

# Ireland - Census of Agriculture, 2010

**Central Statistics Office (CSO)**

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## Overview

### Identification

#### ID NUMBER

IRL\_2010\_CA\_v01\_EN\_M\_v01\_A\_OCS

### Overview

#### ABSTRACT

The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) collects data on the structure of agricultural holdings and is carried out by the Agriculture Division of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Ireland. The FSS held in 2010 was a full Census of Agriculture and took place in June 2010. In Ireland, the first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1847 and annually thereafter until 1953. Censuses of Agriculture were then conducted every five years between 1960 and 1980, and every ten years or so after that. A Farm Structure Survey (FSS) is carried out on a smaller sample approximately every three years to measure changes in farm structure between Censuses.

#### KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

#### UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Households

### Scope

#### NOTES

The census scope covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production).

#### TOPICS

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

### Coverage

#### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

#### UNIVERSE

The statistical unit is the agricultural holding, defined as a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes the following agricultural activities within the economic territory of the EU (either as its primary or secondary activity): (i) growing of non-perennial crops; (ii) growing of perennial crops; (iii) plant propagation; (iv) animal production; (v) mixed farming; or (vi) support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities.

### Producers and Sponsors

#### PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Central Statistics Office (CSO)	

## OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine		Technical assistance

## Metadata Production

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## METADATA PRODUCED BY

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

IRL\_2010\_CA\_v01\_EN\_M\_v01\_A\_OCS\_v01

## DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI\_IRL\_2010\_CA\_v01\_EN\_M\_v01\_A\_OCS\_FAO

# Sampling

## Sampling Procedure

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a. Frame

The Farm Register (FR) held by the CSO was used as a census frame. The FR contains all farms, including all identified specialized, farms and is updated from registers maintained by the DAFM.

b. Complete and/or sample enumeration method(s)

The CA was based on a complete enumeration. The SAPM was a sample survey.

# Questionnaires

## Overview

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An eight-page A4-sized questionnaire was issued to all holdings in the week prior to 1 June 2010, accompanied by an information booklet with detailed notes on each section of the questionnaire. A separate two-page A4-sized questionnaire was also issued to all specialist pig producers ("Pig questionnaire"). The SAPM was issued in late September 2010. This took the form of a four-page A4 questionnaire, also accompanied by an information leaflet.

### Questionnaire:

1. Land Parcels & Use of Commonage
2. Utilisation of Land on 1 June 2010
3. Analysis of Area Farmed
4. Selected Crops and Horticulture on 1 June 2010
5. Other Horticultural Items
6. Organic Farming
7. Energy Crops
8. Renewable Energy Production
9. Livestock and Poultry Held on 1 June 2010
10. Holder, Spouse and Farm Workforce Details
11. Casual Workers, Agricultural Contractors and Farm Relief Services
12. Management and Training
13. Rural Development Measures
14. Measuring Response Burden

### Pig questionnaire:

1. Landscape
2. Crop Rotation & Soil Conservation (Tillage Farms)
3. Grazing Land
4. Manure Storage & Movement
5. Slurry & Manure Application
6. Livestock Housing

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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Start	End	Cycle
2010-06	2010-09	N/A

### Data Collection Mode

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Mail Questionnaire [mail]

### Data Collection Notes

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The CA was conducted entirely by post (mail-out/mail-back). Each census questionnaire issued included a pre-addressed freepost reply envelope. The CA 2010 was the first census to use a combination of administrative records and completed paper questionnaires. Information on cattle numbers and the area under cereals and certain crops were obtained from administrative records.

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Pig questionnaire:

1. Landscape
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# Data Processing

## Data Editing

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### 1. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

OCR scanning captured the respondent's reply to every question on the form. Where the OCR software could not clearly identify a character, the questionnaire was `held' for review by a member of staff. Once this verification process was completed, the data on the questionnaire were written to a flat file for importing into the CSO's database. Data entry, verification and editing were carried out by the census processing staff in the CSO (temporary staff and more experienced supervisory staff). SAS Enterprise Guide was used to perform the sample selection for the SAPM, which was a stratified random sampling using the Neymann allocation.

### 2. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Necessary steps were taken to ensure full coverage of the census population. Wherever possible, census data were also compared with other sources, including administrative registers

## Data Appraisal

### **Other forms of Data Appraisal**

Preliminary results from the CA 2010 were published in February 2012. A special report on agricultural labour input was published in October 2012. A final detailed publication of the CA results was released in December 2012. The census results are available on the CSO website