
VIRGIN ISLANDS (US) - Agricultural Census 1987 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The United States purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark in 1917, and conducted a special census that included agriculture the same year. The second census of agriculture in the Islands was carried out in 1930 when the Federal Government incorporated the Islands into the general decennial census programme. In 1964, Virgin Islands of the US were included in the quinquennial agricultural census plan.

Organization: In December 1987, the Commissioner of Agriculture for the US Virgin Islands, and the US Bureau of the Census, signed an agreement for undertaking a census of agriculture: the Bureau of the Census agreed to provide technical assistance at various levels, and the Territorial Government accepted responsibility for recruiting and training local office and field staff and supervising local administrative matters. The Agriculture Division of the Bureau of the Census conducted both Agriculture and Economic Census in the US Virgin Islands. A census office was lent by the Department of Economic Development and Agriculture in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. The census staff was composed of 1 project manager, 2 crew leaders, 1 office clerk and 6 enumerators.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out July to August 1988, immediately after the economic enumeration closure.

Reference date: The reference dates/periods are: the enumeration day for Inventory data, and the 12 month period between 1 July 1987 and 30 June 1988 for data on Production.

Definitions:

- Farm is any place that had sales of US \$100 or more of agricultural products during the census year.
- Special Farm is a "large holding" having a minimum annual sales of agricultural products of US \$500, or having at least 20 acres (8.1 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 and the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. A list of probable Special Farms, identified using 1982 Agriculture Census lists and information from the local Department of Agriculture, was also prepared.

Methods: As in the previous censuses of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the direct enumeration procedure was used in 1987 Census of Agriculture. The collection of data, which lasted from July until the middle of August 1988, was carried out in the six Enumeration Districts (EDs) into which the Islands were divided for census purposes. Each ED was clearly delineated on special maps ad hoc prepared. An enumerator was assigned to each ED. The complete enumeration of all agricultural operations in each ED was carried out through direct interview. The enumerators were also given lists of Special Farms located in each ED. As a result of the field operations, a total of 267 farms was enumerated.

Data source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census - 1987 Census of Agriculture - Virgin Islands of the United States - Vol.1, Part 54 - May 1989.

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