



Agri-Food sector of South Savo Region

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European Union
European Regional
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Leverage from
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2014–2020



South Savo
Regional Council





Primary production in South Savo

Current situation

- South Savo agri-food sales revenue (gross, excl. VAT) was a total of 78,94 million € (year 2017):
 - Milk 54 %
 - Other plants 20 % (incl. relevant garden plants.)
 - Beef 16 %
 - Eggs 4 %
 - Grain 3 %
 - Pork 2 %
 - Other meats 1 %
- Revenue to farms in South Savo was 277 million € (year 2017):
 - Sales revenue 79 million €
 - Farming subsidies 58 million €
 - Forestry revenues 70 million €
 - Extra income/secondary source of livelihood 69 million €

Source: Kantar TNS Agri Oy

Primary production trends 2014-2019 in South Savo

- Number of farms has decreased by 8 %, in the area (2 234 farms in 2018). This is in line with the national trend.
- Average arable farmland in farms is 29 ha (2018). However, half of farms are sized 5–20 ha.
- Prediction for 2025: Number of farms will decrease by 33 % (avg. 28 % in Finland) while single farms grow in size (Kantar TNS Agri Oy)
- The number of animal husbandry farms has decreased more than those of crop cultivation farms. The loss of farms is highest in number of pig and dairy cattle farms.
- Main agri-food production sectors in South Savo are: grass, crop cultivation, dairy cattle farming, beef cattle and garden plants
- Cultivated area total of 64,2 (1000 ha) has slightly grown in area (2019) change +6 %.
- Organic farming covers 17 % of the cultivated area. The share is still expected to increase moderately.
- Cultivated area in 2019:
 - grass 60 %
 - grain 30 % (barley, oat)
 - garden plants 2 %
 - outdoor plants, strawberry 2%
 - caraway 2 %
 - others 4 %



Description of Agri-Food sector

Agri-Food sector – General information (1)

Primary sector

- **Gross income to farms** has **increased** in recent years mainly due to positive forest economics. Coincidentally, both sales revenue in agriculture and subsidies to farms has decreased. Furthermore, half of the sales revenue in agriculture is from milk production. In contrast, milk production equaled to 60 % of the sales revenue in the beginning of century.
- Milk production is the most dominant agri-food sector in South Savo Region, and the share is not expected to change. Noteworthy is that the production volume has remained almost unchanged even though the number of farms has diminished.
- Agriculture in South Savo Region is nationally vital especially in farming of broccoli, chinese cabbage, iceberg lettuce, organic carrot and organic onion.



Agri-Food sector – General information (2)

- In general, there are almost **2 800 establishments** in South Savo Region, which account for approximately **5 000 person-years of work**. Approximately every fifth (21 %) of the establishments belong to the agri-food sector.
- The biggest agri-food employment sectors in South Savo are those of **crop cultivation and livestock husbandry** (including game husbandry) by ca. 40 %, **the restaurant trade** by 23 %, and **the wholesale trade of food and beverages** by 22 %.
- **The turnover for agri-food sector has increased.** In 2017, the turnover was in total of **930 million euros**. Whereas in 2016, the turnover was 902 million euros.
- The largest turnover comes from the food and beverage retail trade (approx. 426 million euros). This sector had an increase of over 5 % in turnover from year 2016 to 2017.



Agri-Food sector – General information (3)

Agritourism

- South Savo Region has 11,5 % of all agritourism farms in Finland.
- The South Savo Region accommodation sales revenues (267 farms) were the highest reported in Finland.

Inland fresh water fishing

- There are **184 commercial fishers** in South Savo. They fish in fresh water lakes.
- The main fish species is vendace (fresh water), which accounts for over 37 % of the national catch.
- The domestic fresh water fish has supreme qualities in wholesomeness and environmental factors.



Agri-Food sector – General information (4)

- **Organic farming has steadily grown in South Savo Region** both in terms of hectares, as well as, in number of organic farms.
 - In 2017, the amount of arable organic farmland in South Savo Region was 17,4 %. The national goal of 20 % for the share of organic farmland will most likely be reached by 2020.
- The specialisation in pure food production via organic farming is evidence of successful regional strategy.
- Finnish Organic Research Institute, established by the Finnish Government, is located in South Savo.



Agri-Food sector jobs of South Savo Region 2007-2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crop and animal production, hunting and related services	3079	3023	2944	2882	2851	2799	2471	2407	2355	2161	2073
Gathering of wild growing non-wood products	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	7	2	4
Fishing and aquaculture (freshwater)	39	38	38	32	33	36	39	38	34	32	37
Manufacture of food products	79	73	71	68	63	62	69	67	69	70	66
Manufacture of beverages	10	10	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	11
Wholesale trade of food and beverages	20	18	17	17	16	16	18	15	16	19	18
Retail trade of food and beverages	250	235	230	228	217	212	217	209	203	205	208
Food and beverage service activities	390	398	379	376	360	363	370	376	368	360	374
In total	3867	3795	3688	3612	3549	3496	3200	3128	3061	2858	2791

Reference: Statistic Finland 2016 and 2017

Agri-Food sector personnel of South Savo Region 2007-2017

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crop and animal production, hunting and related services	4148	4105	3988	4077	4138	3840	3785	3689	3490	2243	1962
Gathering of wild growing non-wood products	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fishing and aquaculture (freshwater)	33	35	39	41	31	32	30	30	25	25	34
Manufacture of food products	749	728	652	623	615	607	621	621	621	632	601
Manufacture of beverages	24	22	21	20	20	19	25	29	25	24	29
Wholesale trade of food and beverages	45	42	45	25	47	30	47	32	31	62	64
Retail trade of food and beverages	1190	1121	1129	1128	1217	1240	1309	1213	1236	1160	1099
Food and beverage service activities	1282	1282	1295	1307	1316	1313	1315	1258	1241	1196	1142
In total	7471	7335	7169	7221	7384	7081	7132	6872	6669	5342	4932

Reference: Statistic Finland 2016 and 2017

Turnover of agri-food sector companies of South Savo Region 2007-2017

Turnover (1 000 €)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crop and animal production, hunting and related services	172 000	182 000	174 000	171 000	180 000	181 000	183 000	181 000	165 347	167 750	160 700
Gathering of wild growing non-wood products	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	46	102	-	581
Fishing and aquaculture (freshwater)	3 426	3 416	3 642	4 584	3 578	3 834	3 473	3 299	3 098	3 372	3 807
Manufacture of food products	127 376	313 188	113 937	106 761	106 563	104 993	129 269	133 877	134 427	137 484	136 973
Manufacture of beverages	1 336	1 422	1 217	1 204	1 210	1 125	1 779	2 999	3 211	3 368	3 821
Wholesale trade of food and bevarages	5 790	21 412	21 967	5 158	23 313	7 715	26 855	7 709	21 541	69 580	84 446
Retail trade of food and beverages	352 003	360 410	374 707	383 539	403 006	431 134	458 721	445 628	417 301	404 505	425 780
Food and beverage service activities	102 795	102 654	104 464	105 445	110 887	117 872	121 786	113 491	107 873	115 637	113 924
In total	764 726	802 502	793 934	777 691	828 557	847 673	924 961	888 049	852 900	901 696	930 032

Reference: Statistic Finland 2016 and 2017

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**South Savo
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<https://www.esavo.fi/>



Centre for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment

<https://www.ely-keskus.fi/en/web/ely-en/>

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