

IRELAND - Agricultural Census 2000 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Ireland participated in all World Census of Agriculture Rounds. Agricultural censuses were conducted annually between 1847 and 1953, and every five years from 1960 to 1980. The 1985 Agricultural Census was cancelled on budgetary grounds and the next complete enumeration census was undertaken in 1991. The 2000 Census of Agriculture, to which data reported here refer, is the first complete enumeration census conducted since 1991.

Organization

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) was the Governmental agency responsible, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, for the organization and implementation of the 2000 Census of Agriculture.

Enumeration period

The census date was 1 June 2000.

Reference date/period

Data mainly refer to the day of enumeration.

Definition

- **Farm:** is defined, in line with the definition adopted for the EU Farm Structure Surveys of Agricultural Holdings, as a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products. The agricultural production covers all crops (including horticultural crops) and any kind of livestock raising (including intensive raising). A farm may consist of one or more parcels (intended as separate pieces of land), if managed as a single unit and under the same production means. The farm could be managed by one or more persons. It may consist of land owned by the holder, rented from others, or of a combination of the two forms of tenure.
- **AAU (or area farmed):** Is the combined area under crops, silage, hay, pasture, rough grazing land (including fallow land) in use.
- **Minimum size of farm** was at least one hectare of agricultural area used for farming (AAU); Farms with less than one hectare of AAU were included in the census if reporting an intensive agricultural production.

Coverage

Geographically, the census covered the entire country.

Frame

An up-to-date register of active farms, required to carry out the census by mail, was available since the 1991 Census of Agriculture. This register, kept by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and adjusted to take account of births/deaths of farms, was used as a sampling frame for the regular crops and livestock sample surveys. On the occasion of the 2000 Census of Agriculture a new register was drawn up, based on the combination of several specialized registers like those on agricultural regulations and subsidies, horticultural or pig or poultry farmers, specialized farms, etc., provided by several bodies like the Department of Agriculture (DAF), the Horticultural Development Board (Bord Glas), or the Agriculture and Food Development Authority. The resulting register contained some 190 000 farms of which, notwithstanding the efforts made during the preparation of the register to avoid duplications, about 50 000 were expected to be duplicates and rejected.

Method

The 2000 Census of Agriculture was the first conducted entirely by post. Questionnaires were sent to the 190,000 possibly active farms of the register. Respondents were asked to return the questionnaire duly filled by 9 June 2000. A supplementary Pig Questionnaire reporting additional questions was sent to large pig farmers. Reminders were sent between mid-June and early November. The response rate was 97 percent of active farms.

Data source

Census of Agriculture, Main Results, June 2000. Central Statistics Office Ireland.

Contact

Central Statistics Office, Skehard Rd., Cork, Ireland. Tel.: (+353) 21 453 5000; Fax: (+353) 21 453 5555; LoCall: 1890 236 787 (Contact Census); E-mail: census@cso.ie, webmaster@cso.ie.

Website

<http://www.cso.ie>