



FINAL ISSUE

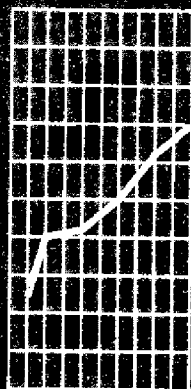
1996-97

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 17 OCT 1997

Principal Agricultural Commodities

Tasmania

Preliminary



NOTES

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
EVAO	estimated value of agricultural operations
ha	hectares
n.c.	not collected
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
RSE	relative standard error
t	tonnes
—	nil or rounded to zero

REVISIONS TO FIGURES

State totals in this publication may differ from those in the recently released national publication *Selected Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, 1996-97* (Cat. no. 7112.0). Differences in the totals are due to updated processing.

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact James Plunkett on Hobart (03) 6222 5849 or any ABS State office.

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

Denis W. Rogers
Regional Director

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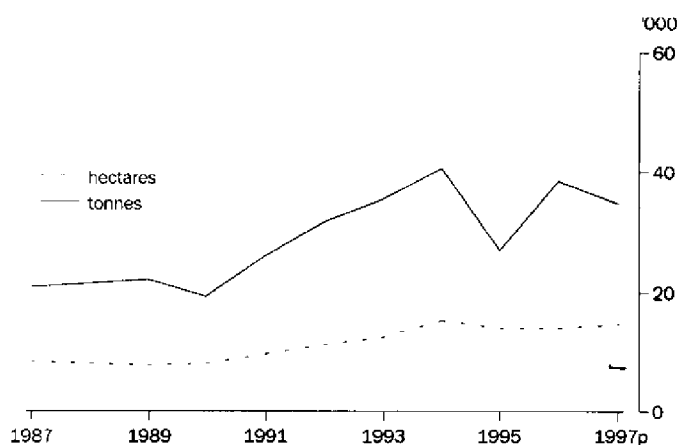
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

CROPS

The area sown to barley for grain in 1996–97 was 14,500 hectares, 3.6% more than in 1995–96. Production was 34,800 tonnes, a 9.6% fall from 1995–96. The Northern Statistical Division (SD) accounted for 68.3% of area sown and 65.5% of production (see table 1).

Barley



In 1996–97, the area sown to oats for grain decreased 14.9% from the previous year, to 8,600 hectares. Production decreased 19.6% to 14,800 tonnes. Oats for grain were sown in all SDs, the major contributor to production being Northern which accounted for 72.3% of the State's production (see table 1).

HORTICULTURE

In 1996–97, the number of apple trees (six years and over) increased by 7.5% to 1.2 million. The principal regions for apple trees were Greater Hobart and Southern SDs, combined, with 989,400 trees (see table 4).

The area planted to potatoes in 1996–97 was 6,600 hectares, a 13.0% decrease from 1995–96 (see table 6). Production figures for apples and potatoes were not available at the time of release of this publication.

The area planted to onions in 1996–97 was 1,200 hectares, a 26.3% decrease from 1995–96; production also decreased, by 34.2% (see table 6).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LIVESTOCK

At 31 March 1997, the meat cattle herd was 533,800, 2.5% above the 31 March 1996 figure. The Northern SD accounted for 42.2% of the total meat cattle herd and the Mersey-Lyell SD accounted for 40.9% (see table 7).

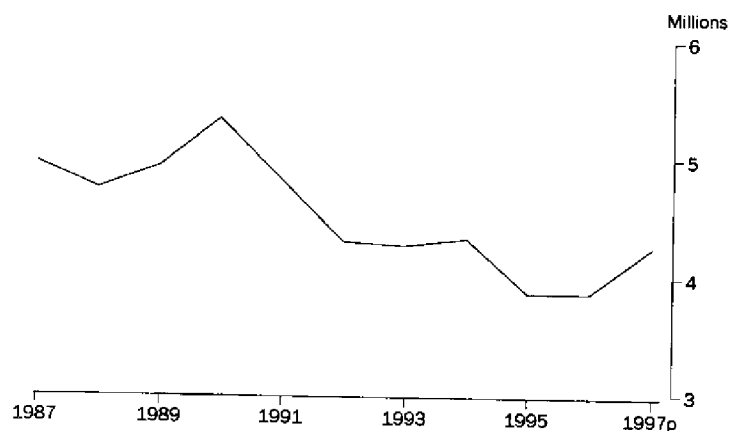
Meat Cattle



The milk cattle herd increased to 218,700 at 31 March 1997, an 11.2% rise from 31 March 1996. The major SD, in terms of numbers, was Mersey-Lyell which accounted for 61.3% of the State's milk cattle (see table 8).

Sheep and lamb numbers increased 7.3% to 4.1 million at 31 March 1997. The major SD, in terms of numbers, was Northern which accounted for 50.6% of the State's flock (see table 9). The number of lambs marked increased 10.5% to 1.4 million (see table 10).

Sheep and lambs



1

CEREALS FOR GRAIN—Year ended 31 March 1997p

	BARLEY		OATS		TRITICALE	
	<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>
<i>Statistical division</i>	'000 ha	'000 t	'000 ha	'000 t	'000 ha	'000 t
Greater Hobart and Southern	3.6	8.7	2.3	3.8	0.2	0.5
Northern	9.9	22.8	6.2	10.7	2.5	6.9
Mersey-Lyell	1.0	3.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.3
Tasmania						
1997p	14.5	34.8	8.6	14.8	3.0	8.7
1996	14.0	38.5	10.1	18.4	1.9	6.7
1995	14.0	27.1	8.3	11.3	1.5	4.9

WHEAT

	<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>
<i>Statistical division</i>	'000 ha	'000 t
Greater Hobart and Southern	0.4	1.0
Northern	1.3	5.0
Mersey-Lyell	0.2	1.1
Tasmania		
1997p	1.8	7.1
1996	1.1	4.1
1995	1.3	2.8

2

LEGUMES FOR GRAIN—Year ended 31 March 1997p

	FIELD PEAS		LUPINS	
	<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>
<i>Statistical division</i>	ha	t	ha	t
Greater Hobart and Southern	124.9	235.2	5.4	7.0
Northern	199.2	258.7	98.9	155.6
Mersey-Lyell	12.4	43.5	48.1	176.9
Tasmania				
1997p	336.5	537.5	152.5	339.5
1996	453.3	805.0	254.7	290.5
1995	381.8	573.4	526.4	335.5

CANOLA

Statistical division	Area	Production
	ha	t
Greater Hobart and Southern	29.0	32.4
Northern	40.0	50.0
Mersey-Lyell	—	—
Tasmania		
1997p	69.0	82.4
1996	146.8	205.3
1995	209.4	151.6

4

POME FRUIT—Year ended 31 March 1997p

	APPLES		PEARS (EXCLUDING NASHI)	
	<i>Trees 6 years and over</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Trees 6 years and over</i>	<i>Production</i>
<i>Statistical division</i>	'000	'000 t	'000	'000 t
Greater Hobart and Southern	989.4	n.y.a.	11.7	n.y.a.
Northern	107.3	n.y.a.	3.9	n.y.a.
Mersey-Lyell	78.0	n.y.a.	0.8	n.y.a.
Tasmania				
1997p	1 174.7	n.y.a.	16.3	n.y.a.
1996	1 092.8	52.4	18.0	0.8
1995	1 040.4	57.0	18.6	0.8

5

STONE AND BERRY FRUIT—Year ended 31 March 1997p

	APRICOTS		NECTARINES		PEACHES	
	<i>Trees 6 years and over</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Trees 6 years and over</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Trees 6 years and over</i>	<i>Production</i>
<i>Statistical division</i>	'000	t	'000	t	'000	t
Greater Hobart and Southern	24.1	224.3	2.4	31.6	1.0	39.9
Northern	1.7	0.6	2.9	10.1	2.6	7.5
Mersey-Lyell	—	—	—	2.9	—	0.1
Tasmania						
1997p	25.8	224.9	5.3	44.6	3.6	47.5
1996	27.6	212.1	9.8	43.4	3.0	20.9
1995	34.2	368.1	7.5	77.9	3.1	15.2

	PLUMS AND PRUNES		RASPBERRIES		STRAWBERRIES	
	<i>Trees 6 years and over</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Area of bearing age</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Area of bearing age</i>	<i>Production</i>
<i>Statistical division</i>	'000	t	ha	t	ha	t
Greater Hobart and Southern	0.9	3.3	25.8	54.1	11.1	100.1
Northern	0.4	1.8	18.5	41.9	6.7	13.2
Mersey-Lyell	0.4	5.3	7.4	28.6	5.9	32.6
Tasmania						
1997p	1.7	10.3	51.7	124.5	23.6	146.0
1996	1.1	9.1	48.4	112.4	19.2	135.4
1995	0.9	9.7	46.0	136.7	24.7	153.9

6

VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION—Years ended 31 March

	Units	1995	1996	1997p
Beans — French and runner				
area	ha	1 219.3	1 667.7	1 671.7
production	t	8 461.9	9 453.4	14 917.0
Broccoli				
area	ha	403.3	582.5	546.9
production	t	2 732.5	3 666.7	4 387.3
Cabbages				
area	ha	83.6	94.5	89.5
production	t	2 484.7	2 317.9	2 708.6
Carrots				
area	ha	425.4	458.6	438.6
production	t	21 539.8	21 255.8	19 748.8
Cauliflowers				
area	ha	308.0	306.3	329.8
production	t	4 928.4	4 360.5	5 194.8
Cucumbers				
area	ha	2.0	1.3	2.0
production	t	108.6	89.4	149.7
Green peas (pod weight)				
area	ha	6 040.9	6 105.0	6 381.9
production(a)	t	37 946.0	65 671.0	69 270.6
Lettuces				
area	ha	85.8	103.5	179.4
production	t	1 697.2	1 891.0	5 586.8
Mushrooms				
area	ha	1.6	1.6	1.3
production	t	503.3	644.0	855.6
Onions — white and brown				
area	ha	1 482.1	1 632.3	1 203.7
production	t	73 536.9	91 119.2	59 979.5
Potatoes				
area	ha	6 067.8	7 565.2	6 580.8
production	t	255 737.8	302 034.8	n.y.a.
Pumpkins				
area	ha	107.3	111.6	125.4
production	t	2 164.6	1 903.2	2 189.3
Tomatoes				
area	ha	14.0	14.6	12.8
production	t	831.2	761.7	791.1

(a) Production figure for 1995 is not comparable with 1996 and 1997 due to changes in question asked.

7

MEAT CATTLE NUMBERS—At 31 March 1997p

<i>Statistical division</i>	<i>Bulls and bull calves intended for service</i> '000	<i>Cows and heifers one year and over</i> '000	<i>Heifers and other calves under one year</i> '000	<i>Other cattle one year and over</i> '000	<i>Total meat cattle</i> '000	<i>Percentage of total meat cattle herd</i> %
Greater Hobart and Southern	2.2	48.4	30.9	9.0	90.5	16.9
Northern	5.8	110.4	70.6	38.3	225.2	42.2
Mersey-Lyell	4.5	90.7	65.5	57.4	218.1	40.9
Tasmania						
1997p	12.4	249.5	167.1	104.7	533.8	100.0
1996	11.7	233.2	159.5	116.7	521.0	100.0
1995	11.5	223.7	161.7	111.1	507.4	100.0

8

MILK CATTLE NUMBERS—At 31 March 1997p

<i>Statistical division</i>	<i>Cows in milk and dry</i> '000	<i>Other milk cattle</i> '000	<i>Total milk cattle(a)</i> '000	<i>Percentage of total milk cattle herd</i> %
Greater Hobart and Southern	3.8	1.6	5.3	2.4
Northern	50.3	29.0	79.3	36.3
Mersey-Lyell	89.3	44.8	134.1	61.3
Tasmania				
1997p	143.4	75.4	218.7	100.0
1996	129.6	67.0	196.6	100.0
1995	118.9	66.4	185.3	100.0

(a) Excludes house cows.

9

SHEEP AND LAMB NUMBERS—At 31 March 1997p

Statistical division	Breeding ewes (1 year and over) '000	Lambs and hoggets (under 1 year) '000	All other sheep '000	Total sheep and lambs '000	Percentage of total sheep flock %
Greater Hobart and Southern	752.6	522.5	593.4	1 868.5	45.1
Northern	870.8	556.8	670.2	2 097.8	50.6
Mersey-Lyell	79.6	61.4	38.5	179.5	4.3
Tasmania					
1997p	1 703.0	1 140.8	1 302.1	4 145.9	100.0
1996	1 631.9	993.9	1 236.5	3 862.3	100.0
1995	n.c.	937.1	n.c.	3 852.9	100.0

10

LAMBING—Years ended 31 March

1997p

EWES TO BE MATED 1998(c)

Statistical division	Ewes mated(a) '000	Lambs marked '000	Lamb marking ratio(b) %	Joined to merino rams '000	Joined to short wool rams '000	Joined to other rams '000	Total '000
Greater Hobart and Southern	687.7	620.2	90.2	466.4	161.3	100.1	727.8
Northern	802.4	695.4	86.7	480.2	207.5	139.8	827.5
Mersey-Lyell	74.9	74.4	99.4	18.1	34.0	27.0	79.1
Tasmania							
1997p	1 564.9	1 390.0	88.8	964.6	402.9	266.9	1 634.4
1996	1 463.0	1 257.5	86.0	930.4	n.c.	607.8	1 538.2
1995	1 535.0	1 233.6	80.4	917.1	n.c.	542.8	1 459.9

(a) Ewes mated to produce lambs marked in the season shown.

(b) Lambs marked as a proportion of ewes mated to produce lambs.

(c) Forecast made at the end of 1996-97.

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PIG NUMBERS—At 31 March 1997p

Statistical division	Total pigs '000	Percentage of total pigs %
Greater Hobart and Southern	2.7	11.3
Northern	16.3	68.2
Mersey-Lyell	4.9	20.5
Tasmania		
1997p	23.9	100.0
1996	26.4	100.0
1995	38.1	100.0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for 1996–97 and comparative data for earlier years. Final figures for 1996–97 will be published early in 1998 when all agricultural census returns have been fully processed.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

2 Estimates are based on information obtained from a substantial proportion of farms in Tasmania, from the agricultural census conducted throughout Australia for the year ended 31 March 1997.

3 Establishments which make only a small contribution to overall agricultural production are excluded from the scope of the census. Information is collected from establishments when their estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) is above a certain level. These levels have varied in past agricultural censuses, as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ 1993–94 to present | EVAO \$5,000 and over; |
| ■ 1991–92 to 1992–93 | EVAO \$22,500 and over; |
| ■ 1986–87 to 1990–91 | EVAO \$20,000 and over; and |
| ■ before 1986–87 | EVAO \$2,500 and over. |

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

4 Preliminary estimates are based on forms received and processed at the point of estimation (approximately 75%) and are subject to sampling error.

5 Sampling error is the variation occurring because information has not been collected from all the relevant units. This is often described in terms of relative standard error (RSE) which makes certain assumptions about the distribution of the units used in estimation. In particular, these units are assumed to have been drawn from the population randomly and are therefore representative of those units for which there is no information (late returns). If there is a bias associated with these units (e.g. units faring poorly may reply later and thus may not be included in preliminary estimates), this assumption is no longer valid. However, the RSE measures should still be regarded as a good guide to the reliability of the estimates, and are available on request.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

6 Users may also wish to refer to the following priced publications which are available on request:

Agricultural Industries, Financial Statistics, Australia (Cat. no. 7507.0)

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia (Cat. no. 7503.0)

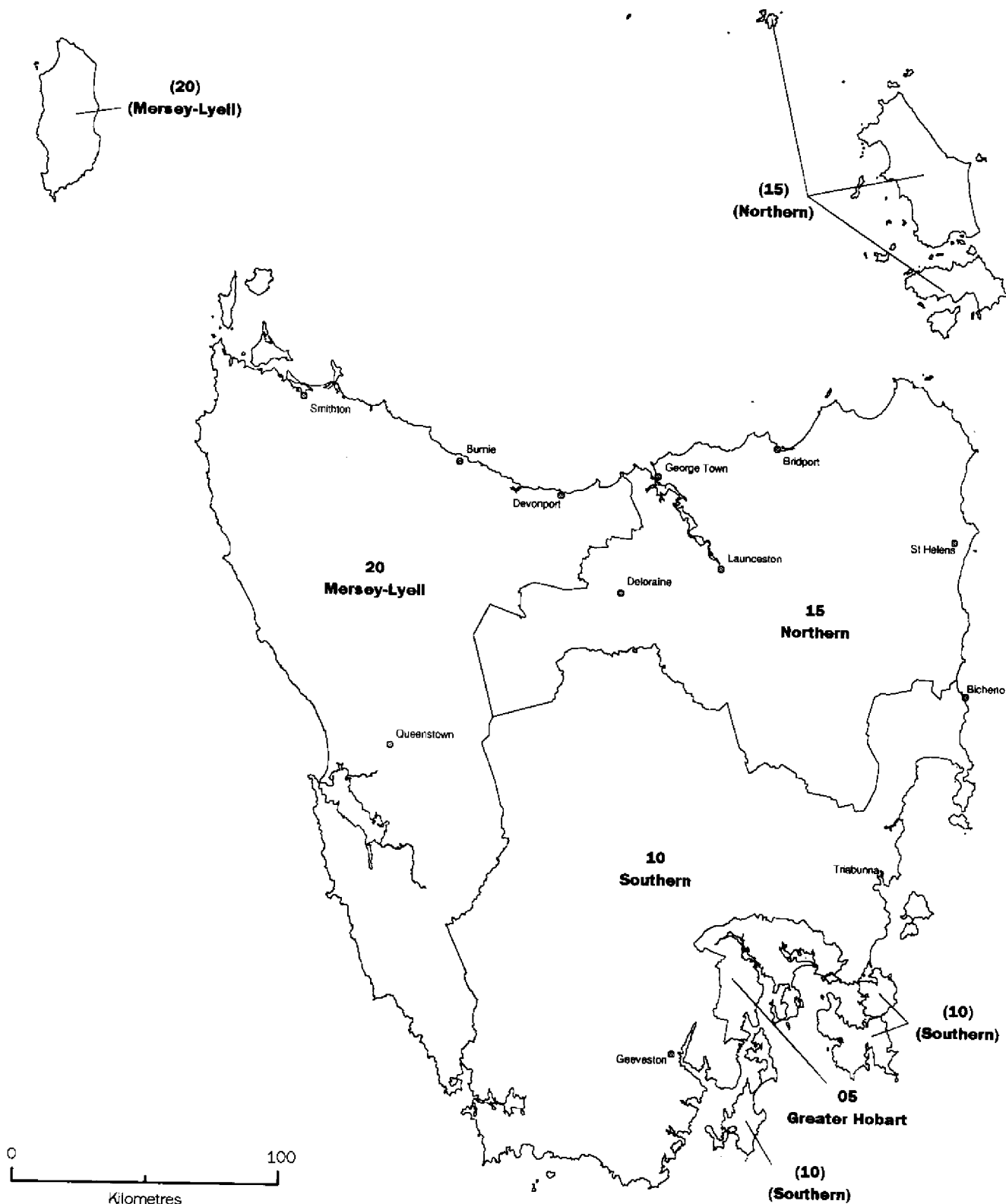
OTHER FORMS OF RELEASE

7 The ABS has more detailed agricultural statistics on floppy disk. AgStats on floppy disk offers a wide range of data aggregated at smaller geographic areas than those available in printed publications, together with an easy-to-use interrogation facility. A smaller range of commodities is available on the CD-ROM product, the Integrated Regional Data Base (IRDB).

8 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the following few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.

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

STATISTICAL DIVISIONS OF TASMANIA *from 1 July 1996*



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