



הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה  
Central Bureau of Statistics  
دائرة الإحصاء المركزية

# *Agricultural Census in Israel*

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**Twinning, Component C1**

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## Former Agricultural Censuses

- **Agriculture census 1949-1950**
- **Agriculture census 1971**
- **Agriculture census 1981**
- **Agriculture localities survey 1995**

## Definition of an Active Farm

- **1971 Census- a farm unit with production value above 2,000 Israeli Lira** 
- **1981 Census and 1995 survey- a farm unit with gross added value above 3,000 Shekel and new shekel** 
-  **2016?**

# Number of farms along the census years

	<b><i>1971</i></b>	<b><i>1981</i></b>	<b><i>1995</i></b>
<b>Total number of farms</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>44,930</b>	<b>25,448</b>
Farms in “Moshavim”	19,500	22,794	15,546
Private farms in the urban or rural sector	5,100	5,934	3,758
Farms in the Arab sector	10,000	14,355	5,817
Kibbutz and cooperative localities	282	307	313



## Other changes along the census years

- Changes in income from agriculture
- Technological and agricultural changes
- Transformation from labor into machinery intensity
- Changes in the prices of agricultural products
- Changes in the agricultural area
- Transition from full time jobs to part time jobs

# The need for an Agricultural Census?

- Receive a comprehensive picture of the structure of the Israeli Agricultural Farms (crops, ownership, partnerships etc.)
- Examine the impact of the structural changes in the Agricultural Sector, including privatization processes, decentralization and a shift to non-agricultural activities
- Current reliance on low-quality administrative sources with non-objective and biased data
- Construct a farm Register as a frame for future surveys
- Comply with international standards for conducting agricultural census

# Current Sources of Information

- The Business Register
- Ministry of Agriculture (Foreign Labor Requests and Veterinary Services, plots)
- KANAT- Insurance Fund for Natural Risks in Agriculture
- The plants Board and other marketing and production organizations
- The Water Authority and Agricultural Associations (Organized Sector)

# Preparatory activities for a future census

- Collection of all available administrative data sources
- Merging of data from internal and external various sources
- Identification and omitting of record duplications
- Comparison of the merged register file with field data- Large Gaps Discovered!
- Preparatory Survey for improving the frame for the organized sector



## Challenges for a census in Israel

- A data gap between the MARD and the ICBS regarding the size of the agricultural land (4 vs. 3 million Dunams)
- Unknown Number of farmers (10,000-25,000)
- Poor quality of quantity and price data for vegetables and fruits
- Lack of information regarding the price gap in fruits and vegetables
- Lack of information regarding inputs, including irrigation methods, pesticides, fertilizers and machinery

# Topics for Agricultural Census

Inter-Ministerial team recommended the following topics:

- Demographic data
- Form of ownership of the farm
- Partnerships
- Labor in the farm
- Ownership/ leasing of the land
- Area by crop and irrigation methods

# Topics for Agricultural Census (con.)

- Inventory of farm animals
- Non-agricultural activities
- Price gap between the farmer and the wholesaler?
- Land preservation?

# Threshold for Agricultural Farm?

A firm or individual that:

- Its main income derived from agriculture
- Its income from agriculture is above X NIS
- Cultivates an area above X dunams or owns above X animals
- Report to the authorities as farmers

Thank You for  
your Attention

