

## PUERTO RICO - Agricultural Census 1987 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** The US Bureau of the Census first included Puerto Rico in the agricultural census programme in 1910 decennial enumeration. It continued to carry out agricultural censuses of the Commonwealth every ten years in conjunction with the decennial population censuses. Puerto Rico was included in the quinquennial agricultural census plan in 1964. In 1982 timing adjustment was established to let agricultural censuses coincide with economic censuses; for this reason collection of data was established on a 5 year cycle, for years ending in 2 and 7.

**Organization:** The 1987 Census of Agriculture was carried out by an agency of the US Department of Commerce, the US Bureau of the Census; the Agriculture Division, Outlying Areas Branch, was the division of the Bureau of the Census mostly involved in census undertaking. The Bureau established a local office in San Juan; this office and a field enumeration staff carried out the data-collection portion of the census (a combined mail/field enumeration), and the agency's headquarters staff provided supervision and technical assistance. The field operation employed 68 crew leaders, 50 quality control enumerators, and 610 enumerators.

**Enumeration period:** The Governor of Puerto Rico, in accordance with the US Census Bureau, proclaimed July 1987 Agriculture Census Month. The field enumeration lasted from July 1988 to October 1988.

**Reference date:** The reference dates/periods are: 1 July 1988 for Inventory data, and the 12 months ending 30 June 1988 for data on Production.

### Definitions:

- Farm is any place that had sales of US \$500 or more of agricultural products during the 12 months between 1 July 1987 and 30 June 1988; or that had at least 10 cuerdas (3.92 Ha) of land from which US \$100 of agricultural products were sold in the same period.
- Special Farm is a "large holding" having minimum annual sales of agricultural products of US \$10,000 or having at least 49 cuerdas (19.23 Ha) of land.

**Coverage:** The census covered the entire country.

**Frame:** Lists of households in each Enumeration District (ED) were used on the basis of those already prepared for the 1982 Agriculture Census. A list of Special Farms, identified in 1982 Agriculture Census, was also used.

**Methods:** In predominantly rural EDs, a door-to-door canvas of every household was carried out, except in built-up residential areas identified as clusters; a cluster was any group of 25 or more houses, each on a piece of land of 0.2 Ha or less; in each cluster enumerators spot-checked households to find out which operates a farm, and then visited those households only. In Urbanized EDs, the interviewers visited each place pre-qualified as a farm in their lists and, moreover, they added to the pre-listed farms those newly identified. Special Farms were mailed a census form to be filled in by the farmer; the form was to be held until a field enumerator picked it up during the canvassing operation, or was to be mailed back if the enumerator did not visit the farm. As a result of the field/mail operations, a total of 20,245 farms were enumerated.

**Data source:** US Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census - 1987 Census of Agriculture - Puerto Rico - Vol.1, Part 52 - July 1989.

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