

## UNITED KINGDOM - Agricultural Census 1993 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** The United Kingdom participated in the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) Programme with the agricultural censuses undertaken in early June in the years 1930, 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1979. The agricultural census conducted on 1 June 1993 is that selected for the participation in 1990 WCA round.

**Organization:** Parallel Censuses of Agriculture and Horticulture are carried out annually, at the beginning of June, by the Agricultural Departments of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The English Agricultural Statistics Division (Agricultural Census Branch) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), is responsible for the aggregation of census results for the four countries, and for the production of results referred to the United Kingdom as a whole.

**Enumeration period:** The annual census was conducted on 1 June 1993.

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

### Definitions:

- In England and Wales, a holding is classified as "Minor" if all the following criteria are met:
  - the total area is less than 6 Ha;
  - there is no regular full-time farmer or worker;
  - the estimated annual labour requirement is less than 100 days (of 8 man/hours);
  - the greenhouse area is less than 100 square meters;
  - the occupier does not farm another holding.

If any of these conditions is not satisfied, the holding is classified as "Main" and has a census questionnaire mailed in June.

- In Scotland, a Minor holding is defined as one having a low level of agricultural economic activity.
- In Northern Ireland, Minor holdings are those satisfying all of the following criteria:
  - the total area of land owned, or taken on long-term lease, is less than 6 Ha;
  - the business size is less than one British Size Unit, which is defined as 2000 European Units of account of standard gross margin (estimates of the value added by each activity);
  - no regular full-time worker other than the holder works on the holding.

Simplified censuses or surveys of Minor holdings are periodically undertaken.

**Coverage:** The census covered the entire country. Only Main agricultural holdings are covered in the annual census; the so called Minor agricultural holdings are excluded from the census (see definitions).

**Frame:** A central list of names and addresses of agricultural holdings is maintained and kept up-to-date using information which comes in broadly equal measure from the operation of the census itself, from the many sample surveys based on it, and from the Agriculture Departments' administrative dealings with farmers.

**Methods:** The farm list is used to address census questionnaires which are despatched by the postal system; a sequence of postcard reminders is mailed to non-respondents. The consistency of information received is examined and, if necessary, queries are raised with the farmer, mainly by telephone.

**Data source:** Government Statistical Service - The Digest of Agricultural Census Statistics 1993, Agricultural and Horticultural Census 1 June 1993, final results.

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