

Statistical release

P1101

Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 (Preliminary)

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Summary of findings for the year 2007

Gross farming income

Gross farming income (GFI) of commercial farming units was R79 544 million for the financial year 2006/2007. As indicated in Figure 1, approximately 55% of the total GFI was generated from the animals and animal products division. Horticultural and field crops products were the second and third largest sources of income in the sector, with contributions of 24% and 20% respectively.

Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of gross farming income by main division within Agriculture

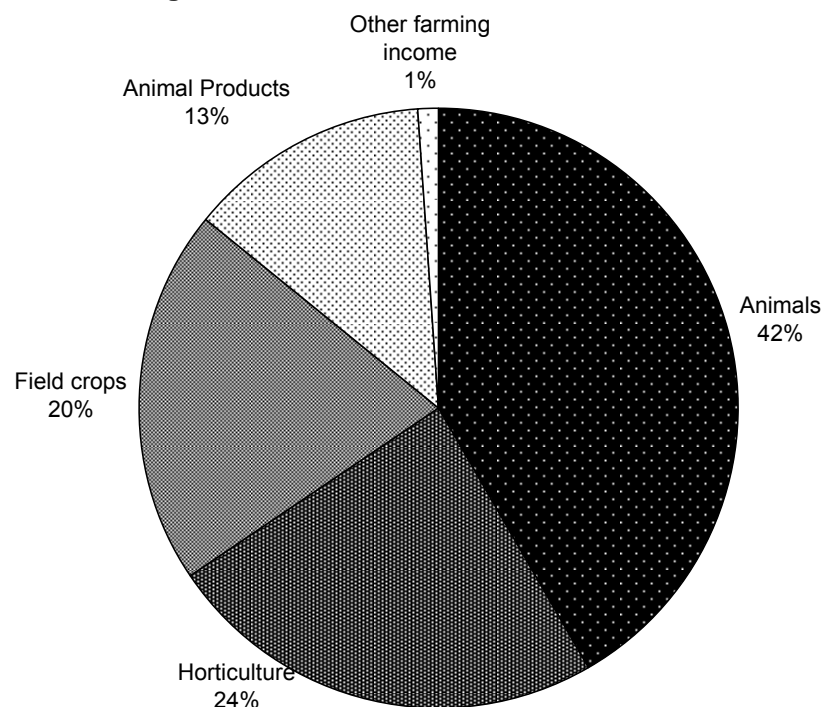
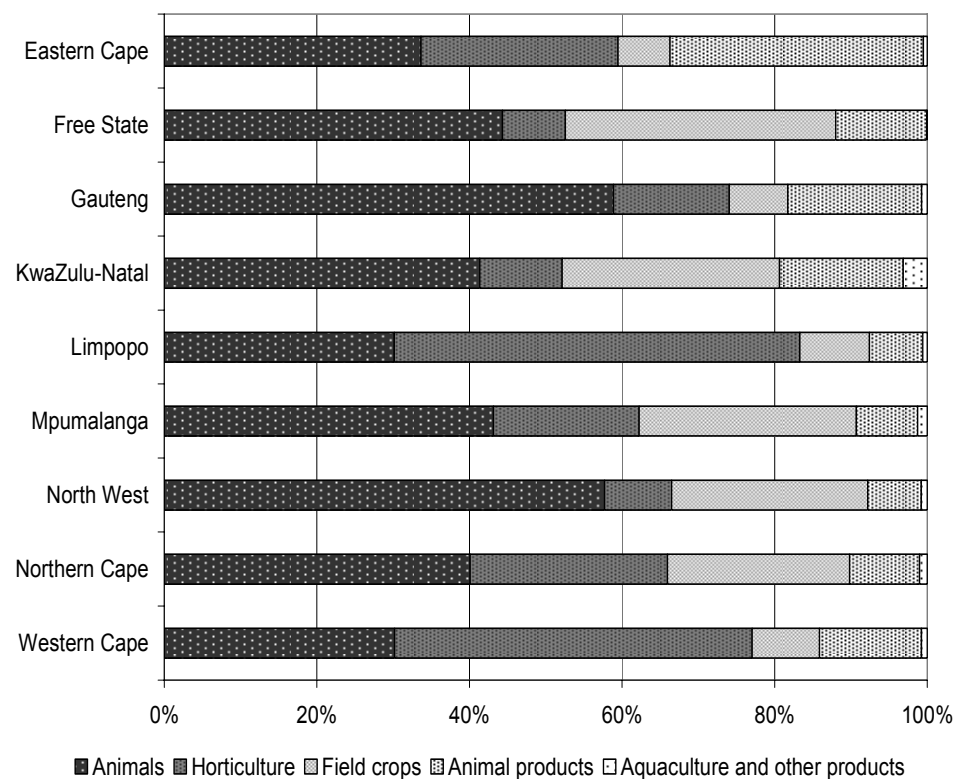


Figure 2 shows that the leading provinces in animal and animal product sales were Western Cape (R7 219 million or 16,5%) and Free State (R6 718 million or 15,4%). At R7 764 million or 40,8%, Western Cape recorded the highest income generation from horticultural production. This was followed by Limpopo with an income generation of R2 905 million or 15,3%. The leading provinces in field crops earnings were Free State, which earned R4 226 million or 26,4%, and KwaZulu-Natal with R2 868 million or 17,9%.

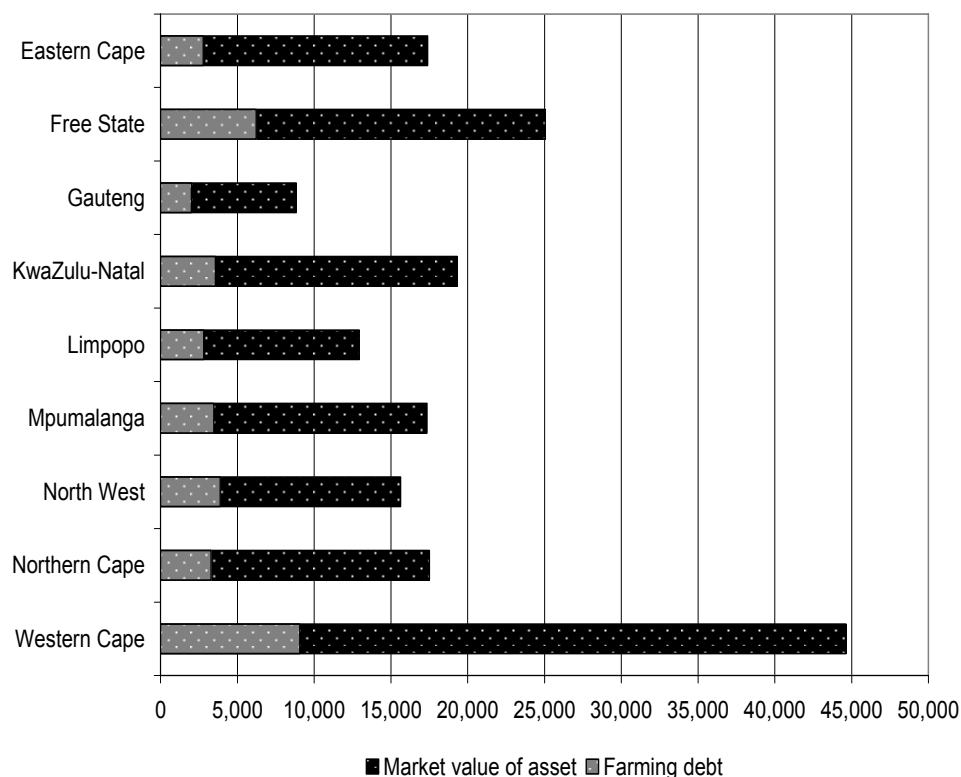
Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of gross farming income by main division in different provinces



Farming debt and market value of assets

Figure 3 shows that outstanding farming debt in the formal farming sector amounted to R37 091 million, with Western Cape (R9 060 million) and Free State (R6 223 million) being the highest contributors. Gauteng had the lowest farming debt of R2 007 million. The reported market value of assets was (R178 647 million) with Western Cape (R44 629 million), Free State (R25 054 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (R19 323 million) being the highest contributors to the total market value of assets.

Figure 3 – Farming debt and market value of assets per province in millions



Expenditure

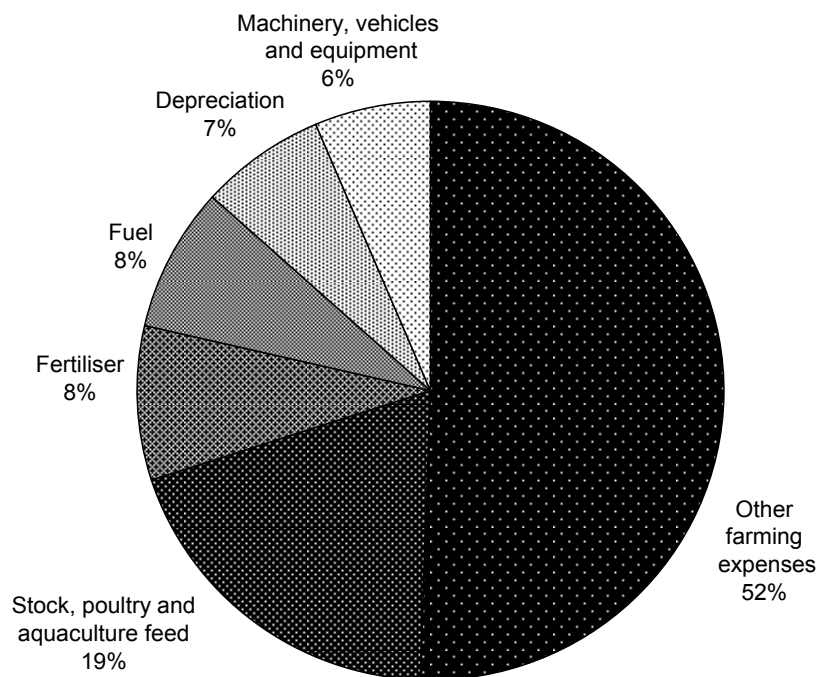
Table A shows that total current expenditure (excluding salaries and wages and purchases of animals) by the commercial agricultural sector amounted to R50 535 million for the financial year 2006/07. Capital expenditure was R3 537 million. Western Cape (R11 116 million) and Free State (R7 539 million) accounted for the highest total current expenditure. Northern Cape (R2 996 million) accounted for the lowest total current expenditure.

According to Figure 4 animal feed (19%), fuel (8%) and fertiliser (8%) were the major contributors to current expenditure.

Table A – Expenditure per province

| Province | Expenditure (excluding salaries and wages) | | | Total Expenditure |
|---------------|--|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | Purchases of animals | Current | Capital | |
| | R'000 | | | |
| Eastern Cape | 657 248 | 3 308 179 | 272 037 | 4 237 464 |
| Free State | 2 097 194 | 7 539 108 | 281 256 | 9 917 558 |
| Gauteng | 1 119 050 | 4 618 970 | 276 352 | 6 014 372 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 1 194 816 | 5 949 301 | 375 987 | 7 520 104 |
| Limpopo | 531 527 | 3 874 969 | 311 908 | 4 718 404 |
| Mpumalanga | 1 058 889 | 5 864 680 | 341 071 | 7 264 640 |
| North West | 1 007 695 | 5 268 693 | 347 786 | 6 624 174 |
| Northern Cape | 505 073 | 2 995 529 | 198 872 | 3 699 474 |
| Western Cape | 748 365 | 11 115 915 | 1 131 976 | 12 996 256 |
| South Africa | 8 919 857 | 50 535 344 | 3 537 245 | 62 992 446 |

According to Table A the largest contributors to purchases of animals in the agricultural sector were Free State (2 097 million), KwaZulu-Natal (R1 194 million) and Gauteng (R1 119million). Northern Cape (R505 million) contributed the least.

Figure 4 – Percentage distribution of current expenditure**Total value of losses**

The formal farming sector in Western Cape (R364 million) incurred the highest value of losses during the reference period, followed by Free State (R356 million) and Mpumalanga (R326 million) out of a national total of R2 287 million.

PJ Lehohla**Statistician-General****Employment**

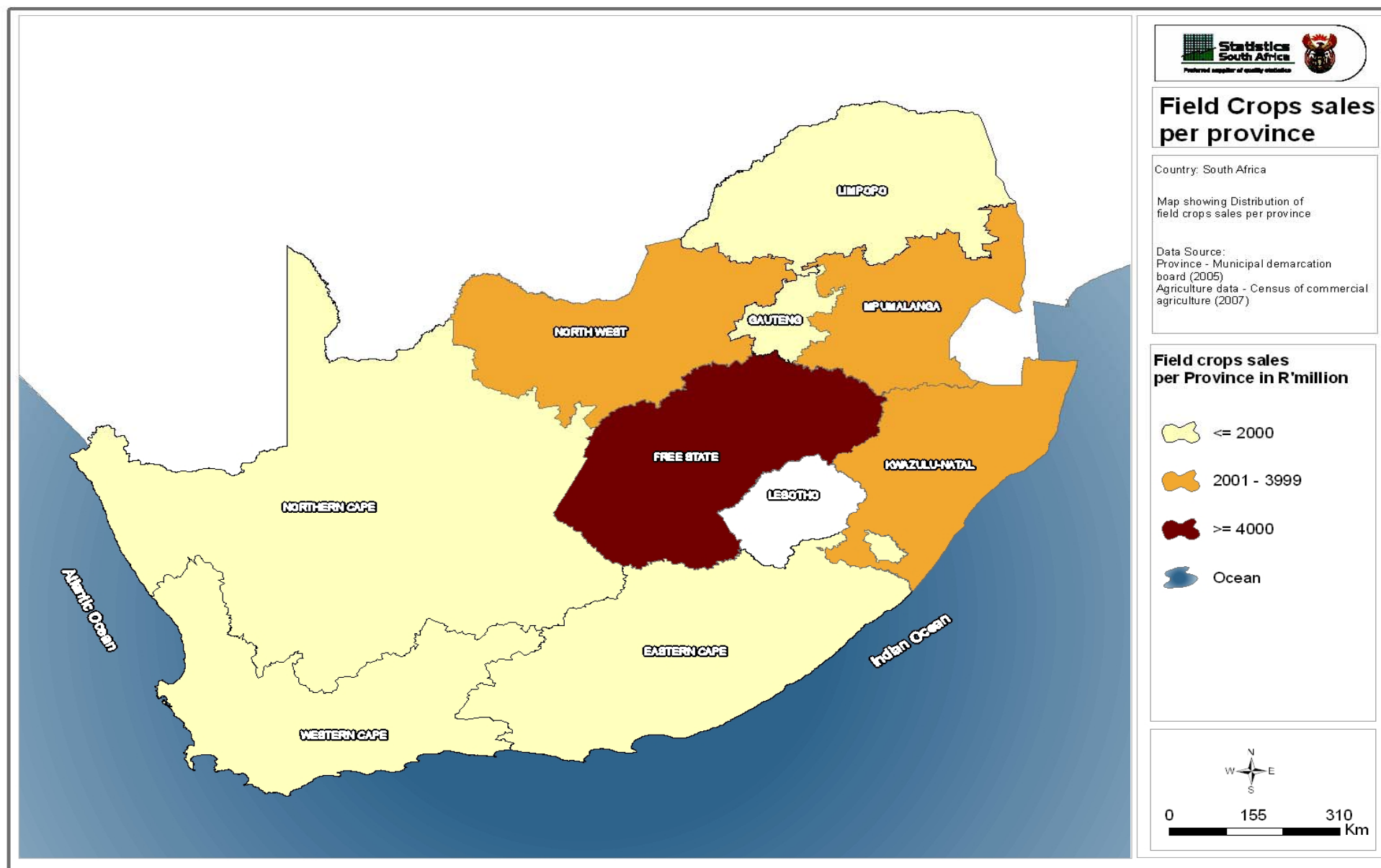
According to Table B, there were 431 664 full-time and 365 142 casual employees in the formal agricultural sector. Western Cape (90 943), KwaZulu-Natal (66 685), Free State (53 994) and North West (53 741) accounted for the highest total number of full-time workers. Northern Cape (26 871) and Gauteng (22 979) accounted for the lowest number of full-time workers.

Western Cape (98 546), Northern Cape (47 874) and Free State (45 150) accounted for the highest number of casual workers. Gauteng (11 957) accounted for the lowest number of casual workers. Table B also shows that the biggest expenditure on salaries and wages paid to full-time employees was in Western Cape (R2 029 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (R968 million). The biggest expenditure on salaries and wages on casual and seasonal employees was in Western Cape (R485 million), Mpumalanga (R176 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (R154 million).

Table B – Number of paid employees and total salaries and wages per province

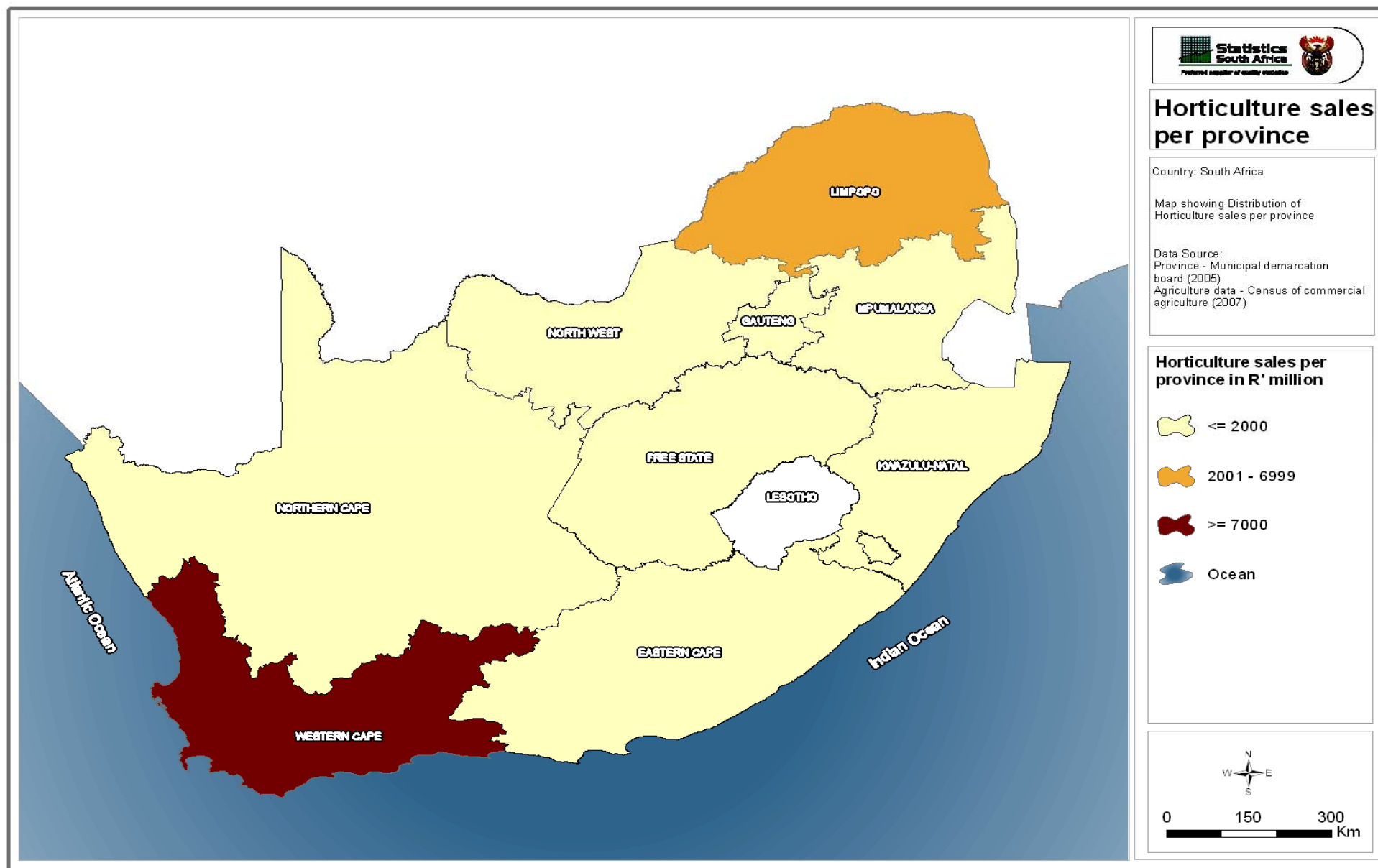
| Province | Full-time employees | Casual and seasonal employees | Remuneration | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | | | Full-time | Casual and seasonal |
| | Number | | R'000 | |
| Eastern Cape | 34 253 | 30 565 | 510 404 | 106 497 |
| Free State | 53 944 | 45 150 | 737 796 | 98 996 |
| Gauteng | 22 979 | 11 957 | 534 083 | 93 461 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 66 685 | 34 383 | 968 455 | 154 286 |
| Limpopo | 35 728 | 31 833 | 625 436 | 124 159 |
| Mpumalanga | 46 520 | 32 826 | 853 396 | 176 363 |
| North West | 53 741 | 32 008 | 574 596 | 75 250 |
| Northern Cape | 26 871 | 47 874 | 339 948 | 123 723 |
| Western Cape | 90 943 | 98 546 | 2 029 275 | 485 108 |
| South Africa | 431 664 | 365 142 | 7 173 389 | 1 437 843 |

Figure 5.1 – Gross farming income earned from field crop sales



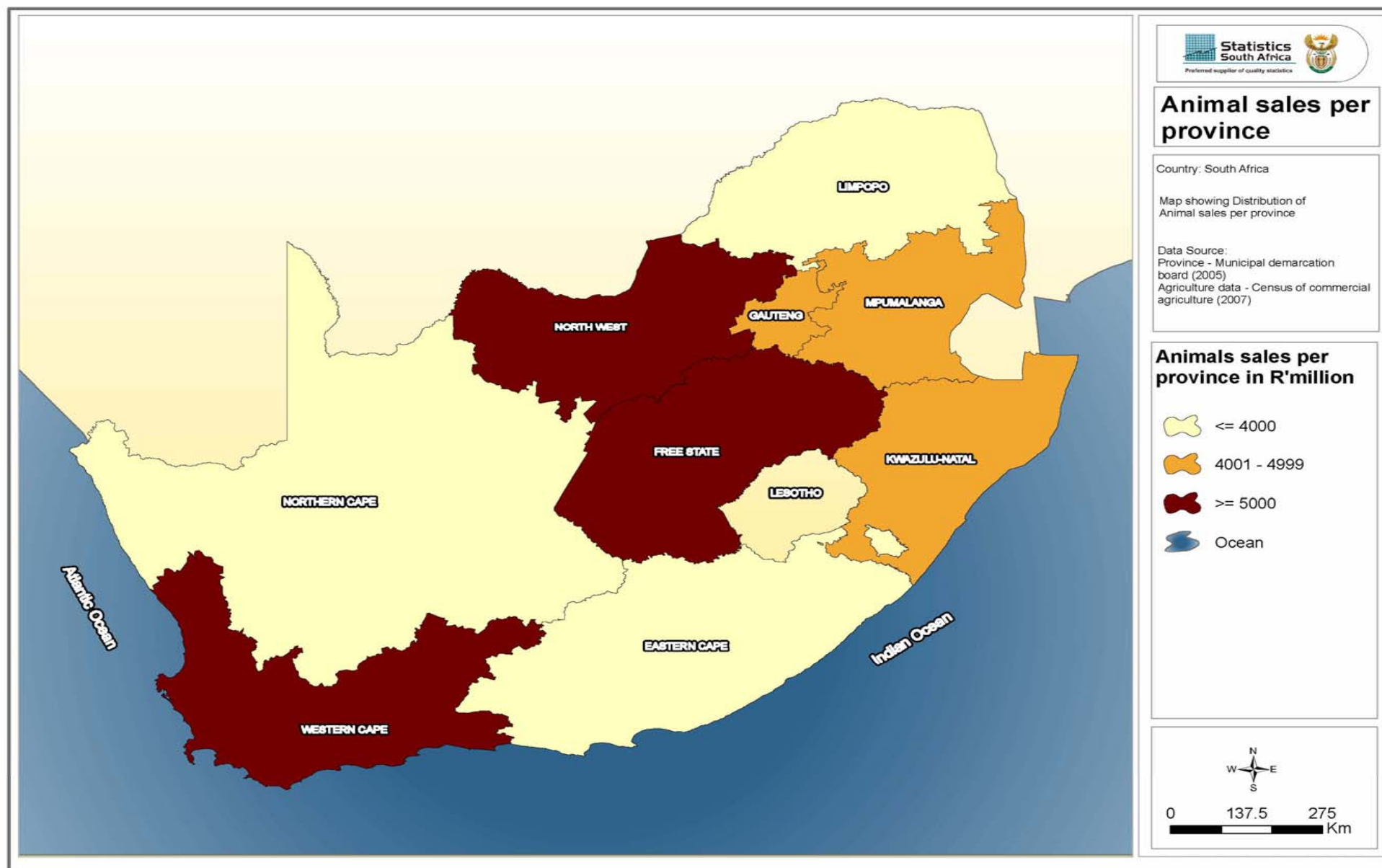
Free State reported the highest field crop sales.

Figure 5.2 – Gross farming income earned from horticulture sales



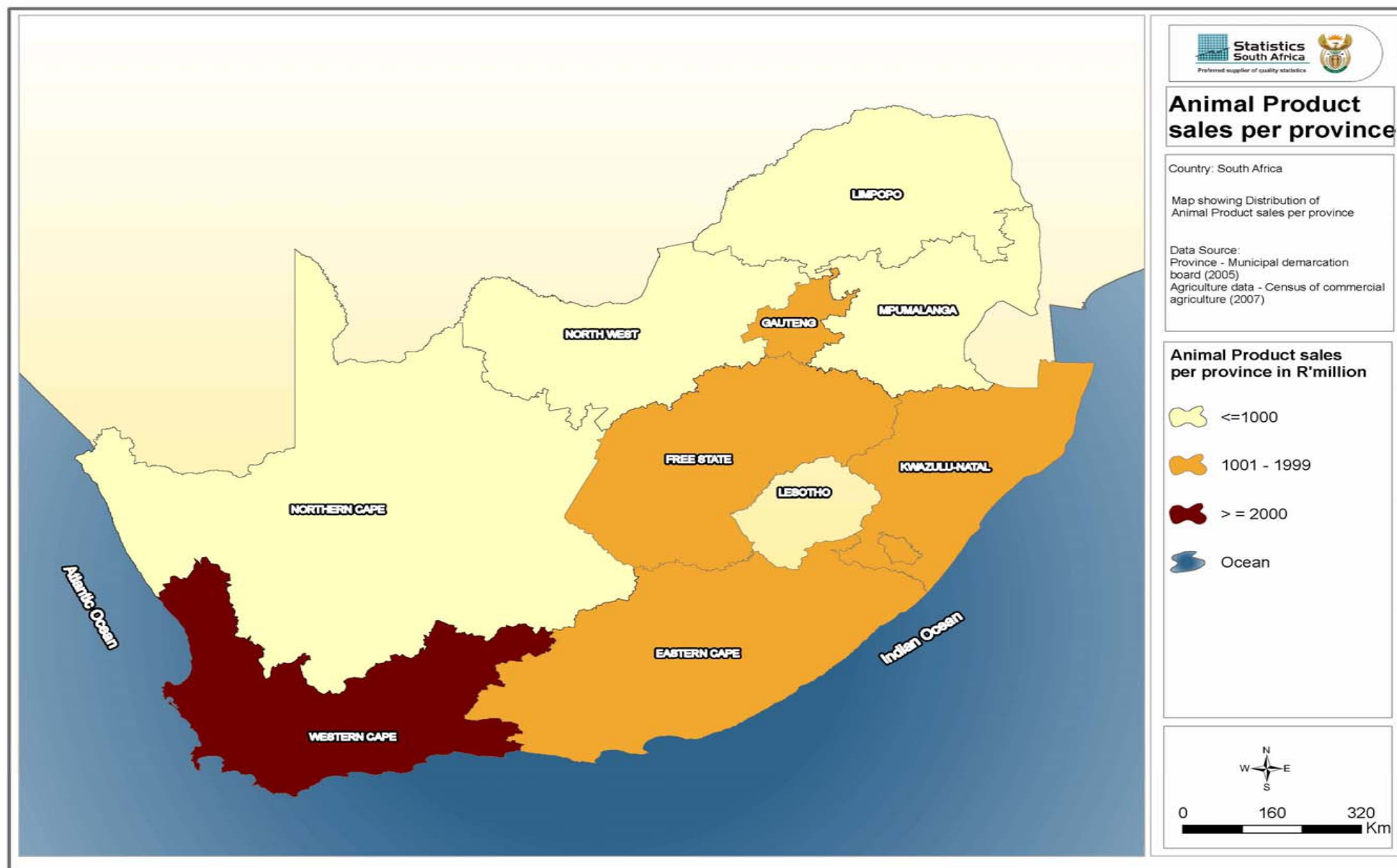
Western Cape reported the highest horticulture sales.

Figure 5.3 – Gross farming income earned from animal sales



Free State, North West and Western Cape reported the highest animal sales.

Figure 5.4 – Gross farming income earned from animal product sales



SUMMARY**Table 1 – Comparison between 2007, 2002 and 1993 in R'000 at current prices**

| | Year | | |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|
| | 2007 | 2002 | 1993 |
| Farming units (numbers) | 39 982 | 45 818 | 57 980 |
| Gross farming income | 79 543 813 | 53 329 052 | 19 620 180 |
| Field crops | 16 002 038 | 16 476 933 | 4 771 471 |
| Horticultural products | 19 014 544 | 14 228 909 | 4 493 681 |
| Animals and animal products | 43 738 602 | 21 222 618 | 9 314 413 |
| Other farming income | 788 627 | 1 400 592 | 1 040 616 |
| Employees' remuneration (salaries, cash wages and cash bonuses) | 8 611 230 | 6 215 583 | 3 637 620 |
| Employment | | | |
| Owners and/or unpaid family members (numbers) | 47 978 | 46 026 | 68 647 |
| Paid employees (numbers) | 796 806 | 940 820 | 1 093 265 |
| Expenditure | 54 072 587 | 45 038 908 | 16 377 145 |
| Current | 50 535 341 | 42 092 135 | 14 298 595 |
| Capital | 3 537 245 | 2 946 773 | 2 078 550 |
| Purchases of animals ¹ | 8 919 857 | - | - |
| Market value of assets | 178 647 301 | 98 428 254 | 66 905 614 |
| Farming debt | 37 090 712 | 30 857 891 | 15 295 001 |
| Ratio between Current Expenditure plus Purchases and GFI (%) | 74,7 | 78,9 | 72,9 |
| Ratio between Farming Debt and GFI (%) | 46,6 | 57,9 | 78,0 |

¹ Purchases for the years 2002 and 1993 are included under current expenditure

Table 2 – Gross farming income, expenditure, market value of assets and farming debt in R'000

| Province | Farming units | Gross farming income | Expenditure (excluding salaries and wages) | | | | Market value of assets | Farming debt |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|--|------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | | | Capital | Current | Purchases of animals | Total | | |
| Eastern Cape | 3 896 | 5 408 977 | 272 037 | 3 308 179 | 657 248 | 4 237 464 | 17 394 636 | 2 774 042 |
| Free State | 7 515 | 11 936 131 | 281 256 | 7 539 108 | 2 097 194 | 9 917 558 | 25 053 755 | 6 222 515 |
| Gauteng | 2 378 | 7 370 690 | 276 352 | 4 618 970 | 1 119 050 | 6 014 372 | 8 837 020 | 2 007 468 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 3 560 | 10 064 801 | 375 987 | 5 949 301 | 1 194 816 | 7 520 104 | 19 322 716 | 3 571 598 |
| Limpopo | 2 657 | 5 462 552 | 311 908 | 3 874 969 | 531 527 | 4 718 404 | 12 937 531 | 2 808 445 |
| Mpumalanga | 3 376 | 9 160 345 | 341 071 | 5 864 680 | 1 058 889 | 7 264 640 | 17 342 705 | 3 473 208 |
| North West | 4 692 | 8 755 883 | 347 786 | 5 268 693 | 1 007 695 | 6 624 174 | 15 625 893 | 3 886 762 |
| Northern Cape | 5 226 | 4 811 064 | 198 872 | 2 995 529 | 505 073 | 3 699 474 | 17 504 180 | 3 286 802 |
| Western Cape | 6 682 | 16 573 371 | 1 131 976 | 11 115 915 | 748 365 | 12 996 256 | 44 628 866 | 9 059 871 |
| South Africa | 39 982 | 79 543 814 | 3 537 245 | 50 535 344 | 8 919 857 | 62 992 446 | 178 647 302 | 37 090 711 |

Table 3 – Gross farming income by main division in R'000

| Province | Field crops | Horticulture | Animals | Animal products | Aquaculture and other products |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | 369 086 | 1 396 208 | 1 820 344 | 1 795 923 | 27 416 |
| Free State | 4 226 749 | 984 203 | 5 291 422 | 1 426 730 | 7 026 |
| Gauteng | 566 632 | 1 116 908 | 4 340 805 | 1 292 256 | 54 089 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 2 867 839 | 1 086 975 | 4 160 238 | 1 634 141 | 315 609 |
| Limpopo | 497 679 | 2 904 969 | 1 645 991 | 381 789 | 32 123 |
| Mpumalanga | 2 608 493 | 1 748 584 | 3 952 126 | 737 106 | 114 036 |
| North West | 2 250 740 | 768 890 | 5 052 478 | 616 865 | 66 910 |
| Northern Cape | 1 148 288 | 1 243 491 | 1 929 063 | 442 080 | 48 142 |
| Western Cape | 1 466 533 | 7 764 317 | 5 002 582 | 2 216 663 | 123 276 |
| South Africa | 16 002 039 | 19 014 545 | 33 195 049 | 10 543 553 | 788 627 |

Table 4 – Current expenditure in R'000

| Province | Total | Advertising and marketing | Depreciation | Electricity | Excise and custom duties | Fertiliser | Fuel | Insurance premiums | | Interest paid | Licence fees |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | | Crop insurance | Farm property | | |
| Eastern Cape | 3 308 179 | 43 249 | 250 814 | 100 420 | 2 277 | 209 069 | 249 310 | 16 748 | 78 005 | 207 242 | 15 377 |
| Free State | 7 539 108 | 79 307 | 585 378 | 154 396 | 7 109 | 878 542 | 865 534 | 106 167 | 162 218 | 490 549 | 31 240 |
| Gauteng | 4 618 970 | 36 523 | 256 543 | 118 007 | 5 053 | 323 304 | 298 948 | 37 716 | 54 382 | 225 285 | 10 288 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 5 949 301 | 36 770 | 369 152 | 163 192 | 7 710 | 584 257 | 465 777 | 44 782 | 112 902 | 257 739 | 24 130 |
| Limpopo | 3 874 969 | 138 734 | 245 834 | 122 844 | 25 279 | 271 411 | 280 599 | 18 733 | 62 756 | 176 575 | 12 304 |
| Mpumalanga | 5 864 680 | 102 270 | 382 499 | 159 229 | 2 309 | 621 960 | 585 880 | 80 605 | 117 491 | 282 517 | 28 742 |
| North West | 5 268 693 | 42 572 | 368 860 | 123 780 | 3 571 | 415 359 | 488 366 | 43 459 | 93 143 | 267 337 | 23 929 |
| Northern Cape | 2 995 529 | 51 231 | 244 842 | 112 789 | 10 025 | 272 558 | 263 880 | 40 012 | 74 699 | 255 910 | 13 595 |
| Western Cape | 11 115 915 | 240 727 | 813 388 | 397 662 | 33 214 | 715 572 | 694 191 | 45 870 | 191 733 | 664 980 | 44 472 |
| South Africa | 50 535 344 | 771 383 | 3 517 310 | 1 452 319 | 96 547 | 4 292 032 | 4 192 485 | 434 092 | 947 329 | 2 828 134 | 204 077 |

Table 4 – Current expenditure in R'000 (continued)

| Province | Losses from: | | Maintenance and repairs to: | | Membership or affiliation | Operating, leasing and hiring of plant, machinery, equipment and vehicles | Packing materials | Payment of tax | Plant or animal health services | Property rates | Protective clothing |
|---------------|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | Redemption, liquidation or revaluation of liabilities | Assets or investments sold or re-valued | Buildings, dams and fencing | Machinery, vehicles and equipment | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Cape | 7 558 | 5 854 | 133 724 | 214 802 | 20 490 | 19 316 | 196 836 | 9 410 | 47 706 | 6 012 | 9 801 |
| Free State | 17 637 | 7 487 | 215 595 | 587 585 | 12 989 | 44 074 | 128 315 | 14 501 | 100 291 | 9 873 | 11 337 |
| Gauteng | 5 457 | 3 731 | 99 920 | 218 502 | 5 125 | 18 573 | 236 413 | 10 160 | 32 676 | 5 107 | 8 459 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 15 211 | 10 266 | 169 260 | 366 101 | 9 850 | 35 981 | 154 540 | 21 011 | 76 914 | 11 708 | 16 856 |
| Limpopo | 4 820 | 3 399 | 150 089 | 207 939 | 4 820 | 23 341 | 397 733 | 6 750 | 25 816 | 3 383 | 10 276 |
| Mpumalanga | 11 400 | 18 863 | 182 134 | 376 456 | 28 004 | 53 217 | 314 747 | 21 296 | 42 304 | 5 577 | 12 850 |
| North West | 5 792 | 6 018 | 150 506 | 339 692 | 6 998 | 25 867 | 88 094 | 10 972 | 39 218 | 3 500 | 8 159 |
| Northern Cape | 4 571 | 1 783 | 110 466 | 186 337 | 5 115 | 18 182 | 159 506 | 7 603 | 15 373 | 3 374 | 6 072 |
| Western Cape | 22 175 | 16 505 | 380 219 | 666 667 | 16 108 | 131 570 | 927 208 | 39 687 | 101 805 | 25 464 | 25 433 |
| South Africa | 94 621 | 73 906 | 1 591 913 | 3 164 081 | 109 499 | 370 121 | 2 603 392 | 141 390 | 482 103 | 73 998 | 109 243 |

Table 4 – Current expenditure in R'000 (continued)

| Province | Remedies for combating diseases and pests in: | | Rental grazing rights | Research costs | Security services | Seed and plant material |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | Livestock, poultry and aquaculture | Field and horticultural crops | | | | |
| Eastern Cape | 64 610 | 101 786 | 130 884 | 2 874 | 11 831 | 112 048 |
| Free State | 101 247 | 233 369 | 284 931 | 6 017 | 16 394 | 570 019 |
| Gauteng | 84 241 | 65 216 | 42 404 | 5 333 | 25 944 | 196 327 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 63 715 | 186 170 | 110 309 | 4 167 | 50 729 | 227 228 |
| Limpopo | 46 204 | 172 297 | 70 113 | 5 257 | 17 430 | 194 990 |
| Mpumalanga | 61 665 | 235 840 | 87 898 | 2 702 | 30 721 | 302 982 |
| North West | 104 939 | 127 537 | 120 258 | 6 728 | 18 986 | 373 066 |
| Northern Cape | 32 895 | 90 472 | 144 561 | 1 369 | 3 732 | 180 526 |
| Western Cape | 172 937 | 498 371 | 300 157 | 9 186 | 35 958 | 380 720 |
| South Africa | 732 453 | 1 711 058 | 1 291 515 | 43 633 | 211 725 | 2 537 906 |

Table 4 – Current expenditure in R'000 (concluded)

| Province | Stock, poultry and aquaculture feed | Stream flow reduction water charges | Subcontractors | Transport | Water purchased | Other farming expenses |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | 613 891 | 8 024 | 59 912 | 95 505 | 14 981 | 247 814 |
| Free State | 987 170 | 5 656 | 142 475 | 167 383 | 20 857 | 493 468 |
| Gauteng | 1 452 899 | 1 767 | 44 037 | 107 406 | 10 990 | 572 232 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 1 524 890 | 7 058 | 143 560 | 275 659 | 25 944 | 375 764 |
| Limpopo | 546 731 | 10 012 | 49 336 | 261 494 | 14 208 | 293 462 |
| Mpumalanga | 979 143 | 8 113 | 107 564 | 208 798 | 25 586 | 383 320 |
| North West | 1 436 964 | 4 981 | 61 085 | 71 401 | 15 822 | 371 736 |
| Northern Cape | 259 377 | 8 743 | 45 298 | 95 291 | 38 785 | 236 556 |
| Western Cape | 1 954 612 | 19 298 | 229 511 | 274 642 | 85 376 | 960 496 |
| South Africa | 9 755 677 | 73 652 | 882 778 | 1 557 579 | 252 549 | 3 934 848 |

Table 5 – Losses during the financial year in R'000

| Province | Total | Absence arising from injury or consequences of crime | Burglary | Lifting and stealing of tools | Losses due to disasters and accidents regarding: | |
|---------------|-----------|--|----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | Pastures | Products (livestock, crops and aquaculture) |
| Eastern Cape | 230 476 | 10 916 | 5 217 | 7 592 | 10 746 | 95 536 |
| Free State | 356 239 | 5 588 | 7 069 | 44 474 | 29 962 | 170 522 |
| Gauteng | 99 618 | 1 957 | 2 965 | 6 156 | 3 161 | 32 330 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 231 647 | 9 155 | 5 402 | 27 097 | 8 998 | 70 226 |
| Limpopo | 157 788 | 7 866 | 2 574 | 13 158 | 7 628 | 73 192 |
| Mpumalanga | 325 930 | 6 337 | 8 820 | 21 525 | 15 887 | 160 139 |
| North West | 240 757 | 12 688 | 4 893 | 19 403 | 27 313 | 110 060 |
| Northern Cape | 280 975 | 3 260 | 1 512 | 4 730 | 17 918 | 168 734 |
| Western Cape | 363 808 | 7 606 | 5 421 | 15 743 | 8 244 | 96 286 |
| South Africa | 2 287 238 | 65 373 | 43 873 | 159 878 | 129 857 | 977 025 |

Table 5 – Losses during the financial year in R'000 (concluded)

| Province | Losses due to disasters and accidents regarding: | | Pilfering and stealing of crops | Predators | Stock theft | Veld and forest fires and natural disasters | Other losses |
|---------------|--|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| | Buildings and equipment | Other | | | | | |
| Eastern Cape | 4 176 | 4 743 | 5 142 | 29 801 | 31 832 | 16 270 | 8 505 |
| Free State | 2 371 | 4 109 | 4 544 | 18 562 | 35 830 | 20 462 | 12 746 |
| Gauteng | 2 220 | 13 512 | 2 129 | 1 024 | 12 660 | 15 327 | 6 177 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 4 625 | 4 606 | 14 978 | 6 119 | 26 509 | 36 695 | 17 237 |
| Limpopo | 1 343 | 3 513 | 12 161 | 6 185 | 6 619 | 12 260 | 11 289 |
| Mpumalanga | 7 206 | 10 022 | 10 072 | 8 339 | 23 207 | 35 276 | 19 100 |
| North West | 3 425 | 7 748 | 5 019 | 4 373 | 25 987 | 11 291 | 8 557 |
| Northern Cape | 5 199 | 3 737 | 2 782 | 36 600 | 15 414 | 7 739 | 13 350 |
| Western Cape | 4 091 | 20 096 | 8 480 | 103 987 | 13 975 | 34 181 | 45 698 |
| South Africa | 34 656 | 72 086 | 65 307 | 214 990 | 192 033 | 189 501 | 142 659 |

Table 6 – Number of paid workers and total remuneration per province

| Province | Full-time employees | | Casual and seasonal employees | | Total | |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| | Number | Remuneration R'000 | Number | Remuneration R'000 | Number | Remuneration R'000 |
| Eastern Cape | 34 253 | 510 404 | 30 565 | 106 497 | 64 818 | 616 901 |
| Free State | 53 944 | 737 796 | 45 150 | 98 996 | 99 094 | 836 792 |
| Gauteng | 22 979 | 534 083 | 11 957 | 93 461 | 34 936 | 627 544 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 66 685 | 968 455 | 34 383 | 154 286 | 101 068 | 1 122 740 |
| Limpopo | 35 728 | 625 436 | 31 833 | 124 159 | 67 561 | 749 595 |
| Mpumalanga | 46 520 | 853 396 | 32 826 | 176 363 | 79 346 | 1 029 759 |
| North West | 53 741 | 574 596 | 32 008 | 75 250 | 85 749 | 649 846 |
| Northern Cape | 26 871 | 339 948 | 47 874 | 123 723 | 74 745 | 463 671 |
| Western Cape | 90 943 | 2 029 275 | 98 546 | 485 108 | 189 489 | 2 514 383 |
| South Africa | 431 664 | 7 173 389 | 365 142 | 1 437 843 | 796 806 | 8 611 231 |

Explanatory notes

Background

In 2007, Stats SA undertook a census of farming units which were active during the period 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007 in the agricultural sector within RSA. The census covered the activities of commercial farms/entities in South Africa which were registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and/or Income Tax (IT) for the financial year 2006/07.

This statistical release is a summary of selected findings.

Reference period

Details relating to the area and market value of the farming unit, the number of owners, family members and employees involved in farming activities, and debt, were collected as at 28 February 2007. Data on land utilisation, employees' remuneration, gross farming income and expenditure, equipment purchased, and the amount spent on buildings erected and development work undertaken, refer to the financial year ending on any date between 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2007, while the market value of movable farming assets was as at the end of the financial year.

Purpose of the Census

The Census of Commercial Agriculture collects data on the commercial agricultural sector, and its results are vital in the 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 Census of Commercial Agriculture programme include the following:

- 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 evaluating the effectiveness of industry policies;
- Industry associations monitoring trends in 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 Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 covered the following categories of enterprises:

- Growing of crops;
- Rearing of animals; and
- A combination of the above (mixed farming).

For the purposes of this census, farming refers to the following operations for commercial purposes:

- The growing of field crops, fruit, grapes, nuts, seeds, trees in a nursery, bulbs, vegetables and flowers in the open air or under cover;
- Operations at nurseries excluding those predominantly engaged in reselling;

- The operation of tea, coffee and sugar plantations;
- The raising of livestock, game, poultry, rabbits, freshwater fish, furbearing and other animals; and
- The production of milk, wool, pelts/fur, eggs and honey.

In addition to forestry operations, e.g. timber, wattle and other plantations, aquaculture and agricultural services were also covered in the census.

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 Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 covers enterprises registered in the taxation system that are mainly engaged in farming and farm related activities. The activities are grouped as follows:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Farming | SIC 11 |
| Other | SIC 0900 |

Statistical unit

The census data were collected at the 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 size groups according to the size of turnover as recorded on the Stats SA business register. The size groups' stratification used in the census was adopted from the Department of Trade and Industry's 1996 revised cutoff points. The size groups are indicated in Table C.

Table C – Department of Trade and Industry cut-off points

| Size group | Turnover |
|------------|--|
| 1 | $x \geq \text{R}5 \text{ million}$ |
| 2 | $\text{R}3 \text{ million} \leq x < \text{R}5 \text{ million}$ |
| 3 | $\text{R}500\,000 \leq x < \text{R}3 \text{ million}$ |
| 4 | $\text{R}0 \leq x < \text{R}500\,000$ |

Comparability with the previous censuses

- The Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 covered all enterprises classified to agriculture, registered for VAT and/or IT;
- The Census of Commercial Agriculture 2002 covered all enterprises classified to agriculture, registered for VAT and/or IT;
- The updating of Stats SA's business register with data obtained from the South African Revenue Service (SARS) has resulted in an improved frame as compared to the frames available for previous agricultural collections.

There were 39 982 farming units participating in the Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007, compared to 45 818 farming units recorded in the Census of Commercial Agriculture 2002. The results for gross farming income by major division within agriculture in 2007 are summarised in the key findings and shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Response rate

39 982 farming units participated in the Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007, from which 23 374 responded, a response rate of 58,5%. The response rate in terms of census frame turnover was 83%. The 16 608 outstanding enterprises were treated as active units as they were live in the frame during the year of the census. Data for them were imputed using their previously reported data and business frame turnover.

Glossary

Farmer

A farmer is 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

A farming unit means any unit on which one or more of the following farming operations are carried out for commercial purposes:

- The cultivation in the open air or under cover of field crops, fruit, grapes, nuts, seed bulbs, vegetable plants or flowers;
- The operation of a tea, coffee and sugar plantations;
- The breeding of livestock, poultry, game or other animals, including freshwater fish, furred animals and trade in livestock; and/or
- The production of milk, wool, fur, eggs or honey.

Type of employment

'Owners and family members' refer to ownership by individuals or family and other forms of partnerships.

'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 generated outside farming. In this release these products are divided into field crops, horticultural products, animals and animal products, and all other products.

'Animals and animal products' include livestock, poultry, game and all other animals.

'All other products' include wild flowers, compost, firewood, etc.

Current expenditure

Current expenditure is 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 purchased, interest paid and all other operating expenses. Railage and rented transport are also included with the relevant purchases.

Farming debt

Farming debt 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 the data submitted by respondents.

Abbreviations and symbols used

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| DTI | = Department of Trade and Industry |
| GFI | = Gross farming income |
| IT | = Income Tax |
| 0 | = More than nil but less than 500 |
| R | = Rand |
| RSA | = Republic of South Africa |
| SARS | = South African Revenue Service |
| Stats SA | = Statistics South Africa |
| VAT | = Value Added Tax |
| - | = figures not available |

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