

Name:

Working hours per hectare.

Definition:

It is a quantitative indicator of the amount of working hours employed in a farm. To homogenize the value, it is expressed as working hours per hectare. To obtain this value it is necessary to count the working hours per operation performed.

If we divide the total amount of hours obtained in the farm between 1,800 we obtain the AWU (annual work units) used on the farm. One annual work unit, abbreviated as AWU, corresponds to the work performed by one person who is occupied on an agricultural holding on a full-time basis (Eurostat). Full-time means the minimum hours required by the relevant national provisions governing contracts of employment. If the national provisions do not indicate the number of hours, then 1 800 hours are taken to be the minimum annual working hours.

Method of calculation:

The value of this indicator is calculated as a sum of the operation time employed in every plot. Every operation is considered, starting with the soil preparation and finishing with the crop harvest:

$$\text{Indicator} = \frac{\sum_i (T_i \times O_i) A_i}{A_t}$$

Where:

T_i : Time consumed in each of the farming operations (h/ha)

O_i : Farming operations performed on the plot

A_i : Area assigned to the crop / plot (ha)

A_T : Total area considered (ha)

Interpretation:

With this indicator we can evaluate how the labor factor is used in the farm. The more efficient the factor is, less work is required for the farm management. This should not be considered as a negative aspect, because the work is performed by farmers in most farms and therefore this allows a farmer to devote time to other aspects of life both professional (refresher courses, training, etc.) and familiar.

Information source:

Farming operations performed on the plot and productivity per hour: data obtained in a farmers survey.

Labor needs of different activities and tasks: IDAE¹ (2006a and 2006b), Valero et al. (2002) and Ortega Sada (1993).

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1 The Spanish *Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving* (Instituto para la Diversificación y Ahorro de la Energía, IDAE)