

GREECE - Agricultural Census 1999/2000 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

First census of agriculture and livestock was carried out in 1860. First systematic agricultural census was carried out in 1911. Greece also participated in the 1929 World Census organized by International Institute of Agriculture and the 1950 World Census of Agriculture organized by FAO. From 1961 to 1991 decennial censuses of agriculture and livestock farming were organized parallel with the population censuses. In 1996 a special survey was carried out for updating the register of agricultural and livestock holdings. In order to synchronize the timings of agricultural census with the EU Farm Structure Survey the 1999/2000 census was organized ahead of population census.

Organization

Census was carried out on the basis of a Presidential Decree issued under the law establishing National Statistics service of Greece (NSSG). The Division for Structural Statistics of NSSG in the Ministry of Economy and Finance was responsible for carrying out the census in conjunction with co-responsible departments of NSSG. The division played the lead role in the overall planning of the survey and the data collection and processing was carried out by Statistical Services of 51 prefectures of Greece. Field work was carried out by the municipalities and rural districts by 10 000 enumerators.

Enumeration period

The updating of list of holdings was carried out during September to November 1999. The actual taking of census was carried out during December 1999 to February 2000.

Reference date/period

The livestock numbers refer to 1 November 1999. The stock of farm-owned machinery was 30 September 1999. The data on crops relate to the period from 1 September 1998 to 30 September 1999.

Definition

Holding - A holding is a single unit, both technically and economically, having a single management and producing agricultural products. The survey covered holdings above the threshold of:

- at least 0.1 ha of utilized land or 0.05 ha of green houses; or owning one or more cows or two more large animals (oxen, horses, donkeys, mules) or 5 or more small animals (sheep, goat, pigs) or fifty or more poultry or 20 or more hives.

Coverage

The census was carried out in all the municipalities and rural districts of Greece, and the agricultural and livestock holdings which qualified the coverage criteria were covered. Statistically, the survey covered all agricultural, livestock and mixed holding which satisfied the following criteria:

- made use of at least 0.1 ha of utilized land or 0.05 ha of green houses; or
- owns one or more cows or two more large animals (oxen, horses, donkeys, mules) or 5 or more small animals (sheep, goat, pigs) or fifty or more poultry or 20 or more hives.

Frame

The census was carried out on the basis of a Register of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings as it stood following the special updating survey conducted in 1996. This register was updated by door-to-door enquiry from dwellings located in each census section to prepare a nominative list of holdings (frame) to be surveyed for obtaining the detailed information. Cartographic material was used to ensure that the no part of the territory is excluded.

Method

The census was a complete enumeration of all holdings which satisfied the threshold criteria. Face to face interviews of occupiers of holdings were conducted by trained enumerators (10 000 persons) to obtain data on the main census questionnaire. Working groups at national, prefecture and municipal/district level were constituted with specific responsibilities for smooth conduct of census. Data quality checks were applied at all stages of data collection, inputting and processing.

Data source

Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000, 2003 Edition, Agriculture and Fisheries Theme 5. European Commission, Eurostat.

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