

PANAMA - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The first nationwide agricultural census in Panama was undertaken, through complete enumeration, in 1950; the second was carried out, on sample basis, in 1961; the third, the fourth, and the fifth were conducted, through complete enumeration, in 1971, 1981 and 1991 respectively.

Organization: The Constitution of the Republic assigned to the Office of Controller (Contraloría General) the function of directing and making up national statistics through the Statistics and Census Office. The Agricultural Census Section of the Census Division of the Statistics and Census Office, which produces almost all of the national statistics concerning agriculture, was entrusted with the 1991 Census of Agriculture.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out 21 - 28 April 1991.

Reference date: Number of fruit trees, livestock, beehives, machinery units, and household members, refer to the day of enumeration. Data on dairy products and egg production refer to the week preceding the census (14 - 21 April 1991). Data on employment refer to the month preceding the census (March 1991). Data on crop production, livestock sales and use of machinery refer to the agricultural year 1 May 1990 up to the enumeration day. All other data refer to the calendar year 1 January - 31 December 1990.

Definition: The statistical unit is the Agricultural Holding, which is defined as all land wholly or partly used for agricultural production and operated as one technical unit under a single management or together with others, without regard to title, legal form, size or location.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country. The census of the Indigenous Areas was carried out together with the 1989-90 Census of Population and Housing.

Frame: The census segments assigned to the enumerators, defined in such a way to include for each segment an average of 12 holdings in rural areas and 14 in urban areas, were used as census frame.

Methods: The country is divided administratively into 9 Provinces, subdivided into 67 Districts, subdivided, in turn, into 511 Judicial Districts (Corregimientos), and the Indigenous Areas. In each Province a Coordinator operated as a linkage officer between the Central Census Office and the Inspective Regional Offices. For census purposes, the country was divided into 55 Regions, subdivided into Zones controlled by supervisors, and, in turn, into Segments assigned to the enumerators, in number of two or more segments per enumerator. Complete enumeration of all holdings was made; data were collected through direct interview; no objective measurement was done by enumerators.

Data source: República de Panamá - Contraloría General de la República - Dirección de Estadística y Censo - V Censo Agropecuario, volumen I, datos basicos.

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