

Notes to users

Legend: x Suppressed to protect confidentiality

Conversion factors

The following factors are used to convert between different units of measurement:

1 acre = 0.404 685 6 hectare

1 hectare = 2.471 acres

1 arpent = 0.845 acre (for respondents in Quebec who reported land areas in arpents)

1 square foot = 0.092 903 04 square metre

1 square metre = 10.763 91 square feet

1 kilogram = 2.204 622 6 pounds

1 pound = 0.453 592 4 kilogram

Rounding

Totals may not equal the sum of their parts due to the use of conversion factors or rounding of fractions to whole numbers.

Confidentiality procedures

All tabulated data have been subjected to either a "data suppression" or random rounding confidentiality procedure to prevent the possibility of associating statistical data with any identifiable agricultural operation or individual.

The "data suppression" procedure identified and deleted all cell values in the farm data tables that could result in the disclosure of information relating to a specific agricultural operation.

In all cases, however, suppressed data were included in aggregate subtotals and totals in each of these tables.

The "random rounding" procedure was applied to all data appearing in the farm operator tables.

Employing this technique, all figures in each of these tables, including totals, were randomly rounded either up or down to a multiple of 5.

While providing protection against disclosure, this procedure does not add significant error to the data.

It does, however, result in certain data inconsistencies which are outlined in the data inconsistencies paragraphs presented below.

Finally, data for those geographic areas with very few agricultural operations were not released separately, but were merged with data from one or more geographically adjacent areas.

Data inconsistencies

The application of the "random rounding" confidentiality procedure to data appearing in the farm operator tables, has resulted in the following data

inconsistencies:

Since the totals in a table are randomly rounded independently of their component cell values, some differences may exist between the rounded totals and the sum of their rounded components.

Similarly, percentage distributions, which are calculated based on rounded cell values, do not necessarily add up to 100%.

Averages, however, are calculated based on unrounded data.

Random rounding can significantly distort results for variables with small cell counts.

Individual data cells containing small numbers may lose their precision as a result.

Finally, minor differences can be expected in corresponding totals and cell values appearing in different tables.

For example, the total number of farm operators under 35 years of age in Canada in 2001 has been randomly rounded, which may result in slightly different totals occurring in the tables in which the variable appears.

Headquarters rule

Many agricultural operations in Canada are composed of numerous parcels of land in a number of locations.

These different locations are often situated in several geographic areas (such as townships or counties).

In these situations, the "headquarters rule" assigns all data collected for the agricultural operation to the geographic area where the farm headquarters is located.

Incomplete enumeration of Indian reserves and Indian settlements

On some Indian reserves and Indian settlements in the 2001 Census, enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed. Moreover, for some Indian reserves and Indian settlements, the quality of the enumeration was considered inadequate.

These geographic areas (a total of 30) are called incompletely enumerated Indian reserves and Indian settlements.

Data for census farms located on these incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements are therefore not available.

The impact of the missing data is very small for higher-level geographic areas (Canada, provinces, and census agricultural regions).

However, the impact is more significant for those smaller areas (census divisions and census consolidated subdivisions) in which the affected reserves and settlements are located.

Census farm

In 2001, a census farm was defined as an agricultural operation that produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops (hay, field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables,

seed);

livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, game animals, other livestock);

poultry (hens, chickens, turkeys, chicks, game birds, other poultry);

animal products (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, meat);

or other agricultural products (Christmas trees, greenhouse or nursery products, mushrooms, sod, honey, maple syrup products).

The 1996 definition of a census farm was expanded from the definition used in 1991 to include commercial poultry hatcheries and operations that produced only Christmas trees.

Farm capital

Farm capital includes the value of all farmland, buildings, farm machinery and equipment (including passenger vehicles used in the farm business), and livestock and poultry.

Respondents report the value of their land, buildings, farm machinery and equipment as of Census Day.

Values for livestock and poultry inventories reported in the census are calculated using data on average farm prices for the various types of livestock and poultry.

Farm operators

farm operators was defined as those persons responsible for the day-to-day management decisions made in the operation of a census farm or agricultural operation.

Up to three farm operators could be reported per farm.

Prior to the 1991 Census of Agriculture, the farm operator referred to only one person responsible for the day-to-day decisions made in running an agricultural operation.

Farm type

Farm typing is a procedure that classifies each census farm according to the predominant type of production.

This is done by estimating the potential receipts from the inventories of crops and livestock reported on the questionnaire and determining the product or group of products that make up the majority of the estimated receipts.

For example, a census farm with total potential receipts of 60% from hogs, 20% from beef cattle and 20% from wheat, would be classified as a hog farm. This farm type classification, referred to as "historical," is based on the Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC).

For 2001, a new farm type classification based on the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) has been added to the historical classification used in previous censuses.

NAICS was created against the background of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

It is designed to provide common definitions of the industrial structure of

the three countries (the United States, Canada and Mexico) and a common statistical framework to facilitate analysis of the three economies. NAICS Canada will replace both the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification and the 1980 Canadian Standard Industrial Classification for Companies and Enterprises.

Table 7 - Tillage practices used to prepare land for seeding

When comparing the data on tillage practices to previous censuses, calculating each practice as a percentage of the total land prepared for seeding is recommended, since the total land prepared for seeding varies over time.

Table 8 - Land inputs

Due to response errors in 1996, the area of land irrigated was overstated in Quebec. These errors limit the comparability of the data between 1996 and 2001.

As in previous censuses, the area of land on which herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and commercial fertilizer were applied is under-reported. However, the data are comparable with previous censuses.

Table 9 - Manure application methods

As in 1996, the area of land on which manure was applied using each manure application method was under-reported. However, the 1996 and 2001 data are comparable.

Table 10 - Farms classified by soil conservation practices used

When comparing the number of farms reporting soil conservation practices to previous censuses, calculating the number of farms reporting any one practice as a percentage of the total number of farms is recommended, since the total number of farms varies over time.

The number of 2001 farms reporting "winter cover crops" and "green manure crops for plough-down" is not directly comparable to 1996. Only one category, winter cover crops for spring plough-down, existed in 1996.

Due to response errors, the number of farms reporting "mechanical or hand weeding of crops" was overstated. Telephone follow-up with a sample of these respondents confirmed that tillage prior to seeding, the use of machinery to spray herbicides, and hand weeding of personal home gardens were sometimes included as mechanical or hand weeding.

Table 12 - Farms classified by certified organic products produced

Due to both undercoverage and response errors, the total number of farms producing certified organic products for sale is under-reported.

Table 19 - Cattle and calves

Due to response errors in 1996, the number of dairy cows and the number of farms reporting dairy cows may have been overstated, whereas the number of beef cows and the number of farms reporting beef cows may have been understated. The total number of cattle and calves, however, was not affected. These errors limit the comparability of the data between 1996 and 2001. Response errors were more prevalent in provinces with a low proportion of dairy operations.

Table 21 - Sheep and lambs

Due to coverage problems in 1996, the total number of sheep and lambs in Newfoundland and Labrador was understated. These errors limit the comparability of the data between 1996 and 2001.

Due to reporting difficulties, data for the two lamb categories — replacement lambs and market lambs — have been combined. The total number of lambs, however, was not affected, and the data are comparable with previous censuses.

Table 22 - Other livestock and colonies of bees

Deer and elk inventories may include elk/red deer hybrids. Hybrids were reported most often as elk and reporting hybrids was most common in Ontario.

As in 1991 and 1996, some undercoverage, primarily of smaller operations with colonies of bees, occurred in 2001. However, the data are comparable with previous censuses.

Table 33 - Gross farm receipts

As in previous censuses, response errors have resulted in an under-reporting of total gross farm receipts.

However, the data are comparable with previous censuses.

Due to response errors in previous censuses, the sales of forest products may have been overstated.

Changes to this question for 2001 limit the comparability of the data to previous censuses.

Table 35 - Paid agricultural work

As in previous censuses, response errors are common for the paid work question because of the variety of arrangements in hiring farm labour.

However, the data are comparable with previous censuses.

Characteristics of farm operators

This is a count of distinct operators; hence, operators of two or more separate farms were included only once in the total.

Changes to the question on farm-related injuries in 2001 limit the comparability of data between 1996 and 2001.

Due to changes to the question on average time contribution of non-farm work for 2001, caution should be used when comparing the data to 1996.

The 1996 data exclude those operators who reported operating another business whereas the 2001 data include them.