

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

From 1934, a census has been carried out almost every year in the Netherlands. The 2010 Agricultural Census (AC), to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was conducted together with the SAPM.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The Statistics Netherlands Act, 20 November 2003, (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 516) establishes Statistics Netherlands as the executive office for statistics. It also provides right of access to administrative data. The Central Commission for Statistics (CCS), established in accordance with the Statistics Netherlands Act, is responsible for deciding on Statistics Netherlands' annual statistical programme and its five-yearly strategic long-term programme. The agricultural census is part of these programmes.

The AC 2010 was implemented in accordance with the relevant EU legislation for implementing the FSS 2010.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The AC is a joint effort of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation – especially its executive service NSIR – and Statistics Netherlands, the executive office for statistics.

Census staff

In both Statistics Netherlands and the NSIR, a permanent team of personnel issues the regular work. At the NSIR, temporary personnel is hired for data entry and the first data controls.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days:

- 1 April 2010, for general characteristics, livestock, animal housing, manure, storage and treatment facilities, etc.; and
- 15 May 2010, for land characteristics, etc.

Reference periods:

- the crop year (from April 2009 to March 2010), for labour force; tillage methods, soil conservation, animal grazing, manure application (SAPM); irrigation, renewable energy, etc.
- the last three years (2008–2010), for landscape features, rural development support measures and average size of the irrigated area.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Data collection for the AC 2010 started on 1 April 2010 and ended on 15 June 2010.¹

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock 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 EU, 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 threshold applied is EUR 3 000 SO ("extended size calculation").

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

Census data were collected using traditional field data collection (the classical approach), as well as administrative data sources.

Frame

The AC relies on the Administrative Farm Register (AFR) held by the NSIR. By law, farmers must register with the NSIR. The AFR contains names, addresses and a few other characteristics of holders or holdings and a unique registration number.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

All holdings that meet the definition of an agricultural holding are included in the census. There was no sampling for either the AC 2010 or the SAPM.

¹ Farmers had to respond by 15 May 2010. Farmers that did not respond by then received several reminders, and risked being fined or receiving less financial aid. Data collection ended on 15 June 2010.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method(s)

Data were provided partly from administrative sources and partly from field data collection, based on questionnaires. Field data collection for the AC 2010 took place mainly through the Internet (CAWI method). Only a small percentage of respondents used a paper form (self-interviewing, mail-out/mail-back method). Each holder receives a summons to participate in the AC prior to 1 April and a printed questionnaire was only made available on demand.²

The administrative sources extensively used in the AC 2010 were: the AFR, the IACS, and the Organic Farming Register (OFR).

Questionnaire(s)

One questionnaire was used, integrating both the 2010 AC and the SAPM, and presented to respondents as a single statistical inquiry. The questionnaire covered all 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

New technology was widely applied in the AC 2010, for example for: (i) electronic data collection (CAWI); (ii) data collection of some census items using administrative registers; and (iii) online dissemination of census macrodata and microdata.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Processing, analysis, dissemination and data delivery to Eurostat was done by Statistics Netherlands. Data were subjected to an extensive edit and error control phase. Checks were made on missing values, unlikely values, range and consistency. When necessary, additional information was collected from the farmers by phone.³

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Checking the information in the questionnaires took place using a special control programme. Data were checked for hard and soft errors. Hard errors are non-valid values. Soft errors are unlikely values. If necessary, the checking personnel contacted the respondent to correct for errors. Approximately 85 percent of the questionnaires were completed online. The online questionnaire application contained extensive interactive controls and edits.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

Dissemination is done via the Statline database, which is available on the Internet (www.cbs.nl). In this database, Internet users may select their own indicators and information topics. Short publications on specific subjects are presented in the form of newspaper or Internet articles. Safe access to census microdata is also provided.

13. DATA SOURCES

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

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 Netherlands. 2012. *Farm Structure Survey 2009/2010 and Survey on agricultural production methods 2009/2010, National Methodological Report*. Amsterdam, the Netherlands. (also available at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/NL_NMR_FSS_2010.pdf/a0aa98f2-a793-4ea1-b9e2-bd6d923bcbf7).

14. CONTACT

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² Approximately 85 percent of the questionnaires were completed and returned using the Internet web application, which contained checks and interactive edits. Printed questionnaires were digitized by a data-entry firm and processed by the NSIR in the same way as the online questionnaires. There were several quality controls to ensure correct digitization.

³ Data that were checked and accepted by NSIR were forwarded to Statistics Netherlands. Processing involved additional error control, and enrichment with additional information, such as total standard output and typology, imputation for nonresponse and analysis. Analyses were made at several levels of aggregation and comprised comparison with previous results and agricultural data from other sources. Approximately 95 percent of all questionnaires were returned completed. The small percentage that did not respond was imputed. New characteristics were imputed using nearest-neighbour imputation (best match based on farm type and size). Analysis on the impact of the imputation was part of the validation process. Weighting or re-weighting did not take place. The files are read in and stored in the NSIR database. Also the paper forms are archived by the NSIR.

THE NETHERLANDS – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2010 – MAIN RESULTS¹

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	72 320	2 018 620
Civil persons	68 140	1 877 570
An individual (sole holder holdings) ²	68 140	1 877 570
Juridical persons (legal entities)	4 180	141 050

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	70 640	1 872 350
Legal ownership and owner-like possession (owned land)	63 960	1 100 890
Rented from others (land rented)	33 690	507 020
Other form of tenure (shared farming or other modes)	25 800	264 440

DISTRIBUTION OF UAA, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	72 320	1 872 350
Holdings without UAA	1 700	
Holdings with UAA	70 640	1 872 350
Less than 2 ha	8 000	8 500
2–4,99 ha	11 000	37 130
5–9,99 ha	10 260	73 990
10–19,99 ha	10 820	156 970
20–29,99 ha	7 540	187 280
30–49,99 ha	11 680	457 410
50–99,99 ha	9 130	607 980
100 ha and over	2 210	343 090

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	72 320	2 018 620
UAA	70 640	1 872 350
Arable land	48 250	1 022 070
Land temporarily fallow	3 310	7 280
Land under permanent crops	6 360	36 960
Permanent meadows and pastures	46 900	813 310
Other land	63 870	146 280
Wooded area	3 350	11 570
Unutilised agricultural land and other areas	63 630	134 710

MANAGERS BY SEX ³		
	Number	UAA operated (ha)
Total	72 320	1 872 350
Male	67 910	1 816 500
Female	4 420	55 850

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ⁴	
	Number
Total engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	79 970
Male	29 210
Female	50 760

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total	211 630
Male	136 420
Female	75 210
Family labour force	147 920
Male	93 270
Female	54 650
Regular non-family labour force	63 710
Male	43 140
Female	20 560

MANAGERS BY SEX AND AGE ³	
	Number
Total	72 320
Male	67 910
Female	4 420
Less than 35 years	2 610
Male	2 380
Female	230
35–44 years	14 850
Male	14 020
Female	830
45–54 years	22 760
Male	21 530
Female	1 240
55–64 years	18 890
Male	17 850
Female	1 040
65 years and over	13 220
Male	12 130
Female	1 080

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	50 440	
Cattle	32 830	3 975 190
Sheep	12 870	1 129 500
Goats	3 720	352 830
Pigs/swine	7 030	12 254 970
Equines (Equidae)	14 610	142 530
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Poultry–broilers	640	44 750
Laying hens	1 810	56 500
Others	170	2 370
Other animals	n.a.	
Rabbits (breeding females)	70	38 510
Other	180	

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.