



**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

1993-94

**Principal
Agricultural Commodities
South Australia**

(Preliminary)

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**Principal
Agricultural Commodities
South Australia
(Preliminary)
1993-94**

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Contents

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
Main features	2
Seasonal report	2
1 Area intended to be sown for all purposes, principal crops, seasons 1991-92 to 1994-95	3
2 Area, production and yield per hectare of principal crops for grain, seasons 1990-91 to 1993-94	3
3 Farm stocks of cereal grains and fodder at 31 March, 1991 to 1994	3
4 Sheep numbers at 31 March, 1991 to 1994	6
5 Lambing, seasons 1991 to 1994	7
7 Shearing and wool production, years ended 31 March, 1991 to 1994	8
8 Cattle numbers at 31 March, 1991 to 1994	9
9 Pig numbers at 31 March, 1991 to 1994	10
Explanatory notes	11

Graphs

Wheat for grain, area and production, seasons 1975 to 1994	5
Wheat for grain, average yield per hectare compared with the 20 year average, seasons 1975 to 1994	5
Oats for grain, area and production, seasons 1975 to 1994	5
Oats for grain - average yield per hectare compared with the 20 year average, seasons 1975 to 1994	5
Barley for grain, area and production, seasons 1975 to 1994	6
Barley for grain - average yield per hectare compared with the 20 year average, seasons 1975 to 1994	6
Lupins for grain, area and production, seasons, 1975 to 1994	6
Lupins for grain - average yield per hectare compared with the 20 year average, seasons 1975 to 1994	6
Sheep and lamb numbers at 31 March, 1975 to 1994	7
Lambing - annual lambing ratio compared with the 20 year average, seasons 1975 to 1994	8
Lambing and intended matings, seasons 1975 to 1994	8
Wool production, 1975 to 1994	9
Sheep and lambs shorn, 1975 to 1994	9
Beef cattle numbers at 31 March, 1975 to 1994	10
Dairy cattle numbers at 31 March, 1975 to 1994	10
Pig numbers at 31 March, 1975 to 1994	11

Phone Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact Mr Geoff Ellerton on (002) 20 5896 for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related statistics. ● For information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back of this publication.
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Main features

Growers have forecast their intention to sow more wheat in 1994-95. The preliminary figures indicate that the area planted may increase by as much as 18 per cent from the 1.2 million hectares reported in 1993-94 to 1.4 million in 1994-95.

After a record barley crop of 2.3 million tonnes in 1993-94, the State's farmers have reported that they intend to plant less in the 1994-95 season. Preliminary indications show that the area sown to barley next season will be around 935,000 hectares, down 15 per cent on the 1.1 million hectares reported in 1993-94.

Field pea production in 1993-94 was a record 219,000 tonnes and farmers have reported that they intend to increase plantings by a further 40 per cent from the 142,000 hectares reported in 1993-94 to over 200,000 hectares in the next season.

South Australia's sheep flock continues to decline. Sheep numbers fell by a further 4 per cent in the year to March 1994 from 15.7 million to 15.0 million.

Following the recent trend, the State's dairy herd increased by 3 per cent to 147,000 head at 31 March 1994.

Beef cattle numbers increased by 5 per cent in the twelve months to March 1994 from 962,000 to just over 1 million head.

Seasonal Report

For most of the 1993-94 season, rainfall has been generally below average in all crop growing areas.

Rainfall was poor in the critical period prior to planting. In March and April 1993 the rainfall was well below average with only light rains falling in May. Better, but still less than average rainfalls were recorded in June and July 1993.

Most crops were planted later than normal.

Other factors influencing the 1994 harvest included:

- the use of weather damaged seed from the previous year;
- low seedbed moisture content;
- the need to deep sow to avoid the mouse plague;
- isolated flooding and
- downy mildew on some fruit crops.

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 (%)
'000 hectares						
Barley	998.4	1,026.0	1,154.5	935.5	-19.0	0.9
Oats	226.8	208.1	200.1	203.2	1.5	2.6
Wheat	1,258.1	1,405.9	1,333.1	1,430.4	7.3	0.9
Field peas	149.1	147.3	143.2	201.0	40.4	2.2
Lupins	56.9	60.8	83.6	104.9	25.5	3.4

(a) Represents area intended to be sown as reported at 31 March in the seasons shown. The area intended 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 (%)
Area ('000 hectares)						
Barley	995.0	999.2	1,023.3	1,098.0	7.3	0.8
Oats	134.6	129.3	122.9	101.3	-17.6	3.3
Wheat	1,447.8	1,296.8	1,419.5	1,209.3	-14.8	1.0
Field peas	101.6	144.3	143.7	141.6	-1.5	1.9
Lupins	38.4	47.8	57.6	70.7	22.7	3.4
Production ('000 tonnes)						
Barley	1,505.7	1,881.5	1,855.3	2,259.9	21.8	0.9
Oats	147.6	172.5	164.5	142.1	-13.6	3.3
Wheat	2,020.8	2,141.0	2,421.2	2,201.2	-9.1	1.3
Field peas	137.8	196.3	151.9	218.5	43.8	2.3
Lupins	30.5	55.6	97.4	78.0	-19.9	3.9
Yield (tonnes per hectare)						
Barley	1.51	1.88	1.81	2.06	13.5	n.a.
Oats	1.10	1.33	1.34	1.40	4.8	n.a.
Wheat	1.40	1.65	1.71	1.82	6.7	n.a.
Field peas	1.36	1.36	1.06	1.54	46.0	n.a.
Lupins	0.79	1.16	1.69	1.10	-34.8	n.a.

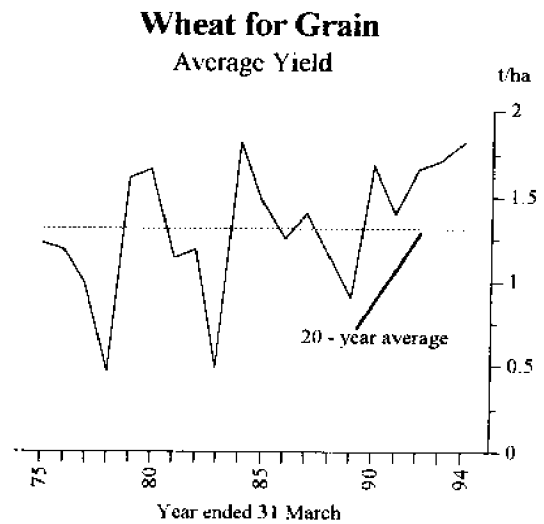
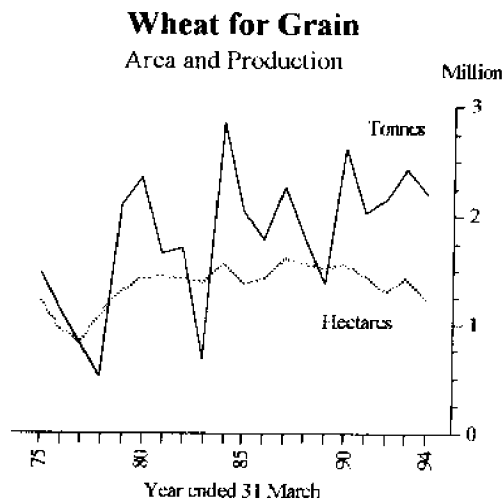
TABLE 3. FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS AND FODDER AT 31 MARCH
('000 TONNES)

	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Grain stocks						
Barley	195.5	215.1	211.6	268.4	26.8	1.8
Oats	115.8	123.8	118.8	117.5	-1.1	2.6
Wheat	142.1	143.2	156.4	157.5	0.7	1.9
Fodder stocks						
Hay	604.3	723.7	775.5	574.5	-25.9	1.6
Silage	30.7	32.3	47.3	41.6	-12.1	5.7

Wheat for Grain

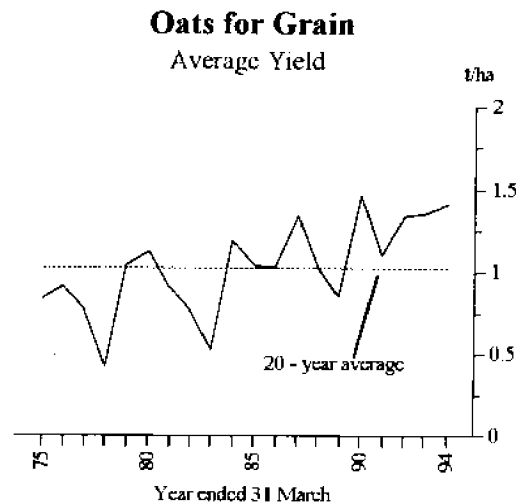
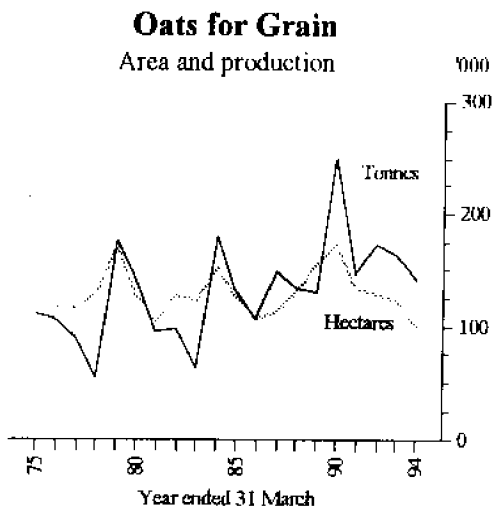
The 1.2 million hectares of wheat harvested in 1993-94 was the smallest area recorded since the 1.1 million hectares reported in 1977-78. Just over 2.2 million tonnes of wheat were harvested in 1993-94 at an average of 1.8 tonnes per hectare.

Early indications are that farmers intend to increase their wheat plantings by nearly 20 per cent to 1.4 million hectares in the 1994-95 season.



Oats for Grain

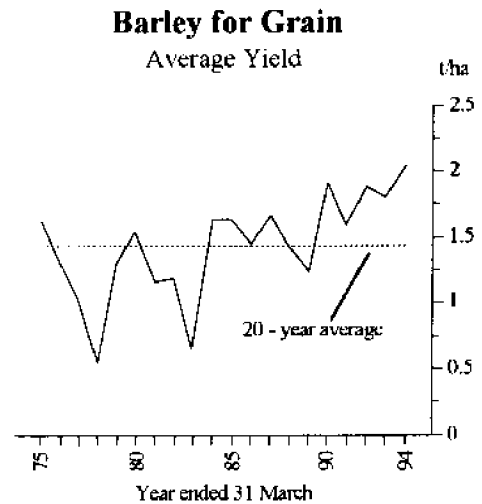
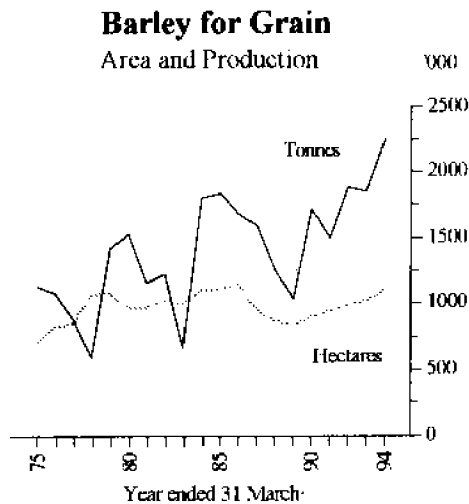
From a peak of 172,000 hectares in 1989-90, the area of oats harvested for grain has fallen by more than 40 per cent to 101,000 hectares reported in 1993-94. This is the smallest area reported in the past 20 years. Grain production fell by 14 per cent to just over 140,000 tonnes in 1993-94.



Barley for Grain

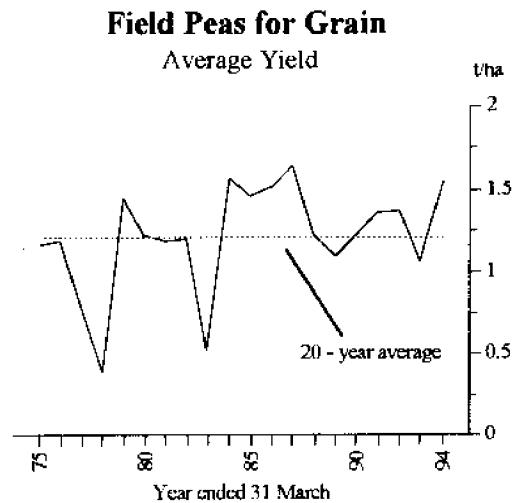
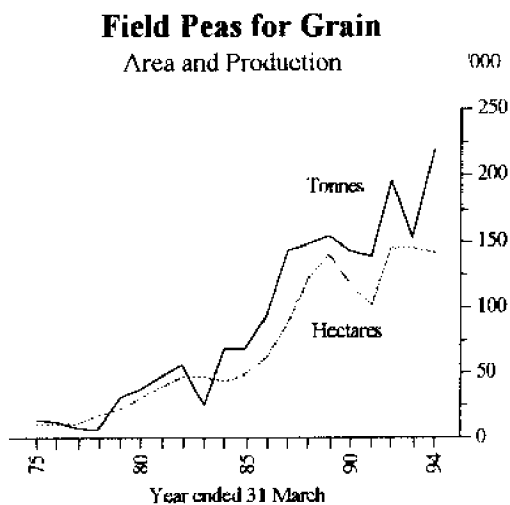
The State's barley crop was a record 2.3 million tonnes in 1993-94, an increase of 22 per cent on the 1.9 million tonnes recorded in the previous season. The yield averaged at just over 2 tonnes per hectare and is the highest recorded.

The area of barley has increased over the past five seasons from the 837,000 hectares reported in the 1988-89 season. However, the preliminary data suggest that this upwards trend will not continue into the 1994-95 season. Based on farmers' reported intentions, the area sown to barley for the 1994-95 harvest will be around 935,000 hectares, down 15 per cent from the 1.1 million hectares reported in 1993-94.



Field Peas for Grain

The production of field peas in 1993-94 was significantly above 1992-93 levels. A marked increase in average yield to a record 1.5 tonnes per hectare saw the field pea harvest increase by more than 40 per cent to a record 219,000 tonnes. The tonnage harvested has more than trebled in the past decade, making field peas the third largest grain crop after wheat and barley.



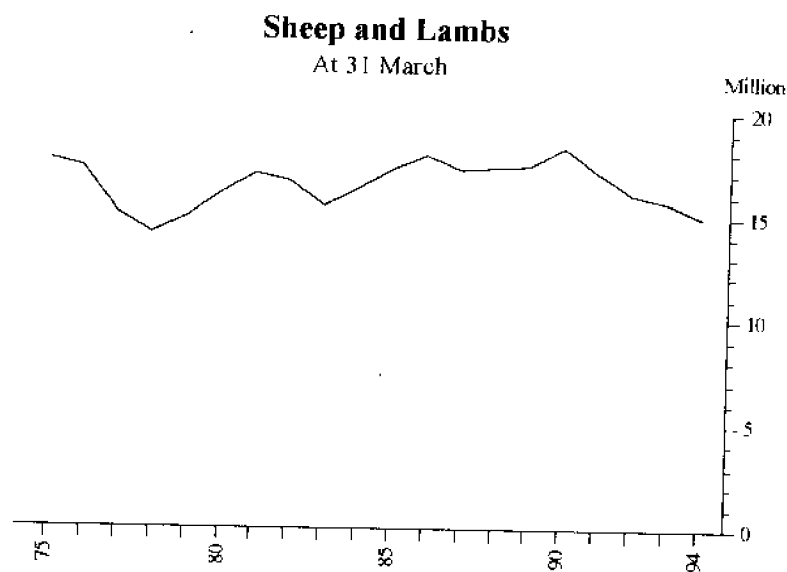
Sheep

Sheep numbers continued to decline during the year to March 1994, falling by 680,000 (4.4 per cent) from 15.7 million to 15.0 million head. The numbers have fallen by more than 3.3 million head (20 per cent) in the four years since March 1990.

The 1993 lambing season proved marginally worse than the previous season with an average lambing ratio (lambs marked to ewes mated) of 82 per cent.

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	210.1	201.1	187.2	188.2	0.5	1.6
Breeding ewes	7,463.8	7,483.4	7,378.8	7,130.2	-3.4	0.7
Other ewes	1,078.6	781.9	663.2	992.0	49.6	2.6
Wethers	4,612.3	4,319.9	3,921.7	3,195.2	-18.5	1.4
Lambs and hoggets, under one year	3,787.9	3,285.8	3,550.8	3,512.9	-1.1	1.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>17,152.7</i>	<i>16,072.1</i>	<i>15,701.8</i>	<i>15,018.5</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>n.a.</i>



Wool Production

The 1993-94 wool clip, as reported in the Agricultural Census, was 87,400 tonnes. This is a fall of 12 per cent on the previous season's 98,900 tonnes. The average cut per head of sheep (excluding lambs) was 5.8 kilograms in 1993-94 and is down from the 6.2 kilograms average in the 1992-93 season.

Since the abandonment of the Floor Price Scheme in 1989-90, the State's wool production has fallen by almost 20 per cent from a high of 107,500 tonnes.

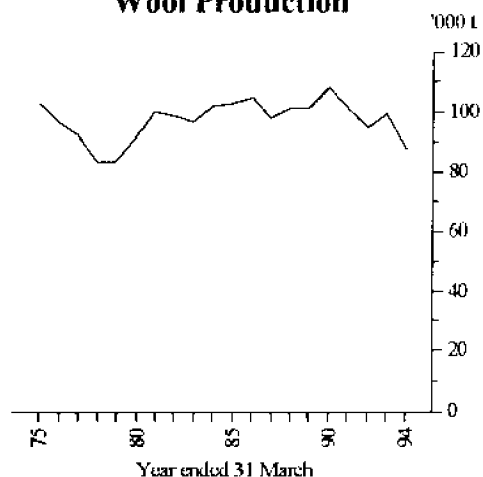
TABLE 7. SHEARING AND WOOL PRODUCTION (a)

		1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Sheep							
Number shorn	'000	16,529.7	15,506.8	14,733.0	13,848.2	-6.0	0.6
Shorn wool (b)	tonnes	93,515.1	88,067.1	91,324.5	80,825.3	-11.5	0.7
Average clip	kg	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.8	-5.8	n.a.
Lambs							
Number shorn	'000	4,291.3	3,399.8	3,900.8	3,793.6	-2.7	1.6
Shorn wool	tonnes	7,470.3	6,129.9	7,569.5	6,615.3	-12.6	2.5
Average clip	kg	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.7	-10.1	n.a.
Total							
Number shorn	'000	20,820.9	18,906.7	18,633.7	17,641.8	-5.3	n.a.
Shorn wool (b)	tonnes	100,985.0	94,197.0	98,894.0	87,440.6	-11.6	n.a.
Average clip	kg	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.0	-6.6	n.a.

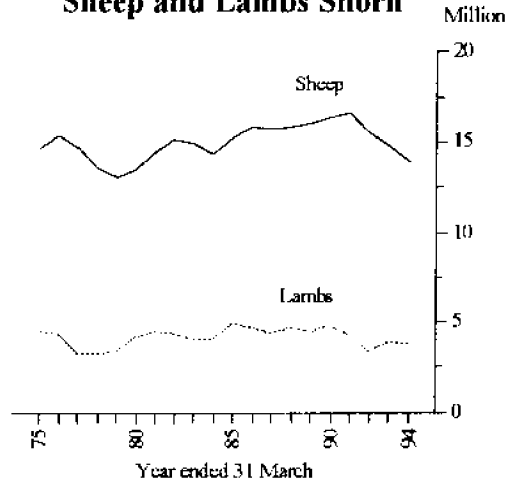
(a) Based on Agricultural census data.

(b) Includes crutchings.

Wool Production



Sheep and Lambs Shorn



Cattle

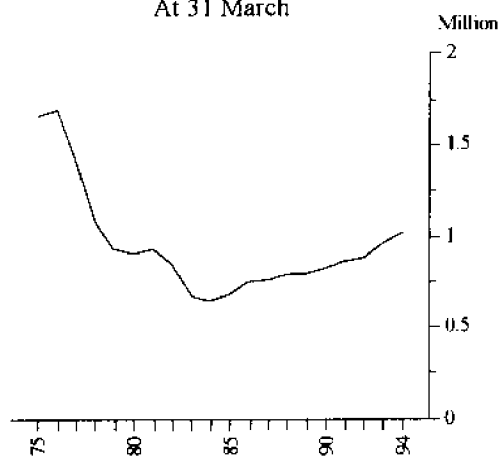
Beef cattle numbers have continued to increase over the past twelve months, rising by five per cent to just over one million head at 31 March 1994. This increase is in line with the trend of the past several years, which has seen meat cattle numbers steadily recover from the low of 912,000 in March 1987. Numbers are still well down on the record levels of the mid 70's.

South Australia's dairy herd increased by three per cent from 142,000 to 147,000 between March 1993 and 1994. Dairy cattle numbers have recovered over the past three years from the low of 133,000 head in March 1991.

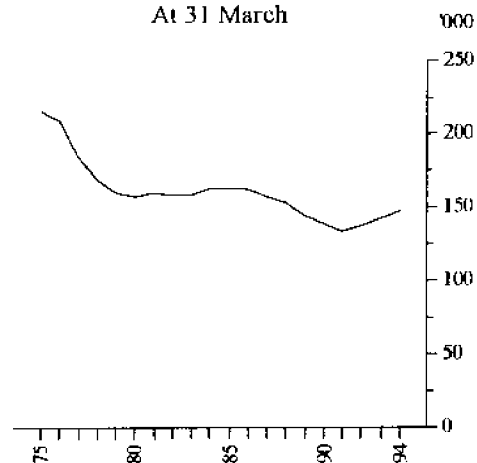
TABLE 8. CATTLE NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH
('000)

	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Dairy cattle						
Bulls and bull calves for service	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.9	4.2
Cows, in milk and dry	87.3	88.8	92.3	94.9	2.9	0.9
Heifers and heifer calves	44.6	46.9	48.5	50.2	3.6	1.6
<i>Total dairy cattle</i>	<i>133.4</i>	<i>137.1</i>	<i>142.3</i>	<i>146.8</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Beef cattle						
Bulls and bull calves for service	25.8	24.4	26.4	27.3	3.4	3.3
Other calves under one year	219.8	238.7	238.3	257.6	8.1	4.2
Cows and heifers, one year and over						
For beef herd replacement			435.3	450.1	3.4	3.2
Other	442.7	434.9	82.3	87.6	6.4	13.2
Other cattle	168.3	181.3	179.5	191.9	6.9	6.7
<i>Total beef cattle</i>	<i>856.6</i>	<i>879.3</i>	<i>961.9</i>	<i>1,014.6</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Total all cattle	990.1	1,016.5	1,104.2	1,161.3	5.2	n.a.

Beef Cattle
At 31 March



Dairy Cattle
At 31 March

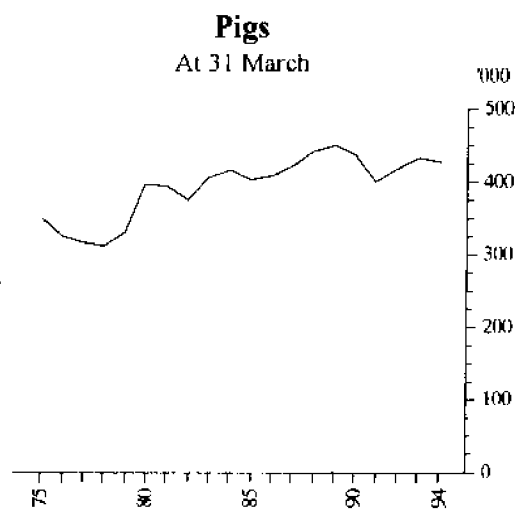


Pigs

Pig numbers showed a marginal decrease in 1993-94, falling by less than two per cent from 435,000 to 428,000 head between March 1993 and 1994.

TABLE 9. PIG NUMBERS AT 31 MARCH
(*000)

	1991	1992	1993	1994 p	Per cent change 1994 over 1993	Standard error (%)
Pigs						
Boars	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.3	- 5.1	2.3
Breeding sows and gilts	46.4	48.8	50.0	49.4	- 1.2	1.9
Other pigs	350.4	367.6	381.2	375.1	- 1.6	2.3
Total pigs	400.0	420.0	434.7	427.8	- 1.6	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 is 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 1991-92 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 the Census 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 20 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
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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