

BELGIUM - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Belgium participated in all World Census of Agriculture rounds in the years 1929-30, 1950, 1959-60, 1970, 1979 and 1990. Agricultural censuses are conducted annually; three agricultural censuses (including horticulture) are conducted each year on 15 May, 1 September and 1 December. Data here presented refer to the 15 May 1990 Census of Agriculture.

Organization: The National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Affairs, has the responsibility for executing periodic large-scale censuses and surveys, and for setting up official statistics. The country is administratively divided into Provinces that are subdivided into Administrative and Judiciary Districts. Each Judiciary District consists of Judiciary Cantons which are, in turn, made up of Municipalities. The mayor of each municipality is charged with the execution of the census. The territory of each municipality is divided into census districts; for each census district a census agent should be selected among the municipality administrative staff or, if not available in adequate number, recruited from external sources. The municipal administration is responsible for controlling the information collected by census agents before forwarding it to the National Institute of Statistics.

Enumeration period: The first phase of the census began on 15 May 1990, and the enumeration period lasted for about 15 days. The second phase of the census was conducted during December 1990.

Reference date: Data refer to the day of enumeration, except for some data on employment and use of machinery which refer to the 12 months preceding the census.

Definition: The enumeration unit of the census is the agricultural holding which is defined as a technical and economic unit of agricultural production, identified on the territory, with a single management, having an output consisting of agricultural, horticultural or livestock products.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: The Municipal Administrations were provided with lists of addresses of agricultural holdings, compiled on the basis of the agricultural census conducted during the preceding year (i.e. on 15 May 1989).

Methods: Complete enumeration of holdings was carried out. Information was collected through direct interview, and questionnaires were filled in directly by enumerators.

Data source: Institut National de la Statistique - Statistiques Agricoles - Publication Mensuelle n.1, n.2, n.3, 1991.

Mailing address: Institut National de la Statistique - Rue de Louvain, 44 / 1000 - Bruxelles - Royaume de Belgique.