

United States Virgin Islands - Census of Agriculture, 2007

**United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistical Service
(USDA/NASS)**

Report generated on: April 3, 2023

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

VIR_2007_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

TITLE

Census of Agriculture, 2007

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
United States Virgin Islands	VIR

STUDY TYPE

Agricultural Census [ag/census]

SERIES INFORMATION

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.

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.

ABSTRACT

For more than 150 years, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, conducted the census of agriculture. However, the 2002 Appropriations Act transferred the responsibility from the Bureau of the Census to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The 2007 Census of Agriculture for the U.S. Virgin Islands is the second census in the U.S. Virgin Islands conducted by NASS. The census of agriculture is taken to obtain agricultural statistics for each county, State (including territories and protectorates), and the Nation. The first U.S. agricultural census data were collected in 1840 as a part of the sixth decennial census. From 1840 to 1920, an agricultural census was taken as a part of each decennial census. Since 1920, a separate national agricultural census has been taken every 5 years. The 2007 census is the 14th census of agriculture of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The first, taken in 1920, was a special census authorized by the Secretary of Commerce. The next agriculture census was taken in 1930 in conjunction with the decennial census, a practice that continued every 10 years through 1960. The 1964 Census of Agriculture was the first quinquennial (5-year) census to be taken in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data-reference year to coincide with the 1982 Economic Censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. After 1982, the agriculture census reverted to a 5-year cycle. Data in this publication are for the calendar year 2007, and inventory data reflect what was on hand on December 31, 2007. This is the same reference period used in the 2002 census. Prior to the 2002 census, data was collected in the summer for the previous 12 months, with inventory items counted as what was on hand as of July 1 of the year the data collection was done.

Objectives:

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the U.S. Virgin Islands's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the island level. Census statistics are used to measure agricultural production and to identify trends in an ever changing agricultural sector. Many local programs use census data as a benchmark for designing and evaluating surveys. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

The scope of the study includes agriculture (including forestry), livestock, sources of income, infrastructure and organization affiliation.

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary
Agriculture & Rural Development	FAO
Forests & Forestry	FAO
Land (policy, resource management)	FAO
Livestock	FAO
Labor	FAO

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

UNIVERSE

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.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
United States Department of Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistical Service (USDA/NASS)

PRODUCERS

Name	Role
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture	Technical assistance

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Role
United States Federal budget	Funding

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

(a) Method of Enumeration

As in the previous censuses of the U.S. Virgin Islands, a direct enumeration procedure was used in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Enumeration was based on a list of farm operators compiled by the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture. This list was compiled with the help of the USDA Farm Services Agency located in St. Croix. The statistics in this report were collected from farm operators beginning in January of 2003. Each enumerator was assigned a list of individuals

or farm operations from a master enumeration list. The enumerators contacted persons or operations on their list and completed a census report form for all farm operations. If the person on the list was not operating a farm, the enumerator recorded whether the land had been sold or rented to someone else and was still being used for agriculture. If land was sold or rented out, the enumerator got the name of the new operator and contacted that person to ensure that he or she was included in the census.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2007-01	2007-07

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

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 covering topics on:

- Land owned
- Land use
- Irrigation
- Conservation programs and crop insurance
- Field crops
- Bananas, coffee, pineapples and plantain crops
- Hay and forage crops
- Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, Sod and tree seedlings
- Vegetables and melons
- Hydroponic crops
- Fruit
- Root crops
- Cattle and calves
- Poultry
- Hogs and pigs
- Aquaculture
- Other animals and livestock products
- Value of sales
- Organic agriculture
- Federal and commonwealth agricultural program payments
- Income from farm-related sources
- Production expenses
- Farm labour
- Fertilizer and chemicals applied
- Market value of land and buildings
- Machinery, equipment and buildings
- Practices
- Type of organization
- Operator characteristics

The questionnaire of the 2007 CA covered 12 of the 16 core items' recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

Data Processing

DATA EDITING

DATA PROCESSING

The processing of the 2007 Census of Agriculture for the U.S. Virgin Islands was done in St. Croix. Each report form was reviewed and coded prior to data keying. Report forms not meeting the census farm definition were voided. The remaining report forms were examined for clarity and completeness. Reporting errors in units of measures, illegible entries, and misplaced entries were corrected. After all the report forms had been reviewed and coded, the data were keyed and subjected to a thorough computer edit. The edit performed comprehensive checks for consistency and reasonableness, corrected erroneous or inconsistent data, supplied missing data based on similar farms, and assigned farm classification codes necessary for tabulating the data. All substantial changes to the data generated by the computer edits were reviewed and verified by analysts. Inconsistencies identified, but not corrected by the computer, were reviewed, corrected, and keyed to a correction file. The corrected 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. 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 any inconsistencies or potential problems were then researched by examining individual data records contributing to the tabulated total. When necessary, data inconsistencies were resolved by making corrections to individual data records.

Data Appraisal

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

The accuracy of these tabulated data is determined by the joint effects of the various nonsampling errors. No direct measures of these effects have been obtained; however, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of data collection, processing, and tabulation of the data in an effort to minimize the effects of nonsampling errors.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Email	URL
United States Department of Agriculture	Link	Link

CONFIDENTIALITY

See <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/privacy-office>

ACCESS CONDITIONS

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See also <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/privacy-office>

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Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_VIR_2007_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Office of chief Statistician	OCS	Food and Agriculture Organization	Adoption of metadata for FAM
Census team, Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization	Metadata producer

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

VIR_2007_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_v01

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
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