

ARGENTINA - Agricultural Census 2002 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first Agricultural Census in Argentina was conducted in 1888. Since then nine censuses were carried out in 1895, 1908, 1914, 1937, 1947, 1952, 1960, 1969 and 1988; some of them as part of a general census of the country (1895, 1914, and 1947). The Agricultural Census, to which data reported here refer, was conducted in 2002.

Organization

The Argentine Republic is a federal nation consisting of 24 autonomous provinces subdivided, in turn, into 500 units (departamentos) and the capital city of Buenos Aires. The National Institute for Statistics and Census (INDEC) is the federal agency responsible for planning and coordinating national censuses and other national level statistical surveys. Each province operates its own statistical bureau (Dirección Provincial de Estadística-DPE). INDEC and every DPE are linked into the National Statistical System (Sistema Estadística Nacional -SEN) and their activities are closely coordinated. The staff employed in the field work included 23 census coordinators (one in every province) 13 under-coordinators, 98 chief supervisors, 550 supervisors and 2 920 enumerators.

Enumeration period

The enumeration period took place from September to December 2002.

Reference date/period

Data on livestock, buildings, machinery and other equipment refer to 30 June 2002. All the other data refer to the agricultural year July 2001 to 30 June 2002.

Definition

The adopted statistical unit was the Agricultural Holding (Explotación Agropecuaria), defined as a market oriented production unit over 500 square meters in area, made up of one or more parcels and having a holder assuming the economic risks and responsible for its management made formed.

Coverage

The census covered the entire national territory excluding urban areas and desert zones with no agricultural use. All the agricultural holdings were covered regardless size, number of parcels, juridical status of the holder, land tenure and land use.

Frame

The frame was based on the Directory of Agricultural holdings of the previous Agricultural Census, updated by the annual agricultural survey (ENA-Encuesta Nacional Agropecuaria) and mapped on the census cartography, mostly digital. The whole country was divided into "Enumerating Segments" with well delimited boundaries and an average of 180 Agricultural Holdings each.

Method

The census was organized on a complete enumeration basis through a direct interview of holders. The census questionnaire was adapted to each of the five regions in which the country is divided. Each version contains a set of common items and some specific items for the region.

Data source

Censo Nacional Agropecuario 2002, Resultados Preliminares. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC), Argentina.

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