

The “United States Virgin Islands” is one of the collectively referred “U.S. Outlying Areas”. For statistical purposes, it is recorded as a separate entity in the World Census of Agriculture Database (in the Americas Region). Consequently, results related to the United States of America bear only upon the continental territory of the country.

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Census of Agriculture (CA) was conducted in the United States Virgin Islands (U.S. Virgin Islands) in 1920 and the second in 1930, in conjunction with the first decennial World Agricultural Census. Other censuses were conducted at a ten-year interval through 1960 when, starting with the census taken in 1964, the U.S. Virgin Islands were included in the quinquennial (five-year) Agricultural Census Plan. Successively, the dates were adjusted in order to coincide with economic censuses and, consequently, the subsequent agricultural censuses were conducted in 1978 and 1982. After 1982, agricultural censuses were reverted to a five-year cycle. The CA 2007, to which metadata and data here refer, is the fourteenth agricultural census to be undertaken in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The CA is required by law under the Census of Agriculture Act of 2002, Public Law 105-113 (Title 7, United States Code, Section 2204g). The law directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a census of agriculture every five years, covering the prior year.

The CA 2007 was conducted in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement approved by the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and by the Commissioner of Agriculture of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistical Service (USDA/NASS) is responsible for conducting the CA 2007. The CA 2007 was conducted with the cooperation and assistance of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (DA). The NASS provided technical assistance at various levels, while the DA of the U.S. Virgin Islands was responsible for recruiting and training local officers and field staff and supervising local administrative matters. The census was funded by the United States Federal budget.

Census staff

The project manager, crew leaders, and enumerators employed for the census in the U.S. Virgin Islands received special training in accordance with instructions prepared by NASS and the DA of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The training included practice on interviewing and filling out the report form, as well as a detailed discussion of the enumerator's instructions.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 31 December 2007, for inventory items such as livestock, machinery, equipment, buildings, facilities on farms and operator's characteristics.

Reference period: the calendar year, from 1 January to 31 December 2007, for crop production, crop and livestock sales, expense data, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD:

The data collection was carried out from January to July 2008.

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 a farm, defined as “any place from which USD 500 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the calendar year 2007”. According to the census definition, a farm is essentially an operating unit, not an ownership tract. All land operated or managed by one person or partnership represents one farm. In the case of tenants, the land assigned to each tenant is considered a separate farm, even though the landlord may consider the entire landholding to be one unit rather than several separate units.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The CA 2007 covered the entire territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The CA 2007 conducted in the U.S. Virgin Islands covered “all places” from which USD 500 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the 12-month period between 1 January and 31 December 2007.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census.

The classical approach was used in the CA 2007.

Frame

The census frame consisted of a list of farm operators compiled by the U.S. Virgin Islands DA. This list was compiled with the help of the USDA Farm Services Agency, located in St. Croix.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The census was a complete enumeration of all farm operators registered in the list compiled by the United States of America in the CA 2007.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method

Data collection was done by means traditional face-to-face interviews. The information was collected in paper forms (PAPI method).

Questionnaire(s)

The questionnaire (report form) for the CA 2007 was prepared by NASS, in cooperation with the DA of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Only one questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire of the 2007 CA covered 12 of the 16 core items¹ recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Questionnaires collected using the PAPI method were scanned. OMR was used to capture categorical responses and to identify the other answer zones in which some type of mark was present. The census results were disseminated online, through the USDA website.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The NASS undertook the data processing activities. Each report form was reviewed and coded prior to data entry and subjected to a thorough computer edit. Report forms not meeting the census farm definition were voided. Missing information was derived using reported data for similar type and size farms in nearby areas. The cleaned data were then tabulated by the computer and reviewed by analysts. Prior to publication, tabulated totals were reviewed by analysts to identify inconsistencies and potential coverage problems and trend discrepancies.²

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Ten percent of the captured data were keyed a second time for quality control. If differences existed between the first keyed value and the second, an adjudicator handled resolution. Comparisons were made with previous census data, as well as other available data.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final results of the CA 2007 were released in February 2009. The census report included methodological notes and questionnaire. The census report and thematic ("special") studies are available on the NASS website.

13. DATA SOURCES

United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2009. *Census of Agriculture 2007 – Virgin Islands of the United States Territory and Island Data*, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 54. Washington, D.C., United States of America. (also available at https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2007/Full_Report/Outlying_Areas/usvi.pdf).

14. CONTACT

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Address: 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20250.

Telephone: (+1) (800) 7279540; (+1) 202 7203878;

E-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov

Website: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/>

¹ The exceptions were the following four items: (i) "Sex of the agricultural holder"; (ii) "Household size"; (iii) "Presence of forests and other woodland on the holding"; and (iv) "Other economic production activities of the holding's enterprise".

² Comparisons were made with previous census data, as well as other available data. The computer system provided the capability to review up-to-date tallies of all selected data items for various sets of criteria which included, but were not limited to, geographic levels, farm types and sales levels. Data were examined for each set of criteria and a write-up (criticism) was produced for data that were inconsistent. When necessary, data inconsistencies were resolved by carrying out corrections to data records.

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2007 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	219	2 376
Civil persons	210	n.a.
Juridical persons	5	n.a.
Other	4	n.a.

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	219	2 376
Legal ownership	130	n.a.
Rented from others	110	n.a.
Rented to others	2	n.a.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	219	2 376
Less than 1,2 ha	86	51
1,2–3,63 ha	63	120
3,63–7,67 ha	35	188
7,67–19,79 ha	15	163
19,79–40,10 ha	12	342
40,095 and over	8	1 512

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	219	2 376
Agricultural land	n.a.	2 303
Cropland	147	199
Harvested cropland	145	123
Other cropland	40	76
Permanent meadows and pastures	103	2 104
Forest and other wooded land	19	38
Other land	82	34

HOLDERS, BY AGE	
	Number
Total	219
Under 35 years	9
35–44 years	30
45–54 years	65
55–64 years	55
65 years and over	60

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total	511
Unpaid labour	401
Hired farm labour	110

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	25	776
Sheep	51	2 981
Goats	73	2 331
Pigs/swine	28	1 125
Horses	18	69
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Chickens	13	0,7
Other poultry	4	0,1

SOURCE OF IRRIGATION WATER		
	Holdings	Area irrigated (ha)
Total holdings with irrigated land	99	98
Well or cistern	51	n.a.
Lake or pond	4	n.a.
Public utility	13	n.a.
Other	31	n.a.

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED ON THE HOLDING		
	Holdings	Units
Tractors	82	119
Motortrucks	160	195
Automobiles	56	67

PERMANENT CROPS		
	Holdings	Number of trees/plants
Total	127	n.a.
Orchards	n.a.	n.a.
Tropical and subtropical fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Mangoes	91	1 920
Papayas	58	1 401
Avocados	75	636
Bananas	87	8 090
Pineapples	29	2 046
Breadfruit	54	315
Plantains	45	2 455
Citrus fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Oranges	41	960
Grapefruit	41	259
Limes and lemons	77	594
Oilseed crops	n.a.	n.a.
Coconuts	81	3 893
Other fruit, nuts and tree crops	62	1 696