

Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2012 (final)

Embargoed until 10:45am – 13 May 2013

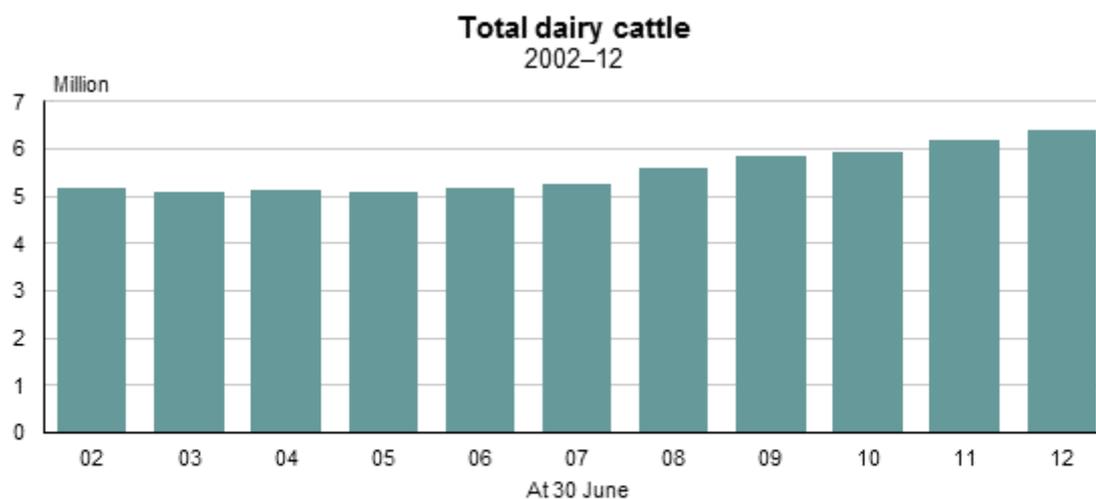
Key facts

At 30 June 2012:

- Dairy cattle numbers were 6.4 million, up 1.2 million from 2007.
- Sheep numbers were 31.3 million, down 7.2 million from 2007.
- Beef numbers were 3.7 million, down 660,000 from 2007.
- The planted area of wine grapes increased 17 percent from 2007 (to 34,560 hectares).

During the year ended 30 June 2012:

- The area of wheat harvested increased 35 percent from 2007 (to 54,800 hectares).
- The area of irrigable land increased 17 percent from 2007 (to 721,700 hectares).



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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Commentary

- Dairy numbers up by a quarter in the last five years
- Sheep numbers drop below those of the United Kingdom
- Beef numbers continue to fall
- Deer numbers decline
- Fewer pigs in New Zealand
- Irrigable land increases, especially in Canterbury
- New area of exotic forest planted up 4,100 hectares in 2012
- Increased arable harvested area
- Grapes increase in Marlborough region
- Gold kiwifruit continues to replace green
- Area of potatoes and avocados increase

This release contains final results for key livestock, forestry, arable, and horticultural crops from the 2012 Agricultural Production Census. Statistics in this release may differ from the provisional statistics published in December 2012. Since the provisional release, more survey responses have been received and further processing and analysis of data has been done.

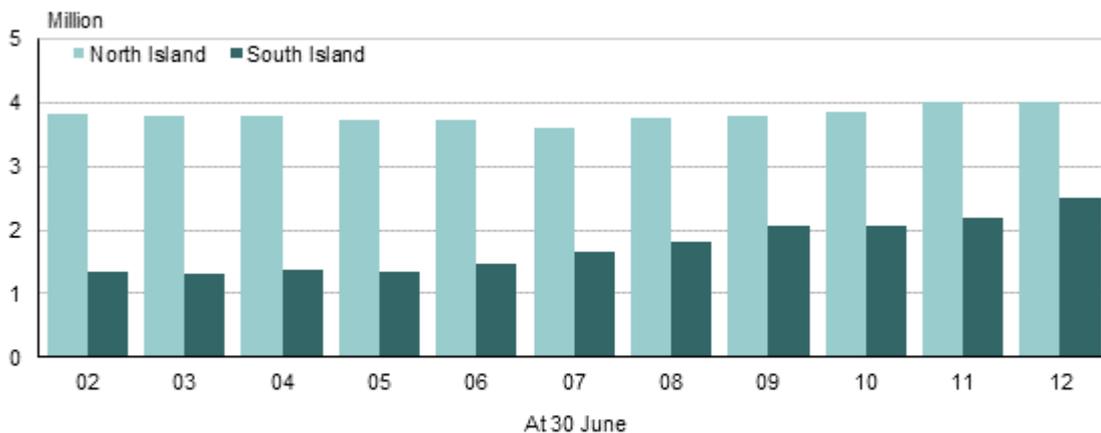
Figures in this release are rounded. All percentages are calculated using unrounded figures.

Dairy numbers up by a quarter in the last five years

Total dairy cattle numbers have increased by 23 percent since 2007 to a total of 6.4 million in 2012. Strong international demand and favourable milk solid prices prompted increased investment. More farms were converted to dairy farming and more farms provided dairy grazing.

Dairy cattle numbers in Canterbury rose sharply between 2011 and 2012, with an increase of 19 percent (194,000). This is the biggest annual increase at a regional level for any type of livestock for the last two decades.

Dairy cattle in the North and South islands
2002–12



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The national milking herd is now 5.0 million, 843,000 more than reported in 2007. Most of this increase came from the South Island, with Canterbury increasing by 344,000 cows, Southland increasing by 171,000, and Otago increasing by 85,000. The North Island milking herd increases were mainly from Waikato, which increased by 121,000 cows, and Manawatu-Wanganui, up by 58,000.

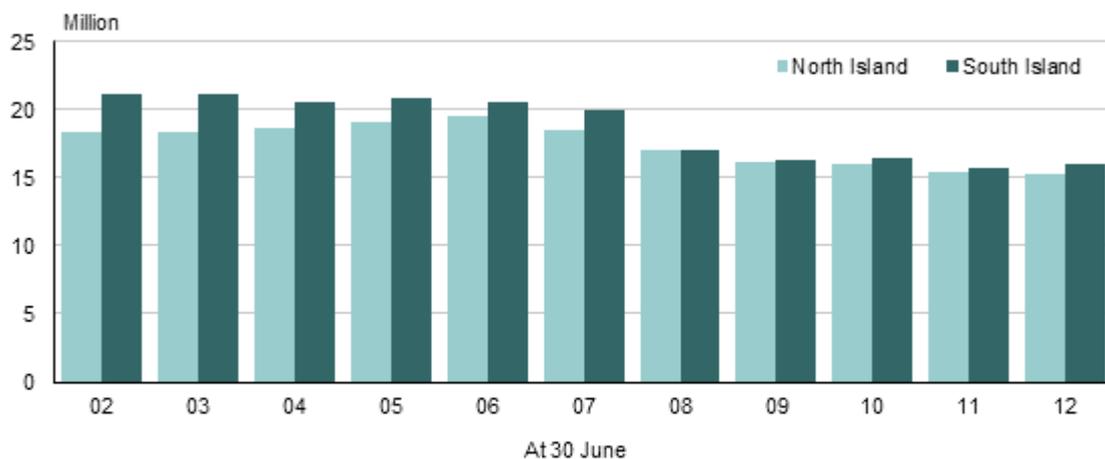
Sheep numbers drop below those of the United Kingdom

New Zealand now has fewer sheep than the United Kingdom's 2011 total sheep numbers. In 2012, we had 31.3 million sheep, a decrease of 19 percent (7.2 million) since 2007. The major causes were competition for farm land from the expanding dairy industry, and disappointing farm gate prices for sheepmeat and wool. The fall in sheep numbers has been more pronounced in the South Island, which has experienced more vigorous growth in dairying.

Since 2011, however, sheep numbers have increased by 0.4 percent (130,000). The 2011 lambing season was better than that of the previous year and since 2011, export prices for sheepmeat have remained at higher levels than those achieved between 2007 and 2009.

Sheep in the North and South islands

2002–12



Source: Statistics New Zealand

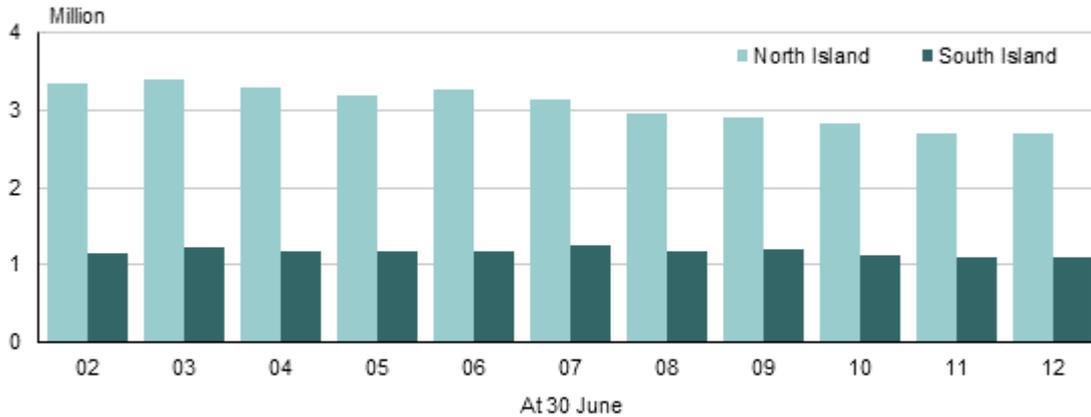
Beef numbers continue to fall

Total beef numbers have declined since 2007, despite relatively buoyant beef prices since 2010. In 2012, there were 3.7 million beef animals, a decrease of 659,000 (15 percent) compared with 2007.

Because most beef farms are in the North Island, there were larger decreases in the North Island than in the South Island. Total beef numbers in the North Island declined by 489,000 animals (16 percent) and in the South Island by 171,000 animals (14 percent) between 2007 and 2012.

Hawke's Bay was the only region with a significant increase in total beef numbers between 2007 and 2012, with an increase of 33,000 (7 percent). A recovery following a drought in that region in 2007 contributed to this increase.

Beef cattle in the North and South islands 2002–12

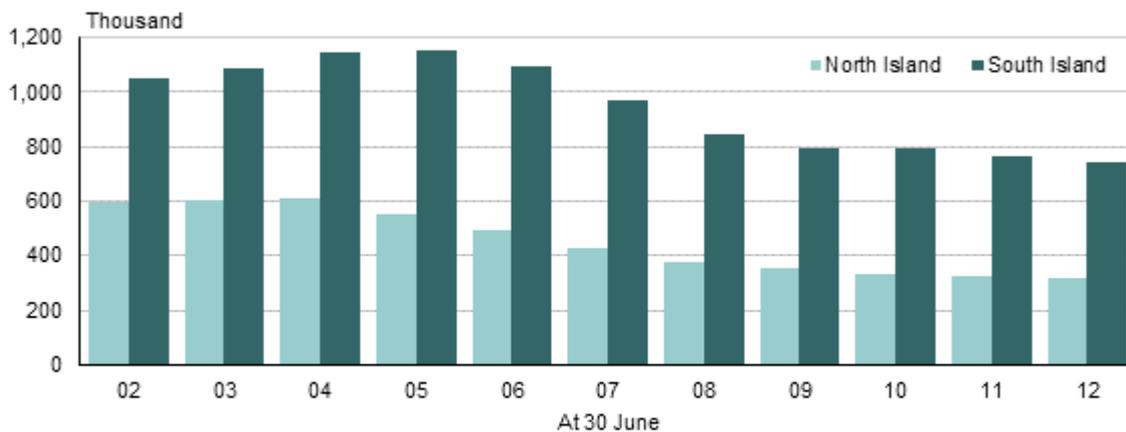


Source: Statistics New Zealand

Deer numbers decline

There were 1.1 million deer in 2012, a decrease of 24 percent (335,000) since 2007. The national deer number has been declining due to competition from other types of farming activities and some large deer farms leaving the industry.

Deer in the North and South islands 2002–12



Note: Statistics New Zealand estimates undercounts of about 70,000 deer at 30 June 2002, and 50,000 at 30 June 2003.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Fewer pigs in New Zealand

There were 314,000 pigs in New Zealand as at 30 June 2012, a decrease of 14 percent (53,000) from 2007. In the year ended June 2012 the decrease in total pig numbers (by 13,000) was primarily on account of 11,000 fewer baconers, porkers, and weaners.

New Zealand's largest pig farming regions were Canterbury and Waikato, with 54 percent and 12 percent of the national total, respectively.

Irrigable land increases, especially in Canterbury

In the past five years, the total area reported by farmers that could have been irrigated increased by 102,400 hectares, to a total of 721,700 hectares in 2012. Canterbury accounted for nearly 60,000 hectares (58 percent) of the total increase since 2007. This increase supported the large increase in dairying that also occurred in the region. Government-funded irrigation projects and farmers converting from flood systems to more efficient spray systems were causal factors.

Southland also had a significant increase in total irrigable land, increasing by 9,700 hectares (127 percent) between 2007 and 2012.

When comparing the types of irrigation, flood systems decreased nationally by 16,400 hectares (17 percent) and spray systems increased nationally by 122,800 hectares (21 percent) for the five-year period ending June 2012.

New area of exotic forest planted up 4,100 hectares in 2012

There were 11,300 hectares of new area of exotic forest planted in 2012, 4,100 hectares more than in 2011. Planting schemes such as the Afforestation Grant Scheme and the East Coast Forestry Project have resulted in a large increase in the past two years.

During the year ended 31 March 2012, the area of exotic forest replanted was estimated at 40,200 hectares, 17 percent more than in 2011. Regions that had the largest increases of replanted area were Northland, Bay of Plenty, and Gisborne.

During the year ending 31 March 2012, there were 48,200 hectares of exotic timber harvested, 2 percent more than the previous year. Strong international demand continued to drive the increase in harvesting activities. All the increases in this period occurred in the North Island.

The [Ministry for Primary Industries](#) has more information on forestry trade and production.

Increased arable harvested area

The annual harvested area of wheat and barley increased by 14,300 hectares (35 percent) and 14,200 hectares (28 percent), respectively, between 2007 and 2012. Canterbury was the main growing area for barley, with two-thirds of the national harvest.

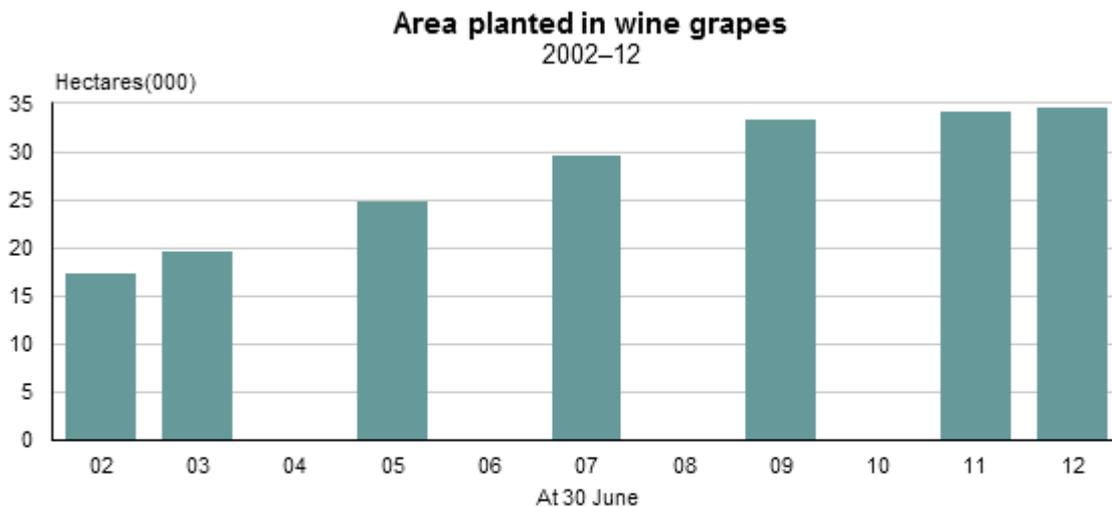
The increases in the harvested areas for both wheat and barley was due to good international grain prices for the 2011/12 year and domestic demand for these grains as a stock feed, particularly for dairy cows.

The year ended June 2012 was a good growing season for arable crops, with harvests significantly better than the previous year.

Grapes increase in Marlborough region

The area planted in wine grapes has grown significantly since 2007, increasing by 4,950 hectares to a total of 34,560 hectares in 2012. Marlborough, the largest wine growing region, increased its planted area by 5,460 hectares to a total of 22,630 hectares in 2012. The sauvignon blanc grape variety continues to dominate the industry and has contributed to the growth in Marlborough. There were slight decreases in regions such as Gisborne and Otago where other grape varieties are predominant.

During the year ended June 2012, the increase in the planted area for grapes remained relatively unchanged, partly due to lower grape prices.



Note: In 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010, the agriculture production survey related only to livestock and arable farming.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Gold kiwifruit continues to replace green

Total gold kiwifruit canopy area continued to replace green, largely due to gold kiwifruit being more profitable than green. The canopy area of gold varieties increased by 770 hectares (34 percent) since 2007, to 3,070 in 2012. Green kiwifruit canopy area decreased by 1,000 hectares (10 percent) since 2007, to 9,500 in 2012.

There has been a small decline in the total area of kiwifruit canopy, from 13,080 hectares in 2007 to 12,760 hectares in 2012. Kiwifruit growers have been affected by the PSA-V disease, which resulted in a number of growers removing infected vines.

Area of potatoes and avocados increase

The area of potatoes harvested nationally increased by 1,530 hectares (15 percent) between 2007 and 2012, with 11,580 hectares harvested in 2012. The area of potatoes in Canterbury has increased by over one-third since 2007, and accounted for half of the national harvested area.

The planted area in avocado trees was 4,150 hectares in June 2012. Avocados are mainly grown in the Bay of Plenty and Northland regions. Northland's planted area has been steadily

increasing, with nearly 20 percent more land in avocado trees between 2007 and 2012. Australia is the largest overseas market for our avocados, with over 80 percent of our exports heading across the Tasman.

For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About the Agricultural Production Census

The Agricultural Production Census is part of an ongoing programme of agricultural production statistics conducted in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries. Previous censuses were held in 2002 and 2007, with sample surveys in 2003–06 and 2008–11.

The 2012 census covers land use, animal farming (livestock), horticultural and arable crop growing, forestry, and farming practices in New Zealand (including fertiliser and cultivation). This release contains final results from the 2012 Agricultural Production Census.

More definitions

Arable land: capable of being ploughed, fit for tillage (not pasture or woodland).

Bull: entire (ie not castrated) male cattle.

Calf: young cattle of either sex between birth and weaning, with eight temporary teeth. Also sometimes refers to animals up to one year old.

Calving percentage: calculated either by calves weaned to number of cows mated, or calves sold to cows mated in the previous year.

Cow: mature female cattle beast of any age, but usually over 30 months.

Dairy milking herd: milk-producing cows and heifers, which includes all cows and heifers either in milk or in calf.

Dairy replacement herd: dairy cows and heifers not currently producing milk and all calves and heifers reared for future dairy breeding and milking.

Dry cow/ewe: a female animal not carrying offspring.

Ewe: a female sheep.

Flock: group of sheep, angora or feral goats, or poultry.

Heifer: female cattle having no more than six permanent incisors.

Herd: group of cattle, horses, or milking goats (or pigs and deer).

Hogget: a young male or female sheep having no more than two permanent incisors in wear.

Irrigable land area: land area that could have been irrigated using existing resource consents and equipment that is on the farm. We used the simplified term 'irrigated land' in the media release to describe this same concept.

Lamb: sheep under 12 months of age, or without any permanent teeth in wear.

Lambing percentage: number of lambs marked or tailed per ewe mated in the previous year.

Ram: adult uncastrated male sheep having more than two permanent incisors in wear.

Schedule: basic minimum price paid to a farmer by a meat processing company. Based on categories of stock. Usually announced weekly. Variable premiums can apply for particular groups at certain times.

Steer: male cattle castrated when young. Does not develop secondary sexual characteristics (eg large shoulders) or masculine temperament.

Two-tooth: sheep with two teeth (a one-year-old).

Wether: a castrated male sheep.

Related links

Upcoming releases

Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2013 (provisional) will be released on 16 December 2013.

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The [release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

[Agricultural Production Statistics – information releases](#) has links to past releases.

Related information

More information on [agriculture, horticulture, and forestry](#) is available on our website.

Data quality

Period-specific information

This section contains information about data that has changed since the last release.

- [Survey information](#)
- [2012 questionnaire changes](#)
- [2012 imputation](#)
- [Response rates](#)

General information

This section has information that does not change between releases.

- [About the estimates](#)
- [Population frame](#)
- [Survey population](#)
- [Population changes](#)
- [Survey content changes](#)
- [Past questionnaire changes](#)
- [Reliability of sample survey estimates](#)
- [Imputation](#)
- [Confidentiality](#)
- [Quality suppression](#)
- [More information](#)

Period-specific information

Survey information

This release contains final results for key livestock, forestry, horticultural and arable crops from the 2012 Agricultural Production Census. These final figures are at the regional level.

The 2012 census was part of the current programme of agricultural production statistics started in 2002. A census was held in 2002 and 2007, with annual sample surveys in 2003–06 and 2008–11.

Responses from farmers and foresters in the 2012 Agricultural Production Census have resulted in an estimated eligible population of 58,100 enterprises.

2012 questionnaire changes (from 2011)

Farm practices – We included questions on the irrigable area of the farm and formal farm nutrient planning documents.

2012 imputation

Imputation levels for the 2012 Agricultural Production Survey	
	% of total estimate imputed
Ewe hoggets put to ram	13
Breeding ewes (2-tooth and over) put to ram	13

Total sheep	13
Lambs born to ewe hoggets	12
Lambs born to ewes	13
Total lambs	13
Dairy cows and heifers, in milk or calf	20
Total dairy cattle	20
Calves born alive to dairy heifers/cows	20
Beef cows and heifers in calf (age 1–2 years)	14
Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 2 years and over)	12
Total beef cattle	13
Calves born alive to beef heifers/cows	12
Female deer mated	11
Total deer	10
Fawns born on the farm	10
Area of new forestry plantings (hectares)	7
Area of forestry replantings (hectares)	2
Exotic timber harvested (hectares)	3
Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)	3
Wheat tonnage harvested	12
Wheat area harvested (hectares)	12
Barley tonnage harvested	13
Barley area harvested (hectares)	13
Maize grain tonnage harvested	13
Maize grain area harvested (hectares)	12
Kiwifruit	9
Wine grapes	9
Apples	6
Avocados	12
Blackcurrants	16
Cherries	5
Fresh/process peas	7
Onions	6
Sweet corn	4
Squash	2
Potatoes	9

Response rates

The estimated proportion of eligible businesses that responded to the 2012 Agricultural Production Census for this final release was 85 percent. These businesses represent 88 percent of the total estimated value of agricultural operations.

General information

About the estimates

Figures in this release are rounded. All percentages in this release are calculated using unrounded figures. The figures from the agricultural production surveys may differ from those

produced from other sources, such as the National Exotic Forestry Description Survey produced by the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Stock Number Survey from Beef and Lamb New Zealand Limited, and Dairy Statistics from Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited. These surveys use different survey frames and designs.

Population frame

The agricultural production surveys include 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.

It should be noted that the compulsory registration level for GST is \$60,000, so there is a partial and unquantifiable coverage of units below this level.

Survey population

The survey population for the agricultural production surveys is all businesses engaged in 'agricultural production activity' (including livestock, cropping, horticulture, and forestry), or which owned land that was intended for agricultural activity. The survey population includes businesses engaged in agriculture or forestry production as a secondary activity.

Industries in scope

The survey population specifically includes businesses classified to the following ANZSIC06 codes:

- A01 Agriculture
- A0301 Forestry (excluding native forestry).

It also includes 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 survey population specifically excludes:

- 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 changes

While there is consistency in the frame from which the population is drawn for agricultural production data collections from 2003 to 2011, there are differences for data collections before 2003.

From 1981 to 1991, the population was sourced from an agricultural directory. This was maintained by Statistics NZ 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 that were registered for GST and classified to agriculture, sourced from the Business Frame. 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, 2009, 2010, and 2011 surveys.

Survey content changes

Over the years there have been changes to the core information gathered in agricultural production collections.

Since 1994, these 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, 2008, and 2010, the surveys collected information on livestock and arable farming, and forestry (horticulture production information was not collected).

Past questionnaire changes

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 survey to align more closely with the National Exotic Forest Description survey run by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

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. 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. The change took industry recommendations into account.

Deer

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.

Reliability of sample survey estimates

This release contains statistics from the 1994–96, 1999, and 2002–12 agricultural production collections. All 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 recording and classifying data. Statistics NZ adopts procedures to detect and minimise these types of errors, but they may still occur and are not easy to quantify.

Sampling error arises from selecting a random sample of businesses and weighting the results, rather than holding a complete enumeration. As the 1995, 1996, 1999, 2003–06, and 2008–11 collections are sample surveys, not censuses, the results from these collections are also subject to sampling error.

Imputation

Values are imputed for farmers and foresters who do 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 are estimated as ineligible for imputation. The remaining non-respondents are grouped into imputation cells based on regional council area, ANZSIC06 group, and previous years' production data. Each non-respondent is then randomly assigned to a respondent in the same imputation cell, and the farm production data of the respondent is copied across to the non-respondent.

To improve the imputation process, respondents with uncharacteristically high levels of agricultural activity are removed from their respective imputation cells. It is unlikely that any of the non-respondents would have similar characteristics to them.

Confidentiality

Data collected and information contained in this release must conform to the provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. Published information must maintain the confidentiality of individual respondents. Figures in the tables affected by these provisions are denoted by 'C'.

Quality suppression

Data with high sample errors or imputation levels are suppressed and are indicated by 'S' in the table.

More information

[See more information about the Agricultural Production Survey.](#)

Liability

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Revisions

Since the provisional release of *Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2012* in December 2012, more survey responses have been received and further processing and analysis of data has been done. Statistics in this final release differ from the provisional statistics published.

Changes between provisional and final results for agricultural estimates at the national level			
	Provisional	Final	% change
Ewe hoggets put to ram	2,401,423	2,380,597	-1
Ewes (2-tooth and over) put to ram	20,322,383	20,411,382	0
Total sheep	31,198,707	31,262,715	0
Lambs born to ewe hoggets	1,076,836	1,067,346	-1
Lambs born to ewes	24,839,908	24,886,808	0
Total lambs marked or tailed	25,916,744	25,954,154	0
Dairy cows and heifers in milk or calf	5,018,692	5,009,795	0
Total dairy cattle	6,462,446	6,445,681	0
Calves born alive to dairy heifers / cows	4,066,436	3,879,543	-5
Beef cows and heifers in calf 1–2 years	146,363	148,404	1
Beef cows and heifers in calf 2 years and over	908,198	911,380	0
Total beef cattle	3,736,402	3,734,412	0
Calves born alive to beef heifers / cows	878,487	827,749	-6
Female deer mated	513,173	517,654	1
Total deer	1,048,939	1,060,694	1
Fawns born on the farm alive at four months	430,873	413,283	-4
New area planted in forestry (hectares)	11,638	11,327	-3
Area replanted in forestry (hectares)	41,633	40,247	-3
Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)	25,690,484	25,201,223	-2
Exotic timber harvested (hectares)	49,606	48,222	-3
Total wheat harvested (tonnes)	485,617	488,614	1
Total wheat harvested (hectares)	54,897	54,750	0
Barley (tonnes)	435,733	438,789	1
Barley (hectares)	66,271	65,703	-1
Maize grain (not sweet corn) (tonnes)	215,835	211,231	-2
Maize grain (not sweet corn) (hectares)	20,209	19,442	-4
Apples (hectares)	8,820	8,845	0
Cherries (hectares)	610	619	1
Blackcurrants (hectares)	1,434	1,408	-2
Avocados (hectares)	4,191	4,149	-1
Wine grapes (hectares)	34,024	34,562	2
Onions (hectares)	5,703	5,718	0
Peas (includes fresh and processed peas) (hectares)	6,431	6,672	4
Sweet corn (hectares)	4,044	4,664	15
Potatoes (hectares)	11,329	11,578	2
Squash (buttercup) (hectares)	6,449	6,837	6

Correction – 14 May 2013

Some changes were made to the commentary section of this release after it was published on 13 May 2013. The following are the correct values:

- Irrigable land area – the total area reported by farmers that could have been irrigated increased by 102,400 hectares (this number was updated from 102,200 hectares).
- Exotic forest – During the year ended 31 March 2012, the area of exotic forest replanted was estimated at 40,200 hectares (this number was updated from 41,100 hectares).
- Exotic forest – During the year ending 31 March 2012, there were 48,200 hectares of exotic timber harvested (this number was updated from 48,400 hectares).

We regret any inconvenience caused by these errors.

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Tables

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Agricultural production statistics

1. Selected livestock numbers, by region
2. Sheep numbers, by region
3. Lamb numbers, by region
4. Dairy cattle numbers, by region
5. Beef cattle numbers, by region
6. Deer numbers, by region
7. Pig numbers, by region
8. Forestry, by region
9. Grain crops, by region
10. Area planted in outdoor fruit, by region
11. Harvested area of outdoor vegetables, by region
12. Livestock by island, at 30 June
13. Breeding ewes and lambing percentages, at 30 June
14. Irrigable land, by region

Tables for Federation of Māori Authorities

1. Land use, stock units, and supplementary feed
2. Selected livestock numbers
3. Selected farm practices

Access more data on Infoshare and NZ.Stat

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For this release, select the following categories from the Infoshare homepage:

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