

Agriculture in Bavaria

In Bavaria, agriculture provides jobs for some 223,000 people. If you add the jobs in consulting and administration, as well as sectors such as agricultural machinery workshops, agricultural trade and the food industry, the "green sector" provides jobs for approximately one million people – almost one in every seven jobs.

Consequently, agriculture is an important economic sector in Bavaria alongside the engineering and automotive industries.

How are farms structured?

In 2020, there were just over 100,000 farms in Bavaria. They account for over 40% of all farms in Germany. Farming and forestry are dominated by family-run businesses, which are comparatively small in size by national standards. Farms have an average surface area of 30 hectares, less than half of the national average of 60 hectares. Just under 40% derive their main income from farming. Over 60% are part-time farmers, which means that most of their income is generated outside the agricultural sector. Three in four farms have livestock.

Bavaria is the federal state with the biggest share of organic farms. Currently, there are 11,000 organic farmers, and their numbers are seeing an upwards trend. They farm an area of over 385,000 hectares, i.e. 12% of agricultural surface area.

Which products are produced?

The best term to describe Bavarian agriculture is "diversity". Farmers produce basic foodstuffs such as cereals, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, milk and meat. A quarter of the milk milked in Germany comes from Bavaria. At the same time, we also grow specialised crops such as strawberries, asparagus, hops, tobacco as well as wine and spice plants. These only grow in specific regions due to their particular climate and soil needs. Many stages of production are carried out manually. That is why cultivating specialised crops is very time consuming and expensive.

What is cultivated where is mainly determined by the natural local soil and climate conditions. A dairy farm on the fringe of the Alps cannot simply switch to cereal production for bread, for example, because there is too much rain for this crop.

