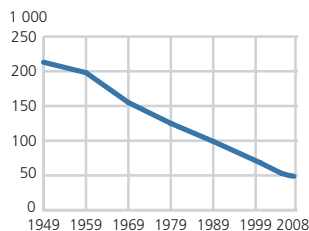


From agriculture to aquaculture

Number of farm holdings



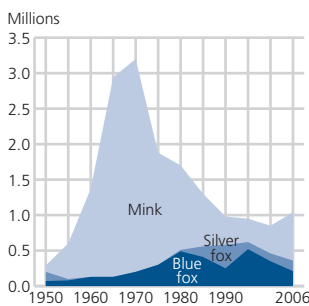
Major structural changes in agriculture

Since 1949, the number of farm holdings has fallen 75 per cent; from 213 000 to 48 800 in 2008, which is an average loss of eight farms every day.

Nevertheless, the total agricultural area is unchanged because the land belonging to these abandoned farm holdings has been taken over by other farms. As a result, the average farm holding area has quadrupled during this period, from 50 decares to 210.

Employment in agriculture has also fallen sharply. Whereas more than 20 per cent were employed in agriculture in 1950, the proportion in 2007 was 2.3 per cent. Today, agriculture's share of the GDP is 0.5 per cent.

Number of fur-bearing animals



Fewer horses and cattle – more fur-bearing animals

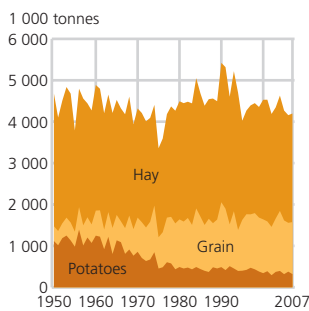
The horse has practically disappeared from Norwegian farm holdings and the number of cattle has more than halved (311 000 animals in 2008). On the other hand, milk yield per cow has increased substantially from 2 000 litres in 1949 to 6 800 litres. Sheep and pig stocks have also seen a reduction.

The golden age for the fur-bearing animal industry was at the end of the 1960s, when there were 3.2 million animals altogether, 95 per cent of which were mink. After a dramatic decline, an increase has taken place in recent years in the number of mink, and the total stock of fur-bearing animals is more than a million.

Less potatoes – more grain

Agricultural crops vary considerably from year to year but the long-term trend is clear. Since 1950, the production of potatoes has dropped to almost a third, while grain production has quadrupled.

Agricultural yields



The Ministry of Agriculture's target is that at least 15 per cent of the agricultural area should be used for organic farming by 2015. However, holdings with organic farming account for a mere 4 per cent of the agricultural area, compared with between 5 and 8 per cent in the other Nordic countries.

Norwegian wood

The economic importance of forestry has been greatly reduced. In 1950, forestry made up 2.5 per cent of the GDP, while in 2007 this figure had fallen to 0.2 per cent. The quantity of timber cut for sale varied between 6.6 and 11 million cubic metres per year in this period. In 1950, all roundwood was felled and hewed manually with an axe and saw, but the chain saw has gradually taken over. Today felling machines dominate, thus leading to a substantial decline in forestry employment.

Fewer fishermen – increased production

Around 1950 there were approximately 100 000 fishermen in Norway, whereas in 2007 the number was 13 300. Out of these, fishing was the main occupation for 10 700.

The fisheries' catch varies considerably from year to year. From 1945 to 1977, which was a record year, the catch more than quadrupled, from 0.7 to 3.4 million tonnes. Since then the catch has declined, to 2.4 million tonnes in 2007.

Norway is number eleven on the list of the world's largest fishing nations. China heads the list (17 million tonnes), followed by Peru, the USA, Indonesia and Japan.

The cod catch has the highest value in economic terms, followed by herring, saithe and mackerel.

Salmon: our new domestic animal

The production of farmed fish has grown sharply since it began in the 1970s, amounting to 814 000 tonnes in 2007.

Salmon dominates the fish farm industry, while in recent years the production of trout has been stable.

However, other species are also becoming of greater interest: cod is growing in popularity, with more than 9 600 tonnes.

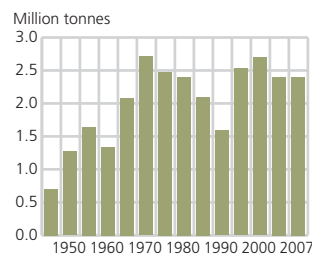
Few employees – economically important

The aquaculture industry employs around 3 800 people, working in some 1 500 fish farms. However, its economic significance is far greater. The first-hand value of the fish farming industry now totals far more than the traditional fisheries – NOK 17 and 12 billion respectively.

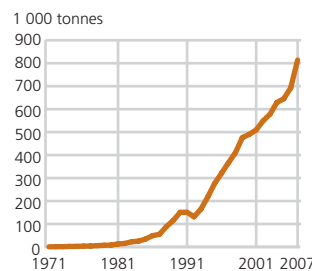
The total export value of fish and fish products was approximately NOK 39 billion in 2008. Exports of fish therefore account for almost 5 per cent of total export revenues. Exports of farmed fish represent about half of all fish exports.

More than 50 per cent of fish exports go to EU countries, but the largest single market is Russia, followed by France.

Catch quantity for Norwegian fisheries



Farmed fish. Total sales of salmon and trout



First-hand value of the farmed fish industry and traditional fisheries

