



2005-06

7502.0

VALUE OF SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED, PRELIMINARY

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 6 SEP 2007

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
Summary of findings	3

TABLES

1 Gross value, selected agricultural commodities	5
2 Gross value, fruit and nuts	6
3 Gross value, vegetables	7

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes	8
Technical note	11

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Geoff Ellerton on Hobart (03) 6222 5856.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication contains second (or near final) estimates of gross value of production of selected agricultural commodities for all states, territories and Australia.

The final estimates will be released in *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia*, (cat. no. 7503.0) in February 2008.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE *Move to a new register of agricultural businesses*

Until recently, the ABS had maintained its own register of agricultural establishments. However, it had become increasingly difficult to maintain this list, and users were questioning the accuracy of some of the commodity data published. The ABS investigated a number of alternatives for maintaining the register and it was agreed that the ABS should move to a new frame sourced from the Australian Taxation Office's Australian Business Register (ABR).

The ABR-based frame has been used for the first time to conduct the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. An implication of this strategy is that Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (VACP) data are not directly comparable with historical time series for most crops and for eggs. This is because, in addition to the change in frame, there have been changes in methodologies used for determining whether agricultural businesses are 'in-scope' of the collection and in some of the ways the data are compiled. (For more information, please see the technical note on page 11.)

To provide users with a way of comparing the 2005–06 VACP data with the historical time series, the ABS has prepared two sets of 2005–06 estimates. 'New-basis' estimates have been prepared using the new ABR-based register and its associated statistical methodologies. These methodologies have been subjected to rigorous analysis and testing, with the resulting 'new basis' estimates representing the start of a new commodity and livestock series. 'Old-basis' estimates have been prepared to provide a best judgement approximation to what the various estimates may have been if the ABS had continued to use the previous ABS-maintained list of establishments (with its associated statistical methodologies) to conduct the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. Due to the complexities involved in collecting, processing and estimating 'old basis' data from a 'new-basis' framework, the 'old-basis' 2005–06 estimates and the movements between 2004–05 and 2005–06 should be considered indicative only.

Value of hay

The 2004–05 Agricultural Survey included separate questions about production of pastures and grasses cut for hay, and other crops for hay. The 2005–06 Agricultural Census asked only the total production of all crops for hay. An estimated average hay price has been applied to total hay production to derive the value of all crops for hay.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

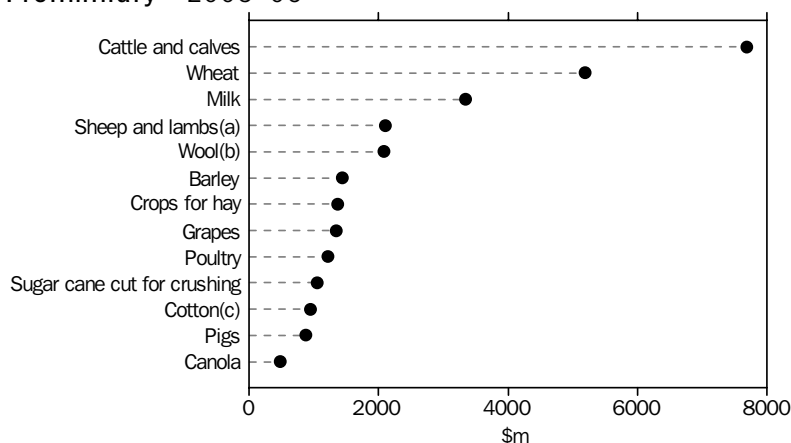
NATIONAL ESTIMATES

The basis of the collection of many agricultural commodities was changed with the running of the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. The main effect of the change is that a direct comparison between 2005–06 estimates from the Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (VACP) collection and those of previous years must be treated with caution. More information concerning the break in the VACP series is included in the Explanatory and Technical Notes.

For VACP purposes, the new basis of using commodity production data does not apply to commodities not collected in the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. Production data for apples and pears, grapes, livestock disposals and livestock products (with the exception of eggs) are sourced from other ABS collections and continue to be comparable across time.

The updated preliminary estimate of the gross VACP for Australia in 2005–06 was \$37.8 billion. The largest contributors were slaughtering and other disposals of cattle and calves (\$7.7 billion), wheat for grain (\$5.2 billion) and whole milk (\$3.3 billion).

GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED: Preliminary—2005–06



- (a) Excludes value of wool on skins.
 (b) Includes value of dead wool and wool on skins.
 (c) Includes value of cotton lint and cotton seed.

Crops

In 2005–06, the updated preliminary estimate of the gross value of all crops was \$20.1 billion. The highest contributors were wheat for grain (\$5.2 billion), barley for grain, hay and grapes (each worth \$1.4 billion) and sugar cane (\$1.1 billion).

Average prices increased moderately for wheat and hay (each up by 3%) in 2005–06. The average prices of sugar cane and sorghum both increased by 7%, while the average price of oats increased by 10% and canola's average price increased by 3%.

However, the average price of rice and barley fell significantly (down by 12% and 6% respectively), whilst the average cotton price was unchanged over the same period. The average prices of field peas and lupins each fell by 5%.

The gross value of grape production decreased by 10% to \$1.4 billion as production fell by 2% and the average price declined by 9% due to excess supply of wine grapes.

Production of apples fell by 15% and average prices decreased by 20% resulting in a 32% decrease in value to \$360 million in 2005–06. The gross value of Australian banana

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Crops continued

production in 2005–06 was \$407 million with average prices increasing by 87% to over \$2,300 per tonne as production fell due to the effects of Cyclone Larry in Queensland.

The average price of most staple vegetables rose significantly during 2005–06 with potatoes up by 10%, carrots up 14%, lettuce up 15%, tomatoes up 66%, mushrooms up 11% and onions up 20%.

Livestock slaughterings and other disposals

In 2005–06, the updated preliminary estimate of the gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals was \$12.0 billion, a fall of less than 1% from the previous year.

The gross value of cattle and calf slaughterings and other disposals fell by 2% to \$7.7 billion. The total number of cattle and calf disposals in 2005–06 fell by 4%. Average prices rose by 3%, which was not enough to offset the fall in cattle numbers.

The gross value of sheep and lambs slaughterings and other disposals rose by \$164 million or 8% to \$2.1 billion in 2005–06. Although the total number of sheep and lamb disposals increased by 9%, average prices remained unchanged to produce a net 8% increase in value.

The value of domestic slaughterings increased by 4% to \$1.8 billion, with a 6% rise in the number slaughtered slightly offset by a small decrease in average prices (down 1%).

The value of Australian live sheep and lambs exports increased by 41% to \$298 million, as numbers exported rose by 31% and the average price increased by 7%.

In 2005–06, the gross value of pigs slaughterings and other disposals fell by 2% to \$890 million, with the number of total disposals remaining steady and average prices decreasing by 2%.

The gross value of total poultry disposals fell by 6% to \$1.2 billion as production increased marginally (by less than 1%) and prices fell by 6% in 2005–06.

Livestock products

The updated preliminary estimate of the gross value of livestock products in 2005–06 was \$5.8 billion.

The value of total wool production fell by \$103 million (5%) to \$2.1 billion, as the average price fell by 7% and production increased by 3%. Production of shorn wool rose moderately (up by 2%), whilst the production of skin wool increased by 7% as more sheep and lambs were slaughtered in 2005–06.

The gross value of wholemilk increased by \$149 million (or 5%) to \$3.3 billion in 2005–06. Production fell marginally (by less than 1%) due to residual drought conditions, but average prices increased by 5%.

Production of eggs was collected in the 2005–06 Agricultural Census and consequently the figures are not comparable with previous years. The gross value of Australian egg production in 2005–06 was \$353 million. Average egg prices decreased by 11% over the same period.

2006 NEW BASIS(a)(b)									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Crops									
Cereals for grain									
Barley	277.8	276.7	26.3	408.0	449.9	6.1	na	^ 0.1	1 445.1
Grain sorghum	117.7	^ 0.2	167.3	0.1	^ 0.5	na	*0.4	*0.1	286.1
Maize	42.8	3.8	25.0	na	0.7	na	*—	—	72.2
Oats	97.9	38.9	1.7	16.3	98.2	1.9	na	^—	255.0
Rice	251.2	4.1	na	na	—	na	—	—	255.4
Triticale	50.7	40.9	^ 0.2	16.3	10.4	1.4	na	^ 0.1	120.0
Wheat	1 409.3	604.3	250.6	834.8	2 088.3	6.4	na	^ 0.4	5 194.3
Other(c)	^ 22.2	*15.6	^ 13.9	^ 28.4	^ 47.7	*0.6	—	—	128.5
Total fruit	764.6	973.9	881.9	903.4	264.9	59.7	40.5	0.8	3 889.6
Cotton(d)	572.9	na	377.1	na	—	na	na	na	950.0
Legumes for grain									
Field peas	13.0	38.2	^ 0.1	55.6	24.5	0.5	na	—	131.9
Lupins	22.1	11.8	^ 0.1	26.4	204.2	^ 0.3	na	—	264.8
Other(c)	33.8	43.4	^ 16.9	37.1	^ 2.2	—	—	—	133.4
Oilseeds									
Canola	89.8	85.4	^ 0.3	71.4	238.4	0.4	na	*—	485.7
Other(c)	^ 33.1	*0.9	^ 9.5	*2.7	na	na	na	na	46.2
Crops for hay - total	333.6	524.3	112.5	167.5	160.9	63.9	^ 9.6	1.1	1 373.4
Total vegetables	311.9	653.4	966.4	354.4	290.1	166.0	^ 8.7	0.7	2 751.5
Peanuts	^ 0.4	na	15.6	na	—	—	—	—	16.0
Sugar cane for crushing	62.9	na	988.4	na	5.2	na	na	na	1 056.4
Tobacco	na	23.5	*0.2	na	na	na	na	na	23.7
All other crops(c)	217.4	374.6	283.4	123.1	117.2	84.7	5.3	3.2	1 208.9
Total crops	4 725.1	3 713.8	4 137.3	3 045.6	4 003.4	391.9	64.5	6.4	20 088.0
Livestock slaughterings and other disposals									
Cattle and calves	1 601.2	1 268.0	3 606.7	266.1	539.3	178.8	219.4	3.2	7 682.6
Sheep and lambs(e)	476.2	760.7	48.8	307.0	469.4	49.3	—	1.2	2 112.7
Pigs	267.1	127.8	230.4	np	np	np	0.9	na	890.1
Poultry	413.7	361.2	229.4	np	np	np	—	0.3	1 229.1
Other	2.2	14.0	16.4	1.5	12.1	—	3.4	—	49.5
Total livestock slaughterings and other disposals	2 760.4	2 531.7	4 131.7	846.1	1 213.4	252.3	223.7	4.8	11 964.0
Livestock products									
Wool(f)(a)	724.9	426.2	111.5	246.6	507.8	73.3	—	2.2	2 092.6
Milk(a)	418.1	2 165.0	223.0	217.4	110.0	209.1	—	—	3 342.5
Eggs	125.8	79.8	92.5	12.4	26.8	7.7	1.8	6.7	353.4
Total livestock products	1 268.8	2 671.0	427.0	476.4	644.6	290.1	1.8	8.9	5 788.5
Total agriculture	8 754.3	8 916.5	8 695.9	4 368.2	5 861.4	934.4	289.9	20.1	37 840.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) New basis does not apply to all estimates. See paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes for further detail.

(b) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).

(c) Estimates for 2006 for these commodities cannot be produced at the preliminary estimates stage due to the unavailability of source data. The 2005 values have been used to provide an 'order of magnitude' estimate as a contribution to the 'total agriculture' gross value. Estimates for these commodities for 2006 will be provided in the publication *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (cat. no. 7503.0).

(d) Includes value of cotton lint and cotton seed.

(e) Excludes value of wool on skins.

(f) Includes value of dead wool and wool on skins.

GROSS VALUE, Fruit and nuts: Preliminary—Year ended 30 June 2006

2006 NEW BASIS(a)(b)									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Citrus									
Lemons & limes	5.7	6.8	18.5	3.8	^1.0	na	^0.2	—	36.0
Mandarins	9.1	8.7	73.2	27.6	4.0	na	*—	—	122.7
Oranges	107.5	56.5	6.5	87.4	3.4	na	*—	*0.1	261.5
Pome									
Apples	69.1	171.1	20.5	41.8	31.8	25.4	na	0.1	359.9
Pears (excl. Nashi)	0.4	65.6	0.8	10.7	7.0	1.4	na	—	85.7
Stone									
Apricots	0.8	11.0	^0.9	7.9	1.2	1.7	na	*—	23.4
Cherries	51.3	26.7	*0.2	9.3	^1.9	8.3	na	—	97.7
Nectarines	19.3	56.6	7.5	8.9	12.0	0.5	na	—	104.8
Peaches	13.2	71.1	8.0	5.3	8.7	0.4	na	*—	106.7
Plums & prunes	14.4	18.3	4.3	4.9	12.0	0.3	—	*—	54.0
Other orchard fruit									
Avocados	13.7	5.0	48.1	^5.9	8.8	na	—	*—	81.5
Mangoes	^1.6	na	62.6	na	9.0	na	26.9	*—	100.1
Nuts									
Almonds (kernel)	^4.3	^38.6	—	61.5	na	na	na	—	104.5
Macadamia	68.2	na	42.4	na	na	0.1	na	—	110.7
Berry fruit									
Blueberries	46.3	5.0	*0.5	*0.2	*—	^1.4	na	—	53.3
Strawberries	^1.9	48.0	77.4	^17.2	22.6	2.2	—	—	169.2
Tropical									
Bananas	35.2	na	357.0	na	11.2	na	3.5	—	406.9
Papaws/Papaya	^—	na	^9.4	na	^0.5	na	^0.2	—	^10.1
Pineapples	—	na	^88.4	na	na	na	*0.1	—	^88.5
Grapes	271.9	337.6	28.7	597.4	93.8	14.2	8.5	0.5	1 352.6
Other fruit n.e.i.(c)	30.9	^47.2	^27.1	^13.7	**35.9	*4.1	1.0	—	^159.8
Total fruit	764.6	973.9	881.9	903.4	264.9	59.7	40.5	0.8	3 889.6

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

(a) New basis does not apply to all estimates. See paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes for further detail.

(b) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).

(c) Estimates for 2006 for these commodities cannot be produced at the preliminary estimates stage due to the unavailability of source data. The 2005 values have been used to provide an 'order of magnitude' estimate as a contribution to the 'total agriculture' gross value. Estimates for these commodities for 2006 will be provided in the publication *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (cat. no. 7503.0).

GROSS VALUE, Vegetables: Preliminary—Year ended 30 June 2006

2006 NEW BASIS (a)									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Asparagus	^ 0.8	46.3	^ 1.0	*—	^ 1.1	^—	—	—	49.2
Beans, french and runner	5.1	8.6	^ 83.6	^ 0.2	^ 5.9	4.7	*—	—	^ 108.1
Beetroot	^ 0.7	^ 0.4	^ 7.9	*0.2	*0.6	*0.1	na	—	^ 9.9
Broccoli	7.7	39.1	19.6	^ 1.7	16.8	5.5	—	—	90.4
Cabbages	12.5	22.7	^ 16.1	5.7	6.7	^ 1.0	*—	—	64.7
Capsicums and chillies	1.8	8.2	166.3	10.2	^ 10.1	*0.9	*0.2	—	197.7
Carrots	^ 5.5	29.1	^ 16.8	45.7	38.4	26.7	—	—	162.3
Cauliflower	7.6	20.8	^ 9.7	^ 6.8	4.1	3.4	na	—	52.4
Celery	^—	26.0	^ 5.4	*4.0	^ 6.4	0.4	—	—	42.1
Cucumbers	10.3	^ 1.0	^ 25.3	13.1	^ 10.6	^ 0.1	0.4	—	60.8
Green peas (pod weight)	^ 0.8	^ 1.5	^ 1.1	^ 0.1	^ 0.1	6.2	—	—	9.7
Lettuces	37.4	51.3	61.7	^ 11.3	^ 9.0	^ 3.0	*0.4	—	173.9
Melons									
Rock and cantaloupe	22.4	^ 5.8	40.9	*0.3	24.0	—	*0.6	—	94.1
Water	^ 13.9	^ 2.3	45.6	*0.8	^ 11.5	—	^ 6.0	—	80.0
Mushrooms	61.0	74.4	61.8	19.0	np	^ np	—	0.7	248.4
Onions(b)	14.4	8.0	21.4	67.3	15.6	27.4	0.3	—	154.3
Parsnips	*0.5	6.7	—	*5.1	^ 1.9	*0.3	—	—	^ 14.5
Potatoes	47.0	106.8	48.7	146.6	43.8	72.2	—	—	465.1
Pumpkins	20.6	2.7	35.0	2.8	^ 22.9	0.9	0.4	—	85.3
Sweet corn	6.0	9.6	^ 52.2	^ 1.0	^ 5.9	0.1	—	—	^ 74.7
Tomatoes	18.8	89.2	158.6	^ 11.7	17.5	^ 0.7	*0.2	*—	296.7
Zucchini and button squash	6.2	^ 3.3	60.0	0.7	^ 3.5	^—	0.1	—	73.8
Other vegetables n.e.i.	*10.9	89.8	*27.6	**0.3	*np	np	—	—	143.3
Total vegetables	311.9	653.4	966.4	354.4	290.1	166.0	^ 8.7	0.7	2 751.5

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).

(b) Includes brown, red and white onions.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The value estimates in this publication are derived by the multiplication of price and quantity estimates of agricultural commodities.

2 Price data refers to the average unit value of a given commodity realised in the marketplace. Price information for livestock slaughterings and wool is obtained from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collections. Price information for other commodities is obtained from non-ABS sources, including marketing authorities and industry sources.

3 Quantity data for most crops and for eggs have been collected from the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. The basis of the collection of these agricultural commodities was changed with the introduction of a new frame for the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. Details of the change are included in the Technical Note. Remaining commodity data (apples, grapes, livestock disposals and livestock products excluding eggs) are obtained from other ABS collections, with some information from non-ABS sources, and continue to be comparable across time.

GENERAL

4 Where figures for individual states or territories have been suppressed for reasons of confidentiality, they have been included in relevant totals.

5 The estimates for 2004–05 shown in this publication have been revised where necessary.

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

7 The method of collection of relevant prices and the costs of marketing for agricultural commodities varies considerably between states and between commodities. Where a statutory authority handles marketing of the whole or a portion of a product, data are usually obtained from this source. Information is also obtained from marketing reports, wholesalers, brokers and auctioneers. For all commodities, values are in respect of production during the year (or season) irrespective of when payments are made. For that portion of production not marketed (e.g. hay grown on farm for own use), estimates are made from the best available information and, in general, are calculated on a local value basis.

PERIOD COVERED

8 The production statistics used in deriving the preliminary value estimates for 2005–06 and the final estimates for 2004–05 relate to the years ended 30 June.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

9 The following are brief definitions of the terms used:

- *Gross value of commodities produced* is the value placed on recorded production at the wholesale prices realised in the market place.
- *Market place*, in general, is the metropolitan market in each state. In cases where commodities are consumed locally, or where they become raw material for a secondary industry, these points are presumed to be the market place.
- *Livestock slaughterings and other disposals values* are published as one figure but include two distinct components:
 - value of livestock slaughtered; and
 - value of net exports, i.e. the total value of livestock intended for slaughter in adjacent state(s) where available (at present these can only be identified between the Northern Territory and adjacent states) and livestock exported overseas whether for slaughter or breeding, minus the value of imports of livestock.

SAMPLE ERROR

10 The estimates for 2005–06 gross value of most crops and for eggs are based on information obtained from respondents to the 2005–06 Agricultural Census. Since not all units responded, the estimates may differ from those that would have been produced if all units had responded. Similarly, the estimates for 2004–05 gross value of most crops and for eggs are based on production information provided by respondents to the

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SAMPLE ERROR *continued*

2004–05 Agricultural Survey, which was a sample survey drawn from the total farm population in scope of that collection. Both of these estimates are therefore subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all farms had been included in the Agricultural Survey or all agricultural businesses had responded to the Agricultural Census.

11 One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample was taken or received. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all establishments had been reported for, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

12 The estimates of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals, wool and milk are based on data obtained from censuses and are therefore not subject to sampling variability.

13 In this publication, sampling variability of the estimates is measured by the relative standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. Most published estimates have RSEs less than 10%. For some states with limited production of certain commodities, RSEs are greater than 10%. Estimates that have an estimated relative standard error between 10% and 25% are annotated with the symbol '^'. These estimates should be used with caution as they are subject to sampling variability too high for some purposes. Estimates with an RSE between 25% and 50% are annotated with the symbol '*', indicating that the estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. Estimates with an RSE greater than 50% are annotated with the symbol '**' indicating that the sampling variability causes the estimates to be considered too unreliable for general use. Separate indication of the RSEs of all estimates is available on request.

14 A table with RSEs for selected estimates of gross values follows:

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS—Gross values of selected commodities—At 30 June 2006

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain	0.8	0.5	2.5	0.5	0.8	3.8	na	17.0	0.3
Grain sorghum	1.7	14.5	1.6	—	17.6	na	31.7	40.3	1.2
Wheat for grain	0.7	0.5	2.3	0.4	0.5	3.0	na	14.5	0.3
Lupins for grain	2.5	1.9	19.7	1.4	1.3	16.7	na	—	1.0
Canola	1.3	0.9	23.8	1.1	1.4	9.0	na	40.3	0.8
Sugar cane for crushing	1.5	na	0.8	na	5.2	na	na	na	0.8
Total crops	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.7	1.0	2.7	2.1	0.4
Livestock slaughterings
Livestock products	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	—	—	—	0.1
Total agriculture	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

na not available

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON
REQUEST

15 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to either Geoff Ellerton on Hobart (03) 6222 5856 or the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

16 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

17 A range of publications relevant to the Agriculture sector are produced by the ABS, including:

Agricultural Commodities, Australia, (cat. no. 7121.0)

Livestock and Meat, Australia, (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)

Livestock Products, Australia, (cat. no. 7215.0)

Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, (cat. no. 4620.0)

Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, (cat. no. 7111.0)

Selected Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, (cat. no. 7112.0)

Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, (cat. no. 7501.0)

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

Water Use on Australian Farms, Australia, (cat. no. 4618.0)

18 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABBREVIATIONS

\$m	million dollars
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Aust.	Australia
n.e.i.	not elsewhere included
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
Tas.	Tasmania
VACP	Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

TECHNICAL NOTE (OLD BASIS ESTIMATES)

OLD BASIS ESTIMATES

- 1** Prior to running the 2005–06 Agricultural Census, the ABS had maintained its own register of agricultural establishments. However, it was increasingly difficult to maintain this list, and users were questioning the accuracy of some commodity data.
- 2** The ABS investigated a number of alternatives for maintaining an agricultural business register and discussed these with key users of agriculture statistics. As a result of this, it was agreed that the ABS should move to a new frame sourced from the Australian Taxation Office's Australian Business Register (ABR) for the 2005–06 Agricultural Census.
- 3** The ABR-based register consists of all businesses on the ABR coded to an 'agricultural' industry, as well as businesses which have indicated they undertake agricultural activities. All businesses with a turnover of \$50,000 or more are required to register on the ABR. Many agricultural businesses with a turnover of less than \$50,000 have also chosen to register on the ABR.
- 4** Moving to the ABR-based register required changes to many of the methodologies used for compiling agriculture statistics. These included changes to the methods used for determining whether agricultural businesses were 'in-scope' of the collection, and also to ways the data were compiled. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes and the Technical Note of ABS publication *Selected Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, 2005–06* (cat. no. 7112.0) for more information about the changes in scope, coverage and production of estimates.

IMPLICATIONS FOR USERS

- 5** The key implication of the move to the new register is that the 2005–06 Agricultural Census data will not be directly comparable with the historical time series of agriculture data. Consequently, the estimates of VACP for 2005–06 are also not directly comparable with the historical VACP time series. To provide users with a way of comparing ('bridging') the 2005–06 estimate of gross VACP data with the historical time series, the ABS has prepared two sets of VACP estimates.
- 6** 'New-basis' Agricultural Census production estimates were prepared for 2005–06 using the new ABR-based register and its associated statistical methodologies. These methodologies have been subjected to rigorous analysis and testing, with the resulting 'new basis' estimates representing the start of the new commodity and livestock series.
- 7** 'Old-basis' Agricultural Census production estimates were also prepared for 2005–06 for selected principal commodities. These estimates are a best judgement approximation to what the 2005–06 estimates may have been if the ABS had continued to use the previous ABS-maintained list of establishments (with its associated statistical methodologies) to conduct the 2005–06 Agricultural Census.
- 8** Estimates of VACP for 2005–06 have been derived on both the 'Old' and 'New' basis (see paragraph 11).

INTERPRETING THE BRIDGED DATA

- 9** Users should recognise the preliminary nature of both sets of 2005–06 estimates. They should also exercise a degree of caution in interpreting the tables as both the 'old-basis' and the 'new-basis' estimates are subject to production data sampling and non-sampling variability.
- 10** The non-sampling variability in the 'old-basis' 2005–06 production estimates in particular, is expected to be significant due to difficulties in collecting, processing and estimating 'old basis' Agricultural Census data from a 'new basis' framework. For this reason, the 2005–06 'old-basis' VACP estimates should be used with considerable caution and movements between 2004–05 and 2005–06 considered as indicative only.
- 11** The following table allows users to compare VACP estimates for 2005 and 2006 subject to the caveats mentioned.

TECHNICAL NOTE (OLD BASIS ESTIMATES) *continued*

INTERPRETING THE BRIDGED
DATA *continued*

GROSS VALUE(a)—Year ended 30 June 2006

	AUST. OLD BASIS (b)		AUST. NEW BASIS (c)
	2005	2006(d)	2006
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Crops			
Barley	1 233.3	1 421.0	1 445.1
Grain sorghum	270.1	283.4	286.1
Oats	171.8	251.6	255.0
Rice	100.6	249.6	255.4
Wheat	4 316.5	5 041.9	5 194.3
Cotton	945.1	917.2	950.0
Lupins	192.9	251.7	264.8
Canola	502.7	457.8	485.7
Sugar cane for crushing	979.5	1 053.9	1 056.4
Total crops	17 807.3	19 823.3	20 088.0
Total agriculture	35 554.7	37 575.9	37 840.6

- (a) Estimates for 2005 are final; estimates for 2006 are preliminary and may be subject to revision. Caution should be exercised in comparing 2005 and 2006 estimates.
- (b) Used an ABS-maintained land-based frame (list of 'farms').
- (c) Used the Australian Business Register-based frame (list of agricultural businesses).
- (d) Data for 2006 old basis are initial bridged estimates and subject to revision. Caution should be exercised in comparing 2005 and 2006 estimates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications are available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our website for a list of libraries.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website, or purchase a hard copy publication. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE* 1300 135 070
- EMAIL* client.services@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

- WEB ADDRESS* www.abs.gov.au



2750200001076
ISBN 9780642483171

RRP \$23.00