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VALUE OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED, AUSTRALIA 1996-97, PRELIMINARY

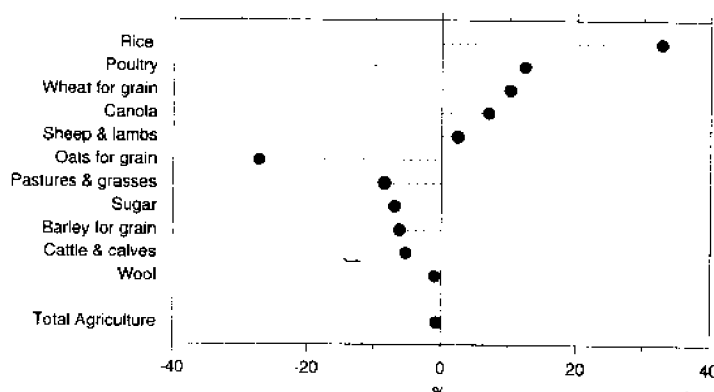
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural commodities produced for 1996-97 was \$27,242.9m, a decrease of 0.8% from \$27,452.2m in 1995-96. This decrease was due to falls in the gross value of crops and livestock products which was only partially offset by a slight increase in the gross value of livestock slaughtering.

A fall in average prices was the main contributing factor to the decline of 0.8% to \$15,281.0m of the total gross value of crops. A decrease in gross value occurred for: barley, down 6.2% to \$1,197.4m, and sugar cane for crushing, down 7.0% to \$1,146.6m, despite an increase in production of both. The gross value of oats, grain sorghum and pastures and grasses fell due to decreased production resulting from a general decrease in area planted. Gross values for these crops were: oats, down 27.2% to \$210.6m; sorghum, down 45.2% to \$175.7m; and pastures and grasses, down 25.2% to \$544.2m.

The most significant increases in the crops gross values occurred in wheat, up 10.1% to \$4,739.3m; cotton, up 9.2% to \$1,106.7m; and rice, up 32.7% to \$299.8m.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN 1995-96p AND 1996-97p
IN GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITIES PRODUCED

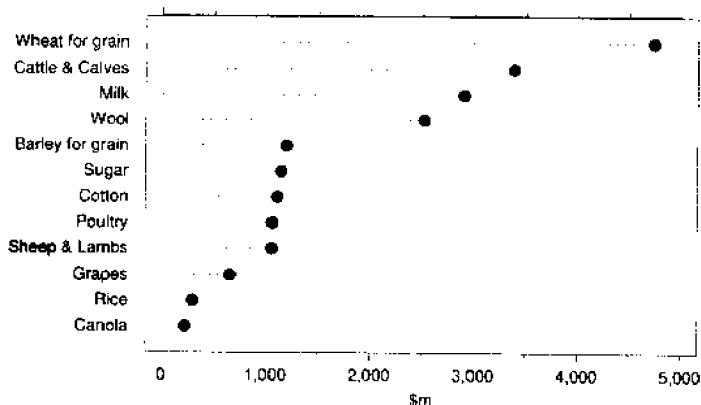


The total gross value of livestock slaughtering increased by 0.3% to \$6,210.4m in 1996-97. Increases were recorded in sheep and lambs, up 2.4% to \$1,060.4m; pigs, up 10.7% to \$661.9m; and poultry, up 12.3% to \$1,064.5m. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in cattle and calves, down 5.3% to \$3,387.9m, a result of a drop in average prices.

The increase in the gross value of poultry slaughtering was due to the number of slaughtering and average prices increasing by 2.7% and 9.4% respectively. The increase in sheep and lambs gross value reflects a rise in slaughtering of 3.5%, which was partially offset by a drop of 1.1% in average prices.

The total gross value of livestock products fell by 1.9% to \$5,739.8m. Most commodities in this group have recorded decreases, most notably milk, down 3.0% to \$2,903.2m despite an increase in production of 4.5% offset by an overall fall in average prices of 7.2%. The gross value of wool fell by 1.0% to \$2,522.4m, a result of average prices decreasing by 5.4%, despite an increase in production of 4.7%.

GROSS VALUE OF SELECTED AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITIES PRODUCED, AUSTRALIA
1996-97p



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New South Wales

In 1996-97 the total gross value of agricultural production rose by 9.0% to \$7,736.8m, accounting for 28.4% of the total value of Australian agricultural production, the highest contributor among all states.

The gross value of crops continued to increase, recording a rise of 16.2% to \$4,477.3m. Significant increases in the gross values of crops included wheat, up 49.4% to \$1,675.1m, and rice up 31.9% to \$297.8m. Partially offsetting these increases were decreases in oats, down 39.5% to \$73.7m; grapes down 10.9% to \$118.0m; and sorghum, down 40.8% to \$55.5m.

The gross value of livestock slaughterings continued to decline, falling by 1.2% to \$1,734.6m. Cattle and calves gross value contributed to the overall decline with a decrease of 10.0% to \$774.6m. The gross value for sheep and lambs also decreased, falling 0.2% to \$260.9m.

Livestock products gross value increased by 2.5% to \$1,525.0m. The main factor responsible for this rise was an increase of 5.1% in the gross value of milk to \$532.7m.

Victoria

Total gross value of agricultural production in Victoria declined by 5.8% to \$6,026.0m in 1996-97.

Crops in Victoria decreased by 12.1% to \$2,438.1m with most cereals grains contributing to this fall, most notably barley, down 25.2% to \$233.6m, and oats, down 23.4% to \$42.2m. Other crops recording a significant decrease in gross value were: legumes, down 19.9% to \$134.9m; crops for hay down 43.8% to \$27.6m; and pastures and grasses, down 38.0% to \$213.6m.

Canola was one of the few crops recording an increase in gross value in Victoria, up 7.2% to \$50.9m, while the remaining oilseeds followed the downward trend and collectively recorded a decrease of 14.5% to \$8.0m.

The gross value of livestock slaughterings increased by 3.2% to \$1,414.8m. A decrease in cattle and calves slaughterings of 4.4% to \$663.5m was offset by increases in slaughterings for sheep and lambs, of 7.0% to \$347.3m, and poultry, of 14.6% to \$240.3m.

The gross value of livestock products fell by 3.5% to \$2,173.1m. Milk gross value was primarily responsible for the decline in the livestock products, with a fall of 6.5% to \$1,599.9m, due to a fall in average prices.

Queensland

The total gross value of agricultural production rose by 1.4% to \$5,459.1m in 1996-97. Major increases were recorded for: wheat, up 186.5% to \$407.6m; oats, up 176.0% to \$3.4m; and barley, up 83.0% to \$71.0m.

The gross value of livestock slaughterings decreased by 2.6% to \$1,599.9m due mainly to a fall in the value of cattle and calves slaughterings, down by 6.3% to \$1,221.7m. All other categories in this group recorded an increase in gross value with the most significant being sheep and lambs, up by 40.0% to \$53.3m. Total livestock slaughterings in Queensland contributed 25.8% to the Australian total value of livestock slaughtered in 1996-97.

The total gross value of livestock products increased by 0.7% to \$571.6m. The gross value of wool fell 1.5% to \$180.6m due to a decrease in both production and average prices.

South Australia

The total gross value of agricultural production in 1996-97 was \$2,893.6m, down 9.7% from 1995-96. Major contributors to this downturn were a decrease in livestock slaughterings of 3.4% to \$407.9m, and a drop of 11.3% to \$2,010.3m in the gross value of crops. Most major crops recorded a decrease in gross value, with wheat down 19.2% to \$585.3m, and barley down 19.8% to \$333.1m. Among the crops recording an increase the most significant was the pastures and grasses group, up 12.8% to \$69.8m.

The decline in gross value of total livestock slaughterings was due primarily to cattle and calves slaughterings falling by 19.7% to \$122.8m. The gross value of sheep and lambs slaughterings also fell by 6.2% to \$139.6m.

Also contributing to the downturn of total gross value of agricultural production was a decrease in livestock products of 7.9% to \$475.5m.

Western Australia

In 1996-97 the total gross value of agricultural production fell by 6.6% to \$4,176.6m. The gross value of crops was \$2,739.7m, down 8.5% from 1995-96. Major contributors were: wheat, down 13.2% to \$1,572.3m; oats, down 18.3% to \$67.3m; and canola, down 22.9% to \$35.3m.

The gross value of livestock slaughterings rose slightly to \$684.7m. Although the value of pig and poultry slaughterings rose 7.0% and 7.8% respectively, the rise was partially offset by a decrease in cattle and calves slaughterings of 1.4% to \$279.5m, and sheep and lambs slaughterings of 3.1% to \$239.5m. The total gross value of livestock products decreased by 5.1% to \$752.2m.

Tasmania

The total gross value of agricultural production in 1996-97 rose by 2.0% to \$647.1m.

The gross value of livestock slaughterings increased by 12.0% to \$117.9m. Livestock products increased by 3.4% despite a fall in milk of 4.4% to \$142.1m which resulted from a decline in average prices.

TABLE 1. GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED, 1996-97p
(\$ million)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.(a)
Crops—							
Cereals for grain—							
Barley	247.3	233.6	71.0	333.1	304.3	8.2	1,197.4
Grain sorghum	55.5	1.0	118.9	—	—	—	175.7
Oats	73.7	42.2	3.4	21.3	67.3	2.7	210.6
Rice	297.8	1.8	—	—	—	—	299.8
Wheat	1,675.1	497.5	407.6	585.3	1,572.3	1.5	4,739.3
Other	96.9	37.2	30.1	27.0	4.1	2.2	197.5
Apples	73.0	98.0	27.4	26.6	37.8	46.7	309.6
Grapes	118.0	196.3	7.2	309.5	23.6	2.4	657.0
Other fruit and nuts	292.3	231.5	428.6	202.0	74.5	4.9	1,247.4
Cotton	737.1	—	369.6	—	—	—	1,106.7
Crops for hay	41.8	27.6	8.4	31.2	47.6	1.7	158.7
Legumes mainly for grain—							
Field peas	4.9	53.7	—	46.6	6.5	0.2	111.9
Other	38.9	81.2	7.3	42.4	236.9	0.1	407.0
Oilseeds—							
Canola	118.6	50.9	—	17.4	35.3	0.1	222.3
Other	30.3	8.0	28.9	1.2	—	—	68.8
Pastures and grasses	105.5	213.6	44.0	69.8	81.6	25.4	544.2
Potatoes	56.8	108.1	56.3	101.0	27.6	66.8	416.7
Tomatoes	23.4	21.6	98.3	6.1	8.0	1.5	158.9
Other vegetables	128.5	268.2	274.2	130.9	118.4	68.1	994.0
Sugar cane cut for crushing	55.2	—	1,085.5	—	6.0	—	1,146.6
Tobacco (dried leaf)	—	22.2	24.0	—	—	—	46.2
All other crops	206.7	243.9	197.0	58.7	88.0	61.1	864.6
Total crops	4,477.3	2,438.1	3,287.6	2,010.3	2,739.7	293.4	15,281.0
Livestock slaughterings(b)—							
Cattle and calves	774.6	663.5	1,221.7	122.8	279.5	75.3	3,387.9
Sheep and lambs(c)	260.9	347.3	53.3	139.6	239.5	19.6	1,060.4
Pigs	212.7	163.1	158.1	54.5	73.6	n.p.	(d)661.9
Poultry	(e)478.3	240.3	166.3	90.0	89.5	n.p.	(d)1,064.5
Total livestock slaughterings(f)	1,734.6	1,414.8	1,599.9	407.9	684.7	117.9	(g)6,210.4
Livestock products(h)							
Wool	880.7	513.6	180.6	282.7	581.5	82.1	2,522.4
Milk	532.7	1,599.9	322.1	170.3	135.7	142.1	(i)2,903.2
Eggs	89.7	52.0	60.9	16.7	31.9	9.8	(i)265.8
Honey and beeswax	21.9	7.6	7.9	5.7	3.1	1.7	48.4
Total livestock products	1,525.0	2,173.1	571.6	475.5	752.2	235.7	(j)5,739.8
Total agriculture	7,736.8	6,026.0	5,459.1	2,893.6	4,176.6	647.1	27,242.9

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes net exports of livestock. Adjustments between States have been made for the Northern Territory border crossings only. (c) Excludes value of wool on skins. (d) Excludes Tasmania and the Northern Territory. (e) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (f) Includes goats and buffaloes. (g) Excludes Northern Territory pigs and poultry. (h) Excludes goat products. (i) Excludes the Northern Territory. (j) Excludes Northern Territory milk and eggs.

TABLE 2. GROSS VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED, AUSTRALIA
(**\$ million**)

	1994-95	1995-96p	1996-97p	% change 1996-97 on 1995-96
Crops—				
Cereals for grain—				
Barley	622.2	1,276.4	1,197.4	-6.2
Grain sorghum	241.8	320.5	175.7	-45.2
Oats	165.8	289.4	210.6	-27.2
Rice	216.1	226.0	299.8	32.7
Wheat	2,127.2	4,304.6	4,739.3	10.1
Other	122.3	186.5	197.5	5.9
Apples	269.8	305.4	309.6	1.4
Grapes	511.0	708.4	657.0	-7.3
Other fruit and nuts	1,156.5	1,200.9	1,247.4	3.9
Cotton	851.2	1,013.5	1,106.7	9.2
Crops for hay	158.1	237.1	158.7	-33.1
Legumes mainly for grain—				
Field peas	63.7	131.4	111.9	-14.9
Other	258.4	432.1	407.0	-5.8
Oilseeds—				
Canola	96.7	207.9	222.3	6.9
Other	62.5	53.6	68.8	28.2
Pastures and grasses	641.5	727.4	544.2	-25.2
Potatoes	377.9	419.5	416.7	-0.7
Tomatoes	166.2	178.6	158.9	-11.0
Other vegetables	947.5	1,031.6	994.0	-3.6
Sugar cane cut for crushing	1207.7	1,232.7	1,146.6	-7.0
Tobacco (dried leaf)	39.7	45.5	46.2	1.6
All other crops	827.9	867.5	864.6	-0.3
<i>Total crops</i>	<i>11,131.7</i>	<i>15,396.7</i>	<i>15,281.0</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Livestock slaughterings(a)—				
Cattle and calves	4,213.5	3,575.9	3,387.9	-5.3
Sheep and lambs(b)	836.8	1,035.7	1,060.4	2.4
Pigs(c)	630.6	598.1	661.9	10.7
Poultry(c)	902.0	948.1	1,064.5	12.3
<i>Total livestock slaughterings(d)(e)(f)</i>	<i>6,618.8</i>	<i>6,193.0</i>	<i>6,210.4</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Livestock products(g)—				
Wool	3,319.3	2,548.5	2,522.4	-1.0
Milk(h)	2,419.1	2,993.5	2,903.2	-3.0
Eggs(h)	230.6	266.7	265.8	-0.3
Honey and beeswax	26.1	42.7	48.4	13.3
<i>Total livestock products(h)</i>	<i>5,995.0</i>	<i>5,851.4</i>	<i>5,739.8</i>	<i>-1.9</i>
Total agriculture(i)	23,754.8	27,452.2	27,242.9	-0.8

(a) Includes net exports of livestock. (b) Excludes value of wool on skins. (c) Excludes pigs and poultry in Tasmania and the Northern Territory. (d) Includes goats and buffaloes. (e) Includes pigs, poultry and goats in Tasmania. (f) Excludes Northern Territory pigs and poultry. (g) Excludes goat products. (h) Excludes milk and eggs in the Northern Territory. (i) Includes the Northern Territory, pigs, poultry, milk and eggs.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The preliminary estimates in this publication are derived by applying price data to quantity data collected in the 1996-97 Agricultural Census and other ABS collections, with some information from external sources. Most price information is obtained from non-ABS sources. The exceptions are: livestock and wool average prices which are collected in the Livestock and Poultry Slaughtered and the Wool Receivals, Purchases and Sales monthly collections. Estimates of Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced are on the same basis as previous years for livestock slaughterings and livestock products. In the case of crops, as in 1994-95 and 1995-96, estimates are based on production from farms having a minimum Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) of \$5,000.

2. To calculate EVAO for a farm, three year average weighted prices are applied to livestock turnoff and livestock numbers on the farm, and to area and production data for crops. The resultant aggregation of these commodity values is the EVAO. It is not an indicator of the value of receipts of individual farms but simply an indicator of the extent of agricultural activity.

3. Gross value of commodities produced is the value placed on recorded production at wholesale prices realised in the market place. In general, the 'market place' 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.

Period covered

4. The period covered in this publication for crops refers, in general, to the season ended 31 March, and for the other commodities, refers to the year ended 30 June. For all commodities, values are in respect of production during the year (or season) irrespective of whether or when that production is actually marketed or when payments are made. For that portion of production not marketed (e.g. hay grown on farm for own use, milk used in farm household, etc.) estimates are made from the best available information and valued on a local value basis.

Related publications

5. More detailed statistics on the value of agricultural commodities produced are provided in the following publication:

Agriculture, Australia (Cat. no. 7113.0)

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

6. The ABS also has more detailed agricultural statistics on magnetic tape, microfiche, floppy disk and CD-ROM. AgStats on floppy disk offers a wider range of data aggregated at smaller geographic areas than those generally available in printed publications, together with an easy-to-use, menu-driven interrogation facility.

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Symbols and other usages

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated.
p	preliminary, series subject to revision
—	nil or rounded to zero

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

9. The figures shown in this publication have been revised where necessary and as a consequence may not agree with similar data shown in previous publications.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

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