EMPLOYED PERSONS IN AGRICULTURE AND SERVICES TO AGRICULTURE ('000)

Month of August	Males	Married females	All females	Persons
1980	285.1	77.5	93.4	378.5
1981	281.9	87.1	104.6	386.5
1982	281.7	87.1	101.0	382.8
1983	290.2	80.2	94.1	384.2
1984	279.3	80.0	93.8	373.1
1985	287.4	89.5	107.1	394.5

Source: Monthly population survey conducted by the ABS throughout Australia. For further details *see The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Regulation of Australian agricultural industries

Year Book No. 61, pages 837–57, contains a summary of the means by which agricultural industries are assisted and regulated. It is not intended as a comprehensive statement of all the consultative and legislative assistance and control measures that exist, but rather as a description of the way in which these processes affect the crops, livestock and livestock products referred to earlier in this chapter.

Agricultural research by CSIRO

Agricultural research, conducted by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), is directed primarily to aspects of agricultural production which are of widespread significance and which require mid- to long-term research. It is aimed at establishing principles, practices and technologies that will improve the efficiency and long-term viability of Australian agriculture and its capacity to respond to changing needs. This work ranges from studies in basic biology to those designed to integrate new plant varieties, animal breeds and production technologies into sound production systems.

CSIRO's research is appropriate for attacking problems or developing opportunities that transcend State boundaries, are complex and require concentration of disciplinary effort for their solution, and may need sustained long-term effort before they yield practical results. CSIRO's agricultural research complements that of State Government departments and universities, and the Organization attaches considerable importance to collaborative research with them.

CSIRO's agricultural research makes up one-third of its overall research effort and covers the following research areas: plant improvement, plant physiology and biochemistry, soils and plant nutrition, crop and pasture pests and diseases, livestock production, livestock health, and agricultural systems. In addition, secondary industry research directly relevant to the agricultural industries covers the research areas of wool textiles, food handling, processing and storage, and agricultural and veterinary chemicals. There is also research directly relevant to the agricultural industries carried out within the research area of environmental protection and rehabilitation.

Most of CSIRO's agricultural research is carried out within the Institute of Animal and Food Sciences and the Institute of Biological Resources. The Institute of Animal and Food Sciences carries out scientific and technological research aimed at improving the efficiency of livestock production and the quality and safety of human foods. The Institute's activities include research on control of indigenous and exotic animal diseases; nutrition, reproduction, genetics and management of livestock; methods of processing, handling and storing meat, fish, dairy foods, fruit, vegetables and grain; and molecular and cellular biology and its application in the livestock and pharmaceutical industries. This research is performed by the following constituent units of the Institute—Divisions of Animal Health, Animal Production, Tropical Animal Science, Molecular Biology, Food Research, Australian National Animal Health Laboratory, and the Wheat Research Unit.

Research in the Institute of Biological Resources is directed to improvement of the productivity of Australia's rural industries and conservation of its biotic resources, recognising that the two are highly interdependent. Plants are sources of fibre and food, and the start of all human food chains. Research to optimise plant production is therefore of fundamental importance, and is directed to producing increased quantities of usable plant material of better quality and with least disruption to water resources, soils and fragile ecosystems. Work

to increase plant productivity is complemented by research to improve our understanding of the Australian environment. This research is performed by the following constituent units of the Institute—Divisions of Plant Industry, Tropical Crops and Pastures, Horticultural Research, Soils, Water and Land Resources, Wildlife and Rangelands Research, Entomology, and the Centre for Irrigation Research.

The Institute of Industrial Technology is also engaged in research of direct benefit to the agricultural industries. Wool textile and marketing research is performed by the Divisions of Protein Chemistry, Textile Physics, and Textile Industry, and research on the design and synthesis of potential agricultural chemicals is performed by the Division of Applied Organic Chemistry.

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