Indicator Factsheet: Organic farming

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Description	Positive effects on habitat quality related to organic farming can be attributed to the avoidance of readily soluble mineral fertilisers and synthetic chemical plant protection products, resulting in a lower land use intensity and nutrient supply on the fields. Consequently, the proportion of organic farm land within the utilised agricultural area serves as an indicator of the number of areas with potentially higher biodiversity.
Data basis	From 2010 onwards, IACS data, supplemented by agricultural and official statistics, like the Farm Structure Survey.
Calculation	The share of organic farming can be calculated in relation to the utilised agricultural area and the number of farms. $$Share\ of\ organic\ farmland = \frac{sum\ of\ organic\ farmland\ \ (ha)}{sum\ of\ utilised\ agrciultural\ area\ \ (ha)}$$ Alternatively, the proportion of farms can also be calculated in relation to the total number of farms or farm types/sizes. The level of analysis is the farm or cultivated land.
Spatial reporting level	**Coverage**: National; **Resolution**: Hexagons (100 ha); **Reference area**: Utilised agricultural area
Reporting period/ interval	From 2010 / annually
Interpretation	Organic farming is supported at the national level. The current target of the European Green Deal is for 25 % of UAA in the EU to be farmed organically. Germany has set a target of 30 %.
Limitations	The quality in terms of nature conservation depends on the diversity and variation of land use, which is determined by both farm-level and natural landscape factors. It is imperative that the indicator incorporates information on farm type as well as other data sources, such as conservation status and yield potential. Further factors of relevance include additional characteristics pertaining to farm management, in addition to small-scale, site-specific features of the respective area. The present data set does not include these elements; however, it is possible that they may be partially recorded in the future by combining remote sensing approaches.
Latest Update	2026