Australian Bureau of Statistics

2008–09

7121.0

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 9 APR 2010

CONTENTS

page

Notes 2
Abbreviations 3

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Industry structure 4
Crops 5
Horticulture 7
Livestock 9

TABLES

Land use 10
Businesses with agricultural activity 11
Broadacre crops 12
Fruit and nuts 13
Vegetables 14
Grapes 15
Livestock 16

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes 17

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication contains final estimates for the main commodities collected in the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey. Included are statistics on land use, industry activity, crop and horticultural area and production, and livestock numbers. Data will be available for a range of sub–state geographic levels, including Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and Statistical Division (SD). The data are based on a response rate of 88% from a sample of approximately 38 thousand agricultural businesses selected for the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey.

More detailed agricultural commodity and livestock data will be attached as data cubes to this publication at a later time.

Structural tables containing data pertaining to agricultural business activity by Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) and area are also attached as data cubes to this publication.

Additional state/territory and national data for wheat grain storage and use and grain storage capacity are available for download with this publication.

The estimates in this publication are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 edition, which was adopted for the first time in 2005–06.

Further data from the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey collection will be released in *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0).

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The 2008–09 Agricultural Survey collected a greater range of agricultural commodities and livestock breakdowns than was collected in the 2007–08 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). For further details refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
Aust.	Australia
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
ha	hectare
kg	kilogram
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
NRM	natural resource management
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SE	standard error
t	tonne
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

BUSINESSES WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

Table 2 of this publication categorises businesses with agricultural activity into the industry that represents the business' main activity, using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 edition.

The 2008–09 Agricultural Survey revealed that the number of businesses undertaking agricultural activity had fallen to a total of 136 thousand businesses. This represents a 3% decrease compared to 2007–08.

The beef cattle farming industry remained the largest sector in 2008–09, comprising nearly a third of businesses classified to the agriculture industry. The mixed farming sector (grain–sheep/grain–beef cattle) represented the next largest sector, accounting for 11% of businesses in the agriculture industry.

Other notable movements in 2008–09 were the decrease in the number of businesses in the dairy cattle farming industry (down 12%) and the doubling of the number of businesses in the rice growing industry since 2007–08.

The number of non–agricultural businesses which undertook agricultural activity during 2008–09 remained steady at an estimated 15 thousand businesses.

OVERVIEW

Production increased for many broadacre crops in 2008–09, in particular wheat, barley and canola, as a result of improved seasonal conditions in some areas.

CROPS FOR GRAIN

Wheat

The area sown to wheat for grain in 2008–09 increased by 8% to 13.5 million hectares while production recovered from the lows of recent years, rising by 58% to 21.4 million tonnes from 2007–08. Production increased in all the major growing states, except Victoria (down 12%) where production was affected by dry seasonal conditions. Production in New South Wales was more than double that of the previous drought-affected year, up to 7.0 million tonnes.

Barley

There was a 2% increase in the area sown to barley for grain, up to 5.0 million hectares in 2008–09. Production of 8.0 million tonnes was 12% higher than 2007–08. With improved seasonal conditions, most regions had increased production from 2007–08, with New South Wales recording the largest increase (up 78%), while production in Victoria decreased by 18%.

Oats

The area sown to oats fell 30% in 2008–09, down to the lowest level since 2002. As a result, production decreased by 23% to 1.2 million tonnes. All states recorded decreased production, except New South Wales which increased by 35% to 261 thousand tonnes.

Grain Sorghum

There was a 19% decrease in the area sown to sorghum for grain in 2008–09, with 767 thousand hectares sown. Production decreased by 29% to 2.7 million tonnes, with most states/territories recording falls from the previous year.

Lupins

In 2008–09, the area sown to lupins continued a decade of decline, down to 577 thousand hectares. However, production rose by 7% from 2007–08, totalling 708 thousand tonnes as a result of increases in Western Australia, which was the main producing state with 600 thousand tonnes.

Rice

In 2008–09 the area sown to rice more than trebled to 7 thousand hectares compared with the previous year due to increased availability of water for irrigation. Production similarly increased to 61 thousand tonnes. However, these figures are still markedly below the levels recorded ten years ago.

OTHER CROPS

Canola

The area of canola planted in 2008–09 increased by 33% to 1.7 million hectares. Increased plantings were recorded in three of the four main growing states, with only New South Wales showing a small decrease, down to 300 thousand hectares. However, increased production in all the main producing states, including a 56% increase in Western Australia, saw overall production up by 52% to 1.8 million tonnes in 2008–09.

Cotton

In 2008–09 the total area sown to cotton more than doubled to 159 thousand hectares following increased availability of water for irrigation. Production of cotton lint increased from the low levels of recent years to 309 thousand tonnes.

Sugar cane

While the area sown to sugar cane in 2008–09 increased by 3% to 391 thousand hectares, production fell by 4% to 31.5 million tonnes due to falls in New South Wales and ceasing of production in Western Australia. Queensland, the main growing state, increased plantings by 6% to 376 thousand hectares.

FRUIT

Citrus

Although the number of orange trees increased in 2008–09 by 12% to 6.8 million trees, production fell by 15% to 348 thousand tonnes.

Both mandarin production and the number of mandarin trees were down 4% in 2008–09. Production in Queensland, the main producing state, was down by 20%.

Pome

In 2008–09, apple producers reported a decrease of almost one million trees (12%), but production rose by 11% to 295 thousand tonnes. Pear growers reported falls, both in the number of trees (down by 5% to 1.6 million trees) and in production which dropped by 8% to 120 thousand tonnes.

Other fruit and nuts

In 2008–09, the area planted to bananas increased by 22% to 12 thousand hectares. Banana production rose by 31% to 270 thousand tonnes, driven by increased production in Queensland (Australia's main producing state) where production was up by 32% from 2007–08. These increases bring production levels back in line with pre–2006 levels.

Further decreases from 2006–07 in mango production were recorded in 2008–09, down by 17% to 41 thousand tonnes from 2007–08. This reduced production was driven by poor conditions in Queensland (down 23%). Queensland accounted for 67% of national mango production.

Although the number of macadamia trees increased by 13% to 3.9 million in 2008–09, reduced production due to unfavourable conditions in the major producing states of New South Wales (down by 12%) and Queensland (down by 5%) pushed national production down by 10% to 30 thousand tonnes.

VEGETABLES

Carrots

The area for carrots sown in 2008–09 increased by 5% to 5 thousand hectares, but there was a slight decrease in production (down 3%) to 264 thousand tonnes. Production decreased in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, but increased in the other states.

Mushrooms

Production of mushrooms declined by 8% to 43 thousand tonnes, driven by decreases in Queensland (down 31% and continuing declines of recent years in that state), and New South Wales (down from a peak in the previous year). The area sown to mushrooms also dropped, down by 11% to 159 hectares.

Onions

In 2008–09 increases were reported in both area of onions (up 9% to 5 thousand hectares) and production of onions (up 12% to 284 thousand tonnes). All producing states recorded increased production, except for Western Australia which was down 20% from 2007–08. Tasmanian production continued the increases of recent years and overtook South Australia as the main producing state.

Potatoes

In 2008–09, there were declines for potatoes in both area sown and production. A total area of 33 thousand hectares (down 15%), resulted in a 16% downturn in production to 1.2 million tonnes. This continued a pattern of reduced production reported over the past decade.

Tomatoes

The area of tomatoes sown remained steady at 7 thousand hectares in 2008–09 but there was a 15% increase in production to 440 thousand tonnes. This national increase in production was driven by the major producing state, Victoria, recording a 40% increase from 2007–08 when production was affected by poor seasonal factors.

LIVESTOCK

Milk cattle

The number of milk cattle increased in 2008–09 by 3% to 2.6 million head, with the number of cows in milk and dry increasing by 2% to 1.7 million head.
Tasmania had the largest percentage increase of all states in dairy cattle, up by 14% to 226 thousand head. Victoria remained the major dairy state, with herd numbers up 2% to 1.6 million head.

Meat Cattle

In 2008–09, meat cattle totalled 25.3 million head, representing an increase of 2% from 2007–08. Notable movements in meat cattle numbers were Western Australia with a 10% increase and in the Northern Territory recording an 18% decrease.

Sheep

Sheep numbers decreased by 5% to 72.7 million in 2008–09, the lowest level since 1905. The largest decreases were reported in Western Australia (down by 1.9 million head) and Victoria (down by 1.7 million head).

Pigs

Pig numbers continued to decline in 2008–09, dropping to the lowest herd size since 1979 at 2.3 milion head. This downward trend in pig numbers was driven by the main producing states of New South Wales (down 16%) and Queensland (down 2%).

Chickens

The number of chickens for egg production fell in 2008–09 by 15% to 12.6 million, while meat chicken numbers increased by 12% to 82.8 million. All three major meat chicken producing states reported increased numbers, with Queensland (up 37%) reporting the largest rise. New South Wales continued to be the main producing state with 38% of the national total.

1 LAND USE—Year ended 30 June

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha	'000 ha
AREA PLANTED TO CROPS (a)									
2007	6 687	3 428	2 215	4 450	6 669	62	*19	^—	23 530
2008	6 816	3 655	2 183	4 257	7 396	52	*14	*1	24 374
2009	7 650	4 189	2 795	4 493	8 306	73	6	1	27 511
AREA OF FARMS (b)									
2007	58 614	13 250	143 871	50 065	96 742	1 659	61 202	^47	425 449
2008	58 118	12 536	141 058	47 076	93 035	1 542	*63 888	37	417 288
2009	57 267	12 091	141 210	49 126	93 646	1 630	54 016	42	409 029
AREA OF NON-AGRICULTURAL LAND (c)									
2007	21 450	9 492	29 195	48 283	156 246	5 181	73 711	190	343 753
2008	21 946	10 206	32 007	51 272	159 953	5 299	71 025	199	351 914
2009	22 797	10 651	31 855	49 222	159 342	5 210	80 897	194	360 173
TOTAL LAND AREA (d)									
Total	**80 064**	**22 742**	**173 065**	**98 348**	**252 988**	**6 840**	**134 913**	**236**	**769 202**

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes crops harvested for hay and seed, and pastures and grasses.

(b) Total area of agricultural businesses with an EVAO of $5,000 or more.

(c) Non-agricultural land is the difference between agricultural land as reported in the Agricultural Survey or ARMS and total land area of the state/territory. It comprises conserved land, forestry, urban and unused land such as vacant Crown land, commercially unused land on Aboriginal and other Crown reserves and waste land, ephemeral lakes and mangrove swamps, as well as establishments not included in the scope of the Agricultural Survey.

(d) Total area of Australia includes Jervis Bay.

2 BUSINESSES WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY(a), by State—Year ended 30 June 2009

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
		no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
0111	Nursery Production (Under Cover)	*66	**11	*77	^8	**33	*7	*7	—	^209
0112	Nursery Production (Outdoors)	^259	^203	^181	^61	*87	^25	3	1	820
0113	Turf Growing	^106	*28	^97	^5	*42	1	^4	*1	283
0114	Floriculture Production (Under Cover)	*34	*72	**23	**1	—	^9	**2	—	^143
0115	Floriculture Production (Outdoors)	^151	^134	*73	^32	*53	^17	*7	*1	468
0121	Mushroom Growing	^33	^7	*34	*9	1	*2	—	—	^86
0122	Vegetable Growing (Under Cover)	^144	*39	^91	194	*26	^13	^2	—	509
0123	Vegetable Growing (Outdoors)	996	687	1 032	^346	430	359	41	*3	3 894
0131	Grape Growing	1 130	1 724	^63	2 401	^521	^78	^6	*3	5 926
0132	Kiwifruit Growing	*5	*7	^3	—	—	—	—	—	^15
0133	Berry Fruit Growing	^103	*169	91	^16	*36	^38	—	—	453
0134	Apple and Pear Growing	^102	^245	^43	93	^149	^89	—	*3	725
0135	Stone Fruit Growing	^269	^275	^59	^134	^168	^53	—	—	959
0136	Citrus Fruit Growing	461	^132	152	^227	*68	—	*1	—	1 041
0137	Olive Growing	^33	*103	*12	76	*37	**6	—	—	^267
0139	Other Fruit and Tree Nut Growing	1 010	^127	1 313	^128	^127	*18	149	*1	2 873
0141	Sheep Farming (Specialised)	3 954	3 344	^285	1 271	^1 026	471	—	16	10 368
0142–0143	Beef Cattle Farming plus Beef Cattle Feedlots (Specialised)	13 409	8 468	12 452	1 355	2 259	1 231	223	27	39 425
0144	Sheep-Beef Cattle Farming	3 309	1 684	^517	^680	^282	^203	—	^14	6 690
0145	Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming	5 224	2 538	1 382	2 367	2 168	^99	—	—	13 778
0146	Rice Growing	*105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*105
0149	Other Grain Growing	3 365	2 777	1 449	2 557	2 912	^48	1	*1	13 110
0151	Sugar Cane Growing	398	—	3 365	—	—	—	—	—	3 762
0152	Cotton Growing	132	—	144	—	—	—	—	—	276
0159	Other Crop Growing n.e.c.	^444	^606	^446	^92	*172	*147	^12	*1	1 921
0160	Dairy Cattle Farming	1 016	4 939	735	380	^177	502	—	—	7 749
0171	Poultry Farming (Meat)	305	250	93	50	^49	^18	—	—	765
0172	Poultry Farming (Eggs)	^115	^91	^35	25	26	^16	—	1	309
0180	Deer Farming	^2	**77	**1	**6	**3	**1	—	—	**91
0191	Horse Farming	^790	^634	^503	^98	*151	^46	*7	*2	2 231
0192	Pig Farming	^177	^126	182	128	^56	*14	—	—	682
0193	Beekeeping	*100	*51	*58	*39	**7	**5	*3	—	^263
0199	Other Livestock Farming n.e.c.	^304	^119	*143	*85	*54	*31	**6	—	^743
01	*Agriculture*	*38 051*	*29 666*	*25 136*	*12 868*	*11 124*	*3 547*	*474*	*76*	*120 941*
99	All Other Industries	5 064	3 307	3 005	1 586	1 534	^452	84	^22	15 055
#	**Total All Industries**	**43 114**	**32 973**	**28 142**	**14 454**	**12 658**	**4 000**	**558**	**98**	**135 996**

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) has been used to categorise businesses according to their main activity. For more information on the ANZSIC, refer to the Explanatory Notes.

3 BROADACRE CROPS—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2009							
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
BARLEY											
Production ('000 t)	4 257	7 160	7 997	1 449	1 461	173	1 877	3 007	29	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	4 182	4 902	5 015	977	1 136	^ 92	1 240	1 559	11	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.9	2.7	—	—
CANOLA											
Production ('000 t)	573	1 214	1 844	228	^ 233	**2	204	1 175	2	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	1 052	1 277	1 693	300	^ 285	**3	184	920	2	—	*—
Yield (t/ha)	1.5	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	^ 0.8	1.1	1.3	1.2	—	—
COTTON LINT											
Production ('000 t)	282	119	309	155	—	154	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	164	69	159	80	—	78	—	—	—	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	—	2.0	—	—	—	—	—
GRAIN SORGHUM											
Production ('000 t)	1 283	3 790	2 692	919	**1	1 771	—	1	*—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	613	942	767	227	**2	538	—	—	*—	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	2.1	4.0	3.5	4.1	*0.7	3.3	—	4.1	1.7	4.0	—
LUPINS											
Production ('000 t)	470	662	708	^ 37	^ 18	—	^ 52	600	^ —	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	736	752	577	^ 44	^ 36	—	^ 53	444	—	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.8	^ 0.5	1.8	1.0	1.4	2.2	—	—
OATS											
Production ('000 t)	748	1 502	1 160	261	236	*7	^ 81	568	^ 6	—	*—
Area ('000 ha)	1 003	1 238	870	273	191	*7	^ 100	295	4	—	*—
Yield (t/ha)	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	^ 1.0	^ 0.8	1.9	1.7	—	*0.3
RICE											
Production ('000 t)	^ 163	18	^ 61	^ 61	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	^ 20	2	^ 7	^ 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	8.3	7.6	8.5	8.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SUGAR CANE CUT FOR CRUSHING											
Production ('000 t)	36 397	32 621	31 457	^ 1 614	—	29 842	—	—	—	—	—
Area ('000 ha)	409	381	391	^ 16	—	376	—	—	—	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	89.1	85.7	80.4	103.8	—	79.4	—	—	—	—	—
WHEAT											
Production ('000 t)	10 822	13 569	21 420	6 963	1 756	2 016	2 376	8 274	35	—	^ —
Area ('000 ha)	11 798	12 578	13 530	4 322	1 534	1 020	2 104	4 542	9	—	^ —
Yield (t/ha)	0.9	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.1	2.0	1.1	1.8	4.1	—	0.9

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4 FRUIT AND NUTS(a)—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2009							
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
CITRUS											
Mandarins											
Production (t)	104 433	^ 94 364	90 316	^ 3 099	^ 6 472	55 890	17 272	7 581	—	*2	—
Trees ('000)	1 448	1 340	1 291	^ 103	^ 88	726	281	93	—	—	—
Yield (kg/tree)	72	70	70	*30	^ 74	77	62	81	—	—	—
Oranges											
Production (t)	470 673	409 273	347 724	166 563	^ 64 265	^ 6 790	102 243	7 762	—	*102	—
Trees ('000)	6 612	6 053	6 759	3 555	^ 1 287	^ 128	1 574	214	—	*2	—
Yield (kg/tree)	71	68	51	47	^ 50	53	65	36	—	55	—
POME(b)											
Apples											
Production (t)	270 476	265 481	295 134	^ 41 264	^ 134 241	25 480	25 937	^ 33 089	35 085	—	*38
Trees ('000)	8 590	8 685	7 642	1 019	^ 2 946	930	895	^ 758	1 093	—	*2
Yield (kg/tree)	32	31	39	40	46	27	29	44	32	—	^ 22
Pears											
Production (t)	134 764	130 492	120 376	^ 655	104 400	^ 227	5 636	^ 8 608	^ 848	—	*1
Trees ('000)	1 741	1 729	1 643	^ 21	1 317	^ 12	^ 108	^ 166	18	—	*—
Yield (kg/tree)	77	76	73	^ 31	79	18	52	^ 52	^ 46	—	^ 26
OTHER FRUIT AND NUTS											
Bananas											
Production (t)	213 193	207 062	270 393	^ 17 276	—	246 725	—	*5 886	—	*506	—
Area (ha)(c)	11 663	9 853	11 992	^ 1 450	—	10 338	—	*190	—	*14	—
Yield (t/ha)	18	21	23	12	—	24	—	^ 31	—	^ 36	—
Macadamias											
Production (t)	33 532	32 787	29 661	18 884	11	10 719	—	**47	—	—	—
Trees ('000)	3 226	3 416	3 872	2 294	22	^ 1 526	—	**31	—	—	—
Yield (kg/tree)	10	10	8	8	—	^ 7	—	*2	—	—	—
Mangoes											
Production (t)	57 947	48 928	40 660	^ 30	—	27 079	—	*3 184	—	10 366	—
Trees ('000)	1 452	1 287	1 342	^ 20	—	845	—	^ 154	—	323	—
Yield (kg/tree)	40	38	30	^ 2	—	32	—	*21	—	32	—
Peaches											
Production (t)	81 569	68 369	76 791	^ 6 409	62 490	^ 1 541	4 276	^ 1 931	^ 144	—	—
Trees ('000)	2 356	2 270	2 127	301	1 405	^ 120	146	^ 123	^ 32	—	—
Yield (kg/tree)	35	30	36	^ 21	44	13	29	^ 16	^ 5	—	—
Strawberries											
Production (t)	28 560	24 507	28 246	*198	8 574	13 692	2 494	2 837	451	—	—
Area (ha)(c)	1 240	1 297	1 184	^ 22	350	582	83	120	26	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	23	19	24	^ 9	24	24	30	24	17	—	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Number of trees refers to trees of bearing age.

(b) Apples and Pears data for 2006–07 and 2007–08 are sourced from the Apples and Pears Survey.

(c) Area refers to area of bearing age.

5 VEGETABLES (a)—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2009							
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
CARROTS											
Production (t)	271 464	272 601	263 527	17 218	31 017	^ 29 940	44 602	80 953	59 798	—	—
Area (ha)	5 715	4 934	5 174	524	989	^ 1 017	687	1 229	728	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	48	55	51	33	31	29	65	66	82	—	—
MUSHROOMS											
Production (t)	42 739	47 103	43 416	14 485	14 333	3 004	6 188	np	np	—	—
Area (ha)	181	179	159	50	54	^ 14	22	np	np	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	236	263	274	292	264	^ 221	281	np	np	—	—
ONIONS (b)											
Production (t)	246 496	254 362	283 819	^ 19 438	18 736	28 908	96 124	^ 21 831	98 782	—	—
Area (ha)	5 413	5 013	5 463	^ 526	^ 362	915	1 708	^ 362	1 591	—	—
Yield (t/ha)	46	51	52	37	52	32	56	60	62	—	—
POTATOES (c)											
Production (t)	1 211 988	1 400 206	1 178 534	75 372	255 483	^ 97 590	383 221	^ 88 504	278 361	*3	—
Area (ha)	34 096	38 190	32 579	2 952	8 531	^ 3 468	10 124	^ 1 801	5 701	*3	—
Yield (t/ha)	36	37	36	26	30	28	38	49	49	1	—
TOMATOES (c)											
Production (t)	296 035	381 824	440 093	27 546	243 647	138 153	10 390	^ 19 540	773	*43	*1
Area (ha)	^ 7 293	6 796	6 789	709	2 821	2 750	^ 111	*393	^ 3	*2	*—
Yield (t/ha)	^ 41	56	65	39	86	50	94	*50	234	21	10

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Vegetable data for 2007–08 are sourced from a supplementary vegetable survey.

(b) Includes brown, red and white onions.

(c) Includes fresh market and processing.

6 GRAPES(a)—Year ended 30 June 2009

	Aust.	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
DRYING GRAPES									
Bearing area (ha)	*4 874	*386	*4 307	—	**167	*14	—	—	—
Area not yet bearing (ha)	**60	—	**59	—	—	^2	—	—	—
Total area of grapes (ha)	*4 935	*386	*4 365	—	**167	*16	—	—	—
Production (t)(b)	*16 663	*1 725	*14 677	—	**234	*27	—	—	—
Yield (t/ha)(c)	^3.4	^4.5	*3.4	—	**1.4	*1.9	—	—	—
TABLE AND OTHER GRAPES(a)									
Bearing area (ha)	^8 263	^1 442	*3 418	*2 525	**395	*223	**12	248	—
Area not yet bearing (ha)	*841	**51	**571	*140	*1	**59	—	*19	—
Total area of grapes (ha)	^9 104	^1 493	^3 989	*2 665	**396	*282	**12	^267	—
Production (t)(d)	*96 706	*14 246	*70 161	^7 935	**1 948	*1 497	*9	^910	—
Yield (t/ha)(c)	^11.7	^9.9	^20.5	^3.1	4.9	^6.7	**0.8	^3.7	—

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes wine grapes. For statistics on wine grapes for 2008-09, refer to Vineyards Estimates, Australia (cat. no. 1329.0.55.002).

(b) Dry weight.

(c) Yield represents the quantity of grapes harvested per hectare of bearing vines.

(d) Fresh weight.

LIVESTOCK—Year ended 30 June

	AUST.			2009							
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
CATTLE ('000)											
Milk cattle(a)(b)											
Cows in milk and dry	1 796	1 640	1 676	201	1 061	107	106	52	149	**—	—
All other milk cattle(c)	868	897	936	122	558	^ 74	59	^ 46	77	**—	—
Total	*2 663*	*2 537*	*2 612*	*323*	*1 619*	*^ 181*	*165*	*98*	*226*	**—	—
Meat cattle(b)											
Cows and heifers one year and over	12 800	13 472	12 903	2 915	1 092	5 911	543	1 201	199	1 037	5
All other meat cattle(d)	12 573	11 312	12 392	2 618	1 143	6 240	499	1 019	227	643	2
Total	*25 373*	*24 784*	*25 294*	*5 533*	*2 234*	*12 151*	*1 042*	*2 220*	*426*	*1 681*	*7*
Total cattle and calves(e)	**28 037**	**27 321**	**27 907**	**5 856**	**3 854**	**12 332**	**1 207**	**2 318**	**652**	**1 681**	**7**
Proportion of total herd											
Milk cattle (%)	9.5	9.3	9.4	5.5	42.0	^ 1.5	13.7	^ 4.2	34.7	**—	—
Meat cattle (%)	90.5	90.7	90.6	94.5	58.0	98.5	86.3	95.8	65.3	100.0	100.0
SHEEP ('000)(b)											
Breeding ewes one year and over(f)	46 431	45 411	40 867	14 385	8 498	2 015	5 656	9 112	1 172	—	28
All other sheep(g)	39 280	31 526	31 873	11 161	6 584	2 270	4 298	6 607	920	**—	33
Total	**85 711**	**76 938**	**72 740**	**25 546**	**15 082**	**4 285**	**9 955**	**15 719**	**2 092**	**—	**61**
PIGS ('000)(b)											
Breeding sows	286	263	242	63	53	51	44	28	2	—	—
All other pigs(h)	2 319	2 149	2 060	^ 586	361	544	346	208	14	*—	—
Total	**2 605**	**2 412**	**2 302**	**^ 649**	**414**	**596**	**390**	**236**	**16**	*—	—
CHICKENS ('000)(b)											
For meat production	82 114	73 869	82 805	31 146	23 299	^ 15 874	np	^ 7 130	np	—	—
For egg production	15 271	14 760	12 604	3 757	3 104	3 372	^ 913	1 138	178	*—	143

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Excluding house cows.

(b) As at 30 June.

(c) Includes heifers 1 to 2 years, heifers over 2 years, and other dairy cattle (calves, bulls and bull calves).

(d) Includes bulls, steers, bullocks, calves etc.

(e) Includes dairy and meat cattle for all purposes.

(f) Includes maiden ewes intended for breeding.

(g) Includes lambs under one year (marked lambs only), rams, wethers, hoggets and non-breeding ewes.

(h) Includes boars, suckers, weaners, growers and finishers and gilts intended for breeding.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains estimates for commodities collected in the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey. It contains detailed statistics on land use, broadacre crops, horticulture, livestock numbers and industry characteristics of agricultural businesses.

GENERAL

2 In 2007–08, an Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) was run with a reduced set of commodities compared to the Agricultural Survey/Census of previous years. The ARMS was a combination of a reduced Agricultural Survey and a benchmark survey of land management practices undertaken by agricultural businesses as well as a survey of management responses to adverse seasonal conditions experienced by affected agricultural businesses. In 2008–09, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) returned to the Agricultural Survey which collected a greater range of agricultural commodities and livestock breakdowns than the 2007–08 ARMS.

3 Expanded horticulture and livestock commodities information can be found in the data cubes attached to this publication (cat. no. 7121.0). Estimates for sub–state geographies, specifically Statistical Division (SD) and Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions, will also be released in data cubes attached to this publication. Additional data on wheat storage and use, as well as grain storage capacity are also available for downloading.

4 Agricultural water use data collected as part of the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey will be released in *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0). Sub–state water data, for SD, NRM and Murray–Darling Basin (MDB), will be included as data cubes.

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

CROPS, PASTURES AND HORTICULTURE

6 Statistics on area and production of crops relate, in the main, to crops sown during the year ended 30 June. Statistics of perennial crops relate to the position at 30 June and the production during the year ended on that date, or fruit set by that date.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

7 Livestock slaughtering and livestock products, including milk and wool data, and poultry slaughtering are no longer included in this publication. Further information can be found in the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0).

INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION

8 The industry classification used in this publication is the 2006 version of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). Prior to the 2005–06 issue of this publication, estimates were based on the ANZSIC 1993 edition. ANZSIC 2006 was developed to provide a more contemporary industrial classification system taking into account issues such as changes in the structure and composition of the economy, changing user demands and compatibility with major international classification standards. For more information, please refer to *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006* (cat. no. 1292.0).

STATISTICAL UNITS USED

9 Since 2005–06, the ABS has used an economic statistics units model on the ABS' Business Register (ABSBR) to describe the characteristics of businesses and the structural relationships between related businesses. The units model is used within large and diverse business groups to define reporting units that can provide data to the ABS at a suitable level.

10 Respondents to the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey were drawn from the ABS Business Register.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

11 The scope of the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey included all agricultural businesses recorded on the ABS Business Register (ABSBR) above a minimum size cut–off. The ABSBR is based on the Australian Business Register (ABR) which is administered and maintained by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

SCOPE AND COVERAGE *continued*

12 A minimum size cut–off of $5,000 was applied to determine whether a business was in–scope for the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey. The measure of size was based on the ABS' Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) or a derived value based on Business Activity Statement (BAS) turnover.

13 While the ABSBR does not include all agricultural businesses in Australia, it provides improved coverage from the former ABS maintained Agricultural Survey frame, as most businesses and organisations in Australia need to obtain an Australian Business Number (ABN) from the ATO for their business operations. The ABR based register is also more up–to–date as it excludes agricultural businesses with cancelled ABNs and incorporates regularly updated information on agricultural businesses from the ATO.

14 For the 2008–09 Agricultural Survey, a response rate of 88% was achieved from a sample of approximately 38,000 agricultural businesses selected from an in–scope population of approximately 171,000 agricultural businesses.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR)

15 The estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample drawn from the total agricultural business population in scope of the collection, and are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all businesses had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might vary 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 businesses had responded, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two SEs.

16 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.

17 Most published national estimates have RSEs less than 5%. For some states with limited production of certain commodities, RSEs are greater than 10%. Estimates that have an estimated RSE between 10% and 25% are annotated with the symbol '^'. These estimates should be used with caution as they are subject to sampling variability too high for some purposes. Estimates with an RSE between 25% and 50% are annotated with the symbol '*', indicating that the estimate should be used with caution as it is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. Estimates with an RSE greater than 50% are annotated with the symbol '**' indicating that the sampling variability causes the estimates to be considered too unreliable for general use. Separate indication of the RSEs of all estimates is available on request.

18 A table with RSEs for selected commodities follows:

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES (SAMPLE ERROR) *continued*

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF SELECTED COMMODITIES, AT 30 JUNE 2009

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barley for grain, production	6.1	4.3	9.3	3.3	5.5	5.5	—	—	2.6
Canola, production	6.8	10.5	58.8	6.3	5.6	8.1	—	—	4.3
Lupins for grain, production	12.9	15.1	—	16.7	4.2	10.1	—	—	3.9
Oats for grain, production	6.6	8.6	31.8	10.2	9.3	10.3	—	38.3	4.7
Wheat for grain, production	3.6	4.6	5.5	2.6	2.1	9.8	—	21.5	1.7
Oranges, production	5.9	14.6	14.6	7.0	6.4	—	43.0	—	4.7
Carrots, production	8.7	2.6	19.3	7.8	7.9	7.6	—	—	4.0
Potatoes, production	5.9	9.1	10.5	6.0	13.4	4.7	40.8	—	3.1
Total meat cattle	4.9	3.8	3.1	6.0	6.2	4.5	1.4	6.0	2.1
Total milk cattle	6.5	4.5	10.1	9.2	9.2	6.9	70.6	—	3.2
Total sheep	3.3	3.7	7.2	2.6	3.4	2.2	54.4	8.0	1.7
Total pigs	15.9	6.9	7.1	7.7	7.6	8.7	39.0	—	5.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

19 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Enquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

20 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

21 A range of agricultural publications is produced by the ABS, including:

- *Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, Australia* (cat. no. 7125.0)
- *Livestock and Meat, Australia* (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001)
- *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0)
- *Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 7111.0)
- *Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary* (cat. no. 7501.0)
- *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (cat. no. 7503.0)
- *Water Use on Australian Farms* (cat. no. 4618.0)

22 For comparisons of the agriculture industry with other industries, users are referred to:

- *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product* (cat. no. 5206.0)
- *Australian National Accounts: State Accounts* (cat. no. 5220.0)

23 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed under the *Statistics* and *Themes* pages on the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

INTERNET	**www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

PHONE	1300 135 070
EMAIL	client.services@abs.gov.au
FAX	1300 135 211
POST	Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

WEB ADDRESS	www.abs.gov.au

© Commonwealth of Australia 2010
Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics