

Historical outline

Until 1990 structural data on Austrian agriculture were collected through the agricultural and forestry farm censuses (complete enumeration surveys) conducted at 10-yearly intervals. Supplementary data on land use, labour force and farm machinery was collected through additional periodic surveys. Agricultural census 1999/2000 was carried out in Austria in pursuance of EU legislation.

Organization

As per a regulation under the 1965 Federal Statistics Act adopted by Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the responsibility for conducting the survey was assigned to Austrian Central Statistics Office. At local level the responsibility of conducting the survey was assigned to 2 360 local authorities who actually carried out the survey with the assistance of survey bodies.

Enumeration period

For Agricultural Census from 1 – 30 June 1999. For General Livestock Census from 1 – 7 December 1999.

Reference date/period

For Farm Structure Survey: 1 June 1999. For livestock numbers: 1 December 1999. For farm labour force: the 12 months proceeding the day of the census.

Definition

- **Operator:** Person or groups on whose behalf and on whose responsibility the farm is run (holder).
 - **Keeper:** Person or groups on whose behalf and on whose responsibility the animals are kept (holder).
- The concepts and definitions for the survey have been harmonized with EU standard over a period time while maintaining continuity with old data series and keeping in view the national needs.

Coverage

Geographically, the survey covered the entire territory of the country. The legal provision for the survey required the following parties to provide statistical information:

- Operators of agricultural and forestry holdings with a utilized agricultural area of at least 1 ha;
- Operators of commercial vineyards of at least 25 ares, intensively-farmed areas of fruit trees of at least 15 ares, and areas under berries, strawberries, vegetables, flower and ornamental plants, vine and tree nurseries, or at least 10 ares under glass or foil;
- Operators producing cultivated mushrooms for the market;
- Operators of holdings exclusively geared to forestry with at least 3 ha of woodland;
- Keepers of at least three head of cattle, five pigs, ten sheep, ten goats or 100 of any kind of poultry.

Frame

The survey frame was based on the 1995 Farm Structure Survey. For preparation of sampling frame an initial list of holdings was obtained from the farm register which is constantly updated. The holdings which ceased operation during 1999 were eliminated and the new holdings were listed. Also, the holdings which did not qualify as per raised threshold for FSS 1999 were eliminated.

Method

Both the Agricultural Census and the General Livestock Census were conducted as complete enumeration surveys. Paper questionnaires were used for direct consultation of farmers. The forms used were machine-readable and were linked together by using a common identification code.

Data source

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

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