

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

Austria conducted its first census of agricultural and forestry holdings in 1902. Subsequent agricultural censuses were held in 1930, 1939 and 1951, and every ten years from 1960 to 1990. The last two Agricultural Censuses (ACs) took place in 1999 and 2010. The AC 2010, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was carried out together with the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods (SAPM).

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The agricultural census legislation consisted of:

- the Federal Statistics Act 2000 (Bundesgesetzblatt, BGBl I, No. 163/1999), as last amended by BGBl I No. 111/2010, which provides for the creation of Advisory Committees for the various statistical activities;
- Regulation (BGBl II No. 122/2010), adopted by Austria's Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management (MoA), regarding the preparation of statistics concerning the structure of the agricultural holdings and agricultural production methods based on the Federal Statistics Act 2000; and
- the EU legislation¹ relevant for implementing the FSS 2010.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

Statistics Austria has the responsibility for the AC. The Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics, which comprises experts from various Austrian institutions in the agricultural field, was tasked with providing Statistics Austria with mainly technical advice and support in the planning and implementation of the census.

Census staff

The AC 2010 was implemented with the support of the local authorities. Up to 46 percent of farmers and forest managers replied directly to Statistics Austria (using Computer-assisted Web Interviewing, or CAWI), while the rest of the census units were surveyed by the census bodies established in communes. The staff involved in the census data collection amounted to approximately 25 staff members at Statistics Austria and related staff from the 2 379 local authorities.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days:

- 1 April 2010, for items related to livestock;
- 15 May 2010, for ownership and land area-related characteristics; and
- 31 October 2010, for all other inventory items.

Reference periods:

- from 1 November 2009 to 31 October 2010, for land use, labour force, other gainful activities and agricultural production methods;
- from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010, for landscape features, rural development support and average irrigated area;
- the calendar year 2009, for the annual consumption of fuel and energy in horticultural holdings; and
- the calendar year 2010, for the cultivation of vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The census documents were sent out by post in October 2010 to the municipalities and the respondents. The enumeration period ended on 31 March 2011.

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

The **census scope** included all agricultural and forestry holdings included in the Agriculture and Forestry Register (AFR) and meeting the cut-off thresholds (see section 7). The AFR is held by Statistics Austria.

The **statistical unit** is the agricultural holding, defined as a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes agricultural activities as listed in annex I to the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008 within the economic territory of the European Union, either as its primary or secondary activity.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.

The AC 2010 covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The census included the agricultural holdings that met at least one of the following thresholds:

- 1 ha of utilized agricultural area (UAA);
- wine-growing holdings with at least 25 areas under market vines;
- holdings with at least 15 ares (0.15 ha) of intensively utilized fruit orchards, or 10 ares (0.1 ha) under berries, strawberries, vegetables, hops, flowers or decorative plants, or under vine or forest, or nurseries;
- holdings that operate greenhouses (high/low glass or foil) covering at least one are (0.01 ha), the majority of the produce being

¹ (i) Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 571/88 and (ii) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1200/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, as regards livestock unit coefficients and definitions of the characteristics. This legislation is relevant for all EU member countries.

grown for the market; or

- livestock holdings with at least three head of cattle, five pigs, ten sheep, ten goats or 100 head of poultry of any type.

The AC also included forestry holdings with at least 3 ha of wooded area.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC 2010. Some census data were collected directly from administrative registers.

Frame

The population of the AC 2010 essentially comprised the active holding units in the AFR.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The AC and SAPM 2010 were conducted by complete enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method(s)

The AC 2010 data were collected using the CAWI method. The questions were asked using standardized survey documents (electronic questionnaire and explanatory notes). Administrative data were also used in the AC as a source of census data and for validation purposes.

Questionnaire(s)

The AC 2010 was conducted using an electronic questionnaire (e-Quest), in which the name and the address of the holdings were already entered and only had to be checked and, if necessary, corrected. Detailed information on how to use the electronic questionnaire and administer the AC 2010 was sent directly to the respondents and municipalities.

The census questionnaire covered all 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The CAWI method was applied for data collection. Some census data were collected directly from administrative registers. Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The IT department took the data directly from the electronic questionnaire and imported it into a database. Only the data of a few holdings, that submitted their questionnaire by post or fax to Statistics Austria, had to be entered manually. The data sets were checked for missing, incorrect or implausible information, using an extensive plausibility application.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

The questionnaire was personalized and prefilled with available administrative data. Farmers were asked to verify the information, complete missing data and, if necessary, make corrections. The electronic questionnaire was designed in such a way that it could only be sent once the compulsory fields had been correctly completed.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The results of the AC 2010 were released as follows:

- Key data were available in the form of a press release containing preliminary information at the national level, in October 2011.
- The final results were released on 31 May 2012.
- Regional data (LAU2) were published in summer 2012.

The AC 2010 results are available online.

13. DATA SOURCES

Eurostat. 2019a. Archive: Agricultural census in Austria. In: European Commission: Eurostat [online]. Luxembourg. [Cited 23 August 2019]. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Archive:Agricultural_census_in_Austria

Eurostat. 2019b. Database, Agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In: European Commission: Eurostat [online]. Luxembourg. [Cited 26 August 2019]. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Statistics Austria. 2013. *Farm Structure Survey 2009/2010 and Survey on agricultural production methods 2009/2010*. National Methodological Report. Eurostat. (also available at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/AT_NMR_FSS_2010.pdf/07599769-455a-4da6-b0dc-b04e795e3fa4).

14. CONTACT

Statistics Austria, Directorate Spatial Statistics Agriculture and Forestry (Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich)

Address: Guglgasse 13, 1110 Wien, Österreich

Telephone: (+43) 1 711280

E-mail: info@statistik.gv.at

Website: www.statistik.at

AUSTRIA – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2010 – MAIN RESULTS¹

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	150 170	5 847 850
Civil persons	146 180	4 429 530
An individual (sole holder holdings) ²	141 480	4 133 000
Two or more individuals (group holdings)	4 700	296 530
Juridical persons (legal entities)	3 980	1 418 320

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	150 170	2 878 170
Legal ownership and owner-like possession (owned land)	137 170	1 855 900
Rented from others (land rented)	70 110	891 230
Other form of tenure (shared farming or other modes)	30 540	131 040

DISTRIBUTION OF UAA, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	150 170	2 878 170
Holdings without UAA	1 080	
Holdings with UAA	149 090	2 878 170
Less than 2 ha	16 160	19 060
2–4,99 ha	30 220	98 840
5–9,99 ha	26 590	194 040
10–19,99 ha	32 590	471 340
20–29,99 ha	17 110	418 800
30–49,99 ha	15 150	579 310
50–99,99 ha	8 430	568 470
100 ha and over	2 850	528 300

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	150 170	5 847 850
UAA	149 090	2 878 170
Arable land	83 590	1 371 290
Land temporarily fallow	44 390	43 110
Land under permanent crops	20 260	65 200
Permanent meadows and pastures	125 740	1 439 470
Kitchen garden	15 420	2 200
Other land	132 500	2 969 690
Wooded area	122 490	2 269 850
Unutilised agricultural land and other areas	83 590	699 840

MANAGERS BY SEX ³		
	Number	UAA operated (ha)
Total	150 170	2 878 170
Male	98 390	2 114 090
Female	51 780	764 070

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ⁴	
	Number
Total engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	174 410
Male	88 620
Female	85 790

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total	346 260
Male	204 630
Female	141 630
Family labour force	319 180
Male	187 060
Female	132 120
Regular non-family labour force	27 080
Male	17 570
Female	9 510

MANAGERS BY SEX AND AGE ³	
	Number
Total	150 170
Male	98 390
Female	51 780
Less than 35 years	16 110
Male	11 910
Female	4 210
35–44 years	41 060
Male	28 020
Female	13 040
45–54 years	53 640
Male	33 180
Female	20 460
55–64 years	26 980
Male	16 880
Female	10 100
65 years and over	12 380
Male	8 400
Female	3 980

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	106 960	
Cattle	71 940	2 023 510
Sheep	14 500	397 620
Goats	9 680	80 490
Pigs/swine	37 760	3 246 700
Equines (Equidae)	16 520	80 970
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Broilers	1 190	6 860
Laying hens	52 420	6 400
Others	10 290	1 360
Other	2 130	
Insects		
Bees (hives)	4 730	59 130

METHODS OF IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Irrigable area (ha)
Total holdings with irrigable area	4 700	91 970
Holdings with irrigated area⁵	2 920	26 480
Surface	480	n.a.
Sprinkler	1 930	n.a.
Localized irrigation (drop irrigation)	990	n.a.

¹ Data source – Eurostat database, available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/data/database>

² The categories in brackets are presented as indicated in the Eurostat database (if different from the WCA 2010).

³ According to Eurostat, managers include holders that manage the holding themselves, and managers that are not holders, including of legal units.

⁴ Data are presented without holders.

⁵ Excluding kitchen gardens and areas under glass.