



**PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
TASMANIA
PRELIMINARY
1994-95**

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Australian Statistician**

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Preliminary Tasmanian estimates from the 1994-95 Agricultural Census show:

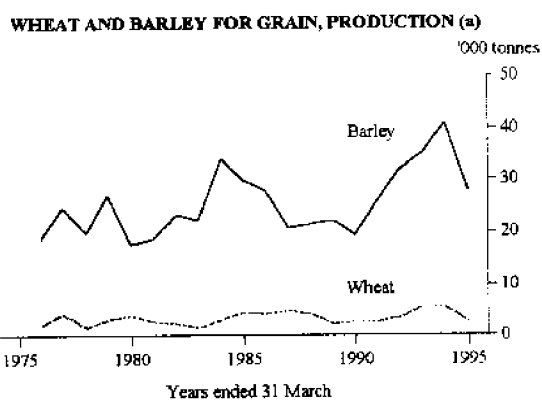
CROPS

Wheat

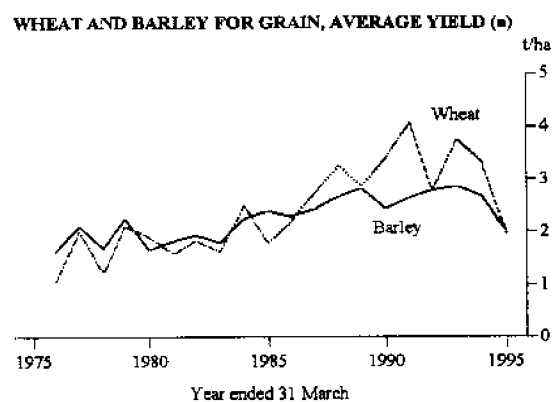
The area of wheat planted for grain during the 1994-95 season was 1,300 hectares, which was down 19 per cent on the 1,600 hectares planted during the previous year.

Barley

Barley production of 28,000 tonnes in 1994-95 was down 31 per cent on the 40,800 tonnes harvested in 1993-94. The average yield of barley (2.0 tonnes per hectare) was the lowest since 1983 when a similar level was recorded. The yield was down more than 25 per cent on the previous year and was 31 per cent lower than two years ago.



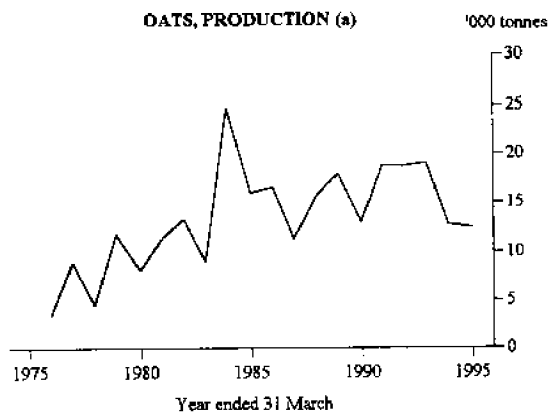
(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.



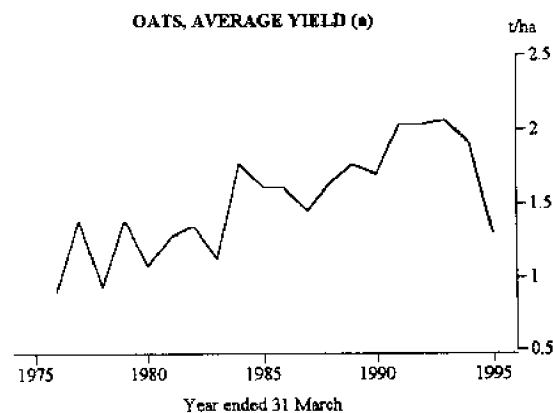
(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Oats

The area of oats planted in 1994-95 was 9,600 hectares, 43 per cent higher than the area planted in 1993-94. Production in the same period fell by 2 per cent, from 12,700 tonnes in 1993-94 to 12,400 tonnes in 1994-95.



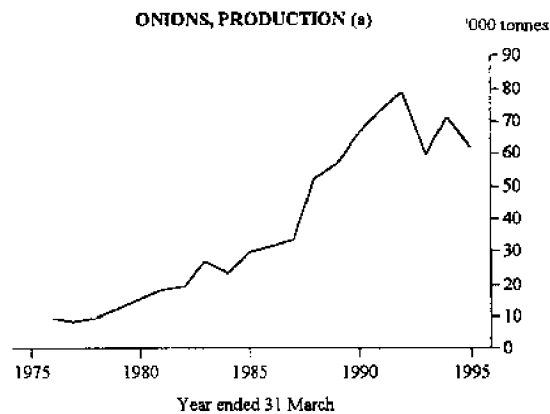
(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Onions

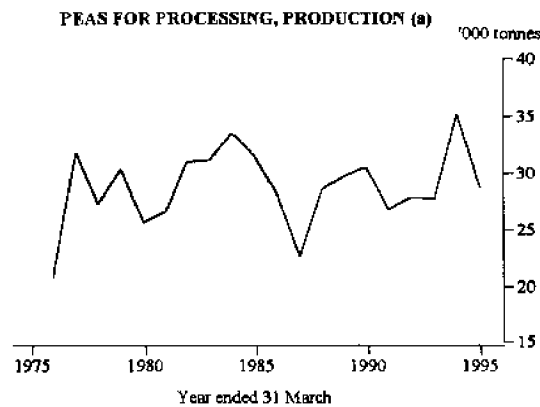
Although the area of onions planted in 1994-95 was the same as 1993-94 at 1,300 hectares, the production fell 13 per cent from 70,700 tonnes to 61,700 tonnes. The yield averaged 47.5 tonnes per hectare in 1993-94 compared with 47.1 tonnes per hectare the previous year.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Peas for processing

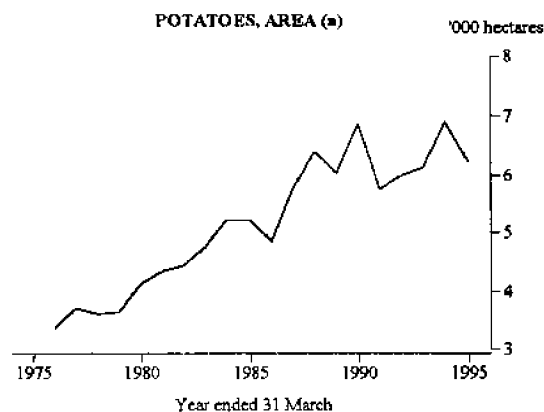
The area planted to peas for processing in 1994-95 fell by 12 per cent to 6,400 hectares, from 7,300 hectares in 1993-94. Production was 19 per cent lower at 28,600 tonnes in 1994-95. The average yield decreased from 4.8 tonnes per hectare to 4.5 tonnes per hectare.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Potatoes

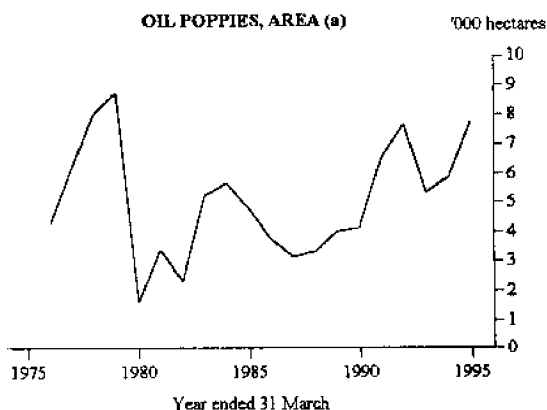
The preliminary estimate for the area of potatoes planted during the 1994-95 season was 6,200 hectares. This was 10 per cent down on the 1993-94 figure. Production data for the 1994-95 season are not yet available.



paragraph 4 of the Explan

Oil poppies

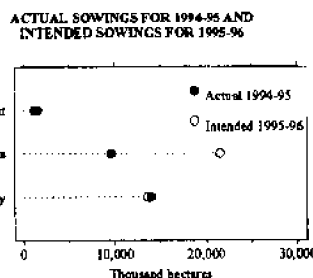
The area planted to oil poppies in 1994-95 was 7,700 hectares. This was 31 per cent higher than the amount planted in 1993-94.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Intended sowings

Growers have reported that their intended sowings of oats for 1995-96 are 59 per cent higher than for 1994-95 and 125 per cent higher than actual sowings for the same year. The area intended to be sown for barley in 1995-96 is 13,600 hectares, down nearly 5 per cent on intended sowings for the previous year and 3 per cent less than the amount actually sown in 1994-95. Wheat growers reported that they intend to sow 1,500 hectares, up 7 per cent on the previous year's expectations and 15 per cent higher than actual sowings in 1994-95.

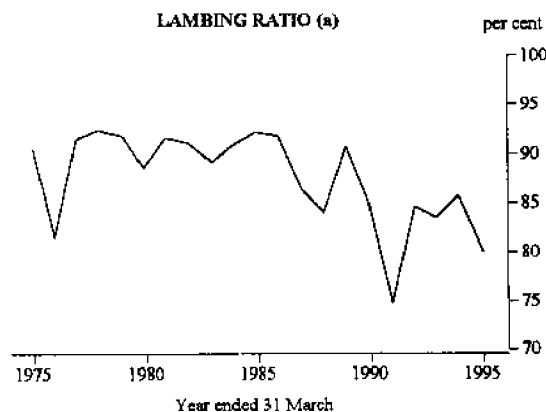
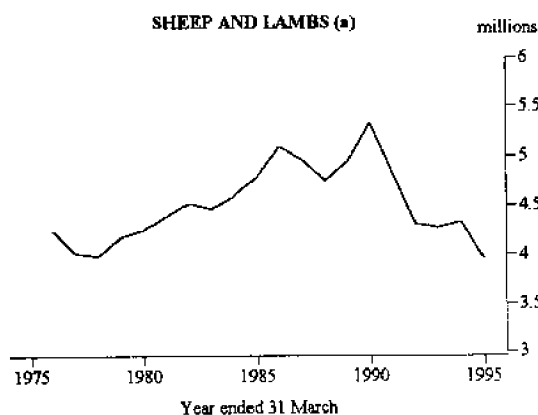


LIVESTOCK

Sheep and lambs

The preliminary estimate for the total flock of sheep and lambs at 31 March 1995 was 4.0 million. This was 8 per cent down on the 1994 figure. There were 10.0 per cent fewer lambs and hoggets aged under one year and 8 per cent fewer other sheep.

There were 1.56 million sheep mated during the year ended March 1995. From these matings 1.25 million lambs were marked. While matings fell by 5 per cent the number marked fell by 11 per cent. For the 1993-94 season nearly 86 per cent of matings resulted in lambs being marked. This ratio fell to 80 per cent for 1994-95.

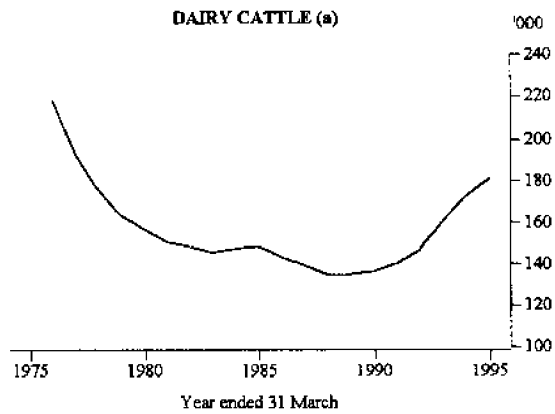


(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Dairy cattle

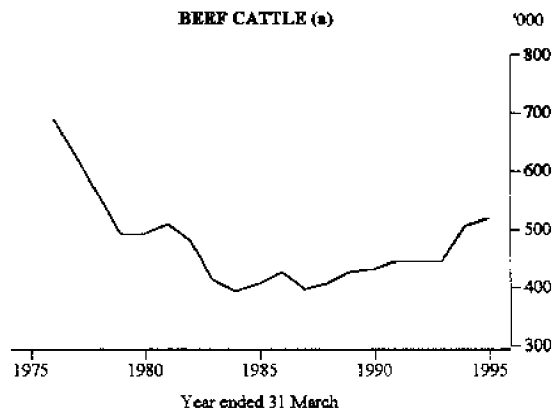
The Tasmanian dairy cattle herd increased from 172 thousand at 31 March 1994 to 181 thousand at 31 March 1995. This was an increase of 5 per cent.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Beef cattle

Beef cattle numbers increased by an estimated 2 per cent during the year ended 31 March 1995 to 519 thousand. The number of bulls and bull calves for service rose 8 per cent during the period, while the number of other calves rose by 7 per cent. The number of cows and heifers aged over one year fell by 6 per cent during the period, while the number of other beef cattle increased by 16 per cent.



(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 1. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN TO CEREAL CROPS FOR ALL PURPOSES (a), YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1995 TO 1996

	<i>Intended sowings 1995</i>	<i>Actual sowings 1995p</i>	<i>Intended sowings 1996p</i>	<i>Change 1996p over 1995 (%) (b)</i>	<i>Standard error (%) (c)</i>
<i>'000 hectares</i>					
Barley	14.3	14.0	13.6	-4.9	4.2
Oats	13.6	9.6	21.6	58.8	4.4
Wheat	1.4	1.3	1.5	7.1	9.9

(a) The area intended to be sown during 1996 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.

(b) Percentage change of 1996 intended sowings over 1995 intended sowings.

(c) Standard errors are calculated on 1996 preliminary estimates for intended sowings.

TABLE 2. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995p</i>	<i>Change 1995p over 1994 (%)</i>	<i>Standard error (%) (b)</i>
<i>Area ('000 hectares)</i>						
Cereals for grain						
Barley	11.3	12.3	15.2	14.0	-7.9	4.1
Oats	9.1	9.2	6.7	9.6	43.3	6.9
Wheat	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.3	-18.8	14.0
Vegetables						
Onions	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.0	5.3
Peas for processing	5.3	6.0	7.3	6.4	-12.3	3.3
Potatoes	6.0	6.1	6.9	6.2	-10.1	2.9
Other crops for grain						
Oil poppies	7.6	5.3	5.9	7.7	30.5	3.9
<i>Production ('000 tonnes)</i>						
Cereals for grain						
Barley	31.8	35.3	40.8	28.0	-31.4	4.9
Oats	18.6	19.0	12.7	12.4	-2.4	8.2
Wheat	3.2	5.5	5.3	2.6	-50.9	10.2
Vegetables for grain						
Onions	78.3	59.3	70.7	61.7	-12.8	7.1
Peas for processing	27.8	27.7	35.1	28.6	-18.5	4.0
Potatoes	249.8	269.9	291.4	n.y.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other crops						
Oil poppies	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Yield (tonnes per hectare)</i>						
Cereals for grain						
Barley	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.0	-25.9	n.a.
Oats	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.3	-31.6	n.a.
Wheat	2.7	3.8	3.3	2.0	-39.4	n.a.
Vegetables						
Onions	52.2	50.4	54.4	47.5	-12.7	n.a.
Peas for processing	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.5	-6.3	n.a.
Potatoes	41.7	44.1	42.2	n.y.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other crops						
Oil poppies	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on 1995 preliminary estimates for area and production

LIVESTOCK

TABLE 3. SHEEP, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	1992	1993	1994	1995p	Change	Standard
					1995p over 1994 (%)	error (%) (b)
	(000)					
Lambs and hoggets under one year	940.3	1,028.6	1,099.4	989.0	-10.0	1.4
Other sheep	3,354.4	3,235.0	3,224.5	2,971.9	-7.8	1.0
Total	4,294.8	4,263.6	4,323.9	3,960.9	-8.4	2.4

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1995 preliminary estimate of sheep numbers.

TABLE 4. MATINGS AND LAMBINGS, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1993 TO 1996 (a)

	1993	1994	1995	1996p	Standard
					error (%) (b)
	(000)				
Farmers' forecast of intended matings of ewes for lambing					
To merino rams	1,050.9	978.0	930.0	900.9	1.5
To rams of other breeds	628.8	697.2	733.2	548.3	2.1
Total intended matings	1,679.7	1,675.2	1,663.6	1,449.2	3.6
Actual matings	1,633.8	1,636.4	1,562.6p	n.y.a.	n.a.
Lambs marked	1,361.8	1,402.2	1,250.2p	n.y.a.	n.a.
	Per cent				
Actual matings as a percentage of intended matings	97.3	97.7	93.9p	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs marked as a percentage of Actual matings	83.4	85.7	80.0p	n.a.	n.a.

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1996 preliminary estimates for intended matings.

TABLE 5. CATTLE, YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 1992 TO 1995 (a)

	1992	1993	1994	1995p	Change	Standard
					1995p over 1994 (%)	error (%) (b)
	(000)					
Dairy cattle						
Cows, in milk and dry	97.7	105.8	112.5	114.9	2.1	1.0
Bulls and bull calves for service	2.0	2.3	2.6	65.8	11.3	2.5
Heifers and heifer calves	46.3	51.4	56.5			
Total dairy cattle	146.0	159.5	171.6	180.7	5.3	3.5
Beef cattle						
Bulls and bull calves for service	10.4	10.0	11.6	12.5	7.8	2.5
Other calves one year and under	143.0	134.3	156.7	167.4	6.8	1.5
Cows and heifers, one year and over						
For beef and herd replacement	198.4	170.5	201.4	229.0	-6.4	1.2
Other		39.5	43.2			
Other cattle	94.8	90.8	94.5	110.0	16.4	2.6
Total beef cattle	446.7	445.2	507.4	518.9	2.3	7.8
Total all cattle	592.7	604.7	679.0	699.6	3.0	11.3

(a) See paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Standard errors are calculated on the 1995 preliminary estimates for cattle numbers.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for the 1994-95 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. 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. Prior to 1986-87 the EVAO cut-off was \$2,500 or more. From 1991-92 to 1992-93, only those establishments with an EVAO of \$22,500 or more were included.

3. From 1993-94 the census is based on a scope of \$5,000 or more EVAO.

4. The figures shown in tables in this publication for 1993-94 and 1994-95 are based on the \$5,000 EVAO cut-off. The figures for 1991-92 and 1992-93 have not been adjusted to a \$5,000 EVAO basis and therefore are not comparable with later years. The data presented in the graphs are based on the scope of the collection which applied at the time.

Reliability of estimates

5. Since the estimates are based on a proportion (approximately 40%) of agricultural establishments selected for survey in 1994-95, 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 nineteen 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 five 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

kg	kilograms
n.a.	not available
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary - figure or series
t	tonnes
t/ha	tonnes per hectare

General

9. Revised estimates will be available in mid September this year when most of the Agricultural Census returns have been processed. Final results will be published early in 1996.

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

11. Current publications and other standard products and services are listed in the Catalogue of Publications (H101.0). The catalogue is available from any ABS office.



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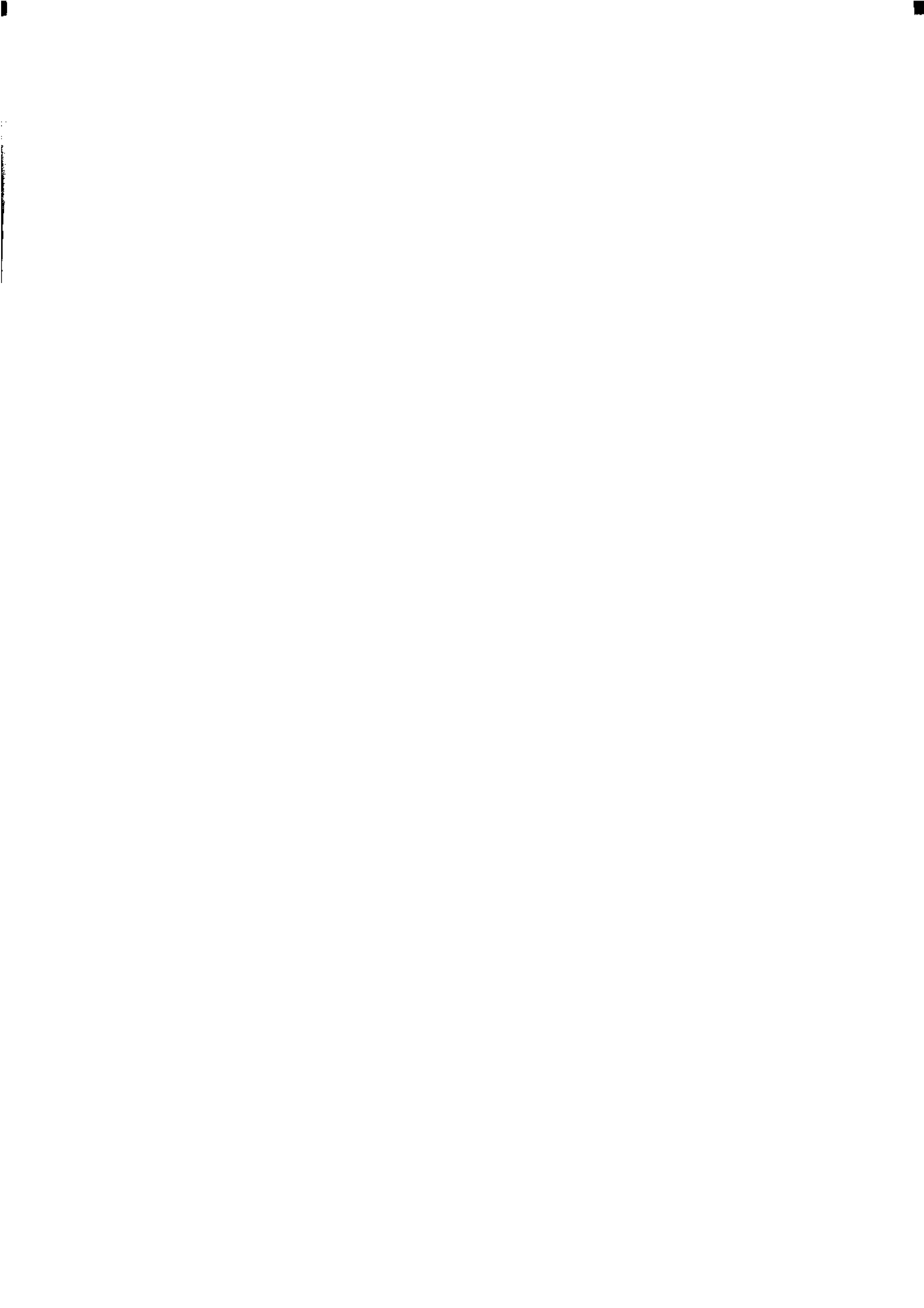
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