
Argentina – Censo Nacional Agropecuario 2008 - Explanatory Notes

1. Historical outline

The first Agricultural Census in Argentina was conducted in 1888. Since then eleven censuses were carried out in 1895, 1908, 1914, 1937, 1947, 1952, 1960, 1969, 1988, 2002 and 2008 to which this report refers.

2. Legal basis and organization

The Argentine Republic is a federal nation consisting of 23 autonomous provinces subdivided, in turn, into 500 units (“departamentos” in 22 provinces and “partidos” in the province of Buenos Aires) and the capital city of Buenos Aires. The Law No. 17622 of Jan 1968 created and organized the National Statistical System (SEN) (Art. 4) and created the National Statistical and Censuses Institute (INDEC) (Art. 5). The INDEC is the federal agency responsible for planning and coordinating national censuses and other national level statistical surveys. Each province operates its own statistical bureau (Provincial Direction of Statistics (DPE)). INDEC and every DPE are linked into the SEN and their activities are closely coordinated. The Decree No 1764, of November 28th, 2007 established the undertaking of the National Agricultural Census 2008 covering agriculture, livestock and forestry. This Decree also created a National Census Committee, chaired by INDEC, and integrated with members from the Ministries of Economy (includes the Secretary of Agriculture), Interior, Education, Science and Technology and Defence. A Provincial Census Committee operated in each Province chaired by the DPA. (These two organizational instances were never formally constituted.) The staff employed in the field work included 24 census coordinators (one in every province and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires) 14 under-coordinators, 100 chief supervisors, more than 1000 field supervisors and about 6 000 enumerators. Each enumerator had an average workload of 55 farms (120/130 in the 1988 and 2002 censuses)

3. Enumeration period

The Agricultural Census 2008 was undertaken between June 2008 and October 2009.

4. Reference period/date

Reference date: Dec 31st, 2007 (To define the territorial base of the farm, the producer and the permanent plantations) or Jun 30th, 2008 (To define inventories of livestock, poultry and durable goods of production, such as agricultural machinery, vehicles and other facilities.) For crops and cultural practices, livestock management, labor, residence, etc. the agricultural year starting on July 1st 2007 and ending June 30th, 2008.

5. Definition of the statistical unit

The Agricultural holding (“Explotación Agropecuaria – EAP”) is the organizational unit of agricultural production with at least 500 square meters inside a province that, regardless the number of parcels (not contiguous pieces of land):

1. Produces agricultural, livestock or forestry good for marketing.
2. It has a Direction assuming the management and risks of the productive activity.
3. Utilizes the same means of production and part of the same manpower in all its parcels.

The producers of agricultural holdings were classified in:

Individual; De facto society; Accidental society; Limited liability society; Limited partnership; Incorporated, Cooperative; Government; Transitory enterprises union; Non-lucrative private institutions; and Other type.

6. Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

7. Exclusions and cut-off thresholds

All holdings with at least 500 square meters of area were covered.

8. Methodology

The census was a complete enumeration exercise. Each province was divided in Enumeration Areas (EAs) and each area in census segments. Field enumerators using paper questionnaires canvassed the producers with EAP in these segments. The administration of the questionnaires was the sole responsibility of the enumerators.

Framework

For census purposes, INDEC mapping divides the territory of each province in fractions and census radios. This subdivision is fundamentally linked to the population census. The smallest unit is the radius that is classified into three types: rural, urban and mixed. Most of the radios classified as rural and mixed farming are included within the census territory; urban are excluded. In each province radios classified as rural but are part of the mountainous areas, desert, lake areas and watercourses are excluded. The result of that selection of radios is the territory to be cover by the Agricultural Census, in the form of territorial sweep.

Questionnaire(s)

All items from the WCA 2010 core module plus irrigation, agricultural practices, manpower, livestock and demographic data. In particular, the census covered: the area with temporary and permanent crops, livestock, agricultural practices, machinery and equipment; other economic activities, end use of produce and management of holdings. There was a special questionnaire for economic management of the holding.

9. Data entry, edits, imputations and tabulation

10. Data Dissemination and Use

Only some provisory data disseminated as for November 2013. Detailed results tables are currently being prepared for a set of provinces whose census coverage was comparable to that of previous censuses.

11. Census data quality

Post census checks against external data as well as data from the previous census showed a large under coverage. For that reason only preliminary results have been disseminated. Officially, 24 million hectares not censused are recognized (around 14% of under coverage in area).

12. Data source

Questionnaires and manuals from the website.

13. Contact

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