

FRANCE - Agricultural Census 1999/2000 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The 2000 Agricultural Census in France is the fifth taken since the end of the Second World War, and follows those of 1955, 1970, 1979 and 1988. The results obtained through 1988/89 census were updated through farm structure sample surveys of 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1997.

Organization

The census was organized by the Central Service of Statistical Surveys and Studies (SCEES) which is the Central Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Legal basis was provided by a decree signed by National Statistical Information Council (CNIS).

Enumeration period

Eligible holdings were surveyed during 1 October 2000 to 31 January 2001.

Reference date/period

Livestock data refer to the day of enumeration. Data on poultry numbers to be slaughtered for Christmas are those present on the holding on 1st December 2000. Crops data refer to the agricultural year 2000 (from 1 November 1999 to 31 October 2000). Data on seasonal or occasional employment refer to those persons who worked during the agricultural year 1999/2000.

Definition

- **Superficie agricole utilisée:** includes arable land, land under permanent crops, and land under permanent meadows and pastures.
- **Agricultural Holding** is an economic unit of agricultural production satisfying at the same time the following three conditions: it produces an agricultural product; it is equal to or above the threshold size (1 ha or more of "superficie agricole utilisée", or 0.2 ha of specialized crops, or a certain number of livestock, or a certain level of agricultural output etc; it is subject to independent everyday management).

Coverage

The census was carried out through out the country including overseas areas. However, the results reported here relate to the territory of France in Europe (France Metropolitaine).

Frame

During the winter of 1999/2000 the list of agricultural holdings was drawn up on the basis of updated version of 1988 survey list. The 1988 list was matched with the data derived from social security documentation in respect of farmer. The data maintained by the National Statistical Institute (INSEE) in business index of registered farmers was pooled to get a common identifier for using different list at local level. The list so prepared was reviewed at municipality level with help of other locally available files and information to include all holdings covered by the census and avoids duplication.

Method

The survey was a complete enumeration census conducted through direct interview of farmers. The census took place in seven major stages: preparation, compilation of list of holdings to be surveyed, recruitment of temporary staff, training, data collection, validation and dissemination. To cope up with the additional workload about 4 700 non-permanent workers were recruited and trained. A field testing of questionnaires was carried out during February to March 1999 through out France. 22 different versions of the census questionnaire were used to meet the requirements of 19 regions and the 4 overseas areas. Each version, however, had a common core. The data on two additional questionnaires on viticulture and aromatic and medicinal plants were also collected with the census.

Data source

Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000, 2003 Edition, Agriculture and Fisheries Theme 5, European Commission, Eurostat.

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