



JORDAN – Agricultural Census 2017 – Metadata review

1. Historical outline

The first Agricultural Census (AC) was carried out in Jordan in 1953, followed by the ones conducted in 1965, 1975, 1983, 1997 and 2007. The AC 2017, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was the seventh AC conducted in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

2. Legal basis and organization

Legal framework

The legal basis for the AC is provided by the General Statistics Law No. 12 of 2012. According to the law, the Department of Statistics of Jordan (DoS)¹ is authorized “to collect statistical information and data from respondents”. Accordingly, pursuant to the decision of the Council of Ministers in its letter No. 32/11/1/9459 dated 5 March 2017 which approved the implementation of the agricultural census, DoS carried out the AC 2017.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The responsibility for conducting the AC 2017 was assigned to the DoS. This department set up the AC Ministerial Committee, Technical Committee, Administrative and Financial Committee, the Media Committee, the Expenditure Approval Committee and the Coordinating Committees in the governorates in relation to census activities.

Census staff

The total number of census staff was about 700 employees, of which 379 enumerators. These were: (i) 12 Committee coordinators; (ii) 24 inspectors/supervisors; (iii) 30 employees as support technicians; (iv) 57 observers; (v) 344 enumerators; (vi) 123 Government car and rented car with driver; (vii) 16 liaison officers from the Ministry of Agriculture; (viii) 20 employees in the operating room; (ix) 11 employees administrative support services; (x) 11 information technology employees, etc.

3. Reference date and period

Reference day: 1 May 2017 for the location of the holding and its parcels, demographic data, machinery and equipment used on the holding, number of livestock, etc.

Reference periods: agricultural year 2016/2017 (from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017), for land use and cropped area, labor force, irrigation, agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, etc. (see above).

4. Enumeration period

The field data collection was conducted from 6 September 2017 to 31 March 2018.

5. Scope of the census and definition of the statistical unit

The census scope covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production).

The statistical unit was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit for agricultural production under one management that includes all existing animals and all land used in whole or in part for agricultural production purposes, regardless of ownership or legal form.²

¹ The DoS was founded in 1949 and the first General Statistics Law (No. 24 of 1950 and its amendments) has been issued. The second was the Provisional General Statistical Law No. 8 of 2003 to regulate its work as an institution specialized in statistical work and to define its functions and responsibilities as the only governmental agency authorized to collect information and statistical data. The third and latest issued statistical act was the General Statistics Law No. 12 of 2012 (see <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/laws-and-instructions/>).

² Management of the same holding could be run by one person or a household, two or more persons or two households may participate. A clan or a tribe can run the management, or the holding could be managed by a legal entity such as a company, cooperative association or government agency. The holding land may consist of one or more parts, located in one locality, provided that all parts of the holding participate in same means of production such as labor, agricultural buildings, agricultural machinery and towing animals.

Community level data

Data was collected at the neighbourhood-level which is the smallest administrative division in Jordan. The AC collected neighbourhood-level data on presence of irrigation facilities and area equipped for irrigation. Other neighbourhood-level data such as status of electricity connection and presence of radio and telephone, etc. collected in the Population Census (PC) 2015 were linked with the AC.

6. Census coverage

Geographic coverage

The census covered the whole country, both rural and urban areas.

Cut-off threshold and other exclusions

Only the holdings exceeding the following thresholds were covered by the AC 2017: a holder who owns 1 *dunum* (0.1 ha) or more of agricultural land; or any land under protective cover; more than ten head of sheep or goats, or both; one camel or more; one or more beehives; one or more cows; 30 or more domestic poultry; or organized farms.³

7. Methodology

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used for conducting the AC 2017.

Relation to other censuses

The AC 2017 used the list of names of families who live in the buildings only and GIS coordinates for buildings from the PC 2015. The AC 2017 was linked to community-level data collected in the PC 2015, such as status of electricity connection and presence of radio and telephone.

Frame

The information collected in the PC 2015 regarding the households engaged in agricultural activities was used as the frame for the holdings in the household sector in the AC 2017.⁴

Complete or/and sample enumeration methods

Complete enumeration was applied for the AC 2017.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection methods

The census enumeration was conducted using CAPI method (tablets).

Questionnaire(s) and items covered

An electronic questionnaire was developed for data collection. Census data were entered directly into the tablets by the enumerator in the field with an edit mechanism during data entry. The questionnaire covered 22 out of the 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020.⁵

8. Use of technology

CAPI method (tablets) were used for census data collection.

9. Data processing

The use of CAPI had a direct edit mechanism during the data entry. The CAPI system consisted of six systems for specific tasks: Data Collection System, Geographic Maps System, Field Work

³ These include fish farms, organized cattle farms, organized poultry farms.

⁴ The frame for holdings in the "organized sector" was established based on the records of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordan Valley Authority and the Water Authority. The DoS also has relied on the staff of these institutions to accompany the enumerators during their visits to most of the holdings through the liaison officers and coordinators designated for this purpose.

⁵ The following essential item was not covered: (ii) 0920- Working time on the holding.

Management System, Approval and Review System, Reporting and Results System, and Data Transfer System. The tablets were provided with cellular chipsets, which were connected directly and safely to the main server in the (DoS) headquarters to ensure data confidentiality. This system enabled the enumerators to perform data transfer from all the tablets in Jordan to the main server immediately after completion of data capture, loading the new tasks assigned to the enumerator in addition to any updates to the enumeration program.

10. Quality assurance

The Data Quality Division (DQD) of DoS participated in all stages of the AC 2017. The quality preservation started at the onset of the census activity with the participation of the DQD in the Technical Committee work. The census questions, the answers and discussions were documented, training of trainers was carried out and monitored in terms of evaluating the trainers and trainees, measuring the extent of the trainees' understanding of the material, their interaction in the training class. The questionnaire was electronically tested, and the results documented in a detailed report and submitted to senior management for remedy. Evaluations and tests were conducted to ensure the workability of the tool. Census enumerators were accompanied by the DQD to carry out the post-enumeration processes and ensured integrity of the collected data. They have also monitored all remarks arising from new cases and finally discussing remedies with concerned staff. Data quality principles were applied to all stages and tests were conducted for conformity, comparison, documentation, transparency, accuracy, time utilization and reliability processes of the data.

The country did not conduct a Post-enumeration Survey (PES). A specialized team carried out a random sample count of holdings to correct the data.

11. Data and metadata archiving

All data are saved on DoS servers in addition to being saved on the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology servers.

12. Data reconciliation

The reconciliation of census data was not done.

13. Dissemination of census results and microdata

Final census results were published in 2018. The census data were disseminated through printed publication, website of the DoS, CDs, public database with census data, and workshops with partners, professional unions and data users. The DoS provides access to microdata (without personal information) based on request and through an administrative approval process.

14. Data sources

Department of Statistics (DoS). 2017. Agricultural Census 2017. In: DoS [online]. Amman, Jordan. <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/products/agricultural-census2017/>; <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/censuses/agriculture-census/>; <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/product-category/agricultural-census/>

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