



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-242  
30-10-2001  
9:30 AM

## ***Number of agricultural holdings diminishing***

The number of agricultural holdings fell by nearly 5% in 2001 on 2000 (survey date 1 April), according to the latest Agricultural Census figures by Statistics Netherlands. This comes down to an average of 90 holdings closing each week. This decrease is part of a long-term trend: between 1987 and 2001 the number of agricultural holdings fell by about 30%, over 39 000 holdings. The number of closures was greatest among mixed holdings and factory farms.

## ***Average size of holdings increasing***

The decrease in numbers goes hand in hand with an increase in average size. Size increased by 0.8 hectares per holding from 2001 on 2000. Since 1987 the average size of agricultural holdings increased by 5.2 hectares.

## ***Economic size of agricultural holdings stable***

Dutch agriculture has been more or less stable since 1995 in terms of its economic size. Between 1987 and 1995 this size increased by about 25%. The average economic size per holding has grown structurally by a total of more than 36% in the period 1987-2001. The 2001 on 2000 increase was 3.5% per holding.

## ***Labour volume down***

The total labour volume has also decreased by about 5% between 2001 and 2000, just like the number of holdings. The decrease in labour volume in the period 1987-2001 was smaller than the decrease in the number of holdings. There are also several shifts in the structure of the labour volume between 1987 and 2001. The number of non-family members increased in the number of people regularly employed in agriculture. The labour volume of persons working in agriculture on an irregular basis nearly doubled.

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Table 1.

**Development in the number of Dutch agricultural holdings 1987-2001**

Average decrease in the number of holdings per week		Number of agricultural holdings					
		Total	Arable holdings	Horticultural holdings	Grazing livestock	Factory farms	Mixed holdings
x 1 000							
1987	-35	132	17	25	60	13	17
1988	-44	130	17	24	59	13	16
1989	-46	127	16	24	59	12	15
1990	-47	125	16	24	58	12	15
1991	-44	123	16	23	57	12	14
1992	-32	121	15	23	57	12	14
1993	-23	120	15	23	58	11	13
1994	-68	116	15	22	56	11	13
1995	-57	113	15	22	55	10	12
1996	-49	111	15	21	53	10	12
1997	-53	108	15	20	51	10	11
1998	-59	105	14	20	50	10	11
1999	-64	101	14	19	49	9	10
2000	-78	97	14	18	47	8	10
2001	-90	93	13	17	46	8	9
<b>Developments between 1987- 2001</b>							
Absolute figures		-39,2	-4,4	-7,4	-13,4	-5 ,9	-8 ,1
Percentage		-29,7	-25,5	-30,1	-22,5	-43,5	-48
<b>Developments 2000- 2001</b>							
Absolute figures		-4,7	-0,8	-1,2	-0,9	-0,7	-1
Percentage		-4,8	-5,8	-6,5	-1,9	-8,8	-10,5

Absolute figures rounded on 3 significant figures