

Netherlands (Kingdom of the) - Agricultural Census 2020

**Statistics Netherlands, Team Agriculture and Nature, Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy, Netherlands Enterprise Agency**

Report generated on: October 13, 2026

Visit our data catalog at: <https://microdata.fao.org/index.php>

Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

NLD_2020_LA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Agricultural Census 2020

TRANSLATED TITLE

Landbouwtelling 2020

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 metadata presented here refers to the Agricultural Census 2020.

ABSTRACT

The Agricultural Census 2020 is part of an EU-wide programme of agricultural censuses carried out in 2020 under EU Regulation 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics and conducted under the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (<https://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/en/>). The objective of the census was to collect data on the structure of agriculture for the purposes of monitoring, evaluating, and revising the common agricultural policy.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Agricultural holdings

Scope

NOTES

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

The questionnaire collected information on:

1. Identification details
2. Organic agriculture
3. Legal status, farm management and safety plan
4. Day-to-day management
5. Labour
6. Diversified agricultural activities
7. Livestock and Poultry
8. Other animals
9. Animal feed
10. Support schemes
11. Greening
12. Broad weather insurance
13. Land
14. My parcels
15. Area-based support schemes
16. Parcels declared as Ecological Focus Area (EFA)
17. Parcels with significant interference from non-agricultural activities
18. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidy programme summary

19. Summary of manure and land
20. Irrigation
21. Apple and pear varieties
22. Payment request for Nature and Landscape Management Subsidy (SNL-a)
23. Horticulture in 2020
24. Horticulture in 2019
25. Greenhouse horticulture
26. Forced bulb cultivation
27. Mushroom cultivation
75. Chicory forcing cultivation
28. Other crops in containers and buildings
29. Producer organisations
30. CO2 sector system: 2019 emissions declaration
31. Heat supplier information
32. Natural gas consumption and emissions
33. Summary of 2019 emissions declaration
34. Grazing and excretion 2020
35. Grazing in 2019
36. Fertilizer use
37. Manure management
38. Hemp labels

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Structure of Agriculture
Land use
Crops
Livestock and Poultry
Labour in the Agricultural Sector

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The Agricultural Census 2020 covered the entire country.

UNIVERSE

The statistical unit was the agricultural holding, defined as a single unit, both technically and economically, that has a single management and that undertakes economic activities in agriculture in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 belonging to groups A.01.1, A.01.2, A.01.3, A.01.4, A.01.5 or to the "maintenance of agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition" of group A.01.6 of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) within the economic territory of the Union, either as its primary or secondary activity, as it is stated in the Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated agricultural statistics.

The threshold applied in the census was EUR 3000 standard output (SO), a measure of holding size based on the average annual yield per crop or animal category.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
Statistics Netherlands (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek), Team Agriculture and Nature (Team Landbouw en natuur)
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat), Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland)

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The frame of the census was based on the Administrative Farm Register (AFR) which is built up from and continuously updated by the Business Register (BR) and other administrative sources.

The Agricultural Census 2020 was conducted as a complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings in the frame meeting the threshold requirement.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2020-03-02	2020-10-15

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Computer Assisted Web Interview [cawi]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Approximately 15 full-time equivalent people were involved in census operations (survey developers, IT and data processing specialists, communication specialists, subject matter specialists, statisticians, project managers and supervisors).

The census was composed of a core module and three thematic modules on labour force and other gainful activities, rural development, and animal housing and manure management. One-off complete enumeration was used even for the thematic modules, and data was collected through the CAWI method and with administrative registers. If holdings did not respond, reminders were sent multiple times if necessary. The response rate was greater than 95 percent. The administrative sources extensively used in the census were: the Administrative Farm Register, the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), the Identification and Registration of Livestock (I&R), rural developments measures, and Manure Transport Register.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Statistics Netherlands adheres to the international standard of quality ISO 9001, and it is also certified for this standard; a peer review was conducted in 2015. There exists a quality management system to assure and assess quality through different procedures: training courses, use of best practices, quality guidelines, benchmarking, compliance monitoring, self-assessment, peer review, external review or audit, and certification. Regarding the Agricultural Census 2020, some actions were taken to reduce non-sampling errors (over-coverage, under-coverage, misclassification, and measurement): compulsory registration in the Business Register, obligation to fill in the census questionnaires, the dependency of subsidies on registration, continuously update and checks on the completeness of register, pre-testing questionnaire, pre-filled questions, etc. The questionnaire was designed, reviewed and validated by a group of experts. Survey instrument errors were likely to be minimal, because the internet application in use is already operational for several years. Remaining errors were mostly detected at early stage, either by automated control programs, or from plausibility checks during the analysis phase.

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

One questionnaire was used in the Agricultural Census 2020.

The questionnaire covered 19 out of 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020.

Data Processing

DATA EDITING

Direct data capture was ensured by the CAWI method. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency was responsible for data entry, data coding, and data validation at the record level. Validation, compilation, analysis, and data dissemination was done by

Statistics Netherlands. The data was validated through different checks implemented in the internet application: data format, completeness, routine, range, relational, data flagging, comparison with previous rounds of the data collection, and with other domains in agricultural statistics. Several software tools were used during processing and validation (SPSS, R, Excel). After data collection and pre-processing by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, data was transferred to Statistics Netherlands for final data compilation, which includes checks and analyses at different levels (micro, meso, and macro). Unit non-response was handled by imputation of information from the previous census. To minimize processing errors, the information system was extensively tested, and manual actions were minimized as much as possible. All corrections were made using scripts (no manual adjustments), and before data was released, extensive checks and analyses were performed.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Team Agriculture and Nature (Team Landbouw en natuur)	Statistics Netherlands (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek)	m.dank@cbs.nl	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

For additional information on data access and use, please contact Statistics Netherlands.

E-mail: m.dank@cbs.nl

Website: <https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/economy/agriculture>

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_NLD_2020_LA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Team Agriculture and Nature (Team Landbouw en natuur)		Statistics Netherlands (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek)	Metadata producer
Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
-----------	-------	-----------