

Historical outline

Luxembourg has been participating in the World Census of Agriculture Programme since 1950 Round. An agricultural census covering crops and livestock is undertaken annually on 15 May, following almost the same criteria and definitions since 1953. Luxembourg also participates in the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) of European Community. Data presented here refer to the 1999 census which served as the basis of 1999/2000 FSS.

Organization

As per Act 9 of July 1962 the "Service Central de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (STATEC)", of the Ministry of National Economy, is the responsible organization for collecting statistical information of general interest, including agricultural census in the country. While STATEC is concerned with preparation of survey at methodological, technical and organizational level, the 118 municipalities organize and manage the survey in the field.

Enumeration period

The census was conducted during the period 20 – 25 May 1999.

Reference date/period

For land use, crops area, livestock, and agricultural machinery and equipment: 15 May 1999.

For farm labour: 12 months preceding the census date.

Definition

- The regulatory framework for the survey requires following units to be covered by the census:
 - All holdings with 1 ha or more of cultivated area (i.e. arable land, meadows and pastures, kitchen gardens, fruit and berry plantations, vineyards, nurseries and osieries);
 - All owners of commercially operated units producing vegetables, fruit or flowers, and owners of nurseries or osieries, even if the cultivated area is less than 1 ha;
 - All owners of vineyards with a total area of at least 0.1 ha;
 - All owners of commercial livestock or poultry breeding establishments.
- The census did not cover holdings with less than 1 ha of cultivated area which:
 - Possess woodland and lohhecken (coppice woodland);
 - Keep riding horses;
 - Fatten pigs for their own requirements;
 - Grow vegetables, strawberries etc. for their own requirements.

Coverage

Geographically, the census covers the entire country. Statistically, all holdings falling within the scope of the census are covered.

Frame

A uniform register of holdings is not kept. Some municipalities with a larger number of holdings keep an address list containing only the addresses of the holdings surveyed the previous year.

Method

In the country, consisting of administrative districts, subdivided into cantons, broken down into communes, the census is taken by commune. The responsibility for preparing and conducting the census in the municipalities rests with the local council's board of aldermen (Schöffenkollégium) composed of the Major and at least two councillors. Each year the municipalities generally employ the same locally resident enumerators who are familiar with the number and location of the holdings to be surveyed. They are allocated in the same survey district as in the previous year. Complete enumeration of holdings is carried out. Information is collected through direct interview and questionnaires are completed directly by enumerators.

Data source

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

Contact

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