

FAOSTAT Land Use

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Summary

The FAOSTAT Land Use domain contains data on forty-four categories of land use, irrigation and agricultural practices and five indicators relevant to monitor agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities at national, regional and global level. Data are available by country and year, with global coverage and annual updates.

The most recent update was in August. 2025. IFs have 10 series in total.

Tables In IFs

Variable	Definition	Units	Name in Source	UsedInPreprocessor	UsedInPreprocessorFileName	Code in Source
LandTotal	Land, total	Million ha	Item "Country area"	1	AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE	5110.6600
LandArea	Land area	Million ha	Land area (1000 ha)	1	AGRICULTURE	5110.6601
LandGrazing	Permanent meadows and pastures	Million ha	Item "Land under perm. meadows and pastures"	1	AGRICULTURE	5110.6655
LandOther	Other land	Million ha	Item "Other Land"	1	AGRICULTURE	5110.6670
LandAgri	Agricultural land	1000 ha	Item "Agricultural land"	1	INFRASTRUCTURE	5110.6610
LandCrop	Cropland	Million ha	Item "Cropland"	1	AGRICULTURE	5110.6620
LandForest	Forest land	Million ha	Item "Forest"	1	AGRICULTURE	5110.6646
LandIrrArea	Agriculture area actually irrigated	1000 ha	Item "Agriculture area actually irrigated"	0		5110.6611
LandOther%	Land use, other land (% of total area)	Percent	<i>LandOther/LandTotal</i>	0		
LandPasture%	Land use, permanent pasture (% of total area)	Percent	<i>LandGrazing/LandTotal</i>	0		

5110 is the element code and the number after it is the item code. Remember to filter both.

Data Pulling Instructions

1. The data can be accessed on the FAOSTAT, Land Use website.
2. The importing python scripts can be accessed here.
3. To download the all the data at once, you may click the "All Data Normalized" under "Bulk Downloads" on the FAOSTAT, Land Use website.
4. Filter using the element and item code.

The screenshot shows the FAOSTAT Land Use interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Data', 'Selected Indicators', 'Compare Data', 'Rankings', 'Definitions and Standards', and 'FAQ'. A search bar is on the right. Below the navigation bar, the 'Land Use' section is active, with a 'Back to domains' button. The main area is divided into four filter panels: 'COUNTRIES', 'ELEMENTS', 'ITEMS', and 'YEARS'. Each panel has a search bar and a list of options with radio buttons. The 'COUNTRIES' panel lists various countries like Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, etc. The 'ELEMENTS' panel lists 'Area', 'Carbon stock in living biomass', and 'Indicators > (List)'. The 'ITEMS' panel lists 'Country area', 'Land area', 'Agriculture > (List)', 'Forestland > (List)', and 'Other land'. The 'YEARS' panel lists years from 2022 down to 2016. Each panel has 'Select All' and 'Clear All' buttons. On the right side, there's a 'Land Use' section with a description of the domain and a 'Bulk Downloads' table. The table lists various data sets and their sizes in MB. At the bottom right, it says 'Last update: August 19, 2024' and 'Related documents'.

Bulk Downloads	
All Data	1.47 MB
All Domains	2.75 MB
All Area Groups	343 KB
Africa	341 KB
Americas	288 KB
Asia	317 KB
Europe	208 KB
Oceania	91 KB

Last update: August 19, 2024
Related documents

Notes

Disaggregation

We need to disaggregate the following for previous years data

1. Czechoslovakia = Slovakia and Czech Republic
2. Yugoslav SFR = Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro
3. Serbia and Montenegro = Serbia and Montenegro
4. Sudan (former) = Sudan and South Sudan
5. USSR = Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

For disaggregation you are adding up the values for the year after the state disbanded, using the data when the state existed, have the values for the new states after the entity disbanded, and then extrapolate (find the percentage of each state in the data from the OG state and then multiply it to get the right amount) data for the new states in the previous years.

1. USSR add up the values for 1992; have totals for 1961-1991; have the values for 15 states for 1992; extrapolate data for 15 states 1961-1991
2. Czechoslovakia add up the values for for 1993; have totals for 1961-1992; have the values for 2 states for 1993; extrapolate data for 2 states 1961-1992
3. Sudan (former) add up the values for 2012; have totals for 1961-2011; have the values for 2 states for 2012; extrapolate data for 2 states 1961-2011
4. Yugoslav SFR add up the values for 1992; have totals for 1961-1991; have the values for 6 states for 1992; extrapolate for 6 states 1961-1991

5. Serbia and Montenegro add up the values for 2006; have totals for 1992-2005; have the values for 2 states for 2006; extrapolate data for 2 states 1992-2005

A script to do this disaggregation (as well as pulling and cleaning the data for importing) can be found [here](#).

Notes for LandTotal and LandArea:

There is no null values in IFsHistSeries. Thus, the null values from original data need to be back filled by the earliest year's value.

Notes for Ethiopia

Use Ethiopia PDR and Ethiopia for Ethiopia's data. The two entities have roughly the same geographical coverage.

Notes for Kosovo and Serbia

1. There is no value for Kosovo from FAOSTAT, Land Use. Thus, we use the resource from CIA, The World Factbook.
2. Kosovo is a landlocked country. So, we fill the 1.0887 Million Ha for Kosovo from 2008 to 2022 for both LandTotal and LandArea series.
3. The value for Kosovo in series LandAgri, LandGrazing, LandOther, LandCrop, and LandForest. We will use the information from CIA, The World Factbook to calculate.

Land use

agricultural land: 52.8% (2018 est.)

arable land: 27.4% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 1.9% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 23.5% (2018 est.)

forest: 41.7% (2018 est.)

other: 5.5% (2018 est.)

1. To calculate take the 1.0087, multiply it by the variable (i.e. agricultural land). But for LandAgri multiply that value by 1000.
 1. Agricultural Land: LandAgri
 2. Permanent Crops and Arable Land: LandCrop
 3. Permanent Pasture: LandGrazing
 4. Forest: LandForest

5. Other: LandOther

4. Kosovo became independent from Serbia in 2008. Thus, the values for Serbia need to be deducted from the value for Kosovo since 2008 for each series.

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