

Western Australia



**Principal
Agricultural Commodities
Western Australia**

(preliminary)
1993-94

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 - For information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back of this publication.
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Main features

The 1993-94 growing season was one of the best in recent years with record or near record production levels for wheat, barley and lupins.

Growers have reported their intention to sow more lupins in 1994-95. The preliminary figures indicate that the area planted may increase by as much as 25 per cent from the 922,000 hectares reported in 1993-94 to 1,200,000 hectares in 1994-95. The trend in recent years suggests a strong correlation between actual and intended sowings.

Preliminary figures show that the 1993-94 wheat harvest increased by 12 per cent to a record 6.7 million tonnes. Growers' reported intentions also point to a further small increase of around four per cent to 3,890,000 hectares to be sown to wheat in 1994-95.

Farmers have indicated a decrease of 24 per cent in the area intended to be sown to barley in 1994-95. This follows a near record 776,000 hectares and 1,350,000 tonnes reported in the 1993-94 season.

Sheep numbers declined only slightly from 33.0 million to 32.7 million between March 1993 and 1994. However, the number of breeding ewes increased by nearly 3 per cent from 13.8 million to 14.2 million over the same period. Farmers forecasts of intended matings for the 1994 lambing season show an increase of around 7 per cent to 14 million.

Meat cattle numbers increased by four per cent to almost 1.6 million at 31 March 1994. However, the State's beef herd has remained fairly stable at around 1.5 to 1.6 million head since 1985.

TABLE 1. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN FOR ALL PURPOSES (a), PRINCIPAL CROPS

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 p	Per cent change 1994-95 over 1993-94	Standard error (%)
<i>'000 hectares</i>						
Barley	568.4	573.8	833.3	633.9	- 23.9	1
Oats	500.6	457.4	398.0	359.6	- 9.6	1
Wheat	2,945.9	3,451.6	3,729.4	3,892.6	4.4	1
Lupins	783.4	801.2	904.5	1,178.3	30.3	1

(a) Represents area intended to be sown as reported at 31 March in the seasons shown. The intended area to be sown during the season 1994-95 is presented as a possible basis for forecasting the total area to be sown for that season. But, because of the possibility of later changes in intention caused by unforeseen circumstances such as adverse climatic or economic conditions, this estimate may not necessarily be the area actually sown during the current season.

TABLE 2. AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF PRINCIPAL CROPS FOR GRAIN

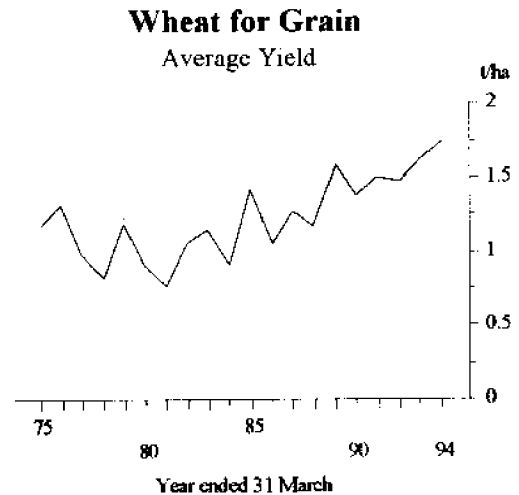
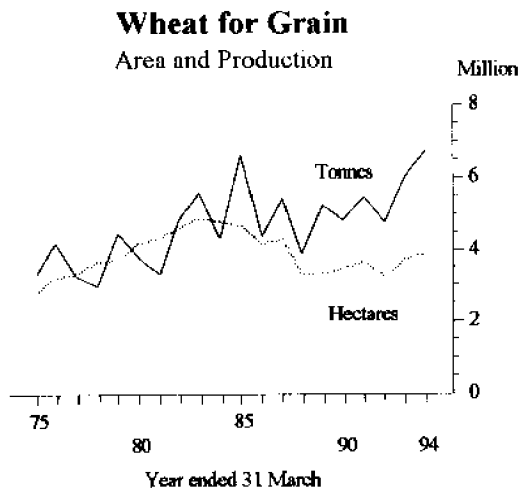
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 p	Per cent change 1993-94 over 1992-93	Standard error (%)
<i>Area ('000 hectares)</i>						
Barley	497.5	554.5	611.1	775.8	27.0	1
Oats	323.4	367.2	331.6	274.9	- 17.1	2
Wheat	3,631.7	3,229.9	3,669.3	3,859.3	5.2	1
Field peas	23.1	45.1	32.4	55.8	72.2	7
Lupins	664.3	786.6	822.8	921.6	12.0	1
<i>Production ('000 tonnes)</i>						
Barley	742.1	899.6	1,060.9	1,355.7	27.8	2
Oats	496.2	614.3	577.9	514.0	- 11.0	1
Wheat	5,448.4	4,736.0	5,978.9	6,702.1	12.1	1
Field peas	16.5	27.2	22.2	51.3	131.1	7
Lupins	624.0	873.8	826.5	1,178.1	42.5	1
<i>Yield (tonnes per hectare)</i>						
Barley	1.49	1.62	1.74	1.75	0.6	n.a.
Oats	1.53	1.67	1.74	1.87	7.5	n.a.
Wheat	1.50	1.47	1.63	1.74	6.7	n.a.
Field peas	0.71	0.60	0.68	0.92	35.6	n.a.
Lupins	0.94	1.11	1.00	1.28	28.0	n.a.

TABLE 3. FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS AND FODDER AT 31 MARCH
(*'000 TONNES*)

	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
<i>Grain stocks</i>						
Barley	126.8	131.7	137.7	150.3	9.2	3
Oats	306.6	328.8	314.9	312.1	- 0.9	1
Wheat	300.8	294.4	310.7	348.7	12.2	2
Lupins	232.2	258.9	250.5	309.4	23.5	2
<i>Fodder stocks</i>						
Hay	484.9	557.6	527.5	495.7	- 6.0	2
Silage	93.8	92.7	110.4	113.7	3.0	4

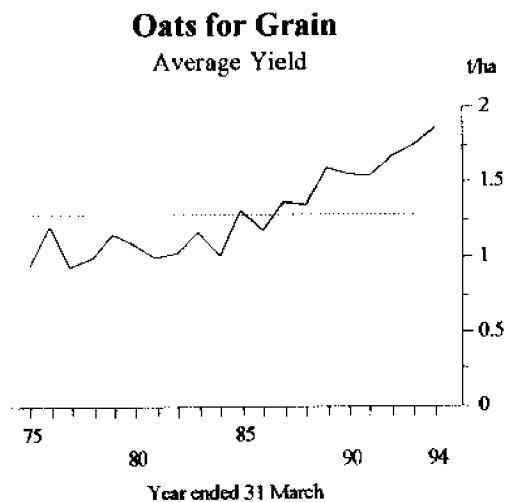
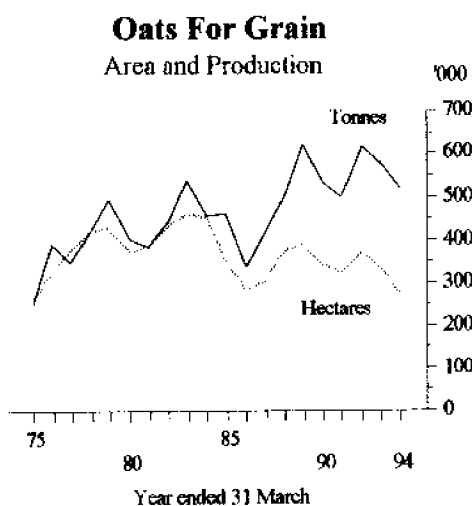
Wheat for Grain

Wheat plantings in 1993-94 were 3.9 million hectares, an increase of 5.2 per cent on the previous year. Good conditions resulted in 6.7 million tonnes harvested at an average yield of 1.74 tonnes per hectare. This is a record yield, exceeding the previous high of 1.63 tonnes per hectare in 1992-93. Intended plantings for 1994-95 of 3.9 million hectares are marginally higher than the 3.7 million forecast for 1993-94.



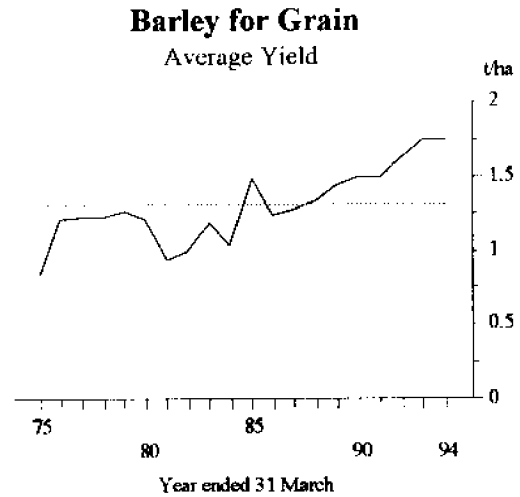
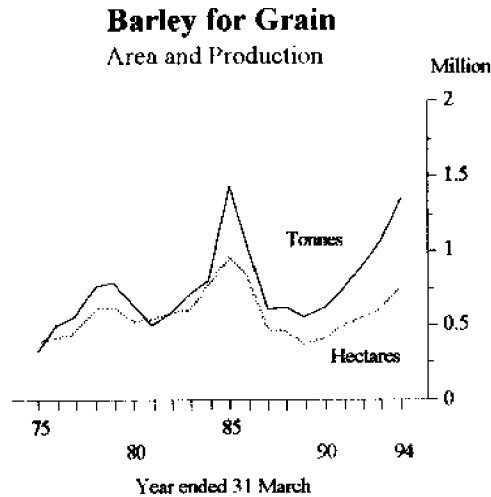
Oats for Grain

The area of oats harvested for grain decreased by nearly 20 per cent from 332,000 hectares in 1992-93 to 275,000 hectares in 1993-94. Grain production fell by just over 10 per cent from 578,000 tonnes to 514,000 tonnes in the same period. However, the average yield was a record 1.87 tonnes per hectare.



Barley for Grain

The 1993-94 barley harvest reached a near record high with an increase of 27 per cent from 1,061,000 tonnes to 1,356,000 tonnes in 1993-94. It is the second highest on record (1,431,000 tonnes were harvested in 1984-85). Forecast plantings for the 1994-95 season are 633,000 hectares, down almost twenty per cent on the 1993-94 area sown.

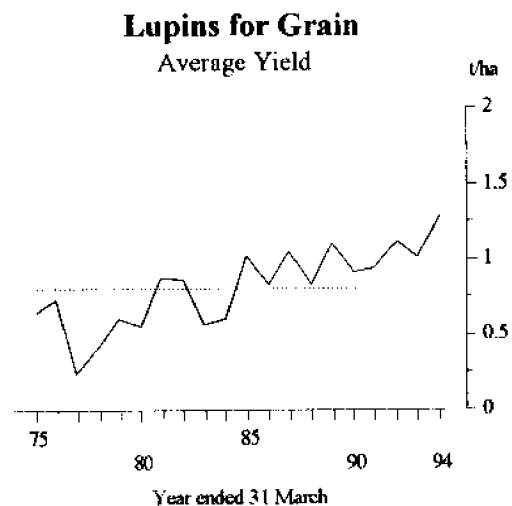
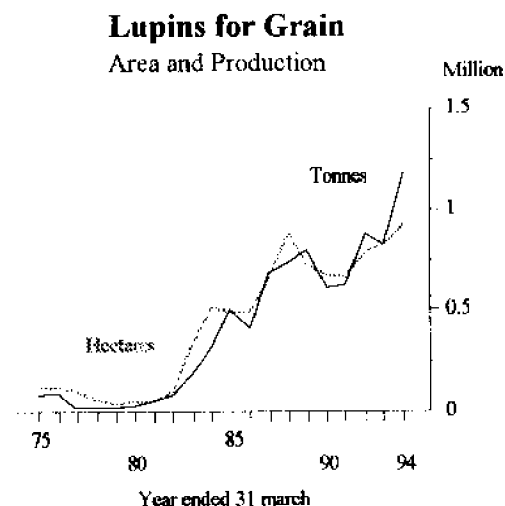


Lupins for Grain

Area and production of lupins in 1993-94 were significantly above the 1992-93 levels. The area was up by 12.0 per cent on 1992-93 and production by 42.5 per cent. As with other grain crops, average yields for lupins were significantly better in 1993-94 compared to 1993-93. This reflects the generally good grain growing season experienced by the Western Australian grain growing belt.

Lupins for grain are now Western Australia's third most important grain crop after wheat and barley. Forecasts by farmers indicated that the 1994-95 season will see a further major increase in the area sown to lupins.

Over the past twelve years, lupin production has increased more than six fold from 180,000 tonnes in 1982-83 to a record 1,178,000 tonnes in 1993-94. Preliminary figures indicate that the 1993-94 average yield of 1.28 tonnes per hectare is a record.



Sheep

Sheep numbers declined only marginally between March 1993 and March 1994, with a fall of less than one per cent from 32.96 million to 32.69 million. Significantly, all of this decrease was due to the fall in the number of wethers rather than in the numbers of breeding stock. Preliminary figures show a small (2.5 per cent) increase in the number of breeding ewes at 31 March 1994 over the 1993 figure. This, and the increased intended matings (7 per cent) for the 1994 breeding season, reflect the improving sheep industry outlook.

Between 1990 and 1994, the State's sheep flock has fallen by 15 per cent from the record level of 38.4 million. Over the same period, the Australian sheep population has fallen by more than 20 per cent.

The 1993 lambing season proved marginally better than 1992 with an average lambing ratio (lambs marked to ewes mated) of 76 per cent. The preliminary figures indicate a 7 per cent increase in the number of ewes intended to be mated for the 1994 lambing season.

TABLE 4. SHEEP NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH

	('000)					
	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Sheep and lambs						
Rams	382.0	359.4	349.6	368.4	5.4	1
Breeding ewes	13,623.9	14,376.0	13,837.9	14,179.8	2.5	1
Other ewes	3,205.5	2,269.2	1,753.4	2,025.6	15.5	2
Wethers	11,199.9	10,882.3	9,760.7	8,472.2	- 13.2	1
Lambs and hoggets, under one year	7,978.7	6,173.4	7,263.1	7,647.1	5.3	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>36,390.0</i>	<i>34,060.5</i>	<i>32,964.7</i>	<i>32,693.1</i>	<i>- 0.8</i>	<i>n.a</i>

Sheep and Lambs

At 31 March

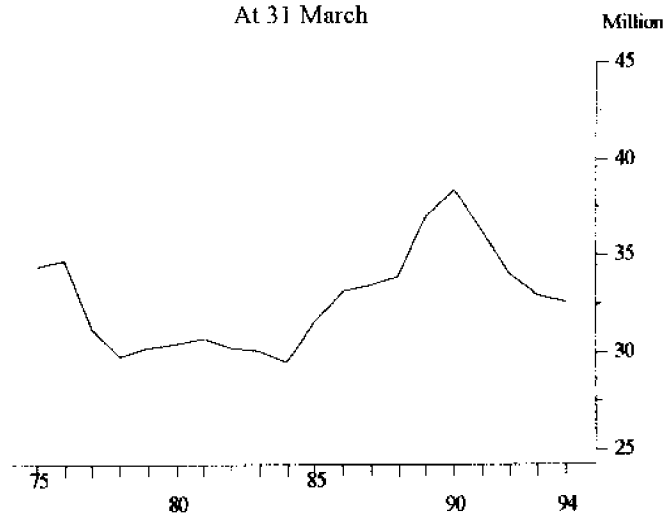
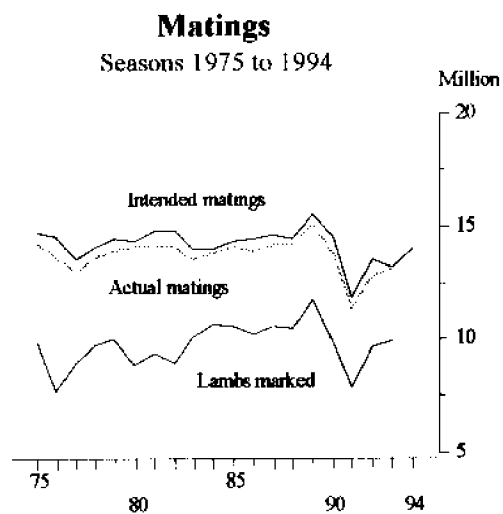
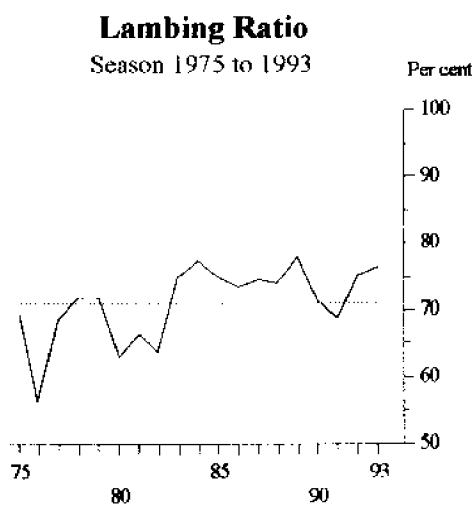


TABLE 5. LAMBING, SEASONS 1991 TO 1994

	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
(000)						
Breeding ewes at 31 March	13,623.9	14,376.0	13,837.9	14,179.8	2.5	1
Farmers' forecast of intended matings of ewes or ewe lambs for lambing in the next season						
To merino rams	9,869.2	11,754.7	11,150.0	11,577.9	3.8	1
To rams of other breeds	1,932.4	1,817.2	1,988.1	2,425.3	22.0	2
Total intended matings	11,801.5	13,571.9	13,138.1	14,003.2	6.6	n.a.
Actual matings	11,375.6	12,846.3	13,078.0	n.y.a.	1.8	1
Lambs marked	7,838.7	9,652.3	9,967.2	n.y.a.	3.3	1
Per cent						
Actual matings as a percentage of						
Breeding ewes	83	89	95	n.y.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Intended matings	96	95	99	n.y.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs marked as a percentage of						
Actual matings	69	75	76	n.y.a.	n.a.	n.a.



Wool Production

The 1993-94 wool clip, as reported in the Agricultural Census was 180,000 tonnes, which is approximately the same amount as the two preceding years.

This is in contrast to the national situation where a further drop (5.4 per cent) in wool production has been reported.

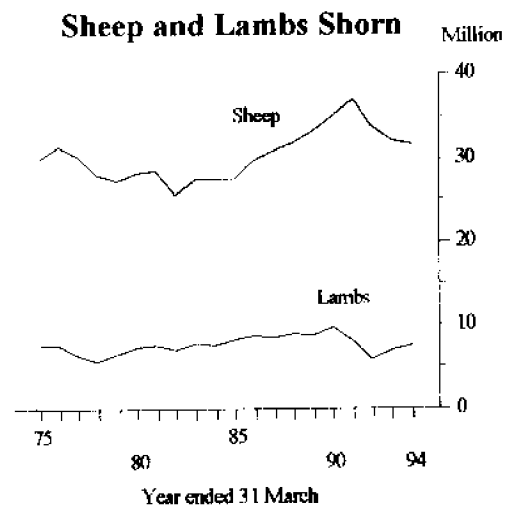
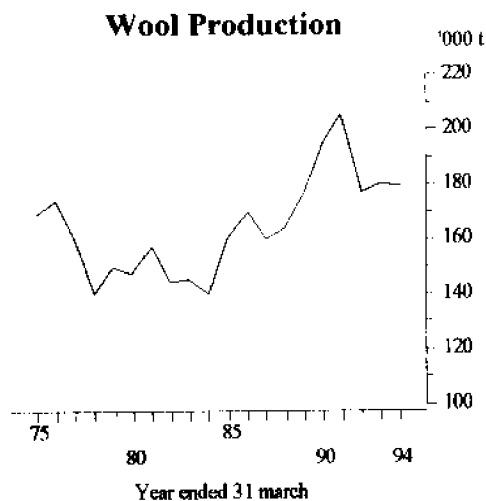
The average cut per head of sheep was 5.33 kilograms as against the national average of 5.11 kilograms.

TABLE 6. SHEARING AND WOOL PRODUCTION (a)
Year ended 31 March

		1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Sheep							
Number shorn	'000	36,743.3	33,793.5	31,920.0	31,494.0	- 1.3	-
Shorn wool (b)	'000 tonnes	193,397.3	168,416.1	169,556.2	167,717.9	- 1.1	1
Average clip	kg	5.26	4.98	5.31	5.33	0.4	n.a.
Lambs							
Number shorn	'000	7,922.4	5,723.2	7,071.2	7,466.7	5.6	1
Shorn wool	'000 tonnes	12,134.4	8,608.2	10,811.2	11,888.5	10.0	1
Average clip	kg	1.53	1.50	1.53	1.59	3.9	n.a.
Total							
Number shorn	'000	44,665.7	39,516.7	38,991.2	38,960.7	- 0.1	1
Shorn wool (b)	'000 tonnes	205,530.7	177,024.3	180,367.4	179,606.4	- 0.4	1
Average clip	kg	4.60	4.48	4.62	4.61	- 0.2	n.a.

(a) Based on Agricultural Census data.

(b) Includes crutchings.



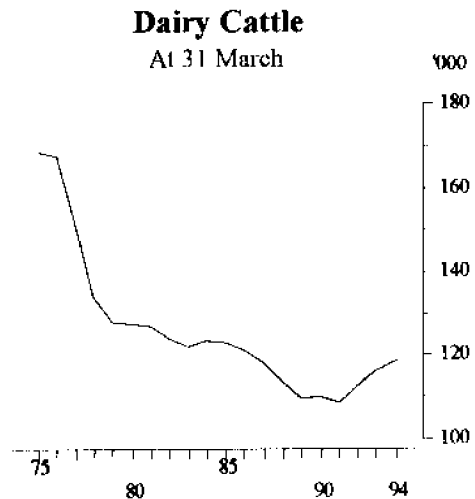
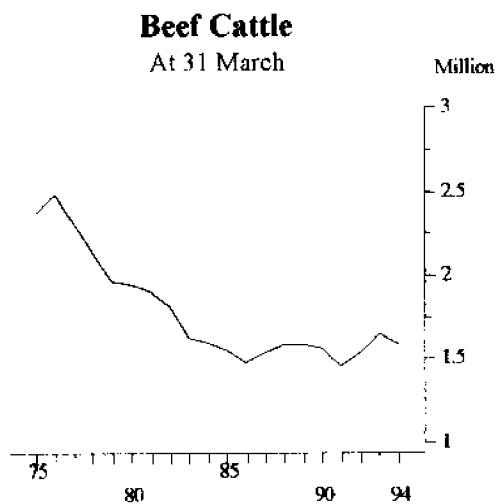
Cattle

Meat cattle numbers increased by four per cent from 1,532,000 to 1,594,000 between March 1993 and March 1994. After reaching a peak of 2,487,000 head in 1976, the State's beef herd has declined by more than a third. It appears to have stabilised at around 1.5 to 1.6 million head.

Milk cattle numbers, in line with the recent trend, have continued to increase. Between March 1993 and March 1994, dairy cattle numbers rose by a further 2.4 per cent from 116,000 to 119,000 head. This is a fall of around a third since the peak of the mid 70's.

TABLE 7. CATTLE NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH
('000)

	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Dairy cattle						
Bulls and bull calves for service	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	10.0	6
Cows, in milk and dry	65.3	68.1	69.8	71.1	1.9	1
Heifers and heifer calves	42.4	43.6	45.4	46.8	3.1	3
<i>Total dairy cattle</i>	<i>108.7</i>	<i>112.8</i>	<i>116.2</i>	<i>119.0</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Beef cattle						
Bulls and bull calves for service	48.8	47.1	44.4	41.3	- 7.0	5
Other calves under one year	351.0	373.8	364.7	392.8	7.7	3
Cows and heifers, one year and over						
For beef herd replacement			656.7	679.7	3.5	2
Other			187.7	199.8	6.4	2
Other cattle	309.8	333.8	278.5	279.9	0.5	5
<i>Total beef cattle</i>	<i>1,457.3</i>	<i>1,536.3</i>	<i>1,532.0</i>	<i>1,593.5</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Total all cattle	1,566.0	1,649.1	1,648.2	1,712.5	3.9	n.a.

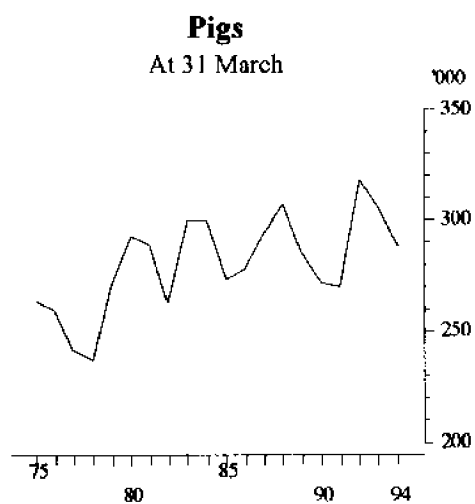


Pigs

Preliminary estimates show a further fall in the total number of pigs during 1993-94. The 31 March 1994 number fell 5.7 per cent below the 1993 level. The number of breeding sows and gilts fell by 3.3 per cent from 31 March 1993 to 31 March 1994.

TABLE 8. PIG NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH
('000)

<i>Item</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994 p</i>	<i>Per cent change 1994 over 1993</i>	<i>Standard error (%)</i>
Pigs						
Boars	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	0.0	2
Breeding sows and gilts	34.6	38.2	36.4	35.2	-3.3	3
Other pigs	232.7	276.6	266.1	249.9	-6.1	2
Total pigs	270.4	317.8	305.3	287.9	-5.7	n.a.



EXPLANATORY NOTES

This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates from the 1993-94 season, together with estimates of intended sowings of principal crops and intended ewe matings for the forthcoming season. Comparative data for the three previous years are also included.

Scope and coverage

2. The ABS has in the recent past excluded from the Census those establishments which make only a small contribution to overall agricultural production.

3. From 1986-87 to 1990-91 the scope of the Census included those establishments undertaking agricultural activity and having an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of \$20,000 or more. From 1992-92 to 1992-93, only those establishments with an EVAO of \$22,500 or more were included.

4. The 1993-94 Census is based on a scope of \$5,000 or more EVAO. However, the estimates presented in this publication are based on the same scope as the previous two Censuses to enable direct comparisons to be drawn.

Reliability of estimates

5. Since the estimates are based on a proportion (approximately forty per cent) of agricultural establishments selected for survey in 1993-94, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all units had been included.

6. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied because only a sample of units was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all units had been included and about 19 chances in twenty

that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

7. In this publication, sampling variability is measured by the relative standard error which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The relative standard error is a useful measure, in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling. It avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate.

8. As an example of the above, if a sample gives an estimate of 1,000 hectares and the relative standard error is 5 per cent then there would be two chances in three that, if all units were included, a figure within the range of 950 to 1,050 hectares would have been obtained. There would also be nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would lie within the range 900 to 1,100 hectares.

Symbols and other usages

kg	kilograms
-	nil or rounded to zero
n.a.	not available
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary - figure or series

General

9. The ABS has more detailed agricultural statistics on MS-DOS compatible floppy disk, compact disc, microfiche and magnetic tape. AgStats on floppy disk and compact disk offers a wider range of data aggregated at smaller geographical areas than those generally available in printed publications. Both systems come complete with an easy-to-use, menu-driven interrogation facility.

10. Current publications and other standard products and services are listed in the Catalogue of Publications (1101.0). The catalogue is available from any ABS office.







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