

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION as follows -

MORNING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 31ST MAY, 1956
EVENING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 31ST MAY, 1956
BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY, 30TH MAY, 1956

STATISTICAL BULLETIN : TRACTORS ON RURAL HOLDINGS : AUSTRALIA, MARCH, 1955.

Preliminary statistics of tractors in rural holdings in Australia in March, 1955 are shown in the following table together with comparable data for previous years.

The number of tractors on rural holdings in March, 1955 was 187,192 (169,973 wheeled type and 17,219 crawler or track type) an increase of 9.5 per cent. (9.1 per cent. for wheeled tractors and 13.0 per cent. for crawler tractors) over the previous year. The increase since 1945 was 214.6 per cent. (227.5 per cent. for wheeled tractors and 126.3 per cent. for crawler tractors).

Of the total number of tractors on rural holdings in March, 1955, 49,098 or 26.2 per cent. were in New South Wales, 47,254 (25.2 per cent.) in Victoria and 39,969 (21.4 per cent.) in Queensland. The numbers in the remaining States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory amounted to 50,871 or 27.2 per cent. of the total.

TRACTORS ON RURAL HOLDINGS

March	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T.	Aust. (b)
WHEELED TYPE TRACTORS									
1945	15,145	11,932	12,696	5,633	5,229	1,222	-	42	51,899
1950	25,533	23,235	20,616	11,184	10,323	2,464	-	84	93,439
1951	30,061	28,132	24,406	13,562	12,331	3,056	-	107	111,655
1952	35,302	33,678	27,084	15,396	14,579	3,857	-	142	130,038
1953	39,229	37,484	29,822	16,729	15,381	4,550	-	158	143,353
1954	41,195	41,953	32,535	18,228	16,577	5,111	-	163	155,762
1955(o)	45,619	45,502	35,024	20,074	17,832	5,699	51	172	169,273
Proportional increase (o)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Since - 1945	201.2	281.3	175.9	256.4	241.0	366.4	(d)	309.5	227.5
- 1954	10.7	8.5	7.7	10.1	7.6	11.5	(c)	5.5	9.1

CRAWLER OR TRACK TYPE TRACTORS

1945	1,214	499	1,957	2,411	1,395	132	-	2	7,610
1950	1,831	884	3,111	2,525	1,796	201	-	8	10,356
1951	2,145	926	3,388	2,566	2,223	264	-	6	11,518
1952	2,828	1,187	3,810	2,788	2,498	342	-	6	13,450
1953	3,179	1,271	4,176	3,021	2,932	442	-	8	15,029
1954	3,221	1,214	4,547	2,614	3,093	547	-	7	15,243
1955(o)	3,479	1,752	4,945	3,036	3,334	660	4	9	17,219
Proportional increase (o)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Since - 1945	186.6	251.1	152.7	25.9	139.0	400.0	(d)	350.0	126.3
- 1954	8.0	44.3	8.8	16.1	7.8	20.7	(d)	28.6	13.0

TOTAL TRACTORS

1945	16,359	12,431	14,653	8,044	6,624	1,354	-	44	59,509
1950	27,364	24,119	23,727	13,709	12,119	2,665	-	92	103,795
1951	32,206	29,058	27,794	16,128	14,554	3,320	-	113	123,173
1952	38,130	34,865	30,894	18,184	17,077	4,199	-	148	143,497
1953	42,408	38,755	33,998	19,750	18,313	4,992	-	166	158,382
1954	44,416	43,167	37,082	20,842	19,670	5,658	-	170	171,005
1955(o)	49,098	47,254	39,969	23,110	21,166	6,359	55	181	187,192
Proportional increase (o)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Since - 1945	200.1	280.1	172.8	187.3	219.5	369.6	(d)	311.4	214.6
- 1954	10.5	9.5	7.8	10.9	7.6	12.4	(d)	6.5	9.5

(a) As at 31st October of the preceding year. (b) Excludes Northern Territory prior to 1955. (c) Subject to revision. (d) Not available.