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EARNINGS OF MANUAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE 1979

The principal results of the Community survey of earnings of permanent male manual workers in agriculture in 1979 and trends of these earnings since 1975 are shown in the tables of this note.

The survey was carried out for a reference month in Autumn 1979 (September: D,I,L; October: F, NL, B, UK, DK; November: IRL).

The number of workers covered by the survey continued to decline; for the Community as a whole, it fell from approximately 453000 in Autumn 1978 to 441000 in Autumn 1979. This drop of 12000 was considerable less than during the previous annual period when it amounted to 20000 workers.

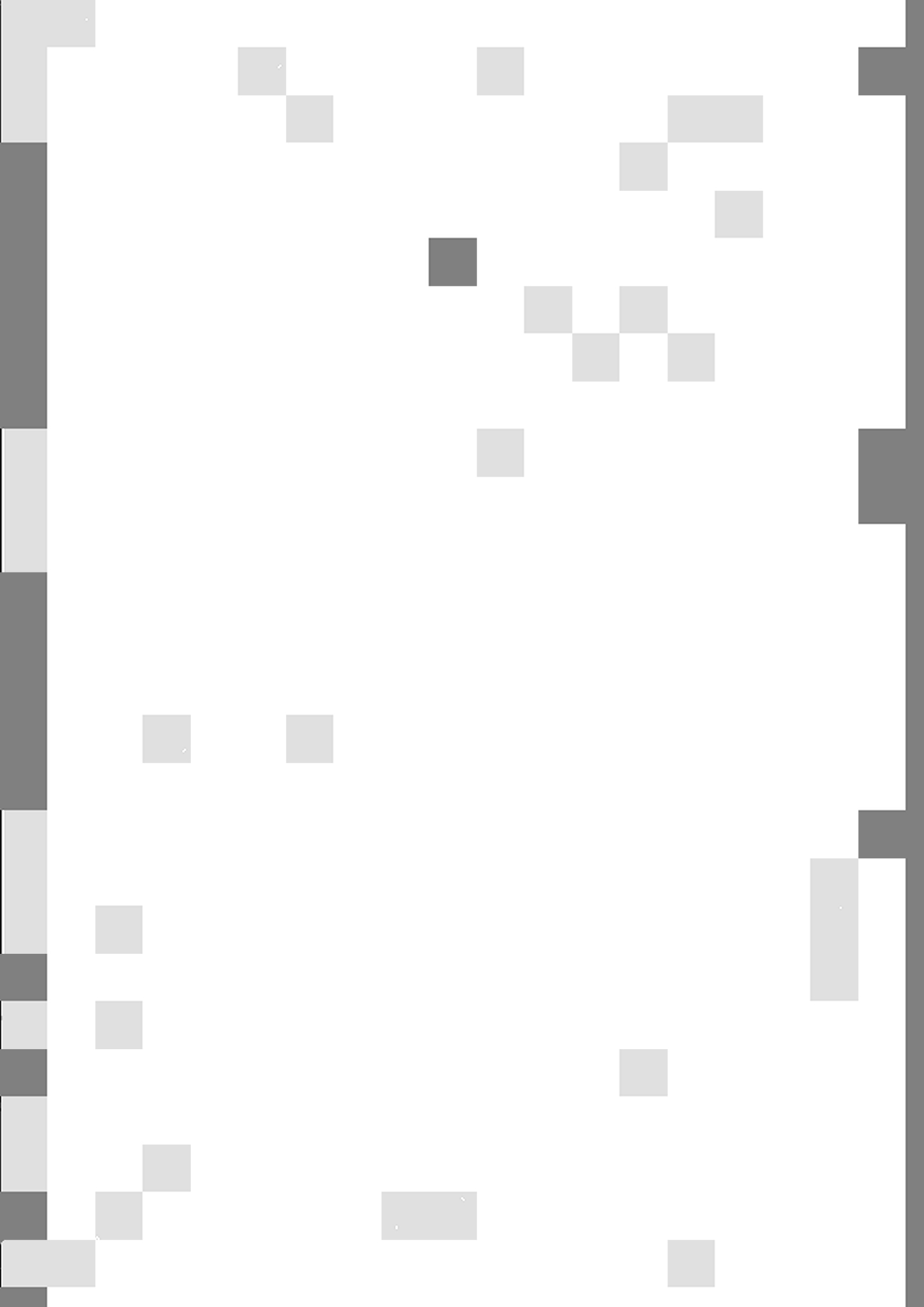
Table 1 shows the large disparity in the average growth of agricultural wages in the different countries from 1978 to 1979 with nominal increases in average hourly earnings ranging from 6% (NL) to 26 and 28% (I, L¹); in three countries (B, D,DK) the rise was between 7 and 10% while in the other three member countries (F,UK,IRL) it was between 14 and 20%.

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

Member countries	Nominal earnings			Real earnings ²⁾
	in national currency		Annual change(%)	Annual change(%)
	Autumn 1978	Autumn 1979	Autumn 1978/9	Autumn 1978/79
D	9,17 DM	9,91 DM	+ 8,1	+ 2,8
F	13,62 FF	15,53 FF	+14,0	+ 2,4
I	2167 LIT	2734 LIT	+26,2	+ 8,9
NL	11,30 HFL	12,01 HFL	+ 6,3	+ 1,6
B	145 BFR	155 BFR	+ 6,9	+ 2,0
L	79 LFR	101 LFR	+27,9	+22,4
UK	1,25 UKL	1,45 UKL	+16,0	- 1,1
IRL	1,15 IRL	1,38 IRL	+20,0	+ 3,8
DK	29,39 DKR	32,37 DKR	+10,1	- 1,1

1) In view of the small size of the Luxembourg survey, the results should be interpreted with caution

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



Real changes in the average gross hourly earnings of permanent male 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. Compared to the situation in Autumn 1978, real earnings in Autumn 1979 were 1% lower in two countries (IRL,DK) which goes to say that the rise in consumer prices exceeded the rise in nominal earnings in agriculture in these countries. For the other countries except Luxembourg (see note 1 on the first page), increases in real earnings from 1978 to 1979 amounted to between 1,6% to 8,9%. If these rises are compared to those recorded during the previous annual period (1977/1978) it can be seen that there was a marked slowdown of the rate in four countries (D,F,NL,IRL) while an acceleration of the rate took place in the two other countries (I,B). Compared with the rise of average gross hourly earnings of male manual workers in industry from 1978 to 1979, increases in earnings of permanent agricultural workers - considered on the same basis as far as possible (male workers not receiving any benefits provided in kind) - showed about the same rates of increase in four countries (F,NL,B,UK); in three countries (D,I,IRL) agricultural earnings rose somewhat more while in Denmark the increase was marginally lower.

The Community Survey on Earnings in Agriculture in 1979

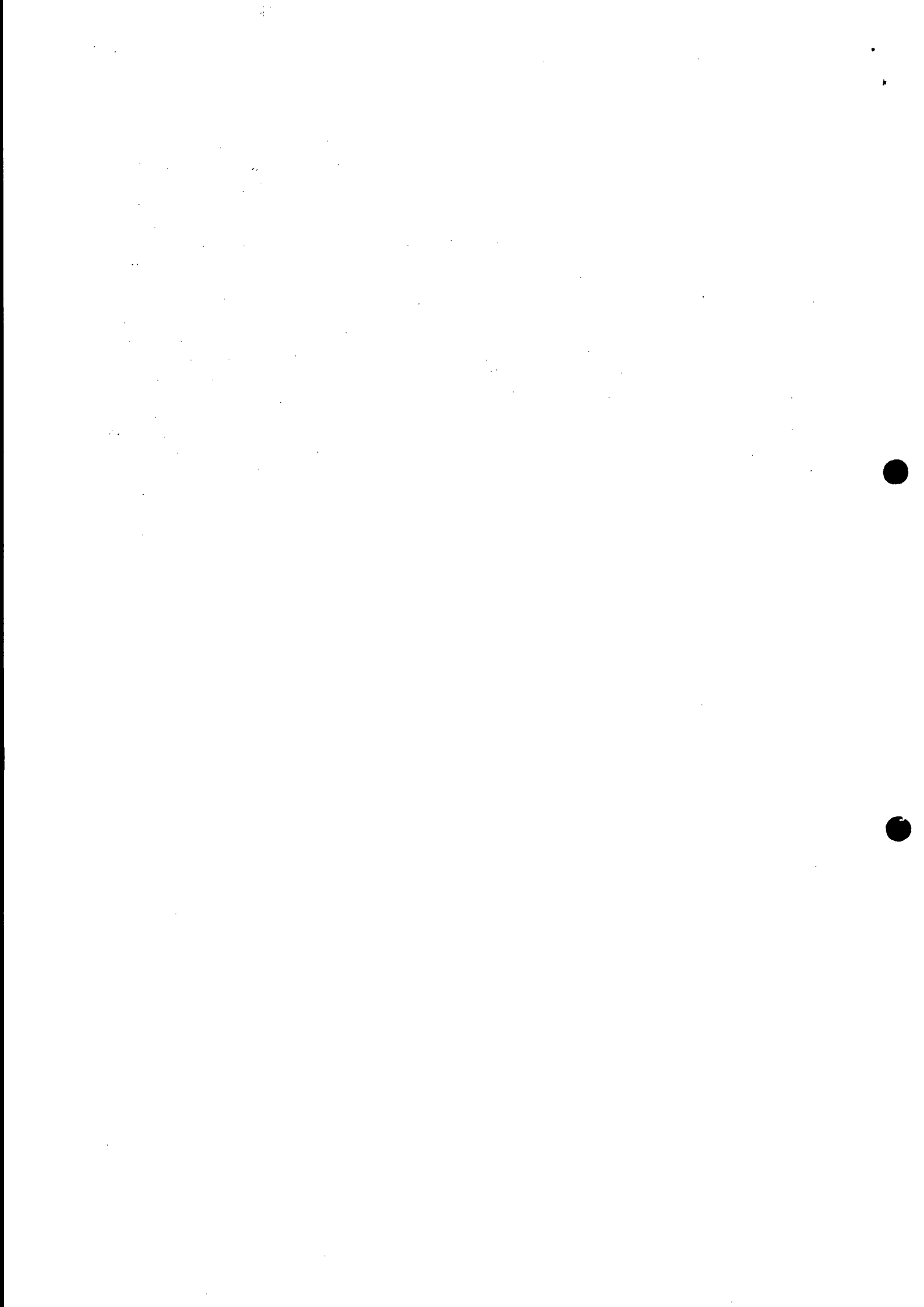
The survey was carried out simultaneously in the nine Member States and used identical methods and definitions (for detail, see publication "Earnings in Agriculture 1976"). It covered all agricultural holdings employing permanent male workers which, according to their principal economic activity, fall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

This survey, performed annually since 1974, is the last 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, with in a certain reference period¹⁾, 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 1978 survey are published in volume 2-1979 or EUROSTAT's six-monthly bulletin "Hourly earnings - Hours of work". Detailed results of the 1979 survey, whose principal findings are given in this rapid information note, will be published in volume 2-1980 of this bulletin. These results will be broken down by size of holdings, nature of work, receipt of benefits provided in kind, age group and professional qualifications, and also by regions.

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



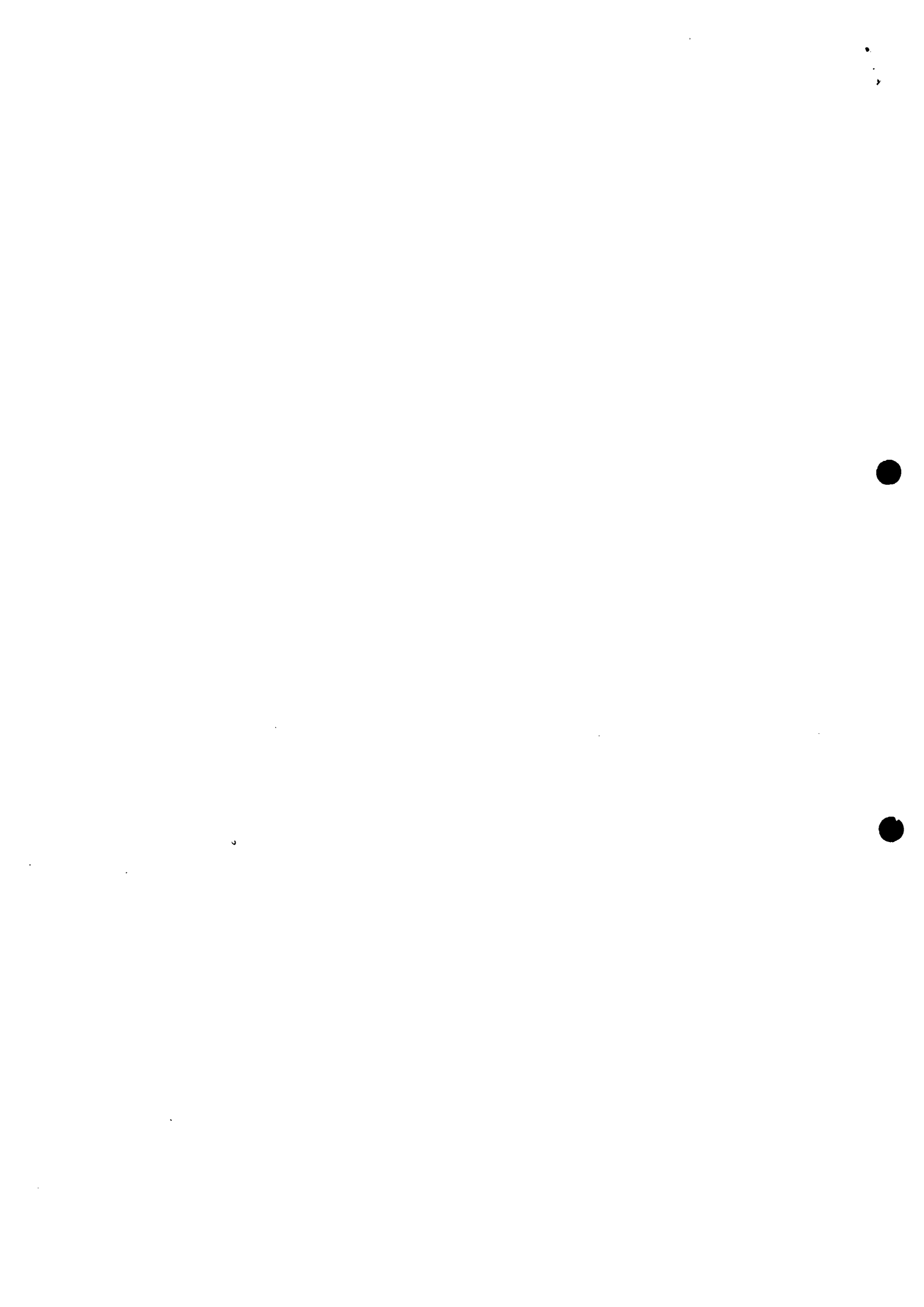
TAB. 2 - AVERAGE GROSS HOURLY EARNINGS OF PERMANENTS MALE MANUAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE 1975-1979

a) Data in national currencies

	YEAR	BR DEUTSCH LAND	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER- LAND	BELGIE BELGIË	LUXEM- BOURG	UNITED KINGDOM	IRELAND	DANMARK
		DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFF	UKL	IRL	DKR
General agriculture	1975	6,70	8,68	1111	9,08	101	43	0,91	0,71	18,36
	1976	7,27	10,31	1381	10,10	114	51	1,01	0,83	21,44
	1977	7,96	11,78	1774	10,98	128	50	1,09	0,96	25,02
	1978	8,64	13,42	2139	11,50	136	62	1,23	1,13	27,43
	1979	9,37	15,35	2699	12,03	145	88	1,44	1,35	30,30
Stock keeping	1975	7,66	9,26	1196	8,36	105	.	0,95	0,73	20,57
	1976	7,88	10,81	1494	9,30	116	.	1,08	0,88	24,36
	1977	8,65	12,37	1922	10,07	146	69	1,19	1,03	27,31
	1978	9,34	14,35	2197	10,87	154	69	1,33	1,20	29,90
	1979	10,23	16,42	2783	11,56	169	119	1,53	1,44	33,35
Specialized crops	1975	8,14	9,39	1186	8,79	109	80	0,91	0,79	25,49
	1976	8,72	10,76	1487	9,75	123	92	1,00	0,90	28,67
	1977	9,29	12,15	1905	10,40	139	115	1,04	1,00	32,89
	1978	9,91	13,92	2254	11,35	147	118	1,18	1,20	35,99
	1979	10,62	15,71	2795	12,09	158	127	1,36	1,38	39,31
Total	1975	7,27	8,93	1143	8,78	106	50	0,92	0,73	20,56
	1976	7,83	10,48	1426	9,74	120	61	1,03	0,85	23,20
	1977	8,48	11,93	1832	10,45	138	72	1,11	0,99	26,80
	1978	9,17	13,62	2167	11,30	145	79	1,25	1,15	29,39
	1979	9,91	15,53	2734	12,01	155	101	1,45	1,38	32,37

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
	1979	139,9	176,8	242,9	132,5	143,6	204,7	158,2	190,1	165,0
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
	1979	133,6	177,3	232,7	138,3	161,0	.	161,1	197,3	162,1
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
	1979	130,5	167,3	235,7	137,5	145,0	158,8	149,5	174,7	154,2
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
	1979	136,3	173,9	239,2	136,8	146,2	202,0	157,6	189,0	157,4



TAB. 3 - PERMANENT MALE MANUAL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE - 1979
(breakdown by size of farm, nature of work and existence of benefits in kind)

a) Average gross hourly earnings (in national currencies)

	BR DEUTSCH LAND	FRANCE	ITALIA	NEDER- LAND	BELGIQUE BELGIË	LUXEM- BOURG	UNITED KINGDOM	IRELAND	DANMARK
	DM	FF	LIT	HFL	BFR	LFR	UKL	IRL	DKR
TOTAL	9,91	15,53	2734	12,01	155	101	1,45	1,38	32,37
<u>Size of farm</u>									
1 or 2 workers	9,00	14,42	2474	11,58	147	92	1,38	1,30	29,22
3 to 9 workers	10,42	16,07	2763	12,03	159	137	1,47	1,45	36,05
10 workers or more	11,14	17,92	2943	12,64	168	139	1,52	1,64	39,96
<u>Nature of work</u>									
General agriculture	9,37	15,35	2699	12,03	145	88	1,44	1,35	30,30
Stock keeping	10,23	16,42	2783	11,56	169	119	1,53	1,44	33,35
Specialized crops	10,62	15,71	2795	12,09	158	127	1,36	1,38	39,31
<u>Benefits in kind</u>									
Free accomodation and meals	6,42	11,76	1786	8,81	128	82	1,01	1,19	26,18
Free accomodation only	9,57	15,48	2746	11,87	157	112	1,55	1,52	37,12
Free meals only	8,42	13,59	3176	9,58	141	99	1,24	1,23	25,73
No free accomodation or meals	10,41	16,40	2780	12,10	157	146	1,40	1,44	37,01

b) Number of workers employed

TOTAL	29 800	116 370	101 780	18 460	3 020	327	143 190	14 790	13 450
<u>Size of farm</u>									
1 or 2 workers	13 420	58 800	32 450	7 340	1 440	256	47 260	9 330	7 950
3 to 9 workers	10 760	38 860	33 650	6 450	1 090	61	61 460	3 410	4 240
10 workers or more	5 620	18 710	35 680	4 670	490	10	34 470	2 050	1 260
<u>Nature of work</u>									
General agriculture	15 900	74 290	60 920	2 050	860	209	106 080	8 840	8 550
Stock keeping	1 560	8 300	30 370	2 660	230	13	27 810	5 110	2 740
Specialized crops	12 340	33 780	10 490	13 750	1 930	105	9 300	840	2 160
<u>Benefits in kind</u>									
Free accomodation and meals	2 970	11 610	4 300	270	170	202	4 780	1 310	5 210
Free accomodation only	2 380	32 870	43 830	900	100	29	69 170	1 400	2 920
Free meals only	600	5 970	2 710	260	140	15	3 470	3 050	560
No free accomodation or meals	23 850	65 920	50 940	17 030	2 610	81	65 770	9 030	4 760

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