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 **Latest release**

Agricultural Commodities, Australia methodology

Reference period 2021-22 financial year

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Survey methodology

Introduction

This publication contains statistics on the production of principal agricultural commodities including cereal and broadacre crops, horticulture and livestock.

These statistics measure agriculture's contribution to the Australian economy. They provide data to support policy and planning by governments, industry, research organisations and regional communities.

The agricultural statistics in this publication relate to the 2021-22 financial year and have been produced primarily using data from the 2021-22 Rural Environment and Agricultural

Commodity Survey.

How the data is collected

Scope

Businesses on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Business Register (ABSBR) were in scope for the 2021-22 Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodity Survey if:

- they undertook agricultural activity, and
- the estimated value of their agricultural operations (EVAO) was \$40,000 or greater

Estimates from the 2021-22 Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodity Survey are based on a response rate of 68% from a sample of 24,871 agricultural businesses selected.

Australian Business Register

The ABSBR is based on the Australian Business Register (ABR). Businesses and organisations are included on the ABR when they register with the Australian Taxation Office for an Australian Business Number (ABN).

ABR data is supplied to the ABS by the ABR Registrar under A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act 1999 which requires that such data be only used for the purpose of carrying out functions of the ABS. Any discussion of data limitations or weaknesses is in the context of using the data for statistical purposes and is not related to the ability of the data to support the ABR's core operational requirements.

Legislative requirements to ensure privacy and secrecy of this data have been followed. Results have been released in accordance with the [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#)

(<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/339a2ca3e39bc7e8ca2569d8000085ff!OpenDocument>) and the [Census and Statistics Determination 2018](#) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/339a2ca3e39bc7e8ca2569d8000085ff!OpenDocument>).

Agricultural activity

When registering for an ABN, businesses are required to nominate the type of activity they will be undertaking. This information is used to allocate businesses to an industry in the ABSBR as defined in the 2006 edition of the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification](#)

[\(/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release\)](#) (ANZSIC).

Businesses are identified as undertaking agricultural activity if any of their primary or secondary productive activities fall within the ANZSIC Agriculture Subdivision.

Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations

EVAO is an ABS construct used to estimate the extent of agricultural activity undertaken, and relative size of agricultural businesses.

It is calculated by applying three-year average prices to estimated livestock sales, livestock numbers and crop production of a business. For businesses below the \$40,000 threshold, or with no previously reported agricultural activity, a derived value of operations based on turnover reported in its Businesses Activity Statement (BAS) is used as a proxy.

Collection method

Businesses selected in the 2021-22 Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodity Survey were asked to complete and return a survey form. Paper and electronic versions of the survey form were available.

Administrative data from non-ABS sources were also used to supplement reported survey data.

The data items available in this publication are outlined in the Data item listing attachment as follows.

Data item listing

[↓ Download XLSX](#)
[26.06 KB]

How the data is processed

Estimation

Survey responses are checked for completeness, coherence, and accuracy. Where possible, follow-up contact is made with agricultural businesses to resolve reporting problems. Missing response(s) may be imputed using information provided historically, or from similar agricultural businesses that have responded.

Data is then aggregated and weighted to account for:

- agricultural businesses that did not respond
- any new agricultural businesses not surveyed because they were not present on the ABSBR when the initial survey frame was created.

Before finalising statistics, estimates are compared against and may be adjusted to better align with other information sources including:

- other ABS surveys
- administrative data, including data from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- industry estimates and expectations, and
- reports on rainfall, temperature, climatic events, and natural disasters.

Reliability of estimates (sample error)

The estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from agricultural businesses that responded to the 2021-22 Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodity Survey. As not all businesses responded, the estimates are subject to sampling variability and may differ from the estimates that would have been produced if information had been obtained from all businesses.

The most common measure of the likely difference resulting from not all businesses responding is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the estimate that would have been obtained if all businesses had responded, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

In this publication, relative standard error (RSE) is used to measure 'sampling' variability. RSEs are calculated by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. Estimates should be used with caution that have:

- RSEs between 10% and 25% - this level of sample variability may be too high for some purposes
- RSEs between 25% and 50% - this level of sample variability may be too high for most practical purposes
- RSEs greater than 50% - this level of sample variability is considered unreliable for general use.

Confidentiality and rounding

Some detailed estimates in this publication may have been confidentialised to avoid potential identification of agricultural holdings in accordance with the [Census and Statistics Act 1905](#)

(<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/339a2ca3e39bc7e8ca2569d8000085ff!OpenDocument>) and the [Census and Statistics Determination 2018](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/339a2ca3e39bc7e8ca2569d8000085ff!OpenDocument) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/339a2ca3e39bc7e8ca2569d8000085ff!OpenDocument>).

Where detailed estimates have been suppressed for reasons of confidentiality, they have been included in relevant aggregated totals.

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

How the data is released

Geographic classification

National, state and territory estimates are presented in this publication.

Related publications

Other ABS publications containing agricultural data are listed on the ABS' [Agricultural Statistics \(/statistics/industry/agriculture\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/agriculture) page. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABS data available on request

For inquiries about these and related statistics, contact the Customer Assistance Service via the ABS website [Contact Us \(https://www.abs.gov.au/about/contact-us\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/about/contact-us) page.

Privacy

The [ABS Privacy Policy \(https://www.abs.gov.au/about/legislation-and-policy/privacy/privacy-abs\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/about/legislation-and-policy/privacy/privacy-abs) outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information provided to us.

General acknowledgment

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](#) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/339a2ca3e39bc7e8ca2569d8000085ff!OpenDocument>).

Abbreviations

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'000	thousand
'000 ha	thousand hectares
'000 t	thousand tonnes
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSBR	Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard Edition 3
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
BAS	Business Activity Statement
EVAO	Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations
ha	hectare
kg	kilogram
na	not available
np	not published
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
no.	number
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
t	tonne
Tas.	Tasmania
VACP	Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
xlsx	Microsoft Excel spreadsheet file