

NORWAY - Agricultural Census 1999 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Norway conducted its first General Census of Agriculture and Livestock, in conjunction with the Census of Population, in 1835. Separate censuses devoted exclusively to agriculture were undertaken in 1907, 1918, 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and the latest in 1999, to which data presented here refer.

Organization

Statistics Norway is the responsible institution charged with the organization of the agricultural census. The municipal agricultural authorities and the divisions of agriculture at the county governors worked as decentralized offices for census implementation.

Enumeration period

The census day was 31 July 1999.

Reference date/period

Data mainly refer to the day of enumeration.

Definition

The holding is a unit of farming operation including livestock keeping and horticulture. The holding has the following characteristics: is operated as a unit, includes rented agricultural area and is independent of municipal boundaries. For inclusion in the census the holding had to satisfy one of the following criteria. Operating at least:

- 0.5 ha of agricultural area;
- 300 square meters of greenhouses;
- 0.2 ha of field grown vegetables;
- 0.1 ha of field-grown berries (strawberries, raspberries, black currant etc.);
- 0.1 ha under fruit trees;
- 0.1 ha of nurseries;

Or having at least:

- 10 head of cattle;
- 25 sheep over one year of age;
- 10 goats over one year of age;
- 5 breeding pigs and/or 200 other pigs;
- 1000 laying hens and/or chickens reared for egg production;
- 5000 chickens for meat production.

Coverage

- Geographically, the census covered the entire country.
- Statistically, the census covered, in each municipality of the country, all holders fulfilling the above described conditions (see definitions).

Frame

The Farm Register (Landbruks registeret), reporting all farming properties and all agricultural holdings and their owners and holders, was used as the register of addresses in order to send the questionnaires to census respondents. In the past, responsible organs for operating the Register were the Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory, together with the Institution "Norwegian Grain". Since 2000, the Norwegian Agricultural Authority is responsible for operating the Register.

Method

Three different questionnaires were prepared for the 1999 census, of which the main questionnaire and the supplementary questionnaire were sent directly to respondents in the middle of July, while the greenhouse and horticulture questionnaire was distributed through the municipal agricultural authorities. The questionnaires mailed back to Statistics Norway were checked and, when necessary, the municipal agricultural authorities were requested to provide supplementary information.

Data source

Census of Agriculture 1999, Norges Offisielle Statistikk, Statistics Norway, Oslo-Kongsvinger.

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