

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Robert Chibnall on Canberra 525341 or our State office or write to Information Services, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

**PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA
FIRST ESTIMATES, 1976-77**

This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for the year ended 31 March 1977, together with comparative information for earlier years. Estimates for 1976-77 are based on a proportion of information obtained in all States from the Agricultural Census conducted at 31 March 1977. More detailed statistics will be included in the bulletin *Principal Agricultural Statistics : Australia, Second Estimates, 1976-77* (Reference No. 10.63), to be issued by the end of June 1977.

Final figures will be published in a series of publications intended for release later in the year and during the early part of 1978 when all Agricultural Census returns have been fully processed.

Symbols and Other Usages

- p — Preliminary, subject to revision
- .. — Nil or less than half the final digit shown or not applicable.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8)

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TABLE 1. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF CEREALS FOR GRAIN

	Season					Percentage change 1976-77 on 1975-76
	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77p	
Area ('000 hectares) —						
Wheat	7,604	8,948	8,308	8,555	8,899	4.0
Barley (2 and 6 row)	2,140	1,894	1,826	2,329	2,272	-2.4
Oats	995	1,182	897	988	1,011	2.3
Production ('000 tonnes) —						
Wheat	6,590	11,987	11,357	11,982	11,704	-2.3
Barley (2 and 6 row)	1,727	2,397	2,515	3,179	2,791	-12.2
Oats	736	1,107	874	1,141	1,072	-6.0

**TABLE 2. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN TO WHEAT (FOR ALL PURPOSES)
(Mil. hectares)**

	Season					Percentage change 1977-78 on 1976-77
	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78p	
Area intended to be sown to wheat (as reported at 31 March for coming season)	9.5	8.7	8.9	9.7	10.2	5.2

RURAL SECTION
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TABLE 3. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
('000)

State or Territory	At 31 March -					Percentage change 1977 on 1976
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977p	
TOTAL CATTLE AND CALVES						
New South Wales	7,918	8,456	8,935	9,138	8,620	-5.7
Victoria	5,464	5,840	6,192	5,868	5,154	-12.2
Queensland	9,795	10,297	10,879	11,347	11,580	2.1
South Australia	1,583	1,692	1,869	1,891	1,653	-12.6
Western Australia	2,182	2,330	2,544	2,654	2,507	-5.5
Tasmania	900	884	921	909	868	-4.5
Northern Territory	1,237	1,321	1,434	1,603	1,603	..
Aust. Capital Territory	19	19	18	23	23	..
Australia	29,101	30,839	32,793	33,434	32,008	-4.3
TOTAL SHEEP AND LAMBS						
New South Wales	52,037	53,296	54,983	53,200	50,500	-5.1
Victoria	24,105	25,788	26,411	25,395	22,043	-13.2
Queensland	13,346	13,119	13,908	13,599	13,158	-3.2
South Australia	15,651	16,431	17,621	17,279	15,148	-12.3
Western Australia	30,919	32,451	34,476	34,771	31,389	-9.7
Tasmania	3,824	3,964	4,136	4,249	4,064	-4.4
Northern Territory	3	1	1	1	1	..
Aust. Capital Territory	143	126	117	148	140	-5.4
Australia	140,029	145,175	151,653	148,643	136,443	-8.2
TOTAL PIGS						
New South Wales	1,065	835	729	709	718	1.3
Victoria	585	424	383	393	419	6.6
Queensland	542	441	400	409	451	10.3
South Australia	499	385	349	326	323	-0.9
Western Australia	476	344	264	260	247	-5.0
Tasmania	85	68	64	70	61	-12.9
Northern Territory	7	8	7	7	7	..
Aust. Capital Territory	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	3,259	2,505	2,197	2,173	2,224	2.3

TABLE 4. SHORN WOOL PRODUCTION

	Season					Percentage change 1976-77 on 1975-76
	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77p	
Sheep and Lambs Shorn ('000)	155,411	150,631	161,885	159,623	150,030	-6.0
Shorn Wool Production (a) (mil. kg.)	643.6	644.3	725.3	681.4	641.0	-5.9
Average Fleece Weight (kg.)	4.14	4.28	4.48	4.27	4.27	..

(a) Includes crutchings.