
INTRODUCTION

Authority, Area Covered, and History

The 1974 Census of Agriculture was taken in accordance with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, reaffirmed by section 818 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-86). Sections 142(a) and 191 of title 13 provide for a census of agriculture every 5 years in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The 1974 census is the 20th nationwide census of agriculture and the second conducted primarily by mail.

This report presents statistics for the United States and States based upon data from the 1974 census.

Farm Definition

1969 definition—All 1969 statistics in this report are in accordance with the farm definition used in 1969, which was also the definition used in the 1964 and 1959 Censuses of Agriculture. These farms are places on which agricultural operations larger than a specified minimum were conducted at any time during the census year under the control of an individual management. Places of less than 10 acres were counted as farms if the sales of the agricultural products amounted, or normally would amount, to at least \$250. Places of 10 acres or more were counted as farms if the sales of agricultural products for the year

amounted, or normally would amount, to at least \$50.

1974 definition—All 1974 statistics in this report are in accordance with the 1974 farm definition, which differs from the earlier definition in only two respects:

1. The criterion for number of "acres in place" has been deleted.
2. The criterion for minimum value of agricultural products sold has been changed to \$1,000.

For a more detailed explanation of the change in definition and measures of the effect of the change, see appendix A of Volume I, State and County Data.

Report Forms

Two basic census report forms were used for all States except Alaska and Hawaii: A regular form (A1) was used for farms with an expected value of sales of \$2,500 or more and a short version (A2) for farms with an expected value of sales of less than \$2,500. The short form covered only major items and omitted most of the detail found in the regular form.

In Alaska, the regular form was used for all farms. In Hawaii, a modified version of the regular form was used for all farms. The changes were principally in the crop sections to cover the specialized agriculture in the islands.

Tabular Presentation

More detailed information was obtained for farms with sales of \$2,500 or more than for farms with less gross sales. Thus, some tables in this report present data for all farms and others present data for farms with sales of \$2,500 or more.

Comparability of Data

In general, data for the 1974 census are directly comparable with data from the 1969 census only for farms with \$2,500 or more total value of sales, because the data for farms with less than \$2,500 sales were affected by the change in farm definition.

Dramatic changes in rates of farm expenditure and unit prices of products sold between the 1969 and 1974 censuses also affect the comparability of some census data. Between the two censuses, prices paid by farmers greatly increased. Prices received by farmers also increased but with wide fluctuations among commodities at different times during the census year of 1974.

Abbreviations and Symbols

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero.
- D Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- X Not applicable.
- Z Less than half of the unit reported.
- NA Not available.