

Historical outline

Beginning with 1949, agricultural censuses have been carried out in Federal Republic of Germany in 1960, 1971, 1979. Since 1975 an agricultural report, based on agriculture structure survey, was also prepared regularly at two-yearly interval. The agricultural census of 1999 followed the 1991 census which was the first carried out in the unified Germany.

Organization

The agricultural census was carried out as per notification of June 1998 issued under amended Agricultural Statistics Law. The amended law envisaged harmonizing definition of thresholds for holding for integrating important surveys, reducing the respondent burden, greater use of representative surveys and administrative data. The Federal Statistical Office undertook the methodological preparation, processing of results, and coordination with the Landers (regions) who in turn carried out the census with the support of municipalities.

Enumeration period

The questionnaire for the main survey were despatched in May 1999 and were followed up to November 1999. The wine-growing survey, which was based on vineyard register, was carried out in 1999.

Reference date/period

- **Crops:** normally the day of the questioning, between January and May 1999.
- **Livestock:** 3rd May 1999
- **Farm labour:** Family labour and permanently employed non-family workers: 4 weeks from 29 March to 25 April 1999, Non-permanently employed workers, including seasonal workers: 12 months before the questioning, from May 1998 to end of April 1999, Family labour, permanently employed workers and non-permanently employed workers: 12 months before the questioning, from May 1998 to end of April 1999, divided into 4 working-time-groups.

Definition

Holding: A holding is a single economic unit having a single management and producing agricultural, forestry and fish products and its scale of operation is above a specified size. The general survey (total) included following groups of holdings: with an area used for agriculture of two hectares or more or a minimum stock of animals (8 bovines, 8 pigs, 20 sheep, 200 laying hens/ broilers/ geese) or producing special crops (0.3 ha of vineyards/ hops/tobacco/tree nurseries/ outdoor flowers/market gardening and cultivation under glass cover/ medicinal plants); holdings with a wooded area of at least 10 ha. The cut-offs applied for 1999 census are higher for cropped land area, wooded land area, area under special crops, and lower for number of sheep as compared to those applied to 1991 census.

Coverage

Geographically, the survey covered the entire territory of the unified Germany.

Frame

The list of holding prepared for 1995 agricultural structure survey was updated on the basis of Farm Register and information from agricultural association.

Method

Agricultural census programme was subdivided into a **general survey** which covered all the agricultural, forestry, market gardening and wine-growing holdings, and **special sample surveys** focused on activities like wine-growing, market gardening, and inland water fishing. In the May 1999 survey programme, the two component of census programme were implemented together. The information on land use, crops, livestock, socio-economic conditions of holding, labour force, tenancy, ownership and succession etc. was collected by 100 percent coverage.

Data source

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

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