

Malta - Census of Agriculture, 2010

Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics Section (AFSS)

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

MLT_2010_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

Overview

ABSTRACT

The 2010 Census of Agriculture provides a comprehensive stock-take of land use, livestock, the agricultural labour force, produce, and machinery. Although the direct contribution of this sector to the Gross Domestic Product is modest in extent, such activities play an invaluable part in upholding the Maltese Islands' rural areas and in maintaining the line of continuity between the country's past and present, to the benefit of residents and the many tourists who visit the country. The 2010 results highlight interesting changes, when compared to the previous Census carried out in 2001. The total land area declared by

holders went up by 28 per cent in a decade. The utilised agricultural area advanced by 19 per cent to 11,452.8 hectares. This was in part due to the rehabilitation of disused quarries for agricultural purposes. Productive vineyards were up by 28 per cent, with the majority in the Northern and Western regions. An innovation in this Census was the collection of data on organic farming.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

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

TOPICS

| Topic | Vocabulary | URI |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Agriculture & Rural Development | FAO | |
| Food (production, crisis) | FAO | |
| Land (policy, resource management) | FAO | |
| Livestock | FAO | |
| Labor | FAO | |

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

UNIVERSE

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.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

| Name | Affiliation |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics Section (AFSS) | The National Statistics Office |

Metadata Production

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

MLT_2010_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_v01

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_MLT_2010_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_FAO

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

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. The CA 2010 was conducted using complete enumeration.

Questionnaires

Overview

QUESTIONNAIRE

A 30-page questionnaire was used for all agricultural holdings. The questionnaire was split into 17 parts and covered all the fields required in Commission Regulation 1166/2008. The data collection spanned a five-month period beginning in September 2010. The interviewing was held in the place of preference of the holder (home or farm).

SECTION A - LEGAL PERSONALITY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HOLDING

SECTION B - GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLDING

SECTION C - PERMANENT CROPS

SECTION D - ARABLE LAND

SECTION E - MUSHROOMS

SECTION F - OTHER LAND

SECTION G - ORGANIC LAND

SECTION H - VINES

SECTION I - LIVESTOCK

SECTION J - ANIMAL HOUSING

SECTION K - MANURE STORAGE

SECTION L - MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION M - FARM LABOUR FORCE

SECTION N - LANDSCAPE FEATURES

SECTION O - SOURCE OF WATER

SECTION P - PLOUGHING AND APPLICATION OF MANURE

SECTION Q - SUPPORT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

| Start | End | Cycle |
|---------|---------|-------|
| 2010-09 | 2011-01 | N/A |

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

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

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Data Processing

Data Editing

a. 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.

b. 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.

Data Appraisal

Other forms of Data Appraisal

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.