



**AGRICULTURAL LAND USE,  
IMPROVEMENTS AND LABOUR**

**AUSTRALIA  
1978-79**

CATALOGUE No. 7103.0

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra**

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE, IMPROVEMENTS AND LABOUR

AUSTRALIA

1978-79

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*Catalogue No. 7103.0*

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**INQUIRIES**

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AUSTRALIA, 1978-79****CONTENTS**

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

This publication contains detailed statistics relating to the land utilisation on establishments with agricultural activity, and the utilisation, by the operators of those establishments, of labour, artificial fertilisers and aerial agricultural services. Details are also given of on-farm consumption and stocks of major grains, and on-farm production and stocks of silage.

2. This issue contains tables for the 1978-79 season, together with comparative statistical series for previous years.

3. Most statistics in this publication are derived from the annual Agricultural Census, conducted at 31 March, which collects commodity data from establishments with agricultural activity throughout Australia. In the past four years the ABS has been gradually excluding from the statistics establishments whose contribution to agricultural production is small. While this had reduced the number of establishments appearing in publications the effect on statistics of production of major commodities is minimal. Statistics of minor commodities normally associated with smaller scale operations may be affected to a greater extent.

**Coverage**

4. Since 1976-77 establishments have been included in the statistics where the legal entities operating those establishments have an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) of \$1,500 or more. Details of the method used in the calculation of EVAO are contained in the ABS publication *Agricultural Sector, Structure of Operating Units* (7102.0).

5. For 1975-76 the EVAO criterion was the same as for later years but establishments with areas of 10 hectares or more were also included even if the EVAO was less than \$1,500. Prior to 1975-76 all agricultural establishments with areas of 1 hectare or more were included. In addition establishments of less than 1 hectare tended to be included where significant agricultural activity was undertaken e.g. market gardens and nurseries.

6. This publication also contains statistics relating to the agricultural labour force (as recorded in the 1971 and 1976 Censuses of Population and Housing and in the regular Population Surveys), and to aerial agricultural services.

7. Statistics relating to farm machinery may be found in the following ABS publications:

*New Agricultural Machinery Statistics, Australia* (8505.0)  
*Sales and Stocks of New Tractors, Australia* (8507.0)

**Related publications**

8. Users may also wish to refer to the following major publications which are available on request:

*Agricultural Sector Structure of Operating Units* (7102.0)  
*Agricultural Sector Financial Statistics* (7507.0)  
*Apparent Consumption of Foodstuffs and Nutrients, Australia* (4306.0)  
*Crop and Fruit Statistics, Australia (Preliminary)* (7301.0)  
*Crop Statistics, Australia* (7302.0)  
*Dairying and Dairy Products, Australia* (7209.0)  
*Fruit Statistics, Australia* (7303.0)  
*Livestock Statistics, Australia* (7203.0)  
*Meat Statistics, Australia* (7206.0)  
*Exports, Australia* (5404.0)  
*Overseas Trade, Part 1 - Exports and Imports* (5409.0)  
*Principal Agricultural Statistics, Australia: First Estimates* (7201.0)  
*Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (7503.0)  
*Wheat Statistics, Australia* (7307.0)  
*Wool Statistics, Australia* (7212.0)

9. Current 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**

- nil or rounded to zero  
 .. not applicable  
 n.a. not available  
 n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

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

## I. AREA AND UTILISATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

TABLE 1. AREA OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY, AT 31 MARCH  
(<sup>'000</sup> hectares)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1974	68,881	15,226	154,506	64,843	114,653	2,561	79,486	106	500,263
1975	68,880	15,484	154,186	63,825	115,601	2,492	79,347	93	499,908
1976	68,756	15,144	155,605	63,577	116,289	2,459	78,787	80	500,697
1977	65,981	14,499	155,007	63,052	115,221	2,308	75,378	78	491,524
1978	64,788	14,668	155,106	62,494	114,491	2,281	75,523	75	489,426
1979	65,062	14,441	156,305	62,655	116,247	2,232	76,192	74	493,207

TABLE 2. LAND UTILISATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY  
(<sup>'000</sup> hectares)

	Area used for crops (a)	Area under sown pastures and grasses	Balance of establishments (b)	Total area of establishments
1973-74	15,060	27,219	457,984	500,263
1974-75	13,845	28,582	457,482	499,908
1975-76	14,539	27,707	458,451	500,697
1976-77	15,010	26,244	450,270	491,524
1977-78	16,800	25,892	446,733	489,426
1978-79 -				
New South Wales	5,020	5,576	54,466	65,062
Victoria	2,209	6,031	6,201	14,441
Queensland	2,307	3,241	150,757	156,305
South Australia	2,827	3,276	56,552	62,655
Western Australia	4,993	7,532	103,721	116,247
Tasmania	80	904	1,247	2,232
Northern Territory	2	90	76,100	76,192
Australian Capital Territory	1	25	48	74
Australia	17,438	26,676	449,092	493,207

(a) Excludes duplication on account of area double cropped. Excludes pastures and grasses harvested for hay, seed and green feed or silage which have been included in 'Area under sown pastures and grasses'. (b) Used for grazing, lying idle, fallow, etc.

TABLE 3. LAND UTILISATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY  
('000 hectares)

State	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
AREA USED FOR CROPS (a)						
New South Wales	4,628	4,089	4,285	4,520	4,984	5,020
Victoria	1,981	1,772	1,851	1,943	2,163	2,209
Queensland	1,786	1,898	2,010	2,026	2,107	2,307
South Australia	2,451	2,257	2,116	2,036	2,564	2,827
Western Australia	4,133	3,754	4,208	4,417	4,910	4,993
Tasmania	74	67	60	65	70	80
Northern Territory	6	7	8	2	1	2
Australian Capital Territory	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Australia</i>	<i>15,060</i>	<i>13,845</i>	<i>14,539</i>	<i>15,010</i>	<i>16,800</i>	<i>17,438</i>
AREA UNDER SOWN PASTURES AND GRASSES						
New South Wales	5,766	5,971	5,758	5,389	5,098	5,576
Victoria	6,676	6,565	6,234	5,963	5,945	6,031
Queensland	3,236	3,477	3,582	3,297	3,339	3,241
South Australia	3,500	3,641	3,589	3,484	3,249	3,276
Western Australia	6,956	7,850	7,463	7,066	7,214	7,532
Tasmania	920	921	935	904	910	904
Northern Territory	127	129	116	113	112	90
Australian Capital Territory	37	26	30	28	25	25
<i>Australia</i>	<i>27,219</i>	<i>28,582</i>	<i>27,707</i>	<i>26,244</i>	<i>25,892</i>	<i>26,676</i>
BALANCE OF ESTABLISHMENTS (b)						
New South Wales	58,487	58,819	58,713	56,072	54,707	54,466
Victoria	6,569	7,146	7,059	6,593	6,560	6,201
Queensland	149,483	148,812	150,013	149,684	149,659	150,757
South Australia	58,892	57,928	57,873	57,531	56,680	56,552
Western Australia	103,564	103,997	104,618	103,738	102,367	103,721
Tasmania	1,567	1,504	1,464	1,340	1,302	1,247
Northern Territory	79,354	79,211	78,663	75,263	75,410	76,100
Australian Capital Territory	68	66	48	49	49	48
<i>Australia</i>	<i>457,984</i>	<i>457,482</i>	<i>458,451</i>	<i>450,270</i>	<i>446,733</i>	<i>449,092</i>
TOTAL AREA OF ESTABLISHMENTS						
New South Wales	68,881	68,880	68,756	65,981	64,788	65,062
Victoria	15,226	15,484	15,144	14,499	14,668	14,441
Queensland	154,506	154,186	155,605	155,007	155,106	156,305
South Australia	64,843	63,825	63,577	63,052	62,494	62,655
Western Australia	114,653	115,601	116,289	115,221	114,491	116,247
Tasmania	2,561	2,492	2,459	2,308	2,281	2,232
Northern Territory	79,486	79,347	78,787	75,378	75,523	76,192
Australian Capital Territory	106	93	80	78	75	74
<i>Australia</i>	<i>500,263</i>	<i>499,908</i>	<i>500,697</i>	<i>491,524</i>	<i>489,426</i>	<i>493,207</i>

(a) Excludes duplication on account of area doubled cropped. Excludes pastures and grasses harvested for hay, seed and green feed or silage which have been included in 'Area under sown pastures and grasses'. (b) Used for grazing, lying idle, fallow, etc.

## II. STRUCTURE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

### Structural Concepts

#### Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC)

The Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) defines the industries of the economy for statistical purposes, thus permitting the scope of the different economic statistical collections to be specified without gaps or overlapping between them. It also sets out standard rules for identifying the economic units referred to in these tables (e.g. establishments and enterprises) and for coding them to the industries of the Classification.

#### Definitions

2. An *enterprise* is defined broadly as the unit comprising all operations in Australia of a single operating legal entity. The term legal entity is used to cover a sole operator, partnership, company, trust, co-operative society or estate in the private sector, or a department, local government authority or statutory authority in the government sector. An *agricultural enterprise* is an enterprise which is mainly engaged in agricultural activities. For the agricultural sector a multi-State enterprise is an enterprise which undertakes agricultural activities in more than one State or Territory. An *establishment* covers all operations carried out by one enterprise at a single physical location.

3. Each agricultural enterprise is annually classified to an industry of ASIC Sub-division 01, Agriculture, by applying unit prices to each agricultural activity undertaken by the enterprise and by then assessing the predominant activity according to the estimated value derived. Since 1975-76 an enterprise has not been tabulated if the estimated value derived was less than \$1,500. This has reduced the number of enterprises and establishments in the following tables.

4. The data in Tables 4 and 5 are counts of establishments with agricultural activity irrespective of the predominant activity of the establishment, whereas the data in Tables 6 and 7 are counts of agricultural establishments and enterprises (i.e. those classified as predominantly agricultural according to the ASIC).

5. The ABS publication *Agricultural Sector, Structure of Operating Units* (7102.0) provides a detailed explanation of the statistical framework used as well as the method of determination of the industry of the economic units involved in agriculture.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY GROWING PRINCIPAL CROPS, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1979

Crop	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<b>Cereals for grain -</b>									
Wheat	16,976	10,005	5,094	7,914	7,770	144	-	4	47,907
Barley	7,500	6,170	4,944	9,111	5,514	808	-	2	34,049
Oats	10,413	7,818	1,814	5,347	6,505	586	-	7	32,490
Grain sorghum	2,186	11	4,469	-	6	-	5	-	6,677
Maize	1,148	33	1,362	-	7	-	6	-	2,556
Rice	1,475	-	63	-	5	-	2	-	1,545
<b>Sugar cane cut for crushing</b>	553	-	6,105	-	-	-	-	-	6,658
Tobacco	79	316	587	-	-	-	-	-	982
Cotton	90	-	136	-	1	-	-	-	227
Peanuts	9	-	773	-	1	-	2	-	785
Linseed	49	134	105	41	23	-	-	-	352
Rapeseed	93	130	-	291	57	9	-	-	580
Safflower	275	111	266	34	1	-	-	-	687
Sunflower	906	433	1,558	273	18	3	-	-	3,191
Grapevines	1,324	2,157	345	3,041	438	16	4	-	7,325
<b>Vegetables -</b>									
Onions	90	160	254	231	182	58	1	2	998
Potatoes	819	970	555	386	366	607	1	1	3,705
Tomatoes	809	467	922	825	402	68	9	2	3,504
Hops	-	35	-	-	-	22	-	-	57

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY GROWING PRINCIPAL CROPS, AUSTRALIA, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

<i>Crop</i>	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Cereals for grain -						
Wheat	49,620	46,392	47,328	46,723	47,669	47,907
Barley	32,849	30,295	34,723	32,886	34,311	34,049
Oats	32,389	26,427	27,517	26,489	26,282	32,490
Grain sorghum	8,227	8,404	7,726	7,417	6,152	6,677
Maize	3,422	3,610	2,913	3,011	2,623	2,556
Rice	1,447	1,486	1,495	1,436	1,484	1,545
Sugar cane cut for crushing	7,153	6,922	6,893	6,843	6,742	6,658
Tobacco	1,153	1,114	1,106	1,095	1,038	982
Cotton	171	158	130	158	190	227
Peanuts	686	653	689	724	759	785
Linseed	391	784	433	402	800	352
Rapeseed	540	418	506	279	504	580
Safflower	246	440	510	238	508	687
Sunflower	2,309	3,246	2,449	2,149	3,052	3,191
Grapes/vines	7,812	7,704	7,536	7,386	7,412	7,325
Vegetables -						
Onions	1,510	1,488	1,308	1,186	1,090	998
Potatoes	5,277	5,546	4,758	4,455	4,208	3,705
Tomatoes	4,824	4,453	4,124	3,884	3,744	3,504
Hops	120	92	79	66	60	57

TABLE 6. NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES BY LEGAL STATUS

<i>Legal status</i>		<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust. (a)</i>
Sole operator	1975-76	20,207	23,304	9,769	4,094	2,869	2,771	63,206
	1976-77	18,418	22,111	9,230	3,913	2,656	2,479	58,975
	1977-78	17,231	20,228	9,063	3,900	2,654	2,437	55,672
Family partnership	1975-76	25,843	22,559	21,930	14,096	12,346	3,019	100,181
	1976-77	24,973	22,271	21,142	13,806	11,994	2,942	97,470
	1977-78	25,334	23,415	21,092	14,045	11,937	3,008	99,169
Other partnership	1975-76	1,511	767	540	179	327	72	3,424
	1976-77	1,557	787	608	219	353	65	3,614
	1977-78	1,686	1,016	669	246	370	71	4,083
Private incorporated company	1975-76	3,050	633	571	771	504	192	5,902
	1976-77	2,995	709	635	795	520	195	5,982
	1977-78	3,027	896	665	867	580	202	6,422
Public incorporated company	1975-76	20	52	17	4	7	4	128
	1976-77	24	66	12	1	6	4	128
	1977-78	24	112	13	1	7	4	176
Other (b)	1975-76	1,713	848	658	198	122	85	3,648
	1976-77	1,619	844	670	187	162	83	3,585
	1977-78	1,504	959	683	177	208	71	3,621
Total enterprises	1975-76	52,344	48,163	33,485	19,342	16,175	6,143	176,489
	1976-77	49,586	46,788	32,297	18,921	15,691	5,768	169,754
	1977-78	48,806	46,626	32,185	19,236	15,756	5,793	169,143

(a) Includes enterprises in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory and multi-State enterprises. (b) Includes co-operative societies, trusts and estates.

TABLE 7. AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATED BY AGRICULTURAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES BY INDUSTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT, AUSTRALIA

<i>Industry of establishment</i>		<i>Operated by agricultural enterprises</i>			<i>Operated by non-agricultural enterprises</i>		
<i>ASIC Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>1975-76</i>	<i>1976-77</i>	<i>1977-78</i>	<i>1975-76</i>	<i>1976-77</i>	<i>1977-78</i>
0111	Cereal grains	18,750	19,273	16,582	184	201	175
0112	Oilseeds (n.e.c.)	468	537	921	5	9	26
0113	Sheep - cereal grains	22,854	23,012	24,748	135	150	154
0114	Meat cattle - cereal grains	4,750	4,676	5,054	88	94	98
0115	Sheep - meat cattle	13,443	13,063	13,310	207	204	230
0116	Sheep	19,931	19,050	19,250	195	186	219
0117	Meat cattle	29,472	27,650	30,553	1,060	1,033	1,185
0118	Milk cattle	26,785	25,148	23,603	163	160	155
0119	Pigs	3,469	3,712	3,732	96	86	103
0121	Poultry for meat	541	574	589	16	23	24
0122	Poultry for eggs	1,428	1,261	1,289	32	28	37
0131	Grapes	4,624	4,746	4,690	127	163	160
0132	Plantation fruit	2,023	1,958	1,926	29	25	23
0133	Orchard and other fruit	7,155	6,811	7,009	114	122	132
0141	Vegetables - potatoes	2,149	2,139	2,301	23	24	28
0142	Vegetables - other	5,257	5,350	5,370	53	48	56
0150	Multi-purpose farming	540	464	484	15	7	9
0161	Sugar cane	6,616	6,598	6,568	48	48	49
0162	Peanuts	413	426	378	5	5	4
0163	Tobacco	1,036	1,021	990	8	6	4
0164	Cotton	99	110	139	3	1	-
0165	Nurseries and specialised horticultural activities (except forest nurseries)	1,307	1,191	1,416	35	37	49
0166	Agriculture (n.e.c.)	4,466	2,136	2,265	194	59	68
01	Total	177,576	170,906	173,167	2,835	2,719	2,988

## III. STOCKS OF MAJOR GRAINS AND HAY AND PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF SILAGE

TABLE 8. STOCKS OF CEREAL GRAINS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY, AT 31 MARCH  
(Tonnes)

State	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
WHEAT						
New South Wales	326,891	257,884	289,174	317,084	277,174	280,052
Victoria	148,748	122,664	126,852	123,781	119,991	138,996
Queensland	27,452	28,831	25,563	27,195	21,305	93,264
South Australia	120,799	109,373	101,129	98,207	100,315	114,291
Western Australia	221,541	209,086	223,785	234,600	240,009	251,493
Tasmania	3,214	2,344	1,675	1,794	1,462	1,632
Northern Territory	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Australian Capital Territory	485	483	347	302	183	n.a.
<b>Australia</b>	<b>(b)849,130</b>	<b>(b)730,665</b>	<b>(b)768,525</b>	<b>(b)802,961</b>	<b>(b)760,439</b>	<b>(b)879,728</b>
BARLEY						
New South Wales	147,008	90,928	132,690	130,848	104,243	180,402
Victoria	91,788	62,534	69,952	67,213	69,441	82,270
Queensland	49,700	36,667	38,419	37,670	26,158	73,818
South Australia	147,737	135,244	140,775	140,459	131,820	159,009
Western Australia	163,617	108,247	104,830	103,535	124,699	133,506
Tasmania	9,315	8,590	7,668	6,976	6,411	7,531
Northern Territory	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Australian Capital Territory	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
<b>Australia</b>	<b>(b)609,165</b>	<b>(b)442,210</b>	<b>(b)494,334</b>	<b>(b)486,701</b>	<b>(b)462,772</b>	<b>(b)636,536</b>
OATS						
New South Wales	360,598	392,123	418,844	388,190	345,966	573,934
Victoria	289,326	148,733	171,079	194,126	173,959	255,050
Queensland	11,020	21,646	13,856	8,932	6,994	33,361
South Australia	114,255	97,672	92,861	84,876	60,685	118,760
Western Australia	260,560	194,794	216,471	206,666	224,838	264,734
Tasmania	6,931	6,213	4,725	6,871	5,941	9,995
Northern Territory	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Australian Capital Territory	586	285	270	224	129	195
<b>Australia</b>	<b>(b)1,043,278</b>	<b>(b)861,466</b>	<b>(b)918,106</b>	<b>(b)889,885</b>	<b>(b)818,512</b>	<b>(b)1,256,029</b>

(a) Not collected separately. (b) Incomplete: refer to individual States.

TABLE 9. STOCKS OF HAY ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY, AT 31 MARCH  
(Tonnes)

State	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
New South Wales	1,662,779	1,556,490	1,414,883	1,049,949	814,531	1,142,031
Victoria	3,290,408	2,958,869	2,533,489	2,434,585	1,966,103	2,614,424
Queensland	280,609	263,869	229,059	192,044	136,560	160,690
South Australia	879,545	891,575	666,639	546,838	342,463	727,631
Western Australia	561,383	442,702	425,422	402,974	408,508	384,359
Tasmania	471,290	461,997	409,607	386,599	257,129	321,851
Northern Territory	2,488	909	592	592	830	661
Australian Capital Territory	8,727	5,280	4,799	2,638	2,080	3,183
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7,157,229</b>	<b>6,581,691</b>	<b>5,684,490</b>	<b>5,016,219</b>	<b>3,928,204</b>	<b>5,354,830</b>

TABLE 10. SILAGE MADE (a) ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY,  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH  
(Tonnes)

State	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
New South Wales	361,945	211,307	148,187	90,096	55,973	115,293
Victoria	289,393	139,891	110,263	118,418	77,127	118,642
Queensland	47,719	36,641	27,273	21,570	17,112	24,411
South Australia	46,777	35,298	20,304	15,039	9,818	17,189
Western Australia	81,186	49,057	45,535	30,858	33,812	31,016
Tasmania	57,055	50,146	34,894	34,609	16,111	28,152
Northern Territory	3,560	6,731	5,790	n.a.	n.a.	-
Australian Capital Territory	670	n.a.	n.a.	-	-	-
<b>Australia</b>	<b>888,305</b>	<b>(b)529,071</b>	<b>(b)392,246</b>	<b>(b)310,590</b>	<b>(b)209,953</b>	<b>334,703</b>

(a) Includes silage made from crops and from pastures and grasses. (b) Incomplete; refer to individual states.

TABLE 11. STOCKS OF SILAGE ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY, AT 31 MARCH  
(Tonnes)

State	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
New South Wales	769,127	775,097	704,861	501,062	420,685	441,027
Victoria	284,343	164,265	118,332	120,916	87,840	103,125
Queensland	168,017	142,146	136,115	118,108	122,975	120,060
South Australia	49,245	51,260	40,671	25,887	20,190	21,525
Western Australia	59,607	42,438	36,331	23,455	22,924	22,979
Tasmania	66,190	67,654	52,480	52,050	33,522	43,943
Northern Territory	842	275	n.a.	n.a.	264	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	1,350	6,630	6,839	164	204	-
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,398,721</b>	<b>1,249,765</b>	<b>(a)1,095,629</b>	<b>(a)841,642</b>	<b>708,604</b>	<b>(a)752,659</b>

(a) Incomplete; refer to individual states.

## IV. EMPLOYMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

## Labour Force in Agriculture

Statistics of the labour force (i.e. employed and unemployed) in agriculture are available from two sources - the monthly population survey and the periodic censuses of the population. The statistics from the survey and the censuses are not directly comparable for a number of reasons, some of which are set out in the explanatory notes to the ABS monthly publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

2. The population survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews generally being conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of

each month. The surveys conducted in the months of February, May, August and November collect details of occupation and industry of employed persons. The information obtained relates to the week prior to the interview (i.e. the survey week).

3. The labour force survey includes all persons aged fifteen years and over except: members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; overseas visitors holidaying in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

4. For definitions of the terms 'employed' and 'unemployed' see the ABS monthly publication *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

TABLE 12. EMPLOYED PERSONS IN AGRICULTURE AND SERVICES TO AGRICULTURE, FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STATUS (a), AUSTRALIA  
(Source: Labour Force Surveys)

Month	Males			Females			Persons		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
	'000								
1977 -									
August	281.4	12.8	294.2	45.8	43.3	89.1	327.2	56.1	383.3
November	261.8	19.8	281.6	48.5	41.6	90.1	310.3	61.4	371.6
1978 -									
February	260.1	15.6	275.7	41.1	41.8	82.9	301.2	57.4	358.6
May	251.4	13.9	265.3	43.2	37.2	80.4	294.7	51.0	345.7
August	259.4	15.5	274.9	34.2	43.9	78.1	293.5	59.5	353.0
November	272.1	15.0	287.1	41.4	41.4	82.8	313.5	56.4	369.9
1979 -									
February	262.8	18.3	281.1	43.4	42.2	85.6	306.2	60.5	366.7
May	263.3	19.8	283.1	38.8	40.0	78.8	302.0	59.8	361.8
August	280.3	15.0	295.4	39.4	40.9	80.3	319.8	55.9	375.7
November	279.9	16.0	295.9	40.6	42.0	82.6	320.5	58.0	378.5

(a) For scope of estimates, definitions, etc. see text above.

TABLE 13. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN AGRICULTURE AND SERVICES TO AGRICULTURE (a), AUSTRALIA  
(Source: Labour Force Surveys)

Month	Number of persons unemployed		Unemployment rate
	'000	%	
1977 -			
August	16.8	4.2	
November	13.9	3.6	
1978 -			
February	18.5	4.9	
May	14.9	4.1	
August	14.8	4.0	
November	11.6	3.0	
1979 -			
February	14.4	3.8	
May	11.9	3.2	
August	12.4	3.2	
November (b)	10.2	2.6	

(a) Prior to November 1977 comprises unemployed persons whose last job was in agriculture or services to agriculture. From November 1977 comprises unemployed persons whose last full-time job of two weeks or more in the previous two years was in agriculture or services to agriculture. Excludes unemployed persons looking for first job. For scope of estimates, definitions, etc., see text above. (b) Excludes persons stood down without pay for less than 4 weeks at the time of the final week of the survey.

**Australian Census of Population and Housing**  
(1971 and 1976)

A range of data from the 1976 Census has been published in a series of ABS publications covering all States and Territories. It should be noted that more detailed employment statistics cross-classified by demographic characteristics such as age, marital status, birthplace, qualifications and occupational status are available from unpublished tabulations and microfiche held by the ABS. This information can be obtained by contacting the ABS office in each State capital city, or in Canberra.

Since the second World War, the rise in living standards and the increases in new technology has inevitably resulted in a smaller agricultural labour force producing a large output of farm products. Predictably the numbers of males employed in agriculture have declined since the 1971 Census (by 13.7%) but this has been compensated by a large increase in the number of women entering the agricultural labour force. Much of this increase has been in the occupational status group *self-employed* (i.e., persons who conduct their own business but do not employ others).

**TABLE 14. PERSONS EMPLOYED (a) IN AGRICULTURE BY SEX AT 30 JUNE 1971 AND 1976**  
(Source : Census of Population and Housing, 1971 and 1976)

States	Males			Females			Persons		
	1971	1976	Percentage change	1971	1976	Percentage change	1971	1976	Percentage change
	New South Wales	88,744	75,634	-14.8	18,561	35,589	91.7	107,305	111,223
Victoria	74,108	61,265	-17.3	17,937	34,310	91.3	92,045	95,575	3.8
Queensland	61,728	52,978	-14.2	13,927	25,400	82.4	75,655	78,378	3.6
South Australia	30,785	29,321	-4.8	8,177	16,172	97.8	38,962	45,493	16.8
Western Australia	29,915	28,327	-5.3	6,567	13,063	98.9	36,482	41,390	13.5
Tasmania	10,469	7,932	-24.2	1,616	2,947	82.4	12,085	10,879	-10.0
Australia (b)	298,323	257,465	-13.7	67,324	128,053	90.2	365,647	385,518	5.4

(a) Civilian population 15 years of age and over. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**TABLE 15. PERSONS EMPLOYED (a) IN AGRICULTURE BY BIRTHPLACE AT 30 JUNE 1976**  
(Source : Census of Population and Housing, 1976)

	Australian born			Overseas born			Total persons	Overseas born as a % of total employed persons
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons		
New South Wales	69,264	31,851	101,115	6,371	3,738	10,109	111,223	9.1
Victoria	54,940	30,208	85,148	6,324	4,101	10,425	95,575	10.9
Queensland	47,692	22,752	70,444	5,286	2,649	7,935	78,378	10.1
South Australia	26,704	14,273	40,977	2,617	1,900	4,517	45,493	9.9
Western Australia	24,293	10,831	35,124	4,034	2,231	6,265	41,390	15.1
Tasmania	7,543	2,689	10,232	389	258	647	10,879	5.9
Australia (b)								
Agriculture	232,285	113,107	345,392	25,180	14,945	40,125	385,518	10.4
All industries	2,723,605	1,559,733	4,283,338	993,998	510,810	1,504,808	5,788,146	26.0
Agriculture as a % of all industries	8.5	7.3	8.1	2.5	2.9	2.7	6.7	

(a) Civilian population 15 years of age and over. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 16. PERSONS EMPLOYED (a) IN AGRICULTURE BY OCCUPATIONAL STATUS, AT 30 JUNE 1976  
(Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1976)

Occupational status	Employed persons	% of total agriculture	All industries	% of total all industries
Employer -				
Males	37,282	14.48	207,025	5.57
Females	18,833	14.71	89,534	4.32
Persons	56,115	14.56	296,559	5.12
Self-employed -				
Males	131,579	51.11	354,251	9.53
Females	63,924	49.92	151,144	7.30
Persons	195,503	50.71	505,395	8.73
Employee -				
Males	81,464	31.64	3,139,218	84.44
Females	18,584	14.51	1,762,190	85.11
Persons	100,048	25.95	4,901,408	84.68
Helper -				
Males	7,140	2.77	17,109	0.46
Females	26,712	20.86	67,674	3.27
Persons	33,852	8.78	84,783	1.46
Total agriculture -				
Males	257,465	100.00	3,717,603	100.00
Females	128,052	100.00	2,070,543	100.00
Persons	385,518	100.00	5,788,146	100.00

(a) Civilian population 15 years of age and over.

- NOTE - 1. An *EMPLOYER* is a person who conducts his own business and employs others.  
 2. A *SELF-EMPLOYED PERSON* is a person who conducts his own business but does not employ others.  
 3. An *EMPLOYEE* is a wage or salary earner or one who receives payment in kind.  
 4. A *HELPER* is a person in a family business who receives neither wages, salary nor payment in kind.

## V. ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS

**TABLE 17. PRINCIPAL CROPS AND PASTURES ARTIFICIALLY FERTILISED, AREA FERTILISED, TYPE AND QUANTITY USED, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1979**

<i>Crops and pastures</i>		<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Sown and native pastures –										
Area fertilised	hectares	2,943,909	3,067,421	120,855	1,319,459	4,075,059	526,458	25,413	–	12,078,574
Type of fertiliser used –										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	343,722	394,193	20,422	158,501	455,719	77,100	1,472	–	1,451,129
Nitrogenous	"	11,163	8,309	5,849	1,549	8,492	1,346	224	–	36,932
Other (b)	"	9,300	68,146	2,174	4,716	32,408	15,431	233	–	132,408
Lucerne (incl. lucerne-based) –										
Area fertilised	hectares	43,173	26,340	4,644	294,382	8,129	2,262	62	68	379,060
Type of fertiliser used –										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	6,906	4,879	1,183	40,139	1,240	476	22	22	54,867
Nitrogenous	"	2	189	306	357	110	13	–	–	977
Other (b)	"	378	600	137	1,543	309	306	n.a.	–	(c)3,273
Wheat –										
Area fertilised	hectares	1,865,438	1,223,373	115,920	1,233,037	3,564,917	1,453	–	153	8,004,291
Type of fertiliser used –										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	115,960	142,665	3,292	136,468	234,965	292	–	13	633,655
Nitrogenous	"	10,634	3,975	5,179	3,313	155,267	n.a.	–	–	(c)178,368
Other (b)	"	18,672	2,856	521	4,698	8,158	18	–	–	34,923
Oats, barley and rye (d) –										
Area fertilised	hectares	789,091	607,651	146,919	1,257,311	1,086,872	28,469	–	309	3,916,622
Type of fertiliser used –										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	63,117	72,254	6,764	149,180	99,144	5,757	–	42	396,258
Nitrogenous	"	6,006	1,795	9,004	4,988	36,301	88	–	n.a.	(c) 58,182
Other (b)	"	9,134	1,524	1,477	8,187	3,774	1,158	–	n.a.	(c) 25,254
Other cereals (e) –										
Area fertilised	hectares	132,357	5,329	125,756	32,164	7,660	89	116	–	303,471
Type of fertiliser used –										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	4,273	800	4,187	3,465	569	18	19	–	13,331
Nitrogenous	"	15,432	118	10,384	61	606	n.a.	14	–	(c)26,615
Other (b)	"	2,444	133	2,203	201	121	23	5	–	5,130

For footnotes see next page.

TABLE 17. PRINCIPAL CROPS AND PASTURES ARTIFICIALLY FERTILISED, AREA FERTILISED, TYPE AND QUANTITY USED,  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1979 - *continued*

Crops and pastures		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Sugar cane -										
Area fertilised	hectares	13,277	-	252,757	-	-	-	-	-	266,034
Type of fertiliser used -										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	1,035	-	20,922	-	-	-	-	-	21,957
Nitrogenous	"	6,323	-	117,031	-	-	-	-	-	123,354
Other (b)	"	1,807	-	87,665	-	-	-	-	-	89,472
Vegetables for human consumption -										
Area fertilised	hectares	17,399	19,530	19,177	7,510	4,213	11,008	93	n.a.	(c)78,930
Type of fertiliser used -										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	5,127	6,317	1,955	4,515	2,699	3,052	26	-	23,691
Nitrogenous	"	3,495	1,889	5,573	1,967	5,350	271	13	n.a.	(c)18,558
Other (b)	"	9,631	16,409	8,691	6,161	3,418	8,336	81	n.a.	(c)52,727
Fruit -										
Area fertilised	hectares	22,049	13,679	15,648	11,203	4,880	2,958	15	-	70,432
Type of fertiliser used -										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	4,725	2,468	1,488	3,225	1,792	513	n.a.	-	(c)14,211
Nitrogenous	"	5,778	5,606	7,610	3,111	2,344	339	n.a.	-	(c)24,788
Other (b)	"	12,165	4,659	10,841	3,002	1,395	2,024	17	-	34,103
Grapevines -										
Area fertilised	hectares	6,609	10,486	1,115	15,225	1,493	-	-	-	34,928
Type of fertiliser used -										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	1,746	1,850	65	4,512	332	-	-	-	8,505
Nitrogenous	"	1,006	1,295	98	940	329	-	-	-	3,668
Other (b)	"	1,017	1,618	412	3,021	205	-	-	-	6,273
All other crops -										
Area fertilised	hectares	78,965	33,451	58,356	39,223	43,621	17,112	348	18	271,094
Type of fertiliser used -										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	5,211	6,730	3,941	6,285	7,128	3,623	51	-	32,969
Nitrogenous	"	5,681	425	6,243	185	1,000	468	10	8	14,020
Other (b)	"	2,442	2,329	4,858	718	929	3,130	5	32	14,443
Total -										
Area fertilised	hectares	5,912,267	5,007,260	861,147	4,209,514	8,796,844	589,809	26,047	(f)548	(f)25,403,436
Type of fertiliser used -										
Superphosphate (a)	tonnes	551,822	632,156	64,219	506,290	803,588	90,831	(f)1,590	77	(f)2,650,573
Nitrogenous	"	65,520	23,601	167,277	16,471	209,799	(f)2,525	(f)261	(f)8	(f)485,462
Other (b)	"	66,990	98,274	118,979	32,247	50,717	30,426	(f)341	(f)32	(f)398,006

(a) For Victoria only, 'double' and 'triple' strength superphosphate has been converted to 'single' strength equivalent. (b) includes mixed and compounded fertilisers. (c) Incomplete; refer to individual states. (d) For Victoria and Queensland, rye is included in 'Other cereals'. (e) For Victoria and Queensland, includes rye. (f) Excludes data not available for publication. Refer to individual States' components.

TABLE 18. PRINCIPAL CROPS AND PASTURES ARTIFICIALLY FERTILISED, AREA FERTILISED, TYPE AND QUANTITY USED, AUSTRALIA, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

<i>Crops and pastures</i>	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
AREA FERTILISED (Hectares)						
Sown and native pastures	17,994,410	14,483,981	8,567,968	10,006,541	11,324,528	12,078,574
Lucerne	494,949	639,186	345,582	446,621	469,109	379,060
Wheat	7,146,716	6,357,837	6,275,570	6,745,432	7,827,113	8,004,291
Oats, barley and rye	3,060,760	2,302,023	2,733,417	2,965,594	3,748,868	3,916,622
Other cereals	197,573	375,546	358,379	400,769	211,170	303,471
Sugar cane	235,843	248,369	267,346	285,070	289,073	266,034
Vegetables for human consumption	73,024	77,573	72,715			
Fruit	74,828	69,183	65,816	75,565	78,041	78,930
Grapevines	35,726	33,316	32,814	65,101	67,774	70,432
All other crops	214,938	271,177	254,909	32,628	36,061	34,928
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,528,767</b>	<b>24,858,191</b>	<b>18,974,516</b>	<b>21,265,980</b>	<b>24,323,756</b>	<b>25,403,436</b>
SUPERPHOSPHATE USED (Tonnes)						
Sown and native pastures	2,708,648	2,069,712	1,027,252	1,166,034	1,335,176	1,451,129
Lucerne	89,207	112,260	52,980	62,585	66,856	54,867
Wheat	803,604	718,718	664,811	615,385	635,313	633,655
Oats, barley and rye	383,292	289,749	325,511	320,607	383,635	396,258
Other cereals	18,886	36,010	30,345	30,349	8,202	13,331
Sugar cane	20,642	21,275	25,722	26,543	25,413	21,957
Vegetables for human consumption	25,055	27,133	27,812	23,762	24,825	23,691
Fruit	18,904	17,617	14,705	13,615	14,025	14,211
Grapevines	10,242	10,095	9,403	8,874	9,374	8,505
All other crops	31,466	46,119	39,952	35,608	35,070	32,969
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,109,946</b>	<b>3,348,688</b>	<b>2,216,493</b>	<b>2,303,362</b>	<b>2,537,889</b>	<b>2,650,573</b>
NITROGENOUS FERTILISERS USED (Tonnes)						
Sown and native pastures	49,177	31,167	22,464	26,380	31,775	36,932
Lucerne	1,169	744	534	687	765	977
Wheat	72,754	88,159	105,727	56,884	178,425	178,368
Oats, barley and rye	23,427	20,504	23,386	22,954	51,276	58,182
Other cereals	20,721	22,395	22,156	26,184	23,152	26,615
Sugar cane	109,565	123,862	132,663	144,390	142,348	123,354
Vegetables for human consumption	21,907	15,277	15,256	12,612	18,052	18,558
Fruit	23,886	20,265	18,735	23,453	28,157	24,788
Grapevines	4,519	2,981	3,210	2,975	3,843	3,668
All other crops	12,851	9,592	9,045	9,562	12,511	14,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>339,976</b>	<b>334,946</b>	<b>353,176</b>	<b>326,081</b>	<b>490,304</b>	<b>485,462</b>
OTHER ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS USED (a) (Tonnes)						
Sown and native pastures	168,258	146,375	83,420	85,490	106,985	132,408
Lucerne	5,562	3,643	3,253	3,137	3,486	3,273
Wheat	14,729	16,733	14,485	104,414	35,348	34,923
Oats, barley and rye	11,513	11,226	10,716	25,645	21,300	25,254
Other cereals	5,574	4,545	4,305	5,669	3,885	5,130
Sugar cane	75,589	84,711	92,859	102,682	102,712	89,472
Vegetables for human consumption	35,842	45,181	42,457	51,797	54,901	52,727
Fruit	28,655	31,187	27,847	29,220	32,876	34,103
Grapevines	4,443	4,619	5,369	6,781	6,853	6,273
All other crops	10,020	11,516	11,412	12,881	14,559	14,443
<b>Total</b>	<b>360,185</b>	<b>359,736</b>	<b>296,123</b>	<b>427,716</b>	<b>382,905</b>	<b>398,006</b>

(a) Includes mixed and compounded fertilisers.

TABLE 19. AREA FERTILISED, TYPE AND QUANTITY OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS USED, YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

State	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
AREA (Hectares)						
New South Wales	7,513,174	5,627,902	3,802,867	4,589,050	5,642,420	5,912,267
Victoria	6,035,402	4,869,739	3,424,276	3,949,749	4,520,924	5,007,260
Queensland	793,986	753,196	711,782	810,797	806,441	861,147
South Australia	4,570,617	4,123,412	2,954,348	3,192,516	3,916,188	4,209,514
Western Australia	9,798,377	8,889,162	7,778,902	8,315,922	8,930,676	8,796,844
Tasmania	779,619	559,515	289,425	392,763	483,297	589,809
Northern Territory	17,913	22,941	9,158	9,049	18,737	26,047
Australian Capital Territory	19,679	12,324	3,758	6,134	5,073	548
<b>Australia</b>	<b>29,528,767</b>	<b>24,858,191</b>	<b>18,974,516</b>	<b>21,265,980</b>	<b>24,323,756</b>	<b>25,403,436</b>
SUPERPHOSPHATE USED (Tonnes)						
New South Wales	958,680	698,849	413,451	410,468	498,371	551,822
Victoria	957,289	729,734	459,097	500,491	575,030	632,156
Queensland	99,234	85,480	65,127	69,395	65,312	64,219
South Australia	651,504	584,257	383,392	400,430	474,021	506,290
Western Australia	1,289,408	1,146,418	847,681	859,560	847,599	803,588
Tasmania	145,782	97,728	46,010	61,233	75,578	90,831
Northern Territory	5,843	4,804	1,163	1,122	1,442	1,590
Australian Capital Territory	2,206	1,418	572	663	536	77
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4,109,946</b>	<b>3,348,688</b>	<b>2,216,493</b>	<b>2,303,362</b>	<b>2,537,889</b>	<b>2,650,573</b>
NITROGENOUS FERTILISERS USED (Tonnes)						
New South Wales	47,527	47,509	48,529	54,048	62,005	65,520
Victoria	42,601	18,131	12,676	23,600	28,440	23,601
Queensland	142,996	153,541	165,747	185,739	182,756	167,277
South Australia	10,050	10,140	8,658	8,786	13,323	16,471
Western Australia	90,510	102,255	115,460	(b)151,724	202,103	209,799
Tasmania	5,433	2,326	1,851	1,982	1,579	2,525
Northern Territory	840	1,033	235	185	92	261
Australian Capital Territory	19	11	20	17	6	8
<b>Australia</b>	<b>339,976</b>	<b>334,946</b>	<b>353,176</b>	<b>326,081</b>	<b>490,304</b>	<b>485,462</b>
OTHER ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS USED (a) (Tonnes)						
New South Wales	44,006	45,066	41,262	56,406	64,457	66,990
Victoria	109,200	108,533	69,671	68,654	82,239	98,274
Queensland	101,807	112,558	117,945	129,407	129,556	118,979
South Australia	31,298	27,795	22,739	30,378	33,676	32,247
Western Australia	44,656	40,861	26,717	(c)121,281	48,033	50,717
Tasmania	29,095	24,807	17,648	21,409	24,778	30,426
Northern Territory	106	59	93	103	130	341
Australian Capital Territory	17	57	48	78	36	32
<b>Australia</b>	<b>360,185</b>	<b>359,736</b>	<b>296,123</b>	<b>427,716</b>	<b>382,905</b>	<b>398,006</b>

(a) Includes mixed and compounded fertilisers. (b) Not strictly comparable with other years. Excluded mixtures and compounds containing nitrogen which, were included in 'other artificial fertilisers used'. (c) Not strictly comparable with other years. Included mixtures and compounds containing nitrogen which, in other years, were included in 'Nitrogenous Fertilisers Used'.

## VI. AERIAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

The following table contains statistics compiled from returns collected from the operators of aircraft engaged in aerial top-dressing, seeding, spraying and allied activities such as rabbit and dingo baiting. The collection was commenced in 1956 by the then Department of Civil Aviation and is now the responsibility of the Australian Department of

Transport. The ABS undertook the collection from 1 January 1967 to 31 March 1974.

2. Duplication between top-dressing and seeding and spraying has been excluded in arriving at total area treated.

TABLE 20. AERIAL AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

Year ended 31 March	Area top-dressed and seeded	Area sprayed	Total area treated (a)	Materials used		Total flying time
				Super- phosphate	Seed	
		- '000 hectares -		Tonnes	Tonnes	Hours
1974	4,870	1,870	6,857	546,009	2,510	93,288
1975	3,378	1,544	5,080	473,849	4,805	89,199
1976	1,164	2,059	3,314	105,224	3,532	53,783
1977	1,381	1,624	3,064	151,453	2,547	49,596
1978	2,403	1,782	4,260	287,248	3,789	69,469
1979 -						
New South Wales (b)	2,350	1,476	3,839	258,601	5,692	57,916
Victoria (c)	385	241	643	56,253	49	13,258
Queensland	108	565	698	10,825	89	14,166
South Australia (d)	95	236	330	10,739	25	5,998
Western Australia	267	463	733	37,781	28	9,287
<b>Australia</b>	<b>3,205</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>6,243</b>	<b>374,199</b>	<b>5,883</b>	<b>100,625</b>

(a) Includes other types of treatment (e.g. rabbit baiting, etc.). (b) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Tasmania. (d) Includes the Northern Territory.