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France – NUTS2 Région Centre. Case area description

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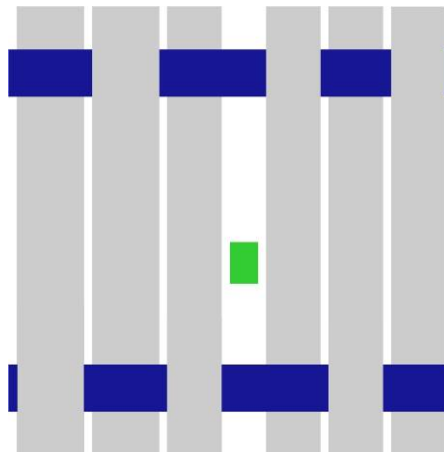
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Deliverable n. 2.8

**FRANCE – NUTS2 REGION CENTRE
CASE AREA DESCRIPTION**

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Version n. 2008-08-14/final

With contributions by
Fabrice Levert

Date 14 August 2008

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SUMMARY

This deliverable describes the NUTS2 region Centre and one of its NUTS3 region (Eure-et-Loir), in terms of socio-demographic, territorial, economic and agricultural policy aspects.

Notes

- Everything which has been changed from the template or added is in blue colour.

- Sources of data

When no source is indicated, figures are from Eurostat in 2006. Otherwise, the source and date are indicated.

Some data were found. In such cases, table cells are left blank or filled in with "n/a".

1 IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA (NUTS 2 LEVEL)

As suggested by its name, the NUTS2 region Centre is located in the central part of France (

Figure 1). It is made of six NUTS3 regions, and is the fourth biggest NUTS2 region in France. The region has only two cities (i.e. Tours and Orléans, the NUTS2 capital city) of more than 100,000 inhabitants, but none more than 300,000 inhabitants.

Although being one of the first crop farming production areas within Europe, Centre is also a huge forestry area within nearly 1,000,000 forested hectares. The region is crossed from East to West by the longest French river (La Loire) along which vineyards, orchards and market-gardens can be found. The Centre's climate is mild, heavily influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. While the northern part of the region presents vast plains suitable for crop farming (mainly wheat and rapeseed), central and southern parts are dominated by mixed and livestock farming (Figure 2). Centre is France's leading grain grower (this region is also called the "grain loft of France") accounting for some 14% of the total national production. The Centre region produces the highest share of France's wheat and oilseed and the second highest share of France's barley. Intensive, large-scale production on large modern holdings began in Beauce and north-eastern area (Berry), and has spread rapidly to other districts.

Figure 1 – Location of the NUTS2 region Centre and division in 6 NUTS3 regions

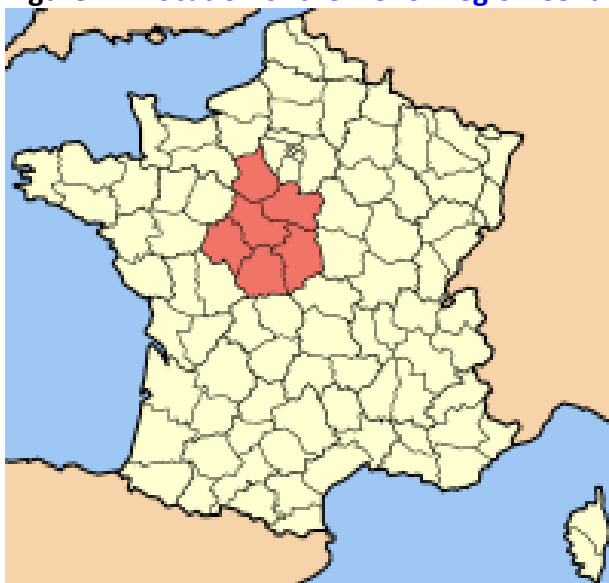
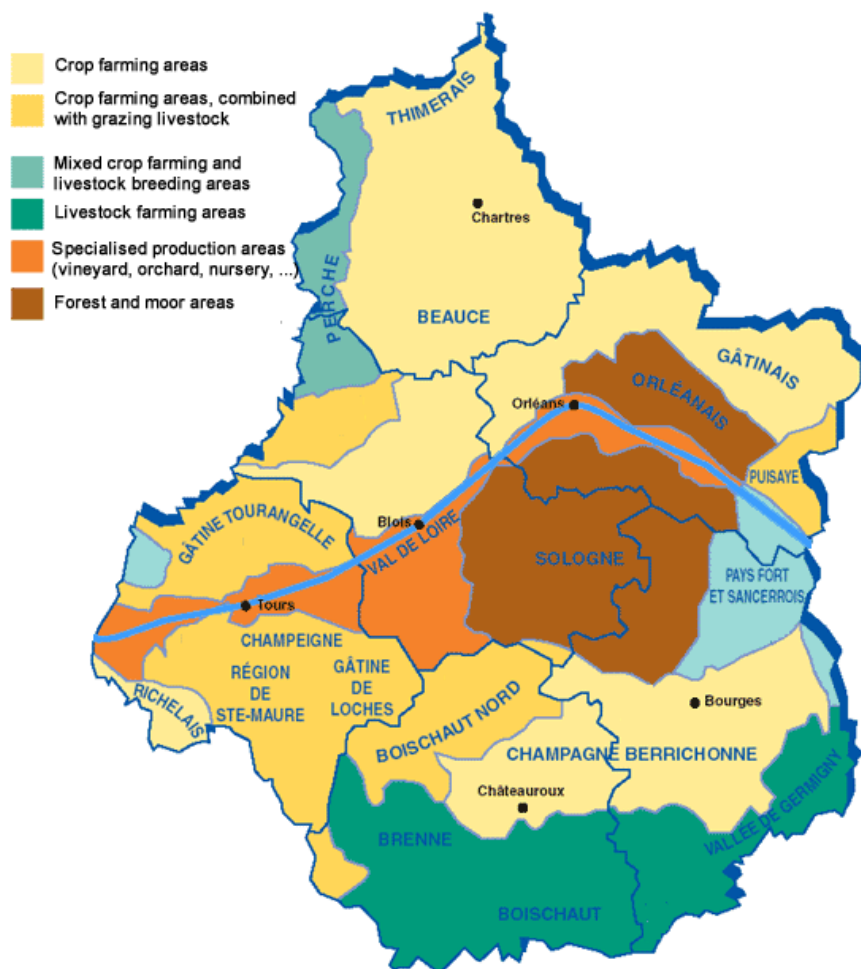


Figure 2 – Main agricultural areas within the NUTS2 region Centre



1.1 Socio-demographic aspects (NUTS 2 level)

Table 1 – Main socio-demographic aspects

NUT2 region	Surface		Number of households	
	HA	%	Number	%
Total	3,915,090		1,065,900	100
Urban			779,900	73.2
Rural (sparsely populated area, i.e. less than 100 inhabitants/km2)			286,00	26.8

Density/km ² *	63.98
Average age **	40.28

* Calculated from Eurostat (2006) with area = 39,150.9 km² and population = 2,504,992 inhabitants.

** Calculated from Eurostat (2006). Excludes inhabitants less than 1 year old (30,024 inhab.) and more than 99 years old (1,187 inhab.)

1.1.1 Social indicators

Table 2 – Employment

	Females	Males	Total
Employment rate <i>(15 years and over; in 2006)</i>	49.4	58.4	53.7
Unemployment rate <i>(15 years and over; in 2006)</i>	7.7	7.2	7.4
Employment rate of older workers <i>(65 years and over; in 2006)</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1
Average exit age from the labour force			
Employment rate in primary sector <i>(= share of workers in primary sector)</i>			3.8
Employment rate in secondary sector <i>(= share of workers in secondary sector)</i>			26.1
Employment rate in tertiary sector <i>(= share of workers in tertiary sector)</i>			70.1

Table 3 – Social cohesion

	Females	Males	Total
Long-term unemployment rate (<i>in 2006</i>)			35.5
Jobless households			
Dispersion of regional employment rates			
Early school leavers			

Table 4 – Social inclusion

Inequality of income distribution	
Lifelong learning (<i>=share of adults aged 25-64 participating in education and training; in 2006</i>)	7.4
Individuals' level of Internet skills	

Table 5 – Demographic changes

Life expectancy at age 65, by gender	
Net migration	
Average exit age from the labour market, by gender	

Table 6 – Other indicators

Number of towns above 100,000 inhab (<i>towns only, excluding suburbs</i>)	2 (Tours, Orléans) *
Number of agrifood processing plants (<i>20 employees and more</i>)	113 **

* Source: based on current information in dictionary

** Source : Agreste, Memento agricole Région Centre, 2007

1.2 Territorial aspects (NUTS 2 level)

Table 7 – Main territorial aspects

NUT2 region:	Surface		Population	
	HA	%	Number	%
Total	3,915,090	100	2,504,992	100
Plain				
Mountain				

Table 8 – Agricultural area

	Ha
Utilised agricultural area	2,353,800 ha (2,322,588 ha in 2005 according to Agreste)
Unutilised agricultural land	
Area under agri-environment support	
Area under nature protection	

1.3 Economic aspects (NUTS 2 level)

1.3.1 General economic indicators

Table 9 – Main economic aspects

NUT2 region:	€	%
GDP (<i>at current market price, in 2005</i>)	61,396.3 millions	(% of total GDP of the country) 12.1% (out of 506,600 millions Euros)
GDP of primary sector		(% of GDP of primary sector of the country)
GDP of secondary sector		(% of GDP of secondary sector of the country)
GDP of tertiary sector		(% of GDP of tertiary sector of the country)
Per-capita GDP (<i>in 2005</i>)	24,550.4	
Per-capita urban GDP		
Per-capita rural GDP		

1.3.2 Farm classification

Table 10 – Farms classified by class of size in 2005 (source: Agreste)

Class of size (ha UAA)	Number of farms	Ha
0 - 5	4,629	8,938
5-10	1,896	13,062
10-20	1,775	25,674
20-50	2,990	102,724
> 50	15,823	1,971,029
Total	27,634	2,322,588

Table 11 – Farms classified by class of income in 2005 (source Agreste)

Class of income	Number of farms	Ha
< 8 ESU	6,073	
8-40 ESU	4,973	
40-100 ESU	9,969	
> 100 ESU	6,619	
Total	27,634	

Comments

The number of ESU gives a farm's economic size in terms of Standard Gross Margin (SGM). 1 ESU (European Size Units) = 1,200 euros of SGM.

Table 12 – Farms classified by land use in 2005 (source: Agreste)

Land use	Number of farms	Ha
Arable land	23,150	2,044,489
Fodder crops	6,933	161,971
Permanent grasslands	11,529	244,420
Fruit plantations (including 6 species only: apricot, cherry, peach, plum, pear, apple)	476	4,503
Vineyards	3,511	23,693
Wooded area		
Type of Farming	Number of farms	Ha
Farms specialists field crops (TF 13,14)	15,049	1,691,879
Farms specialists grazing livestock (TF 41,42,43,44)	4,391	225,773
Farms specialists permanent crops (TF 37,38,39)	2,629	43,544
Farms specialists granivores (TF 50,72)	377	n/a
Farms specialists horticulture (TF 28,29)	612	7,520
Other farms (FT 60,71,81,82,90)	4,576	350,095

Comments

TF: European definition of Type of Farming
The classification of farms per TF is given in addition to the classification per land use, and therefore figures given in these two parts of the table should not be summed up. Furthermore, note that double counts are not avoided in the classification per land use.

Table 13 – Farms classified by livestock
(source: Eurostat in 2004 except poultry in 2000)

Livestock	Number of LSU
Cattle	424,400
Including dairy cows	72,300
Sheep and goats	38,800
Poultry	113,500
Pigs	69,000

Table 14 – Other aspects (source: Agreste in 2005)

Total irrigable area	486,856 ha (6,518 farms)
Average of irrigable surface	74.7 ha
Total irrigated area	288,187 ha (6,232 farms)
Average of irrigated surface	46.2 ha
Area under organic farming (ha)	22,527
Organic farms (number)	366
Agricultural-Holdings with another gainful activity (number)	4,665 with on-farm sale 2,983 with on-farm processing 750 with on-farm tourism 2,009 with participation to work on other farms NOTE: figures not excludable
Holdings in less favoured areas (including mountainous)	7,586 *

* Source: French FADN in 2005

Table 15 – Employment in agriculture (source: Agreste in 2005)

Labour	Numbers of workers
full time	28,703
part-time	26,245

	Male	Female	Total
number of non-family workers	7,631	1,858	9,489
family labour force	30444	15,015	45,459
TOTAL	38,075	16,873	54,948

1.4 Policy aspects (NUTS 2 level)

1.4.1 Single Farm Payment (SFP)

On the whole French metropolitan (excluding overseas territories), the same Single Payment Scheme is applied.

- Historical model with the reference period 2000-2002 (farmers are thus the owners of SFPs)
- With partial coupling, at the maximum rates:
 - 25% for arable crops
 - 100% for slaughter of calf and for suckler cows
 - 40% for slaughter of cows, bulls, heifers
 - 50% for sheep
- Implemented in 2006
- Modulation for farms with support greater than 5,000 euros; 5% rate since 2007 and onwards

Table 16 – Farms classified by class of SFP

Class of SFP	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
Source: French FADN in 2006			
< 100 euros	637	50,539	
100-200 euros	3,250	387,414	
200-300 euros	11,180	1,499,096	
300-400 euros	1,650	205,275	
< 400 euros	98	10,827	
TOTAL	16,814	2,153,152	
Source: Agreste in 2006			
TOTAL	22,507	2,183,025	546,649,000

	Using the total number of farms in the region	Using only the number of beneficiary farms
Average of SFP per hectare of all farms of the study area	235.4 euros	250.4 euros
Average of SFP per farm of all farms of the study area	19,781.8 euros	24,287.9 euros

Source: Agreste in 2006

1.4.2 Other coupled and area-based payments

Table 17 – Description of other types of payment (source: Agreste in 2006)

Type of payment	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
Area-based premium	21,089	1,836,668	146,789,000
Calf and suckler cow slaughter premium	4,232	180,411	43,698,335
Cow, bull and heifer slaughter premium	5,206	92,630	2,980,471
Sheep premium	1,827	180,779	1,809,000
TOTAL	32,354	2,290,488	195,276,806

1.4.3 Cross compliance

From 1 January 2005 onwards, farmers in receipt of CAP direct payments are required to respect a set of statutory management requirements (SMRs), to meet minimum requirements of good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAECs), and to keep the share of permanent grasslands as it was in 2003. Cross-compliance prescriptions are to be applied on the whole farm (and not only on the subsidised activities/hectares). Initiated for beneficiaries of the First Pillar, they were extended in January 2007 to farms receiving payments with regard to 8 measures under 'axis 2' of the Second Pillar (in particular grassland premium, local agro-environmental schemes, rotational measure, and conversion to organic farming measure). In France the choice was made to progressively enforce the cross-compliance over three years (from 2005 to 2007). Cross-compliance concerns the following topics:

* SMRs (Statutory Management Requirements):

These are already-existing EC regulations (19 in total), that are implemented within the French law, in the areas of environment (5 regulations), livestock tagging (4 regulations), public health and food safety (4 regulations), animal health (3 regulations) and animal welfare (3 regulations).

* GAECs (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions)

These aim at protecting non-cultivated lands from soil erosion, deterioration of soil structure and worsening of soil organic matter.

* Protection of permanent pastures

This requirement implies that land that was under permanent pasture in 2003 is maintained under permanent pasture. Indeed, the national ratio under permanent grassland should remain stable, or at least not lower than the ratio as of 2003 (a 10% variation is nonetheless tolerated).

1.4.4 Rural development plan (RDP)

The regional RDP is adapted from the National RDP and applied at the NUTS2 level. Based on a regional diagnosis, the main priorities in Centre, addressed through the regional programming document are:

* For Axis 1:

- Training and dissemination of the information, in order to support the adaptation (of the farms/farmers) to a new production context, considering also the society's demand.
- Farms' modernisation, mainly through farm buildings, equipments and machineries
- Support and enhancement of agri-food processing plants, in order to increase the added-value of local agricultural products
- Mechanisation of the forestry sector

* For Axis 2:

Agro-environment (through agro-environmental schemes that are locally adapted), in order to better address the issues related to the environmental impact of agricultural practices, with a particular focus on ground-waters.

* For Axis 3:

- Enhancement and promoting of tourist activities
- Enhancement and promoting of base-services offered to the rural population (health services, local economy, small enterprises, etc)
- Skills enhancement as regards local development governance and strategies focusing on forestry and forestry sector
- Maintenance and promotion of rural and natural heritage

Based on previous RD programming experience and lessons (2000-2006 period), a specific attention is paid at:

- Improving the policy relevance and its understanding;
- Improving the zoning of the measures regarding the targeted stakes;
- Strengthening the involvement of local and regional actors as regards the RDP implementation;
- Improving the environmental efficiency of the programme.

Table 18 – RDP budget characteristic

RDP	EAFRD	National co-financing	Total (including top-up and private funding)
Total budget			
Participation (2000-2006):			
Number of farms			
Surface (ha)			
Budget per axis (2000-2006)			
Axis 1			
Axis 2			
Axis 3			
Budget per axis (2007-2013) (million Euros)			
Axis 1	22.35	22.35	174.03
Axis 2	37.13	30.38	94.54
Axis 3	19.93	19.93	125.87
Technical support	16.85	13.79	56.51
Leader	2.2	2.2	4.4
Total	98.46	88.65	455.35
Average amount per ha (euro/ha of UAA) based on UAA in 2005 from Agreste	42.39	38.17	196.05

Source: RDP Centre, 2008

1.4.5 Other policies

There are no urban and planning policies with major implications except for the continuous town and infrastructure expansion, progressively diminishing the region's agricultural area.

2 IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA (NUTS 3 LEVEL); "EURE-ET-LOIR"

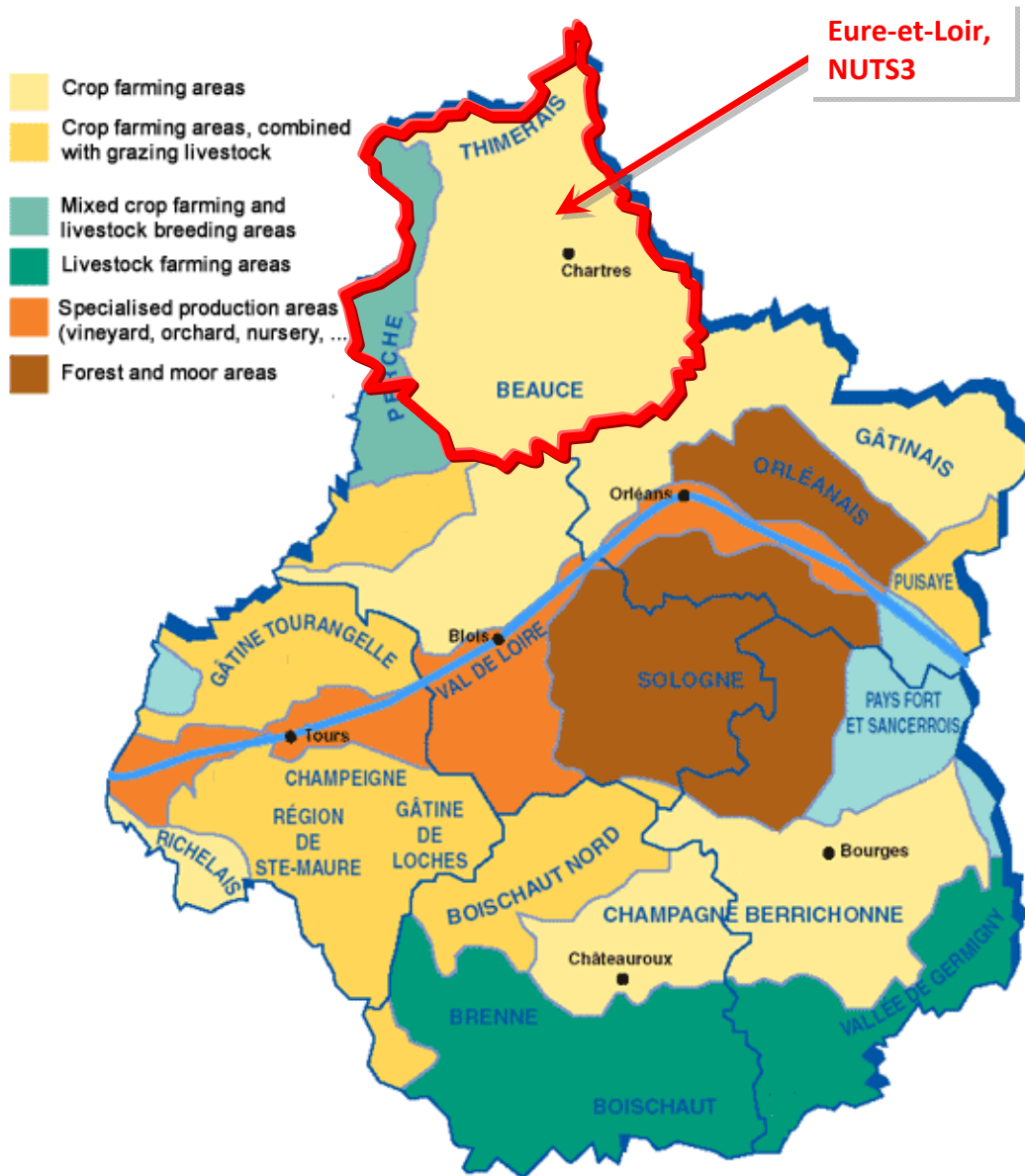
Eure-et-Loir is one of the 6 NUTS3 regions of the Centre NUTS2 region. It is located on the south-western part of Paris. Mainly oriented towards agricultural productions (it is the first French NUTS3 region in terms of cereal production), 72,000 hectares of forest also cover the territory. As regards demographic issues, the overall trend is positive, thanks to the vicinity of Paris: the eastern part of the region welcomes each more and more households working in Paris but willing to have a better life-style. The western part of the region is favourable to the tourism development since the Regional Nature Park of Perche has been created in 1998.

Natural conditions of the region are variable within the region; from vast plains suitable for cereal cropping in the south-eastern part (i.e. Beauce), to woody valleys in the western and northern parts (i.e. Perche and Thymerais). Mainly due to the Beauce area, agriculture has a great weight in terms of economy and land-use, as two-thirds of the territory are dedicated to agricultural uses (among which more than 40% are used for soft-wheat cropping). Livestock productions are mainly located in the Perche area. Eure-et-Loir catches some 160 million Euros of CAP First Pillar payments.

However, despite a strong agricultural orientation, the region is poorly provided with agri-food processing plants. The main represented sectors are those related to milling and animal feed. Therefore, the production value-added can be considered as low.

Since the 1990's the CAP and the national agriculture guidance act had an impact on agricultural structures of the region; family farms gave way to larger farms, more specialised in terms of production and usually run as partnership farms.

Figure 3 – Location and main agricultural areas of Eure-et-Loir (NUTS3)



2.1 Socio-demographic aspects (NUTS 3 level)

Table 19 – Main socio-demographic aspects

NUT3 region:	Surface		Population	
	HA	%	Number	%
Total	588,000 ha		408,240 *	
Urban				
Rural				

* Source: National Census, 2001 (INSEE)

Density/km2 (<i>in 2005</i>)	71.1
Average age	

2.1.1 Social indicators

Table 20 – Employment

	Females	Males	Total
Employment rate			
Unemployment rate (<i>15 years and over; in 2006</i>)			7.6
Employment rate of older workers			
Average exit age from the labour force			
Employment rate in primary sector			
Employment rate in secondary sector			
Employment rate in tertiary sector			

Table 21 – Social cohesion

	Females	Males	Total
Long-term unemployment rate			
Jobless households			
Dispersion of regional employment rates			
Early school leavers			

Table 22 – Social inclusion

Inequality of income distribution	
Lifelong learning	
Individuals' level of Internet skills	

Table 23 – Demographic changes

Life expectancy at age 65, by gender (in 2005) *	Male: 76.4 Female: 83.1
Net migration	
Average exit age from the labour market, by gender	

* Source: Insee, 2007

Table 24 – Other indicators

Number of towns above 100,000 inhab (<i>towns only, excluding suburbs</i>)	0
Number of agrifood processing plants	

Source: based on current information in dictionary

2.2 Territorial aspects (NUTS 3 level)

Table 25 – Main territorial aspects

NUT3 region:	Surface		Population	
	HA	%	Number	%
Total	588,000		408,240 *	
Plain				
Mountain				

* Source: National Census, 2001 (INSEE)

Table 26 – Agricultural area

	Ha
Utilised agricultural area in 2006	452,881
Unutilised agricultural land	
Area under agri-environment support	
Area under nature protection	

Source: Agreste, Memento agricole Région Centre, 2007

2.3 Economic aspects (NUTS 3 level)

2.3.1 General economic indicators

Table 27 – Main economic aspects

NUT3 area:	€	%
GDP (in 2005)	9,192.9 millions	(% of total GDP of the country) 1.8% (out of 506,600 millions Euros)
GDP of primary sector		(% of GDP of primary sector of the country)
GDP of secondary sector		(% of GDP of secondary sector of the country)
GDP of tertiary sector		(% of GDP of tertiary sector of the country)
Per-capita urban GDP		
Per-capita rural GDP		

2.3.2 Farm classification

Table 28 – Farms classified by class of size (source: Agreste in 2005)

Class of size (ha UAA)	Number of farms	Ha
0 – 20	765	4,486
20 – 100	1,673	111,788
> 100	2,075	338,955
Total	4,513 (among which 3,180 professional farms)	455,229

Table 29 – Farms classified by class of income

Class of income	Number of farms	Ha

Table 30 – Farms classified by land use in 2005 (source: Agreste)

Land use	Number of farms	Ha
Arable land	4,324	440,401
Fodder crops	743	9,505
Permanent grasslands	1,323	14,159
Fruit plantations (including 6 species only: apricot, cherry, peach, plum, pear, apple)	n/a	n/a
Vineyards	n/a	n/a
Wooded area		
Type of Farming	Number of farms	Ha
Farms specialists field crops (TF 13,14)	3,865	418,158
Farms specialists grazing livestock (TF 41,42,43,44)	n/a	n/a
Farms specialists permanent crops (TF 37,38,39)	n/a	n/a
Farms specialists granivores (TF 50,72)	n/a	n/a
Farms specialists horticulture (TF 28,29)	n/a	n/a
Other farms (TF 60, 71, 81, 82, 90)	340	27,948

Comments

TF: European definition of Type of Farming

The classification of farms per TF is given in addition to the classification per land use, and therefore figures given in these two parts of the table should not be summed up. Furthermore, note that double counts are not avoided in the classification per land use.

Table 31 – Farms classified by livestock in 2006

Livestock	Number of HEADS
Cattle	42,530
Including dairy cows	17,330
Sheep and goats	15,350 (at 01/12/2006)
Poultry	5,162,000 (at 01/12/2006)
Pigs	61,740 (at 01/12/2006)

Source: Agreste, Memento agricole Région Centre, 2007

Table 32 – Other aspects

Total irrigable area	
Average of surface	
Total irrigated area	
Average of surface	
Area under organic farming (ha)	
Organic farms (number)	
Agricultural-Holdings with another gainful activity (number)	
Holdings in less favoured areas (including mountainous)	

Table 33 – Employment in agriculture (source: Agreste in 2005)

Labour	Numbers of AWU
full time	n/a
part-time	n/a

	Male	Female	Total
number of hired workers (AWU)	n/a	n/a	1,228
family labour force (AWU)	n/a	n/a	4,420
Total (AWU)			5,648

Comments

1 Annual Working Unit (AWU) is equivalent to 2,200 hours labour on farm during the year.

2.4 Policy aspects (NUTS 3 level)

2.4.1 Single Farm Payment (SFP)

The Single Payment Scheme is implemented similarly at NUTS 3 level as it is at NUTS 2 level and at the whole territory level.

Table 34 – Farms classified by class of SFP (source: Agreste in 2006)

Class of SFP	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
TOTAL	4,397	428,187	124,010,000

	Using the total number of farms in the region	Using only the number of beneficiary farms
Average of SFP per hectare of all farms of the study area	272.4	289.6
Average of SFP per farm of all farms of the study area	27,478.4	28,203.3

Source: Agreste, 2006

2.4.2 Other coupled and area-based payments

Table 35 – Description of other type of payment (source: Agreste in 2006)

Type of payment	Number of farms	Ha	Amount (euro)
Area-based premium	4,280	413,544	36,221,000
Calf and suckler cow slaughter premium	373	8,464	2,092,398
Cow, bull and heifer slaughter premium	506	9,102	300,407
Sheep premium	126	9,177	92,000
TOTAL	5,285	440,287	38,705,805

2.4.3 Cross compliance

Some adaptations of national GAEC's prescriptions are set up at NUTS3 level, but they are generally minor (e.g. width of buffer-strips, date of allowed cover-destruction).

2.4.4 Rural development plan (RDP)

Not applicable: budget issues and regional RDP design and adaptations are made at NUTS2 level (i.e. Centre).

Table 36 – RDP budget characteristic (Source: Agreste 2007)

RDP	
Total budget	
Participation (2000-2006):	
Number of farms	
Surface (ha)	
Budget per axis (2000-2006)	74.9 million euros
Axis 1	
Axis 2	
Axis 3	
Budget per axis (2007-2013)	
Axis 1	
Axis 2	
Axis 3	
Leader	
Average amount per ha (euro/ha of UAA)	

2.4.5 Other policies

There are no urban and planning policies with major implications except for the continuous town and infrastructure expansion, progressively diminishing the region's agricultural area.

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