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ELSTAT metadata

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2.1 Metadata last certified	26/08/2013
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3. Statistical presentation Top	
3.1 Data description	
<p>The Farm Structure Survey is conducted as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a basic survey (Agricultural-Livestock Census), every ten years 2) a sample survey on a two-year basis, in between the Agricultural and Livestock Census. <p>The Agricultural and Livestock Census contributes to the collection of information on the agricultural and livestock holdings of Greece, at various geographical levels, and during different time periods, thus offering a tool for decision-making concerning the Common Agricultural Policy.</p> <p>The Agricultural and Livestock Census was conducted by all EU Member States following a harmonized methodology.</p> <p>The characteristics of the Census are laid down in the relevant Community legislation and they are distinguished into four groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General characteristics ▪ Utilized agricultural area ▪ Livestock ▪ Variables of special interest, such as labour force, rural development issues, management and cultivation methods. <p>The aggregated data are tabulated and published at the following geographical levels: Department (NUTS 3), Region (NUTS 2) and Great Geographical Area (NUTS 1).</p>	
3.2 Classification system	
<p>Analytical information on the typology can be found in the following Community legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88. ▪ 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. ▪ Typology Handbook, RI/CC, 5/10/2009 	
3.3 Sector coverage	
<p>The 2009 Agricultural and Livestock Census was conducted in all the Departments (NUTS 3) of Greece and it covered the total of the agricultural population of the Country.</p>	
3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions	

The main purpose of the Census is to provide a common list of characteristics, which are studied on the basis of common rules and procedures, thus offering the possibility to make comparisons among the agricultural and livestock holdings all over the European Union. As a result, a complex volume of statistical data is compiled.

Both Farm Structure surveys and Agricultural-Livestock Censuses produce statistical information on specific targets set by the Common Agricultural Policy and at the same time they offer a basis for the compilation of statistical data on agriculture.

The surveyed characteristics and the relevant definitions are laid down by Community legislation.

The typology of the Census, which is also laid down by Community legislation, consists of a harmonized classification of the holdings all over the European Union. This classification is based on the type of farming activity and the economic size of the holding. These two factors are determined on the basis of the Standard Gross Margin (SGM).

For each agricultural or livestock activity the Standard Gross Margin is determined as: the difference between the Standard Value of production and the Standard Value of certain specific costs.

3.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit of the Census is the agricultural, livestock or mixed holding (a unified unit both in terms of technical and economic perspective, which is run by a unified management body and produces agricultural products) which:

1. Covers at least one (1) stremma* of utilized agricultural area;
2. Has at least half a stremma (500 m²) of greenhouses, irrespective of the type of tenure status and the area in which it is located;
3. Has animals of its own and more specifically: one (1) or more cows or totally two (2) and more “big” animals, of any species and of any age (cattle, horses, asses, hinnies, mules) or totally five (5) or more “small” animals (sheep, goats, pigs) of any age and male or female, or fifty (50) and more pieces of poultry, or twenty (20) or more “domestic” or “European” beehives, or five (5) or more ostriches;
4. Cultivates mushrooms.

The information collected for each holding is grouped into the following categories:

- **General information:** location of the holding and system of farming (biological farming, owned or rented agricultural areas, etc).
- **Management and labour force:** all the people who are responsible for the holding or/and work in the holding.
- **Agricultural area and land use:** size and distribution of the land of the holding and more specifically of the utilized agricultural area (arable land, permanent crops and kitchen gardens, permanent meadows and grassland), as well as specific cultivations.
- **Livestock:** animals that are bred in the holding (cattle, goats, pig, poultry, horses and other animals).
- **Secondary activities:** activities, which are directly linked with the holding (making use of its production means) and agro-environmental issues.

* (1 stremma: Greek unit of land area equal to 1,000 square metres)

3.6 Statistical population

The statistical population of the Agricultural-Livestock Census are all the statistical units which satisfy the criteria of paragraph 3.5

The sampling frame, which was used for the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census, was the updated Register of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings compiled by the Hellenic Statistical Authority. This Register was compiled on the basis of the 1999/2000 Agricultural and Livestock Census and the relevant Register of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. The Register of ELSTAT is updated on the basis of the surveys conducted by ELSTAT,

such as the farm structure surveys, the special annual agricultural surveys (on fruit trees, vines, cereals, or other arable cultivations, surveys on pig, cattle, sheep and goat capital), as well as from administrative data sources (Registers of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food).

The Agricultural-Livestock Census was conducted on all the holdings of the Register, while the sample farm structure surveys conducted every two years cover a sample representing 11% of the total of the holdings.

3.7 Reference area

The Agricultural-Livestock Census was conducted in all the Departments of Greece (NUTS 3, i.e., 50 Departments and 4 Prefectures of Attiki).

3.8 Time coverage

There are available data from the 2000 Agricultural-Livestock Census.

3.9 Base period

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4. Unit of measure

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Two kinds of units of measure are predominant: the units for measuring the survey characteristics (stremmas for agricultural areas, number of heads for livestock, persons or annual work units for the labour force) and the number of agricultural holdings having the specific characteristic.

5. Reference period

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The reference period for the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census, as regards crops, labour force and other characteristics was the cultivation period from 1 October 2008 until 30 September 2009. The reference date as regards animal capital of the holding was the 1st November 2009.

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority*", as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "*Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions*", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): "*Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy*", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "*Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance*", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "*Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions*" and by article 51 of the Law 4021/2011 (Government Gazette No 218, Issue A): "*Enhanced measures for the supervision and restructuring of Credit Institutions – Regulation of issues of financial nature – Ratification of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) Framework-Agreement and its amendments and other provisions.*"
- Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "*National Export Council, tax*

regulations and other provisions”.

- Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): *“For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization”.*
- European Statistics Code of Practice adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): *“Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece”.*
- Articles 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): *“Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece.*

The national legislative framework for the conduct of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census is as follows:

- Presidential Decree No 135 (Government Gazette No 182, Issue A / 23-9-2009) on the conduct of a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings (general agricultural-livestock census) and on the conduct of a sample survey on the methods of agricultural production in 2009.
- Joint Ministerial Decision No 8416/Γ2-1158 (Government Gazette No 1530, Issue B / 27-7-2009) on the “Approval, announcement, assignment, conduct and expenditure allocation of the Basic Farm Structure Survey (Agricultural-Livestock Census) and the special sample survey on the methods of agricultural production in 2009, as well as on the approval of the use of the statistical bodies”.
- Joint Ministerial Decision No 211/Γ2-421 (Government Gazette No 269, Issue B / 16-3-2010 modifying the Joint Ministerial Decision No 8416/Γ2-1158-17-7-2009) on the “Approval, announcement, assignment, conduct and expenditure allocation for the Basic Farm Structure Survey (Agricultural-Livestock Census) and the special sample survey on the methods of agricultural production in 2009, as well as on the approval of the use of the statistical bodies”.

6.2 Data sharing

None

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended by article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010 and by article 10 of Law 3899/2010, as well as by article 8 of Law 2392/1996, which was brought back into force, in accordance with article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010.

Furthermore, ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

- a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
- b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.

The Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT, examines issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality. Within its competence is to recommend on:

- the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
- the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
- the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

The release calendar fully meets legal requirements concerning the deadlines for the release of data by:

- meeting the legal and contract requirements concerning the deadlines for the transmission of the results
- ensuring the longest possible time for data checking.

Additional time in case of delays.

8.2 Release calendar access

The results of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census were published in the second semester of 2012.

8.3 User access

Users can have direct access to the results of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census through the portal of ELSTAT and the webpage of Eurostat as well.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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The results of the Agricultural-Livestock Census are disseminated every 10 years.

10. Dissemination format

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10.1 News release

No

10.2 Publications

The main results of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census were released in a special publication under the title *“Main results of the 2009 Agricultural –Livestock Census”* which has also been posted on the portal of ELSTAT (available in the Greek language).

10.3 On-line database
<p>Tabulated data are available on the portal of ELSTAT.</p> <p>For further information, please click on “Contact” on the portal of ELSTAT.</p>
10.4 Micro-data access
<p>Users cannot have access to micro-data.</p>
10.5 Other
<p>Users can be given data or other statistical analysis, after submitting a request to the Statistical Information Dissemination Section – ELSTAT, 46, Pireos & Eponiton Str, 80847 Piraeus, Tel +30 213 135 311, fax +30 213 1352 312, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr and data.source@statistics.gr</p>

11. Accessibility of documentation	Top
11.1 Documentation on methodology	
<p>The census methodology and the dissemination mode of the results of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census are laid down in a relevant Decision issued by ELSTAT, taking into consideration international practices, guidelines and rules set out by Eurostat (Regulation No 1166/2008).</p>	
11.2 Quality documentation	
<p>Quality documentation is based on the National Methodological Report of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census which includes quality indicators. The 2009 Report is available on the portal of ELSTAT.</p>	

12. Quality management	Top
12.1 Quality assurance	
<p>All the necessary checks are conducted in order to avoid any counting errors.</p> <p>Quality checks for data validation are conducted during the whole process of the compilation of the data, that is since data collection until the calculation of the survey variables.</p>	
12.2 Quality assessment	
First phase <p>The questionnaires that had been collected by ELSTAT staff in the RSOs by department (NUTS 3) were checked in order to identify any errors. Logical checks were conducted and the questionnaires were also checked for correctness and completeness.</p>	
Second phase <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ After the optical character reading of the questionnaires, additional electronic checks were also conducted. Then checks were conducted for identifying double recordings in the questionnaires and in the database. In the cases where errors were found, there was a contact with the Regional Statistical Offices in order to validate the data or to correct the errors. The results of the Agricultural-Livestock Census were compared with the results of other surveys and with the available administrative data in order to identify the longitudinal trend and to assess the results.	

Therefore, the results of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census are considered to be of high quality.

13. Relevance

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13.1 User needs

The main users of the Agricultural-Livestock Census data are: the National Accounts Division of ELSTAT, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, universities, research centres, European and international organisations (e.g., Eurostat).

The data are used for drawing up agricultural policy at national level and the Common Agricultural Policy in the framework of the Community organisation of markets and agricultural products.

In addition, the data cover national needs pertaining to the elaboration of development programmes in the agricultural sector, as well as international obligations of Greece.

13.2 User satisfaction

The Agricultural-Livestock Census is conducted pursuant to EU Regulations which are compiled taking into consideration users' needs at European and international level.

In order to fulfil the need of Greek users, ELSTAT carries out a User Survey. The data from this survey are posted on the portal of ELSTAT every six months at:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/library_news_letter.pdf

13.3 Completeness

ELSTAT compiles full sets of all the necessary data, fully observing EU Regulations and their requirements.

14. Accuracy and reliability

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14.1 Overall accuracy

The main sources of errors are:

1. Cases of new holdings which had not been included in the Register of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings, thus creating under-coverage errors. After having compared these results with other sources of statistical information, such as the files of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, these errors were not considered to be important.
2. Cases where the Register of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings included holdings which were closed or holdings which had merged and which were identified during the conduct of the survey. These cases did not create any problems because they were identified and dully corrected.
3. Counting errors which were identified and corrected by means of logical checks.
4. Non-response errors, which were addressed by imputation. Non-response results in bias, the importance of which was estimated by comparing the results with other sources of statistical data.

Since the above errors were identified and estimated, the total accuracy of the results of the Agricultural-Livestock Census is considered to be satisfactory.

14.2 Sampling error

No sampling errors, since the survey is a census survey.

14.3 Non-sampling error

The non-sampling errors of the Census are as follows:

- A. Under-coverage
- B. Counting errors
- C. Non-response

The errors due to counting were corrected by means of logical checks and the errors due to non-response were partially corrected by imputation. More specifically, the values for the variables of the holdings which did not respond were replaced by the values of the holdings which responded and had similar characteristics.

This procedure reduces significantly the bias which is due to non-response.

As regards the under coverage errors, after having compared the results with other sources, it was estimated that the differences were not important.

15. Timeliness and punctuality

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15.1 Timeliness

The deadline for the submission of data was the 31st of March 2011.

15.2 Punctuality

After the oral approval of Eurostat, a first extension was given for 31/12/12 and a second for 31/3/13 when the data were finally transmitted to Eurostat.

16. Comparability

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16.1 Comparability – geographical

The results of the Census are comparable with the results of other EU Member States because they are based on common definitions of the variables and common procedures for data processing.

16.2 Comparability over time

All the variables of the Agricultural-Livestock Census and of the other corresponding sample surveys can be compared longitudinally because the results are produced on the basis of common definitions of the variables and common procedures for data processing. Furthermore, from 2007 onwards, a new variable was added, namely the “maintenance of the land in a good agricultural and environmental condition”.

17. Coherence

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17.1 Coherence cross-domain

No cross-domain coherence. More specifically, there is no coherence with the Annual Agricultural Survey because the Census and the Annual Agricultural Survey are two completely different surveys. The surveyed unit of the Agricultural-Livestock Census is the agricultural or livestock holding, while the surveyed unit of the Annual Agricultural Survey is the Municipal/Local. Commune.

17.2 Coherence – internal

Internal coherence of correlating variables is ensured by means of checking the personal data of each holding.

18. Cost and burden

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According to the calculations for the cost and work burden for the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census, it is estimated that the personnel of ELSTAT worked during 288,135 hours for 3.5 years.

19. Data revision	Top
19.1 Revision policy	
<p>The first data, which are released, are provisional. When all the collected data become final then the data are validated. The data are validated by Eurostat on the basis of strict checking rules. Following this procedure, the aggregated data (sums) are checked once again. However, the final data may be revised in a latter stage if any errors are identified.</p>	
19.2 Revision practice	
<p>The released data are final and have been validated by Eurostat and ELSTAT. Nevertheless, the data can be revised if it is deemed necessary.</p>	

20. Statistical processing	Top
20.1 Source data	
<p>All the variables of the Agricultural-Livestock Census are related to the agricultural holding and not directly to the persons employed in the holding. Nevertheless, some characteristics can be related to the persons, such as the holder or the manager of the holding. Member States are authorized to use data from administrative data sources and also from other surveys.</p>	
20.2 Frequency of data collection	
<p>The data of the Agricultural-Livestock Census are collected every ten years.</p>	
20.3 Data collection	
<p>The data of the Agricultural and Livestock Census were collected by means of personal interviews with the owners of the agricultural holdings, on the basis of a specially designed questionnaire.</p> <p>The census questionnaire was designed in such a way so as to satisfy both national and Community needs for statistical information. It covered all variables stipulated in Regulation 11/66/2008 which must be analyzed, thus helping drawing the Hellenic agricultural policy. Furthermore, data were collected concerning only national issues.</p> <p>The questionnaire was designed taking into consideration comments and observations made by the main data users (Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Ministry of Environments and Climate Change), as well as by other Divisions of ELSTAT (Division of Methodology and Organization, Division of Informatics, Division of Statistical Information and Publication, Division of National Accounts).</p> <p>In order to ensure correctness and efficiency of data collection, special training seminars were organized targeted to the competent personnel assigned with the conduct of the census:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of the Census Supervisors: A training series of two-day training seminars was organized in the Central office of ELSTAT especially for the Census Supervisors (52), that is for the Heads of the Regional Statistical Offices of Greece. The trainers of the seminars were the Head Supervisors of the survey and 52 supervisors attended the seminars. The topics covered during the seminars pertained to the organisation and the conduct of the survey in each Department of Greece. Furthermore, the survey questionnaire was presented and analyzed and case studies from specific holding were discussed. 2. Training of the assistant-supervisors: A training series of two-day training seminars, intended to the assistant supervisors (235 persons) of the survey, were organised in each Regional Statistical Office. The trainers were the Supervisors of each Regional Statistical Office and the seminar were attended by the assistant supervisors of the surveys. 51 training seminars were organised with the participation of 235 assistant supervisors. The topics covered during the seminars pertained to the organisation and the conduct of the survey in each Department of Greece. Furthermore, the census questionnaire was presented and analyzed and case studies from specific holding were discussed. 	

3. **Training of external survey workers (statistical interviewers – 8345 persons):** 80 one-day training seminars were organised all over Greece. The Supervisors and the assistant supervisors were the trainers and 8345 survey workers and 105 escorts-interpreters attended the seminars. The Supervisors and the assistant supervisors presented the questionnaire and the other forms of the census and trained the survey workers on the personal interview procedure and on the way to fill in the questionnaire. Furthermore, case studies from specific holdings were discussed.

The Regional Statistical Offices had the responsibility to collect the data. Every Supervisor was responsible to organise and coordinate all the statistical tasks in the Department under his competency. The Assistant-supervisors were assisting the Supervisor and together they trained the external survey workers, they assigned to them the holdings they had to survey and they monitored their work.

If a holding had been divided into two or more holdings, the external survey worker had to survey all the newly created holdings.

The external survey worker was also obliged to inform the competent assistant supervisor on the progress of the tasks on a weekly basis, and to submit the questionnaires he had filled in.

The assistant supervisors collected the filled in questionnaires with the aim of checking their quality. They had the right to correct any errors, marking them with red pen and at the end they signed the questionnaires.

If the filled in questionnaires did not meet the survey requirements, they had to be returned to the external survey worker in order to be dully corrected.

20.4 Data validation

The data were validated according to the following procedure:

1. **Logical and completeness checks of the questionnaires in the RSO**, in order to check their correctness and to correct any errors, if necessary. It should be noted that the external survey workers themselves had already performed such kind of checks before submitting the filled in questionnaires to the employees of the RSO.
2. **Data entry** by means of OCR and correction of the errors due to erroneous reading.
3. Validation of data after a series of checks which identified errors or notifications.
4. Checks for identifying double recordings. The questionnaires were checked in order to identify the holdings that had been enumerated twice.
5. Quality checks. The survey data were compared with the results for previous Censuses and previous Structure surveys, as well as with the results of the annual statistical surveys and with data from administrative sources. (Ministry of Rural Development and Food, etc). In case where major inconsistencies were identified for a specific variable, an in-depth study and analysis were carried out in cooperation with the RSO and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

20.5 Data compilation

After the collection of the questionnaires, the data, by means of OCR (optical character reading), were entered an electronic file. Afterwards, data processing followed on order to identify and dully correct any errors. Then, the imputation method was implemented to address non-response. Finally, a database was created containing the microdata of the 2009 Agricultural-Livestock Census. At the end, the tabulated data were produced.

20.6 Adjustment

21. Comment

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