

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Agricultural Census (AC) in Saudi Arabia was conducted in 1973/1974, the second in 1982, the third in 1999 and the fourth in 2015.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

In accordance with the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 11 of 13 January 2015, the General Authority for Statistics (GASat) was mandated to conduct surveys, prepare statistical research and studies, and provide statistical data and services to the business sector and private establishments.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

Starting from 2015, GASat is responsible for conducting agricultural censuses in Saudi Arabia. In technical and methodological terms, the AC 2015 was organized by GASat. Previously, the Ministry of Agriculture was in charge of the ACs.

Census staff

The census staff involved in the census operation (enumerators, supervisors, etc.) amounted to 3 550 individuals.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 1 February 2015, for inventory items, such as livestock numbers;¹

Reference period: the agricultural year (from 1 March 2014 to 28 February 2015), for agricultural labour, agricultural crops, machinery and equipment, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The enumeration was conducted from 12 February to 15 April 2015.

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

The **census scope** covered the holdings engaged in agricultural activities (crop and animal production). The aquaculture activities associated with an agricultural holding were also included in the census scope.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit of the agricultural production of crops and livestock, operated under single management, which covers all animals included in it and all lands used fully or in part for agricultural production, regardless of ownership, legal form or area. Two types of agricultural holdings were distinguished: "traditional" holdings and "specialized" holdings.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The AC covered the agriculturally productive regions of the entire country, as well the stockbreeders in the desert (holdings without land).

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

To be covered by the AC, agricultural holdings were to have an area of one *dunam* (equivalent to 0.1 ha) or more; to raise livestock in a stable manner; or to have at least one camel, one cow, 15 head of sheep or goats, 30 chicken, or five beehives. The AC 2015 did not include nurseries.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The census was conducted using the classical approach.

Frame

The frame for the AC 2015 was built during the first census phase (from 30 April to 28 June 2014), which was devoted to: (i) "numbering and counting" the agricultural holdings with operated lands and the stockbreeders not included in this category; and (ii) "counting" the stockbreeders in the desert (holdings without land).

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The AC 2015 used the complete enumeration method.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

No sampling was used.

¹ Corresponding to Dhul-Hijjah 4th, 1436 H.

Data collection method(s)

The data for traditional and specialized holdings were collected using the CAPI method, whereas the data for stockbreeders in the outskirts of villages and the desert were first collected on paper, to be recorded later using tablets. Data collection was conducted using an objective method (measurement of area or counting of livestock).²

Questionnaire(s)

A single questionnaire was used for data collection. The AC 2015 covered 14 of the 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.³

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The CAPI method was used for data collection from traditional and specialized holdings. Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Handheld devices and manual data entry were used for different categories of census units (see section 8, “Data collection methods”, above).

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Checks were incorporated into the electronic questionnaire (for CAPI), to improve the reliability and consistency of the primary data collected.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The results of the AC 2015 were disseminated through the GStat website.

13. DATA SOURCES

General Authority for Statistics, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 2019. Census of Agriculture 2015. In: *General Authority for Statistics* [online]. Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [Cited 28 July 2019] <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/22>

14. CONTACT

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² Data that could not be obtained by measurement or counting were obtained by asking the holder or the representative thereof.

³ The exceptions were: (i) “Presence of forest and other wooded land on the holding”; and (ii) “Other economic production activities of the holding’s enterprise”.

SAUDI ARABIA – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2015 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	346 829	3 421 854
Holdings without land	61 663	
Holdings with land	285 166	3 421 854
Civil persons	278 902	3 002 858
Juridical persons	6 257	415 911
Other	7	3 084

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total holdings with land	285 166	3 421 854
Owned	272 447	3 199 892
Rented	11 549	206 714
Owned and rented	1 141	15 244
Other form of tenure	29	51

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	346 829	3 421 854
Holdings without land	61 663	
Holdings with land	285 166	3 421 854
Less than 0.5 ha	131 192	22 859
0.5–1 ha	32 802	22 029
1–2 ha	28 616	37 689
2–5 ha	34 694	105 019
5–10 ha	24 455	155 173
10–20 ha	12 523	165 085
20–50 ha	9 771	273 500
50–100 ha	4 548	303 077
100–200 ha	3 408	404 315
200–500 ha	2 363	630 404
500 ha and over	794	1 302 706

HOLDERS WITH AGRICULTURAL LAND, BY SEX		
	Number	Area operated (ha)
Total holders with land	284 612	3 125 211
Male	280 552	3 094 798
Female	4 060	30 412

HOLDERS, BY AGE	
	Number
Total holders	346 239
15–25 years	2 446
25–34 years	18 670
35–44 years	51 058
45–54 years	82 300
55–64 years	88 072
65 years and over	103 693

HOLDINGS WITH AGRICULTURAL LAND, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE	
	Number
Total agricultural holders with land	284 612
1 person	21 699
2–3 persons	26 984
4–5 persons	38 748
6–9 persons	110 641
10 persons and over	86 540

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	2 258 835
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	632 149

HIRED MANAGERS AND EMPLOYEES ON THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total hired managers	5 755
Total employees	810 819
Permanent employees	505 098

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	7 338	354 276
Sheep	64 396	9 055 438
Goats	48 881	3 563 017
Camels	13 760	471 704
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Chickens	4 015	619
Ducks	717	24
Geese	140	5
Turkeys	98	5
Other animals	n.a.	n.a.
Rabbits	2 925	154 390
Quail	219	433 695
Pigeons	13 221	2 980 315
Ostriches	137	1 676
Peacock	119	1 312
Other	4	7 375
Insects		
Bees (hives)	n.a.	38 878

HOLDINGS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR BY MAIN PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total producing mainly for	285 166	3 421 854
Home consumption	39 431	16 964
Sale	245 735	3 404 890

SOURCES OF IRRIGATION WATER		
	Holdings	Area irrigated (ha)
Total	285 166	3 421 855
Rain	97 098	103 314
Springs	281	283
Dams	184	550
Flowing wells	60	6 876
Manual wells	49 857	176 062
Artesian wells	114 407	3 095 149
Other	23 279	39 621

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED ON THE HOLDING		
	Holdings	Units
Ploughing machine	n.a.	98 388
Other (machine-powered)	n.a.	
Pivotal sprayer	n.a.	57 912
Electric dynamo	n.a.	22 789
Electrical pump – plunger	n.a.	164 006
Machine with strength less than 200 horsepower	n.a.	46 109