minimum requirements and the 'active farmer' clause. The overall amount of direct payments has remained relatively constant in recent years (in nominal terms), leading to an increase in the average amount per beneficiary.

* As a general rule, direct payments claimed for calendar year N are paid in financial year N+1 (except late payments).
While most beneficiaries of direct payments receive rather small amounts, the greatest share of the direct payment envelope is spent on payments between EUR 10 000 and EUR 100 000.

- Roughly 75% of beneficiaries receive less than EUR 5 000. This accounts for 15% of the total direct payment envelope.
- The greatest amount of expenditure (58%) is concentrated in the payment classes of EUR 10 000 to EUR 100 000, covering 15% of all beneficiaries.
- Only 0.5% of all beneficiaries receive more than EUR 100 000. Together, they obtain 16.3% of the total direct payment envelope.
Over time, the share of beneficiaries receiving very small amounts of direct payments (up to EUR 1 250) has declined (from 63% in 2005 to 47% in 2019), leading mainly to an increase of beneficiaries in the next higher payment class (EUR 1 250 to EUR 5 000; from 19% in 2005 to 28% in 2019).

In contrast, total amounts spent in the different payment classes have changed only slightly between 2005 and 2019 (from 4.9% to 4.2% in the smallest and from 14.3% to 16.3% in the highest payment class).
The distribution of direct payments between Member States broadly reflects the distribution of agricultural area and livestock units between them.

Due to the phasing-in of payments in the Member States which joined the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2013, the share of those Member States in total direct payments has gradually increased (from 20% in the financial year 2014 to 24% in the financial year 2019) and will continue to increase in the coming years (the phasing-in remains for Croatia until 2022).
As is often stated, 80% of all beneficiaries receive roughly 20% of the total direct payments (or conversely, 20% of beneficiaries receive 80% of the total direct payments). Most of these 20% of beneficiaries farm between 5 – 250 hectares (93%), and very few have more than 500 hectares (less than 2% of the big beneficiaries).

Such distribution is mainly driven by the concentration of land and the nature of the support, which is largely area-based.

**Direct payments are as concentrated as land**: 20% of the largest farms in the EU concentrate 82% of agricultural land and production.

Medium-sized farms (between 5 and 250 ha) farm some 67% of EU agricultural land and receive about 72% of direct payments. Very small farms (below 5 ha) represent almost half of all beneficiaries but farm only 4.6% of EU agricultural land and receive 5.5% of direct payments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm size class</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Direct payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;=5ha</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-250 ha</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;250 ha</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The degree of concentration of land and direct payments differs across Member States. While in Slovakia more than 90% of agricultural land is farmed by 20% of beneficiaries (who receive a corresponding share of direct payments), this figure is lowest in Luxembourg (48%). Differences in the share of land held and direct payments received by the top 20% of beneficiaries are mostly small, with some exceptions: In Malta (and to a lesser degree in some other countries), direct payments are more strongly concentrated than land. The reverse is true in Bulgaria, the UK and Spain.
Annex: Country graphs
Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Belgium

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Bulgaria

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Czech Republic

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. EUR (million)

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Beneficiaries Payments

Benefits: Beneficiaries (thousand) Payments (million euros: current prices)

Distribution: Beneficiaries Payments
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Denmark

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Germany

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Estonia
Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Ireland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Greece

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Spain

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Beneficiaries (thousand) EUR (million)

Beneficiaries Payments

Beneficiaries Payments
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
France

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Croatia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
**Italy**

**Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries (thousand)</th>
<th>EUR (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0</td>
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**Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Class (EUR million)</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 0.5</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5 - 1.25</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25 - 2</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 5</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 10</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 20</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 50</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 100</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 - 150</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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<td>150 - 200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graph notes:**
- Blue line represents beneficiaries (thousand).
- Red line represents payments (million euros: current prices).

**Legend:**
- Beneficiaries
- Payments
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Cyprus

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Latvia 1/2

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Lithuania 1/2

**Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments**

**Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class**
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Luxembourg

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Hungary 1/2

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Malta

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
The Netherlands

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Austria

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Poland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Beneficiaries (thousand) vs. EUR (million) for the years 2005 to 2019.

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

Bar chart showing the percentage distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class from 0 to >500 million euros.
Poland 2/2

Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Portugal

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Romania

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

![Graph showing the evolution of total beneficiaries and payments in Romania from 2005 to 2019. The graph includes two lines: one for beneficiaries (thousand) and one for payments (million euros: current prices).]

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class

![Bar chart showing the distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class in Romania. The classes range from 0 to >500 million euros, with corresponding percentages for beneficiaries and payments.]

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Romania 1/2
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Slovenia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Slovakia 1/2

Slovakia

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Finland 1/2

Finland

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
Evolution of beneficiaries by payment class

Evolution of payments by payment class
Sweden

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class
United Kingdom

Evolution of total beneficiaries and payments

Distribution of beneficiaries and payments by payment class