



1998–99

7501.0

VALUE OF

**PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL  
COMMODITIES PRODUCED**

AUSTRALIA  
PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 29 OCT 1999

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Geoff Ellerton on Hobart 03 6222 5856, or Client Services in any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

## NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication contains preliminary information on the gross values of production for principal agricultural commodities for all States, Territories and Australia. The final estimates will be released in September 2000.

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**CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** This is the first issue to contain separate preliminary estimates for the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. These figures were previously published as part of the Australian totals only.

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**SYMBOLS AND OTHER  
USAGES**

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACS	Agricultural Commodity Survey
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
p	preliminary data
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error
\$b	billion (thousand million) dollars
\$m	million dollars
*	relative standard error of 25% to 50%
**	relative standard error over 50%
—	nil or rounded to zero

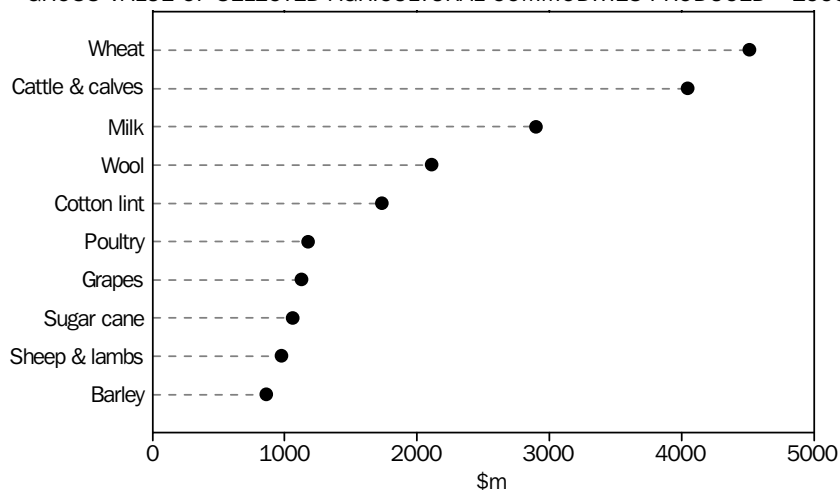
T. J. Skinner  
Acting Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### NATIONAL ESTIMATES

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural commodities produced for 1998–99 was \$29.0b, a 4% increase on the 1997–98 value of \$28.0b. Increases in the value of crops and the value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals were partially offset by a decrease in the value of livestock products.

GROSS VALUE OF SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES PRODUCED—1998–99p



#### Crops

The preliminary estimate of gross value of crops for 1998–99 rose by 8% to \$16.7b. The major influence was a 19% increase in the gross value of wheat to \$4.5b. This resulted from rises in both the production and the average price for wheat. Other significant increases in gross values of crops occurred for canola, up 80% to \$593m and cotton lint, up 28% to \$1.7b. The increase in the gross value of canola was due to major increases in production in Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

Significant decreases in the gross value of crops were experienced for barley, down 19% to \$859m and sugar cane cut for crushing, down 15% to \$1.1b. The fall in the gross value of barley reflected a decrease in both production and average prices while the decrease in the gross value of sugar cane cut for crushing was mainly the result of lower sugar prices, as world sugar production outstrips world consumption.

#### Livestock slaughterings and other disposals

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals increased by 4% to \$6.9b. Increases were recorded in cattle and calves, up 8% to \$4.0b and poultry, up 5% to \$1.2b. These increases were partially offset by decreases in the gross value of sheep and lambs, down 4% to \$977m, and pigs, down 1% to \$663m.

The increase in the gross value of cattle and calves slaughterings and other disposals was due to an increase in average prices as production levels were down slightly. The overall increase in gross value of poultry resulted from an increase in both production and prices.

The fall in the gross value of sheep and lambs slaughterings and other disposals was driven by a decrease in the numbers slaughtered and lower average prices.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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### Livestock products

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock products decreased by 10% to \$5.4b. The gross value of wool suffered the largest fall, down 23% to \$2.1b, as a result of falling prices across all States. While milk prices also fell, increased production resulted in a 3% increase in the gross value of milk, up to \$2.9b.

### STATE COMPARISONS

#### New South Wales

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural production in 1998–99 rose by 4% to \$8.0b. New South Wales accounted for 28% of the value of Australian agricultural production and was the highest contributor among all States. The gross value of crops rose by 11% to \$4.8b, with cotton lint (up 29% to \$1.3b) and wheat (up 7% to \$1.2b) the major contributors. Significant decreases in the gross value of crops occurred for barley, which fell 16% to \$197m, and rice, down 9% to \$307m.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals remained steady at \$1.7b. Increases in the gross values of poultry slaughterings, up 4% to \$493m, and sheep and lambs slaughtered, up 3% to \$222m were counteracted by a slight decrease in the gross value of cattle and calves slaughtered and other disposals to \$836m and a fall in the gross value of pig slaughterings and other disposals, down 8% to \$168m.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock products fell by 9% to \$1.5b, reflecting a decrease of 13% in the gross value of wool to \$889m, and a fall of 6% in the gross value of milk to \$467m.

#### Victoria

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural production increased by 2% to \$6.2b in 1998–99. The gross value of crops increased by 3% to \$2.5b. The most significant increases in gross value were recorded for grapes, up 18% to \$352m, and canola, up 61% to \$81m.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals increased by 8% to \$1.7b. Cattle and calves slaughterings and other disposals were the major contributor to this increase, with higher average prices improving gross values by 14% to \$838m.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock products fell by 5% to \$2.0b. Although milk accounted for 78% of the gross value of livestock products, the 4% increase in the gross value of milk to \$1.6b failed to offset the slump in the gross value of wool, down 32% to \$354m.

#### Queensland

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural production in 1998–99 increased by 4% to \$6.0b. The preliminary estimate of gross value of crops in 1998–99 increased by 5% to \$3.5b. Increases in production resulted in significant increases in the gross values of wheat, up 44% to \$395m, and cotton lint, up 23% to \$458m.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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### Queensland *continued*

The gross value of sugar cane cut for crushing fell 17% to \$974m as a result of low world sugar prices and to a lesser extent, low production due to adverse weather conditions .

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals increased by 8% to \$2.0b. A 10% increase in the gross value of cattle and calves slaughterings and other disposals to \$1.6b more than offset the decrease in sheep and lambs, down 20% to \$44.6m.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock products decreased by 9% to \$550m and was largely due to the 25% decrease in the gross value of wool to \$156m.

### South Australia

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural production in 1998–99 increased 6% to \$3.3b.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of crops rose 12% to \$2.4b. This was mainly due to the gross value of wheat increasing 35% to \$734m as a result of increased production and higher average prices. The gross value of grapes increased 10% to \$520m, while barley decreased 7% to \$304m.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals fell 4% to \$443m. The value of sheep and lambs slaughtered or otherwise disposed of decreased 19% to \$139m, mainly due to a drop in the number of live animals exported.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock products decreased 12% to \$452m reflecting a 26% fall in the gross value of wool to \$228m. This was partially offset by an 11% increase in the gross value of milk production to \$197m.

### Western Australia

The preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural production for 1998–99 increased 4% to \$4.5b. The preliminary estimate of gross value of crops rose 11% to \$3.2b, mainly due to the increase in the gross value of wheat, up 19% to \$1.9b. A 130% increase in the canola production resulted in the gross value of canola increasing 118% to \$230m, replacing barley as the State's second most valuable crop.

There was a 7% increase in the preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals to \$745m. This was due primarily to the gross values of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs slaughtered, which increased by 13% and 5% respectively.

The preliminary estimate of gross value of livestock products decreased 22% to \$619m, reflecting the large decrease in wool, down 31% to \$413m.

### Tasmania

There was no significant movement between the preliminary estimate of gross value of agricultural production for 1998–99 and the final 1997–98 value. Increases in the preliminary estimate of gross value of crops (up 4% to \$329m) and gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals (up 2% to \$123m) offset the decrease in the estimate of gross value of livestock products (down 3% to \$232m).

# 1

## GROSS VALUE, Principal Agricultural Commodities(a)—1998–99p

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>Crops</b>									
Cereals for grain									
Barley	197.2	120.8	39.7	304.1	189.4	7.5	—	—	858.7
Grain sorghum	59.6	**0.7	121.5	—	0.4	—	—	—	182.2
Oats	65.8	38.6	2.5	17.4	27.9	2.2	—	—	154.5
Rice	307.4	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	308.5
Wheat	1 215.5	310.5	394.6	734.2	1 854.8	2.7	—	—	4 512.2
Other	73.1	29.9	26.8	*37.0	5.8	1.6	—	—	174.1
Apples	53.6	84.5	16.1	25.2	32.1	46.1	—	0.1	257.7
Grapes	199.5	352.0	11.4	519.7	41.7	4.6	—	0.1	1 129.1
Other fruit and nuts	315.9	291.9	518.0	184.8	131.9	4.9	20.2	—	1 467.7
Cotton lint(b)	1 273.1	(c)	457.9	(c)	5.4	(c)	(c)	—	1 736.4
Crops for hay	49.2	47.2	18.4	41.6	50.9	1.4	*0.4	—	209.1
Legumes mainly for grain									
Lupins	34.2	7.4	**0.1	25.0	176.2	*0.2	—	—	243.1
Field peas	5.5	23.9	*0.1	49.0	8.7	0.2	—	—	87.6
Other	24.8	54.8	26.2	33.9	20.1	**—	—	—	159.8
Oilseeds									
Canola	219.6	81.0	**0.5	61.5	230.1	0.4	—	—	593.1
Other	26.5	3.9	32.2	1.8	0.3	—	—	—	64.7
Pastures and grasses									
Potatoes	*69.9	96.5	52.6	133.6	30.7	74.8	—	—	458.2
Tomatoes	12.1	62.8	83.1	2.8	11.6	*1.9	**—	—	174.4
Other vegetables	193.0	332.8	382.7	132.3	164.8	82.2	4.7	—	1 292.5
Sugar cane cut for crushing	77.1	(c)	973.8	(c)	6.8	(c)	(c)	—	1 057.6
Tobacco (dried leaf)	—	16.1	25.6	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	—	41.8
All other crops	169.8	263.0	230.2	64.3	94.2	56.0	3.7	2.1	883.4
<i>Total crops</i>	<i>4 775.7</i>	<i>2 523.0</i>	<i>3 464.9</i>	<i>2 447.1</i>	<i>3 165.3</i>	<i>329.5</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>16 736.7</i>
<b>Livestock slaughterings and other disposals</b>									
Cattle and calves	836.4	837.8	1 648.0	151.9	343.4	83.3	146.3	—	4 047.1
Sheep and lambs(d)	222.0	325.1	44.6	139.0	227.3	19.4	—	—	977.2
Pigs	168.0	218.2	144.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	663.0
Poultry	493.3	298.8	171.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	1 174.3
<i>Total livestock slaughterings</i>	<i>1 725.3</i>	<i>1 680.4</i>	<i>2 013.1</i>	<i>442.8</i>	<i>744.8</i>	<i>122.9</i>	<i>149.8</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>6 879.1</i>
<b>Livestock products</b>									
Wool(e)	888.6	353.9	156.1	228.1	413.5	68.2	—	0.9	2 109.3
Milk	467.0	1 583.9	339.4	196.6	156.3	151.9	n.p.	n.p.	2 897.3
Eggs	129.4	77.9	48.0	20.9	46.5	10.3	n.p.	n.p.	344.7
Honey and Beeswax	14.7	7.7	6.4	6.0	3.0	1.5	—	—	39.4
<i>Total livestock products</i>	<i>1 499.6</i>	<i>2 023.5</i>	<i>549.8</i>	<i>451.7</i>	<i>619.2</i>	<i>231.9</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>5 390.6</i>
<b>Total agriculture</b>	<b>8 000.6</b>	<b>6 226.8</b>	<b>6 027.8</b>	<b>3 341.5</b>	<b>4 529.3</b>	<b>684.3</b>	<b>183.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>29 006.5</b>

(a) Reference period for crops, pastures and grasses is 31 March.  
Reference period for livestock slaughterings and other disposals and livestock products is 30 June.

(b) Includes value of cotton seed.

(c) Data not collected.

(d) Excludes value of wool on skins.

(e) Includes dead and fellmongered wool and wool on skins.

	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999p	Change 1998-1999p on 1997-1998
	\$m	\$m	\$m	%
<b>Crops</b>				
Cereals for grain				
Barley	1 308.0	1 057.2	858.7	-18.8
Grain sorghum	257.2	182.9	182.2	-0.4
Oats	226.6	223.3	154.5	-30.8
Rice	310.3	340.6	308.5	-9.4
Wheat	4 877.9	3 801.5	4 512.2	18.7
Other	197.3	178.6	174.1	-2.5
Apples	378.4	272.7	257.7	-5.5
Grapes	721.4	998.2	1 129.1	13.1
Other fruit and nuts	1 289.4	1 309.7	1 467.7	12.1
Cotton lint(b)	1 342.4	1 360.1	1 736.4	27.7
Crops for hay	154.9	213.5	209.1	-2.1
Legumes for grain				
Lupins	314.1	305.5	243.1	-20.4
Field peas	111.0	85.8	87.6	2.1
Other	168.8	152.0	159.8	5.1
Oilseeds				
Canola	238.6	329.8	593.1	79.8
Other	86.8	61.7	64.7	4.9
Pastures and grasses	496.9	613.4	690.5	12.6
Potatoes	449.4	493.1	458.2	-7.1
Tomatoes	176.9	166.8	174.4	4.6
Other vegetables	1 036.0	1 152.7	1 292.5	12.1
Sugar cane cut for crushing	1 186.4	1 247.7	1 057.6	-15.2
Tobacco (dried leaf)	53.7	45.9	41.8	-8.9
All other crops	799.6	868.9	883.4	1.7
<i>Total crops</i>	<i>16 182.1</i>	<i>15 461.7</i>	<i>16 736.7</i>	<i>8.2</i>
<b>Livestock slaughterings and other disposals</b>				
Cattle and calves	3 390.1	3 763.1	4 047.1	7.5
Sheep and lambs(c)	1 038.9	1 018.0	977.2	-4.0
Pigs	(d)692.9	672.8	663.0	-1.5
Poultry	(d)1 053.3	1 122.2	1 174.3	4.6
<i>Total livestock slaughterings</i>	<i>(e)6 211.9</i>	<i>6 593.7</i>	<i>6 879.1</i>	<i>4.3</i>
<b>Livestock products</b>				
Wool(f)	2 621.2	2 753.9	2 109.3	-23.4
Milk	2 810.6	2 817.0	2 897.3	2.9
Eggs	278.2	347.5	344.7	-0.8
Honey and Beeswax	48.6	39.4	39.4	—
<i>Total livestock products</i>	<i>5 758.7</i>	<i>5 957.8</i>	<i>5 390.6</i>	<i>-9.5</i>
<b>Total agriculture(g)</b>	<b>28 156.1</b>	<b>28 013.2</b>	<b>29 006.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>

(a) Reference period for crops, pastures and grasses is 31 March.  
Reference period for livestock slaughterings and other disposals and livestock products is 30 June.

(b) Includes value of cotton seed.

(c) Excludes value of wool on skins.

(d) Excludes pigs and poultry slaughterings in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

(e) Excludes pigs and poultry slaughterings in the Northern Territory.

(f) Includes dead and fellmongered wool and wool on skins.

(g) Includes pigs and poultry slaughterings in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

**1** The preliminary estimates in this publication are derived by multiplying quantity data by price (or unit value) data. Quantity data for crops, eggs, honey and beeswax have been collected in the 1998–99 Agricultural Commodity Survey (ACS). Prior to 1997–98 this information was collected annually in the Agricultural Census. Remaining commodity data is obtained from other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collections with some information from external sources. All crop price information is obtained from non-ABS sources. Price information for livestock slaughterings and wool is obtained from ABS collections. Estimates of crops are based on production from farms having an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) of \$5,000 or more.

## GENERAL

**2** Where figures for individual States or Territories have been suppressed for reasons of confidentiality, they have been included in relevant totals.

**3** The estimates for earlier years shown in this publication have been revised where necessary.

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

## PERIOD COVERED

**5** Production of crops relates, in the main, to crops sown during the year ended 31 March, and for other commodities, refers to the year ended 30 June. Statistics of perennial crops relate to the position as at 31 March and production during the year ended on that date, or of fruit set by that date. For example, production of wheat in Australia refers to wheat sown during the period from April to September and harvested between October and the following February, i.e. the 1998–99 season relates to the harvesting period October 1998 to February 1999. Statistics of other crops which in some States are harvested after 31 March 1999 (e.g. maize, potatoes, apples and pears) are collected by supplementary collection forms and are included in this publication.

**6** The method of collection of relevant prices for, and the costs of marketing of 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, milk used in farm household, etc.), estimates are made from the best available information and, in general, are valued on a local value basis.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

**7** 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

**8** The estimates of gross value for crops, eggs, honey and beeswax are based on production information obtained from the ACS which is a sample survey drawn from the total farm population in scope of the collection. These estimates are therefore subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all farms or farm businesses had been included in the ACS. 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. 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 farms or farm businesses had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

**9** 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 5%. For some States with limited production of certain commodities, some RSEs are greater than 25%. If an estimate is identified by a single asterisk (e.g. \*2) the RSE lies between 25% and 50%. If an estimate is identified by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*1) the RSE is above 50%. Separate indication of the RSEs of all estimates is available on request .

**10** The ACS was conducted as a census in 1996–97 and therefore the estimates for that period are not subject to SEs.

### UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

**11** Unpublished statistics and customised output are available as a special data service and can be obtained by contacting Geoff Ellerton on Hobart 03 6222 5856 or Client Services in any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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**13** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

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**14** 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) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office.



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	Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
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