
SLOVAKIA - Census of Agriculture 2010 – Explanatory notes

1. Historical Outline

The 2010 Census of Agriculture was the second Census of Agriculture undertaken since 2001. The 2001 was an enumeration of all known agricultural holdings. In 2003, 2005, and 2007 sample farm structure surveys were conducted. The 2010 Census of Agriculture was a combination of an enumeration of all households for the Farm Structure Survey data and a sample survey for the information collected for the Survey of Agricultural Production Methods.

2. Legal Basis and Organization

The National enabling legislation for the collection, compilation, and publication of official statistics is Act No. 540/2001 Coll. on State Statistics. The "Farm Structure Census 2010" was carried out on the basis of the Decree of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic No. 416/2008 Coll.

The Act gives the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic the authority and responsibility for state statistics, defines conditions of acquiring statistical data required for evaluating of social and economic development, roles of public bodies in the field of state statistics, rights and obligations of reporting units, protection against misuse of confidential data, providing and publishing of statistical data, providing comparability of statistical information and meeting commitments arising from international treaties or agreements in the field of state statistics mandatory for the Slovak Republic.

3. Reference Period or Date

For characteristics relating to land and labour force the reference period was 1st November 2009 to 31st October 2010.

The reference date for the number of livestock was 31st October 2010. The reference period for Support for rural development and Landscape features - the last three years (2008, 2009 and 2010)

4. Enumeration Period

Data collection took place November 2010 to February 2011.

5. Definition of the Statistical Unit

EC Regulation 1166/2008 defines the statistical unit as an agricultural holding. „Agricultural holding“ or „holding“ means 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, either as its primary or secondary activity. In addition, the EU regulation determines thresholds of size.

Slovakia applied the following threshold for agricultural holdings:

- utilized agricultural area at least 1,0 ha,
- area of vineyards, orchards or nurseries at least 0,5 ha,
- area of tobacco, hops, vegetables, flowers, melons, strawberries and
- areas under protective cover at least 0,1 ha
- number of livestock at least 1 cattle or 3 pigs or 5 goats or 5 sheep or 100 poultry.

6. Geographic Coverage

Covered the entire country.

7. Exclusions and Cut-Off Thresholds

None noted other than those stated as the minimum threshold of agricultural activity in the national definition of an agricultural holding.

8. Methodology

Use of the FAO Modular Approach

No

Frame

The frame was the list of all registered agricultural households meeting the minimum thresholds of agricultural activity in the definition of an agricultural holding.

The basis of the frame was the Statistical Register of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. From that Register the registered units reporting agricultural activity were used to create a

Register of Farms. The Register of Farms was then reviewed and supplemented with information on units from other available agriculture data sources such as those for orchards, vineyards, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, organic farms, and applicants of the single area payment scheme (SAPS).

Complete or Sample Enumeration Methods

The Census (Farm Structure Survey) and the Survey of Agricultural Production Methods components were exhaustive surveys of agricultural holdings meeting the minimum thresholds of agricultural activity in the national definition of an agricultural holding.

Sample Design

Not applicable.

Collection Method

Questionnaires were sent to registered agricultural holdings by post well in advance of the survey date and respondents were informed of the deadline for completing the questionnaire and returning it to their local regional office.

Interviewers received questionnaires for non-registered units (households) during the training. Interviewers provided assistance in completing the questionnaire. Data collection was completed by the end of February 2011. Interviewers visited respondents personally and they delivered personally completed questionnaires to the relevant regional offices of the Statistical Office as well.

Data collection methods included personal interviews, phone, e-mail, and in case of item non-responses, supplementary data from external sources or qualified estimates. Electronic collection was not used.

No data were used from administrative data sources to replace the data collection. Administrative data sources were used solely to create a set of reporting units. They were also used as control files when checking the completeness of the file.

Questionnaire(s)

EU Regulations require information on holding location and geo-coordinates, legal status, ownership and tenancy, land use and crops grown, irrigation, livestock, organic farming, machinery (mandatory in 2013 FSS), renewable energy installations, other gainful activities, socio-economic circumstances (full and part-time farming), labour force (family, non-family, contractors), agricultural and vocational training of the manager, inclusion in rural development support programmes, soil tillage methods, crop rotation, and erosion protection, livestock keeping places and keeping methods, animal grazing, manure application and manure storage and treatment facilities, maintenance and installation of landscape features.

A short list of characteristics of National interest such as a more detailed breakdown of individual livestock categories was included.

There was one questionnaire for the Agricultural census (Farm Structure Survey) and one for the Survey of Agricultural Production Methods. Data for both were however, collected at the same time.

Controls to Minimize Non-Sampling Errors

The primary methodology for minimising non-sampling errors was rigorous controls and procedures for the data collection activity. Interviewers were carefully trained, as were their supervisors and once in the field they were provided with detailed procedures and questionnaire manuals. There was also close supervision and coordination of the field collection operation by the regional Offices and extensive checks on the data collected once it was returned to the Regional Office for data entry and checking.

Innovative Methodologies

None noted.

9. Data Entry, Edits and Imputations, Estimation and Tabulation

Data from questionnaires were recorded at regional offices of the Statistical Office by the data entry unit using computer software and working in an ORACLE environment, part of a network application interconnected with internal database subsystems.

After the checking, editing and revision of data at regional offices of the Statistical Office, data files were created and saved in regional databases, from where they were incorporated into the databases of the Statistical Office via the Internet.

Item non-response found during recording and data controls were followed up with respondents by phone. The corrections were done in the relevant Regional Offices of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. Unit imputation was done only when it could be established that the holding was an active agricultural producer during the reference period. In such cases imputations were done in the relevant Regional Offices of the Statistical Office. There were 329 farms imputed or one percent of all total farms. Final unit non-response rate was 2.1 percent.

10. Data Dissemination and Use

Preliminary results were published October 2011. The final data were available in the first quarter of 2012 and can be found on the website of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The first part contains results of surveyed characteristics and the second part includes the typology of farms. Both include methodological information.

11. Census Data Quality

The Census data were compared with information from the Farm Structure Surveys of previous years as well as unpublished internal data.

12. Data Sources

Eurostat:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Agricultural_census_2010

Final report:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/SK_NMR_FSS_2010.pdf/d985e778-605f-4c06-b916-00c2d84dcff6

13. Contact

Section of Business Statistics / Unit of Agriculture, Statistical Office of the SR

Address: Miletičova 3, 824 67 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Telephone: +421 2 50 236 211

Fax: +421 2 55 561 350

E-mail: info@statistics.sk

Website

Statistical Office:

http://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/home!/ut/p/b1/04_Si9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfGjzOIDzT0tnJwMHQ0s_IJcDTxDHAPcg7xMDA