

FRANCE - Agricultural census 1988 - Explanatory Notes

Information: For practical purposes, data related to French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion (Départements d'Outre-Mer), are recorded in the Data-Bank at country level. Consequently results related to France bear only upon the territory of France in Europe (France Métropolitaine).

Historical outline: The 1988 Agricultural Census in France is the fourth taken after the end of the Second World War, and follows those of 1955, 1970 and 1979.

Organization: The census was organized by the Central Service of Statistical Surveys and Studies (SCEES) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) of the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Budget.

Enumeration period: The census started towards the end of 1988 and lasted approximately for six months.

Reference date: Data on livestock and hired permanent workers refer to the day of enumeration; the reference period for tenure, land use, crops, occasional workers, machinery and irrigation is the agricultural year 1 November 1987 - 31 October 1988.

Definitions:

- "Superficie agricole utilisée" includes arable land, land under permanent crops, and land under permanent meadows and pastures.
- "Superficie totale" includes "superficie agricole utilisée", wood or forest land, and all other land not suitable for agriculture.
- Agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production satisfying at the same time the following four conditions:
 - an agricultural output;
 - 1 Ha or more of "superficie agricole utilisée", or 0.2 Ha of specialized crops, or overstepping a certain number of livestock (depending on the type of animal), or a certain level of agricultural output;
 - an autonomous management;
 - accurately located in a municipality and identified by the most important building or the most important parcel.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: A list of agricultural holdings was established in each municipality and used as frame.

Methods: Complete enumeration of holdings was carried out through direct interview, by approximately 4000 enumerators. More than 1,000,000 questionnaires were filled in.

Data source: Recensement Agricole 1988, SCEES-INSEE, Résultats Nationaux.

Mailing address: Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt, Service Central des Enquêtes et Etudes Statistiques, 4, avenue de Saint-Mandé - 75570 Paris Cedex 12; Tél. (1) 43444633.