

Belgium - Agricultural Census, 2010

Statistics Belgium

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

BEL_2010_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

Overview

ABSTRACT

The 2010 agricultural census is based on the Royal Decree of 12 March 2008, which provides that the organisation of an annual agricultural survey in May (in the form of a census in 2010). The Royal Decree specifies that the survey is carried out among farms whose registered office is located in the Netherlands. is located in Belgium. A farm is defined as a business producing agricultural products for sale. Participation in the agricultural survey is mandatory. Under the authority of the Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy, the Management General of Statistics and Economic Information, is the prime contractor for the survey. The data collection is entrusted to the municipal administrations. The 2010 Production Methods Survey is a voluntary sample survey of 2407 farmers with no legal basis. The 2010 Census of Agriculture consists of a survey of a wide range of information on the agricultural holdings: legal personality and management of the holding, characteristics agricultural labour force, crop area, livestock numbers, type of equipment, information on agricultural buildings and installations. The characteristics retained are as follows more numerous and more detailed than those of the farm structure survey agricultural, in order to meet the demands of national users as well. Generally speaking, the definitions of the characteristics identified are in line with the definitions laid down by Community legislation on which the survey on the structure of the farms.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

The scope of the study includes legal personality and management of the holding, characteristics agricultural labour force, crop area, livestock numbers, type of equipment, information on agricultural buildings and installations.

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Agriculture & Rural Development	FAO	
Food (production, crisis)	FAO	
Labor	FAO	
Livestock	FAO	

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

UNIVERSE

The statistical unit in the AC 2010 is the agricultural holding (farm), defined as the holding (of at least 1 are) producing "farm products or horticultural products" for sale as principal or secondary activity, or keeping animals, whether or not they produce

goods for sale. Experimental or research establishments, nursery services of public bodies producing agricultural products for their use, schools, religious communities, prisons and other similar establishments were also covered by the census.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Statistics Belgium	Directorate General for Statistics and Economic Information or STATBEL

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role

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

BEL_2010_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_v01

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_BEL_2010_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_FAO

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

The frame of agricultural holdings is based on the Register of Holdings held by the STATBEL, which includes the farms producing agricultural products with a view to selling them. The register is updated annually using the data provided by the municipalities carrying out the farm surveys. The AC 2010 was conducted using complete enumeration.

Questionnaires

Overview

The information for the AC was collected using a single form, except for farms with a large number of workers (holdings with more than ten familial or non-familial workers), which received an additional questionnaire specifically devoted to agricultural labour. The questionnaire was prepared in three languages (French, Dutch and German). The census covered all 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE HOLDING
2. AGRICULTURAL LABOUR (between 1 May 2012 and 30 April 2013)
3. OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT
4. OUTDOOR OR GREENHOUSE CROPS
5. OTHER LAND INFORMATION
6. CHEPTEL (situation as at 1 May)
7. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES
8. FARMING METHODS AND PRACTICES
9. DIRECT SALES ON THE FARM
10. EQUIPMENT USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY BY TYPE OF ENERGY SOURCEⁿ SOURCE OF ENERGY
11. Material

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2011-02	2011-04	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

Agricultural census data were collected by the census enumerators, either at the farmer's residence or that of his or her representative, or at the offices of the municipal authorities after an interview had been arranged. The municipal authorities could choose between a printed form and an electronic "Blaise" form for data collection. Data on rural development aid were obtained from administrative data sources.

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Data Processing

Data Editing

a. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Following data collection, the municipalities provided the paper-based forms to the relevant decentralized offices for data processing. The data were encoded on PCs using a Blaise application. The data collected using electronic forms were placed in the same database. At regular intervals, the data from each decentralized office were entered in a Blaise database on a central server. Imputations were rare as there were few nonresponses and missing data issues were normally addressed by contacting the respondent. In the few situations where imputation was necessary, it was done using data from a previous year's survey. The data were then transferred to an SPSS database to perform further analysis and calculation of results.

b. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

The response rate was 99.7 percent. A comparison between the survey results and the administrative data was made, for analysis purposes only (to prepare for the future task of replacing survey variables with administrative data) and not for statistical use.

Data Appraisal

Other forms of Data Appraisal

A summary of provisional results based on approximately 53 percent of questionnaires was published in August 2010. The final census results were published in March 2011. The census results are available to users free of charge on the STATBEL website. User access to anonymized individual data is subject to rigorous conditions, outlined in an agreement signed by parties.