

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

During the first Republic, in Latvia, six agricultural censuses were carried out, in: 1920, 1923, 1929, 1935, 1937 and 1939¹. The first Agricultural Census (AC) of Latvia carried out in compliance with the requirements of EU legislation took place in 2001, followed by FSSs conducted (on sample basis) in 2003, 2005 and 2007. The metadata presented here refers to the AC carried out in 2010, together with the SAPM.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The Order of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 843 “On the Agricultural Census 2010” of 11 December 2009 delegated the organization of the AC 2010 in Latvia to the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB).

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The CSB of Latvia is the main institution responsible for the organization of the AC 2010. On the basis of Order 843, an interinstitutional agreement on conducting the AC 2010 and technical provisions of the census were concluded. The Order established the reallocation of state funding from the Ministry of Economics to the Ministry of Agriculture (MA). On behalf of the MA, also the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LRATC) took part in the organization of the AC 2010.

Census staff

The data collection engaged 236 interviewers, supervised by 28 managers at regional level.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 1 July 2010, for inventory items, such as livestock, buildings, agriculture machinery.

Reference periods:

- crop year 2010, for land and crops data, tillage of UAA and soil conservation;
- from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, for labour force, livestock pasturage period, animal housing facilities, and manure storage facilities;
- the last three years (2008–2010), for items on irrigated area and rural development support.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The enumeration period was from 16 April to 30 October 2010 and was undertaken in several stages.

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

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

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as a technically and economically independent unit having common management, producing agricultural products or keeping land in good agricultural and environmental conditions.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The AC 2010 covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following thresholds were used for the SAPM: (i) UAA – 1 ha and above; (ii) Standard Output (SO) – more than EUR 70.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

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

Frame

Farms included in the AC were selected from the Statistical Farm Register (SFR) of the CBS, considering their economic activity (characterised by the SO) and specialization.

Complete or/and sample enumeration methods

The AC 2010 was conducted using complete enumeration. The SAPM was a sample survey.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

The sample for the SAPM was a simple stratified random sample. The holdings were stratified by region (five strata), type of farming (three), economic size classes (13), based on the SO.²

¹ The data were not fully compiled because work was interrupted by war. During the post-war years, when Latvia was part of the Soviet Union, separate censuses on the sown areas of agricultural crops, of livestock and of permanent crops were organized.

² The total sample size was 20 005 agricultural holdings. Neymann allocation was used to calculate the optimal sample size for each stratum, based on the economic size of holdings for active holdings and the agricultural land area of holding for non-active and new holdings.

Data collection method(s)

Four data collection methods were used: face-to-face interviews (CAPI), telephone interviews (CATI), a postal survey (mail-out/mail-back), and a web survey (CAWI)³. Administrative data sources were used to partly replace the field data collection.

Questionnaire(s)

There were two questionnaires, one for the AC 2010 and the other one for the SAPM. The census covered all 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The CAPI, CATI and CAWI methods were used for census data collection. Some census data were collected directly from administrative registers. The census results were released online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The CAPI and CATI were based on software developed by the CSB and data were stored in a Microsoft SQL database. For the web questionnaires, the CSB common Computer-Assisted Statistical Information System (CASIS) CAWI version was used. This system was designed to harmonize data collection, processing and storage in the CSB. Approximately 280 controls were incorporated into the CAPI data entry application, and 230 controls into CATI. The CAWI application included only the most significant mathematical and logical validations, facilitating information provision for the respondents.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

When data were sent to the CSB server, mathematical and logical control at holding level was undertaken. If necessary, the interviewer or respondent was contacted. Missing information was imputed using data from administrative data sources.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The information on progress, as well as on provisional and final results of the AC 2010 was published on the CSB website in several phases:

- the first provisional results (general information) were disseminated through a press release in December 2010 and the second provisional results were disseminated through a press release in May 2011;
- final results were disseminated through a press release in December 2011;
- the AC 2010 database was made available for public use through the CSB website at the end of December 2011;⁴ and
- the AC 2010 final results was published in the first quarter of 2012.

13. DATA SOURCES

Central Statistical Bureau (CSB). 2012. *Farm Structure Survey 2009/2010, Survey on agricultural production methods 2009/2010*. National Methodological Report. Latvia, Eurostat. (also available at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/LV_NMR_FSS_2010.pdf/1633bffb-d1fd-43ea-8d41-b79d5a5fe554).

Eurostat. 2019a. Archive: Agricultural census in Latvia. In: *European Commission: Eurostat* [online]. Luxembourg. [Cited 26 August 2019]. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Archive:Agricultural_census_in_Latvia

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

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³ The Internet-based web survey was conducted for the first time. Holdings with known e-mail addresses and that, in 2010, used the Rural Support Service electronic area payment application system, could fill in the AC and SAPM questionnaires on the Internet. The total number of completed web questionnaires was 616, or 0,7 percent of the total number of respondents. The AC 2010 used a new data collecting system: CASIS.

⁴ https://data1.csb.gov.lv/pxweb/en/lauks/lauks_skait_apsek/?rxid=49267a88-6ef2-4fc7-8ee7-cf9a687cff06

LATVIA – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2010 – MAIN RESULTS¹

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	83 390	2 879 170
Civil persons	83 270	2 842 090
An individual (sole holder holdings) ²	81 820	2 498 230
Two or more individuals (group holdings)	1 450	343 860
Juridical persons (legal entities)	120	37 080

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	83 390	1 796 290
Legal ownership and owner-like possession (owned land)	79 410	1 231 370
Rented from others (land rented)	14 400	564 920

DISTRIBUTION OF UAA, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	83 390	1 796 290
Holdings without UAA	320	
Holdings with UAA	83 070	1 796 290
Less than 2 ha	9 590	9 410
2–4,99 ha	18 390	63 030
5–9,99 ha	22 660	161 620
10–19,99 ha	17 490	242 980
20–29,99 ha	5 670	137 190
30–49,99 ha	3 950	150 570
50–99,99 ha	2 740	187 680
100 ha and over	2 570	843 790

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	83 390	2 879 170
UAA	83 070	1 796 290
Arable land	56 400	1 119 960
Land temporarily fallow	7 200	74 450
Land under permanent crops	6 370	8 510
Permanent meadows and pastures	66 120	651 050
Kitchen garden	51 740	16 760
Other land	78 270	1 082 890
Wooded area	54 540	714 160
Unutilised agricultural land and other areas	73 730	368 730

MANAGERS BY SEX ³		
	Number	UAA operated (ha)
Total	83 390	1 796 290
Male	44 380	1 257 600
Female	39 010	538 680

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ⁴	
	Number
Total engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	80 660
Male	37 420
Female	43 240

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total	180 990
Male	91 750
Female	89 250
Family labour force	163 560
Male	81 500
Female	82 050
Regular non-family labour force	17 440
Male	10 250
Female	7 190

MANAGERS BY SEX AND AGE ³	
	Number
Total	83 390
Male	44 380
Female	39 010
Less than 35 years	4 540
Male	2 830
Female	1 710
35–44 years	14 260
Male	8 710
Female	5 550
45–54 years	22 470
Male	13 080
Female	9 380
55–64 years	17 320
Male	9 030
Female	8 290
65 years and over	24 810
Male	10 730
Female	14 080

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	48 700	
Cattle	35 100	394 340
Sheep	3 800	84 280
Goats	2 050	12 460
Pigs/swine	18 170	383 350
Equines (Equidae)	5 500	10 370
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Broilers	480	1 650
Laying hens	27 820	3 460
Others	4 820	50
Other animals	n.a.	
Rabbits (breeding females)	520	28 820
Other	110	
Insects		
Bees (hives)	1 380	25 890

METHODS OF IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Irrigable area (ha)
Total holdings with irrigable area	290	1 140
Holdings with irrigated area⁵	230	710
Sprinkler	240	n.a.
Localized irrigation (drop irrigation)	120	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 garden and area under glass.