

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

South Africa has conducted Censuses of Commercial Agriculture (CoCAs) in 2002 and 2007.¹

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) gives Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) the authority to collect statistics and the responsibility to ensure that the information remains confidential.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

Stats SA conducted both the CoCA 2002 and the CoCA 2007. The CoCA 2007 was funded jointly by Stats SA and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

Census staff

In 2002 and 2007, census data collection was conducted using self-interviewing methods (through post, e-mail and fax). In addition, personal visits were conducted on request (mainly for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises) to assist respondents.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days:

- the day of the interview, for inventory items such as legal status and management system of the holding and livestock numbers;
- 28 February 2007, for such items as the number of family members and employees involved in farming activities.

Reference period: the financial year (ending on any date between 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2007), for flow items, such as area planted, irrigated area, production, livestock disposed, expenditure related to farming activity and employment.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The census questionnaires were posted to holders between 1 July and 5 August 2007. The respondents were asked to return the completed questionnaires no later than 30 September 2007.

5. SCOPE OF THE CENSUS AND DEFINITION OF THE STATISTICAL UNIT

The **census scope** covered the agricultural activities of tax-registered enterprises involved in: (i) the growing of crops, market gardening and horticulture; (ii) the farming of animals; (iii) the growing of crops combined with the farming of animals (mixed farming); and (iv) agricultural and animal husbandry services, including forestry and aquaculture (except veterinary activities).

The **statistical unit** for the collection of census data was a “farming enterprise”, defined as “a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities”.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The entire country was covered in the CoCA 2007.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLDS AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

All agricultural production households growing crops or raising livestock solely for own consumption and not registered for value-added tax (VAT), i.e. subsistence and smallholder farmers, were excluded.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The CoCA 2007 used the classical approach.

Frame

The main source of the frame was the business register, which contains all businesses undertaking agricultural activities registered for VAT with the South African Revenue Service (the Tax Office).

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The 2007 CoCA was conducted on the basis of a complete enumeration of farming enterprises.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

¹ The CoCa planned for 2012 was not funded and, as such, was not conducted.

Data collection method(s)

The CoCA data collection was conducted using self-enumeration through post, e-mail and fax. In addition, personal visits were conducted upon request (to micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises) to assist respondents. Questionnaires were sent to each of the 93 246 enterprises that met the frame criteria in the year 2006/2007; 39 966 of these responded.

Questionnaire(s)

The CoCA used a single questionnaire for census data collection. The census questionnaire covered 14 of the 16 core items² recommended for the WCA 2010.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Manual data entry was used for the census questionnaires. Data entry application with consistency checks and skip patterns was applied. Ratio imputation was used for both item and unit non-response.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Several steps were put in place to ensure the quality of census results, for example: careful design of the questionnaire and its testing in pilot studies; preparation of training manuals and training of enumerators; equipping the capturing system with warnings and consistency checks. Comparisons were made with the frame and with the estimates of the 2002 CoCA, and with the estimates from the annual agriculture and related services survey, as well as with various sources that reported on the sector.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The census results were disseminated through press releases, printed publications and on Stat SA's website.

13. DATA SOURCES

FAO. 2017. Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). 18-22 September 2017, Nairobi, Kenya. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 30 August 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020kenya/en/>

Stat SA. 2010. *Census of commercial agriculture, 2007*. Pretoria, Republic of South Africa. (also available at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-11-02-01/Report-11-02-012007.pdf>).

14. CONTACT

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² The following core items were not covered by the AC: (i) "Household size"; and (ii) "Main purpose of production of the holding".

SOUTH AFRICA – CENSUS OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE 2007 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS	
	Holdings
Total	39 966
Individual	33 249
Close corporation	2 259
Family	874
Partnership	1 180
Private company	2 167
Other	237

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING, BY SEX	
	Number
Total labour force	818 503
Male	498 358
Female	320 145
Family labour force engaged in agriculture	47 570
Male	34 951
Female	12 619
Paid employees	770 933
Male	463 407
Female	307 526
Skilled farm workers	94 888
Male	67 287
Female	27 601
Unskilled farm workers	282 885
Male	191 074
Female	91 811
Office staff	10 942
Male	2 997
Female	7 945
Farm managers	10 673
Male	1 100
Female	9 573
Farm foremen	14 125
Male	11 959
Female	2 166
Casual and seasonal employees	357 420
Male	176 903
Female	180 517

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	30 879	
Cattle	25 113	5 278 785
Sheep	12 830	11 817 763
Goats	2 014	854 187
Pigs/swine	1 345	909 521
Horses	1 897	20 520
Poultry (1 000 head)	5 324	243 168
Chicken	4 404	242 855
Ostriches	868	244
Other	52	69
Insects		
Bees (hives)	44	41 559

TEMPORARY CROPS PLANTED		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Cereals	16 942	2 966 099
Maize	11 145	2 177 392
Sorghum	374	78 308
Wheat	4 060	571 438
Barley	436	57 746
Other cereals	927	81 212
Vegetables and melons	n.a.	n.a.
Potatoes	2 002	59 588
Sweet potatoes	83	1 109
Tomatoes	843	10 711
Onions	356	9 031
Pumpkins	310	9 462
Carrots	167	4 211
Cabbages	413	4 897
Mushrooms	20	89
Green beans	217	4 240
Watermelons	116	2 133
Other vegetables	947	9 879
Oilseed crops	2 874	411 409
Sunflower seed	1 484	242 615
Groundnuts	414	39 507
Soybeans	807	108 393
Other oil seeds	169	20 893
Leguminous crops	429	36 678
Dry beans	380	33 822
Other legumes	49	2 855
Sugar crops	n.a.	n.a.
Sugar cane	1 978	272 226
Other temporary crops	n.a.	n.a.
Fodder crops	6 501	475 703
Other	n.a.	n.a.
Cotton	135	18 745
Tobacco	259	14 763
Other	59	4 687

PERMANENT CROPS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Subtropical fruits	965	34 603
Pineapples	155	7 530
Bananas	338	9 360
Other subtropical fruit	472	17 712
Citrus fruits	2 188	66 430
Oranges	1 487	53 390
Lemons	309	4 929
Mandarins	246	2 796
Other citrus fruit	146	5 313
Pome fruits and stone fruits	7 103	189 702
Apples	967	19 667
Pears	587	10 754
Peaches	626	8 513
Other deciduous fruit ¹	4 923	150 768
Nuts	625	17 264
Macadamia nuts	404	13 056
Pecan nuts	203	3 694
Other nuts	18	513
Other horticulture products (permanent crops)	1 670	54 425

¹ Data include table grapes and wine grapes