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EARNINGS OF MANUAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE 1978

The principal results of the Community survey of earnings of permanent manual workers in agriculture in 1978 are shown in the tables of this note.

The 1978 survey was limited to permanent male manual workers. For the Community as a whole, the total number of such workers continued to decline from approximately 473 000 in Autumn 1977 to 453 000 in Autumn 1978.

The following table shows considerable disparity in the average growth of agricultural wages in the different countries from 1977 to 1978, with nominal increases ranging from 18% (I) to 5% (B); in three countries (UK, F, IRL), the rise was between 13 and 16% while in the other four member countries (D, NL, L, DK) it was between 8 and 10%.

Tab. 1 - Trends of nominal and real average gross hourly earnings of permanent male manual workers

Member countries	Nominal earnings			Real earnings <sup>1)</sup>
	in national currency		Annual change (%) Autumn 1977/78	Annual change (%) Autumn 1977/78
	Autumn 1977	Autumn 1978		
D	8,48 DM	9,17 DM	+ 8,1	+ 5,7
F	11,93 FF	13,62 FF	+ 14,2	+ 4,5
I	1832 LIT	2167 LIT	+ 18,3	+ 5,6
NL	10,45 HFL	11,30 HFL	+ 8,1	+ 3,8
B	137,6 BFR	144,6 BFR	+ 5,1	+ 1,1
L	72,4 LFR	78,5 LFR	+ 8,5	+ 5,1
UK	1,11 UKL	1,25 UKL	+ 12,6	+ 4,5
IRL	0,99 IRL	1,15 IRL	+ 16,2	+ 7,6
DK	26,80 DKR	29,39 DKR	+ 9,7	+ 2,1

1) Data obtained by deflation of nominal earnings by means of consumer price indices.



Real changes in the average gross hourly earnings of permanent manual workers in agriculture, i.e. the change in their purchasing power, may be assessed approximately by deflating the nominal earnings index, using the consumer price index. It should be stressed that the results of this exercise, presented in table 1 above must be interpreted with caution. For the period between Autumn 1977 and Autumn 1978, increases in real earnings ranged between 1% (B) and 7,5% (IRL) and amounted to between 4 and 6% in most other member countries. A comparison of trends of nominal and real earnings reveals some significant differences. While two countries (NL, B) are found at the bottom of the scale as regards both nominal and real increases, Germany moves from the 7th position in terms of nominal increases to the 2nd position in terms of real increases, and two other countries (L, IRL) also move to a higher rank; the other four countries (F, I, UK, DK) are found at a lower position in terms of real increases.

Compared with the rise of average gross hourly earnings of male manual workers in industry from 1977 to 1978, increases in earnings of permanent agricultural workers - considered on the same basis as far as possible (workers not receiving any benefits provided in kind) - were not significantly different: in five countries (D, F, I, NL, IRL) agricultural earnings rose somewhat more while in the other four countries the increase was marginally lower than in industry as a whole.

#### The Community Survey on Earnings in Agriculture in 1978

The survey was carried out simultaneously in the nine Member States and used identical methods and definitions (for detail, see publication "Earnings in Agriculture 1976"). It covered all agricultural holdings employing permanent male workers which, according to their principal economic activity, fall under class 01 of the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE).

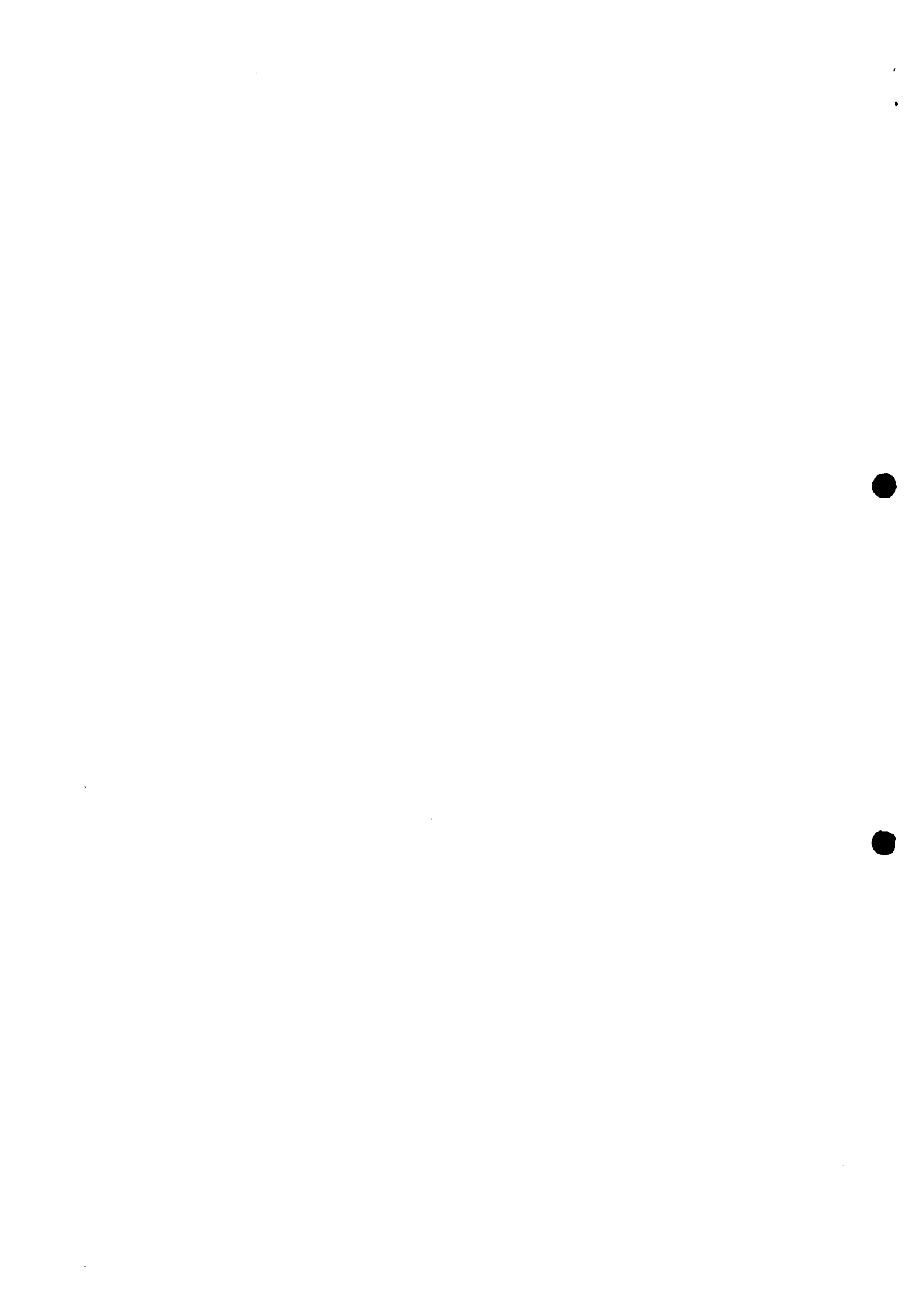
This survey, performed annually since 1974, is the second of a series of three (1977 to 1979) inquiries limited to male workers; based on the complete 1976 results it concentrates on data permitting to analyse the evolution of agricultural wages.

The main aim of the survey is to record average gross cash earnings, within a certain reference period (1), of agricultural male manual workers not belonging to the holder's family who are employed permanently on the holding, i.e. working on a regular full time basis throughout the year, and the number of hours paid.

The results of the 1977 survey are published in volume 1-1979 of EUROSTAT's six-monthly bulletin "Hourly earnings - Hours of work". Detailed results of the 1978 survey, whose principal findings are given in this rapid information note, will be published in volume 2-1979 of this bulletin. 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.

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(1) D, I, L: September; F, NL, B, UK, DK: October; IRL: November



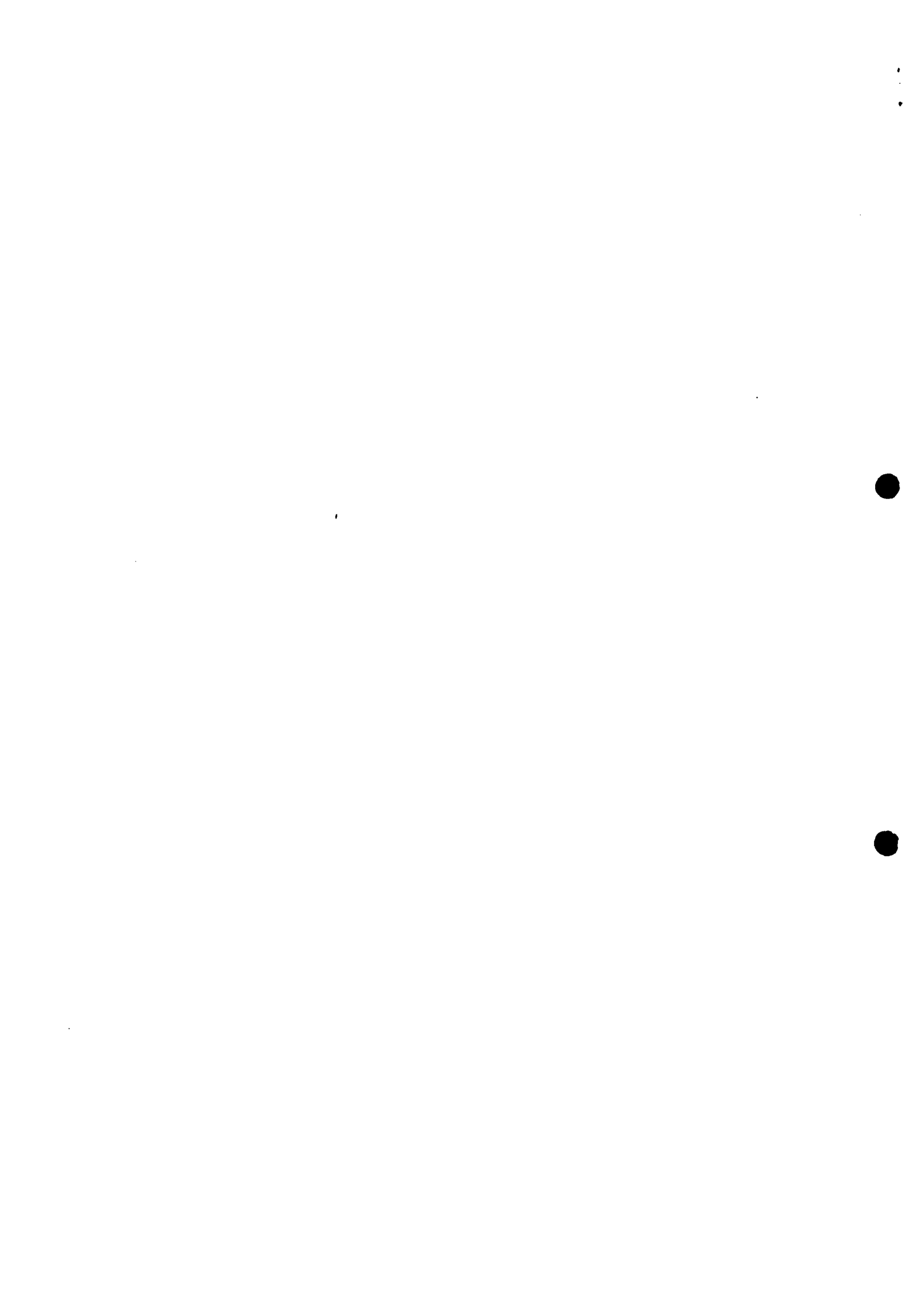
TAB. 2 - AVERAGE GROSS HOURLY EARNINGS OF PERMANENT MALE MANUAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE 1975-1978

a) Data in national currencies

	Année	BR Deutschland	France	Italia	Nederland	Belgique België	Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Danmark
		DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	IRL	DKR
General agriculture	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	7,96	11,78	1774	10,98	128,17	50,42	1,09	0,96	25,02
	1978	8,64	13,42	2139	11,50	136,10	62,00	1,23	1,13	27,43
Stock keeping	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	8,65	12,37	1922	10,07	145,95	68,61	1,19	1,03	27,31
	1978	9,34	14,35	2197	10,87	153,55	69,47	1,33	1,20	29,90
Specialized crops	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	9,29	12,15	1905	10,40	139,25	114,52	1,04	1,00	32,89
	1978	9,91	13,92	2254	11,35	147,23	117,50	1,18	1,20	35,99
Total	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
	1978	9,17	13,62	2167	11,30	144,60	78,53	1,25	1,15	29,39

b) Indices (1975 = 100)

General agriculture	1976	108,5	118,8	124,3	111,2	113,1	119,1	111,0	116,9	116,8
	1977	118,8	135,7	159,7	120,9	126,8	118,0	119,8	135,2	136,3
	1978	129,0	154,6	192,5	126,7	134,7	145,1	135,2	159,2	149,4
Stock keeping	1976	102,9	116,7	124,9	111,2	110,5	.	113,7	120,5	118,4
	1977	112,9	133,6	160,7	120,5	138,6	.	125,3	141,1	132,8
	1978	121,9	155,0	183,7	130,0	145,8	.	140,0	164,4	145,4
Specialized crops	1976	107,1	114,6	125,4	110,9	113,2	115,4	109,9	113,9	112,5
	1977	114,1	129,4	160,6	118,3	127,8	143,7	114,3	126,6	129,0
	1978	121,7	148,2	190,1	129,1	135,1	147,4	129,7	151,9	141,2
Total	1976	107,7	117,4	124,8	110,9	113,4	120,9	112,0	116,4	112,8
	1977	116,6	133,6	160,3	119,0	129,8	144,5	120,7	135,6	130,4
	1978	126,1	152,5	189,6	128,7	136,4	156,7	135,9	157,5	142,9



TAB. 3 - PERMANENT MALE MANUAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE - 1978  
(breakdowns by size of farm, nature of work and existence of benefits in kind)

a) Average gross hourly earnings (in national currencies)

	BR Deutschland	France	Italia	Nederland	Belgique België	Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Danmark
TOTAL	DM 9,17	FF 13,62	LIT 2167	HFL 11,30	BFR 144,60	LFR 78,53	UKL 1,25	IRL 1,15	DKR 29,39
<u>Size of farm</u>									
1 or 2 workers	8,34	12,52	1955	11,00	135,91	65,25	1,21	1,08	26,53
3 to 9 workers	9,63	14,41	2203	11,50	149,09	137,70	1,26	1,21	32,71
10 workers or more	10,31	15,51	2364	11,88	157,70	-	1,28	1,37	35,91
<u>Nature of work</u>									
General agriculture	8,64	13,42	2139	11,50	136,10	62,00	1,23	1,13	27,43
Stock keeping	9,34	14,35	2197	10,87	153,55	69,47	1,33	1,20	29,90
Specialized crops	9,91	13,92	2254	11,35	147,23	117,50	1,18	1,20	35,99
<u>Benefits in kind</u>									
Free accommodation and meals	6,19	10,16	1496	8,41	118,61	55,92	0,92	0,96	23,41
Free accom. only	8,91	13,60	2163	11,20	141,12	122,24	1,33	1,21	33,64
Free meals only	7,90	12,10	2405	10,62	133,98	83,89	1,10	1,05	23,14
No free accom. or meals	9,66	14,56	2225	11,37	147,00	135,67	1,20	1,21	33,97

b) Number of workers employed

TOTAL	31 755	123 740	103 276	13 855	3 347	289	147 801	15 532	13 077
<u>Size of farm</u>									
1 or 2 workers	14 424	63 203	34 659	7 210	1 546	236	47 821	9 627	7 656
3 to 9 workers	11 352	40 388	38 308	4 282	1 180	53	62 640	3 744	4 214
10 workers or more	5 979	20 149	30 309	2 363	621	-	37 340	2 161	1 208
<u>Nature of work</u>									
General agriculture	17 324	80 738	63 642	2 302	968	196	107 427	9 331	8 189
Stock keeping	1 753	7 857	29 309	2 049	313	8	30 896	5 156	2 667
Specialized crops	12 678	35 145	10 325	9 504	2 066	85	9 478	1 045	2 221
<u>Benefits in kind</u>									
Free accommodation and meals	3 601	14 450	4 882	220	187	192	6 941	1 295	5 080
Free accom. only	2 470	35 807	47 506	849	129	20	68 773	1 336	3 031
Free meals only	794	7 154	2 923	109	151	18	2 452	3 476	480
No free accom. or meals	24 889	66 329	47 965	12 676	2 880	59	69 635	9 426	4 485

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