

Embargoed until 10:45am – 13 May 2010

Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2009 (final)

Highlights

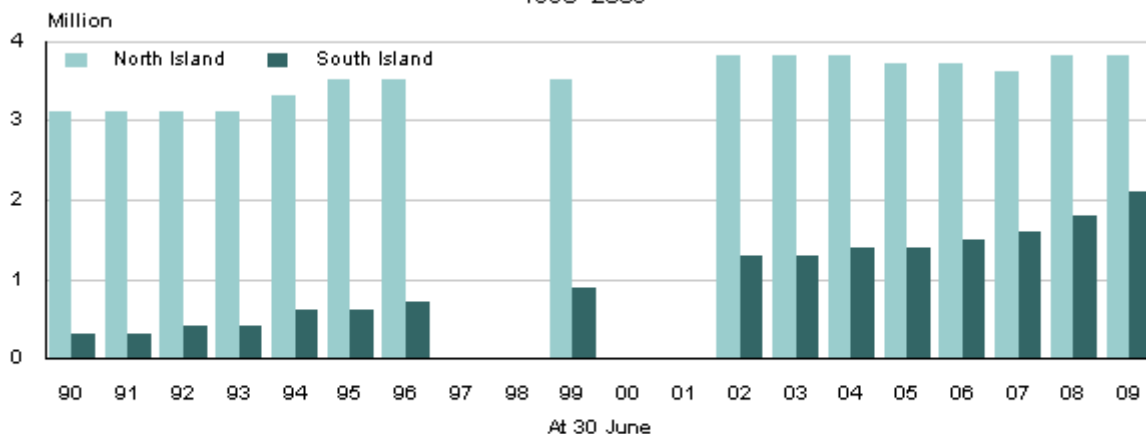
At 30 June 2009:

- Dairy cattle numbers reached 5.9 million, up 5 percent from 2008.
- South Island dairy cattle numbers increased to 2.1 million, up 13 percent from 2008.
- Sheep numbers fell to 32.4 million, down 5 percent from 2008.
- The total area planted in wine grapes rose to 33,400 hectares, up 13 percent from 2007.

During the year ended 30 June 2009:

- 28.0 million lambs were tailed, 10 percent down on the 2008 figure.
- 53,900 hectares of wheat were harvested, up 27 percent from 2008.
- 77,700 hectares of barley were harvested, up 15 percent from 2008.

Dairy cattle numbers in the North and South Islands
1990–2009



Note: No Agricultural Production Survey was conducted in 1997, 1998, and 2001. In 2000, the survey related only to horticulture.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

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Commentary

The 2009 Agricultural Production Survey covered horticulture, forestry, and livestock and arable farming. It included questions on farm practices, including fertiliser and cultivation. This release contains final results for key livestock, forestry, arable, and horticultural crops at a regional level.

The 2009 survey was part of the current programme of agricultural production statistics. This programme began with a census in 2002, followed by annual sample surveys from 2003 to 2006. A census was held in 2007, followed by a sample survey in 2008.

Figures in this release have been rounded. All percentages have been calculated using unrounded figures.

Sheep

The New Zealand sheep flock was estimated at 32.4 million at 30 June 2009, down 1.7 million on the 2008 figure. Numbers in 2009 were less than half the peak of 70.3 million recorded in 1982, and saw the national flock reduced back to the 1948 level.

Although total sheep numbers have halved, improved lambing percentages and animal husbandry have resulted in the quantity of lamb and sheep meat exported only falling 12 percent over the same period. In the year ended 30 June 2009, 397,000 tonnes were exported compared to 452,000 tonnes in 1982. Lamb and sheep meat remain important exports, earning \$3,015 million (f.o.b.) in 2009.

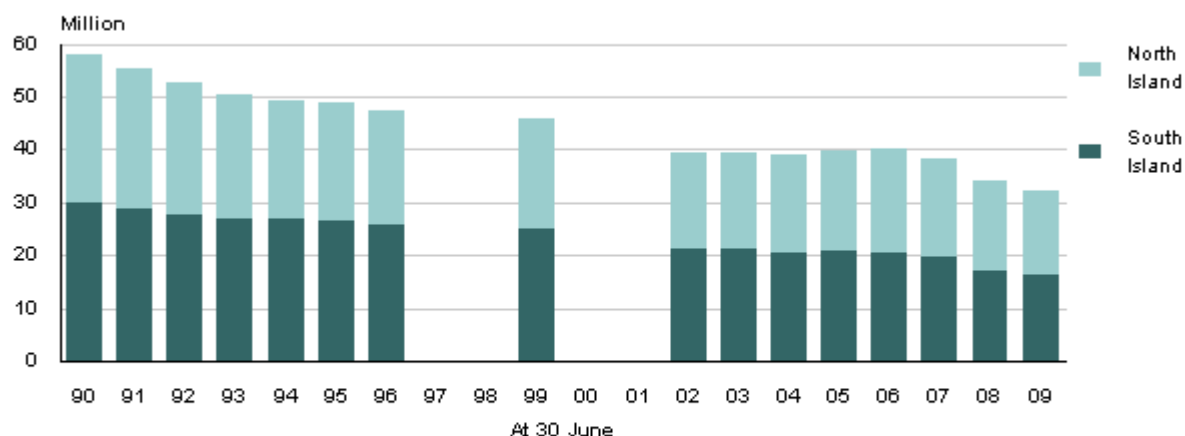
The North and South Islands each had similar numbers of sheep in 2009. Numbers in both islands fell between 2008 and 2009 – the North Island by 900,000 and the South Island by 800,000. Factors causing the decrease included drought, especially on the North Island's east coast, and competition from other land uses.

The Manawatu-Wanganui, Canterbury, and Otago regions accounted for half the national sheep flock in 2009. With 5.8 million sheep, Manawatu-Wanganui was the region with the largest sheep flock, surpassing Canterbury's 5.5 million.

During the year ended 30 June 2009, 28.0 million lambs were tailed, down 10 percent from the previous year. The drop in the number of lambs tailed reflects fewer ewes and ewe hoggets being mated in the 2007/2008 season. Factors contributing to this decrease included drought in several regions and competition from alternative land uses. The national lambing percentage in 2009 was 119, the same as in 2008.

In 2009, there were 24.0 million ewes and ewe hoggets mated, 4 percent fewer than in 2008 and 4.6 million below the number mated in 2007, when there were 28.6 million mated.

Total sheep numbers in the North and South Islands 1990–2009



Note: No Agricultural Production Survey was conducted in 1997, 1998, and 2001. In 2000, the survey related only to horticulture.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Dairy

Despite the lower milksolids prices during the year to June 2009, the New Zealand dairy herd continued to expand. At 30 June 2009 the national herd numbered 5.9 million, up 282,000 from 2008.

Between 1989 and 2009, national dairy herd numbers increased from 3.3 million to 5.9 million. The North Island, with 3.8 million dairy cattle in 2009, had 806,000 more than in 1989. With 2.1 million dairy cattle in 2009, the South Island had almost seven times the number it did in 1989 (312,000).

Between 2008 and 2009, the increase in dairy cattle numbers continued to be driven by the South Island, where numbers increased 13 percent to 2.1 million. North Island dairy cattle numbers, at 3.8 million in 2009, were similar to those in 2008.

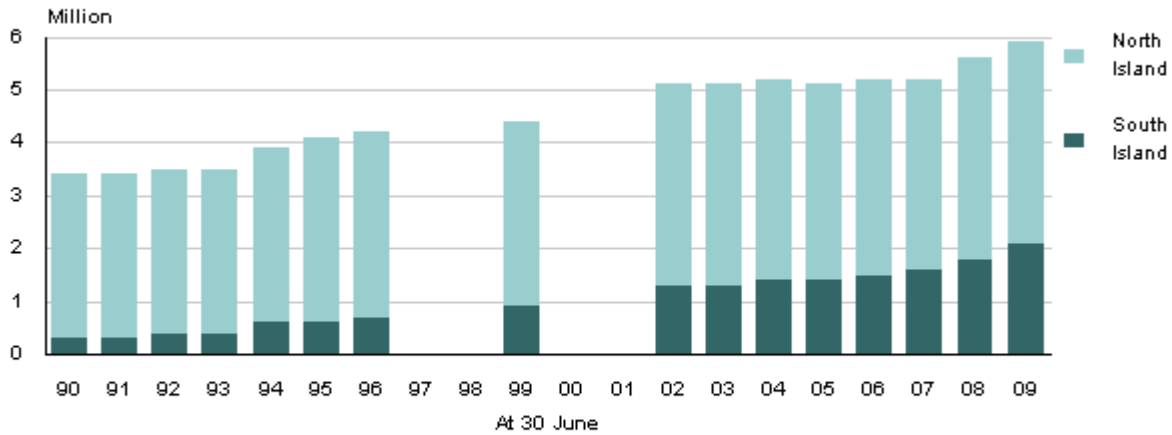
The Waikato region, with 1.8 million dairy cattle in 2009, was home to one-third of the national dairy herd. This was followed by Canterbury with 918,000, Taranaki with 607,000, and Southland with 589,000 dairy cattle. Between 2008 and 2009, Waikato numbers increased by 69,000 or 4 percent, while those in Southland increased by 93,000 or 19 percent, and those in Canterbury increased by 87,000, or 10 percent. The recent expansion of the dairy industry in Southland has had a dramatic effect on the balance of stock units in the region. In 2002 only 24 percent of stock units were dairy, the balance being sheep, beef cattle, and deer. In 2009 the dairy cattle percentage was 39 percent. Stock units are expressed in ewe equivalents.

The increase in dairy cattle numbers between 2008 and 2009 was due to more cows and heifers being retained for milk production. There were 4.6 million in the milking herd (cows and heifers in milk or calf) at June 2009. In 2008 the milking herd made up 78 percent of total dairy cattle numbers. This increased to 79 percent in 2009 as a result of an additional 259,000 milking cows and heifers. The number of replacement cattle at 1.2 million in 2009 was at a similar level to 2008. Replacement cattle are dairy cows and heifers not in milk or calf, and rising one-year-old dairy heifers and calves.

This increase in the milking herd occurred mainly in the South Island, where numbers increased by 231,000 to 1.6 million. Contributing factors included continued dairy conversions, a smaller number of dairy cows and heifers going to the beef herd, more older cows remaining in milking herds, and the sourcing of dairy heifers from the North Island. The milking herd in the North Island increased by 29,000 to 3.0 million.

Total dairy cattle numbers in the North and South Islands

1990–2009



Note: No Agricultural Production Survey was conducted in 1997, 1998, and 2001. In 2000, the survey related only to horticulture.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Beef

There were 4.1 million beef cattle at June 2009, a similar number to 2008. Beef numbers in 2009 were 2.2 million below the 6.3 million recorded in 1975.

In 2009, 71 percent of all beef cattle were in the North Island, which had 2.9 million. The remaining 1.2 million were in the South Island.

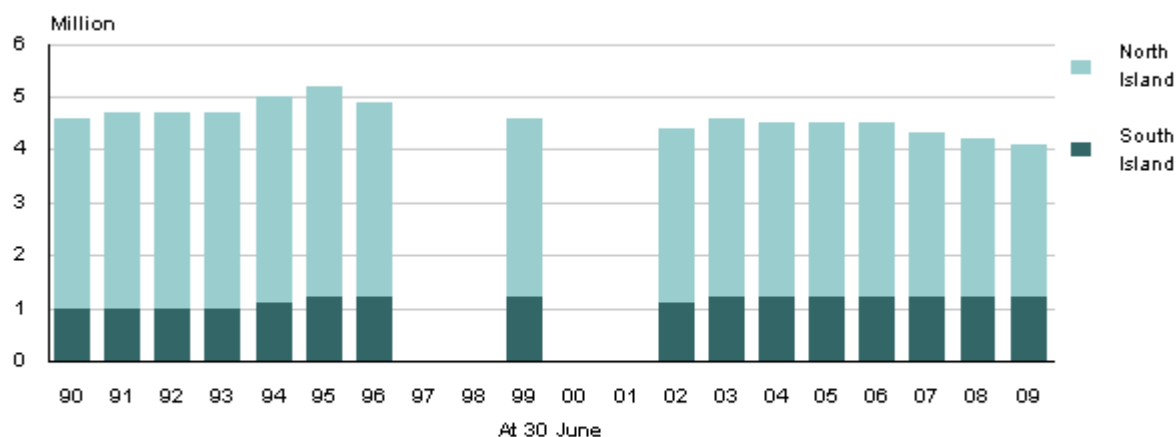
Northland, Waikato, Manawatu-Wanganui, Hawke's Bay, and Canterbury were the major beef farming regions.

In 2009, there were 1.1 million breeding cows and heifers in calf, similar to the number reported in the previous year. The numbers of steers and non-breeding bulls were also stable at 1.2 million and 0.7 million, respectively.

In the year ended 30 June 2009, there were 918,000 calves born to beef heifers and cows, 6.1 percent less than in 2008.

Total beef cattle numbers in the North and South Islands

1990–2009



Note: No Agricultural Production Survey was conducted in 1997, 1998, and 2001. In 2000, the survey related only to horticulture.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Deer

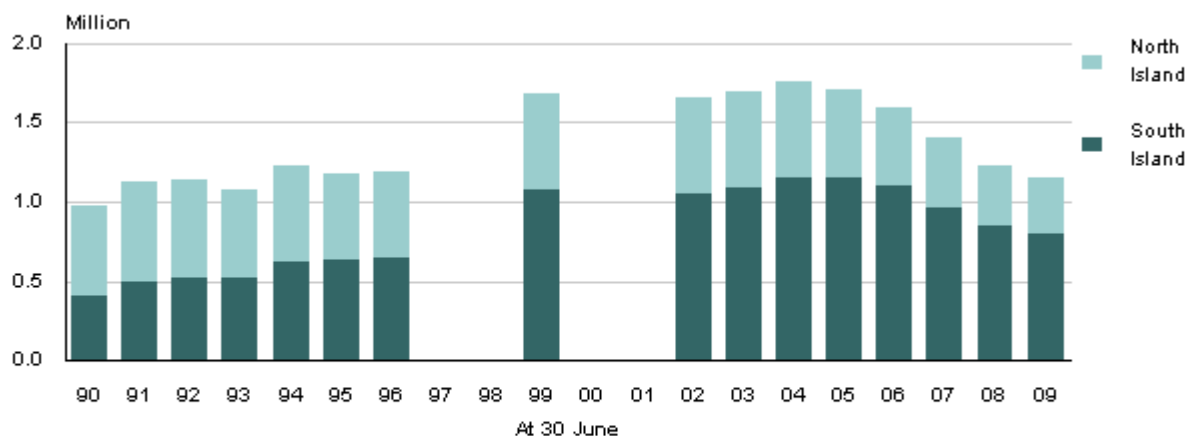
There were 1.1 million deer at 30 June 2009, 77,000 less than in 2008. Low venison prices have contributed to the decrease in deer numbers in recent years. In 2009 numbers were back to the level last recorded in the early 1990s. Despite this decrease, numbers are still well above the 109,000 recorded in 1981, when deer farming was in its infancy.

Up until 1994, there were more deer in the North Island than in the South Island. Since then deer farming has become increasingly concentrated in the South Island, which in 2009 had two-thirds of all deer. Canterbury, Southland, and Otago are the main deer farming regions.

Between 2008 and 2009, as the price of venison improved, more younger female deer were retained, the number aged one to two years increased 7 percent to 113,000. The number of other deer reduced slightly during the year.

During the year ended 2009, 432,000 fawns were born and alive at four months, down 13 percent on the 2008 number. This fall reflects 85,000 fewer female deer being mated in 2008, compared to 2007 when 680,000 were mated.

Total deer numbers in the North and South Islands 1990–2009



Note: No Agricultural Production Survey was conducted in 1997, 1998 and 2001. In 2000, the survey only related to horticulture. Statistics New Zealand estimates an undercount of about 70,000 deer at 30 June 2002, and 50,000 at 30 June 2003.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Forestry

During the year ended 31 March 2009, 19 million cubic metres of exotic forestry timber was harvested from 40,000 hectares of plantation. Three quarters of this harvesting took place in the North Island, mainly in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions.

The area of replantings fell 5 percent to 31,500 hectares in 2009. Seventy-one percent of the replanted area was in the North Island where 22,300 hectares were replanted.

In 2009 there were 2,400 hectares of new forestry plantings, similar to the 2,700 hectares planted in the previous year. In 2009, 1,300 hectares were in the North Island, 500 hectares more than in the previous year. There were 1,100 hectares of new plantings in the South Island, 800 hectares less than in 2008.

Wheat, barley, and maize grain

Increased harvests of wheat, barley, and maize grain were recorded in the year ended 30 June 2009. Compared to the 2008 season, the area of wheat harvested increased 27 percent to 53,900 hectares, while barley increased 15 percent to 77,700 hectares, and maize grain 18 percent to 21,600 hectares. Favourable weather conditions during the growing season, high wheat and barley prices at sowing time, and increased demand for stock feed helped drive the increase.

Canterbury was the main growing region for both wheat and barley. In 2009, 46,900 hectares of wheat were harvested, accounting for 87 percent of the national total. With 45,000 hectares of barley harvested in 2009, Canterbury accounted for 58 percent of the total harvest.

Maize grain was grown almost exclusively in the North Island with 97 percent of the national total. Waikato, with 5,400 hectares, was the largest region, followed by Gisborne and Hawke's Bay.

Horticulture

Before 2009, horticultural production information was last collected in the 2007 Agricultural Production Census.

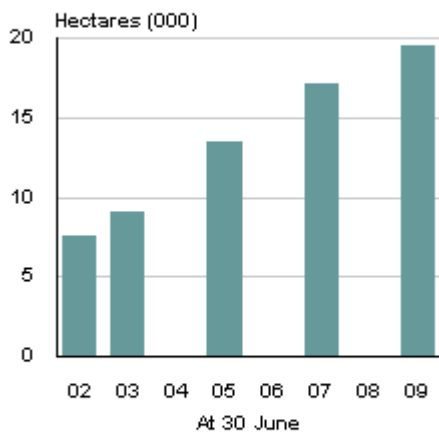
Wine grapes

At June 2009, there were 33,400 hectares planted in wine grapes, 13 percent more than in 2007. In the seven years between 2002 and 2009, the total area planted in wine grapes almost doubled, from the 17,300 hectares recorded in 2002.

By far the largest contributor to this increase has been the expansion of wine grape plantings in the Marlborough region. Between 2007 and 2009, a further 2,400 hectares were added to Marlborough plantings to give it a total area of 19,600 hectares in 2009. This continues the increase in plantings in this region, which in 2009 were more than two and a half times the 7,500 hectares planted in 2002. Hawke's Bay with 5,300 hectares in 2009 was the second largest region.

Area planted in wine grapes

Marlborough region
2002–09



Note: In 2004, 2006, and 2008 the Agricultural Production Survey related only to livestock and arable farming.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Kiwifruit

The total planted canopy area of kiwifruit in 2009 was 13,300 hectares, up 200 hectares on the 2007 area. The increase was driven by plantings of gold kiwifruit, which increased to 2,500 hectares, up 200 hectares on the 2007 figure.

Kiwifruit plantings are concentrated in the Bay of Plenty, which in 2009 had 10,200 hectares, or 77 percent, of the national plantings. In 2009 this region had 8,100 hectares planted in green kiwifruit and 1,900 hectares in gold kiwifruit.

Between 2007 and 2009, kiwifruit exports increased from 328 million kg to 378 million kg. In the year ended 30 June 2009, kiwifruit exports were worth \$1,074 million (f.o.b.).

Cherries

In 2009 there were 600 hectares planted in cherries. This area was up 15 percent on 2007. The majority (97 percent) of cherries were grown in the South Island, with Otago the largest cherry production region. The area planted in Otago was estimated at 470 hectares in 2009, an increase of 10 percent on 2007.

Potatoes, buttercup squash, sweet corn, and onions

Compared to 2007, in the year ended 30 June 2009, there was an increase in the area of potatoes harvested, and decreases in the areas of buttercup squash and sweet corn. The area of onions harvested remained at a similar level to 2007.

The area of potatoes harvested, at 11,400 hectares in 2009, was 13 percent above the 2007 harvested area. With 4,300 hectares, Canterbury was the main growing region in 2009. This was followed by Waikato with 2,100 hectares.

In 2009, 6,800 hectares of buttercup squash were harvested, down 12 percent from 2007. Nearly all buttercup squash was harvested in the North Island. The two main growing regions were Hawke's Bay with 4,200 hectares, and Gisborne with 1,600 hectares in 2009.

There were 5,100 hectares of sweet corn harvested in 2009, down 19 percent from 6,200 hectares harvested in 2007. The area harvested in Gisborne increased 9 percent to 2,000 hectares. In Hawke's Bay, the area harvested decreased 29 percent to 1,700 hectares. In Canterbury there were 400 hectares harvested in 2009, less than half the 900 hectares harvested in 2007. The sweet corn harvest was affected by farmers switching to other farming activities, unfavourable weather conditions in the Hawke's Bay during the growing season, and the closure of a processing plant in South Canterbury.

During the year ended 30 June 2009, 4,500 hectares of onions were harvested. Auckland and Waikato were the two main growing regions, accounting for 68 percent of the total harvested area. Between 2007 and 2009 the area harvested in Auckland increased 19 percent to 1,800 hectares, while the Waikato area decreased 14 percent to 1,300 hectares.

Changes between the provisional and final result for estimates at the national level			
	Provisional	Final	% change
Ewe hoggets put to ram	1,781,972	1,821,217	2
Ewes (2-tooth and over) put to ram	22,159,971	22,169,206	0
Total sheep	32,356,674	32,383,589	0
Lambs born to ewe hoggets	652,049	671,682	3
Lambs born to ewes	27,313,376	27,309,916	0
Total lambs marked or tailed	27,965,425	27,981,598	0
Dairy cows and heifers in milk or calf	4,597,183	4,606,971	0
Total dairy cattle	5,823,201	5,860,776	1
Calves born alive to dairy heifers/cows	3,693,823	3,656,877	-1
Beef cows and heifers in calf over 1–2 years	138,277	148,268	7

Beef cows and heifers in calf 2 years and over	943,538	947,746	0
Total beef cattle	4,093,616	4,100,718	0
Calves born alive to beef heifers/cows	911,331	918,451	1
Female deer mated	596,060	563,762	-5
Total deer	1,152,991	1,145,858	-1
Fawns born on the farm alive at four months	435,926	431,921	-1
New area planted in forestry (hectares)	2,339	2,356	1
Area replanted in forestry (hectares)	31,134	31,485	1
Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)	18,903,238	18,887,204	0
Exotic timber harvested (hectares)	40,040	40,004	0
Total wheat harvested (tonnes)	408,367	403,463	-1
Total wheat harvested (hectares)	53,881	53,854	0
Barley (tonnes)	449,834	435,270	-3
Barley (hectares)	77,762	77,669	0
Maize grain (not sweet corn) (tonnes)	256,967	237,844	-7
Maize grain (not sweet corn) (hectares)	23,117	21,558	-7
Apples	9,278	9,284	0
Cherries	603	597	-1
Blackcurrants	1,271	1,268	0
Avocados	4,140	4,117	-1
Wine grapes	32,959	33,422	1
Onions	4,601	4,511	-2
Peas (includes fresh and process peas)	6,192	5,988	-3
Sweet corn	5,044	5,059	0
Potatoes	11,493	11,398	-1
Squash (buttercup)	6,961	6,825	-2

Next release ...

Agricultural Production Statistics (Provisional): June 2010 will be released in February 2011.

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Technical notes

Background

This release contains final results from the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey. This survey is part of an ongoing programme of agricultural production statistics conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The current programme began with an agricultural production census in 2002 and was followed by yearly sample surveys from 2003 to 2006. An agricultural production census was held in 2007. Sample surveys were held in 2008 and 2009.

Target population

The target population for the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey was all businesses engaged in 'agricultural production activity' (including livestock, cropping, horticulture, and forestry) or owned land that was intended for agricultural activity. The target population included businesses that were engaged in agriculture or forestry production as a secondary activity.

The target population was defined in terms of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06). It specifically included businesses classified as:

- A01 Agriculture
- A0301 Forestry (excluding native forestry)

and parts of:

- L671200 Non-residential property operators
- M691000 Scientific research services (agriculture-related research that involves land holding (excluding universities))
- P802300 Combined primary and secondary education (agricultural high school operation)
- P802400 Special school education (special needs education involving agricultural production activity)
- P810200 Higher education (agriculture-related research undertaken by universities that involves land holding)
- R912100 Horse and dog racing administration and track operation
- R912900 Other horse and dog racing activities (racehorse training and racing stables operations)
- R892200 Nature reserves and conservation parks operation.

The target population specifically excluded:

- A019300 Beekeeping
- part of A019900 Other livestock farming nec (worm farming, pet breeding, dog breeding, cat breeding, bird breeding (except poultry, game birds, ostriches, and emus))
- A017100 Poultry meat (except growers who also produce eggs for human consumption).

Population frame

The 2009 Agricultural Production Survey includes all units identified on Statistics New Zealand's Business Frame as having agricultural activity. The Business Frame is a list of businesses in New Zealand, based on their registration for goods and services tax (GST) with Inland Revenue. In the case of agriculture, the Business Frame includes:

- those units registered for GST (and filing a non-zero GST return) that have indicated involvement in agricultural activity (as defined above)
- those businesses with more than \$200,000 of GST sales or purchases, or that are an employer, whose main activity is not agriculture but that have indicated some secondary agricultural activity.

The compulsory registration level for GST is \$60,000, so there is a partial and unquantifiable coverage of units below this level.

Responses from farmers and foresters in the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey have resulted in an estimated eligible population of 59,000 enterprises.

Time series consistency

Population changes

Users should note that while there is consistency in the frame from which the population has been drawn for agricultural production data collections from 2003 to 2009, there are differences for data collections before 2003.

From 1981 to 1991, the population was sourced from an agricultural directory. Statistics NZ maintained this directory by tracing transfers of farming, horticulture, and forestry land. In 1992, this agriculture directory was merged with Statistics NZ's Business Frame. For the 1992 and 1993 surveys, population units were drawn from the Business Frame by industrial classification. In the 1994 Agricultural Production Census, for the first time the population was extracted using both the industrial classification and GST registration information.

Between 1994 and 1996, the population was all businesses, sourced from the Business Frame, that were registered for GST and classified to agriculture. The 1999 Agricultural Production Survey population was sourced solely from AgriBase (a geospatial database owned and managed by AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd). The population for the 2000 Horticulture Production Survey was sourced from the Business Frame, supplemented by AgriBase and growers' lists. For the 2002 census, the population was sourced from the Business Frame and the Inland Revenue Client Register. These sources were checked against industry lists and AgriBase to ensure all large units were included in the population. The Business Frame was used for the 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 surveys, the 2007 census and the 2008 and 2009 surveys.

Survey content changes

Users should note that there have been changes to the core information gathered in agricultural production collections.

Since 1994, agricultural production collections have gathered information on livestock and arable farming, horticulture, and forestry with the following exceptions:

- In 1999, the survey collected information on livestock and arable farming only.
- In 2000, the survey collected horticulture production information only.
- In 2004, 2006, and 2008 the surveys collected information on livestock and arable farming, and forestry (horticulture production information was not collected).

2009 questionnaire changes

Supplementary feed crops

This section was expanded to collect information on forage, fodder, and green feed crops.

Grain and seed crops

This question was expanded to allow respondents to specify the amount and type of other grain and seed crops harvested. These descriptions were examined and reclassified, if appropriate, to the specified grain and seed crops.

Horticulture

Questions on the area of fruit trees and vines planted, and the area of vegetables and other horticulture crops harvested were included.

Cultivation and pasture renewal

The questions in this section were expanded to collect information on pasture renewal and method of cultivation.

Past questionnaire changes relevant for 2009

Forestry

The reference date for forestry production estimates changed to 31 March in the 2005 Agricultural Production Survey. This change was made to allow the forestry section of the Agricultural Production Survey to align more closely with the National Exotic Forest Description survey (NEFD) run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

For the 2002 census, and the 2003 and 2004 surveys, the year ended date was 31 December. For agricultural production collections before the 2002 Agricultural Production Census, the year ended date was 30 June.

Fawns

Since the 2005 survey, the data relates to fawns born on the farm that were alive at four months. This change takes into account industry recommendations. In 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2003, and 2004, data related to fawns weaned on the farm. In 2002, data related to fawns born on the farm.

Deer

Users should note that deer figures since the 2004 survey are not directly comparable with 2002 and 2003 figures. Improvements made to the questions about deer in the 2004, 2005, and 2006 surveys have resulted in improved deer number estimates. While it is not possible to quantify the

exact extent of the previous undercoverage, Statistics NZ estimates an undercount of about 70,000 deer at 30 June 2002 and 50,000 at 30 June 2003.

Sample design

For the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey, a stratified sample design was used to select a sample from the population. In selecting this sample, the population was stratified by regional council area, ANZSIC group, and size group. The size groups were determined as follows:

- For those businesses that had previously responded to one or more of the agricultural production censuses or surveys since 2002, the most recent production data was used to form size groups. The variables used to form size groups covered a range of livestock and cropping variables. Typically, three size groups were formed: small, medium, and large.
- For new businesses or those businesses that did not respond to the 2002 to 2008 agricultural collections, a random sample was taken.

The 2009 Agricultural Production Survey has a sample size of 30,000.

Reliability of sample survey estimates

This release contains statistics from the 1981–1996, 1999, and 2002–2009 agricultural production collections, as well as the 2000 horticultural production data collection. All the results from these collections are subject to non-sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from biases in the patterns of response and non-response, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents, and errors in the recording and classification of data. Statistics NZ adopts procedures to detect and minimise these types of errors, but they may still occur and are not easy to quantify.

As the 1988, 1989, 1991–1993, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2003–2006, and 2008 and 2009 are sample surveys, not censuses, the results from these collections are also subject to sampling error. Sampling error arises from selecting a random sample of businesses and weighting the results, rather than holding a complete enumeration. The 2009 sample design has been optimised to produce a specified sampling error for certain combinations of key variables and regions, but not all. Also, the 2009 design is optimised on the basis of the distribution of past farmer responses, mainly those to the 2008 survey. Given the dynamic nature of the agricultural sector, the sample errors for 2009 may sometimes be smaller or larger than planned, particularly for those sectors or regions rapidly changing.

Imputation

Values have been imputed for farmers and foresters who did not return a completed questionnaire. Imputation involves replacing missing items with values based on other information available.

The method of imputation used is random 'hot deck' imputation. A proportion of non-respondents were estimated as ineligible. The remaining non-respondents were grouped into imputation cells based on regional council area, ANZSIC06 (Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006) group, and prior years' production data. Each non-respondent was then randomly assigned to a respondent in the same imputation cell, and the farm production data of the respondent was copied across to the non-respondent. In order to improve the imputation

process, respondents with uncharacteristically high levels of agricultural activity were removed from their respective imputation cells, as it was considered unlikely that any of the non-respondents would have similar characteristics to them.

Imputation levels

Imputation levels and sampling errors for the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey		
	Sampling errors at 95% confidence interval (%)	% of total estimate imputed
Ewe hoggets put to ram	11	19
Breeding ewes 2-tooth and over put to ram	4	19
Total sheep	4	18
Lambs born to ewe hoggets	24	21
Lambs born to ewes	4	19
Total lambs	4	19
Dairy cows and heifers, in milk or calf	5	21
Total dairy cattle	5	20
Calves born alive to dairy heifers/cows	6	21
Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 1–2 years)	12	18
Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 2 years and over)	5	18
Total beef cattle	3	18
Calves born alive to beef heifers/cows	5	18
Female deer mated	7	17
Total deer	6	16
Fawns born on the farm	7	16
Area of new forestry plantings (hectares)	22	5
Area of forestry replantings (hectares)	6	2
Exotic timber harvested (hectares)	1	2
Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)	1	2
Wheat tonnage harvested	11	16
Wheat area harvested (hectares)	11	16
Barley tonnage harvested	9	18
Barley area harvested (hectares)	10	19
Maize grain tonnage harvested	14	17
Maize grain area harvested (hectares)	12	16
Net area planted in kiwifruit (hectares)	3	14

Net area planted in apples (hectares)	2	11
Net area planted in cherries (hectares)	<1	11
Net area planted in blackcurrants(hectares)	<1	13
Net area planted in avocados (hectares)	7	16
Net area planted in wine grapes (hectares)	2	13
Harvested area of onions (hectares)	13	7
Harvested area of peas (hectares)	19	14
Harvested area of sweet corn (hectares)	6	9
Harvested area of potatoes (hectares)	15	11
Harvested area of squash (hectares)	12	5

Response rates

The estimated proportion of eligible businesses that responded to the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey was 84 percent. These businesses represent 86 percent of the total estimated value of agricultural operations.

Revisions

In some cases, data collected before the 2009 Agricultural Production Survey may be revised. This revision usually results from the correction of information provided by survey respondents. Revised figures are indicated in the tables by an 'R'.

Confidentiality

Data collected and information contained in this release must conform to the provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. This requires that published information maintains the confidentiality of individual respondents. Figures affected by these provisions have been suppressed and are denoted by 'C'.

Quality suppressions

Data with high sample errors or imputation levels have been suppressed and are indicated by an 'S'.

More information

For more information, follow the [link](#) from the Technical notes of this release on the Statistics New Zealand website.

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Tables

The following tables are printed with this Hot Off the Press and can also be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

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