

Netherlands (Kingdom of the) - Agricultural Census, 2010

Statistics Netherlands and the NSIR

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

NLD_2010_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

TITLE

Agricultural Census, 2010

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	NLD

STUDY TYPE

Agricultural Census [ag/census]

SERIES INFORMATION

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.

ABSTRACT

There is a long history to the agricultural census in the Netherlands. From 1934 onwards a census has been carried out (almost) every year. In recent years it is no longer purely a statistical project, but serves several purposes: on the one hand production of statistics by Statistics Netherlands and creating a frame for sampling, on the other hand providing data on individual holdings for administrative purposes by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (the Ministry). Since the Ministry and Statistics Netherlands have a common interest in the census, it is held as a joint effort. In 1990, it was the last time special meeting days were organised to assess the data from the farmers. On these meeting days, farmers and enumerators jointly filled in the questionnaire manually. In the period 1991 – 1995, these sessions still took place, but the manual procedure was gradually replaced by filling in the information in a computer file. In 1996, the farmer could make a choice between coming to a special meeting place or filling in the survey form himself and returning it by postal mail. From 1997 on, a complete census was organised by postal mail every year. The year 2003 was a pilot year in which respondents had the opportunity to supply the census information through an internet application. In recent years the information is predominantly supplied via the internet. Since the statistical year 2002 the questionnaire of the agricultural census is combined with the application for animal, crop and arable land subsidies (in 2006 also for the single payment scheme). In 2007 data collection for the enforcement of the manure law is also combined in this questionnaire. This is done for efficiency reasons, both for farmers, and for administration and processing of data.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

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

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary
Agriculture & Rural Development	FAO
Forests & Forestry	FAO
Food (production, crisis)	FAO
Land (policy, resource management)	FAO
Livestock	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 EU, either as its primary or secondary activity.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
Statistics Netherlands and the NSIR

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Statistics Netherlands		Census implementation
NSIR	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation	Census implementation

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Frame

Statistics Netherlands has a business register of all industrial and non-industrial commercial establishments, but the agricultural holdings are not yet fully covered in this register. The agricultural census therefore relies on the administrative farm register (AFR) of the Ministry held by NSIR, an executive service of the Ministry. By law farmers have to register with NSIR. The AFR contains names, addresses and a few other characteristics of holders or holdings and a unique registration number. With the census information of several years Statistics Netherlands has built up a statistical farm register (SFR). Relevant characteristics from the AFR (a.o. identification number, addresses, legal status) are also stored in the SFR. Changes in addresses are entered into the AFR throughout the year, changes in the SFR of course only once a year. The SFR provides a magnificent basis for stratification and efficient sampling of subsequent agricultural statistics. An annual census may seem expensive (even when only half of the cost is looked upon as expenses for statistics). But the excellent quality of the sample frame allows for relative small samples in related agricultural statistics and thus reduction of costs.

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2010-04-01	2010-06-15

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI)

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

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

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

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.

Questionnaire:

- 1 Work and education
- 2 Number of animals and housing
- 3 Horticulture under glass
- 4 Mushrooms, bulb growing, chicory growing
- 5 Crops on open land and land use
- 6 Agricultural land area
- 7 Subsidies
- 8 Farm data
- 9 Livestock manure
- 10 Excavation notification (WION)
- 11 Signature

Data Processing

DATA EDITING

a. Data collection and data entry

About 85% of the questionnaires was filled in and returned using the web application, which already contained a lot of checks and validations. Paper forms were digitized by a data-entry firm and processed by NSIR in the same way as the online questionnaires. There were several quality controls to ensure correct digitization.

b. Data processing, estimation and analysis

Data processing, estimation and analysis were performed in two successive stages:

1. Pre-processing at NSIR

After data collection and data entry the input data go through an extensive error control phase. In this phase checks are made on missing values, valid values, unlikely values, range checks, checks of correlation in the data, checks of totals and so on. When necessary additional information is collected from the farmers by phone. Data that is checked and accepted by NSIR is forwarded to Statistics Netherlands.

2. Processing at Statistics Netherlands

Processing at Statistics Netherlands involves additional error control, enrichment with additional information, such as total SO and typology, imputation for non-response and analysis. Analyses are made at several levels of aggregation and comprise comparison with previous results and agricultural data from other sources.

Data Appraisal

DATA APPRAISAL

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.

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.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Email	URL
Statistics Netherlands	p.oljans@cbs.nl	Link

CONFIDENTIALITY

See <https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/en/>

ACCESS CONDITIONS

See <https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/en/>

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Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_NLD_2010_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_FAO

PRODUCERS

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

NLD_2010_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_v01

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
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