

United States Virgin Islands - Census of Agriculture 2023

**Department of Agriculture of the United States Virgin Islands, United States
Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)**

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

VIR_2023_CA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Census of Agriculture 2023

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
United States Virgin Islands	VIR

STUDY TYPE

Agricultural Census [ag/census]

SERIES INFORMATION

The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in the United States Virgin Islands in 1920 and the second in 1930, in conjunction with the first decennial World Agricultural Census. Other censuses were conducted every ten years until 1960. Starting with the 1964 census, the United States Virgin Islands were included in the Agricultural Census Plan of the United States of America, under which censuses are conducted every five years. In 1976, Congress authorized the Census of Agriculture to be conducted in 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year to coincide with other economic censuses. After 1982, agriculture census reverted to a 5-year cycle. The Census of Agriculture 2023 was the sixteenth conducted in the territory.

ABSTRACT

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the United States Virgin Islands' agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the island level. Census statistics are used to measure agricultural production and to identify trends in an ever-changing agricultural sector. The census includes data on the structure of agricultural land, crops and livestock, farm characteristics, as well as production expenses, value of agricultural products, and aquaculture.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Agricultural holdings

Scope

NOTES

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

The questionnaire collected information on:

1. Land in agriculture and land in use
2. Fruits, nuts and nursery crops
3. Vegetables and melons
4. Field and forage crops
5. Irrigation
6. Livestock
7. Poultry
8. Aquaculture
9. Honey bees
10. Production expenses
11. Equipment
12. Practices
13. Government agricultural programs
14. Producer characteristics
15. Enumerator's record

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Structure of Agriculture
Land use
Crops
Livestock and Poultry
Labor in the Agricultural Sector
Aquaculture
Machinery and Equipment

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The Census of Agriculture 2023 covered the entire territory of the United States Virgin Islands.

UNIVERSE

The statistical unit was the farm, defined as any agricultural production unit (called “place” according to country's terminology) from which USD 500 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the calendar year 2023. The farm definition is the same that was used for Census of Agriculture 2018. According to the census definition, a farm is essentially an operating unit, not an ownership tract. All land operated or managed by one person or partnership represents one farm. In the case of tenants, the land assigned to each tenant is considered a separate farm, even though the landlord may consider the entire landholding to be one unit rather than several separate units.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
Department of Agriculture of the United States Virgin Islands
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Cooperative Extension Service	University of the Virgin Islands	Technical support

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

For the Census of Agriculture 2023, the National Agricultural Statistics Service compiled a complete as possible list of agricultural production units that met the farm definition. This list included agricultural production units that met the farm definition on the Census of Agriculture 2018 and potential agricultural production units provided by the University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, and the Department of Agriculture of the United States Virgin Islands. The list of potential agricultural production units was matched to the records of the census 2018 using record linkage programs to remove duplication between lists.

The census was conducted using complete enumeration.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2024-01	2024-10

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Pen and Paper Interview [papi]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The Census of Agriculture 2023 involved 40 staff.

Data was collected via face-to-face interviews and paper forms (PAPI method).

****QUALITY ASSURANCE****

Various measures were used to control non-sampling errors, such as compiling a complete and accurate list of farmers for the census, designing an understandable report form with clear instructions, training enumerators on how to ask the questions and record the answers on the report form, and minimizing processing errors through the use of quality control measures. An independent quality control process occurred after the initial keying where ten percent of the captured data is keyed a second time. If differences existed between the first keyed value and the second, an adjudicator handled resolution. The decision of the adjudicator was used to grade the performance of the keyers, who were required to maintain a certain accuracy level or receive additional training.

All captured data whether keyed or transferred from other data collection instruments were systematically checked for errors and were either resolved within the edit or through analyst intervention.

Efforts were initiated to measure the error associated with the adjustments for non-response of farm operations on the list. This error measurement was developed from the standard error of the estimates at the island level, where appropriate, and were expressed as coefficients of variation (CVs), that are displayed in the Quick Stats database and published with every estimate for the Census of Agriculture 2023.

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

One questionnaire (report form) was used for data collection in the census. The questionnaire covered 16 out of 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020.

Data Processing

DATA EDITING

The Census Bureau's National Processing Center captured data through optical scanning. Staff from the National Agricultural Statistics Service on site at the National Processing Center provided technical guidance and monitored National Processing Center processing activities. All report forms were immediately checked in. All forms keyed were then scanned and loaded into the Feith file cabinet. The images were available for analytical review of the data as well as for archive purposes. The keying staff evaluated the contents and captured pertinent responses. The images and the captured data were transferred to National Agricultural Statistics Service's centralized network and became available to its analysts on a flow basis in all stages of review. Captured data were processed through a computer formatting program. The program verified that record identifiers were valid and checked the basic integrity of the data fields. Rejected records were referred to analysts for correction. Accepted records were sent to a computer batch edit process. Each execution of the computer batch edit flowed as the data were received from the National Processing Center.

All census records were passed through a complex computer edit that determined whether a reporting operation met the minimum criteria to be counted as a qualifying farm (in-scope). The edit examined each in-scope record for reasonableness and completeness and determined whether to accept the recorded value for each data item or take corrective action. Actions included removing erroneously reported values or replacing an unreasonable value with one consistent with other reported data from similar farms. Analysts used additional information sources, examined the scanned image, and

determined an appropriate action. Prior to publication, tabulated totals were reviewed by statisticians to identify inconsistencies and potential coverage problems. Comparisons were made with previous census data, as well as other available data. Counts of all selected data items for various sets of criteria which included, but were not limited to, geographic levels, farm types, and sales levels were reviewed. When necessary, data inconsistencies were resolved. After tabulation and review of the aggregates, a comprehensive disclosure review was conducted. Cell suppression was used to protect the cells that were determined to be sensitive to a disclosure of information.

Access policy

CONTACTS

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Cooperative Extension Service	University of the Virgin Islands		Link
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	nass@nass.usda.gov	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

For additional information on data access and use, please contact the Department of Agriculture of the United States Virgin Islands.

Website: <https://doa.vi.gov>

Email: info.doa@doa.vi.gov

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_VIR_2023_CA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Department of Agriculture of the United States Virgin Islands			Metadata producer
National Agricultural Statistics Service	NASS	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Metadata producer
Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
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