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Agriculture
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Statistical release
P1101

Agricultural Surveys 2008 and 2009 (Preliminary)

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170 Andries Street, Pretoria 0002, Private Bag X44, Pretoria 0001, South Africa
Tel: +27 12 310 8911, Fax: +27 12 321 7381, www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za

Contents

Summary of findings for the years 2008 and 2009 2

Table 1 – Selected items for 1993, 2002, 2007, 2008 and 2009 at current prices (R'000) 5

Table 2 – Gross farming income by type of product 6

Table 3 – Current expenditure and purchases of animals and animal products incurred within the commercial farming sector 7

Table 5 – Losses and expenditures due to disasters, accidents, absenteeism, theft and other crimes 9

Table 6 – Land and book value of assets 10

Table 7.1 – Distribution of farming debt by type of obligation 11

Table 7.2 – Distribution of farming debt by type of creditor 11

Table 8 – Number of paid employees and salaries and wages 12

Table 9 – Number of full-time employees according to occupation 12

Explanatory notes 13

Glossary 18

General information 19

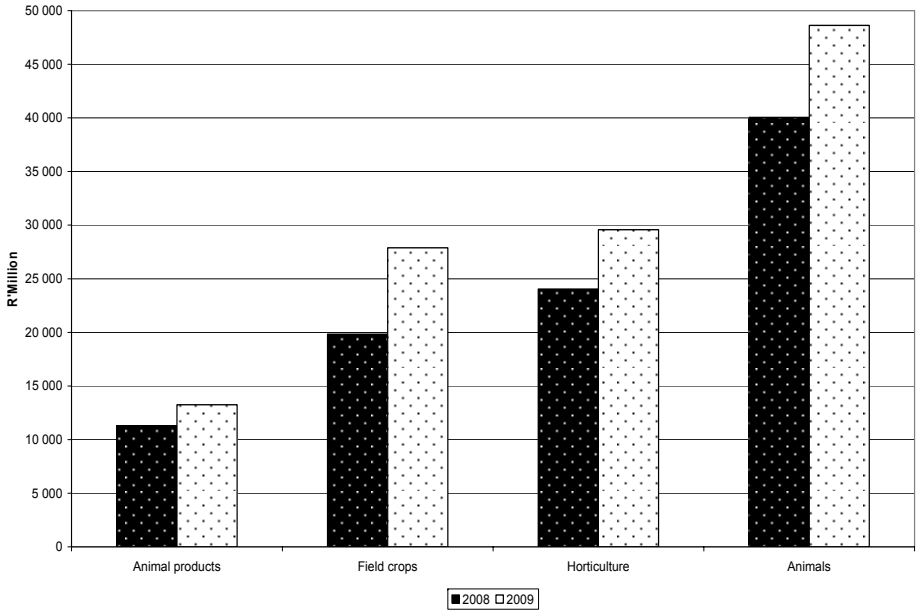
Summary of findings for the years 2008 and 2009

Gross farming income

Gross farming income (GFI) earned by the commercial farming sector was R95 224 million in 2008 and R119 355 million in 2009. The GFI figures reflect a growth of 25,3% between 2008 and 2009. A detailed composition of GFI by farming activity between the two years is provided in Table 2. It can be observed from Figure 1 that the income generated from all categories of farming activities recorded an increase in 2009. The highest percentage increase was recorded for income earned from field crops (40,5%), followed by horticulture (23,0%) and animals (21,5%).

However, the contribution to GFI of the different types of farming activities, by proportion, remained almost the same in 2008 and 2009 (see Table 2).

Figure 1 – Gross farming income by type of product

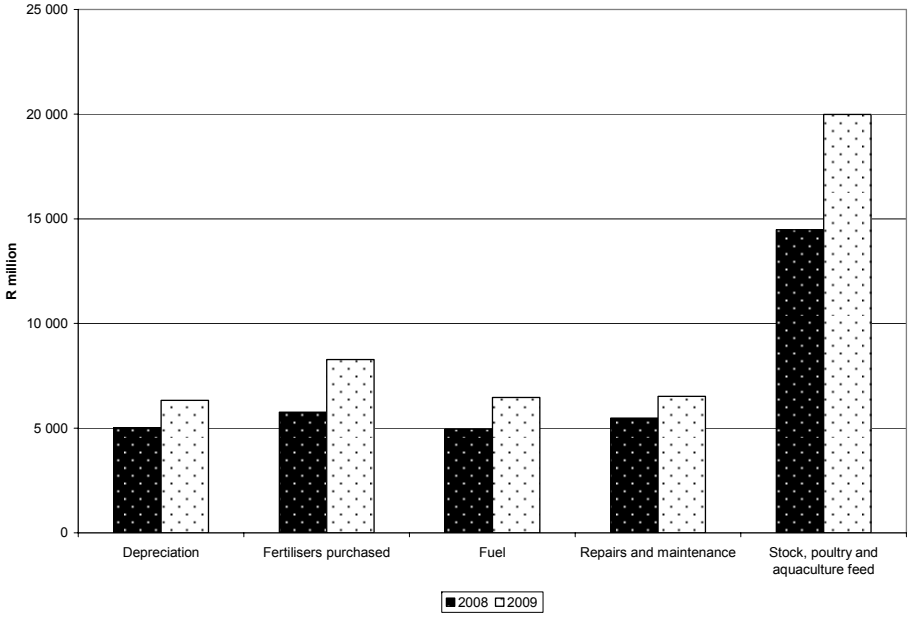


Current expenditure

The total current expenditure incurred by the commercial farming sector was R65 827 million in 2008 and R86 616 million in 2009. Figure 2 shows the major contributors towards the total current expenditure for both years. It can be seen that all the major contributors towards total current expenditure recorded an increase in 2009 compared with 2008.

Among the major current expenditure items, fertilisers purchased and stock, poultry and aquaculture feed registered the highest percentage increases of 43,5% and 38,1% respectively.

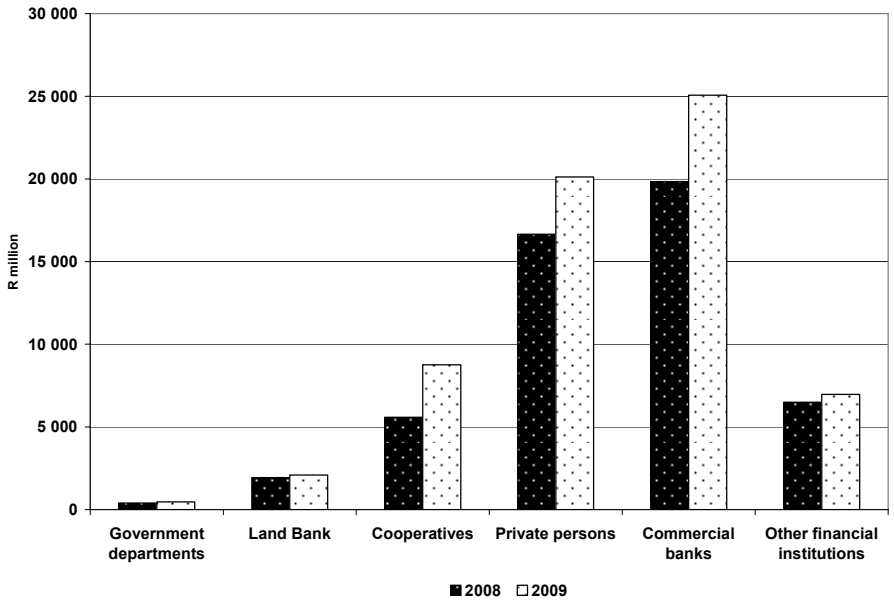
Figure 2 – Current expenditure according to major contributors



Farming debt

The total farming debt among the operators in the commercial farming sector in 2009 was estimated at R63 473 million, an increase of 24,7% compared with 2008. As illustrated in Figure 3 and Table 7.2, the largest lenders to the commercial farming sector in both 2008 and 2009 were commercial banks and private persons.

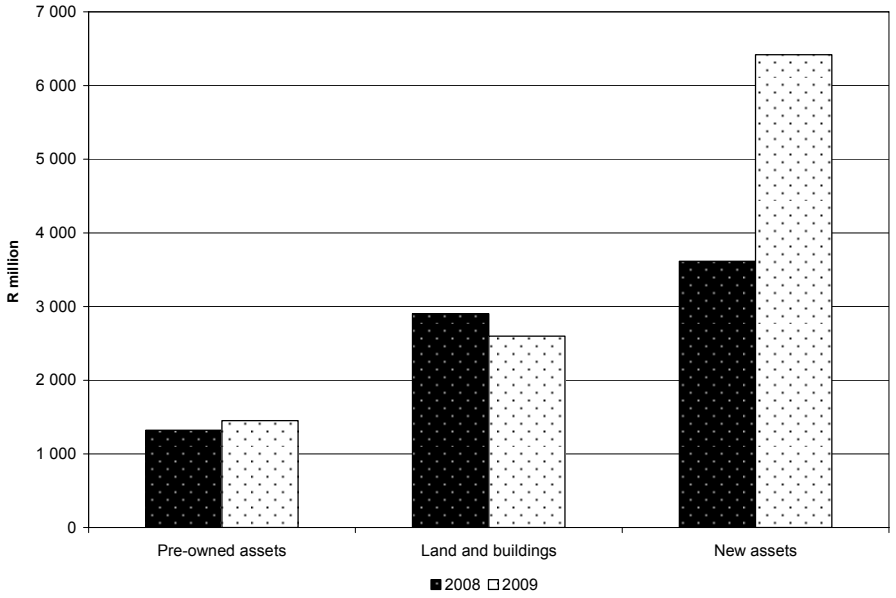
Figure 3 – Distribution of farming debt by type of creditor



Capital expenditure

The total capital expenditure in the commercial farming sector amounted to R7 839 million in 2008 and R10 485 million in 2009. This amounted to an increase of 33,7% between the two years. Figure 4 and Table 4 show that expenditure on new assets was the largest constituent of capital expenditure.

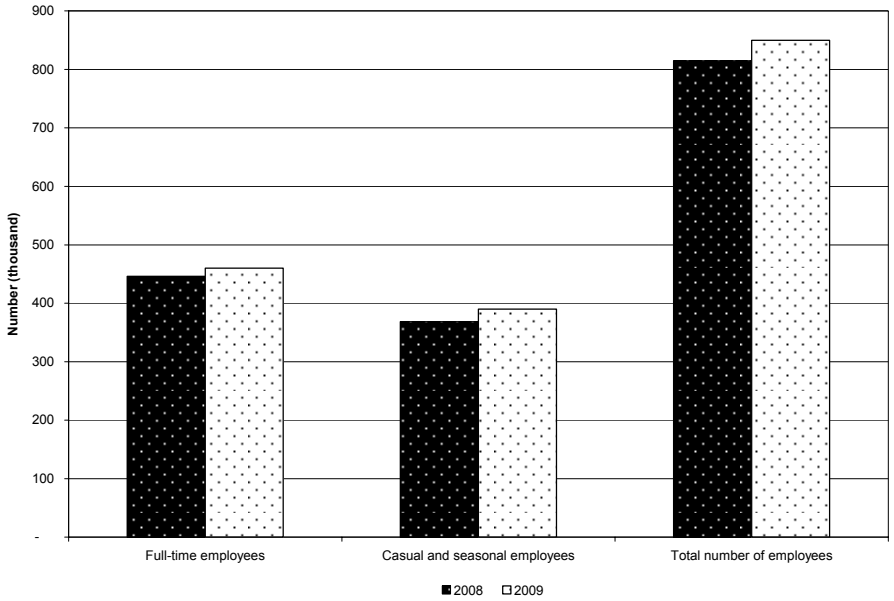
Figure 4 – Distribution of capital expenditure



Employment

The number of people employed in the commercial farming sector increased by 4,3%, from 814 524 in 2008 to 849 782 in 2009. The employment trends between the two years are shown in Figure 5. Detailed employment figures for the two years are provided in Tables 8 and 9. The number of full-time employees increased by 3,1% from 446 085 in 2008 to 459 901 in 2009, whereas the number of casual and seasonal employees increased by 5,8% from 368 439 in 2008 to 389 881 in 2009.

Figure 5 – Number of full-time and casual employees



PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Table 1 – Selected items for 1993, 2002, 2007, 2008 and 2009 at current prices (R'000)

Item	Year				
	1993	2002	2007	2008	2009
Gross farming income	**18 704 205**	**50 768 316**	**79 212 605**	**95 224 237**	**119 355 094**
Field crops	4 771 471	16 476 933	16 479 832	19 839 530	27 882 449
Horticultural products	4 493 681	14 228 909	19 080 627	24 045 202	29 579 958
Animals and animal products	9 439 053	22 062 474	43 652 146	51 339 505	61 892 687
Employment					
Employees' remuneration (salaries, cash wages and bonuses)	3 637 620	6 215 583	9 471 096	11 270 000	13 418 323
Paid employees (number)	1 093 265	940 820	770 933	814 524	849 782
Expenditure (excluding salaries and wages)	**16 377 145**	**45 038 908**	**66 970 865**	**85 239 895**	**110 327 024**
Current	14 298 595	42 092 135	51 169 131	65 826 948	86 616 436
Capital	2 078 550	2 946 773	6 996 495	7 839 348	10 484 806
Purchases of animals and animal products[1]	-	-	8 805 239	11 573 599	13 225 782
Farming debt	**15 295 001**	**30 857 891**	**39 580 394**	**50 908 842**	**63 472 504**

[1]Data for the purchases of animals and animal products were not collected for the agricultural censuses of 1993 and 2002.

Table 2 – Gross farming income by type of product

Type of product	2008		2009	
	R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Field crops	19 839 530	20,8	27 882 449	23,4
Horticulture	24 045 202	25,3	29 579 958	24,8
Animals	40 046 503	42,1	48 638 337	40,8
Animal products	11 293 002	11,9	13 254 350	11,1
Gross farming income	**95 224 237**	**100,0**	**119 355 094**	**100,0**

Table 3 – Current expenditure and purchases of animals and animal products incurred within the commercial farming sector

Item	2008		2009	
	R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Current expenditure				
Accounting fees	337 998	0,5	376 634	0,4
Advertising and marketing expenses	979 324	1,5	1 253 188	1,4
Depreciation	5 019 839	7,6	6 324 090	7,3
Electricity	1 697 382	2,6	2 168 368	2,5
Excise and custom duties	152 383	0,2	219 734	0,3
Fertilisers	5 762 100	8,8	8 269 682	9,5
Fuel	4 959 907	7,5	6 465 092	7,5
Insurance	1 628 799	2,5	2 008 314	2,3
Interest paid	3 798 975	5,8	4 832 194	5,6
Licence fees	196 779	0,3	226 873	0,3
Membership fees	97 903	0,2	123 362	0,1
Operating and hiring of plant, machinery, equipment and vehicles	449 788	0,7	592 852	0,7
Packing materials	3 200 691	4,9	3 904 149	4,5
Plant / animal health services	414 976	0,6	460 916	0,5
Property rates paid to municipalities	84 852	0,1	85 082	0,1
Protective clothing	112 520	0,2	128 054	0,1
Remedies for animals	1 266 573	1,9	1 122 357	1,3
Remedies for field and horticultural products	2 551 754	3,9	3 663 521	4,2
Rental, usufruct and grazing rights	1 851 074	2,8	2 375 916	2,7
Repairs and maintenance	5 475 266	8,3	6 517 344	7,5
Seed and plant material	2 441 552	3,7	3 321 836	3,8
Security services	203 547	0,3	245 320	0,3
Services rendered by contractors, co-farmers, etc.	1 329 062	2,0	2 027 741	2,3
Stock, poultry and aquaculture feed	14 471 319	22,0	19 990 587	23,1
Transport	2 234 254	3,4	2 722 530	3,1
Water	381 240	0,6	404 140	0,5
Other current expenditure	4 727 091	7,2	6 786 560	7,8
Total current expenditure	**65 826 948**	**100,0**	**86 616 436**	**100,0**
Animals and animal products purchased				
Animals	10 375 876	89,7	11 352 850	85,8
Animal products	1 197 723	10,3	1 872 932	14,2
Total animals and animal products purchased	**11 573 599**	**100,0**	**13 225 782**	**100,0**

Table 4 – Capital expenditure incurred within the commercial farming sector

Type of capital expenditure		2008		2009	
		R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Capital expenditure on land, buildings and construction works	Land	1 645 240	21,0	1 376 635	13,1
	Non-residential buildings	868 960	11,1	767 845	7,3
	Residential buildings	304 276	3,9	365 290	3,5
	Construction works, roads and parking areas	83 177	1,1	94 842	0,9
	Total capital expenditure on land and construction	**2 901 653**	**37,0**	**2 604 612**	**24,8**
Capital expenditure on new assets	Computers and other office equipment	53 551	0,7	117 197	1,1
	Motor vehicles, tractors and other transport equipment	1 705 059	21,8	2 589 951	24,7
	Plant, machinery and implements	1 552 678	19,8	2 975 370	28,4
	Other new assets	304 074	3,9	745 275	7,1
	Total capital expenditure on new assets	**3 615 362**	**46,1**	**6 427 793**	**61,3**
Capital expenditure on pre-owned assets	Computers and other office equipment	19 366	0,2	25 714	0,2
	Motor vehicles, tractors and other transport equipment	862 419	11,0	800 962	7,6
	Plant, machinery and implements	358 005	4,6	523 866	5,0
	Other pre-owned assets	82 543	1,1	101 859	1,0
	Total capital expenditure on pre-owned assets	**1 322 333**	**16,9**	**1 452 401**	**13,9**
Total capital expenditure		**7 839 348**	**100,0**	**10 484 806**	**100,0**

Table 5 – Losses and expenditures due to disasters, accidents, absenteeism, theft and other crimes

Type of loss		2008		2009	
		R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Losses due to disasters and accidents to:	Buildings and equipment	47 938	2,6	46 567	2,4
	Pastures	94 155	5,1	103 923	5,3
	Products (livestock, crops and aquaculture)	595 217	32,3	594 843	30,4
	Other assets	94 531	5,1	79 754	4,1
Absence arising from injury or consequences of crime		45 103	2,4	47 108	2,4
Burglary		61 439	3,3	42 258	2,2
Lifting and stealing of tools		108 685	5,9	135 680	6,9
Pilfering and stealing of crops		90 689	4,9	83 691	4,3
Predators		169 104	9,2	191 263	9,8
Stock-theft		202 260	11,0	204 405	10,5
Veld and forest fires and natural disasters		219 580	11,9	260 271	13,3
Other losses		113 749	6,2	166 102	8,5
Total losses		**1 842 450**	**100,0**	**1 955 865**	**100,0**

Table 6 – Land and book value of assets

Type of asset	2008		2009	
	R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Land and buildings	75 304 727	69,6	78 949 410	67,3
Construction works, roads and parking areas	707 731	0,7	987 614	0,8
Motor vehicles, tractors and other transport equipment	13 706 497	12,7	14 696 575	12,5
Plant, machinery and other office equipment	7 379 839	6,8	10 387 079	8,9
Computers and other IT equipment	330 029	0,3	578 661	0,5
Other assets	10 814 575	10,0	11 721 500	10,0
Total land and book value of assets	**108 243 398**	**100,0**	**117 320 839**	**100,0**

Table 7.1 – Distribution of farming debt by type of obligation

Type of obligation		2008		2009	
		R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Mortgages		11 904 995	23,4	11 770 716	18,5
Other loans and debts	More than a year (medium to long-term)	26 570 322	52,2	35 801 989	56,4
	One year and less (short-term)	12 433 525	24,4	15 899 799	25,0
Total farming debt		**50 908 842**	**100,0**	**63 472 504**	**100,0**

Table 7.2 – Distribution of farming debt by type of creditor

Type of creditor	2008		2009	
	R'000	% contribution	R'000	% contribution
Cooperatives	5 584 752	11,0	8 756 004	13,8
Commercial banks	19 845 893	39,0	25 069 222	39,5
Government departments	400 031	0,8	466 562	0,7
Land Bank	1 929 759	3,8	2 088 916	3,3
Private persons	16 649 747	32,7	20 119 113	31,7
Other financial institutions	6 498 660	12,8	6 972 687	11,0
Total farming debt	**50 908 842**	**100,0**	**63 472 504**	**100,0**

Table 8 – Number of paid employees and salaries and wages

Type of employment	2008		2009	
	Number	Salaries and wages (R'000)	Number	Salaries and wages (R'000)
Casual and seasonal employees	368 439	1 770 710	389 881	2 187 127
Full-time employees	446 085	9 499 290	459 901	11 231 196
Total number of paid employees and salaries and wages	**814 524**	**11 270 000**	**849 782**	**13 418 323**

Table 9 – Number of full-time employees according to occupation

Type of occupation	2008		2009	
	Number	% contribution	Number	% contribution
Managers and administration staff	38 395	8,6	39 207	8,5
Farm employees	407 690	91,4	420 694	91,5
Total full-time employees	**446 085**	**100,0**	**459 901**	**100,0**

Explanatory notes

Introduction

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducted two agricultural surveys in South Africa on commercial farming units in 2008 and 2009. In both surveys a sample of 15 000 farming units was drawn from Stats SA's Business Register (BR) which contained a total of 64 162 farming units in 2008 and 66 606 farming units in 2009. The frame was adjusted by removing all the enterprises below the 0,5% percentile turnover, and the 2008 and 2009 frames were adjusted to 37 010 and 44 308 farming units respectively. The BR is based on the income tax (IT) and value added tax (VAT) databases of the South African Revenue Service (SARS). All enterprises are legally bound to register for IT and/or VAT. Enterprises registered in the taxation system are included on the BR, and hence were given a chance of selection in the sample for the survey.

This statistical release contains information regarding:

- Income and expenditure items for the financial year;
- Employment as at 28 February 2008 for the 2008 survey and employment as at 28 February 2009 for the 2009 survey;
- Employees' remuneration for the financial year;
- Losses during the financial year;
- Farming debt as at 28 February 2008 for the 2008 survey and farming debt as at 28 February 2009 for the 2009 survey; and
- Book value of assets at the end of the financial year.

Reference period

- The questionnaires for *Agricultural Survey 2008* were completed for the financial year of the enterprise which ended on any date between 1 March 2007 and 28 February 2008, according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise. The *Agricultural Survey 2008* period will be referenced as 2008 in the report.
- The questionnaires for *Agricultural Survey 2009* were completed for the financial year of the enterprise which ended on any date between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2009, according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise. The *Agricultural Survey 2009* period will be referenced as 2009 in the report.

Purpose of the survey

The agricultural surveys collects data on the commercial agricultural sector and its results are vital for benchmarking the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, production and price indices, annual and short-term statistical series, and for comparisons within and between industries.

Users of the agricultural survey include:

- Price statisticians, particularly in refreshing the commodity basket of producer price indices;
- Policy advisers in government for monitoring the performance of industries and their contribution to the South African economy, and for evaluating the effectiveness of industry policies;
- Industry associations monitoring trends on their own and competing or complementary industries in order to inform their members of market changes; and
- Individual businesses using the data to analyse their performance relative to their industry.

Scope and coverage

The agricultural surveys for 2008 and 2009 cover statistics of enterprises mainly engaged in:

- Growing of crops, market gardening and horticulture (SIC 111);
- Farming of animals (SIC 112);
- A combination of the above (mixed farming) (SIC 113);
- Hunting, trapping and game propagation, including related services (SIC 115) only in 2008;
- Production of organic fertiliser (SIC 116) only in 2008; and
- Fish hatcheries and fish farms (SIC 132).

The following categories are excluded:

- Agricultural and animal husbandry services, except veterinary activities (SIC 114);
- Forestry and related services (SIC 121);
- Logging and related services (SIC122); and
- Ocean and coastal fishing (SIC 131).

Data in respect of agricultural smallholdings such as nurseries, vegetable gardens, flower farms and dairy farms are included in this release only in those cases where the products were intended for sale.

Classification by industry

The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-09-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects its predominant activity.

Statistical unit

The surveys' data were collected at farming unit level. A farming unit consists of one or more farms, smallholdings or pieces of land, whether adjacent or not, operated as a single unit and situated within the same province.

Size groups

The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to turnover as recorded on Stats SA's BR. The size group stratification used in the survey was adopted from the Department of Trade and Industry's 2003 cut-off points. The size groups are indicated in Table A.

Table A – Cut-off points by size groups for the Agricultural Surveys 2008 and 2009

Size group	Turnover 2008	Turnover 2009
1	Turnover ≥ R5 million	Turnover ≥ R5 million
2	R3 million ≤ Turnover < R5 million	R3 million ≤ Turnover < R5 million
3	R500 000 ≤ Turnover < R3 million	R500 000 ≤ Turnover < R3 million
4	R200 000 ≤ Turnover< R500 000	R154 533 ≤ Turnover< R500 000

Survey methodology and design

The surveys were conducted by post, fax, telephone, email and personal visits. A sample of approximately 15 000 enterprises was drawn using stratified simple random sampling for both years. The enterprises were first stratified at three-digit level according to the SIC and then by size of enterprises. All large enterprises (size groups 1 and 2) were completely enumerated. Turnover as recorded on the BR was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Weighting methodology

For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated size groups 1 and 2 to form the total estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp

Relative standard error

Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they might differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the agricultural industry in South Africa.

One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance as only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.

Table B – Variables in the agricultural industry within 95% confidence limits: Agricultural Survey 2008

Variable	Lower limit	Estimation	Upper limit	Relative standard error
	R'000			%
Field crops	19 277 077	19 839 530	20 401 983	1,5
Horticulture	23 599 737	24 045 202	24 490 670	1,0
Animals	39 634 581	40 046 503	40 458 426	0,5
Animal products	11 000 308	11 293 002	11 585 697	1,3
Gross farming income	94 569 736	95 224 237	95 878 743	0,4
Current expenditure	65 223 086	65 826 948	66 430 813	0,5
Capital expenditure	7 417 311	7 839 348	8 261 381	2,8
Farming debt	48 887 508	50 908 841	52 930 174	2,0
Full-time employees (number)	437 576	446 085	454 595	1,0
Casual employees (number)	353 226	368 439	383 653	2,1

Table C – Variables in the agricultural industry within 95% confidence limits: Agricultural Survey 2009

Variable	Lower limit	Estimation	Upper limit	Relative standard error
	R'000			%
Field crops	27 202 512	27 882 449	28 562 385	1,2
Horticulture	28 875 810	29 579 958	30 284 105	1,2
Animals	48 063 037	48 638 337	49 213 637	0,6
Animal products	12 879 516	13 254 350	13 629 185	1,4
Gross farming income	118 499 069	119 355 094	120 211 119	0,4
Current expenditure	85 855 019	86 616 436	87 377 845	0,5
Capital expenditure	9 573 110	10 484 806	11 396 501	4,4
Farming debt	60 005 717	63 472 504	66 939 289	2,8
Full-time employees (number)	449 733	459 901	470 069	1,1
Casual employees (number)	371 608	389 881	408 155	2,4

Comparability with the previous surveys

It should be noted that the information published in this statistical release is not comparable with the information collected for the 2005 and 2006 surveys. The 2005 and 2006 surveys covered only large-scale (size groups 1 and 2) enterprises, whereas surveys 2008 and 2009 additionally include estimations for the smaller enterprises (size groups 3 and 4). This release is in many aspects comparable with Agricultural Censuses 2002 and 2007.

Response rate

A sample of 15 002 farming units was drawn from the BR (37 010 farming units) for the Agricultural Survey 2008, of which 11 260 responded, constituting a response rate of 75,1%. The response rate in terms of BR turnover was 89,2%. The total outstanding enterprises amounted to 3 742 and were treated as active units.

In the 2009 survey, a sample of 15 018 farming units was drawn from the BR (44 308) of which 11 151 responded, constituting a response rate of 74,3%. The response rate in terms of BR turnover was 87,2%. The total outstanding enterprises amounted to 3 867.

Table D – Response rate for the Agricultural Surveys 2008 and 2009

Item	2008	2009
	Number	Number
Frame	64 162	66 606
Adjusted frame	37 010	44 308
Sample	15 002	15 018
Responded	11 260	11 151
Response rate	75,1%	74,2%

Rounding-off of figures

Where necessary, the figures in the tables have been rounded off to the nearest final digit shown. There might therefore be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

Abbreviations and symbols

BR	=	Business Register
DTI	=	Department of Trade and Industry
GDP	=	Gross domestic product
GFI	=	Gross farming income
IT	=	Income tax
0	=	More than nil but less than 500
SARS	=	South African Revenue Service
Stats SA	=	Statistics South Africa
VAT	=	Value added tax
-	=	Figures not available

Glossary

Farmer: The individual, partnership, close corporation, company or other enterprise that operates a farming unit for their own account; or the manager, foreman or other person to whom the control of the farming unit was entrusted.

Farming unit: Any unit on which one or more of the following farming operations are carried out for commercial purposes:

- Cultivation in the open air or under cover of field crops, vegetable plants, fruit or flowers;
- Operation of a tea, coffee or sugar plantation;
- Breeding of livestock, poultry, game or other animals, including freshwater fish, furred animals and trade in livestock; and
- Production of milk, wool, mohair, eggs or honey.

Type of employment

- '*Permanent employees*' are employees who are employed on a permanent basis with benefits, such as leave.
- '*Casual and seasonal employees*' include occasional and day labourers, e.g. shearers, reapers and fruit-pickers, but exclude contractors and their employees.

Gross farming income: Gross farming income as reported by the farmer includes income earned from agricultural products sold, but excludes other income. In this release, agricultural products are divided into field crops, horticultural products, animals and animal products.

- '*Field crops*' include cereals, oil seeds, fodder crops, etc.
- '*Horticultural products*' include vegetables, fruits, nuts, etc.
- '*Animals*' include livestock, poultry, game, aquaculture and all other animals.
- '*Animal products*' include milk, eggs, wool, etc.

Other income: An income which is derived from services rendered, leasing of farming equipment, salaries, pensions, rent on land, interest and dividends received, agri-tourism and farm-based retail stores.

Current expenditure: Expenditure incurred in farming operations during the financial year in respect of the farming unit as reported by the farmer. These expenses include seed stock, poultry feeds, fertilisers, fuel, packing material, electricity, interest paid and all other operating expenses. Railage and rented transport are also included with the relevant purchases.

Farming debt: This includes all financial obligations incurred in respect of normal farming activities, such as mortgages, loans and credits received from organisations such as banks, cooperative societies and private persons. Debt in respect of other business enterprises is not included. Particulars regarding farming debt are based on data submitted by the respondents.

General information

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(012) 310 8358 (orders)
(012) 310 4883 / 4885/8018 (library)
Fax number: (012) 310 4641 /310 4642 (technical enquiries)
Email address: info@statssa.gov.za (user information services)
magdaj@statssa.gov.za (orders)
mosesmn@statssa.gov.za (technical inquiries)
Postal address: Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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