

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

Between 1949 and 1954, censuses of agriculture (CAs) were carried out in Malta every year. The next CAs were carried out in 1956, 1960, 1968/1969, 1979, 1982/1983 and 2001, followed by sample-based FSS in 2003, 2005 and 2007. The CA 2010 was carried out in conjunction with the SAPM.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The legal basis for the collection of agricultural statistical data are stated in the Malta Statistics Authority Act No. XXIV, enacted in the year 2000. This places full responsibility on the National Statistics Office to carry out any statistical survey and to produce official statistics.

From the date of accession to the European Union, Malta has followed EU legislation and has carried out an FSS on a regular base.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The National Statistics Office, Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics Section (AFSS) is responsible for all domains of agricultural statistics. The AFSS coordinated all the activities related to the implementation of the AC up to the dissemination of the results. No special committee was set up for carrying out the CA 2010.

Census staff

Approximately 138 census staff, including 130 enumerators (“interviewers”) and eight supervisors were involved in the AC 2010.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 31 August 2010, providing a point-in-time stocktaking for UAA, livestock and machinery.

Reference periods:

- the crop year (from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010), for arable land, permanent crops, organic land and vines, mushrooms, animal housing and labour force; and
- the last three years, for landscape features and rural development support.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Data collection was conducted from September 2010 to the end of January 2011.

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

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The CA covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

No thresholds were used in the CA 2010.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the CA.

Frame

The census frame was provided by the Agricultural Register (AR). The AR contains the details of all agricultural holdings and is maintained by the NSO. The AR is updated regularly and new units may be traced from: (i) the Animal Register maintained by the Directorate of Wholesale Markets and Fishing Fleet Facilities; (ii) the Farmer’s Register maintained by the Department of Agriculture; (iii) other administrative sources such as the IACS (Integrated Administration and Control System); and (iv) surveys carried out by the AFSS.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The CA 2010 was conducted using complete enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method(s)

The CA data were collected using face-to-face interviewing and paper questionnaires (PAPI method).

Questionnaire(s)

There was a single detailed questionnaire used for data collection. The CA 2010 covered 14 of the 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.¹

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Online dissemination of census results was used to publish the census results.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

A locally built application system was used for data entry. The computer application was designed in such a way that when an edit failure was encountered, a dialogue box displaying the error message popped up. The validation rules set up in the Eurostat manual were applied to identify and resolve anomalies. These involved logic and consistency checks with previous data, checks for extreme values, etc.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

To minimize data collection errors interviewers were instructed to interview not more than five holdings, before providing the completed questionnaires to their supervisors for assessment. This helped to reduce data collection errors.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final results of the CA were published in January 2012. The CA publication and other census results are available on the National Statistics Office website.

13. DATA SOURCES

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

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

National Statistics Office. 2012a. *Census of Agriculture 2010*. Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta. (also available at https://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Documents/B3_Environment_Energy_Transport_Agriculture_Statistics/Census_of_Agriculture_2010.pdf).

National Statistics Office. 2012b. *Farm Structure Survey 2009/2010, Survey on agricultural production methods 2009/2010*. National Methodological Report. Eurostat. (also available at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/MT_NMR_FSS_2010.pdf/e2e189ef-7132-4110-bf03-3a01295a1db8).

14. CONTACT

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¹ The core items that were not included in the census questionnaire are: (i) "Presence of aquaculture on the holding"; and (ii) "Presence of forest and other wood land on the holding". These items are not relevant for agricultural holdings in Malta.

MALTA – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2010 – MAIN RESULTS¹

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	12 530	12 940
Civil persons	12 500	12 760
An individual (sole holder holdings) ²	12 280	12 180
Two or more individuals (group holdings)	220	580
Juridical persons (legal entities)	40	180

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	12 530	11 450
Legal ownership and owner-like possession (owned land)	5 590	2 720
Rented from others (land rented)	9 600	8 730

DISTRIBUTION OF UAA, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	12 530	11 450
Holdings without UAA	340	
Holdings with UAA	12 190	11 450
Less than 2 ha	10 790	5 970
2 - 4,99 ha	1 120	3 290
5 - 9,99 ha	230	1 540
10 - 19,99 ha	40	460
20 - 29,99 ha	10	160

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	12 530	12 940
UAA	12 190	11 450
Arable land	9 500	9 080
Land temporarily fallow	2 830	1 010
Land under permanent crops	2 750	1 250
Kitchen garden	8 070	1 120
Unutilised agricultural land and other areas	7 710	1 490

MANAGERS BY SEX ³		
	Number	UAA operated (ha)
Total	12 530	11 450
Male	11 140	10 630
Female	1 390	820

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ⁴		Number
Total engaged in agricultural activities on the holding		5 520
Male		3 160
Female		2 360

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING		Number
Total		18 500
Male		14 560
Female		3 940
Family labour force		17 630
Male		13 810
Female		3 820
Regular non-family labour force		870
Male		760
Female		120

MANAGERS BY SEX AND AGE ³		Number
Total		12 530
Male		11 140
Female		1 390
Less than 35 years		600
Male		550
Female		50
35–44 years		1 510
Male		1 370
Female		140
45–54 years		3 230
Male		2 930
Female		300
55–64 years		3 940
Male		3 550
Female		380
65 years and over		3 260
Male		2 750
Female		510

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	2 740	
Cattle	290	15 690
Sheep	1 080	11 870
Goats	600	4 380
Pigs/swine	130	70 590
Equines (Equidae)	770	1 750
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Broilers	150	670
Laying hens	650	300
Others	300	10
Other animals		
Rabbits (breeding females)	930	10 590
Insects		
Bees (hives)	120	1 620

METHODS OF IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Irrigable area (ha)
Total holdings with irrigable area	3 950	3 150
Holdings with irrigated area⁵	3 430	2 830
Surface	870	n.a.
Sprinkler	1 330	n.a.
Localized irrigation (drop irrigation)	2 430	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.