

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA FIRST ESTIMATES, 1978-79

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Robert Chibnall on Canberra 525339 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

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MAIN FEATURES

First estimates from the 1978-79 Agricultural Census indicate that:

- there were 26,854,000 cattle and calves at 31 March 1979, a decrease of 8.4% on the previous year.
- the number of sheep and lambs at 31 March 1979 was 135,139,000, an increase of 2.8% on the previous year.
- the area sown to wheat for grain for the year ended 31 March 1979 was 10,113,000 hectares, an increase of 1.6% on the area sown in the previous year.
- wheat for grain production for the year ended 31 March 1979 was 18,037,000 tonnes, an increase of 92.4% on last season's production.
- wheat farmers intend to sow 10.8 million hectares to wheat for the year ended 31 March 1980. This represents a 3.3% increase on the intention of 10.5 million hectares for the year ended 31 March 1979.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This publication contains preliminary agricultural estimates for the year ended 31 March 1979, together with estimates of interded sowings of major cereal crops and intended ewe matings for the forthcoming year ended 31 March 1980. Comparative data for earlier years are also included.

Estimates for the year ended 31 March 1979 are based on a proportion of information obtained in all States, from the Agricultural Census conducted at 31 March 1979.

Related publications

Further preliminary agricultural statistics will be published in:

Cereal Grains : Estimates of Area Sown (7305.0)

Cereal Grains : Estimates of Intended Sowings (7304.0)

Crop and Fruit Statistics (Preliminary) (7301.0)

Principal Agricultural Statistics, Second Estimates (7202.0) has been discontinued.

Final figures will be published in the following series of publications intended for release later in the year and during the early part of 1980 when all Agricultural Census returns have been fully processed:

Crop Statistics (7302.0)

Fruit Statistics (7303.0)

Livestock Statistics (7203.0)

Rural Land Use, Improvements and Labour (7103.0)

Wheat Statistics (7307.0)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
- .. nil or less than half the final digit shown, or
- not applicable
- n.y.a. not yet available

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

A. R. BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CEREALS FOR GRAIN, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1979p

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
AREA (⁰ 000 hectares)							
Barley (2 row and 6 row)	468	369	236	1,100	594	12	2,780
Grain sorghum	195	..	290	..	..	..	485
Maize	15	1	36	..	..	..	51
Oats	447	296	42	172	426	8	1,392
Rice	106	..	4	..	..	..	110
Wheat	3,128	1,334	718	1,286	3,646	1	10,113
PRODUCTION (⁰ 000 tonnes)							
Barley (2 row and 6 row)	689	549	500	1,443	779	26	4,075
Oats	646	463	59	187	501	11	1,868
Rice	650	..	(b)9	..	..	..	(c)659
Wheat	6,640	3,013	1,909	2,081	4,390	2	18,037

(a) Includes estimates for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (b) December-January harvest only. (c) Incomplete; see footnote (b).

TABLE 2. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CEREALS FOR GRAIN, AUSTRALIA

TABLE 2. AREA AND PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CEREALS FOR GRAIN, AUSTRALIA							% change 1979 on 1978
Year ended 31 March							
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979p	
AREA (⁰ 000 hectares)							
Barley (2 row and 6 row)	1,894	1,826	2,329	2,321	2,803	2,780	-0.8
Grain sorghum	540	511	504	532	394	485	23.1
Maize	46	51	47	53	45	51	13.3
Oats	1,182	897	988	995	1,076	1,392	29.4
Rice	68	76	75	92	91	110	20.9
Wheat	8,948	8,308	8,555	8,956	9,955	10,113	1.6
PRODUCTION (⁰ 000 tonnes)							
Barley (2 row and 6 row)	2,397	2,515	3,179	2,847	2,383	4,075	71.0
Grain sorghum	1,061	901	1,124	956	714	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Maize	106	133	131	144	130	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Oats	1,107	874	1,141	1,072	990	1,868	88.7
Rice	409	388	417	530	490	659	n.y.a.
Wheat	11,987	11,357	11,982	11,800	9,370	18,037	92.4

TABLE 3. AREA INTENDED TO BE SOWN TO BARLEY, OATS AND WHEAT FOR ALL PURPOSES, AUSTRALIA ('000 hectares)

	Year ended 31 March						% change 1980 on 1979
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980p	
Barley	2,160	2,439	2,579	2,978	2,937	2,658	-9.5
Oats	2,045	1,862	1,807	2,046	2,275	2,128	-6.5
Wheat	8,679	8,947	9,744	10,174	10,481	10,832	3.3

TABLE 4. FARM STOCKS OF CEREAL GRAINS, AUSTRALIA ('000 tonnes)

	At 31 March						% change 1979 on 1978
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979p	
Barley	609.2	442.2	494.3	486.7	462.8	605.0	30.7
Oats	1,043.3	861.5	918.1	889.9	818.5	1,289.9	57.6
Wheat	849.1	730.7	768.5	803.0	760.4	878.4	15.5

TABLE 5. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, AT 31 MARCH 1979p ('000)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
CATTLE -							
MILK -							
Bulls 1 year and over used or intended for service	6	26	6	3	2	2	44
Bull calves under 1 year intended for service	1	8	1	1	1	1	13
Cows in milk and dry	325	1,067	267	106	74	112	1,951
Heifers 1 year and over	87	227	62	26	29	26	457
Heifer calves under 1 year	59	209	41	20	22	24	376
House cows and heifers	31	12	24	4	5	2	77
Total	510	1,547	402	160	132	167	2,919
MEAT -							
Bulls 1 year and over used or intended for service	104	58	179	21	40	9	450
Bull calves under 1 year intended for service	28	19	31	4	8	3	97
Cows and heifers 1 year and over	3,050	1,363	4,677	499	955	238	11,648
Heifer calves under 1 year	844	349	1,058	126	227	77	2,855
Other calves under 1 year	922	363	1,122	129	256	87	3,045
Other cattle 1 year and over	929	469	3,422	142	356	92	5,840
Total	5,878	2,621	10,489	922	1,843	506	23,935
Total all cattle	6,388	4,168	10,891	1,082	1,975	673	26,854
SHEEP AND LAMBS -							
Rams (1 year and over)	597	288	176	211	410	50	1,732
Fewes	26,423	12,183	6,442	8,301	15,563	2,070	71,041
Wethers (1 year and over)	9,881	5,901	4,412	3,377	7,292	894	31,792
Lambs and hoggets (under 1 year)	11,500	5,074	2,581	3,213	7,041	1,139	30,573
Total sheep and lambs	48,400	23,445	13,611	15,102	30,307	4,153	135,139
PIGS -							
Breeding sows and gilts intended for breeding	98	54	61	41	39	8	300
Other	582	329	424	256	219	47	1,859
Total pigs	680	383	485	297	257	55	2,159

(a) Includes estimates for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 6. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS, AUSTRALIA
('000)

	At 31 March						% change 1979 on 1978
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979p	
CATTLE —							
MILK —							
Bulls 1 year and over used or intended for service	57	60	57	51	47	44	-6.4
Bull calves under 1 year intended for service	20	18	16	13	13	13	..
Cows in milk and dry	2,371	2,355	2,345	2,174	2,056	1,951	-5.1
Heifers 1 year and over	633	634	595	537	480	457	-4.8
Heifer calves under 1 year	554	537	467	385	367	376	2.4
House cows and heifers	121	122	122	105	99	77	-22.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,757</i>	<i>3,727</i>	<i>3,602</i>	<i>3,265</i>	<i>3,062</i>	<i>2,919</i>	<i>-4.7</i>
MEAT —							
Bulls 1 year and over used or intended for service	516	562	564	524	475	450	-5.3
Bull calves under 1 year intended for service	135	140	123	104	96	97	1.0
Cows and heifers 1 year and over	13,800	14,897	15,202	14,021	12,728	11,648	-8.5
Heifer calves under 1 year			3,858	3,571	3,152	2,855	-9.4
Other calves under 1 year	7,079	7,751	4,197	3,814	3,361	3,045	-9.4
Other cattle 1 year and over	5,551	5,716	5,888	6,234	6,456	5,840	-9.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>27,082</i>	<i>29,066</i>	<i>29,833</i>	<i>28,269</i>	<i>26,268</i>	<i>23,935</i>	<i>-8.9</i>
Total all cattle	30,839	32,793	33,434	31,533	29,330	26,854	-8.4
SHEEP AND LAMBS —							
Rams (1 year and over)	1,820	1,895	1,870	1,744	1,692	1,732	2.4
Ewes	75,842	77,682	76,163	71,071	69,021	71,041	2.9
Wethers (1 year and over)	34,592	37,055	37,534	34,759	32,553	31,792	-2.3
Lambs and hoggets (under 1 year)	32,921	35,020	33,077	27,785	28,178	30,573	8.5
Total sheep and lambs	145,175	151,653	148,643	135,360	131,445	135,139	2.8
PIGS —							
Breeding sows and gilts intended for breeding	323	311	308	311	301	300	-3.0
Others	2,183	1,887	1,864	1,918	1,916	1,859	-3.1
Total pigs	2,505	2,197	2,173	2,229	2,217	2,159	-2.6

TABLE 7. LAMBING NUMBERS, AUSTRALIA
('000)

	Year ended 31 March						% change 1979 on 1978
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979p	
Lambs marked	42,961	46,232	44,121	38,382	39,490	42,811	8.4
Ewes mated to produce above lambs	58,720	60,902	60,526	57,950	56,586	57,224	1.1

TABLE 8. NUMBERS OF INTENDED EWE MATINGS, AUSTRALIA
(000)

	For lambing during year ended 31 March						% change 1980 on 1979
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980p	
Ewes intended to be mated to -							
Merino rams	41,303	40,480	38,902	37,134	35,563	37,801	6.3
Other rams	23,850	24,580	24,134	22,639	22,974	24,581	7.0
Total intended matings	65,153	65,060	63,036	59,773	58,536	62,381	6.6