

Agricultural Production in 2003	Slovenian Economic Mirror	IMAD
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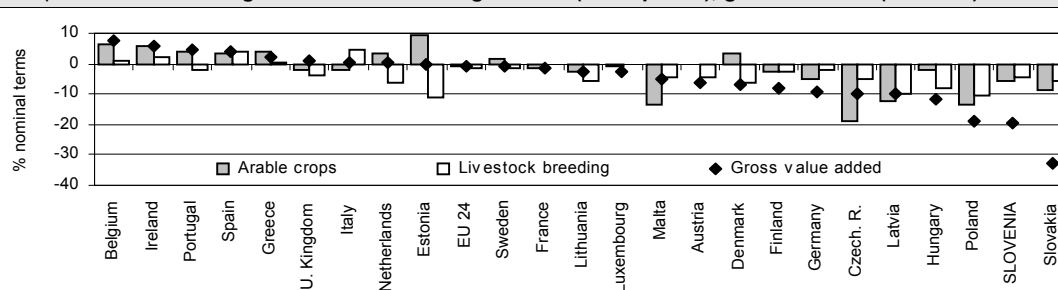
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	growth rates, %	
							2003/ 2002	2003/ av. 98-02
Cultivated agricultural area, thousand ha¹	490.9	498.8	509.0	509.6	505.7	509.7	0.8	1.4
of which: arable land	172.1	171.2	170.8	172.7	168.4	172.8	2.6	1.0
permanent grassland	287.5	296.6	308.2	307.0	307.2	308.3	0.4	2.3
land under permanent crops	31.3	30.9	29.9	29.9	30.1	28.6	-5.1	-6.0
Production, thousand tonnes								
wheat and spelt	169.1	117.3	162.6	181.1	174.9	122.9	-29.7	-23.6
maize for grain	333.5	308.0	282.4	257.5	371.4	224.2	-39.6	-27.8
potatoes	195.7	194.2	186.2	148.3	166.0	107.6	-35.2	-39.6
sugar beet	380.3	467.1	349.1	185.7	232.2	202.1	-13.0	-37.4
silage maize	1,366.5	1,245.5	965.7	833.2	1,066.1	900.6	-15.5	-17.8
vegetables	78.9	89.7	78.8	61.2	70.3	67.0	-4.7	-11.5
fruit	148.2	129.7	180.0	109.8	174.7	136.3	-22.0	-8.2
grapes	122.7	98.3	126.7	106.6	123.0	104.4	-15.1	-9.6
Number of livestock at the end of the year, in thousands								
cattle	453.1	471.4	493.7	477.1	473.2	450.2	-4.9	-5.0
pigs	592.4	558.5	603.6	599.9	655.7	620.5	-5.4	3.1
poultry ²	...	...	5,105.9	5,216.7	4,981.1	4,533.7	-9.0	-11.1
sheep and goats	89.2	87.2	118.3	114.0	129.4	129.0	-0.3	19.9
Meat production, thousand tonnes¹								
cattle	44.3	44.1	39.3	48.0	44.6	49.6	11.2	12.6
pigs	64.4	66.5	58.1	66.4	61.9	70.3	13.6	10.8
poultry	56.8	52.7	54.1	58.6	53.1	...	...	...
sheep and goats	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.8	20.0	50.0

Source: SORS, the IMAD's calculations. Note: ¹provisional data for 2003; ²last column shows the average of the last three years.

Slovenia had 509,700 hectares of cultivated **agricultural area** in 2003 (about a quarter of the total national territory), 0.8% more than in 2002 and 1.4% more than in the last five years on average. Cultivated agricultural area decreased until 1999 and has remained relatively stable in the last few years (except in 2002) mainly thanks to agricultural policy whose objective, in addition to maintaining agricultural producers' income, is to keep land cultivated. However, last year's increase in cultivated area was not accompanied by a rise in **production**. On the contrary, production dropped in all main types of arable crops, fruit and grapes because of drought compared to 2002, when the weather conditions were favourable. The crop of maize for grain, potatoes and wheat dropped the most even though the respective cultivated areas were just slightly smaller than the year before (down 3%, 4% and 0.4%), while the crop of silage corn, sugar beet and vegetables declined less because their cultivated area increased significantly from the year before (by 26%, 20% and 23%). The crop of grapes and fruit also shrank, with the exception of walnuts and sour cherries. The drought caused a shortage of fodder, hay and clover in the second half of the year, which led to an increased slaughter levels. Hence, the number of **animals** dropped in all main groups at the end of the year compared to 2002. The number fell the most in poultry and the least in sheep and goats, which had a small, albeit rising, share in total animals. As a result, meat production increased substantially, while the volume of milk production declined by 9% after rising steadily for several years.

These falls in volumes reduced the **value of agricultural production**. A similar tendency was seen in most **EU countries**, with some exceptions (see graph). The value of agricultural production measured in euros in basic prices (excluding taxes and including subsidies for products and services) fell by 0.4% in nominal terms in the EU-15, according to preliminary estimates (more in livestock breeding, down 0.7%, than in crop production, down 0.3%) and by as much as 9.5% in nine new EU members which were hit hardest by drought and give much lower subsidies (more in crop production, down 10.4%, and slightly less in livestock breeding, down 8.7%). As a result, **gross value added in agriculture** dropped by an average of 0.4% in the EU-15 and by 16.0% in the nine new members. Slovenia is one of those countries that suffered the biggest falls. This was chiefly due to a rise in intermediate consumption (mainly expensive fodder) since Slovenia is not in the lead among these countries in terms of the fall in the value of agricultural production.

Graph: **Production and gross value added in agriculture (basic prices), growth in 2003 (estimate)**



Source of data: Eurostat, 22. June 2004, calculations by the IMAD. Notes: calculated on the basis of EUR in basic prices. No data for Cyprus.