

NORWAY - Agricultural Census 1989 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Norway conducted its first General Census of Agriculture and Livestock, in conjunction with the Census of Population, in 1835. Censuses devoted exclusively to agriculture were undertaken in 1907, 1918, 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979 and 1989. The Agricultural Census carried out in 1989 covered the following sectors: Agriculture, Livestock, Horticulture and Forestry.

Organization: The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), depending on the Ministry of Finance, started the agricultural census planning in 1985-86. Two Advisory Committees, composed of members from the leading agricultural and forest institutions and organizations in Norway, were created. The country is administratively divided into 19 counties, sub-divided, in turn, into urban and rural municipalities (treated alike in the census). The census was carried out under the responsibility of the Municipal Agriculture and Forestry Office: one officer from each local office was appointed to administrate the census-taking. The local administrations were consequently fully involved in census preparation, including hiring and training enumerators, and in field operations. In addition, two officers from each County Agriculture and Forestry Office were appointed as liaison officers between CBS and the local administration.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out on 1 June 1989.

Reference date: Data mainly refer to the day of enumeration.

Definition: The holding is a technical and economic unit of agricultural production operated under a single management, reporting at least one of the characteristics mentioned below. The census covered, in each municipality of the country, all holders fulfilling one of the following conditions:

- owning or operating at least 0.5 Ha of agricultural area;
- owning at least 2.5 Ha of productive forest area;
- operating at least 300 square meters of area under glass/plastic, other than nursery gardens;
- operating at least 0.2 Ha of field grown vegetables;
- operating at least 0.1 Ha of strawberry beds or raspberry/black currant plantations;

or reporting at least one of the following:

- fruit trees;
- head of cattle;
- sheep one year of age and over;
- goats one year of age and over;
- sows for breeding and/or 200 other pigs;
- hen chickens;
- broilers;
- any foxes or minks.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: Family registers, listing all family units in each municipality, were used as frame.

Methods: Complete enumeration of all holdings was carried out; data were collected through direct interview; no objective measurement was done by enumerators. Three different types of questionnaires were prepared:

- a) main questionnaire to be filled in by all respondents;
- b) additional questionnaire for horticulture;
- c) additional questionnaire for fur farming.

A pilot census was conducted in June 1988, in order to test the main questionnaire: at least two respondents in each municipality were interviewed.

Data source: Norges Ofisielle Statistikk c23 - Landbruksteljing (Census of Agriculture and Forestry), 1 Juni 1989 - Oslo - Kongsvinger 1992.

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