

## SWITZERLAND - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** Switzerland participated in the World Census of Agriculture Programme with the censuses undertaken in 1929, 1950, 1969 and 1980. Data presented here refer to the 1990 agricultural census.

**Organization:** The Federal Statistical Office superintends the agricultural census operations all over the Federation. The Communes (municipalities), depending on the Cantons into which the Federation is administratively subdivided, are the administrative units charged with the enumeration of holdings, and of any other related census operation. All technical tools for census taking are provided to the Communes by the Federal Statistical Office, or directly by the concerned offices of the Cantons. The Census of Agriculture is an independent operation of the Census of Horticulture.

**Enumeration period:** The Census of Agriculture was conducted on 20 April 1990 and the enumeration day for the Horticultural Census was 3 September 1990.

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

### Definitions:

- Agricultural holdings were all those reporting at least one of the following:
  - 0.25 Ha of cultivated land, including wood or forest land;
  - 0.1 Ha of special cultivations (i.e. berries, legumes, medicinal plants, vineyards, tobacco, orchards, mushroom cultivations);
  - 1 head of any horses, ponies, mules or asses, but only if reporting at the same time at least 0.25 Ha of cultivated land;
- and, regardless of any cultivated area, those having at least one of the following:
  - 1 head of cattle;
  - 2 head of pigs or sheep or goats;
  - 1 head of pigs, sheep or goats, together with 15 head of poultry or 15 beehives;
  - 30 head of poultry or 30 beehives, or 100 rabbits.
- Moreover, those raising, for commercial purposes, fur animals, deer, etc., were considered holders.

**Coverage:** The census covered the entire territory of the Federation.

**Frame:** The administrative office of each commune received from the Federal Statistical Office the list of agricultural holdings to be investigated. One of the tasks for enumerators during the operations was to update the above mentioned lists.

**Methods:** The census was carried out by complete enumeration. The enumerators were responsible for enumerating all holdings in the assigned census sector, including not only the holdings already inscribed on the lists, but those not yet inscribed but considered by the enumerator to match the definition of holding. The enumerator could either leave the questionnaire with the holder, and then return to collect and check the questionnaire, or immediately assist the holder to fill in the form. The Horticulture Census was carried out by mail.

**Data source:** Office Fédéral de la Statistique - Recensement Fédéral de l'Agriculture et de l'Horticulture de 1990 - Exploitations agricoles par canton - Berne 1992.

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