



Australian Farming in Brief

1999



Employed persons, as at 31 August		1996	1997	1998
Agriculture and services to agriculture				
Males	'000	272.9	268.9	258.5
Females	"	123.9	125.6	124.8
Persons	"	396.8	394.5	383.3
All industries				
Males	"	4 730.4	4 729.2	4 809.4
Females	"	3 589.4	3 586.2	3 727.8
Persons	"	8 319.7	8 315.4	8 537.2
Land use on farms		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Number of establishments engaged in agricultural activity		'000		
Total area of establishments	m ha	465.2	466.1	462.6
Average size of establishments	ha	3 173.1	3 212.9	3 193.4
Area of crops	m ha	19.4	21.1	21.6
Total area of Australia	m ha	-----768.3-----		

Number of establishments with agricultural activity, by industry, year ended 31 March

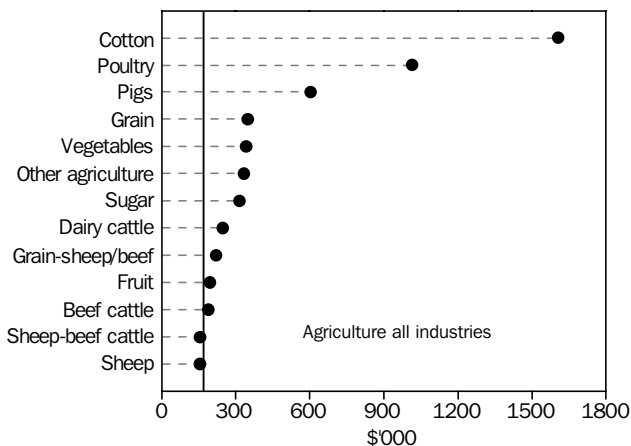
	1996	1997	1998
Plant nurseries	2 005	2 074	2 112
Cut flowers and flower seed growing	920	989	1 043
Vegetable growing	4 838	4 799	4 772
Grape growing	4 719	5 008	5 310
Apple and Pear growing	1 270	1 267	1 279
Stonefruit growing	1 333	1 372	1 307
Kiwi fruit growing	53	39	59
Fruit growing n.e.c.	5 219	5 408	5 408
Grain growing	14 649	16 352	15 289
Grain-sheep/beef cattle farming	18 561	20 517	19 229
Sheep-beef cattle farming	11 064	9 621	8 966
Sheep farming	14 521	14 346	15 267
Beef cattle farming	34 988	32 822	31 785
Dairy cattle farming	13 972	13 975	14 010
Poultry farming (meat)	734	743	843
Poultry farming (eggs)	507	506	520
Pig farming	1 325	1 187	1 217
Horse farming	1 675	1 803	1 613
Deer farming	388	222	225
Livestock farming n.e.c.	2 927	1 759	669
Sugar cane growing	5 065	5 023	5 151
Cotton growing	972	966	1 112
Crop and plant growing n.e.c.	1 497	1 333	1 467
<i>Total agricultural industries</i>	<i>143 202</i>	<i>142 131</i>	<i>138 654</i>
<i>All other industries</i>	<i>3 410</i>	<i>2 955</i>	<i>6 206</i>
Total all industries	146 612	145 086	144 860

Establishments with agricultural activity, by estimated value of agricultural operations, year ended 31 March

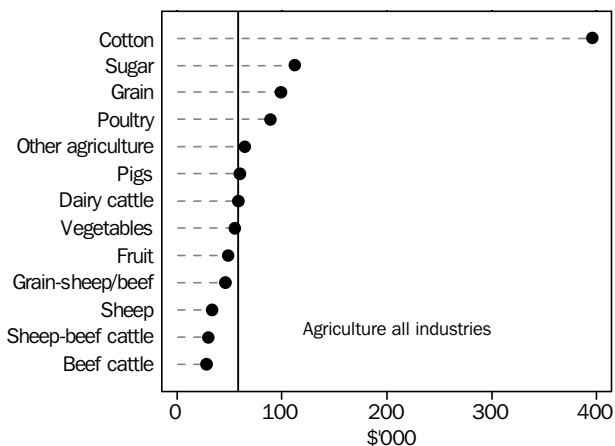
	1996	1997	1998
\$0 - \$22,499	30 048	29 758	30 961
\$22,500-\$29,999	8 037	7 571	7 502
\$30,000-\$39,999	8 575	8 109	7 594
\$40,000-\$49,999	7 145	6 605	6 673
\$50,000-\$59,999	6 368	5 696	5 806
\$60,000-\$74,999	8 059	7 563	7 543
\$75,000-\$99,999	11 399	10 770	10 400
\$100,000-\$149,999	18 050	16 812	16 836
\$150,000-\$199,999	12 739	12 787	12 090
\$200,000-\$499,999	26 811	28 392	28 055
\$500,000 and more	9 381	11 023	11 400
Total	146 612	145 086	144 860

Selected financial statistics of farm businesses
Industry averages p 1997-98

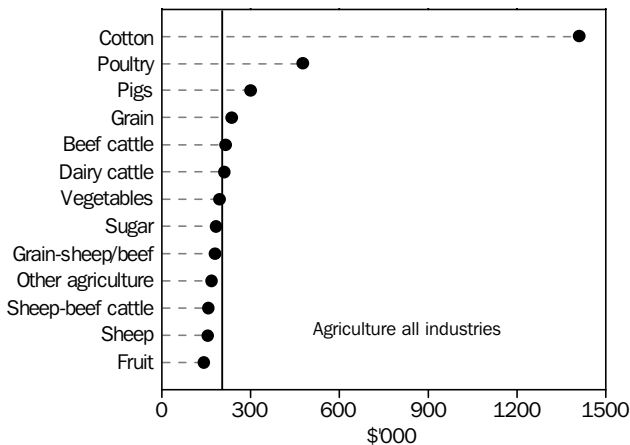
Average turnover



Average cash operating surplus



Average gross indebtedness



Financial statistics of farm businesses		1995-96	1996-97	p 1997-98
Sales from crops	\$m	13 159.6	13 581.2	13 115.8
Sales from livestock	"	6 339.7	5 964.7	5 910.4
Sales from livestock products	"	4 975.1	5 403.3	5 774.8
Turnover	"	26 724.9	27 122.3	27 111.8
Purchases and selected expenses	"	14 948.6	15 692.3	15 721.5
Value added	"	11 185.3	10 797.4	11 488.7
Adjusted value added	"	9 552.5	9 103.2	9 994.7
Gross operating surplus	"	7 176.6	6 588.3	7 459.0
Interest paid	"	1 666.7	1 719.9	1 598.8
Cash operating surplus	"	6 429.3	5 906.3	6 032.6
Total net capital expenditure	"	2 307.9	2 480.7	2 766.7
Gross indebtedness	"	19 592.7	20 464.2	21 330.5

Turnover of farm businesses by industry

		1995-96	1996-97	p 1997-98
Fruit	\$m	1 949.0	2 015.6	1 961.2
Vegetables	"	1 589.3	1 610.8	1 404.9
Grain	"	5 332.2	5 768.3	5 101.9
Grain-sheep/beef	"	4 007.8	4 276.9	4 186.1
Sheep-beef cattle	"	1 489.4	1 075.3	1 197.0
Sheep	"	1 498.9	1 577.4	1 640.6
Beef cattle	"	3 046.7	2 570.1	2 653.3
Dairy cattle	"	2 858.5	3 069.5	3 251.1
Pigs	"	673.8	706.8	627.7
Sugar	"	1 326.9	1 264.9	1 395.4
Cotton	"	1 095.2	1 466.0	1 634.7
Other agriculture	"	1 857.2	1 720.8	1 559.8
All agricultural industries	"	26 724.9	27 122.3	27 111.8

Industry profit margins (a)

		1995-96	1996-97	p 1997-98
Fruit	%	28.2	22.0	23.7
Vegetables	"	22.3	21.0	16.2
Grain	"	35.3	29.9	28.5
Grain-sheep/beef	"	26.3	20.1	21.1
Sheep-beef cattle	"	12.7	17.5	18.9
Sheep	"	16.2	20.9	21.6
Beef cattle	"	14.8	10.8	13.6
Dairy cattle	"	24.9	21.8	23.6
Pigs	"	13.6	17.4	7.8
Sugar	"	36.4	30.2	35.5
Cotton	"	17.0	15.8	24.7
Other agriculture	"	12.6	19.3	19.7
All agricultural industries	"	24.1	21.8	22.3

(a) Profit margin is calculated by dividing the cash operating surplus by turnover and expressing the result as a percentage. Note profit margin is derived before allowing for any drawings taken by working proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses.

Area of selected cereal crops, year ended 31 March

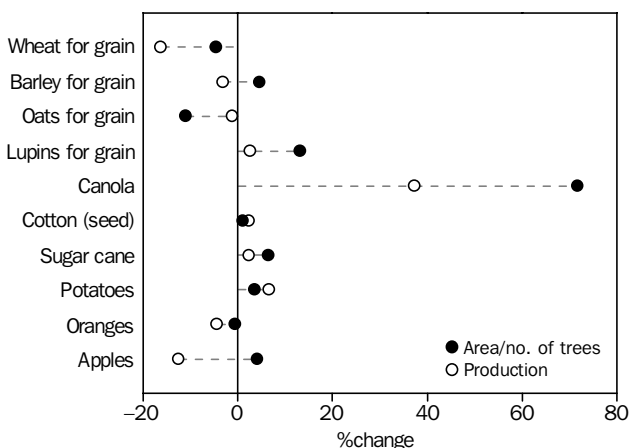
		1996	1997	1998
Wheat for grain	'000 ha	9 221	10 936	10 439
Barley for grain	"	3 111	3 367	3 521
Oats for grain	"	1 136	1 052	937
Grain Sorghum	"	770	544	507
Rice	"	137	152	147
Sugar cane cut for crushing	"	377	390	415
Cotton	"	315	378	381
Potatoes	"	42	41	43

Crop Production, year ended 31 March		1996	1997	1998
Cereals for grain				
Wheat	'000 t	16 504	22 924	19 224
Barley	"	5 823	6 696	6 482
Oats	"	1 875	1 653	1 634
Grain sorghum	"	1 592	1 425	1 081
Rice	"	966	1 255	1 324
Legumes for grain				
Lupins	"	1 559	1 522	1 561
Field peas	"	530	454	316
Crops for hay				
Cereals	"	1 743	1 220	1 567
Other crops (excl cereals)	"	223	109	170
Oilseeds				
Canola	"	557	623	855
Sunflower	"	68	143	84
Other crops				
Sugar cane (cut for crushing)	"	35 889	38 633	39 531
Cotton (seed cotton)	"	923	1 485	1 519
Vegetables for human consumption				
Potatoes	"	1 308	1 286	1 372
Tomatoes	"	371	393	380
Carrots	"	250	257	267
Onions, white and brown	"	244	196	219

Fruit production, year ended 31 March		1996	1997	1998
Citrus				
Oranges	'000 t	442	523	500
Mandarins	"	62	73	63
Pome				
Apples	"	280	353	309
Pears (excluding nashi)	"	156	168	153
Stone fruit				
Peaches	"	60	72	65
Apricots	"	22	26	20
Nectarines	"	18	22	23
Other orchard				
Mangoes	"	27	32	37
Avocados	"	16	20	20
Berry and tropical				
Bananas	"	220	200	223
Pineapples	"	128	123	123
Strawberries	"	11	11	13

Percentage change in selected agricultural commodities

(1997-98 on 1996-97)



Livestock numbers at 31 March

		1996	1997	1998
Cattle and calves	'000	26 377	26 780	26 826
Sheep and lambs	"	121 116	120 228	117 494
Pigs	"	2 526	2 555	2 768

Livestock products, year ended 30 June

		1996	1997	1998
Meat production (carcass weight)				
Beef	'000t	1 711	1 778	1 911
Veal	"	34	38	44
Mutton	"	310	298	333
Lamb	"	265	275	283
Pigmeat	"	r 347	r 339	356
Chicken meat (dressed weight)	"	481	496	550
Wool receivals	"	r 646	685	640
Whole milk factory intake	m litres	8 716	9 024	9 439

Grapes and grape products

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Area of vines at harvest -				
Bearing	'000ha	64.8	72.1	78.1
Not yet bearing	"	15.7	17.7	20.5
Total	"	80.6	89.8	98.6
Grape utilisation (fresh weight)-				
Wine making	'000t	782.4	743.4	870.6
Drying	"	248.3	136.4	176.6
Table/other	"	55.8	63.3	65.0
Total	"	1 086.5	943.1	1 112.2
Dried fruit production (dried weight)-				
Currants	'000t	4.4	2.9	2.4
Sultanas	"	48.1	25.3	33.8
Raisins	"	2.3	2.0	2.7
Total	"	54.9	30.3	38.9
Gross value of grapes	\$m	714.4	721.5	p 949.7
Australian wine production -				
Total wine produced	m litres	673.4	617.4	741.6
Exports of wine from fresh grapes, including fortified wines	"	r 130.2	154.4	192.7

Value of exports for selected primary production commodities

		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Crops				
Wheat	\$m	3 363.3	4 301.4	3 629.6
Barley	"	710.9	815.0	544.5
Canola	"	137.9	124.0	255.3
Cotton seed	"	41.7	45.1	68.6
Oats	"	49.8	r 26.4	30.3
Fruit				
Oranges	"	r 81.5	r 108.8	110.4
Grapes - fresh	"	46.7	67.1	52.6
Grapes - dried	"	34.3	52.1	29.8
Pears and quince	"	26.2	29.8	24.3
Apples	"	33.1	27.9	38.0
Vegetables (fresh or chilled)				
Asparagus	"	30.9	30.4	31.9
Carrots	"	28.8	30.4	35.4
Cauliflower	"	24.4	25.2	22.5
Broccoli	"	17.6	16.2	18.1
Onions	"	23.1	11.5	28.9
Potatoes (excluding for seed)	"	5.9	7.4	7.9
Livestock				
Cattle and calves	"	368.4	445.1	352.3
Sheep and Lambs	"	227.4	193.1	200.2
Pigs	"	0.9	1.4	1.1
Meat (fresh, chilled or frozen)				
Beef	"	2 429.2	2 091.6	2 672.4
Lamb	"	r 176.4	r 218.9	256.0
Mutton	"	268.5	r 254.8	318.4
Pork	"	30.3	33.2	51.7
Veal	"	27.4	20.8	27.7
Wool, greasy	"	1 971.4	2 184.8	2 276.8

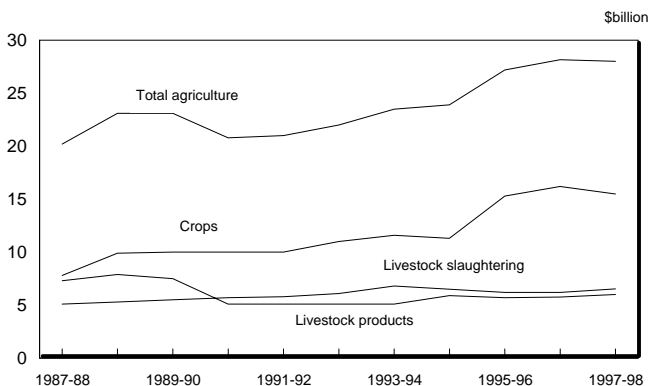
Apparent consumption of selected foodstuffs (per head per year), year ended 30 June

		1995-96	1996-97	p 1997-98
Beef and veal	kg	36.7	39.4	38.4
Lamb	kg	11.3	11.1	10.9
Mutton	kg	5.7	6.9	5.9
Pigmeat	kg	18.5	17.5	17.8
Poultry	kg	28.3	28.4	30.7
Margarine (table and other)	kg	7.9	6.6	6.7
Butter	kg	2.9	2.9	2.7
Cheese	kg	10.5	10.7	10.9
Market milk	litres	104.2	104.2	103.7
Beer	litres	95.3	94.7	95.0
Wine	litres	18.3	19.0	19.7
Spirits	litres alcohol	1.4	1.3	1.4
Aerated and carbonated waters	litres	114.6	114.4	111.7
Tea	kg	0.9	0.8	0.8
Coffee	kg	2.2	2.0	2.3

Gross value of agricultural commodities produced

	\$m	1995-96	1996-97	p 1997-98
Wheat for grain	"	4 304.7	4 878.0	3 844.8
Cattle and calves	"	3 575.9	r 3 390.1	3 762.3
Milk	"	2 848.3	r 2 810.6	2 817.0
Wool	"	2 548.6	2 621.2	2 753.9
Fruit and nuts (excl grapes)	"	1 498.8	r 1 682.9	1 619.0
Vegetables	"	1 616.1	r 1 662.1	1 782.7
Cotton	"	1 002.7	r 1 342.4	1 360.1
Sugar cane cut for crushing	"	1 168.7	1 186.4	1 200.9
Poultry	"	948.1	r 1 067.5	1 110.6
Barley for grain	"	1 276.4	r 1 308.0	1 059.9
Sheep and lambs	"	1 035.7	r 1 038.9	1 005.8
Nurseries and turf	"	646.4	r 642.6	699.2
Pasture and grasses	"	727.4	r 496.9	658.3
Pigs	"	597.8	r 705.2	642.7
Legumes for grain	"	563.6	r 593.6	535.6
Grapes	"	714.4	721.5	949.7
Total agriculture	"	27 230.8	r 28 173.6	28 024.3

Gross value of agricultural commodities produced
Year ended 30 June



Symbols and other usages

ha	hectares	t	tonnes
m ha	million hectares	n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
\$m	million dollars	p	preliminary
m	million	r	revised
kg	kilograms	na	not available

Note:

The estimates for earlier years shown in this publication have been revised where necessary.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

This brochure is an introduction to various aspects of ABS data on Australian agriculture. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' agricultural statistics program aims to provide a range of commodity and financial statistics relating to agriculture.

The main elements of this program involve the conduct of an annual integrated agricultural commodity collection; a number of additional and specific commodity surveys; an agricultural finance survey; the production of derived statistics including estimates of the value of agricultural commodities produced; and estimates of the apparent consumption of foodstuffs.

Estimates for agricultural commodities for 1997-98 in this publication are based on information obtained from the Agricultural Commodity Survey (ACS) conducted for the first time at 31 March 1998.

Since the estimates are based on information obtained from a sample drawn from the total farm population, the estimates are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all farm businesses had been included in the ACS.

Agricultural statistics are available in publications and in electronic form, as well as unpublished data which may be available on request in electronic or hardcopy format.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Contacts for Agricultural services in State Offices:

	<i>By phone</i>	<i>By fax</i>
Australian Capital Territory	02 6252 6627	02 6253 1404
New South Wales	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Victoria	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Queensland	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
Western Australia	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
South Australia	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Tasmania	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
Northern Territory	08 8943 2111	08 8981 1218

or write to: Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616
client.services@abs.gov.au

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