

FINLAND - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Several agricultural censuses have been conducted in Finland since 1910. In 1950 the Act on agricultural statistics decreed that the period between two censuses should not exceed ten years. Under this Act two agricultural censuses were conducted, in 1959 and in 1969, while the 1979 agricultural census was not undertaken, partly due to the expenses involved. A committee appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stated that, to update information reported by the farms register and the forestry holdings register, a new agricultural census was required, which was undertaken in 1990.

Organization: The government organization responsible for conducting the 1990 Agricultural Census was the National Board of Agriculture (NBA), Statistics Division. After the restructuring of Finland's agricultural administration carried out in 1993, the Statistics Division was transferred to a new government agency, the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The NBA was responsible for the preparation of the census in cooperation with the municipal agricultural committees, arranging training sessions all over the country and taking care of data processing and the publication of census results. The agricultural committees, on their side, divided their respective municipalities into census districts, trained an interviewer in each district, supervised their work and checked the census questionnaires before forwarding them to the NBA.

Enumeration period: Data were collected during the period 1 to 21 June 1990.

Reference date: Data on land use, crop production, farm population and labour force, refer to the twelve months preceding the census day (1 June 1989 to 31 May 1990). Data on livestock and machinery refer to 1 June 1990.

Definitions: The census collected data on the following census units: farms, forestry holdings, horticultural holdings, fur farms and other agricultural business.

- Farms include all farms with a minimum of one hectare of arable or horticultural land.
- Forestry holdings are those with no arable or horticultural land at all, or which manage less than one hectare of either, and which own at least two hectares of forest land in tax classes 1 to 4.
- Horticultural holdings include farms that cultivate garden products for sale.
- Fur farms are farms which breed animals for fur production.
- Other agricultural business are those producing basic agricultural products for sale, or keeping horses for business purposes, or owning or managing less than one hectare of arable or garden land, or less than two hectares of forest land in tax classes 1 to 4.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country. Farms with less than one hectare of arable land or less than two hectares of forest land were excluded from the census.

Frame: Lists reporting the census units in each municipality were prepared by the agricultural committees, which provided the interviewers with forms reporting names and addresses of the subjects to be interviewed. Useful sources of information were the NBA existing registers of farms and horticultural holdings.

Methods: Data on farms with less than five hectares of arable land, all forestry holdings, fur farms and other agricultural business, were collected through questionnaires mailed to the farmers, to be returned duly filled to the NBA. The collection of data on the holdings not included in the above mentioned categories was carried out in each municipality area, divided in turn into census districts, by an interviewer for each district, familiar with the assigned locality, appointed, upon request of the NBA, by the agricultural committees.

Data source: Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Agricultural Census 1990 - Part 1 to 6 - Helsinki 1992.

Mailing address: Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - P.O. Box 250, SF-00171 Helsinki, Finland - Phone: +358 0 134 211 - Fax: +358 0 134 21573.