

CATALOGUE NUMBER 7113.7  
EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 27 JULY 1994

## AGRICULTURE AND FISHING, NORTHERN TERRITORY SEASON 1992-93

### NOTE

This publication contains results from the annual Agricultural Census of the Northern Territory conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Data supplied by the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries has also been included.

Figures quoted in this publication relate only to large commercial properties in the Northern Territory with an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) greater than \$22,500 in 1991-92 and \$20,000 for earlier years.

Explanatory notes are published at the back of this publication.

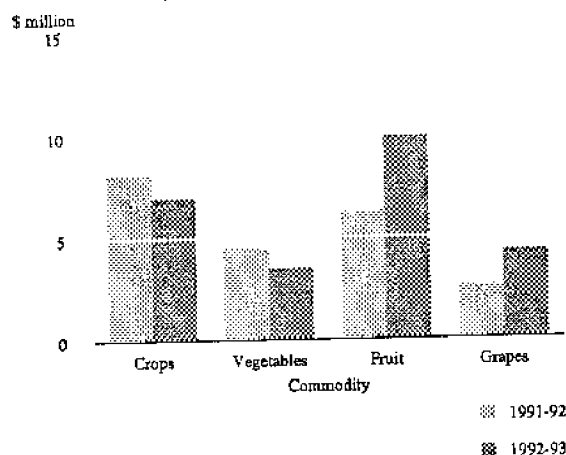
### MAIN FEATURES

During the Northern Territory's 1992-93 season, commercial agriculture and fishing production amounted to \$173.2 million, a decrease of \$1.6 million (1.0 per cent) over the previous year's production levels. At 31 March 1993, 298 Territory producers were involved in commercial agriculture with property holdings totalling 69.9 million hectares.

#### Horticulture

Northern Territory horticulture production in the 1992-93 season was valued at \$24.8 million, an increase of \$3.3 million over that of the 1991-92 season. In season 1992-93 there was a \$1.0 million decrease in the value of vegetables. It should be noted that whilst the restriction on exportation of NT produce to southern markets due to Thrips palmi has been lifted it will take some time to re-establish previous levels of production. In 1992-93 there was a \$3.7 million increase in the value of fruit production. This increase was mainly due to an increase in mango production.

VALUE OF FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION  
YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH  
NORTHERN TERRITORY



#### INQUIRIES:

*for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished data contact Steve White on Darwin (089) 432 160 or any ABS State Office.*  
*for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication*

## MAIN FEATURES

### Beef Cattle and Buffalo

The Northern Territory cattle and livestock products industry, which includes local slaughtering, interstate movement and live exports, produced \$113.7 million for the 1992-93 season. This was a decrease of \$11.4 million from the previous season, primarily due to a decrease in livestock slaughterings.

Interstate cattle movements continued to account for the majority of Northern Territory cattle disposals. South Australia received 54.5 per cent of total interstate movements, Queensland 31.4 per cent and Western Australia 9.5 per cent. 72.2 per cent of cattle moved interstate were fattened, the remaining 27.8 per cent were for slaughter. An important factor influencing the level of interstate cattle movements in any particular year is the prevailing climatic conditions in the Northern Territory.

70,097 head of live cattle and buffalo were exported in 1992-93, an increase of 5,812 (9.0 per cent) over the 1991-92 level.

In the 1992-93 season, 214 Territory producers reported 1.3 million head of cattle on their holdings, 99.9 per cent of which were meat cattle. The highest concentrations of cattle numbers were in the statistical local areas, Victoria, Tableland and Sandover- Balance, which together accounted for 66.0 per cent of all Northern Territory cattle.

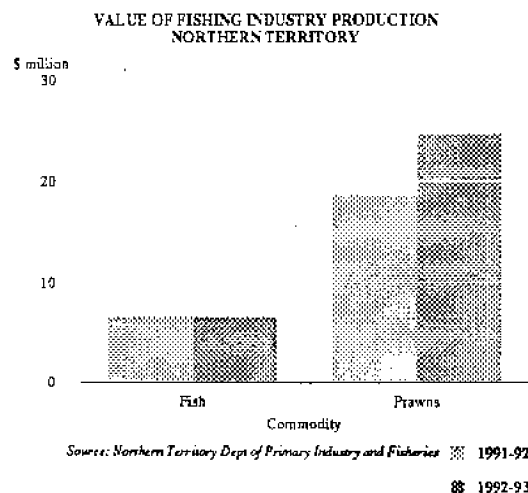
### Fish, Crustaceans and Molluscs

The total estimated value of landings in the Northern Territory fishing industry for 1992-93 was \$33.3 million, an increase of \$6.6 million over that for the 1991-92 season. This increase is attributable to an increase in 1992-93 prawn landings following a higher rainfall in 1992-93.

The value of the prawn catch accounted for 73.9 per cent of this total catch compared with 69.6 per cent of the 1991-92 catch.

The total estimated value of fish landings for 1992-93 was \$6.5 million. Barramundi was the major species contributor with \$2.1 million. The barramundi live catch weight of 451,005 kg was a slight decrease compared to 1991-92.

Total estimated value of crustaceans landed in 1992-93 was \$26.8 million. The prawn landing of 2.3 tonnes was an increase of 14.7 per cent from 1991-92.



**BOB HARRISON**  
Statistician, Northern Territory

TABLE 1. VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY

	(\$ '000)		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Field Crops & Horticulture (a)(b)	20,476	21,485	24,800
Livestock slaughterings/other disposals & livestock products (c)	121,538	125,127	113,683
Fish (d)	31,195	28,243	34,758
<b>Total Agriculture &amp; Fishing</b>	<b>173,209</b>	<b>174,855</b>	<b>173,241</b>

(a) Includes fruit and vegetables.

(b) Figures relate to years ended 31 March.

(c) Includes livestock slaughtered in the NT, livestock movements interstate and exported live overseas. Also included are dressed poultry and livestock products such as milk and eggs. Data supplied by Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry &amp; Fisheries, figures relate to years ended 30 June.

(d) Includes value of crustaceans, molluscs and Mother of Pearl shell. Fishing industry data supplied by Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry &amp; Fisheries for years ended 30 June.

TABLE 2. TOTAL AREA OF HOLDINGS AND NUMBER OF PRODUCERS  
AT 31 MARCH 1993

Statistical Local Area	Total area of holding (ha)	Number of producers
Litchfield (S) - Pt B	117,121	52
South Alligator	527,978	8
Daly	1,217,410	13
Elsey - Bal	6,358,868	40
Gulf	5,709,660	15
Victoria	11,464,676	31
Tableland	12,946,119	20
Tennant Creek - Bal	5,989,327	12
Petermann	7,492,276	19
Sandover - Bal	10,143,989	35
Tanami	7,755,516	25
Other	130,178	28
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>69,853,118</b>	<b>298</b>

TABLE 3. VALUE OF FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY  
YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH  
(\$ '000)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Field Crops	7,590	8,149	6,995
Vegetables	6,326	4,493	3,507
Fruit	4,476	6,275	10,016
Grapes	2,084	2,569	4,315
<b>Total Field Crops &amp; Horticultural Commodities</b>	<b>20,476</b>	<b>21,486</b>	<b>24,833</b>

TABLE 4. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ON HOLDINGS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AT 31 MARCH

	1991	1992	1993
Cattle	1,352,580	1,334,289	1,347,223
Domesticated Buffalo	18,623	12,992	10,382
Pigs	2,496	2,528	2,681
Goats	1,754	524	1,074
Horses	14,039	14,436	11,905

TABLE 5.  
CATTLE NUMBERS AND NUMBER OF PRODUCERS  
AT 31 MARCH 1993

Statistical Local Area	Numbers	Number of producers
Victoria	380,626	31
Tableland	357,105	19
Sandover - Bal	150,782	34
Tanami	86,749	22
Elsey - Bal	86,824	31
Tennant Creek - Bal	74,491	12
Petermann	56,426	18
Daly	74,961	12
Gulf	33,594	12
Other	45,665	23
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>1,347,223</b>	<b>214</b>

GRAPH 1. PROPORTION OF CATTLE IN SELECTED AREAS  
AT 31 MARCH 1993TABLE 6. NUMBER OF ALL CATTLE & CALF DISPOSALS  
YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH

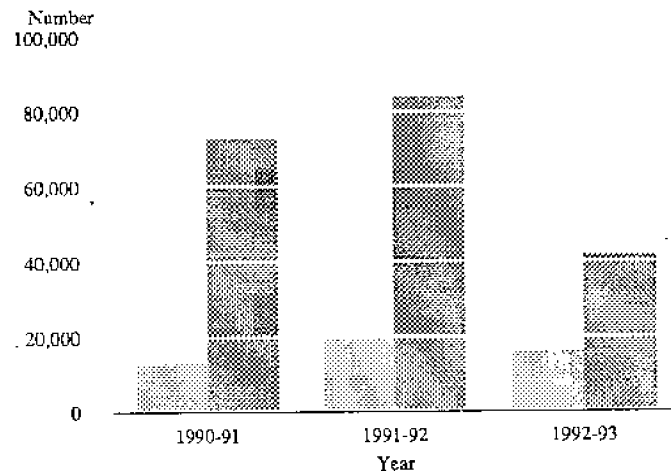
Statistical Local Area	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Victoria	75,578	78,542	83,468
Tableland	63,517	91,056	139,142
Sandover - Bal	38,802	38,186	39,656
Tanami	20,196	22,604	22,064
Elsey - Bal	17,180	10,978	15,716
Tennant Creek - Bal	15,590	12,121	18,696
Petermann	11,354	15,381	13,060
Daly	5,558	8,698	15,110
Gulf	11,072	7,052	7,339
Other	7,803	8,953	12,826
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>266,650</b>	<b>293,571</b>	<b>367,077</b>

TABLE 7. INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS(a)

<i>Destination</i>	<i>1990-91</i> <i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>1991-92</i> <i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>1992-93</i> <i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Total</i>
South Australia	47,959	26,224	74,183	19,390	52,280	71,670	28,848	71,223	100,071
Queensland	12,768	72,781	85,549	19,758	84,041	103,799	15,830	41,767	57,597
Western Australia	3,678	2,584	6,262	6,442	4,081	10,523	6,349	11,187	17,536
Other States	269	1,288	1,557	724	551	1,275	-	8,510	8,510
<b>Total Interstate</b>	<b>64,674</b>	<b>102,877</b>	<b>167,551</b>	<b>46,314</b>	<b>140,953</b>	<b>187,267</b>	<b>51,027</b>	<b>132,687</b>	<b>183,714</b>

(a) Refer to explanatory notes.

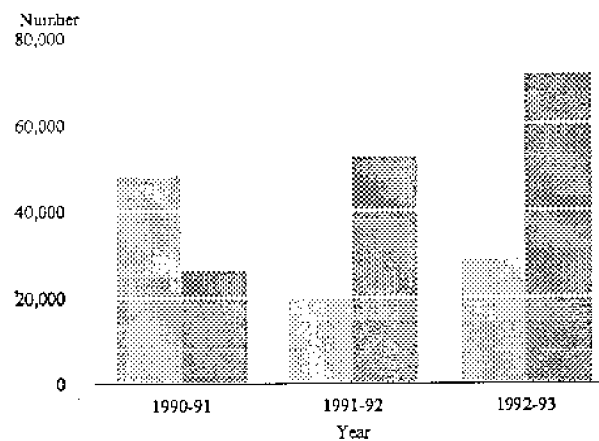
Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry &amp; Fisheries

GRAPH 2. LIVE CATTLE MOVEMENTS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY TO QUEENSLAND

Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries

Slaughter

Store

GRAPH 3. LIVE CATTLE MOVEMENTS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries

Slaughter

Store

TABLE 8. DOMESTICATED BUFFALO NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH

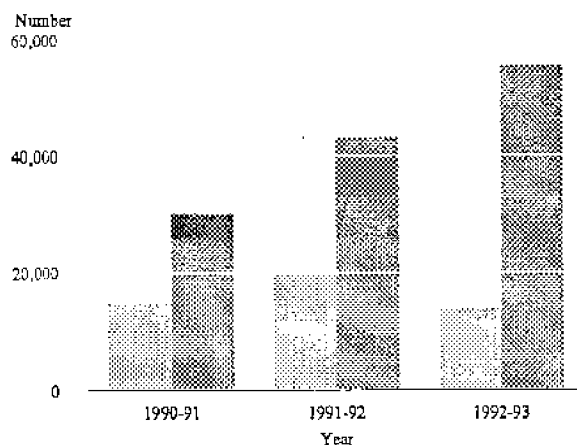
Statistical Local Area	1991	1992	1993
Alligator - Sth	5,507	4,683	2,862
Daly	2,424	505	390
Elsey - Bal	9,204	7,234	6,708
Victoria	1,191	96	117
Other	297	474	305
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>18,623</b>	<b>12,992</b>	<b>10,382</b>

TABLE 9. NUMBER AND VALUE OF BUFFALO SLAUGHTERED AT NT ABATTOIRS

Year	Number	Estimated Value (\$'000) (a)
1990-91	11,577	2,988
1991-92	7,570	2,063
1992-93	4,431	1,151

(a) Estimated values are calculated as the product of the number of buffalo which were slaughtered (and passed meat inspection) and the average value per head. The average value per head is based on monthly abattoir prices and average dressed weights. The buffalo slaughtering statistics are based on monthly summaries prepared by meat inspectors.

Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry & Fisheries tabulations.

GRAPH 4. LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries

■ Slaughter  
■ Store

TABLE 10. LIVE CATTLE & BUFFALO EXPORTS(a)  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Commodity	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
	Numbers		
<b>Cattle</b>			
Slaughter	14,593	19,657	13,743
Store	30,137	43,270	55,433
<b>Total Cattle</b>	<b>44,730</b>	<b>62,927</b>	<b>69,176</b>
<b>Buffalo</b>			
Slaughter	1,807	1,353	886
Store	-	5	35
<b>Total Buffalo</b>	<b>1,807</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>921</b>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>46,537</b>	<b>64,285</b>	<b>70,097</b>

(a) Figures also include NT cattle & buffalo exported via Wyndham, W.A.  
Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry & Fisheries.

TABLE 11. BEEF &amp; BUFFALO MEAT EXPORTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Commodity	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	tonnes	\$A'000	tonnes	\$A'000	tonnes	\$A'000
Fresh Beef	100	544	1,927	6,730	79	398
Fresh Buffalo	155	526	52	135	17	66
<b>Total Fresh Meat</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>6,865</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>464</b>
Frozen Beef	6,555	21,384	11,287	34,550	6,649	21,072
Frozen Buffalo	1,022	3,813	665	2,377	368	1,391
<b>Total Frozen Meat</b>	<b>7,577</b>	<b>25,197</b>	<b>11,952</b>	<b>36,927</b>	<b>7,017</b>	<b>22,463</b>
<b>Total Meat Exports</b>	<b>7,832</b>	<b>26,267</b>	<b>13,931</b>	<b>43,792</b>	<b>7,113</b>	<b>22,927</b>

# NORTHERN TERRITORY RAINFALL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1993

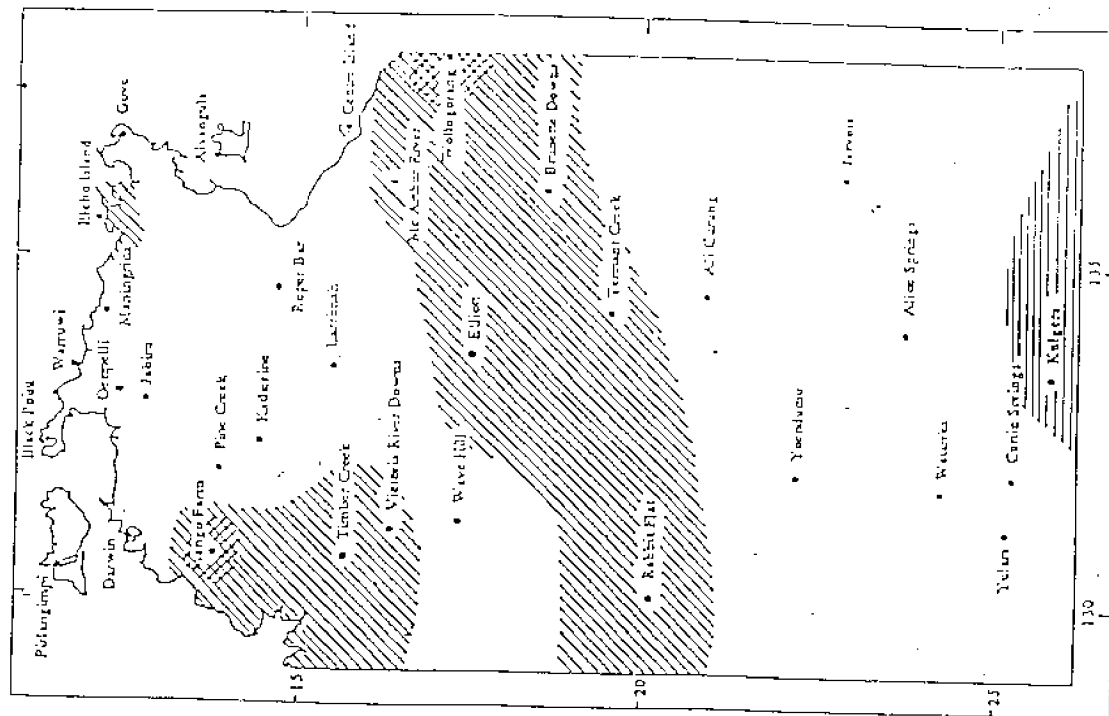


TABLE 12. RAINFALL TOTALS (a)  
YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH

Station name	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Actual rainfall (mm)	Decile	Actual rainfall (mm)	Decile	Actual rainfall (mm)	Decile
Darwin	2351.8	10	901.3	L(b)	1733.4	7
Katherine	1288.3	9	600.3	L	1014.8	n.a
Tennant Creek	552.4	8	165.2	L	667.8	9
Alice Springs	265.6	6	75.0	L	206.8	4

(a) Refer to explanatory notes for information regarding deciles. (b) L represents lowest level on record. Source: Bureau of Meteorology

# NORTHERN TERRITORY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS

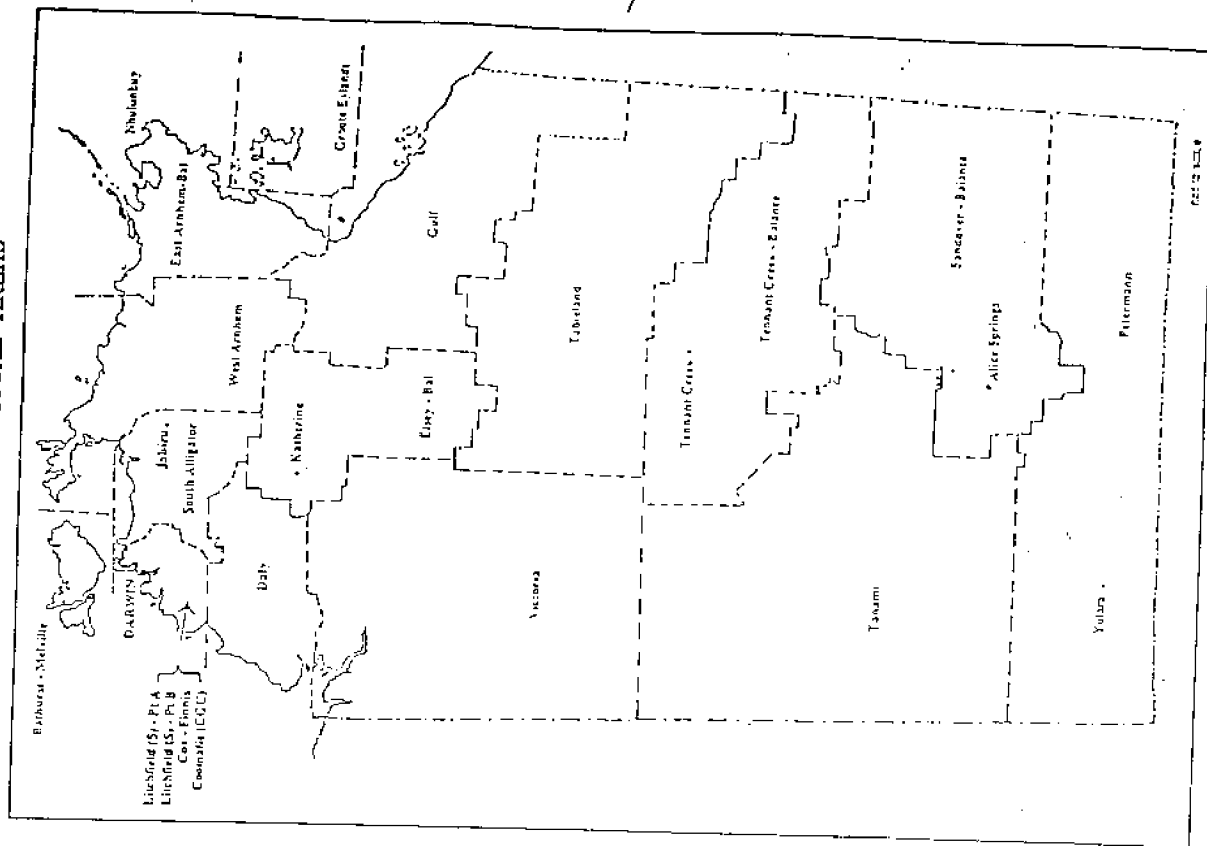


TABLE 13. NORTHERN TERRITORY FISHING INDUSTRY, SELECTED SPECIES LANDINGS

Species	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Catch live weight (tonnes)	Estimated value (\$000)	Catch live weight (tonnes)	Estimated value (\$000)	Catch live weight (tonnes)	Estimated value (\$000)
<b>FISH</b>						
Barramundi	457	1,721	457	1,689	451	2,073
Mackerel	414	995	386	876	248	727
Shark	365	490	495	841	529	935
Snapper	338	1,111	529	1,592	457	1,192
Other	1,034	1,812	704	1,576	605	1,535
<i>Total Fish</i>	<i>2,608</i>	<i>6,129</i>	<i>2,571</i>	<i>6,574</i>	<i>2,291</i>	<i>6,462</i>
<b>CRUSTACEANS</b>						
Prawn (a)	2,733	23,954	2,044	18,573	2,344	24,600
Mud Crab	112	728	196	1,374	207	2,052
Other	12	188	19	86	23	143
<i>Total Crustaceans</i>	<i>2,857</i>	<i>24,870</i>	<i>2,259</i>	<i>20,033</i>	<i>2,573</i>	<i>26,795</i>
<b>MOLLUSCS</b>						
Pearl Shell (b)	69,000	125	52,000	n.a.	49,000	n.a.
Scallops	14	35	9	23	6	12
Other	13	35	29	53	9	24
<i>Total Molluscs</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>36</i>
<b>N. T. Fisheries</b>	<b>5,493</b>	<b>31,195</b>	<b>4,868(c)</b>	<b>26,683(c)</b>	<b>4,879(d)</b>	<b>33,293(d)</b>

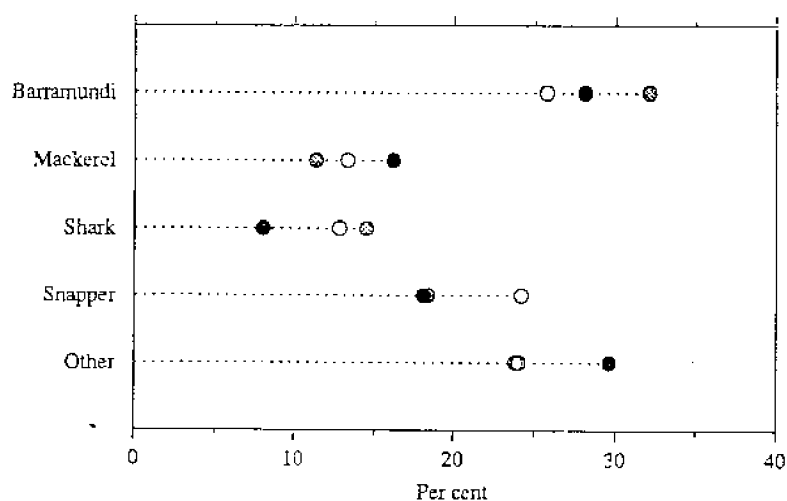
(a) Figures are obtained from Northern Territory trader purchases and Dept Primary Industry & Fisheries Export Inspection service.

(b) Figures relate to number of shell only and are not included in the total weight. The estimated value relates only to shell taken for Mother of Pearl.

(c) Total excludes value of pearl shell retained for pearl production.

(d) Totals exclude Trepan weight (45.6 tonnes) and value (\$240,000).

Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry & Fisheries

GRAPH 5. VALUE OF FISH LANDINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CATCH  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Source: Northern Territory Dept of Primary Industry and Fisheries

● 1990-91

○ 1991-92

⊗ 1992-93



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Scope and coverage

Unless otherwise specified, statistics in this publication are derived from the annual Agricultural Census conducted throughout Australia at 31 March, which collects data from establishments with agricultural activity.

2. To minimise demands on small operators for statistical information and to reduce the cost of processing the Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) excludes from the Census those establishments that make only a small contribution to overall agricultural production. From 1986-87 the scope of the Census excludes those establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) less than \$20,000. From 1991-92 this figure has been increased to \$22,500.

3. Generally, an operator who works on more than one establishment must supply separate annual returns for each establishment. If, however, the establishments are not far apart geographically, and are worked as one, the operator may (and in most cases does) supply a single composite return. For statistical purposes, establishments covered by a composite return are treated as a single agricultural establishment. Where an establishment extends into two or more statistical local areas, all operations of that establishment are attributed to the statistical local area in which the homestead is located.

4. Some data in this publication is obtained from information supplied to agencies other than the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in which case the ABS scope and coverage parameters do not apply. Data items involved are:

- (a) Interstate cattle movements.
- (b) Rainfall.
- (c) Live exports.
- (d) Fishing industry landings.

### Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)

5. The ASGC is a system for the classification of statistical units by geographical areas.

6. The system is hierarchical with each geographical area constituting a particular level in one of seven hierarchies.

7. At the base of one hierarchy are the smallest geographic classifications, the Census Districts. These districts may then be combined to form Statistical Local Areas (as referred to in the map provided), the next level in the hierarchy. This process of aggregation continues upward to Statistical Subdivisions (SSD's), then Statistical Divisions (SD's), then States/Territories (S) and finally Australia.

### Deciles

8. Mean or average rainfall figures can give a misleading impression of the regime, especially in tropical parts of the Northern Territory. The decile ranges give a better indication of how dry or wet the month or year has been than the departure from the 'mean' or 'average'. All rainfalls received at a particular station are ranked in order from lowest to highest. The lowest 10 per cent are in decile range 1, the next 10 per cent are in decile range 2, and so on, the highest 10 per cent being in decile range 10.

### Interstate Livestock Movements

9. Data on interstate livestock movements is derived from information reported at three State/Territory border locations.

10. Cattle movements to Western Australia are reported to the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry & Fisheries by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture in Kununurra.

11. Data on the movement of cattle to Queensland is supplied by the Queensland Department of Primary Industry in Mt Isa.

12. The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry & Fisheries in Alice Springs reports all cattle movements to South Australia and other southern States.

### Fishing Industry Landings

13. Landings is the term used to refer to fish caught in Northern Territory waters but not necessarily off-loaded at Northern Territory ports. However, prawn landings refer only to catches off-loaded at Territory ports, regardless of the waters they were caught in.

14. Fishing industry data is compiled from Territory fishermen's monthly returns to the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry & Fisheries.

**AgStats**

15. AgStats consists of the annual Agricultural Census results at small area level in the six States and two Territories. It is available on Floppy Disk (7117.0); Magnetic Tape (7116.0); Microfiche (7118.0) or CD-ROM (7115.0)

**Related publications**

16. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from ABS bookshops:

*Agricultural Industries, Structure of Operating Units, Australia* (7102.0)

*Livestock and Livestock Products, Australia* (7221.0)

*Crops and Pastures, Australia* (7321.0)

*Fruit, Australia* (7322.0)

*Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (7503.0)

*Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Australia* (7507.0)

**Symbols and other usages**

-	nil or rounded to zero
n.a.	not available
n.c.	not collected
n.p.	not published
kg	kilograms
t	tonnes
SA	Australian dollars





## For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* available at all ABS Offices.

### Information Consultancy Service

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

### National Dial-a-Statistic Line

0055 86 400

(Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/21.4 secs.)

This number gives you 24 hour access, 365 days a year for a range of statistics.

### Electronic Data Services

A wide range of ABS data are available on electronic media. The ABS PC TELESTATS service delivers major economic indicator main features ready to download into personal computers on the day of release. The PC AUSSTATS service enables on-line access to a data base of thousands of up-to-date time series. Selected datasets are also available on diskette or CD-ROM. For more details on electronic data services available, contact Information Services in any of the ABS Offices (see Information Inquiries below for contact details).

### Bookshops and Subscriptions

There are over 500 titles of various publications available from ABS Bookshops in all ABS Offices (see Bookshop Sales below for contact details). The ABS also provides a subscription service through which nominated publications are provided by mail on a regular basis at no additional cost (telephone Publications Subscription Service toll free on 008 02 06 08 Australia wide).

## Sales and Inquiries

MLC Building, 81 Smith St, Darwin



#### Regional Offices

SYDNEY  
MELBOURNE  
BRISBANE  
PERTH  
ADELAIDE  
HOBART  
CANBERRA  
DARWIN

#### Information Inquiries

(02) 268 4611  
(03) 615 7000  
(07) 222 6351  
(09) 323 5140  
(08) 237 7100  
(002) 205 800  
(06) 207 0326  
(089) 43 2111

#### Bookshop Sales

(02) 268 4620  
(03) 615 7829  
(07) 222 6350  
(09) 323 5307  
(08) 237 7582  
(002) 205 800  
(06) 207 0326  
(089) 43 2111

#### National Office

ACT

(06) 252 6007

008 02 06 08



Information Services, ABS, GPO Box 3796, Darwin 0801

