

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first agricultural census (AC) in Argentina was conducted in 1888. Subsequently, eleven ACs were carried out in 1895, 1908, 1914, 1937, 1947, 1952, 1960, 1969, 1988, 2002 and 2008. The data reported here relate to the AC conducted in 2008.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The AC legislation includes the following:

- Argentine Law 17622 of January 1968, Executive Orders 3110/70 and 1831/93, and Provision 176/99 on Statistical Secrecy, which establish the creation and operation of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC); and
- Decree No. 1764, of 28 November 2007, which established the undertaking of the AC 2008 covering agriculture and forestry.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The INDEC is the federal agency responsible for planning and coordinating national censuses and other national-level statistical surveys. The INDEC is under the direct oversight of the Secretariat of Economic and Regional Planning¹ of the Ministry of Economy and Production (MECON).² The INDEC coordinates the National Statistics System (SEN)³ through which the national, provincial and local statistical services work together. Each provincial government has a statistics bureau, called a Provincial Direction of Statistics (DPA),⁴ which collects and processes information.

A National Census Committee (NCS) was created under Decree No. 1764 and was chaired by the INDEC. The NCS integrated members from the Ministry of Economy (the Secretary of Agriculture), the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Defence.

Census staff

The staff involved in the field work included 24 census coordinators (one in every province and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires), 14 subcoordinators, 100 chief supervisors, more than 1 000 field supervisors and approximately 6 000 enumerators. Each enumerator had an average workload of 55 farms.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days:

- 31 December 2007, for items on the identification of the holding, total area of the holding, area of permanent crops, etc.
- 30 June 2008, for inventories of livestock, agricultural machinery, etc.

Reference period: the agricultural year (from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008), for crop production, crop and livestock sales, labour, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The AC 2008 was undertaken between June 2008 and October 2009.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and animal production) and forestry activities.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding (Explotación Agropecuaria, or EAP), defined as “the organizational unit of agricultural production with at least 500 m² within a single province that, regardless of the number of parcels: (i) produces crop, livestock or forestry goods for marketing; (ii) has a management that manages the functions and assumes the risks associated with production activities; and (iii) utilizes in all its parcels the same production means and part of the same labour”. The agricultural holdings comprised both holdings in the household-sector and in non-household-sector.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The AC 2008 covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following threshold was established for an agricultural holding: 500 m² (0.05 ha) of the area of the holding.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC 2008.

¹ In Spanish, *Secretaría de Programación Económica y Regional*.

² *Ministerio de Economía y Producción*.

³ *Sistema Estadístico Nacional*.

⁴ *Dirección de Estadística*.

Frame

For census purposes, INDEC mapping divides the territory of each province into census “fractions” (*fracciones*), further divided into *radios*. This division is fundamentally linked to the population census. The *radio* may be classified as one of three types: rural, urban and mixed. Most of the *radios* classified as rural and mixed were covered by the AC; urban areas were excluded. In each province, *radios* that were classified as rural but that were part of mountainous areas, deserts, lake areas and watercourses were excluded. This selection of *radios* yielded the territory to be covered by the AC 2008.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The census was a complete enumeration exercise.

Sample design

Not applied.

Data collection methods

Each province was divided in Enumeration Areas (EAs) and each EA into census segments. Field enumerators using paper questionnaires canvassed the producers with EAPs in these segments. The data collection was carried out using the PAPI method.

Questionnaire(s)

Two types of questionnaire were used for data collection. The first, comprehensive questionnaire included the census items related to land, irrigation, crops, livestock, forestry, agricultural practices, machinery and equipment, labour and agriculture. The second questionnaire was used to collect some economic data on the holding.

The AC questionnaire included all 16 core items recommended by FAO for the WCA 2010.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Provisional census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Manual data entry was used for census data capture. SAS was used for data processing and analysis, and for generating tables.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Post-census checks against external data, as well as against data from the previous census, showed that significant undercoverage had taken place. For this reason, only preliminary results were disseminated. Officially, 24 million ha are recognized not to have been censused (approximately 14 percent of the undercoverage).

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

Only certain provisional census data at the national level were disseminated (in October–November 2009). The census report, with final results, was not published, because data collection had not been completed in some important agricultural provinces, such as Buenos Aires and Corrientes. Instead, census results were published separately at provincial level only (for the 23 provinces).⁵

13. DATA SOURCES

FAO. 2016. Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). 12–16 December 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 10 September 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020montevideo/en/>

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC). 2019. Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos: República Argentina. In: *INDEC* [online]. Buenos Aires, Argentina. [Cited 2 August 2019]. <https://www.indec.gob.ar/>

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⁵ Therefore, this publication does not include the tables with census results for the AC 2008.