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EARNINGS IN AGRICULTURE 1977

The results of the Community survey on earnings in agriculture in 1977 are now available at EUROSTAT.

The principal results are shown in the tables of this telegram. A full report will be included in "Hourly Earnings - Hours of work, IV-1978", scheduled to appear in spring 1979.

The 1977 survey was limited to permanent male workers. For the EC as a whole, these amounted to about 473 000 in autumn 1977 whereas 485 000 were counted in autumn 1976.

The following table shows the large disparity in the growth of nominal wages between 1976 and 1977 in the different countries; in fact, average hourly earnings rose 29% in Italy but only 7 to 8% in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

TRENDS IN HOURLY EARNINGS AND PRICES

Country	Average gross hourly earnings of permanent male workers			Index of consumer prices
	autumn 1976	autumn 1977	Percentage increase autumn 76/77	Percentage increase autumn 76/77
FR of Germany	7,83 DM	8,48 DM	8,3	3,8
France	10,48 FF	11,93 FF	13,8	9,5
Italy	1426 LIT	1832 LIT	28,5	16,4
Netherlands	9,74 HFL	10,45 HFL	7,3	5,5
Belgium	120,20 BFR	137,61 BFR	14,5	6,5
Luxembourg	60,57 LFR	72,40 LFR	19,5	5,4
United Kingdom	1,03 UKL	1,11 UKL	7,8	11,4
Ireland	0,85 IRL	0,99 IRL	16,5	10,8
Denmark	23,20 DKR	26,80 DKR	15,5	12,7

When allowance is made for the increase of consumer prices during this period, the increase in real terms ranges from about 2% in the Netherlands and Denmark to 10% in Italy and 13% in Luxembourg; for the United Kingdom, however, there was a fall in real wages of about 3%.

A comparison of the increase in gross hourly earnings of permanent male workers in agriculture with that in the earnings of male workers in industry within the same country and, as far as possible, on the same basis (benefits provided in kind excluded) shows that between 1976 and 1977 nominal agricultural earnings increased at practically an equal pace in most Member States, and marginally more in the others.

The survey also permits to assess the impact on cash earnings of the existence of benefits provided in kind. It is found that this impact is rather small as regards earnings of workers who are provided with free accommodation only; it is, however, generally very substantial in the case of workers receiving both free accommodation and free meals (e.g. their cash earnings are 32% lower in France and Denmark and 40% lower in Germany than those of workers who do not receive any benefits in kind from their employers).

The Community Survey on Earnings in Agriculture in 1977

The survey was carried out simultaneously in the nine Member States and used identical methods and definitions (for detail, see "Earnings in Agriculture 1976" - yellow series - Eurostat, 1977). It covered all agricultural holdings employing permanent male workers.

This survey, performed annually since 1974, is the first of a series of three (1977 to 1979) inquiries limited to male workers; based on the complete 1976 results it concentrates on data permitting to analyse the evolution of agricultural wages.

The main aim of the survey is thus to record the gross cash earnings, within a certain reference period, of every permanent male worker covered and the number of hours for which payment is received.

The final results of the survey will be published early in 1979. These results will be broken down by size of holdings, nature of work, receipt of benefits provided in kind, age groups and professional qualifications, and also by regions.

TAB. 1 - AVERAGE GROSS HOURLY EARNINGS OF PERMANENT MALE WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE

a) Data in national currencies - 1974-1977

	Year	FR Deutschland DM	France FF	Italia LIT	Nederland HFL	Belgique België BFR	Luxembourg LFR	United Kingdom UKL	Ireland IRL	Danmark DKR
General agriculture	1974	6,19	6,24	898	7,00	79,17	32,51	0,66	.	15,75
	1975	6,70	8,68	1111	9,08	101,06	42,72	0,91	0,71	18,36
	1976	7,27	10,31	1381	10,10	114,25	50,87	1,01	0,83	21,44
	1977	7,95	11,78	1774	10,98	128,17	50,42	1,09	0,96	25,02
Stock keeping	1974	7,06	6,88	1005	6,56	81,13	.	0,70	.	17,42
	1975	7,66	9,26	1196	8,36	105,34	.	0,95	0,73	20,57
	1976	7,88	10,81	1494	9,30	116,42	.	1,08	0,88	24,36
	1977	8,66	12,37	1922	10,07	145,95	68,61	1,19	1,03	27,31
Specialized crops	1974	7,70	7,00	975	7,32	87,41	56,94	0,67	.	20,80
	1975	8,14	9,39	1186	8,79	108,96	79,71	0,91	0,79	25,49
	1976	8,72	10,76	1487	9,75	123,29	92,02	1,00	0,90	28,67
	1977	9,30	12,15	1905	10,40	139,25	114,52	1,04	1,00	32,89
T ₁	1974	6,73	6,50	936	7,16	83,25	37,33	0,67	.	16,92
	1975	7,27	8,93	1143	8,78	106,04	50,11	0,92	0,73	20,56
	1976	7,83	10,48	1426	9,74	120,20	60,57	1,03	0,85	23,20
	1977	8,48	11,93	1832	10,45	137,61	72,40	1,11	0,99	26,80

b) Indices 1977 (1976=100)

General agriculture	109,4	114,3	128,5	108,7	112,2	99,1	107,9	115,7	116,7
Stock keeping	109,9	114,4	128,7	108,3	125,4	.	110,2	117,1	112,1
Specialized crops	106,7	112,9	128,1	106,7	113,0	124,5	104,0	111,1	114,7
Total	108,3	113,8	128,5	107,3	114,5	119,5	107,8	116,5	115,5

TAB. 2 - PERMANENT MALE WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE - 1977
(breakdowns by size of farm, nature of work and existence of benefits in kind)

a) Average gross hourly earnings

In national currency

	FR Deutschland	France	Italia	Nederland	Belgique België	Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Danmark
	DM	FF	LIT	HFfL	BFR	LFR	UKL	IRL	DKR
TOTAL	8,46	11,93	1832	10,45	137,61	72,40	1,11	0,99	26,80
<u>Size of farm</u>									
1 or 2 workers	7,60	10,92	1677	10,17	129,69	54,76	1,06	0,92	24,11
3 to 9 workers	8,97	12,67	1814	10,51	141,49	135,37	1,12	1,04	29,83
10 workers or more	9,69	13,81	2010	11,14	150,70	-	1,15	1,18	32,80
<u>Nature of work</u>									
General agriculture	7,95	11,78	1774	10,98	128,17	50,42	1,09	0,96	25,02
Stock keeping	8,66	12,37	1922	10,07	145,95	68,61	1,19	1,03	27,31
Specialized crops	9,30	12,15	1905	10,40	139,25	114,52	1,04	1,00	32,89
<u>Benefits in kind</u>									
Free accommodation + meals	5,40	8,82	1169	8,46	108,26	47,45	0,78	0,80	20,96
Free accommodation only	8,59	12,03	1859	10,34	140,56	117,53	1,18	1,05	30,44
Free meals only	7,28	10,54	1799	9,04	125,08	75,69	0,93	0,89	21,21
No free accommodation or meals	9,03	12,85	1874	10,53	140,50	130,28	1,06	1,04	30,99

b) Number of workers employed

TOTAL	30 799	130 348	111 001	14 791	3 814	297	151 381	16 584	13 765
<u>Size of farm</u>									
1 or 2 workers	14 177	69 136	36 160	7 613	1 751	232	48 001	10 155	8 004
3 to 9 workers	10 595	40 252	39 631	4 469	1 427	65	65 353	4 134	4 410
10 workers or more	6 027	20 960	35 210	2 709	636	-	38 028	2 295	1 351
<u>Nature of work</u>									
General agriculture	17 315	84 725	66 372	2 459	928	188	112 945	10 421	8 804
Stock keeping	2 029	8 613	31 956	2 150	601	10	29 282	5 140	2 613
Specialized crops	11 455	37 010	12 673	10 183	2 285	99	9 154	1 023	2 348
<u>Benefits in kind</u>									
Free accommodation + meals	4 136	17 165	5 202	307	254	196	4 558	1 569	5 164
Free accommodation only	2 602	39 444	51 783	1 143	195	15	74 766	1 540	3 346
Free meals only	615	8 099	2 344	199	185	14	4 019	3 297	415
No free accommodation or meals	23 447	65 640	51 672	13 142	3 180	72	68 037	10 177	4 840

