

AUSTRALIA - Agricultural Census 2001 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

In some States and Territories of Australia, agricultural censuses have been conducted for 140 years. The Agricultural Census was usually conducted annually at the end of March, until 1996/97 when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to better align with other ABS surveys, changed the collection period to 30 June. The current strategy is for a 5-year-interval census with sample surveys in inter-censal years. The Census, originally planned for the reference period year-ended June 2002, was advanced to apply to year-ended 2001. The next census will apply to year-ended 2006.

Organization

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the responsible office for the collection, compilation and publication of official statistics, including the organization and implementation of the Agricultural Census.

Enumeration period

Census Date: 30 June 2001.

Reference date/period

Data on crops refer to the agricultural year ending 30 June 2001. Data on livestock and holdings characteristics refer to the Census Day.

Definition

- **Establishment** is the smallest accounting unit of business within a State or Territory, controlling its productive activities and maintaining a specified range of detailed data enabling value added to be calculated. The establishment can cover all operations at *one* physical location, or may consist of a group of locations, provided they are within the same State or Territory (the majority of establishments refer to a single location).
- **Establishment with agricultural activity** is usually a single physical location which is used for crop production (including fruit and vegetables production) and/or for raising livestock or for livestock production.

Coverage

Geographically, the census covered all States and Territories in the country. Statistically, all establishments (see definition above) with an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) of at least A\$ 5 000 (1 A\$ = 0.6 US\$) were covered.

Frame

Information on units engaged in agricultural activity is a database known as the Integrated Register Information System (IRIS). It provides a list of names and addresses in Australia, to allow distribution of census and survey forms covering all economic statistics, agriculture statistics included.

Method

The data on a wide range of agricultural items is collected in the census by mail. Telephone reminder action, followed if necessary by personal visits, is also taken. Upon receipt, returns are subjected to initial clerical examination for accuracy and consistency, and subsequently entered into the computer system for editing and tabulation.

Data source

Agricultural Census 2000/01, Cat. N.o 7113.0 and 7121.0. Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Contact

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