

Agricultural census

Contents

- 1 Contact
- 2 Metadata update
- 3 Statistical presentation
- 4 Measurement unit(s)
- 5 Reference (reporting) period
- 6 Institutional mandate
- 7 Confidentiality (legal acts providing for statistical data confidentiality)
- 8 Release policy
- 9 Frequency of dissemination
- 10 Dissemination format
- 11 Methodological documentation
- 12 Quality management
- 13 Relevance
- 14 Accuracy and reliability
- 15 Timeliness and punctuality
- 16 Comparability
- 17 Coherence
- 18 Administrative burden for respondents (time used by one respondent to fill in a statistical questionnaire)
- 19 Revision of statistical information
- 20 Statistical data processing
- 21 Comments, links to related metadata

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2	Metadata update	
2.1	Metadata last certified	2014-05-23
2.2	Metadata last posted	2015-04-03
2.3	Metadata last update (revision, check)	2014-05-23
3	Statistical presentation	
3.1	Description of statistical information (main characteristics, purpose)	An agricultural census (hereinafter referred to as “census”) is a statistical survey of all farms (agricultural holdings) producing agricultural products, conducted on a national scale. Its objective is to estimate and provide for users statistical information on the number of farmers and their distribution by category in regional administrative units and wards, farming purposes, land used, agricultural crop area, gardens and berry fields, agricultural equipment, buildings, non-agricultural activity, the number of persons employed and duration of their employment, agricultural production methods.
3.2	Classification(s), classification system	National version (EVRK) of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE)
3.3	Institutional sector coverage	Non-financial enterprises (agricultural companies and enterprises), households (farmers’ and family farms) producing agricultural products.

3.4	Definition(s)	<p>Utilised agricultural land is the area under arable land, cultivated pastures, meadows and natural pastures, perennial crops and greenhouses.</p> <p>Arable land refers to continuously cultivated areas that are used or are suitable to be used for growing agricultural crops, including the areas of perennial grasses, cultivated pastures (up to 5 years) and fallows (bare and green-manured).</p> <p>Agricultural crop area refers to the part of arable land sown or planted with crops to be harvested in the current year.</p> <p>Farm animals (as of 1 June) refers to cattle, pigs, horses, sheep, goats, poultry, rabbits, beehives which during the census were on the farm or outside the farm (on a common pasture, grazed in another holding, taken away temporarily, etc.). Farm animals are broken down by species, age and sex.</p> <p>Persons working on the farm refers to all persons not younger than 16 years old who have been doing farm work in the last 12 months before the reference date.</p> <p>Agricultural production methods refers to the totality of tillage, soil protection methods, animal grazing and keeping systems, agricultural land irrigation, fertilising and manure (slurry) storage methods applied on a farm.</p> <p>Standard output refers to the value of production of each agricultural statistical indicator in a respective region at average conditions. The value is calculated by multiplying the unit of production by the purchase price. Value added tax, taxes on products and direct payments are excluded.</p>
3.5	Statistical unit	A farm (agricultural holding) that is in both the technical and economic sense an independent unit having one manager, producing agricultural products or maintaining its land which is no longer used for agricultural production purposes in a good agricultural and environmental condition. A farm can also produce ancillary non-agricultural products or provide services.
3.6	Statistical population	Farms producing agricultural products.
3.7	Geographical coverage	The entire country, counties, municipalities, wards.
3.8	Time coverage	From 2003 (previous census – 1930).
3.9	Base period	–
4	Measurement unit(s)	Area – ha; farm workers and farm animals – units; standard output – LTL thousand.
5	Reference (reporting) period	The characteristics of utilised agricultural area and farm animals are collected as of 1 June 2010. The characteristics of persons working on the farm – 12-month period (from 31 May 2009 to 1 June 2010).
6	Institutional mandate	
6.1	Legal acts and other agreements	Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 (OJ L 321, 2008, p. 14); Commission Regulation (EC) No 1200/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, as regards livestock unit coefficients

		and definitions of the characteristics (OJ L 329, 2009, p. 1); Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No 516 of 27 May 2009 on the 2010 Agricultural Census of the Republic of Lithuania.
6.2	Statistical data exchange	–
7	Confidentiality (legal acts providing for statistical data confidentiality)	
7.1	Confidentiality policy	Law on Statistics of the Republic of Lithuania; Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ 2009 L87, p. 164).
7.2	Data confidentiality regulations	Description of Statistical Disclosure Control Methods, approved by Order No DĮ-124 of 27 May 2008 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania; Paragraph 6 of the Rules for the Secure Management of Electronic Information in the Statistical Information System, approved by Order No DĮ-76 of 12 March 2008 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania.
8	Release policy	
8.1	Release calendar	Statistical information is published in accordance with an approved release calendar.
8.2	Link to the release calendar	https://osp.stat.gov.lt/en/kalendoriai
8.3	Release procedure	Statistical information is published on the Official Statistics Portal , according to an approved statistical information release calendar and the Rules for the Preparation and Dissemination of Statistical Information, approved by Order No DĮ-79 of 14 March 2007 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania (with all amendments and modifications).
9	Frequency of dissemination	
		Every ten years
10	Dissemination format	
10.1	News releases	News releases on provisional 2010 Agricultural Census results were published on 28 February, 30 August, and 29 November 2011.
10.2	Publications	<i>Results of the Agricultural Census of the Republic of Lithuania 2010, Results of the Agricultural Census of the Republic of Lithuania 2010 by County and Municipality, Results of the Agricultural Census of the Republic of Lithuania 2010 by Ward</i>
10.3	Databases	Database of Indicators (Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing -> Agricultural censuses)
10.4	Access to micro data	Microdata for scientific purposes are accessible and can be provided according to the Description of Procedures for the Provision of Statistical Data for Scientific Purposes of Statistics Lithuania.
10.5	Other	Eurostat's database

11	Methodological documentation	Methodological Report on the 2010 Census for Eurostat Information about agricultural censuses in Lithuania Methodological documentation of the 2010 Census
12	Quality management	
12.1	Quality assurance	The quality of statistical information and its production process is ensured by the provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice. In 2007, a quality management system, conforming with the requirements of the international quality management system standard ISO 9001, was introduced at Statistics Lithuania.
12.2	Quality assessment	<p>Comparisons of the Census data at both micro and macro levels are made in order to ensure data quality by detecting outliers and discrepancies.</p> <p>Microdata are compared with data from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IACS (Crop Declaration Database); - Livestock Register; - State Social Insurance Fund Board (Sodra) database; - Other agricultural statistics survey (crop, animal production, etc.) data. <p>Differences between the Census data and other agricultural statistics surveys, as well as differences between the Census data and the Crop Declaration Database and the Livestock Register, are clarified. If necessary, holders are contacted (usually by phone) for additional information.</p> <p>Differences occur mainly due to the differences in definitions and methodology.</p> <p>Macrodata are compared with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IACS (Crop Declaration Database) aggregated data; - Livestock Register aggregated data; - Census 2003, FSS 2005 and FSS 2007 aggregated data; - Other agricultural statistics survey (crop, animal production, etc.) data. <p>If comparisons show large discrepancies in some variable(s), comparisons of microdata are performed in a greater detail.</p>
13	Relevance	
13.1	User needs	The main users of statistical information are State and municipal authorities and agencies, international organisations, the media, research and business communities, students, whose needs are satisfied without a breach of the confidentiality principle. Statistical information is needed for the analysis of the development of agriculture in Lithuania, assessing changes that took place in agriculture after Lithuania's accession to the EU, agricultural development potential, efficiency of and future demand for EU support.
13.2	User satisfaction	From 2005, user opinion surveys have been conducted on a regular basis. Official Statistics Portal traffic is monitored, website visitor opinion polls, general opinion poll on the products and services of Statistics Lithuania, target user group opinion polls and other surveys are conducted. In 2007, the compilation of a user satisfaction index was launched. The said surveys are aimed at the assessment of the overall demand for and necessity of statistical information in general and specific statistical indicators in particular.

13.3	Completeness of statistical information	The main agricultural census indicators were produced. More detailed statistical information is produced on user request.
13.3.1	Degree of completeness of required information	100 per cent of information produced in accordance with the Official Statistics Work Programme is published.
14	Accuracy and reliability	
14.1	Overall accuracy	–
14.2	Sampling error	–
14.3	Non-sampling error	<p>Overcoverage errors. The list of agricultural holdings in the Census was based on the Integrated Administration and Control System and the Livestock Register and the list of the 2003 Agricultural Census updated with data from other agricultural surveys. However, during the Census, the frame overcoverage was about 14.2 per cent. These units, in fact, should not belong to the target population because they have terminated their agricultural activity, their land was sold, granted, etc. Small farms were not included in these estimations.</p> <p>Undercoverage errors. During the Census, some changes in farms were obtained. In most cases, changes in farms were related to changes of the farm holder. Some of them bought farms, some inherited. If there was a change of the farm holder, such a farm was not treated as new. If a new farm appeared, a new conditional identity code was attributed to this farm and it was added to the general respondent list. The specialist who had to attribute the code to the new respondent usually checked the data on the holding in available databases.</p> <p>Processing errors. Individual Census data were manually entered using a special computer program. Logical and arithmetical control was exercised. These data were compared with data from other statistical data sources (previous surveys on crop and animal production etc.). Thus, most processing errors were detected and corrected.</p>
14.3.1	Non-response error	Insignificant errors.
14.3.1.1	Unit non-response rate	In 2010, the unit non-response of farms larger than 1 ha – 2.4, of farms smaller than 1 ha – 4.8 per cent.
14.3.1.2	Item non-response rate	–
15	Timeliness and punctuality	
15.1	Timeliness	Deadlines for the transmission of Census results to Eurostat are established in the EU legislation. Their publication depends on the duration of the validation process at Eurostat. The main provisional results were published in 4 months after the end of data collection.
15.2	Punctuality	Statistical information is published in accordance with an approved release calendar .
15.2.1	Percentage of statistical information released on time	100 per cent
16	Comparability	
16.1	Geographical comparability	Statistical information is comparable across the EU. The same data are available for all countries. Besides, the Census data are in line with the FAO recommendations; thus, the comparability with countries outside Europe, including USA and Japan, is enhanced.

		Although the threshold for inclusion in the Census varies between countries, it is generally set to a value that ensures 99 or 98 % coverage of the total utilised agricultural area and the total number of farm livestock units.
16.2	Comparability over time	Most of the Census 2003 and 2010 characteristics are comparable; however, not all characteristics because the methodology was changed by Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008. Some characteristics were collected in 2003 but were not collected in 2010. On the other hand, some new characteristics were collected in 2010 but had not been collected in 2003.
16.2.1	Length of comparable time series	The time series is comparable from 2003.
17	Coherence	
17.1	Cross-domain coherence	<p>The survey does not cover the whole crop and utilised agricultural area within the territory of the country. The coverage includes only utilised agricultural area belonging to agricultural holdings producing agricultural products with the utilised agricultural area of one or more hectares or those with the utilised agricultural area of less than one hectare and annual agricultural income of no less than LTL 5000.</p> <p>Crop and utilised agricultural area (UAA) is also covered in other agricultural statistics, namely annual crop statistics. Crop statistics also cover farms with the utilised agricultural area of less than one hectare and gardeners' partnerships; therefore, some differences are observed. The number of farm animals is compared with data from administrative data sources because the comparison with annual statistics is problematic due to different reference periods. Plots of land and/or farm animals of a farm may be located in one or several different wards or municipalities. All plots of land, farm animals, machinery and workers of the farm are summed up and published in the ward where the farm centre is located. Therefore, agricultural land area (number of farm animals, machinery, farm workers) recorded during the Census in a certain municipality or ward can be larger or smaller than in administrative data sources.</p>
17.2	Internal coherence	Censuses were conducted in 2003 and 2010. Only data for these years are comparable. The internal coherence of the datasets is guaranteed by a common set of validation rules for the individual data and a stable definition of the characteristics.
18	Administrative burden for respondents (time used by one respondent to fill in a statistical questionnaire)	In 2010, the burden on respondents in hours was about 36 minutes for farmers' and family farms and 90 minutes for agricultural companies and enterprises.
19	Revision of statistical information	
19.1	Revision policy	Revisions of statistical indicators are performed in accordance with the General Principles behind the Performance, Analysis and Announcement of Revisions of Statistical Indicators , approved by Order No DĮ-262 of 30 December 2013 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania. Users are informed about scheduled revisions in advance through a Calendar of Scheduled Revisions of Statistical Indicators.
19.2	Revision practice	Individual data are validated by Statistics Lithuania and Eurostat using strict rules; later, aggregated data are

		checked again. A Census data revision was not planned by Statistics Lithuania because the data were carefully checked against administrative sources and are consistent with validation rules. However, an unplanned data revision could be carried out if there were significant changes in administrative data sources or methodology.
19.2.1	Average of the change obtained during the revision	–
20	Statistical data processing	
20.1	Statistical data source	An exhaustive (census) statistical survey.
20.2	Periodicity of statistical data collection	Every 10 years
20.3	Statistical data collection	<p>During the 2003 Census, all farms (farmers' and family farms and agricultural companies and enterprises) were surveyed by enumerators. A paper census questionnaire was used for data collection.</p> <p>During the 2010 Census, a paper or an electronic questionnaire was used for data collection. A basic questionnaire was filled in for farms with the utilised agricultural area of one or more hectares or those with the utilised agricultural area of less than one hectare and annual agricultural income of no less than LTL 5000. An annex "Small units questionnaire" was filled in for small farms. Farmers' and family farms were interviewed by enumerators. In each ward office where applications for support in the form of direct payments and support for declared crop area were accepted, enumerators were working, who interviewed the farmers that came to the ward offices. Not only farmers declaring crop areas but also those not declaring them but cultivating land and/or keeping livestock, poultry or bees were invited to come to ward offices. Besides, farmers' and family farms could provide their data online. An electronic questionnaire had also been prepared, which could be filled in and submitted online via an electronic data collection system of Statistics Lithuania. Enumerators were visiting only those farms which had not been enumerated in ward offices or had not submitted statistical data through the Internet. Agricultural companies and enterprises filled in an electronic questionnaire and submitted it through the Internet via the statistical reporting system of Statistics Lithuania or as a filled-in paper questionnaire and delivered it to Statistics Lithuania by post.</p>
20.4	Statistical data validation	<p>The data are checked in the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the structure of the dataset; - the internal relationship between fields (validation rules); - the raw aggregated results (control tables); - the crosscheck with other agricultural statistics; - the crosscheck with FSS data from the previous years. <p>Only the data validated at the last step can be disseminated. Afterwards, if errors are detected during a specific analysis, datasets may be revised.</p>
20.5	Production of statistical information	<p>Summary 2010 Census data are prepared and published by county, municipality and ward. The aggregation is performed by simple summing up, derivative characteristics are calculated.</p> <p>In the course of processing the 2010 Census data, farms were grouped by the area of land used and crops and the</p>

		<p>number of animals of certain species kept. It enabled the assessment of the concentration of farm production and their specialisation, production opportunities, standard production. Information about the total area of buildings used on farms, agricultural machinery and equipment, agricultural production methods used was produced. The total number of persons doing agricultural work, their breakdown by sex, age and time worked was determined.</p> <p>Methodology (only in Lithuanian)</p>
20.6	Adjustment	–
21	Comments, links to related metadata	–