



Hungary

Country facts Hungary	
Population	9 981 000
GDP per capita (2006, US Dollar)	18 154
Employees in Agricultural Machinery	5431
Trade unions in the EU Agri-Tech Network	VASAS
Proportion of employees in unions (general)	17%
Workplace representation	Trade union and works council
Main level of collective bargaining	Company
Collective bargaining coverage	25%

Sauce OECD, Eurostat, und ETUI-REHS (www.workers-participation.eu).
Employee figures from national trade unions

Sectoral data and figures: Size and structure of agricultural engineering industry

According to the European Commission (DG Enterprise), around 5,400 people are employed in the agricultural engineering industry in Hungary.

After the collapse of the communist bloc and consequently the eastern markets, the number of companies has declined significantly. Particularly in recent years, the majority of companies have disappeared from the scene. From the total number of 91 companies producing agritechnical machinery in 1986, only 22 have remained in 2000, diminishing to only 9 companies in 2007. Most of these 9 companies belong to international shareholders. All small-sized enterprises of this industrial branch disappeared during the last years.

Employment figures indicate a substantial decline throughout the last 2 decades: whereas 22.000 people have been employed in this industrial branch in 1986, the figures of 2000 counted for 11,000, going down to only 5,431 employees in 2007.

Company size structure is clearly dominated by large enterprises. Currently, there are no SME and 9 large enterprises in Hungary.

Main companies in the agricultural machinery sector in Hungary 2007

Linamar Hungary Rt.	2 962 employees
Claas Hungaria Kft.	396 employees
Agrikom KAM Kft.	322 employees
Kühne Zrt.	240 employees
Sokoró Tét Kft.	190 employees
Vámosgép Kft.	179 employees
Agrogép Kft.	157 employees
REKARD Produkt Kft.	148 employees
Gyöngyösi Mezőgép és Jár műtechnika Kft.	89 employees

Source: VASAS trade union



Trade unions, Employer's associations, Labour Conditions and Labour Relations

Trade unions and Employer's associations

In Hungary around 20-30 % (previously 50-70 %) of all employees are members in trade unions. According to official numbers, Hungary has an even lower level of union density, about 17%. According to the VASAS trade union the membership rate in the agricultural machinery sector is around 22-24%.

There are six trade union confederations in Hungary: Four, MSZOSZ, ASZSZ, SZEZ and ESZT, emerged as reformed organisations from the unified trade union SZOT, which existed before 1989, and two, the LIGA and MOSZ, grew out of a combination of anti-communist activists and local protest movements. Also, there are a large number of independent unions in Hungary.

Since the employers' mandatory membership in the chamber of commerce has been abolished, trade unions lack an official negotiation partner on the employers' side. Currently, social dialogue in Hungary only results in legally non-binding agreements between.

Despite efforts by the unions and to a certain extent by the government to strengthen bargaining at industry level, the main level of bargaining is company/organisation level. Generally, only 40 % of all Hungarian employees are covered by collective agreements.

In the agricultural machinery sector also collective bargaining is taking place exclusively at the company level. Collective agreements will cover all employees of the respective company.

From the point of view of trade unions in particular the following challenges exist with regard to company and sector level trade union policy:

- Coping with the implementation of reforms (public finance, health reform, pension reform)
- Standing up against the attacks on employees' and trade unions' rights
- Safeguarding the rights and interests of employees
- Lack of skilled workforce
- Problems with vocational training and apprentice education
- Increasing role of contract and agency labour

Partners of the European Agri-Tech Network:



Additional materials and information:

- [Country Report by Vasas](#)
- Information on workers' participation and collective bargaining in Hungary of ETUI-REHS:

